

## **Introduction to Learning Points<sup>©</sup>**

Bridge is a fascinating game, easy to learn and difficult to master. Successful problem solving is a large part of the fun at this game. Learning Points is an approach that discusses real hands from duplicate play. The conversation following the thinking during the hand and provides as complete a picture as possible taking into account everyone's viewpoint.

We hope you read along and find the 360° view of declarer's and or defender's decisions insightful. By offering as well rounded a view of each hand, we hope you'll see problem solving at bridge in a new light. Each hand will address bidding, declarer play and strategy, defender play and strategy, bidding inferences, play inferences, scoring impacts, and state of the match considerations where appropriate.

We promise to keep the hands as real as possible including the miscues we find along the way. Bridge is won by making the fewest mistakes. We will make no editorial changes to protect the guilty.

Successful partnerships grow over time because the partners choose to make each other better. Post mortems are never about who's right and who's wrong, but how partners can learn from their experience.

Here's a way to get even more out of each session... we hope to write one Learning Point a Week from the hands we play. We look forward to your comments!

### **Some Assumptions We Make:**

#### Bidding:

- 1) We advocate no one approach or system.
- 2) We will always show the bidding system we played, and provide perspectives for Precision, Standard and 2/1 Game Force.

*Bidding systems are only as good as the information they provide to support your decisions.*

#### Positions in the auction:

Opener – the player who makes the first bid.

Overcaller – the competitor who acts over opener's or responder's bid.

Responder – Opener's partner

Advancer – Overcaller's partner.

#### Style

These short pieces will be conversational. We'll capture thinking as developed during the bidding, preparation and play of the hand. We will use plain language everywhere and digress as often as necessary to show how bidding and play intertwine. Finally, we will model constructive post mortems where we share learnings that might be missed once the score is recorded and the board sent to the next lower table. Growing partnership trust and skill is in itself a skill, and a very fertile area for us.

Join us! We hope you find these Learning Points<sup>©</sup> rich and entertaining.