



BRIDGE Bulletin

AUGUST 2018

Paradise Found

Honolulu hosts the Fall NABC

Nov. 22–Dec. 2



Audrey Grant's BETTER BRIDGE

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MASTER SOLVERS' CLUB

A FEATURE FROM THE BRIDGE WORLD

This hand is taken from The Bridge World, a journal for expert players, founded in 1929. There has never been a set of unanimous responses to the Master Solvers' Club bidding problem.

You're sitting South, both sides are vulnerable, and West opens with a weak 2♥ bid. North, your partner, passes, and East raises to 3♥. It's your call.



VUL:
BOTH
DIR:
WEST

2♥

Pass

N
W—O—E
S

3♥

♠ A Q 8 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K J 10
♣ J 9 6 2

?

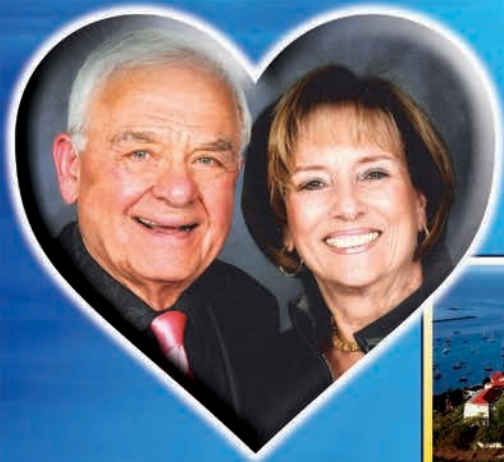


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Maputo • Richards Bay • Durban
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BRIDGE Bulletin

Volume 84, Number 8 • August 2018 • acbl.org

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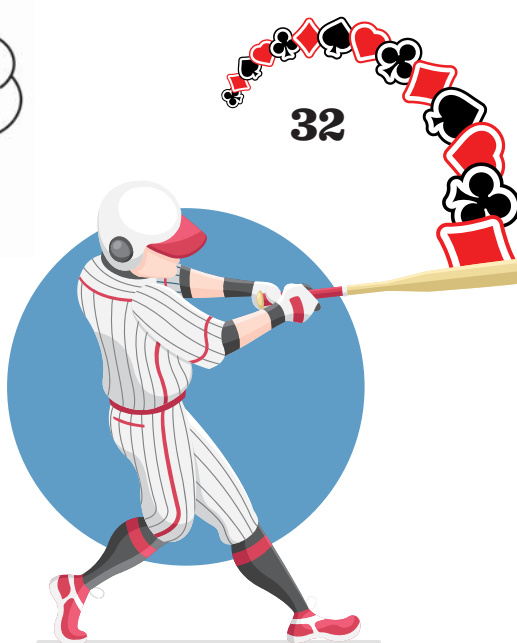
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Conventionally speaking

Beginning in late November, the ACBL will formally adopt a new set of convention charts to replace the ones that have been in use for the past few decades. Readers should check out the story on pg. 28 by Tom Carmichael, the chair of the ACBL's Competition and Conventions Committee, to learn about the new charts. This is the first installment of a four-part series.

If you're one of the players worried that the new charts will be complicated, don't be. In fact, most players won't notice any change at all. The revisions to the charts clean up some inconsistencies, while aiming for a more uniform playing experience, especially at the tournament level. The main takeaway from the series is that these new charts are unlikely to affect club players – clubs have extraordinary latitude in deciding which treatments are allowable at games run under their sanctions – while helping experienced tournament-goers know what to expect from one venue to the next.

Thanks are owed to the all-volunteer members of this committee who worked for years to bring this project to fruition. Their willingness to seek out input from players as the charts were being developed was a model for how systemic changes should take place.



acbl.org/BridgeFeed

A reminder

One of the best-kept secrets on the web is BridgeFeed at acbl.org. There's a mountain of free bridge content here, including some of the best columnists in the game, great instructional material, flashbacks, humor pieces and news. And with the Summer NABC happening as this issue is mailed to members, BridgeFeed is the place to follow the goings-on in Atlanta.

If you've not checked BridgeFeed out yet, you owe it to yourself to take a peek.

Paul Linxwiler, editor@acbl.org



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BRIDGE Bulletin

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BRIDGE BULLETIN (ISSN 1089-6376) is published monthly by the American Contract Bridge League, Inc., 6575 Windchase Blvd., Horn Lake MS 38637-1523, 662-253-3100. \$5 per copy, \$49 annually. Yearly subscription paid with annual dues. Periodicals postage paid at Horn Lake MS and at additional mailing offices (USPS 488-430). Printed in the USA.

Canadian Publication rate paid at Windsor ON, Permit #40040955. CANADIAN return address: c/o American Contract Bridge League, P.O. Box 875, Stn A, Windsor ON, Canada N9A 6P2.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BRIDGE BULLETIN, P.O. Box 289, Horn Lake MS 38637-0289

American Contract Bridge League

6575 Windchase Blvd.
Horn Lake MS 38637-1523

acbl.org



Exception to the rule

Playing bridge at St. Catherine's club in West Palm Beach is a pleasure. The space is beautiful, the bidding boxes and the cards always seem new, and most importantly, the games are expertly managed by our wonderful director, Julie Jarow.

Julie runs a tight ship, and we appreciate the rules that she enforces. For example, nothing is more distracting during a match than a cell phone ringing, except someone actually answering it. At Saint Cat's we have a policy to discourage this behavior, and a \$1 fine is payable to charity for each infraction.

Recently, however, Julie carved out an appropriate exception. Miriam Lerman, a healthy, avid and active player, was celebrating her 100th birthday. After we sang "Happy Birthday" and enjoyed a delicious cake, we continued our game. Suddenly, a cell phone rang loud and clear. It was Miriam's, and in a shocking disregard for protocol, she put down her cards and answered it. We were stunned, until Julie announced that if you are 100 years old, it is OK for your phone to ring, and if you are 100 years old and it is your birthday, you can answer it.

SUSANNE DURST
Katonah NY

Big trees, big fun

On a recent visit to Sequoia National Park, we decided to stop and play some bridge at the nearby Visalia CA Sectional. What a wonderful bridge tournament! The facilities, especially the beautiful Lakes Clubhouse, were terrific. The hospitality was top-notch, the food was great, the staff was very friendly and welcoming, and Nancy Boyd did an excellent job of directing. (Of course, our winning two open pairs added to the enjoyment!)

We even had an opportunity to tour the area and play some golf at the lovely (and reasonably priced) Valley Oaks Golf Course. We certainly look forward to returning to Visalia next year.

EDDIE ROSE and ANN GILLESPIE
Laguna Niguel CA

Remembering kindness

I was saddened to read about Mary Oshlag (June, pgs. 26-27). I met Mary and Richard my first year of learning bridge on a cruise where they were running the bridge program. They were both so nice. I was happy when I saw their picture in the Bridge Bulletin when they won the 2011 Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss Teams.

It was a memorable experience for me on the cruise. Mary and Richard welcomed me even though I was a real novice at that time. The other players were very nice also, as most bridge players are. We all have to learn from the beginning, so having nice people to help you along sure makes a big difference.

ARLENE LOCA
Afton MI

Fix it

In regards to the tragic story of Mary Oshlag and the downhill slide she has taken from the devastating effects of Alzheimer's, I was struck by something her husband Richard reported. In her last good time period when she was able to continue to enjoy her daily bridge games, keeping her mind, body and spirit going, Mary was prevented from playing bridge on certain days because she had too many masterpoints. That's a terrible shame. Part of the story was that the minute she stopped playing bridge, it was like the light switch in her life was turned off.

This is not a good reflection on the

bridge community's effort to battle Alzheimer's. Surely we can do better. Most likely, the club's hands were tied. Perhaps a think tank can be formed to overcome the red tape involved in making medical exceptions regarding club games. It made me very sad to think that a lovely and vibrant lady such as Mary – or many thousands of others – are forced to the sidelines because of masterpoints and not allowed to live out their lives enjoying the game that has kept them going. We need to be more inclusive in times of need. Please find a way to overcome this obstacle.

BILLY MILLER
Las Vegas NV

Platinum, schmatinum

I disagree with Theo Lichtenstein's Letter to the Editor in the June issue suggesting that a platinum point should be one of the requirements for Life Master status.

The majority of bridge players value politeness, respectful remarks and just plain decency. I recall when my husband and I – each of us with just a few black points – attended our first NABC several years ago. A gentleman of great skill, as I was later told by a director, gave me a compliment on a nice play I had made. It was probably the only one of the day, but I was thrilled and inspired!

There is a reason for Law 74 (Conduct and Etiquette). There is a reason we look forward to Bill Buttle's monthly cartoon. Things like this promote enjoyment of the game. Another good reason for playing bridge is that it enhances mental health. There are many reasons to play. So ➤

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.



all this fuss about making it tougher to achieve a Life Master will only turn players, especially seniors, away from ACBL. There are plenty of local non-ACBL bridge clubs. They are a lot cheaper, too!

People are more important than a platinum point.

ALICE THOMAS
Langley BC

Déjà vu?

Yesterday I was called to a table at a game I was directing. While en route, another table needed a quick answer. By the time I reached the original table, they claimed to have sorted things out. Because I was already there, I inquired what the problem was. North said someone had scored on their line (we use travelers at our club). East then chimed in that they had already played this board. I tried to clarify whether East-West had played this board at another table. All four looked at me sheepishly and then admitted they had played the same board twice at *this* table, with a different contract and a different result. North had sorted things out when she realized that the handwriting on the traveler line was her own!

That was a first for me.

LARRY SHERMAN
San Diego CA


Bigger is better

In my travels to tournaments, as well as local games, I have noticed the need for larger guide cards on the table. The chief reason for this, especially at tournaments, is that players are constantly searching for their assigned tables because the guide cards are often covered by the boards. Anyone who's played in a Swiss team event knows what I mean.

If the guide cards were wider, then it would be impossible to cover the numbers and letters (Table B3, for example) on both ends of the cards, as is sometimes the case. Overall, it would make it a simpler task for players to find their assigned tables, as well as being less time-consuming and frustrating.

RON HOPMAN
Huntley IL

A study in contrasts

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

This deal came up in a knockout event in the recent Sacramento Regional and demonstrates how really good players should – and should not – act at the table.

I opened 1♠ as South, and Mr. Good Player overcalled 2♦. My partner raised to 2♠, and I bid 4♠.

Mr. Good Player led the ♦ K, and I won the ace. At first glance, it looks like I have five spades, three hearts and two aces for 10 tricks. And if hearts split 3-3, I will make 11 tricks.

Thinking about the trump suit, I led the ♠ A, and when West showed out, I realized that I had misplayed this suit and had to rethink the entire hand. I needed to start this suit by leading low to the queen which would have allowed me to discover the 0-5 split. If they had

both followed to the first trump, but West showed out on the second one, I could have crossed to dummy and picked up the trumps with a finesse.

At this point, I led a spade to the queen and returned a spade to my hand, but now I have a potential trump loser. My thinking then was that I needed hearts to be 3-3 or something good to happen in that suit, so I led the ♥ 9 to the queen, cashed the ♥ A and led a low heart to my hand. East could not tell who had the ♥ K, so he didn't ruff this and I scored my king. I now led the ♣ A and exited with a club, waiting to take my two remaining trump tricks and making my contract.

It was at this point that Mr. Good Player screamed at me saying, "Why did you block the heart suit? If they were 3-3, you just lost a trick," and he said it very nastily. I stated that if hearts were 3-3, I was making my contract, and if not, I needed some help, which is what happened. He continued to berate me about it. I should have called a director, but I didn't.

It is this type of demeanor that the game does not need. Why couldn't he be gracious and say, "Nice play," or say nothing at all? His teammates reached slam and went down two, so we gained 13 IMPs.

The very next match, we played against two other experts, Huub Bertens and Dan Korbel, who really enjoy each other and went out of their way to have fun even when they lost by a bunch. It was quite fun to play with this attitude, and these two are great examples of what the League needs to promote the game.

JERRY WEITZNER
Danville CA

Due Recognition

The CBF inducts Reus, Fergani into the Canadian Hall of Fame.

BY KATIE THORPE

Photo by Michael Yuen

The Canadian Bridge Federation held its annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony during the Canadian Bridge Championships at the end of May in Montreal. The 2018 inductees are **Sharyn Reus** of Summerstown ON and **Kamel Fergani** of Montreal.

This year's ceremony began with a short memorial for Eric Murray, one of the original inductees into the CBF Hall of Fame, and also a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame. John Carruthers delivered a remembrance of Murray, with Allan Graves and Michael Roche providing additional remarks.

Sharyn Reus

Sharyn first represented Canada at the 1972 Olympiad Teams in Miami, having played for only three years at the time, finishing a very respectable seventh place. She went on to win 10 Canadian Women's Team Championships, and she represented Canada 16 times at team events in the world championships, finishing third on three occasions: 1988 (Venice), 1989 (Perth) and 1996 (Rhodes). Sharyn also represented Canada five times in world championship pair events and attained the rank of World Life Master.

Carruthers – who was inducted into the Canadian Hall of Fame in 2015 – introduced Sharyn: “I had the good fortune to captain Sharyn's team a few times. She was the perfect partner and teammate: She never made a mistake, and she never criticized her partner, her teammates or, most importantly, her captain, for their mistakes. She and Dianna Gordon were for years the best Canadian women's pair and one of the best in the world.”

Carruthers also shared comments from other Canadian luminaries who were unable to attend the induction ceremony. Of Sharyn, Eric Kokish wrote, “How proud I am that you always played the game the right way and tried to find the truth.”

Former partner Gordon wrote, “I had the good fortune of sitting South opposite Sharyn's North for the better part of 40 years! I know, I know ... She doesn't look old enough to make that true, but it is. My motto was, ‘It's better to play with her than against her,’ because she is such a tigress at the bridge table! Until screens interrupted my vision, I used to enjoy watching her intensity and her very careful craftsmanship as she fought for every single trick in a contract that was usually too optimistic. A bit of a magician is that Sharyn Reus! Her spot in the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame is anxiously awaiting.”



Sharyn Reus and Kamel Fergani are inducted into the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame.

Kamel Fergani

Kamel Fergani of Montreal has represented Canada seven times at teams in world championship contests, several times in pairs, and served as non-playing captain for the 2011 Canadian Senior team. He has won six Canadian National Team Championships and two NABC events – the 1988 Jacoby Open Swiss Teams and the 2016 Wernher Open Pairs. Additionally, he is a well-respected and well-loved teacher.

Nicolas L'Ecuyer, who was mentored by Kamel as a young player before becoming his regular partner, introduced Kamel. L'Ecuyer described the “six levels of bridge.”

“Level 1: learn how to bid. Level 2: learn how to play. Level 3: *really* learn how to bid. Level 4: *really* learn how to play. Level 5: *really, really, really* learn how to bid. And Level 6 – which I am now renaming in honor of Kamel – the Fergani Level – which is to really, really learn and *know* how to play the game.

“Kamel is a great teammate. And if there was anything complex to play, I would always leave it to Kamel to play it. It's the best way to optimize our results.”

Both recipients thanked their partners, teammates and families, attributing much of their success to them. Kamel especially thanked Francois Gauthier, an early mentor, for teaching him that (a) there were partscores and (b) the opponents were allowed to play a hand! He claimed that he had a hard time passing those lessons on to his presenter, Nicolas.

The inductees received commemorative statues engraved with West Coast Haida symbols. For Sharyn, the salmon, a symbol of persistence and determination; for Kamel, the owl, a symbol of intuition, wisdom and keen sight. ■

Hawaiian Hands

Honolulu hosts Fall NABC Nov. 22–Dec. 2

The hands tell the story in hula. Come, they beckon, come to the Polynesian paradise to play. Come to the Fall NABC in Honolulu, Nov. 22–Dec. 2.

The hands tell the story in bridge, too. And you'll play lots of them in 10 days at the best championships in the world! There are games morning, afternoon and night for all levels of play.

Newcomers are extended a special, warm island welcome. There are free, two-hour lessons followed by games the first weekend of the tournament. And most every afternoon and evening, there's a bridge celebrity speaker presentation 45 minutes before game time.

Enjoy your time away from the table, as well. Spread over 22 acres, the Hilton Hawaiian Village is located in the

heart of Waikiki. The resort features more than 20 restaurants, cafes and lounges, including a variety of casual dining options. There are beaches and pools, fitness centers, a full-service spa and live shows. Available daily activities at the Hawaiian Village include yoga, turtle- and whale-watching tours, catamaran trips, snorkeling and kayaking.

But you don't get to have all the fun! Enroll the kids in the Hilton's Camp Penguin, a fun, educational program for children ages 5 to 12. They'll enjoy onsite and offsite activities, including excursions such as visiting the Waikiki Aquarium and the Honolulu Zoo.

White sand beaches, floral breezes, tropical nights ... and bridge! It doesn't get any better than this. Book your trip to paradise now.



Visitors to Hawaii can be assured that the volcanic activity is having no effect whatsoever on the islands of Oahu (where the NABC is being held), Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kauai. Travel is safe to the Hawaiian Islands per Governor David Ige.

Site

All events will be played at the Hilton Hawaiian Village at 2005 Kalia Road, Honolulu.

Housing

Hilton Hawaiian Village
Waikiki Beach Resort
2005 Kalia Road
Honolulu HI 96815

Room rates start at \$195/night. Please visit acbl.org for more information about room rates.

There is no mandatory resort fee for ACBL members at Hilton Hawaiian Village. Complimentary wireless internet is included in your room rate.

Call onPeak at 855-992-3353 or email acbl@onpeak.com to reserve a room. You can also book online at acbl.org. Please check the ACBL website for the latest housing information.



Hawaii 2018 NABC hotel cancellation policy

A one-night room deposit, charged to your credit card at the time of booking, will be applied to your stay. This fee is separate from any cancellation charges that may be imposed by the hotel.

Reservations may be canceled without penalty on or before Sept. 16, 2018. For reservations canceled after Sept. 16, your one-night deposit becomes nonrefundable.

Air travel

Omega World Travel is the official travel agency for the ACBL. For air travel assistance, call 800-969-4152, fax 866-445-6705 or email info@owt.net.



Parking

Hilton Hawaiian Village provides a six-level parking garage, conveniently accessible from all towers at the resort.

Overnight self-parking for registered hotel guests: \$43/night

Overnight valet parking for registered hotel guests: \$50/night

Event discounted validated self-parking: \$8 (not valid for overnight function parking)

Event discounted validated valet parking: \$13 (not valid for overnight function parking)

Lost Ticket: \$100

All prices are subject to change without notice.

Child care

Bring the kids along! The NABC child care program offers flexible hours for parents plus dozens of fun



and educational activities for the kids, including field trips and, of course, learning to play cards. Because it's affordable, the child care program makes NABC's vacation destinations for the entire family.

The cost is \$25 per bridge session for the first two children and \$40 per bridge session for three or four children. Babies 3 months to 1 year are \$40 per bridge session.

For more information or to sign up, contact Donna Compton at cdmra@mindspring.com or 214-394-5830.

For Intermediate/Newcomer players only

By Cathy Hess, I/N Committee

Bridge is serious fun, but sometimes the emphasis is on the serious. The Honolulu NABC Intermediate-Newcomer Committee wants to put equal emphasis on the fun.

Our tiny Ambassador of Aloha, Nanea, welcomes players each day, and at the end of the tournament, one lucky and dedicated player can take Nanea home. I/N players will receive an additional registration packet and gifts, as well as prizes for fun contests.

Meanwhile, be prepared to play bridge, learn bridge, laugh and enjoy our beautiful Hawaii.

For more information, email Hawaii_noviceprogramchair@yahoo.com.



Nanea says, "Aloha"

Fall NABC Schedule 2018 • Honolulu Hawaii

Events, dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please check acbl.org for changes.

- Three-flight open events are stratified as A/X (6000+/0–6000), B/C (1500–3000/0–1500) and Gold Rush (300–750/0–300).
- Two-flight open events are stratified as A/B/C (3000+/1500–3000/0–1500) and Gold Rush (500–750/200–500/0–200) or as A/X/Y (6000+/4000–6000/0–4000) and B/C/D (1500–3000/750–1500/0–750) if there is no Gold Rush.
- One-flight open events are stratified as A (3000+), B (750–3000) and C (0–750).

MONDAY, NOV. 19–WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21

24 hours NABC ONLINE INDIVIDUAL (*unl./2000/500*)
Play online from anywhere

THURSDAY, NOV. 22

- 1 pm International Fund Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
International Fund Swiss Teams (*unl./3000/750*)
International Fund 299er Pairs
- 7:30 pm Educational Foundation Knockout Teams *Cont. Fri.–Sat. at 9 am*
Educational Foundation Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
Educational Foundation 299er Pairs

FRIDAY, NOV. 23 0-5 Newcomer Pairs Play Free Today!

- 9 am Friday–Saturday Morning Compact KO Teams
Educational Foundation KO Teams
Jo Best Friday–Sunday Morning Side Game Series
- 10 am 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 10 am & 3 pm Daylight Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
- 1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
- 1 & 7:30 pm **NAIL LIFE MASTER OPEN PAIRS** 2 qualifying & 2 final sess.
BAZE SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS For players born before Jan. 1, 1959. Pre-registration required by 11 am. One two-session match per day until completed.
Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
Luke Han Friday–Saturday Knockout Teams
- 3 pm 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 7:30 pm Evening Swiss Teams
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs

SATURDAY, NOV. 24 Junior Day/Julie & Billy Miller Day

- 9 am Julie & Billy Miller Sat.–Sun. Morning Compact KO Teams
Friday–Saturday Morning Compact KO Teams
Educational Foundation Knockout Teams
Jo Best Friday–Sunday Morning Side Game Series
- 10 am Julie & Billy Miller 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
Julie & Billy Miller Bridge Plus+ *Free lesson, 14 deals, no card fee*
- 10 am & 3 pm Julie & Billy Miller Daylight Open Pairs (*unl./3000/1500*)
Julie & Billy Miller Gold Rush Pairs (*750/300/200*)
- 1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
- 1 & 7:30 pm **NAIL LIFE MASTER OPEN PAIRS**
BAZE SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS
0–10,000 SWISS TEAMS 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
Julie & Billy Miller Open Pairs (*unl./3000/1500*)
Julie & Billy Miller Gold Rush Pairs (*750/300/200*)
Jazz with Aloha in Memory of Oded Stitt Sat.–Sun. KO Teams
Julie & Billy Miller Compact KO Teams
Luke Han Friday–Saturday KO Teams
- 3 pm Julie & Billy Miller 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 7:30 pm Julie & Billy Miller A/X/Y and B/C/D Evening Swiss Teams
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
Julie & Billy Miller 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 11:30 pm Julie & Billy Miller Zip Knockout Teams
Julie & Billy Miller Junior Zip KO Teams (*25 and under. Free*)



BOLD, UPPER CASE = NABC+ events (Platinum points)

UPPER CASE = NABC events (Gold and Red points)

Green = Regional events (Gold and Red points)

Blue = Gold Rush events (Gold and Red points)

Red = Intermediate-Newcomer events (Red points)

SUNDAY, NOV. 25

- 9 am Sunday–Monday Morning Compact KO Teams
Saturday–Sunday Morning Compact KO Teams
Jo Best Friday–Sunday Morning Side Game Series
- 10 am 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
299er Swiss Teams
Bridge Plus+ *Free lesson, 14 deals, no card fee*
- 10 am & 3 pm Daylight Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
Daylight Swiss Teams (*unl./3000/1500*)
Daylight Gold Rush Swiss Teams (*750/300/200*)
- 10:30 am & 3:30 pm **SUPER SENIOR PAIRS**
Age 70+; 2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
- Noon & 7 pm **BAZE SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
- 1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
- 1 & 7:30 pm **MITCHELL OPEN BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS**
MARSHA MAY STERNBERG WOMENS B-A-M TEAMS
Both BAMs: 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
0–10,000 SWISS TEAMS
Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
A/X/Y Swiss Teams (*unl./6000/4000*)
Bracketed B Teams (0–3000) *Brackets of 8 teams by average MPs; 3 teams in each bracket earn gold.*
Jazz with Aloha in Memory of Oded Stitt Saturday–Sunday KO Teams
- 3 pm 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
299er Swiss Teams
- 7:30 pm Bryan Smither Evening BAM Teams
Open to Swiss drop-ins & new entrants
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
299er Swiss Teams
- 11:30 pm Zip Knockout Teams

MONDAY, NOV. 26 Goodwill Day

- 9 am Sunday–Monday Morning Compact KO Teams
Monday–Wednesday Morning Knockout Teams
Lester & Mitzie Kodama Monday–Wednesday Morning Side Game Series
- 10 am Luke Han 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 10 am & 3 pm Daylight Open Pairs (*unl./3000/1500*)
Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (*750/300/200*)
Edith Neff Monday–Tuesday Daylight KO Teams
- 10:30 am & 3:30 pm **SUPER SENIOR PAIRS**
- Noon & 7 pm **BAZE SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS**

MONDAY, NOV. 26 (continued)

- 1 pm Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series
 1 & 7:30 pm **MITCHELL OPEN BAM TEAMS**
MARSHA MAY STERNBERG WOMEN'S BAM TEAMS
 0–10,000 IMP PAIRS 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
 A/X/Y Open Pairs (unl./6000/4000)
 B/C/D Open Pairs (3000/1500/750)
 Godfrey Chang Monday–Tuesday KO Teams
 Compact Knockout Teams
 3 pm Afternoon Side Swiss Teams
 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 7:30 pm A/X/Y and B/C/D Evening Swiss Teams
 Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series
 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 299er Swiss Teams
 11:30 pm Zip Knockout Teams

TUESDAY, NOV. 27 Tom Lum Day

- 9 am Tom Lum Tuesday–Wednesday Morning Compact KO Teams
 Monday–Wednesday Knockout Teams
 Lester & Mitzie Kodama Monday–Wednesday Morning
 Side Game Series
 10 am Tom Lum 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 10 am & 3 pm Tom Lum Daylight Open Pairs (unl./3000/1500)
 Tom Lum Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/200)
 Edith Neff Monday–Tuesday Daylight KO Teams
 Noon & 7 pm **BAZE SENIOR KNOCKOUT TEAMS**
 1 pm Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series
 1 & 7:30 pm **KAPLAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS**
Pre-qualification required. 2 qual., 2 semifinal & 2 final sess.
WHITEHEAD WOMEN'S PAIRS 2 qualifying & 2 final sess.
 0–6000 MINI-BLUE RIBBON PAIRS
 2 qualifying, 2 semifinal & 2 final sessions
 0–10,000 IMP PAIRS
 Tom Lum Open Pairs (unl./3000/1500)
 Tom Lum Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/200)
 Waiālae Bridge Club Tuesday–Wednesday KO Teams
 Godfrey Chang Monday–Tuesday KO Teams
 3 pm Tom Lum Afternoon Side Swiss Teams
 Tom Lum 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 7:30 pm Tom Lum A/X/Y and B/C/D Evening Swiss Teams
 Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series
 Tom Lum 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 Tom Lum 299er Swiss Teams
 11:30 pm Tom Lum Zip Knockout Teams

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28 Karen Lanke Day

- 9 am Karen Lanke Wednesday–Friday Morning KO Teams
 Tuesday–Wednesday Compact KO Teams
 Monday–Wednesday Morning KO Teams
 Lester & Mitzie Kodama Monday–Wednesday Morning
 Side Game Series
 10 am Karen Lanke 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20, 0–5 I/N Pairs
 10 am & 1 pm Karen Lanke Fast Open Pairs (unl./3000/750)
 10 am & 3 pm Karen Lanke Daylight A/X/Y Swiss Teams (unl./6000/4000)
 Karen Lanke Bracketed B Teams (0–3000)
*Brackets of 8 teams by average masterpoints;
 3 teams in each bracket earn gold.*
 1 pm Lake Minnetonka Bridge Club Wednesday–Thursday
 Side Game Series
 1 & 7:30 pm **KAPLAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS**
WHITEHEAD WOMEN'S PAIRS
 0–6000 MINI-BLUE RIBBON PAIRS
 Karen Lanke Open Pairs (unl./3000/750)
 Karen Lanke Open Swiss Teams (unl./3000/1500)
 Karen Lanke Gold Rush Swiss Teams (750/300/200)
 Patsy Lum Wednesday–Thursday KO Teams
 Waiālae Bridge Club Tuesday–Wednesday KO Teams

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28 (continued)

- 3 pm Karen Lanke 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20, 0–5 I/N Pairs
 7:30 pm Karen Lanke Evening BAM Teams
Open to Swiss drop-ins & new entrants
 Lake Minnetonka Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series
 Karen Lanke 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 Karen Lanke 299er Swiss Teams
 11:30 pm Karen Lanke Zip Knockout Teams

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

- 9 am Jannie Feeback Thursday–Friday Morning Compact KO Teams
 Wednesday–Friday Morning Knockout Teams
 Mark Teaford Celebration of Life Thursday–Saturday
 Morning Side Game Series
 10 am 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 10 am & 3 pm Daylight Open Pairs (unl./3000/1500)
 Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/200)
 Rick Wall Thursday–Friday Daylight KO Teams
 1 pm Lake Minnetonka Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series
 1 pm & 4:30 pm 0–10,000 FAST OPEN PAIRS 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
 1 & 7:30 pm **KAPLAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS**
SENIOR MIXED PAIRS 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
 0–6000 MINI BLUE RIBBON PAIRS
 Open Pairs (unl./3000/1500)
 Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/200)
 Leonard & Helen Fahrni Compact KO Teams
 Patsy Lum Wednesday–Thursday KO Teams
 3 pm Afternoon Side Swiss Teams
 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 7:30 pm A/X/Y and B/C/D Evening Swiss Teams
 Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series
 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 299er Swiss Teams
 11:30 pm Zip Knockout Teams

FRIDAY, NOV. 30 Susan Kobayashi Day

- 9 am Susan Kobayashi Friday–Saturday Morning Compact KO Teams
 Thursday–Friday Morning Compact KO Teams
 Wednesday–Friday Morning KO Teams
 Mark Teaford Celebration of Life Thursday–Saturday
 Morning Side Game Series
 10 am Susan Kobayashi 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Prs.
 10 am & 3 pm John Johnson Daylight Open Pairs (unl./3000/1500)
 Susan Kobayashi Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/200)
 Rick Wall Thursday–Friday Daylight Knockout Teams
 Susan Kobayashi Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
 1 pm 0–10,000 FAST OPEN PAIRS
 1 & 7:30 pm **SENIOR MIXED PAIRS**
REISINGER BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS
Pre-registration required by 9 pm Nov. 29.
 2 qualifying, 2 semifinal, 2 final sessions
KEOHANE NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS
 2 qualifying, 2 semifinal, 2 final sessions
 Wally Young Open Pairs (unl./3000/1500)
 Susan Kobayashi Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/200)
 Iku Donnelly Friday–Saturday Knockout Teams
 3 pm Susan Kobayashi Afternoon Side Swiss Teams
 Susan Kobayashi 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Prs.
 7:30 pm Susan Kobayashi Evening Swiss Teams
 Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
 Edward R. Kupperstein 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er,
 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
 11:45 pm Susan Kobayashi Zip Knockout Teams

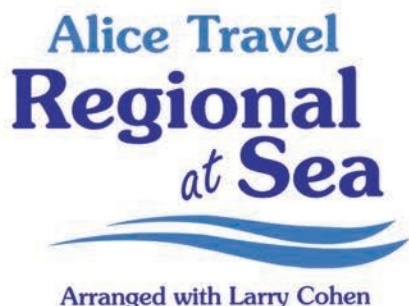
SATURDAY, DEC. 1

- 9 am Morning Swiss Teams
Friday–Saturday Morning Compact KO Teams
Thursday–Saturday Morning Side Game Series
- 10 am Celebration of Life for Jean Luning
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 10 am & 3 pm Daylight Open Pairs (*unl./3000/1500*)
Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (*750/300/200*)
- Noon & 7 pm **REISINGER BAM TEAMS**
1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
- 1 & 7:30 pm **KEOHANE NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS**
MIXED SWISS TEAMS 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions
Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
John Sutherlin Saturday–Sunday Knockout Teams
Continues Sunday at 10 am & 2 pm
Compact Knockout Teams
Iku Donnelly Friday–Saturday KO Teams
- 3 pm 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
- 7:30 pm A/X/Y and B/C/D Evening Swiss Teams
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

- 10 am A/X/Y Swiss Teams (*unl./6000/4000*)
Luke Han Bracketed B Teams (0–3000)
Brackets of 8 teams by average masterpoints;
3 teams in each bracket earn gold.
Above teams: Playthrough with half-hour break.
- Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
299er Swiss Teams
- 10 am & 1 pm Fast Open Pairs (*unl./3000/750*)
- 10 am & 2 pm John Sutherlin Saturday–Sunday Knockout Teams
- 11 am & 5 pm **REISINGER BAM TEAMS**
KEOHANE NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS
MIXED SWISS TEAMS
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
299er Swiss Teams
- 2 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 I/N Pairs
299er Swiss Teams





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Maple Leaf Melee

Team Gartaganis wins the Canadian National Team Championship.

BY PAUL THURSTON

The 2018 Canadian Bridge Championships was held in beautiful downtown Montreal, May 26–June 3. The gorgeous spring weather and the great selection of restaurants within easy walking distance were an unbeatable combination for the event.

After a four-day, 21-match round-robin, there was a fairly significant changing of the guard in the standings among the Open Team entrants.

To be sure, there were many familiar names among the eight captains who led their teams into the playoffs: GARTAGANIS, TODD, L'ECUYER and LITVACK. But teams like WANG, ANGUS and D'SOUZA had rosters replete with players unaccustomed to the late stages of our national championships. NISBET was largely new to the Open Team playoffs despite captain Pamela and partner Brenda Bryant having played dominant roles in recent Canadian Women's Team events. (Due to very few entries ahead of the deadline, the 2018 CWTC was canceled, and several players who might have entered that event played on Open Teams in the CNTC.)

Round-robin results (rounded) and rosters of the qualifying teams:

1.	GARTAGANIS	292
2.	WANG	258
3.	L'ECUYER	257
4.	ANGUS	254
5.	TODD	239
6.	LITVACK	229
7.	D'SOUZA	229
8.	NISBET	228

GARTAGANIS: Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis; Jeff Smith–John Zaluski; Martin Caley–Paul Thurston

WANG: Difan Wang–Jianfeng Luo; Peter Wong–Mike Xiaofang-Xue

L'ECUYER: Nicholas L'Ecuyer–



Winners of the 2018 Canadian National Team Championship: John Zaluski, Jeff Smith, Nicholas Gartaganis, Judith Gartaganis, Paul Thurston and Martin Caley

Zygmunt Marcinski; Kamel Fergani–Frederic Pollack; Michel Lorber–Ron Carriere

ANGUS: Monica Angus, Alex Hong, Jack Lee, Edward Xu, Yan Wang

TODD, npc: Doug Fisher–Ray Hornby; Brad Bart–Neil Kimelman; Steve Mackay–Danny Miles

LITVACK: Irving Litvack–Ian Findlay; Bob Kuz–Ganesan Sekhar; David Willis–Jeff Blond

D'SOUZA: Lino D'Souza–Terrence Rego; Richard Chan–Ray Jotcham; Kole Meng–Terry Du

NISBET: Pamela Nisbet–Brenda Bryant; Rene Pelletier–Herve Chatagnier; Robert Tremblay–Gerard Turcotte

(Complete field rosters, round-robin results and results of all secondary events are available at cbf.ca.)

Surprise eliminees after the qualifying stage were teams that many would have picked as likely to qualify with serious chances to win it all: ODDY, McAVOY, HANNA and BISHOP.

HANNA's squad gained a considerable consolation prize by entering the

Seniors event (CSTC) and taking the gold medal after a well-played final against TURNER (David Turner–John Gowdy with Fred Lerner and Michael Schoenborn). Playing for the winners: Nader Hanna–John Rayner; John Carruthers–Joey Silver and Michael Roche–Michael Hargreaves.

In the CNTC, after three days of quarterfinal and semifinal action, past form prevailed as GARTAGANIS would face TODD for the gold medal. The former had bested NISBET 114–45 in the quarterfinal and D'SOUZA 173–126 in the semis, while TODD downed ANGUS 161–143 in their quarterfinal encounter before thrashing LITVACK 225–73 in the other semifinal bracket.

The GARTAGANIS lineup had a resume that counted 14 previous CNTC wins: Captain Judith (four) with husband Nicholas (five), as well as Jeff Smith (three) and Paul Thurston (two). John Zaluski and Martin Caley were seeking their first CNTC title as well as the ACBL Grand Life Master status a win would earn them.

TODD featured five of the six play-

ers who had won the 2017 title on (mostly) home turf in Winnipeg: Doug Fisher with Neil Kimleman–Brad Bart and Steve Mackay–Danny Miles. Ray Hornby capably subbed for captain Bob, who was back home dealing with a family matter.

Eight segments of 14 boards would determine who would get their names engraved on the Mark Molson Trophy and represent Canada at the Rosenblum Teams at the world championships in Orlando this Fall.

A repeat victory for the Westerners was not in the cards, however, as the team that dominated the round-robin (going 19–2 in the 21 matches) had just enough of the better luck to prevail 234–207 in the final, so Team Canada for Orlando would be the GARTAGANIS sextet.

Before we get to the bridge played in the final, let's take a look at some of the highlights and lowlights of the round-robin matches. And because coverage of the Senior event will be unavoidably brief (I was busy playing!), let's start with a truly impressive performance by Bill Koski–Don Kersey on this deal from a Senior qualifying match:

Dlr: East ♠ 6
Vul: E–W
♥ J 8 7 5 2
♦ Q 10 6 4
♣ 10 7 5

♠ K 4
♥ 6 4 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ A K 8 4 3

♠ Q J 8
♥ K
♦ A K 9 3
♣ Q J 9 6 2

♠ A 10 9 7 5 3 2
♥ A Q 10 9
♦ 7 2
♣ —

West	North	East	South
Schoenborn	Koski	Lerner	Kersey
2♠	Pass	2NT	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dbl	All Pass

After Lerner's opening drew an overcall and a cuebid raise, he headed towards a notrump game that Kersey

seemed determined to get in the way of. But when 3NT came back to Kersey, it was time to show the second suit.

East then decided that if he could make nine tricks (maybe, maybe not!), perhaps there were 10 to be found. But Koski came to life by showing his support at the five level, largely intended as a furtherance of the sacrifice Kersey seemed bent on.

Some sacrifice: 5♥ was cold! Declarer ruffed the club lead, played the ♠A and ruffed a spade to lead a heart towards the closed hand. Hello, king! One more spade ruff and the trumps were drawn for a very profitable plus 650 for North–South.

Sometimes Seniors bid as much as Juniors!



Transfer squeezes seem to show up more in textbooks than in actual play, so it's a shame this one wasn't found at the table.

Dlr: East ♠ K 6 3
Vul: E–W
♥ Q 6 3
♦ Q 10 4
♣ K J 10 6

♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ K 9
♦ A J 2
♣ A 9 7 3

♠ J 7
♥ 10 8 7
♦ K 9 8 7 6 3
♣ 8 2

♠ A 9 8 4
♥ A J 5 4 2
♦ 5
♣ Q 5 4

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Dbl	Redbl	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♦	3♥
All Pass			

With 3♦ due to fail and 2♥ a sure make, South needed to justify his push by finding nine tricks.

The start to the play was not promising for declarer as West cashed the ♦A and got the count signal ♦9 from partner. Diagnosing the possible club ruff, West shifted to a low club that South won to play the ♥A and a second heart.

In with the king, West cashed the

♣A and delivered the ruff for East to exit with the ♠J to produce this ending:

♠ K 6 3
♥ Q
♦ Q 10
♣ K

♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ —
♦ J 2
♣ 9

♠ J 7
♥ —
♦ K 8 7 6 3
♣ —

♠ A 9 8 4
♥ J 5 4
♦ —
♣ —

To succeed, South needs to win the ♠A, cross to the ♥Q (black-suit discard from West) and cash the ♣K for one spade discard. Then the play to transfer the responsibility for guarding diamonds to West is the ♦Q to force East to cover.

The ♦K is ruffed, and when the last trump is cashed, West will be down to ♠Q 10 and the ♦J and must give up the contract trick.

At the table, declarer won the spade shift in dummy and 3♥ drifted one down.



The dealing computer produced lots of freakish layouts during the nine-day Bridge Week, and this one may have produced the most post-session "What happened at your table?" queries in the hospitality suite.

Dlr: South ♠ A J 5
Vul: Both
♥ 9 3
♦ —
♣ A K Q J 10 8 3 2

♠ K Q 10 7 6 3
♥ 10 8
♦ Q 8 2
♣ 9 7

♠ 8 4 2
♥ A K 7 6 4 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 5

♠ 9
♥ Q J 5
♦ A K J 10 7 5 4
♣ 6 4

After the popular start of 1♦ by South and 2♠ by West, one North

was later quoted as saying, “I really despaired of finding out what I needed to know about partner’s hand, so I just jumped to what I hoped I could make.” But when that guess was 6NT, East’s double told him there was something else to despair of as the defender cashed the high hearts before shifting to a spade to the queen and ace. Only nine tricks for minus 800 as the cost for the hopeful leap to slam.

Ron Bishop conducted as much of an exploratory auction as possible before putting on the brakes in a good spot.

West	North <i>Bishop</i>	East	South <i>Duquette</i>
			1 ♦
2 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♣	All Pass	

The unrelenting diamond bids convinced Bishop his partner would be unlikely to provide the wherewithal for slam – and he was right. That didn’t stop some pairs from getting to 6 ♣ and in at least one match, that “impossible” contract was actually made.

East cashed a high heart, and his partner contributed the ♥ 8 while North made the falsecard he had to make with the ♥ 9. It seems that East-West had made a recent conversion to upside-down carding, and the conversion wasn’t quite as airtight as it might have been. Certainly the ♥ 8 was the correct card in UDCA methods, but the partnership hadn’t quite broken the habit of “fudging” a bit with their

signals, so that when West played the ♥ 8, East suspected that it might be from ♥ 10 8 3 – and shifted to a spade. Next was the ♠ A, ♣ A and a spade ruff in dummy to dump the last two losers on high diamonds. Twelve tricks.

This turned out to be a double-barreled disaster as the misdefenders’ teammates managed to stop in 5 ♣ – but went down! East cashed two high hearts and shifted to a spade. North took the black aces and ruffed a spade before trying to discard his last ♠ – on the ♥ Q!



Here’s another freak show exhibit that was my favorite:

Dlr: East	♠ –		
Vul: N-S	♥ Q 7 5 4 2		
	♦ 8		
	♣ K Q 7 6 5 3 2		
♠ K 10 5 3		♠ A 9 8 7 6 2	
♥ 6 3		♥ 9 8	
♦ K 7 3 2		♦ 6 5 4	
♣ J 10 9		♣ A 8	
	♠ Q J 4		
	♥ A K J 10		
	♦ A Q J 10 9		
	♣ 4		



West	North <i>Thurston</i>	East	South <i>Caley</i>
		2 ♦	2NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	Dbl	All Pass

2 ♦ was “multi” promising a weak two-bid in a major. 2NT showed a strong balanced hand with extra offense, usually a suit that would provide a source of tricks. West’s first pass was grudging to be sure, as he would have furthered the preempt if only he’d known his partner had spades for the multi 2 ♦, an inherent weakness in the convention that conceals the identity of the preemptor’s suit. 3 ♦ was a transfer to hearts, and 4 ♥ was an enthusiastic super-accept. 4 ♠ was a bit too late to be effective, but West did not want to be left out. 5 ♣ was a control bid in furtherance of a possible heart slam. Ditto for 5 ♦, and the slam was reached. The double: “Well, I do have two aces!” But it was plus 1660 for the good guys!



The “Junior” on the GARTAGANIS team was Jeff Smith, a grey beard who’s just over 40 (sigh!), but he used a tactic on this deal that’s largely gone out of style with the modern mania for bid, bid, bid with any excuse.

Dlr: West	♠ 9 8		
Vul: N-S	♥ Q J		
	♦ 9 7 4 3		
	♣ A Q 9 6 5		
♠ 7 3		♠ A J 4	
♥ 10 4 3		♥ A K 9 7 2	
♦ K Q J 6 5 2		♦ 8	
♣ 4 3		♣ K J 8 2	
	♠ K Q 10 6 5 2		
	♥ 8 6 5		
	♦ A 10		
	♣ 10 7		



West	North	East	South
<i>Zaluski</i>		<i>Smith</i>	
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Dbl	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Seeing no offensive future for his side opposite a nonvulnerable three-bid, East passed with his substantial values, a “trap pass” if there ever was one. Hoping for some of East’s values to be with his partner, South under-



The 2018 Canadian Senior Team champions: John Rayner, Nader Hanna, Joey Silver, Michael Roche, Michael Hargreaves and John Carruthers

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standably fell into the trap, and North followed along as well.

Plus 800 was earned for setting and springing the trap that was avoided at the other table when East tried 3NT over the same 3♦ opening and could find only eight tricks.



In the semifinal round, we faced a very game D'Souza team that needed an 11th-hour appeal victory to send the much-fancied L'Ecuyer team to the sidelines in the quarterfinal round.

The match stayed close throughout and seemed a lot tighter than the final score of 173–126 might suggest.

A big chunk of our IMPs came from this grand slam that was reached via some simple science after Martin Caley expertly envisioned how the play might go.

Dlr: East ♠ J
Vul: None ♥ A 7 5
♦ A K Q 9 8 6 4
♣ A 4

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

West	North	East	South
	Caley		Thurston
		Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

After the 4♠ opening, Caley could see a lot of side-suit tricks with his great diamonds and enough entries so that they couldn't all be disturbed with the opening lead. Once key card Blackwood revealed South held the three top spades, the ♠J not only firmed up the suit but could also be used as an entry. That was 11 IMPs for us when our counterparts rested in 6♠.



Another modern trend came to grief on this deal from the final when a featherweight overcall and preemptive raise not only didn't generate any effective obstruction, but attracted an opening lead that suited declarer.

Dlr: West ♠ K 7 6 4
Vul: None ♥ K Q 6 5
♦ —
♣ A K 8 4 3

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

West	North	East	South
Bart	Thurston	Kimelman	Caley
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dbl
3♦	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The diamond opening lead suggested by the overcall worked out very well – for Martin Caley. A spade was discarded from dummy at trick one. East won the ♦A and continued the suit. Declarer cashed his two diamond tricks for two more spade discards and played a spade to the king and ace. When a spade came back, declarer played low, and when the ♠Q popped up, it was ruffed in dummy, trumps were drawn and 11 tricks claimed.

Without the dubious benefit of the overcall at the other table, Nicholas Gartaganis fished out a semi-deceptive ♣7 against the same 4♥ contract, and declarer simply had too much to do to overcome the adverse splits and spade honor location. 11 IMPs to GARTAGANIS.



In the second segment of the final, Smith–Zaluski on offense and Judith–Nicholas on defense combined to produce a great team result on this deal:

Dlr: East ♠ Q J 10 9 4 3
Vul: Both ♥ Q 5
♦ J 9 2
♣ A 10
♠ A 7 6 ♠ 8 5 2
♥ 10 8 3 ♥ K J 9 7
♦ A K 8 ♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ J 6 3 2 ♣ 8 7
♠ K
♥ A 6 4 2
♦ Q 6 5
♣ K Q 9 5 4

Both South players declared 3NT after exploratory auctions, and both opening leaders started with an attitude-seeking high diamond lead.

On that high diamond, Judith contributed the ♦10: not only negative attitude for diamonds in their UDCA methods, but containing a large measure of suit-preference information as well: “I’d really like a heart shift.”

Nicholas complied, with his ♥3 going to the ♥Q and ♥K. Declarer ducked, but the low heart continuation ended his chances.

At the other table, East’s diamond played to trick one was just murky enough that West didn’t find the heart shift, continuing instead by cashing his other high diamond honor and playing a third round.

At that point, the BBO commentator predicted Smith would go down, as West would duck the ♠K, and there wouldn’t be enough entries to both establish and cash good spades. But Smith showed entries are where you find them: West did duck the play of the ♠K, but declarer then led a club to dummy’s 10 to gain the crucial extra entry and set up spades for nine winners in all.



With three segments remaining, GARTAGANIS had built a useful lead (160–112), but then TODD staged one of their trademark rallies to take the sixth set 60–18. There would be everything to play for in the last 28 deals!

One of TODD’s double-digit gains came from this instructive deal:

Dlr: North ♠ 9 8 6 4
 Vul: None ♥ K Q 8
 ♦ K J 9
 ♣ J 6 2

♠ Q 10
 ♥ A J 7 4 3
 ♦ Q 6 5 2
 ♣ 7 3

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

♠ J
 ♥ 10 6 5 2
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ A K Q 8 5 4

East started the bidding with a weak 2♠ opening, but at both tables, North–South took over and crawled into 5♣.

Both Wests started with the ♠Q, and then the defensive paths diverged as Hornby–Fisher made short work of the defense: Fisher overtook the ♠Q to fire back his lone heart, essentially playing his partner for either the ♣A or ♥A. One fast ruff later meant down one.

At the other table, Caley played the ♠3 at trick one, clearly a discouraging card, but one that failed to elicit the ♥A and a second heart from his partner, so 5♣ came home. Moral: Don't ask (or expect) partner to do for you what you can do for yourself!



During last year's final segment of the CNTC, TODD staged a fantastic rally to nip L'ECUYER at the wire, largely on the basis of some successful slams missed by their opponents. Would the excellent result fashioned by Kimelman–Bart on this deal be the start of a repeat rally?

Dlr: North ♠ 4
 Vul: Both ♥ A K 9 8 4
 ♦ A K Q 7 5
 ♣ K 5

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

♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ J 9 2
 ♣ 9 6 4 3 2

♠ K Q 9
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ 8 6 3
 ♣ A Q J 10 7

West	North	East	South
	<i>Kimelman</i>		<i>Bart</i>
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

After the typical 2/1 start to the auction, North knew his partner would have roughly the equivalent of an opening bid along with good clubs to make the initial game-forcing response. East held out some hope that his baby clubs might play a role, but the 3–2 diamond split compensated and Bart had no problem bringing home 12 tricks – and 12 large IMPs when the forcing 1♣ auction at the other table didn't diagnose that both North and South had maximum values for their early calls. 3NT made in comfort, but without a vulnerable slam bonus.



The penultimate segment settled nothing (12–11 for GARTAGANIS), so the result of the match rested on the final 14 deals.

During that dramatic set, another great team result established a bit of breathing space for our squad when Smith–Zaluski found the winning defense, and captain Judith earned an entry to the “Best Declarer Play of the 2018 CNTC” sweepstakes on this challenging deal:

Dlr: South ♠ 4 3
 Vul: N–S ♥ J 10 4 2
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ K 9 5 4

♠ J 9 6 5 2
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ K 9 7 5 2
 ♣ 3

♠ A Q 10 7
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ Q 10 3
 ♣ A 10 8 7

♠ K 8
 ♥ A K 8 7 6
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ Q J 6 2

Despite holding minimum combined values, both North–South pairs took an optimistic route to 4♥, and the result

hinged on the cardplay.

For GARTAGANIS, Smith led his singleton, and Zaluski diagnosed his best chance to set 4♥ might be via ruffs, so he won the ♣A and returned the ♣8 for one ruff, and after a spade to the ace, a second club ruff followed.

When Judith declared, East for TODD gave the same club lead a long study before deciding to maintain his tenace over dummy's cards by playing the ♣7 to force the ♣J from declarer.

Two high trumps brought good news, and Judith continued with a low diamond to the jack and queen. East cashed the ♠A, but didn't like what he saw from West, so reverted to diamonds, playing the ♦10 to the ace.

Declarer ruffed the third diamond and cashed the ♠K before leading a club to dummy's king and East's ace – to thoroughly endplay the defender. East had only losing options: to lead away from his guarded ♣10 to declarer's split tenace or yield a ruff and discard by playing back a spade. That was 10 well-earned tricks for declarer and 13 IMPs for the team.



Many reports like this start with a quiz question or two for the reader, but I'm going to end with one. You hold:

♠ A 3 ♥ J 9 8 3 ♦ 10 5 3 2 ♣ A 7 5
 and with both vulnerable, you pass as dealer. Your LHO opens 1♥, partner overcalls 1♠ and RHO passes. What's your call?

For TODD, East passed and that effectively ended the auction with 1♠ yielding 10 semi-lucky tricks.

For GARTAGANIS, Zaluski chanced his arm with a 1NT response. That attracted a raise to the nine-trick game from Jeff Smith, who gave full appreciation to the likely source of tricks he held in the spade suit:

♠ K Q J 8 7 5 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A Q ♣ Q 8 2.

That ♥10 was just enough to spruce up Zaluski's heart stopper, and nine tricks rolled home for one last double-digit swing and the 2018 CNTC title for GARTAGANIS. ■

West (because the story has Hollywood connections, we'll call her Mae) led the ♥ K to dummy's bare ace. South played the ♠ 2 to his jack. Mae could see that winning with her queen would not do much good – declarer would be able to come to at least 10 tricks: four spades, one heart and five clubs. So Mae let the ♠ J hold the trick.

Now look at the problem from declarer's point of view. He could cross back to dummy with the ♠ K and

repeat the trump finesse, but, were that to fail, he would lose three hearts, a diamond, and a trump. What he had to do after the ♠ J won the second trick was to surrender a trump trick while he still had a trump left in dummy to take care of a heart return.

It was time for South to take an Ann Gallagher finesse! At trick three, he led the ♠ 10 from hand and ran it. I don't know if he had a suitable quote ready if it lost. When it won, however, he was

able to play a third spade to the king, come back to hand with the ♣ 10, draw the last trump, and enjoy dummy's clubs. Eleven tricks made.

Maybe Mae hesitated just a smidgen at trick two. If declarer had been alerted as to the possible whereabouts of the queen, he might have recalled the saying, "If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck and sounds like a duck, then you probably shouldn't repeat the finesse." ■

2019 SPRING NABC, MEMPHIS SCHEDULE OF NATIONAL-RATED EVENTS

To enable players to participate in more national championships, the starting dates of several events in the Spring NABC have been shifted. Here's what the Spring NABC schedule looks like for the 2019 tournament in Memphis:



Monday, March 18–Wednesday, March 20

NABC ONLINE INDIVIDUAL

Hosted by BBO

Wednesday, March 20–Thursday, March 21

BALDWIN NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – FLIGHT A

Two qualifying and two final sessions; pre-qualification required

Friday, March 22–Saturday, March 23

LEVENTRITT SILVER RIBBON PAIRS

Two qualifying and two final sessions; pre-qualification required

0-10,000 SWISS TEAMS

Two qualifying and two final sessions; no player with more than 10,000 masterpoints

Friday, March 22–Sunday, March 24

KAY PLATINUM PAIRS

Two qualifying, two semifinal and two final sessions

Sunday, March 23–Monday, March 25

LEBHAR IMP PAIRS

Two qualifying and two final sessions

Monday, March 25– Friday, March 29

0-10,000 KO TEAMS

Pre-entry required; continues until complete

Monday, March 25–Sunday, March 31

VANDERBILT KO TEAMS

Entry required by 8 p.m. Sunday, March 24; continues until complete

Tuesday, March 26–Wednesday, March 27

ROCKWELL MIXED PAIRS

Two qualifying and two final sessions

Thursday, March 28–Friday, March 29

SILODOR OPEN PAIRS

Two qualifying and two final sessions

SMITH LIFE MASTERS WOMEN'S PAIRS

Two qualifying and two final sessions

Saturday, March 30–Sunday, March 31

JACOBY OPEN SWISS TEAMS

Two qualifying and two final sessions

NABC+ FAST OPEN PAIRS

Two qualifying and two final sessions

GOLDER NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – FLIGHT B

Two qualifying and two final sessions; pre-qualification required

PRESIDENT'S CUP NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – FLIGHT C

Two qualifying and two final sessions; pre-qualification required

Global Game

Qualifiers will compete for \$20,000 in China in World Wide Bridge Contest

BY CHIP DOMBROWSKI



Two American pairs qualified to participate in the finals of the World Wide Bridge Contest in October in China, where they'll compete for a \$20,000 prize. Philadelphia-area players Bobbie Gomer and Everett Young, along with H. Gordon and Susan Bullard of Lexington KY, earned the berths by placing second and third in the world in the last of the eight qualifying games on June 2.

Another spot went to the continental winner, but for the purpose of this event, North and South America are considered a single continent. Despite getting a higher score throughout all eight sessions than anyone else in

North America, the ACBL winners from the June 1 qualifying game, Gary Powell and Larry Davis of Austin TX, lost out on the continental spot to a pair from Ecuador who won the third session held April 24.

Clubs in 43 countries participated in at least one of the eight qualifying games held between March and June, with about 19 countries each session. The contest is most popular in Greece, one of five countries that participated all eight sessions. Greece was the largest participant in each of the first six sessions, fielding more players than the next two countries combined in

five of them. Greek pairs won four of the eight games and claimed 10 of the 25 berths to play in China.

Through the first six sessions, an average of 563 pairs played, with perhaps one or two clubs from the U.S. or Canada participating. In the last two sessions, ACBL clubs participated in much greater numbers, increasing the size of the field substantially. There were 3546 pairs playing June 1 and 2513 on June 2. The U.S. was the largest participant both of those days, with Canada second or third and Greece third or fourth. England was second on June 2.

Friday, June 1

Powell and Davis, both Diamond Life Masters, played at the Bridge Center of Austin.

Neither had made plans to play that day. When the morning game that Davis normally directs was canceled

due to lack of attendance, Davis decided to rearrange his day and play the afternoon game instead. Powell, whose wife had another commitment, decided at the last minute to take a chance on finding a partner. They don't often play together – just a few times a year.

"We played well and got some gifts," Davis said. Their score of 71.99% would have been good enough to qualify in any of the other seven sessions and would win four of them. However, on the day with the largest field, it was only fifth place worldwide. They were 0.95% short of qualifying.

Davis is a past president of District 16 and has chaired the biennial Austin Regional for over 20 years.



Larry Davis and Gary Powell

Friday, June 1

Top 10 Pairs Worldwide

	Country	Percent
1. Anastasios Iliadis – Nikolaos Bovasianos	Greece	74.91
2. Ilias Stefanopoulos – Nikolaos Karapanos	Greece	74.33
3. Bjorn Tiller – Marusa Basa	England	72.94
4. Aristeidis Katsifos – Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos	Greece	72.15
5. Gary Powell – Larry Davis	USA	71.99
6. Haven Sharaf – Kimberly Gilman	USA	71.55
7. Graham Cope – Mike Meakin	England	71.43
8. Colin Mitchell – Dan Benison	England	70.61
9. Richard Miller – William Braun	USA	70.45
10. Jim Wolsey – Pam Eves	Canada	70.11

Top 10 Pairs in ACBL (world ranking)

	Club location	Percent
1. (5) Gary Powell – Larry Davis	Austin TX	71.99
2. (6) Haven Sharaf – Kimberly Gilman	Woburn MA	71.55
3. (9) Richard Miller – William Braun	Salt Lake City UT	70.45
4. (10) Jim Wolsey – Pam Eves	Hamilton ON	70.11
5. (12) Don Joynt – Ron Kline	Laguna Woods CA	69.02
6. (14) Firm Weaver – Judy Hill	Saratoga Springs NY	68.92
7. (15) Peter Tracy – Sherry Tracy	Kalispell MT	68.69
8. (16) Jacob Karno – Paul Deal	Metairie LA	68.67
9. (17) Michael Schreiber – Richard Oshlag	Jonesboro AR	68.66
10. (18) Wayne Weisler – Dee Moses	Metairie LA	68.58



Bobbie Gomer and Everett Young

Saturday, June 2

Gomer, a Platinum Life Master, and Young, a Sapphire Life Master, played at the Yorktown Bridge Club in Jenkintown PA. They scored 71.47%.

Gomer attributed the high score mostly to luck. On the following deal, Young made a light penalty double of a 1NT overcall with the North cards and struck gold.

Dlr: East	♠ J 9 5		
Vul: N-S	♥ 10 9 4 3		
	♦ J 4 2		
	♣ A Q 9		
♠ K 7 6		♠ Q 4 2	
♥ A 5		♥ Q 7 6	
♦ K Q 10 9		♦ 7 5 3	
♣ K J 7 2		♣ 10 8 6 5	
	♠ A 10 8 3		
	♥ K J 8 2		
	♦ A 8 6		
	♣ 4 3		

West	North	East	South
	Young		Gomer
		Pass	1♦
1NT	Dbl	All Pass	

West has a normal 1NT overcall but no way to salvage the board on this horrific layout once he interferes. Although the points are divided evenly, it's a bloodbath on a heart lead. Trusting Gomer's sound opening bids and skill as a defender, Young considered double a heavy favorite.

"Although I have only an 8 count, I'm

positive we have at least half the deck. My ♣A Q and ♦J figure to be well located. Declarer could have doubled with major-suit cards, so it smells like my major-suit cards are going to be helpful as well."

Young led the ♥10 and declarer went up with the queen, covered by the king and ace. Declarer can hold it to down three by going after clubs, but declarer chose diamonds first, leading the ♦K. Gomer won her ace, cashed the ♥J 8 and played a heart to the 9. Young got out with the ♠J to declarer's king. Declarer can cash the ♦Q, but has no more tricks. The defense gets three hearts, three spades, two diamonds and two clubs for down four, 800 for North-South. That was worth 99.5% of the match-points.

Most Wests played in 1NT not doubled, and the most common results were down one or two on a diamond lead. 1NT making was more com-

mon than the "normal" result of down three (an 83.3% result for North-South). After the double, East-West can save a trick by running to 2♣, which should be down only two.

Gomer and Young are excited about playing in China.

Gordon and Bullard make the second year in a row for a pair qualifying from the Bridge Club of Lexington. Last year, Blaine Mullins and Morgan Schreffler won one of the qualifying games playing in Lexington. ■



H. Gordon and Susan Bullard

Saturday, June 2

Top 10 Pairs Worldwide

	Country	Percent
1.	Konstantinos Tagtalianidis - Pantelis Laskaridis	Greece 71.70
2.	Everett Young - Bobbie Gomer	USA 71.47
3.	H. Gordon - Susan Bullard	USA 71.09
4.	Betty Schultz Kelley - Diane Day	USA 70.77
5.	Radu Ariton - Bonnie Britton	USA 70.41
6.	Nikolaos Bovasianos - Stefanos Sidiropoulos	Greece 69.72
7.	Enid Spira - Carole Goldberg	USA 69.29
8.	Ambrish Wadera - Ashok Girdhar	India 68.82
9.	Mahendra Kothary - Sarda Shah	England 68.79
10.	Mariann Farrelly - Ken Camilleis	USA 68.77

Top 10 Pairs in ACBL (world ranking)

	Club location	Percent
1. (2)	Everett Young - Bobbie Gomer	Jenkintown PA 71.47
2. (3)	H. Gordon - Susan Bullard	Lexington KY 71.09
3. (4)	Betty Schultz Kelley - Diane Day	Hot Springs Village AR 70.77
4. (5)	Radu Ariton - Bonnie Britton	Staten Island NY 70.41
5. (7)	Enid Spira - Carole Goldberg	Millerton NY 69.29
6. (10)	Mariann Farrelly - Ken Camilleis	Barnstable MA 68.77
7. (11)	Robert Imhoff - Rochelle Imhoff	Livingston NJ 68.57
8. (13)	Patricia Herrera - Gonzalo Herrera	Mexico City 68.39
9. (14)	Barbara Ahlers - Bernard Kay	Evansville IN 67.51
10. (15)	Dori Byrnes - Jiang Gu	Livingston NJ 67.41



Losing Trick Count, updated – part 4

BY JENNIFER JONES jennbridge.blogspot.com Jennife574@aol.com

Bidding distributional hands

Last month, we talked about competitive bidding, including bidding 6–5 hands. Let’s continue the theme of bidding distributional hands, as losing trick count is particularly effective in evaluating such hands. Uncertainty arises when evaluating hands using only high-card points to determine strength.

I couldn’t believe my eyes when I was dealt this hand last fall in a local sectional team game:

♠ 9 8 7 5 4 3 ♥ A K 10 9 7 6 4 ♦ — ♣ —.

Right-hand opponent dealt and passed as I gazed with wonder on this collection. (Have you ever seen a 7–6 hand?!) How best to handle this four-loser hand? I rejected the idea of opening 4♥, as I considered that such a bid could prevent us from reaching a slam in one of the majors if we had one. An argument could be made for opening 1♥ and bidding spades later, but I finally elected to pass and come in later. One thing seemed certain: This highly distributional hand was unlikely to be passed out!

LHO opened 1♦, partner passed and RHO bid 2♦. Now I had a good bid: 3♦. This would presumably show a distributional hand with both majors. Partner bid 3♥, and I raised to 4♥. Without any encouragement from partner, I settled for bidding game, although I was a bit disappointed that we had to give up on slam ambitions ... until LHO doubled. Then I felt we

would be headed for a good score. The opening lead was the ♦A, and this is what partner saw:

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

♠ Q 6
♥ J 3 2
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ Q 9 6 4

As expected, partner’s hand was not strong, but the ♥Q was singleton, so we lost only two spades. Partner made 11 tricks.

When we compared scores, we found that our teammates pushed the opponents to 5♥ before they doubled. As we were vulnerable, our score was plus 990 versus our teammates’ minus 850, so we won 4 IMPs. It is interesting to note that both teams bid this 15-point game and, actually, 5 of the points in the South hand were unnecessary, so you could say that it was a 10-point game. That is the immense power of distribution.

Here is a 6–5 hand I held in a pairs game:

♠ Q 10 8 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ J 9 8 6 4 3 ♣ A.

Partner dealt and opened 1♦. I responded 1♠, and fourth hand overcalled 2♥. Partner now jumped to 3♠, showing a strong hand. I noted that my 7-point hand had only six losers, so I

elected to make a move toward slam with a cuebid of 4♣. I liked my hand with the double fit, five-card spade suit, singleton in the opponents’ suit and first-round control in clubs! Partner should have a six-loser hand for his jump rebid, so we had the correct loser count for slam. (6 + 6 = 12, which, subtracted from 24 is 12.)

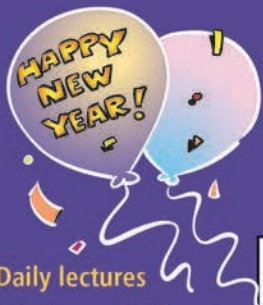
Partner now cuebid 4♦, and I cuebid 4♥. Partner next bid Roman key card Blackwood, and I responded 5♣, showing one key card. He followed up with 5♦, asking about the trump queen and, as I possessed it, I jumped to 6♠. A heart was led.

♠ A K 5 3
♥ 9 4 3
♦ A K 7 5 2
♣ 7

♠ Q 10 8 7 6
♥ 8
♦ J 9 8 6 4 3
♣ A

Spades behaved (they broke 2–2), and the only trick lost was a heart. Scoring plus 980 for this 21-point slam was a top.

Using LTC when holding distributional hands enables you to accurately gauge their strength and bid to the appropriate level. You can “come alive” even with a minimum of high-card points! ■



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The New Convention Charts and You – part 1

BY TOM CARMICHAEL, Competition and Conventions Committee Chair

At the Philadelphia meeting of the ACBL Board of Directors in March, a motion passed unanimously to retire the existing convention charts and replace them with new ones effective this November at the start of the NABC in Honolulu. In this series of articles, I will break down the charts and what changes (if any) you may see at both tournaments and your local clubs.

Before I jump into the charts themselves, I want to give a historical perspective on the old charts, and what the motivations are for changing them.

The last major revision to the structure of the convention charts themselves occurred more than 20 years ago with the introduction of the MidChart (hereafter called “MC”) in 1995. The MC was originally intended as a chart appropriate for higher level open play and, as such, was first introduced at the NABCs in open events. It was extremely permissive in terms of what conventions were allowed compared with the General Convention Chart (GCC).

As time went on, the MC was allowed to be played at regionals and eventually sectionals. As the charts got more exposure, changes were made to the MC which made it a far cry from the openness of its origin. Many conventions and agreements which had long been legal under the GCC were moved up to the MC, effectively watering down the GCC. The MC morphed into a more restrictive cousin of its previous self, following the pattern of the GCC in having long lists of rules citing what is or isn’t allowed.

The rules also give our tournament directors problems. The GCC and MC are not always clear as to how they should be interpreted, and there are even some vague or seemingly contradictory rules.

As a final strike against the current system, the rules can be different from

one tournament to another. Districts can choose what rules they want to use for their tournaments, which can make it difficult to know whether the system you play is legal.

Frustrated with the status quo, I started doing my own straw polls a few years ago about the possibility of new convention charts and got overwhelming positive feedback about the idea. I formalized the effort to make new charts a reality by introducing the idea at a Competition and Conventions Committee meeting two years ago, and we created a subcommittee to explore the idea and flesh out the new charts.

Our goals:

➔ **Clarity.** We wanted the rules to be clear enough and precise enough to allow directors to understand them and be able to definitively answer whether a treatment is legal. There is a glossary which defines terms used in the charts, reducing ambiguity.

➔ **Consistency.** We wanted the rules to be similar for ACBL tournaments based on the type of events, not location. The charts themselves spell out which ones apply to which events.

➔ **Balance.** We wanted the ability to have restrictive charts, which are more welcoming for newer players, as well as more permissive charts for the advanced and creative players so as to not stifle bidding-system development. Moving from the GCC/MC model to a four-chart system gives us much greater flexibility to target different player groups.

After significant effort by the subcommittee, the C&C and the Board of Directors, we have settled on four new convention charts: **Basic**, **Basic+**, **Open**, **Open+**. You can download the document with all the charts at acbl.org/newconventioncharts.

Basic Chart

The Basic Chart is intended for our newest players. It is the most restrictive of the four charts in terms of what is legal to play, however, most popular conventions are legal under the chart. The chart is intended for “Gold Rush” style events. At tournaments, it will be used for any event which has an upper masterpoint limit of 750, as well as some knockout brackets in which all the teams have low masterpoint totals. Clubs will still be able to use whatever rules they wish, but this chart is recommended for limited masterpoint games at clubs.

The style of the Basic Chart is very similar to the current GCC. In many ways, this chart can be thought of as “GCC lite.” Some examples of legal opening bids include: Short Club, Precision 1♣, Flannery, mini-Roman, weak notumps, four-card majors, weak two-bids, Namyats and gambling 3NT. Most common responses are likewise legal: forcing 1NT, 2/1 game-force, Stayman and transfers, Jacoby 2NT, Bergen raises, etc. For most players, this chart should require no changes to the current system.

The new charts contain some terminology (capitalized in the text) that is defined in the glossary with a precise meaning. While there is no need to learn each and every one of these new terms, a few are worth mentioning:

⇒ **Average Strength.** This is mostly used to describe the minimum requirements (by ACBL regulation) for an opening bid. It is defined as 10 HCP or meeting the Rule of 19 (HCP + the length of the two longest suits must be 19 or more). This value is likely to be lower than most people will want to open the bidding; this is intentional, to give some “wiggle room” for those who like more aggressive bidding.

⇒ **Natural.** The rules here haven't changed much, but the following is a good summary. Any opening bid, response or overcall in a suit at the one level is natural if it shows four or more cards in the suit bid, except for 1♣ and 1♦, which can be based on a three-card holding. (Indeed, 1♣ can show two cards for hands with exactly 4=4=3=2 pattern and still qualify as natural.) At the two level, an opening bid, response or overcall that shows at least five cards is natural.

⇒ **Quasi-Natural.** A new term introduced in this chart. This is for the "can be short" type bids, where a bid is either natural (as above) or it has some balanced- or notrump-type pattern. A classic example of this type of bid is the Precision 1♦ opener, which can have as few as two diamonds if balanced, but could also be an unbalanced hand with long diamonds.

⇒ **Artificial.** Any bid which is neither Natural nor Quasi-Natural.

It is also worth noting some of the areas in which this chart is more restrictive than the GCC. Some examples include:

- Precision-style systems cannot employ artificial bids (other than a negative bid) on the one level. Precision systems where the 1♦ response to 1♣ is negative and 1♥, 1♠ and 1NT are all natural bids is allowed.
- Polish Club-style systems, where 1♣ can be many different hand types, such as 12–14 balanced, natural clubs or the strong forcing artificial opening. Because this bid is neither strong (it could be a 12–14 notrump) nor natural or quasi-natural (it could have zero clubs if strong), it does not fall within any of the allowed categories.
- "Woolsey" defense to 1NT, where 2♦ shows either major. Double and 2♣ are the only calls which are allowed to have no known suits.

In summary, the Basic Chart should allow the systems that are most familiar to our newest players. Most players should be able to continue playing as they have been with no changes or special knowledge of the new rules required.

Next month we will examine the Basic+ Chart, including where it applies, and an overview of the chart itself.

If you have any questions about the legality of a convention or system, please email the subcommittee at charts@acbl.org. ■

2018 Executive Director Search

The American Contract Bridge League is continuing to evolve as a membership organization serving more than 165,000 bridge players across the continent.

The Executive Director oversees the entire organization's operations and leads a team of more than 220 people to move the ACBL forward through continuing improvement of processes and technologies. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for implementing the strategic goals established by the Board.

Qualifications

- Executive management experience. Extensive experience in senior management in an organization of size and complexity similar to ACBL, preferably in a nonprofit membership organization.
- Demonstrated success with building, motivating and sustaining a high-performing team
- Strong technology background to meet the organization's strategic objectives
- Demonstrated communications skills
- Ability to grow the ACBL's membership
- A bridge player who understands the game's competitive and social culture and is committed to promoting and expanding its popularity is preferred
- Experience working with volunteers and a commitment to volunteer leadership and involvement
- Relocation to ACBL Headquarters in the greater Memphis area is required

For a full job description and application information, visit acbl.org/careers.

Application process

To apply, email theacblsearch@gmail.com with a cover letter detailing qualifications, resume and salary requirement. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. The ACBL is an equal opportunity employer.





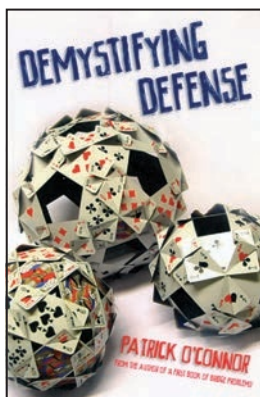
..... Product Reviews

Demystifying Defense

By Patrick O'Connor

\$16.95, softcover, 134 pages

Reviewed by Sue Munday



The silent D in bridge

Declarer play is sexy, and bidding conventions are like shiny new toys. But defense? Defense is hard! Too often, defense ends up being the break newcomers take between playing one hand and bidding the next.

Here's Patrick O'Connor with "Demystifying Defense" to build newcomers' defensive prowess and confidence.

Sound defense is deadly and worth a lot of points at the table. In theory, it shouldn't be as hard as it's made out to be: Jump into declarer's seat, see what he needs to do to take as many tricks as possible, figure

out how to stop him, and then jump back into your own seat and do it. The catch, of course, is doing this in sync with your partner, whose cards are, for the most part, unknown. But when a good D clicks, it is intoxicating.

O'Connor's "A First Book of Bridge Problems," which won the American Bridge Teachers' Association's Book of the Year award in 2012, focused on declarer play with a sprinkling of de-

fensive problems. Now, the Australian bridge teacher switches seats entirely to cover the basics of defensive card-play: opening leads, second-hand play, third-hand play and signaling. Each chapter is summarized, and there's a quiz to solidify the lessons learned. The meat of the book is in the final chapter: O'Connor invites the reader to defend 40 problems with him.

The author's presentation is clean and straightforward. It is impossible for a newcomer who follows the principles in this book not to walk away with a greater appreciation of the defensive aspect of the game. A rudimentary glossary of bridge terms answers the most immediate terminology questions, and a handy list of themes at the end enables the reader to refer back to the material that's been covered.

Who knew defense could be so – dare I say it? – fun!

Available from bridge supply houses.

Upcoming Best Practices Teacher Workshop

■■■■► **Syracuse NY (Regional)**
Aug. 13–14

Mary Miller
mary.miller028@gmail.com

■■■■► **Richardson TX (Regional)**
Aug. 27–28

Eileen Smith Davidoff
eileen_s@hotmail.com

■■■■► **Asheville NC (Sectional)**
Oct. 19–20

ACBL Education Department
education@acbl.org

■■■■► **Honolulu HI (NABC)**
Nov. 23–25

ACBL Education Department
education@acbl.org

Hand of the Week 52 Bridge Stories

By Joel Martineau

\$19.95, softcover, 222 pages

Reviewed by Sue Munday



Bite-sized nuggets

What better way to start every week than with a bridge boost? Here's Joel Martineau with just the ticket – 52 of them, to be precise.

An experienced bridge teacher as well as player, Martineau invites the intermediate reader to sit with him

at the table. While bidding comes into play when constructing a plan of attack, it is not the author's focus: "Each story strives to recreate the thought processes that I used – or should have used – as I played the dummy or defended the contract, or as I watched my partner declare and defend."

Unusual in Martineau's approach is his emphasis

on the language of bridge, as well as strategy and tactics. "I try to highlight vocabulary, believing that if readers become more comfortable with the

terms, they will discover opportunities to apply them and gain confidence in their card play and their strategic thinking.” He supports his premise by including a glossary at the end of the book. New to me was *Sheardown’s maxim*: “the lower the doubled contract, the sooner a trump should hit the table.” Too bad the write-up introduc-

ing the Canadian great’s nugget of wisdom doesn’t actually illustrate its usage; maybe next volume.

Martineau writes with great ease and humor; you’ll find in the glossary, for example, a definition for Blunderwood (as opposed to Blackwood). The deals are not double-dummy displays of fireworks. Drawn from the author’s

club and tournament play, they are, for the most part, quite ordinary, but they capture the competitive battle that starts every time a new hand is fanned.

“Hand of the Week” is an enjoyable learning tool because of the thorough articulation of the thought process from the start of a deal to the outcome. Advancing players will do well to make Martineau a Monday-morning ritual.

Available from bridge supply houses.



Annoying the Opponents Overcalls and Take-out Doubles (Beginner Level 2)

By Marti Ronemus

\$21.95, 100 flashcards

Reviewed by Sue Munday

Card-carrying pest

In her signature bridge-teaching style, Ronemus makes developing overcall skills a game in and of itself.

“It’s so easy for the opponents to reach the right contract when we are silent throughout the auction,” she writes. “Well, we’ve had enough of that!! We are going to become the op-

ponents’ worst nightmare by interfering in the auction. We are going to be downright annoying!”

As she takes newcomers from basic overcalls and takeout doubles to tougher bidding situations, Ronemus introduces some terminology into the bridge lexicon: Darn Good Suit and Darn Bad Suit. She covers responses to doubles and overcalls as well as continuations – subjects oft overlooked by newer players in their early bridge education.

“Overcalls and Take-out Doubles” is Ronemus’s second double-decker. The beginning level 1 set on bidding was reviewed last year in this magazine (July 2017, pg. 24).

The author suggests several settings for using the cards – from bidding practice with partner to group drinking games. Everything about flashcard learning is fun, anyway; Ronemus makes it more so. Deal ‘em out!

Published by and available from Baron Barclay Bridge Supply: 800-274-2221, baronbarclay.com.



Audrey Grant

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Call for nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 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 kelley.trejo@acbl.org. **Nominations are open until Oct. 15, 2018.**



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Baseball and Bridge

BY AUGIE BOEHM

difficult to hit for long distances, and the game's strategies were directed toward accumulating small advantages, e.g., bunting, stealing bases, advancing base runners, basically playing for one run at a time. Wee Willie Keeler claimed his success as a batter was to "Hit 'em where they ain't." Ty Cobb embodied all the key elements of the dead ball era – he hit for average (still the highest lifetime), he stole bases with abandon, and he used every aspect of gamesmanship at his disposal. Sliding spikes high, intimidation was part of his arsenal.

For fun, let's separate bridge into dead ball and live ball eras, the early days and how the game evolved. The bridge equivalent of dead ball is the simple bidding and carding methods of Culbertson and Goren. Perhaps because of deficient methods that caused lots of guesswork, many of the top players of that era compensated by pursuing every psychological advantage through gamesmanship and intimidation. Favorite weapons were sarcasm directed at the opponents and sharp practices that Edgar Kaplan dubbed "Old Black Magic." Kaplan meant that in the days of rudimentary bidding, many players compensated for systemic gaps by using variations in tempo and inflection. A cheery raise from 1♠ to 2♠ might be as high as 10 or 11 points since limit raises weren't in vogue; a sully 2♠ bid matched the bottom of the range. Fortunately, for the safety of infielders, spiking is no longer tolerated, and the conduct and ethics of bridge have improved enormously, recent cheating scandals notwithstanding.

The beginning of the live ball era in baseball coincided with Babe Ruth's

transition from pitcher, one of the best, into a daily hitter, an immortal. A more tightly wound ball made it easier to hit home runs, and the advent of sluggers swinging for the fences re-energized the sport. In bridge, the transition to "live ball" started in the late 1950s with systemic bridge as advocated by Kaplan–Sheinwold and Roth–Stone.

As baseball has developed more sluggers, smaller ballparks, and better conditioned athletes, the tape measure homer and the 100 mph fastball, hallmarks of the modern game, have captured the public's interest. In modern bridge, the equivalents are featherweight opening bids and hyper-aggressive preempts. They don't always produce good results, but there's no question that today's game contains more thrills and chills, more precarious contracts, fewer partials.

Great bridge players of earlier times, such as Norman Kay and B.J. Becker, epitomized the ideal of winning by avoiding errors. Becker was reported to have said, "On one of my good days, an opponent cannot beat me; he can only tie." Nowadays, avoidance of error has largely been replaced by going all out to win boards. Modern bridge more resembles Babe Ruth swinging for the fences with a concomitant increase in strikeouts rather than Ty Cobb choking up his grip, aiming for singles, able to spray the ball to all fields. In today's baseball, with the increased number of home runs and strikeouts, fewer balls are put in play. Due to overshift and stacked defenses, many batted balls become routine outs. The game is less nuanced. Tennis with big dominant servers tends to shorten rallies. Is this more exciting or less? Probably,

Besides the catchy alliteration of "B's" (old Yankee fans may remember the jingle "Baseball and Ballantine Beer"), there are some interesting connections between baseball and bridge. Today's ball game and a session of bridge each last roughly three hours and are divided into numerous segments, normally nine innings for baseball and usually eight to 12 rounds for a matchpoint session. Each shares several meaningful terms, e.g., grand slam, sacrifice, diamond, club, signals, double, rubber and ace.

In the 1950s, Charles Goren visited the Brooklyn Dodgers' clubhouse in Ebbets Field. Bridge was the Dodgers' favorite pastime during rain delays and on the road, and Goren played some deals with the ballplayers. He was particularly impressed with the bridge skills of pitcher Carl Erskine and wrote about it in his regular column for *Sports Illustrated* magazine, but we are getting ahead of our story.

The early days of organized baseball are divided into the "dead ball" and "live ball" eras; the dead ball period lasted until around 1920. The early baseball, not so tightly wound, was dif-

it amounts to personal taste and age. Young spectators and participants know only the modern version.

The baseball stars of yesteryear were generally paid peanuts compared to today's journeyman major leaguers. Today, in the television and media age, baseball is big business. In bridge, professionalism used to exist in the shadows. Now it is commonplace, and the top pros earn handsomely compared to their predecessors.

Let's attempt a comparison of styles when declaring a bridge hand. Yes, style may be a factor when declaring. If faced with a choice of a technical play or gut instinct, I suspect most modern declarers prefer to rely on technique and percentages, just as modern baseball tends to weigh analytical information more heavily than intuition. For instance, you are playing 6♠ versus the lead of a low spade as both opponents follow.

North (Dummy)

♠ A J 5
♥ K 8 6 3
♦ K 8
♣ A J 10 2

South (You)

♠ K Q 10 9 4
♥ A 4
♦ J 10
♣ K Q 7 6

South

1♠
3♣
4♥
5♠⁽²⁾
Pass

North

2♣⁽¹⁾
3♠
4NT⁽²⁾
6♠

- (1) Game force
- (2) Roman key card Blackwood
- (3) Two key cards plus ♠ Q

The diamond suit is crucial. You could draw trumps (say 3–2 split) and play three rounds of hearts, perhaps obtaining a clue to the distribution or see an informative discard before tackling diamonds. You could weigh the impact of a non-diamond lead. West will probably assume that North has a diamond control because he bid 4NT after South bypassed 4♦ with his 4♥ control bid. Might an intrepid West risk a diamond lead away from his ace, expecting the king in dummy? In any event, a wait-and-see strategy, hoping to make a winning guess later in diamonds, is the analytical way to go.

The alternative, the psychological approach, is to lead the ♦ J at trick two before the defense knows much about the deal. It would take nerves of steel for West to duck the ace in tempo; for all he knows, he may have ducked the setting trick if South holds a singleton diamond and a hole in a black suit. If

West plays low, place the ace with East and duck in dummy, hoping the queen is onside.

Charismatic pros like Zia make good copy because of flair and a willingness to back their instinct. Unfortunately, their fame and reputation hardly extends beyond the narrow confines of bridge.

Charismatic baseball stars like Cobb and Ruth benefited from extensive newspaper and radio coverage. After they retired, a golf match – three rounds on three different courses in different cities – was arranged with the proceeds going to charity. Ruth was younger and had the lower handicap. However, Cobb won the contest, in part by hitting more fairways with his controlled swing (singles, not homers). He also had a psychological advantage, which he was quick to exploit. Ruth had a shorter attention span, about two hours was the typical length for a ball game in his era. Accordingly, Cobb slowed down the pace; taking more practice swings, being very deliberate on the greens. Ruth's concentration began to wane and he grew impatient. Cobb won the majority of the holes on the back nine. Dead ball gamesmanship triumphed over swagger. ■



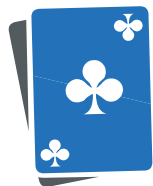
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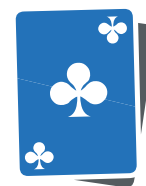
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Club News



There are 13 players aged 90 and over 90 in southeastern Quebec.

Quebec Unit 152 honors senior players

By France Roy Dion | Unit 152

Unit 152 honored 13 players aged 90 and over with an event in May. These players have participated for many years in ACBL tournaments and local club sessions and have contributed all this time to keep alive bridge activities in the region, which includes Quebec City, Beauce and Trois-Rivieres.

In addition to providing lunch and a gift to the honored

players, the unit offered wine to 80 guests. Everyone enjoyed the event and reconnecting with people they hadn't seen for a few years. After the lunch, a game was held by the Quatre Coeurs Club in Quebec City, drawing 31 tables.

The three women at left in the picture were born in 1919 and are still playing bridge in clubs. ♣

New club in western Colorado

By Sharon Snyder | Grand Slam of Grand Junction DBC

Laughing and enjoying oneself is permitted and encouraged at Grand Slam of Grand Junction Duplicate Bridge Club, the newest sanctioned bridge club on the Western Slope, in Grand Junction CO. Director Sharon Snyder explains and enforces Zero Tolerance. "Our goal is to have people come and leave with a smile," she said.

Although the club has only been sanctioned since October, the group previously met informally in a teaching/learning game. Leaders Snyder, Jeffrey Phillips and Linda Scibienski met with bridge players of any skill level. A short teaching session began the afternoon with time for questions and explanations about some aspect of bridge. Then it was time to play and practice what everyone had learned.

Many players had bridge experience in local social groups, although a couple of people had none. Some were unfamiliar with conventional bids, including basics such as Stayman, transfer bids, or weak two openers. "Week after week, we



Linda Scibienski, third from left, teaches a lesson at the club in Grand Junction.

chipped away the 'old bridge rules and myths,' and we now have a great group of players excited to learn new things about bridge," said Scibienski.

A few seasoned duplicate players showed up to volunteer

as mentors to this group. As more people came, someone floated the idea that a sanctioned game should be started. Snyder, a certified ACBL club director, took charge setting up the club. It has since grown to 10 tables.

“We didn’t want to lose sight of what we were,” said Snyder. “Side session lessons are always available. We have handouts, flashcards, books and other learning materials for people to sign out and study.”

Scibienski sends out a colorful weekly email that recognizes players’ accomplishments and gives tips on etiquette and play. She has proven she can get players’ attention and teach all in one step. Players look forward to her email.

The club soon joined the Common Game and in May expanded to two days a week. ♣



A Virginia club stalwart for over 60 years

By Bill Grewe
Front Royal and Winchester Bridge Clubs

Thelma Cameron, 92, has been a member of the bridge clubs in Front Royal and Winchester VA, about 70 miles west of Washington DC, since 1956. She grew up in a bridge family, learning to play 80 years ago at the age of 12. During World War II, Thelma was often asked to play, “because everyone needed a fourth.” She got her formal bridge education from Ely Culbertson and Charles Goren, and played in her first duplicate game in 1953. A Bronze Life Master, Thelma continues to play winning bridge using the same basic bridge principles she was originally taught – “nothing fancy,” she says. ♣



Helene Hambrecht

By Tory Billard | Unit 131

At 100 years old, Helene Hambrecht is the most senior member of Kansas City Unit 131.

Helene was born June 27, 1918, in Jarrettsville PA, near Philadelphia. She and her siblings were raised on a 24-acre farm, spending summers in Ocean City NJ.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in nursing, she became a public health nurse at a manufacturing plant during World War II. The shift manager, a widower named Walter, was raising two teenage children and an infant. She too was single with two young children. They fell in love and were married in 1953.

Walter’s work as an engineer took the family all over, including two years in Ireland. Helene and her husband loved to travel, and they went on over 25 cruises. They had a place on Long Island and took their children and grandchildren to the beach there.

Helene started playing bridge in the 1950s, taking classes

with other housewives. While living in Mexico City, she and Walter played party bridge with an English couple.

When Walter retired in 1980, they moved to Sun City Center FL. For seven years, they were part of an all-volunteer emergency squad. Helene and Walter would take 24-hour shifts on the ambulances and fill in when necessary.

When they retired from the squad, they started playing golf and bridge again. Opportunities to play bridge were abundant for Helene in Florida. Walter didn’t like duplicate but would play home games with her.

Walter passed away in 1996, but Helene continued living in Florida until 2004, when she moved back to Missouri to be close to her son.

Helene calls Carnegie Village in Belton MO home now. About 10 years ago, an administrator asked her to start a bridge group there. Today, it’s still going strong, and Helene is a regular player.

“I’ve had a good life,” Helene said. “I was married to a wonderful man for over 40 years. He’s been gone a long time, but I still miss him. I have my children, lots of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And they are so good to me.” ♣



Ruling the Game

rulings@acbl.org

MODERATOR: MATT SMITH
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Q In a recent club game, a pair who played Precision encountered one who played 2/1. On the bidding sequence 1♣–(1♠)–Pass–(2♣), the 1♣ opening was strong, artificial and forcing. The 2♣ cuebid promised a limit raise or better in spades. However, because 1♣ simply showed 16-plus HCP and said nothing about club length, does this 2♣ bid need to be Alerted? Or if 2♣ showed a natural club suit, would it need to be Alerted in that case?

A The ACBL Alert Chart defines cuebids as “a bid in a suit which an opponent has either bid naturally or in which he has shown four or more cards.” Therefore, the 2♣ bid is not considered a cuebid. As it is not a cuebid, and it is not natural, then it is Alertable. A natural club bid would not be Alertable for the same reason: It is not a cuebid, so natural should be the expected meaning.

Q Our community has a social duplicate bridge club in which I am the de facto director at times because I read the Bridge Bulletin and have some masterpoints. Recently, on a hand I was defending, declarer called for the ♣K from dummy which won the trick. He then said, “Play the queen.” I played a club, at which point dummy asked, “Queen of clubs, partner?” to which declarer said, “No, play the queen of diamonds.” I wasn’t sure how to rule on this. I finally decided to require declarer to play the ♣Q. Was I wrong?

A No, you were not wrong. This is a situation that occurs occasionally, and Law 46 (Incomplete or Invalid Designation of a Card from Dummy) addresses it. Law 46B3(a) says, “If declarer designates a rank but not a suit ... declarer is deemed to have continued the suit with which dummy won the preceding trick provided there is a card of the design-

nated rank in that suit.”

Do note, though, that there is a clause in the preface to 46B that may override any of the restrictions that follow in that law, including the kind of situation you mention. It states that the restrictions described in 46B apply “except when declarer’s different intention is incontrovertible.” That is very strong language that is not often invoked, but it does give the director the authority to allow declarer to play a different card than the law normally requires in cases where it is absolutely clear that declarer never intended to play the card the law directs be played. An example of where it might be applied is a case where declarer plays the 3 towards a spade suit of A–K–Q–J–10–2 and says “spade” after LHO plays the 4. Law 46B2 states that such a designation means declarer normally must play the lowest card of the suit indicated. But here, it is hard to imagine any circumstances where declarer meant to play the 2 from dummy. After investigating why declarer did not ask for a high spade, it would be legal and almost certainly correct for the director to invoke “incontrovertibly not declarer’s intention” and allow the play of a high spade from dummy in this case.

You may want to share Law 46A (Proper Form for Designating Dummy’s Card) with your declarer so that he can be sure to always play the intended card in the future: “When calling for a card to be played from dummy declarer should clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card.” ■

World Bridge Federation seats open

The American Contract Bridge League Board of Directors is seeking qualified applicants to represent Zone 2 (Canada, Mexico and the United States) to the World Bridge Federation. Two positions will be filled at the 2018 Fall NABC meetings in Honolulu. The term for the open WBF position begins Jan. 1, 2019, and ends Dec. 31, 2021.

Members of the ACBL in good standing and at least 18 years of age who desire to be a candidate for WBF Representative for Zone 2 must file a written declaration of candidacy prior to Oct. 15, 2018. Include all supporting materials detailing your qualifications for this position.

Email: elections@acbl.org or send to

ACBL Director of Elections, P.O. Box 289, Horn Lake MS 38637-0289



The Bidding Box

MODERATOR: **BRUCE ROGOFF**

brogoff@gargoylegroup.com



See the West and East hands that appear on pages 53 and 55 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.

Our contestants this month are foreign pairs rarely seen at NABCs, but each won a major title last fall in San Diego. Winning the North American Swiss Teams were Wubbo de Boer and Agnes Snellers of the Netherlands, a couple for nearly three decades and regular partners for about 18 years. De Boer had been a prominent member of the Dutch "Team Orange" for 12 years prior to that, winning the 1993 Bermuda Bowl. Snellers was a member of the Dutch Ladies team in the early 1990s, but retired from "serious" bridge to focus on her career. They are perhaps proudest of the fact that together they've been captain and coach of the highly successful Dutch Junior team for the past 10 years.

De Boer-Snellers play a natural system with variable notrumps (9-12 in first and second seat nonvulnerable, strong otherwise), and 2/1 responses that are not quite game forcing. A 2♣ opening is either weak in diamonds or various strong hands, and a 2♦ opening is either weak in one major or any game force.

Shao Shao and Shen Yuxiong, winners of the prestigious Reisinger BAM Teams, have been regular partners for five years. They are considered top pros in the bridge-crazy nation of China, where they've registered multiple victories in very strong league and club championship structures

(many top foreign pairs compete there as well). Each has represented China in international play several times over the years.

Shao-Shen play fairly simple original Precision methods: 13-15 notrumps, 1♦ promises four-plus cards in the first two seats, five-card majors, and 1♣ showing any 16-plus hand.

Problem 1

North deals. None vulnerable.

North opens 1♠. If East passes, South bids 1NT (forcing). North bids 2♥, South bids 2♠.

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

de Boer	North	Snellers	South
	(1♠)	Pass	(1NT)
Pass	(2♥)	Pass	(2♠)
Pass	(Pass)	Dbl	(Pass)
3♣	All Pass		

Shao	North	Shen	South
	(1♠)	Pass	(1NT)
Pass	(2♥)	Pass	(2♠)
All Pass			

These days, light responses to one-of-a-major openings are commonplace when responder has a fit, a situation made murkier when a forcing 1NT is employed as a compromise with weak

values but "extra" length. Neither East ventured an initial double with the solid high-card strength but sterile shape (Shen particularly didn't like the three low hearts), nor was West tempted with his marginal values. After North-South stopped bidding, only Snellers chose to balance with a double, which they've agreed is take-out unless discussed otherwise. Shen feared his double might be interpreted as penalty, so he stayed fixed.

Bridge Bulletin auction: We slightly prefer Snellers' decision to balance, particularly if our opponents are aggressive types. We'd also be tempted to double 1NT as West.

Scores: 2NT 12; 3♣ 7; 3NT 5; (2♠) 3
de Boer-Snellers 7, Shao-Shen 3

Problem 2

East deals. N-S vulnerable.

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

de Boer	Snellers
	1♠
2♣	2♠
2NT	3♠
4♠	Pass

<i>Shao</i>	<i>Shen</i>
	1♠
2NT	3NT
Pass	

De Boer's 2♣ was game forcing unless he had a club invite, and it also could have been a two-card suit as their 2♦ or 2♥ responses promise five-card suits. 2♠ by Snellers was non-forcing, ambiguous as to length. De Boer's 2NT asked for shape, and 3♠ promised a six-card suit. De Boer was content to bid 4♠, knowing from the 2♠ bid that slam was almost impossible.

Shao's 2NT was natural and game-forcing, a treatment we don't see here very often. Shen unfortunately did not see his sixth spade, so he bid 3NT with his "balanced" hand. Shao had an easy pass opposite a limited opening.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♠-2♦; 2♠-2NT; 3♥(?) - 3♠; 4♠-Pass. We would bid 2♥ with 6-4 in the majors, so the 3♥ bid should simply suggest values there and some concern about clubs for notrump.

Scores: 4♠ 10; 5♠ 8; 4♥ 6; 3NT 5; 4NT 4
de Boer-Snellers 17, Shao-Shen 8

Problem 3

South deals. E-W vulnerable.
South opens 1♠.

<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>	
♠ Q 6		♠ J 9 3	
♥ K J 10 5 4		♥ 8 7	
♦ A J 8		♦ K 10	
♣ K 4 3		♣ A Q 10 9 8 2	
<i>de Boer</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Snellers</i>	<i>South</i>
			(1♠)
Dbl	(Pass)	3♣	(Pass)
3♥	(Pass)	3♠	(Pass)
4♣	(Pass)	4♦	(Pass)
5♣	All Pass		
<i>Shao</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>South</i>
			(1♠)
2♥	(Pass)	3♣	(Pass)
3♠	(Pass)	4♣	All Pass

West faced the classic dilemma of double vs. overcall with a mediocre

five-card suit and support elsewhere. De Boer opted for the double, and when partner showed values, he felt he had just enough extras to introduce his heart suit. With extra values of her own, Snellers issued a general cuebid, and de Boer showed his club support. Snellers cuebid her ♦ K, but de Boer signed off, fearing they were already too high. Right he was.

Shao chose the overcall, not wanting to miss a heart contract at match-points. Shen's 3♣ was natural and forcing, and Shao bid 3♠ to suggest support and allow room for 3NT. Shen didn't think he was supposed to bid notrump with J-x-x so he retreated to 4♣, and Shao was done.

Bridge Bulletin auction: As Shao-Shen. With a suspect ♠ Q, we don't think West has extras, so it's now or never for the heart suit.

Scores: 3NT 11; 2NT 9; 3♣ 7; 4♣ 5; 2♥ 3; 3♥, 5♣ 1
de Boer-Snellers 18, Shao-Shen 13

Problem 4

West deals. Both vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A 7 6 3	♠ K 4 2
♥ A Q 8 6 4	♥ K 3
♦ Q 3	♦ K J
♣ A 9	♣ Q J 10 7 4 3
<i>de Boer</i>	<i>Snellers</i>
1♥	2♣
2♠	3♣
3♥	3♠
4♣	4♦
6♣	Pass
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Shen</i>
1♣	2♣
2♥	3♣
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥
4♠	4NT
5♦	6NT
Pass	

De Boer's natural reverse created a game force, and 3♣ by Snellers promised a real suit (2♣ could have been a doubleton with a balanced game force).

De Boer didn't like his 3♥ bid, which suggested at least a very good five-card suit. "I should have bid 3♦ or 4♣ instead." Snellers thought she might have bid 4♥ now, but opted to stay low with 3♠. De Boer showed his club support, and after the diamond cuebid, took a shot at slam.

Shen's 2♣ was natural and game-forcing over the Precision 1♣. The bidding proceeded naturally through 4♣ (Shen later thought he should bid 4♥ over 3♠, which would have ended the auction), and three cuebids followed. Shen bid Blackwood and tried 6NT opposite the three-ace reply.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♥-2♣; 2♠-3♣; 3♦-3♥; 4♣-4♥; Pass.

Scores: 5♣ 10; 4♥ 7; 3NT, 5♥ 5; 4NT 3; 6♣, 6NT 2
de Boer-Snellers 20, Shao-Shen 15

Problem 5

North deals. N-S vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K Q 10	♠ A J 8 6 5
♥ J 7	♥ A 10
♦ A K 9 5 4 3	♦ Q 10 7
♣ 7 4	♣ K J 9
<i>de Boer</i>	<i>Snellers</i>
	1♠
2♦	3♦
3♠	3NT
4♦	4♥
4♠	Pass
<i>Shao</i>	<i>Shen</i>
	1♠
2♦	2NT
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥
4NT	5♥
6♠	Pass

For the Dutch, the auction was all natural through 3♠ (3♦ created a game force). 3NT was a "serious" slam try, and de Boer showed his diamond control. Snellers cuebid 4♥, which also implied club control as partner had denied it. De Boer signed off, but later felt he should have bid Roman key

card Blackwood with his nice trumps and source of tricks.

The Chinese pair tend to avoid opening a 13–15 1NT with a five-card major, hence 1♠. Shen opted for the 2NT rebid with his balanced hand and solid stoppers. Shao showed his spade support, and Shen, with a maximum in context, started cuebidding his controls. Shao launched Blackwood, envisioning setting up his diamond suit with good trumps for entries, bidding the spade slam after finding two aces opposite. Shen gave some thought to converting to 6NT, but passed.

Bridge Bulletin auction: As Shao–Shen, with East bidding 6NT at the end. The extra values and undisclosed diamond help make 6NT a good shot.

Scores: 6NT (E) 12; 6♠ (E) 11; 5NT(E), 6♦ (E) 9; 6NT(W) 8; 6♠ (W) 7; 5NT(W), 6♦ (W) 6; 5♠ (E) 5; 5♦ 1
de Boer–Snellers 25, Shao–Shen 26

Problem 6

East deals. E–W vulnerable.
South overcalls hearts. North bids 3♥ if possible.

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

de Boer	North	Snellers	South
		1♦	(1♥)
Dbl	(3♥)	4♣	(Pass)
4♥	(Pass)	5♣	All Pass

Shao	North	Shen	South
		1♦	(1♥)
Dbl	(3♥)	5♣	(Pass)
6♣	All Pass		

Our Easts opened 1♦ with their minor two-suited minimum, and West's double promised exactly four spades. Over 4♣, de Boer cuebid 4♥ with his prime values, but Snellers signed off, a bit light in high cards and fearing spade wastage opposite. De Boer later mentioned that he should have cuebid 4♠, which would have gotten Snellers

to cooperate.

Shen bid a fearless 5♣ over the preemptive raise, and Shao wondered whether a grand was in the picture with his three key cards. He ultimately settled for the small slam with such limited space to investigate.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♦ – (1♥) – Dbl – (3♥); 4♣ – (Pass) – 4♠ – (Pass); 6♣ – All Pass.

Scores: 6♣ 11; 5♣ 5; 5♦ 1
de Boer–Snellers 30, Shao–Shen 37

Problem 7

South deals. Both vulnerable.

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

de Boer	Snellers
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠
4♣	4♦
4♥	5♣
5♦	5♠
6♠	Pass

Shao	Shen
1♣	1NT
2♠	3♦
3♠	4♠
4NT	5♥
6♠	Pass

De Boer's 2♣ was either a weak two-bid in diamonds or a strong one-suiter with less than a game force. Snellers chose the direct spade raise, and 4♣ was a non-serious cuebid. More cuebidding ensued, but the auction died at the six level when each player ran out of controls to show.

Shen's 1NT response to the strong club showed 8–13 balanced without a five-card suit. His 3♦ was artificial, showing 11–13 without spade support. Shao rebid his excellent suit, but Shen signed off with a minimum in context. Still, Shao had an ace extra, so he checked for key cards before bidding the spade slam.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♠ – 1NT; 3♦ – 4♦; 4♠ – 5♣; 5♥ – 5NT [pick a slam]; 6NT – Pass.

Scores: 7NT 12; 7♠ 11; 7♦ 9; 6NT 8; 6♠ 5; 6♦ 2; 5♠, 5NT 1
de Boer–Snellers 35, Shao–Shen 42

Problem 8

West deals. None vulnerable.

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

de Boer	Snellers
Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♠
4♣	5♣
Pass	

Shao	Shen
Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥
1NT	Pass

A completely natural auction for the Dutch. Snellers would always rebid 1♥ even with a 3=4=3=3 hand, so 1NT was an easy choice for de Boer with no guarantee of a club fit. 2♠ announced a three-suiter with significant extras, and with the diamond shortness identified, de Boer issued a shapely game invitation. Snellers could infer partner's lack of diamond wastage (no notrump bid), so she had no hesitation bidding the excellent game.

Strong 4–4–4–1 hands are tough to handle, and in a big-club system they're nearly impossible without a dedicated opening. After the strong club opening and negative 1♦, Shen's 1♥ was ostensibly a five-card suit. Shao was not inclined to introduce his weak diamonds, especially with stoppers in the black suits, so he settled for 1NT. Shen had nowhere to go.

BB auction: As de Boer–Snellers.

Scores: 4♠ 12; 5♣ 10; 3♠ 8; 4♣ 6; 2NT 4

Final score: de Boer–Snellers 45, Shao–Shen 46

It's Your Call

DIRECTOR: SUE MUNDAY | SCORES: KAREN WALKER

Problems from Washington Bridge League Solver's Club

1. IMPs. North-South vulnerable.

♠ K 9 6 5 3 2 ♥ Q 7 6 5 2 ♦ J 7 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	2♦	?

Call	Votes	Award
4♦	8	100
4♠	4	90
3♦	3	70
Dbl	1	50
3♠	0	30

Pick a game

Weinstein says 4♦ shows at least five cards in each major and a weaker hand. "That resembles what I have. When I double their 5♦, hopefully partner figures out to lead clubs."

Grossack calls 4♦ a perfect description of his hand. "Lots of cards in the majors."

"4♦, Michaels style," says Rigal, "limited values, lots of shape."

Lee's 4♦ shows at least 5-5 in the majors without a lot of defense. "I'd start with 3♦ with a better hand."

Donn, too. "We can't play this hand in less than game, but 3♦ sounds like more high cards."

4♦ by Robinson. "This shows majors, at least 5-5. Could be any strength."

Shi's 4♦: "Pick a major, pardo."

Colchamiro, 4♦: "How wrong can this be?"

4♠ by Korbel, who answers Colchamiro's question. "I don't like a 4♦ jump because opposite 3-3 in the majors, we will be in hearts, which is probably worse than being in spades."

Larry Cohen takes the decision out of partner's hands. "4♠. I see no

reason to try to show both majors now. It's not my style to 'walk the dog.'"

Sanborn: "4♠, short and sweet. I can't picture why I need to find hearts. If there is a ruff, it's more likely to be found if my right-hand opponent is on lead."

Boehm likes 3♦. "Trying to slow down the auction rather than jump to 4♠, the value bid."

3♦ by Meckstroth. "I could double to show both majors, but if more diamond bids are coming, this leaves me better placed."

Lawrence chooses double. "I think I can handle all auctions from here."

2. IMPs. East-West vulnerable.

♠ A J 3 ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ A K 10 9 8 7 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
5♣	Dbl	Pass	1♦
			?

Call	Votes	Award
5NT	11	100
Pass	3	80
6♣	2	60
6♦	0	50
5♦	0	50
5♥	0	20

A little help here?

The majority vote is for 5NT, pick-a-slam.

Korbel explains. "Let's have partner pick a slam. Anything he picks will be fine. Getting to seven is unrealistic, as we cannot bid it, and partner will never be able to take a chance on this



Kerri Sanborn

many first-round controls. Whether or not we play negative doubles this high, partner should not deliver values exclusively in the club suit; with that, he would pass and hope we can double back in. Otherwise, the pressure on these doubles is just too great."

Larry Cohen agrees. "Partner's double shows cards, not clubs. I have

enough to guess to reach slam, but might as well offer a choice in case partner has something like:

♠ K x x x ♥ K Q J 10 x ♦ x ♣ K x x.

No need to insist on diamonds. Also, 6♣ is a waste of time, because partner is never going to know when to bid seven."

Donn: "5NT to let partner help me pick a suit for slam. Even if partner's double is being defined as being for penalty, it should be high cards, not something like ♣K J x x and out."

Robinson likes 5NT pick-a-slam. "Double should be high cards and not ♣Q J 10 x and out."

5NT by Weinstein, pick-a-slam. "I want to cater to partner being 5-5 in the majors while not giving up on a diamond fit."

Sanborn bids 5NT. "Sometimes you have to have faith that your vulnerable-versus-not opponent isn't mad. That gives partner cards outside of clubs. Double is not for penalty at this level."

Colchamiro likes the flexibility 5NT affords partner. "5NT gives partner a chance to come back with 6♣ with 4-4

in the majors. Obviously a grand slam is possible, because at these colors, partner can't have much in clubs. Less obvious is the secure route to get there. Partner figures to have something like:

♠K x x x ♥K Q x x ♦Q x ♣x x x,

where 6♥ or 6♦ is enough. But he might have the ♠Q, making 7♦ best. I'm not smart enough to find out with any certainty. So I'm gonna go low (in context). I'm assuming West isn't nuts, and has nine or 10 tricks, so passing the double has little upside versus plus 920 or 980 our way."

Grossack drives for slam with 5NT. "Michael Rosenberg once said they either have nine clubs or are 8-4 for this 5♣ bid. So I'm not going to pass. I think I bid 5NT to suggest to partner that I have two places to play (because 5NT is always pick-a-slam, I must be picking between two options for trump). 6♣ is also an option, but I think it is too ambiguous and leaves partner stuck for a bid."

Lee guesses 5NT. "I think we rate to have a slam somewhere, and this gives us the most flexibility in finding the right strain."

"Pick a slam, any slam," Rigal urges with 5NT. "6♣ would be three-suited, I think; 5NT emphasizes diamonds."

A couple of the panelists elect to defend.

Boehm is one. "We probably have a better spot, but no assurance of finding it. Remove to 5NT and hope to survive bad breaks and land on our feet? I'll take whatever plus score is coming in 5♣ doubled."

Meyers, too. "Pass. But I'm close to cuebidding 6♣. I think double will net us a plus score for sure, and I'm not sure 6♣ will."

Lawrence says his guess is 6♣. "That double isn't penalty. I expect we'll beat it, but we might have a slam, and I won't get rich passing against a vulnerable 5♣ bidder. I need points. Partner won't have more than two clubs because his bid asks me to bid something.

♠K Q x x ♥K x x ♦Q x x x ♣x x x is a typical hand on which we can make

6♦."

Shi's 6♣, roughly translated, says, "I have a good hand, concern about strain, and interest in a grand. I hope this conveys all those messages."

3. Matchpoints. East-West vulnerable.

♠A K 10 8 ♥K ♦A Q J 10 9 7 4 ♣4

West	North	East	South
3♥	Dbl ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1♦

(1) Negative.

Call	Votes	Award
4♥	7	100
4♠	7	90
4NT	2	70
5♦	0	30
6♦	0	10

The swan takes wing

Except for the key-carders, the panelists are split right down the middle.

Almost half the panel stops to cuebid 4♥ on their way to ... where?

"Who are these red-on-white lunatics we're facing this month?" wonders Weinstein as he bids 4♥. "We need so little for slam; we need to cuebid to show a great hand. Not sure this promises spades, but whatever partner

thinks it means, we have it."

Shi: "We could easily have a slam, and this is pretty much the only way I can start investigating it."

Donn: "4♥, showing a good 4♠ bid. I will not go beyond 4♠ on my own, because hands like this are notoriously difficult to play if the breaks are bad and partner has a singleton diamond."

Korbel's 4♥ is a slam-try somewhere. "Partner assumes in spades, and bids accordingly. If partner bids 4♠, I will reluctantly pass."

Lee defines his 4♥ as just a good 4♠. "If slam is in the picture, I'll try to steer us back to diamonds later."

Rigal's 4♥ is a heart cuebid for spades. "I'm not done yet. Over 4♠ I will bid on with ... glad you didn't ask! Maybe key card?"

Meyers agrees. "4♥, and if partner bids 4♠, I will bid Blackwood. It is tempting to bid 4♠ directly, but partner could have values and only three spades, or partner could have spade length and we have a slam. So I want to keep the door open."

Sanborn calls 4♠ the practical bid. "There are a few gaps, and I can't guarantee slam facing a lot of various hands. Of course, we could be laydown for seven, but maybe partner will be ➤

Panel's answers

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
August Boehm	3♦	Pass	4♠	2♣	1♠	390
Ken Cohen	3♦	Pass	4♠	2♣	1♠	390
Larry Cohen	4♠	5NT	4♠	1♠	Dbl	490
Mel Colchamiro	4♦	5NT	4NT	1♠	Pass	450
Josh Donn	4♠	5NT	4♥	Pass	Dbl	450
Zachary Grossack	4♦	5NT	4♠	1♠	Dbl	500
Daniel Korbel	4♠	5NT	4♥	1♠	Dbl	480
Mike Lawrence	Dbl	6♣	4♠	2♣	Pass	360
Roger Lee	4♦	5NT	4♥	1♠	Dbl	490
Jeff Meckstroth	3♦	5NT	4♠	1♠	Dbl	470
Jill Meyers	4♦	Pass	4♥	1♠	1♠	440
Barry Rigal	4♦	5NT	4♥	1♠	Pass	470
Steve Robinson	4♦	5NT	4NT	1♠	Dbl	470
Kerri Sanborn	4♠	5NT	4♠	1♠	Pass	470
Sylvia Shi	4♦	6♣	4♥	1♠	Dbl	450
Steve Weinstein	4♦	5NT	4♥	1♠	Dbl	490

able to bid then.”

Grossack, 4♠: “Again, I don’t want to corner partner by bidding 4♥ and creating an ambiguous situation. With the ♥K likely wasted, I’ll bid what I think I can make.”

Meckstroth isn’t torn. “4♠. Finally, an easy one!”

Larry Cohen’s 4♠: “Perhaps I am worth 4♥, but 4♠ doesn’t show a bad hand. Partner would need either two aces and then some, or an ace, good spades and the ♦K for slam. With all of that, he might bid again over 4♠. That’s what I’ll say in the postmortem, anyway.”

Lawrence’s 4♠: “Lazy.”

A couple of panelists break into

NEXT MONTH'S PROBLEMS

1. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ 8 2	♥ 8 2	♦ Q J 9 8 6	♣ A Q J 7
West	North	East	South
1♠	2♥	Pass	?

2. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ K 10 9 8 4 3	♥ Q 9	♦ K 9 4	♣ Q 7
West	North	East	South
1♥	2NT ⁽¹⁾	3♥	?

(1) Clubs and diamonds.

3. IMPs. Both vulnerable.

♠ K Q 8 5	♥ —	♦ K Q 10 8 5	♣ A K 6 4
West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	?

4. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ A 4	♥ 8 6 5 2	♦ A Q 4	♣ 9 7 6 2
West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♥	?

5. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ 10 7 6	♥ 4 3 2	♦ A 5 4	♣ 9 6 4 3
West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	Pass	?

Blackwood immediately.

4NT by Robinson, asking for aces. “If partner has two, I’ll bid 6♦. If partner has one, I’ll play 5♦. 4♠ could go down on a bad break or if I lose control.”

Colchamiro: “I hope in our system that 4NT is Roman key card Blackwood for spades and partner is promising at least four of them. With East–West vulnerable and me owning the ♥K, partner’s values should be three of the following four cards: ♠Q, ♦K, ♣A, ♣K. If I am right, then 6♠ ought to be cold or have good play. If they lead out ♥A then ♥Q, I may have a trump issue. In that case, I might have to decide whether to risk a first-round finesse for the ♠J opposite partner’s ♠Qxxx.”

4. IMPs. None vulnerable.

♠ A K Q 10	♥ J 9 7 4	♦ —	♣ Q 7 4 3 2
West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	?
<hr/>			
	Call	Votes	Award
	1♠	12	100
	2♣	3	70
	Pass	1	70
	1NT	0	30

Four play

Lee balances with 1♠ somewhat reluctantly. “I would like to have a more textbook hand, but I just don’t want to sell out to 1♥ with this much playing strength, despite the risk of allowing the opponents to back into a big diamond fit.”

Shi has misgivings, too. “1♠. I don’t like my options, but I’m certainly not passing. I hope nothing bad happens.”

Rigal: “1♠. Sorry, that ♣2 sure looked like a spade!”

1♠, Meyers insists. “I’m not defending 1♥.”

1♠ by Robinson. “I don’t want to pass it out and no other bid seems right.”

Larry Cohen, 1♠. “Generally, I’m not



Mel Colchamiro

a fan of four-card overcalls, but if partner ends up on lead, I can’t stand the thought of anything but a spade lead.”

1♠ by Colchamiro.

“Even if they have a big diamond fit, maybe partner has them nailed there (♦K 10 9 x) and at least the dope will know what to lead.”

Korbel’s 1♠: “I have no idea. Reading others’ an-

swers will enlighten me. For me, pass, 1♠ and 2♣ are all reasonable-looking options.”

1♠ is Sanborn’s call after surveying the possibilities. “Other choices are pass, 1NT and 2♣. None appeals more than bidding where I live. I don’t have enough to reopen with 2♣ and then bid again over a big red-suit bid by opener.”

1♠ by Weinstein. “Suggestion for the scorer: 1♠, 100; everything else, minus 50. Even Zach won’t be able to think of something more creative.”

Hey, Grossack is on board with 1♠ ... “or did they suddenly make a law against overcalling four-baggers? If so, they certainly didn’t pass on this news to me.”

1♠ by Meckstroth, who reasons, “Can’t double, and bidding clubs loses the spade suit.”

Boehm counters with 2♣. “Too much to sell out and 1♠ probably loses clubs. If someone bids diamonds – likely – I can bid spades and show my suits proportionately.”

Ken Cohen prefers clubs, too. “I like bidding my longest suit first, and I might have a chance to show spades next if the auction stays low.”

Donn reaches for the pass card, “because partner probably doesn’t have too much and the opponents might belong in diamonds. If I were to bid, it would be 1♠, certainly not 2♣.”

5. Matchpoints. North–South vulnerable.

♠ K Q 9 7	♥ A K Q 3	♦ A Q 9 6	♣ 3
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	?

Call	Votes	Award
Dbl	9	100
Pass	4	80
1 ♠	3	70

Now or later

Double by Larry Cohen. “For now, I’ll deal with partner’s club bids later.”

Lee doubles. “I’m too strong to start with anything else.”

Ditto Robinson. “I can bid 2NT over a club bid. Too strong for a 1NT overcall, and I don’t want to miss a spade fit.”

Korbel’s plan is the same. “Double. I’m not a big believer in trapping. If partner bids clubs, well, I’m plenty strong enough to correct to notrump.”

Weinstein doubles, but suggests that if the opponents were vulnerable, he’d make a trap pass. “I’m too strong for 1NT, so I double first.”

Meckstroth doubles. “I can bid notrump if partner bids clubs. Another easy one.” *[Hmm. That makes two in one set. The director must be getting soft.]*

Grossack doubles. “Very annoying, especially when I used up my allotment of four-card overcalls on the last problem. Good partners would never bid clubs after this double anyway, so I’m not worried. That being said, the way people try to steal contracts now, passing is not an option. Double and bid 2NT if partner offers 2♣. The values are spot on.”

Shi tosses the red card on the table. “We are in the days where the opponents bid on anything and everything. I’m hoping we have a game in spades.”

Donn doubles, planning to rebid 2NT over partner’s 2♣. “Not that I love doing this, but I can’t think of another reasonable option since I would never start by passing – too easy to miss a game, even if we come back in later.”

Pass?

“Pass,” says Lawrence. “I will get another chance. Likely I can double a club bid.”

Colchamiro elaborates. “I’m hoping

lefty bids 2♣ and I can back in with a double. Not long ago, I had a similar hand in a similar situation:

♠K J x x ♥A K x x ♦x ♣A K Q x.

Lefty opened 1♠ and righty bid 1NT forcing. I passed for a similar reason and student partner learned that when you pass, it may not be that you have nothing, but rather you have (for now) nothing to say.”

Pass by Rigal, who sorted his hand correctly this time. “I can’t show this hand at my first turn and probably won’t be able to at my second turn either, but unless they have psyched, I’ll

get a second chance and I’ll know more by then.”

Sanborn rides that same train of thought. “I’m betting I get another chance and that there was no psych by the favorable opener.”

Boehm tries 1♠. “In the old days, I might have passed unless I suspected a psych. Nowadays, either the opening bid or response may be featherweight, so I best introduce the suit where we may have a future.”

1♠ by Meyers. “I might pass at matchpoints if they were vulnerable, but at this vulnerability, I just can’t.”

Ken Cohen is a 1♠ bidder. “Heavy on points but short in trump. Do not like any of my other options.” ■



TOP ONLINE SCORES FOR JUNE (982 players)

Clare Christiansen, Oak Harbor WA	500	Pierre Daigneault, Montreal QC	470
Huei Rong Chern, Westlake OH	490	Dave Dunstan, Harrison TN	470
Jack Dean, Houston TX	490	Eric Endicott, Toronto ON	470
Jeanette Dean, Houston TX	490	William Feasley, Eden NY	470
Jon Farber, Alexandria VA	490	Lawson Sonny Freeman Jr., Nashville TN	470
Ian Ferguson, Ottawa ON	490	Thomas Fukawa, Hampton VA	470
John Gillespie, Orleans ON	490	Piotr Gawron, Arvada CO	470
Ned Hager, Tulsa OK	490	Sandra Gebhardt, The Villages FL	470
Richard Higgins, Hot Springs Village AR	490	Alan Green, Tucson AZ	470
John Langer, Santa Clarita CA	490	Jonathan Hauke, Lexington MA	470
Langis Sirois, Ottawa ON	490	Kenneth Hovda, Bothell WA	470
Marilyn Steele, Kennewick WA	490	Alex Hudson, Raleigh NC	470
Lawrence Boyd Jr., Shaker Heights OH	480	Irwin Kahn, Chapel Hill NC	470
Kathryn Burns, Cincinnati OH	480	Komal Kamat, Plainsboro NJ	470
H. Paul Davis, Cupertino CA	480	Steve Lake, Las Vegas NV	470
Debnarayan Dhar, Oak Hill VA	480	Carl Levesque,	
Mariann Farrelly, Mashpee MA	480	St-Honore de-Temisouata QC	470
Thomas Grahame, Washington DC	480	Paul Lord, Montreal West QC	470
Adam Grossack, Newton MA	480	Mark Mohr, Springfield NJ	470
Paul Hazzard, Marion IA	480	Walt Newcomb, Denver CO	470
Marshall Kerlin, Sun City Center FL	480	James Peresta, Grand Blanc MI	470
Brett Kunin, West Orange NJ	480	David Promislow, Toronto ON	470
Gordon Martin, Oakville ON	480	Jeff Reusing, Brockville ON	470
Robert Miller, Harrisburg PA	480	Brian Ross, Kamloops BC	470
Robert Miller, East Brunswick NJ	480	Gregor Rus, Velenje, Slovenia	470
Steve Ramos Jr., Seal Beach CA	480	James Russell, Ottawa ON	470
James Wheeler, Edinburg PA	480	Howard Shachter, Deerfield IL	470
Steven Blatter, Aurora CO	470	David Sloane, Glen Cove NY	470
Amy Casanova, Portland OR	470	Arbha Vongvivut, Godfrey IL	470
Ken Cohen, Philadelphia PA	470	Dan Wong, Pleasanton CA	470
Matt Cory, Indianapolis IN	470	Mike Xiao-Fang Xue, Markham ON	470

Please participate in It's Your Call! Go to acbl.org and click on It's Your Call under the MyACBL login tab at the top. You may submit answers for a given month until midnight on the 20th of that month, at which point the next month's problems will be available.



Card Play 101

BY PHILLIP ALDER bridgeforeveryone.com

As I mentioned a couple of issues ago, if you wish to raise your game by leaps and bounds, there is one way to do it. These two problems highlight the method.

1. Dummy (Partner)

Dlr: West ♠ K 7 4
Vul: N-S ♥ 10 9 5 2
♦ J 4 3
♣ K J 10

Declarer (You)

♠ A 6
♥ A K Q J 7
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A 6 3

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

West leads the ♦ A: 3, 10, 2. West continues with the ♦ K and another diamond to East's queen. East shifts to the ♠ 2. How would you try to take the rest of the tricks?

The most important factor that separates experts from lesser players is counting the opponents' high-card points. This can be facilitated by an opponent's opening bid, overcall or an initial pass.

At trick four, win with the ♠ A (the honor from the shorter side first), draw trumps, play a spade to dummy's king, and ruff dummy's last spade in your

hand. What have you learned?

Given that West has five spades for his overcall, he is marked with 10 points: the ♦ A K and ♠ Q J. Because West didn't open the bidding as dealer, this means that East almost certainly has the ♣ Q. Play a club to dummy's king and run the ♣ J through East. You count so well! The full deal:

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

Dlr: East	♠ K 6 3
Vul: Both	♥ Q 7 2
	♦ A K J 10 9
	♣ 8 5
	♠ A J 5 4 2
	♥ 8 6 3
	♦ Q 7 4
	♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	Partner		You
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West leads the ♥ 10. East wins three tricks in the suit with the jack, king and ace, then shifts to the ♣ Q. How would you continue?

You have seen East produce 10 HCP: the ♥ A K J and the ♣ Q. From that ♣ Q shift, you can also place him with the ♣ J. So East cannot have the ♠ Q; otherwise, he would have opened the bidding as dealer. Reject the "percentage" play in spades and cash the two top honors, hoping that West has queen-doubleton. If he does, your contract is home, and you played brilliantly. If he doesn't, partner overbid again! The full layout:

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

Yes, East's shift to the ♣ Q was far too revealing. He should have led the ♣ J or ♣ 10.



Parrish the Thought

BY ADAM PARRISH ✉ adam@bridgewinners.com 💻 adamparrish.us

Question three

We have focused our discussion so far on the two essential questions: Do we have a game? and Do we have a major-suit fit? These questions help us determine the two aspects of the final contract: level and strain. But remember that level has three possibilities: partscore, game and slam.

So when the answer to question No. 1 is **yes**, we need to ask ourselves a third question: Do we have a slam? This question has the same three possible answers as the other two: **yes**, **no** and **maybe**.

Often this third question can be answered easily and dismissed. But any time we have a **yes** answer to question No. 1, we need to remember to ask question No. 3: Do we have a slam?

♠ Q 9 4 ♥ A J 8 ♦ K J 8 3 ♣ J 3 2

North
1NT

South
?

1. Do we have a game? **Yes**.
2. Do we have a major-suit fit? **No**.
3. Do we have a slam? **No**. (Partner's maximum of 17 would give us a combined 29 high-card points, not nearly enough for slam.)

These three answers make placing the contract simple: We have a game but no slam, and we do not have a major-suit fit. 3NT. Done.

Let's make the hand a little stronger:

♠ Q 9 4 ♥ A J 8 ♦ K J 8 3 ♣ A J 3.

North
1NT

South
?

Now the answer to question No. 3 is **maybe**. We have 16 HCP. If partner has 15, that's only 31, not enough. But opposite 17 we have 33, and want to be in slam. So we invite slam with 4NT. Make the hand a little stronger – say add the ♦ Q – and we would have a **yes** answer: Opposite partner's minimum, we'd have 33 HCP. With no hope for a grand slam, we would simply bid 6NT.

Question No. 3 takes a backseat to question Nos. 1 and 2, because games are so much more common than slams, and slam investigation gives us extra room to explore (i.e., the five level). But when we have enough values for game and have found a major-suit fit (i.e., we have **yes** answers to questions Nos. 1 and 2), the spotlight shifts to question No. 3, and the remainder of the auction is about slam.

North
1♠
2♠

South
2♣
3♠

Once we know we're going to 4♠, the only remaining question is whether we can make 6♠. A lot of auctions that you might not think of as slam auctions are actually entirely about slam – avoiding it when it's bad and reaching it when it's good. A Jacoby 2NT auction or a 2/1 auction that uncovers a fit immediately becomes a slam exploration.

In the preceding auction, our two primary goals have been accomplished: We have set a game force and found a major-suit fit. We know the hand belongs in spades and in at least game. The only final contracts on the table at this point are 4♠ and 6♠ (and maybe 7♠ or 7NT). Our singular goal now is to determine whether we belong in slam.

Now that we are in slam mode, we switch over to our slam tools, specifically control bidding and Blackwood. Our only concern for the rest of the auction is game or slam, 4♠ or 6♠. ■

Nominations for the 2019 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 2019. To be eligible for induction, a candidate must be at least 60 years old and live in North America.

Please submit your nominations for these awards to the Bridge Hall of Fame Committee to elections@acbl.org. Nominations will be forwarded to the chair of the committee. In order to be considered, nominations must be received no later than Nov. 1.



Play & Learn

BY PAT HARRINGTON ✉ ppharr@gmail.com

Dummy's long suit

On the deal below, North–South reach 4♥ after South responds 2♥ to North's 1♠ opening. West gets off to a good start with the ♦Q opening lead, and the defenders quickly win three diamonds and then switch to a club. We win, but still have a club loser that must be eliminated to make 4♥. How?

Dlr: North ♠ 10 8 7 6 2
 Vul: None ♥ A Q 9
 ♦ K 5 3
 ♣ A 2

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

♠ A K
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 6
 ♦ 6 4 2
 ♣ J 3

In a suit contract, declarer has three ways to eliminate a loser: trump it, dump it or take a finesse.

No finesse is available here. There's no useful shortness in dummy, nor does dummy have an obvious winner that can serve as a place to discard a loser. Dummy does have one asset, though – a long side suit. We can try to make one of dummy's spades good so we can discard South's remaining club on it.

Provided neither opponent has more than four spades, we can ruff dummy's spades good – one of the rare times when declarer makes an effort to ruff in the long trump hand. We have just

enough high spades and can afford to ruff high so we won't have to lose any tricks in the process. Our plan should work when we get the most likely 4–2 spade split and also when we get a lucky 3–3 spade split.

With no information from the auction or play, the Odd–Even Rule can help us predict how the opponents' cards in a suit are likely to split. An odd number of outstanding cards is likely to split as evenly as possible, so we expect five missing cards to split 3–2, and three missing cards to split 2–1. An even number of missing cards is most likely to split one off from exactly even. Thus, 3–1 is the most likely split of four missing cards and 4–2 is the expected split of six missing cards. However an exception occurs with only two cards missing. The odds slightly favor a 1–1 split. The Odd–Even Rule isn't guaranteed because it's not really a rule. It's just a quick and easy way to determine the most likely split of the defenders' cards in a suit based on mathematical probabilities.

When setting up one or more discards on winners in dummy, we must have sufficient entries to set up our tricks and cash them once they are good. By the time East–West let us have the lead, what entries are left in our North dummy? With all the high minor-suit cards gone from dummy, we have three trump entries provided we play our cards right, overtaking whatever heart we lead from our hand each time.

How many of those entries do we need to set up a low spade? We can't know for sure, but we can plan based on the expected 4–2 split of the missing spades. With that split, we'll need to lead spades five times – four times (the larger number in the needed 4–2 split) to deplete both opponents of spades, plus one more time to cash our hard-earned winner. All this must be done without losing any more tricks! South's ♠A K can be cashed without using any dummy entries.

Once both East and West follow to the second spade lead, we know spades are splitting no worse than 4–2. You did notice that, didn't you? When making a long suit good, you have to count that suit as well as the trump suit. North's entries must be used for the remaining spade leads. Overtake the ♥6 with the ♥9. When both opponents follow, we know we haven't gotten a bad 4–0 trump split, so our plan will work. Now ruff a spade high. At this point, we know that East has one spade left, so overtake the ♥7 with the ♥Q to get back to dummy for a second spade ruff. Both opponents follow again, so trumps are drawn. Ruff another spade. The ♥A provides the entry needed to cash the fifth spade and discard that annoying club loser.

A long, strong suit in dummy is an obvious clue to declarer to consider discarding losers on that suit. A long suit that isn't so strong isn't as obvious, but it still offers a chance to eliminate a loser. The power of the trump suit ➤



Ask Jerry

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

Dear Jerry,

My partner and I are relatively newer players, using strong notrumps (15–17), and Jacoby transfers. He opened 1NT, and I held:

♠ 7 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ J 8 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8 6 5.

I only had one point, so I passed. Despite a full 17-count, partner went down two, vulnerable. Should I have bid, and if so, what should I bid?

Jack

► *Play and Learn continued*

lets you do that without losing all the tricks you would if you tried to set up the same suit in notrump.

Ruffing to set up dummy's long suit often requires declarer to ruff in the hand with the longer trumps, something you are generally discouraged from doing, but there are exceptions. Ruffing to make a long suit in dummy good, as we just did, is one exception. Ruffing to avoid losing a trick in a suit led by the opponents is another. We might also have to ruff in the long trump hand for necessary transportation. Spending your long trumps on ruffs avoids losing a trick you would otherwise lose, but it does not provide the extra winners that ruffing in the shorter trump hand does, so be sure you do it only when you have a very good reason.

Hi Jack,

Before we decide what to bid, let's decide why to bid. In 1NT, depending on opener's diamond holding, your hand might produce zero tricks. However, even if opener holds a low doubleton diamond, as long as the five missing diamonds divide 3–2, as is probable, your hand can expect to take three tricks in a diamond contract. So the answer to your first question is yes. With a six-card or longer minor suit and a weak hand, responder should get us to a minor suit contract at the lowest possible level as quickly as possible. From this point, partnership agreement becomes the key issue.

Your decisions to play Stayman and Jacoby transfers eliminates the possibility of playing either 2♣ or 2♦ as a final contract after 1NT, but somehow the three level should be achievable. As always, partnership agreement is the key to issues like this.

In the mid-1950s, Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone were arguably the best bridge partnership in the world. In Roth's 1958 book, "Bridge is a Partnership Game," one stated purpose of their system was "to have no idle bids." In your current system, if responder holds five or more spades, and intends to "show them," he would always start with a 2♥ transfer to the spade suit. This makes an immediate 2♠ response an "idle bid."

For simplicity's sake, I recommend using 2♠ as a relay to force opener to bid 3♣, irrespective of his minor-suit holding or values. Responder, with a

long club suit and a weak hand, passes. With a long diamond suit and a weak hand, he converts to 3♦. Neither of these two decisions solicits input from opener. The hand you cite would be a classic 2♠ response, intending to convert the forced 3♣ to 3♦. If your minor-suit holdings were reversed, you could simply pass the 3♣ bid.

On each of the following, I recommend using 2♠ to reach a minor-suit contract:

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

After the forced 3♣, you would pass or correct. By the way, do not ever transfer to a minor suit using these methods with less than a six-card suit. The potential 5–2 fit at the three level with a weak hand is unlikely to be your best spot.

Holding either of the following:

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

don't even think about introducing your minor suit. Bid 3NT and first show partner your long suit when you table it as dummy.

There are better methods – actually, much better – but as always, these options require more memory work. Some of the possible conventional agreements include, four-suit transfers, 2♠ for size, and Walsh relays. When you're ready to augment your system, consider one of these.



Startup Bridge

BY LYNN BERG ✉ lberg@cfl.rr.com

Planning the play: When do I draw trump

When you read an outline of how to play a hand in a trump contract, it will say “Count your losers and look for ways to eliminate losers.” But what are the ways? How does having a trump suit complicate the decision process?

Even if the dummy has a singleton in the suit led, don’t call the play until you’ve made your plan.

You should always evaluate your hand in relation to dummy’s hand. Decide which is the master hand whose losers you’re going to count. It won’t always be declarer’s hand. What if you have opened 1NT and are now playing 4♥ with this dummy:

♠2 ♥K J 9 7 4 2 ♦A Q 8 4 3 ♣9

Your hand:

♠Q 9 8 ♥A 10 6 ♦K 2 ♣A Q J 10 7

Clearly dummy’s shapely hand has fewer losers and should be the master hand.

You might eliminate losers by discarding on a long suit, by taking a finesse, or by ruffing.

The opening lead is the ♠A. Seeing the dummy, he shifts to the ♦10. How do you play the hand?

Dummy has only one spade loser, three diamond losers (one covered by the ♦K), and no club loser since you have the ♣A. You might have a heart loser. If hearts break 2–2, you’ll still have a heart in your hand to ruff a losing diamond. But if hearts are 3–1 – which is more likely than 2–2 – you won’t be able to ruff that likely

diamond loser if you’ve drawn all the trump.

Win the ♦K and play the two high hearts. If the queen doesn’t drop, now play a second and third round of diamonds: Play the ♦A, and now ruff a low diamond in your hand. If it’s over-ruffed, the opponent will be using the queen, which you were going to lose anyway. You’ll end up making 11 tricks, losing only a spade and the ♥Q.

Notice that there’s nothing in the plan about ruffing clubs. You have no club losers in dummy’s hand. If you’ve chosen a master hand and made a plan, you won’t worry about the clubs. Ruffing a club gets you no extra tricks, but ruffing a diamond is very helpful.

An old friend of mine said your hand is like a car needing parts – and partner’s hand is the junkyard. As you count the losers, look to the opposite hand for ways to eliminate losers – especially if you have too many to make your contract. Overtricks are always nice, but your first responsibility is to make your bid.

Sometimes there’s something you have to do before drawing trump. You are missing the trump ace, and if you lead trump they can get in and cash other winners.

♠8 4 3 ♥J 10 5 4 ♦Q 6 5 ♣A K Q

♠A 9 7 ♥K Q 8 6 2 ♦A 9 3 2 ♣7

Playing 4♥, you win the opening lead of the ♠K. If you now lead hearts, they can win the ace and cash two more spade winners. But if you play

clubs first, you can discard your two spade losers before you draw trump.

One reason some players wrongly avoid drawing trump is that they have losers – and no one really likes losing tricks. What if you’ve opened 1♠ with ♠Q J 10 7 2, and partner has put you in game with his ♠6 5 4 3? Clearly, you have two spade losers if there’s no defensive error, but that’s no reason to delay drawing trump. Always ask yourself the question, “Is there anything I need to do before I draw trump?” If there’s no bridge reason based on your count of losers and plan to rid yourself of losers, then you should bite the bullet and do it. A hideous consequence of failing to draw trump can be that they not only cash the ♠A K, to which they’re entitled, but also get to use the ♠9 8 separately by ruffing your winners in another suit. Ugh.

There are also hands where you don’t want to pull trump at all, but rather to use your trumps separately. Consider a very distributional hand in 4♠:

♠Q 8 5 3 ♥A 9 6 4 3 ♦7 ♣A K 6

♠A 10 9 4 ♥2 ♦A K J 4 2 ♣Q 7 4

If you play on trump, especially if they break 4–1, you’ll have a tough time with this hand. After a heart lead, cash your minor-suit winners and then start a crossruff, ruffing diamonds on the board and hearts in your hand. If you can sneak in a few low ruffs, you’ll then be ruffing high, so only the ♠K or ♠J is high enough to overruff. ■



Bidding Basics

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

Responding by a passed hand

This is the final article in the series on responding. This month, we look at a special responding situation, namely, the one where the responder has already passed. For example, say the auction has been something like:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
?			

or

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	?		

Don't get worried – there is nothing earth-shattering here, but let's state some of the obvious things. The person responding already failed to open the bidding. We call this a PH for “passed hand.” So in these cases, responder will be limited to at most 12 HCP (and most hands with 12 HCP would have opened the bidding), so usually 11 HCP.

Accordingly, no responses (unless artificial – see below) are forcing. Opener can (and often will) pass the response.

Because responder wouldn't bid at all with 0–5 HCP, the range for all one-of-a-suit responses by a passed hand is 6 to a bad 12. A two-level response would be 10 to a bad 12.

Each responding bid below, therefore, means what it would mean by an UPH (unpassed hand), but the range is different.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥			

shows at least four hearts and 6 to 12 HCP.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠			

shows at least four spades and 6 to 12 HCP.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦			

shows at least five diamonds and 10 to 12 HCP. With only 9 points, the response would be 1NT.

Note that 2/1 game forcing is not used by a passed hand. This is logical, because the responder has already passed and can't have enough for a game force.

A response of 1NT by a passed hand shows 6–10 HCP. A response of 2NT would be unlikely, but to keep things simple, just assume it shows 11–12 balanced (with no four-card major that could have been shown on the one level).

Jumps in a new suit

Some players erroneously think they can jump as a passed hand to show a maximum non-opener. They want to jump from 1♣ to 2♥ with:

♠ A 2 ♥ A J 9 8 7 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 6 5 4

to say, “Partner, I am at the top of my range.” No. This is not what a jump shows. For now, I recommend you don't jump in a new suit as a passed hand. (Down the road, you might wish to discuss with your partner what it *would* mean – possibly “fit-showing” promising at least five cards in the jump suit and at least four in opener's suit.)

Raises

Raises mean what they would have meant by an UPH. Raising partner's one-level suit opening to the two level shows 6–10 HCP. Raising to the three level is invitational (11–12 HCP), but ...

Drury

This series is meant to KISS (keep it simple, stupid), but I will mention that Drury (an artificial 2♣ response to 1♥ or 1♠) is a popular convention used by a passed hand. If I went into more detail, I'd be doing a disservice. It is the world's most forgotten convention, especially by newer players. Unless you want to have lots of accidents, I suggest doing without this for now. If you are adventurous, you can do a web search from a reliable source and have some fun.

See next page for quiz and answers

BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

On each hand below, what is your response after Pass–Pass–1♠–Pass; ?

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

On each hand below, what is your response after Pass–Pass–Pass–1♦; Pass–?

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

ANSWERS

1. 2♠: 6–10 HCP and support.
2. 2♥: 10–12 HCP, at least a decent five-card suit, not forcing.
3. 1NT: 6–10 HCP, not necessarily balanced.
4. 3♠: invitational (but 2♣ if using Drury).
5. 2NT: 11–12 HCP, natural, invitational.
6. 1♠: 6–12 HCP. Don't jump to show a maximum passed hand.
7. 3♦: limit raise.
8. 1♠: 6–12 HCP, four or more spades.

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Ivar Stakgold 1925–2018

Five-time NABC champion Ivar Stakgold died on May 29 in La Jolla CA of heart failure at age 92.

Stakgold and partner Leonard Harmon helped develop the Kaplan–Sheinwold system which was adopted by many players. In 1958, he won the Vanderbilt KO Teams, the Silodor Open Pairs and the Reisinger BAM Teams. In 1962, he added the Spingold KO Teams to his collection, and in 1969, Stakgold won the Freeman Mixed BAM Teams playing with wife Alice Calvert Cox.

Alice Stakgold died in 1994.

In world-level play, Stakgold won a silver medal at the 1959 Bermuda Bowl representing the United States. He also represented the U.S. in the 1960 Olympiad.

In addition to being a bridge champion, Stakgold was a distinguished mathematician, author and educator. Born in Oslo, Norway, Stakgold moved to Brussels, Belgium, with his Russian-Jewish parents, Rose and Henri Stakgold, when he was 4. The family left Belgium in early 1940 on the eve of the German invasion and escaped via France and Spain to the Dominican Republic. While awaiting his United States immigration visas, he took bridge lessons. After entry to the United States, Stakgold attended the Horace Mann School and Cornell University. He received his doctorate in applied mathematics from Harvard University in 1949. Stakgold taught at Harvard until 1956, when he joined the Office of Naval Research in Washington DC, where he served as head of the mathematics and logistical branches. Later posts included a joint appointment in Engineering Science and Mathematics at Northwestern University and chair of the Mathematics Department at the University of Delaware.

Stakgold held visiting professorships around the world. He was president of SIAM, the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics; chair of the Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences; and director of the Washington office of the American Mathematical Society.

His two-volume “Boundary Value Problems of Mathematical Physics” and “Green’s Functions” are influential texts in their field.

In recent years, Stakgold was adjunct professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of California at San Diego where he worked with his colleague Michael J. Holst, on a third edition of “Green’s Functions,” which was published in 2011.

Stakgold is survived by his daughter Alissa Stakgold of Los Angeles, two step-children, William Cox and Gail Cox Gagarin; his fiancée Lainie Lesser-Mark; his nieces Renee Packer of La Jolla and Irene Kraas of Santa Fe, and his nephew, David Wolfe of Raanana, Israel.

Thanks to the San Diego Union Tribune.

Charity Foundation Election Notice

ACBL members interested in running for the Board of Trustees of the ACBL Charity Foundation have until Oct. 15 to submit a written declaration of candidacy.

The ACBL Board of Directors will elect one of the Foundation’s five-member board for a four-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2019, at the fall board meeting in Honolulu. Trustees do not receive expense reimbursement.

Candidates should send name, address, player number and biographical information to ACBL Charity Foundation, P.O. Box 289, Horn Lake MS 38637-0289 or by email (with “Statement of Candidacy” in the subject line) to elections@acbl.org.





Mike's Bridge Lesson

BY MIKE LAWRENCE michaelslawrence.com

Choosing the best line

Dlr: East ♠ —
 Vul: Both ♥ J 9 8
 ♦ J 7 3 2
 ♣ A 8 7 5 4 2

 ♠ A Q 9 5
 ♥ A K Q 4 2
 ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ 10

West	North	East	South
		2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

West led the ♠ J, East following with the ♠ 2. South spotted a line that was close to 100%. Can you find it?

Here are a couple of lines that were tried by others who declared 4 ♥.

One South decided to ruff a diamond in dummy. He won the first two spade tricks, discarding diamonds from dummy. He gave up a diamond, and the defenders won and played a trump. Declarer led another diamond, which the defenders won. They continued leading trump. South got his diamond ruff, but he still had two spade losers.

Another declarer won the first trick with the ♠ Q and ruffed a spade. He played the ♣ A and ruffed a club. He ruffed his last low spade in dummy, cashed the ♥ J and ruffed another club to his hand. Fortunately, West couldn't overruff, but when South drew trumps with the ♥ A K Q, he discovered that West had four of them. South tried to cash his ♠ A, but West ruffed it. The

defense then took three diamond tricks for down one.

There are many possible lines. South might set up the club suit, but that runs into problems if clubs divide 4-2 and other problems can arise when hearts divide 4-1.

Here's the full layout:

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

This is a simple deal if you spot the winning line. Win the ♠ Q at trick one, play the ♠ A and ruff a spade. Surely all of these tricks are safe from any bad news. Next play the ♣ A and ruff a club. Assuming clubs divide 4-2, you are home. Ruff your last spade. East has long spades, so you are 100% safe in doing this. Then cash the ♥ J, giving you the first seven tricks. You still have the A-K-Q of trumps, which gives you 10 tricks.

The key is to cash the ace of spades before ruffing spades in dummy. It's safe to ruff spades in dummy since East can't overruff and as long as one

club ruff in your hand holds up, you are cold.

All those other tempting (or pseudo-tempting) lines have big worries. I could spend another three pages discussing the bad things that might happen. Better to discuss this one line where almost nothing bad can happen.

Postmortem

East's 2 ♠ isn't classic, but it does one big thing that is usually overlooked. It allows opener to show the general nature of his hand. Consider this: Assuming you pass with the East hand, you will often feel like bidding later. Say you pass and the bidding goes 1 ♥ -Pass-2 ♥ to you. You would surely bid 2 ♠. The problem with this is that your partner won't know you have six spades. He will expect you to have something like this:

♠ A Q 9 7 5 ♥ 4 ♦ K J 4 2 ♣ 5 4 2.

You wouldn't open this hand, but you might well come in later with a spade bid. The trouble is that much of the value of your hand lies in the fact that you have a six-card suit. Partner won't know that and won't compete with some hands where bidding would be fine.

Also, as always, by opening 2 ♠, you put instant pressure on the opponents. Passing and bidding spades later puts no pressure on the opponents. ■



The Real Deal

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

Double dummy

Several years ago, South held these cards in a European tournament:

♠ J 6 2 ♥ 10 9 8 7 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A J 3.

In a team game, vulnerable against not, he was in fourth seat. Left-hand opponent opened 1♦ and partner doubled. RHO jumped to 2♠ weak. South didn't have enough to bid, but when West bid 3♦ and South's partner doubled a second time, South jumped to the vulnerable heart game.

Everyone passed and West led the ♦ A:

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ A K Q
♦ Q 7 2
♣ K 6 2

♠ J 6 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 5
♦ 6 5
♣ A J 3

Off the top, there are two diamonds and a spade to lose. Not losing a trump trick and doing something with the potential third-round club loser are among the many hurdles.

West cashed two high diamonds, East playing high low, and led the ♦ 9 (suit preference for spades). Good news – East can't produce the ♥ J. If he did, you'd be down two: he'd play ♠ A and a spade for his partner to ruff. East tries the ♥ 6, which you overruff. Next, you play two rounds of trump, every-one following.

One hurdle down, one to go. How will

you cope with your third-round club loser?

Are you counting? This is a double-dummy problem. Based on the auction and play, you can be sure that West started with no spades, two hearts and six diamonds. That means he has five clubs. The remaining position (other than the ♣ Q) has to be:

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

♠ J 6 2		♠ J 6 2
♥ 10 9		♥ 10 9
♦ —		♦ —
♣ A J 3		♣ A J 3

If the ♣ Q is with the doubleton (not very likely), this will be easy. What if the opening bidder has it? There is a

solution. Can you find it?

Cash the top clubs ending in dummy; if the queen falls, claim the contract. East is left with only spades. Lead the ♠ 3, which East must duck. Win your ♠ J and lead another spade to the king. If East wins, he is endplayed. If he ducks, play your losing club and West has to give you a ruff-sluff (you throw your last spade from your hand).

Once you stopped to count and were playing double dummy, 10 tricks were there. This was the Real Deal:

Dlr: West	♠ K Q 9 3
Vul: N-S	♥ A K Q
	♦ Q 7 2
	♣ K 6 2

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

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

2019 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 Aug. 31, 2018. 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.



Chalk Talk

BY EDDIE KANTAR kantarbridge.com

One hand, five bidding sequences

What bids would you make with the following West hand?

♠9 ♥AK53 ♦KQJ72 ♣932

① West North East South
? 1♣ Pass

② West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
?

③ West North East South
? 1♠ Dbl Pass

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

⑤ West North East South
1♦ 3♣⁽¹⁾ Dbl Pass
?

(1) Preemptive.

Logical answers:

- ① 1♦. You are strong enough to bid both suits, so start with your longer.
- ② 2♦. You are not strong enough to reverse with 2♥, which normally shows 17-plus high-card points with this distribution, a little less with 4-6 distribution.
- ③ 2♠ or 4♥. Two possible answers here. If you bid 2♠, a cuebid showing 12-plus HCP, you might wind up in 5♦ if partner has three hearts and longer diamonds. Jumping directly to 4♥ is also reasonable, as partner figures to have four hearts most of the time. Take full credit for either answer.
- ④ 2♣. A jump to 3♦ in this sequence is invitational, not forcing. To create a force in diamonds, precede your diamond bid with a fourth-suit forcing bid of 2♣.
- ⑤ 4♥. Partner's double shows hearts and spades, and their bidding suggests partner has a singleton club. 3♥ is also in the ballpark. Take full credit for either answer.

Rating Scale

4 or 5 correct I like your style.
3 correct Need some help.
Less Need lots of help.

West hands for the August Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The East hands are on pg. 55. The North-South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 37-39.

Problem 1. North deals. None vul. North opens 1♠. If East passes, South bids 1NT (forcing). North bids 2♥, South bids 2♠.

♠63 ♥K54 ♦A95 ♣A8432

Problem 2. East deals. N-S vul.

♠K10 ♥J1053 ♦KQJ7 ♣A98

Problem 3. South deals. E-W vul. South opens 1♠.

♠Q6 ♥KJ1054 ♦AJ8 ♣K43

Problem 4. West deals. Both vul.

♠A763 ♥AQ864 ♦Q3 ♣A9

Problem 5. North deals. N-S vul.

♠KQ10 ♥J7 ♦AK9543 ♣74

Problem 6. East deals. E-W vul. South overcalls hearts. North bids 3♥ if possible.

♠A1063 ♥863 ♦A10 ♣K1084

Problem 7. South deals. Both vul.

♠AKQ1094 ♥A9 ♦KJ2 ♣K6

Problem 8. West deals. None vul.

♠QJ9 ♥5 ♦108762 ♣A973



Boehm on Bridge

BY AUGUST BOEHM

H is for holdup

Years ago, I taught bridge for a day in Ossining NY at the notorious federal penitentiary, Sing Sing. An organization sponsored an outreach program to help socialize prisoners scheduled soon for release. I wondered how to ingratiate myself if faced with a truculent or hostile audience. I proposed the topic of stealing tricks through deception; the sponsor was not amused. Perhaps perversely, I decided on holdup plays.

The basic purpose of the holdup play is to disrupt the opponents' communications. Focusing on notrump, with only one sure stopper, hold back your winner as long as possible. For instance, opening leader starts a suit where dummy holds x-x, you hold K-x-x, RHO wins the ace and returns the suit. Hold up and win your king on the third round. If RHO had played the jack at trick one, you should win the king because it's now or never, assuming the ace is on your left.

Dummy holds x-x, you A-J-10, LHO leads low, and RHO plays an honor at trick one. Don't hold up because it will cost you a trick. Win trick one, leaving you with a second stopper, J-10 against their high honor. Suppose dummy holds J-x, you A-10-x, and the lead is a low card. Don't squander your honor cards – duck in the dummy at trick one and win the ace if RHO plays a royal. The combination of dummy's singleton jack plus your 10-x guarantees a second stopper.

It is often correct to hold up with a sure double stopper, such as A-K-x, when you must lose the lead *twice*.

♠ J 10 3
♥ A K 6 5
♦ 8 3 2
♣ A 7 3

♠ A K 5
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J 10 9 5
♣ K 6 4

In 3NT versus the lead of the ♣Q, hold up the first round. You need to develop the diamonds, and the gain comes when the clubs divide dangerously, 5-2, and the high diamonds are split, e.g., West holds ♣Q J 10 9 5 and ♦K 6 4, giving East ♣8 2 and ♦A 7. If you win the first club, East can win the first round of diamonds and return a club – West will establish his long suit, retaining the ♦K entry, to set you one trick. If you hold up at trick one and win the expected club continuation, the defenders' transportation is ruined. If West wins the ♦K, he can establish his clubs but lacks a re-entry, and if East wins the ♦A, he has no more clubs to play. The shift in timing gives declarer his contract.

An essential provision of the holdup technique is that the defense leads declarer's most vulnerable suit. Let's say that declarer's spades are 9-8-2 facing A-K-5, and the hearts are 10-7 opposite A-6-3. If the lead is a spade, don't hold up, because you allow the defense

to shift to hearts, your weakest suit. Holding up here amounts to playing with fire.

The defenders may also make good use of the holdup technique. For example, you are East defending 3NT.

North (Dummy)

♠ 6 5 4
♥ A 7 2
♦ K J 10 9 6
♣ 9 3

East (You)

♠ J 10 8 2
♥ 5 4
♦ A Q 2
♣ J 10 8 5

South opened the bidding 1♣ and jumped to 2NT after North's 1♦ response. West leads the ♥J, denying a higher honor. Declarer wins in hand to advance the ♦5, partner follows with the 3, and dummy inserts the 9 – plan your defense.

You should hold up, preferably in tempo. Declarer probably doesn't have enough strength to make his contract without the diamond suit. In all likelihood, he will return to his hand and repeat the diamond finesse. Now, you pounce. When declarer started with a doubleton diamond, your holdup play has severed his communication. Dummy has the ♥A entry to drive out your ♦A but no way to return and use the diamond winners. If you win the first diamond, dummy will be worth three diamond tricks. When you hold up, dummy wins one. Try it. ■



Misplay These Hands with Me

BY MARK HORTON ✉ markhorton007@hotmail.com

The elimination game

Playing in a major invitational team tournament with a partner of the highest class, I pick up:

♠ A J 7 4
♥ Q J 5 4 3
♦ K 5
♣ J 6

With both sides vulnerable, the player on my right passes, and I open 1♥. My partner raises to 4♥, which we play as a high-card raise with four-card support. That leaves us with this short auction:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads the ♣A and I get a fair dummy:

♠ K 9 6
♥ A 8 7 2
♦ A 9
♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ A J 7 4
♥ Q J 5 4 3
♦ K 5
♣ J 6

It looks as if I will need to find one of two finesses working. When East encourages with the ♣7, West continues with the king, followed by the 8, East playing the queen as I ruff. I run

the ♥Q, East winning and returning a diamond. I win with dummy's ace and play a heart to the jack. When everyone follows, I play a spade to the king followed by a spade to the jack. When West produces the queen, I am down one.

The full deal:

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

Postmortem

Having ruffed the third club, declarer can improve his chances by cashing the ♥A, after which he takes two rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy, and ruffs the fourth club. He then exits with a heart. East wins but must then play a spade, which ensures that declarer will only lose a trick in the suit if West has both the queen and the 10. That was the line followed at the other table, so we lost a game swing. ■

East hands for the August Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The West hands are on pg. 53. The North-South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 37-39.

Problem 1. North deals. None vul. North opens 1♠. If East passes, South bids 1NT (forcing). North bids 2♥, South bids 2♠.

♠ A 10 4 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ K Q J 7

Problem 2. East deals. N-S vul.

♠ A 9 8 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ A 4 ♣ 5 2

Problem 3. South deals. E-W vul. South opens 1♠.

♠ J 9 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K 10 ♣ A Q 10 9 8 2

Problem 4. West deals. Both vul.

♠ K 4 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ K J ♣ Q J 10 7 4 3

Problem 5. North deals. N-S vul.

♠ A J 8 6 5 ♥ A 10 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ K J 9

Problem 6. East deals. E-W vul. South overcalls hearts. North bids 3♥ if possible.

♠ 5 ♥ J ♦ K J 9 3 2 ♣ A Q J 9 5 3

Problem 7. South deals. Both vul.

♠ 8 5 ♥ J 10 3 2 ♦ A Q 7 6 ♣ A 9 3

Problem 8. West deals. None vul.

♠ A K 10 4 ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ 3 ♣ K 8 6 4

Challenge of the Month

Dlr: West ♠ A Q J 3
Vul: Both ♥ —
♦ A 8 2
♣ A K Q 9 5 3

♠ K 9 6 4
♥ 9 8
♦ 10 7 3
♣ 8 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

You are South. West leads the ♥ K against 6♠. Plan the play.

Career Opportunity Executive Managing Director



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OUT OF HAND BY BILL BUTTLE



"Y'know, I've heard insanity defined as repeating the same procedure again and again, expecting better results!"

Challenge Answer

At first glance, this looks easy. Just ruff the heart lead, draw four rounds of trump, then cash six clubs and the ♦ A. Twelve tricks. But say the layout is this:

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

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

If you ruff the opening lead with the ♠ 3, you won't be able to draw all the enemy trumps if the spades divide 4-1, because the only entry to your hand is the ♠ K, and you can't afford to overtake one of dummy's honors.

Is there any way to overcome the not-unexpected 4-1 trump split?

Yes. Ruff the opening lead with the trump ace. When you then cash the ♠ Q J, West unsurprisingly shows out on the second round of the suit, but because you have the ♠ K 9, you can simply take the finesse against East's 10.

After extracting all of East's trumps, you can safely run all your minor-suit winners and make your slam. ■



Better Bridge with Bergen

BY MARTY BERGEN  martybergen.com

Squeezes made easy – part 3

Here is the second squeeze example from last month, playing 7NT:

♠ K 7 4
♥ K Q
♦ A K Q 10
♣ K Q 7 4

♠ A Q 6 2
♥ A 2
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ A 6 5

You win the opening heart lead with dummy's queen. You have 12 sure winners: three spades, two hearts, four diamonds and three clubs. If either spades or clubs split 3–3, you have 13 tricks.

- 1. If neither black suit divides 3–3, and E–W defend perfectly, is it possible to make 7NT? If yes, what are you hoping for?**

Yes. That the same opponent began with at least four clubs and four spades.

- 2. How will you play?**

Win the ♥ Q, run your diamonds and force your opponents to make discards.

Discarding is often difficult. So as long as running a suit will not compromise your entries, be eager to do so.

On this deal, if an opponent was dealt as little as ♠ 9 8 5 3, it is essential for him to hold onto all of his spades. However, the opponents can't know that. If your hand had been:

♠ A Q 6 ♥ A 4 3 2 ♦ J 9 7 5 ♣ A 6,
then they would not need to keep spades, but an opponent who began with four hearts must keep all of them! It's no wonder that defense is consid-

ered the most difficult area of bridge.

- 3. When you run diamonds, which discards must you note?**

All discards in the black suits. Keep a running total of the number of cards that have been played. You do not have to note which opponent discarded.

After cashing four diamonds, win your ♥ A. Your hands will now be left with their original seven black cards.

♠ K 7 4
♥ —
♦ —
♣ K Q 7 4

♠ A Q 6 2
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A 6 5

Now cash three winners in one of your suits. Suppose you try spades: king, ace and queen. After that, if the opponents' original six spades have been played, cash your last spade. Otherwise, you will cash the ace, king and queen of clubs and hope that dummy's ♣ 7 will win the last trick.

If one opponent began with at least four cards in each black suit, after six tricks were played, his seven remaining cards obviously could not include four cards in each black suit. Therefore, at trick six, he will be squeezed: forced to discard a black-suit stopper.

If either suit split 3–3, you have a classic “bad news, good news” situation.

Bad news: There was no squeeze.

Good news: You bid and made 7NT.

Here is squeeze example three. I call it “very similar, but different.” You are in 6NT, and the ♠ J is led.

♠ K 7 4
♥ 9 8
♦ A K Q 10
♣ K Q 7 4

♠ A Q 6 2
♥ A 2
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ A 6 5

You have 11 sure winners: three spades, one heart, four diamonds and three clubs. If either spades or clubs split 3–3, you have 12 tricks. Your play at trick one is not critical. Suppose you win dummy's ♠ K.

Since this deal is less straightforward, I will start you off with statements rather than questions.

1. If neither black suit divides 3–3, and E–W defend perfectly, if you play correctly and one opponent started with at least four spades and four clubs, you *can* make 6NT.
2. Once again, you should begin by running diamonds.
3. Once again, you must keep track of discards in spades and clubs.
4. The opening leader's hand is:
♠ J 10 9 8 ♥ 7 6 5 3 ♦ 2 ♣ J 9 3 2.

On the run of diamonds, he will discard three hearts. Obviously, East follows to all four diamonds.

After winning the ♠ J opening lead and cashing four diamonds, how will you play?



Bidding Matters

BY KAREN WALKER  kwbridge.com

Table feel – part 6

An asset for all bridge players is the ability to make decisions smoothly, without giving away hints that they were considering other choices. There will always be situations where you need time to think – even robots slow down when they have extra information to process – but the more of these breaks you can avoid, the more unreadable you’ll be to your opponents.

One of the best ways to reduce thinking time during the auction is to anticipate problems and have solutions ready before they occur. As discussed in the previous issue, if you can plan your possible rebids in advance, you won’t have to stop to think – and contribute to your opponents’ “table feel” – at your next turn. Here are some other strategies that will help you improve your tempo.

Create a steady tempo. Get into the habit of pausing for 2–3 seconds before every call, even an “automatic” pass. If you can maintain this consistent, deliberate pace when making easy decisions, you’ll have an extra – and unnoticeable – second or two to think when you have more difficult ones.

Use idle time to think. Try not to give any signs that you have a difficult choice when on opening lead. If the opponents are doing all the bidding and you have no critical decisions, use your “passing” time to plan ahead. Create a mental picture of the bidders’ hands,

adjusting it as the auction develops, and begin forming a plan for your opening lead and defensive strategy.

Don’t interrupt your opponents’ auction. Unless you need the information to make an immediate decision, wait until the auction is over to inquire about the meanings of opponents’ bids. Even innocent questions may provide clues about your interest in specific features of their hands.

Some players believe they can avoid drawing attention to any one question by asking about every single bid. This is not a good solution. The frequent interruptions waste time, annoy the other three players and may be seen as an attempt to break the opponents’ concentration.

What about skip bids? Although bidding boxes no longer have Stop cards to enforce a break, you are still required to pause after your RHO makes a skip bid. The rules state you should wait 10 seconds before making your call, but that can seem like an eternity. Five seconds or so is usually sufficient.

During that time, don’t gaze at the ceiling or act bored. Just look at your hand, then make your call. Intense study isn’t necessary or ethical if you aren’t considering a bid, but don’t make it obvious that you didn’t need time to think.

If you do have a problem: When you stop to think, the other players’ attention naturally goes to you. Take care to control your facial expressions and body language. Don’t put your hand anywhere near the bidding box until you’ve made a decision.

What is not allowed: It’s legal and desirable to pretend you don’t have a problem when you do – to make an in-tempo call when you actually had something to think about – but the opposite is not ethical. You aren’t allowed to mislead your opponents by hesitating when you don’t have a legitimate reason to think.

You may encounter players who try to mask their tempo problems with a blanket disclaimer: “My partner huddles at random times. I take no inference, and neither should you.” Unless the player has a disability that causes him to bid slowly, this is not an acceptable excuse. Bidding and playing in tempo is a bridge skill, and those who haven’t mastered it (which includes virtually everyone) can’t demand that you ignore evidence that they had a difficult decision. How you interpret an opponent’s hesitation is at your own risk, but you’re entitled to honest behavior. ■



Yu Li and Dorian Shillingford

Helen Shields Pro-Am winners

A Toronto pair won the Canada-wide Helen Shields Rookie–Master Game, held April 17. Yu Li and Dorian Shillingford scored 72.92% playing at the Hart House Bridge Club. One member of each pair is required to have under 50 masterpoints.

	Club location	Percent
1. Yu Li – Dorian Shillingford	Toronto ON	72.92
2. Michael Hogan – Peter Mullally	Halifax NS	71.83
3. Patricia Briggs – Mary Lapeer	Kingston ON	70.83
4. Nando Masini Pieralli – Sandy Yeomans	Kamloops BC	70.14
5. Janet Galbraith – Graham Sadoway	Calgary AB	70.09
6. Wayne Kershaw – Kim Duncan	Niagara on the Lake ON	69.55
7. Garth Wiggins – George Ongyerth	Calgary AB	68.87
8. John Finucan – Maureen Rush	Kingston ON	68.41
9. Jane Jennings – Kate Verweij	Niagara on the Lake ON	67.27
10. Cindy Youell – Fiona Been	West Kelowna BC	67.20

Test Your Play

BY EDDIE KANTAR

kantarbridge.com

1. Dlr: South ♠ 9 5 3 2
 Vul: Both ♥ A K
 IMPs ♦ K 8 5 4
 ♣ A Q 9

♠ A K Q
 ♥ Q J 10 3 2
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ K J 10

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	Pass	1NT
All Pass			6NT

Opening lead: ♣ 8. Plan the play.

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

♠ A K J 5
 ♥ J 9 3
 ♦ A K
 ♣ A 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	6NT	All Pass	2NT

Opening lead: ♦ Q. Plan the play.



Your Gold Medal is Within Reach

Realize your dreams of winning a world championship medal when the World Bridge Federation hosts the 2018 World Bridge Series Sept. 22–Oct. 6 in Orlando FL.

The World Bridge Series offers a variety of championships, all of which are transnational – enabling players from anywhere in the world to come together as teammates or in partnership to compete.

The venue is the magnificent Marriott Orlando World, where the WBF has obtained special rates.

The opening ceremony is on Friday, Sept. 21. The first events to be contested are the Open, Women's and Senior Team Championships; the Rosenblum Open Teams start on Saturday, Sept. 22, and the McConnell Women's Teams and the Rand Senior Teams start a day later.

The team championships are followed by the Open, Women's and Senior Pairs.

In addition to these and other championship events, there will be a number of WBF events of one or two days' duration (pairs or Swiss) available for those wishing to participate in shorter tournaments.

Players in good standing with their national bridge organizations are eligible to compete in any of these events, provided they meet all the WBF eligibility requirements.

Please go to worldbridge.org for more information.

Solutions are on page 61.



Mike's Advice

BY MIKE LAWRENCE  michaelslawrence.com

An amazing hand

In a recent tournament on BBO, this hand came up. Both tables were full of excellent players.

As South, you have this attractive collection:

♠K4 ♥A Q 10 9 6 3 ♦AK9 ♣A6

With both sides vulnerable, your RHO opens 4♦, a natural preempt. (This occurred at both tables.) What is the best action over 4♦?

Table One

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4 ♦	Dbl
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	?

Doubling was a dangerous action. If partner were to bid 4♠ or 5♣, I can't imagine being very happy. But South got lucky: His partner bid 4♥. South was enchanted with this and asked for key cards. North had zero, so the final contract was 5♥, which went down two. So South was lucky twice. First, his partner bid hearts in response to the double. Second, South's Blackwood bid didn't do a lot of harm because 4♥ wouldn't make. Down 200 was bad, but only a little bad.

Table Two

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		4♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbl
5♣	Pass	5♦	Dbl
All Pass			

At this table, South made the practical bid of 4♥. As good as his hand was,

it would need a lot to make a slam. If North had the ♠A and the ♥K, South might make slam, but if North has a weaker hand, playing in game might be best. Preempts are intended to give you problems and this 4♦ bid was especially well-timed to do that.

So South got to 4♥ but East, the preempter, was still there. He bid 4♠. South doubled that. West bid 5♣, and North passed. Is it Christmas yet? East bid 5♦, and South doubled, expecting some large number.

So which result to you like the most?
Would you rather play in 5♥ going down two or would you prefer to double 5♦?

What do you lead? Can it make a difference? South wanted to lead an ace, but didn't know which one to lead. He knew East had a void somewhere and leading the wrong ace might be bad. So South compromised and led the \spadesuit A. He hoped that after seeing dummy he would know what to do. Here is what he saw:






Dummy

♠ A Q 6
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 8 7 3

You

♠ K 4
♥ A Q 10 9 6 3
♦ A K 9
♣ A 6

Have you ever had a “What the @#*#! is *that*?” moment? Your


vulnerable opponent has bid up to 5 
all by himself. He is missing the  A K Q. He is missing the  A K Q. He
is missing the  A K. He is missing the
 A K Q J.

I suggest this is a record.

At trick one, your partner plays the
 ♦ 10. That's a big oops. This means that
 your ♦ A K 9 would have taken three
 tricks on defense. Your lead just cost
 you a diamond trick.

Now what? Do you guess which ace to lead? If you lead either of your other two aces, declarer might ruff and later discard a loser. It's probably better to lead more diamonds and wait for your other trick, assuming you have one.

Here's the entire deal:

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

No matter what South does after leading the \spadesuit A, he will get only one more trick. East guessed the rest of the play and made plus 750 for his troubles.

Victor Mollo would have been proud of this.

Solutions to Test Your Play

Problems are on page 59.

1. You have 11 top tricks outside with chances for a 12th in both spades and diamonds. Spades require a 3-3 break (close to 36%) or the J-10 doubleton (don't hold your breath), and diamonds require the ace with West, a 50% chance. From that point of view, playing diamonds before spades for your 12th trick is better.

However, there is a better percentage play. Win the ♣A, cash the ♥AK, cross to the ♣K and cash two hearts, discarding diamonds, and then play the ♠AKQ. If spades are 3-3, your troubles are over. If they are 4-2, and the long spade is with East, you are still alive, as you can make the contract if

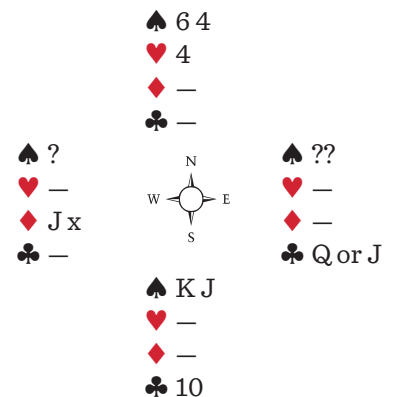
West has the ♦A. However, if the long spade is with West and the ♦A is also with West, down you go. You may have a little explaining to do, but at least you played the hand to your best advantage.

2. You have 11 top tricks plus chances for 12 if the spade finesse works, if spades are 3-3, or if you can bring in the clubs for three tricks before taking a spade finesse. As there is a better chance for three tricks in clubs because of the club intermediates, start with clubs.

Cross to the ♣K at trick two and lead a low club, intending to play the 10 if East plays low. If West has fol-

lowed to the king with an honor, lead a club to the 8 at trick three. If East has followed to the first two clubs with the J-9 or Q-9, win the ace and drive out the remaining honor for your 12th trick. If East plays a club honor at trick three, duck the trick. If the ♣10 loses to an honor, win the diamond return and cash the ♣A. If clubs are 3-3 you have your 12th trick. Clearly more chances for a 12th trick in clubs than 3-3 spades.

But wait, another bonus coming! Say the ♣10 loses to West and when you play a third club, East turns up with honor-9-x-x. Cash the ♠A and run off five rounds of hearts leading to this ending as you cash the fifth heart:



If East started with at least four spades, this will be the forced end position. On the last heart, East discards a spade, you pitch your ♣10 and West parts with a diamond. When you lead a spade and East follows low, you know that East's other card is a club, so go up with the ♠K and drop the now-blank queen in the West hand. Had West started with four or more clubs, your best shot is the spade finesse for the 12th trick. ■

BY FRANK STEWART frs1016@centurylink.net

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George's World

BY GEORGE JACOBS ✉ NOBET8888@aol.com

In *The Bridge World* in 1973, there is a great article on the mysterious death of Philip Grosvenor. Why is this important to you? Because of the Grosvenor gambit, or coup, named after and created by Mr. Grosvenor himself.

Referenced in Alan Sontag's book "The Bridge Bum," Mr. Grosvenor changed not only how we look at bridge, but how we verbalize it. Just like we now (*shudder*) "Google" things, so, too, did we fast become purveyors of "I was Grosvenored," or "He tried to Grosvenor me, but I fell for it anyway." This last comment tickled me and will you, too, after further review.

To help you understand the Grosvenor coup, I should probably quote Frederick B. Turner's article from *The Bridge World*, as I have no chance of getting it right. Trust me, once you understand it, you will look for it on a daily basis. You will send me thousands of emails claiming to have been Grosvenored or to have committed a Grosvenor (but most likely you will be speaking of what your partner did to the poor declarer or defender). The very act of perpetrating a Grosvenor coup requires skillful timing, keen reading of the stature of the opponent, the derring-do of a riverboat gambler or, at times, simply a brain fart. (May I say that word here? I mean no harm.) Clearly the last part is why these coups are, in great measure, attributed to our partners.

"Grosvenor had been content to make mistakes so egregiously bad that no rational opponent could exploit them: a normal

result was achieved by an abnormal route. Grosvenor recognized that it would be more piquant if the gambit could in some way favorably influence the result."

The concept was simple, if elegant: make a mistake at the table, whereupon the declarer can gain a trick they wouldn't ordinarily have been entitled to. However, for them to do so, they would have to play for you to have made an egregious mistake. Naturally they choose not to play you for that; now they take the "normal line" and the opportunity is lost. All that has happened is that the original result has been reached, but by means that have dramatically increased your opponent's blood pressure.

Shall I give you the hand that prompted my journey down this gambity path? From the Philadelphia NABC, first Friday afternoon, Board 26. My opponent was Nancy Lowry.

Dlr: South	♠ Q 10 8 3		
Vul: Both	♥ 8 3		
	♦ A 9 6		
	♣ K Q 8 4		
♠ K 5 4		♠ 9 7 6 2	
♥ K J 7 4		♥ A Q 10 6 5 2	
♦ K 10 8		♦ —	
♣ 10 3 2		♣ J 7 5	
	♠ A J		
	♥ 9		
	♦ Q J 7 5 4 3 2		
	♣ A 9 6		

After a spirited auction, I bought the contract at 5♦. Philip – I mean, Nancy – was on lead. Note that I have an ines-

capable trump loser. Nancy's opening lead? None other than the ♦ 10!

Who amongst us would believe it to be from the actual holding? Naturally I saw through this and quickly called for the ace, intending to drop the stiff king or have an easy throw-in at my leisure. I was dumbfounded when East showed out. Here I had been given an extra trick and just as easily I had given it back. This, my friends was the Grosvenor gambit at its finest: a normal result achieved by abnormal means. But the declarer was left feeling like a buffoon.

Speaking of *The Bridge World*, in the February 2018 issue, David Weiss suggests refraining from an overcall that would put your marginal suit on lead if responder makes a negative double. He then states that he posed a solution in the November 1975(!) issue of the magazine: After an overcall and a double, advancer's redouble shows one of the three top honors in the overcaller's suit. Weiss calls this principle the negative redouble – a concept, he notes, that was furthered by George Rosenkratz. I mean seriously: this guy will not drop it. Every 43 years like clockwork he tries to get us to adopt this method. Enough already.

By the way, you can Google the Grosvenor coup or gambit as your mood strikes you.

Have a pleasant Atlanta NABC. I am honored to be presenting my former partner and lifelong friend Ralph Katz for induction into the Hall of Fame.

Chow.



Dear Billy

BY BILLY MILLER ✉ dearbilly@aol.com

Dear Billy,

My partner and I disagreed about the bidding on these hands:

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

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Me</i>
1♠	2♥
3♣	3♦ ⁽¹⁾
3NT	4NT ⁽²⁾
5♥ ⁽³⁾	6♦
6NT	Pass

- (1) Fourth-suit forcing.
 (2) Roman Blackwood.
 (3) 2 aces, matching in color or rank.

She says my 3♦ bid is fourth-suit forcing, to which I agree. But because I'm the captain (responder), shouldn't she have trusted me and passed 6♦? The diamond slam is cold, but 6NT is down. I know I could have jumped to 4♦ on my second or on my third bid, but I was afraid she might bid 5♦ before I could bid Blackwood, putting me to a guess as to whether I should bid a slam.

Captain, My Captain

Dear Kangaroo,

After auctions start with a 2/1 game force, most fourth-suit bids are usually natural because there is no need to create forcing bids artificially; you're already in a forcing auction. It is possible that the fourth suit could be used to temporize as the most space-saving

and/or tactical bid, possibly used to right-side a final contract. But chances are, the fourth suit is natural.

On your auction, should responder have continued with 4♦ over 3NT, diamonds would clearly be natural and slam-going. If partner raises to 5♦, you will try 6♦. Should partner take a preference back to 4♥, you might cuebid 5♣. Partner can evaluate her hand and will know whether she has the right stuff to go to slam. Best to make sensible, representative bids.

Here's a no-no: bidding Blackwood with a void. Don't do that. With side voids, cuebid your way to slam.

Here's another rule to obey: 4NT over 3NT is always quantitative, never Blackwood. Lots to learn!

One last comment: It is not necessarily true that the responder is the captain. Captaincy is a tricky concept. Usually one becomes the captain when partner has limited their hand, but the final decision could still be passed back to the limited hand. Live by the motto: "I bid my hand, you bid your hand." And I agree that partner should not have corrected 6♦ to 6NT. She had an excellent hand for diamonds.

Dear Billy:

Twenty-five years ago, when I played in the Culbertson Club in New York City, a multiple world champion and her son were our opponents. Her son rebid 3♣ with a hand similar in nature to the one I am submitting to you. Mom passed with a minimum. After the play,

Mom then told her son he should have bid 3NT with an eight-trick hand, expecting one trick from Mom.

Recently, my partner and I were dealt these hands on OKBridge.

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

I opened 1♣, LHO overcalled 1♥, and partner made a takeout double. RHO passed, and I jumped to 3NT, heeding Mom's advice. But when LHO passed, partner jumped to 6NT (which LHO doubled at his turn).

Did I do something wrong?

Living In The Past?

Dear Nostalgic,

When you jump-rebid 3NT, you were indicating a long, strong club suit, a heart stopper, and maybe a little something on the side. With 18 or 19 balanced, you would have rebid 2NT not 3NT. In either case, a simple raise from 3NT to 4NT is more than enough to describe a hand looking for slam.

My standard range for making a quantitative 4NT bid opposite my partner's opening bid is 18–19 HCP, balanced. Responder does not have enough to bid slam on this deal. If opener shows 18–19, then a 13-count such as the one your partner actually held, is only worth an invite.

However, with the actual opening hand – though it is quite nice – a simple jump rebid to 3♣ portrays the accu- ➤



Bridge with the Abbot

BY DAVID BIRD

The Parrot's opening lead

The Parrot had replaced Brother Xavier in the monastery team competing in the Winchester green-point Swiss event. They had made a good start and were on table two when this key deal arose in the fourth round:

Dlr: South	♠ Q 4 2
Vul: E-W	♥ A 10 6 2
	♦ A 10 8 3 2
	♣ 3
♠ J 7 3	♠ 6
♥ K 9 3	♥ Q J 5 4
♦ 6 4	♦ J 9 7 5
♣ J 9 8 6 2	♣ K 10 7 4
	♠ A K 10 9 8 5
	♥ 8 7
	♦ K Q
	♣ A Q 5

West	North	East	South
<i>The Parrot</i>	<i>Jason Wall</i>	<i>The Abbot</i>	<i>Kyle Jacobs</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	7♠	All Pass	6♦

► Dear Billy continued

rate value of your cards. If partner has the values to continue over 3♣, he can cuebid 3♥ to ask for a heart stopper if he's trying to play 3NT. If he needs more than that, you don't have it.

I do not think Mom would have scolded her son for failing to bid 3NT with your particular hand. I guarantee you, this is not the same one the son held.

The young North player used Roman key card Blackwood to locate three key cards opposite, and then the ♦ K. After a few moments, he decided to bid a grand slam in spades.

The Parrot studied his hand. North was presumably hoping that his diamond suit could be brought in. What should he lead? It would be easy enough to push out a lame trump, recommended by textbooks throughout the ages. In his opinion, trump leads against a grand slam were overrated. Such contracts were likely to be cold 90 percent of the time. On the remaining 10 percent of deals, an attack on dummy's entries stood a better chance of success.

Realizing that the Abbot would have something to say if the lead misfired, the Parrot stretched a claw towards his wooden cardholder and placed the ♥ 9 on the table.

The shaven-headed Kyle Jacobs was not happy to receive a heart lead. On a trump lead, he would have been able to ruff two clubs in dummy, draw trumps and unblock the diamond honors in his hand. He could then cross to the ♥ A and discard his heart loser on the ♦ A. "Ace, please," he said.

What options remained after this awkward lead? If trumps were 2-2, he could play the ace of trumps, unblock the diamonds and cross to the queen of trumps. If diamonds didn't break 3-3, he could establish the 13th diamond with a ruff, and re-enter dummy with a club ruff to discard his heart loser.

The alternative was to play the ace of trumps, unblock the diamonds and continue with the king and queen of trumps. This would succeed when diamonds were 3-3. If the ♦ J fell in two rounds, he would be OK on either line, of course.

Declarer played the trump ace and his two top diamonds, the jack not appearing. Because the divisions with one of the defenders holding ♦ J x could be excluded, it was now best to play for diamonds 3-3 rather than trumps 2-2. Declarer played the king and queen of trumps and tested the diamonds. They failed to divide equally and he was one down.

Jason Wall, who had followed the play closely, turned towards the Parrot. "What did you have in hearts?" he asked.

"King-nine-three," replied the Parrot, who prided himself on his memory for cards.

"Wow, what a brilliant lead!" Wall exclaimed. "I probably shouldn't say this, but when we read about how well the Abbot was doing in the Bermuda Bowl, we couldn't believe it. Now I begin to understand."

The Abbot's mouth fell open. Had these impertinent youngsters not studied the hand records from Chennai? Had all his brilliant plays against Meckstroth and Rodwell passed them by?

"Obvious lead, obvious lead!" squawked the Parrot. "I never lead a trump against a grand slam."

BIG GAMES + 75% + BIG GAMES + 75% + BIG GAMES + 75% + BIG GAMES

Michel Archambault – Liette Dubord Bridge Quebec, Laval QC	83.63%	Tim Stelly – Patricia Bell Orange Community Bridge League, Orange TX	75.83%
Gary Shade – Charles Kopp Columbus (OH) Bridge Center	81.73%	Jackie Carrier – Nicole Lajoie Le Brayon Bridge Club, Edmunston NB	75.83%
Thomas Clark – John Herrmann Venice Nokomis DBC, Venice FL	80.32%	Tamas Szabo – Aniko Szabo Oconomowoc (WI) Bridge Club	75.66%
Sandra Wong – Vincent Kwong Richmond Hill (ON) Bridge Club	80.12%	William Ralph – Janet Ralph Copper City Bridge Club, Butte MT	75.60%
Joseph Eves – Marlene Koerner Old Town Bridge Club, Temecula CA	78.99%	Irva Neyhart – Laurie Rowe Emerald Bridge Club, Springfield OR	75.57%
Tania Reyes Hiller – Dennis Glazer The Hartes' Club, White Plains NY	78.87%	Alice Richmond – Henry Richmond Honesdale-Hawley DBC, Honesdale PA	75.46%
Jerry Hastings – LuAnn Fite Claremore (OK) Bridge Club	78.75%	David Priest – Wafik Abdou Unit 514, Bakersfield CA	75.35%
Kinza Pickelsimer – Dave Stephenson Danville (VA) DBC	78.56%	Robert Blanchette – Jacques Grise Club de Bridge Champlain, Gatineau QC	75.30%
Marion Gebhardt – Jack Borenstein Bridge Academy of North Dallas, Dallas TX	77.65%	Paolo Ranaldi – George Bleskachek Riverside DBC, Eau Claire WI	75.27%
Judi Besner – Lyle Price Temple Sinai DBC, Delray Beach FL	77.38%	Lise Fischl – Alice Blinn Brockville (ON) DBC	75.23%
Steve Valencic – H. Philip Monyer Camp Hill (PA) Bridge Club	77.38%	Joe Coens – Lorrie Coens Newmarket (ON) DBC	75.19%
George Colter – Lucille Griffin Stepping Stones DBC, Fredericton NB	77.00%	Ida Morrow – Nelson Brown Jr. Clear Lake Bridge Club, Houston TX	75.09%
Steven Schultz – Jan Schultz Ami Bridge, Langhorne PA	76.70%	Pierre Paradis – Helene Leroux Les Dames de Coeur, Rosemere QC	75.00%
Manny Suarez – Gilbert Gramson Astoria (OR) DBC	76.56%	John Altman Sr. – Debbie Wiest Cincinnati (OH) Bridge Center	75.00%
Joseph Chin – John Miller South Suburban Bridge Center, Lynwood IL	76.56%	Andy Purbrick – Debby Purbrick Whitford Bridge Club, West Chester PA	75.00%
Joseph Verdirame – Mike Albert Friendly 16 Bridge Club, Omaha NE	76.56%	Bruce Ferguson – Robert Carroll Mission Hills DBC, Palm Desert CA	75.00%
Steve Nellissen – Stephanie Gottesman The Bridge Table, Washington Township NJ	76.49%	John Hassler – Jane Shepard Panama City (FL) DBC	75.00%
Roxie Tom – Kay Laird Fiesta Bridge Club, San Antonio TX	76.44%	Patricia Dovell – Calvin Rowe Gainesville (FL) Bridge Club	75.00%
Sandy Towner – Ian Towner Deep River (ON) DBC	76.40%		
Ray Berry – Jim Bell Blue Ridge DBC, Morganton GA	76.28%		
Jim Davis – Francis Tseng Erie (PA) Bridge Association	76.04%		
Peter Schaff – Chris Van Leeuwen KC Bridge Studio, Overland Park KS	75.93%		
Kirk Homis – Virginia Youens Monterey Bridge Club, Victoria BC	75.93%		
Mark Bloom – Douglas Jacobs Bidwell Bridge Club, Chico CA	75.93%		
Douglas Smith – Paul Kushner Carson Valley Bridge Club, Gardnerville NV	75.89%		
Jenny Slay – Mac Golson Eastern Shore DBC, Fairhope AL	75.83%		

Reporting Big Games

Big Games must be reported to the Bridge Bulletin. These results are *not* automatically picked up from club files. The club director, manager or the players themselves may send a notice to **biggames@acbl.org**. Requirements:

75% or higher scores in a club matchpoint game that is open or non-restricted. (For example, masterpoint-restricted games or country club games restricted by membership do not qualify. Nor do cruise games, sectional or regional games.)

At least **five tables** with at least **20 boards** in play.

Both players are **ACBL members** in good standing.

A **game recap** must accompany the report — either via an email file or an online link to where the results are posted.

Be sure to include the **club's name** and **location**.



New Life Masters

Canada

Valerie Breen, Whistler BC
Daniel Lyder, Victoria BC
Cindy Oishi, West Vancouver BC
Jacqueline Sonsie, Kelowna BC
Dennis Tottenham, Penticton BC
Dana Warick, Penticton BC
Gisele Girardin, Winnipeg MB
Ron Gaudreau, Orleans ON
Percy Harcourt, Carlisle ON
Rita Menninga, Kingston ON
Laura Simon, North York ON
Maureen Williams, Kingston ON
Pierre Gingras, Boucherville QC
Michele Bonneau, Prince Albert SK

United States

George Boedecker, Anchorage AK
Mark Rindner, Anchorage AK
Janet Hart, Athens AL
Rita Wilhelmi, Bullhead City AZ
Richard Ashbacher, Newhall CA
Olivier Chapelle, Sunnyvale CA
Cornelius Duffie, Palo Alto CA
Raeann Koerner, Ventura CA
John Liebenberg, Livermore CA
Dwight McCormick, Monrovia CA
Malcolm Mendelson, Moraga CA
Stephen Page, Glendale CA
Gail Rosenthal, Santa Ana CA
Jim Churchill, Cedaredge CO
Kristi Fjare, Estes Park CO
Gregory Newcomb, Boulder CO
Pauline Pettinato, Durango CO
Judith Pogge, Greenwood Village CO
James Anderson, Mystic CT
Rosemary Benedict, Oxford CT
Barbara Strickland, Fairfield CT
Anthony Cardinal, Wilmington DE
Angela Jones, Wilmington DE
Marie Steiner, Milford DE
Joel Atwood, Palm Coast FL
Marilyn Cance, Vero Beach FL
David Cox Jr., Coral Gables FL
Peggy Dennis, Vero Beach FL
Kathleen Gencarelli, Ocala FL
Paulette Hamilton, Ocala FL
Carol Ketterer, The Villages FL
Naomi Lake, Jacksonville FL

Bill Lau, The Villages FL
Dane Margol, Jacksonville FL
Maxine Sharp, Ormond Beach FL
Michael Singer, Miami FL
Douglas Smith, The Villages FL
Thomas Young, Gainesville FL
Kathy Argenbright, Atlanta GA
Robert McFarland, Cumming GA
William Baum, Dubuque IA
Gary Haddy, Cedar Rapids IA
Yu-Diann Lu, Iowa City IA
Jeffrey Rees, West Liberty IA
Martha Schwake, Hayden ID
Rob Apel, East Dubuque IL
Linda Murphy, Rockford IL
Wilma Tunick, Highland Park IL
Joyce Werner, Bloomington IL
Bill deFuniak, Long Beach IN
Patrick Kelly, Wolcottville IN
Glen McGeady, Long Beach IN
Margie Wysong, Indianapolis IN
Judy Nordvoll, Metairie LA
Charles Jackson, Northampton MA
John Rudy, Lexington MA
Jane Siebecker, Amesbury MA
Marcia Goggans, Glen Burnie MD
Ginny Braidwood, Grand Haven MI
Tom Hill, Brighton MI
Douglas Kahn, Ann Arbor MI
John Nelson, Brighton MI
Vance Senecal, St. Joseph MI
Gary Theis, Williamston MI
Alexis Campbell, Stillwater MN
Kae Williams, Wildwood MO
Kamal Das, Morrisville NC
Virginia Jones, New Bern NC
Avery Lloyd, Greensboro NC
Chuck McCloskey, Raleigh NC
Robert Slusser, Gastonia NC
Richard Bindelglass, Martinsville NJ
Joseph Delikat, Tabernacle NJ
Lynda Pullen, Hillsborough NJ
William Robinson, Chester NJ
Dede Brownstein, Albuquerque NM
Cindy Casson, Las Vegas NV
Hal Barth, New York NY
Richard Becker, Howard Beach NY
Raluca Dobrescu, Woodside NY

Elden Gray, East Greenbush NY
Lisa Hadar, Woodbury NY
Charles Harding, Niskayuna NY
Sarah Hoy, Queensbury NY
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Pleasant Valley NY
Magnus Olafsson, New York NY
Deborah Richter, Pleasantville NY
Ellen Roisman, Westbury NY
Norman Stewart, Duanesburg NY
Sue Baum, Cincinnati OH
Martin Gible, West Chester OH
Siva Gopal, Dublin OH
Jim Laubie, Englewood OH
Stephen Lonski, Englewood OH
Richye Maran Sr., Toledo OH
Janet Trease, Toledo OH
Matthew Franklin, Oklahoma City OK
Staci Christian, Lake Oswego OR
Anne Allen, Irwin PA
Marianne Beezer, Ambler PA
Judith Cary, Orefield PA
Millie Ellerson, Huntingdon Valley PA

John Ferranti, Lancaster PA
Allan Kobernick, Wynnewood PA
Edward Mittleman, Pittsburgh PA
Craig Netzley, Montoursville PA
Ruth Orth, Sugarloaf PA
Matt Sherman, Mechanicsburg PA
Thomas Suman, Blue Bell PA
Stephen Grimes, Portsmouth RI
Jon Peluso, Bluffton SC
Pravina Jani, Austin TX
James Overtree, Arlington TX
George Holliday, Chesapeake VA
Thad Konopnicki, Weems VA
Janice Scavongelli, Burke VA
Susan Benson, Quechee VT
Kim Likakis, Bennington VT
Louis Bohannon, Port Ludlow WA
Judith Hill, Spokane WA
Benjamin Levy, Vancouver WA
Marjorie Mandery, Mount Vernon WA
Dan Masters, Colbert WA

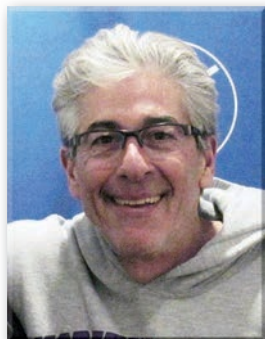
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2/1 with bells and whistles
<1500 Masterpoints

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DESK**

Life Master

M I L E S T O N E S



Robert Levin
Henderson NV
Grand Life Master
45,000 masterpoints



©Jonathan Steinberg

Bruce Ferguson
Palm Springs CA
Grand Life Master
40,000 masterpoints



Chuck Said
Nashville TN
Grand Life Master
40,000 masterpoints



©Jonathan Steinberg

Betty Bloom
Duanesburg NY
Grand Life Master
15,000 masterpoints

Emerald Life Master (7500 MPs)

Dan Parish, Sun City AZ
Bill Parks, Phoenix AZ
Dave Anderson, Westchase FL
Joe Sacco, The Villages FL
Phyllis Quinn, Cortlandt Manor NY
Arlene Port, Pittsburgh PA
Gene Fomin, Glacier WA

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Neil Kimelman, Winnipeg MB
John McFadden, Guelph ON

Mauricio Smid, Huixquilucan, Mexico

Mimi Little, Birmingham AL
Freda Anderson, La Jolla CA
Jacqueline Ortiz, Rohnert Park CA
Cynthia Michael, Woodbridge CT
Karl Perkins, Miami FL
Pat Peterson, Hernando FL
Robert Epstein, Atlanta GA
Betty Taneri, Powder Springs GA
Steven Johnson, Honolulu HI
James Diebel, Wood Dale IL
George Klemic, Bensenville IL
Stephen McConnell, Evanston IL
Joan Millens, Kingston NY
Jack Borenstein, Dallas TX
W.H. Lease, Richmond TX

Sapphire Life Master (3500 MPs)

Rory Perry, St John's NL

Betsy Aaron, London ON
John Lloyd, Pembroke ON
Robert Marcus, North York ON
Andrew Russell, St. Catharines ON
Hank Schriel, Ottawa ON
Howard Berkowitz, Cote St.-Luc QC

Marion Kelly, Anchorage AK
Phil Michaelson, Hot Springs Village AR
Joan Cremin, Paradise Valley AZ
Pat Chapman, San Diego CA
Carol Huston, Chico CA
Howard Zusman, Stratford CT
Jack Brawner Jr., Naples FL
Sharon McCarty, Jensen Beach FL
George Uljans, Cape Coral FL
Lanette Moore, Dunwoody GA
Gail Zamboni, Roswell GA
John Glasspiegel, Chicago IL
Sharron Rosenberg, St. Charles IL
John Fosnaught, Indianapolis IN
William Weiss, New Orleans LA
Kimberly Gilman, Carlisle MA
Robert Previor, Randolph MA
Ron Geagley, Pikesville MD
Kent Goulding, Germantown MD
Linda Smith, Gambrills MD
Susan Munday, Southaven MS
Marshall Frank, Chappaqua NY
Edmond Craig, Drexel Hill PA
Carole Moore, Friendswood TX
Barry Spector, Springfield VA
Catherine Creer, Spokane WA

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Don Bell, Vernon BC
David Morse, New Minas NS
Ed Chajkowski, Kemptville ON
Merryl Chin, North York ON
Terry Demers, Perth Road ON
Bernard Mongeau, St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu QC

Adela Naftali, Mexico City, Mexico

Charles Kelly, Anniston AL
Doris Ashcroft, Stockton CA
Marcia Dean, San Jose CA
Marilyn Kalabsa, Ramona CA
Steve Ramos Jr., Seal Beach CA
Harriet Smith, Solana Beach CA
Kay Tseng, Huntington Beach CA
Bijoy Anand, Jacksonville FL
Rita Carlin, Daytona Beach FL
Larry Kroll, Fort Lauderdale FL
Joan Mager, Leesburg FL
Arnie Summers, Port St. Lucie FL
Lucy Tillman, The Villages FL
Alice Van Hoesen, Naples FL
John Vega, Naples FL
Martha Trilling, Savannah GA
Mark Daily, Charleston IL
Tom Fogarty, Chicago IL
Dorri Goldgehn, Chicago IL
Amin Hakim, Chicago IL
Steve Oshen, Glen Ellyn IL
Bev Olsen, Carmel IN
Jerry Sloan, Lawrence KS

Ross Thornbrugh, Wichita KS
Sabrina Miles, Mansfield MA
Michael McDonald, Northville MI
Peg Mitchell, Minneapolis MN
Mary Ann Chestnut, Kalispell MT
Don Farver, Leicester NC
Betsy Mayers, Weaverville NC
Phyllis Fuchs, Wayne NJ
Albert Charmatz, Los Alamos NM
Clifford Hill, Albuquerque NM
David Rosenstein, Henderson NV
Fran Posnick, New York NY
Mike Silverman, Williamsville NY
Tanya Weitz, Bridgehampton NY
Daniel Wilderman, New York NY
Amy Fisher, Cincinnati OH
Jayne Stahr, Stow OH
Bonnie Glass Linsk,
Huntingdon Valley PA
George Kury, Johnstown PA
Tim Trissler, Mechanicsburg PA
James Redheffer, Knoxville TN
Pamela Tietz, Crossville TN
Massoud Tahmassebpour, Holladay UT
Dave Tonnesen, Woodbridge VA
David Roselle, Kirkland WA
Steve Neumueller, Evansville WI
Jim O'Brien, Oconomowoc WI

Ruby Life Master (1500 MPs)

David Hu, Richmond BC
Slava Simice, Comox BC
Robert Hatch, Winnipeg MB
Gerald Edge, St. Williams ON



Martin Caley

Montreal QC

Grand Life Master

10,000 masterpoints
Canadian National Team
Championship (2018)



John Zaluski

Ottawa ON

Grand Life Master

10,000 masterpoints
Canadian National Team
Championship (2018)



Andrew Gofreed

La Plata MD

Platinum Life Master

20,000 masterpoints



Andy Anderson

Saskatoon SK

Platinum Life Master

10,000 masterpoints

Barbara Jones, Manotick ON
Wayne Jordan, Cambridge ON
Johanna Platt, Mississauga ON
Gaetan Beaulieu, Gatineau QC
Mary Flanz, Hampstead QC
Ruth Friedman, Cote St.-Luc QC

Rob Rich, San Miguel, Mexico

Gregory Svendsen, Anchorage AK
George Gomperts, Vestavia AL
David Collins, Green Valley AZ
Mark Gross, Phoenix AZ
David Ochiai, Phoenix AZ
Carroll Gilbertson, San Marcos CA
Mary Glaser, El Dorado Hills CA
Deborah Levine, Belvedere CA
Ron Stearns, Westminster CA
Mukund Thapa, Palo Alto CA
Marcia Vaughan, Irvine CA
Larry Wyner, Santa Rosa CA
David Porter, Aurora CO
Carol Davidson, Vero Beach FL
Peggy Falk, Boca Raton FL
Nancy Little, Morriston FL
Allyn Lucas, Winter Haven FL
Jack Mayer, Fort Myers FL
Allan Roderiques, Leesburg FL
Michael Scott, Delray Beach FL
Mike Sheehy, Wimauma FL
Sanford Weinger, Plantation FL
Andrew Eastwood, Savannah GA
Veronica Stoessel, Marietta GA
Gregory Slager, Cedar Rapids IA
Fawad Hakim, Niles IL
Darrel Peckinpugh, Yorktown IN
Aslam Siddiqui, Carmel IN
Irene Ellis, Overland Park KS
Donald Duritsch, Florence KY
W. Mike Glatt, Florence KY

Michael Carpenter, Baton Rouge LA
Todd Lusk, Baton Rouge LA
Enid Spira, Great Barrington MA
Diogo Teixeira, Wellesley MA
Steven Willner, West Newton MA
Patti Anschutz, Rockville MD
Barbara Beard, Hagerstown MD
Rochelle Cohen, Potomac MD
Jack Grier, Bridgman MI
Mark Routman, Cleveland MS
Frances Bruce, Statesville NC
James Kioski, Morganton NC
Joanne McClusky, Mebane NC
Jerry Wegendt, Boone NC
Jules Lemire, Manchester NH
Robert Goldberg, Rockaway NJ
Dina Arker, North Hills NY
Donald Campbell, Salem NY
Jeffrey Colton, East Williston NY
Karen Mizrahi, Brooklyn NY
Magnus Olafsson, New York NY
David Parsons, New York NY
Leila Schwartz, Hollis NY
Steven Shiffrin, Ithaca NY
Susan Siegel, Kerhonkson NY
W.P. Tordella, Bemus Point NY
David Britt, Glendale OH
Dean Congbalay, Terrace Park OH
Jody Gaiser, Columbus OH
Eileen Boal, Albany OR
Veronica Reeves, Tigard OR
Bud McElhane, Pittsburgh PA
Don Smolen, Phoenixville PA
M. Melnick, Hilton Head SC
Sheila Fleming, Columbia TN
Diane Stafford, Oliver Springs TN
Dianne Sussman, Nashville TN
Millicent Taylor, Oak Ridge TN
Mary Lou Collins, Denton TX
Nancy Jipp, Plano TX

Randolph Worsham, Dallas TX
Bonnie Kay Yetter, Garland TX
Nan Massie, Charlottesville VA
Marla Patterson, Arlington WA

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Dale Bercov, Calgary AB
Joan Johnston, Calgary AB
Judy McKeague, Bragg Creek AB
Shirley McLeod, Calgary AB
Frances Corney, Vancouver BC
David Gabel, Vancouver BC
Barb Hiebert, Vernon BC
Lisa McCarthy, West Kelowna BC
Siavosh Siassi, Vancouver BC
Bonnie Turley, Vernon BC
Chilton Yang, Kelowna BC
Janice Barrett, Richmond Hill ON
Ian Budge, Jerseyville ON
Lyn Legault, Coe Hill ON
Angie Maranger, Ottawa ON
Chandra Marathe, Brampton ON
Eveline Patten, Nepean ON
Jeff Reusing, Brockville ON
Ian Sirett, Guelph ON
Gerry Maisonneuve, Gatineau QC
Tom Viglasky, Gatineau QC

Marcela Gomez, Mexico City, Mexico
Patricia Mitchell, Chapala, Mexico
Mary Seggerman,
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
P. Martel, Guadalajara, Mexico

Jacqueline Nelson, Spanish Fort AL
Carol Johns, Scottsdale AZ
James Miller, Scottsdale AZ
Marsha Rayton, Anthem AZ
Susan Boyers, Oakland CA
David Cheng, Palo Alto CA



Susan Gilbert

Sarasota FL

Platinum Life Master

10,000 masterpoints

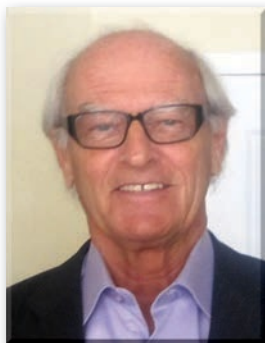


Rhoda Kauffman

Willow Grove PA

Platinum Life Master

10,000 masterpoints



Robert Latulippe
Quebec QC
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints



Faye Marino
Greenwich CT
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints



Dennis Nelson
Saskatoon SK
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints



Beverly Perry
New York NY
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints

Sue Compton, Escondido CA
Deborah Goldsmith, San Diego CA
Kip Kado, Los Altos CA
Bin Liang, Union City CA
Linda Mattis, Sunnyvale CA
Mary Mayfield, Yuba City CA
Enlow Ose, Sacramento CA
Earl Reeve, Walnut Creek CA
Floyd Richards, Port Hueneme CA
Peter Sager, San Rafael CA
Rick Clelland, Boulder CO
Mary Connolly, North Haven CT
Per Berg, Palm Coast FL
Barbara Chesterfield, Pensacola FL
Bonnie Dropkin, West Palm Beach FL
Richard Gencarelli, Ocala FL
Brenda Harvey, St. Augustine FL
David Hines, Holmes Beach FL
Charlie Lavarini, Boca Raton FL
Russ Townsend, Homosassa FL
Anita Winkler, Bonita Springs FL
Shirley Egan, St. Simons Island GA
Gail Fisher, Dunwoody GA
Teddi Sanford, Atlanta GA
Pamela Ames, Maryville IL
Frank Tirsch, Springfield IL
Margaret Young, Elmhurst IL
Larry O'Maley, Fort Wayne IN
Dee Scott, Emporia KS
Jeanine Wiggins, Richmond KY
Nathaniel Cook, Baton Rouge LA
Robert Gervis, West Newton MA
Richard Healy, Worcester MA
Mark Throop, Framingham MA
John Bower, Berlin MD
Anne Grandstaff, Kalamazoo MI
William Landrum, Detroit MI
Edward Spaans, Grand Rapids MI
Royce Williams, Ann Arbor MI
Marylou Doerrie, Coon Rapids MN
Cindy Smith, Columbia MO
Anne Boyd, Durham NC

Barbara Maser, Marvin NC
Howard Kaiman, Omaha NE
Piotr Olszewski, Hackettstown NJ
Michael Otte, Little Falls NJ
Robert Sorce, Franklin Lakes NJ
Virginia Thompson, Alto NM
Guy Doherty, New York NY
Susan Drucker, Port Chester NY
Terry Esses, Brooklyn NY
Rosanna Frank, Chappaqua NY
Sande Meisel, Hewlett NY
Georgette Orlando,
Hopewell Junction NY
David Sloane, Glen Cove NY
Joel Solomon, New York NY
Rita Boeh, Centerville OH
Adam Burton, Miamisburg OH
Jacqueline Hardiman, Fairfield OH
Isaac Stephani, Cincinnati OH
Allison Thompson, Edmond OK
Anita Walker, Salem OR
Cecilia Dupont, Lafayette Hill PA
Carolyn Per, Bensalem PA
Regina Brooks, Aiken SC
Meryl R. Margolies, Summerville SC
Alison Gembar, Nashville TN
Ruth McCabe, Nashville TN
Dianne Ebert, Austin TX
Charles Gibson Jr., Arlington TX
Tom Hogle, Houston TX
Sarah Niemann, Emory TX
Sue Olstad, Georgetown TX
Dona Swygard, Amarillo TX
James Willson, Richardson TX
Sally Adler, Virginia Beach VA
Mi Kyeong Ham, Williamsburg VA
Robert Nelson, Midlothian VA
Peggy Rossman, Colonial Beach VA
Carolyn Wilson, Martinsville VA
Israel Perlman, Bondville VT
Lou Arevalo, Spokane WA
David McGraham, Vancouver WA

George Friedman, Mequon WI
Robert Steuer, Glendale WI

Bronze Life Master

Myrna Greene, Lethbridge AB
Alberta Hutchings, Edmonton AB
Robert MacKiven, Calgary AB
Naida Gubbins, Parksville BC
Marylyn Rudolph, Central Onslow NS
Evelyn Caroline-Else, Midhurst ON
Wilma Castonguay, Chelmsford ON
Linda Davies, Burlington ON
William Menzies, Oshawa ON
Jackie Potters, London ON
Tony S.T. Wong, North York ON
Marianna Wright, Toronto ON

Fran Hultquist, Auburn AL
Jacqueline MacClary, Birmingham AL
Betty Jean Carter, Little Rock AR
Kathy Scarsdale, Harrison AR
Vito Konur, Tucson AZ
Patti Starr, Tucson AZ
Deborah Weiss, Scottsdale AZ
Nancy Alvarado, Yucaipa CA
Chris Copple, Eureka CA
Bruce Hanson, San Diego CA
Colin Hemsley, San Jose CA
Hiroko Kitamura, Chula Vista CA
Keith Miller, Los Angeles CA
Mary Toman, Oakland CA
Doris Wheatcroft, Huntington Beach CA
Jim Churchill, Cedaredge CO
Kristi Fjare, Estes Park CO
Miriam Futernick, Vail CO
Jack Liu, Greenwich CT
Gail Reitman-Heald, West Hartford CT
Anthony Cardinal, Wilmington DE
Joel Atwood, Palm Coast FL
Marilyn Cance, Vero Beach FL
Hilary Davis, Tampa FL
Peggy Dennis, Vero Beach FL

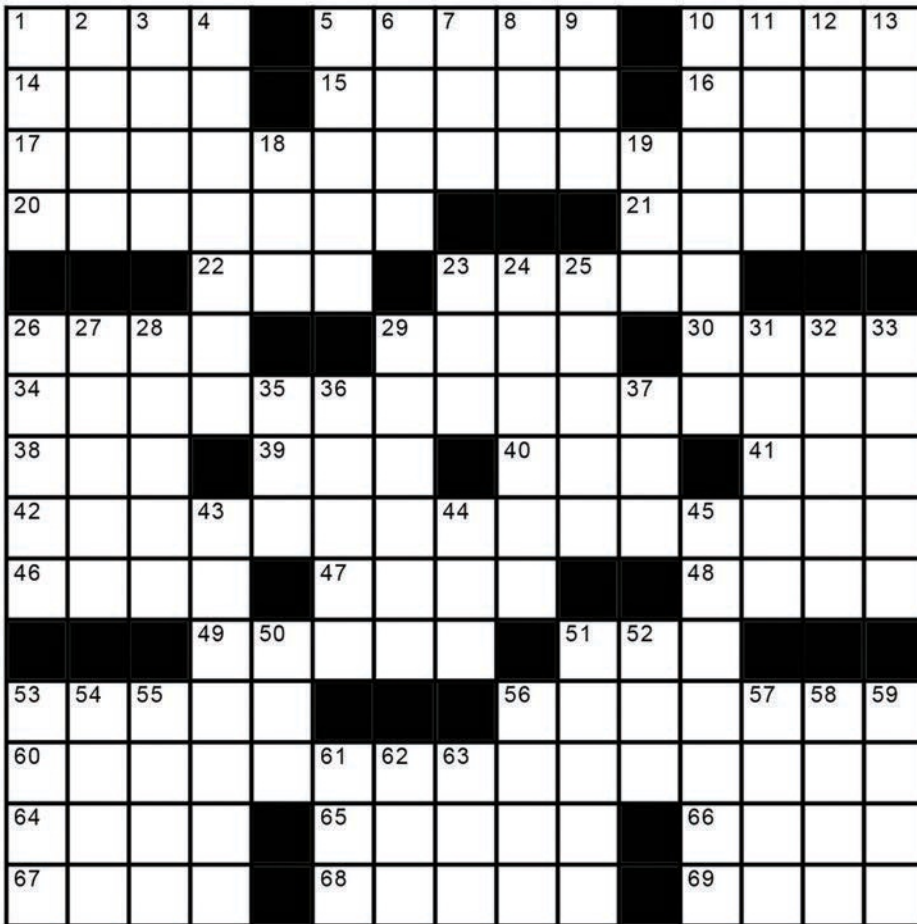
Kathleen Gencarelli, Ocala FL
Paulette Hamilton, Ocala FL
Naomi Lake, Jacksonville FL
Karl Manderscheid, Apollo Beach FL
Carol Mitchell, Panama City FL
Bert Model, Jupiter FL
Rebecca Overton, Tallahassee FL
Marilyn Storch, Miromar Lakes FL
Connie Treloar, Ormond Beach FL
Rosemary Villwock, Lake Worth FL
Thomas Young, Gainesville FL
Patricia Cunningham, Clayton GA
Lucy Fendig, St. Simons Island GA
Michael Harris, Cumming GA
William Baum, Dubuque IA
Yu-Diann Lu, Iowa City IA
Jeffrey Rees, West Liberty IA
L. Kathy Wasson, Spirit Lake IA
James Williamson, Dubuque IA
Bill Davis, Woodridge IL
Ruta Smulkstys, Lemont IL
Carol Thorne, Burr Ridge IL
Marsha Woodbury, Champaign IL
Patrick Kelly, Wolcottville IN
Ken Gudenkauf, Topeka KS
Carl Tollison, Villa Hills KY
Beth Gonzales, Hammond LA
Michael Kudla, Lake Charles LA
Mary Morton, Baton Rouge LA
Gerald Goldberg, Stockbridge MA
Charles Jackson, Northampton MA
John Manopoli, Jamaica Plain MA
Daniel Neiman, Rowley MA
John Rudy, Lexington MA
Elaine Van Briggie, Dalton MA
Donald Weld, Greenfield MA
Thomas Comstock, Chevy Chase MD
Cathy McGarrigan,
Fort Washington MD
Cynthia Veidt, Bel Air MD

continued on pg. 76 ➤

Puzzle Page

BY ALAN OLSCHWANG

aolschwang@socal.rr.com



DOWN

1. Hawthorne novel stigma
2. Venerable English institution
3. "Star Trek" phaser setting
4. Halter alternative
5. Troutlike fish
6. Favored ones
7. ____ Annie of "Oklahoma!"
8. Walk away with
9. ____ Club (military hangout)
10. Attentive
11. Willing, poetically
12. Once, quaintly
13. Unhurried
18. ____-tzu (Chinese philosopher)
19. Air density symbol
23. "Peggy ____" (Buddy Holly song)
24. When two hands meet?
25. Central theme
26. Joltin' Joe
27. Asian cartoon genre
28. Base denial
29. Declares void
31. Actress Lindley
32. Boss-to-be
33. "Card Players Quarreling" artist
35. Tire-pressure meas.
36. ____-Loompa (Wonka factory employee)
37. Former Air France fleet member
43. Boston suburb
44. Winnie ____ (Wiley Post's plane)
45. Beatles hit
50. White alternative
51. Loses vigor
52. Walk-____ (small parts)
53. Star in Cetus
54. Taking care of things
55. Uniformed comics dog
56. Builder's work place
57. The Aisne flows into it
58. A convertiplane
59. Swedish actress Persson
61. "Avatar" craft
62. ____ Hill, San Francisco
63. Street address

ACROSS

1. What's left over
5. Breed like salmon
10. Windward's opposite
14. Famous last words
15. "M*A*S*H" corpsman
16. Vatican City coin, once
17. A takeout double should show an opening hand and (with 34A) a ____
20. Tempers with heat
21. Big and rugged
22. Young 'un
23. Pago-Pago's place
26. "Book 'em ____!"
29. "Car Talk" subject
30. Traditional cheers
34. ____
38. Re followers
39. Sequel title starter
40. Grafton's "____ for Outlaw"
41. Seminary deg.
42. and (with 60A) ____
46. Richard of "Breathless"
47. Strategize
48. Yield, as a profit
49. Clear CDs
51. Vaudevillian Eddie played by Bob Hope
53. Emotionally fickle
56. Sharks' home
60. ____
64. Rio ____
65. Strong suit
66. Awards for RAF pilots
67. Unit in physics
68. Bassoon cousins
69. Wriggling

Solution on pg. 83

In Memoriam

Bermuda

Lady Jacqueline A. Swan, Paget

Canada

- * Wendy C. Hardman, Edmonton AB
- Ormond W. Fleming, Delta BC
- Margie Owens, Bridgewater NS
- * Kenneth W. Allan, Kingston ON
- Judy M. Andrew, Toronto ON
- Eileen Appleton, Niagara Falls ON
- Jack R. Brennan, Port Stanley ON
- D.G. Coultis, Washago ON
- * Mary Drummie, Kanata ON
- Paul H. Shotlander, Barrie ON
- Lester F. Stanford, Don Mills ON
- * Jack S. Nayer, Montreal QC
- * Diane Taschereau, Quebec QC

Denmark

- * Britt Andersen, Varde

Thailand

- * Alan E. Kleist, Chonburi

United States

- Avrum Gross, Juneau AK
- * Jim Dobbyn, Alexandria AL
- * Alan T. Drennen Jr., Birmingham AL
- * Patsy O. Billingsley, Hot Springs Village AR
- Patrick J. Hunt, Hot Springs AR
- Dorothy F. Colip, Green Valley AZ
- * Wilma J. Krueger, Scottsdale AZ
- * Richard Oetting, Prescott AZ
- * David W. Patton, Peoria AZ
- S.A. Adair, Palm Springs CA
- * Leslie J. Adams, Laguna Woods CA

- Eileen Crane, Anaheim CA
- Jody Dassalenaux, Carlsbad CA
- Pauline M. Dense, Redding CA
- Ross G. Ehrhardt, El Cajon CA
- * Robert E. Fosse, Palm Springs CA
- Laraine A. Havel, Bonita CA
- Ronald G. Lawson, Seaside CA
- * Ronald W. Moeckel, Kentfield CA
- Noel Norton, Walnut Creek CA
- * Ivar Stakgold, San Diego CA
- * Susan C. Wiebe, Oakland CA
- * Alice Wright, San Francisco CA
- Marlene S. Shields, Greenwood Village CO
- Carol A. Taylor, Aurora CO
- * Allan Clamage, Stratford CT
- Louise G. Holland, New Canaan CT
- * Elinor Borenstine, Washington DC
- William Barker, Lutz FL
- * Charles N. Christmas, Tallahassee FL
- James G. Crowther, Naples FL
- Evelynne Desbrow, Naples FL
- * Frances S. Griffith, Ocala FL
- Richard A. Grimley, Jupiter FL
- Ruth Joffe, Longboat Key FL
- * Dr. R. Philip Johnsen, Tallahassee FL
- * Eli Korisky, Boca Raton FL
- Sidney L. Puteska, Highland Beach FL
- Saul Schussel, Delray Beach FL
- Judith M. Sluder, Dover FL
- James A. Stidham, Tallahassee FL
- Harold G. Wilkins, Ocala FL
- Graciela Cann, Loganville GA
- * Morris Grodsky, Saint Simons Island GA
- Marilynne R. Solomon, Monroe GA

- Mary G. Talbert, Winder GA
- Marva Anderson, Burr Ridge IL
- Dr. Louise R. Greenswag, Buffalo Grove IL
- Dr. David M. Grossmann, Highland Park IL
- * Steven Norvich, Barrington IL
- * Miriam Kahl, Jeffersonville IN
- Peggie R. Bastin, Owensboro KY
- Pamela K. Smith, Crestview Hills KY
- * Tom Clarke, Lake Charles LA
- Sandra Irwin, Pineville LA
- Marie E. Mahorner, New Orleans LA
- Pearl Sackett, Metairie LA
- * Dottie B. Winn, West Monroe LA
- Charity Randolph, Oak Bluffs MA
- * Leigh Shallenberger, Somerville MA
- Dr. Alexander Gottesman, North Bethesda MD
- Alexander Kuzmuk, Mount Airy MD
- * Dr. Charles Stenger, Rockville MD
- * Michael C. St. John, Westbrook ME
- Bonnie M. Barnes, Traverse City MI
- * N. M. Cohn, Novi MI
- * Dr. Roland L. Meade, Saline MI
- * Audrey Grossman, Olivette MO

- * Martin Grossman, Olivette MO
- Dr. Fred Hamburg, Springfield MO
- Jane C. Hughes, St. Louis MO
- Twyla J. Stewart, Goodson MO
- Elmo Smoot, Hernando MS
- Jeanne Wilson, Missoula MT
- Jeanne L. Burrows, Raleigh NC
- * Janet R. Gardner, Wilmington NC
- Richard Hobby, Southport NC
- * Dwain Imahara, Franklin NC
- Martha B. Lawson, Charlotte NC
- * Garland Samuels, Asheville NC
- Grace W. Sanders, Wilmington NC
- Carol C. Verrone, Wrightsville Beach NC
- Joanne H. Woollen, Asheville NC
- Daniel K. Powers, Lincoln NE
- * G. Douglas Grant, Concord NH
- W. P. Alina, Lakewood NJ
- Elizabeth Harther, Essex Fells NJ
- * Angie Flynn, Spring Lake NJ
- Sandra Kahn, Rockaway NJ
- * James M. Moyer, Northfield NJ
- Mary Ellen Butler, Albuquerque NM
- Lynn H. Tusha, Carlsbad NM

Murray Melton 1939–2018

By Simon W. Kantor

Emerald Life Master Murray Melton, 78, of Las Vegas NV, died May 23 after succumbing to a long illness. We were best friends and bridge partners for more than 55 years. Playing cards was Murray's passion and vocation. He was an excellent bridge and poker player, working as a poker dealer at several Las Vegas casinos for three decades. Previously, he was a director and bridge teacher at Jim Becker's bridge club in New York City.

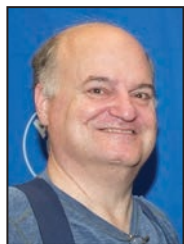
Murray was a fierce competitor who hated to lose. He and his partners won more than 100 regional events and had numerous high finishes in national contests. His most notable performance was a second-place finish and silver medalist in the 1994 World Senior Pairs in Albuquerque NM.

We started playing in the early 1960s before bidding boxes, Alerts, bridge ethics, and extensive bidding systems with numerous conventions. Bidding was very un-scientific, keeping everyone in the dark, including partner. Murray had a razor-sharp ability to "read" the opponents, which was an important part of the game back then.

In his younger days, Murray was a superb athlete excelling in basketball and baseball. He was enshrined in the Linton High School Sports Hall of Fame in Schenectady NY, where he grew up. He was a star player on the Columbia University basketball team and was elected to the first team All-Ivy League basketball team. He also tried out to play for a few Major League Baseball teams, but wasn't drafted. Watching and following NBA basketball games also was a passion in his life.

Murray served in the U.S. Navy in the late 1950s.

Murray will be greatly missed by his many friends, partners and teammates. I have lost my best friend. Please make any contributions in Murray's name to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



Mark Gordon 1953–2018

Two-time NABC champion Mark Gordon of Purchase NY died June 14 from brain cancer. He was 64.

Gordon won the 2002 Keohane North American Swiss Teams and the 2011 Roth Open Swiss Teams. He finished second in the 2015 Reisinger BAM Teams.

In 2013, Gordon won a gold medal at the world championships held in Bali, Indonesia, when the team he captained won the World Transnational Teams.

Pratap Rajadhyaksha, who partnered Gordon from 2008 to 2016, said, "Mark was a true prince among men. He was a fierce competitor, but at the same time, the most kind, gentle and generous human being I have ever known."

Gordon served in the financial services industry as an executive vice president at Alliance Bernstein L.P.

Gordon is survived by parents Alvin and Felice Gordon, wife Patricia, children Bernard, Dora and Rebecca, and three grandchildren.

Ruth Vaughan, Carlsbad NM
 * Si R. Dombu, Las Vegas NV
 Sidney W. Goldstein, Las Vegas NV
 Charles H. Avery, Jamestown NY
 Lois Bernstein, New York NY
 Phyllis D. Bishop, Salamanca NY
 * Richard A. Czarnecki, Sanborn NY
 * Neil J. Dever, Breezy Point NY
 * Shelley Ganz, Westbury NY
 * Mark Gordon, Purchase NY
 * Howard Hoffman, Saranac Lake NY
 Marjorie A. Matheson, Mill Neck NY
 George A. Nelson, New York NY
 Barbara S. Shapiro, Armonk NY
 * H. Charles Unison, Pittsford NY

David E. Bell, Waverly OH
 Janet Eisele, Lima OH
 Bill L. Latta, Deshler OH
 * Diane L. Stewart, Medford OR
 Dorothy Coopey, Nanticoke PA
 * Dr. Seymour Gardner, Springfield PA
 * Gail S. Hastings, Glenshaw PA
 Jean Leiboff, Wernersville PA
 * Warren B. Oberfield, Pittsburgh PA
 * Alexander N. Rubin Jr., West Chester PA
 * Roslyn Sachs, Pittsburgh PA
 * Diana Ames, Providence RI
 Elizabeth S. Barrett, Woodruff SC
 Loy E. Bowman, Old Hickory TN
 Thomas C. Jones, Johnson City TN

* Fran Woody, Germantown TN
 Paul D. Axelson, Spring TX
 * Dr. Thomas H. Davis, Waco TX
 * Chuck E. Duran, Houston TX
 Jack R. Farmer, Corpus Christi TX
 * Ed Groner, Georgetown TX
 Linda C. Helbach, Fulshear TX
 Robert O. Hirsch, The Woodlands TX
 * Susan T. Kupper, Houston TX
 Patricia A. Osborne, Houston TX
 * Joan Pacha, El Paso TX
 * Edwin E. Stewart, Tyler TX
 Leah Jane Taglienti, Richardson TX
 * Dr. J. C. Christensen, Salt Lake City UT
 * B. K. Lantz, Salt Lake City UT

* Col. Lee A. Bauer, Reston VA
 * Dr. Francis H. McMullan, Richmond VA
 Foster B. Miles Jr., Richmond VA
 * J. W. Morris III, Richmond VA
 * James H. Poulson, Richmond VA
 * C. Paul Rich, Chester VA
 Charles R. Skillern, Vienna VA
 John Tingle, Chesterfield VA
 * Angelo Zuccaro, Arlington VA
 Herbert E. Cohen, Wallingford VT
 Anna F. Leland, Orleans VT
 * Daniel L. Hendry, Kennewick WA
 * Brian B. Carlson, Madison WI
 Jean D. Helsley, Great Cacapon WV
**Life Master*

Jack Nayer 1951–2017

By Norm Gordon



Jack Nayer had an incredible mind for numbers and words. He always completed the New York Times Saturday crossword puzzle (the hardest one) in about 10 minutes. He worked his whole life as a computer programmer, specializing in EDI and IBM mainframe and mini-computers. He loved playing competitive bridge and was pretty good at it.

Jack was a dependable, solid, loving and supportive husband, father, grandfather and bridge partner. Interestingly, he coached little league baseball for 12 years. He would start every season by promising his players that they would all get to play evenly regardless of skill, and while he did not guarantee winning, he did guarantee that they would all be better ball players by the end of the season. He built team spirit and his team won the championship one year.

Jack's desires and needs were simple. He loved deeply and was passionate about what he loved. In bridge this was sometimes a fault as he was a stickler for small inefficiencies like dummy filling in their scorecard before placing the dummy down. On the other hand, he could be extremely helpful to aspiring players. If someone asked his advice about bridge, he loved to share it. He acquired his knowledge slowly over a 45-year period by reading thousands of bridge columns in the newspapers and the Bridge Bulletin. He also was able to grasp coups and plays quickly and easily added them to his arsenal. I would read books and share the knowledge with him, and I was always amazed how easily he grasped new concepts. He loved the beauty of the plays. He was always optimistic and would look for beauty and something to be happy about in every session. While he loved to win, he could have a below-average session and would ignore the result completely and just loved that on board so-and-so there was a repeating triple squeeze.

Jack, of Montreal, won a silver medal at the CNTC, Flight B, in 2001 and twice won the premier pairs event (Sam Gold Pairs – Flight A) at the CAN-AM in Montreal, both times with a pickup partner.

He was my bridge partner for 18 years. Jack was a regular guy, and he was special. Jack was a friend of mine.

Tom Clarke 1946–2018

By Paul Munafo



Tom Clarke, a Grand Life Master from Lake Charles LA, passed away on June 7 after a long illness. He was 72.

Tom was highly respected in the Lake Charles community, where he lived his entire life. He was one of the first members of the Governor's Program for Gifted Children, and he later graduated from McNeese State University. He liked to say that his best year was 1973, when he purchased Clarke Insurance Inc., the family business; he became a Life Master; and he met the love of his life, Joyce, to whom he was married for the past 41 years.

He had a very successful bridge career, much of it in partnership with the late Alan LeBendig. He won over 100 regional events, and his successes at the national level included a win in the North American Swiss and a second in the Life Masters Pairs, both in 1993. Everyone remembered that he was very sound technically, and often brilliant.

Mike Passell said, "I enjoyed over four decades of friendship with Tom; he was a terrific player and an even better teammate."

Joe Quinn recalled a hand against a strong Polish team in the North American Swiss, when Tom brought home a tricky slam by playing for a double squeeze instead of taking a losing finesse. Roy Jambor talked about Tom's ability to quickly and accurately analyze a deal: "... while I was still wondering whether I might have done better, I could tell that he already knew the answer."

Tom's best attribute might have been his exemplary demeanor at the table. He was always able to shrug off a bad result and go on to the next board.

Jim Barrow said, "Despite being very competitive, Tom was always friendly to his opponents, and if there was time, he really tried to learn something about them."

Chris Compton, a longtime friend, summarized it very well: "When I first arrived on the bridge scene, LeBendig and Clarke were a force to be reckoned with; later in life (some 35 years later), I now reflect upon Tom as a man who handled adversity – both in life and in death – with dignity and class."

Rest in peace, T.C. We love you and we miss you.



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To contact a district director,
visit acbl.org/boardofdirectors.

Tournament Directory

Tournament information is subject to change.

Visit acbl.org for the most up-to-date information.

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

August

2-5 AK/Fairbanks	Elks Lodge	Dannetta Wakefield	907-457-4124
3-5 CA/Marysville	St. John Episcopal Church	Ramon Lopez	530-674-8782
4 CA/San Diego (nlm/500)	Seven Oaks Community Center	Art Foeste	608-274-6185
3-5 CO/Avon (Vail)	Homestake Peak School	Bert Solomon	970-926-8699
1-2 FL/Deland (0-300)	Deland Bridge Club	Lynn Berg	386-736-6228
5-7 IL/Crystal Lake	Holiday Inn	Karl Anderson	224-276-0715
3-5 IN/South Bend	Kroc Corps Community Center	William Searcy	574-262-3334
4 KS/Leavenworth (nlm/500)	St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall	Jana Goodman	913-547-0565
1-4 LA/Lake Charles	Lake Charles DBC	Michael Hickman	337-309-6111
4-5 ME/Portland	Woodfords Club	Martha Soule	239-597-4637
4-5 NM/Albuquerque (nlm/500)	Duke City Bridge Center	Steven Lockwood	505-715-0067
3-5 OH/Dayton	Miami Valley Bridge Center	Joseph Camillus	937-272-7930
3-5 TX/Lubbock	Lubbock Bridge Center	Phyllis Kinnison	806-789-2358
4-5 WV/Wheeling	Elm Grove Civics	Brett Orban	740-633-6084
10-12 BC/Nanaimo	Bowen Park Complex	Barbara Jubenville	250-758-1888
11-12 CA/Fresno (nlm/500)	Fresno Bridge Center	Laura Da Costa	559-999-2825
10-12 CO/Loveland	Larimer County Fairgrounds	John Wolf	303-810-4902
10-12 CO/LOVELAND (nlm/750)	LARIMER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS	John Grossmann	719-233-9464
10-12 FL/Fort Myers	McGregor Point Bridge Club	Val Covalciuc	239-415-8168
10-12 FL/Palm Coast	Palm Coast Bridge Club	Sylvia Caviggia	386-446-2571
6-12 ID/BOISE	WYNDHAM GARDEN BOISE AIRPORT	James Wheeler	360-546-0946
9-12 MA/Barnstable	Barnstable Intermediate School	Robert McCaw	781-752-6100
11-12 MT/Great Falls (0-300)	Big Sky Bridge Club	Catherine Ayres	303-335-8756
9-12 NC/Durham (nlm/500)	Triangle Bridge Club	Chris Moll	504-495-7485
10-12 NC/Hendersonville (nlm/500)	Hendersonville Bridge Center	Nick Weedman	828-693-5300
9-12 NE/Omaha	Jewish Community Center	Rick Ackermann	402-932-6262
10-12 OH/Rocky River	Rocky River Civic Center	David Hobe	440-238-2356
10-12 OK/Tulsa	Wyndham Hotel	Henry Robin	918-333-2760
10-12 ON/Tillsonburg	Westfield Public School	Jed Drew	519-842-8786
12 PA/York (nlm/500)	Bridge Boardroom	Edward Scanlon	717-434-3298
6-12 QC/LAVAL	SHERATON LAVAL	Louise Mascolo	514-768-0616
9-12 TX/Houston	Marriott Westchase	David Henke	832-407-2620
10-12 TX/Waco	Waco Convention Center	Ila Bates	254-732-3602
17-18 AL/Birmingham (nlm/500)	Birmingham DBC	Martha Chitwood	205-252-9035
17-19 AR/Hot Springs Village (nlm/500)	Ponce De Leon Center	Marianne Dethardt	501-984-2049
13-19 AZ/SCOTTSDALE	TALKING STICK RESORT & CASINO	JoAnne Lowe	480-836-7296
17-19 CA/San Diego	Marina Village Conference Center	Lamya Agelidis	615-887-1012
17-19 CA/Santa Barbara	Goleta Valley Girls Inc.	Claude Case	805-845-6357
18-19 CA/Redwood City	Canada College - The Grove	Marc Renson	650-622-6628

August (continued)

17-19	CT/Stamford	Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Henry Tift Bridge Center	Susan Seckinger Tom Wight	860-513-1127 478-747-1096
17-19	GA/Macon			
17-19	IA/URBANDALE (nlm/750)	DES MOINES BRIDGE CENTER	Barbara Maas James Fisher Beth Dlutowski	319-530-8510 208-520-7840 502-653-7637
16-19	ID/Idaho Falls	Fairbridge Inn & Suites		
18-19	KY/Louisville (nlm/500)	Louisville Bridge Center		
13-19	MD/HUNT VALLEY (Baltimore)	HUNT VALLEY INN	Mary Jo Chiesa	410-353-7953
13-19	MI/PETOSKEY	ODAWA CASINO	Michael Sears	231-582-0604
13-19	MO/ST. LOUIS	RENAISSANCE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT HOTEL	Michael Carmen Ruth Swain	314-872-8439 701-261-4272
15-18	NV/Sparks (Reno)	Nugget Casino Resort		
13-19	NY/LIVERPOOL (Syracuse)	HOLIDAY INN SYRACUSE/LIVERPOOL	Mary Miller	585-394-7899
18-19	OK/Oklahoma City (nlm/500)	Fun and Games DBC Inc.	Jackie Hertweck	405-748-4788
14-19	ON/GARSON (Sudbury)	GARSON COMMUNITY CENTRE	Jane Palmer	705-677-5130
18-19	ON/St. Catharines (0-300)	Bridge Centre of Niagara	Lucy McEwen	905-468-0052
17-19	SC/West Columbia	Tri-City Leisure Center	Kathryn Kimmerling	734-476-4046
16-19	TN/Knoxville (nlm/500)	Knoxville Bridge Center	Kathy Duggan	865-607-1255
16-18	TX/Beaumont (nlm/500)	Beaumont Bridge Studio	Susan Nimmo	409-626-4010
18-19	TX/Austin (0-200)	Bridge Center of Austin	Scott Humphrey	512-836-5984
17-19	WA/Vancouver	Washington School for the Deaf	Kathleen Mather	360-258-4240
23-26	AR/BELLA VISTA (nlm/750)	RIORDAN HALL	Robert Gromatka	479-657-6976
23-26	AR/Bella Vista	Riordan Hall	Robert Gromatka	479-657-6976



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Life Master Milestones

► continued from pg. 70

John Borden, Troy MI
 Douglas Kahn, Ann Arbor MI
 Gloria Georger, Rochester MN
 Gretchen Grey, Eden Prairie MN
 Jennifer Abdalla, Jackson MS
 Maureen Burnside, Collinsville MS
 John Barnard, Timberlake NC
 Robert Jay Barrett, Lewisville NC
 Catherine Osada, Asheville NC
 Claudia Pattison, Apex NC
 Sarah Raynor, Winston-Salem NC
 Linford Snead, Greensboro NC
 Fran Tewkesbury, Greensboro NC
 John Dudas, Ho-Ho-Kus NJ
 Eli Duttman, Monroe Township NJ
 Gayle Friedman, Freehold NJ
 Mimi Lapat, Egg Harbor Township NJ
 Mel Meskin, Fort Lee NJ
 Doreen Skok, Sparta NJ
 Robert Easterwood, Las Vegas NV
 James Sadler, Las Vegas NV
 Tom Aridgides, Manlius NY
 Richard Becker, Howard Beach NY
 Robin Brendell, Roslyn Heights NY
 Charles Harding, Niskayuna NY
 Phyllis Froimson, Shaker Heights OH
 Steve Garfunkel, Chagrin Falls OH
 Harry Gerla, Dayton OH
 Richey Maran Sr., Toledo OH
 Mary Ann Marx, Cincinnati OH
 Bipin Tandon, Marion OH
 Elaine Isenbart, Oklahoma City OK
 Margaret Brom, Astoria OR
 Joseph Jebbia, Tigard OR
 John Doyal, Oakmont PA
 Millie Ellerson, Huntingdon Valley PA
 Irene Harpster, State College PA
 Joanne Johnston, Lewistown PA
 Fred Long, Lancaster PA
 Sheila Seidner, Yardley PA
 Stephen Grimes, Portsmouth RI
 Crystal Evans, Indian Land SC
 Thomas Muller, Rock Hill SC
 Liz Castioni, Frisco TX
 Carol Ehrman, Houston TX
 Jory Fort, Amarillo TX
 Laurene Jacob, Austin TX
 Diana Lecuona, Laredo TX
 Fred Mueller, College Station TX
 Mary Nelson, Houston TX
 James Overtree, Arlington TX
 Ellen Snyder, Laredo TX
 Debra Gardner, Richmond VA
 Marinus Koch, Forest VA
 Andrew Small, White Stone VA
 Wayne Peters, Appleton WI
 Roman Rommelfanger, Manitowoc WI
 Dean Whiteway, La Crosse WI
 James Wise, Millwood WV

August (continued)

25-26	CA/Laguna Woods (nlm/750)	Laguna Woods DBC	Marjorie Michelin	805-807-1152
20-26	FL/PALM BEACH GARDENS			
24-26	IA/Hills	PGA GOLF RESORT Hills Community Center	Shannon Cappelletti	423-400-0269
25	IA/Sioux City (nlm/500)	Siouxland Center for Active Generations	Gary Edwards	319-642-3579
25-26	IN/Indianapolis (0-300)	Indianapolis Bridge Center	Donna Lombardini	360-600-0459
23-26	LA/Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge Bridge Center	Joyce Pepple	317-701-8959
23-26	MI/Southfield (Det)	The Bridge Connection	Dupree Parker	225-978-4796
24-26	NC/Winston-Salem	Winston-Salem Fairgrounds	Owen Lien	828-424-5905
25-26	NH/Nashua	Rivier University Dion Center	Cindy Wright	336-407-9842
24-26	NS/Sydney	Victoria Park Armories	Sarah Widhu	603-881-7518
25-26	ON/Goderich	Columbus Hall	Joe Aucoin	902-862-2340
22-25	TX/SAN ANTONIO (nlm/750)		Maria Deaves	226-663-9260
25-26	VA/Virginia Beach (nlm/500)	OMNI HOTEL	Debbie Schweiss	210-862-9706
20-26	WA/LYNNWOOD	Bridge Center of Hampton Roads	Kathleen Haglich	757-467-4136
20-26	WI/LAKE HALLIE (split)	LYNNWOOD CONV. CENTER EAGLES BANQUET HALL & CONFERENCE CENTER	Tom Hansen	206-719-3160
21-26	WI/MILWAUKEE (split)	CROWNE PLAZA MILWAUKEE AIRPORT	Richard Brown	715-559-9433
31	PA/Reading (nlm/500)	Sacred Heart Villa	Yvette Neary	414-526-9035
			Sue Wessner	610-972-5327

August/September

31-2	BC/New Westminster (Vancouver)	Queensborough Community Centre	Angela Fenton	778-386-4343
28-3	CA/SANTA CLARA	HYATT REGENCY SANTA CLARA	Pamela Hughes	916-774-0990
29-2	FL/Delray Beach (nlm/750)	Jourdan's Bridge Club	Ora Lourie	561-585-6223
31-3	FL/Pinellas Park (St. Pete)	St. Pete Bridge Club	Joanne Wharton	727-596-2139
28-3	GA/AUGUSTA	AUGUSTA MARRIOTT CONVENTION CENTER	Robert Coleman	706-833-6496
31-3	IL/Skokie (Chicago)	Weber Center	Todd Fisher	773-807-5178
31-2	KS/Overland Park	Jewish Community Center	Richard Jones	913-962-5886
31-2	KY/Paducah	Robert Cherry Civic Center	Dennis Rose	270-853-0344
31-3	MN/Minneapolis	Twin City Bridge Center	Teri Blu	612-861-4487
31-2	ND/Fargo	El Zagal Clubhouse	Mary Shaw	701-238-8504
28-3	PA/MONROEVILLE (Pitt)	MONROEVILLE CONV. CENTER & DOUBLETREE HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA	Mary Paulone Carns	724-897-7526
28-2	RI/WARWICK		Helen Pawlowski	413-530-1278
28-3	TX/RICHARDSON (Dallas)	RENAISSANCE HOTEL	Tomi Storey	214-244-8333
31-3	TX/EI Paso	Decker Bridge Center	Peter Peca Jr.	915-581-1637
31-3	WA/Olympia	Washington Land Yacht Harbor	Demeter Manning	360-972-3127
31-3	WA/Spokane	Spokane Bridge Center	Jodi Kimbrell	509-464-3323

September

1-3	ON/Toronto	Holiday Inn Toronto Yorkdale	Ann Shaw	905-855-7177
7-9	AB/Calgary	Clarion Hotel and Conf. Centre	Dorothy Mersereau	403-245-4536
6-9	AK/Anchorage (nlm/500)	Anchorage Bridge Center	Timothy Marx	907-344-8778
6-8	AL/Huntsville	St Mary's Catholic Church	Flo Staggs	256-534-3669
6-8	BC/Sidney (Victoria)	Mary Winspear Centre	Shelley Burnham	250-516-5987
3-9	CA/COSTA MESA (OC)	HILTON COSTA MESA	Ron Lien	626-695-5409
7-9	CA/McKinleyville (Eureka) (nc)	Ocean View Mobile Home Park	Mark Phelps	707-443-9029
7-9	CA/Orangevale (Sac)	Orangevale Community Center	David Willmott	916-709-8958
9-11	IL/Rockford	Tebala Event Center	Douglas St John	815-877-8460
3-9	IN/EVANSVILLE (split)	HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT	Leroy Breimeier	812-830-0340
7-9	MI/Traverse City	YMCA Camp Arbutus	Lynn Larson	231-932-5966
7-9	MS/Gulfport	Gulfport Club House	Lynne Logan	228-254-5245

September (continued)

6-9 MT/Helena	Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds	Stephen Visocan	406-461-2534
7-9 NB/Moncton	Four Points Sheraton	Wade Short	506-533-9729
6-9 NC/Charlotte	Charlotte Bridge Association	Julie Arbit	301-512-5679
7-9 NC/Wilmington	Coastline Convention Center	Judith Phelps	910-547-5736
8-9 ND/Grafton (nlm/750)	Ameriprise Financial	Michael Leighton	701-352-2198
8-9 NY/Cicero (Syracuse)	Cicero Fire Hall	Robert Simard	315-656-3204
4-9 OH/DAYTON (split)	HOPE HOTEL AND CONF. CTR.	Georgia Banziger	937-439-4073
4-9 ON/ST. CATHARINES	HOLIDAY INN & SUITES		
	PARKWAY CONF. CENTRE	Nader Hanna	416-756-9065
7-9 ON/Perth	Civitan Center	Kathleen Sullivan	613-278-0931
8-9 OR/Portland	Montgomery Park	Alan Johnson	971-998-4261
8-9 PA/Erie	Erie Bridge Association	Shirley Irish	814-520-6663
7-9 SD/Rapid City	Canyon Lake Senior Center	Margaret Norris	605-645-6325
6-9 TX/New Braunfels	New Braunfels Civic Center†	Paula Warren	830-620-0004
6-9 VA/Fairfax (DC)	Fairfax Elks Lodge	Margot Hennings	703-560-0245
14-16 AK/Juneau	Mountain View Senior Center	Shirley Carlson	907-364-3334
14-16 AZ/Prescott	Adult Center of Prescott Inc.	Joan Shay	928-499-5697
16 BC/Delta (0-200)	East Delta Hall	Margaret Pattison	778-873-6640
14-16 BC/Quesnel (nc)	Seniors Center	John Perry	250-561-2806
15 CA/Camarillo (0-500)	Camarillo Senior Center	Susan Lang	805-340-7735
15-16 CA/Gilroy	Gilroy Senior Center	Mark Moore	408-779-1510
15-16 CA/Stockton	Ben Holt Middle School	Ken Hillman	209-952-2890
14-16 DE/Wilmington	Bridge Studio of Delaware	Jeff Ruben	302-475-0469
13-16 FL/Daytona Beach	Metropolitan Bridge Club	Jim Geary	386-235-6420
14-16 FL/Venice	Venice Bridge Club	James Gordon	941-488-0799
14-16 HI/Honolulu	Ala Wai Clubhouse	Naomi Nortman	808-927-7786
13-16 IA/Urbandale (DM)	Des Moines Area Bridge Center	Jean Friedrich	515-243-6126
14-16 ID/Boise	Wyndham Garden Boise Airport	Donald Robinson	208-344-8918
14-16 IL/East Peoria	Fon du Lac Park Dist. Admin. Ctr.	Bill Bulfer	309-264-7629
15-16 KY/Lexington	Bridge Club of Lexington	Terrell Holt	859-351-2023

Pacific Northwest Upcoming Regionals

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL

Lynnwood Convention Center
3711 196th Street West
Lynnwood WA
August 20-26
thansen2@mindspring.com

LEAVENWORTH REGIONAL

Leavenworth Festhalle
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Leavenworth WA
Oct. 29-Nov. 4
chumstick2@frontier.com

for more information
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lesleyd12@yahoo.com

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Syosset NY 11791

DAILY EVENTS

- ♦ Gold Rush Pairs
(300-750, 0-300) 10:30 am & 3 pm
- ♦ Open Pairs 10:30 am & 3 pm
- ♦ Swiss Teams 10:30 & TBA



POST MORTEMES FOR ALL PAIR GAMES

Tournament Chair

Lee Launer 516-628-2546
actuary3@hotmail.com

Tournament Manager

Susan Toporovsky
susietee60@gmail.com

Partnerships Arranged

Mark Leibowitz 516-972-8125
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A (3000+) B (1500-3000) C (0-1500)



MID-ATLANTIC Upcoming Regionals

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Hunt Valley Inn

Chair: Mary Jo Chiesa (410) 353-7953

Quigs8448@aol.com

AUGUSTA, GA

August 28-September 3

Augusta Downtown Marriott

Co-chair: Ray Coleman (706) 833-6496

csrbridge@yahoo.com

CHARLOTTE, NC

October 22-28

Hilton Charlotte University Place

Co-chair: Arnold Hoffmann (980) 254-7476

ajhoffmann@carolina.rr.com

NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

Dec. 27, 2018-Jan. 2, 2019

Embassy Suites

Co-chair: Steve Donaldson (843) 412-8097

folliboy@aol.com

www.mabcbridge.org

September (continued)

15-16 MD/Pikesville (nlm/750)	The Bridge Club of Baltimore	Patricia Murty	410-323-6206
15-16 ME/Portland	The Woodfords Club	Roger Guerin	207-468-0860
15 MI/Lansing (nlm/500)	Lansing Bridge Center	Diane Schafer	517-327-3925
15 MN/Rochester (nlm/500)	Hadley Creek Community Center	Ann Van Ryn	507-282-4566
14-16 NC/Pinehurst	Village of Pinehurst Assembly Hall	Edward Weiler	910-295-5344
14-16 NJ/Allendale	Guardian Angel Auditorium	Marilyn Cavell	845-425-9013
14-16 NY/Clifton Park (Albany)	Clifton Park Senior Community Center	Robert Valenti	518-326-3829
15-16 OH/Canfield (Youngstown)	Andrews Hall	Gary Singer	330-726-9780
15-16 ON/St. Thomas	St. Thomas Seniors Centre	Jim Wright	519-631-5531
14-16 OR/Phoenix (Medford)	Rogue Valley Bridge Club	John Cowles	541-482-6314
14-16 QC/Rimouski	Centre Communautaire Ste.-Odile	Diane Tremblay	418-722-4089
14-16 SC/Beaufort	Holiday Inn Beaufort	Peggy Stehly	843-785-9889
13-16 SK/Saskatoon	Saskatoon Bridge Club	William Ruskin	306-239-2027
14-16 TX/Denton (nlm/500)	Denton DBS	Kim Brinkman	214-208-0154
14-16 VA/Virginia Beach	Bridge Center of Hampton Roads	Brian Boyce	757-412-4925
14-16 WA/Bothell (Seattle)	Bothell Union Hall	Monty Gray	206-283-7311
14-16 WI/Three Lakes	Reiter Center	Terry McCloskey	715-546-8306
14-16 WY/Cheyenne	Laramie County Comm. College	Daniel Zwonitzer	307-214-7826
21-23 AB/Lethbridge	Nord-Bridge Centre North	Maureen Bailey	403-328-2344
21-23 BC/Lake Country	Winfield Memorial Hall	Don Wallace	250-765-9188
21-23 CA/Lompoc	DeWees Community and Sr. Ctr.	Donald Beck	805-736-3507
22-23 CA/Santa Clarita (LA)	Friendly Valley Auditorium	Gay Gipson	661-347-9677
21-23 CO/Montrose	Elks Lodge	Jim Churchill	970-856-4777
20-23 FL/St. Petersburg	St. Pete Bridge Club	Charles Gill	727-363-1136
22-23 FL/Melbourne	Wickham Park Senior Center	Julia Bomalaski	812-630-3188
21-23 GA/St. Simons Island	Golden Isles DBC	Teryl McBurney	912-268-4388

District 3 Autumn Leaf Regional October 8-14, 2018

Crowne Plaza Danbury • 18 Old Ridgebury Road • Danbury CT 06810 • (203) 794-0600

Room rate: \$127 plus tax single/double.
Deadline for reservations: September 24.

Tournament Manager: Julie Cohan
(973) 568-4864 • jcohan11@gmail.com

Pairing: Barbara Lemberger
brlemberger@yahoo.com

Room Problems: Deborah Wasik
(973) 699-5902 • dwasik@metrographusa.com

Directions to Hotel

From the East: Rte 84 to Exit 2A. Follow Old Ridgebury Rd. around curve and up hill. Hotel will be visible on left.

From the West: Rte 84 to Exit 2. Make left and then right following signs to US 202 and US 6. Make another right onto Old Ridgebury Rd.
From the South: Rte 684 to Exit 9E and follow Rte 84 as above.

All team & pair strats based on average for the team or pair. In any event or flight with an upper limit, no individual player's MP total may exceed that upper limit.

Single-session entries to Golden Opportunity & Open Pair Games permitted.

District 3 wishes to thank District 25 for allowing us to hold our tournament within their geographic confines.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, October 8

7:30 pm **SUPER DUPER XTRA GOLD**
Side Game #1 (open/3000/750)*

TUESDAY - FRIDAY, October 9-12

10:30 & 3:00
A/B/C Pairs
(open/3000/1500)
Golden Opportunity Pairs
(750/300/200) - no player over 750

10:30 & TBA
NEW FORMAT! A/X Swiss Teams (open/5000)
B/C Bracketed Round Robin
Teams (No player over 3000)

7:30 pm **SUPER DUPER XTRA GOLD**
Side Games #2-5 (open/3000/750)*

SATURDAY, October 13

10:30 & 3:00
A/B/C Pairs
(open/3000/1500)
Golden Opportunity Pairs
(750/300/200) - no player over 750

10:30 & TBA

NEW FORMAT! A/X Swiss Teams (open/5000)
B/C Bracketed Round Robin
Teams (No player over 3000)

ENJOY YOUR DINNER • NO SATURDAY NITE EVENING GAME.

SUNDAY, October 14

10:30 & TBA

A/X Swiss Teams (open/5000)
B/C Swiss Teams
(No player over 3000)
Golden Opportunity
Swiss Teams (No player over 750)

FREE COFFEE ALL DAY!
MORNING PASTRIES!

**DAILY GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITY GAMES!
SUPER-DUPER XTRA GOLD
POINT EVENING GAMES!
GREAT ROOM RATE!**

*Place overall in any 2 SUPER DUPER sessions & get GOLD!

September (continued)

22-23	GA/Gainesville (nlm/500)	Senior Life Center	Sherry Anton	770-406-1352
21-23	IA/Milford	City of Milford Comm. Center	Jan Bolluyt	712-336-5996
20-23	KS/Wichita	Best Western Wichita North	Richard Beye	314-440-2909
20-23	KS/WICHITA (nlm/750)	BEST WESTERN WICHITA NORTH	Richard Beye	314-440-2909
16-23	MA/Boston (cr)	RCCL Serenade of the Seas	Brett Ramsey	901-870-1293
21-23	MN/Carlton	Black Bear Casino & Resort	Dianne Carr	218-591-9942
21-23	ND/Minot	Minot Moose Lodge	Karen Leier	701-839-2343
21-23	NM/Carlsbad	Best Western Stevens Inn	Regina Ballard	575-236-6004
21-23	NY/Williamsville (Buffalo)	Main-Transit Fire Hall	Gay Simpson	716-836-2519
21	OH/Cincinnati (nlm/500)	Cincinnati Bridge Association	Pam Campbell	513-858-2621
21-23	OH/Cuyahoga Falls	Quirk Center	Robert Ryan	330-467-6543
22-23	OH/CINCINNATI (0-500)	CINCINNATI BRIDGE CENTER	Pam Campbell	513-858-2621
22-23	ON/Caledon East	Caledon East Community Centre	Denise Donovan	416-614-6754
21-23	PA/Philadelphia	Germantown Cricket Club	Ala Hamilton-Day	610-891-9001
21-23	PA/Williamsport	Williamsport Bridge Club	Judy Stein	570-946-4749
21-23	QC/Quebec	Montmartre	France Roy-Dion	418-622-2718
22-23	RI/Johnston	Johnston Senior Center	Maureen Fahey	401-828-0045
21-23	TN/East Ridge (Chatt)	East Ridge Community Center	Bruce Antman	423-290-8207
20-23	TX/Austin	Bridge Center of Austin	George Watkins	512-335-1158
20-23	TX/Houston (0-500)	Westside Bridge Academy	Bert Onstott III	713-851-1511
21-23	TX/Wichita Falls	Wichita Falls Bridge Center	Patricia Robinson	940-696-0630
21-23	UT/Salt Lake City	Sons of Utah Pioneers	Rosalee Gardner	801-738-1278
21-23	VT/Williston	Burlington Bridge Club	Philip Sharpsteen	802-899-2080
28-30	CA/Fresno	Fresno Bridge Center	Laura Da Costa	559-999-2825
29-30	CA/Santa Rosa	Odd Fellows Hall	Maxine Reagh	707-829-7536
29	DE/Ocean View (0-300)	Ocean View Presbyterian Church	Kim Holm	302-559-2023

2018 Mini-McKenney race leaders (As of July 6, 2018)

0 to 5

1.	Jagjit Pal Singh Anand, Brampton ON	61
2.	Christopher Luttrell, Oak Ridge TN	61
3.	Peter Winders, Aurora ON	49
4.	Matt Loewen, Vancouver BC	48
5.	Rao Chalasani, Sugar Land TX	44
6.	Gregory Rich, Newtown CT	44
7.	Sandra Stevens, Charlotte NC	41
8.	David Tukey, Lansdale PA	40
9.	Yunfeng Shao, Ottawa ON	39
10.	Thomas Martin, Loudon TN	38

5 to 20

1.	Homer Smith Jr., Suffolk VA	102
2.	Buddy Massey, Gulfport MS	100
3.	Judy Orchard, Placerville CA	67
4.	Lee Brown, Woodland Park CO	66
5.	John Betz, Ajijc, Mexico	63
6.	John Prance, Calgary AB	52
7.	Butch Johnson, High Point NC	47
8.	Lori Nelson, Kamloops BC	47
9.	John Fabian, San Diego CA	46
10.	Leslie Little, Knoxville TN	46

20 to 50

1.	Arda Kabaca, London ON	153
2.	Ilgaz Ciftci, London ON	133
3.	Sean McNally, Minneapolis MN	102
4.	Lu Gan, Burnaby BC	83
5.	Bill Grewe, Front Royal VA	80
6.	Nels Madsen, Auburn AL	78
7.	Roger Guerin, Arundel ME	76
8.	Morgan Johnstone, Minneapolis MN	74
9.	Kevin Zhu, Grand Rapids MI	71
10.	Millie Ortego, Opelousas LA	71

50 to 100

1.	Siqing Yu, New York NY	133
2.	Stella Q. Wan, Palo Alto CA	126
3.	Doug Fisher, Barrie ON	115
4.	Emma Kolesnik, Ventura CA	114
5.	Paul Mohler, Arlington VA	111
6.	Michael Mendelsohn, Cary NC	105
7.	Susan Morrow, The Woodlands TX	102
8.	John Graf, Alexandria VA	102
9.	Russell King, Sun City Center FL	98
10.	Richard Wang, Davenport FL	95

100 to 200

1.	Finn Kolesnik, Ventura CA	337
2.	Marilee Walton, Cary NC	133
3.	Van Stone, Geneva IL	131
4.	Barbara Devaney, Washington DC	126
5.	Ying Zhang, Longmont CO	125
6.	Ken Hanson, Austin TX	117
7.	Leslie Blair, Raleigh NC	113
8.	Ronald Caudle, Salisbury NC	112
9.	Jean Klinkenberg, Medina OH	112
10.	Gordon Young, Pictou NS	111

DISTRICT 21 ACBL PRESENTS OUR 2ND ANNUAL

Reno Regional

October 15-21, 2018

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- New Knockouts Daily
- FIVE Days of Gold Rush Pairs
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- DAYLIGHT PAIRS

Tuesday - Saturday at 10 & 3

- Celebrity Speaker Program
- Side Games at every 9, 1 & 7 session

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs Daily at 9, 1 & 7
Bridge Concepts Lectures
Tuesday through Saturday at Noon
Free Student Game(0-5mp's) Sat. 1:00

For information contact:

District Manager Pam Hughes

email: jmom380@yahoo.com

Partnership: Rich Scroggins (775) 972-3962

View full tournament schedule at

www.d21acbl.com

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D21 website link

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200 to 300

1. R. Blaine Mullins, Frankfort KY	204
2. Peter Bronstein, N. Miami Beach FL	160
3. Carol Ramberg, Fair Oaks Ranch TX	137
4. John Dong, Richmond Hill ON	134
5. Leon Yu, Syosset NY	131
6. Craig Pritzker, Woodbridge VA	128
7. Wayne Stann, Kelowna BC	124
8. Paul Durda, Needham MA	121
9. David Jasperse, Holland MI	119
10. Judi Katz, Chicago IL	119

300 to 500

1. Tom Bishel, Columbus OH	408
2. John Bishel, Columbus OH	323
3. Jacob Freeman, Toronto ON	264
4. Sarah Youngquist, Palo Alto CA	217
5. Brent Xiao, Fremont CA	204
6. Daniel Sonner, Redwood City CA	203
7. Matthew Morgan, Nashville TN	202
8. Bo Han Zhu, Oakville ON	199
9. Amy Brisson, Arlington VA	186
10. David Dresher, North Wales PA	183

500 to 1000

1. Michael Heins, Champaign IL	595
2. Piotr Olszewski, Hackettstown NJ	324
3. Gary Anderson, Austin TX	296
4. Harrison Luba, Lynnfield MA	287
5. Darrow Neves, Sun City Center FL	273
6. Larry Plotkin, Elkins Park PA	260
7. Rosalind Smith, Dallas TX	254
8. Sundaresan Ram, Tucson AZ	250
9. Ruth Ellen Maddock, Hagerstown MD	237
10. Lewis Maddock, Hagerstown MD	237

1000 to 1500

1. Jerry Barrett, Austin TX	474
2. William Bailey, Mill Valley CA	370
3. Sharon Dameron, Cedar Park TX	350
4. Samuel Amer, Long Island NY	288
5. Leah Shao, Harrisonburg VA	287
6. Mark Crumrine, Ocala FL	275
7. Jack Mahoney, Brunswick ME	274
8. Justin Coniglio, Riverview FL	271
9. Howard Huynh, Lubbock TX	252
10. Tom Schlossberg, Bluffton SC	251

1500 to 2500

1. Robert McClendon, Ponte Vedra FL	1041
2. Mary Ose, Sacramento CA	449
3. Alex Khrakovsky, Columbus OH	427
4. Sabrina Miles, Mansfield MA	401
5. Darryl Legassie, Milton NH	391
6. Junko Hemus, San Clemente CA	321
7. Mason Barge, Atlanta GA	306
8. Russ Pearly, The Villages FL	299
9. Kim Brinkman, Flower Mound TX	287
10. James Walter, Ann Arbor MI	277

28-30IA/Dubuque

28-30 KS/Overland Park
(nlm/500)
29-30 KY/Louisville
29-30 MB/Winnipeg
(nlm/500)
27-29 MI/Grand Haven
28-29 **MN/NEW BRIGHTON**
(Mpls) (nlm/750)
29-30 MO/Olivette (0-300)
24-30 **MS/ROBINSONVILLE**
(Memphis)
24-30 **MT/MISSOULA**
27-30 NC/Raleigh
29-30 NH/Grantham
29 NJ/West Long
Branch (0-300)
28-30 NS/New Minas
23-27+ **NY/CARLE PLACE**
29-30 NY/Plattsburgh (nc)
29-30 NY/Utica
29-30 ON/Chatham
29 PA/Allentown
28-30 SC/Aiken
28-30 TX/Longview
28-30 **VA/WILLIAMSBURG**
(nlm/750)
28-30 VA/Williamsburg

Holy Trinity	Mark Patton	563-588-1555
Kansas City Bridge Studio	Tim Hays	816-361-8558
Louisville Bridge Center	Norman Smith	502-491-9460
Temple Shalom	William Treble	204-669-1458
Grand Haven Community Center	Ben Broughton	231-755-1804
NEW BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CENTER	Amy Dutton	651-475-6180
St. Louis Bridge Center	Mark Ziegelman	314-821-2550
GOLD STRIKE CASINO RESORT RUBY'S INN	Visanji Gala	901-679-3679
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Grantham Town Hall	Harold Albrecht	919-567-0470
	Jane Verdrager	603-865-5508
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CHATEAU BRIAND	Lee Launer	516-628-2546
Plattsburgh Duplicate Bridge Club	Lorraine Streeter	518-578-4992
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DOUBLETREE BY HILTON	Jane Farthing	757-229-7275
DoubleTree by Hilton	Jane Farthing	757-229-7275

Puerto Vallarta Regional

Nov 5 - Nov 11, 2018

Tournament Website:
www.pvregional.com
 for a complete schedule

Monday 7:30pm • Tues-Sat 9:30am, 2pm,
 and 8pm • Sunday 10am

Bracketed Knockouts Starting M, W, F
 Stratified Swiss T, Th, Sa
 Open, Choice, Gold Rush, and Novice Pairs
 Morning, Afternoon, and Evening Side Games
 Sunday Swiss with Mexican Buffet

Stratification by Team/Pair Average
****KOs may be Handicapped****

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www.westin.com/puertovallarta
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Tournament Chair:
 Lew Crippen
 1-734-206-1889 USA
 or 01-376-766-1119 Mexico
regionalpv@gmail.com

Partnership Desk:
 Mary Ann White
 1-817-277-0722 USA
 or 01-376-766-1312 Mexico
tourney205@gmail.com

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October

6-7	CA/Modesto	Homewood Village Clubhouse	Barbara Page	209-523-9478
6-7	CA/San Juan			
	Capistrano (nlm/500)	S. Orange County Bridge Ctr	Frances Krause	949-697-6446
6-7	CO/Sheridan (0-300)	Denver House of Cards	Robert Stansbury	303-794-5600
5-7	FL/Jacksonville	Jacksonville School of Bridge	Nancy Hanna	904-874-4371
6-7	FL/Sarasota (nlm/500)	G & G In Between Club	Rita Marinho	941-952-3848
5-7	IL/Caseyville (St. L)	Steamfitters Local 439	Charles Keltner	618-654-5106
5-7	IN/Terre Haute	Int'l Union of Operating Engineers	Tana Holt	765-832-7574
5-7	MA/Watertown			
	(Boston)	Armenian Cultural Center	Robert McCaw	781-752-6100
5-7	MI/Marquette	Marquette Township Comm. Ctr.	Duane Fowler	906-225-1907
5-7	MI/St. Joseph	Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School	Jeff Edmunds	269-556-9144
5-7	NC/Morganton	Foothills Higher Education Center	Eldon Clayman	828-439-1283
4-7	NV/Carson City	Plaza Conference Center	Leona Pchelkin	775-782-6406
6-7	NY/Webster			
	(Rochester)	TBA	Roger Woodin	585-471-8261
7	OH/Cincinnati (pf)	Cincinnati Bridge Center	AJ Stephani	513-648-9553
2-8	ON/OTTAWA	OTTAWA MARRIOTT HOTEL	Michael Abbey	343-262-4063
1-7	OR/SEASIDE	SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER	James Wheeler	360-546-0946
5-7	PA/Wilkes-Barre	Quality Inn & Suites	Walter Mitchell Jr.	570-472-3290
5-7	TN/Crossville	Cumberland County Community Complex	Buck Martin	931-787-4777
4-6	TX/Beaumont	Beaumont Bridge Studio	Linda Briggs	409-223-1162
5-6	TX/Richardson			
	(Dallas) (0-300)	Dorsey's Bridge Studio	Dorsey Shaw	972-517-6331

Mini-McKenney race leaders *continued*

2500 to 3500

1.	Gillian Minitier, New York NY	838
2.	Sherman Gao, Brea CA	550
3.	Sue Lan Ma, Kirtland Hills OH	533
4.	July Ratley, Redding CA	463
5.	Arti Bhargava, Mill Valley CA	461
6.	Teri Smoot, Placerville CA	435
7.	Jeff Edelstein, Tampa FL	415
8.	Milton Neher, Richardson TX	365
9.	Fernando Teson, Tallahassee FL	356
10.	Layne Noble, Ottawa ON	342

3500 to 5000

1.	Aaron Jones, San Francisco CA	598
2.	Joan Millens, Kingston NY	546
3.	Suman Agarwal, Columbus OH	412
4.	Keith Heckley, Hamilton ON	411
5.	Michael Ranis, Miami FL	404
6.	Joe Houde, Vista CA	391
7.	Stephen Kennedy, Oakland CA	390
8.	Weishu Wu, Irvine CA	388
9.	Gary Donner, Bluffton SC	379
10.	Joseph Rice, Winchester KY	373

5000 to 7500

1.	Adam Grossack, Newton MA	981
2.	Oren Kriegel, Chicago IL	702
3.	Peter Boyd-Bowman, Greensboro NC	541
4.	Eric Leong, Oakland CA	538
5.	Peter Petruzzellis, Scarborough ON	535
6.	Carole Liss, San Rafael CA	526
7.	Radu Nistor, Woodside NY	520
8.	Sjoert Brink, Rotterdam, Netherlands	507
9.	Jonathan Fleischmann, Bloomfield MI	490
10.	Joshua Donn, Las Vegas NV	458

7500 to 10,000

1.	Crispin Barrere, Berkeley CA	963
2.	Alex Hudson, Raleigh NC	925
3.	Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	880
4.	Sylvia Shi, Las Vegas NV	777
5.	Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine CA	648
6.	Josef Blass, Chapel Hill NC	644
7.	Sylvia Moss, Boca Raton FL	622
8.	Richard Chan, Markham ON	593
9.	Glenn Robbins, New York NY	587
10.	Bjorgvin Kristinsson, Col. Heights MN	515

Over 10,000

1.	Joe Grue, New York NY	1746
2.	Mark Itabashi, Murrieta CA	1601
3.	Brad Moss, Denver CO	1464
4.	Kevin Dwyer, Melbourne FL	1437
5.	Eric Rodwell, Clearwater FL	1228
6.	Jeff Meckstroth, Clearwater Beach FL	1202
7.	Shan Huang, Melbourne FL	1185
8.	John Hurd, New York NY	1133
9.	Geoff Hampson, Las Vegas NV	1120
10.	Jacek Pszczola, Chapel Hill NC	1092



Palm Springs Regional

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	Operator	main line	662-253-3100
		fax	662-253-3187

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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

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

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Intermediate / Newcomer Calendar

August

4	CA/San Diego (nlm/500)	Seven Oaks Comm. Center	Art Foeste	608-274-6185
1-2	FL/Deland (0-300)	Deland Bridge Club	Lynn Berg	386-736-6228
4-5	NM/Albuquerque (nlm/500)	Duke City Bridge Center	Steven Lockwood	505-715-0067
11-12	CA/Fresno (nlm/500)	Fresno Bridge Center	Laura Da Costa	559-999-2825
10-12	CO/LOVELAND (nlm/750)	LARIMER CTY FAIRGROUNDS	John Grossmann	719-233-9464
11-12	MT/Great Falls (0-300)	Big Sky Bridge Club	Catherine Ayres	303-335-8756
9-12	NC/Durham (nlm/500)	Triangle Bridge Club	Chris Moll	504-495-7485
10-12	NC/Hendersonville (nlm/500)	Hendersonville Bridge Center	Nick Weedman	828-693-5300
12	PA/York (nlm/500)	Bridge Boardroom	Edward Scanlon	717-434-3298
17-18	AL/Birmingham (nlm/500)	Birmingham DBC	Martha Chitwood	205-252-9035
17-19	AR/Hot Spgs. Vlg. (nlm/500)	Ponce De Leon Center	Marianne Dethardt	501-984-2049
17-19	IA/URBANDALE (nlm/750)	DES MOINES BRIDGE CTR.	Barbara Maas	319-530-8510
18-19	KY/Louisville (nlm/500)	Louisville Bridge Center	Beth Dlutowski	502-653-7637
18-19	OK/Oklahoma City (nlm/500)	Fun and Games DBC Inc.	Jackie Hertweck	405-748-4788
18-19	ON/St. Catharines (0-300)	Bridge Centre of Niagara	Lucy McEwen	905-468-0052
16-19	TN/Knoxville (nlm/500)	Knoxville Bridge Center	Kathy Duggan	865-607-1255
16-18	TX/Beaumont (nlm/500)	Beaumont Bridge Studio	Susan Nimmo	409-626-4010
18-19	TX/Austin (0-200)	Bridge Center of Austin	Scott Humphrey	512-836-5984
23-26	AR/BELLA VISTA (nlm/750)	RIORDAN HALL	Robert Gromatka	479-657-6976
25-26	CA/Laguna Woods (nlm/750)	Laguna Woods DBC	Marjorie Michelin	805-807-1152
25	IA/Sioux City (nlm/500)	Siouxland Ctr. for Active Gens.	Donna Lombardini	360-600-0459
†25-26	IN/Indianapolis (0-300)	Indianapolis Bridge Center	Joyce Pepple	317-701-8959
22-25	TX/SAN ANTONIO (nlm/750)	OMNI HOTEL	Debbie Schweiss	210-862-9706
25-26	VA/Virginia Beach (nlm/500)	Bridge Ctr. of Hampton Roads	Kathleen Haglich	757-467-4136
31	PA/Reading (nlm/500)	Sacred Heart Villa	Sue Wessner	610-972-5327

August/September

29-2	FL/Delray Beach (nlm/750)	Jourdan's Bridge Club	Ora Lourie	561-585-6223
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Special Events Calendar

Aug. 7 Tuesday (evening)	ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game #2 *
Sept. 13 Thursday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide International Fund Game #2 *
Oct. 5 Friday (morning)	ACBL-wide Senior Pairs #2 *
Oct. 11 Thursday (afternoon)	Canada-wide Olympiad Fund Game
Oct. 25 Thursday	Canada-wide Erin Berry Rookie/Master Game
Oct. 31 Wednesday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game #2 *
Dec. 17 Monday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide International Fund Game #3 *

* Games include hand records and analyses.

Upcoming Regionals

October

8-14	CO/Colorado Springs
8-14	CT/Danbury
6-13	FL/ Fort Lauderdale (cr)
8-14	MI/Farmington Hills (Detroit)
8-14	MO/Springfield
12-14	WI/Fitchburg (nlm/750)
16-21	MB/Winnipeg
15-21	NV/Sparks (Reno)
16-21	NY/Buffalo
15-21	TX/Abilene
22-28	IA/Council Bluffs
22-28	NC/Charlotte

October/November

29-4	CA/Ventura
29-4	PA/Manheim (Lancaster)
29-4	WA/Leavenworth
30-4	WI/Lake Geneva

STaCs

August

6-12	District 13 & MI Unit 154 (D12)	Thomas Dressing	847-215-0310
13-19	District 1	Stan Tench	613-829-4101
13-19	District 9	Shirley Seals	904-285-7767
20-26	Districts 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23	Bonnie Bagley	719-593-0205
20-26	District 4 & MD Unit 135 (D6)	John Marks	215-891-0602
20-26	District 7 & FL Unit 219 (D9)	Janet Case	704-992-0397

August/September

27-2	District 10	Jerry Burford	601-421-5513
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September

4-10	AZ Units 351, 354, 355, 356 & 358 (D17)	JoAnne Lowe	480-836-7296
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Upcoming NABCs



Fall NABC in Honolulu HI
November 22–December 2, 2018

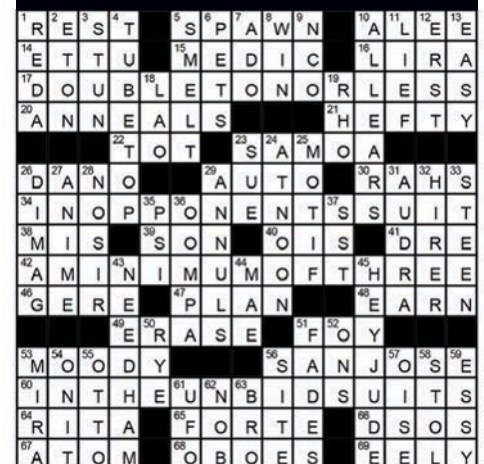


Spring NABC in Memphis TN
March 21–31, 2019



Summer NABC in Las Vegas NV
July 18–28, 2019

Solution to Crossword Puzzle on pg. 71





B=Black, R=Red, S=Silver, G=Gold, P=Platinum, O=Online. More information for the codes below on page 82.

Sanction/Tourn.	^{E/C} / _{R/C}	Date	Points

Sanction/Tourn.	^{E/C} / _{R/C}	Date	Points

Sanction/Tourn.	^{E/C} / _{R/C}	Date	Points

B
B
O





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O
B
B