

January ACBL Bulletin Notes

Page 7, Active ethics. Pausing/hesitation often gives unauthorized information. When South leads a club, West doesn't know when to take his ace. West wants to be sure that declarer can't reach dummy's clubs. When East hesitates, then he can't have a singleton club. So, South must also have 2. A cheat would then take their ace on the second club lead.

Page 16, 3rd column, 1st paragraph, the redbl by Mesbur is an SOS redouble - tells partner to run.

The 3NT by Clerkin needs to be doubled at IMPs. It's often wrong to double them (would go at IIMP (team games)) but once they're already in game, you should double if you think you can set them.

Page 17, Restricted choice, 2nd paragraph / 1st column. When you're missing 4 cards that include the QJ. Play a high (Ace or King) card, and if the Q or J fall, finesse the player who didn't play the Q or J for the other honor - if you can. In this deal, declarer can't.

Page 17, 2nd column deal, the 2NT bid is correct. A normal 1NT opening with spades stopped. The small doubleton heart is just a minor nuisance - South bid spades not hearts.

Page 17, 3rd column, 2nd paragraph. When you open a 3 suited hand 2C, it does show your strength but it is near impossible to get all 3 suits into the auction. I would not bid 2C with the West hand.

Page 18, 3rd column, diagram. I love Zia's 4D bid. with his 2-0-7-4 distribution, the 4th club is often as good as an 8th diamond. The double of 4S is a lighter double - asking partner to lead dummy's first bid suit.

Page 38, 3rd column, 1st paragraph. Aces are worth more than 4 points, Kings are usually worth a bit more than 3 points. A 5 card suit is usually worth a point. In this case it clearly is as it's 5 to the AK. So, it's a clear 2C opener.

Page 42, 2nd column, Lee, if the clubs and diamonds were reversed, Lee would double and correct a likely club call from partner to diamonds. This would show diamonds and spades - if you only had one suit you would bid it. Normally if you double and then bid your own suit this shows a big hand. But if you corrected a club bid it is called ELC (Equal Level Conversion) - because you are not raising the level of the auction.

Page 43, 2nd column, Sanborn. Preempts take up bidding space. They require you to guess and be practical. Sanborn explains why 4NT is the practical bid.

Page 44, Lawrence. His comments on the 8 popular rules are dead on. I also like his advice on advice (bottom of the 1st column and top of the 2nd column). Most of the advice I hear is not even close to right.

Page 45 Berg, some good points. However, the vast majority of 9 point hands should always go to game at IMPs. You have 24-26 points. Any 9 point hand is at least worth an invitation at match points - and most should force game.

The second paragraph in column 2 is wrong. Never bid staymen with a completely flat hand. The correct bid is 2NT. This has been in the Bulletin countless times - including Kantor's column.

Page 46 Shaffer. Point 2 is a good one. When 2 players show opening values and the 3rd one shows 10 or more, the 4th player has to be broke.

Point 5 - some passes are forcing. When your side ~~has~~ has the majority of the points - you should get the contract or double them.

Page 49

Harrington. Paragraph 2 - raise partner immediately if you can - don't wait for your next bid
2nd column, 1st full paragraph. With weak distributional hands - use the law of total tricks to maximize your preempt. This is a 2 way bid. You get it their way and you may make it with distributional hands you can often make the same number of ~~tricks~~ tricks as you have trumps

Last paragraph in column 3. When opener opens a minor they could have 3, but over 80% of the time they have 4.

Page 50 challenge of the month. Typical strip and end play. Kantar's last paragraph (p52) also discusses strip and end play.

Page 52 Kantar. 1st paragraph: unblock!
Problem 2 - Note this is an IMPS problem. Make the contract. Overtricks are secondary. That's why he advocates playing the A of clubs first. You always make the contract if clubs are 3-2. This gives you an extra chance when the K is stiff.

At matchpoints you would play low to the AJ, playing the J if the K doesn't appear. Then play the A to drop the doubleton K in East - much more likely than a singleton K.

Page 55 Boehm, under (B) It's better to hold secondary honors in partner's suit and Aces outside than vice versa.

Page 56 Berger, If you have 10 or more trumps whether or not you have the Q is unlikely to matter. It will likely drop if you don't have it.

P. 57 Stewart, His hand. I would always open it 11 cards in his 2 longest suits
+ 9 ace
20 + 2 quick tricks (the Aces)
Rule/suggestion of 22

3rd column - 1st full paragraph - do not bid speculative games in matchpoints - save that for IMPS.

Page 65 Miller, Question 1 - guidelines for 2 level overcalls. - Most weak players get this wrong

Rqts for 2-level overcall:
6-card suit and opening hand.

Miller Last paragraph - Responsive doubles.

p. 67 New Life Master Ranks

Carolyn Wedel	Life Master
Bill Daniel	Gold Life Master
Faye Vincent	Gold Life Master
Bob Matlock	Brnze Life Master

p. 62: Scott Humphrey, who directs at most of the TX tournaments, wins the ACBL Jane Johnston Award, given to ACBL employees who exemplify customer service commitment. He was selected by other tournament directors and field supervisors.