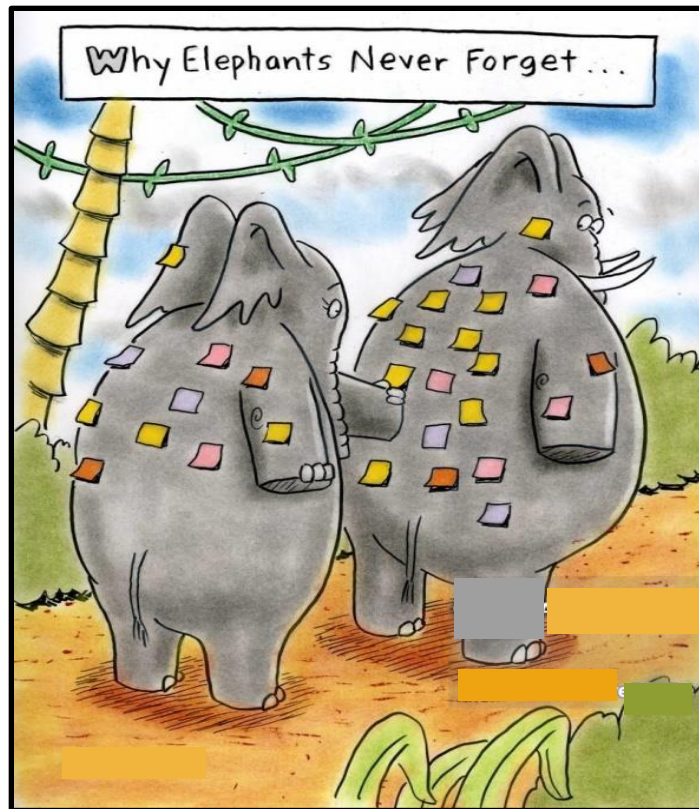


Hand Evaluation



Tom Snow

(805) 305-5035

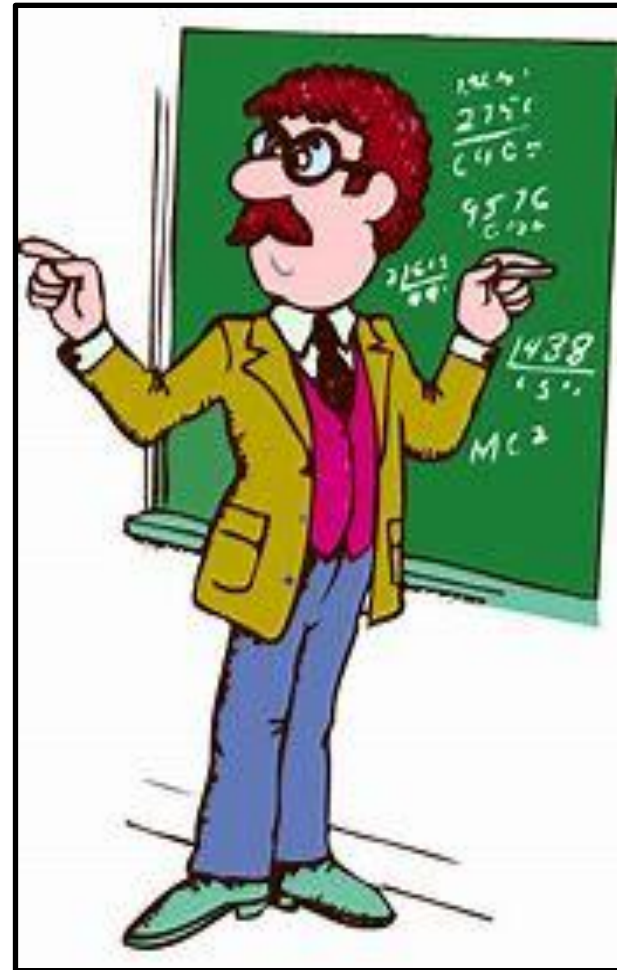
coinerbop@gmail.com



Time for a Joke

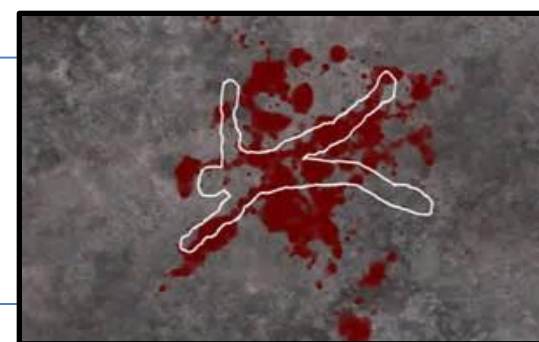
In my last year's beginner class, I told them the lesson for the day was on identifying losers.

One feisty woman in the back yelled out, "Where were you when I needed you 30 years ago?"





The Bennett Murder



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 taking amphetamines while teaching your spouse how to drive.

In 1929, the Bennetts of Kansas City, Missouri, invited the Hofmans to their home for an evening of 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 toward 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."

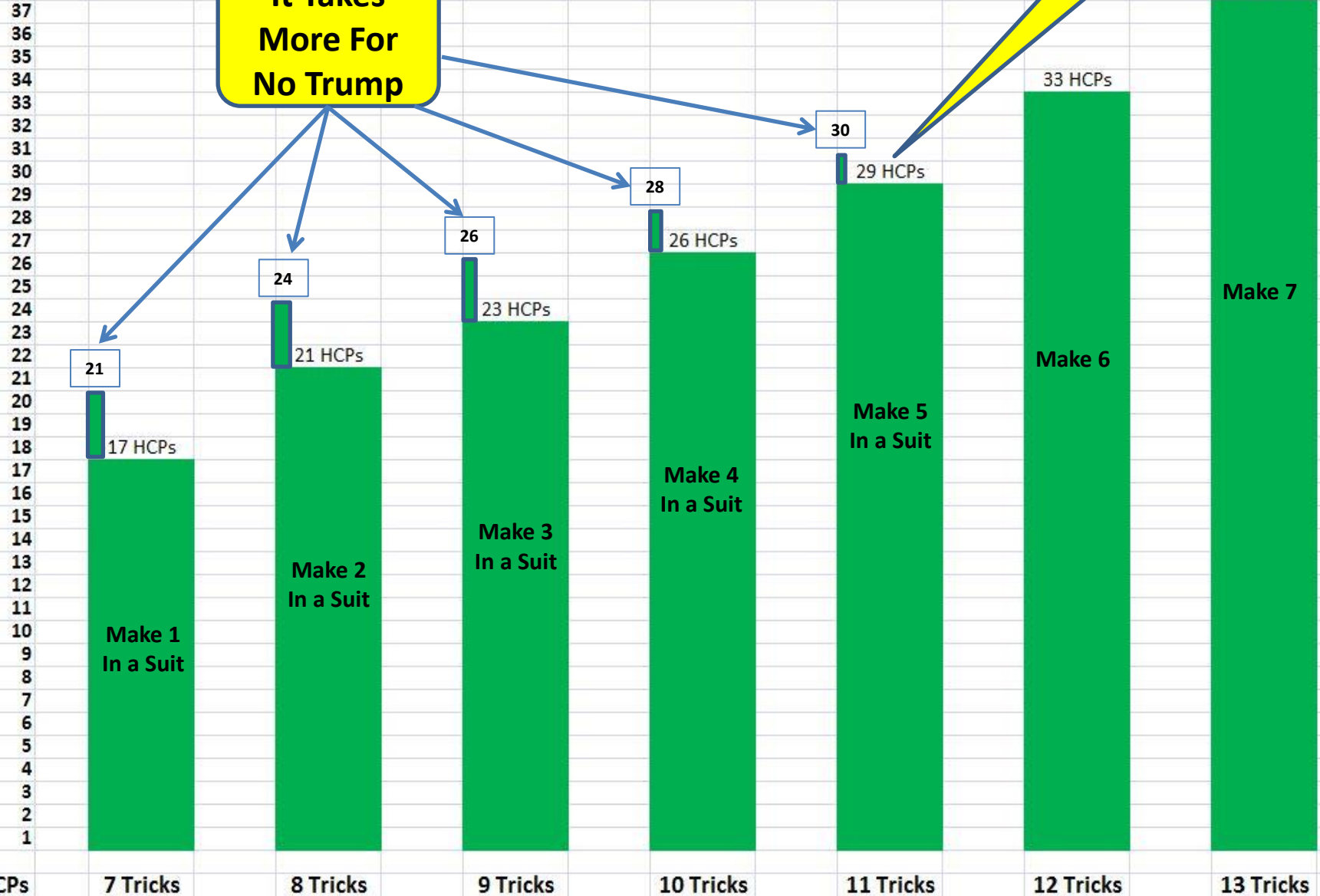
Surprisingly, a diagram of the bridge hand was entered as evidence at Myrtle's trial. She claimed to the court that she had bumped into a chair, causing the gun to go off accidentally. Myrtle was found innocent, despite the two bullet holes in the bathroom door and the two in Mr. Bennett's back.

So, if you want to keep your partner content, it's important to evaluate the strength of your hand properly. There are two distinct phases, the first to assess its value before the bidding begins, and the second as the bidding progresses.

Using Adjusted HCPs

These are Adjusted HCPs

It Takes More For No Trump



In particular, hands with 6-4 and 5-5 distributions play really well if you find a fit.

Pre-Bidding Strength



1. **High Card Points (A=4, K=3, Q=2, J=1):** are good place to start.
2. **Shape:** A hand can be promoted for containing long suits, but not for shortness until you find a fit. Add 1 pt. for each card in a suit after the 4th.
So, ♠98742 counts as 1 extra HCP.
3. **Q's and J's need support:** ♠AQ42 ♥532 is better than ♠ A842 ♥Q53.
4. **Intermediates:** 10's and 9's are important, especially when supported by honors and in longer suits. ♠AQ102 ♥10932 is better than ♠ AQ42 ♥7653.
5. **Tight honors are bad:** Lower your expectations for singleton and doubleton honors like: A, K, Q, J, AK, AQ, AJ, KQ, KJ, QJ, etc.
6. **Higher suits:** (♠'s and ♥'s) are better than (♣'s and ♦'s).

I wonder why.



Quiz Time



Are these bad, average or good 13 HCP hands?:

Long Suits!
YUM!

(a)

♠ K10953
♥ QJ9
♦ AK1042
♣ ---

a) Good

Q needs support

(b)

♠ K
♥ A832
♦ Q742
♣ KJ43

b) Bad

Tight honor

(c)

♠ KJ62
♥ Q103
♦ AK64
♣ 86

c) Avg.

Tight honors

(d)

♠ AJ10953
♥ KJ43
♦ KJ
♣ 5

d) Good

Long Suits!
YUM!

10 and 9 in this suit

10's and 9's in both suits

Both higher suits

- 1) HCPs
- 2) Shape (long suits)
- 3) Support for Q's and J's
- 4) Intermediates (10's and 9's)
- 5) Few tight honors
- 6) Higher Suits (majors)

Another Joke



Sarcastic Mommy
@sarcasticmommy4



My kids wanted to know what it's like to be a Mom so I woke them up at 2am to let them know my sock came off.

Extra trump support
or a secondary long
suit adds extra value.

As the Bidding Progresses



➤ If you've found a fit:

On the **short side of trumps** (Usually Dummy):

Voids	= 5 more points
Singletons	= 3 more points
Doubletons	= 1 more point

On the **long side of trumps** (Usually Declarer):

Voids	= 3 more points
Singletons	= 2 more points
Doubletons	= 1 more point

➤ If you haven't found a fit:

Lower your hand evaluation for shortness in partner's suit(s).

➤ If an opponent bids:

Add value for being short in their suit or having honors behind him.

Reduce value for any trapped honors in front of their suit(s).

Examples



1) South: ♠AQ43 ♥53 ♦K62 ♣A932

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

Your hand just got devalued to 10 or 11 HCPs.

2) South: ♠AQ43 ♥3 ♦KQ62 ♣Q932

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

Bid 1S, but if you don't find a fit, devalue your hand by 1-2 HCPs.

3) South: ♠AQ43 ♥3 ♦KQ62 ♣A972

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

Your hand just became good enough to jump to 3S.



Time to Play