

Answer: ♥4 or ♥2. After an auction to a slam, when a strong side suit is mentioned, you should be aware that declarer's losers in the other side suits will be discarded after trumps are drawn, which means you should make an attacking lead. Clearly, you are going to make the ♦A, but you will need to establish another trick quickly before trumps are

drawn. Lead a low heart and hope your partner has the queen. If you end up giving a trick away to the ♥Q, no harm is done because declarer has six spade tricks anyway – he would be discarding his heart losers on them. As it is, you establish a heart trick to go with your ♦A.

In Memoriam

BOB BAKER (Somerset): Bob Baker recently died after a short illness. Born in Coventry in 1953, bridge was more than a hobby for Bob. It was a passion. So much so he decided to give up the insurance day job 20 years ago, to earn his living from the game he loved. Initially teaching bridge and chess in a small number of private schools and at the local colleges, he soon developed a number of spin off classes throughout Somerset and the Bristol area.

For eight years, Bob reviewed new bridge books for the Bridge Magazine. He was a real student of the game, building a bridge library of over 750 books. He embraced new technology to create visual bridge teaching aids, creating more than 100 power point bridge lessons.

Five years ago, with his wife Jacky, he started hosting First for Bridge holidays. Bob was the consummate professional, and the quality of his directing and teaching was shared by thousands of pupils and holiday makers. A 'gentle giant' who will be greatly missed.

JOE KOWALSKI (Yorkshire): Joe was a member of Huddersfield Bridge Club for over 50 years and died recently at the age of 96. Joe represented Huddersfield Bridge Club in county events and in the Yorkshire League until 2015-16. His greatest playing success was winning the EBU Northern Pairs with Peter Radley, when he was already well into his eighties.

DINAH MAIRS (Nottinghamshire): Dinah was tireless in her efforts for Nottingham Bridge Club. As Secretary and Chair for five years, she tackled everything from managing the property to directing. She was one of only two recipients of honorary membership at the club and was winner of the Harry Lodge Trophy and Lucy Shilito Cup for services to bridge in Nottinghamshire. Perhaps the best thing Dinah did for the club was always being there welcoming people and making them feel part of the club. Current Chair Mark Goddard said, 'Dinah was the embodiment of what we want the club to be'.

TONY ODAMS (Leicestershire): Tony Odams has died at the age of 83. Tony served on the LCBA Committee for a total of 22 years holding the posts of Chairman, Treasurer, and Fixtures Secretary and in 1991 he was made a life member of the Association.

Tony was probably the most successful and popular LCBA player of all time. He won no fewer than 59 county trophies including the Josephs Bowl on 25 occasions and the Gimson Trophy five times. Representing Leicestershire he won the Pachabo Cup three times and in 1979 was in the team which won the Tollemache Trophy.

Tony's greatest triumph on the national stage was with Derek Griffiths when, in 1979, they won the National Pairs Championship.

The LCBA offers sincere condolences to Tony's widow Glenys and his family. A full obituary is available on the LCBA web-site.

COUNTY NEWS – LOCAL RESULTS

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk



THE Avon County Ladies' Pairs was won by Gill Davies & Margaret Randell with the runners up Cathy Davies & Pat Chant.

The Men's Pairs was won by Ralph Smith & Steve Tomlinson with the runners up Tim Brierley & Graham Hartley.

The Avon Handicapped Teams was won by Irene Robinson, Mike Huggins, Jeremy Rickard & Jack Terry.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



David Woulds & Monica Lucy won the BBA Mixed Pairs in mid-October. Janet & Derek Marsh won the Senior's Pairs in mid-November. Joint winners of November's Marsh Trophy were Jack Bretherton & Dale Squire, Margaret Codd & Pipa Green.

Berks and Bucks

www.bridgewebs.com/bbcba



WELL done to Joan Murphy, Bob Holder, Ed Scerri & Dick Davey, winners of the pre-Christmas Mixed Swiss Teams event, and to runners-up, Mary Hughes, Evelyn Crossley, David Owen & Charles Chisnell; and 3rd-placed

Eva Wallen, David Beever, Sue & Graham Dickens. Fourteen teams competed in this pre-Christmas event in which wine replaced the normal refreshments, and bottles were awarded to the overall winners and the winners of each round.

Congratulations to Pat & Richard Chantler on winning the Friendly Pairs. Runners up were Gillian Smith & Christine Cook, with Janet Allan & Colin Dale in 3rd place.

Congratulations to Dee & Peter Lindon on winning the Jarret Cup in the Butler Pairs event. Also well done to Paula Hopkinson & Geoff Nicholas and to Simon Gass & Alan Scott in 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

The Swiss Pairs for the Denys Jenkins Cup was won by David Owen & Charles Chisnell; runners up were Mike O'Neill & Roger Donato with Tony Aston & Christopher Tucker in 3rd place.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/



THE results of events held over the Inter-Insular weekend:

Sigma Pairs, 1st, David Waters & Graham Boxall; 2nd equal, John Seymour & Nick Galitzine, Iain Harris & Brian Parkin.

Newcomers, Iain Harris & Brian Parkin.

County Ladies' Pairs, 1st, Tuula Lehtinen & Barbara Hunter; 2nd Liz Thompson & Sue Shaw.

County Men's Pairs, 1st, Hugh Bacon & Martin Jones; 2nd David Hole & David Friswell.

County Open Pairs, 1st, Rudi Falla & Tuula Lehtinen; 2nd, Harold Walden & Brian Youd.

Blue Riband Pairs, 1st, Hugh Bacon & Andy Hall; 2nd Sue Corbet & Margaret Le Page.

CI Unrestricted Pairs: 1st Lynda Mildon & Andy Hall; 2nd John & Fiona Honey

Jersey District results:

Lower Restricted Pairs, 1st, Craig Honey & Seb Perez; 2nd, Peter Newbald & Chris Blackstone.

Victoria Club Mixed Pairs: 1st, Howard Basden-Smith & Meredith Case; 2nd John Honey & Ann Burnet.

Highfield Bridge Club Autumn Slams Ladder: 1st, Maureen Breuilly; 2nd Margaret Treacy.

Drawn Teams: 1st, Hilary & Ken Wise, Pat & John Panter; 2nd Mary Horton & Sarah Amy, Margaret Treacy & Maureen Breuilly.

Cornwall

www.bridgewebs.com/cornwall



Congratulations to winners of recent county events: Barrie Benfield & Maureen Brinton (Mixed Pairs); Ray Bliss, Sue John, Carol Trezise & Owen Prior (County Swiss Teams); Rod Bell, Stephen Crouch, Chris & Sandra Bickerdike (Pivot Mixed Teams); Geoff Smith & Chris Bickerdike (Bodmin Swiss Pairs).

Cumbria

www.bridgewebs.com/cumbria/

COUNTY Teams qualifier:

1st, Babs Matthews, Tim Matthews, Ken Johnston & Ian Reeves; 2nd, Sam Norman, Alan Anderson, Robin Rose & John MacLachlan.

Pro-Am teams result :

1st Christine Johnston, Angela Hewitt, Ken Johnston & Ian Reeves; 2nd, Maureen Mitchell, Harry Kay, Joan Mossop & Geoff Thomson.

IMP Pairs result :

1st, Ken Johnston & Ian Reeves; 2nd John MacLachlan & Robin Rose; 3rd Adam Aitken & Ian Smith.

Derbyshire

www.bridgewebs.com/derbyshire



WINTER team competitions are ongoing – see our website.

Details of all events scheduled by our County Association can be found on our website <http://www.bridgewebs.com/derbyshire> which also contains links to the websites for all affiliated clubs. If you are looking to play bridge in Derbyshire please visit our website.

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk



THE Chairman of the DBA (Mike Hamon) and the Hon Secretary (Terence Treeby) are both standing down at or before the AGM in June 2017. The committee has no Vice-Chairman.

The County urgently needs potential replacements for all three posts to come forward, either to take over early in 2017 or to join the committee and take over at the 2017 AGM.

All county results, committee news and minutes, etc are on the website www.devonbridge.co.uk

Dorset

www.bridgewebs.com/dorset



FLEMMICH Cup. 1st, Robin Wright, Doris Hutchinson, Steph Donner & Roy Riley, 2nd= Andrew Barnett, Michel Yeo, Geoff Cave & Sarah Fazakerley, 2nd= Terry Carpenter, Jim Cowling, Stephen Coltman & Catherine Lynn.

Weymouth & Hardwick Cups. 1st, Bob Mott, Ann Sharples, Keith Bartlett & Barrie Cantello (Hardwick Cup winner), 2nd, Tim Fleury, Bob Williamson, Frances Keene & Joan Meech (Weymouth Cup winner), 3rd, Hilary Brain, Pam Hirst, Tim Limbach & Brian Browse.



Weymouth Cup winners. From left, Frances Keene, Joan Meech, Tim Fleury and Bob Williamson

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



THE League Cup was won by Ultra Llama, who beat Loughton Collier in the final. Team members are Marc Chawner, Graham Foster, Simon Moorman & Steve Cade-Bower.

Autumn Seniors: 1st, Stephanie & Laurie Burt; 2nd, Val & Paul Mollison; 3rd, Peter Oake & Frank Morrison.

Sue Taylor Memorial Trophy: 1st, Margaret Curtis, David Sherman, Peter Franklin & Frank Morrison; 2nd, Linda Fleet, Coral Fallon, Alan Aylott & Jon Ward.

Mixed Pairs: 1st, John Stimson & Winnie Godber; 2nd, Richard Perryman & Mary Homer; 3rd, Steven Cutter & Val Card.

Martin & Sandy Smith took The Flich (highest married pair).

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk



THE Bredon Vale Interclub Championship was won by EDF Energy (Peter Swales & Jon Nicholls, Elizabeth & Glenn Bourne) ahead of Thrubb and Tewkesbury A.

Cheltenham Bridge Club's popular Tuesday evening Swiss Pairs event was more exciting than usual in November. The club's basement cafe managed to trip the electrical circuits and wipe out both the scoring software and the BridgeMates not once but twice in the same evening! After recovering the scores and movement, the event proceeded to the usual exciting finish only five minutes behind schedule. Andrew Courtman & Geoff Foster clinched the top honours in the final match from a field of 24 tables playing five rounds of five board matches. Whilst we can't promise this excitement every time, visitors are most welcome to Cheltenham (fourth Tuesdays).

Hants and IoW

www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/



PETERSFIELD BP Swiss Teams, Andrew Bennett & Rosalind Concanon, David Willis & Tim Smith. Mixed Pairs, Christine & Richard Ray. Teams of 8, Richard Assad & Jenny Ashby, David Willis & Tim Smith, Owen Leigh & Steve Preston, Tony Trulock & Stuart Burnett. Wessex/Bloxham Teams of 4, Steve Preston & Andy Hughes, Fred Hotchen & John Sherringham.

Hertfordshire

www.hertsbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to all the following winners – spread across many clubs showing the strength and depth of bridge in the county: The Rose Bowl was won by Helen Robinson & June Ball, Richard Banbury & Jeff Green who are eligible to represent the county at the Beck Cup. The Club Winners Cup was won by Roger Edmonds & George Summers representing Hemel Hempstead BC. The HBA Mixed Pairs was won by Malcolm Harris & Maria Budd. The winners of the Eccles Cup were Royston BC ahead of St Albans BC. Leverstock Green BC won the Des Flockhart (Teams of Eight) Trophy.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk



SWANLEY BC Autumn weekend: Open pairs winners Janet & Martin Davies NS, Jane & Karan Chopra EW; Pairs final winners Keith Gravestock & Morag Gibson; Swiss Teams winners Stefan Syplywczak & Dave Crawley with Colin Washbrook & Carol Hawkins.

Diary dates: 31 Mar-2 Apr, Swanley BC Spring Weekend.

Lancashire

www.bridgewebs.com/lancs



LCBA Congress Pairs: 1st Jeff Smith & Andrew Petrie.

LCBA Congress Teams: 1st, Alan & Kath Nelson, Jeff Smith & Jackie Pye.

Pendle Witch Pairs: 1st, Boris Ewart & Peter Foster
Foundation Cup: 1st, Peter Foster, John Roberts, Gillian McMullan & Neil Foster.
Lytham Rose Bowl: 1st Jeff Smith & Marianne Farr.

Leicestershire

www.bridgewebs.com/leicestershire/



THE Otto & Edith Cup (Mixed Pairs) was won by Dick & Lucy Pathan with Rick Wilde & Susan Bowyer in 2nd place.

The Stanley Trophy (Butler Imped Pairs) leaders after three rounds are Peter Halford & John Milne. Close behind are Dick & Lucy Pathan. Best placed of those who have played only two heats are Ian Bruce & Mick Mahoney.

League (Club Teams of 8) Divisional leaders are: Div 1 – Clarendon; Div 2 – Ashby 'A'; Div 3 – Golf; Div 4 – Ashby 'B' & Bradgate 'B'.

The Leicestershire Cup (Aggregate scored Teams of Four) had 12 entries in Round 1.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



The Men's IMP Pairs in October was won by Corneliu Rimboiu & Ting To with Simon Gass & Alan Scott second and Mark Nelson & Liam Sanderson third. The Women's IMP Pairs held

alongside was won by Nevena Senior & Brigid Battiscombe, with Heather Bakhshi & Claire Robinson second and Lyn Poole & Lissie Cocking third.

Manchester

www.manchesterbridge.org.uk



Ben Franks Trophy and Qualifier

In a very close finish John Holland & Michael Byrne won, with Rodney Lighton & John Currie second, Alan Mould & Alec Smalley third and Nicholas Greer & John Parsons fourth. These pairs qualify for the Corwen Trophy in June. Andrew Jackson & Graham Campbell were the top placed intermediates, finishing in eleventh place. John Holland has now won the event seven times, more than any other player. Tollemache Qualifier.

Manchester's finest played in the inter county teams of eight on 19-20th Nov in Birmingham. The team of John Holland, Gary Hyett, Alan Mould, Ollie Burgess, Tom Slater, Alec Smalley, Michael Byrne, Michael Newman (npc Rhona Goldenfield), with Bernard Goldenfield substituting seven boards for Ollie Burgess, were drawn in group A against Leicester, Lancashire, North East, Berks & Bucks, Channel Islands, Norfolk, Derbyshire and Northants. They spent most of Sunday battling for second place with Lancashire. Eventually a ruling went Manchester's way and they scraped through by 1 VP.

Alan Mould and Ollie Burgess were best on the cross IMPs (apart from Bernard who led the whole field by virtue of his seven boards).

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk



THE Eric Howarth trophy, which serves as our Corwen trophy qualifier, was won by Chris Pope & Andrew Prothero. Julian Merrill & Paul Roberts were the runners-up.

The Merseyside Cup (Intermediate Teams) was won by John Fay, Pauline Norman, Pat Arthur and Stephanie Howard.

Norfolk

www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/



THE Orb Paquet Swiss Pairs Trophy was held in early October and won by John Dennis & Mark Hill. In later October the Smart Trophy, a point-a-board teams event, was won by Gary Putman, Peter Cotes, Maureen Kimbley & Bogdan

Drobny.

Our next event was the Allwood Wharton Inter-club Teams of Eight. If last year was an upset, this was more so! The winners were Beccles Bridge Club followed by the Norfolk & Norwich B team, with the A team coming in fourth. Sadly Beccles are not planning to attend the Garden Cities competition – at least they will avoid the fate of last year's winners who came last in the Regional heat.

In early December the county played its last competition in 2016. The Barclays Bank trophy was won by Mervyn Scutter and Clive Turner.

Looking ahead to 2017. In late February we hold the Barbara Dick-Cleland and Buxton Trophies for less experienced pairs – free entry as well! In March there is the Hudson Cup followed by the Norfolk Congress – hopefully with a large turnout – see you all there!

North East

www.neba.co.uk



VERY clear winners of the Gazette Cup in mid-October were Ken Yates & Gypsy Ann Nichol with Frank Springett & Brenda Osborne coming second. In a really close finish, the Gazette Shield was won by John Beaumont & Barry Graham, just ahead of Nigel Martin & Adrian Darnell. A clear victory was also achieved in the King Cup for Ladies Pair by Beverley Godfrey & Val Gibson from Alison Young & Audrey Bainbridge.

Results of mid-November's NEBA Congress: Championship Pairs, Liz Commins & David Stevenson; Championship Teams, Liz Commins, David Stevenson, Steve & Georgia Ray; Gentlemen's Pairs, Frank Springett & Bernard Shepherd; Ladies' Pairs, Audrey Bainbridge & Denise Barham-Hall; Mixed Pairs, Pam & Alan Greenhill; Newcomer's Pairs, Ivan Turner & Bob Doughty. Congratulations go to all successful players.

Nottinghamshire

www.bridgewebs.com/nottinghamshire



THE county has started the season rather well. The Dawes team have won two and drawn one of their three matches. The latest, against Leicestershire, was outstandingly successful with wins of 20:0, 12:8 and 14:6 respectively for the first team onwards. Special mention is due to Steve Raine and

Ankush Khandelwal who average +60 over the first three matches.

The Inter County Teams of Eight competition, the Tollemache, was held in November over two days in Birmingham. The Notts team produced the best result for many years coming fourth in Group D, just 2VP's behind the qualifying second place. It's a tough competition; in our group Willie Crook was far and away the leading player with Ankush Khandelwal in fourth place. Willie & Ankush were the best pair.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



THE OBA Men's Pairs was won by Malcolm Currie & John Slater with Chris Wilson & John Williams in 2nd place.

The OBA Ladies' Pairs was won by Emily Middleton & Diana Nettleton with Beryl Kerr & Kathy Talbot in 2nd place.

The OBA Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs was won by Robert Procter & John Deech. Emily Middleton & Chris Dawe were second.

Somerset

www.bridgewebs.com/somerset



WELL done to Gina & David Howard, Roger Sweet & Graham Heal on winning the County Mixed Teams in October. Runners up were Chris King, Steve Tomlinson, Grant Weston and Sheila Coda.

The winners of the Restricted Inter-Club Pairs held in early November were Tony Woods & Michael Martin. The runners up were Steve Fletcher & Grant Weston.

Alan & Jette Bailey with Eric Cummings and Ceri Pierce won the Swiss Teams in late November. The runners up were Sally Stuttard & Chris Thomas with Terry Stuttard & Richard Feetenby.

Staffs and Shrops

www.staffsandshrops.org.uk



RICHARD & Jane Mayer from Basford won the Castle Comfort Cup at Newcastle-under-Lyme BC, in mid-November (see photo below).

The Jane Davies Individual competition at Border Bridge Club was won by Graham Wenman in mid-October.



Castle Comfort Cup winners – Jane and Richard Mayer

Mike McCartney & Roger Picton won the Shrewsbury Club Championship Pairs at the beginning of November.

At Stafford, Adrienne & Harry Jones won the Arthur Bloxham Trophy, Robin Adey & Ivor Clarke won the Club Pairs, and the Men's Pairs. Rose Jessop & Ann Sleightholme won the Ladies' Pairs.

Martyn Watkinson & Marcus Eassom won the 2016 Club Championship Pairs at Wolverhampton.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



SUFFOLK Simultaneous Pairs: 1st, Mike Williams & Bill Johnston; 2nd, Frank Mansfield & Mike Del-Bo

3rd, Paul Flavell & Bridget Smith; 4th, John Pearson & Clive Rowe.

Championship Teams-of-Eight: 1st, Ipswich & Kesgrave; 2nd, Colchester A; 3rd, Ipswich Hospitals.

Club Teams of Four: 1st, Woodbridge (Dave Walker, John Pearson, Viv Mason & Tony Baker); 2nd, Stansfield (Bridget Smith, Paul Flavell, Celia Jeal & Richard Evans); 3rd, Colchester (David Morran, Julian Lang, Jill Tattersfield, Roger Tattersfield).

Surrey

www.bridgewebs.com/surrey



CONGRATULATIONS to Graham E Osborne & Steve Lock on winning the Senior Pairs.

Peter Hardymnt and Saji Ispahani won the Club Pairs Challenge.

Sussex

www.sccba.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Neil Watts & Chris Jepson who won the Midweek Swiss Pairs. The runners-up were Liz Lancaster & Lindsay Geddes and in 3rd place were Fran Thornton & Richard Burnett.

Many congratulations to Frances Fuller & Joan Kellett who won the SCCBA Ladies Pairs. The runners-up were Linda Gardiner & Sally Bugden and in 3rd place were Liz Hoskins & Jill Armstrong.

At the Autumn Congress the Swiss Pairs was won by Tom Brogan & Matt Smith. The Teams event was won by Gerry Stanford, Dave Franklin, Mick Carrington & Martin Pool.

One of the SCCBA's prestigious events – the Invitation Pairs – has been won for the third year in succession by Tim Dickinson & Shefton Kaplan. In a close finish, David Dickson & John Frosztega were second and Ian Lancaster & Andrew Southwell were third.

The winners of the East Grinstead Basic Pairs were Colin & Julie Hillyer and the runners-up were Hazel Ogden & Betty Lecky-Thompson. Thomas Serkowski & Jim Downes together with Christine Jex & Joyce de Ath won the Stratification prizes. Well done to all!

Worcestershire

www.bridgewebs.com/worcestershire



THE County Mixed Teams was held in October. The winners were Richard Jephcott, Steve Allerston, Nick & Stephanie Forward and the runners-up were Sue Lane, Marian Wilcox, Matt Newton and Geoffrey Herbert.

In the Healey Cup, Droitwich BC, represented by Dennis Loynes, Steph Forward, Paul Greaves & Terry Collins, led the way and Worcester BC, represented by Mike Vetch, David Waide and Dick & Jane Rutter, secured the runners-up spot.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.co.uk/



RYEDALE Pairs: 1st, Wei Che Tham & Jason Levesley; 2nd, Tricia Pearce & Stanley Bough; 3rd, Margaret & Laurence Andrews; 4th, James Carpenter & Stuart Kay; 5th, Jane & Chris Matthews.

Mixed Pivot Teams: 1st, Stuart Davies, Liz Wickens, Steve Blackburn & George Bak; 2nd, Sandy Davies, Daniel Winter, Tom Gisborne & Dave Robinson; 3rd, Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior, Brian Senior & Ollie Burgess.

