

Baldrick Rides Again – Brian Senior Schapiro Spring Foursomes 2015

On occasion, playing a simple game just doesn't appeal – you feel it is time to 'step out' and try to be a little more imaginative. On this first board I decided it was a good idea to try to steal the opponents' suit – or, at a minimum, sow some confusion if possible.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♥	2♠(i)	4♥
Dble	4♠	Dble	All Pass

(i) Interest in the minors

Favourable vulnerability, fit for partner, short in the other major – what better time for a baby psyche? Hardly a very original idea and, as it turned out, hardly very successful either.

West cashed a top diamond then switched to a trump. My partner won dummy's ten and ran the ten of hearts so was down two for –300 on a board where the opposition cannot make anything above the one level. Yes, Baldrick would have been proud of that one.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	Pass
3♦	4♦	4♥(i)	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble(ii)	All	Pass	Pass

Partner opened 3♦ and the next hand showed both majors. Now, I wanted to save at the five level but, preferably, no higher, but there was a concern that if the opposing diamonds were two-zero N/S could have a slam.

(i) 'I have a cunning plan, my lord. If I bid 4♥, they will think that there is a heart ruff out even if there isn't, so they won't bid a slam'.

(ii) 'Does this cunning plan of yours allow for partner taking us seriously, Baldrick?' Well, 5♠ doubled duly went one down for a small gain. You might think it mildly fortunate to find the diamonds one-one on this auction, so allowing the contract to be defeated. In the words of another great TV character – 'I couldn't possibly comment'.