



November
2024

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Party Party Party

The unit 506 holiday party will be **Sunday** December 15 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. Come for the food at 11:15 and stay for the game at 12:00.

As usual, the unit will provide turkey and ham. We ask you to bring your favorite dish to share. Savory dishes are particularly needed.

Match points in both the open and 499er (subject to sufficient attendance) games. Only \$15 for everything.

Social Game

The next social Bridge game sponsored by the unit will be Sunday, December 15 in conjunction with the holiday party and unit game. Tell all your friends who prefer a social game about it. Deborah Murphy has volunteered to help the social players if they have vexing bridge questions.

San Francisco Sectional

Don't miss the San Francisco Winter Sectional coming January 18 and 19 at St Mary's Cathedral. It's a great opportunity to get those prized silver points without having to drive 20 miles or more.

On Saturday, it's pairs, pairs, and more pairs. At 10:00, we'll have a single session 99er pairs, a 499er pairs, a single session stratified open pairs, and the first session of the dual session stratified open pairs. The second session of the open pairs is at 3:00 with another single session open pairs.

Sunday is two session bracketed swiss teams. Start time is also 10:00. The second session start time depends on the director. It will be announced during the first session.

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Perfect!! by Vicki Lerner

Bridge should be called the game of *Imperfections*. The winner is the one who makes the second-to-last mistake. On the following hand, both sides have numerous opportunities to perfect their imperfections.

I was west and held:

♠: Jxxx
♥: 8x
♦: 109xxx
♣: 7x

The bidding: (All Vulnerable)

| East/Partner | South | West | North |
|--------------|--------|----------|-------|
| 1H | Double | pass | 3C |
| 3H | 3NT | all pass | |

Not surprisingly, I led the 8 of ♥ against 3NT and the following dummy appeared:

♠: AQx
♥: xx
♦: KQx
♣: 109xxx

The Declarer called for a low ♥ from dummy, partner played the 10 of ♥ and Declarer followed with the 9. Partner continued the King of ♥ which Declarer won with the Ace. Now the Declarer played the Ace, King and Queen of ♣. Everybody followed to the first two rounds of ♣ with my partner playing up the line so that it appeared that partner had 3 ♣. I, however, had to pitch on the third round of ♣. (Here was my first chance to be “perfect” or not as the case may be.)

What information did I have? Was there any clue in the bidding or card play to assist me in knowing what to do? Declarer made a take-out double over 1H (usually indicating a holding of at least 4 ♠); however, partner opened the bidding and bid again at the three level, surely partner must have something other than the KQJ10?? of ♥. After consideration...

I discarded a small ♠, did you?. It was hard to part with a ♠, unguarding the Jack, my only picture card, but, upon reflection, it seemed clear that partner was trying to tell me that her entry was in ♠ and that it was safe for me to get rid of my ♠. My thinking was if partner had held the Ace of ♣ as an entry she would

have continued the Jack of ♥ at trick two and not the King. Similarly, if partner held the Ace of ♦ she would continue with the Queen of ♥. The King of ♥ play, therefore, should be suit-preference for ♠.

It was gratifying when it turned out that Declarer had started with:

♠: 108x
♥: A9
♦: AJXXX
♣: AKQ

It felt better when, upon knowing Declarer’s holdings, I realized that in this game of imperfections, Declarer had been critically “imperfect”. I scored the board - 660 (3NT making 5) and on my private score put a note in the margin (“TOP”). Do you know what the Declarer’s “imperfection” was and why I was so sure I had a “TOP”?

Declarer must have read the bridge book which teaches a player about the “hold-up” play in No-trump. Only he had learned it too well!!! Declarer had made a serious error and it had taken place at trick one. For the following reasons Declarer should have won the Ace of Hearts at trick one:

1. Declarer would have prevented my partner from giving me any information at trick two regarding the location of their side entry. Consequently, at trick 4 when my hand had to discard, it would be far more likely that I would discard what looks like the “unneeded 5th card in Diamonds”.

But, more importantly;

2. Declarer Could Not take less than 12 tricks no matter what I did had they taken the first heart and, if I happen to discard a diamond on the third round of clubs, then Declarer should take **all 13 tricks!**

If I discard *perfectly* (a spade) then on the run of the 5 Clubs and the 4 Diamond tricks to which Declarer is entitled, my partner will be squirming. The three card end position after Declarer has taken the Ace of Hearts, five Club tricks and 4 Diamonds (a total of 10 tricks) is in the diagram on page 3:

Perfect!! by Vicki Lerner

(continued)

| | | | |
|------|----|---------------|--------------|
| | | AQ | (Dummy) |
| | | x | |
| | | — | |
| (Me) | Jx | — | Kx (Partner) |
| | | | K |
| | 10 | — | — |
| | — | | — |
| | | 10 (Declarer) | |
| | | 9 | |
| | | X | |
| | | — | |

At trick 11, Declarer will throw my partner in with the Nine of Hearts (our side's first and last trick) and partner will be end-played into leading a spade into the dummy's AQ.

If I've discarded *imperfectly* (a diamond) then after 1 heart trick, 5 Clubs and 5 diamond tricks, my partner will be undone. The two card end position after Declarer has taken the first 11 tricks is:

| | | | |
|-----|----|---------------|-------------|
| | | AQ | (Dummy) |
| | | — | |
| | | — | |
| Me: | Jx | — | K (Partner) |
| | | | K |
| | — | | — |
| | — | | — |
| | — | | — |
| | | 10 (Declarer) | |
| | | 9 | |
| | | — | |
| | | — | |

Declarer will now easily drop partner's singleton King of Spades taking all the tricks.

(Note: Nope, there's no hope, if partner ends up with Kx of Spades then the Declarer's Nine of Hearts is good and he takes 13 tricks that way, *Perfect!*).

Unit Game Winners

Congratulations to this year's unit game winners.

February

| | | |
|--------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 499er: | C | Ramona Dragnea, Siddharth Prabhu |
| | B | Diane Sklar, Wayne Gilbert |
| | A | Lee Pollak, Ann Brick |
| Open | B&C | Alfred Cavagnaro, Paul Melodia |
| | A | Anant Rathi, William Zhu |

March

| | | |
|------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Open | C | Terry Vogt, H. Daniel Banks |
| | A&B | Vicki Lerner, Don Friedman (Tie) |
| | | Aaron Jones, Arti Bhargave (Tie) |

April

| | | |
|------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Open | C | H. Daniel Banks, Dolores Mackinnon |
| | A&B | Yardena Arar, Marc Rosaaen |

May

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 8 is enough | | Zachary Yan, Jonathan Yee, Shazia Makhdumi, Rob Balas |
| Open | C | Patrick Rosenkjar, Evan Kantor |
| | B | Gail Gabiati, Judy Soong |
| | A | Gary Porter, David Strauss |

July

| | | |
|------|---|--------------------------------|
| Open | C | Patrick Rosenkjar, Evan Kantor |
| | B | Martin Kaye, Judy Soong |
| | A | Steve Smolen, Rob Balas |

August

| | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Open | C | Patrick Rosenkjar, Evan Kantor |
| | B | Shazia Makhdumi, Prashanth Sriram |
| | A | Don Friedman, Sara Foster |

September

| | | |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 499er | B&C | Eddy Qi, Zhongxia Qi |
| | A | Thomas Pelliccioni, Mary Castiglia |
| Open | C | Doris Martin, Ted Martin |
| | A&B | Richard Bellerose, David Gendreau |

October

| | | |
|-------|-----|------------------------------|
| 499er | A&B | Paul Blain, Andrew Bye |
| Open | C | David Murray, Ray Ochoa |
| | A&B | Ryan Gossiaux, Andrew Straus |

November

| | | |
|------|-----|--------------------------------|
| Open | C | David Gendreau, Janice O'Brien |
| | | Patrick Rosenkjar, Evan Kantor |
| | A&B | Gail Gabiati, Lillian Trak |
| | | Martin Kaye, Judy Soong |

Come out and win December 15.