

# Marshall Miles has enthusiasm for bridge game



WOODY BOYD

Those who know him will tell you that Marshall Miles is a splendid gentleman, an excellent writer and an extremely proficient bridge player. Add to those categories his enthusiasm and there is no one who enjoys playing the game more.

Some 10 to 12 years ago, I had a standing invitation to play in an excellent Thursday evening team game in Los Angeles whenever I was in town. I always arranged my West Coast venture so I could attend at least one of those weekly occasions.

Marshall lived and worked in San Bernardino, which was 100 freeway miles away. After a full day at his law practice, he would often drive in for a few hours of his favorite intellectual exercise. His zest added tremendously to an extremely challenging evening, for the Los Angeles area has an array of exceptional experts and some would always show for the game.

My competence, as you can imagine, was far below the talent gathered, but you didn't play in that bracket of bridge for long without either getting clobbered or cultivating your craftsmanship. It is difficult to conceal your unskillfulness at the bridge table and some in attendance, out of kindness or clemency, offered their expert therapy.

Believe me, that kind of guidance was of immeasurable help and it did wonders for my game's development.

Today's hand, played by Marshall as my partner at one of those Southern California sessions, is a *ne plus ultra* example of his flawlessness.

**INSERT A**  
West at the other three tables got off to a Club King lead which made the Diamond slam almost a laydown. Declarer can draw trumps, pitch one of Dummy's spade losers on a high Heart and the other on the Club Jack, as that suit's remaining high honors loca-

E	S	W	N
1♦	1♠	1♠	1♠
3(NT)	3(NT)	3♦	4♦
4♠	4♠	5♦	5♦
5♦	5♦		

Passed Out

\*Gerber  
\*\*Two Aces  
\*\*\*One King

Both Vulnerable

AK92  
Q2  
AKJ98  
102

87  
964  
10643  
KQ93

W N E  
Marshall

1065  
AK5  
Q752  
AJ8

QJ43  
J10873  
754

tion is known at trick one.

Not so at our table. West, Danny Rotman, a great player in his own right, opened a Diamond, and now Marshall had to find all of the defender's consequential cards by himself. A count confirmed 11 winners. Could the 12th come from either defender holding the Spade Queen, Jack doubleton? A very remote possibility.

Better chance (36 percent probability) to find Spades 3-3 and pitch Dummy's second Club on the long Heart. Marshall would

then win five Diamonds, three Hearts, three Spades and a Club. Or was there a Club ending?

East pitched the Club four on the opening Diamond. What would East pitch under the pressure of repeated Diamond plays? Too many Club discards would confirm he had no honor in that suit to protect, which the reader can see was the case.

Marshall decided this was his best play and up to a certain point, he could still fall back on the Spade play. At trick two through four, he played Diamonds, eliminating West's trumps.

East followed with two more Clubs and heart. Then Declarer played three Hearts and both Defenders followed. At trick eight through ten, Dummy's two high Spades and the last trump was played. East pitched three Spades as did Declarer. West parted with two Spades and a Club. Miles' 'High Noon' had now arrived.

Dummy had the Spade nine and Club ten, deuce. East hid the Spade Queen, Heart Jack, and Club seven. If East's remaining Club was the King or Queen, it was imperative that Declarer lead low from Dummy. South still had his original Clubs and West, the King, Queen, nine. Marshall guessed right and at trick 11 led the Club 10 and let it ride. West was ended.

Only the pros do this with consistency. How often can you?

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township. To leave a message for Boyd, from a touch-tone phone, call 853-2047, Ext. 1853.

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