



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – August 22, 2022

Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of July.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	27.60	1	Suzanne Edwards	8.79	1	Molly Worden	4.94
2	Ted Boyd	22.45	2	Jim Dalgliesh	7.62	2	Sue McDonald	4.73
3	Colin Harrington	21.90	3	Zaffar Husain	6.79	3	Steven Allen	4.12
4	Margot Stockie	17.66	4	Jake Liu	6.60	4	Joe Blake	3.80
5	Moira Hollingsworth	17.02	5	Cheryl Kip	6.48	5	Judy Johnston	3.20
6	Cindy Mahn	16.15	6	Andy Wilson	5.60	5	Carol Gerber	3.20
7	Dianne Aves	13.36	7	Barbara Arthur	5.38	7	Reinhold Kauk	3.17
8	Edith Ferber	12.65	8	Lori Cole	5.22	8	Belinda Burt	3.06
9	Mike Peng	10.44	9	Sue Peterson	5.09	9	Tong Chen	3.00
10	Stephen Young	9.88	10	John Kip	5.07	10	Anita Hanson	2.98
11	Susan Lawton	9.73	11	Judy Widdecombe	4.68	10	Barb Neibert	2.98
12	William Christian	9.62	12	Grace Messner	4.60	12	Nancy Cattanach	2.93
13	Neil Jeffrey	9.10	13	Donna Coombe	4.59	13	Virginia Alviano	2.86
14	Pat McMillan	8.26	14	Roy Dandyk	4.57	14	Susan Durance	2.81
15	David Longstaff	8.16	15	Shelley Metcalfe	4.36	15	Elinor Girouard	2.61
16	Diane Bourdeau	7.84	16	Ted Kennedy	4.32	16	Rick Arthur	2.30
17	Sharon Boyd	7.54	17	Bev Hitchman	4.13	17	JJ Girard	2.17
18	Liz McDowell	7.01	18	Robert Walker	4.08	18	Shirley Clarke	2.16
19	Kathy Russell	6.95	19	Vivian McLellan	4.04	19	Jeannie Leforge	2.03
20	Neil Coburn	6.37	20	Joan Slover	3.98	20	Ginny Scott	1.96
21	Robert Griffiths	6.27	21	Adriaan Kempe	3.96	21	Donna McKay	1.87
22	Tom Ramsay	5.70	22	Nancy Millward	3.84	22	Noah Pace	1.79
23	Adrian Record	5.25	23	Bob Livermore	3.66	23	Pat McDonald	1.78
24	Barbara Kains	5.19	24	William Sherman	3.49	24	Audrey Cook	1.64
25	John Hanemaayer	5.15	25	Jack Cole	3.48	25	MJ Hartleib	1.43

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **FACE-TO-FACE.**

North American Pairs

The North American Pairs (NAP) are an ACBL-wide grassroots competition to encourage all members (there are three flights) to compete for significant masterpoints and the possibility of a North-American bridge title. In order to compete, players must first qualify in a club game – and our club will be offering more chances to qualify in August (see the green-highlighted games below). The play-offs will be held in Tillsonburg sometime in late October or early November. Click [here](#) for more information about the NAPs. There are extra masterpoints available, some of them red, and there is a \$2 surcharge for NAP games.

Coming Events

- Friday, August 19, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE** **EXTRA MASTERPOINTS****
 - Friday, August 19, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE** **EXTRA MASTERPOINTS****
 - Saturday, August 20, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Sunday, August 21, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, August 22, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
 - Monday, August 22, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, August 22, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, August 22, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$7 **NAP PAIRS****
 - Tuesday, August 23, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Tuesday, August 23, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$9 members/ \$11 non-members) **FACE TO FACE** **NAP PAIRS****
 - Wednesday, August 24, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Wednesday, August 24, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$7 **NAP PAIRS****
 - Thursday, August 25, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, August 25, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, August 25, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5 ON HIATUS**
 - Thursday, August 25, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
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The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the “The Answer Lady”, I have been responding to questions from “newer” players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players’ questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player!

If you have a question, please write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca. You don’t need to send me the actual deal – just tell me the game date and board number and I can take care of the rest.

Question

I am wondering if you can help my partner and me get to the right contract on this hand from a recent GRBC 199er game. The bidding is shown in the hand below. We were sitting North/South and ended up in 5♦, going down one for a poor score. Other N/S pairs played the hand in 4♠ with better results and top boards. We thought we should be in spades as well, but we weren't sure how to bid the hand and get to that contract.

Some pairs bid 1♠ after the 1♦ opening, but I decided to show my heart suit first. Was that the right bid? Should partner have shown her four-card spade suit before rebidding her diamonds?

	N North ♠ A863 ♥ K83 ♦ AQJ42 ♣ K	W N E S P P P P P 1♦ P 1♥ 2♣ 2♦ P 3♦ P 5♦ P P
	W West ♠ 72 ♥ A752 ♦ 3 ♣ A107632	E East ♠ 1095 ♥ Q6 ♦ 9876 ♣ QJ84
	S South ♠ KQJ4 ♥ J1094 ♦ K105 ♣ 95	5♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Answer

Thank you for sharing this hand with a bidding dilemma. Perhaps it could be titled **“How to bid a hand incorrectly and benefit from that bidding error”**. Not you - all the other N/S pairs who bid 1♦-1♠: there were four of them to be exact.

South was absolutely correct in bidding 1♥ after North opened 1♦. This is bidding “up the ladder” by mentioning a four-card heart suit before a four-card spade suit. The hope is that your partner will have four hearts and/or four spades such that one of these suits can be comfortably raised. By bidding spades before hearts, players are either denying four hearts or else saying they might have four hearts (they’ll tell you later if they do), but for sure they have five spades. This was not the case on this hand where South has four hearts and four spades. (If South had had five spades and five hearts, **then** it would be correct to bid spades first.)

The players who skipped over the hearts ended up finding the spade fit right away. They got lucky! On another day, they might not have been as fortunate, especially if their partner had had four hearts but only three spades. Everyone with that bidding sequence would miss the heart fit. I am assuming that those N/S pairs who bid 1♠ over the 1♦ bid liked the look of their spade suit, namely KQJx in spades, as opposed to only J109x in the heart suit. That is insufficient reason to bid spades over hearts given the points outlined above.

What to do here? I like North’s quiet diamond rebid. Her hand has declined in value with West’s club bid: that singleton king of clubs might as well be a deuce. Now North’s hand is worth only about 14 HCP – not enough to make a more exciting bid.

South’s hand, on the other hand, has improved in value. Now all of her points are working. The king of diamonds will obviously be very welcome to her partner. She has a couple of nice tens, and those terrific spade honours! Her 10 HCP are really more like 11 or 12. She has enough to bid again, and of course the obvious choice is to show her spades.

Here is a reasonable sequence.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	P	1♥
2♣	2♦	P	2♠
P	4♠	AP	

After South shows that she has four spades and 11-12 HCP, North can comfortably jump to game with her own four spades and extra values.



I don't think they are playing with a full deck.



GRBC Tenth Birthday Picnic

Contributed by Lori Cole

We are all so proud of our club - so we are planning to celebrate this important milestone with an outdoor party at supertime, food, and lots of bridge!!!! Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 9 (rain date Friday, September 16). See last week's Alert for details of the day's activities.

But use this link to sign up (last week's link did not work - sorry). We need to know how many will attend for food quantities and parking plans. Please click [here](#) if you plan to come.

Happy Birthday to Us!



Team Games

Just a reminder about our fall team leagues. For newer players: team games are the most popular bridge format because they're so much fun! The leagues are stratified, meaning that everyone plays against teams at their own level – but you're all in the same room together, and there's a real party atmosphere. So much fun!

For more information, contact [Mike Peng](#). To indicate your interest, click [here](#). You can register as a team or as a pair looking to join a team. So far, we have three teams plus one pair.

Please sign up before September 2.

Conventional Wisdom

*This column discusses conventions, starting with the most useful ones [according to Larry Cohen](#). Today, we will talk about **Jacoby Two No Trump**.*

The Jacoby 2NT convention is an artificial, game-forcing response to a 1♥ or 1♠ opening bid. It shows four-plus trump support and opening points or better. The bid asks opener to describe his or her hand further, so that slam prospects can be evaluated. Opener's responses show shortness and/or point count. Jacoby 2NT is **alertable**, as are opener's responses.

Jacoby 2NT is found on the front of the convention card, halfway down the page on the left-hand side, in the box entitled MAJOR OPENING. Tick the **2NT box** on the Conv. Raise line, and underneath (on the **Other** line), write Jacoby 2NT.

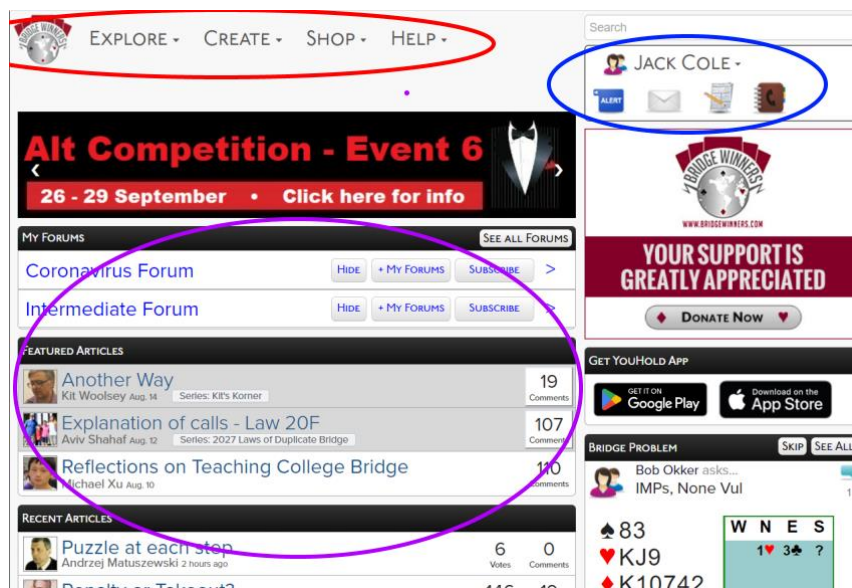
If you would like to take an online or in-person lesson on Jacoby 2NT, write to [Malkin Howes](#) specifying your lesson mode preference and possible time lines.

What is BridgeWinners (BW) Anyway? Getting Started with Forums

Contributed by Jack Cole

In their own words, “Bridge Winners connects bridge players from around the world through our social network and provides a venue to learn, share, and talk about the game we love. Bridge Winners also offers daily articles, tournament reports, an online convention card editor, bridge lessons, and player profiles.” The key words there are “social network”. Think of BridgeWinners as a portal into a world of over-the-back-fence bridge gossip.

So, now that you’ve joined **BridgeWinners** (at www.bridgewinners.com by clicking “Join Bridge Winners”), you can participate in this community! This week I’ll talk about the forums, but first a brief introduction. Here is the Home screen, with five menu choices at the top. “Explore” is the most useful. The leftmost (logo) button always takes you back to this home page.












Further right, under my name, are buttons for viewing Alerts (I’ve yet to see one), private messages (ditto), editing and printing convention cards, and an “address book” for selecting people whose posts you want to follow, such as Rodwell, Meckstroth, Cohen, and Kit Woolsey. This area is also interesting for the player profiles - you can check out (and message!) any other BW member.

Most of the Home page is filled with the “**main forum**”. A “Forum” is an online notice board, kind of like Facebook, but with much more discussion and repartee. A person begins a “thread” by writing an article, asking a question, making a poll (more on polls next week), reporting an event, stating a point of view (etc.), and other BW members follow on with comments, or more questions, or more points of view. It’s a free and open discussion board. Many of the comments become their own sub-threads, as people get engaged with the topic. (BBO has discussion forums too, by the way. Scroll way down on the Login page, and click the Forums button.)



Fair warning: the posters on BW are pretty experienced players, and even the Intermediate Forum is operating at a high level. Many posters are using conventions or treatments that are (in my opinion) quite advanced. If you go, go to learn!

Apart from the main forum, there are nine specialized ones. Select *Forums* from the *Explore* menu. The nine forums are: Site Feedback, Clubs and Teachers, ACBL Elections, Coronavirus, Classifieds, Intermediate, Partnership Desk, Webmasters, and Youth Bridge Education.

Here is a sample of the **Intermediate Forum** from August 15. There are 734 members subscribed to the forum, and seven or eight threads get started every month. As you can see, some threads get lots of comments and others fail to attract much interest.

Intermediate Forum		734 members	
The posts and responses on the intermediate forum should target advancing players. We are all a community of bridge players and we expect you to treat each other like friends. Please be polite and kind no matter what you may think of another person's actions.			
FORUM POSTS		JOIN THIS FORUM	NEW POST
 Splinters and Jacoby 2NT	Jim Diana Aug. 13		12 Comments
 Cash awards	Ronald Santelli Aug. 8	4 Votes	5 Comments
 Raising partner's advance to a takeout double	Allen Simon Aug. 5		10 Comments
 WAR bids	Normand Houle Aug. 4		23 Comments
 Conventional Wisdom Questions - Part 5	Jim Diana Aug. 2		6 Comments
 You hold: ♠J85 ♥A75 ♦AK432 ♣53	Murat Ekeer Aug. 1	49 Votes	17 Comments
 You hold: ♠J85 ♥A75 ♦AK432 ♣53	Murat Ekeer Aug. 1	40 Votes	3 Comments
 Point Range for (Semi-)Forcing 1NT	Jim Diana July 31	19 Votes	21 Comments
 NMF Question	Jim Diana July 27		5 Comments

The posts with “Votes” are polls, where people are requesting opinions, which we will get to. For today, let’s look at just one thread, the one called “WAR bids” started by Normand Houle. Mr. Houle, as you can learn by clicking on his name, is a Quebecer, former pro player and ACBL Gold Life Master, whose BBO name is Noodle.

WAR bids  

by [Normand Houle](#) Aug. 4

When you are White against Red (non vulnerable with vulnerable opponents), you are at WAR !!!

the cost of going down is the smallest, while the opponents have more to gain by bidding games/slams (so less to gain by doubling you) It is time to rob them of their bidding space / tempo.

When @ WAR, HERE ARE TEN TACTICS You should strongly consider :

Overcalling on a four carder

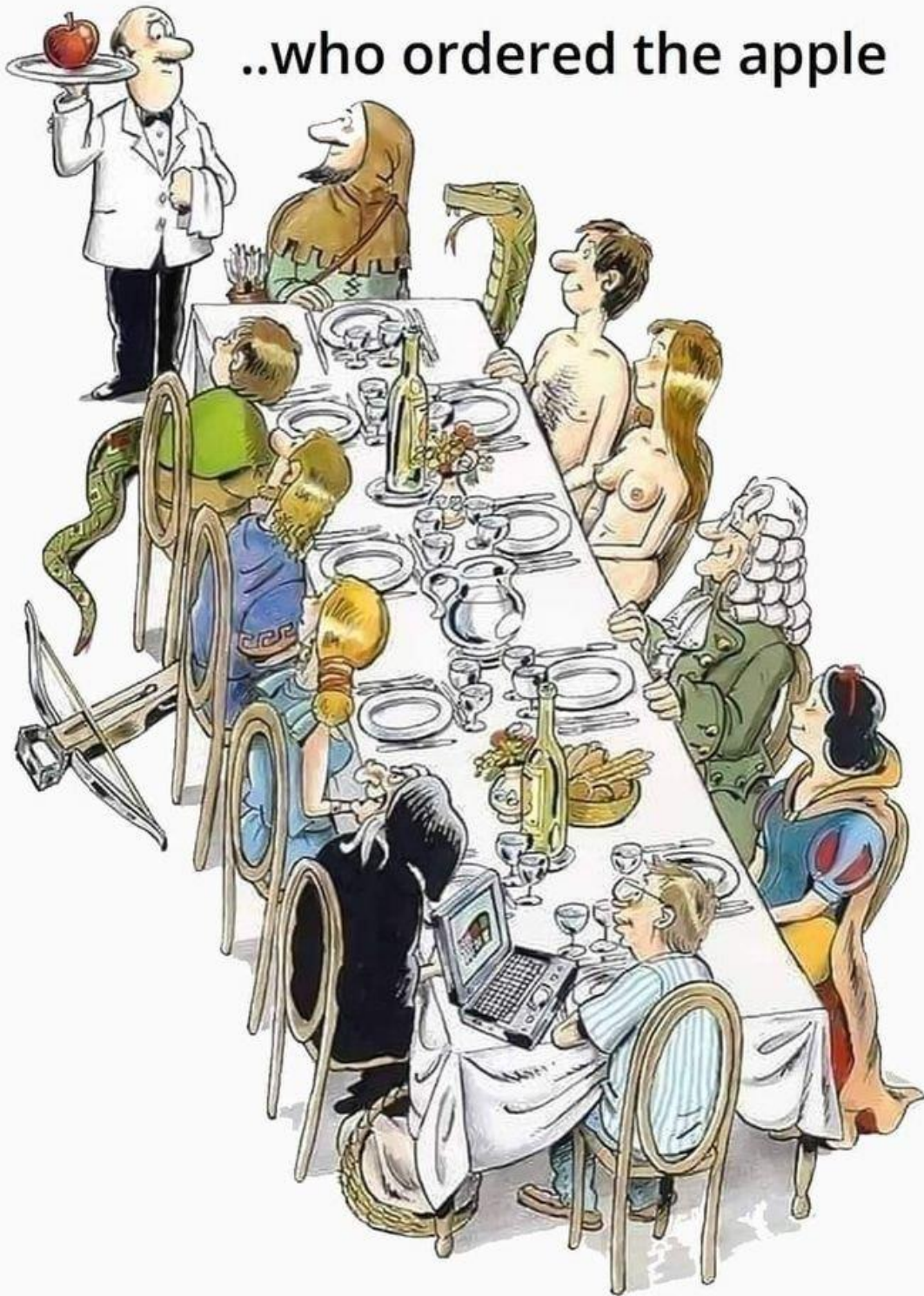
His post is suggesting 10 strategies to use when your side is not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents. Other folks (about a dozen, so far) have chimed in with agreement, disagreement, refinement, and (making it well worth the visit) a link to a PDF of the classic “*Partnership Bidding at Bridge*”, by Andrew Robson and Oliver Segal. All good stuff!

The **Coronavirus Forum** was more active in the past, but recent posts are still enlightening. For example, the Charlotte sectional (which just ended) reported “open table count is 60.14% of the 2019 numbers; 499'er table count is 10.42% of 2019”. And “The ACBL has received reports of dozens of players who have contracted COVID at the Providence NABC. Many more have not reported becoming infected. These players and staff members have participated in contests in multiple playing rooms across several days at the NABC in Providence”. Not the kind of news we all want to hear as F2F bridge returns, but important to know about.

Depending on your studiousness, you can easily get lost in the forums, as one post leads to another, and another, and another! So, too, for “polls” – more on those next week!



..who ordered the apple



TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

Our fall lesson schedule has now been posted to our website. Click [here](#) to view the Learn Bridge in a Day session and the beginners lessons and [here](#) to view the ongoing learning lessons. Registration has been enabled.



All of these courses and workshops will be held at our club in our wonderful teaching room (see photo). Our lessons are a terrific way to make new friends and recruit new partners (as well as improve your game).

We have tried to offer something for everyone at every level. However, if you don't see what you need, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, and she will see what she can do for you.

Also, it would be greatly appreciated if our readers would try to stir up interest among their friends and acquaintances who don't yet play bridge. We have a fun Learn Bridge in a Day session scheduled for October 1 and beginner lessons starting the next week. Please get the word out!

In the meantime, we have these recorded lessons available.

Recorded Lessons

The following recordings are available for \$10. To order one or more of them, send in your payment specifying what it is for (click [here](#) for information on how to pay).

- John Hanemaayer's **novice** workshop on **Filling out your Convention Card**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Killer Signals**
- Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Playing in our Online Games**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Opening Leads**
- Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Scoring Matters**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Third Seat Play**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Second Seat Play**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Discards and Strategies**



Playing for What You Need

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 1	♠ 10 7 6 4	
North Deals	♥ Q 7 5	
None Vul	♦ A K Q 4	
	♣ K J	
♠ Q 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J 5 2
♥ 10 9 4 2		♥ K 3
♦ 10 9 5		♦ 8 3
♣ A Q 6 5		♣ 8 7 4 3 2
	♠ A 9 8	
	♥ A J 8 6	
	♦ J 7 6 2	
	♣ 10 9	

This is a simple hand from a recent small club game. Every N/S pair was playing a strong no trump. At all seven tables, 1NT was opened by North, and South either raised to 3NT or went through Stayman or Puppet Stayman to get there.

Every East led a club, won by West's ace. Every West returned a club, setting up the rest of the clubs for the defence.

Things do not look good for Declarer. He has one club trick, four diamonds, one heart and one spade, so he needs to dig up two more tricks without losing the lead.

He can try cashing some diamond tricks, hoping an opponent will have trouble with discards, but they won't. East will hold on to his three clubs, and spades are easily stopped by either defender.

The only distribution that offers the possibility of making 3 Heart tricks without losing the lead is a singleton ♥K in either opponent's hand (very unlikely) or exactly ♥Kx in East's hand (slightly more likely).

So, after messing around with diamonds, Declarer should play for his best chance by leading a small heart (NOT the queen) from his hand towards Dummy's AJ of hearts, playing the ♥J when East follows low. Then, if the jack wins, he should play the ♥A, holding his breath (that part is important) and hoping to see the ♥K drop. Today, he is lucky.

This line of play wins when East has either the singleton or doubleton king. The chances of success are not high, but when there is only one chance you might as well play for it.

Only two of seven declarers made this contract. Many started the hearts by leading the ♥Q from their hand. This play has absolutely no chance of success unless there is a defensive error that is, East having the ♥K and failing to cover. Yet it was the play that many of the declarers went with.



It is better to play for a slight chance than to play for no chance.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

Elmer the Safety Elephant

If you remember who this is, welcome to my age bracket! FYI, Elmer is five years older than I am. Today, I will try to explain “safety plays”.

Safety Play - A line of play that minimizes the risk to make a contract, as opposed to attempting to make the maximum attainable score. Safety Plays are more frequent in rubber bridge and duplicate IMPs (team game) scoring, while duplicate matchpoint scoring encourages players to take greater risks.

I could inundate you with a thousand different examples of safety plays, but you could (and probably should) look them up online if you are interested in improving your game. Today, I want to show you a situation that arose in a recent club game which illustrates that safety plays can occur in matchpoint situations.

♠AK8 ♠106543

You are in 4♠ and are destined to make at least 10 tricks. How do you play spades? If someone has ♠QJ and his partner has ♠972, you can make five spade tricks by banging down the ♠AK. There is no other holding in spades (even a singleton jack or queen) that would allow you to take them all. Try it - I'll wait.

So, let's start with the ♠A. North plays the ♠9 and South the ♠2. Since you now have a sure loser in spades, what is the correct play for four spade tricks? If the suit splits 3-2, it doesn't matter how you play, because you are guaranteed to take four tricks. If North started with ♠QJ97, you have two sure losers in the suit. But what if South has ♠QJ72? If you go back to the East hand in another suit in order to lead another spade, you can cover whatever spade South plays and guarantee four tricks. Here are all four hands.

 ♠9
♠AK8 ♠106543
 ♠QJ72

If South plays the ♠7, you play the ♠8 and win four tricks. If South plays the ♠Q or ♠J, you win the ♠K and lead back the ♠8, which South wins. When East regains the lead, his ♠10 will capture the ♠7 = four tricks.

Our game, in essence, is entirely about safety plays. You ask yourself “What can go wrong?” and develop stratagems to deal with unlucky distributions. Hope for the best and plan for the worst.



#86

♠ AKJ653
♥ K62
♦ 32
♣ K2



♠
♥ AQJ754
♦ AK105
♣ 983

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT ¹
Pass	6♥	All pass	

1. An even number of key cards and a void somewhere

West led the 10♥. Which card will you play from dummy?

SOLUTION

The opening lead wasn't fatal for your contract (if it had been a club, that would probably be a different story), but the 10♥ wasn't all that friendly either because it presented you with an immediate and pivotal challenge.

You are going to need to get rid of two diamond losers and probably two club losers if you are to make your slam.

An obvious and very tempting line of play is to take the opening lead with dummy's ♥K, cash the ♠AK pitching two of your hand's club losers, and then cash your ♦AK with the plan to ruff your two diamond losers in dummy with dummy's remaining two hearts (the ♥6 and the ♥2). This plan is appealing, but it may run into trouble when it comes time to ruff the third or fourth diamond.

Let's look at why.

Between them, the opponents' trumps are ♥10987 - all higher than the dummy's small hearts (♥62). Between them, the opponents hold seven diamonds. If their diamonds are divided 5-2 or worse, one of them will be able to over-ruff in diamonds, setting your contract. Thus, in order to make your contract, you need the diamonds to split exactly 4-3, a 62% chance. In this scenario, you will be able to safely ruff the third diamond with a small heart, but no matter how lucky you are, the fourth ruff will have to be made with a high trump or else one of the opponents will over-ruff. Therefore, even in the best-case scenario of a 4-3 diamond split, you are going to need to preserve dummy's ♥K for the fourth diamond ruff.

So, back to the original question, what should you do at Trick 1? You must play a small trump (the ♥2) instead of the ♥K and take the trick with the ♥J in your hand. East will follow suit.

At Tricks 2 and 3, cash the ♦A and ♦K and hope no one ruffs. It turns out that the opponents are nice guys 😊

At Trick 4, cross your fingers and lead the third diamond, ruffing small in dummy. Being REAL-
LY nice guys, once again both opponents follow suit.

So far so good. Now, it's time to cash dummy's good spades and discard your club losers on them.

At Tricks 5 and 6, cash the ♠A and the ♠K and pitch two clubs from your hand. Both opponents follow both times. Phew! You've threaded the needle successfully so far, but your camel hasn't made it into Jerusalem yet! You still need to get back to your hand safely in order to ruff your last diamond loser; and then get back to your hand once more to draw the remaining outstanding trumps.

As the cards lie, however, East will show out of spades when the third spade is played from dummy - which makes your life much easier.

At Trick 7, lead dummy's third spade and ruff small in your hand. Then ruff the last diamond loser in dummy with the ♥K at Trick 8.

At Trick 9, get back to your hand by ruffing another spade, draw the outstanding trumps, and give up a club at the end, making your slam.

Here is the full hand.

	♠ AKJ653	
	♥ K62	
	♦ 32	
	♣ K2	
♠ Q10983	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 42
♥ 109		♥ 87
♦ QJ96		♦ 874
♣ 105		♣ AQJ764
	♠	
	♥ AQJ754	
	♦ AK105	
	♣ 983	

As so often, your play to Trick 1 made the difference between life and death.

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- ♠ Log in to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder Advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. OR
- ♠ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We are planning a picnic at our **club**.