How to play Bridge AUCTION and CONTRACT

by Wynne Ferguson

Author of "PRACTICAL AUCTION BRIDGE"

ARTICLE No. 30

In the following hand, the Professor of Greek at one of our well-known universities bid one no trump at Auction, all passed and A opened the three of clubs. The Professor's hand and the dummy's hand are as follows:

Hearts—10, 6, 5
Clubs—9, 4. 2
Diamonds—Q, 10, 4, 2
Spades—Q, 10, 9

: Y :
: A B :
: Z :

Hearts—A, Q, 4
Clubs—A, Q, 7
Diamonds—A, K, 3
Spades—J, 8, 7, 2

The Professor should have sized up the hand as follows: "A can have only four clubs, for he has led the three and the deuce is in dummy. Therefore, A B should only make two club tricks and two spade tricks. If the diamonds are evenly divided, I can go game without finessing the queen of hearts. If they don't break, then I will have to finesse the queen of hearts." Unfortunately, he failed to figure out the hand as outlined, and as soon as he got dummy in the lead, led the heart, finessed the queen and A won the trick with the king of hearts. It was now impossible for the Professor to go game as he had to lose two club tricks, two spade tricks and one heart trick. He should have set up his spades and then have played for the drop in diamonds. They were evenly divided so that in this way he could have made game.

If the Professor had been playing Contract, he should have made an original bid of two no trump and partner should have bid three no trump.

The writer has occasionally mentioned the Law of Symmetry in these articles. This law is, in effect, a theory that there is a symmetrical relation existing between the distribution of the four suits in any one of the hands and the distribution of any one of the four suits among the four hands. This symmetrical relation is well exemplified by the distribution of the following hand, which came up recently in actual play:

Hearts—Q
Clubs—K, J, 7, 4
Diamonds—A, 8, 7, 6, 2
Spades—5, 4, 3

Hearts—J, 9, 6
Clubs—Q, 10, 8, 6, 5
Diamonds—Q, J, 9, 5
Spades—7

: Y :
: A B :
: Z :

Hearts—K, 10, 7, 5, 3
Clubs—2
Diamonds—K, 10, 3
Spades—J, 9, 8, 2

Hearts—A, 8, 4, 2
Clubs—A, 9, 3
Diamonds—4
Spades—A, K, Q, 10, 6

Auction Bidding

No score, rubber game. Z dealt and bid one spade. All passed and A opened the six of clubs. Z won the trick with the nine of clubs and proceeded to look the hand over. What would you figure as to probable distribution and correct play of the hand? Z should note that his own hand and Y's were divided 5-4-3-1. He also noted that A opened the six of clubs and that B played the deuce. If B had held two clubs, he would have started an echo to show his partner that he could trump the third round of clubs, so his play of the deuce indicated a singleton. Z, therefore, figured that the clubs were divided 5-4-3-1. He held five spades and his dummy three, so that, if A also held a singleton, it must be in spades. Therefore, the spades must be divided 5-4-3-1. His heart and diamond holding and that of the dummy also indicated a possibility that these suits were divided 5-4-3-1. Z, therefore, who was a very fine player, decided to play accordingly. At the second trick he led the ace of hearts and then a low heart, trumping in dummy. He then led a low club, which B trumped. On this trick, Z played his ace of clubs, so that he could finesse the king jack later. No matter what B now plays, Z must make a small slam. Figure it out. The hand is remarkable in that, after the first lead, the distribution of all four suits can be so accurately determined. It is also a remarkable illustration of the Law of Symmetry. All of the four suits and all of the four hands have the same distribution, 5-4-3-1. It is the first time that the writer has ever noted such a unique hand.

Contract Bidding

Z should bid two spades and Y three spades. A and B always pass. Z should now bid five spades and, if Y is a sporty bidder, he will bid six spades. It is a toss-up; but, as already pointed out, Z can make six spades against any defense.

Problem

Hearts—4
Clubs—8, 7, 6
Diamonds—none
Spades—A, J, 7

Hearts—9, 8
Clubs—4
Diamonds—10, 9, 8, 7
Spades—none

: Y :
: A B :
: Z :

Hearts—Q, J, 10
Clubs—Q, J
Diamonds—3
Spades—8

Hearts—K, 6, 5
Clubs—none
Diamonds—K, Q, 6
Spades—10

If spades are trumps and Z is in the lead, how can Y Z win all of the tricks against any defense?

Solution in the next article.

Newspaper Ads Increased Sales

U. S. Publishers' Association Announces Results of Bureau's Survey

New York.—Many companies have maintained and even increased their earnings by constant newspaper advertising, the American Newspaper Publishers Association said in announcing the results of a survey by its bureau of adertising.

One automobile concern which increased its newspaper budget 33 per cent., the bureau announced, showed a 40 per cent. increase in earnings during 1931. A manufacturer of electric refrigerators spent $200,000 last year in newspaper space, and dollar sales for the year were 460 per cent. of sales in 1930.

Of four leading tobacco manufacturers who increased newspaper space in 1931, three showed an increase in earnings, and one a slight decline from the high net of a year preceding. Aggregate expenditures of these four companies in newspaper advertising were increased from $20,000,000 in 1930 to $26,000,000 in 1931, and aggregate earnings increased from $105,200,000 to $10,300,000.

On the other hand, the bureau said that four tobacco companies which decreased their aggregate investment in newspaper space in 1931 showed a 45 per cent. decline in combined net earnings.

English in Ireland

The Anglo-Irish idiom is naturally formed and logically constructed; every deviation from the standard English tongue has its reasons and its explanation. "Are you selling the horse today?" The speaker of correct English has to move the emphasis from one word to another of the last four according to the information he seeks. Four successive positions of the chief stress give four different meanings to the question. The Anglo-Irish idiom, which in this matter follows the locution of the Gaelic, has no need of accentuating. Its user would say (a) "Is it you who are selling the horse?" or (b) "Is it seling the horse you are?" or (c) "Is it the horse you are selling?" or (d) "Is it today you are selling the horse?" "In other words," says a well-informed writer, "where the English purist depends upon stress to bring out his meaning, the Irish idiom employs construction for the same purpose, and much more effectively."

In reply to the query: "Does it rain here?" the native says, "It bees raining," or "It does be raining." He is making an attempt to reach an exact-titude that is possible in Gaelic; in that language there is a distinct form of the very "to be" to indicate the habitual, the frequentative tense. The Irishman who has the tradition of Gaelic, even though he may never have heard it spoken, feels the want of the frequentative tense in English, and he attempts to supply it. And so "bees" and "does be" are used as a distinct tense in the Anglo-Saxon idiom.—Padraic Column, in "The Road Round Ireland."

Nature

(From Poetry World)

Nature has no mathematics
Such as banks and merchants use.
She cannot make her unshod feet
Walk a straight line in shoes.

She seldom is quite accurate
Nor often punctual.
She keeps on hand no pecks and pints
To measure large and small.

Nor recipes for turning
Plum blossoms into plums,
The spring is never quite on time,
And yet it always comes.
—Marjorie Barstow Greenbie.

Never criticize anything at a charity bazaar. You can never tell who made it.

Stratford Gleanings

In all England there is not a cleaner, more decorous, or more restful town than Stratford-upon-Avon, and even to look upon it is to receive a suggestion of peace and comfort. The red brick dwellings shine among the trees, the flower-spangled meadows stretch away, in every direction, and the green hills, sprinkled with copse and villa, glimmer through mist, all around the lovely Vale of the Red Horse:—Welcome in the north, with its conspicuous monuments; Meon in the south, rugged and bold, Red Hill in the west, and far away eastward, beyond a wide, smiling area of farms and villages, the crests of Edgehill, at Radley and Rising Sun, where once the armies of King Charles the First confronted their Roundhead foe. The face of England can wear many expressions, but when propitious, it is a face which to see is to love and nowhere is it more propitious than in stately Warwickshire, and around the home of Shakespeare.

After repeated visits to Shakespeare's town, the traveller begins to observe more closely than perhaps at first he did, its everyday life and its environment. I have ramble[illegible] through fragrant fields to Clifford Church, and strolled through green lanes to romantic Preston, and climbed Borden Hill, and stood by the May-pole on Welford Common and journeyed from the bottle-haunted crest of Edgehill, and rested at venerable Compton-Wynyates and climbed the hills of Welcombe to peer into the darkening valleys of the Avon and hear the cuckoo-note echoed and re-echoed from rhododendron groves and from the grave, mysterious elms that embower the countryside for miles and miles around. This is the everyday life of Stratford,—fertile farms, garnished meadows, avenues of white and red hawthorn, masses of milky snowball, hoeysuckle, and syringa loading the soft air with fragrance, chestnuts dropping blooms of pink and white, and laburnums swinging their golden censers in the breeze.

The building that forms the south-east corner of High Street and Bridge Street in Stratford was once occupied by Thomas Quincy . . . who married the poet's daughter, Judith, and an inscription appears upon it, stating that Judith lived in it for thirty-six years. Richard Savage, that competent, patient, diligent student of the church registers and other documentary treasures of Warwickshire, furnished proof of this fact, from investigation of the town records, that being only one of the many services that he has rendered to the old home of Shakespeare. Standing in the cellar of this house I saw that its walls are four feet thick. Also I saw many pieces of old oak which I was informed had been taken from the bell-tower of the Shakespeare Church in 1887, when a new frame was installed to sustain a chime of heavy bells, and which would, eventually, be converted into various carvings, to tempt the taste of enthusiasts of Shakespeare. In the poet's time the bell-tower was surmounted, not as now by a graceful stone spire, but by a spire of timber, covered with lead. That was removed, and was replaced by the stone spire, in 1746. The oak frame to support the bells, however, had been in the tower more than three hundred years. —From "Gray Days and Gold," by William Winter.

What New York Is Wearing

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Here's a charming dress in flattering beige lace.

It's so versatile! It will meet formal afternoons as graciously as Sunday night affairs, dinner engagements and those informal dances at the club.

There is a definite slimming quality about this model with its cross-closure bodice and new necklace capelet that is brought down to the waistline.

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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.

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"At the first signs of peevishness or illness in the hot, trying months of Summer, I give baby Baby's Own Tablets, and in a short time he is well and smiling his thanks", writes Mrs. Alton Parcher, Glenalmond, Que. Relieve simple fever, colic, upset stomach, constipation. Certificate of safety in each 25c package. 240

Dr. Williams'
BABY'S OWN TABLETS

ISSUE No. 28—'32

Butter Buried Centuries Unearthed in Scotland

Aberdeen, Scotland.—A remarkable find of bog-butter centuries old from Skye was described by Professor James Ritchie, F.S.A.Scot., of the University of Aberdeen, at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The wooden keg containing the butter was discovered, during the cutting of peats by Mr. Hugh Mackay, at a depth of six feet. The keg was hollowed from a tree-trunk.

The butter, during its immersion for centuries, had changed into a hard, solid mass, with a somewhat rancid smell and greasy to the touch, like a piece of french chalk. It tasted, Professor Ritchie assured the audience, like slightly sweetened tallow candles.

The keg and its contents, which weighed about 100 pounds, recalled the days when the farming peoples of the Highlands left their villages in spring to migrate to the upland sheilings. Here they and their domestic stock remained during the summer, and during that time accumulated stores of butter and cheese which were to last throughout the winter.

The custom of burying the butter in peatbogs was widespread, for it has been found in several parts of the Western Highlands and many in Ireland.

It had been suggested that the burying was simply a device for the preservation of the butter in the absence of salt, but it is probable that prolonged burial, for at any rate a few years, "ripened" the butter and improved its flavor.

"What is Brown's score?"

"He can't find the holes. He says they must be phychological depressions."

To a Small Child

(For G.)

Teach me, little playmate,
Teach me to be wise;
A universe of wisdom
Is cradled in your eyes
And their trustful look can
Ample faith by which to live.

Teach me, little playmate,
Teach me to be gay,
For I've felt your laughter
Lightly sweep away
Doubts and cares of heart and mind,
Mists before a golden wind!
—Adelaide Love, in the Chicago Tribune.

Rail Men Taught to Shoot

Hamburg, Germany—Because of a series of robberies at stations, the Hamburg Elevated Railway has armed its employees and allowed them time off for target practice.

Owl Laffs

Edna Wallace Hopper may have all that youthful complexion she claims to have, but she should have that voice of hers filed or scraped.

Badly Smitten

I was charmed by the look in her eye,
By her nightingale voice I was smitten,
And her beautiful figure, oh, my!
By her glorious hair I was bitten.
She's really the charmingest girl, sir,
In her arms any man would find bliss, sir.
But what struck me most about her
Was her hand when I started to kiss her.

Host—"When I was a young man, I always said I'd never be satisfied until I'd smothered my wife in diamonds."

Guest—"Most laudable. But why in diamonds?"

A failure who understands why he lost, and blames the right person, who is himself, has some elements of greatness.

Sherlock—"Ah, Watson! I see you have put on your summer underwear."

Watson—"Marvelous, Holmes! How did you deduce that?"

Sherlock—"Well, you have forgotten to put on your trousers."

Take It Or Leave It

It's a consolation to know that those who live by taxes shall perish by taxes. It would serve some of these hoarders right, too, if they forgot where they hid it. Only exceptional men can run enterprises on idealistic lines and make them pay. The average person's imagination is what enables physicians to make a comfortable living Believe it, please, there are fellows so tight that they regret it when the pores function. Buying her too big a stone has put more than one boy on the rocks. Maybe so many society girls go on the stage because it has become a matter of good form.

Loafer—"Will you marry me?"

Working Girl—"I'm afraid not."

Loafer—"Aw, come on, be a support."

The Wife—"Don't you think we ought to get mother a little present to take back with her when she goes? Can you suggest anything?"

The Brute—"What about a nice big jar of vanishing cream?"

It may be, as a woman's college inquiry shows, that men get mad twice as often as women, but don't the woman break even by getting twice as mad?

Jerry—Tom, are you ever troubled with sleeplessness?"

Tom—"I am. Some nights I don't sleep three hours."

Jerry—"I pity you, then. I've got it awfully bad. I've been afflicted now for about three years. The doctor calls it 'neuria insomnia paxalaxitis'."

Tom (grunting)—"I've had it about six months; but we call it a baby."

Horseradish is now being brigtened up with the aid of beet juice. It is now a horseradish of another color.

The business man who retired to escape salesmen has returned to his office to avoid house-to-house canvassers.

Teacher—"Your trohble is you don't address the ball properly."

Would-Be Golfer—"Well, I was polite as long as could be."

A Traveling Cannery

A traveling cannery to aid in conserving surplus foodstuffs is an original idea being promoted in Josephine County (Ore.) Boiler, pressure cooker, tin cans, sealer and other needed equipment are being assembled on a four-wheel trailer which will shortly establish a schedule for visits to various communities. It is expected that a majority of the 445 families enrolled in the year-round garden project will take advantage of this profitable cannery to preserve their garden produce.

From the point of view of the hat-seller, two heads are better than one.

Classified Advertising

SALESMEN WANTED.

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Prince is Entitled To All Treasure Trove

London—The discovery of gold bracelets 3,000 years old under a hedgebank in a Cornish village has drawn attention to a little-known privilege enjoyed by the Prince of Wales. As the Duke of Cornwall he is the only one of the King's subjects in England to have the rights of treasure trove.

The British Museum has now acquired this Cornish treasure trove from the heir to the throne. It consists of six bracelets and two torques—twisted gold probably worn as bracelets. On the bullion value of the hoard, which was discovered by a laborer, a considerable sum will be paid to the finder.

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