



PLAY AND LEARN BRIDGE IN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

[Website](#)

## ALERT – October 10, 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 September.*

Open Players			499er Players			99er Players		
	Name	MP		Name	MP		Name	MP
1	David Baker	23.74	1	Suzanne Edwards	9.23	1	Steven Allen	5.26
2	Cindy Mahn	14.35	2	John Kip	7.52	2	Joe Blake	5.15
3	Mike Peng	12.85	3	Brian Kirkconnell	6.83	3	Anita Hanson	3.78
4	Margot Stockie	12.41	4	Stephen Nantes	5.93	4	Barb Neibert	3.53
5	Edith Ferber	11.14	5	Roy Dandyk	5.72	5	Nancy Cattanach	2.87
6	Neil Jeffrey	9.99	6	Cheryl Kip	5.60	6	Virginia Alviano	2.36
7	Liz McDowell	9.88	7	Cheryl White	4.90	7	Noah Pace	2.35
8	Stephen Young	9.27	8	Shelley Metcalfe	4.61	8	Shirley Clarke	2.02
9	David Longstaff	8.91	9	Andy Wilson	4.16	9	Sue McDonald	1.96
10	Neil Coburn	6.48	10	Nanci Phelan	4.13	10	Belinda Burt	1.94
11	Kathy Russell	6.06	11	David Dennis	4.05	10	Reinhold Kauk	1.094
12	Steve Carpenter	5.90	12	Bev Hitchman	3.97	12	Brian Gaber	1.93
13	Bonnie Kains	5.79	13	Ted Kennedy	3.66	13	Denise Ontonovich	1.82
14	Colin Harrington	5.73	14	Lynda Burnett	3.62	14	Elinor Girouard	1.80
15	Ted Boyd	5.62	15	Sue Peterson	3.26	15	Audrey Cook	1.79
16	Dave Quarrie	5.44	15	Joan Slover	3.26	16	Rick Arthur	1.68
16	Bob Griffiths	5.44	17	Jean White	3.21	16	Debbie Miethig	1.68
18	Dianne Aves	5.19	18	Dave Embury	3.18	18	J J Girard	1.60
19	Adrian Record	5.15	19	Robert Walker	3.02	19	Ginny Scott	1.56
20	Malkin Howes	4.84	19	Nancy Millward	3.02	20	Valirie Binkle	1.46
21	Sandy Graham	4.34	21	Jim Dalgliesh	3.00	21	Joani Horvath	1.36
22	Wayne Jordan	2.75	22	Renate Boucher	2.83	22	David Ward	1.33
23	Rebecca Kalbfleisch	2.65	23	Fred Young	2.81	22	Michel Lalonde	1.33
24	Mary McClelland	2.65	24	William Sherman	2.72	24	Pat McDonald	1.30
25	Peggy Pearson	2.62	25	Ron Lawrence	2.69	25	J. Lewis Corbin	1.15

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

### Coming Events

- Friday, October 7, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Friday, October 7, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) (\$8 members/\$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Saturday, October 8, 1:00 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Sunday, October 9, 10:00 am, **499er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- ~~Monday, October 10, 9:00 am, **Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**** **CANCELLED**~~
- ~~Monday, October 10, 10:00 am, **Intermediate Bridge Lab (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE**** **CANCELLED**~~
- Monday, October 10, 12:30 pm, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, October 10, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Monday, October 10, 7:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, October 11, 12:30 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Tuesday, October 11, 1:00 pm, **Open game (24-28 boards) (\$8 members/ \$10 non-members) **FACE TO FACE****
- Wednesday, October 12, 1:00 pm, **499er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, October 12, 6:30 pm, **Counting at Bridge Course **FACE TO FACE****
- Wednesday, October 12, 6:45 pm, **199er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm, **Open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 13, 9:30 am, **99er game (20-22 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 13, 1:00 pm, **open game (24 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm, **Beginners 1 Course Begins **FACE TO FACE****
- Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm, **19er game (18 boards) BBO\$5**
- Thursday, October 13, 7:00 pm, **999er game (24 boards) BBO\$5**

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### **Monday Morning Bridge Labs**

Please note that there will be NO bridge labs on Thanksgiving Monday – NO REGULAR BRIDGE LAB and NO INTERMEDATE BRIDGE LAB.

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### **Giving Thanks Bridge**

Our other Monday regular scheduling will proceed as usual – 99ers at 12:30 pm, open at 1:00 pm, and 499ers at 7:00 pm. We will be very thankful at these games.

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## Congratulations

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

### Junior Masters

- **Susan Marchiori**
- **Pat Northey**

### NABC Master

- **Sal Pace**

### Life Master

- **David Embury**

### Bronze Life Master

- **Paul Latimer**

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

- **Delores Alexander**
- **Lori Curtis**
- **Chris Simpson**
- **Karin Tamm**

*And an especially warm welcome to the following new member of our club.*

- **Betty Dick**
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## Joining Our Club

We love to get new members, and we want to learn more about them. As a result, we ask our new members to fill out a membership form ([here](#)), as well as send in their \$70 payment (click [here](#) for information on how to do this). Our memberships run from July 1 until June 30, and the fee is halved to \$35 on January 1 each year.

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## A Plea from Our Treasurer

- If you are making a payment by means of an etransfer, please explain in the notes what you are paying for (especially if you are paying for more than one thing). As well, please tell us who you are and give us your email address. Amazingly, these things don't show up on the Interac email!
- The same applies if you are paying by means of a cheque. Once again, our treasurer needs to know what you're paying for, along with your name (if it is not pre-printed on the cheque).

Your cooperation will enable our treasurer to keep some of his hair.

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## They Learned Bridge in a Day?



This group of potential bridge players got a taste of bridge at our Learn Bridge in a Day session organized and taught by Sue Peterson, Isabel Hetherington, and Sue Moses last Saturday morning. Several of them are planning to learn more in our Beginners 1 course that started last night and attracted 12 new players.

It is of course a long and winding road to bridge proficiency, but they are on their way!

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## Thank You for Your Service!

*Contributed by Diane Jamieson*

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the four people who stepped down from our board of directors last week. Collectively, these four members contributed over 11 years of service on the board during the challenging period that spanned the Covid pandemic and club re-opening in March of this year.

**Cindy Mahn** was one of the founders of our club. With her knowledge of how a bridge club functions, Cindy helped the club by directing games, teaching bridge lessons, and assisting with special events. During her second term as President, Cindy was instrumental in guiding the club through the pandemic and into the re-establishment of face-to face play.

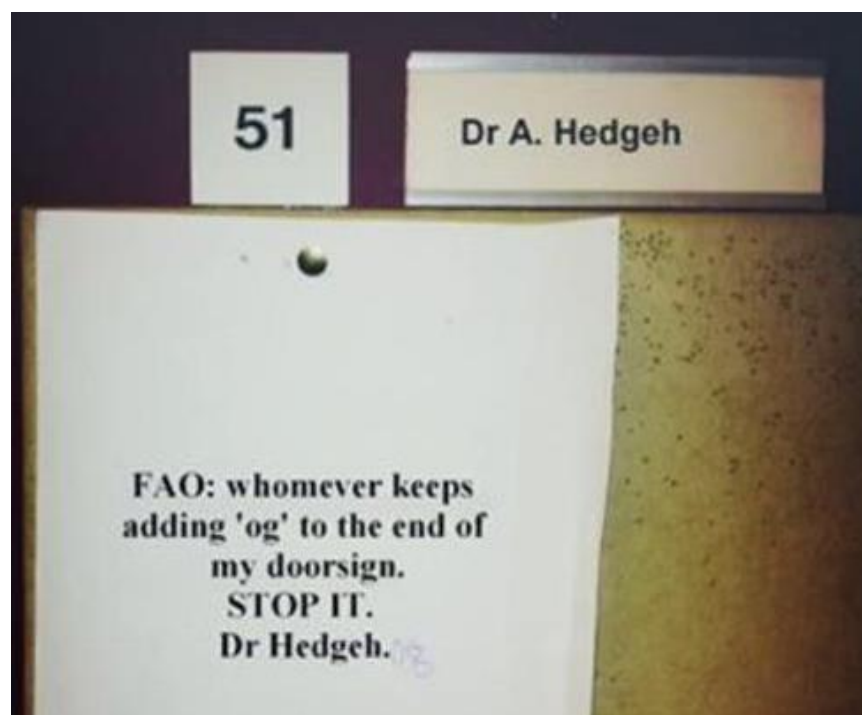
**Bev Pope** and her husband Bill moved to this area because there was a well-functioning bridge club here. Little did she know that she would become the club's Treasurer! With the help of Jim Dalgliesh and support from Bill, Bev translated her banking experience into handling the club's financial books. In addition to dealing with receipts and payables, there were taxes, lease agreements, annual statements, the list goes on. The club has greatly benefited from Bev's hard and diligent work.

**Grant Roberts** had planned to leave the board a year earlier. However, because the board desperately needed Grant's computer expertise and business ability, the board made a big effort to entice him to stay on for another year. Grant produced questionnaires for surveys and translated the members' feedback into useful information. He has the wonderful ability to "get to the point" using a very few words, providing thoughtful insights at board meetings. The board will really miss his wisdom.

**Joan Lawson** had the difficult task of preparing a monthly meeting agenda and recording the minutes of every two-hour meeting. Always thorough and accurate in her reports (but not without comments during a meeting), Joan listened carefully to what was being said and did not hesitate to offer a considered point of view.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of these retiring board members in guiding our club through challenging times.

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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.

**THE ANSWER LADY DOESN'T LIKE TO COMPLAIN, BUT SHE IS NOT GETTING VERY MANY QUESTIONS THESE DAYS. IF YOU WANT HER COLUMN TO CONTINUE, YOU NEED TO KEEP ASKING ABOUT STUFF.**

### Question

My partner and I played this hand in a GRBC 499 game. My partner and I were sitting East/West and we never reached the right contract and ended up playing in 3♥ for a very poor score. Other East/West partnerships ended up playing in 3NT and received the highest scores. Can you please help us solve the bidding dilemma on this hand, Answer Lady? Thank you.  
A 499er player.

	<b>N North</b> ♠ AQ5 ♥ K10 ♦ Q975 ♣ 7532	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="background-color: #800000; color: white;">W</th> <th style="background-color: #800000; color: white;">N</th> <th style="background-color: #800000; color: white;">E</th> <th style="background-color: #800000; color: white;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">1♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S				P	1♣	P	2♠	P	3♥	P	P	P
W	N	E	S															
			P															
1♣	P	2♠	P															
3♥	P	P	P															
<b>W West</b> ♠ ♥ AQ432 ♦ AK ♣ AJ10964		<b>E East</b> ♠ KJ10743 ♥ 75 ♦ J62 ♣ K8																
	<b>S South</b> ♠ 9862 ♥ J986 ♦ 10843 ♣ Q																	
		3♥ W NS: 0 EW: 0																

## Answer

Other East/West partnerships bid this hand slightly differently, with many Wests opening 1♥ and then jumping to 3♣ at their second bid after East bid 1♠, ending up in 3NT with good results. At your table, I liked that West opened 1♣ with six cards in that suit. I have that agreement with several of my partners: *with a 6-5 suit distribution, the opening bidder is to mention that six-card suit first even if it's a minor*. The intent is then to bid the second suit (in this case hearts) and repeat those hearts again at the first opportunity. That bidding sequence allows you to accurately describe West's 6-5 suit distribution.

At your table, after North's pass East bid 2♠. I am not sure what your partnership agreement for a 2♠ bid is after a one-level opening by partner. Some play 1♣-P-2♠ as a weak jump shift, - six cards in the suit and fewer than six points, a very weak hand and to play. It says essentially: "Partner, I have one bid to describe my hand and this is how I will show it." Others sometimes choose to bid 1♣-2♠ as a strong hand with opening points. East's hand with eight points does not qualify for either of those two scenarios. Too many points for a weak jump shift and too few for an opening hand.

Because of the jump to 2♠, now West was in a tough position with no spades in her hand and 18 points, so she bid 3♥. Unfortunately, West was forced to bid at the three-level to show her five-card heart suit, because all that room had been taken up with the 2♠ bid. Then East passed and you were left in 3♥, resulting in a poor score.

**So, my first recommendation is that you and your partner clarify what a jump to 2♠ means. On this hand, I would recommend a quiet 1♠.**

In preparation for my second recommendation, I would like to introduce you to the concept of a "reverse". Many people think reverses are advanced or even optional, but reverses are neither. A reverse is a non-jump bid in a new suit that ranks higher than the suit that opener bid first. A reverse forces partner to bid again, often at the three-level, and as such it promises extra values (usually around 17 HCP, but really shapely hands can have less). For example, this auction (opponents pass throughout): 1♣ – 1♠ - 2♥. Because hearts is a higher-ranking suit than clubs, 2♥ is a reverse – showing extra values and forcing partner to bid again.

**So, my second recommendation is that you start the auction thusly: 1♣ – 1♠ - 2♥. Your partner is now forced to bid and should repeat her spades (with six of them). Once you learn that your partner has six spades, you can safely bid 3NT.**

I know it's not ideal to be playing 3NT without a single spade in your hand, but sometimes we don't get exactly what we want. You have the other suits well stopped, and your club suit will likely be a source of tricks.

Another advantage to this bidding sequence is that West's hand, the more powerful one, becomes declarer, and as such it is hidden from the opponents' view (among other things, they can't know that you are void in spades).

Depending upon the lead (likely diamonds as it is the unbid suit) and what the opponents discard, you should be able to take at the very least: two diamond tricks, six club tricks, and one heart trick, making 3NT. There could be more tricks due to the fact that as the clubs are run the opponents will be forced to throw cards they would rather not part with. Perhaps North will discard hearts and you will get two heart tricks (she will really want to hold onto that ♦Q).

This hand is a great teaching hand – with several important principles embedded in it. The most important principle is - as always - that you and your partner should discuss the hand at length and arrive at a meeting of the minds on the following four points:

- That you always bid your longer suit first;
- What a jump in a new suit means;
- That a responder's rebid of his/her suit promises six cards; and
- That a reverse is always forcing for one round.

# TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSONS!

Our fall lesson schedule has now been posted to our website. Click [here](#) to view the Learn Bridge in a Day session and the beginners' lessons and [here](#) to view the ongoing learning lessons. Registration has been enabled.

The October 12 intermediate penalty doubles workshop currently has only three registrants (please see the letter to the editor below). The go/no go decision will be made at 6:00 pm on Saturday.



## Play of the Hand (Suits)

In an 18-board club game, you are likely to be declarer on four or five boards. You need to learn techniques to help you become a better declarer.

- You need to be aware of your goal.
- You must learn how to make a plan.
- You must learn how to implement your plan.

In this five-week course, you will learn how to make a plan right after the opening lead has been made, and you will also learn how to minimize your losers so that you can make your contract and maybe even make overtricks.

Instructor: Dianne Aves

Level: **Novice**

Dates: Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm, November 2, 16, 23, 30, & December 7

Mode: IN PERSON AT THE CLUB

Fee: \$95 members/ \$105 non-members (includes a \$20 textbook)

Current Enrollment: 1 (we need eight registrants to go ahead with this course)

Click [here](#) to register.

We have tried to offer lessons for everyone at every level. However, if you don't see what you need, please email [Malkin](#), our teaching lead, and she will see what she can do for you.

## Letter to the Editor

Doubling is a very valuable tool in playing bridge. A panel of five players tested Malkin's online lesson on penalty doubles and everyone was very impressed. Just the chart on the first page was astounding! I thought I knew the value of doubling, but that chart lays out the advantages in black and white.

Did you know that you should almost never double a slam? Except under certain circumstances, that is. Do you know when to double and when to pass? This lesson taught us and the examples showed us the reasoning.

Sign up for this online October 12 workshop and find out for yourself.

Bev Hitchman

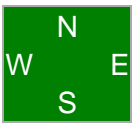
Ps. And it's fun!





## When High Card Points Don't Matter

*Contributed by Robert Griffiths*

<b>Board 7</b>	♠ A 8 7 5 3 2	
North Deals	♥ Q 6	
E-W Vul	♦ K Q 9 3	
	♣ J	
♠ K 10 9		♠ J
♥ J 9 7 4 3		♥ —
♦ A		♦ J 7 6 5 2
♣ 8 6 4 3		♣ A K Q 9 7 5 2
	♠ Q 6 4	
	♥ A K 10 8 5 2	
	♦ 10 8 4	
	♣ 10	

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♥
2 ♠	Dbl	3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♠	5 ♣	All pass

North dealt and opened 1♠. I was East and had to choose between a 2♣ natural bid or a 2NT bid showing both minors. Because my clubs were so much stronger, I chose to bid 2♣. Now, South had to choose: either to bid his hearts or to support spades. South chose 2♥. In what might become a competitive auction, I think that immediately supporting spades would have been more useful. Support when you have support is a good maxim. Now, West had a choice. He wanted to support clubs, loved his distribution but was unsure of the value of his ♠K. He tried a cuebid of 2♠, waiting to see how it would go. This showed a good raise with club support (as opposed to a bid of 3♣).

North doubled 2♠, showing extras there, and I bid 3♦. Competitive auctions are often hard to judge and I wanted to show my shape and strength. I was comfortable pushing us to the four-level with clubs as our suit. A bid of 3♣ would be weaker while 4♣ would tend to be more pre-emptive.

South bid 3♠, belatedly supporting his partner's suit, and my partner competed to 4♣. North tried 4♠, and I went on to 5♣ which was passed out. An oddity of the action was that there were no jumps and no passes from the opening bid until the final passout.

South led the ♠4. North won the ace, but that was all for the defence. One round of clubs cleared the suit, leaving enough clubs in dummy to ruff out all of the losing diamonds. Twelve tricks were easily made. So we missed our cold slam, and in a small game scored 50% for finding the 19-HCP game but not the slam. At one table, the player with my hand jumped to 2NT over the 1♠ bid, South bid 3♠ and West came in with 4♣. North competed with 4♠ and East, encouraged by his partner's 4♣ free bid, gambled on 6♣. They scored better than us. Some West players did not appreciate the playing strength of their hands and let the opponents play in a major suit game, usually going down for a small E/W plus score. They scored worse than us.

 **This slam would have been possible with only the ♣AKQ and the ♦A.**

## FOR OPEN PLAYERS



Dear David

### WPP

There has always been a fair amount of consternation about opponents “gloating” about their good results at the table. It seems to me that whether you are playing face-to-face or online, recognition of partner’s good play is entirely warranted, as long as it is not effusively long-winded. The hand below was worth a WPP (well played, partner) from me to my partner, Dave Longstaff.

<b>N North</b> ♠ K4 ♥ J542 ♦ J96 ♣ 10642	3♥ weak Explain	
<b>W West</b> ♠ J975 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ ♣ AKJ973	<b>W N E S</b> 1♥ 2♣ 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass Pass Pass	<b>E East</b> ♠ Q10863 ♥ 9 ♦ K8742 ♣ Q8
<b>S South</b> ♠ A2 ♥ AKQ10876 ♦ 1053 ♣ 5	4♥ South 0 0	

Dave thought that there might be a play for 4♥, even though I showed four-card support and fewer than six points. He trumped the second round of clubs, led a heart to the jack, ruffed another club, spade to the king, ruffed the last club, cashed the spade ace, and led a diamond.

<b>N North</b> ♠ K4 ♥ 542 ♦ J96 ♣		
<b>W West</b> ♠ J9 ♥ ♦ AQ ♣ J9	♦ 3	<b>E East</b> ♠ Q10 ♥ ♦ K874 ♣
<b>S South</b> ♠ ♥ AKQ ♦ 105 ♣	Claim	4♥ South 6 1

There was nothing West could do but take his two diamond tricks and lead a black card, allowing declarer to trump in one hand and pitch a diamond loser away from the other hand. This is a classic elimination and endplay.

Now I will tell you that I misrepresented the hand. East and West each had three diamonds and had no trouble taking their diamond tricks, so the result was down one in 4♥. The point of this story is not whether or not the contract was made. The point is whether partner played it well. WPP!

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

#93

♠ 642  
 ♥ J10976  
 ♦ 9654  
 ♣ 10



♠ 1087  
 ♥ AK8  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ KQ972

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Dbl*	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

\* Penalty double, equivalent to 1NT opening hand

I was sitting South declaring a doubled 2♥ contract. West cashed his ♠A and ♠K and continued with his ♠J, which East overtook with his ♠Q. East then returned the ♦K. What would you do if you were in my shoes?

### SOLUTION

You've lost three tricks so far and you can afford to lose two more. Counting your additional losers, you see that you have to lose a diamond and a club for sure, and possibly the ♥Q as well.

Worst case scenario would be if the opponents can organize things such that after they take their club and diamond tricks the lead lies with East - who can lead his last spade at this point if he has it. And if West has the ♥Q, he would now be certain to get a trick with it, for down one. There is no way to stop this run-away train if East has the ♣A as well as the ♦Q (which you know East has because he led the ♦K at Trick 4). With both these entries (the ♣A and the ♦Q), East is certain to be able to be on lead after E/W have taken their two minor-suit tricks. So, you might as well assume the ♣A is in West's hand and plan the play on that basis.

(For those of you who are really paying attention, the lead of the 13th spade must be delayed until after E/W have taken their two minor-suit tricks or else South will be able to discard a losing diamond from his hand and a losing club from the board and make an over-trick by cross-ruffing.)

Meanwhile back at the ranch, when East leads the ♦K you should duck! Let's see why. If you duck the first diamond at Trick 4, East's best defence would be to lead the ♣J. You would insert your ♣Q and West would take the trick with his ♣A - but he can't reach East's hand anymore. Of course, it's only a 50% chance that the West has the ♣A, but 50% is so much better than 0%.

Now, you're tight, and you still need to deal with the ♥Q. All things being equal, Her Majesty's location is a 50-50 proposition. But all things are not equal. You have 17 HCP in your combined hands, leaving 23 HCP to the opponents. So far, East has showed up with eight HCP (♠Q, ♦KQ, and ♣J). If East has the ♥Q as well, that would leave West with only 13 HCP - but in the bidding he promised at least 15 HCP. West must have the ♥Q.

So, you win whatever West leads at Trick 6 and ruff a club in dummy at Trick 7. At Trick 8, you return to your hand with the ♥K, ruff another club in dummy, and return to your hand with the ♥A, praying that West started with the doubleton ♥Q. Your prayers are answered!

Here is the complete deal.

♠ 642					
♥ J10976					
♦ 9654					
♣ 10					
♠ AKJ	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q953
N					
W E					
S					
♥ Q2		♥ 543			
♦ J1032		♦ KQ8			
♣ A854		♣ J63			
	♠ 1087				
	♥ AK8				
	♦ A7				
	♣ KQ972				

Thomas Jefferson knew what he was talking about when he said, "I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

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 welcome new players at our **club**.



At long last, Michael rows his boat ashore.