

# The Covid File

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club  
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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaGeneral/TheCovidFile.pdf>

These are special hands that were played on BBO during the Covid-19 Pandemic.  
They are good for review.

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### Example 8: Opening Leads

You are on lead against 4♠, and you do not want a ruff because from your hand, partner is not getting the lead. There are two unbid suits. One has a holding like example a, and the other has a holding like b, et cetera. By comparing enough pairs, rank the following leads from best to the worst.

- |           |           |           |           |          |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| a. KQ32   | b. QJ102  | c. J1098  | d. QJ109  | e. KQ432 | f. KQ1098 |
| g. QJ987  | h. QJ3    | i. KQJ3   | j. KQJ32  | k. QJ10  | l. QJ     |
| m. KQ     | n. KQ3    | o. KQJ109 | p. QJ1098 | q. KQJ   | r. KQ109  |
| s. QJ98   | t. QJ32   | u. AKQ65  | v. AK     | w. AK2   | x. AK432  |
| y. AQ6532 | z. A87654 |           |           |          |           |

The following is one possible ranking. Do you agree?

- u. AKQ65
- o. KQJ109
- j. KQJ32
- p. QJ1098
- i. KQJ3
- x. AK432
- f. KQ1098
- d. QJ109
- b. QJ102
- z. A87654
- c. J1098
- g. QJ987
- r. KQ109
- e. KQ432
- q. KQJ
- s. QJ98
- a. KQ32
- k. QJ10
- t. QJ32
- w. AK2
- n. KQ3

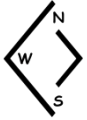
h. QJ3  
m. KQ  
y. AQ6532  
v. AK  
l. QJ

## Example 7: The Law of Total Tricks

This hand occurred during a Spokane Duplicate Bridge club game on BBO.

North-South vul.

♠10932   ♥9876   ♦AK   ♣1074

♠QJ765   ♥4   ♦Q109753   ♣J    ♠AK   ♥Q1032   ♦J42   ♣AKQ9

♠84   ♥AKJ5   ♦86   ♣86532

W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥
1♠	3♥	??	

The Law of Total Tricks dictates that a pair should compete to the level of their fit, and they must do it right away. South shows five hearts, and with four hearts, North must immediately compete to 3♥ based on what he thinks is a nine-card fit. A nine-card fit competes to the nine-trick level (three-level), and a ten-card fit competes to the ten-trick level (four-level) et cetera.

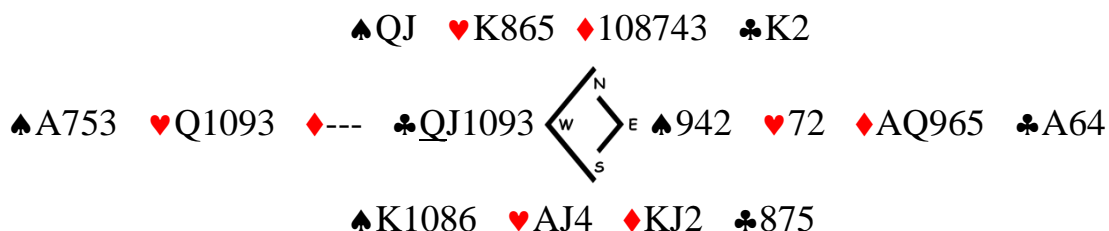
Should North bid slowly and not rule out game? No. He does not have the highest-ranking suit or the correct vulnerability to be able to out compete the opponents. Both opponents have bid making it a fight for a partscore. The least North can do is to make communication difficult. If North bids 2♥ then 3♥, communication is simple for East and West. Even the support double is available. West guarantees five spades, but knowing of an eight or nine-card fit is very useful especially when it comes to the law.

West leads his stiff club, and East overtakes. When West cannot ruff the fourth club, higher than the dummy, East can be double finessed out of his hearts.

## Example 6: The Rule of 22

This hand occurred during a Monday morning game of the Spokane Duplicate Bridge Club on BB0 on December 21, 2020.

Both vul.



W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♣
P	1♥	P	1NT
all pass			

For simplicity, XYZ is on anytime the bidding goes 1-1-1. The opponents may have bid or doubled, and Y may be by a passed hand. It does not matter what happens as long as the auction goes 1-1-1 by us.

South bid properly by skipping spades. His hand is barely one suited and is certainly not two suited.

North has two options. She can pass 1NT or bid 2♣ as a relay to 2♦ and pass. South promises two diamonds, and he plays 2♦ if North thinks 1NT is in jeopardy.

This is where the rule of 22 comes in handy.

22 points are generally needed to make or defeat 1NT. This is a rough rule because long suits and the lead make a difference.

If I open, and they overcall 1NT, you double for penalty with 10+. I have 12. This is 22. Here, a new suit at the two-level is less than 10 HCP, otherwise a penalty double is made (with a good lead if only at 10).

22 points are needed to make 1NT which means 12 to 14 opposite a good 8 to 10, plays 1NT. Therefore, in the above example, with a bad 8 HCP or worse, North transfers to diamonds and passes. If North has five hearts (a major), she bids 2♥ with 6 to 9. However, in this example, North chooses to pass 1NT with 9 HCP.

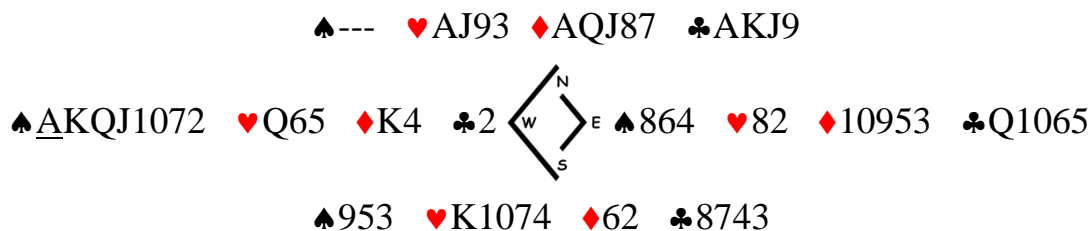
1NT by South is the correct contract, and 1NT down one was still 56.2%.

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## Example 5: Entry Management

This was a difficult hand of the Tuesday evening game (December 8, 2020) of the Columbia River Basin (Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club) on BBO.

Both vul.



W	N	E	S
			P
1♠	dbl	P	2♥
4♠	5♥	all pass	

The declarer, South, should note the following.

- Two spade ruffs are needed. Therefore, the heart finesse is not taken. Give them one heart trick for +680.
- There are two entries to the dummy. A quick one for the ♥King and a slow one with a diamond ruff. If the club finesse is taken, the diamond finesse is still needed. If the diamond finesse is taken, the club finesse is not needed.

Therefore, the opening lead of a spade is ruffed, and a heart is played to the ♥King for the diamond finesse. The ♦Ace is cashed, and when the ♦King falls, the ♥Ace is cashed. Otherwise, a diamond is ruffed. After the ♥Ace is cashed, the diamonds are run, and one diamond must be ruffed with the ♣Ace as an entry to cash the last good diamond.

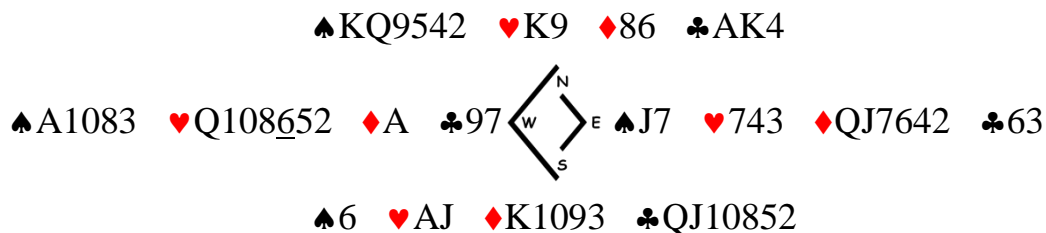
It makes +680. The key to the hand is entry management.

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### Example 4: Not a Negative Double

This hand occurred in a Spokane Duplicate Bridge Club game on November 25, 2020 during Stardust week on BBO.

Both vul.



W	N	E	S
			1♣
2♥	2♠	P	3♣
P	3♥	P	3NT
all pass			

2♠ shows 10+ and 5+ spades and is forcing one round. With only four spades or 6-9 HCP, a negative double is made. 3♥ is a cuebid that puts the game force on in the above bidding sequence. The following bidding is incorrect.

W	N	E	S	
			1♣	
2♥	dbl	P	3♣	3♣ denies four spades
3♠ is long spades & to play	P	3♠	P	4♣
	P	4NT	P	5♦
	P	6♣	P	P
	dbl	all pass		

If North is looking for slam, a cuebid is made over 4♣. That implies club support. South bids 5♣ because a spade misfit is not good for slam. 4NT cannot be used because North has a worthless diamond and cannot stand a 5♦ response. Second round control is better if it is distributional. The ♥King is not all that useful unless the contract is 3NT, and partner has a stopper as well.

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### Example 3: New Suit at the Two-Level is Nonforcing if Not a Reverse

This hand occurred in a Support Your Club game on BBO on November 23, 2020.

Both vul.

♠J104   ♥AQ6   ♦Q753   ♣K87

♠K98   ♥KJ4   ♦642   ♣A1095    ♠75   ♥987   ♦AK1098   ♣QJ2

♠AQ632   ♥10532   ♦J   ♣643

W	N	E	S
	1♦	P	1♠
P	1NT	P	2♥
P	2♠	all pass	

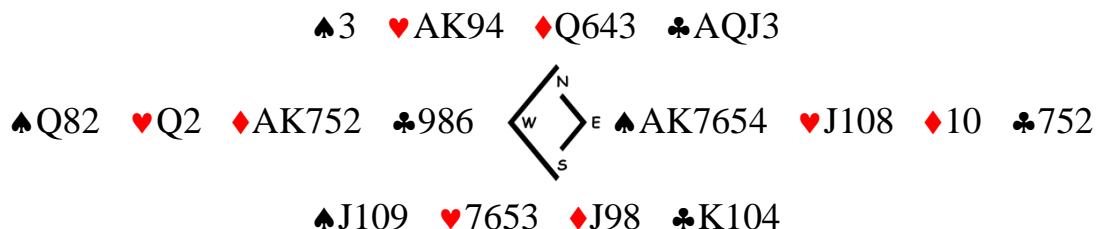
South has a 2♥ call if playing reverse Flannery. However, the above pairs are not playing that convention. Playing NMF or XYZ, South shows a weak hand with his 2♥ bid. North bids 2♠ or passes. Here he chooses spades, and South plays 2♠.

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## Example 2: Listen to Both Doubles

This hand occurred in a Star Dust Week Spokane Duplicate Bridge Club game on BBO on November 28, 2020.

Both vul.



W	N	E	S
P	1♦	2♠	P
P	dbl	P	3♦
dbl	all pass		

If North has 11-15, he has already shown that hand and he passes 2♠. North's double shows extra and four hearts. With 18-19 and spades stopped, North bids 2NT. With three hearts, a pass may be made with 16 or 17 as well as 11-15.

South must just bid 3♥. It is much more likely North's double shows four hearts and not five diamonds. 3♣ would show five diamonds.

West made a novice double. South has no reason not to believe the penalty double and bid the 3♥ that should have been bid the first time.


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### Example 1: Easy Slam or it Should be.

This was played during the Tuesday evening game (October 13, 2020) of the Columbia River Basin (Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club) on BBO.

Neither vul.

♠9532   ♥AKQ873   ♦A8   ♣3

♠Q   ♥542   ♦6532   ♣Q7654    ♠107   ♥J6   ♦KQ1097   ♣AKJ10

♠AKJ864   ♥109   ♦J4   ♣982

W	N	E	S
			2♠
P	5♣	P	5NT
P	6♠	all pass	

This should be an easy slam to get to, but nobody in a small game did. North has a void so he bids 5♣ which is 01122 exclusion Blackwood. South counts keycards excluding the club suit. If exclusion Blackwood is not being played, North may just bid 6♠, but it is better to ask for keycards and assume they are spade keycards because partner makes disciplined preempts. Some play 4♣ is 1430 keycard (and 4♦ over 3♣) over a preempt, but if not, 4NT can be used.

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