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**Page 12**, Column 1, first paragraph (hand on page 11): West opens a preemptive 3D with only 6 diamonds to the K. This is a good bid because:

1. West is short in both majors, making it likely that the opponents have a fit in one or both majors.
2. West has a side 4 card suit. That fourth card will often take a trick on offense.
3. EW is not vulnerable
4. Pre-empting in first seat allows West to pre-empt both opponents.

In second position I would not make the 3D bid, though, as then I am only preempting two players and one is my partner.

**Page 13**, Column 1: Declarer drops North's singleton SK. He does this because South had opened a weak 2H bid, promising no more than 11 HCP. South had already played the DA and DQ (6 points) and was likely to hold the HK for an additional 3. Therefore he doesn't have the SK (that would be 12 HCP). The only chance to capture it is to drop it singleton. Any chance is better than no chance.

**Page 13**, Column 3, auction: East's double shows exactly four spades. Holding five he would bid 1S.

**Page 22-23**, Lifetime Achievement

Rank	Name	Points
4	Eddie Wold	69,032.50
43	Dan Morse	27,074.74
46	John Zilic	26,995.41
111	Robert Morris	20,234.87
144	Thomas Peters	18,154.72
148	Shawn Quinn	18,001.88
160	Mildred Breed	17,667.02

**The Bidding Box (p. 37 – 39)**

**Problem 1**

Playing match points, it is important not to turn plus scores into minus scores.

**Problem 7**

**Bridge Bulletin** auction: West's jump to 2 NT shows 18-19 HCP.

#### Page 44, Alder

- Column 2, fourth paragraph: Standard lead against a notrump contract is the fourth-best card in the best (longest and strongest) suit. So when the 2 is lead, opening leader has exactly four cards in the suit because there is no card lower than the 2.
- Column 3, first full paragraph: Declaring a NT contract, when you know that a suit is splitting 4-4, there is no reason to duck because you cannot cut the opponents' communication in that suit. If you knew the suit were 5-3 (or 5-2), there may be a benefit to holding up until the short side is out of the suit.
- Column 3, third full paragraph: Because you need to find out if the opening leader has five cards in the suit led, you should duck twice.

#### Page 45, Shafer

- Column 1, point (4): Use Stayman to look for a 4-4 fit in one of your majors. You can always bid 3N if partner bids 3D, denying a four card major.
- Column 2, last full paragraph: Even over a 1 NT bid, North should bid Stayman. He should then pass whatever South bids. This is a great garbage Stayman hand: at least four cards in every suit but clubs.
- Column 3, last full paragraph: Even though it is not ideal to open 1N with 2 doubletons, 1N is superior to any other call. Sometimes you don't have a perfect bid, so you make the best bid available.

#### Page 46, Harrington

- Column 1, last paragraph: With the second version of the hand, East considers the following:
  - X would promise four spades.
  - 2H would promise three hearts.
  - 2N is not the answer to misfitting hands and you are likely to get a better score setting a doubled club contract.
  - Pass gives West the opportunity to make a re-opening double, which East can convert to a penalty double by passing.

East should be fairly confident that West will make a re-opening double because:

- South will almost definitely pass:
  - South does not have clubs: North and East together have 10 or more; West and South have at most three between them.
  - South does not have points: West and North each have (or should have) at least 13 and East has 10. That leaves about four for South.
- After East and South pass, West will consider the following:
  - South's pass implies a weak hand and/or club shortness.
  - The bids East could have made and did not make.
  - West's own shortness in clubs.

East should pass West's re-opening double, converting it to a penalty double.

- Column 2, first paragraph: With shortness in overcaller's suit, opener should reopen even with a minimum hand.
- Column 2, hand b: When opener has length in overcaller's suit, he knows partner did not trap pass. So, with a minimum opener he should pass.
- Column 2, hand c: Even with shortness in overcaller's suit, if opener has a hand that is clearly good for offense, he should bid his suits rather than re-open with a double. Hand c will take a lot of tricks in the red suits, but very few on defense against a club contract. A typical opener has three defensive tricks and promises two. This hand does not have that.
- Column 3, first paragraph: Don't bid notrump when you believe that you will get a better score defending (and setting) a doubled contract.

#### **Page 47, Berg**

- Column 2, first full paragraph: Don't overthink at the table. Often your first instinct is correct. Dreaming up the worst possible scenario and worrying about it isn't usually helpful.
- **Poor Execution:** if you made fewer tricks than others in the same contract, and you can't figure out what happened, ask a competent mentor.
- Column 3, first paragraph: Play against tough competition to get better. Learn the positive and negative inferences from their bidding and play. Play with the best partner you can, at least some of the time.
- Column 3, third paragraph: Have a good fit with your partner. Don't expect any partnership to be perfect.

**Page 48, Helms**, column 1, second paragraph: Look for a reason to interfere over a strong 2C opener. Don't be intimidated.

**Page 49, Ruling the Game**, Question 2: A card is not necessarily played when it's detached from a player's hand when it's not seen.

**Page 52, Lawrence**, Column 3: *Post Mortem*: When West leads the DA, East should play a low diamond (a discouraging signal) to get West to switch. Hopefully, West will realize a club switch is right. The CK and CJ behind the CQ is why West wants the club switch.

**Page 53, Horton**, Column 2: *Post Mortem*: The play of the AK of spades is always there to try to drop the hoped for (but not there) doubleton QJ of spades. By waiting as long as possible, by playing the hearts and clubs first, West will be squeezed in diamonds and spades. He will have to unprotect either the SQ or DJ. Even if you don't see this at the table, it costs nothing to see what happens when you squeeze the opponents.

#### **Page 54, Cohen**

- Column 1, last paragraph: Lebensohl in response to partner's double of a weak 2 bid. 2N is weak; a natural suit bid shows values.
- Column 2, third paragraph: Standard thinking when looking for a Q with four cards missing in the suit. With no bidding, it's standard to play for the Q drop under the AK. If there's a preemptor, finesse the preemptor's partner for the Q. Usually the preemptor won't have the Q. Course in this deal, you can count the hand if you are sophisticated enough.

### **Page 55, Boehm**

- Column 1, third paragraph. Maximal doubles are game tries where you are bidding one suit up from your opponent's suit. Here they are bidding diamonds; your side has hearts. You would bid hearts just to compete. You would double to invite game. This is alertable.
- Column 2, second full paragraph: When you are evaluating your hand, use the bidding to either upgrade or downgrade your hand. A king behind an opponent bidding the suit is worth a lot, that same king in front of the bidder might be worth nothing.

### **Page 56, Bergen**

- **Principle 2:** With 6 clubs and 5 spades, open 1 Club.
- **Principle 3:** If one suit is far stronger than the other, open it.
- **Principle 4:** If you are not strong enough to reverse, open the higher ranking suit
- **Principle 5:** Rules for reversing. 17 HCP plus or minus based on your distribution.
- **Much ado about nothing:** always open 1C with 4 clubs and 4 diamonds.

**Page 57, Stewart,** Column 1, first paragraph: The importance of playing in a strong game to improve.

**Page 59, Kantar,** Problem 1: The 2S bid does not promise 2 of the top 3 spades when responding to partner's strong 2C opening. Some play that it does.

**Page 60, Lawrence:** This is another strip and end play deal. Throw West in after stripping his hand of clubs and diamonds, and stripping the spades from dummy. Then West must either lead from his HK (end play), or give declarer a sluff and a ruff by leading a spade.

### **Rank Advancements (beginning on page 68)**

- Robert Morris: Grand Life Master (page 68)
- Marsha Bernstein: Diamond Life Master (page 68)
- Ben Landers: Bronze Life Master (page 78)