



**SEPTEMBER 2021**



**NEWSLETTER**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>ALL F2F GAMES FOR SEPT. = INTERNATIONAL FUND GAMES</b>			1 F2F	2	3 BBO	4	All games start 1:30
5	6 BBO	7	8 F2F	9	10 BBO	11	
12	13 BBO	14	15 F2F	16	17 BBO	18	F2F games at Lessie Price Senior Center
19	20 BBO	21	22 F2F	23	24 BBO	25	
26	27 BBO	28	29 F2F	30			

**HAPPENINGS**

The following items were discussed at the August 16 Board meeting and will need to be resolved at some future point.

- Should the Treasurer be appointed or elected position? General consensus: Treasurer should be chosen by Board from among its members, as Treasurer should be a voting member of the Board and all Board members should be elected. Tabled pending Bylaw revision to eliminate unnecessary verbiage and update Bylaws to reflect new realities for holding meetings and voting. Committee (Steve Banwarth, Ron Jaeger, and Jay Jacobs) is working on the revision.

Board members are seeking membership feedback on these topics:

- Aiken Sectional: none for 2021. Tentatively scheduled for Sept 23-25, 2022. Questions were raised whether we want it at all, as it is expensive, not heavily attended, and difficult to get volunteers. We may consider two days instead of three days.

- Annual Christmas Party: due to COVID and the high monetary commitment required, decision postponed (party may possibly be next year).
- Croft House vs. Lessie Price and how many F2F vs. BBO games: Croft House is now available, but little sentiment to change due to virus escalation. Most prefer Price to Croft House, but second day may not be available. Divided between (a) two F2F and one BBO sessions and (b) one F2F and two BBO sessions. Two F2F and two BBO sessions was also suggested.

Members of the Bridge Club meet for lunch at 1 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Steak House. Contact Dorothy Johnson for details.

The Club will restart the Guaranteed Partner Program for Wednesday F2F games on September 15. Volunteers get one free play card and play for free that day if needed. Linda Knox will be coordinating the GPP and is looking for volunteers.

## WEAK TWO BIDS AND SINGLE JUMP OVERCALLS

Weak 2 bids are effective offensively and defensively. They are offensive because of their ability to describe your hand well and place a contract easily. They are defensive because they force the opponents to enter the auction at a relatively high level.

Open 2 D, 2 H, or 2 S with a 6 card suit (7 card suits are generally opened at 3 or 4 level unless you have a really weak hand; do not open with 5 cards - not enough) and 5-10 high card points. With 11 or more HCP, you have enough to open at the one level because of distribution. There is no such thing as a hand too strong for a weak two bid and too weak to open. If you are sitting on the cusp, do one or the other. For example, I would open 1 S with 6 spades to the AQ, an outside ace, and a singleton.

Most people play ROLF (“raise is only non-forcing response”) by partner. If partner bids 2 NT or a new suit, you must keep the bidding open. If partner raises, you pass – partner sets the level. (Scenarios: partner raises to game, play there; partner raises to less than game, he/she is making it difficult for opponents, pass; partner raises, they bid on and partner doubles, the double is for penalties, pass.) If you open a weak two bid, the opponent overcalls and partner doubles, it is a penalty double and you should pass. If you open a weak two bid and partner bids 3 NT, pass (partner can make 3 NT knowing the opponents can’t run your suit or partner knows your suit will run and has the other suits stopped.) But, if you open a weak two and partner responds 4 NT, consider that Blackwood.

Some people do not open a weak two bid with a side 4 card major, although not all agree with that, especially if the side major lacks honors. The downside is missing a fit with partner in the major. The upside is that if the opponents bid it, partner is likely to be short when you also have four. Remember, if you have 6-4 distribution or a singleton, it means there are likely wild distributions elsewhere. Some people also require 2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5 honors. Most people tend to have a better suit in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> position than in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many people are reluctant to open weak 2s with a void. But, then you have a distributional hand (6-4-3) which often plays well. It’s probably not a good idea to open a weak 2 with 6-5 or 6-6 distribution, because that buries one of the suits.

It may be good strategy to open a weak 2 in 3<sup>rd</sup> position when it is marginal between a weak 2 and an opening bid, since partner has already passed and the balance of the points likely lies with the opponents. On the other hand, as John Gray used to say, “Don’t advertise weakness”, so opening at the one level may be better (especially if your suit is diamonds since 2 D lacks preemptive value), which you can then repeat at the two level, and no one knows how strong your hand is. (Of course, if the opponents have the balance of the points and you are in the 4<sup>th</sup> position, pass it out. Consequently, opening at the two level [other than clubs] after three passes implies a six card suit with opening count, because you would otherwise simply pass.)

Be more cautious at unfavorable vulnerability (you're vul, they're not) and more adventurous at favorable vulnerability (they're vul, you're not). The general rule is that you should be able, with an average hand from partner, to go down not more than 2 tricks doubled vulnerable or 3 tricks doubled not vulnerable. (Obviously, you must consider vulnerability, both yours and theirs – press with favorable and be more conservative with unfavorable.) The reality is that you will seldom be doubled for penalty and, even then, you might still get a good board because they may be able to make more elsewhere.

It is important to have an understanding whether systems are on or not when you open a weak 2, an opponent overcalls, and partner then bids 2 NT. Most play systems are on, but that precludes a legitimate 2 NT from partner. (However, it is unlikely that partner really needs that bid – why would he want to play in 2 NT when you have a 6 card suit of unknown quality?)

Over partner's 2 NT response over your weak two bid, there are two common approaches. The less explanatory but more common (standard) is to show a feature (an outside ace or king, occasionally a QJ, but never shortness) as long as it is below your suit, otherwise rebid your suit. Some play you show the feature even if it's above your suit, since partner is now in the driver's seat (but this can be dangerous as it forces you up another level). Many play you show a feature only with a maximum and rebid your suit with a minimum – make sure you and partner agree on this.

A more sophisticated, but less used approach, is "Ogust". Ogust requires evaluating the quality of both your hand and your suit. Generally, a weak hand has 5-7 HCP, while a strong hand has 8-10 HCP. A strong suit has 2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5 honors, except do not consider a suit headed by Q-J-10 to be a strong suit even though it has 3 of the top 5 honors. With Ogust, responses are as follows: 3 C: weak suit, weak hand; 3 D: strong suit, weak hand; 3 H: weak suit, strong hand; 3 S: strong suit, strong hand; 3 NT: I have AKQ of my 6 card suit and I can't, therefore, have more than a jack outside my suit. This may allow partner to place the contract at 4 of your suit or 3 NT, especially if pard thinks the suit will run (he has 2 of them and no uncovered suit).

<u>Ogust Summarized</u>	<u>Weak Hand</u>	<u>Strong Hand</u>
<u>Weak Suit</u>	3C	SH
<u>Strong Suit</u>	3D	3S
<u>Suit headed by AKQ</u>	3 NT	

Borderline hands may be bid either 3 D or 3 H, depending on which is more descriptive, clearly a judgment call which partner will have to process. Ogust has the advantage of allowing weaker (undisciplined) openings because partner can find out about your suit or strength if need be.

It is not unusual for partner to place the contract in game in the weak two bid suit or NT after an Ogust or feature showing auction. Sometimes partner may use Ogust as a mechanism to determine the contract level rather than making a direct raise, since partner can then better assess whether to bid 3 or 4. (For example, if the suit is a major, partner will only go on if I respond 3 S.) Clearly, partner must be ready for a response above my suit.

People who play a Strong Club system sometimes play that 2 C is a weak 2 bid, since all strong hands (15+ HCP without NT distribution or 18+ HCP points with NT distribution) are opened 1 C. In such cases, a weak two bid in clubs must be alerted.

### **Weak single jump overcalls**

This is the equivalent of a weak 2 bid after the opponents have opened (for example: 1 S - 3 D, 1 D – 2 H, etc.). If partner has not previously passed, 2 NT should be systems on (feature or Ogust). If partner has passed, it is probably to play (partner has a high honor in your suit and control in theirs – hopes to grab opening lead and run your suit).

Since the opponents have opened (demonstrating at least one good hand), most players will not do this on a garbage suit, as you run the risk of going down big doubled. However, since most opponents are playing negative doubles, it is harder for them to double you for penalties and you can then do this with impunity. But, be mindful of vulnerability.

Some people also play that a weak single jump response to partner's opening bid is the equivalent of a weak 2. This takes away bidding space and puts partner in a bind when he has a good hand. But, it also warns partner that you don't have anything except your long suit. If you play this, make sure you and partner are on the same wavelength. At a recent BBO game I was monitoring as director, two out of four pairs had a bidding sequence 1C – opponent passed – 2D by responder. Opener passed assuming it was weak but responder meant it as a jump shift. Slam was cold in two suits and NT. Make sure you and partner agree whether such bids constitute a strong jump shift or a weak single-jump.

The situation changes, however, when partner opens and the next player bids or doubles. Here, a single jump response always indicates a weak hand with a 6 card suit. Partner then sets the suit and contract. Generally, partner will pass unless he has

mega-points or a distinct dislike of your suit. You pass unless (1) partner cue bids the opponents suit, (2) reverses the bidding, or (3) raises you and you think you can make game or sacrifice over theirs (but if you're wrong on this one, it's your fault). Likewise, if partner doubles them, sit for it, except if he raised you and you have no (zero, nada) defense. Even there, think about it a lot – partner may have a monster or a stack in their suit.

If the opponents double or bid onward, responder can then make a save, pass, or bid his own suit (it better be pretty good, because the opponents are bidding at the 4 or 5 level, you have 8 cards in one suit and presumably nothing else). Since bidding a new suit implies values and a tolerance for opener's suit, it would be unusual to really have a suit, although you might have 5 or 6. (This is something to be agreed upon ahead of time – (a) do I have a 5 or more card suit and offer an alternative because I am void in your suit and you may have 3 of mine or (b) am I showing extra values somewhere, without otherwise implying anything about the suit? – most would say the latter but assume you wouldn't bid a suit in which you didn't have values and some length.) Failure to bid a new suit implies lack of outside values and/or willingness to defend. Remember, opener's partner is now captain because opener's hand is defined and partner's may not be. Thus, if partner takes action, captaincy switches back to opener.

### **Defensive bidding over weak bids**

After the opponents have done any of the above, generally, a cue bid of their suit is forcing, NT is to play, double is for penalty, and new suits are non-forcing (unless by an unpassed hand). Since, normally, new suits are at least semi-forcing, you lose that flexibility in a competitive auction. Special bids and defenses can be developed but bidding room has been removed and you are being put to a guess – but, that's the whole idea of what they are doing.

Some people play Fishbein, where all doubles are penalty and bidding the next suit up the line is the equivalent of a takeout double, but that has seen its day.

An application of lebensohl can also be used after the double of a weak two bid. Since the doubler's partner often responds at the 3 level with a potentially wide range of points, lebensohl allows the doubler's partner to differentiate between a good hand (8+ HCP) and a weak hand (less than 8 HCP). Responder bids 2NT with less than 8 HCP, which requires doubler to bid 3C. Responder can then pass or correct to another suit. Thus, responder's direct bid at the 3 level guarantees 8+ HCPs. The doubler can bypass 3C if he is strong enough to explore game opposite partner's weak hand.

## JEWISH WIVES AND MOTHERS

“Chutzpah” is a Yiddish word meaning colossal nerve – a perfect example would be someone who kills his parents, and then begs for mercy because he’s an orphan

How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a light bulb? None – “I’ll just sit here in the dark.”

Abe called his mother and asked how she was doing. She said: “Fine, except I’m starving.” When he asked why, she answered: “God forbid I should be eating when you call.”

What’s the difference between a pit bull and a Jewish mother? Eventually the pit bull lets go.

Bill asked his mother for directions to her new apartment. She gave him all the details and said “When you get there, ring the doorbell with your elbow.” When he asked why he should use his elbow, she said “You’re not coming empty handed, are you?”

I can tell when an argument is getting serious. Each of us says: “You’re just like your mother.”

Why do Jewish husbands die first? Because they want to.

It was always obvious when my mother-in-law was coming to visit. Judy would start cleaning the oven. (Update: our daughter recently came to visit and the first thing Judy did was clean the oven.)

Robert came home and told his mother he got the part of a Jewish husband in a school play. She said: “Go back and tell them you want a speaking part.”

A Jewish mother constantly complained she never won anything in the lottery,. She prayed and prayed for help. After a while, the heavens opened up and the voice of God said: “Give me a break – buy a ticket.”

The only person on the planet my mother-in-law feared was me. At family gatherings, certain relatives followed me around so she couldn’t get them one on one.

A man goes to his rabbi and says: “I have a strong desire to live to eternity – what should I do?”

The rabbi says: “Get married.”

The man says: “Will that make me live forever?”

The rabbi says: “No, but the desire will disappear.”

What does a Jewish mother make for dinner? Reservations

Judy's mother in a complete panic: "Everything is going well. I'm depressed because I have nothing to worry about."

Jewish pornography – 10% sex, 90% guilt

Morris went to his rabbi for some advice. "Rabbi, tell me is it proper for one man to profit from another man's mistakes?"

"No Morris, a man should not profit from another man's mistakes," answered the rabbi.

"Are you sure Rabbi?"

"Of course, I'm sure, in fact I'm positive," exclaimed the Rabbi.

"OK, Rabbi, if you are so sure, how about returning the two hundred dollars I gave you for marrying me to my wife?"

This actually happened:

Jay's mother: "You're late."

Jay: "It normally takes an hour to get here. I allowed two hours, but traffic was awful."

Jay's mother: "Obviously, you didn't allow enough time."

A Jewish mother took her son to the beach. He got washed away in a wicked undertow. She prayed and prayed for his safe return. Suddenly, the waves parted, and the boy washed up on shore. She looked up at the heavens and said: "He had a hat."

## BETWEEN SESSIONS

During dinner between sessions at a tournament, we were discussing various hands. After a while, someone at a nearby table asked what we were talking about, We explained we had played in a bridge tournament that afternoon and were getting ready for the evening session. In shocked disbelief, he wondered why we spent so much time discussing so many hands and commented that maybe we should talk about something else. We continued to discuss the hands. After a while, he went into a long rant about diversifying our interests and broadening our horizons, getting a life, talking about other things, etc. etc. He finally finished. We all felt somewhat abashed, as he had really nailed it. Then he said, "One more thing – what did you do on board seven?"

## WORDS

Fred and Nikita, were having a conversation about words. Fred said, "I am thinking of a devilishly tricky word that has five consonants in a row." Nikita countered with, "That's a good one, but people are lining up to find a word with five vowels in a row."

What words were Fred and Nikita thinking of? (answer at bottom of last page)

## THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS

The Law: on any given deal, the total number of trumps approximates the total number of tricks available on that deal. This applies to both pairs. It also comes with several caveats. It does not apply to NT, or in cases of extreme distribution. Adjust downward for queens and jacks in the opponents' suits (since they may lack value). Adjust upward for a double fit. The Law presumes a competitive auction. Clearly, if one pair has 37 points, they may be able to make slam in more than one suit. And, of course, "approximates" means it is true most, but not all, of the time.

However, The Law does give you a good feel for how high you can go in competition. In general, go to the level of the combined number of trumps your partnership has. In a competitive auction, if your partnership has an 8 card trump suit, you want to stop at the two level, a 9 card trump suit at the 3 level, and a 10 card trump suit at the 4 level. It does NOT mean you will make your bid, but you will generally go down less than the opponents will make in their suit. Be wary of taking the extra push when vulnerable (down 200 is usually zero matchpoints) and be bolder when not vulnerable, especially if the opponents are vulnerable.

Soooo, what does all this mean? If partner opens or overcalls a major (having at least 5), you can go to the 2 level with 3, the 3 level with 4, and the 4 level with 5 in competition. If partner opens a minor, you need 5 to raise (unless 1 D opener guarantees 4 cards, then you only need 4). If partner overcalls a minor at the two level, you need three to raise, as they guarantee a minimum of 5 and most likely 6. If partner makes a weak two bid, raise to the 3 level with 3 (known 9 card fit) and even consider raising to 4 if you also have 4 (known 10 card fit). Indeed, after partner's two or three level preempt, you could raise if you are a little shorter in trump but have a stronger hand. All of this presumes the points are reasonably divided between the two partnerships. As the points or the distribution becomes increasingly unbalanced, The Law becomes less applicable.

## BAAAAAD JOKE

A Russian and a Czech went camping. When nobody had seen them for a couple of days, the park rangers started searching. They located their campsite, where there were two bears – a male and a female – both very, very full. They shot the female, cut her open, and found the remains of the Russian inside. One ranger turned to the other and said: "The Czech must be in the male."

## ANSWER TO "WORDS"

Fred was thinking of "witchcraft" and Nikita was thinking of "queueing".