

*Happy
New
Year!*



SHARK'S POINTERS

ONLINE

Session #38

**AULD LANG SYNE
A REVIEW OF 2020
PRESENTATIONS**

**Mark Aquino
1-8-21**

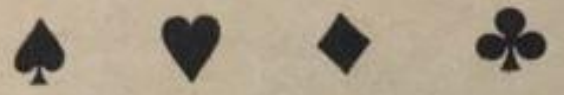
Summary Review

2020 Shark's Pointers Online

- **We are going to take a few minutes to review each of the Shark's Pointers of the past 10 months**
- **We'll spend as much time as you may desire on any and all themes that you may want to spend more time on – today or sometime down the road.**
- **We'll keep giving these in 2021 - Face to Face Competition is Still (Sadly) many months away.**
- **Please Invite Your Friends To Join Us Each Friday**

SHARK'S POINTERS

Mark "the Shark" Aquino



CAN COUNT ON YOUR ENEMIES

If you hope to become an expert declarer, then start getting the habit of counting out. By "the count" is meant the original distribution of suits' holdings in the various suits. Quite often, getting the count on the hand will provide the only sure-fire method of finding the correct line of play. In the most common situation involves locating a particular suit which can be finessed

MARCH 2020

YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR ENEMIES

- One of my earliest "Shark's Pointers" columns that appeared in Boston's Waterfront ERA small community newspaper way back in 1975 was entitled, "You Can Count On Your Enemies"
- Our very first Shark's Pointers Online was given on 3/27/20 and was entitled "You Can Count On Your Opponents"

April 2020

4/3/20: Hurry Up—Or Wait? - *Timing Is Very Important and Differs in a Variety of Cases*

4/17: Skate to Where the Puck is Going - *Pointers Around Thinking Ahead*

4/24: Take Care of the Little Things - *Tips to Improve Results We All Can Use Now*

An underwater scene with a blue color palette. Sunlight filters through the water from the top center, creating a bright glow and lens flare effects. Several sharks are visible as dark silhouettes against the lighter water. One shark is prominently featured in the center, swimming upwards towards the light. Other sharks are scattered in the background, some swimming away and others towards the viewer. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and somewhat ominous.

**Can I
“Squeeze” In
Here, Please?**

“S-H-A-R-K” -The 5 KEY ELEMENTS OF A SQUEEZE

- **See the ending**
- **Hold on to all your threats**
- **Always play All your winners**
- **Rectify the count**
- **Keep Kkommunications Open**

Did You Remember?

- **As declarer, how I played Q10 doubleton opposite J2 doubleton after the auction 1NT-P-2C-X-2D-P-3NT-P-P-P during a major National Championship in 2015?**
- **How you can avoid ever having to face that problem!**
- **This was all explained in the 4/17 presentation:**
- **Skate to Where the Puck is Going**

MAY 2020

2020-05-01: **The Dog Didn't Bark** - *Listening and Watching for Clues - and noticing subtleties*

2020-05-08: **Who Do You Trust?** - *Working With Partner - and Against the Opponents*

2020-05-15: **"Easley" Misunderstood** - *When to use - or not use - Blackwood*

2020-05-22: **Advanced Slam Bidding Techniques** - *A Glimpse At Some Expert Techniques*

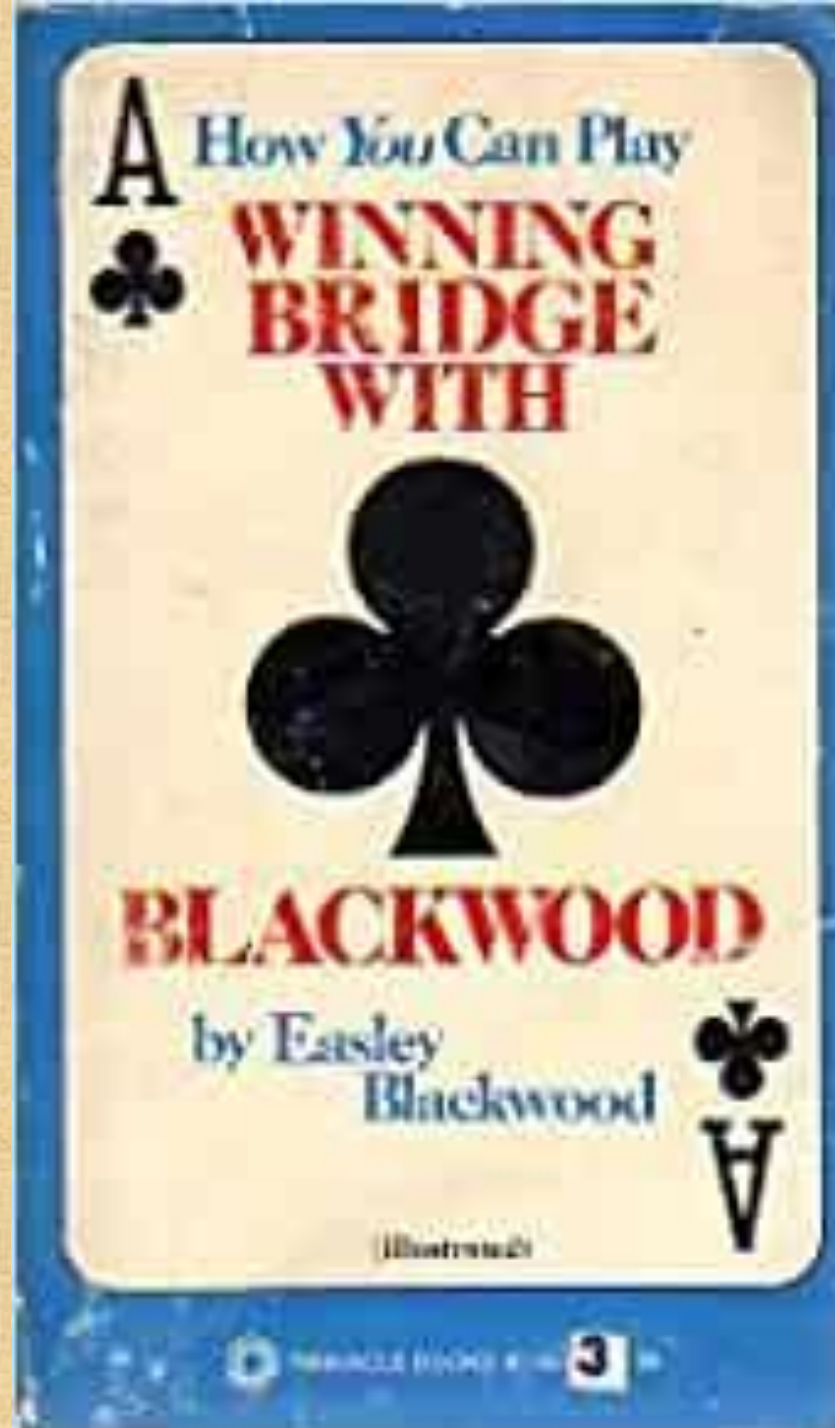
2020-05-29: **Do You See What I See?** - *Techniques to Help Improve Visualizing the Hands*

**Easley
Blackwood
(1903-1992)**

1934 – Introduced the ace-asking “Blackwood Convention” –the most universally adopted bidding convention of all time.

1968-1971 – Executive Secretary and General Manager of the ACBL

1995 -Inducted into ACBL Hall of Fame



JUNE 2020

2020-06-12: What's it All About, Alfie? - Figuring Out the Applicable Strategy for Each Hand

(see also Mark's 2014 talk **The Inner Game of Bridge**)
- Improving Results Now!

2020-06-19: I've Got a Secret - Hiding Key Info From Partner Is A Terrible Idea

2020-06-26: What's My Line? - Improving Declarer Play Techniques

JULY 2020

2020-07-10: Should You Sacrifice Your Honor? - Points to Consider about Unblocking

2020-07-17: Confessions of a Self-Kibitzer - Sadly, Cheating - especially online - Exists Today

2020-07-24: Don't Listen to the Demons -Don't Allow Fear and Doubt to Affect Your Judgment

2020-07-31: These Are a Few of My Favorite Themes - "Bid What You Hope You Can Make" etc

AUGUST 2020

2020-08-07: The #1 Most Important Convention—Stamina
- *Tips On Improving Alertness*

2020-08-14: Be Prepared - The Boy Scout Motto Has A
Lot of Pertinence In Our Game

2020-08-21: What Would You Do? - Examples of several
avoidable mistakes that were made

2020-08-28: Once a King - Location of an honor - and suit
length impacts it's true value

SEPTEMBER 2020

2020-09-04: Duck Soup - *Knowing When - And If - We Should Duck*

2020-09-11: Don't Paint Yourself in a Corner - *Importance of Thinking Ahead*

2020-09-18: Aces and Spaces - *Tips At Adjusting Bidding*

2020-09-25: A Baby Grand - *A Look At Some Grand Slams*

OCTOBER 2020

• **2020-10-02: Ice Cold Contracts** - *Nobody Ever Wins A Jack in a Postmortem*

2020-10-09: I'll Get By With A Little Help From My Friends - *Gaining Info - and Best Play*

2020-10-16: The Essence of Bridge - *Give You A Hint - Has A Lot to Do With Shape*

2020-10-23: Conventional Wisdom - *Pros and Cons of Various Conventions*

2020-10-30: Relaxed Concentration - *Ability to make the right play/bid at the right time*

NOVEMBER 2020

2020-11-06: Remembering Victor King - The D25 NAP Finals - a tribute to a great player

2020-11-13: If I Had It All To Do Over Again - Hindsight to avoid repeating errors we made

2020-11-20: Counting Tricks and Removing Trump - Tips on improving declarer play (Not about rigging elections!)

2020-11-27: Achilles Heal Thyself - Identify our own unique weakness(es) and work on them



VICTOR KING (1955-2020)

- Victor King, 64, was found brutally murdered in his apartment in Hartford, CT on July 26, 2020.
- Travelers Insurance retiree. He had recently spent several months bicycling across Europe.
- Victor had amassed over 15,000 masterpoints during his tragically abbreviated lifetime.
- Brilliant player. Charismatic and cheerful individual. Victor was always fun to be around—at and away from the bridge table.

DECEMBER 2020

2020-12-4: Wearing The Blinders - *Not staying properly focused*

2020-12-11: The Worst That Could Happen - *A quick look at some big -avoidable- disasters*

2020-12-18: Position Is Everything In Life - *A bid will mean different things during the auction*

Did You Remember?

- **McCabe**
- **Minorwood**
- **Baze**
- **Modified RKCB after preempts**
- **All these and more are in last year's pointers...**

The One That Got Away...



- **“Double Trouble – presented in June**
- **Due to my oversight, Never got published**
- **We’ll be adding that soon...**

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

**I'm hoping that we'll be
able to enjoy F2F bridge
again long before July,
2021**

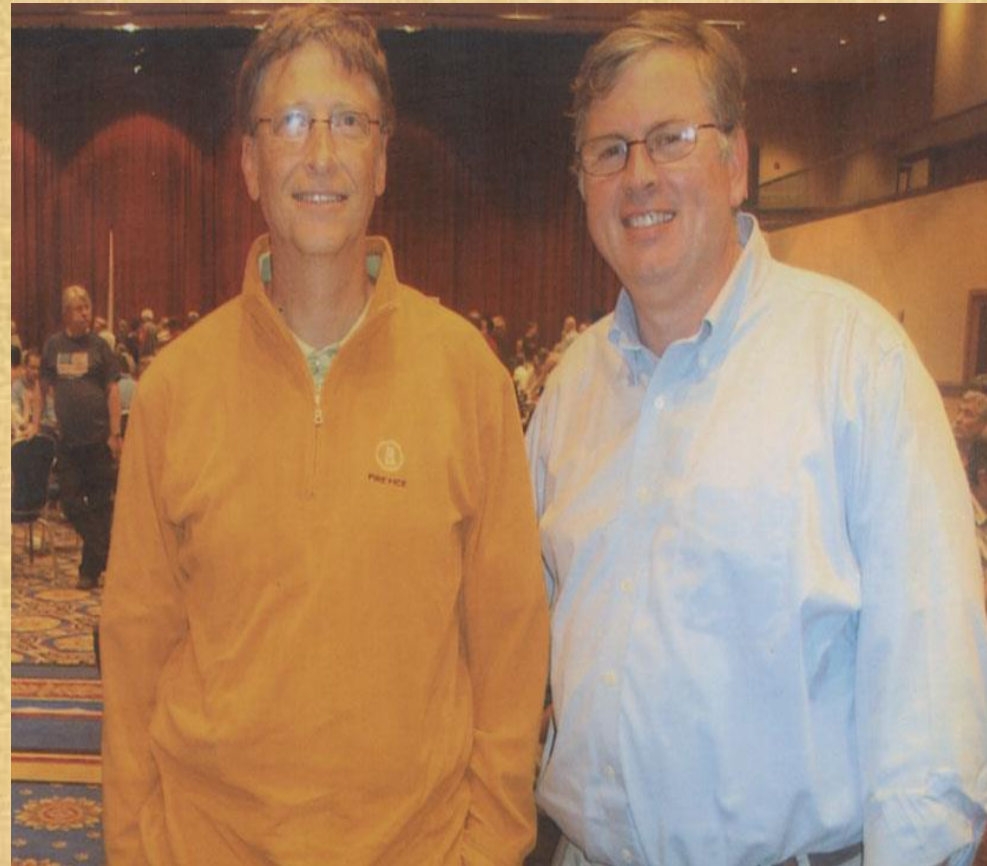
**Let's keep our fingers
crossed!**



7/21-7/30

One Final Shark's Pointer...

Play Your Cards Right, and You Never Know With Whom You May Rub Elbows



North American Bridge Championships, Washington, DC, August 2, 2009