

## JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> – DECLARER AND DEFENSE HANDS

		865	DEALER – 1 CLUB		
		KQ	PASS		
		A63			
		KJ1072			
Q				K10972	
105432				986	1 SPADE
Q754	PASS			J82	PASS
653				AQ	
		AJ43			
		AJ7	3NT		
		K109			
		984			

Q of spades lead. How do you defend????

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		43			
		1098	1 DIAMOND		
		AQ1098	2 NT		
		AJ6			
Q872				KJ65	
654	PASS			KQJ7	DOUBLE
6542	PASS			K3	PASS
73				942	
		A109			
		A32	DEALER – 1 CLUB		
		J7	1 NT		
		KQ1085	3 NT		

2 of spades lead, dummy plays the 3, right hand opponent plays the K, your play???

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The essence of bridge is judgement and taking tricks. Many times new players try 'to play hockey before they learn to skate'. Read what others say you need to know, but adopt conventions only when they make sense to both of you. Dabble with new ideas, but do not add them permanently until you have fully mastered the ones you currently play.

Jerry Helms breaks down conventions into 3 levels ranging from ones all duplicate players should learn, up through the ones they should aspire someday to master.

LEVEL 1: Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Weak Two Bids, Weak Jump Overcalls, Limit Raises, Negative Doubles, Blackwood, Gerber, Unusual 2NT, Michaels Cue bid.

		A743	2 CLUBS		
		KQ62	4 SPADES		
		Q7			
		987			
Q92					65
9753	PASS				J8 PASS
10862	PASS				J943
A3					KQJ102

KJ108		
A104	DEALER – 1NT	
AK5		2 SPADES
654		

Ace of clubs lead, encourage with the K (shows a solid suit), cash 3 clubs, what do you discard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> club? What do you do after cashing your 3 clubs?????

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		A102	DEALER - PASS		
		4		PASS	
		954			
		QJ7432			
Q983					K765
A2	PASS				93 PASS
K76					Q1082 PASS
A965					K108

J4		
KQJ108765	4 HEARTS	
AJ3		
VOID		

Three of spades led, play low, right hand opponent wins the K. How do you play the hand to make 4 hearts?????

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Tip 1: Get rid of conventions that aren't working. Doesn't matter if everyone says you have to play whatever it is. You don't. As you play, note any conventions that don't seem to work. Eliminating conventions that are forgotten too often, come up rarely or never, hard to agree upon in detail, often used poorly or incorrectly, too complicated for your level.

Tip 2: Add convention back one at a time. Do a lot of "what ifs" to clarify your agreements. Being aware of what natural bid you've displaced, knowing what to do after interference, alerting correctly and being able to respond promptly and correctly to opposition inquiries.