

October 2016 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 28, Column 1, first paragraph below the deal: The reasoning of the 3NT bid is instructional. The South hand is powerful and freakish. Playing IMPs (teams), bidding game is mandatory. Slam is unlikely with West opening and East responding. 3NT is the most likely makeable game. Only some sharp defense beats the contract one trick.

Page 29, Column 2, first paragraph: the double of 6C is a Lightner double, asking partner to lead dummy's first bid suit. The heart leads gives North a ruff, setting the contract.

The Bidding Box (p. 37 – 39)

Problem 1

The 2C bid is standard when playing inverted minors. It shows five-card support for opener's minor, no four-card major, and 10+ HCP.

Problem 3

Chang's 2C bid does not say anything about clubs; it's the fourth suit forcing convention. Some play it forcing to game, some play it forcing one round.

Bridge Bulletin auction: This auction skips the 1S bid to bid 2H. The contestants both bid 1S. The standard bid is 1S as East would bid 4 card majors up the line if he had them (he doesn't), so East's 1H bid does not deny spades. The **Bridge Bulletin** auction takes the unorthodox position of supporting hearts immediately with only three. It did that because

- The spades were very weak,
- Aces argue for a suit contract,
- The hearts are good, and
- There's potential ruffing value in clubs.

Problem 5

Chokriwala bids 3S instead of 3 NT. Aces argue for a suit contract. Even though he has long clubs-- the unbid suit-- he has only one stopper in it. And he has potential ruffing value in hearts.

Problem 6

Both pairs played 2H a weak jump shift in competition. I agree with Chokriwala, that it shows 0-5 hcp.

It's Your Call (p. 40 – 43)

Problem 4

Boehm: It is natural to have to think on this awkward bid. Best is to pass, but only if you can do it in tempo. If you break tempo, partner now has unauthorized information, and is ethically bound not to make a marginal bid. So if tempo is broken, then bid 5C, so as not to bar partner.

Page 44, Alder, column 3, third paragraph: Declarer has 7 top tricks. The danger suit is hearts. It is safe to take the spade finesse because when it loses, you now have 2 added spades winners to make your game. West can't hurt you by continuing hearts, as he is leading into your A J, giving you an overtrick.

Page 45, Shafer

- Column 1, (1): The South hand is worth at least 18 points making it too strong for a standard 15-17 point notrump opener. The fifth diamond is worth an extra point. The fifth diamond is worth far more than replacing it with the J of hearts.
- Column 1, (2): West needs to interfere over the notrump bid with the excellent 6 card heart suit. Allowing the opponents to have an unobstructed auction starting with 1N allows them to find their best contract the vast majority of the time. There is a risk making a vulnerable overcall at the 2 level, but with a 6 card heart suit headed by the AK it's worth it.

Page 46, Harrington

- Column 1, bottom to column 2, top: A reasonable agreement if for responder's negative double to show at least 8 points when the overcall is two of a minor, and at least 9 points after an overcall of two of a major.
- Column 2, (3): The minimum for a negative double of a three-level preempt is about 11 points.
- Column 2, last full paragraph: If you have a reasonable 3 NT bid, don't make a negative double; you could force partner to bid past 3NT.

Page 47, Berg

- Column 1, first paragraph: Opening all 12 point hands, and opening rule of 20 (I like rule of 22 - includes 2 quick tricks) hands are common openers. That is part of the reason the 1 level overcalls can be made with a weak hand. I would make it with a 6 HCP hand, with a suit headed by the K Q 10, automatically.
- Column 1, last paragraph: Use a cue bid (bidding opponent's suit) to show support for opener's major suit and a limit raise or better hand.
- Column 2, top: After cue bidding, if you have opening points, your next bid should put the contract in game. Do not bid 4 of a major (4M) on your first bid; that shows a weak hand with 5 card trump support. If you bid 4M with an opening hand, you will miss slams.
- Column 3, fourth full paragraph. Hand 3. Make a negative double with your four spades. Bidding them shows five.

Page 50, Challenge of the Month: This is another typical strip and end play hand. Eliminate the spades and diamonds. Then throw them in with a club. Now when you play a club, after they win, they must either give you a sluff and a ruff or a club trick.

Page 52, Kantar, column 3, last paragraph. When you have a five-card suit, no matter how poor it is, you should determine if setting up the fifth card (and sometimes the fourth card also) is the best way to make your contract. In this hand, it is.

Page 54, Cohen: This is a more sophisticated strip and end play deal. Declarer plays diamonds and spades, eliminating them from the West hand. Then, on the third round off heats, when West wins the HQ, all he has left is clubs. Declarer has also eliminated all the clubs in both his hand and dummy, so West must play a club for a ruff and a sluff, allowing 4H to make.

Page 55, Boehm,

- Column 2, first paragraph: Bid 3 NT with hand C. You can count 7 tricks, 6 diamonds and the A of clubs. Your partner responded 2D, followed by 3D, missing the AK of diamonds, he is odds on to have two outside tricks for his bid and 6 diamonds to the DQ.
- Column 3, first full paragraph: With the solid clubs in hand E (as opposed to hand D), risk the 3C overcall, asking for a club lead on defense and suggesting a possible sacrifice. Also, read the last two paragraphs of this article.

Page 63, Miller, column 2, first full paragraph. Using “equal level conversion” a takeout double of a major allows the doubler to convert partner’s club response to diamonds without showing extra values. It shows a two-suiter: the other major and diamonds.

Rank Advancements (beginning on page 67)

- John Caudill: Life Master (page 67)
- Tonya McNabb: Life Master (page 67)
- Wes Peirce: Life Master (page 67)
- Katherine Onstott: Gold Life Master (page 68)
- Carol Lombardino: Ruby Life Master (page 70)
- Tom Romz: Bronze Life Master (page 78)