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BRIDGE Bulletin

JULY 2020

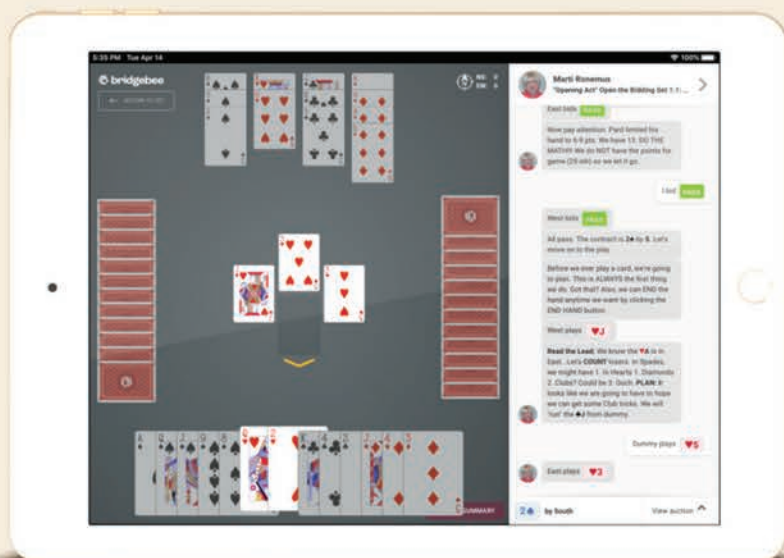


Cheating at Cards

ACBL cracks down as an old vice finds a new outlet online

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Cover: "The Cheat with the Ace of Clubs" by Georges de La Tour (c. 1630–34)

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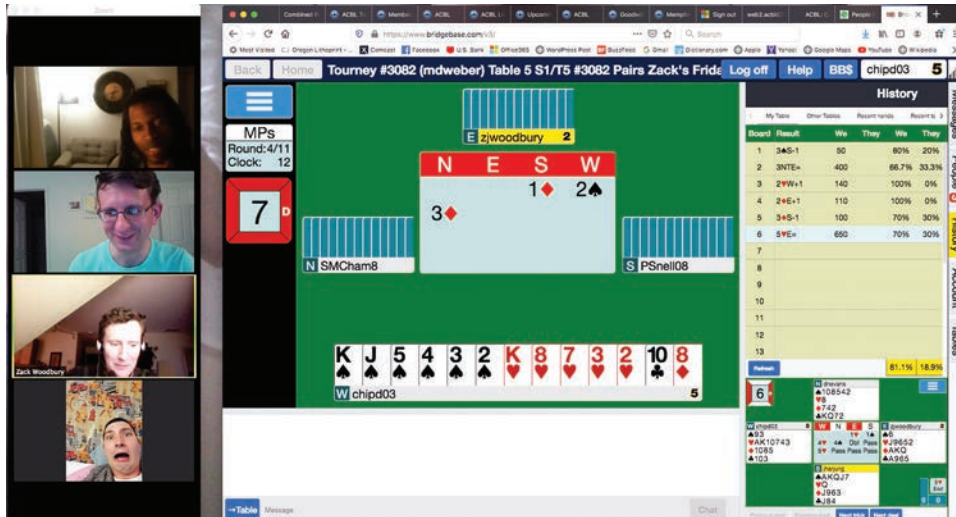
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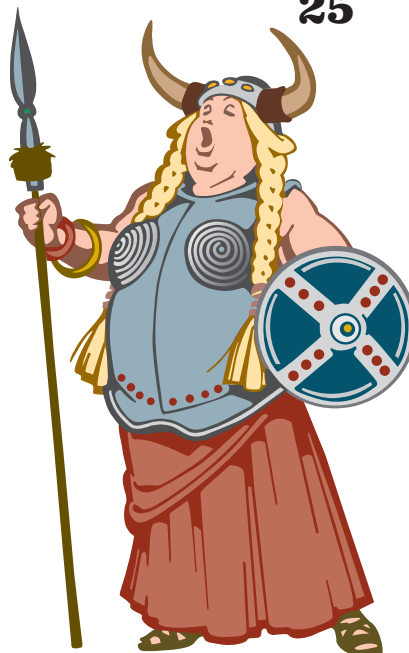
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IN FIRST SEAT



Dirty rotten cheaters

The pandemic has altered the course of bridge history and changed the way that tens of thousands of bridge enthusiasts enjoy their favorite pastime. Cut off from traditional face-to-face

bridge, players have now taken to their computers, tablets and smartphones to get their fix online.

The fact that the ACBL and BBO were able to offer a wide variety of contests – from club-level games to tournaments – in a very short space of time as the pandemic unfolded was greatly appreciated by players. The letters and emails have been positively glowing; ACBL members were deeply impressed by the quick response.

Those same emails, however, typically express a note of concern about the threat of collusive cheating. For the ethically impaired, it's easy to do online. Although players universally recognize that online play is the only option to enjoy bridge for the short term, they still want to know what the ACBL and BBO are doing about cheating.

A few years before his death in 2014, I met Allan Cokin at an NABC. For those unfamiliar with the name, Cokin had been convicted of collusive cheating with partner Steve Sion in 1977, and the expert pair was suspended for five years, forbidden from playing with each other ever again. Although Sion was later expelled for yet another cheating violation, Cokin worked actively to make amends for his sin, coaching Junior teams pro bono for many years. He became a citizen in good standing and rehabilitated his reputation, though it took decades to do so. He approached me because he wanted to write a book about his career, a memoir with the cheating incident as the fulcrum for the story. Although he never got around to beginning the book in earnest, he had already selected a title for the piece: "It's Not Worth It."

The ACBL and BBO have a message for players who cheat online: It's not worth it. The bid and play records make it extraordinarily easy to corroborate cheating allegations, and BBO investigators work with the ACBL National Recorder to catch and prosecute offenders. If we catch you, you *will* be disciplined. BBO is a private company and will summarily ban you from their site. The ACBL will then have its turn, and its punishments include lengthy suspensions, barring partners from playing together, loss of most or all of your masterpoints, and, for extreme cases, expulsion.

For more on this, see "A Message from the President on pg. 9, "Ruling the Game" on pg. 26 and "For the Record" on pg. 27.

Paul Linxwiler, editor@acbl.org



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Prophetic advice

I'm spending my COVID-19 downtime rereading back issues of the Bridge Bulletin.

I thank Marisa Silverman, Aspen CO, for penning her Letter to the Editor that appeared in the March 2013 edition.

She tells the sad tale of her and her partner getting a bad cold while playing at a sectional tournament because an uncouth player coughed without covering her mouth. When confronted, the offender had the audacity to reply, "If you want to protect yourself from me, you should play at the other table."

Marisa asks us to consider, "What could be worse than a contagious person playing cards with hundreds of other people in an enclosed space and expecting opponents to deal with it? There are also many elderly players and folks with compromised health. It's the nature of our demographics."

Seven years later, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, follow Marisa's advice: "Let's spread the news, not the flu." It's so simple, yet life-saving. "Stay home!"

BRIAN R. GRAY
Mississauga ON

Woke

I find the "Ruling the Game" column in the November 2019 issue (regarding the non-Alert of 2 ♦ bid to a strong 2 ♣) to be contrary to the spirit of the Alert process. The excuse given is that the Alert could awaken partner. Yet the advice given is to ask what 2 ♦ means, which will awaken the partnership anyway, but shifts any onus to the non-offending side. Not to mention that asking for the meaning of the bid could produce unauthorized information and/or hard feelings, unless it is done after every 2 ♣ opening, in which case it becomes a time-waster.

Not Alerting 2 ♦ seems to be in direct contradiction to the ACBL's Alert Procedures, which use the term "highly unusual and unexpected." To me, using a 2 ♦ response to a strong 2 ♣ as a transfer to hearts is highly unusual. The fact that an Alert of 2 ♦ might wake up responder can be adjudicated by the existing laws. The Alerting side is not allowed to use unauthorized information.

If the goal is full disclosure, then not Alerting "highly unusual and unexpected" bids is contrary to the spirit of the laws. And the argument of awakening partner with an Alert is specious considering that all Alerts run the risk of waking up partner.

Yes, I know that Alert Procedures specifically exempt 2 ♦ from being Alerted. I am saying that this is wrong.
RICHARD COMSTOCK
Centerburg OH

Community

When my son was stationed at Fort Carson, he lived in Colorado Springs. He checked out the Colorado Springs Bridge Center shortly after he got there. They were extremely nice to him and he started going on a fairly regular basis when he could. One of the players who was particularly kind to him was Joe Luk. Joe is an excellent bridge player with a fascinating background, which includes years in the restaurant business. Joe took my son under his wings, taught him a lot of bridge, and treated him to many gourmet meals. It certainly was a shock to see how the coronavirus devastated the club. (*Editor's note: Many members of the Colorado Springs club became seriously ill from the virus in March, and several died.*) Thankfully, Joe survived the ordeal.

This story is a reminder to me that we don't just play bridge; we belong

to a bridge community with all of the support (and foibles) that entails. One of the most insidious effects of this pandemic is the disruption of our community. Kudos to the ACBL for doing its best to keep us in touch with each other as we deal with the impact that this virus has had on our lives.

KEN LEOPOLD
Avon CT

Role model

I was pleased to see that Larry Cohen was chosen for induction into the ACBL Hall of Fame. I have not met Larry. His books, articles and online sites are always my go-to places for answers to my bridge questions (which are many).

I knew of his fine reputation as a teacher. There was indication of his kindness and sense of humor in his style of answering questions and explaining some of the gray areas of bridge.

When I lived in the Boston area, my partner and I played in many tournaments. I love bridge and decided to attempt to teach the game to friends who were beginners. Many of them joined duplicate clubs. I relied heavily on Cohen's teaching methods. I did not charge anything for the classes, just enough to cover snacks and some teaching tools. I really just wanted to share the game of bridge with as many people as I could.

Congratulations, Larry, on a well-deserved honor.

MARY BETH BOYD
Chardon OH

Letters to the editor are welcome by regular mail and email. Brevity is considered a virtue, as is subject matter with relevance to a majority of ACBL members. Unsigned letters are not considered for publication, so please include your name and hometown. Letters may be edited. All letters will receive a response. Send emails to editor@acbl.org.



Arkansas adventures

I play bridge out of Little Rock, and I thought it would be a fun goal to play in every bridge club in Arkansas. My regular partner is Dr. Kathy Gates, and she thought it would be fun to do also. We researched the ACBL club information and found that there were 23 clubs in Arkansas that have regular ACBL-sanctioned games each week. There are clubs in Dumas, Monticello, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Hot Springs, Hot Springs Village, Conway, Jacksonville, Pine Bluff (three clubs), Heber Springs, Fort Smith, Mountain Home (two clubs), Harrison, Eureka Springs (two clubs), Rogers (two clubs), Springdale, Bella Vista, and Bentonville. We added one more club from Texarkana. That is technically a Texas club because the city is partially in Texas and partially in Arkansas. Because they play in Arkansas, we added it to our list.

We tried to play at one club each week, schedule permitting. We finished playing after about seven months and played in every club.

We met so many wonderful people on our adventure. We were well received, and people were excited about our goal. It was well worth the time and expense. Bridge players in Arkansas are, with very few exceptions, gracious and supportive. I gained a renewed appreciation for this wonderful game and the people who play it. I also gained a special appreciation for the directors at each club who make their games possible. Without them, few of these clubs would survive.

I owe a special thanks to a guy we met at a game in Eureka Springs. Josh Young is a writer and published author, and he shared our excitement about this goal. He encouraged me to write

this piece for the Bridge Bulletin. His words were, "Either you write it or I will." Thanks, Josh.

DAN GRAHAM
Redfield AR

Dexterity exercise

I have been playing in some of the new ACBL Virtual Club games on BBO, and I like being able to still compete with my friends. I do seem to have one new problem, though, that I don't have with "regular" bridge, namely, I have a keying error on average of about once per session. I should use my computer with a mouse to be more precise, but my little tablet (and my fat fingers) are my devices of choice most of the time.

Recently, I was in a contract where I led low towards the A-9-4 in dummy, intending to finesse the 9. So I played the 3 from my hand, and left-hand opponent played the 2. I tried to strike the 9, but I hit the 4 instead. I gasped, but just then my right-hand opponent showed out in the suit! My 4 won the trick! I couldn't see the ugly looks from the other three people at the "table," but I assumed that they were there!

BILL LANDRUM
Detroit MI

Surveillance needed

We have received many emails about the threat that online cheating presents. Two are presented here. Readers should check out this month's editorial, as well as "A Message from the President" on pg. 9, "Ruling the Game" on pg. 26 and "For the Record" on pg. 27.

I am a regular user of BBO, and I enjoy the service very much, but your article about online play (May, pg. 24)

fails to mention a critical problem when playing in ACBL-sanctioned games on BBO: widespread cheating. When I first began using BBO several years ago, it seemed obvious to me that two people who know each other could sign up as a pair and then communicate with each other as they play. The temptation to do this is especially great for persons living in the same household. I accepted this as a small downside of the system, but this defect is totally unacceptable when the stakes include the ability to earn master-points in an ACBL-sanctioned game.

It seems to me that it is the obligation of ACBL to police the games that it sanctions on BBO just as it does national, regional, sectional and local competitions. Points earned are supposed to be a reflection of skill, not chicanery.

DONALD ZACHARY
Glendale CA

The lawless culture of online bridge supports the cheating shysters. The value of ACBL points is worthless in such an environment.

This is an opportunity, however. The ACBL and BBO can data-mine to expose individuals routinely achieving high scores or arriving in extreme contracts. Corrections and monitoring would clean up the culture and improve the sportsmanship, goodwill and fairness of all bridge events.

CLIFF BRYANTON
Vernon BC



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A Message from the President

BY **GEORGIA HETH**



We are soldiering on through the “unprecedented” times. Things are not business as usual, and we don’t know when we will return to those times. Various issues have arisen for which we are seeking answers.

Concerns about cheating are at the forefront of many people’s minds. The first cases of cheating in the new online games were resolved in May, and resulted in the suspension of six members for various terms. Many more cases are being processed.

Cheating is cheating, whether it is in an online game or in a face-to-face game. It is wrong. We need your cooperation in reporting suspicious hands. You are able to do so from the BBO interface. We need reports from players to investigate to do the best job possible in catching cheaters. This is important to the integrity of the game.

A new Online Ethical Oversight Committee was formed to hear cases from online cheating. It does not replace the existing Ethical Oversight Committee and is neither lesser nor greater than the existing committee. It was formed to handle the expected large number of new cases arising from online bridge.

I have heard from people who refuse to play online because they believe cheating is so rampant that the games are not valid. We may be playing online for some time. Let’s clean up the game. If you live with your bridge partner, please sit in a different room with at least one closed door between you.

The ACBL has used increased masterpoint awards to lure people online. Those enhancements will have been reviewed by the Board of Directors at the request of the Masterpoints Committee. Games held in the future may not award masterpoints at the same levels as the games already held.

One important aspect of any planning we do is that things will not go back to exactly what we had before the virus at the flip of a switch. The danger is very different in various parts of the country. Most of our members fall into the high-risk group, and social distancing is impossible in our game. And even when clubs and tournaments resume holding live games, there are going to be people who are not comfortable returning. We were already dealing with reduced tournament attendance. I think this issue is going to be greatly increased by the coronavirus.

Another issue is, do we continue online bridge for pigmented masterpoints once face-to-face bridge resumes? Prior to this crisis, the only pigmented points awarded online were from the NABC Robot Individuals.

This crisis is going to affect us for years to come. We are forming a task force including many types of stakeholders to work on this issue.

I would like to end with a positive effect of the times. On May 27, Andrew Chen became the youngest ACBL Life Master at the age of 8 years and 3 days. Interestingly, the coronavirus aided him in this. During normal times, he was busy at school and did not have a lot of time to play. With the online games, he was able to earn his final black and silver points online. Congratulations Andrew! You’ll get a chance to meet the young record-breaker in next month’s magazine.



Unprecedented Success

The ACBL's first online regional

BY CHIP DOMBROWSKI

The ACBL held its first-ever online regional in April and May. Called Stay at Home, Play at Home, the virtual tournament site overflowed with 5237 tables. There were 7217 people who played at least one session.

Those are big numbers for a regional. In 2019, the second-largest regional drew 3437 tables. And the online tournament was only four days, compared to the usual seven for most regionals.

"Thank you for making the ACBL's first-ever online regional a resounding success," said Executive Director Joe Jones. "Given the enthusiasm we saw over the weekend, we hope to build on this event as we plan future tournaments."

Fourteen stratified pairs events were held over April 30–May 3. With the regular tournament calendar wiped out by the coronavirus, this was the first opportunity for players to earn gold points anywhere since mid-March.

Five players achieved Life Master status while playing in the tournament: John Kunnen of Wyoming MI, Valy Lev of Evanston IL, Vickey Metrailler of Little Rock AR, Susan Morse-Lebow of Los Angeles CA and Dodi Walsh of Dartmouth NS.

"This will be a memory for the ages – the COVID-19 Life Master graduation event," said Kunnen, who has been playing online to fill the gap left by the canceled baseball season.

For Metrailler, being at home was a distraction. "I never

would have believed my goal of becoming a Life Master would be realized in one of my favorite spots on the Little Red River. It was harder to concentrate when fly fishing, gardening and birdwatching beckoned me."

Morse-Lebow and John Ramos were first in Flight B and second overall in the Saturday Afternoon Side Game, scoring 77.79%. She credited her partner and teachers Samantha MacDouglas and Brian Reynolds (of "The Kids Table" fame).

"I am finding playing online to be extremely instructive in that I am able to play along with my partner when he or she is declaring and jot down questions as we go," Morse-Lebow said. "Sometime after each game, we unpack the unusual hands, or areas where I need to sharpen my skills. It's a different way of learning in that I can see both hands, and I have enjoyed the experience."

The tournament was also the first time in months many players interacted with a tournament director, noted Jennifer Lin, who won the Saturday Open Pairs with Aaron Jones. "We appreciate the ACBL keeping their great directors working in this tough time," she said.

Almost immediately after the tournament ended, districts began inquiring if they could hold online regionals. While that question was deferred to the Board of Directors, plans were to hold a second online regional in late June.

Winners of the Thursday Open Pairs:



Lee Hastings



Clay Cuthbertson

Thursday, April 30

Thursday Open Pairs – 634 Pairs

1.	C. Lee Hastings, St. Louis MO; Clay Cuthbertson, Quincy IL	8112.83
2.	Amy Casanova, Portland OR; Laurie Rowe, Eugene OR	7812.22
3.	1. 1. James Van Etten, State College PA; Keith Glover, Alpharetta GA	7657.84
4.	Della Schnell – John Schnell, Paradise Valley AZ	7602.93
5.	Robert Kent – Ellen Kent, Chicago IL	7447.62
6.	2. Michael Reeslund – Chris Sloan, Nashville TN	7396.16
7.	Craig Allen, Glen Ellyn IL; Stephen Donahue, Riverwoods IL	7368.93
8.	3. Wendy Bazelow, Wayne NJ; Frederick Linnemeyer, Franklin Lakes NJ	7349.55
9.	4. Weizhong Bao, Herndon VA; Frank Feng, Radnor PA	7281.42
10.	5. 2. Joseph Kotler, Toronto ON; Joe Yassi, Etobicoke ON	7275.96
11.	James Fox – Judy Fox, Virginia Beach VA	7270.03
12.	6. 3. Carol Vogt, Boca Raton FL; Lee Weinberger, Aventura FL	7227.37
13.	Cecilla Borrás, Waltham MA; Natalie Bassil, Jamaica Plain MA	7210.47
14.	Jere Raymond, Hixson TN; Rhoda Kratenstein, Albany NY	7208.01
15.	7. Guohui Zhang, Madison AL; William Boynton, Asheville NC	7189.53
21.	9. 4. John Peer – Kenneth Appel, Indianapolis IN	7086.81
34.	13. 5. Sandy Davis – Laurie Davis, Delray Beach FL	6868.41

First in B and C in the Thursday Open Pairs:



Keith Glover



Jim Van Etten

Friday, May 1

Friday Gold Rush Pairs – 780 Pairs

1.	1.	1.	Jon Paul Temple – Kim Temple, Dallas TX	9566.36
2.	2.		B. Haznedar, Houston TX; Anil Altindag, Turkey	9264.41
3.	3.		Judith Gingery – Roy Gingery, The Villages FL	9190.54
4.	4.		Charles Johnson, St. Louis MO; Rick Londerree, Maryland Heights MO	9176.19
5.	5.		Matthew Krause, O'Fallon MO; Elizabeth Mayer, Webster Groves MO	9042.61
6.	6.		Robert Beal – Kenneth Luekens, Murrieta CA	8970.67
7.			Maggie Miller – Ann Gronewald, Marietta GA	8929.46
8.			James Clark, Toronto ON; Helene Lavertu, Scarborough ON	8874.04
9.	7.	2.	Dailey Pattee – Gordon Pattee, New York NY	8847.58
10.			Carol Fraser – Lynn Dondero, Sonoma CA	8844.19
17.	10.	3.	Louise Desautels – Mary Allen, St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu QC	8695.92
58.	30.	4.	Juan Cuervo, Colombia; Carolyn Bitetti, Belmont MA	8164.06
66.	34.	5.	David Clayton, Berkeley CA; John McManis, Oakland CA	8117.58



Friday Gold Rush Pairs winners:
Kim Temple and Jon Paul Temple

Friday Afternoon Side Game – 398 Pairs

1.			Terry McHenry – Gen Geiger, Sarasota FL	2824.29
2.	1.		John Ramos – Susan Morse-Lebow, Los Angeles CA	2772.29
3.			Chris Compton, Dallas TX; Andy Goodman, Carmel CA	2552.90
4.			Robert Kent – Ellen Kent, Chicago IL	2535.49
5.			Kendra Bridges – Tom Fogarty, Chicago IL	2487.14
7.	2.		James Breihan, Houston TX; Joe Yassi, Etobicoke ON	2406.64
9.	3.		Mike Roney, Ajijic, Mexico; Tom Henson, Towanda PA	2391.19
11.	4.	1.	Georgia McGuire, Winchester MA; Stephen Spielman, Palm Beach Gardens FL	2369.61
19.	6.	2.	Richard Tisch, Sanibel FL; Bruce Adler, Wilton CT	2291.51
22.	9.	3.	Jerry Frankel, Plano TX; Mary Lynn Genovesi, Fairview TX	2265.73



Friday Afternoon Side Game winners:
Gen Geiger and Terry McHenry

Friday Afternoon 299er Pairs – 528 Pairs

1.	1.	1.	Glenn Heath – Tiffany Destefano, Las Vegas NV	3484.73
2.	2.	2.	Wolf Bolz, Raleigh NC; Dan Lazar, Woodbury NY	3268.75
3.	3.		Joan Larocque – Cam Nelson, Niagara On Lake ON	3252.89
4.	4.		Stephanie Jones, Terrace Park OH; Debra Chavez, Cincinnati OH	3215.00
5.	5.	3.	Mary Bradley – Kathy Mason, Oakville ON	3201.37



Winners of the
Friday Afternoon
299er Pairs:
Tiffany Destefano
and Glenn Heath

Friday Evening Side Game – 390 Pairs

1.			John Hurd – Gillian Minter, New York NY	2462.89
2.			Terry McHenry – Gen Geiger, Sarasota FL	2426.46
3.			Robert Kent – Ellen Kent, Chicago IL	2389.55
4.	1.	1.	Linda Williams – Beverly Sheets, Indianapolis IN	2293.94
5.			Vic Quiros, Phoenix AZ; Kenneth Chatzinoff, Cinnaminson NJ	2290.09
6.	2.	2.	Mark Harrington, Mequon WI; John Pereles, Bayside WI	2280.59
8.	3.	3.	Richard Pepper – Martin Friedman, Greensboro NC	2260.77



Friday Evening Side Game winners:
Gillian Minter and John Hurd

Friday Evening 299er Pairs – 260 Pairs

1.	1.		Pat Johnson, Guelph ON; John Markvart, Elora ON	1570.07
2.	2.		Annette McCaffery – Mary Jane Gelpi, Baton Rouge LA	1544.19
3.			Richard Verhelle, Troy MI; Patricia Buller, Venice FL	1540.67
4.	3.	1.	Eric Bonsignori, Savannah GA; Mary Castle, Yellow Springs OH	1531.63
5.	4.	2.	Rula Tamer – Ford Tamer, Hillsborough CA	1526.79
7.	6.	3.	Kathy Aube, Brooklyn MI; John Comeau, Titusville FL	1499.19



Saturday Evening Side Game winners:
Janet Treisman and Mitch Dunitz

New Life Masters



John Kunnen
Wyoming MI



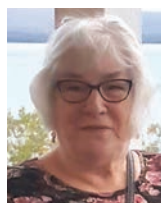
Valy Lev
Evanston IL



Vickey Metrailler
Little Rock AR



Susan Morse-Lebow
Los Angeles CA



Dodi Walsh
Dartmouth NS

Saturday, May 2

Saturday Open Pairs – 562 Pairs

1.	Jennifer Lin – Aaron Jones, North Bethesda MD	6822.09
2.	Nancy Kornegay – Stephen Kornegay, North Richland Hills TX	6745.86
3.	Ann Nutting – Bill Nutting, Stockton CA	6697.94
4.	Terry McHenry – Gen Geiger, Sarasota FL	6528.60
5.	David Rodney, Fairfax VA; Rusty Krauss, Vienna VA	6481.28
6.	David Wheeler, Palo Alto CA; Marolyn Imaoka, San Jose CA	6469.54
7.	Judy Elbogen, Mission Viejo CA; Steven Love, Laguna Niguel CA	6461.61
8.	Mark Shaw, Columbia MD; Martin Graf, Chevy Chase MD	6421.88
9.	1. Alfred Fortier III, Katy TX; Susan Kaplan, Houston TX	6397.24
10.	Erin Gove, Los Gatos CA; Malcolm McLaughlin, San Jose CA	6363.86
11.	2. Susan Ninyo – Avram Ninyo, Rancho Santa Fe CA	6360.15
12.	Finn Kolesnik, Ventura CA; Geoff Hampson, Las Vegas NV	6335.66
13.	Walter Bell, Allentown PA; David Meyer, Scranton PA	6333.57
14.	William Pettis, Silver Spring MD; Kent Goulding, Germantown MD	6332.51
15.	3. 1. Charles Wiggins Jr., Indian Head Park IL; James Collart, Lincoln CA	6301.68
19.	4. Paul Perkowski, Highlands Ranch CO; Edward Yosses, Denver CO	6253.70
20.	5. 2. Pamela Page, Palm Bay FL; Casey Holscher, Melbourne FL	6251.56
21.	6. Ethan Wood, Dover MA; Daniel Jablonski, Stoneham MA	6241.11
33.	7. Joseph Ur, St. Augustine FL; James West, St. Johns FL	6113.39
35.	8. 3. Bala Srinivasan, Pierrefonds QC; Kohur Gowrisankaran, Montreal-Ouest QC	6076.03
36.	9. 4. Philip Kuhn – Jennifer Kuhn, San Mateo CA	6064.76
37.	10. 5. Sandra Williams – Alan Williams, Pleasanton CA	6057.44



Winners of the Saturday Open Pairs:
Aaron Jones and Jennifer Lin



First in B in the Saturday Open Pairs:
Susan Kaplan and Alfred Fortier

Saturday Gold Rush Pairs – 786 Pairs

1.	1. 1. John Yin, Southborough MA; Hongtao Ma, Rockville MD	9483.36
2.	2. Jayson Rhuda, Middleton MA; Stan Nissen, Wakefield MA	9242.86
3.	Harvey Skolnick – Enith Friedman Berg, Boynton Beach FL	9226.63
4.	3. Paul Schnarr – Diane Schnarr, Salt Lake City UT	9204.77
5.	Richard Durk – Stephen Weiss, Toronto ON	9166.24
6.	Elizabeth Donovan – Patricia Eby, Toronto ON	9053.50
7.	Jill Ashworth, Lancaster VA; Judy Chvala, Midlothian VA	8987.73
8.	4. Sharon Evans, Boerne TX; Nancy Tom, San Antonio TX	8978.09
9.	5. Kim Temple – Jon Paul Temple, Dallas TX	8967.90
10.	Fran Henry-Jansa – Mark Jansa, Portland OR	8967.18
11.	Joan Blinn – Clyde Bruce Baldwin, Hollidaysburg PA	8963.02
12.	Harvey Lowe, Tempe AZ; Cheryl Verlander, Sun Lakes AZ	8947.80
13.	6. 2. Gorm Heilskov, McFarland WI; David Hill, Madison WI	8887.80
14.	7. Robert Lempert – Joyce Lempert, Naples FL	8877.20
15.	8. David Ellis, Toronto ON; Craig Ellis, North York ON	8802.89
28.	18. 3. Michelle Ezray – Jay Ezray, Aventura FL	8602.04
58.	30. 4. Christopher Hogan – Jill Hogan, Little Canada MN	8244.73
63.	34. 5. Stephen Glazer – Monte Jaffe, Sharon MA	8235.77



First in C in the Saturday Open Pairs:
Jim Collart and Charles Wiggins

Saturday Afternoon Side Game – 314 Pairs

1.	Robert Kent – Ellen Kent, Chicago IL	2514.83
2.	1. 1. Betty Oxley – Charles Oxley, Evansville IN	2456.07
3.	2. Mitchell Heide – Bobbie Ruff, Boca Raton FL	2408.94
4.	3. 2. Laurel Valenti, Upperco MD – nonmember	2383.60
5.	William Woodfine, Penticton BC; Edwin Glickman, Chicago IL	2363.28
6.	4. 3. Dan Lazar, Woodbury NY; Wolf Bolz, Raleigh NC	2336.35



Winners of the Sat. Afternoon Side Game:
Robert Kent and Ellen Kent

Saturday Evening Side Game – 234 Pairs

1.	Janet Treisman, Beverly Hills CA; Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks CA	1492.00
2.	1. 1. Andrew Rowberg, Goleta CA; Michael Swift, Lansing MI	1469.50
3.	Michael Dalton, Palm Coast FL; Lynn Leisy, Amelia Island FL	1384.00
4.	2. 2. Karen Kreutzberg – Sally Kizer, Blacksburg VA	1367.00
5.	3. 3. Heather Barnes – William Barnes, Uxbridge ON	1360.00



Winners of the Sunday Afternoon Side
Game: Rich Rio and Bob Schulman

Sunday, May 3

Sunday Open Pairs – 410 Pairs

1.	Joe Grue – Gillian Minter, New York NY	5170.29
2.	Maximo Crusizio, Fort Lauderdale FL; Judy Fox, Virginia Beach VA	4905.44
3.	Jean Ludwig, New City NY; Glenn Eisenstein, New York NY	4820.18
4.	Judy Eaton, Edwardsville IL; Hong Liu, Frontenac MO	4795.04
5.	Jacqueline Chang – Iulian Rotaru, New York NY	4763.48
6.	Frederic Pollack, Laval QC; Carolyn Lewis, Louisville KY	4699.63
7.	Marjorie Michelin – Ellis Feigenbaum, Laguna Woods CA	4670.07
8.	Andy Kaufman, Upper Gwynedd PA; Arthur Korth, Galloway NJ	4664.54
9.	Ann Nutting – Bill Nutting, Stockton CA	4654.82
10.	Curtis Cheek, Las Vegas NV; Stanley Landers, Old Westbury NY	4645.24
11.	1. Vikram Srimurthy, Brookline MA; Daniel Jablonski, Stoneham MA	4632.70
12.	Ming Sheng, Los Altos CA; Richard Chan, Markham ON	4617.42
13.	2. 1. Ashwini Datar, Cupertino CA; Vilas Namjoshi, San Jose CA	4611.54
14.	Clay Hall, Vestavia AL; Nalini Sundaram, Pelham AL	4606.58
15.	Billy Miller, Las Vegas NV; Edward Zuckerberg, Los Altos Hills CA	4585.38
16.	3. 2. Sam Hankins, Tijeras NM; Joshua Mullins, Albuquerque NM	4549.45
17.	4. 3. David Rosnick, Jamaica Plain MA; William Scott, Medford MA	4506.37
18.	5. Stephen Cooper, Toronto ON; Hank Sigal, Piedmont CA	4504.74
19.	6. 4. Paul Johnson – Susan Johnson, Veazie ME	4500.24
23.	7. Colin Lafferty, Kitchener ON; Casey Vandeputte, Dundas ON	4417.48
24.	8. 5. Frances Corney – Paul Fournier, Vancouver BC	4405.68



Winners of the Sunday Open Pairs:
Joe Grue and Gillian Minter



First in B in the Sunday Open Pairs:
Daniel Jablonski and Vikram Srimurthy

Sunday Gold Rush Pairs – 782 Pairs

1.	Lynn Dondero, Sonoma CA; Karen Rocco, Petaluma CA	9750.96
2.	David Ow – Glenn Chee, Salinas CA	9414.90
3.	Gerald Hewitt Jr., San Jose CA; Anne Wilson, Campbell CA	9187.02
4.	1. Kim Temple – Jon Paul Temple, Dallas TX	9175.78
5.	2. Fred Wardwell Jr. – Karen Smith, Wellesley MA	9046.14
6.	3. 1. Eric Weinstein – Julia Weinstein, Scarsdale NY	9028.59
7.	4. Anil Altindag, Turkey; B. Haznedar, Houston TX	8982.05
8.	Gregory Andrews – James Sells, Houston TX	8929.53
9.	5. 2. Dan Lazar, Woodbury NY; Wolf Bolz, Raleigh NC	8925.87
10.	Anik Trahan, Sherbrooke QC; Jonathan Ruel, Quebec QC	8907.87
11.	Zeljko Sokolovic, Oakville ON; nonmember	8871.90
12.	Kathy Pennington, Saint Simons Island GA; Bill Snellings, Sea Island GA	8869.02
13.	6. Brad Sharp, Xenia OH; Mary Castle, Yellow Springs OH	8856.33
16.	7. James Lanzo, Lockport NY; Rajarshi Roy, Provo UT	8841.69
49.	19. 3. Julianne Ricksecker, San Diego CA; Jeffrey Love, La Mesa CA	8343.18
52.	22. 4. Pam Tinkler – Melinda Kenan, Atlanta GA	8323.30
78.	30. 5. Fanjun Kong, Sterling VA; Li Chen, Fairfax VA	8104.09



First in C in the Sunday Open Pairs:
Ashwini Datar and Vilas Namjoshi

Sunday Afternoon Side Game – 368 Pairs

1.	1. 1. Robert Schulman – Richard Rio, Blacksburg VA	2460.12
2.	2. 2. Pangjie Xu, San Jose CA; Winston Huang, Los Altos CA	2358.53
3.	3. 3. Lezlie Cullen – Paul Pointet, Toronto ON	2334.97
4.	4. 4. Basil Kalymon, Etobicoke ON; Chris Robinson, Toronto ON	2266.97
5.	5. Murali Nair – Dattatraya Kale, Phoenix AZ	2261.03



Winners of the Sunday Gold Rush
Pairs: Lynn Dondero and Karen Rocco

Sunday Evening Side Game – 188 Pairs

1.	Robert Kent – Ellen Kent, Chicago IL	1255.23
2.	1. 1. Raluca Dobrescu, Woodside NY; Brooke Cohen, New York NY	1159.04
3.	2. Laila Levitas, New York NY; Usama Faris, Jericho NY	1153.47
4.	3. Kurt Oelze, Phoenix AZ; Daniel Kraft, Brandon SD	1151.36
5.	4. Dee Moses – Eleanor Onstott, New Orleans LA	1145.63
7.	5. 2. Jessica Babbitt – Theodore Babbitt, Palm Beach FL	1089.40
8.	6. 3. Marilyn Chaplin – Mel Chaplin, Brentwood CA	1074.80



First in Under-100 in the Sunday Gold Rush
Pairs: Eric Weinstein and Julie Weinstein

Zoom Boom

Bridge classes go viral

BY SUE MUNDAY

When the coronavirus came, bridge clubs shut down, the bridge-cruise industry sank, and in-person classes and seminars were canceled.

The hunger for bridge learning didn't wane, however. On the contrary, it burgeoned as people trapped indoors with time to kill looked for a new challenge or outlets for improving their game.

Bridge teachers quickly adapted. If their students couldn't come to them, they would take their classes to the masses. Teachers and their invaluable technical assistants discovered the interactive videoconferencing magic that is Zoom or GoToWebinar, and armed with PowerPoint handouts and BBO teaching tables, they rushed headlong into the world of online learning.

Many online teaching resources are listed on the ACBL website – more and more every day – ranging from private BBO coaching to small-group play to webinars. Go to acbl.org and click on the Learn tab, then Online Learning Opportunities on the left-hand menu.

Here's how four popular teachers ramped up their response to the quarantine call for more bridge.

Larry Cohen

If you think that Larry Cohen can't possibly be as good a teacher as he is/was a player (that is to say first-round Hall-of-Fame quality), think again. Because, wow! He funnels all the expertise and poise and humor that made him a champion into what he loves best: teaching.



On April 30, Cohen and crew aired their first "Bridge Made Simple" webinar. Cohen uses Zoom; students can attend the live event – which allows the interactive chat and Q&A features. A follow-up email to session attendees includes a link to the class for reviewing and class handouts.

Targeted to intermediate players, Cohen's sell-out Zoom classes devote an hour to a topic, followed by discussion of four deals. "The interactive features of Zoom are eye-opening," he says. "I can see what the players 'vote' when I ask. The downside is that I can't see their faces or hear them laugh."

Cohen runs a smooth ship. He has bridge assistants to help field questions and technical handlers to handle technical stuff, leaving him free to do what only he can do.

On June 1, Larry added a new series: "Celebrity Mondays." His guest list includes David Bird, "Jeopardy James" Holzhauer, Zia Mahmood and Jeff Meckstroth – 90 minutes with an extended Q&A.

In addition to being a popular Bridge Bulletin columnist,

Michael Berkowitz is a member of Larry's teaching team. On Friday afternoons, May 1 through June 5, Michael invited advanced beginners and intermediate players into the 21st century with a comprehensive series on 2/1. Topics highlighted the use of a semi-forcing notrump, responding with invitational hands, the 2♣ response and game-forcing auctions, opener's rebid and slam bidding.

Episodes of "Bridge Made Simple" are available for \$15 each. "Celebrity

Mondays" and Berkowitz's 2/1 classes are \$10 each. You'll find them – as well as announcements of upcoming events – at larryco.com.

Donna Compton

Donna Compton has enjoyed tremendous success in her teaching career.

As a world and national champion, American Bridge Teachers' Association Master Teacher and owner of the Bridge Academy of North Dallas, she relates to her students on every level.

"For the past six years, I have taught in-person at my club and in workshops around the country," says Compton. "I have been teaching online since 2014, beginning with live webinars and then editing the webinars and turning them into videos for resale."

Compton says that the coronavirus pandemic brought her two worlds together, joining her in-person students and her online students.

"I am enjoying online teaching more and more every day. I find myself trying out new ways of making the online experience more 'real-life,' and I am having fun experimenting with new ways to present the materials. I have expanded my student base to Europe and Asia. It's been fun learning their methods and discussing the pros and cons of the differences."

She uses GoToWebinar to host the lessons and a combination of PowerPoint and BBO tables.

"I have a five-year curriculum," Compton says. "My topics start with an introduction, then four courses of fundamental topics, five intermediate



topics and four advanced.”

Each class is \$40. BAND Patron Members (\$120 a year) enjoy a 50% discount.

Compton says she will always have her online teaching program. “I have too many students who have been with me for the last six years. I am also finding that a lot of my in-person students who have underlying health issues are not planning on returning to in-person anything-bridge until there is a vaccine. So they are grateful to have the online option going forward.”

Go to PlayBetterBridge.com for a complete course listing.

Barbara Seagram

Barbara Seagram shines as one of the stars of the bridge-teaching galaxy. But unless you attend an ACBL North American

Bridge Championship or live within easy access of her bridge school/club in Toronto, or catch her on tour, you haven’t had access to her lessons. Now you do – you and hundreds of bridge lovers around the world, from as far away as Switzerland, Cyprus, Turkey, Australia and India.

Starting in April, Seagram began offering live weekly bridge instruction online. “The first Zoom session was wild,” she says. “I was expecting 200 people, so I upped my license to accommodate 500 people, as that is the same price. I could never have imagined that 500 would actually attend. And it turns out that a further 200 tried to get in but could not.” She has since doubled that capacity.

“I had not figured out how to mute everyone and make it so that they could not unmute themselves,” Seagram says. “We heard a toilet flushing, phones ringing, people slurping coffee and doing dishes. But, hey, I just heard that there was a Supreme Court hearing



recently where you could hear the toilet flushing online, so we are in good company.”

Seagram says that she held up sheets of white cardboard for the presentation at the first lesson. “Then I learned how to share the screen and upload the documents. That was a thrill! Now I can incorporate BBO into the presentations so I am over the moon!”

Looking for a newcomer boot camp? A bridge grammar teacher who strips the game down to “do this” or “don’t do that” (except much more charming and gracious)? You found her. Where Seagram excels is fostering a love of the game and nurturing a knowledgeable, confident player well-rounded in all three phases of the game: bidding, play and defense.

She suggests a \$5 donation for each class. The proceeds, minus Zoom expenses, fund a cause dear to her heart: “2020 marks our 10th year of working to support our five schools that we have built and sustain in Cambodia. We focus on education, sanitation and the villagers.” The Zoom classes raised over \$30,000 through mid-June.

“I plan to continue throughout June, and we will see after that,” says Seagram. “The prep is tremendous because of the handouts and preparing the slides. It is all new material that I do not usually teach in class, so it is all from scratch.” Visit Seagram’s website for up-to-date schedule information: barbaraseagram.com or email her at barbaraseagram@gmail.com.

Gavin Wolpert

With barely contained excitement, Gavin Wolpert welcomed an audience to his “Opening Leads” series: “We are live, we are recording and we are ready to go!”

Wolpert plays professional bridge at the highest level. As it turns out, he’s a world-class teacher too. “I love to



teach,” he says, “though I can’t say the same about lesson prep! It’s insanely stressful building the lesson, but once class starts, I’m in my element.”

Wolpert teamed up with New York pro/teacher **Rob Barrington**, who founded bridgeles-son.com (formerly learnbridge.nyc) – a dazzling intersection of bridge-learning opportunities.

“Rob and I have been building a really big following,” Wolpert says. “We both very quickly realized that the quarantine was going to leave people with a lot of free time, and we started doing Zoom lessons in March. We now offer live classes almost every day. We are trying new stuff in our broadcasts, really working to provide an awesome learning experience.”

Wolpert is humbled by the number of students who have reached out to say thank you. “Some people have told us they live in remote places and never had access to these kinds of lessons. Others are just grateful for something to do while they are stuck isolated.”

Looking back on the May calendar, Wolpert says, “Rob did conventions on Mondays, quizzes on Wednesdays and declarer play on Thursdays. My mom and I taught defense together on Fridays. Josh Donn and I developed a special opening lead series on Saturdays. That was May, though, and topics change.”

The courses/handouts are still available for purchase at \$10 per class. YouTube lessons on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. are free, as is a treasure trove of lessons in the site’s bridge library.

“There’s no question we will continue to teach online,” Wolpert says of his post-virus future. “Our students won’t let us stop! We have heard from so many people who are asking for us to keep doing it after normal life resumes. I see, as we poll our students about problems during classes, that they are absolutely getting better. We can’t walk away from that.” ■



Reinventing the Game

Zoom brings the social element back to online bridge

BY CHIP DOMBROWSKI

Bridge players have been forced to migrate online. While they're generally pleased to have the opportunity to play at all, the truth is, it's just not the same as playing in person. Virtual clubs typically limit the length of their games to about 18 boards – because a two-hour online game *feels* like four hours.

A few groups on the West Coast are pioneering a solution to the tediousness of online bridge: using Zoom. For many of those who've tried it, it's the only way to play online.

The Mercercrest Bridge Club in Seattle has been running games with Zoom since mid-March. The Portland Gay Men's Bridge Group began using the same format in early April. Tom Reynolds of Los Angeles hosts online knockouts, an easier way to make use of Zoom, as no movement is required.

The U.S. Bridge Federation also planned to use Zoom in its invitational tournament in late May/early June.

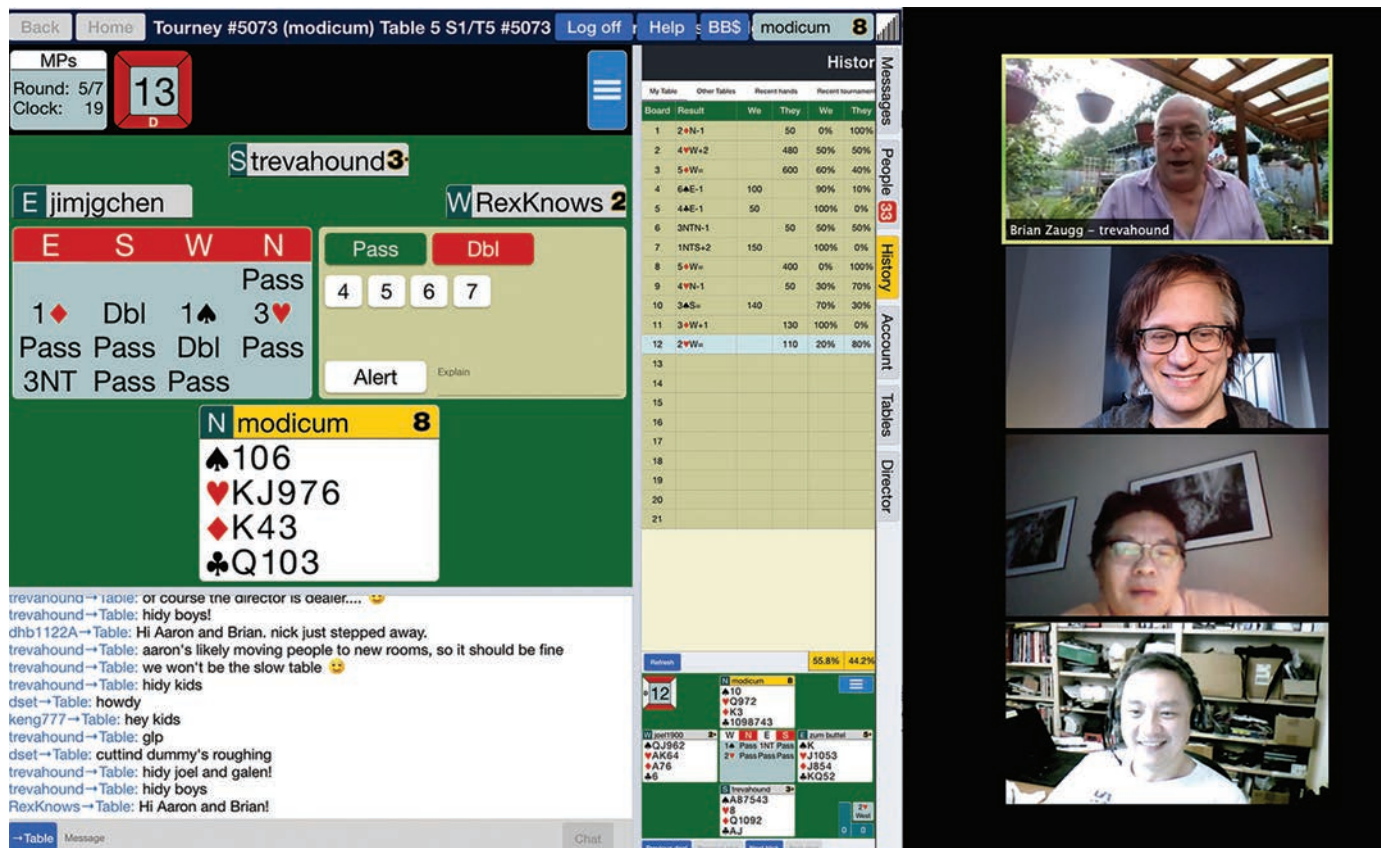
The first cases of coronavirus in the United States emerged in the Seattle area, where things began shutting down earliest. Mercercrest director Aaron Mohrman, who had experience using Zoom for work, had the idea to use the free videoconferencing software to bring his club together. A couple of weeks before ACBL's Virtual Club program came to fruition, he arranged with Bridge Base Online to run free, private tournaments.

"Everyone was feeling isolated in their homes, especially those of us who live alone," Mohrman said. "It is so comforting to hear familiar voices and see people's faces."

Running a pairs game on Zoom

requires using a feature called breakout rooms. Before the beginning of the game, everyone joins a Zoom meeting. After a few minutes of socializing and announcements from the director, the host assigns players to breakout rooms corresponding to the table number where they start. At the end of each round, the East-West players need to be moved to the next room. Then, at the end of the game, everyone returns to the main meeting for more social time.

All players need to do is keep two windows open on their computer – one for BBO and one for Zoom. The Zoom window works best sized so that the four pictures stack vertically and placed off to the side – big enough to see the four players at your table. "They can talk freely about what is happening at their table, and no other table can



You may place the Zoom window on the left, on the right, or on another device. Shown here on the right side.

see or hear them,” Mohrman explains.

The format has been so popular that Mercercrest expanded from one night a week to three. The club regularly draws 10 to 12 tables on Tuesday nights and six to eight on Thursdays and Sundays.

In Portland, Zack Woodbury has been hosting a social duplicate game on Friday nights since 2012. He, too, had the idea to use Zoom when he brought his game online. Even with his younger, more tech-savvy group, there was a bit of chaos figuring out how to make it work the first week, but since then, it has worked smoothly. Whereas Mohrman (or fellow director Jeff Ford) handles moving people from one breakout room to the next himself, Woodbury makes all of his players co-hosts so that they can move themselves. Only those who are using Zoom on mobile devices need help getting moved.

For those who play quickly, there are usually several minutes left on the round clock when they finish their boards. Sitting at home alone with no social connection, those minutes feel like an eternity. With Zoom, they're enjoyable.

Because Zoom makes the time go by so much quicker, Woodbury is able to run regular-length games. But his Zoom meetings last much longer than the three hours of game time. He starts an hour ahead with social time. After the game, players continue to socialize on Zoom for hours. Some stay as late as 3 a.m. “It's the closest we can come to actually being together,” Woodbury says.

Reynolds likes serious bridge. When the Columbus NABC was canceled, he began planning his games as an alternative to the Vanderbilt. But even for many serious players, using Zoom is an improvement. With the knockout format, breakout rooms aren't necessary. The four players participating in a match simply join a meeting. Reynolds tried using Skype initially, but switched to Zoom. “In both cases it is more like a bunch of friends getting

together over drinks, except bridge is deadly serious and everyone is quiet during the play and bidding,” he says.

Eric Sieg is a Seattle-area player who participates in both Reynolds's matches and the Mercercrest game. He was working from home before quarantine, and bridge was his main social outlet. Playing with Zoom helps, Sieg says. “It's a lot better than no bridge or no social connection, but I definitely miss in-person bridge and activities.”

Reynolds has been exploring ways to use video technology to protect the integrity of high-level bridge events online. He's tried using Zoom with two rooms for each table, so that each player is on a call with only their screenmate from the opposing team, but found it ineffective without a third-party monitor. “I am totally consumed with the hand and never glance at my screenmate,” he says.

While the USBF would like to run events like Reynolds envisions with remote monitoring, the plan was to start with the invitational using Zoom for screenmates, according to Jan Martel, the COO. “Our reasons are primarily social, to allow players to interact with each other in a better way than they can on BBO,” she says.

Other clubs have expressed interest in the idea of using Zoom, but – having encountered the depths of technological ineptitude that exist among their players in getting them onto BBO – fear it's just too much for them to handle.

The Portland Bridge Club has been using Zoom for teaching and slowly introduced a social hour before one evening game, but co-owner Dave Brower says he'll be very cautious about trying to integrate it into games, waiting until players are much more comfortable with the technology they're already using. “It was five weeks after the club shut down before we finally got open-game players back to the point where they want to play,” Brower says. “To add Zoom on top of that for people who are already unsure of BBO seems like a nonstarter.”

But in Mohrman's experience, it's

not as hard to teach players to use Zoom as club managers and directors fear. He requires first-time players to attend a 20-minute orientation before the game, but that's enough. “Like most clubs, we have players with a wide range of technological prowess,” he says. “Most players get comfortable with it quickly. We've had well over 100 people play.”

Sue Crist is a Mercercrest player who had not previously used BBO, and describes her initial comfort level with the game technology as low to moderate. “It's just been excellent. It took a little bit of getting used to. But both Aaron and Jeff, the two directors, have been very clear in their instructions and very patient,” she says. “It works very well. It makes it feel fun. Once you get some help and get going, it's really not that complicated. Now it's very easy.”

Shawn Abernethy had played online before but didn't enjoy it much without the social aspect. But add in Zoom, and now she has a reason to keep coming back. “It's been really great,” she says. “When we sit down at our table, it's just like the four of us. I find it a lot more pleasing.”

Mohrman expects more clubs will want to try his format after they've had a few months of online play under their belt. “My experience, once people see the format, a lightbulb goes off and they see how much sense it makes,” he says. He plans to create a tutorial for interested clubs.

“It's something units should be looking at to help save our game,” says Abernethy.

For Woodbury, Zoom is the only way to go. “Just playing on BBO without being able to see and talk to everyone at my table on Zoom would not be the same experience,” he says. “Given the choice between playing on BBO with friends without Zoom, or robots, I would rather play with robots since I wouldn't have to wait for everyone to bid. I have tried a few virtual club games on BBO, but without Zoom, it's just not the same.” ■

Lynn Deas 1952–2020

Lynn Deas died May 10 in Schenectady NY. Hailed by the World Bridge Federation as “one of the greatest bridge players in the world,” Deas ranked second in the WBF’s all-time listing of women players. Her bridge credits include 13 WBF medals and 27 ACBL North American championships. In 2004, she won the Lazard Sportsmanship award. She was overjoyed at being elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame in February.

Deas grew up in Newport News VA. Sidelined by a severe car accident when she was in medical school, she used the forced leave of absence to make a career change. She decided to pursue playing bridge professionally.

Bridge expert, journalist and commentator Barry Rigal has followed U.S. Women’s bridge over the last 30 years.

“I always felt that despite Lynn’s splendid achievements, she was never close to getting the kudos she deserved,” Rigal says. “Bear in mind Lynn nearly died post the 1996 Rhodes world championship and was never able to play bridge out of a wheelchair again! That is 25 years of dealing with life-threatening diseases; yet she and Beth Palmer – also gone way too soon – were still surely the dominant U.S. women’s pair.”

Rigal doubts that anyone else could have coped with the formidable problems Deas dealt with every day. “I’m so happy that Lynn finally got the recognition she deserved and really sad that she won’t be able to accept the honor in person.”

During a February interview, Lynn was asked if she had an all-time favorite deal. Her response, in signature style, came immediately. “Y’all are gonna enjoy this.”

Valerie Westheimer, a New York City expert, sets the scene. “Before I ever played against Lynn, I read an article in the New York Times by Alan Truscott about the most brilliant play in the

1991 Yokohama World Championship. Lynn and her partner bid to 7♣. Truscott: ‘As the same deals were played in both series [*Open and Women’s*], there were numerous opportunities. A bunch of top experts failed and, after protracted postmortems, were convinced that 7♣ could not be made barring a defensive error. They were astonished to learn that Deas had made 7♣ without any help from the defense.’”

Also in the New York Times, mid-’90s, Westheimer smiles, “from the Sunday crossword puzzle: ‘Lynn _ _ _ _ , professional bridge player.’ Cool!”

Westheimer says that many may not be aware of Lynn’s other talents. “She was a persistent and, eventually, accomplished gardener. Also, she could whip up a delectable four-course meal on the spur of the moment for a bunch of friends. She was amazing!”

Rich Kasprowicz, Deas’s husband of nearly 30 years, appreciated Lynn’s determination to play the game she loved despite the many obstacles. “Also her love for her dogs,” Kasprowicz adds. “They meant the world to her.” When Deas died, she and Kasprowicz had 13 dogs and three puppies.

One of Lynn’s longtime friends, Barbara Doran of Silver Spring MD, says, “Lynn used to name her dogs using bridge terminology. There was Wish Trick, Finesse, Trump It, IMP and so many more.”

Bridge professional Curtis Cheek, asked by Deas to present her for induction at the now-canceled Hall of Fame ceremony in Montreal, says, “Lynn took me under her wing 27 years ago. She became a huge part of my life – in business, as a partner and as a friend. I’ll miss her texts with pictures of each new litter of puppies, the phone calls to ask how I would bid a hand, and the 4 a.m. visits from hotel security because we were laughing too loud. The world has lost one of its all-time great players, and I’ve lost a dear friend.”



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gold medal

Venice Cup 1987, 1989, 1991

World Olympiad Women’s Teams 1996

McConnell Cup 2002

World Series Championship Women’s Pairs 2010

World National Women’s Teams 2016

SportAccord World Mind Games Women’s Team and Pairs 2011

Silver medal

Venice Cup 2009, 2015

World Series Championship Women’s Pairs 1982

Bronze medal

Venice Cup 1997

McConnell Cup 2014

World Series Championship Women’s Pairs 1994

NABC TITLES

Marsha May Sternberg Women’s BAM Teams 1992, 1995, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2014, 2016

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Nancy Strohmmer

ACBL Charity Foundation President Nancy Strohmmer and the American Contract Bridge League are being honored by the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce at its annual convention in August.

"We are excited to recognize the ACBL Charity Foundation for generously

supporting the advancement and empowerment of women and girls," says Suzan Deison, GHWCC chief executive officer, president and founder. "We are especially honored to recognize Nancy for her support and leadership."

The ACBL Charity Foundation recently approved a \$10,000 grant to support three of the chamber's development programs for underserved girls and professional women.

"We will be awarding our scholarships at the conference, and our STEAM Town USA students will be there as well," says Deison. "This grant money helps fund these initiatives, so we want Nancy and the ACBL to be a part of the scholarship presentation. Together, we are changing the trajectory of these students' lives."

With a mile-long resume of volunteerism and community accomplishments in Houston that stretches back almost 40 years, Strohmmer brings a strong service and organizational ethic to the bridge community. "For me," Strohmmer says, "the ACBL offers the perfect marriage: I get to play bridge and work toward charitable causes."

The ACBL Charity Foundation – the giving arm of the ACBL – seeks to improve the quality of life in members' communities by supporting non-bridge related, 501(c)(3) charitable organizations. Strohmmer calls the Charity Foundation "the ACBL's best-kept secret," and that is something she's determined to change by more aggressively marketing the Foundation and grant application information.

Strohmmer says that any ACBL member may submit a request for grant funding on behalf of an organization. "Any member," she emphasizes. "We extend grants to animal, arts, cultural, humanity, education, environmental, health and human services organizations. The trustees are volunteers committed to providing funds to those organizations that are important to the ACBL membership."

BY SUE MUNDAY



By playing in charity games at clubs, members have supported causes as

varied as autism centers, food pantries, senior health care, ALS, equine-assisted therapy and laptop computers for schools in Kampala, Uganda and Tanzania.

"Our rules do not allow us to donate to any bridge-related entity," Strohmmer explains. "Those entities are under the umbrella of the ACBL Educational Foundation."

To respond to the needs of local and regional charities, the Charity Foundation distributes grant money to districts on a rotating basis. In 2020, Districts 5, 6, 9, 13 and 23 each receive \$30,000 to distribute. Trustees have set aside a separate fund for disaster relief. In the past, substantial contributions were made in the wake of hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria in 2017, the California wildfires in 2017 and 2019 and the earthquake in Mexico in 2017.

"I want us to be able to reach more areas," Strohmmer says. "We have finalized criteria on which to base our funding decisions, and we don't give money just to give it. But I feel we get so few requests, and only from a handful of districts in the know about the Foundation's work. We want everyone to be in the know."

Foundation trustees meet twice a year – in the spring and in the fall – to decide funding allocations. The deadline for submissions to be considered at the trustees' November 2020 meeting is Oct. 1. For more information, including a grant application form, go to acbl.org/charityfoundation.

Bridge Bulletin Online

One of the most commonly asked questions from members is how to read the online version of the Bridge Bulletin.

Active members have access to the MyACBL portal, located at the top of the ACBL's homepage at acbl.org. After registering and setting up a password, members can view all types of special content, including the Bridge Bulletin. Simply click on the large orange link to see the current issue of the magazine.

Looking for back issues? After loading the current issue, you may navigate to older issues using the Archive option. All issues are available through January 2005.

Looking for a particular article? The Search function allows you to explore the entire online library.

ACBL Educational Foundation Names Board of Trustees

BY KRISTEN FREDERICK, Executive Director, ACBL Educational Foundation

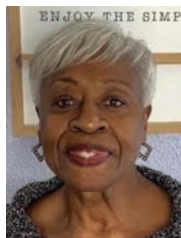
We are pleased to welcome the following individuals who were recently elected to join the Board of Trustees of the ACBL Educational Foundation.



Sharon Anderson, Eagan MN. Sharon is no stranger to the ACBL bridge world. As District 14 Director, she has served on the Executive Director Review, Governance, Strategic and Credentials committees. An author and specialist in the areas of strategic change, organizational development and leadership, she was director of professional development at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School for 25 years. Founder of Aurora Consulting, she has 35 years of experience developing programs for people at all levels in education, politics and business.



Michael Berkowitz, Brooklyn NY. Michael hated bridge right up until he loved it. With two world champion bridge players as parents, he and his sister would charge their parents a quarter every time dinner conversation devolved into bridge. Both a teacher and director for Honors Bridge Club in New York City, he became head director for the Aces and Cavendish Bridge clubs. His reputation for friendliness, quick wit and compassion resulted in becoming known as "New York's most loved director." Larry Cohen recognized Michael's natural teaching abilities and added him to the "Bridge with Larry Cohen" travel and teaching team. He also writes the "Lessons Learned" column in the Bridge Bulletin.



Barbara Clark, West Orange NJ. Barbara's dedication has been to enhance life experiences and opportunities for kids in Orange public schools. She also found that this mission could be achieved by teaching them bridge; it not only involved the kids, but their parents, teachers and school administrators. Her success in running youth bridge programs resulted in strong donor support, thereby sending large numbers of kids to every Youth NABC since 2013. When not playing bridge in these host cities, they visited as many of the historical and cultural sites as possible. Barbara's career path took her from special education teacher to director of special services for the New Jersey Department of Education. She spent many successful years as youth bridge coordinator for District 3 and almost 20 years as education liaison for Unit 140.



S. Reese Koppel, Metairie LA. Reese is a rising junior at Yale University and will graduate in May 2022 with a bachelor's degree in cognitive science (concentration: analytical decision-making) and a certificate in statistics and data science. He's also an economic development intern for Greater New Orleans Inc. If his name sounds familiar, you'll recall he was elected King of Bridge in 2018 and the recipient of a scholarship recognizing a high school senior for outstanding tournament performances and promoting the game of bridge. In that same year, he won the Baron Barclay Open Pairs at the Youth NABC. The founder, president, coach and tournament team captain of the Yale Bridge Club, he has coached his team members into one of the top collegiate teams in the country.

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Confusing Cuebids

BY MEL COLCHAMIRO



These are certainly confusing times. This article, however, is designed to try to “un-confuse” you as to the meanings of cuebids in different situations. Some of what follows may surprise (and enlighten) you, and some may be a form of a review.

In each question, you are the player whose bid is highlighted. Do you know the common meaning of these cuebids? Have you and your regular partners discussed them? See how many you can get right.

	Opener	Opponent	Responder	Opponent
1.	1♥/1♠	2♣	3♣	
2.	1♣/1♦	1♥	2♥	
3.	1♥	2♠	3♠	
4.	1♣/1♦	2♠	3♠	
5.	1♦	2♦		
6.	1♥	2♥		
7.	1♠	3♠		
8.	1♦	1♥	1♠	3♦
9.	1♥	3♣	4♣	
10.	1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥
	3♥			
11.	1♥ Pass	1♠ Pass	2♦ 3♠	2♠
12.	1♣ Pass	Dbl 2♣	Pass	1♠
13.	1♦	Dbl	Pass	2♦
14.	1♥ 4♣	2♣	3♣	Pass
15.	1♦ 3♥	2♦ ⁽¹⁾	3♦	Pass
(1) Majors				
16.	1♦ Pass	1♠ 3♦	Pass	2♠
17a.	1♥	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	2♠	
(1) Spades + minor				
17b.	1♠	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	3♥	
(1) Hearts + minor				
17c.	1♠	2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♣/3♦	
(1) Minors				

ANSWERS

- 3♣ is a normal limit raise or better, showing 11-plus points and three-card or longer support. No surprise here.
- 2♥ is similar to No. 1. It shows 11 or more points and at least four-card trump support, but there is additional info imbedded in it. Responder denies four cards in spades (or responder would have made a negative double) and is not likely to have a balanced hand with a heart stopper (or responder would have chosen 2NT or 3NT).
- 3♠ shows three-card or longer support, but here shows at least 13 points because 3♠ forces us to at least 4♥. We can no longer stop in 3♥.
- Similar to No. 3, but it denies as many as four cards in hearts (no negative double).
- A normal Michaels cuebid showing at least 5–5 in the majors. The range depends somewhat on partnership agreements. A common approach, depending on vulnerability, is for a Michaels cuebid to normally show about 6–11 HCP — or 17-plus HCP if you intend to bid again. With 12–16 HCP, therefore, the plan is to simply overcall 1♠ and then bid hearts later if possible. Some experts, however, believe you can have any number of points to use Michaels. Make sure you and your partner agree.
- A Michaels cuebid showing spades and a minor. (Over 1♠, 2♠ shows hearts and a minor.) Responder can bid 2NT with forward-going hands to ask, “What’s your minor?” or, with a weakish hand, bids 3♣, asking partner to pass or correct to 3♦ if that’s the minor.
- A jump cuebid asks responder for a stopper in spades, almost always based on a long running suit, in an attempt to get to 3NT.
- This form of jump cuebid shows four-card support for partner’s overcalled suit and about 7–10 points. It’s known as a “mixed raise.” Why “mixed”? Because it’s too strong for a preemptive raise and not strong enough for a limit raise. It’s “Law” abiding. It also suggests that a raise to 2♥ in this position would contain only three-card support.
- Heart support and 13-plus points.
- Perhaps surprising, this cuebid denies spade support. With support, opener would simply bid 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠ depending on the strength of the hand. 3♥ is looking for a heart stopper. This is one that seems to befuddle all too many players. But maybe no more.

11. Looking for a spade stopper. With heart support and game interest, responder would bid 3♥ or 4♥. On rare occasions, responder could have slam aspirations in hearts, but opener presumes not so for now.
12. Most people get this one wrong, too. 95% of the time this cuebid denies spade support. Typically, it shows at most three-card support, a very strong hand and probably no club stopper. With four-card spade support, the doubler would have bid 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠.
13. 2♦ shows either a game-going hand with no clear direction (no diamond stopper, no five-card major), or a hand with at least one four-card major and at least invitational values. The 2♦ bidder promises at least one more bid. It is not playable to have the advancer cuebid and then pass.
14. This return cuebid is a “control bid” showing (usually) first- or second-round control, looking for slam. We’ve already agreed hearts, and 4♣ forces us to 4♥, so what’s the point unless we’re probing for slam?
15. 3♥ shows a heart stopper and is looking for a spade stopper; the majors are the two suits they have “bid.”
16. Though 3♦ is technically a cuebid, it is really a side-suit game try. It is wildly unlikely we are looking for slam after 1♠–2♠, or that we are trying to play in notrump because we have already found an eight-card or longer major-suit fit. It’s no different than if we had bid 3♣ instead of 3♦.
- 17a/b. These are called “invisible” cuebids. Over 1♥–2♥, showing spades and a minor, 2♠ by us can’t be a desire to play in spades with five of them to our right. The same thinking applies when RHO has shown hearts and a minor or when righty has shown both minors. Instead, these invisible cuebids show a limit raise or better in partner’s suit.
- 17c. More invisible cuebids, but because the unusual 2NT shows two suits (clubs and diamonds), opener’s partner can take advantage of this by using 3♣ to show limit values and five or more hearts, while 3♦ is used to show a limit raise in spades. These are “corresponding suits”: the lower minor (clubs) shows the lower major (hearts), while the higher minor shows the higher major. This method allows opener’s partner to bid a simple 3♥ or 3♠ with weaker hands.



Stratton takes marketing helm at ACBL

When Mary Stratton was hired earlier this year to become the ACBL’s new marketing director, little did anyone imagine that her proposed start date of April 1

would find the organization in the greatest upheaval in its history. Yet Stratton, a career marketing specialist, believes the challenges posed by the pandemic present the ACBL with a generational opportunity to modernize its appeal through online play, a virtue grounded in a necessity.

“How do we get more people to play bridge? Young adults and empty-nesters already get a significant part of their entertainment from online sources. If we’re going to attract more people, then online play is the way to do that,” said Stratton, 43, who lives in Memphis with her husband Jarren and children Mara, 9, and Brenna, 7.

“Regarding the pandemic, I believe we’re making lemonade out of lemons. COVID-19 has provided us with an eye-opening opportunity instead of simply being a hindrance,” she said, pointing to the incredible success of the Support Your Club and virtual club games on BBO, as well as the tremendously popular Stay At Home Regional and Silver Linings Sectional. The two online tournaments generated almost a half million dollars in revenue for the League.

Stratton began her career as director of marketing for Toronto-based TCG, a fast-growing puzzle, game and toy company. She was next a senior account director at Oden, a business-to-business marketing firm in Memphis. In this role, she served as a key liaison with the global brand management team at FedEx. Most recently, Stratton served for five years as director of marketing for Power & Tel, a leading distributor in the telecommunication industry.

Stratton is from the Midwest and holds an MBA from Purdue University. She currently is on the board of the Memphis chapter of the American Marketing Association and was one of the founding chapter board members.



Yukon Gold

One man's quest to become a Life Master living in northern Canada

Is it possible to become a Life Master living in a community with no ACBL-sanctioned clubs within 1000 miles of your home? Chic Callas proved that it is possible with some help from the new online black-point games.

Chic was raised in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, a small city (population 20,000) in northern Canada. He learned to play bridge in 1974–75 while attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

“I was enrolled in a pre-med program, but I ended up majoring in bridge that year,” he said, sheepishly adding that it was a source of huge embarrassment to him for the next 40 years: He failed every course. He just quit going to classes, but was still enrolled and, instead, focused solely on bridge. His daily routine was to sleep until noon, have lunch in the cafeteria and head back to the dorm. He would spend the afternoon by starting with the Goren bridge article in the daily paper and then would read sections of “The Encyclopedia of Bridge” that another student in the dorm had purchased. Once the diligent students started returning from class, a table for four was set up at the back of the recreation room, and Chic would play with anyone that was available from 4 p.m. until midnight. Then, he'd relax by watching a movie and go to bed around 2 or 3 a.m. This routine was repeated daily. As he freely admits, it was not a healthy lifestyle. He would *not* recommend it for those looking for a proper education, but bridge had grabbed his interest.

When Chic returned to Yellowknife

for work, there was no bridge club, so he played bridge weekly with friends for 1/10th of a penny a point. Partners were drawn randomly each week, but after a couple of years, everybody owed Chic money. On the night his first son was born, Chic collected his winnings (\$20!) from the other players and gave up bridge for the next 20 years. At that point, he thought he knew a fair bit about how to play the game. He would discover how little he knew years later.

After a new start when he moved to Whitehorse, Yukon, Chic once again found bridge. It was also during that time that he watched his mother slowly succumb to dementia, and he knew he had to find something to keep his brain exercised. So in June 2009, he went to the local bridge club. It was (and still is) a non-sanctioned club, so no black points were available, but it was the start of a decade of playing and reading and learning.

For those whose geography may be rusty, northern Canada has three territories: Yukon (west), Northwest Territory (center) and Nunavut (east) for a total population of 116,000 in an area half as big as the United States.

His first tournament was an “international” one, as he and his partner drove four hours to attend the Haines (AK) Sectional in April 2010, and it was there that he learned about joining the ACBL. In hindsight, he said he should have joined when he started playing in 2009, but he didn't know the rules were changing on Jan. 1, 2010, and that the requirements for becoming a Life Master would increase from 300 to 500 masterpoints. But not knowing can sometimes be a good thing, and he earned his first masterpoints (2.44 silver) in Haines. The quest had begun. Admittedly, it was very slow those first few years, as Chic was working full time and didn't

have the time or resources to travel great distances to tournaments. But by studying the monthly Bridge Bulletin, reading other bridge books and playing once a week, his knowledge increased.

For the next four years, the annual tournament in Haines was the only place to earn masterpoints. In 2014, he played at a couple of black-point club games while visiting family in southern Canada, and in 2016, he and his regular partner went to their first regional in Whistler BC.

Retiring in October 2016, Chic began playing online, and between 2016 and 2019, Chic was able to attend a couple of regionals a year and earned the gold and red points required to become a Life Master. In 2019, he passed the 500-masterpoint mark, but was still missing 44.70 black points as of March of this year.

Chic's plans for the Burnaby Regional in Vancouver and the Haines Sectional in April of this year were wisely canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. Chic was resigned to thinking it would be another three or four years before he would be able to earn the black points he needed by attending sanctioned clubs in other locations. But then, the ACBL and BBO teamed up to provide black-point games online. Chic jumped at the opportunity, and between March 19 and May 11, he earned the points he needed playing in Support Your Club games on BBO.

Callas said, “This will make me the first person to become a Life Master from start to finish while living in northern Canada. Now I can get to work on the house! And I'm grateful my wife didn't kill me these past several weeks, as she put up with me while I worked hard to earn the black points I needed to meet that goal. Ten years. Lots of hard work and financial costs, but I feel great!” ■

A Hand of Bridge

BY AUGIE BOEHM

The shortest opera on record (about nine minutes) is “A Hand of Bridge,” music by Samuel Barber, libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti, himself a composer, which premiered at the Spoleto Festival in Italy on June 17, 1959. Modern performances are accessible on YouTube.

Two mixed pair couples, unhappily married, sit down for their nightly social bridge game. Bill (South) opens 1♥, Geraldine on his left bids 2♣, Sally, North, chimes in with 2♥, David passes, and Bill leaps to 4♥. Geraldine perseveres to 5♣, and Sally’s 5♥ call ends the auction.

After the opening lead, Sally sings, “Once again I’m dummy, forever dummy.” These monologues are meant to reflect inner thoughts, unheard by the other players. Staging and lighting can create the effect.

Bill evidently gains the lead at trick two and is studying the hand while Sally muses that she wants to buy a certain hat. Bill starts to play out of the wrong hand; Sally corrects him, “On the table, darling.”


Bill begins to wonder why Sally mentioned always being the dummy. Could that mean she has finally found out about his girlfriend, Cymbeline? He begins to rhapsodize about the fair Cymbeline. The lyricism is interrupted when the chamber orchestra lets forth a sudden sforzando as Bill ruffs dummy’s queen. Crossly, Sally tells Bill he just ruffed her good trick.

Geraldine muses that Bill is very distracted tonight. He can’t possibly be thinking of his emotionally long-discarded queen, Sally. Nor is he thinking

of me with whom he used to play footsie under the table. She then laments on being unloved in her life.

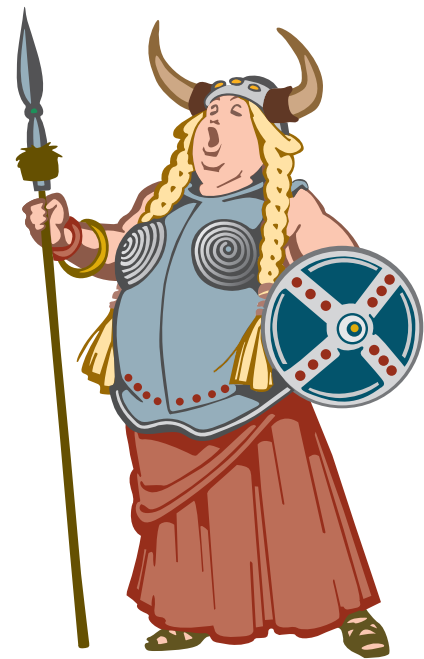
When David later wins a trick with the ♦ K, it triggers his wish to be independently rich, as rich as the king of diamonds. He shares lurid dreams of how he would spend the money. The four characters reprise their ruminations and the final measures of the opera end somewhat cryptically with “Hearts, Hearts, Trump!”

The outcome of the deal is ambiguous, and is hardly essential to the opera, but I have tried to supply a deal to fit the opera’s events:

<p><i>North (Sally)</i></p> <p>♠ Q 6 5 4 2</p> <p>♥ J 10 2</p> <p>♦ A 8 7 5 3</p> <p>♣ —</p>	<p><i>West (Geraldine)</i></p> <p>♠ A J</p> <p>♥ 8</p> <p>♦ 9 4</p> <p>♣ A Q J 9 7 6 4 3</p>	<p><i>East (David)</i></p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 7 3</p> <p>♥ 7 3</p> <p>♦ K 10 2</p> <p>♣ K 8 5</p>
		
<p><i>South (Bill)</i></p> <p>♠ K</p> <p>♥ A K Q 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♦ Q J 6</p> <p>♣ 10 2</p>		

The bidding is within reason. North might have chosen a different first call and East might have raised clubs, but remember, these are social players (with excellent voices).

Geraldine’s opening lead is the ♠ A. She’s apparently convinced that Sally’s limited 2♥ bid, which is now somehow worth 5♥, must contain a club void. At trick two, she shifts to a heart to



cut down ruffs, won with dummy’s 10. Bill, off his game and fixated on ruffing clubs, plays a club out of his hand, the wrong hand. When corrected by his wife, he pulls the ♠ Q from the table and ruffs it, forgetting that he played his singleton king at trick one. This draws a sarcastic reprimand from Sally.

Rattled, Bill now finesses in diamonds, allowing David on lead. What happens from here isn’t hinted at in the opera, the authors not being sophisticated bridge players, but the opera evidently concludes with Bill drawing trumps towards the end of the deal.

What may have taken place is that Bill, still worried about what his wife may know of girlfriend Cymbeline, failed to see that he could simply draw the last trump and claim. Instead, he ruffed David’s spade return, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade back to his hand, and ruffed his last club. At that point, he can return with another spade ruff and draw the missing trump. 5♥ made the hard way, so the game can go on instead of ending like the murderous Bennett home game in the Roaring ’20s. Now *there’s* material for a dramatic opera. ■



Ruling the Game

rulings@acbl.org

MODERATOR: MATT KOLTNOW
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Q I have been playing online bridge the past few months. It's been great playing against familiar friends in our virtual ACBL club on BBO. I loved playing in the Stay at Home Regional as well. Both events have helped me continue my progress toward my next masterpoint rank. At our virtual club, I know all of my opponents. Players who normally do poorly aren't suddenly having 75+% games, but at the regional, which attracts people from all over, how can I be sure people are not cheating, especially when such large masterpoint awards are available?

A First, thank you for giving us the chance to remind everyone that the Laws of Duplicate Bridge still apply online. In an environment where it is impossible to bid out of turn, make an insufficient bid, lead out of turn or revoke, it can be tempting to think the rules do not matter. Law 72A reminds us all that "duplicate bridge tournaments should be played in strict accordance with the Laws ... whilst complying with the lawful procedures and ethical standards set out in these laws." One of the attractions of organized duplicate bridge is taking comfort in knowing that your opponents play by the rules. When there is a problem at the table, you can call the director to sort things out.

There are several sorts of problematic behaviors that you might encounter online. You can make playing

online bridge more enjoyable for your partners and opponents if you consider these situations before sitting down to play. That way, you can be better prepared if something should arise. We hope you will never play against a pair who is committing (per Law 73B2) the "gravest possible offense" by "exchang[ing] information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by [the] Laws." You and your opponents would never be allowed to tell partner about cards in your hands, the meaning of a bid, or anything else about the current board in a live bridge game. You are prohibited from any sort of communication outside of the online bridge interface. There are prescribed procedures for Alerting and Announcing and for asking questions about or explaining your methods. Remember, in online bridge, you Alert and explain your own bids. Part of duplicate bridge is the concept that contestants should compete under conditions that are as similar as possible at all tables. Most of the time, the members of a partnership will be in different locations. If you and your partner are playing online bridge from the same location, the best practice would be for each to be in a separate room, unable to see or hear each other. Law 16B1 says that "extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized." In face-to-face play, your opponents could call the director to describe conditions at the table where one partner might have received

unauthorized information. Your online opponents cannot report behavior they cannot observe. Playing in different rooms makes it easier for you to avoid allegations of impropriety.

ACBL standards of behavior still apply online. It is even more important to "Play Nice" when some of the pleasantries of face-to-face bridge, such as smiles, are impossible. Greet the opponents. Introduce yourself and your partner. Post a complete convention card with both partners' names. Compliment the opponents on good bids and plays. Learn common online abbreviations. Assume that what appears to be terse rudeness is merely friendly brevity. If you find out you were mistaken, call the director. There is no place for rudeness in live bridge; online is no different.

If you have a problem with behavior or think you see something suspicious, you may bring it to the attention of the ACBL Recorder at recorder@acbl.org. BBO's software is capable of tracking anomalies related to contestants who continually produce suspiciously good results. Also, remember that in an 18-board session, it is mathematically more likely for a pair to have a really great (or really terrible) percentage score than in a longer event. There are going to be more big games than you are accustomed to seeing, and some of them will be achieved by less-experienced pairs. Always remember to be polite. What seems suspicious to you may simply be the action of a player whose choice was lucky this time. ■



For the Record

BY **ROBB GORDON** | ACBL National Recorder

Cheating online and its consequences

The ACBL has a relationship with Bridge Base Online that includes popular games that issue ACBL masterpoints. Except for the three national robot championships, the points for these games were unpigmented. They didn't count for any of the annual masterpoint races except for the Online contest. The reason, of course, is that there was no security and it was a simple matter to cheat. Occasionally an event of significance would be held online, but players would be proctored by volunteer monitors sitting with them.

Many of us looked forward to a development that would "cheat-proof" these games so that they could be more widely used. Despite offering only non-pigmented points, people did cheat. Fortunately, BBO would investigate reports of unusual results, and they had a statistical screen as well. They caught several cheaters who they barred. Per ACBL regulations, they notified our Club Department of the barring, and in the past couple of years, the ACBL has followed up with investigations and discipline of its own.

None of us were planning for a pandemic. The coronavirus might have kept us at home, but it certainly didn't eliminate our desire for competitive bridge and masterpoints. So the ACBL started having games that issued (black) pigmented points, initially with a "Support Your Club" game and then with individual clubs holding virtual games on BBO using their own sanction. This gave some relief to the clubs who lost revenue and provided an out-

let for players. The ACBL even hosted a gold point regional online.

But wait! Didn't we issue non-pigmented points because of the ease of cheating? Yes, and we thought long and hard about the benefits and consequences of holding these games.

We decided that with the robust BBO investigating protocol, and a National Recorder and tournament directors that were relieved of substantial portions of their responsibilities due to the lack of face-to-face bridge, we could catch enough cheaters to discourage those who don't care to wager their ACBL membership privileges on not getting caught.

BBO is doing its investigative screening. The National Recorder's office is investigating matters referred by both BBO and by members through our Player Memo system (acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/player-memo/).

At press time, there were a dozen cases and/or active investigations. Are we going to catch all the cheaters? No, of course not. But with the tracking of every call and every card played, it is much easier to catch an online cheater than one who is playing face-to-face. At NABCs, we have expanded our video surveillance. We have an Anti-Cheating Commission of world-class experts. But none of us are under the illusion that we are going to catch everybody any more than the police are going to catch every drunk driver. But like a DUI, the consequences are great enough that most will think twice before cheating online.

These consequences take two forms. As a private enterprise (and as an ACBL-sanctioned club), BBO can decide it doesn't want your business if it believes you are cheating. So they can summarily bar you. Allowing cheaters on its platform is bad for their business.

The ACBL does have due process. When we receive a Player Memo, we start an investigation. When BBO bans a player, we start an investigation. With BBO hand records and "movies," it is very easy to reconstruct activities and see who is having unusual success and why. Should there be probable cause to believe you are cheating, a recorder complaint will generally lead to charges being submitted to the appropriate committee. Should that committee find you guilty of cheating, depending on the specific form they determine, recommended penalties can range from a two-year suspension to expulsion and the removal of all your masterpoints. Is gaining that advantage worth risking your connection to bridge?

But you are part of the process. If you see something, say something! Do *not* say it in public or accuse somebody. Fill out a Player Memo with the BBO user ID of the suspected cheater, along with a description of what concerns you and (ideally) full information about which game this occurred. I guarantee that we will investigate. If we find cheating, the offenders will be brought to justice.

Meanwhile, please stay safe. We want to see you back at the table soon!

Defensive Maneuvers – part 2

BY PAUL ROSS

Playing matchpoints with neither side vulnerable, you are West holding:

♠ K Q 6 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ Q 9 6.

South, on your right, opens 1NT (15–17 HCP). You pass, and LHO bids 2♣ (Stayman). Partner passes, and RHO bids 2♥. LHO raises to 4♥, ending the bidding.

What do think of the auction? It seems unremarkable. The contract will likely be same the at every table.

What do you lead? Leading the ♠K would be quite aggressive. If partner has the ace, you might get several spade tricks right off the top and then a side trick somewhere could set the contract. However, if declarer has something like ♠A J 10, a spade lead would give away a trick. A spade lead might be reasonable in a team game where setting the contract is relatively more important but, at matchpoints, the winners are usually the defenders who give away the fewest tricks.

The safest lead from your hand is the ♦10, top of a sequence:

Dummy
 ♠ J 8 5
 ♥ A J 4 2
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ A 5 4 2

You
 ♠ K Q 6 2
 ♥ 10 7 6
 ♦ 10 9 8
 ♣ Q 9 6

Dummy covers your 10 with the queen. Partner plays the king, and declarer wins with the ace.

Declarer then draws three rounds of trumps with the ♥K from hand, the ace in the dummy, and the queen back to the closed hand. On these tricks, partner plays the ♥3, ♥9 and the ♠3.

At trick five, declarer leads the ♣J. Do you cover with the queen? A helpful rule in this situation is to cover the last

of touching honors. In this case, “last” means if declarer is leading the jack from J–10, don’t cover now, wait for the 10. If declarer is leading an unsupported jack (perhaps from K–J–x), cover it. How do you know whether declarer has the 10 (when you should duck) or doesn’t have the 10 (when you should cover)?

If declarer started with the ♣K–J–x, leading the jack would be a poor play. Playing the ace from dummy and then low toward the K–J would be much better. No rational declarer would lead the jack in this situation unless they also held the 10. So duck this trick, but duck in tempo, of course. Declarer could be leading the jack from K–J–10 just to see if you hesitate. If you do, they will play you for the queen. If you play in tempo, they may play dummy’s ace and finesse your partner for the queen.

You duck smoothly. Dummy plays a low club and partner wins the king. Partner returns the ♠4. Declarer plays the 10 and you win with the queen.

What do you know about the deal at this point? *High-card points:* You had 7; dummy had 12; partner had at least 6 (♦K, ♣K). That leaves, at most, 15 HCP for declarer. Because their point range for opening 1NT is 15–17, it is fair to assume that declarer has exactly 15 HCP. You also know that partner has no more points.

Distribution: Declarer has four hearts. That’s easy. In spades, partner discarded the 3 (showing he had no values in the suit), and when he led the spade to you at trick four, he led the 4. That’s a low card, not top of a doubleton. Partner must have had three or four spades left when he led the 4. If he had four spades left at trick four, he must have started with five spades. His five plus your four plus dummy’s three leaves only one for declarer. That can’t be right: Declarer has already played

the 10, and you know declarer has the ace left. Partner must have started with four spades and declarer two.

That accounts for the major suits in declarer’s hand. The seven minor-suit cards in the closed hand are probably divided 4–3, but you don’t have enough information yet to decide which way.

What do you lead to trick eight? A low spade is safe. Declarer has the bare ace. The ♦9 is safe also. In theory, declarer could possibly win with the ♦J and put you back on lead with a third diamond to endplay you somehow, but that requires declarer giving you a trick they could ruff in the dummy.

Don’t waste effort trying to figure out what is going on in clubs. Maybe it would be safe to exit with a club. But maybe it wouldn’t. Make the play you know is safe; exit with a low spade.

If you exit with a spade (or a diamond) declarer will eventually lose a club trick to your Q–9 tenace. The defense will take two clubs and one spade for a score of minus 420 and nine out of 12 matchpoints. The full deal:

♠ K Q 6 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ Q 9 6		♠ J 8 5 ♥ A J 4 2 ♦ Q 3 ♣ A 5 4 2
♠ 9 7 4 3 ♥ 9 3 ♦ K 7 6 5 4 ♣ K 8	♠ A 10 ♥ K Q 8 5 ♦ A J 2 ♣ J 10 7 3	

Postmortem. What was the problem in this deal? At several tables, West played the ♣Q on declarer’s jack and dummy won the ace. Then a low club lead from dummy set up declarer’s 10, and the defense got only one club trick. East–West’s score of minus 450 was worth only two and a half matchpoints.



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The Bidding Box

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See the West and East hands that appear on pages 51 and 53 respectively, and try bidding them with a regular partner. Compare how you performed with the expert pairs whose auctions you can read about in this month's column. The North-South players are silent unless otherwise noted. The competitors were not informed of any interference by the opponents before the bidding commenced. The form of scoring is matchpoints with a 12 top.

The Bridge Bulletin auctions are meant to portray possible bidding sequences to one of the top-scoring contracts using common methods.

Noble Shore and Michael Gill both represented the USA as Junior players. In 2012, the District 6 players were second in the Grand National Teams Flight A, and in 2017, they finished a close second in the North American Pairs, Flight A. They have been playing together since 2004 and have developed a formidable partnership playing a strong club system with many relays/asking bids.

Shore began playing in 1999, though work and family have curtailed his play somewhat over the past few years. He lives in Maryland with his family and is a vice president at Emmes Company, a biotechnology firm. He leads the development of a data management system for clinical trials, something especially beneficial these days. Gill also lives in Maryland with his family. He is a programmer and mathematician by trade, though he calls himself a "recovering astrophysicist."

Larry Robbins and Drew Becker are familiar names, particularly to those in the Chicago area, where they most recently won the GNT Championship Flight for District 13 – which was also their first event playing together.

Robbins began playing as a teenager, sneaking into rubber bridge clubs in Chicago for higher stakes than he could afford. Shades of Lee Trevino in golf; a good way to earn your spurs if you can pull it off. Robbins has three wins

in the GNT (1979, 1991 and 1995) and he has a number of other high finishes in NABC+ events. Robbins won an NCAA college trophy at the University of Michigan, and represented the USA in international competition. He is a practicing neurologist. Becker learned the game at a very young age by playing at his grandparents' house, but didn't take to it seriously until his college days at Northwestern, where he joined a student bridge club. He has had a number of strong showings in NABC+ events, most notably a second-place finish in the Roth Swiss Teams in 2007. He is an options trader in Chicago where he lives with his family. They play a 2/1 structure with a 1NT range of a good 14 to 16 HCP, and a short club.

Problem 1

North deals. None vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K Q J 10 6 4 2	♠ A 7
♥ 10 5	♥ Q 6 3
♦ K 10 4 2	♦ A Q 9 5
♣ –	♣ A K J 7

<i>Shore</i>	<i>Gill</i>
3♥	2NT
5♣	3♠
6♦	5♠
7♠	6♠
	Pass

After a routine transfer start, Shore

took a reasonable gamble on a heart control with East and invoked exclusion key card Blackwood with his 5♣ call, asking for the number of key cards outside of the club suit, to aid in a potential grand slam inquiry. Unfortunately, the partnership has special, but different, responses when key card responder has shown 20-plus HCP and when exclusion is used. There was disagreement over which took precedence here. Thinking their side held all the necessary side controls, responder asked for third-round diamond control and bid the grand when opener confirmed with 6♠.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Becker</i>
3♥	2NT
5♣	3♠
6♠	5♠
	Pass

An identical start with responder signing off in 6♠ after learning they were missing an ace somewhere.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 2NT–4♥; 4♠–5♣; 5♦–5♠; Pass. Bridge Bulletin Standard lacks a void-showing ace-ask, so responder simply cuebids after setting spades as trump with the Texas transfer. The heart problem is detected just in time.

Scores: 5♠ 10; 5♦ 4; 3NT(E) 3; 6♠ 2; 6♦ 1

Shore–Gill 0, Robbins–Becker 2

Problem 2

East deals. N-S vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ Q J 9 6 5 4	♠ —
♥ A J	♥ K Q 10 4
♦ 6	♦ A 9 5 3
♣ Q 8 3 2	♣ K J 10 9 5

<i>Shore</i>	<i>Gill</i>
1♠	1♦
2NT	2♥
3♠	3♣
4♣	3NT
4♥	4♦
5♣	4NT
	Pass

This auction showcased some of East-West's methods. 1♦ showed 10–15 HCP and as few as zero diamonds. Over 1♠, Gill chose 2♥ as the best description with the meaty suits, showing four hearts and six clubs. (Their Precision 2♣ opener denies a four-card major.) 2NT was a lebenssohlish relay to 3♣, over which 3♠ was natural and forcing. 3NT was an offer to play, but responder didn't think notrump was the best strain and bid 4♣, natural. Opener chose to ask for key cards with 4♦ rather than sign off in game or cuebid a potentially unhelpful heart holding. Facing one key card (likely in spades), he signed off in 4NT, which responder corrected to 5♣. It took a lot of bids, but they found the top spot.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Becker</i>
2♠	1♣
	Pass

The 1♣ opening showed two or more clubs, over which responder opted to make an immediate invite in spades. That didn't suit opener very well, but there was no safety anywhere else. West acknowledged afterwards that he should have had a better suit for the invitation.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♣–1♠; 2♣–2♦(?); 2♥–2♠; 3♦–4♣; 4♦–4♥; 5♣–Pass. Opening 1♦, planning to rebid 2♣ over the likely 1♠ response, is a valid approach to

show two suits though BB prefers a 1♥ opening or rebidding clubs based on the suit textures, as we have no interest in partner taking a preference to diamonds. With the club fit, responder's hand is worth a game force with the artificial 2♦ rebid, especially because inviting in clubs can lose the spade suit and vice versa. Natural bidding follows and then a couple of cuebids. East-West run out of steam, though slam might be reached and even make on a good day.

Scores: 5♣ 11; 4♣ 7; 2♠ 5; 6♣ 4; 1NT 2

Shore–Gill 11, Robbins–Becker 7

Problem 3

South deals. E-W vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K J 8	♠ A 5 4
♥ Q J 10 7 6	♥ K 5 4
♦ A 7 4 3	♦ K Q J 6
♣ 8	♣ A 4 2

<i>Shore</i>	<i>Gill</i>
1♥	2♣
2♦	2♥
2♠	2NT
3♠	4♣
4♥	6♦
Pass	

The game-forcing 2♣ response (showing two or more clubs) is increasing in popularity, as is the rebid structure over it. 2♦ showed diamonds and/or six-plus hearts, over which 2♥ asked for clarification. 2♠ showed five hearts and a diamond suit, and 2NT asked for shape. Opener admitted to a 3=5=4=1 pattern, and responder asked then about controls (A=2, K=1) with 4♣. 4♥ showed three. Responder was not able to ask about heart quality. Even with scientific methods, judgment inevitably plays a major role. East-West will often treat singleton honors as being part of a balanced hand, and at this vulnerability, opener usually has 11-plus HCP, so good heart texture is likely. Gill pondered and leapt to the diamond slam, as hearts would provide discards in the

4–4 fit, and found opener with a quite suitable hand for that action.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Becker</i>
1♥	2♣
2♦	2♥
4♥	6♦
6♥	Pass

Over the same 2♣ response, 2♦ and 2♥ were natural. 4♥ showed a minimum, which responder felt emphasized red-suit values. With his excellent controls and trumps, he offered up 6♦. Opener mulled this over for some time. The sway of matchpoints, the ♠ J, the chunky heart suit, and a tinge of uncertainty ultimately resulted in a 6♥ contract.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♥–2♦; 3♦–3♥; 3♠–4♣; 4♦–4♠; 5NT–6♦; Pass.

Responder forces to game with their best suit. Opener cannot afford to go past 3NT with a splinter and simply raises. Responder shows a heart fit, and opener pinpoints their likely shape with 3♠. That's magic for responder, who cuebids the black aces. Opener could insist on hearts at matchpoints with the chunky suit, but gives responder a choice with 5NT. Responder chooses 6♦ with excellent trumps, also visualizing the benefit of the 4–4 fit.

Scores: 6♦ 11; 5♥ 8; 6♥ 6; 5♦ 3; 3NT 1

Shore–Gill 22, Robbins–Becker 13

Problem 4

West deals. Both vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K 6 3	♠ A 9 7 4
♥ K	♥ 8 3 2
♦ K J 10 8 3	♦ Q 9 4
♣ K Q 5 2	♣ A 10 6

<i>Shore</i>	<i>Gill</i>
2♦	2♥
3♦	Pass

The auction might look like a misprint, but it showcases both methods and judgment again. 2♦ showed both

minors (at least nine cards combined), 10–15 HCP, and no four-card major. 1NT was an option systemically, but it was not chosen with the singleton heart and lack of aces (though Shore admitted he would be tempted to do so at the table). 2♥ was artificial, showing invitational or better values. 3♦ showed a 2=2=4=5 maximum (treating the singleton king as a doubleton). Normally responder would bid over that response, but given the failure to open 1NT, Gill was worried about the majors and passed.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Becker</i>
1♦	1♠
2♠	2NT
3♦	Pass

1♦ showed five or more cards in the suit, and the partnership frequently raises responder's major on three cards, particularly after that start, as they often have a ruffing value. Becker planned the auction from there with the 2NT "spiral" convention which asked about opener's strength and spade length, though he gave brief thought to passing. Over a 3♣ or 3♦ response showing three-card support, he would sign off in 3♦ (as here). Over a four-card minimum, he would stop in 3♠, and over a four-card maximum raise, he was bidding game in spades.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♦–1♠; 2♣–3♦; Pass(?). It is legal to open 1NT with a high singleton honor, but that doesn't mean you have to. The hand presents no rebid problems, and 2♣ is well within the range of the hand. Responder has a tremendous 10-count and invites in diamonds. Expecting not much in hearts opposite, given the failure to bid 2NT over 2♣, opener discounts the ♥K and goes quietly.

Scores: 3♦ 11; 4♦ 8; 2♠ 7; 3♣ 6; 3♠ 5; 4♠ 2; 2NT, 5♦ 1

Shore–Gill 33, Robbins–Becker 24

Problem 5

North deals. N–S vulnerable.

North opens 1♠, rebids 3♠ if possible.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ 6	♠ 9 5 3
♥ A Q	♥ K J 5 2
♦ Q 9 4 2	♦ A J 7
♣ J 8 7 5 4 3	♣ A K Q

<i>Shore</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>South</i>
	(1♠)	Dbl	(Pass)
3♣	(3♠)	Dbl	(Pass)
4♦	(Pass)	5♣	All Pass

3♣ was natural and invitational. Shore introduced his second suit over the strength-showing second double. Gill was tempted to bid slam, but ultimately settled on game.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Becker</i>	<i>South</i>
	(1♠)	Dbl	(Pass)
3♣	(3♠)	Dbl	(Pass)
4♦	(Pass)	4♥	All Pass

The same start, though Robbins gave some thought to passing the second double at the prevailing vulnerability. East–West were not on the same page, as East thought 4♦ was a slam move and 4♥ was cooperating, while West thought 4♥ was an offer to play and passed with excellent support given the auction to this point. As it happens, that contract has chances because of the good trumps.

Bridge Bulletin auction: As Shore–Gill. Though any missing red honors rate to be onside, it's too difficult to learn of the singleton spade and the sixth club to gamble slam in a crowded auction.

Scores: 6♣ 12; (3♠) Dbl 8; 5♣ 7; 4♣ 5; 4♥ 3; 5♦ 1

Shore–Gill 40, Robbins–Becker 27

Problem 6

East deals. E–W vulnerable.

South overcalls 1♠. North bids (or doubles) 2♠ if possible.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ 10 5	♠ 8 4 3
♥ A 10 5	♥ K 9 7 6
♦ K J 9 5	♦ A Q 4
♣ K 9 6 4	♣ A 5 2

<i>Shore</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♦	(1♠)
2♠	(Dbl)	Pass	(Pass)
2NT	All Pass		

West faced a typical matchpoint decision after the nebulous 1♦ opening and 1♠ overcall, having to select the best option from an unappetizing lot, ultimately offering 2♠, which showed either a balanced invitation or invitational-plus with clubs – planning to show the latter. A funny thing happened along the way with North doubling to help partner on lead. Opener passed to find out what responder had in mind. East–West play 2NT as choice of minors in many competitive situations, and responder took that route with likely shapes of 2=3=4=4 or 3=2=4=4 with the balanced, invitational hand-type. While opener couldn't be sure of a spade stopper, playing a seven-card minor-suit fit at the three level was not very appealing either, so he passed.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Becker</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	(1♠)
2♦	(2♠)	3♦	All Pass

Robbins chose to introduce the diamond suit, though this was not game forcing in competition. Opener's raise was non-forcing, and, given that, responder judged game prospects were quite poor, so 3♦ concluded the proceedings.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♣–(1♠)–Dbl–(2♠); 3♥–All Pass. Bids show, they don't promise. Responder's hand is decent in support of hearts, though

only has three cards. Yes, opener will occasionally misjudge in competition, but so might the opponents. Our next call will depend on opener's rebid. 3♥ is merely competitive here. Lacking a fourth heart, responder takes the low road at matchpoints, though would likely raise to game if the red suits were reversed.

Scores: 3♥ 10; 2NT 9; 3♦ 6; 3♣ 4; 4♥ 2; 3NT, 4♦ 1

Shore–Gill 49, Robbins–Becker 33

Problem 7

South deals. Both vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A J 9 5 4 3	♠ K Q 7
♥ A 9 2	♥ Q 5 4
♦ K 5	♦ 8
♣ A K	♣ Q J 8 5 4 3

<i>Shore</i>	<i>Gill</i>
1♣	1♦
1♠	2♥
2NT	4♦
4♥	4♠
4NT	5♣
5♦	6♣
6♠	Pass

Another specialized auction with 1♣ showing 16-plus unbalanced or 17-plus balanced. 1♦ was ostensibly negative, but could be 8-plus with 0–1 controls (as here). 1♠ was natural and forcing, possibly four cards. 2♥ showed a good three-card spade raise in context of the 1♦ response. 2NT was ostensibly a game try, and 4♦ was a splinter with the 8-plus hand type expected. 4♥ was a cuebid, planning to continue further, but giving responder the chance to show a diamond void among other possibilities. Key card Blackwood followed, with responder showing one key card, and over the queen-ask (5♦), responder showed the ♠Q and the ♣Q, because the king was not possible given the 1♦ response. Opener could infer that responder had at least five clubs, but opted for 6♠, not knowing about the ♣J (or sixth club).

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Becker</i>
1♠	2♣
2♠	3♠
4NT	5♦
6♠	Pass

Responder chose to force game here with 2♣, though it didn't necessarily show a real suit. Opener's 2♠ rebid showed at least six. A 4♦ splinter would have confirmed real clubs, but would have shown much more playing strength than he held, so East simply raised to show the spade fit. Opener contemplated cuebidding, but was unlikely to be able to judge whether to play in spades versus notrump, so he simply checked on key cards, signing off in 6♠ when one was missing.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♠–1NT; 2NT(?)–4♦; 4NT–5♦; 5♥–5NT; 6♠–Pass. 3NT over 1NT is usually based on a running spade suit, with 2NT showing the 18–19 balanced type hand, though this hand type is a challenge in standard methods. Responder had planned to show a three-card limit raise, but can logically splinter over the 2NT rebid to show that hand type with a singleton diamond. Though the diamond holding is not ideal facing a splinter, opener's hand has increased in value with the fit. Opener checks on key cards, bidding slam facing one and the ♠Q.

Scores: 6NT(W) 12; 6♠(W) 9; 6♠(E) 7; 5NT(W), 6♣ 6; 5♠ 3; 5♣ 1

Shore–Gill 58, Robbins–Becker 42

Problem 8

West deals. None vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K 6	♠ A Q 10 3
♥ J 10 3	♥ Q
♦ A 4	♦ 10 9 8 7 5 3
♣ A Q 10 9 6 5	♣ K J

<i>Shore</i>	<i>Gill</i>
2♣	3♣
Pass	

Shore admitted he'd have opened 1NT at the table, but he was in range for 2♣ which showed 10–14 with six clubs but no four-card major. Gill, knowing the opponents had at least nine hearts, took the low road with a competitive raise. This catered to an exceptional hand but gave up on game otherwise, as opener will often be on the lower range here if balanced, given the failure to open 1NT. Game was not certain opposite some maximums either, though in the postmortem, he thought a quasi-natural 2NT (a clear choice at IMPs) was a better choice in the long run. Opener had the perfect hand for game this time.

<i>Robbins</i>	<i>Becker</i>
1NT	2♣
2♦	3♦
3NT	Pass

1NT was 14-plus to 16, though opener was lamenting that decision as the auction progressed. 3♠ over 3♦ to show heart concern in notrump was not an option for this pair, as it would have been forward going in diamonds. 3NT was the only systemic call available at that point, and it caught an ideal East hand.

Bridge Bulletin auction: As Robbins–Becker. 1NT protects the ♠K, and the hand certainly has the playing strength for a 1NT opener. There is a possible preemptive value to the bid as well, making it more difficult to compete than over a 1♣ opening.

Scores: 3NT 11; 5♣ 8; 2NT 6; 4♣ 4; 3♦ 3; 4♦ 1

Final score:

Shore–Gill 62, Robbins–Becker 53

It's Your Call

DIRECTOR: SUE MUNDAY | SCORES: KAREN WALKER

Problem No. 1 from *bridgechallenge.com*; No. 5 from Bob Munson, Danville CA

Please welcome 19 of the players who competed at the Michael Seamon Junior U.S. Bridge Championships in December hosted by the U.S. Bridge Federation.

Five open teams and one women's team won the right to represent the United States at the 18th World Youth Team Championships in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy. Subsequently, the USBF added a seventh team, for a squadron of two under-26 (U26) teams competing for the Patino Cup; two under-21 (U21) teams competing for the Damiani Cup; two under-16 (U16) teams competing for Koc University Cup; and one young women's team competing for the Rona Cup.

Although the world championships have been postponed till next year because of the coronavirus, these young players are raring to go. So let's see how they do in the IYC panelists' seats this month.

1. IMPs. East-West vulnerable.

♠— ♥K 6 2 ♦J 9 8 6 3 2 ♣Q 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♠	?

Call	Votes	Award
3♦	9	100
4♦	3	70
5♦	3	70
4♠	2	50
3♠	2	50

Diamonds are forever

Haas explains his dilemma on No. 1. "The problem is how many diamonds to bid. I think that 3♦, although a

misdescription of my shape, will give us the best opportunity to play in 3NT, make a diamond contract, or double 3♠ or 4♠."

Chen, 3♦. "I will not defend spades, and if I pass, 2♠ might get passed out. 3♦ is probably making. I will bid 4♦ over 3♠."

Grossack says 3♦ feels just right. "Partner may have a stack of spades, and if so, I have no need to bypass 3NT. With at least (maybe) half the deck or so, I don't feel the need to start jumping around, not knowing whose hand it may be."

Rosenberg, 3♦: "I'm always planning to bid 5♦ over 4♠ unless perhaps partner doubles. Because I expect there to always be more bidding, 3♦ has several benefits. First, if it's partner with a good hand and good spades, we can still play 3NT when it's right. Second, I somewhat want to disguise the nature of my hand to opponents, so that it looks like I'm getting pushed into 5♦ when I really want to bid it the whole time."

Finn Kolesnik: "3♦. I don't see a better option. 3♠ is an overbid without much merit, so I am left with the 'normal' 3♦ bid. My hand looks strong offensively. I plan to bid more diamonds later."

Yue and Kristensen both bump it up a notch to 4♦.

Yue: "This hand should qualify as a mixed raise if there was no interference. It is too strong for 3♦, which is a normal competitive raise. The strongest possible hand I can have – a limit raise – is covered by 3♠."

Kristensen: "5♦ is just too much, especially when partner is in third seat

and could have defensive values. 3♦ could reach 3NT when it's right, but are we really sitting for it with a void and six-card support for partner in a holding that doesn't expect to be running the suit off the top? 4♦ is highly encouraging but nonforcing, in case partner has the wrong hand; but it also could lead to a good save, or 5♦ could just be the right game."

Cedrone puts the kibosh on further guesswork with 5♦. "I choose 5♦ because we have a nine- or 10-card fit in diamonds. If it doesn't make, it's only minus 50 or 100 because we are not vulnerable. It looks like the opponents may have a very large spade fit, so the opponents could be on for a vulnerable 4♠."

Sonner, too – all the way to 5♦. "I don't really want to defend 4♠ with a spade void, so I'll just bid 5♦ right away."

Xiao jets to 5♦. "I am favorable, and it is likely that East's bid could be stronger than an average 2♠ in fourth seat. For this reason, I don't expect partner to always have a monster here. With East-West holding at least a nine-card spade fit, I can't stand defending 4♠, regardless of what my partner has, so I am bidding 5♦ right away. We will even make this contract



Marley Cedrone, 15
USA1 U16



Daniel Sonner, 24
USA2 U26

a lot of the time. I might be missing out on a slam, but with my 5♦ bid, partner should expect some quality and can always bid on with a huge hand.”

Both Brandon and Kayden Ge vote for 4♠. Here’s Brandon: “I think 4♠ describes the hand better because it shows the shortness. Slam is entirely possible, and it seems pard has a very strong hand, something like:

♠ x x x x ♥ A Q x ♦ A K x x ♣ A J.

3♠ should show 10-ish points with a balanced hand, and is open to playing notrump. 4♠ also takes away opponents’ bidding space, making it hard to find their fit in spades.”

Duffie second- (and third-) guesses himself with 3♠. “I’m on a finesse for seven opposite:

♠ x x x x ♥ A x ♦ A K 10 x x ♣ A J,

so not forcing to game feels crazy. I could bid a direct 5♦, but that doesn’t get us to slam when it’s right, and maybe more importantly, I won’t know what to do if the auction continues (5♠)–Pass–(Pass) to me, or (5♠)–Double–(Pass). 3♠ helps with this by setting up a force. I’m clearly not sitting for 4♠ doubled, but say the auction continues: (4♠)–Double/Pass–(Pass); 5♦–(5♠). I want partner’s input now I think.”

Xu bids 3♠. “3♦ and 4♦ are both way too much of an underbid. If partner bids 4♦, I will bid 5♦, knowing that partner is not going to have spade wastage, as he did not bid 3NT. If left-hand opponent bids 4♠ and it’s passed to me, I will definitely bid 5♦. If partner bids 3NT, I think I have to pull it. Just ridiculous to play in 3NT opposite:

♠ A x x x ♥ A x ♦ K Q x x ♣ A J x.

3NT could go down while 6♦ has play. I will pull 3NT to 4♦, as partner could have spade wastage and it isn’t clear game is making. Partner should know I have spade shortness or I would have passed, which lets him evaluate whether to bid on.”

2. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ Q 10 9 4 ♥ – ♦ J 10 8 6 2 ♣ K Q J 5

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	Pass	1NT
2♣	Dbl	Pass	?

Call	Votes	Award
Pass	8	100
2♦	4	80
2♠	3	70
3♦	1	60
3♣	1	50
3♠	1	50
3NT	1	40
2NT	0	40

Is that your final answer?

Despite evidence to the contrary, junior players know exactly where to find the pass card in their bidding boxes. It is something they are especially fond of doing when it means converting partner’s takeout double to penalty.

Kaplan explains. “I have a great hand to defend and very little reason to think we can make game. Right-hand opponent will also be overruffing clubs, and LHO rates to be short in hearts, making declaring any contract unpleasant.”

Kayden Ge passes. “We probably aren’t making game, so playing a partscore is not going to give us IMPs, especially when I think I can beat 2♣. Partner probably doesn’t have four spades, otherwise he might have doubled the first time. Partner’s shape is probably 3=5=4=1. I’ll get lots of trump tricks, plus we’ll get a couple diamonds and spades. If partner has a good heart suit, then I don’t need to ruff, and declarer is likely going to lose control. ♥ K Q J x x will suffice.”

Finn Kolesnik: “Pass. I have a million club honors and a void in partner’s suit. Seems perfect to defend 2♣ doubled. I have no alternatives.”

2♦ by Emma Kolesnik. “I was very close between pass and 2♦. 2♠ is rea-



Kayden Ge, 11
USA2 U16



Finn Kolesnik, 16
USA1 U21

Panel’s answers

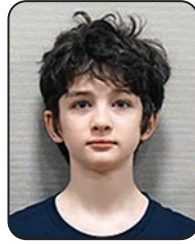
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Louis Beauchet	3♦	3NT	6♣	3♠	Dbl	370
Marley Cedrone	5♦	2♦	5♥	4♦	4♥	380
Charlie Chen	3♦	2♠	5♦	3♠	Dbl	410
Cornelius Duffie	3♠	2♦	5NT	3♠	4♥	420
Brandon Ge	4♠	Pass	4NT	4♦	4NT	330
Kayden Ge	4♠	Pass	4NT	3♠	4NT	370
Zach Grossack	3♦	Pass	5NT	3♠	4♥	490
Michael Haas	3♦	Pass	4♠	3♠	4NT	460
Adam Kaplan	3♦	Pass	5♥	3♠	4♥	470
Emma Kolesnik	3♦	2♦	4♠	3♠	4♥	480
Finn Kolesnik	3♦	Pass	4♠	3♠	Dbl	480
Ben Kristensen	4♦	2♦	Pass	3♠	4♥	440
Samuel Pahk	3♦	2♠	5♥	3♠	Dbl	420
Kevin Rosenberg	3♦	Pass	5NT	3♠	Dbl	470
Daniel Sonner	5♦	2♠	4♠	3♠	4♥	440
Brent Xiao	5♦	3♣	4♠	3♠	4♥	420
Michael Xu	3♠	Pass	5NT	4♦	4NT	360
Jonathan Yue	4♦	3♠	5♦	3♠	Dbl	360
Brian Zhang	4♦	3♦	Dbl	3♠	5♥	330



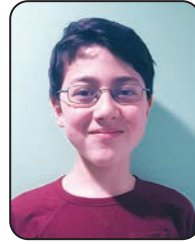
Charlie Chen, 10
USA2 U16



Brandon Ge, 13
USA2 U16



Michael Haas, 13
USA1 U16



Samuel Pakh, 12
USA1 U16



Brian Zhang, 9
USA2 U16



Cornelius Duffie, 20
USA2 U21

sonable as well. I ultimately went with 2♦ as a safer call. We have at least an eight- (if not 9-) card diamond fit and probably aren't missing a game."

"2♦. Tough problem," Duffie agrees. "I don't like passing when they probably have an eight-card fit and we definitely do. We could have a game, but the three level could be too high. Also, if I jump to the three level, partner will be stuck with a lot of hands. Hopefully partner will bid again if we have game."

Pakh says he's definitely bidding at this vulnerability, and that bid is 2♠, "in case partner has a really good hand and can invite game. With my probably useless clubs and lack of heart support, however, I do not want to overexcite partner with 3♦ or 3♠, and I don't want to risk bidding notrump. If we have game, it is likely to be 4♠ because of the misfit."

Chen's choice is 2♠. "Partner's double is obviously takeout, showing hearts, spades and diamonds. Even though I have five diamonds, I am bidding majors first."

Sonner: "I'll bid 2♠. I don't want to pass because we might have a game and we are red on white at IMPs. I don't want to jump to 3♠ because I have values in clubs and no hearts, but if partner raises 2♠, I will bid four."

Zhang suggests 3♦. "For me, there are five options: 3♦, 3♠, 4♠, 2♠ and pass. If the vulnerability were switched, I would be tempted to pass. But here, the risk of missing a vulnerable game is too great. As for 3♠ and 4♠, they could work, but if partner has only three spades, we would probably be in trouble. I choose 3♦ as my final answer because I have more length in

that suit, so I can more easily set up hearts with ruffs and we have a guaranteed fit."

Xiao cuebids 3♣. "I'm just going to commit to being in a game here. Passing feels losing at unfavorable vulnerability. So my concern is determining if we have a 4-4 spade fit, because partner's double is oftentimes on something like 3=5=4=1 shape. They should bid 3♠ with four spades, because I can't have five spades given my earlier 1NT bid. If partner can't bid 3♠, I will be happy to try 3NT."

Yue tries 3♠. "Although 1NT already promised a constructive hand, my hand still has extras. I expect partner to have around 15 points and 4=5=3=1 shape. Partner probably does not have a four-card diamond suit because 2♦ is available. Vulnerable at IMPs favors going for game (instead of picking up 100 or 300 by passing), which is highly probable with the likely double fit in spades and diamonds. After 3♠, partner can pass or raise to 4♠, or bid 3NT on the occasional 3=5=3=2 hand that is too strong to pass."

Beauchet goes all in with 3NT. "It is pretty clear that we are beating 2♣, so the question is whether we can make game. Only if we do should we pull the double. Partner's simple overcall followed by a double should show about 15-17 points with a good heart suit and at least 3-3 in the other two suits, probably 4-3 in practice. With a bad heart suit (making 3NT unattractive), we can hope partner would have doubled the first time. But here I trust partner's vulnerable overcall and bid the most likely game, thanks to my excellent spots."

3. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠ A K 10 9 6 5 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 5 4 3 ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
3♥	4♣	4♥	?

Call	Votes	Award
4♠	5	100
5NT	4	90
Pass	1	90
5♥	3	70
4NT	2	60
5♦	2	60
6♣	1	50
Dbf	1	50
5♣	0	50
5♠	0	30
6♦	0	30

Choice overload

4♠ is Haas's call. "On the auction, the opponents probably have a nine- or 10-card heart fit, and my partner likely has six or seven clubs with game-forcing values. This means partner has eight to 10 cards in the round suits, leaving only three to five cards in the pointed suits. Almost any call could be correct here; I'm betting on no call with more 50% of the panel."

Sonner bids 4♠. "I know I have quite a good-looking hand, but in this sort of auction - where the opponents are preempting a lot - distributions are often skewed and partner often stretches to get into the auction. I usually lean on the side of playing it safe, and without a sure fit with partner, I want to try to play in the lowest game possible."

Emma Kolesnik says, "For me, it was between 4♠ and pass. I prefer 4♠ because I don't think partner rates to

have extreme spade shortness here, and it feels like it has good chances to make. We could easily be missing a slam, but maybe with some of those hands, partner will take another call.”

Grossack uses 5NT to drive to slam. “My ♣ Q has polished itself into quite a precious card, along with the rest of the hand that already looks so pretty. The question now is twofold: Which strain and how high? I get to answer both rather intelligently with 5NT, avoiding the ambiguity of first-round heart control that comes with bidding 5♥. (I think it should promise first-round control, but these auctions are quite scary.) And I am able to find out if partner has a fit for spades or diamonds or just long clubs. I am prepared for any of them.”

Duffie punts with 5NT. “If partner has really good clubs, my hand is really good for 6♣. Picture:

♠ x x ♥ x x ♦ x x x ♣ A K J 10 9 x.

Now 6♣ is basically on 3–2 spades if defense starts heart–heart, while slam in either of our eight-card fits has virtually no play. Give partner the ♦ Q as well, and now 6♣ is virtually cold, while 6♦ still needs 3–2 diamonds. Opposite worse clubs, though, I might want to play other strains. I guess I’ll bid 5NT pick-a-slam and hope partner picks right.”

Kristensen’s thoughtful pass – although solo – earns 90 out of 100. “I hope we can all agree this pass should be forcing. With many possible strains open, bidding something is likely to just preclude other options. For example, if you bid 4♠, it will likely end the auction when slam could be a cinch. 5♦ sounds forcing and probably de-

scribes something like this, but it kind of takes clubs out of the picture. When partner went out of their way to bid 4♣ instead of a less committal double, their suit is probably pretty good. The main reason for passing is to see what partner does. If he rebids 5♣, I think we can be pretty sure that clubs will be a fine trump suit and we can bid 5♦, which should be a cuebid trying for 7♣. Even if partner thinks it’s natural and forcing, we kind of have that covered, too. If partner bids 4♠, we can probably bid 5♦ as natural and forcing, but we wouldn’t have known partner has a playable spade holding without that info. If partner doubles, we won’t know anything new, but we can still bid a forcing 5♦ and have room to explore more for the right slam. It’s very likely we have a slam here, and if we don’t, there isn’t a good way to know really.”

Kaplan, 5♥. “Tough problem. I dislike all of my options, but it feels like we need to play a slam. 5NT is no good because partner will be endplayed in 6♣. At least with 5♥, partner might venture 6♠.”

5♥ by Cedrone. “It looks like we have a slam. I’m just not sure in what yet. The auction makes it seem that the opponents have a 10-card heart fit, so it is likely that we also have a large fit. 5♥ here should force to slam and deny great club support. There are likely better calls that I am not aware of, but 5♥ should get us to a good vulnerable slam.”

Brandon Ge, 4NT: “Unless the opponents are insane, they should have a 10-card fit. It seems from the bidding that pard has a strong hand with seven or eight clubs. He can’t have three spades or he would have supported

me, so he probably has one or two. So we can probably make slam in clubs. If partner has the 2=2=2=7 hand, he will probably have the ♣ A K J and a queen in either diamonds or spades, so I think 6♣ will make.”

5♦ garnered a couple votes, Chen’s for one. “We are obviously in a game-forcing auction, and 5♦ shows I have diamonds and spades. Partner can pass or bid 5♠ and I will be happy with either. If I bid 4♠, partner might pass with:

♠ x ♥ K x ♦ Q J x ♣ A K J 10 9 x x.

Then we might not make 4♠, and 5♦ is probably cold.”

Beauchet skips the formalities and goes straight to 6♣. “Partner is bidding vulnerable at the four level – he has to have at least six nice clubs. We have at most eight spades between us, so I give up on a spade contract. I also give up on a diamond contract, as partner didn’t make a negative double over 3♥. Clubs looks like our best strain. If 4NT was clearly Roman key card Blackwood in clubs, that would be my choice. But I would expect it to be ambiguous in this sequence. So I’m making the practical 6♣ bid, catering to partner’s likely hands. Should partner really hold some extras, he is allowed to raise to 7♣!”

Zhang doubles, “showing extras, hopefully. I expect partner to have no more than three spades, so if partner has honor–doubleton or three spades, they can bid 4♠ (probably). Secondly, if partner has extra club length and bids 5♣, I would bid 5♦ and hope for the best. If partner shows diamonds, well, that would be a dilemma. I’m glad I don’t have to decide what to do if partner bids 5♦. Double is the most



Brent Xiao, 19
USA2 U21



Louis Beauchet, 19
USA2 U26



Zach Grossack, 23
USA1 U26



Adam Kaplan, 24
USA1 U26



Emma Kolesnik, 21
Women U26



Ben Kristensen, 22
USA1 U26

flexible bid, and sometimes partner will pass because we don't have a fit and we're better off penalizing the opponents."

4. Matchpoints. None vulnerable.

♠K J 5 2 ♥Q J 10 8 5 2 ♦— ♣A Q 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass		Pass	?

Call	Votes	Award
3♠	16	100
4♦	3	60
4♠	0	60
2♠	0	30

Nothing to see here

Not much difference of opinion on this one.

3♠ by Kayden Ge, speaking for the majority. "I would like to be in game, but it's not a necessity. My void is worth much more when we found a fit. 4♦ would be a better description, but partner could take me too seriously and we could end up too high. I would be disappointed if partner passed, but that's his decision."

Rosenberg agrees with 3♠. "Too strong for 2♠. With only 13 high-card points, it is very unlikely this will end the bidding anyway, particularly with nonvulnerable opponents silent. Partner probably has something over there. Bidding more than 3♠ (while better judgment than bidding just 2♠) with so few high-card points and a pretty dubious hand for slam is unnecessarily risky."

Pahk, 3♠: "This hand is worth just about 16–17 points in support of spades, so I think 3♠ describes the value of my hand well enough. If partner has strong diamonds and nothing else, maybe 4♠ will still have play? I just want to get to game when it is a good contract and try to stay out when game is bad. Is that too much to ask?"

Brandon Ge likes 4♦. "If it was IMPs, no hesitation with 4♦. But my reasoning for bidding 4♦ rather than 3♠ is that partner is likely to have a strong hand. With a void in diamonds,

the other three hands have four or five diamonds apiece. But the opponents are being weirdly quiet with their fit, so it is likely that they don't have good hands. Even with a 10-count, someone would have bid something because both sides are nonvulnerable. So I think partner has a good hand with a few diamonds. It also allows pard to re-evaluate their hand for slam."

Xu's 4♦: "This hand is too strong to bid below game. Thirteen points with a diamond void (+5), good trump

support and working heart cards that are a source of tricks. If partner has diamond wastage, then so be it. 4♠ makes the opening lead harder, and especially with that club holding, that can be very important. But 4♦ helps partner evaluate slam a lot better than 4♠ would."

5. IMPs. East–West vulnerable.

♠A Q ♥K Q 10 8 7 4 ♦A K J 5 2 ♣—

West	North	East	South
Pass		4♣	?

Call	Votes	Award
4♥	8	100
Dbl	6	80
4NT	4	60
5♥	1	50
5♣	0	30

On the high wire

Grossack frowns. "4♥. Not very nice, you guys. 4♥ is a massive underbid, but I've been sufficiently scared off the slam zone. Partner has passed, and RHO has opened 4♣ red against white. If we need breaks, we aren't getting them. Obviously, a full dinner has been eaten before I would ever take such a meager position. Without breakfast (translation: second choice), I would bid 5♣, noncommittal, but clearly a very good hand. Maybe that is what I should do anyway considering I make slam opposite:

♠x x x x ♥J x ♦Q x x x ♣x x x."

Kaplan bids 4♥. "If we miss a slam, too bad. I bid where I live, and maybe I'll have a chance to show my second suit."

4♥, Xiao shrugs. "Don't really know what else I can do here. I won't try to explore for slam because I can't really expect partner to cover enough losers, and even then, I don't know if I have a good trump suit. My opponents are vulnerable, so this 4♣ bid probably isn't messing around. I don't really expect a raise to 5♣, though if they do, I have a tough choice. But I think I would have to double."

Emma Kolesnik carefully offers 4♥.

NEXT MONTH'S PROBLEMS

1. IMPs. None vulnerable.

♠A K 10 8 5 2 ♥A 6 ♦K ♣A 10 5 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	1♣	Dbl
Pass		2♣	?

2. Matchpoints. None vulnerable.

♠8 3 ♥K 8 ♦K Q J ♣A K Q 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl ⁽¹⁾
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	?

(1) Three-card diamond support

3. IMPs. None vulnerable.

♠A 10 2 ♥K J 8 7 6 3 ♦A 7 2 ♣6

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	1♥	Pass
		2♠ ⁽¹⁾	?

(1) Four-card spade support

4. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠A Q J ♥A ♦Q 8 7 4 3 2 ♣K Q 8

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1♦
			?

5. Matchpoints. Both vulnerable.

♠9 5 ♥K 10 9 8 5 4 2 ♦A J 8 3 ♣—

West	North	East	South
			?

“I think 5♣ or double might also be reasonable bids, however we’re too likely to end up in spades when hearts is better. With the ♥10, 4♥ seems like a decent spot. Of course we could easily be making 6♥ or 6♦ if partner has the right hand. Many 9-counts would produce slam. Ultimately actions like this just show again that preempts are effective.”

Finn Kolesnik decisively doubles. “The decision here is whether I am closer to a slam invite or a 4♥ bid. To me, a slam invite looks clear. I am expecting a 4♠ response from partner, which I can correct to 5♥ to show a slam invite.”

Yue chooses to double. “I plan on correcting 4♠ to 5♥. 4NT would be the other option. But what do you do after partner makes a preference of 5♦ or 5♥? Partner can have anywhere from a yarborough to a decent hand because 4NT is so wide-ranging.”

Rosenberg thinks that with slam potential and all three strains possible, double feels right. “Partner is very unlikely to pass this double (a red/white preempt tends to be very sound here, so if they do pass, I think we should be OK), and I will get to show a flexible hand with slam interest by correcting 4♠ to 5♥. Bidding 4♥ is also reasonable, but my hand is so good for slam opposite any red suit fit (or a long, strong spade suit like ♠K J 10 x x with the ♦Q), that I think it is worth the risk here. 4♥ could go down while 6♦ is cold. With so many possible strains and some slam interest, this feels correct. I don’t even need to mention how big double will win if partner bids four of a red suit.”

Pahk doubles. “Yes, partner will pass often, but when he does, perhaps the opponents are going for 500 or 800

against our game. Or maybe we don’t have a game. If partner bids four of a red suit, I will bid 5♣ to invite slam. 4♥ will be passed too often when slam is cold. Double allows the most flexibility because there are many possibilities with this hand.”

Beauchet doubles. “The hand is too good for a direct 4♥ and I wouldn’t want 4NT to be interpreted as an offer to play. So I double, planning to pull partner’s 4♠ to 5♥ or raise to 6♥. On a bad day, 5♥ could be too high, but in that case, they may make 5♣. And doubling 4♣ also gives partner the option to convert should he hold the unlikely 3=3=3=4 hand with a couple of club tricks.”

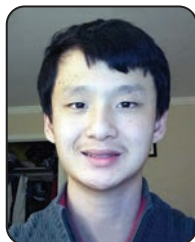
Xu puts 4NT out there. “Just the ♥Ax from partner gives me pretty reasonable play for slam. Also, when the opponents are unfavorable, they are more likely to have values in the suit, and consequently, it makes my club void even better, as partner is a lot less likely to have club wastage. I think 4NT should be a two-suited hand, so I bid that. Any other bid cannot convey both of my two suits, and I want to get both my diamonds and hearts in, albeit my hearts are longer. While I am close to a grand try with 6♣, I will settle for a simple six of whatever my partner bids over 4NT.”

Haas, too, likes 4NT, showing two places to play. “Partner will pick between red suits at the five level. If I had spades and a red suit, I would bid 4NT and correct the wrong red suit to 5♠.”

Brandon and Kayden Ge both voted for 4NT. Here’s Kayden: “This hand is very, very powerful. 4NT, two places to play, is the perfect description. Either LHO or partner has a bunch of spades. I will accept either red suit preference by partner, and will raise that to six

afterwards. All I need from partner is the ♥A and/or ♦Q.”

Zhang eliminates a lot of calls before plunking down 5♥. “I’m pretty sure 4NT shows the three unbid suits, so I can’t bid that. However, I think this hand is a bit strong to bid just 4♥, although partner is a passed hand. There’s a risk of missing slam here with all of this playing strength. I could go very aggressive with 5NT – hopefully partner doesn’t bid 6♠ – or just bid 5♥. At IMPs I know it’s not wise to just randomly guess, but I’ll just settle for 5♥.”



Michael Xu, 16
USA1 U21



Jonathan Yue, 17
USA1 U21



Kevin Rosenberg, 23
USA1 U26



MAY TOP ONLINE SCORES (754 players)

Rick Prouser, Portland OR	490
Pierre Daigneault, Montreal QC	480
J.J. Gass, London, England	470
Finn Kolesnik, Ventura CA	470
John Bryden, Surrey BC	460
Valentin Enache, Bloomfield Hills MI	460
Sherman Gao, Brea CA	460
Martin E. Henneberger, Coquitlam BC	460
James Hudson, Chicago IL	460
Sean McNally, Minneapolis MN	460
Maria C. Pendergast, West Hollywood CA	460
Richard Rosenthal, Bedford Hills NY	460
David Shepler, Knoxville TN	460
Bob Simkins, Decatur GA	460
Peter Stein, Hillsborough NJ	460
Brad Theurer, Gaithersburg MD	460
Adrian Barna, Etobicoke ON	450
Michael Dimich, Burnaby BC	450
Christopher Donnelly, Belmont MA	450
Kayden Ge, Cupertino CA	450
Jason Liao, Madisonville KY	450
Yu-Keng Shih, Redwood City CA	450
Elliot Sternlicht, New York NY	450
Robert Winkler, Baden, Austria	450
Dayou Zhou, San Diego CA	450

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Card Play 101

BY PHILLIP ALDER bridgeforeveryone.com

				<i>Dummy</i>	
Dlr: North		♠ Q 8 3			
Vul: Both		♥ K Q 10 5			
		♦ 7 6 2			
		♣ K Q J			
				<i>East (You)</i>	
		♠ A J 10			
		♥ 7 6			
		♦ Q J 10 9			
		♣ 9 8 5 2			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		
	1♣	Pass	1♥		
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥		
All Pass					

How would you defend after partner leads the ♠ 4, and declarer plays low from the board? Would it make a difference if partner had led the ♠ 7?

In the April issue, I recommended following the BoSToN rule – Bottom of Something, Top of Nothing – when leading from an unbid suit against any contract. In other words, leading low from length guarantees at least one honor in that suit: bottom of something. With no honor, lead top of nothing if the top two cards are touching (e.g., the 9 from 9–8–7–4–2) or the second-highest if the top two are not touching (e.g., the 7 from 9–7–6–5–3).

So in the above problem, if West leads the ♠ 4, he will have the ♠ K. So you should win the first trick with the ♠ 10 and cash the ♠ A, looking closely at partner's second card. If he plays the ♠ 2, he must have led from a five-card suit. So shift to the ♦ Q. But if partner's second spade is higher than the ♠ 4, he has led from a three- or four-card suit.

Continue with the ♠ J to partner's ♠ K. When this proves to be the full deal, he will cash the ♦ A to defeat the contract:

♠ K 9 7 4		♠ Q 8 3
♥ 2		♥ K Q 10 5
♦ A 8 5 4 3		♦ 7 6 2
♣ 10 6 4		♣ K Q J
		♠ A J 10
		♥ 7 6
		♦ Q J 10 9
		♣ 9 8 5 2
		♠ 6 5 2
		♥ A J 9 8 4 3
		♦ K
		♣ A 7 3

But if partner leads the ♠ 7, you know that cannot be fourth-highest. Applying the Rule of Eleven gives 11 - 7 = 4, but you can see five spades higher than the 7: dummy's ♠ Q and ♠ 8, and your ♠ 10, ♠ J and ♠ A. So partner must have led from a weak suit.

Now you should win with the ♠ A and shift to the ♦ Q. That works beautifully in this layout:

♠ 9 7 6 4 2		♠ Q 8 3
♥ 2		♥ K Q 10 5
♦ A 4 3		♦ 7 6 2
♣ 10 7 6 3		♣ K Q J
		♠ A J 10
		♥ 7 6
		♦ Q J 10 9
		♣ 9 8 5 2
		♠ K 5
		♥ A J 9 8 4 3
		♦ K 8 5
		♣ A 4

If you play the ♠ 10 at trick one, South takes the trick, draws trumps and cashes his clubs to get home. (Yes, there will be times when playing the ♠ 10 at trick one to limit declarer to one spade trick will be correct. This just isn't one of those deals!)

That seemed straightforward to me, but I received an email from Tony Miller of LaGrange Park IL. He wrote: "We have a question for you re your April article about leads. You say to lead the 7 from 9–7–6–4–2. But the ACBL Convention Card says lead fourth highest from x–x–x–x against suit contracts. Do you and your partners Alert before the round begins based on this non-standard lead you play and are teaching? This is such a surprise, please explain for us."

I told Mr. Miller that I had never noticed the recommended lead from five low cards, and that I think it is unwise. In the above deal, if West leads the ♠ 4, how is East supposed to know which way to turn? He doesn't. Crazy! Bridge is hard enough without introducing unnecessary guesswork.

But the good news is that you don't have to pre-Alert if you lead second highest from this holding. On the convention card, players are free to circle whichever card they choose from five low ones. ■



Parrish the Thought

BY ADAM PARRISH ✉ adam@adamparrishbridge.com 🖨 adamparrishbridge.com

2♥ bust and the Parrish convention

Responder needs a way to show a bust hand opposite a 2♣ opener. This means a hand with no aces or kings, and usually, at most one queen. Basically, it says, “If you need a trick from me, I don’t think I have it.”

The standard way to show a bust is by bidding an artificial 3♣ if opener shows a major suit.

♠ 9 8 7 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ J 8 7 5 ♣ 8 4 2
 2♣ 2♦
 2♥ 3♣

Instead of this 3♣ second negative, my preference is to let responder show a bust hand immediately with a 2♥ response to 2♣, and use a 2NT response to show hearts. This has the advantage of setting up an immediate game force when responder bids 2♦. That can avoid annoying auctions like a 3NT rebid showing 25-plus high-card points; knowing we’re in a game force, opener can bid 2NT with the super-strong hand, taking advantage of our nice 2NT systems (Stayman, transfers, etc.), and then bid again once the right strain is found. For example, he might raise 3NT to 4NT.

There are flaws to using the 2♥ bust bid, as there are flaws to everything. It can wrong-side heart contracts, it gives the opponents an artificial bid to double for a lead, and it can preempt the auction. But most importantly, it can confuse the rest of the auction unless you have good agreements. Is opener’s next suit bid forcing? Sometimes he wants it to be – he might have game in his own hand – but sometimes he has

a minimum 2♣ opening and wants to stop short of game.

Enter the Parrish convention! Because sometimes opener wants to make a forcing bid and sometimes a bid where he wants to play, we need two ways to make those bids.

The solution is to use 2♠ as a **relay**. A relay is an artificial bid that forces partner to bid the next step (strain). In this case, responder will bid 2NT. It sounds a little like a transfer, but a relay is different from a transfer in two ways. 1) After a transfer, partner is not forced to bid the next suit – partner can super-accept. This is because 2) a transfer shows a suit; a relay does not.

What is the point of this relay? It maximizes space in the auction and gives opener two ways to make all bids at the three level by either bidding them directly or first going through the 2♠ relay. For example, say opener wants to bid 3♣. He now has two ways:

2♣	2♥
3♣	
2♣	2♥
2♠	2NT
3♣	

The direct way (2♣–2♥–3♣) is forcing to game, the slower way (going through the relay) is weaker and can be passed. So if your hand is:

♠ 8 ♥ A K Q ♦ A Q 7 ♣ A Q J 9 8 3,
 you want to sign off in 3♣ opposite a bust partner, so you would bid 2♠ and then 3♣. If, instead, you have:
 ♠ A Q ♥ A K ♦ A K 7 ♣ A K Q 8 7 3,
 you want to force to game and even contemplate a slam opposite a near yarborough, so you bid 3♣ directly, which is game forcing.

The Parrish convention is a little complicated, but if you want to use the 2♥ bust, it’s really a must-have. ■

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Reasoning with Robert

BY ROBERT S. TODD ✉ robert@advinbridge.com 🖨 advinbridge.com

Choosing a rebid after making a takeout double

When our right-hand opponent opens the bidding and we make a takeout double, we get useful information from partner about both their shape and strength. Partner generally bids their longest suit, doing so cheaply with about 0 to 8 points, jumping with a good 8 to 11 points, and cuebidding the opponent's suit with enough values to insist on game. Let's assume for the moment that partner has a bad hand and bids cheaply. What should we bid next?

Because we can make a takeout double with many different types of hands, it's important for us to use our second bid accurately to describe our hand to partner.

The big hands

With an extremely strong hand, we may be too powerful for a simple overcall. In that case, we double and then bid something. For example, if RHO opens 1♥, and we hold:

♠A J ♥9 3 ♦A K J 9 8 2 ♣A Q 8,

we are too strong to overcall 2♦. We need to start with a takeout double, and if partner bids 1♠ (not surprising, because it's our shortest suit), then we bid 2♦, showing about 18–20 points and a long, strong diamond suit.

Similarly, when we have a big, balanced hand such as:

♠A 5 ♥A J 3 ♦K J 8 2 ♣A Q J 8,

we are too strong to overcall 1NT (15–18 HCP) if our RHO opens 1♥. So we start with a double, for takeout, and then – if partner responds 1♠ – further

describe our hand by rebidding 1NT, showing a balanced hand with 19–21 points and a heart stopper.

Therefore, with extremely strong hands, we usually “double and bid” to describe them. But there are other ways of showing strong hands. With very strong two-suited hands, we can use a Michaels cuebid and then bid again. This shows a strong two-suiter, a hand with enough playing strength to double and bid.

Traditional takeout double shapes

The traditional shape for making a takeout double of the opponent's 1♥ opening is shortness in their suit and three- to five-card support for all the unbid suits. Say you hold:

♠A 9 8 2 ♥6 5 ♦K J 5 3 ♣A 7 4.

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1♠
	Pass	?	

If we make a takeout double of 1♥ and partner bids 1♠ (showing a bad hand), we can pass at our next turn. We have nothing else to say.

But if we happen to hold a better hand – one with enough values to be interested in game opposite a hand with 0–8 points – then we bid again. When we have a fit for partner (they were nice enough to bid one of our four-card suits), we let them know we have a fit by raising.

You hold:

♠A Q 8 2 ♥5 ♦K J 5 2 ♣A J 4 3.

Say we have the same auction as

above. We expect to have a fit, and with 15 HCP and a singleton in the opponent's suit, we raise to 2♠. This lets partner know that if they are at the top of their 1♠ bid (almost good enough to jump to 2♠), we are still interested in game.

With a fit and an even better hand, we may jump to 3♠:

♠A K J 2 ♥5 ♦A K J 5 2 ♣J 4 3.

Here we jump to 3♠, strongly suggesting that partner bid game. All they need is the right 4 or 5 points to bid 4♠ in this auction.

If we have an even stronger hand with a four-card spade support, we can jump to game ourselves. With:

♠A Q J 2 ♥5 ♦A K J 5 2 ♣K 10 3,

we can probably make a game opposite as little as the ♠K, so we give it a try.

And with a monster, we could even splinter, showing shortness, letting partner know that we have slam interest opposite the right 6- or 7-point hand:

♠A Q 10 2 ♥– ♦A K Q 5 2 ♣A 4 3 2.

If partner has the ♠K and the ♣K, slam looks like a pretty good contract, so we bid 4♥ over 1♠ to show heart shortness, spade support and slam-mish values.

But what if partner is not so cooperative and bids one of the suits where we have only three cards?

♠A 9 8 ♥6 5 ♦K J 5 3 ♣A 7 4 3

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1♠
	Pass	?	



Startup Bridge

BY LYNN BERG ✉ lberg@cfl.rr.com

Supporting partner's minor suit

There's a sad truth in bridge: minor-suit tricks are worth only 20 points each, while major-suit and notrump tricks are worth 30, and the first trick in notrump 40. Is it any wonder that there is a common notion that "clubs are for the golf course and diamonds are for your finger"? But there are times when a raise of partner's minor is the only bid that makes sense.

Partner opens 1♦ and you hold:

♠9 6 4 2 ♥A 3 ♦K J 9 6 5 ♣7 3.

This hand is not one of those times. Before you give in and raise diamonds, bid 1♠. It would be a pity to miss a 4-4 spade fit. What if partner held:

♠A K J 8 ♥5 4 2 ♦A Q 7 4 ♣9 8?

Spades are a much more profitable strain to choose, and your diamond fit will be a source of tricks. If the ♠Q doesn't take a trick because it drops or can be finessed, you expect to take 10 tricks.

So-called inverted minors have become popular because they allow you to make a blocking bid when you don't have a major but do have five of partner's minor.

♠9 3 ♥Q 6 2 ♦K J 9 6 5 ♣J 9 3

Now when partner opens 1♦, and the next player passes, by agreement your jump to 3♦ promises five-card support but no more than 9-10 points. If you bid only 2♦, the opponents will have a much easier time trying to find a major-suit fit. If there has been action taken by the opponent, you can make a single raise (to 2♦) with four-card support and a jump raise with five. Take advantage of the opponent's action whenever you can.

In its simplest form, inverted minor bidding uses the single raise to 2♦ when you have a limit raise or better and five-card support for partner's minor but you don't have a four-card

major suit:

♠A 6 ♥9 6 2 ♦A K J 6 4 ♣7 3 2.

Your 2♦ bid leaves plenty of room to investigate whether your side has stoppers in the other suits to make a notrump contract viable – there's that sad truth about scoring rearing its head again.

Say partner now bids 2♥, showing a heart stopper. You can bid 2♠. It's already been established that your side does not have a major-suit fit, so your spade bid shouldn't mislead partner. If neither of you has a club stopper, you'll be able to avoid a disastrous notrump contract.

If the opponent has overcalled, the stronger element of inverted minors is off for most partnerships. Instead, cuebid the opponent's suit to show support worth a limit raise or better. With the previous hand, for instance:

Partner	Opponent	You
1♦	1♠	2♠

That cuebid is a useful and often neglected tool. Not only does it tell partner you have good support, it also uses up bidding room the opponents might have enjoyed. ■

► Reasoning with Robert

If we have a minimum hand such as this, we pass and try to end the auction before it gets out of control, hoping that partner has a five-card spade suit (but even a 4-3 fit wouldn't necessarily be bad).

If we have more values, but hold only three cards in the suit partner bid, then we need to let partner know that we are still interested in exploring game, but have not yet found a fit:

♠A 9 8 ♥6 5 ♦A K J 3 ♣A Q 7 3

With this hand, we start with a take-out double of 1♥, and after partner's 1♠, we cuebid 2♥. This says we have good values, but we'd like partner to have a five-card spade suit for a possible spade game. After the cuebid, partner can rebid 2♠ with the weakest of hands or try another suit (or jump in spades) if they have some values and are potentially interested in game. ■



Ask Jerry

BY JERRY HELMS ✉ askjerry@jerryhelms.com 🖨 jerryhelms.com

Dear Jerry,

I am having a difficult time finding information on IMPs and matchpoints. When they are used and what is the planning behind each one? Are they played at regular games or tournaments and how would one know? I am sure they are very different challenges for each. I would love it if you could give me and other readers some easy and clear understanding of both.

Barbara

Dear Barbara,

Let's start with an explanation of the differences between these scoring systems.

Matchpoints is the scoring format typically used in duplicate pairs events. At the end of the session, your result on each deal is compared to those of all the other pairs playing the same direction. You get one matchpoint for every result that is better than the pairs you are compared to, and half a matchpoint for every pair you tie. The matchpoints are totaled for all the deals to determine your overall score and relative position.

IMPs (international match points) is the primary form of scoring used in team events. One partnership plays a deal sitting North-South while their teammates ultimately play the same deal sitting East-West at the other table. The IMP scale (found on the inside of all ACBL convention cards) converts the net difference in scores on each deal to a score based on a sliding scale.

The IMP scale rewards the magnitude of difference more than the frequency of occurrence.

The scoring format impacts your tactics.

For example, let's say some good things happen on the first two deals at your table in a team event. On the first, the opponents have a bidding misunderstanding and reach a vulnerable grand slam in hearts missing a cashing ace. You double and collect 200 points. When your teammates play this board later, they stop in a small slam, collecting plus 1430. You are 1630 points to the good.

On the second deal, you reach a contract of 3♦, scoring plus 110, while your opponents at the other table score plus 120 in a notrump partial. Your net score on this board is minus 10.

On the first result, you would gain 17 IMPs, and on the second there would be a zero-IMP differential. Your teammates would surely forgive you for playing an inferior partscore that ultimately didn't cost anything while gaining a significant slam swing.

At IMP scoring, the magnitude of differential on a single hand can outweigh the frequency of being slightly better on a series of hands.

If you had these two identical results at matchpoints, however, your position would likely be significantly different. The plus 200 on the first board rather than minus 1430 is almost certainly a top board. On the second, if every other pair in your direction scored plus 120 in a notrump partscore, your plus 110

in diamonds would be a zero. It might not be that bad if you have some company in diamond contracts, but let's say it is.

Although still significantly ahead in total points, one top board followed by one bottom makes you exactly average at this point. At matchpoints, the frequency of being right is more important than the magnitude of the score.

In a team event, it's important to bid and make your games and slams, and to defeat the opponents' contracts. At matchpoints, you might risk going down in a game if faced with a reasonable chance for an overtrick. If you're right two out of three times about the overtrick, you're usually ahead of the game!

Team games are more social because you play more boards against a single pair. Flighted or bracketed events help ensure that you can play against others of similar experience.

At matchpoints, every card matters because a top or bottom can swing on a single overtrick or undertrick on the most mundane partscore deal. Although I have lost knockout matches by a single IMP, the occasional missed overtrick/undertrick can easily be covered by bidding and making a good game or slam not reached at the other table.

To me, team games are more like real bridge. Someone once told me, "You play matchpoints to win, and IMPs not to lose." ■



Bidding Basics

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

Responder's rebid after responding to 1NT or 2NT

In this installment, the opening bid was 1NT or 2NT. As responder, we took our first call (usually Stayman or a transfer), and now we examine responder's second call. As discussed previously, we will assume in this article that 1NT-2♠ shows clubs and 1NT-3♣ shows diamonds, though I wouldn't spend much mental energy on those two infrequent bids.

If the response to 1NT was 2♣ (Stayman), opener has rebid 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠. Let's examine each.

After 1NT-2♣; 2♦, responder can pass with a lot of diamonds and a weak hand, such as:

♠K x x x ♥x x x ♦J x x x x ♣x.

The sequence 1NT-2♣; 2♦-2♥ instructs opener to pass with three hearts or correct to 2♠. Responder's hand should be something like:

♠A x x x ♥J x x x x ♦x ♣x x x.

The sequence 1NT-2♣; 2♦-2♠ typically delivers five spades in an unbalanced hand with invitational values. For example:

♠A J x x x ♥Q x x x ♦J x x ♣x.

With a balanced, invitational hand containing five spades, you would have started with a Jacoby transfer instead.

1NT-2♣; 2♦-2NT is invitational with at least one four-card major; without one, you would have just raised 1NT to 2NT to invite. Example:

♠Q 10 x x ♥x x ♦K Q x ♣Q x x x.

1NT-2♣; 2♦-3♣/3♦ should be natural and game forcing with at least

one four-card major. For example, 1NT-2♣; 2♦-3♦ should show a hand such as:

♠A x x x ♥x x ♦A K J x x x ♣x.

1NT-2♣; 2♦-3♥/3♠ shows 5-4 in the majors and is game forcing. In "standard," you jump into the five-card major. For example, 1NT-2♣; 2♦-3♥ would be something like this:

♠A Q x x ♥K Q x x x ♦x ♣x x x.

1NT-2♣; 2♦-3NT is, of course, a signoff. Example:

♠K Q 10 x ♥K J x x ♦x x ♣Q x x.

After 1NT-2♣; 2♥/2♠, responder can pass with a minimum and a fit. Example:

♠K x x x ♥J x x x ♦x x x x x ♣—.

A raise to 3♥/3♠ by responder is invitational, and a jump to 4♥/4♠ is a signoff.

To show slam interest in the major, the technically correct bid is three of the other major, for example, 1NT-2♣; 2♠-3♥, but good luck remembering that! A jump to four of a minor is a splinter raise with slam interest. For example, 1NT-2♣; 2♥-4♣ is something like:

♠A x x x ♥A Q x x ♦K J x x ♣x.

Don't get me started on the misuse of Gerber.

After opener's 2♥ or 2♠, 2NT (or 4NT) by responder is invitational, and 3NT is a signoff. 1NT-2♣; 2♥-3♣/3♦ is natural, game forcing and likely shows four cards in the other major. For example, after 1NT-2♣;

2♥, bid 3♣ with:

♠A Q x x ♥x ♦x x x ♣A K J x x.

If the response to 1NT (or 2NT) was 3NT, there won't be a second call. If the response to 1NT was an invitational 2NT, the only thing to consider is if opener bids a suit on the three level. 1NT-2NT; 3♣/3♦ is a bailout, to play, with a hand such as:

♠J x ♥Q x ♦K Q x x ♣A Q J 9 x.

Meanwhile, opener's 3♥ or 3♠ is forcing, offering a choice of four of the major or 3NT. 3♠, for example, would be something such as:

♠A Q 10 x x ♥x x ♦K Q x ♣K Q x.

If responder starts with a Jacoby transfer, a 2NT follow-up is invitational, showing five cards in the major. If responder bids a new suit, however, it's natural, showing four or more cards in the second suit, and is game forcing. If responder "raises" 2♥ or 2♠ to three of the major, it shows six-plus cards and invitational values. 3NT, of course, is natural and offers opener a choice of game in notrump or four of the major.

Some examples. After 1NT-2♥; 2♠, pass with:

♠K J x x x ♥x ♦x x x x ♣x x x;

bid 2NT with:

♠A J x x x ♥10 x x ♦J x ♣K x x;

bid 3♣ with:

♠A Q 10 x x ♥x ♦x x x ♣A Q J x;

bid 3♥ with:

♠A Q x x x ♥K J 10 x x ♦x x ♣x.

Note that this particular auction promises 5-5 in the majors because you would start with Stayman with 5-4 in the majors.

Bid 3♠ with:

♠K J 10 x x x ♥x ♦x x x ♣K x x;

bid 3NT with:

♠K Q 10 x x ♥K x x ♦Q x x ♣x x.

If you start with a transfer to a minor (rare), you must have interest in making that minor trump. Don't transfer if you want to play in 1NT or 3NT! So if you do transfer to a minor and then you bid 3NT anyway, you must have slam in mind or you would have just raised 1NT to 3NT. For example, if partner opens 1NT and you have:

♠K Q x ♥Q x ♦x x ♣A K J 10 x x,

you can transfer to clubs and then bid 3NT. Change the spades to x-x-x

and you would just raise 1NT to 3NT. Transferring to a minor and then bidding a new suit requires partnership discussion. Many experts play it as showing shortness. Even though this is in the "Newer Players" section, this material is for the serious newer players. In fact, this entire installment requires a degree of studiousness and a need for some practice and memorization.

After a 2NT opening, all of the same principles as above apply. 2NT-3♣; 3♦-3♥/3♠ shows 5-4 in the majors. After 2NT-3♣; 3♥/3♠, opener should bid the other major to show slam interest. Stayman followed by 3NT guarantees a major(s). Stayman followed by 4NT is invitational, also guaranteeing a major(s). Jacoby followed by 3NT is a choice of games.

BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is your call after 1NT-2♣; 2♦ with:

1. ♠A J x x ♥A 10 x x ♦x x ♣x x x

2. ♠K J x x x ♥Q 10 x x ♦x ♣Q x x

What is your call after 1NT-2♣; 2♠ with:

3. ♠K J x x x ♥Q 10 x x ♦x ♣Q x x

4. ♠A Q x x ♥x x ♦A K x x ♣K x x

What is your call after 1NT-2♥; 2♠ with:

5. ♠K Q 10 x x x ♥x ♦x x x ♣Q 9 x

6. ♠A Q x x x ♥K Q x x ♦x x ♣x x

What is your call after 2NT-3♣; 3♦ with:

7. ♠K J x x x ♥Q 10 x x ♦x ♣Q x x

8. ♠A Q x x ♥A J 9 x ♦10 x x ♣x x

Answers

- 2NT. Invitational.
- 2♠. Five spades, invitational, unbalanced.
- 4♠. Same hand as No. 2, but with the known nine-card fit, you have enough for game.
- 3♥. Artificial (three of the other major). This sets spades as trump and shows slam interest. (4NT would be quantitative/invitational).
- 3♠. Invitational.
- This is a trick question. You should have started with Stayman (5-4 = Stayman). If you bid 3♥ now, you are promising 5-5 in the majors.
- 3♠. This hand should look familiar by now! This shows five spades, four hearts and a forcing hand. If using a convention called Smolen, you would bid 3♥ instead to play spades from the strong side.
- 4NT. Invitational.

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Lessons Learned

BY MICHAEL BERKOWITZ ✉ michael@larryco.com

A friend on lead

My family doesn't often play bridge with just the four of us. When we do, it almost always ends in tears (mine). One time we played on Christmas day. Like all good Jewish families, we had tickets for a 5 p.m. movie and dinner reservations for the local Chinese restaurant. By mid-morning, however, my sister and I were already driving our parents nuts with our bickering.

They decided it would be a good idea to get out of the house (and away from each other) by going to the local bridge club. I would play with my mother, and my sister would play with my father. We started out against each other. On the very first board, my sister opened 1NT on my right. My father bid 4NT (invitational to slam), and my sister went into the tank. She stared at her hand and shook her head. Then she sighed. Finally, she bolted upright – a stroke of inspiration. She turned to me and, staring right at me, cracked a predatory grin. 6NT found its way to the table, her eyes never leaving mine.

Now came my turn to fret and worry. I finally closed my eyes and picked a card. Dummy came down and my sister showed her hand to claim – a bare minimum 15 points. “Why did you have to bid six?” I whined. She said, “I had a friend on lead.”

Most bridge players are pretty good when they get to play fourth to a trick. For example, with K-4 in a suit; you aren't likely to take a trick when playing first or second, but you will almost always win a trick with the king, either on the current trick or a subsequent

one, if you play last.

There are thousands of scenarios where I'd rather play last. The A-Q is always two tricks if my left-hand opponent leads the suit. The K-Q-10 is also worth two tricks in that scenario.

Sometimes our friends don't help us out on the opening lead (we can't always play against our favorite opponents) and need a little prodding. Instead of doing all of the lifting ourselves, it's important to think about how to get our friend or friends to lead a suit for us.

Dummy

♠ A K 5 4 3
♥ K 4
♦ 7 6 5
♣ 9 3 2

Declarer

♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ A 9
♦ A K Q 4
♣ K 6 4

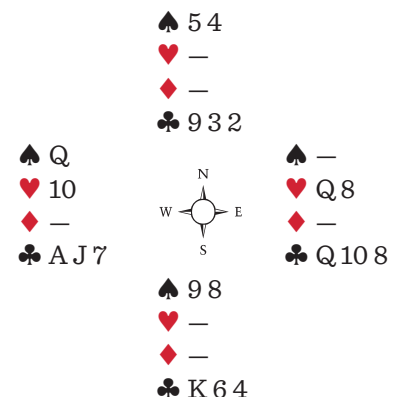
You are declarer in 4♠, and West leads the ♥Q. After winning the lead, you draw two rounds of trump, and your RHO discards a heart on the second round. What is your plan?

Let's count the losers on this hand. You have a spade loser, no heart losers, no diamond losers and three potential club losers. You can hope that diamonds are 3-3 – about 36% of the time, they will be – allowing you to discard one of dummy's clubs. You could also play for the ♣A to be in front of the king; that will happen 50% of the time.

Better, though, would be if LHO had led clubs originally. Maybe, however, you can coerce LHO into playing clubs for you.

Many (dare I say most?) would simply play diamonds and then, when that fails, hope the ♣A was onside. Look what you can do though, if, before attacking diamonds, you play another round of hearts first. If the diamonds are 3-3, you can get rid of one of the clubs in dummy. But even if they don't split, if your opponent ruffs in, what can West do? They have no more spades or diamonds. A heart gives you a ruff and a sluff, allowing you to get rid of a club loser in dummy, while a club lead goes up to your king.

So say West is clever and doesn't ruff the third or the fourth round of diamonds. When you play your low diamond, you ruff in dummy, creating this possible layout:



Now, don't play a club. Play a trump – your LHO is your friend. West wins the trick but must give you a trick no matter what. ■



Mike's Bridge Lesson

BY MIKE LAWRENCE michaelslawrence.com

Spots count, too

Dlr: North ♠ A K 3
 Vul: None ♥ A 10 9 8 7 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J 8 2

♠ Q 9 2
 ♥ J
 ♦ A K 8 5 3
 ♣ Q 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South played in 3NT after a normal enough sequence. West led the ♠5, and South won it in hand with the 9. South led the ♥J and it won. What now?

South needed heart tricks to make 3NT, so he went to the ♠K and played the ♥A and another heart. East started with two low ones and West the K-Q-5-2. West won and played another spade, setting up a spade winner for West, who started with four of them.

There was no way home from here. South could have set up nine tricks if he guessed clubs successfully, but there's a glitch with that line. West gets five tricks first: a spade, two hearts and two clubs.

Here's the complete layout. Do you see a better line?

♠ A K 3		♠ 8 6 4
♥ A 10 9 8 7 3		♥ 6 4
♦ 6		♦ J 10 9 7 2
♣ J 8 2		♣ 10 6 5
♠ J 10 7 5	♠ 8 6 4	
♥ K Q 5 2	♥ 6 4	
♦ Q 4	♦ J 10 9 7 2	
♣ A K 4	♣ 10 6 5	
	♠ Q 9 2	
	♥ J	
	♦ A K 8 5 3	
	♣ Q 9 7 3	

After winning trick one in his hand, South should lead the ♥J, as he did at the table. But he finessed it, and even though the finesse won, 3NT couldn't be made. Instead of finessing the heart,

South should have taken the ♥A and continued with the ♥10 from dummy. The defense would win and would continue spades, but declarer could win in dummy and continue hearts. This line sets up the heart suit while an entry still remains in dummy to get there.

Postmortem: If dummy's hearts were A-10-9-4-3-2, this line would not work. The ♥8 was necessary.

Note that when declarer led the ♥J, West didn't cover. Many players would and they would pay a price for it.

One important digression. West stayed out of the auction. He had what turned out to be the best hand at the table, but he had been warned by South's 2/1 bid. West knew East was broke and remained quiet.

What would have happened if West had bid something? It's too cruel to think about it. Any contract by East-West would have been doubled and down a lot. When an opponent makes a 2/1 bid, your best action is almost always to pass, barring some kind of weak hand with a good suit such as K-Q-J-8-7-5. If the vulnerability is favorable you can bid your suit, which may cause the opponents some problems.



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Chalk Talk

BY EDDIE KANTAR kantarbridge.com

Dlr: North ♠ A 10 8 7 6
 Vul: Both ♥ A 10 4
 Matchpoints ♦ K 6
 ♣ J 9 8

♠ Q 4
 ♥ K J 8 7 5
 ♦ A Q J 10 5 2
 ♣ —

West	North	East	South (You)
	1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♦
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
All Pass			

This looks like a well-bid hand. The key bid is 4 ♦ by partner suppressing the urge to bid 4 ♥ (your second suit) with only three-card support. However, when partner discovers that you have five hearts, his hand increases in value given the double red-suit fit, not to mention an outside ace. A nice slam is reached. Can you play it correctly?

West leads the ♣ 3, and East plays the ace. Plan the play.

Answer

You have a spade loser and a possible heart loser, but your spade loser can be ruffed in dummy! All you need is a 3-2 heart break (or someone having a singleton trump queen), as your intention is to ruff the opening lead and play the ♥ A K. If the queen is singleton, you can draw all the trumps and take your 12 top tricks. Ditto if the ♥ Q has dropped doubleton.

Assuming hearts are 3-2 and the queen is still at large, start playing diamonds, discarding spades from dummy. Whether an opponent ruffs in early or not at all, you can discard four spades from dummy and eventually ruff your ♠ Q in dummy. Making six as advertised.

The bottom line

With high honors in partner's long suits, bid aggressively.

Finesses in the trump suit can be optical illusions when a trump is needed in dummy to ruff a loser in dummy's long suit. This presupposes that you can discard enough of dummy's cards in that long suit (spades) on your own long side suit (diamonds).

Defensive note

Let's say the layout is this:

♠ A 10 8 7 6		♠ J 9 3
♥ A 10 4		♥ 9 2
♦ K 6		♦ 9 3
♣ J 9 8		♣ A K Q 7 5 2
♠ K 5 2		♠ Q 4
♥ Q 6 3		♥ K J 8 7 5
♦ 8 7 4		♦ A Q J 10 5 2
♣ 10 6 4 3		♣ —

Declarer will make his contract on the suggested line of play, but that's not my point in this section. When partner leads a suit in which you have the A-K-Q and dummy has length in the suit, take the first trick with the ace, not the queen! If declarer ruffs, partner will know you started with the A-K-Q. If the ace lives, continue with the queen. If declarer ruffs, partner will know you started with the A-K-Q.

By playing the ace first, you do not give away the strength of your suit. An original play of the queen shows the A-K-Q – unless partner has underled the ace! It makes it easier for declarer to place other missing high honors. ■



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Boehm on Bridge

BY AUGUST BOEHM

Along the spectrum – part 5

When you think along the spectrum to compare the relative value of various hands, it promotes an appreciation of subtle but significant differences. Nowhere is this clearer than in dealing with weak hands when many players tend to tune out. You are South in the following auction, neither vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Dbl	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

What would you bid with each of the hands below?

- A** ♠765 ♥98 ♦Q5432 ♣876
B ♠AJ6 ♥J82 ♦5432 ♣8763
C ♠98765 ♥982 ♦5 ♣AQ876

You have 2 HCP – can these be problems? Stay tuned. To begin, what does North's third double mean? Takeout, the same as his first two, just additional strength with each double. The first double starts at around 11 points and is unlimited, the second double raises the bar to perhaps 15 points, the third double should deliver a minimum of about 18, still unlimited. Let's postulate a representative hand for North:

♠AKxx ♥x ♦AKxx ♣KJ10x, classic takeout pattern. North shouldn't hold less because he is forcing you to the four-level in a minor if you don't fit spades, and you've done

nothing but pass.

With hand A, South should bid 4♦. Many would pass, saying, "How can I bid with 2 points?" Would you prefer defending 3♥ doubled, often minus 530, or go plus 130 in 4♦? Match the two North-South hands: On defense, North-South rate to take two spade tricks, usually only one diamond, and an indeterminate number of clubs, somewhere between zero and two. Even if enough defensive tricks materialize to nip the contract one trick, North-South may still emerge with a poor score because 4♦ often makes (find the ♣Q onside with the opening bidder). Besides good hand evaluation, there is the issue of partnership harmony. Partner should expect you to take out his takeout doubles unless you have a compelling reason. Hand A with its long diamond fit and zero defense does not qualify.

Hand B is a good time to overrule partner's takeout intent. Compared to A, there is no reason to presume a nine-card fit. This not only diminishes offensive potential but helps the defense – there is a greater chance that partner's high cards will cash. Furthermore, the doubleton spade represents a potential spade ruff, and the third heart is one trump fewer for the opponents to hold. Add the uncertainty of taking out the double to a decent contract, plus the extra defense that South's distribution implies, and pass becomes the percentage action. Matched to our

sample North hand, 3♥ doubled is a favorite to go set, perhaps two tricks. Compare hand A to hand B to measure defensive prospects – the flatter the hand, the worse the fit, the more it suggests defense over offense.

Hand C amounts to an offensive bonanza! Compared to A, the fifth spade is an extra trick; you expect heart shortness from partner because the opponents advertise a nine-card heart fit, your diamond control is a clear plus, and the secondary club fit boosts offense. All this represents a huge improvement over hand A. Accordingly, jump to 4♠; you sometimes make an overtrick facing North's sample hand, typically losing one heart, one club, and perhaps one spade. 3♠ doesn't begin to do justice to this hand's playing potential and risks missing a game. Don't count on North to bid 4♠ for you; he's already told his story.

Distribution is often the key to trick-taking potential in suit contracts. Point count has its proper place for balanced hands and notrump. When it comes to deciding whether to declare or defend, a useful mantra is, "*balanced hands tend to defend.*" And, like hand C, when partner has bid strongly, make a progressive bid if your hand could be much worse. ■



The Real Deal

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

A solid 1430

This deal comes from the 2019 U.S. Bridge Championships. Take the cards of 2019 Hall of Fame inductee Peter Boyd:

♠ A Q 10 7 6 5 ♥ A K Q 3 ♦ 6 ♣ 9 2.

He opened 1♠ and his longtime partner Steve Robinson responded a game-forcing 2♣. It is almost always a good idea to introduce a four-card suit here, especially when it is a major – and a very good suit, to boot. Boyd bid 2♥ and his partner raised to 3♥. Such a raise is stronger than a “closeout” jump to 4♥. Accordingly, Boyd looked for slam, and after some control bids and Roman key card Blackwood, landed in 6♥. The ♦ Q was led.

♠ K
♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ 8 7 2
♣ A K Q 4 3

♠ A Q 10 7 6 5
♥ A K Q 3
♦ 6
♣ 9 2

The defense played two rounds of diamonds, and Boyd ruffed with his ♥ 3. What next? Should declarer work on spades or clubs?

Clearly, spades. Each suit has seven cards with the ace, king and queen, but the spade suit also has the 10. Much more importantly, if clubs aren't 3-3, a club would need to be ruffed with a high heart, almost surely setting up a defensive heart trick.

Given that spades is the suit to work on, what is the order of play? We have to assume hearts are 3-2; if they're 4-1, we've bid too much. If hearts behave and spades aren't horrendous – like J-x-x-x in one hand – all should be OK.

Declarer crossed to the ♠ K and then drew two rounds of trump, happy to see everyone follow. Drawing the last trump would be relying on spades to run. Much better is to now ruff a low spade in dummy. After that, play dummy's last trump to declarer's last trump, drawing the defender's last trump. That's a lot of lasts. Here was the Real Deal:

Dlr: South ♠ K
Vul: Both ♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ 8 7 2
♣ A K Q 4 3

♠ J 8 4 3
♥ 8 4
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ J 10 7

♠ 9 2
♥ J 10 5
♦ A K 9 5 4
♣ 8 6 5

♠ A Q 10 7 6 5
♥ A K Q 3
♦ 6
♣ 9 2

Nothing fancy, just good bidding judgment, careful declarer play and a solid plus 1430. ■

West hands for the July Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The East hands are on pg. 53. The North-South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 30-33.

Problem 1. North deals. None vul.

♠ K Q J 10 6 4 2 ♥ 10 5 ♦ K 10 4 2 ♣ —

Problem 2. East deals. N-S vul.

♠ Q J 9 6 5 4 ♥ A J ♦ 6 ♣ Q 8 3 2

Problem 3. South deals. E-W vul.

♠ K J 8 ♥ Q J 10 7 6 ♦ A 7 4 3 ♣ 8

Problem 4. West deals. Both vul.

♠ K 6 3 ♥ K ♦ K J 10 8 3 ♣ K Q 5 2

Problem 5. North deals. N-S vul.

North opens 1♠ and rebids 3♠ if possible.

♠ 6 ♥ A Q ♦ Q 9 4 2 ♣ J 8 7 5 4 3

Problem 6. East deals. E-W vul.

South overcalls 1♠. North bids (or doubles) 2♠ if possible.

♠ 10 5 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ K J 9 5 ♣ K 9 6 4

Problem 7. South deals. Both vul.

♠ A J 9 5 4 3 ♥ A 9 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ A K

Problem 8. West deals. None vul.

♠ K 6 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A 4 ♣ A Q 10 9 6 5

Challenge of the Month

- ♠ A 7 2
- ♥ J 10 9
- ♦ J 9 4 3 2
- ♣ 4 2

- ♠ K 10
- ♥ K 8 7
- ♦ Q 6
- ♣ A Q J 10 6 3

As South, you declare 3NT against silent opponents. You really need to do something about your bidding.

West leads the ♥ 4 to East's ace, and the ♥ 2 is returned. What now?

OUT OF HAND BY BILL BUTTLE



“So! – Does missing that slam seem so dreadful now that you’ve slept on it?”

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Challenge Answer

To make nine tricks, you need two spades, a heart and six clubs, hoping for the ♣K to be on your right. But if East holds ♣K x x, you need to finesse twice to pick up the entire suit. The ♠A provides one entry to dummy, so how do you plan to get to there a second time for a follow-up finesse in clubs?

The heart suit can provide a second entry, but only if you play the ♥K under East's ace at trick one. Did you do it?

The full deal:

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| ♠ A 7 2 | | ♠ J 6 5 4 |
| ♥ J 10 9 | | ♥ A 2 |
| ♦ J 9 4 3 2 | | ♦ K 8 7 5 |
| ♣ 4 2 | | ♣ K 8 5 |
| ♠ Q 9 8 3 | ♠ | |
| ♥ Q 6 5 4 3 | ♥ | |
| ♦ A 10 | ♦ | |
| ♣ 9 7 | ♣ | |
| | | |
| | ♠ K 10 | |
| | ♥ K 8 7 | |
| | ♦ Q 6 | |
| | ♣ A Q J 10 6 3 | |

The ACBL Board of Governors will meet virtually on Sunday, July 19, at noon Eastern time. The details of the meeting are being communicated to members of the Board of Governors.



Better Bridge with Bergen

BY MARTY BERGEN  martybergen.com

Secrets of accurate hand evaluation – part 12

1NT: To open or not to open

Without question, everyone's favorite one-level opening bid should be 1NT. 1NT is the most descriptive opening bid. As long as you have the appropriate amount of strength and an acceptable distribution, you should strive to make that bid. That is definitely what I teach and what I and many other experts live by.

Advantages of striving to open 1NT:

- Because your partner knows so much about your hand, in general he will bid more accurately.
- By opening 1NT, you frequently avoid the rebidding problems that can easily arise if you open in a suit.
- By failing to announce the suits you like or dislike, you reveal less to the opponents and greatly increase the chance they will make the wrong lead and/or misdefend. What is my favorite auction? 1NT-3NT.

For each of the hands below, should you open 1NT? As you'd expect, the key is hand evaluation, consistent with what I've written in the past 11 months in this series. So although the range being used here is the almost universally played 15-17, the correct answers to my quiz are based on accurate evaluation.

Next month, I'll provide my answers, along with the reasons for them. As an ex-school teacher, I provided exactly 20 questions so that you could take 5 points for each correct answer and easily determine your grade. What is a passing grade? I'll leave that to you.

After all, "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder."

FYI: Although some players avoid opening 1NT with a few of the distributions below, for all 20 examples, I guarantee that ACBL officials would agree that an opening 1NT bid is kosher.

OK, let's play "20 questions."

- 1 ♠53 ♥KQ76 ♦KQJ ♣KQ32
- 2 ♠76 ♥AQ98 ♦A43 ♣AQ102
- 3 ♠QJ2 ♥AJ32 ♦QJ32 ♣KJ
- 4 ♠K109 ♥AQ109 ♦K1098 ♣A10
- 5 ♠KJ ♥K732 ♦KQ4 ♣QJ75
- 6 ♠32 ♥AKJ9 ♦754 ♣AKJ10
- 7 ♠K ♥7642 ♦AQ952 ♣AQ8
- 8 ♠K10 ♥764 ♦AQ952 ♣AJ9
- 9 ♠KQJ ♥KJ2 ♦KQ5 ♣7642
- 10 ♠AJ ♥AK94 ♦QJ932 ♣82
- 11 ♠K1074 ♥K9653 ♦AJ ♣KQ
- 12 ♠K6 ♥AK732 ♦K932 ♣A2
- 13 ♠KQ965 ♥K108 ♦1098 ♣AQ
- 14 ♠AQ2 ♥KJ ♦Q9 ♣A87642
- 15 ♠A7 ♥Q765 ♦AKQ82 ♣63
- 16 ♠A7 ♥K1098 ♦AQ1062 ♣K6
- 17 ♠A65 ♥AQ87 ♦72 ♣A1098
- 18 ♠KJ43 ♥KJ3 ♦QJ ♣A542
- 19 ♠1053 ♥AQ93 ♦AK984 ♣Q
- 20 ♠KQJ ♥AQ7 ♦7642 ♣KQJ

East hands for the July Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The West hands are on pg. 51. The North-South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 30-33.

Problem 1. North deals. None vul.

♠A7 ♥Q63 ♦AQ95 ♣AKJ7

Problem 2. East deals. N-S vul.

♠— ♥KQ104 ♦A953 ♣KJ1095

Problem 3. South deals. E-W vul.

♠A54 ♥K54 ♦KQJ6 ♣A42

Problem 4. West deals. Both vul.

♠A974 ♥832 ♦Q94 ♣A106

Problem 5. North deals. N-S vul.

North opens 1♠ and rebids 3♠ if possible.

♠953 ♥KJ52 ♦AJ7 ♣AKQ

Problem 6. East deals. E-W vul.

South overcalls 1♠. North bids (or doubles) 2♠ if possible.

♠843 ♥K976 ♦AQ4 ♣A52

Problem 7. South deals. Both vul.

♠KQ7 ♥Q54 ♦8 ♣QJ8543

Problem 8. West deals. None vul.

♠AQ103 ♥Q ♦1098753 ♣KJ



Bidding Matters

BY KAREN WALKER  kwbridge.com

Relearning bridge – part 4

In a casual online game, both sides vulnerable, the dealer opened 5♣ holding:

♠43 ♥54 ♦— ♣AKQ987643.

Dummy had ♠AQxx and ♥Kxxx in the majors and with both finesses onside, declarer made 12 tricks. This came with a free lesson from dummy, who listed himself as “expert” in his profile.

“Nine tricks, partner. You have to open 2♣. Everyone knows that!”

“Everyone” was certainly an overbid (as was “expert”), but there are many who play that a strong 2♣ opener can be based just on tricks, not high-card points. Even with 9 points, if a hand has 9 winners, they were taught to call it strong and start with 2♣.

Opening 2♣ with a hand that most players would open with a one-bid (or even a preempt) runs several risks. The most immediate is that ACBL laws forbid psyching an opening of an artificial bid. The laws are ambiguous, though, about what constitutes a psychic 2♣.

According to the convention charts, a “very strong” 2♣ should be at least 14 points and within one trick of game. Other ACBL documents, though, specify that a weaker, trick-heavy hand is acceptable as long as the bidder **thinks** the hand offers a reasonable shot at game.

That means that enforcement of this rule depends in part on your intent. If you can convince a director or com-

mittee that you evaluated your hand as a legitimate strong two-bid, it would be allowed. If the director believes you were trying to deceive your opponents, it would be ruled an illegal psych.

Avoiding this inquiry is one reason not to open 2♣ with a hand like the one above. Another is that it will be difficult to have a constructive auction when you’re actually dealt a “real” 2♣ opener. If you open 2♣ with “just tricks,” partner will have to be careful about making slam tries – or even bidding game – when he has a scattering of kings and queens.

You may also have awkward problems when the opponents compete. Partner will be hesitant to take any strong action until you clarify your hand type, and neither of you will be able to make a forcing pass or a penalty double with any certainty.

Your partnership will have more success with these hands if you agree that your 2♣ openers promise both trick-taking power and defensive strength. When you hold a distributional hand of 22 or fewer points, these popular guidelines can help you decide on your opening bid. The ideal 2♣ opener will have:

- At least 8½ to 9 tricks if your long suit is a major; 9½ to 10 tricks if it’s a minor.
- A minimum of three (preferably four) quick tricks.
- **More** quick tricks than losers.

It’s important to remember that you can’t determine a hand’s playing tricks by just subtracting its loser count from 13.

♠— ♥AJ75 ♦AQ87654 ♣AK

This hand has plenty of quick tricks and only three losers, but the diamond suit can’t be counted as six winners.

If you’re still trying to decide between 1♦ and 2♣ with this hand, ask yourself these two questions:

- Do I want to be in game if partner has two queens and nothing else?
- Will I have room to describe this distribution if I start with 2♣?

If the answer to either question is no, your best course is to ignore the online expert and anyone else who advises that any nine-trick hand is a 2♣ opener. If you open a one-bid and partner can’t respond, you may be high enough – or, more likely, the opponents will give you another chance to bid. ■

Correction

Corey Cole, a good-natured gentleman who lives in Central California, is a he, not a she, as mistakenly identified in the June issue. Sorry, Corey!

Test Your Play

BY EDDIE KANTAR  kantarbridge.com

1. Dlr: North ♠ A Q 8
 Vul: None ♥ A K 9 8 7 6
 IMPs ♦ Q 6
 ♣ A Q

♠ K 9 7 4 3 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A 8 7 5 3
 ♣ 8

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	5♥ ⁽³⁾
Pass	5NT ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	6♠ ⁽⁵⁾
All Pass			

- (1) Waiting
- (2) RKCB
- (3) Two without the ♠Q
- (4) Side kings?
- (5) No

Opening lead: ♣6. Plan the play.

2. Dlr: South ♠ A 2
 Vul: Both ♥ J 9 6 5 4
 IMPs ♦ A K 6 4
 ♣ 10 8

♠ K Q J 8 6 3
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K 5 3

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	5♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♠
Pass			

- (1) RKCB
- (2) Two without the ♠Q

Yes, you might have explored for a grand, but here you are in 6♠. West leads the ♦J. Plan the play.

Solutions are on pg. 57 ➤

Call for nominations



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 Goodwill Member of the Year. This honorary title is given to the ACBL member who has exhibited unselfish dedication to the causes of good conduct, worthy participation and ethical behavior. Any unit/district official in good standing may nominate a candidate.

Please include the name of the candidate, contact information and why you believe the candidate deserves recognition as the Goodwill Member of the Year. Also, include your own name, contact information and unit/district affiliation.

A nomination form is available at acbl.org/goodwillnominations, or email your nomination to kelleytrejo@acbl.org.

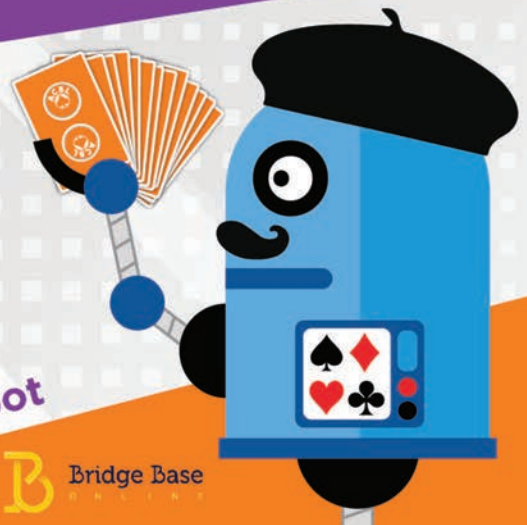
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Mike's Advice

BY MIKE LAWRENCE michaelslawrence.com

A strange suit combination

Strange things can happen at the table. Here's one of them:

Dlr: West ♠ A 10 7 4
 Vul: None ♥ J 7 6 4
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ 7 6 2

♠ K J 9 8 3 2
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ K 8 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dbl	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East opened 1♣, and South bid 1♠. West made a negative double, and North raised to 2♠. He well might have raised to 3♠ to show a preemptive hand. East passed, and South continued to game.

West led the ♣9. East took the ace and returned the queen. South won, West playing the 5. South counted his potential losers. In addition to the club he lost at trick one, he had to lose another club, a heart and a diamond. There might even be a spade loser. Something good would have to happen to make this.

After winning the ♣K, South played the ♠K A, finding East with the singleton queen. What now?

South really needs a miracle. The only suit that will provide that miracle

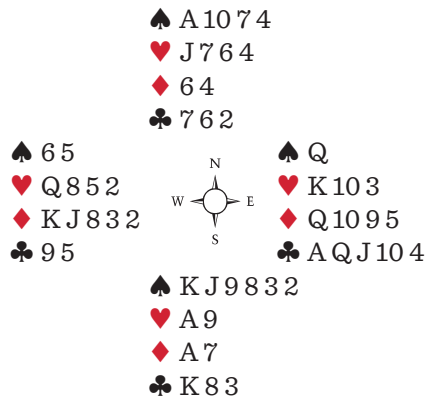
is the heart suit. If either defender has ♥K Q x, South can set up a heart trick for a diamond discard.

Hoping for this, South led the ♥4 from dummy. East played low and South played the 9. This lost to the queen.

What are South's chances now? In fact, they aren't bad. West switched to a low diamond, East's queen losing to South's ace. The ♥A fetched a low one from West and the 10 from East.

It's easy now. Over to dummy with a spade and ruff a heart in the South hand. East's king comes down, and now there's a heart winner for one of South's losers.

Here's the layout:



Postmortem: South got his miracle. He also got a little help from the defense. Do you see how 4♠ can go down?

East has to do something different on the first heart lead from dummy. He

has to play the 10 from K-10-3. This has the odd effect of killing South's ♥9. Sometimes showing how something happens is better than trying to explain it.

Would you have played the ♥10 when the first heart was led from dummy? ■

Club and Cruise Director Courses

The Club and Cruise Directors Course prepares candidates for directing club and bridge cruise games. Includes the ACBL Club Director test.

Tampa FL (NABC)
Nov. 23–25
 directorcourses@acbl.org

Notice of binding arbitration

By becoming an ACBL member or renewing your membership in the ACBL, you expressly agree to waive your right to have disputes between you and the ACBL resolved in a court of law and agree to accept the use of binding arbitration before the American Arbitration Association. The binding arbitration provisions are available for review at acbl.org/bindingarbitration.

Solutions to Test Your Play

Problems are on pg. 55.

1.

♠ A Q 8
♥ A K 9 8 7 6
♦ Q 6
♣ A Q

♠ K 9 7 4 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A 8 7 5 3
♣ 8

In 6♠, the best line is simple if you see it. Win the ♣A, cash the ♠K to see if both follow, and lead a heart, ducking it. Say someone wins and plays the ♣K. You ruff it, cross to dummy with the ♠A, ruff a low heart, cross to the ♠Q and run the hearts. Assuming hearts are no worse than 4-2 and trumps are no worse than 3-1, you will score four heart tricks, six spade tricks and two minor-suit aces.

What happens if someone shows out on the first round of trumps? Better hope hearts are 3-3. You can even survive if West started with the doubleton Q-J, J-10 or Q-10 and you successfully read the position. I have faith in you!

2.

♠ A 2
♥ J 9 6 5 4
♦ A K 6 4
♣ 10 8

♠ K Q J 8 6 3
♥ A 8
♦ 5
♣ A K 5 3

The idea in 6♠ is to ruff two clubs in dummy. Sounds easy enough, and it is, if you do the following.

Cash the ♦A K, discarding a heart from your hand, and then cash the ♣A K followed by a club ruff with the ♠A.

Assuming, clubs are not 6-1 (7%) and nobody has overruffed (ha ha!), cross to the ♥A and ruff your remaining club with the ♠2. Someone will overruff, but unless the player who has overruffed started with a singleton spade, you are home free barring an unlikely trump promotion.

All your slams should be this good.

2021 Honorary Member of the Year Selection Process

The ACBL Honorary Member Committee is charged with the annual selection of a member (or pair of members) who is widely known throughout the membership and who has given freely of time and ability, without thought of reward and in the interest of the League as a whole.

The committee invites members in good standing to nominate one person or pair for the committee's consideration. The nominee(s) may come from any district, as long as they are not currently serving on the ACBL Board of Directors.

To propose an Honorary Member of the Year candidate, email Kelley Trejo at kelly.trejo@acbl.org by Oct. 15, 2020. Nominations should include a short explanation (up to 500 words) as to why you believe the candidate should be selected. Please include your contact information.

Visit acbl.org/honorarymembers for a list of previous ACBL Honorary Members of the Year.

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My Bridge and Yours

BY FRANK STEWART ✉ frs1016@centurylink.net

In a sectional flighted pairs, I have a partner who shares some of my quaint views on bidding. (As the saying goes, everybody is entitled to my opinion.) Neither side is vulnerable, and as South I hold:

♠ K Q 4 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A K 4 3 ♣ J 9 2.

My partner deals and opens 1♣, and when I respond 1♠, he raises to 2♠.

My hand is worth game, and with a partner whose 2♠ absolutely promised four-card support, I would bid 4♠. But our tendency is to raise a major-suit response with three-card support if the hand is suitable. If I held:

♠ Q 7 4 3 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ Q 9 2,

I would bid 2NT next and respect his signoff at 3♣ or 3♠. With:

♠ Q 7 4 3 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ K 9 2,

I would bid 3NT, offering a choice of games. With:

♠ K Q 4 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A Q 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6,

I might try 3♦. With:

♠ K Q 4 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ 8 7 6 2 ♣ A Q 3,

I could bid 3♣, though a case exists for treating that bid as not forcing. (Many pairs employ artificial continuations after opener raises a major-suit response.)

As it is, I think my spades are strong enough to play opposite a three-card raise, and I don't want to give the defenders any more information about my hand, so I jump to 4♠.

Everyone passes, and West leads the ♥K.

♠ A 5 2
♥ 7 6
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A K Q 10 4

♠ K Q 4 3
♥ 9 2
♦ A K 4 3
♣ J 9 2

Some players would have rebid 2♣ with that North hand; we might have reached 4♠ anyway after I then bid diamonds and North took a spade preference. Our actual auction was simpler and less revealing.

East signals with the 8 on the first heart, and West continued with the ♥4 to East's jack. Then East shifts to the ♦9, won by my ace.

I can see 10 winners: two diamonds, five clubs and at least three trumps. All I must do is take them. If I cash my three top trumps, I can claim an overtrick if trumps break 3-3, but if they break 4-2, I will be in the soup. If I concede the fourth trump, the defenders will cash some hearts; if instead I start the clubs, a defender may ruff the third club, cutting me off from dummy and leaving me with at least one diamond loser.

Because we seem to have reached a winning contract, I play safe: I lead the ♠3 and play dummy's deuce. East wins and leads another diamond, but I win and take my three high trumps, drawing all the trumps. West started with

two. Then I can run the clubs in peace, pitching my low diamonds. Making four. The full deal:

♠ A 5 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ A K Q 10 4		♠ J 9 8 7 ♥ A J 8 5 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 7 5 3
♠ 10 6 ♥ K Q 10 4 3 ♦ J 10 7 6 ♣ 8 6		♠ K Q 4 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A K 4 3 ♣ J 9 2

East's best defense was to lead another heart at the third trick, giving me a useless ruff-sluff, but I could still succeed as the cards lay. I could pitch a diamond, ruff in dummy and take the top trumps. When they broke 4-2, I could start the clubs and get rid of my last low diamond as East ruffed.

Our matchpoint result for plus 620 was good. At many tables, North-South strayed into 5♣ or even 3NT and went minus. A few pairs obtained a plus at a partscore. Pairs who were plus 140 at spades scored above average.

In my experience, raising a major-suit response with three-card support is a consistent winning tactic. Occasionally you will reach a scary contract, but in many of those cases, no better contract may be available anywhere. ■



Dear Billy

BY BILLY MILLER ✉ dearbilly@aol.com

Dear Billy,

Playing in a local sectional Swiss teams, I picked up the following:

♠Q 10 9 4 3 ♥4 ♦K Q 6 5 3 ♣5 4.

My partner opened 2NT. I transferred to 3♠ and followed up with 3NT. Holding three spades, partner took it back to 4♠. With 7 HCP I saw no reasonable way to look for slam. It did not seem justified. As luck would have it, partner had an amazing fit, and slam was gin. Here was his hand:

♠A K 7 ♥A 10 3 2 ♦A J 4 ♣A 8 2.

I was left wondering if there was anything we missed? Still trying to improve my game.

Lost In Austin

Dear Lostin,

You bid this hand the way 97% of all partnerships would bid it, so don't be too upset. It just so happens that I have been playing an ultra-cool gizmo for many years that is used in this exact situation. And the best thing about it is that it is free! And by "free," I mean that you are giving up nothing to use it.

Follow me on these auctions:

1a. *Opener* *Responder*
2NT Transfer to major
One over major

This sequence shows a super-acceptance of partner's major: a maximum with four-card support plus *five* key

cards. Examples: 2NT-3♦; 3♠ or 2NT-3♥; 3NT.

1b. *Opener* *Responder*
2NT Transfer to major
Two over major

This sequence shows a super-acceptance of partner's major: a maximum with four-card support plus *four* key cards. Examples: 2NT-3♦; 3NT or 2NT-3♥; 4♣.

1c. *Opener* *Responder*
2NT Transfer to major
4M

This shows a super-acceptance of partner's major: a maximum with four-card support plus *three or fewer* key cards. Examples: 2NT-3♦; 4♥ or 2NT-3♥; 4♠.

2a. *Opener* *Responder*
2NT Transfer to major
3M 3NT
4♣

This sequence shows a super-acceptance of partner's major: a maximum with *three-card* support plus *five* key cards. This is exactly the hand your partner held! Examples: 2NT-3♦; 3♥-3NT; 4♣ or 2NT-3♥; 3♠-3NT; 4♣.

2b. *Opener* *Responder*
2NT Transfer to major
3M 3NT
4♦

This shows a super-acceptance of partner's major: a maximum with *three-card* support plus *four* key cards. Examples: 2NT-3♦; 3♥-3NT; 4♦ or 2NT-3♥; 3♠-3NT; 4♦.

2c. *Opener* *Responder*
2NT Transfer to major
3M 3NT
4M

This shows a super-acceptance of partner's major: a maximum with *three-card* support plus *three or fewer* key cards. Examples: 2NT-3♦; 3♥-3NT; 4♦ or 2NT-3♥; 3♠-3NT; 4♦.

You give up nothing to show your key cards on the way to game.

Imagine with your hand that partner had showed five key cards and three spades. Wouldn't you jump to 6♦ giving partner a choice of slams? Must be cold. In fact, if partner happens to have four or five diamonds in addition to three spades, you might be cold for 7♦!

It's great that you are continuing your pursuit of improving your game. That's the best way to play the game. I hope you will start to use this fabulous and fun gadget. Please send me a note with your first home run. ■



Bridge with the Abbot

BY DAVID BIRD

Brother Aelred's miracle

The Abbot was feeling somewhat under the weather. Not exactly ill, but in need of some sort of pick-me-up to restore his spirits. As if by magic, his prayers were answered. Brother Aelred and Brother Michael arrived at the table.

The Abbot sorted his cards for the first board of the round:

Dlr: South ♠ 4
 Vul: None ♥ 10 7 5 4 3
 ♦ A K 7 6
 ♣ 8 7 2

♠ 10 9 6	N	♠ K Q J 8 5
♥ K Q 9 8 6	W	♥ —
♦ Q 2	S	♦ J 10 5 3
♣ J 4 3	E	♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ A 7 3 2
 ♥ A J 2
 ♦ 9 8 4
 ♣ A K 5

West	North	East	South
<i>The</i>	<i>Bro.</i>	<i>Bro.</i>	<i>Bro.</i>
<i>Abbot</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>Aelred</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
Dbl	All Pass		

The Abbot led the ♠10 and down went the dummy.

“Only 7 points?” exclaimed Brother Aelred. “I thought we played that a new suit after a transfer was game forcing.”

“Yes, but I didn’t want to let them play in 2♠ when I had a singleton there,” Brother Michael replied. “I’m entitled to borrow a king in the passout seat, remember. Also, I wanted to

suggest a diamond lead if they bid on to 3♠.”

The Abbot had rarely heard such inane waffling. No wonder good scores tended to evade this pair. Anyway, had Brother Aelred been struck by some kind of paralysis? Was he ever going to play the singleton spade from dummy?

Brother Aelred won the first trick with the ♠A and ruffed a spade in dummy. He returned to the ♣A and ruffed another spade. Perhaps he should cash the ♦A K next. Was that a good idea? The Abbot had no spades left and might discard a diamond when a further spade ruff was taken.

The Abbot could barely believe his eyes when Brother Aelred’s next move was to cash dummy’s ♦A K. By what quirk of fate was he playing like a normal human being, just at this particular moment?

A club to the king left these cards still to be played:

♠ —		♠ K Q
♥ 10 7 5	N	♥ —
♦ 7 6	W	♦ J 10
♣ 8	S	♣ Q 10

♠ 7
 ♥ A J 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 5

When the ♠7 was ruffed with the ♥8, Brother Aelred overruffed with dummy’s ♥10. The Abbot, sitting

West, knew how the cards lay at this stage. If a diamond was played from dummy now, his defense was clear-cut. He would ruff Brother Xavier’s diamond winner and cross to his partner’s ♣Q. He would then be certain to score two more trump tricks, for one down.

“What do you want next?” queried Brother Michael.

“Oh, I don’t know, play a club,” said Brother Aelred.

Brother Xavier won with the ♣Q and returned the ♦J. The Abbot had to ruff and, hoping for the best, returned the ♥K. Brother Aelred stared at this card for a few moments and eventually worked out that it might be a good idea to duck. Another round of trumps into his ♥A J then gave him the doubled game.

The Abbot gritted his teeth as he returned his cards to the board. The Good Lord moves in mysterious ways, they say. Quite so. What could be more mysterious than Brother Aelred threading his way through the maze to make 10 tricks against a 5–0 trump break?

The Abbot had a nasty feeling that a club opening lead would have taken away an entry to the South hand and beaten the contract. If Xavier thought it appropriate to point this out, he could look for a new partner next week.

Brother Michael had a smile on his face as he entered the result on the scoresheet. “I knew it was right to compete with 3♦,” he said. “That rule about borrowing a king is a very good one.”



George's World

BY GEORGE JACOBS ✉ NOBET8888@aol.com

Sometimes I can be a tad humorous in my column, quick to point out the foibles (try rhyming that word, would you? The closest I come is a big guy from Brooklyn with a cigar in his mouth saying the word gerbils [why, I have no idea]) of others, as well as my own. But we are going to cover a serious topic this month.

Because I have mentioned it in 15 straight columns, you are probably aware that Claude and I won our district's North American Pairs and Grand National Teams (with help from Larry and Drew. OK, they carried us). My bucket list in bridge is short. I would like to improve on my second-place finish in the Bermuda Bowl; I would love to get into even the ante room of the Hall of Fame, finish my ninth book and, most of all, win a national championship with Claude. We have led three events, including the Life Master Pairs, with one set to go, but we have never been able to close the deal. So, getting an extra shot at a title in Columbus and then another in Montreal had me salivating. He does not care, but I do. Winning with Claude would be the cherry on the pizza.

I desperately wanted the tournament to go on as scheduled in Columbus. My bride Stacy, on the other hand, was fighting like a soldier to prevent it. She was attacked by the coronavirus in early February and knew firsthand the unbelievable danger it posed. She lobbied the ACBL via Bridge Winners

and social media and BBO. She took the extraordinary position of calling the mayor of Columbus, the governor of Ohio, the Columbus health department, the hotels and more. She and I started playing "Let's Make a Deal." I was willing to go for just the NAP and forgo the rest of the tournament. I said I would drive instead of fly, wash my hands after every round, wear a mask, run from coughers, etc.

We kept wondering what the League might do. I am sure I felt like many of us do: Let the games proceed, but be careful. The problem was that this was so early in the pandemic – so much less was known about the issues and we had many luminaries poopooing the dangers. But I really wanted to play in the NAP with Claude.

The governor of Ohio was among the first, if not *the* first, to limit gatherings to groups of 50 or 100. I had the answer to that. I told Stacy that there were only 78 pairs, or 156 players plus directors. They could simply play in two different rooms and solve that problem. Tables could be farther apart. I did not have a great answer about sick people playing, but I might have come up with something.

For the ACBL, the North American Bridge Championships are the showplace of bridge. We get lots of publicity, the treasury gets refilled, and thousands of people get what they want and need in the form of competition, friendship, satisfaction, endless stories

of what might have been and column material. The ACBL was wavering and I selfishly wanted them to proceed. But I have the greatest admiration for the three entities that ultimately were responsible for pulling the plug on the Columbus NABC. The ACBL took tremendous flak, but they did exactly the right thing. The governor of Ohio took even more flak, but he stood his ground. Stacy took the most flak, because I really wanted to go and play. Thank you from my heart to the trio that did the right thing, even though it was unpopular.

Now, the rest of the story. At some point in April, despite being very cautious, I got COVID-19. To quote Craig Gardner, who got it far worse than I did, "There were days I thought I would die, and there were days I would have welcomed it." Five weeks later, I was still recovering at home. Craig was hospitalized for three weeks.

There is no way of telling how many lives the ACBL saved by canceling this event, but it could be thousands, as people keep infecting others. Thank you to Stacy for your unflagging efforts to protect me and others. Claude and I will have other chances to win a title together but not at the risk of our lives.

Congratulations to the folks in Columbus who worked years to put on this tournament. It would have been great and I hope you get another chance.

See you all in Tampa. ■



Keep Bridge Alive

Research team seeks bridge players' experiences

In these extraordinary times, the Bridge: A Mind Sport for All research team at the University of Stirling (led by Prof. Samantha Punch) is looking for volunteers to document their experiences of bridge during the pandemic.

If you are a player, teacher, tournament director, manager/owner of a bridge club, bridge club committee member and/or part of a national or regional bridge organization, the researchers are interested in your views.

Participants can choose to submit either a one-off account of the ways COVID-19 has changed their participation and engagement with bridge; weekly journal entries documenting the changes; or a series of accounts during and after lockdown.

Your account can (but does not have to) cover the following:

- Challenges and problems that have arisen due to COVID-19 and your engagement with bridge (and if applicable, how you have addressed these or might address them).
- Positive opportunities and changes that have occurred due to COVID-19 and your engagement with bridge.
- Changes over time, from early social-distancing to peak lockdown through to post-lockdown and which lockdown changes might be incorporated longer-term.
- Anything else that you think is important due to COVID-19 and your bridge life.

Anyone interested in participating should read the guidance notes available at keepbridgealive.bridgecloud.com. Send your diary entries to bamsa@stir.ac.uk.

See You Next Year!

Tournaments across ACBL set sights on 2021

The coronavirus pandemic has forced the cancellation of hundreds of tournaments across the ACBL in 2020. Organizers for sectionals and regionals scheduled for later this year are taking a wait-and-see approach to determine if their events will still be held (including the Fall NABC in Tampa), but all face-to-face contests for the spring and early summer of 2020 have been postponed or axed completely with the hopes of hosting at similar times on the calendar in 2021.

Among the larger regionals that have decided to wait until 2021 to host their tournaments are Penticton BC, Seaside OR and Gatlinburg TN.

Penticton Tournament Chair Marv Norden said, "We look forward to seeing everyone next year, June 14–21. Penticton is held annually in a gorgeous area, and is located in one of the top wine regions in the world. Come visit us."

District 20 Tournament Manager Jim Wheeler said, "It was with much disappointment that I had to cancel the 2020 Oregon Coast Regional due to COVID-19. We hope, however, that everyone will plan to attend our D20 regional in Seaside, Sept. 27 to Oct. 3, 2021. You can expect wonderful hospitality, great bridge and all while at the beach."

Gatlinburg has been the top regional in the ACBL for many years. Tournament Chairs Julia and Pete Misslin said, "Now that the Gatlinburg time slot has come and gone for 2020, it is worth reflecting on what we all missed. First off, we had established a marketing agreement between the Columbus NABC in March and Gatlinburg in April, thanks in large part to the cooperative spirit of District 11 Director A.J. Stephani, Columbus NABC Chair Cheryl Schneider and ACBL Meeting Planner Mark Hudson. With the cancellation of both tournaments, we can only speculate on the effectiveness of this initiative.

"Once the decision to cancel Gatlinburg was made in mid-March, it was extremely encouraging to receive many supportive emails from players across the country expressing their disappointment. In some cases, these emails were from players who had attended the Gatlinburg Regional for more than 20 years, while others came from players for whom it would have been their first time to visit us. All of the communications were most welcome.

"As you can see from the photo, the city is ready to entertain all the bridge players we expect next April 19–25. We are hopeful that Gatlinburg will be in your bridge plans in 2021 and want everyone to stay safe during and after the current crisis."

Players are encouraged to keep of their favorite local tournaments on their calendars for 2021.





New Life Masters

Bermuda

Ellen Davidson, Hamilton
James Leitch, Smith's Parish

Canada

Bruce Petrie, Calgary AB
Yen Karro, Surrey BC
King Lee, Victoria BC
Colleen Luco, Sicamous BC
Tom Davidson, Beechwood NB
Heidi Janes, St John's NL
Helen Prowse, Halifax NS
Stephan Alexander, Stirling ON
Daniel Boon, Toronto ON
Linda Calzonetti, Burlington ON
Robert Innes, Hamilton ON
Yongjun Lu, Nepean ON
Maria Szykowski, Etobicoke ON
Shawn Tuttle, London ON
Simon-Pierre Goulet, Montreal QC
Jacques Simard, Montreal QC
Chic Callas, Whitehorse YT

United States

Valerie Watson, Bella Vista AR
Aton Arbisser, Los Angeles CA
Salim Bhimji, Laguna Woods CA
Andrew Chen, San Jose CA
James Collart, Lincoln CA
Ashwini Datar, Cupertino CA
Lynn Dondero, Sonoma CA
Debbie Faigen, Los Angeles CA
Joe Albert Garcia, Fullerton CA
Laurie Hailey, Walnut Creek CA
Rajeev Jog, San Jose CA
Sadhna Joshi, Eastvale CA
Miriam Kaegi, Novato CA
Louise Lee, Newport Beach CA
Merle Liebesman, Los Angeles CA
Herman Lin, Rancho Santa Fe CA
Douglas Preble, Huntington Beach CA
Mary Schelling, Orinda CA
Bernard Seal, Northridge CA
Marina Seppius, Palo Alto CA
Kate Smith, Los Altos Hills CA
Helen Spalding, San Francisco CA
Dmitri Stukalov, Palo Alto CA
Mitchell Hayne, Eagle CO
Michael Hellman, Pueblo West CO
Samuel McClinturff, Durango CO
Elizabeth McKay, Highlands Ranch CO

Beth Schweitzer, Newtown CT
Stanley Barg, Washington DC
Robert Adrion, Boynton Beach FL
Peter Blatteis, Wellington FL
Ritambhar Burman, South Miami FL
Wayne Catledge, Maitland FL
Cynthia Fisher, West Palm Beach FL
Donna Greenberg, Delray Beach FL
Ann Johnson, Palm Beach FL
Marcia McClurg, Boynton Beach FL
Jane Racila, Tampa FL
Linda Trifon, Lake Worth FL
Robert Shippy, Statham GA
Sandra Shippy, Statham GA
Gailyn Thornton, Atlanta GA
Brad Albers, Windsor Heights IA
Ken Newton, Clive IA
Mary Vogel, Churdan IA
Ellen McGregor, Mundelein IL
Carlene Bottorff, Jeffersonville IN
Mary Karch, Emporia KS
Norma Hampton, Lexington KY
Fran Anderson, Baton Rouge LA
Fizza Adamjee, Newton MA
Barbara Blauer, Needham MA
Meiyan Duan, Andover MA
Joseph Shulman, Canton MA
Ethan Wood, Dover MA
David Dong, Rockville MD
Patricia Hill, Brighton MI
James McNamara, Brownstown MI
Bernice Blaske, Brooklyn Park MN
Mark McGree, Bloomington MN
Michael Isserman, St. Louis MO
Dorothy Johnson, Kansas City MO
Jan Potts, Chestfield MO
Kelly White, St. Louis MO
Glenn Biggs, Matthews NC
Donna Davis, Hendersonville NC
Meggan Klippen, Ocean Isle Beach NC
Helen Paszek, Rocky Mount NC
Mary Lynn Westervelt, Fairview NC
Fred Douglass, Basking Ridge NJ
Richard Eisenman Jr., Milford NJ
Alan Wasserstein, Voorhees NJ
Sam Hankins, Tijeras NM
Jan Heggem, Albuquerque NM
Joshua Mullins, Albuquerque NM
Barnaby Grist, Reno NV
Frank Shannon, Mesquite NV

Lawrence Abate, Williamsville NY
Carolyn Carter, New York NY
Neal Christensen, Wappingers Falls NY
Madeline Cohn, New York NY
Michael Cotter, Brooklyn NY
Robin Healy, Huntington NY
Nicole Hudak, New York NY
Ruth Kestenbaum, New York NY
Eric Lazere, White Plains NY
Joan Libshutz, New York NY
Jake Neuthaler, Brooklyn NY
Carole Ross, New York NY
Carole Rosten, Great Neck NY
Gary Steinkohl, New York City NY
Jonathan Turell, Scarsdale NY
Mee Warren, New York NY
Robert Williams, Fairview Park OH
Brenda Biermann, Roseburg OR
James Weider, Portland OR
Mark Freedman, Jenkintown PA
Frederick Holdsworth, Philadelphia PA

Dennis Jacobs, Allison Park PA
Debbie Jones, Bryn Mawr PA
Connie Schlak, Boiling Springs PA
Beverly Titzel, Greenville PA
Vicky Vallecillo, Guaynabo PR
Mary Joseph, Columbia SC
Sue Kline, Columbia SC
Lucinda Levy, Okatie SC
Darlyn Dusek, League City TX
Adrienne Juno, Cypress TX
Edith Purgason, Houston TX
Olga Gavrik, Falls Church VA
Debbie Massey, Falls Church VA
Betsy Rock, Oakton VA
Benjamin Sharp, Alexandria VA
Thomas Stanley, Occoquan VA
Louise Cooley, Kirkland WA
Kevin Epley, Kent WA
Beverly Walker, Vancouver WA
Bhadra Chheda, New Berlin WI
Victoria Hess, Jackson WY

Don Caton 1941–2020

Don Jay Caton, an Emerald Life Master who finished second in three NABC events, died May 7 of complications from a stroke he suffered in late 2014. He was 78.

A native of Pensacola FL, Caton graduated from Pensacola High School in 1959 and then attended Florida State University, playing tennis all four years while earning his bachelor's degree. He went on to follow in his father's footsteps by receiving his law degree from Stetson University. After several years in private practice, he served as city attorney for Pensacola for 40 years.

Caton was an accomplished bridge player, becoming a Life Master at the age of 19. He finished second in the 1980 von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, the 1986 Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams and the 2014 Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs.

Caton was also a lifelong tennis player, who, among his many tennis accomplishments, ranked No. 1 in Florida, in 1955, in singles and doubles in the 15-and-under age-group, and was a top player for FSU from 1962–65. He was inducted into the Pensacola Sports Hall of Fame.

Caton is survived by his wife of 47 years, Marion, as well as seven children, 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



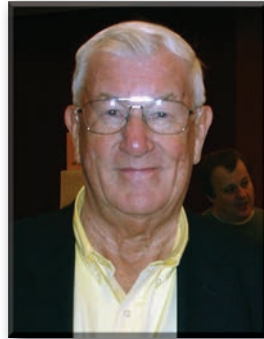
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Life Master

M I L E S T O N E S



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Grand Life Master
30,000 masterpoints



John Gustafson
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James Praught, Halifax NS

Donald Housley, Mesa AZ
Ellen Schiller, Greenbrae CA
Roger Maurer Jr., Deerfield Beach FL
Florine Walters, Delray Beach FL
Larry Cohen, Elmhurst IL
Jerrold Grossman, Rochester Hills MI
Adam Kaplan, New York NY
Constance Hoehstetter,
Moon Township PA
Woodrow McHarg, Laredo TX

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Ron Groulx, Huntsville ON

Daniel Raider, San Mateo CA
Francisco Bernal, Miami FL
Marjorie Boldus, Tarpon Springs FL
Jeff Edelstein, Tampa FL
Susan Jackowitz,
Palm Beach Gardens FL
Annette Johns, Naples FL
Molly O'Neill, Fort Lauderdale FL
Allan Rosenblum, Deerfield Beach FL
Betty Hoopes, Augusta GA
Charles Lipman, Atlanta GA
Eugene Condon, Charlotte NC
Maxine Poulton, Charlotte NC
Jill Burtram, Albuquerque NM
John Glynn, Annandale VA
Edward Frymoyer, Bainbridge Isle WA
Gabriel Tawil, Glendale WI

Sapphire Life Master (3500 MPs)

Judy Chapman, Edmonton AB
Dora Lee, Nanaimo BC
David Morse, New Minas NS
John Cook, Toronto ON
Dave Lang, Lombardy ON
Pascale Gaudreault, Quebec QC

Stephen Parker, Owens Cross Roads AL
John Euler, Sun Lakes AZ
Diana Black, Newport Beach CA
Bruce Gordon, La Canada CA
Clark Millikan, Santa Clara CA
Mark Stern, Fresno CA
Joan Maddox, Palm City FL
J.C. Meyers, Palm Beach FL
Helene Saindon, Palm City FL
Judy Brew, Hayden ID
Marvin Ferguson, Indianapolis IN
Carolyn Lewis, Louisville KY
Marlys Moholt, Silver Spring MD
Kirk Elyakin, Monroe Township NJ
Marie Barbeosch, Hauppauge NY
Jason Ciano, New York NY
Boris Tenchov, Columbus OH
Claudette Hartman, Austin TX
Robert Patton, Abilene TX

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Yvette Tapuska, Calgary AB
Roger Bennett, Qualicum Beach BC
Peter Ineson, Halifax NS
Dianne Aves, Waterloo ON
Deanne Dennison, Kleinburg ON

Peggy Pearson, Waterloo ON

Nancy Hora, Mobile AL
Barbara Stiff, Hot Springs Village AR
Bob Borengasser, Tempe AZ
Kathleen Byrne, San Diego CA
John McCaffrey, Oceanside CA
Peggy Tatro, San Rafael CA
Marilyn Ballon, Greenwood Village CO
Marilyn Brightwell, Osprey FL
Newton Brightwell, Osprey FL
Jeffrey Liu, Coconut Creek FL
Jim Loffree, Naples FL
Marilyn Williams, The Villages FL
Daniel Blum, Mount Prospect IL
Michael Devine, Homewood IL
William Toutant, Louisville KY
Mary Ellen Hatcher, Lake Charles LA
R.A. Muggia, Andover MA
Barry Goulding, Bethesda MD
Bruce Pynnonen, Midland MI
William Cummings, Monticello MN
Satish Bhalla, Charlotte NC
Krzysztof Jarosz, Grantham NH
Jason Ji, Kendall Park NJ
Jan Weber, Hamburg NJ
Francesca Stedman, Santa Fe NM
Dominick Colasuonno, New York NY
Sherry Ann Kavaler, New York NY
Cathy Marsteller, Niles OH
Mark Smith, Milwaukee OR
Jack Hawthorne, Valencia PA
Larry Umphlet, Norristown PA
Christopher Wang, Pittsburgh PA

Chris Panagopoulos, Franklin TN
Christoph Eick, Houston TX
Carol Lombardino, Tomball TX
Mark Meigs, Baytown TX
Joe Nance, Bryan TX
Raleigh Williamson, Houston TX
Mary Mudd, Fairfax Station VA
Rose Barclay, Spokane WA
Matt Wiggum, Everett WA
Terry Byrne, Wausau WI

Ruby Life Master (1500 MPs)

Elizabeth Sprague, Calgary AB
Betty Fagin, Bracebridge ON
Raymond Jones, Manotick ON
Steve McGrahan, Hamilton ON
Julia Price, Toronto ON
Olly Smolak, Stouffville ON
Marie Bernard, Montreal QC
Alain Henault, Longueuil QC
Maissa Marei, Laval QC
Margaret McTavish, Candiac QC
Pierre Paradis, Brownsb-Chath QC

Ann Latta, Mesa AZ
Beth Wisinski, Scottsdale AZ
Brian Eisenberg, Martinez CA
Sharon Gabriel, La Jolla CA
James Harris, Palo Alto CA
Chris Hastie, San Diego CA
Kathryn Le Gro, Carmichael CA
Buster Mico, La Jolla CA
Tinker Mico, La Jolla CA
Richard O'Brien, Los Altos CA



Warren Cederborg

Visalia CA

Grand Life Master

10,000 masterpoints

Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss
Teams (2014)



Bob Klein

Santa Rosa CA

Grand Life Master

10,000 masterpoints

Lebhar IMP Pairs (1993)

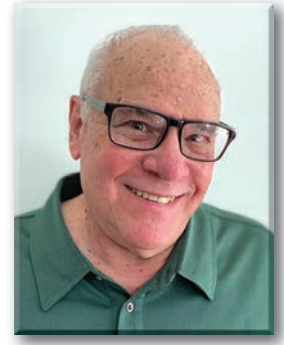


Jon Brissman

Indianapolis IN

Platinum Life Master

10,000 masterpoints



Steven Gaynor

Minneapolis MN

Platinum Life Master

10,000 masterpoints

Mischel Postas, Campbell CA
 Barbara Shortwell, Laguna Woods CA
 Stephanie Singer, Belmont CA
 Rick Wilson, Pleasanton CA
 Shirley Heinsohn, Highlands Ranch CO
 Ann Clark, Farmington CT
 Arthur Bergman, Panama City FL
 Michael Dworetzky,
 Palm Beach Gardens FL
 Robert Jacob, Davie FL
 Bruce Lemle, Casselberry FL
 Marvin Pomerantz, Boynton Beach FL
 Theresa Regan, Ponte Vedra FL
 James West, St. Johns FL
 Anne Niethammer, Honolulu HI
 Jeff Taggart, Caldwell ID
 Toni Kimmel, Vincennes IN
 Beverly Nikolajewski, Evansville IN
 Gary Thomas, Noblesville IN
 Donna Chapman, Hopkinsville KY
 Joe Pike, Edgewood KY
 Jerrilyn Jones, Ponchatoula LA
 Linda Ahrens, West Yarmouth MA
 Michael Feeney, Cambridge MA
 Bruce Cheney, Fallston MD
 Andrew Kaufman, Gaithersburg MD
 Jon Ranhand, Rockville MD
 Jon Olson, Marquette MI
 Clifford Lundberg, Elk River MN
 Thomas Racciatti, Minneapolis MN
 Nora Oliver, Charlotte NC
 Christina Schmidt, Lewisville NC
 Jill Kelley Petersen, Omaha NE
 Karen Verdirame, Omaha NE
 George Mann Jr., Kinnelon NJ
 Louis Christen, Corrales NM
 Earl Peterson, Mesquite NV
 Lincoln Brown, Newfield NY
 Paul Fagan, Suffern NY
 Barbara Rubin, Bayside NY

Ahmed Soliman, Long Island City NY
 Celia Verrier, New York NY
 John Williams, Cincinnati OH
 Senna Lovette, Tulsa OK
 Carole Schmitz, Eugene OR
 Daniel McKinley, Pittsburgh PA
 Lois DeBlois, Warwick RI
 Larry Adler, Memphis TN
 Chuck Clark, Knoxville TN
 Lawson Sonny Freeman Jr., Nashville TN
 Beverly Fanarof, Houston TX
 Tom Hogle, Houston TX
 Karen Hout, Plano TX
 Liz Jacobson, Laredo TX
 Alan Zane, Houston TX
 James Borowski, Williamsburg VA
 Nancy Golden, Glen Allen VA
 Ted Witt, Mukwonago WI

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Ronald Carswell, Calgary AB
 Camille Collver, Calgary AB
 Rolf Saetre, Calgary AB
 Linda Marinus, Courtenay BC
 Robert Murray, Edgewood BC
 Jon Preston, Victoria BC
 Trish Hattie, Fall River NS
 Zsoka Balla, Toronto ON
 Joan Cherry, Toronto ON
 Graham Dixon, Etobicoke ON
 Dorothy Duchnicki, Niagara Falls ON
 John Jarman, Aurora ON
 Yvan Belley, St. Constant QC
 Danielle Coutu, Rouyn-Noranda QC
 Gyorgy Hegyi, Pointe-Claire QC
 Denis Ouellette, Laval QC

Norma Scott,
 San Miguel De Allende, Mexico
 Andrew Collins, Little Rock AR

Virginia Dethomas,
 Hot Springs Village AR
 Karen Nagy, Hot Springs Village AR
 Vivienne Cummings, Scottsdale AZ
 Robert Walton, Sierra Vista AZ
 Abbe Cohen, Santa Rosa CA
 Dianne Crunk, Mammoth Lakes CA
 Terence Degan, Monterey CA
 Foster Geng, Castro Valley CA
 Anita Hammersley, San Diego CA
 Gregory Hanson, Dana Point CA
 Dwaine Hawley, Huntington Beach CA
 Michael Hu, San Jose CA
 Savita Jain, Irvine CA
 George Lewis Jr., Bakersfield CA
 Robert Moest, Los Angeles CA
 Catherine Molnar, Piedmont CA
 Nagy Nosseir, La Jolla CA
 Karen Turnbaugh, Novato CA
 Bill Hendrick, Boulder CO
 Gary Kellman, Stamford CT
 Lulie Eide, Naples FL
 Sandra Gross, Vero Beach FL
 Mitchell Heide, Boca Raton FL
 Valerie Hodson, Sarasota FL
 Virginia Hoffman,
 Ponte Vedra Beach FL
 Douglas Kahn, Tallahassee FL
 Susan Kett, Placida FL
 Rajasekhar Menon, Bradenton FL
 Bogdan Nestorowski, St. Petersburg FL
 Paula Robinson, Ponte Vedra FL
 Ina Spector, Boynton Beach FL
 Mark Sulczynski, Palm Coast FL
 Dennis Walsh, Osprey FL
 Ray Stalvey, Macon GA
 Carol Wingard, Columbus GA
 Judith Mason, Honolulu HI
 Gail Yap, Honolulu HI
 Tracey Ball, Urbandale IA

Steve Kimmel, Evanston IL
 Ellen Walsdorf, Chicago IL
 Mary Murphy, Lexington KY
 Louis Seelbach, Lexington KY
 Karen Jennings, Lafayette LA
 Mary LeBlanc, Kenner LA
 Fizza Adamjee, Newton MA
 Marilyn McGill, North Falmouth MA
 Venky Venkataramani, Andover MA
 Paul Chassy, Silver Spring MD
 Jesse Fussell, Edgewater MD
 Grayce Hartman, Woodbury MN
 Sherry McColgin, Ridgeland MS
 Frances Jilcott, Kingston NC
 Deas Linville, Wilson NC
 Martha Meyer, Winston-Salem NC
 Patricia Whitehurst, Durham NC
 Nancy Hornbeck, Durham NH
 Mary Beth Birchby, Ho-Ho-Kus NJ
 Victor Breinberg, Monroe Township NJ
 Joan Warren, Princeton NJ
 Julie Cardinalli, Reno NV
 Andrew Dubay, Voorheesville NY
 Diana Holtzman, White Plains NY
 Roberta Lowell, White Plains NY
 Douglas Nelson, New York NY
 Pauline Raiff, New York NY
 Jan Rechenberg, Bronx NY
 Matt Salvia, Stanfordville NY
 Mary Alice Bartish, Cincinnati OH
 Stephen Vogel, Cincinnati OH
 Susan Wisner, Cincinnati OH
 James Loveless, Oklahoma City OK
 Barbara Ball, Portland OR
 Louise Johns, Portland OR
 Mark McKechnie, Medford OR
 R.S. Peel, Milwaukee OR
 Ildiko Baxter, Allison Park PA
 Carole Bishop, Ambler PA

continued on pg. 70 ➤

In Memoriam

Canada

- * Jan Bromley, Langley BC
- * Rosalee L. Hardin, Vancouver BC
- * John A. Maunder, Hope BC
- * Stephen W. Raffel, Salmon Arm BC
- * Sharon Tettamanti, Nanaimo BC
- * Lyle Poole, Winnipeg MB
- * Pille Leonfellner, Bathurst NB
- * Elinor R. Grill, St. Catharines ON
- * David W. Steadman, Lindsay ON
- * John Verkaik, Chatham ON
- * Ian Karper, Mont-Royal QC
- * Lil Hemeon, Saskatoon SK

United States

- * Shelba H. Crawford, Bull Shoals AR
- * Patricia Blasingame, Gilbert AZ
- * Gerald W. Bare, Altadena CA
- * Luella Becken, Cathedral City CA
- * Yvonne Farris, Oxnard CA
- * Howard B. Grossman, San Bernardino CA
- * Alan E. Loebel, Healdsburg CA
- * Erika N. Richards, Palo Alto CA
- * Phyllis Robb, Clovis CA
- * Thurman A. Rock, Tustin CA
- * Perry Shapiro, Ventura CA
- * Howard Taub, Los Angeles CA
- * Dr. Nick Olberding, Colorado Springs CO
- * William Viott, Monument CO
- * Carol H. Minor, Madison CT
- * Barbara Cleary, Bethany Beach DE
- * Susan G. Aronson, Clermont FL
- * Don J. Caton, Pensacola FL
- * Judith E. Conner, Palm Coast FL
- * Richard K. Fleischman, Bradenton FL
- * George A. Rupprecht, Palm Coast FL
- * James I. Spandau, Sun City Center FL
- * David J. Waltz, Riviera Beach FL
- * Alice L. Zayac, Jacksonville FL
- * Ronald Henbest, Bolingbrook IL
- * Jules F. Knapp, Glencoe IL
- * Sue F. Balmer, New Orleans LA
- * Shirley H. Buisson, Metairie LA
- * Geoff Chichester, Jefferson LA
- * Susan M. Cockerham, Shreveport LA
- * Lilian R. Kirshborn, New Orleans LA
- * Nonie B. Leavitt, St. Rose LA
- * Howard E. Nobles Jr., New Orleans LA
- * Martie W. Sisco, La Place LA
- * Dr. Jack S. Zoller, New Orleans LA
- * Pamela W. Miller, Cambridge MA
- * Jane S. Bahn, Ellicott City MD
- * Lewis Gold, Silver Spring MD
- * Elizabeth Nock, Ocean City MD
- * Mrs. M. Racz, Pasadena MD
- * Lois Q. Taylor, Frederick MD
- * Louis A. Poisson, Redford MI
- * Mary Anne Zinn, Grosse Pointe MI
- * D. Kielty, Minneapolis MN
- * Ronald A. Menzel, Brooklyn Park MN
- * Margaret S. Rimer, Lexington NC
- * Morgan Wells, Axtell NE
- * Robert H. Kanter, Clifton NJ
- * Robert M. Kelly Jr., Shrewsbury NJ
- * Arnold Kronfeld, Hackensack NJ
- * Tom F. Thornhill III, Albuquerque NM
- * Howard L. Canaan, Cold Spring NY

- * Lynn Deas, Schenectady NY
- * Bill Galarno, New York NY
- * Melicent Ganem, White Plains NY
- * Joan Pollenz, Jericho NY
- * Armond Schiff, Rock Hill NY
- * Ernestine S. Pantel, Chagrin Falls OH
- * Delores S. Poneman, Toledo OH
- * Ray Wulf, Batavia OH
- * Barbara A. Jones, Tulsa OK
- * Ernestine Boyd, Memphis TN
- * Judy L. Fernald, Houston TX
- * Michael W. Goldman, Fort Worth TX
- * Adele P. Hart, Fort Worth TX
- * Jolie Hess, Houston TX
- * William A. Kibikas, Friendswood TX
- * Bernie R. Lange, Wichita Falls TX
- * Mathilde E. Wiewiorowski, Plano TX
- * Dr. Tadeusz K. Wiewiorowski, Plano TX
- * Brian Boyce, Norfolk VA
- * Carolyn C. Choate, Bellevue WA
- * Dr. Jack K. Erickson, Marysville WA

*Life Master

Gerald Bare 1933–2020

By Grace Briscoe

Gerald William Bare died due to heart failure on May 11 at his home in Altadena CA at age 87.

Gerald, known to everyone as Gerry, was born June 12, 1933, in Spokane WA. Gerry grew up on the family farm in Fairfield WA and was valedictorian of his class at Fairfield High School. After earning a degree in civil engineering from Washington State University, Gerry moved to Los Angeles to work for North American Aviation in 1955.

In 1957, Gerry began his career with Caltrans as a junior civil engineer, before being called to military service and serving two years in the U.S. Army. After returning to Caltrans, Gerry spent the majority of his career working in traffic modeling, developing computer models to predict traffic and air quality for the entire Southern California area. Among his many career achievements, he was the senior engineer in charge of designing carpool lanes on the San Diego Freeway.

The other passion of Gerry's life was bridge. A Grand Life Master, Gerry earned more than 15,000 masterpoints. He was a two-time NABC champion, winning the 1970 Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams and the 2005 Truscott/U.S. Playing Card Seniors Swiss Teams.

Gerry met his first wife, Dorothy Olson Bare, at the Ardmore Bridge Club in 1962 and they were wed in 1965. She and Gerry owned Nelson's Travel in Covina from 1967–1973 and co-founded Tops in Travel in Santa Monica in 1976. Dorothy and Gerry enjoyed playing bridge together and shared a love of travel and exploration until her death in 1996.

In 1999, Gerry met his match, Patricia McKinney Bare, via a matchmaking service (which he loved to joke about). They quickly became inseparable and were wed in 2000. Gerry took an active and loving role in the lives of Pat's eight children. Gerry was able to merge his love of bridge and travel by teaching bridge on over a dozen cruises – allowing he and Pat to travel the world together after his retirement.

Gerry was loving and loyal, an amazing conversationalist with a quick wit, always up for a spirited board game, and a man who was fearless to life's challenges and carried no regrets.

Gerry is survived by his wife Patricia, two siblings, 12 children and 12 grandchildren.



John Verkaik 1930–2020

By John Boekhoud

John Verkaik of Chatham ON died May 16 at the Chatham-Kent Hospice at the age of 90.

John was my bridge partner for 35 years and has promoted bridge in the community for all of that time. He has been involved with fundraising locally and has organized bridge events that have collected more than \$50,000 for the local hospital, as well as the Active Lifestyle Centre, Legion, and other agencies. John has been a cornerstone of bridge in our area, and he has had our tournament named after him in tribute.

He is survived by his wife Alice, children, grandchildren and bridge players who will always remember his love of the game, kindness and willingness to promote the activity. During his time in the local hospice, John, in typical fashion, informed the staff of the need to organize a bridge fundraiser in return for the kindness he received and to promote the facility. He will be missed by us all.



Puzzle Page

BY ALAN OLSCHWANG

aolschwang@socal.rr.com

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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68					69						70			
71					72						73			

DOWN

1. Traditional tale
2. Hawkeye State
3. Winged god of love
4. Bees' collection
5. Dallas inst.
6. Low stool
7. Possessive pronoun
8. Poor devil
9. Donned effortlessly, as footwear
10. "Another Day on Earth" musician Brian
11. Martial arts teacher
12. "Valley of the Dolls" author Jacqueline
13. Light breakfast
18. Flock members
19. Green shampoo
24. War zone of the '60s
27. Pocket watch attachment
28. Night hooter
29. Tres less dos
30. Condescend
31. ___ Plains
36. Scrooge's reply
38. Recliner features
40. Malcolm's TV dad
41. Ratite from down under
42. Tiny bit
44. Smokey Robinson's music genre, for short
45. Catherine the Great, e.g.
47. Rathskeller serving
48. Duplicate, briefly
50. Hot dog
51. A daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta
52. Ed Norton's wife
53. Footnote term
54. Confine
60. "La Dolce ___" (1960 Fellini film)
62. Honored one's pledge
63. Ultimate buyer
64. Rebekah's eldest
66. Six pt. plays
67. Athletes Cobb and Detmer

ACROSS

1. Manner
5. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" novelist
10. "Happy Motoring" sloganeer
14. Ancient times
15. Tierney of TV
16. Drei squared
17. Garbage Stayman is initiated with a ___ to a one-no opening (See 27A)
20. "___ la vista, baby!"
21. Blender brand
22. Abbr. on motor oil can
23. Aboriginal Japanese
25. String after B
26. Brit's lang.
27. And should guaranty at least a ___ in three suits (See 50A)
32. "A League of Their ___"
33. "Peter Pan" henchman
34. Nationals div.
35. Shapeless mass
37. Up to, briefly
39. Backyard storage facility
43. Picasso piece
46. Apparatus
49. Doc bloc
50. ___ (See 65A)
55. Jordan neighbor: Abbr.
56. Apprehend the felon
57. Result of a default, briefly
58. Beatles' early record label
59. Golf shot
61. Malevolent elephant
65. and regardless of how the opener responds, responder's ___
68. "Idylls of the King" lady
69. Like meshed fabric
70. Eye layer
71. Roger of "Nicholas Nickleby"
72. Build up
73. Andean nation

Solution on pg. 73

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Tournament Directory

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Attention tournament contacts plus unit and district officials:
Please check your tournament information. If a change is necessary,
email tournaments@acbl.org.

REGIONALS ARE LISTED IN ALL CAPS.

Legend: cr=Cruise • sr=Senior • nlm=non-Life Master • pf=progressive final
‡=note change • nc=non-championship sectional

July

8-12	CA/Mountain View (SF)	Palo Alto Bridge Club	Dan Thatte	650-561-4355
10-12	FL/Naples	Bonita Bridge Club	Jo Ellen Blandford	239-777-1515
10-12	HI/Honolulu	Ala Wai Club House	Naomi Nortman	808-927-7786
5-11	MI/Fenton (youth) (0-200)	YMCA Camp Copneconic	Susan Woodrow	248-795-1595
8-12	MN/Minneapolis	Twin City Bridge Center	Teri Blu	952-881-0427
9-12	NC/Durham	Triangle Bridge	Henry Meguid	919-724-6239
10-12	WI/FITCHBURG (nlm/750)	FITCHBURG COMMUNITY CENTER	Glenna Shannahan	608-347-5827
10-12	WI/Fitchburg	Fitchburg Community Center	Glenna Shannahan	608-347-5827
17-18	AL/Montgomery (nlm/500)	Montgomery DBC	Michael Lawson	334-322-6250
25-26	KY/Lexington (nlm/500)	Lexington Bridge Club	Andra Gyor	859-221-8209
24-26	WA/Silverdale	Kitsap Mall	Todd Flowerday	816-838-6579

July/August

31-2	IA/URBANDALE (nlm/750)	DES MOINES BRIDGE HOUSE	Rebecca Joseph	515-225-8660
31-2	NY/Latham	Shelly Studio of Bridge	Jim Reed	518-357-9849
31-2	OH/Kettering	Miami Valley Bridge	Joseph Camillus	937-272-7930
27-2	SC/COLUMBIA	DOUBLETREE BY HILTON	Lee Webb	803-691-1502

August

1-2	MI/Freeland (Saginaw)	Freeland SportsZone	Diane Bofferding	989-245-6002
1-2	MI/FREELAND (Saginaw) (nlm/750)	FREELAND SPORTSZONE	Diane Bofferding	989-245-6002
2	PA/York (nlm/500)	Bridge Boardroom	Edward Scanlon	717-434-3298
1	WA/Unit 454 (pf)	TBD	Trish Simmons	509-668-8333
1-2	WV/Wheeling	Elm Grove Civics	Brett Orban	740-633-6084
5-9	AK/Anchorage (nc)	Anchorage Bridge Center	Michael Schmahl	907-631-5253
8-9	CA/Fresno (nlm/500)	Fresno Bridge Center	Laura Da Costa	559-999-2825
5-6	FL/Deland (0-300)	Deland Bridge Club	Lynn Berg	386-736-6228
5-9	FL/Delray Beach (nlm/500)	Jourdans Bridge Club	Jakob Kristinsson	248-202-8241
7-9	FL/Fort Myers	McGregor Point Bridge Club	Val Covalciuc	239-415-8168
6-9	LA/Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge Bridge Center	Craig Cordes	225-766-7367
6-8	MA/Hyannis	Barnstable Intermediate School	Catherine Cooper	781-932-2566
8-9	ME/Portland	Woodfords Club	Karen Mooney	207-799-8090
6-8	MN/North St. Paul (0-500)	Bridge Center of St. Paul	Larry McIntyre	651-690-2829
6-9	NC/Durham (nlm/500)	Triangle Bridge Club	Chris Moll	504-495-7485
7-9	ND/Minot	Moose Lodge	Karen Leier	701-839-2343
8-9	NM/Albuquerque (nlm/500)	Duke City Bridge Center	Robert Zipp	505-506-2671
5-9	TN/Knoxville	Knoxville Bridge Center	Richard Shipp	865-483-7520
6-9	TX/Houston	Marriott Westchase	Lauri Laufman	713-802-2211

August (continued)

6-9	TX/HOUSTON (nlm/500)	HOUSTON MARRIOTT WESTCHASE	Lauri Laufman	713-802-2211
13-16	AK/Anchorage (nlm/500)	Anchorage Bridge Center	Michael Schmahl	907-631-5253
15-16	CA/Redwood City	Canada College - The Grove	Bob Gleason	650-274-6747
15-16	KY/Louisville (nlm/500)	Louisville Bridge Center	Norman Smith	502-491-9460
11-14	NV/Reno	Mathewson Bridge Center	Jill Wallace	775-337-0455
14-16	OH/Columbus	York Golf Club	Janelle Courtright	614-595-9428
15-16	ON/St. Catharines (0-300)	Bridge Centre of Niagara	Lucy McEwen	905-468-0052
15-16	TX/Austin (0-200)	Bridge Center of Austin	Larry Davis	512-343-6942
21-22	AL/Birmingham (nlm/500)	Birmingham Bridge Club	Martha Chitwood	205-252-9035
21-23	AR/HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE (nlm/750)	VILLAGE CARD CLUB	Teri LaBove	501-915-9101
21-23	AR/Hot Springs Village	Village Card Club	Teri LaBove	501-915-9101
22-23	CA/Laguna Woods (OC) (nlm/750)	Laguna Woods Bridge Club	Marjorie Michelin	310-422-9330
22-23	CA/Sonoma	Vintage House Senior Center	Sigrid Price	707-486-7517
21-23	CO/Grand Junction	Courtyard by Marriott	Randy Field	469-865-7705
21-23	CT/Stamford	Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church	Cornelia Guest	203-244-5324
22-23	NH/Nashua	Rivier University Dion Center	William Kennedy	603-321-0292
21-23	SC/Myrtle Beach (nlm/500)	Larry Paul Bridge Center	Betsy Stanton	843-332-7587
20-23	TX/Spring (0-300)	Bridge Club of Houston	Bill Riley	832-289-3833
22-23	TX/Arlington (nlm/500)	Arlington DBS	Tom Moore	817-431-5129
22-23	VA/Virginia Beach (nlm/500)	Unit 146 Bridge Center	Beth Rafferty	804-512-3225
24-30	FL/PALM BEACH GARDENS	PGA NATIONAL RESORT & SPA	Shannon Cappelletti	423-400-0269
26-27	ID/McCall (nc)	Idaho First Bank	Anita Hansen	208-697-9435
28-30	KS/Overland Park (KC)	Jewish Community Center	Victoria Billard	816-444-0021
27-29	LA/Alexandria	Ace Bridge Club	Susan Menache	318-792-5456
27-30	MB/Winnipeg	Soul Sanctuary	Robert Kuz	204-396-3199
27-30	MI/Southfield (Det)	Bridge Connection	Jonathan Fleischmann	248-855-0335
25-30	OH/FAIRBORN (Dayton)	HOPE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER	Georgia Banziger	937-439-4073
27-30	TX/San Antonio	Fiesta BC	Ed Rawlinson	210-372-9629
24-30	WI/LAKE HALLIE (Eau Claire) (split)	EAGLES CLUB	Richard Brown	715-559-9433
25-30	WI/MILWAUKEE (split)	SHERATON FOUR POINTS	Yvette Neary	414-526-9035
September				
5-7	BC/Burnaby (Vancouver)	Engineers Hall, IUOE Local 15	Larry Pocock	604-295-9195
1-7	CA/SANTA CLARA	HYATT REGENCY SANTA CLARA	Pamela Hughes	916-774-0990
5	CA/Camarillo (0-500)	Camarillo Senior Center	Josh Rosenbluth	805-351-9359
4-7	FL/St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg Bridge Club	Joanne Wharton	727-596-2139
1-7	GA/ATLANTA	RENAISSANCE ATLANTA WAVERLY HOTEL	Jack Feagin Jr.	404-252-9246
6	IN/Indianapolis (pf)	Indianapolis Bridge Center	Maribeth Ransel	317-542-0362
4-7	MN/Minneapolis	Twin City Bridge Center	Teri Blu	952-881-0427
4-6	ND/Fargo	El Zagal Shrine	Mary Shaw	701-238-8504
1-7	PA/GREEN TREE (Pittsburgh)	DOUBLETEE PITTSBURGH - GREEN TREE	Mary Paulone Carns	724-897-7526
1-6	RI/WARWICK	CROWNE PLAZA	Sally Kirtley	860-653-3325
4-7	WA/Spokane Valley	Spokane Bridge Center	Joseph Harwood	509-954-8110
10-12	AL/Huntsville	St. Mary's Catholic Church	Donna Merchant	256-684-6918
12-13	BC/Delta (nlm/500)	East Delta Hall	Don Guichon	604-536-7410
7-13	CA/COSTA MESA	COSTA MESA HILTON	Ron Lien	626-695-5409



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Nominations for the 2020 ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame Blackwood and von Zedtwitz awards

Each year, the Bridge Hall of Fame Committee considers candidates for the Blackwood Award, given for outstanding contributions to bridge outside of expertise at the game, and the von Zedtwitz Award, which honors inactive players who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge.

ACBL members in good standing may submit candidates' names to the Hall of Fame Committee for induction into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame in 2020. To be eligible for induction, a candidate must be at least 60 years old and live in North America.

Please submit nominations for these awards to the Bridge Hall of Fame Committee at elections@acbl.org. Nominations will be forwarded to the chair of the committee. **Nominations must be received no later than Nov. 1.**

Life Master Milestones

► *continued from pg. 65*

Mark Bolotin, Philadelphia PA
 Bharat Shah, Pittsburgh PA
 Myrna Shervin, Philadelphia PA
 Raquel Yiengst, Reading PA
 Donna Holt, Gallatin TN
 Linda Sherrell, Collierville TN
 Karen Baer, Houston TX
 Charo Barnette, Houston TX
 Sandra Jackson, Bellaire TX
 Lauri Laufman, Houston TX
 Donald Pigg, Burleson TX
 Gay Rod, Houston TX
 Michael Brown, Williamsburg VA
 David Goldfrank, Falls Church VA
 Louis Akerman, Silverdale WA
 Valerie Lycette, Issaquah WA
 Robert Tyler, Olympia WA
 Ernie Beckley, Ten Sleep WY

Bronze Life Master

Valerie Bowlen, Edmonton AB
 Diane Coole, Lethbridge AB
 Andrew Serafini, Calgary AB
 Nita Dalal, Vancouver BC
 Yen Karro, Surrey BC
 Mavis Minuck, Winnipeg MB
 B.M. Whelton, Fredericton NB
 Pamela Dean, Truro NS
 Gerard Macmaster, Port Hawkesbury NS
 Patricia Aitchison, Mississauga ON
 Stephan Alexander, Stirling ON
 Sharon Boyd, Cambridge ON
 Patricia Brazeau, Gloucester ON
 Patti Bunston-Gunn, Toronto ON
 Linda Calzonetti, Burlington ON
 Anda Cosma, Ottawa ON
 Judy Desroches, Barrie ON
 Denise Lambert, Sudbury ON
 Silva Minassian, Severn ON
 Heather O'Connor, Toronto ON
 Pat Robinson, Toronto ON
 Michel Boileau, Blainville QC
 Chic Callas, Whitehorse YT

Dorothy Norwood, Montgomery AL
 Anna Smith, Auburn AL
 Rodney Barnette, El Dorado AR
 Kay Butterworth, Hot Springs AR
 Scott Melhorn, Heber Springs AR
 Pauline Pettinato, Tucson AZ
 Monica Quinlan, Tucson AZ
 Brad Shefloe, Scottsdale AZ
 Susan Barkley, Atherton CA
 Anne Bossange, Saratoga CA
 Craig Caldwell, San Diego CA
 Ron Chestnut, Petaluma CA
 Sara Corey, Indio CA
 Cynthia Douglas, Fair Oaks CA

September (continued)

11-13	CA/Bayside (Eureka)	Humboldt Area Foundation	Mark Phelps	707-443-9029
11-13	CA/Orangevale (Sac)	Orangevale Community Center	David Willmott	916-709-8958
11-13	CO/Montrose	Elks Club	Michael Thorpe	970-596-5225
11-13	DE/Wilmington	Bridge Studio of Delaware	Jeff Ruben	302-475-0469
10-13	FL/Daytona Beach	Daytona Metropolitan Bridge Club	Martha Wirkutis	386-756-0044
11-13	FL/Venice	Venice Bridge Club	James Gordon	941-488-0799
11-13	HI/Honolulu	Ala Wai Clubhouse	Naomi Nortman	808-927-7786
10-13	IA/Urbandale (DM)	Des Moines Area Bridge House	Carolyn Sabroske	515-287-7512
12-14	IL/Rockford	Clock Tower Resort	Marilyn Croft	312-203-0849
11-13	KS/Leavenworth	Heritage Center	Patricia Lombardi	913-306-4500
11-13	KY/Lexington	Bridge Club of Lexington	Lamar Hamilton	606-280-7143
12-13	ME/Portland	Woodfords Club	Roger Guerin	207-468-0860
11-13	MI/Traverse City	YMCA Camp Arbutus	Lynn Larson	231-932-5966
10-12	MN/Carlton	Black Bear Casino & Resort	Dianne Carr	218-591-9942
11-13	MS/Flowood	Jackson Bridge Association	Susan McNamara	601-941-5015
7-13	MT/GREAT FALLS	HERITAGE INN	Diane Volk	406-761-4943
11-13	NB/Moncton	Four Points Sheraton	Wade Short	506-533-9729
11-13	NC/Asheville	AB Tech Community College	Rich Levy	630-631-7531
11-13	NC/Carthage	Moore County Agricultural Center	Edward Weiler	910-295-5344
12	NE/Lincoln (nlm/500)	Lincoln Duplicate Bridge Club	Anne Beaurivage	402-416-8432
11-13	NJ/Allendale	Guardian Angel Auditorium	David Bushman	201-482-4883
11-13	NM/Los Alamos	Betty Ehart Senior Center	Martin Cooper	505-672-9696
11-13	NY/Williamsville (Buffalo)	Main Transit Fire Hall	Denise Slattery	716-602-8629
10-12	OK/Tulsa (nlm/750)	Route 66 Bridge Club	Henry Robin	918-995-7123
11-13	ON/Brockville	Brockville Convention Center	Richard Darling	613-543-2108
12-13	ON/St. Thomas	St. Thomas Seniors Centre	Jim Wright	519-631-5531
11-13	OR/Oak Grove (Portland)	Milwaukie Elks	Alan Johnson	971-998-4261
11-13	PA/Williamsport	Williamsport Bridge Club	Judy Stein	570-946-4749
11-13	QC/Rimouski	Centre Communautaire Ste.-Odile	Celine Roy	418-723-4006
10-12	TX/Beaumont (nlm/500)	Beaumont Bridge Studio	Townley-Smith	409-504-6374
10-13	TX/New Braunfels	New Braunfels Civic Center	Barbara Morgan	830-632-9264
11-14	TX/Dallas (0-300)	Bridge Academy of North Dallas	Donna Compton	214-394-5830
10-13	VA/Fairfax (DC)	The Arlington/Fairfax Elks	Margot Hennings	703-560-0245
11-13	VA/Virginia Beach	Unit 146 Bridge Center	Jennifer Christman	757-574-7118
11-13	VT/Williston	Burlington Bridge Club	Philip Sharpsteen	802-899-2080
18-20	BC/Lake Country	Winfield Memorial Hall	David Crest	250-861-4673
18-20	BC/Sidney (Victoria)	Mary Winspear Centre	Shelley Burnham	250-516-5987
10-20	CA/Moraga (SF) (nc)(cr)	Star Princess Cruise Ship	Jerry Chamberlain	925-376-1125
18-20	CA/Bakersfield	Bakersfield Community House	Rebecca Pilshaw	661-448-4209
19-20	CA/Mountain View (SF) (nlm/750)	Palo Alto Bridge Club	Carl Baeuerlen	650-965-2654
17-20	FL/Pinellas Park (nlm/500)	St. Petersburg Bridge Club	Joanne Wharton	727-596-2139
18-20	IN/Terre Haute	International Union of Operating Engineers	Milt Van Reed	812-231-0069
11-22	MA/Boston (nc)(cr)	Celebrity Summit	Dean Panagopoulos	781-937-7768
17-19	MI/Holland	Central Wesleyan Church	David Jasperse	616-786-3779
18-20	MS/Gulfport	Gulf Coast Bridge	Richard Logan	228-254-5245
18-20	NC/Wilmington	American Legion Post 10	Nora Miller	603-667-6267
18-20	NM/Carlsbad	Best Western Stevens Inn	H. Ann Brannon	575-499-5335
17-20	NV/Carson City	Plaza Conference Center	Cornelia Gould	925-395-7385
19-20	NY/Plattsburgh (nc)	Plattsburgh DBC	Lorraine Streeter	518-578-4992
18-20	OH/Cuyahoga Falls	Quirk Center	Susan Manne	234-678-7154
19-20	PA/Erie	Erie Bridge Center	Rick Klapthor	814-566-1396
19	SD/Sioux Falls (nlm/500)	Active Generations Senior Center	Svein Sjovold	605-360-5499
17-19	TX/Amarillo	O'Brien Bridge Club	William Thomas	806-371-0552
17-20	TX/Spring (Houston) (0-300)	Bridge Club of Houston	Bill Riley	832-289-3833
18-20	TX/Denton (nlm/500)	TBA	Kim Brinkman	214-208-0154
18-20	UT/Salt Lake City	Sons of Utah Pioneers	Melanie Peche	801-971-7548

September (continued)

17-19	WI/Schofield	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Emalyn Nikstad	715-845-2012
18-20	WY/Cheyenne	Laramie County Comm. College	Daniel Zwonitzer	307-214-7826
22-27	AK/ANCHORAGE	ANCHORAGE BRIDGE CENTER	Marion Kelly	907-278-5835
24-27	AL/Montgomery	Montgomery DBC	Michael Lawson	334-322-6250
26-27	AZ/Tucson (nlm/750)	Adobe Bridge Center	Steve Reynolds	520-488-7730
25-27	CA/Lompoc	DeWees Comm. and Sr. Center	Donald Beck	805-736-3507
25-27	CA/Sacramento (0-500)	Sacramento Bridge Center	David Willmott	916-709-8958
26-27	CA/Gilroy	Gilroy Senior Center	Suzanne Proctor	831-636-1208
26-27	FL/Melbourne	Wickham Park Senior Center	David Seares	321-259-0798
25-27	IA/Dubuque	Holy Trinity	Mark Patton	563-588-1555
25-27	IA/Spirit Lake	Dickinson County Expo Center	Jan Bolluyt	712-336-5996
22-27	IL/EFFINGHAM	HOLIDAY INN	Paul Hartke	217-821-2931
24-27	KS/WICHITA (nlm/750)	RED ROOF INN	Richard Bowman	316-733-2718
24-27	KS/Wichita	Red Roof Inn	Richard Beye	314-440-2909
26-27	KY/Louisville	Louisville Bridge Center	Norman Smith	502-491-9460
25-27	MI/St. Joseph	Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School	Lynne Bruehlman	269-983-6816
26-27	MO/Olivet (0-300)	St. Louis Bridge Center	John Welte	314-413-8139
25-27	MT/Billings	Shrine Auditorium	Juanita Mouat	406-702-1987
26-27	NH/Grantham	Grantham Town Hall	Jane Verdrager	603-865-5508
24-26	NY/Latham	Shelly Studio of Bridge	Jim Reed	518-357-9849
26-27	OH/Canfield (Youngstown)	Andrews Hall (Angels for Animals)	Gary Singer	330-565-1942
26-27	ON/Caledon East	Caledon East Community Center	Denise Donovan	416-614-6754
26	PA/Allentown (nlm/500)	Lehigh Valley Active Life Center	Pat Saeger	610-393-4776
25-27	QC/Quebec	Le Montmartre canadien	Andre Deschenes	418-843-8622
26-27	RI/Johnston	Johnson Senior Center	Maureen Fahey	401-828-0045
25-27	SC/Aiken	Odell Weeks Activity Center	Greg Roberts	803-648-2255
24-27	SK/Saskatoon	Saskatoon Bridge Club	Phyllis Minielly	306-249-3218
24-26	TN/East Ridge (Chatt)	East Ridge Community Center	Anne Donnovin	423-605-2996
24-27	TX/Austin	Bridge Center of Austin	Larry Davis	512-343-6942
24-27	TX/Houston (0-500)	Westside Bridge Academy	Jennifer Breihan	713-553-6814
25-27	VA/Williamsburg	DoubleTree By Hilton	Jane Farthing	757-229-7275

September/October

28-4	NM/TAOS	SAGEBRUSH INN AND SUITES	G. Winifred Stebbins	575-613-7501
29-4	NY/CARLE PLACE	CHATEAU BRIAND	Lee Launer	516-628-2546
30-3	WI/Milwaukee	Cardinal Stritch University	Yvette Neary	414-526-9035

October

3-4	CA/Burlingame (nlm/750)	Fattoria e Mare	Bob Gleason	650-274-6747
3-4	CA/Santa Clarita (LA)	Friendly Valley Auditorium	Ruth Baker	805-217-9481
3-4	CO/Sheridan (Denver) (0-300)	Denver House of Cards	Robert Stansbury	303-794-5600
2-4	FL/Clearwater	Clearwater Bridge Club	Nancy Davis	727-698-7594
2-4	FL/Orlando	Orlando Metro. Bridge Center	Gerard Rescek	860-334-1954
2-4	GA/St. Simons Island	Golden Isles Duplicate BC	Ralph Levitan	912-434-6430
2-4	IL/Caseyville (St. L.)	Steamfitters Local 439	Charles Keltner	618-654-5106
1-3	LA/Monroe	The Bridge Center	Carolyn Gates	318-325-1433
2-4	MA/Watertown (Boston)	Armenian Cultural Center	Catherine Cooper	781-932-2566
3	MI/Lansing (nlm/500)	Lansing Bridge Center	Kathy Stepanovich	517-881-8705
2-4	ND/Bismarck	Masonic Center	Mark Hanlon	701-319-9350
3-4	NY/Webster (Rochester)	TBD	Barbara McIver	585-469-7575
2-4	OH/Columbus	Haimel Center	Robert Jiobu	614-486-5050
2-4	TN/Crossville	Cumberland Community Complex	Jane Peabody	904-315-3352
2-4	TX/Fort Worth	CERA Recreation Complex	Jean Helmers	254-968-7664
1-4	VA/Fairfax (DC)	The Arlington/Fairfax Elks	Margot Hennings	703-560-0245
9-12	BM/Paget (Southampton)	Bermuda Bridge Club	Peter Donnellan	441-332-4725

Life Master Milestones

► continued from pg. 70

Ramey Farah, La Jolla CA
 Joe Albert Garcia, Fullerton CA
 Brenda Hatton, San Jose CA
 Joseph Held, Oakland CA
 Richard Hottell, Rancho Murieta CA
 Joan Johnson, Palos Verdes Estates CA
 Misook Jung, Berkeley CA
 Merle Liebesman, Los Angeles CA
 Herman Lin, Rancho Santa Fe CA
 Scott Magged, Cathedral City CA
 Larisa Rappaport, Beverly Hills CA
 Mark Rappaport, Beverly Hills CA
 Sharon Ray, Newport Beach CA
 Marina Seppius, Palo Alto CA
 Helen Spalding, San Francisco CA
 Elizabeth Spence, Escondido CA
 Elizabeth Strasen, Petaluma CA
 Dmitri Stukalov, Palo Alto CA
 Bill Yeast, Mill Valley CA
 Beth Schweitzer, Newtown CT
 Stanley Barg, Washington DC
 Peter Blatteis, Wellington FL
 Deborah Branch, Fort Lauderdale FL
 Deborah Bricker, Palm Beach FL
 David Cox Jr., Coral Gables FL
 Beth Gursky, Delray Beach FL
 Pamela Harmeson, Satellite Beach FL
 Christopher Hepe, Naples FL
 Mayer Kersun, Sarasota FL
 Jonathan Lowe, Tampa FL
 Jerry McClurg, Boynton Beach FL
 Rosemary Plane, Deland FL
 Jane Racila, Tampa FL
 Maria Saez, Naples FL
 Don Smith, Naples FL
 Susan Taylor, Tampa FL
 Kathy Argenbright, Atlanta GA
 Ronald Boggs, Atlanta GA
 Stephanie Childs, Evans GA
 Tina West, Big Canoe GA
 Sue White, Ketchum ID
 Donald Ferris, Mundelein IL
 Polly (Mary) Larned, Glencoe IL
 Stewart Margolis, Mundelein IL
 Charles Wiggins Jr., Indian Head Park IL
 Terry Bauer, Portage IN
 Cindy Faris, Indianapolis IN
 Heather Harmeyer, Indianapolis IN
 Kathy Aberizk, Webster MA
 Elizabeth Gompels, Cambridge MA
 Alan Hudson, Mattapoisett MA
 Joseph Shulman, Canton MA
 Dave Hall, Westminster MD
 Michael Hermoyian, Brownstown MI
 Ruth Subers, Kalamazoo MI
 Bob Buck, Blaine MN
 Connie Nelson, Avon MN
 Dorothy Johnson, Kansas City MO

Life Master Milestones

► *continued from pg. 71*

Jan Potts, Chestefield MO
 Louis Luby, Benton MS
 Kamal Das, Morrisville NC
 Brenda Garzia, Greensboro NC
 Barbara Howarth, Greensboro NC
 Susan Jackson, Duck NC
 Miles Muhlada, Raleigh NC
 Nancy Sparks, Cary NC
 Susan Williford, Clemmons NC
 Kathleen Larnard, Stratham NH
 Robert Abramowitz, Montville NJ
 Cheryl Britton, Monmouth Beach NJ
 L.I. Kleinberg, Flanders NJ
 Jim Rothschild Jr., Roseland NJ
 Steven Siegel, Mendham NJ
 Julie Zinzi, Franklin Lakes NJ
 Joshua Mullins, Albuquerque NM
 Donna Romm, Albuquerque NM
 Madeline Cohn, New York NY
 Joan Libshutz, New York NY
 Aaron Miller, New York NY
 Ellen Postrel, Westhampton Beach NY
 Carole Ross, New York NY
 Sandie Sickle, Syosset NY
 Angela Strainic, Mentor OH
 Wendy Mednick, Portland OR
 Donald Pitt, Salem OR
 James Weider, Portland OR
 Barbara Fox, Elkins Park PA
 Mark Freedman, Jenkintown PA
 Edward Kennedy, Wayne PA
 Roger Milton, Blue Bell PA
 Rosanne Patterson, Pittsburgh PA
 Tim Sumner, Ephrata PA
 Jennifer Hiatt, Hilton Head SC
 William McGhee Jr., Aiken SC
 Linda Hartmann, Sioux Falls SD
 Joe Bologna, Kingsport TN
 David Badertscher, Galveston TX
 Karen Cohen, Dallas TX
 Diane Davis, Austin TX
 Sandy Lansing, Fairview TX
 Christian Liipfert, Cedar Park TX
 Valarie Remmers, Plano TX
 Frank Schwakhofer, Canyon Lake TX
 Eileen Williamson, Granbury TX
 Thomas Zimmerman, Pearland TX
 Clysta Lundgreen, Leeds UT
 Diane Strachan, Cedar City UT
 Jewel Baldwin, Glen Allen VA
 James Crowley, Williamsburg VA
 James Dahlberg, Arlington VA
 Douglas Wacek, Burlington VT
 Paul Goldfinger, Langley WA
 Christopher Kent, Spokane WA
 Janet Landesberg, Vancouver WA
 Jeffrey Stead, Shepherdstown WV

October (continued)

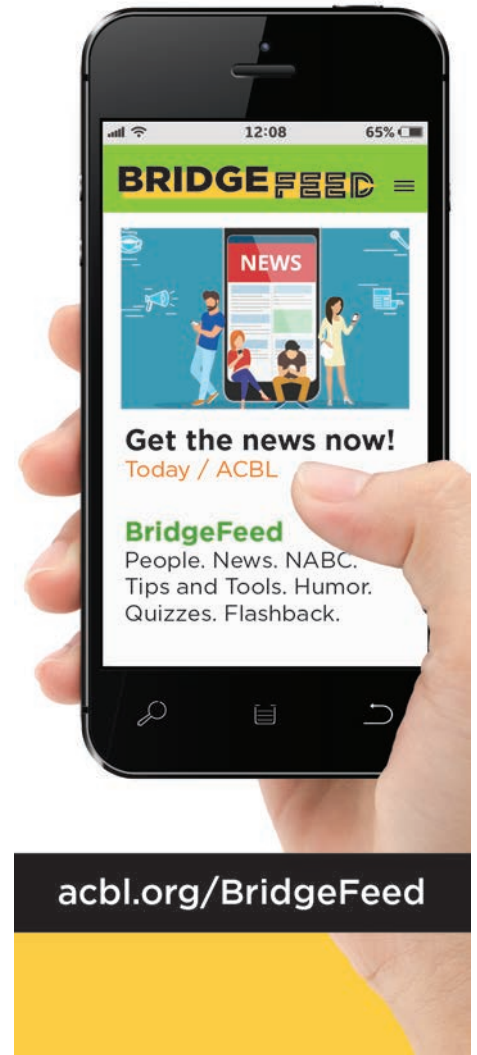
5-12	CA/Los Angeles (nc)(cr)	Seven Seas Mariner	Guy Monroe	541-264-5708
9-11	CA/Riverside	Riverside Elks Club	Steven Morford	951-682-2965
8-10	FL/Destin	Destin Community Center	Martha Bogart	816-550-6631
9-11	FL/Fort Myers (nlm/500)	McGregor Point Bridge Club	Val Covalciuc	239-415-8168
9-11	GA/Savannah	B P O Elks Lodge	Thomas Roush	912-660-2131
9-11	IL/Springfield	TBA	Elizabeth Zalar	217-836-8066
9-11	IN/Highland	Lincoln Community Center	Terry Bauer	219-762-3881
9-11	KY/Owensboro	Owensboro Convention Center	Doris Mills	270-929-6835
8-10	LA/Metairie (NO) (0-500)	Louisiana Bridge Association	Sherrie Goodman	504-329-7411
8-10	MI/Marquette	Marquette Township Community Center	Duane Fowler	906-225-1907
8-11	MN/MOUNDS VIEW (nlm/750)	MOUNDS VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER	Tom Owens	651-714-0100
8-11	MN/Mounds View (Minneapolis)	Mounds View Community Center	Kathy Beckman	763-229-2224
9-11	NM/Las Cruces	Belton Bridge Center	Evelyn Colson	575-524-9302
5-11	NV/SPARKS (RENO)	NUGGET RESORT AND CASINO	Pamela Hughes	916-774-0990
11	NY/Scarsdale (NYC) (0-300)	The Bridge Deck	Richard Rosenthal	917-577-5834
7-8	OH/Cincinnati (nlm/500)	Cincinnati Bridge Center	Stephen Messinger	513-779-6770
6-12	ON/OTTAWA	THE MARRIOTT HOTEL	Mark Lacroix	613-316-5865
9-11	ON/Stratford	Quality Inn and Conf. Centre	Kevin Smith	519-273-2278
9-11	PA/Wilkes-Barre	Quality Inn	Walter Mitchell Jr.	570-472-3290
8-10	TX/Beaumont	Beaumont Bridge Studio	Linda Briggs	409-223-1162
8-10	WA/Grandview	Blessed Sacrament Catholic	Dudley Brown	509-882-2728
16-18	AB/Edmonton	Edmonton Bridge Centre	Michael Harvey	780-451-4033
16-18	AZ/Sun City (Phx)	Mountain View Rec. Center	JoAnne Lowe	480-577-9833
16-17	CA/San Diego (nlm/750)	TBD	Lamya Agelidis	615-887-1012
12-18	CT/DANBURY	TBA	William Maine	845-473-1492
15-18	GA/Atlanta	Doubletree	Jack Feagin Jr.	404-252-9246
15-18	GA/ATLANTA (nlm/500)	DOUBLETREE	Jack Feagin Jr.	404-252-9246
16-18	IA/Davenport	La Quinta Motel	Michelle Feeney	563-349-4542
12-18	IL/SCHAUMBURG	HYATT REGENCY	Suzi Subeck	847-509-0311
17-18	MA/Auburn	Auburn Senior Center	Candace Matthew	508-435-3265
17-18	ME/South Hampden	Reeds Brook Middle School	William Halteman	207-866-3075
12-18	MI/FARMINGTON HILLS (Det)	WILLIAM COSTICK CENTER	Zachary Wasserman	248-892-0306
16-18	MO/St. Charles	Blanchette Park Memorial Hall	Michael Carmen	314-872-8439
16-18	NC/Morehead City	Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Ctr.	Mial Woodard	252-230-3101
16-18	NE/Omaha	Jewish Community Center	Rick Ackermann	402-932-6262
16-18	NE/OMAHA (nlm/750)	JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER	Jill McDermott	402-398-1381
17-18	NY/Endwell (Binghamton)	Broome West Senior Center	Sharon Steinberg	607-771-7320
17-18	NY/Malone (nc)	Malone Golf Course	A. David Thomas	518-483-5638
16-18	PA/Allentown	Lehigh Valley Active Life	Pat Saeger	610-393-4776
16-18	PA/Pittsburgh	Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Ctr.	Ronald Franck	412-364-8364
16-18	PE/Charlottetown	Courtyard at Rodd Royalty	Eunice Tanton	902-894-3380
15-18	TX/San Antonio	TBA	Laurie-Ann Levin	210-493-0829
15-17	UT/St. George (sr)	Snow Canyon Middle School	Sheila Berry	435-640-1778
16-18	VA/Abingdon	The Higher Education Center	Auggie De Weerd	619-886-5139
16-18	VA/Richmond	Guzman Community Center at Faison Center	Barry Fratkin	804-741-6782
16-18	WA/Bothell	Bothell Union Hall	Michael Christensen	425-679-1916
17-18	WA/Vancouver (nlm/500)	Vancouver Bridge Club	Kathleen Mather	360-258-4240
23-25	AL/Mobile	Connie Hudson Senior Center	Paulette Clark	251-342-6178
22-24	BC/Kamloops	St. John Vianney Church	Russel Specht	250-851-2700
23-25	BC/Courtenay	Florence Filberg Centre	Glen Parsons	250-339-4367
12-22	CA/LONG BEACH (cr)	REGENT SEVEN SEAS MARINER	Michael Berkowitz	201-230-8033

October (continued)

23-25	CA/Nevada City	St. Canice Center	Jamie Newman	530-446-6568
23-25	CA/Santa Clara (San Jose)	Adrian Wilcox High School	Mischel Postas	408-379-6780
24-25	CA/San Juan Capistrano (nlm/500)	S. Orange County Bridge Center	Joyce Potter	949-582-1401
23-25	CO/Longmont	Boulder County Fairgrounds	Gena Brooks	303-955-6634
19-25	FL/FORT MYERS	MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA	Karen Bartles	239-949-7764
19-25	IA/NORTH SIOUX CITY	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS DAKOTA DUNES EVENT CTR.	GS Jade Barrett	360-798-9422
23-25	IL/East Peoria	Fon du Lac Park Dist. Admin. Ctr	Bill Bulfer	309-264-7629
24-25	IN/INDIANAPOLIS (nlm/500)	INDIANAPOLIS BRIDGE CTR.	Maribeth Ransel	317-542-0362
23-25	KS/Overland Park (KC)	Jewish Community Center	Victoria Billard	816-444-0021
22-24	LA/Lafayette (nlm/500)	Acadiana DBC	Jean Kiesel	337-237-2857
22-25	MD/Silver Spring (DC)	Margaret Schweinhaut Sr. Ctr.	Brad Theurer	301-527-8819
23-24	MI/Bloomfield Hills (0-300)	Birmingham Unitarian Church	Satish Shah	586-932-1817
18-25	NJ/CAPE LIBERTY (cr)	RC OASIS OF THE SEAS	Jesse Reisman	973-303-3232
16-27	NY/New York (nc)(cr)	Silver Whisper	Christopher Rivera	646-685-6367
25	NY/Scarsdale (pf)	The Bridge Deck	Richard Rosenthal	917-577-5834
23-25	OH/Toledo	Toledo Bridge Center	Lavisa Gehring	419-882-0896
22-25	OR/Newport	Shilo Inn	Michael Rickus	541-574-1938
22-25	SK/Regina	TBD	Barbara Miller	306-789-1920
19-25	TX/ABILENE	ABILENE CONVENTION CTR.	Robert Patton	325-677-3318
29-31	ID/Caldwell	Elks Lodge	Anita Hansen	208-697-9435
29	MN/Rochester (nlm/500)	Hadley Creek Community Center	Ann Van Ryn	507-282-4566
29-31	OH/Cincinnati	Cincinnati Bridge Center	John Williams	513-931-6127

October/November

20-2	Spain/Barcelona (nc)(cr)	Regen Seven Seas Voyager	Jim Ricker	865-805-0420
30-1	AB/Calgary	Ross Glenn Hall	Carrie Stockman	403-697-0629
30-1	AR/Hot Springs	The Hotel Hot Springs and Spa	Greg Frank	501-209-0908
26-1	CA/VENTURA	VENTURA MARRIOTT	Diane Gunther	805-480-3837
31-1	CA/Capitola (SF)	Mid-County Senior Center	Robert Johnson	831-439-8719
30-1	CT/Hartford	St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral	Cornelia Guest	203-244-5324
30-1	MO/West Branson	Best Western Hotel and Conference Center	Mary Murphy	417-986-8939
26-1	NC/CHARLOTTE	HILTON CHARLOTTE UNIVERSITY PLACE	Arnold Hoffmann	980-254-7476
30-1	NM/Albuquerque	Duke City Bridge Center	Susan Law	505-296-7719
26-1	PA/MANHEIM (Lancaster)	SPOOKY NOOK	Jeanne Gehret	717-475-8352
30-1	QC/STE.-THERESE (Montreal) (nlm/750)	CENTRE CULTUREL DE STE.-THERESE	Denis Ouellette	514-219-0293
30-1	QC/Ste.-Therese (Montreal)	Centre Culturel de Ste.-Therese	Denis Ouellette	514-219-0293
29-1	TN/Nashville	Vanderbilt Bridge Center	Coley McGinnis	615-356-5993
29-1	TX/Houston (0-300)	Westside Bridge Academy	Jennifer Breihan	713-553-6814
30-1	TX/Rockport	Saltwater Pavilion	Martha De Cou	361-853-9196
30-1	VT/Quechee	Quechee Club Base Lodge	Karen Hewitt Randle	408-386-5289



acbl.org/BridgeFeed

**Solution to Crossword
Puzzle on pg. 67**

1	M	2	I	3	E	4	N	5	S	6	T	7	O	8	W	9	E	10	S	11	S	12	S	13	
14	Y	15	O	16	R	E		17	M	18	A	19	U	20	R	21	A	22		23	N	24	E	25	U
17	T	18	W	19	O	20	C	21	L	22	U	23	B	24	R	25	E	26	S	27	P	28	O	29	N
20	H	21	A	22	S	23	T	24	A	25	O	26	S	27	T	28	E	29	R	30		31	S	32	A
27	F	28	O	29	U	30	R	31	C	32	A	33	R	34	D	35	H	36	O	37	L	38	D	39	I
32	O	33	W	34	N																				
35	B	36	L	37	O	38	B	39	T	40	I	41	L	42	S	43	H	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
50	W	51	I	52	T	53	H	54	A	55	S	56	I	57	N	58	G	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	
55	I	56	S	57	R																				
58	E	59	M	60	I	61	D	62	R	63	I	64	V	65	E	66	R	67	O	68	P	69	G	70	
65	N	66	E	67	X	68	T	69	B	70	I	71	D	72	I	73	S	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	
68	E	69	N	70	I	71	D	72	N	73	E	74	T	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	
71	R	72	E	73	E	74	S	75	A	76	M	77	A	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	

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See page 6 for more contact information.

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Club Services club@acbl.org 662-253-3181 <i>U.S. and elsewhere</i> 1-888-219-9901 <i>Canada only</i>	ACBLscore Support	acblscore@acbl.org	
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	fax	662-253-3187	

Your personal masterpoint information

The masterpoint update on the back cover is for the member the magazine is addressed to and possibly for a household member if space is available. If you have more masterpoint activity than can fit in the space provided, you can check your masterpoints at acbl.org. Log in to **MyACBL** and click on **Masterpoint History**.

E/C - Event Code

Women's/Men's Pairs/Teams.....	A
Mixed/Unmixed Pairs/Teams.....	B
Open Pairs.....	C
Master Pairs/Teams.....	D
Non-Master Pairs/Teams.....	E
Consolation (All).....	F
BAM/Swiss Teams.....	G
KO Teams.....	H
Individual.....	J
Side Game.....	K
Charity Pairs.....	L

R/C - Rating Code

GNT/NAP.....	1
Club Tournament.....	2
Charity Game.....	3
Club MPs.....	4
Local Tournament.....	6
Sectional.....	7
Regional.....	8
NABC.....	9
Correction.....	0

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▶ **GAMES ARE SUBJECT TO DATE CHANGE OR CANCELLATION** ◀

Upcoming NABCs

Intermediate / Newcomer Calendar

July			
10-12	WI/FITCHBURG (nlm/750)	FITCHBURG COMM. CENTER	Glenna Shannahan 608-347-5827
17-18	AL/Montgomery (nlm/500)	Montgomery DBC	Michael Lawson 334-322-6250
25-26	KY/Lexington (nlm/500)	Lexington Bridge Club	Andra Gyor 859-221-8209
July/August			
31-2	IA/URBANDALE (nlm/750)	DES MOINES BRIDGE HOUSE	Rebecca Joseph 515-225-8660
August			
1-2	MI/FREELAND (nlm/750)	FREELAND SPORTSZONE	Diane Bofferding 989-245-6002
2	PA/York (nlm/500)	Bridge Boardroom	Edward Scanlon 717-434-3298
8-9	CA/Fresno (nlm/500)	Fresno Bridge Center	Laura Da Costa 559-999-2825
5-6	FL/Deland (0-300)	Deland Bridge Club	Lynn Berg 386-736-6228
5-9	FL/Delray Beach (nlm/500)	Jourdans Bridge Club	Jakob Kristinsson 248-202-8241
6-8	MN/North St. Paul (0-500)	Bridge Center of St. Paul	Larry McIntyre 651-690-2829
6-9	NC/Durham (nlm/500)	Triangle Bridge Club	Chris Moll 504-495-7485
8-9	NM/Albuquerque (nlm/500)	Duke City Bridge Center	Robert Zipp 505-506-2671
6-9	TX/HOUSTON (nlm/500)	MARRIOTT WESTCHASE	Lauri Laufman 713-802-2211



Special Events Calendar

Aug. 24 Monday (evening)	ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game #2 *
All of September	Club International Fund Games
Sept. 23 Wednesday (evening)	ACBL-wide International Fund Game #2 *
All of October	Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games
October 2 Friday (afternoon)	Canada-wide Olympiad Fund Game
October 16 Friday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide Senior Pairs #2 *
October 20 Tuesday	Canada-wide Erin Berry Rookie/Master Game
October 28 Wednesday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Games *

* Games include hand records and analyses.



March 11-21, 2021

Upcoming Regionals

November	
2-8	FL/Daytona Beach
2-8	IN/Elizabeth
3-8	MA/Mansfield
5-8	TX/Richardson (Dallas) (nlm/750)
9-15	MD/Cambridge
9-15	NV/Las Vegas
8-13	NY/New York
12-15	ON/Ottawa (nlm/750)
14-15	WA/Shoreline (Seattle) (nlm/750)
19-22	AZ/Tucson (nlm/750)

STaCs

July		
6-12	Districts 22 & 23	
	Ruth Baker	805-217-9481
6-12	Unit 123 (D13)	
	Thomas Dressing	847-215-0310
August		
3-9	District 11	
	Michael Lipp	513-467-8054
10-16	Unit 242 (D24)	
	Bella Chiusano	516-536-0232
17-23	Districts 17, 21 & 22	
	Bonnie Bagley	719-593-0205
17-23	District 9	
	Shirley Seals	904-285-7767



July 15-25, 2021

B=Black, R=Red, S=Silver, G=Gold, P=Platinum, O=Online. More information for the codes below on page 78.

Sanction/Tourn.	E/C	R/C	Date	Points	Sanction/Tourn.	E/C	R/C	Date	Points	Sanction/Tourn.	E/C	R/C	Date	Points



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