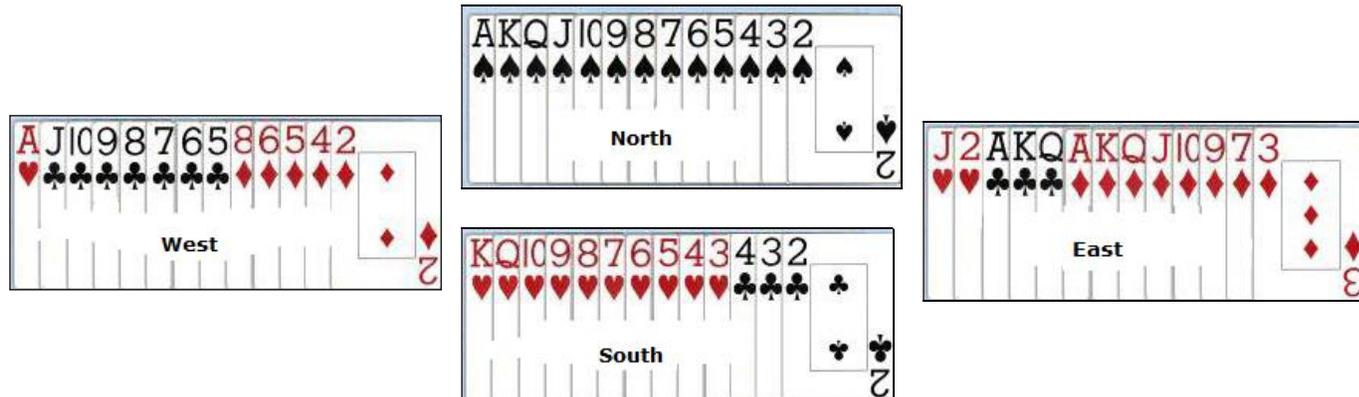


Holiday Hijinks

A seasonal spoof — Author Unknown



'Twas the duplicate Christmas party and needless to say
The punch and the season had made us quite gay.
"Find your table and shuffle," the director had said,
As visions of first place danced in my head.

When I checked our position, I got dry in the mouth
We were assigned Table 1, sitting North-South.
Just little old novices, my partner and me
We made it to fourth once, but never to three.

Fate must have decided to put us to the test
With two Life Masters sitting East-West!
We took our positions and said not a word
But I'm certain our heartbeats could surely be heard.

We shuffled the cards without blinking an eye
I dropped a card on the floor and thought I would die.
As North I was dealer, and though I was green
I knew that to open you must have thirteen.

I looked at my hand and counted, but alas,
With only ten points, I had to pass.
And frankly, I thought this was a shame
I'd never before had thirteen spades in a game.

My left-hand opponent, East by name
Opened "2♦" and I thought what a shame.
My partner, South, was trembling with fear
As the bid of "2♥" came across my ear.

My right-hand opponent sat straight in his chair
"3♥" was the bid he chose to declare.
Now I had a good suit, it's true, but alas,
With no help in hearts, I just had to pass.

My left-hand opponent now bid "3♠"
You can imagine now, how I was amazed.
My partner, South, bid "4♥" and, oh shoot!
If they took the bid, I couldn't lead her best suit.

My right-hand opponent studied his hand
And soon "7 No Trump" was his command.
Now my turn to bid, and just to save face
I doubled — I knew they were missing an Ace!

The next three bids were pass, pass, pass.
I was ready to lead a spade, but alas,
My partner was nervous; she led the ♥King
A lead out of turn — what a damnable thing!

The director was called; I can still hear his voice
As he told declarer he could make his own choice.
With a singleton heart, you must understand
This could be the only entry to his hand.

He turned to me and looking so smart,
He said, "Lead any suit, but don't lead a heart."
With such a long suit, I led my fourth-best spade
It truly was the best lead I have ever made!

For the first time in my life, I never lost the lead
And our opponents (Life Masters) had to concede.
Thirteen tricks we took, right off the top
When we won the board, I thought I would pop.

Now I ask you, with a board like this
For the rest of the night, well how could we miss?
I overheard the director say, "Who was the lass
Who had thirteen spades and cleverly passed?"

After winning first place and still full of fright,

"Merry Christmas" we called, and they all said, "Good night."