

# Meticulous reconstitution



**PROBLEM** To bid well in bridge, you must:

- 1) Know how to describe your own hand.
- 2) Know how to decode.
- 3) Know how to draw conclusions.

The purpose of this exercise is to train you in number 2. You have to reconstruct a hand with the exact distribution and all the honors from Ace to Jack. For that, you have various clues at your disposal that come from the bidding or play of the cards.

**You are sitting South**

## Problem 1 Clues from the bidding

### Auction A

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♣		

### Auction B

W	NORTH	E	S
	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦		

### Auction C

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT

## Clues from the opening lead

W	N	EAST	S
		1NT	Pass
	3NT		

South leads the Jack of Hearts.

## Problem 2 Clues from the bidding

### Auction A

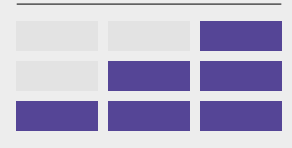
W	N	E	SOUTH
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	1NT
2♠	3♦	4♠	

### Auction B

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♦		

### Auction C

W	NORTH	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	3♣	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦



ALL LEVELS

## Solutions

### Problem 1

#### Auction **A**

Facing a 1♠, opening, South first shows a hand of about 11HCP and three-card support (2NT). 3♣ then asks for additional information and 3♦ promises the Ace or King of Diamonds. When North continues with 3♥, 3♠ is negative (this could become the final contract) and in any case denies a control in Clubs or Hearts.

South then shows one key-card (5♦) and, when his partner asks him for the Queen of trumps, his 6♦ bid confirms the possession of the Queen while showing the King of Diamonds.

#### Auction **B**

In response to 2♦, game-forcing, 2NT shows a hand without Ace. We can deduce that the key-card that was shown in auction **A** is the King of Spades. 4♦ then promises at least three-card support.

#### Auction **C**

We first learn that South has at least four Hearts. When North then describes a reverse two-suiter, the raise to 3♣ promises at least three cards. Since we know he has three Spades, at least four Hearts, at least three Diamonds and at least three Clubs, South is bound to be 3-4-3-3.

Moreover, with only three cards in Clubs, South could not have supported his partner without having a big honor in this suit - the King or Queen, since he denied an Ace in sequence **B**.

The clue from the lead tells us that South's highest Heart is the Jack. Therefore, South has King-Queen of Spades, Jack of Hearts and King of Diamonds. Thus, his Club honor must be the Queen (he cannot have 12HCP).

We now know the exact hand:

♠ KQx  
♥ Jxxx  
♦ Kxx  
♣ Qxx

### Problem 2

#### Auction **A**

South's 1NT overcall, as a passed hand, shows four Hearts, at least six Diamonds and about 8-10HCP. Note that with a seventh Diamond, South would have bid on to 5♦.

#### Auction **B**

When South responds 1NT despite a 6-4 two-suiter in the red suits, this shows that he has less than 10HCP (else he would have bid 2♦). The jump to 4♣ is a Splinter, describing a huge fit in Diamonds and Club shortness. Given that South would not have responded 1NT with three cards in Spades (and, therefore, 3-4-6-0), we know his exact distribution: 2-4-6-1.

The reply of 5♠ then shows two keycards and the Queen of trumps, therefore King-Queen of Diamonds and an Ace (South has less than 10HCP). This Ace can be in Spades or Hearts but not Clubs because South would not have made a Splinter with the singleton Ace.

#### Auction **C**

North's jump to 3♠ is a splinter, showing a strong hand, Diamond support (often five cards) and Spade shortness. With the Ace of Spades, South would redouble when it was his turn to make a call. Therefore, his Ace is in Hearts.

We can now write down his hand:

♠ xx  
♥ Axxx  
♦ KQxxxx  
♣ x

# THE MYSTERIOUS HAND