



How to play Bridge AUCTION and CONTRACT

by Wynne Ferguson
Author of "PRACTICAL AUCTION BRIDGE"

ARTICLE No. 17

The other night a friend of mine asked me: "What's the best way to learn how to play a good game of Auction or Contract?" and I replied: "Learn to profit by your mistakes. That's the secret of improvement and the only one that is of any value. No matter how much a teacher may tell you or how many books you read you will never improve your game unless you learn by your mistakes. Don't make the same mistake twice and you will soon become a fine player. The ones who make the same mistakes over and over again are the hopeless players. Don't be afraid to ask questions. If you do something wrong, ask some good player what you should have done. Write to the editor and if your question is one of general interest, it will be published in these articles."

The following hands represent problems of bidding that have confused readers of these articles and I give them as a test of your knowledge of bidding. If you analyze agree with those given below, you are a pretty good bidder. If they do not, compare your analyses with the writer's and try to find out your mistakes.

Solutions to Last Week's Problems

Hand No. 1

Y :
A B :
Z :

Hearts—A
Clubs—9, 7, 6, 5, 3, 2
Diamonds—A, S, 7, 2
Spades—A, 2

No score, rubber game. What should Z, as dealer, bid with the foregoing hand?

Solution: At Auction with this hand Z should bid one club. The hand contains three aces, therefore, proper values for a sound trump; but the distribution is bad for that bid. The six-card club suit, even without top honors, offers the best attacking bid of the hand and so must be the best bid. The only other possible bid with this hand is one diamond and that is doubtful because of the shortness of the suit and its weakness in top honors.

At Contract, the hand should be passed, despite the three aces. Partner will try for game with a fair hand and the weakness in the club suit, if bid, may cause disaster. The penalties, when one is vulnerable, are too heavy to justify bidding this type of hand.

Hand No. 2

Hearts—J, 10, S, 3, 2
Clubs—J, 7, 3
Diamonds—10, 5
Spades—K, 6, 5

Y :
A B :
Z :

No score, first game. Z dealt, bid one trump and A passed. What should Y now bid with the foregoing hand either at Auction or at Contract?

Solution: Y should pass either at Auction or at Contract. This hand is a fine example of the type of hand containing a five-card major suit; that does not justify a take-out bid.

Hand No. 3

Hearts—S, 2
Clubs—J, 9, S, 2
Diamonds—10, 2
Spades—A, 7, 6, 5, 2

Y :
A B :
Z :

No score, rubber game. Z dealt, bid one no trump and A passed. What should Y now bid with the foregoing hand either at Auction or at Contract?

Solution: Y should bid two spades. It is just over a requirement, as Hand No. 2 is slightly over them, to justify a take-out of partner's no trump. The fact that the hand contains two doubtless is really the deciding factor.

At Contract the hand should be passed. The hand does not justify any further bidding by partner, and he should not be encouraged to try for game by a two-spade bid.

Hand No. 4

Hearts—A, 1, Q, 4
Clubs—J, 10, 9, 4, 3, 2
Diamonds—7
Spades—A, 4

Y :
A B :
Z :

Hearts—10, 9, 5, 2
Clubs—A, K, Q, 7
Diamonds—9, 6, 3
Spades—Q, 6

No score, rubber game. Clubs are trump and Z is playing the hand. A opens the king of diamonds and all follow suit. He then leads the ten of spades. How should Z play the hand so that he can make game no matter how the remaining cards are distributed?

Solution: This hand is a problem in "stripping," that is, taking out all suits except two and then throwing opponents in the lead. When this has been done, one opponent is forced to lead the remaining plain suit to his disadvantage or one of the two missing plain suits and thus allow one hand to trump and the other to discard. At trick No. 2 Z should win the trick in Y's hand with the ace of spades and lead a low club, winning in his own hand with the queen. Z should then lead the six of diamonds and trump in Y's hand with the ten of clubs. Y should then lead a low club and win in Z's hand with the king. The lead of Z's last diamond should be trumped in Y's hand with the nine of clubs. The lead of the ace king of hearts to determine the distribution of that suit should now be made, followed by a low club, which Z will win with the ace.

The cards now held by Z and Y are as follows:
Hearts—Q, 4
Clubs—J
Diamonds—none
Spades—1

Hearts—10, 9
Clubs—none
Diamonds—9, 6, 3
Spades—Q

Z should now lead the queen of spades. This trick must be won by A, depending on the location of the king. Suppose A wins the trick. If he leads a heart, Z can let the heart run up to his nine spot. If A has shown up four hearts, they must drop. If A leads a diamond or a spade, Z can trump in one hand and discard a heart in the other.

Suppose B wins the trick with the king of spades. He also must lead a heart, if he originally held four hearts. Z must win two heart tricks. If B gives Z a diamond or spade, he hand and a trump in one hand only. Y, Z must make game in club only with respect to the distribution of the remaining cards.

Hand No. 5

Hearts—A, 1, Q, 4
Clubs—J, 10, 9, 4, 3, 2
Diamonds—7
Spades—A, 4

Y :
A B :
Z :

Hearts—10, 9, 5, 2
Clubs—A, K, Q, 7
Diamonds—9, 6, 3
Spades—Q, 6

No score, rubber game. Clubs are trump and Z is playing the hand. A opens the king of diamonds and all follow suit. He then leads the ten of spades. How should Z play the hand so that he can make game no matter how the remaining cards are distributed?

Solution: This hand is a problem in "stripping," that is, taking out all suits except two and then throwing opponents in the lead. When this has been done, one opponent is forced to lead the remaining plain suit to his disadvantage or one of the two missing plain suits and thus allow one hand to trump and the other to discard. At trick No. 2 Z should win the trick in Y's hand with the ace of spades and lead a low club, winning in his own hand with the queen. Z should then lead the six of diamonds and trump in Y's hand with the ten of clubs. Y should then lead a low club and win in Z's hand with the king. The lead of Z's last diamond should be trumped in Y's hand with the nine of clubs. The lead of the ace king of hearts to determine the distribution of that suit should now be made, followed by a low club, which Z will win with the ace.

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Spades—1

Hearts—10, 9
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Diamonds—9, 6, 3
Spades—Q

Z should now lead the queen of spades. This trick must be won by A, depending on the location of the king. Suppose A wins the trick. If he leads a heart, Z can let the heart run up to his nine spot. If A has shown up four hearts, they must drop. If A leads a diamond or a spade, Z can trump in one hand and discard a heart in the other.

Suppose B wins the trick with the king of spades. He also must lead a heart, if he originally held four hearts. Z must win two heart tricks. If B gives Z a diamond or spade, he hand and a trump in one hand only. Y, Z must make game in club only with respect to the distribution of the remaining cards.

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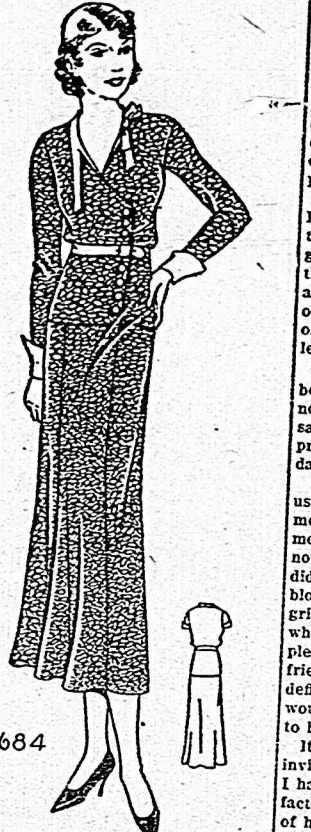
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Something for the school miss and youthful woman types—and you'll love its daring chic.

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A winter jacket in crepe silk made the original. It's such a fresh addition to your mid-season wardrobe.

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Calcium Cyanide for Groundhogs

The Groundhog is an expensive pest, causing considerable damage to meadow land and grain fields. A teaspoonful of Calcium Cyanide placed well down in a Groundhog hole, will generate a deadly gas, that will kill any Groundhogs that are with Calcium cyanide is placed in the hole, the upper end is plugged with sod and soil to keep the gas in, and to keep other animals out. All the Groundhog holes in the district should be treated, as these animals migrate from place to place, digging new holes where ever their fancy takes them. Every Groundhog hole means an unsightly hole in the meadow, with stones and sub soil thrown up in such a way as to cause damage to implements during haying and harvest. Give them their dose of Calcium Cyanide in early May, when the holes are easy to find, and the new crop of Groundhogs is not yet in sight.

Women of Russia recently celebrated an international woman's day for a couple of hours, after which they went back to clean out the stable and guide the plow.

The days were very unromantic; pleading brought a plea for mercy from her mother. "For six days you had eaten nothing. I beg of you, add but a little opium to a few drops of wine, and let her die in peace."

"Impossible woman! I have notified the mandarin that my daughter is committing suicide, and when she is breathing her last, he will come to bless her. If he should detect the opium upon her breath, all my work would be undone."

And thus the child was allowed to die. The mandarin came at the last moment, and blessed her, and while he was regaled with a feast in a nearby room, she breathed her last. Her mother died of grief the same day.

This thing has been done so often in China, but it must die out. We of young China must see to it that the honor of our nation is no longer besmirched with such horrors.

All over the world the question of women's freedom is engrossing the thoughts of men. Yet we must hasten slowly. Every reaction effervesces in the beginning, but later it settles in reality. In my country the need for change is great. The following are a few of the changes we must make at all cost:

1. All schools, primary, secondary,

Youthful China Refuses Shackles

By Hon Tehou, in La Nouvelle Revue Française, Paris.

"To have in youth the maturity of age," is a saying in China. Youth is the springtime of life, and in the organization of social life, the young are like a contingent of new cells which renew the worn-out tissues. Let us then be young, with out the errors of youth, and the better to be the germs of life, let us observe the following rules:

1. Be free men, not slaves. Ours is the age of civil, religious and financial freedom. Women have freed themselves from the yoke of men. Human dignity demands that we be free.

2. Be men of progress. Not to advance but to recede, is an ancient proverb. We Chinese are awaking after twenty centuries of lethargy. We dare not rest any longer on our ancient prestige.

3. Let us become brethren in the great fraternity of man. Formerly the prosperity of nations depended solely on their internal organization. Today it depends only partly on that, and on its external relations for the other part.

4. Let us have actions, not words. Life, that is the most sacred of all things. To live indeed—that is the great problem of man. Let us realize that even though many of our laws and morals have descended to us from our ancestors, they are no longer of any practical use, they are valueless, and ought to be done away with.

On the twenty-fourth day of November, I received a telegram at Pekin announcing the death of my mother. To save time I had the funeral notices printed in the city, and left the next day for home.

In these notices I omitted all the usual expressions, as: "for the punishment of my sins," etc., with which mourning relatives ordinarily adorned the death of a relative. Nor did I say that I was "weeping tears of blood," and "my heart was bowed with grief." If those things were not true, why should I say them? In short, simple words I sent the word to my friends and acquaintances. I added in defiance of all custom, that the family would not receive gifts of paper money to be burned for the use of the dead.

It goes without saying that I did not invite any of the magicians. Nor would I have anything to do with the manufacture of paper and wooden images of horses and men that are so frequently used at funerals in my country. Even in my outward expressions of sorrow, I dared suppress everything false and foolish. I paid no special mourners, either men or women. We of the family went naturally, as is becoming and right. Nor would I have any of the long funeral services. To be perfectly orthodox, a service of this kind should last at least two or three hours. Sometimes it took two or three days to read the genealogical tree alone, and for this the priest was given a piece of white linen and a meal. To all objections I replied that it was all untrue and a sham, and I would not have it at my mother's grave.

In the matter of mourning, too, I ran counter to all custom. It happened that the next summer was a very hot one. I could not bear the weight of my wide linen robes. I was bathed in perspiration the whole time. Finally I bought for myself a light silk suit, and laid aside my mourning. When they asked me what rites I followed, I replied that I was following the oldest rites in Chinese history, for, indeed, it is written in the "mutations" that mourning shall be no fixed period of mourning. The truth is, these old customs of life do not fit in with those of modern life.

Let us tell you of another of our old customs that is not only foolish, but terribly cruel.

"Papa, papa, I am dying of hunger. It is four days since you gave me anything to eat. Surely you do not really mean to let me die." Thus wept and pleaded a young girl of fourteen from behind a hermetically sealed door, while out in the corridor her father kept guard over the hapless prisoner. Occasionally wearied with her cries, she rose and approached the door and replied: "Hush, child, do not act so wildly. When the news of the death of your fiancé came, did I not take a vow that you would follow him to his grave, and thus prove your constancy, whom all coming generations may look up to and reverence. Hanging, poison, or other means of suicide are methods of which at your age you are not capable, therefore I have determined that you shall simply die of hunger. It is the most glorious thing in all the world. Our ancestors will be honored, and we, your family, will be famous. Yet, when I show you this pathway to glory, you reproach me. Is not that very unreasonable?"

The days wore on and her piteous pleading brought a plea for mercy from her mother. "For six days you had eaten nothing. I beg of you, add but a little opium to a few drops of wine, and let her die in peace."

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1. All schools, primary, secondary,

and university should be as free to women as to men.

2. In marriage, woman should be free to choose the man she loves.

3. There should be complete liberty in the choice of a career.

4. In finances, the right of personal property should be the same for a woman as for a man.

A brief glance at some of our special professions may prove of interest. Our clockmakers first of all repair clocks and watches. In late years they have added the repair of pianos, phonographs, spectacles and firearms. They receive two meals a day, and work from 7 a. m. till 4 p. m. Since their work is tiring to the eyes they may stop at intervals for a smoke or a short rest. Besides their food, they receive from 5 to 15 dollars per month.

Our decorators make paper shrouds for the dead or crowns or decorations for the living. There is an apprenticeship of three years, in which there is food but no money. If the apprentice is clever, and employed on any special task, half the money he earns goes to him, and the other half to his master. The engravers are a very special class, and are not allowed to cry their wares on the street, for that would demean the profession. They receive as much as two meals a day, one of which must include wheat and the other rice. The apprenticeship is three years.

The masons include a great variety of professions. They have one great feast a year, in which they pay their respects to their patron, Lou-Pan. A mason is not allowed to work except under the laws of his own corporation, and if he dies penniless, he is buried at public expense.

Besides these, we have our jinriksha drivers, our water-bearers. Winter and summer our vendors of hot tea are on the streets. China is peculiar, but it is my country, and dear to my heart.

Feverish?

"My baby's cheeks and hands were so hot," writes Mrs. Edward Brown, Esq., Toronto, Ont. "I was frightened. I gave him a Baby's Own Tablet at noon and by after supper he was all better." Effective for colds, colic, teething. Absolutely safe. See certificate in each 25c package. 238



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Owl Laffs

Quit Yer Kickin'

Stop yer kickin' 'bout the times, Get a hustle on you, Skirmish 'round and grab the dime; If the dollars shun you; Croakin' never bought a dress (Growlin' isn't in it. All 'till he shinin'; Then go in and win it; Times is gettin' good again, Try to help them all you kin.

Stop yer kickin', get a hold Of the wheel and turn it. You can never handle gold 'Less you try to earn it; Brush the cobwebs from yer eyes, Stop yer dern replin'; And you'll notice that yer skies All 'till he shinin'; If you hain't the nerve to try, Soak away somewhere and die.

Jack may be a dull boy if he works too steadily and does not play enough; but it's a safe bet that he will eat regularly.

Salina—"Alma is getting a man's wages."
Georgia—"Yes, I heard she was married."

Who remembers the old-fashioned sheik who felt wicked and devilish while watching the Bloomer Girls play basketball?

Talkin' & Talkin, real estate, Baltimore, Maryland.
Lily Rose, florist, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
M. Balmer, embalmer, Fort Collins, Colorado.
Yreka Bakery, reads backward or forward, Yreka, California.
Hyde & Seake, furniture, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Puls & Puls, dentists, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.
Later & Later, prompt delivery, New York, N.Y.
Bull Brothers, dairy, Aberdeen, South Dakota.
Wood & Stone, jewellers, Mendville, Pennsylvania.
Fancy, the sign man, Collingwood, Maryland.
Freeze & Cole, insurance, Jonesboro, Arkansas.
A. Sober, merchant tailor, Washington, D.C.
Dr. Blind, eye specialist, Los Angeles, California.
Needham & Diggs, undertakers, Marion, Indiana.
Damm Lunch, Baltimore, Maryland.
Rakewell & Brown, architects, San Francisco, California.
Wind & Wind, attorneys, Chicago, Illinois.
Bless & Robb, clothing store, Greeley, Nebraska.
Mrs. Lamb & Wolf, optometrists, Newark, New Jersey.
Adam Tramp, second hand clothing, Cleveland, Ohio.
Stretch & Strain, motor company, Wichita, Kansas.
Reed & Wright, in Des Moines, Iowa.
Carr & Fender, garage, Detroit, Michigan.
Strong & Manly, filling station, Eagle River, Wisconsin.
Little & Tag, groceries and meats, Pueblo, Colorado.
T. N. Koffey Company, teas and coffee, Brooklyn, New York.
C. Dust, cleans clothes, Danbury, Iowa.
Dr. Lawyer, dentist, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Love, the ice man, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
A. Good, quick lunch, Toronto.

Apparently no girl of to-day plans to remain married long enough to "get into a rut," or let any man become a positive habit with her.

Clarence—"They're lovely mushrooms in this hotel. What do you say we get some?"
Agnes May—"Don't bother. We can use the parlor when we get home."

Too many people think themselves broad-minded when they are merely too lazy to form an opinion. No one loves a quitter, but the acquitters seem to be fairly popular. Much may be forgiven the man who pays his bills. A movie star was married the other night for only the second time. A man is not necessarily in love when he tumbles for a girl, but when he falls so hard he can't stop going, that's the test.