

## January 2017 ACBL Bridge Bulletin Notes

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**Page 6, Linxwiler**, second and third paragraphs describe playing in the ACBL Robot games on BBO (Bridge Base Online).

**Page 24**, Column 1, auction: Hampson's double of the 3NT contract. That's a Lightner double, requesting that partner lead dummy's first bid suit.

### Page 28, Colchamiro

- Maxim 6, blue point #1: Play the lower of two touching cards in defense (e.g., play the Q from KQ in third seat on defense); this helps partner place the cards. This is the opposite of what declarer should do. Declarer usually wins the higher of touching cards in his hand to hide what he has from the defenders (e.g., win the K from KQ). If declarer wins with the Q, it tips off that he has the K, or the defender in third position would typically win it.
- Maxim 6, blue point #3, last paragraph: If you have only one honor in a specific suit and you know that your partner does not have any honors in that suit (the lead of a high-ish card like the 8 denies an honor in that suit) and your honor is not going to win the trick, do not play it. Especially if it's well-protected, as shown in this example. Playing the honor sets up the suit for the declarer.
- Maxim 7: If partner leads the DQ in a suit contract, you can be sure partner does not have the DK or the DA. So, don't return a diamond. Lead to the weakness in the board – either a spade or a heart.
- Maxim 8: Usually you cover an *unsupported* honor with an honor. In the example you don't cover the HJ with the HQ because the HT is in dummy. If the HT were not in dummy you would cover the HJ with the HQ. If the HT is led after the HJ has been played, then cover it.
- Maxim 10: don't under lead an ace on your opening lead of a suit contract. However, later in the hand it is often right. Making declarer guess (like who has the A and who has the Q) is a good thing for the defense.

### Page 30, Cohen

- Column 1, last deal: Consider your likely second bid before you make your first bid. With the example bid, bid 1N. It's a very good bid, but not a perfect bid because you don't have a spade stopper. But it is the best bid, because if you open 1C you will be stuck for a second bid. If your second bid is 1N, that shows 11/12-14 points, but 2N shows 18-19 points. Bidding 1N right away is clearly the best bid.
- Column 2, last paragraph: The standard bid with 3-3 in the minors, no five-card major, and too few or too many HCP to open 1N is 1C. (In the interest of full disclosure, I will often open the weaker of my three card minors; I'm not expecting to play in a minor. Unless partner has a major, I expect to play notrump, and I don't want my weaker minor led. Therefore, I often bid it. I never bid my shorter minor though.)

**Page 35, Star Recruiters:** Beverley Cheatham has recruited over 100 new ACBL members in the last 12 months.

## **The Bidding Box (p. 37 – 39)**

### **Problem 2**

*Bridge Bulletin* auction: East's 3H bid shows 16-18 HCP and a good 6 card suit. With 7 HCP and a mismatch, West just passes.

### **Problem 5**

Notice both East players bid 6C. Five of a minor is rarely a good contract in match points (pairs): You are betting that 3N making an overtrick is not there and the minor suit slam is not there. Sometimes that's right (that neither is there), but usually it's not.

**Page 43, It's Your Call**, Column 2, fourth paragraph: Like most of the panelists, Lee bids 1D. He chose that over 1C because he would like to see a club led.

**Page 44, Alder**: The first step in playing a suit contract is to count your potential losers. Decide what you're going to do with these losers: ruff them or discard them on a long suit. Maybe there is nothing you can do. But make a decision; they never go away by themselves just because you ignored them when you first started playing the hand.

### **Page 45, Shafer**

- Column 2, (6): South should upgrade her hand because she has an independent heart suit, and a nice fit with her partner's diamond suit. She should visualize that the hand will play well.
- Column 2, last paragraph: East wins with the lower of touching honors – the CJ (on defense play the lower of touching honors), then led the CA – top of touching honors.

### **Page 47, Berg**

- Column 2, last paragraph: When raising partner's preempt (e.g., 2S to 3S), that is not an invitational bid, it's merely extending the preempt.
- Third column, third paragraph: don't respond 2N (asking for some further description of partner hand) to partner's weak 2 bid unless you're planning to bid game over a positive response. If partner does bid 2N and you have the AKQ in your suit, bid 3N.
- Third column, last paragraph: When you're short in the suit that partner preempted, just pass; don't make it worse.

### **Page 48, Helms**

- Column 2, first paragraph: Don't count shortness as opener; you don't know if it will help you. Do count extra for length – especially in a good suit.
- Green box: This information is fairly standard with the caveat that you can count shortness points only up to the number of trump you hold. E.g., to count three points for a singleton, you should have three trump. Hand evaluation also includes counting points for long suits on which you can discard losers.
- Column 3, third paragraph: When you trump in the hand with the long trumps, you stop a loser, but you didn't add a winner. That long trump would be good anyway (usually). When you trump in the short hand, you not only stop a loser, but you create a winner. The short trump hand would just have its trumps go under the long trumps hand if you just pulled trump.

### **Page 52, Kantar**

- Bidding Quiz 1, Hand 3: When you have a mismatch with partner, downgrade your hand.
- Bidding Quiz 1, Hand 6: Don't make a bad situation worse when you have a mismatch with partner.
- Bidding Quiz 2, Hand 5: You have heart and diamond support for partner, you have already passed, showing five or fewer points. With your near max, and a double fit, bid 4H.

**Page 54, Boehm**, Column 1, second paragraph: A singleton King is a hard card to evaluate. Treat it as a soft three points. Change your evaluation of it as the bidding progresses. If partner bids the suit, treat it as the full three. If opps bid the suit behind you, downgrade it to maybe one. If opps bid the suit in front of you, keep it as a soft three. Opps are likely to finesse for it and then you'll get it.

### **Page 56, Bergen**

- Column 1, first paragraph: It is generally wrong for responder to rebid his five-card major. New Minor Forcing, and/or delayed raises will often uncover a 5-3 fit.
- Column 2, top: When you have a singleton, try to play a suit contract rather than notrump.
- Column 2, first paragraph: A reverse is not game forcing, but it does promise another bid from partner.
- Column 3, point 4: When responder has 2 five card suits, it's appropriate to bid the second suit twice.

**Page 58, Walker**, last paragraph. Slow place is inappropriate. After 15 seconds, it's time to bid.

**Page 60, Lawrence**, Column 3, last paragraph: Look for reasons to interfere with openers strong 2C bid (without being suicidal), especially with favorable vulnerability – they're vulnerable, you're not.

### **Rank Advancements (beginning on page 65)**

- Charo Barnette: Life Master (page 65), Bronze Life Master (page 74)
- Nancy Gray Silver Life Master (page 68)