

Perhaps it's just the holiday season, but your Teaser-Master is finding it harder and harder to keep up with the monthly task of composing and formatting new teasers. At the start, nearly two years ago, it was fun and easy. So the Teaser will suspend offering new problems in January. We will have discussions and answers for the two currently active problems; two winners are still undetermined.

I *have* greatly enjoyed both the problems and the responses while the Teaser has been active. Thank you!

John Torrey

Scroll down for the current problems.

December Problem

♠8 5 4
♥K J 6
♦Q 9 5
♣A 10 7 6



♠A K 6 2
♥Q 8 2
♦A 8 6 2
♣K 5


<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♦	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♠J to your 3NT contract. Plan the play.

As is our custom, a Raleigh Bridge Club free play will go to the correct answer from the RBC member with the fewest masterpoints. “Correct” is a relative term; just saying “I lead X,” even if X is the winning play, will probably not qualify unless nobody else finds the play. You need to furnish some justification for your play. (On the other hand, a briefly or poorly stated but correct justification will fully qualify, if I can figure it out. This is not an essay contest.) I am the sole judge of what constitutes “correct.” Entries from non-RBC members are welcome and may receive mention next month, but of course will not gain the free-play prize. Send answers to JohnCTorrey@aol.com.

November Problem – Held Over

1.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i> 1 NT
All Pass			

West leads the ♥2 to your 1NT contract; you play low from dummy and East plays the Jack. Plan the play.

I received one (interesting but incorrect) response to this Teaser. As I sometimes do, I provide this month a hint, in the form of the unseen hands. As usual when I do this, I encourage you to treat this as a real bridge problem, not as a double-dummy one. What is the most practical approach to the play here?

The free-play is still in play! Send answers to JohnCTorrey@AOL.COM.