

**GREAT CLASS LAST WEEK
I WAS PROUD OF ALL OF YOU**

Hand 1 from last week – Contract 6 Hearts, pull trump, strip hand of clubs and diamonds, lead spade towards your AQ9. The class came up with another play that works. Strip hand of clubs, ending in dummy, lead dummy’s third diamond, if East can’t cover, pitch your spade 9, West’s endplayed, you get a ruff, sluff or a spade lead into your AQ. GOOD JOB!

Last hand from last week, South’s in 3 NT and gets a heart lead. After winning the Heart, you all led a spade towards the dummy. If the K holds, we returned to our hand and finessed the diamond. If the finesse wins, we returned to our hand with a club and repeated the finesse, making an overtrick. If the finesse lost and diamonds don’t break, we guaranteed our contract by leading the spade at trick 2. Defenders should win the Ace of Spades, West should if he has the diamond K, and East should if he doesn’t have the diamond K, cause it can be finessed. By doing this they hold you to 9 tricks.

AQJ6 DEALER – 1 Club
KJ76 4 Hearts
A5 5 Clubs (1-4 or 0-3)
KJ2

1095 Pass
94 Pass
KQ76 Pass
7543

84 Pass
1032 Pass
108432 Pass
Q86

K732 1 Heart
AQ85 4 NT (RKC)
J9 6 Hearts
A109

West leads the K of diamonds and you win the Ace in dummy. Draw trump in 3 Rounds. What do you do next? (This is the important thing).

KJ5 DEALER - 1 Club
 AJ96 3 NT
 A9
 J1096

1073	Pass	AQ9864	
754	Pass	832	2 Spades
Q753		862	Pass
K75		3	

2
 KQ10 3 Spades
 KJ104 Pass
 AQ842

You can't make a negative double, you have points for game. 3 Spades says bid 3 NT with spade stoppers, and I can support clubs if you don't have stoppers.

East leads the 8 of spades, you play the 2, West plays the 10 and you win the Jack in dummy. Count your tricks. Plan your play. Identify the dangerous opponent.

When to bid NT with a 5 card major. There's a big difference between when you could open 1 NT, as opposed to when you should open 1 NT. Guiding principle is this, "Always plan a second bid before you choose a first."

QJ KQJ43 K64 A73 - I would open 1 NT. A good rule of thumb is often to assume responder will reply in your shortest suit. What would your plan be after opening 1 Heart, and receiving a 1 Spade reply? A rebid of 1 NT – showing 12-14 or your 16? Or 2 NT – showing 18-19 on your 16? A rebid of 2 hearts showing 6 hearts and minimum values? Just open 1 NT and get it over with.

If you hold a five-card major with specifically 1 doubleton and two three-card suits, along with 15 or 16 HCP, open 1 NT. With 17 HCP, use some judgment. If you think it's a good 17, treat it like 18, planning to open at the one-level and jump in NT. In general, if you hold a five-card major and another four-card suit, do not open 1 NT.