



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT 245

ALERT – June 12, 2023

Click [here](#) to access our regular game schedule.

Looking Ahead

- ♥ We have a **brand-new online open game at 10:05 am on Sunday mornings.**
- ♥ Both of today's games (Friday) and both of Sunday's games (June 9 and 11) will be **NAP games** at our club (extra red/black points, extra \$2) - both F2F and online.
- ♥ The F2F games during the week of June 19 will be **club championship games** = extra masterpoints, no extra cost).
- ♥ **Mini-lesson on opening leads** at the beginning of the Monday morning, June 19 bridge lab.
- ♥ It will be **Volunteer Appreciation Day** on Tuesday, June 20, with a potluck lunch and both an open and a 199er game in the afternoon. 11:45 start time.
- ♥ On Friday, June 23 from 9:30 am – noon, we will be offering a **FREE F2F workshop on tournament play.**
- ♥ The Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 online games will be in support of the **Alzheimer Society of Canada.** There will be extra master points and a \$BBO2 surcharge.
- ♥ **The Friday night game on June 30 is cancelled because** so many people are going to the Fredericton tournament.
- ♥ There will be **no bridge lab on Monday**, July 3 (statutory holiday for Canada Day).
- ♥ **[Kitchener Regional Tournament, Tuesday, July 4 – Sunday, July 9](#)**
- ♥ **No F2F games or daytime BBO games at our club**, Tuesday, July 4 – Friday, July 7 (due to our regional tournament)

North American Pairs

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a set of annual North American championships for pairs contested over two days at the spring ACBL North American Bridge Championships (NABCs). Next March the NABCs will be in Louisville KY.

The NAPs 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 two chances today (June 9) and on Sunday (June 11), as well as additional chances in July (week of July 23) and August (week of August 13) as well. Click [here](#) for more information. There are extra masterpoints available, some of them red. There is a \$2 surcharge for these NAP games.

New Members

A warm welcome to

- Sharon Gravelle
 - Carla Laubach
 - Richard Papineau
-



Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Day

This special day on Tuesday, June 20 is fast approaching!

Please come and join us for a potluck and two-section game (Open and 199er) to celebrate both our volunteers and our 2022 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners.

Lunch is at 11:45 am and game time at 1:00 pm. Our potluck events are always very popular and everyone has an awesome time.

Sign-up sheets for attendance and lunch items are posted at the club by the game director's desk. We would appreciate it if you would sign up by Friday, June 16 (but of course late entries will be accepted).

Sure hope to see you there - **ESPECIALLY YOU 199ERS!**



The Bean Counter

Contributed by Steve Allen, Treasurer

It's encouraging to see so many members renewing their membership for 2023-24. They must think this bridge club is a good investment. New members are joining too – welcome! So far, we have about **50** 2023-2024 members in good standing. Keep it coming!

Please pay attention to the incentive programs, which **are in effect until October 31**.

- Recruit a new member (after you renew your membership), and that's two free plays for you. Is there a limit on how many new members you can personally recruit? Yes ... one thousand. Will GRBC guarantee you a 70% score on those free games? I'll get back to you on that. NOTE: Please remind your recruit to flag you as the recruiter! Registration can be via a F2F paper form at the club or via the GRBC web site.
- "Bring a guest" to BBO. How? You must "BBO-invite" the guest and you must pay for both of you. Mr. Bean will compensate you later for the guest's free play. Please limit it to two games per said guest. You have friends, right?
- "Bring a guest" to F2F. How? You must pay for your game, but your guest plays au gratis. Just sweet talk the director. Please limit it to two games per said guest.

When will Mr. Bean "show me the money"? Watch a future ALERT for an answer. Obviously, he doesn't know!



WE WANT YOU! June is Membership Month at GRBC

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. That means that those of you who are currently members in good standing will be members in bad standing on July 1 if you haven't renewed your membership before then. It also means that it would be an excellent time for our non-member players to join our club. This year's fee is our usual low price of \$70.

If you are now or ever have been a member of our club, all you need to do is give us \$70.

You can do this in one of three ways.

- Mail a cheque payable to Grand River Bridge Club (not GRBC) to Steve Allen, 75 Lorilee Crescent, Kitchener N2N 2J3.
- During the month of June, look for the Membership sign to find a kindly membership clerk who will help you renew and make payment.
- As a last resort (each etransfer costs our club \$1.25), send an etransfer to grandriver-bridgeclubtreasurer@gmail.com. Of course, you're welcome to send us an etransfer for \$71.25, as several ingenious members have already done. Please indicate in the etransfer comments entry section your name, your email address, and what your payment is for.

If you have never been a member of our club, you need to make payment in one of the ways indicated above PLUS you need to fill out a New Member Form. You can do this electronically [here](#) or if you're at the club, get the form from the aforesaid kindly membership clerk.

NEW

- If you are a lapsed member of our club or if you have never been a member of our club, you can renew/join now and get all the benefits of membership immediately (in other words, you will get an extra month or so of membership).
- **Fully-paid-up** members of our club can earn two free games for each new member they recruit and/or each long-lapsed member (pre-Covid) they persuade to renew.
- Fully-paid-up members can bring their non-member friends to play free at our club (two per non-member).

The GRBC Board needs You!

In preparation for our upcoming Annual General Meeting this September, there are several board vacancies to fill. So, what does the club's board of directors do?

- According to our club's bylaw, the board sets the policies and administers the affairs of the club.
- It establishes the committees that carry out the day-to-day activities of the club, both in person and online.
- It is responsible for the financial oversight of the club's operations.
- Finally, it keeps the membership informed of important developments.

We are a non-profit organization, and we need capable volunteers to step up and help run our club going forward. If you are interested and need more information, please contact a member of our Nominating Committee.

- Mike Peng (michael.peng@rogers.com) or
 - Mary McClelland (mjm4bridge@gmail.com) or
 - Douglass Grant (douglass_grant@cbu.ca).
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Our Club's Management Team

*This is the eighth in a series profiling the current members of our club's management team and thanking them and their predecessors for their stellar work. Next up is our lead director, **Al Pengelly**.*

Before we tell you about Al, however, we need to thank and praise his predecessor, **Dave Baker**. The lead director has more responsibilities than we have space to list, but here are a few of them just to give you an idea: keep other game directors informed of such things as special games and rule changes; make late-reported score corrections; communicate special board instructions to the dealing lead; update relevant bulletin boards; keep an inventory of game supplies; report month-end results to the ACBL; and support other game directors when problems arise.

And now we bring you.....



Allen Pengelly

Describe what your current volunteer position entails.

My official position is Lead Director. I offer guidance for the running of both our online and face-to-face games. I also am a member of the games committee and maintain statistics for how many players have attended our games (I currently have a database reflecting 81,454 seats over 2,746 games going back to 2019). And each week I prepare the list of top master point earners that appears on the last page of the Alert.

Tell about how you got interested in bridge and your early playing experiences.

I have always been interested in games, and saw an ad for taking bridge lessons. I took beginner lessons under Milos Polak and participated in the games at the ARC in Waterloo. When my daughters were born, I stopped playing bridge. Unfortunately, I was laid off work about six years ago, but fortunately it did push me back into bridge. I started coming out to GRBC games and was hooked again!

Outline your background, your hobbies, etc.

As I stated earlier, I have always enjoyed games. In addition to bridge, I participate in Scrabble tournaments (I am currently preparing for the World Championships in July), and I usually participate in a couple of poker games per week. I have also been an official for multiple games tournaments - including the World Crokinole Championships each summer.

What is your favourite bridge tip?

As a Statistics, Combinatorics, and Poker guy, my favourite tip is: know the statistics/odds!

On Track... ...To Online



Contributed by Jack Cole

For The Times They Are A-Changin’

Hi folks! Some of you know that I have a hobby presenting folk music concerts at Kitchener’s Registry Theatre. A Series Pass for Folk Night gets you into six or seven concerts at a special rate. In our season from Fall 2019 (cut-short in March 2020), we had 130 Series Pass patrons out of a total capacity of 160, and the entire season already sold out in advance.

Then along came Covid and nearly three years went by without music. During that sad time, several of my patrons passed away. Some moved from their own homes into assisted living and lost their independence, while others stopped going out at night. Some split with their partners (the lucky ones keeping the Series Pass!). Some developed life-altering illnesses, which took their mobility and their freedom. Some lost their livelihoods. And some had such a reaction to the virus or that darn spike protein that they live in isolation, afraid to go into public spaces.

When our new season started my Pass patrons had dropped to a mere 80 people (only 60%), and Covid fears had capped the audience at 100 - not enough to pay the bills. In desperation, we turned Folk Night into a hybrid concert series by live streaming our shows. We purchased video cameras, trained our volunteers, added new features like informative interviews and the ability to watch when convenient and replay the concert later, and asked our performers to reach out to fans worldwide.

Since then, we have live-streamed six concerts to as many as 150 people. Watchers fit into four groups: people who used to come into the theatre but no longer can; people who had tickets but needed to cancel at the last minute due to illness or medical conditions; people who just liked the convenience; and people from out-of-town/-country who would otherwise not be able to see these wonderful performances. Most of the latter are friends and family of loyal patrons.

If we hadn’t added online concerts, Folk Night would have folded. Worse to me, is that people would have lost access to this music and to the social aspect of being part of the “family”. Things are slowly coming back, but costs have risen, and it will be many years, if ever, before we have 130 patrons again. And there are now many other options for watching online concerts from anywhere in the world.

So why am I telling you all this? Because there are a lot of parallels between hybrid concerts and hybrid bridge clubs. Going online saved many clubs, including ours, whose brick-and-mortar obligations would have driven them into bankruptcy. Many players can no longer come into the club, and would miss the game and the human contact without our virtual games. The online games have benefits of their own, such as convenience, bonus content (e.g. post mortems and hand replay), the ability to participate from home when unwell, plus the gift of playing with distant friends and family. Face to face is coming back slowly, but online bridge is here to stay, with games available at any time, from anywhere in the world.

Getting people into the theatre is harder today, and Folk Night at the Registry now depends on a certain level of online support. Without it, I can't make budget; we will hold on for a while, but the writing will be on the wall. We need people in the theatre **and** we need loyal supporters watching online. It's exactly the same for GRBC: higher costs, fewer people at the club, and a dependence on loyal club members supporting both our online and in-club games. Without the present level of online attendance, the writing will be on the wall for us, just as it has been for many clubs already.

And that's why the GRBC has been encouraging **online play with our club**. Certainly come to the club when you can but, when you can't, please look for a game that supports a local club, especially our club, to help them survive.

Because here's the next thing. ACBL also depends on local clubs **and** BBO games. If enough of the clubs disappear, then BBO is effectively in control of the game worldwide, and ACBL could contract too. Think about a bridge world without clubs, sectionals, regionals, STaC games, the *Bridge Bulletin*, masters Points, and friendly partnerships and rivalries. No, thank you. Let's play bridge, and keep the clubs healthy, in all the ways that we can.





Jennifer Verdam Member Profile

Contributed by Louise Dawdy

This week we are highlighting new member Jennifer Verdam. As with so many of us, Jennifer grew up in a family of card players. Her grandmother eventually got bored of playing Go Fish with Jennifer (age six years) and her brother (five years) and taught them cut-throat euchre. Jennifer played euchre until about the age of 13 and then asked to learn bridge. She would play on holidays with her mother, uncle, grandmother, and aunt, all taking turns as partners. Jennifer's grandmother played social bridge her entire life, and her great-aunt was a duplicate bridge player: as a result, Jennifer's mother and her siblings all learned how to play bridge as teenagers.

When Jennifer was 19 years old and playing bridge in a bar where she worked part-time, a woman approached her and asked if she was playing bridge. When Jennifer responded in the affirmative, the lady asked Jennifer if she played at the club much. "Club?" responded Jennifer. The lady took Jennifer to Mike Potter's Duplicate Bridge Club in London and, as they say, the rest was history.

Jennifer played duplicate bridge for several years and joined the ACBL in 1996. She also played in some tournaments, but eventually had to put bridge aside in 2003 when her children were nine and thirteen. At the time, Jennifer was working full time as well as in school full-time, and there were not enough hours in the day for sleep, much less for bridge playing, and so she stepped back for about ten years, rejoining the ACBL in 2013.

Jennifer is a designated accountant with a degree from the University of Western Ontario as well as a CPA/CGA from CGA Ontario. She has been an accountant for about 20 years now. Weirdly, she started in nursing and switched streams when it became apparent that her only career options under Mike Harris were to work casual part-time as a home care nurse or move to the United States, neither one of which really appealed to her.

Jennifer lives and works in Goderich and is currently the Director of Finance for Compass Minerals Canada, which includes in its holdings the largest underground salt mine in the world. Dave Longstaff has a Go Fund Me out there to allow Jennifer to retire, but so far she thinks that she owes it money!

Jennifer has two daughters who are 28 and 32, as well as a fat, spoiled 14-year-old tortoiseshell named Naomi, and three medium-curly black standard poodle crosses named Rita, Hella, and Poppy, who are firmly convinced that they are the centre of everyone's universe (actually, Poppy is her daughter's dog but she lives with Jennifer at the moment). Jennifer is the Chair and past Treasurer of the Huron Chamber of Commerce, the Treasurer of the Huron Women's Shelter and Second Stage Housing, the secretary to the ACBL Unit 249 Board of Directors, and the Administrator for the ACBL District 2 Board of Directors.

Aside from bridge, Jennifer enjoys fitness (has lost 70 pounds), walking, reading, and cooking (why she needed to lose 70 pounds).

Jennifer lives in a small town about an hour and a half from Kitchener, but is happy to be a member of Grand River Bridge Club. Small towns tend to have smaller bridge communities and Goderich has only one game a week - on Tuesday afternoons. Due to work constraints, that time slot doesn't work for Jennifer. She also played in Kincardine's Bridge Club's Thursday evening game before Covid, but it never restarted after Covid, and their daytime games continue to conflict with her work schedule. Although she does play two to three nights a week online, she really enjoys the F2F Friday evening game at GRBC.

Jennifer's thoughts on post pandemic bridge playing is that the ACBL is going to need to face the fact that online bridge is here to stay and that we will need a hybrid model if we ever hope to attract younger players.

Post pandemic highlights for Jennifer include being able to go to tournaments. Prior to the pandemic, a family illness kept her away from sectional tournaments, and then there weren't any for two years. Finally, in January 2022 plans were made to go to Gatlinburg. She and Adrian Record played pairs for most of the week as there were six players in the group – which doesn't fit nicely onto a team. They played in the AX and Gold Rush and Mid-flight events, against an extremely strong field. Although Jennifer was worried about not having played face-to-face bridge for two and a half years, she felt better after about four opponents self-alerted their bids in the first session! Despite her busy schedule Jennifer managed to get to tournaments in Gatlinburg, Cleveland, and Niagara last year, along with Cleveland, Barbados, and Gatlinburg so far this year.

Jennifer's favourite bridge tip: SLOW DOWN!!!! Bridge is not a race and there is no prize for finishing before everyone else. Give yourself time to make a plan and follow through.

Was just invited to an event that doesn't start until EIGHT. In the EVENING. I'm sorry but not all of us are on COCAINE.



On the Tournament Trail, Part 2

Contributed by Sue Peterson, Volunteer Marketing Person

Never been to a tournament – What to expect?

One always remembers their first bridge tournament. Mine was a Sectional (remember, not as big as the upcoming Regional) that was held at the Hespeler Arena in Cambridge in 2015. My partner and I kept talking ourselves into going and then into not going, but fortunately our bridge ultra egos that love the game won out and we went to our first tournament.

Boy, were we glad we did! We got there super early to scope out the venue and realized it was totally easy to sign up for a session. There was a bit of a line-up, but everyone was very helpful. I'm sure we looked totally overwhelmed, but we managed to find the line for novice players and everything flowed smoothly from there.

When you come, make sure you know your current number of masterpoints. This will help you find the correct section.... Heaven forbid you end up in an Open Players game!

Once you are signed in, it is easy breezy.... Well except for maybe the bridge (which can always be a challenge). The various sections of play are by colour – so easy to find. I have no idea how the two directors managed the whole tournament, but they did so with style and efficiency.

You're playing with those at the same level and you will meet some nice people from all over Ontario and even the U.S. My main piece of advice is to relax..... relax and enjoy yourself. Everyone is in the same boat. As novices, you're all a bit nervous and want to do your best.

My partner and I came home with a few masterpoints, which was just the icing on the cake. We were very proud of ourselves and have been to quite a few subsequent tournaments.

Also, do be sure to sign up for the Answer Lady's free tournament masterclass on Friday morning June 23. Just more helpful information to make your first tournament a success.



CPR Training

As everyone is aware, our club appeals to an older demographic. It would then be appropriate for GRBC to make CPR training available to as many members as possible. This is to invite members willing to be trained in CPR, or to renew training from past years, to inform the club manager, Doug Grant, including preferred times. Members who have received recent CPR training through other organizations are also invited to advise Doug to that effect. (Written responses please, either in person or to douglass_grant@cbru.ca)



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! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca. I have a "small" library of prepared questions, but I would welcome additional questions to build up that library and keep this column viable.

Welcome Alert readers,

Some of you have noticed that several hands in recent columns have been missing the full bidding sequences. For some reason an issue has developed recently where I am unable to access and save the bidding on all hands. Sometimes, I am able to see and save online games through the Common Game link, but not all games and not all boards are available. No Face to Face games are accessible for viewing in this way either. To circumvent this issue, I would like to encourage any player who anticipates sending in a hand/question to take a screenshot or photograph immediately of the particular board and include it with the question. I am hopeful this will resolve the issue of absent bidding sequences. The Answer Lady will thank you.

Question

Good afternoon, Answer Lady,

Once again, I found this week's column very interesting and, yes, I would definitely like more information on splinters.

First though, I was reminded that I must do better in the future in re-evaluating my hand once a "fit" is found. In last week's hand, I continued to count only nine points in North's hand. With that, I would have bid 2♠, rather than 2♥. Even with the re-evaluation, I probably would have chickened out from bidding 3♠ as that would imply 10-12 points. Thank you for the reminder that sometimes we must stretch the bidding rules/guidelines.

It appears to me that North in bidding 2♥ and then supporting Opener's spades was showing at least 10-12 points and five hearts. Am I wrong about this?

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

- Board:** 4
- North (N):** ♠QJ54, ♥Q973, ♦A632, ♣6
- West (W):** ♠76, ♥KJ106, ♦10987, ♣KQ7
- East (E):** ♠10, ♥A542, ♦QJ54, ♣10953
- South (S):** ♠AK9832, ♥8, ♦K, ♣AJ842
- Bidding:** W: Pass, N: Pass, E: Pass, S: 1♠, 2♥, 3♠, 4♠
- Score Table:**

	♠	♥	♦	NT	
N	8	7	6	12	9
S	8	7	6	12	9
E	4	6	6	0	4
W	4	6	6	0	4
- Par Score:** 1430, Par: NS 6♠
- Buttons:** 4♠, Sout, 0, 0

Answer

Just to review I have included last week's hand directly above.

I agree that re-evaluating one's hand is always a challenge and one that I myself fail to do from time to time. It's worth repeating that points don't always tell the whole story. Yes, North's hand has nine points: ♠QJ, ♥Q, and ♦A - but more importantly, North's hand has shape: four spades; ♥QJ in partner's suit; and the singleton club that counts for so much more. Because there is a spade fit, North can count that singleton club as three extra points, making 12 points. The bid of 3♠ would be appropriate for a beginner player - a limit raise in spades showing 10-12 points and four spades.

I think you might be right that North tried to show their 10-12 points by bidding 2♥. That said, using a Standard American bidding system North should not bid 2♥ as that "always" promises at least five hearts. If North had had 10-12 points but only three spades and four hearts they would need to find another "temporizing" bid (in this case clubs or diamonds, no matter the length in those suits).

My partner and I encountered this situation in a recent Open game. I was sitting East and opened 1♠. After North's pass, my partner in West bid 2♥. I knew immediately that her bid promised five hearts, and with three hearts in my hand I could raise her to 3♥. She of course knew I might have only three hearts and nevertheless went to 4♥ which we made. I've shown the hand and final contract below.

18 D	N	W	N	E	S
	♠ 1073 ♥ K93 ♦ 87654 ♣ Q6	4♥	P	P	P
W		E			
♠ ♥ Q8762 ♦ Q3 ♣ AK9542		♠ AQJ96 ♥ A54 ♦ K92 ♣ 87			
	S				
	♠ K8542 ♥ J10 ♦ AJ10 ♣ J103				
					4♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0

But now at your request, let's share a little information on **splinter bids** for those inquiring minds. Definitely a more advanced skill and newer players should not feel compelled to start including it in their bidding repertoire. I am using Barbara Seagram's description from her text: *25 Conventions You Should Know*, pp. 89-94. A splinter bid is a double jump raise in any suit where partner has opened a *major*. Barbara defines splinter bids as a game raise in partner's major, showing a singleton or void in the suit you have splintered. With that one bid you have told your partner the following:

1. You have at least four-card support for their major;
2. You have 13-15 points, including distribution. Last week's hand had only 12 but was even so worth consideration for a splinter bid; and
3. You have a singleton or void in the bid suit.

Splinter bids are a useful bid to help partnerships reach slam with distributional or shapely hands with fewer points than usual.

So, in looking at last week's hand again, the bidding could have gone: 1♠-P-4♣ (a splinter bid, a double jump raise in clubs showing a singleton or void in clubs). Now South would be excited and know slam is a distinct possibility. He knows his ♣A and added length in clubs has extra value coupled with the extra spades for ruffing. So, a possible auction would be: 1♠-P-4♣-P-4N-P-5♣ (one keycard)-P-6♠-AP.

Other examples of splinter bids would be 1♠-P-4♣/4♦/4♥ or 1♥-P-4♣/4♦/3♠.



Just Another Tuesday in Australia

TIME YOU LEARNED OUR LESSONS!

- Just a reminder that the Answer Lady will be teaching a **second mini-lesson on opening leads to novice players** at 9:00 am at our Monday morning bridge lab on June 19. The first one got rave reviews! No pre-registration required.
 - And another reminder that the Answer Lady will be answering your **questions about tournament play** on Friday, June 23 at our club from 9:30 am until noon. FREE! Click [here](#) to register.
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“I’m only buying things I really need from now on...”

Also me:

THE LOCH NESS LADLE



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

The Big Picture

The essence of our game revolves around examining the evidence we are privy to from the auction, the appearance of the dummy, and finally, the development of the play. Hopefully, the accumulation of the knowledge we have garnered will point us in the right direction. Here is the first hand of the game.

W West	W N E S	E East
♠A76	Pass 1♥ 2♠	♠Q109
♥K54	4♥ Pass Pass Pass	♥AQJ732
♦K32		♦J105
♣AK102		♣4

E/W quickly arrive at a reasonable heart game after South interferes with a weak 2♠ bid. South leads the ♦8 to North’s queen and ace and trumps a third diamond. South then leads a small club to dummy’s ace. Declarer trumps a club, plays three rounds of hearts ending in the dummy, and then plays the ♣K (pitching a spade) and trumps the last club. Here is what we know so far. The 2♠ bidder (South) has shown up with one heart, two diamonds, and exactly four clubs (both North and South followed suit four times in clubs). Therefore, South started with exactly six spades. Since you have already lost the first three tricks, how do you avoid a spade in this end position?

West	East
♠A76	Q10

What do we know? North has a singleton spade. If it is the King, South had only the ♣Q and ♠J for his weak 2♠ bid – unlikely. Your best (only?) chance is to play North for a singleton ♠J. Lead the ♠Q.

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following components:

- Dummy:** A box labeled 'D' is empty.
- North:** ♠J, ♥1098, ♦AQ974, ♣J983
- West:** ♠A76, ♥K54, ♦K32, ♣AK102
- East:** ♠Q109, ♥AQJ732, ♦J105, ♣4
- South:** ♠K85432, ♥6, ♦86, ♣Q765
- Auction:** W N E S, Pass 1♥ 2♠, 4♥ Pass Pass Pass
- Score:** 0 (West) vs 0 (East), with a 4♥ bid indicated.

Declarer led the ♠10 at my table and was down one. The other five tables were all in the heart game. At three of those tables, South's opening lead was a spade (ugh!). At one table, they took their three diamonds and then led a spade (UGH!). At the final table, South led a diamond to the queen and North led a small diamond back. Words cannot express my feelings. Declarer played the spades correctly and made two overtricks.

You might read this and think "It was obvious. I would have gotten this right." This comedy of terrors occurred in an "Open" game. Good declarers (and defenders) examine ALL the evidence before they act.





No. 114

N	♠ 862
W E	♥ A52
S	♦ 642
	♣ KQ102

♠ QJ5
 ♥ J4
 ♦ QJ1098
 ♣ AJ9

West	North	East	South
			1♦
1♥	Dbl	2♥	All pass

My partner, North, led the ♣7 to dummy's ♣Q and I took the trick with my ♣A, West following suit. I then led the ♦Q, which was covered by the ♦K, and my partner took the trick with his ♦A. Next, he returned a small diamond which I took while West followed suit once more. If you were in my shoes, what would you do now?

SOLUTION

So far you have taken three tricks and you need three more tricks to defeat this contract. You are sure to get the ♣J, but where might the other two come from? It's time to take stock.

You still don't know where the ♠AK and ♥KQ are hiding. Given that West overcalled 1♥ and your partner made a negative double showing spades, a reasonable assumption would be that West has the ♠A and the ♥KQ while your partner has the ♠K. Of course, if your partner has more than just the ♠K, you will have no trouble defeating this contract.

Working on this assumption, next think about how many tricks declarer can collect: likely five tricks in hearts, a trick in spades (the ♠A), and of course the ♣K, meaning that he will be looking for his eighth trick. His best bet is probably the ♣10.

Here is what you can see after three tricks have been played and a possible scenario of how declarer can develop that contract-making trick if you do not defend correctly.

N	♠ 862
W E	♥ A52
S	♦ 6
	♣ K102

♠ QJ5
 ♥ J4
 ♦ J109
 ♣ J9

Let's say at Trick 4 you play a diamond, let's say the ♦J. This seemingly has nothing to lose - since even if West can ruff, his trump will be shortened - which might be beneficial to your side.

But what if declarer discards a club instead ruffing (loser-on-loser play)? Did you really get a free trick?

At Trick 5 you lead a spade (let's say the ♠Q). Declarer will gobble it up with his ♠A, and from then on you're a spectator. After drawing two rounds of trump, declarer will enter dummy with the ♣K and ruff a club in his hand, establishing the ♣10.

Now declarer will kill two birds with one stone by leading a small heart to dummy's ♥A, drawing the last outstanding trump and providing the entry that will allow him to cash dummy's good ♣10 and claim his contract.

How can you prevent this from happening!

At Trick 4, instead of leading a diamond or something else, you must lead the ♠Q to knock out declarer's ♠A if he has it. Yes, he does indeed!

Sooner or later, you will get the lead with your ♣J. Now you and your partner can take two spades (declarer must have started with three spades given your partner's negative double) to put the contract down (two spades, two diamonds and two clubs - six tricks in total).

Here is the complete deal.

	♠ K1073	
	♥ 1073	
	♦ A75	
	♣ 765	
♠ A94		♠ 862
♥ KQ986		♥ A52
♦ K3		♦ 642
♣ 843		♣ KQ102
	♠ QJ5	
	♥ J4	
	♦ QJ1098	
	♣ AJ9	

You always had two slow tricks in spades (tricks that aren't available immediately), but it was essential to turn them into quick tricks by knocking out the ♠A before declarer could turn his own slow trick (the ♣10) into a quick trick. Timing is everything in bridge.

Security at every level of the airport
is insane until you get to the
baggage claim. Then it's like take
whatever bag you want.

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 May.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	24.38	1	Suzanne Edwards	12.11	1	Louise Dawdy	4.14
2	Edith Ferber	22.71	2	Jim Dalgliesh	9.18	2	Sharon Nesbitt	3.75
3	Cindy Mahn	17.25	3	Barbara Arthur	8.36	3	Casi Zehr	3.67
4	Moira Hollingsworth	12.93	4	Bev Hitchman	6.78	4	Rick Arthur	3.37
5	Ted Boyd	12.90	5	Lynda Burnett	6.21	5	Kathy Chandler	2.87
6	Neil Jeffrey	12.04	6	Joan Slover	6.19	6	Audrey Cook	2.69
7	Robert Griffiths	10.50	7	Shelley Metcalfe	6.16	7	Debbie Miethig	2.67
8	Sharon King	10.46	8	David Dennis	5.86	8	Jim Fox	2.66
9	Stephen Young	10.28	9	Sue Moses	5.70	9	Pat Northey	2.47
10	Neil Coburn	9.64	9	Barbara Lindsay	5.70	10	John Aldridge	2.40
11	Kathy Russell	9.44	11	Lori Cole	5.68	11	Pat Pietrek	2.25
12	Mike Peng	9.39	12	Bob Livermore	5.54	12	Jeannie Leforge	2.03
13	Diane Bourdeau	9.23	13	Brenda Semple	5.36	13	Judy Johnston	1.89
14	Liz McDowell	8.76	14	Janice Pengelly	5.33	13	Carol Gerber	1.89
15	Scott Hills	8.70	15	Cheryl White	5.32	15	Patricia Gascho	1.68
16	Margot Stockie	8.49	16	Sue McDonald	5.11	16	Steve Cameron	1.62
17	Steve Carpenter	7.49	17	Pat McDonald	4.91	17	Russel Kerr	1.46
18	Colin Harrington	7.46	18	Elinor Girouard	4.55	18	Eileen Curtis	1.44
19	John Hanemaayer	6.99	19	Andy Wilson	4.30	19	Valirie Binkle	1.37
20	Bonnie Kains	5.89	20	Joe Blake	4.24	20	Chris Beck	1.30
21	Dave Quarrie	5.52	21	Anita Hanson	4.04	21	Judy Charbonneau	1.24
21	Pat McMillan	5.52	22	Jack Cole	3.79	21	Joan Hartviksen	1.24
23	Adriaan Kempe	5.35	23	Ginny Scott	3.71	23	Julia Prendiville	1.20
24	Frank Fischer	5.23	23	Steve Allen	3.71	24	Jane Rushby	1.19
25	David Longstaff	4.86	25	Diane Spearn	3.67	25	Pauline Copleston	1.19

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

- For both online and f2f games, log on 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.
- For online games only, 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 examine all the evidence at our **club**.