

The SBU Monthly News

April 2022

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Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

Please note the plea for help from the Education Team!
If you can spare some time to help secure the future of bridge, please contact...
education@sbu.org.uk

We are looking for someone to do minor administrative work online. Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel would be needed.

SBU MEMBER'S SURVEY

Where does the SBU go from here, now that covid restrictions are being relaxed?

Please let us know your thoughts, preferences, and above all opinions, by taking the survey at ...

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What's on Offer in April and May

International events

The Lady Milne Trophy (Women's Home International) will be played face-to-face in Newport in Wales on 22-24 April.

You can watch the action on BBO Vugraph: Friday 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 10 am

Our team is:

Sheila Adamson & Abi Milne Liz McGowan & Fiona McQuaker

Sam Punch & Anne Symons NPC: Gints Freimanis

The Teltscher Trophy (Senior Home International) is the final event in the Home International Calendar.

It will run face-to-face at the La Mon Country Club in Northern Ireland on 20-22 May.

Coverage on BBO Vugraph as for the Lady Milne.

Our team is:

Roy Bennett & Harry Smith Sandy Duncan & Bob McPaul

Cameron McLatchie & David Shenkin npc: Anne Perkins

National Events

The Ranked Masters' Individuals are on Saturday 30 April.

The Harrison (Regional Masters and above) **Shenkin (**Masters, Star Masters, Senior Masters) and **Alan Fairlie** (from Novices to District Masters) each have different numbers of boards and staggered start times: 11 am; 11.15 am and 11.30 am.

The Scottish National Swiss Pairs is being held on Sunday, 15 May

For more information and to enter go to the SBU website: Home - SBU.

The Home Page lists upcoming events on the right. Just click on the event you would like to enter

Weekly Events

The SBU runs regular events on BBO for your enjoyment as the days get longer

Tuesdays at 7pm: Match Pointed Pairs

Saturdays at 7pm: Swiss Pairs
Saturdays at 11.45 am: Bronze Brunch
Sundays at 3 pm: Teatime Individual

To enter go to www.bridgebase.com. Click on Play or Watch Bridge; then select Competitive from the menu.

Under Tournaments click on All Tournaments. Enter SBU in the search box (top right).

Select your tournament and when your partner is online invite them to play, using their BBO nickname. Payment is made in BBO\$, you can purchase those by clicking on the shopping cart next to your name.

Breaking the Internet Habit



My club, Dundee Bridge Club, opened its doors two years after Covid 19 closed them. I was excited to get back to face to face bridge and see my friends and my club again. During the closure, I had resigned from the Board and, last month, from my position as Editor of the club magazine. These were completely non-Covid related – I had felt the time had come to let others run the club before Covid hit. So, I was returning as an ordinary member. All the restrictions were gone apart from mask-wearing. It was to be a free, friendly afternoon with no

BBO session to compete with it. My partner-to-be contacted me in the morning to tell me he had tested positive for Covid, just to prove the problem hadn't gone away, but I knew there was a standby for the session, so I took myself across the Tay.

As we no longer have a steward there were no welcoming cups of tea or coffee, I brought my sandwich and mug of tea with me. Parking in the sunshine on Dundee's beautiful Riverside, I took a stroll on the path and then enjoyed the view while I ate my lunch. Arriving at the club, I found my usual parking space and greeted fellow members as they made their way into the club. The foyer was busy. Good result, I thought. There were six and a half tables, so a Howell was played. My partner for the day had also turned up alone and we agreed on our system. The President welcomed us all and we started to play.

Three tables in and I still hadn't played a hand. Next hand, my partner put me in 7♠. What a start of face to face for me! It was a lay-down, so all was well. There was a sit-out (remember them?) due to the half table and at one point I thought it was our turn and nipped off to the ladies — only to emerge to find my partner waiting for me, quite agitated. I'd read the card wrong — we were meant to be playing! I was also N/S for the first time and had to use the Bridgemate. I had watched others struggle to remember how to use it; now it was my turn.

At least now I was seeing the scores so that I could keep my paper record up to date. Except I couldn't keep it filled as well as fumbling around with the Bridgemate. The cards were new, naturally, and slippery, so cards were being dropped from hands. I found it difficult to sort my hand with anything like speed. Then it happened! My partner led out of turn. The director was called for of course but we all groaned as we knew this was one of those rules that has numerous options and we'd all forgotten them including the director. The rule book was found, a decision was made, and the game continued. We had our sit-out at the end, so my partner went off to have some (very) late lunch. We came third so quite a successful afternoon after all.

It was a long afternoon as time was not the issue in a relaxed atmosphere. Also, there was no break, except for the sit-out, and no halftime chat. Before closure, Friday afternoon had been my favourite session of the week. My partner and I manned the door, greeting everyone as they came in and collecting the table money. That way we saw everyone, even if we didn't play them during the session. It usually had the most tables in the week, around 15 on average, so the club was full and bustling. While always competitive, it was also very friendly. Laughter was frequently heard. So how did this latest session compare? Well, friendly, yes, but less chance to chat with no coffee break. Fewer tables, but hopefully more will come when the mask rule is lifted. Not as relaxed though as everyone was struggling to remember the face-to-face rules. That will come back to us eventually, but perhaps not while we still have online play.

The club will probably never return to the place it was before closure. Most clubs face an uphill battle to get those members who have left back through the clubhouse door. The internet saved us from boredom and loss of our hobby. The SBU did a great job getting us all to play. But now is the time to stand back and let bridge come alive again. While there is still online bridge, it will be easier to stay at home, and easier to compete nationally. While there is online bridge, the clubs cannot thrive as they once did. Perhaps the 'new normal' will be hybrid bridge, as DBC are setting up, but I will mourn the loss of a bustling club and the loss of so many members who can't, or won't, play online. If we cannot break the internet habit, bridge will no longer have its sociable side and, to my way of thinking, be less attractive as a hobby that can attract new players.

Danny's Page

Danny reports on the activities of his Juniors....

3NT at the Hugh Kelsey Pairs (28th March 2022)

I recently started playing face to face bridge again, when I travelled to England for the Easter holidays. It's fantastic. More sociable, and for me at least much easier to concentrate. However, there are some advantages to playing online, and one of those is that you don't need to provide any snacks. With that in mind this year I organised our High School of Glasgow pairs championship on RealBridge.

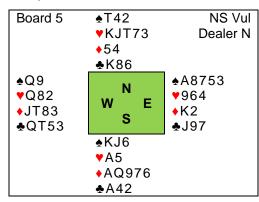


For extra excitement, we played boards from the Hugh Kelsey Pairs tournament, open to learners across Scotland. Although some of my group are probably a bit advanced for this, it was too good an opportunity to miss. The only drawback was that it would require us to play at least 10 boards, which is quite a lot (some lunchtimes we manage only one or two boards).

The results were as random as you would expect for a small number of boards with a very mixed field.

Two boards stood out for me; the ones where you should be trying to make 3NT. These hands sorted out the field – if you could count your tricks plus develop some more you got a deserved good score.

First, it was North-South's turn:



With a combined 25HCP, every suit well stopped and no Major suit fit 3NT is the place to be.

Played by South, perhaps after 1 → - 1 ▼ - 2NT - 3NT

Suppose West leads the ♣3.

Try answering the questions below:

1. How many sure winners do you have?

0 spades + 2 hearts + 1 diamond + 2 clubs = 5. Since you need 9 tricks there is work to be done.

2. Which suit is the most promising to develop?

Hearts. Even if the finesse fails you will still get two extra tricks.

3. What other suits have potential?

Diamonds, one more with the finesse plus the chance of length winners.

You might also develop tricks in spades.

4. Do you have any weak suits?

Clubs – you have the Ace-King but no chance of further tricks.

Spades could also be trouble or could end up giving you more tricks.

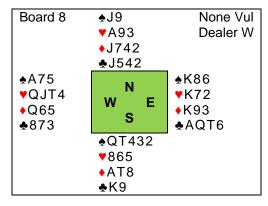
Playing the heart suit needs some care. You want to end up in dummy so should start with the \checkmark A. Planning further ahead you also want to be able to get back to the dummy, so should keep the \clubsuit K and win the very first trick with the \clubsuit A in hand.

With the hearts lying nicely, that leads to five heart tricks and the contract is secure. You can even finesse diamonds on the way back for an overtrick.

In our school tournament, Harry S did exactly that and even picked up a spade trick for an impressive 3NT+2 – scoring 100% on the board across the whole competition. Even 3NT= would have collected over 90%.

One of our less successful declarers took all their Aces and Kings then wondered what to do next, finishing with only 7 tricks. Does that mean you should only stay in 1NT? Definitely not! Keep bidding 3NT but try harder to make it.

Later it was East-West's turn



Here you have only 24 points, and no long suit, so 3NT is something of a stretch.

Two of our pairs gave it a go.

How would you do?

Start with the same questions:

1. How many sure winners do you have?

2 spades + 0 hearts + 0 diamonds + 1 club = 3. Since you need 9 tricks there's work to be done.

2. Which suit is the most promising to develop?

Hearts. Once you knock out the Ace you will gain three more tricks.

3. What other suits have potential?

Clubs. With some finesses or a length winner, you could gain a trick or two. You could also develop a trick in diamonds.

4. Do you have any weak suits?

Spades— you have the Ace-King but no chance of further tricks. Diamonds — you will get one trick but could end up losing several.

In our tournament on one table, Alex G declared 3NT from the East seat.

She got the very kind lead of the •A, instantly giving her two diamond tricks and took full advantage. She developed the hearts to finish with 2 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs for 3NT=. Across the whole competition, this scored 95%.

At another table, Michael K was declarer as West and got a much trickier low diamond lead. South did well to put in the •8 and when declarer got clubs wrong, he was overrun in diamonds. Nothing works for the declarer here, but good defence from Harry S and Rachel Y did not give the contract away.

On our third table Jonny M and John M bid to 3 as East-West and made it exactly, for 85%.

As for our Club's final results, the pair I've mentioned twice already of Harry S (S6) and Rachel Y (S2) were top with 70%. This got turned into a surprising 81.25% overall to put them first nationally.

(More detail on the Hugh Kelsey appears on the Results Page 10. Full results on the website www.sbu.org.uk under Learn/Teach)

Now test yourself with these three quizzes on No Trump play. They are aimed at learners.

- Play Quiz 3a Declarer Play in NT
- Play Quiz 3b Declarer Play in NT
- Play Quiz 3C Declarer Play in NT

Clap Our Clubs

Ness Bridge Club

In the last newsletter, Bill Whyte suggested writing about how difficult it is to play Bridge Face-To-Face.

I would rather be more positive and relate the success of the club where I play in opening for F2F bridge.

The club premises are rented on a long-term lease, so it was obvious that the club funds were going to be seriously reduced without any income. Fortunately, 75% of the members paid for their annual club subscription which was helpful but not enough.

We were aware that several members were not playing online and had no wish to do so but they were sorry to be missing out on the play and social aspect of club Bridge.

The committee decided to open the club in early September 2021 to gauge the interest. As many members as possible were contacted and advised of the opening date, plus all the measures that we would take to make the play in the club as safe as possible re Covid.

Air purifiers were bought for each room of the club; thermometers were fixed in prominent positions to monitor the temperature of the rooms. Members were warned that windows would be open; there would be plenty of hand sanitiser available. They were asked not to come to the club if they felt unwell. Covid restrictions were displayed on notices on the club doors. It was also clearly stated that they played Bridge at the club at their own risk. Members were advised they were



Welcome to Ness Bridge Club Ness Bridge Club meets in

The Caledonian Thistle Social Club, 28 Greig Street, Inverness, IV3 5PX

Club Night: Monday 6.50pm for 7.00pm

Learners & Improvers:

Tuesday 6.50pm for 7.00pm

Thursday Club 6.50pm for 7.00pm

Secretary - Val Skelton 01381 621379

valskelton@btinternet.com

expected to act responsibly concerning their health and that of others coming to the club.

At first, few tables were playing but the numbers have steadily increased and now there is about half the attendance that there was before Covid. The committee is satisfied with this level of participation.

The decision was also taken to contact everyone who had shown an interest in learning to play. 12 learners signed up for the SBU 20-week course in early October. Some dropped out at Christmas for varying reasons but others who had been learning online took their places.

We were delighted to host a "Graduation Party" this week for those who completed the course. Six full tables - a mix of learners, improvers and mentors enjoyed a glass of wine plus coffee and cake in the course of the evening.

The club chairman also organised a Congress Weekend in February with 16 tables taking part.

Club members have been conscientious about staying away if they have been in contact with someone with Covid.

To the best of my knowledge, not one person has contracted Covid due to attending the bridge club.

With the effects of infection being far less severe for the majority of people I would say ...

"Open your club, take appropriate precautions and enjoy Face-to-Face bridge again"

Elaine Slinn.

Quick Quiz

Mike Gallacher



1) Counting high card points and distribution

You are playing Acol and sitting South.

In each of the following, what is your estimate of the shape and HCPs in North's hand?

	North	South		North	South		North	South
a)	1♣	1♠	b)	1♦	1♠	c)	1♣	1♦
	2•			3♠			1♥	1♠
							2♠	

2) Counting Tricks (defence)

♦ J62 ∀ KQ6 ♦ A54 ♣ K8742
W E

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	End

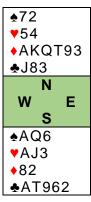
You start the defence with 3 rounds of spades, declarer ruffing the third round.

The ◆Q is led and runs round to partner's King. He returns the ♣Q.

How many more tricks do you need to defeat the contract?

What will you do?

3) Counting Tricks (declarer)



Bidding

N	E	S	W
-	•	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	End		

How many tricks can you see?

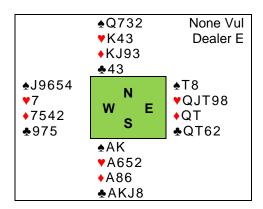
On the lead of the ♠4, how will you play the contract?

Answers: at the end of the Newsletter

It's a Funny Old Game

At the recent World Championships, our team were discussing how to react to the occasional bad result. Anne Symons had observed how the top teams could laugh off a disaster and go on to win.

I wonder how much laughter there was in the Open Team from Switzerland after this effort from the Final of the Bermuda Bowl.



At one table NS bid to 6NT after East had inserted a 2♥ overcall into their 2♠ auction.

West led the ♥7 and the declarer realised that he would need a bit of luck.

Unfortunately, he could not hear the learned commentators on VuGraph who (with the benefit of seeing all four hands) explained how 13 tricks were available – just drop the •QT offside and cash 3 spades and 4 diamonds to squeeze East in hearts and clubs.

He mistimed the play and went one down. Even the best players can go wrong.

It was events at the other table that required a sense of humour.

Pierre Zimmerman, the team sponsor, sat East.

He opened 2♥, showing a weak 2-suiter with hearts and a minor.

South doubled for starters.

West tried to improve the contract by bidding 3♣, pass or convert, to play in partner's minor.

North doubled, this being a responsive takeout double showing some values.

Everybody passed.

North led a trump.

South cashed three top trump honours and the AK, then led a small diamond to North's King.

Declarer ruffed the ♠Q with dummy's ♠Q and led a heart, taken by South with the ♥A.

The defenders now cashed three more diamonds and the ♥K, and South made the last trick with the ♣8.

Eight down doubled, even non-vulnerable, scores -2000.

(Perhaps West preferred not to watch his partner struggle in 2♥ doubled, but his effort was misguided. North was not about to pass! Even if he did, East was guaranteed to make at least 3 tricks in hearts, two more than our hero and a level lower, a mere -1100.)

Despite this 19-imp setback Switzerland won the segment by 40 imps to 36 and went on to become World Champions.

I guess they laughed.

MiniBridge 22

Ann Wickens



MiniBridge 22 has involved the participation of fewer groups this year, but for those who did take part, it has been no less exciting. Only 2 Highland schools took part, but we had 50 children from Balloch Primary school in P7 and 27 from Avoch Primary in P6, both groups taught in curriculum time. We benefitted greatly from Highland Council's policy of supplying chrome books to all children.

This year, due to ongoing collaboration on education material with members of the 5 Nations Working Group set up to get more youngsters playing Bridge, we invited teams to the tournament

from all the 5 nations. Whilst we didn't receive many entries from outside of Scotland because some regions are back playing face to face or don't play Minibridge, we did receive entries from a couple of schools in London, and the geographic spread enriched the competition. We provided the London schools with their first experience via practice on RealBridge and they played in the competition online. The two London After-School Bridge Clubs were run by Sue Johnson of New Tricks. Even more excitingly, due to the 5 Nation meetings, set up to promote sharing of ideas for youth bridge, Shireen Mohandes of RealBridge offered us the chance to play against children from other nations. After 5 lessons Avoch Primary School took the plunge and we shared a lesson with Norwegian and Thai children. We played together at 9.30 GMT during the Norwegian half term and 4.30 pm (Thai time) in Thailand's after school group. This was an exciting cultural experience for all concerned. Indeed, the Avoch primary teacher wanted us to repeat it the next week. It did show what an enormous education experience bridge has the potential to offer. The Norwegians are keen to organise an exchange in two years when the children reach 13 and can benefit from Erasmus exchange grants.

Our National Education Convener Marina Evans helped as a supervisor during the competition.

"It was an absolute pleasure to sit as a mentor at table 3. The children were polite and engaged: when I asked one group how they felt when they were about to play a hand – were they excited, nervous or something else? – the reply was 'all of those'! How great for the kids to be involved at school in an activity where they feel excited, with a bit of adrenaline that shows that they are engaged and care how they do".

The Scottish schools this year learned playing on **Shark**. Correct play can be easily demonstrated, and contracts can be corrected before the children play. Additionally, fewer people are required to help, all points adding to the quality of education and the total of what is possible. The material was sent to the schools in advance in the form of videos and PowerPoint presentations for the teachers to present. Much work remains to be done to improve the quality of these and perhaps offer more training to class teachers. Anyone wishing to try Shark and wanting help should contact us during the summer. (highland@education.sbu.org.uk)

The Scottish heat of the competition was played on Shark with Tim Wickens in the pilot seat, me ill in bed and 5 helpers for 18 tables, The London heat had 3 tables on RealBridge, some playing in school in an After-School club and some playing at home. The parents of children playing at home were very impressed with the technical competence of their children and the competitiveness of the children and the fun they had.

We were very indebted to the mentors who helped throughout the 9 weeks of the course and competition.

Here are the results for the first 10 places each way in the Minibridge competition:

	North/South	MPs/400	%		East/West	MPs/400	%
1	Hamish & Calum (B1)	256	64.00	1	Elliot & Harry Cam (B2)	262	65.50
2	Innes & Sam T (B1)	244	61.00	2	Tim W & Reece (Coldfall)	260	65.00
3	Leo & Archie (B2)	240	60.00	3	Fraser & Lewis (B2)	258	64.5
4	Kayla & Orla (B2)	236	59.00	4	Rowan & Louis (Brookfield)	256	64.00
5	Benjamin & Murray (B1)	231	57.75	5	Aaron & Alexander (B2)	241	60.25
6=	Euan & Esme (AV)	223	55.75	6	Emily & Diana (AV)	230	57.50
	Beth & Cora (AV)	223	55.75	7	Joni & Ethan (Brookfield)	229	57.25
	Sofia & Iliana (B1)	223	55.75	8	Cameron & Harry (B1)	225	56.25
9	Finlaggan & Louis (B2)	213	53.75	9	Oliver & Conor (B1)	216	54.00
10	Jacob & George (Brookfield)	209	52.25	10	Beth & Finlay (B2)	213	53.25

B1 = Primary 7 pupils at Balloch

B2 = Primary 6/7 pupils at Balloch

AV = Avoch

Brookfield Primary (London)

Coldfall Primary (London)

Help, please

If you enjoy making films (perhaps of your grandchildren) and editing them, *the Education team needs you*. Even if you have never tried but like the idea, we have two videos on how to make bridge films and how to edit them. We wish to make films both for teaching purposes and for publicity purposes. No teaching skills are necessary, just an interest in film. **PLEASE** contact Marina Evans at education@sbu.org.uk

Results Page

National Pairs

24 Pairs qualified from District heats to the Final, played online on Saturday 9 April

1	Nigel Guthrie & Charles Outred	(W)	62.75%
2	Peter Moss & Ying Piper	(E)	61.62%
3	Yvonne Stokka & David Wiseman	(A)	60.72%
4	Liz McGowan & Tim McKay	(E)	60.22%
5	Jim Hay & Derrick Peden	(E)	58.88%
6	Ian & Irene Hunter	(C)	55.93%
7	John di Mambro &Douglas Mitchell	(W)	55.53%
8	John & Sarah Williams	(C)	55.19%
9	Sandy Duncan & Bob McPaul	(E)	53.26%
10	Chris Gurney & Thomson Kerr	(A)	51.63%

Hugh Kelsey Learners Pairs

This is a Simultaneous Pairs event, designed for novice players attending classes.

The entry was down, partly because the bigger clubs (New Melville, Carlton, GBC) have enough learners to run their own tournaments, and partly because of some confusion over dates. There were 6 heats, and 43 pairs took part. Hopefully, next year things will return to normal.

1	Rachel Y & Harry S (High School of Glasgow)	81.25%	(Wow!!)
2	Susan Smart & Lynn Smith (Montrose)	69.75%	
3	Barrie and Rod Buchan (Montrose)	63.5%	
4	Kevin Ren & Michael K (High School of Glasgow)	62.75%	
5	Anne Carrier & Bob Smith (Grace White evening)	62.5%	
6	Jane & John Lambley (Dundee)	62.29%	
7	Alex G & Caroline P (High School of Glasgow)	62.25%	
8	Dave & Eileen Cummins (Grace White afternoon)	61.88%	
8	Jane Ward & Margaret Watson (Grace White evening)	59.58%	
10	Simon Hatcher & Carol Medlock	58.75%	

Congratulations to all who took part and a big thank you to all the tutors and scorers who submitted the results in a very speedy time.

Thanks are also due to the tireless duo, Ann & Tim Wickens, who organised and scored the event.

Master Point Promotions

March 2022

Grand Master Susan Aitchison	W	4 Star Master Tom Allison Andrew Grant	W E	Master Susan Green Sheila Halliday	W E	Local Master Dorothy Adam Karen Bartlett	D E
Senior Life Maste Bill Durning Joan Forsyth	r W C	3 Star Master Ellis Harvey	С	Dave Higgins Robin Key Moira Poyser	H E E	Gavin Easton Sheila Hawthorn Anita Kenyon-Smith	E W H
Life Master Dilys Gellatly	Е	2 Star Master Sylvia Black Robert Gatliff	W S	Norman Poyser Gill Terry Steve Terry	E H	Marijka Lafferty Janet Laird Margaret Lewis	C C H
National Master Pat Booth	W	Louis Glekin Tim Lambert Nigel Lindsay	W E E	District Master Ank Carins Gail Corbett	H E	Ian Lightbody Anne McArthur Kevin Ren	E H D
Scottish Master Marina Evans Sandra Renton George Roberts Rose Simpson Helen Taylor Regional Master	E E C E C	George Watson 1 Star Master Philippa Brown Sheila Burke Daniel Corbett Adrian Eastwood Fiona McElhinney	C W E N E E N	Andrew Gray Maureen Gray Ann Napier Fiona Scully Sheena Spence	E E H H E	Diana Ritchie Marese Roberts Karen Simpson Adam Stokka Les Turnbull Patrick Tyler Diana Veitch	W A E D E E
Alice Cowieson Vince Elliott Mike Hammett Tony Nolan Sylvia Woodier Neil Wylie	son C Dot Sim W John Skillen ett E W	W E H			Club Master Susan Allen Alex Currie Lorna MacEwen Jackie McLean Angela Quinn Lesley Robertson Jack Shearer Betty Smith	E W E H E D A	

Answers to the Quick Quiz

- a) North has 5+ clubs and 4 diamonds and 16+ HCP for her reverse.
 - b) North 4+ diamonds, 4 spades and 16-18 HCP. Not quite enough to force to game opposite 6-7HCP.
 - c) Your 1♠ bid is Fourth Suit Forcing, asking your partner to further describe her hand. The simple raise to 2♠ shows a minimum of 12-14 HCP with 4 spades. Partner has either 4-4-1-4 or 4-4-0-5 distribution.
- Declarer used Stayman, therefore she must have 4 hearts (including the ♥A to justify her bidding). You have made 3 tricks and need 2 more. You should win the ♣A to make 4, then lead a spade, hoping that partner has four cards in trumps and that a ruff in either hand will promote a second trump trick.
- You have 6 top tricks, and now another one with the ♠Q.
 Playing Match Points play diamonds from the top, anticipating the odds-on 3-2 split and making +1.
 (If diamonds break badly everybody else will be in the same boat.)

Playing teams, you should duck the first diamond to guard against a 4-1 break.

You may make only 9 tricks when 10 were available, but you make your contract when others fail.

The End