

Marti Ronemus' Easybridge! Sound Bites #1

Don't Bid Like a Turkey !!

Kibitzing at a 299er game, I watched a woman with this hand, red (vul) vs. white:

♠ 10 8 2 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ A 9 8

LHO opened the bidding with 1 ♠, pard overcalled with 2 ♥ and RHO bid 2 ♠. What should you bid? Remember, you are vul vs. non-vul.

Trick question! What the heck does vulnerability have to do with it? Vulnerability decides bonuses and penalties, not what a hand is worth and what it will make!

Favorable—or unfavorable—vulnerability never got anyone a single trick.

This woman passed! How could she do that? She has two bullets and good heart support. Her partner made a two-level overcall, guaranteeing 10+ points. She has ¼ of the HCP in the deck in her hand!

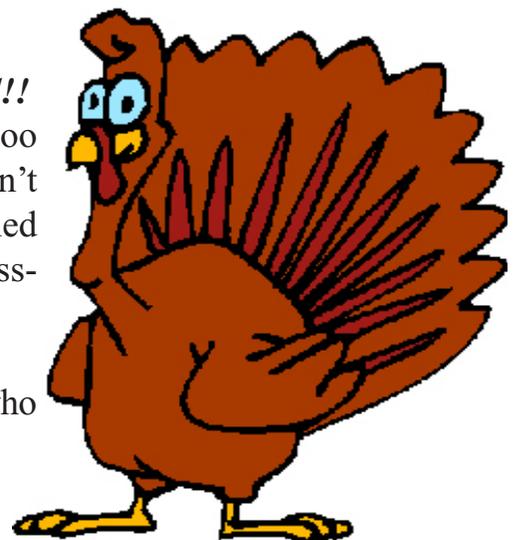
Admittedly it often seems like the deck has more than 40 points once distribution and competitiveness get in the act, but she probably has the only balanced hand at the table. But no matter what, there is no decision whether to bid or not here. With a hand like this, you do not pass go, you do not collect \$200, you just make the raise! Egad! Bid 3 ♥!

Never let the opponents play in a fit at the two level!!

Listen. There are two big sins in bidding: Bidding too much and bidding too little. The ones who bid too little aren't often punished by partner hollerin' at 'em. Those who get yelled at are those who bid too much and crash loudly and embarrassingly.

But they are also the ones who tend to win!!

If I have to choose a partner, please let me get the one who goes for the wild ride! The others can stay home and rest.



Presenter Highlights:

DON'T BID LIKE A TURKEY !

RESPONDING TO PARD'S OVERCALL:

- Two Aces are worth more than 8 HCP.
- Combined with a Queen, that's $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pts. in the deck. Plenty of reason to raise.
- Never let the opponents play in a fit at the two-level when you have a fit of your own. Basic rule of bidding!!
- People who overbid tend to get yelled at, but win more.

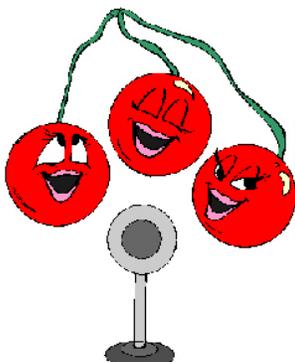
Today's Easytreat!

Black Cherry & Walnut Jello

- 3 small boxes cherry Jello**
- 1 can whole berry cranberry sauce**
- 1 C (generous) chopped walnuts**
- Couple handful mini marshmallows**

In 9 x 13 pan, smush cranberry sauce. Leave the berries whole, as they become the "cherries". In a separate bowl, prepare the Jello according to directions. Add Jello to the smushed cranberries and gently stir in the other ingredients.

To make "finger jello", increase the jello to 5 small boxes.



Today's Easylaugh!

Old Farmer

An old farmer had owned a large farm for many years. He had a big pond in the back forty, and had fixed it up nice; picnic tables, horseshoe pits, basket ball court, etc. It made a wonderful place to swim and relax.

One evening the old farmer went down to the pond. He heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond.



He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!" The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or make you get out of the pond. You go ahead and enjoy yourselves. I only came to feed my alligators."

(Bridge tie-in: Not every finesse involves cards.)