

THE BRIDGE PHILOSOPHER

James S. Kauder

FOREWORD BY MIKE LAWRENCE

World Bridge Champion



Copyright © 2005 by James S. Kauder

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), without the prior written permission of both the copyright owner and the publisher of this book. For information address Vivisphere Publishing.

ISBN-13: 978-1-58776-150-8

ISBN-10: 1-58776-150-5

Library of Congress Number: 2005921968

Bridge Book

Previously published (1989) as “Creative Card Play”

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NetPub 0 9 8 7 6 5



675 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

www.vivisphere.com (800) 724-1100

Hand 1

A SIMPLE HAND

THIS IS A SIMPLE HAND. Yet, not one player I've shown it to has played the hand correctly, dear reader. See how you do with it.

Playing rubber bridge, I hold as South:

♠ A K Q ♥ A K 6 ♦ A Q 8 7 4 ♣ K 2

I open the bidding with Three No Trump. All Pass, so the bidding has been:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads the five of hearts and North puts down this dummy:

NORTH

♠ 6 5 4
♥ 9 7 2
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A K Q
♥ A K 6
♦ A Q 8 7 4
♣ K 2

Dummy plays low on the first heart, East the queen and I win the king. I have nine top tricks after forcing out the king of diamonds. The only way I can be set is if East wins the king of diamonds and shifts to a club.

The Bridge Philosopher

With no entry to dummy, the normal way to play the diamonds is to play the ace and another diamond to dummy's jack. This gains a trick whenever the king is a singleton. But I see a snag in playing the diamonds this way. West might hold a singleton diamond and discard a heart on the second diamond, making it easier for East to find the killing club shift. Therefore, I lead a low diamond to dummy's jack at trick two.

The complete hand:

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

If declarer plays ace and another diamond, East can hold up the king and win the third round. West meanwhile should pitch a low heart and a low spade, to direct a club switch.

However, if declarer begins with a low diamond to dummy's jack, East would have to be a genius to find the club switch.