



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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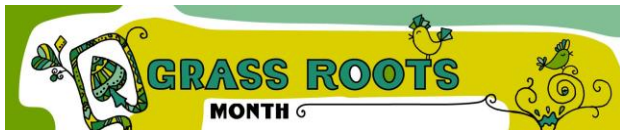
## ALERT – May 16, 2022

### 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 April.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	22.94	1	Shelley Metcalfe	7.85	1	Nancy Cattanach	7.59
2	Cindy Mahn	18.13	2	Suzanne Edwards	7.82	2	Martin Jones	5.87
3	Mike Peng	16.10	3	Brian Kirkconnell	7.78	3	Molly Worden	5.57
4	Moira Hollingsworth	13.54	3	Stephen Nantes	7.78	4	Belinda Burt	5.42
5	Liz McDowell	13.12	5	Paul Latimer	7.41	5	Louise Dawdy	5.24
6	Neil Jeffrey	11.86	6	Barbara Arthur	6.61	6	Richard Wehrle	5.04
7	Malkin Howes	10.81	7	Lissa Lowes	5.83	6	Don O'Bright	5.04
8	Margot Stockie	8.73	8	Kathleen Burns	5.75	8	Jane Wilson	4.13
9	David Longstaff	8.52	9	Jake Liu	5.66	9	Sue McDonald	3.95
10	Robert Griffiths	8.43	10	Bev Hitchman	5.43	10	Gordon Hunter	3.86
11	Bruce Roberts	7.21	11	Isabel Hetherington	5.35	11	Reinhold Kauk	3.66
12	Neil Coburn	7.20	12	Sue Voll	5.33	12	Ginny Scott	3.46
13	Scott Hills	6.86	13	Joan Slover	5.28	13	Joani Horvath	3.30
14	Tom Ramsay	6.74	14	Andy Wilson	5.15	14	Marg Sanderson	3.25
15	Ted Boyd	6.61	15	Kevin Latter	5.06	15	Barb Neibert	3.15
16	Dianne Aves	6.52	16	Roy Dandyk	4.86	15	Anita Hanson	3.15
17	Kathy Russell	6.50	17	Sandra Jonasson	4.85	17	Shirley Clarke	3.00
18	Frank Fischer	5.40	18	Sue Peterson	4.75	18	Charlene Schell	3.00
19	Ranjith Chandrasena	5.22	19	Nanci Phelan	4.73	19	Christine Kelly	2.90
20	John Hanemaayer	4.98	20	David Dennis	4.69	20	Jeannie Leforge	2.87
21	John Moser	4.97	21	Lori Cole	4.53	21	Diane Jones	2.86
22	Peter Peng	4.95	21	Jack Cole	4.53	22	Rick Arthur	2.80
22	John Vandergrift	4.95	23	Cheryl White	4.48	23	Brian Gaber	2.80
24	Ronna Hoy	4.87	24	Jim Dalgliesh	4.28	24	Susan Durance	2.78
25	Sharon King	4.60	25	Tony Verhoeven	4.17	25	Virginia Alviano	2.75



This weekend's games are Grass Roots games, yielding double black points. There will be a \$2 surcharge, the proceeds of which will go to support the ACBL's Grand National Teams and North American Pairs events.

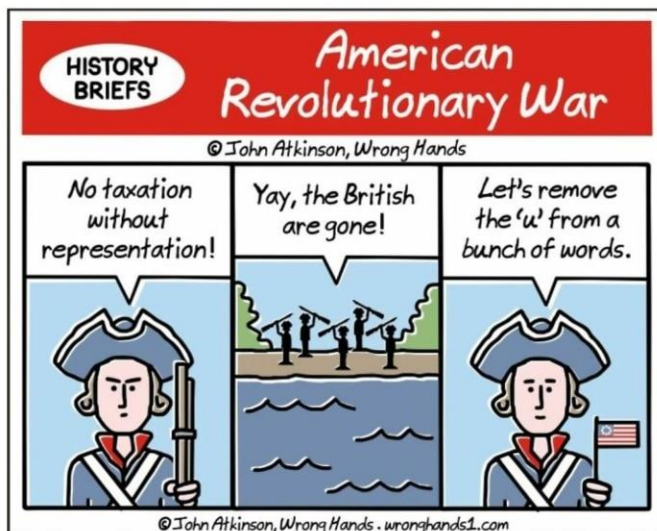
## Club Championship Game

Next week's Tuesday afternoon F2F open game will be a club championship game – extra masterpoints but no extra charge.

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

### Coming Events

- Friday, May 13, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Friday, May 13, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Saturday, May 14, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BB\$7 Grass Roots**
- Sunday, May 15, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$7 Grass Roots**
- Monday, May 16, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Monday, May 16, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, May 16, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, May 17, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, May 17, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **EXTRA MASTERPOINTS FACE TO FACE****
- Wednesday, May 18, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, May 18, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, May 19, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, May 19, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, May 19, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, May 19, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**



## Covid 19 Protocols Update

This past Monday, the Board met and agreed to these revised Covid 19 protocols for Face-to-Face games effective May 10, 2022.

- Each member is expected to use a disinfectant wipe to clean his or her bidding box at the start of each session. Members are no longer required to carry their own bidding boxes during the session.
- Members are permitted to bring their own drinks, and can temporarily remove their masks while consuming their beverage.

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### From the Archives – No Fooling

Savvy declarers are alert to their opponents' tells – for example, if a declarer is wondering where the queen of spades is, he or she might lead the jack of spades from the board and then watch RHO (right-hand opponent) to see if he or she hitches. However, any inferences that a declarer might take from a break in tempo are by no means a sure thing – RHO might be, for example, trying to remember what trump is or thinking about dinner or if he's playing in an online game having a fight with his wife – and any inferences declarer may take from a hesitation are at his or her own peril. That said, it is unethical for an opponent to hitch when he or she has no problem – and it is especially unethical for an opponent to hitch when he or she has a singleton in the suit. Here's an apt anecdote from Augie Boehm's recent memoirs *Big Deal*.

Al Roth, a savagely ethical expert, and his amateur partner are defending a slam. Declarer leads the jack of trumps from jack-ten-nine-fifth towards dummy's ace-king-fourth. In second seat, the amateur gives a convincing imitation of a player with a problem before playing low from two low. Declarer, taken in by the charade, ducks in dummy, and Roth ducks with queen-doubleton.

At the end of the deal, the mystified amateur asks Roth why he didn't take his trump queen and set the slam. "You took so long to duck, I thought you had it," replied Roth.

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## The Answer Lady

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 on a weekly basis, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at [suzan2420@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzan2420@yahoo.ca).

Last week's column introduced the concept of Michaels cue bids, with the example provided showing a bidding sequence of 1♣ by Opener followed by an immediate 2♣ overcall. Several readers wrote in to suggest there were other meanings that could be attached to that 2♣ bid. I appreciate the feedback and completely agree: other possibilities do exist. Newer players, I don't want you to think I am shortchanging you. As the author, I try to achieve a balance around the topics and concepts introduced, recognizing that many readers have just started playing bridge. Down the road, the 1♣-2♣ bidding will be explored further with another of those options. Stay tuned.

Hi Susan,

I am a new player and took Allen Pengelly's beginner's course which I really enjoyed. I played in a GRBC 0-19 game recently and had a lot of fun. I had some questions around one hand where three out of four pairs passed the hand out. At our table the bidding went slightly differently, with three passes and then West opened 1♣ with only 10 HCP.

D 17	N North	W N E S
	♠ 9532 ♥ A854 ♦ 106 ♣ AQ8	P P P P 1♣ P 1♥ P P P
W West	E East	
♠ A4 ♥ 107 ♦ KQ95 ♣ J9763	♠ KJ107 ♥ K962 ♦ J87 ♣ K4	
	S South	
	♠ Q86 ♥ QJ3 ♦ A432 ♣ 1052	1♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Hello new bridge player and welcome to the wonderful game of bridge. I hope you continue to enjoy our game as you travel on your bridge journey.

### Question 1

Why would West bid 1♣ with only 10 HCP plus one point for length? Is it because they were bidding after three passes?

### Answer 1

I am unsure why West in the fourth seat decided to bid after three passes lacking a true opening hand. Maybe as a beginner bridge player they felt a 'responsibility' to open. Liz McDowell in her January 17, 2022 Alert column discussed the concept of opening in fourth seat using the Rule of 15 – that is, add up your high card points and the number of spades in your hand. If the total is 15+, you may consider opening. This fourth seat hand does not meet the requirement for the rule of 15, with a total of only 12. It's not even a great club suit, as it is headed by the jack. More than likely the points are distributed evenly across the four hands. I would suggest this hand should be passed.

### Question 2

Why would East respond by bidding hearts instead of spades? Shouldn't he mention spades first?

### Answer 2

East is describing her/his hand by **“bidding up the ladder”**, mentioning his four-card heart suit first. If it turns out that her/his partner has four spades and responds 1♠, the contract might end up in spades. I could see how East’s spades have better quality, but the guideline for when you have two four-card majors is that you bid up the ladder – that is with four hearts and four spades, you bid the hearts first. If you bid spades first you are denying a four-card heart suit. (If, however, you have five spades and four hearts or five spades and five hearts, in that case you would bid the spades first.)

### Question 3

Regardless of what East bid, which I understand was forcing, why would West pass?

### Answer 3

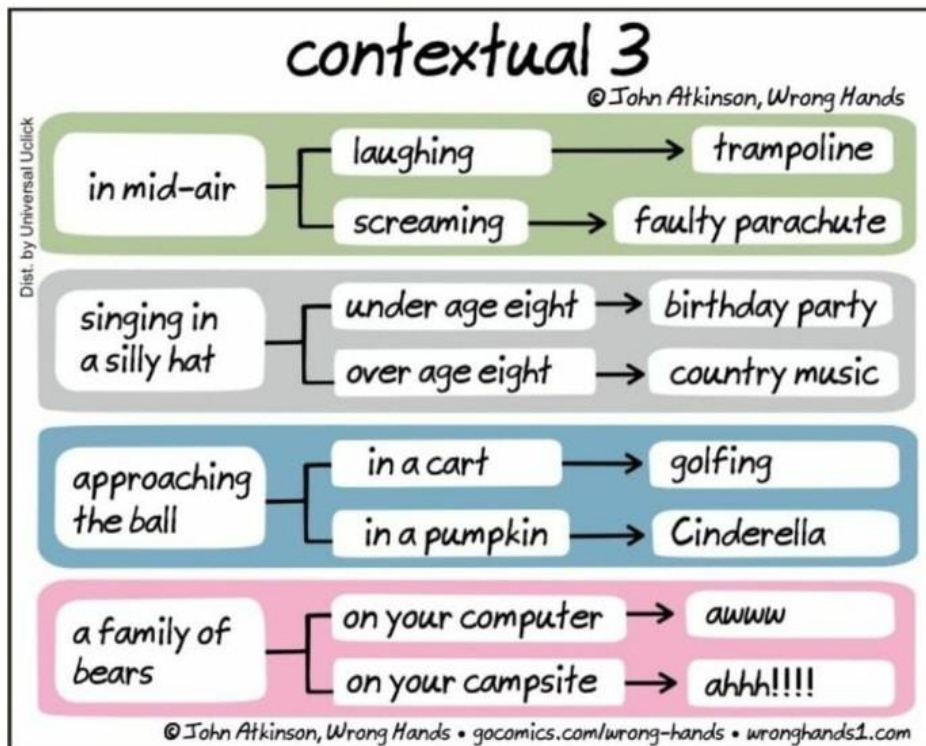
I can only anticipate that after East bid 1♥, West was unsure what to do next – as in “I stretched the truth on my opening bid so what do I do now?” He can't repeat his clubs as they are so poor, he doesn't want to go to the two level and mention his diamonds since that shows a stronger hand, and he can't bid spades. He could bid 1NT, I suppose. That said, because East passed initially, 1♥ is a non-forcing bid and West is not required to bid again.

### Question 4

It doesn't bother me much that they were successful with the bid and made the contract, but it seems odd to me that duplicate scoring would reward them and penalize the other three tables. We ended up with a bottom board.

### Answer 4

Well, yes. East/West were the beneficiaries on this hand despite their bidding errors. This sometimes happens in bridge and it is called “getting fixed”. There is nothing to be done. Some days the bridge gods are smiling on you and other days not.



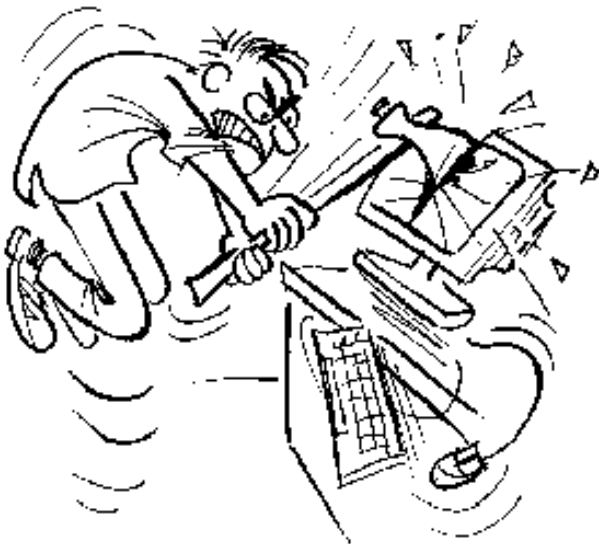
## Conventional Wisdom

This is the sixth in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the rectangle entitled **MINOR OPENING**.

MINOR OPENING			
Expected Min. Length	4	3	0-2 <sup>NF</sup> Conv.
1♣	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1♦	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RESPONSES			
Double Raise: Force	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input type="checkbox"/>
After Overcall: Force	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input type="checkbox"/>
Forcing Raise: J/S in other minor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Single raise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	_____
Frequently bypass 4+♦	<input type="checkbox"/>		
1NT/1♣	_____	to	_____
2NT Forcing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv.	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ to _____
3NT:	_____	to	_____
Other	_____		

- Check the **3** boxes for both clubs and diamonds - unless you play a short club, in which case on the club line you check the **0-2** box under **NF** and check the **4** box for diamond length.
- Check the **Invitational** box for Double Raise - showing a "limit raise" with 10-12 HCP and at least five cards in the suit in question.
- Check the **Weak** box for Double Raise After Overcall (not many points but at least five cards in the suit in question).
- Leave the Forcing Raise and **Single raise** boxes unticked.
- Tick the **Frequently bypass 4+♦** box (this just means that if you have a weakish hand – only one bid – you will prefer to show a four-card major over a five-card diamond suit).
- Write **6 to 9** on the 1NT/1♣ line.
- Tick the **Inv** (invitational) box and write **10 to 12** on the 2NT line.
- Write **13 to 15** on the 3NT line.
- Leave the **Other** line blank.

If you have any questions, please write to [Malkin Howes](#).



I hate computer-dealt hands!

# TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

If you and your friends have a burning desire to take lessons on a particular topic – online or face to face - please email [Malkin](#), our lesson lead, and she will see what she can do. We currently have a group that may be interested in lessons on the **Precision bidding system**. Watch this space!

It would also be possible to offer a free workshop on face-to-face play if there were enough interest.

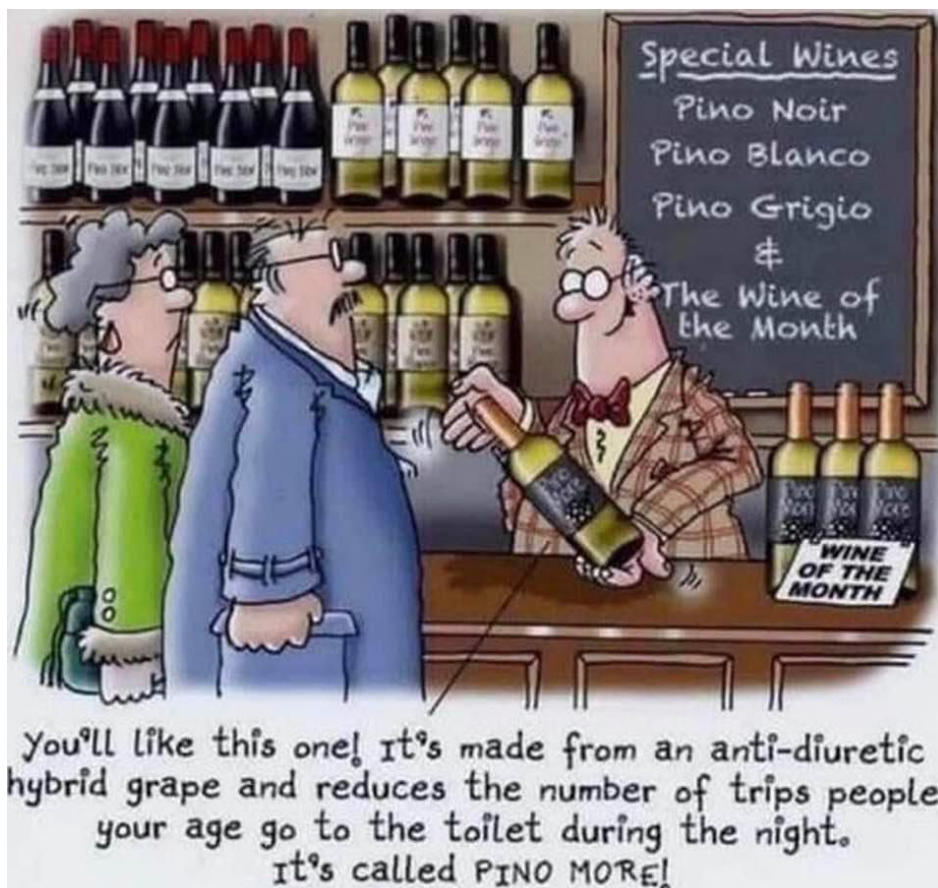
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In the meantime, we have these recorded lessons available.

## 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**





## Expert Slippage

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

HW Kelsey was one of the most prolific bridge writers of the 20th century. As a player, he won many British and international competitions.

	♠ Q 5 2							
	♥ K J 7 6							
	♦ J 10 7							
	♣ A Q 6							
♠ 4 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E		S		♠ J 8
W	N	E						
	S							
♥ Q 10 8 3		♥ 9 5 4 2						
♦ 9 6 4 3		♦ K 8 2						
♣ 8 5 4		♣ J 10 7 2						
	♠ A K 10 9 7 6							
	♥ A							
	♦ A Q 5							
	♣ K 9 3							

This is a hand that he played in 1970 that shows some expert thinking. The contract was seven spades. South had shown a very strong hand in the auction and West led a small club. When the spades split favourably, Kelsey (South) could count six spade tricks, two heart tricks, three club tricks, and one diamond trick. He needed one more trick. I suspect that everybody reading this blurb would do the same counting and mess around a bit, possibly banging down the ♥A and ♥K and ruffing a third heart in a futile attempt to build a third heart trick.

Eventually, it would come down to the diamond finesse where, happily for us, the 13th trick would come in.

Kelsey the expert played out all of his spade, heart, and club tricks until at Trick 12 the lead was in dummy with just the ♥J and ♦J remaining. In his hand was the ♦A and ♦Q. He considered the red suits. West had been on opening lead, knowing that his right-hand opponent had a very strong hand. Kelsey knew that West would avoid leading a suit in which he held a king or queen.

The fact that West had picked a club lead from a topless suit increased the chances that his red suits were not topless. So Kelsey decided that West was likely to have started with both the ♦K and the ♥Q and that they were his last two cards. He led a diamond to his ♦A hoping to see the king fall from West. It did not fall, and East's king set the contract.

Kelsey considered this a case of restricted choice: the fact that West did not lead a red card increased the chances that he held the high cards in those suits.

Kelsey wrote about this hand. "I went down in a grand slam which any beginner would have made, but I believe the odds were on my side."

We cabbages who would have made the slam using the simple finesse would have beaten him on this hand. But Mr. Kelsey would have won more in the long run.



**Even cabbages deserve a break sometimes.**



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



# Dear David

“I ain’t Martin Luther King. I don’t need a dream. I have a plan.” Spike Lee

Declarer (N)  
 ♠KT93  
 Dummy (S)  
 ♠A42

East makes the opening lead of the ♠6 against your 3NT contract. It certainly looks like a fourth-best lead, especially since North showed spades during the auction. So, declarer plays the ♠2 and West plays the ♠Q, reinforcing your opinion that East has the ♠J. You can win the ♠K and lead the ♠10, intending to play the ♠4 from dummy if East does not play the ♠J, scoring at least three spade tricks if you are correct. Still not good enough for you? What if I were to give you a solemn guarantee that East has the jack? I will tell you now that you are going down in 3NT, because you didn’t make a plan for the entire hand at Trick 1.

Player	Hand
North (Declarer)	♠K1093 ♥4 ♦K54 ♣KQJ92
West	♠Q ♥J6532 ♦QJ76 ♣A83
East	♠J8765 ♥98 ♦A1082 ♣107
South (Dummy)	♠A42 ♥AKQ107 ♦93 ♣654

Bidding: Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass

Lead: 2♦ (4th suit forcing)

Contract: 3NT North

Score: 0 0

Most of the time, the play outlined above is a great way to produce an extra trick, but the extra trick comes with great cost. Planning a hand should come before you play a card at Trick 1, even if dummy has a singleton in the suit led! Counting tricks, you have four club tricks (assuming they split 3-2 or the ♣10 is a singleton), three heart tricks, and two spade tricks for a total of nine tricks. However, if you win the first trick with the ♠K, your entry to the club suit is gone if West holds up playing the ♣A until the third round. Now you have to pray that West has the ♦A so that the ♦K will be an entry. You are absolutely right when you say that West can win the third club and switch to a diamond and take four diamond tricks - except for the fact the East thought it so necessary to tell his partner he liked diamonds that he threw away an encouraging diamond on the third club. Now, holding up the ♦K until the third round blocks the opponents from taking their four diamond tricks.

I could have changed the hand from its actual layout to illustrate my point more clearly, such that winning the opening lead in the dummy is the ONLY way to make the hand. The point of this hand is to illustrate that once you’ve gotten to a decent contract, you need to create the best line to fulfilment. Make your plans for the entire hand at Trick 1.

For Intermediate *Jake's*  
**Play a Bad Hand Well**

#72

♠ J 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div>	N	W      E	S
N				
W      E				
S				
♥ A K 9 7				
♦ J 8 7 4				
♣ K 6 4				
	♠ A K Q 7 5			
	♥ 5 3			
	♦ K 6 5 2			
	♣ 5 2			

I was South, defending against East's 3NT. I began by cashing the ♠A and ♠K. My partner contributed the ♠9 and the ♠8 (showing a holding of two spades), while the ♠3 and the ♠4 showed up from East. At Trick 3, I exited with the ♥5 to dummy's ♥9, my partner's ♥10, and Declarer's ♥Q. Declarer then proceeded to cash four club tricks on which I discarded two small diamonds while my partner followed suit every time. Declarer then turned to hearts, cashing dummy's ♥A and ♥K at Tricks 8 and 9. I unwillingly parted with a small spade, while my partner and Declarer both followed suit. When Declarer abandoned hearts, it was obvious that my partner held the boss heart (in any case, if Declarer had started with four hearts he would have mentioned hearts in the bidding).

Declarer thought for a while and then called for a small diamond from the board. My partner played the ♦9 and declarer the ♦A. What would you do?

**SOLUTION**

Obviously, if I am asking this question, you are going to have to make the spectacular play of dropping your ♦K. But why?

By now, you know quite a lot. Clearly, Declarer must have the ♠10 and the ♠6 (he wouldn't have bid no trump if he didn't have a spade stopper, plus your partner signaled that he had only two spades). As well, you know that Declarer started with three hearts and four clubs = a 4-3-2-4 shape (only two diamonds). You also know from the bidding that Declarer started with 13-15 HCP, of which you have so far seen 13 HCP (the ♥Q, the ♦A, and the ♠AQJ). So this must be the situation.

♠ —	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div>	N	W      E	S	♠ 10 6
N					
W      E					
S					
♥ J	♥ —				
♦ 9 ? ?	♦ A ?				
♣ —	♣ —				
♠ —		♠ Q 7			
♥ 7		♥ —			
♦ J 8 7		♦ K 6			
♣ —		♣ —			

Scenario 1

If you play your ♦6 under the ♦A, Declarer can now put you in by leading his last diamond, no matter which one it is, and then you are endplayed in spades and have to give Declarer his ninth trick.

## Scenario 2

If you assume that the ♦Q is in your partner's hand and drop your ♦K under the ♦A, you will either beat the contract (if your partner has the ♦Q) or else give Declarer an overtrick (if Declarer has the ♦Q). Superficially, the outcome seems to turn on whether or not Declarer holds the ♦Q, but a moment's thought will tell you that if Declarer has the ♦Q, he can make the contract by finessing you in diamonds. In fact, if Declarer has the ♦Q, he would likely have tackled diamonds earlier. The fact that Declarer has left diamonds to the end strongly suggests that he doesn't have the ♦Q after all. Drop your ♦K! Here is the actual four-card ending.

♠ —		♠ —
♥ J		♥ —
♦ Q 10 9		♦ A 3
♣ —		♣ —
♠ —	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ 10 6
♥ 7		♥ —
♦ J 8 7		♦ A 3
♣ —		♣ —
♠ Q 7		
♥ —		
♦ K 6		
♣ —		

As you can see, if you drop your ♦K under the ♦A, you can avoid the end play. With this defence, at Trick 11 Declarer will have to lead either a diamond or a spade from his hand. If he leads a diamond, your partner will get the last three tricks for down one. If he leads a spade, you will get two spade tricks and then your partner will get his ♦Q for down one. Congratulations on your spectacular (but carefully-thought-through) defence! Here is the full deal.

	♠ 9 8	
	♥ J 10 8 4	
	♦ Q 10 9	
	♣ 10 8 7 3	
♠ J 2	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ A K 9 7		♥ Q 6 2
♦ J 8 7 4		♦ A 3
♣ K 6 4		♣ A Q J 9
	♠ A K Q 7 5	
	♥ 5 3	
	♦ K 6 5 2	
	♣ 5 2	

By the way, further congratulations on not continuing spades at Trick 3 - since that would have given Declarer his ninth trick!

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 [Cheryl Kip](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.  
 We play with all our **hearts**.  
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.  
 We have a plan at our **club**!