

Easybridge! Sound Bites

Pregame mini-lesson, designed to sharpen wits and improve winning ways

Confusion is King!!

A player came up to me before the game, all confused. Seems he ran into a situation he didn't know how to handle. (If I had a nickel ...) Welcome to the Big City. Bidding is a language of very few words used to describe over a billion hands. Not every situation can be described, but let's see if we can help the poor guy out. He held the hand below and heard his pard open 1♦, overcalled 2♣ by his RHO.

♠QJ82 ♥K10 ♦K1053 ♣875

Your choices are somewhat limited. You should have a good 8+ points, hopefully 10, to go **above** the 2-level in pard's suit. That is, if you can even bid pard's suit. Fate has been kind; at least you've got 4 diamonds. But! Just raising diamonds with 9 points is a weasel bid. How much did you pay to play, anyway?

The answer is the Negative Double. *This does not guarantee both majors in this sequence! Just one of them!* And if pard gives you the wrong one, you have the ability to play in 3♦, returning to pard's suit in a perfect resting place. Too bad you don't have a club stopper; you might even then bid 2NT.

Listen carefully, because this is the key: *To make a negative double without the fit in pard's suit, you'd need 4-3 in the majors.* Got that?

The bidding might continue with your LHO raising the clubs to 3. Now your pard has a clue what to do. He knows you've got a major and 8-10 points. If he passes, you can now look at the vulnerability and decide if you want to compete to 3♦. You do have the 8-card fit.

This promise of just one major in the bidding sequence shown gives you much more flexibility to find the right contract. *But you must be able to return to pard's suit!!*



Presenter Highlights:

Confusion is King!!

NEGATIVE DOUBLES ARE EVEN MORE FLEXIBLE THAN YOU THOUGHT

- ◆ When the two minors have been bid, you should have 4-4 (or a very good 4-3) to make a negative double
- ◆ **Unless!!** You can return to pard's original suit with a nice 8-card fit (caution if pard opened a club...)
- ◆ If pard responds in the wrong major, your choices are NT with an opponent stopper or a return to pard's suit. What fun.

Today's Easylaugh!

POLITICAL DISCUSSION

Five surgeons are discussing who makes the best patients on the operating table. "I like to see accountants on my operating table. When you open them up, everything inside is numbered."

"Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is color-coded."

The third says, "No, I really like librarians. Everything in them is in alphabetical order."

The fourth chimes in, "You know, I like construction workers. These guys always seem to understand when you have a few parts left over at the end. And...they don't seem to mind when the job takes longer than you said it would."

But the fifth surgeon topped them all when he observed, "You're ALL wrong! Politicians are the easiest to operate on...there's



no guts, no heart, no spine, and the head and the rear end are interchangeable."

(Bridge tie-in: Don't let fellow players upset you. Often they have interchangeable parts.)

Today's Easytreat!

SHRIMP CHEESEBALL

1 8-oz block cream cheese, softened

1 4-1/2 oz can shrimp, drained

1-1/2 tsp chopped onion

1 TBS lemon juice

1/2 C chopped nuts

(pecans if you feel rich)

1 tsp Crazy Salt

Combine all ingredients except nuts and chill till firm. Form into a ball and roll in chopped nuts. Serve with veggies or crackers.

