

Partners can work at perfection



WOODY
BOYD

If you're part of a couple, be the best you can at being the perfect mate. If that works well, you may wish to try it at the table, too. Many who have become pairs for life have also become exceptionally successful at playing bridge.

Bert and Bonnie Ward, whose property has Elizabeth Lake frontage, have been playing this favorite game of ours since we first put a man on the moon. Together, they play bridge well — with meticulous merit and remarkable repose. Such an example of effective communication and mutual respect is, in my opinion, the single significant reason they are one of Michigan's half-dozen best-playing alliances. By-product of this pleasant venture is that they have been winning a ton of master points for years.

As could be expected, bridge is only one of their many priorities, for they enjoy a wondrous, fun-filled, busy life. General Motors was the impetus which motivated this lovely couple to come to Oakland County. We are all the better for it. Their vibrancy has made them many friends.

Bert's 10-hour day has given Bonnie the opportunity to get involved in many fulfilling activities. One of her most gratifying has been teaching bridge at the Village Club on Long Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills, where her lessons are in great demand.

The Wards were early admirers of Edgar Kaplan's and Alfred Shelnoff's unique bidding system, and they play it as well as almost any partnership I know. K.S., for you who aren't familiar with it, is based upon a system of weak no trumps (12-14 H.C.P.); weak openings (11 H.C.P.) and is aimed at precisely limiting the strength shown by all bids.

There are many excellent features to the system, but its best results are attained by partnerships who continuously play together, as it contrasts with standard American but encompasses many similar bidding gadgets.

Today's hand, a Picasso example of the Wards' proficiency at playing K.S., was played at Dave and Judy Buskirk's Saturday-evening Summit Mall game.

Bonnie	W	Bert	E
1NT*	—	2♥	3NT*
4♠	—	5♠	—
5♦	—	—	—
6♥	—	—	—

*Weak NT
*Transfer
*Unusual NT
*Cue bid

Both Vulnerable

A word about the articulate bidding which propelled the Wards to the heights of heaven with our 22 H.C.P. Aggressive, yes, but that is why good judgment-coupled high cards in the right places often justify steps above the so-so. Any contract that has a play for success has my blessing. What you are witnessing in the bidding is an example of supreme confidence in each other's ability to describe shape and high-card content accurately.

Let me go through it with you. Bonnie's second bid accepted the transfer as she had at least three spades. Bert's shape was an unusual he considered slam a possibility, knowing that partner was limited to no more than 14 H.C.P. If Bonnie had doubled three no trump, she

▲ K J 9 7 5 4
▲ A 8 7 5
▲ 10 9
▲ —

▲ Q 10 5 3
▲ Q 6 4
▲ K 8 2
▲ Q 10 4

Bert
W E
Bonnie
▲ A 8 2
▲ K J 10 3
▲ A 7 5
▲ Q 5 3 2

W. led ♠ 4

would probably be showing most of her strength in the minors. When she didn't, Bert was encouraged. North, therefore, cue bid clubs, and when Bonnie cue bid diamonds, she was continuing to indicate slam might be possible in the majors. Otherwise, she could have signed off at five spades. He too could have signed off at five spades but instead cue bid the heart suit. Six hearts confirmed the heart suit too, and if Bert preferred spades, he could bid it. Bert's pass seemed right and turned out to be the best spot to play slam.

When the dummy came into play, it was obvious to Bonnie there was much to be done. It was logical for her to conclude that minors were heavy on her right and the missing majors on her left. She therefore played dummy's low spade, which was abruptly ruffed, and East returned a small diamond.

No point in going down at trick (2), even though there was much to be said for concluding the king was with East. But she had dummy's spades for pitches and fortunately played the ace. At trick (3) her heart king and her good judgment was rewarded when East showed out. Now both major suit finesses were exposed, and our lovely declarer was home with 12 winners.

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, mailbox 1853.

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