

Has PASS Become One of Those “ Four Letter Words”

Sometimes you wonder.....just what will make your partner pass?

Now I will admit that times have changed. It used to be that you couldn't get bridge players to bid. They would pass and pass until the bridge gods looked their way and then they would calmly offer up a bid. No one ever doubled them because they likely held the world's fair.

Now everyone bids. So the job is to figure out who has something approximating their bid and who is lying through their teeth. Perhaps it has something to do with using bidding boxes as you can bid without stuttering...no telltale gulps or sighs, etc.

Of course I'm quite fond of overbidding opponents, but overbidding partners are another thing altogether.

For example:

♠Qx
♥xxxx
♦KQxx
♣AQx
♠Kxx ♠Jxx
♥KQxx ♥AJ10xx
♦J ♦9xxx
♣xxxxxx ♣x
♠A109xx
♥-
♦109xx
♣KJ10x

Auction

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1D	1H
1S	2H	2S!	Pass
4S			

Was I unhappy at the sight of dummy? \$#&*(@. I even thought we were playing support doubles. Here I thought we had this wonderful double fit,

hence my game bid. I can't remember how many I went down but it was a few. (I'm lucky to have this wonderful attribute of forgetting unpleasant things.....has served me well at the bridge table.)

Another one: Playing with a partner for the first time with no discussions except that we were going to play 2/1:

Pard	Opp	Me	Opp
2C	2H	DBL	Pass
3D??			

Now some people play that my double is equivalent to an immediate double negative saying you're on your own pard. But I didn't think this applied without discussion. Partner's hand was ♠AK ♥x ♦KQ109xx ♣AKxx. Nice hand I agree but I also would think those Aces and Kings were excellent for defense. However, as you can see partner removed my penalty double in favor of 3D. Personally I don't think that hand is good enough for a strong 2C opening bid but that was partner's choice. Defending 2Hx it is possible to hold declarer to TWO tricks although it's probable that he's getting an extra trick in the trump suit just because it's almost impossible to defend perfectly. Guess neither partner nor RHO felt like using that swear word Pass.

My hand was ♠xxx ♥AJ109xx ♦Jx ♣Qx.

Marilyn Hemenway
July 2009