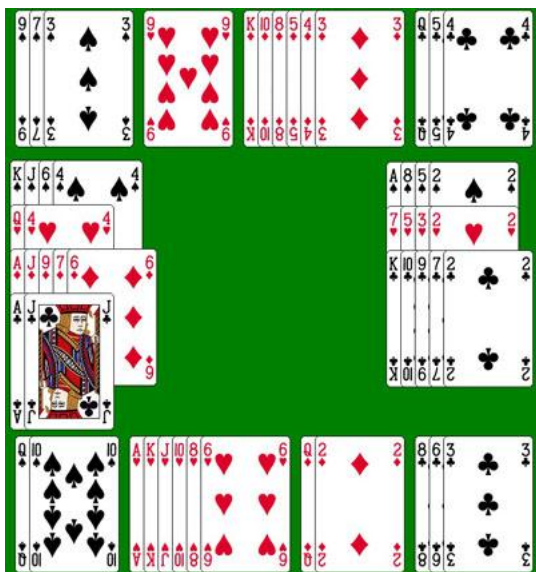


Board 4 last Tuesday (25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013) was interesting in that it highlighted a very important principle of sound bridge play.



I was playing West and the auction proceeded as shown below:

Auction			
West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I opened 1D and we ended up in a contract of 4 Spades by West.

North led the 9 of Hearts and it was won by the Ace of Hearts and followed by the King of Hearts which also won.

Jack of Hearts was now led. I didn't have a good discard so I ruffed it high with the Jack of Spades.

Now I played the King of Spades to draw trumps and Coral (sitting at South) played the Queen of Spades. This made me think that North had 4 Spades and that Coral only had a singleton Queen of Spades.

I played the Ace of Diamonds to discard the last Heart and then ruffed the 6 of Diamonds with the 5 of Spades.

Play				
	West	North	East	South
1	4♥	9♥	2♥	*A♥
2	Q♥	8♦	3♥	*K♥
3	*J♠	3♦	5♥	J♥
4	*K♠	7♠	2♠	Q♠
5	*A♦	5♦	7♥	2♦
6	6♦	4♦	*5♣	Q♦
7	*A♣	4♣	2♣	3♣
8	7♦	10♦	8♠	*10♣
9	9♦	5♣	*A♠	6♥
10	J♣	Q♣	*K♣	6♣
11	J♦	*3♠	10♣	8♣
12	4♠	*9♠	7♣	8♥
13	*6♠	K♦	9♣	10♥

I came to hand with the Ace of Clubs to ruff another small Diamond (7D) and was horrified when Coral over-ruffed with the 10 of Spades! I had lost one trick more than I had counted on and the contract was put off.

Coral's comment was that *"I try to outsmart Bal as often as I can"* and her strategic play of the Queen of Spades on the lead of the King of Spades did just that. When I ruffed with the Jack of Spades and it wasn't over-ruffed, everyone knew that Coral had the Queen of Spades. Given that she could play either the Queen or 10 of Spades as they were equals (the Jack was already played), she followed the rule that **"one should play the card you are known to hold"**.

Had she played the 10 of Spades on my first Spade lead, I would have been able to rapidly wrap up 10 tricks as many pairs did.

Happy Bridging, Bal