



JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER



THE BRIDGE ISSUE

For a change, every article in this issue is about bridge. No stable talk, no junk to unload, no Board Meeting noise, and nothing to complain about. Pretty strange for this bridge newsletter.

LONGEST DAY REPORT

On Wednesday, June 20, we participated in the major annual fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. We drew 12.5 tables (versus 15 last year), which, while respectable, I found somewhat disappointing.

Alan was our team captain this year and was responsible for coordinating and running the event. Cathie was responsible for the special treats we all enjoyed. I would like to thank them (and anyone else that helped anonymously) for their service to our club and the fight against Alzheimer's.

Well, since this was a bridge event I guess I should mention the overall winners. But, I won't. The real winner is, as it should be, the fight against Alzheimer's.

So, was the event a success? Well, due mostly to a very generous contribution by one of our members, it was. Your club donated all proceeds from the event plus about \$100 from our reserves, which, combined with member contributions allowed us to give \$1,200 for Alzheimer's research.

JULY SCHEDULE

Qualification for the ACBL North American Pairs enters its second month. Members who qualify at the club level are eligible to play in our District finals and, if successful, move on to the National level. These games award half red/half black points at 82% Sectional Rating. We will hold six of those games in July.

Continued in middle of next column

FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

I'm pretty sure that happens on July 4th, which just happens to be the date of our first Wednesday game. Based on a totally unscientific survey (you know, raise your hand if you want to play), **we will have a game that day.** But, if cake is your thing, be forewarned that the July Birthday Cake will be tabled to a subsequent Wednesday (or more clearly, ain't gonna be no cake that day).

JULY SCHEDULE *Continued*

In addition, there will be three Club Championships, and three Charity Games. Other games of interest:

Instant Matchpoint Game – Monday, July 9th – Something new for the ACBL and us, see page 4 of **this newsletter** for an explanation of this game.

Perfect 10 Teams – Friday, July 13th -- Perfect Ten Format with handicaps.

Game Schedule - July 2018

Monday 1:30pm	Wednesday 1:30pm	Friday 1:30pm
2-Jul Open Pairs\$	4-Jul Open Pairs&	6-Jul Open Pairs\$
9-Jul Instant Matchpoint Game	11-Jul Open Pairs#	13-Jul Perfect 10 Teams Handicapped&
16-Jul Open Pairs#	18-Jul Open Pairs\$	20-Jul Open Pairs\$
23-Jul Open Pairs\$	25-Jul Open Pairs\$	27-Jul Open Pairs#
30-Jul Open Pairs&		
\$ = NAOP Qualifier & = Charity Game # = Club Champ		

REVERSES

If you are an aspiring player, you may struggle with reverses, but this article should help.

A reverse occurs when: (1) opener's rebid is in a higher ranking suit than his opening bid; and, (2) opener's rebid is at a higher level than his partner's response to the opening bid.

Reverses should always show unbalanced hands, at least 5-4. Balanced hands should be treated as NT openers or rebids.

Here is such a hand: ♠AK10x, ♥AKJ10x, ♦Kxx, ♣x. Open one heart and over partner's 1NT, bid 2♠.

This sequence is not a reverse: 1♣-1♥-1♠.

The following bids are reverses:

1♣-1♥-2♦

1♣-1♠-2♦

1♣-1♠-2♥

1♣-1NT-2♦ or 2♥ or 2♠

1♦-1♠-2♥

1♦-1NT- 2♥ or 2♠

1♥-1NT-2♠

Reverses show 17-20 points including distribution, but, unlike jump shifts, are **not game forcing**. Reverses are only forcing for one round-so responder cannot pass the reverse bid.

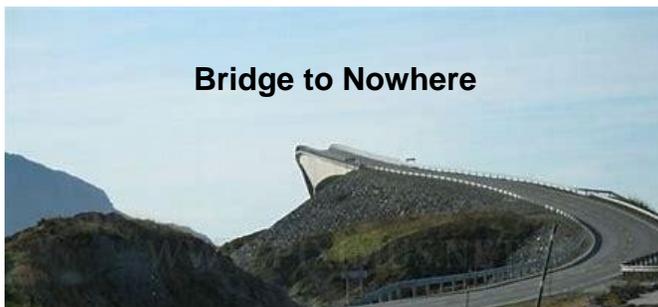
Here is a simple way for responder to carry on after a reverse: any bid at the 3 level (including raising opener's opening suit) is **game forcing**.

2NT by responder is forcing for one round, but could be weak hand, so if opener is on the low side of his bid, he can simply rebid his opening suit at the 3 level. If opener is 19-20, he should not simply repeat his opening suit at the 3 level, but should force to game.

If responder rebids his suit, it shows 5+ in the suit and is a one round force. If opener is on the low side of his bid, he can bid his first suit at the 3 level if he cannot bid NT or raise partner's rebid. Again, if opener is on the high side, he should force to game.

Many thanks to Greg Roberts for this article

Bridge to Nowhere



Feeling Groovy Bridge



NO TRUMP QUESTION

No, this is not a political question about the POTUS (or the FLOTUS for that matter). While I'm amazed that we are where we are, it is where we are. So, we move on and do the best we can.

The real question is do you open one (or two) no trump holding a five card major suit? Some players consider this a mortal sin, others think it's OK with a weak major suit. Still others say its fine with five hearts but not with five spades. Then there are those of us of the "Just Do It" persuasion. As a proud member of this camp, we open all balanced hands (defined as no six card suit, no singleton, nor two doubletons) with 15-17 high card points (or whatever your range is) 1 No Trump. End of story. **Do not be distracted by your five card major, just do it and open 1 No Trump.**

Well, Ron, I don't know about this. Why is this a good idea? Here are a few reasons.

Simplicity – If you open 1 NT you have described your hand in one bid, relinquished captaincy to your partner and can just sit back and answer partner's questions. Your partner knows immediately if the hand belongs in a partial, a game, or if she should invite game. Remember, responding to a 1 NT opening is something we all know how to do.

Avoids Awful Rebids – If you open 1 Heart on ♠ 873 ♥ KJ865 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AQ and partner responses 1 Spade, what now? Well, your choices are 1 NT (too many points), 2 NT (too few points), bid a suit you don't have, or raise spades to 2 or 3 without the four card support you need. Which is the least awful bid? Don't know, don't care. I opened 1 NT, no problem. Life is too short to deal with this sort of aggravation.

Silences the Opponents – Opening 1NT has a dampening effect on your opponents. They are less likely to disrupt your auction when they know you have extra values.

Sounds good, but there must be a downside. There surely is. You are **in danger of missing your 5-3 or even 5-4 major suit fit** by not opening the five card major. If responder has a hand that is too weak to respond to 1 NT, you will miss the fit. That's the price you pay for the advantages, which, in my opinion, is quite cheap. However, if responder has a game forcing or invitational hand, there are simple agreements which allow her to find out if the 1 NT opener has a five card major.

We'll talk about that next month.



INSTANT MATCHPOINT GAME

On **Monday, July 9th**, we will be participating in the ACBL's special new **Instant Matchpoint Game**.

So, what does that mean? Well, the hands will be supplied by the ACBL, but the game will be run exactly as always, with one glaring exception. After you play a board, you will know your result instantly. How? There will be a traveler (like in the days before Bridgmates) in each board, which, upon opening, will give you your score on that board. What? How is that even possible? Because matchpoints scores have been pre-assigned to all possible results, and by looking at the traveler you will know your result. Here is an example of what the traveler might look like.

Scores			Scores		
N-S	E-W	MPS	N-S	E-W	MPS
...	...	100	...	720	27
200	...	99	...	1100	22
100	...	89	...	1370	20
...	600	79	...	1430	16
...	650	77	...	1440	9
...	660	70	...	1460	4
...	680	62	...	1470	2
...	690	46	0
...	710	32			

Note that the 'MPS NS' column is the percentage score for N/S on the board. The E/W score is 100% less the N/S score. For example, if you are N/S and E/W makes 5 NT you get -660. According to the chart, your score is 70%, and the E/W score is 30%. Another example, E/W go down one vulnerable for +100 for N/S. N/S get 89% and E/W get 11%.

Oh, by the way, it's probably best when you see your result, not to scream "We got 92%" or Oh S**t, we got 3%. We don't want to embarrass our opponents or ourselves. Nor do we want to broadcast the results to the rest of the room.

Well, that's nice, but what makes this special? Here are the things that this game allows you to do.

Win Gold at Your Local Club

Earn one gold point when you finish at the top of a section (both directions) at a participating club.

Watch Breakdowns of the Most Interesting Deals

Bridge power couple Daniel Korbel and Sylvia Shi will discuss their 10 favorite deals in special videos

Read Expert Analysis on the Game

A full written analysis of all 36 deals plus the videos will be available for viewing or download at <http://www.acbl.org/img> sometime after the game.

Note: Since the written analysis is a mere seventeen pages long, we do not plan on printing them out (tree hugger syndrome). If you are unable to access it on-line we will print one for you. Ask the Director of the day.