

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

IMPs

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ —		♠ 8 4			
♥ 10 9 5 2		♥ A K Q 8			
♦ A K 9 8 7 4 3		♦ J 10			
♣ J 10		♣ 8 7 6 4 2			
♠ Q 10 7 6 5	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 8 4
N					
W E					
S					
♥ J 7 6 4 3		♥ A K Q 8			
♦ 6		♦ J 10			
♣ A 5		♣ 8 7 6 4 2			
♠ A K J 9 3 2		♠ —			
♥ —		♥ —			
♦ Q 5 2		♦ —			
♣ K Q 9 3		♣ —			

Opening Lead 3 of ♥

West	North <i>Shark</i>	East	South <i>Schafer</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	?		3 ♠

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Welcome to the 43rd session of Shark's Pointers Online. 43 is a good number. Tom Brady's age!

For the past few months, Andrew Chesterton, Selen Hotamisligil, Pat McDevitt, Shome Mukherjee, Adam Grossack, Eric Schwartz, Linda Robinshon, myself and many others have been enjoying a free of charge top level IMP pair game that a Dallas area pro named Walt Schafer has been running. On any given night, Bob Hamman, Peter Weischel, Bart Bramley, Kit Woolsey, Steve Garner and many other superstars can be seen playing. I've featured a number of hands from these games. Today, I am going to devote the entire lesson as a special tribute to the great contribution Walt Schafer has made during this pandemic and all the hands featured tonite will be from some of those tremendous nightly sessions.

The Schaefer (with 2 e's) Brewing Company had a famous jingle that we all surely remember..."Schaefer Is The One Beer To Have When You're Having More Than One.."

Even though Walt's last name is spelled slightly different than the famous beer, today's Shark's Pointers is entitled, "Schafer Is The One Beer To Have". We'll explain why later...

On the above deal, I was blessed to have Walt as my partner. He opened the bidding 1 ♠ at unfavorable vulnerability. Our opps were silent. I bid a forcing NT, as my hand wasn't strong enough for a game forcing 2D bid - especially with a void in partner's suit. Walt now rebid 3 ♠.

So what would you do? What would 4 ♦ mean now? As you can see, we are cold for 6D, but 4S is almost certain to fail with a heart lead.

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

IMPs

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q 6 3
 ♥ 10 9 5
 ♦ A 9 8 7 4
 ♣ A 10



♠ A K J 10 9 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ K Q 9 3

Opening Lead 3 of ♥

West	North <i>Shark</i>	East	South <i>Schafer</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South

As it turns out, I never had to make that decision because the hand I showed you was not my hand at all! I bid 1 NT intending to rebid 3 ♠ to show a limit raise with 3 spades.

I was afraid a cue bid of 4 ♣ on the actual hand could be misunderstood - and possibly even passed as it would indicate a long minor suit! Not wanting to play it there and thinking my hand too huge to bid only 4 ♠. I certainly didn't want to bid 4 ♦ as this would deny a ♣ control, so I decided to bid an imaginative 5 ♠. I had limited my hand with the 1 NT bid, so I was hoping that this would be a good way to show Qxx of spades and 2 aces. 5 ♠ might have been passed - but Walt is from the school that all invitational sequences are forcing, and he carried on to 6 ♠ which ended the auction.

The opening lead was the 3 of ♥ (3rd and 5th)..

Walt played this hand beautifully! He started by ruffing the opening lead with the 9. Then he followed with 2 high trumps in hand. Now he played the A, K, and Q of ♣. West played the J on the second round, making Walt's 9 good. On the Q of ♣, West played the 2 of ♥, a detail that did not escape Walt's attention. Since the opps were playing 3rd and 5th best leads, the opening lead of the 3 of ♥ followed by the 2 of ♥, suggested that West started with 4 of 6 hearts.

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

IMPs

♠ —
♥ 9 5
♦ A 8 7
♣ —



♠ J 10 2
♥ —
♦ 5 2
♣ —

Opening Lead 3 of ♥

West	North <i>Shark</i>	East	South <i>Schafer</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South

If he started with 4 ♥'s, since he is known to have 2 ♣ and 2 ♠, that would give him all 5 of the remaining ♦s. If the 3 followed by the 2 suggested 6 ♥s, then, West's distribution would be 2-6-3-2. Walt ruffed his good 9 of ♣ in dummy to lead the 9 of ♦ from dummy. East played the J of ♦, Walt covered with the Q, and West won the K. Now Walt knew that East was 2-6-3-2.

This was the position with West on lead....

West continued with a heart, which Walt ruffed and led his last two trumps. On the first trump, West parted with the 7 of ♥, leaving only the J of ♥ in hand and certainly confirming that he has started with 2-6-3-2 distribution. Walt now knew the entire hand and carefully discarded the 8 of diamonds from dummy. Why the 8 and not the 7 you might ask?

Well, in recent years, there has been a popular agreement that the 7 of diamonds be called the "beer card" and if you win the last trick with the 7 of diamonds, your opponent(s) have to buy you a beer.

So you can see what Mr. Schafer had in mind....

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

IMPs

♠ —
♥ 9
♦ A 7
♣ —



♠ J
♥ —
♦ 5 2
♣ —

Opening Lead 3 of ♥

West	North <i>Shark</i>	East	South <i>Schafer</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South

Walt now played the J of ♠. West pitched the J of ♥, dummy pitched the 9 of ♥, and East pitched the 8 of ♥.

At trick 12, Walt played the 2 of ♦ towards dummy as West followed with the 3.

At this point there were only two diamonds missing - the 10 and the 6. West's last card was known to be a diamond and East was known to have 1 heart and 1 diamond.

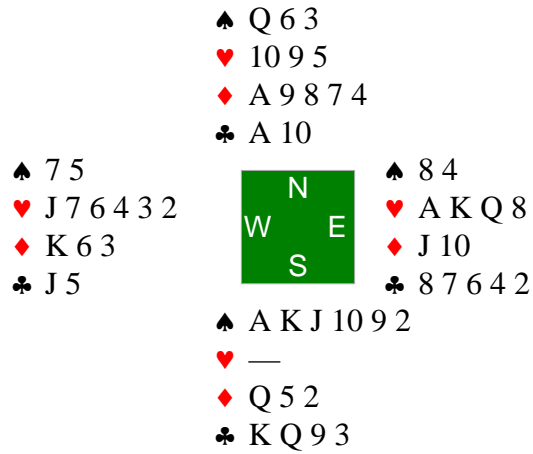
The card Walt played now would decide if he would make his slam or go down. Walt decided that East would not have parted with the J of ♦ from J 6 doubleton, so he rose with the Ace and claimed his contract with the 7 of ♦.

Mr. Schafer carefully preserved his spots to ensure that he won the last trick with the proverbial "beer card"!

This was the full deal...

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

IMPs
 South Deals
 N-S Vul



Opening Lead 3 of ♥

West	North <i>Shark</i>	East	South <i>Schafer</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South

Walt triumphantly announced he had just scored the beer card! He knew exactly what he was doing as soon as the J of diamonds appeared on his right.

So, you now understand the reason for today's topic's title.

Let's move on to a few hands from "the Schafer game" in which our local yokels did spectacularly well...

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 3										
♥ K 7 3 2										
♦ A K 9 5										
♣ Q 8 6 3										
♠ Q 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; font-size: 12px;"> <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	
		N								
W			E							
		S								
♥ A Q 10 9 8 6 4										
♦ J 10 4 2										
♣ —										

West	North	East	South
<i>Shark</i>	<i>Bob Hamman</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	
	1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	4 ♠
Dbl	All pass		

Opening Lead A of ♥

4 ♠× by South

Here's another hand from one of the recent Schafer games that I really love!

I was playing with Andrew Chesterton against many time world champion Bob Hamman one of his students.

Bob opened the bidding 1 ♦, Andrew overcalled 2 ♣, and I bid a fairly conservative 3 ♥. Bob passed. Andrew bid 3 NT, and now Bob's student bid 4 ♠. I doubled and led my Ace of hearts.

Andrew pitched a club. I continued with a heart which Andrew ruffed and then he led the A K and another club which I ruffed. Now I played a third round of hearts and Andrew ruffed with the A of ♠! to continue another club - promoting my Q of ♠ for a 4 trick set - +800 for EW.

Here was the complete hand...

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 3		♠ A 9 8
♥ K 7 3 2		♥ —
♦ A K 9 5		♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ Q 8 6 3		♣ A K 10 5 4 2
♠ Q 6	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	
♥ A Q 10 9 8 6 4		
♦ J 10 4 2		
♣ —		
	♠ K J 10 7 5 4 2	
	♥ J 5	
	♦ 6	
	♣ J 9 7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Shark</i>	<i>Bob Hamman</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	
	1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	4 ♠
Dbl	All pass		

Opening Lead A of ♥

4 ♠ × by South

Andrew's ruffing the 3rd round of hearts with the Ace of spades was brilliant!

Now let's look at a hand where Selen was the star - against Walt Schafer!

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10 6 5 3	♠ A Q 9	♠ K J 8 2									
♥ K J 8	♥ —	♥ A 2									
♦ J 3 2	♦ K 10 9 8 6 4	♦ A 7 5									
♣ 8 3 2	♣ K 9 6 5	♣ A J 7 4									
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto; text-align: center; line-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>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 7 4										
	♥ Q 10 9 7 6 5 4 3										
	♦ Q										
	♣ Q 10										

Opening lead 5 of ♠

West	North	East	South
<i>Schafer</i>	<i>Shark</i>		<i>Selen</i>
Pass	1 ♦	1 NT	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2 ♥ by South

After Walt Schafer passed as dealer, I opened 1 ♦ and one of Walt's students overcalled 1 NT.

Whereas some players bid 3 ♥, and one even bid 4 ♥!, Selen made the intelligent choice of bidding only 2 ♥'s. Her discipline was rewarded as many were going for 500 when they bid 3 ♥ and it got doubled or in the one case of the 4 ♥ bidder - who went for 800!

Selen actually made the hand and won 11 Imps on the board.

Walt got off to the killing lead of the 5 of spades, but Selen rose with the Ace and led the 10 of ♦ off the dummy! East thought Selen was trying to guess the location of the diamond J and ducked - giving Selen her 8th trick. She only lost 3 hearts 1 club and 1 spade.

The last hand we're going to discuss today features a rare end position that I have seen written up many times - but I've never ever actually seen occur at the table! That is - until just the other night playing in the Schafer game - with Walt Schafer as my partner.

Here was the hand...

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 5 4			
♥ 10 9 8 2			
♦ J 3 2			
♣ 8 6			
♠ J 9 3 2	N	♠ 7 6	
♥ —	W	♥ Q J 7 6 4	
♦ Q 8 7 4	E	♦ 9 6	
♣ K Q 10 5 2	S	♣ A J 9 7	
♠ K 10 8			
♥ A K 5 3			
♦ A K 10 5			
♣ 4 3			

West	North	East	South
	<i>Schafer</i>		<i>Shark</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

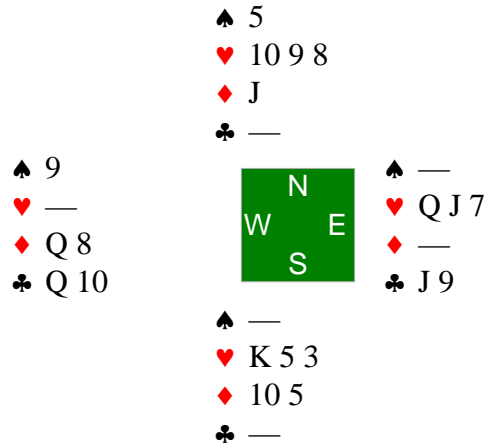
2 ♥ by South

I'm going to show you the actual auction and all four hands. Walt did well to bid stayman on this hand, but was uncharacteristically conservative when he passed 2 ♥. Actually 4 ♥ is cold on a double dummy basis - but it went down 3 in the one case it was actually bid. The normal result was 1 NT by South making 2 for +120 NS. After cashing 5 clubs, West gets endplayed into leading away from the J of spades or the Q of diamonds - giving declarer his 8th trick.

But here I was in 2 ♥. Opps started with the K of clubs and a club to East's Ace. Ace now shifted to the 9 of ♦, which I won in hand and played the Ace of ♥ - getting the bad news of the 5-0 trump split. I played a spade to dummy's Q and a spade back to my K. Now I played a third spade to West's J, and dummy's Ace - which East trumped and returned a diamond.

Here was the position....

Schafer Is The One Beer To Have



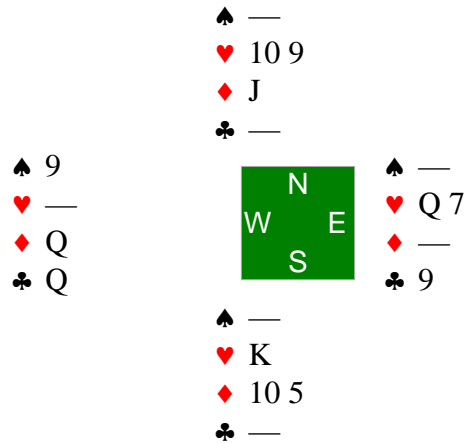
West	North	East	South
	<i>Schafer</i>		<i>Shark</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2 ♥ by South

Knowing that East was down to only hearts and clubs, I played a low heart from hand. East made a serious mistake here by pitching the 8 of diamonds. He certainly could have afforded to pitch a club instead. Let's see why this was so important....

East won the J of hearts and returned a club which I ruffed in hand...

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West	North	East	South
	<i>Schafer</i>		<i>Shark</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2 ♥ by South

Knowing that East was down to only hearts and clubs, I played a low heart from hand. East made a serious mistake here by pitching the 8 of diamonds. He certainly could have afforded to pitch a club instead. Let's see why this was so important....

East won the J of hearts and returned a club which I ruffed in hand. I could have just discarded the diamond J from dummy now, and played a diamond and EW would only score a heart trick. But my play was much more elegant. I discarded dummy's losing 5 of spades from dummy and now I played a diamond which West won while East pitched his last club. Now down to 2 black cards, whatever West led, I was forced to ruff in dummy. If East overruffed I would win the K of hearts in hand and my last heart in dummy would be my 8th trick. If East underruffed with the 7 of hearts, I would discard my diamond and score the K of hearts. This rare ending is called a "smother play".

Pretty spiffy, even though the defense could have avoided it, I didn't need it, and +110 vs +120 was no difference at all with the IMPs on this board!

Hope you enjoyed this once in 50 years play, and hope you enjoyed this session.

Walt Schaefer and many, many others have stepped up to keep our great game going during this pandemic! We're doing our part thru these weekly sessions!

See you all next week!