

BRIDGE IN THE CITY INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

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Play at Trick One

In my early bridge career the author whose work I most enjoyed was the late Fred Karpin. He wrote several entertaining books, each with lots of interesting hands, often with a touch of humour. He also worked as a ghost writer for several of the top US players.

I was reminded of his excellent book "Bridge Strategy at Trick One" when the following hand came about.

♠KJ54
♥AJ104
♦K873
♣Q

♠ -
♥K973
♦94
♣A1098763

Can you make four hearts on a small spade lead from West, Jack from dummy, and Ace from East?

We need to assume that the club and heart suits both divide 3-2 - there aren't enough tricks from a cross ruff, while a second club ruff in dummy could well be over-ruffed. However, you aren't likely to be able to enjoy the established club suit if you follow the usual line of play. What should you do?

Don't ruff the opening lead! I know it looks entirely unnatural, but you should instead discard a diamond. On a presumed diamond return to the Ace, then diamond or spade continuation, proceed as follows:

- Club to the Ace
- Trump a club in dummy
- Heart Ace
- Heart King
- Trump a club in dummy.
- Ruff a spade to hand, and lead clubs. All they can take is their trump trick.

The full deal:

	♠KJ54	
	♥AJ104	
	♦K873	
	♣Q	
♠Q10863		♠A972
♥65		♥Q82
♦A102		♦QJ65
♣K42		♣J5
	♠-	
	♥K973	
	♦94	
	♣A1098763	

Two Way Finesses, Which Way?

You have a suit with A109x opposite KJxx which you need to play for no losers. If time permits you can play on the side suits trying to find out which opponent is likely to have more cards in that suit, and then finesse that player.

Also, you should check the bidding – if an opponent passed as dealer, and subsequently shows up with 10 points during the play, then you should finesse the partner.

One of the better Sydney players has her own solution- she finessees the opponent she likes the least! And, what's more, it meant that in a past National Championship she made a slam that I didn't!

It's Your Bid, Partner

Being an old fashioned pair your partner as dealer has opened a Gambling 3NT, showing a solid 7 card suit, no losers. What do you bid, holding

♠A9
♥A7
♦AKJ10643
♣85

Answer next page

Christmas Function December 17th at the Warradale Hotel.

The hotel has asked that they be paid in advance so attendees are asked to pay the \$40 per head attendance fee beforehand, either by paying a session director, or else by direct credit to the Association's bank account BSB **805-050**, account number **102-790-715**. If paying by direct deposit please give your name and purpose.

It's Your Bid, Partner

You should bid seven clubs! On any lead your plan will be to clear trumps, then ruff a diamond in dummy, back to hand with a major suit Ace, and claim!

The full deal

North D V	
♠ 7 5	
♥ J 4 2	
♦ 5	
♣ A K Q J 6 4 2	
West V	East V
♠ K J 10 4 2	♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ Q 9 5 3	♥ K 10 8 6
♦ Q 8 7	♦ 9 2
♣ 9	♣ 10 7 3
South V	
♠ A 9	
♥ A 7	
♦ A K J 10 6 4 3	
♣ 8 5	
HCPs	
11	
8	5
16	

Monthly Winners

BRIDGE IN THE CITY SWISS PAIRS CONGRESS

- 1 Arjuna De Livera & Lori Smith
- =2 Petter Carlmark & Bill Jensen
- =2 Sharmini Anderson & Eleonora Truskewycz

FRIDAY NOVEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Sharmini Anderson & Eleonora Truskewycz
- 2 Jinny Fuss & Jackie Ward
- =3 Carmel & Norman Thompson
- =3 Chris Barnwell & Bob Thiele

FRIDAY B GRADE NOVEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Ken Stone & Peter Tuck
- 2 Paul Feeney & George Wilby
- 3 Judy Larsen & Brenda McCarthy

MONDAY NOVEMBER PAIRS

- 1 Genevieve Donnelly & Terry Healey
- 2 Chris Barnwell & Stewart Kingsborough
- 3 Paul Acfield & Graham Stucley

Bidding Over Their 1NT Opening - Cappelletti

This is a systemic approach to overcalling an opponent's 1NT opening. It's easy to remember, and has the advantage of retaining the penalty double.

This convention has three names, Cappelletti, Hamilton and Pottage, since three different people all claim to have been the first to invent it. I've used the name that it is best known by in this state and have also included the variation that seems most popular with local players.

The various bids, and their meanings, are:

2♣ – promises at least four cards in each major.

Responder should bid 2♦ with no clear choice, asking partner to bid the longer suit, otherwise bid the preferred major, or 3♣ asking for five card majors.

2♦ – a single suited major

Responder should bid 2♥, opener to then pass or correct. Partner has a strong liking for hearts, but not spades, should instead bid 2♠ so that if partner corrects can raise to game.

2♥ – promises 5+ hearts and 4+ cards in an unspecified minor.

If responder dislikes hearts, and wants to play in partner's minor, he should bid 3♣, overcaller to pass or correct.

2♠ – promises 5+ spades and 4+ cards in a minor.

2NT – both minors

3♣ - natural

3♦ - natural

Prepayment Scheme - Please Check the Account Number

Payments can be made either to the Director on duty, or else online into the following Bridge in the City bank account. BSB **805-050**, account number **102-790-715**. **Note this is a different account from the one used initially.**

Finally, when making an online deposit, please make sure that you give your name.

What Not to Lead

Your left hand opponent has opened 1D, pass by partner, right hand 4NT, 5H, 7NT, all pass. Your hand is:

♠K109762

♥62

♦J7

♣532

What do you lead?

Don't lead a spade! Partner has very little in the way of values, so you should find the safest lead you can, which in this instance is a small club.

The full deal:

Board : 1	S♠ 43	Dir: N
	H♥ AQ9	Vul: None
	D♦ Q832	
	C♣ AT74	
S♠ KT9762		S♠ 5
H♥ 62		H♥ JT7543
D♦ J7		D♦ T4
C♣ 532		C♣ J986
	S♠ AQJ8	
12	H♥ K8	
4 2	D♦ AK965	
22	C♣ KQ	

Without a spade lead declarer has just 12 tricks (one spade, three hearts, five diamonds and three clubs) and won't make any more.

The play of this hand in 7NT, or the more appropriate 6NT, is of interest. Declarer has 12 tricks on top, provided the sequence of cards is correct, with chances of the full 13. The play should go as follows, on a club lead.

Win in hand, and take your second club trick.

Small diamond to dummy's queen. If East has J1074 of this suit you can finesse that player twice, for no diamond losers – if West then it can't be helped.

Take your remaining diamond tricks, discarding a spade from dummy.

Heart King, followed by Dummy's heart Ace and Queen. Yours and dummy's cards now are remaining cards now are:

♠4
♥-
♦-
♣A10

♠AQJ
♥-
♦-
♣-

Next you take your club Ace, hoping that the Jack will fall – it doesn't, so you take the spade finesse. On the actual layout you will get just 12 tricks, however will have the satisfaction of knowing that you gave it your best shot.

Evening at Bridge - from The Lady's Realm, 1904

It is far better to ask your guests to come punctually, and start them playing at once; and then at five o'clock, when tea is ready, they can either go and have it singly while their dummy hand is being played by their partner, or all four together when the rubber is finished. There ought to always be some coffee as well as tea, as some people much prefer it.

If people want to have a bridge evening, they had better make up their minds to give a dinner first, which should be short, simple, and well chosen, and a strong hint given to the gentlemen that a quarter of an hour is to be the limit of their stay in the dining-room. At ten-thirty or eleven the refreshment-tray should be brought in, and ought always to include a plate of thin savoury sandwiches, as playing bridge promotes both hunger and thirst.

Simple Squeezes

Squeeze plays remain for me the best part of the game and are also the reason that so many of the top chess players are also Bridge enthusiasts. This article is about simple squeezes, the other versions all being variations from the main, double squeezes and triple squeezes being the best known.

You too can operate a simple squeeze by careful card counting and creating the following circumstances.

- The first condition is that you must have all but one of the remaining tricks. This is because the squeeze works by embarrassing an opponent for discards, i.e. they are going to have to discard a winner.
- Next, when cashing a winner, there needs to be, in a different suit, a winner and a loser. You also need a card of that suit in your own hand.
- Also, you need a loser in a third suit, in one hand or the other.
- Finally, just one of your opponents is guarding these two suits.

Examples

♠ -	♠ -
♥ A2	♥ -
♦ 3	♦ -
♣ -	♣ QJ4
♠ -	♠ -
♥ KQ	♥ -
♦ J	♦ -
♣ -	♣ QJ4
♠ -	♠ -
♥ 4	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -
♣ A5	♣ A5

Playing No Trumps South leads the club Ace and West is forced to discard either a heart or a diamond, creating an extra trick in the North hand. This squeeze doesn't work if the East and West cards are exchanged, since North is now discarding before the concerned defender.

However, on the following layout, it doesn't matter which defender is under threat because the other menace is in the South hand.

	♠ -	
	♥A2	
	♦ -	
	♣2	
♠ -		♠ -
♥KQ		♥ -
♦J		♦ -
♣ -		♣QJ4
	♠ -	
	♥4	
	♦3	
	♣A5	

This article was prompted by the following hand in the recent edition of Australian Bridge, where declarer is in 6NT on a diamond lead.

	♠KQJ2	
	♥10843	
	♦J5	
	♣Q32	
♠109		♠87543
♥QJ76		♥2
♦10987		♦6543
♣KJ10		♣9874
	♠A6	
	♥AK95	
	♦AKQ2	
	♣A65	

Declarer wins the opening lead in dummy, plays a heart to the Ace, and then a low heart towards dummy. This sequence ensures that declarer will make the contract if hearts divide 3-2, or if there are four hearts on declarer's right. It also ensures that declarer has all but one of the remaining tricks should the heart suit be a disappointment.

West wins the heart Jack, and now continues with a spade.

At this point declarer knows that the only way the contract can make is if West also has the club King and so, using the first layout as a guide proceed as follows:

1. Win the spade Ace in hand.
2. Cash the club Ace
3. Take your three diamond tricks, discarding a club and a heart from dummy.
4. Lead a spade to dummy's King

The layout is now as follows:

	♠QJ	
	♥10	
	♦-	
	♣Q	
♠-		♠87
♥J7		♥-
♦-		♦-
♣KJ		♣98
	♠-	
	♥K9	
	♦-	
	♣65	

North is now on lead and plays the Queen of spades, club from South and club from West. Next the Jack of spades, and it's curtains for West.

Note: The club Ace had to be taken early in the piece for the squeeze to work – otherwise it would only have been successful if East had the danger cards.

Also, the contract can be defeated by repeated spade leads from West – I'll leave the few remaining readers to work that out for themselves! Finally, a hand from last Friday. Can you see how to make 6NT by South on a diamond lead? Answer last page.

Board : 2	S♠ Q52	Dir: E	Makeable Contracts					
	H♥ AK9	Vul: N-S		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	D♦ KT		N	6	1	1	4	6
	C♣ KT953		S	6	1	1	4	6
S♠ K983		S♠ JT6	E	-	-	-	-	-
H♥ 8762		H♥ QJ43	W	-	-	-	-	-
D♦ 65432		D♦ QJ9						
C♣		C♣ 642						
	S♠ A74							
15	H♥ T5							
3 7	D♦ A87							
15	C♣ AQJ87							

Puzzle Hand

Board : 2	S♠ Q52	Dir: E	Makeable Contracts					
	H♥ AK9	Vul: N-S	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	D♦ KT		N	6	1	1	4	6
	C♣ KT953		S	6	1	1	4	6
S♠ K983		S♠ JT6	E	-	-	-	-	-
H♥ 8762		H♥ QJ43	W	-	-	-	-	-
D♦ 65432		D♦ QJ9						
C♣		C♣ 642						
	S♠ A74							
15	H♥ T5							
3 7	D♦ A87							
15	C♣ AQJ87							

An ambitious 6NT by south on a diamond lead.

Win the lead in hand and play a spade towards dummy's Queen. West rises with the King and continues with another diamond.

You now have 11 tricks on top, and have lost a trick, so you satisfy the first condition.

Further, if you look at the red suits, you will see that East has to guard both of them – West's holdings are superfluous.

The cards that are going to trouble East are dummy's heart nine and declarer's diamond eight. You should take your two spade tricks and your five club tricks, finishing in hand. When the fifth club is taken the layout will be

♠ -		♠ -
♥ AK9		♥ QJ4
♦ -		♦ Q
♣ 3		♣ -
♠ -		♠ -
♥ 87		♥ QJ4
♦ 32		♦ Q
♣ -		♣ -
♠ -		♠ -
♥ 105		♥ QJ4
♦ 8		♦ Q
♣ A		♣ -

This contract was very fortunate to make. However there will be instances where the significant cards are isolated by length or value, as shown in the preceding auction.

And, sometimes, it's your only chance!

Bridge in the City Program for 2024

Sessions are from 12.45 pm to 4:00 pm at the Clarence Gardens Bowling Club Winona Ave Clarence Gardens.

<i>January</i>	<i>July</i>
Monday 1,8,15,22,29	Monday 1,8,15,22,29
Friday 5,12,19,26	Friday 5,12,19,26
	July 2nd GNOT Qualifying
<i>February</i>	<i>August</i>
Monday 5,12,19,26	Monday 5,12,19,26
Friday 2,9,16,23	Friday 2,9,16,23, 30
AGM Saturday 24th	
<i>March</i>	<i>September</i>
Monday 4,11,18,25	Monday 2,9,16,23,30
Friday 1,8,15,22	Friday 6,13,20,27
Fri 29th Golden Bunny Teams	Sunday 22nd Pairs Congress
<i>April</i>	<i>October</i>
Monday 1,8,15,22,29	Monday 7,14,21,28
Friday 5,12,19,26	Friday 4,11,18,25
<i>May</i>	<i>November</i>
Monday 6,13,20,27	Monday 4,11,18,25
Friday 3,10,17,24,31	Friday 1,8,15,22,29
<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>
Monday 3,10,17,24	Monday 2,9,16,23
Friday 7,14,21,28	Friday 6,13,20,27