



6/3/15: Negative Dbl after both Minors

by Bob Gruber

June 2, 2015. Last month I mentioned the *Writings* page as a new entry on the web site. I'm happy to say that construction has started and phase I is done. I envision several different sub pages, the 1st of which is ACBL Bulletin articles on Conventions. To get there, first select the rightmost Menu item, the **More ▼** button. When you "hover" over that button (with the mouse), a drop-down menu with several choices appears. Slide the mouse down to *Writings ▼*. You may either click on that to go to the *Writings* page or you may slide the mouse down to the *Bulletin on Conventions* entry to go directly to that page/screen.

Twenty-four (24) conventions are presented. Well, actually, there are 22 because two of them are part 2 of a prior article. These are very basic forms of the conventions, but they can be a good starting point. To wit, in spite of this basic nature, sometimes there's a gem present that somehow many players have overlooked when learning the convention. Case in point is the Negative Double, a cornerstone of modern bidding.

There's a particular auction that is often misunderstood and its influence on two other auctions is then also misunderstood. This auction is identified at the end of the *Bulletin* article as a **Special case**. This auction is at the one level only and specifically it's:

1♣ - 1♦ - Dbl -

The Negative Double in this case should guarantee both majors. Not one or the other with a retreat to ♣s if no fit is found, but guarantee both majors. As a consequence, in the following two sequences a 1-level major suit bid may be made on a 4-card suit.

1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - -or- [the ♥ bid does not guarantee a 5-card suit]

1♣ - 1♦ - 1♠ - [the ♠ bid does not guarantee a 5-card suit]

This wrinkle may take some getting used to if you've played these sequences differently. And certainly, you need to discuss these auctions with your partners, but they are part of the basic Negative Double system.