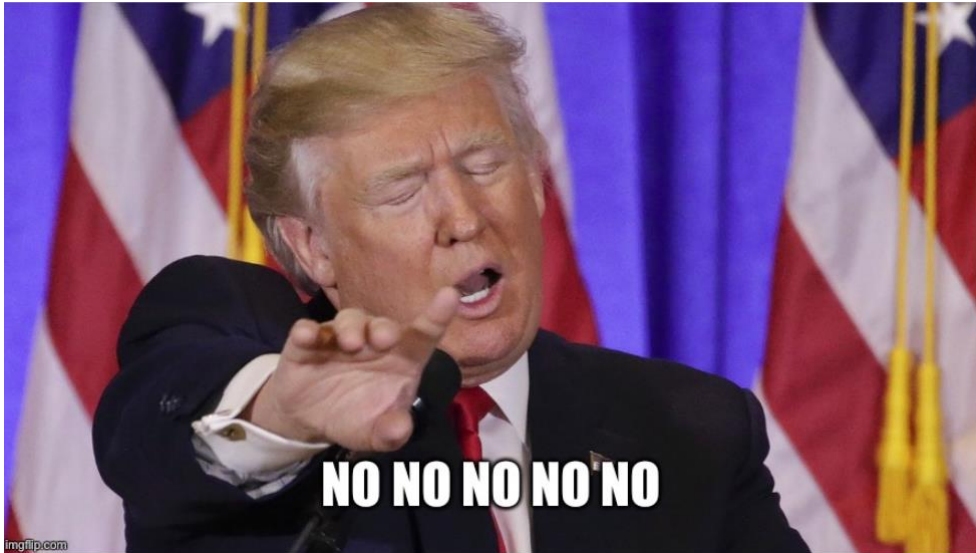


No Trump Declarer Play (By Marc Chawner)



Introduction

- The 27 boards that were played in the session were designed to illustrate certain aspects of Bridge Strategy.
- This month's topic was *No Trump Declarer Play*.
- The 27 hands were devised in such a way so that each participant, within the session, found themselves declarer in a tricky *No Trump* contract on 6 or 7 occasions.
- There were a number of 'Strategies' that I tried to illustrate within this month's topic of No Trump Declarer Play.
- We will take a look at the boards that were played, strategy by strategy and we will therefore jump around the boards demonstrating the different strategies in action.
- Within each board, I have given a suggested bidding sequence, however, for today's exercise, the bidding is not too much of a concern.
- I set the boards up, so that with accurate declarer play, *every* No Trump Game/Slam should have been made *without* any guessing involved from the declarer. (However, on two of the boards, this would rely on the defenders fooling for a cleverly designed 'Trap' set by the declarer).
- So, out of the possible 297 No Trump Game/Slam contracts how many would be made?
- The scoring method was Cross-Imps.

5 Step Strategy

- We will now take a look at the *five* steps that a *No Trump* declarer should take *before* even thinking about playing that first card from dummy.
- Step 1: Focus on just one number and that is the number of tricks that we are trying to make to fulfil our contract, e.g. 3NT = 9 Tricks.
- Step 2: Calculate the number of *top* tricks that we have as a result of the lead. E.g. If the declarer is holding Ace, Queen of the suit that is led, we are allowed to count that as two tricks, otherwise it is just *top* tricks.
- Step 3: Work out a strategy that can make the number from step 2 become the number from step 1.
- Step 4: Check that the implementation of our Step 3 strategy will not result in the defenders taking the necessary number of tricks to defeat our contract.
- Step 5: Check that we have the necessary communications between the two hands to implement our Step 3 strategy.

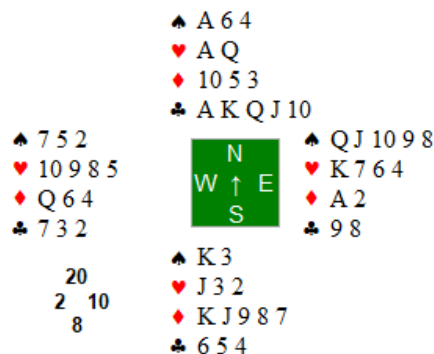
Count Our Tricks

- I cannot stress enough the importance of getting into the routine of meticulously going through the *five* steps *before* we play a card from dummy, when we find ourselves declarer in a No Trump contract.
- We start off with a very easy board.
- This first board illustrates how we go through our five steps, one at a time, *before* we play a card from dummy.
- The board in question is board 21.



Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

Count Our Tricks



<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
2 NT	3 NT
Pass	

East leads ♠ Q.

Step 1: The only number that we, North, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 8 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 1 Heart and 5 in Clubs).

Step 3: Our one extra trick will come from the Heart suit, by playing the Ace and Queen of Hearts, setting up our Jack of Hearts.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 5 tricks.

Step 5: The only definite way to get to our 9th trick, the Jack of Hearts, is via dummy's King of Spades.

Observations:

It may be tempting to play on the Diamond suit to get the one extra trick that we require, but that would involve some guessing.

Playing on the Heart suit 100% guarantees the one extra trick that we require, however we must make sure that, having established our 9th trick, the Jack of Hearts, that we can get to it.

Conclusion:

We must win the first trick in hand with our Ace of Spades, play our Ace and Queen of Hearts, establishing the Jack of Hearts for our 9th trick, which we can get to, via dummy's King of Spades.

Only once we have been through all 5 steps, do we play the 3 of Spades from dummy.

Board 21	♠ A64	♠ QJ1098
Dealer N	♥ AQ	♥ K764
NS Vul	♦ 1053	♦ A2
	♣ AKQJ10	♣ 98
♠ 752		
♥ 10985		
♦ Q64		
♣ 732		
	♠ K3	
	♥ J32	
	♦ KJ987	
	♣ 654	

Count our Tricks (Board 21)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	10	7	8	11	11
S	10	7	7	10	11
E	2	6	5	2	2
W	2	6	5	2	2

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT+3 N	♠ Q	690	+7.80 -7.80
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT+1 N	♠ Q	630	+6.10 -6.10
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+1 S	♥ 10	630	+6.10 -6.10
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= N	♠ Q	600	+5.50 -5.50
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT= N	♠ Q	600	+5.50 -5.50
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= N	♠ Q	600	+5.50 -5.50
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	5♦-1 S	♥ 10	100	-7.30 +7.30
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 N	♠ Q	100	-7.30 +7.30
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	5♦-1 S	♠ 5	100	-7.30 +7.30
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-1 N	♠ Q	100	-7.30 +7.30
Gary Waller & Tony French	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-1 N	♠ Q	100	-7.30 +7.30

- Two 'Gold Medals' are awarded on this board, namely to Graham Randall and Brian Davies, who were 'Card Perfect'.
- Everyone else either relied on 'Luck' or 'Poor Defending'.
- No 'Medals' will be awarded to 'Lucky' declarers.
- The key is to go through the '5 Steps' and realise that just one extra trick is required and that will come from the Heart suit, which involves no guessing.

Count Our Tricks (Guiding Principle)

- Always count your certain tricks and ask yourself how many you must establish.
- Do not make an automatic dash for your longest suit, for there may be a winning line of play against any distribution and any defence.
- Make a close study of your entry problems; lack of reflection at trick 1 can often prove costly later.



Hold-Up Play

- Let us now look more closely at Step number 4:
- Step 4: “Check that the implementation of our step 3 strategy will not result in the defenders taking the necessary number of tricks to defeat our contract”.
- Defenders generally have the knack of leading suits where we are most vulnerable.
- We are now going to look at some declarer strategies that minimise the possibility that the defenders will win enough tricks to defeat our No Trump contract.
- The first one is called the Hold Up play.
- Each time that we undertake a No Trump contract we are confronted with the same problem, which is whether we should win the lead immediately or duck and if the latter, how many times should we duck.
- It is very important that we duck the correct number of times as it will determine the success or failure of many contracts. By holding up correctly, we will be cutting the communications between our opponents.
- We use the ‘Rule of 7’ to determine how many times we should duck.

Hold-Up Play (Guiding Principle)

- In No Trumps, the technique known as the hold-up is fundamental, for if one of our opponents possesses an established suit, it is essential that their partner should not be able to reach their hand.
- For this purpose, the best strategy to employ is the 'Rule of 7'.
- Whenever we possess only one guard in the suit led and envisage giving up the lead only once, count the number of cards we hold in that suit between our two hands, subtract the total from 7, and the answer will be the number of times we are required to duck.
- Let us see this in action on board 26.



Board 26
East Deals
Both Vul

Hold Up Play

<p>♠ A K 6 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ Q J 9 6</p>	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W → E S </div>	<p>♠ Q 5 2 ♥ K J 7 5 2 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ 5 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ K 10 8 7</p>
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<p>6 17 9 8</p>	<p>♠ J 4 3 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ J 7 6 4 ♣ A 4 2</p>	<p><i>West</i></p> <p>1 NT 2 ♦ 3 NT</p>	<p><i>East</i></p> <p>Pass 2 ♣ 2 NT Pass</p>
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North leads ♥ 5.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 1 Heart and 3 in Diamonds).

Step 3: Our extra three tricks will come from the Club suit, by knocking out the defender's Ace of Clubs, this will establish 3 extra Club tricks.

Step 4: Once our Ace of Hearts has been knocked out, the defenders could cash four Heart tricks plus the Ace of Clubs and defeat our contract.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

We are going to have to lose the lead.

We must make sure that when we lose the lead, we must maximise the chance that a defender's established suit cannot be reached by the player who has won the trick.

Conclusion:

Using the 'Rule of 7', dummy's Hearts + declarer's Hearts, equates to $2+3=5$.

We now subtract our answer of 5 from 7, giving us 2, which means that we must duck 2 times.

In Hearts there are eight cards missing.

(a) If the Hearts are 4-4, North/South will make only four tricks; 3 Hearts and the Ace of Clubs.

(b) If the Hearts are 5-3, we must be careful to duck twice. South, holding the Ace of Clubs, will be unable to give their partner the lead. The hold-up will thus have exhausted the communications between the two defenders.

If the hand with the 5 card Heart suit, also has the Ace of Clubs, then the contract is unmakeable.

Board 26
Dealer E
All Vul

♠ Q52
 ♥ KJ752
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ 53
 ♠ AK6
 ♥ A108
 ♦ K93
 ♣ QJ96
 ♠ 10987
 ♥ 43
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ K1087
 ♠ J43
 ♥ Q96
 ♦ J764
 ♣ A42

Hold-Up Play (Board 26)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	4	3	6	4	3
S	4	3	6	4	3
E	9	10	7	8	10
W	9	10	7	8	10

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	1NT+2 W	♥5	150	+10.00 -10.00
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
George Vede & Maureen Vede	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT= W	♥5	600	-1.00 +1.00
Gary Waller & Tony French	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT= W	♣5	600	-1.00 +1.00

- We have found a strategy that we are all familiar with.
- Therefore I can award 9 'Gold Medals' to the 9 Wests who were 'Card Perfect'.
- A 'Silver Medal' goes to Hazel Capal, who was also 'Card Perfect, however, she was only in the more conservative contract of 1NT.
- Spare a thought for Sheena Millins, who missed out on a 'Gold Medal', owing to the fact that her opponents made a 'Speculative' double of a Stayman bid and hence received a Club lead.

Hold Up Play With KQxx

- The simplest hold up play is when we are holding the Ace, however, when we are holding the King and Queen of the same suit, we treat that holding as if it was an Ace and we employ the 'Rule of 7' in the usual way.
- Let us see this in action on board 3.
- Remember that we subtract how many cards that declarer + dummy hold in the suit and subtract that number from 7 and the answer tells us how many times that we should be holding up.



Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

Hold Up Play With KQxx

		♠ Q 6	
		♥ 9 7 2	
		♦ A J 7 5 2	
		♣ 7 6 2	
♠ K 7 5			♠ A 8 2
♥ A Q 6			♥ K 10 8 4
♦ K Q 4 3			♦ 6
♣ Q 10 3			♣ A J 9 5 4
		♠ J 10 9 4 3	
		♥ J 5 3	
		♦ 10 9 8	
		♣ K 8	
		West	East
		1 NT	2 ♣
		2 ♦	3 NT
		Pass	

North leads ♦ 5.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 3 Hearts and 1 in Diamonds after the lead).

Step 3: Our extra three tricks will come from the Club suit, by knocking out the defender's King of Clubs; this will establish 4 extra Club tricks.

Step 4: Once our Diamond stopper has been knocked out, the defenders could cash four Diamond tricks plus the King of Clubs and defeat our contract.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

We are going to have to lose the lead.

We must make sure that when we lose the lead, we must maximise the chance that a defender's established suit cannot be reached by the player who has won the trick.

Conclusion:

We must treat our KQ holding in Diamonds as if it was an Ace.

We must use the 'Rule of 7'.

We have 4+1=5 Diamonds; We take the 5 away from 7, which leaves us with an answer of 2.

We must duck *two* times.

We wait until the third round of Diamonds before playing one of our top Diamonds,

Playing one of our top Diamonds prematurely will result in failure of our contract.

Board 3
Dealer S
EW Vul

♠ K75	♠ Q6	♠ A82
♥ AQ6	♥ 972	♥ K1084
♦ KQ43	♦ AJ752	♦ 6
♣ Q103	♣ 762	♣ AJ954
	♠ J10943	
	♥ J53	
	♦ 1098	
	♣ K8	

Hold-Up Play with KQxx (Board 3)

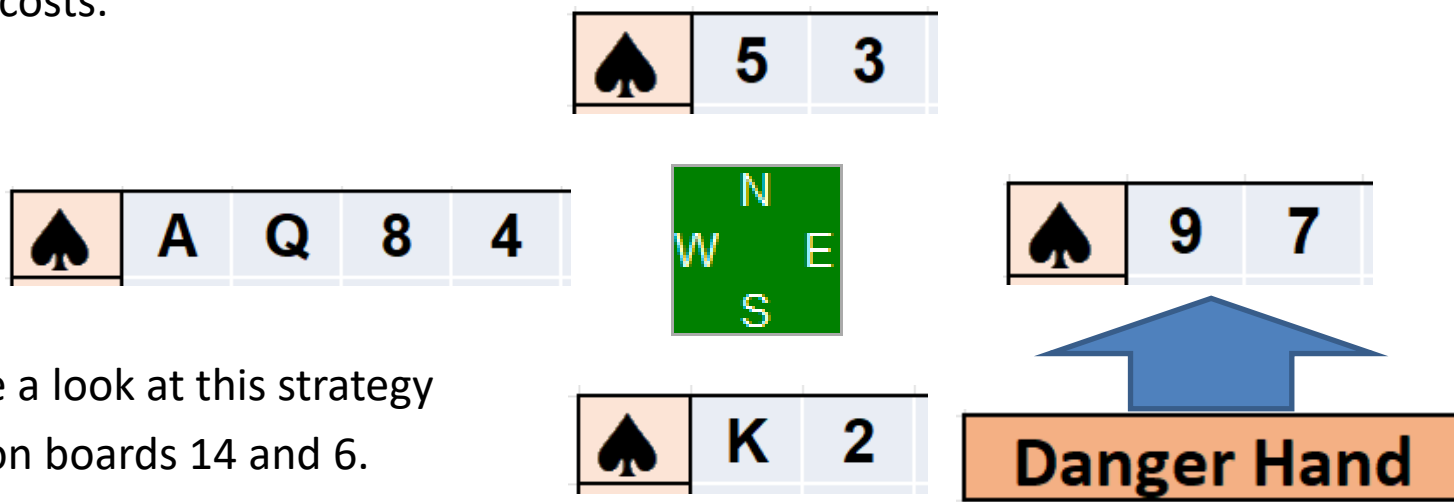
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	2	5	2	6	2
S	2	5	2	6	2
E	9	8	11	7	11
W	9	8	11	7	11

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 W	♦5	100	+8.80 -8.80
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT-1 W	♦5	100	+8.80 -8.80
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 W	♦5	100	+8.80 -8.80
Gary Waller & Tony French	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 W	♦5	100	+8.80 -8.80
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT+1 W	♦5	630	-4.40 +4.40
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 W	♦5	630	-4.40 +4.40
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT+1 W	♠Q	630	-4.40 +4.40
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	4♥+1 W	♥7	650	-5.50 +5.50
graham randall & Jayne Randall	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+2 W	♥7	660	-5.50 +5.50
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+2 W	♣7	660	-5.50 +5.50
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+2 W	♠Q	660	-5.50 +5.50

- No, 'Gold Medals' to be awarded on this board, however, only six Wests were put to the test.
- It was interesting to observe that the *same* six Wests, who previously had no problem with holding up their Ace, could not resist playing one of their top Diamond honours on either the first or second round of Diamonds.
- The two Wests who played their high Diamond honour on the *second* round got lucky when their North erred by not ducking that second round of Diamonds.

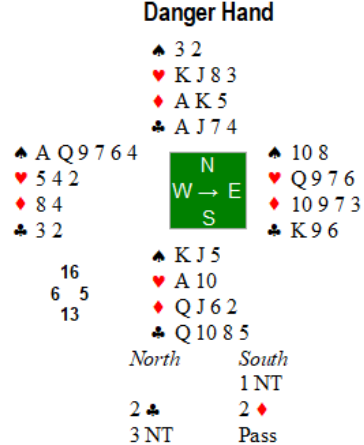
The Danger Hand

- We will now take a look at another of declarer's strategies which prevents the defenders taking enough tricks to defeat declarer's No Trump contract. (Step 4).
- This is the idea of declarer being able to identify the 'Danger Hand'.
- Quite often, after the opening lead, declarer will be left with a very vulnerable holding in a particular suit, however, if for example declarer's vulnerable holding consisted of K x in a particular suit and declarer was sitting South, it is only immediately vulnerable if East obtained the lead, because they would be able to lead through the suit, however, whilst West was on lead, declarer would be safe for the time being.
- In the image below, East is deemed to be the 'Danger Hand' and must be kept off lead at all costs.



- Let us take a look at this strategy in action on boards 14 and 6.

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul



West leads ♠ 7.

Step 1: The only number that we, South, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 8 *top* tricks (2 Hearts, 4 Diamonds, 1 Club and 1 in Spades after the lead).

Step 3: Our extra one trick could come from a Club finesse or a Heart finesse that could be taken in either direction.

Step 4: Having won the first trick with our Jack of Spades, West is holding enough Spades to defeat our contract.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

We are left with just K x in Spades in the South hand.

This is a very vulnerable holding.

However, it is only a vulnerable holding if East obtains the lead.

We therefore call East the 'Danger Hand'.

If East obtains the lead, we are 'Doomed', however, if West obtains the lead we are 'Safe'.

Our strategy is therefore to establish our extra trick by losing to West, which we have designated the 'Safe' hand.

Conclusion:

Having won the opening lead with our Jack of Spades, we cross to dummy with a Diamond and lead a low Heart towards our ten of Hearts.

We do not mind if this loses as the lead is now with West, the 'Safe' hand.

Our Jack of Hearts has now been established for our 9th trick.

Board 14
Dealer E
None Vul

♠ AQ9764	♠ 32	♠ 108
♥ 542	♥ KJ83	♥ Q976
♦ 84	♦ AK5	♦ 10973
♣ 32	♣ AJ74	♣ K96
	♠ KJ5	
	♥ A10	
	♦ QJ62	
	♣ Q1085	

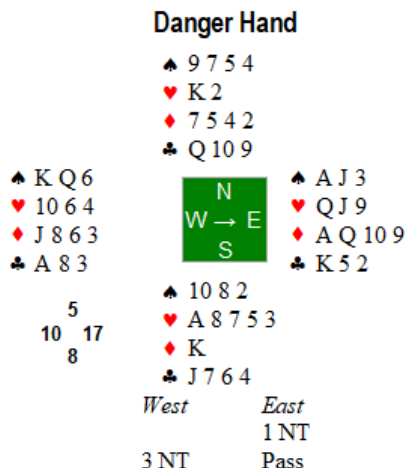
The Danger Hand (Board 14)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	8	6	9	9	10
S	9	7	9	10	10
E	3	6	4	3	3
W	3	6	4	3	3

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+1 S	♦8	430	+2.70 -2.70
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT+1 S	♠4	430	+2.70 -2.70
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+1 S	♥5	430	+2.70 -2.70
Gary Waller & Tony French	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT+1 S	♥5	430	+2.70 -2.70
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= S	♠4	400	+1.80 -1.80
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT= S	♠4	400	+1.80 -1.80
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT= S	♠7	400	+1.80 -1.80
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	5♣= S	♠A	400	+1.80 -1.80
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT= S	♠7	400	+1.80 -1.80
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-2 S	♠7	100	-9.90 +9.90
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-2 S	♠4	100	-9.90 +9.90

- Well done to Pat Watson, Paul Stevens and Brian Ormsby, who were all 'Card Perfect' and are awarded a 'Gold Medal'.
- I am going to award a 'Silver Medal' to Carole McCue, who initially played the Queen of Clubs at trick 2, but then 'Thought Better of It' and rose with the Ace of Clubs and led a Heart to her 10.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul



South leads ♥ 5.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (3 Spades, 1 Diamond, and 2 Clubs).

Step 3: Seeing that North won the opening lead with their King of Hearts and returned the 2 of Hearts to South's Ace, we now have an extra Heart trick, but we are still 2 tricks short of our target of 9 tricks.
 Those extra two tricks will have to come from the Diamond suit.

Step 4: We can identify the South hand as the 'Danger Hand' as they have enough established Hearts to defeat our contract. If South also has the King of Diamonds we will not make our contract, unless...?

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations: We must do all we can to prevent South from gaining the lead.

Conclusion:

I know it is a bit of a 'Long Shot', but why shouldn't South be holding the Singleton King of Diamonds?

It cannot cost to lay down our Ace of Diamonds, attempting to drop South's Singleton King.

If it turns out that North held the King of Diamonds all this time, then we are still alright as North does not have a Heart left to play to their partner, meanwhile we have now established 2 extra Diamond tricks and we have made our contract.

By refusing the Diamond finesse and laying down our Ace of Diamonds, this increases our chances of making our game contract by at least 5%. (Every bit counts).

Board 6
Dealer E
EW Vul

♠ KQ6	♠ 9754	♠ AJ3
♥ 1064	♥ K2	♥ QJ9
♦ J863	♦ 7542	♦ AQ109
♣ A83	♣ Q109	♣ K52
	♠ 1082	
	♥ A8753	
	♦ K	
	♣ J764	

The Danger Hand (Board 6)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	3	4	5	3	5
S	3	4	5	3	5
E	9	9	7	9	8
W	9	9	7	9	8

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 E	♥8	100	+3.60 -3.60
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 E	♥5	100	+3.60 -3.60
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-1 E	♥5	100	+3.60 -3.60
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 E	♥5	100	+3.60 -3.60
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-1 E	♥5	100	+3.60 -3.60
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-1 E	♥5	100	+3.60 -3.60
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT-1 E	♥3	100	+3.60 -3.60
Gary Waller & Tony French	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 E	♣4	100	+3.60 -3.60
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT= E	♥5	600	-9.40 +9.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+1 E	♥5	630	-9.70 +9.70
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT+1 E	♥5	630	-9.70 +9.70

- Two declarers, namely Steve Abbott and Alan Bryant dropped the singleton King of Diamonds and hence are awarded a 'Gold Medal'.
- To be fair, this is not an easy task to accomplish seeing that every week down at our local duplicate, we are so used to finessing for overtricks.
- Well done to Steve and Alan.

The Danger Hand (Guiding Principle)

- If one of your opponents is 'Dangerous', you must take all necessary precautions to avoid giving them the lead.
- One of these is the rejection of a finesse.



Declarer Selects The Danger Hand

- The next two boards, namely boards 27 and 25 have a lot of similarities:
 - 1. They both have identical bidding auctions and therefore final contract.
 - 2. They both have identical opening leads of the 4 of Hearts.
 - 3. They both have identical holdings in dummy of the suit led.
 - 4. On both hands the third hand plays the Jack of Hearts.
 - 5. On both hands declarer is holding the identical cards in the suit led.
- However, declarer plays a different card at trick one.
- How can this be?
- By playing a different card at trick one, declarer is selecting where they want the 'Danger Hand' to be.
- Let's watch this in action.

♠ A 7 5
 ♥ 8 7 2
 ♦ A K 8 3
 ♣ Q 9 3

♠ 9 4 2
 ♥ A 10 6 4 3
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ K 2

13
 7 7
 13

♠ K 10 8
 ♥ K Q 5
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ A J 10 8 5

North
 3 NT

N
 W ↓ E
 S

♠ Q J 6 3
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ Q J 9 4
 ♣ 7 6 4

South
 1 NT
 Pass

West leads ♥ 4.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 2 Diamonds, 1 Club and 1 in Hearts after the lead).

Step 4: The problem is that there is every chance that we are going to have to give up the lead, with a losing Club finesse, in order to establish those extra three Club tricks.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

If we are going to lose a Club trick, then we will lose that trick to West.

Therefore the solution is to make East the 'Danger Hand'.

Conclusion:

If we win the first Heart trick with the King of Hearts, we have 'Selected' East to be the 'Danger Hand'.

We certainly do not mind East being the 'Danger Hand' as we can ensure that East will not get on lead.

Meanwhile, when West wins with their King of Clubs, we now have enough tricks to make our contract.

Board 27
Dealer S
None Vul

♠ 942	♠ A75	♠ QJ63
♥ A10643	♥ 872	♥ J9
♦ 765	♦ AK83	♦ QJ94
♣ K2	♣ Q93	♣ 764
	♠ K108	
	♥ KQ5	
	♦ 102	
	♣ AJ1085	

Declarer Selects the Danger Hand (Board 27)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	8	7	8	9
S	9	8	7	8	9
E	4	5	5	5	4
W	4	5	5	5	4

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT+2 S	♥ 3	460	+1.50 -1.50
Gary Waller & Tony French	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT+2 S	♥ 3	460	+1.50 -1.50
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 S	♥ 4	430	+0.40 -0.40
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT+1 S	♥ 4	430	+0.40 -0.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT+1 S	♥ 3	430	+0.40 -0.40
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT= S	♥ 4	400	-0.70 +0.70
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= S	♠ 9	400	-0.70 +0.70
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT= S	♠ 9	400	-0.70 +0.70
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT= S	♥ 4	400	-0.70 +0.70
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= S	♥ 4	400	-0.70 +0.70
George Vede & Maureen Vede	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT= S	♥ 4	400	-0.70 +0.70

- Of the nine Souths, who were put to the test, all nine Souths rose to the occasion and won the first trick.
- Well done to all those Souths, who have been awarded a 'Gold Medal'.

Declarer Selects the Danger Hand

Board 25
North Deals
E-W Vul

		♠ J 6 4 3 2	
		♥ J 9	
		♦ Q J 7	
		♣ K 8 4	
♠ K 8			♠ A 9 5
♥ 8 7 2			♥ K Q 5
♦ K 10 3			♦ A 8 4 2
♣ A J 10 9 6			♣ Q 3 2
		♠ Q 10 7	
		♥ A 10 6 4 3	
		♦ 9 6 5	
		♣ 7 5	
		West	East
			1 NT
		3 NT	Pass

South leads ♥ 4.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 2 Diamonds, 1 Club and 1 in Hearts after the lead).

Step 3: Our three extra tricks should come from the Club suit.

Step 4: The problem is that there is every chance that we are going to have to give up the lead, with a losing Club finesse, in order to establish those extra three Club tricks.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

If we are going to lose a Club trick, then we will lose that trick to North.

Therefore the solution is to make South the 'Danger Hand'.

Conclusion:

If we duck the first Heart trick by playing the 5 of Hearts, we have 'Selected' South to be the 'Danger Hand'.

We certainly do not mind South being the 'Danger Hand' as we can ensure that South will not get on lead.

Meanwhile, when North wins with their King of Clubs, we now have enough tricks to make our contract.

Board 25
Dealer N
EW Vul

♠ K8 ♠ A95
 ♥ 872 ♥ KQ5
 ♦ K103 ♦ A842
 ♣ AJ1096 ♣ Q32
 ♠ Q107
 ♥ A10643
 ♦ 965
 ♣ 75

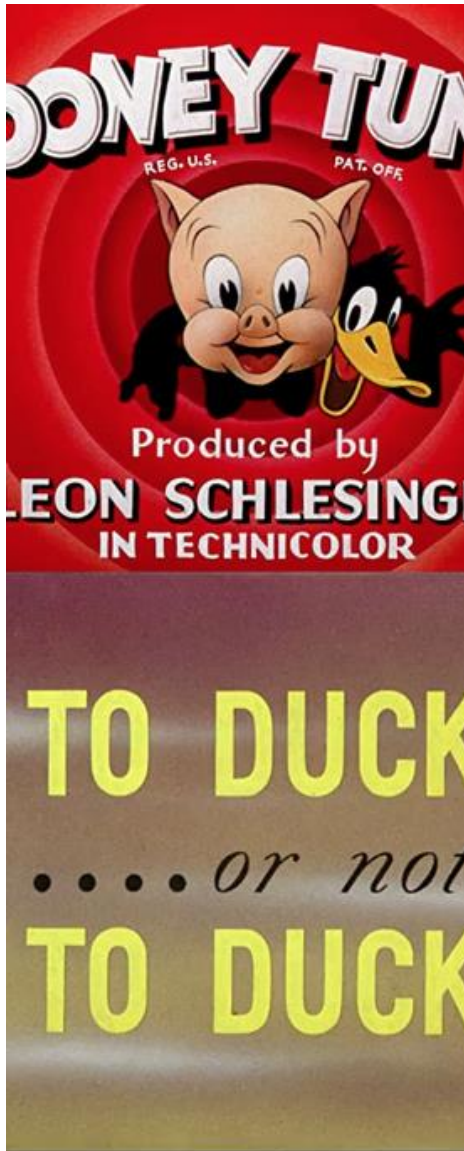
♠ J6432
 ♥ J9
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ K84

Declarer Selects the Danger Hand (Board 25)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	4	6	6	4	4
S	4	6	6	4	4
E	9	6	7	9	9
W	9	6	7	9	9

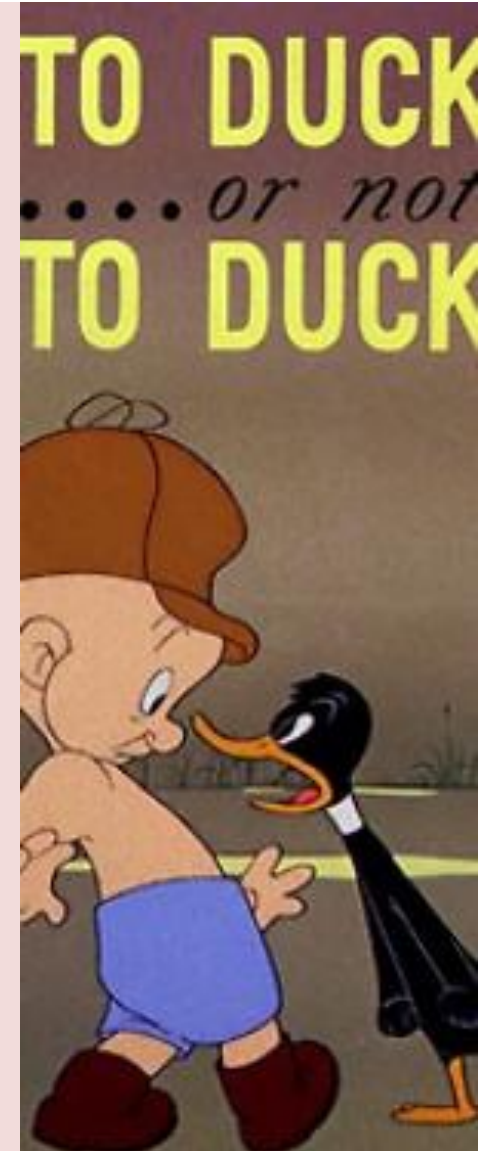
NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 E	♥4	100	+6.00 -6.00
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT-1 E	♥4	100	+6.00 -6.00
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 E	♥4	100	+6.00 -6.00
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 E	♥4	100	+6.00 -6.00
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 E	♥4	100	+6.00 -6.00
Gary Waller & Tony French	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 E	♥4	100	+6.00 -6.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= E	♥4	600	-6.90 +6.90
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= E	♥4	600	-6.90 +6.90
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 E	♥3	630	-7.40 +7.40
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 E	♥4	630	-7.40 +7.40
George Vede & Maureen Vede	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+1 E	♥4	630	-7.40 +7.40

- There were three 'Gold Medal' winners here, who all managed to resist taking the first Heart trick.
- They were: Steve Abbott, Peter Richardson and Patrick Murray.
- Well done to those three.



Declarer Selects the Danger Hand (Guiding Principle)

- Whether we duck or not with KQx depends on who we fear getting the lead.
- If you *cannot* avoid your right-hand opponent getting in, it is probably right to duck, but if you can keep them off lead, then win the trick immediately.

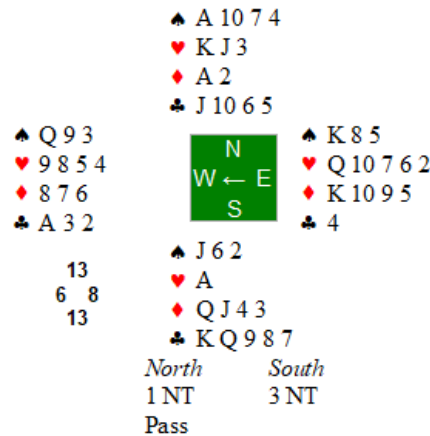


Which Suit to Tackle First?

- Very often, declarer must tackle two different suits to try and establish enough tricks to make their contract.
- This could result in declarer having to lose the lead on two separate occasions.
- The big question declarer has to answer is which suit should they tackle first?
- The answer to that question depends on whether a 'Danger Hand' has already been established or whether a 'Danger Hand' is imminently going to be established.
- In the first case, where a 'Danger Hand' has already been established, declarer must first play the suit that ensures that the 'Danger Hand' is kept off lead.
- However, if there is currently no 'Danger Hand', but declarer can foresee a 'Danger Hand', 'On the Horizon', declarer should first play the suit, which results in declarer subsequently being able to play the suit which keeps the, now established, 'Danger Hand' off lead.
- Let us see these two scenarios play out.
- We will first look at board 24, where the 'Danger Hand' is established with the opening lead.
- Then we will take a look at board 19, where, although the 'Danger Hand' is not immediately established, we can see it 'On the Horizon'.

Which Suit to Tackle First?

Board 24
West Deals
None Vul



East leads ♥ 6.

Step 1: The only number that we, North, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 4 *top* tricks (1 Spade, 2 Hearts and 1 in Diamonds).

Step 3: We have two potential sources for our extra five tricks; Namely we can establish 4 more Club tricks and one more Diamond trick. The problem is that knocking out the Ace of Clubs will not bring us to our target of 9 tricks, so we are going to have to tackle both the Club and Diamond suits to establish our 9 tricks.

Step 4: We must choose very carefully the order that we should be losing our 2 tricks.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

After the Heart lead, West has become the immediate 'Danger Hand'.

We must make sure that we keep the 'Danger Hand' off lead for as long as possible.

Conclusion:

Having won the opening lead with the Ace of Hearts, we cannot risk playing the Club suit as there is a danger that the 'Danger Hand' will be on lead immediately.

We must lead the Queen of Diamonds at trick 2. Although this only establishes one trick, the key element of the play is that we avoid the 'Danger Hand' getting on lead.

When East wins with their King of Diamonds, they cannot successfully attack the Heart suit, so now, in our own time, we can knock out the Ace of Clubs and claim our 9 tricks.

Board 24

Dealer W

None Vul

♠ A1074

♥ KJ3

♦ A2

♣ J1065

♠ Q93

♥ 9854

♦ 876

♣ A32

♠ K85

♥ Q10762

♦ K1095

♣ 4

♠ J62

♥ A

♦ QJ43

♣ KQ987

Which Suit to Tackle

First? (Board 24)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	9	6	8	10
S	9	9	6	8	10
E	3	4	7	4	3
W	3	4	7	4	3

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT+2 N	♥2	460	+6.60 -6.60
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+2 N	♥6	460	+6.60 -6.60
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+2 N	♣4	460	+6.60 -6.60
Gary Waller & Tony French	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 N	♣4	430	+5.60 -5.60
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= N	♥2	400	+5.10 -5.10
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	2NT= N	♥6	120	-1.20 +1.20
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT-1 N	♥2	50	-5.60 +5.60
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 N	♥6	50	-5.60 +5.60
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 N	♥2	50	-5.60 +5.60
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 N	♥6	50	-5.60 +5.60
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-2 N	♥2	100	-6.90 +6.90

- Three ‘Gold Medallists’ here, with Ian Moss, Brian Davies and Graham Randall being the only three declarers who took the Diamond finesse at trick 2.
- I am going to award a ‘Bronze Medal’ to Pascaline Mower, who is the only defender, who appears to have read her notes from the first ‘Boot Camp’, when she rose with her Ace of Clubs at trick 2, when declarer erred when they played a small Club from dummy.
- It is essential that West tries to win a trick, before their partner’s entry is knocked out.

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

Which Suit to Tackle First?

		♠ Q 9 8 4 2	
		♥ 8 5 3	
		♦ 7 5	
		♣ K 7 2	
♠ A 7			♠ K 6 3
♥ K 6 4			♥ A 7 2
♦ Q 10 6 2			♦ A J 9
♣ A Q 9 6			♣ J 10 8 3
		♠ J 10 5	
		♥ Q J 10 9	
		♦ K 8 4 3	
		♣ 5 4	
		West	East
		1 NT	3 NT
		Pass	

North leads ♠ 4.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 1 in Clubs).

Step 3: We have two potential sources for our extra three tricks; Namely Diamonds and Clubs.
 If the Club finesse is wrong, we are going to need our extra tricks to come from both Clubs and Diamonds,

Step 4: The problem is that there is a danger that to establish our 9 tricks, we are going to have to lose the lead twice and North by then, will have their Spade suit established.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

The key is knowing which Minor suit to tackle first.

Once our Ace and King of Spades have been knocked out, North becomes the 'Danger Hand'.

We must therefore tackle the Diamond suit second as we know that by playing the Diamond suit, we can keep the 'Danger Hand,' North off lead.

Conclusion:

We win the opening lead with the Ace of Spades.

We must now play the Club suit, driving out the King of Clubs.

We now subsequently duck the second round of Spades, cutting communications from North.

We can now take the Diamond finesse knowing that the 'Danger' hand can be kept off lead.

Note that we should not waste playing a Heart to dummy's Ace to take the Club finesse as this brings into play the possibility that the defenders will switch their attention to the Heart suit, which could result in 5 tricks for the defenders.

Board 19
Dealer S
EW Vul

♠ A7	♠ Q9842	♠ K63
♥ K64	♥ 853	♥ A72
♦ Q1062	♦ 75	♦ AJ9
♣ AQ96	♣ K72	♣ J1083
	♠ J105	
	♥ QJ109	
	♦ K843	
	♣ 54	

Which Suit to Tackle First? (Board 19)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	3	6	4	3	2
S	3	6	4	3	2
E	10	7	9	10	10
W	10	7	9	10	10

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 W	♠ 4	100	+8.40 -8.40
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 W	♠ 4	100	+8.40 -8.40
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-1 W	♠ 4	100	+8.40 -8.40
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 W	♠ 4	100	+8.40 -8.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= W	♠ 4	600	-4.20 +4.20
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+1 W	♠ 4	630	-4.90 +4.90
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT+1 W	♠ 4	630	-4.90 +4.90
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT+1 W	♠ 4	630	-4.90 +4.90
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT+1 W	♠ 4	630	-4.90 +4.90
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 W	♠ 4	630	-4.90 +4.90
Gary Waller & Tony French	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 W	♠ 4	630	-4.90 +4.90

- One outstanding play and most worthy of the only 'Gold Medal' from this board and that was from Chris Chorley, who correctly won the lead with the Ace of Spades and laid down the Ace of Clubs and continued with the Queen of Clubs.
- This might sound a bit 'Mean', but I am only awarding a 'Silver Medal' to Gemma Fewster, Jon Ward and Geoff Webber, who correctly played the Club suit before the Diamond suit, however, they crossed over to dummy with a Heart, to take a 'Superfluous' Club finesse, which is a losing play, if Hearts had been 5-2.
- A 'Bronze Medal' goes to Ann Craig, who also played the Clubs first, however, crossed to dummy to take the Club finesse, via a Diamond to the Ace, but got away with it.

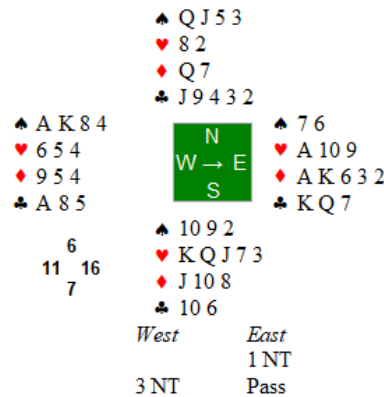
The Avoidance Play



- Continuing with our 'Danger Hand' theme, let us look at another strategy that declarer can use, to prevent the 'Danger Hand' getting the lead.
- This strategy is known as the 'Avoidance Play'.
- Let us look at it in action on board 10.

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

The Avoidance Play



South leads ♥ King.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 8 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 1 Heart, 2 Diamonds and 3 in Clubs).

Step 3: We only require 1 more trick and that must come from the Diamond suit.

Step 4: The problem that we have is that in order to establish our extra Diamond trick, we must lose a Diamond trick.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

The first thing that we must do is apply the 'Rule of 7'.

Declarer Hearts + Dummy Hearts = 6.

7 Minus 6 = 1; We must hold up for *one* round of Hearts.

North peters in Hearts, which confirms our worst fear and that is that the Heart suit divides 5-2

We must keep South off lead.

Conclusion:

We enter dummy with a Spade and lead a low Diamond towards our Ace, King of Diamonds, when North plays their 7 of Diamonds, we win it with our Ace of Diamonds.

We now cross back to dummy to our Ace of Clubs and repeat the process of leading towards our King of Diamonds.

This time North plays the Queen of Diamonds and we play low.

We have successfully prevented South getting back on lead.

The Avoidance Play

- It is interesting to note what happens if declarer ignores the 'Rule of 7' and decides to hold up for a second time and therefore winning the third round of Hearts.
- On the third round of Hearts, North has the opportunity to 'Make Napoleon Proud', by discarding the Queen of Diamonds and hence executing an 'Emperor's Coup'.
- See board 8 and page 81 of the defence 'Boot Camp'.



	♠ QJ53	
	♥ 82	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ J9432	
♠ AK84		♠ 76
♥ 654		♥ A109
♦ 954		♦ AK632
♣ A85		♣ KQ7
	♠ 1092	
	♥ KQJ73	
	♦ J108	
	♣ 106	

Board 10
Dealer E
All Vul

♠ QJ53
 ♥ 82
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ J9432

♠ AK84
 ♥ 654
 ♦ 954
 ♣ A85

♠ 76
 ♥ A109
 ♦ AK632
 ♣ KQ7

♠ 1092
 ♥ KQJ73
 ♦ J108
 ♣ 106

The Avoidance Play (Board 10)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	3	4	5	3	4
S	3	4	5	3	4
E	10	9	8	10	9
W	10	9	8	10	9

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 E	♥Q	100	+3.00 -3.00
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
Mary D & Nicola Headland	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
Gary Waller & Tony French	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT-1 E	♥K	100	+3.00 -3.00
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	2NT= E	♥K	120	-2.80 +2.80
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= E	♥K	600	-10.60 +10.60
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT= E	♥K	600	-10.60 +10.60

- Zero ‘Gold Medals’ to be given out on this board.
- Virtually every declarer held up the Hearts to the third round, which gave an opportunity ‘To Make Napoleon Proud’, but no North took that opportunity.
- It really did not matter as all the declarers just played their two Diamonds from the top.
- I will award a ‘Bronze Medal’ to Brian Davies, who, although he ‘Did not make Napoleon Proud’, he at least played his Queen of Diamonds under declarer’s Ace of Diamonds, ensuring an entry to partner’s established Heart suit.

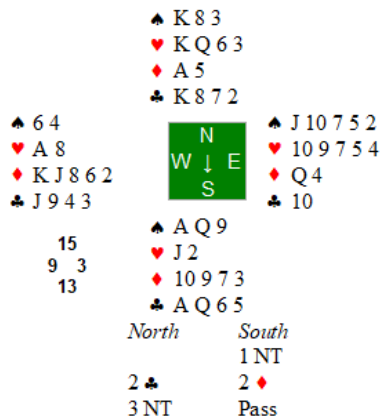
The Block Defence



- A rule is not perfect unless it has its exceptions.
- The rule I am referring to is the 'Rule of 7', where we calculate how many times a declarer should duck the lead.
- Typically when dummy is holding Ace doubleton in the suit led and declarer is holding a 4 card suit, there are certain holdings where we do not apply the 'Rule of 7'.
- Normally when dummy is holding a doubleton and declarer is holding a 4 card suit, the 'Rule of 7' equation is $7 \text{ Minus } 6 = 1$. i.e. Declarer should duck once.
- As we will see from board 15, with certain holdings, we must ignore the 'Rule of 7'.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

The Block Defence



West leads ♦ 6.

Step 1: The only number that we, South, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 7 *top* tricks (3 Spades, 1 Diamond and 3 in Clubs).

Step 3: We only require 2 more tricks and that must come from the Heart suit, when we knock out the Ace of Hearts.

Step 4: The problem that we have is that the defenders could quite easily establish 4 Diamond tricks plus the Ace of Hearts.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

If the defender's Diamonds are breaking 4-3, we are not worried as the defenders can only take 3 Diamond tricks along with their Ace of Hearts.

It is when the defender's Diamonds break 5-2, that we could potentially be looking at 4 Diamond losers plus the Ace of Hearts.

However, when the defender's Diamonds are 5-2, East will most certainly be holding 'Honour Doubleton' in the Diamond suit?

According to the 'Rule of 7', seeing that we have 6 Diamonds between the declarer hand and the dummy hand, we should be ducking once, however, with dummy holding the Ace doubleton in the Diamond suit and declarer is holding 109xx, we must 'Overrule' the 'Rule of 7'.

Conclusion:

At trick 1, we must rise with the Ace of Diamonds from dummy.

East will now be holding a singleton honour in Diamonds and the Diamond suit of the defence has now been blocked, which means that, the defence will not be able to untangle their 4 Diamond tricks.

Board 15
Dealer S
NS Vul

♠ 64	♠ K83	♠ J10752
♥ A8	♥ KQ63	♥ 109754
♦ KJ862	♦ A5	♦ Q4
♣ J943	♣ K872	♣ 10
	♠ AQ9	
	♥ J2	
	♦ 10973	
	♣ AQ65	

The Block Defence (Board 15)

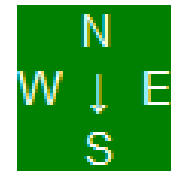
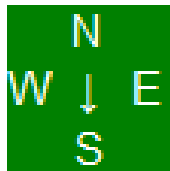
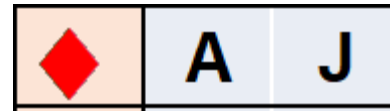
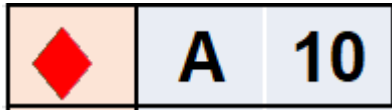
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	10	8	9	8	10
S	10	8	9	8	10
E	3	5	4	5	3
W	3	5	4	5	3

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT+1 S	♦ 2	630	+6.10 -6.10
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 S	♠ 6	630	+6.10 -6.10
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 S	♠ 6	630	+6.10 -6.10
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+1 S	♥ A	630	+6.10 -6.10
Gary Waller & Tony French	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT+1 S	♠ 6	630	+6.10 -6.10
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT= S	♠ 6	600	+5.50 -5.50
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 S	♦ 2	100	-7.20 +7.20
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 S	♦ 6	100	-7.20 +7.20
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 S	♦ 6	100	-7.20 +7.20
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-1 S	♦ 6	100	-7.20 +7.20
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 S	♦ 2	100	-7.20 +7.20

- No 'Blocking' going on here, with no declarer rising with dummy's Ace of Diamonds and therefore no 'Gold Medals' awarded.

The Block Defence (Guiding Principle)

Here are another two holdings, where rising with the Ace in dummy will 'Block' the defender's tricks.



Quick Observation

- One thing I have noticed from this event is that many people seem to be leading, on quite a few occasions, from their doubletons against the No Trump contracts?
- It is as if my previous 'Boot Camp' has 'Traumatised/Hypnotised' people into leading their short suits against No Trump contracts.
- If we take a look back at board 7 from the Defence Boot Camp, where I suggested leading the doubleton Heart, the reason was because our partner has all the points and we have nothing.
- The idea regarding leading against No Trumps is that we want to lead the longest suit of the person who has the majority of points, because once we have set the suit up, they will still hopefully have an entry left in their hand.
- On the board that we just played, board 15, *our* hand has the majority of points, so we should be leading *our* longest suit, Diamonds. The people leading their doubleton 6 of Spades, may well find their partner with a 5 card Spade suit, but our partner's hand is known to scarcely have any points.

Board 7		♠ AJ9	
Dealer S		♥ Q97	
All Vul		♦ AQ6	
		♣ K954	
		♠ 1087	
		♥ AKJ432	
		♦ 8	
		♣ J76	
		♠ KQ43	
		♥ 105	
		♦ K742	
		♣ AQ3	

♠ 652	
♥ 86	
♦ J10953	
♣ 1082	

Board 15		♠ K83	
Dealer S		♥ KQ63	
NS Vul		♦ A5	
		♣ K872	
		♠ J10752	
		♥ 109754	
		♦ Q4	
		♣ 10	
		♠ AQ9	
		♥ J2	
		♦ 10973	
		♣ AQ65	

♠ 64	
♥ A8	
♦ KJ862	
♣ J943	

Play High From Dummy to Block Defence



- From 'Child Birth', we have always been told that 'Second Hand Plays Low', however when we know certain things about the hands at the table, we are allowed 'To Break The Rules'.
- Let us look at declarer 'Breaking the Rules' on Board 5.

Play High From Dummy to Block Defence

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

		♠ Q 10 4	
		♥ K Q 4 3 2	
		♦ A K 2	
		♣ K J	
♠ 6 2			♠ A J 9 8 7
♥ 10 8 6 5			♥ A J 9
♦ 7 5 4			♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 5 4 3			♣ 7 2
18		♠ K 5 3	
4 10		♥ 7	
8		♦ Q J 6 3	
		♣ Q 10 9 8 6	
West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	1 ♠	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

West leads ♠ 6.

Step 1: The only number that we, South, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 5 *top* tricks (4 Diamonds, and 1 in Spades after the lead).

Step 3: Our extra four tricks will come from the Club suit, once we have knocked the Ace of Clubs out.

Step 4: We are very aware that East has probably 5 Spades, so we are under pressure.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

At first glance, after West leads what appears to be their doubleton, this appears to be a case of West being the 'Danger Hand' and as long as West does not get back on lead, we should be alright.

So all we have to do is 'Pray' that West does not get on lead?

Or is there some other strategy involved here?

Conclusion:

Look at the effect of us playing the Queen of Spades from dummy at trick 1.

East can win the trick with their Ace of Spades, but they cannot successfully continue the Spade suit.

In our own time, we can knock out the Ace of Clubs, knowing that our King of Spades will prevent the defenders taking enough defensive tricks.

Board 5
Dealer N
NS Vul

♠ Q104
 ♥ KQ432
 ♦ AK2
 ♣ KJ

♠ 62
 ♥ 10865
 ♦ 754
 ♣ A543

♠ K53
 ♥ 7
 ♦ QJ63
 ♣ Q10986

♠ AJ987
 ♥ AJ9
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ 72

Play High From Dummy to Block Defence (Board 5)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	7	7	10	9
S	9	6	7	9	9
E	4	5	5	3	3
W	4	5	5	3	3

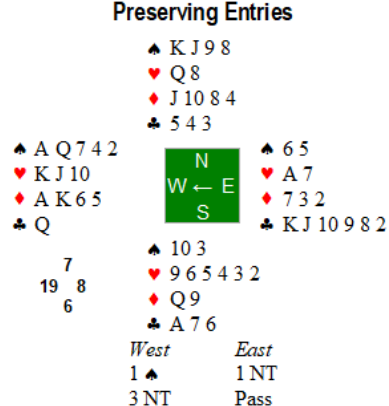
NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+1 S	♣3	630	+6.00 -6.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+1 N	♦10	630	+6.00 -6.00
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT+1 S	♠6	630	+6.00 -6.00
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT+1 N	♠8	630	+6.00 -6.00
Gary Waller & Tony French	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT+1 N	♦10	630	+6.00 -6.00
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= N	♠9	600	+5.20 -5.20
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3♣= S	♠6	110	-4.80 +4.80
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	2♣+1 S	♠6	110	-4.80 +4.80
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 S	♠6	100	-7.90 +7.90
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	2NT-1 S	♠6	100	-7.90 +7.90
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-2 S	♠6	200	-9.80 +9.80

- The auction did not always go as I had hoped, however, when it did, just the one declarer, namely Paul Stevens, rose with dummy’s Queen of Spades at trick 1 and therefore Paul was the one and only recipient of a ‘Gold Medal’ from this board.

Preserving Entries

- It is all well and good establishing a suit which can provide us with tricks, but we need to be able to get to the established suit.
- i.e. We need an entry to cash out our established tricks.
- Sometimes we have to do all we can, to preserve those precious entries to our soon to be established suit.
- Board 20 shows this idea in action.

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul



South leads ♥ 4.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 5 *top* tricks (1 Spade, 2 Hearts and 2 in Diamonds).

We could say that with the Heart lead, we have been presented with a third Heart trick, however, we would be most unwise to think along those lines.

Step 3: Our extra four tricks will come from the Club suit, once we have knocked the Ace of Clubs out.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 5 tricks.

Step 5: Remember, we do not touch a card from dummy until we have meticulously analysed all of our *five* steps and that includes step 5.

For once, the first four steps were easily resolved.

Step 5 is all about evaluating what actions we need to take to ensure that we can implement our strategy from Step 3.

Our strategy is to knock out the Ace of Clubs, so we can cash 5 Club tricks, but we need an entry to get to our magnificent established Club suit.

Observations:

At first glance, it appears that the 4 of Hearts lead from South has 'Gifted' us 3 Heart tricks, however, there are much more important things happening on this board, namely, our Ace of Hearts has only *one* role to play in life and that is to provide an entry to our Club suit *after* we have knocked out the defender's Ace of Clubs.

Conclusion:

After the 4 of Hearts lead from South, we must preserve our Ace of Hearts, so we must play dummy's King of Hearts at trick 1.

We now play the Queen of Clubs, overtaking with our King and continue our Club suit.

We still have our Ace of Hearts as an entry to our established Clubs.

Board 20	♠ KJ98
Dealer W	♥ Q8
All Vul	♦ J1084
	♣ 543
♠ AQ742	♠ 65
♥ KJ10	♥ A7
♦ AK65	♦ 732
♣ Q	♣ KJ10982
	♠ 103
	♥ 965432
	♦ Q9
	♣ A76

Preserving Entries (Board 20)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	2	4	5	3	1
S	2	4	5	3	1
E	11	9	8	9	11
W	11	9	8	10	11

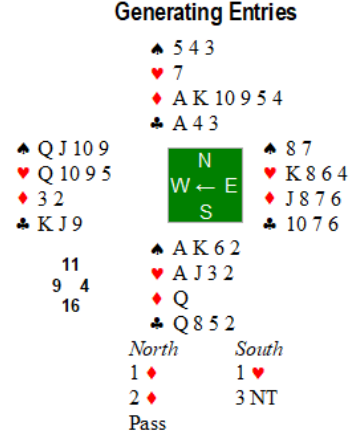
NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-2 E	♥4	200	+11.00 -11.00
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	4♠-1 W	♣4	100	+9.70 -9.70
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	4♠-1 W	♣4	100	+9.70 -9.70
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT= E	♥4	600	-2.60 +2.60
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT+1 W	♠8	630	-3.40 +3.40
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT+1 W	♦J	630	-3.40 +3.40
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+1 E	♥4	630	-3.40 +3.40
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+2 E	♥6	660	-4.40 +4.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT+2 E	♣6	660	-4.40 +4.40
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+2 E	♥4	660	-4.40 +4.40
Gary Waller & Tony French	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+2 E	♥4	660	-4.40 +4.40

- Although the contract of 3 No Trumps was made on a number of occasions, most of the time it was down to poor 'Essex Defending', however three declarers did make the contract the correct way, which was to rise with the King of Hearts in dummy at trick 1.
- Well done to Steve Abbot, Petra Bromfield and Patrick Murray who all earned themselves a 'Gold Medal'.

Generating Entries

- Sometimes we have no entries to preserve, so we must generate entries.
- The next three boards namely boards 8, 12 and 4 show three different techniques on how to generate extra entries.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul



West leads ♠ Queen.

Step 1: The only number that we, South, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 7 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 1 Heart, 3 Diamonds and 1 Club).

Step 3: Our best option for those extra two tricks will come from the Diamond suit.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 5 tricks.

Step 5: Our source of tricks from dummy's Diamond suit is looking good, however, there is only one entry into dummy and that is the Ace of Clubs.

Observations:

One option is to play the Queen of Diamonds at trick 2, go over to the Ace of Clubs and run the Diamonds, hoping that the Diamonds break 3-3 or hope that, when the Diamonds break 4-2, the Jack of Diamonds is a doubleton.

We do not want to get 'Bogged Down' with a 'Maths Lesson', but I can tell you that the Diamond suit will split 3-3 just 36% of the time and the Jack of Diamonds will be a doubleton 16% of the time, so we have a 52% chance with that line.

But maybe there is a better line?

Conclusion:

How about increasing our chances of being to run our Diamond tricks, albeit potentially sacrificing one of our Diamond tricks?

What happens if, at trick 2, we play our Queen of Diamonds, overtaking with our King of Diamonds.

We now play the Ace and 10 of Diamonds, knocking out the Jack, whilst we still have the Ace of Clubs to get to our established Diamonds.

We are now making our contract whenever Diamonds are 3-3 or *any* 4-2 Diamond break.

This elevates our chances of success to 84%.

Board 8
Dealer W
None Vul

♠ QJ109	♠ 543	♠ 87
♥ Q1095	♥ 7	♥ K864
♦ 32	♦ AK10954	♦ J876
♣ KJ9	♣ A43	♣ 1076
	♠ AK62	
	♥ AJ32	
	♦ Q	
	♣ Q852	

Generating Entries (Board 8)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	7	10	6	10	10
S	9	10	7	10	10
E	4	2	6	3	3
W	4	2	6	3	3

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT= S	♠ Q	400	+7.30 -7.30
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= S	♣ J	400	+7.30 -7.30
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT= S	♠ Q	400	+7.30 -7.30
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= S	♠ Q	400	+7.30 -7.30
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 S	♠ Q	50	-3.40 +3.40
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-1 S	♠ Q	50	-3.40 +3.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-1 S	♠ Q	50	-3.40 +3.40
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 S	♠ Q	50	-3.40 +3.40
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-2 S	♠ Q	100	-5.20 +5.20
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT-2 S	♠ Q	100	-5.20 +5.20
Gary Waller & Tony French	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-2 S	♠ Q	100	-5.20 +5.20

- Just the two declarers spotted the correct line here of overtaking their Queen of Diamonds with dummy's Ace to generate that all important extra entry.
- Carol McCue and Paul Stevens can wear their 'Gold Medals' with pride.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

Generating Entries

<p>♠ Q J 10 9 ♥ A 7 6 5 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ 8 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 5 4 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q 9 4 ♣ A K 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 6 3 2 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ J 8 ♣ Q J 10 9</p>
--	--	---

<p>19 7 7 7</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ Q J 10 4 ♦ A 6 3 2 ♣ 7 6 5</p>	<p><i>North</i> 1 ♦ 2 NT Pass</p>	<p><i>South</i> 1 ♥ 3 NT</p>
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East leads ♣ Queen.

Step 1: The only number that we, North, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 7 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 3 Diamonds and 2 in Clubs).

Step 3: If the Diamond suit breaks 3-2 (68% Chance), we will have an extra Diamond trick, which brings us up to 8 tricks.

Our 9th trick will be established in the Heart suit, once we have knocked out the Ace and King of Hearts.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders are threatening to take their desired 5 tricks and we should not duck the opening lead as we have 7 cards in Clubs between declarer and dummy.

Step 5: Our strategy derived from Step 3 involves getting to dummy on *two* occasions. The first occasion is to get to dummy to knock out the defender's second Heart and the second occasion is so that we can get to our winning Heart, which is our 9th trick.

Observations:

We require two entries to dummy.

The Diamond suit is the only suit that can give us our two entries to dummy.

Conclusion:

We must play the Diamond suit with great care to generate a second Diamond entry.

We play the King and Queen of Diamonds, followed by the nine of Diamonds to the Ace.

We can now 'Coolly' play North's 4 of Diamonds to South's 6 of Diamonds.

Board 12
Dealer W
NS Vul

♠ QJ109	♠ AK54	♠ 632
♥ A765	♥ 2	♥ K983
♦ 1075	♦ KQ94	♦ J8
♣ 82	♣ AK43	♣ QJ109
	♠ 87	
	♥ QJ104	
	♦ A632	
	♣ 765	

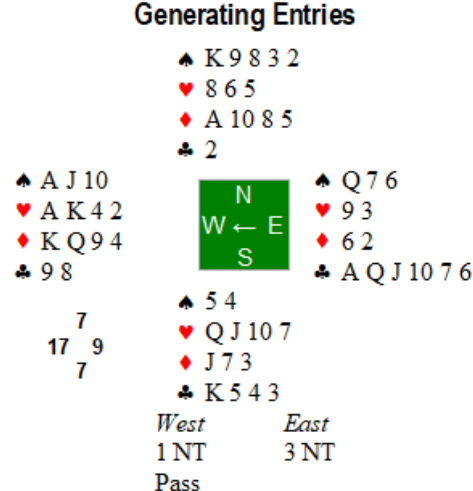
Generating Entries (Board 12)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	8	8	10	10
S	9	8	8	10	10
E	4	4	5	2	3
W	4	4	5	2	3

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Gary Waller & Tony French	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3♥ X-4 E	♠ 8	800	+7.50 -7.50
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT+1 N	♣ Q	630	+3.40 -3.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 N	♣ Q	630	+3.40 -3.40
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT= N	♣ Q	600	+2.70 -2.70
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT= N	♣ Q	600	+2.70 -2.70
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT= N	♣ 9	600	+2.70 -2.70
Mary D & Nicola Headland	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT= N	♣ Q	600	+2.70 -2.70
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= N	♣ Q	600	+2.70 -2.70
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3♦ +2 S	♠ Q	150	-7.00 +7.00
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 N	♣ Q	100	-10.40 +10.40
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-1 N	♣ Q	100	-10.40 +10.40

- Unfortunately, too many defenders were ducking the first round of Hearts, so most declarers were never under any pressure to play the Diamond suit in the correct sequence.
- Only two declarers made the 'Fancy' play in the Diamond suit, one was Ian Moss, who had incorrectly ducked the initial Club lead (Rule of 7=No Duck), so only a 'Silver Medal' for Ian.
- The other one was Peter Sullivan, who also played the nine of Diamonds to the Ace, but, unfortunately slipped up, right at the end, so a 'Bronze Medal' to Peter, for a 'Good Effort'.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul



North leads ♠ 3.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 5 *top* tricks (2 Hearts, 1 Club and 2 in Spades after the lead).

Step 3: It appears that our only hope of those 4 extra tricks is dummy's Club suit.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 5 tricks.

Step 5: As long as North has Kx or Kxx of Clubs, we can get to our Club suit, without any problems, but if South holds the King of Clubs, will our Club suit be stranded in dummy?

Observations:

If only we could 'Generate' an entry into dummy, then we do not mind if South holds the King of Clubs, because once we have knocked out South's King of Clubs that extra entry would give us access to all of our established Clubs.

Conclusion:

Before we consider playing to the first trick, we must resolve all of our issues that our *five* steps have raised.

North's 3 of Spades lead appears to be an attacking lead, so surely they must hold the King?

How about winning the first trick with the Ace of Spades, setting the Clubs up and we still have the Queen of Spades as an entry for our established Clubs?

Board 4
Dealer W
All Vul

♠ AJ10	♠ K9832	♠ Q76
♥ AK42	♥ 865	♥ 93
♦ KQ94	♦ A1085	♦ 62
♣ 98	♣ 2	♣ AQJ1076
	♠ 54	
	♥ QJ107	
	♦ J73	
	♣ K543	

Generating Entries (Board 4)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	4	5	6	5	3
S	4	5	6	5	3
E	8	7	7	6	9
W	8	8	7	7	10

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-3 W	♠ 3	300	+7.20 -7.20
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-2 W	♠ 3	200	+4.70 -4.70
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-2 W	♠ 3	200	+4.70 -4.70
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT-2 W	♠ 3	200	+4.70 -4.70
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-2 W	♠ 3	200	+4.70 -4.70
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-2 W	♠ 3	200	+4.70 -4.70
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 W	♠ 3	100	+2.20 -2.20
Gary Waller & Tony French	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	2NT+1 W	♣ 2	150	-2.60 +2.60
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= W	♠ 3	600	-10.00 +10.00
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= W	♠ 3	600	-10.00 +10.00
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 W	♠ 3	630	-10.30 +10.30

- Two 'Gold Medallists' on this board, with the remaining contenders all falling at the first hurdle by winning the opening trick with their 10 of Spades.
- The two 'Gold Medal' winners were Brian Sharkey and Chris Chorley.
- Well done to Brian and Chris.

Communication Problems



- Step 5 can sometimes be a real ‘Nightmare’ to resolve.
- Step 5 being, “Check that we have the necessary communications between the two hands to implement our Step 3 strategy”.
- ‘Trial & Error’ can sometimes be the best way forward.

Board 11

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 7	♠ A 3 2		♠ Q J 10 6 5
♥ 7 6 4	♥ J 10 2		♥ A 9 8
♦ 8 4 3 2	♦ Q 7 6 5		♦ 10 9
♣ 5 4 2	♣ 10 8 6		♣ A K 9
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W ↓ E S </div>	
	♠ K 4		
	♥ K Q 5 3		
	♦ A K J		
	♣ Q J 7 3		
7			
0 14			
19			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠	1 ♥
All pass			3 NT

West leads ♠ 9.

Step 1: The only number that we, South, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades and 4 in Diamonds).

Step 3: All we have to do is knock out the Ace of Hearts, which will generate our extra 3 tricks.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 5 tricks.

Step 5: Houston....."We have a Problem".

Observations:

Against good defenders, who will only take their Ace of Hearts on the third round, it can be a 'Nightmare' trying to untangle our 9 tricks, which are there for the taking.

The problem is that we require an entry to our 4th Diamond in dummy, but we also require an entry to our 4th Heart in declarer's hand.

What we need to realise is that to be able to cash our Queen of Diamonds, we must first unblock the Ace, King and Jack of Diamonds in declarer's hand.

Once we have done that, the only entry back to declarer's hand will be the King of Spades to be able to get to our last Heart, so we need to preserve our King of Spades.

Conclusion:

Win the opening lead immediately in dummy with the Ace of Spades.

We now unblock the Diamonds, by playing off the Ace, King and Jack of Diamonds.

We now play to the 10 of Hearts and assuming that wins, it is now time to cash our Queen of Diamonds.

We now continue playing Hearts.

We still have declarer's King of Spades as an entry to our 4th Heart.

Board 11
Dealer S
None Vul

♠ 987	♠ A32	♠ QJ1065
♥ 764	♥ J102	♥ A98
♦ 8432	♦ Q765	♦ 109
♣ 542	♣ 1086	♣ AK9
	♠ K4	
	♥ KQ53	
	♦ AKJ	
	♣ QJ73	

Communication Problems (Board 11)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	7	10	9	10
S	9	7	10	9	10
E	4	6	3	3	3
W	4	6	3	3	3

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	4♥= S	♠ 8	420	+3.40 -3.40
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT= N	♠ Q	400	+2.60 -2.60
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= N	♠ Q	400	+2.60 -2.60
Mary D & Nicola Headland	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT= S	♠ 9	400	+2.60 -2.60
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT= N	♠ Q	400	+2.60 -2.60
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT= N	♠ Q	400	+2.60 -2.60
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= S	♠ 8	400	+2.60 -2.60
Gary Waller & Tony French	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= N	♠ Q	400	+2.60 -2.60
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3♥+1 S	♠ 8	170	-3.50 +3.50
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 N	♠ Q	50	-8.40 +8.40
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	4♥-2 S	♠ 9	100	-9.70 +9.70

- The key to this board is realising at trick 1, that the first trick must be won with the Ace of Spades as the King of Spades is required at the end of the hand as an entry to the 13th Heart.
- On that basis, the only 'Gold Medal' that I can hand out on this board is to Ian Moss, who was the only declarer to have won the opening lead correctly with the Ace of Spades.
- Well done Ian.



BRIDGE PLAYERS

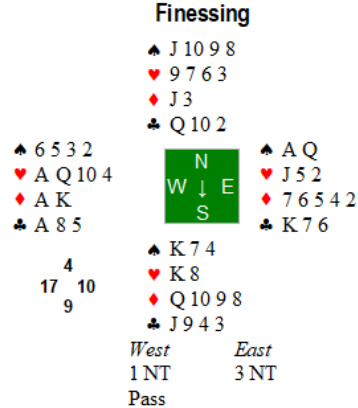


DO IT WITH FINESSE

Finessing

- Probably one of the first 'Strategies' that we were taught at bridge is the strategy of, 'How to Finesse'.
- The big question is: Were we taught how to finesse in more complex situations?
- Let us find out by looking at boards 23 and 17, where our finessing skills are put to the test.

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul



North leads ♠ Jack.

This is the very rare occasion that we can see straight away that our play at trick one is going to be the Queen of Spades from dummy. So, we are allowed to play the Queen of Spades, seeing that depending on whether our Queen wins or not will affect our 5 Step analysis.

South wins trick one with their King of Spades and continues the Spade suit.
 We can now do our 5 Step analysis.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (1 Spade, 1 Heart, 2 Diamonds and 2 in Clubs).

Step 3: There is only one suit that we can hope to get our extra 3 tricks from and that is the Heart suit.

Step 4: Our Spade suit is wide open, but it is not really relevant as we know that the only way we are going to make our contract is to make 4 Heart tricks and if we are to achieve that, we will not be losing the lead.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

We are required to make 4 Heart tricks and we need South to hold the King of Hearts.
 We ask ourselves, what are the Heart holdings that South must have to enable us to make 4 Heart tricks?

They are Singleton King, Kx or Kxx. If South has four to the King, we will not succeed.

If South has Kxx of Hearts, there will be no problem and we can lead dummy's Jack, but supposing the King is doubleton, what will happen when we lead the Jack? Well, South will simply cover and we will be forced to concede the 4th round of Hearts to North.

Conclusion:

We must not waste our Jack of Hearts; We must lead the 2 of Hearts and play the Queen and when that wins, return to dummy via the King of Clubs and this time lead the 5 of Hearts.

We will make 4 Heart tricks whenever, South has Kx or Kxx of Hearts.

Board 23
Dealer S
All Vul

♠ 6532 ♠ AQ
 ♥ AQ104 ♥ J52
 ♦ AK ♦ 76542
 ♣ A85 ♣ K76

 ♠ K74
 ♥ K8
 ♦ Q1098
 ♣ J943

♠ J1098
 ♥ 9763
 ♦ J3
 ♣ Q102

Finessing (Board 23)

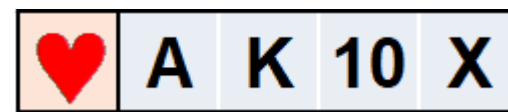
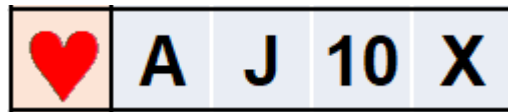
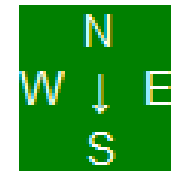
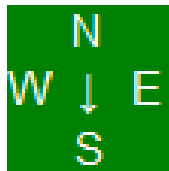
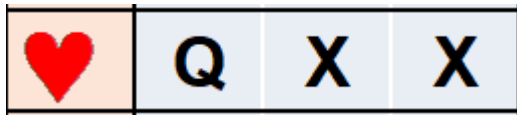
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	3	4	3	3	4
S	4	4	3	3	4
E	9	9	10	10	8
W	9	9	10	10	8

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT-3 W	♠ J	300	+6.40 -6.40
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-2 W	♠ J	200	+4.10 -4.10
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-2 W	♠ J	200	+4.10 -4.10
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-1 W	♠ J	100	+1.30 -1.30
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 W	♠ J	100	+1.30 -1.30
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 W	♠ J	100	+1.30 -1.30
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-1 W	♠ J	100	+1.30 -1.30
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 W	♠ J	100	+1.30 -1.30
Gary Waller & Tony French	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-1 W	♠ J	100	+1.30 -1.30
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= W	♠ J	600	-11.20 +11.20
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT= W	♠ J	600	-11.20 +11.20

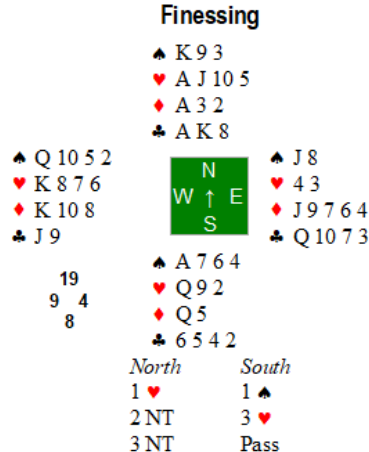
- Technically no 'Gold Medals' are to be handed out on this board as most of the declarers led the Jack of Hearts at some stage which meant that four Heart tricks could never be achieved.
- I am going to give Coral Fallon the 'Benefit of the Doubt' and award Coral a 'Silver Medal'.
- Coral correctly initially led a small Heart from dummy and received a 'Helping Hand' when the King appeared, so she had no trouble collecting her nine tricks.
- The big question is whether she would have led a small Heart from dummy, the second time?
- Only Coral knows that.

Finessing (Guiding Principle)

If you have sufficient entries, do not play an honour when finessing on either of the first two rounds of the suit with holdings such as:



Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul



East leads ♦ 6.

Our initial analysis tells us that we must play the Queen of Diamonds from dummy, hoping that East has underled their King of Diamonds at trick 1, but unfortunately, West's King wins the trick and a Diamond is continued.

We can now action our 5 Step analysis.

Step 1: The only number that we, North, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 1 Heart, 1 Diamond and 2 in Clubs).

Step 3: There is only one suit that we can hope to get our extra 3 tricks from and that is the Heart suit.

Step 4: Our Diamond suit is wide open, so we must make our extra 3 Heart tricks immediately and without losing the lead.

Step 5: We have a problem in that we have only one entry via dummy's Ace of Spades.

We need to be very careful on how we go about playing the Heart suit.

Observations:

We are required to make 4 Heart tricks.

Once we play a Spade to dummy's Ace, this will be the last time that we will be able to enter dummy.

Conclusion:

Play a Spade to dummy's Ace.

The 'Master Play' is to now lead the 9 of Hearts.

This enables us to take three Heart finesses, if required.

Board 17
Dealer N
None Vul

♠ Q1052	♠ K93	♠ J8
♥ K876	♥ AJ105	♥ 43
♦ K108	♦ A32	♦ J9764
♣ J9	♣ AK8	♣ Q1073
	♠ A764	
	♥ Q92	
	♦ Q5	
	♣ 6542	

Finessing (Board 17)


	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	11	10	7	9
S	10	11	10	8	10
E	3	2	3	5	3
W	3	2	3	5	3


NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= N	♦ 9	400	+3.00 -3.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT= N	♦ 6	400	+3.00 -3.00
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT= N	♦ 6	400	+3.00 -3.00
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= N	♦ 6	400	+3.00 -3.00
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT= N	♠ J	400	+3.00 -3.00
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT= N	♦ 6	400	+3.00 -3.00
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT= N	♠ J	400	+3.00 -3.00
Gary Waller & Tony French	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT= N	♣ 3	400	+3.00 -3.00
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 N	♣ 3	50	-8.00 +8.00
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 N	♦ 4	50	-8.00 +8.00
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-1 N	♦ 4	50	-8.00 +8.00

- Five declarers correctly led the 9 of Hearts for the first Heart finesse.
- So five 'Gold Medals' go to, Graham Randall, Ian Moss, Linda Fleet, Pat Johnson and Christine Wood.

Suit Combinations

- This is probably the most 'Boring' bit about bridge.
- 'Going Back to School' and learning how to play certain 'Suit Combinations'.
- For example:
- How would you play this suit combination?

	A	K	10	9
---	---	---	----	---

	4	3	2
---	---	---	---

- You have plenty of entries and you require three tricks?
- I can tell you that there is a 77.6149% chance that you will make at least 3 tricks.
- Would you play any differently, if you are required to make all four tricks?
- Whilst you think about that, let us look at board 9, where knowing how to play our 'Suit Combinations' comes in very handy.

Board 9
Dealer N
EW Vul

♠ 532	♠ AJ10	♠ 9876
♥ Q6	♥ A9	♥ J842
♦ QJ109	♦ AK42	♦ 875
♣ 10843	♣ KQ92	♣ 76
	♠ KQ4	
	♥ K10753	
	♦ 63	
	♣ AJ5	

Suit Combinations (Board 9)


	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	12	12	12	11	13
S	12	12	12	11	13
E	1	1	1	2	0
W	1	1	1	2	0


NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	6NT= N	♥ 2	990	+12.00 -12.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	6NT= N	♠ 9	990	+12.00 -12.00
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	4NT+1 N	♠ 8	460	+5.50 -5.50
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT+2 N	♠ 9	460	+5.50 -5.50
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	6NT-1 N	♠ 9	50	-4.80 +4.80
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	6♥-1 N	♠ 9	50	-4.80 +4.80
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	6NT-1 N	♠ 9	50	-4.80 +4.80
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	6NT-1 N	♠ 9	50	-4.80 +4.80
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	6NT-1 N	♠ 9	50	-4.80 +4.80
Gary Waller & Tony French	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6♥-1 N	♠ 9	50	-4.80 +4.80
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	6NT-2 N	♠ 9	100	-6.20 +6.20

- Only one 'Gold Medal' to be given out here and that is to Ian Moss, who was the only declarer to play a Heart towards the nine.
- Congratulations to Jayne Randall, who decided to keep her Heart suit a 'Secret' and therefore entice a 'Gift' of an opening Heart lead.

Suit Combinations

- Answer to our 'Suit Combination' problem.

	A	K	10	9
---	---	---	----	---

	4	3	2
---	---	---	---

- Initially we should play low towards the 10 and assuming that loses, we next cash one top honour and then play low towards the 9.
- We play no differently, if we are trying to make all 4 tricks.
- As a 'Special Treat', seeing that you all did so well on Sunday, I will be sending out to everyone who participated in Sunday's event, some special software, later in the week, that runs on your computer and is absolutely free.
- The idea is that you can type in any suit combination you want, along with how many tricks you are trying to make and the software will tell you the correct mathematical way to play that 'Suit Combination'.

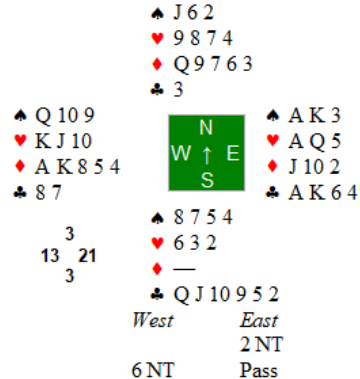
Murphy's Law (Safety Play)

- All good declarers are pessimistic.
- All good declarers always assume the worst.
- All good declarers prepare for the worst possible layout to exist.
- If we can afford to lose a trick, then take time considering how we can cater for the worst layout to exist.
- This is known as the 'Safety-Play'.
- Let us see this in action on board 13.

Murphy's Laws

1. In any field of endeavor, anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.
2. Left to themselves, things always go from bad to worse.
3. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will go wrong, is the one that will cause the most damage.
4. Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
5. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul



South leads ♣ Queen.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 12.

Step 2: We have 10 *top* tricks (3 Spades, 3 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and 2 in Clubs).

Step 3: There is only one suit that we can hope to get our extra 2 tricks from and that is the Diamond suit.
All we need to do is knock out the Queen of Diamonds and claim our contract?

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 2 tricks.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

This looks too good to be true?

All we have to do is knock out the Queen of Diamonds and claim our 4 Diamond tricks?

When we find ourselves saying the phrase, "This looks so easy", that is when we must stop and think what can go wrong.

On this hand, if Diamonds are 4-1, then nothing can go wrong.

So, we assume Diamonds are 5-0.

If South has the 5 Diamonds, then we are alright, as we can finesse for the 9 of Diamonds at some stage, by playing a Diamond towards the 8.

That just leaves one holding left to consider and that is when North is holding 5 Diamonds.

This is the worse holding that we could encounter, so we assume that North has 5 Diamonds to the Queen.

We have to work out how to play the Diamonds, when North has 5 of them.

Conclusion:

We play a small Diamond towards East's Jack twice.

Board 13	♠ J62	
Dealer N	♥ 9874	
All Vul	♦ Q9763	
	♣ 3	
♠ Q109		♠ AK3
♥ KJ10		♥ AQ5
♦ AK854		♦ J102
♣ 87		♣ AK64
	♠ 8754	
	♥ 632	
	♦ —	
	♣ QJ10952	

Murphy's Law (Safety Play) (Board 13)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	1	3	2	1	4
S	1	2	2	1	4
E	12	10	11	12	9
W	12	10	10	12	9

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
Gary Waller & Tony French	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	6NT-1 E	♣Q	100	+4.70 -4.70
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+2 E	♣Q	660	-7.80 +7.80
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	6NT= E	♣9	1440	-14.90 +14.90
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	6NT= E	♣Q	1440	-14.90 +14.90

- Not one single declarer played the Diamond suit correctly.
- A couple of declarers manage to convince the defenders to mis-defend, but no medals are given out to 'Lucky' declarers.

Deceptive Declarer Plays

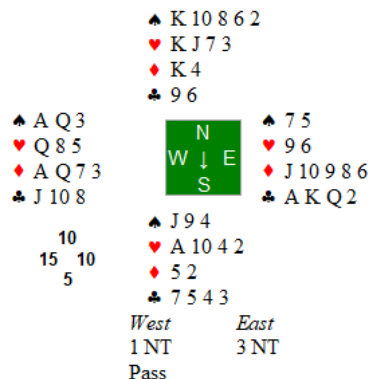
- When things are looking 'All Lost' for a declarer, consider making a play that will deceive the defenders.
- Let us see a couple of deceptive plays from declarer on boards 7 and 1.

www.psychologytoday.com

Deception refers to the act—big or small, cruel or kind—of causing someone to believe something that is ...

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

Deceptive Declarer Plays



North leads ♠ 6.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 7 *top* tricks (1 Diamond, 4 Clubs and 2 in Spades after the lead).

Step 3: Our extra three tricks will come from the Diamond suit.

Step 4: The opening lead of the 6 of Spades has done us no harm, however, we can see that we are 'Wide Open' in the Heart suit.

Observations:

Once we have knocked out the King of Diamonds, we have an easy 9+ tricks, providing that the defenders do not switch to Hearts, when they are in with the King of Diamonds.

We are planning to take the Diamond finesse by running dummy's Jack of Diamonds, because if South is holding the King of Diamonds, we have nothing to worry about.

Assuming that our Diamond finesse is going to lose to North's King, is there anything that we can do to convince North not to switch to a Heart?

Conclusion:

We have to try and imagine this hand through the eyes of the defender, North. If declarer wins South's Jack of Spades with their Queen and they then cross over to dummy and run the Jack of Diamonds, what will North be thinking when their King wins this trick? Like all good defenders, they should be counting declarer's tricks. The fact that South could only play the Jack of Spades at trick 1, means that declarer must be holding the Ace and Queen of Spades, plus 4 Diamond tricks and 3 Club tricks. Declarer has made enough tricks from those three suits to make their contract. When a defender recognises this, '*Their Only Hope*', is to switch to a Heart and hope that their partner is holding the Ace of Hearts.

Look what happens when declarer wins the first trick with a very deceptive Ace of Spades. North will come to only one conclusion, which is that their partner's Jack of Spades has forced out declarer's Ace of Spades and therefore South must be holding the Queen of Spades, so quite understandingly, North will continue with a low Spade to their partner's 'Known' Queen of Spades, so the magnificent deceptive play is for declarer to win the opening lead with their Ace of Spades, fooling North into thinking that their partner must be holding the Queen of Spades.

Board 7
Dealer S
All Vul

♠ AQ3	♠ K10862	♠ 75
♥ Q85	♥ KJ73	♥ 96
♦ AQ73	♦ K4	♦ J10986
♣ J108	♣ 96	♣ AKQ2
	♠ J94	
	♥ A1042	
	♦ 52	
	♣ 7543	

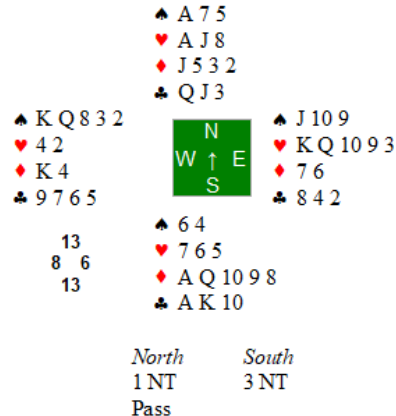
Deceptive Declarer Plays (Board 7)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	5	8	8	4	4
S	5	8	8	4	4
E	6	4	5	9	7
W	7	5	5	9	9

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 W	♠ 6	100	+10.60 -10.60
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3♦ = E	♠ J	110	+8.30 -8.30
Gary Waller & Tony French	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3♦ = E	♥ A	110	+8.30 -8.30
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT+1 W	♠ 6	630	-3.40 +3.40

- No 'Gold Medals' to be handed out here, as every declarer won the opening Spade lead with their Queen.
- Only one defence took advantage of this 'Error' by the declarer and that was the partnership of Ian Moss and Pat Watson, who both receive a 'Bronze Medal' for their defensive efforts on this board.

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul



East leads ♥ King.

Step 1: The only number that we, North, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 6 *top* tricks (1 Spade, 1 Heart, 1 Diamond, and 3 in Clubs).

Step 3: Our extra three tricks will come from the Diamond suit, once we have knocked out the King of Diamonds..

Step 4: Not only can the defenders take enough tricks in the Heart suit to defeat us, but they could also attack the Spade suit, which is looking very vulnerable

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

If the Heart suit divides 5-2 it is essential that we duck the opening trick, as we will be finessing the Diamond suit into the 'Danger Hand'. This play of ducking with AJx is known as the 'Bath Coup'. Once we duck the opening lead, East cannot continue the Heart suit profitably. The problem with this idea is that East will probably now attack our Spade suit, which is not well protected.

Is there anything that we can do, to persuade East to help us out?

Conclusion:

Look what happens when North plays the Jack of Hearts.

Will East be fooled into thinking that North must be holding the Ace, Jack doubleton in the Heart suit?

If they are, then surely they will continue with another Heart?

If West continues with another Heart, then we are home and dry.

Board 1
Dealer N
None Vul

♠ KQ832
♥ 42
♦ K4
♣ 9765

♠ A75
♥ AJ8
♦ J532
♣ QJ3

♠ J109
♥ KQ1093
♦ 76
♣ 842

♠ 64
♥ 765
♦ AQ1098
♣ AK10

Deceptive Declarer Plays (Board 1)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	8	6	7	9	7
S	8	6	6	9	7
E	4	7	6	4	6
W	4	7	6	4	6

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT+1 N	♥K	430	+2.20 -2.20
graham randall & Jayne Randall	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT+1 N	♥K	430	+2.20 -2.20
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT+1 N	♥K	430	+2.20 -2.20
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT+1 N	♥9	430	+2.20 -2.20
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT+1 N	♥K	430	+2.20 -2.20
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT+1 N	♥K	430	+2.20 -2.20
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT+1 N	♥K	430	+2.20 -2.20
Gary Waller & Tony French	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT+1 N	♥10	430	+2.20 -2.20
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT= N	♥K	400	+1.30 -1.30
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 N	♥Q	50	-8.80 +8.80
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT-2 N	♥K	100	-10.10 +10.10

- I am very tempted to hand out some 'Detentions' here as it is very obvious that many of you did not do your 'Homework'.
- Why are so many defenders, having led the King of Hearts at trick 1, continuing with the Heart suit, when we 'Learnt' in the previous 'Boot Camp', that our partner would play the Jack, if they held it?
- 'Bronze Medal' to Patrick Murray, who was the only defender to correctly switch to the Spade suit.
- No 'Gold Medals' to the declarers, as no declarer found the 'Imaginative' play of the Jack at trick 1.

Counting the Hand

- Sometimes at the bridge table, declarer has to play the role of ‘Inspector Clouseau’.
- Whenever declarer has a big decision to make, it is very important that all the evidence must be collected *before* this big decision is made.
- Let us look at ‘Inspector Clouseau’ in action on board 22.



Board 22
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

Counting the Hand

♠ Q 4 2	♠ A 6	♠ K J 3
♥ K Q J	♥ 10 3	♥ A 9 8
♦ K Q J	♦ 9 7 5 4 2	♦ A 10 8
♣ A 10 9 3	♣ J 8 7 2	♣ K Q 6 5
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W → E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
	♠ 10 9 8 7 5	
	♥ 7 6 5 4 2	
	♦ 6 3	
	♣ 4	
5	West	East
18 17		1 NT
0	6 NT	Pass

South leads ♠ 10.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 12.

Step 2: We have 9 *top* tricks (3 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 3 in Clubs).

Step 3: We can establish an extra 2 Spade tricks, by knocking out the Ace of Spades.
 We can then attempt to make 4 Club tricks.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 2 tricks.

Observations:

Once we have knocked out the Ace of Spades, we just have to make 4 Club tricks.

If Clubs are 3-2 (68% chance), then we can claim.

As per usual, we have to assume that the Clubs will not break 3-2.

Assuming Clubs are 4-1, we are still alright, as long as we know who holds the singleton Club, because we can take a finesse in Clubs either way.

Whenever we find ourselves having to make a critical decision like this, we should get into the habit of collecting as much evidence as possible before deciding what to do.

Conclusion:

Having knocked out the Ace of Spades, all we have to do is play out our 6 red tricks and our 3 Spade tricks.

We now have all the evidence that is required to make the contract *without* guessing who has the singleton Club.

When we play out our Spades and Hearts, North discards on the third round of both Spades and Hearts. This gives South a 5-5 holding in the Majors. Meanwhile, South discards on the third round of Diamonds. Therefore South has a 5-5-2-1 distribution with a singleton Club.

We therefore play a Club to the Ace and run the 10 of Clubs, knowing that North must hold the Jack of Clubs.

Board 22
Dealer E
EW Vul

♠ Q42	♠ A6	♠ KJ3
♥ KQJ	♥ 103	♥ A98
♦ KQJ	♦ 97542	♦ A108
♣ A1093	♣ J872	♣ KQ65
	♠ 109875	
	♥ 76542	
	♦ 63	
	♣ 4	

Counting the Hand (Board 22)

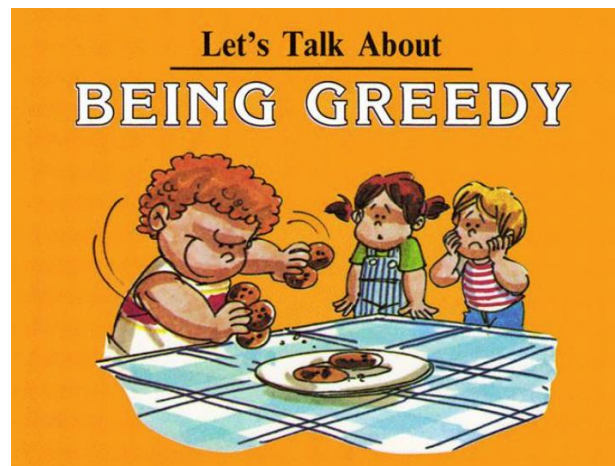
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	1	3	3	3	1
S	1	3	3	3	1
E	12	10	10	10	12
W	12	10	10	10	12

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	6NT-1 E	♠ 10	100	+8.50 -8.50
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	6NT-1 E	♠ 10	100	+8.50 -8.50
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	6NT-1 E	♠ 10	100	+8.50 -8.50
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	6NT-1 E	♠ 10	100	+8.50 -8.50
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	6NT-1 E	♠ 10	100	+8.50 -8.50
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	6NT-1 E	♠ 10	100	+8.50 -8.50
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	6NT= E	♠ 10	1440	-10.20 +10.20
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	6NT= E	♠ 10	1440	-10.20 +10.20
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6NT= E	♠ 7	1440	-10.20 +10.20
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	6NT= E	♠ 10	1440	-10.20 +10.20
Gary Waller & Tony French	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	6NT= E	♠ 10	1440	-10.20 +10.20

- 9 Declarers decided to take a 'Guess' at the Club suit at trick 3 and most guessed wrongly.
- Only one declarer, namely, Steve Abbot could be bothered to cash out all the other 3 suits and make his contract with ease and earn himself a 'Gold Medal'.
- Gary Howchen cashed out 9 tricks, but then got 'Bored' and made his decision at trick 10, but at least he made some effort, so a 'Bronze Medal' for Gary.

Count Our Tricks (Do Not Get Greedy)

- This next hand demonstrates how declarer must be constantly on the lookout for the 'Dangers' that exist on a hand.
- Step 1, (Placing our target number of tricks into our head), although it is the simplest task to perform, it is also the most important task.
- The key concept to remember is to never put our contract in jeopardy for the sake of trying to get some overtricks.
- It is sometimes very tempting to 'Grab an Extra Trick'.
- This is all well and good, if we have already secured our contract, however, until we have made sufficient tricks to secure our contract, the word 'Overtrick' does *not* exist in the vocabulary of a declarer.
- Let us see some of these aspects in action on the next hand, which is board 18.



♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ Q J 3
 ♣ A Q 7 2

♠ K 9 5 2
 ♥ J 8 7 4 3 2
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ 10

13
 7 7
 13

♠ A 6 4
 ♥ Q 10 9
 ♦ A 10 9 8 2
 ♣ K 5

North South
 3 NT 1 NT
 Pass

North	South
	1 NT
3 NT	Pass

3 NT Pass

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1. Heart 1. Dis.

1 Heart, 1 Dial

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Board 18
Dealer E
NS Vul

♠ K952	♠ 873	♠ QJ10
♥ J87432	♥ A65	♥ K
♦ K7	♦ QJ3	♦ 654
♣ 10	♣ AQ72	♣ J98643
	♠ A64	
	♥ Q109	
	♦ A10982	
	♣ K5	

Count Our Tricks (Do Not Get Greedy) (Board 18)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	9	7	6	10	7
S	9	7	6	10	7
E	3	5	7	3	5
W	3	5	7	3	5


NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 S	♥4	630	+10.40 -10.40
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT= S	♥4	600	+10.10 -10.10
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	4♠X-3 E	♦A	500	+9.00 -9.00
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT-1 S	♥2	100	-2.80 +2.80
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 S	♥4	100	-2.80 +2.80
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 S	♥2	100	-2.80 +2.80
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT-1 S	♥4	100	-2.80 +2.80
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	3NT-1 S	♥2	100	-2.80 +2.80
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-1 S	♥4	100	-2.80 +2.80
Gary Waller & Tony French	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT-2 S	♣10	200	-5.30 +5.30
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-3 S	♣10	300	-7.40 +7.40

- Every declarer was 'Greedy' on this board and not one single declarer played the Ace of Hearts at trick 1.
- No one deserves a 'Gold Medal' for being so greedy.

Suit Combinations + Danger Hand

- This next hand is certainly tough.
- Declarer has to firstly use their 'Suit Combinations' knowledge and then identify the danger hand to make their contract *without* any guessing.
- The suit combination is:

	J	5	3
---	---	---	---

	A	Q	9	6	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

- We are required to make 4 Club tricks and we can afford to lose one, however it is not as straight forward as it looks as there are other factors involved outside of the Club suit.
- Let us see this *tough* hand in action on board 16.

Board 16
West Deals
E-W Vul

Suit Combinations + Danger Hand

♠ K J 9 4	♠ 8 7 6 3	♠ A 10 5
♥ K Q	♥ J 10 9 8 7	♥ A 6 4
♦ K Q 10 9	♦ 7 6 4	♦ A J
♣ J 5 3	♣ 7	♣ A Q 9 6 2

1	♠ Q 2	
15	♥ 5 3 2	
19	♦ 8 5 3 2	
5	♣ K 10 8 4	

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1 NT	6 NT
Pass	

North leads ♥ Jack.

Step 1: The only number that we, West, have in our head is 12.

Step 2: We have 10 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 3 Hearts, 4 Diamonds and 1 in Clubs).

Step 3: The Club suit is our best prospect to establish an extra 2 tricks.

Step 4: There is no imminent danger that the defenders can take their desired 2 tricks.

Step 5: There are no communication issues.

Observations:

We focus on the fact that we only require 4 Club tricks and we can afford to lose one.
If Clubs are 3-2, there are no issues, so we must assume that Clubs are going to be 4-1.
One obvious thing that we must first do is cash the Ace of Clubs.

Conclusion:

Having cashed the Ace of Clubs, we play a low Club towards our Jack of Clubs. If South shows out, we can next play a Club to the 9 and we wrap up 4 Club tricks.

If South is the one with the 4 Clubs, they cannot play their King of Clubs on 'Thin Air', as this will give us our 4 Club tricks, so they must play low and our Jack of Clubs wins.

We have now made 2 Club tricks, so we now have 11 top tricks and we can still afford to lose 1.

We now just require one more trick.

We now switch our attention to the Spade suit, by playing a Spade to dummy's Ace and running the 10 of Spades, taking a finesse into the 'Safe Hand'.

Even if our Spade finesse loses, North cannot play back a Club.

Meanwhile we have set up our 12th trick via the Jack of Spades.

Board 16	♠ 8763	
Dealer W	♥ J10987	
EW Vul	♦ 764	
	♣ 7	
♠ KJ94		♠ A105
♥ KQ		♥ A64
♦ KQ109		♦ AJ
♣ J53		♣ AQ962
	♠ Q2	
	♥ 532	
	♦ 8532	
	♣ K1084	

Suit Combinations + Danger Hand (Board 16)

	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	1	1	2	1	1
S	1	1	2	1	1
E	12	12	11	12	12
W	12	12	11	12	12

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	6NT-1 W	♥ J	100	+11.40 -11.40
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	6NT-1 W	♥ 8	100	+11.40 -11.40
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	6NT-1 W	♦ 7	100	+11.40 -11.40
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	6NT-1 W	♥ J	100	+11.40 -11.40
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	4NT= W	♥ J	630	+3.00 -3.00
graham randall & Jayne Randall	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	6NT= W	♥ J	1440	-8.00 +8.00
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6NT= W	♥ J	1440	-8.00 +8.00
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	6NT= W	♥ J	1440	-8.00 +8.00
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	6NT= W	♥ J	1440	-8.00 +8.00
Gary Waller & Tony French	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	6NT= W	♥ J	1440	-8.00 +8.00
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	6NT+1 W	♥ J	1470	-8.60 +8.60

- To be honest, this was a difficult hand to play, without any guessing involved.
- However, one declarer earnt themselves a 'Gold Medal' and that was Brian Sharkey.
- Well done Brian.

Think Outside The Box

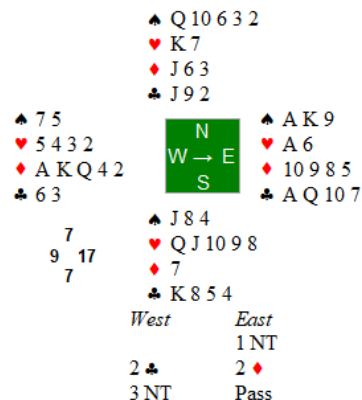
- The last 'Boot Camp' hand is always a 'Classic' and this 'Boot Camp' is no exception.
- Let us now list out declarer's 'Box of Tricks' that they can now use on the unsuspecting defenders, when playing in a No Trump contract.
- 1. Hold Up Play
- 2. Identifying the 'Danger Hand'.
- 3. Avoidance Play.
- 4. Preserving Entries.
- 5. Creating Entries.
- 6. Block Defence.
- 7. Deceptive Plays.
- 8. Play High from Dummy.
- Sometimes none of the above strategies will work on a certain hand.
- When this happens, declarer has to 'Think Outside The Box' and come up with some imaginative card play.
- Let us watch this in action on board 2.



**THINK
OUTSIDE
THE
BOX**

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

Think Outside The Box



South leads ♥ Queen.

Step 1: The only number that we, East, have in our head is 9.

Step 2: We have 9 *top* tricks (2 Spades, 1 Heart, 5 Diamonds and 1 in Clubs).

Step 3: We have 9 top tricks, what is the problem?

Step 4: We have 9 top tricks, so we are not expecting to lose the lead?

Step 5: Assuming Diamonds are not 2-2, how do we cash our 5 Diamond tricks?

Observations:

If Diamonds are 2-2, there is no problem, seeing that having cashed the Ace and King of Diamonds, we can cross to our 10 of Diamonds and we can play back our 9 of Diamonds to dummy's Queen.

What happens if the Diamonds are 3-1?

We could duck a Diamond to North, which is the 'Safe Hand' and take a Club finesse for our 9th trick?

But is there a 100% way of making this contract?

Conclusion:

We duck the first round of Hearts and we are forced to take take the second round.

At least now, we know that South has no more than 4 Heart tricks in total.

We test the Diamonds by playing the Ace and King and we find the inevitable bad news that Diamonds are 3-1.

Now the 'Master Plan'. We play dummy's Heart (This is now the 3rd round of Hearts), and we *discard* one of our Diamonds.

The defence can only take a total of 4 tricks in Hearts, so when we get the lead back, we play a Diamond to the Queen and cash our 9 tricks.

Board 2
Dealer E
NS Vul

♠ 75	♠ Q10632	♠ AK9
♥ 5432	♥ K7	♥ A6
♦ AKQ42	♦ J63	♦ 10985
♣ 63	♣ J92	♣ AQ107
	♠ J84	
	♥ QJ1098	
	♦ 7	
	♣ K854	








Think Outside The Box (Board 2)

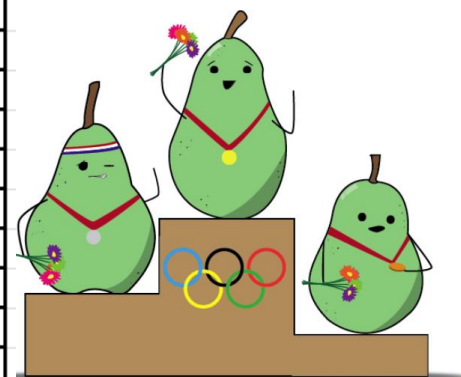
	NT	♠	♥	♦	♣
N	4	6	4	2	3
S	4	6	4	2	3
E	9	6	9	11	8
W	9	6	8	11	8

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Petra Bromfield & Ann Craig	3NT-2 E	♥Q	100	+5.10 -5.10
graham randall & Jayne Randall	GARY HOWCHEN & renee Flanagan	3NT-1 E	♥Q	50	+3.30 -3.30
Pat Johnson & jim kenneally	Steve Abbott & Gemma Fewster	3NT-1 E	♥Q	50	+3.30 -3.30
Peter Sullivan & BRIAN JAMES ORMSBY	Coral Ann Fallon & Jon Ward	3NT-1 E	♥Q	50	+3.30 -3.30
Christine Wood & Chris Hart	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	3NT-1 E	♥Q	50	+3.30 -3.30
George Vede & Maureen Vede	Chris Martin & pascaline Mower	3NT-1 E	♥Q	50	+3.30 -3.30
Gary Waller & Tony French	Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	3NT-1 E	♥Q	50	+3.30 -3.30
Ian Moss & Pat Watson	Richard Glasby & Sheena Millins	2NT= E	♥Q	120	-1.50 +1.50
Lynn Webster & Carol McCue	Peter Richardson & Brian Sharkey	3NT= E	♥J	400	-7.70 +7.70
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Marcia Levan-harris & John McCoy	3NT= E	♥Q	400	-7.70 +7.70
Mary D & Nicola Headland	Patrick Murray & Chris Chorley	3NT+1 E	♥9	430	-8.00 +8.00

- All I need to say is that all the declarers are safely 'Inside Their Box', so there are no medals on this board.

Final Medal Table

Rank		NOP	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1		Ian Moss	4	1	1
2		Steve Abbott	4		
3		Brian Sharkey	3		
4		Chris Chorley	3		
5		Graham Randall	3		
6		Paul Stevens	3		
7		Carol McCue	2	1	
8		Brian Davies	2		1
9		Patrick Murray	2		1
10		Brian Ormsby	2		
11		Gemma Fewster	1	1	
12		Geoff Webber	1	1	
13		Jon Ward	1	1	
14		Ann Craig	1		1
15		Pascaline Mower	1		1
16		Pat Watson	1		1
17		Alan Bryant	1		
18		Annie Davies	1		
19		Chris Hart	1		
20		Christine Wood	1		
21		Jayne Randall	1		
22		Jim Kenneally	1		
23		John McCoy	1		
24		Linda Fleet	1		
25		Maureen Vede	1		
26		Nicola Headland	1		
27		Pat Johnson	1		
28		Peter Richardson	1		
29		Petra Bromfield	1		
30		Renee Flanagan	1		
31		Tony French	1		
32		Coral Fallon		1	
33		Hazel Capal		1	
34		Gary Howchen			1
35		Peter Sullivan			1



Extra 'No Trump Declarer Play' Homework for Everyone

- Before you go to bed at night, as well as reciting the 'Lord's Prayer', recite 'The 5 Steps' that a No Trump declarer should be going through, when they first see dummy.

