

EDITORIAL

I have started to prepare material for the Play Seminar to be held on Sunday 11th October. I need to know this month if there is any aspect of the game (play area only) that you would like me to cover in the Seminar. It has already been suggested that some of the time be devoted to 'Opening Leads'. Don't forget to let me know.

Judy Valentine

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THE HOLD-UP (PART 1)

Last time we spoke of the necessity of keeping control when playing No Trumps by not playing out your high cards until you had developed sufficient tricks to make your contract.

Another method of keeping control is the Hold-up. Let's look at a basic hand.

	73		South plays in 3NT. West leads the spade 4 and east plays the spade king.
	J85		
	AQ963		
	AQJ		If south wins with the spade ace on the first trick, he has to rely on the diamond finesse to make his contract. If the finesse is wrong, as it is here, east/west now make 1 diamond trick and 4 spade tricks. Down 1.
Q10842		KJ6	
K94		10752	
72		K5	
943		8762	
	A95		However, if south refuses to take the first two spade tricks - or holds up twice - and then takes the third trick, even if the finesse fails, east has no spade left and south makes 9 tricks.
	AQ3		
	J1084		
	K105		

The object of the hold-up is to sever communications between the opponent's hands. If west has led from a four card suit, then there is no danger of the contract failing. Even if the finesse fails, east/west can take only 4 tricks - 3 spades and 1 diamond. The danger is that west may lead from a 5 card or longer suit. If north/south between them have 5 spades, then if west has 5 spades, east can have only 3.

South, by holding up twice and taking the third spade, exhausts the east hand of spades. As south is going to finesse diamonds into east's hand, east is now the "safe" hand and west the danger hand.

It follows that, if north/south between then have
 five cards - hold-up twice and take the third lead.
 six cards - hold-up once and take the second lead.
 seven cards - no need to hold up.

Work it out yourself. North/south have six - if west has five - east has only two. These rules do not absolve you from thinking. Take this hand.

	54		
	106		
	AK6		South plays 3NT. West leads the spade 6. If south takes the spade king with his ace in the hope that he may later make his jack, then he must blindly hope the club finesse is successful. If it is not, he goes down.
	AJ10983		
Q10763		K92	
K843		Q752	
103		J984	
42		K6	But if south, with five spades in both north/south hands, holds up twice and then takes his spade ace, he will now finesse into a "safe" hand.
	AJ8		
	AJ9		
	Q752		
	Q75		

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STANDARD AMERICAN BIDDING SYSTEM

As the "Trump-It" is to provide learning material for members, I intend, space permitting, to cover some aspect of bidding each issue until such time as the system is completed. I hope that members will benefit from this innovation.

What do you bid on the following four examples :

(a)	Q942	<u>Partner</u>	<u>You</u>	(b)	AQ42	<u>Partner</u>	<u>You</u>
	Q73	1S	?		A53	1S	?
	A542				QJ94		
	106				106		
(c)	107542	<u>Partner</u>	<u>You</u>	(d)	AQ42	<u>Partner</u>	<u>You</u>
	5	1S	?		A53	1S	?
	9732				J9		
	632				10642		

Each one of the examples shown above comes under Standard Basic Bidding. Each has its own function - telling partner there is a trump fit and giving the point count range of the hand in 1 bid. This is called limit bidding. Example (d) has to have two bids, but nevertheless shows a precise point count range.

- (a) 2S is your bid. It tells partner about the trump fit and limits the hand from 6-10 points.
- (b) 3S is your bid. Once again it tells partner of the trump fit and limits the hand to 13-15 points.
- (c) 4S is your bid. Although players are reluctant to find 4S with no honour card in sight, what do you bid if you don't find 4S? 2S? Wrong. This shows a point count range of 6-10 points - you don't have this number of points. If you find the pass (coward) you will leave the way open for the opponents to find a part score and trump fit. You have a massive trump fit - 10 trumps between you. If your side does not have enough values to make 4S then the opponents can probably make 4H. It is better to go down one or two tricks than let the opponents take a game score. Your bid of 4S shows partner you have 5 trumps and 0-10 points.
- (d) The 11 point hand. This point count range is handled in a similar way throughout the system. Change suit and jump. The only time it is different is when No Trumps are bid, as responder's second bid. However, we will cover that one at a later stage. On the example (d) change suit - 2C and wait for partner's (opening bidder) response. If partner bids 2D (showing a minimum hand) bid 3S. If partner bids 2NT or 2S (showing minimum) just bid 3S. It is not possible to jump in partner's suit (spades) without actually bidding game, however, 3S is inviting partner to game with a maximum (15) thus making your hand at the 11 points. In a nutshell - if partner's second bid is at the 2 level, the 11 point hand bids at the 3 level. Responder has no right taking the bidding to the 3 level without holding 11 points.

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BOOK REVIEW

OPENING LEADS by Robert B. Ewen

It may seem surprising that a complete book can be written about one small aspect of contract bridge. However, Robert Ewen's book on Opening Leads proves what a complex and interesting topic this one is.

Recognised as the "single most important play in bridge", the opening lead regularly means the difference between success and defeat for the contract. The book traces the thinking processes which should take place before the opening lead is made:- inferences from the bidding, evaluation of one's own hand and its trick-taking capacity, and the probable strength of partner's holding. There are useful tables of standard leads, but also warning against slavish use of them. It is extremely useful for development of good habits. There are quizzes and detailed explanations of the answers. All in all, a very thorough book and a useful defence tool.

HANDICAP SYSTEM

The following Handicap System is now in use in our Club and is printed for your information.

1. Should a partnership play to its handicap at a session, then the application of the handicap will reduce the number of session points gained to 40% of the total points available. That is, every partnership is judged relative to this reduced level, and it is hoped on equal terms, although it is possible that the handicap system has a bias in favour of the lower handicap player.
2. The handicap for the individual is worked out in the following manner:
 - (a) Keep a record of each player's individual performance in terms of the percentage achieved at each session.
 - (b) Work out an average performance percentage.
(Use an average of the person's last 10 sessions, and work out new handicaps approximately every 6 weeks).
 - (c) Apply the formula: $\text{Handicap} = (1 - 40/\text{average}) \times 100$

EXAMPLE

To arrive at the handicap of an individual whose AVERAGE scores (over the 10 sessions in which he has played) works out at 50%:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Handicap} &= (1 - 40/50) \times 100 \\ &= 1/5 \times 100 \\ &= 20\% \end{aligned}$$

(Note: Players with an AVERAGE score of 40% or lower would have a NIL handicap).

3. The handicap is applied as follows :
 - (a) Obtain a percentage handicap - this being the mean of the 2 individual handicaps.
 - (b) Multiply the partnership's session score by the partnership handicap and divide by 100.
 - (c) Take this amount from the session score to arrive at the net score.

EXAMPLE

To arrive at the net score for a partnership whose individual handicaps are 18 and 22 respectively :

$$\text{Partnership handicap: } (18 + 22) / 2 = 20\%$$

Supposing this pair scored a gross of 240 points, then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Nett score} &= 240 - (240 \times 20 / 100) \\ &= 240 - 48 \\ &= 192 \end{aligned}$$

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE — LAWS OF DUPLICATE CONTRACT BRIDGE 1975.PART V : THE AUCTIONUnauthorised Information Given by Change of Call

26. When a player names a denomination not selected as his final call at that turn (as in changing a call*, or in making or correcting an illegal call) then if he becomes a defender:

- (a) if such denomination was a suit, or when the improper call related by convention to a specific suit or suits, declarer may either require the offender's partner to lead, or prohibit him from leading such suit** when first the offender's partner has the lead, including the opening lead. This prohibition is to continue for as long as offender's partner retains the lead.
- (b) if such denomination was no-trump (except when such no-trump bid relates by convention to a specific suit or suits, in which case Law 26 (a) applies), and if the offender's partner is to make the opening lead, (penalty) declarer may require the offender's partner to make the opening lead in a specified suit.

When a player has substituted another call for a double or redouble, the penalties provided in Law 27 (c) apply.

* Except as permitted under Law 24.

** When the improper call was conventional, "such suit" is the suit (or suits) to which the conventional call relates, rather than the denomination actually mentioned.

Insufficient Bid

27. Any insufficient bid may be accepted (treated as legal) at the option of the opponent on the offender's left and is accepted if that opponent calls. If the right to penalise is not thus forfeited, an insufficient bid made in rotation must be corrected by the substitution of either a sufficient bid or a pass.*** A double or redouble may not be substituted. If the call substituted is

- (a) the lowest sufficient bid in the same denomination, the auction proceeds as though the irregularity had not occurred. If the insufficient bid conveyed such substantial information as to damage the non-offending side, the Director may assign an adjusted score.
- (b) any other sufficient bid, (penalty) the offender's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call. (And Law 26 may apply).
- (c) a pass, (penalty) the offender's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call; and if the offender's partner is to make the opening lead, declarer may either
 - (i) require the offender's partner to lead a specified suit, or
 - (ii) prohibit the offender's partner from leading a specified suit; this prohibition continues for as long as the offender's partner retains the lead.

If the offender attempts to substitute a double or redouble, it is cancelled; he must pass and the offence is subject to the penalty provided in section (c) above.

If a player makes an insufficient bid out of rotation, Law 31 applies. (shown at a later date).

*** The offender is entitled to select his final call at that turn after the applicable penalties have been stated, and any call he has previously to constitute llow... (And Law 26 may apply).