

STAMFORD BRIDGE CLUB

2nd MARCH 2016

COUNTING CARDS

Giving Yourself the Best
Chance

1

In Rain Man, counting cards enabled Raymond (Dustin Hoffman) to beat the system. By counting cards, listening to the bidding and play, and deducing the position, you can improve your results.

2

Why guess when you can be certain?

We shall look at

- Inferences from the bidding
- Inferences from the play of the cards
- Importance of correct card play
- Counting
- Discovery play

3

A simple example

♠ K J 10 8 7 6

♥ 9 8 7

♦ A

♣ A Q 7

♠ ?

♥ 4 3 2

♦ 8 7 6 4 3 2

♣ 10 8 3

♠ ? 5 4

♥ A K Q J

♦ J 10 9

♣ 9 5 4

♠ A 9 2	W	N	E	S
♥ 10 6 5			1NT	P
♦ K Q 5	P	2S	P	4S
♣ K J 6 2				

East plays AKQ♥ then J♦

Where is Q♠? Which way do you finesse?
50/50?

4

So a bid by opponents can show you where ALL the missing points are.

Similarly:

♠ A 10 3 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ A J
♣ A 10 7 2

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

♠ K 9 7 6 5

	West	North	East	South
♥ J 3 2				
♦ K Q	P	1NT	P	2H
♣ K J 3	P	2S	P	3NT
	P	4S	All pass	

West leads AKQ♥ then 10♦. You win and draw trumps. Where is Q♣?

In Defence

You are East. RHO (North) bids 2NT; South bids 3NT. You hold:

♠ 6 5 3
♥ A 7 6
♦ A J 6 5 4
♣ 8 3

You lead 5D – dummy (South) has 10 3 2
So 5 – 2 --7 – Q. So North wins the first trick and plays a Heart. What do you do – and why?

NB The Importance of correct play by WEST

Plays 7 from 7 8 9.
If West plays 9 the position is much less clear. Declarer could have K Q 8 7

COUNTING

One of the most important skills in bridge.

Simply: to know how many trumps have gone.

Preferably: to know how many of each suit have gone.

9

Example from last week:

4S bid. Dummy has 6 Hearts to AK. Many established the Heart suit by AK and a ruff.

Some forgot this and ruffed the fourth Heart, leaving two losers in hand.

This leads on to:

10

DISCOVERY PLAY

You will often find yourself in a contract where (e.g.) in a slam there are 11 top tricks; you have to establish the crucial 12th.

11

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2NT	Pass	7NT	All Pass

12 top tricks. Which card do we need to find? Can we find it? Guess? 50/50? Finesse through the person you like less?

Making is 100% guaranteed.

Let's count the hand.

12

Play 3 spade tricks. North shows out on 3rd;

How many spades has South?

Play 3 heart tricks. South shows out on 3rd;

Play 4 diamond tricks. South shows out on 2nd;

How many clubs has South?

How do you approach the club suit?

The full hand:

♠ 3 2

♥ 10 9 8 7 2

♦ 10 9 8 7 6

♣ 5

♠ A Q J

♥ K 6 5

♦ A Q 3

♣ A 10 8 7

♠ K 10

♥ A Q J

♦ K J 4 2

♣ K J 9 4

♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4

♥ 4 3

♦ 5

♣ Q 6 3 2

NB You can also count the North hand.

HAND NUMBER ONE