

THERE'S NO CRYING IN BRIDGE

The movie A League of Their Own starring Tom Hanks is one of the funniest movies ever made. In that movie the Tom Hank's character (Jimmy Dugan) says to one of the young ladies on the team: "Are you crying? ARE YOU CRYING? THERE'S NO CRYING IN BASEBALL!" I wish I could attach a video of that scene for those of you who may not be familiar with it; it is SO funny.

Similarly there's no crying in bridge. After all baseball and bridge are both games! So when the following happens remember THERE'S NO CRYING IN BRIDGE.

IMPS	North (Partner)	
N-S Vul	KJ965	
	74	
	A1076	
	53	
Dummy		Funny Man
Q872		-
10		AKQJ98653
532		J4
KJ1062		A4
	South (Me)	
	A1043	
	2	
	KQ98	
	Q987	

Auction			
LHO	Partner	Funny Man	Me
Pass	Pass	Pass!	1C (1)
Pass	1S	2H	2S (2)
Pass	Pass	6H (3)	all pass

(1) Surely you've heard of Pierson Point Count rule for 3rd and 4th position openings. Unfortunately so had I. The Pierson rule says to determine if you should open a little light, count your HCP and add one point for each spade in your hand. If your total is at least 15 points then open with your light hand - otherwise pass. Since this hand adds up to 15 using that rule I opened the bidding. Wish I'd never heard of that \$*#*@ rule.

(2) Now I've really done it. Opened a little light and then raised. But everyone says you have to compete. Will I ever learn?

(3) Geez, what a turn of events. So now I'm on lead. My thought process was that surely this maniac was prepared for a spade lead, but with bidding like this anything could be right. I couldn't take the pressure; I reluctantly put the ♠Ace on the table only to see it get ruffed. Funny Man promptly wrapped up his slam when I could have passed the hand out, or better yet, beat the slam.

My bridge friends and teammates start to cringe when we're in the midst of a KO match and they know that I have been dealt a eight-card or longer suit. They start trying to determine how many imps are going South. The above hand and the one below are just further evident that if there's an eight-card or longer suit somewhere in the deal they have a right to that concern.

There are some bridge players who are really gamblers. They couldn't play straight if they wanted to. In fact, I'm not sure they know how to play any other way than to make every deal an adventure. The next deal REALLY irritated me. The preceding hand was mild compared to this one. At least it was MPs.

Match Points	West		Dlr: West			
Vul: N-S	98		South	West	North	East
	T93			1C	1D	4H
	--		pass	4NT	pass	5H
	AKQJ7543		pass	6H	X*	(all pass)
South		North (me)				
Q7643		AKJT	Opening Lead: C2			
8		A	Result: Made 6			
Q853		KJT942				
T62		98	Score: 1210			
	East		Match Points for us: 0			
	52					
	KQJ76542		*Total frustration had set in and I didn't			
	A76		even think of this double as asking for a ♣			
	--		lead.			

Notice that we make 6S or 6D from my position. Maybe I made myself the victim by not getting the spade suit into the auction even if it had to be at the five level. After forty-plus years I'm still trying to figure it out how to play Matchpoints. All I really know is that I wanted to cry. But, of course, there's NO CRYING IN BRIDGE!