

Esther Discusses 2 Interesting Boards: 1 Involving Bidding, 1 Line of Play

Bruce Thompson

Bruce: Today, we are honored to have with us Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, Quintuple Gold Emerald Life Master (20 Million+ ACBL MasterPoints), who will talk us through **2 actual, real, interesting hands**. Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, thanks for taking time to be with us today!

Esther: D**n it, Bruce! How many times do I have to tell you to NEVER call me Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen! Instead, call me Esther! I am a very *warm, caring, friendly* person, and prefer to be casual and friendly, my malodorous muffinhead!

Bruce: Errr, well, sorry again about that, Esther. Here is the first Board of interest today, with respect to **Line of Play**.

Board #14

Monday 2/21/22 199er Game

Dealer: EAST

		NORTH (7)	
	S:	T 7 3	
	H:	A T 8 5	
	D:	T 5	
	C:	K 9 8 5	
WEST (8)			EAST (14)
S:	Q 9 5 2		S: K 6
H:	K Q J 9 6 2		H: 3
D:	8 7		D: A K 9 6 4 3 2
C:	T		C: A 3
		SOUTH (11)	
	S:	A J 8 <u>4</u>	
	H:	7 4	
	D:	Q J	
	C:	Q J 7 6 4	

Bidding

E	S	W	N
1 D	P	1 H	P
3 D	P	P	P

Bruce: Well, first, Ms., err, I mean Esther, do you agree with how this Board was bid?

Esther: Well, yes indeed, my malodorous misanthrope. EAST is too strong to make a pre-empt bid. The 1**D** opening bid is appropriate. SOUTH could bid 2**C**, but is too weak and lacks 4 Hearts, and so can't Double, so PASS seems reasonable. WEST **must** show Hearts. If Partners play weak jump shifts, WEST might bid 2**H**, but I think 1**H**, even though it initially only shows 4 Hearts, is reasonable. NORTH's PASS is obligatory (unless SOUTH bids 2**C**). EAST's jump to 3**D** shows length, and at least 6, with strength in Diamonds. So, the bidding all seems reasonable to me.

Bruce: OK. Now on this Board, SOUTH led the 4 of Spades. Do you agree with this lead?

Esther: No, my twittering twit, I don't lead away from Aces. Instead, in defending against suit contracts, I lead low from suits where I have other honors, but not the Ace, or high from doubletons, or high from touching honors, such as based on this auction, the Queen of Clubs.

Bruce: OK, so in any case, let's talk about the line of play, given this lead. Of course, EAST takes the 1st trick with the King of Spades. EAST then drew 2 rounds of trump with the Ace and King of Diamonds. Do you agree with this line of play?

Esther: Well, N/S hold 4 Diamonds: Q,J,T,5. There are 4 outstanding trump in the Defenders hands. Now, when there are an **odd number** of trump cards out, such as 5, a 3-2 split is most likely (68%), and much more likely than either a 4-1 (28%), or a 5-0 (4%) split. But when there are an **even number** of trump cards out, such as 4, a 2-2 split is less likely (41%) than a 3-1 split

50%). *GOOGLE search "bridgewebs relevant probabilities percentages for bridge players"*. Nevertheless, there still is a strong probability that playing the A,K will drop all 4 of Defender's trump cards. But that is not what I strongly object to about WEST playing the Ace and King of Diamonds on the 2nd and 3rd Tricks!

Bruce: OK, so what then is your "strong objection"?

Esther: Well, my dandruff-ridden dufus, try not to be a smart aleck! I agree with leading the Ace of Diamonds (or the King) on the 2nd Trick. However, the correct "line of play" is to then lead the Ace of Clubs, which has not previously been broken 3rd, and then lead the 3 of Clubs towards Dummy's only remaining Diamond Trump. *I have no fear that Opponents can trump in so early!* This Line of Play will give me an extra Trick!!! This because, instead of spending 2 trump cards to hopefully capture 2 trump cards from Opponents, *I will now be able to spend only 1 trump card to hopefully capture 2 trump cards from Opponents!* **And every, single extra Trick counts in Duplicate!!!!**

Bruce: OK. Very well, Esther. Thank you for explaining that! Now please talk about the second Board of interest today, which deals with correctly bidding Jacoby transfers.

Board #18
Monday 8/8/22 199er Game
 Dealer: EAST

	NORTH (7)	
	S: J 9 8 2	
	H:	
	D: 6 4 3 2	
	C: A Q 6 3 2	
WEST (5)		EAST (18)
S: T 7 4 3		S: K Q
H: K J T 9 5		H: A Q 4 3
D: T		D: K J 9
C: J T 5		C: K 9 8 7
	SOUTH (10)	
	S: A 6 5	
	H: 8 7 6 2	
	D: A Q 8 7 5	
	C: 4	

Bidding

E	S	W	N
1 NT	P	2 D	P
2 H	P	P	P

Bruce: Well, Esther, do you agree with EAST opening the bidding with 1**NT**?

Esther: Well, yes. I personally prefer to play 1**NT** as 15-18. And, of course, I totally agree with WEST executing a Jacoby transfer to Hearts! WEST's Hearts are **totally gorgeous!!!** And WEST has a fabulous Diamond singleton! So this Board could take E/W to game land even with only 23 HCPs!!!!

Bruce: Well, so do you then agree with EAST's 2**H** response to the transfer???

Esther: Well, **absolutely, positively not!** **No! No! No!** At a minimum, I think that EAST must "super accept", and with 4 Hearts, including A,Q, at a minimum bid 3**H**. Furthermore, a response of 4**H** would not be unreasonable. EAST knows that E/W holds at least 9

Trump cards, probably including all the top honors,
and counts only 3 losers.

Bruce: So, which would you be most likely to do: bid 3H or
4H?

Esther: Well, many Social Bridge players play that the
Partner making the Jacoby transfer bid must hold 5 or
6 HCPs. This is because Social Bridge players are
obsessed with making Game contracts. Duplicate
players, on the other hand, are obsessed with getting
top MatchPoints, even if that involves a Part Score in
a Major. Duplicate players see the Jacoby Transfer as
a possible vehicle for finding a Game contract, but
also see the transfer **as a vehicle to avoid, using a
part-score contract, a disastrous NT contract when the
distributions instead favor a suit contract.** So,
virtually all Duplicate Players bid Jacoby Transfers
even if Responder holds ZERO JCPs! So, just to be
cautious, probably in response to the Jacoby transfer
I would bid 3H "super accept" invitational to game,
rather than 4H (in case Partner has zero points),
asking Partner to bid 4H as long as Partner has some
HCPs!