How to play Bridge AUCTION *and* CONTRACT

by Wynne Ferguson

Author of "PRACTICAL AUCTION BRIDGE"

ARTICLE No. 29

The "two-suiter" is a hand that contains two suits of at least five cards each. It is the stongest hand that can be held if played at the best suit of the combined hands. Such a hand is considered, on the average, one trick better than the usual suit bid, and at least two tricks better than a no trump bid. This fact shows the importance of the proper bidding of such hands in order to arrive at the best suit of the combined hands. As dealer, or before partner has bid, if your hand is a "two-suiter," try to bid both suits, provided of course they are sufficiently strong to warrant an original or forced bid. As a general rule, bid the higher valued suit first, provided it contains sufficient strength to warrant the bid. If not, bid the lower valued suit, and show the higher valued suit on second or subsequent round. In the same way, always prefer, if possible, the major suit to the minor.

If partner has bid no trump, and you hold a "two-suiter," always bid both suits, if you have the opportunity, irrespective of values held. If partner has bid a suit, and you hold a "two-suiter," bid both suits, unless holding at least one trick better than average support for partner's bid. If, after bidding both suits, partner persists in rebidding his hand, either at no trump or a third or possibly a fourth suit, let him have the bid. You have informed him of the character of your hand, and it is for him to decide. The only exception to this rule is a "two-suiter" so strong that you have a game in one of the suits, irrespective of partner's hand. If partner supports one of your suits, it is not advisable to bid the other suit unless such suit is a major suit and the first suit bid is a minor suit.

If, as dealer or second hand, you have bid a no trump and your partner shows two suits, always support one of them if possible. Do not rebid no trump unless you have a double stopper in the other two suits, and less than normal support in the suit bid. Remember that a "two-suiter" is the strongest suit hand that can be held at Auction or Contract, if played at the best bid of the combined hands, and it is your duty to figure out this bid, if in any way possible.

The following hand is a good example of what happens to the player who doesn't follow the rules just given for a "two-suiter." Z, the dealer, held:

Hearts—K, Q, 9, 7, 6
Clubs—10, 9, 8
Diamonds—A, Q, 7
Spades—J, 4

Auction Bidding

Z dealt and properly bid one heart. Second hand passed and the dealer's partner bid one spade. Fourth hand passed and the dealer properly bid one no trump. Second hand passed and the dealer's partner bid two clubs. Fourth hand passed and the dealer incorrectly bid two no trump. With three clubs and such a big outside hand, the dealer should have allowed his partner to play the hand at clubs. As it was, he made only two no trump, while his partner could have made five clubs. His hand was as follows:

Hearts—8, 4
Clubs—A, K, 7, 6, 2
Diamonds—9
Spades—A, K, 9, 7, 3

Contract Bidding

One heart, pass, two spades (a forcing bid), pass. Second round—two no trump, pass, three clubs, pass. Z is now in a position to realize that Y wants to try for game in one of his suits and should now bid four clubs to show a decided preference over spades. Y should now bid five clubs and he will score game.

When your partner has bid two suits, you can assist his bid with a much weaker hand than with the usual suit bid. Z held the following hand:

Hearts—Q, 7, 6, 2
Clubs—10, 9, 7, 4
Diamonds—6
Spades—Q, 4, 3, 2

His partner had bid both hearts and spades and his opponents had overbid with four diamonds. Z failed to realize the great strength of his hand and passed. If he had bid four hearts either at Auction or Contract, his partner could easily have scored game and rubber. Be on the lookout for "two-suiters" and try to realize their unusual possibilities.

Problem

	Hearts—Q Clubs—none Diamonds—6, 2 Spades—A, Q, 10, 4	
Hearts—7 Clubs—8 Diamonds—9, 8 Spades—J, 9, 3	: Y : : A B : : Z :	Hearts—J, 10 Clubs—2 Diamonds—A, Q, 4 Spades—K
	Hearts—6, 4, 3 Clubs—A Diamonds—K, J, 7 Spades—none	

Spades are trumps and Z has the lead. How can Y Z win six of the seven tricks against any defence?

Solution: This problem is an excellent illustration of the "grand coup:" that is, the trumping of a winning trick in order to shorten one's trump holding. Z should lead the ace of clubs and trump Y's hand with the four of spades. Y should now lead the ace of spades and follow with the six of diamonds. If B wins the trick with the ace, he must lead back either a diamond or a heart. In the former case, Z should win with the jack and lead the king. A must either trump or discard. If the former, Y should overtrump and should then win the balance of the tricks. If A discards, Y should discard the queen of hearts and then must win the last two tricks.

At trick four, if B leads a heart, Y should win and lead the diamond so that Y Z get the same play as before. At trick three, if B refuses to win the first diamond trick, Z should win the trick and lead the heart, which Y should win and return the diamond. No matter what B now does after winning the trick, Y Z win the balance of the tricks. It is a tricky little problem but interesting and instructive.

Berliners Like Boating

Citizens of Berlin enjoy all kinds of sport, but especially every variety of aquatic sport, because 6 per cent. of the total area of the greater city is water. As soon as the warm days come, everybody who can possibly do so spends his week-ends on or at a river or one of the sixty lakes that surround the German capital. Steamboat trips on the Spree and the Dahme to the lakes around the great Mueggelsee in the east, and on the Havel to the lakes in the Potsdam district in the west are especially popular.

About 6,000 Berliners own canoes, 2,000 have motorboats, 17,000 own rowboats, and 6,500 have sailboats. The oarsmen have 279 clubs; the swimmers, 103; the yachtsmen, 55; the motorboat owners, 5; and there are forty organizations of canoeists.

The oarsmen and paddlers generally tent on the shore at places designated by the forestry authorities. Permission to erect a tent costs about 25 cents for members of organizations and about 50 cents for others. Owners of yachts and motorboats generally sleep on them.

Most of the yachtsmen are found on the lakes of the Havel in the west and on the Mueggelsee, Seddinsee and other lakes to the east. A prominent figure to be seen on Sundays on the Havel is Professor Albert Einstein. He is an ardent yachtsman and has a week-end house in Caputh near Potsdam.

There are twenty-five municipal baths, the most important of which are on the Wannsee and Mueggelsee. The Wannsee baths extend for miles along the beach between Berlin and Potsdam.

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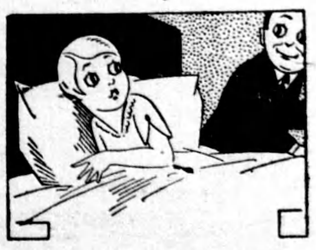
Average German Train Shows Speed Gain

A study of the average speed obtained by the trains on main lines of the German railways indicates that considerable improvement has been made in recent years in the average speed attained by all trains, but that the express trains as a whole travel but little faster than they did during the year 1914.

It would appear, therefore, that the German Railway Company looks to the development of motor-driven rail cars for further advances in increasing the speed of its express trains. It also expects to reduce operating costs by the use of motor-driven cars on feeder lines and, to a less extent, on main lines.—United States Commerce Reports.



"You come home all hours of the night."

"No, my dear, only one hour each night."

Cheerfulness

You find yourself refreshed by the presence of cheerful people. Why not make earnest effort to confer that pleasure on others? You will find half the battle is gained if you never allow yourself to say anything gloomy.—L. M. Child.

Young Bride: "To commemorate an awful quarrel we had last week, Jim and I planted a tree in the garden." Friend: "Well, now, that is a nice idea. If Fred and I had done that we should have a wonderful forest by now."

Woman's Susceptibility To "White Man's Plague"

Twice as many women as men die of tuberculosis between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four.

Why? For the first time a scientific answer is available to this question.

A report of an investigation made public by the National Tuberculosis Association gives the "jazz age" a clean bill of health, and designates early motherhood as the most important contributing factor.

The study was made in one of the largest industrial cities of the country under the direction of Miss Jessamine S. Whitney, statistician of the association. To quote a press release sent out under its auspices:

"The life histories of all girls between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four, who had fallen victims to the disease during a single year, were investigated, Miss Whitney explained. The home of each girl was visited as soon as possible after tuberculosis had claimed her life, and in a personal interview with parents or near relatives, all possible information about her habits of living prior to the development of the disease was secured.

"'The result,' says Miss Whitney, 'indicates that motherhood at an early age during the period when physical development constitutes a more or less consistent strain upon strength and general health is probably the most important factor in this phenomenon.

"'Many people have presumed to explain off-hand the reasons why the group of young women between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four continues to show the highest death-rate from tuberculosis in the whole span of life for either sex.

"'Some ranted about short skirts and scanty clothing. Others issued a blast against dieting.

"'Cigarette - smoking received its share of blame. A few laid it to the fact that the war opened the doors of industry to women. And nearly all took occasion to point a finger at high-school and college students, and to raise an eyebrow at all extra-curricular activities, including late hours. It was pure speculation'."

The investigators, to their surprise, found that they had to discard most of the reasons usually given for the high death-rate in this group.

The industrialization of women, mentioned most frequently, was proved out of the picture, because 35 per cent. of the group never had been employed outside of their homes, and 20 per cent. had been employed less than a year.

Likewise it was discovered that the length of the working day and week, early employment, long distances to be traveled to work or school, and low wages, seemed to be negligible factors as far as this group was concerned.

To quote from the interesting report of Miss Whitney again:

"Dieting as a cause for tuberculosis was given a solar-plexus blow by our data. The usual remark was that the girl had dieted in streaks for six months or so and then forgot it, or that she dieted about a week, forgot it for a time, and then started again.

"The study of clothing habits showed that, if anything, the girls who contracted tuberculosis had worn more adequate clothing than the perfectly healthy university students used as a control group. The sick girls, however, quite obviously had too little rest."

Miss Whitney sounds this important warning as she proceeds:

"Another important factor was found to be actual contact, without taking proper preventive measures, with another person who had tuberculosis. More than half the girls who died showed such a history.

But if motherhood were excepted from the account, the mortality rate among young women between these ages would compare more favorably with that among young men. Thirty-five per cent. of the cases gave a history of one or more children. These children were born, in 70 per cent. of the cases, before the girl was twenty years old. The onset of tuberculosis was usually closely associated with childbirth.

"I believe the results are in no way to be considered an indictment of early matrimony, but rather that the young mother does not take the proper measures to protect her health. This factor, together with the high proportion of cases having lived with consumptives, seems to point to the direction in which we should go to stop this unnecessary loss of life."

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

Lovely for spring wear is the jacket dress.

And here are some of the "fors" concerning this smart bolero model.

Note it features the new built-up skirt so youthfully chic. The cross-closure bodice of the dress is very slimming. The dropped shoulders form brief sleeves. The dress is just as attractive as can be when you take off the jacket.

In a navy blue silk crepe, either in a rough or flat finish, this model is just perfect. Blue and printed crepe lends a gay note of contrast.

Style No. 2715 is designed for sizes 16, 18 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 36 requires 3½ yards of 39-inch material with ⅞ yard of 39-inch contrasting.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Treasure

Out of life I would keep
  Some things to love dearly—
Hours to be still,
  To see far, and think clearly;
  A spot for a dream
  Where a hilltop would lift me,
And the Presence of God
  Would winnow and sift me.

After long years of work,
  And this world's busy stirring,
I should like time to rest,
  With all memories blurring;
To hold my hands still,
  Lest they reach out, and bind me
To the small things of earth
  I am leaving behind me.

Yet a farmer I am,
  And when all is over,
I know I shall take with me
  Dogwood and clover,
Ripe wheat in a sheaf,
  And young corn's first greening;
How else could my Heaven
  Have heavenly meaning?

—By G., in the Southern Agriculturist.

Iodine for Storage Battery

Iodine, the same chemical element that is used as an antiseptic for cuts, is now being used in a storage battery of new type invented by Francois Boissier and announced to the French Academy of Sciences, says Science Service. The battery looks like an ordinary dry cell, with a rod electrode of carbon in the centre surrounded by an absorbent material saturated with zinc iodide, contained in an electrode shell of metallic zinc. When the battery is charged the zinc iodide breaks down into metallic zinc that is deposited on the zinc sheeting and oxide that accumulates on the carbon electrode and in the absorbent material, which may be carbon powder. The zinc iodide is re-formed during the discharge of electricity. M. Boissier asserts that the iodine storage battery is superior to the conventional storage batteries of the lead or nickel-iron varieties. The plates do not disintegrate, there is no acid or caustic liquid to spill no dangerous gases or vapors are given off and continual maintenance is not necessary.

Customer: "Where's the waiter?" Manager: "Oh, he's serving." "Serving what—time?"

Summer Ills

"Baby's Own Tablets are wonderful for summer complaint", writes Mrs. Laura Wheeler, Toronto, Ont. "Whenever my children get cross and peevish and refuse to eat, I give them the tablets". Equally effective for teething, colic, simple fever. Easy to take as candy—and absolutely *safe*. 25c a package. 239

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Owl Laffs

The Wife—"Do you think I look all right in my new gown, dear?"

The Husband—"Hm! Yes, but I would suggest that if possible you get in it a little further."

We have often pointed out that there is no such thing as a painless tax and agree with the sage who declares that the only honest creature who is taxed and doesn't mind it is the dog.

Courtship Under Difficulties

Consider the mail pilot's sweetheart,
  She watches until he is a mere speck,
Then saunters off home with the knowledge
  That he is her pain in the neck.

Counsel (examining prejudiced witness)—"I suggest that Mrs. Gibbons is anathema to you."

Witness—"Then you suggest wrong. It's only my friends that I calls by their Chrsitian names."

A husband who is in the habit of coming late at night with elaborate excuses says the best present to give a doubting wife is a copy of "Believe It Or Not."

Hen—"You've been looking a bit shoddy of late, old man. Haven't you spent any money for new clothes lately?"

Peck—"Oh, haven't I? You should have seen her last Sunday."

The girl who used to marry a man to reform him now has a daughter who figures that two can go to the devil as cheaply as one.

Jarvis—"And how is your wife?"

Pervis—Oh, her head is troubling her a lot."

Jarvis—"That's bad. Chronic headaches, eh?"

Pervis—No; she wants a new hat."

Henderson — "Did you get my cheque?"

Pennington — "Yes, twice. Once from you and once from the bank."

Bachelor—A man who, when he accomplishes something, gets all the credit.

Prosecuting Attorney — "Your Honor, your bull pup has chawed up the Bible."

The Judge (grumbling)—"Make the witness kiss the dog. We can't adjourn court to get a new Bible."

After all, "to love 'em and leave 'em is better than to "love them and deceive them."

Flying Sparks

Between sense and nonsense the latter is the best seller. Let's ride back to business on a buy-cycle. To keep a romance from blooming, nip it in the bud. It is dangerous to lose the habit of making friends. You cannot build a reputation on the things you are going to do. When your foot's asleep let the sleeping dogs lie. Don't question your wife's judgment—look who she married. If a man isn't honest there's no use bothering with him. True religion is not in services so much as in service. How polite and obliging people are when work is slack. Money may, but it never gives itself away. No man has the nerve to tell a woman the things her mirror tells her. A small man is easily satisfied with himself. Difficulties strengthen the mind, exactly as labor does the body. A criminal is a person who breaks the wrong laws.

Push

A man was lecturing to a village audience on "The Art of Getting On."

He lectured hard for about an hour, and concluded: "The successful man is the one who strives persistently. His motto is, 'Push and keep pushing'; by that means alone does he reach his goal."

A small man in the audience laughed loudly.

The lecturer held up his hand.

"You, too, my friend, will have to push—" he began.

"So will you," interrupted the small man. "There's half-a-dozen youngsters been pinching the petrol out of your motor to light a bonfire, and there's no petrol in the village."

Self-Denial

Teach self-denial and make its practice pleasurable and you create for the world a destiny more sublime than ever issued from the brain of the wildest dreamer.—Sir Walter Scott.

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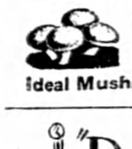

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