

Jim's Lessons Week 2 Safety Plays

**Board 12**

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q J 5 3  
♥ J 10  
♦ 10 8 6 2  
♣ 10 9 8

♠ K 10 9 4

♥ Q 8 7

♦ A K 4

♣ A K 6



♠ A 8 6 2

♥ A 9 3

♦ Q 9

♣ 7 4 3 2

♠ 7

♥ K 6 5 4 2

♦ J 7 5 3

♣ Q J 5

NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 3♥; NS 4♣; NS 3♦;

Par +630

*West*            *North*            *East*            *South*

Pass            1 ♦            Pass            1 ♠

Pass            4 ♠            All pass

4 ♠ by South

Contract	By Lead Made	Scores		Pairs
		N-S	E-W	
3 NT	N ♥ 6	4	630	3 vs 3
4 ♠	S ♥ J	4	620	1 vs 6
4 ♠	S ♦ 2	4	620	7 vs 4
4 ♠	S ♦ 6	-1		100 2 vs 1
4 ♠	S ♥ J	-1		100 5 vs 7
6 ♠	S ♥ J	-3		300 6 vs 2

**Source: Puritan Bridge Club Game**

**Saturday May 27, 2017**

**\*\*\*Lead: ♥ J**

Of the six pairs in game it appears that only 3 of the pairs took the "safety play".

A safety play is when you realize that you must lose at least one more of a suit but by taking a finesse you take out a bit of insurance that all the spots still missing are not in one hand. If the suit breaks 3/2 you have no problem.

Safety plays are most valuable when one of the opponents has made a take out double or made a significantly high call in another suit.

Play of Hand. Missing both the queen and jack of trump, declarer knows he must lose at least one trump trick unless there is a doubleton queen/jack (which is extremely unlikely).

Declarer has a club loser, a heart loser, and at least one spade loser. Neither East nor West did any bidding so there are no clues in the bidding as to the best way to play spades. With the lead of the jack of hearts South covered with the queen and won his ace on the king of hearts played by East with his ace. He then led the ace of spades and no honor was played by the defenders. Realizing that he was still missing 2 honors, declarer then led up to the king/10/9 of trump. When an honor failed to appear from the West hand declarer played the 10 of trump. Two of the 4 declarers in 4 ♠ failed to make 10 tricks. Perhaps they played the king of spades first. The pair making 4 NT must have done it right or perhaps they never found there fit and West may have even led a spade.