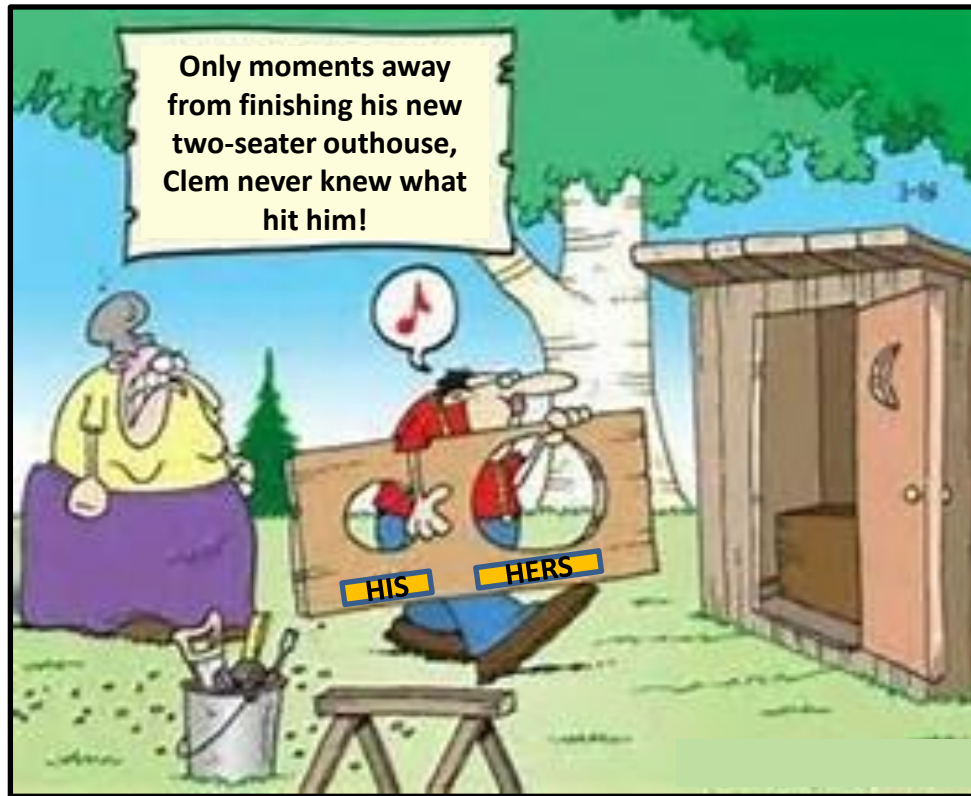


4th Suit Forcing



Tom Snow
(805) 305-5035
coinerbop@gmail.com

Time for a Joke

Two old guys, Morty, 80, and Saul, 89, were sitting on a park bench one morning. Saul, the older, had just finished his morning jog and wasn't even short of breath. Morty was amazed at his friend's stamina and asked him what he did to have so much energy.

Saul explained, "Well, I eat rye bread every day. It keeps your energy level high, and you'll have great stamina with the ladies."

So, on the way home Morty stopped at the bakery. He approached the sales lady and asked, "Do you have any rye bread?"

She said, "Yes, there's a whole shelf of it. Would you like some?"

He replied, "I'll take five loaves."

She said, "My goodness, five loaves! By the time you get to the third loaf, it will have become hard."

Morty mumbles to himself, "I can't believe everybody knows about this but me!"

4th Suit Forcing

Remember New Minor Forcing?

Partner opens 1D and you bid 1S with: \spadesuit AQ873 \heartsuit 53 \diamondsuit A932 \clubsuit AQ

Partner then bids 1NT. How do you force your partner (for at least one round) and find out if he has 3 spades for you, or hearts well stopped for no trump? Maybe you belong in 5D or 6D instead?

The answer is an artificial bid of the other minor (2C*). Partner alerts and bids 2S with 3 spades, 2H with 4 hearts, 2NT with spread out values or 2D with long diamonds. I know what, let's call that New Minor Forcing!



The 2 differences:

Well, here is 4th Suit Forcing - NMF's cousin:

\spadesuit A73 \heartsuit 53 \diamondsuit AQJ932 \clubsuit AQ

1C – Pass – 1D – Pass

1S – Pass – 2H* (*Alertable, **artificial** and **forcing to game**)

\spadesuit AQJ73 \heartsuit 543 \diamondsuit AJ2 \clubsuit Q10

1D – Pass – 1S – Pass

2C – Pass – 2H* (*Alertable, **artificial** and **forcing to game**)

If opener then bids 2NT, he's got a \heartsuit stopper. Your 2H bid was artificial.

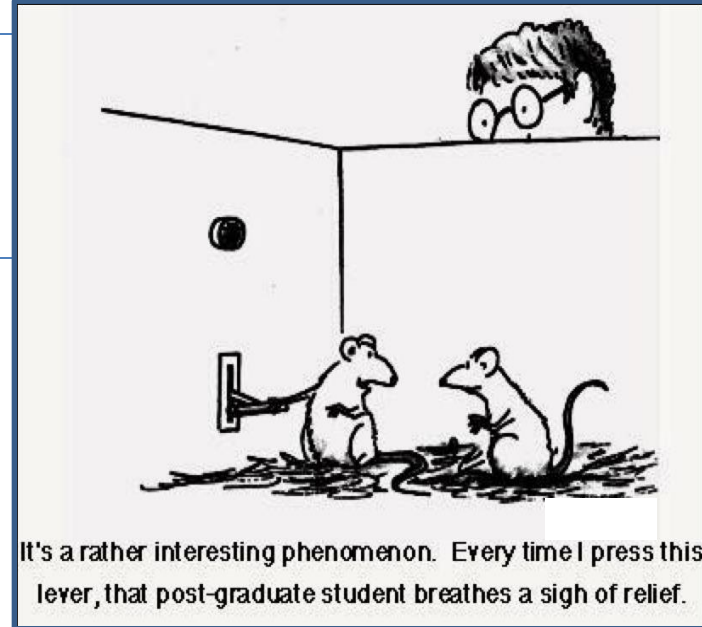
NMF occurs after **opener** rebids 1NT.

4th SF occurs **after** opener responds with a new suit.

NMF is forcing only until either partner shows a minimum: 1C – Pass – 1S – Pass
1NT – Pass – 2D* – Pass
2H – Pass – 3C (or 2NT)

4th SF is forcing to game.

4th SF and NMF



In example #4, South had NMF (2C*) available with 5-4 in the majors and 10+ HCPs. Therefore, his 2H bid is <= 9HCPs. Pass.

1)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	???	

2D*

South ♠AQ2 ♥KQ953 ♦3 ♣KJ65

After NMF (not game-forcing), opener needs to jump here to show 3-card heart support and extras.

2)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	???	

3C

South ♠A42 ♥Q653 ♦3 ♣KJ652

This would show 10-12 HCP's, since you had 4th SF (2D*) available with more HCPs.

3)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1H	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D*	Pass
???			

3H

North ♠A94 ♥KQ3 ♦2 ♣KQ9652

4)

North	East	South	West
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2H	Pass
???			

Pass

North ♠Q2 ♥A953 ♦K973 ♣A95

Another Joke (It's a Visual)

Engineer Husband

Drunk Bride



Example

North must bid 1S here, in case South has 4 ♥'s and 4 ♠'s.

Showing 3-card ♥ support.

This is 4th Suit Forcing (forcing to game). It says nothing about the ♦ suit.

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	2D*	Pass
2H	Pass	3C	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5D*	Pass
6H			

Key Card Blackwood.

Showing a ♣ card and some interest in slam.

West
 ♠ 10876
 ♥ 653
 ♦ KQ1087
 ♣ 9

Showing 3 key cards (counting the K of trumps). North now bids 6H with the Q♥ in his hand.

North
 ♠ AJ52
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ 2
 ♣ KQ1042

East
 ♠ Q93
 ♥ 82
 ♦ AJ654
 ♣ 873

Lead: 9♣

Best lead is the K♦, holding South to 12 tricks.

South
 ♠ K4
 ♥ AKJ94
 ♦ 93
 ♣ AJ65

N/S makes 7H by drawing trumps and ruffing out the Q♠.

One ♦ loser goes on the 5th ♣ and the other on the J♠.

Playtime

