

## **Dave's Teaching Philosophy**

**Contract bridge is a game of mistakes. Every bridge player makes them; the winners are those who make the least errors (or, perhaps, the least costly errors).**

**What are the sources of these mistakes? Some (probably too many) come from inattention or laziness. Some (because bridge is a partnership game) result from partnership misunderstandings. But others come because players, when faced with decisions to make, often rely upon formulaic solutions instead of logic; in other words, "they think about the wrong things". Depending upon platitudes, formulae, or catch-phrases without understanding the logic behind them guarantees mediocre results.**

**Bridge players are bright people. Dull people are not attracted to the game. If bright people are conditioned to think about the right things, they will generally arrive at sound decisions; not always correct decisions, but logically sound ones, and ones that will, in the long run, yield positive results. After all, bridge is a game of percentages, and sound decisions will win out over unsound ones over time.**

**So, my 'bridge teaching philosophy' is to describe the underlying principles of bidding, declarer play, defense, or decision-making, in order to condition the student to THINK ABOUT THE RIGHT ISSUES when choosing a course of action. The important question to be answered is not really 'what' do to, but 'why'...**