

Controlling Trumps



Tom Snow
(805) 305-5035
coinerbop@gmail.com

Time for a Joke

Morris, the loudmouth mechanic, was removing the cylinder heads from a car when he spotted the famous heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey, who was standing off to the side, waiting for the service manager to take a look at his Mercedes.

Morris shouted across the garage, "Hey DeBakey! Is dat you? Come on ova' here a minute."

The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to where Morris the mechanic was working on the car.

Morris straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked argumentatively, "So Mr. Fancy Doctor, look at dis here work. I also open hearts, take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish dis baby will purr like a kitten. So how come you get da big bucks, when you an' me is doing basically da same work?"

Dr. DeBakey leaned over and whispered to Morris the loudmouth mechanic. "Try doing it with the engine running."

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Hand #1

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1D	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Vul: N/S
Lead: J♥

West
♠
♥ J
♦
♣

North
♠ 8752
♥ AK76
♦ A3
♣ J85

East
♠
♥
♦
♣

South
♠ A964
♥ 43
♦ KQ72
♣ A43



Plan the play.

Controlling Trumps

Hand #1

North	East	South	West
		1D	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Vul: N/S
Lead: J♥

West
 ♠ 103
 ♥ J108
 ♦ J964
 ♣ Q1092

North
 ♠ 8752
 ♥ AK76
 ♦ A3
 ♣ J85



I must say, Mr. Baskerville, we rather expected something larger!

East
 ♠ KQJ
 ♥ Q952
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ K76

You need to ruff 2 ♥'s in your hand, but if you play the A♠ first, the opponents will draw 3 trumps from each hand.

Take the K♥ and duck a ♠ trick to the opponents.

South
 ♠ A964
 ♥ 43
 ♦ KQ72
 ♣ A43

Now regain the lead, cash the A♠, and go ruff whatever you need to make your contract.

You will eventually lose 1 ♣ trick and 2 trump tricks (+620).

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Hand #2

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1S	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Vul: N/S
Lead: J♥

West
♠
♥**J**
♦
♣

North
♠ 764
♥ 652
♦ 10863
♣ AK3

East
♠
♥
♦
♣

**South was rather ambitious.
Can he back up his bravado?**

Plan the play.

South
♠ AKJ103
♥ AKQ3
♦ 42
♣ 82



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Hand #2

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1S	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Vul: N/S
Lead: J♥

West
 ♠ Q82
 ♥ J10
 ♦ KJ97
 ♣ Q1074

North
 ♠ 764
 ♥ 652
 ♦ 10863
 ♣ AK3

East
 ♠ 95
 ♥ 9874
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ J965

South
 ♠ AKJ103
 ♥ AKQ3
 ♦ 42
 ♣ 82



You will lose 2 ♦'s tricks, and possibly a ♠ loser and a ♥ loser.

The ♠ finesse is 50% but the ♠'s breaking 3-2 or 2-3 is 68%

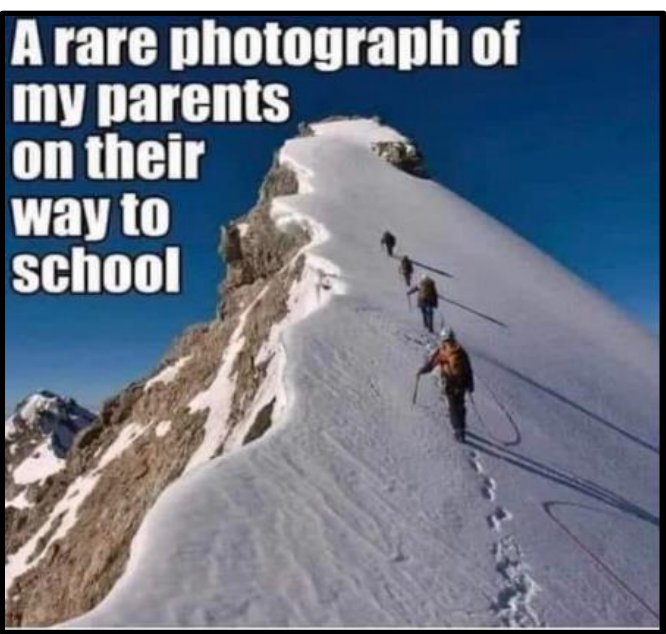
If you bang down the A♠ and K♠, you will still have a ♠ left in dummy to ruff your 4th ♥.

If you take the ♠ finesse (50%), you will go down. Play the odds.

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Hand #3

A rare photograph of my parents on their way to school



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	Pass		

North
 ♠ 93
 ♥ AQJ84
 ♦ 9742
 ♣ 102

Vul: N/S
Lead: 9♥

West
 ♠
 ♥ 9
 ♦
 ♣

East
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

South
 ♠ AK8542
 ♥ K2
 ♦ AQ3
 ♣ J9

Plan the play.

Controlling Trumps

Hand #3

A rare photograph of my parents on their way to school



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	Pass		

North
 ♠ ~~93~~
 ♥ AQJ84
 ♦ 9742
 ♣ 102

Vul: N/S
 Lead: 9♥

West
 ♠ ~~016~~
 ♥ ~~93~~
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ A7653

East
 ♠ ~~107~~
 ♥ 10765
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ KQ84

South
 ♠ ~~AK8542~~
 ♥ ~~K2~~
 ♦ AQ3
 ♣ J9

You can usually let an opponent hang onto their high trump(s), but **NOT** when it can disrupt your entry back to a long source of tricks.

After playing the A♠ and K♠, don't be tempted to quickly cash ♥'s to dump your ♣ losers.

Give them their last trump trick first, to be able to run all the ♥'s.

One More Joke

From Jack Benny, the famous cheapskate:

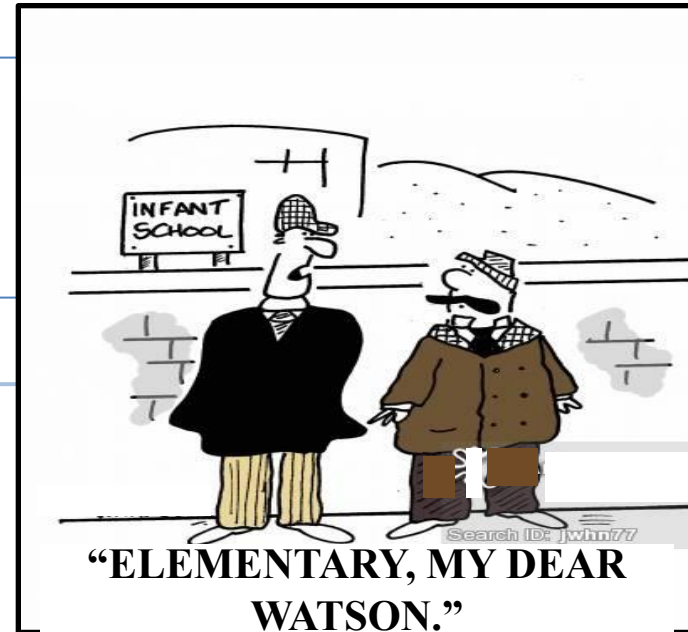
I was in an antique shop looking for a gift for a friend. While I was looking, another customer accidentally knocked over a nice old vase. As the manager was collecting the pieces, I inquired as to the price of the unsalvageable vase, and the manager said, “You can have it all for a buck, but I’ve no idea of why you’d want it.”

I told him a dollar was fine, and after checking out, I asked him if he could gift-wrap it and mail it to my friend. He shrugged and said, “Well, ok, I guess.”

A couple of weeks later, I received a nice thank-you-note from my friend which said: “Dear Jack, thank you for the lovely gift. It’s a shame it was broken but thank you for going to the trouble of wrapping each piece separately.”

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Hand #4



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
			1C
Pass	1H	1S	2H
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

North
 ♠ Q87
 ♥ 7642
 ♦ KQ1054
 ♣ 9

Vul: N/S
 Lead: 6♦

West
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦ 6
 ♣

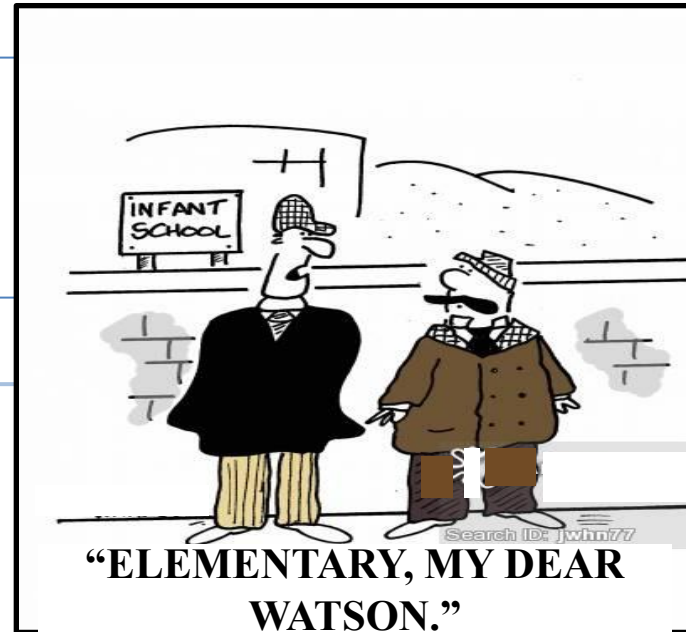
East
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

Plan the play.

South
 ♠ A10542
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A732
 ♣ AK10

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Hand #4



North	East	South	West
			1C
Pass	1H	1S	2H
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

North
 ♠ Q87
 ♥ 7642
 ♦ KQ1054
 ♣ 9

East
 ♠ 3
 ♥ QJ853
 ♦ J98
 ♣ Q876

Vul: N/S
 Lead: 6♦

West
 ♠ KJ96
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J5432

South
 ♠ A10542
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A732
 ♣ AK10

Take the ♦ lead in your hand, and lead a low ♠ to maintain control of the trump suit.

You'll make 4S, losing a ♥ and two ♠'s.

If West just keeps leading the suit they agreed upon (♥'s), South will lose control of his trump suit and go down in 4S.

Don't look for ruffs with natural trump tricks!

Playtime

