

# **Bridge Philosopher 3**



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**by**

**James S. Kauder**



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# INTRODUCTION

I began playing bridge in 1955, when I was 12 years old. I wrote my first book, *The Bridge Philosopher*, in 1972. I wrote my second book, *Return of the Bridge Philosopher*, in 2006. I imagine that this will be my last book.

Even though I play bridge often, it still took me more than five years to collect the many hands which appear in this book. On average, each of the hands which appears in this book consumed four hours of my time, writing.

I've included a few stories about my personal life and thoughts. I've also added several anecdotes which I hope you will enjoy.

May 2012

James S. Kauder







# **QUOTES BY THE AUTHOR**

- 1. If it's not one thing, it's a mother.**
- 2. Anyone can eat his food. It takes  
someone special, like me, to wear his food.**
- 3. The best part of a meal is the company.**
- 4. What I need is a wife who thrives on neglect.**

## *HAND 1*

# A SECURITY QUESTION

Playing rubber bridge, partner and I bid to Four Hearts on the following hand:

**The Bidding:**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
--	--	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

**North**

♠ A 6 4

♥ K 9 6 4

♦ 4 2

♣ 10 6 4 2

**South**

♠ K Q J 8

♥ A 10 8 7 5

♦ 3

♣ A 9 3

**West leads the king of diamonds and a second diamond to East's ace, which I ruff.**

**At first sight it appears that I need hearts to break 2-2 to make Four Hearts. But I may be able to make Four Hearts even when the hearts break 3-1.**

**I see two lines of play. The first line is to play the ace and king of hearts, the ace of clubs, eliminate the spades and then lead a heart. If the hearts break 3-1, I can still make Four Hearts if either opponent has the king-queen, king-jack, or queen-jack doubleton in clubs. I can also make Four Hearts if either opponent holds the king of clubs doubleton and fails to unblock the king. And I can make Four Hearts if the opponent with three hearts has a singleton club.**

**The second line of play is to duck a club, then cash the ace and king of hearts, the ace of clubs, eliminate the spades and lead a heart. This line of play will succeed whenever the defender with three hearts holds only two clubs.**

**I make the second line of play more likely to succeed. I therefore lead a heart to dummy's king and continue with a club to my nine which West wins with the queen.**

**West continues with the queen of hearts to my ace, East showing void.**

I cash the ace of clubs and three rounds of spades and then exit with a heart to West's jack. Fortunately, West is out of clubs. West's diamond return allows me to ruff in dummy, pitching a club from hand, so I make Four Hearts.

**The complete hand:**

	<b>North</b>	
	♠ A 6 4	
	♥ K 9 6 4	
	♦ 4 2	
	♣ 10 6 4 2	
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>
♠ 10 5 2		♠ 9 7 3
♥ Q J 3		♥ 2
♦ K Q 10 9 7		♦ A J 8 6 5
♣ Q 5		♣ K J 8 7
	<b>South</b>	
	♠ K Q J 8	
	♥ A 10 8 7 5	
	♦ 3	
	♣ A 9 3	

I have a bank account which I access via the internet. I pay some of my bills on the internet. I also use the internet to check withdrawals and to verify my current balance.



**Recently, my bank informed me that it was going to beef up its security on the internet by requiring its customers to correctly answer a security question before logging onto their account. In order to log onto my account, it became necessary for me to enter my account number and password and then correctly answer the security question.**

**I was given four questions to answer, any one of which might be asked the next time I logged onto my account:**

**1. What is the name of your favorite aunt?**

**“Margaret,” I replied.**

**2. What is your favorite movie?**

**“Chicago,” I replied.**

**3. In what city was your father born?**

**“Boston,” I replied.**

**4. What is your occupation?**

**“Bridge bum,” I replied.**

## HAND 2

# BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Playing rubber bridge, I find myself in Four Hearts on the following hand:

### The Bidding:

North	East	South	West
--	--	1♥	2♠**
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

\*\* weak

### North

♠ K 6  
♥ 10 8 7 3 2  
♦ 10 4  
♣ A J 10 6

### South

♠ A 9 3  
♥ A K Q 9 4  
♦ 3 2  
♣ 8 7 5

West leads the queen of spades.

**Study the diamond position on this hand carefully, dear reader. Believe it or not, declarer must lead a diamond from hand toward dummy's ten in order to make Four Hearts.**

**I should be able to win five tricks in hearts, the ace and king of spades, a spade ruff in dummy, and the ace of clubs. That's nine tricks. Four Hearts can be set only if East holds both the king and queen of clubs. Even so, I can make Four Hearts unless West is able to get in twice to lead clubs through dummy's A-J-10-6.**

**I win the king of spades in dummy and play the ace and king of hearts. West shows void on the second heart, pitching a spade. Next, I play the ace of spades and ruff my last spade in dummy.**

**There's some advantage to be gained by leading a diamond from hand toward dummy's ten, for East may hold most of the high diamonds. I continue with a heart to my queen, East pitching another diamond. I can make Four Hearts now, no matter how the clubs lie, as long as East holds any three of the four missing diamond honors.**

**This is the position:**

	<b>North</b>	
	♠ --	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 10 4	
	♣ A J 10 6	
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>
♠ J		♠ --
♥ --		♥ --
♦ A 9 8		♦ K Q J 6
♣ 4 3 2		♣ K Q 9
	<b>South</b>	
	♠ --	
	♥ 9 4	
	♦ 3 2	
	♣ 8 7 5	

I lead a low diamond from hand toward dummy's ten. West plays the eight of diamonds, dummy the ten, and East wins the jack. East returns a diamond which West wins with the ace. West leads a club, dummy plays the ten, and East wins the queen. East is end-played now, so I make Four Hearts.

**The complete hand:**

	<b>North</b>	
	♠ K 6	
	♥ 10 8 7 3 2	
	♦ 10 4	
	♣ A J 10 6	
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>
♠ Q J 10 8 7 5		♠ 4 2
♥ 3		♥ J 6
♦ A 9 8		♦ K Q J 7 6 5
♣ 4 3 2		♣ K Q 9
	<b>South</b>	
	♠ A 9 3	
	♥ A K Q 9 4	
	♦ 3 2	
	♣ 8 7 5	

If declarer leads a low diamond from dummy, East plays low and West wins the nine of diamonds. West then leads a club, dummy plays the ten, and East wins the queen. East continues with a diamond to West's ace. A second club lead from West sets Four Hearts.

If declarer leads the ten of diamonds from dummy, the defense still prevails. East plays the jack of diamonds on the ten and West wins the ace. West then leads a club, dummy plays the ten, and East wins the queen. East continues with a low diamond to West's nine. A second club from West sets Four Hearts.

**End Sample.**



# Other Bridge Books

## by James S. Kauder

on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other major book retailers

### 1. The Bridge Philosopher

BRIDGE WITH A BITE While it is true that Terence Reese invented the “over my shoulder” style of card play problem, Jim Kauder has taken it to a new level. The problems are interesting and the answers logical and informative, but each hand has a connected story, and that's where the fun starts. The author's comments about his partners and opponents are unprecedented, to wit: “One of the players in my rubber bridge game is a mental midget.” (Hand 9) “Only a jerk like you could figure a way to go down two on a cold hand.” (Hand 21) “After considerable research, I discovered that there were half a million bridge players in California, three of whom freely admitted they were not experts.” (Hand 27) “The unethical player is most effective with his doubles.” (Hand 47) “Jim Kauder is an expert analyst and has a quirky style. It IS possible to enjoy yourself while you learn to play better bridge.”

## **2. Return of the Bridge Philosopher**

In his first collection of stories, *The Bridge Philosopher* proved to be brutally honest, self deprecating, funny, and good at explaining bridge.

In this sequel, thirty years in the making, good old B.P. is as crotchety as ever, and just as funny. He has some things to say to the ACBL and he's certainly not happy with artificial sweeteners. Best of all, he's still giving you insights into the reasoning processes of a bridge expert.