

# The Rueful Rabbit

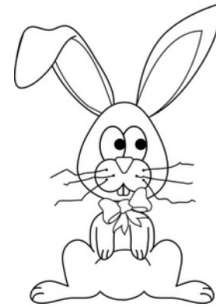
Bridge the lucky way  
by Prof David Albrecht

Dealer : N  
Vuln : E-W

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

W 9 E 6 S

♠ A  
♥ A K 10 9 8 5 3  
♦ 8  
♣ 9 7 6 5



## October 4, 2015 ♦ Issue #31

### A bad trump break falls, but doesn't land on Chicken Little

"How was I to know the little old lady who lived in a shoe was partial to stilettos? She skewered me."

"There I was, laid out in a finessable position. My Q-J-9-7 was in front of the A-K-10-8."

"And that's when my wife played seven consecutive contracts." This comment, of course, was cried with great anguish by the Knight In Shining Armor. Surrounded by other husbands, a hen pecked rooster cut him off, "My wife is also permanent declarer, but she doesn't play bridge."

At Little Bo Peep's table, "A ewe, a ram, and a lamb walked into a bar. Which one was wearing an acrylic sweater?"



It is wall to wall tonight in Bucksnot's Beverage and Chocolate Cafe. The day's duplicates have all been scored, and animated bridge players waving hand records are excitedly discussing their triumphs and failures. Good times are common at The Bridge Club.

Chicken Little has just been hoisted into the cafe on the shoulders of her favorite rooster and Bricks, the pig who constructs houses guaranteed never to be blown down no matter how hard a Big Bad Wolf might blow. The raucous crowd cheers, and a wealthy patron hollers (with a nod to Mollo's Rueful Rabbit), "The chocolate, double almond cookies are on me."

Chicken Little is the cute American cousin to the Commonwealth's Henny Penny. Henny Penny was the first to gain fame for claiming, "The sky is falling." Little brought the concept to the bridge table by claiming, "The trumps are breaking badly." Little's fans go crazy when she brings home a contract with an adverse 5-0 trump break. Her fans also love it when she lays an egg at the table because trumps are 3-2 with the queen onside. She must have laid some eggs today because two peeping hatchlings have followed her into the cafe. That she is now standing on a table with mic in wing must mean that she has overcome some horrendous break.

She starts, "Cluck, cluck-cluck, cluck, pawk! Pawk, screech! Screech!" Which translates to, "Sometimes, trouble finds you. Sometimes you must go looking for it. But the best times are when you find each other!"

"My partner the Rooster, sitting North, deals and opens a strong one no trump. I have King fifth of spades, King fifth of clubs, and the Ace of diamonds, so I bid two hearts to transfer. LHO (West) doubles, who just happens to be Bob the Showoff. Of course it's our hand, Bob's just trying to draw attention to himself. He has heart length, heart strength, or both.

"My partner passes like the egg creating stud he is. To make that pass he should have length and strength in hearts and no particular desire to play a spade contract. The implication is clear, we have the cards to play in no trump.

"RHO, a stunningly beautiful female student, has nothing good to do. It's two hearts, doubled, to her. She shouldn't run to spades, because I have at least five behind her. She shouldn't run to three hearts, because if they can't beat two hearts, playing three hearts doubled will be brutally painful. She must pass and hope for the best, top or bottom.

"I have a powerful 10 HCP, so I probably should bid three no trump for partner to play. We're vulnerable, don't you know. But Bob has already

*hands rotated to show declarer as South*

		North (Rooster)	
D: N		♠ A 6	
V: NS		♥ K Q 9 7	
		♦ Q 10 5 4	
		♣ A Q 6	
		West (Bob the Showoff)	East (female student)
		♠ 8 2	♠ Q J 5 4
		♥ A J 10 8 6 3	♥ 5 4 2
		♦ K J 2	♦ 8 6 3
		♣ J 10	♣ 9 7 5
		South (Chicken Little)	
		♠ K 10 9 7 3	
		♥ -----	
		♦ A 9 7	
		♣ K 8 4 3 2	
W	N	E	S
<i>Bob</i>	<i>Rooster</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>CLittle</i>
	1NT	p	2♥†
✕††	p	p	p†††
	†	transfer	
	††	lead directing, have long hearts	
	†††	temptation too much to pass up	

disclosed the heart suit, and you know how I like the challenge of a bad trump break, so I convert his lead directing double to penalty. That's right, I get to play the contract, two hearts doubled, in my void. Pawk-pawk! Screech!" And the crowd roars.

"Bob, in the West, leads the J♣. Dummy comes down, can you see it on the big screen? For winners I have two top spades, two top clubs, the A♦ and possibly the Q♦ from an end play, and three or four ruffs. Surely there is enough for eight tricks. Making two hearts doubled is game, and scores better than three no trump making five.



"So I win the opening lead with the A♣ (1-0), and cash the Q♣. It wins (2-0). Then I play dummy's A♠ (3-0) and lead a small spade to my K♠ which wins (4-0). I lead the 7♠. When Bob sluffs a diamond, I can ruff small with dummy's 7♥ (5-0). I lead a small diamond from dummy to my A♦ (6-0). I then lead a small spade toward dummy. Trying to make something happen, Bob ruffs with the J♥. I over ruff with dummy's Q♥ (7-0). I lead a club from dummy toward my K♣ which Bob ruffs (7-1). He leads a small heart, which I win with the K♥ (8-1) in dummy. Bob then claims the rest of the tricks (8-5).

"When you play in your void, the trumps always break badly.

"Two hearts doubled, vulnerable, scores +670, which beats everybody else in three no trump making four or five. I'm glad trouble and I found each other. Life is good, pawk!" And so are chocolate, double almond cookies.

This deal appeared in the Common Game, September 30, 2015.

-----  
Questions or comments? Email me at [wdaidalbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:wdaidalbrecht@gmail.com), or text me at 419-575-4513.

-----  
In total there are 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 (or 53.6 octillion) different bridge deals possible, which is equal to  $52!/(13!)^4$ . The deal presented in this issue of *The Rueful Rabbit* is but one of them. Bridge deals are not subject to copyright protection, but what is written about any bridge deal can be copyrighted.

## Stuff

This column/blog is titled *The Rueful Rabbit*. It is my way of paying homage to Victor Mollo. I have a copy of all 13 published collections of Victor Mollo's bridge columns featuring the *Bridge Menagerie*. I've grown to love his characters: Rueful Rabbit, Hideous Hog, and Oscar the Owl.

Forward **The Rueful Rabbit**  
to all your friends

Many characters from classical literature and folklore are bridge addicts, and their stories appear in *The Rueful Rabbit*. The Knight In Shining Armor, Damsel In Distress, Black Knight, Big Bad Wolf and pack wolves, Little Red Riding Hood, 3 house building pigs, 3 blind mice and the Farmer's Wife, Little Bo Peep and her sheep, and Chicken Little, are characters from long ago folklore. Papa Pig the Hand Hog is a fictional character, as are the Terminator, Bob the Showoff and Rude Ruthie.

If you like *The Rueful Rabbit*, please forward it freely to your friends or print them a copy. It is distributed only by email, and **it is free**. New subscribers can get on the distribution list by emailing me at [wdaidalbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:wdaidalbrecht@gmail.com), or texting me at 1-419-575-4513. Subscription is free! Email me if you want a prior issue. Subscription information can be found at <http://ruefulrabbit.wordpress.com>. *The Rueful Rabbit* may not be displayed on any web site or included in any printed or electronic publication without paying a fee.



There are readers of *The Rueful Rabbit* in the United States, Canada, India, Mexico and New Zealand.

David Albrecht plays bridge at the Vanderbilt Bridge Club in Nashville, TN, U.S..

The stories told in this issue of *The Rueful Rabbit* are copyrighted © 2015, by David Albrecht.

David Albrecht, Ph.D.  
Author, blogger, bridge player, professor  
Bio: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/profalbrecht>

945 Hwy 438; Centerville, TN, 37033  
[wdaidalbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:wdaidalbrecht@gmail.com)  
419-575-4513

