



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – July 11, 2022

Top Master Point Earners at our Club

Contributed by Allen Pengelly

This table lists the individuals who have earned the most master points at our club in each of three master point bands since the beginning of June.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	29.97	1	Jim Dalglish	11.43	1	Joani Horvath	4.50
2	Ted Boyd	21.20	2	Suzanne Edwards	8.47	2	Nancy Cattanach	3.47
3	Robert Griffiths	14.76	3	Muzaffer Husain	7.14	3	Virginia Alviano	3.27
4	Mike Peng	13.73	4	Lissa Lowes	6.39	4	Belinda Burt	3.10
5	Colin Harrington	13.18	5	Bev Hitchman	6.35	5	Brian Gaber	2.23
6	Liz McDowell	12.05	6	John Kip	5.56	5	Rick Arthur	2.23
7	Cindy Mahn	11.71	6	Cheryl Kip	5.56	7	Reinhold Kauk	2.14
8	Margot Stockie	10.63	8	Jake Liu	5.17	8	Elinor Girouard	2.09
9	Moira Hollingsworth	9.95	9	Kevin Latter	5.08	9	Tong Chen	2.08
10	Edith Ferber	9.56	10	Lynda Burnett	4.95	9	Susan Durance	2.08
11	William Christian	8.93	11	Shelley Metcalfe	4.28	11	Audrey Cook	2.06
12	Pat McMillan	7.57	12	Barbara Arthur	4.10	12	Charlene Schell	1.93
13	Neil Coburn	6.52	13	Nanci Phelan	4.04	13	David Ward	1.82
14	Frank Fischer	6.26	14	Andy Wilson	3.95	13	Michel Lalonde	1.82
15	Neil Jeffrey	5.69	15	Paul Latimer	3.92	15	Kim Wakeford	1.70
16	Malkin Howes	5.43	16	Andy Martinek	3.85	16	JJ Girard	1.67
17	Dianne Aves	5.34	16	Robert Gilck	3.85	17	Debbie Miethig	1.62
18	Kathy Russell	5.25	18	William Sherman	3.76	18	Lori Bailey	1.58
19	Sandy Graham	4.96	19	Jack Cole	3.64	19	Ginny Scott	1.55
20	Wayne Jordan	4.85	19	Lori Cole	3.64	20	Pat McDonald	1.51
20	Dave Quarrie	4.85	21	David Dennis	3.32	21	Anita Hanson	1.49
22	Stephen Young	4.76	22	Nancy Millward	3.03	21	Barb Neibert	1.49
23	Barbara Kains	4.24	23	Brian Kirkconnell	2.83	23	Jane Wilson	1.46
24	David Longstaff	4.13	23	Stephen Nantes	2.83	23	Molly Worden	1.46
25	Susan Lawton	3.55	25	Gary Stoller	2.80	25	Philip Fiess	1.33

ALL GAMES ARE ONLINE UNLESS DESIGNATED **FACE-TO-FACE.**

Coming Events

- Tuesday, July 5 – Sunday, July 10, [Toronto Summer Regional](#)
 - Friday, July 8, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members)**
FACE TO FACE
 - Friday, July 8, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9 non-members)**
FACE TO FACE
 - Saturday, July 9, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BB\$5**
 - Sunday, July 10, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, July 11, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members)** **FACE TO FACE**
 - Monday, July 11, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, July 11, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Monday, July 11, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Tuesday, July 12, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Tuesday, July 12, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members)** **FACE TO FACE**
 - Wednesday, July 13, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Wednesday, July 13, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, July 14, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, July 14, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, July 14, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
 - Thursday, July 14, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
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Congratulations....

To the following local players who have advanced to the next level....

Junior Masters

- **Blake Hull**
- **Debra Perry**

Club Master

- **Fiona Macgregor**

And a warm welcome to the following new ACBL members.....

- **Randall Dekraker**
- **Paul Raymond**

Canada Day Colours



Joan Slover sent in these photos of patriotic Friday afternoon bridge players. From left to right, they are: Joan Slover, John Kip, Joe Blake, and Vivian McLellan.



Jake Liu sent in the first two photos of patriotic Friday night bridge players. From left to right, they are Dianne Aves, Kathy Russell, Peggy Pearson, Mike Peng, Ted Boyd, Peter Rival, Dave Baker, and Ed Wrobel. Kathy Russell sent in the third photo – of Miiiiiiiiiiiiike and Daaaaaaaaaaaaave – at the pub après.

Results from Toronto Regional

Congratulations to the following local players who were in the money in the early days of the Toronto Regional.

Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs

- **Roy Dandyk and David Embury**, 4th in A
- **Ron Lawrence** and Gale Small, 10th in A

Tuesday Open Pairs

- **Diane Bourdeau and Larry Woods**, 5th in A
- **Ted Boyd and Edith Ferber**, 7th in A

Tuesday Side Swiss Teams

- **Tom Ramsay, Cindy Mahn, Stephen Young, and Bob Griffiths**, 2nd in A
- **Al Pengelly, Sandy Graham, Robert Walker, and Ted Kennedy**, 2nd in B

Wednesday Open Pairs

- **Peter Peng and Mike Peng**, 9th in A
- **Peggy Pearson and Lynda Burnett**, 6th in B

Wednesday Bracketed Super Gold Rush Round Robin Team 1

- **Paul Latimer, John Hanemaayer, Scott Hills, and Neil Jeffrey**, 1st

Wednesday Bracketed Super Gold Rush Round Robin Team 2

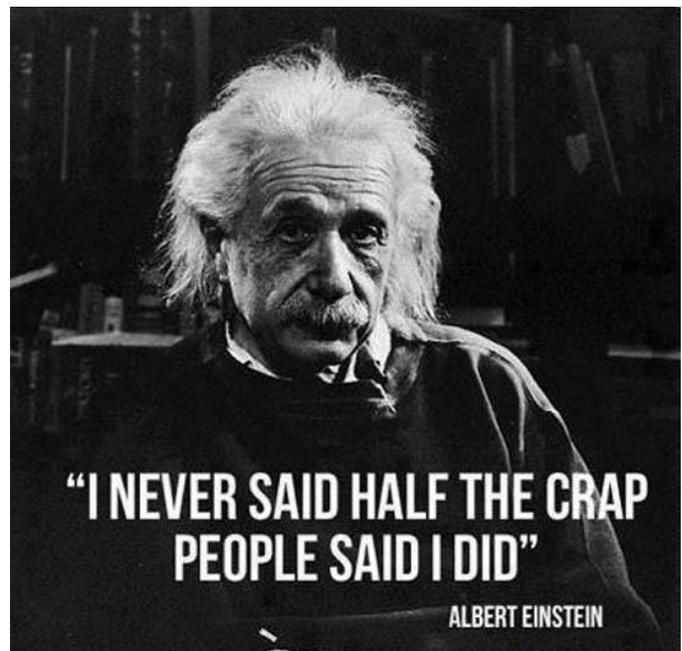
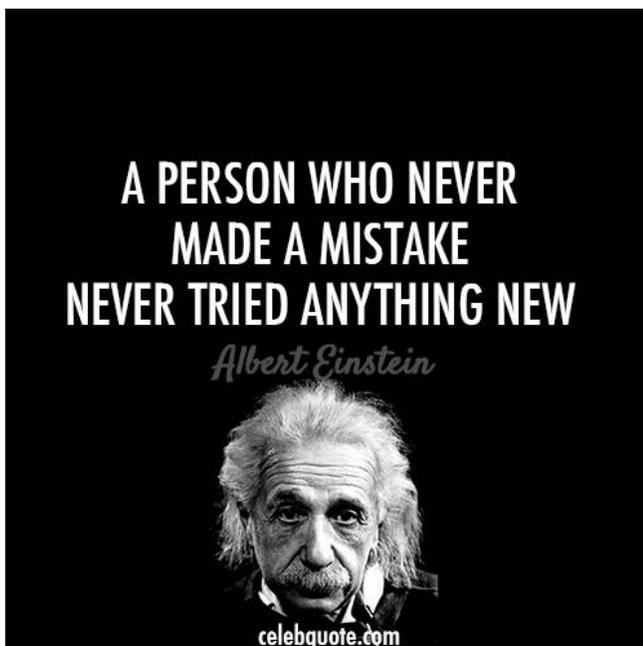
- **Al Pengelly, Sandy Graham, Robert Walker, and Ted Kennedy**, 1st
 - **Roy Dandyk, David Embury, Brian Krulicki, and Neil Coburn**, 2nd
-

Membership Report

This is the last update on the number of our paid-up members – of which there currently are 210. If you haven't yet joined our club/renewed your membership, you should walk, not run, to do so. The cost is a mere \$70. Your support helps keep our club strong!

Click [here](#) for information on how to make payment.

If you are joining for the first time, you also need to fill out [our membership form](#).



The Answer Lady

Contributed by Susan Lawton

As the "The Answer Lady", I have been responding to questions from "newer" players over the past several weeks. A request has been made to share those players' questions and my responses in the Alert, essentially a column for the beginner player! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Dear Answer Lady:

I'm a novice player and have been playing some hands with other novices. We had an interesting situation last week where we would have liked to have investigated slam but weren't sure how to do it.

East opened 1NT with 16 HCP. West had nine spades and 14 HCP and responded 2♥ to transfer to spades. East completed the transfer. West then bid 4♠ to show six-plus spades and 10+ points. We should have investigated slam in spades, but couldn't figure out how to bid to 6♠. West knew that slam was possible based on points, but didn't know how to respond other than 4♥. We made 6♠ quite easily but didn't know where we went wrong.



Hello Novice Player,

So nice to hear from you and thank you for sharing this interesting hand.

Good for you and your partner for getting to game and recognizing that 6♠ was where you needed to be, another great point for both of you. This is a hand where distribution is the key in bidding to the slam level of 6♠, but how to do it?

A bidding sequence of 1NT-2♥-2♠-4♠ wasn't successful. Even if the bidding had gone 1NT-2♥-2♠-4NT, that would also have been unsuccessful as 4NT would be a quantitative bid asking partner to bid 6NT with maximum points. It says: "Partner, I have equal points to your 1NT" - which in this hand isn't the case. What to do?

The ideal approach when you encounter a long major suit after your partner opens 1NT is a convention called: Texas Transfers. To make a Texas Transfer, responders to Opener's 1NT opening need the following: at least six hearts or six spades and game-going values – that is, HCP and distribution. Hands with fewer values and/or only five cards in the major would continue to use the more traditional Jacoby Transfers.

With hands like the one displayed, instead of bidding 2♦ to show hearts and 2♥ to show spades, using a Texas Transfer Responder would bid 4♦ or 4♥. Opener would then bid 4♥ or 4♠ as appropriate – that is 1NT-4♦-4♥ or 1NT-4♥-4♠. As a small warning, even experienced players have had memory lapses after the 1NT-4♦ and 1NT-4♥ bids, this author included. So as the 1NT opener be careful before plunking down that Pass card after your partner bids 4♦ or 4♥.

In this scenario, Responder has a very strong hand - 14 HCP and a beautiful spade suit with nine cards headed by the K. Responder knows that Opener is likely to have at least two spades, meaning that probably only two spades are held by the opponents. It's time to explore slam!

After Opener has accepted the transfer and bid 4♠, Responder would explore slam by bidding 4NT. This time 4NT is ace-asking rather than the quantitative 4NT. Opener will indicate two aces. West now knows you are missing one ace and would bid 6♠. (You don't need all the aces to make slam - missing one is acceptable.)

Barbara Seagram, in her book: 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know, 1999, p. 77, has an excellent description on the use of Texas Transfers.

Hopefully the next time you and your partner encounter a hand like the one above, you will consider using Texas Transfers to reach the right contract.



The Lady with the Answers

Sue Moses took this photo of Susan Lawton at Monday's bridge lab. Receiving advice are from left to right Michael Plauntz, Pat Northey, Sheila Charters, and Jenny Baker.

Conventional Wisdom

This column discusses conventions, starting with the most useful ones [according to Larry Cohen](#). Today, we will talk about **4th Suit Game Force**.

Fourth Suit Forcing to Game is used by a responder to establish a game force. Once the fourth suit has been bid, neither partner can pass until game has been reached. So, in this sequence

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2♣	2♥

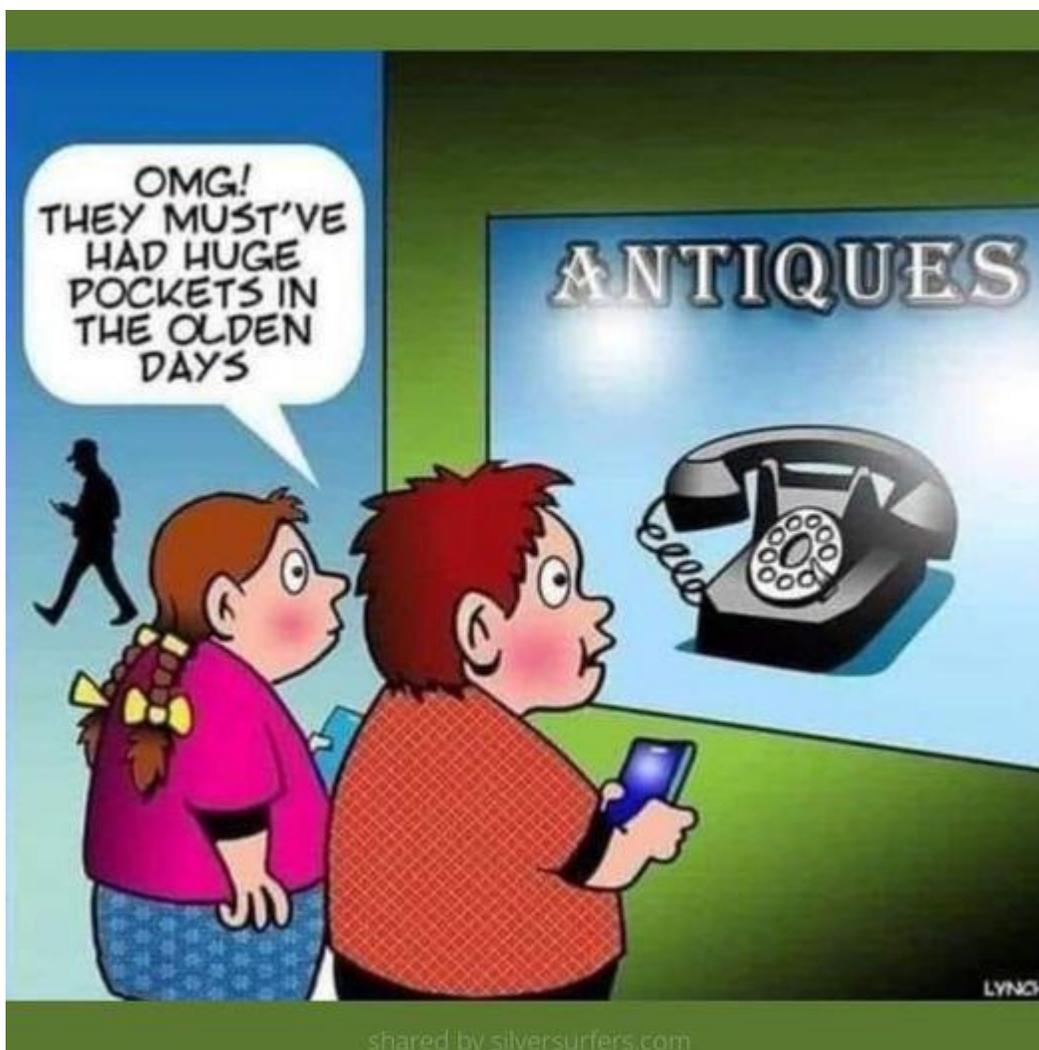
responder's 2♥ bid says nothing about hearts but rather establishes a game force.

Fourth-suit forcing can be found near the bottom of the front page of your convention card.

Some people play that it is forcing for only one round, and that option is included on the convention cards, but most good players play that fourth-suit forcing is forcing to game. It is **alert-able**.

If you are interested in learning more about 4th Suit Forcing to Game, there is tons on the Internet and Barbara Seagram lays it out clearly in her book *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know* (Barbara puts 4th Suit Forcing to Game in her "Sophisticated Stuff" category, but that is a bit misleading).

If you would like to take an online or in-person lesson on 4th Suit Forcing, write to [Malkin Howes](#) specifying your lesson mode preference and possible time lines.



TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

If you and your friends have a burning desire to take lessons on a particular topic – online or face to face - please email [Malkin](#), our lesson lead, and she will see what she can do. We currently have a group that may be interested in lessons in the fall on the **Precision bidding system**. Watch this space!

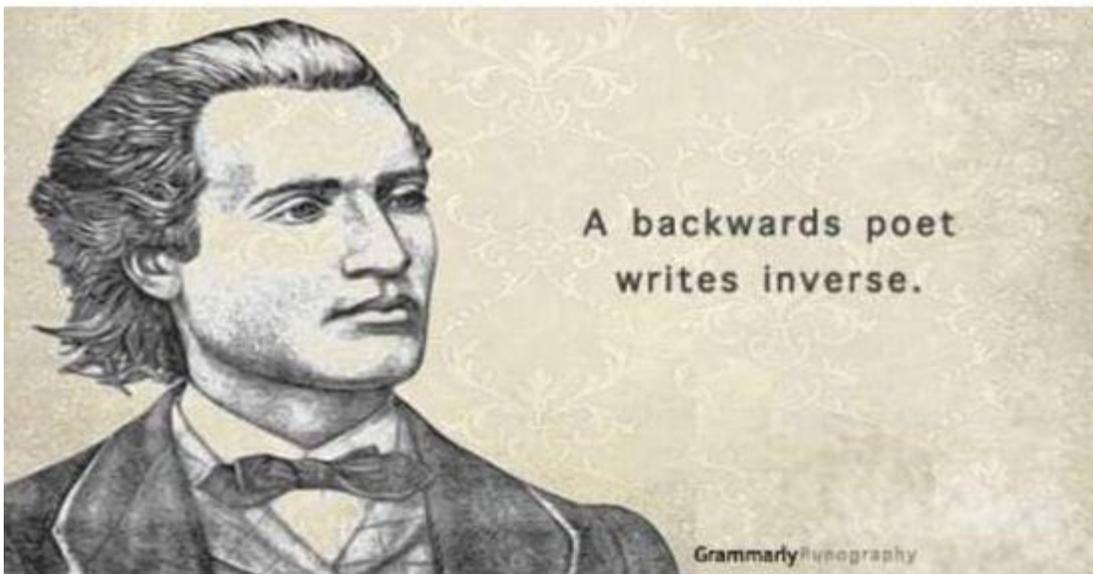
It would also be possible to offer a free workshop on **face-to-face play** if there were enough interest. We have one person so far.....

In the meantime, we have these recorded lessons available.

Recorded Lessons

The following recordings are available for \$10. To order one or more of them, send in your payment specifying what it is for (click [here](#) for information on how to pay).

- John Hanemaayer's **novice** workshop on **Filling out your Convention Card**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Killer Signals**
- Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Playing in our Online Games**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Opening Leads**
- Jack Cole's **novice** workshop on **Scoring Matters**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Third Seat Play**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Second Seat Play**
- Stephen Carpenter's defence workshop on **Discards and Strategies**



Oscar was Wilde; Thornton was Wilder

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



More Matchpoint Madness

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Board 12	♠ K J 9 7	
South Deals	♥ Q J 9	
E-W Vul	♦ K 8 2	
	♣ A J 3	
♠ 6 5		♠ 10 8
♥ K 7		♥ A 6 4 3 2
♦ Q 10 9 7 6		♦ J 4 3
♣ 10 6 5 2		♣ Q 7 4
		♠ A Q 4 3 2
		♥ 10 8 5
		♦ A 5
		♣ K 9 8

Suppose, in a matchpoint pair game you are playing in 4♠ from the South hand, with no bidding from E/W along the way. West leads the ♥K and you think it over. You are in a normal contract and it looks as if you will quickly lose two hearts and, if there is a heart ruff, then you need to find the ♣Q onside to make your game. At Trick 2, West leads the ♥7 to his partner's ace, then ruffs the heart return.

Question: Playing matchpoints, are you happy?

Answer: You are very unhappy.

If West had cashed the top two hearts and then given East a ruff, you would have lost the same three tricks that you lost here, but it would have been a normal beginning, repeated at many tables.

But West made an exotic lead that won't happen at most tables – and made an extra trick because of it. If your red ace had been the ♥A instead of the ♦A, his lead would have gained you a trick instead of costing you one. So, you are behind the field now. Any “normal” lead from West would have allowed you to draw trumps and then take the club finesse for an overtrick. Even if the club finesse wins, you will score poorly – to wit, you will make your game but fall behind all of the declarers who did not have to put up with the nasty lead of the ♥K from K7. This is a time for drastic action.

The normal play of the clubs is to finesse West for the queen. But we know that if the club finesse wins you get a poor score - because you will still be one trick behind.

You do have a chance to even out the score if you play the clubs “backwards”. Lead the ♣J off the Dummy, planning to play low unless East covers with the queen. When East covers, you win the ♣K, then lead the ♣9, playing low unless West covers, setting up your ♣8. You can gain a trick if the ♣Q is with East and West has the ♣10.

This club play is a poor percentage play. A normal finesse requires one card to be in the right position; this play requires two cards to be in the right position - so the odds are against you. If all of this anti-percentage play works out for you, you will score average instead of the near-zero that was coming your way.

If the same situation were to arise in a team game, you should play the clubs normally, finessing the queen.

When there is no matchpoint result to consider, you play for the best chance of making your contract - not an anti-percentage play that is more likely to cost a trick than to gain one.



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

An Unrecognized Beauty

The stratagem below is one that I have used less than a dozen times over the years. It doesn't work all the time but when it does, it is thrilling.

	N North ♠ J10 ♥ A852 ♦ AKQ32 ♣ Q5	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	P	1♣	1NT	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S														
			P	P														
1♣	1NT	P	P															
P																		
W West ♠ AQ86 ♥ Q10 ♦ J109 ♣ K1086	E East ♠ K94 ♥ 963 ♦ 875 ♣ J432																	
S South ♠ 7532 ♥ KJ74 ♦ 64 ♣ A97	1NT N NS: 0 EW: 0																	

I was East and Mike Peng was West. [As an aside, whenever Mike came to me at the club and said “Daaaaaaaaaaaaave” in that plaintive tone of his, I asked what favour he wanted from me now. It has thus become our standard greeting on BBO — “Hello Miiiiiiiiike” “Hello Daaaaaaaaaaaaave”.]

The ♣2 was led to the king and a club came back, won by the queen. Looking at all the hands, you can see that declarer has 11 tricks: 5♦s, 4♥s & 2♣s. The problem is that you can't see all four hands and the heart suit is tricky. When you cash the ♥A, West drops the ♥10. Another heart sees East play the ♥6. What now? If the 10 was a singleton, you should finesse the 7. If it was T9 doubleton, you should finesse the jack. If it was Q10 doubleton, you should play the king. So many choices with no guarantees. But what if Mike offered you a guarantee? What would you do if West played the ♥Q!!! in tempo under the ace? If it is an honest card, declarer has enough spots and entries to pick up the entire heart suit if East started with T963 of hearts. The vast majority of players would have tried to do just that. Unfortunately for Mike, the declarer was Colin Harrington, who has been around the block far too many times to fall for this gambit from an expert player. He led a heart to the king without hesitation.

At the end of the hand, in full recognition of his brilliant play I said “Miiiiiiiiike – If you hadn't dropped the queen, he might have finessed!” After I let him stew about that for a minute, I said “Very well done, partner.” It is often not the result of a hand, but the thought behind the play that deserves approbation.

Remember this Q10 combination and be prepared to play smoothly.

For Intermediate *Jake's*
Play a Bad Hand Well

#80

♠ KQ3
 ♥ AK875
 ♦ 104
 ♣ A63



♠ J10987652
 ♥ 6
 ♦ AQ76
 ♣

West	North	East	South
			4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣ ¹
Pass	6♠	All pass	

1. An odd number of keycards and a void in clubs

West led the ♣K to dummy's ♣A, East following suit while I pitched a diamond from my hand. I then cashed the ♥A and ♥K, pitching another diamond on the second heart, while both East and West followed suit both times. At Trick 4, I led another heart from the board and ruffed with my ♠J. Both East and West followed suit in hearts, meaning that now only one heart was still at large. Next, I led the ♠10 from my hand. West showed out, discarding a club. What now?

SOLUTION

At this point, here is what you can see.

♠ KQ3
 ♥ 87
 ♦ 104
 ♣ 63



♠ 10987652
 ♥
 ♦ AQ
 ♣

You have a sure loser in the ♠A and a possible loser in diamonds. Obviously, you can't do anything about the ♠A, meaning that you have to somehow eliminate the diamond loser if you are to make your slam. Finessing the ♦K is an option, but that's only a 50% chance. What about a 100% chance? All you have to do is develop a heart winner to pitch the ♦Q on!

There is only one heart still out - the ♥10. Bear in mind that if you do manage to set up dummy's fifth heart, you are going to have to be able to get back to the board twice.

So, at Trick 5 you lead a high trump, let's say, the ♠10, from your hand and overtake it with the ♠Q. There are two defensive scenarios.

- A. East takes his ♠A and returns a diamond at Trick 6 (best defence). You go up with the ♦A and lead another high trump from your hand, let's say the ♠9, and overtake it with the ♠K (East will drop his last trump, the ♠4). Then you lead the ♥7 from the board and ruff high in hand, making dummy's ♥8 good. Now all you have to do is get back to the board. You have a precious bridge, the ♠3! Lead the ♠2 from your hand to dummy's ♠3 and cash the winning ♥8, pitching your potentially-losing ♦Q on it.
- B. East ducks (playing the ♠4 instead of the ♠A). So, then you immediately lead the ♥7 from the board and ruff it in your hand with a high trump. The ♥8 is now established. Next, lead a high trump, let's say the ♠9, and overtake it with dummy's ♠K. East will take it with his ♠A perforce, and his best defence is to return a diamond. You go up with your ♦A and lead the ♠2 from your hand in order to enter dummy with your carefully-preserved bridge, the ♠3. Now you cash the ♥8 and pitch the potentially-losing ♦Q on it.

Please note what will happen if you don't save your ♠2 (an easy-to-make mistake). If East holds up his ♠A, you won't be able to get back to the board to enjoy the ♥8 that you worked so hard to establish. Plus, now you will have to play diamonds from your hand!

Here is the complete deal.

	♠ KQ3	
	♥ AK875	
	♦ 104	
	♣ A63	
♠		♠ A4
♥ J1042		♥ Q93
♦ K953		♦ J82
♣ KQ752		♣ J10984
	♠ J10987652	
	♥ 6	
	♦ AQ76	
	♣	

As you can see, the 50% chance would turn out to be a 0% chance.

If you would like to play in a particular game but lack a partner that day, you can either:

- ♠ Log in to [Pianola](#), click on Partner Finder, and create a Partner Finder Advert. This needs to be done at least a few hours in advance of the game. OR
- ♠ Log in to the game in question and register yourself on the Partnership Desk tab.

If you are looking for a regular partner, contact [Joan Slover](#), our membership lead.

We have fun in **spades**.
 We play with all our **hearts**.
 We treat our members like **diamonds**.
 We are very patriotic at our **club**.