Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Crossword

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Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 🖤	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 🖤	Pass
3 NT	Pass	?	
What	would	vou bid	now with

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ J7 ♥ AKQJ952 ♦ 63 ♣ J8
2. ♠ KJ ♥ KQ9872 ♦ Q974 ♣ 4
3. ♠ 72 ♥ KQJ9764 ♦ À5 ♣ J6
4. ♠ AJ8 ♥ KJ8743 ♦ A75 ♣ K
* * *

1. Pass. There is no good reason to think that four hearts is safer than three notrump. On the contrary, partner will almost certainly be able to take nine quick tricks in notrump, as your hearts are solid and partner should have a stopper in any suit that is led. At four hearts, you could conceivably lose four tricks, particularly with partner having twice shown minimum values after opening the bidding. The hand can stand four losers in notrump, but not in hearts.

2. Four diamonds. This hand does not figure to lend itself well to notrump and is obviously better designed for suit play. Four diamonds (forcing) permits partner to go on to five diamonds, or possibly show belated support for hearts. Minor-suit games are relatively rare, since most hands with a potential for 11 tricks usually produce at least nine in notrump, but here the likelihood of making nine tricks in notrump is too remote.

3. Four hearts. The chance of making four hearts is excellent, while three notrump might prove very precarious. The danger in notrump is that the opponents, having the advantage of the opening lead, might establish their long suit before dummy's hearts can be established.

It might turn out that four hearts and three notrump can both be made, depending upon partner's hand, but in the long run four hearts will prove the surer bet.

4. Four diamonds. It's almost a sure thing that partner can make three notrump, but passing is not right because there is still too good a chance for a slam. For example, six diamonds would be a breeze if partner held:

[S] K92 [H] 5 [D] KQ9863 [C] AJ4

Investigating a slam by bidding four diamonds does not really jeopardize game possibilities. It keeps the avenue open to both a game and a slam, and what you do next depends largely on how partner reacts. Thus, if he now cuebids five clubs, indicating the club ace and interest in slam, you would go right to six diamonds.

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	3 ♦	Pass	4 🔶
Pass	5 🔶		
Opening 1	lead — te	n of hear	ts.



A BAD TEA DAY !

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Crankshaft • Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers



Cryptoquip

ROWFM VAOR OR VAM VOKM	KM Z PJR DGXH EZLHJWEZUUJX
VX RDCZE JZVMC XW KE	RJXJ KP Z MZBGSL BZFZQKPJ,
D B Z W V R , O J X Q B N F Z B B	BKFOW DGS IZUU OKB WOJ
O V Z K O R V X D D X C V Q W O V E . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MOVIE COMPANY WAS SCRAMBLING WITHOUT A FULL STAFF, BUT EVENTUALLY IT GOT A GRIP. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals I	H P K I H G M W K B J ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THIS IS THE TIME TO SPRAY WATER ON MY PLANTS, I WOULD CALL IT A MIST OPPORTUNITY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals E

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Family Circus • Bill Keane



"Shh!"

Detective Work Works Well

You can't see the adverse hands when you're declarer, but as the play proceeds, it often becomes possible to visualize them perfectly, enabling you to achieve the best possible result.

Here is a simple case that shows how it's done. South becomes declarer at five diamonds after East opens one heart, and West leads the heart ten. East wins with the jack and continues with the ace.

South ruffs high, enters dummy with a trump and leads a low spade to the queen. As expected, the finesse succeeds, and declarer then cashes his three remaining trumps to produce this position:

- North [S] J 7; [H] 9; [C] Q 8 2
- West [S] 98; [C] J 1063
- East [S] K 10; [H] K Q; [C] 95
- South [S] A 3; [C] A K 7 4

Declarer may hope the clubs are divided 3-3, but he knows that even if they're not he is still sure of the contract. No lie of the cards can defeat him.

He cashes the A-K of clubs and plays a club to dummy's queen. East shows out on the third club and is forced to discard the heart queen in order to guard the spade king. To this point, East has shown up with precisely five hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. East therefore started with exactly three spades and so is now known to hold the K-x of spades and king of hearts. Accordingly, South leads dummy's nine of hearts and discards his club loser on it. East wins, but is compelled to return a spade, allowing declarer to win the last two tricks with the ace and jack of spades.



"It's not a piano. It's a sympathizer."