



How Argine plays

Our aide-mémoire to better understand the choices made by Argine

Bidding

Argine is very comfortable with the 1NT opening. There are fewer and simpler associated sequences! That is the reason why sometimes some players take the liberty of opening 1NT with a singleton, a 5-card major and 14 or 18 points.

However, let's be careful because even if this way of playing may prove effective, it is far from guaranteeing a top systematically. And you are likely to come a cropper.

Please note that if you bid a given suit and you have a fit, Argine will persist in going back to it. Likewise, if you have made the wrong bid, don't try to rectify. Argine has complete confidence in you and strongly believes in what you bid first.

If you don't understand your partner's or opponents' bids, display the **pop-up window with bidding tips**: it will show you the meaning of each bid made (point range and estimated number of cards per suit). This window will also be helpful if you want to be sure that Argine understands your bid. Indeed, it also shows how Argine will interpret your bid. Convenient, isn't it?

Likewise, if an alerted bid has been made, take some time to analyse its meaning. It will prevent you from embarking on a grotesque contract.

After the first bidding rounds, Argine does no longer reason like you. In fact, she selects a sample of deals that could match the beginning of the bidding sequence and analyses the result of each contract on all these deals. Once she is done with analysis, she declares the best contract from a statistical point of view based on this sample.

This technique differs from human approach. That is the reason why sometimes she may want to stop at 2H for instance, but then if opponents bid 3C, possible distributions change and she thinks that 4H would be a good bet after all.

Card play

In defence, Argine scrupulously tells you if she holds an even or odd number of cards in all suits, except in the trump suit, until trick 7. Isn't it convenient for you? But it is convenient for opponents as well... Will you be able to take advantage of this information?

She has an unfortunate tendency to cover honours whenever she can. But she behaves like that with everyone!

Argine is an optimist. She considers all her opponents as perfect players to such an extent that if you run some master tricks, it is possible to see her discarding a bare king, yet coming after AQ, because she reckons that the king will be taken anyway. And she sometimes throws an ace to avoid a possible throw-in (that often you hadn't seen).

To make her plan of play in defence or when she sits across from dummy, her reasoning differs from humans. She tries to identify a sample of deals that could match the beginning of the bidding sequence and analyses the result for each card played based on all these deals. Then she chooses what seems to be the best card to her.

Two slightly sour notes:

- In IMP tournaments, if Argine sees an opportunity to defeat the contract (even if it is sometimes a very slim chance) in her samples, she will seize it, which may lead her to play cards that can seem confusing or at least do not follow human reasoning.
- She believes that every player will play in his best interests as if he could see through the cards. Therefore Argine will have trouble understanding that a player can't find a double squeeze and she will not hesitate to throw any card since anyway, in her opinion, the die is cast.



Further details

Argine almost systematically leads in partner's suit and when the sequence or at least the meaning are identical, she makes the same lead for all players.

If she ruffs one of your master tricks, it is always with a trump she would never have taken any trick with and with the aim of playing in a way she wrong-foots declarer in a suit with the help of her partner. And even if it is pointless on the deal, it doesn't cost anything either!

If you think that she plays worse than your opponents in East-West, you should know that they are Argine's cousins and play exactly with the same logic as her. The only difference is that they better understand one another. And as the saying goes, once bitten, twice shy, so Argine has less confidence in South's cards (or bids), whereas East-West have blind faith in each other.

Please note that you can report the deals on which Argine has made a mistake. But to ensure that this is productive and we can correct it, this must be an obvious mistake and played badly **from a bridge point of view**. For instance, if you lose a bare king after AQ, certainly you lose a potential trick but it is not played badly **from a bridge point of view**, therefore it is not worth reporting.

90% of reported cases are due to a mere lack of understanding between the player and Argine.

And on Funbridge (unlike what may happen in a club tournament), when playing with Argine, you should not experience a setback because your opponents have won a slam that has not been played at all other tables. Indeed, Argine bids in the same way for everyone.

See you soon on Funbridge

