



THE OPENING BID

It is great to see the bridge numbers starting to build back up to pre-COVID levels. I would like to thank everyone for their diligence in wiping and cleaning the boards after the end of each round. With the tables spaced alternately it makes for a more pleasurable experience for everyone.

Congratulations to all the winners over the last month and I believe that some of you are actually winning some money from those scratchies. Good to see.

Tuesday Bridge.

Many thanks to Allan and Steve for taking on the afternoon session on a Tuesday. It has really taken off and is now being patronised by a lot more players. So much so that some of us golfers are getting up early to play golf so we can get to the bridge table in the afternoon.

I really don't think it could be anything to do with the after bridge post-mortems around the bar!!

I would like to include the Tuesday afternoon session in our Italian Pairs competition this year. It will be run in tandem with the Monday Italian Pairs in November. I will get this ratified at our next committee meeting and confirm the outcome.

OOOOOOOPS



Bridge Hands

There have been a lot of interesting hands lately. So much so that I thought I would have a look at how the hands are generated by the dealing software. The hands are dealt using Big Deal random generator. It is one of the best available and approved by WBF and has a strong mathematical background. The other deal generator in the system is the standard Dealer 4 Generator. It is used with some modification from the beginning of the Dealer 4 and provides a quality which is not worse than Big Deal. I will print on the hand records for your reference the statistics of the daily board set for your information.

I did a bit of research into how many possible hands can be dealt. The numbers are staggering. I don't think we could possibly live long enough to play every combination.

Here goes;

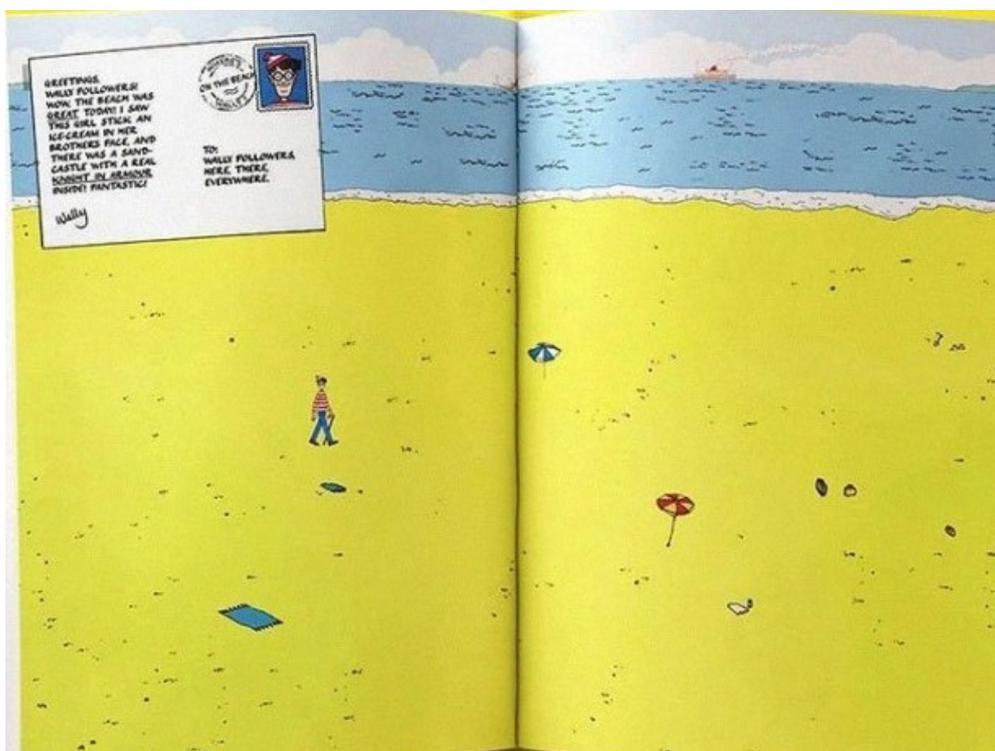
There are 635,013,559,600 (52!/13!) different hands that one player can hold. Furthermore, when the remaining 39 cards are included with all their combinations there are 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 (5.36×10^{28}) different deals possible (52!/13!)⁴.

The immenseness of this number can be understood by answering the question "How large an area would you need to spread all possible bridge deals if each deal would occupy only one square millimetre?"

Answer: An area more than a hundred million times the surface area of Earth

For those of you who would like to know any more of this riveting information and laws of probabilities for different card holding combinations it is available from Professor Google and Wikipedia.

THE CORONAVIRUS HAS MADE HIM A BIT EASIER TO FIND !!!!!!!



Bridge Tips

Leading Away from an Ace

Against No-trumps

Unlike leading against a suit contract, leading from suits headed by an Ace is alright in no-trumps.

Against a Suit Contract

A suit headed by the ace and king is very attractive.

A suit headed by the ace without the king (called an ace-high suit) is the riskiest of all leads. These two rules will rarely lead you astray.

1. Do not lead an ace high suit in a trump contact.

Leading the Ace may give declarer tricks which he could not otherwise make. You should try to capture an enemy honour with your ace. Lead the ace and you only capture low cards

2. If you break Rule 1 lead the ace, not a low card.

Expert Rule: Never underlead an Ace in a suit contract.

When is an Ace Lead Reasonable In a Suit Contract

1. Against a suit slam
2. When partner is marked for a singleton or a void
3. Against a pre-empt (king is unlikely with declarer)
4. When you have four or more trumps and your long suit (preferred lead here) is headed by the ace.
5. Your partner has bid the suit strongly, such as a pre-empt or a vulnerable two-level or higher call
6. Your partner made a lead directing double.