

<<<<<< Shark's Pointers >>>>>>

Bid 'Em Like You Got 'Em – Then Go Get 'Em

by Mark "The Shark" Aquino

I was shocked to learn that Bob Simpson, owner of the Westwood Bridge Club, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away on February 10th at age 49. Today's article is dedicated to Bob as a tribute to all the cheerfulness and joy he has brought over the years to bridge players like me and my wife Susan, who was the declarer in today's hand from the last session we played at Bob's club.

Westwood Duplicate Bridge Club
February 5, 2012 - Sunday Afternoon Pairs

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| Dir: South Vul: E/W | ♠ A 9 7 3 ♥ 10 9 4 2 ♦ A J 5 ♣ A 4 | |
| ♠ 8 6 4 ♥ 8 7 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ K 9 6 5 2 | Board No 19 | ♠ Q 5 ♥ A K J 6 5 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ Q 8 7 |
| | ♠ K J 10 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ K 8 7 3 ♣ J 10 3 | |

Contract 4♠ by South

Opening Lead 8 of ♥

First, I should explain how it was that Sue and I became the only pair in the room to arrive at an ambitious 4♠ contract on these cards. After 2 passes, I opted to open this hand 1♥. We tend to promise 4+ diamonds when we open 1♦ in 3rd or 4th seat and we play a form of Drury, so I didn't think this would get us too high, while still allowing us to find a spade fit, if one existed. Rightly or wrongly, I decided to raise Sue's 1♠ response to 2, and now I had a mild dilemma when she trotted out "3♣". If she held something like Kxxxx, x, Kx, Kxxxx, and suits were friendly, we might even have a slam on this hand, so I couldn't see simply bidding 3♠. Instead, I temporized with 3♦, and who could blame Sue for now bidding 4♠. She had no idea her Q of ♥ would be absolutely worthless.

The defense started with 3 rounds of hearts and Sue did well by ruffing the third round with the J of trumps, while West discarded a club. This revealed the position of the Q of trumps. Now Sue played the 2 of spades to dummy's Ace and returned a spade to East's Q and her K. With a trump still left out, Sue now played a diamond to dummy's J and East's Q. Here was the position:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | ♠ 9 7 ♥ 10 ♦ A 5 ♣ A 4 | |
| ♠ 8 ♥ ---- ♦ 6 4 ♣ K 9 6 5 | | ♠ ---- ♥ J 6 ♦ 10 9 ♣ Q 8 7 |
| | ♠ 10 ♥ --- ♦ K 8 7 ♣ J 10 3 | |

East got out safely with the 10 of diamonds, which Sue won in dummy and she now made the key play of ruffing dummy's last heart with her remaining trump the 10 of spades, as West discarded his last diamond.

By this line of play, Sue performed what is known as a "dummy reversal". (No, this isn't a way to get even for some rude comment, and make one's husband look silly, but rather a way to score an extra trick by trumping losers in declarer's hand, and using dummy's master trumps to draw trumps. On this hand, even though she only had 4 spades in each hand, Sue, through careful play, was able to ruff two spades in her hand, and still draw 3 rounds of trumps.) Sue now crossed to dummy's club Ace, cashed the 9 of spades, discarding a club from her hand, as West had to follow with his remaining trump, the 8. Now Sue was able to cash all the diamonds, pitching dummy's sole loser, the small club, and scored up her game – for a cold top!

Today's Shark's Pointers are 1) Keep the image of Bob Simpson's smile and cheerful demeanor with you at all times – at and away from the table. 2) Always remember to count your winners and your losers, 3) When you need an extra trick, look for opportunities to separate your trump tricks, and execute a neat "dummy reversal", just like my wife did on this rather spiffy hand, and 4) Even when your partner is your husband, and you are the declarer, - never, ever, refer to him as "the Dummy".