



2013 King of Bridge - John Altman



August 27, 2013 ACBL

John Altman is ACBL's King of Bridge for 2013. This prestigious award from the ACBL Education Foundation recognizes John's bridge skill, and his contributions to the game. Many of you know John as a youth players from Cincinnati who successfully represented Unit 124 in

the North American Pairs on 3 occasions and the GNTs twice. He directed our Tuesday Evening game with great aplomb, and was central to a thriving Walnut Hills High School Bridge Club. John loves to teach bridge too! Here are some links you might find interesting:

- [ACBL Announcement](#)
- [Past Kings/Queens of Bridge](#)
- [Bridge Winners Article](#)
- [April 2013 ALERT Article](#) (see p. 9)

John joins a prestigious list of past winners, including Frederick Pollack then of Cincinnati, the 1992 winner. These players now hold many World Championships and National Championships: 1973 J. Merrill; 1974 **Jeff Meckstroth**; 1975 **Bobby Levin**; 1976 **Warren Spector**; 1977 Marc Franklin; 1978 Matthew K. Franklin; 1979 Regina Barnes; 1980 Tony Marks; 1981 Doug Levene, Steve Cochran; 1982 **Steve Weinstein**; 1983 Billy Hsieh; 1984 **James Munday**; 1985 Adair Gellman; 1986 Martha Benson ‡; 1987 **Richard Pavlicek, Jr.** ; 1988 Holly Zullo; 1989 **Brad Moss**; 1990 **Eric Sutherland**; 1991 **Andrew Moss** ; 1992 **Frederic Pollack**; 1993 **Eric Greco**; 1994 Sam Hirschman; 1995 Tony Melucci; 1996 Kent Mignocchi; 1997 **Joel Wooldridge**; 1998 Josh Heller; 1999 **Ari Greenberg**; 2000 **Gavin Wolpert**; 2001 Erin Anderson; 2002 **John Kranyak**; 2003 Scottie Waldron Jr.; 2004 Rob Glickman; 2005 David Banh; 2006 Sam Katz ‡; 2007 Andrew Dubay; 2008 Jeremy Koegel; 2009 Nicholas Flores; 2010 Tom Walsh, Adam Grossack; 2011 Blake Sanders; 2012 Murphy Green.

‡=Only Mother-Son Pair to win!

8/27 - 99er Leaders

- 1st OA: **Lisa Eisenstein & Pam Campbell** (65.4%)
- 2nd OA: **Karen Kalla & Richard Horvitz** (53.5%)
- 3rd OA: **Steven Simon & Garen Wisner** (53.4%)



CBA NLM Games – Play Often!

Mon <2000 7 PM **Tues 99er 7 PM**
Wed Home Style 11:00 AM [*Wed 199er 6:30 PM NKY*]
Thu Eve 7 PM (if attendance warrants)
Fri NLM 11 AM (Lecture 10:30) [*1st Fri 99er 10AM NKY*]
Sat 99er 10 AM to 12 Noon Supervised Play

Area Tournaments

Aug 27 Sep 2	Pittsburgh, PA	R
Aug 30 – Sep 1	Paducah KY	S
Sep 6 – 8	Madisonville KY	S
Sep 9 – 15	Fort Wayne IN	R
Sep 13 – 15	Pineville KY	S
Sep 20 – 22	Lucas KY	S
Sep 24 – 29	Fairborn, OH	R

For Details go to <http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php>

John and his Dad John started lessons together at the CBA when john was 12 years old. They play often at the CBA and area tournaments. John and his friends have helped make youth bridge in Cincinnati come to life.

John has moved to Columbus where he enrolled in the Chemical Engineering program at Ohio State this fall (Go Buckeyes!). He intends to get bridge active on campus.

John shows us all that success comes from building personal skill and building the community around you. We thank John for his many contributions to Unit 124 and District 11, and wish him great luck in his career. His future is off to a great start.

...now does anyone know a Life Master (Standard American or 2/1) who's looking for a partner? Call John's Dad. ☺

Two Slams by Steve Moese Tuesday Evening 8/27

Here are two hands that are challenging to bid to the right spot. Are you and your partner up to the task?

Board 1 ♠ A K 10
North Deals ♥ K 5
None Vul ♦ A K 9 6 4
♣ K 8 3

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

♠ J 8 7
NS 6N; 6♥; ♥ A Q 10 9 8 2
6♦; 4♠; 1♣ ♦ Q 8 7
♣ 6

North will likely open 2N (Some might think that's too weak with all A's and K's). South will transfer to ♥. South's hand can be worth up to 13 Support Points in ♥s (9 HCP + 2 length

points and 2 shortness points). South can ask for Key Cards and when North shows 3 Key Cards South Knows only one A is missing bidding 6♥ is straight forward. With only the ♣ A to lose, the slam is made easily. Try it. At our table, partner used a favorite convention – after transferring to a major, we use 4♣ as Roman Keycard Blackwood for that major. Here's our auction:

2N – P – 3♦(Transfer) – P
3♥ - P – 4♣ (RKB) – DOUBLE
4♥ (0-3) – P - 6♥ ...

Partner's 6♥ bid says we're missing a keycard and we know it to be the ♣A with West (That's what West's double showed). Should North pass 6♥? NO! This is matchpoints. South has 6♥ for this bidding and fillers to insist on slam opposite 20 HCP. 2♠+6♥+5♦+1♣ >12 so bid 6N because you hold the protected ♣K – at Match Points the extra 10 points means a lot in the final score.

Board 4 ♠ Q J 10 9 6
West Deals ♥ A Q J
Both Vul ♦ Q 5
♣ A K 10

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

♠ A 8 3 2
NS 5♠; 5♥; 1♣; ♥ K 9 8 6 3
EW 1♦ ♦ 10 4
♣ Q 2

North opens 1♠. East overcalls 2♦. Partner cue bids 3♦ a limit raise for ♠. Opposite a limit raise we belong in Slam. There is a big chance that

neither you nor partner can stop ♦s. There are 2 ways to find out. One is to control bid 4♣ over 3♦ (This agrees ♠s as trump and explores slam) If partner bids 4♦ showing the ♦ Ace you can ask for Aces. Drive to slam if you are not missing both the ♠AK. However partner might not bid 4♦ holding the ♦K – and that card is enough for slam! What to do?

When opponents have bid a suit (or when our side has bid 3 suits naturally with a fit in a major), the jump to 5 of our major asks one question, and one question only: Do you have at least second round control of their (or the unbid) suit? If yes bid slam. If no, pass.

What if we haven't bid 3 suits naturally or they haven't overcalled? Then the jump to 5 should be about the quality of responder's trump holding (Grand slam Force). With RKB we rarely need the GSF. 5N has other uses in today's game (see Pick a Slam).

Newcomer News – Mike "Keeping Fun On My Convention Card" Purcell 513 702 4007

Board 14 ♠ A J 7 3 Tue Eve 8/27
East Deals ♥ Q 2
None Vul ♦ A 4 2
♣ A K Q 3

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

♠ 6 4 2
NS 6N; 6♥; ♥ A K J 10 8 5 4
4♠; 3♦; 1♣ ♦ 10 8 6
♣ —

Due to popular demand the 10-12 Saturday Informal Supervised Play format we started as a trial this summer will continue indefinitely. Cost after Labor Day will be set at \$2 per person, \$1 for youth. Thanks to all our volunteers and players for helping to make these sessions such a success!!! This Saturday Bob Fisk and Pat Hoffman will be running the Informal Supervised Play session 10-12. This week's hand from Tuesday night shows us a simple lesson in slam bidding I had to relearn the hard way at the tables this week. Enjoy!

Bidding – South has a great 7 card ♥ suit and will open a preemptive 3♥ (7 card suit, 5-10 HCP). North has 20 HCP and 2- card support with partner (9 card fit). Should North be looking for slam? YES. What is needed to make a slam? Well if partner has the ♥A and ♥K to go with your ♥Q you can expect to win 7♥s plus 5 tricks in the side suits from your hand (1♠, 1♦, 3♣)

to make a small slam. So how can you find out if partner has the ♥A and ♥K without getting too high in the

bidding? There is a slam convention called Roman Key Card Blackwood that helps you discover partner's Aces plus the King of Trump immediately. Over partner's 3♥ open, North can bid 4NT to ask about partner's keycards. Answers are as follows:

Keycard Responses (for Aces and the King of Trump)

- 5♣ -- 0 or 3 key cards
- 5♦ -- 1 or 4 key cards
- 5♥ -- 2 or 5 key cards, but no queen of trumps
- 5♠ -- 2 or 5 key cards WITH the queen of trumps

Finding Outside Kings – If you have all the aces and king of trump the 4NT bidder can now bid 5NT to ask about the number of kings your partner holds (NOT including the king of trumps). Responses are as follows: 6♣ (no outside kings), 6♦ (1 king), 6♥ (2 kings), 6♠ (3 kings).

Since South has the Ace and King of trump but no queen of trump, their response to 4NT by North is 5♥. Now North knows they can win 12 tricks and should rebid 5NT to ask if partner has a side king (do NOT count the king of trump here) to make a grand slam. When South responds 6♣ (zero Kings), North should bid their best slam. In this case with all the suits stopped and 12 sure tricks, 6NT is the best place to play because it scores better than 6♥.

What if South did NOT have the Ace and King of Trump? – If South only had one key card you can safely stop in 5♥. If partner has zero key cards one has to question their opening bid but even in that case 5♥ has chances to make.

Can't I Just Use standard Blackwood? – If you play Blackwood you can bid 4NT to ask only for Aces and will need to bid 5NT to look for kings. If partner does not have the king of trump, there is no way to stop in 5♥.

Play of the Hand – On any lead you can easily make 12 tricks for +990 in 6NT.

Post Mortem – The King of trump is often just as important as an Ace. Playing a convention that asks for aces and the king of trump immediately will allow you to investigate slam when warranted and stop safely short of slam when needed. Remember to consider a NT slam over a suit when you have stoppers in all suits and there is little chance to trump in the short hand or to develop a side suit through trumping.

Bd	14	Scores		MPs	
		N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
6 NT	N	990		5	0
6♥	S	980		3.5	1.5
6♥	S	980		3.5	1.5
4♥	S	480		1.5	3.5
4♥	S	480		1.5	3.5
7♥	S		50	0	5
6♥	S	980		3.5	0.5
6♥	S	980		3.5	0.5
4♥	S	510		2	20
4♥	S	480		0.5	3.5
4♥	S	480		0.5	3.5

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/>