

December 2016 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Page 15, Column 2m first paragraph after the diagram. When East (Palmer) played the 5 of hearts on the lead of her partner's queen, she was making an upside down discard. Low means she likes the suit, high means she doesn't. This is the opposite of standard discards where high means you like it and low means you don't. The advantage of upside down discards is that you keep high cards in your good suit(s) instead of having to make the tough choice of whether to signal with them.

2D by S-Molson in the second bidding sequence in the same column. There are exceptions, but it is rarely right for responder to rebid their 5 card suit, since South has a good hand (an opener), and any number of spades will be a nonforcing bid, she made the cheapest forcing bid she could 2D. New suits by a non passed hand (when neither partner has bid notrump) are 100% forcing.

Page 16, Column 1, first paragraph. West led the A of clubs and then a small club, high/low looking for a ruff. East played the high clubs (9 and then 8), which are high clubs showing West that her entry is in the higher of the 2 nontrump suits not being played (hearts), if East's entry was in diamonds then East should play the 2 of clubs showing it's in the lower of the 2 nontrump suits not being played.

Page 16, column 1, first deal, doubling an artificial bid asks partner to lead the suit. Doubling the 4C bid got the killing club lead.

Page 22, Paul Cuneo is District 16's new ACBL board member.

Page 24, Colchamiro, #1 Opening 1 NT with a 5 card major is common as it solves the rebid problem of bidding 1 of the major. This is especially true where you 5 card suit is hearts, and you are stuck for a rebid if partner bids spades.

#2 Opening 1 NT with two doubletons is common, especially with a 4 card heart suit, and a 5 card minor. Opening 1 NT makes it harder for opponents to enter the auction.

#3, only show a feature when you're near a maximum when partner bids 2 NT in response to your weak 2,

#5 A double of an opponent's 1 NT overcall is for penalty.

Page 37, Problem 1, The bidding Box. **Bridge Bulletin Auction** The 3C bid by East asks for a club stop – it's the 4th suit. It is usually better to play in the 5-2 fit (spades) in this case, as opposed to the 4-3 fit (hearts) in this case. Think about how the clos would go if West if playing a heart game, and had to ruff a diamond in the West hand. , It is likely West would then lose control of the hand.

Page 38, Problem 3, **Bridge Bulletin Auction** this fits with Colchamiro article, note the recommendation to open the West hand 1 NT is West had four hearts and 2 spades instead of the actual holding.

Page 39. Problem 6, **Bridge Bulletin Auction**, note the use of Q bids. There was no need to rush into Roman Key Card, when you can further describe your hand at a lower level. Note neither hand is great

to rush into RKC with anyway as they both of wide open suits with at least 2 card. West had the 5 little hearts and East has the small doubleton in spades.

Page 40, It's Your Call, Problem 1. Column 1, second paragraph, Kit Woolsley's double flaw theory. If there is only one flaw to a 1 NT opening, bid the 1 NT, if there are two are more floors bid something else. Flaws include a 5 card major, a 6 card minor, two doubletons, a losing doubleton, or a singleton.

Page 41, Problem 3, both Meyers and Beohm both pass and point out that it is important to go plus a t matchpoints (pairs).

Page 43. Problem 4, when you have a void – somebody has at least 5 of them. When you're in 4th seat and are void in a major, and both opponents have bid something other than your void, partner has at least 5 cards in your void, and likely 6. both Cohen, Lee and the Sutherlins make that point.

Page 43, Problem 5, it is correct to raise partner's preempt with your excellent diamond support. However, Falk states that maybe 4D will keep the opponents out of the auction, after all South has a decent defensive hand and East has already passed. The opponents might not have game. Phantom sacrifices are not great. And there is always the option of bidding 5D later.

Page 45 Shafer, this continues Colchamiro's thesis on the advantages of opening 1 NT even when there are other options and it's not a textbook bid. Last column 3 bullets.

- 1 NT openers make it harder for your opponents to enter the auction. They sure aren't getting in on the 1 level.
- It allows for partner to transfer into a long weak suit
- It shows your point count and shape in one bid

Page 46 Harrington, column 2, first paragraph, 2 level over calls (direct seat) tend to show an opening hand so, South initially passes. But when East/West stop at 2 H, South knows North must have some values, and now South is in the balancing position (partner does not have another bid coming if South passes) so the 3 C bid is automatic,

Column 3, last paragraph, balancing is best done when the opponents have found a fit. Especially in a major.

Page 47 Berg, Column 2, first full paragraph, 2 level overcall are often agreed upon to show an opener (similar to Harrington's point).

Column 2, last paragraph, when partner overcalls, and you have a limit raise or better in partner's suit, it is standard to cue bid opener's suit.

Page 48, Helms, column 1, last paragraph, bidding 4S after partner opened 1S, shows 5 spades and poor defense – rarely an outside Ace or King, and great distribution – a singleton or void. A great offensive hand, one that you will ruff partner's losers with. Same idea with hearts,

Column 2, second paragraph, down 1 (even doubled) is always good if the opponents are about to make game, with equal vulnerability down 2 is good, with favorable vulnerability (they're vulnerable and you're not, down 3 doubled is still good).

Column 2, fourth paragraph, with a stronger hand like the one shown in the example, do not bid 4 spades, splinter in your singleton or void. In this case bid 4C.

Column 3, bidding, the 4D and 4H bids are Q bids, showing controls.

Column 3, first paragraph, when partner asks for the Q of trump and you know that partner and you have 10 trump between you (in this case you both have 5), bid that you have the queen whether you have it or not, as it will drop over 75% of the time.

Page 49, Ruling the Game, first question. Dummy can summon the director after another player has drawn attention to an irregularity in the hand.

Page 52, Kantar, column 3, second full paragraph. Plan the play before playing to trick one. Take finesses into the safe hand. Take the club finesse first, attack diamonds later. If the club finesse loses to West, you are safe from a heart lead. You are happy having a heart led to your AQ. If you allow East in, you risk the unpleasant heart lead through your AQ.

Page 54, Cohen, top of column 2. The standard lead is fourth best against a notrump contract. So, if the opening lead is the two, then the opening leader has exactly four cards in the suit.

Page 55, Boehm, **With hand A** when partner opens 3H vulnerable and you have the K J it is highly probable partner has 7 to the ace and is likely to have the Q also. Since he preempted, it is unlikely that he has much else. With your holding, although it is possible that they find a club lead and run 5+ tricks, that is an overly pessimistic view to take. First they have to find clubs, and if partner has as little as the Jack or 3 small, they are unlikely to take 5+ club tricks. With any other lead you have as easy 9 tricks in notrump, 7 hearts and your 2 aces. It would be foolish to bid 4H, because you are not ruffing anything and will likely come to the same number of tricks in hearts as notrump. Making 3 NT is better than going down one in four hearts.

With hand C you only have one defensive trick outside hearts. Your opponents have a likely spade game. With your good heart support, raise the preempt to 4H. You have a good chance of taking 8 tricks, which is -500 if they double, which is better than letting them make 620 or 650 for a vulnerable spade game.

With hand D Do not bid 3 NT with this hand. This is a non thinking bid. All partner promised is a good heart suit and less than an opener. If you bid notrump you might not get a trick from partner's hand. You can count on playing this out of your hand and going down a bunch. Just pass. It's a misfit. Get out early.

Page 56, Bergen, this column continues with the benefits of opening 1 NT that was noted in earlier columns. It's descriptive, it makes it harder for the opponents to come into the auction, and it avoids some nasty rebid problems.

Column 2, he gives examples where he recommends a 1 NT bid despite have two doubletons, and not having strength in the doubletons. It is nice to have strength in your doubletons when you open 1 NT.

Column 3, he advocates considering opening 1 NT with a 6 card minor but not a 6 card major.

Page 58, Walker, her main point is to limit your hand as soon as possible. That simplifies the auction for partner.

Page 60, Mike Lawrence, his main point is to eliminate sloppy play. West has next to nothing. It is easy to just throw cards. The key here is to realize that only half way decent card you have is a spade, so don't toss any spades. If you keep your spades this will hold declarer to 11 tricks instead of 12. At IMPS these over tricks are fairly minor, at match points (pairs) they are the difference between a good board and a bad board.

Page 63, Billy Miller, column 2 first paragraph. If you have a hand that is between a weak two bid or a one opener, pick one of those bids, don't pass.

Page 65 Life Masters

Steve Bell

Ann Pare

Ronald Pare

Page 69 Ruby Life Masters

David Crooks

Azam Khan