

BRIDGE

Dealer East. NS vulnerable.
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 1 Pass 2NT
Pass 3NT Pass Pass

West leads the SA, all following, and shifts to the DJ. Plan the play.
The West Hand: S-AKJ73 H-43D-J10 C-J1032
The East Hand: S-54H-J762D-Q985 C-964

We have three club tricks and two diamonds on top. There will be no spade trick unless West leads them again, which implies the need for four heart tricks of which we have three on top. Before deciding our line of play, we must look at each suit in more detail. In spades, West's overall has suggested at least five and we note that, if he has six, East will have played a singleton to the first trick and our queen cannot profitably be attacked. The dangerous position arises when West has five and East a double ton. Now, if East ever gets on play, a spade from his side will ensure four more tricks in the suit.

For that reason, we can almost rule out the possibility of a third trick in diamonds. The suit would need to break 3-3 and West would have to win the third round, implying that he would have to be credited with DQJ10 (or that he misdefends by failing to unblock his high cards from a weaker holding). However, the DJ shift suggests that the queen is with East. We should therefore concentrate on that heart suit. If it breaks 3-3, there is no problem - we have five tricks automatically. However, if it breaks unevenly and the jack is with the length, a trick will have to be lost before the long card can be enjoyed. It will be safe to lose a heart trick, provided it is to West. For that reason, on winning the diamond, we should cross to the board in clubs and play a heart, intending to insert our ten if East plays low.

On the above layout, the ten will hold and we can now cash the king, cross back to the board in clubs and cash the rest of the suit, followed by the other top diamond and the DK to total ten tricks. If West proves to have the DJ and he plays a second club, the board wins and now we avoid blocking the heart suit by playing the ace, South winning our king, and the remainder of the suit is good.

Dealer North. EW vulnerable.
NORTH SOUTH (YOU)
AK76 K54
2 K3
J105 AK962
AQ1095 J32

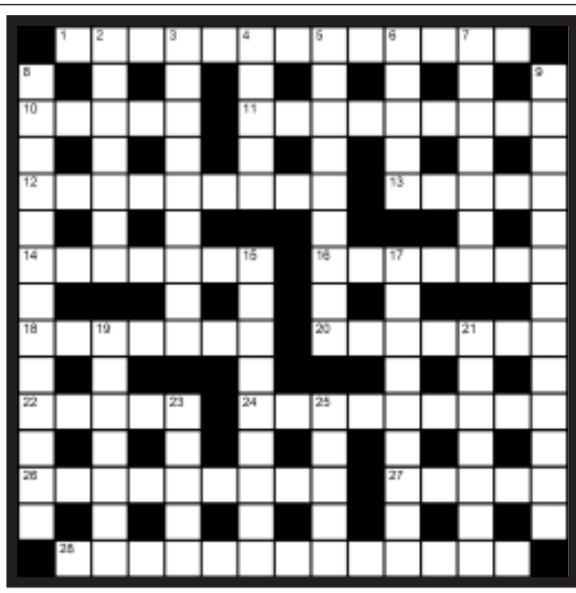
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 1 Pass 1
Pass 1 Pass 3NT
Pass Pass Pass

West leads the HQ to his partner's ace and East returns the HS to your king. How do you continue?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2281

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS
1. Formal sanction (to proceed or act) (13)
10. Arrange the feathers (5)
11. Ms Chopra of Bollywood (9)
12. Drills, prepares or practises before a public appearance? (9)
13. Grammy award winning singer Jones (5)
14. Keyboard performer (7)
15. Aerial (7)
18. An unknown person (French) (7)
20. Scott's famous novel (7)
22. A heart \_\_\_\_ : a girl friend? (5)
24. Retired Indian off-spinner (9)
25. Strenuous, tough or arduous (9)
27. Gets closer (5)
28. Keep silent, refrain from revealing information? (6,4,3)
DOWN
2. Waste canal of the human body (7)
3. Of the Magyar race (9)
4. in : persuades to take part? (5)
5. Indian goddess of wisdom (9)
6. Projection shaped to fit into a mortise? (5)
7. Infest (7)
8. Suitably (13)
9. Obstacly (13)
15. Score in American football (9)
17. Taught doctrines (9)
19. Reindeer (7)
21. Famous shrine in the sea in Mumbai (4,3)
23. Given the heat treatment (5)
25. Gone up (5)



- ACROSS
19. Workers spread wood polish (4-3)
21. This arm is broken by a god (7)
23. Finn's homeland is exploited of some ju-jitsu omissions (5)
25. Suspend one in a cooking pit (5)
DOWN
2. How to make one soul slack? (7)
3. Call Eve's son before the first lady. Sound familiar? (4,1,4)
4. Dance composition getting us punished (5)
5. Press delivery for an American city dweller (3,6)
6. Praise from the Upper House, we hear? (7,5)
7. Since I'm making crettings... (7)
8. Shortage no sin, struggling with low budget (2,1,10)
9. I got drink-tank contents cocktail when slipping into alcoholism (6,2,5)
15. Cut it fine? Quite otherwise! Ribbony pasta is your reward (9)
17. Lower tenders for the farm (9)

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS
1. Wartime aircraft light still used in a black-out (9,4)
10. No endless estate for an Australian artist (5)
11. Freshly minted old money in the S.W. Pacific (3,6)
12. Traffic lights' suggestions? Do not gasp elsewhere (4,3,2)
13. Japanese meal! Partly fishy? That's welcome! (5)
14. The last felons up personally (7)
16. Recoiling from drugs? (7)
18. Less important scheme to maintain interest in play (3,4)
20. Change the speed to moisten applause (7)
22. Swims to music (5)
24. Raise the case for providing

Solutions to 2280

- QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Conspiracy, 6 Taka, 9 Rupert Bear, 10 VSO, 12 Discriminate, 15 Unchain, 16 Melange, 17 Looks up, 19 Covered, 20 Once in a while, 23 Is up, 24 Depositing, 25 Erse, 26 Possession. Down: 1 Cars, 2 Nipa, 3 Partisanship, 4 Rubicon, 5 Cranium, 7 Abstainers, 8 Apprehends, 11 Willy-willes, 13 Gullotine, 14 Ace of clubs, 18 Placido, 19 Cahoots, 21 Kwi, 22 Agon. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Ogers house, 6 Octo, 9 Doastretch, 10 Smut, 12 Front of house, 15 Voltaic, 16 Rickscha, 17 Rebuilt, 19 Staved, 20 Eat one's words, 23 Toff, 24 Misleading, 25 Dewy, 26 A great many, 27 Dusky, 28 Sun-lounge. Down: 1 Odds, 2 Eval, 3 Alterations, 4 Oceanic, 5 Succour, 7 Compulsive, 8 On the cards, 11 Thick and fast, 13 Overheated, 14 All but a few, 18 Tossing, 19 Stoolie, 21 Pisa, 22 Ugly.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday August 9
Think big seems to be the important message. You should be scrambling by the slope of success, encouraged by others' agreement that your ideas are the best.

Monday August 10
Its inevitable that you will have to play the game according to partners' rules. If they shift the goal posts, there's little that you can do about it. Put a loved one's interests first.

Tuesday August 11
That passionate planet Pluto is still hanging around in sensitive regions, but is no longer the obvious, emotionally disruptive presence it was a few weeks ago. It's at times like this that you should retain your guard.

Wednesday August 12
You'll make the most of a partner's far-sighted visions and generosity. It might be one of those rare moments when other people know you better than you know yourself. Listen to their words of wise advice.

Thursday August 13
You need to get a grip on the details. You should now persuade partners that you are in the right. You'll discover a forthcoming family engagement or romantic invitation.

Friday August 14
Matters close to home are most important. This could be a useful moment to get in touch with family. It's a good period to see that all your ambitions are based on firm foundations.

Saturday August 15
You're completing part of a long-term pattern and it is satisfying to feel that you have come so far. It's an historic moment, and what you do this year will attract the attention of the world.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
I know you have a few personal doubts. Who wouldn't? However, you now have a chance to make a handsome amount of money. But how? I think the answer will be revealed within three weeks, so be patient. An emotional break with the past will be essential.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
It's all happening. Stunning relationships between planets like the Moon, Jupiter and Saturn will wake you up if nothing else does. I can promise you that very soon you'll be a new person. I'd also like to advise you that everything depends on how and when you say your piece.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Venus is a good enough ally to have in times like these. By that I mean that you'll need every friend you have when the missiles start flying. Perhaps you can talk a bit of sense into people who seem determined to make the worst of a bad job.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
This is not the easiest of weeks to indicate what's what and who is who. However, at a guess, I'd say that you'll give as good as you get. Just remember that to be a good general you must have a strategy, and that to win every move you make must be absolutely faultless.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your financial stars are looking stronger by the day, which should come as some consolation. You see, employers, partners, relations and just about everyone you know will be unreliable, irascible and utterly contradictory. You'll need the patience of a saint, and that's just what you'll get!

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
It will be your job to supply the sticking plaster. Granted, you may feel mildly miffed or offended, but that doesn't change the fact that you must remain responsible. Money matters may be resolved after the next weekend, perhaps when somebody with more experience enters the frame.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You have a great deal to be thankful for, not least of which is that Venus is in such a protective position. Overseas contacts and distant connections may be beneficial, and anything to do with higher education looks set to do well. Plus, your many efforts should be rewarded.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
The Sun is but one of four planets which are shortly to send the world into a spin. At times like this it is always best to remember that yours is the sign of the healer. You may channel subtle cosmic energy into creative directions and counter the angry influences of your partners and colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Oh, for the wisdom of a Sagittarian! Jupiter, your planetary ruler, is currently holding the world together, which means that you must come up with the answers wherever and whenever you see children or colleagues going in for a spot of mindless conflict. You may be the perfect peacemaker!

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Would you believe it if I said you occupied a commanding position? Well, strange as it may seem, you are the instigator of the week's unusual happenings. You also hold most of the solutions, because only you have any idea of what is lined up for the next two years.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Sometimes we astrologers look ahead and say that the world will never be the same again. I can't say whether the changes in your life over the next two months will be bumpy or smooth. What I can promise is that when you look back on this period in your life, you will see how incredibly significant it all was.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Forget the fact that astrologers tell you how soft you can be, when it seems that you can be as tough as the next person! This is no time to be squeamish. You'll be rushed off your feet, partly with fresh chores, but also with people asking you what's going on!

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

TAERER, DIOTT, EILLTT, SSHLUY. Clue: ... would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life. - Herbert Henry Asquith (5, ..., 6, 5)

SUDOKU 4195. Difficulty Level 3s. Instructions: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4194. A 9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 filled in.

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