Chalk Talk # 2

Series of Three-Tip Talks

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http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/bridge-index.htm has more.

Bidding Tip

Get the Double Card Out

If you and your partner bid freely to a game with every expectation of making it and the opponents take you out of it by bidding their own contract, they must play doubled if they play at all... No exceptions. If you really cannot double then you must bid your suit at a higher level.

Declaring Tip

Long Hand and Short hand ruffs.

Ruff with the 8 and 7 and cash AKQJ10

Ruff with the 10, 8 and 7

You only gain a trick (except for Dummy Reverses) if you ruff in the short hand. If you ruff in the long trump hand, you do not gain a trick and you may risk the contract if you get a bad split.

1. ♠AKQJ10 long trump hand = long hand **♠**653 **4**2 short trump hand = short hand **♦**987 Cash AKQJ10♠ 5 tricks Ruff with the 8 and 7 and cash AKQJ10 7 tricks Ruff with the 10, 8 and 7 7 tricks 2. ♠AKQJ10 **♠**65432 **♠**987 Cash AKQJ10♠ 5 tricks

7 tricks

6 tricks (6 h becomes a winner)

Defensive Tip

Exit Cards

Exit card is defined as a card to play (when you get the lead either on opening lead or somewhere before the last trick) that does not give declarer an undeserved trick.

Example:

RHO, South, opens 1♥ and the opponents get to 4♥. What does West lead?

Partner is bust and likely has three small clubs. Lead the 9. Declarer draws trump with the King and Jack (oops), cashes the A. (oops) and plays a small \bullet to the Queen in dummy. You win the King and exit a diamond, declarer pitching a spade. Delarer now plays the K., you win the ace and with only spades and clubs left, you exit a club.

Leading from Kxx only works if partner has Axx or Qxx.

if declarer plays a small club to dummy, duck and give her the K*. Declarer has transportation problems.

Cashing or leading from unsupported aces usually gives a way a trick.

It is not when in doubt lead trump. You have no doubt. You are leading trump to protect side suit holdings.

When you lead trump, you do not have:

- o a singleton trump
- o Qxx in trump
- o 4 or longer trump holding
- o a lead in another suit