

And here's a bonus post, thanks to John Portwood of the Durham (England) Bridge Club.

First of all, he categorizes our bridge mistakes so that we can identify things we can all get better at.

Second, he recommends a bridge book that contains 52 beautiful lesson deals.

And third, he arranged an event for his club's Christmas party that included 18 deals from the above book. The hands, with analysis, are at this link.

Categorizing our Mistakes

- Solving problem hands is MUCH easier when you know there is a problem. It is MUCH harder at the table where you don't know whether there is a problem or what it might be.
- Players don't think! In defence, certainly, and declarer play, almost certainly, they tend to follow blindly guidelines they were told when they started to play the game.
- Players are impatient to win tricks. As defenders, they aren't prepared to sit back and wait for tricks to fall into their laps - they are scared that the opponents might win extra tricks and rob them of the tricks that they see as their due. As Declarer they want to start winning tricks as quickly as possible and don't like losing tricks early even when it is in their interest to do so.
- Players are too optimistic. they don't anticipate problems that may occur and take steps to counteract them - until it is too late.
- Players don't count tricks - they play the hand and at the end they find out how many tricks they have won.

Book to Recommend

52 Bridge Mistakes to Avoid, by David Bird. You read David's work every month in the Bulletin, in his chronicles of the long-suffering monks at St. Titus Abbey.

And repeating my recommendation from my previous post, The Rodwell Files, by Eric Rodwell, available in electronic format from Masterpoint Press, or bound from the usual sources.

Deals and Analysis

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwon/bw.cgi?club=durham&pid=docs_Christmas2020Commentary.pdf

Enjoy! And best wishes for the holidays and the New Year.