

The background of the cover is a vibrant collage of spring-themed illustrations. It includes a green bird perched on a nest with three blue eggs, a blue swallow in flight, a blue butterfly, a red butterfly, a brown rabbit, a brown frog, and various green plants and flowers like tulips and daisies.

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BULLETIN

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??

The Easter Declarer Play Quiz

??

5♣ by South
♠J Led

♠ 543
♥ K54
♦ 6543
♣ 942

♠ AKQ2
♥ A32
♦ 2
♣ AKQJ10

This Easter, you are in 5♣ as South with the ♠ J lead. What is your best line of play?

Answer on page 31



Bulletin Proof Readers:
Pippa Green, Peter Taylor, Karen Israel and Peter Flippant



Recent Results



11 January

EBU Winter Sim. Pairs
(On RealBridge @ MK BC)

10th: Bob Brown & Terry McCann.... 63.8%
(268 pairs competed in this event)

♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

23 February

BBA County Pairs Final

1st: Peter Coles & Niall Perry 57.9%

2022 EBU Club Master Point Champions

Bedford BC

Les Calver 773 MPs

Leighton Buzzard BC

Peter Malpass 881 MPs

Milton Keynes BC

Peter Scott 1472 MPs

Regis BC

Colin O'Hara 705 MPs



Derek & Janet Marsh pictured with their Dimmie Fleming Awards (full story in last issue)

Don't Be Fooled by the 'Bath Coup'

says Peter Scott

As the name suggests, this coup is a trap for the unwary defender, the name supposedly taken from the city of Bath where the coup was originally identified by whist players - the predecessor game to bridge.



You are on lead to a no-trump contract with a holding of K-Q-10-6-5 in the suit you intend to lead. You face your K and two small cards appear on your left in dummy. To your surprise, your K holds the trick when partner and declarer both play low cards. Is this good news? Possibly - it depends whether partner holds the J (which he should have unblocked) or the A. If he has either of these cards, it is right to continue the suit, but if declarer holds them both, you will lose to the J (which declarer is not entitled to make) if you continue the suit.

So how do you know what to do? Many players will give a *count* signal on a K led and an *attitude* signal on an A led by their partner. So, holding Q-7-2 in the suit, your partner will play the 7 on an A lead and the 2 on a K lead. Unfortunately, a *count* signal won't help you much since it will only tell you how many cards partner has in the suit, not how big they are. Were you playing *attitude* signals on both A and K leads, your partner would play the 7, giving you a green light and you would know it is safe to continue the suit. However, beware of crafty declarers who may well false-card to mislead you with your signals - so, as usual, nothing is guaranteed.

Against a suit contract, the same principle applies, although unblocking the J is not always such a good idea. You may have led from a shorter 4 or 3-card suit and your only honour cards may be the K and Q.

The point is that, unless your partner gives you a clear signal to either continue or switch, it is generally safer to switch and not to risk falling into the trap of letting declarer make his J.

Here is an example in play:

West leads the ♠K, E/W are giving attitude signals on A and K leads. East does not want a continuation, so plays his lowest spade - the 5 and South the 2. West can now see that his partner's 5 must be his lowest card in the suit as he can now see all the other lower spot cards. He therefore switches to another suit and declarer can only

muster eight tricks for down one. Had declarer false-carded the 7 on the K at trick 1, West could not be sure if East's 5 was discouraging or not as he cannot see the 2. Declarer's deception may pay off if West thinks his partner's 5 is encouraging a continuation, in which case declarer will come to nine tricks with ♠J.

As with most things at bridge, nothing is black and white but if you understand the principles of what to look out for, you will be fooled less often by this commonly used coup.

	♠ 643	
♠K led	♥ 1085	3NT by South
	♦ K4	
	♣ AQ982	
♠ KQ109		♠ 85
♥ AJ3		♥ K94
♦ J763		♦ Q1092
♣ J6		♣ 7543

	♠ AJ72	
	♥ Q762	
	♦ A85	
	♣ K10	

Matches on RealBridge v/s Overseas Clubs

Invitation matches on RealBridge against clubs from countries such as Australia and New Zealand are proving very popular and have recently become more regular features. Also, players are joining our events from places such as Egypt, Madeira and America. The BBA is keen to promote more of these events with overseas clubs and is looking to appoint a volunteer agent to travel abroad (all expenses paid) to encourage more inter-club liaison and to promote more international matches of this kind. Ideally the candidate should be multilingual and prepared to travel. If you are interested and would like to be considered for this position, please contact the Editor.





Diary of a Bridge Player



by Peter Coles



Where do you start ? Why me? Would it be polite to just refuse to write anything? Who would be interested anyway? Would I even read it? These are just some of the questions I asked myself. Well here goes ...

I was born at a very early age and grew up in Hemel Hempstead and like everyone else, I was into everything that boys did in those formative years: playing football, rugby, volleyball, athletics and cricket as well as spending time in the boy scouts movement before finding girls.

School life was good; I loved history and geography and still do. I probably didn't make the most of my academic capabilities (or that's what my school reports said) and seemed to prefer sport, drama and generally acting a clown - not much change there.

Sport was a problem as I was generally good at all of it and there was just not enough time in any given day to play it all. I recall playing in goal in a senior match as a 13/14 year old and playing an absolute blinder and reading some favourable press reports. I was then told off by a league official for not officially signing up for the club prior to the match and therefore not having any insurance if anything went wrong. Who thinks of that at that age when still at school, but a valuable lesson for future employment when the injuries did appear.



All I wanted to do in future was take over from my hero Peter Bonetti in the Chelsea goal, or at least by the time I was 16 anyway. Life always stops for me when Chelsea are playing and even today I cannot function without knowing the result of a match and sulking as appropriate afterwards.

I left school and went to work in London for The British Rail Property Board as a commercial estate agent, and I loved life working in town with the advantage of being close to my beloved Chelsea as well as being able to explore the sights and sounds of the capital.

Work changed over the years and after a brief spell working with an entrepreneur, I spent the rest of my working life as a salesman, selling raw materials to the aviation and motor racing industry. After a few motorway shunts, I decided to retire gracefully to enable me to enjoy an active retirement whilst my health was still with me.

Football was my chosen sport and I had spells at Hemel Hempstead Town, Leighton Town and various Sunday league clubs, winning over a hundred trophies over the years, all of which are now lost in the loft or somewhere in the garage.

All was well until the day it all came to an abrupt end with my being carried off with a severe back injury and the hospital advised me and my back that enough was enough. I remember being discharged and taken home by ambulance but, with me being on the tall side, the ambulance guys couldn't take me upstairs to bed, so I was put in the lounge on a mattress to recover. OK in principle until one day a minister came around to see my wife (no 2) and popped in to see me lying on the floor. He was greeted by my comment that I thought I was getting better until he turned up with a tape measure and the last rights or whatever a methodist minister does. A brief hesitation at which point I thought my wife was about to kill me anyway, and he just burst into laughter and confirmed that it made a change from his normal home visits.

Cards were always played in my house when I grew up and so it was no surprise when I eventually took up the challenge of bridge. First in the sixth form and, after moving to Leighton Buzzard, I met Jon Guess who was an insurance salesman at the time. Noticing that I had a bridge book out, he invited me down to Leighton Buzzard (LB) Bridge Club for a game. Wife no.1 had been and gone, so I persuaded my girlfriend (later Mrs 2) to accompany me to the club and basically that was it, hook, line and sinker.

My competitive spirit took over, so it was decided that I play with a more dedicated partner, so along came Arnold Chandler who I played with for a few years. Great to play with and my early weekend days

were football on Saturday afternoon followed by bridge in the evening at Stewkley with Arnold and Brian & Rita Keable. We just played a few hands that drifted into the early hours of Sunday before driving home to Newport Pagnell and then returning to LB in the morning for Sunday league football. Brian would occasionally visit his nearby allotment and stand by my goal giving me advice on a hand that I had misplayed at 02.00 that morning - happy days.

Arnold moved away and I then formed a formidable partnership with Jackie Pfister (well that is how Colin Porch described it). We had a fair degree of success with a highlight of beating Harris and Williams in the Gold Cup one year - a bit like Hereford beating Newcastle in the FA Cup. We played at LB, MK and Bedford and in several competitions around the country. Jackie was a great partner and a super friend to me and my growing family, and thanks to BBO and RealBridge I am still able to play regularly with her and her bridge mates of Lincolnshire.

I played with David Jensen for a while and also played with The Ferret (Ron Davis) once a month plus the odd county and national event over a 15 year period. Ron is a brilliant card player and a wonder of modern science, a reference to his being the biggest hypochondriac I have ever met.

I played with Iain Roberts for a spell which was fun but he was always destined for greater things in the bridge world and moved onward and upward but it is always great to catch up with him across the table. (I first met Iain when he was 11, so time flies.)

Phil Gee came and went as a bridge and golf partner. The original "statto" could always recall a hand we had played two years earlier card-by-card but had an unfortunate habit of recalling such when we were in the middle of a golf match, much to opponents' disgust.

I played with Monica Lucy for many years which was always most enjoyable and also successful. Everyone liked Monica and it was always a nice greeting when one arrived at the table to play. Sadly Monica passed away and I now play my bridge with Niall Perry which has led to some county and club success although we are always working to improve and eradicate our mistakes. He is a good guy and puts up with my competitive nature as well as managing all our IT issues as basically I am useless with technology.

How does a bridge player spend the rest of the day? Family, two grown up children, four grandchildren, a very patient and tolerant wife (no 3), a garden and my staffy Bentley keep me busy at home.

Outside of home, I am mostly to be found on a golf course. I have been a Club Captain and, for the last five years, have held the high office of Club President of Whittlebury Golf Club. This is a great honour and something I am very proud of and intend to keep for many years.

I have held the post of President of the Northamptonshire Past Captains for two years and enjoy the nineteen fixtures this shares with other counties and internal competitions.

I usually play twice a week in the winter and four or five times per week in summer as fortunately, the current Mrs Coles enjoys this hobby too, especially when it comes to golf holidays abroad. Golf is great and presents the unique opportunity of playing on the same championship courses and hallowed turf as the former greats and legends of the game.

Are you still awake ?

I have recently been able to offer some mentoring sessions at Bedford Bridge Club to some aspiring players which has allowed me to hopefully give something back to the game that has offered me so much over the last 50 years.

What have I enjoyed the most ?

Definitely the people and the various personalities I have played with and against. It is always sad when I look at a trophy and see some names of partners and teammates that I have played with in the past. However, I am comforted in the knowledge that somewhere they are playing a game in paradise where no doubt all finesses and squeezes come off and you never make a mistake in play or defence - some tournament that would be.

It is also nice to play with some other players recently, so thank you Jane, Pippa, Peter, Ian, Margaret, Lesley, Les and Colin for putting up with me. Finally, I must say a big thank you to Chris for letting me play so much.

Best tips:

From Ron: bid boldly and be lucky.

From me: after greeting opponents to the table with a smile, remember you have two ears, two eyes and one mouth so listen, look and try not to criticise anyone and saving your inquests to constructive comments away from the table.

My diary as a bridge player is busy and I still don't know why they asked me to write something BUT I am sure you could do better for the next edition of the Bulletin.



Our chairman recently hosted some rather distinguished guests at Regis BC. Pictured at the bar, from the left: Zia Mahmood, Helen Sobel, Terrence Reese, Colin O'Hara, Rixi Markus and Omar Sharif.

Andrew Robson Returns to Wixams

A message on the day from the Pipkins

What can I say, another fantastic Masterclass by Andrew where I think you all left with more bridge knowledge and confidence than before you arrived. Andrew has such a lovely, relaxed approach to cover the four topics, yet gets the key information over to you all with such ease.



Thanks to your support, you have raised £1,460 for the Little Princess Trust which will massively help children who have suffered through cancer by losing their hair. To have these real hair wigs made for them free of charge changes their lives.



Snazzy dresser Stewart Pye with the Pipkins

We love hosting these events and they're starting to run more smoothly yet we're learning with each event how we can improve for the next one. Key question here then is – would you like to come again next year?

Lesley and I have so much fun creating these outfits, the OCBBD had everyone guessing what it could possible stand for. (it stands for Obsessive Compulsive Bridge Disorder.)

Thank you again to our helpers on the day, Jackie was fantastic on 'meet and greet', Karen and Louise kept you going with tea, coffee and biscuits and Derek & Janet were amazing in the kitchen. However, we've made a mental note to ensure we can also do a caffeine fix in the afternoon to keep your brains working.

Whether it's in your kitchen, round a friend's house, in a club, online or as I found out at Wixams, some of you play in the local pub (we're up for an invitation to come over for that one!), enjoy playing this fantastic game.

Pippa Green & Lesley Perkins (The Pipkins)

Defensive Thinking

by Ravi Arulnandhy

Introduction

Unlike declarer play, defence requires two people to work together, and this can be very tricky (anguished cries of “Why didn’t you switch to ...?” are common at the bridge table). So, while there are certain basic methods every defender should know, I won’t cover those here since any introductory book on defence will cover rules like “third hand highest” or “cover an honour”. Instead, I will focus on the “softer” aspects and how one goes about forming a defensive plan. The aim is to help an inexperienced/intermediate defender to ask the right questions and become a trusted (and loved) partner. I’ve left out leads as that is a big topic and needs a separate article.

Communicate While declarer controls dummy, defenders don’t know what’s in their partner’s hand and can’t control their behaviour. So, signalling is key (showing preference, count, attitude, following lead conventions etc).

Listen What does the bidding (or lack thereof) tell you about declarer’s and partner’s hand? What can you deduce from partner’s lead or line of play? What is declarer’s line of play telling you?

Empathise A good defender can appreciate the problem facing declarer and/or their partner and this can help decide the right line of play (and in some cases point declarer in the wrong direction). Also, understanding your partner’s difficulties makes it easier to be tolerant of mistakes.

Be Considerate If you can see the right defence, don’t wait for partner to find it. Do your best to make it clear to partner. It will save mental energy for partner and build trust.

Think as a Team Too many players give up when they have bad cards. Look at the hands as a whole – ask what cards your partner could realistically have to defeat the contract and play as though he or she does have those cards. And always think about what you can do to help in terms of signals

Count Counting is the alpha and omega of defence. I’ve put it last for emphasis but also because it’s often hard for beginners or even

intermediates to do. But some simple things are worth training yourself to do:

- Make an estimate of how many points partner is likely to have, based on the bidding and dummy.
- Work out declarer’s likely shape (e.g., if they bid two suits you can account for nine cards).
- Work out an estimate of how many tricks declarer has (looking at your hand and dummy, you can see which finesses will succeed for example) and if you need to score tricks in a hurry.
- Decide where your side’s tricks are likely to come from based on the above.

The above simple checklist will help you decide whether you need to try and score tricks quickly (active defence) or if it’s better to avoid opening new suits and just let declarer find their tricks (passive defence).

A strong defensive partnership has much in common with a strong marriage. Partners need to trust and support each other and communicate well and be understanding of each other’s problems. Counting doesn’t fit into the above, but it comes under the heading of being observant which is important for a good marriage.

I’ve adopted a quiz format with some sample hands to show how this applies in practice. Assume that basic ACOL bidding, 4th best leads, standard count and standard attitude as well as McKenney Discards (on the first discard) are being used.

Answers on page 29

Quiz 1

You’re West, holding the hand below and you hear this auction with South as dealer:

♠	AJ5
♥	KQ9
♦	J1062
♣	K1074

West	North	East	South
			1NT*
Pass	2NT**	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

* 12-14 hcp

** 12 hcp

- 1.1 How many points is partner likely to have?
- 1.2 Anything useful from the auction that might help with choosing a lead?
- 1.3 Based on your answers to the above what would you lead? (Think about what partner might have that could help you.)

Quiz 2

You are East, with South as dealer. The bidding is as shown:

♠ K84
♥ Q75
♦ A764
♣ J104



♠ A93
♥ 10864
♦ QJ53
♣ A5

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♥2 and dummy's queen holds (declarer plays the 3).

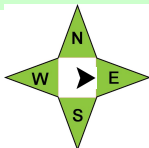
- 2.1 (a) How many hearts is partner likely to have? (b) How many points is partner likely to have in hearts?
- 2.2 Based on the auction, how many points is declarer likely to have?
- 2.3 How many points is partner likely to have?
- 2.4 Declarer plays to the ♦K in hand (partner plays the 2) and plays a small spade to dummy on which partner's ♠J appears. Do you take the ace or wait one round?

Quiz 3

You are East as dealer and the bidding is as shown below.

Partner leads the ♦4, dummy plays the ♦2 and declarer takes your king with the ace.

♠ QJ9832
♥ A52
♦ 652
♣ A



♠ A6
♥ 984
♦ K1093
♣ KJ98

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 3.1 Given the initial pass, how many points is declarer likely to have?
- 3.2 How many points is partner likely to have? How many diamonds is partner likely to have?
- 3.3 What are the likely honours in partner's hand? What is his likely shape?
- 3.4 Declarer plays the ♥Q and partner covers the jack with the king on the 2nd round. What do you need partner to have to break this contract?
- 3.5 Declarer takes the ♥A and leads a small spade from dummy. Do you play the ace?
- [Dummy now has: ♠Q-J-9-8-3-(2) ♥5 ♦6-5 ♣A]
- 3.6 What do you play next and why?

Madeira 2023

A lovely way to spend a week

Five long years ago, David Gilmore and I agreed that the week we, and Doug our travel agent, had just organised in the Algarve would be a fitting finale to our bridge weeks abroad arranged on behalf of our two clubs, Milton Keynes and Regis. We were happy to hand over the reins to others and allow them the honour of organising an appropriate event. Unfortunately their proposed week in Malta came to naught due to the inability to find a suitable location within the price range for our customer base. After having the break from researching and evaluating possible locations, David and I agreed to revisit our first location, Madeira and we discussed our possible alternative choices with Doug.

Using his contacts abroad, Doug identified the Vida Mar resort hotel as a possible venue. Based in Funchal and thus in easy walking distance of the various amenities a large (by Madeiran standards) community has to offer. We decided to go ahead and organise another week-long



The players enjoying one of the many face-to-face bridge sessions

event. Thus, in early 2020 we outlined our offer to the various bridge players and life partners who had joined us on our previous trips. We had a good response and received many deposits from interested parties.

This was, however, in the time of the first Covid lockdown. We anticipated that, by January 2021, life would be back to something approaching normality. How wrong we were! By the time of the second lockdown, we agreed that it would be impossible to hold the event in January 2021, so postponed to January 2022. Then the Omicron variant became the virus of choice and so, in late 2022 we made the decision to postpone to January 2023.



Two swingers enjoying themselves: Lesley Perkins & Pippa Green (seated)

Finally, life returned to something approaching normality and we were able to plan for the event to take place. Since the initial offer to customers in 2020, various prices had changed so we had to identify a revised pricing structure, but we put out the advertisement again and ended up with 22 bridge players and three non-playing life companions joining us for the week.

We left Heathrow Terminal 5 just after 6am on the 22nd January. We arrived at the terminal so early that we beat the security staff! After checking in and completing the usual security requirements, the plane took off on time and we landed in Madeira half an hour ahead of schedule. A half hour journey took us to our hotel and we were soon unpacking in the comfort of our rooms.

We had decided to follow the itinerary of previous years. Because we arrived so early on the Sunday, we would be able to run nine sessions

of bridge, six evening sessions two morning and one afternoon event. We also built into our timetable two half-day and one full-day tour events, thus leaving plenty of free time for guests to explore the area, go on walks or simply soak up the January sun.

Having an in-built half-table gave the potential for sit-outs for each session, but this problem was resolved for us by one of our group chatting, before we took off from Heathrow, with a couple who were staying at another hotel close to our own. We invited them to join us for our evening sessions and they enjoyed themselves so much that, subsequent to the holiday, they have now joined in our regular online Milton Keynes Wednesday evening sessions!



Father forgive me, I should have bid 3 No-Trumps on Board 18

The atmosphere in each of the sessions was exactly as David and I desired. There was congenial company and, although the normal element of competition existed amongst the group, the principles behind "Best behaviour at Bridge" were clearly evident within the room.

The hotel facilities were excellent and the weather played its part by refraining, for the most part, from raining to any great extent. Of especial enjoyment were the post mortems in the bar after close of play when a goodly proportion of the group enjoyed the opportunity to sample the many cocktails on offer.

This will be my and David's final organisational effort and we are both pleased that the event itself went off so well. There is talk of others organising another event in Sardinia in September 2024 and we will certainly be pleased to offer technical advice to the new hosts but for now, we are happy to take a back seat, letting others have the limelight.

Colin O'Hara

Test Your Declarer Play with these Hands from the *Crafty Kibitzer*. Answers on page 34

Hand 1

You are in 4♠ and West leads the ♦Q. What is your best line of play?

♠ K94
♥ 8753
♦ 864
♣ J54



♠ AQJ
♥ AK6
♦ AQJ2
♣ K93

♠ J109
♥ Q32
♦ A432
♣ K54



♠ AKQ87
♥ 654
♦ 5
♣ AQ32

4♠ by South
♦Q led

Hand 2

You are South playing 3NT with ♣7 lead. You play low from dummy to East's ♣A. Where do you go from here?

Hand 3

You are South in 3NT and West leads the ♥K. What is your plan?

♠ 432
♥ A5
♦ 5
♣ AQJ10987



♠ AKQ5
♥ 432
♦ 432
♣ K32

♠ 85
♥ 764
♦ A9752
♣ AKQ



♠ A94
♥ AJ5
♦ QJ104
♣ 1098

3NT by South
♥K led

Hand 4

You are playing a teams match and although 5♣ is as cold as ice, you choose to play in 4♠. (You must like a challenge!) West leads ♦Q which East overtakes with ♦K and switches to ♥K which you win in dummy with the ♥A, knocking out one of your dummy entries in the process. Where do you go from here?

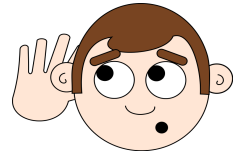
Hand 5

You are South in 3NT and the ♠4 is led. You play the ♠Q from dummy which holds the trick. Counting up, you have seven top tricks and need to find two more from somewhere. You could finesse the ♣J and then hope the club suit splits 3-3 but this has only an 18% chance of success. Can you think of a better line of play?

♠	Q9
♥	K753
♦	KJ6
♣	AJ43
	
♠	AJ10
♥	AQ
♦	109432
♣	K75



Trip'ped up!



My cousin was having an affair
With her husband's best friend
They were together one evening
That night to spend

They were suddenly interrupted
When her telephone rang
So she answered it
As it was near to hand

Her friend waited patiently
But he didn't mind that
Although he only heard
Her side of the chat

'Oh hi there,
I'm so happy for you

That sounds brilliant
A good thing to do'
'Wow, that's great
I'm glad you let me know
Okay, dear
Cheerio'

She put down the phone
But after hearing that
Her friend asked who it was,
Intrigued by the chat

'Oh,' she replied,
'It was my husband, that's who,
Saying what a great time he's
having
On his bridge weekend with you!

A duffer bridge player explained to his regular partner how he planned to improve his game:

'Every night when I go to bed, I think about the mistakes I made that day at the bridge table.'

'My word,' said his partner, 'How do you get any sleep?'

NICKO Final 2021-2022

a few deals recalled by Alan Oddie

The final of the National Interclub Knockout Competition for 2021/22 was between Milton Keynes and Torquay bridge clubs. MK were represented by my good self, partnering David Woulds, with teammates Iain Roberts and David Harris. Torquay's team was captained by Alex Maddocks, partnering Jacek Pietrzycki (no, I can't pronounce it either), teaming up with Ian Walsh and Warner Solomon.



One of the benefits of post-Covid bridge is that such matches can now be played online and the teams are not faced with finding and travelling to a half-way venue, which in our case would have been somewhere like Bristol. Our match was played on RealBridge over 48 boards on 14th and 15th November.

The very first board showed up one of the disadvantages of the dreaded multi 2♦ over 'standard' weak twos.

Dealer North, love all.

♠ 96		
♥ A97543		
♦ 1065		
♣ 87		
♠ 752		♠ AKQJ
♥ KJ8		♥ 1062
♦ Q74		♦ A32
♣ J963		♣ KQ2
♠ 10843		
♥ Q		
♦ KJ98		
♣ A1065		

At the other table David H. opened the North hand 2♥ and East doubled. Well, what would you do with the West cards? It's the perfect hand for a natural 2NT, but most serious players use 2NT conventionally to show a weak hand of up to about 7 or 8 points and that's what the Torquay West did. Partner is supposed to bid 3♣ unless he has extra values. Here he most certainly does, but what should he do? I'd have bid the enemy suit

with 3♥, but that certainly doesn't have to be right. Even 3♠ is a possibility because although you only have four of them, 4♠ could play well on a 4-3 fit (or even 4-2) if partner has a doubleton heart and a few values in the minors. So long as the spades break 4-3, a dream

hand opposite would be ♠x-x ♥x-x ♦x-x-x-x ♣A-J-x-x-x. None of these actions has to be right – partner could have a bust - and our opponent accepted the request to bid 3♣. He duly played there and made an overtrick.

At our table a multi 2♦ was trotted out by North. One of the (many) downsides of the multi is that it gives the opponents more options for getting into the auction, and here David W. was able to double, which in our methods shows a balanced hand of 13-15 points, or 19+ balanced, or strong and unbalanced. South bid a dutiful 2♥ and when that went round to David W. he doubled again to show 19+ balanced and I had an easy 3NT bid. That rolled in without difficulty and we were 7 imps to the good. Note that both David W. and I were able to express our values sensibly after the multi 2♦ opening, whereas after the weak 2♥ life was much more difficult for E/W.

Their system won out on board 5 though. You are not vulnerable and they are. The hand on your left opens 1NT (15-17) and a 2♦ transfer from his partner hits the virtual green baize. You hold:

♠	A973
♥	AQ9
♦	AK75
♣	Q2

What do you do? A double would show diamonds, and bidding 2♥ would be take-out of hearts. Those are both options and so is pass, to see what happens. Whatever you do 3♥ is bid on your left showing a maximum with four hearts, passed back to you. And now?

If you double, partner will hate you and you are doomed to a minus score because he's never going to pass it out. If you chance 3NT you scoop the jackpot. Partner's meagre values include ♦Q-J-x-x and ♣J-10-x-x-x and nine tricks your way cannot be stopped. I passed 3♥ and it drifted one off. At the other table, where the weak no trump was part of Iain and David H's system, it was much easier to get into the auction and opponents reached 3NT without difficulty. This won them 8 imps back.

After 8 boards, we were 8 imps down but in the second stanza, we had a series of part-score swings and ended it 6 imps to the good. Slam hands were to be an important feature in this match. The second stanza produced a flat slam hand (and there had been two flat slams in the first stanza too). This was it – Board 14:

Dealer East, love all.

♠ KJ104
♥ KQ92
♦ A9
♣ J102



♠ A732
♥ A765
♦ 5
♣ AK76

David H. had to play this as North in 6♥. Iain had opened 1♣ after a pass by East and David had responded 1♥. A small diamond was led. David won it, drew trumps, (they broke 3-2 with East having 3), and then took a losing club finesse. He ruffed the diamond return and cashed the clubs (they were 3-3). Who are you going to play for ♠Q? You need to get this right because at our table the contract was played by South after a transfer response of 1♦ to the 1♣ opening bid and I led a spade. Does my lead affect your answer?

The clue to how to play the spades is in the diamond suit! East has not opened with a weak 2♦ and West has not put in a weak jump overcall of 2♦. Therefore, the diamonds are probably 5-5. You know that West started with three clubs and a doubleton trump. Therefore he probably has three spades to his partner's two in a 3-2-5-3 distribution. You should assume the queen is with the spade length and play West for it. Plus 980 and a flat board if you got that right: 14 imps out if you didn't.

Board 21 produced the biggest swing of the third stanza:

Dealer South, N/S vulnerable (Polarity has been changed for convenience.)

The Torquay N/S pair were playing a strong no trump and 5-card majors, so South opened 1♣ which could have been a 2-card suit.

♠ J8
♥ AK2
♦ K975
♣ 10953



♠ AQ96
♥ J109
♦ A2
♣ K742

David W. overcalled 1♠ and North was stuck. This type of 1♠ opening (possibly a two-card suit with transfer responses) is all the rage, but it can be seriously disrupted by a simple overcall. Here, partner cannot show a raise in clubs because he doesn't know you have more than two; he can hardly bid no-trumps with a spade 'stop' of J-8; 2♦ would certainly not be ideal on a grotty 4-card suit, and he does not have four hearts, which means that a takeout double has a serious defect. In the end, he decided (rightly in my view) that double was the least of the evils. South bid 1NT - lucky he had a spade stop wasn't it, or he might have been stuck as well - and after a raise to 2NT,

went on to 3NT. What are your plans after David W. leads ♥8? If it's a true card, it must be a doubleton (or singleton).


It looks highly likely that leftie has a spade suit of K-10-x-x-x(x), so a spade to the 8 at some point will net you three tricks in that suit. You therefore need two tricks from the clubs to go with your four red suit winners. The ♠A is probably on your left for the 1♠ overcall, so at our table declarer decided that the best way to tackle the clubs was to win the first heart and run the ♠10. He planned to duck the next round if that lost to the queen or jack.

Well, it did lose to the ♠J, and my partner played a second heart. Declarer ducked that and I won and cleared the suit, David W. discarding a small spade. When declarer played a second club off the deck he was somewhat mortified when I produced the ♠A and cashed all my hearts. We still had a spade trick to come for two off.

For my sins I sometimes play this type of system with a potentially short 1♣ opening and know only too well the problems that can arise when it's overcalled. David W. and I had decided before the match to overcall it whenever possible, particularly not vulnerable. His hand was ♠K-10-7-4-3 ♥8-3 ♦10-8-6 ♣Q-J-6. Not the sort of thing you'd find in a text-book on overcalls I have to admit, but certainly effective on this hand.

At the other table David H. opened 1NT with the South cards and showed his spades after a Stayman response. That put West off a spade lead and he also selected ♥8. David H. won and with no indication as to who held ♠A

simply played a club to the king, and exited with a club to East's ace. His problems were over when East now played a spade. A diamond switch would have been better, but declarer can still bring home the bacon. He ducks the first diamond and wins whatever red card the defence play next. Then he can knock out the other top club: West wins that and will have to play a red card. Declarer

	♠ J8	
	♥ AK2	
	♦ K975	
	♣ 10953	
		The Full Deal
♠ K10743		♠ 52
♥ 83		♥ Q7654
♦ 1086		♦ QJ43
♣ QJ6		♣ A8
	♠ AQ96	
	♥ J109	
	♦ A2	
	♣ K742	

can win, cross to dummy with the long club, cash his other red suit winner and then run the ♠J to endplay West.

Note that if you duck the first heart, you can always be defeated: it is relatively easy for the defence to establish a spade and a diamond to go with the two club tricks that are coming their way.

On board 22 you hold:

♠ Q1083	4♥. The next hand bids 4♠. Partner has a way of showing a good 4♥ opening (he bids 4♣), so his actual 4♥ bid limits his defensive values and he might well have nothing outside his heart suit, even at this vulnerability. Do you whack 4♠?
♥ —	
♦ AQ92	
♣ J10643	

I didn't, but then I didn't know that the man on my right was the type to overcall 4♠ on:

♠ K9642	Even though my partner held the singleton ♠J and the ♦K was under my ♦A-Q it only went two off. Unsurprisingly, 4♥ was passed out at the other table and it went one off, so we still gained 5 imps despite my lack of enterprise.
♥ —	
♦ K7654	
♣ 985	

We had several part-score swings in the third stanza as well as the 3NT game swing on board 21, and at the half-way stage overnight we had extended our lead to 30 imps.

The following evening did not start well. Between us we had a couple of mishaps in the first stanza of the day and lost 25 of our 30 imp lead, so we were only narrowly ahead with 16 boards to play.

All the fireworks were in the last 16 boards of the match, but for those you will have to await the next Bulletin. To whet your appetite, you might like to think about how you would play this combination in a contract of 7NT after the hand on your left has opened 3♣ in first seat and the man on your right has raised the ante with a leap to 5♥ over your partner's 3♦.

Lead is ♥2

♠ AQ75
♥ A
♦ AJ107653
♣ 5
♠ K643
♥ K74
♦ K2
♣ AKQ10

A Round of Bridge (from previous issue)

The solution

Rescue Bidding system Temporarily Sequence Elimination One No Trump Psyche Heart Sacrifice End-play Yarborough High, Low Wriggle Lead out of turn Negative double Left-hand opponent Throw Invitation Alert Trial bid Doubleton Notrump Stop Phantom sacrifice EBU Upper cut Traveller Sputnik Key-card blackwood Odd Discard Double Lead Duplicate Even North Three No Trumps Squeeze East Stayman Announcement Trick King Gerber [back to the beginning]

Rescue	Negative double	Odd
Cue bid	Left-hand opponent	Discard
Bidding system	Throw-in	Double
Temporarily	Invitational	Lead
Sequence	Alert	Duplicate
Elimination	Trial bid	Even
One No Trump	Doubleton	North
Psyche	No Trumps	Three No Trumps
Hearts	Stop	Squeeze
Sacrifice	Phantom sacrifice	East
End-play	EBU	Stayman
Yarborough	Upper cut	Announcement
High, Low	Travellers	Trick
Wriggle	Sputnik	King
Lead out of turn	Key-card Blackwood	Gerber

Answers to the December Dingbat Quiz

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Dead centre of town | 10. Turned up nose |
| 2. High Noon | 11. Maiden over |
| 3. We're in the soup | 12. The last lap |
| 4. I understand | 13. Pullover |
| 5. Nice to see you | 14. Right guard |
| 6. Time to go | 15. Tea for two |
| 7. Puss in boots | 16. A bunch of flowers |
| 8. Abominable (a Bomb in a bull) | 17. One foot in the grave |
| 9. In the middle of nowhere | 18. Cornerstone |

Why a strong suit wins at bridge

Bringing back sartorial standards at the card table would curb aggressive behaviour, says Tony Forrester

Picture the scene. A room with a hundred one-metre-square tables with four people seated around each one, deep in thought. The women smart as usual. The men... some are still OK but there is now a large body (in more ways than one) of the T-shirts and shorts brigade.



A sense of occasion: well mannered lady bridge players in 1935 wore elegant dresses

Sandals are an optional extra - no socks, of course. One just prays that they do not have the desire to lean back in their chair with hands clasped behind their head. I leave you to imagine the resultant waft, and it is not of Hugo Boss. Welcome to the modern bridge tournament.

It could be even worse. I have seen cards thrown across the table, and a man pinning another against a wall, hands round the throat. Such physical violence is rare, but in a tournament where 1,000 people are playing, up to 50 arguments resulting in raised voices could be heard in a single day.

This week, there has been renewed concern that aggressive play means standards have declined. But, I am not convinced that introducing a code of conduct, as happened in 2006, has improved matters. There may be a much simpler solution. Dress sense has disappeared. In the 1970s when I started competing at tournament level, it was jacket and tie for the evening sessions. By the 1980s, we were down to “no jeans” and then the constraints were lifted altogether.

But what have these comments about dress to do with whether bridge players act courteously? Just this: we tend to dress according to occasion. So, one wouldn't arrive at an interview in the bridge attire mentioned above, or visit the beach in Benidorm in a suit and tie. Once we go down-market in our choice of clothes, our consciousness follows suit.

I believe bringing back minimum standards in dress will have a positive influence on how we behave at the table. It is a social occasion of note and bridge should not be afraid to distinguish itself as such. Just take tournament snooker as a parallel. It is elevated by the look of the competitors rather than diminished by them; by keeping its dinner jackets, it has maintained standards and reputation.

What else can we do? Discard the plethora of rules which allow bridge's "legal eagles" (those who study the niceties of the most obscure rules) to intimidate inexperienced players. One of the most common tricks is ostentatiously time players after "stops" (where the next player must pause for 10 seconds after a pre-emptive call). Instead, we should focus on the approach fostered by Andrew Robson, the country's leading bridge teacher at his club in Fulham. Summed up in one word: "enjoy".

For if we can't relax, there will be more friction. More friction produces more argument and those who benefit are generally those who shouldn't. They are the ones studying the fine print of the "laws" in greatest detail, just waiting to hit some innocent over the head with their new-found knowledge.

Of course we cannot help occasional bust-ups. Bridge is an emotional game; it produces a passionate, competitive response from us and that is one of its strengths. And a little touch of spice can do no harm - for example John McEnroe and Alex Higgins boosted interest in their respective sports to record levels.

So we must embrace our volatile alter ego but not feed it with artificial sweeteners. Bridge is not a game that deals in celebrity, or that chases after the young and fashionable. That, in the end, is its strength and is why more people in the end are turning to it. The power of the game is pleasure enough. So we must remove the legal paraphernalia from our game, raise the standards of dress and watch as bridge retrieves its former status in our society.

* Tony Forrester is bridge correspondent of The Daily Telegraph

Editor's Note:

The behaviour of some of our players can be clearly identified here but I wonder if they will recognise themselves when reading this article?

An Evening Tribute to George Goddard

On 13th December, Regis Bridge Club held an evening in memory of George Goddard as a combined Laycock/Goddard face-to-face Handicap Pairs event at the Dunstable Cricket Club pavilion in Totternhoe. Funds raised were donated to George's favourite charity: Médecins Sans Frontières. The players are seen in action below and winners were Steve Southin & Norman Hampton who scored 61.7%.



Setting an example - the best dressed player in town: David Dawes (see article by Tony Forrester on the previous two pages).

Answers to Ravi's Defence Quiz on page 12

Quiz 1

I'm not covering leads, but I wanted to point out that listening to the auction is important for getting the defence off to a good start.

1.1 Since South accepted the invitation, we assume he has at least 13 points, so that leaves $[40 - (13+12)] = 15$ points of which you have 14 so at most 1 point.

1.2 Since North did not bid Stayman before 2NT it is unlikely that he will have four of a major suit.

1.3 This is a "limit" auction where declarer doesn't have a lot to spare (compare to 1NT – 3NT where dummy can have up to 18 points) so making an attacking lead which may give a trick away is usually best to avoid when declarer may be scrambling for tricks and have a choice of finesses. Declarer doesn't know you have all the points, so may finesse into your hand, assuming the strength is more evenly split.

One general point worth noting is that competing on balanced hands, even with 14 points over a 1NT opener, isn't recommended. If balanced, the hand should be in the strong 1NT range to make competing worthwhile. With shape, and depending on vulnerability, the bar for competing is much lower (even on 8 points if the suit quality or shape warrants it).

Quiz 2

2.1

(a) Since partner shouldn't underlead an ace against a suit contract or lead from a suit headed by a jack, he should have the king. Also, since declarer didn't let the lead run into his hand, it's unlikely he has A-J, so partner probably has K-J-x-2 (assuming he has a 4-card suit).

(b) Since partner led the 2 as 4th best, most likely four cards but it could be three cards.

2.2 Given the 2♠ rebid, not more than 14 points. But, since he accepted the invitation, better than a minimum (or excellent shape). Somewhere between 11 and 14.

2.3 Assuming declarer has 13 points, partner has close to $(40 - 10 - 11 - 13) = 6$ but could have a little more if declarer raised on shape.

2.4 Give partner a chance to signal on the 2nd spade. There is no rush since declarer doesn't have discards. Duck the first round and take the 2nd. Partner signals with a small heart showing values in clubs, so assuming it's the king, just play ace and small club and collect a ruff for one down, hoping declarer has at least three.

Quiz 3

3.1 Declarer passed initially, so he has 10 – 11 points (possibly 12 on occasion).

3.2 You know the drill: $[40 - 11 - 11 - 10] = 8$ points for partner. If the lead is 4th best then partner has four diamonds.

3.3 Partner has shown ♥K so it leaves room for a king and a queen. The lead of a small diamond suggests partner has the queen, since he wouldn't lead from a jack-high suit and he's not likely to have Q-J-x-x (he didn't lead the Q) so declarer has 8 points in hearts and spades, leaving room for 3 more at most.

3.4 We need to hope partner has the ♠K so we can stop declarer from setting up spades and then we can score some club tricks eventually once we've cut off access to dummy. We don't expect more than one trick in diamonds and even two is not enough if declarer gets spade discards.

3.5 Since we can see that diamonds won't give enough tricks (if partner has four, declarer has two), we need to play on the assumption that partner has the ♠K, so go up with the ace so you can show partner what needs to be done.

3.6 Knock out the ♣A by playing your 4th club (slightly deceptive as it's the 8 but partner will trust you played clubs for a reason and work it out). When partner comes in with ♠K he will continue a club, placing you with the king (this works if partner has K-x or K-x-x in spades).

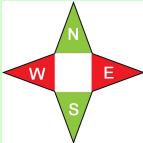
Summary

Defence is hard and can be very frustrating but also very rewarding when you get it right. As in declarer play, keep a poker face and look for every possible chance. Don't forget that even when you have a bad hand, partner's hand could contain unexpected treasures. Keep in mind that you need to set yourself a target number of tricks in defence. In teams, the goal is always to beat the contract but in

Match Points it may be just to minimise overtricks. Counting is key to deciding the right objective.

And finally, cherish partner! Everybody makes mistakes but a partnership that doesn't seek to blame will be much more successful in the long run than one that is quarrelling. There is always the next hand so be gracious and move on.

Answer to the Declarer Play Quiz on page 2

<p>The Full Deal</p> <p>♠ J1097 ♥ QJ10 ♦ A108 ♣ 753</p>		<p>5♣ by South ♠ J led</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ 9876 ♦ KQJ97 ♣ 86</p>
	<p>♠ AKQ2 ♥ A32 ♦ 2 ♣ AKQJ10</p>	

At first glance it looks like eleven tricks are possible if opposition spades divide 3-3. However, this is only a 36% chance - not very good odds. To improve your chances, win the opening lead in hand and take out two rounds of trumps. If both opps follow suit, play a second top spade, cross to dummy with ♥K and lead your 3rd spade. If East ruffs, play ♠2 and discard your heart loser in dummy on your 4th spade. If East

shows out and doesn't ruff, play your third spade honour. West is now marked as having started with four spades and so you can safely ruff your ♠2 in dummy with ♣9, return to hand with ♥A and take out West's last trump. If East follows suit, play your remaining spade honour and if West ruffs, you are going down with two more red suit losers - nobody said it was guaranteed.

By this line of play, your chances of success have improved to include all East hands that contain three clubs and two or four spades as well as all West hands that contain three clubs and four spades. Would somebody like to work out and let me know the improved % odds of success? Ed

Quiz provided by the *Crafty Kibitzer*



David Jensen

24 September 1940 -> 22 December 2022

In his youth, David was a county standard tennis player, landing him the opportunity to play at the Wimbledon grounds. He was a keen football player, attending trials for Brighton & Hove Albion. Sadly, the removal of his patella (a complicated procedure at the time), left emotional distress, and demanded a year-long recovery, rebuilding his strength, away from education.



David was born during the Second World War in 1940. Though war wasn't a regrettable fixture of his childhood (as for so many others), he recalls being taken to see a bomb crater in his earliest years in Loughborough. David's family moved to the South Coast where he attended Brighton & Hove Grammar School, making it to Head Boy.

Of particular note, David was awarded first-class honours in his MA from Cambridge University, in Natural Sciences. He worked hard and was later awarded a PhD, again at Cambridge - the Department of Physical Chemistry, for a dissertation on the physics and chemistry of combustion. He felt *immense* pride owing to his academic (and later, professional) achievements.

David spoke fondly of travelling to and living in the United States. San Francisco was his favourite city and he enjoyed his time living in Princeton, New Jersey, a town centred around the university, much like the set-up at Cambridge. Between '66 and '69 at AeroChem Research Laboratories, David developed an interest in missile systems and in particular, exhaust flowfields – under contract to the US Department of Defense. AeroChem hired many foreign nationals and there were often sports games to join. David formed a team titled 'The Rest of The World' against the local 'Americans', creating a great sense of camaraderie for all involved.

He returned to the UK in the '70s working for the civil service, chiefly the MOD establishment at Westcott, on the properties of rocket exhausts and their implications for missile detection, guidance and tracking. His work on thermodynamics, kinetic and fluid dynamics of flame processes have been published in some forty academic (and

reputable) journal articles. In '85 David joined Royal Ordnance as technical director of the explosives division where he enjoyed a more strategic role. Topping off his career, in '92, David was awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society's bronze medal for his pioneering research on the properties of rocket exhaust flowfields, leading to a premier position for the UK in the design of low-signature missiles.

A scientist to his very core, he had a hypothesis for everything. Jane recalls how precisely he cooked food, following a method and recipe to the letter. Refusing to apply any creative flair or even lateral thinking, if the food came out undercooked - then that was how he ate it. He didn't like DIY and on the rare occasion Jane did suggest a job for him, David would do it badly to ensure he was *never* asked again.

He rediscovered joy in lower impact activities again, later in life, achieving a high handicap in golf and 2-Star Grand Master status at bridge. Amongst his successes, he came 2nd in the National Pairs Final with Colin Porch in 1996, having previously won the Regional Final; was 2nd in the EBU Knockout Teams at Brighton with Jane and teammates in 1995; won the Welsh Swiss Teams with Jane and teammates in 2003; won the Herts One-Day GP Swiss Teams in 2011 with Alan Shillitoe, Jane and partner; and won the EBU Senior Swiss Teams with Jane and the Chesters in 2013. Locally, he won the County Pairs Championship with Jane in 1995; and won the Bedfordshire Teams-of-Four League Division 1 with Colin Porch and teammates in 1997.

He stopped playing serious bridge after brain surgery in 2019 but subsequently played regularly at the Abbey Smith Bridge Club with Jane until a few months before his death. His concentration was not great, so he made several revokes, insufficient bids, or bids out of turn per session (something that those of you who only play online have forgotten about), so Jane's NGS took a battering!

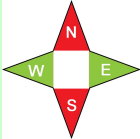
David was a National Trust member and advocate, supporting their work conserving the lake district, where he and Jane went rambling together. He leaves a portfolio of work on thermodynamics and a legacy in the heart (and perhaps poignantly, the mind) of his wife Jane every time she hears Annie Lennox sing, and in the spirit of his daughter, Sara.



Answers to the Crafty Kibitzer Hands on page 18


Hand 1 (Dummy Reversal)

On the face of it, assuming reasonable defence, you have four possible losers: three hearts and a club if the suit doesn't split 3-3, which it is not likely to (only 36% chance). Most 'rules' at bridge have exceptions and this is one where it pays to ruff in the hand with the **long** trump holding - a *dummy reversal*. Win the opening lead with the ace and ruff a diamond **high** in hand, Enter dummy twice more with trumps and ruff two more diamonds **high** in hand. Re-enter dummy with ♣K, draw the last trump for your ten tricks.

	♠ J109 ♥ Q32 ♦ A432 ♣ K54	4♠ by South Q♦ lead
♠ 432 ♥ KJ10 ♦ QJ1098 ♣ 76		♠ 65 ♥ A987 ♦ K76 ♣ J1098
	♠ AKQ87 ♥ 654 ♦ 5 ♣ AQ32	


Hand 2 (Think of entries)

After a quick count-up, you have seven top tricks which means you will have to develop two more for your contract. You are going to have to make some assumptions but diamonds look to be your best bet. Your only hope is that East has the ♦K and by finessing twice, you can make your ♦Q and ♦J. However, to do so, you will need two entries to dummy and at first glance, you only appear to have one - the ♠K. To create your second entry, assuming West has led from ♣Q, drop your ♣K under East's ♣A at trick 1 which will transform your ♣J in dummy into a second entry. You will then be able to finesse diamonds twice for your nine tricks.

	♠ K94 ♥ 8753 ♦ 864 ♣ J54	3NT by South ♣7 Led
♠ 865 ♥ QJ2 ♦ 53 ♣ Q10876		♠ 10732 ♥ 1094 ♦ K1097 ♣ A2
	♠ AQJ ♥ AK6 ♦ AQJ2 ♣ K93	

Hand 3 (Deception)

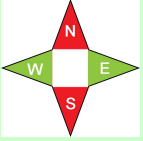
Ah ha - you recognise this situation as the 'Bath Coup' (see page 4) - in which case you should duck the ♥K and hope West continues with the ♥Q for you to undeservedly make your ♥J. However, good defenders communicate with each other and if E/W are giving attitude signals, East will play the ♥2 to discourage a continuation of the suit. If West then switches to a high spade at trick 2 you are sunk.

♠ 85		3NT by South
♥ 764		K♥ lead
♦ A9752		
♣ AKQ		
♠ QJ6		♠ K10732
♥ KQ1093		♥ 82
♦ 86		♦ K3
♣ 432		♣ J765
		♠ A94
		♥ AJ5
		♦ QJ104
		♣ 1098

What can you do to avoid this unfortunate situation occurring? Pitch the ♥J under the ♥K at trick 1 and West will surely continue with another heart. You win with the ♥A and run a high diamond when West plays low. East wins with the ♦K but has no more hearts to return to his partner's winners and you make your contract.

Hand 4 (keep control)

If spades divide 3-3 it's plain sailing - take out trumps and run the clubs. However, this division is only a 36% chance and if you play three rounds of trumps and they don't split, you will lose control of the hand and will be unable to enjoy your clubs. The safety play at trick 3 is to duck one round of spades. The opps will cash a heart but will then have to let you back in. You then take out the remaining trumps and all your clubs are good for the contract. If spades split 5-1 or 6-0, there's not a lot you can do about it, apart from wish you had landed in 5♣ instead.


♠ 432		4♠ by South
♥ A5		♦Q lead
♦ 5		
♣ AQJ10987		
♠ J1098		♠ 76
♥ 876		♥ KQJ109
♦ QJ1098		♦ AK76
♣ 4		♣ 65
		♠ AKQ5
		♥ 432
		♦ 432
		♣ K32

Hand 5 (Avoidance/Psychology)

Diamonds will yield the necessary tricks but if East gains the lead, he will return a spade to defeat you. By leading the suit from hand towards dummy, you risk conceding the lead twice if East holds the ♦Q, enabling the defence to establish their spades. However, the chances of success can be improved if, after winning the first trick with ♠Q, you play ♦6 from dummy. Put yourself in the East seat holding ♦Q but not the ♦A. What would you do? Very

likely you would play low, in which case South's ♦10 will force West's ♦A. After cashing the ♦K and unblocking hearts, you may well wind up with eleven tricks by this line which would give you a great result at M.P. scoring.


On the actual layout of E/W cards, it is also possible to come to nine tricks by engineering an endplay on East so that he will have to lead away from his club tenace. However, unless you have seen all the cards beforehand, you are unlikely to find this solution.

	♠ Q9	3NT by
	♥ K753	South
	♦ KJ6	4♠ Lead
	♣ AJ43	
♠ K7643		♠ 852
♥ 1086		♥ J942
♦ A75		♦ Q8
♣ 92		♣ Q1086
		
	♠ AJ10	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ 109432	
	♣ K75	



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