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Bridge Problem Solution

The Editor

Abstract

Bridge problem solutions.

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Bridge Problem Solution

A1.

West ideally wants to be able to use hearts to trump in clubs rather than be forced to discard – hence the play of a singleton. Since 5 clubs are accounted for 8 remain and you would assume, on roughly 2:1 odds that they are divided equally, 4 in each of North and East’s hands. However, since you can now see your dummy’s hand you can conclude that this is not the case!

A2.

The opponents have communicated very effectively – but not very secretly. All players now know that West has no Clubs left and East has no Hearts, not a common hand, but the one we have to play! Trumps first; 11 are accounted for, East has none, so West must have the remaining 2. Because West has no clubs left (meaning that he can trump in that hand) the remaining 4 must be in East. Since East discarded in Diamonds you can presume he has a longer suit there, rather than a 4:4 split of his 8 remaining cards between Spades and Diamonds; he may have had a 3 Spade: 5 Diamond hand. This is important because the remaining cards will be in West, leaving him a 6 Spade: 3 Diamond hand.

A3.

Ideally, defence will consist of playing from one hand to the next to take the requisite 3 tricks to defeat, which they can easily do with the missing 3 Aces. By playing a heart next, the obvious move is to counter with an Ace from West and to move into Diamonds, to play back to East, who would return in Clubs, allowing West to ruff.

A better response would be to play in Spades and cut off their communication (also called the “coup without a name”) by playing K♠ from North and discarding the singleton 7♦ from South. Whilst this trick would be lost to West’s Ace♠, West would then be unable to lead to East with a Diamond because South would ruff. The contract could then be made!

Crossword solution

C	H	A	R	I	O	T	S	O	F	F	I	R	E	
O		B		S		A		A		A		E		N
N	O	D	U	L	E	S		T	O	R	N	A	D	O
C		O		E		T		H		C		C		N
E	N	M	A	S	S	E		S	K	E	P	T	I	C
R		E			K		A		I			O		O
N	I	N	E	T	Y		L		N	E	U	R	O	N
E					D	Y	I	N	G					F
D	E	L	P	H	I		B		D	Y	N	A	M	O
P		E			V		I		O			N		R
A	D	O	P	T	E	R		A	M	A	L	G	A	M
R		N		H		E		S		R		L		I
T	R	I	V	I	A	L		C	A	S	H	E	W	S
Y		N		E		I		I		O		R		T
	P	E	R	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	I	S	T	S