



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

ALERT – July 4, 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	40.48	1	Jim Dalgliesh	12.22	1	Joani Horvath	6.06
2	Robert Griffiths	21.71	2	Muzaffar Husain	10.06	2	Nancy Cattanach	5.58
3	Ted Boyd	20.99	3	Jake Liu	9.91	3	Belinda Burt	5.55
4	Mike Peng	20.88	4	Paul Latimer	8.88	4	Reinhold Kauk	4.90
5	Cindy Mahn	17.12	5	Shelley Metcalfe	8.73	5	Elinor Girouard	4.63
6	Moira Hollingsworth	16.43	6	John Kip	7.68	6	Virginia Alviano	4.41
7	Colin Harrington	16.01	6	Cheryl Kip	7.68	7	Molly Worden	4.11
8	Liz McDowell	13.70	8	Suzanne Edwards	7.19	8	Rick Arthur	3.48
9	Edith Ferber	13.14	9	Kevin Latter	7.14	8	Brian Gaber	3.48
10	Neil Coburn	12.38	10	Roy Dandyk	7.04	10	Audrey Cook	3.12
11	Sandy Graham	10.61	11	Lori Cole	6.83	11	Philip Fiess	2.90
12	Neil Jeffrey	10.08	11	Jack Cole	6.83	12	Anita Hanson	2.79
13	Frank Fischer	9.30	13	Stephen Nantes	6.56	13	Martin Jones	2.78
14	David Longstaff	8.88	14	Andy Wilson	6.54	14	Lori Bailey	2.72
15	Diane Bourdeau	8.48	15	David Dennis	6.27	14	Shirley Clarke	2.72
16	Kathy Russell	8.46	16	Andy Martinek	6.22	16	Barb Neibert	2.67
17	Malkin Howes	7.52	17	Brian Kirkconnell	6.20	17	Jeannie Leforge	2.60
18	Margot Stockie	7.47	18	William Sherman	6.04	18	Michel Lalonde	2.52
19	Wayne Jordan	7.28	19	Lissa Lowes	6.01	18	David Ward	2.52
20	Scott Hills	6.84	20	Barbara Arthur	5.92	20	Donna McKay	2.48
21	John Vandergrift	6.47	21	Nanci Phelan	5.49	21	Jane Wilson	2.47
22	Peggy Pearson	6.10	22	Bev Hitchman	5.47	22	Susan Durance	2.40
23	Dave Quarrie	6.01	23	Robert Gilck	5.42	23	Louise Dawdy	2.34
24	Dianne Aves	5.92	24	Cheryl White	5.28	24	Joe Blake	2.28
25	Adrian Record	5.84	25	Lynda Burnett	4.91	25	Charlene Schell	2.17

July 1 is Canada Day

Our two games on Friday, July 1 are face-to-face games – so why not dress in red and white to show that you love our country as well as our game? The Friday game directors will have their cameras on hand.....

July 1 is Club Championship Day

The ACBL wants to encourage your return to face-to-face-play. Accordingly, Friday's two face-to-face games will be club championship games – extra masterpoints, no extra cost.

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

Coming Events

- Friday, July 1, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members)**
FACE TO FACE CANADA DAY EXTRA MASTERPOINTS
- Friday, July 1, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) (\$7 members/\$9 non-members)**
FACE TO FACE CANADA DAY EXTRA MASTERPOINTS
- Saturday, July 2, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Sunday, July 3, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, July 3, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Monday, July 4, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, July 4, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, July 4, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, July 5 – Sunday, July 10, [Toronto Summer Regional](#)
- Tuesday, July 5, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, July 5, 1:00 pm, **open game (24-28 boards) (\$7 members/ \$9 non-members) **FACE TO FACE** EXTRA MASTERPOINTS**
- Wednesday, July 6, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, July 6, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, July 6, 7:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, July 7, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, July 7, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, July 7, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, July 7, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**

Membership Report

June is membership month at GRBC. We currently have 196 paid-up members. If you haven't yet joined our club/renewed your membership, don't wait for spring (or even the end of June – which was yesterday). 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](#).

And a warm welcome to new club member....

- **Sheila Mackey**
-

Are You Hospitable?

Do you like to help out where you can? Would you like a say in how our club operates? The club is currently looking for a new hospitality lead to supervise our hospitality functions. These include overseeing such things as the provision of hot and cold beverages (and eventually cookies), as well as (re)negotiating cleaning contracts annually. There is currently an excellent group of volunteers in place who look after various aspects of the hospitality jobs such that no one person has too much to do.

The lead position requires someone who is at the club with some regularity to oversee the day-to-day operations and respond to any issues in a timely manner. This position is a part of the club's management team, and therefore the hospitality lead attends the monthly management team meetings where issues affecting club operations are discussed and recommendations are made as necessary for consideration by the board of directors.

If you are someone who likes to be involved, we want to hear from you. If you have questions or simply want to discuss requirements further, please contact [Jim Dalgliesh](#), Club Manager, or [Lynda Burnett](#), our current Hospitality Lead. Lynda has been doing this job for five-plus years and would now like to switch her contribution to the club to other ways.

The End of an Era

Last Monday, Bill and Bev Pope led their last bridge lab. For years, they did this job during the winter months when Jean Farhood was in Florida. Then when Covid hit, our labs went into hiatus since the only way they could operate was in face-to-face mode. Then last March when we resumed our bridge labs, Bill and Bev were kind enough to resume their leadership.

Here is what Pat Northey has to say about her experience in Bill and Bev's labs.

Well - here I am!

After 18 months of online beginner bridge lessons, after which I stumbled through the confusion of virtual games and tournaments on BBO, I am now about to enter the real world of real games with real people in my first Monday morning bridge lab.

So many questions I have!

Am I allowed to use my cheat sheets? (God knows, I have enough to publish my own book.)

Will I be able to remember everything? Or anything for that matter?

How patient will my unknown partner be? Will they be able to suffer in silence like my robot friends?

Walking into the GRBC for the first time, I see a banner that states this is a place to "play and learn bridge in a welcoming environment" and the smiling faces of Bev and Bill Pope.

Okay - I think this might work out after all!

To say that Bev and Bill have been patient would be a major understatement. Wandering from table to table answering questions and making suggestions, they have been gently pushing us beyond our online limits. Asking "What do *you* think?" would initially leave me with a blank face but eventually taught me a new way to start thinking about things.

The labs turned out to be a lot more fun than I expected, and judging by the laughter from the other tables, it seems that everyone felt the same way. This has become my favourite way to spend Monday mornings.

I am sorry to see them go (I think the word I used was "abandon"), but they have left me with a feeling of confidence and an eagerness to play more often.

Thanks, Bill and Bev, from all of us that you have been nurturing along.

Your support and commitment are greatly appreciated.

We will miss you!

Luckily, our Monday morning bridge labs will continue uninterrupted under the very capable leadership of Sue Moses and her team of volunteers. All newer players are most welcome.



Bellying Up to the Bar

Ted Boyd sent in this snap of some of the Friday night players (Margot, Edith, and Mike) at McMullan's after last week's game. There were six and a half tables last week....

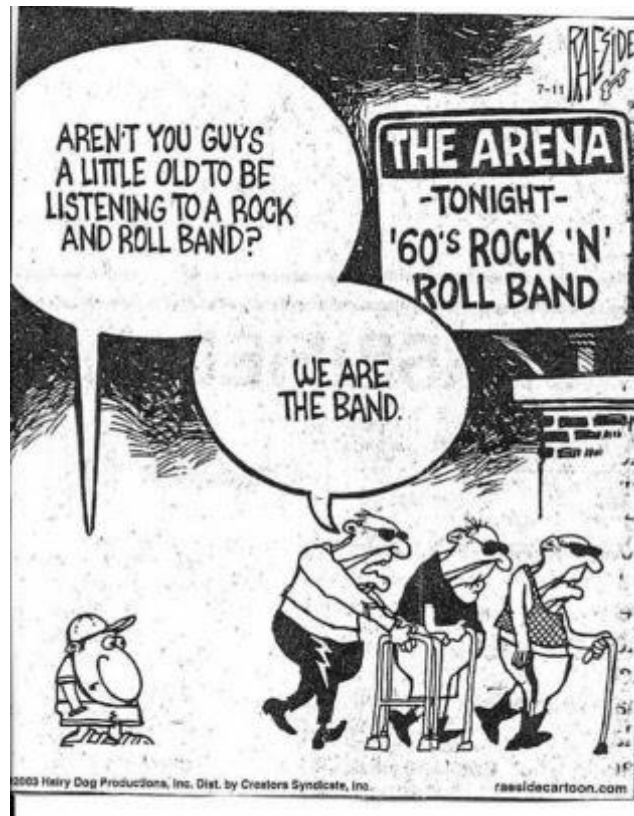
Holding Hands

Contributed by Joan Slover, Membership Lead

I am hoping to do some matchmaking for the Friday afternoon F2F 499er game, whereby I match newer players (with, say, fewer than 100 masterpoints) with more-experienced players (with, say, between 150 and 499 masterpoints). The program would run during the summer months, and the mentors would play free for up to four times.

In addition, I have two very solid 499er players who are looking for mentors (silver life master or over 1000 masterpoints) to play with them in the Tuesday afternoon open game. Once again, the idea would be that the partnership would run for four games – but of course the frequency and schedule would be entirely up to the partners. Even one game with a mentor is better than none.

If you might be interested in participating, please email me at rxjoan@rogers.com.



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. Your questions are important to me! I couldn't do it without you!

It's my lucky day — I happened to see your offer of help in the Alert on the very day my partner and I had a discussion about how one of our hands should have been bid. I have attached the hand below. We were E/W, and as you can see, we ended up in a terrible mess and went down badly.

North opened 1♦ and East overcalled with 1♥ to show her hearts and "test the waters" to see if partner had anything worth saying. West responded with 2♣ just to indicate good points, intending to return to East's hearts next time round. East, with no support in clubs, passed the 2♣ bid. Both ended up horrified by the other's bid. West felt East had no business bidding at all with only 7 HCP and a queen-high suit, while East felt West should have supported the hearts rather than mention a different (but not very good) club suit.

We never did manage to resolve this, and could use some arbitration by an expert. Thank you!
Newer Player



Dear Newer Player,

It's never a happy situation when a "failure to communicate" occurs at the bridge table. You aren't the first pair and certainly won't be the last to experience this situation. Let's see if we can determine what went amiss without laying blame.

I think the first issue relates to your agreements on simple overcalls, that is an overcall at the one level. Players use a range of points to make a simple overcall at that level. Some use a range of 6-17 points, while others prefer 7 or 8 or even 9 points as a starting point for a simple overcall. Other partnerships like an overcall to show a good suit - one that will take tricks. It sounds as if West wasn't expecting an overcall of 1♥ with only seven points in East's hand and a poor heart suit. I am not sure what your partnership agreement is for simple overcalls, but clarifying your range for overcalls will reduce further confusion, whether that is 6-17, 7-17, 8-17 and so on, coupled with suit quality expectations. Once you have agreed on your range, write it down on the back of your convention card in the SIMPLE OVERCALL rectangle.

In terms of West responding to his partner's overcall by bidding a new suit, such a bid essentially says ' I can't support your hearts, but I have this really nice club suit and enough points to bid at the two level. (A really nice suit is one with both length and strength.) I think it's safe to say that West's clubs were not a really nice suit, and of course the 2♣ contract had no chance. Another reason that West should not have bid 2♣ (in addition to how terrible his club suit was) is that West's priority should be to support his partner's suit if he possibly can. With Axx, a heart raise should be the first order of the day. As a general rule: if your partner has overcalled (showing at least five cards in the suit), then you should immediately raise him to the two level if you have three cards in his suit, to the three level if you have four cards in his suit, and to the four level if you have five cards in his suit.

*This bidding approach is part of the **Law of Total Tricks** – whereby it is safe to bid to a level determined by the total number of trumps held by you and your partner. With eight trumps between you, it is safe to bid to the two level. With nine trumps between you, it is safe to bid to the three level. And with ten trumps between you, it is safe to bid to the four level. (The law doesn't work past the four level.)*

Probably you are quaking in your boots about such bold bidding, but look at it this way. If you and your partner are going to get too high and go down, it is highly likely that your opponents can make some number of tricks in their own suit – perhaps even a game – such that your penalty for going down will cost you less than what the opponents could earn left to their own devices. At a minimum, pre-emptive bidding makes life harder for your opponents – and that's a good thing!

On this particular hand, with eight hearts between them East/West would leave the contract in 2♥ - and now North/South would be hard-pressed to know what to do. Depending on how the play goes, East/West may or may not make 2♥, while North/South have a decent chance of making 2♠.

The bottom line is – responding to your partner's overcall is quite a different kettle of fish from responding to your partner's opening bid. I hope this helps your partnership handle simple overcalls and reduce any miscommunication.

**THE ANSWER LADY WILL BE ASSISTING AT THE BRIDGE LAB
THIS COMING MONDAY MORNING (JULY 4).
THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE TO COME OUT
AND MEET SUSAN IN PERSON.**



Conventional Wisdom

This column discusses conventions, starting with the most useful ones [according to Larry Cohen](#). Today, we will talk about Stayman and Jacoby transfers.

These tools for responding to partner's opening one no trump bid are probably very familiar to most players and so this column won't belabour the standard treatment. As always, there are lots of variations, but the only one that is widely used at our club (and that mostly among the open players) is four-way transfers. There is, however, plenty to learn about what to do with hands that don't lend themselves to the basic Stayman /Jacoby transfer treatment. For example, what should you do with a weak hand with lots of diamonds? Or a hand that is five-five in the majors? Or five-four in the majors? Or a really strong hand? Or a weak hand with seven spades?

If you are interested in learning more about Stayman and Jacoby transfers, there is tons on the Internet. And Barbara Seagram lays it out clearly in her book *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*.

If you would like to take an online or in-person lesson on how to respond to partner's one no trump opening bids, write to [Malkin Howes](#) specifying your lesson mode preference and possible time lines.

Always be proud of your children.



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.

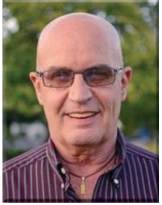
Recorded Lessons

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**



FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

Contributed by David Baker

In the Grand Scheme of Things

Bidding a hand successfully requires you to evaluate many different things - high-card strength, degree of fit, opponents' bidding (or non-bidding), vulnerability, match point expectations, ability level of your opponents, whether you "need" a good board, etc. The following hand showcases a number of these considerations.

D 16	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ 10754 ♥ 10832 ♦ 3 ♣ QJ107	1♥ P 4♣ P 5♥ P P	2♦ P 4NT P 7♦ P P		
W West		E East			
♠ J82 ♥ AK754 ♦ AJ76 ♣ 6		♠ A3 ♥ 9 ♦ KQ1042 ♣ A9853			
	S South				
	♠ KQ96 ♥ QJ6 ♦ 985 ♣ K42				
				7♦ E	NS: 0 EW: 0

We were playing Standard American, so the 2♦ bid promises only 10 HCP. Based on that caveat, the 4♣ bid (which shows three-plus diamond support and a singleton or void in clubs) must show a good opening bid, because sometimes even a 4♦ contract may be in jeopardy. Based on that information, East asked for keycards and blasted to 7♦ when West showed two keycards, expecting West to have at least a king in one of the majors. The fourth diamond and the diamond jack were bonuses. As you can see, on the lead of the ♠K, declarer can crossruff the entire hand and make all the tricks on a combined 26 HCP.

Bidding and making a grand slam is always pleasurable, but the question that lingers is "Should I?" Even though it is a very good contract, I tell all my partners that you should never bid a grand slam at a club-level game unless you are almost positive it is going to make. Why? Most of the time, bidding a small slam will get you an above-average result.

This hand was played in a four-table club game. One table played in 5♦, making seven, and the other two tables played in 3NT, making only nine tricks. If we had bid to 6♦ and one other pair had done the same, we would get 83.3%. If we were to go down in 7♦, we would get 0%. So, if this hand comes up in the last round and you think you need a top score (or in a team match that you think you are going to lose), by all means, go for the gusto. Otherwise, take your good result and live to gamble another day.

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

#79

I am indebted to Paul Latimer for this hand.

<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 ♥ KJ42 ♦ 9 ♣ KQ97432
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠ A105 ♥ Q975 ♦ K1085 ♣ 86										

West	North	East	South
1♣ ¹	4♠	5♣	5♠
6♣	All pass		
	1. 16+ HCP		

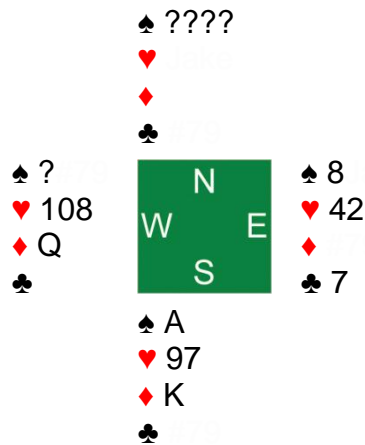
Sitting South, I was defending 6♣. My partner led the ♦A which held. At Trick 2, my partner shifted to a trump, the ♣5. Declarer took this trick with his ♠A and ruffed two diamonds - getting back to his hand with a trump in between ruffs. My partner followed to both diamond leads and discarded a diamond on the second trump lead, for a total of four diamonds. Declarer then cashed the board's ♥K, on which my partner played the ♥3. Next, Declarer led the ♥J from the board, I covered with my ♥Q, Declarer took his ♥A, and my partner discarded a spade. Declarer then entered dummy with a trump on which my partner and I both discarded a spade. Declarer played another trump, on which all three hands discarded a spade (in Declarer's case, the jack). Declarer then played dummy's last trump and put pressure on me. If you were in my shoes, what would you discard?

SOLUTION

At this point, here is what you see.

<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px;"> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px; text-align: center;">S</td><td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 25px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 ♥ 42 ♦ ♣ 7
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠ A ♥ 97 ♦ K ♣										

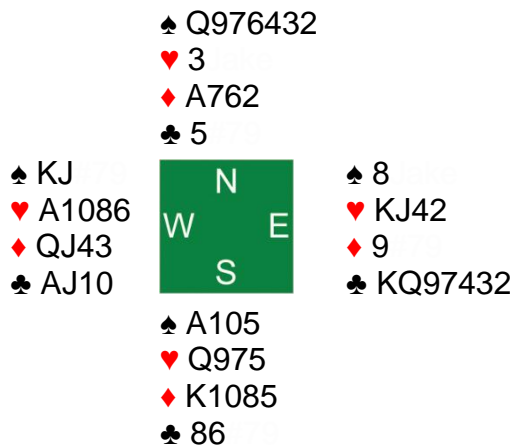
In order to discard correctly on dummy's ♣7, you have to have been paying attention. Your partner has shown up with four diamonds. meaning Declarer also started with four diamonds and still has the ♦Q. You know your partner started with a singleton heart since he showed out on the second round of hearts, giving Declarer four hearts to begin with. So, Declarer still has the ♥108. You know your partner started with a singleton club since he showed out on the second round of clubs, giving Declarer three clubs to begin with. So now you know Declarer's original shape: 2-4-4-3. Since Declarer has already discarded a spade, here is your best guess as to the position at Trick 10.



So, the \$64,000 question. Which card to discard on dummy's ♣7?

- The ♦K is not an option as you have to save it for the ♦Q. So that leaves a spade or a heart discard.
- If your partner holds the ♠K, you don't have to hang on to your ♠A. On the basis of the bidding, you know your partner might hold the ♠K, but you can't be sure.
- In hearts, you know that Declarer holds a tenace (10-8) over you, and as sure as god made little green apples Declarer's next move will be to finesse you in hearts (you are not the only one who has noticed that your partner is out of hearts) So, there is no point in hanging on to your hearts. If you discard a heart now, you can buy some time and see what Declarer discards on the ♣7.
- If Declarer discards a spade on the ♣7, the next time you have to find a discard you know you can safely part with your ♠A. If Declarer discards a diamond on the ♣7, the next time you have to find a discard you know you can safely part with your ♦K.

There are squeezes and there are pseudo-squeezes. In real squeezes, the defence is toast. In a pseudo-squeeze, the Declarer is hoping that the defence will make a mistake, but the defenders can prevail if they keep their wits about them. This was a pseudo-squeeze. Here is the complete deal.



Many a defender has had his psyche permanently scarred when he fell for a pseudo-squeeze.

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.