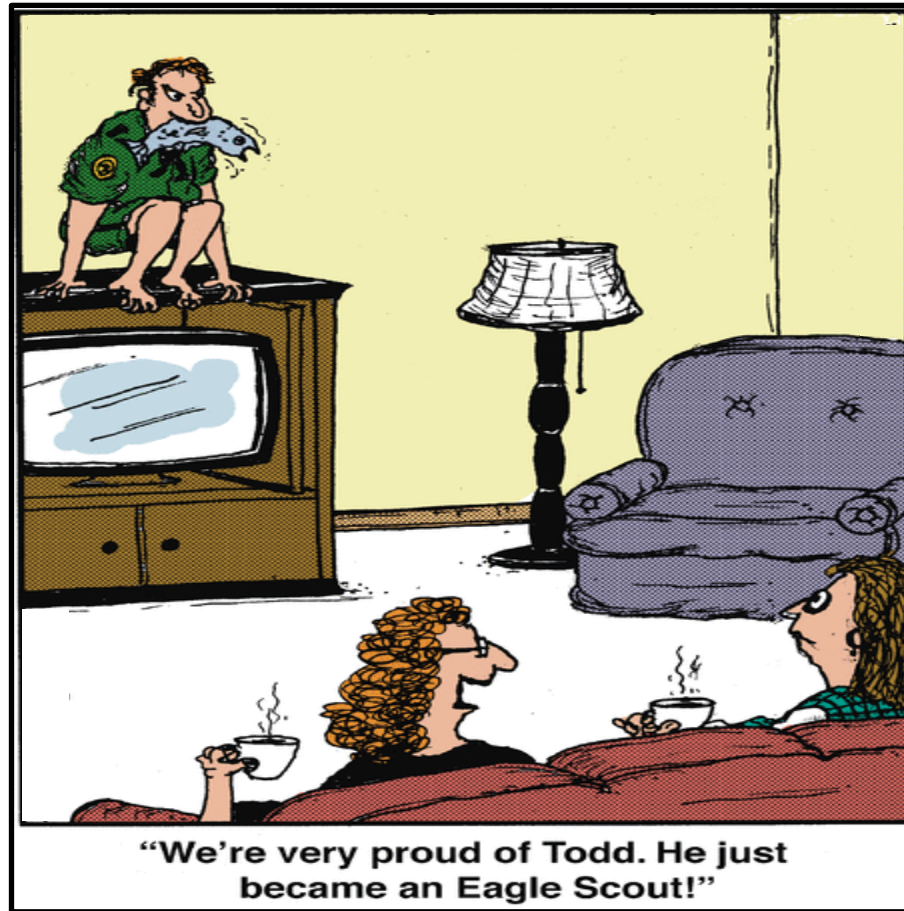


Psychs



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Time for a Joke

After Air Force One arrives at the Heathrow Airport, President Trump strides to a warm and dignified reception from the Queen.

They are driven in a 1934 Bentley to the edge of central London, where they change to a magnificent 17th century carriage hitched to six white horses. They continue on toward Buckingham Palace, waving to the thousands of cheering Britons; all is going well.

Suddenly, the right rear horse lets out the most horrendous earth-shattering fart ever heard in the British Empire. The smell is so atrocious that both passengers in the carriage must use handkerchiefs over their noses. The fart shakes the coach, but the two Heads of State do their best to ignore the incident.

The Queen politely turns to President Trump and says, "Mr. President, please accept my deepest regrets. I am sure you understand there are some things that even a Queen cannot control."

Trump, always trying to be "Presidential," responds, "Your Majesty, do not give the matter another thought . . . until you mentioned it, I thought it was one of the horses."

What is a Psych?

The ACBL defines a **Psych** as a bid by a player who holds 4+ HCPs less than his minimum range:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	

South

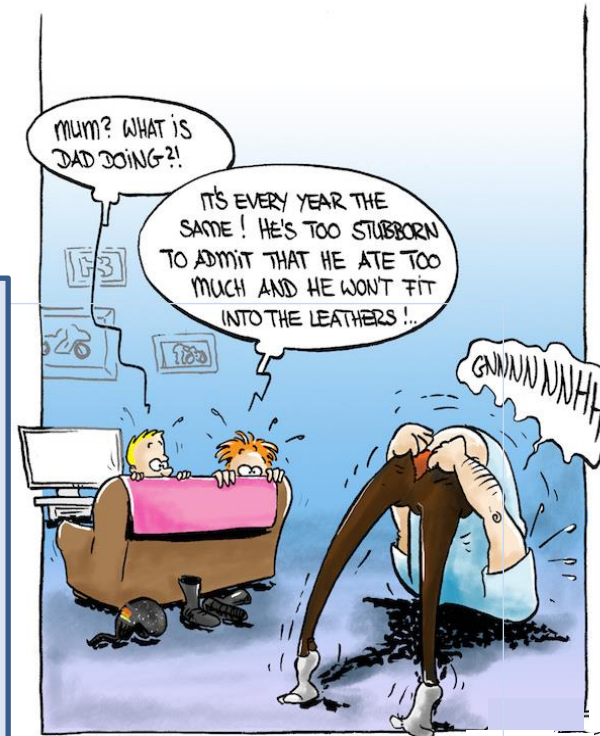
♠Q32 ♥52 ♦KQJ32 ♣973

... or who holds 2+ cards fewer in his suit than his bid shows:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1H	

South

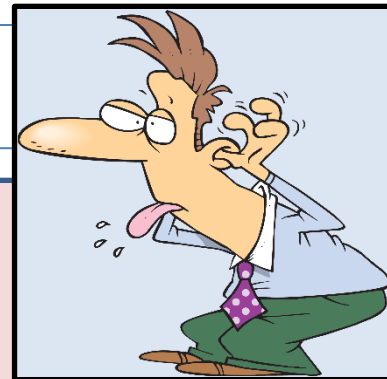
♠32 ♥542 ♦KQJ3 ♣AQJ2



4 HCPs less than an opening hand.

Opening a major shows a 5-card suit.

Why Are Psychs Bad?



Frequent psychs can be bad for the game because they can:

- 1) disrupt the game's flow and the enjoyment of others, and
- 2) demonstrate a pair's lack of caring about the game's outcome, and
- 3) disguise a pair's attempts to give certain other pairs good scores, and
- 4) offer some pairs an unfair advantage, especially if they have an understanding to psych often and/or only at certain times.

N.B.: Frequent use of these tactics constitute an implicit partnership agreement, and require Alerts. You can help keep the game fair by reporting all psychs to the director. If the director receives three such reports on one pair, he should impose Procedural Penalties upon them.

Risk-free psychs are not allowed! For example, suppose a pair plays 1NT as 10-12 HCPs, with the understanding that if one of them opens it, they may not bid again:

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

South

♠3

♥982

♦QJ98732

♣93

North MUST be free to raise his partner's ♠ bid in a competitive auction for this psych to be legal.

None of these are allowed!

When Are Psychs Legal?

Occasional Psychs are part of the game and perfectly legal, except when:

- 1) **Opening 2C** (strong and artificial)
- 2) **Opening 1NT with a singleton**, unless it's an ace, king or queen.
- 3) **Opening 1NT with a void.**
- 4) **Playing Controlled Psychs** (or Conventional Psychs).

For example:

<u>North</u> 1S	<u>East</u> Pass	<u>South</u> 2C*	<u>West</u>	South	♠KQ843	♥2	♦AKJ2	♣983
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N/S have an agreement that 2C* checks back to make sure North did not Psych.

Tactical Psychs



On your way to 4S,
why not bid a suit
you don't want led.

1)

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

North

♠ QJ532
♥ A3
♦ 752
♣ KQ6

*Jacoby 2NT.

*Singleton ♦.

2)

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1S	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3D*	Pass	3H*	

South

♠ AQ52
♥ 53
♦ AKQJ103
♣ A6

Why not cue bid an ace that
don't have, on you way to slam.

Mini-Psychs are very common.

Mini-Psychs



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

North

♠ J82
♥ AK873
♦ 43
♣ KQ6

West

♠ AK1074
♥ 5
♦ A106
♣ A732

East

South

♠ 53
♥ Q642
♦ QJ85
♣ 1084

West may be suspicious that South has psyched the spade suit, but how can he uncover the ruse safely?

Another Joke

"Your mother has been with us for 20 years," said John. "Isn't it time she got a place of her own?"

"My mother?" replied Helen. "I thought she was your mother."

A Safe Psych



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1C	Pass	1D*	Pass
1S	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North

♠ K952
♥ A5
♦ 1082
♣ AJ62

East

♠ A1074
♥ 742
♦ K653
♣ 85

Lead:
J♥

West

♠ Q6
♥ J1083
♦ QJ74
♣ 974

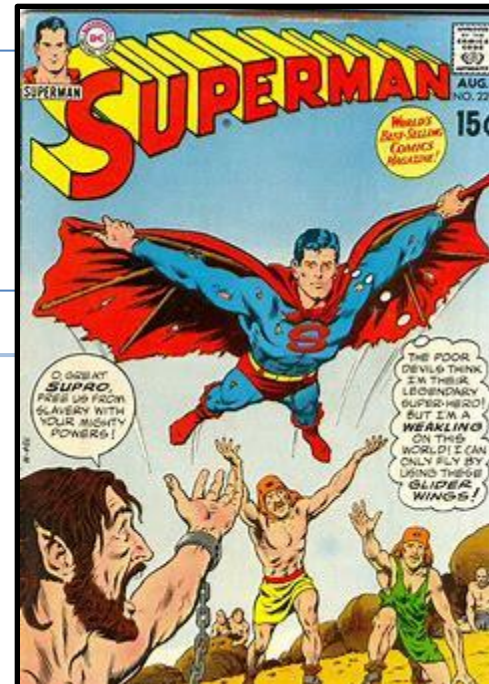
South

♠ J83
♥ KQ96
♦ A9
♣ KQ103

South's psych of 1D is perfectly safe. If North bids 1H, he bids 4H. All other roads lead to 3NT, but hopefully, with no ♦ lead.

This bid is so laughable, it's called the Comic Psych.

The Comic Psych



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	1S	1NT	

North

West

♠	K7
♥	A872
♦	97
♣	J9842

Vul:
E/W

East

♠	AQ642
♥	KQ63
♦	4
♣	KQ7

South

♠	53
♥	J42
♦	KQJ1083
♣	106

Notice that psychs are often used with favorable vulnerability.

If South had simply overcalled with 2D or 3D, West could have made a Negative Double and accepted East's invitation to game in ♥'s. But what to bid over a 1NT overcall?



Time to Play