



Open eNews

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Editor Comments:

This revised Newsletter format (email & PDFs triggered from the email) is designed to ease the big PDF files that used to be delivered. It also allows more focused content.
Kevin

Open Challenge Hand 1 (Bid and Play)

North	NS Vul, Dealer: South
♠ KQ2	
♥ A872	West will show a 5/5 in the Majors over your 1♦ opening,
♦ A4	
♣ J95	
South (D)	Assuming you can reach a 6♦ contract, West leads the ♣K.
♠ A8	
♥ Q5	How do you plan to make your slam contract?
♦ KQT987	
♣ AT8	

Open Challenge Hand 2 (Bid and Play)

North (D)	NS Vul, Dealer: South
♠ AJT	
♥ Q	East will Overcall 2♥ over Norths 1♦ opening,
♦ AJ653	
♣ Q432	
South	Assuming you can reach a 6♠ contract, West leads the ♥2.
♠ KQ7532	
♥ A54	How do you plan to make your slam contract?
♦ QT7	
♣ A	

Open Challenge Hand 3 (Bid and Play)

North	NS Vul, Dealer: West
♠ 7	
♥ T	West Passes, Partner Passes but East will open 4♥
♦ JT0542	
♣ AT874	
South	Assuming you overcall 4♠, West doubles for penalty . West leads the ♥8.
♠ AKJ8532	
♥ AJ3	
♦ KQ	You see dummy, how do you plan to make your doubled game contract?
♣ J	

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◆ LM - Defence in Detail



Accurate Defence is the hardest part of our game.

Letting autopilot take over is not normally conducive to high quality bridge. But sometimes partner's signal can help you snap out of it.

Playing Matchpoints sitting in the East seat, you hear the following auction:

North Deals	♠ 7		
None Vul	♥ 652		
	♦ QJT632		
	♣ QT5		
		♠ A4	
		♥ Q98	
		♦ K95	
		♣ KJT32	

Contract: 2♠ by South

The defence against 2♠ begins very nicely indeed. Partner's ♣8 lead goes to the ♣5, ♣J and declarer takes their ♣A. At trick two declarer leads a diamond and partner win the ♦A in order to continue with the ♣4 confirming a doubleton.

You take the ♣K and return the ♣2 to signal for a diamond as partner ruffs. Partner dutifully follows your signal, but declarer trumps your ♦K then plays the ♠K around to your ♠A.

With four tricks in the bag already and dummy completely dead, you naturally continue with the deluge of clubs. On the fourth club, declarer throws the ♥4 and partner throws their last diamond, while on the fifth and final club declarer throws the ♥7 and partner throws the ♥3, low encouraging. What should you play in this ending?

♠ 652
 ♥ JT
 ♦
 ♣
 ♠ 4
 ♥ Q98
 ♦ 5
 ♣

As always, we must start with what we know. Declarer is surely marked with a 6=3=1=3 shape, so they have one heart and four trumps left. Partner has two trumps and three hearts. The top two hearts rate to be split both on the bidding and partner's failure to lead a heart.

The auto-pilot play is to play a diamond. There doesn't seem much that can go wrong, and we might promote a trump trick for partner – for example, if they are down to **♠Tx** at this point. It certainly does look like declarer is trying to avoid a trump promotion. Could it ever be wrong to play your diamond? Yes. If partner has the **♥A** and an unpromotable trump holding, declarer will throw their last (losing) heart on the diamond and partner will be forced to ruff with their trump trick. Turning +150 into +100 won't be a good outcome.

So, does the ending look like this
(Play a diamond?) Or (Play a heart)?

North Deals		North Deals	
None Vul		None Vul	
♠ T6 ♥ KJT ♦ ♣	♠ ♥ 652 ♦ JT ♣	♠ J6 ♥ AJT ♦ ♣	♠ ♥ 652 ♦ JT ♣
♠ 4 ♥ Q98 ♦ 5 ♣		♠ 4 ♥ Q98 ♦ 5 ♣	
♠ QJ98 ♥ A ♦ ♣		♠ QT98 ♥ K ♦ ♣	

There are plenty of clues, but partner has given you one clear signal at just the moment you need it. Their encouraging heart discard when declarer is marked with only one more heart to everyone at the table simply must show the ace. If that is the case, it can never be wrong to play a heart and might be the only way to avoid declarer throwing their ♥K away.

If partner didn't have the ace of hearts, they could make their need for a trump promotion as clear as possible by throwing a high (discouraging) heart. Even the king (denying the ace) would do the trick nicely!

Point to remember when you aren't quite sure what is going on, conduct a quick recap on what spot cards partner has played. They are the one on your side, after all – even if it doesn't always feel like it!

♦ BM - Challenge Ahead



Brent Manley

Brent Manley was a guest co-editor of the Gold Coast daily bulletin. IPBA executive member and WBF bulletin editor. Link [Challenge Ahead](#)

North	Standard Bidding			
	West	North	East	you
♠ KQT2				1♦
♥ A872				
♦ A4	2♦	X	Pass	Pass
♣ J95	2♥	X	Pass	3♦
	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
	Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
	Pass	6♦	All Pass	
South (D)	Bidding Notes			
♠ A8	1♦	4+♦, opening hand		
♥ Q5	2♦	Michaels 5/5 Majors		
♦ KQT987	X	Values		
♣ AT8	Pass/S	Penalty		
	Pass/E	No Preference		
	2♥	Better ♥		
	X	Suggested Penalty		
	3♦	Better than min, 6+D		
	3♥	Cue / ask		
	3♠	Cue		
	4♦	No C Control		
	5♣	Cue		
	6♦	To Play		

The complex auction had some points of interest. Your pass over 2♦x, followed by 3♦, promised extras and long diamonds. You would have bid at your second turn with fewer values.

You also judged that a vulnerable game or slam was more promising than a penalty from 2♥X. After that start, you and partner were forcing to game. Control bidding followed, and once you confirmed a club control, your partner ended the auction by leaping to 6♦.

T1 West leads the ♠K, which you win with the ace. When you lead a low trump toward the ace, West discards a heart. How will you cope with this development with east holding 5x♦ cards to get to your 12 tricks?

Your Solution

Despite the bad trump break, you as declarer did not concede. You saw that he could make 12 tricks provided West had exactly five spades headed by the jack!

- T1 You win the ♠K lead in hand with ♠A
- T2 ♦7 to the ♦A You find East with 5 diamonds!
- T3 ♦4, ♦3 finessing to the ♦8
- T4 You then cashed the ♦K
- T5 You cashed ♠A
- T6 You lead ♠8, ♠4, ♠T successfully finessing West's ♠J
- T7 You cash the ♠K - East saw that ruffing it would allow the contract to make easily (declarer could overruff, draw the last trump and claim 12 tricks). So, he threw a heart, and so did you
- T8 Cashed the ♠Q again eliciting heart discards from both East and yourself.
- T9 You then cashed the ♥A saw club discards from both East and yourself.
- T10 You then lead the ♥2. Declarer ruffed the heart with ♦9 as East dropped his last club.
- T11 You then exited with your club loser ♣T. East had to ruff this ♦5.
- T12 East was reduced to just the ♦J6 of trumps, while declarer held the ♦QT of the suit over him, so You had to make the last two tricks and brought your contract home

The full deal:

6♦/S	North	
West	♠ KQT2	East
♠ J9743	♥ A872	♠ 65
♥ KJT94	♦ A4	♥ 63
♦ -	♣ J95	♦ J6532
♣ KQ2	South (D)	♣ 7643
	♠ A8	
	♥ Q5	
	♦ KQT987	
	♣ AT8	
Lead ♠K		Vul N/S Dir: S

♦ BM - Handle with Care



Brett Manley was a guest co-editor of the Gold Coast daily bulletin. IPBA executive member and WBF bulletin editor. Adapted from a **Brent Manly** article in Bridge feed. Link [Handle with care](#)

North (D)	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ AJT	West	North (D)	East	South
♥ Q		1♦	2♥	2♠
♦ AJ653	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
♣ Q432	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Bidding Notes				
South	1♦	Opening hand 4+		
♠ KQ7532	2♥	Non-Vul Overcall		
♥ A54	2♠	5+S, forcing		
♦ QT7	4♠	Support min (no cue)		
♣ A	4NT	Keycard (S)		
	5♥	2 Keycards, No sQ		
	6♠	To Play		

You are playing in a team's match and both souths reach a 6♠ slam with good prospects. Both West leads the ♥2. Dummy's ♥Q is covered by East with the ♥K. What is your plan for getting to 12 tricks?

Preliminary Analysis

Winners: 6♠ +1♥+1♦+1♠

Top Losers: None, maybe ♦K

Extras Ruff 2x♥ with short trumps?

T1 West leads a MUD ♥7 to dummy's ♥Q, East's ♥K and declarer's ♥A.

Play at your Table

T2 You as Declarer ruffed a heart ♥4 in Dummy with the ♠T
 T3 Then you cashed the ♠A, but East showed out. West had ♠98xx!
 T3 You then returned to hand ♠2 to ♠A
 T4 You ran your ♦Q losing to East's ♦K
 T5 East found the best defence of forcing dummy with a high ♥J lead, Dummy had to ruff with the ♠J,

Thereby promoting West's ♠9 into the setting trick. You were now going one off in your 6♠ contract.

Solution at Table 2 (Expert Declarer)

T2 The expert declarer led ♠2 to dummy's ♠T discovering the 4-0 break.
 T3 Then he returned to hand with the ♣A
 T4 The expert declarer ran the ♦Q, which held the trick! This declarer was confident that East (a strong player) would withhold the ♦K and that also that West would have covered the ♦Q if he had held the ♦K.
 T5 So, the expert declarer continued with a low diamond to dummy's ♦A, but the ♦K did not drop.
 The expert Declarer's revised plan was to cross ruff the hand after winning the 2 diamond tricks.
 T6 So, He continued by ruffing ♠2 with ♠3
 T7 ♥4 ruffed on dummy ♠J
 T8 ♣3 was ruffed by ♠5
 T9 ♥5 was ruffed by ♠A
 T10 ♣4 was ruffed by ♠7
 T11 Declarer claimed his contract, making two of the last three tricks with his high ♠KQ of trumps.

The expert declarer may have relied on **table feel** to make his contract, but his approach was with the odds. A 0=6=3=4 original shape with East was much more likely than 0=6=2=5. If both defenders had followed to the first trump, declarer intended to cross back to hand with the ♠A to ruff a heart. Then, after ruffing a club back to hand for another heart ruff, declarer would return to hand with a second club ruff, draw trumps and finally run the ♦Q. If this had lost, he would still have had a trump in hand to take care of a heart or club return. The full deal:

	North (D)	
	♠ AJT	
West	♥ Q	East
♠ 9864	♦ AJ653	♠ -
♥ 872	♣ Q432	♥ KJT963
♦ 42		♦ K98
♣ KJ95	South	♣ T876
	♠ KQ7532	
6♠/S	♥ A54	Vul NS
Lead ♥7	♦ QT7	Dir: N
	♣ A	

♦ MH Role Reversal



Mark Horton

Adapted from a hand on the ACBL bridge feed website, "Link [Misplay these hands with me](#)" by bridge Author Mark Horton

We are well ahead in the match, when towards the end with only our side vulnerable I pick up this interesting hand with potential:

♠AKJ8532, ♥AJ3, ♦KQ, ♣J

North	Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
♠ 7	West (D)	North	East	South
♥ T	Pass	Pass	4♥	4♠
♦ JT9542	X	All Pass		
♣ AT874	Bidding Notes			
South	4♥	Non Vul Pre-empt		
♠ AKJ8532	4♠	Natural long spades		
♥ AJ3	X	Penalty		
♦ KQ				
♣ J				

The bidding

West and my partner pass, but East pre-empts with 4♥ bid. I overcall 4♠ and West considers for a moment before doubling. That ends the auction. West starts the defence by leading the ♥8 and I get to see a dummy with only a few assets.

Preliminary Planning

Top Winners: 2♠, 1♥, 1♣

Top losers: ♦A, + Deep ♥ losers, likely 2♠

Looks like 4 primary losers ♦, ♥ and 2x♠

Strategies for Making contract

- Ruff a heart in dummy
- Force ♦A for a diamond trick
- Get some help from EW?

My Solution

- T1 West leads ♥8, ♥T, ♥Q as I win the opening lead with the ♥A.
- T2 I lead ♥3, ♥2, and ruff in dummy with the short trump ♠7, East playing ♥4
- T3 In dummy, I cash the ♠A (♠2, ♠J, ♠4)
- T4 I then lead ♠4 East ♠6, and ruff ♠2, West following with the ♠3

- T5 When I cash a top trump ♠A both defenders follow ♠6, ♦2, ♠4. At least they are not a 5-0 split
- T6 I play the ♦K and West wins ♦A, ♦4 ♦6
- T7 West returns the ♦8, ♦5, East following ♦3. As I win ♦Q in hand.
- T8 It won't help to play another high trump, but I may be able to force West to assist me. So, I exit with a low trump ♠3 and West wins ♠9 (East discarding a hearts)
- T9 West returns the ♠9 to his partner's queen. I ruff with the ♠5
- T10 I cash the ♠K
- T11 I now exit with a ♠8, but West wins ♠Q
- T12 West plays the ♠K so I have to give East the last heart trick.

This was the layout:

	North	
	♠ 7	
West (D)	♥ T	East
♠ QT96	♦ JT9542	♠ 4
♥ 82	♣ AT874	♥ KQ97654
♦ A87		♦ 63
♣ K943	South	♣ Q62
	♠ AKJ8532	
4♠X/S	♥ AJ3	Vul NS
Lead ♥8	♦ KQ	Dir: W
	♣ J	

Post Mortem

Like so many hands, this one could have been made by better timing:

- T1 Win ♥A
- T2 Cross & win ♠A
- T3 Then ruff a club back to hand.
- T4 Ruff a heart using dummy's trump
- T5 Ruff another club back to hand.
- T6 Cash ♠A
- T7 Lead ♦K to West's ♦A
- T8 West plays ♦8 exit to your ♦Q
- T9 Small Trump to West's ♠9
- T10 West exits his last club ♠3, you ruff
- T11 Cash ♠K
- T12 Exit your last ♠ to West's high ♠Q
- T13 West has been stripped of exit cards, and has to lead a diamond into dummy to allow you to pitch the heart loser in hand. Making 10 tricks!

That West can always defeat the contract by leading a trump at trick one (stopping ♥ ruff), then on taking the ♦A, switching to a low club merely serves to illustrate what an impossible the game bridge it sometimes is.