

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club Newsletter

December 2024

What is the best line of play with this combination to land 4 tricks ?

Clubs (North) A 2

Clubs (South) Q 10 9 8 7

Bridge expert and computer genius Fred Gitelman discovered that the best line is non-intuitive: start by leading the Q, running it if it is not covered. This loses to KJx with East, but works when West has KJx, so these cancel out. However, this works if either hand has Jx and also if West has Kx !!

What's alertable in Australia?

The Australian Bridge Federation has its alerting regulations described here:

<http://abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFAlertRegs2017.pdf>

It's a lot to digest, and some common questions like "Is a 2/1 game forcing response alterable?" are not clearly answered. On that particular point relevant excerpts seem to be:

3.3.1 If a call is conventional, it must be alerted (unless it requires an announcement or is self-alerting).

3.3.2 (a) The call is natural, but there is an agreement by which the call is forcing or non-forcing in a way that the opponents are unlikely to expect.

"Convention" is defined as: *A call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or high-card strength or length (three cards or more) there. However, an agreement as to overall strength does not make a call a convention.*

So as best I can tell the 2/1 GF response is not alterable, as it is also forcing in standard bidding.

Anyway here is my tentative summary of things that are especially worthy of remembering that may not be otherwise obvious:

Do Alert

1NT forcing response

- Inverted minor raises
- Trial bids
- Weak jump responses
- 3♣ response to 2NT
- Any artificial opening regardless of level
- Pass-or-correct bids

Do Not Alert

- 1NT nonforcing or semi-forcing response
- Natural 2/1 response forcing to game
- Doubles, redoubles, cue-bids
- Weak jump overcalls
- 2♣ response to 1NT without interference
- Non-opening bids above 3NT

Thanks to **Rod Rourke**.....More next month.....comments appreciated.

If there are other items you might like to see on a monthly / periodic newsletter then please email me with your thoughts to barrybutler45@gmail.com