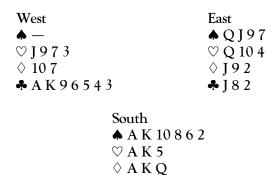# Bridge Today Digest - Online

The original bridge magazine by email

—$35 per year, 100 issues—

Volume 2, Issue 90

More Hocus-Pocus:

```
              North
              ♠ 5 4 3
              ♡ 8 6 2
              ◇ 8 6 5 4 3
              ♣ 10 7

West                        East
♠ —                         ♠ Q J 9 7
♡ J 9 7 3                   ♡ Q 10 4
◇ 10 7                      ◇ J 9 2
♣ A K 9 6 5 4 3             ♣ J 8 2

              South
              ♠ A K 10 8 6 2
              ♡ A K 5
              ◇ A K Q
              ♣ Q
```

South plays in four spades. West leads the ♣A and continues with the ♣K. Can you make the contract against best defense?
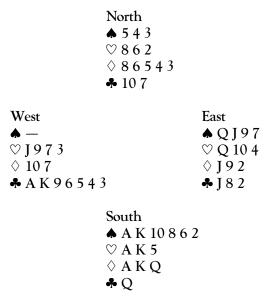
Crossing the desert
A small aeroplane carrying three men has to make an emergency landing in the middle

of the desert. The men decide that their best chance for survival is for each of them to set out across the desert in a different direction, in the hope that one of them will be able to reach civilization and get help for the others. Their supplies include five full bottles of water, five half-full, and five empty bottles.

Since water-carrying capacity is important should a man reach an oasis, they wish to divide both the water supply and the number of bottles equally among themselves. How can they achieve this?

Solutions

[Clue: This is another "save the deuce!" hand.]

```
                North
                ♠ 5 4 3
                ♡ 8 6 2
                ◇ 8 6 5 4 3
                ♣ 10 7

West                          East
♠ —                           ♠ Q J 9 7
♡ J 9 7 3                     ♡ Q 10 4
◇ 10 7                        ◇ J 9 2
♣ A K 9 6 5 4 3               ♣ J 8 2

                South
                ♠ A K 10 8 6 2
                ♡ A K 5
                ◇ A K Q
                ♣ Q
```

South plays in four spades. West leads the ♣A and continues with the ♣K. Can you make the contract against best defense?

If South has ruffed the second club with the ♠2 he will be unable to redeem his error. The club is ruffed with the six, and the ♠A reveals the position. Now three rounds of diamonds are followed by three rounds of hearts. In at trick nine with the ♡Q, East can do no better than play the ♠Q, but declarer counters this move by following with the ♠8. If East now plays a club, South must ruff with his carefully preserved deuce of spades and take the trick in dummy with the ♠4. East's second trump trick is now lost to declarer's tenace.

It will not help East to unblock his hearts and allow West to play the 13th heart. In this event dummy ruffs and when East overruffs with an honor — it would only delay the endplay to discard his club — South underruffs with the ♠8, still preserving that vital deuce.

There is enough water for 7-1/2 full bottles. There are 15 bottles altogether. Therefore, each man will end up with 2-1/2 full bottles and 2-1/2 empty bottles. However, half an empty bottle is the same as half a full bottle, leading to each man having two full bottles, one half-full bottle, and two empty bottles.

<center>* * * * *</center>

Bidding Clinic

The following hand illustrates the merit of the principle that "all bids below 3NT should be an attempt to get to 3NT":

OKbridge
Dealer South
Both vul

<pre>
                    ♠ A Q 7
                    ♡ J 10 8 4 2
                    ◇ 8
                    ♣ J 9 7 6
♠ K 8   ♠ J 9 6 4
♡ A K Q 9 7 5   ♡ 3
◇ J 9   ◇ A K Q 7 5 3
♣ A 5 2   ♣ 8 3
                    ♠ 10 5 3 2
                    ♡ 6
                    ◇ 10 6 4 2
                    ♣ K Q 10 4
</pre>

In real life, the auction went:

South	West	North	East
pass	1 ♡	pass	2 ◇
pass	3 ♡	pass	3 NT
(all pass)			

East came out smelling like a rose when dummy hit with a club stopper and ten tricks were readily available. This was a big pick up because many pairs played in 4♡, down three. Why did East bid 3NT with no club stopper? Because he was "endplayed" into bidding 3NT due to his 2/1 system, in which:

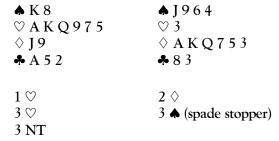| Opener	Responder
1x	2y
3x	

requires responder to cue bid. With neither black suit to cuebid, East had no choice but to bid 3NT. Suppose the hands had been:

♠ A K 8   ♠ J 9 6 4
♡ A K Q 9 7 5   ♡ 3
♢ J 9   ♢ A K Q 7 5 3
♣ 5 2   ♣ 8 3
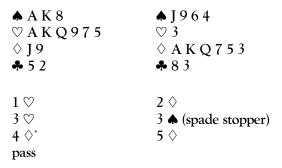
Now East-West belong in 5♢, not 3NT, but the bidding would have gone the same way.

Playing that ALL BIDS BELOW 3NT ARE AN ATTEMPT TO REACH 3NT, the bidding goes:

Real Hand:

♠ K 8   ♠ J 9 6 4
♡ A K Q 9 7 5   ♡ 3
♢ J 9   ♢ A K Q 7 5 3
♣ A 5 2   ♣ 8 3

1 ♡	2 ♢
3 ♡	3 ♠ (spade stopper)
3 NT	

Revised Hand:

♠ A K 8   ♠ J 9 6 4
♡ A K Q 9 7 5   ♡ 3
♢ J 9   ♢ A K Q 7 5 3
♣ 5 2   ♣ 8 3

1 ♡	2 ♢
3 ♡	3 ♠ (spade stopper)
4 ♢*	5 ♢
pass	

*Having already described a very strong six-card heart suit, Opener now shows secondary diamond support and leaves it to his partner to place the contract.

* * * * *

See you next time!