Section 3. Easy Mysteries

This section contains very easy-to-solve mysteries.

Contents

Mysteries

3-1. Gentlemen's Draw

"Holmes, there is an interesting article in the latest issue of 'Mahjong News'", Dr. Watson said to Holmes at breakfast.
"At the last London MCR Championship, an extremely quick draw has been recorded. Here are the details…"
"There is no need for details. It's rather elementary!", interrupted Holmes.

Question: Please, reconstruct the deal flow and explain what has happened, provided the following assumptions:

- the player(s) made **the least possible number of** declarations (calls);
- the wall contained **the greatest number of** possible tiles;
- the rules were MCR and **draw** has been recorded.

Hint
Solution

3-2. 156 Mahjongs

Mrs. Hudson and the three gentlemen played a deal in a draw. There are no flowers in their hands. All four hands are concealed. Wan Dongtiao, after looking at all hands, says, "If **any** of you discard **any** tile from your hand then **all** three others immediately say "Hu!" "In other words, one can count 13*4*3=156 possible mahjongs."

Question: Please, reconstruct the hands of the players.

Solution

3-3. Cleaning Day

While Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were out for conducting their affairs, Mrs. Hudson was cleaning the apartment. She came to the table with two mahjong sets. Suddenly, several tiles from both sets dropped to the floor.

"Heavens!" was the only thing that Mrs. Hudson could say because the thing she saw was so difficult to believe.

There were two groups of fourteen tiles from each set on the floor. In both groups six tiles were laying "face-up". Those tiles were *identical* in both groups:

 .

Mrs. Hudson felt the utmost astonishment after she turned over the rest the tiles.

"I can't believe it!"
Two different groups of fourteen tiles formed legal mahjong in one suit, though no 24-point fan "Full Flush" could be counted.

Question: Please, reconstruct both hands.

Hint
Solution

3-1. Gentlemen's Draw

Find the place in the game at which nobody can win.

Solution

3-3. Cleaning Day

Search the "Green Book" for one-suited fans scoring higher than 24 points.

Solution

Solutions

3-1. Gentlemen's Draw

Although the players were solid gentlemen, they were playing mahjong for only the second time ever.

So, 13*3+14=53 tiles are dealt. The wall contains 144-53=91 tile. The deal has begun. East moves first. He declares "Hu!" Everybody wowed, although it turned out to be a false hu. So, East discards a tile on which… South, West and North declare "Hu" which, in each case,turned out to be a false declaration.

After only *four* declarations during the very first round we have:
- the wall still contains 91 tiles (stays *untouched*);
- *none* of the four players can declare "hu" anymore (actually, they can declare but at the cost of a penalty score).

And now South, who must make a move after the untaken discard of East, offers to the other players a gentleman's agreement on a draw. Everyone assumes that none of the players will intentionally announce "Hu" to the detriment of himself, and that the game will then end, obviously, in a draw, but only after the taking and discarding of 91 tiles from the wall. The offer was accepted by all players.

3-2. 156 Mahjongs

All four players have thirteen single terminal and honor tiles waiting for "Thirteen Orphans".

3-3. Cleaning Day

Without a doubt, there are exactly two solutions:
- , the main fan is #6 "Seven Shifted Pairs" = 88 pts., and;
- , the main fan is #13 "Pure Terminal Chows" = 64 pts.