

Bridge News

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THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

November 2008

Lebensohl Revisited

Provided by Neil H. Timm

In "Bridge News", we reviewed Lebensohl in the first issue, December 2006, and again in the November 2007 issue when we compared it to Rubinsohl and its close cousin Rumpelsohl.

The Major disadvantage of Lebensohl is that it results in the play of a hand from the WRONG side; since it is a relay based system instead of a transfer based system. This is not the case for Basic Rubinsohl and Transfer Lebensohl.

Transfer Lebensohl

A very close cousin to Basic Rubinsohl, and often confused with it, is Transfer Lebensohl. The conventional bids follow. The primary difference in the two systems is in the meaning of the bid of three spades. First off, all 2-level bids are to play, identical to Lebensohl. However, it may also be played over weak two bids and more as seen below.

Transfer Lebensohl over notrump and weak two bids.

After (1) INT (2X)?
(2) (2X) Dbl (P)?

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Club Bridge Note

When playing duplicate bridge, your opponents are entitled to know every agreement your partner and you have. One way this is accomplished is by filling out a convention card. This card tells your opponents the system you and your partner play and defensive carding. Both you and your partner must have a convention card filled out and have it accessible for your opponents to view when they wish. Any item in red on the card is considered "alert able" this means if your partner bids a convention you must display the alert card and say alert. This makes your opponents' aware that the bid your partner just made is not part of the standard bridge system. They can then consult your card for an explanation, or ask you what your partners bid meant. **Do not give information unless asked. Items in blue on the convention card are to be announced and not alerted.** Keep in mind if you are asking the partner of the bidder to explain a bid, that this can also help the bidder in case he made a mistake or his partner explains it incorrectly. So only ask if it will affect your bidding of the hand. Otherwise you can ask the question before the opening lead is made to the first trick of the hand. The period between the final pass and opening lead faced is now called **the Clarification Period.** Declarer and dummy may consult their own system cards (convention cards) during this time to make sure nothing has been explained incorrectly.

Question (1) – You play Modified Cappelletti where hearts represent hearts and spades represent spades. Should they be alerted? These bids, although part of a convention, are NATURAL and **are not to be alerted.**

Question (2) – You play DONT where spades is spades, should this be alerted? **Yes**, because to double and the bid spades is different from just bidding spades.

Question (3) – Over the opponents' notrump you play transfers, are these alerted or announced? They must be alerted – **DO NOT ANNOUNCE IT AS A TRANSFER.**

Question (4) – Over a 1NT opening, you have a convention you play after bidding 2♠ (e.g. a relay bid). Alert – **DO NOT ANNOUNCE. It is in a red line on the convention card.**

If either (3)/ (4) are announced, **it is unauthorized information (Bridge Law 16).**

Question (5) You play transfers when opening 1NT and the opponents interfere with 2♦, you must announce a 2♥ bid as a transfer – **DO NOT ALERT.**

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(a) X = Diamonds/Hearts/Spades.

2Y to play where Y is not equal to X.
 2NT: Puppet to 3C
 -> Pass /Lower Suit: To play.
 3X cue bid Stayman with stopper GF
 Over X=H, 3S=both minors
 3NT Slammish with stopper.
 3C: Transfer to D. INV or better. *
 3D: Transfer to H. INV or better. *
 3H: Transfer to S. INV or better. *
 * If transfer to opp's -> Stayman w/o stopper
 3S: Transfer to clubs no stopper
 3NT: To play.
 4m: Leaping Michaels. 5-5 up.
 (X=M: 4C=C+oM. 4D=D+oM.
 X=D: 4C=C+One major. 4D=H+S.)
 4M: Unbid: NAT. with stopper.
 Jump Cue: Minors. Strong.
 4NT: Minors. (Weak if X=M.)

(b) X = Clubs.

Double = Cue bid Stayman w/o stopper
 2Y where Y is not equal to X: To play.
 2NT transfer to diamonds no stopper.
 -> 3D=Accept. 3C=Decline.
 3C: Stayman with a stopper GF
 3D: Transfer to H. INV or better.
 3H: Transfer to S. INV or better.
 3S: Transfer to diamonds no stopper
 3NT: To play.
 4m: Leaping Michaels.
 4M: NAT. with stopper.

It may also be played in the sequence 1X – Dbl -2X?

The best system to play after an overcall of partner's one-notrump bid has a long history in the bridge world. For a very good discussion one may consult the May/June 1989 Issue of "Bridge Today" and the article by Alvin Roth (America's foremost bidding theorist) "Doctor Roth's What Do You Bid and Why" pages 39 – 41. He recommends that one NOT play Lebensohl but use a transfer based system like either Transfer Lebensohl or Basic Rubinsohl. The Basic Rubinsohl bids follow.

Over a natural 2♠ overcall

2NT=transfer to clubs
 3 clubs = transfer to diamonds
 3 diamonds = transfer to hearts
 3 hearts (transfer into their suit) is Stayman without a stopper
 3 spades is a transfer to 3NT with a stopper
 3NT= natural with a stopper in the bid suit.

Over a natural 2♥ overcall

2 spades is natural and non-forcing
 2NT= transfer to clubs
 3 clubs = transfer to diamonds
 3 diamonds (transfer into their suit) is Stayman without a stopper
 3 hearts shows spades with a heart stopper
 3 spades shows spades without a stopper in hearts
 3NT= natural with a stopper in the bid suit.

If the opponents overcall a natural minor, the treatment is as follows. Two level bids are natural and non-forcing. With the overcall 2♦, 2NT shows clubs as usual, but 3♣ is Stayman for both majors and asks if partner has a diamond stopper. If no major or stopper, one just accepts the transfer. Jumps in the majors are just natural and forcing. The bids of 3♦/3♥ are transfers. But, 3♠ is partnership defined most use it to show a club bust (Minor Suit Stayman). A bid of 3NT shows a stopper in diamonds.

With a 2♣ (natural or not) overcall, a double is Stayman without a club stopper and two level bids are natural and competitive. 2NT is usually defined as Stayman with a club stopper. A jump to a 3-level bid is a transfer and forcing.

With so many "toys" being used over 1NT, Rubinsohl and Transfer Lebensohl have a distinct advantage over Lebensohl since you know your suit early and it ignores the RHO getting into the act. In both systems, a double is not for penalty, but for takeout.

Advanced Rubinsohl

Provided by Neil H. Timm

Transfer Lebensohl is very similar to Basic Rubinsohl. However, a more advanced version of Rubinsohl has been advanced by Kantar/Jacobs/Maksymets which also incorporates transfer bids. It goes:

a) vs. DBL other than penalty: complete **system is on**

b) vs. 2♣ - complete **system is on**, with DBL = Stayman.

c) vs most 2♦

	1NT	(2♦)	?	
DBL				penalty
2♥/2♠				to play
2NT				transfer to 3♣

3♣			transfer to 3♦: Stayman, no stopper
3♦			transfer to 3♥: limit + in ♥
3♥			transfer to 3♠: limit + in ♠
3♠			transfer to 4♣, 6+ ♣, no stopper
3NT			no stopper
4♣			Gerber
4♦/4♥			Texas
1NT	(2♦)	2NT	
3♣		3♦	Stayman, stopper
		3♥/♠	5 card suit, stopper, GF (makes sense)
		3NT	stopper (may have ♣)
1NT	(2♦)	3♣	
3♦			no major
		3♥/3♠	Smolen, GF
3♥/3♠			4 card major
3NT			no major, stopper
1NT	(2♦)	3♦	
3♥			not a game accept
1NT	(2♦)	3♥	
3♠			not a game accept

d) vs natural 2♥

	1NT	(2♥)	?	
DBL				penalty
2♠				to play
2NT				transfer to 3♣
3♣				transfer to 3♦: limit + in ♦
3♦				transfer to 3♠: limit + in ♠
3♥				Stayman, no stopper
3♠				transfer to 4♣, 6+ ♣, no stopper
4♥				Texas => 4♠
1NT	(2♥)	2NT		
3♣		3♦		to play
		3♥		Stayman, stopper
		3♠		5 card suit, stopper, GF
		3NT		stopper (may have ♣)

e) vs. natural 2♠

	1NT	(2♠)	?	
DBL				penalty
2NT				transfer to 3♣
3♣				transfer to 3♦: limit + in ♦
3♦				transfer to 3♥: limit + in ♥
3♥				transfer to 4♣, 6+ ♣
3♠				Stayman, no stopper
4♦				Texas

1NT	(2♠)	2NT	
3♣		3♦/♥	to play
		3♠	Stayman, stopper
		3NT	stopper
1NT	(2♠)	3♥	must be willing to play 4N or higher. Otherwise bid 3N with ♣ and stopper
3♠			♣ fit
		3NT	stopper (must have to be prepared to play 4NT if partner bids 4♣)
3NT			no ♣ fit, stopper
4♣			no stopper, no ♣

f) vs. 2♦/2♥ showing ♥ + ♠

1NT	(2♦/2♥)?	
2♥		both minors, competitive only (if available)
2♠		both minors, invitational
2NT		transfer to 3♣
	3♦	to play
	3♥/♠	limit + in ♣
3♣/3♦		4NT, GF
3♥		both minors, GF, ♥ shortness
3♠		both minors, GF, ♠ shortness

Advanced Rubensohl provides responder a transfer mechanism extending Transfer Lebensohl bids. Advanced Rubensohl allows the stronger hand to become declarer, showing length in the implied suit above the rank of the suit bid. And again unlike Lebensohl, a double of a two-level bid is usually not for penalty, but for takeout.

For more information and examples, one may consult bridgehands.com on the Web and the Book: New Complete Book on Bridge (2005) by Albert Dormer & Ron Klinger.

Defense against Transfer Bids

Provided by Neil H. Timm

In the June 2008 issue of "Bridge News", we discussed some transfer bids (e.g. Jacoby, South African, and Texas, etc.) and only briefly how to defend against them. We did not discuss the often used NAMYATS convention and how to defend against transfers. The following defenses against transfer bids will allow you to show any two-suited hand with one call. They may be employed not only against transfers, but against any bid that shows another specific suit (e.g., opening 3♥ to show a preemptive bid in spades or 2NT to show the minors). A major disadvantage of transfer bids is that they give the opponent two opportunities for action: immediate or delayed. This aid to defensive bidding accuracy should be utilized.

When Your Side Has Been Silent

When the transfer bid occurs before your side has bid or doubled (e.g., vs. Jacoby or Texas response to a 1NT opening, or vs. an opening preemptive transfer bid), use the following defense:

-- A notrump bid asks for a preference between the lower two suits, excluding the one indicated by the transfer bid.

-- A double of the transfer bid shows the higher two suits.

-- A "cue bid" (in the suit indicated by the transfer bid) is top-and-bottom, asking for a preference between the top and bottom suits.

For instance, after a 2♦ Jacoby response to a 1NT opening:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♦	2NT - both minors Dbl - spades/diamonds 2♥ - spades/clubs 2♠/3♣/3♦ - one-suited hand

The double can be made with less strength than any of the other two-suited calls. One of the suits indicated by the double is the suit bid by the opponent, so partner can pass with an unsuitable hand. This sequence has an easy mnemonic: Dbl for Diamonds and the other major, Cue bid for Clubs and the other major. Bids over a 2♥ transfer to spades have the same mnemonic.

When given a choice of suits in which you have equal length, prefer a major to a minor, hearts to spades, and clubs to diamonds. Partner can keep this in mind when deciding whether to overcall or pass with a marginal hand.

The immediate overcall with a one-suited hand should be quite sound. With a doubtful hand, just pass and reopen the bidding if the transfer suit gets passed:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠/3♣/3♦

These reopening bids can be made with moderate hands, since partner is marked with some high cards when the opponents stop at the two level.

The soundness of immediate natural overcalls applies at higher levels, too:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	4♦	4♠/5♣/5♦ - sound bids 4NT - for the minors, may be speculative

It has to be remembered that a direct 4NT bid is for the minors and a balancing 4NT bid is natural. That is the general rule, and for the sake of consistency it must be followed even at this level.

With a doubtful hand, perhaps taking a deliberate save with many playing tricks but little defense, East can pass on this round and bid next time. This policy may help partner when he has to make a double/bid/pass decision.

You may sometimes have a three-suited hand with shortness in the suit indicated by the transfer bid. In that case just pass the transfer, then double for takeout on the next round. You can do this with a huge hand, since the transfer bid is forcing; there is no need to jump into the bidding immediately:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl - takeout double if 1NT was strong

If 1NT was weak this double is optional, just showing a strong balanced hand. See section 12-3, Marvin Vs Weak Notrump Openings.

When the transfer is an opening bid that shows a preemptive bid in the next higher suit, the same principles apply. An immediate notrump overcall still shows the lower two "unbid" suits. A reopening notrump bid is therefore natural:

South	West	North	East
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl - normal takeout double 3♠ - competitive reopening bid 3NT - natural		

South's 3♦ shows a preemptive 3♥ type hand. The double is not a reopening action, since an immediate double would show a two-suited hand with spades and diamonds. It is true that passing 3♣ with a nine-trick notrump hand gives North a chance to make a preemptive raise in hearts, but that must be chanced. There are two advantages to this approach: (1) a two-suited hand in the minors can be easily shown by an immediate 3NT bid, and (2) the general principles of countering transfer bids remain the same, with no exceptions.

South West	North East
3♣	Pass 3♦ 3♥/3♠/Dbl

Believe it or not, East is actually making a reopening call. North has indicated that he would have passed a normal 3♣ opening bid, so East pretends that is just what has happened. He is no worse off than he would be with a normal preemptive 3♦ opening. This is especially true if he is short in diamonds. The hand that is short in the opposing suit must be quick to act, since partner probably cannot.

Against Strong NAMYATS

The NAMYATS convention uses a 4♣ opening to show hearts and a 4♦ opening to show spades. Even in the "strong" version a 4♥ or 4♠, the bids are usually weak in high cards (only 7-7½ quick tricks), while a 4♣ or 4♦ opening shows a good hand (8-8½+ quick tricks) that would welcome a slam contract. The fact that there is an intervening suit between the transfer bid and the indicated suit affects the usual defense against transfer bids:

-- Passing and then doubling opener's major on the next round retains the same meaning: a strong three-suited hand short in opener's suit.

-- Immediate overcalls in the ranking suit (i.e., the suit lying between opener the opening bid and opener's major) may be weaker than overcalls in the remaining two suits. If you don't bid now, you have to bid higher next time.

-- Immediate overcalls in the remaining two suits are very sound, because you can pass and bid on the next round with a sacrifice type hand, at the same level that an immediate bid would require.

-- Jump overcalls are extra strong.

-- The immediate double, "cue bid" of opener's suit, and notrump bids all retain the same meaning: major/diamonds, major/clubs, and both minors, respectively:

South	West
4♣	Dbl - diamonds and spades
	4♦ - diamonds, may be a stretch 4♥ - clubs and spades
	4♠/5♣ - good hand, not a stretch 4NT - minors
	5♦/5♠ - extra strong

With a sacrifice sort of 4♠ or 5♣ bid, West could pass and bid on the next round. The immediate overcall shows a good hand both offensively and defensively. The difference may be important if partner has to decide what to do when the opponents go to 5♥.

There are two ways to show spades and a minor: double/cue bid, or bid 4♠ and then bid the minor (if you get the chance). Choose the natural bid when spades are strong and longer than the minor, the conventional call otherwise. You are not going to run if 4♠ gets doubled, so the spades had better be pretty good. When you show the suits conventionally, partner will not take a false preference in order to play the major suit.

There at least two ways of showing both minors: bid 4NT immediately or on the second round. Common sense says that an immediate 4NT bid is stronger than a delayed one. The immediate bid promises a good hand, both offensively and defensively, while a delayed bid implies poor defense.

When the opening is 4♣ you can also show diamonds and clubs by just bidding them instead of overcalling 4NT, which provides a third way of showing both minors. Show the minors this way when the clubs are not longer than the diamonds. Partner will then prefer diamonds with equal length. After a 4NT bid, he prefers clubs with equal length.

There are also three ways to get to 5♦ after a 4♣ opening: bid 5♦ immediately; bid 4♦, then 5♦, or pass and then bid 5♦. The jump is stronger; the delayed bid (passing first) is weaker. Bidding diamonds twice (a seemingly illogical action) gives room for partner to bid 4♠, so it could be based on a good hand with some spade support.

When the opening is 4♦ it is the immediate major suit bid that may be a stretch:

South	West
4♦	Dbl - diamonds and hearts
	4♥ - may be a stretch 4♠ - clubs and hearts
	4NT - minors
	5♣/5♦ - sound bids
	5♥ - extra strong

West has three ways to get to 5♥: bid 5♥ immediately, obviously the strongest action; bid 5♥ on the next round (weakest); or bid 4♥, then 5♥, which is somewhere in-between.

There are two ways to show hearts and a minor: double/cue bid, or bid both suits. With hearts longer than the minor, one bids 4♥ and then the minor. When the two suits are of equal length or the minor longer, double or cue bid.

There is no way left to double opener's eventual game bid for business, unless you are able to overcall in the ranking suit and then double on the next round. That is not a big deal, because doubling a strong NAMYATS game bid is seldom profitable and often disastrous.

Against Weak NAMYATS

When the opening bid of 4♣ or 4♦ shows a weak major suit preempt, we must have a way of doubling the major for business. The delayed double therefore becomes a little more optional than takeout, not necessarily a three-suited hand. Otherwise the defense is the same as against the strong version of NAMYATS.

NAMYATS --- NOTE: When playing strong NAMYATS most people will open 4♥/4♠ directly with weak preemptive hands and long major suits. Warning, if NAMYATS is not played by the partnership, the "preemptive bid" may be strong! Even if you play strong NAMYATS, you should discuss it with your partner. For example, some partnerships play the refusal of the transfer (4♦ over 4♣ and 4♥ over 4♦) to allow opener to play game (usually no tenaces) while others use the intermediate bid to request partner to bid an ace if he has one or to sign off without an ace. For a nice review of bidding sequences visit the Web site: members.shaw/convention/Namyats.htm. Again, you should discuss NAMYATS with your partner.

Action vs. NAMYATS by Fourth Seat

When the opening has been passed by second seat, third seat will either bid four of partner's major or bid the next higher suit (as a query bid, or as a "retransfer" to let opener play the hand).

-- When third seat signs off in opener's suit, a double is for takeout and a 4NT bid shows both minors:

South	West	North	East
4♣	Pass	4♥	Dbl - takeout
			4NT - minors

Against the weak version of NAMYATS, the double of 4♠ is more optional than takeout, just as it would be over a normal preemptive 4♥ or 4♠ opening.

-- When third seat bids the ranking suit so that opener can play the hand that is treated like a transfer bid:

South	West	North	East
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4♣ Pass 4♦ Dbl - spades and diamonds
 4♥ - spades and clubs
 4NT - minors

South West North East
 4♣ Pass 4♥ Dbl - hearts and diamonds
 4♠ - hearts and clubs
 4NT - minors

Other defensive actions are similar in meaning to those employed by second seat.

When Your Side Has Previously Bid a Suit

When the transfer bid occurs after your side has bid a suit (e.g., opponent's transfer response to an overcall), a double is merely suit-showing. If both partners have bid, a cue bid in either the overcall suit or the suit indicated by the transfer bid is a "telling cue bid," showing that suit stopped and suggesting that partner bid notrump with the other suit stopped.

South West North East
 1♣ 1♦ 2♣ 2♥ - transfer to ♠
 Dbl - hearts
 2♠/3♦ - telling cue bid, showing a stopper

If partner has not previously bid, it is difficult to come up with a meaning for a cue bid in either suit:

South West North East
 1♠ 2♣ Pass 2♦ - transfer to ♥
 Dbl - diamonds
 2♥ - takeout, spades and five diamonds
 3♦ - very strong two-suiter

When Your Side Has Bid Notrump

Suppose a 1NT opening is overcalled with a transfer bid:

South West North 1 N T
 2♥* ?

* Transfer to spades

A double is merely suit-showing, denying the strength for a bid at the three level. A 2NT response has the same meaning as if the overcall were natural. It is clear that a cue bid of the indicated suit (spades, in this case) is Stayman, asking for a major and showing at least a game-invitational hand. In the auction above South must bid 3NT or 4♥ in response to 2♠ with a maximum opening, since 2NT or 3♥ is likely to be passed.

Member News

Bill Garner attains the level of Silver Life Master.

Club members shine in September 2008 Naples Regional: Roxana Perkins 24.04, Marilyn O'Donnell 20.35, the Ziemans 5.28, the Zieglers 4.16, and James Spector 2.84. Congratulations. Sorry if I missed someone. If I did, please tell me. Thanks.

70% Games

(Many 60+ games in the club, no new 70% games)

Heinz and Betty Jaffe

By Doug Worthington



Betty and Heinz Jaffe stand in front of their entertainment center. This center is the source of much musical pleasure, from operas to classical music.

Dangerfield is not Heinz Jaffe's middle name, but perhaps it should be, given the dangers he has faced to life and property since he was a teenager. As a 13-year-old Jewish boy his parents arranged for him and his brother to leave Nuremberg, Germany in 1936 and live with an uncle in Newark, New Jersey. Eight years later he would return to Germany as a combat engineer where he suffered serious injuries from a mine explosion. In retirement in New Orleans, the home Betty and Heinz lived in sustained disastrous water damage from Katrina in 2005. The following year they moved into their new home in Mallory Village 13 months before a freak accident associated with the February tornado flooded their new home and forced them to evacuate for nearly two months.

Heinz's father sold paper products in Nuremberg in the 1930s. Two years after Heinz and his older brother, Walter, were sent to the safety of Newark, his parents were able to escape and join their sons. "As a young boy I did not understand or appreciate why my parents had sent us away," Heinz explains. "They didn't know if they would ever see us again. Later I came to view their decision as a wonderful act of love and foresight."

In high school in Newark Heinz played the trombone and also helped to lead the marching band and the orchestra. His great love of music continues to this day. Outside of school he played soccer with a group of German Jewish immigrants. After completing high school he got a job as a pattern maker for 50 cents an hour and attended engineering school at night.

In 1943 he joined the 12th Engineers Combat Battalion, part of the US Army's 8th Infantry Division. The following year he was deployed to Europe. In February 1945 he was on the frontlines of the battle 60 miles from Aachen, Germany, when he sustained serious injuries to his lung, intestines, thigh, and hand from a mine explosion. (Heinz has prepared a seven-page document about his involvement in WWII for a museum in New Orleans. Contact Heinz or Doug Worthington for a copy of this fascinating description. It reads like an Ernie Pyle story.) Eight months after being wounded, and after several operations and long stays in hospitals and rehab facilities, he was discharged from the army.

Back home he attended the Newark College of Engineering (known today as the New Jersey Institute of Technology) under the GI Bill, graduating in 1949. He worked in the aerospace industry for the rest of his professional life.

In 1952 he met Betty Wand through the singles club at his temple. Betty had grown up in Newark. She graduated from Montclair Teacher's College (known today as Montclair State) with a major in Spanish and a minor in bookkeeping. She took a year off from college to live with a family in Mexico City and improve her Spanish. After college Betty worked for 10 years with the Pan American Coffee Bureau. She tutored young people in Spanish as a side job. Betty married Heinz in 1954.

Their first child, Linda, was born in 1957. She is a cardiologist and married to a medical doctor in Orlando. They have two children, a boy and a girl. When Heinz and Betty evacuated from New Orleans and later The Villages, they lived with their daughter's family for four months and seven weeks respectively. Heinz and Betty had a son, Peter, in 1959. He lives in Cary, North Carolina. He has a telecommuting job in the IT field. Peter and his wife also have a boy and a girl.

Heinz worked his way up to VP of engineering for a division of Textron Company. While working for the same company, he and Betty lived in West Orange, New Jersey, Huntington, New York, Charlotte, North Carolina, and New Orleans.

After his retirement in 1991, he and Betty remained in New Orleans. From 1991 to 2005, Heinz worked as a volunteer for SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). He consulted with business people who either wanted to start a new business or were having problems with their current business. Heinz also tutored people who wanted to learn to read.

After Katrina, Heinz and Betty lived with their daughter in Orlando and contemplated their next move. They could

