May 2016 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Page 16, Golder NAP Flight B, Wes Pierce #3 in the country.

The Bidding Box (p. 37 – 39)

Problem 1

Bridge Bulletin Auction: West's 1 NT bid is the standard 6-12 hcp hand that forces partner to bid again in 2/1, it's not an offer to play in notrump. Neither East nor West bids notrump with a weak doubleton in an unbid suit. Hands with Aces are best suited for suit contracts. That's what East has. Paint (Kings, Queens and Jacks) are better suited for no trump.

Problem 2

The first two paragraphs explain that a 3C rebid by East shows extra values. It raises the level of bidding in an unagreed suit. That typically shows 16+ points. Rebidding spades typically shows 6 spades, but in a pinch, opener can rebid a good 5 card suit.

Problem 3

Bridge Bulletin Auction: the 3S rebid is made is made with a good 5 card suit by opener.

It's Your Call (p. 40 – 43)

Hand 2

Page 41, column 1, first few paragraphs, Meckstroth. Sutherlin and Cohen: Rebidding a 5 card suit by responder is usually wrong. It shows a 6 card suit or better. But there are rare exceptions, this is one. Meckstroth, Sutherlin, Cohen and Meyers are all willing to play in a 5-2 heart fit. Bid what you're looking at. This hand screams hearts.

Hand 5

Page 43, column 2: West preempted, so West is weak. East is too weak to bid over 1 D so East is weak. The negative inference is that East and West have weak hands with clubs. It's highly likely that North has either (or both) the A, K of hearts. So, opposite an opener, with 3 quick tricks and the void in clubs (worth 5 points to responder) 6 D is the best bid. It's aggressive, but it would be my bid. 5D would be the second choice.

Page 44, **Adler**: Pause before you play to trick one. Make your plan. In notrump contracts, decide where you can establish tricks. Establish them. Then take your top tricks.

Page 45, Shafer

Column 2, second paragraph: It's proper to keep the Ace over the Queen of spades, East does not know that South has a singleton Queen. Playing the Ace wouldn't matter anyway as a losing heart would get pitched on the K of spades anyway. East does not want to lose a trick to the K and Q of spades.

Column 2, last paragraph; Do not pull trump when you need the trump in the hand with fewer trumps (normally dummy – but not always) to ruff losers. With diamonds as trump, the diamonds in dummy should be used to trump the losing clubs. Since dummy's trumps are high

(except for the King) there is little chance of being overruffed. Ruffing in the hand with the long trumps is usually wrong as you were going to make those tricks anyway and you can lose control of the hand.

Page 49, Berg

Column 2, second full paragraph: Think about your second bid before making your first bid. Opening 1D puts you in an impossible position for your second bid. Opening 1 NT is not a perfect bid with your doubleton heart, but it is a very good bid – and more importantly the best bid you can make. - Balanced hand 15-17 HCP.

Column 3, second paragraph. Berg believes in the benefit of promising at least 2 cards when opening 1 Notrump. Some Bridge columnists do not – Helms, Boehm have both advocated instances where they open 1 NT with a singleton. This is a matter of style.

Page 51, Lawrence, column 3, first paragraph: When opponents bid slam, a double asks for partner to make an unusual lead. This is a version of the Lightner double.

Page 55, Boehm, column 2, last paragraph: after a 2/1 response, double by opener is for penalty.

Page 60, Lawrence, column 1, third paragraph: West plays a diamond to remove the Ace of diamonds from dummy. West thinks that dummy's hearts might get set up so he removes the obvious entry to them.

Page 63, Miller, column 3, first 2 paragraphs of the answer: Honors in short suits are not as valuable as honors in long suits. The 14 point hand Miller constructed is worth a reverse because of its great playing strength.

Rank Advancements (beginning on p. 65)

- David Morris: Life Master (page 65)
- Kailash Sachdev: Ruby Life Master (page 67)
- Val Grady: Silver Life Master (page 68)