



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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## ALERT – July 18, 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	33.59	1	Jim Dalglish	12.23	1	Joani Horvath	4.50
2	Ted Boyd	23.84	2	Suzanne Edwards	9.30	2	Virginia Alviano	4.33
3	Cindy Mahn	16.73	3	Muzaffer Husain	7.14	3	Belinda Burt	3.92
4	Robert Griffiths	15.96	4	Lissa Lowes	7.11	4	Nancy Cattanach	3.64
5	Colin Harrington	14.77	5	Bev Hitchman	7.07	5	Brian Gaber	2.79
6	Mike Peng	14.05	6	John Kip	6.43	5	Rick Arthur	2.79
7	Moira Hollingsworth	12.69	6	Cheryl Kip	6.43	7	Reinhold Kauk	2.74
8	Edith Ferber	12.19	8	Jake Liu	6.31	8	J J Girard	2.63
9	Margot Stockie	12.11	9	Kevin Latter	5.56	9	Elinor Girouard	2.58
10	Liz McDowell	12.05	10	Lynda Burnett	5.37	10	Audrey Cook	2.55
11	William Christian	10.00	11	Paul Latimer	4.87	11	Tong Chen	2.08
12	Stephen Young	9.36	12	Andy Wilson	4.75	11	Susan Durance	2.08
13	Pat McMillan	8.96	13	Shelley Metcalfe	4.50	13	Charlene Schell	1.93
14	Neil Jeffrey	7.67	14	Nancy Millward	4.39	14	Sue McDonald	1.92
15	Kathy Russell	6.90	15	Nanci Phelan	4.28	15	Kim Wakeford	1.90
16	Neil Coburn	6.52	16	Andy Martinek	4.25	16	Joe Blake	1.86
17	Frank Fischer	6.26	17	Barbara Arthur	4.10	17	Michel Lalonde	1.82
18	Diane Bourdeau	5.67	18	Robert Gilck	3.85	17	David Ward	1.82
19	Malkin Howes	5.43	19	Bob Livermore	3.79	19	Steven Allen	1.70
20	Dianne Aves	5.34	20	William Sherman	3.76	20	Carol Gerber	1.65
21	Dave Quarrie	5.07	21	Lori Cole	3.64	20	Judy Johnston	1.65
22	Sandy Graham	4.96	21	Jack Cole	3.64	22	Debbie Miethig	1.62
23	Wayne Jordan	4.85	23	David Dennis	3.32	23	Lori Bailey	1.58
24	Barbara Kains	4.56	24	Stephen Nantes	3.22	24	Ginny Scott	1.55
25	Sharon King	4.36	24	Brian Kirkconnell	3.22	25	Pat McDonald	1.51

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

## **Club Championship Games**

For the foreseeable future, our three f2f games will be Club Championship Games. These games yield extra masterpoints at no extra cost.

### Coming Events

- Friday, July 15, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**
- Friday, July 15, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**
- Saturday, July 16, 1:00 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BB\$5
- Sunday, July 17, 10:00 am, 499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
- Monday, July 18, 9:00 am, Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
- Monday, July 18, 12:30 pm, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Monday, July 18, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Monday, July 18, 7:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Tuesday, July 19, 12:30 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Tuesday, July 19, 1:00 pm, open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**
- Wednesday, July 20, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Wednesday, July 20, 6:45 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Wednesday, July 20, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, July 21, 9:30 am, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, July 21, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, July 21, 6:30 pm, 19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
- Thursday, July 21, 7:00 pm, 999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5



## **Recruiting New Club Members**

*Contributed by Kathy Russell*

The fire alarm went off for quite a long time just after the Friday night game got started. Finally, the fire department was called and Margot called Brent McFee, the project manager at the Dare Kitchener Plant.

We were standing outside for half an hour and two fire trucks arrived. It seemed to be much ado about nothing, but we used the opportunity to try to recruit new bridge club members and told them we have lessons. 😊

## Results from the Toronto Regional

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

### Thursday Gold Rush Pairs

- Barry Spinner and **Al Pengelly**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A
- **Roy Dandyk and David Embury**, 4<sup>th</sup> in A
- Gale Small and **Ron Lawrence**, 7<sup>th</sup> in A
- **Lynda Burnett and Muzaffar Husain**, 13<sup>th</sup> in A

### Thursday Bracketed Knockout Teams 2 Days Pool 2

- **Adrian Record, Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Peter Peng, and Mike Peng**, 1<sup>st</sup>

### Friday Open Pairs

- **Neil Jeffrey and Scott Hills**, 5<sup>th</sup> in A

### Friday Gold Rush Pairs

- **Roy Dandyk and David Embury**, 1<sup>st</sup> in A
- Robert McGuinn and **Dave Quarrie**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A
- **Raina King and Muzaffar Husain**, 4<sup>th</sup> in A

### Friday Extra Chance Swiss

- **Diane Bourdeau, Larry Woods, Edith Ferber, and Bob Griffiths**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A
- John Montgomery, Mary Ellen Dale, **John Hanemaayer, and Paul Latimer**, 1<sup>st</sup> in B

### Saturday Extra Chance KO-B

- **Diane Bourdeau, Larry Woods, Edith Ferber, and Bob Griffiths**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A

### Saturday Extra Chance Swiss Teams

- **Adrian Record, Jennifer Verdam-Woodward, Cindy Mahn, and Tom Ramsay**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in A

### Sunday Bracketed Gold Rush Round Robin Teams 1

- **Roy Dandyk, David Embury, Brian Krulicki, and Dave Quarries**, 1<sup>st</sup> in A
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## Unit 249 Sectional Tournaments

*Contributed by Ted Boyd, Tournament Coordinator, Unit 249*

Our unit has sanctioned three sectional tournaments through the balance of 2022. Covid protocols will be published at a later date for each tournament.

- Tillsonburg will hold its regular Golden Leaf Sectional on August 6 and 7 at the Westfield Public School (102 Dereham Drive). A/X Pairs, B/C/D Pairs, and Novice Pairs on Saturday and Bracketed Teams on Sunday.
  - St. Thomas will hold their regular Jumbo Sectional on September 10 and 11 at the St Thomas Seniors' Centre (225 Chestnut St). The schedule of events has not been published to date, but likely will be pairs on Saturday and team games on Sunday.
  - London Bridge Centre will hold a special sectional (not on their regular January date) but instead on October 22 and 23 at the London Bridge Centre (1107 Dearness Drive). The schedule of events has not been published to date, but likely will be pairs on Saturday and team games on Sunday.
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# On the Tournament Trail at the Toronto Regional

*Contributed by Allen Pengelly*

Over the years, I haven't been able to play in many regional events due to work and family commitments. But last week, I was lucky enough to have some free time, and so I planned to play in the Toronto Regional. I went in with the goal of at least getting my NABC Master rank. I already had enough points for it, but I still needed 1.24 gold and 4.86 of any combination of red/gold.

On the Tuesday, playing with Sandy Graham, we managed to come fourth overall (second in B strat). That was worth 2.18 red points. No gold, but still a good start!

On the Wednesday, again playing with Sandy, we came first! That was worth 5.13 gold and 2.56 red. I had doubled my gold point accumulation in one shot and sailed past my NABC Master rank.

We went out for dinner that night with a number of other GRBC players (Paul Latimer, John Hanemaayer, Scott Hills, Neil Jeffrey, Raina King, and Fern Donaldson). We had a great time talking and celebrating.

On Thursday, I played with Barry Spinner, a guy I knew through Scrabble tournaments. We decided to play in the Gold Rush Pairs. We finished the morning session with 59.24% - second in our section/direction and sixth-place overall out of 50 pairs.

The afternoon started off well, but then we hit kind of a lull. With five boards left to go, we came to Board 8.

My hand (playing South) was: ♠KT8 ♥- ♦AKJ32 ♣QJ643

The bidding had gone:

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♣	3♥	4♣
4♥	5♣	5♥	???

I had options: Pass? Double?

And then a feeling came over me that I felt as if we had to gamble a little bit to get a good overall score, plus I knew that my partner didn't make his 3♣ bid on nothing, so I pulled out the 6♣ card!

The opponents didn't double. That was promising.

West led the ♥A, and this dummy came down: ♠J ♥K52 ♦Q64 ♣AT9875

I trumped the heart lead in my hand. I knew I couldn't afford to lose the trump king because of the outstanding ♠A. Reasoning that the ♣K was much more likely to be offside, I played for the drop – and it worked!!!! From there, I was able to discard dummy's spade on my high diamonds, cash the ♥K, and then crossruff all the way home. The slam made with an overtrick! We waited for the final results, and then my jaw dropped. We had finished second overall and were rewarded with 7.24 gold points!

From now on I will call that 6♣ bid "my five-gold-point decision". If I had doubled, we would have got only about 30% on the board. The final standings were so close that we would have dropped to eighth overall – which awarded 2.14 gold instead. Passing would have been even worse.

In case you haven't been keeping track, I accumulated 12.37 gold and 4.74 red points over the three days. Thank you to my partners (Sandy Graham and Barry Spinner) and teammates (Ted Kennedy and Bob Walker). And a shout out to Paul Latimer for driving me on the Thursday and to all the other GRBC members who were so encouraging.

For anyone who is interested, I would heartily encourage you to attend a sectional or a regional tournament if you get the chance (or an NABC if you are lucky enough! I'm still waiting to do that) – and not just because I managed to do well this week. It's a great time of immersing yourself in bridge, and even better having a chance to visit with other players, whether from GRBC or new friends you meet along the way!

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## 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!

If you have a question, please write to me at [suzan2420@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzan2420@yahoo.ca). You don’t need to send me the actual deal – just tell me the game date and board number and I can take care of the rest.

Dear Answer Lady:

My partner and I recently played in a casual online game with some friends. My partner was sitting South and opened 1NT with 15 points. West entered the auction with a bid of 2♣. As North, I had eight points with two spades, four hearts, six diamonds and one club and was planning to bid 2♣, to show my four-hearts suit. I was unsure what I should have done, if anything. My partner and I were also confused by the 2♣ bid by West. We asked the opponents and they described the 2♣ bid to mean a natural club suit, “long and strong”. With five points in West’s hand and six clubs, we didn’t feel the 2♣ bid met the criteria for long and strong. Please help, Answer Lady, can you assist us? What should we have done? We have a fit in hearts. Signed, Online Player

♠ 9 5	♠ J 3	♠ A 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 9 6 5 4	♥ A 10 8 7	♥ —
♦ 8	♦ K 10 9 4 3 2	♦ Q J 6
♣ A J 10 8 5 3	♣ 9	♣ K Q 7 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 5px;">           N W     E    S         </div>	
	♠ K Q 10	
	♥ K Q J 3 2	
	♦ A 7 5	
	♣ 6 4	

Thank you, online player, for sharing this challenging situation you encountered at the bridge table.

Those nasty opponents, interfering with your bidding plan with an immediate bid of 2♣! Interference by opponents after a 1NT opening can take many forms including natural and artificial bids. Sometimes conventions such as DONT, Meckwell, and Cappelletti, for example, are used after a 1NT opening bid. That’s why it’s **critical** to know the meaning of those interfering bids, as the explanation will assist you in dealing with that interference. Good for you for inquiring!

Here it would appear the 2♣ is natural, that is a club suit. Yes, that 2♣ bid is a bit thin, but the opponents are allowed to make sub-par bids. What they are NOT allowed to do is have secret understandings about their bids that don't reflect their agreements. As long as the sub-par bidder's partner is fooled along with everyone else, the thin 2♣ bid is perfectly legal.

And just think: the opponent's interfering 2♣ bid stopped you in your tracks and prevented you from executing your bidding plan. As you continue on your bridge journey, you will discover that, more often than not, opponents are unwilling to lie down and let you reach contracts through an easy route. They are just doing their job.

While there are bidding conventions such as lebensohl to help players deal with opponents' interference after partner opens 1NT, these tend to be complicated and perhaps can come later in your bridge journey.

What to do?

Larry Cohen has developed [this simple scheme](#) to cope with interference. Here's an even barer-bones version than the one laid out in the link.

- If the interference is double or 2♣, just ignore the interference and bid whatever you would have bid without the interference (your double of 2♣ would be Stayman). Most open players at our club play this way, as it happens.
- If the interference is 2♦ or higher, just ignore the interference and bid naturally. Your double would show values but no clear-cut bid.

On this particular hand, after West interferes with 2♣, you would double (Stayman) and your partner would show you her heart suit. After that, Bob's your uncle.

Most importantly, discuss these bidding sequences with your partner and be prepared to explain your bids if the opponents 1. (Your system bids over interfering doubles and 2♣ bids do need to be [announced](#) (for example, TRANSFER). Once you have had this discussion, you will no longer need to lie down and let the opponents run over you after a 1NT interference.

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## Conventional Wisdom

This column discusses conventions, starting with the most useful ones [according to Larry Cohen](#). Today, we will talk about **methods to use against your opponents' one no trump openings**. It is really important to try to disturb your opponents' bidding following their one no trump opening (if you can do it safely), because the science of no trump bidding is quite accurate and almost everyone is very comfortable with Stayman and transfers. But there aren't too many players who are comfortable with interference from the opponents. You should strain to throw a spoke into their wheel.

Larry Cohen recommends a convention called **DONT (Disturb Opponents' No Trump)** – after all, he and his partner Marty Bergen invented it. Meckstroth and Rodwell tinkered with DONT and came up with **Meckwell**. Other players like **Landy** and **Cappelletti**. All of these disturbing systems are in use at our club. It's not as important *which* one you use as it is important *that* you use it.

Disturbing systems for no trump must be disclosed on your convention card, and disturbing bids must be **alerted** unless a particular bid is natural (there are a few natural bids in most of these systems). The relevant section on the convention card is on the back in the square with the heading DEFENSE VS NOTRUMP.

If you are interested in learning more about one or more of these systems, there is tons on the Internet.

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

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# 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.....

We are currently working on the fall lessons schedule and expect to start posting information fairly soon. At present, we are thinking mainly face-to-face lessons. If this is a big problem for you, please email Malkin as above.

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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**

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## Some Texts by Parents that Betray Their Cluelessness





## The Rule of 11 Rules

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

<b>Board 12</b>					
South Deals		♠ J 8 5 2			
E-W Vul		♥ A 4 2			
		♦ J 5 4			
		♣ K 5 4			
♠ K 10 7 4 ♥ 10 5 3 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ J 9 8		♠ Q 9 6 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ 10 7 3 2			
		♠ A 3 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ A 10 7 2 ♣ A Q 6			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>		<i>South</i>	
				1 N	
Pass	2 ♣	Pass		2 ♥	
Pass	2 N	Pass		3 N	
All pass					

A simple auction landed N/S in 3NT.

West, on opening lead, didn't like his options. The auction had led him to believe that North held four spades. But he decided to try the ♠4, his fourth-best. Declarer played the ♠8 from Dummy, hoping that East would play the queen or king, promoting Dummy's jack to the role of a stopper.

Now East was on the spot. By the rule of 11, if West's lead had been fourth-best, then there were seven spades greater than the ♠4 in the North, East, and South hands. East can see six of them between his hand and Dummy. If West Had led fourth-best, then Declarer had just one card greater than the ♠4.

East believed that South's one spade greater than the ♠4 was likely the ace or king and, if that were so, then playing his ♠9 at Trick 1 would force Declarer to play his ace or king if he wanted to win the trick. East could also see that playing his queen would set up dummy's ♠J as a second spade stopper.

So, East played the ♠9 on the first trick. He was willing to put up with the embarrassment of letting Declarer have a cheap trick with the ♠10 if that card happened to be South's one card greater than the ♠4. E/W would be able to win the rest of the spade suit when they regained the lead.

South won his ♠A and, with only seven tricks available so far, tried leading his ♥7 and ducking this trick around to East (the hand that can't successfully attack spades). East won the heart with his jack and knew that the second spade lead needed to come from West, so he got off lead with a diamond.

This was ducked to West's queen, and West did as his partner hoped and led a second spade. Declarer played low on this from Dummy and East confidently played the ♠6. As long as West had led his fourth-best Spade at Trick 1, East knew that Declarer could not top the ♠6. This was the rule of 11 in action for the second time in the hand.

The ♠6, of course, did win the trick; East cashed the ♠Q and led another diamond. Ducking the heart may have set up another trick for South, but it was only his eighth trick. When East led another diamond, South had the unhappy choice of winning his ♦A and cashing out his eight tricks for down one or trying to make his contract by letting the diamond ride around to Dummy's jack. If this was the wrong guess, it would lead to down two as the defence would win three spades, one heart, and two diamonds.

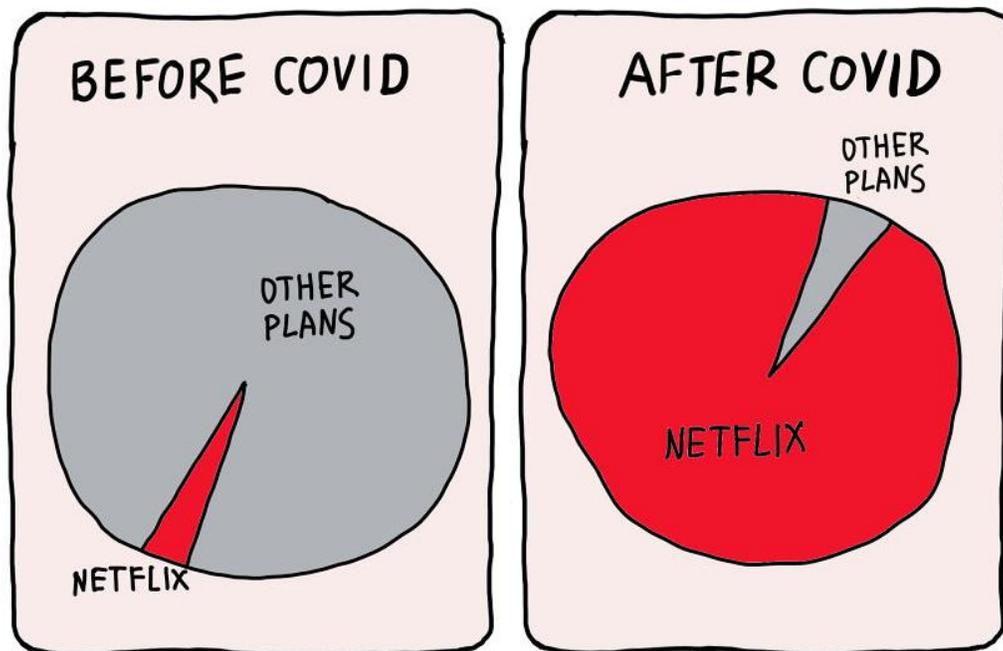
But ducking was Declarer's only hope of making the contract, so he ducked and West won the diamond and cashed another spade. Down two.



**The Rule of 11 states that if you subtract the rank of the opening lead card from the number 11, the difference is the number of cards greater than the rank of the led card in the other three hands. Because both the declarer and the opening leader's partner can see their own and dummy's high cards, they are both able to deduce how many higher-in-rank cards are held in the other's hand.**

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## evening plans



Irina Blok

## FOR OPEN PLAYERS



### Dear David

*Contributed by David Baker*

## Ego Trips: Stories from the Tournament Trail

*These stories are mainly about a pair of bridge professionals: Zia Mahmood, a Pakistani-American, and George Rosenkranz (of Rosenkranz double fame) who has more masterpoints than anyone in Mexico.*

### A Warm-Up Story

I was playing against the late, great Lynn Deas in the final of a knockout event. You would recognize her easily because she was always in a wheelchair with her small dog in her lap. Lynn had dozens of championships over her career. She was also the fastest player I have ever seen, whether declaring, defending, or bidding. About halfway through the match, I decided to have some fun. She sat on my left. I reached for my bidding box and watched her hand rise to her own box. I drew my hand back, as did she. I repeated my move, as did she. The third time, I stopped and held my hand on my box and stared at her as her hand stayed frozen in mid-air. She finally got the message and lowered her hand, waiting until I placed my bid on the table before reaching for her box. Petty, perhaps, but satisfying.

### Cancun Holiday Sectional

I alerted my partner's double and my opponent asked me what it meant. When I replied that it was a Rosenkranz double (showing at least one of the top three honours in partner's suit), someone at the next table rudely announced to the entire room that I was probably playing it incorrectly. My anger quickly turned into a smile when I saw that it was George Rosenkranz himself. 😊

### Buffalo Regional

I noticed that the next table we were going to play at had a half-dozen female kibitzers sitting around the table. It wasn't until I sat down that I realised that one of my opponents was Zia. On the first board, he doubled me in 3♦. I worked out exactly how to play the hand to make it. However, I got so excited at the prospect, I forgot what my plan was and went down. Zia smiled beatifically, his harem smiled adoringly, and I contemplated ending my miserable life.

### Cancun Holiday Sectional

Playing in a sectional against Rosenkranz and Mike Passell (# 2 on the lifetime masterpoint list with almost 90,000!!! masterpoints), I remember thinking "Don't you people have anything better to do than beat up on the great unwashed?" Passell doubled me in 3♦. I used the tactic of playing a suit that I had nothing in to make them believe they should attack the other suits. It worked like a charm and I scored up +670. Then they started bickering about whose fault it was. Neither one could believe that a "nobody" could intentionally outfox them, so it must be their partner's fault. Life is good!

## NABC

After two days of qualifying for the final of a pairs event, there were screens in place for the final in order to reduce the chances of cheating. Screens sit diagonally across the table with a small window in the middle for the board and viewing the play. Consequently, you can only see one opponent during the round. On the first board of one round, my unseen opponent bid and played like a complete idiot and we got a top board. When he tried some crazy stuff on the second board, I sent out a double and he wrapped it up easily for a bottom board for us. When I walked away from the table, I checked out who it was. Zia! 😞 For the rest of the round, I checked out whom we were playing against.

## Cancun Holiday Sectional

Playing against Eddie Wold and Rosenkranz, my partner and I had a beautiful auction, taking more than a half-dozen bids each to get to 7NT, making. At the end of the round, George and my partner left the table and Eddie glared at me as if he thought I had to be cheating. I wisely decided not to engage with him (a no-win situation) and George came back and asked me to go out in the hall so I could tell him about our auction. He seemed impressed. About six months later, the hand appeared in the *Bulletin*. Not only did he get the auction completely wrong (editorial licence, I guess), but also he referred to his opponents as “relatively-inexperienced players”! 😞 Apparently, the big boys find it hard to believe that a nobody from Nowheresville could get the best of them. For the record, we won this event by a mile with 72% - while the big boys had 42%. 🤪



How Dracula became a bridge sub for eternity

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

#81

♠ AQ2  
 ♥ Q4  
 ♦ Q10765  
 ♣ A107



♠ 97543  
 ♥ 752  
 ♦ AK94  
 ♣ 8

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
1NT <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	2♥	2♠
AP			

1. 5+ hearts & 5+ clubs
2. Support double (three spades)

I was South declaring a two spade contract. West led the ♣K which I took with dummy's ♣A. I then ruffed a club in my hand while both East and West followed. At Trick 3, I led a small heart toward dummy's ♥Q, which lost to East's ♥K. At Trick 4, East led a small diamond on which I played my ♦A, but to my horror West ruffed in with the ♠6. Who are these guys? West then led a heart to East's ♥A, so that East could give his partner another diamond ruff (the ♠J). I discarded a small diamond. At Trick 7, West led his ♣Q, to dummy's ♣10, East's ♣6, and my ruff. The storm had finally stopped, but what now?

**SOLUTION**

This was the situation after seven tricks had been played.

♠ AQ2  
 ♥  
 ♦ Q107  
 ♣

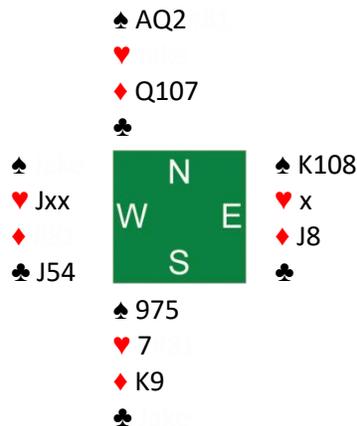


♠ 975  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ K9  
 ♣

## Taking stock

1. You've lost four tricks, so you can afford to lose only one more trick if you are going to make your contract.
2. West has shown up with the ♠J6 and probably has no more trumps (his lead of a club at Trick 7 looks like he's not trying to get to his partner's hand for another diamond ruff - but rather just trying to exit safely).
3. West has shown exactly five hearts in the bidding (if he had more, he would probably have bid pre-emptively). So, a reasonable hypothesis is that West's original shape was 2-5-0-6, giving East 3-3-4-3.
4. If this hypothesis is correct, East's trumps are ♠K108 and you're going to have to lose two trump tricks and go down - unless you do something unorthodox.

Let's assume that this is the situation after seven tricks. You're in your hand. How can you stop East from taking two trump tricks?

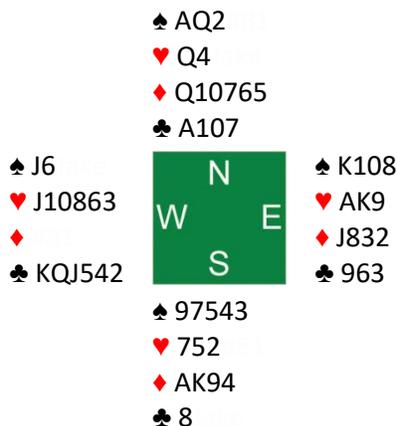


The only way to hold East to one trump trick is to end play him. So first you need to remove his safe exit card, the heart.

- At Trick 8, lead your ♥7 and ruff small in dummy.
- At Trick 9, lead a small diamond from dummy to your ♦K.
- At Trick 10, go back to dummy with the ♦Q.
- At Trick 11, play dummy's good diamond (the ♦10).

Now, East has no winning options. If he ruffs with a small spade (the ♠8), you can overruff with your ♠9 and then cash your ♠A, conceding one trick to East. If instead East ruffs with the ♠10, then he will get this trick but then must lead away from his ♠K8 into dummy's ♠AQ tenace. And if East plays his ♠K at Trick 11, dummy's ♠AQ will take the last two tricks.

Here is the full deal.



Once you count out a hand, you can play double dummy (playing as if all of the cards are face-up).

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 try to recruit new members at our **club**.

