

PLAY THIS HAND WITH ME by BARBARA SEAGRAM

	North		
	♠ Q1076		
	♥ 2		
	♦ A32		
	♣ 65432		
West		East	<u>CONTRACT: 6 ♠</u>
♠ 432		♠ 5	
♥ QJ10543		♥ K	
♦ J4		♦ Q10987	
♣ J7		♣ AKQ1098	
	South		
	♠ AKJ98		
	♥ A9876		
	♦ K65		
	♣ ----		

You are in 6 ♠. Don 't ask how you got there!!! You have 4 heart losers and a diamond loser. You will have to trump FOUR hearts in dummy in order to make this contract.

This is a classic cross ruff hand. You cannot draw any trump at all or you will not have enough trump in dummy with which to trump all those FOUR heart losers. You will be able to get back to the SOUTH hand to keep leading Hearts and trumping them in dummy ONLY by leading clubs from dummy. You will NOT be able to draw ANY trumps.

Look what happens to West when you keep leading clubs and ruffing them in declarer's hand. West will pitch a diamond or two. THEN when you eventually get around to leading your diamonds (having not pulled trump) West will ruff a diamond. UGLY.

When doing the perfect cross ruff, you must FIRST CASH your winners in the side suit (the non-trump suit) before doing your cross ruffing.

Try doing this both ways (cashing your Diamond winners first and then try NOT cashing your Diamond winners first) and you will see it all.



TIPS FOR BETTER BIDDING

by Alex and Barbara

1. You are the opening bidder with this hand:

S A76
H KJ87
D KQ843
C 6

You open with 1D and partner responds 1S. Opponents are passing all the way. What will you bid next?

- a) 2D
- b) 2H
- c) 2S
- d) 1NT

2. You are the opening bidder with this hand:

S K65
H KQ7
D KJ8632
C 5

You open with 1D and partner responds 1S. Opponents are passing all the way. What will you bid next?

- a) 2D
- b) 3D
- c) 2S
- d) 1NT

In both situations, we believe you should raise to 2S. It does NOT promise four-card support. Responder with only four cards in Spade suit must not bid Spades again.

Supposing responder has

S KQ984
H A92
D J72
C A7

If the bidding has gone

1D - 1S (Responder's hand is immediately above)
2D - ?

What should responder now bid? He has enough points for game but does not know if opener may have three-card support for Spades and if 4S may play better than 3NT.

If responder bids 2S now, it shows 6-9 points.

If responder bids 3S now, it shows 10-12 points and is NOT forcing.

If responder bids 4S now, it shows 13-15 points BUT opener may have a singleton or void in Spades and then this would be a dismal failure.

On THIS hand, 4S makes but Responder does not know to bid it.

If responder bids 3NT now, it shows 13-15 points and this contract will be beaten on a Club lead.

New Minor Forcing ONLY is used after opening bidder has rebid 1NT in a sequence like this.

1D - 1S

1N

For all these reasons, Opener should rebid 2S, NOT 2D. On BOTH of the Opener hands shown (1 and 2)

After

1D - 1S

2S

If Responder has only four Spades

e.g. . hand below is Responder's hand.

S K1098

H A92

D A72

C A7

After

1D - 1S by Responder

2S - Responder will now bid 3NT with the above hand. If Opener has FOUR-CARD support for Spades, he will now return to 4S.

TIPS FROM THE DIRECTOR FACE TO FACE GAMES by Paul Friedman

1.If you are on opening lead, make your lead before recording the contract in your private score. You will have plenty of time after leading to record the information and still see the entire first trick.

2.Declarer leads out of turn: Usually, this is when Declarer calls a lead from dummy when declarer won the prior trick in their own hand or vice versa. Either defender, whoever speaks first, may accept or decline the lead. The defenders are *not* allowed to consult with each other.

THE MAGIC OF DEFENSE

W N E S
1C 1D P 1S
P 2S P 3S
P 4S

Hand by Barbara Seagram

S K103
H 872
D AQJ62
C 92

S 84
H AK93
D 754
C AQJ10

S 975
H QJ104
D 93
C 8643

S AQJ62
H 65
D K108
C K75

West leads the HA. H2 from dummy. East plays HQ and South follows with the H5. West ponders the situation. "North-South got to 4S. They must have approximately 26 pts including distribution, let's say approximately 24 HCP. I, West, have 14 HCP. That leaves East with not much else after the HQ which he played at Trick 1. Hold it! The HQ promised the HJ. Let's see, the odds on collecting three heart tricks plus the CA are not as high as collecting two heart tricks plus two club tricks. I need to get East on lead to lead a club." Of course, West cannot lead a club from his side of the table or declarer's CK will become a trick.

West now leads the H3 to East's HJ. East knows that West wanted to get him on lead and looks at dummy's gorgeous diamond suit. Suits as wonderful as this are always a clue to defenders that they should cash all tricks in side suits immediately or declarer will be able to throw away losers on that suit. East must now lead to dummy's weakness: clubs. (When dummy is on your right, lead to the weakest suit in sight.)

Poor declarer, whatever club she plays will be wrong. East-West will take two clubs and two hearts, defeating the contract. Note that without East's HQ signal at Trick one, West would never have been able to work out how to get East on lead.

Of course, the play of the Q under the Ace does not say: "I wish to be on lead." It merely says: "Partner, if you want me to be on lead, here's how you can make it happen." Partner is under no obligation to lead a small card to your J.