

Master has 3 tips for players



WOODY BOYD

THE BRIDGE CROWD

To build ease and confidence in your bidding and play, you must develop abilities and then excellence in the use of those abilities. Martin Hirschman of Southfield has done just that in the last few years and the result is that he has become one of Michigan's first-class masters.

Many of you are familiar with Marty's excellent authorship of MBA's Table Talk this last half dozen or so years, but his glory isn't confined to his pen and play. He is also may be Michigan's best bridge teacher.

I visited with him a few days ago when I learned he was considering marketing two manuals he had written on basic and intermediate bridge. What started out to be a brief verbal excursion into this work became a most interesting 35 minutes about his impressions, perceptions and revelations on bridge and its participants. He is the first to acknowledge that one's advancement to recognized authenticity is a mystical experience the equal of J. Arthur Rank's "Thirty-Nine Steps."

I particularly like three things that he said. "Everyday players remain that way if they haven't the determination to improve." "Concentration is a tremendous force in the management of a player's affairs at the table." "If partner is dubious about what you're doing, it's often most likely your fault."

I have had the pleasant experience of playing with and against him, and no matter the outcome you are left with a feeling the occasion has been to your advantage. He never shows strain, and this is an ideal setting for success and a major force in motivating your next ardent effort.

I immediately recognized that any interview with him resulting in such a narration had to be liberally punctuated with fun bits and pieces about his lovely wife Marcia and son Sam. She being the well-known feature editor of one of our major dailies, Marcia Abramson is an extremely talented writer too.

Sam is nearly as well known as his dad, for once he was the ACBL's youngest life master. Achieving this honor, Dad cradles in glory, for he will tell you both worked diligently attaining this rank for Sam.

I have witnessed Marty at the helm of many fine hands, but today's is one of his favorites for two memorable reasons. It was played in Pittsburgh some years ago in partnership with his own memorable Cliff Bishop shortly before we lost him and it was against a player of substantial talent from the East Coast who had doubled the final contract (the Lightner type) for a lead he never got. This gave Marty a glimmer of hope and he took full advantage.

Cliff	E	Marty	W
1♠	1♥	2♦	—
2♠	—	3♥	—
3♠	—	4NT	—
5♦	—	6NT	—
—	DBL	Passed out	—

N/S Vulnerable	A A B 7 6	♠ 10 3
♠ J 9 5 2	♦ —	♥ Q 10 9 5 4 3
♥ 8 7 6	♣ K 2	♦ 8 3
♦ J 5 4	♠ 10 8 7 6 5	♣ A Q 3
♣ J 9 4	W E	
	Marty	
	♠ K 4	
	♥ A K J 2	
	♦ A Q 10 9 8 7	
	♣ 2	

W. led ?

If you don't like the bidding, join the crowd. Marty will be the first to tell you his third bid should have been four diamonds. Then they would have reached the unbeatable minor slam, but Marty at that stage in his advancement hadn't finished his postgraduate class and six no trump was doomed with a club lead that for some reason expert West didn't find.

With the diamond lead, success was very shaky if spades didn't break, but Marty found the only way. Win the diamond king, three spades and five more diamonds, as he did and at trick 10, East is very uncomfortable. He has to come down to the club ace to protect the heart queen, and declarer read it right, throwing East on lead and winning the last three hearts when East was forced to play that suit himself.

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 953-2047, Ext. 1853.

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Speaker to talk on networking

Diane Buffalin, Ph.D., will be the guest speaker for the Rochester Business and Professional Women's Club of the Greater Rochester Area dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, June 21, at the Guest Quarters Suite Hotel in Troy. In her talk, she will share information on an amusing new way of networking.

Cost for members is \$12, guests \$20. Reservations for guests are required. For reservations, call 423-6301.

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