



A clone of 869; 6 deals originally used in early VB editions.  
ACOL bidding

VB#17 Y2 David Bird's hands ACOL	Contract: 6H
Date: 07/10/2015	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 1
<a href="#">Play this hand online!</a>	Vulnerable: None


West	North	East	South
-	1NT	P	6♥
P	P	P	

Lead: ♦ K

You bid boldly to a small slam in Hearts. Rightly or wrongly, West leads the ♦K. You win with the ♦A and can see a potential loser in both Spades and Clubs.

One way to save a trick would be to find a 3-3 Club break. You could then establish the thirteenth Club for a Spade discard but this relies on a lucky break. A better idea is to draw trumps and then lead the ♦J, discarding one of your black-suit losers. West is welcome to win the trick. Dummy's ♦10 will then be established and you use it to ditch your other loser.

This technique is known as a *loser-on-loser play*. You threw a low Spade (one loser) on the ♦J (another loser). So far it was a clean exchange of one trick for another. The gain came when the ♦10 was established in the process. You could then discard your Club loser too.

	North	
	♠ A65	
	♥ J2	
	♦ JT42	
	♣ AK32	
West		East
♠ T984		♠ QJ2
♥ 976		♥ 83
♦ KQ95		♦ 8763
♣ J9		♣ QT54
	South	
	♠ K73	
	♥ AKQT54	
	♦ A	
	♣ 876	

**This set of six deals is by David Bird. There is no theme to these deals - enjoy them as they come...**


Hand 1. Sometimes it is a worthwhile transaction to deliberately give a trick away.

Why is it a good idea? Because it allows you to make the contract!



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VB#17 Y2 David Bird's hands ACOL	Contract: 6S
Date: 07/10/2015	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 2
<a href="#">Play this hand online!</a>	Vulnerable: N / S

	North	
	♠ A63	
	♥ K6	
	♦ K9762	
	♣ AT5	
West		East
♠ 74		♠ 85
♥ Q842		♥ J973
♦ QT5		♦ AJ83
♣ J873		♣ Q92
	South	
	♠ KQJT92	
	♥ AT5	
	♦ 4	
	♣ K64	

Good declarers are not happy with spotting one chance to make a contract. They are always on the look-out to combine more than one chance.

West	North	East	South
-	-	P	1♠
P	2♦	P	3♠
P	4NT	P	5♦
P	6♠	P	P
P			

Lead: ♠ 4

You reach 6♠ after overbidding the South cards and West leads a trump. You can ruff your Heart loser in dummy (in the *short trump hand*). You expect to lose a Diamond and must make plans for your Club loser. One obvious chance is that the ♦A lies with West. In that case you can lead towards the ♦K and establish that card for a Club discard.


A second (almost hidden) chance is that Diamonds break 4-3 and you can set up the thirteenth Diamond for a Club discard. This will require a good number of entries to dummy. It is therefore essential that you win the trump lead in your hand and play a Diamond immediately.

The ♦K loses to East's ♦A but you have enough entries to set up the ♦9 and then discard your losing Club.



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VB#17 Y2 David Bird's hands ACOL	Contract: 4S
Date: 07/10/2015	By: South
Dealer: South	Board #: 3
<a href="#">Play this hand online!</a>	Vulnerable: E / W

<b>North</b> ♠ Q84 ♥ K53 ♦ QJ5 ♣ A943		<b>East</b> ♠ K9 ♥ A96 ♦ K843 ♣ J865	
<b>West</b> ♠ T53 ♥ QJT4 ♦ 76 ♣ QT72		<b>South</b> ♠ AJ762 ♥ 872 ♦ AT92 ♣ K	

The cards will have to lie in a particular way for you to make this contract.

It would be a shame to go down when they do lie favorably!

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	3♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

Lead: ♥ Q

You reach a poor 4♠ as South (after a slight bidding understanding) and the defenders score the first three tricks in Hearts before East switches to a Club. If you win with the ♠K in your hand, there will be no way to enter dummy to take one of the finesses you need. You therefore overtake with the ♣A.

The best chance of picking up the Spades is to lead a low card, hoping that East holds a doubleton ♠K. If you mistakenly lead the ♠Q, East will cover with the ♠K. You can win with the ♠A and play the ♠J, but will then lose the third round of the suit.

You finesse the ♠J successfully, cash the ♠A and return to dummy with the ♠Q. You then lead the ♦Q and pick up four Diamond tricks for the contract.



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ACOL bidding

VB#17 Y2 David Bird's hands ACOL	Contract: 3N
Date: 07/10/2015	By: South
Dealer: West	Board #: 4
<a href="#">Play this hand online!</a>	Vulnerable: All

<b>West</b> ♠ QJT92 ♥ T76 ♦ K5 ♣ A93		<b>East</b> ♠ 54 ♥ Q832 ♦ QJ763 ♣ 52
<b>North</b> ♠ A863 ♥ AKJ ♦ A984 ♣ Q4		
<b>South</b> ♠ K7 ♥ 954 ♦ T2 ♣ KJT876		

What is the most important part about playing a bridge contract? Remembering to thank partner for the dummy? Er, well, not really.

Drawing trumps straight away, if you are in a suit contract? That can be important, yes, but the answer I had in mind was "making a plan before you start to play".

It was the custom of the original declarer on this deal to wait until a contract had gone wrong before he started to make a plan.

West	North	East	South
P	1♠	P	1NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Lead: ♠ Q

West leads the ♠Q against your contract of 3NT, despite North having bid the suit.

They say that you should 'make a plan before playing the first card from dummy'. This deal is a good example of why that is such excellent advice. If you do not play the ♠A from dummy, you will go down.


You would then have to win with the ♠K, either on the first round or the second round. West would hold up the ♣A until the second round and you would make only one Club trick! That's what happened to the original declarer. He tried to make a plan at trick 3, when it was too late.

Provided you make the right play on the first trick, the rest of the play is easy. You end up with an overtrick.



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VB#17 Y2 David Bird's hands ACOL	Contract: 6H
Date: 07/10/2015	By: South
Dealer: North	Board #: 5
<a href="#">Play this hand online!</a>	Vulnerable: N / S

		North	
		♠ QT6	
		♥ A32	
		♦ Q9	
		♣ A9754	
West			East
♠ K74			♠ 9853
♥ 84			♥ 9
♦ AT542			♦ K8763
♣ J82			♣ QT3
		South	
		♠ AJ2	
		♥ KQJT765	
		♦ J	
		♣ K6	

Some bright young sparks might not agree with your bidding on this deal. Point out to them what a good contract you have reached!

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	P	2♥
P	3♥	P	4NT
P	5♥	P	6♥
P	P	P	

Lead: ♦ A

The defenders play two rounds of Diamonds against your small slam in Hearts. One obvious chance of making the slam is to finesse against the ♠K. A second (additional) chance is that Clubs may break 3-3. In that case you can set up the suit and discard the ♠J and ♠2 on the two good Clubs.

You ruff the second Diamond and draw trumps with the ♥K and ♥Q. you continue with the ♠K and ♠A, ruffing the third round of the suit. When Clubs break 3-3, you cross to the ♥A and discard your two potential Spade losers on the good Clubs.

If Clubs had not broken 3-3, you would have crossed to the ♥A and led the ♠Q in the hope that East held the ♠K.



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ACOL bidding


VB#17 Y2 David Bird's hands ACOL	Contract: 4S
Date: 07/10/2015	By: South
Dealer: East	Board #: 6
<a href="#">Play this hand online!</a>	Vulnerable: E / W

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♣	4♣
P	P	P	

Lead: ♣ T

East opens 1♣ and you bid a highly pre-emptive 4♣. West leads the ♣10, overtaken by East's ♣J, and you win with the ♣A. You have four minor-suit losers and must aim to discard one of them on dummy's Hearts.

You draw trumps with the ace and king, cross to the ♥A and lead the ♥Q. You are taking a *ruffing finesse* through East. He is favourite to hold the ♥K because he opened the bidding. When East covers with the ♥K, you ruff. You then return to dummy with the ♠J and discard a minor-suit loser (any minor-suit loser will do) on the established ♥J.

	North	
	♠ J42	
	♥ AQJ3	
	♦ 982	
	♣ 975	
West		East
♠ 97		♠ 3
♥ 8642		♥ KT95
♦ AJT54		♦ KQ7
♣ T2		♣ KQJ83
	South	
	♠ AKQT865	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 63	
	♣ A64	

On this deal you bid as high as you dare as quickly as you can.

Can you match your bold bidding with accurate card-play?