Chalk Talk # 1

Series of Three-Tip Talks

KJBC: Jan 20, 2014 KDBC: Jan 22, 2014 Warren Watson

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

KJBC is the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club in Trail and KDBC is the Kokanee Duplicate Bridge Club in Nelson

Bidding Tip

Better Minor

Without a five-card major, one will open one's longer minor. If the minors are the same length, open 1♦ except when they are 3-3, then always open 1♣.

♠KJ3 ♥6542 ♦AKQ ♣432 Open 1♣.

This is important because when you open a diamond, partner will know you have four of them unless you are four-four in the majors. 2♦ is often better than 1NT with fewer than 22 points total.

♠KJ32 ♥Q542 ♦432 ♣AK Open 1♦.

This is the only time you open 1♦ with three of them. You are four-four in the majors (bis).

Declaring Tip

Eight-Ever Nine-Never.

It is actually "Eight nearly always and nine almost never."-This expression has not caught on like the alliterative version has.

When missing the Queen, one almost always finesses with an eight-card fit; and one almost always cashes the ace and king with a nine-card fit, playing for the drop.

Defensive Tip

Defensive Footprint

Any time the defenders open a new suit (by leading it for the first time), they very likely save declarer a trick he would have lost if he played the suit himself. Keep your defensive footprint low by only attacking one suit.

These are two suits declarer wants the defenders to lead first:

♠Q32 ♠J54 or ♥AJ3 ♥K109