

AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN A BRIDGE-PLAYING COUPLE

THIS INDENTURE, solemnly entered into the _____ day of _____, Anno Domini 19____, by and between _____, party of the first part and _____, her spouse, to her in holy matrimony duly joined, on the _____ day of _____, Anno Domini _____, in the City of _____, State of _____.

WHEREAS, the said parties in furtherance of their avowed purpose of living their lives together in amity and congenial pursuit have undertaken to apply themselves to the improvement of their understanding and playing of the honorable game of bridge and

WHEREAS, it is feared that such application and participation in bridge playing may be productive of considerable disagreement, acrimony and erosion of the very relationship it is intended to improve, and

WHEREAS, it is agreed in principle:

1. That it is deemed most desirable to avoid such circumstances as could create disruptive influences,
2. That the mathematically infinite combinations of the game of bridge must inevitably lead to delicate and subtle differences which defy categoric classification,
3. That it is the inherent right and privilege of all individuals to err in vision, hearing, touch, expression, understanding, interpretation, judgment and opinion,
4. That no one makes deliberate errors,
5. That the occurrence of an error, the loss of a trick or even the loss of a contract is in and of itself a disturbing experience and that a kindly nature would recoil from adding to the resultant discomfiture,
6. That despite all contentions to the contrary one's playing skill is not materially advanced by the constant plethora of "attritional post-mortems," discussion, argument and bickering which accompanies most bridge playing,
7. That it is conceded that excessive "post-mortems" serve more to afford the self-styled authority an opportunity either to parade his superior skill and knowledge or to vent his irritation on the usually unreceptive victim of his tirade,

NOW THEREFORE WITNESSETH, that the parties hereto on the good consideration implicit in the premises do solemnly declare their intention and do hereby agree not to indulge in any of the disruptive acts above described and more specifically listed herewith:

- A. To recognize and accept the absence of rigidity in bridge and not to argue the contrary.
- B. To recognize and accept human proneness to error and to refrain from any criticism, caustic, sarcastic or otherwise.
- C. To recognize and accept differences of understanding, interpretation, judgment and opinion and not to oppose or quarrel over them.
- D. To accept the occurrence of errors or defeat with graciousness, poise and equanimity.
- E. To recognize the futility of post-morteming ad nauseam and to refrain from indulging therein.
- F. To act at all times with restraint, good humor, kindness and forbearance to the end that participation in the game of bridge will truly add to the pleasure of living for which purpose it was primarily designed.

And finally if the parties hereto find that discords and disagreements incident upon bridge playing affect other areas of their lives together, it is agreed that upon the formal request of either party hereto all bridge playing be thenceforth discontinued without further recrimination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

In the presence of
