

Players honor Tommy Gardner

THE BRIDGE
CROWD



WOODY
BOYD

'Character can't be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience, trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved.' — Helen Keller

One among us in our suburban world of bridge who has gained the love and respect of all is Tom Gardner of Southfield. I first met Tommy some 40 years ago when he was playing in the most vigorous rubber bridge game played west of the Hudson to the edge of the Windy City.

Every Monday evening, an array of Detroiters and some of the best from the Midwest would gather at the DAC card room for dinner and "deal." If your playing credentials weren't exceptional, you just weren't acceptable. Few of that crew are still with us, the exceptions being the Reindol brothers, Bill Bauble of Grosse Pointe and Tommy.

In what he calls his "scar-filled full life," he has become one of the Motor City's truly fine players, having achieved his "Diamond Life Master" rating (more than 5,000 points) just this year. There are only eight players in Michigan to precede him in this glory.

Tommy is the first one to say, at his savory age, "If you win you're an old pro and if you lose you're an old man." His devoted wife Beverly, who in her own right is an excellent performer and his favorite playing partner, attributes much of his success to the determination and devotion he has for the game. Certainly the unselfish hours he contributes to teaching and bridge seminars can't be matched. As Thomas Paine wrote, "Character is what you are in the dark." Tom's glows radiantly!

On Wednesday evening recently a wonderful group (20-odd tables) gathered at the Gardner's midweek Southfield duplicate game to celebrate his 71st on earth and his Diamond Life Master award. Beverly will blush if you mention this, but she was the one who graciously arranged for the 42-inch-square cake and pizza for 80-odd players attending. It was an extremely pleasant occasion for a very deserving person, and I was fortunate to have been dealt into this splendid event.

The transition from rubber to duplicate bridge is difficult and daring because the thrust and result are specifically different. In the former, the single significant purpose is to ensure your contract. In match play (duplicate), averages usually don't win tournaments. You must intently search for better scores, and if a favorable probability is commensurate with the risk to achieve, you are a winner if you can execute effectively. Note Tom's attitude on the accompanying hand he and Beverly played in the recent August Oak Park MBA Sectional.

East's pre-emptive bid (not vulnerable) was indeed a disruptive maneuver, which required Tom's careful and calculated consideration. As you can see, Tom has nine winners when at trick (2) he lays down the diamond ace, which reveals a sure line of play — two spades, one

W
—
Passed out

Bov
1A

E
3V1

Tom
3NT

Both Vulnerable

▲ Q 9 8 2
♥ —
♦ J 6 5 4
♠ A 10 9 8 7

Bov
W E
Tom

▲ K 10
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A K 8 3 2
♠ K Q

▲ 4 3
♥ K Q 9 7 6 5 2
♦ —
♠ J 6 4 3

W. led ♠ 10

heart, five diamonds and a club. Tom knew that every declarer would find the same result and he wanted no part of such an average. Note his performance for a 10th trick and a top which was a Rembrandt reason why they finished in the money.

Here is the four-card ending.

▲ J 8 7
♥ —
♦ —
♠ 5

Bov
W E
Tom

▲ J 10 4
♥ —
♦ —
♠ K

▲ K Q 9 7
♥ —
♦ —
♠ —

At trick (10), Tom led dummy's club to his king and West's ace. West could still win his club 10 and spade queen, but at trick (11) he had to play his spade nine to dummy's jack and Tom's 10th trick.

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township.

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nursing home, as his doctor sug-

Q. My father-in-law suffered a closed-head injury in a car accident about six months ago. He has been living at home with his wife, but she is ill now and can no longer take care of him. We do not want to put him in a nursing home, as his doctor sug-

gested, but don't know where else to look for help.

A. The Michigan Head Injury Alliance, a chapter of the National Head Injury Foundation, would be the best place for you to call. It can provide you with information and listings of all types of programs and services for people with closed head injuries regardless of their age. It

can give you the names of places that offer a variety of programs such as rehabilitation, long-term care, transitional living, day treatment, home care and respite. It also has a list of facilities that provide permanent residential settings.

Located in Brighton, the Michigan Head Injury Alliance can be reached by phone Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admission at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging. Send your questions to her at the Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

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