

# OUT OF HAND AND OFF THE FAIRWAY

*The humorous  
side of bridge  
and golf*



Bill Buttle

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For Linda, without whom none of this would have happened.



BRIDGE





## INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

I imagine that most bridge players remember vividly their first experience with the game. My initial exposure came at exam time in my first year of university. As I sweated at my desk in residence, poring over reams of frighteningly unintelligible notes taken throughout the year, I gradually became aware of a rotating group of nonchalant free spirits who spent most of their time in the common room playing bridge and ignoring the doom-laden inquisitions that were about to commence. This game went on pretty much 24/7, and I became so fascinated with the sang-froid of the regulars that I plucked up the courage to sit in during the wee small hours one night, a decision that brought me within an ace, so to speak, of career-altering consequences. I was hooked.

For many years afterwards, I enjoyed bridge when occasion permitted, playing avidly and ineptly, but it was not until I retired that I started to seriously study the game, not only as a pastime, but also as subject matter for my early attempts at cartooning. I feel that I have become rather more competent at the drawing board than at the bridge table, but both pursuits help to make boredom in retirement an unlikely occurrence. It is also pleasing, as one ages, to reflect on the reputation that bridge enjoys of slowing mental deterioration – I'm not at all certain that this is working in my case, but it's comforting all the same, and encourages me to continue my involvement with the game.



People are amusing – if they weren't, cartoonists would starve (I am living proof that this isn't happening), and bridge players punch well above their weight when it comes to the quirks and eccentricities that are fodder for the pen. I have immensely enjoyed getting some of these down on paper for the *ACBL Bulletin* over the last few years. Bridge players are indeed a distinct species, but mercifully, almost all of them are human!





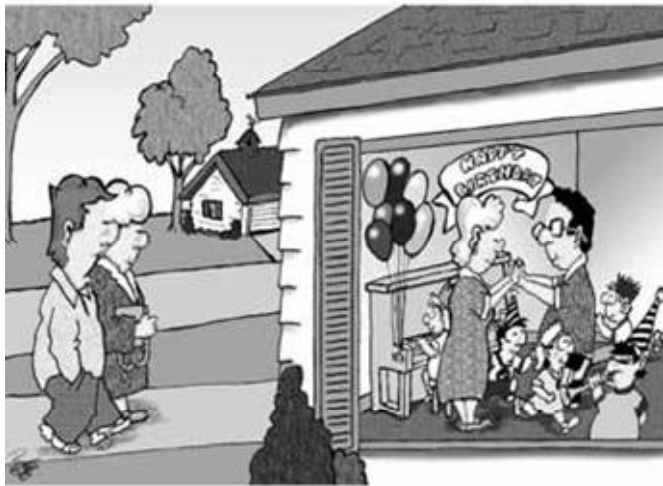
\* Generally speaking, we don't feel that making a small slam justifies spiking the cards ! \*



"First time I've treated a bidding accident!"



"A little gratitude wouldn't hurt! - They'd've penalized us if I hadn't told them a two-minute pause was normal for your thought processes!"



" It's nice that they thought enough of our intellect to invite us over to play bridge!! "





" Rude or not, I don't think you should've gotten rid  
of your gum in his coffee cup! "



" After that last hand, I think I'd better wait a while before asking partner if she has any questions! "





\* Oh, don't worry, sir!! - Somebody always seems to show up at the last moment!! \*



" Even if I thought somebody'd bid too much, I don't know that I'd actually SAY 'Double!' "



\* Those bridge lessons must be working! - I've been waiting for someone to put away the stop sign! \*



\*.....and then you bid WHA-A-A-AT!!!?? \*