

The Give Away

By Barry Jones

The last board of 48 arrives at your table at the end of a local congress. You are leading the event by a single Victory Point against a team of one of your closest rivals at what is effectively table one. You sort your hand and find a nice, balanced 13 count. A solid, weak no-trump opening bid.

WEST	NORTH	EAST
	41	
	SOUTH	
♠	K 10 6 4	
♥	A Q 6 4	
♦	A 3	
♣	10 8 2	

You look at the board and see that you are non-vulnerable and that partner is dealer. He passes, along with your right hand opponent (RHO). Now you are up against it because you play a 14-16 no-trump in 3rd seat.

You start thinking all kinds. "Shall I bend the system and bid 1NT with my 13 points?". "Will partner kill me when we go for -500 with no game on for opponents?". "If I open one heart what do I do if he bids 2 diamonds?". "If he bids one spade I can safely raise to two spades and if he bids one no trump, we may be able to get out for one off". "We play an 11-14 no trump opening so he does not have a fair 11 points, and he will probably need 8 or 9 points to give us a chance of making one no trump". Too many things to think about.

One thing is for sure, I must do something. Partner knows I may have a weak hand outside our no-trump range so will not hang me for opening. I'll open one heart. My vulnerable left hand opponent (LHO) overcalls one spade. Phew, I'm out of it!

What is this I feel around my neck? A noose tightening? Partner has bid FOUR HEARTS! Perhaps he thought I had a 17+ hand too strong to open a no trump. All pass and I am thankful no one has doubled me.

I await the lead. Lefty puts the Ace of spades on the table and I notice what has become partner's now six count with five trumps?

♠	J	
♥	10 9 7 5 2	
♦	K 6 4 2	
♣	K 6 3	
WEST	NORTH	EAST
	41	
	SOUTH	
♠	K 10 6 4	
♥	A Q 6 4	
♦	A 3	
♣	10 8 2	

Come on, think! How can I make this. What's going on? Why has he led this Ace when I have K1064 and partner has the Jack as well?

He has lots of spades but not the Queen! He would have led something else if he had that holding and waited for a lead through my hand. I call for the Jack and RHO follows with the 2. The points are 20-20 but RHO did not bid four spades, she only has a doubleton which must be Q2.

Oh dear, the Jack of clubs has appeared. Which card from dummy? Well for a start, if LHO has a doubleton and RHO has AQxxx I am off already with a club ruff. A very quick glance to my left tells me LHO does not look a shifty character who has led Jack from QJxx. If I play the King, it will

probably lose to the Ace and RHO will cash Queen to give her partner a ruff. Well at least he will have to ruff my ten of clubs.

I play the King and as expected a couple of clubs are taken and the third club comes back. My ten holds as LHO follows suit. I have a chance. Time for more grey cells to come out. **Question:** Why did LHO lead the Jack from Jxx? And not a diamond from say QJx, Qxx(x) or JTx?. **Answer:** He does not have one of those holdings. It looks like the diamond honours are split so RHO has at least the Jack which would make seven points along with the "known" Queen of spades making nine. She cannot have the King of hearts or she would have opened the bidding.

Ah ha, the "Give Away"! LHO led the Ace of spades and then switched to Jxx in clubs because he has Jxx in diamonds as well! He is hoping I would finesse to his stiff heart King. Their hands must be something like :

♠ A98753	♠ Q2
♥ K	♥ Jxx
♦ Jxx	♦ QTxx
♣ Jxx	♣ AQxx

To check my calculations, I ruff a spade in the dummy on which the Queen of spades falls on my right. I lead the two of hearts from the dummy and play the Ace of hearts. The "Roi de coeur" falls.

Lefty gives me a sheepish look. I cross to the King of diamonds and play the heart ten intending to run it but RHO plays the Jack. I win with the Queen, cross with a heart to the nine in dummy drawing the last trump. A diamond to my hand gives me the remaining tricks and +420.

Partner says "Well played". I now know I have done something correct (he spots everything)!

We score up and see that our team mates had made the "cold" two spades as East/West and actually snuck an overtrick as well for +140. This gave us 11 imps. If I had been two light we would have gained one imp, one off would have gained us 2 imps. We have won the match by 4 imps. I needed to make the contract to give us the win.

A sad story, we beat one of our rivals but the team in second place has overtaken us with a bigger win. We are runners-up. The full hand and traveller :

Hand analysis interface showing North and South hands, a score table, and a board summary.

North Hand: ♠ A98753, ♥ K, ♦ J85, ♣ J75

South Hand: ♠ Q2, ♥ J83, ♦ Q1097, ♣ A94

Score Table:

	N	S	E	W
♠	-	1	4	-2
♥	-	1	3	-2
♦	1	-	-	2
♣	1	-	-	2

Board Summary:

NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	6	3♥	N	♥3	9	140	-2	2	
2	13	4♠*	W	♦2	7	800	12	-12	
3	15	3♥	N	♠Q	8		50	2	-2
4	14	4♥	S	♠A	8		100	-2	2
5	7	4♥	S	♠A	10	420	11	-11	
6	1	3♠	W	♥10	7	200		2	-2
7	5	3♠	E	♦A	9		140	-11	11
9	10	2♠	W	♥10	7	100	-3	3	
10	9	3♠	W	♥10	7	200		3	-3
11	12	3♠	W	♥10	7	200		6	-6
12	11	2♥	N	♠Q	7		50	-6	6
13	2	2♥	S	♠A	8	110		-12	12
14	4	3♥	N	♠Q	8		50	2	-2
15	3	4♥	N	♠Q	8		100	-2	2