

Last Week's Leaders

8/18 Saturday 0-30

1st OA: Alfred Boggess & Rosemary Frank (67.2%)

2nd OA: Donald & Marianne Klekamp (50%)



8/21 Tuesday Eve

1st OA: Liz Lin & Judy Crotty Hall (63.2%)

2nd OA: L Kocis & Richard Horvitz (61.8%)

CBA Seminar	CBA	Date/PM	Who	Topic
	0-30	1 Sep	Phyllis	2C Opening and Responses
	Sat	12:30	Bishop	
	99er	28 Aug	Albert	Balancing 1-Level
	Tue	6:30	Beaupre	

CBA NLM Games – Play Often!

Mon NLM 7 PM CBA Wed Homestyle 11:00 AM CBA

Tues 99er 7 PM CBA Wed 199er 6:30 PM NKY BC

Thurs NLM 7 PM CBA 1st Fri 99er 10:00 AM NKY BC

0-30 Sat 1 PM CBA (Lecture at 12:30 PM)

Area Tournaments

Aug 28 - Sep 3 Pittsburgh, PA R

Sep 21 – 23 Dayton OH S

Oct 1 - 7 Fort Wayne IN R

Oct 19 - 21 Columbus OH S

Oct 26 - 28 Cincinnati OH (NAP) S/N

For Details go to <http://www.acbl.org/tournament-calendar/>

I ♦ Transfers!

About Negative Doubles – by Steve Moese

Negative Doubles are time tested. Popularized in the late 1950's (some called them Sputnik Doubles), they have evolved over time and remain one of the most popular, pervasive, and effective bidding conventions worldwide! Negative Doubles solve a frequent bidding problem very well indeed.

Modern treatment focuses on showing the **unbid majors**. Negative Doubles at the 1 level show one or both unbid majors. Some play 4 cards only (common). *(Others play 4+ Cards so that 6+ HCP hands with no 4-card major, no 5-card suit and no stopper for NT can bid 1♠ denying 4 cards-this is infrequent).* 1♣-1♦-Dbl is the only time a negative double promises 2 4-card majors. With one 4-card major, bid it after 1♣-1♦. 1♦-2♣-Dbl promises at least one 4-card major.

At the 1-level you need about 6 HCP and the remaining 4-card major(s). At the 2-level you need 8+ HCP and one of the unbid majors. If you have both an unbid 4-card Major and a NT stopper, Double first. You can bid NT later. There is no Upper HCP Limit for making a Negative Double (repeat this).

At the 3-level the requirements depend on how much bidding space partner has left. A good 10+ HCP is enough through 3♥, but over 3♠ partner has to bid game so 12+ please. What doubler shows at the 3-level and above depends: with at least one 4-card major 10+ is fine, but we need game strength with no 5-card suit and no stopper in RHO's suit (might or might not have 4-card Major).

How high should you play Negative Doubles? Up to you. Many play NDs through 3♠. The double of a higher bid is either cooperative or penalty (you choose). Others play Negative Doubles through 5♦ (Marty Bergen) or Infinity (Larry Cohen), adjusting their expectations – the higher the opponent's interference the less likely partner's double promises perfect shape. At high levels the key message is "I would have made a bid partner but RHO got in my way."

A problem hand we face from time to time is one strong enough to bid but with no 4-card major, no raise, no 5-card suit and no stopper for NT (usually over a minor suit opening). Say the bidding was 1♣-1♥ and you hold: ♠KJ10 ♥Jxx, ♦AKxx, ♣109x. Experts double. Some pass hoping for partner's reopening bid. Pass then cue shows this hand. (Pass then 1N denies a stopper 8-10). Pass then 2N invites ("I wanted to penalize them" 11-12).

When holding a 5+ card suit in a hand too weak to make a freebid, double 1st then bid your suit. A new suit after you make a takeout double shows weakness (Repeat this). If you play Negative Freebids you double with all game forcing hands regardless of pattern (the weakness of Negative Freebids).

When can you safely pass RHO's overall for a penalty? Use Mel Colchamiro's 9 rule: If #Trump Honors + # Trump Cards + Level of the bid ≥ 9 then pass for penalty. Otherwise bid something. For a 1 bid you want a 5-card trump suit with 3 honors at least! With a penalty double after partner opens and RHO overcalls, we have to PASS.

The **penalty pass** and the **reopening double** are important elements of Negative Doubles and can be poorly understood by newer players. After 1♠-2♣-Pass, Opener reopens with a double on any hand with shortness in the overcalled suit (2 cards or less, even with a minimum hand). With 3 or more cards and a minimum, pass is best. With great distribution (5-5+ or 7+ Cards), bid a new suit or rebid your own suit. Doubling with a void in their suit invites disaster. While partner has several of their trumps you can't lead one, and your void might let us make game. Consider a suit or cue bid instead.

Here is a rare case that tests the limits of the **penalty pass** when playing Negative Doubles. This hand was reported by Philip Alder in the New York Times. (Click the title to see the original article).

West ♠ AK42
 Deals ♥ 9
 NS Vul ♦ A653
 ♣ Q1086

♠ QJ98	N	♠ 753
♥ -	W	♥ J75432
♦ KQ1094	E	♦ 8
♣ 9732	S	♣ A54

♠ 10 6
 ♥ AKQ1086
 ♦ J72
 ♣ KJ

Unusual Results in a Rare Bridge Deal By PHILLIP ALDER

Published: May 23, 2012 New York Times

When East decided to make a (crazy) weak jump overcall, South had a rare problem. Playing Negative doubles South had to pass, hoping partner would reopen. North did, but West saw ♥s were a bad place to be. West's redouble (S.O.S.) says "Rescue us partner" and asks East to bid another suit. East chose ♠s not because of length but because EW would still be at the 2-level where they need to make only 8 tricks.

Faced with this unlikely turn of events South chose to bid 4♥! (Would you?) South had a great hand for ♥s but little defense. Setting 2♣ one or 2 tricks doubled would not make up for the vulnerable game NS might miss.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♥	Pass ¹
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass ¹
Rdbl ²	Pass	2♣	4♥
All Pass			
1 = Penalty Pass			
2 = S.O.S. Rescue			

West led the ♦K. Declarer won ♦A, ran the ♥9, then played a ♣. East won the ♣A and shifted to a ♠. South took this in the dummy, led to the ♣K, returned to dummy with a ♠, discarded a ♦ on the ♣Q, and continued with the ♣10. When East ruffed, declarer overruffed and exited with his last ♦ to West's ♦Q. Each player had 4 cards left. East held the ♥J754 and South had the ♥AKQ10. Whatever West leads, South wins the rest! Making 5! Check out the original article by Philip Alder to learn what 3 peculiarities made this hand very strange indeed! (Click the link in the title above). **Yes, Mel Colchamiro was South!!!**

0-30 Corner – Mike Purcell 513 702 4007 mikpur@cinci.rr.com

Congratulations to last week's winners:

1st OA: **Alfred Boggess & Rosemary Frank** (67.2%)

2nd OA: **Donald & Marianne Klekamp** (50%)

A quick reminder:

Aug 25th – NO GAME – Middletown Sectional Tournament-no games at Cincinnati Bridge Club.

Sep 1st – Mike Purcell Running the Section and Seminar by Phyllis Bishop (2♣ and Responses).

Sep 8th – NO GAME – Learn Bridge In A Day Special Event at the Cincinnati

No Hand Analysis this week due to manual scoring from Saturday's game. Hand analysis will return next issue.