

## No One Wants to Be a Detective

Every year the fifth graders come into my court, dressed as Sheriff's Deputies. They spend the day with law enforcement officers before they come in. I talk with them, tell them about some cases that would interest fifth graders, including the one about the Poodle who popped in, piddled, and popped out. They enjoy the presentation, and I enjoy having them.

I ask them what they want to be when they go out into the work world, what are the most important jobs. They recognize, even at that age, that first responders are important, and many want to be police officers, and deputy sheriffs. Several plan military careers, even at that age, and occasionally someone mentions teachers. I emphasize the importance of teachers. A few want to be doctors, very few want to be lawyers, and no one has suggested that he or she wants to be an investment banker or a scientist. No one has ever suggested that he wanted to be a professional bridge player or a detective.

I think that this last combination is true because all of the best detectives are bridge players, or conversely, the best bridge players are the best detectives. Take this hand for an example, which comes from a recent column in the local newspaper.

NORTH  
K 10 9 5  
Q 7 6 5  
5 3 2  
Q 10

SOUTH  
A J 8 3  
8 4  
Q J 7  
K J 8 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Club
Pass	1 Heart	Pass	1 Spade
2 Spades	ALL PASS		

West cashes the Ace and King of hearts and shifts to the ten of diamonds. East plays the King and Ace of diamonds and the four of diamonds. (This is the proper order on play those cards.) South breathes a sigh of relief when West follows to the third diamond. South must lose the Ace of clubs, so if he wants to make his contract, he must find the Queen of spades. Who has it? Forget all of those old rules about eight ever, nine never, or any such things, and put on your Sherlock Holmes hat, take out a spyglass, and find the clues that will help you locate the Queen.

First review the bidding. East and West both passed. Neither has an opening hand.

Now review the play so far. Each of them has shown up with an ace and a king. One of them has the ace of clubs. If the player with the ace of clubs also had the queen of spades, that player would have opened the bidding. Don't touch the spades, yet. Play a club to the queen. Someone will win the Ace of clubs, and if they don't take it, play another club. This time someone must win, or your club loser goes away. Whoever has the ace of clubs does not have the queen of spades. Finesse through the other player.

If you get this one right, you would make a great detective and would have made what at bridge is called a discovery play, a very advanced play. Congratulations.

THE EAST/WEST HANDS WERE

WEST	EAST
Q 6 2	7 4
A K J 3	10 9 2
10 8 6	A K 9 4
9 8 4	A 7 6 3