

The Katos of Southfield have fun playing the game

THE BRIDGE CROWD

It requires much insight to understand wisdom, yet many who have such talent are reluctant to show their capacity for that. Just remember that a magnificent interlude of music didn't gain acclaim by playing to a deaf audience. If you have some talent at playing our game and enjoy the challenge of competing against equals, play duplicate. You'll find it extremely rewarding.

The eminent world master Dan Morse once said to me, "I find on occasion considerable satisfaction playing with those who are sincere about development. I do, though, have two stipulations: conduct becoming property and a willingness to use one's vast power to reason."

I have a candidate who would fit Dan's wish perfectly. Zoltan Kato of Southfield has been playing bridge with his delightful Eleanor and friends for a long time. Yet neither Zoltan nor Eleanor

has a master point or a silver trophy to show for it. Both pursue the challenge of perfection but miss a goodly amount of fun with it. Recently, I had the opportunity of measuring the result of their effort, and I would place them in the mid-rank of many of our life masters.

The Katos met by chance some 46 years ago in Chicago and it wasn't long before they realized they were meant to be. A rewarding career with Standard Oil followed, and that required many moves, coupled with the responsibilities of parenthood, which kept them from the bridge table until their stay in Minneapolis 20 years ago. That's where this bridge fascination captured them, and they've been enthusiastic participants ever since.

Happy memories

Now retired, Zoltan and Eleanor spend memorable moments reflecting on their heyday and on their son who, is a successful ophthalmologist in Tallahassee, and their lovely daughter in Southfield. Their children have given them six wonderful grandchildren.

Of course, the garden in sum-

mer and trips here and there to see friends and loved ones there is always time for a game, especially with their good friends Violet and Jerry Stackpole. As Zoltan says, "Bridge is the greatest fun-partnership game played, and the premium is that it's the best insurance known to counteract the tedium of age."

Today's hand is one Zoltan gave me from that foursome's file of memorable hands. I was impressed, as the technique displayed is on a par with good tournament play.

The bidding is well intended and most courageous. You can see Eleanor loves to bid, but with no long suits to run, Zoltan had

beaucoup work to do. She could have been lazy and bid three no-trump, and that's where the proceedings would have ended, but with 11 H.C.P. (all prime) opposite the known 19 H.C.P. (a jump in no trump) could mess well, so she explored for more.

The lead seemed to ensure four diamond tricks, and if the spade Jack fell that gave declarer four more. There were two hearts and a finesse plus one known club winner, but a dozen seemed almost beyond reach. How and when were the clubs to be played was also a giant dilemma.

Predictable winner

Zoltan won dummy's diamond ace and immediately took the diamond finesse, which was a predictable winner. Next, three high spades, but no jack showed. At trick (6), a heart to dummy's king and a repeat of the diamond hook followed by the king. At trick (9), Zoltan had reached the crossroads of his bridge career. If he played a club to dummy's ace and took a successful heart finesse, which was questionable at trick (12), he would have to lead clubs from his queen-10, and that would be a loser.

So he did something he wasn't sure would work and played the heart ace, and then the jack, which Violet was forced to win. Now at trick (11), she reluctantly was obliged to lead the critical

club suit, and at worst declarer had to guess the location of the king and jack.

Zoltan successfully did so, playing low, and Jerry's king was won by dummy's ace. A club dummy at trick (12), and the known finesse for the jack produced a difficult dozen and many cheers from those present and this columnist.

Woody Boyd's column The Bridge Crowd runs every other week in The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. A Bloomfield Township resident, Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. To leave a message for him, from a touch-tone phone call (313) 853-2047, mailbox 1853.

Jak's fashion expert to speak at program

Susan E. Barr, fashion consultant at Jacobson's in Rochester, will take the mystery out of business-casual dressing and offer a variety of other fashion tips for working women at the monthly dinner meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Club of the Greater Rochester Area on Monday at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Troy.

The RBPW dinner meeting is open to the public and begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$16 for members and \$20 for guests. Guests must make reservations by calling Lorraine Mich at (810) 423-6301.

Barr has worked in fashion for about 10 years. Prior to joining Jacobson's, where she serves as a

personal shopper and conducts seminars on business casual for corporations, she worked at Dayton Hudson as a fashion consultant. There she coordinated the wardrobe of a wide variety of professional men and women, which included collaborating with buyers to accommodate the needs of her clients.

The RBPW promotes equity for women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information. It is part of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the United States of America, which has 80,000 members in some 2,800 local organizations across the country.

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