

## 2015 Christmas Party

♠ -VOID-  
 ♥ -VOID-  
 ♦ Q8765432  
 ♣ AQT84  
 ♠ AKQJ      ♠ 65432  
 ♥ AKQJ      ♥ 109872  
 ♦ AK      ♦ J109  
 ♣ KJ9      ♣ -VOID-  
 ♠ 10987  
 ♥ 6543  
 ♦ -VOID-  
 ♣ 76532

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass
X	2♣	4♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	5♣
6♠	7♣	Pass	Pass
X	All pass		
<b>1 Dubious</b>			

The James Bond Moonraker hand.

The villainous Drax was very confident in doubling 007 in 7♣. After all he was holding thirty one points. As always James Bond came out on top. He could ruff two diamonds in dummy, finesse against K J 9 of clubs (taking a deep finesse of ♣10 first) and make all thirteen tricks.

This was originally a fixed whist hand from the 1800s. The Duke of Cumberland (a son of George III, not the [in]famous protagonist at the Battle of Culloden) was caught in a sting and lost £20,000 (perhaps £2m. in today's money).

♠ 76542  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ K7632  
 ♠ A8      ♠ J3  
 ♥ AKQ65      ♥ 432  
 ♦ AK      ♦ 8765432  
 ♣ Q1054      ♣ A  
 ♠ KQ109  
 ♥ J1097  
 ♦ Q10  
 ♣ J98

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
4N	Pass	7♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	All pass
<b>1 See text</b>			

The Substitute's Hand. A doctor was called away from a bridge tournament to tend to an emergency. As it was the last hand and thinking he knew the rudiments of bridge, a kibitzer was asked to play. He knew nothing about bridge. He was told "just tell partner what you have and follow suit". He did just that ... one club in his hand, two spades, three hearts and seven diamonds.

He won ♠K lead, cashed ♦A K, came to ♣A and ran the diamonds. South was squeezed, forced to part with his fourth heart or to discard ♠Q.

<p>♠A1063 ♥1085 ♦4 ♣A9842</p> <p>♠Q72                      ♠4 ♥AJ3                      ♥Q94 ♦AQ1092                ♦KJ763 ♣J6                        ♣Q753</p> <p>♠KJ985 ♥K762 ♦85 ♣K10</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr></table> <p>The Bennett murder hand (“Wife Kills Husband In Bridge Game Spat” proclaimed <i>The New York Times</i>). In 1929 the Bennetts were playing at home in Kansas City against their friends, Charles and Myrna Hoffman. Could you make 4♠ with the North South hands? John Bennett failed*. A somewhat excited altercation followed. Myrtle, John’s wife, criticised his declarer play. John retorted by saying Myrtle had overbid (she hadn’t). John slapped Myrtle’s face. Myrtle went to the spare bedroom to find her husband’s gun. She came back and shot him dead.</p> <p>You may feel as tempted as Myrtle. But don’t worry. She was tried but found not guilty. If you “murder” your partner you can plead justifiable homicide.</p> <p>Myrtle died in 1992, aged 96.</p> <p><i>*it was said that Charles Hoffman led ♦A and switched to ♣J. After this start the contract can be made provided a finesse is taken against West’s ♠Q. Trumps are drawn and a ruffing finesse taken against East’s ♣Q. Five trumps, four clubs and a diamond ruff. Had Charles played a second diamond at trick two John would have had no legitimate chance. The second diamond would have prematurely taken out what would have been the entry to the long clubs.</i></p>	West	North	East	South	2♦	4♠	All pass	1♠
West	North	East	South						
2♦	4♠	All pass	1♠						

<p>♠ -VOID- ♥ 8765432 ♦ AKQJ109 ♣ -VOID-</p> <p>♠ AKQ                      ♠ 105432 ♥ AKQJ109                ♥ -VOID- ♦ - VOID-                    ♦ 5432 ♣ AKQJ                      ♣ 5432</p> <p>♠ J9876 ♥ -VOID- ♦ 876 ♣ 109876</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>7♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This is the Mississippi Heart hand. The term comes from a hand used on the river boats in the late 1800s when professional card sharps would lure unsuspecting travellers into losing their money. Were you one of those mugs tempted by the West hand? Unless you suspected something amiss, you should have been. You think your hand is invincible. You would be (almost) happy to gamble your last dollar on making a grand slam in hearts. Alas, not only would you also fail in a small slam, you would not make game.</p> <p>It's worse than that ... <i>you cannot even make a part score.</i> Taking six tricks is the limit of the hand.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	2♣	2♦	Pass	Pass	7♥	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
2♣	2♦	Pass	Pass										
7♥	All Pass												
<p>. ♠ 64 ♥ 1082 ♦ QJ75 ♣ 10965</p> <p>♠ J105                      ♠ AQ9872 ♥ 6                            ♥ K743 ♦ 643                        ♦ AK2 ♣ KJ8732                  ♣ -VOID-</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ AQJ95 ♦ 1098 ♣ AQ4</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>The Buster Keaton hand. Buster was not just a brilliant, silent film star, he was also a very passable bridge player (no pun intended). Here he was East playing in a home game against two international players, Alfred Sheinwold and his wife.</p> <p>The lead was a diamond. To make 4♠ he had to ruff three hearts in dummy. The problem arises when North wins the first heart and returns a trump. This switch kills the chance of ruffing all three hearts. How did Buster stop North leading a trump? Simple. He won the diamond lead and laid down ♥K, a form of avoidance playing. This kept North off lead. With South necessarily winning, a trump could not be led from that hand without losing the natural trump trick.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
	Pass	1♠	2♥										
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠ 7 ♥ AK ♦ AKQ ♣ AQJ10987</p> <p>♠ J10986      ♠ 5432 ♥ 753          ♥ 98642 ♦ 42            ♦ 53 ♣ 543          ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ AKQ ♥ QJ10 ♦ J109876 ♣ 2</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>7N</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>“Don’t block the suit” should, by now, have become a familiar refrain. Here we are faced by something a little different – two suits (hearts and diamonds) that seem irretrievably blocked.</p> <p>West leads ♠J immediately cutting our communication. The normal playing of cashing dummy’s red suit winners first won’t work as there’s no entry back to the South hand.</p> <p>We can do something clever. We follow a sequence of plays whereby we never “leave” the South hand until trick thirteen. We cash the second and third rounds of spades discarding dummy’s ♥A and ♥K. Half the job is complete. Now that the heart suit has been unblocked by discarding those pesky top cards, we continue our good work by cashing the three winning hearts. On these, we pitch dummy’s three equally-pesky top diamonds.</p> <p>Now we can enjoy South’s diamonds before we triumphantly cross to dummy’s ace of clubs for the thirteenth trick.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3N	Pass	7N	All pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
		Pass	1♦														
Pass	3♣	Pass	3N														
Pass	7N	All pass															