To spur everyone into action this month, there will be a PRIZE for the person who submits the correct answer to the QUIZ.

The prize is a pair of Cineworld tickets to go and see any film at any Cineworld cinema in the UK (I am sure one day we will be allowed to visit a cinema again).

You are EAST and you hear the auction 1NT – 3NT from the opposition with the 1NT opening being announced as 15-17. Your partner leads the SEVEN of HEARTS.

North, the dummy goes down with:

N North		W	N	E	S
♠ A32					1NT
♥ 932		P	3NT	P	P
♦ 432		P			
♣ AK32					

E East
♠ K765
♥ J8
♦ J107
♣ J1075

You are EAST and your partner leads the SEVEN of HEARTS.

You contribute your Jack of Hearts and declarer wins the trick with the King of Hearts and now runs the Queen of Spades, your partner contributes the 4 of Spades and you win the trick with your King of Spades. Your lead style is that you lead 4th highest from an honour and 2nd highest from 3 or more small.

What do you now lead back?

The 'Clue' to the correct solution to this hand is…….'Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie'.

The Cineworld tickets will be given to the person who submits the most eloquent correct answer and is also able to explain the relevance of the 'CLUE'.

The key to defending well at bridge is the skill of VISUALISATION:

We need to be able to visualise what our partner might hold.

There are TWO layouts that are consistent with what has been happening at the table for the first two tricks:

Scenario ONE:

	♠ A 3 2	
Optimum: **EW 3Hx; +100** LoTT: 16-14 = 2	♥ 9 3 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ A K 3 2	**Bridge Solver Online:** **John Goacher** Double Dummy Solver Module: **Bo Haglund**
♠ 9 4 ♥ A Q 10 7 4 ♦ Q 9 8 5 ♣ 6 4	**1** edited	♠ K 7 6 5 ♥ J 8 ♦ J 10 7 ♣ J 10 7 5
11 8 6 15	♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ A K 6 ♣ Q 9 8	

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	2	1
S	2	-	-	2	1
E	-	1	2	-	-
W	-	1	2	-	-

Scenario TWO:

	♠ A 3 2	
Optimum: **NS 1S+2; +140** LoTT: 15-14 = 1	♥ 9 3 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ A K 3 2	**Bridge Solver Online:** **John Goacher** Double Dummy Solver Module: **Bo Haglund**
♠ 9 4 ♥ 10 7 6 5 4 ♦ A K 9 5 ♣ 6 4	**1** edited	♠ K 7 6 5 ♥ J 8 ♦ J 10 7 ♣ J 10 7 5
11 7 6 16	♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ A K Q ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ Q 9 8	

	♠	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	3	2
S	2	-	-	3	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

In scenario 1, our partner has led their 4th highest Heart and when we win the second trick with our King of Spades, it is essential that we come back a Heart so that our partner can make their four Heart tricks, before declarer makes their nine tricks.

However, in scenario 2, when we win the second trick with our King of Spades, it is essential that we come back our Jack of Diamonds, so that our partner can make their four Diamond tricks, before declarer makes their nine tricks.

So how do we know which one of the two situations is present at our table?

Our partner tells us by the way they play their cards when following to trick TWO. If a defender follows with a HIGH card at trick TWO, they are telling their partner to carry on playing the first led suit. If a defender follows with a LOW card at trick TWO, they are suggesting to their partner that it is probably NOT a good idea to carry on leading the first led suit.

Note that this strategy can be used by EITHER defender when defending a No Trump contract.

The strategy is known as SMITH PETERS.

A comprehensive explanation can be found at this website:

https://www.bridgewebs.com/porthcawl/SMITH%20PETERS.htm

So, on our hand, when West follows to trick TWO with the FOUR of Spades, we know that they do NOT want us to continue with the Heart suit, so we now know to switch to the Jack of Diamonds, when we win trick two with our King of Spades, because scenario TWO is the actual layout at our table.

As far as Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are concerned, well they both starred in a 2005 film called Mr. & Mrs. Smith. The film is about a married couple living a normal life in a normal suburb, working as CONTRACT KILLERS.

The analogy being that the SMITH PETER is the best CONTRACT KILLER at the bridge table. Contracts such as 3 No Trumps.

The winner of the prize was Brian Davies.