

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

IT'S ELEMENTARY

By: Brian Gunnell

Crime in London appeared to be taking a vacation, and Sherlock Holmes found himself on opening lead at the Baker Street Bridge Club:

♠ A65, ♥ 92, ♦ T95, ♣ Q9654

<i>Holmes</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>East</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Let's eavesdrop on the post-mortem in Holmes' 221B bachelor quarters.

Watson: Dash it, Holmes, why not lead the unbid suit? I must have Hearts.

Holmes: Indeed, dear chap, you had four, but so did declarer.

Watson: We know that now.

Holmes: And I knew it before I made my lead.

Watson: An Englishman doesn't peek.

Holmes: No, it was the curious matter of your bidding.

Watson: But I didn't bid.

Holmes: Yes, that was most curious. My 6-count and the opponents' bidding told me that you had a decent hand. And yet you did not overcall 1♥. Clearly you had less than 5 Hearts. The auction also told me that West had less than four Hearts and East less than 5. Thus, the Hearts were 2-3-4-4 around the table.

Watson: Very clever. I suppose you also knew that West had three Clubs.

Holmes: Yes, Watson.

Watson: You *did* know?

Holmes: It seemed most likely. I had five and East had at least two.

Watson: He did?

Holmes: If he was 3=4=5=1 he would raise Spades. With 2=4=6=1 he would rebid Diamonds. Ergo, he had at least two Clubs.

Watson: So, if East had two Clubs and West had four then I would have had just two. With that I would no doubt make a Takeout Double of 1♣.

Holmes: By George, I think he's got it!

	♠ KQJ ♥ 8754 ♦ J63 ♣ AJ3	
♠ T972 ♥ AKJ ♦ Q84 ♣ K87	Watson West East Holmes	♠ 843 ♥ QT63 ♦ AK72 ♣ T2
	♠ A65 ♥ 92 ♦ T95 ♣ Q9654	

Yes, of course, Holmes did not lead the unbid Hearts, he led through West's Club suit. But how on earth did he know to lead the *Queen*, the only card in his hand which beats the contract? That's a story for another day.

Visit www.acbl.org for more about the fascinating game of bridge or email marketing@acbl.org