



Better Bridge with Bergen

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Don't rely on good splits

Dlr: South ♠ 10 7 5 4
 Vul: None ♥ 3
 ♦ A 8 7 5 4
 ♣ A 8 6

♠ A 9 8
 ♥ A K Q J 9 4 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ 2

North	South
	1 ♥
1 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	

West leads the ♣Q.

You needed very little from partner, so you took the bull by the horns and jumped to game. If partner had a good hand and chose to bid on, that would have been fine with you.

You win the first trick with dummy's ♣A.

Question #1: Can anything go wrong in this seemingly ice-cold contract?

Answer: Yes. If one opponent has all five trumps, you could lose two spade tricks, one heart and one diamond.

Question #2: What do you lead at trick two?

Answer: You should lead a club

and ruff it. If either player has all of the missing trumps, you need to win tricks with your low trumps whenever possible.

This is a perfect opportunity to win your ♥2.

At trick three, you lay down the ♥A. Sure enough, West shows out. East (in front of you) has the missing trumps, which beats the heck out of finding all five trumps with West (behind you).

You are actually sitting pretty. Cash the ♠A and cross to dummy with the ♦A. Lead dummy's ♣8 and ruff with your 4. You have now won six tricks.

The stage is now set. Exit with a spade or a diamond. The defenders are welcome to take their three tricks in those suits.

At this point, the only relevant suit is hearts. Here are the remaining trumps:

East
 ♥ 10 8 7 6

South
 ♥ K Q J 9

Regardless of the defense, you can't be prevented from winning all four of your trumps and making 4♥. Winning your right-hand opponent's trumps without being able to finesse is called a trump coup.

Here is the entire deal:

Dlr: South ♠ 10 7 5 4
 Vul: None ♥ 3
 ♦ A 8 7 5 4
 ♣ A 8 6

♠ K J 6 2		♠ Q 3
♥ -		♥ 10 8 7 6 5
♦ J 10 3 2	N W E	♦ K Q
♣ Q J 10 5 3	S	♣ K 9 7 4
		♠ A 9 8
		♥ A K Q J 9 4 2
		♦ 9 6
		♣ 2

Going with the odds

When missing six cards in a suit, a 3-3 split is against the odds. Don't count on it.

♠ 10 6
 ♥ 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 6 5
 ♣ K 9 7 5 2

♠ A K 7 4 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A K Q J 10
 ♣ A 4

Against 4♠, the defense began with two rounds of hearts. After ruffing the second, South cashed his ♠A K. He then had two low trumps. If the defenders' two remaining trumps divided 1-1, he could play a third round and make an overtrick.

If one defender had both trumps, however, playing a third round would allow that defender to draw South's last trump and run hearts.

Declarer simply ran diamonds, therefore, and conceded two trump tricks. This guaranteed 10 tricks. □

Instant Matchpoint Game update

The district winners of the annual ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game were reported in the December issue, but a late result from District 9 failed to make the list. Kevin Dwyer of Lehigh Acres FL and Audrey Kurland of Ft. Myers FL were the top scorers North-South in District 9 with a 72.17% game.

Dwyer and Kurland played at the McGregor Point Bridge Club in Fort Myers.