For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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Bidding Quiz

You are South in each of the following three hands. What would you bid at the point where the question mark appears?

	ppeare.		
1. 🛧	74 🎔 KJ94	I3 ♦ KQ10	92 🕈 6
North	East	South	West
1 🖤 👘	Pass	3 🎔	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 🛧	Pass
5 NT	Pass	?	
2. 🛧	AJ4 🎔 AJ2	2 🔶 AJ6 🜩	A985
Se	outh	North	
1	+	1 ♦	
2	NT	3 🗭	
	?		
3. 🔶	AOJ4 🎔 K	83 🔶 762 🖷	• 985
North	East	South	West
1 🔶	Pass	1 🛧	Pass
2 🛧	Pass	?	

1. Seven hearts. Partner is trying for a grand slam even though he knows from your five-club response to Blackwood that you have no aces. The fact that he is now asking for kings implies that he has all four aces; otherwise, his five-notrump bid would make no sense.

You are not required to bid six hearts mechanically at this point to tell partner you have two kings; if you did that, you'd be disregarding the real issue, which is whether you think you can make seven hearts now that you know your side has all four aces. You should feel very bullish about the grand slam because you have a diamond suit that could easily produce four or five tricks, as well as a singleton club. Partner's hand probably looks something like:

S A6 H AQ8752 D A84 C A4

and if you responded with only six hearts, he would almost surely pass and miss a virtual laydown grand slam.

2. Three diamonds. It is reasonable to assume that partner is not happy with notrump and would prefer to play the hand at game or slam in clubs or diamonds. There is no good reason to disregard partner's message and suppress your diamond support, and it is therefore best to bid three diamonds at this point. Partner might have one of these hands:

S 10 H K8 D KQ7543 C KJ72

S Q73 H – D K9742 C KQ643

S 6 H K863 D KQ73 C KQ74 and with each of them, the best final contract would

be a minor-suit slam. 3. Pass. Your chances of making a game are not good even though you have 10 high-card points and might have had only six. Your 4-3-3-3 distribution, coupled with the fact that partner has at most 15 points, militates strongly against further action. True, partner might have a magic hand that would produce 10 tricks, but the odds against it are much too high to warrant losing the partscore you are almost sure to make by passing.

South dea Both side WES' $\bigstar A 8 5$ $\heartsuit Q J 9$ $\bigstar 9 2$ $\bigstar 10 6$	eller. s vulnera ★ 9 4 ★ 9 4 ★ A J 7 ★ J 8 5 T 3 4 3 SOU ★ K 7 0 ★ K 7 0 ★ A O	TH 7 4 3 2 4 2 4 4 4 7 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	AST J 10 2 8 6 5 5 9 7
The biddi	ng:		
South	West	North	East
$1 \blacklozenge$	Pass	2 🗭	Pass
3 🗭	Pass	4 🔶	Pass
5 🔶			
Opening 1	lead — q	ueen of he	earts.

Evasive Tactics

Three notrump played by South would have been a far better contract, but the way the bidding went, South wound up at five diamonds. North would have done better to bid three hearts over three clubs at his second turn in an effort to sound out the possibility of game in notrump. Had he done this, South would have been able to bid three notrump to arrive at the best contract. West led the queen of hearts against five diamonds, and South had to play very carefully to get home safely. Eleven tricks were far from certain when dummy first appeared. The danger was that East would win a club trick at some point and shift to a spade, defeating the contract if West had the ace of spades. Faced with this threat, declarer did all he could to avert it. He won the heart in dummy and cashed the king and ace of diamonds. He then led a low club and finessed the queen, hoping it would lose to the king but it didn't. If South had now cashed the ace of clubs in the hope of catching the king, he would have gone down one. But he realized there was a chance of making the contract even if East had started with three clubs to the king. Accordingly, he entered dummy with a heart and led another low club. When East followed with the nine, South ducked and was rewarded for his care when West was forced to win the trick with the ten. West could then do no better than cash his ace of spades, and South made five diamonds as a result. It is interesting to note that West could have defeated the contract by dropping the ten of clubs on the queen the first time clubs were led, but this play, it should be stated, is much easier to make on paper than at the table. (c)2005 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard







Cryptoquip

DS MQA ZQ FQ T WDZWVM	AOJX VOA CK EVF ACM
BXZTBJXJ CQJDTFBDPF,	PDDGF IVFNF UTGBJ ENPRF
D PACCQPX MQAB SXXF	UTTEIFPN PGG RPX: KFI
T B X D L Z Q Q J W T L J P . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ELVIS REALLY LIKED HIS STEAK SOFT. YOU'VE HEARD HIS FAMOUS TUNE "LOVE MEAT TENDER." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals P	X T N B J T L B F H L V P K M F . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU GO TO A HIGHLY REGARDED PODIATRIST, I SUPPOSE YOUR FEET ARE IN GOOD HANDS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals L

Family Circus • Bill Keane



"Have you noticed how much better they listen when we speak softly to each other?"

"I'd love to be an ox. My name would be spelled with a hug and a kiss."

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