

CLUB PLAYERS JANUARY 2017

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PLAY ERRORS & UNLUCKY BIDDING

N/S are playing 5 card majors!
LEAD ♣5, won in dummy with ♣K.
Declarer, holding ♦Kxx, fails to see
that east is the danger hand.

After playing ♥A, ♥Q and ♥3 to ♥K
declarer finesses ♠J.
Losing to east's ♠AQ!!

East knows that to justify the club
overcall, west must have diamond
honours. With diamond weakness in
dummy, that is the suit to return.
BUT which card?

S W N E
1H 2C 4H

NORTH			
♠ A1096			
♥ AQ3			
♦ 9764			
♣ K4			
WEST		EAST	
♠ 732	4♥	♠ Q84	
♥ J4	by	♥ 862	
♦ AQ10	South	♦ J83	
♣ Q9765		♣ J1082	
SOUTH			
♠ KJ5			
♥ K10975			
♦ K52			
♣ A3			

♦3 (Low from an honour??)

♦J (Would this not promise ♦10??)

In other situations these thoughts may
be true, but the situation here requires
a different logic.

Will east EVER get on lead again??
NO!

Therefore east must retain the lead as
long as possible by leading ♦J.

This does NOT promise ♦10!
By leading ♦3 declarer will duck and
west wins with ♦10 but now west is
end played and must lead from ♦AQ
giving a trick to declarer's ♦K!

E S W N
1H* 2D** P*** P
X**** P P***** P

NORTH			
♠	J9862		
♥	9732		
♦	83		
♣	KJ		
WEST		EAST	
Q5	2♦X	♠	AK73
4	by	♥	J10865
QJ10642	South	♦	-
A743		♣	Q965
SOUTH			
♠	104		
♥	AKQ		
♦	AK975		
♣	1082		
LEAD ♥4. (Partner's suit)			

KEMPSON VASES - A Teams match

*1♥ - Should east open?

With two of the three criteria in place (7 loser/3controls.)
we think that 1♥ is perfectly acceptable. Although the suit is not
brilliant you have a standard rebid if partner responds 1♠, 1NT,
or 2♣. After a 2♦ response a 2♥ rebid is all you can rebid, but at
least partner has 10+ pts

**2♦ - Should east overcall?

A simple overcall has a range of 8 -15 HCPs. South has 16 HCPs
The 'correct' bid is double but after a X by south, north will bid
1♠ and south will still bid 2♦ but showing a stronger hand.

**Pass - Should west double? Double in this situation would be
for takeout, showing the two unbid suits. NOT what west wants!
So the pass is absolutely correct and
It expects partner, in protective position, to do SOMETHING!

**** X - Despite east's weak opening, the void in diamonds
suggests that E/W can play in any of the other three suits.
So east makes a *re-opening takeout double*.

***** Pass - West is more than happy to convert this takeout
double into a penalty double - by passing. +800 for E/W

At the other table, E/W used some rather unusual methods that allowed south to play in 3♦ **undoubled!**

BIDDING, PLAY AND DEFENSIVE ERRORS!

S	W	N	E
1D	P	1S	P
3D	P	3H*	P
3NT			

*3♥ - South can not have a 4 card heart suit.

So is north promising a FIVE card heart suit? OR

is north merely showing a good stop in hearts, looking for NTs?

Most north's **would** bid 3NT to show the good club stop! but - -

the jump bid to 3♦ has unnecessarily removed too much bidding space!

OK it's the wrong contract but can you make 9 tricks?

(Without any help from defenders.)

Count 3 clubs, 1 diamond & 4 hearts.

At both tables declarer won with ♠K & led ♠10. West won ♠K & led a 2nd club.

BAD DECLARER PLAY

At trick 3, both declarers won with ♠A in order to finesse ♥Q.

BAD DEFENCE

At one table, west immediately won with ♥K and led a 3rd club.

(Can you see that this provides a 2nd crucial entry to dummy?)

GOOD DEFENCE

At the other table, west ducked the heart finesse.

When declarer repeated the finesse, west won and led a 3rd club!

(Can you see that this hold up by west means that declarer can no longer get to dummy). The suit is **BLOCKED**

Declarer can now only lead diamonds & will lose 2 diamonds, two spades and a heart for 1 down!

GOOD DECLARER PLAY

At trick 3 declarer should realise that only 4 heart tricks are needed.

The finesse is not necessary!

Declarer should win ♠Q, (keeping ♠A as the entry). Now ♥A, ♥9 and a 3rd heart. Sets up the hearts with ♠A as the entry. After cashing hearts, declarer can now exit with ♠Q, forcing east to lead diamonds which you would need to finesse.

NORTH			
♠	QJ863		
♥	QJ1087		
♦	-		
♣	A83		
WEST		EAST	
♠	K9	♠	A7542
♥	K53	♥	42
♦	974	♦	KJ52
♣	J9765	♣	102
LEAD ♣6. 4th highest		3NT by South	
SOUTH			
♠	10		
♥	A96		
♦	AQ10863		
♣	KQ4		

S	W	N	E
1D	P	1S	P
2D	P	2H	P
2NT	P	3H	P
4H			

I do not think that south should rebid 3♦!!!!

Although the hand is a 5 loser, it should be devalued because of the singleton in partner's suit and the broken six card diamond suit.

2♥ is a reverse bid, in that it forces south to bid at the 3 level if there is no heart or spade fit.

2NT shows a good stop in the 4th suit.

3♥ shows 5/5

Only two of 14 pairs played in 4♥
Six pairs went off in 3NT.

BIDDING TIP

Do not jump a level of bidding just because you have a six card suit.

DECLARER PLAY TIP

Always count top tricks and preserve your entries to long suits that need to be established.

DEFENDING TIP

Don't automatically win declarer's finesse. If you play smoothly low, declarer will repeat the finesse thinking that it is working.

ERRORS!

On the lead,
declarer can count 3 club tricks,
3* spade tricks and 2 heart tricks.

It looks like a flat board for 8 tricks!

Dummy's ♣8 holds the 1st trick.
Declarer now leads ♠Q. West ducks!
Declarer now realises his error.
Too late!

Declarer unblocks ♣A and leads ♠8.
West ducks again and ♠10 wins!
8 tricks have become 7 because
although declarer can still establish a
3rd spade, there is no entry to dummy
to make it.

S W N E
1NT P P P

NORTH		
♠ KJ105		
♥ 852		
♦ 75		
♣ KJ98		
WEST		EAST
♠ A973	1NT by South	♠ 42
♥ Q76		♥ J1043
♦ Q10		♦ AKJ4
♣ Q1074		♣ 532
SOUTH		
♠ Q86		
♥ AK9		
♦ 98632		
♣ A6		
LEAD ♣4. (4th highest)		

At trick 1, when east played low on
♣8 declarer should win with ♣A!

*The club finesse is always available
later to make the three club tricks.*

After winning ♣A at trick 1 declarer
can lead spades to set up the 3rd
spade winner AND GET TO IT by
leading ♣6 and finessing ♣J!

If you BLOCK the club entry to
dummy by allowing the ♣8 to hold,
at trick 1, you cannot get to the 3rd
spade winner!

S W N E
1NT P P P

NORTH			
♠ QJ2			
♥ 642			
♦ 96			
♣ AQ754			
WEST		EAST	
♠ 1098	1NT by South	♠ A76	
♥ J10853		♥ 7	
♦ AK74		♦ QJ85	
♣ 6		♣ KJ1082	
SOUTH			
♠ K543			
♥ AKQ9			
♦ 1032			
♣ 93			
LEAD ♥ J.			
(Top of near sequence)			

After a standard ♥J lead, south can count two, possibly three spade
tricks, three hearts and one club.
Declarer wins ♥A.

First things first! Declarer should set up spade winners by leading
to ♠Q. If ducked, continue with ♠J. East now wins ♠A and may
switch, to take four diamonds. Win the heart return and when both
opponents follow to ♠Q your 7 tricks are in the bag.

BUT Did the club finesse look too tempting? - - - Oh dear!!

IF declarer tries ♣Q at trick 2, it FAILS and declarer will be
squeezed when opponents run their diamond winners.

Even worse, after cashing diamonds, east can lead ♣J to establish
two more club winners before declarer has forced out ♠A (*to estab-
lish spade winners*).

East will win ♠A and cash ♣10, ♣8, AND ♣5 (*if declarer had to
throw a club on diamonds*).

Declarer's 7 tricks for +90 became 5 tricks for -100.

TOPS TO BOTTOMS!

		NORTH	
		♠ K7	
		♥ QJ10986	
		♦ Q1075	
		♣ A	
WEST		EAST	
♠ QJ53		♠ A642	
♥ K7		♥ A5	
♦ 63		♦ 94	
♣ 97432		♣ Q10865	
		1NT by South	
		SOUTH	
		♠ 1098	
		♥ 432	
		♦ AKJ82	
		♣ KJ	
		LEAD.	
		(Top of near sequence)	

S	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2D	P	1NT	P	4H	
2H	P	4H		RECOMMENDED			

Which hand plays the contract can sometimes be crucial!
On this hand, north transferred into hearts and then raised to game. As you can see, when west leads ♠Q, the contract cannot make!!

One of the reasons for playing transfers is that when responder is weak, it ensures that the stronger hand plays the contract.
On this hand responder has the same HCPs as opener, so that factor doesn't apply. So what should determine the decision?

North should simply bid 4♥ to avoid the lead THROUGH ♠Kx!
Of course the E/W cards may not lie like this, but the danger is there. Playing in 4♥ by north, it is unlikely that EAST would find the killing lead of ♥A and a heart continuation.

On a club lead, declarer's strategy is obvious. Win ♣A and enter south with ♦A, to throw ♠7 on ♣K. (This reduces losers to 1 spade & 2 trumps. On a diamond lead, (with limited entries to the south hand), declarer needs diamonds to break 2-2. Lucky today

		NORTH	
		♠ 72	
		♥ K876	
		♦ A	
		♣ A109642	
WEST		EAST	
♠ -		♠ 854	
♥ J109543		♥ Q2	
♦ 762		♦ KQJ853	
♣ KQ73		♣ 85	
		1NT by South	
		SOUTH	
		♠ AKQJ10963	
		♥ A	
		♦ 1094	
		♣ J	
		LEAD ♦6. (MUD)	

E	S	W	N	E	S	W	N
3D	4S	P	P	3D	X	P	3C
P				P	4S	P	4NT
				6S	RECOMMENDED		

At favourable vulnerability, 3♦ is not unreasonable.
After 4♠ by south, north will pass.

After a pre-empt, double is for takeout!
Although north is strong he is likely to respond 3♥ or 4♣

Ignoring either response, Stop 4♠ is showing a very strong hand AND north has 11 HCPs that have not yet been shown. 4NT is now probable, and slam is reached.

IF east passed, what would you open the south hand 1♠? or 2♣ Benji?
It is a 4 loser (9 playing tricks) but only 5 controls!

S	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
1S	P	2C	P	2C	P	2D	P
4NT	P	5H	P	2S	P	3C	P
6S				4S	P	4NT	

BIDDING SLAMS IN A COMPETITIVE AUCTION!

♠ K85		♠ 2
♥ -		♥ KJ9
♦ 109432		♦ K85
♣ A10974		♣ QJ6532
♠ 764		♠ -
♥ Q108765432		♥ -
♦ 7		♦ -
♣ -		♣ -
♠ AQJ1093		
♥ A		
♦ AQJ6		
♣ K8		

W	N	E	S
3H	P	4H	4S
*5H	6S		

W	N	E	S
4H	P	P	5S
P	6S	P	P
RECOMMENDED			

LEAD ?

Well would you pre-empt with 2 HCPs?

*If so - **DO NOT BID AGAIN!**

As you can see 13 tricks are available in 6♠ by south!

♠ -		♠ AQ9852
♥ QJ3		♥ 62
♦ K107653		♦ 98
♣ K973		♣ QJ5
♠ J103		♠ -
♥ 94		♥ -
♦ J2		♦ -
♣ A108642		♣ -
♠ K764		
♥ AK10875		
♦ AQ4		
♣ -		

E	S	W	N
2S	4H	P	P
E	S	W	N
2S	X	P	3D
P	3H	P	4S
6H	RECOMMENDED		

The leap to game makes it impossible for partner to gauge the correct level. With 16+HCPs, a double would usually be the best action!

When north bids diamonds (*fit*) the slam looks possible.

After a double the change of suit, (3♥) is forcing.

With the double fit, slam is likely.

LEAD ?

North with good heart support, can now splinter in spades and the slam looks probable.

♠ Q10942		♠ J5
♥ -		♥ KJ9862
♦ AQ852		♦ J9
♣ Q76		♣ K103
♠ 873		♠ -
♥ Q743		♥ -
♦ 10764		♦ -
♣ J2		♣ -
♠ AK6		
♥ A105		
♦ K3		
♣ A9854		

S	W	N	E
1C	P	1S	P/2H
2NT	P	3D	P
4S	P	P	
S	W	N	E
1C	P	1S	P/2H
2NT	P	3D	P
4S	P	5S	P
6H	RECOMMENDED		

The 2♥ overcall makes south's rebid 'less comfortable' but still correct. It shows a 17/18 count with a stop. With 15/16, double would be better.

North has game values so forces with 3♦ *Showing 5 spades & 4 diamonds*. South bids game!

North re-values. North is a 5 or 6 loser hand with a fit opposite a 17 count. In old money, north has 10 HCPs plus 5 for the void. *Slam territory*.

When holding a void, using 'Blackwood' is not recommended.

So north bids 5♠ saying -

"Partner if you have two of the top three honours in trumps, BID 6♠. If you haven't, just pass!"

DECLARER PLAY.

Recognise north as the master hand.
You must establish diamond winners.
(*this requires one ruff!*)

Win ♣A or ♥A (*depending on lead*).

Cash ♦K, then ♦3 to ♦A. Ruff ♦5

Cash ♠A & ♠K. Throw ♣6 on ♥A.

Ruff a heart and draw last trump.

WHEN TO LEAD TRUMPS

Most of the time you are trying to make SAFE leads that will not give a trick away.

That includes leading trumps! BUT WHEN?

A simple rule of thumb is that if opponents have shown a side suit during the auction and you can take tricks in that suit, lead trumps to stop them ruffing out your potential winners.

If you have few trumps and nothing in the side suit, make an attacking lead - of your best suit.

♠ 7		
♥ AK104		
♦ 10843		
♣ A752		
♠ AQJ962	4♥ by SOUTH	♠ 4
♥ 83		♥ 752
♦ J5		♦ Q9762
♣ KJ9		♣ Q1043
		♠ K10853
		♥ QJ96
		♦ AK
		♣ 86

S	W	N	E	
1S	P	2D	P	
2H	P	4H	P	<i>Played at Brunton</i>

The simple logic for west, is that with a 4/4 fit in hearts and dummy's obvious shortage in spades, declarer will need to ruff his losing spades. Therefore cut down his ability to ruff by leading trumps. When west is in again with a spade, another trump is led.

When you have control of declarer's side suit - LEAD TRUMPS.

Half of the field allowed north to make 4H by not leading a trump

♠ K82		
♥ 7		
♦ KJ42		
♣ J9873		
♠ J96	2♦ by SOUTH	♠ Q1043
♥ AQ106		♥ 954
♦ 875		♦ A6
♣ K65		♣ Q1042
		♠ A75
		♥ KJ832
		♦ Q1093
		♣ A

S	W	N	E	
1H	P	1NT	P	
2D	P	P	P	<i>Marston</i>

When responder, passes opener's 2nd suit, they must have at least TWO more of the 2nd suit than the 1st suit. e.g. 3-1 or 4-2.

On this hand west has some excellent hearts, (declarer's 1st suit).

Therefore west should lead trumps to cut down declarer's ability to ruff.

♠ KJ108		
♥ 642		
♦ A109		
♣ K62		
♠ 954	4♠ by SOUTH	♠ 3
♥ K53		♥ J10987
♦ J543		♦ Q82
♣ A53		♣ J1098
		♠ AQ762
		♥ AQ
		♦ K76
		♣ Q74

S	W	N	E	
1S	P	3S	P	
4S	P	P	P	<i>EBED</i>

Neither west nor east have shown any long suits, so there is no reason for north to take unilateral action in the side suits.

A trump lead is passive. Any other lead gifts declarer his 10th trick.

How do you know when an attacking lead is the best choice? One of your strongest clues comes when the opponents have an auction that identifies a long, strong side suit that can be set up as a source of tricks. e.g., suppose you're north holding:

♠ A5	and it's your lead after
♥ 743	opponents have the
♦ KJ953	following auction:
♣ Q72	
	W E
	1S 2H
	2S 4S

Your best opening lead is probably the 5 of diamonds.

You hope partner has either the ♦ A or ♦ Q, but even if he doesn't, your risky lead may not cost anything.

Dummy has shown a long heart suit that may be used to pitch declarer's losers. It's important to set up possible tricks for your side right now, while you still have the trump ace as an entry to cash them.

PLANNING A DEFENCE!

♠ J		
♥ A84		
♦ 1098654		
♣ 1092		
♠ K53	4♥	♠ AQ1072
♥ J952	by	♥ KQ107
♦ AQ2	west	♦ 73
♣ J86		♣ Q5
♠ 9864		
♥ 63		
♦ KJ		
♣ AK743		

E	S	W	N
1S	2C	2H?	P
4H			

E	S	W	N
1S	2C	X*	P
2H**	P	3H***	P
4H	RECOMMENDED		

West's 2♥ would show FIVE hearts.

*X shows four hearts and 6+pts. with a preparedness to play in 2♠.

** 2♥ shows 5/4 and a 6/7 loser hand.

***3♥ shows an 8 loser or 10/11 pts.

4♥ = 6 loser but with four quick losers in the minors!?!/

LEAD ?

The problem with attending bridge classes is that you are 'taught' what to do and what NOT to do. e.g.

Never lead a singleton honour unless partner has bid the suit.

Lead partner's suit unless you have a VERY good reason not to.

Lead 'Top of a Sequence.' Always a safe lead!

BUT you are also encouraged to think and PLAN the defence.

RECOMMENDED THINKING FOR NORTH.

I need partner to have the ace of the suit s/he overcalled - ♣A.

I have three trumps including the ace. A clear entry to my hand!

I have a singleton that after the auction, is unlikely to ever make a trick.

If I create a void immediately, I can THEN win ♥A and lead towards partner's suit.

When partner wins with ♣K s/he must realise why I led spades. Partner returns a spade - which I ruff.

Another club to partner's ♣A and another spade ruff sets the contract by two tricks and a top!

INTERPRETING PARTNER'S BIDS!

♠ J6		♠ Q10
♥ K8762		♥ J93
♦ K109753		♦ QJ6
♣ -		♣ J10962

♠ 97542	4♥ by west	♠ Q10
♥ AQ		♥ J93
♦ 2		♦ QJ6
♣ Q8754		♣ J10962

♠ AK83
♥ 1054
♦ A84
♣ AK3

S	W	N	E
1S	P	1NT	P
2NT	P	3D	P
3NT	P		

Usually after a LIMIT response of 1NT, no bid can force opener to bid again. Despite having only 7 HCPs, the extreme shape of north's hand means that it is a 6 loser - IF a fit can be found.

3♦ should be passed but with 18 HCPs and ♦Axx south bids game!

North can now complete the picture by bidding 4♥. (? - 5 - 6 - ?)

Having opened 1♠ and rebid NTs, south CANNOT have 4 hearts! Therefore north's bid of 4♥ MUST show FIVE hearts.

South should PASS!

Not one pair found the 5/3 fit in hearts!

♠ AK875		♠ 943
♥ -		♥ A10842
♦ 10972		♦ 654
♣ 10732		♣ Q5

♠ Q102	4♥ by west	♠ 943
♥ KQ53		♥ A10842
♦ AKQJ8		♦ 654
♣ 9		♣ Q5

♠ J6
♥ J976
♦ 3
♣ AKJ864

S	W	N	E
1C	1D	1S	2D
3C	3D	4D	P
4H	P	5C	P
P	5D	X	

AT THE TABLE

South's opening is OK. 7 loser, 3 controls and a decent rebid of 2♣. West's overcall with 17 HCPs is WRONG! (Overcalls show 8 -15).

1♠ shows 6+ and four or more spades.

East is not strong enough to bid 2♥ but competes with 2♦.

South, LIMITS the hand with 3♣ (showing six).

West persists with 3♦ and north makes a FORCING bid of 4♦

South tries to unravel this unexpected development!

North must have five+ spades and possibly four hearts or four clubs

South bids 4♥ and north retreats to 5♣.

West bids 5♦ which north doubles. +800 to N/S.

S	W	N	E
1C	X	1S	X
2C	4H	5C	P/5H

RECOMMENDED

West with a singleton club, 17 HCPs, and an otherwise balanced hand with a 4 card major, west should double for takeout.

North bids 1♠.

East doubles to show four or more hearts - but NOT strong enough to bid them directly.

South rebids 3♣ but now with a known fit and a 4 loser, west can bid 4♥.

If north bids 5♣ and east passes west has a tough decision between passing and bidding 5♥.

5♥ doubled will only go for -500. N/S can make 5♣ for -600 to E/W.

WEAK JUMP SHIFTS

THE GAME MOVES ON!

Traditionally 2 level openings were STRONG TWOS showing 8 playing tricks.

Traditionally JUMP OVERCALLS were strong.

Traditionally JUMP SHIFTS after partner opens, were very strong.

(All, around 17+ H.C.P.)

These days, many players use WEAK JUMP OVERCALLS as a pre-emptive bid (6-9ish with a 6 card suit.)

These days, most players use WEAK TWOS as opening bids. A pattern is emerging!

These days, jump bids show long suits of 6/7 cards and a weak hand - designed to pre-empt your opponents.

Previously we have suggested that JUMP SHIFT bids should only be made to show slam interest.

17+pts., a solid 6 + card suit and some tolerance for partner's 1 level opening. - Occurring about once a year!

BUT why have a bid that is used once a year?

The conclusion is that STRONG JUMP SHIFT bids may be out of step with modern thinking!!

We have tried, and we like, the use of WEAK JUMP SHIFTS to bring our auction to a stop!!

Previously

S **W** **N**
1D **P** **2S** would show a hand something like this.

♠ AKQ1092
♥ AJ3
♦ K108
♣ 9

A hand that is heading for Slam!

Now

S **W** **N**
1D **P** **2S** would show a hand something like this.

♠ QJ10542
♥ 53
♦ 1084
♣ Q2

The bid is a pre-emptive FULL

Although the bid has similarities to a weak jump overcall,

it is NOT the same as a Weak Two opening bid (which could have as many as 8, 9 or even 10 pts.)

e.g.

♠ KQ10942
♥ 53
♦ K108
♣ 92

Although a WEAK TWO opening bid of 2♠ would be reasonable with this hand, if partner has opened 1♣/1♦/1♥ DO NOT respond 2♠, (a WEAK JUMP SHIFT.)

The hand is too strong to close the auction prematurely! Make a normal response of 1♠!

Weak jump shifts should only be made when there is virtually NO prospect of game.

HCPs may be as low as 4 and certainly no higher than a horrible 6.

FREQUENCY

As suggested earlier strong jump overcalls are very rare.

Recently, we used three WEAK JUMP OVERCALLS on the same night at Cramlington Bridge Club

AFTER INTERVENTION

Weak jump overcalls can be used after intervention. e.g. **S** **W** **N**
 1D **1H** **2S**

ALERTABLE

These weak jump shifts should be alerted as they are not the forcing bids, that opponents would expect.

If opponents jump shift and you have a hand that was going to overcall, ask what RHO's bid means.

WEAK JUMP SHIFTS

	S	W	N	E
	1D	1H	2S	P
	3H	P	P	P
	3S	P	P	P

♠ 9876532		♠ J104
♥ 92		♥ 1064
♦ 9		♦ K72
♣ AJ5		♣ Q1086

♠ Q	4♠	
♥ KQJ753	by	
♦ AQ	SOUTH	
♣ 9432		

♠ AK	
♥ A8	
♦ J1086543	
♣ K7	

Board No 15 N/S Vul Dealer South								
Deal: 637								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	20	4♥	W	8	100		16	6
2	22	4♦	S	9		100	5	17
3	24	3♥	W	8	50		11	11
4	26	4♠	N	10	620		20	2
5	15	3♥*	W	8	100		16	6
6	17	4♠	N	9		100	5	17
7	19	4♠	N	9		100	5	17
8	21	4♦	N	8		200		22
12	16	3♠*	N	9	730		22	
13	18	4♦	S	9		100	5	17
14	11	4♥	W	9	50		11	11
25	10	4♥	W	8	100		16	6

Played at Cramlington No. 15

	S	W	N	E
	1S	2C	3D	4H
	5D	5H	P	P
	6D	?	P	?

♠ 6		♠ J10842
♥ J3		♥ AKQ9
♦ J987653		♦ 2
♣ Q64		♣ 532

♠ A3	6♦x	
♥ 87654	by	
♦ -	NORTH	
♣ AKJ1087		

♠ KQ975	
♥ 102	
♦ AKQ104	
♣ 9	

Board No 19 E/W Vul Dealer South								
Deal: 637								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	18	4♦	S	9		50	19	3
2	20	4♥	E	12		680	1	21
3	22	5♥	W	11		650	8	14
4	24	4♥	E	11		650	8	14
5	26	4♥	E	11		650	8	14
6	15	6♦*	N	9		500	14	8
7	17	5♦	S	10		50	19	3
8	19	5♥	E	11		650	8	14
9	21	6♦*	S	10		300	16	6
10	23	4♥	E	12		680	1	21
14	12	4♥	E	11		650	8	14
16	13	5♦	S	11	400		22	

Played at Cramlington No. 19

	W	N	E	S
	1D	P/X	2H	P
	P	P	P	

♠ J72		♠ 86
♥ A83		♥ QJ10752
♦ A874		♦ 105
♣ AJ3		♣ K52

♠ AK3	2♥	
♥ K9	by	
♦ KQ9632	EAST	
♣ Q8		

♠ Q10954	
♥ 64	
♦ J	
♣ 109764	

Board No 12 N/S Vul Dealer West								
Deal: 637								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	22	4♥	E	9	50		19	3
2	24	3♦	W	9		110	12	10
3	26	3NT	E	9		400		22
4	15	2♦	W	9		110	12	10
5	17	2NT	W	7	50		19	3
6	19	2NT	W	7	50		19	3
10	14	3♦	W	9		110	12	10
11	16	2♥	W	10		170	3	19
12	18	3♥	E	9		140	7	15
13	20	2♥	E	10		170	3	19
23	8	2♥	E	9		140	7	15
25	9	4♥	E	9	50		19	3

Played at Cramlington No. 12

TRUMP MANAGEMENT 1.

CONCEPT - *FAST LOSERS & SLOW LOSERS.*

Fast losers are tricks that opponent's can win as soon as they get on lead.

Slow losers are tricks that opponents can take *only when they have removed* your guard in that suit.

e.g. **West** **East** **West** **East**
 975 J63 = 3 **fast** losers 975 A63 = 2 **slow** losers.

In the 2nd example your losers are protected by the ace. When opponents 'get in' they cannot cash their two heart winners. They have to knock out your ace and get in a 2nd time before they can cash their two winners.

In a suit contract, sometimes you have to get rid of a loser before drawing trumps.

Bridge IS a thinking game. As declarer the most important time to P A U S E and think, is when dummy is shown and BEFORE you play to trick 1. In a NT contract go through each suit and add together your top tricks! In a suit contract it is normal to count your losers, but remember to note the difference between fast losers and slow losers. SLOW YOUR GAME DOWN!!!! Too many inexperienced players call for the card to be played as soon as the dummy is faced. Don't do it! Ask yourself the four questions shown below on every hand If a defender tuts or looks impatient, they are not good (or pleasant) bridge players. IGNORE THEM.

West	East	Contract 4♠ Lead ♥Q	How many losers? 4	<i>Picture west as the master hand. Can the east hand plug gaps?</i>
♠ KJ432	♠ AQ75	Fast losers? 4 (after lead)	Slow losers? 0	
♥ 975	♥ A64	Do you draw trumps immediately? YES		
♦ Q2	♦ 1096	Why? <i>Because you can - without losing the lead. (Then discard ♥4 on 4th club)</i>		
♣ AQJ	♣ K84			

West	East	Contract 4♠ Lead ♥K	How many losers? 4	<i>On a diamond or club lead, you should draw trumps immediately</i>
♠ KJ543	♠ Q1098	Fast losers? 4 (after lead)	Slow losers? 0	
♥ A102	♥ 975	Do you draw trumps immediately? NO		
♦ Q85	♦ K6	Why? <i>Because opponents will get the lead and take their four tricks!</i>		
♣ A5	♣ KQ92			

West	East	Contract 4♠ Lead ♦K	How many losers?
♠ Q10765	♠ J42	Fast losers?	Slow losers?
♥ K5	♥ AQ9	Do you draw trumps immediately?	
♦ 986	♦ A532	Why?	
♣ AK6	♣ Q74		

West	East	Contract 4♠ Lead ♣Q	How many losers?
♠ J963	♠ 10852	Fast losers?	Slow losers?
♥ AK	♥ QJ94	Do you draw trumps immediately?	
♦ K762	♦ AQJ	Why?	
♣ K84	♣ A2		

West	East	Contract 3♥ Lead ♣K	How many losers
♠ Q2	♠ AK4	Fast losers?	Slow losers?
♥ KJ9832	♥ Q764	Do you draw trumps immediately?	
♦ 76	♦ 85	Why?	
♣ 972	♣ A843		

TRUMP MANAGEMENT 2.

♠ Q105
♥ 6
♦ QJ754
♣ A1062

♠ 73
♥ KQ9
♦ K98
♣ J9875

6♠
by
SOUTH

♠ 642
♥ J7543
♦ 32
♣ K43

♠ AKJ98
♥ A1082
♦ A106
♣ Q

S N
1S 2D
3H 4S

Cramlington

After ♥K lead, your first thought may be to cross ruff the hand. BUT

Consider the south hand as the master hand (and use the cards in the north hand to plug gaps).

- ♠ No spade losers.
- ♥ Three heart losers to get rid of.
- ♦ One potential diamond loser.
- ♣ No club losers.

Even if the diamond finesse loses, two hearts will vanish on the 4th and fifth diamond. This means that you only need to ruff ONE heart to make 12 tricks! RISKS?

1. That the diamonds and/or trumps break 4-1.
2. That you cannot reach the diamond winners.
3. That you fail to protect your heart losers.

TIMING

You MUST do the diamond finesse while you still have trumps in dummy to protect your losing hearts!

Win ♥A. Ruff a heart to get into dummy for the finesse

Finesse ♦10 - losing to west's ♦K.

Win any return and draw trumps.

Then ♦A and ♦6 to ♦Q

Board No 20 Both Vul Dealer West								
Deal: 638								
NS	EW	Bid	By	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	18	4♠	S	12	680		19.7	2.3
2	20	4♠	S	12	680		19.7	2.3
3	22	4♠	S	11	650		11	11
4	24	4♠	S	11	650		11	11
5	26	4♠	S	12	680		19.7	2.3
6	15	4♠	S	11	650		11	11
7	17	4♠	S	10	620		3.4	18.6
8	19	4♠	S	10	620		3.4	18.6
9	21	2♠	S	11	200		0.1	21.9
10	23	4♠	S	11	650		11	11
16	13	4♠	S	11	650		11	11

N E S W
1H P 1S 2D
3C P 3NT P
4C P 6C

Brunton Sims

♠ 5
♥ KQ7643
♦ K
♣ K7432

♠ K10
♥ A2
♦ Q109872
♣ J95

6♣
by
NORTH

♠ Q8632
♥ J1098
♦ J6
♣ 86

♠ AJ974
♥ 5
♦ A543
♣ AQ10

Recognise that you will need to ESTABLISH your long heart side suit as winners.
Recognise that you therefore CANNOT draw trumps.
Recognise that despite the entry problems you must lead TOWARDS your ♥KQ.

♦J LEAD. Consider north as the master hand.

There is one fast loser - ♥A.

The main worry is that ♦J is a singleton.

Communication between the hands is another problem!

Win ♦K and lead to ♠A - in order to lead hearts.

Lead towards ♥KQ - As expected west rises with ♥A.

You now have the top two hearts. If the enemy hearts break 3-3 you would be home! BUT 4-2 is more likely. You plan to ruff a low heart with ♣10, still leaving you with the top three clubs to remove opponents trumps.

West switches to ♣5 which you win with ♣10.

If a diamond is returned, cross fingers and let it go to ♦A

Ruff a spade - to get to hand.

Ruff a small heart with ♣Q.

Now cash ♣A. Return to hand with a 2nd spade ruff.

Cash ♣K and claim. You don't need ♦A.

Only two in the country bid & made 6♣!

TRUMP MANAGEMENT 3.

Newburn

♠ 7		
♥ 532		
♦ AQ10932		
♣ 872		
♠ AQ1032	5♥ by SOUTH	♠ K9864
♥ J64		♥ A9
♦ 64		♦ KJ75
♣ J94		♣ 105
		♠ J5
		♥ KQ1087
		♦ 8
		♣ AKQ63

PLAY assuming ♠A LEAD and a switch to ♦6

Do you finesse ♦Q and why?

This answer depends on whether a successful finesse would give you a meaningful discard.

If ♦Q held the trick what would you throw on ♦A?

Throwing a spade or a club cannot help your cause.

What IS important is to lose only ONE trump!

You must lead TOWARDS ♥KQ twice & entries are short!

Win ♦A and lead ♥2. If east ducks, win ♥K.

Now lead the invaluable ♠J and ruff.

A 2nd heart lead gives you the contract when east is

BIDDING

N	E	S	W
2D	P	3H	P
4H			

Annoyingly, an auction can go very differently depending on who is dealer.

Here, north opened a weak 2♦.

East with four good diamonds, passed.

Now south with a strong playing hand responded 3♥ (despite the singleton diamond.)

North, with three hearts and a singleton spade, bid game

If south had been dealer,

S	W	N	E
1H	1S	2D	4S
5C	P	5H	

South will open 1♥

West would overcall 1♠

North would have a difficult bid of 2♦

East is likely to pre-empt 4♠

South will either pass, double, or bid 5♣. Not easy!

North must show suit preference and bid 5♥

♠ 54		
♥ KJ873		
♦ J52		
♣ 954		
♠ 8732	6♥ by SOUTH	♠ K1096
♥ 62		♥ 109
♦ 1083		♦ A976
♣ QJ106		♣ 732
		♠ AQJ
		♥ AQ54
		♦ KQ4
		♣ AK8

S	N
2C	2D
2NT	3D
3H	3NT
4NT*	4D**
6H	P
*RKCB	
**4D = 1 key card	

PLAY assuming ♣Q LEAD.

Do you finesse in spades - and why?

This answer depends on whether a successful finesse would give you a meaningful discard.

Here you have an obvious loser (♦A)

AND a slow loser in clubs. One loser too many!

Win ♣A and lead to ♥K.

Lead ♠4 from dummy and finesse ♠Q!

(If this loses, 6♥ can never make.)

When ♠Q holds, return to dummy by playing low to ♥J.

Repeat the finesse ♠5 to ♠J.

Throw ♣4 on ♠A.

(Some will bid 6NT for an even better score)

Note opener's rebid of only 2NT with 25 HCPs.

If you rebid 2NT to show 23/24 HCPs and 3NT to show 25+, you would not locate the heart fit.

Here, it doesn't matter as 6NT will play just as well.

After an Acoll 2♣ open (or a Benji 2♦) consider playing a 2NT rebid as forcing with Stayman/transfers available.

The advantages outweigh the chance of responder having 0 pts.

TRUMP MANAGEMENT 4.

DON'T DRAW TRUMPS

♠ KQ8	♠ 62	♠ J75
♥ 102	♥ A854	♥ 963
♦ 743	♦ AK1062	♦ QJ98
♣ J10832	♣ K5	♣ 974
	6H	
	♠ A10943	
	♥ KQJ7	
	♦ 5	
	♣ AQ6	

S	N
1S	2D
2H	3C*
3NT	5H
6H	

*3C = 4th S.F.

**5H = bid 6H
with 2 of the top
3 honours.

♣ J LEAD Played on Bridge Club Live

All declarers drew trumps!!

*A moments thought should tell you that there will be inevitable losers in your side suits if you do this.

Picture south as the master hand.

You need to get rid of losing spades!!!

The solution is to ESTABLISH the spade suit by ruffing. Win any lead.

Cash ♣K and ♣A and throw ♠2 on ♣Q

Cash ♠A and ruff a spade.

Return to hand with a trump.

Ruff a 2nd spade and notice that they break 3-3.

Draw trumps ending in hand and claim 13 tricks!

♠ AQ7	7♦	♠ 8
♥ 42	by	♥ A7
♦ QJ642	east	♦ AK98753
♣ K42		♣ AQ6

A FRISKY CONTRACT

♠ AQ7	6♦	♠ 8
♥ 42	by	♥ A7
♦ QJ642	east	♦ AK98753
♣ K42		♣ AQ6

A CONSIDERED CONTRACT

Do you play these two hands in the same way?

Apply this thinking to ALL contracts!

♠ 72	♠ AK95	♠ 10863
♥ Q98	♥ K10532	♥ -
♦ 965	♦ 10	♦ AKJ843
♣ 106532	♣ AK8	♣ J74
	6H	
	♠ QJ4	
	♥ AJ764	
	♦ Q72	
	♣ Q9	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2D*	X
2H	P	2S	P
4H	P	4NT**	P
5D	P	6H	

* = Transfer

** = RKCB

*GET OPPONENTS TO HELP!!!

♦ 6 LEAD

Played in the Monday afternoon duplicate.

Note that south does not have 2 of the 3 criteria needed to open a suit. However for those who are happy to open 1NT with a 5 card major, this is reasonable.

When north transfers, south may be tempted to make a 'super accept' but with a poor opening, perhaps shouldn't. However, after a forcing 2♠ by north, 4♥ is reasonable.

FROM THE DEFENCE SIDE

There are two defensive points to note.

1.
East's X of a conventional bid is LEAD DIRECTING

2.
West, holding the trump queen should have ALREADY DECIDED NOT to play the queen if south leads trumps, and maybe even to false card with the 9.

Whether you get to 6♥ or not, you need to find ♥Q and it is a guess. (Unless you lead from north.) The only help our lessons might have given you is to encourage defenders to go wrong!

Run the ♥J (better than the ♥10) and see whether west hesitates wondering whether to cover an honour with an honour.