

# Sleeping on the Couch



**By Dave Caprera**  
Denver, Colorado

*The continuing bridge mis-adventures of Dave playing bridge with his wife, Anne*

## Jump Shifts by Advancer

One of the surest ways for me to end up sleeping on the couch is to have a hole in our system notes and then fail to guess what Annie thinks a bid means. It is much more palatable (and sometimes couch avoiding) to make a bid that is contrary to our agreements and then apologize profusely for having forgotten what is written in the notes. It happens to both of us from time to time, and we are somewhat understanding of the frailties of the human brain. But "holes" are a totally different problem because "if you were too stupid not to put it in the notes, it is your fault if you don't interpret correctly what I meant by my bid."

Consider the simple auction (1♥) - 2♣ - (Pass) - 3♠. Do you and your partner have an agreement? You would think that somewhere in our 100 pages of notes and 40+ years of playing bridge together we would have covered this sequence type. What our notes do say is, "If we make a one level overcall and responder passes, then jump shifts by advancer are natural and invitational. But if responder bids or doubles, then advancer's jump shift is fitting [shows the suit bid plus a fit for partner's suit]." We also play that "after we overcall, a simple new suit bid by advancer is non-forcing and constructive" and "all jump shifts by a passed hand are fitting."

There are at least a half-dozen reasonable treatments for the 3♠ bid in the above sequence:

1. It could be natural and forcing, promising a strong suit and a good hand. That is probably the simplest of agreements, and the one that is closest to old-fashioned standard. But if the partnership can live with having a cuebid of the opponent's suit not guarantee support, then a cuebid followed by a new suit can be used to show that hand.

2. It could be invitational, again promising a strong suit such as ♠KQJ10xx. The suit needs to be good enough so that if partner has a minimum and no fit they may safely pass. Because we play simple new suit bids by advancer as not forcing, this would allow us to distinguish between an invitation with a strong suit, where we would jump, and a hand such as ♠AJ98x♥xxx♦Axx♣xx, where we could bid 2♣ without promising a good suit, thus allowing overcaller to "correct" with their own good suit and a minimum.

3. It could be fitting, maybe ♠KQxxx♥xxx♦x♣AQxx (this was Annie's actual hand). Fitting jump shifts work very well in highly competitive auctions, where we may end up having to make a decision on the five level. They are also effective in allowing partner to judge whether or not to bid game and/or slam. When everyone is bidding, our agreement is to play fitting jump shifts. But it does take up a lot of room and forces us to a level that may be beyond our last plus.

4. It could be a splinter in support of clubs. I judge this to be a fairly low frequency but certainly meritorious.

5. It could be preemptive, something like ♠KQJxxxx♥xx♦xx♣xx. This is a descriptive bid and steals a lot of the opponent's bidding room. If it is the opponent's hand, this may be a very effective bid. But where we have made a 2/1 overcall and responder has passed, the chance that the hand belongs to the opponents is likely to be small.

6. And for the esoteric bidding scientists, it could be a transfer to 3NT, allowing it to be played from partner's side of the table, to be used in conjunction with a general scheme of transfer advances. I happen to like transfer advances in that they "solve" some of the problems addressed with fitting jump shifts (you can transfer to your suit and then bid partner's); they also allow advancer to, in effect, make a nonforcing suit bid by transferring to a suit and passing when partner bids it, or to show two suits by transferring to one and then bidding the other. Transfer advances don't come for free, however, as they give the opponents an artificial bid to double and a suit to cuebid. They also add additional complexity,

something Annie has made quite clear we do not need more of. (Numerous experts on the subject have observed that added complexity is one of the leading causes of couch sleeping.)

The bottom line is that this a sequence for which we needed a solid agreement. We didn't have one. Annie thought it was fitting and I thought it was a natural invite. I had a minimum hand with a singleton spade and a six card club suit so I passed. Annie gave it her best but, the 5-1 fit did not play particularly well (go figure) and she went down a few. Fortunately, there was no making game contract, so this was only a small IMP loss. But it has caused me

to go looking for a putty knife and some patching compound to fill all the holes I can find in our notes, because if I don't, I may find myself sleeping on the couch.

[Dave sent this hand to Steve Mackay, a friend of his, and a Canadian National champion, who responded:]

"Put me down for #3. I am solidly in Annie's camp here. As it happens, my preference is fitting jumps in any and all competitive auctions. But this bias of mine is not why I support Annie. It seems to me that, given your agreements, this interpretation comes closest to those agreements.

"This time, I wouldn't even give you a blanket!"

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## London Bridge Sectional

January 16-19, 2015  
Mountain Standard Time

### ELKS CLUB LODGE

3532 North McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

#### MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME

Friday, January 16 10:00 am

3:00 pm

Saturday, January 17 10:00 am

3:00 pm

Sunday, January 18 10:00 am

3:00 pm

Monday, January 19 10:00 am

and TBA  
10:00 am

**KO EVENTS** may be handicapped  
**MARIAN WARNKE KO** (1st Round)  
Stratified Open Pairs  
**MARIAN WARNKE KO** (2nd Round)  
Stratified Open Pairs

**MARIAN WARNKE KO** (Final)  
Single Session Swiss  
Stratified Open Pairs  
**JUANITA STALKUP KO** (1st Round)  
Stratified Open Pairs

**JUANITA STALKUP KO** (2nd Round)  
Stratified Open Pairs  
Single Session Swiss  
**JUANITA STALKUP KO** (Final)  
Stratified Open Pairs

Stratified Swiss Teams  
(Stratification by Team Average)  
Stratified Open Pairs

**STRATS** All Pair Games Stratified by Pair Average  
Strat A 1500-unlimited Strat B 300-1500 Strat C 0-300

**ENTRY FEES** Pairs \$10 per person (\$13 per person for unpaid or non-ACBL members)  
Swiss \$108 per team (includes lunch and dessert)

**DIC** Eric Bell Sanction S1501084 ACBL Unit 355

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Partnerships Helen Klinger 928-846-9644 [trumper@npgable.com](mailto:trumper@npgable.com)  
Web [www.bridgeinnorthernarizona.com](http://www.bridgeinnorthernarizona.com) [www.lakehavasubridge.com](http://www.lakehavasubridge.com)



## SEDONA SECTIONAL

March 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2015

(Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

Elks Lodge #2291 – 110 Airport Road, Sedona, Az.

### Sedona Lodging:

Hampton Inn (928-282-4700); \$139; Talk directly to the office – do not contact 1-800 office as only the local hotel has the offer on file.

Super Eight (928-282-1533); Sun & Thurs (\$69+tax), Fri & Sat (\$79+tax)

Rooms are Limited – Please make reservations early!

### Two Bracketed Knockouts!

Thursday  
March 12

**Stratified Open Pairs** - 9:00 AM, 1:30 PM, & 7:00 PM -Single Sessions;  
**199'er pairs** - 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM  
Strats (Average): A (1500+ MP), B (500+ to 1500MP), C (0 to 500 MP)  
199'ers (0 to 50 MP, 50 to 100 MP, 100 to 200 MP)  
**Bell Rock Bracketed Knockout** - 9:00 AM, 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM - 3 Rounds  
Top Bracket may be handicapped;  
**Single Session Swiss** – 7:00 PM;

Friday  
March 13

**Stratified Open Pairs** - 9:00 AM, 1:30 PM, & 7:00 PM -Single Sessions;  
**199'er pairs** - 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM  
Strats (Average): A (1500+ MP), B (500+ to 1500MP), C (0 to 500 MP)  
199'ers (0 to 50 MP, 50 to 100 MP, 100 to 200 MP)  
**Cathedral Rock Bracketed Knockout** - 9:00 AM, 1:30 PM & 7:00PM - 3 Rounds  
Top Bracket may be handicapped;  
**Single Session Swiss** – 7:00 PM

Saturday  
March 14

**Stratified Swiss Teams** – Two Sessions 10:00 AM  
Strats: A (1500+ MP), B (500+ to 1500MP), C (0 to 500 MP); 20 minute lunch break  
**199'er Swiss team** – 10:00 AM single session

Daily - Sandwiches, Salads & Refreshments available for lunch – Free Coffee provided all day!

Tournament Chair: Darryl Helton  
928-284-9245; [marshahelt@aol.com](mailto:marshahelt@aol.com)  
Entry Fees: \$10 members, \$13 non and unpaid ACBL members

Partnership Chair: Sonya Webber  
928-284-0855 – [sparky4921@gmail.com](mailto:sparky4921@gmail.com)  
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