

♠ 7 4 3

♥ K Q J 9 8

♦ A 7 4

♣ 8 5

Sitting South you pick up this hand. East is the dealer and opens 1♦.

With 10 points and a five card heart suit you decide to overcall 1♥, however West jumps to 3NT ending the auction.

Partner leads the ♥7 and dummy comes down:

♠ K 10 9

♥ 4 2

♦ Q J 10 9 2

♣ A Q J

A low heart is played from dummy and immediately you have your first decision – what do you play to this trick? As third hand, the guideline is third hand high, that would suggest playing the ♥J – lets see what will happen if you do.

The ♥J wins the trick, it seems reasonable to continue with another high heart, the ♥K. That will establish your ♥Q as a winner, and you have the ♦A as an entry.

Declarer wins this trick with the ♥A as partner follows with the ♥3.

Declarer now leads a diamond planning to establish tricks with dummy's diamond suit, partner wins this trick with the ♦K. You are hoping partner has another heart to lead but partner has no more hearts. You could tell that by partners opening lead of the ♥7 followed by the ♥3, signalling a doubleton.

Instead, partner leads a spade which declarer wins. Declarer leads another diamond, partner plays low and the ♦Q is played. There are lots of entries to dummy so there doesn't seem any reason to hold up so you win the trick with the ♦A. What now?

You worked to promote your ♥Q so you may as well take a trick with it, there doesn't seem anything better to lead so you continue with another heart which declarer wins with the ♥10.

With dummy's diamonds established as winners, declarer now has the rest of the tricks. Your side took two heart tricks and two diamond tricks but that wasn't enough to defeat 3NT.

When this actual deal was played, Alphonse "Sonny" Moyses Jr. was the south player. Lets see how he defended the deal:

When partner led the ♥7 – the suit Moyses had overcalled – Moyses took his time to consider the likely layout of the heart suit. Partner would have led a low heart from three or more hearts, but partner couldn't have the ♥A – 10 – 7 since declarer had shown one or more heart stoppers with the 3NT bid. So Moyses concluded partner was most likely leading from the top of a doubleton. That meant declarer had four hearts, including both the ♥A and the ♥10. So declarer had two heart stoppers. Looking at dummy Moyses could also see that the best hope for the defence was if partner held the ♦K and declarer could not establish the diamond suit without giving up the lead twice. Moyses pictured the full deal to be something like this:

North (partner)

♠ 8 6 5 2

♥ 7 3

♦ K 8

♣ 7 6 4 3 2

♠ A Q J

♥ A 10 6 5

♦ 6 5 3

♣ K 10 9

♠ K 10 9

♥ 4 2

♦ Q J 10 9 2

♣ A Q J

♠ 7 4 3

♥ K Q J 9 8

♦ A 7 4

♣ 8 5

Moyse could see what would happen if he played the ♥J at trick one – Declarer would hold up winning the first trick, win the second and partner would have no more hearts left to lead on winning the ♦K. So Moyse found a solution – he played the ♥8 at trick one.

It wouldn't do any good for declarer to refuse to win this trick as Moyse could then continue with a high heart to drive out the ♥A. So declarer was forced to win the first trick with the ♥10. Even with two heart tricks declarer still needed to establish the diamonds. So when declarer then led a diamond North won the trick with the ♦K. Because of Moyse's play to the first trick North still had a heart to lead and again it wouldn't do declarer any good to hold up winning the ♥A since Moyse would simply continue leading hearts. Declarer won the trick with the ♥A and was forced to continue diamonds to set up that suit. Moyse was able to win the ♦A and then take his established heart winners. The defenders got two diamond tricks and **three** heart tricks to defeat the contract.

Once Moyse worked out that declarer had two heart stoppers and partner had only a doubleton heart, he could see the problem of allowing declarer to hold up winning the first trick.

Alphonse Moyse joined the staff of "The Bridge World" as assistant editor in 1934 and was the defacto editor from 1939 until Ely Culbertson passed away in 1955, he was also the ghost writer for two of Culbertson's bridge columns for over 20 years. He then purchased "The Bridge World" and ran the publication from 1955 – 1966 until Edgar Kaplan took over. He was an expert bridge player but best known for his opinions in "The Bridge World".

He was a proponent of natural bidding and opening four card majors, and since opening a four-card major would often land the partnership in a 4 -3 trump fit which required careful handling of the suit, this became known as a "**Moysian Fit**".

The brain teasing enjoyment, (or stress) of managing a Moysian Fit persists today but these days the Moysian Fit is more often the result of a bidding misadventure than anything else!