

## NEVER GIVE UP

I am continuing last week's theme of not giving up, and trying to find a line that allows your contract to make:

	♠ 6 4		
	♥ K J 10 2		
	♦ K 9 5 3		
	♣ K 9 6		
♠ A 10 3		♠ K 9 7 5	
♥ 8 5 3		♥ A Q 9 7 6	
♦ A 10 7 2		♦ Q J 6	
♣ A 5 3		♣ 2	
	♠ Q J 8 2		
	♥ 4		
	♦ 8 4		
	♣ Q J 10 8 7 4		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦ (1)	Pass
2♥ (2)	Pass	2♠ (3)	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

(1) GF checkback, asking opener to describe her hand

(2) 3 hearts

(3) Showing 4 spades, in case partner has 4 spades; a 4-4 fit will be better than a 5-3 fit

The ♣Q lead was won with the Ace. Declarer finessed the ♥Q, then tried the diamond finesse. I won the ♦K and tried to cash the ♣K (knowing I had two heart tricks remaining). Declarer ruffed the club, then cashed the ♥A, finding the bad trump break.

She crossed to the ♠A to trump another club. She now had 2 spades, 3 clubs, 2 hearts, and needed 3 diamond tricks. So, she just needed my hand to hold the right shape, 4+ diamonds. She cashed the ♠K, then led the ♦J, and crossed to dummy's diamonds. There was nothing I could do but follow suit – just winning the last two tricks with the top trumps.

Never give up – find the shape you need for your contract to make and play accordingly.

Here's a hand from the Gold Coast Congress, where declarer never gave up, despite being in a dreadful contract:

North-South got somewhat carried away in the bidding, reaching 6♦, by North.

	♠ void	
	♥ 9 6	
	♦ A K Q J 10 9 5 2	
	♣ K 5 3	
♠ K 10 6 5		♠ 7 4 3
♥ A J 5		♥ K 7 4 3 2
♦ 8 4		♦ 7 3
♣ Q 10 9 7		♣ 8 6 2
	♠ A Q J 9 8 2	
	♥ Q 10 8	
	♦ 6	
	♣ A J 4	

Obviously, you can see that a heart lead defeats the contract, but declarer's first piece of good fortune was East's opening lead of the ♣6. Trick 1 went ♣6 – 4 – 9 – King.

Having avoided the fatal heart lead, declarer decided to learn as much about the hand as possible. He had two options of play – one being the club finesse, and the other being rather more fancy (always the option the experts prefer!). If East's ♣6 was not a fourth-highest lead, then he needed his fancy option...

His first step was to lead all eight diamonds, forcing discards from the opponents. These discards proved very illuminating. It rapidly became clear that West was having discard problems and, in all likelihood, held the club honours.

When the last diamond was led, this was the position:

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

The ♥Q was discarded from dummy and West was in trouble. He had to discard the ♥A, but now declarer just played a club to the Ace and exited with the ♣J to West's Queen, who had to lead a spade into dummy's ♠A-Q!

Declarer never gave up. He found a line of play that would allow his contract to make and played accordingly.

*By the way, it is often recommended to make 'attacking' leads against suit slams, although not against No Trump slams. Leading from the ♥K would be considered the attacking lead, hoping to find the Queen or Ace with partner.*

**Barbara Travis**

[www.bridgewithbarbara.com](http://www.bridgewithbarbara.com)