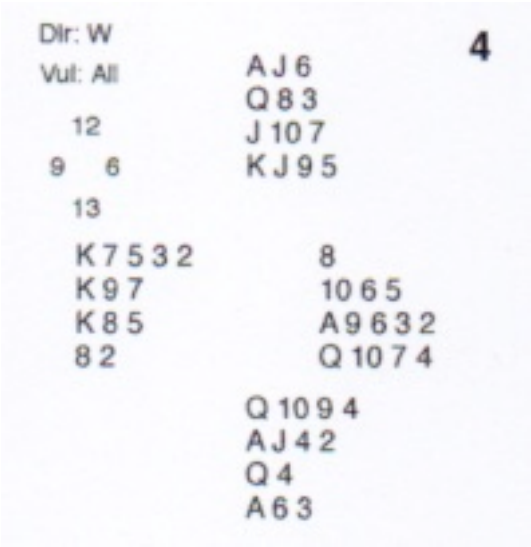
July 2019 Hand of the Month



In the Quirk Open game of 7/16/19 hand #4 illustrates a good defensive play by East. The contract is 3NT by North and the opening lead is the Diamond 3. West wins the trick with the King and the correct return to show count is the Diamond 8.

If East wins this trick, North has 9 tricks to make 3NT: 3Spades, 3 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 2 Clubs.

The correct play by East is to "duck" the Diamond return (since there is no entry). Before declarer can collect 9 tricks they must take a losing Heart finesse and West will lead the third Diamond setting the contract. The only way this defense can take place is East refusing to win trick 2!