

## Usefulness of Bocchi-Duboin system for normal human beings.

Bridge players are divided between a large multitude of *peones*, where I belong, and a meagre handful of *martians* that live in the bridge heaven if ever there is one.

Cosmic distances of bridge wisdom separate mercilessly the ones from the others.

Between the two categories, there is a small group of *wannabe martians* that has not made it yet. Some of these *wannabes* are taking their transitional situation with serene resignation. Some others *wannabes* are instead visibly suffering from their status and are sporting towards blameless *peones*, often unjustified superiority behaviours.

*Martians* are usually playing among themselves in high level team tournaments that *peones* watch on BBO trying to learn something out of it, even if their bidding is often cryptic and their line of play turns out to be unexpected to say the least.

The kind of bridge played is substantially different also because *martians* always play with the same partner while *peones* tend to team up with different players.

Moreover, *peones* with a bit of ambition, try to put together a set of agreements with partner, making use of the conventions that are from time to time more fashionable or anyway likable regardless of its objective validity.

Agreements choice is often based on those used by the strongest players of their home bridge club but, seldom, enough attention is paid on whether such agreements are well integrated in a balanced bidding structure.

Bridge literature is offering a very wide choice of conventions and *peones* willing to improve their level, facing such an abundance of different solutions, run the risk of ending up like the Buridan donkey or else to make random choices. In fact bridge literature is not offering any objective criteria to evaluate each convention and its compatibility with the bidding structure where it is inserted.

While trying to digest in one shot the "Bocchi-Duboin system" could cause serious gastrointestinal pain to naive *peones*, the accurate inspection of a single bidding problem could no doubt prove to be a source of inspiration.

To check how two reliable Champs are solving a specific problem that we can encounter at the bridge table, can help us in introducing small or big changes in the tailor made system that we have put together with great efforts with our partner.

Why our two *martians* use as much as possible transfer responses? May be we could also gain something in introducing such technique in some simple bidding development.

Opening 1♦ with a 5+ carder, could also be considered an option because it would not upset our bidding structure and it would bring along some advantages.

The great attention paid to singletons, underlines the importance of communicating its possession to partner: may be we could introduce such concept in the way we bid.

There are therefore countless opportunities for careful considerations and inspiration in order to pick up improvements and techniques that could lead to a better way of bidding.

To my friends and colleagues *peones* I wish a good reading, sure that they will be able to benefit from it.

Gianantonio Castiglioni.