

January 2019 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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Editors' note: *It has come to our attention that the notes we have been creating are almost as time-consuming to read as the Bulletin itself. So beginning this month, we are going to focus on a small number of interesting points and/or columns. Let us know what you think.*



Page 44, Alder: exceptions to “second-hand low.”

Column 2, second paragraph: As declarer, if you need a defensive error, it is usually right to make the defense decide on the best action before they have had a chance to signal and/or seen enough cards played to figure out the best defense.

Column 2, third paragraph: Using the Rule of Eleven when partner leads against notrump, you know that South has only one spade stop and partner has four good spades. When declarer tries to slip a diamond trick past you, you must rise with the DA and then play a spade to partner to set the contract. One diamond trick, four spade tricks, and declarer is down one in 3N.

Column 3, explanation following the deal: East must play the CT to prevent West from being end-played. If East gets thrown in with a club, he must lead a club into the AQ or give declarer a ruff and a sluff. Either option allows the 6S contract to make when it shouldn't.

Page 45, Parrish: making slam with fewer than 33 HCP.

Column 1, first paragraph: we can make small slam with as little as 28 HCP if we have shortness that works well with partner's hand.

Column 1, second paragraph: use a splinter, when appropriate, to:

1. Create a game force
2. Set the trump suit
3. Show shortness

Column 1, third paragraph: Once partner shows shortness, you must decide if this makes your hand better or worse. You would like all small cards or just an Ace with no other honors opposite partner's short suit. If this is the case, you have no wasted values and your hand should play well with partner's.

If you have honor cards other than the ace opposite partner (even with a trump fit) your hand has gotten worse.

Column 3 gives examples of when your hand gets better and when it gets worse.

Page 55, Cohen. Every month the *Bulletin* has strip-and-end play examples. It's because they are easy to miss if declarer is sloppy. In Cohen's article it was a National Champ who got sloppy and went down in a cold 6D contract.

Column 2, first full paragraph: Draw trump, play three rounds of clubs (to eliminate or strip them), come back to your hand with a diamond, and lead any spade toward dummy. Cover whatever West plays, and when East wins, it's over. East must give declarer a sluff and a ruff, or finesse his partner in spades.