



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – May 30, 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 | 30.14 | 1 | Paul Latimer | 10.68 | 1 | Nancy Cattanach | 8.91 |
| 2 | Cindy Mahn | 23.10 | 2 | Suzanne Edwards | 9.46 | 2 | Molly Worden | 6.71 |
| 3 | Mike Peng | 21.51 | 3 | Shelley Metcalfe | 9.29 | 3 | Louise Dawdy | 6.68 |
| 4 | Moira Hollingsworth | 16.36 | 4 | Stephen Nantes | 8.14 | 4 | Belinda Burt | 6.37 |
| 5 | Liz McDowell | 14.84 | 5 | Brian Kirkconnell | 7.78 | 5 | Martin Jones | 6.08 |
| 6 | Neil Jeffrey | 14.38 | 6 | Barbara Arthur | 7.45 | 6 | Richard Wehrle | 5.04 |
| 7 | Robert Griffiths | 12.34 | 7 | Roy Dandyk | 7.12 | 6 | Don O'Bright | 5.04 |
| 8 | Malkin Howes | 11.99 | 8 | Andy Wilson | 7.03 | 8 | Reinhold Kauk | 4.88 |
| 9 | Scott Hills | 10.59 | 9 | Jake Liu | 6.98 | 9 | Jane Wilson | 4.79 |
| 10 | David Longstaff | 10.27 | 10 | Joan Slover | 6.60 | 10 | Sue McDonald | 4.71 |
| 11 | Dianne Aves | 10.02 | 11 | Kathleen Burns | 6.31 | 11 | Elinor Girouard | 4.64 |
| 12 | Neil Coburn | 9.70 | 12 | Isabel Hetherington | 6.30 | 12 | Joani Horvath | 4.62 |
| 13 | Kathy Russell | 9.69 | 13 | Kevin Latter | 6.09 | 13 | Barb Neibert | 4.34 |
| 14 | Tom Ramsay | 9.41 | 14 | Lissa Lowes | 6.05 | 13 | Anita Hanson | 4.34 |
| 15 | Ted Boyd | 9.22 | 15 | Sue Peterson | 5.99 | 15 | Gordon Hunter | 4.20 |
| 16 | Margot Stockie | 8.73 | 16 | Sue Voll | 5.89 | 16 | Marg Sanderson | 3.99 |
| 17 | Frank Fischer | 8.60 | 17 | David Dennis | 5.86 | 17 | Jeannie Leforge | 3.98 |
| 18 | Sandy Graham | 7.91 | 18 | Cheryl White | 5.84 | 18 | Shirley Clarke | 3.87 |
| 19 | Bruce Roberts | 7.88 | 19 | Nanci Phelan | 5.81 | 19 | Virginia Alviano | 3.80 |
| 20 | John Vandergrift | 7.71 | 20 | George Pepall | 5.62 | 20 | Susan Durance | 3.69 |
| 21 | John Hanemaayer | 7.21 | 21 | Jim Dalgliesh | 5.49 | 21 | Ginny Scott | 3.67 |
| 22 | Colin Harrington | 6.43 | 22 | Bev Hitchman | 5.43 | 22 | Rick Arthur | 3.58 |
| 23 | Adrian Record | 6.34 | 23 | Jack Cole | 5.39 | 22 | Brian Gaber | 3.58 |
| 24 | Peter Peng | 6.08 | 23 | Lori Cole | 5.39 | 24 | Christine Kelly | 3.11 |
| 25 | Diane Bourdeau | 5.75 | 25 | Barbara Lindsay | 5.31 | 25 | Joanne Strong | 3.07 |
| | | | | | | 25 | Patricia Malvern | 3.07 |

Masks Now Optional at Our Face-to-Face Games and Bridge Labs

Mask wearing at Grand River face-to-face games and bridge labs is optional, effective immediately, for a one-month trial period (to June 17). Individual players may use their own discretion in deciding to wear a mask or not for games and labs at the club.

If this is what you needed in order to return to F2F bridge, please come out and show your support so that the club's board of directors know this is the way to go!

Friday Night Open Game to Change to Face-to-Face

In response to a request from the players, the Friday night open game will become face-to-face as of June 10.

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

Coming Events

- Friday, May 27 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Friday, May 27, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Saturday, May 28, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BB\$5**
- Sunday, May 29, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, May 30, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Monday, May 30, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, May 30, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, May 30, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, May 31, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, May 31, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Wednesday, June 1, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, June 1, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, June 1, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, June 2, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, June 2, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, June 2, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, June 2, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**



Profiles of our Newer Players

Our two interviewers – Louise Dawdy and Casi Zehr – would love to do a write-up about those of you who haven't yet been introduced to the broader membership. But they are having a terrible time finding newer players who will agree to be interviewed.

Are you all shy little flowers? Or are there some players out there who would like to be officially welcomed to the gang? Hint: this would be an excellent way to prospect for additional partners.

If you would be willing to have your profile run in one of our Alerts, please contact Louise (acedawdy@yahoo.com) or Casi (zehr@rogers.com). We'd love to find out more about you!

Membership Renewal Time

June is Grand River Bridge Club's month for annual membership renewals. As we work towards an expanded schedule for face-to-face games while continuing to maintain an online game schedule, your continued support is very important. The club did very well during the first year of the pandemic as players migrated quickly to online play and lessons. The club saw the biggest table counts ever. In appreciation for all the member support, the membership fee was lowered to \$50 for 2021/2022.

Now, as things slowly open up and other options are available for indoor and outdoor activities, our online games and lessons have dropped off significantly and the games at the club are well below pre-pandemic table counts. Rent, insurance, cleaning, and other overhead expenses still need to be covered. Consequently, the membership fee will return to \$70. Remember, this entitles you to \$2 off the game fee at the club (instead of \$9, you pay \$7) and \$5 off lesson fees.

We are lucky to have such a great facility that is centrally located for most members and provides a good number of parking spaces. Most of you will have fond memories of social events at the club and that is definitely something to look forward to again in the coming year. A lot of volunteer work goes into bringing in new members through lessons and coaching. Our directors work tirelessly to provide fair and pleasant games. You can continue to be part of our amazing club by simply renewing your membership in June for the coming year and thereby ensuring the Grand River Bridge Club's future in the community for years to come.

Payment for your annual membership may be made now by:

- E-transfer to clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com; OR
- Cheque payable to Grand River Bridge Club, mailed to Bev Pope, 40 Piccadilly Square, New Hamburg, ON N3A 0C7; OR
- Cash, cheque or DEBIT card at the club.

If you are joining for the first time, you also need to fill out [our membership form](#).

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Contributed by Sue Peterson, Marketing Lead

My first venture into the Grand River Bridge Club in over two years turned out to be a pleasant surprise. I actually wasn't sure what to expect – would there be few people; not interacting and hesitant to be there, cringing away from each other in fear? Not at all!

Instead, I found a somewhat full house of seven tables – definitely spread apart, and serious during play, but in between hands there was social interaction and laughter that I wasn't expecting. About a quarter wore masks, but it was delightful to see people's smiling faces and hear their welcoming greetings. We may just be in a really good place right now where members can come out and feel safe and have a chance to socialize with friends, old and new. I think of the gals I have coached over the past two years who may not have ever been to the club. I thought a few snapshots might help you make that leap to try a game at the club.

If you still have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to [email us](#).





F2F vs Online Bridge

Contributed by Bob Gilck

I joined GRBC in 1BC (Before Covid), the summer of 2019. Never heard of BBO online bridge and didn't need to. I had everything I wanted at GRBC. If someone had told me we were playing F2F, I would have had no idea what they were saying.

Then it became February 2020 and the whole world was turned upside down. Now it is May 2022 and we are transitioning to a new "normal".

I have now played four Friday F2F 499 games and have really enjoyed them. GRBC executive have done everything plus more to keep everyone safe.

Do the players I meet look older? Absolutely not!

I look in the mirror every morning and I don't look more than a day older than yesterday. Remember, sometime in the future they may be my partner and they already have enough reasons to be upset with me that I don't need to throw gasoline on the fire.

Are the players more relaxed? Definitely!

Everyone, including myself, has two years' more experience.

In bridge, two years may not be a lot, so I will count mine in dog years.

In 1970, I had just completed my machinist apprenticeship and received my journeyman certificate. I worked for my dad and will never forget his comment at the time.

He told me to come back in 10 years and I will call you a machinist.

Kinda sounds like bridge to me.

Is F2F better than BBO online or versa vice? Or are they just different and the same?

F2F

I reneged twice at two different tables in one afternoon this past week.

I am still waiting for my trophy (klutz of the afternoon award).

BBO

Who would put the double button directly below the pass button?

The one bid is the complete opposite of the other.

Daffy Duck (me) with big thumbs has made a mess of this more than once.

F2F

Your partner doesn't get to see your hand if you are playing the contract.

This can be a good thing, if you messed up the bidding.

Or if your play of the hand is completely unorthodox.

BBO

Your partner gets to see your hand if you are playing the contract.

Now they get to mentally play the hand for you, this is never a good thing.

F2F

Once you sit at the table there are few to no distractions

BBO

Distractions are a large part of online bridge

Finishing my lunch, have to run to the fridge and get the mustard, only be a minute, oops dropped the mustard, boy what a mess.

Doorbell rings, only be a minute, registered letter, oops eye glasses are on the kitchen table.

Phone rings, only be a minute, oh no, it's Aunt Gladys, she talks forever.

My one partner was way too honest with me, oops dropped my tablet getting out of the truck.

Or, how many times have I heard, oops, spilled my wine, just be a minute.

Don't be surprised if there is a request for a liquor licence at F2F.

If there isn't a law against distracted bridge playing, there should be.

What I personally miss in F2F that BBO offers

F2F

You have no idea how well or poorly you are doing compared to everyone else.

Results are available, only at the end of the afternoon or close to the end of the afternoon.

BBO

Results are in real time and after each table you can check your standing compared to everyone else.

(I guarantee everyone on BBO checks their game history all the time.)

I am going to suggest that the director for the afternoon F2F provide results at the completion of each table, on the monitor (if this is possible).

I think this would increase the competitiveness throughout the afternoon (as though bridge needs to be more competitive).

What I personally miss in BBO that F2F offers

I can finally put a face to the username.

Your opponents, that put you down in a contract, are actually really nice people.

I can offer some light conversation during the game that I can't or don't on BBO (I am not a two thumbed teenager who can type at lightning speed).

I get in my car, drive with a purpose and am out for the afternoon.

I am really good at not saying enough but I am even better at saying too much.

See everyone soon or sooner.





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 on a weekly basis, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Dear Answer Lady:

After reading in the GRBC Alert that you are *anxiously* awaiting questions, I thought that I would help you! My partner and I played this board in a Toronto tournament. We play Jacoby 2NT, with four-card support, so initially I thought my partner's first bid was just that: Jacoby 2NT. However, when his next bid was 3NT I knew that it wasn't! I did not want to play in a no trump contract, but I did not really have a good handle on his points..... Am I correct in thinking that if he wasn't indicating Jacoby 2NT with his 2NT bid, he needed only 10 to 12 HCP to bid 2NT?

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding board with the following details:

- Board:** 8
- North (N):** 5+ HCP. Hand: ♠AKQJ109, ♥A, ♦8632, ♣Q10.
- West (W):** 5+ HCP. Hand: ♠32, ♥108532, ♦Q74, ♣A84.
- East (E):** 5+ HCP. Hand: ♠54, ♥J764, ♦J1095, ♣J76.
- South (S):** 4 HCP. Hand: ♠876, ♥KQ9, ♦AK, ♣K9532.
- Bidding Sequence:**

| | W | N | E | S |
|----|------|----|------|------|
| 1♠ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2NT |
| 3♠ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| 4♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| | Pass | | | |
- Score:** 4♠ North, 0-0.

The good news is we made game. The bad news is we missed slam - making three overtricks.

Question

How should this board have been bid? Where did we go wrong?

Today's question revolves around the use of Jacoby 2NT, a more advanced convention that may not yet be in many newer players' bidding repertoire. That's perfectly acceptable, so a little preamble is required. Jacoby 2NT, is an **artificial bid, a jump shift** by Responder after Opener bids a major suit. It says nothing about no trump but instead shows support for Opener's major suit. There are variations in the use of Jacoby 2NT, but Marty Bergen in his book **Slam Bidding Made Easier, 2008, p. 110** defines the requirements for Jacoby 2NT as: four-plus card support for partner's major and 13 dummy points, that is, HCP plus distribution points. I would suggest newer players take Marty's approach, should they begin to experiment with Jacoby NT. The bidding would go: 1♥/1♠-P-2NT (the 2NT needs to be alerted). Under Marty's system, Jacoby 2NT is "off the table" if there is interference by the opponents.

Answer

Nice to hear from you more than a **'newer player'** and thank you for sharing this interesting hand. A couple of initial comments relate to the bidding of this hand. You have a spade fit: Opener has six spades and Responder has three, for a total of nine spades between you. Therefore, the final contract should be spades. The decision around slam or no slam can be reached as the bidding progresses and should be explored, given that both Opener and Responder have better than opening hands.

Following Marty's guidelines for Jacoby 2NT, Responder should have opening points or better and four-plus card support, not three-card, to bid 2NT. While it is true that Responder has 15 points, he has only three-card support, not four-, so Jacoby 2NT should not be used. Responder's hand is too strong to bid either 2♠ (6-9 points) or 3♠ (10-12 points). Instead, he needs to make a temporizing bid at the two level. I would suggest a bid of 2♣, followed by a bid that shows spade support at the next opportunity.

With such a strong spade suit – six solid spades, 16 points, and the singleton ace of hearts - Opener should bid 3♠ over Responder's 2♣ bid. At this point, Responder, with 15 points and three-card support for Opener's spades, needs to think slam and should bid 4NT, not 3NT. Opener will indicate two aces. Responder, based on his hand, now knows that only one ace is missing and can confidently bid 6♠.

I am uncertain what Responder's 3NT bid indicated: perhaps point count with 15 points, game-going values, and all the other suits covered? Responder needs to show that spade support at the first opportunity. This reduces confusion and allows the partnership to find the right contract. It might be helpful to have a little discussion with your partner about what he was "telling" you with his 2NT and 3NT bids. You can clarify bidding sequences around these types of hands, firm up your agreements, and end up on the same page.

Conventional Wisdom

This is the eighth in a series of columns on convention cards. Today, we will look at the rectangles entitled **SPECIAL DOUBLES** and **NOTRUMP OVERCALLS**.

| SPECIAL DOUBLES | NOTRUMP OVERCALLS |
|---|---|
| After Overcall: Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | Direct: _____ to _____ Systems on <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Negative <input type="checkbox"/> thru _____ | Conv. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> : thru _____ Maximal <input type="checkbox"/> | Balancing: _____ to _____ |
| Support: Dbl. <input type="checkbox"/> thru _____ Redbl <input type="checkbox"/> | Jump to 2NT: Minors <input type="checkbox"/> 2Lowest <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Card-showing <input type="checkbox"/> Min. Offshape T/O <input type="checkbox"/> | Conv. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

In the SPECIAL DOUBLES box

- Check the Negative box and write **3 spades** on the line. This just means that you and your partner use negative doubles and that they are on up to and including the 3 spades level but not above that.

In the NOTRUMP OVERCALLS box

- Beside **Direct**: write **15 to 18**. This is not announceable.
- Tick the **Systems on** box if you and your partner have agreed to use Stayman and Jacoby transfers over your partner's 1NT overcall.
- Beside **Balancing**: write **12 to 14**. This means that if you overcall 1NT in the passout seat, you are promising fewer points than if you overcall 1NT in the direct (right after the opponent's bid) seat.
- Beside **Jump to 2NT**: tick the Minors box if your unusual no trump bid promises at least five clubs and five diamonds. Tick the 2 Lowest box if your unusual no trump bid promises at least five-five in the two lowest unbid suits. For what it's worth, the 2 Lowest is more usual.

We will be circling back and discussing some of these conventions once we have completed our first pass. If you have any questions, please write to [Malkin Howes](#).

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.

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**
-



FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



There'll Always Be Another Goofy Hand

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-----|
| Board 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| East Deals | | ♠ Q 10 8 5 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| E-W Vul | | ♥ A Q 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ K Q 6 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ — | | <div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ 6 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 10 | | | ♥ J 9 7 6 5 4 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A J 10 9 7 5 4 | | | ♦ — | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A K 7 6 2 | | | ♣ J 10 8 4 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♠ A K J 9 7 3 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♥ K 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ 8 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ♣ Q 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Pass | 1 ♠ | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 N | 3 ♦ | 5 ♣ | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 ♣ | | 5 ♣ | 5 ♠ | | | | | | | | | |
| | | All pass | | | | | | | | | | |

Here's a hand from a club game. My partner, East, dealt and passed, resisting the urge to make a vulnerable pre-empt with her two HCP and 1-7-0-5 shape. South opened 1♠ and I bid 2NT, showing the minors. My plan was to bid 4NT, insisting on a minor if 4♠ came back to me. The Common Game commentator suggested I should have immediately jumped to 4NT over the 1♠ opener to show my hand.

Over 2NT, North bid 3♦. This is an artificial bid over my unusual NT bid, showing a strong raise in spades. If he had simply bid 3♠ it would show spade support with a weaker hand.

My partner re-evaluated her pre-emptive hand and jumped to 5♣. She imagined the hand playing very well opposite an unusual no trump hand. She decided that this was not a hand to worry about little things like high card points. She hoped to hold 5♣ doubled to down one for a rare vulnerable vs not vulnerable sacrifice.

South wasn't giving up without a fight: she came in with 5♠. This is the part of the auction where nobody was sure who was sacrificing.

Before I bid 6♣, I considered whether I could be pushing N/S into a makeable slam. I decided that 6♠ would be unlikely to make, although after this auction a club void somewhere would be very possible. In any event, I bid 6♣ and, surprising to me, this was passed out.

South led the ♠A, ruffed in dummy. Two rounds of trumps were drawn, then the ♥10 was led. This was our only losing trick; all my partner had to do was to ruff the diamond return, ruff two hearts in dummy, and her hand was high.

I think that my partner's well-judged jump to 5♣ made it possible to find this uncommon 14-HCP slam. She was willing to bet on making 10 tricks - that is, she expected 5♣ doubled to go down just one after seeing my unusual no trump bid. I thought that my hand was much stronger than I had so far advertised, and my bid of 6♣ simply showed I believed that my partner knew what she was doing.

It turns out that 6♣ for E/W is unbeatable, but a diamond ruff will stop N/S from making 5♠. This is an extreme example of points shmoints.

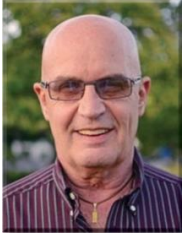


Distribution sometimes trumps high card points.

Read the fine print on this coyote warning sign



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

Fall into a Pigpen

I don't like using my opponents' names in these articles, unless it is to compliment them. Dave "Flintstone" asked me about our auction against him because he was intrigued that we were the only ones to get to slam.

| W | N | E | S |
|----|---|-----|---|
| | P | 1♠ | P |
| 3♣ | P | 3♦ | P |
| 3♠ | P | 4NT | P |
| 5♣ | P | 6♠ | P |
| P | P | | |

| E East |
|---------|
| ♠ AKQ43 |
| ♥ 5 |
| ♦ AQ73 |
| ♣ QJ8 |

3♣ showed three-plus spades, eight-plus HCP, and a singleton or void in clubs. 3♦ asked for more information and my partner's response of 3♠ showed a club void. I could have asked him about how many HCP he had, but I knew that bidding and making a small slam will usually garner a very good matchpoint result. Partner could have as little as the heart ace and the J10 of diamonds to give me a good play for 12 tricks. 5♣ showed one keycard. Let's go for it! Then came the proverbial fly in the ointment: my partner didn't have the promised void in clubs. Luckily, the slam made anyway.

| D | N North | W N E S |
|------------|---------|------------|
| 9 | ♠ 72 | P 1♠ P |
| | ♥ K93 | 3♣ P 3♦ P |
| | ♦ 862 | 3♠ P 4NT P |
| | ♣ A9762 | 5♣ P 6♠ P |
| | | P P |
| W West | E East | |
| ♠ J108 | ♠ AKQ43 | |
| ♥ AJ108764 | ♥ 5 | |
| ♦ K5 | ♦ AQ73 | |
| ♣ 10 | ♣ QJ8 | |
| S South | | |
| ♠ 965 | | |
| ♥ Q2 | | |
| ♦ J1094 | | |
| ♣ K543 | | |

6♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Partner's response to my 3♦ asking bid should have been either 3♥ (showing a singleton club and a constructive raise) or – my preference - 3NT (showing a singleton club and a limit raise). We may have got to the slam anyway (depending on how frisky I felt), but it was nice to make a silly mistake and get rewarded for a change. Usually, we get what we deserve. ☺

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

#74

♠ 54
 ♥ A107654
 ♦ A4
 ♣ K107



♠ AJ10832
 ♥ 98
 ♦ QJ87
 ♣ A

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1♠ |
| 2NT | 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Dbl | All pass |

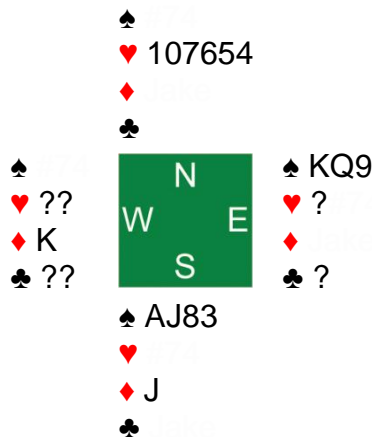
I received the ♣Q opening lead and took the trick with my ♣A, East following suit. At Trick 2, I led a heart from my hand to dummy's ♥A, while both West and East followed suit. I then cashed dummy's ♣K and pitched my other heart, while both East and West followed suit.

- At Trick 4, I led a trump from dummy to my ♠10 and - good news, bad news - it won the trick as West discarded a diamond. That's what I get for insisting on my own suit.
- At Trick 5, I led the ♦Q, which held.
- At Trick 6, I led a small diamond to dummy's ♦A, both West and East following suit.
- At Trick 7, I returned to my hand by ruffing dummy's last club, both defenders following suit.
- At Trick 8, I led another small diamond to West's ♦9, dummy's ♠5, and East's ♠7.
- At Trick 9, East led the ♠K.

What would you do?

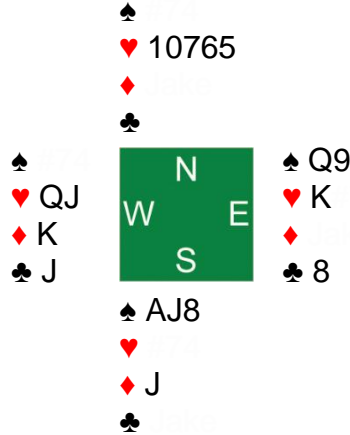
SOLUTION

Here's what you know about the defenders' hands at this point.

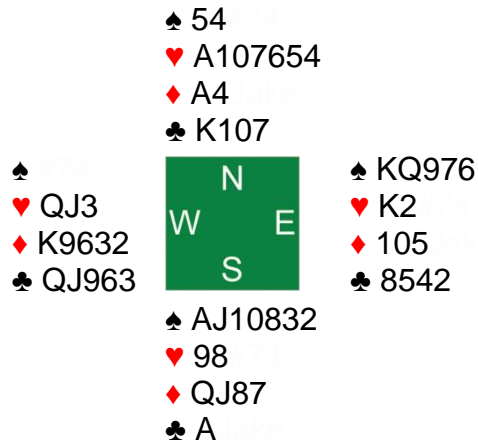


When East leads the ♠K, you have already lost one trick and you still have a sure loser – the ♦J - so you can lose only one trump trick. If you take this trick with your ♠A, sooner or later you are going to have to lead away from your ♠J83. So, you must duck.

If East now leads a trump, your only loser is the ♦J - meaning this is unlikely to happen. Instead, East will almost certainly exit with a heart or a club. In either case, you will ruff with your ♠8 and then exit with the ♦J. The defence is now finished no matter which one takes this trick. Here is the actual layout with four tricks left to go.



Here is the full deal:



It was as easy as duck soup. They were sitting ducks and you were a lucky duck.

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 some odd ducks at our **club**.