Agreements again

Bridge is littered with numerical rules, we are familiar with most of them. On Tuesday I came across a new one to me – the Rule of 14. This is an aid to Acol players, deciding whether the hand can bid at the two level after partner opens.

Perhaps I've been playing too long and this is a more recent teaching tool, but I am not impressed.

The principle is add you points to the number of cards in the suit you intend to bid. When that reaches 14 you can respond at the two level.

On board 11 Catherine was faced with this dilemma when Jack opened 1♠, she held

♠ 876
♥ AJ5
♦ J9842
♣ K7

Nine points plus five diamonds meets the Rule, but seriously would you bid 2♦ with this hand?

Everyone played in a spade contract making 6, 8 or 9 tricks. Best defence is to lead a heart, putting pressure on declarer when the defence continue hearts at each opportunity.

Catherine made the pragmatic bid of 2♠ and that is where they played.

Bidding 2♦ could easily get you too high.

Judgement is much preferable to numerical rules.

It is important that you and your partner have agreements on this area of bidding.

Brian has acknowledged my suggested bidding that resulted in -1100 the previous week was correct.