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Bridge problem

Ben Carrick

Abstract

In the second of this series I thought it would be good to look at counting again and to cover another important area of the game: communication and how to break down your opponents' communication!

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You are South, playing with;

♠ -
♥ K J 10 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 7
♣ A 9 7 3

Given this hand you open bidding strongly in hearts, and bidding ends with a contract of 5 Hearts. A difficult contract to make, but possible nonetheless...

West leads 4♣.

Dummy is revealed to have:

♠ K 9 6 2
♥ Q 2
♦ Q J 8 4
♣ Q 8 5

You play low, East plays a 10, forcing you to play the Ace. In the next hand you play 3♥, West plays 7♥, you play the Queen from North and East plays 6♦.

Classically the next move would be to continue to deplete the trumps in play.

Q1. What can you now say about West's hand and what assumptions can you make about clubs around the table?

Q2. What can you now say about the hands?

Q3. What is the danger in the classic move?

Answers can be found on page 28