

Learning Points – Diamonds Out of Turn

by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

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Bidding LEVEL: Basic

East Deals EW Vul MPs	♠ AQ4 ♥ A96542 ♦ ♣ 8765	Mike
♠ 732 ♥ KJ ♦ J962 ♣ 10943	N W 22 E S	♠ KJ85 ♥ Q1087 ♦ K87 ♣ K2
Steve	♠ 1096 ♥ 3 ♦ AQ10543 ♣ AQJ	

Monday Evening November 27, 2009 ACBL Charity Pairs, Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070 . Mr. Mike Lipp, Director. All hands played in this pairs event are summarized in the hand record provided by the ACBL.

Sometimes distractions cause bad results. This one didn't turn out like anyone expected. 2 great friends arrived and we began talking. Sitting South I looked at my hand and in the middle of laughter opened 1♦, only to realize I had bid out of turn... We called the director and explained the circumstances immediately. Whenever something irregular happens at the table call the director immediately. Further action on your own can eliminate

remedies due you. Our director ruled that West could accept the bid out of turn and bidding would proceed normally. If not then the bidding reverted to East and if South could still bid 1♦ at his turn, there would be no penalty. If South could not bid 1♦ at his turn, the North would be barred. Mike and I play Precision. My 1♦ opening is natural, but only promises a minimum of 2 cards in ♦.

The Bidding

East chose to open 1♦. South can't call 1♦ and chooses to pass to await developments. West, now in a difficult situation, chose to pass. Since North must pass, 1♦ by East is the final contract.

The Play

We have to defend this hand with care. Our bidding is no guide. There's a hint RHO is 4=4=3=2. I lead my singleton ♥, thinking to score as many small trumps as possible. Partner wins and immediately returns the ♥9 showing something in ♠s. South ruffs low and return the ♠10 showing nothing in ♠. Partner switched to the ♣5 and declarer plays the ♣K. South wins the ♣A and play off 2 more rounds of ♣s, declarer ruffing the 3rd round with the ♦7. I ruff declarer's high ♥ lead and dummy over-ruffs. A ♠ back to hand allows declarer to lead the last high heart – I must ruff again. Again dummy over-ruffs. Finally declarer tries to ruff a ♣ to no avail. I over-ruff and draw trumps. We set 1♦ 2 tricks for +200.

Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MPs	6.81	7.94	3.44	0.06	5.13	5.13	1.19	2.31		
Score	170	200	110	-800	150	150	-150	-50		

The bid out of turn created an opportunity for EW to make their own trap. A pass would have returned the situation to "normal". East could not refuse temptation to open in 1st seat given the situation. After all, South's out-of-turn opening bid was uncertain as to length. NS can make 9 tricks in ♥s for +140. Notice +140 is not on the press report recap.

Post Mortem

The adage: "If opponents lead (bid) out of turn you should accept it. After all they already made one mistake..." seems to apply here. East is very unlucky to have an empty partner, but the 1♦ call to her left was a warning. Her hand went from 12 HCP to ~9 working points (the ♦K cannot have full value).

Learning Points

1. When you play against friends, remember to have fun. Bridge can be oddly punishing.
2. Listen carefully, the result you save might be your own. Better to accept opponent's mistake when you have no clear cut action of your own. Revalue marginal opening hands discounting HCP for honors you expect are losers (their Ace over your King).

Key Words: Bid out of turn, Call the Director immediately, Revalue Working Points