

Using Your Clues



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Time for a Joke



A young doctor moved to a small town and accompanied the retiring doctor on his rounds to meet the community.

At the first house, an old woman complains, “I’ve been a little sick to my stomach.”

The older doctor says, “Well, you’ve probably been overdoing the fresh fruit. Cut back on the amount you’ve been eating and see if that helps.”

As they left, the younger doctor says to him, “You didn’t even examine that woman? How’d you come to the diagnosis so quickly?”

“I didn’t have to,” replies the elder. “I dropped my stethoscope on the floor, and when I bent over to pick it up, I noticed a half dozen banana peels in the trash.”

“Very clever,” says the younger doctor. “Maybe I’ll try that at the next house.”

At their next visit, a young gal told them she was feeling run down lately.

“You’ve been doing too much for the Church,” said the younger doctor.

After they left, the older doctor says, “Your diagnosis was probably correct, but how did you know she’s very active in the church?”

The younger doctor replies, “I did what you did at the last house. I dropped my stethoscope and, when I bent down to retrieve it, I noticed the vicar under the bed.”

The Bennett Murder Trial



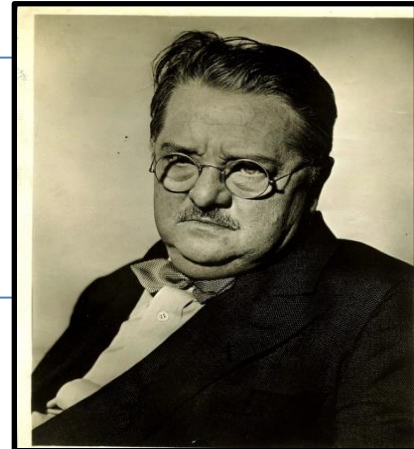
Playing bridge is like going to a special gym for the mind. It's as addictive as golf and can be learned in a week, or studied for a lifetime. One facet that separates bridge from most other games is that one shares one's fate, win or lose, with another person. Partnership emotions run the full gamut, from adoration to sympathy, from support to skillfully applied "one-upsmanship." The pastime has been likened to teaching your spouse how to drive while on amphetamines.

In 1929, the Bennetts of Kansas City, Missouri, invited the Hofmans to their home for an evening of rubber bridge. After a heated discussion over a hand, Myrtle Bennett went to the bedroom and retrieved a pistol. She chased after her husband and fired twice through the bathroom door, missing him both times. Mr. Bennett then rushed out into the living room and to the front door. His wife caught up with him and shot him two times before he could open it. The second shot was fatal, adding new meaning to the bridge term "drop dead bid."

Surprisingly, a diagram of the bridge hand was entered as evidence at Myrtle's trial. She claimed to the court that she had bumped into a chair, causing the gun to go off accidentally. Myrtle was found innocent, despite the two bullet holes in the bathroom door and the two in Mr. Bennett.

Myrtle Bennett – Years After the Trial

Along with Dorothy
Parker, Edna Ferber,
Harpo Marx,
Robert Benchley,
etc.



Alexander Woollcott, a former prominent member of the “Algonquin Round Table” and notable columnist and critic for the New York Times, wrote about Mrs. Bennett in her post-acquittal years in his 1934 collection *While Rome Burns*:

“Myrtle Bennett has not allowed her bridge to grow rusty, even though she occasionally encounters an explicable difficulty in finding a partner. Recently she took on one unacquainted with her history. Having made an impulsive bid, he put his hand down with some diffidence. “Partner,” he said, “I’m afraid you’ll want to shoot me for this.” Mrs. Bennett, says my informant, had the good taste to faint.”

The Barry Crane Murder: Unsolved



Barry Crane, the contract bridge expert who won more titles than anyone else in the history of the game, was found slain in Los Angeles in 1985. He was 57 years old and by profession was a television producer and director (“Mission: Impossible,” “Mannix,” “The Six-Million-Dollar Man,” “Hawaii Five-O,” “Bionic Woman,” “Police Story,” “Trapper John, M.D.,” “Chips” and “Dallas.”)

He was found bludgeoned shortly before 3 P.M. in the garage of his luxury town home in Studio City, a neighborhood of Los Angeles. The police said he was apparently killed in the apartment and dragged to the garage.

Lieut. Ron LaRue of the police said that no motive for the killing was apparent and that no arrests had been made.

Mr. Crane had just competed in Pasadena, Calif., at a regional tournament that had become the nation's largest. His team had reached the final in the Knockout Team Championship, and one of his favorite partners, Kerri Shuman of Los Angeles, agreed to play in his stead for the final match. The Crane team won.

Mr. Crane, as an amateur in a game dominated by professionals, had outdistanced everyone. His career total of master points reached 35,000. His nearest challenger had fewer than 24,000.

Mystery #1:

What is your opening lead?

When you defend, try to build a snapshot of the other 3 hands.

Examine HCPs & Shapes



Solution:

Lead a ♠! The Q♦ looks tempting, but don't let declarer trump his ♥'s in dummy! Any honor partner has in trumps is trapped anyway.

East:

♠82 ♥KQ108 ♦QJ7 ♣J962

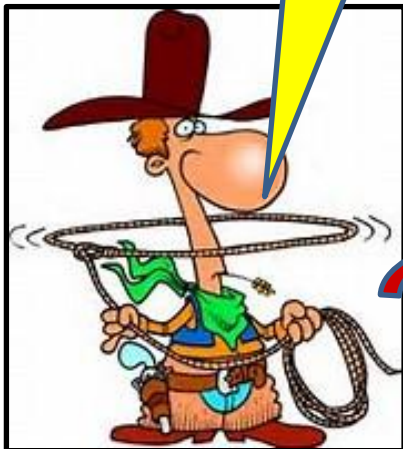
9 HCPs

What are North's and South's most likely shapes?

You have 9 HCPs. How many does partner have?

~8 HCPs

All my eyes are from Texas!



- Called a Help Suit Game Try:
- xxxx
- Axxx
- Jxx

North	East	South	West
1S	Pass	2S	Pass
3H*	Pass	3S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North:

♠xxxxx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣xx

15-17 HCPs

South:

♠xxx ♥xx ♦xxxx ♣xxxx

6-8 HCPs

HCP's:

They have: 23
 You have: 9
 Partner has: 8
 TOTAL: 40

Mystery #2:

Who has the Q♣?

Counting Points

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

Vul: N/S

Lead: K♥

Time to review your clues:

West has 6 hearts with 5 HCPs in them.

North

♠ KQ108

♥ 632

♦ K95

♣ AJ2

East

♠

♥ A9

♦

6

♣

South

♠ AJ72

♥ J8

♦ A4

♣ K10873



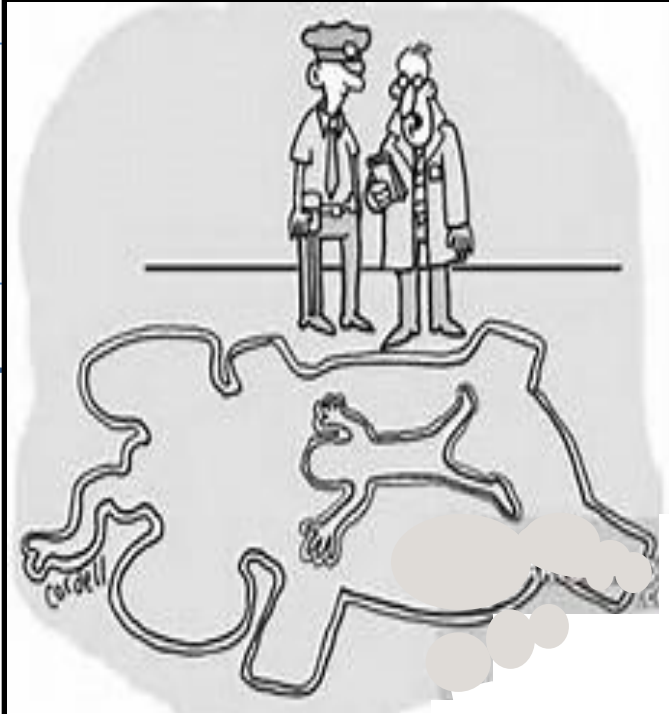
Solution:

If West has the Q♣, he probably would've opened the bidding 2H, especially Not Vul.

Mystery #3:

Should I take
any action?

The Plot



“We knew the elephant died when
he jumped off the roof, but as for
the other guy, it’s a mystery!”

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

Vul: E-W
Dir: East

South
♠ AJ92
♥ 8
♦ J104
♣ Q10984

Mystery #3:

Should I take any action?

Let's Look at the Clues



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

Vul: E-W
Dir: East

South
♠ AJ92
♥ 8
♦ J104
♣ Q10984

To solve the mystery, first answer these questions:

1) What is East's likely shape and strength?

Since East opened 1D and rebid 2C, he showed five diamonds and at least four clubs. His delayed heart support (temporizing) confirmed three cards in that suit, and therefore has a singleton or void in spades. His jump to 3H showed extra values, a hand worth 15 to 17 playing points.

Mystery #3:

Should I take any action?

Let's Look at the Clues



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

Vul: E-W
Dir: East

South
♠ AJ92
♥ 8
♦ J104
♣ Q10984

2) What is West's likely shape and strength?

West will have five hearts to proceed to game, and either three or four diamonds. The secret here is that West could not hold more than four spades, since with five spades and five hearts he would have responded 1S first and rebid his hearts later.

This means your partner (North) holds at least four spades and did not have enough HCPs to enter the auction.

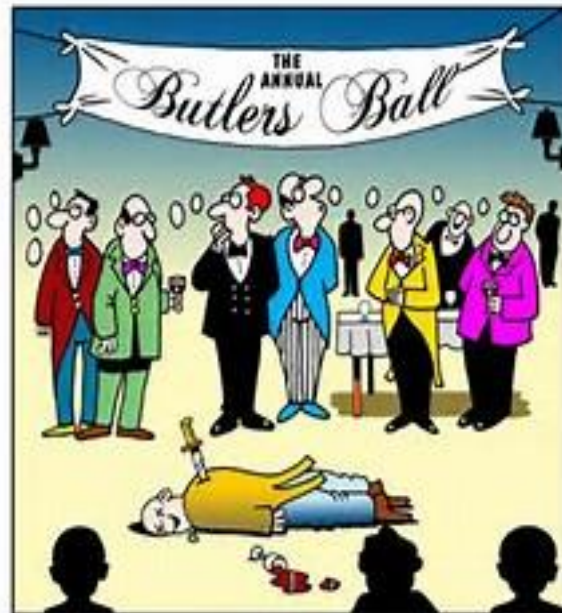
One More Joke

My wife and I have the secret to making a marriage last. Two times a week, we go to a nice restaurant and have a little wine and good food. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.

Mystery #3:

Should I take
any action?

Let's Look at the Clues



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

Vul: E-W
Dir: East

South
♠ AJ92
♥ 8
♦ J104
♣ Q10984

3) Will the opponents make 4♥?

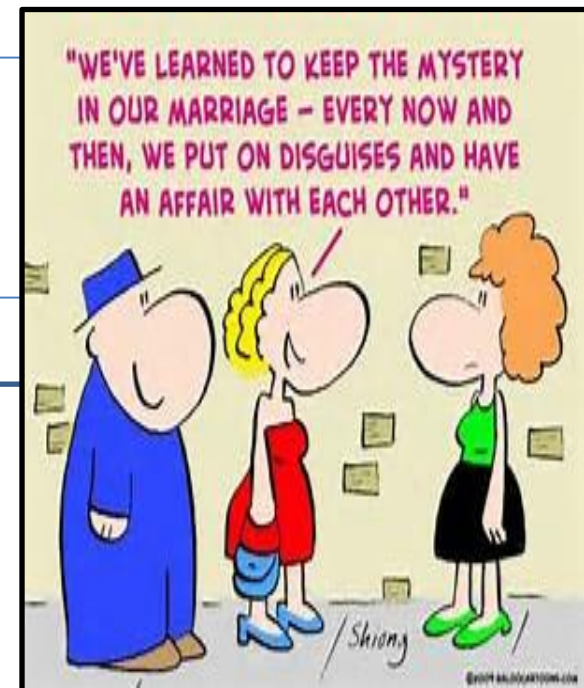
The opponents are highly likely to make 4♥ (-620), since your partner couldn't bid.

He rates to contribute only one or two tricks, maybe in the trump suit. You have one defensive trick (A♠) and they have a five-card diamond suit as a source of side tricks.

Mystery #3:

Should I take any action?

Let's Look at the Clues



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

Vul: E-W
Dir: East

South
♠ AJ92
♥ 8
♦ J104
♣ Q10984

4) How will you fare in 4♠?

You will probably lose 1 heart, 2 clubs, 2 diamonds and maybe a trump trick.

You can ruff three of your partner's hearts in your own hand (the short side of trumps).

Down two or three doubled (-300 or -500) versus -620 if they play in 4♥.

Who could blame North for not bidding his ratty spade suit with such a weak hand and a worthless K♦?

Mystery #3 Solved!



Elementary, my dear Watson!

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

North
 ♠ K8763
 ♥ 10852
 ♦ K7
 ♣ J5

Vul: E-W
 Dlr: East

West
 ♠ Q54
 ♥ AKJ63
 ♦ 832
 ♣ 107

East
 ♠ 10
 ♥ Q94
 ♦ AQ965
 ♣ AK62

South
 ♠ AJ92
 ♥ 8
 ♦ J104
 ♣ Q10984

Solution:
 With favorable vulnerability you should bid 4S!

The opponents will make 5H vulnerable (-650). You'll go down 2 doubled (-300) in 4S.

Playtime

