



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

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ALERT – June 13, 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 May.

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	25.41	1	Jake Liu	6.82	1	Joani Horvath	4.10
2	Robert Griffiths	15.73	2	Lori Cole	5.63	2	Belinda Burt	3.72
3	Mike Peng	14.01	2	Jack Cole	5.63	2	Molly Worden	3.72
4	Ted Boyd	11.27	4	Jim Dalgliesh	5.53	4	Reinhold Kauk	3.48
5	Cindy Mahn	10.38	5	Shelley Metcalfe	5.47	5	Nancy Cattanach	3.44
6	Colin Harrington	10.06	6	Roy Dandyk	5.39	6	Elinor Girouard	3.21
7	Liz McDowell	8.71	7	Paul Latimer	5.30	7	Martin Jones	2.78
8	Moira Hollingsworth	8.29	8	Cheryl Kip	5.04	8	Shirley Clarke	2.72
9	Sandy Graham	7.97	8	John Kip	5.04	9	Anita Hanson	2.57
10	Malkin Howes	7.04	10	Muzaffer Husain	4.89	10	Donna McKay	2.48
11	Neil Coburn	6.91	11	Stephen Nantes	4.69	11	Barb Neibert	2.45
12	Diane Bourdeau	6.66	12	Kevin Latter	4.67	12	Brian Gaber	2.41
13	Neil Jeffrey	6.45	13	Cheryl White	4.64	12	Rick Arthur	2.41
14	Edith Ferber	6.13	14	Brian Kirkconnell	4.33	14	Jeannie Leforge	2.36
15	Scott Hills	5.96	15	David Dennis	3.89	15	Joe Blake	2.28
16	David Longstaff	5.88	16	Andy Wilson	3.82	16	Virginia Alviano	2.11
17	Dianne Aves	5.36	17	Nanci Phelan	3.56	17	Tong Chen	2.08
18	Frank Fischer	5.18	18	Sue Peterson	3.45	18	Joanne Strong	1.89
19	Kathy Russell	5.01	19	William Sherman	3.32	18	Patricia Malvern	1.89
20	Adrian Record	4.44	20	Karen Whitworth	3.29	20	Lori Bailey	1.86
21	John Vandergrift	3.99	21	Andy Martinek	3.27	21	Philip Fiess	1.77
22	Paul Stillman	3.94	22	Lynda Burnett	3.23	22	Christine Kelly	1.74
22	Ron Sayle	3.94	23	Barbara Lindsay	2.94	23	Susan Durance	1.73
24	Wayne Jordan	3.91	24	Suzanne Edwards	2.90	24	Sue McDonald	1.62
25	Ron Van Der Zwaag	3.80	25	Lissa Lowes	2.89	25	Morgen Griff	1.60
25	Tom Ramsay	3.80						

North American Pairs

The North American Pairs (NAP) is a set of annual North American championships for pairs contested over two days at the spring ACBL North American Bridge Championships (NABCs). Next year the NABCs will be in New Orleans.

The NAPs are an ACBL-wide grassroots competition to encourage all members (there are three flights) to compete for significant masterpoints and the possibility of a North-American bridge title. In order to compete, players must first qualify in a club game – and our club will be offering two more chances in June (the Friday, June 10 499er and open games). Click [here](#) for more information. There are extra masterpoints available, some of them red, and there is a \$2 surcharge for NAP games.

Masks Now Optional at Our Face-to-Face Games and Bridge Labs

Mask wearing at Grand River face-to-face games and bridge labs is optional, effective immediately, for a one-month trial period (to June 17). Individual players may use their own discretion in deciding to wear a mask or not for games and labs at the club.

If this is what you needed in order to return to F2F bridge, please come out and show your support so that the club's board of directors know this is the way to go!

Friday Night Open Game Has Changed to Face-to-Face

In response to a request from the players, the Friday night open game will be face-to-face this week. If you have not already done so, please find a partner and come out to support this game!

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

Coming Events

- Friday, June 10, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) (\$9 members/ \$11 non-members) **NAP FACE TO FACE**
 - Friday, June 10, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) (\$9 members/\$11 non-members) **NAP FACE TO FACE**
 - Saturday, June 11, 1:00 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BB\$5
 - Sunday, June 12, 10:00 am, 499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
 - Monday, June 13, 9:00 am, Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
 - Monday, June 13, 12:30 pm, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Monday, June 13, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Monday, June 13, 7:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Tuesday, June 14, 12:30 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Tuesday, June 14, 1:00 pm, open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**
 - Wednesday, June 15, 1:00 pm, 499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Wednesday, June 15, 6:45 pm, 199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, June 16, 9:30 am, 99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, June 16, 1:00 pm, open game (24 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, June 16, 6:30 pm, 19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5
 - Thursday, June 16, 7:00 pm, 999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5
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Niagara-on-the-Lake Sectional Results

Congratulations to the following local players....

- Gale Small and **Ron Lawrence**, 1st in A, Friday Afternoon Pairs and Sunday Morning Pairs
- **Roy Dandyk and David Embury**, 1st in A, Friday Night Pairs and Sunday Morning Pairs
- **Jim Dalgliesh and Muzaffar Husain**, 4th in A, Saturday Morning Pairs, & 2nd in A, and 2nd in A, Saturday Afternoon Pairs
- **John Hanemaayer and Paul Latimer**, 1st in A, Saturday Afternoon Pairs
- **Mary Lynn Benjamins and Karen Whitworth**, 3rd in A, Sunday Morning Pairs and Sunday Afternoon Pairs

This tournament was well attended with a total of 83 tables.

No More Caffeine Withdrawal

The board has voted to start offering coffee, tea, and soft drinks at the club effective Monday, June 6.

Membership Report

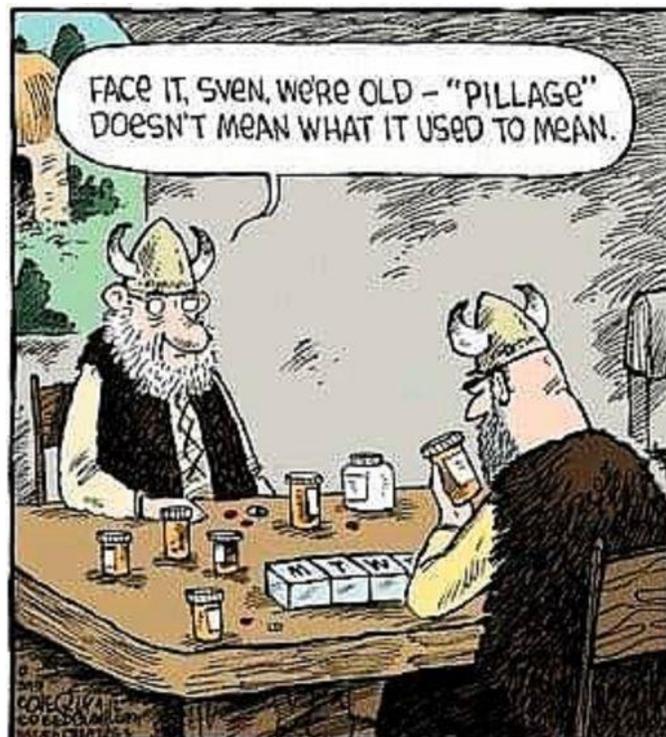
June is membership month at GRBC. We currently have 123 paid-up members. If you haven't yet joined our club/renewed your membership, don't wait for spring (or the end of June). The cost is a mere \$70.

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](#).

And a warm welcome to these new club members....

- **Mary Anne Lenio**
 - **Ellen Vriezen**
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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! You can write to me at suzan2420@yahoo.ca.

Question 1

My partner and I played this hand in a recent 199 game and we ended up with a bottom board.

D 8	N North	W N E S
	♠ 1072 ♥ 98532 ♦ KJ ♣ 875	1NT P 2♠ P 3♣ P 3♦ P P P
W West		E East
♠ KQ4 ♥ KJ10 ♦ 94 ♣ AKJ64		♠ A95 ♥ A4 ♦ AQ8763 ♣ 93
	S South	
	♠ J863 ♥ Q76 ♦ 1052 ♣ Q102	3♦ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Sitting West, I opened 1NT with my 17 points, my partner bid 2♠ as a transfer to clubs, I bid 3♣ to accept the transfer and then Responder corrected to 3♦. That is where the bidding stopped. We ended up in 3♦ and took 12 tricks! What went wrong?

Nice to hear from you 'Newer Player' and thank you for your questions.

Answer 1

First of all, let me say that many players would bid this hand slightly differently. After Opener bids 1NT, the suggestion would be an immediate 3NT bid by Responder, no transferring to diamonds. That 3NT bid says: "Partner, I have game-going values, plus I do not have a four-card major to bid Stayman or a longer major suit to use a Jacoby transfer to show that major suit. Responder has 14 points, yes there is a long diamond suit, but you want to be playing this hand in NT, not a minor. Many of you will remember this advice from last week's column: "Why play in a minor when you can play in no trump?" Three of the other pairs chose that route on this hand. Other pairs, like the ones who got to 5♦, did not benefit from bidding and playing in diamonds: better scores were obtained in 3NT. Partner is going to thank you when your hand comes down, as you have entries to set up the diamond suit. If you had no entries and, say, fewer points and shortness somewhere, 3♦ might be the best place to play this hand, but with 14 points, Responder can comfortably bid 3NT.

Question 2

Do many use 3♣ to transfer to 3♦ after a 1NT bid instead of bidding 2♠ then correcting to 3♦? One pair used that strategy on this hand.

Answer 2

There are obviously some partnerships that do that, as you have noted. That said, it is because of an agreed-upon convention called four-way transfers. The advantage to four-way transfers is that the opening bidder (the 1NT hand) will always play the hand, and it is generally advantageous to have the stronger hand concealed. However, as you proceed in your bridge travels, you will discover that a 1NT-3♣ bidding sequence is sometimes reserved for a bid called **Puppet Stayman**, a way to explore for a five-card major in Opener's hand - not to show a long diamond suit. You pays your money and you takes your chances.

Question 3

How would we bid to 6♦ on this hand, given that we made 12 tricks? How do you ask for aces after that - 4NT or 4♣? No one bid up to 6NT or 6♦ in the 199er group, so I think knowing what to do would be helpful.

Answer 3

Don't forget, you were quite fortunate to make 12 tricks in this hand. Sometimes you can make extra tricks on a hand but only because the opponents' cards lie favourably for you, as they do here. For example, if on this hand South held the KTx or or KJx or JTxx of diamonds, your slam would fail.

With only 14 points in Responder's hand, the approach of 1NT-3NT is the suggested route. If, however, East's diamonds were more robust, for example AKQxxx, or if Responder had more points or better shape, a slam try could be considered. In that case, after the transfer is accepted Responder could bid 4NT. This is a quantitative bid asking Opener to bid 6♦ or 6NT with maximum values.

Hope that helps!

How to recognize when Jesus has been in your grocery store.



Conventional Wisdom

This is the tenth in a series of columns. Today, we will look at the last sections.

DIRECT CUEBID OVER: Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Strong T/O <input type="checkbox"/> Michaels <input type="checkbox"/>			VS Opening Preempts Double Is Takeout <input type="checkbox"/> thru _____ Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> Com. Takeout: _____ Libensohl 2NT Response <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
SLAM CONVENTIONS Gerber <input type="checkbox"/> : 4NT: Blackwood <input type="checkbox"/> RKCB <input type="checkbox"/> 1430 <input type="checkbox"/>					
vs Interference: DOPI <input type="checkbox"/> DEPO <input type="checkbox"/> Level: _____ ROP <input type="checkbox"/>					
LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold) versus Suits versus Notrump X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X A K x T 9 x A K J x A Q J x K Q x K J T x A J T 9 A T 9 x Q J x K T 9 x K Q J x K Q T 9 J T 9 Q T 9 x Q J T x J T 9 x K Q T 9 J T 9 x T 9 x x			DEFENSIVE CARDING Standard: <input type="checkbox"/> vs Suits vs NT Except <input type="checkbox"/> Upside-Down: count <input type="checkbox"/> attitude <input type="checkbox"/>		
LENGTH LEADS: 4th Best vs Suits <input type="checkbox"/> vs NT <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd/5th Best vs Suits <input type="checkbox"/> vs NT <input type="checkbox"/> Attitude vs NT <input type="checkbox"/>			FIRST DISCARD Lavinthal <input type="checkbox"/> Odd/Even <input type="checkbox"/>		
Primary signal to partner's leads Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> Count <input type="checkbox"/> Suit preference <input type="checkbox"/>			OTHER CARDING Smith Echo <input type="checkbox"/> Trump Suit Pref. <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Echo <input type="checkbox"/>		
SPECIAL CARDING <input type="checkbox"/>			PLEASE ASK		

In the DIRECT CUEBID rectangle

- Assuming you play Michaels, tick both boxes (Minor and Major) beside the word Michaels. Michaels is not alertable. Don't worry about the other boxes for now.

In the VS Opening Preempts Double Is rectangle

- Most people tick the Takeout box and write 4♥ after the word **thru**. This means that if an opponent makes an opening bid of 4♠ or higher, double is for penalty; below that it's for take-out. Leave the other items alone.

In the SLAM CONVENTIONS rectangle

- Most people tick the **Gerber** box (and sometimes they write ONTO – Over No Trump Only).
- If you play regular **Blackwood**, tick that box. If you play Keycard Blackwood tick the 1430 box (or if you play 3014, write it on the line below).
- Don't worry about **DOPI** etc. unless you have had this discussion with your partner.

In the LEADS rectangle

- Ignore everything for now except for under LENGTH LEADS, where you should tick the 4th Best boxes for both **SUITS** and **NT**.
- Your primary signal to partner's leads is **Attitude** (tick the box).

In the DEFENSIVE CARDING rectangle

- If you use **standard** (high cards are encouraging) carding, tick both boxes. If you use **Upside-Down** (high cards are discouraging) carding, tick the appropriate boxes. Most beginners just signal their attitude to their partner's lead, while more advanced players also signal how many cards they have in a suit led by an opponent (count).
- Under **FIRST DISCARD**, tick the Lavinthal or Odd/Even boxes if you use this carding.

Next week we will start discussing some possible conventions. If you have any questions, please write to [Malkin Howes](#).

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 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.

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**
-



You never
appreciate what
you have till it's
gone.
Toilet paper is a
good example.

FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS



Get the Offending Card Out of Your Hand

Contributed by Robert Griffiths

Zaffar tells me that he especially likes the old hands, so... we are turning back the hands of time to the US National Team of Four Championships of 1946. South dealt and opened 4♠ which was passed out.

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

West was Helen Sobel, playing with Charles Goren. You might have heard of them. West led the ♥Q which was covered by Dummy's king and East's ace. A second heart went to West's ten.

West got off lead with the ♣J, won in Dummy, and then a spade was led to Declarer's king and West's ace. She came back with another club, again won in Dummy.

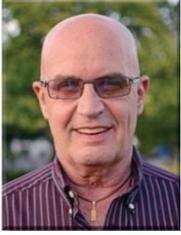
All that Declarer had to do to make his game now was to get back to his hand and draw trumps. He played Dummy's ♦A, probably intending to ruff a second diamond to his hand. But West wasn't sleeping. When Declarer led Dummy's ♦A, she dropped her king.

South thought long and hard before he got it wrong. Afraid of a diamond overruff, he led a club, ruffed it and was overruffed by West to go down one.

How did Helen come up with the falsecard of the king? She had learned on the first spade lead that South started with eight spades. When he cashed the ♦A, he had seven cards left in his hand, having played just one spade. Clearly all he had left was spades. The card she played on the first diamond lead could not possibly make a difference except to lure South into leading the wrong suit. In this capacity the king proved to be very useful.

Always give declarer the chance to go wrong. Sometimes he or she will.

FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

You Can't Get There from Here

I played this hand at a recent ACBL game. I was pleased to get to 6♥ on this board, but that victory was short-lived when I saw that other players got to 7♥ and 7NT. Is there a better way to bid this hand and get to 7♥ or 7NT? Some players opened 2NT in my seat (East), but by our agreement, a 2NT bid shows 20-21 points. I opened 1♣ then jumped to 2NT after partner bid hearts, showing 18-19 points. Signed, A. Bridge Player

W West	W N E S	E East
♠ J107	Pass 1♣ Pass	♠ AKQ9
♥ AQJ984	1♥ Pass 2NT Pass	♥ K10
♦ 3	5♥ Pass 6♥ Pass	♦ A102
♣ AQ9	Pass Pass	♣ K1085

First, we will deal with the point count requirement for opening 2NT. Using my point-count methods (A=4½, K=3¼, Q=1¾, J=½), this hand counts to 20½ points. Adding in the worth of three tens, a nine, and an eight, my evaluation is that the hand is almost too strong for your 20-21 range! You don't have to memorise and use this point count method, but you should always be aware that the traditional point count method does not always reflect the true value of a hand. Aces and kings are undervalued and queens and jacks are overvalued. A wealth of 10s, 9s and 8s are also worthwhile.

Should you get to a grand slam? Technically, you need 37 HCP to make 7NT and perhaps a little less than that in a suit contract if you have good distribution or all of your partner's high cards fit well with your own. Even if East has 21, your total is only 35 HCP. What if East had ♠AKQ9 ♥K103 ♦AKJ ♣J108? A fine looking 21-point hand, but you still need a club finesse to make the grand. That is the worst-case scenario. You should never bid a grand that requires a finesse to make, as you will usually get an above-average result for making a small slam. All that being said, there are many hands that would make 13 tricks with the right cards in dummy, with a finesse being the last chance. Since there are many chances beyond that of a simple finesse, it is worthwhile to be in the grand slam.

The bidding: 2NT - 4♦ (transfer to hearts) - 4♥ - 4NT - 5♦ (1430--3 key cards) - 5NT - 6♣ (asking for specific kings) **or** 6♥ (showing how many kings). Since partner has now covered all your major concerns, it seems reasonable to bid the grand slam. Which one?

Many players fall in love with their long strong suits and fail to consider the fact that partner cannot trump any of your supposed losers. If you can make all the tricks in hearts, you can do the same in NT. Even game contracts frequently produce the same number of tricks in NT as they would have in a suit. I played 3NT one time with a known ten-card heart fit and it turned out that only nine tricks were available in either contract.

This hand boils down to a poor evaluation for the initial opening bid and a failure to bid 6NT over the 5♥ invitational call. The 18-19 point-count implied by East made it too difficult for West to dream of bidding the grand slam.

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

#76

♠ A8
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K7543
 ♣ AJ84



♠ KQ9
 ♥ AKQ10
 ♦ 96
 ♣ K1052

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	3♠ ¹	Dbf
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	6NT
Dbf	All pass		

1. Being a Nuisance
2. 3 or 0 keycards

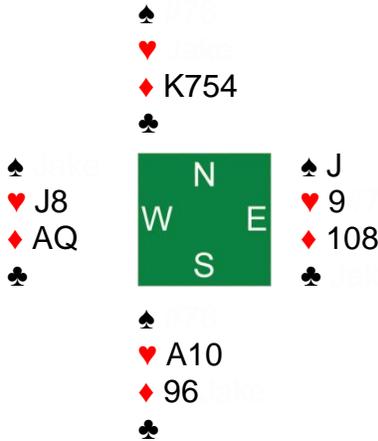
My partner mistakenly showed three keycards, so I bid a small slam - to wit, six no trump instead of six clubs since we were playing matchpoints.

West led the ♠10, which I took with dummy's ♠A. Knowing that East was likely to be short in clubs (from the bidding), I was able to collect four clubs in the next four rounds during which time East contributed one club and three spades. I then played two more rounds of top hearts and watched carefully for the ♥J but, although both defenders followed both times, unfortunately it didn't show up. I proceeded to cash two good spades, noting that West discarded two diamonds, one of which was the ♦J.

Can you make sure your partner doesn't have to apologize for his bidding mistake?

SOLUTION

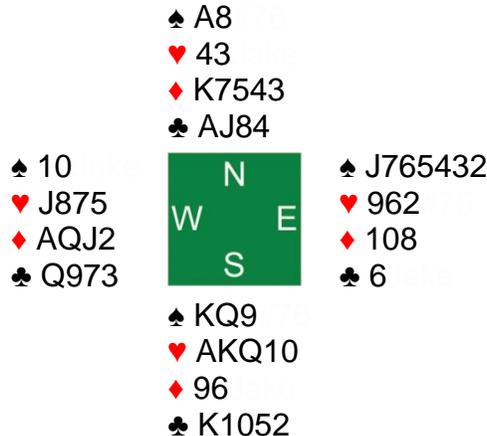
So far, West has shown up with a singleton spade and four clubs. His penalty double practically guarantees that he has the ♦A and he surely wouldn't discard the ♦J if he didn't also have the ♦Q - meaning that he started with four diamonds (he has already discarded two small diamonds). It sure looks as if West's original shape was 1-4-4-4 and therefore, if this is true, he is going to have to guard both red suits. This is his likely holding at this point.



You still need three tricks. If you lead the ♦9 at Trick 10 (but not the ♦6 because of the need to unblock), West has three options.

1. West can take the trick with his ♦A and lead back a heart. In this case, he has to lead from the ♥J8 into your ♥A10, allowing you to take two heart tricks, plus the ♦K. You make your contract.
2. West can take the trick with his ♦A and exit with his ♦Q. In this case, you take the ♦Q with your ♦K and enjoy all dummy's remaining diamonds. You make your contract.
3. West can duck (play the ♦Q). In this case, you take the trick with dummy's ♦K and - after you, my dear Alphonse! - return the lead to West by playing another diamond. He is forced to take the trick and then he has no choice but to lead away from his ♥J8 toward your ♥A10. You make your contract.

No matter how West defends, you always can make your contract. Here is the full deal.



You have to hope that your brilliant declarer play doesn't encourage your partner to overbid again the next time.

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 now have four F2F events every week at our **club**.