

March ACBL Bulletin Notes

Page 26, column 1, 3rd paragraph. When West/Bomber bid 1 spade, a good East would raise partner to 2 spades with 3 to the Ace with very little else. When East did not bid 2 spades, declarer knew East only had 2 spades when East won the Ace of spades. Declarer then didn't try to ruff 2 spades as he knew he would be overruffed.

Page 27, column 3, the bidding. The 2C bid is Michaels - showing spades and hearts. So, South would never bid spades or hearts to play. Either a spade bid or a heart bid would be a Q bid. This is called unusual over unusual. The higher suit (spades) would show diamonds, the lower suit (hearts) would show clubs. The higher suit shows the higher of the unbid suits, the lower suit shows the lower of the unbid suits.

Unusual over unusual can be used with both types of two-suited overcalls (Michaels and Unusual NT). If there is only one unknown suit (e.g. 1H-2H), then a cuebid of the known suit (2S) is a limit raise of the first bid suit.

Page 38, column 1, Bridge Bulletin auction for problem 2. Even though the East hand has 5 spades headed by the AK it is suggested to open the hand 1NT to avoid a rebid problem as it is fairly flat with 17 hcp (count 2 useful 10's as a point).

Page 44, Lawrence

- Do not lead unsupported aces against a suit contract. Sure, it works some of the time, but it works badly most of the time.
- Do not underlead an ace against a suit contract on the opening lead. Later on it might make sense to underlead the ace - but not on the opening lead. Sure, it works some of the time, but not usually.

Bad players remember when bad plays work, and they continually make them.

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Check your convention card;
2C opens are frequently
described as 22+ HCP or 8.5+
tricks.

Shafter, 1st column, 1st paragraph.
The hand should be opened 2C. You
are within 1 trick of game. South has a
4 loser hand: 1 spade, 2 diamonds and a club.

3rd column, Hand C. This hand has
22 hcp but it is too awkward to open
2C. 3 suited hands usually are. It's
best to open 1C and pray that you don't
get passed out.

R 46 Helms, 2nd bullet in the 3rd column. New
suits bid following the overcall of a preempt
are forcing unless it's a game bid.

P. 47 Berg, 2nd column. When partner opens 1NT
and you bid 2S asking partner to bid 3C,
and you will correct to diamonds if that's what
you have, you should say Alert not transfer.
If asked explain the bid. It's a relay.

3rd column, 1st full paragraph. Do not relay
into a 5 card minor. You should have at least 6.

Page 48 Manley, 1st column, 3rd paragraph under Tap.
When you, as a defender have long trumps, it is
a standard defense to make declarer ruff
in the long trump hand. The idea is to make
declarer lose control of the hand. As declarer
when the defense "taps" your trumps in the long
hand it is often correct not to trump in the long hand.

Page 49 Harrington, bottom of column 1, top of column 2.
Playing 5 card major, and opening the better minor
when you can't open a major or 1NT, although you
could have only 3 cards in the minor, the odds are
overwhelming that opener has 4+ cards in the minor.
Overwhelming means 83%.

p. 49 Bottom of the 2nd column. The standard for a 2 level overcall (that's the direct position - right behind opener) is an opening hand. Some pairs relax this a bit.

Page 52 Kantar, problem 1 is your typical strip and endplay. Problem 2 is your typical set up your long suit - even when it's weak for discards.

Page 55 Boehm, bottom of column 1. Declarer should bid 3 diamonds to invite game. This is a ~~game~~ ~~suit~~ ~~help~~ ~~try~~. When responder has hand A,

help-suit game try

he bids 4S, with hand B he signs off at 3S.
p. 57 Stewart, 2nd column, 1st full paragraph. The difference between match points and IMPs. Match points is pairs. IMPs is teams.

At matchpoints the idea is just to beat as many pairs as you can on each deal - doesn't matter how much. At IMPs - just make your contract. Overtricks are a small consideration.

p. 64 Billy Miller, 2nd column. Raising, responder with 3 card support and a singleton. Responder can bid 3NT if they want to find out if opener raised with 3 card support - if responder wants to play notrump if they did.

2nd question, forcing bids / nonforcing bids. over a 1 spade ~~overcall~~ ^{bid}, when the opponents double, any 2 level bid is weakish with a 6 card suit. Redouble with strength.