

A Message to Players of the Blue Club

By Benito Garozzo

Another legendary member of the Blue Team is now winning Championships on the other side of the Atlantic. Back in 1971 he contributed this amusing story to Bridge Magazine.

During my stay in London in January I have been asked by several students of the Blue Club to explain the differences between the two books about the system, which were published in Britain.

I would like to explain that the book I wrote in conjunction with Yallouze, who introduced into the book certain gadgets which he used in play with his former partner, Claude Delmouly. For example, there are the Texas overcalls against the opening bid of one no-trump by opponents, the two-suited overcalls invented by Pierre Ghestem, etc. which will blend very nicely with Blue Club bidding methods, but are not used by me.

Another criticism that was made is that both books appear to be incomplete in that certain explanations are missing. For example in the book written in conjunction with Pietro Forquet in the chapter on slam bidding,

North

1♦

etc.

South

1♣

3♦

The book states that this Three Diamond bid shows a club-diamond two-suiter with 3½-4½ losers.

I must admit that when this book came to be written there were over 50 pages of additional material written by me that were not included in the book. The reason is that it was thought to be too complicated and involved for the average reader, and this particular sequence is one that was explained in these 50 pages. I



Benito Garozzo and Antonio Sementa

would like to congratulate the readers of my books who spotted these omissions.

In general I would like to say that before a Blue Club player may expect to achieve good results, he must be prepared to go through some disasters. I am reminded particularly about the time when playing with Mike Ledeen in the Fall Nationals at Pittsburgh, we used for the first time our version of the Blue Club Two Diamond opening. Playing in front of a large assembly of spectators against opponents

who were somewhat bemused we proudly produced this bidding triumph:

- 2♦ Q. What is this?
A. Partner has 17-24 points, 4-4-4-1 distribution.
R. Oh, very interesting?
- 2♥ Q. What is this?
A. Relay bid asking for more information.
- 2♠ Q. What is this?
A. Partner's hand is in the 17-20 points region and the singleton is in a major suit.
R. Why, this is great fun!
- 2NT Q. What is this?
A. Further relay, asking exact range and which singleton.
R. Oh, really?
- 3♥ Q. What is this?
A. Partner has a singleton spade and 19-20 points.
R. This is excellent!
- 3♠ Q. What is this?
A. Further relay, asking how many controls.
R. Oh brother, this is incredible.
- 4♣ Q. What is this?
A. Partner has five controls.
- 4♠ Q. What is this?
A. Relay asking how many queens I have got.
R. This is sensational!
- 5♦ Q. What is this?
A. Partner has two queens.
R. This is absolutely fantastic!
- 6♦ Q. What is this?
A. Final contract.
R. Tremendous!

We played in Six Diamonds, holding ♦Kxxx in dummy opposite ♦Qxxx in declarer's hand and the opponent on declarer's right held ♦AJ109x in trumps but did not double us. In spite of this the convention proved to be very successful subsequently.

