

♣ ♦ THE DUMMY ♥ ♠

Quarterly Publication of the Delaware State Bridge Association ----- August 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

UNIT 190 ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday September 16

BBO BRIDGE STUDIO GAMES

Special Limited Games

12:30 **Monday Afternoon**
(0-1500)

09:30 **Tuesday Morning**
(0-300)

12:30 **Thursday Afternoon**
(0-1000)

9:00 **Friday Morning**
(0-750)

06:00 **Sunday Night**
(0-500)

Open Games

07:00 **Monday Night**

12:30 **Tuesday Afternoon**

12:30 **Wed. Afternoon**

07:00 **Thursday Night**

12:30 **Friday Afternoon**

12:30 **Saturday Afternoon**

DSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There is no doubt that these last few months have been trying times for everyone – and certainly included among them are the bridge players, bridge clubs, units, districts and the ACBL itself. I'm not an expert prognosticator, in fact I'm not even good at it, but I do believe the next few months will be even more challenging. When they moved virtually onto the internet, the initial outburst of support for ACBL clubs was strong, but it is slowly diminishing over time. Online bridge has its limitations and there's no clear sign that the majority of bridge players, almost all of whom are in a high-risk category of some kind, are going to feel comfortable returning to clubs, sectionals, or other tournaments in the near future.

Nonetheless, it is with near normalcy that the unit will hold an (online only) membership meeting this September and elect a new slate of officers to continue their mission - in as much as it has changed in these times. We need twenty unit 190 members to attend in order to establish a quorum, and all unit 190 members who are interested are certainly welcome. If you would like to attend, directions as to how to get an invitation will be posted on the unit 190 website approximately September 1st. To avoid holiday conflicts, and to satisfy the Unit Bylaw requirements, the meeting itself will probably be held Wednesday, September 16th. Please check the website for confirmation of the date.

Stay Safe, Stay Well and when you are bored... teach someone to play cards!



Harold Jordan, President DSBA

*I thought the dryer made
my clothes shrink. Turns out
it was the refrigerator.*

PROPOSED SLATE OF 2020-2022 BOARD MEMBERS

Plan to attend and Vote at the Virtual DSBA Annual Meeting on Wednesday September 16th, 2020. A link to this Zoom meeting will be posted on the DSBA website by September 1st.

This year of 2020 has been a challenging one for the ACBL, Unit 190, the bridge community and the world. The highly anticipated Diamond State regional was cancelled, face to face bridge has disappeared and on-line bridge has yet to prove a worthy replacement.

Most of the business of the DSBA board is the administration of sectionals, state games and other face to face bridge events that support bridge in Delaware. There remains business to conduct, however, and we want to be fully prepared to support duplicate bridge in the State when activity resumes.

Candidates nominated for a two-year term 2020-2022 are:

Harold Jordan

Ala Hamilton-Day

Soley Kristjansdottir

William Herdle

Mark Henderson

Debbie Schenkel

A seventh candidate is to be nominated "from the floor" at the meeting.

Mark Henderson

Vice President DSBA

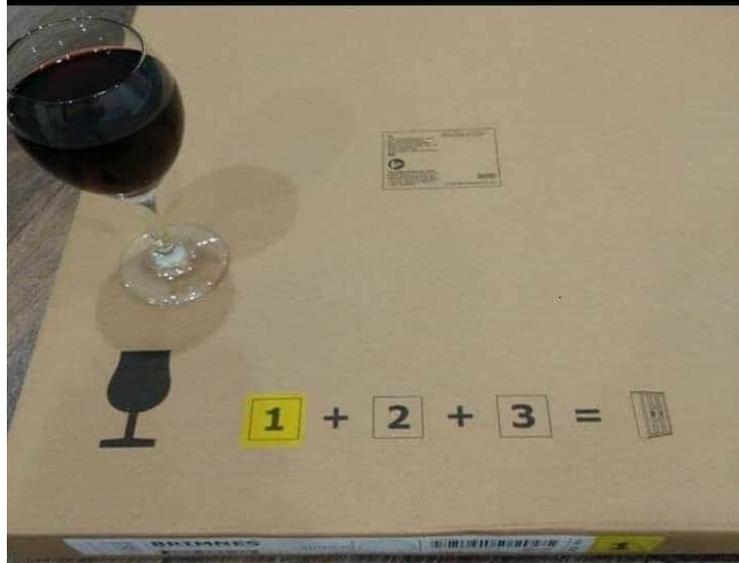
Sincerest thanks go to Teresa Spicer, who has completed her term, for her dedication and service to the members of Unit 190.

Live from Philadelphia



Fight breaks out between cardboard fans at Phils home opener. Fourteen cut outs arrested.

If I'm reading the instructions correctly, after 3 glasses of wine the bookshelf assembles itself.



I have not lost my mind . . . Half of it just wandered off, and the other half went looking for it.

ADVANCEMENT IN RANK

JUNIOR MASTER

Susan Keyser
Rohan Mandayam

CLUB MASTER

Pamela Dent
Neil Himelein
Susan Keyser
Beth Kinney
Charles F. Marginot

SECTIONAL MASTER

Elizabeth E. Bacon
Pamela Folz
Dorothea Lavigne
Susan D. Royce

REGIONAL MASTER

Ann H. Biehn
Deborah A. Flayhart

NABC MASTER

Joyce Cosby
Duke Lohr
Mark A. Nehra
Peg Wilson

ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Jonathan P. Baumel

LIFE MASTER

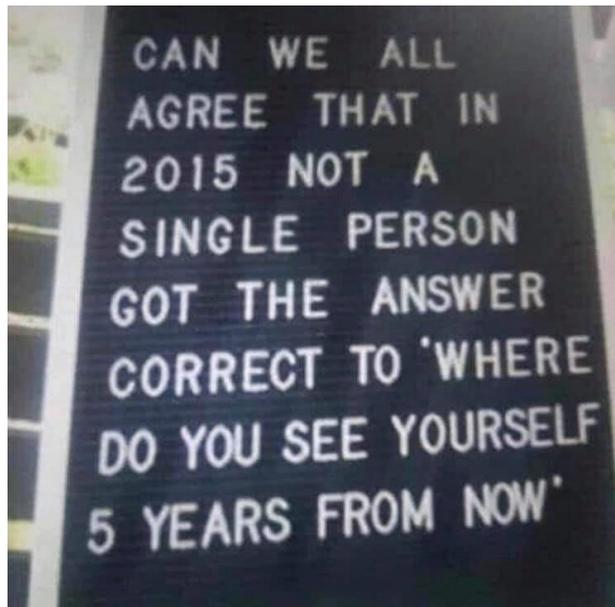
Mary K. Reilly

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Ann Priebe

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Sharon Weintrob



THE FLUSTERED DUMMY

During these crazy times, with no face-to-face (F2F) bridge, no results, no pictures, and no hugs, we are all feeling somewhat flustered. This issue will feature three Flustered Flo articles by author Pieter VanBennekom. Enjoy!

VIDEO GAMES

By Pieter VanBennekom

The American Contract Bridge League has made it definite and official: No more in-person bridge tournaments until at least the end of the year. Although some clubs did make tepid attempts at reopening in-person bridge, most bridge around the country has been relegated to online only, with some unexpected success.

The ACBL itself staged a couple of Regional online tournaments and thousands of players from around the world attended, drawn in part by the promise of extra Masterpoints, which the ACBL itself admitted is a double-edged sword. The chance to win extra points is an incentive to cheat, which the ACBL says, at the same time, it is trying to control. How successful those efforts are is still open to debate. A lot of dire warnings against cheaters were sounded in the June issue of the ACBL Bulletin, but there was little in the way of concrete deterrents, like names of cheaters caught and punished or expelled.

Most clubs are trying to survive the COVID-19 pandemic by sponsoring online games on BBO, and some are quite successful at it. Our home club, the Vero Beach Bridge Center, had more tables for online BBO games in June of this year than for in-person bridge last year.

Some people have always liked online bridge, others do not care for it, but even most of those who play now say it has its faults. Those still sitting on the sidelines are passing the time waiting for in-person bridge to resume doing jigsaw puzzles, reading a lot of books, or picking fights with their spouses because they are getting on each other's nerves being cooped up.

One member of our home Vero club decided to adopt a puppy to combat loneliness, only to get caught in a puppy scam, losing \$1,900. A bridge player from nearby Melbourne had better luck – she went on *The Price Is Right* TV game show and won a new car. She got picked as a contestant because her sister held up a sign in the audience saying that she saved her life because she was her bone marrow transplant donor to cure her leukemia. Good deeds sometimes do get rewarded.

After a forced four-month layoff from bridge, my partner Christine and I finally decided to dip our toes into the online world and signed up for a few “casual” hands against two advanced players from Great Britain. We did not do too well. After every hand, our negative scores seemed to go up, so I will assume the role of my column's anti-hero, Flustered Flo, myself. We doubled them when we should have bid on to our own Game, we sacrificed in 5♠ when we should have let them go down in 5♣, etc., etc.

Some of our misfortunes can be attributed to the vagaries of online bridge, especially on alerts and announcements. I sat West and doubled South's **1 NT** opener, according to our Cappelletti system in which a double of a strong **NT** opener is for penalties. We then

mis-defended because I was misinformed about the strength of my opponent's hand and set them by only 2 tricks, for +300. It turns out we had a Game in **3 NT** for 400 points, or we could have set them by another trick for +500.

South Dealer; neither side vulnerable

North

♠ **8 7 4**
♥ **8 6 4**
♦ **K 9 8 5**
♣ **6 5 3**

West

♠ **Q 9 6 2**
♥ **A K 3**
♦ **A Q 6 3**
♣ **A 6**

East

♠ **5 3**
♥ **Q 9 5 2**
♦ **J 4 2**
♣ **Q J 7 2**

South

♠ **A K J 10**
♥ **J 10 7**
♦ **10 7**
♣ **K 10 9 4**

The bidding:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
(Brit1)	(Flustered Flo)	(Brit2)	(Loyal Larry)

1 NT **Double*** All pass

* penalty double

Opening lead: ♥ **A**

Flustered Flo was itching to play bridge again after a COVID-19-forced layoff of four months, so she finally called her regular partner, Loyal Larry, and

arranged to play in a so-called “casual” game on BBO to see if she would like it.

Since it wasn't an in-person game at her club, at least she'd be able to avoid having to face her nemesis, Smug Sam, who always seems to get the better of her at her club, and perhaps meet some interesting new people.

It just so happened that Flo and Larry wound up playing against a couple of Brits, and on the second hand they played, Flo, who sat West, was dealt a nice 19-point hand.

When her right-hand opponent opened **1NT**, she doubled, which is a penalty double in the Cappelletti defensive system that she and Larry play. When the double got passed around, Flo was on lead. She took her **♥A** and **♥K** led her last Heart, the **♥3** to let Larry take the next two **♥** tricks.

On the last Heart, Flo dropped the **♠9**, asking for a **♠** lead under the odd-even defensive signaling system. Accordingly, Larry next led a **♠**, and South jumped in with the **♠A**, continuing with the **♦7** to dummy's **♦K** when Flo ducked her **♦A**.

Declarer next led a small Club off the dummy, and when Larry put up his **♣Q**, Declarer played the **♣K** and Flo took the **♣A**. She continued with the **♦A** and the **♦Q**, trapping Larry's **♦J** under her **♦Q** before she exited with the **♠2** into South's **♠KJ10**.

South had managed to scrounge up 5 tricks, four **♠** and the **♦K**, and was down by only two tricks for a +300 score for Flo and Larry. This did not make Flo happy.

“These Brits don't announce what their point count is for a No-Trump opening?” Flo complained afterward to Larry. “I assumed it was a strong No-Trump opening, 15 to 17 high-card points. Sorry I defended so badly, but I was counting the points. I had 19 points myself and dummy had 3. You had already shown 4 points with two Queens, so you could not possibly have any more points. That only left 14 points for the opener, so maybe he opened light with a good 14. Anyway, you couldn't possibly have another Jack in either of the minors.”

“I understand, partner,” said Larry, always was very deferential to Flo. “I was a little confused, too.”

“We should have set him by three tricks, which would have given us a top score of 500 points,” said Flo. “But actually, we also could have made 3 No-Trump ourselves for +400,

which would still have been better than the +300 we got. We have four ♥, three ♦, and two ♣ tricks. All they get on defense is three ♠ tricks and the ♦K.”

“But after they open a No-Trump,” asked Larry, “it will be kind of tough for us to reach 3 NT, won’t it?”

“Not necessarily,” said Flo. “If they announce that their No-Trump is weak, you must answer my double, which is then for take-out. And when you say 2♥, I’ll take you to 3 NT.”

“What if he’d opened 1♣, like most people would, on that hand if you play a strong No-Trump?” asked Larry.

“Then it’s even easier for us to reach 3 NT,” Flo said. “I double, you say a 1♥, I jump to 2 NT with my 19 points and you take me to 3 – a classic auction.”

“Well, don’t be too hard on yourself, Flo,” said Larry. “We got fixed by their failure to announce, and since it was a casual game with no director, we had no recourse. At least there were no Masterpoints at stake and the game was free.”

“I guess you get what you pay for,” said Flo.

“So how do you like playing bridge online anyway, Flo?” Larry asked.

“It doesn’t really feel like bridge to me,” said Flo. “It’s more like playing a video game. Even so, I will probably try it again, but it is a far cry from actual bridge. I never thought I’d say this, but I actually miss Smug Sam.”

Cheating Against Flustered Flo

By Pieter VanBennekom

How are they supposed to catch cheaters in online bridge? Cheating in online bridge is an obvious problem. People located in the same household could easily tell each other useful things about each other’s hands, thereby passing along unauthorized information. Even partners playing from different locations could be texting each other all the time or keep an open phone line to illegally communicate information.

The algorithms installed by BBO, the private company running Masterpoint-awarding games for clubs, as well as for the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), have not been spelled out in detail for the general public, for perhaps obvious reasons. They are supposed to work, however, in two general ways.

First, if you and your partner are average players and rarely broke 50% during in-person games before the coronavirus pandemic shut down most brick-and-mortar bridge, then suddenly rock in the online games, posting scores of over 60% and perhaps even 70%, a red flag will be raised and someone will take a closer look at how you might have achieved those incredible results.

That sounds easy enough. It is like the “suspicious contract” feature added to the ACBL Score software program a couple of years ago, that identified nigh-impossible results for club directors during a game. When a director investigated at the table, usually someone had entered a wrong score on the hand-held computers, for example giving a 4♠ contract to North instead of to East.

A second way you are supposed to get caught if you cheat involves specific hands. Let’s say that every normal bridge player would make a certain bid on a hand, but it was one of those “gotcha hands” with a hidden trap in it, and only your partner could have warned you about it and told you not to make that bid. That hand – and your failure to make that logical but fatal bid since everything is recorded by BBO – might also get flagged for further investigation.

That had always seemed a little nebulous to me until this week, when my partner Christine and I played some casual online bridge with BBO for only the second time and ran into one of those hands that would be perfect to catch cheaters.

I am glad to report that we got a good result on the hand, but not by cheating. The ACBL recommends that partners playing online from the same domicile not only use different devices, but physically place themselves in different rooms of the house, ideally with at least one door closed between them. Christine and I may not always have had a door closed, but we certainly were in different rooms in our spacious condo, and we did not tell each other what to do.

The temptation came on a hand when one of our opponents, an intermediate European player from Denmark playing the ACOL bidding system with four-card majors, who was partnering with a Turk, opened 1♥. I was next to bid and I had a seven-card ♠ suit.

Naturally, I would have pre-empted in ♠, but my partner had six ♥. She would have wanted me to pass to see if we could trap the opponents in a very problematic ♥ contract. If I had passed, however, and failed to bid my ♠, that might have been a dead giveaway that I had unauthorized information about my partner's hand.

In the end, Flo's honesty got rewarded. She should have gone Down One in 3 ♠, but thanks to incredibly bad defense by the Dane, she made an overtrick for +170.

I will be my column's anti-hero, Flustered Flo, with the South hand, while Christine is my partner, Loyal Larry, with the North hand that became dummy. The Dane sits East, and the Turk is West.

East Dealer; neither side vulnerable

North

♠ 4
♥ J 9 8 4 3 2
♦ A
♣ A Q 5 4 3

West

♠ 10 2
♥ 10 6
♦ K Q 7 2
♣ J 10 9 7 6

East

♠ A 9 8
♥ A K 7 5
♦ J 8 5 4
♣ K 8

South

♠ K Q J 7 6 5 3
♥ Q
♦ 10 9 6 3
♣ 2

The bidding:

<u>East</u> (Dane)	<u>South</u> (Flustered Flo)	<u>West</u> (Turk)	<u>North</u> (Loyal Larry)
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1 ♥* 3 ♠ All pass

* promised only 4 ♥

Opening lead: ♥10

It is a strange feeling when an opponent opens with a One bid in a major suit and you happen to have six of them. You are tempted to kick your partner under the table and tell him to shut up. “Don’t bid,” you are dying to say. “Let’s see if we can trap them in a horrible contract where they’re sure to go down.”

If you are an ethical bridge player, you do none of those things. You keep a straight face and will not react one way or the other, whether your partner bids or not. In online bridge, it may be even more of a challenge not to say anything to your partner. Fortunately for Flustered Flo, her partner Loyal Larry, who had joined her at her house for a casual online game, passed the challenge – otherwise she and Larry might have been reported for cheating.

Flustered Flo felt ready to face her nemesis Smug Sam again, even online, but apparently, he was not available, so she and Larry had to settle for playing against a European pickup pair, a Dane and a Turk.

Flo sat South on the diagrammed online deal and when her East opponent opened the bidding with 1♥ – his convention card showed they played the ACOL system with four-card majors – she knew she had to get into the auction with her seven-card ♠ suit, so she pre-empted, bidding 3♠, which got passed out.

West dutifully led the ♥10 on the opening trick, high-low from his doubleton in the suit his partner had bid, and East took the trick with the ♥A, dropping Flo’s ♥Q.

East had a big problem coming up with his next lead. He knew that because the ♥Q had dropped, he could not lead another ♥. On general principle, he did not want to lead a trump, and leading a ♦ to the singleton ♦A on the board, setting Declarer up for a ruff, did not seem like a good idea, either.

In desperation, he led the ♠8, possibly the worst lead in the history of bridge.

“Thank you very much for giving me a free finesse,” thought Flo, as she gobbled up the trick with her Q♣ and followed up with the ♣A, dropping East’s ♣K and pitching a ♦ from her hand. She collected the ♦A before crossing to her hand ruffing a ♣ – she did not mind that East ruffed, because she easily over-ruffed with her ♠J. She next ruffed a ♦ with dummy’s only trump, the ♠4, and came back to her hand ruffing another ♣. This time East did not bother ruffing in and wasting another trump.

Flo drew one round of trumps with her ♠K, which was allowed to hold when East held up his ♠A, but on the next round of trump, East’s ♠A and West’s ♠10 crashed. All East could do was take one Diamond trick before Flo claimed the rest. She had made her 3♠ Spades contract with an overtrick for a particularly good +170 score. All she had lost were the ♠A and the ♥A and just one Diamond trick.

“Congratulations, partner,” Loyal Larry told Flo afterward, “but you got a little lucky there.”

“I know,” said Flo. “I should have been Down One. “After they take the ♥A, they should have led a trump to take the only trump off the board. Then I cannot ruff any ♦ or slough any of my ♦ losers. With correct defense, I am bound to lose 5 tricks, 3 ♦ and the ♠A and the ♥A.”

“I didn’t want you to bid when they opened a ♥,” said Larry. “I had six ♥. It would have been easy to cheat online. I could have told you to shut up and let them get in trouble with their ♥.”

“Well, I’m glad you didn’t,” said Flo, “because I still have to bid my hand. I cannot be quiet with seven ♠ in my hand. That would have raised suspicions for sure. In a 1♥ contract, they can probably take only 4 tricks, going Down Three and giving us 150 points. The computer would flag that as an unlikely score. The normal scores on this hand should be 110 for us if they open a No-Trump and we can get the contract in 2♠, or +50 for them if we go to the 3 level and go Down One. Anything else would be suspicious.”

“But won’t the computer flag this result because you made two more tricks that you should have?” asked Larry. “Can’t they suspect that our opponents were in cahoots with us, giving us extra tricks, which we didn’t deserve?”

“I don’t think so,” said Flo. “Computers seem to have learned that incredibly bad defense does happen, online as well as with in-person bridge.”

Meyer and Flo

By Pieter VanBennekom

The virtual bridge world – online is practically the only bridge being played these days, as most clubs have closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic – has just been rocked by a new cheating scandal.

Meyer Kotkin, the President of District 4 (and no, it was not him) revealed in the most recent issue of the District’s newsletter, the *4Spot*, that people have found a new way to cheat. It’s brazen and ought to make every ethical bridge player’s blood boil. My partner Christine and I still get that all-electronic newsletter from the days we lived up there seven years ago.

The youngest woman Grand Life Master, Las Vegas-based bridge pro Sylvia Shi, who was featured on the cover of the January Bulletin under the banner, “Ain’t She Grand?” cheated. She openly admitted, on the Bridgewinners.com website, that while playing online, she had logged in under an alternate name to kibitz at her own table where she was playing. This allowed her to see all four hands in a team game, and she may not have been the only pro to have done so. She confessed after BBO contacted her with the evidence and her punishment is pending. Her confessional post drew thousands of comments, more than any other recent post on the popular site.

“I may not be a very good player,” Kotkin wrote with his typical self-deprecating humor (he’s actually an excellent player), “but even I believe I would be able to play better if I could see all four hands.”

This is so outrageous that it casts doubt on all online results. I, for one, do hope the ACBL forces BBO, its partner for the online games, to eliminate the kibitz option altogether for games in which ACBL Masterpoints can be won. What BBO does for its own casual or robot games, in which no Masterpoints are at stake, is their business, but points won online are already under a bit of a cloud; let’s not make it worse. Some clubs still allow kibitzing in their virtual club games.

Could people still cheat? Of course. Directors can still look in on any table and see all four hands, and theoretically, a rotten apple among the clubs’ game directors could still pass on information about the hands to players they favor. To be sure, in the past, some club directors have been caught cheating and were expelled for life from the ACBL (the case of Tom Urso from Philadelphia and Naples, FL, comes to mind), but at least we can all agree that directors are generally less likely to cheat.

Just to see how easy it would be to cheat via this method, my partner Christine and I got online with BBO for some casual bridge and wound up playing against a couple of Middle Easterners, who either hadn’t heard about the new way to cheat yet, or were supremely ethical, because they committed some defensive errors they would never have made if they’d been able to see all four hands.

We got a top board against them when we were the only pair to bid Game in 4♥ and make it. Not only that, we even made an overtrick, for a +650 score. All the other pairs playing the hand were in 2♥ or 3♥, making either 3 or 4, for +140 or +170.

The East player, that was responsible for the defensive error, will be played by Flustered Flo, my column's regular anti-hero, while I'll be her nemesis, Smug Sam, with the South Declarer hand. Christine is North and becomes my dummy, while Flo is playing with her usual West partner, Loyal Larry.

The defensive mistake gave me an overtrick, but we would have had a top score anyway because no one else bid Game. We had a 24 count between us, but I bid Game because I saw possibilities in the hand beyond mere high-card points. Perhaps it helped that I had just read the article on "Escape from Point Count Prison" in the latest issue of the ACBL's monthly magazine, the Bulletin. The gist of the article was that you may still want to be a slave to point count limits for No-Trump contracts, but not for suit contracts with distributional hands.

North Dealer; both sides vulnerable

North

♠ **J 10 6 3**
 ♥ **A 9 5 4 3**
 ♦ **K 7**
 ♣ **7 4**

West

♠ **Q 8 5 4 2**
 ♥ **J 6**
 ♦ **J 6 5 3**
 ♣ **Q 6**

East

♠ **9 7**
 ♥ **10 7 2**
 ♦ **A Q 10 2**
 ♣ **K J 10 3**

South

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

The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
<i>(Shy Shem)</i>	<i>(Flustered Flo)</i>	<i>(Smug Sam)</i>	<i>(Loyal Larry)</i>
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♦*	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

* transfer to ♥

Opening lead: ♣Q

Do you bid Game with 24 high-card points? A Game in **3NT** will likely be a stretch, and whether you can make 4 of a major depends on distribution. Unless you have a clear indication of singletons or voids that can help your cause, most players will be content to play for a part-score.

Flustered Flo learned once again that her nemesis, Smug Sam, isn't like most players. Sam saw possibilities that others didn't when he brought home a risky **4♥** contract as the South Declarer on the diagrammed hand played recently online at BBO – and with an overtrick no less.

Even though Sam always seemed to best her in in-person bridge, Flo came to realize that she actually missed playing against him – and getting his gratuitous lessons afterward – so she invited him and his partner Shy Shem to play a few hands of casual online BBO bridge with her and her partner, Loyal Larry.

The outcome wasn't much different from what it usually was in-person.

After Sam had reached **4♥** during the auction, Loyal Larry was on lead for the opening trick and offered his **♣Q**, high-low from his doubleton **♣Q6**, a not unreasonable lead. Without giving it much thought, Flo dropped the **♣3** under the Queen, which fell to Sam's **♣A**.

Sam cashed **♠A** and **♠K** and continued a **♣** to Flo's **♣10**. Flo was now worried Sam would set up his hand's long **♣** to get rid of dummy's **♦**. Before any such disaster, she cashed the **♦A** before continuing with another high Club, which was ruffed in dummy.

Sam next led a Spade off dummy and when Flo ruffed with the 7, Sam over-ruffed with the 8, went to the dummy with the **♦K** and led another Spade, over-ruffing with the Queen when Flo ruffed with her 10. Sam next led another Club, and when Larry ruffed with the Jack, Sam over-ruffed with the Ace and took the rest of the tricks by drawing trump – dummy's 9 was then the high trump.

Sam had captured 11 tricks, losing only a **♣** and the **♦A**, to make his contract with an overtrick, which turned out to be a top board. Most other North-South pairs had played the hand in **2♥** or **3♥**, making 3 or 4 for either a +140 or +170 scores. The +650 for Sam and Shem was an absolute top by far.

"On the one hand, I have to congratulate you," Sam told Flo afterward in the chat room, "but I do have to offer condolences as well for your frankly pathetic defense."

"I know we got a bad score," said Flo, "so why on earth would we deserve any kudos?"

"For being honest," said Sam, smug as always. "You guys obviously haven't heard about the latest cheating method, to log in under another name as a kibitzer and then follow the play at your own table so you can see all four hands. Then your partner would have known to lead a **♦** to finesse dummy's **♦K**. That would have held me to 10 tricks."

"That's outrageous," said Flo. "We'd never stoop so low to improve our results, as bad as we are. But yes, I was disappointed that my partner didn't lead a **♦**. After I got in with a high **♣**, I knew he'd never get on lead again, so I thought I might as well cash my **♦A**."

"Shame on you, Flo, for throwing Larry under the bus," said Sam. "You've got to help him on the lead. If you play upside-down in defensive carding, a high card is discouraging and tells your partner to switch to another suit. If you'd thrown the **♣10**, your partner would switch to a **♦** at Trick 2."

"I normally don't say much," Shy Shem chimed in, "but there's an even simpler way to guarantee a ♦ lead. Double my artificial 2♦ response for the transfer."

"Point taken," said Flo. "But I'd still like to know how you became the only one to go to Game on that hand? Weren't you a little short with just 24 points?"

"Obviously, you haven't read the latest Bulletin article titled *Escaping from Point Count Prison*," said Sam. "When my partner's bidding told me he was 5-4 in the majors with a minimum hand, I knew he was short in the minors, which is where I needed help. That's what I had to hear to go to Game."

"Most people would be happy just to escape from this prison imposed by the pandemic," said Flo, "but you want to escape from point-count prison, too."

RACE LEADERS AS OF AUGUST 1, 2020

MINI-MCKENNEY

ACE OF CLUBS

0-5

Susan Keyser
Rohan Mandayam
Leonard Schwartz

Susan Keyser
Rohan Mandayam
Leonard Schwartz

5-20

Beth Kinney
Neil Himelein
Charles Marginot

Beth Kinney
Neil Himelein
Charles Marginot

20-50

Pamela Folz
John Kinney
Elizabeth Bacon

Pamela Folz
John Kinney
Elizabeth Bacon

50-100

Ann Biehn
Ian Burn
Patricia Modispaugh

Ann Biehn
Ruth Wright
Susan Royce

100-200

Mark Nehra
William Herdle
Duke Lohr

Mark Nehra
William Herdle
Duke Lohr

200-300

Sugi Hayes
Jerry Goodman
Marilyn Haskins

Sugi Hayes
Jerry Goodman
Brenda Vogel

300-500	Diane Gordy Debbie Schenkel Donald Pyne	Donald Pyne Debbie Schenkel Judith Cronin
500-1,000	Kim Holm Tamara Holm Debbie Schell	Debbie Schell Jonathan Baumel Sandy Anzilotti
1,000-1,500	Karen Pollak Francis Bizzoco Janelle Gmitter	Jane Myers Francis Bizzoco Karen Pollak
1,500-2,500	Melody Henderson David Venetianer Herbert Chalek	Melody Henderson Herbert Chalek Sigridur Kristjansdottir
2,500-3,500	Mark Henderson Terry Patton Gail Levy	Mark Henderson Terry Patton Cynthia Morris
3,500-5,000	Bernard Rehberg Harold Jordan Fred Gillespie	Bernard Rehberg Harold Jordan Fred Gillespie
5,000-7,500	Alessandra Graves Francis Taylor, Jr. Andrew Stayton	Alessandra Graves Francis Taylor, Jr. Andrew Stayton
7,500-10,000	Randall Berseth Peter Filandro Marie Filandro	Randall Berseth Marie Filandro Peter Filandro
10,000 +	Rick Rowland Richard Popper Jess Stuart	Rick Rowland Richard Popper Jess Stuart

A note from the DUMMY Editor . . .

News flash! Our world and our game have changed. Unit 190 members, please show your support for bridge by attending the Zoom Annual Meeting on Wednesday September 16th. A link will be published on the DSBA website on September 1st. Check out that great slate of candidates nominated to be members of the 2020 – 2022 Board. The candidates seek to address the concerns of all the members of Unit 190, so talk to one of them. Again, the meeting and election will take place via Zoom, on Wednesday, September 16th. Consider adding your voice to the discussion about a possible return to F2F bridge and what can be done in the meantime. For information, kudos, and compliments, my email address is alabridge@gmail.com.