



Sleeping on the Couch

The continuing misadventures of Dave playing bridge with his wife, Anne



By Dave Caprera
Denver, Colorado

Playing Poker

I like to kibitz on Bridge Base Online (BBO) - bridgebase.com -

There is often the opportunity to watch world class players practicing. The following deal is based on one that was played by Michael Rosenberg, a bridge professional on everyone's short list of "world's best declarer," on BBO in a match against a pair of Polish experts.

Assume that *South* arrives at the contract of 6NT after a standard auction of 2NT-6NT:

- ♠A105
- ♥A32
- ♦Q32
- ♣AJ87
- ♠KJ43
- ♥KQJ
- ♦AK4
- ♣K106

Opening lead: ♥10

Given that the club spots may allow declarer to pick up four tricks, it seems natural for declarer to win in hand and play the ♣K and a club. (Perhaps cashing two of each red suit first might be better just in case someone shows out, which would help declarer count the hand.) *West* shows out on the second club and pitches a heart. The ♠J loses to the ♣Q and the ♣3 comes back, *West* pitching another heart. Declarer cashes all his non-spade winners and *West* follows to all the red cards and pitches a spade on the long club. Both defenders should now know declarer's original pattern, since if declarer had a fourth card in hearts or diamonds or a fifth club he could have claimed (declarer must have

the ♠K to reach the minimum 20 needed to open 2NT); thus, declarer started with exactly 4-3-3-3.

Declarer has lost one trick and now has 11; declarer must therefore find the ♠Q to make the contract. Since declarer knows that *West* started with either 4-5-3-1 or 3-5-4-1 and has come down to either three spades or two spades and a diamond, declarer will probably play *West* for the ♠Q because at worst *West* has the same number of spades as *East*, and at best he has four to *East's* two.

But what if *West* pitches a diamond on the second club so that declarer knows he originally started with 4-5-3-1. This seems to make it even clearer that declarer should play *West* for the ♠Q, but should ask himself, "Why did *West* go out of his way to show me his pattern?"

A world class defender playing against Michael Rosenberg might keep his diamond most of the time so that Michael would not draw a possibly correct inference about why he was shown *West's* exact distribution and, as a bonus, if Michael gets it wrong *West* has a diamond to cash for down two.

On the actual deal, from which the above is modified, Michael did not cash his last diamond winner, so that when he subsequently misguessed the ♠Q, he could claim the rest. After seeing that clubs were 1-5 and cashing three hearts and two diamonds, he knew that *West* had at least three spades, so played *West* for the ♠Q. As it turned out, spades were 4-2 and Michael lost to ♠Qx. After the hand was over, Michael noted "gleefully" that he had gone down only one.

But my prediction is that a world class defender playing against me wearing my usual brown paper bag over my head (the "Unknown Bridge Player") would go out of his way to show me his full pattern only when he does not have the ♠Q.

He would also likely pitch a spade from the ♠Qxx because most players would not expect him to do so.

Yes, this is playing poker, and maybe bridge poker is a silly game, but if it did happen to me as I described and *West* had gone out of his way to show me his pattern, I would be very tempted to play for the ♠Q to be with *East*.

Playing in a club game many years ago against two little old ladies, I faced something akin to this classic end position as *South*:

- ♠Axx
- ♥Axx
- ♠KQJ
- ♥KJ10

Being a student of the bridge literature, I thought I knew what to do. I advanced the ♠J (from ♠KQJ) and LOL *West* pulled on one card before playing another. I won the ♠A, returned to my hand, and advanced the ♥J. Again, LOL *West* pulled on one card then played another. I played the ♥A and finessed the ♥10 into her ♥Q.

When I explained the brilliance of my unsuccessful play to Annie, a retired pathologist, she responded, "Didn't you see that the woman had Parkinson's Disease?"

So, if I play poker instead of percentages and I'm wrong, Annie will remind me of the poor woman with Parkinson's; remind me that I am poor at reading the opponents, and relegate me to the couch.

Bon's Mots --Continued from page 1

Tournament Tables

Type	Tables	Tournaments	Average Table Counts
NABCs	35,046	3	11,682
Regionals	164,087 ½	131	1253
Sectionals	139,337	906	154
STACs	123,219	88	1400

Regional attendance was down 8691 tables (a 5% decrease) compared to 2015, with 131 regionals in both years. Sectional table count decreased by 3777 (2.7%), but because there were 18 fewer sectionals in 2016 -- the average table count remained identical to 2015's. STACs grew by 3000 tables (an increase of 2.6%).

Membership Numbers

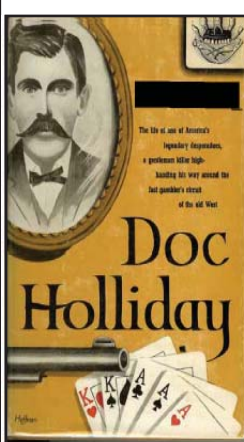
New Members.....	11,521
Recovered Members.....	7,122
Deceased Members.....	1,585
Lapsed Members.....	17,622
January 1, 2016 Total Members.....	168,443
December 31, 2016 Total Members.....	168,075

There was a total decrease in membership in 2016 of 368

ACBL Board/NABC

The next ACBL board meeting will be held before the March 9-19 Kansas City Spring NABC. I look forward to seeing you there, right after the Tucson Regional, February 27-March 5.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me by phone: 719 593-0205, or email me at bonnie@bonniebagley17.com



GLENWOOD SPRINGS DOC HOLLIDAY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

PLAZA INN GLENWOOD (Formerly the Ramada Inn)

April 28,29,30, 2017

Sponsored by ACBL Unit 364

Doc Holliday 1851-1887
Renowned Glenwood Springs
Card Player

Tournament Schedule

Friday, April 28, 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Stratified pairs (0-500; 500-1500; 1500 and up) Single sessions
299'er pairs (0-50; 50-150; 150-300) Single Sessions

Saturday, April 29, 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
Double Session Play Through : single session entries permitted
Stratified pairs (0-500; 500-1500; 1500 and up)
299'er pairs (0-50; 50-150; 150-300)

Sunday, April 30, 9:30 AM and TBA
2 sessions
Swiss Teams - Stratified (0-500; 500-1500; 1500 and up)
299'er Swiss Teams - Stratified (0-50; 50-150; 150-300) if enough teams


Entry Fees

\$11.00 per session for ACBL members
\$14.00 per session (including swiss teams) for non or unpaid players
\$88.00 Sunday Swiss Teams. Lunch on your own

Director in Charge Sam Stoxen
Tournament Chairman John Van Ness 970-923-2500 johnvanness@comcast.net
Partnerships Karen Kribs 970-319-9990 karenkribs@gmail.com

Tournament Location
Plaza Inn Glenwood
124 West 6th St. Exit 116 on I-70
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
1-970-945-2500 or 1-800-332-1472

Rooms available for \$63.00, Single or Double, including breakfast
Ask for ACBL rate. Deadline for reservations is April 14, 2017



Zero Tolerance

DENVER UNIT 361

SPRING SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

Back to Jeffco Fairgrounds -- Note date change

March 31-April 2, 2017 Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall
15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO
www.denverbridge.com

FRIDAY MARCH 31, 2017	10:00 am	Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session) Compact Knockouts (Rounds 1/2)
	Lunch for purchase available	
SATURDAY April 1, 2017	2:30 pm	Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session) Compact Knockouts (Rounds 3/4)
	7:00 pm	Swiss Teams, Strati-flighted May be handicapped
	10:00 am	Stratified Open Pairs (1 st of two sessions) Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session)
SUNDAY April 2, 2017	2:30 pm	Stratified Open Pairs (2 nd of two sessions) Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session)
	10:00 with lunch provided	A/AX Swiss Teams & 0-2000 Bracketed Teams*

Pairs: ACBL members \$12; Non-members and un-paid members \$16
Special pricing for youth AND junior (under 25) ACBL members
Sunday Swiss teams: \$120 per team, includes lunch

Director in Charge	Bill Michael	
Tournament Chair	Allen Kane	303-694-6478
Partnerships	Vard Nelson	713-853-7604
Stratifications	Pairs	A=2000+; B=750-2000; C=0-750
	Teams	A=4000+; AX=0-4000
Stratified Games	Stratified by average masterpoints	
Strati-Flighted Games	Any player over 2000 MPs must play in A or AX, Strats by average MPs	

KO events may be handicapped Sanction No. S1704110
* Stratified by average masterpoints into brackets of 8 & play each team in bracket
* Top three in each bracket get overall awards
Scant-free event Please be considerate of your fellow players
No Alcohol consumption or Drug use allowed on Fairgrounds