

CLUB NEWS

FOR THE DUPLICATE PLAYERS OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY, 2021

Congratulations to our three new Board Members: Carol Ketterer, Paul Matheson, Diane Ruggiero!

The ACBL has cancelled all face to face tournaments through April 30. They will contact all clubs by March 1 if the moratorium will be extended past April 30.

Dave Hudson's picture was featured on the first page of *The Daily Sun* on January 20. He is shown staying in good shape using an elliptical machine at the Mulberry Grove Regional Recreation Center. Way to go, Dave!

We are saddened to hear **Elaine Young's** husband died the morning of January 2. She thinks her husband died of Covid, but there were other problems as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Elaine.

There has been a group of ladies' duplicate players continuing to play at people's homes during the pandemic. For a short time we had only 4 players willing to participate, and now we have eight ladies participating. The picture shows us celebrating Christmas and bridge at the home of **CAROL SCHWARZMANN**.



From left to right: Carol Schwarzmann, Shirley Wigner, Von Bush, Pat Poitingier, Chris Peters, Bonnie Overson, Claudette Fraime, Barb Hamilton. We all had a great time and friendships mean so much to all of us during this difficult time. We are "people needing people" to put smiles on our faces!

"There's a Miracle called Friendship, that dwells within the heart, And you don't know how it happens or when it gets its

start....But the happiness it brings you always gives a special lift. And you realize that "Friendship" is God's most precious gift." (author unknown)



Carol Mayer organized a very successful driveway concert on a relatively chilly and windy Monday afternoon, December 7, 2020. Despite the weather, over 50 friends and neighbors were there in golf carts and on chairs. The entertainers were The Villages Pops Chorus Quartet pictured along with Carol. Two of the entertainers sang with Carol in the chorus, “Bach with a Beat”. This group performs driveway concerts twice a month for the charity known as The Sozo Kids (kids in the Ocala National Forest). They performed Christmas songs as well as famous folk tunes from the 60’s and 70’s. Carol’s friends and neighbors who attended raised over \$600 for this charity. The quartet was

terrific and all thoroughly enjoyed this event.

Written by Carol and submitted by Buck Buchanan.

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A BBO COUPLE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN WHO PLAYS IN THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE GAMES

The January, 2021 issue of Bridge Bulletin, featured an article about **Renate and Ron Condon**, who frequently play in The Villages BBO game. In the past four years, they have played bridge in a duplicate bridge club in all fifty states. They completed their achievement by playing in a club in Anchorage, Alaska, this past summer.

Renate was diagnosed with Stage 3 lung cancer in 2017, and after extensive chemo and radiation, she told her husband that the next item on her bucket list was to play bridge in a duplicate club in all fifty states. They had already played in eighteen states at the time of this decision. Their first foray in 2018 was to fly to St. Louis and play in six Midwestern states. They followed this by flying to Oklahoma, then renting a car and playing in six Southern states. They played in their 49th state in Massachusetts in August, 2019.

The COVID put a cramp on their plans to play in Alaska, their fiftieth state. They finally found an open bridge club in Anchorage and achieved their goal of playing in all fifty states in September of this past year.

The good news is that Renate is now cancer-free and she achieved Diamond Life Master on their trip. (submitted by Buck Buchanan)

THE BARRY CRANE TOP 500 FOR 2020

16 VILLAGES IN THE BARRY CRANE TOP 500

#31 Ann McClelland 726.10 MPs
#57 Russ Pearly 627.41 MP's
#58 David Morse 627.36 MP's
#60 Jeff Koltenuk 624.81 MP's
#120 Dave Hudson 529.70 MP's
#126 Gladys Mikel 502.56 MP's
#178 Colleen Treanor 448.17 MP's
#212 Wilson Day 423.73 MP's
#221 Ed Schusler 419.56 MP's
#226 Charlie Showalter 416.78
#322 Rick Seidman 370.45 MP's
#355 Alex Booke 361.58 MP's
#377 Sandy Booke 355.25 MP's
#387 Jon Williams 352.82 MP's
#440 Diane Day 337.68 MP's
#445 Paul Hassett 336.67 MP's

This was also included in one of the blast emails, but it is important to list it again!
Congratulations to all!

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Marilyn Williams sent me (the editor) a note telling me that **Susan Santisi** died on December 8. Marilyn writes: "You may remember that she had cancer and left a couple of years ago to go back north to be closer to her family. Susan was an excellent bridge player and I was privileged to have her as an occasional partner. I think of her every time I change the linens on our bed! When she was packing up to leave, she called me and said that she was getting rid of her king-sized sheets, and asked if I wanted them. She gave us three sets of really lovely linens."

It's nice, Marilyn, that you have so many lovely memories of Susan. I'm sure others share in your remembrance of her. Thank you for sending this to me to publish.

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Dave Poeppelman passed on Saturday, December 19 from bladder cancer. His wife, **Lucy**, says Dave loved playing bridge.

..... **Limerick About Quilts by Marc Rissman**

A quilt can be made any size or a colorful one made with dyes.
From one very small to filling a wall,
When complete it becomes quite a price.

Alert Procedure Update for 2021 by JAMES DICK

The ACBL has recently issued new guidance for Alert procedures effective in 2021. While most of us are pretty aware of how to alert and which bids should be alerted, we will attempt to quantify what changes have been made and what you as the player need to know moving forward.

As we all suspect/surmise the objective of an Alert is to indicate to your opponents that the bid you either have just made or are about to make has an unexpected meaning for you and your partner. Back in the day when we were playing F2F, we would tap on the alert card, or tab in the bidding box, or pull the alert card out and in a noticeable way tell your opponents that a bid is being made that requires their attention. In today's COVID world we are more often than not playing on BBO or some other such platform, and we need to use the mechanisms available to alert our alertable bids.

On BBO, for example, when you are making a bid a pop up menu appears with any of a number of available calls on it. There is a box/field in the middle of this pop up menu that is available for you to describe the bid you are making. After you make this bid, another pop up box appears for the opponents indicating what the bid means so that they understand that an alert has been made.

There are no immediate penalties for not alerting a bid, however if the opponents are misinformed/not informed about an alert, they will be protected. Keep in mind that a player who does NOT ask about an alerted call will not be protected even if the meaning of the call is not what they expected. So a good rule for players to keep in the back of their collective minds is, When in Doubt, ASK what these bids mean. Now on BBO, there isn't much time for a lot of chit chat. So you should pick and choose your questions for instances that it might matter, and to not just ask a question because it is your turn.

The default rule for Natural bids and Passes is that they should not be alerted. The default rule for Artificial bids, Doubles and Re-Doubles is that they should be alerted.

What is the difference between an Announcement and an Alert? The quick answer is that an announcement is a form of alerting. It is a word or phrase that describes the meaning of partner's call (in the real world), on BBO we all know that we have to SELF alert/announce, so it is incumbent on each player to use the alert procedure during the bidding so that your opponents won't be pestering you with a number of questions after the auction has completed. Examples of Announcements are short club bids. When you say Could Be as Short as X, you are telling the opponents what your partnership agreement is. When you open 1D, similarly, and you guarantee 4 or more diamonds, you again make an announcement. You should also get into the habit of announcing the HCP range of your NT and NT overcalls, even though NT overcalls are not in red or blue on the card, informing the opponents that you typically have 15-18 HCP's to overcall a NT is recommended.

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When responding to an opening bid made by your partner, there are a few bids that need to be alerted. If you are an unpassed hand, and your partner has bid and the opponents have passed or overcalled, a New Suit bid by you that is NOT forcing needs to be alerted. If your partnership agreement is that you can make a call in a competitive auction and your partner can pass, then you must alert it. Most players go by the new suit by an unpassed hand is 100% forcing (or at least you should be playing some variation of that).

Other responses to opening bids such as a single raise that is forcing is also alertable. An example of this is an inverted minor sequence. Where partner opens 1m and you bid 2m showing a L/R or better. Some players play inverted minors are game forcing bids. The point is that regardless of how you and your partner have agreed to play inverted minor bids, you need to alert and tell your opponents what the bid means. You should always give as much information as possible. Don't assume that your opponents know as much as you do about various bids. Tell them in a concise way what 2C in a 1C -2C auction means, Natural Limit Raise, denies a 4 card Major, etc.

Other bids that need to be alerted are double raise bids that are not invitational. Bergen raises, as an example, come to mind. Partner opens 1S and you bid 3S preemptively, showing less than 6 HCP's and 4 spades. You need to include that kind of information within your self alert of 3S.

There are other examples but hopefully you get the idea that whenever you self alert, provide as much information as possible so that your opponents are informed as to your partnership agreements.

So let's take up a couple of examples of bids that you no longer alert, assuming you never alerted them in the past.

Michaels Cue Bids

Many players use this valuable tool to show two suited hands. If the opponents open 1m and you bid 2m - You are telling the world/table that you have both majors. Or if the opponents open 1M and you bid 2M you are saying that you have the OTHER major and a minor. You no longer need to alert these bids.

Unusual NT

After the opponents open a Natural 1 level Opening Bid, if you have bid 2N to show the lowest two unbid suits or the minors, you no longer alert this meaning.
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Pre- Alerts

We have been telling everyone on BBO that if you are playing precision or some strong club system, to pre-alert your opponents that those are your methods so that they can be better prepared to handle those auctions.

Not many players use different point ranges for NT openers depending on the vulnerability, but if you do you need to pre-alert your opponents. You are **REQUIRED** to Pre-Alert any system that includes at least one 1-Level Opening Bid that is NOT natural OR that is Forcing. This includes but is not limited to: Precision Club System, Strong Club Systems, Montreal Relay System or Canape systems. The pre-alert can be something simple as typing into the Alert Field on the BBO Bid Menu: We play Precision.

However, if you do keep it simple be prepared for a deluge of questions and also be prepared to answer each one as completely as possible. There will be no exceptions to this requirement. While not widespread there seems to be a general laxity amongst some players to fail to alert or announce their partnership agreements. This is completely against full disclosure relative to partnership agreements. **DONT** wait to be asked what your bid means, assuming it is anything **EXCEPT** natural. Make it a habit to be proactive and fully disclose what your bid means when you make the bid. The more information that you include the better it will be for everyone. It will also speed the game up since many players don't answer questions quickly and the opponents then call the director to come to the table. In a F2F game this kind of thing happens all of the time and there rarely are any ramifications relative to time lost. On BBO however, you are under a time restriction, and if you are unable to complete a hand in the allotted time, you get an adjusted score. This delay can be circumvented by telling your opponents what you are doing, within the confines of the rules. Your opponents will appreciate your being forthcoming and so will the directors!

Alert Changes

Here are some examples of the changes to the most common calls that have had their alertability changed:

In an **UNCONTESTED** auction, no natural jump shift (whether weak, intermediate, or strong) requires an alert.

A direct cue bid that is **NOT** Michaels requires an Alert. An example of this is a cuebid showing a L/R or better requires an alert.

Support Doubles and Re-Doubles no longer require an alert.
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An opening 2C bid that DOES NOT show a strong, forcing and artificial hand requires an alert. So for all of you playing Precision, for example, the 2C opener showing a 6 card club suit or 5 clubs plus a Major needs to be alerted.

More Announcement Changes

The correct announcement when making a transfer bid over your partner's 1NT opener is to now say/indicate the SUIT being deferred to. So if you bid 2D over your partner's 1NT opener, you type into the alert field Hearts. If you play transfer bids over 1C openers, and the opponents bid 1D, Double now becomes a xfer to Hearts so you would indicate Hearts while self alerting.

Instead of saying Could Be Short at a non-forcing minor suit opener that might contain fewer than 3 cards, you now indicate that Could Be One.

If you routinely bypass a four card spade suit to bid a forcing or semi-forcing NT over your partner's 1H opening bid, you need to add could have 4 spades to your self alert of your forcing or semi-forcing NT response. This applies most often to partnerships that use Flannery, which shows 5H's & 4S's when they open 2D, so any 1H opening call could not include 4S since by agreement they open that hand 2D.

Delayed Alerts

The rule for a delayed alerts has also been updated. At the end of the auction, the declaring side should explain any delayed alert that may have occurred, along with any control type bids or cuebids that were made during the auction WITHOUT a requirement of the defense asking about them. By having the declaring side explain these calls without prompting should speed up the play of the hand and give the opponents all of the information possible prior to the start of the play of the hand.

Bridge is not a game of secrets or what can you conceal or obfuscate from your opponents. This especially applies to the more experienced players at the club and at the table. Making your opponents comfortable should be the overriding emphasis while we are playing. Being proactive about informing your opponents of your methods goes a long way towards accomplishing this goal.

For more information please click on the link below:

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures2.pdf>

Thank you, Jim. This must have taken you a long time to prepare. It is greatly appreciated by all.

REMEMBERING WALT PETERS

We all had a very heavy heart when we learned of **Walt Peters'** passing on December 19. Those of us who knew him regarded him as a real gentleman full of love, compassion, a great friend, accomplished in so many ways, with a love of life. Walt played bridge up until a few days before his passing. Walt had his own plane, and he and his wife, Chris, and their daughter, Suzy, were regular passengers on his plane visiting almost every state and much of Canada. We feel honored and privileged to have known him. He had been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, which took his life quickly. Our hearts are now with **Chris** as she goes through this sad transition. **Your many friends are with you, Chris!**

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MARILYN WILLIAMS' EXPERIENCE ON JEOPARDY (WRITTEN BY MARILYN)

My appearance on Jeopardy was long, long ago (February of 1970!).

At that time, the host was Art Fleming and the show was taped in New York City. The board was not electronic. There was a man behind the board who pulled up the cardboard to reveal the "answer" after the contestant chose the category and amount. The dollar amounts were not anything like they are today. The Jeopardy round had \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, and \$50 questions, and the double Jeopardy round was \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80, and \$100.

They gave us a practice round to get used to the format, and I breezed through it. If that had been the "real" round, I would have done well. But, when the actual time came, I kept getting shut out. I can really sympathize with players' frustration when they know the answer, but ring in too soon or too late.

Long story short, I won \$150, a set of encyclopedia, and a Jeopardy game. (Back then, you got to keep your winnings even if you didn't win the round.)

One memory that has stuck with me happened after I had lost. The producer asked me what I was going to do now. I told him that I was going to fly home that afternoon. He said, "Why don't you stay an extra day and I'll take you out to dinner"!!!! I think he had more in mind than dinner. I declined his invitation, but was secretly flattered. I was twenty-seven years old, had been married for seven years and had two little girls.....But my ego was saying, "**Woo Hoo! I've still got it!**"

(submitted by Buck Buchanan)

Editor's note: Thanks for sharing! And, "**You've still got it!**"

What is your agreement?

A bridge Tip

By Neil H. Timm

What are your agreements for third seat bidding?

Have you heard about the Five Rules purposed by Mike Lawrence?

They go as follows.

1. You open in third seat and partner has passed, but bids a new suit at the 1-level. A pass by you is non-forcing constructive. You have tolerance for his suit with 2/3--card support. If you bid again you have a full opener.

2. After you have passed, if your passed partner next re-bids his suit again at the 2-level, he shows 2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5 honors and a good suit; yes, your passed partner has a very good suit.

3. If you do not pass partner's new suit at the 1-level and bid 1NT, it shows 12-14 HCP and **never** 10-11 HCP.

4. Instead of bidding 1NT; suppose you re-bid your suit at the 2-level; it again shows 12-14 HCP and a six-card suit, **never** five. Why? If you had a weak hand in the 3rd seat, and partner had passed you would open the 5-card suit with a weak two bid!

5. If you're passed partner re-bids his own suit (six-cards) or a new suit at the 2-level (never the 3-level), partner shows 10-11 HCP.

Many will say there is no need for these Five Rules since they use 2-way Reverse Drury where 2♣* and 2♦* asks if the third-seat bidder has a full opener with 3 card support (10-12 dummy points) or 4 card support (9-12 dummy points) respectively after the 3rd seat bidder bids a major 1♥/1♠ where *=alert.

The convention works well for game going hands, but not slam going hands and how for example, does the passed hand show a 5-card diamond suit? Instead of using 2-way Reverse Drury, one may use a modification of the "Lawrence" Drury bids. How does it work?

The bid of 2♣*'s show 3/4 card support (most often 3) and 10-12 dummy points which allows the major suit 3rd seat bidder to use 2♦* as an asking bid.

How is the bid of 2♦* used after the bid of 2♣* after the bid of 1♥?

2♦* shows game/slam interest and ask what his "Drury" hand looks like. Re-bidding the major 2♥* rejects game/slam, the same as 2-way Reverse Drury.

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All other bids by 3rd seat opener are forcing to game with slam interest.

2♠ show a maximum balanced hand (10-12 dummy points) and 3-card support – game force.

2NT is a slam try and game force bid with 4 trump.

3NT asks the Drury bidder to bid game in the major or pass.

3♣*/3♦*/3♥* bids show singleton/void in the suit bid; but, 3♥* **shows a singleton/void in spades.**

Higher jump bids are splinter bids showing voids (again 4♥ shows a spade void).

How is the bid of 2♦* used after the bid of 2♣* after the bid of 1♠?

2♦* shows game/slam interest and ask what his “Drury “ hand looks like.

Re-bidding the major 2♠* reject game/slam, the same as 2-way Reverse Drury.

All other bids by 3rd seat opener are forcing to game with slam interest.

2♥ natural with 10-12 dummy points and 4+ hearts (full opener, invitational- same as Reverse Drury)

2NT is a slam try and game force bid with 4 trump.

3NT asks the Drury bidder to bid game in the major or pass.

3♣*/3♦*/3♥* are slam tries with singleton/void in suit bid;

Higher jump bids are splinter bids showing voids in the suit bid.

A bid of 2NT* instead of 2♣* is used with a hands that have less than 2 quick tricks, **4-card** support with 10-12 dummy points, and a balanced with no singleton/void.

Hands with 10-12 dummy points and 3/4-card support with a singleton/void, the passed bidder jumps to the 3-level of the other major. With slam interest, the 3rd seat bidder may bid the next step (3♠* /3NT*) as a scroll-asking bid (where is your singleton/void). Lets look at an example:

North	South	North	South
♠7	♠983	Pass	1♥
♥A98	♥KQ10742	3♠*(S/Vsomewhere)	3NT* (ask)
♦QJ532	♦AK	4♠ (In spades)	4NT (1430)
♣QJ75	♣AK	5♣ (1/4 keycards)	6♥

If the opening bidder is not interested in finding the singleton/void, he may investigate slam by using 4♠ as kickback for hearts and 4NT for spades. Or, Exclusion RKCB may be used if the opening bidder has a void. With no slam interest game is bid.

Playing 2-way Reverse Drury, you would bid 2♣* (10-12 dummy points) and may have missed the slam!

For more on 3rd and 4th seat bidding, see the book by Mike Lawrence (2011) “The Complete Guide to Passed Hand Bidding”, 2nd Edition, Master Point Press.

Birthday Problem

Provided by Neil H. Timm

A fun game to play at a social event or perhaps a bridge session at you local bridge club is the famous Birthday Problem.

What is the likelihood that at least two persons have a birthday on the same day? Well it depends on the number of persons present at the event.

The question depends on the number of individuals present! Before we address the problem let's investigate the probability that three people do not share a common day.

There are 365 days in a year, excluding a leap year and February 29th, the probability that three persons do not share a day is:

$$365/365 \times 364/365 \times 363/365 = .992$$

A very high likelihood. How about five persons? Continuing, the probability is 0.973.

We can continue in this manor until the probability is at least 50% for some number of people. Alternately we can look at the complement event:

Probability (two or more people born on the same day) = $1 - P$ (all born on different days).

That is when will this probability be larger than 50%? The answer!

With 23 people the probability that all have different birthdays is 0.493.

So the probability that at least two persons share the same date is 0.507.

Conclusion - for a social event there must be at least 23 people or at your local bridge club you must have at least 6 tables for two persons to share a common birthday.

I tried this at my pattern partner dance club with 48 members and yes found one person and myself had the same date. The same day that President Eisenhower was born, October 18!

New problem! Take two decks of cards and shuffle each independently. Place the two decks of 52 cards on the table and turn one over each time sequentially. What are the likelihoods that there will be exactly one match in the sequence? Answer is 63.2116% or 63% called the "Hat Check" problem. **Problem:** 10 people walk into a party and give their hats to the coat and hat-check guy. When the party finishes, their hats are returned **in no specific order and with no specific intent**. What is the probability that **one** gets his or her own hat back? Yes 63%.

Thanks, Neil. You are quite a mathematician!

A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATE WITH THEIR ARTICLES. THE ARTICLES ARE MUCH APPRECIATED.

STAY SAFE AND WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT WE WILL ALL GET BACK TO SOME TYPE OF NORMALCY SOON!

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