

Last Week's Leaders

8/25 Saturday 0-30 NO GAME

8/28 Tuesday Eve

1st OA: **Terry Mackey & Charlie Kobida** (60%)

2nd OA: **Patricia Sweeney & Barbara Cooper** (55%)



CBA Seminar	CBA	Date/PM	Who	Topic	
		0-30	1 Sep	Phyllis	2C Opening and Responses
		Sat	12:30	Bishop	
	99er	4 Sep	Albert		Balancing 2-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/>

Balancing is the bidding strategy for the pass-out (Balancing) Seat. When opponents stop at the 1 or 2-level we have about half the deck's HCP **on balance** (17-23) – hence the name “Balancing”.

On Balance – 1-Level – by Steve Moese

Ever settled into a safe 1N 2C or 2H contract only to have your opponent make a bid in the pass-out seat? Don't you just hate having to decide whether to bid, pass, or double? How many times have you gone down 1 when you could have made the contract you had bid if they only left you alone? Were you surprised they didn't have an opening hand? Maybe even only 8 HCP? Were the opponents crazy? Or is there a method to this irritating bid? (Balancing position is the hand to make the 3rd pass ending the auction).

Our match point score depends on how many pairs we beat, not on the score itself. 1- or 2-level contracts are rare, especially against experts. Why? They're easy to make. When opponents stop at 1 or 2 they often have only ½ the HCPs. We have the other ½! It's right to compete 1 more level to improve our score.

The balancing bidder is bidding BOTH HANDS. Once partner makes a balancing bid, do NOT punish them by raising. Partner has already bid your hand. The goal is to 1) Push the opponents 1 level higher, increasing our chances to

beat other pairs, and 2) to compete in a suit of our own at the 2 (or 3 level) when our 2 hands combined hold 17-23 HCP.

When LHO opens 1♣/♦/♥/♠ and you see 2 passes, either partner has values and too many cards in opener's suit to bid, or opener has a big hand. LHO is broke (maximum 4HCP). So, if you hold as few as 8 HCP and the other 3 suits, MP Pairs scoring urges you disturb the opponents! If you have 1 or 2 suits, you can consider bidding. With 1 or 2 suits their rank is important – it is almost always right to bid with ♠s. However if we don't hold ♠s, they do – If partner owns ♠s s/he was too weak to overcall. If opponents own them we'll push them out of a bad score into a good one. Beware!

When the auction goes 1♣-P-P we know:

- 1) Opener has 12-21 HCP and RHO has 0-4 HCP
- 2) Partner cannot double, overcall or preempt.

Holding ♠AKxx ♥KJ10x ♦xxx ♣xx **Doubling** suggests itself. We have 3 suits to support partner, both Majors, and expect to hold about ½ the HCP. How's that? LHO rates to have 16 HCP and RHO about 2. We will have on average 22 HCP so partner has about 11 too. Why didn't partner bid? Likely because 1) They didn't have a 5+ card suit and 2) They held the wrong shape for a takeout double, or 3) partner holds length in their suit and wants to double them. Here are a few hands for balancing at the 1-level Assume the auction: 1♣-P-P:

♠ xx ♥ xxx ♦ KJ10x ♣ AKxx	PASS! Who has the Majors? Partner doesn't – s/he's too weak to bid a 5-card suit. (1N showing 11-14 HCP is a distant 2 nd).
♠ Kx ♥ Q10x ♦ J10xx ♣ AQxx	Bid 1N (11-14/6 Balanced, does NOT guarantee a stopper , can be off-shape).
♠ Kx ♥ Q10x ♦ AQ10x ♣ AQxx	Double then rebid 1NT to show 15-18 HCP and a balanced hand with a stopper.
♠ Kx ♥ AQx ♦ AQ10x ♣ AQxx	Jump to 2N! The jump to 2N is for 20-22 HCP balanced hands. Play the same systems you play over an opening 2N bid.

Defending a doubled contract at the 1-level is something experts do rarely. They prefer a trump holding of KQ10xx or better and sufficient HCP to make setting opponents likely but making game unlikely (especially at unfavorable vulnerability). Even with as little as ♠K10xx ♥K10xx ♦QJxx ♣x experts would double for takeout in Balancing Seat after 1♣-P-P.

Balancing bidding – Guidelines at the 1-level

Act with a King less than when you open the bidding or make a takeout double (8 working HCP – do not count HCP from Qs and Js in their suit). **Avoid balancing with minimum hands if you cannot compete in at least one of the majors. Be wary of helping the opponents find a fit in their (higher ranking) major.**

- A **balancing 1N** promises 11-14 or 16 HCP no biddable 5-card suit, a balanced hand, usually not 4 of the Other Major (you would double instead) and some fit for one or both higher ranking suits.
- A **balancing cue bid** shows either a strong takeout that does not want to start with a double (Classical, old bridge) or some 2-suited hand (55+). Some play the balancing cue bid as the same as Michaels. Be sure to discuss this with partner.
- The **balancing jump to 2N** is NOT Unusual NT showing the minor suits. It shows a hand you would have opened 2N.
- Finally a **balancing jump shift** is: 1) at the 2-level, an intermediate hand (15-17 HCP) with a good 6-card suit, or 2) at the 3-level a strong hand that will make 9 tricks with a good solid or semi-solid (1-loser) suit. These jump shifts are strong & not preempts. Why not? No sense to preempt when you can pass out the hand. If you indeed hold a preempt in balancing seat, opener must surely be strong! These strong hands can be difficult to bid otherwise when starting in the balancing seat.
- As always doubling in balancing seat then: 1) bidding a new suit, 2) jump shifting or 3) cue bidding all show very strong hands. Now go out there and start irritating your opponents!

Check out Mike Lawrence, **The Complete Book of Balancing in Contract Bridge**, 209 pp. Baron Barclay Books (2006) ISBN-10: 0939460130 ISBN-13: 978-0939460137 available to borrow from the CBA library

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

We did not have a game last week because of the Middletown Sectional Tournament. Mike Purcell will be leading the game this Saturday September 1, 2012. Phyllis Bishop will present a seminar on the **"2♣ opening bid"** starting at 12:30 PM. Be there – and bring a friend! Here are a couple of hands about planning the play:

Avoiding a Defensive Ruff

<p>East Deals None Vul MPs</p> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠ QJ10643</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠ A72</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥ Q8</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">18</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥ J1092</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦ AK</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦ 942</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣ AQ7</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣ KJ6</td> </tr> </table> <p>North Leads ♦J</p>	♠ QJ10643	N	♠ A72	♥ Q8	18	♥ J1092	♦ AK	S	♦ 942	♣ AQ7	E	♣ KJ6	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">East</td> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">South</td> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">West</td> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">North</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	East	South	West	North	Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass			<p>HCPs: Declarer West has 18 HCP and Dummy East has 9 totaling 27 – a sound contract. Loser Count: 1 ♠ Loser and 2 ♥ Losers → Draw Trump! Winner Count: 10</p> <p>Trumps out: 5 so 3-2 split is likely. Hints from the bidding: North can't have more than 2♦s (South has at least 6) Hints from the lead: The ♥ honors are split. South can't have both. North would lead ♥ from AK... Key Threat: North has a Singleton ♦ and South has the ♠K. Plan: Eliminate North's trumps by playing 2 rounds right away – do NOT finesse! The ♠K was offside and if you finesse trumps you go down!</p>
♠ QJ10643	N	♠ A72																												
♥ Q8	18	♥ J1092																												
♦ AK	S	♦ 942																												
♣ AQ7	E	♣ KJ6																												
East	South	West	North																											
Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass																											
3♥	Pass	3♣	Pass																											
4♠	All Pass																													

Planning a Cross Ruff!

<p>East Deals None Vul MPs</p> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠ A842</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠ 653</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥ KJ93</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">18</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥ Q1084</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦ AJ65</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦ 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣ 3</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣ A9752</td> </tr> </table> <p>West leads ♠Q</p>	♠ A842	N	♠ 653	♥ KJ93	18	♥ Q1084	♦ AJ65	S	♦ 4	♣ 3	E	♣ A9752	<p>Contract: 2♥ South</p>	<p>HCPs: South 6 HCP + North 13 = 19 – a good contract. Loser Count: 2♠s, 1♥. Try to trump 4♣s and 3♦s then 0 ♣&♦!! DO NOT Draw Trump! Winner Count: 3 with 3 or more tricks in trumps. Trumps out: 5 so 3-2 split is likely. Hints from the bidding: No one bid so neither has an opening hand or easy overcall. Hints from the lead: East holds the ♠K, and the ♦ honors are split or both with East. Key Threat: If opponents lead trumps they eliminate 2 ruffing winners. Plan: Win the ♠A and play ♣s then ♦s, cross ruffing. You expect 3 aces and 7 or 8 trumps = 10 or 11 tricks. <i>NOTE: When cross ruffing always clear side suit winners before ruffing. Opponents will pitch a loser on your ruff and over ruff the next ruff you try.</i> <i>NOTE 2: If opponents lead trumps then play your side suits for the tricks they have eliminated. Count: Side suit top tricks + remaining trumps scored separately. If short of your contract, look for more tricks.</i> From Karen Walker's Web Page: "Declarer Play I, Forming a Plan".</p>
♠ A842	N	♠ 653												
♥ KJ93	18	♥ Q1084												
♦ AJ65	S	♦ 4												
♣ 3	E	♣ A9752												

See the original Learning Point article at: http://www.cincybridge.com/Lessons/20100427_Eliminate_a_Loser.pdf