

Now he has the time and tenacity

Resource center can be a big help



WOODY BOYD

A student asked me recently if a 10-trick win in a three-no-trump covenant would be considered a satisfactory result with 29 points in the combined hands.

That depends upon the declarer, I replied, but if that's all he knows how to gather and he is satisfied, then I'd say that's enough.

My friend and spirited adventurer at the card table, the ever-pleasant Judge Charles Kaufman of Plymouth, has never been satisfied with seven or eight or 10, nor 12, for that matter, if there were more. Some call it the competitive edge, the will to explore for more whether the declarer is in a tight one or the defender has little to do much with. And if he is in doubt about his achievement, Charles is the first to ask for advice.

Charles' bridge beginning is "sul generis." While he played at least once before the war, it was during that age in our history that he became almost a daily contestant.

It was his fate to be stripped of his liberty and constrained to a prison camp in the early stages. At first, it was all he and his fellow faithful could manage, surviving the hardships of a diet of rice and living in a subterranean way, but eventually they found some time for play and that's when the challenge of the game struck his inquisitiveness. Someone had an old shredded deck, and bridge became their game for many more months than it is pleasant to remember.

Since his freedom some 48 years ago, the honorable justice has kept his interest in the game, but has little time to play. That is, until recently, when he relinquished many of his major duties in the Wayne County courts. Now there is the time and tenacity to play as well as he can. He is the first to realize that the modern game, to play well, will require training and dedication, but I am enthusiastic about his chances.

Recently we played at Joy Bales' fine Tuesday evening game in Plymouth, and Charles manipulated this ticklish difficulty in a noble fashion.

Chas	W	N	E
1♦	2♠	3♥	4♠
—	—	5♦	Passed Out

Both Vulnerable	♠ 9	♠ QJ532
	♠ A 10 9 7 6 4	♥ KQ8
	♠ KQ 10 5 4	♥ 63
	♠ 8	♥ QJ4
	♥ N	
	♥ W	♥ E
	♣ Chas	
	♣ 6	
	♣ J32	
	♣ A J 9 8 7 2	
	♣ AK7	

W. Ted S. K

While some N/S were in five hearts, a better match point result if successful, that contract has no play. There is always a spade loser, and declarer can't effectively reduce East's holding to a three-card trump-ending throw-in, which would achieve the 11-trick contract. As it is, five diamonds is in jeopardy if West switches to a heart at trick (2), which, fortunately, he didn't.

At trick (2), Charles won the club switch in his hand and played two rounds of trumps ending in his hand. At trick (6), the club ace and a club ruff eliminating either opponent's ability to get out safely after winning a heart. At trick (7), a small heart toward the jack, and as the cards are East must win and is now very uncomfortable. A spade gives declarer a sluff and a ruff and a heart is a give-up. You be the judge. Did Charles play the hand perfectly for 11? I'd say so!

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.



ROSE WEBER

They come, sometimes with cardboard boxes filled with envelopes and documents from their Medicare carrier. They are frightened that they might owe more money than they can afford and bewildered at the unfamiliar language and columns of figures.

"They want somebody to listen to them and explain what is happening. They are just overwhelmed," said Margaret Duffey, a Southfield resident and volunteer in Beaumont Hospital's Royal Oak Advantage 55 Senior Resource Center.

Trained as a Medicare-Medicaid aide by the Area Agency on Aging, Duffey volunteers one morning a week in the center helping seniors understand the Medicare system as they approach retirement and assisting them with appeals and unusual problems.

She also helps them understand the many resources the recently opened center provides, such as a complete resource library containing brochures, books and videos with information about the medical and social concerns of senior citizens. It is available for use free of charge.

Seniors can find explanations for medical terms and diseases and their treatment; research new living arrangements, find senior centers and their resources, and alternative transportation services, as well as many informative brochures on areas of interest to seniors.

According to Lisa Goldstein, staff senior information specialist, consultation by the staff and volunteers on such issues as caring for an aging relative, making decisions about living arrangements and choosing an insurance to supplement Medicare is also available free of charge.

During an appointment with a couple who needed advice on how to begin Medicare coverage at age 65, Duffey also advised them on

how to make their retirement more enjoyable by volunteering.

"I want to promote volunteering among the seniors. They have to have a challenge every day and a way to keep active," Duffey said. She worked in the medical records department of the hospital until her retirement several years ago.

"I wanted to volunteer here because it is home to me. And I wanted to make use of my Beaumont and life experiences," she said.

Some of her life experiences include taking care of both parents in their final years ("I am the only girl in the family," she said). She also raised eight children, five of whom were in their teenage years at the same time.

Duffey has a special empathy for caregivers. "It is a whole new role, a very troubling time."

Her previous experience working with seniors' problems was as a facilitator in Beaumont's "Into Aging" program. In that program, younger people are instantly "aged" by various means to help them better understand the problems of aging.

Duffey's belief in the benefits of volunteering is so strong she is expanding her own involvement.

"In addition to my hospital work, I am a senior bus driver at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Detroit, and to add a little variety, I have offered to volunteer at Shrine High School in Royal Oak. I used to be a school bus driver, and having eight of my own I think I can cope," she said with a laugh.

The Advantage 55 Health Information Center is on the first floor of the Beaumont, Royal Oak Medical Office Building, across the street from the parking deck. The center is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call Beaumont's Senior Resource Line at 1-800-328-2241.

Rose Weber is a freelance writer covering items of interest to and about seniors. You may leave a message for her, from a Touch-Tone phone, by calling 953-2047, Ext. 1887.

Neighbor's electricity is about to be shut off



RENEE MAHLER

Q. One of my neighbors is an elderly gentleman who receives some financial assistance from the Department of Social Services. He is barely getting along and he just received a notice that his electricity is going to be shut off because he hasn't been able

to pay the bills. Is there someone who can help him?

A. There is an Electric Assistance Plan that provides help in paying electric bills for people who receive assistance monies from the Department of Social Services. The EAP plan is administered by the DSS. Recipients may receive up to \$250 in order to pay their non-heat electric bills. Exceptions, for payments over \$250, may be authorized depending on individual situations.

To qualify for EAP assistance,

DSS cash-assistance recipients can show their need by showing a shut-off notice from their electric company. Some companies have a contractual arrangement with the department. In that case, individuals may enroll in an electric vending program. Recipients will receive EAP benefits automatically when their electricity use exceeds their monthly vendor payment. Large companies such as Consumers Power Co., Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. and Detroit Edison have these types of arrangements with the DSS.

For information on the EAP, call the DSS toll-free at 1-800-292-5650 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1-430 p.m.

Q. My family has been after me to get a living will. I have heard this is not legal in Michigan. Is this true, and if so what do I need it for?

A. Living wills, although legal

in 45 other states, are not legal in Michigan. While the will is a written document informing your family and doctors of your wishes concerning your medical care, no one can assure you that these wishes will be totally met. While there are no formal requirements for drawing up a living will, it is recommended that the papers be labeled as such, signed and witnessed and signed by two other people.

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.

To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1853. Send your questions to her at the Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Group seeks volunteers

Volunteer Action is looking for individuals to help prevent child abuse in Oakland County. Volunteer opportunities are available in public education, research, public speaking, clerical

and special projects. Volunteer Action is a program of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland Inc. For more information call Eileen Lauster at 332-7173.

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Over 200 residents, their families and friends enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Peachwood Inn/Borden Court annual Family Club Picnic. Dinner was delicious, a terrific band played music for singing and dancing and everyone enjoyed being outdoors under the festively decorated tent.

The Family Club and its events are but one of the many features that make Peachwood Inn and Borden Court very special places to live and to visit. Our programs and health care services have earned us an excellent nationwide reputation. This pleases us and we will continue to work to please our residents and families.

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