

Implementation of the Law of the Garbage Truck
(In Your Local Bridge Game)

Not so long ago I received an email about the so-called Law of the Garbage Truck. The story goes that a taxi driver and his customer were suddenly intercepted by a big black car jumping out of a parking space right in front of them. The taxi driver slammed on his brakes barely missing the other car. Then driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling but the taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. Amazed, the customer inquired as to why the taxi driver was so calm and friendly about the whole thing.

This is when the taxi driver explained that people are often like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Try to smile and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets..... or for that matter at the bridge table.

The bottom line is that successful players do not let garbage trucks take over their bridge game. While it's great to have the competitive spirit and the intensity needed for the game, you also have to take things with a grain of salt.

So when the following happens, just smile and grit your teeth so hard your mouth stays shut: (Reminds me of my Canadian friends who always threatened to bring along the duct tape!!)

	<u>North</u>	
	32	
	8	
	K103	
	AKQ10742	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
AQJ984		76
J3		104
98		AQJ7642
J96		53
	<u>South</u>	
	K53	
	AKQ97652	
	5	
	8	

I was South when this hand occurred. My LHO opened the bidding with a weak 2 bid in spades and the rest of the auction went something like this:

West	North	West	South
2S	3C	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D	Dbl	5H
Pass	5S	Pass	5NT

All pass

To say the least the auction itself was more than a little strange. I was trying to get to a heart slam but alas we didn't have enough Aces so I attempted to signoff in 5H. Partner didn't get the message hence the 5S bid. So rather than just commit us to going down in a slam I made the last ditch effort of 5NT hoping for a miracle I think. The miracle didn't materialize except for the opponents. After the 9 of diamonds lead and a spade back the opponents took all 13 tricks!!! Hmmmm I don't remember that even happening before.

My partner and I both broke our jaws by clamping our mouths shut so hard but we somehow managed to say very little.

On to the next board.....

Marilyn Hemenway
November 2009