



Quarterly Newsletter

 **Cincinnati**
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

January 2014 XXXIX Number 1

2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (513) 563 2218

From the President's Desk

by A J Stephani

The New Year always seems to begin with fireworks of its own kind, and this year was no exception. We battled a wave of bitter cold and bad weather, and fairer skies are hopefully on their way. Remember that the best place to look for information about game cancellation at the CBC is our website at cincybridge.com – we do our best to keep the site updated as developments occur. In case you're wondering (and we know you do, judging by your occasional questions), decisions surrounding all CBC games are left to the discretion of the director of the affected game.

At our annual Board retreat a few weeks ago, I was impressed with the overall competence and professionalism of our Board. I really look forward to working with this group as I complete my tenure as President of the CBA. We welcomed new Board members John Meinking and Tom Mess and welcomed back interim Board member Steve Moese for a full 3-year term. We extend our thanks to Gayle Keaney and Gerry Mirus, who stepped down from Board positions during the year. And extra thanks to Potter Orr, who became one of the few individuals willing to serve on the Board so steadfastly that he became term-limited at the end of last year. Potter served on the Board for 3 consecutive 3-year terms, with stints as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recorder, Webmaster, Regional Chair, Technology Coordinator, and a few other jobs I'm forgetting. Not to worry, though – Potter's not going anywhere, as we made sure to create a new Emeritus Board Member (nonvoting) position for immediate past Presidents.

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We extend our thanks to Debbie Cummings and Mike Lipp, who moved on from the positions of Supplies Coordinator and CBA Coordinator, respectively. Debbie Wiest and Carol Vradelis have stepped up to tag-team the Supplies Coordinator functions (ask your Director to place needed supplies on the "Shopping List" board behind the Director's desk), and CBA Coordinator functions are being split among Potter, Mike (now in a purely volunteer capacity), and myself. Chris Hastie and Joanne Earls have done yeoman's

work as our new Partnership Chairs, so if you're having trouble establishing a long-term partnership, a call to Chris or Joanne is the place to start.

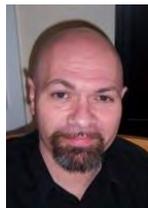
The CBA schedule of tournaments will look familiar for 2014, with the Flying Pig Regional scheduled for the first week in June, the Spooktacular Sectional scheduled for the weekend before Halloween, and STaC opportunities for clubs in February, August (moved from June this year), and the last week of December. The NLM Sectional last year was such a big success for a first-time tournament that we need to do it again (May 24-25), and we will again host the NAP District Finals on a standalone weekend in October (11-12). I'm very excited about the inaugural Northern Kentucky "Summer Getaway" sectional, scheduled for August 15-17 – make sure to get this on your calendar now!

In addition to regular games, look for all our Unit clubs to offer extra point games throughout the year. Clubs have a myriad of opportunities to "increase the payday," so to speak, and we are working with clubs to increase awareness in this area. Members can stay in touch on all club and Unit activities through our most excellent ALERT newsletter, issued quarterly, our outstanding website at cincybridge.com, and our brand new monthly membership newsletter (starting in February).

Finally, if you haven't noticed the hubbub of activity on Saturday mornings at the CBC, you're missing one of the more exciting developments of the last year. Under the auspices of our Education Committee, our Saturday Supervised Play from 10:00 to Noon is the perfect place for Newcomers and folks eager to learn the game. This is a real bargain at only \$2, so if you have friends you're dying to introduce to the game, this is definitely the place to start.

See you at the Bridge Table!

A.J. Stephani
CBA Board President



Check out www.cincybridge.com today!

2014 Grand National Teams D11 Finalists

Championship	Doug Simson - Dennis & Jerry Clerkin- Ken Eichenbaum
A	John Hinton - Bob Lyon - Craig Satersmoen - Shen-Hung Wang
B	Geoff Bridges - Kendra Bridges - William Gheen - Tom Bondus III
C	Michael Jones -Leon Pauley - Andra Gyor - Jean Addleton

The NABC Finals are at the Summer NABC in Las Vegas Nevada July 20-30, 2014. Teams receive compensation at the National Tournament. See the CBA and ACBL websites for details.

Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Games
Mon	AM	BCB 10:00 - CBC*11:00 Inv
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (<2000) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 - BCB 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	PM	MIDS 11:00 CBC 11:00 Open/NLM CBC 7:00* Open/99er
Wed	AM	CBC* 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:30
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30
Thu	AM	INT* 9:00 - BCB 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	Aft	WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30
	PM	CBC 7:00
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	PM	BCB 6:30
Sat	AM	BCB 11:30
	Aft	CBC 1:00

New Year's Resolve

by Steve Moese

Just after the holidays I was among the hordes of partiers at the gym attempting to atone for holiday excess. Funny how January 2 is always so crowded. My resolution is to get to the gym one or two days more per week. If I don't do it, no one can do it for me.

It got me to wondering what could we all do to make the games in the UNIT more fun and exciting, even crowded. Every sanction holder has their plans for celebrations and club events. The UNIT board will make these plans available monthly so we can all see what's offered. Look for the first e-mail by the end of January about February games.

We members have the biggest impact. If we were all to commit to play one more duplicate game a year, we'd collectively add 250 tables to the unit total. If we commit to play one more game a month, we add 3,000 tables.

Bigger games are more fun, more rewarding and create opportunities for tournament adventures as we make new friends and find new teammates.

Don't let the lack of a steady partner slow you down. Snow birds are out of town, and if you are left behind contact Chris Hastie or Joanne Earls – they will help you find a compatible long term partner to add to your partner group.

Playing with more than one partner has its advantages. In addition to greater flexibility and access to more games and tournaments, we can learn from each other while we widen our circle of friends.

So following my commitment to add a few exercise days to my week, I am committing to play in at least one more club game per month. I have lined up 5 partners for 5 standing games and will add a game here or there with my friends in in NKy as time allows.

As the weather turns ever slowly toward spring, you'll find high quality content in this ALERT. Rob Weidenfeld continues his delightful series on serious bridge played by well known characters. Dean Congbalay shares his experience with the ACBL's new Zero Tolerance poster. Pat Dutson and Eugene Siutsau continue to test our mettle with challenging bridge problems. Elaine Jarchow adds club news from around the Unit. Mike Purcell brings us up to speed on Bridge Education and on the New2Duplicate series we begin this February. **Have a friend who plays bridge? Get them to New2Duplicate – share the passion!** Amit takes on New Math, while Mike Ma tackles raising preempts. Robert Brown continues Ruminating (*Steve Felson is recovering from a serious illness. We all wish Steve gets well soon*).

We have very sad news to share. Al Fultz, Gold Life Master, Retired educator, ranked 20th in

the Unit 124 Master Point List, and a partner of mine passed away early the morning of January 14th. We will miss Al's friendship, laughter, and big heart. He gave much to Bridge. A memorial follows.

Thanks to all who contributed! We can all snuggle up to the great entertainment in this issue, then come out & play 1 extra game each month.

See you at the tables,

Steve

Editor, The ALERT

alert@cincybridge.com



CLUB  CORNER

Send Club News to the Alert
Editor: alert@cincybridge.com

Elsmere Bridge Club by Elaine Jarchow

The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club prides itself on adding welcoming festive occasions to our regular calendar. We celebrated new Life Masters Bob Frey and Greg Brinker's success with a large cake. We held an Awards Celebration Souper (soups with side dishes) to recognize our quickly advancing players. An Invite a New Partner game was also held.

The cold weather sent various members to warmer tournaments - Cindy Tretter and Mary Ann Boyle attended the Biloxi Regional where they met Donna Rodwell. Donna hopes that she and her husband Eric can attend our August sectional. Elaine and Ron Jarchow traveled to the Las Vegas Regional.

The Club elected new officers for 2014. They include; Elaine Jarchow, President, Tony Brockman, Vice President, Imogene Enzweiler, Secretary, Jack Mehalko, Treasurer, Sheila Dippel, Club Manager, Greg Brinker, Board Member, and Vern Goetz, Board Member.

In keeping with our Thursday tradition of offering a short lesson before the game, Cordell Coy discussed the Law of Total Tricks, and Bart Jacobs described The Principle of Restricted Choice.



Visit our website!
<http://www.nkybridge.org/>

Erie Avenue Belles by Don Duritsch

I direct and manage games at Hyde Park Country Club at noon on Thursdays. This club is called "The Erie Avenue Belles". As I understand it, Manny Isralsky started this club more than 40 years ago. The late George Deidesheimer directed this club for many years before poor health forced him to quit. Then Helen Ogle directed for 3 or 4 years and she asked me to take over. I have directed for about 5 years. Carol Vidal handles partnerships. Since this is an invitational game, players must contact Carol.

This January, the country club will be closed for renovation. The Thursday games beginning January 9 will be held at the Kenwood Country Club.

Deschapelles Bridge Club by Sandy Orr

We have a number of special games coming up.

The Monday STaC game February 17 at 11 AM (our traditional start time) is open to all ACBL members. Come earn Silver Points!

For Deschapelles Members:

- Club championship - January 27
- Senior Game - March 3.
- Deschapelles Birthday Party - April 7 (57 yrs!)

All games at 11 AM.

Cincinnati Bridge Association 2014 Board of Directors Officers:

President AJ Stephani

Vice President Steve Moese

Treasurer Susan Wisner

Secretary Barbara Levinson

First New to Duplicate Session Feb 15th

By Mike Purcell



Our first New to Duplicate (NTD) session will be Saturday Feb 15th at the CBC from 8:30 to noon. Please invite your friends who are currently playing Rubber Bridge and want to learn more about duplicate. This is a great way to learn about our game in a friendly setting. For 90 minutes we will discuss the major

differences between Rubber Bridge and Duplicate and the fun opportunities for play and travel (tournaments) with the ACBL. After this attendees will be invited to play for free in an Informal Supervised Play session and encouraged to continue on there and in our other clubs games. People can register with me by email at mikpur@cinci.rr.com or by phone at 513-702-4007. We will take up to 24 people for this event in Feb. If you have friends that cannot make this Feb session, there will be another in April.

MEMORIAL

Remembering Al Fultz

by Elaine Jarchow



Shock and sadness enveloped the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club on Tuesday, January 14th as word reached us that Albert "Al" Fultz had passed away. Al was 72, a contributor to THE ALERT, and a Gold Life Master. Married to Carol Fultz for 42 years, he was a resident of Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. He was a Mason and he served in the US Navy. He often reminded me of the great character actor Sydney Greenstreet - seeking the Maltese Falcon at various far-flung bridge tournaments. Ron and I ran into him and his brother Phil at a tournament in Paducah. Who knew he had a bridge playing brother? Al turned up again when we were in Orlando and Ron became a Life Master. Ron proudly told Al, and Al embraced Ron in a powerful, congratulatory bear hug. Ron won't soon forget that moment. Because Al had such a distinctive playing style, I find myself wanting to copy him and say things like, "Play the Knave" or when my partner shows out, "Failing?" Al was a gentleman. I can attest to that fact because I always wanted to do well around him. He was very kind at the end of a hand when he leaned over and politely said, "Elaine, you revoked at trick four." John Taylor, a 13 year old member of our club, had the happy distinction of being Al's mentee. John had this to say, "My time with Al was too short, but I was excited to have had him as a mentor. The first thing he said to me when we picked up our hands was, 'Don't worry about bidding because I've already bid your points, too. Give my love to Rose.'" Many of us remember this

closing from Al and wonder who Rose was. Was she like Jimmy Durante's Mrs. Calabash or Citizen Kane's Rosebud? I like to think that Al is off somewhere in the Afterlife playing, teaching, mentoring, and making cryptic comments like, "**Give my love to Rose.**" We will miss you, Al.

*Al was a big country music fan. Among his favorites was Johnny Cash. "American IV: The Man Comes Around is the 4th album in the American series by Johnny Cash (and his 87th overall), released in 2002. This is the last album released before Johnny's death in 2003. In February 2003, mere days before his 71st birthday, Cash won another Grammy Award for **Best Country Male Vocal Performance for "Give My Love To Rose,"** a song Cash had originally recorded in the late 1950s" (Wikipedia) – Ed.*

"Give My Love To Rose"

*I found him by the railroad track this morning
I could see that he was nearly dead
I knelt down beside him and I listened
Just to hear the words the dying fellow said*

*He said they let me out of prison down in Frisco
For ten long years I've paid for what I've done
I was trying to get back to Louisiana
To see my Rose and get to know my son*

*[Chorus:] Give my love to Rose please won't you mister
Take her all my money, tell her to buy some pretty clothes
Tell my boy his daddy's so proud of him
And don't forget to give my love to Rose*

*Tell them I said thanks for waiting for me
Tell my boy to help his mom at home
Tell my Rose to try to find another
For it ain't right that she should live alone*

*Mister here's a bag with all my money
It won't last them long the way it goes
God bless you for finding me this morning
And don't forget to give my love to Rose*

*[Chorus:] Give my love to Rose please won't you mister
Take her all my money, tell her to buy some pretty clothes
Tell my boy his daddy's so proud of him
And don't forget to give my love to Rose*

Winter Partnerships by Chris Hastie & Joanne Earls

Migration to the south is underway. Have you lost a snowbird partner? If so, call or email Chris or Joanne. We will do our best to find you a winter replacement. Please email us now with your points, a list of your favorite conventions, a start date (day of abandonment)



and the days or evenings you like to play. While your partner basks in the sun at the beach and hits a golf ball 5 hours a day, you can sharpen your bridge skills and collect master points. We look forward to assisting you!

[Chris Hastie: chwadehastie@gmail.com](mailto:chwadehastie@gmail.com)

(513) 793-1475

[Joanne Earls: jolman@fuse.net](mailto:jolman@fuse.net)

(513) 772-4395

Your Name Here Cincinnati Bridge Association

**Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.
\$4 each. (1st one FREE! to New Members).**

MISS MANNERS

It is so enjoyable to peruse the stack of questions I receive from you all! I have chosen 2 delightful little queries for you this month.



Q: Someone told me yesterday that I had made ace-banging into an art form. What do you think I should have said to him?

A: You tell him you have something else that bangs, dearie, and a permit to carry it, too. That should make him a little quieter in the future.

Q: Someone asked me if I had a "side agreement" with my partner to open 2NT with only 18 points even though my partner told her we play 2NT as 20 – 21 points. I didn't say anything, but do you think she was suggesting that we were deliberately misleading her? What should I have done?

A: Well, my dear, I think it would require an almost childlike suspension of disbelief to think she was suggesting anything but that you were misleading her! In these situations it's best to say that although you have no formal side agreements, you have not yet plumbed the depths to which your partner can sink, who knows? That should give her something to think about.

Well, ta ta til next time!

Procedural Issues at Duplicate

By Potter Orr



I would like to try to clarify some procedural issues about duplicate bridge. In the interest of full disclosure, I should let you know that I am a director (usually 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings) but you should also know that the director's pay is not dependent in any way on the number of director calls during the game.

When any irregularity occurs calling the director immediately is the right thing to do. We directors are very pleased to come to the table and it is almost always easier to solve the problem earlier rather than later. Calling the director is not a criticism of your opponents or their actions, in fact, is the best way to avoid unpleasant exchange with anyone else at the table. You should think of calling the director in the same vein as calling a policeman when you have a traffic accident. The last thing you want to do after a traffic accident is to discuss who is at fault and who should be penalized with the other driver. I always want an impartial expert to come and tell both parties what the law is and what should happen next. The director in duplicate bridge game is in the same position.

When the director arrives, they are in charge of the discussion. The first person to call the director gets to speak first and after that, the director will ask others as needed. The dummy is specifically excluded from the discussion unless asked a direct question by the director.

If there has been a violation of rules or a potential violation of rules at the table, call the director. Just because someone at the table has thousands of master points and assures you that they know the rules, that doesn't make it so. The rules do change from time to time and the appropriate remedy depends on exact circumstances. Let me go through a few of the common issues that should get a director call.

Insufficient bid: This comes up at the table with some regularity and is not as simple as just making the bid sufficient. There are a number of

issues involved and at least one circumstance where the rules specify a rather catastrophic penalty for the offender. In order to protect everyone's rights, the director should be called immediately to explain and rule. For example, one option is for the player whose turn to bid would come immediately after the insufficient bid to accept the bid. At a recent director call South had bid 2 hearts followed by West bidding 2 diamonds. The director was called to the table and the options explained to North. North decided to accept the bid of 2 diamonds and was then able to bid 2 hearts in support of his partner but keeping the bidding at the 2 level. In another recent call, West had opened 2 NT, North passed and East bid 2 diamonds. The director was called for the insufficient bid. Since the insufficient bid (2 diamonds) was a conventional bid (east-west were playing transfers) and a correction to 3 diamonds would still have been a conventional bid, West was going to be barred from the bidding for the rest of the auction. The director was able to explain this and East then had the chance to correct the insufficient bid to a contract they thought they could make. If the insufficient bid of 2 diamonds had been corrected to 3 diamonds before the director was called, West would still have been barred from the bidding and East would not have another bid. In addition to actual insufficient bids, it is possible that the insufficient bid was simply a mechanical error. This means that the person making the insufficient bid inadvertently pulled the wrong card from the bidding box. If this is the case and that person's partner has not yet bid, the incorrect bid may be corrected with no penalty.

Lead out of turn: If it is the opening lead out of turn, the director should always be called because the declarer has 5 different options. Those options have been described in the previous article for the alert so I will not repeat them here, but if declarer's choice creates a penalty card, there are additional possible lead restrictions later in the play.

Exposed card: I've heard many people to table simply say all you have to do is to leave the card on the table as a penalty card and play it at the 1st

opportunity. There are several other possibilities. If the exposed card ended up in view because the player inadvertently pulled 2 cards at once, the penalty card may be considered a "minor" penalty card and there is a quite different treatment for that card. Also, with any penalty card the declarer has options if the partner of the penalty card player is on lead before the card is played. Simplify your life, call the director.

Break in tempo: This is the technical description of an undue hesitation in the bidding. If you believe that your opponent has taken substantially longer than is normal for them to make a bid or pass and that there is a possible inference to be drawn from this hesitation, please call the director. There is no immediate remedy for the hesitation, but calling the director right after it happens allows him to remind the partner of the hesitator that s/he may not choose a bid based on the unauthorized information implicit in the hesitation. It also protects the rights of your side to have an adjustment made after the hand if necessary.

Not enough cards or too many cards played to a trick: Occasionally due to confusion over who won a trick to which hand the lead was to come from, one player or another may either fail to play a card or play 2 cards to a trick. In either case, when you reach the end of the hand someone will have the wrong number of cards left. It can be very difficult for anyone (the director included) to figure out exactly when this happened and what card should of been played. If that can be determined in may result in a penalty for a revoke when the missing card was played or not played. If any of the 3 players at the table (dummy is excluded) feel that the wrong number of cards have been played, call the director immediately. If the call comes at the time of the trick or right after it, it is usually very easy to solve the problem.

The wrong number of cards to start with: every player should count the cards when they pull them out of the duplicate board facedown before every hand. If one player fails to count their cards and opens and sorts their hand only to discover

that they have 14 cards, they are subject to a penalty on the board. If they had counted their cards face down and discover the extra card, the director could have been called and using a hand record the problem could easily be solved before anyone saw an extra card.

Nancy's Nasties

By Pat Dutson

This hand was taught by Nancy Sachs in her Advanced 2/1 Classes.



South ♠Q75
Deals ♥Q9
N-S Vul ♦642
♣AQ75

♠J62
♥AT752
♦T85
♣85



The bidding has been:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

You are sitting West and you lead the 5♥. Dummy is placed on the table and here is what you see. Declarer plays the 9♥ from dummy. Partner wins the K♥ and declarer plays the 3♥. Partner returns the 8♥. Declarer plays the 4♥. How are you going to defend to set 3NT? (Answer Page 16)

Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

By Eugene Siutsau

From the Polish Bridge Magazine:

Problem 1

IMPs, EW vul.

♠QJ9xxxx
♥J9x
♦Kxx
♣--

East	South	West	North
1♣	1♠	3♣ ¹	4♠

1 = constructive raise



♠AK10x
♥AK108
♦xxx
♣Qx

Opening lead : ♣J.
Plan your play.

Problem 2

IMPs, Both Vul.

- ♠ 10xx
 - ♥ KQxx
 - ♦ KQJ10x
 - ♣ Q
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |
- ♠ AKJxx
 - ♥ xx
 - ♦ Axx
 - ♣ Kxx

You	West	North	East
1♠	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead : ♥J. You play ♥Q from dummy and E wins ♥A and plays ♥10, W follows. **Plan your play.**

(Answers page 16)

East	South	West	North
P	1♦	P	1♠
DBL ¹ !	1NT	P	7NT ² !
All Pass			

- (1) E. Price explained that E. Cunningham may not have full value since he is a passed hand!
- (2) Nabulungi said if my father can open the bidding and I have 9 tricks, he can surely produce 4!

Lead: 8♥

Mafala had been taught to count his tricks in a no-trump contract but he could only come up to 12. He knew he had no prospects in the black suits, and the heart suit was missing too many honors, so he looked towards the diamond suit. Hoping for a doubleton Q, he won the ♥A after RHO played the jack. He then laid down the diamond ace, and seeing nothing, he was ready to try the diamond king when a little voice in his head said "Now that you've shown up, simply be patient." Later he would swear that it was the Good Book sending him a message. So at trick 3, he abandoned the red suits and started playing black suit winners. After 6 ♠s and 2 high clubs, he was similarly struck by what he thought was divine notification. He realized that he had no problem discarding, but Elder Price seemed to be in some discomfort, especially after he discarded the ♥Q. This was the ending when Mafala, needing the rest of the tricks, played his ♣A:

The Book of Mormon Shows Up

By Rob Weidenfeld
Elianadad@gmail.com



"The Book of Mormon" recently had a very successful run in Cincinnati. Not many are acquainted with all the Mormons had to do to begin the socialization process for the far-removed tribe in Uganda that desperately needed what the good Book had to offer them. Elder Price and Elder Cunningham had decided to teach the unsocialized tribe some aspects of bridge in their spare time. They knew that back at the mission, elders often looked skyward for divine inspiration when contemplating a 2-way finesse. On this occasion, the elders were explaining to Mafala and his daughter Nabulungi that good things sometimes happen when you simply "show up", whether it is a Bible reading or bridge.

Oddly, this was the deal that then occurred:

Nabulungi ♠ AKQJ105 ♥ 9 ♦ 654 ♣ AKQ	E. Price ♠ 76 ♥ 8732 ♦ 1097 ♣ 10982	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		E. Cunningham ♠ 83 ♥ KQJ6 ♦ Q83 ♣ 8754
	N											
W		E										
	S											
Mafala ♠ 942 ♥ A1054 ♦ AKJ2 ♣ J6												

Nabulungi ♥ ♦ 65 ♣ A	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		E. Cunningham ♥ K ♦ Q8 ♣	Elder Cunningham knew his partner didn't have the heart ten because of the opening lead. So he hoped for the best and parted with a diamond. Mafala knew
	N											
W		E										
	S											
E. Price ♥ ♦ 1097 ♣	Mafala ♥ 10 ♦ KJ ♣		that nobody would throw away the ♥K so he threw away the useless ♥10! Fully prepared to now take the diamond finesse, he led a diamond from dummy. Much to his surprise, the Q just showed up! He defiantly put his two cards on the table and said "no finesse is necessary." So that is what you meant, Elder Cunningham," said Mafala,									

“Just show up and sometimes good things just show up!” I was squeezed moaned Elder Cunningham to Elder Price. “Yes, In Uganda we will henceforth call it the show-up squeeze,” said Mafala proudly.

Give Them Ropes by Mike Ma

When your partner preempts, and you find yourself with support for her suit, you can make the preempt even more effective by raising or even jump raising her. However, if not done judiciously, you may find yourself negating what good your partner's preempt has already achieved. Whether to raise a preempt and to how high is one of the difficult but common decisions in bidding, and although there are general guidelines to help you make the decision, nothing can replace recognition through experience.

Let's illustrate with an example from the perspective of how opponents' preempt and raise hinder or simplify your bidding. Playing with a first time partner in a match point club game, you are vulnerable while opponents are non-vulnerable. Your RHO dealt and opened 3♦, and your partner bid 3♥. Holding ♠ Q875 ♥ 62 ♦ AT9 ♣ KT83, what do you bid if opener's partner bid 1) Pass, 2) 4♦, and 3) 5♦?

1) Although your partner might have stretched to bid in the direct seat with short ♦, we are vulnerable, so it is just too pessimistic to not bid game. The question is which game. A ♣ game is unlikely and there is no simple path to get to it even if it is right. What about ♠? Perhaps partner has 4 ♠ and 5 ♥, but did not double because he is short in ♣. No matter, you don't have a way to show 4 ♠s, so you just have to give up on ♠. You can raise to 4♥. You only have 2 ♥, and he does not promise more than 5, but hopefully he has a decent suit for his vulnerable overcall. The other choice is 3N. You have a sure ♦ stopper and it being the A means you can hold up. In addition to only having 2 ♥, you have absolutely no ruffing value, so it may be right to go for a 9 trick game

instead of 10. You will have to anguish yourself between 3N and 4♥.

2) The 4♦ bid has taken up further space. Now NT is a 10 trick game too, and even an established partnership probably won't be sure what 4N by you means. 4♥ is still available. But the 4♦ bid actually gives you an extra option, that being the responsive double. Your X does not promise ♦ tricks, just values without a clear bid, so you probably don't have 3+ ♥s. Your values should be transferable in the sense that they are useful in both defense and offense. Knowing this, partner will be comfortable to pass with a relatively balanced hand. You happen to have ideal shape for X with this hand, and you will be pretty happy no matter what partner bids over your X, including (may be especially) P.

3) The opponents have basically taken all but one options from you, and you are happy to oblige them with a value showing X. The higher the level is, the more distributional hand and ♥ support you may have and still X. Unless he has a very unusual hand, your partner will pass. There are several ways you can win defending 5♦ doubled assuming you will set them as you expect to. Your side may be going down in a game. You may set them more (4 or more) than your vulnerable game. You probably can't set them more than slam, but you were never thinking of slam anyway.

As seen from the above example, when they bid to take away your options, they actually often make life easier for you. In 1) you have two imperfect close choices, 3N and 4♥. In 2) 3NT was removed as an option, and a new option, the responsive double, added. With your hand, X is clear, so you have an easy bid. With some other hands the 4♦ may be effective in causing you problems, e.g. if you have 6 ♠s and 3 ♥s or if you have a slam tending hand. In 3) most of the time your only options are to P or X. The opponents have in effect taken the last guess.



Check out the new District 11 website:
www.district11bridge.com

Here is the actual full hand with me sitting N.

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

The bidding went

East	South	West	North
3♦	3♥	5♦	X

E did not have a traditional preempt but it would have been effective. I probably would have bid 3N if W passed, and would have gone down. 4♥ makes but if W had ♥ AJTx, it would have gone down while 3N would have made. 6♣ makes but we would never have found it after the preempt, and very doubtful even with silent opponents. W's 5♦ bid, banking on partner having a traditional preempt with 7♦s and nothing outside has too many ways to lose. 5♦ X ended up down 6 when declarer misplayed to lose one extra trick so that it was even worse than the 6♣ score that was never going to be bid and which no pairs bid.

One big reason why raising or jump raising partner's preempt did not work so well in this hand is that once S bid 3♥, a major piece of information has already been exchanged. If S had passed, then a 4♦ or a more judicious 5♦ bid would have been much more effective. There is a famous example of that from the recent Bermuda Bowl, which I hope to discuss in a future article.

I end this article with a very true saying by expert player and bridge writer Kit Woolsey concerning the effective preempts and raises of preempts, and they are those that are **"...not quite high enough to make it comfortable for opponents to double but high enough to damage their auction"**

A Last Post Mortem by Steve Moese

From: al fultz [mailto:euthamie@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 05:51 AM

To: Moese, Steve

Subject: Bad news, 6 cl makes.

Revisited the hand and it became much clearer.

Turns out you were right about ducking trick one. A combination dental coup and count rectification.

Win the heart continuation and get ready to put the contract on the line at trick 3. There are 2 choices, diamond finesse and the spade finesse. Diamonds must be 4/3 for them to work. Spades may be 5/2.

Considering the questions about the diamond bid from opening leader, This makes the spade finesse look like the bell cow.

Pitch the losing heart on the Spade ace and come to the hand with diamonds ruffing the third diamond. When her ladyship drops the hand is over. Otherwise you must return to hand and ruff 4th diamond.

So it goes.

Still, I enjoyed the day very much and am pleased with our finish.

Give my love to Rose.

♠ AQxxx
♥ Q8x
♦ A4
♣ KJ10

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10
♥ A9x
♦ KJ9x
♣ AQxxx

Sure thing partner. I wish I had gotten this hand right at the table. If I had made 6♣ we win Flight A Swiss Teams at the Columbus-Dayton Regional. As it was we finished 2nd in A and won X. Otto Walter and Frank Salem were our teammates. So it goes.

North Deals N-S Vul

The hand is remarkable. We played it against Kenny Eichenbaum's team

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	6♣	AP

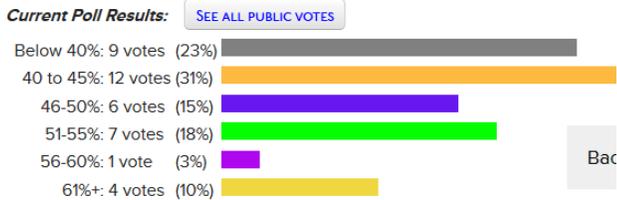
1= Minorwood (RKB for ♠s)
2= 0 or 3 3= King Ask (5 Keys).

(they only managed 11 tricks), and were fascinated by the number of possibilities for finding 12 tricks.

We both believed there was a slam here. (Kinda' reminds me of the old joke about the child finding a large pile of horse manure, then shouting with glee that there must be a pony nearby).

Our bidding wasn't a work of art, but it certainly got us to a place with interesting possibilities. I polled Bridge Winners to determine what folks thought about how the likelihood of success in a small ♣ slam. The responses were telling. (See: <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/complex-slam-hand/>)

What do you rate the a priori probability of success to be for 6♣? LHO led the ♥6. Over to you...



Abstentions: 8

As it turned out, the naysayers were overly pessimistic!

On the lead of the ♥6, we can count 9 tricks and need to establish 3 more. The ♥ finesse (+1), the ♠ finesse (+1) and the ♦ finesse (+1) are all live possibilities. But if you think about the combined odds that all 3 finesses are working, we are looking at about a 12.5% likelihood of success. We need to look for better odds.

I chose to play the opening leader for the ♥K, but RHO covered my ♥Q with the ♥K. First challenge – do you win or duck?

Rightly or wrongly I chose to win the ♥A. That left me with 2 quick losers in ♥s. Seeing the ♠ finesse would allow me to discard one of the losers I went after that play. Unfortunately, RHO had the ♠K and we went down in a cold slam.

Cold you said, and I thought so too. But the solution is a delightful one – with some aspects not often seen in print.

When faced with many options for extra tricks, one option to not overlook is playing as if all key missing cards are off side. Here that means playing for ♠s to split 4-3, and for ♦Q to be Qxx in either opponent's hand. As long as side suits are behaving "normally" there is a way to avoid all finesses.

What's even more fascinating is the actual layout is such that we make 6♣ regardless whether South chooses to win or duck the 1st trick.

Say we win the 1st trick. we continue by a ♠ to the ♠A followed by a ♠ ruff. The ♦AK followed by a ♦ ruff fells the ♦Q. A ♠ ruff fells the ♠K. 2♣ tricks taken in dummy leave one trump at bay. Play the ♠Q and the remaining ♠x pitching the 2 losing ♥s. South ruffs the 5th ♠ but it's too late - South has only trumps and a good ♦J. Sorry I panicked when the ♥Q lost, partner.

South ♠ AQxxx
Deals ♥ Q9x
N-S Vul ♦ 64
♣ KJ10

♠ Jxxx		♠ Kxx
♥ 1096		♥ KJxx
♦ Q85		♦ 10xxx
♣ 873		♣ 45
♠ 3		
♥ Axx		
♦ AKJ9		
♣ AQ962		

What happens if South ducks the ♥K? On the lie of the cards, you win any return and play along similar lines, pitching one ♥ loser then drawing West's 3rd trump (don't play the 5th ♠). Funny thing, if South ducks the ♥ completely, the slam

still comes home. I'll leave it to the statisticians to estimate the probability of success for this line of play, but the beauty in finding success by assuming everything is wrong appeals to me – a strategy I will remember. I promised you I would write about this hand because we both found it fascinating and enjoyed our round together. Thanks, Al, for being such a good partner. Sorry it took me so long to put this it into print. We will miss you. Save a seat at the table for me, partner.

Ruminations by Robert S Brown

Directors lead a brutish life and deservedly so. Their looming and hectoring presence whenever they deem one's pace of play too slow¹, their self-indulgent and uninvited soliloquies on the quotidian events of their drab lives, and their parlously putrescent profferings of provender endear them not. Nevertheless, as



¹ The Albatross, a stately declarer whose measured style of deliberation impels him to cogitate where others act reflexively, is a frequent target of this tactic.

with all of Earth's creatures, they have a role to play² – although only a servile and demeaning one. Perhaps if we train and equip them properly and appropriately augment their authority, they could achieve a less repugnant and repulsive position in our Bridge Community – albeit never one of peerage.³

To that end, the Ruminator suggests some possible enhancements:

Training – I propose a program combining the rudimentary elements of Dale Carnegie and Toastmasters International. We need to be realistic: Directors will never become either eloquent or likable; but a concerted effort could produce notable improvements in both areas. Similarly, a “Food for Dummies” (no pun intended) might improve the side board consumables.

Uniforms – Uniforms have long been employed to make people look more important than they really are and Directors seem particularly in need of this visual crutch. For male Directors I suggest something with a military cut – padded shoulders, epaulets, and a snappy beret. For distaff Directors a more radical approach seems desirable. I envision a variant of the Playboy Bunny costume. An alluring display of flesh artfully packaged could also have a significant impact on male participation in the Game.⁴

Equipment – We have already ceded to these lesser beings some disciplinary authority. Why not give them the proper armament to make it meaningful? Electric cattle prods deftly applied would certainly improve the pace of play; thumbscrews or waterboarding should go a long way in reducing out-of-turn bidding; and a

² *Confer*: Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1798): “All things both great and small . . . He made and loveth all.”

³ *Vide*: Tennyson, *Locksley Hall* (1842): “Nature made them blinder motions bounded in a shallower brain.”

⁴ To avoid sexist accusations, I am open to a Chippendale approach for male Directors but – if we are realistic about the quality of material available – this does not look very enticing.

progressive public lashing policy could virtually eliminate revokes.⁵

Of course, any attempt to improve the lot of Directors is fraught with perils and unintended consequences;⁶ yet the constraints of *Noblesse Oblige* compel us to seek their elevation – to enable the least of them to cry out to their cohorts as Vladimir did to Estragon:

“Let us represent worthily for once the foul brood to which a cruel fate has consigned us.”⁷

Deception – Part 1 by Otto Walter

Good bridge players are not satisfied to simply get the best out of the cards they may hold, they also want to make the opponents get less than what is possible from the cards that they hold. Deception is the tool used to achieve this result.

In bridge, it is illegal to deliberately **behave** in such a way as to try to mislead an opponent. Comment, hesitation, emphasis of play, facial expression and body language, while commonly used in poker, are all serious and punishable violations of bridge ethics. On the other hand, there is no ban on **playing your cards** in any sequence you may choose.

Declarer will use the same carding method as the opponents to either encourage or discourage a lead continuation. I will assume the opponents are using standard signals.

	Dummy	
	Q852	
LHO		RHO
AK104		76
	You	
	J93	

⁵ *Confer*: The incidence of *Cannabis* use in Singapore under this program.

⁶ *Vide*: Juvenal (X, 22): *Cantabit vacuus coram latrone viator* (“The empty-handed traveler whistles his way past any highwayman”).

⁷ Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (1953).

LHO leads the Ace in this side suit against your trump contract. RHO starts an echo by playing the 7. You should play the 3 (normally discouraging). LHO will have to consider the possibility that RHO holds J97 and that you hold the 63. If, instead, you play the Jack or 9, LHO will be able to work out that partner has started an echo. Your hope is to induce LHO to lead a different suit allowing you to get control of the hand and pull trumps so as to prevent RHO from getting his ruff.

	Dummy	
	QJ5	
LHO		RHO
AK942		1086
	You	
	73	

Again LHO leads the Ace in this side suit against your trump contract. RHO discourages by playing the 6. If you want this suit continued in the hope of getting a trick established before the opponents break a new suit, play your 7 (as if you are starting an echo). LHO may think that RHO holds the 63 doubleton and so continue by playing the King. You may want to use the high card in dummy to allow you to discard an otherwise loser in your hand.

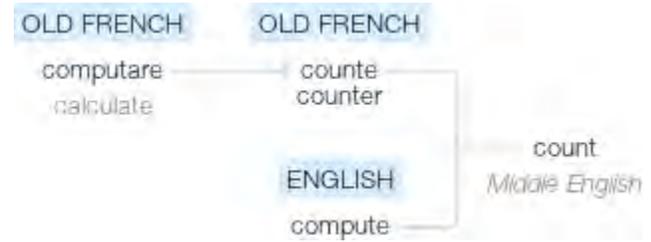
Assuming standard carding, as declarer, if you want a continuation of the opening lead, play a high card (as if you are signaling positive) and if you was a shift to a different suit, play a low card (as if you are signaling negative).

-1=+2 or Some Such Weird Mathematics

By Amit Raturi

The language of bridge is mathematics. Count your points, Countess your trumps, Count your tricks, Count defender's hand, Count your losers, Countess your scores, losing trick Count, distribution point Count, Count of Monte Christo, Count Dracula, point Counts of Robertson, Reith, Culbertson, Sheinwold, Goren, Karpin, Roth, Kantar, Bergen....I am losing count....How can an intransitive verb like "count" be so insensitive (I sense a rhyme emerging) and give us so much

grief? So I look up its history and sure enough it's the French who started it all; again!



Here is an account that turned all counting mathematics topsy-turvy for me -- an unbalanced entry shifting trump squeeze!?!?

xxx, KT986, -, Axxxx seems like an adventurous vulnerable overcall after 1♦ by RHO, so I made sure you saw the wonderful spot cards in hearts before you say 1♥ is an animal bid here (see <http://www.bridgeace.com/Lessons/Aggressive.pdf> for the mathematical advantages of aggressive bidding).

A hesitant 2♦ by LHO and 4♥ by my ever-so-optimistic partner closes the auction. A diamond lead and partner tables ♠Qxxx ♥Q7xx ♦AK9xx ♣-- Note my exclusion of partner's spot cards – there weren't too many except for that miserable heart 7 without which there would be no story!!

I was tired of counting – so I decided to calculate my tricks. (Zero spades + 2 diamonds + 1 club) meant I needed (10-3) =7 heart tricks!! And that elusive Jack of Hearts, that heartless, lowliest of face cards in the deck, still out there somewhere, trying his hardest to become John. Even if I setup the fifth diamond, I won't have time to enjoy it because of, who would then be, John of hearts. And, I paid for diamonds once for you-know-who and did not enjoy that either. The good news is that, other than me, I don't have many losers.

I pitched two spades on the diamond AK to reduce my losers and led a small spade from dummy. RHO rose with the king and played a trump...I put in the ten and LHO wins the ace of hearts and played another trump...I put in the 7 from dummy and RHO shows out, pitching a club.

So at this point I have 9 tricks at most -- 6 hearts (4 in hand and two ruffs in dummy), 2 diamonds and a club and that's assuming I can complete a cross ruff without getting over-ruffed by that silly heart J. LHO did not make a takeout double so there is no chance of ruffing out the spade ace-king doubleton. Oh well!

Afraid that that stupid Jack of hearts might do some shenanigans with the two missing queens, I decided to be contrarian (BTW, that's my first sentence with two consecutive that's). Drawing trumps when your only route to tricks is a cross-ruff is my new TBBT (Theory of Brilliance at the Bridge Table, which by the way is a palindromic acronym). So I decided to reduce my trick count to 8 (5 hearts, 2 Diamonds and a club trick) and played the heart queen!

Somehow, this trick reduction play started giving RHO some discomfort – what was their malaise I wondered. Time to regroup. RHO started with 4 diamonds and opened 1 diamond since LHO raised. They had one heart, so what is their shape....4144 or 3145. With 4144, they can comfortably pitch a spade since ruffing one spade (which they duck) does not setup the suit. So they must be 3145. They know I have no diamonds and 3 spades, so I have 6 hearts and 4 clubs, in which case they can't do much, or 5 hearts and 5 clubs, in which case?????. Oh the pressure they must feel!!

They can pitch a spade but I ruff their blank spade ace to set up two tricks in dummy.

They can pitch a diamond from QJTx and a diamond ruff in hand sets up the 9x of diamonds for two tricks.

Or, they can pitch another club in which case I overtake the heart queen with my king, ruff a club and concede another to score two small clubs in my hand! After all, the joy of scoring the two of clubs as the game fulfilling tenth trick in bridge in unmatched.

All of old. Nothing else ever. Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. **Try again. Fail again. Fail better.** – Samuel Beckett. *Perhaps he lost a few finesses too.*

East	♠ Qxxx		
Deals	♥ Q7xx		
Both	♦ AK8xx		
Vul	♣ --		
♠ J10x		♠ AKx	
♥ AJx		♥ x	
♦ 7654		♦ QJ109	
♣ Qxx		♣ KJxxx	

	♠	xxx
Lead: ♦6	♥ K10986	
	♦ --	
	♣ Axxxx	

Auction: 1♦-1♥-2♦-4♥-
All Pass

Summary: I gave up a ruffing trick by playing the queen of hearts reducing trumps in both hands, and subjected RHO to an entry shifting trump squeeze for two more tricks. The reason it's

called entry shifting is because I can win the queen of hearts in dummy and set up spades or diamonds if they pitch one of those, or, overtake the queen of hearts, shifting the entry to my hand, and set up two extra club tricks if they pitch a club. For TBBT club members, this is not a progressive squeeze but an unusual positional trump squeeze - RHO has to give up two tricks right away – and the overtaking (entry shifting) option allows all menaces (spades, diamonds and clubs) to work. Surgeon General's warning: Squeezing and counting is injurious to your health, and as the founder of TBBT, how I wish this was a true story.

So you agree that -1=+2. Go to bed!

1 little cow counts points
2 little cows count tricks
3 little cows count losers
4 little cows count score
And 5 little cows do nothing
But sleep and sleep all day.

For the Love of the Game by Dean Congbalay
dcongbalay@comey.com



My New Year's resolution is to appear in every bridge club in America.

The unlikely journey started last fall. I was leaving a pairs game one afternoon and was quite dismayed at some poor behavior.

You've witnessed it all

before: We were playing east-west and were following a pair that was so slow that their blood must have been replaced with molasses. When we got to one table, I cheerfully said hello, but the woman to my left didn't acknowledge our presence; I frankly don't think she has ever smiled in her life. At another table, a woman berated her partner after he discarded the setting spade.

As I drove home, I started thinking about some other ugly incidents. There was the time that an A player jabbed her fist in the air and exclaimed "Yes!" after she got a good board from us. And the time that my partner made a bad bid, prompting me to explain to the declarer what it meant according to our card; in the middle of the hand, when it was obvious that my partner had unwittingly erred, she sneered at me and said, "You lied." And the time that I actually had to ask a grown woman to cover her mouth and turn away when she coughed... I'm omitting the names to protect the guilty. But c'mon; we're all adults, right?

As I traveled from one street to the next, I started putting together in my head a few simple guidelines that I would suggest if I ran the bridge world. When I got to my parking lot, I quickly jotted them down on a piece of scratch paper. (The memory, after all, isn't what it used to be!)

A couple days later, I e-mailed the list -- dubbed "What the King of Clubs Taught Me" -- to my friends and family. It has since appeared in the Cincinnati Alert.

You may recall some of the ideas. They were pretty logical, actually.

Say hello. Introduce yourself to people you don't know. Wash your hands -- with soap. Don't gloat.

Soon after I sent the list, I was lying on the beach one morning reading my Bridge Bulletin. The ACBL's chief executive officer, Robert Hartman, had written a column saying that most bridge players are quite cordial, but that a few people can spoil the game. He stressed the importance of Zero Tolerance.



I chuckled -- and decided to send him my little list. It summarized Zero Tolerance, I thought, in a very laid-back and everyday way.

Much to my surprise, I quickly received a call from the ACBL's office near Memphis. Hartman liked the list -- and wanted to make it into a poster.

A couple months ago, the whole package became official.

"Thank you very much for your great idea," Hartman wrote in an e-mail. "I wanted to personally let you know that we are going to spread your Zero Tolerance idea across the continent via posters to over 3,000 bridge clubs."

The poster is called "Play Nice." I made a change or two; it looks pretty cool.

I'm honored -- and humbled. Long live the King of Clubs!

Nancy's Nasties – Answer

By Pat Dutson

Let's start by counting points. North has 10 HCP and you have 5 HCP. That leaves 21 HCP for East and South. Declarer has 15-17 HCP—let's assume 16 HCP. That leaves 9 HCP for partner. It's reasonable to assume that partner will be able to gain the lead at least once.

Partner doesn't have the J♥ or he would have returned it to avoid blocking the suit. Therefore, declarer has the J♥. If I play the A♥ and return a ♥, declarer will win the J♥ on the third round of the suit and partner can't return a heart when he gets on lead. My only hope is that partner has the K♣ to stop the ♣ suit from running.

South ♠ Q75
Deals ♥ Q9
N-S Vul ♦ 642
♣ AQT75

♠ J62
♥ AT752
♦ T85
♣ 83

♠ T984
♥ K86
♦ QJ74
♣ K6

♠ AK3
♥ J43
♦ AK9
♣ J942

So, I have to duck the second round of ♥'s and let dummy's Q♥ win the trick. Then when partner gets on lead with the K♣, he can lead his third ♥ and I can cash three ♥ tricks.

cannot get two diamonds. Eventually our ♥8 will be good (10th trick).

Solution – Problem 2:

It looks like W has ♥Jx. If ♠s are 3-2 we have no problems: we can cash ♠AK and play ♦s. Defense will get two aces and one ♠ (if ♠Q wont fall).

What if ♠s are 4-1? In order to minimize a risk of 2 trump losers we should play ♠A and small ♠ to the ♠10.

Lets' look at the full deal. If East wins 2nd round of trumps, we can ruff third ♥ high (low if East has 4 spades). If West wins 2nd ♠ and plays ♣ to partner's ♠A, we can ruff 3rd ♥ high, cash ♠10, play ♦ to the ♦A and draw last trump with ♠J.

♠ 10xx
♥ KQxx
♦ KQJ10x
♣ Q

♠ Q98x
♥ Jx
♦ xx
♣ Jxxxx

♠ x
♥ A1098x
♦ xxx
♣ Axxx

♠ AKJxx
♥ xx
♦ Axx
♣ Kxx

Notice that if we hook a spade at trick 3 (or cash ♠AK from the top), defense can cross to ♣A and play a ♥, establishing 2nd trump trick.

Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

Solution 1:

Let's count our tricks: 7 ♠s + 2 ♥s = 9. We can try to get an extra trick by playing small ♦ to the ♦K. If ♦A is offside we can try to hook ♥Q later. However, it's not the best line. Let's look at the full deal :

♠ QJ9xxxx
♥ J9x
♦ Kxx
♣ --

♠ x
♥ Qxxx
♦ J9x
♣ KJ10xx

♠ x
♥ xx
♦ AQ10x
♣ Axxxxx

♠ AK10x
♥ AK108
♦ xxx
♣ Qx

We can guarantee 10 tricks if we **discard a small heart at trick one (loser on loser play)**. We can win any continuation, draw trumps, cash ♥AK and play ♥10 pitching a diamond from dummy (W is the **dangerous**

opponent, so we want to keep him off lead). If West covers ♥10 we ruff. If E has ♥Q, defense

Better Preempts: Preempts by Seat Part 1



by Andrew Gumperz Oct 10, 2012
www.bridgewinners.com

Andrew Gumperz is a part-time bridge professional based in the SF bay area.



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My last article discussed how seat position changes expectations about where HCP rate to be and how much that affects decisions to preempt. I argued that seat position, not vulnerability, is the most important criteria in determining when to preempt. Vulnerability can tell you how high to preempt, but isn't as useful for telling you whether it's a good idea to preempt in the first place. Seat position lets you know when a preempt has a good chance to be effective.

The most important conclusion was the huge difference between second and third seat. In second seat partner is a favorite to hold values which should incline you towards sound preemption. In third chair partner is certain to hold limited values, providing the green light to preempt as often as possible. First seat is a bit of a tossup; my suggestion was to preempt aggressively NV and conservatively when vulnerable. Fourth chair is a special case; since you can pass with weak hands that expect a minus score, jump openings become intermediate calls showing constructive hands. This article will look further at what are appropriate preempts based on seat position.

First Chair

In first chair, the outstanding HCP rate to be split evenly between the three unseen hands. If you hold 8 HCP or fewer, the opponents will own the deal 2/3 of the time or more. That makes first seat a preemptor's seat. On the other hand, there is still room for partner to have a good hand so we can not completely ignore our own constructive bidding. Vulnerable, when the cost of missed games is high, I recommend a reasonably sound style. NV, you can step out as long as your partner understands what you are doing.

That last point is the most important. If partner expects your 3-level preempts to show seven with two of the top three honors and you preempt holding 6 to the jack, I predict tears. Partner will overbid, hanging you when your bold preempt was about to earn a swing. So before you adopt my suggestions, discuss them with your partner. Varying your style significantly based on seat position and vulnerability requires knowing when preempts are and are not disciplined.

South ♠x ♥xx ♦KQ109xx ♣J10xx	WNES ? Open 3♦. This is a fine hand for preemption and 1 st chair NV offers good chances to earn a reward. 3♦ is much more preemptive than 2♦. When NV, take the risk to increase the chance of
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pushing them around. Vulnerable, pull in a notch with 2♦ unless you are looking for a swing.

South ♠x ♥xx ♦KQ10xxxx ♣J10x	WNES ? Open 3♦. This is a minimum vulnerable 3♦. You can do it because the suit quality is good and you have 2 of the top 3 honors. If partner bids 3NT, the suit will run and you should make it.
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SOUTH ♠x ♥Ax ♦KQ10xxxx ♣J10x	WNES ? Open 1♦. This is too good for a non-vulnerable 3♦.
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SOUTH ♠x ♥xx ♦AKQ10xxx ♣J10x	WNES ? Open 1♦ or 3NT if you play it gambling. A good rule is to never preempt three-of-a-suit on a solid suit. If you open 3♦, how is partner supposed to know that 3NT is gin opposite: ♠Axxx, ♥Axxxx, ♦xx, ♣Qx? A preempt should promise a broken suit.
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South ♠x ♥QJxxxxx ♦Kx ♣J10x	WNES ? An easy 3♥.
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South ♠x ♥Qxxxxxx ♦Kx ♣AJ10	WNES ? 1♥. With so much outside, I'd rather open 1♥ than 3♥ or 2♥.
-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

South ♠x ♥Axx ♦xxx ♣QJ109xx	WNES ? 3♣. Aggressive, but a winner on balance.
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South
♠x
♥Axx
♦xxx
♣QJ109xx

WNES

?

Pass. Same hand, but this time vulnerable. A clear pass dictated by the vulnerability.

Second Chair

RHO is limited by his pass, so partner rates to hold more HCP. He is more likely to have game-invitational or better values. The opponents are less likely to have a game their way. Second seat is a poor spot for aggressive preemption. In particular, be wary of preempting on light values. When you are light, partner is even more likely to have the hand that will bury you.

South
♠AQJxxxx
♥xx
♦x
♣xxx

WNES

P?

This is a par 3♠ call in second chair if partner wants to bid 3NT. Your hand will provide the expected tricks.

South
♠AQxxxxx
♥xx
♦x
♣Kxx

WNES

P?

A max 3♠ call in 2nd chair.

South
♠Q10xxxxx
♥Qx
♦x
♣Kxx

WNES

P?

Pass. Not the time for 3♠.

South
♠KQJxxx
♥x
♦xx
♣Q10xx

WNES

P?

You might try an aggressive 3♠ NV in 1st or 3rd, but in second seat 2♠ is a stand out.

South
♠K10xxxx
♥Axx
♦x
♣Qxx

WNES

P?

Pass. Your suit is bad and you have plenty of outside cards. It is quite

safe to pass marginal weak twos in second chair.

South
♠Q10xxxx
♥KQx
♦x
♣Qxx

WNES

P?

Pass. I see weak twos in second chair like this all the time. 2♠ might be fine in 3rd chair but in 2nd chair it is losing bridge.

South
♠Q10xxxx
♥Jxxx
♦K
♣Ax

WNES

P?

Pass or 1♠. Do not open 2♠. Do you really want to to play 2♠ facing: ♠x, ♥AKxxxx, ♦Qxx, ♣Kxx?

To summarize: good suits, but not solid, with possibly an outside card.

(to be continued April 2014 – 3rd & 4th Chair)

Double Takes by Bruce Parent

- ♣ Beware of nice on bridge.
- ♣ Snow day - my brain is on a 2 hour delay.
- ♣ Like winter, it's the thaw that counts.
- ♣ A fool and his dummy are soon parted.
- ♣ Support our trumps.
- ♣ To the trash can belong the spoils.
- ♣ I miss the good old days when politicians spoke in half truths.

Do you know any good BRIDGE stories? Do you have tales from other bridge clubs, foreign countries, distant tournaments? Share your stories with us! Send an account to the ALERT editor at alert@cincybridge.com. Full page articles accepted for publication earn one free play at the CBC.

A Party for the Ages



Unit 124 proudly celebrated our two newest Grand Life Masters **Matthew and Pamela Granovetter** with a luncheon and duplicate game in their honor on November 24, 2013.

6 Grand Life Masters from District 11 attended.



Standing from Left: Matt Granovetter, Dennis Hesthaven, Mark Low, Norm Coombs. Seated: Tom Hodapp, Pam Granovetter

There were 19 tables playing.



Leaders were:

- 1 Matt & Pamela Granovetter 67.86%
- 2/3 John Warner & Romeo Bodrogi-Podoaba 60.71%
- 2/3 Michael Lipp & Susan Wisner 60.71%
- 4 Marc Low & Russell Shoup 60.12%
- 5 Albert Beaupre & Michael Purcell 58.33%
- 6 Cliff Pleatman & Bruce Parent 58.04%

<http://www.cincybridge.com/calendar2/131124A.HTM>

Matt and Pam provided door prizes for the players. Matt also shared a poem he wrote for the occasion:

*In all my days of bridge bumming
I never did as much bridge humming
as when I was sitting waiting for someone to do something
at the Cincy bridge club, including myself!*

*I was waiting for a card to be played
Or maybe a bid to be made
Or maybe the round to be called
Or lunch time - my favorite of all*

*I grew up in New Jersey
and played at Essex Green
But the Cincy Bridge Club
is a far more glamorous scene*

*The people behind the cards
are the best I've ever seen
and that includes the players
who finesse my jacks and queens*

*You are graceful and handsome
and glitter like jewels and pearls
but best of all you are
the wisest and nicest people in the world.*

*Even when I'm speechless
from a bid that Gail has made
Or trying to concentrate
or explaining why I played - the 2 and not the 3 -
because I preferred clubs to spades!
I still look around the room and bless my lucky stars
that I am here at the Cincy club with the
Adrienne, AJ and Orrs.*

*Well I've journeyed to China and to Italy and to Greece
But nowhere found finer than Lorna, Lalitha,
Marvin and Annease.
And of course dear Dot — a memory bot still a beautiful one, a beautiful one.*



Playing Duplicate Bridge

Saturday, February 15th, 2014

Presented by the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA)

Join us for a special event for rubber bridge players to learn more about the world of duplicate style bridge.

Location:
Cincinnati Bridge Center
2860 Cooper Road
Cincinnati, OH

Cost: Free

Registration Deadline:
Feb 7th, 2014

To register, please contact Mike Purcell at:

mikpur@cinci.rr.com
or 513-702-4007

8:30am Welcome, Registration & Breakfast

8:40-9am What is Duplicate?

We discuss the major differences between rubber bridge and duplicate bridge including how we apply vulnerability.

9-9:20am Duplicate Tools

From bidding boxes, Bridgemate electronic scoring and online results we discuss the various tools in the duplicate bridge world.

9:20-9:40am Duplicate Club Games and Tournaments

The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) sanctions various club games in the Cincinnati area and puts on tournaments throughout the year. We will present opportunities for new duplicate players.

9:40-9:55am Break

10:00-noon Duplicate Play Session

2-hour bridge play using bidding boxes and duplicate scoring. Volunteers will be on hand to help as needed.



FEBRUARY

STaC

All Points Silver!

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:00PM
Mon 2/17	Open Pairs (Note: 11:00AM regular start time)		NLM & Open* Pairs
Tue 2/18	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	Open & NLM# Pairs
Wed 2/19	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	
Thu 2/20	Open Pairs	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open & NLM# Pairs
Fri 2/21	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	
Sat 2/22	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	
Sun 2/23	1:00PM Single Session Swiss		

*Open Section Attendance Permitting

#NLM Section Attendance Permitting

The February STaC is back!
 Join us at the CBC during the week of February 17-23
 Extra Games Most Days
 Note 10:00AM morning start times (except Monday
 Deschappelles Game)
 All Games \$9 Entry

