

Bridge4Money - Bridge Bulletin No. 12 - Updated 16th April 2008

With just over 1500 registered members, we now have 266 regular players and the best time to play is still between about 7pm and 1am GMT. In the last few weeks there have been plenty of \$1 games but the 25c room and particularly the \$5 room have been very quiet. With this in mind (and based on the results of our surveys) we have decided to open a \$2 room which will be starting soon so that more players can join in at a stake to suit them.

We are also very pleased to have finally introduced the long promised 'bidding hats'. This means that if your partner has a triangular hat above them they have passed the bidding test and will at least be a competent bidder. We have provided the bidding test and the rating system to help you gauge how well your partner can be expected to play.

We are trying to improve the site for your enjoyment all the time but there is a way in which you can do your bit to help. In order to tell your friends about us, simply click the [Invite a friend] link on our main login page, just below our Welcome. With more people we have more games and more flexibility to introduce new and exciting competitions and stakes.

Some Statistics

(As of Wednesday April 9th)

Top 10 winners	Top 10 most boards played
\$3,129.34	15795
\$2,539.86	13944
\$957.71	9955
\$851.87	9907
\$665.9	8701
\$405.01	8150
\$325.98	7755
\$232.97	7613
\$212.15	7373
\$207.54	7048

Rating System (If you would like to know your rating, email david@bridge4money.com)

Reminder

* = Bottom 1/3 of players

** = Middle 1/3 of players

*** = Top 1/3 of players

Hollow STARS = Played less than 50 boards

Tips

- 1). If the opponents seem prepared for a particular lead consider trying a surprise attack.
- 2). Take the bidding test!

Hands From bridge4money.com

We are always looking for hands for our bulletins. If you have a hand that you would like to be written up, with or without your name mentioned please email it, possibly with some explanation to david@bridge4money.com

The following hand occurred in the \$1 room:

‘Think before you continue’

Dealer West; EW vulnerable

	North	
	♠ 8 7 6	
	♥ K 9	
	♦ J 9 6	
	♣ K 7 5 4 2	
West		East
♠ T 5		♠ 9 4 3
♥ A J 7 5 4 2		♥ Q 6 3
♦ A 4 3		♦ K Q 5 2
♣ Q 9		♣ J T 8
	South	
	♠ A K Q J 2	
	♥ T 8	
	♦ T 8 7	
	♣ A 6 3	

West North East South
1 heart pass 2 hearts 2 spades
3 hearts 3 spades All pass

The bidding requires little comment.

Against 3 spades west has an awkward lead. I think on this bidding that a trump will usually be best as dummy will often have ruffing values. However on this occasion west chose the queen of clubs.

On the first trick declarer played small from dummy and east played the 8 and declarer smartly played the 6 (concealing the 3). After some thought west continued with another club and declarer made 3 spades with an overtrick.

I was given this hand by the west player who wondered whether there was a plausible way to get the defence right after the queen of clubs lead.

Here is what I suggest:

After the queen of clubs holds it does look very tempting to continue with another club. However this is a slight illusion. Firstly declarer has either ducked a club as is the case here or has neither the Ace or the Jack in which case any club tricks coming partner's way will not disappear in a hurry. At trick two I think west should cash the Ace of hearts and see what card partner plays. In this case an alert east will cleverly play the queen of hearts, a clear signal for a switch to the higher ranking suit (diamonds). Then the diamond switch would be easy to find.

The following hand occurred in the \$5 room:

'Redoublers Are Ready!'

Dealer South: Vul all

	North	
	♠ A Q J 6 4	
	♥ Q T 7	
	♦ 9	
	♣ J T 6 3	
West		East
♠ 5 3 2		♠ VOID
♥ VOID		♥ A K J 8 5 4
♦ Q J T 8 5 2		♦ K 7 6 4 3
♣ A 5 4 2		♣ 9 8
	South	
	♠ K T 9 8 7	
	♥ 9 6 3 2	
	♦ A	
	♣ K Q 7	

South West North East

1 spade 3 diamonds (a) 4 diamonds (b) 6 diamonds (c)
double (d) pass pass Redouble (e)
All pass

- a). Weak jump overcall.
- b). Showing a good raise to 4 spades.
- c). A reasonable shot.
- d). Mainly to discourage partner from bidding on.
- e). Facing AQJxxx diamonds and out the contract will make if the opponents fail to find a club lead so the redouble is sensible.

Against 6 diamonds redoubled North had to find a lead. At the table North led the Ace of spades and declarer quickly knocked out the Ace of trumps, ruffed out the hearts and made 12 easy tricks for EW+ 1830!

Only a club lead would beat the contract which would have been difficult for North to find. I have little sympathy with the spade lead as surely the redouble suggests that the opponents are ready for it. I think that North must choose between a heart and a club and I cannot see an obvious reason why North should find the club lead. Any suggestions welcome...

From the team: Good luck!

Editor: David Gold david@bridge4money.com