

# Playing in a Suit Contract as Declarer (By Marc Chawner)



# Introduction

- The 24 boards that were played in the session were designed to illustrate certain aspects of Bridge Strategy.
- This month's topic was *Playing in a Suit Contract as Declarer*.
- All the results can be found with this link:
- <https://play.realbridge.online/ds.html?p=230917124939&q=xlpPjkucl0qDBootCampplayer>
- The 24 hands were devised in such a way so that each participant, within the session, found themselves declarer in a tricky Suit Contract on 6 occasions.
- There were several 'Strategies' that I tried to illustrate within this month's topic of Suit Declarer Play.
- We will 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* Suit Game/Slam contract should have been made *without* any guessing involved from the declarer.
- So, out of the possible 336 Suit Game/Slam contracts how many would be made?
- The scoring method was Cross-Imps.

# Introduction

- After each board has been analysed, I will award 'Brownie Points' to the successful declarers who have played the board correctly.
- If a declarer plays the board 'Card Perfect', they will be awarded two 'Brownie Points'.
- Various amounts of 'Brownie Points' will be awarded to the declarers based on their play.
- Other 'Brownie Points' may be given out for good bidding sequences and good defensive plays.
- As I am sure you are all aware, the accumulation of 6 'Brownie Points' results in a 'Merit Badge'.
- The big question is: How many 'Merit Badges' will I be handing out at the end of the event?



# Timing of Key Moments

- I have introduced a new feature into analysing this month's boards.
- Within RealBridge, there is a file available to the director, which records the time that each player takes to make a bid and takes to play a card.
- These times are recorded to one tenth of a second.
- All the event's 24 hands required careful planning at trick one.
- How long did each declarer take in thinking up their plan?
- We will find out.



# 4 Step Declarer Ritual

Here is the 'Ritual' that is required to be carried out, by declarer, when dummy goes down. I call it 'The Master Plan'.

- Step 1: Decide which hand, either declarer's hand or dummy's hand that you want to designate as 'The Master Hand'. It is usually the hand with the most trumps in. If both hands have equal length in trumps, then choose the hand with the longest side suit.
- Step 2: Quantify the losers in the Master Hand's four suits.
- Step 3: Go through our list of strategies that can be used to reduce our losers. (See our list of strategies below).
- Step 4: Based on the strategies in Step 3, are any of the strategies, 'Time Sensitive'? In particular, when and how should we draw trumps?

# Strategies to Reduce our Number of Losers

The key thing is that we only focus on the 'Master Hand' losers, and we see how we can eliminate some of them.

Here are some of the strategies to do that. We are going to assume that declarer's hand is the 'Master Hand'.

1. Trump our losers with dummy's trumps.
2. Discard our losers on extra winners in dummy.
3. Lead towards losing honours and finesse.

While it is true that there are more complex declarer strategies beyond these three basic strategies, we must master the basics first before turning our attention to more advanced strategies.

## 4 Step Declarer Ritual



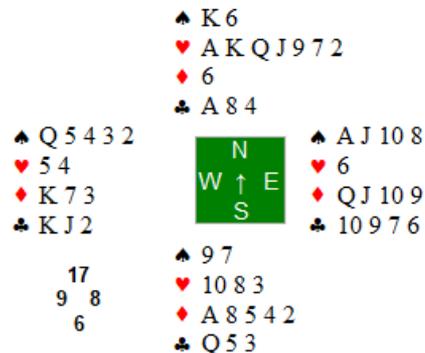
- I cannot stress enough the importance of getting into the routine of meticulously going through the '4 Step Declarer Ritual' *before* we play a card from dummy, when we find ourselves declarer in a *suit* contract.
- We start off with a very easy board.
- This first board illustrates how we go through our four steps, one at a time, *before* we play a card from dummy.
- The board in question is board 1, where **North** is under the spotlight.

## The Master Plan

### Board 1

North Deals

None Vul



<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	2 ♥
4 ♥	Pass

East leads ♦ Queen.

Step 1: We will designate North as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Spade losers and 2 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

A Spade towards our ♠ King and 'Hope' that West holds the ♠ Ace.

A Club towards dummy's ♣ Queen and 'Hope' that East holds the ♣ King.

Set up dummy's Diamond suit to discard one of our losers on dummy's 5th Diamond.

Step 4: We cannot use any of dummy's trumps to eliminate any of our losers.

Observations:

In order to set up dummy's 5th Diamond, we require 3 outside entries to dummy, which we have in the way of the ♥ 10, ♥ 8 and ♥ 3.

We must draw trumps slowly, utilising all 3 trump entries to ruff a Diamond.

Conclusion:

Win the opening lead with ♦ Ace and ruff a Diamond with ♥ Ace.

Play ♥ 9 to dummy's ♥ 10 and ruff dummy's third Diamond with the ♥ King.

Play ♥ 7 to dummy's ♥ 8 and ruff dummy's fourth Diamond with the ♥ Queen.

Play ♥ 2 to dummy's ♥ 3 and play dummy's fifth Diamond and discard our losing Club.

## The Master Plan (Board 1)

Contract: 4  by North  
Lead:  Queen

<p>♠ K 6 ♥ A K Q J 9 7 2 ♦ 6 ♣ A 8 4</p>	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">             N W ↑ E S           </div>	<p>♠ A J 10 8 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 10 9 ♣ 10 9 7 6</p>	
<p>♠ Q 5 4 3 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ K J 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ A 8 5 4 2 ♣ Q 5 3</p>		
<p style="text-align: right;">17 9 8 6</p>			

- Our 'Master Plan' is telling us that we must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1.
- We have 3 different strategies available to do this.
- If we execute our strategies in the correct order, we can try all 3 strategies.
- Note that if one of the defenders shows out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Diamonds, there is plenty of time to try both of our other strategies.
- The key to this hand is realising, *at trick 1*, that we have enough entries to set dummy's Diamond suit up and if the Diamonds break 4-3, which is a 62% probability, this will provide us with our 10<sup>th</sup> trick.

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥+1 N	♦Q	450	+7.92 -7.92
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥+1 N	♦Q	450	+7.92 -7.92
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥= N	♦Q	420	+6.85 -6.85
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥= N	♦Q	420	+6.85 -6.85
Ian Moss & annraig	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	3NT= N	♦Q	400	+6.46 -6.46
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Jon Ward & Tony French	5♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	5♥-1 N	♠A	50	-4.00 +4.00
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♥-1 N	♠A	50	-4.00 +4.00
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥-1 N	♦Q	50	-4.00 +4.00

## The Master Plan (Board 1)

Board 1	Dealer N	None Vul
	♠ K6	
	♥ AKQJ972	
	♦ 6	
	♣ A84	
		♠ AJ108
	♠ Q5432	♥ 6
	♥ 54	♦ QJ109
	♦ K73	♣ 10976
	♣ KJ2	
		♠ 97
		♥ 1083
		♦ A8542
		♣ Q53

- 3 declarers spotted, at trick 1 that the Diamond suit could be set up and therefore, at trick 2, ruffed a Diamond high. Namely:
  - Chris Chorley (50.0 Seconds to play tricks 1 and 2).
  - Brian Davies (68.2 Seconds to play tricks 1 and 2).
  - Paul Mollison (34.6 Seconds to play tricks 1 and 2).
- All three declarers are awarded 2 'Brownie Points' for being 'Card Perfect'.
- All the declarers that went off, took, on average, 18.6 seconds to play tricks 1 and 2.
- Including our eventual North-South winner who took 8 seconds to play the Ace of Diamonds and 4 seconds to play the 3 of Hearts.
- Is there going to be a correlation between the number of 'Brownie Points' earned, and the time declarer took to play their early tricks?

# When to Draw Trumps and How to Draw Trumps

- One of the key decisions that a declarer must make is when and how to draw trumps.
- Carrying out our 'Master Plan Ritual', will help us come to the correct decision.
- Let us see this idea in action on board 20, where **East** is under the spotlight.



## Master Plan (Trump Suit)

**Board 20**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

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

6	♠ J 8 5 2	♠ J 8 5 2
12 13	♥ Q	♥ Q
9	♦ 8 6 5 3	♦ 8 6 5 3
	♣ K Q J 10	♣ K Q J 10

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	3 NT
4 ♥	Pass

South leads ♣ King.

Step 1: We will designate West as the 'Master Hand' as it has the longer side suit.

Step 2: Forgetting about the trump suit for the moment, the 'Master Hand' has only one Spade loser.

Step 3: Strategies available:

The losing Spade in the West hand can be ruffed.

Step 4: The key to this hand is how we handle the trump suit.

Observations:

With no side suit losers, the only potential losers we have are in the trump suit. We can therefore afford to lose 3 trump tricks. If we play our ♥ Ace, the defenders will only have 3 Hearts left between them.

Conclusion:

Win trick 1 with ♣ Ace and play the ♥ Ace.

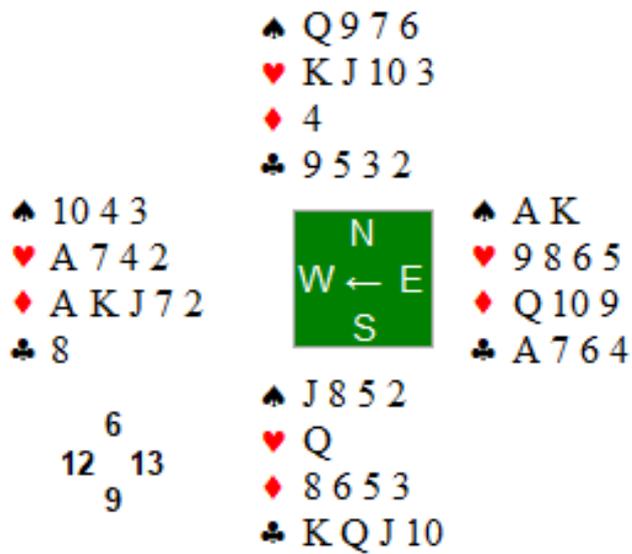
Do not play anymore Hearts.

Lead out ♠ Ace and ♠ King.

Diamond to the ♦ Ace and ruff our last Spade.

We just now continue playing our top Diamonds.

At some stage the defenders will win 3 tricks with their 3 trumps, but they will be the only 3 tricks that they will win.



Master Plan  
(Trump Suit)  
(Board 20)

Contract: 4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♣ King

- Our 'Master Plan' is telling us that, assuming we can eliminate our side suit Spade loser, which is a very simple ruffing exercise, our only losers are in the trump suit.
- With zero side suit losers, we can afford to lose 3 trump tricks.
- If we immediately lay down our Ace of trumps, the defenders can never take more than their 3 trump tricks.
- Any other strategy will lead to our hand being forced or the defenders drawing our trumps and cashing their Club tricks.

# Master Plan (Trump Suit) (Board 20)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥-3 E	♣K	300	+7.23 -7.23
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥-3 E	♣K	300	+7.23 -7.23
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥-2 E	♣K	200	+5.15 -5.15
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥-1 W	♦4	100	+2.69 -2.69
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥-1 E	♣K	100	+2.69 -2.69
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥-1 E	♣K	100	+2.69 -2.69
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥-1 E	♣K	100	+2.69 -2.69
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥-1 E	♣K	100	+2.69 -2.69
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥-1 E	♣K	100	+2.69 -2.69
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥-1 E	♣K	100	+2.69 -2.69
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	3NT= E	♣K	600	-9.38 +9.38
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥= E	♣K	620	-9.69 +9.69
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥= E	♣K	620	-9.69 +9.69
Ian Moss & anncraig	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥= E	♣K	620	-9.69 +9.69

**Board 20**  
**Dealer W**  
**All Vul**

♠ Q976	♠ AK
♥ KJ103	♥ 9865
♦ 4	♦ Q109
♣ 9532	♣ A764
♠ 1043	
♥ A742	
♦ AKJ72	
♣ 8	
♠ J852	
♥ Q	
♦ 8653	
♣ KQJ10	

- Incredibly, not one single declarer in 4 Hearts found the correct line of playing precisely *one* round of trumps and then running for home by cashing their side suits.
- The three declarers who made the contract all went wrong at trick 2, by ducking a Heart, but the defence came to their rescue.
- All the other declarers had all gone off by the time trick 3 had been reached.
- Except Harriet Cork, who nearly got home, by attempting to ruff all her Clubs, but unfortunately went astray at trick 9.
- So, no 'Brownie Points' awarded on this board.
- On average declarers were taking 20 seconds for their first 2 or 3 tricks, however, an interesting observation is that the three declarers who finished in the top 3 East-West places took the longest time, including one of them taking 96 seconds before playing their singleton 8 of Clubs from dummy, which at least shows us they did think about it, before ducking a Heart at trick 2 and going off. Unfortunately, no 'Brownie Points' are awarded for 'Thinking'.

# When and How to Ruff in Dummy

- Carrying out our 'Master Plan Ritual', we will be guided on when and how to ruff in dummy.
- Let us see this idea in action on board 12, where **South** is under the spotlight.



### Master Plan (Plan The Ruffs)

*Board 12*  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ K 9			♠ J 5 4 3
♥ 8 7 6 3			♥ K J 10 4
♦ Q J 7 5 3 2			♦ K 9 6 4
♣ 5			♣ K
♠ 2	♠ N	♠	♠
♥ Q 9 5	W ← E	♥	♥
♦ 10 8	♠ S	♦	♦
♣ Q J 10 9 8 7 6	♠ A Q 10 8 7 6	♣	♣
6	♥ A 2		
5 11	♦ A		
18	♣ A 4 3 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

West leads ♣ Queen.

Step 1: We will designate South as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Spade loser, 1 Heart loser and 3 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 2).

We can ruff some of our losing Clubs in dummy.

Step 4: We must not draw any trumps or let the defenders draw any of our trumps.

Observations:

After the opening 3 Clubs bid, it is very likely that East's ♣ King is a singleton and there is a danger that if we ruff one of our losing Clubs with our ♠ 9, it will be overruffed with East's ♠ Jack and East can then draw our last trump and we have not reduced the number of losers that we have.

How can we guarantee that we can successfully ruff one of our Club losers?

Conclusion:

We need to utilise the fact that our trump suit is so strong. (We are only missing the ♠ Jack).

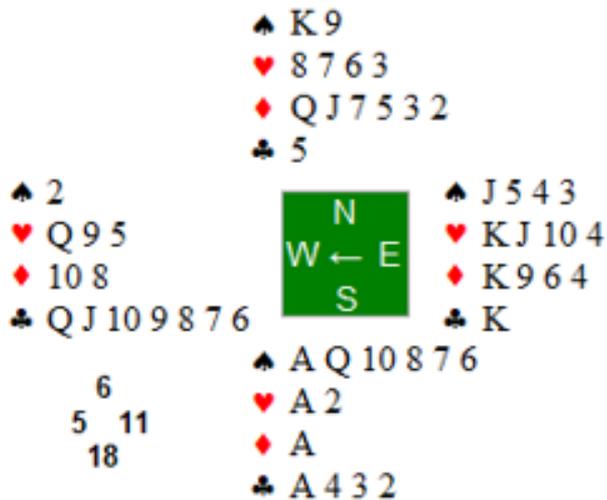
We win the opening lead with our ♣ Ace and ruff our ♣ 2 with the ♠ King.  
Enter our hand with the ♦ Ace and now ruff another Club with the ♠ 9.

Even when our ♠ 9 is overruffed with East's ♠ Jack, we have been able to ruff two of our losing Clubs and manage to extract East's only trump trick.

We end up only losing 1 Heart, 1 Club and the ♠ Jack.

Master Plan  
(Plan The Ruffs)  
(Board 12)

Contract: 4 ♠ by South  
 Lead: ♣ Queen



- Our 'Master Plan' is telling us that we must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 2.
- The key is to realise that the only way to get rid of our Club losers is to ruff them.
- We know that by ruffing the first round of Clubs with dummy's King of Spades, that will certainly reduce our losers by one.
- Subsequently ruffing another round of Clubs with dummy's 9 of Spades will effectively reduce our 'Trump Losers' by one.
- We must realise that we will be over ruffed, if we only ruff low on our first Club ruff.

# Master Plan (Plan The Ruffs) (Board 12)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♠ = S	♣Q	620	+9.46 -9.46
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠ = S	♣Q	620	+9.46 -9.46
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠ = S	♣Q	620	+9.46 -9.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	3NT = S	♦10	600	+9.15 -9.15
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	3♠ +1 S	♣Q	170	+2.31 -2.31
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠ -1 S	♣Q	100	-3.31 +3.31
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠ -1 S	♣Q	100	-3.31 +3.31
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♠ -1 S	♣Q	100	-3.31 +3.31
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♠ -1 S	♣Q	100	-3.31 +3.31
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠ -1 S	♣Q	100	-3.31 +3.31
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠ -1 S	♦10	100	-3.31 +3.31
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♠ -1 S	♣Q	100	-3.31 +3.31
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Jon Ward & Tony French	5♦ -2 N	♣K	200	-5.77 +5.77
Ian Moss & anncraig	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥ -5 N	♣K	500	-10.92 +10.92

Board 12  
Dealer W  
NS Vul

	♠ K9	
	♥ 8763	
	♦ QJ7532	
	♣ 5	
♠ 2		♠ J543
♥ Q95		♥ KJ104
♦ 108		♦ K964
♣ QJ109876		♣ K
	♠ AQ10876	
	♥ A2	
	♦ A	
	♣ A432	

- Bernie Hunt, Christopher Martin and Patrick Murray are the ‘Brownie Point’ winners here.
- They were the only 3 declarers who were ‘Card Perfect’ in their contract of 4 Spades.
- They are each awarded 2 ‘Brownie Points’.
- Same old story in that our 3 ‘Brownie Point’ winners were taking over 90 seconds to ruff their 2 of Clubs with dummy’s King of Spades.
- Meanwhile, our declarers, who decided to ruff their 2 of Clubs with dummy’s 9 of Spades were taking, on average, 20 seconds to make the play.

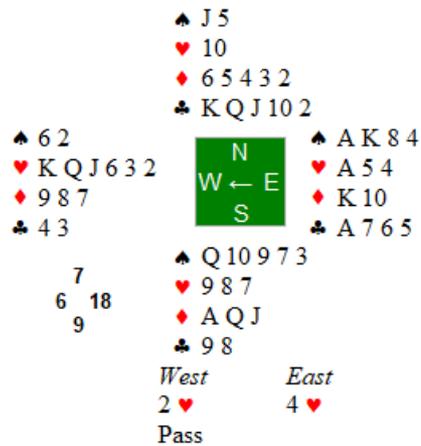
# Master Plan (Time Sensitive)

- Step 4: Based on the strategies in Step 3, are any of the strategies, 'Time Sensitive'?  
In particular, when and how should we draw trumps?
- Let's see what we mean by 'Time Sensitive'.
- We will see this idea in action on board 4, where West is under the spotlight.



## Master Plan (Time Sensitive)

*Board 4*  
West Deals  
Both Vul



North leads ♣ King.

Step 1: We will designate West as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 3 Diamond losers, and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

A Diamond towards our ♦ King and 'Hope' that North holds the ♦ Ace.  
We can ruff one of our losing Diamonds in dummy.

Step 4: The strategy of ruffing a Diamond in dummy is 'Time Sensitive' in that we must set about attempting to ruff our Diamond immediately without drawing any trumps.

Observations:

The strategy of leading towards dummy's ♦ King is only a 50% play.

Playing for a Diamond ruff is a 100% play.

However, the ruffing strategy is 'Time Sensitive' as we need to do this without first drawing any trumps or letting the defenders draw too many of our trumps.

Conclusion:

Win the opening lead with dummy's ♣ Ace and immediately play the ♦ 10.

Win the trump return, with the ♥ King and play another Diamond.

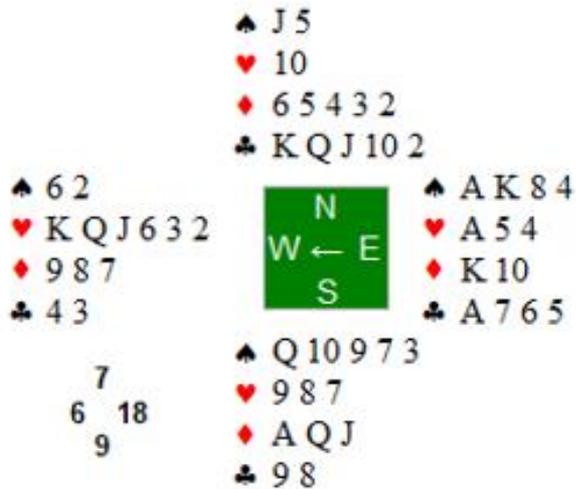
When the defence continue with another trump, win this with the ♥ Queen and ruff our last Diamond with the ♥ Ace.

Play a Club and at some stage declarer can ruff a Club and draw the last trump.

Declarer just loses 2 Diamonds and a Club.

# The Master Plan (Time Sensitive) (Board 4)

Contract: 4♥ by West  
Lead: ♣ King



- Our 'Master Plan' is telling us that we must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1.
- The only 100% sure way of doing this is by ruffing a Diamond in dummy.
- I would not be surprised that if dummy's Diamonds had been two small Diamonds, then everyone would have immediately gone for their Diamond ruff.
- The King of Diamonds is a 'Red Herring'.



# The Master Plan (Time Sensitive) (Board 4)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥-1 W	♠J	100	+8.62 -8.62
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥-1 W	♣K	100	+8.62 -8.62
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥-1 W	♣K	100	+8.62 -8.62
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥-1 W	♠J	100	+8.62 -8.62
Ian Moss & anncraig	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥-1 W	♣K	100	+8.62 -8.62
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥= W	♣K	620	-4.08 +4.08
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥= W	♣K	620	-4.08 +4.08
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥= W	♣K	620	-4.08 +4.08
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥= W	♣K	620	-4.08 +4.08
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥= W	♣K	620	-4.08 +4.08
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥= W	♣K	620	-4.08 +4.08
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	3NT+2 E	♠7	660	-5.15 +5.15
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	ross shine & Tony Verran	3NT+2 E	♠7	660	-5.15 +5.15
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠X-3 S	♥K	800	-8.31 +8.31

Board 4	Dealer W	All Vul
♠ J5	♥ 10	♦ 65432
	♣ KQJ102	
♠ 62	♥ KQJ632	♦ 987
	♣ 43	
	♠ Q10973	♥ 987
	♦ AQJ	♣ 98
		♠ AK84
		♥ A54
		♦ K10
		♣ A765

- No 'Brownie Points' for anyone on this board.
- Every declarer in 4 Hearts was determined to draw trumps at trick 2.
- The King of Diamonds in dummy has 'Blindsided' all the declarers into thinking that leading a Diamond towards the King is their best route to 10 tricks.
- Six very lucky declarers, who made their contract, all played a Heart to their King at trick 2, but the defenders went astray, later in the hand.

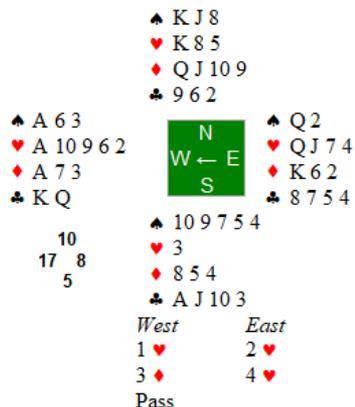
# Master Plan (Time Sensitive)

- Here is another board where the strategy that should be chosen, is 'Time Sensitive'.
- The board in question is board 8, where **West** is under the spotlight.



### Master Plan (Time Sensitive)

Board 8  
West Deals  
None Vul



North leads ♦ Queen.

Step 1: We will designate West as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Spade losers, 1 Heart loser, 1 Diamond loser and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 2).

We can ruff one of our Spade losers in dummy.  
We can lead dummy's ♥ Queen and 'Hope' that South holds the ♥ King.  
If North holds the ♠ King and we lead towards dummy's ♠ Queen, not only will this eliminate one of our Spade losers, it will also give us an opportunity to discard a Diamond from dummy on our ♠ Ace, which will then mean that we can ruff declarer's Diamond loser in dummy.

Step 4: The Spade strategy is 'Time Sensitive' as we need to action this strategy before the defenders knockout our other Diamond and subsequently cash their Diamond winner.

Observations:

We can take our Heart finesse at any stage of the hand, so there is no rush for that part of the 'Master Plan'.

The Spade strategy of leading towards dummy's ♠ Queen takes preference.

Conclusion:

Win the opening lead in hand with our ♦ Ace and lead a Spade towards dummy's ♠ Queen.

Assuming that North pops up with their ♠ King and plays another Diamond, win that with dummy's ♦ King and cash dummy's ♠ Queen.

We now need to get to our hand, so that we can cash our ♠ Ace, discarding dummy's Diamond.  
The only certain way to get to our hand, without the defence cashing their winning Diamond, is to play a Heart to our ♥ Ace.

We can now play our ♠ Ace, discarding dummy's Diamond.

We can draw trumps and in our own time, we can ruff our losing Diamond in dummy.

We end up losing just one Spade, one Heart and one Club.

## The Master Plan (Time Sensitive) (Board 8)

Contract: 4 ♥ by West  
Lead: ♦ Queen

♠ A 6 3 ♥ A 10 9 6 2 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ K Q  10 17 8 5	♠ K J 8 ♥ K 8 5 ♦ Q J 10 9 ♣ 9 6 2  <div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N W ← E S                 </div> ♠ 10 9 7 5 4 ♥ 3 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A J 10 3	♠ Q 2 ♥ Q J 7 4 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ 8 7 5 4	
--	--	--	--

- When we have several strategies available to us, we must first action the one which is 'Time Sensitive'.
- The strategy of taking the Heart finesse is not 'Time Sensitive' as we can take that at any time.
- We must attempt to try and discard dummy's Diamond before the defenders establish their Diamond trick.
- Once we find the King of Spades favourably placed in the North hand, we know that we can discard our Diamond in dummy, so we refuse the Heart finesse as we know we have a winning line, which allows for losing a trump trick.
- Note that by greedily taking the Heart finesse will result in North cashing their winning Diamond and defeating the contract.

# The Master Plan (Time Sensitive) (Board 8)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥-2 W	♦Q	100	+7.08 -7.08
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥-1 W	♦Q	50	+5.77 -5.77
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥-1 W	♦Q	50	+5.77 -5.77
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥-1 W	♠8	50	+5.77 -5.77
Ian Moss & anncraig	ross shine & Tony Verran	1NT+1 W	♦Q	120	+1.54 -1.54
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	3♥= W	♦Q	140	+1.08 -1.08
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	3♥= W	♦Q	140	+1.08 -1.08
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	3♠-3 N	♥Q	150	+1.08 -1.08
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Jayne Randall & graham randall	2♥+2 W	♦Q	170	+0.08 -0.08
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥= W	♦Q	420	-5.69 +5.69
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥= W	♦Q	420	-5.69 +5.69
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥= W	♦Q	420	-5.69 +5.69
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥= W	♦Q	420	-5.69 +5.69
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥+1 W	♦Q	450	-6.46 +6.46

**Board 8**  
**Dealer W**  
**None Vul**

♠ KJ8  
♥ K85  
♦ QJ109  
♣ 962

♠ A63  
♥ A10962  
♦ A73  
♣ KQ

♠ Q2  
♥ QJ74  
♦ K62  
♣ 8754

♠ 109754  
♥ 3  
♦ 854  
♣ AJ103

- Steve Abbott and Henry Rose deserve special mention here, being the only 2 declarers in 4 Hearts, who were 'Card Perfect', earning 2 well deserved 'Brownie Points'.

# Patterns

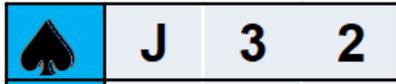
- Using the 'Master Plan Ritual' on every hand is a good start, but there is another very important ingredient to becoming a 'Great' declarer.
- This is the ability to recognise 'Patterns'.
- One of the first patterns that we encounter as a 'Declarer Student' is this one:



- The student learns that the correct strategy, in isolation, is to play a Spade towards the Queen of Spades, hoping that West is holding the King of Spades.
- This has a 50% chance of success.
- The better declarers prefer strategies that have a higher chance of success, ideally 100%.

# Patterns

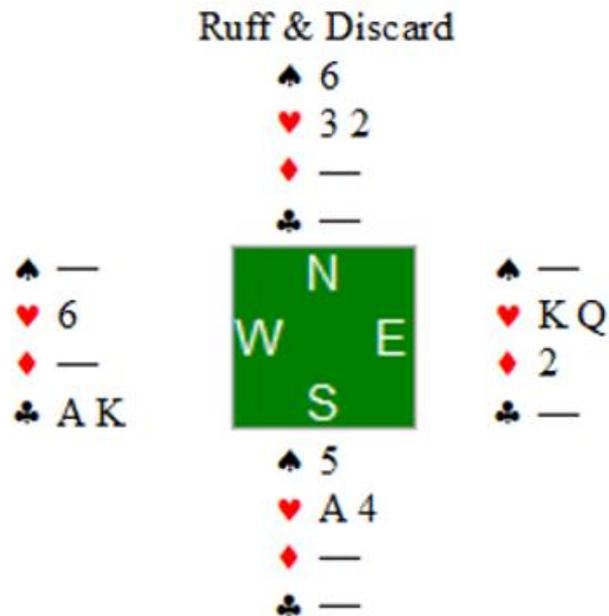
- Let us look at another 'Pattern'.



- This is known as a 'Frozen Suit'.
- We know full well that if declarer tackles this suit, they will almost certainly end up with zero tricks.
- However, if the defenders tackle this suit, they will end up 'Gifting' an undeserved trick to declarer.
- Moral of the story is: "Do not open up a Frozen Suit".

# Patterns

- Let us look at an end game, where there are just 3 tricks to play, where South is declarer in a Spade contract with West on lead.
- If we just focus on the North-South hands in isolation, it is obvious that South will win 2 of the remaining 3 tricks as they will have to concede a Heart trick.
- However, if West tries to cash their Ace of Clubs, South will ruff that in dummy with the 6 of Spades and discard their losing Heart in their own hand and claim the last 2 tricks.
- Moral of the story is that a defender, whilst declarer and dummy still have some trumps left, should 'Never' lead a suit where declarer and dummy are void in.

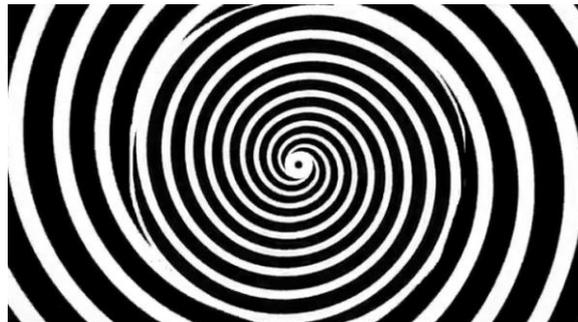


# Patterns

- So, we have learnt that there are two things that *defenders* should never do.

Namely:

1. 'Open Up' a 'Frozen Suit'.
  2. Lead a suit where declarer and dummy are void in, which results in a 'Ruff & Discard'.  
Both end up reducing declarer's losers by 1.
- You are probably wondering at this stage, why I am talking about things that a defender should not do, when we are supposed to be talking about declarer strategies.
  - Just imagine if, as a declarer, we could 'Hypnotise' one of the defenders to do something that they should not do.
  - I call this 'Declarer Hypnosis'.
  - Let us look at board 6, where the declarer 'Hypnotises' one of the defenders to do something that they should not do, which results in declarer being able to reduce their losers by 1.
  - **East** is under the spotlight on this one.



**Board 6**  
 East Deals  
 E-W Vul

**The Throw In**

<p>♠ Q 8 2          ♥ 10 7 6 4 3          ♦ K Q 4          ♣ A Q</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">             N              W → E              S           </div>	<p>♠ K 10 7          ♥ Q J          ♦ 6 5 3          ♣ K J 9 6 3</p>	<p>♠ J 6 4          ♥ A K 8 5 2          ♦ A 7 2          ♣ 4 2</p>
<p>10          13 12          5</p>	<p>♠ A 9 5 3          ♥ 9          ♦ J 10 9 8          ♣ 10 8 7 5</p>		
	<p><i>West</i>                      <i>East</i></p>		
		<p>1 ♥</p>	
	<p>2 NT</p>	<p>4 ♥</p>	
	<p>Pass</p>		

South leads ♦ Jack.

Step 1: We will designate East as the 'Master Hand', but it doesn't matter as both declarer and dummy have the same distribution.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 3 Spade losers and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

We can play a Club towards West's ♣ Queen and 'Hope' that South holds the ♣ King. We could get 'Lucky' in the Spade suit in that we guess who holds a doubleton honour in Spades, so that the defender's honour 'Falls on thin air'. e.g. If we think that South holds a doubleton honour in Spades, we play a Spade to West's ♠ Queen and then we play a small Spade from both hands and then luckily East's Jack of Spades becomes a winner.

We can force the defenders to open up the Spade suit.  
 We can force the defenders to give us a 'Ruff & Discard'.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations: We must 'Hypnotise' the defenders into doing something they do not want to do.

Conclusion:

We draw trumps.

We play all of our Diamonds.

We play the ♣ Ace followed by the ♣ Queen.

Whatever defender wins, they now have a choice of either playing a Club or a Diamond, both which gives us a 'Ruff & Discard', which reduces our losers by 1, alternatively they can play a Spade which opens up a 'Frozen Suit', which again reduces our losers by 1.



♠ K 10 7		♠ J 6 4
♥ Q J		♥ A K 8 5 2
♦ 6 5 3		♦ A 7 2
♣ K J 9 6 3		♣ 4 2
♠ Q 8 2	♠ N	
♥ 10 7 6 4 3	W → E	
♦ K Q 4	♠ S	
♣ A Q		
	♠ A 9 5 3	
	♥ 9	
	♦ J 10 9 8	
	♣ 10 8 7 5	
10		
13 12		
5		

## Throw In (Board 6)

Contract: 4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♦ Jack

- It is interesting to note that this play is even correct in a 'Pairs Competition'.
- People are probably thinking, that if the King of Clubs is onside, then we are giving up all hope of an overtrick, if we refuse the Club finesse.
- Let's pretend that the King of Clubs is onside, and declarer is all 'Smug' with themselves, when they take a successful Club finesse.
- Look what happens.
- Declarer ends up 'Hypnotising' themselves as now they are the ones who must 'Open Up' the Spade suit, which will inevitably mean that they will end up losing 3 Spade tricks.
- On this occasion the equation is:



=



# Throw In (Board 6)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	5♥-1 E	♥9	100	+11.08 -11.08
Ian Moss & anncraig	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥-1 E	♦J	100	+11.08 -11.08
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	5♣X-3 N	♥A	500	+0.69 -0.69
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥= E	♥9	620	-2.08 +2.08
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥= E	♥9	620	-2.08 +2.08
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥= E	♦J	620	-2.08 +2.08

Board 6	Dealer E	EW Vul
♠ K107	♥ QJ	♦ 653
♣ KJ963	♠ Q82	♥ AK852
	♥ 107643	♦ A72
	♦ KQ4	♣ 42
	♣ AQ	
	♠ A953	
	♥ 9	
	♦ J1098	
	♣ 10875	

- Most declarers made their contract of 4 Hearts, however, only, Ross Shine, Colin Peden, Audrey Hartley, Tom Furness and Peter Oake earn 2 'Brownie Points' as they were the only declarers able to refuse the Club finesse.
- All the declarers that took the Club finesse Lead also made it as when North won with their King of Clubs, 'Panicked' and led a Spade.
- This is a good instructional hand for the defenders. The rule being that whatever losers declarer has in Spades, are not going anywhere.
- We only 'Panic' as defenders, if there is a possibility that declarer is about to discard some of their losers on some established suit.
- On this hand, North is controlling the Club suit, so there is no need to 'Panic' and 'Open Up' a 'Frozen Suit'. North must wait for declarer to play the Spade suit.
- Refraining from 'Opening Up' a 'Frozen Suit' applies just as much to a defender as it does to declarer.

# Preparing for a Throw-In

- 'Hypnotising' the defenders is better known in the bridge world as a 'Throw-In'; it can also be called an 'Endplay'.
- The 'Throw-In' being a tactical play where a defender is put on lead at a strategic moment, and then must make a play that reduces the declarer's losers by one.
- The preparation that is involved for a 'Throw-In' can get quite complicated.
- In fact, sometimes we need to do some preparation for the preparation.
- Let's now look at board 7 where **West** is under the spotlight and must think very carefully before they start their preparation for a 'Throw-In'.

failing  
to prepare = prepare  
to fail



## Preparation for a Throw In

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

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

North leads ♦ King.

Step 1: We will designate West, as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Diamond losers and 4 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 3).

We can discard one of our losing Diamonds on East's ♥ King.  
If Clubs do not break 3-3, we can ruff our Club loser.  
We can force the defenders to open up the Club suit.  
We can force the defenders to give us a 'Ruff & Discard'.

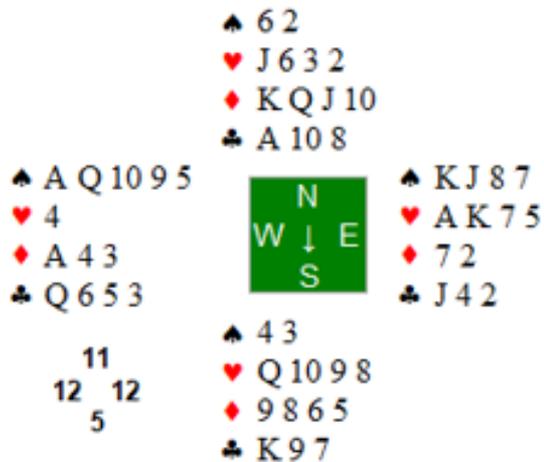
Step 4: The 'Time Sensitive' aspect of this hand is the elimination of our Heart suit in preparation for a 'Throw-In'.  
We cannot afford to draw a third round of trumps, so we must ruff one of our Hearts before we play a second round of trumps.

Observations:

Getting rid of 2 of our losers is easy (Discarding a Diamond on the ♥ King and potentially having to ruff our 4th Club), so we are only looking to eliminate one more of our losers. We recognise our Club holdings as a 'Frozen Suit', so maybe we can eliminate the Hearts and throw a defender in?

Conclusion:

We win the first trick with our ♦ Ace.  
Draw one round of trumps.  
Play the ♥ Ace and ruff a Heart high.  
Play a Spade to the East hand and cash the ♥ King, discarding the ♦ 3.  
Ruff our last Heart and exit with a Diamond.  
North has no choice but to either 'Open Up' the Club suit or to give us a 'Ruff & Discard', by leading a Diamond.  
We make our contract by losing just 2 Clubs and 1 Diamond.



## Throw In (Board 7)

Contract: 4 ♠ by West

Lead: ♦ King

- This hand is a great example of taking our time at trick 1 and working out what needs to be done.
- We should spot the 'Frozen' Club suit and work out that our best hope is to force the defenders to 'Open Up' this suit, which means throwing in a defender at the appropriate moment.
- For the 'Throw In' to succeed we need to remove all the Hearts from dummy's hand, which means ruffing 2 rounds of Hearts.
- How can we get to that last round of Hearts?
- We must delay the drawing of trumps and utilise the drawing of the second round of trumps as our method of getting to dummy's fourth Heart.

# Throw In (Board 7)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠-2 W	♦K	200	+7.62 -7.62
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠-1 W	♦K	100	+5.31 -5.31
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠-1 W	♦K	100	+5.31 -5.31
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠-1 W	♦K	100	+5.31 -5.31
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♠-1 W	♦K	100	+5.31 -5.31
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠-1 W	♦K	100	+5.31 -5.31
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♠-1 W	♥2	100	+5.31 -5.31
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♠-1 W	♦K	100	+5.31 -5.31
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠= W	♦K	620	-7.46 +7.46
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♠= W	♦K	620	-7.46 +7.46
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♠= W	♦K	620	-7.46 +7.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♠= W	♦K	620	-7.46 +7.46
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠= W	♦K	620	-7.46 +7.46
Ian Moss & anncraig	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♠= W	♦K	620	-7.46 +7.46

Board 7  
Dealer S  
All Vul

♠ 62	♠ KJ87
♥ J632	♥ AK75
♦ KQJ10	♦ 72
♣ K108	♣ J42
♠ AQ1095	
♥ 4	
♦ A43	
♣ Q653	
	♠ 43
	♥ Q1098
	♦ 9865
	♣ A97

- Tony Verran and Henry Rose were the only two declarers who spotted that the only way to *totally* eliminate the Heart suit was to ruff a round of Hearts *before* drawing all the trumps, so 2 whole ‘Brownie Points’ to them.
- Geoff Webber was the only other declarer who made some attempt to eliminate the Hearts, but unfortunately drew too many trumps at the start, 1 ‘Brownie Point’ to Geoff.

# Preparing for a Throw-In

- Hopefully by now, we are beginning to see that finessing is the last resort to make our contract.
- There is usually a better strategy to make our contract, other than a 50% chance finesse.
- The problem we have is that it is so easy to recognise a finesse and we have lived our 'Bridge Lives' taking the easy option of a 50% finesse.
- It is my job to educate you to recognise other patterns that make the contract a 100% certainty.
- One day these 100% patterns will be just as recognisable to you as the 50% finesse pattern.
  
- Let's now look at a 100% pattern which is twice as successful as the 50% finesse option.
- Board 23 is where the action is, and **South** is under the spotlight.



## Preparation for a Throw In

*Board 23*  
South Deals  
Both Vul

♠ 5 4	♠ A 10 6 2	♠ K Q 9 8			
♥ 8 2	♥ K Q J 4	♥ 6 3			
♦ Q 7 6 2	♦ 5 4 3	♦ 10 9 8			
♣ Q J 10 9 8	♣ 6 3	♣ A 7 5 4			
<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #38761d; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; font-size: 20px; line-height: 1;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W ↓ E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>			N	W ↓ E	S
N					
W ↓ E					
S					
10	♠ J 7 3				
5 9	♥ A 10 9 7 5				
16	♦ A K J				
	♣ K 2				
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>			
	3 ♥	1 ♥			
	Pass	4 ♥			

West leads ♣ Queen.

Step 1: We will designate South, as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: After the ♣ Queen lead, the 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Spade losers, 1 Diamond loser and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

- We can lead a Diamond towards our ♦ Jack and 'Hope' that East holds the ♦ Queen.
- We can lead a Spade towards our ♠ 10 and subsequently play the ♠ Ace and 'Hope' that West holds a doubleton Spade honour.
- We can play on the Spade suit to try and set up dummy's 4th Spade.
- We can force the defenders to open up the Spade suit.
- We can force the defenders to give us a 'Ruff & Discard'.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so we should draw trumps immediately.

Observations:

Our Spade holding is a 'Frozen Suit', so if we can 'Persuade' the defenders to lead a Spade, we can eliminate one of our losers.

Conclusion:

We draw trumps and if we have not already done so, play our ♣ King.

We have now done our preparation.

Play our ♦ Ace, ♦ King and ♦ Jack.

Whoever is now on lead will either have to give us a 'Ruff & Discard' in the Club or Diamond suits, alternatively, 'Open Up' the 'Frozen' Spade suit, which eliminates one of our Spade losers.

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

## Throw In (Board 23)

Contract: 4♥ by South

Lead: ♣ Queen

- The key is to recognise that our Spade holdings between declarer and dummy constitute a 'Frozen Suit'.
- As soon as we see a 'Frozen Suit', we know what to do; we explore ways of 'Persuading' the defenders to 'Open Up' that suit.
- The Diamond finesse looks tempting, but that is only a 50% chance.
- If we can eliminate the Club and Diamond suits, all we must do is give the lead to the defenders and the chance of making our contract is now 100%.
- Having drawn trumps, the Club suit is easy to eliminate, so now all we must do now is eliminate the Diamonds and hand the lead to one of the defenders.
- We hand the lead to the defenders by playing the Diamond Ace, followed by the Diamond King, followed by the Diamond Jack.
- Dare I say it:



=



# Throw In (Board 23)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥= S	♠5	620	+7.46 -7.46
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥= S	♣Q	620	+7.46 -7.46
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥= S	♠5	620	+7.46 -7.46
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥= S	♣Q	620	+7.46 -7.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥= S	♣Q	620	+7.46 -7.46
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥= S	♣Q	620	+7.46 -7.46
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
Ian Moss & anncraig	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥-1 S	♣Q	100	-5.31 +5.31
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠-2 N	♦9	200	-7.62 +7.62

Board 23  
Dealer S  
All Vul

♠ A1062  
♥ KQJ4  
♦ 543  
♣ 63

♠ 54  
♥ 82  
♦ Q762  
♣ QJ1098

♠ KQ98  
♥ 63  
♦ 1098  
♣ A754

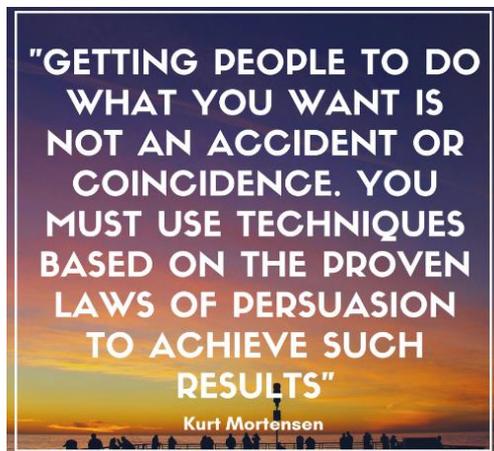
♠ J73  
♥ A10975  
♦ AKJ  
♣ K2

- Peter Scotting, Maks Blicharz and Peter Richardson were 'Card Perfect' on this hand, spotting that the Jack of Diamonds was a 'Red Herring' and refusing the 50% Diamond finesse option and instead taking the 100% option of playing their Diamonds from the top.
- 2 'Brownie Points' to these 3 declarers.

# Preparing for a Throw-In

- Up to now, we have 'Thrown In' one of the defenders to force them to, either:
  1. Give declarer a 'Ruff & Discard' to eliminate one of declarer's losers.
  2. 'Open Up' a frozen suit to eliminate one of declarer's losers.

- Let's look at another pattern:
- This is not actually a 'Frozen Suit'.
- However, wouldn't it be nice if we could 'Persuade' one of the defenders to lead the suit for us?
- We now know how to 'Persuade' defenders to do this.
- Let's see how 'Persuasive' **North** can be on board 21.



## Preparation For a Throw In

*Board 21*  
North Deals  
N-S Vul

<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 10 6 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K 2</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ Q 10 9 7 ♣ Q J 10 9 4</p>	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #38761d; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W ↑ E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W ↑ E	S
N						
W ↑ E						
S						
<p>20 2 5 13</p>	<p>♠ J 7 5 4 2 ♥ K J 10 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A 3</p>					

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
2NT	3♥
4♠	6♠
Pass	

East leads ♣ Queen.

Step 1: We will designate North as the 'Master Hand', but it doesn't matter as both declarer and dummy have the same distribution.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Heart loser and 1 Diamond loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

- We can lead a Diamond towards our ♦ Jack and 'Hope' that West holds the ♦ Queen.
- We can lead a Heart towards our ♥ Jack and 'Hope' that East holds the ♥ Queen.
- We can run our ♥ Jack and 'Hope' that West holds the ♥ Queen.
- We can force the defenders to open up the Heart suit.
- We can force the defenders to give us a 'Ruff & Discard'.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so we should draw trumps immediately.

Observations:

It may be tempting to take two finesses on the basis that hopefully one of them will win, but there would *not* be a guess, if we could 'Persuade' one of the defenders to lead a Heart.

Conclusion:

We must win the first trick.

We draw trumps.

We cash our final Club.

We now play our ♦ Ace, followed by our ♦ King, followed by our ♦ Jack.

Whoever wins this trick, will have the choice of either playing a Club or a Diamond, which will give us a 'Ruff & Discard' and hence eliminating one of our losers, alternatively they can play a Heart, which removes any guesswork in the Heart suit and eliminates our potential Heart loser.

## Throw In (Board 21)

Contract: 6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♣ Queen

♠ 9 8 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5	♠ A K Q 10 6 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K 2	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W ↑ E                      S                 </div> ♠ 3 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ Q 10 9 7 ♣ Q J 10 9 4	
20 2 5 13	♠ J 7 5 4 2 ♥ K J 10 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A 3		



- Same old story; the Jack of Diamonds is a:
- It is important to listen to what our 'Master Plan' ritual is telling us.
- On this hand it is telling us that we need to reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1.
- Yes, I quite agree that a Diamond finesse or a lucky Heart guess will rid of at least 1 loser, but those finesses are only a 50% chance.
- Eliminating the Club suit and playing 3 rounds of Diamonds from the top is a 100% chance.
- Would it have been easier, if I had replaced the Jack of Diamonds with the 2 of Diamonds?

# Throw In (Board 21)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	6NT+1 N	♣Q	1470	+10.00 -10.00
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	6NT= N	♣Q	1440	+9.46 -9.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	George Vede & Maureen Vede	6NT= N	♣Q	1440	+9.46 -9.46
Ian Moss & anncraig	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6NT= N	♣Q	1440	+9.46 -9.46
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	6♠= N	♣Q	1430	+9.46 -9.46
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	6♠= N	♣Q	1430	+9.46 -9.46
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♠+2 N	♥6	680	-0.85 +0.85
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠+2 N	♣Q	680	-0.85 +0.85
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	5♠= N	♣Q	650	-1.08 +1.08
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Jon Ward & Tony French	6♠-1 N	♣Q	100	-10.46 +10.46
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♠-1 N	♣Q	100	-10.46 +10.46
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♠-1 N	♣Q	100	-10.46 +10.46
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Jayne Randall & graham randall	6♠-1 N	♣Q	100	-10.46 +10.46
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4NT-3 N	♣Q	300	-12.69 +12.69

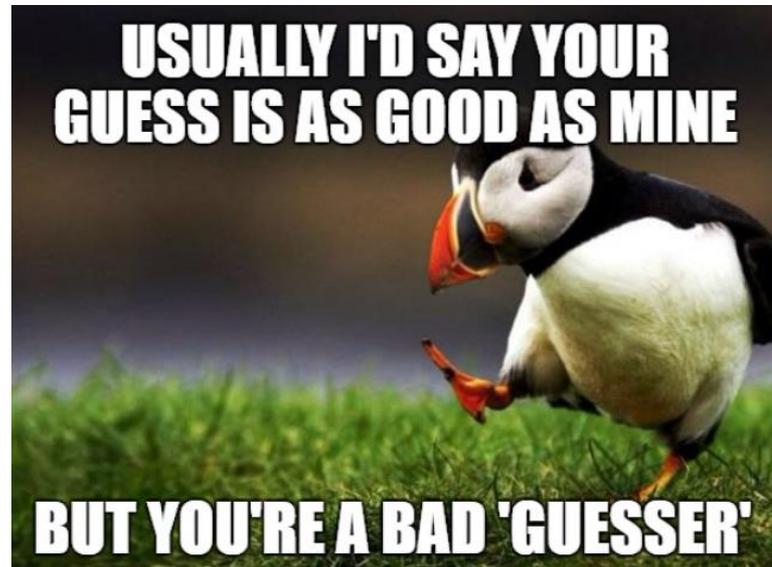
Dealer N  
NS Vul

♥ A53	♠ 3
♦ KJ6	♥ 962
♣ K2	♦ Q1097
♠ 98	♣ QJ1094
♥ Q874	♠ J7542
♦ 852	♥ KJ10
♣ 8765	♦ A43
	♣ A3

- There was one 'Lucky Guesser' who made their contract, mind you, there were many more 'Unlucky Guessers'
- There was only one declarer, who did not have to guess and that was Thomas Bradkin, who was 'Card Perfect', so 2 'Brownie Points' to Thomas.
- There was one other person, who did not have to guess and that was Brian Davies, who also was 'Card Perfect', unfortunately for Brian his bidding was not up to his declarer play and was only in 4 Spades, but 1 'Brownie Point' to Brian for getting the play aspect correct.

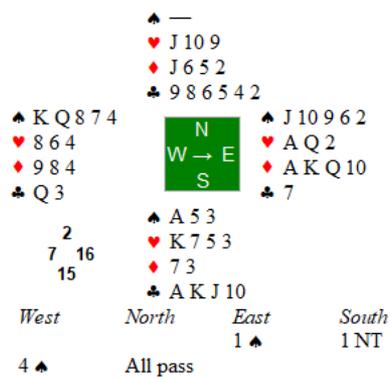
# Throw In Preparation

- The next hand is a very difficult hand.
- Sometimes it might appear as if all the good declarers are very good at 'Guessing'.
- However, now that we have some new skills under our belt in the way that we can make defenders do things that they do not want to do, we can play certain 'Guessing Situations' in such a way, that even when we guess wrong, we win.
- Let's see if **East** is up to the task of playing the Diamond suit in such a way that it doesn't matter if they guess wrong or not.
- The board in question is board 2.



## Preparation for a Throw In

**Board 2**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul



South leads ♣ King.

Step 1: We will designate East as the 'Master Hand' as it has the longer side suit.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Spade loser, 2 Heart losers, 1 Diamond loser and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 2).

Our Diamond loser, if required can be ruffed.

A Heart towards our ♥ Queen and 'Hope' that North holds the ♥ King.

If the ♦ Jack falls in 3 rounds, our ♦ 10 is a winner and we can discard a Heart from dummy and subsequently ruff a Heart loser.

We can lose the lead to South at an appropriate moment so that they are forced to lead into our ♥ A Q or gives us a 'Ruff & Discard'.

Step 4: We have plenty of trumps, so we need to draw trumps.

Observations:

The 1 NT overcall has informed us that the Heart finesse is 'Doomed'.

If we can make 4 natural Diamond tricks, we are 'Home and Dry' as we have avoided our Diamond loser and we can discard a Heart from dummy, reducing our Heart losers by 1.

We need to play our Diamonds in such a way, that when we do not have 4 natural Diamond tricks, South will find themselves on lead having to give us an extra trick.

Conclusion:

After 2 rounds of Clubs, we ruff the second round.

We play one round of trumps and observe that trumps are 3-0.

We must now cash 2 rounds of Diamonds, which is in preparation for our end game strategy.

We can now continue with the drawing of trumps.

We make sure that we are in dummy after the 3rd round of trumps.

We now play a Diamond and if North plays a small Diamond, we play our ♦ 10.

If the ♦ 10 wins, as it does on this occasion, we are home and dry as we can now discard a losing Heart from dummy.

Even if our ♦ 10 loses to South's ♦ Jack, South is now forced to either give us a 'Ruff & Discard' or lead into our ♥ A Q. Our last Diamond will be used to discard a Heart from dummy.

If North does not follow to the third round of Diamonds, we are also ok, as we will win with our ♦ Ace and play our ♦ 10, discarding a Heart from dummy.



# Throw In (Board 2)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♠-1 E	♣K	50	+5.62 -5.62
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠-1 E	♣A	50	+5.62 -5.62
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♠-1 W	♣9	50	+5.62 -5.62
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠-1 E	♣K	50	+5.62 -5.62
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♠-1 E	♣A	50	+5.62 -5.62
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	George Vede & Maureen Vede	2♠+2 E	♣A	170	0.00 0.00
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Jayne Randall & graham randall	2♠+2 E	♣A	170	0.00 0.00
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Jon Ward & Tony French	2♠+2 E	♦7	170	0.00 0.00
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	2♠+2 E	♣A	170	0.00 0.00
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	2♠+2 E	♦7	170	0.00 0.00
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠= E	♣A	420	-5.46 +5.46
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♠= E	♣K	420	-5.46 +5.46
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠= E	♣A	420	-5.46 +5.46
Ian Moss & anncraig	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	5♣X-3 S	♠K	800	-11.69 +11.69

Board 2	Dealer E	NS Vul
♠ -	♥ J109	♦ J652
♥ 864	♠ KQ874	♣ 986542
♦ 984	♠ J10962	♥ AQ2
♣ Q3	♥ K753	♦ AKQ10
	♠ A53	♣ 7
	♦ 73	
	♣ AKJ10	

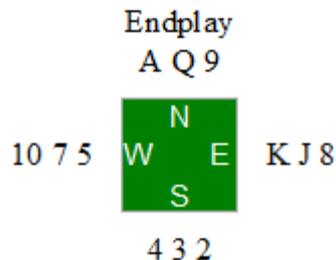
- This was certainly the most ‘Challenging’ hand for declarer on this set of boards and it is not surprising that no declarer got close to finding the 100% line.
- 3 Declarers made their game contract, when the defence, having won the second round of trumps, decided to help declarer by leading their doubleton, Diamond.
- Another example where the defenders must be patient and not help declarer.
- South can see that there is no hurry to do anything on this board and must therefore stay passive and return a trump.
- 3 defenders realised this, so they are rewarded 0.5 of a ‘Brownie Point’ for their patience.
- The 3 defenders in question are: Peter Richardson, Maks Blicharz and Bernie Hunt.

# A Q 9 pattern

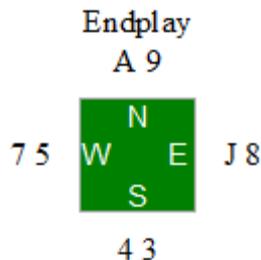
- We have a new pattern:



- At first glance, it does not look like a very exciting 'Pattern'.
- However, those 3 cards are very significant.
- Let's look at this end position:

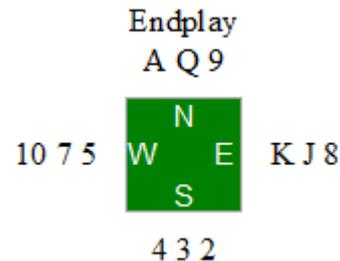


- South leads towards the A Q 9 and if West plays the 5, we play North's 9 and East wins with their Jack and must now lead back into North's A Q.
- If West plays the 10, then we play North's Queen and when East wins with their King, we have this position:



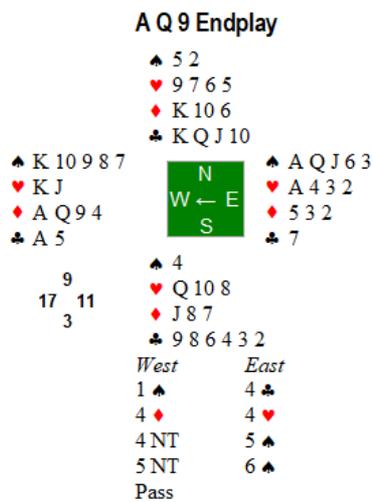
- This time East must lead back into North's A 9.
- Regardless to how the cards lie and regardless to how the defenders play, our 2 potential losers only become 1 loser.

# A Q 9 Endplay



- Although this is a textbook ‘Endplay’ situation, it is just a variation of the ‘Throw In’ strategies that we have seen earlier.
- Whereas in our previous ‘Throw In’ hands, we did not worry about which defender we were throwing in, as they had the unenviable choice of either ‘Opening Up’ a ‘Frozen Suit’ or giving us a ‘Ruff & Discard’, for this variation of the ‘Throw In’, it is essential that we lead towards the A Q 9 holding, so we can force our right-hand defender to win the trick and lead back into our holding.
- Just like all our other ‘Throw In’ plays, we must prepare for the end position, by removing the safe exit cards of the defenders, so that when our defender wins their trick, they only have two options, either to lead back into our suit or give us a ‘Ruff & Discard’, with both options resulting in us eliminating one of our losers.
- Let’s now see on board 16 whether **West** was up to the task.

**Board 16**  
 West Deals  
 E-W Vul



North leads ♣ King.

Step 1: We will designate East as the 'Master Hand' as its 2nd side suit is longer.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Heart losers and 2 Diamond losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 3).

We can ruff 2 of our Heart losers.

We can play a Diamond towards our ♦ Queen and 'Hope' that South holds the ♦ King.

We can arrange to lose the lead to North at the end and force them to either give us a 'Ruff & Discard' or lead into our ♦ A Q.

Step 4: We have plenty of trumps, however we must be mindful that we are required to ruff 2 rounds of Hearts, also that we can only afford to play 2 rounds of trumps.

Observations:

For our 'Preparation', not only do we need to ruff 2 rounds of Hearts and one round of Clubs, but we must make sure that we are in the East hand to make our 'Strategy Play' of leading towards our A Q 9 holding in Diamonds.

Conclusion:

We win the opening trick with our ♣ Ace.

We draw 1 round of trumps.

We cash our ♥ King and play to our ♥ Ace.

We ruff a Heart.

Draw the second round of trumps ending in the East hand, so that we can ruff our last Heart.

We now ruff our Club.

All the suits have now been eliminated.

We play a Diamond towards our ♦ A Q 9.

Whatever card South plays, we play a card just to beat it.

North will win and will have the choice of either giving us a 'Ruff & Discard' or leading back into our Heart holding.

## A Q 9 Endplay (Board 16)

Contract: 6  by West

Lead:  King

<p>♠ K 10 9 8 7 ♥ K J ♦ A Q 9 4 ♣ A 5</p>	<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ K Q J 10</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 6 3 ♥ A 4 3 2 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ 7</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">             N W ← E S         </div> <p>♠ 4 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ 9 8 6 4 3 2</p>
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9  
17 11  
3

- Note that our ‘Master Plan’ Ritual works slightly better here, when we designate East as our ‘Master Hand’.
- We may well start off by using West as our ‘Master Hand’, especially as it is declarer’s hand, however, we need to be flexible and switch to using East as the ‘Master Hand’, if things start to become ‘Messy’ during the ritual.
- The key observation that needs to be made, *at the start*, is that to be able to ruff 2 Hearts *and* finish in the East hand, so that we can lead *towards* West’s A Q 9 holding, we cannot afford to immediately draw 2 rounds of trumps as we require an extra entry to the East hand and this extra entry comes via drawing a round of trumps and finishing in the East hand. i.e. We must ruff a round of Hearts *before* drawing the last round of trumps.

# A Q 9 Endplay (Board 16)

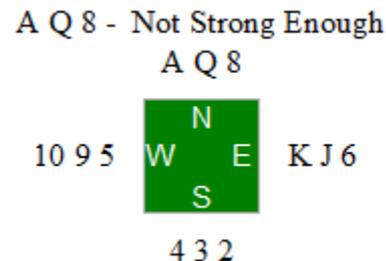
NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	6♠-1 W	♣K	100	+10.85 -10.85
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	6♠-1 W	♣K	100	+10.85 -10.85
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	6♠-1 W	♣K	100	+10.85 -10.85
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Jayne Randall & graham randall	6♠-1 W	♣K	100	+10.85 -10.85
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Jon Ward & Tony French	6♠-1 W	♣K	100	+10.85 -10.85
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠+1 W	♣K	650	+1.00 -1.00
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠+1 W	♣K	650	+1.00 -1.00
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠+1 W	♣K	650	+1.00 -1.00
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	6♠= W	♣K	1430	-9.54 +9.54
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♠= W	♣K	1430	-9.54 +9.54
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	6♠= W	♣K	1430	-9.54 +9.54
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	6♠= W	♠2	1430	-9.54 +9.54
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♠= W	♣K	1430	-9.54 +9.54
Ian Moss & anncraig	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	6♠= W	♣K	1430	-9.54 +9.54

Board 16	Dealer W	EW Vul
♠ 52	♥ 9765	♦ K106
♥ KJ	♣ KQJ10	
♦ AQ94		♠ AQJ63
♣ A5		♥ A432
		♦ 532
		♣ 7
	♠ 4	
	♥ Q108	
	♦ J87	
	♣ 986432	

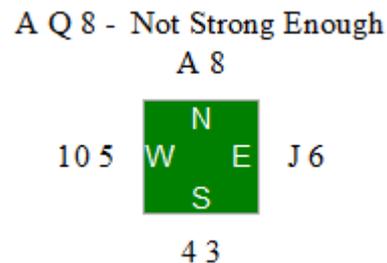
- Henry Rose, Vernon Gaskell and Tony Verran were 'Card Perfect' on a tricky hand. To spot that one round of Hearts must be ruffed *before* drawing all the trumps must be spotted early in the hand.
- All 3 declarers are rewarded with 2 'Brownie Points'.

# Throw In Preparation

- The A Q 9 holding is the *minimum* holding that we require to make sure that we can successfully make the play of 'Throwing In' our right-hand opponent.
- Holding A Q 10 is just as good.
- However, holding A Q 8 is not good enough.



- When we lead towards the A Q 8 holding, West plays their 9, we play our Queen and East wins with their King, and we now have this position:
- Our 8 is not high enough to win a trick.



Let's see how **South** got on when they found the A Q 8 holding in dummy on board 15.

**Board 15**  
 South Deals  
 N-S Vul

**Throw In Preparation**

<p>♠ 4          ♥ K Q J 10          ♦ 9 7 6 4          ♣ J 10 9 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13          7 3          17</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">             N              W ↓ E              S           </div>	<p>♠ Q 9 8 6          ♥ 8 7 6          ♦ K Q 2          ♣ A Q 8</p> <p>♠ 5 2          ♥ 9 5 4 3 2          ♦ 10 8 5 3          ♣ K 5</p>	<p>♠ A K J 10 7 3          ♥ A          ♦ A J          ♣ 7 6 3 2</p>
<p><i>North</i></p> <p>2 NT          5 ♣          6 ♦          Pass</p>	<p><i>South</i></p> <p>1 ♠          4 NT          5 NT          6 ♠</p>		

West leads ♥ King.

Step 1: We will designate South as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 3 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 2).

- We can discard one Club loser on dummy's ♦ King.
- We can play a Club towards dummy's ♣ Queen and 'Hope' that West holds the ♣ King.
- We can lose to the East hand at an appropriate moment where they are forced to concede a 'Ruff & Discard'.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations:

The A Q 8 holding in dummy's Club suit is not quite strong enough to be able to create a situation where we can force East to be on lead and lead back into our A Q holding. So, it looks like that it is all down to 'Hoping' that West holds the ♣ King. But maybe we can increase our chances by just a fraction?

Conclusion:

We win the opening lead with our ♥ Ace.  
 We draw trumps, finishing in dummy, so that we can ruff a Heart.  
 We play 3 rounds of Diamonds, finishing in dummy, discarding a Club from our hand.  
 We can now ruff dummy's last Heart.  
 We play a Club towards dummy's ♣ A Q 8 and if West plays a card less than our ♣ 8, we will play our ♣ 8 and East will be forced to win with their ♣ King.  
 However, if West plays the ♣ 9, we win with the ♣ Ace and return to our hand with a trump and play a Club towards our ♣ Queen.  
 If West holds the ♣ King, we are home and dry.  
 If West plays low, we play our ♣ Queen and if East holds the ♣ King, there is a chance that they started with the doubleton ♣ King.  
 If they did, they must now give us a 'Ruff & Discard'.

## Throw In (Board 15)

Contract: 6  by South  
Lead:  King

<p>♠ 4</p> <p>♥ K Q J 10</p> <p>♦ 9 7 6 4</p> <p>♣ J 10 9 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 8 6</p> <p>♥ 8 7 6</p> <p>♦ K Q 2</p> <p>♣ A Q 8</p>	<p>♠ 5 2</p> <p>♥ 9 5 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ 10 8 5 3</p> <p>♣ K 5</p>	<p>♠ A K J 10 7 3</p> <p>♥ A</p> <p>♦ A J</p> <p>♣ 7 6 3 2</p>
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<p>13</p> <p>7 3</p> <p>17</p>	<table border="1" style="border: 2px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W ↓ E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W ↓ E	S		
N						
W ↓ E						
S						

- The key here is to realise that the A Q 8 pattern is not strong enough to force 2 tricks, however, using our preparation skills of eliminating both red suits, we have *three* chances.
- The first one being that, when we finally lead towards the a A Q 8, we catch West ‘Napping’ and when they follow with a card below dummy’s 8, we play our 8 and East is ‘Endplayed’.
- There is also the slight possibility that East is holding the K J 10 9 of Clubs, so we will always be able to play dummy’s 8, forcing East to be ‘Endplayed’.
- The third possibility and the one at the table and that is where we find East with the King doubleton of Clubs, so that when they win the *second* round of Clubs with their King, they will be forced to give us a ‘Ruff & Discard’. Note that we must first eliminate all our red cards, which is a straightforward exercise.
- There is of course the chance that the King of Clubs is onside, but that would just be ‘Boring’.

# Throw In (Board 15)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	6♠= S	♥K	1430	+14.23 -14.23
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♠+2 S	♥K	680	+3.46 -3.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠+2 S	♥K	680	+3.46 -3.46
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♠+2 S	♥K	680	+3.46 -3.46
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠+1 S	♥K	650	+2.77 -2.77
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠+1 S	♥K	650	+2.77 -2.77
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠+1 S	♥K	650	+2.77 -2.77
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	George Vede & Maureen Vede	5♠= S	♥K	650	+2.77 -2.77
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	5♠= S	♥K	650	+2.77 -2.77
Ian Moss & anncraig	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠+1 S	♥K	650	+2.77 -2.77
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	6♠-1 S	♥K	100	-10.31 +10.31
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♠-1 S	♣J	100	-10.31 +10.31
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Jayne Randall & graham randall	6♠-1 S	♥K	100	-10.31 +10.31
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♠-1 S	♥K	100	-10.31 +10.31

Board 15  
Dealer S  
NS Vul

	♠ Q986	
	♥ 876	
	♦ KQ2	
	♣ AQ8	
♠ 4		♠ 52
♥ KQJ10		♥ 95432
♦ 9764		♦ 10853
♣ J1094		♣ K5
	♠ AKJ1073	
	♥ A	
	♦ AJ	
	♣ 7632	

- Only 1 'Card Perfect' declarer and that was Paul Stevens, but unfortunately for Paul, he was only in the contract of 4 Spades, but 1 'Brownie Point' for showing off his technique.

# Avoidance Play

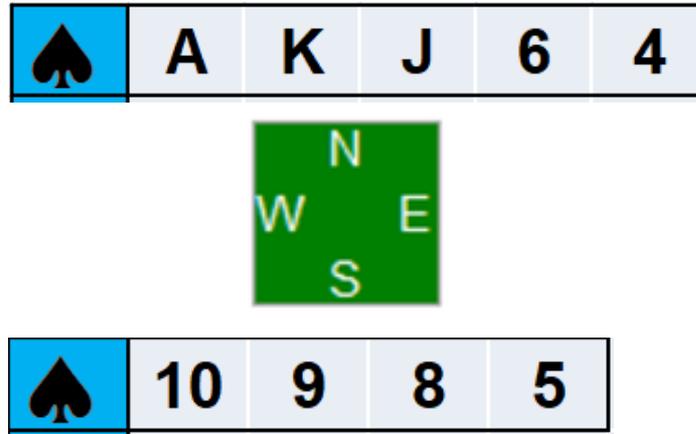
- We encountered the phrase 'Avoidance Play' in our previous Boot-Camp, which was entitled 'No Trump Declarer Play'.
- An avoidance play is where we recognise that one of the defenders could cause us great 'Trouble', if they were to get on lead.
- We call them the 'Danger Hand' and the example we gave at the previous 'Boot-Camp' was this situation:



- Our King of Spades is looking very vulnerable, and we call East the 'Danger Hand', because, if East was to get on lead, our King is certainly 'Doomed'.
- So, we try as hard as we can to prevent East from getting on lead and hence the phrase 'Avoidance Play'. i.e. We want to 'Avoid' the 'Danger Hand' from getting on lead.

# Avoidance Play

- In the next hand, we find ourselves having to play this trump suit:



- How do we play the trump suit?
- In isolation, we start singing our rhyme, which says: “Eight ever, nine never”, which in English translates into the idea that when declarer has an 8-card fit, holding the Ace, King and Jack, they should take the finesse, however, when they are holding the same high cards with a 9-card fit, they should bang down the Ace and King.
- Let’s see on board 9, whether **North** starts singing the rhyme or whether they start chanting the ‘Master Plan Ritual’.
- Let’s hope it is the ‘Master Plan Ritual’, as this is our ‘Guiding Force’ on this hand.

**Board 9**  
 North Deals  
 E-W Vul

**Avoidance Play**

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

15	♠ 10 9 8 5	♠ 3
2 12	♥ A 4	♥ K Q J
11	♦ A Q J 10 7	♦ 5 4 2
	♣ 4 3	♣ A Q 10 7 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣
	4 ♠	All pass	

East leads ♥ King.

Step 1: We will designate North as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Spade loser, 1 Heart loser and 3 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 2).

- We can play Ace, King of Spades and if the ♠ Queen appears, we have 0 Spade losers.
- We can play a Spade towards our ♠ Jack and 'Hope' that West holds the ♠ Queen.
- We can play a Club towards our ♣ K J 2 and 'Hope' that a ♣ Honour is onside and we 'Guess' correctly.
- We can discard 2 Club losers on dummy's long Diamond suit.

Step 4: We have plenty of trumps, so we can draw trumps immediately.

Observations:

We appear to have lots of tricks in the way of at least 4 Spades, 5 Diamonds and the ♥ Ace. However, our 'Master Plan Ritual' is warning us that we might have 2 too many losers, albeit our 3rd Club loser is never going to happen as we will always be able to ruff that in dummy or discard it on dummy's long Diamonds.

Conclusion:

This is going to take some explaining, so please see the next page.



# Avoidance Play (Board 9)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠+1 N	♥K	450	+5.69 -5.69
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠+1 N	♥K	450	+5.69 -5.69
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♠+1 N	♥K	450	+5.69 -5.69
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠+1 N	♥K	450	+5.69 -5.69
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♠+1 N	♥K	450	+5.69 -5.69
Ian Moss & anncraig	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠+1 N	♥K	450	+5.69 -5.69
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	3NT= N	♣Q	400	+4.08 -4.08
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	3♣X-1 E	♥A	200	-0.38 +0.38
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	ross shine & Tony Verran	3NT-1 N	♥K	50	-6.31 +6.31
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠-1 N	♥K	50	-6.31 +6.31
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠-1 N	♥K	50	-6.31 +6.31
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠-1 N	♥K	50	-6.31 +6.31
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♠-1 N	♥K	50	-6.31 +6.31
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♠-1 N	♥K	50	-6.31 +6.31

Board 9	Dealer N	EW Vul
♠ AKJ64	♥ 76	♦ K93
♣ KJ2	♠ Q72	♥ 1098532
	♥ 86	♦ 86
	♣ 98	♠ 3
		♥ KQJ
		♦ 542
		♣ AQ10765
		♠ 10985
		♥ A4
		♦ AQJ107
		♣ 43

- I am going to have to be a bit 'Subjective' on the awarding of my 'Brownie Points'.
- Brian Sharkey & Ian Moss ducked trick 1 and were 'Card Perfect', so 2 'Brownie Points' there.
- Paul Mollison ducked the opening Heart lead, but had his 'Moment of Glory' ruined, when the defender now switched to their singleton trump, but the fact that Paul had ducked trick 1, suggests that he knew what he was doing, so 2 'Brownie Points' to Paul.
- Mike Harbour took the Spade finesse, but did not duck trick 1, so only 1.5 'Brownie Points' to Mike, as it is crucial that declarer ducks the opening lead, otherwise if say, East had held the Queen of Spades and a small Heart, when West plays the Heart 10 at trick 1, East can play a Heart to their partner's 9 of Hearts who can then play a Club through declarer.
- Pat Johnson and Jim Kenneally did not duck trick 1 either and when they led their 10 of Spades, West, incredibly covered with their Queen, so we don't know whether declarer was going to run the 10 of Spades or not, so just 1 'Brownie Point' to those 2 declarers.

# Avoidance Play

- As we have already discovered, we should do everything possible to prevent the 'Danger Hand' from getting the lead.
- Sometimes it requires some imaginative play to accomplish this.
- Let's see if **South** has the imagination to make their contract on board 3.



## Avoidance Play

**Board 3**  
South Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ A 8 7 6 4	♠ 3 2	♠ QJ 10 9
♥ 5	♥ J 9 6 2	♥ 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7	♦ K Q J 2	♦ A 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 2	♣ A 8 4	♣ K 5 3
11	♠ K 5	
4 10	♥ A K Q 10 8 7	
15	♦ 6	
	♣ Q J 10 6	
	North      South	
	3 ♥      1 ♥	
	Pass      4 ♥	

West leads ♦ 10.

Step 1: We will designate South as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Spade losers, 1 Diamond loser and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

We can run the ♣ Queen and 'Hope' that West holds the ♣ King.  
Once the ♦ Ace has been knocked out, we can discard 2 losing Spades on our established Diamonds.

Step 4: Trumps are not an issue.

Observations:

We can immediately declare that East is the 'Danger Hand'.  
If East was to gain the lead, our ♠ King is looking very vulnerable.  
How can we prevent East from getting the lead?

Conclusion:

We must play *low* at trick 1 from dummy; This will keep East off lead.  
We can now draw trumps, ending in dummy and lead the ♦ King, when East plays their ♦ Ace, we can ruff, enter dummy to play off our ♦ Queen and ♦ Jack, discarding our 2 Spade losers.

Note that if East rises with their ♦ Ace, 'On Thin Air', at trick 1 and plays a Spade through, the defence take the first 3 tricks, however, we now have *three* discards from our established Diamond suit in dummy and having drawn trumps, we will discard 3 Clubs from our hand.

## Avoidance Play (Board 3)

Contract: 4♥ by South  
Lead: ♦ 10

♠ 3 2		♠ QJ 10 9
♥ J 9 6 2		♥ 4 3
♦ K Q J 2		♦ A 5 4 3
♣ A 8 4		♣ K 5 3
♠ A 8 7 6 4	♠ N	
♥ 5	W ↓ E	
♦ 10 9 8 7	S	
♣ 9 7 2		
	♠ K 5	
	♥ A K Q 10 8 7	
	♦ 6	
	♣ Q J 10 6	
11		
4 10		
15		

- Time stats.
- The average time that declarers were thinking before covering the 10 of Diamonds lead was 6 seconds.
- I guess that goes to show that more thought should be invested into playing trick 1, even when the play at trick 1 appears to be so obvious.

# Avoidance Play (Board 3)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	5♥= S	♦10	450	+4.46 -4.46
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥+1 S	♦9	450	+4.46 -4.46
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥+1 S	♦10	450	+4.46 -4.46
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥+1 S	♦10	450	+4.46 -4.46
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥+1 S	♦10	450	+4.46 -4.46
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥+1 S	♦10	450	+4.46 -4.46
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥= S	♠A	420	+3.38 -3.38
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥= S	♦10	420	+3.38 -3.38
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥= S	♣7	420	+3.38 -3.38
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥-1 S	♦10	50	-7.38 +7.38
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	5♥-1 S	♣7	50	-7.38 +7.38
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥-1 S	♣7	50	-7.38 +7.38
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥-1 S	♦10	50	-7.38 +7.38
Ian Moss & annraig	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥-1 S	♣7	50	-7.38 +7.38

**Board 3**  
**Dealer S**  
**EW Vul**

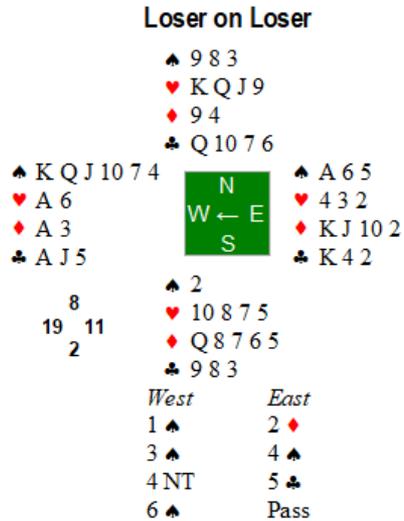
	♠ 32	
	♥ J962	
	♦ KQJ2	
	♣ A84	
♠ A8764		♠ QJ109
♥ 5		♥ 43
♦ 10987		♦ A543
♣ 972		♣ K53
	♠ K5	
	♥ AKQ1087	
	♦ 6	
	♣ QJ106	

- Not one single declarer, who received a Diamond lead found the 'Imaginative' play of playing the 2 of Diamonds at trick 1.
- Amazingly, so many declarers were still making their contract as East decided to continue the Diamond suit at trick 2.
- I am guessing that all the Easts think that their partner cannot hold the Ace of Spades and would rather play them for a singleton Diamond lead.

## Loser on Loser Play

- There has recently been some analysis of different 'Bridge Strategies' and apparently the strategy that is missed most often at the bridge table is the 'Loser on Loser' play.
- I am sure you have all heard of the term, but what exactly is the strategy?
- What is the point of discarding a 'Loser' on a 'Loser' and what can we gain from that?
- There are many reasons why declarer would execute a 'Loser on Loser' play.
  
- Here are a few:
  1. To keep the lead in the safe hand.
  2. To avoid an opponent having an opportunity to ruff.
  3. To maintain trump control.
  4. To transfer a ruff to a safer suit.
  5. To rectify the count for a subsequent squeeze play.
  
- Let's look at the most basic reason first.
- We find this on Board 24, where **West** is under the spotlight.

**Board 24**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul



North leads ♥ King.

Step 1: We will designate West as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Heart loser and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

- We can lead a Club towards our ♣ Jack and 'Hope' that South holds the ♣ Queen.
- We can lead a Diamond towards our ♦ Jack and 'Hope' that North holds the ♦ Queen.
- We can play 3 rounds of Diamonds, ruffing the 3rd round and 'Hope' that the ♦ Queen drops.
- Cash the ♦ Ace and ♦ King and take the 'Ruffing Finesse'.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations:

So many options to get rid of one of our losers.  
 Are we feeling 'Lucky' tonight with our finessing, or is there a 100% line?

Conclusion:

Win the opening lead with our ♥ Ace.

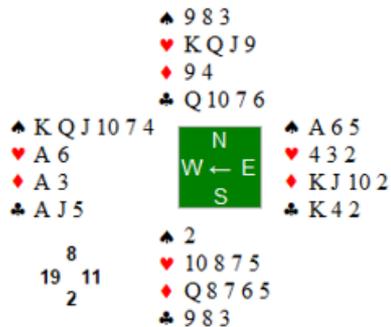
Draw trumps.

Play the ♦ Ace, followed by the ♦ King and now play the ♦ Jack.

If South plays the ♦ Queen, ruff it and utilise the now promoted ♦ 10 to discard our losing Heart.

If the ♦ Queen does not appear, discard our ♥ 6; we may well lose this trick, but now we have zero Heart losers and our Club loser can be discarded on our now promoted ♦ 10.

**Loser on Loser**

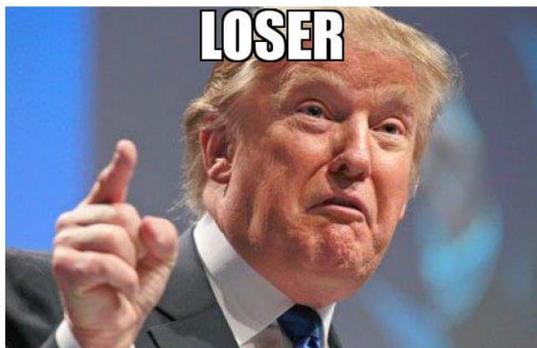


Loser on Loser  
(Board 24)

Contract: 6♠ by West

Lead: ♥ King

- So, on this hand we were discarding our losing Heart on what could have been a losing Diamond, if North had held the Queen of Diamonds.
- If this play had lost to the Queen of Diamonds, we were going to lose a Heart anyway, so the play shows no net gain or loss, however, in making this play, we have established the 10 of Diamonds as a winner, which we can use to discard our losing Club.



# Loser on Loser (Board 24)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♠ = W	♥K	420	+5.85 -5.85
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠ +1 W	♥K	450	+5.23 -5.23
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠ +1 W	♥K	450	+5.23 -5.23
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♠ +1 W	♥K	450	+5.23 -5.23
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠ +1 W	♥K	450	+5.23 -5.23
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠ +2 W	♥K	480	+4.62 -4.62
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠ +2 W	♥K	480	+4.62 -4.62
Ian Moss & anncraig	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♠ +2 W	♥K	480	+4.62 -4.62
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6♠ = E	♥8	980	-6.69 +6.69
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♠ = W	♥K	980	-6.69 +6.69
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	6♠ = W	♥K	980	-6.69 +6.69
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	6♠ = W	♥K	980	-6.69 +6.69
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Jon Ward & Tony French	6NT = E	♣9	990	-6.69 +6.69
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	6♠ +1 W	♥K	1010	-7.15 +7.15

**Board 24**  
**Dealer W**  
**None Vul**

♠ 983	♠ A65
♥ KQJ9	♥ 432
♦ 94	♦ KJ102
♣ Q1076	♣ K42
♠ KQJ1074	
♥ A6	
♦ A3	
♣ AJ5	
♠ 2	
♥ 10875	
♦ Q8765	
♣ 983	

- Alan Bryant, Steve Abbott, Henry Rose and David Embleton are all awarded 2 'Brownie Points' on this board, for being 'Card Perfect' in their contract of 6 Spades.
- Vernon Gaskell and Graham Randall are awarded 1 'Brownie Point' for being 'Card Perfect' in their contract of 4 Spades and making 12 tricks.

## Loser on Loser (Avoidance Play)

- The last two strategies that we have discussed have been the 'Avoidance Play' and the 'Loser on Loser' play.
- Let's now see how we can combine both strategies on one hand to secure our contract.
- The board in question is board 18 and **East** is under the spotlight.

## Loser on Loser (Avoidance Play)

**Board 18**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul

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

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

3	West	East
18 6	4 ♠	3 ♠
13		Pass

South leads ♥ Ace.

Step 1: We will designate East as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Heart loser, 1 Diamond loser and 2 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

- We can lead a Diamond towards our ♦ Jack and 'Hope' that South holds the ♦ Queen.
- We can lead a Club towards our ♣ King and 'Hope' that North holds the ♣ Ace.
- We can set up dummy's Diamond suit which will provide us with some discards.

Step 4: Trumps are not an issue.

Observations:

We can identify North as the 'Danger Hand', because if North was to win a trick, we could very quickly lose 2 additional Club tricks.

In the ideal world, we would like to set up dummy's Diamond suit without letting North win a trick.

Is there anyway that we can do that?

Conclusion:

Assuming that South continues at trick 2 with their ♥ King, we play our ♥ Queen from the dummy, which is a 'Loser' and we play our ♦ 2 from our hand which is also a 'Loser'.

Whatever South now does, our plan is to play the ♦ Ace, followed by the ♦ King and ruff a Diamond high.

Draw trumps, finishing in dummy.

We now run our established Diamonds, discarding our losing Clubs.

The best the defence can do is take 2 Hearts and the Ace of Clubs.

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

Loser on Loser  
(Avoidance Play)  
(Board 18)

Contract: 4 ♠ by East  
Lead: ♥ Ace

- Note that if South had not been so obliging and say, had switched to a Diamond at trick 2, then we would have won the Diamond and played the Queen of Hearts ourselves, discarding our small Diamond.
- The key here is to recognise that we are able set the Diamonds without having to let North gain the lead and this is achieved by playing a 'Loser on Loser' play in conjunction with an 'Avoidance Play'.

# Loser on Loser (Board 18)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	5♠-2 E	♥K	100	+3.77 -3.77
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠-1 E	♥K	50	+1.85 -1.85
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠-1 E	♥K	50	+1.85 -1.85
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♠-1 E	♥A	50	+1.85 -1.85
Ian Moss & anncraig	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♠-1 W	♥10	50	+1.85 -1.85
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	3♠+2 E	♥A	200	-4.23 +4.23
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♠= E	♥K	420	-9.00 +9.00
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♠= E	♥K	420	-9.00 +9.00

Board 18  
Dealer E  
NS Vul

♠ -

♥ 1098764

♦ Q87

♣ J1052

♠ AK3

♥ QJ

♦ AKJ65

♣ 876

♠ QJ109864

♥ 5

♦ 432

♣ K9

♠ 752

♥ AK32

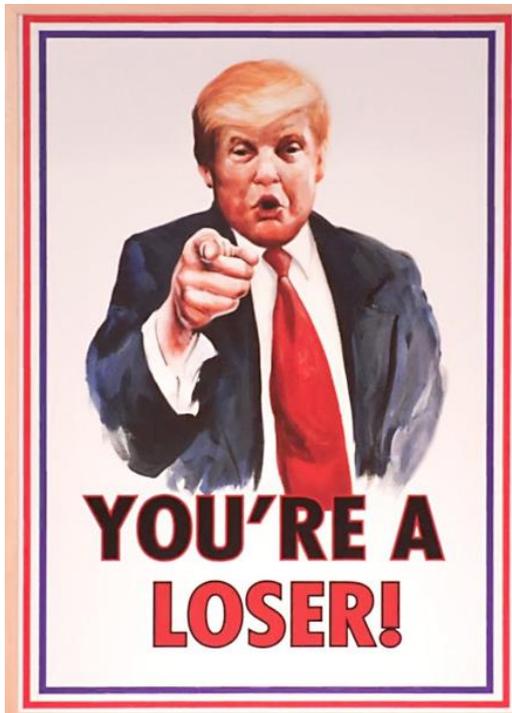
♦ 109

♣ AQ43

- Tom Furness and Ross Shine were the only declarers who made their contract of 4 Spades by discarding their Diamond at trick 2 on South's top Heart, so 2 'Brownie Points' for these 2 declarers.
- For once, not even 'Essex Defending' could let this contract through, if the declarer did not find the correct strategy at trick 2.
- Pat Watson also found the correct play at trick 2 of discarding her Diamond, but unfortunately, Pat was the only declarer not in the Spade game, but 1 'Brownie Point' for Pat for finding the correct play to make 11 tricks in her Spade part score.

## Loser on Loser (Avoidance Play)

- Let's look at another example of the 'Loser on Loser' play working in conjunction with the 'Avoidance Play'.
- The board in question is board 14 and **West** is under the spotlight.

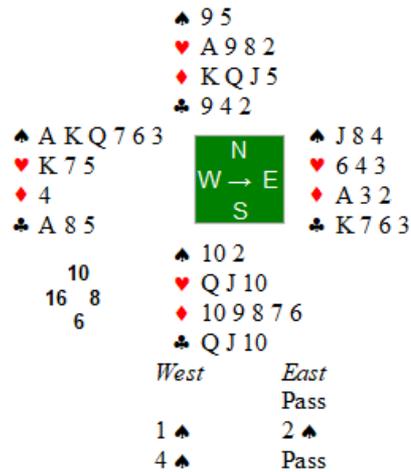


## Loser on Loser (Avoidance Play)

### Board 14

East Deals

None Vul



North leads ♦ King.

Step 1: We will designate West as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 3 Heart losers and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

We can lead a Heart towards our ♥ King and 'Hope' that South holds the ♥ Ace.  
We can set up dummy's 4th Club, which will provide us with a discard.

Step 4: Trumps are not an issue.

Observations:

At first glance, it appears that our only hope is to play towards our ♥ King.  
The only other hope is that Clubs are 3-3 and we can set up our 4th Club in dummy and by some 'Miracle', South does not get on lead to lead a Heart through us.  
Maybe there is another way to set up the Club suit ensuring that South does not get on lead?

Conclusion:

On the opening lead of the ♦ King lead, we play dummy's ♦ 2, which is a 'Loser' and we play our ♦ 4, which is a 'Loser'.  
When we get the lead, we will draw 2 rounds of trumps.  
We now cash our ♣ Ace and ♣ King.  
We now play dummy's ♦ Ace, discarding our ♣ 8.  
We can now ruff high dummy's 3rd Club.  
We can get back to dummy with our ♠ Jack to cash dummy's 4th Club, discarding our losing ♥.



## Loser on Loser (Board 14)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♠ -1 W	♦K	50	+5.38 -5.38
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠ -1 W	♠5	50	+5.38 -5.38
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♠ -1 W	♠9	50	+5.38 -5.38
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♠ -1 W	♦K	50	+5.38 -5.38
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♠ -1 W	♦K	50	+5.38 -5.38
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♠ -1 W	♦K	50	+5.38 -5.38
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♠ -1 W	♠5	50	+5.38 -5.38
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Ian Moss & anncraig	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♠ = W	♦K	420	-5.38 +5.38

Board 14  
Dealer E  
None Vul

♠ 95  
♥ A982  
♦ KQJ5  
♣ 942

♠ AKQ763  
♥ K75  
♦ 4  
♣ A85

♠ J84  
♥ 643  
♦ A32  
♣ K763

♠ 102  
♥ QJ10  
♦ 109876  
♣ QJ10

- Henry Rose and Graham Randall probably deserve 3 'Brownie Points' for ducking trick 1 and making their contract with perfect card play, but we are running low in 'Brownie Points', so 2 'Brownie Points' for these 2 declarers.
- 3 declarers received a Spade lead.
- On a Spade lead, as the cards lie, there are plenty of opportunities for declarer to realise that North will be forced to win a Diamond duck and hence they should be able to discard a small Club on a small Diamond and execute the same strategy.
- I would certainly have awarded 3 'Brownie Points' for that play.

## Loser on Loser (Avoid Being Overruffed)

- As mentioned previously, there are several reasons why a declarer would want to make a 'Loser on Loser' play.
- We have already seen two reasons.
- Namely:
  1. To discard a loser and at the same time establish a winner for later usage.
  2. To prevent the 'Danger Hand' from obtaining the lead.

Let's look at another reason.

- This is where declarer is trying to establish a side suit.
- A good way to establish a side suit, in a suit contract, is to ruff, however, there is always the worry that we might be overruffed.
- Using the 'Loser on Loser' play, we need not worry any more.
- The board in question is board 11 and South is under the spotlight.

## Loser on Loser (Avoiding the Overruff)

**Board 11**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

♠ K 8 5	♠ Q 10	♠ J 9 7 6 4 2														
♥ 6 5	♥ Q 3 2	♥ 8 7 4														
♦ K Q J 5	♦ A 8 7 6 3 2	♦ 10 9														
♣ Q 10 9 7	♣ K 4	♣ 6 3														
	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W ↓ E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W ↓ E	S												
N																
W ↓ E																
S																
	♠ A 3															
	♥ A K J 10 9															
	♦ 4															
	♣ A J 8 5 2															
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;"><i>North</i></td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;"><i>South</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2 ♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">3 ♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3 ♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">4 ♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4 NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">5 ♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5 ♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">6 ♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">6 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	2 ♦	1 ♥	3 ♥	3 ♣	4 ♦	4 NT	5 ♣	5 ♦	6 ♣	6 ♥	Pass		
<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>															
2 ♦	1 ♥															
3 ♥	3 ♣															
4 ♦	4 NT															
5 ♣	5 ♦															
6 ♣	6 ♥															
Pass																

West leads ♦ King.

Step 1: We will designate South as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Spade loser and 3 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 3).

We can set up dummy's Diamond suit to create 3 discards.  
 We can ruff some of our Club losers in dummy.

Step 4: We require dummy's trumps to ruff our Club losers, so we must not draw any.

Observations:

To set up dummy's Diamond suit, not only must trumps break 3-2, but Diamonds must break 3-3 and ominously East has played the ♦ 10 at trick 1.

Mind you, setting up the Club suit is not going to be a 'Walk in the Park' as there is a big danger that we could be overruffed by East.

If Clubs are splitting 3-3, we will not have a problem, but what happens when they are 4-2?

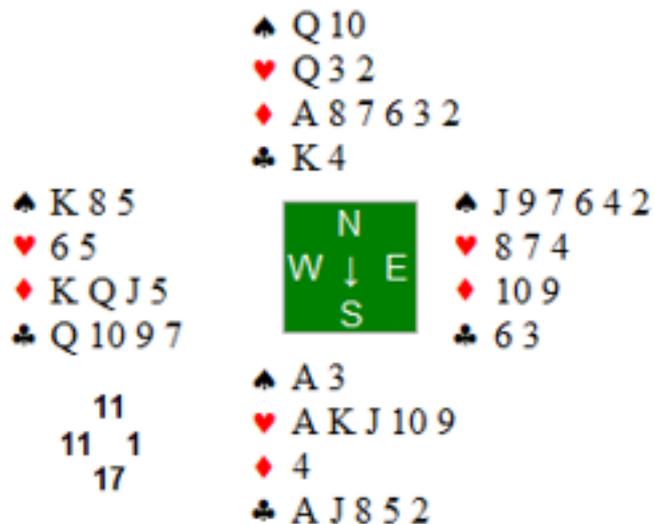
Conclusion:

Win the opening lead with the ♦ Ace.  
 Play the ♣ King followed by the ♣ Ace.  
 Ruff a Club with dummy's ♥ Queen.  
 Come to hand with the ♠ Ace.

Now play the 4th round of Clubs, which is a 'Loser' and Discard the ♠ Queen, which is a 'Loser'.  
 Our Clubs are now all set up and all we need to do now is ruff our ♠ 3.

Loser on Loser  
(Avoiding the Overruff)  
(Board 11)

Contract: 6 ♥ by South  
 Lead: ♦ King



- This is a very common situation that declarer will find themselves in.
- Instead of ruffing a loser to establish a side suit, declarer should discard a loser to establish the side suit, so there is no danger of being overruffed.

# Loser on Loser (Board 11)

<b>Board 11</b>	♠ Q10
<b>Dealer S</b>	♥ Q32
<b>None Vul</b>	♦ A87632
	♣ K4
	♠ K85
	♥ 65
	♦ KQJ5
	♣ Q1097
	♠ A3
	♥ AKJ109
	♦ 4
	♣ AJ852
	♠ J97642
	♥ 874
	♦ 109
	♣ 63

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥+2 S	♠5	480	+2.15 -2.15
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+1.15 -1.15
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+1.15 -1.15
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+1.15 -1.15
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥+1 S	♥6	450	+1.15 -1.15
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+1.15 -1.15
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+1.15 -1.15
Ian Moss & anncraig	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+1.15 -1.15
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥= S	♦K	420	+0.15 -0.15
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥= S	♦K	420	+0.15 -0.15
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥= S	♦K	420	+0.15 -0.15
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥= S	♥5	420	+0.15 -0.15
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥= S	♦K	420	+0.15 -0.15
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	6♥-2 S	♥6	100	-11.00 +11.00

- Apologies from me on this board, in that I completely mis-judged what the final auction would be. I expected that after the auction,
- 1H – 2D
- 3C            Which is Game Forcing, I expected North would bid an encouraging 3 Hearts, but no one shared my opinion, and all the Norths signed off in 4 Hearts.
- The irony is that the one declarer who did find themselves in what is a ‘Cold’ 6 Heart contract on the ‘Obvious’ Diamond King lead, came across a defender who managed to find the amazing, ‘Double Dummy’ lead of a small trump, which is the only lead to take 6 Hearts off, on any declarer play, so for that reason I will award Vernon Gaskell 0.5 of a ‘Brownie Point’ for finding the 6 of Hearts lead against the 6 Hearts contract.
- Meanwhile, it is worth studying this strategy as it turns up quite often at the card table.<sup>84</sup>

## Unblocking a Blockage

- It is time for another pattern:



- Question: If the Diamond suit does *not* break 4-0, how many Diamond tricks do we have?
- Answer: It depends.
- If the Diamond suit splits 2-2, we have 5 tricks.
- If the Diamond suit splits 3-1, we require an outside entry to the North hand to get to our 5<sup>th</sup> Diamond.
- The next board, board 5, has a blockage and there is *no* outside entry.
- Will **East** have the skills of a 'Plumber' and be able to find a way to unblock the Diamonds?

## Blockage Identified At Trick 1

**Board 5**  
North Deals  
N-S Vul

	♠ 10 9 7 4		
	♥ 6 5 2		
	♦ 10		
	♣ 10 7 6 5 4		
♠ 8 6 3	♠ K J 2		
♥ Q J 9	♥ A K 10 8 7		
♦ A K 5 3 2	♦ Q 9 7 6		
♣ Q 9	♣ J		
	♠ A Q 5		
	♥ 4 3		
	♦ J 8 4		
	♣ A K 8 3 2		
0			
12 14			
14			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	2 ♣
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

South leads ♣ King.

Step 1: We will designate East as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 3 Spade losers and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We must reduce our 'Master Hand' losers by 1).

We can discard one Spade loser on dummy's long Diamond suit.

We can play a Spade towards our ♠ Jack and 'Hope' that North holds the ♠ Queen.

We can play a Spade towards our ♠ King and 'Hope' that North holds the ♠ Ace.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations:

Surely this hand looks too easy?

Do we not have 10 tricks in the red suits?

On further inspection of the Diamond suit, if the Diamond suit breaks 3-1, there appears to be a problem in trying to cash 5 Diamond tricks.

There appears to be a blockage.

Do we have to call a 'Plumber' or is there some other way of unblocking those Diamonds?

Conclusion:

After South cashes the ♣ King at trick 1, they will try to cash the ♣ Ace at trick 2.

All we must do is discard our ♦ 6 at trick 2.

The Diamonds are now unblocked.

Time to cancel the plumber.

## Blockage (Board 5)

Contract: 4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♣ King

♠ 8 6 3	♠ 10 9 7 4	♠ K J 2									
♥ Q J 9	♥ 6 5 2	♥ A K 10 8 7									
♦ A K 5 3 2	♦ 10	♦ Q 9 7 6									
♣ Q 9	♣ 10 7 6 5 4	♣ J									
	<table border="1" style="background-color: green; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>↑</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	↑	E		S		
	N										
W	↑	E									
	S										
	♠ A Q 5										
	♥ 4 3										
	♦ J 8 4										
	♣ A K 8 3 2										
0											
12 14											
14											

- Note that if South had not continued with a second round of Clubs, we could have executed the play ourselves.
- e.g. If South continues with a Heart, we will play the Queen of Clubs and discard the six of Diamonds.

# Blockage (Board 5)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥-1 E	♣K	50	+5.38 -5.38
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	George Vede & Maureen Vede	5♦-1 W	♠10	50	+5.38 -5.38
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥-1 E	♣A	50	+5.38 -5.38
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥-1 E	♣K	50	+5.38 -5.38
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	5♥-1 E	♣A	50	+5.38 -5.38
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥-1 E	♣A	50	+5.38 -5.38
Ian Moss & anncraig	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥-1 E	♣A	50	+5.38 -5.38
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥= E	♣A	420	-5.38 +5.38
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥= E	♣A	420	-5.38 +5.38
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥= E	♣K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥= E	♣A	420	-5.38 +5.38
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥= E	♣K	420	-5.38 +5.38
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥= E	♣A	420	-5.38 +5.38
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥= E	♣A	420	-5.38 +5.38

Board 5  
Dealer N  
NS Vul

♠ 10974  
♥ 652  
♦ 10  
♣ 107654

♠ 863  
♥ QJ9  
♦ AK532  
♣ Q9

♠ KJ2  
♥ AK1087  
♦ Q976  
♣ J

♠ AQ5  
♥ 43  
♦ J84  
♣ AK832

- Tom Furness, was a real ‘Superhero’ on this board as he was the only declarer to discard his Diamond at trick 2 on South’s top Club. He deserves much more than the +5.38 Imps he scored on the board. His score was diluted as so many defenders having won with their Spade at the end, decided to cash their other top Spade. 2 ‘Brownie Points’ for Tom.
- Just as declarer rather belatedly discovered the blockage in the Diamond suit, South should also be aware that declarer is in trouble with that suit, so there is no reason to panic and cash the top Spade. Defenders only cash their tricks, if they fear that they might run away. Playing a passive Club back is the correct defence.
- Bernie Hunt, Patrick Murray, Maks Blicharz and Ann Craig defended correctly and are awarded 0.5 of a ‘Brownie Point’ for not ‘Panicking’.

## Unblocking a Blockage

- We have another blockage on board 19.
- It is time for **South** to show off their plumbing skills to deal with this blockage.



**Board 19**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

**Blockage**

<p>♠ A 4 3          ♥ 8 7 6 2          ♦ K Q J 10          ♣ 7 3</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">             N              W ↓ E              S           </div>	<p>♠ Q 9 7 2          ♥ 5 4 3          ♦ 8 7 4          ♣ A K Q</p> <p>♠ 10 8 6 5          ♥ 10          ♦ A 9 6 5 2          ♣ 6 5 2</p>
<p>11          10 4          15</p>	<p>♠ K J          ♥ A K Q J 9          ♦ 3          ♣ J 10 9 8 4</p>	
	<p><i>North</i>      <i>South</i></p>	
		<p>1 ♥          2 ♣          3 ♥          4 ♥</p>
	<p>Pass</p>	

West leads ♦ King.

Step 1: We will designate South as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Spade loser and 1 Diamond loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We do not require to reduce our 'Master Hand' losers).

Step 4: Trumps are not an issue.

Observations:

Our 'Master Plan Ritual' is telling us that we have only 2 losers.  
 The slight problem is that after having ruffed a Diamond at trick 2 and trumps are 4-1, how can we get back to our hand to run all our Club tricks?

Conclusion:

Ruff the second round of Diamonds with our ♥ 9.  
 Play a couple of rounds of trumps.  
 Play a couple of rounds of Clubs.  
 Play to our ♥ Ace.  
 Cash all of our trumps, discarding dummy's ♣ Queen.

# Blockage (Board 19)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	4♥+1 S	♣7	450	+2.85 -2.85
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥+1 S	♦K	450	+2.85 -2.85
Ian Moss & anncraig	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥+1 S	♣7	450	+2.85 -2.85
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥= S	♦J	420	+1.77 -1.77
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥= S	♦K	420	+1.77 -1.77
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Jayne Randall & graham randall	3♥+1 S	♦K	170	-4.38 +4.38
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥-1 S	♦K	50	-9.15 +9.15
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥-1 S	♦K	50	-9.15 +9.15

Board 19  
Dealer S  
EW Vul

♠ A43 ♥ 8762 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ 73	♠ Q972 ♥ 543 ♦ 874 ♣ AKQ	♠ 10865 ♥ 10 ♦ A9652 ♣ 652
♠ KJ ♥ AKQJ9 ♦ 3 ♣ J10984		

- I remember amending this hand at the last moment and as a result, it appears I have made it more difficult to go off than to make as the Club blockage is not as bad as it seems. I think South's Jack of Spades should have been a small Spade.
- Anyway, 2 'Brownie Points' to all the declarers who made it, without ever jeopardising their contract.
- This includes, Paul Stevens, Christopher Martin, Ann Craig, Sarah Street, Peter Scotting, Patrick Murray, Jane Huxter, Annie Davies, Maks Blicharz and John McCoy,
- One point for Albert Kitchen for making 10 tricks in his 3 Heart contract.

## Listen to the Bidding

- We have heard that phrase so many times at the bridge table.
- Let's see if **North** was listening to the bidding on board 10.



## Listen To The Bidding

**Board 10**  
East Deals  
Both Vul

♠ —	♠ 8 6		
♥ 10 9	♥ A K J 7 3 2		
♦ K 10 7 6 3 2	♦ A J		
♣ Q J 5 4 3	♣ A K 8		
	♠ K Q J 10 9 5		
	♥ 6 4		
	♦ Q 9 4		
	♣ 10 9		
	♠ A 7 4 3 2		
	♥ Q 8 5		
	♦ 8 5		
	♣ 7 6 2		
20			
6 8			
6			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4 ♥	2 ♠	Pass
		All pass	

East leads ♠ King.

Step 1: We will designate North as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Spade loser, 1 Diamond loser and 1 Club loser.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We are not required to reduce our 'Master Hand' losers).

We cannot get rid of any of our losers; But we do not need to.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations:

According to our 'Master Plan Ritual', we have only 3 losers.

Let's see how many winners we have.

We have 10 winners.

But sometimes winners can disappear in a 'Flash'.

Conclusion:

East has opened the bidding with a vulnerable weak 2 bid.

This almost certainly means that West is void in Spades.

If we play our ♠ Ace at trick 1, it will be ruffed.

We must play small on the first 3 rounds of Spades.

We can only play our ♠ Ace once we have drawn all the trumps.

# Listen to the Bidding (Board 10)

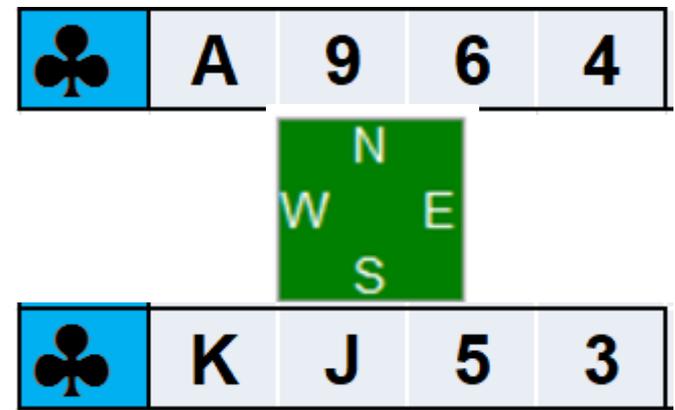
NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	3♠X-4 E	♥Q	1100	+13.00 -13.00
Linda Fleet & Paul Stevens	ross shine & Tony Verran	4♥= S	♥10	620	+6.31 -6.31
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥= S	♣Q	620	+6.31 -6.31
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	4♥= N	♠K	620	+6.31 -6.31
Ian Moss & anncraig	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♥= N	♠K	620	+6.31 -6.31
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	2♠X-2 E	♦8	500	+4.54 -4.54
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	2♠X-1 E	♦8	200	-1.46 +1.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	3♥+1 N	♠K	170	-2.08 +2.08
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	3♥= N	♠K	140	-2.69 +2.69
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	4♥-1 N	♠K	100	-7.31 +7.31
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	4♥-1 N	♠K	100	-7.31 +7.31
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Jayne Randall & graham randall	4♥-1 N	♠K	100	-7.31 +7.31
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Jon Ward & Tony French	4♥-1 N	♠K	100	-7.31 +7.31
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	4♥-1 N	♠K	100	-7.31 +7.31

Board 10  
Dealer E  
All Vul

♠ -	♠ 86	♠ KQJ1095
♥ 109	♥ AKJ732	♥ 64
♦ K107632	♦ AJ	♦ Q94
♣ QJ543	♣ AK8	♣ 109
	♠ A7432	
	♥ Q85	
	♦ 85	
	♣ 762	

- There were only 2 declarers who ducked the opening Spade lead, when they were in their 4 Heart contract, so 2 'Brownie Points' are awarded to Brian Davies and Ian Moss.
- 1 'Brownie Point' to Brian Sharkey who made the same correct play in his 3 Heart contract.

## Safety Play



- New Question: How do we play this holding?
- The same correct answer is: It Depends.
- If we *can* afford to lose a trick, then there is a 100% method to ensure that we make at least 3 tricks from this side-suit.
- We first play the King of Clubs and then we lead the 3 of Clubs.
- If West shows out, we are ok, because we would play the Ace and lead towards our Jack.
- If West plays low, we play the 9, which guarantees us 3 tricks.
- If West plays the 10, we play the Ace and force out the Queen to again make 3 tricks.
- If we *cannot* afford to lose a trick, most people would lay down the Ace as they do not want to lose to a singleton Queen in the West hand, but that is wrong.
- If West does hold the singleton Queen of Clubs, we cannot make 4 tricks whatever we do.
- However, if East holds the singleton Queen of Clubs, then we must *not* lay down the Ace, because we will now lose a trick to West's 10 x x x.
- So, the correct play is an immediate finesse by playing a Club to the Jack.
- If East plays the Queen of Clubs, we win it with our King, lay down our Jack and play a Club to the 9.

## Safety Play

- The next two hands that we are going to look at are identical as far as declarer's hand and dummy's hand are concerned.
- On board 13, it will be East-West who will be trying to bid to a 'Cold' 6 Spade contract.
- Then on board 22, holding the identical hands, it will be the turn of North-South to bid to a 'Cold' 6 Spade contract.
- Who will be the better bidders out of North-South and East-West?
- Having arrived at their 6 Spade contract, the spotlight will then turn to **East** and **North**, whose job it will be to play the contract and overcome their own 'Puzzle' on how to play that Club suit.



**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

**Safety Play**

♠ 6 5	♠ A Q 4 2	♠ 10 9 8			
♥ K 10 7 6 4 3 2	♥ A Q	♥ J 8			
♦ 5 4 3	♦ K Q 6	♦ 10 9 8 7			
♣ 8	♣ K J 5 3	♣ Q 10 7 2			
<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; font-size: 24px; line-height: 1;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W ↑ E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>			N	W ↑ E	S
N					
W ↑ E					
S					
21	♠ K J 7 3				
3 3	♥ 9 5				
13	♦ A J 2				
	♣ A 9 6 4				
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>			
	2 NT	3 ♣			
	3 ♠	6 ♠			
	Pass				

East leads ♦ 10.

Step 1: We will designate North as the 'Master Hand', but it doesn't matter as both declarer and dummy have the same distribution.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Heart loser and 2 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We need to get rid of 2 of our losers).

We can play a Heart towards our ♥ Queen and 'Hope' that West holds the ♥ King.  
 We can play a Club towards our ♣ J and 'Hope' that West holds the ♣ Queen.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations:

We recognise the Club layout.  
 Should we play the safety play in Clubs or not?

Conclusion:

We draw trumps.  
 We play a Heart towards our ♥ Queen.  
 When it holds, we know that we can afford the 'Safety Play' in the Club suit.  
 We can afford to lose 1 Club trick, so we play a Club to the King and then a Club towards our 9.  
 If East plays low, we insert the ♣ 9.

## Safety Play (Board 13)

Contract: 6 ♠ by North  
Lead: ♦ 10

♠ 6 5 ♥ K 10 7 6 4 3 2 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ 8	N W ↑ E S	♠ 10 9 8 ♥ J 8 ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q 10 7 2	♠ A Q 4 2 ♥ A Q ♦ K Q 6 ♣ K J 5 3
21 3 3 13		♠ K J 7 3 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A J 2 ♣ A 9 6 4	

- The key to this hand is that declarer, having drawn trumps, must play the finesse in the Heart suit *before* tackling the Club suit.
- Once declarer knows that there is no Heart loser, they *can* afford to make the ‘Safety Play’ in Clubs, which will guarantee the 3 tricks that they require.
- The ‘Safety Play’ being to lay down the King of Clubs and leading towards the 9 of Clubs.
- We will always make 3 Club tricks, playing the Clubs in this fashion.

# Safety Play (Board 13)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	6♠ = S	♣8	1430	+12.08 -12.08
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Jayne Randall & graham randall	6♠ = N	♥J	1430	+12.08 -12.08
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6♠ = N	♠10	1430	+12.08 -12.08
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♠ = N	♦10	1430	+12.08 -12.08
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	George Vede & Maureen Vede	3NT+3 N	♦10	690	+3.46 -3.46
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	4♠+1 N	♥J	650	+2.92 -2.92
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♠+1 N	♠9	650	+2.92 -2.92
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	6NT-1 N	♠10	100	-8.23 +8.23
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♠-1 N	♦10	100	-8.23 +8.23
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	6♠-1 N	♦10	100	-8.23 +8.23
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	6♠-1 N	♦10	100	-8.23 +8.23
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Jon Ward & Tony French	6NT-1 N	♠10	100	-8.23 +8.23
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	6♠-1 N	♦10	100	-8.23 +8.23
Ian Moss & anncraig	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	6♠-1 N	♠10	100	-8.23 +8.23

Board 13  
Dealer N  
All Vul

♠ 65 ♥ K1076432 ♦ 543 ♣ 8	♠ AQ42 ♥ AQ ♦ KQ6 ♣ KJ53	♠ 1098 ♥ J8 ♦ 10987 ♣ Q1072
♠ KJ73 ♥ 95 ♦ AJ2 ♣ A964		

- Several people were in 6NT, which is fine, as this technique would be just as applicable in a No-Trump contract as a suit. (In fact, it is better, as trumps could be 5-0).
- Only Barry Capal made the contract the same way as was advised, so 2 ‘Brownie Points’ to Barry.
- One declarer took the ‘Safety Play’ in Clubs *before* testing the Heart suit, so I cannot really award any ‘Brownie Points’ there.
- Mike Harbour came up with his own idea, which has earned him 2 ‘Brownie Points’.
- The idea that having, eliminated the Diamonds and taken the Heart finesse, he cashed his Ace of Hearts, played a Club to dummy’s Ace and a Club to the Jack, which utilises the fact that he is in a suit contract and East is endplayed.

## Safety Play

- It is now the turn of **North**, who will have a go at tackling the Club suit.
- They will have their own 'Puzzle' to solve on board 22, as the defenders' hands have been modified.

**SOLVE THIS GENIUS PUZZLE**

$\text{Blue Cup} + \text{Blue Cup} + \text{Blue Cup} = 24$

$\text{Yellow Cup} + \text{Blue Cup} + \text{Red Cup} = 38$

$\text{Yellow Cup} - \text{Red Cup} = 10$

$\text{Yellow Cup} + \text{Red Cup} \times \text{Blue Cup} = ?$

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The answer is the percentage chance of declarer making the next contract.

**Board 22**  
 East Deals  
 E-W Vul

**Safety Play**

♠ K J 7 3 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A J 2 ♣ A 9 6 4	♠ 6 5 ♥ 10 8 7 6 4 3 2 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ Q	♠ A Q 4 2 ♥ A Q ♦ K Q 6 ♣ K J 5 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px;">             N              W → E              S           </div> ♠ 10 9 8 ♥ K J ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ 10 8 7 2
--	---	--	--

2  
 13 21  
 4

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
3 ♣	2 NT
6 ♠	3 ♠
	Pass

South leads ♦ 10.

Step 1: We will designate East as the 'Master Hand', but it doesn't matter as both declarer and dummy have the same distribution.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 1 Heart loser and 2 Club losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We need to get rid of 2 of our losers).

We can play a Heart towards our ♥ Queen and 'Hope' that North holds the ♥ King.  
 We can play a Club towards our ♣ J and 'Hope' that North holds the ♣ Queen.

Step 4: We will not be using our trumps to eliminate any of our losers, so trumps should be drawn immediately.

Observations:

We recognise the Club layout.  
 Should we play the safety play in Clubs or not?

Conclusion:

We draw trumps.  
 We play a Heart towards our ♥ Queen.  
 When it loses, we know that we are required to make all 4 Club tricks.  
 We lead a Club towards our ♣ Jack and when the Queen appears, we win the trick with our ♣ King.  
 We continue with out ♣ Jack and when North shows out, we can play a Club to dummy's ♣ 9 as we know that South holds the ♣ 10.

## Safety Play (Board 22)

Contract: 6 ♠ by East

Lead: ♦ 10

♠ K J 7 3 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A J 2 ♣ A 9 6 4	♠ 6 5 ♥ 10 8 7 6 4 3 2 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ Q	♠ A Q 4 2 ♥ A Q ♦ K Q 6 ♣ K J 5 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">                     N                      W → E                      S                 </div>
2 13 21 4	♠ 10 9 8 ♥ K J ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ 10 8 7 2		

- The key to this hand is that declarer, having drawn trumps, must play the finesse in the Heart suit *before* tackling the Club suit.
- Once declarer knows that there is a Heart loser, they *cannot* afford to make the 'Safety Play' in Clubs and must instead, play the Club suit in a way that maximises their chances of making all 4 Club tricks.
- The correct way to do that is to play a Club towards the Jack and when the singleton Queen appears in the North hand, they can win it with their Club King, cash their Club Jack and take the marked finesse to the 9 of Clubs.

# Safety Play (Board 22)

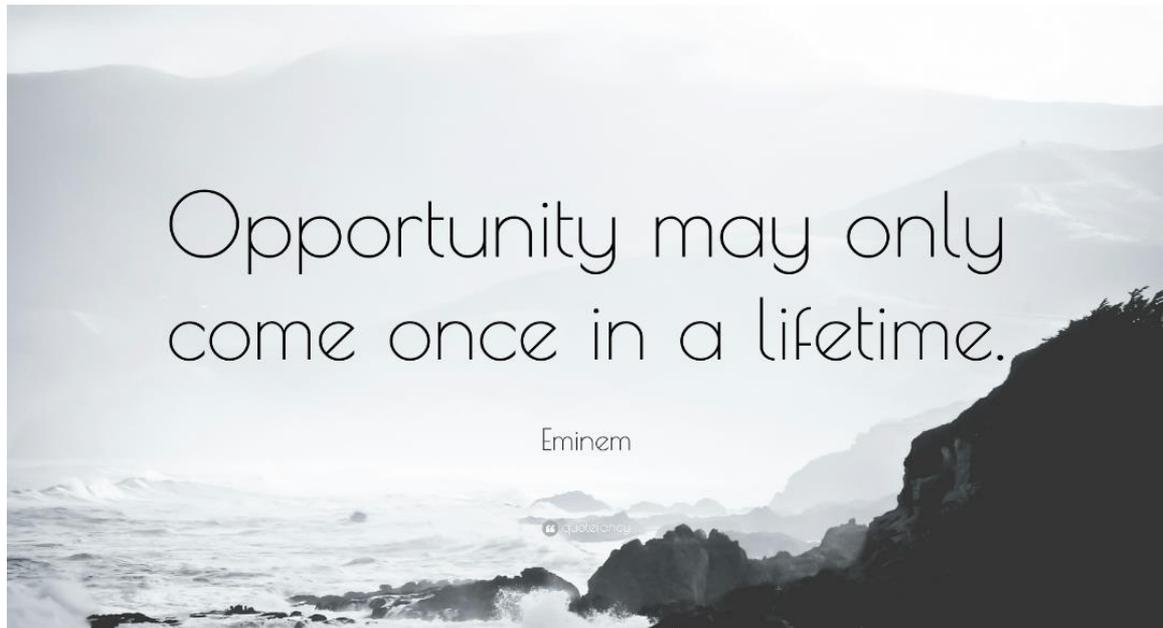
NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	6♠-1 E	♦10	100	+11.46 -11.46
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	6NT-1 E	♦10	100	+11.46 -11.46
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♠-1 E	♦10	100	+11.46 -11.46
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	6♠-1 E	♦10	100	+11.46 -11.46
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Jayne Randall & graham randall	6♠-1 E	♦10	100	+11.46 -11.46
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	3NT+2 E	♦10	660	+3.00 -3.00
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♠= E	♠10	1430	-7.46 +7.46
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	6♠= E	♦10	1430	-7.46 +7.46
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	6♠= E	♦10	1430	-7.46 +7.46
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	6♠= E	♥K	1430	-7.46 +7.46
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	George Vede & Maureen Vede	6♠= E	♦10	1430	-7.46 +7.46
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Jon Ward & Tony French	6NT= E	♠10	1440	-7.46 +7.46
Ian Moss & anncraig	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	6NT= E	♦10	1440	-7.46 +7.46
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	6♠+1 E	♥K	1460	-8.08 +8.08

Board 22	♠ 65	
Dealer E	♥ 10876432	
EW Vul	♦ 543	
	♣ Q	
	♠ KJ73	♠ AQ42
	♥ 95	♥ AQ
	♦ AJ2	♦ KQ6
	♣ A964	♣ KJ53
	♠ 1098	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ 10987	
	♣ 10872	

- Again, we saw several No-Trump contracts that require the same technique as the Spade contract.
- The two key plays on this hand are to initially take the Heart finesse and then to take the Club finesse without first cashing the Ace of Clubs.
- No one appears to have done both.
- Two declarers, namely Harriet Cork and Peter Oake were told where the King of Hearts was, as it was led and they both subsequently negotiated the Club suit, so 2 ‘Brownie Points’ for these 2 declarers, but nothing for anyone else.
- One declarer tried to play the hand like the strategy used on board 6, which is where we throw a defender in, so they must give us a ‘Ruff & Discard’.
- The ‘Ruff & Discard’ is not necessarily much of a help when we have a 4-card suit opposite a 4-card suit.

## Once in a Lifetime

- We come to the last hand, which is board 17.
- Let's hope that **North** did not 'Mess this Up', because this type of hand only occurs 'Once in a Lifetime' and this was North's 'Once in a Lifetime' opportunity to show how imaginative they are.



## Once In A Lifetime

**Board 17**  
North Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 4 3		♠ J 9			
♥ A K Q J 10 9 5 4		♥ 8 3			
♦ —		♦ J 9 7 6			
♣ A K		♣ Q J 10 9 2			
♠ K 10 8 7	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W ↑ E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W ↑ E	S	♠ Q 6 5 2
N					
W ↑ E					
S					
♥ 2		♥ 7 6			
♦ Q 10 8 5 3		♦ A K 4 2			
♣ 8 7 6		♣ 5 4 3			
21					
5 5					
9					
<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>			
2 ♣		2 ♦			
3 ♥		4 ♦			
4 NT		5 ♣			
5 NT		6 ♦			
6 ♥		Pass			

East leads ♣ Queen.

Step 1: We will designate North as the 'Master Hand' as it has the more trumps.

Step 2: The 'Master Hand' potentially has 2 Spade losers.

Step 3: Strategies available: (We need to get rid of 1 of our losers).

We can play a Spade towards our ♠ Queen and 'Hope' that East holds the ♠ King.

Step 4: Trumps are not an issue.

Observations:

We have 2 winning Diamonds in dummy, which we could use to discard our 2 losing Spades. If only we could get to them?

Conclusion:

Win the opening lead with the ♣ Ace.

Lead our ♥ 4.

If East wins that with their ♥ 8, our ♥ 7 is now an entry to dummy's ♦ Ace and ♦ King.

We draw the last trump by leading our ♥ 5 to dummy's ♥ 7.

We can now cash the ♦ Ace and ♦ King, discarding our 2 losing Spades.

# Once in a Lifetime (Board 17)

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score	IMP
pascaline Mower & christopher martin	ross shine & Tony Verran	6♥+1 N	♣Q	1010	+11.31 -11.31
Thomas Bradkin & Maks Blicharz	Tom Furness & Henry Rose	6♥+1 N	♣Q	1010	+11.31 -11.31
Ian Moss & anncraig	Gemma Fewster & Steve Abbott	6♥= N	♠J	980	+10.92 -10.92
Jim Kenneally & jane huxter	Pat Watson & Bernard Kaye	4♥+3 N	♣Q	510	+4.62 -4.62
Linda Fleet & paul stevens	Janet Caink & Nicola Headland	4♥+2 N	♣Q	480	+4.23 -4.23
Barry Capal & Hazel Capal	George Vede & Maureen Vede	4♥+1 N	♣Q	450	+4.00 -4.00
Paul Mollison & Bernie Hunt	Audrey Hartley & David Embleton	7♥-1 N	♣Q	50	-5.62 +5.62
Pat Johnson & Peter Scotting	Harriet Cork & Aleks Birdsall	6♥-1 N	♣Q	50	-5.62 +5.62
Chris Chorley & Patrick Murray	Russell Garnett Bingham & Vernon Gaskell	6♥-1 N	♣Q	50	-5.62 +5.62
Brian Davies & Annie Davies	Peter Oake & Colin Scott	6♥-1 S	♣7	50	-5.62 +5.62
Brian Sharkey & Peter Richardson	Jayne Randall & graham randall	6♥-1 N	♣Q	50	-5.62 +5.62
Mike Harbour & Albert Kitchin	Alan Bryant & Geoff Webber	7NT-1 N	♣Q	50	-5.62 +5.62
Marcia Levan-Harris & John McCoy	Jon Ward & Tony French	6♥-1 N	♣Q	50	-5.62 +5.62
Mary Dowson & Sarah Street	Colin Peden & Valdie Poter	7♥-2 N	♥3	100	-7.08 +7.08

Board 17	Dealer N	None Vul
♠ A43	♥ AKQJ10954	♦ -
♣ AK	♠ K1087	♠ J9
	♥ 2	♥ 83
	♦ Q10853	♦ J976
	♣ 876	♣ QJ1092
	♠ Q652	
	♥ 76	
	♦ AK42	
	♣ 543	

- Thomas Bradkin was the only declarer to make the most of his 'Once in a Lifetime' opportunity to make his 6 Heart contract by playing a trump towards dummy at trick 2, so 2 'Brownie Points' for Thomas.
- There were some 'Bad Luck' stories for some of the players.
- You must feel for poor old Gemma Fewster, who was the only defender to find the lead of the Jack of Spades, which is the only legitimate lead to defeat the 6 Heart contract. Unfortunately, she then had to watch her partner throw all their Spades, so declarer made the last trick with their 4 of Spades. 0.25 'Brownie Points' to Gemma for finding that lead.
- I think 7 Hearts has a better chance than 6 Hearts?
- Surely people read textbooks and always lead a trump against a grand?

# Brownie Badge Awards

Merit Badges are awarded to Henry Rose and Tom Furness

Henry Rose	10.00
Tom Furness	6.00
Brian Davies	5.00
Maks Blicharz	5.00
Patrick Murray	4.50
Thomas Bradkin	4.00
Ian Moss	4.00
Paul Mollison	4.00
Christopher Martin	4.00
Peter Scotting	4.00
Ross Shine	4.00
Peter Oake	4.00
Tony Verran	4.00
Steve Abbott	4.00
Mike Harbour	3.50
Vernon Gaskell	3.50
Brian Sharkey	3.00
Paul Stevens	3.00
Bernie Hunt	3.00
Graham Randall	3.00

Ann Craig	2.50
Peter Richardson	2.50
Barry Capal	2.00
Chris Chorley	2.00
Jane Huxter	2.00
Annie Davies	2.00
John McCoy	2.00
Sarah Street	2.00
Audrey Hartley	2.00
Harriet Cork	2.00
Alan Bryant	2.00
Colin Peden	2.00
David Embleton	2.00
Jim Kenneally	1.00
Pat Johnson	1.00
Albert Kitchin	1.00
Pat Watson	1.00
Geoff Webber	1.00
Gemma Fewster	0.25