

Bulletin 8

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News

New members are joining bridge4money.com everyday. As more people join so the site gets better for everyone. We are pleased to announce several major improvements:

We now accept many more payment methods in addition to 'Click2Pay'; 'Paypal', American Express, Mastercard, Visa, Solo and Visa Electron.

At last we now have a few Americans joining us-Welcome!

The server has also been upgraded so that if you leave the club and then wish to return, this will be allowed as long as 10 minutes has elapsed since you last played a board or crashed. (previously, the 10 minute timer applied even if you had not played a board and were perhaps just waiting).

New default settings are being introduced for the interface.

We are introducing the much awaited bidding test. We recommend that you spend a few minutes of your time to take the test. If you pass it your partner will be able to see a 'hat' when you are at the bridge table indicating that you have passed the test and therefore understand the bidding system. This makes your partner's more likely to trust your bidding! You can take the test as many times as you like until you pass it.

Some Statistics

As of Tuesday 17th June at 4pm (GMT)

Top 10 Winners

\$2,666.96
\$460.41
\$277.69
\$231.48
\$193.07
\$178.27
\$105.46
\$104.48
\$98.46
\$95.32

Top 10 most boards played

6967
5810
4987
4296
4250
3784
3314
2617
2606
2546

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
- ☆☆ = Played less than 50 boards

Tips

- 1). Remember that 1♥/1♠ -2nt is 'Jacoby'. It shows at least 4-card support and a game forcing hand.
- 2). Think carefully before you lead. Especially when partner doubles the final contract. He may be asking for an unusual lead.

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

'Use the evidence to your advantage'

The following hand occurred in the \$5 a hundred room.

Dealer South. Vul EW

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

South	North
1 heart	2 clubs(a)
2 spades (b)	3 diamonds (c)
3 notrump (d)	4 hearts (e)
4 notrump (f)	5 hearts (g)
6 hearts (h)	

- a). North should use the 'Jacoby 2nt' showing a game-forcing raise. Technically not going down the Jacoby route denies 4-card support.
- b). Dangerous to reverse into the highest ranking suit with only 3-cards. 3nt showing a good 17-19 balanced is fine.
- c). 'Fourth-suit Forcing'. Again an odd choice, a natural 3 hearts to agree the trump suit would be far more economical.
- d). Finally describing the hand....
- e). ... And finally agreeing hearts.
- f). South gets the message and goes on with RKCB.
- g). 2 key cards without the queen of hearts.
- h). With all the key cards present south takes a shot at the small slam.

After an ugly but effective auction, south became declarer in 6 hearts. With the clubs breaking 4-2 and the king of diamonds offside the contract looks destined to fail. Declarer demonstrated that this was not necessarily the case.

West led the 6 of clubs (a strange choice) and declarer already suspected that the clubs were not breaking. Declarer won the King and drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand while west discarded a couple of spades. Next declarer played a club to the Ace. Before committing himself declarer cashed the three top spades ending in dummy on which east discarded two diamonds. Declarer now played the queen of diamonds from dummy and paused to consider the evidence. The clubs looked to be 4-2 with the length in east. West had chosen a strange lead when the auction seemed to call for a diamond lead. Surely west would have led a diamond from a selection of small cards instead of leading a doubleton in a suit bid? So declarer backed his judgement and rose with the Ace of diamonds and exited with a diamond. West had to win the trick but with only spades and diamonds remaining he had to concede a ruff and discard allowing declarer to dispose of his losing club and make the contract. Result: NS +980

'Consider Your Lead Carefully'

The following hand occurred in the \$1 a hundred room

North

♠ **VOID**

♥ **K 9 8 7 6 5 4 3**

♦ **VOID**

♣ **A 8 7 5 2**

West

♠ **A 7**

♥ **Q J**

♦ **K Q T 9 7 3**

♣ **Q 4 3**

East

♠ **K Q J 9 6 5 3**

♥ **VOID**

♦ **A 8 6 5**

♣ **T 6**

South

♠ **T 8 4 2**

♥ **A T 2**

♦ **J 4 2**

♣ **K J 9**

West	North	East	South
1 notrump	4 hearts	6 spades	pass
pass	double	All pass	

West opened 1 notrump (a practical choice as the hand is a little heavy for a 2 diamond rebid and not suitable for a 3 diamond rebid if the hand is opened 1 diamond). North overcalled 4 hearts and East took a shot at 6 spades. After two passes North reasoned that he didn't want a heart lead and found an imaginative (questionable?) double. Everybody passed.

Now south was in the hot seat. At the table south woodenly led the Ace of hearts which must be wrong and declarer ruffed and took all 13 tricks. Is there any way that south can get this right and lead a club?

I don't think there is any certainty but there is a case for a club lead. If you lead a diamond and partner ruffs you still need a trick, possibly the Ace of clubs (partner is certainly not doubling on heart tricks). So how about the King of clubs lead? If partner is void club then this still may not cost a trick, as long as the Ace of clubs is in dummy. If it holds then partner can give count and you either continue clubs or try to give partner a diamond ruff. The king of clubs also gains when partner has a diamond entry and the queen of clubs. I think that the King of clubs lead requires the least from partner to defeat the contract.

I am interested in your feedback.