

2/9 Newcomer Leaders –

1st OA: **Kay Neal & Barry Wauligman** (73.13%) **WOW!**

2nd OA: **Marianne Klekamp & Alice Kitzmiller** (60.17%)



2/12 Tuesday Eve Leaders

1st OA: **Sharon Koster & Robert Roark** (66.3%)

2nd OA: **Steven Simon & Garen Wisner** (61.3%)

CBA Seminars	CBA	Date/PM	Who	Topic
	0-30 Sat	Feb 16	Nancy Sachs	NT Play – Counting Winners
	99er Tue	Check back for new 99er seminar plans.		

CBA NLM Games – Play Often!

Mon NLM 7 PM CBA Wed Home Style 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 12:30 PM) Partner provided

Area Tournaments

Feb 15–17 Louisville, KY S

Feb 18–24 Cincinnati OH D11 STaC S

Mar 1–3 Gilbertsville KY S

Mar 4–10 Indianapolis IN R

Mar 14–24 St Louis MO N

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

Need SILVER ? Get ready for the Sectional Tournament the Club (STaC) February 18-24. **SILVER** points galore!

Cross Ruffing by Steve Moese

Suit contracts offer declarer many more ways to create extra tricks than No Trump Contracts. Ruffing in the short trump hand always adds tricks to declarer's total. Sometimes we find shortness in two different suits and we can consider a cross ruff. Say we hold 8 or 9 trump cards between 2 hands. If we have different short suits in dummy and hand we can attempt to take extra trump tricks by ruffing in one hand and then the other. We get extra tricks because we score our trumps one at a time in each hand. Contrast this to drawing trumps – we have to play 2 trump cards to each trick. Playing a cross ruff successfully takes a little discipline:

- 1) **Count cross-ruffing tricks.** Be careful about opponents over-ruffing.
- 2) Subtract that number from your contract - that's **how many side suit winners you need** to cash.
- 3) **Cash or develop side suit winners before cross ruffing** – don't allow opponents to discard suits where you have top cards. They will ruff that suit.

North ♠ AK98
 Deals ♥ AQ42 17 HCP
 Both Vul ♦ A1043 20 SP
 ♣ 3

♠ 104 ♠ 53
 ♥ (?)65 ♥ (?)10987
 ♦ Q75 ♦ J86
 ♣ Q10652 ♣ KJ7

♠ QJ762
 ♥ 3 10 HCP
 ♦ K92 13 SP
 ♣ A1094

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass
4♥	Pass	4N ²	Pass
5♣ ³	Pass	5N ⁴	Pass
6♠	Pass	P/7♠?	Pass

All Pass

1= Splinter Bid – GF, 0/1 ♣

2=Keycard Blackwood (1430)

3=1 or 4 Key Card

4=We have all Key Cards

low. Ruff a ♥ low and ruff a ♣ low. Now comes the big play – ruff the 4th ♥ with your ♠J. Opponents cannot overruff. (A 5-3 split is 47.1%. A 4-4 split is 32.7%. 5-3 is 44% more likely than 4-4). When you ruff your 4th ♠ with dummy's ♠K, you will have ♠A opposite ♠Q7 which will always yield 2 more tricks. 12 tricks bid and made.

NOW play 7♠ (youthful exuberance). What do we do? We have the same 6 ruffing tricks as before, so we need 7 tricks in the side suits. Now we must take the ♥ finesse to bring our side suit tricks to 7. The play of the hand follows as above. **Extra credit: You can take the ♥ finesse in 6♠ if opponents have not led trump. The losing ♦ goes on the ♥A for an overtrick at MPs. A 2nd trump lead scuttles a cold contract. (Don't write me about possible ♥ & ♦ squeeze – if you conjure that solution you should be reading a different newsletter).** When defending a hand that might need a cross ruff, leading trumps is a good idea. Each trump lead takes 1 ruffing trick away. Here the 1st trump lead does not stop the cross ruff as long as you win in dummy. A 2nd trump lead kills any chance of winning 12 tricks. Try it!

Hi Everyone,

This week we had 4 full tables. I want to especially welcome two newcomers to our game Kathy Tyler and Tom Kereiakes. Thank you for playing in our game!

Our leaders this week:

- 1st OA: Kay Neal & Barry Wauligman (73.13%) - 0.48 MPs
- 2nd OA: Marianne Klekamp & Alice Kitzmiller (60.17%) - 0.34 MPs
- 3rd OA: Lyle Smith & Joanne Oppelt (57.41%) - 0.24 MPs

Full results for Saturday’s game can be found

at: <http://www.cincybridge.com/calendar2/130209A.HTM>

NO 0-30 Newcomer GAME Sat 2/23 – We will have special Sectional Tournament at Club (STAC) Games Saturday at 10am and 2:30pm. The 10am game has a non-life master section if attendance permits. This game is a great opportunity to earn Silver points in a limited field. Hope you can make it.

This Saturday (2/16) I will be running our game and Nancy Sachs will be our seminar speaker. This week we start a new segment with NT Contract Play – Counting Winners.

This week we look at a hand from Saturday where all roads lead to 3NT just in time for our new seminar series. If you have any questions on this hand or others from Sat, you are welcome to email me.

Board 14 ♠ A K 8 3
 East Deals ♥ 6 4
 None Vul ♦ 9 7 2
 ♣ K 9 7 6

♠ 7 6 5 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 9 2	♥ J 10 7 5
♥ K 9		♥ J 10 7 5	♦ K J 10 6
♦ 8 5 4		♦ K J 10 6	♣ 5 2
♣ J 10 4 3		♣ 5 2	

♠ Q 10
 NS 6N; 6♣; ♥ A Q 8 3 2
 5♥; 5♣; 4♦ ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ A Q 8

Bidding – On this hand South has 20 HCP and 5 ♥s. This hand can be opened as 2NT (20-21 HCP, balanced hand) or 1♥ (12-21 HCP with 5+ ♥s). With a queen doubleton and a hand that needs to reach partner to take multiple finesses (3 AQs), I strongly favor opening 1♥ over 2NT. If partner can respond we can comfortably bid on to game. If not we are thankful we didn’t open 2NT. This time North with 4 ♠s and 10 HCP can respond 1♠ (6+ HCP, 4+ spades). Many Souths will value up their ♠Q10 now and rebid 3NT - there is 26 HCP minimum between the 2 hands. Even if South rebids only 2NT showing 18-19 HCP, North can raise to 3NT with their maximum hand.

Play of the Hand – Many Wests will make an opening lead of ♣J from the top of a sequence. How should we plan our play on this lead? In NT we start by counting winners. In this hand we have 8 winners from the beginning (3♠, 1♥, 1♦, 3♣). If we take the inference that West led from ♣J10, we can finesse the ♣10. We can also try finesses in ♥s (failing) and ♦s (working). If we are paying attention when we cash our top 3 ♠s we will notice the ♠8 good too. So, on a ♣ lead we can win 11 tricks (4♠, 1♥, 2♦, 4♣) and a top board.

Making 6NT? –6NT can be made double dummy. How? If we play low from ♥AQ and let opponents win, we can then play the ♥A to drop the ♥K and our queen is good for making 6. [Or, ♥A then duck a ♥ - Ed.] How would you know to do that? You wouldn’t. This is not standard play and you will notice no one made 6NT on this hand.

Board	Scores		MPs	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
14				
3 NT S	460		6	2
3 NT S	460		6	2
4 NT N	460		6	2
3 NT S	460		6	2
3 NT S	460		6	2
3 NT S	430		3	5
3 NT S	400		1.5	6.5
3 NT S	400		1.5	6.5
6 NT S		50	0	8
3 NT S	460		2.83	0.17
1 NT S	180		1.5	1.5
2 ♥ S	140		0.17	2.83

Post Mortem – Playing NT contracts well requires a good plan at trick 1. Unlike suit contracts, we start by counting winners and then come up with a plan to make more tricks. Getting the most from a contract in duplicate can mean the difference in a top board like making 5NT and 6 Matchpoints in the open game versus only making 3NT for 1.5 Matchpoints.

Looking to improve your game? If you have an Intel Computer we highly recommend the **free software** offered by the ACBL and developed by Mr. Fred Gitelman. Check it out at: <https://web.acbl.org/LearnToPlayBridge/>