



AUGUST 2021

NEWSLETTER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
1	2 BBO	3	4 NAP	5	6 BBO-NAP	7	All games start 1:30 NAP = North American Pairs	
8	9 BBO-NAP	10	11 Club Champ	12	13 BBO	14		
15	16	17	18 NAP	19	20 BBO-NAP	21		
22	23 BBO-NAP	24	25 STAC	26	27 BBO	28		
29	30 BBO	31	WEDNESDAY GAMES ARE LIVE AT LESSIE PRICE SENIOR CENTER					

HAPPENINGS

The next meeting of your Board of Directors will be Monday, August 16th at 12:00 Noon. The meeting will be held via Zoom or a similar technology.

While the agenda is not yet complete, some items are:

- Treasurer's report on current financial status
- Croft House status update
- Holiday Party status report
- Sectional Tournament update
- Reinstatement of guaranteed partner program for Wednesday F2F Games
- Member (Dorothy Johnson) proposal that treasurer be an appointed position
- Discussion of amending Bylaws to reflect the online nature of operations
- The dreaded "other business"

Board meetings are open to all members, so please join us if you are interested. If you have any items you would like included on the Board meeting agenda, just inform any Board member.

If you would like to attend, please email Steve at steve.banwarth@pobox.com. He will email you a link (*probably the day before or the morning of the meeting*) and instructions on how to join the meeting.

Special thanks to Greg Roberts for donating his bridge library to the Club – now, if we could only use the books to play as well as he does

This is YOUR newsletter. Please submit articles and comments. We had several articles last month, but none (zero, nada) this month.

JAY'S SIMPLE RULES FOR PLAYING BETTER BRIDGE

Bridge is a game of percentages – maximize your outcomes and minimize your risks

- Pay attention to what people do, as well as what they don't do – you can often draw inferences from someone's failure to do something
- If you are not entering the bidding, *or the opponents have already outbid you*, do not ask the meaning of alerts until the bidding is over – questions could help resolve a mix-up by the opponents – if you on lead, you can then ask your questions – if your partner is on lead, have your partner lead face down before you ask your questions
- Open all 13 point hands, all 12 point hands with 2+ quick tricks, and all 11 point hands with 3 quick tricks – also:
 - Follow the Rule of 20 – add your high card points to the total number of cards in your two longest suits – open if the total is 20 or higher
 - In 4th position, follow the Rule of 15 – add your points to the number of spades – open if the total is 15 or higher
- Responder bids suits up the line – a higher ranking suit denies the same number of cards in any bypassed suit, although some bypass diamonds to bid a major (discuss this with partner)
- Responder should not bypass a 4 card major at the one level to go to the 2 level in a minor, unless you are (a) making a jump shift or (b) playing 2 over 1 game forcing
- An opening bid of 1 diamond generally promises at least 4 diamonds (and denies a 5 card major)
 - Therefore, one club “could be short” (and denies a 5 card major)
 - But, you can safely raise partner's diamonds with only 4 (assuming you lack a 4+ card major)
- Systems are on after partner's 1NT overcall followed by a pass by the other opponent
- If partner opens 1NT and you have much distribution but few points, get it into a suit contract
- If partner opens, opponent overcalls 1NT, and you have a balanced hand with 8+ points, pass or double, especially if opponents are vulnerable – opponent probably lacks (1) a source of tricks and (2) dummy entries
- In 1st or 2nd position, generally don't open a weak 2 or weak 3 bid with a side 4 card major, but ...
 - Consider vulnerability – when favorable, jump right in
 - It's fine in 3rd position after partner already passed
- When you have a strong, unbalanced two-suited hand, start bidding your suits
- It is generally better to play in a 5-2 fit than a 4-3 fit, especially if it's a major
- It is generally better to play in a 4-4 fit than a 5-4 fit (5th card potentially provides a discard not available if that suit is trump)

- Distribution counts more than points – if your distribution is 6-5, come alive
- Don't bid 4 card majors at the two level for the first time unless (a) answering your partner's double or forcing one no-trump or (b) you are in an obvious game forcing sequence
- Lead your partner's suit against opponents contracts
- Don't lead away from aces as the opening lead against a suit contract without a compelling reason
- Don't lead trump as the opening lead, unless (a) the opponents have an obvious misfit and you want to stop ruffs in the short hand, (b) you have no other reasonable lead, and/or (c) your partner doubled their contract for penalties after otherwise being quiet
- On defense, assume every time you break a new suit, you help declarer
- Declarer should take finesses in such a way as to keep the dangerous hand off lead
- If you have a cross-ruff, cash your outside winners first
- In no-trump, do not cash winners in the opponents suit – if you do, when they get in, they will run the suit
- Don't give defensive signals when it can only help declarer
- If you have an obvious misfit, get out at the lowest possible level and not in no-trump
- If you make a bidding error, don't try to correct it – at best, partner will be confused and not understand
- Force the opponents to make guesses as to suit or level with the least amount of information
- Learn and remember common suit/hand distributions (4-4-3-2, 5-4-2-2, 5-4-3-1; 5-3-3-2; 6-3-2-2; 6-3-3-1, etc)
- Don't ask for aces with a void or a small doubleton – use cue bids to show controls
- Don't ask for kings without all the aces (3 aces and a void is not good enough)
- Learn to count to 13 in as many suits as you can
- When the opponents "fix" you, stay fixed – you can only do worse
- Believe/trust your partner before you believe/trust the opponents

It's a bidder's game

- Once you have described your hand, stop – your partner knows what you have and can make the decision to go on, make you bid again, issue an invitation, or pass
- Respond to partner's opening bid with 5 point hands that include an ace or KQ in the same suit, although there are additional considerations when partner is a 3rd position opener

- Raise partner's opening bid or overcall when you have a fit – the fewer points you have, the more important (if you get set in a doubled contract, the opponents generally can make more by bidding)
- A new suit by an unpassed hand is forcing (except after overcalls of opponent's opening bid)
- A cue bid of the opponent's suit is forcing and generally indicates support of partner's suit
- Every time you make another free bid (pushing to higher level, introducing a new suit), it implies 3+ more points over the minimum you previously showed
- Do not give invitational raises without 4 trump – to show the same points with only 3 trump, bid something else first and then give the invitational raise
- Captaincy in the partnership belongs to whoever has not limited their hand
- Fast arrival shows no interest in going higher – when you want to investigate game or slam, just keep making on-going / forcing bids
- A raise of an opening 1NT or 2NT to 4NT or 5NT is invitational whether directly or following Stayman or a transfer – 4 means, go to 6 with a maximum, otherwise pass (or go back to an agreed-upon suit); 5 means, go to 6 with a minimum and 7 with a maximum (or go back to an agreed upon suit) – to ask for aces, use Gerber 4C over the original no-trump (or the Stayman or transfer response)
- If your partner opens a weak two or three bid, the hand likely belongs to the opponents, unless you have a massive fit or a monster hand – once they start bidding, let them play it – double only if you can set it yourself
- In a part-score auction, the 4 level in a minor belongs to the opponents
- If your opponents never make a doubled contract, you're not doubling often enough
- Don't double slams unless you have the setting tricks in your own hand – there's no percentage in the loss if the opponents can make it just to get another 50 or 100 points – normally, setting a slam is a good result since either some others may make it or not everyone bids it (so you have a positive score)
- Some people open 3 clubs (and sometimes 3 diamonds) on a 6 card suit
- If your partner pre-empts (weak 2 or 3) and you have 3 or more in their suit, raise it (the weaker your hand, the more important – if you get set in a doubled contract, the opponents generally can make more by bidding and they otherwise have to make a high-level decision that may put them in the wrong contract)
- Pay attention to vulnerability and use it in your favor
- Follow the law of total tricks (“the Law”)
- If you have freely bid a game in a relatively non-competitive auction (or you opened, were doubled, and partner redoubled), the opponents should not play an un-doubled contract

WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, where readers supply alternative meanings for common words. The winners are:

Coffee (N.), the person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (V.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (V.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Willy-nilly (Adj.), impotent.

Negligent (Adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Lymph (V.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle (N.), olive-flavored mouthwash.

Flatulence (N.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (N.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Testicle (N.), a humorous question on an exam.

Rectitude (N.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

Pokemon, a Rastafarian proctologist.

Oyster (N.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

Frisbeetarianism (N.), the belief that, when you die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

Circumvent (N.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

The Washington Post also asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are this year's winners:

Bozone (N.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Foreploy (V): Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid

Cashtration (N.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.

Giraffiti (N): Vandalism spray-painted very, very high

Sarchasm (N): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculatte (V): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Hipatitis (N): Terminal coolness.

Osteopornosis (N): A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

Karmageddon (N): It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Decafalon (N.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido (V): All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect (N): The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Arachnoleptic fit (N.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Beelzebug (N.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

Caterpallor (N.): The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

And the grand prize:

Ignoranus (N): A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

HOT TAMALES

We were in a Mexican restaurant and ordered tamales, which came out unexpectedly hot. As I was gasping for air and consuming gallons of water, the waiter said "Sorry, we gave you the medium-hot, would you prefer the extra-hot." Unable to speak, I wrote on the table cloth:

Hose A:

Hose B: Way

Hose C: Way

Hose D: Way

What was I saying? (answer on last page)

IN THE WORKPLACE

After a part-time, minimum-wage employee couldn't get to work on time during a raging snowstorm, our sociopathic boss said: "A loyal employee would move closer."

Jay's boss: "Nobody should be below average."

Jay: "You understand that is mathematically impossible."

Jay's boss: "Do you have problems taking orders from a woman?"

Jay: "No. I'm married."

Jay's boss: "Maybe we should test our employees for drugs."

Jay: "Great idea. I'll stand in line behind you." (PS: we were never tested)

In my former life, I taught continuing education to CPAs. Every state has a 40 hour per year continuing education requirement. (There's nothing better than a captive audience.) One particular day the temperature outside was pushing 100, as was the humidity. And, the air conditioning at the facility was not working. Everyone was sweating, paper was curling, and tempers were short. Yet, three people wrote on their evaluations: "It's so nice not to be in a cold room."

I worked at a CPA firm where there were two people in the tax department available to answer questions. One was nasty and hated everyone, and the feeling was mutual. The other was a delightful person, always nice, always helpful. Whenever I had a question, I went to the grouch – the line was much shorter.

One day during tax season, when everyone was working mega-hours, our managing partner announced: "Kudos to Jack. He worked until 4AM, went home, got two hours sleep, and was back at work by 7AM." I figured I didn't want someone so sleep-deprived working on my projects.

One day at lunch the people on our audit team were discussing their teen years. Everyone had found them beyond challenging, bordering on traumatic, except for Tony. I said: "I guess you were the captain of the football team and dated the head cheerleader." Tony said: "Yes. So, what's your point?"

Another day at lunch our audit team, which I supervised, was discussing our college years. Tom mentioned he graduated magna cum laude. Jim then added he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Andrea said she was 3rd in her class but was not summa cum laude because she didn't take enough credits during several semesters. "Aha," said Jay, "You were taking it easy to pile up the good grades."

“No,” said Andrea, “I was also working full time.” Suddenly all eyes were on me. I said: “I attended college before grade inflation.”

Q. How can you tell when an actuary is outgoing? A: They stare at your shoes instead of their own

There are three kinds of accountants – those who can count and those who can't

Q. What do engineers use for birth control? A: Their personalities

Economists have successfully predicted nine of the last five recessions

Q. What's the difference between a lawyer and a mosquito? A. One is a vampiric pest and the other is an insect

Q. How can you tell when a salesperson is lying? A. Their lips are moving

After a lawyer prepared a will for an elderly couple, they pay him in cash. Afterwards, he noticed they overpaid by \$200. Now, the great moral dilemma: should he tell his partners?

A man dies and goes to heaven. There's a long line at the Holy Gates. Suddenly, a man dressed in doctor's garb strolls to the front of the line and walks in. The man says to St Peter: “How come that doctor got in and we all have to wait in line?” St. Peter replied: “That wasn't a doctor – that was God – sometime God likes to play doctor.”

Auditor – a person who goes in after the war is lost and bayonets the wounded.

Lawyer – a person who goes in after the auditors to strip the bodies.

Politics – derived from Greek poli = many, and tics = blood-sucking parasites

Philosophy teacher to class: “Has anyone here taken a philosophy course before?”

From the back of the room: “What do you mean by 'here'?”

Philosophy teacher: “Has anyone else?”

ANOTHER BAD JOKE

Three women are waiting at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter asked each one in turn how they died. The first one said she was run over by a truck while crossing the street. St. Peter welcomed her in. The second one said: “I was stealing a loaf of bread for my starving family when I was shot by a security guard.” St. Peter said: “That's a tough call, but you were trying to help your family” and he let her in. The third one said: “I died from gonorrhoea.” St. Peter said: “This is the 21st century – nobody dies from gonorrhoea.” She replied: “You do if you give it to Big Louie.”

STRONG TWO-BID OPENERS

Standard American (SA) bidding originally had all 2 level opening bids as strong. This wasted bidding space because of the small number of times such opportunities occur. Most duplicate players play Weak 2s to better utilize bidding space, leaving more alternative bids available.

Two clubs is the strong opening bid for hands with 20+ points, or wild distribution with a lot of points – a good general rule is 8+ tricks in your own hand if the point count is not there. But, discuss this with partner, since pard may think you have a powerhouse when, in reality, you have a strong distributional hand. Alternatively, with a balanced hand, open 2 NT with 21-22 HCP (open 2C and rebid 2NT with 23-24; open 2C and rebid 3NT with 25-27). Most people open 2NT even with a 5 card major. You don't need to have all suits stopped to open 2NT, but worthless doubletons or singleton honors are generally not a good idea. Standard bidding (Stayman, transfers, etc.) applies over 2 NT openers or 2NT rebids (2C-2D-2NT).

Note also that standard defensive bidding would also apply but may be dangerous unless you have the wildest of distributions. But, there's nothing wrong with sticking in a double over the artificial bid of a suit you want led. (That means you have controls in that suit.)

Most people play that opening 2C bids are forcing to at least 3 of a major. Some people play it is forcing to game. There are some, however, who feel they can pass the initial rebid, but this is generally not a good idea. But, if partner opens 2C, you bid 2D, and partner bids 2 of a major and you have no points and a singleton or doubleton in the major, it might be a time to pass.

There are several different scenarios for responder. Standard American bids are: 2D with nothing to show (waiting) and/or very weak, bids of 2 of a major show at least a 5 cards suit headed by an ace or king, 2NT requires 10+ points and generally denies a 5 card major headed by ace or king, 3 level bids guarantee 5 cards in a suit (major or minor) headed by ace or king and 10+ points. Some people play 2D is automatic and says nothing (2D = waiting). That enables opener to show their hand a little lower. Responder then can describe their hand. If responder really has a very weak hand, 3C or 3D, depending on system, constitutes a negative (for 2D waiting) or double negative in SA.

Some people play control showing responses (ace = 2 controls, king = 1 control): 2D = 0 or 1 control; 2H = 2 controls (one ace or 2 kings); 2S = 3 controls (one ace and one king); 2NT = 3 controls (3 kings); 3C = 4 controls, etc. This tells opener about responder's strength (although not distribution, or where the strength is), but responder is totally in the dark about opener's hand. Opener knows nothing about responder's distribution – only top controls. Nevertheless, this system works very well and also keeps the opponents in the dark. Often, opener can figure out where the aces and kings are based on their own hand, especially when your two club bids are based on strength and not distribution. Since the partnership almost always plays in the opener's suit anyway, the only time you lose is when opener has relatively flat distribution and responder has significant distribution. Usually, however, you can figure these out and get to responder's long suit.

After the initial response, opening 2C bidder bids his/her suit (or raises partner's suit) or no-trump. This may be especially helpful when 2D is amorphous (could be waiting or just not enough points or good enough suit to bid) or 2D is required, so opener has no idea of the contents of responder's hand. Alternatively, some partnerships play that 2H denies any ace or king. In such cases, 2D guarantees at least one ace or king. There are also systems where responses are based on point count instead of aces and kings or controls.

No system can account for everything. Obviously, you could have 9 points without any aces or kings, or just have one ace or king and nothing else. Note that using control showing responses, point count showing responses, or 2H to show no aces or kings can wrong-side the hand, since responder's artificial response may be in opener's suit. Similarly, a 2D response can also wrong-side the contract if opener's suit is diamonds.

Some partnerships play Puppet Stayman to determine whether partner has a 4 or 5 card major. Using Puppet Stayman, over 3C, 3D indicates at least one 4 card major, 3H or 3S indicates that 5 card major, and 3NT indicates no 4 or 5 card major. Responder can raise opener's major with 3 card support. Over opener's 3D, responder bids as follows: with no 4 card major, bid 3NT; with 4 hearts, bid 3S; with 4 spades, bid 3H; with both majors, bid 4D so opener can pick suit. Opener can then determine where to play. The goal is to have the strong hand as declarer. So, if responder bids 3H and opener has spades, he can bid 4S, knowing there is a 4-4 fit. If responder bids 3S and opener has 4H, he can bid 4H knowing there is a 4-4 fit. If responder bids 3H and opener bids 3NT, opener is denying spades. Since opener had bid 3D, he must have 4H so responder can bid 4H.

With a very strong two-suited hand, it is awkward to show both suits and the best bid may be a one-level opening followed by a jump shift or reverse. If you have 10-11

cards in two suits, it is unlikely your opening bid will be passed out. Likewise, when your best suit is a 5 card minor, opening at the one level can avoid problems such as wrong-siding the hand (when partner responds 2D) or being forced to bid 3C on a 5 card suit.

Remember, also, that a raise of opener's major to 3 is stronger than a raise to 4, which is generally considered a signoff. Thus, if the bidding goes, 2C-2D (negative or waiting), 2 of major, responder's raise to 3 of the major guarantees game and keeps slam possibilities open, while a raise to 4 indicates no slam interest. Of course, since opener's hand is unlimited, they may still want to go on, but they have been warned.

Hot Tamales Answer: No way, Jose (Hose A)