

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

By Mary Tryer

December 7, 2009

There were 3 tables in play for the Kingsville Duplicate Bridge Club's winter handicap game. To make the game even more interesting and competitive, the handicap game was combined with a Junior Fund Championship. Monday night's winners were: Bev Gresham and Mary Swafford, first; and Lou Thurston and Mary Tryer, second.

Our computer crunches the data from participants' win/loss records and figures out the handicaps for the players. Then the computer crunches numbers again to factor in the handicap with our players' final scores. The computer did an excellent job this time for only seven match points separated the top and bottom pairs. To give some extra credit where it is due, without the handicap applied Lina Crumpler and Mahesh Maruvada of Corpus Christi would have captured second place and Audrey and Bob Harrison would have been third.

I am still musing over the deals from last week's ACBL-Wide Charity game. The very first deal of the evening presented a bidding problem for our group (see diagram.) West is embarrassed to transfer his partner into his very weak-in-high-cards spade suit. However, the art of bidding in bridge is all about giving and receiving information between the partners so that the best contract can be reached.

West knows that East has a balanced distribution since East opened the bidding with one no trump. West also knows that the high card power for game is present in the East/West combination. But West can give his partner a choice as to which game will provide the best results. If West bids 3 diamonds after his transfer to spades, East has more information about West's shape and has a part in making the decision for the final contract.

East is now warned that West IS NOT BALANCED. In fact, West has warned East that he probably has a singleton or void in hearts or clubs. West has waved the red flag that there is a weak link in one of these suits if the partnership is to consider a no trump contract.

East is listening (we hope!) and bids 4 spades, the correct contract for this deal. The moral—send as much information to partner as possible when exploring for the correct contract. (For my part, give me data, data, data as Sherlock Holmes would say.)

Be sure to join us for our next game on Monday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Woman's Club building for our annual club Christmas party. Please notice that our Christmas party starts an hour earlier than usual **at 6:00 p.m.** Our members and guests will enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, a fun party, and most important of all to our group, a fun bridge game! Call 592-2374 for partners. And, don't forget to visit our Kingsville Club and Unit 187 web site at <http://d16acbl.org/U187/Kingsville/kingsville.html>.

Board 1

Dealer: North

Contract: 3 No Trump or 4 Spades?

Opening Lead: It will be a heart.

THE BIDDING

NORTH (dealer)	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	1 No Trump	Pass	2 Hearts*
Pass	2 Spades	Pass	3 No Trump or 3 Diamonds??

* Transfer to Spades

NORTH
♠ Q 4 3
♥ A J 8 3
♦ 6
♣ 10 8 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 9 8 6 5 2
♥ 4
♦ A Q J 4
♣ A J 2

EAST
♠ A 10 7
♥ K 9 7 2
♦ K 10 9
♣ K Q 5

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ 8 7 5 3 2
♣ 9 7