

FRANK STEWART'S

Bridge Club

Foreword by Eddie Kantar



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Contents

PART ONE	Winter	1
PART TWO	Spring	39
PART THREE	Summer	77
PART FOUR	Fall	115
PART FIVE	Winter	153

Foreword

You've made your first good move by buying this book. Let me tell you why. First and foremost are the hands, I call them "theme" hands; they are practical because they come up frequently. These hands, clearly explained, are perfect for the intermediate or advanced intermediate player wanting to move up a notch. (Lives there an intermediate player who doesn't think of him or herself as an advanced intermediate player?) The hands are so good that I have committed the ultimate flattery, I have "lifted" several to use as examples in my classes.

As if this weren't enough, the introductions to each column do credit to a stand-up comedian. Where Frank gets these opening salvos, I have no idea, but they are funny. This is not to mention the characters roaming around the pages. These are types we can remember from our own experiences. (I even recognized myself now and then!)

I was also impressed with the format. First you are presented with a number of two-handed problems, usually play problems, with the North-South hands shown. This eliminates the need to cover up the unseen hands where at times you can't help but see a card or three. After you answer the problem (correctly of course), you can turn to a later page to check to see whether Frank was clever enough to come up with the same solution. If perchance there should happen to be a discrepancy, believe Frank.

If this book was meant to be both instructive and entertaining, as Frank hoped, put me down for an A+.

Eddie Kantar

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Bridge Club

A decorative graphic consisting of a heart shape and a clover shape, both rendered in a light, thin-line style, positioned behind the word "Bridge" in the main title.

PART 1



Winter

1. January 4

Tangled Webb

East dealer
N-S vulnerable

♠ 8 5
♥ A J 10 9 8
♦ A K Q
♣ A J 10

♠ A 9 6 3
♥ 6
♦ J 9 2
♣ K 9 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
pass	dbl	1♠	pass
pass	2♥	pass	2♣
pass	3NT	all pass	2NT

West leads the ten of spades. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

2. January 8

Regular Partnerships

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

♠ —
♥ K J 9 7 6 4
♦ A K 3 2
♣ 6 5 3

♠ K 5 3
♥ A Q 10 8 2
♦ 5 4
♣ A Q 7

West	North	East	South
2♠	3♠	4♠	1♥
pass	6♥	all pass	pass

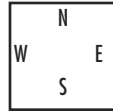
West leads the queen of spades. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

3. January 10

Bald Statements

South dealer
Both vulnerable

♠ 8 4 3
♥ 9 8 3
♦ K 5
♣ A K Q 6 5



♠ J 5 2
♥ A Q 6
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 9 7

West	North	East	South
pass	2♣	pass	1♠
pass	3♠	pass	2♥
all pass			4♠

West leads the queen of diamonds. South takes the ace, cashes the jack of clubs, leads a club to the ace and continues with the queen. How do you defend? [To Answer](#)

4. January 13

Cynical Outlook

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

♠ Q 10 8 6 5
♥ 8 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 5 2
♣ —

♠ J 9 7 4 2
♥ A Q J
♦ 7 4
♣ A K 10

West	North	East	South
pass	4♠	all pass	1♠

West leads the queen of clubs. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

1. January 4

Tangled Webb

East dealer
N-S vulnerable

<p>♠ 10 4 ♥ 7 4 3 2 ♦ 10 8 6 5 3 ♣ 5 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 8 5 ♥ A J 10 9 8 ♦ A K Q ♣ A J 10</p> <p>♠ K Q J 7 2 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ 7 4 ♣ Q 7 2</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

<p>♠ A 9 6 3 ♥ 6 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ K 9 8 6 3</p>
--

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	pass
pass	dbl	pass	2 ♣
pass	2 ♥	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠10

My bridge club has 600 members. We comprise plenty of nondescript Browns and Smiths, but, as you'd suppose, there are also a Mr. North and a Mrs. West — who always occupy their namesake seats. We have a Diamond, a Hart, a Deal and a Card, and there are fitting partnerships: Singleton-King and Long-Short. Dr. Bidwell is known for remorseless accuracy in the auction, and curmudgeonly old Mrs. Passmore is legendary for the soundness of her overcalls.

Then there is Tom Webb, known as 'Tangle', who seems to run into blocked suits more often than anyone else. As South, Tom won the second spade and started the clubs, intending to finesse through East as an avoidance play. But when he took the ace and led the jack, East alertly covered with the queen.

'Tangle' was entangled like a box of coat hangers. If he ducked to keep a link with his hand, East would run the spades. If instead South took the king and ten of clubs, he couldn't get back for the other clubs. He'd have only eight tricks, and East would get in with the king of hearts to run the spades.

If you were South, could you get untangled and make 3NT?

South must win the third spade, pitching dummy's queen of diamonds. He takes the A-K of diamonds and the ace of clubs and leads the jack of clubs. East must cover to cause a problem, and South takes the king. South can then discard the blocking ten of clubs on the jack of diamonds and run the clubs. [To Question](#)

2. January 8

Regular Partnerships

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

	♠ —											
	♥ K J 9 7 6 4											
	♦ A K 3 2											
	♣ 6 5 3											
♠ Q J 10 9 8 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 7 6 4	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 3		♥ 5										
♦ J 9 8		♦ Q 10 7 6										
♣ K J 2		♣ 10 9 8 4										
	♠ K 5 3											
	♥ A Q 10 8 2											
	♦ 5 4											
	♣ A Q 7											

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♠	3♠	4♠	pass
pass	6♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠Q

My club, like any other, has many regular partnerships: for instance, a doctor-pharmacist pair who do well (except when the pharmacist can't read the doc's signals). In this deal, North-South were a dentist and a manicurist we call 'Tooth and Nail' because that's how they argue.

Tooth, South, ruffed the first spade in dummy, drew trumps and tried a club finesse with the queen. West took the king and got another club later to beat the slam. The argument began immediately.

Tooth: 'What kind of bid was six hearts? What if I'd had two low clubs?'

Nail: 'When you didn't double four spades, I thought you had little strength in spades and therefore something in clubs.'

Tooth: 'Bid five diamonds over four spades. Let me decide.'

Nail: 'I wanted to be in six hearts. Why dally?'

Nobody realized declarer could Nail down the slam by throwing one club from dummy at Trick 1 and another on the king of spades later. And that's the whole Tooth and nothing but. [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ A 7 6 4 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ 10 9 8 4. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one spade and he then bids two diamonds. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Pass. Since partner did not jump to three diamonds, he has fewer than 18 points, and game is almost impossible. If you raise to three diamonds, partner will expect about 11 points from you and will go on to game (and go down) if he has 15 or more points.

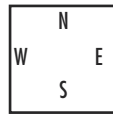
3. January 10

Bald Statements

South dealer
Both vulnerable

♠ Q 7
♥ K 7 2
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ 10 8 4 2

♠ 8 4 3
♥ 9 8 3
♦ K 5
♣ A K Q 6 5



♠ J 5 2
♥ A Q 6
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 9 7

West	North	East	South
			1♠
pass	2♣	pass	2♥
pass	3♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

♠ A K 10 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ A 9
♣ J 3

Opening lead: ♦Q

The club member we call ‘Grapefruit’ got his nickname not only for his eternally sour disposition but because his head is as bald as a mountaintop in January. ‘Some men wear their hair parted,’ is how Cy the Cynic puts it. ‘Grapefruit’s is de-parted.’

Grapefruit, West, led the queen of diamonds against South’s game. South won with the ace and could have cashed the A-K of trumps and started the clubs, hoping to discard two hearts before the defender with the missing high trump ruffed. But South had a different idea: he started the clubs at Trick 2.

On the third club, East ruffed with the deuce of trumps — and the defenders’ chances departed. South overruffed, drew trumps, got to dummy with the king of diamonds and threw hearts on the last two clubs for an overtrick. The bald facts, as Grapefruit pointed out in his usual acid tone, were that East must ruff the third club with the jack of trumps. South overruffs but still loses three hearts and a trump. [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ 8 4 3 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ K 5 ♣ A K Q 6 5. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond two clubs and he rebids two diamonds. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Raise to three diamonds, inviting game. Though partner may have been obliged to rebid a five-card suit, you have no choice: a rebid of three clubs would promise longer clubs and wouldn’t encourage him to bid game; a bid of 2NT would suggest strength in the unbid suits.

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

♠ K 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ K J 6 ♣ Q J 9 8 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 8 6 5 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ Q 9 5 2 ♣ —
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ J 9 7 4 2 ♥ A Q J ♦ 7 4 ♣ A K 10	♠ A ♥ K 9 5 ♦ A 10 8 3 ♣ 7 6 5 3 2
---	---

West	North	East	South
pass	4♠	all pass	1♠

Opening lead: ♣Q

When a new member of my club asked me how Cy the Cynic got his nickname, I wrote down today's deal, which I'd watched the day before.

Cy was South at one table of a team match. His game contract looked hopeless, but Cy ruffed the first club in dummy, led a heart to his queen, ruffed his king of clubs, won another heart finesse with the jack and cashed the ace. When hearts broke 3-3, Cy got back to dummy by ruffing the ace of clubs and led the thirteenth heart.

If East ruffed with the ace, Cy would throw a diamond, losing two trumps and a diamond. When East discarded, Cy threw a diamond. West ruffed, but Cy later crashed the defenders' high trumps.

'Well played,' our new member remarked. 'Surely his team gained points on that deal.' 'At the second table,' I told him, 'South won the first club with the king and led a trump. West for Cy's team put up the king, and South lost a trump and two diamonds: a push.'

'I begin to understand,' said our newcomer. [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ A ♥ K 9 5 ♦ A 10 8 3 ♣ 7 6 5 3 2. Your partner opens one spade, you bid two clubs, he rebids two spades and you try 2NT. Partner next bids three hearts. What do you say?

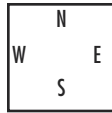
ANSWER: Bid three spades or, with a timid partner, four spades. Partner has a minimum opening bid with six spades and four hearts. (If he had extra strength or only five spades, his second bid would have been two hearts.) Play in the 6-1 fit.

5. January 20

Wendy the Feminist

East dealer
E-W vulnerable

♠ K 3
♥ 10 8 7 5
♦ A Q
♣ K J 10 9 8



♠ A J 9 2
♥ Q 3
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ A 7 4

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♦	2♥
2♠	3♥	dbl	pass
		all pass	

West leads the seven of spades, and dummy plays the three. How do you defend? [To Answer](#)

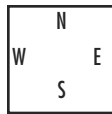
6. January 22

Major Disaster

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

♠ J 7 5
♥ K 8 3
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ Q 5 2

♠ A 4 3 2
♥ J 10 9 5 2
♦ Q 7
♣ A 4



West	North	East	South
pass	1NT	pass	1♠
pass	2♠	all pass	2♣

You lead the jack of hearts, winning, and another heart. South discards a diamond and discards another diamond when East leads the ace of hearts next. East shifts to the deuce of diamonds, but South produces the ace and then leads the king of trumps. How do you defend? [To Answer](#)

7. January 26

The Killing Lead

South dealer
Neither vulnerable

♠ Q 10
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ A K J 10

♠ A 4 2
♥ A 8 7 6 5
♦ A
♣ Q 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
pass	2♣	pass	1♥
pass	3♥	pass	3♣
all pass			4♥

West leads the ten of hearts, and East plays the jack. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

8. January 29

Even Disposition

North dealer
Both vulnerable

♠ Q 9 6 4 3
♥ —
♦ A 7 6 5
♣ K 9 8 7

♠ A 10 8 7 5
♥ A 3
♦ K J 2
♣ A J 6

West	North	East	South
2♥	pass	pass	1♠
pass	3♥	pass	4♣
pass	4♦	pass	5♠
	6♠	all pass	

West leads the king of hearts. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

5. January 20

Wendy the Feminist

East dealer
E-W vulnerable

<p>♠ Q 10 8 7 4 ♥ K ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ Q 6 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ K 3 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ A Q ♣ K J 10 9 8</p> <p>♠ A J 9 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ A 7 4</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

<p>♠ 6 5 ♥ A J 9 6 4 2 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ 5 3</p>
--

West	North	East	South
		1♦	2♥
pass	pass	dbl	pass
2♠	3♥	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠7

Fireworks were expected when Cy the Cynic, who thinks a woman's place is in the kitchen, opposed Wendy the Feminist, a new member of my club. (Ask Wendy how many men it takes to wallpaper a room, and she'll say three — if you slice them thinly.)

As South, Cy played low from dummy on the first spade, and Wendy, East, took the jack and ace and led a low trump. Cy took the ace and led a club to the jack. Wendy ducked (best), but Cy led the king(!) from dummy next and could set up the clubs, losing a club, two spades and a trump.

‘Even a man should know enough to lead the suit his partner bid,’ Wendy told West. ‘A diamond lead beats it.’

‘No,’ said Cy. ‘I still set up the clubs, and you get one trick in each suit. A spade lead works — if you play the deuce. You know from the Rule of Eleven that I can't beat the seven. If West wins the first spade, a diamond shift sinks me.’

First blood to Cy. ‘Wendy can dish it out,’ he told me, ‘but she can't cook it.’

[To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ K 3 ♥ 10 8 7 5 ♦ A Q ♣ K J 10 9 8. The dealer, on your right, opens one spade. You double, and your partner bids two diamonds. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Pass. A good partner would have had the decency to respond with a bid in hearts or clubs, but good partners are hard to find. Since you have no extra strength, you can't afford to act again although your diamond support isn't what it should be.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

	♠ J 7 5 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ 8 5 4 3 ♣ Q 5 2										
♠ A 4 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 5 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A 4	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ K J 9 2 ♣ 9 8 7 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
West	North	East	South								
			1♠								
pass	1NT	pass	2♣								
pass	2♠	all pass									
			♠ K Q 10 9 8 ♥ 4 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ K J 10 6								

Opening lead: ♥J

'It was the mother of all disasters,' a player at the club told me grimly. 'We sold out to two spades when we could make five hearts.'

'And then,' his partner added, 'they made two spades.'

South had refused to ruff the second heart; he threw a diamond, then another diamond when East led the ace of hearts.

East next led a diamond, and South won and led a high trump. West took the ace and led the queen of diamonds, and South ruffed and forced out the ace of clubs. West, with no more diamonds, led a heart, but South ruffed in dummy, drew trumps and claimed the contract.

'Which one of us should have bid?' East and West asked.

'Unclear,' was my verdict. 'West didn't have enough to try two hearts at his first turn but might have bid after North-South stopped low. East might have doubled 1NT for takeout.'

It is clear that West can save something by defeating two spades. If he holds up his ace of trumps until the third lead, he can force South to ruff a heart in his hand, losing control. He can also prevail by winning the second trump and leading the ♦Q. **To Question**

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ A 4 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 5 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A 4. Dealer, on your left, opens one spade. Your partner doubles, and the next player raises to two spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Bid four hearts (or, with a fine partner, cuebid three spades to show the strength for game). Your partner promises a good hand with heart support and is sure to have a singleton spade when the opponents have bid and raised spades. You'll make game easily.

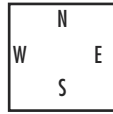
7. January 26

The Killing Lead

South dealer
Neither vulnerable

♠ 9 8 6 5 3
♥ 10 9
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ 5 4

♠ Q 10
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ A K J 10



♠ K J 7
♥ K Q J
♦ Q J 8 5
♣ 9 3 2

West	North	East	South
			1♥
pass	2♣	pass	3♣
pass	3♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

♠ A 4 2
♥ A 8 7 6 5
♦ A
♣ Q 8 7 6

Opening lead: ♥10

After a duplicate event, the talk in the club lounge turned to this deal. Every North-South pair had reached four hearts.

‘When I was South, the opening lead was a spade,’ Cy the Cynic offered. ‘I won, returned a spade and later ruffed a spade in dummy to take ten tricks.’

‘Good for you,’ Unlucky Louie grumbled. ‘Against me they found the killing opening lead: a trump. I took the ace and led a spade, but the man won and cashed the K-Q of trumps. I lost another spade and went down.’

‘You think a trump lead was the killer?’ I asked. Louie eyed me warily.

‘At the table I watched,’ I said, ‘South took the second trump and cashed the ace of diamonds. He got to dummy three times with clubs to ruff diamonds, then led a fourth club. East refused to ruff; but South next led dummy’s last trump, and East had to lead from the king of spades.’

Tough game, bridge. With a spade lead South takes ten tricks; the ‘killing’ trump lead gives him a chance for eleven. [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ A 4 2 ♥ A 8 7 6 5 ♦ A ♣ Q 8 7 6. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and he then bids one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: You could roar into 3NT, but you have time for investigation. Bid two clubs. Since you haven’t yet passed, this bid of a new suit is forcing. If partner bids two diamonds or 2NT next, you can try 3NT, but if he bids two hearts, you’ll bid four hearts.

North dealer
Both vulnerable

♠ K J	♠ Q 9 6 4 3	
♥ K Q J 10 2	♥ —	
♦ Q 8 3	♦ A 7 6 5	
♣ Q 10 2	♣ K 9 8 7	

♠ 2	<table style="border: none; width: 100px; height: 100px;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
		♦ 10 9 4									
		♣ 5 4 3									

West	North	East	South
	pass	pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♥	pass	4 ♣
pass	4 ♦	pass	5 ♠
pass	6 ♠	all pass	

♠ A 10 8 7 5
♥ A 3
♦ K J 2
♣ A J 6

Opening lead: ♥K

'I cut Grapefruit at rubber bridge today,' Ed (the best player in our club) told me. As I have mentioned, Grapefruit has a perfectly even disposition: always sour.

'On the first deal,' Ed related, 'he bid like a madman, and I was lucky to go down only one. Grapefruit growled that I could've made the hand three different ways. This was the next deal.'

Ed showed me the layout. 'I ruffed the first heart in dummy and led a trump to my ace. Next I led the ace of hearts and 'absent-mindedly' ruffed it.'

'What did Grapefruit say to that?' I asked.

'Nothing I'd repeat,' Ed said. 'When I led a trump next, West was endplayed. If he led a minor, I'd get four tricks there; if he led a heart, I'd ruff in dummy, pitch a club, take the top clubs, ruff a club and throw a diamond on dummy's last club.'

'If you discard on the ace of hearts,' I said, 'you can't make it. Well done!'

'Grapefruit didn't think so,' Ed sighed. 'He muttered that God must look out for fools and his partners.' [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ K J ♥ K Q J 10 2 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ Q 10 2. You deal and open one heart, and your partner responds one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Don't rebid two hearts, even though you have 100 honors, since you'd guarantee a six-card suit. You're never forced to rebid two hearts in this sequence with only five; you'll always have an alternative. Bid 1NT, promising 12 to 15 points with balanced distribution.

9. February 6

Harlow the Halo

West dealer
E-W vulnerable

♠ 4 3
♥ K J 6 5 2
♦ A Q J
♣ 6 4 2

♠ K Q J 10 9 6 2
♥ —
♦ K 10 9 3
♣ 7 3

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	2♣	4♠
dbl	all pass		

West leads the king of clubs and shifts to the six of diamonds. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

10. February 10

Occupational Hazards

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 8 4
♦ K 4 3
♣ J 10 9 8 7

♠ A 8 4
♥ A Q J 10
♦ A Q 8 5
♣ A Q

West	North	East	South
pass	3NT	all pass	2NT

West leads the king of spades. You duck your ace twice and win the third spade as East follows. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

11. February 12

That's Just Ducky

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

♠ Q J 5
♥ J 9 3 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A 6 4

♠ A 10 4
♥ Q 4
♦ A K Q 10 5
♣ K 5 2

West	North	East	South
pass	1♥	pass	1♦
pass	3NT	all pass	2NT

West leads the seven of clubs. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

12. February 15

Louie's Good Fortune

South dealer
Neither vulnerable

♠ J 4
♥ A 9 3
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ A 10 4 3

♠ A 7
♥ 7 6 5
♦ A K Q 2
♣ Q J 5 2

West	North	East	South
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT

West leads the deuce of spades: jack, queen from East. You take the ace, but when you cash the ♦ A-K, West discards a heart. Plan the play. [To Answer](#)

9. February 6

Harlow the Halo

West dealer
E-W vulnerable

♠ A 8 7 5	♠ 4 3	♠ —
♥ A 7 4 3	♥ K J 6 5 2	♥ Q 10 9 8
♦ 6	♦ A Q J	♦ 8 7 5 4 2
♣ K Q J 10	♣ 6 4 2	♣ A 9 8 5

♠ K Q J 10 9 6 2
♥ —
♦ K 10 9 3
♣ 7 3

N	E
W	S

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	2♣	4♠
dbl	all pass		

Opening lead: ♣K

Success can be hard to handle, especially when it's somebody else's. Unlucky Louie is resigned to his bad luck, but it annoys him when the card gods favor a player we call Harlow the Halo. Harlow's luck is as good as Louie's is awful.

'The man could be looking for a needle in a haystack,' Louie grumbles, 'and he'd find not only the needle but the farmer's daughter.'

Both Louie and Harlow sat South in a duplicate game. When Louie played four spades doubled, West led his singleton diamond.

'It was a killer,' Louie told me. 'I won and led a trump, but West won and led the queen of clubs, deceiving East into winning with the ace and returning a diamond. West ruffed and cashed a club, and I was down with never a chance.'

'Good defense,' I shrugged.

'The Halo also landed at four spades doubled,' Louie said, 'but West led the king of clubs and shifted to his singleton diamond. Harlow's no great declarer, but he won in dummy and led the king of hearts to discard his last club.'

'The good old Scissors Coup,' I noted.

'West won,' Louie nodded, 'but couldn't put East in with a club to get a ruff; so Harlow lost a trump, a heart and a club.'

The Halo was lucky indeed. West needed one trick from East to beat the contract. Since West had the ace of trumps and the ace of hearts, he knew South couldn't get fast discards for any losing clubs. West had no reason to lead anything at Trick 1 but his singleton to try for a ruff. [To Question](#)

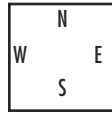
10. February 10

Occupational Hazards

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

♠ K Q J 9
♥ K 9 6 2
♦ 7 2
♣ K 6 3

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 8 4
♦ K 4 3
♣ J 10 9 8 7



♠ 10 6 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
			2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

♠ A 8 4
♥ A Q J 10
♦ A Q 8 5
♣ A Q

Opening lead: ♠K

Cy the Cynic seems to have plenty of money, though where he got it is a mystery. The speculation about Cy's former occupation has developed into a running gag at the club that lets Cy's wit have full rein:

'Cy, were you a secretary?'

'No, I wasn't the type.'

'Were you a contortionist, Cy?'

'I couldn't make ends meet.'

'Did you work in a distillery?'

'Nope, they were only offering time and a fifth for overtime.'

'How about a chimney sweep?'

'It didn't soot me.'

Between fielding job queries, Cy was declarer at this 3NT contract, and afterwards it was in the same shape as his career as an archeologist: it lay in ruins. Cy won the third spade and led the ace and queen of clubs. West played low.

It wouldn't help Cy to lead to the king of diamonds and force out the king of clubs, since dummy would have no more entries. So Cy led a diamond to dummy and returned a heart to finesse. West took the king and cashed the king of clubs and his last spade to defeat the contract.

It's a good thing Cy doesn't have to make a living at bridge. How would you have played the hand?

After taking the ace of spades, South leads the queen of clubs without cashing the ace. West must play low, or else South can unblock the ace of clubs later and get to dummy with the king of diamonds for the clubs.

South next leads the ace and queen of hearts. West can win and cash his good spade, but South takes the rest, winning three hearts, three diamonds, two clubs and a spade.

[To Question](#)

11. February 12

That's Just Ducky

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

<p>♠ K 9 8 6 ♥ A 6 5 ♦ 4 ♣ Q 10 8 7 3</p>	<p>♠ Q J 5 ♥ J 9 3 2 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ A 6 4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 10px auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> </div>	<p>♠ 7 3 2 ♥ K 10 8 7 ♦ J 9 8 3 ♣ J 9</p>
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<p>♠ A 10 4 ♥ Q 4 ♦ A K Q 10 5 ♣ K 5 2</p>
--

West	North	East	South
			1♦
pass	1♥	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Opening lead: ♣7

The fabulous Elfreda ‘Ducky’ van Tassel was at the club today. Depending on how the market closed, Ducky is either the richest person in town or close to it. If she lives to be 90, she won't have a party; she'll just split 3-for-1.

Ducky handles stock splits better than bad splits at bridge. As South, she won the first club in dummy and led the queen of spades to finesse. West played low, and Ducky next let the jack ride.

This time West won and led the queen of clubs. Ducky took the king, cashed the A-K of diamonds and sighed that diamonds weren't her best friend. East got the jack — Ducky couldn't get back to dummy to finesse — and the defense took the rest. Down two.

It's easy to handle the 4-1 diamond split. South can win the first club with the king and test diamonds by cashing the A-K. When West discards, South leads a low spade. Whatever West does, South gets to dummy to pick up the diamonds, winning five diamonds, two spades and two clubs. [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

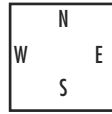
YOU HOLD: ♠ Q J 5 ♥ J 9 3 2 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ A 6 4. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and he next bids two clubs. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your partner surely has at least five diamonds; if he had four cards in each minor suit, he'd open one club. Bid two diamonds, returning to a suit in which you have eight trumps. Your hand is too weak for a more encouraging bid of 2NT, which would promise about 11 points.

South dealer
Neither vulnerable

♠ K 8 5 2
♥ Q 8 4 2
♦ 9
♣ 9 8 7 6

♠ J 4
♥ A 9 3
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ A 10 4 3



♠ Q 10 9 6 3
♥ K J 10
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ K

West	North	East	South
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT

♠ A 7
♥ 7 6 5
♦ A K Q 2
♣ Q J 5 2

Opening lead: ♠2

Some of us went to dinner at a Chinese restaurant, and Unlucky Louie's fortune cookie contained this: 'You will meet a beautiful woman; you will give her money.'

'Doesn't sound bad,' Louie smiled.

Louie also had high hopes later that evening at 3NT. He took the ace of spades and cashed the A-K of diamonds, scowling when West discarded a heart. Louie next let the queen of clubs ride, but East produced the king and cashed four spades. Down one.

'My luck is as bad as ever,' Louie sighed, 'but at least I'm going to meet a beautiful woman.'

'West's lead of the deuce marks him with four spades,' I said. 'After he shows up with a singleton diamond, he must have four hearts and four clubs or else he'd have held a five-card suit to lead from. If West has, say, K-9-8-7, you can never take four club tricks. Your only chance is to play East for the singleton king.'

Louie groaned.

'By the way,' I added, 'that cashier at the Chinese restaurant was a knockout, wasn't she?' [To Question](#)

Bidding Quiz

YOU HOLD: ♠ J 4 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 10 4 3. Your partner opens one spade, you respond 1NT and he rebids two spades. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner promises minimum values with at least six cards in spades. You have only 9 points, but since they consist of two aces and a 'working' jack, game is quite possible. Bid 2NT. If partner has a typical minimum such as ♠ A K Q 7 5 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ K 6, 3NT will be a fine contract.

GENERAL INTEREST

Frank Stewart's Bridge Club is no ordinary place. It is the regular haunt of a cast of somehow familiar players: Unlucky Louie, against whom no one ever makes a wrong bid or play; Grapefruit, a man with an unnaturally sour disposition; Cy the Cynic, who knows that the Fates will conspire against him whatever he does; Minnie Bottoms, who tends to mix up jacks and kings but always somehow finds the killing play by mistake; Will Rogers, who never met a hand he didn't like; Frank himself, whose dry wit will keep you coming back for more; and many others. Pick up bridge pointers, try the quizzes, and have a great time while you do it.

'If this book was meant to be both instructive and entertaining, as Frank hoped, put me down for an A+.'

- Eddie Kantar



FRANK STEWART is one of the world's best-known bridge writers and teachers. His syndicated Daily Bridge Club newspaper column and his magazine articles are read by millions of loyal fans. This is his twentieth book on the game.



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