

a) **With DOPI:**

If the opponents *bid* after Exclusion RKCB then:

Double: Shows 0 or 3 key cards

Pass: Shows 1 or 4 key cards

1st Step: Shows 2 key cards without the trump queen

2nd Step: If this response does not bypass the established trump suit, then it shows 2 key cards and the trump queen

b) **With ROPI:**

If the opponents *double* your Exclusion RKCB, then:

Redouble: Shows 0 or 3 key cards

Pass: Shows 1 or 4 key cards

1st Step: Shows 2 key cards without the trump queen

2nd Step: If this response does not bypass the established trump suit, then it shows 2 key cards and the trump queen

Again, as before, if you normally play 1430 responses with your RKCB, then the first two responses in the above sequences are inverted – this is a matter for regular partnerships to agree on.

Let's look at one more example to demonstrate the system in action – once again, in an uncontested auction:

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

West	East
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♥
5♠ <sup>1</sup>	5♥ <sup>2</sup>
5♠ <sup>3</sup>	7♥ <sup>4</sup>

1 Exclusion RKCB

2 1 or 4 key cards (2nd step)

3 Do you have the trump queen?

4 Yes!

Here we see a lovely auction where the opener can use Exclusion over 3♥ to try to locate the vital diamond ace. The response shows one key card (*outside* of clubs, remember) so there can be no ambiguity here. The opener checks up on trump solidity by bidding the next suit up to ask for the trump queen. Without it the responder would have signed off in 6♥ but with it can jump to the cold grand slam.

Happy slam bidding!

## Top Table

## Brian Senior



**BRIAN SENIOR** plays as a professional partner or team-mate, is a bridge teacher, and a bridge journalist. While he has written many books on the game, he is perhaps best known as the editor, publisher, and a major contributor to the official world championship book each year. Brian has, at different times, represented Great Britain, England, Northern Ireland and Ireland in international competition, and has won all the major EBU teams competitions at least once.

### When did you start playing bridge?

Back in my early to mid-teens, my grandmother taught me many different card games, including bridge.

### How often do you play?

I play very little club bridge, but play tournaments at the weekends and, if anybody wants to take me, events overseas. One of the best things about the job I do is the opportunity to visit so many interesting places, so if anyone out there wants to employ a grumpy old bridge pro for a foreign tournament – I'm your man!

### Do you always play with the same partners / team-mates?

I play with many different partners and team-mates, though I do have some regulars. What do I expect from them? That they always try their best and don't make silly mistakes out of laziness.

### What do you do for a living?

As my previous answers will have suggested, I am a professional bridge player, though a substantial part of my time is also taken up with bridge journalism. I regularly work on the daily bulletins at world and zonal championships, and am the current editor and publisher of the official world championship book each year. Though the journalism pays less well than playing, it provides some variety and better all-round balance to life.

### What are your favourite bridge books?

I like biographies of top players rather than books on technique or system.

### What are your hobbies?

Apart from travel, I like watching sport, cricket being my number one (as should be expected of a Yorkshireman), though the sport I most go to see live is ice-hockey – I take my teenage daughter to see Notting-

ham Panthers, currently the most successful team in the UK. I also like cinema and not too heavy theatre, and read science fiction, history and biographies.

### What do you like and what would you change in bridge?

I like the fact that, however serious a competition may be, there is always a social element to the game, with the opportunity to talk to many different people during a session, and when we go to a tournament we meet up with many of the same people again and again, though I am of course concerned at the shortage of new blood coming into the English tournament scene. What do I dislike? As with life in general, bridge in the UK is over-regulated. Alert this, announce that, you can't play that convention, the extended Rule of 25, two identical convention cards – I write this fresh from playing a tournament in Manila, where I think I saw one opponent in five days with a convention card, and yet there were no problems.

### What's the bridge success (so far) closest to your heart?

I have won bridge events all around the world, and also lost some that I should have won. Some meant a lot at the time for one reason or another – perhaps because of who I was partnering, perhaps because I played particularly well – but if I had to choose one win it would be playing for Northern Ireland in the Camrose, back in the days when each match lasted for an entire weekend, and beating England – only the second time N. Ireland had ever done so. Since then I have also had the dubious privilege of playing for England against N. Ireland and losing. Given how rare and precious those N. Irish wins have been, that puts me in a unique position.