

Jude's Adventures of the Red Carbuncle

by David J. Weiss

It's maddening to be Jude's counterpart in a team match. I make perfectly normal plays, and am prepared for ordinary post-mortem analysis. But Jude does something obscure that happens to work out well for him, and my teammates blame me for the IMPs gone astray.

Take this 3NT (please Henny Youngman) I reached after a Stayman auction:

- ♠ 874
- ♥ 9842
- ♦ KJ95
- ♣ 98



- ♠ AQ6
- ♥ AJ6
- ♦ A10
- ♣ AQ632

The opening lead of the ♠J came around to my queen, East playing the three. My basic plan was to set up clubs for four tricks, using my sole dummy entry to finesse the queen. But I improved my chances by leading a low club toward the nine first.

Unfortunately, the club suit didn't lie well, and I went down. Hey, sometimes finesses lose.

- ♠ 874
- ♥ 9842
- ♦ KJ95
- ♣ 98



- ♠ KJ1092
- ♥ 1073
- ♦ Q
- ♣ K1075

- ♠ AQ6
- ♥ AJ6
- ♦ A10
- ♣ AQ632

- ♠ 53
- ♥ KQ5
- ♦ 876432
- ♣ J4

Jude did better. Before broaching the club suit, he cashed the ace of diamonds. After all, one round of that suit couldn't hurt. When West contributed the queen,

Jude believed that to be a true card and tossed him in by playing ace and another spade. Now that Jude had eight top tricks, he could afford to release small clubs on the run of the spade suit.

East attempted to help his partner by indicating heart strength as he pitched his useless diamonds from the top. The signals did allow West to avoid the immediately fatal club exit, but the ♥3 proved equally futile.

Declarer assumed that East had better hearts than clubs, and so maneuvered to score the ninth trick with the jack of hearts.

- ♠ AKJ
- ♥ A75
- ♦ AK10875
- ♣ K



- ♠ Q9
- ♥ Q108
- ♦ 962
- ♣ A6542

West	North	East	South
—	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

After bidding capably to the good slam, you receive the lead of the ♣J. Two high trumps reveal that East has a trump trick, so the play is straightforward. Isn't it?

Play ace and another spade to the queen, cash the ♣A pitching a heart from dummy, and ruff a club. Then ruff the

Jude's Adventures of the Red Carbuncle

king of spades with your last trump and ruff another club. If East has followed to everything, throw him in with a trump and hope he must lead from a soft heart holding. Guess right and claim. So long as East has no more than three spades and no more than four clubs, the slam staggers home.

That's how the deal went when I was East. My partner apologized for not leading a heart, although I could see no reason to lead anything but the sequence. Unlucky, but surely a push board if our guys got to the slam.

♠ AKJ		♠ 854
♥ A75		♥ KJ3
♦ AK10875		♦ QJ4
♣ K		♣ Q873
♠ 107632		
♥ 9642		
♦ 3		
♣ J109		

♠ Q9		
♥ Q108		
♦ 962		
♣ A6542		

No, not a push. And it was my fault, although all I did was follow suit.

At the other table, Jude beat the contract. 'How?', I demanded.

'Did he somehow find a way to elicit a heart lead?' No, the lead was the same.

Jude defeated the slam by dropping the ♦Q under the ace. Declarer used his spade entry to take the restricted choice finesse in trumps. After cashing the ♣A, our South pushed a trump toward dummy.

Showing literally Encyclopedic knowledge, declarer was mumbling '22 out of 34' when West showed out. South was not too shocked to win the ♦A and attempt to clear the black suits, but there were no longer enough hand entries to extract East's fourth club.

The third swing deal of the match was another dicey 3NT Jude made that I didn't. How would you have played it?

The ♣5 went to East's ace, with the ♣9 returned as West contributed the deuce.

♠ KJ6
♥ AK74
♦ 8652
♣ KJ

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A853
♥ Q63
♦ A109
♣ Q84

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Of course you know hearts can't be splitting, although obviously that's one of the primary chances. My line was to cross to the ♥Q for a spade finesse. If that won, or if spades were 3-3, or even if the ♠109 were doubleton, I would be home. I seemed to be a heavy favorite, but nothing worked and I was down. Again

Jude made the contract by leading a diamond to the ten at trick two. A typical maddeningly obscure Jude play, with apparently almost no way to gain. But here, why did it matter? East did not have all three honours. And in any case, how could Jude afford to play for that holding?

Wouldn't it be embarrassing to go down trying to set up a diamond trick when East held ♠Qxx and two diamond honours, say ♦KQx? No, that wasn't what the diamond play was about.

When the ten lost to West's queen and clubs were cleared, a small diamond was released from the board! Next came three

rounds of hearts, ending in hand so that Jude was poised to take the spade finesse if that seemed advisable.

♠ KJ6
♥ AK74
♦ 8652
♣ KJ

♠ 42
♥ J982
♦ Q7
♣ 107652

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q1097
♥ 105
♦ KJ43
♣ A93

♠ A853
♥ Q63
♦ A109
♣ Q84

Now that the entire deal is exposed, you can see the extra chance Jude was playing for. What should East release on the third heart? A spade is obviously fatal, and since declarer had bid the suit East knew to throw a diamond instead.

That wasn't good enough, though, since Jude now knew West had five clubs and four hearts. As East might have over-called holding five reasonable spades and a moderate hand, the actual distribution was by far the most likely one. Jude played ace and a diamond, and East was forced to lead a spade into the jaws. The effect of the diamond play was to isolate the diamond winners.

After grudgingly admitting that Jude's play was better than mine on this hand, I realized that the diamond duck could gain even if East had been dealt the four-card heart length. Declarer might judge from West's discard to cash the ♦A, cross to the ♠K and put East in with the last heart.

That exotic line would bring home the contract if East had started with:

♠ Q109x
♥ Jxxx
♦ Jx
♣ A93

although probably declarer's best chance given that heart division is simply to finesse the spade. The real point is that losing a diamond trick early can hardly lose, and good things often occur when the opponents have to place more cards on the table.

◆◆◆◆

THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB

32 Barkston Gardens,
London SW5

Mon, Wed, Fri - Good
standard duplicate 7.30 pm.

Tues, Thurs - Simple systems
duplicate 7.30pm

Smoking and non-smoking
sections in separate rooms

CLUB NOW FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED
IN HOT, HUMID WEATHER

For details ring:
0171 373 1665