



# Diamonded if You Do – Diamonded if You Don't

*by Jay Korobow*

Most players holding the South hand would venture a 1♣ opening bid, and soon find their partner bidding an ill-fated slam such as 6♠, as diagrammed below. As Declarer, after a trump lead, I saw I could pitch three Clubs on my ♦AKQ to avoid losses in the Club suit. But some miracle in the Heart suit such as ♥Ax, or some strip-the-hand-blockage involving the ♥J, would be required to hold the losses to one in the Heart suit, and bring the slam home.

|               |              |  |             |
|---------------|--------------|--|-------------|
| Dealer: South | <u>North</u> |  |             |
| Vul: None     | ♠ KQJ4       |  |             |
|               | ♥ Q92        |  |             |
|               | ♦ AKQ        |  |             |
|               | ♣ K54        |  |             |
|               | <u>West</u>  |  | <u>East</u> |
|               | ♠ 986        |  | ♠ 32        |
|               | ♥ 106        |  | ♥ AJ84      |
|               | ♦ 1076532    |  | ♦ J984      |
|               | ♣ J9         |  | ♣ Q103      |
|               | <u>South</u> |  |             |
|               | ♠ A1075      |  |             |
|               | ♥ K753       |  |             |
|               | ♦ –          |  |             |
|               | ♣ A8762      |  |             |

The bidding:

| <u>South</u> | West | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> |
|--------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| 1♣           | Pass | 1♠           | Pass        |
| 2♠           | Pass | 4NT          | Pass        |
| 5♥           | Pass | 6♠           | All Pass    |

An opening trump lead often suggests no other appetizing suit to lead; thus I thought I would try to find East with ♥Ax. I therefore led a low Heart towards the ♥K753 and was delighted to see the King hold the trick. East, of course, cannot grab his ♥A, as then Declarer will have no more Heart losers and 12 tricks: 4 Spades, 2 Hearts (♥KQ), a Heart ruff, 3 Diamonds, and 2 high Clubs for 12.

The obvious follow-up was to simply duck a Heart, so that the hoped-for ♥Ax doubleton would mean the ♥A was now singleton and would fall on air, or at least on a small Heart spot. But wait: there is actually something better I saw, and that was to pull trump and pitch

Dummy's remaining ♥753 on the ♦AKQ. Now I could duck a Club, since I had no Heart losers, and therefore score up the slam that way.

The Hobson's choice, as it is often called (a version of "damned if you do damned if you don't"), dealt to East meant the 6♠ contract was actually cold – uhh, on any lead **except one**. Surprisingly, the only lead to beat the slam, far from obvious even looking at all four hands, is a Diamond lead!

This "gem" of a hand shakes out this way: with any lead except a Diamond, the play can proceed as above, but with a Diamond opening lead there is zero chance of making the slam. The problem is what to pitch from Dummy at trick 1, before you have made your Heart play. If you pitch a Club (and presumably two more later), the absence of ♥Ax doubleton means there will eventually be two Heart losers, so slam will fail.

At first glance it seems you can throw a Heart from ♥K753 at trick 1, when forced prematurely to choose your discard, and then make the same Heart play leading towards your hand. Yes, the ♥K will again hold if East does not take the ♥A, and you can return to hand and pitch two more Hearts on the other high Diamonds as detailed above for the same success. But now East has a winning option: he grabs his ♥A, instead of ducking, for the set!

Sure, with ♥Q9 opposite ♥K7, you will then have no more Heart losers and two tricks in that suit. But that totals only 11: 4 Spades, 2 Hearts, 3 Diamonds, and 2 Clubs, and with no viable squeeze, that means down one. Why is that, one ponders? It is because the "extra" Heart you were forced to choose to discard at trick 1 from ♥K753 is no longer around to ruff in Dummy, which would have been trick 12!

Now East may not have "seen" to grab the ♥A in this immediate scenario. But, while subtle, it would indeed be an error to duck, as it allows the slam to make – provided of course the gem of a Diamond lead was found at the table and the play went as detailed. Which it wasn't, so we will never really know.

## What to Lead

*by Steve Arshan*

**My partner** Rich Ross and I played this hand online recently where the opening lead might have made a difference. I played it in 3NT after this auction where only LHO/RHO are vulnerable:

| <u>Rich</u> | <u>RHO</u> | <u>Me</u> | <u>LHO</u> |
|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 ♦         | 1 ♠        | Pass      | Pass       |
| 3 ♦         | Pass       | 3NT       | All Pass   |

I'll put you in my LHO seat, on opening lead. Holding ♠ 532 ♥ AJ10973 ♦ 87 ♣ J6, some may have acted over partner's 1♠ overcall. Here they didn't. Before peeking ahead to the hand on the following page, choose your opening salvo.



**COMPLIMENTARY MORNING COFFEE AND MUFFINS/BAGELS**

*Afternoon refreshments*

### District 3 Summer Regional May 17 – May 21, 2026

APA Hotel Woodbridge

120 Wood Ave South ♦ Iselin, NJ 08830 ♦ (732) 494-6200

The hotel is conveniently located minutes from GSP, NJ Tpke, and Metropark train station

*Special room rate: \$119 for Queen or King ♦ Free Parking*

*Deadline for reservations: April 28, 2026 (cancel up to 48 hours prior)*

**There are three ways to take advantage of this special rate offer :**

1. Visit hotel website : [apahotelwoodbridge.com](http://apahotelwoodbridge.com) and click on **BOOK NOW**  
Click on Promo Code dropdown  
Discount Code dropdown  
Choose - Group Attendee  
In the blank space, type : BRIG  
Click ADD  
Click on GO to complete dates and reservation
2. Link to <https://reservations.travelclick.com/96418?userType=GRP>  
Follow steps above
3. Call 732-494-6200 reservations and mention **"District 3 Bridge" or Promo Code "BRIG"**

**Tournament Manager / Hotel Issues : Julie Cohan,**

973-568-4864, [jcohan11@aol.com](mailto:jcohan11@aol.com)

**Partnerships : Lorraine Bellagamba, lbellagamba823@gmail.com**

#### Schedule

##### Sunday, May 17

- 11:00 & 3:30 **Open Pairs** (*open/3000/750*)  
11:00 & TBA **A/X Swiss Teams** (*open/5000*)  
**B/C/D Swiss Teams** (*3000/1500/750*) - *No player over 3000*

##### Monday - Thursday, May 18 – May 21

- 10:00 & 2:30 **A/B/C Pairs** (*open/3000/1500*)  
**Golden Opportunity Pairs** (*750/300/150*) – *No player over 750*  
10:00 & TBA **Bracketed Round Robin Teams**

*(When possible, top bracket will be played as an Open Swiss – open to all)*

*All team & pair strats are based on average of the total masterpoints for the team or pair.  
In any event or flight with an upper limit, no individual player's masterpoint total may exceed that upper limit.*

*Single-session entries to Golden Opportunity & Open Pair Games permitted.*

*Lunch sold onsite between sessions*

**Gold Points for overalls and section tops in top strat.**

**ENTRY FEES: CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ONLY**

**Pairs: \$25 per session/per person (25 yrs and under: \$10)**

**Teams : \$200 per team for both sessions (discount for 25 yrs and under)**

## Steve Arshan Hand Reveal

The full deal from previous page:

|            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
|            | <u>Rich</u> |            |
|            | ♠ 6         |            |
|            | ♥ 52        |            |
|            | ♦ AKJ9543   |            |
|            | ♣ AQ9       |            |
| <u>LHO</u> |             | <u>RHO</u> |
| ♠ 532      |             | ♠ AKQJ8    |
| ♥ AJ10973  |             | ♥ Q84      |
| ♦ 87       |             | ♦ 10       |
| ♣ J6       |             | ♣ 10754    |
|            | <u>Me</u>   |            |
|            | ♠ 10974     |            |
|            | ♥ K6        |            |
|            | ♦ Q62       |            |
|            | ♣ K832      |            |

How did you do? Expecting a decent Spade suit from partner's vulnerable overcall, I think most players would lead a small Spade and set the hand by 7 tricks; taking 5 Spades and then 6 Hearts provided the Heart suit is cashed out properly. If you led the ♥J Declarer will take 11 or 12 tricks. If you led the ♥A and switched to Spades you'll still beat it by 2.

That's a difference of 10 tricks depending on your opening lead!

## Books to Claim

Bob Martin has a collection of over 40 bridge books by authors such as Audrey Grant and Barbara Seagram. He would ask a few dollars for shipping, or you can see him at a local club. He can be reached at [ramartinpi@aol.com](mailto:ramartinpi@aol.com).

## Awards Brunch



Despite having to reschedule the annual Awards Brunch due to one of the blizzards of 2026, it was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. The Unit Championship game that followed the delicious buffet had 15 tables! Here are the top finishing pairs.

| Game Results                     | North/South Place | East/West Place | Overall Place |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Arman Tookmanian – Andrew Barlow | 1                 |                 | 2             |
| Susan Schwartz – Anthony Palumbo | 2                 |                 | 6             |
| Kirk Elyakin – Marilyn Elyakin   | 3                 |                 | 7             |
| Ashok Agarwala – Arnie Dorin     |                   | 1               | 1             |
| Himanshu Joshi – Peter Stein     |                   | 2               | 3             |
| Betty Cox – Harold Shane         |                   | 3               | 4             |



*New Life Masters*

*Bob Martin, Robert Carroll, Gail Knight, Leigh Walker, Hal Shane*



*2025 Mini-McKenney Winners*

*Robert Carroll, Andrew Barlow, Leigh Walker, Peter Stein, Robin Shamah*



*2025 Ace of Clubs Winners*

*Robert Carroll, Andrew Barlow, Leigh Walker, Rochelle Djmal, Robin Shamah*

## Paul “Kellogg” Kelly Kiefer



Kelly was President of our Unit for around 6 months before his untimely death this January. I knew him for a couple years and always found him pleasant to be around. A couple of Board members wrote tributes to him.

### Arnie Kohn

I first met Kelly, many years ago at a Bridge Club in the old Jewish "Y" at a Wednesday Evening Game. For the next 40 plus years our paths crossed many times. I was very fond of him, because he never yelled or complained about mistakes his partners made. The last number of years, he was a regular participant at a club I directed in Monroe. I never heard a peep out of him, nor did I have to make any Director rulings at his table. Around six years ago, I was on a nominating committee that proposed Kelly as a future member of the NJBL Board of Directors. He performed his duties excellently and later became our tournament chairman and our President. I am very proud to have known him and I wish I could meet others like him.

### Arnie Dorin

Kelly and I were good friends in the bridge world for the last several years. I speak for many of the people who knew him, he was a gentle giant of a man, with always a smile and soft words, be it about bridge, about music, sports or whatever. The shock of his sudden death was felt by so many who have expressed their sorrow. In addition, as the President of the New Jersey Bridge League, he worked very hard to make the process of the game better for us all. Kelly and I worked together in so many of these efforts, and I miss him so!!! May his memory be a blessing!!!

## Question for Bridge Bulletin Column

*by Ken Trock*



**Have you ever wondered how Directors of bracketed Swiss Team events reconcile reported differences in team Masterpoints vs. actual MP differences, and when that reconciliation is done? My experience as team captain and non-team captain have been that we report to the game desk a somewhat loose estimate of our teams' total MPs. I wrote this question to the Bridge Bulletin "Ask the Director" mailbox and got back this helpful answer from Lynn Yokel.**

"In a bracketed team event, once the game has started and the entries are collected, a Director enters the names into ACBLScore and as soon as all of the brackets have been entered, they check to see if any team is in the incorrect bracket. This occurs during the first match. If a pair has under or over reported by only 50 masterpoints or so, that may put them in the wrong bracket (although the Directors try to make the bracket splits where there is a large difference in total masterpoints to avoid this possibility). That generally would not be an issue and the team would likely be allowed to remain in the bracket (although the Directors would suggest the team try to be more accurate in writing down or reporting their number of masterpoints). Especially in lower brackets, teams often have very close total masterpoints, so we expect teams to be as accurate as possible.

If a team is off by 100 or more masterpoints, obviously they were not very careful in reporting their total. The total masterpoints they report should be based on what each player believes they have at that time. Reporting 'about 3000' is not a good idea unless you truly believe that the total is somewhere between 2995 and 3005. If a team ends up in the wrong bracket by a significant amount, the Director will attempt to move them to the correct bracket after the first match. As you can imagine, this is a complicated and often time-consuming task for the Directors and is not fair to the teams in both brackets that are affected. If a team has overreported, the Director may choose to keep them in the higher bracket they ended up in. If the team has significantly underreported and there is no way to move them to the correct bracket, the Director is empowered to have them remain in that bracket but the team would not be eligible for overall awards and would only be playing for match awards."

## ***Big Games***

(Must be face-to-face to qualify)

**December 2025 – February 2026**

| <b>OPEN</b>   |  |                      |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| 78.75%        | Marc Lipman - Beau Norton              | Stafford Bridge Club |
| 75.50%        | Bob Derosa - Hans Neuteboom            | Toms River BC        |
| 75.00%        | Wieslaw Ostrowski - Harris Bobroff     | Toms River BC        |
| 74.38%        | J Eugene Salomon - Nancy Loisch        | Toms River BC        |
| 73.44%        | Beau Norton - Bob Derosa               | Stafford Bridge Club |
| 72.18%        | Bonnie Britton - Sam Borenstein        | Summit Area Bridge   |
| 71.87%        | George Jarney - Larry Hartzell         | Summit Area Bridge   |
| 71.83%        | Roy Samitt - Dorel Livescu             | Jersey Bridge Club   |
| 71.68%        | Donna Dulet - Stephen Arshan           | Jersey Bridge Club   |
| 71.40%        | Sam Borenstein - Ruth Zowader          | Summit Area Bridge   |
| 71.15%        | Rich Ross - Alex Allen                 | Jersey Bridge Club   |
| 70.83%        | Peter Stein - Cho-Wei Sit              | Summit Online        |
| 70.63%        | Wieslaw Ostrowski - Harris Bobroff     | Toms River BC        |
| 70.50%        | Christel Dynes - Ruth Macpherson       | Canoe Brook          |
| <b>70.08%</b> | <b>Ashok Agarwala - Robert Carroll</b> | <b>Bill's Bridge</b> |

| <b>LIMITED/INVITATIONAL</b> |                                  |                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 75.40%                      | Bob Welgos - Ginnie Thomas       | Shadowfax          |
| 75.00%                      | Paul Gessman - Michael O'Donohue | Regency at Monroe  |
| 71.51%                      | Bobbie Winokur - Steve Winokur   | Westlake BC        |
| 70.83%                      | Herbert Shulman - Barbara Sasson | Queen of Hearts BC |
| 70.63%                      | Shelly Amin - Steve Stein        | Regency at Monroe  |
| 70.63%                      | Bharat Shah - Marek Glowacki     | Regency at Monroe  |
| 70.46%                      | John Berrier - Bill Hymans       | Bill's Bridge      |
| 70.00%                      | Nancy Goss - Kim Gimblette       | Queen of Hearts BC |

## Milestones

### Changes in Rank: December 2025 – February 2026

#### Gold Life Master

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Francis Gupta | Princeton  |
| Komal H Kamat | Plainsboro |
| Ke Zhao       | Edison     |

#### Ruby Life Master

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| John A Overdeck | Short Hills   |
| Neil Rothstein  | West Caldwell |
| Roy S Samitt    | Bradley Beach |

#### Silver Life Master

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Judith C Knecht | Manasquan |
|-----------------|-----------|

#### Bronze Life Master

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| David E Forbes       | Florham Park |
| Michael J Morter     | Princeton    |
| Stephen J Riepenhoff | Skillman     |
| Marcia Stohr         | Hoboken      |

#### Life Master

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Marcia Stohr | Hoboken |
|--------------|---------|

#### NABC Master

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Tianyang Chen       | Princeton      |
| Kuo-Tung Hsu        | East Brunswick |
| Wilhelmina B Moyer  | Oldwick        |
| Jesse Rockoff       | Rahway         |
| Frederick S Shubert | Hackettstown   |

#### Regional Master

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Gene R Horowitz | Red Bank |
| Claire M Hughes | Wall     |

#### Sectional Master

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Cathryn M Clary | Plainsboro |
|-----------------|------------|

#### Club Master

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Martin Barber       | Livingston     |
| Jack Beekman        | Tucson AZ      |
| Robert Bullen-Smith | Lawrenceville  |
| David H Chen        | New Providence |
| Ella Greenberg      | Westfield      |
| Louise J Hall       | Long Branch    |
| Helene A Hernandez  | Summit         |
| Paul Kolojeski      | Tinton Falls   |
| Shiva Vohra         | Short Hills    |

#### Junior Master

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Mozelle Forman    | Long Branch    |
| Elaine Gayle      | Bridgewater    |
| Alexander J Huang | Princeton Jct. |
| Niki Kiiskinen    | Highland Park  |
| Tijen Ozlu        | Weehawken      |
| Mary Smock        | Clinton        |
| Shripad Tilak     | Hillsborough   |

## REMEMBRANCES

The Board of Directors of the New Jersey Bridge League offer their condolences to the families and friends of the following members of the ACBL Unit 140. They will be missed at our bridge tables. We would like to remember all who support and participate in this great game. Please notify Julie Anderson at [Julie17rae@gmail.com](mailto:Julie17rae@gmail.com) of any deaths within our membership; indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

**Molly Ellsworth**

d. October 2025  
frequent player at Shadowfax

**John Gimblette**

d. December 22, 2025

**Kelly Kiefer**

d. January 22, 2026  
Unit 140 President

**James Rinnovatore**

d. October 2025  
frequent player at Shadowfax

**Louis Romano**

d. December 2025  
frequent player at Shadowfax

**Henry Van Handle**

d. November 2025  
frequent player at Shadowfax

**Judy Wirtneberg**

d. January 13, 2026  
frequent player at Monroe

**Bruce Witzel**

d. March 9, 2026  
frequent player at Scotch Plains