

8/18 – Tues 7pm NLM Game

- 1st OA: **Charlie Kobida & Mike Burns** (57%, 0.80 MP)
 2nd OA: **Judith Lucas & Judy Barron** (55.9%, 0.56 MP)
 3rd OA: **Tim & Joan Oppelt** (54.7%, 0.40 MP)



8/14 – Fri 10 AM NLM Game

- 1st OA: **Al & Janet Venosa** (62.9%, 0.56 MP)
 2nd OA: **Stephen Baldwin & Terry Raulin** (58.7%, 0.39 MP)
 3rd OA: **Liz Lin & Elaine Rothstein** (55.4%, 0.28 MP)

8/11 – Tues 7pm NLM Game

- 1st OA: **Lewis Temples & Richard Koch** (57%, 0.56 MP)
 2nd OA: **Andy Heldman & Gail Zimmer** (56.8%, 0.39 MP)
 3rd OA: **Alex Grimm & Patrick Lammers** (56%, 0.28 MP)

Link to Sat Volunteers & Topics:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Saturday-Supervised-Play-Schedule.html>

CBA Future Master Games

- Mon 7PM < 2000
 Tue 7PM NLM
 Wed 11AM 0-10/Homestyle
 Fri 11AM 0-10/NLM + Lecture
 Sat 10AM Supervised Play

CBA Board of Elections Nominations

At our October Sectional we will be electing at least three members to the CBA Board. We need folks to represent newer players. If you have an interest in running for the CBA Board you can contact Joe Muenks at jmuenks@cinci.rr.com or 513 469 6466. If you have general questions about the board, you can email me at mikpur@cinci.rr.com.

New 2 Bridge

Saturday September 12 from 9 AM to Noon at the Cincinnati Bridge Club (CBC). This free event will teach basic bridge concepts with hands on play. Attendees can then continue with beginner lessons in the fall, complemented with Informal Supervised Play Saturday mornings. Attendees can register for this free event by contacting Mike Purcell at mikpur@cinci.rr.com or by phone at 513-702-4007.

Hand of the Week

When there is a consistent difference between the NLM and the Open game, there's usually an insight to be found. This week's hand (Tuesday Evening) shows how matchpoint scoring affects the contract choice.

Board 5

North Deals
 N-S Vul
 ♠ 9 7 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K J 9 8 5 3 2
 ♣ A 10

♠ Q 10 8 4 2
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ 8 7 6 2



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

♠ A J 6
 ♥ A K 9 6 3
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ J 9 5

Bidding – North with 8 HCP, 7 diamonds, 1 ½ Quick Tricks and no 4-card major, can choose among 3 possible opening calls: Pass, 2♦, or 3♦.

At **Unfavorable Vulnerability** (we are vulnerable, they are not) preempting can be a losing proposition. In first seat we should be disciplined in our preempts. The **Rule of 2-3-4** offers guidance for the opening bidder and clarifies what responder can expect from opener's hand. Simply, the rule of 2-3-4 means we consider a preempt based on how many non-losers we have in our hand and the vulnerability. Losers (12) are the missing Aces, Kings and Queens in all suits, limited only by the number of cards we hold in a suit. Some Count a missing Ace as 1.5 losers and a missing Queen as 0.5 losers. This compensates for the fact that Aces are much more valuable than Queens. Looking at:

♠ 9 7 3
♥ 4
♦ K J 9 8 5 3 2
♣ A 10

- 3-♠ losers (missing ♠AKQ)
- 1-♥ loser (missing ♥A)
- 2-♦ losers (Missing ♦AQ)
- 1-♣ loser (Missing ♣K)

There are 7 losers, and 13-7 = 6 non-losers.

To the non-loser count we add the Rule of 2-3-4 adjustment according to vulnerability:

US	Them	Rule
Vulnerable	Not Vulnerable	+2
Vulnerable	Vulnerable	+3
Not Vulnerable	Not Vulnerable	+3
Not Vulnerable	Vulnerable	+4

North's hand values to 6+2 = 8. Eight means we can bid to the level of 8 tricks or 2♦. **At unfavorable vulnerability North's hand does not qualify for a 3-level preempt.**

But we're not done yet. Many play that a 1st or 2nd seat Vulnerable weak-2 bid requires a good suit. A good suit is usually defined as 6+ cards and 2 of the top 3 honors (AK, AQ, KQ). Some accept 3 of the top 5 honors with a minimum holding KJ10xxx. By either criteria, the ♦ suit is not sufficient for a weak 2.

Let's assume North passes. East with 11 HCP and 1½

N	E	S	W
P	P	1N	P
??			

Quick Tricks is not enough to open the bidding in Standard or 2/1. Some bidding systems allow this opening bid (*Precision is one*) but

they adjust responses accordingly. If you frequently open these light hands you will find yourself in marginal contracts more often than not.

South with 17 HCP and 5 hearts (5332 shape) has a choice of opening bids: 1♥ and 1 NT. 1♥ is appropriate if you intend to "upgrade" the hand to an 18 HCP hand (adding 1 point for the 5-card ♥ suit). 1NT recommends itself because you get the shape and relative strength of the hand off your chest in one bid. Let's assume South chooses 1N, then West will pass (*West needs more shape and at least one more queen to even think about intervening over 1NT. 55 distributions or 6-card suits are ideal. 5431 can do in a pinch, but never intervene with a 5332 shape or a 5422 shape*). This leaves North with a choice of a different color. When an expert has a choice between a minor suit contract and NT, they lean toward NT when paying Match Point Pairs. Why? Scoring 50% more per trick (NT) is likely to beat many pairs who choose to play in ♦. Keep in mind that 9 tricks earn a game bonus in NT but is only a partial in ♦. So go ahead, ratchet up your courage and respond 3NT (not some number of diamonds)!!

And, what if North chose to open 2♦ anyway? South will inquire with 2NT. There are 2 ways to answer the inquiry:

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 9 7 3

♥ 4

♦ K J 9 8 5 3 2

♣ A 10

♠ Q 10 8 4 2

♥ 8 7

♦ Q 4

♣ 8 7 6 2



♠ K 5

♥ Q J 10 5 2

♦ 10 7

♣ K Q 4 3

♠ A J 6

♥ A K 9 6 3

♦ A 6

♣ J 9 5

NS 5N; NS 5♦; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; Par +660

- 1) **Ogust** – North rebids 3♥ - Good hand (8-10 HCP) bad suit (not 2 of top 3, nor 3 of top 5).
- 2) **Feature** – 3♣ shows the side suit Ace or King (showing an 8-10 HCP hand).

Either way, South with a maximum NT opening hand should rebid 3NT.

All roads (and all methods) lead to Rome!

Contract	Score	Match Points	
		N-S	E-W
3 NT S	5 660	2	1
3 NT S	5 660	2	1
3 NT S	5 660	2	1
3 ♦ N	5 150	0	3
3 ♦ N	5 150	3	1
4 ♦ N	5 150	3	1
3 ♦ N	5 150	3	1
6 ♦ N	-1 100	1	3
3 ♥ S	-2 200	0	4

Matchpoint scoring emphasizes getting better scores than other pairs. Priority goes to Major Suit over NT, then NT over minors. Here the presence of an outside Ace and a semi-solid 7-card suit many North's will raise 1NT to 3NT.

What if South opens 1♥ instead? The auction will proceed: P-(P)-1♥-(P)-2♦-(P)-3NT!! As a passed hand North can respond a natural 2♦ (3♦ if playing Drury) and South can continue to 3N. "Easy peasy, lemon squeezy."

Yes, there are many legitimate ways to bid hands like these. Your choices define your style. What matters is you and partner are on the same page.