



Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association County Bulletin



Issue 39

DECEMBER 2016

Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Remember to unblock by Bob Pitts	1
Hand from Down Under by Tim Bourke	2
The Silver Plate by David Stevenson	3
Calendar	4
Safety Play by Dave Keen	4

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO EVERYONE
LET'S HOPE WE ALL
HAVE AN EXCELLENT
2017



Remember to unblock

by Bob Pitts

Unblocking plays in defence are often difficult to spot, but as declarer it should be easier as you can see both your hand and dummy, but sometimes we just play too quickly.

Dealer East. Love All

	♠ 8 4 3	
	♥ J 7	
	♦ Q 7 6 5	
	♣ Q 9 3 2	
♠ K 9 7 2		♠ Q J 10
♥ A Q 8 4		♥ K 9 6
♦ 9 8 3 2		♦ K J 10 4
♣ K		♣ A 10 6
	♠ A 6 5	
	♥ 10 5 3 2	
	♦ A	
	♣ J 8 7 5 4	

In a multiple teams event, after opening one no-trump, East reached three no-trumps once West had not unearthed a major suit fit. South led a club and dummy's king won perforce, North following with an encouraging two. Declarer played a spade to his queen and South took this to continue clubs. North won with the queen and continued with the nine, won by declarer. Three more rounds of spades were played then the ace of hearts and a heart to the king. Sadly, declarer had not thought ahead and the nine of hearts was still in his hand. When this was played and South refused to cover, declarer had to go down. Had he unblocked the nine of hearts and kept the six, he would at least had the option of finessing against South's ten, a play that is very appealing once North's jack appears on the second round of the suit.

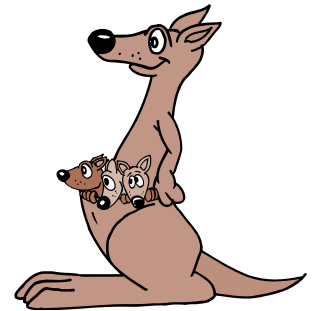
HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

by Tim Bourke



Dealer North. E/W vul.

	♠ 6 5 4 2	
	♥ Q J 7 2	
	♦ K 4	
	♣ A Q 3	
♠ 10 3		♠
♥ 10 9 3		♥ A K 8 6 5 4
♦ 9 8 7 2		♦ Q J 6 5
♣ J 8 7 6		♣ K 10 4
	♠ A K Q J 9 8 7	
	♥	
	♦ A 10 3	
	♣ 9 5 2	



West	North	East	South
	1♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On this deal, East/West were sensibly playing intermediate jump overcalls at unfavourable vulnerability but, once North raised spades, South was not deterred from making an optimistic leap to slam.

West led the ten of hearts and declarer could count ten top tricks. As an eleventh would come from a diamond ruff, declarer focused his attention on avoiding the club finesse as East was likely to hold the king of clubs. However, East was almost certain to have both the ace and king of hearts, so declarer formed a plan on that basis.

At trick one he called for a low heart from dummy and ruffed in hand. Then after drawing trumps with the ace and king, he cashed the king then ace of diamonds and ruffed the ten of diamonds in dummy. Next came the queen of hearts and when East covered, declarer discarded a small club from hand East was endplayed and tried the effect of exiting with a small heart but declarer was not put off his original plan. He threw a second club from hand and dummy's jack won the trick Declarer made seven trumps, a heart, two diamonds a diamond ruff and the club ace for a total of twelve tricks.

Note that if declarer had covered the opening lead with one of dummy's honours the contract would have failed.

CHESTER CONGRESS

This popular Congress is being held over the weekend of January 21st/22nd.

Pairs on Saturday. Teams on Sunday

Further details are available on the Deva BC website.

Get your entry in before it gets full

The Silver Plate semi-final

by David Stevenson

In the semi-final, David Stevenson-Liz Commins, Paddy Murphy-Simon Edwards, Julian Merrill-Paul Roberts continued their excellent run by beating a good Scottish team and will face a Midlands team in the final.

The hand I most remember was :

Dealer North E/W vul.

	♠ Q 5 2	
	♥ K Q 8 6	
	♦ A K 8 6 5	
	♣ 4	
♠ 10 8		♠ K J 7 4 3
♥ 3		♥ J 7 5 4
♦ Q 10 9 2		♦ 7 3
♣ Q J 10 9 7 2		♣ A 8
	♠ A 9 6	
	♥ A 10 9 2	
	♦ J 4	
	♣ K 6 5 3	

The auction was :

West	North	East	South	
	1♦	1NT*	Double	* 1NT showed a weak distributional hand
2♣	2♥	Pass	4♥	
Pass	Pass	Pass		

I led the club ace, small from dummy, queen from Liz and the four from declarer. I switched to the spade four, six, ten, queen. North played the heart king then small to the ten, Liz showing out. He continued with the club king and another ruffed with the heart eight and over-ruffed by me. Now I returned a trump to prevent a second club ruff. Declarer played ace and another spade, and I was on lead in this position :

	♠	
	♥	
	♦ A K 8 6	
	♣	
♠		♠ 7 3
♥		♥
♦ Q 10 9		♦ 7 3
♣ J		♣
	♠	
	♥ 9	
	♦ J 4	
	♣ 6	



It seems very easy to play another spade without thinking, but then Liz gets squeezed when dummy ruffs. However, the position was quite clear to me so I played a diamond for one off and a flat board.

Merseyside & Cheshire Bridge Association

Contacts and information

Newsletter editor : Bob Pitts

Phone : 01352 771304

E-mail: bob.pitts1@btinternet.com

Richard Alcock (county secretary) :
ralcock@altrad.com

John Hampson (chairman of selectors) :
john73hampson@btinternet.com

County website : www.mcba.org.uk

All of the club contacts are available on
the County website

Calendar

All events here are correct at time of publishing but you are advised to take the precaution of checking with the organisers in all cases.

December

28th-30th Northern Year End Congress Blackpool

January

21st/22nd Chester Congress Deva BC

February

5th County trials MBC

26th Jean Keen trophy (Ladies teams) MBC

March

5th Eric Howarth GP (Swiss teams) MBC

May

21st John Armstrong trophy (Swiss pairs) MBC

Safety Play

by Dave Keen



Here is a hand from a teams match. You are in three no-trumps as South, with no opposition bidding. The opening lead is the spade three with RHO playing the King to the first trick. The spade suit seems likely to be divided 5-4 so ducking the first trick is not a sensible option - so you have the lead at trick 2, now what? All roads but one lead to failure!!!

♠ X
♥ X X X
♦ A K X
♣ A J X X X X

♠ A J X
♥ A J X X
♦ X X X X
♣ K X

Those who know about safety plays will be thinking 'I need to develop five club tricks without RHO getting the lead to play a S through my doubleton jack, so I will play the club king followed by the a club to the ace - I don't want to finesse into a doubleton queen on my right and if the club queen is onside I don't need to finesse. Not a bad play but not good enough. You play the club king and the queen appears on your left, RHO now has the club stop!!! Careless! A small club at trick 2 towards the ace and one back to the king is just as good as playing the king first and then the ace, but it also wins on the actual hand. When you lead a small club at trick 2, it fetches the queen on your left and you DUCK! Now that is a safety play!

And yes - the right line was spotted at the table.