

## TIP OF THE WEEK: COUNTERING THE DANGEROUS OPPONENT

During the play of a contract, Declarer sometimes discovers that there is a particular threat from the Opposition that may endanger his contract. One of the two opponents are 'dangerous' so declarer must avoid giving him the lead.

### Common Threats ...

- an unprotected King
- opponents hold a long suit in your NT contract
- one opponent appears to be holding a void, singleton, or doubleton and can ruff in your trump contract

### The decision to hold up or not depends on your whole hand ...

- . How many sure tricks do you hold?
- . How many tricks do you need?
- . Which suit may provide additional tricks?
- . What could happen while trying to establish additional trick

### Don't hold up when...

- the first trick is your only chance to stop the suit
- another suit is more dangerous
- you can promote a 2nd stopper by taking the trick
- you can make all of the tricks required
- both opponents have more cards in the suit than you do

If you have to lose the lead twice, lose it to the dangerous hand, first.

### Bridgehands



<https://youtu.be/x-W0BBof9oI>

Click on the following links, to see articles and examples ...

<http://www.guelphbridgeclub.org/Tue1711.pdf>

**Morrinsville Bridge Club**  
**CARD PLAY 101 The Dangerous Opponent**

Hand by Phillip Alder. Commentary by Barbara Seagrams

|       |        |    |    |      |       |
|-------|--------|----|----|------|-------|
|       | AKQJT9 | T9 | 87 | QJ7  |       |
| 3     |        |    |    |      | 2     |
| AQ32  |        |    |    |      | J8765 |
| KT932 |        |    |    |      | Q654  |
| K65   |        |    |    |      | 432   |
|       | 87654  | K4 | AJ | AT98 |       |

**East leads the 4 of Diamonds**

**Plan:** Declarer must stop and think, "What could go wrong"? The King of Hearts is vulnerable, because the Ace of Hearts has not been played.

**Tip:** Whenever you have a 'vulnerable King,' don't allow the player to the Right of that card to get on lead as they are dangerous. In the above hand, East is the 'dangerous' opponent.

**At trick 1, duck the A of Diamonds.**

**After pulling trump, lead the Q of Clubs from your hand so East doesn't get on lead.**



[https://youtu.be/kaS1LCNg\\_9s](https://youtu.be/kaS1LCNg_9s)

| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             D 8           </div> |   | <b>N North</b><br>♠ 1084<br>♥ A10<br>♦ J754<br>♣ A652 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | W | N | E | S | P | P | 2♣ | 2NT | P | 3NT | P | P | P |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|---|-----|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| W  | N   | E   | S   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| P  | P   | 2♣  | 2NT   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| P  | 3NT   | P   | P   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| P  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| <b>W West</b><br>♠<br>♥<br>♦<br>♣  | ♥A<br>♥7    ♥5<br>♥9                                | <b>E East</b><br>♠<br>♥<br>♦<br>♣                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |  |
|                           | <b>S South</b><br>♠ QJ97<br>♥ K96<br>♦ AQ32<br>♣ QJ | 3NT S      NS: 1 EW: 1                                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |     |   |     |   |   |   |  |  |  |

<https://youtu.be/YFFNpjfyHME>

