

Volume III Number 1

3 Pages

Invite a friend – share the Joy of Bridge

January 14, 2014

We have a new look! The **99er Newsletter** evolves to the **Future Master Newsletter** with this issue. We are also expanding our target audience to include all Non-Life Masters in Unit 124. If you know a member who is not on our mailing list, please get their e-mail address to Steve Moese. If you do not want this newsletter please e-mail "Drop me from the FM Newsletter" to Steve Moese at moesefamily@aol.com.



The Board of Directors will publish a new **Unit 124 Flyer** at the beginning of each month starting February 2014. The purpose is to keep every member informed and up to date about special games, tournaments and learning opportunities available that month. Stay tuned!



Let's Talk Bridge – Thanks to all who attended last night. We had a big crowd by game time. Our new Board Member **John Meinking** joined us – John is an experienced player and frequent partner of Norm Coombs. John volunteered to join us most Tuesdays.

Inverted Minor Raises were originally invented as part of the Kaplan Sheinwold (KS) bidding system to allow more bidding space for good hands and preempt with weak hands. Inverted Minors is an alertable convention. With invitational+ values and a known minor suit fit, we need to decide whether it's better to play 3N or 5 of our minor. Inverted minor raises offer more bidding space to do just that.

Think about the simple raise: **1♥-2♥** or **1♠-2♠**. These show 6-9 HCP and at least 3-card support, ensuring a minimum 8-card trump fit. Likewise **1♥-3♥** or **1♠-3♠** typically show an invitational hand (10-11 HCP) with 4 trumps (9-card fit). We could switch these bid so that the lower raise is stronger (giving more space for slam exploration), but then too many weak hands would go down when others are making +110. Majors preempt lower ranking suits (we have to bid one level higher).

Now consider **1♣-3♣** and **1♦-3♦**. If we play these as invitational (10-11) we have little space left to show which of the remaining suits we stop and which ones we don't. This makes the 3N or 5m decision risky. The

1/7 - Future Master Leaders

1st OA: **Steven Simon & Garen Wisner** (67.9%)
 2nd OA: **Stacy Vanstone & Martin Gibler** (57.7%)



CBA Newcomer Games – Play Often!

Mon 7 PM	Tue 11 AM	Tue 7 PM	Fri 11 AM	Sat 10-12 AM
6:30 PM			Free Lesson 10:30 AM	Supervised Play



Events at the Cincinnati Bridge Center

February is **Junior Fund Month**. Look for special games with extra points. Don't miss **Kay's Friday Lecture** (Bob Fisk will talk about Michaels Cue Bids) and the **Friday NLM** game.



Area Tournaments

Jan 10-12 Columbus OH S

Jan 15-19 Independence OH R

Jan 25-26 Lexington KY D11 GNT Finals

ACBL Tournaments <http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php>



Bring your Questions, Hands, Ideas. Let's learn together!

6:30 PM Sharp!

1♣-2♣ and **1♦-2♦** 6-9 HCP raises do little to preempt the auction – opponents have an easier time intervening over **2♦** than they do over **2♥** or **2♠**. Inverted Minor Raises switch the simple and jump raises:

1♣-2♣ & 1♦-2♦: 10+HCP, 5+ card support, no 4-card Major

1♣-3♣ & 1♦-3♦: 0-8 HCP, 5+ card Support, no 4-card Major (some play 4♦ cards are enough to bid 2♦)

Let's see how this work by looking at Opener's rebids:

Auction:		Meaning (HCP):	Action
1♣-2♣	1♦-2♦	Bal. Min. (11-14)	NF
2NT		Unbal. Min. (11-14)	NF
3♣	3♦	Stop/Suit (14+) seeks NT	F1R
2♥ / ♣		Stop/Suit (14+) seeks NT	F1R
2♦		Natural	F1R
	3♣	Splinter (0/1 in suit bid)	GF+
3♦♥♣	3♦♣4♦	Bal. (18-19)	GF+
3NT		Ace Asking	GF+
4♣	4♦	Ace Ask / Void show	GF+
4♦♥♣	4♦♣5♣	To Play	NF

NF=Non Forcing; F1R=Forcing 1 Round; GF=Game Force.

Inverted Minor Raises – Continued

HCP	Bid Plan	After IMR:
11-14	Rebid 1N	Rebid 2N
15-17		Open 1N
18-19	J/S 2N	Rebid 3N
20-21		Open 2N
22+		Open 2♣

How do we handle hands that would normally make a Jump Shift to 2NT? These are balanced hands with 18-19 HCP. A simple look at the 2/1 or Standard bidding for balanced hands shows rebidding 3N is the right answer.

By playing splinter raises over partner's minor suit opening, inverted minor raises will often be balanced or semi-balanced hands. Certain inverted minor raise hands with a singleton or void might have a texture unsuitable for a splinter bid (e.g.: ♠AKJ
♥xxx ♦x ♣KQ10xxx). Some play splinters show 2nd round control in all unbid suits.

In Competition – most play Inverted Minor Raises are OFF over any interference. After an overcall, a simple raise can be very valuable to suggest a fit, a sacrifice or a lead. Over their Takeout Double, we can use our competitive bidding agreements instead of the inverted raise. This is a matter for partnership agreement.

As with all conventions, we give something up to get other benefits.

- We lose the simple raise to gain great room and flexibility bidding right games. This is a good tradeoff. With a simple raise and no 4-card major we often have to bid 1NT at our first turn. Then if the auction continues we can support partner's minor later.
- We get too high when both partners are minimum hands. If your style is to open 11 and 12 HCP minor suit hands, the Inverted Raise might get you too high. Two balanced 12 HCP hand opposite each other will make game 50% of the time. If you open an 11 HCP 3 quick trick hand (e.g.: ♠AKxx ♥A9xx ♦xxx ♣xx) and the auction goes 1♦-2♦-2N-??, partner might bid 3NT on ♠xxx ♥K8x ♦KQJxx ♣Kx. The wrong side is declaring (a ♣ lead might sink the contract immediately) and 23 HCP make 2N often, 3N seldom.

There are 2 ways to clarify GF and INV hands:

- Some play opener's 2♥/2♠ rebid does not show extras – the pair can stop at 2NT or 3m if a gap is found.
- Make the Inverted raise GAME FORCING, and use the jump shift in the other minor as the invitational (10-11 HCP) raise. (Some invert this yet again).

Finally, before you adopt Inverted Minor Raises, be sure to discuss the convention and its impact on other related auctions so that you and partner are on the same page.

Newcomer News – by Steve Moese and Mike “I put FUN on my convention card” Purcell 513 702 4007

Happy New Year Everyone! Here is the schedule for the next few Saturdays:

Jan 11 – Pat Hoffman and Lorna Davis

Jan 18 – Susan Wisner & Lorna Davis

Jan 25 – Judy Ruehl and Kay Mulford

We still have a few available copies of “Bridge for Dummies” by Eddie Kantar available for people to borrow (or purchase for \$7). This is a great book for learning the basics of bridge.

This week we look at a hand from Tuesday Night 1/7/14. The theme is about punishing opponents when they bid too much using a tool called Balance of Power (or cooperative penalty) doubles.

Board 9		♠ K 8 6 3
North		♥ Q 6 5
Deals		♦ 6 4
E-W Vul		♣ A K J 8
♠ Q 7	N	♠ J 10 9
♥ J 10 4 3	W	♥ A K 8 2
♦ A Q J 5 2	E	♦ 9 8 7
♣ 5 2	S	♣ Q 6 3
EW 3N; 3♥;		♠ A 5 4 2
E 3♦; W 2♦;		♥ 9 7
NS 1♣; 1♣		♦ K 10 3
		♣ 10 9 7 4

Bidding – North will open 1♣ (13 HCP 2 ½ Quick Tricks) and East will pass. South responds 1♠ (4+ ♠s and 7 HCP). West holding 9 cards in the red suits and 10 HCP makes a light takeout double. North with 4-card ♠ support will rebid 2♠ immediately. (Passing would show a minimum hand and 2 or fewer ♠ cards; Double would show 3 card support for ♠s). East holds beautiful ♥ support and will venture a 3♥ bid to compete. Neither South nor West have anything more to say. North chose to bid one more to 3♠. East can now double – this shows defense and tells partner we have at least half the deck. This double is a cooperative penalty double. East does not promise a trump stack but does have at least 2 trumps in this auction.

	Scores	MPs
Bd 9	N-S E-W N-S E-W	
2♠ S	50 2.17 0.83	
1 NT N	50 2.17 0.83	
3♠ x S	300 0.17 2.83	
2♠ S	50 1.80 1.80	
2♠ S	50 1.80 1.80	

Play of the Hand – West leads the ♥J, winning the 1st trick. The ♥10 wins the 2nd trick. Now a 3rd ♥ causes South to ruff. The ♣ finesse beckons and loses to East's Q. East continues a trump to cut declarer's ruffing power. Declarer can draw 2 rounds of trump and play on ♣s, but must lose a trump and 2♦s in the fullness of time.

Post Mortem – West's thin double is based on partner's initial pass, 10 HCP, and 9 red cards. Put the ♠Q in the ♥ suit and the double is a no-brainer.

East's 3♥ bid was enterprising and risky. Usually playing at the 3 level with less than 23 HCP requires a 9-card trump fit. East knows EW hold only 8 cards. (West would overcall 2♥ with a 5-card suit). But oh, those ♥ honors!

North bid well up to the 3♣ bid. The same 9-card argument applies to North in ♣s. South would have rebid 3♣ with 5 or more cards (The partner who counts to 9 makes the bid to the 3-level).

Looking carefully at the 4 hands, EW can make 3♥ but that's because all the missing cards are exactly where they need them – this is very very rare.

Notice that if North had passed instead of bidding 3♣, EW will score +140 for the same top they get setting 3♣ doubled 2 tricks. Matchpoints is a funny game this way.

Finally, East's 3♥ bid is a good example how competing "one more" gives us three ways to win:

- 1) We might make the hand
- 2) We might go down for a better score than opponents can get if they declare 2♣
- 3) We give the opponents the last guess they have to choose to pass, double or bid on.

Balance of Power doubles have become a very important tool in advancing players tool kits. Find Mel Colchamiro's "How You Can Play Like an Expert (without having to be one)" for a detailed and understandable discussion on this approach.

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/>

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	♥ J 10 4 3	♥ 9 7
	♦ A Q J 5 2	♦ K 10 3
	♣ 5 2	♣ 10 9 7 4
EW 3N; 3♥;		
E 3♦; W 2♦;		
NS 1♣; 1♠		