



# The SBU Monthly News

**June 2022**

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*Contributions to the Monthly News will be warmly welcomed by the editor*

*[liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk)*

*We have expert panels standing by to answer any questions you may have – and no questions!*

# What's on Offer in the Summer

## International events

The **World Bridge Federation World Bridge Series in Wroclaw, Poland, 19 August-3 September**

This event is open to any players in good standing with their home NBO. It is a mix of Team events - Open, Senior, Women & Mixed and also Pairs competitions in these categories. It is not necessary to attend for the whole 2 weeks!

More information and the schedule can be found on the WBF website: [worldbridge.org](http://worldbridge.org)

[16TH WORLD BRIDGE SERIES | WBF Championships](#)

This is a rare opportunity to test your skills against some of the best players in the world and a great experience for any would-be international players.

(Participation in this is entirely self-funded)

## Weekly Events

The SBU runs these events **on BBO**

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](http://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.

## SBU Summer Academy

The **Summer Academy** is an opportunity to continue your Bridge learning experience in a fun and friendly way.

After last year's successful event we have slimmed down the programme to 10 weeks and will focus on what proved to be the most popular: Tuesday night play and learn sessions. These will be evening sessions running at 7 pm every week from **Tuesday 28/6/22** to **Tuesday 30/8/22**.

**It is free to all students at a "beginner" or "improver" level when taking bridge lessons.**

(You do not have to be a member of the SBU to participate, but if indeed you enjoy these relaxed sessions, it would be great for the game of Bridge if you would thereafter consider joining and supporting your local club.)

Each session will be individual, so there is no obligation to attend every week, but we need a decent response to be able to run the course, so sign up with friends!

To register for this opportunity and to get details of how to get access, please could you send an email to [secretary@sbu.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sbu.org.uk) with the following key details:

- Your name, address, and phone number** (latter for contact details on the night in case of technical problems):
- Email address**
- Where you have been attending lessons (if online, please name of teacher/club)**
- How far you have got in the course**
- SBU number if you have one**
- Whether you are happy to share these details with the group**

# The Casebook of Samantha Spade, Bridge Detective

## *The Case of the Lost Loser*

It was a bright summer's day, and I was sitting in the sunlight streaming in through the bay window of the bridge club, drowsily watching my partner, Miss Samantha Spade, playing a contract. Miss Spade and I had reached a good contract of 4♠ after North had overcalled a heart.

♠ AKQJ96	N W     E S	♠ 843
♥ 654		♥ J3
♦ A		♦ Q6432
♣ A64		♣ K97

Not unexpectedly, the lead was the ♥K followed by the ♥A. South signalled high–low to show a doubleton.

North continued with another heart, but I wasn't worried – I also had only a doubleton in hearts, all Miss Spade had to do was to trump in dummy and draw trump. My wrist was poised over the spades when Miss Spade paused and asked – with some emphasis – for the ♣7.

I looked over at her and stuttered, "Sorry, which card?"

There was a discreet sigh. "I asked for the 7♣."

I dutifully played it. Miss Spade then drew trumps in two rounds and played the ♣K then led over to her ♣A. She ruffed her remaining club with dummy's last trump. Ten tricks and contract made.

Later, we sat down with the hand records and Miss Spade remarked, "I could see you were taken aback by my discarding a club instead of ruffing the third heart – but if I had done anything else, I would have gone down in my contract."

She showed me the full deal:

None Vul	♠ 52	Dealer
	♥ AKQT72	South
	♦ J95	
	♣ J32	
♠ AKQJ96	N W     E S	♠ 843
♥ 654		♥ J3
♦ A		♦ Q6432
♣ A64		♣ K97
	♠ T7	
	♥ 98	
	♦ KT87	
	♣ QT85	

"You see, I have two hearts and a club to lose. When North continued with a third heart, if I had ruffed with the 8♠, South could have over-ruffed with the 10♠. I still would have had a club to lose so I would have gone one down. By discarding a losing club on the heart, it doesn't matter what North does next. I win the next trick, draw trump and then I can ruff my third club in dummy. This time trump split 2/2 but if they hadn't, I can draw two rounds of trump and then do the same play with the clubs before drawing the last trump."

"It's so obvious when you explain it" I shook my head, "I only hope I will remember when I'm in that situation."

"It's just remembering that sometimes there's a danger of an overruff and how to prevent it. It's just a matter of losing the losers!" "In bridge, just as in life!"

We laughed and went on to discuss the next hand.

*Another welcome contribution from our Dundee author*



*Helen Taylor*

## The SBU Teaching Course and International Relations!

Early in the Autumn of 2021, Sandy Forbes, who was then webmaster for the SBU education pages, contacted Gill & George Roberts asking that we formally allow the 20-lesson course material to be used by a Mr John Quayle, a Bridge teacher based in Melbourne Australia.

John had been monitoring the SBU website and was particularly interested in the 'new' 20- and 60-lesson courses that were coincidentally being 'polished and badged' to allow formal adoption by the SBU.

The decision to use two courses followed an initial look at integration by David Briggs and Nigel Booth of the New Melville BC. This would allow teachers to use either depending upon their preference. Course intensity and duration would likely be the deciding factors.

Once it was clarified and agreed with John, that due recognition and credit for the SBU 20-lesson material be given to the SBU whether modified or used as developed, the course material was shared.

John clarified that he was developing a 15-17 NT course based around 5-card majors and 3 weak 2s with a subsequent move to add the 2-over-1 GF 'gadget'.

From the start, John loved the content and presentation and in particular the fact that 25% of the material is directly based upon card play and this was very useful to him.

Initially, when the SBU was contacted, John's intention was only to augment the course he intended to write using whatever bits of the SBU material might positively augment what he was to do and perhaps help with his formatting and PP slide presentations. Soon after receiving the 20-lesson course material, John said that he was hopeful that about 80% of the SBU course would end up in his 15-17 NT 5-card major's course!

John developed his 15-17 NT version over their winter and is now teaching it successfully on the U3A platform.

True to his word, the SBU gets fully credited for most of the work, It's certainly clear that J E Quayle is extremely grateful that the SBU freely shared it and has now confirmed that the 15-17 NT 5-card major course is owned by J Quayle (though currently shared with George and Gill and Ann Wickens.)

John has confirmed that we can duplicate his course and share it with whoever may wish to view or use it.

*The original SBU 60-lesson Teaching course was adapted from the successful Netherlands "Van Start Tot Finish" which was based on 5-card majors...what goes around comes around!*

*It has been revised and brought up to date by various people, including Ann and Tim Wickens, Nigel Booth and David Briggs of the Melville Bridge Academy.*

*George and Gill Roberts, together with John McCallum and Dinah Scott, worked hard to develop the shorter 20-Lesson course with help from Liz Grant who was responsible for much of the card play aspect that our Australian friend so admires.*

*We have always allowed our teachers to use the material without charge: and this is not our international debut. We shared the course with Northern Ireland some years ago.*



*Perth Bridge Club, where the 20-lesson course was developed*

# Clap Our Clubs

## Kyle of Lochalsh

Kyle is one of our younger clubs, they affiliated with the SBU as recently as 2017. It is also one of our most enthusiastic, driven by a small team of novices.

I have very fond memories of visiting them in 2019 as part of our fund-raising drive for the Venice Cup in Wuhan – they were hospitable and extremely generous.

Covid has done them no favours. Several of their players have moved away, but they are hanging in, meeting face-to-face with an average of 3 tables. If you happen to be passing, they are happy to welcome all visitors

Contact the Secretary, Bea MacDonald at [bthamiltonmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:bthamiltonmacdonald@gmail.com)

In October 2019 Kyle ran the first Café Bridge drive in Scotland. 84 players visited the beautiful little town of Plockton, and a “Good Time” was had by all. They planned to make the Café Drive an annual event – and then came lockdown. They did manage to run a smaller event in 2021, carefully following all the regulations in place. Allan Downie and Lorna Matheson from Inverness won again!

How does Café Bridge work?

Players assemble at a central venue for coffee in the morning and then are issued with a road map and timetable. 28 boards are played, 4 at each of 7 venues with short walks between.

At the third venue, say, you enjoy lunch.

Scoring is done on mobile phones; results are available almost immediately.

This year Café Bridge is back at full throttle. There will be another event in Plockton. A local Perthshire team, led by Miriam Drysdale from Plockton, is planning one in Dunkeld. Both will be directed by Victor Lesk of Brianbridge

*“Perfectly beautiful highland village and the lovely old town by the Tay for bridge players to enjoy and have play days away. Social but competitive too! Good prizes. Good causes. And it gets bridge out there!*



Picturesque Plockton

And Dunkeld is a Dream....



Full details of the events can be found at

<https://www.brianbridge.net/ploc2022/>

<https://www.brianbridge.net/dunk2022/>

October 25, 2022

October 27, 2022

All the proceeds go to charity – so why not make a wee trip North and take in both events?



## Clap Our Clubs

### The View from Helensburgh

In the last issue of the SBU Newsletter, I read with interest and concern the contributions by Ann Wickens, Paul Kerr and Anne Ritchie.

I have played in Helensburgh BC for a lifetime –boy, man, and OAP; and for a time, many years ago, I also played at St. Andrew BC, and in matches around the city and at numerous SBU events. A penny dropped when I glanced at the top of "What's on in June", many of the players mentioned I had met many years ago.

Bridge is regarded as a game for oldies, that's the first problem to which Ann was trying to find a solution. As a teacher of geography by day, it was a simple matter to become a bridge teacher for evening classes using conventional lessons. Then, as with other local bridge teachers, I guess few of the students would describe themselves as "young". Ann's point.

When I taught at Clydebank High School, an enlightened headmaster timetabled for senior pupils the last hour or so on Fridays for "hobbies". He sought teachers to provide some non-academic courses. Bridge filled that bill. Maybe too, approval of card-playing in school was an attraction. It certainly reached some young adults. This could be something to explore; though were such an idea developed now, there could be a problem with allowing visiting "staff" into schools. A combination of 'jazzed up' conventional lessons reinforced with Ann's new technological self-instruction could be a sensible approach.

The second problem is decline. When I played more widely, "Stirling B.C." meant a hard match or a good well-organised and well-attended event. Anne's report of low turnouts and Paul's story of a moribund Troon B.C. is, as he wrote, "Quite sad".

I feel my club Helensburgh could have a similar story to Troon, the towns being of similar size, but we seem to have been luckier. As with every other club, Covid locked us down and, sadly, several members passed on during that period. Our club was fortunate that some committee members, unlike me, knew that "Zooming" wasn't restricted to Captain Marvel comics and what 'right-click' meant. The committee, including me, zoomed and found someone able and willing to run matches on BBO. This was our start online. Meanwhile, others learned how to set up and run tournaments on RealBridge (very helpful, Shireen is said to be, our thanks).

Our President, Carol Calder, and her gang of ladies learned to run these and for two years provided members with the usual two bridge nights in the semi-social venue of RealBridge. As lockdown ended, they again worked wonders, finding premises in which we could play F2F for one tournament per week. This involved unexpected problems with movement and storage of equipment – I rather think a few husbands were just volunteered to clear a space for a dealing machine, several boxes of 30 boards, a case of bidding boxes, table covers etc.

Currently, we play our two weekly tournaments, one in each format with a reasonable turnout (up to 8 tables) for both. Now I reckon, some 25% only want to play online (for valid reasons), another 25% want only to play F2F (perhaps, for technical reasons), and 50% are happy to play in either format. There are obvious attractions to each format and to survive and grow in this age, clubs may have to provide both. Whichever it may be, it's still bridge!

*John Trill*



**Carol Calder, President of Helensburgh BC surrounded by some of her helpers, at a pre-Covid Christmas party**

## In Praise of Online Bridge.

F2F or online bridge? Good question.

While I love playing bridge and enjoy F2F contact, I also strongly believe there's a place for online bridge, even in post-Covid times.

First of all, on bridge night in the middle of winter, you don't have to leave the house and maybe find yourself driving through a rainstorm, eyes scrunched up at the glaring street and car lights as you make your way to the club. You can simply play the game from your own home. There you are in front of your computer with, if you like, a cup of tea on the table, and even, on the odd occasion, your pet on your lap. Relaxed, comfortable, ready to go.

If you play online bridge regularly, you might, like me, also have had times when you're frankly relieved that nobody sees your red face from the blunder of a bid you've just made. Or hears your wee swear word pop out when you realise the card you discarded on trick 11 was a winner! When my partner is playing and I am the dummy, I enjoy watching him play; I can see my partner's hand which isn't the case with F2F.

Besides, this particular aspect of online bridge has occasionally given me the option of a quick visit to the loo!

However, there is another reason I favour the online version of the game. And, indeed, this is the primary one for me. It is that I am a Scot and, for the moment, am not living in my bonnie country. Yet, thanks to BBO, I have, for some time now, been able to play bridge as if I am.

So, to come back to the question of whether to play F2F or Online, why not keep both? As anyone old enough to remember Pete and Dudley might have it – Not Only but Also!

*Anne Paugam*

*Anne is an ex-pat who lives in France with her French husband. She was addicted to Solo in her youth, and soon plucked up the courage to join a local bridge club, where she quickly became hooked. Pre-Covid she spent summers in Scotland and had the occasional game with her brother, but she does not play at home in France. Lockdown offered the opportunity to play online, which she has very much enjoyed: "I am far from being an expert, but I love the game!" She joined the SBU as a Direct member and plays once a week at Largs BC. She has even entered a couple of Bronze events.*

**Should our clubs continue to offer online bridge for the benefit of all those who have joined the SBU from abroad during Lockdown, and those who are housebound, or reluctant to be out late on a cold, dark winter's evening?**

**Clubs that meet once a week on hired premises could offer an online game on a different evening.**

**As ever, this will depend on volunteers willing to run both face-to-face and online games – could you be one?**



# Quick Quiz

*Mike Gallacher*



## 1) Counting high card points

In each of the following, what is your estimate of the HCP in the **Responder's** hand

	<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>		<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>		<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>
a)	1♣	1♦	b)	1♥	Pass	c)	1♦	1♠
	1♥	3NT			2NT		2♦	2♥
							3♦	

## 2) Counting distribution.

What is your estimate of the **Responder's** distribution in each of the following?

	<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>		<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>		<b>OPENER</b>	<b>RESPONDER</b>
a)	1♦	1♥	b)	1♦	2NT	c)	1♥	1NT
	2♦	2♠		3♣	3♥		2NT	3♦
	2NT	3♠		3NT	Pass			
	4♥	Pass						

## 3) a) Counting Tricks in Defence

Lead: ♣Q	♠QJ7 ♥KQT85 ♦AJ3 ♣73									
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1H	-	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	4S

How many defensive tricks can you see?  
What is your plan to defeat this 4S contract?

## b) Counting Tricks as Declarer

West	East
♠AK65	♠432
♥K9	♥A3
♦QT85	♦A93
♣AJ4	♣K8752

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	Pass	3NT	End

You are West, playing 5-card Majors and a strong NT  
North leads the ♥7.

How many tricks can you see?  
Plan the play to make your contract.

*Answers: at the end of the News*



## On Covering Honours

“Cover and Honour with an Honour” is one of the most commonly quoted bridge adages.

Is it good advice?

Say declarer leads an unsupported honour from dummy, as in these examples:

a)	♠8742	♠Q6	[Green Box]	♠KT95	♠AJ3
----	-------	-----	-------------	-------	------

b)	♠9872	♠Q6	[Green Box]	♠K5	♠AJT63
----	-------	-----	-------------	-----	--------

If East does not cover ♠Q declarer runs it and wins the trick.

Then declarer plays to the ♠J and that wins.

Here Declarer makes 3 tricks.

If East covers ♠Q declarer makes only two tricks.

Covering **promotes** your ♠T into a winner.

Here declarer makes 5 tricks.

If East covers ♠Q declarer makes only four tricks.

Covering **promotes** partner's ♠9 into a winner.

So, we should always cover? How about these.

c)	♠873	♠Q6	[Green Box]	♠K542	♠AJT9
----	------	-----	-------------	-------	-------

d)	♠T7	♠Q6	[Green Box]	♠K542	♠AJ983
----	-----	-----	-------------	-------	--------

If East covers ♠Q declarer wins ♠A and cashes the rest of the suit

If East plays low declarer makes 3 tricks, not 4.

If East plays low declarer makes 4 tricks, not 5.

Covering means you take 0 tricks, not covering leaves your King in control of the fourth round of spades.

We need to add something to the adage:

“Cover an honour with an honour *when covering may promote a trick for your side*”.

The situation may be clearer when the declarer leads toward the dummy:

e)	♠K743	♠AQJ9	[Green Box]	♠865	♠T2
----	-------	-------	-------------	------	-----

f)	♠K74	♠A5	[Green Box]	♠62	♠QJT983
----	------	-----	-------------	-----	---------

When the declarer leads the ♠T it cannot gain to cover it.

Duck even with Kxx – the ♠T might be a singleton.

Spades are trump. East must make the ♠K so long as he saves it for the third round.

**Top Tip:**

when dummy leads an unsupported honour, and you have a **doubleton** honour – cover (Otherwise, you will play your honour on a low card next time to no effect).

When you have **4 cards to an honour** – do not cover unless you hold good intermediates.

When you have **3 cards to an honour** – make an educated guess.

If you guess wrong do not feel bad: it can happen to the best.

This deal comes from the Women's Final of the 1988 World Teams Olympiad in Venice.

All Vul	♠KJ4	Dealer South
	♥AT652	
	♦KQ6	
	♣T5	
♠32	[Green Box]	♠QT95
♥KQ8	W N E	♥J973
♦J9843	S	♦T7
♣AK8		♣J64
	♠A876	
	♥4	
	♦A52	
	♣Q9732	

I should confess that I opened the South hand 1♣ and as a result found myself in 3NT.

West led a diamond and the contract looked hopeless. But I led ♣T from dummy – and East did not cover!

When the Ten forced out the King there were three club tricks and thus nine in all.

Easy to criticise East here – but suppose my clubs were KQ932? Covering the Ten would resolve my guess: not covering leaves me with the losing option of playing her for ♣Axx.

## Puzzle Corner

### Crossword by 'Finesse'

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
9										10				
	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
11														
	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
13		14						15			16			
	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
18										19				20
	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
21				22						23			24	
	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
26						27								
	■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
28														

#### ACROSS

- 1 Edit comic art, say, tailored for playgroup (8,7)
- 9 Left behind travelling to foreign parts except Paris (9)
- 10 Prevent the return of periodic cruel trends (5)
- 11 It's a strain putting together complicated model yacht to begin with (6)
- 12 Cardinal converted Sylvander's correspondent (8)
- 13 Once frogman inhales last of air he should be able to cope with the bends (6)
- 15 Urge that caused the kids to get behind the wheel? (3,5)
- 18 It, briefly stated, is for Mickey Mouse plunging into pool (8)
- 19 Revere, although awfully numb from stunned bemusement (6)
- 21 Suit becomes crumpled in increased humidity (8)
- 23 Children got together (not first date) to see Broadway musical (6)
- 26 Pass laws to expose mean fat cats on a regular basis (5)
- 27 First distilled swell gin around residential areas (9)
- 28 Do they give rise to operatic gems? (3,5,7)

#### DOWN

- 1 Fed up and could be made to be dragged through the mud (7)
- 2 March past? Just (5)
- 3 A nice crafty lead will show a tidy profit (1,4,4)
- 4 A scrap of audiotape (4)
- 5 Deranged King Lear's beheaded a wild boar (8)
- 6 Children skip every second and run with Rosie! (5)
- 7 Large scale sex event I arranged (9)
- 8 The chart to keep on course? (7)
- 14 Where tax is concealed behind closed doors (2,7)
- 16 Peter's out boxing fancy clips for John and James (9)
- 17 Half intend to confront cheekier gate-crasher (8)
- 18 M.E.P. mixed up in international storm (7)
- 20 Mistakenly omit original strategy in stem cell division (7)
- 22 Tax to decimate your income (5)
- 24 Clerical quarters obtained by devious means (5)
- 25 Muscle complaint (4)

*Solution at the end of the Monthly News*



# Results Page

## Scottish Swiss Pairs

46 Pairs competed for the T N Culbertson Trophy on Saturday 15 May

1	<b>Gints Freimanis &amp; Liz McGowan</b>	<b>128 VP</b>
2	Roy Bennett & Harry Smith	106 VP
3=	Sandy Duncan & Bob McPaul	105 VP
	Jack Shearer & Peter Thommeny	105 VP
5	Joan Forsyth & Eilidh Rennie	104 VP
6=	Susan Aitchison & Jim Forsyth	101 VP
	Andy Baruch & Susan Dunnett	101 VP
8	Diana Fairlie & Maria Jackson	100 VP
9	Fiona Davies & Jane Harper	96 VP
10	Ted Black & Tam Penman	93 VP
11=	Alison Carmichael & Bill Whyte	91 VP
	John Dick & Kevin Strathern	91 VP

*Particular congratulations to third-placed Jack Shearer, a 25-year-old who had reached the lofty rank of Club Master just before entering this competition. He is now a Local Master! He took up the game of bridge as recently as October 2021, taught online by Nicki Traynor under the auspices of Dundee BC.*

## Master Point Promotions

May 2022

### National Master

Peter Thomenny C

### Scottish Master

Tom Barr W  
Sheila Templeton A

### 4 Star Master

Janet Hedley W

### 3 Star Master

Irene Cameron C  
Venetia Thomson E

### 2 Star Master

Maureen Annan C  
Pam Dawson W  
Alan Young C

### 1 Star Master

Nicola Dean E  
Mairi McGarry C  
Pauline Warlow W

### Master

Robin Heron W  
Daniele Lapi W  
Bryn Tennant E  
Thora Walker E

### District Master

Hazel Gibson W  
Chris Grant D  
John Gunn E  
Lindy Mastenbroek-  
Andrew E  
Maria Noone E

### Local Master

Aline Drummond H  
Chris Lennox W  
Jack Shearer D

### Club Master

Stella Arnold E  
Liz Bradley C  
Scott Henderson S  
Douglas Kerr S  
Toni Lock W  
Robin MacLaren E  
Ron McLeod W  
Allyson Ross E  
Judith Scott D

## Answers to Quiz

- 1 Responder is showing
- a) 13-15 (16)
  - b) 11-12 (perhaps a good 10)
  - c) 13-15 (16)
- 2
- a) Responder has 5♠ and 6♥. (With an equal number of each she would bid spades first.  
Distribution 5-6-1-1 or 5-6-2-0 or 5-6-0-2.
  - b) Responder does not have a 4-card major or 4 diamonds.  
Distribution is likely to be 3-3-3-4 or 3-3-2-5.
  - c) Play responder for 6+ diamonds and no 4-card major something like 3-3-6-1.
- 3 a) Counting tricks (defence)  
Partner does not have the ♣K or she would have led it.  
From the bidding, the declarer has 6 spades and you can see 9 hearts between you and the dummy.  
You have to play partner for the ♥A or the ♠K.

Win the club ace, and switch to a low diamond, hoping your partner has the ♦Q. You can then set up 2 diamond tricks which are available once your partner takes a trick with the H ace or the Spade king.

- b) Counting tricks (declarer)  
Sometimes you can have two options, and the challenge is therefore to combine them in a way to give you the maximum chances. You can see 7 tricks (2♠ + 2♥ + 1♦ + 2♣). You need 2 more for your contract.  
Your long suits are in the minors. Clubs are more attractive than diamonds, but they could break badly.

Win the opening lead with the ♥K, keeping the ♥A as an entry.

Plan A - lead a club to the King and then finesse ♣J. If the ♣J wins you have at least 4 club tricks.

If South shows out on the second round of clubs, North has 4 clubs and you need your Plan B (diamonds):

Refuse the finesse, take the ♣A and lead to the ♦A looking for a singleton or doubleton heart or both honours in the North hand. Since you already know 8 or 9 of North's cards you still have chances.

## Solution to Crossword

<sup>1</sup> D	R	<sup>2</sup> A	M	<sup>3</sup> A	T	<sup>4</sup> I	C	<sup>5</sup> S	O	<sup>6</sup> C	I	<sup>7</sup> E	T	<sup>8</sup> Y
E		P		G		O		A		I		X		A
<sup>9</sup> F	O	R	G	O	T	T	E	N		<sup>10</sup> D	E	T	E	R
A		I		O		A		G		E		E		D
<sup>11</sup> M	E	L	O	D	Y		<sup>12</sup> C	L	A	R	I	N	D	A
E				D				I				S		G
<sup>13</sup> D	R	<sup>14</sup> I	V	E	R		<sup>15</sup> S	E	X	<sup>16</sup> D	R	I	V	E
		N		A		<sup>17</sup> I		R		I		V		
<sup>18</sup> T	O	P	O	L	I	N	O		<sup>19</sup> E	S	T	E	E	<sup>20</sup> M
E		R				T				C				I
<sup>21</sup> M	O	I	S	<sup>22</sup> T	U	R	E		<sup>23</sup> K	I	S	<sup>24</sup> M	E	T
P		V		I		U		<sup>25</sup> B		P		A		O
<sup>26</sup> E	N	A	C	T		<sup>27</sup> D	W	E	L	L	I	N	G	S
S		T		H		E		E		E		S		I
<sup>28</sup> T	H	E	P	E	A	R	L	F	I	S	H	E	R	S