

Bridge playing brings out the ego

THE BRIDGE CROWD



WOODY BOYD

"It is better to deserve without receiving than to receive without deserving." Benjamin Franklin

In our game there are many who show humility, but many more who don't. Ego unfortunately is a major negative in the make-up of most bridge players' character. Tom Smith of New York says it can't be helped, primarily because of the fierce competitive nature of those assembled to succeed and humanity's inability to contain its display of good fortune.

It is for me a great joy to bid and play a difficult hand well and on occasion I do, but on many I don't and it always leaves me frustrated and saddened.

Usually I am the first to bugle my bloopers. Such an admission doesn't seem to scar my limited bridge integrity. I have tried to evaluate this diffidence and concluded it's due to my respect for the game's magnitude and challenge, and that is why it has outdone me. More often we beat ourselves than because of the opponent's cleverness. I think others feel the same, and such recognition is certainly deserving.

My wonderful uncle, Seymore Ingenius Boyd from Seneca Falls, is one of the western Mohawk Valley's last living legends of four-card major fame. My fondness for the same originated with him and was spurred by the Italiane. To the dismay of many, it sometimes leads to

Sonny's famous Moysaan Fit. He is the first to state, with gravel-in-hand absolutism, that you should never abuse this style, for it will destroy a partnership and serve no effective purpose. There are only three simple canons Uncle Seymore adheres to.

- 1. Never open a bad four-card major over a good four-card minor.
- 2. With four/four in the majors, always open one heart.
- 3. The secret of a Moysaan Fit, which is sometimes inevitable, is that the hand with only three trumps must ruff the defender's suit so that you don't lose control, and it's best to have a good running minor.

Last summer Uncle Seymore was here from Seneca Falls, and it was my splendid pastime to partner him in a Saturday game at the Southfield Pavilion. Note his wizardry sitting south with these 52.

He had hoped my take-out double had been armed with five hearts and a single spade, but it wasn't so he knew he had to make the best of a risky situation. Uncle Seymore concluded that if seven spades were on his left (with West) it was most likely that hearts would be on his right (with East).

If there were five there, that would be mortal, but if only four, there was a play. At trick (2) he won West's spade continuation with his king and played a trump to dummy's ace. At (4), a small heart out of dummy, and when East played low in tempo, he paused only for a split second, then played his nine, losing to West's queen.

This dramatic play was nothing short of a display of mystical powers, present only to the senses, but it was the only play that could possibly guarantee three trump winners. He recognized that only a superb player sitting east with the trump queen would duck with such brilliant ease, and this he was sure East wasn't.

At trick (5), West got out with his singleton diamond jack won by dummy's ace. Now, another small trump to his jack and a club to dummy's king. At trick (8), the heart king extracting East's 10. At (9), dummy's diamond nine, and if East didn't cover, he intended to let ride, but the defense could only now win East's diamond king for their third and last trick.

In all, Uncle Seymore won a spade, three hearts, four diamonds and two clubs for an absolute top. Of the 14 tables, most N/S were playing three no trump down, but two were defending three spades doubled down two.

A very startled kibitzer was Penning sitting on Seymore's left was heard to mutter as Uncle was queuing the plus 620 score, "Tout le monde son Christ, what a performance!"

Woody Boyd's column runs every other week. A Bloomfield Township resident, Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. To leave a message for Boyd, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1853.

W	N	E	Seymore
3A	DBL	-	4W

N/S Vulnerable

- ▲ A 10 9 8 6 4 2
- ♥ Q 8
- ♦ J
- ♣ Q 8 3

- ▲ Q 3
- ♥ A K 5 3
- ♦ A 3 5
- ♣ K 9 7 2

N		E	
W	Seymore		E

W. tad A A

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