

DON'S CORNER

by Don Gardner

You and partner are playing in a weekly duplicate game and bid to an aggressive (i.e. poor) No Trump slam.

You hold these cards and open 2NT:

	You (North)
♠	A K J
♥	A Q 9 8 5
♦	K J 3
♣	K J

Partner invites slam with a 4NT bid with these cards:

	Partner (South)
♠	7 6 3
♥	6
♦	A 8 4 2
♣	A Q 7 6 5

And you bid 6NT

Fortunately for you, the opening lead is the 4♠. You can now count 10 tricks (3 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds, and 4 clubs). If the clubs break 4-2 or better, you have eleven tricks needing only one of the two red suit finesses to work.

You win the opening lead, cash the K♣ and play the J♣. Horrors!!! LHO discards a spade. What are you going to do now? Before playing a card from dummy, decide upon a new plan for 12 tricks.

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE SOLUTION

SOLUTION

Here is the full layout:

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

You now need a near-miracle to land your contract. You are not going to get 5 clubs, and now not even four, as you need two entries to dummy for the two red suit finesses. And you also need diamonds to break 3-3!!!

Here's what you have to do:

1. Win the J♠
2. Play the K♣
3. Overtake the J♣ with the Ace
4. Take the diamond finesse with the Jack
5. Play the K♦
6. Play the A♦
7. Cash the 13th diamond
8. Cash the Q♣
9. Take the heart finesse
10. Cash the A♥
11. Cash the A♠
12. Cash the K♠

Whew!!! When you have no choice, place the cards where you need them for success.