

Why Blunder in Bridge?

*by
Al Dewey*

In memory of Al Dewey:

Al Dewey was the president of the first Carteret County Bridge League when it became a member of the ACBL in 1950. During the summer of 1950, the Friday night Tourney games, the Bridge Leagues from Beaufort and Morehead City consolidated to form the Carteret County Bridge Club which had their first sanctioned ACBL game in September 1950. It was then that he started publishing his articles, "Why Blunder in Bridge?" in the local newspaper 'NEWS-TIMES'. Here are a collection of 19 of these articles that have been found.

All bridge players today will enjoy reading these. It is interesting how the game has changed/improved over the years with the different ways bidding has changed. He said it was competitive between the Morehead and Beaufort players back in the 1940's. He would be surprised how competitive the game has become over the years and not just between Morehead and Beaufort.

These bridge columns were researched by Ned Kinsey at the Carteret County Public Library by accessing old articles from the NEWS-TIMES and compiled by Sarah Kinsey to form this booklet.

July 2014

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| NORTH | |
| S- 10 9 6 | |
| H- Q 7 2 | |
| D- 2 | |
| C- Q J 10 8 4 2 | |
| WEST | EAST |
| S- A | S- Q J 8 7 5 4 |
| H- 9 3 | H- 8 5 4 |
| D- A J 9 8 5 4 | D- Q 7 6 |
| C- A K 9 5 | C- 3 |
| SOUTH | |
| S- K 3 2 | |
| H- A K J 10 6 | |
| D- K 10 3 | |
| C- 7 6 | |

Final Contract: 4 Spades by East (doubled). Opening - Lead: King of Hearts.

Here it is, Folks. --- Carteret county's own bridge column based upon actual hands dealt at the weekly Monday night tournament. (If you like it, tell THE NEWS-TIMES, if not, tell the author).

The illustrated hand was played at nine tables with 7 E-W pairs in contracts of 4 and 5 Diamonds (set 1 or 2 tricks). One N-S pair tried 4 Hearts (why?) were doubled and set 300 points for a zero Match Point score. The bidding is a discussion in itself and is not shown in order to prevent complications.

One East player found himself in 4 Spades doubled (don't ask how!). The opening lead of Heart K was followed by Heart A and after some deliberation, a small Spade. (What lead at the third trick would have defeated the contract automatically?). Declarer saw a ray of hope and followed with the Ace and King of Clubs, discarding his third Heart.

He then led a small Club, trumping with the 5 of Spades and, behold, South did not overtrump but played a Heart. East now placed K, 10, 9 of Spades in North hand and chose not to lead the Q of spades. Assuming that he had done so, and had drawn opposing trumps when next his turn to lead, how would the Diamond suit be played to avoid a loser?

Complicated squeeze plays, etc. will be left to Jacoby and Goren. Look for answers to above questions in the Dec. 1 issue to THE NEWS-TIMES. Address any bridge questions to THE NEWS-TIMES--we'll try to find the answers!

(Editor's Note: Our bridge columnist is a National Master. His master points total all the way up to 32. Mr. Dewey, who manages the Jefferson hotel in Morehead City, introduced tournament bridge in the county and organized the Carteret County Bridge League last year. He won the 1950 open pair championship in the state, playing with Harvey Hamilton, jr., also of Morehead City).

November 24, 1950

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
S- J 8
H- 9 7 5
D- 9 4 3
C- Q 10 8 5 3

WEST EAST
S- A K 7 4 S- Q 5 3
H- 8 2 H- A K Q J 10 4 3
D- A 10 7 D- Q 6 2
C- A K 7 4 C- None

SOUTH
S- 10 9 6 2
H- 6
D- K J 8 5
C- J 9 6 2

South Dealer
East - West Vulnerable

For the Monday Tournament of Nov. 27 all recent tournament winners were requested to sit N-S placing mostly non-winners in E-W positions. Board No. 3 shown above was bid to 6 hearts at 8 tables, one E-W pair stopping at 4 hearts. Seven hearts were made at all tables. It is safe to assume that several N-S pairs would have reached 7 hearts or 7 no trump. In tournament bridge 7 NT would be the maximum and should be bid.

The hand could be bid as follow:

| | South | West | North | East |
|--|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Pass | 1S | Pass | 2H |
| | Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4NT |
| | Pass | 5S | Pass | 5NT |
| | Pass | 6H | Pass | 7NT |

West's response to East's Blackwood bid of 4 NT show 3 aces and 2 kings. East can now count 7 heart tricks, 5 top tricks in partner's hand plus a sure 13th trick with either the queen of spades or queen of diamonds.

We can hear the experts wail, saying that East's Blackwood bid of 4 NT could cause trouble by missing a 7 H contract if West's holding turned out to be

S--A K J 4
H--8 2
D--A K 10 7
C-- K Q J

The experts would probably find some way of bidding West's hand to show which Aces were held. Blackwood has caused many headaches. Just imagine if West were first to bid 4 NT. East would show one ace and then one king in response to 5NT but then could either partner then bid 7 NT safely?

Save your NEWS-TIMES bridge hands from week to week. In reference to the hand shown Nov. 24 South could have defended the contract easily at the third trick by continuing the heart suit. East would have to double finesse the diamonds to avoid losing one diamond.

December 1, 1950

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
 S- K 9 5 3
 H- 8 6 5 4 2
 D- 10 7 6 5
 C- None

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>WEST S- 7 H- 9 D- K Q 4 C- A K 10 9 8 5 4 2</p> | <p>EAST S- Q 8 6 H- A K Q J D- A J 3 C- J 7 6</p> |
|---|--|

SOUTH
 S- A J 10 4 2
 H- 10 7 3
 D- 9 8 2
 C- Q 3

The Monday night Duplicate has now completed 2 games of a 6 game series. The winner or winners of the series will receive as much as ½ Master Point in addition to any awards won during the series. Excitement is at fever pitch and the competition is becoming keener each week.

The above hand created quite some discussion Monday night, most E-W pairs playing at 6 clubs. Two pairs stopped at 5 clubs and one E-W pair was defeated one trick at 3 NT. Where the bidding proceeded as below, E-W made 7 clubs without a spade opening lead:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 3 C |
| Pass | 3 H | Pass | 4 NT |
| Pass | 5 H | Pass | 6 C |

East's response to West's Blackwood bid of 4 NT showed 2 Aces and that was all that West wanted to know; he didn't care which aces they were.

When East opens with 1 heart, most South players risked an overcall of 1 spade; thereby helping North pick an opening lead against 6 clubs.

Here is a hand for Jacoby encountered in a recent rubber game. Just for practice, set it up in your foursome and let some one try to make 6 diamonds or spread the cards and try it by yourself.

NORTH
 S - A J 7 3
 H - 10
 D - K Q 7
 C - J 8 6 5 4

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>WEST S - K 5 4 H - 6 2 D - 10 8 4 C - A K 10 9 7</p> | <p>EAST S - Q 8 6 2 H - Q J 5 4 3 D - 5 C - Q 3 2</p> |
|--|--|

SOUTH
 S - 10 9
 H - A K 9 8 7
 D - A J 9 6 3 2
 C - None

Contract - 6 diamonds by South
Opening Lead - king of clubs

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
S- A J 7 3
H- 10
D- K Q 7
C- J 8 6 5 4

| | |
|--|--|
| WEST S- K 5 4 H- 6 2 D- 10 8 4 C- A K 10 9 7 | EAST S- Q 8 6 2 H- Q J 5 4 3 D- 5 C- Q 3 2 |
|--|--|

SOUTH
S- 10 9
H- A K 9 8 7
D- A J 9 6 3 2
C- None

Contract 6 D by South

Opening lead king of clubs

The above hand, first shown in the NEWS-TIMES on Dec. 8, really offers unusual mental exercise. The easy play is as follows: the opening lead is trumped by south, followed by the nine of spades. If West plays low, dummy does likewise and East wins with the queen. Any return by East should not prevent South from capturing 12 tricks.

If a diamond is led, West's eight forces dummy's queen. The 10 of hearts is led to the ace and the spade jack finessed. Next, declarer discards a heart on the spade ace, ruffs a club, takes his ace and king of hearts and ruffs out the had. (If you want to see the importance of small cards, interchange North's 7 of diamonds with West's 4-spot and see what happens.

Many players who have examined this hand were convinced that it could be made by trumping the opening club, taking the spade ace and cross-ruffing, conceding a spade at the end. Try it!_it can be done by an end-play on the 10th trick unless West makes an unusual play along the line.

The winners of Monday's tournament, Dec. 18 will receive one full Master Point. Come to the Civic Center and watch the fun if you don't feel equal to the stress and strain of actual play.

December 15, 1950

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------|--|
| NORTH | | | |
| S- K Q J 10 3 | | | |
| H- 6 5 3 | | | |
| D- 9 7 | | | |
| C- K J 9 | | | |
| WEST | | EAST | |
| S- 6 | | S- A 7 5 4 2 | |
| H- A J 10 8 4 | | H- K Q 9 | |
| D- 8 5 3 | | D- A K 10 2 | |
| C- 8 6 5 2 | | C- 7 | |
| SOUTH | | | |
| S- 9 8 | | | |
| H- 7 2 | | | |
| D- Q J 6 4 | | | |
| C- A Q 10 4 3 | | | |
| South Dealer | | | |

Both Sides Vulnerable

Christmas is the theme and here's a gift from E-W to N-S!

The bidding (with apologies)

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1 S | 2 C | Pass |
| Pass | 2 D | Pass | Pass |
| 3 C | Pass | Pass | Pass |

The Play (Santa Claus never was so generous as E-W!): --West opened the singleton spade, East took the ace and led the king of diamonds and then a small spade. West trumped and returned a diamond which East took with the ace. A spade was returned, South trumped high and took three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. The two high spades gave South a place to discard his two hearts and the rest of the tricks were his. Man, that is poor defense!

It is difficult to say which was worse, the bidding or the defense. North could have opened with one spade in third position-South's overcall of 2 clubs was inviting slaughter, --East's bid of 2 diamonds was not good. If East had doubled the 2 club overcall, he would have shown a strong hand and made it possible for West to bid hearts. Can E-W make 4 hearts? What opening lead would defeat 4 hearts?

Now that East-West have shown the giving spirit, let's say 'Happy Holidays.' Your next NEWS-TIMES bridge hand will be in the issue of January 19, 1951.

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

Your NEWS-TIMES bridge column is back from "vacation" with a good illustration of the danger caused by a little knowledge. Just two hands are shown in order to emphasize the problem.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

S- K 2
H- A K Q J
D- Q 7 6 4
C- A J 8

SOUTH

S- Q 8 6 5 4
H- 7 4 2
D- 5
C- Q 9 4 2

Dealer -- East

Contract -- 4 Hearts played by West.

The bidding: --

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | 1 NT | Pass | 2 H |
| Pass | 4 H | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

North's opening lead was the 5 of clubs on which dummy played the 8. Now, South started to think and met his Waterloo. He analyzed the lead and decided that the 5 spot was North's 4th best club. If so, according to the 'Rule' of Eleven there remained 6 clubs higher than the 5 spot in East, South and West hands.

The dummy (East) showed three higher and South has two (the queen and 9); therefore, West must have just one club higher than the 5. Is it the king or the ten? If it is the king, South's 9 will force the king and promote the queen of clubs as a possible winner for N-S. If West holds the 10 of clubs and South wins the opening lead with the queen, North's king of clubs can later be finessed to promote an extra club trick E-W.

What happened? South played the 9, West won with the 10 and fulfilled his contract for 4 H. Possibly North could have picked a better opening lead and given West no chance. (Don't be afraid to lead trump once in a while).

The Monday night tournaments are back in full swing at the Civic Center. Visitors and kibitzers are welcome.

Incidentally, don't feel badly about being defeated at 7 spades with the following holding (it happened at the tournament Jan 22). A beautiful contract, set 1 trick, West held 4 trumps J 9 8 4.

NORTH

S- A 7 5 2
H- Q
D- Q 2
C- A Q 9 7 5 4

SOUTH

S- K Q 10 6
H- A 2
D- A K J 10 5 4 3
C- None

January 26, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
S- 8
H- A Q 3
D- A K 6
C- A Q 6 5 4 3

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| WEST | EAST |
| S- J 10 9 | S- K 5 4 3 |
| H- 6 | H- J 9 4 2 |
| D- Q 9 8 5 4 3 | D- J 7 |
| C- J 10 8 | C- K 9 7 |

SOUTH
S- A Q 7 6 2
H- K 10 8 7 5
D- 10 2
C- 2

Contract – 6 H by South

Opening Lead – 5 of diamonds

Goren recently showed a bridge hand that was defeated the 'hard war.' Here's a contract that was made the same way.

Declarer took the opening diamond with dummy's king, led the ace of clubs and trumped a small club. A diamond was led to dummy's ace and another club trumped. At this point, the remaining clubs in dummy were established. Declarer had nothing to do but draw trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy, use the good clubs and concede a diamond trick at the end (or try the spade finesse to make a grand slam).

He led the king and followed with a small heart to the ace. Imagine his chagrin when West showed out on the second round. For lack of something better to do, he then led a good club and East trumped. Lo and behold! East could not return a diamond but had to choose between a trump or a spade. He led a low spade. Declarer gulped, played the queen and when it held, he discarded dummy's diamond on the spade ace, cleared East's last trump by leading to the queen and made his contract.

The easy way? –a simple crossruff. It may not be scientific but it works, due to the fact that West can not over-ruff the 8 or 10 of hearts.

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
S- A 10 9 6
H- 10 9 7 6
D- K 8 7 2
C- 7

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>WEST S- 7 4 H- K Q 5 4 D- J 9 6 3 C- Q 4 3</p> | <p>EAST S- K 8 H- A J 3 D- Q 5 C- K J 10 9 8 5</p> |
|--|---|

SOUTH
S- Q J 5 3 2
H- 8 2
D- A 10 4
C- A 6 2

Contract – 4 S by South

Beware of Carteret county bridge players! They are now executing squeeze plays just like the masters. One of our Beaufort folks made 4 spades with the above holding by means of a neat squeeze.

West, on lead, chose a trump because of his dangerous holding in the other suits. North played low, East won with the king and returned a trump, won by North. A small heart was won by East's ace and club return was taken by South's ace. A club was trumped and another heart lead was taken by West's queen. West led a club which was trumped in dummy and a heart lead was trumped by declarer. At this point, the remaining cards were:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>NORTH S --- H- 10 D- K 8 7 2 C ---</p> <p>WEST S --- H- K D- J 9 6 3 C ---</p> | <p>EAST S --- H --- D- Q 5 C- K J 10</p> <p>SOUTH S- Q J H --- D- A 10 4 C ---</p> |
|---|--|

South now led her 2 remaining trumps and kept an eagle eye on the opponents' discards. On the first lead West discarded a diamond and dummy did likewise. On the second lead, West was forced to hold the king of hearts to protect dummy's ten spot and therefore discarded another diamond - declared now threw dummy's ten of hearts.

As you can see, the ace and king of diamonds cleared the suit so that declarer's ten of diamonds was good for the tenth trick and contract. Congratulations-well done! (Incidentally, what opening lead by West and subsequent play by East would have prevented the squeeze?)

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
S- A K Q 9 7 6 5
H- K
D- 9 7
C- A Q 4

WEST
S- 4 3
H- J 10 6
D- A 4 3 2
C- 10 9 6 2

EAST
S- J 10
H- 9 7 5 4 2
D- Q J 10
C- 8 7 5

SOUTH
S- 8 2
H- A Q 8 3
D- K 8 6 5
C- K J 3

South ---Dealer
Neither Side Vulnerable

The Bidding:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | | 1 H | Pass |
| 2 S | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3 S | Pass | 3 NT | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 D | Pass |
| 5 NT | Pass | 6 H | Pass |
| 6 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Here is a hand from one of the recent tournaments of Webb Memorial Civic center, illustrating a point of common sense which must be exercised by good bridge players. One of the best aids to sound bidding is Culbertson's chapter on Plastic Valuation, especially in his 'old' Gold Book published approximately 1930.

North's hand is powerful, ---upon hearing South's opening bid, his only question is whether the combined hands will produce small slam or grand slam. He first forces with a 2 S bid (forcing to game); ---South bids 2 NT to show minimum opening bid strength, North is now in no hurry and bids 3 S. South has nothing to show except 3 NT and North now forces with a Blackwood 4 NT bid. South's response shows one ace and his response to 5 NT shows two kings.

At this point, North's decision is critical, ---if he bids and plays 6 S, East's normal opening lead on the diamond queen means disaster. Let's use PLASTIC VALUATION, ---South's responses to Blackwood shows one ace and two kings. Add these cards to the North hand and count the winning tricks. Seven spade tricks seem certain, 3 clubs, 2 hearts (ace and king) ---12 tricks. South's diamond kind affords protection against an opening lead in that suit.

Some of the skeptics might picture a South hand such as below, in which event a spade slam would be preferred over no trump. However, the chances are slim.

S- 8 2
H- J 10 8 6 3
D- A K Q
C- K J 3

As mentioned in a previous NEWS – TIMES bridge column, many of the experts' will use some type of 'asking' bid to ascertain WHICH ace might be held by South.

March 3, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH
S- 4
H- J 10 7 5 3
D- K 5
C- Q 9 4 3 2

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| WEST | EAST |
| S- A K J 9 6 5 | S- 8 7 |
| H- 9 | H- A Q 4 |
| D- Q J 7 3 | D- 10 8 6 4 |
| C- 8 7 | C- A K J 6 |

SOUTH
S- Q 10 3 2
H- K 8 6 2
D- A 9 2
C- 10 2

East ---Dealer

E - W Vulnerable

Contract 4 H played by South

Once in a while, sacrifice bidding backfires. In a recent tournament, several of the E-W pairs became ambitious to reach slam and were defeated at a contract of 5 spades. Our South player had been holding uninteresting hands and decided to do some bidding, --'come what may.' Over East's opening bid of 1 Club, South called 1 Spade and on the second round, bid 2 Hearts. West was deterred from bidding Spades beyond the three level and North rightfully pushed South to a 4 H contract which was doubled by East.

At this point, spread the N - S hands and plan the play with the Spade King as the opening lead, followed by the Diamond - queen. Let someone play the defense and test your skill.

Here's how the play actually proceeded, --- the queen of Diamonds was taken by dummy's king, followed by the Heart jack which won the trick when East and South played low. South now realized that in order to hold his loss to a minimum, he would have to employ the 'dummy reversal' procedure. The key play was a low Club from dummy which East took with the jack. East returned with a Diamond which South captured with the ace.

South led the 10 of Clubs and East returned a Spade after winning with the king of Clubs. South trumped in dummy and led the queen of Clubs, --- East covered with the ace, South trumped and entered dummy by trumping a Diamond.

On North's 9 of Clubs, South discarded a Spade and continued with another Club, causing much discomfort to East. In desperation, east trumped with the Heart ace, South discarded a Spade, captured East's lead of the Heart queen and proceeded to take the remaining tricks with no difficulty.

The result-set one trick, doubled, for minus 100 points, ordinarily a "top score". If South had never made a bid, possibly his opponents would have reached for the moon and gone overboard.

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

NORTH

S- 5
H- K 9 3
D- A K Q 8 7 3
C- Q 8 7

WEST

S- J 7 6 2
H- A 8 4
D- 6
C- A K 10 4 2

EAST

S- K 10 3
H- 10 5
D- J 9 5 2
C- J 9 5 3

SOUTH

S- A Q 9 8 4
H- Q J 7 6 2
D- 10 4
C- 6

Contract

4 Hearts by South

Opening Lead

Club King by West

Today's hand shows one of the most striking differences between rubber and duplicate bridge.

Let's assume that the first 3 tricks are played as follows: --- after winning the first trick with the club king, West leads the ace of hearts, followed by the 4-spot which is taken by South's jack.

In duplicate play, South must strive to take as many tricks as possible. He realizes that the rest of the tricks are his if diamonds break 3 – 2 in the opponents' hands. If they break 4 – 1, it is possible that defender with the singleton diamond may not hold the one remaining trump.

In this event, he could then trump a small diamond, draw the last trump by leading to dummy's king and run the good diamonds. On this basis, declarer led 2 rounds of diamonds, West trumped the second round and South's contract became hopeless.

Playing the above hand at rubber bridge, declarer's chief concern is to fulfill his contract of 4 hearts and forego extra tricks. After winning trick number 4 with the ace of diamonds, what lead can be made which insures his contract? At trick number five, a low diamond is led from dummy and the defense is helpless to defeat the contract. Declarer is safe with any lead by East, --- if a diamond is led, South trumps high, draws the last trump by leading to dummy's king and runs the diamonds which are now established.

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

South
S- K 7 5
H- A Q 3
D- Q J 9 6 2
C- 10 7

North --- Dealer
East-West Vulnerable

What is a "forcing" pass? A recent Jacoby newspaper article discussed this at length. Most players are familiar with "forcing" bids but are hazy on "forcing" passes.

Imagine that you are South and the bidding has proceeded:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| Pass | Pass | 1 D | 2 C |
| 2 S | Pass | Pass | 3 C |
| 3 D | 3 H | Double | 4 C |
| Pass | Pass | ? | |

In analyzing the bidding, South knew that North had passed originally and therefore, did not have opening bid strength. South liked the 2 S bid, which guaranteed some high-card strength, but knew that game could not be made and therefore, passed. North's support of diamonds at the 3 level confirmed high-card strength and showed at least 3 diamonds. When East bid 3 H. South had good reason to double, especially in view of the fact the E-W were vulnerable. West' bid of 4-C sounds like a desperation bid to rescue East from a bad situation.

Why didn't North take some action over 4-C? South has a sound opening bid and North has promised high-card strength, therefore North's pass over 4 C forces South to take some action. South reasons as follows . . . a 4 D bid might produce. 4 x 20 (diamond trick score) 80, plus part score bonus – 50, total 130 or 4 C doubled, set 1 (vulnerable). Total 200.

South had no reason to picture 6-4-2-1 distribution in North's hand with only one ace and one king (which is what he actually held). Therefore, South doubled 4 C which was made . . . N – S minus 710- points and a ZERO score in duplicate. (Only the one hand is shown in order to demonstrate clearly the problem faced by South. Phone the NEWS-TIMES if you want the other 3 hands.

March 30, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

Duplicate bridge in Carteret county has amazed Eastern Carolina. At the Master Point game Monday at the Webb Memorial Civic center, 48 players matched their wits and skill.

Plans are now being made for the county championship to be held on a Saturday in May or early June, qualifying round in the afternoon, followed by dinner and more bridge in the evening. Those who qualify in the first session will play for the championship at night. The others will have a special consolation game. It is expected that players will converge on Carteret county from both Carolina and Virginia.

A recent Jacoby column brought up the old question, "Is good bidding more important than good playing?" We agree with him that bidding plays a more important part. A magician can not produce results if playing a hand in the wrong contract. One's partner bids more hands than he plays. Therefore, folks, do a little studying. Goren and Culbertson, both systems use the same foundations and reach the same goal.

A "Goren" player recently open the following hand with a bid of 5 NT and his partner, holding 2 queens raised to 6 NT, which made.

South
S- 10 5 3
H- Q 2
D- Q 7 4 3
C- 8 6 5 2
Neither side vulnerable.
S- A K J 8 6
H- A K 5 4
D- A K
C- A K

South --- Dealer

With most Culbertson players, the bidding would proceed:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | | 2 S | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 H | Pass |
| 3 S | Pass | 6 S | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Blackwood 4 NT – 5 NT would avail nothing, 6 S would make but not produce as large a score, as 6 NT. Experienced Culbertson players would probably reach 6 NT by means of cue bids after the 2 S opening.

The 5 NT opening bid does not please this writer. Imagine North's holding as:

| Example 1 | Example 2 |
|------------|--------------|
| S- 8 6 5 4 | S- 6 5 |
| H- 5 4 2 | H- 9 7 6 4 2 |
| D- 5 4 2 | D- 5 4 2 |
| C- 8 7 5 4 | C- 8 7 5 |

In Example 1 and many others, 6 S would make whereas 5 NT would be set if spades do not break. In Example 2, a contract of 6 H would be simple and again, 5 NT would be unsuccessful if hearts fail to break.

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

This is the weekend for Bridge in Raleigh --- watch out for Carteret county! At least 15 players from Beaufort and Morehead City will be at the Carolina hotel to show the folks a thing or two. Two local players will defend their Open Pair Championship won in 1950.

A "leading" Raleigh paper printed a bridge hand on Sunday, April 22, which was certainly confusing to say the least. The first error was made by the compositor when he showed the bidding as follows:

| Neither side vulnerable | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|
| | 1 D | 1 H | Pass |
| North | East | South | West |
| 1 NT | Pass | 2 H | Pass |
| Pass | 2 S | Pass | 2 NT |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Let's assume that the first 2 lines should be reversed and the bidding has proceeded:

| | 1 D | 1 H | Pass |
|--------|------|-------|------|
| North | East | South | West |
| 1 NT | Pass | 2 H | Pass |
| Pass | 2 S | Pass | 2 NT |
| Double | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Here are the 4 hands ---

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| NORTH | | |
| (R. L. Lovill) | | |
| | S- A K 8 4 | |
| | H- 8 7 5 | |
| | D- A J 10 2 | |
| | C- 5 2 | |
| WEST | | EAST |
| (H. P. Williams) | | (R. E. Williams) |
| S- 10 9 6 | | S- Q J 5 2 |
| H- A K 10 | | H- 3 |
| D- 8 7 4 | | D- K Q 9 5 |
| C- K 8 7 4 | | C- A 10 6 3 |
| SOUTH | | |
| (W. B. Woodson) | | |
| | S- 7 3 | |
| | H- Q J 9 6 4 2 | |
| | D- 6 3 | |
| | C- Q J 9 | |

Comments:

1. The contract of 2 NT doubled was made with over tricks, a zero result for North – South.
2. Is there any reason for West to pass on the first round? Definitely not, he should bid 1 NT.
3. Why would North bid a 1 NT on the first round? A 1 S bid would be better.
4. Now folks, concentrate on the South hand. His first overcall was questionable and, evidently, his rebid of 2 H was to "rescue" partner from a 1 NT contract. But, having stretched his values, how could he possibly let his partner suffer in trying to defeat 2 NT. His holding make it compulsory to "reduce" into a 3 H contract. If doubled and set 300 points, his result would still be better than 3 NT bid and made by East-West.
5. This is not an example of "tough breaks." rather, one of poor bidding.

April 27, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

At the recent Raleigh tournament two local players, Mrs. K. P. B. Bonner and Mrs. J. S. Steed misread their final score in the Women's pair game and did not realize until 10 days later that they had finished in second position. Each won a full Master Point. Congratulations.

In 1949, Frank Burton of Cherry Point paired with S. B. Brummitt to win the N. C. State Open Pair Championship at Raleigh. At one recent Monday tournaments held by the Carteret County Bridge club at the Webb Memorial Civic center, Frank showed championship caliber in handling the cards illustrated below. His partner felt that drastic measures were necessary in order to gain some points and pushed the contract to an ambitious level of 4 hearts.

| | | |
|---------------|--|-------------|
| NORTH | | |
| S- K 10 | | |
| H- A 4 3 | | |
| D- A Q J 3 | | |
| C- A 9 7 4 | | |
| WEST | | EAST |
| S- A 9 2 | | S- Q 8 7 |
| H- Q 7 | | H- K 6 2 |
| D- 9 7 5 2 | | D- K 8 6 |
| C- K Q 10 6 | | C- J 5 3 2 |
| SOUTH | | |
| S- J 6 5 4 3 | | |
| H- J 10 9 8 5 | | |
| D- 10 4 | | |
| C- 8 | | |

Frank followed the best procedure --- if you're not certain as to how to play what looks like an impossible contract, do the best you can and give the opponents every opportunity to make mistakes.

West opened the club king which was captured by dummy's ace. Declarer led the 4 of clubs from dummy and trumped, next leading the 10 of diamonds which was won by East king. East returned a small club --- South trumped and led the 3 of spades which was won by dummy's king when West refused to "jump in" with the ace. Declarer now led the 10 of spades from dummy which was taken by West's ace. West led still another club which South trumped. South trumped a small spade with dummy's 3 of hearts and led the ace of diamonds, followed by the Queen of diamonds. Dummy then led the jack of diamonds, East trumped with the deuce of hearts and declared over trumped.

At this point, Frank had taken nine tricks without leading trumps and the ace of hearts gave him his tenth and "contract". How many chances did East-West have to make a lead which would have defeated Declarer and what was the lead? Phone the News-Times for the answers.

May 11, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

Many a bridge players has threatened to quit the game because of too many "lessons" from a partner who is unqualified to teach.

At a recent tournament at Webb Memorial Civic Center, the following cards were dealt:

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| NORTH | | |
| S- Q 10 | | |
| H- 9 8 5 2 | | |
| D- 8 7 5 | | |
| C- Q 10 5 4 | | |
| WEST | | EAST |
| S- K J 7 5 | | S- 6 4 3 2 |
| H- A Q 10 7 6 | | H- J 4 |
| D- 6 | | D- 10 9 4 3 2 |
| C- 8 3 2 | | C- K 6 |
| SOUTH | | |
| S- A 9 8 | | |
| H- K 3 | | |
| D- A K Q J | | |
| C- A J 9 7 | | |

During the bidding, West mentioned his heart suit and South bravely bought the contract at 3 NT. West, for some unknown reason, opened the 10 hearts which was taken by declarer's king. After 2 rounds of diamonds, South led his low heart and, again, West erred by placing the queen which dropped East's jack, thereby promoting the 9 of hearts in dummy as a winning trick.

After this confusion, East sweetly asked West why he had not led his fourth best heart, claiming that that lead would have defeated the contract. After the "lesson," South comforted West by saying that 3 NT would make even with the opening lead of heart 7. This was too much for East but South obligingly replayed the hand to prove his point. How did he do it?

The 7 of hearts was covered by North's 8 spot, in turn covered by East's jack and won by the king. When West showed out of diamonds on the second lead of that suit, South led his low hearts. That's all there is to it, simple, eh? West gleefully ran his four heart tricks but that was all --- his next lead meant "curtains" for E-W. Oddly enough, West's "dumb" lead of the heart 10 defeats the contract if he plays low on the subsequent heart lead, permitting East's jack to win, followed by a spade lead.

So folks, if your partner tries to make life miserable, copy the hand and phone THE NEWS-TIMES for arbitration.

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

If you have a weak heart, don't play tournament bridge. During the excitement at Monday's Master Point game, someone reversed the E-W hands on Board No. 5. Some players were convinced that a vital change had occurred, and as a result all pairs were given an average score on the board.

Actually, there is little difference: Deal No. 1 shows the original lay of the hands, Deal No 2 shows the lay after E-W hands are reversed. The best E-W contract in either deal is 4 hearts, which cannot be defeated if played properly.

Deal No. 1
NORTH
S- 10 4 3
H- Q 3
D- Q 9 5
C- A K 10 7 4

| WEST | | EAST |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| S- A K Q 9 7 6 | | S- J 2 |
| H- 6 5 4 | | H- A K 9 8 2 |
| D- J 6 2 | | D- K 10 3 |
| C- 2 | | C- Q 9 3 |

SOUTH
S- 8 5
H- J 10 7
D- A 8 7 4
C- J 8 6 5

Deal No. 2
NORTH
S- 10 4 3
H- Q 3
D- Q 9 5
C- A K 10 7 4

| WEST | | EAST |
|--------------|--|----------------|
| S- J 2 | | S- A K Q 9 7 6 |
| H- A K 9 8 2 | | H- 6 5 4 |
| D- K 10 3 | | D- J 6 2 |
| C- Q 9 3 | | C- 2 |

SOUTH
S- 8 5
H- J 10 7
D- A 8 7 4
C- J 8 6 5
N-S Vulnerable
North Dealer

In Deal No.2, most E-W pairs played at 4 spades which should be defeated by proper defense. After North wins the opening club lead, he shifts to a low diamond which is taken by South's ace. A diamond is returned and East's "goose is cooked" --- he cannot prevent the loss of 2 diamonds, 1 club, and 1 hearts.

The play at 4 hearts (either Deal No.1 of No.2 is interesting ---if you don't believe that is can be made against any defense --- phone the Carteret County NEWS-TIMES

May 25, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

Tonight is the big night for Carteret county bridge players. Join the fun starting at 5 p.m. at the Ocean King hotel --- dinner 6 p.m. --- bridge at 8 p.m. Kibitzers will be welcome.

The following hand was shown and discussed in a Raleigh paper on Sunday, May 27.

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| NORTH | | | |
| S- | A 5 4 | | |
| H- | K 7 4 | | |
| D- | K J 8 | | |
| C- | J 10 9 8 | | |
| WEST | | EAST | |
| S- | K J 10 | S- | Q 9 8 7 6 3 |
| H- | J 9 6 5 | H- | A 10 8 3 2 |
| D- | 6 2 | D- | 4 3 |
| C- | 5 4 3 2 | C- | None |
| SOUTH | | | |
| S- | 2 | | |
| H- | Q | | |
| D- | A Q 10 9 7 5 | | |
| C- | A K Q 7 6 | | |

North – South Vulnerable

The Bidding

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| Pass | Pass | 2 D | Pass |
| 3 NT | 4 S | 5 C | 5 S |
| 6 C | 6 S | Double | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Let's quote the article ---

"Several pairs played this hand in 6 diamonds and with a club lead were set 1 trick. Many of the pairs were allowed to play 6 clubs, making 6 or 7, depending on whether they were able to steal the queen of hearts. The East players sacrificing at 6 spades were set only 500 points, losing 2 diamonds, 1 heart, and 1 spade".

"Six no trump will make but the East-West players did not allow sufficient exchange of information between the North-South players to locate the cards needed to try for this contract. It is possible from the bidding that East-West might have the ace-king of spades instead of the king of spades and ace of hearts as they did."

Folks, N-S should reach 6 NT with no difficulty. A "common sense" bidder could jump to 6 NT immediately over partner's 2 D opening and would certainly end that contract, if E-W "permit" South to show his club suit. 3 NT is not the correct response to an opening bid of 2 D. Culbertson would recommend at least a jump to 4 NT.

Recently, many players have adopted a system of showing an ace in response to partner's 2-demand bid. Thus, on the above hand, North would bid 2 S over South's 2 D, thereby, guaranteeing the ace of spades. When South subsequently bids clubs, North could easily visualize a successful 6 NT contract, especially if he is given the opportunity to start Blackwood 4-5 NT.

Other comments---

1. North has close to an opening bid --- many players would open with 1 club.
2. East (not Vulnerable) could make a semi-psyhic opening bid, especially against vulnerable opponents.
3. If N-S bid 6 NT, E-W could still sacrifice at 7 spades for a set of 700 points. In duplicate, 6 NT bid and made vulnerable would net N-S 1440 points.
4. With the bidding as shown above, South should pass the 6 S bid and let North decide whether to double or bid.

June 1, 1951

Why Blunder in Bridge?

By Al Dewey

On Friday, June 1, sixty-two bridge players invaded the Ocean King hotel, Atlantic Beach, to form the largest duplicate tournament ever undertaken in this section of North Carolina.

After refreshments and fun, a delicious dinner was served by ladies of the First Baptist church and then the bridge troubles began. Here's a "headache" that almost caused a divorce --- just one hand is shown in order to prevent further argument:

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | NORTH | | |
| | S- A J 6 | | |
| | H- Q J 10 9 5 3 | | |
| | D- 4 | | |
| | C- A K 7 | | |
| | The Bidding | | |
| North | East | South | West |
| 1 H | 2 D | 2 NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

At this point, what should North bid? Most of the "experts" of Carteret and Craven counties agree that a 3 Heart rebid is preferred. At one table, a wife raised her husband to 3 NT and good defense defeated him by 2 tricks, (5 and 6 Hearts were made at the other tables).

South's diamond holding was Q 10 6. West, holding A 8 3 of his partner's suit, opened the 3 spot. East won with the king and returned a small diamond. South (the husband) played the queen, thinking that East had held the ace-king originally. You can see what happened?

At the end of the evening's struggle, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson of New Bern were awarded first place honors, 2 points ahead of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Jones of Beaufort. Frank Burton of Cherry Point finished third with John Pavone of Morehead City.

P. S. --- Husband and wife finished eighth --- the unity of the home was preserved --- at least, until the next bridge tournament.

June 8, 1951