

Who Knows What the Card Holder Sees?

In May of 2006 I was struck with Bell's Palsy. BP is a temporary paralysis of one side of the face with the cause or causes unknown. I woke up one morning and practically died of shock when I looked in the mirror. The 7th cranial nerve had gone awry and it is still in the recovery process. In my case I particularly have problems with mouth and with my left eye; thus I sometimes sound like a drunk and my vision isn't always perfect.

Now that I've gotten my excuses out of the way I will relate some of the mishaps that have happened to me at the bridge table since the EVENT occurred. Most of the mishap hands occurred online as that's where I've had the most problems. Bridge at the club has been pretty normal except for the frequent tears streaming down my face. (The eye doesn't blink often enough or well enough to distribute the tears over the cornea so, while the eye is actually dry, tears are often flowing down my cheeks.). For once I can legitimately cry over some of the things I see!

IMPs Dlr: North Vul: N-S	North MHeM ♠ T8 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ 9432 ♣ A96	The spirited auction: <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MHeM</td> <td></td> <td>PWP*</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass(1)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass(2)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥ (3)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>XX (4)</td> <td>(all pass)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	North	East	South	West	MHeM		PWP*		Pass(1)	Pass	2♠	2NT	Pass(2)	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥ (3)	Pass	Pass	X	Pass	Pass	XX (4)	(all pass)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> West ♠ A92 ♥ 82 ♦ AKT8 ♣ KJ74 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> East ♠ 764 ♥ 53 ♦ QJ65 ♣ T532 </td> </tr> </table>	West ♠ A92 ♥ 82 ♦ AKT8 ♣ KJ74	East ♠ 764 ♥ 53 ♦ QJ65 ♣ T532
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	South PWP* ♠ KQJ53 ♥ JT976 ♦ 7 ♣ Q8	Opening Lead: ♦K * Poor Wonderful Partner (1) Didn't see ♣ Ace (2) Found Ace but what can I do (3) Best raise I've ever had (4) What trust!																											

Sometimes my vision is a little fuzzy as you can see. When you mess up the bidding like I did it's usually quite hard to get back on track. Thanks to PWP (my poor wonderful partner!), he trusted my 4♥ bid but I'll best that even he was surprised to see such a good dummy. He made an overtrick just like good partners are supposed to do (!) To this day he has not commented!!

On the next hand I thought I held ♠-- ♥K842 ♦A5 ♣AQJ9754. Playing 2/1 I opened the bidding 1♣! Nope, I wasn't playing a Big Club system. About the time my LHO (left hand opponent) overcalled 1♠ I noticed that all those clubs were actually spades. (The computer sorts the hands for you and puts them in the order you have requested. I have specified alternating colors so I don't get confused!!!) So now how do I get this straightened out?

Well to tell the truth I bid like an idiot after that as there is just no way that partner is going to figure out what I have done. I kept cuebidding spades!! We finally ended up in 5♦ undoubled (down only 1) after being in 5♣X for a brief instance. As you can see this won us a bunch of IMPS as the opponents are cold for 5♣, a suit bid only by my partner and me. The whole hand was actually:

IMPs	North					
Dlr: North	MHem					
Vul: Both	♠ AQJ9754		North	East	South	West
	♥ K842		MHem		Pard	
	♦ A5		1♣?	1♠	Pass	2♥
	♣ -		2♠?	X	3♦	Pass
West		East	3♠?	Pass	4♦	Pass
♠ --		♠ KT632	4♠?	Pass	5♣	X
♥ QJT95		♥ 7	5♦	(all pass)		
♦ Q4		♦ KJ				
♣ AQ9863		♣ KJT52			Opening Lead: ♥Q	
	South					
	♠ 8					
	♥ A63					
	♦ T987632					
	♣ 74					

It's also interesting to notice that my LHO doubled my 2♠ bid but not my 3♠ or 4♠.

This third hand occurred at the bridge club. The person on my right opened the bidding 1♣ and I thought my hand was ♠K9876 ♥K9832 ♦- ♣Q64, but it turned out that what I thought was the ♥King was actually the ♦King. So the complete

auction was:	North	West (me)	South	East
	1♣	2♣ (1)	3♣ (2)	X
	Pass	Pass	3♥ (3) (all pass!!)	

- (1) Michaels cuebid
- (2) Cuebid...it turns out South didn't see the auction right (she was void in clubs!)
- (3) How North can pass this 3♥ bid is beyond my understanding

My actual hand was ♠K9876 ♥9832 ♦K ♣Q64.....not exactly a Michaels bid but close I guess. Had partner passed the opponent's 3♣ bid they'd have gone down a bunch but how was she to know! The opponents actually made six hearts so we were -230 for a very good matchpoint score.

So as you can see I now have a lot more sympathy with bridge players who have eyesight problems. Having been the distressed victim of some of the opponents' mishaps in the past I hope that now I can be more understanding when things go awry. But I also think I've learned a new tactic.....it's called "How to Get Underserved Tops at the Bridge Table (While Asking for Sympathy and Understanding Because of Your Eye Problems)."

Marilyn Hemenway
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