

SPRING-SUMMER 2015 UNIT 430

Matchpointer



**2015'S BEST UNIT 430 PLAYER
DAN JACOB**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MAY 2015

Bridge in the Vancouver area is flourishing and your Unit 430 Board (UB) is working hard to present events which are both enjoyable and also serve to present learning opportunities for some of our new and less experienced players.

One of our successful initiatives in the past two years has been the **Mentor-Mentee** games which are held four times a year. Since the M-M program recommenced at the beginning of 2013, the nine games held have drawn a total of nearly 250 tables (almost 500 pairs, each comprising a Mentor, volunteering their time, and a Mentee, less experienced but keen to learn.)

These games have been successfully managed by UB members Kathryn Shannon and Maryellen Gallo, who handle most of the work involved in registration, partnerships, hospitality and recruitment of Mentors. They are aided by other UB members in various roles and by the Directing Team of Cathy Miller and Bruce McIntyre, who keep the large field moving along. If you haven't been out to one of these games yet, come out to one or more of this year's remaining games to be held on Saturday afternoons **May 9, August 8, and November 21, usually commencing at noon**. There is usually a post-game discussion as well, led by a local expert, going through a few of the problem hands of the day. Sign-up occurs on the Unit website (please see below for more information regarding the sign-up process).

We continue to hold four **Sectional tournaments** each year. The table count in our January Sectional was down a bit, perhaps because of the timing shortly after the commencement of the New Year. However, there has been a steady upward trend in the Sectional attendance, with 2014 total attendance up about 4% over that of 2013. A similar increase was experienced in 2013 (over 2012 totals) as well.

The remaining 2015 Sectionals will take place on the following dates: ;**May 15-18, September 4-6, and November 6-8**. The May and September tournaments will be held at the **Queensborough Community Centre**, a site we have used in the past and which has recently been remodeled. The November tournament will be held at the Engineers' Hall in Burnaby. A lot of work goes into the operation of these tournaments, under the leadership of Tournament Coordinators Angela Fenton and Jim McKenzie, along with the Supplies team (led by Gray McMullin) who transport all our tables and other bridge supplies to and from the tournament site, the Catering team (led by Corrine Tapley), the partnership coordinator, Frances Corney, and the Caddy Coordinator, Rhoda Tafler.

During the May Sectional, the Unit 430 Annual General Meeting will be held between the sessions on Saturday, May 16. All local players are invited to attend this meeting, which usually lasts less than 30 minutes. As well as covering necessary general business matters and any new topics raised from the audience, the list of nominees for the Unit Board and for the upcoming Board years will be announced. Additional nominations may be made from the audience. There will be a couple of the current Unit Board members who will be leaving the Board, so if you are interested in becoming part of the Unit Board, please contact Angela Fenton (angelagf@telus.net) in advance.

In addition to the Sectional tournaments mentioned above, Unit 430 also sponsors two **Future Stars Sectionals**, for non-life masters with less than 500 masterpoints. These are also well-organized by the team of Maryellen Gallo and Kathryn Shannon, with a lot of work also done by Director Bruce McIntyre. The FS Sectional held in March was well attended with a record number of tables on Saturday afternoon. The next Future Stars Sectional in 2015 will be held on **October 24-25, at the Vancouver Bridge Centre**, at 2776 East Broadway, Vancouver. This represents an excellent opportunity to earn some of those hard-to-find silver points for those players seeking to become a Life Master.

While recent Future Stars Sectionals have also involved a lesson component, we expect to be moving the lessons to a one day workshop, separate from the FS Sectional, as the combination of a lengthy lesson, together with two games, proved to be too much bridge in one day for most players. More information on this will be available later in the year.

Our Unit 430 Website (www.vancouverbridge.com) has been significantly improved in recent months by Tom Anderson, a Unit Board Member and our Webmaster. There is a wealth of easily accessible bridge information there, starting from the Home Page and proceeding through the many links thereon. You will be able to find information concerning addresses and game times for local Bridge Clubs, access to club game results from many of the clubs, upcoming local and nearby tournaments, Unit 430 tournament results both present and past, colourful charts and facts concerning the IMP League, a wealth of information for New and Intermediate Players, as well as recent editions of our regular publication, the Matchpointer, which contains many bridge related articles.

While I am on the subject of websites, I also suggest that you look at the new website of the Canadian Bridge Federation (www.cbf.ca). There are still some changes being made, but there is a lot of good information on Bridge in Canada, and a very good online bridge bulletin published at regular intervals.

Everything your Unit Board is doing takes time and effort and I would like to thank all of the UB members, not only those mentioned herein, for all of their

efforts during the past two years. We also have a number of other volunteers who perform certain jobs for the UB, and their help is much appreciated.

We are always looking for additional volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please contact me (by e-mail at pamorse@shaw.ca) or any other Unit Board member.

In addition, please feel free to contact me (at the above e-mail address) if you feel that there are things that the Unit or Unit Board could be doing better. But I suggest taking a long look at the Unit 430 website, as there is a lot of information on there, some of which may not be immediately obvious.

Unit 430 Trophy Project

Peter Morse, the Unit 430 President, has virtually completed the research effort to create a comprehensive database of past Unit 430 Trophy winners. The information will soon be made available on the Unit 430 Website, Vancouverbridge.com. In conjunction with the trophy project, the Unit is also developing profiles of the major Unit 430 figures whose names grace the trophies. This will also appear on the Unit's website and a preliminary summary appears here.

Eddie Bonnell

Eddie was definitely one of the top female players in the Unit during the mid 20th Century era. She had been a nurse during the Great War and had a long bridgeplaying career, playing with many of the best. She had excellent card sense and was disappointed when failing eyesight and old age put an end to her long career. She was a fixture for decades at the Howe Street club discussed below.

Mary Clarke

Mary was a school teacher and, though she did not teach bridge professionally, she was one of the major player-mentors in the district. She was a good "B" player and played with a number of the present day local players early in their careers. She was encouraging and played with all sorts of people at all levels and was very effective with her partners.

Jean Turnbull

Jean Turnbull and her husband, Norm, a quiet man, directed and owned the west side club on West 12th near Arbutus, the club later dubbed the Haida by the Nagys who moved the club to the location near the Vancouver City Hall on

Cambie St. Turnbull came up with the idea of awarding jars of pickles to winners at her club. Adrian Hicks and others playing at the downtown club also played at this venue. The two clubs were more complementary than in direct competition. During this same era, Ben Schulz had a club in Richmond and the Jewish Community Centre club was also already flourishing. .

Adrian & June Budd Hicks

Adrian and June Budd Hicks were the long-time owners of the Bridge Club on Howe St. in downtown Vancouver. The club, a long fixture in Vancouver, had been obtained by them from Lisa Strebinger who had earlier taken it over from Phil Wood. It was known at one time as the Silodon club. Hicks, reputedly the first BC Life Master, was an old-school player who disdained such "modern" devices as weak twos and negative doubles but was very effective because of his cardplaying and hand evaluation abilities. If he doubled you you usually went down. He was also a high-level poker player.

His wife, June Budd Hicks was also a good player. She was beautiful and talented, but suffered a long tragic decline in old age. In later years, Hicks's dog was also a fixture at his clubs. Hicks was lucky enough to win \$50,000 from the lottery at one point.

After Hicks exited the Howe location for a new venue at a bowling alley a rock to keep the door open when the club was meeting was a feature. When Hicks faced a final heart attack, he was slow to call the hospital for fear nobody would be around to look after his dog.

Phil Wood

After having started a club near the Vancouver airport soon after the war, Wood founded the Howe St. Club. He gained renown as the first nationally rated ACBL director from the lower mainland area. He was better known as a director than as a player. After his wife died at a young age, he sold his club to Lisa Strebinger. By that time, as a result of his national directing, Wood was often absent travelling the national tournament circuit.

He was also known as a sports statistician and had been a baseball announcer. He was big in betting on sporting events in the Vancouver area. After his exit from the Howe St. club, he was instrumental in developing country club duplicate bridge throughout the lower mainland area. As a director at club and tournament levels, he was marked by his wit, his ability to defuse situations and his facility at scoring in the pre-computer era. He was also known for enjoying himself during off-duty times. His career as director was long, extending into the early 21st century, and was characterized by frequent retirements followed by reemergences from retirement.

Henry Smilie

He had gone to McGill University and obtained a lawyer's license after the Great War by reading with a lawyer. Known as an elegant ballroom dancer, he dressed immaculately, but often in later years his smoking habit resulted in his well-tailored suits being scarred by cigarette ash.

A very competent player, he was often willing to play with new people and was very good at handling partners. It was an indication that a player had arrived when Smilie offered a chance to play with him. He was active for many years in the Unit Board and District Board. His driving was notorious. When driving down I-5 to a tournament site, he went past the exit, then stopped and backed up to get off.

He was responsible for developing the Thursday Night Side Game for all BC regionals financially benefiting BC players travelling to major tournaments. The game is still in existence today, managed by Jennifer Ballantyne, some 30 years after Smilie's death.

Willie Weinstein and Ben Lapidus.

Weinstein and Lapidus were regular fixtures at the Howe Street club when Lisa Strebinger ran it and afterwards. Both were among the top Vancouver area players during their era. They followed the traditional bidding methods characteristic of their time. Weinstein had a quirk in that he would occasionally start to open two clubs, but correct himself in the same breath (pre-bidding boxes) and open at the one level. He was in the fruit and vegetable business with a partner named Carl Schwartz and was successful in that enterprise for many years.

Ben Lapidus, another expert player at that club in that era, was in the junk business. Lapidus and Weinstein, along with Gordon Kiel, Nathan Divinsky and Max Vernon, played rubber bridge games for money regularly at the Howe Street site for a number of years. They all had the usual elements of expertise: the ability to evaluate hands, and get a sense of the cards, and the knack of simply outplaying the other players.

Leo Steil

When he died in the mid 1990s, Leo Steil was near the top of the all-time list of Canadian Masterpoint winners, obtaining over 9000 when such points were much harder to come by than they are now. He was one of the best Vancouver area players. He was a ferryboat captain, and was also known for his understated sense of humour. A few muttered words could mean a lot.

He was even tempered and often fooled with his cards. If he was upset he would throw the cards up and catch them again. He could play with almost any partner. He was an early exponent of two over one, which he referred to as the Max Hardy system. He was a natural bidder who also excelled at rubber bridge for money. He used the skills honed in money bridge games to specialize in team games in tournaments where similar skills came to the fore.

His understated manner was on display when a novice opponent asked him how he might have bid a hand where she passed her partner's one no trump response with an eight card spade suit because she "only had seven points." Steil simply said, "I don't think I would have passed." His widow, Dee also an excellent natural card player is still around as one of the better known local expert players.

Gordon Davis

Gordie Davis was partners with Ken LoChang and Eugene Chan in the formation of the Vancouver Bridge Centre on East Broadway. They moved the club there some nine months after Davis had taken over the Haida club located near Vancouver City Hall from Anne Nagy, for whom he had worked as a director at times.

Davis kept the group in charge of the Centre together and ran the club effectively during the early years of its operation. Having had a serious heart attack, he looked on each day as a blessing. At the time of the coronary, which resulted in triple bypass surgery, he was told he would only live a short time but somehow managed to survive for about 12 years. Early in his convalescence, he had gotten into trouble for partying with another hospital patient.

He was brilliant, sharp and honourable with no mean streak, though he did not suffer fools gladly. He also exercised his mind with the cryptic type of crossword puzzles. He played with a variety of partners and got on well with them. As a director, he effectively handled the players and damped down disputes. He was known for his statement, "play on" in response to director calls.

As a player, he had a habit of claiming by waving the hand. When responding to a statement that as a player that "only your friends will play with you", his response was that he at least had friends who wanted to play with him. He also greatly enjoyed rubber bridge, which, at that time, was regularly played at the Bridge Centre, and was not above an occasional flutter on the horses.

After his job directing a duplicate game was finished, he might go to the Jolly Alderman, or Dino's where he had a standing order for "tea." On one occasion, on the way home, the police reputedly stopped him for impaired driving, but told him, 'you're too easy' and let him off.

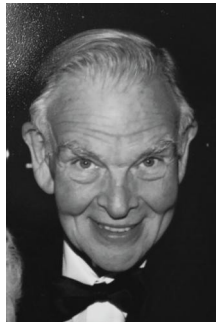
Ev Hodge

Ev Hodge was an excellent player with a long career who was successful with a wide variety of partners including still active experts such as Kathy Adachi. She had an excellent sense of humour and got along well both with her partners and opponents. Being asked by her to play was a sign that one had arrived as a player. She was good at evaluating hands and the play of the cards.

Born in Alberta, she played hockey in her youth. She also had a successful career as a nurse. One of her sons, Ken Hodge, not to be confused with the NHL Hall of Famer, is the president of the Portland Winterhawks WHA hockey team. She has at least ten great grandchildren and enjoyed other pastimes including casino gambling.

In Memoriam

Ronald Groome, 1933-2015



Ronald Groome, husband of White Rock area expert Jean Groome, was himself an excellent player. He had three children, a son, James, and daughters Cathy and Meg and four grandchildren.

Following Korean War service, he studied electrical engineering at UBC and worked as an engineer for Boeing at Renton for several years before returning to this side of the boundary. In his youth, his athletic prowess extended from baseball to basketball to volleyball, where he was known for his spiking ability. As a bridge player, he became a life master as early as 1979, when the title meant considerably more than it does now. He accumulated approximately 2000 points in his duplicate career.

Malcolm Tindale, 1942-2015

Malcolm MacDonald Tindale was a familiar long-time fixture in the North Shore Bridge scene. An excellent player, with good card sense, he grew up in Ontario before moving with his family to the North Vancouver area around 1970. He had two sons, Jeff and Darren and a daughter, Kim, as well as several grandchildren.

He is survived by his ex-wife, Diane as well as his long-time friend, Barbara Dubowska. He was in the pensions-insurance business and showed an honourable, clever competency on behalf of his clients in this area, from which he never retired, succumbing to lung cancer on April 24.

He was able to connect well with people. I recall conversations with him on the balcony at Kathy Bye's New Years Eve parties and outside of Homa's Bridge club at St. Davids where we discussed a lot of different matters in an interesting, philosophical manner. He was a good golfer and was also interested in horse racing and other card games. He had a definite point of view which he represented well.



He was sort of a Canadian version of the good aspects of the characters in the show Madmen with the ability to enjoy life, but with a sort of style and intelligence about how he did it. He had a real interest in people, and a real appreciation for those he respected.

Eleanor MacFarlane, 1940-2015.

Eleanor was a keen bridge player who was serious about the game and was involved in games and lessons from people like Barry Wade for many years. She was also frequently at the Bridge Centre and often played in Eugene Chan's game. She died of cancer on May 5.

Outside of Bridge, Eleanor, born Eleanor Haynesworth in Essex England, showed many talents. She was trained as a nurse and was very competent in

that role. She had a good run in her younger days and enjoyed life greatly. She emigrated from the UK first to New York for a year and then to Toronto, ending up in the Vancouver area.



With her ex husband, Alan MacFarlane, she had three daughters, Fiona, Carol and Petra who in turn have had several grandchildren. After her divorce, she took her nursing skills abroad, working in a number of Middle Eastern countries over a number of years before ending up again in the lower mainland area. She was also able along the way to do a lot of travelling to exotic locales like Peru, including a trip to Turkey just last year. In later years she also took up Lawn Bowling fairly successfully. She had an enthusiastic good nature and a basic decency which showed through. She had a good sense for people and exhibited intelligence and competency in many areas.

Three Way Game Tries for Beginners - by Greg Morse



Major suit games are the most common, and the easiest to bid and make. Accordingly, we can benefit from tools that allow us to bid games that can make even if the raw power (24-27HCP) is lacking. One of these tools is the "Game Try". A game try is a little bit different from a game invitation. The invitation typically asks if partner is minimum or maximum for his bidding so far. If he is minimum, he declines the invitation. If he is maximum he accepts. A limit raise of Opener's major is a type of invite.

Game tries attempt to get to game based on having the two hands mesh well, even if one of the partners is minimum. Fits take tricks.

When the auction starts 1♠-2♠ or 1♥-2♥, responder has a hand between 5 and 9 support points. Opener may try for game if he has a bit extra. Here is an example:

Opener	Responder #1	Responder #2
♠x ♥Jxxxx ♦AKxx ♣AKJ	♠xxx ♥KQJ9 ♦xxx ♣xxx	♠KQx ♥Qxx ♦xxx ♣Qxxx

The auction goes 1♥-2♥, and opener now makes a game try, asking for good trump support by bidding 3♥. Responder #1 should bid 4♥. He has what Opener has asked for even though he is a minimum. Game will make if the diamonds are 3-3 or the club finesse works. Responder #2 should pass even though he is maximum for his 2♥ raise; he does not have what Opener needs.

The most common way of finding out if Responder has what Opener needs is called the "Help Suit Game Try." Opener bids a suit in which he has some honour strength and some length; Kxxx or AJxx for example. Typically, opener is worried that there might be 3 losers in the "Help Suit." If responder has values in the help suit, the suit changes from being a liability (too many losers) to being a source of extra winners. Therefore, responder needs honours in the help suit; shortness will not do. *(If Responder has only 3 trumps, shortness is worth, on average, one trick; honours may turn into 3 or 4 extra tricks.)*

Look at this example taken from Max Hardy's book on 21st Century bidding:

Opener	Responder #1	Responder # 2
♠AKxxx ♥x ♦AQxx ♣Qxx	♠QTx ♥Jxx ♦xxx ♣KJTxx	♠QTx ♥KJTxx ♦xxx ♣Jxx

The auction goes 1♠-2♠; 3♣. 3♣ is a Help Suit Game Try, the cheapest suit in which values in Responder's hand will be useful. Responder #1 is happy to bid 4♠ as he has what Opener needs.

(Note that opener does not bypass clubs to bid 3♦. If he were to do that, Responder #1 would discount his club honours and reject the game try, and a good game would be missed.)

Responder # 2 is not so happy. But he does have a bid, as shown in the next example.

Opener	Responder #1	Responder #2
♠AKxxx ♥Qxx ♦AQxx ♣x	♠QTx ♥Jxx ♦xxx ♣KJTxx	♠QTx ♥KJTxx ♦Jxx ♣xxx

Again the auction goes 1♠-2♠; but now Opener bids 3♦, as his game try. Responder #1 knows that his club honours are of no use to Opener so he signs off in 3♦. Responder #2 does not have enough in diamonds, but he has something useful there and he does have hearts, which Opener has not denied having, so he makes a counter game try of 3♥. Opener is glad to hear of the heart help and so goes on to 4♠.

The above illustrates the traditional two-prong Help Suit Game Try approach: the Trump quality Game Try and the Help Suit Game Try.

Of course, while all of this bidding is going on, the opponents are listening, and you have pretty much told them your hand(s). Canadian expert Eric Kokish, who is a very creative bidding theorist, has proposed what are known as Kokish Game Tries.

The idea behind Kokish Game Tries is that it is OK for dummy (Responder) to reveal details about his hand, since it is going to be exposed anyway. Opener's hand, however, would benefit from being concealed.

Therefore Opener, instead of revealing where he needs help, makes a general purpose game try, asking Responder to describe his hand. Responder bids the lowest suit in which he has help. If Opener had made a game try in that suit, Responder would have accepted.

To revisit the previous example using a Kokish Game try:

Opener	Responder #1	Responder # 2
♠AKxxx ♥x ♦AQxx ♣Qxx	♠QTx ♥Txx ♦xxx ♣KJTxx	♠QTx ♥KJTxx ♦xxx ♣xxx

The auction goes: 1♠-2♠ 2NT! (alert!). The 2NT bid (the cheapest bid over 2♠) is an artificial game try. It does not show a balanced hand or a desire to play game in NT. Responder is expected to bid the cheapest suit where he would have accepted a game try.

Responder #1 bids 3♣ over 2NT after which Opener can happily bid 4♣.
Responder # 2 bids 3♥ over 2NT denying useful values in either clubs or diamonds. Opener is discouraged by this, and signs off in 3♣. Notice that no matter what Responder bids, Opener always has room to sign off at the 3 level. The defending side does not know nearly as much about Opener's hand as they would in the previous auction.

The situation is a bit more complicated when Opener has hearts. If the auction goes 1♥-2♥; 2NT (asking)-3♠ (I have spade values) then there is no way for Opener to sign off at the three level. To remedy this, when Opener's suit is hearts, he does not ask with 2NT. Instead he asks with 2♠! (alert). Like the 2NT ask, this is an artificial bid -- having found a fit in hearts, Opener is not suddenly interested in exploring spades. Responder makes the cheapest bid that describes his hand from the following alternatives:

1♥-2♥; 2♠! (asking)

2NT - I have spade values (he may also have values in clubs and/or diamonds).

3♣ - I have club values but no spade values.

3♦ - I have diamond values but no spade or club values.

Opener then decides whether to bid game or to ask further questions.

Kokish Game Tries have one other benefit. Because Opener does not need to bid 3x to ask about suit "x", he can use the 3x bid for something else. The usual case is that Opener shows shortness. Responder is advised to discount honours other than aces in Opener's short suit. The best holding is "All or Nothing at All", i.e., Ax(x) or xxxs. With all low cards in Opener's short suit, Responder knows that all of his other cards are working, and so can accept the Short Suit Game Try. (SSGT).

Here are a couple of hands that would make a SSGT after a single raise:

♠AQJ73 ♥AJ5 ♦x ♣KQxx after 1♠-2♠, make a SSGT by bidding 3♦.

♠AJ5 ♥AQJ73 ♦KJxx ♣x, after 1♥=2♥, make a SSGT by bidding 3♣.

♠x ♥AQJ73 ♦KJxx ♣AJ5 after 1♥-2♥, make a SSGT by bidding 2NT! Showing short spades. Remember that a 2♠ bid would be a general purpose Kokish game try when hearts are trumps.

Game Tries in Competition.

The vast majority of the auctions in today's game are competitive. When the opponents compete, we lose bidding room and some of our tools. We must modify our game tries accordingly. The usual meaning of a cue bid in their suit takes priority, limit raise, stopper showing/ asking, etc. The usual approach is to scrap Kokish in competition and revert to straightforward HSGT.

4th hand makes a bid:

Suppose the auction goes: 1♥-pass-2♥-3♣ and Opener wants to make a game try. He has three bids he can make, Double, 3♦ and 3♥. Double should be penalty, 3♥ just means we don't want to let them play 3♣, so the only game try left is 3♦. 3♦ is ambiguous; it does not ask specifically about diamonds, nor does it show diamond shortness. It is the only safe bid opener can make to show game interest.

The situation would be similar if the auction had gone: 1♥-2♣-2♥-3♣. Again, 3♦ is the only game try available.

Sometimes there is no room at all between the overcall suit and our trump suit:

1♥-2♦-2♥-3♦ : Now to make a game try, Opener must double. It is not often that we want to double a suit that has been bid and raised at the three level for penalty, especially when we have a fit of our own. So Double here is the *Maximal Overcall Double*, -- trying for game. This allows the bid of 3♥ to be competitive -- we are not trying for game, we just don't want to let them play 3♦.

There you have it. Kokish Three-Way Game Tries, replaced by a compressed version of HSGT when the opponents compete. Bid those 23 HCP games!

Eddie Kantar Defence - by Greg Morse



During the NABC's Eddie Kantar has an article in each Daily Bulletin entitled, "Thinking Bridge." The problems are not all that difficult provided that you think. But too many of us don't think or don't think about the right things at the right time.

Here is a "Thinking Bridge" hand that came up in a recent club game.

Playing Matchpoints, NV v. V, you pick up in second seat:

♠QT6 ♥KT9543 ♦Q86 ♣4.

Dealer passes and you decide not to open a weak 2♥ because your suit is not good enough. The auction proceeds: Pass-Pass-1♣-Dbf- 2♣-3♥-4♣ all Pass.

Partner leads the Ace of Hearts and this is what you see:

Dummy: **♠KJ52 ♥- ♦753 ♣KQJT76** You: **♠QT6 ♥KT9543 ♦Q86 ♣4**

What is your objective? Where will your tricks come from?

Declarer ruffs the Heart Ace with the Club King, draws two rounds of trumps, partner showing a doubleton, then plays the Spade Ace (horrors!) and a low spade to the Jack (joy!). You win your Queen and now what?

Channelling Eddie Kantar

What can partner possibly have for his takeout double? Nothing in clubs, nothing in spades, and at most AQJ in hearts. What about diamonds? He must have the diamond Ace, but he cannot have the diamond King (or he would have lead a top diamond rather than the Heart ace from AQx.)

What about Declarer? He is marked with 4 clubs, 2 spades, and at most 4 hearts. He must have at least 3 diamonds. You need 3 diamond tricks to defeat this contract; if Declarer is 2=4=3=4 you need those tricks right now before a diamond loser goes away on the spade King. *What diamond return will allow you to take three tricks, when declarer has Kxx?*

You must project partner with ♦AJTx(x) and lead the ♦ Q. If you carelessly lead a low diamond, Declarer will duck his King, playing the Nine, say, and partner will be on lead and you will only get two diamond tricks.

This is not hard to see in hindsight, but this defence was missed at the table.

The complete hand is:

♠A9 ♥J762 ♦K92 ♣A853

♠QT6 ♥KT9543 ♦Q86 ♣4

♠8743 ♥AQ8 ♦AJT5 ♣92

♠KJ52 ♥- ♦743 ♣KQJT76

Give me a Hand - by Jörg Schneider

This was the most amazing hand at this year's January Sectional: Board 18, Saturday Afternoon. You are sitting East, non-vul versus vul. You pick up this hand with a spade void: ♠- ♥T852 ♦832 ♣AKT974. South is dealer, opening One Heart to your left, and a surprising 2NT (Minors) is bid by your partner, and with North bidding Spades on the way, you wind up in 7 Clubs, doubled, down three (minus 500) for 17 of 25 matchpoints. They are, of course, cold for Six of either major, but if North bids spades, not cold for 7, since 7 hearts fails on the singleton Queen spade lead and 7 spades by North fails on a heart lead. Both doubles, of course, are Lightner.

If North-South play the Unusual versus the Unusual, the result hinges upon whether North bids 3 Clubs (limit raise in Hearts) or 3 Diamonds (showing game interest spades as I understand the convention.) With four card support and a void against a long but admittedly weak suit, I would lean towards 3 Clubs, but if you bid 3 Diamonds, South would be the declarer in 7 spades, wrongsiding (for the defense) the contract, since the player with the heart void is on lead.

There were some strange results, the strangest being East-West playing in 7 Hearts !! a splinter in support of clubs unsportingly doubled? The defence slipped up by trying to cash a spade and, for now, declarer is "only" down 12 for 3200. Of course, you should pull trumps first for 3500, the same top, but you have the satisfaction of scoring a Grand Slam on defence. One East-West was in 7 diamonds doubled, only down two. Obviously, when East led a diamond, South split her honours. Why? You always will take a diamond, but when you play low, west might well play the Ace hoping to drop a singleton honour from North. Here the singleton honour is the Ace and now you get the three tricks you are entitled to.

Here is the complete deal and the results:

	♠T9875432 ♥QJ76 ♦A ♣-	
♠Q ♥- ♦JT9754 ♣Q86532	♠AKJ6 ♥AK943 ♦KQ8 ♣J	♠- ♥T852 ♦832 ♣AKT974

Results:

Contract Frequency	Score N/S	Matchpoints
7♥x W -12	3200	25 0
7♥xx S (making)	2940	24 1
7♠x N (making: twice)	2470	22 1/2 2
7♥ N (making: twice)	2210	19 6
7♥ S (making)	2210	19 6

7♠ (S: once; N; once)	2210	19	6
6♥ or ♠ (making 7: five)	1460	14	11
6♥ S making 6; once	1430	11	14
7♣x E -3 (five times)	500	8	17
6♣x E or W -2 (three times)	300	3	22
7♦x E -2	300	3	22
6♣x E -1!	100	1	24
7♠x N -1	-100	0	25

UNIT 430 LEADERS

Local Leaders: Colorado Springs Power Ratings: Dan Jacob, Bryan Maksymetz, Kai Zhou, Nick Stock, Gray McMullin, Baixiang Liu, Martin Henneberger, Michael Dimich, Les Fouks

Trophy Sectional, Jan 2-4, 2015: Leading Local Players: Jack Lee, Thomas Walsh (Sask), Samantha Nystrom, Rock Shi Yan, Monica Angus, Susan Peters, Doug Hansford, James Wu, Yuangdon Ren, Ben Takemori, Barry Yamanouchi, Nick Stock; Susan Peters and Julie Smith were the leading Unit 430 players in the Bellingham Sectional of Feb, 2015.

Hawaii Regional, Jan 19-25, 2015: Leading Unit 430 Players: Doug Hansford, Susan Peters, Julie Smith, Peter Cooper.

Future Stars, March 21-22 2015: Leading Unit 430 Players: Marco Paladino, Bill Matheson, Anne Katrichak, Marlene Sumi, Kerin Zohrab, John Zohrab, Sharene Jansen, Gloria Chochinov, Deborah Messenberg, Bernice King.

Victoria Regional, Apr. 13-19, 2015: Leading Unit 430 Players: Katrin Litwin, Aidan Ballantyne, Susan Peters, Doug Hansford, Samantha Nystrom, Ben Takemori, Donald Sache.

Monthly Unit Games Jan-May 2015: Rock Shi Yan, Samantha Nystrom, Jack Lee, David Yu, Nick Stock, Michael Strebinger, Duane Tilden, Gustav Axen, Kai Zhou, Yue Su.

IMP League C: We congratulate the winning Purple Team, Frances Adam, Glenda Affleck, Ian Affleck, Jan Mason, Trudy Merritt, Sharon Perry.

McKenney: May 6 Report

0-20 Masterpoints: Yen Karro, Alice Kaye, Sidney Yang, Ian Greig, Joe Cashin, Ron Williams, Alan Borden, Deborah Davy, Harvey Russell, Marlene Russell, Doug Avis, Bryan Hannay, Norm Gangnes.

20-50 Masterpoints: Bruce Adams, Kevin Contzen, Terie Grad, James harris, Elizabeth Tovey, Peter Wong, Adelaine Miller, Harry Satanove, Name Withheld, Marco Paladino.

50-100 Masterpoints: Stephanie Williams, Marie Lamontagne, Janice Avis, Cindy Oishi, John Zohrab, Winnie Cashin, Glenda Affleck, Ernst Walti, Helen Phillips, Pam Robertson.

100-300 Masterpoints: Thomas Anderson, Bill Matheson, Jim Glanville, John Maunsell, Donna Cusson, Valerie Haslam, David Butler, Dennis Peacock, Maryellen Gallo, Judy Chang, Susan Jonvik, Marlene Sumi, Rich Schmid, Craig Wilson, Daphne Williams, Sue Glanville, Natalie Warnes, Barbara Lacey, Darianne Damgaard, Kerin Zohrab.

300-500 Masterpoints: Eve Jensen, Marilyn Knipp, Tom Jen Kwan, Ted Dagan, Debbie Martignago, Stephen Ottridge, Elsie MacKinnon, Carolyn Keane, Brad Digby, Kathryn Shannon.

500-1000 Masterpoints: Sally Craig, Shelley Burns, Edgar L'Heureux, Xiangdong Meng, Edee Rumley, Jacques Printz, Robert Colavecchia, Leatha Dudra, James Wu, Marta Zahorecz

1000-2500 Masterpoints: Jane Youngberg, John Teschke, Diane Griffiths, Barry Kirkham, Isabel Chernoff, Jim Walker, Baixiang Liu, Chuck Irwin, Bjarne Christoffersen, Sid Segal

2500-5000 Masterpoints: Susan Peters, Ben Takemori, Vicki Moffatt, Monica Angus, Julie Smith, Michael Moffatt, Jack Lee, Shirley Fitterman, Nicholas Stock, John DeMeulemeester

5000+ Masterpoints: Dan Jacob, Doug Hansford, Cameron Doner, Rock Shi Yan, Les Fouks, Bryan Maksymetz, Aidan Ballantyne, Katrin Litwin, Kathy Adachi, Samantha Nystrom, Donald Sache.

Overall Leaders: Dan Jacob, Susan Peters, Doug Hansford, Cameron Doner, Rock Shi Yan, Les Fouks, Bryan Maksymetz, Ben Takemori, Aidan Ballantyne, Katrin Litwin, Vicki Moffatt, Monica Angus, Julie Smith.



Susan Peters, Unit 430 McKenney Leader, 0-5000 points, 2015

**Ace of Clubs: May 6 Report
(Black Points awarded in Club Games)**

0-20 Masterpoints: Yen Karro, Joe Cashin, Harvey Russell, Marlene Russell, Doug Avis, Deborah Davy, Norm Gangness, Bryan Hannay, Ron Williams, Margaret Gordon, Alan Borden, Marcia Hadden.,

20-50 Masterpoints: Bruce Adams, Terie Grad, Name Withheld, Peter Wong, Elizabeth Tovey, James Harris, Doris Frost, Sandra Brown, Carol Wishart, Kay Tsurusaki.

50-100 Masterpoints: Janis Avis, Stephanie Williams, Cindy Oishi, Marie Lamontagne, John Zohrab, Pam Robertson, Winnie Cashin, Michelle Wilding-Davies, Ernst Walti, Mike Foster.

100-300 Masterpoints: Thomas Anderson, Jim Glanville, Bill Matheson, Donna Cusson, Dennis Peacock, David Butler, Maryellen Gallo, Barbara Lacey, Grethe Larssen, Rich Schmid, Jean La Borie, Nonie Schmid, John Maunsell, Sue Glanville, Craig Wilson, Susan Jonvik

300-500 Masterpoints: Eve Jensen, Ted Dagan, Tom Jen Kwan, Debbie Martignago, Stephen Ottridge, Robin Hart, David Herbert, Janet Argent, Elsie Mckinnon, Thomas Davis.

500-1000 Masterpoints: Leatha Dudra, Jack Johnson, Fred Baldwin, L. Ralph Buckley, Edee Rumley, Siavosh Siassi, Shelley Burns, R. B. Chan, Patricia Chen, Neil McAllister.

1000-2500 Masterpoints: Barry Kirkham, John Teschke, Diane Griffiths, Sid Segal, Bjarne Christofferson, Allan Karro, Marla Gropper, Jane Youngberg, Jim Walker, Donna Freeze.

2500-5000 Masterpoints: Shirley Fitterman, Ben Takemori, Tai Eng, Michael Strebinger, John DeMeulemeester, Liz Stoneman, John Lien, Joerg Schneider, Jean Groome, Gray McMullin

5000 + Masterpoints: Les Fouks, Kathy Adachi, Doug Hansford, Samantha Nystrom, Martin Henneberger, June Pocock, Ernie Dietrich, Wilf May, Bryan Maksymetz, Sandra Robson, Peter Morse

Overall Leaders: Les Fouks, Kathy Adachi, Shirley Fitterman, Barry Kirkham, John Teschke, Ben Takemori, Tai Eng, Diane Griffiths, Sid Segal, Michael Strebinger, Bjarne Christoffersen, John Demeulemeester, Liz Stoneman.

UNIT 430 CLUBS

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB, Stephen Beaton Director, manages it with co-owners Sandy White, and Tai Eng; 10AM Mondays, Jaycee Centre, 1251 Lillooet Rd. North Vancouver, BC Tel: 604 767 5974. We congratulate the club on its over 10 years existence. It now has predealt hands and records.

NORTH SHORE WINTER CLUB, Stephen Beaton, Director, Bernice Mulock, Mgr. Tuesday, 7PM, 1325 E. Keith Rd. North Vancouver, BC Tel: 604 767 5974; Mulock Tel: 604 987 8289.

HOLLYBURN COUNTRY CLUB, Stephen Beaton, Director, 7PM Mondays (Open) Thursday, 9:30AM (members only) 950 Cross Creek Rd. West Vancouver, BC. Tel: 604 767 5974.

CAPILANO COUNTRY CLUB, Tuesday, 9:15 AM (members only; not in summer months) Bruce McIntyre, Director, 420 Southborough, West Vancouver, BC; tel: 604 438 9735.

VANCOUVER BRIDGE CLUB, Monday, 10AM, Wednesday, 10AM. Homa Boustani, Director, St Davids United Church, 1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver, BC; Tel: 604 922 8577; biggest combined North Shore weekly table count.

VANCOUVER BRIDGE CENTRE, 2776 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC; Tel: 604-255 2564. Ken LoChang, proprietor; Directors: Bruce McIntyre, Sunday, 1PM; Wed. 7PM; (Wednesday Series) Friday, 7PM (Jackpot: plus \$5 price; "beat the expert pair" designated by Bruce and you get a free play. Cathy Miller, Director, Wed. & Fri. 10:30 AM; Theresa Kong, Director, Thurs. 10:30AM. Other games: Mon. 7PM (\$5 special) Tues. 10AM: (now \$8). District 430 Monthly Unit (MUG) Games held at site, first Saturday of the month, 7PM; other special events sponsored by the unit and others held occasionally on Saturday.

BURNABY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, 2776 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC; Gilbert Lambert, Director, Tuesday, 7PM; team games, last Tuesday of every month. Tel: 604 817 6612.

NEW WESTMINSTER BRIDGE CLUB (New West) Gilbert Lambert, Director, Thursdays 7PM; Tel: 604 817 6612; Team games 2nd and last Thursdays each month; friendly game with good competition.

EC BRIDGE CLUB, 2776 E. Broadway, Vancouver BC; Thursday 7:PM Eugene Chan, Director, Bryan Maksymetz does lectures; continuing special offers. Tel: 778 837 2228.

MARJORIE GROBERMAN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB (Jewish Community Centre Duplicate) 850 W. 41st St. Vancouver, BC; Tues. & Thurs 11AM, Cathy Miller, Director; Tel 604 257 5111. Games rescheduled for Vancouver Bridge Centre on days JCC is closed. Now with predealt hands and hand records.

SHAUGHNESSY GOLD COUNTRY CLUB, Bruce McIntyre, Director; 9:15 AM Thurs. (Members only) 4300 SW Marine Dr. Vancouver, BC; Tel: 604 438 9735.

RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB, Monday, 1PM; Bryan Maksymetz, Director; Ramona Josephson, Mgr. (primarily members only) 9100 Steveston Hwy, Richmond, BC Tel: 604 277 3141.

BETH TIKVAH BRIDGE (Richmond) Bryan Maksymetz, Director, Larry Meyer, Mgr. Monday, 7PM. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 9711 Geal Rd. Richmond, BC; Tel: 604 271 8692; successor to Tsawwassen Bridge Club.

DUPLICATE LITE IN SURREY, John DeMeulemeester, Jane Youngberg, Directors. Thursday, 9:45 AM, Elgin Hall, 14250 Crescent Rd. Surrey, BC; Tel: 604 298 2765. Check with club for Harrison teaching outing in September. Contact club directors for Barbara Seagram teaching seminar planned for Oct. 16-18.

SURREY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, Jane Youngberg, Director; Wed. 1 PM (starting in late May or June.) Elgin Hall, 14250 Crescent Rd. Surrey, BC; Tel: 604 298 2765. Prior to the open club start-up supervised play will be featured on the Wednesday date. In Wednesday teaching sessions last month as many as 100 new people are appearing at the weekly sessions.

Ms. Youngberg has determined that there are an amazing number of players in the area who might be interested in duplicate providing we could overcome the hard-nosed image of some duplicate bridge. For more up to date information on the new program, Surreybridgelessons@gmail.com for more up-to-date information on the lessons and supervised play. The plan is to eventually develop, at Elgin Hall or elsewhere, a second Bridge Centre serving southern lower mainland players.

WHITE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, Arlene Browning, Director, Wednesday, 7PM, 1845 154 St, Surrey BC; Tel 604 870 9300. Well run, friendly, cooperatively owned; applies to all South Surrey and White Rock games.

PEACE ARCH DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, John W. Lien, Director, Tuesday 11AM, Elgin Hall, 14250 Crescent Rd. Surrey, BC; Tel: 604 603 5436. Game has moved from old location to the Elgin Hall location in Surrey, BC

SOUTH SURREY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, Arlene Browning, Director, Mon. 7PM, 14831 28 Ave. Surrey, BC; Tel. 604 870 9300.

GOLDEN EARS BRIDGE CLUB, Garry Skoropada, Director, Wed. 12:30PM, Ridge Meadows Senior Ctr. 12150 224th St. Maple Ridge, BC Tel: 604 462 7320

CHILLIWACK BRIDGE CLUB, David Peppar, Director, Monday, 7PM, 9168 Corbould St. Chilliwack, BC Tel: 604 702 9890

SQUAMISH BRIDGE CLUB, Colin Ransom and Doreen Ransom, Directors, Monday 6PM, Friday, 1PM, Howe Sound Golf and Curling, 2458 Mamquam Rd. Squamish, BC; Tel: 604 896 1522. Friendly, welcoming game.

WHISTLER DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, Gillian Schramm, Director, Wed. 1:30PM (long summer break) at Maurice Young Millenium Palace, 4336 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC; Tel: 604 932 5791

UNIT 430 CALENDAR FOR 2015-6

May 9: Mentor-Mentee Game, VBC
May 12-17: Regional at Anchorage, AK
May 15-18, 2015: Spring Sectional, Queensborough Community Centre Annacis Island, New West (note change in location)
May 23-30: Canadian Bridge Championships, Montreal, QC
May 22-24, Sectional, Summerland, BC,
May 22-25: Sectional, Kent, WA

June 6: Monthly Unit Game VBC: Teams
June 8-14, 2015: STaC Dist 19 (organized by Unit 430)
June 15-21, Regional: Penticton, BC
June 22-28, Regional: Las Vegas, NV
June 26-28: Sectional, Sequim, WA

July 4: Monthly Unit Game VBC
July 10-12: Sectional, Anacortes, WA
July 13-19: Regional, Calgary, AB
July 24-26, Sectional, Nanaimo, BC;
July 24-26: Sectional, Bellevue, WA
July 27-Aug. 2: Regional, Eugene, OR
July 28-Aug. 3: Canadian Bridge Fed. Regional, Kingston, ON
July 31-Aug. 2: Sectional, Bremerton, WA

Aug. 1: Monthly Unit Game VBC
Aug. 8: Mentor-Mentee Game, VBC
Aug 6-16, National at Chicago, IL
Aug. 17-23: STaC incl. District 19;
Aug. 17-23: Regional, Lynnwood, WA
Aug. 24-30: Regional, Regina, SK
Aug. 27-29: BC 55+ Games, Duplicate Bridge Finals, Delbrook Community Centre, North Vancouver, BC

Sept. 4-6: Evergreen Sectional, Queensborough Community Centre, Annacis Island, New Westminster (Note location change)
Sept. 11-13: Sectional, Victoria (Saanich) BC
Sept. 12: Monthly Unit Game, VBC
Sept. 18-20: Sectional, Powell River, BC

Sept. 25-27: Sectional, Kelowna, BC
Sept. 28-Oct 4: Regional, Seaside, OR

Oct. 3: Monthly Unit Game, VBC
Oct. 16-18: Sectional, Bellevue, WA
Oct. 17: Non Life Master Sectional, Victoria, BC
Oct. 23-25: Sectionals at Kamloops BC, Courtenay BC
Oct. 24-25: Future Stars Sectional, VBC
Oct. 26-Nov. 1: Regional at Leavenworth, WA

Nov. 6-8: Roundup Sectional, Engineers Hall, Burnaby BC
Nov. 14: Monthly Unit Game, VBC
Nov. 14-15: 0-200 Sectional Tournament, Vernon, BC
Nov. 21: Mentor-Mentee Game, VBC
Nov. 26-Dec. 6: National at Denver, CO

Dec. 5: Monthly Unit Game
Dec. 7-13: STaC (Incl. Dist. 19)
Dec. 11-13: Fircrest Sectional, Tacoma, WA

2016:

Jan. 8-10: Sectional, Campbell River, BC; Calgary, AB
Jan. 18-24: Regional, Honolulu, HI
Jan. 29-31: Trophy Sectional (tentatively Burnaby, BC)

Feb. 12-14: Sectional, Bellingham, WA
Feb. 15-21: Regional, Vancouver, WA

Mar. 11-13: Sectional, Duncan, BC

April 1-3: Sectional: Victoria, BC; Calgary, AB
April 4-10: Regional, Spokane, WA
April 15-17: Sectional, Red Deer, AB; Seaside OR
April 22-24: Sectional, Vernon, BC
April 29-May1: Sectional, Qualicum, BC;

Generic Sectional Tournament Schedule (updated by Angela Fenton, as accepted by the Unit 430 Board) for the remainder of 2015

Trophy Sectional

Jan 2-4	Friday 1:00 (CBF)*	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Speaker Sat 11:20	Fri. 6:30: H. Smilie Mixed BAM	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Trophies:	Sat. 12:30 A&JB Hicks Qual	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Prior to Sat Eve.	Sat. 6:30 A&JB Hicks Final	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
	Sun: 10 AM&TBA: W. W. & M.C. Swiss		

Spring Sectional

May 15-18	Friday 1:00 (CBF)*	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Speaker Sat 11:20	Fri. 7PM: B.L. Ko's 1 of 3	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
AGM: 4PM Sat	Sat. 12:30 B.L. Ko's 2 of 3	Imp Pairs 1st	0-750 Pairs
A♠&Mckenney Pres.	Sat. 6:30 B.L. Ko's 3 of 3	Imp Pairs 2nd	0-750 Pairs
Sunday eve.	Sun. 12:30 A/X pairs, 1st	B/C/D Pairs: 1st	
	Sun. 6:30 A/X pairs, 2nd	B/C/D Pairs, 2nd	
	Mon: 10AM &TBA: Strat open Swiss	NLM Swiss	

Evergreen Sectional

Sept. 4-6	Friday 1:00 (CBF)*	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
	Friday 7PM Ko's 1 of 3	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Speaker 11:20AM	Sat. 12:30 Ko's 2 of 3	Open: first	0-750 Pairs
Saturday	Sat. 6:30 Ko's 3 of 3	Open: 2nd	0-750 Pairs
	Sun. 10AM&TBA	A/X Swiss	B/C/D Swiss

Roundup Sectional

Nov. 6-8	Fri. 1:00 PM Ev Hodge Open Pairs		0-750 Pairs
	Fri. 7PM J. Turnbull Mixed Pairs	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Speaker Sat 11:20	Sat. 12:30 A/X Pairs 1 of 2	B/C/D Pairs 1 of 2	
	Sat. 6:30 A/X Pairs, 2 of 2	B/C/D Pairs, 2 of 2	
	Sun 10AM&TBA: Strat open Swiss	NLM Swiss	

Trophy Sectional

Jan 29-31, 2016	Friday 1:00 (CBF)*	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Speaker Sat 11:20	Friday 6:30 H. Smilie Mixed BAM	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Trophies: Prior to	Sat 12:30 A&JB Hicks Qual	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
Sat Eve.	Sat 6:30 A&JB Hicks Final	Open Pairs	0-750 Pairs
	Sun: 10AM &TBA W.Weinstein & M.Clarke Swiss		

Future Stars Sectional: October 24-25, 2015

Sat, 1:15PM, 6:15 PM: Pairs
Sun. 1:15 PM (Pairs) 6:15PM: Swiss

*CBF: means \$1 contributed by Unit to CBF for each entry.

Open events are stratified based on average MP's between two players but no single player to have more than Event's top strata limit.

In stratified events: 0-1250; 1250-2500; 2500+. All open events are stratified other than the Jean Turnbull Mixed Pairs.

**In Stratiflighted events: A: Unlimited; X0-2500; B 500-2500; C 200-500; D 0-200.
KO events are 28 board matches (boards may be removed in slower matches).
Brackets are based on team average.
IMP pairs are scored by Average or total IMP'S (Not Butler or Datum scoring)
2 Mixed pairs required for Henry Smilie BAM and single mixed pairs for Jean
Turnbull event.**