

Take Out Doubles

JOY OR PAIN

by Peggy Tatro

A takeout double is one of the most versatile bids available-- basically, it's showing or "bidding" several suits without taking up any space in the auction!

A takeout double guarantees adequate support for all unbid suits. Ideally this means that doubler has four cards in any unbid suit. Realistically, doubler may have only three, which is considered adequate.

What is doubler's partner's job? To choose the trump suit and to show his strength. Many T.O. double responders are remiss, however, in showing their strength. I think this comes from a basic fear that partner may not have the minimum of three cards necessary for their bid. The fear was planted, of course, when that situation occurred!

When we play duplicate, the auction can be very competitive. It is important that doubler's partner be able to rely on the double to be what it promises. Only then can doubler's partner really compete.

W	N	E	S (you)
1 C	Dbl.	2 C	?

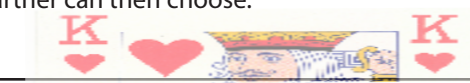
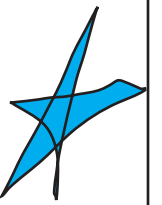
1)
S KJ754 This hand is worth about 7 points. Can you afford to bid 2 S? Think of a 2 S bid not as a new suit at the 2 level but as a raise of a suit partner has already shown. If partner had bid spades, would you have raised? Of course.

2)
S KJ75 Keeping in mind that partner's double showed spades, are you willing to "raise"? You should be. Assume that doubler has 4 cards in any unbid suit. You may get a little disappointment and find partner with only three

side may be selling out to 2 clubs! Good players hate to leave their opponents at the two level in a comfortable fit, particularly when an opening bid has been raised.

3)
S K765 You are in the range for responding minimally. Your diamonds and spades are similar. Pick a major over a minor when you have a close decision in responding to partner's takeout double.
H 95
D K975
C 973

4)
S K543 You have 8 very good HCP and H KQ82 both majors. There is a fit somewhere. Which major will you choose? Before we answer, consider whether you will "sell out" to your opponents if they bid 3 clubs. Also you might be worried that partner may have only 3 cards in the major you choose. bid 2 spades now. If the opponents compete to 3 clubs, bid 3 hearts. Partner can then choose.



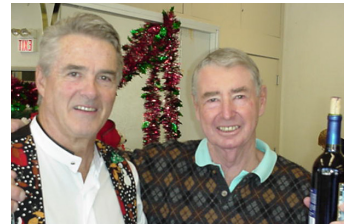
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from front page

This brings me to next year. Recently, I received a suggestion that our members take old copies of the Bridge Bulletin to doctors offices as a way of promoting interest in Marin Bridge. This is an excellent idea that someone had seen at another Unit. Other ideas such as our Mentor program for new players and the Pro-Am Unit game, were initially conceived somewhere and quickly adopted around the country. We all have good bridge friends in other parts of the country and we meet many bridge players in Sectionals, Regionals and Nationals. I want to encourage everyone in our unit to collect the best ideas from around the country so that your Board can review and implement the best ones. There is no such thing as a bad idea so send me all the suggestions and let your board do the evaluation.

PARTY * PARTY* PARTY * PARTY

'Tis the season for good times and fun. Unit 508 is up to the holiday spirit in all fours.

The Unit Charity Party is covered in other places but Crosley's will do a special luncheon on Friday



December 9 at 11:00 AM with the trimmings and pot luck side dishes. Check out last years buffet picture below.

Peggy Tatro is planning her annual New Years party Sunday, January 1, 2006 with brunch at 12:00 and bridge at 1:00.



Some pictures from the past bringing back fond party memories of 2003 & 2004



Practicing Active Ethics

by Bob Chilvers



In some competitive games (basketball, hockey and football come to mind) "trash talking" is apparently allowed, or at least tolerated - but bridge is different. "To create a much more pleasant atmosphere," and to try "to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all," the ACBL has adopted the Zero Tolerance Policy. "Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited.

This is all well and good, how should we implement this policy? If necessary, the Ethics and Disciplinary committee will investigate complaints, conduct hearings, and impose appropriate sanctions. Our goal is to promote the policy without that trauma.

As a starting point, we urge all players to put themselves in the shoes of their partner's and opponents. Try to visualize how your conduct might appear to them. Would you be hurt, offended or annoyed if they behaved that way to you? Don't be shy about apologizing if you make a regrettable remark. Don't hesitate to compliment your opponents when they make a good play. Make an effort to notice people who are a joy to play with, and try to be like them.

Bob Chilvers, Chairman, Ethics and Disciplinary Committee

The 2006 Entertainment and Marin Express books are again available to us at a discounted rate. The entertainment book will retail for \$30 ACBL rate will be \$25. The Marin Express book retails for \$30 and for ACBL members \$20. To place an order call Ellen Weingart at 461-5905. This is meant to be a service to all of our members