



# Quarterly Newsletter



UNIT 124

April 2016 XLII Number 2

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Unit 124 Members,

We're just a month away from our Flying Pig Regional at the Sharonville Convention Center (May 30- June 5). This year's Regional kicks off on Monday at 2:30 with a Pro-Am Pairs. You must pre-register to play in this event. See our web site for registration details [www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com)

The Mentor-Mentee program kicks off the 2016 campaign in May. Registration information and the Mentor-Mentee schedule is on our web site.

Monday June 20 will feature a special schedule for the "The Longest Day" in support of the Alzheimer's Association.

The Bridge Center will be undergoing some renovations during the Flying Pig Regional. A fresh coat of paint, new ceiling and a renovated women's restroom should be done if everything goes according to plan.

Tuesday April 19th was our 2015 Awards Party. Thanks to Kay Mulford for handling the food setup for the 19 tables of players. Unit 124 had 16 new life masters in 2015. How many will we have this year? We already have 4 including two board members Dan Koppenhaffer and Pam Campbell. See the web site for other special games on Tuesday night.

See you at the tables in 2016,

John Meinking  
President Unit 124



## PROGRESS

From time to time, taking stock helps guide what we do next, gives us a sense of accomplishment, and lets us measure ourselves against our peers and our objectives. Hard work by many Board members and

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**Interested in becoming a Director?  
Contact any Unit Board Member or current  
director. Unit 124 needs NEW Directors!**

volunteers has brought us to the point where we will begin to enjoy the benefits of extending our lease on the current Cincinnati Bridge Center. Several upgrades (as mentioned by John Meinking) will happen during the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional Week. **The Cincinnati Bridge Center closes for this week May 30 – June 5, 2016** so it's the best time for renovations.

With affordable and attractive terms for the next 10 years, we are happy to extend the privilege and benefits of a central location for club bridge in the Unit. A central location means we can run several games a day, have tables, cards, and supplies always available (with no daily effort for set up/take down), share

Bridgemates, web sites, supplies, and a common planning calendar.

Our playing area serves more than just our clubs – it is large enough to host Unit Sectionals and major District 11 events (North American Pairs Finals and Grand National Teams Qualifiers). This benefits our Unit (creating more income to support our center) and helps keep costs to players low for special Unit events like these

Even with this advantage, we cannot expect that the cost of bridge will stay constant nor that the Bridge Center income we generate will continue to cover costs.

Our Unit membership hovers near 960 players. Of these, about 315 play more than once a month at the CBC. Unfortunately, the number of tables played continues declining 1-3% per year at the CBC. This downward trend is strongest in evening bridge. While daytime bridge is sound, the growth in daytime players does not overcome the losses in evening attendance. Said another way, the small decline in membership we see is far outpaced by the decline in tables year on year.

This trend is has developed over the past 25 years. See: <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/evening-club-bridge-is-dying/> During this time the ACBL's table counts have stayed constant over that time. Why? On-line bridge is replacing evening bridge. On-line bridge is competing with "bricks and mortar" bridge clubs.

So how does that affect the CBA (Unit 124) and the CBC? Our current outlook is good, but not without some concern. We need to stop the 1-3% loss in total tables played or we will have to take a rent increase (no rent increase is planned, but rest assured that covering the cost of our lease will be passed on to the players).

The ACBL decided in Reno (December 2015) to increase table fees about \$1 per table for Unit games and special games at clubs (like STaCs and NAPQ games). The increase for club games was modest. Club owners may find the need to raise entry fees. Cost for space and utilities continues to rise.

So what does this mean for the CBA? We ask all CBA Members to come back to evening bridge, and to add one more game to your monthly schedule. Imagine – adding one game per month by everyone who plays at the CBC would all but guarantee we cover operating costs for the next 10 years with enough to spare so we

can invest modestly in CBC improvements. Isn't that what we all want?

Progress also comes when we take the time to learn. The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club and the Cincinnati Bridge Center sponsor **Mentor Programs** for advancing players who want to improve their games in a supporting environment that doesn't sacrifice real bridge action. So if you want to jump start your learning or give back to advancing players, go to <http://www.cincybridge.com/CBAMentoringProgram.html> for more details and to sign up on line. Or, contact: Bob Fisk [bobsbbcards@gmail.com](mailto:bobsbbcards@gmail.com) (513) 379-5252 Barb Levinson [bsl@fuse.net](mailto:bsl@fuse.net) (513) 258-8216 For those of you in Northern Kentucky, please contact: Cordell Coy [cordellcoy@gmail.com](mailto:cordellcoy@gmail.com) (859) 466-1835

Another area where we measure personal progress is accomplishments by our members. See last quarter's ALERT announcing that Isaac Stephani will be travelling to Salsomaggiore Italy in August to play in the World Bridge Federation Youth World Championships.

On April 19, the Unit celebrated members deserving of recognition for their accomplishments in 2015. A recap with pictures follows. In addition 3 members of Unit 124 finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2016 North American Pair finals in Reno Nevada March 15, 2015. Our very own AJ Stephani and Ryan Schultz (Dayton) won Flight B to complete a unique double win (they were on the winning team in the 2015 Grand National Teams in August in Chicago). Mike Ma and yours truly finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. We offer you several hands that caught our interest from the finals.

This year, Unit Boards in District 11 vote to elect the District 11 representative. The incumbent, Ms. Beth Reid, is currently Chair of the Finance Committee of the ACBL Board of Directors. Beth will face a challenger for the first time in almost 12 years – our own AJ Stephani!

Serving District 11 as a ACBL Board of Governors Member, there is evidence financial oversight has been lax. The ACBL is woefully late building the information technology necessary support club operation, Masterpoint assignments, future tournaments, and governing on-line play. The Board of Directors needs younger leaders:

- Who are familiar with 18-50 year old student/working members,
- Who are capable to envision where technology can take Bridge, and

- Who can untangle complex issues associated with membership growth and necessary change.

Be sure to let your Unit 124 Board member know your choice for District 11 ACBL Board Director.

Aside, April 23 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of the Great Bard. This April Issue we look back at his wisdom to see how Bill informs our game.

Again I thank all our contributors for their painstaking efforts to make THE ALERT a most enjoyable quarterly. If you would like to contribute content (news, bridge interest, bridge analysis or commentary), please contact me! We'd like to hear from you.

See you at the tables,

*Steve*



Editor, The ALERT [alert@cincybridge.com](mailto:alert@cincybridge.com)



## ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

By Helen Ogle

We will be staying at the Anderson Senior Center as the Center will continue to stay open under new management. Our games are Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:30. We welcome new players.

Our new Board consists of Bill Atteberry, Mickey Dasenbrock and Suzy Haerr. Our person to notify if anyone is sick is Iris Shaw. Unable to keep her mouth shut, Helen Ogle will be an advisor to the Board.

Our new manager is Jodie Kieffer who directs on Tuesday, and her assistant is Al Norwood, who directs on Wednesday.

I want to thank all of the people who voted for me for the Gerald Steuernagel Award. It has been a privilege to help people enjoy the greatest game ever invented. I thank God for the strength and time I was given to be able to do this for so many years. I believe the greatest thing you can do for a player who is not as experienced as you, is to make him/her feel welcome at least until he/she gets a little "table experience" under his or her belt. Having played against people who are at the peak of this game, I have observed that some of them offer no advice to either their opponent or their partner at the table. My lifelong passion is to play just one perfect game. So far, in over 50 years, that has not happened.

Others from Anderson receiving awards were Mickey Dasenbrock and Gretchen Sherman Life Master Cups. Ace of Clubs (most points in their category) 0-5 Jan Willenborg, Bill Atteberry 100-200, Margaret Young 5,000-7,500.

## NKBC NEWS

By John Wolfe

Oops, we missed the January ALERT. So to catch up a bit, officers for 2016 are President Howard Simon, Vice President Henry Jackson, Treasurer Dave Tollison and Secretary John Wolfe. Gerry Mirus and Greg Brinker are at-large board members.

2015 award winners were Howard Simon, Ace of Clubs, John Taylor, Most Points in Youth Category, and Dave Tollison, 5-20 points Mini-McKenney.

On Tuesday, April 12, the club was treated to lunch by member Peter DeHaan. The former chef prepared a gourmet meal that people are still raving about. The menu: Black Forest ham and Baby Swiss cheese pinwheels, mini-Reuben sandwiches, toasted baguette slices topped with plum preserves and Havarti cheese, mini-sweet peppers filled with a variety of French cheese spreads, celery spears filled with seasoned cream cheese and honey roasted peanut butter, fresh fruit skewers, and finished off with Ghirardelli dark chocolate brownies.

That same day, Dan Hance and Peggy Ammon recorded a 71.02% game.

## Unit 124 Tuesday Evening Game at the CBC

By Kay Mulford

The Tuesday Evening Crowd is growing – the NLM Game has become a 7-8 table event with lots of fun. Kay Mulford has taken over directing duties and has plans to make this night special for all players.

Unfortunately, the Open game has shown signs of decline – and we want to reverse that immediately. We have published a program for May 2016, and a tentative program for the months of June through August. Check out the promotions and specials. If you need a ride, check the member directory on-line for friends near you. Now that Spring is in full flight, days will be longer.

We appeal to all bridge players looking for a fun time and good food to join us at 7 PM on Tuesday Evenings.

**May 3** Open & NLM Pairs. **Barometer game** - know your results every three boards.

Open & NLM Pairs.

**May 10** **Pot Luck** - Bring a Dish for 4 people and share dinner before the game! Win a **Free Play** to the Dayton Sectional. One free play drawn per 5 tables each section

**Board a Match Teams - Reserve ahead of time**

**May 17** **at the CBC.** Board of Directors Night - Come early to meet the Board Members.

**\$1 Pizza** with entry.

**May 24** **Mentor Pairs** and NLM Game (NLMs can play in either). Win **free entries** to the Flying Pig Regional. One free play drawn per 5 tables each section

**May 31 Closed for Flying Pig Regional**

**June 7** **NAPQ** – Open & NLM

**June 14** **NAPQ** – Open & NLM – **Pot Luck Night** (Bring Something tasty to share with 4 other people).

**June 21** Open & NLM Pairs. Board of Directors Night - Come early to meet the Board Members. **\$1 Pizza** with entry.

**June 28** **Mentor Pairs** and NLM Game (NLMs can play in either).

**July 5** **Open BAM Teams** – Pre-register with Kay Mulford and Steve Moese by e-mail

**July 12** **NAPQ** – Open & NLM

**July 19** Open & NLM Pairs. Board of Directors Night - Come early to meet the Board Members. **\$1 Pizza** with entry.

**July 26** **Mentor Pairs** and NLM Game (NLMs can play in either).

**What would make you want to play Tuesday Evenings? Let Kay or another Board Member know!**

The CBA Tuesday Night winners for the January Junior Fund game:

1st OA: Terri Mackey & Susan de Roos.

2nd OA: Pam Campbell & Reeta Brendamour.

We had our 1<sup>st</sup> Swiss team game. The winners:

1st OA: Judy Hall, Joe Nurre, Joanne Earls, and Doug Reams.

2nd OA: Don Pollack, Karen Grosser, Louise wolf, and Judy Barron.

**Kay Mulford** [kmulford@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kmulford@cinci.rr.com) or 513 954-0921

## UNIT 124 COMING EVENTS

Here's what's up for the next 3 months!



**May 30 – June 5, 2016: The Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional.** The tournament kicks off with the **Pro Am Pairs** on Monday May 30 at 230 PM. Reservations required. Contact Margaret Young [margyoung@msn.com](mailto:margyoung@msn.com) (513) 284-5731.

Great hospitality. Famous T-shirts, free parking, a modern accessible venue, and low cost housing within walking distance – no wonder this is the Midwest's 4<sup>th</sup> largest Regional. We've added a 2-session Swiss this year (and a few other twists). Look for fast results and a daily electronic bulletin. Need a partner? No Problem! Call or e-mail Marilyn Prosis [mhprosis@gmail.com](mailto:mhprosis@gmail.com) (513) 520-6853.

**North American Pairs Qualifiers - June-August at District 11 Clubs**

Look for special NAPQ games at your club. Score 50% or better and qualify for the District Final on October 22 (Flight B) and October 23 (Flights A&C). Subsidies for top finishers provided by the ACBL or District 11. Top 3 (flight A) and top 4 (Flights B&C) are invited to play in the National Finals in Kansas City in March 2017.



Volunteers are asked to prepare fundraisers on Monday June 20 in support of the Alzheimer's Association charities. Look for extra opportunities to play on this day at participating clubs in Unit 124.

Don't miss what's become the premier summer sectional experience in Unit 124. The hotel venue is spacious, well-lit and inviting. Guest lecturers on Friday and Saturday, free parking, and unparalleled hospitality make this tournament tops on everyone's don't miss list.



This summer consider dropping in on the North American Bridge Championships in Washington DC (Woodley Park NW near the zoo!).

How are your Silver Point? Need more? There's no better way to win Silver Points than to play at a Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC). District 11's summer STaC runs Monday August 8 through Sunday August 14. Check your local club for their STaC Schedule.



Where can you find the sectionals available throughout the year? Well, the ACBL website [www.acbl.com](http://www.acbl.com) has a wonderful interactive tournament schedule page that can help you find tournaments anywhere at any time. If that's more than you want, you can always go to the District 11 Website [www.district11bridge.com](http://www.district11bridge.com) for a listing of events closer to home. Our Unit website [www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com) has links to these and a detailed plan for all area tournaments for the next several years just for the finding.

## IS THIS YOU??

By Joanne Earls

**“Joanne, fix me up with a partner who's better than I am, who will work with me and discuss hands with me.”**



If you've ever wished for this, you have two chances to live your dream!

- ✓ The CBA Mentor/Mentee program in May <http://www.cincybridge.com/CBAMentoringProgram.html>
- ✓ The second annual Pro-Am, held May 30, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Flying Pig. <http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHomePage.html>). Reserve by May 23 by contacting Margaret Young: 513-284-5731; [margyyoung@msn.com](mailto:margyyoung@msn.com)

Sign up today!

## NAME TAGS

*Your Name Here*  
Cincinnati Bridge Association

Joanne Earls 513-772-4395 or [jolman@fuse.net](mailto:jolman@fuse.net)

**Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.**

**\$4 each. (1<sup>st</sup> one FREE! to New Members).**

## CBA MENTORING PROGRAM



**What is it?** The mentoring program was established to have more experienced players (mentors) help newer advancing players (mentees) with less experience improve their Bridge game.

**How do I participate?** Fill out an application (see page 17) and return it to a member of the committee or leave it with a director at the Bridge Center. You can also register on line at the CBA Home Page. The members of the committee are Bob Fisk and Barbara Levinson.

**APPLICATION (for Mentors & Advancing Players):**  
<http://www.cincybridge.com/forms/mm2013.php>

For more information see the **Frequently Asked Questions** at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/CBAMentoringProgram.html>

### Welcome to the 2016 Mentor Program!

Opening night is Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Advancing Players are asked to bring a snack item to share with everyone as a thank you to all of the Mentors who are donating their time and talents. This will not be a dinner as it has in years past.

The following are guidelines to help you make the most of opportunities offered by the program:

### Guidelines:

We suggest you play Bridge together at least four times between now and the end of September. Designated Mentor/Mentee dates at the CBA in Cincinnati:

**Tuesday May 24, 7:00pm**

**Sunday June 12, 1:00pm**

**Tuesday June 28, 7:00pm**

**Sunday July 17, 1:00pm**

**Tuesday July 26, 7:00pm**

**Sunday August 14, 1:00pm**

**Tuesday August 23, 7:00pm**

**Sunday September 11, 1:00pm**

If you play in Cincinnati with your designated partner on one of these dates, you play at half price for the pair, and play one stratification lower than the mentor.

Designated Mentor Game dates in Northern Kentucky at the Elsmere Senior Center:

**Tuesday May 3, 10:00am**

**Wednesday May 11, 6:30pm**

**Thursday May 19, 11:30am**

**Monday May 23 (The Common Game), 11:30am**

**Friday May 27, 10:00am**

**Thursday June 9, 11:30am**

**Tuesday June 14, 10:00am**

**Friday June 24, 10:00am**

**Friday July 8, 10:00am**

**Thursday July 21, 11:30am**

**Monday July 25 (The Common Game), 11:30am**

**Wednesday July 27, 6:30pm**

**Friday August 5, 10:00am**

**Tuesday August 23, 10:00am**

**Thursday August 25, 11:30am**

If you play at NKBC, you'll play in the Mentor strat and pay the going rate. None of the above games are mandatory, but they are always fun, educational and enjoyable.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Fisk [bobsbbcards@gmail.com](mailto:bobsbbcards@gmail.com) (513) 379-5252

Barb Levinson [bsl@fuse.net](http://bsl@fuse.net) (513)258-8216

For those of you in Northern Kentucky, please contact:

Cordell Coy [cordellcoy@gmail.com](mailto:cordellcoy@gmail.com) (859)466-1835

## CINCINNATI?

By Dean Congbalay

Our new opponents were unfamiliar, so I decided to make some quick introductions.

"Hi, I'm Dean; this is Carol," I said, nodding toward my lovely bridge partner of the day at a bridge center in Sarasota.

They gave us their names. Carol graciously asked, "Where are you from?"

"Cincinnati!" the woman grunted back. "Ugh!"

I smiled politely.

"That's where Dean's from!" Carol said.

"I'm so glad to be out of that horrible place!" the woman said.

I kept smiling.

"We had a couple horrible winters," she continued.

"Snow and cold. Never again!"

I took out my cards. Duplicate is a timed event, after all.

"Where did you live?" the woman asked me.

"Terrace Park," I replied. "Still do. And you?"

"Anderson," she said. "Pretty close."

"Yes, as the crow flies," I said. "Neighbors."

Fifteen minutes later, after we played two hands, we greeted our next opponents. For some reason, I've been thinking quite a bit about that little conversation.

I love paradise, but I truly feel blessed that I still have one foot in the Queen City. Southwest Florida is special -- magical sunsets over the gulf, great weather, an openness that comes with an area where almost everybody is from somewhere else.

But southwest Ohio also has its charms -- sylvan neighborhoods, a temperate climate (Well, OK, January isn't so hot...), longtime residents with long-standing friendships.

I've always believed that everyone we meet, everything we do, everywhere we go affect us in some way. We are an amalgamation of all of our experiences.

The next time I see that woman, I hope we have a chance to discuss the Impressionist exhibit I just saw at the Taft Museum of Art, toast a rare Reds victory, or salivate a little at the mere mention of a Gold Star three-way.

And if I talk softly and she asks me to repeat myself by saying "please...", I'll know that even among the palm trees of Sarasota, she still harbors a sliver of Cincinnati in her heart.

## NEVER GIVE UP!

*(Even when you lost 1400 points in a doubled contract at IMPs or Match Points)*

By Kay Mulford

In Swiss Team games, you can lose a whole round from one bad board, such as a loss of -1400. My partner and I bid up to 6♣x in a hopeful sacrifice over our opponents' 5♠ contract, but we lost 1400! In despair, we finished the round and walked sheepishly, heads bowed, to our partners' table.

After comparing 6 of our 7 scores, we came to our 1400. Our partners scored +1430. 6♠ made, vulnerable, 1430. 1430 - 1400 = +30 for a gain of 1 IMP! If they did not bid the slam, we would have lost: -1400 + 680 = minus 720 for a loss of 12 IMPs. **NEVER GIVE UP!**

In a duplicate game, my partner opened the bidding and we got into a competitive auction while cue bidding our aces. Our opponents tried to sacrifice at 5♥ vulnerable. We doubled and received 1400! Great

result, we thought. We quietly felt smug and secure in this result since we were both vulnerable. If we made game, for +600, our match points would be significant with a + 1400! It was the last round so we checked the results on our Bridgemate. We found that other players in our direction made + 1440 several times, and we just got 3 match points out of 12 match points (a few players did not bid slam). That's 1440 - 1400 = 40 more points! That was almost a top for our opponents and not us.

In Swiss team that 40 point difference would not have been bad, but in duplicate, it can be a BAD board. It was for us. We had to laugh at ourselves since we were feeling so confident. We had to humble ourselves and bow to our opponents' good bidding.

My message to all "**Never Give Up!**"

**The Non Life Master Who Taught 3 Experts a Lesson**

A Non Life Master (NLM) was playing with an experienced bridge teacher/director when an unusual bridge hand came up against two experts. This NLM taught all 3 players a thing or two about bidding. Our NLM is sitting West:

N	E	S	W
P	P	1♠	X
XX	P	P	P!!

The three experienced players quietly looked at each other with a look that said "Oh no, the NLM has made a BIG mistake, and she can not be aware of what she has done."

"Surely, Nancy Sachs taught her the lesson on redoubles."

But the contract was played and 1 ♠ xx (doubled and redoubled) went down 1 (Vul)!! Her opponents lost 400 points! The 3 experts (NLM's partner included) could not speak! This was incredible! And then the NLM quietly said, as she showed an excellent hand, "I had 19 points!" ♠Q10987 ♥A6 ♦AK87 ♣AQ - 19 HCPs

The NLM made an excellent take out double and a great pass of 1♠ Redoubled! The 3 experts were wrong, and had egg on their face for their superior feelings and doubtful misgivings of her pass. The NLM was Liz Lin.

A sense of humor must be maintained in this great game of Bridge whether we lose or win boards. I had a +1400 on a board but lost because I should have had a +1430! I am still laughing about it.

**"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." – As You Like It**

**POLISH BRIDGE MAGAZINE PROBLEMS**

By Yahueni "Eugene" Siutsau

**Problem 1:**  
IMPs

W	N	E	You
-	-	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	4♣
All Pass			

4♣ South  
Opening lead : ♥J.  
E plays ♥A, ♣A and small ♣ to W's ♣K. At trick 4 W plays ♥10. **Plan your play .**

- ♠ J8x
- ♥ xxx
- ♦ Axx
- ♣ Qxxx



- ♠ AQ109x
- ♥ Kx
- ♦ KQJx
- ♣ Jx

**Problem 2:**

**IMPs.**  
You and partner bid to 6♣ using your favorite methods. Opponents are silent.

6♣ South. Opening lead: ♠Q.  
You win and play ♣Q and ♣A, clubs are 2-2.

- ♠ AKx
- ♥ AQxx
- ♦ Axx
- ♣ Qxx



- ♠ xx
- ♥ xx
- ♦ KJx
- ♣ AK10xxx

**Plan your play**

**Answers Page 15.**

**COMMON DIRECTOR CALLS**

By Potter Orr

This month I would like to review some issues that come from a week of substitute directing at CBA for those who went to Gatlinburg. Please understand that the director is there to handle problems and **likes** to be called. Immediately is also preferable later.



There were a remarkable number of **revokes**. As a partner you should spare your partner from the ignominy of a revoke by always asking when they fail to follow suit but especially early in the play. One revoke was by declarer on the very first trick. If you do ask partner and they find a card, there is no revoke, just an exposed card. The penalty is much less damaging than that for a revoke. By the way, dummy may only ask declarer if they have no??. Declarer and both

defenders may ask anyone. If no one asks, the revoke becomes “established” by any card being played to the next trick, it cannot be fixed. Call the director. The rules were changed a few years ago and the basic remedy is this: If the player who revoked wins that trick of the revoke (just the revoker, not their partner) and either he or his partner wins at least 1 trick after the revoke, there is a 2 trick penalty. If the player revoking does not win the revoke trick but he or his partner win 1 or more trick later, there is a 1 trick penalty. If the revoke causes a major problem for the non-offending side, the director may make a further adjustment.

**Insufficient bids** were also a popular topic. Any player may point out an insufficient bid but there is no obligation to call an insufficient bid on oneself or on one’s partner. If there is an insufficient bid, the director should be called! Several people at the table have rights, including the offender. Self-repair can end very badly. First of all the next person to bid always has the option to accept the bid. In that case, bidding proceeds with no further ramifications. If the bid is not accepted the director should explain the options. Usually if the bid is made sufficient at the lowest level possible in the suit bid, there is no penalty and bidding proceeds. In one case recently, before the director was called, the player making the insufficient bid put the bid back and replaced with a pass. Now when the director arrived, the option to make it sufficient was no longer available and the insufficient bidder’s partner was required to pass throughout the rest of the bidding.

A player asked me about a defender (or declarer) **prematurely detaching a card** from their hand and holding it face down until it was their turn to play. While the ACBL rules provide no specific penalty for this behavior, it is specifically described as a violation of the proprieties of bridge. A director, however, may warn a player about this and assess a penalty for repeats. In addition to being rude, pulling a card early may give unauthorized information to the player’s partner. It is a clear indication that the player is sure that he will not be a factor in the trick and might influence his partner’s choice of card.

**Claims** are also a recurring problem. There is no inherent problem with claims as long as they are done correctly. The best claims are those where no trumps are still out and there are no possible losers left. It is still ok to claim when those conditions are not met, but the claimer must specify a clear line of play to deal with

the possible losers. If there is a trump out, the claim explanation must include a specific plan to pull that trump. If there are losers in other suits, the claim explanation must describe how those losers will be avoided. If transportation is an issue, the explanation must describe the line of play. If a claim is made and not accepted, the director must be called. Asking the claimer to play it out is not an option. The rules specifically state that play must stop when a claim is made. When a claim is made by declarer either defender may dispute the claim. If one defender agrees to the claim his partner still has the right to deny the claim and call the director.

## UNIT 124 CELEBRATION!



April 19<sup>th</sup> Unit 124 hosted a special Club Championship to congratulate the newest 2015 Life Masters on achieving their rank, recognize the Mini McKenny and Ace of Clubs winners by MP strata for 2015, and to award the prestigious Gerald Steuernagle Award.

The McKenny Race recognizes the Unit member who wins the most masterpoints in the calendar year. The Ace of Clubs recognizes the Unit player who wins the most black points at club games. These awards are stratified by master points.

The **GERALD STEUERNAGLE AWARD** is the most prestigious honor given to any Unit 124 Player.

Jerry Steuernagle (1940-1971) was one of Cincinnati’s most liked and respected bridge players, known particularly for his sense of humor and for always being a gentleman at the bridge table. Starting in 1972 the Cincinnati Bridge Association has presented the Gerald Steuernagle Award to the most outstanding CBA player of the year. The Award is based on 4 factors:

1. The nominee’s contribution to the promotion of duplicate bridge.
2. The nominee’s action in setting high ethical standards.
3. The nominee’s compassion, sportsmanship, and sense of humor.
4. The nominee’s willingness to help less experienced players.

The **2016 Recipient of the Gerald Steuernagle Award** is

**Mrs. Helen Ogle**

Helen is a long time Director, Club Owner, Teacher and mentor to hundreds of area players for over 20 years. She owns the Anderson Bridge Club, a thriving fun club on Cincinnati's East Side with games on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Congratulations, Helen.



You embody the Best in Bridge in Cincinnati. Thank you for the example you are to everyone in the Unit. The Board of Directors for Unit 124 congratulate you on being named the recipient of the 2016 Jerry Steuernagle Award.

John Wolfe  
 Vernon Goetz  
 Joyce Tedrick  
 Suresh Kamat

**Unit 124 Master Point Races**

MPs	McKenny	Ace of Clubs
0-5	Janet Willenborg	David J Francis
5-20	Carl Tollison	Carl Tollison
20-50	Reeta Brendamour	Martin Mc Tighe
50-100	William Atteberry	William Atteberry
100-200	John Taylor	John Taylor
200-300	Pam Campbell	Howard L Simon
300-500	Daniel Koppenhafer	Daniel Koppenhafer
500-1,000	Henry Jackson	David Dressman
1,000-2,500	Bob Fisk	Peggy Ammon
2,500-5,000	Lorna Davis	Margaret Young
5,000-7,500	Amitabh Raturi	Amitabh Raturi
7,500-10,000	William Higgins	William Higgins
10,000+	Pamela Granovetter	Norman Coombs

**2015 Unit 124 Life Masters**



Gretchen Sherman, Gail Arnow, Vernon Goetz, Micky Dasenbrook, Joyce Tedrick, Suresh Kamat

**Congratulations! Unit 124 2015 Life Masters:**

- Micky Dasenbrook
- Tak (Oliver) Yip
- Jacquelin Tepe
- Gretchen Sherman
- Jeanne Theissen
- Gail Arnow
- Linda Flesch
- Erwin Johnson
- Nancy Sage
- Kevin Smyth
- Amy Gerowitz
- Cyril Pierce



**Unit 124 - 2015 Ace Of Clubs Winners:**  
 John Taylor, Daniel Koppenhafer, Peggy Ammon, David Dressman, Margaret Young

"Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." -- Twelfth Night



**Unit 124 - 2015 Mini McKenny Winners:**  
**Reeta Brendamour, John Taylor, Pam Campbell,**  
**Daniel Koppenhafer, Bob Fisk, Lorna Davis**

## THE IDES OF MARCH

By AJ Stephani, Ryan Schultz, Mike Ma, and Steve Moese



**Mike, Steve, Ryan, and AJ – April 23 Celebration Game at the Cincinnati Bridge Center**

“Men at some time are masters of their fates. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.” -- Julius Caesar

*Dateline Reno Nevada, March 15, 2016 11:00PM –*

AJ Stephani and Ryan Schultz win the Golder Flight B North American Pair Championship. An infrequent partnership, AJ and Ryan led the field the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> and final day. They won the event by more than 28 Match Points (1+ Boards). They play 2/1 with a few gadgets. Here's a competitive bidding challenge from the afternoon session (#3 of 4) on the second day.

### Hand 24 Session 3

By AJ Stephani and Ryan Schultz

West Deals. None Vulnerable.

The first 2 calls were fairly standard. East thought for a good 15 seconds before passing and Ryan knew East was concealing a Big ♣ fit and had chosen to await developments. Fearing that East could seize the auction on the next round Ryan tried to describe his hand with an aggressive 2♦ call based on his playing strength.

W	AJ	E	Ryan
1♣	X	P	2♦
P	P	3♦	3♥
3N	X	AP	

East backed in with 3♦ aiming to get his side to a good matchpoint 3NT. Now Ryan took that opportunity to show his full shape with 3♥. West

had a clear 3NT and having heard partner bid twice AJ doubled based on his red suit holdings. East and Ryan both hesitantly passed, knowing they were gambling on a big result. AJ's decision to double on a 4333 hand turned out to be very effective.

AJ, thinking 3♥ was likely to be lead directing (if partner's entry was the king of spades, it would be nearly impossible to find), started with the ♥9 to encourage a shift at trick 2. Ryan won the ♥A and switched to the ♦J.

#### Board 24

**Session 3** ♠ AJ83  
 North ♥ K98  
 Deals ♦ AQ3  
 NS Vul ♣ 865

♠ KQ7  
 ♥ Q742  
 ♦ K96  
 ♣ QJ9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 962  
 ♥ J10  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ AK107432

♠ 1054  
 ♥ A653  
 ♦ J108542  
 ♣ -

Declarer now had a difficult decision. He decided to hope that South had both red aces and played his ♦K in an effort to escape for down 1. Even if he plays for the given distribution, he can see he will be down 2 - a poor result. After the ♦K lost, the defense had no trouble cashing 6♦s, 2♥s, and 1♠ for down 5 and all the matchpoints.

### Hand 3, 4<sup>th</sup> Session Day 2

Final Contract: 4♠ by East (Ryan)

*(Hand Record Next Page)*

After winning the opening ♣ with the ♣A, Ryan played a spade to the ♠A, noticing the ♠Q fall on his right. Ryan knew he had to get the ♥ suit going, likely needing at least 2 ruffs in dummy, so he abandoned trumps and started with the ♥A.

**Board 24****Session 3**

North ♠ Q  
 Deals ♥ J10854  
 NS Vul ♦ K954  
 ♣ QJ5

♠ K942 ♠ AJ1075  
 ♥ 97 ♥ AK632  
 ♦ J7 ♦ 63  
 ♣ A8432 ♣ 6



♠ 863  
 NS 2♦; EW ♥ Q  
 2N; 4♠; 2♥ ♦ AQ1082  
 ♣ K1097

Again noticing the fall of the other major suit queen, this time on his left, he considered his options and made the expert safety play: a low heart from his hand. You can afford to lose one heart, but you can't afford to have your heart winner trumped. If South pitches a ♦, North can

win the trick and cash ♦ winners, but East is now in control: win any continuation, ruff two more ♥s in dummy, and draw trump ending in his hand. East's ♥K is not played until the very end.

At the table, South trumped the low ♥ and cashed ♦s, but Ryan simply drew the last trump and claimed. +620 was worth 89% of the matchpoints.

**TO DUCK OR NOT TO DUCK****Hand 17 Session 4****By Mike Ma**

Congratulations to AJ and Ryan for winning the Flight B NAP and adding another national title to their collection. Steve and I felt honored to come in second behind such deserving winners. Over the course of the two-day event, we made many mistakes. The following hand at the Flight B NAP is particularly memorable to me because of the learning lessons it provided in itself and as part of the bigger picture. To put it in context, Steve and I did well on Day 1 placing third overall going into the second day. We had a bad Day 2 first session and dropped to fifth, about 1 1/2 board behind the leaders AJ and Ryan. Going into the final session, Steve and I decided we were just going to try to play well, and not worry about how much we could move up realistically.

The first 2 rounds of the evening session started decently for us. Then in round 3, on board 17, I (West) picked ♠ AK9743 ♥ 7 ♦ T952 ♣ T6. With both sides NV, N as dealer opened 3♣. I had a weak 2 opening, but following the unwritten rule that you don't preempt over a preempt, I had to pass now reluctantly. Reluctantly because as I suspected, South next bid 3NT. Wishing I had bid 3♠ for lead directing, and "knowing"

partner was now going to lead a ♥, I was tempted to bid 4♠ but decided against it given the vulnerabilities.

Sure enough, Steve led a ♥ and dummy came down with ♠ 86 ♥ KJ6 ♦ 6 ♣ Q985432. Declarer played low from dummy and won in his hand with the 10. He then played ♣ A and another, won by Steve with the K. Now Steve switched to the ♠J, and I was under the gun. Declarer obviously had the Q. Should I win or should I duck? What would you have done?

Did Steve have singleton, doubleton, or tripleton ♠? If singleton or tripleton, my best play would have been to play the K and then A, while I should duck if he had a doubleton. At the table, I decided to play the K and A, and declarer made 3NT. The full hand was

**Board 17** ♠ 8 6  
 North Deals ♥ K J 6  
 None Vul ♦ 6  
 ♣ Q 9 8 5 4 3 2

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

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

If I had ducked Steve's ♠J, we would have set declarer down 3! Anyway, here are the lessons take away from this hand:

1) I did well to not make the make-up bid of 4♠. While on some hands 4♠ may well work out, I should not make that bid as a make up for not being able to bid 3♠. When one opponent preempts, and her partner bids 3NT, often everyone is guessing, and bidding 4♠ now would tantamount to making the last guess. Worse, it is guessing based on knowing very little about at least two, and often all three of the other hands. As Karen Walker wrote in one of her ACBL Bulletin articles on good bidding, "Once fixed, stay fixed" In the actual hand, their last makeable contract was 2♣ and ours was 2♠.

2) Unfortunately, I let my negativity get in the way in my defense. I knew I would get the dreaded ♥ lead from Steve, and I did, but that should have made me focused even more, instead of bemoaning what I might have done or not done to that point. The first inexcusable thing I did not was even look at what ♥

Steve led (it was the 8). If I did, when declarer had to lose to Steve's ♣K, the Rule of 11 would have told me that Steve had the ♥A, and declarer was still not making 3NT even if I let him take a trick with ♠Q doubleton. It is true that if Steve ♠J was singleton, this being match-point, I needed to take the ♠AK now to hold declarer to 9 tricks. I did ask for a ♠ switch by playing my high card on the first ♣, so Steve might have switched to ♠ even with singleton J. But probability is highly in favor of his having 2 or 3 ♠s, and that is how I should have played it if I had focused from the first trick on defense. Worse, getting pissed at myself about not paying attention further clouded my thinking about the ♠ situation.

3) Letting them make 3NT got us a 2% on the board, while setting them 3 would have got us 100%. Essentially, this cost us one whole board. Given we already had to catch up 1 1/2 boards, to have this happened to us early in the session was really damaging. However, because we have agreed that our goal was to play well, we (actually I) were able to recoup and not let this wipe out the rest of our game. I have never been good with playing one hand at a time, and not let poor result in one hand negatively impacts subsequent hands. But somehow I stayed focused and positive that one evening. In the end we somehow caught up to coming in second, and losing to AJ and Ryan by one board and change. If I had defended right on this hand, that is a one board swing right there. Who knows what would have happened. Would we have played better if we had got a good score here, or did the bad score actually relax us?

The important lesson here is to stay positive and even if you feel negative, stay focused. My failing to do so on this hand might have cost us a chance to win. But not letting my failure here affect me the rest of the game allowed us to climb back to second. Most importantly, Steve and I had fun the rest of the game. *(Ed. – Yes we did, Partner! Thanks for a great tournament and a beter memory).*

"Fortune brings in some boats that are not steer'd." – Cymbeline

Have an idea for an article for the ALERT? Want to write about a favorite hand or tournament experience? Club news to report? Contact Steve Moese at [moesefamily@aol.com](mailto:moesefamily@aol.com)

**KARMA - Hand 12 Session 3**

**By Steve Moese**

Congratulations to AJ and Ryan on their amazing accomplishment – we hope this is the beginning of many more wins at NABC Tournaments for both of you! Sometimes I believe there’s a limited amount of luck in this world. Some would call it Karma. After a sound start Mike and I began our third session trying hard to stay focused and not let small issues get in the way of thinking about the hand in front of us. While we are a partnership of several years, we each have our individual style or approach to the game. Our bidding choices are not always synchronized.

We had just agreed to add 2-way New Minor Forcing to our card (Briefly, 2♣ transfers to 2♦ with invitational hands or to play 2♦, while 2♦ forces to game. Jump rebids to the 3 level set trumps and invite control bids).

Of course, this hand shows up:

Mike (North) deals and opens 1♥ (Precision, limited to 15 HCP). East passes. While this hand has 6-losers and 7 ♣ cards, bidding a 2♣ GF is too rich. 1♠ it is. West passes and partner returns the expected 1N. Now partner is limited to 13 HCP (With 14-16 HCP and any 5332 shape we always open 1NT). So 9 plus 12 suggests playing in the ♣ partial. How do we get there over 1N?

**Steve**  
 ♠ AJ52  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ KJ109842

Well, a rebid of 3♣ would be a game forcing hand showing 6-4. Playing 2-way New Minor Forcing, 2♦ is GF and 2♣ then 2N is invitational in NT. That leaves the immediate 2N raise as a transfer to 3♣ to play in ♣ (If I wanted to play in 2♦, I would bid 2♣ and pass partner’s forced 2♦ bid) or to show strong 5-5 hands.

West passes my 2N and partner does not alert. He rebids 3♠ showing a 3-card ♠ raise and inviting/accepting game. Now I reason that partner has no wastage in ♦ and with an honor in ♠ we might be able to make game. Since a 4-3 fit should be played with the side suit shortness in the hand with

♠ 8 7 6  
 ♥ A K J 10 7  
 ♦ Q 9 8  
 ♣ Q 3  
 ♠ A J 5 2  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ KJ109842

	N	E	S	W
1♥	P		1♠	P
1N		P	2N	P
3♠!		P	5♣ !!	AP

the 3-card trump suit, I opt for the 5♣ game. Besides, ♣ and not ♠ rate to break poorly.

The opening lead was the ♦3 (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> best). We are in over our heads. I’m happy to be in ♣ and not ♠.

**Board 12****Session 3**

North

Deals

NS Vul

♠ 8 7 6  
♥ AKJ107  
♦ Q 9 8  
♣ Q 3

♠ 1094

♥ Q52

♦ J10653

♣ A5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KQ3

♥ 9843

♦ AK42

♣ 76

N 3♠;

NS 2♥; 4♣;

S 2♠; EW 1♦;

♠ AJ52

♥ 6

♦ 7

♣ KJ109842

Partner lays down dummy and it was clear we had a bidding mis-understanding.

Perhaps partner didn't think New Minor Forcing was on after 1♥ - 1♠.

Perhaps he considered the 2N bid a natural invite.

I advised our opponents about

the failure to alert 2N and explained the meaning of the bid. They declined to call the director.

At first glance we can see a ♦ loser a ♣ loser and perhaps 3♠ losers for down 2. The ♥ finesse might allow us to eliminate 2♠ losers. That would require the ♥ suit be 4-3 or 3-4. Which way should we take the ♥ finesse? The lack of dummy entries constrains us to finessing West. First we have to contend with how to play to the opening lead.

Whenever opponents lead small and you don't have a winner to play in dummy, play small. RHO might help! I ducked the ♦10 in Dummy and East won with the ♦K. When East continued the ♦A, I ruffed. Now take the ♥ finesse, the one play that can allow this contract to make. Missing 7 ♥ cards the likely split is 4-3 or 3-4, I could take out a small insurance by drawing one round of trumps. I led the ♣10 and ducked in dummy. When the ♣10 held, I took the ♥ finesse, playing low to dummy's ♥J. When that held, I cashed the ♥A to see opponent's count signals, the ♦Q, and the ♥K, pitching 3 losing ♠ cards from my hand. It was a simple matter to play on ♣ to drive out the Ace and claim 5. Ruffing the ♦A made life easy. Don't blame West for not leading the ♦J – they play Rusinow leads and the 10 was either showing the ♦J, shortness or top of a sequence.

Did you see the irony? **East's ♦ play was irrelevant!** Look closely at the ♥ suit. The last chance to discard 3 ♠ losers is on ♥s. If the ♦Q is not good, finesse and play ♥s top down. On the 4<sup>th</sup> ♥ the last loser ♠ goes away, and West must ruff with the ♣A (If West takes the ♣A earlier we draw trump before playing the high ♥s. Only an opening ♠ lead beats this hand. We won 32 matchpoints - 100%.

I am sure that the 4 of us were thrilled to finish well in this grass roots National Event. What I will cherish is a

great 4 sessions with Mike, and the joy the four of us shared when we knew we'd finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Winners - AJ and Ryan

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Mike and Steve**EPISODE 16:****MORE TRICKS OF THE TRADE**

By Steve Felson

I am in deep despair. I work hard on these columns and have done so through uncountable years, decades, even generations. In Episode 15, at great personal risk, I revealed the secrets of a lifetime of covert activities, from the wine-dark Cuban inlet to the foggy moons of Remulak. Even more dangerous was including that master of disguise, disinformation, photo-shopping, intrigue, and ventriloquism, Robert S (for "Spymaster" – you heard it here first) Brown. And yet, not a single reader has commented on that Episode; not on my prose in general, not on any particular tale, not on such outstanding puns as playing bridge on the River Kwai – nothing, not a word, zero.



I didn't even get a call from Steven Spielberg asking me for the real story of *Bridge of Spies*, and his first cousin, Ginny Spielberg, was named after my mother. Only Bob Brown himself dropped me a note, calling Episode 15 "better than Operation Ajax," a little revolution he worked on in Tehran back in 1953. I wasn't invited to that party, so I'm not sure he was even complimenting me.

Maybe my readers were too intimidated to speak out. After all, Bob Brown is a man who would rip your fingernails out and then hand you a coupon for free cuticle work. I've seen him waterboard suspects in a small bucket just to save on towels.

Or maybe the column was not believable because I failed to include the kind of action you see in the movies, with agents splattering like blood-soaked mosquitoes and bodies left unnoticed in cars and on park benches in the heart of New York, London, and Washington after being nicked by poisoned umbrellas. Maybe I needed to have us ripping off birthmarks and saying things like "Ah-hah! I knew it," as Lt. Frank Dreben did to Mikhail Gorbachev in *The Naked Gun* (1988). But the truth is, Bob Brown could spot a Soviet hairpiece at 40 paces and trip up an android with a couple of questions and a Phillips screwdriver. We never had a need for any birthmark ripping. And sure we used poisoned umbrellas – didn't everyone? – but would we leave evidence lying around – never! We were far neater than MI6, and they had butlers!

Perhaps Bob's North ♠ 63  
difficulty in Deals ♥ 10984  
following his own EW Vul ♦ K9764  
bridge advice ♣ 54  
comes from all ♠ J10984 ♠ 2  
those years of ♥ K732 ♥ QJ65  
making the covert ♦ - ♦ AJ832  
look overt while ♣ J862 ♣ K103  
making the overt ♠ AKQ75  
look covert, a ♥ A  
practice correctly ♦ Q105  
immortalized by ♣ AQ97  
The Fugs in "CIA  
Man" (1965). For example, Bob has always criticized me for overcalling rather than doubling when holding 17 or more high card points, and yet, in a recent sectional on Mount Panegyric, with 21 HCP and only three losers, he somehow overcalled 1♠ after East opened 1♦:

What was he thinking? Almost every other South doubled, and when North advanced with 1♥, ended up in 3NT going down two. But Bob – naturally – made eight tricks in ♠s, and, yet again, what Bob calls "creative bridge" got us a top score.

Why do I love bridge? If Bob had made that kind of error during the Yalu River caper we would have ended up in a pot roast on Chairman Mao's dinner table. In bridge you get a top, you get a bottom, you crank up to warp speed and move on to the next tournament without even looking over your shoulder.

## RUMINATIONS

by Robert S Brown



It was one of those Thursday nights – a dark Thursday reeking of unquenchable desire, a Thursday summoning contenders from high and low for its lurid offerings, a Thursday stirring competitors into a frenzied Brownian<sup>1</sup> motion seeking coalescence, a Thursday portending macabre and ineffable delights to its convenees. In response, compacts were sintered, sundered, and then remolded throughout the vale. The resulting quadripartites of every rank and description lumbered to the Cooper Road Center to joust in the seven *post meridiem* lists.<sup>2</sup>

It was of course a Swiss Teams Thursday presided over by the enigmatic A.J. Stephani – a tragic figure who lost most of the letters of his first and middle name in a terrible childhood accident. My team, a group of battle-tested<sup>3</sup>, battle-scarred<sup>4</sup> veterans assemble and await the draw. The importance of a low team number cannot be overstated. A low team number creates the impression that you are playing at the "winners' end" of the room and avoids the odious and perverted "three-way" assignment. As captain, it is my

<sup>1</sup> No relation.

<sup>2</sup> Cf: YEATS, *The Second Coming* (1921):

"And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?"

<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, the tests were flunked.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*. Hence, the scars.

responsibility to employ whatever acts of legerdemain, bribery, cajolery, or deception I can muster to this end.

My team is anchored<sup>5</sup> by the Albatross, augmented by our prior mentors<sup>6</sup> – Dutson and Pscheshang, and features Lichtenberger in relief. Collectively we can out-brawl any team in the room; unfortunately Swiss Teams reward cerebral rather than martial talents.

Over the past five years, we can claim beyond cavil the worst record of any Swiss Team in CBA history.<sup>7</sup> Our continued participation in a game that rewards us with only ignominy and contempt is a tribute to our collective masochism, stupidity, or both. Yet from this ordeal, some insights have been gleaned which, if implemented, could transmute the game to a higher and more equitable level.

Our first suggestion would be to enhance A.J.'s existing incentive program. A.J. offers, without charge, a variety of alcoholic potables to the Swiss Game participants – but not necessarily ones of the highest qualities. Some premier cru wines or aged cognacs would not be out of place<sup>8</sup> – but why stop at alcohol? Adding a tasteful assortment of cannabis, cocaine, and hallucinogens would draw more participants and create a little more variety in the bidding<sup>9</sup>.

The second issue that should be addressed is the Team formation process. Amit, Eugene, Higgins, and Norm should be banned from playing together. Instead, taking a lesson from the playgrounds of our youth or the NBA draft, team captains should line all the other players against a wall and choose their teams picking in order. The resulting squads would have ten minutes to agree on convention cards and then the game would

<sup>5</sup> In the literal sense of being weighed down.

<sup>6</sup> To their eternal shame.

<sup>7</sup> We envy the '62 Mets (40-120 .250) or even the '73 76ers (9-72 .110).

<sup>8</sup> Some may question the economic viability of this suggestion; but ingenious adjustments to the game fees (perhaps surcharges based on the post-game alcohol blood level) or an endowed "Lush Fund" could resolve this issue.

<sup>9</sup> E.g., does North's 5 Diamond opening bid indicate a long suit or a "Magical Mystery Tour"?

begin. This would truly level the playing field and make the Swiss Game an equal opportunity event.

I trust the wisdom of the preceding proposals will be self-evident and that you all will join me in confidently awaiting their implementation in the very near future.

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, By fearing to attempt."  
-- Measure for Measure

## POLISH BRIDGE MAGAZINE SOLUTIONS

### Solution 1:

We will make game if we don't lose a trump trick. Correct line of play would be ♠ finesse starting with ♠8 (since we have only one entry to dummy ♠J should be played on the second round in order to handle 4-1 break).

IMPS  
East ♠ J8x  
Deals ♥ xxx  
None Vul ♦ Axx  
♣ Qxxx

♠ K	♥ J109x	♦ xxx	♣ Kxxxx	♠xxxx	♥AQxx	♦xxx	♣Ax							
				<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E				
	N													
W	S	E												

♠ AQ109x  
♥ Kx  
♦ KQJx  
♣ Jx

However, **East** didn't open the bidding and we know that he's got ♥A, ♥Q and ♣A. It looks like ♠K is offside; therefore we should play ♠A and hope for the best.

Let's look at the full deal:

### Solution 2:

Slam is not ice-cold (only 11 top tricks), it looks like we need to find ♦Q or ♥K onside. Of course, we can try both finesses; however, since trumps are 2-2 there is a better line of play.

We can eliminate spades and play ♦A,♦K,♦J. If ♦Q is onside – defender (**E**) will be endplayed – he must play a heart or give us ruff and sluff; if ♦Q is offside – we can try heart hook. Playing this way we will make slam if :

- ♦Q is onside or
- ♥K is onside or
- ♦Q doubleton is offside.

Let's look at the full deal :

- IMPS**     ♠ AKx  
 North     ♥ AQxx  
 Deals     ♦ Axx  
            ♣ Qxx  
  
 ♠ QJ10xx     ♠xxx  
 ♥ Jxxx        ♥Kxx  
 ♦ Qx         ♦xxxxx  
 ♣ xx         ♣Jx  
  
            ♠ xx  
            ♥ xx  
            ♦ KJx  
            ♣ AK10xxx

After ♣Q,♣A we should cash ♠K, ruff a spade and play three rounds of diamonds. If W will win third diamond we can try to hook a ♥K.

Bottom line : if ♦Q is inside we don't have to hook it.



## DO YOU WANT TO HELP OUT?

There are many ways you can volunteer to make the Unit run smoothly and keep the quality of the bridge experience at our clubs at a high level. Do you know what the one most important thing is you can do for other members?

PLAY MORE! That's right – this is no joke.

If we all made an effort to play two more games a month than we do now, our games would be bigger and more fun, and the number of tables per year would grow instead of the steady 1-2% decline we see today.



Do your part – **PLAY MORE BRIDGE!**

**Interested in improving your game? Check out these links (must view on-line):**

**Learn to Play Software (Free – Windows PC):**

- [Learn Bridge Basics](#)
- [Intermediates: Beyond the Basics](#)

**New to Bridge? Check Out these Bridge Resources:**

- [CBA Unit 124 Bridge Class Schedule](#)
- [CBA Unit 124 Newcomers Page](#)
- [Improve Your Bridge Page](#)
- [CBA Unit 124 Learning Guide](#)

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE

April 23, 2016 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. Amazingly prolific in many written forms of English, the power of his words touches us all today. Scan these famous citations and prove he wasn't a Bridge Player at heart!

William Shakespeare	Bridge...
"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, By fearing to attempt." -- <i>Measure for Measure</i>	When you've overbid, better play to make.
"Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." -- <i>Twelfth Night</i>	When you go to an NABC, you play in NABC events, not side games!
"Better three hours too soon than a minute too late." -- <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Plan before you play! Be on time for all games.
"Have more than thou showest, Speak less than thou knowest." -- <i>King Lear</i>	Partner loves extras. Don't teach opponents what you know!
"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." -- <i>As You Like It</i>	When a contract looks solid, look for what could go wrong. Pay attention to entries.
"Let life be short; else shame will be too long." -- <i>Henry V</i>	Make an error? Forget it right away. Focus on the next hand.
"This above all: to thine ownself be true. And it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." -- <i>Hamlet</i>	Don't kid yourself. Work hard. Make yourself better. You'll see how partner improves along with you.
"No legacy is so rich as honesty." - <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>	To keep a partner, keep your agreements.
"Certain, men should be what they seem." -- <i>Othello</i>	Don't psych.
"All that glisters is not gold." -- <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	There's Ruby, Emerald Sapphire, Diamond and Platinum!
"Talking isn't doing. It is a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are not deeds." -- <i>Henry VIII</i>	Win the hand during the play. Forget the post mortem.
"Time travels in diverse paces with diverse persons. I'll tell you who time ambles withal, who time trots withal, who time gallops withal, and who he stands still withal." -- <i>As You Like It</i>	Think before you play to the 1 <sup>st</sup> trick whether declaring or defending. Plan, Think then Plan again!
"Be patient, for the world is broad and wide." -- <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Consider ducking. Aces are for taking kings. Defend passively.
"Men at some time are masters of their fates. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." -- <i>Julius Caesar</i>	Don't blame luck when poor play caused a poor score. Take responsibility.
"Fortune brings in some boats that are not steer'd." -- <i>Cymbeline</i>	Sometimes the opponents have to help you.

## 2016 Mentor/Mentee Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in becoming a  mentor  mentee

Current Masterpoints (approximate): \_\_\_\_\_

If you have had a mentor/mentee in the past, please list that person's name (if more than one, please list them all).

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Please list the names of up to three mentors/mentees with whom you would like to be paired. **If you are applying to be a mentee and you list one and only one name as your desired mentor, and the person you name lists you as the one and only person they want as their mentee, then you will definitely be put together.** If you request someone to be your mentor/mentee, and they do not list you in return, then there is no guarantee that we will be able to pair you with that particular person.

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List characteristics you would like to see in your mentor/mentee that will help us in selecting someone compatible for you. For example: female/male, intense/laid back, playful/serious, thick skinned/sensitive, patient/direct, long-experienced/recent Life Master, quiet/talkative, disciplined/creative, new player/nearing Life Master, tournament goer/club player, etc.

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# Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional

**Monday 2:30  
Pro Am!**

**Sharonville Convention Center May 30-June 5, 2016**

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:30PM
<b>Monday May 30</b>		<b>Pro Am Pairs*</b> (reservation required – see details in sidebar) Open Pairs Side Series I*	Open Pairs Evening Side Series I
<b>Tuesday May 31</b>	<b>Hog Wild Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b>		<b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1)</b> Open Pairs Evening Side Series I <b>NLM Pairs</b>
	<b>Miss Piggy KO (Round 1)</b> Open Pairs Side Series I <b>NLM Pairs</b>	<b>Miss Piggy KO (Round 2)</b> Open Pairs Side Series I <b>Piglet Single Session Swiss</b>	
<b>Wednesday June 1</b>	<b>Road Hog Gold Rush Swiss Teams and Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)</b>		<b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2)</b> <b>Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 1)</b> Open Pairs Evening Side Series I
	<b>Miss Piggy KO (Round 3)</b> Open Pairs Side Series II <b>NLM Pairs</b>	<b>Miss Piggy KO (Round 4)</b> Open Pairs Side Series II	
<b>Thursday June 2</b>	<b>Pig in a Poke Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b>		<b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 3)</b> <b>Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 2)</b> Open Pairs Evening Side Series II <b>NLM Pairs</b>
	<b>Baby Back KO (Round 1)</b> Open Pairs Side Series II <b>NLM Pairs</b>	<b>Baby Back KO (Round 2)</b> Open Pairs Side Series II <b>Piglet Single Session Swiss</b>	
<b>Friday June 3</b>	<b>Hog Heaven Gold Rush Swiss Teams and Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)</b>		<b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4)</b> Open Pairs Evening Side Series II
	<b>Baby Back KO (Round 3)</b> Open Pairs Side Series III <b>NLM Pairs</b>	<b>Baby Back KO (Round 4)</b> Open Pairs Side Series III <b>Piglet Single Session Swiss</b>	
<b>Saturday June 4</b>	<b>Curly Tail Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b>		Open Pairs Evening Side Series II
	<b>Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 1-2)</b> Open Pairs Side Series III <b>NLM Pairs</b>	<b>Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 3-4)</b> Open Pairs Side Series III	
		<b>Three Little Pigs Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)</b>	
<b>Sunday June 5</b>	<b>Flying Pig Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)</b>		<b>Swiss Teams in Red NLM Events in Blue</b> * Charity Game - Championship Rated

**♥ Tournament Highlights ♥**

Fantastic Spacious Venue  
Easy Access to I-75 and I-275  
Wine and Cheese Hospitality  
Great Hotel Rates

**♠ Tournament Chair ♠**

A.J. Stephani  
ajstephani@gmail.com  
(513) 313-0488

**♦ Partnerships ♦**

Marilyn Prosisie  
(513) 520-6853  
mhprosisie@gmail.com

**♣ Pro Am Pairs ♣**

Reserve by May 23  
Margaret Young  
margyoung@msn.com  
(513) 284-5731

**♥ Hotel Information ♥**

LivINN Suites  
11385 Chester Road  
(513) 772-7877  
\$79/Night \$89/Studio  
Ask for "Flying Pig" Rate  
Reserve by May 2, 2016

Fairfield Inn by Marriott  
11440 Chester Road  
(513) 842-9112  
\$99/Night Double or King  
"Bridge Tournament" Rate  
Reserve by April 29, 2016

**Stratifications**

- ♥ Open Pairs & Side Games (w/o Gold Rush):  
0-750/750-2000/2000+
  - ♣ Open Pairs & Swiss (with Gold Rush):  
0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
  - ♦ Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss:  
0-100/100-300/300-750
  - ♠ Stratiflighted Swiss:  
B/C/D 750-1500/300-750/0-3000  
A/X 3000+/0-3000
- All events stratified by average MPs  
KO events may be handicapped



Newly Crowned Life  
Masters Are  
Engraved on our  
Pigasus Trophy!



Sharonville  
Convention  
Center  
11355 Chester Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH  
45246



**Our Famous T-Shirt Prize Desk  
More Two-Session Swiss Teams!  
Gold Rush Events Daily**

**More Info: [cincybridge.com](http://cincybridge.com)**



# Summer Getaway Sectional

## July 15-17, 2016

### Schedule

#### Friday

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)	10AM, 2:30PM
Stratified NLM Pairs (single sessions)	10AM, 2:30PM
Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	both 10AM and 2:30PM

#### Saturday

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)	10AM, 2:30PM
Stratified NLM Pairs (single sessions)	10AM, 2:30PM
Bracketed Compact KO's (2 sessions) (may be handicapped)	both 10AM and 2:30PM

#### Sunday

Stratiflighted Play-Through Swiss Teams (lunch may be purchased)	10AM
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All events stratified by average masterpoints

Stratified pairs: 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+

Stratiflights: A/X: open/0-2500

B/C/D: 750-1500/300-750/0-300

Sunday teams with any player over 1500 must play A/X

★ **Top Shelf Hospitality**  
5:30 each evening  
Fri: Homemade Pies  
Sat: Homemade Cakes

★ **FREE Coffee Hour**  
9AM-10AM

★ **Daily 50/50 Drawing**

★ **Concessions Each Day**

★ **\$10 Entry Fee**  
youth half-price  
(under age 21)  
(\$3 additional for non or  
unpaid ACBL members)

★ **Sensational Support  
and Supplies:**

Anderson Bridge Club

Cincinnati Bridge  
Association



### Contacts

#### Tournament Chairs:

Elaine Jarchow  
859-816-4581  
[ejarchow@yahoo.com](mailto:ejarchow@yahoo.com)

Cordell Coy  
859-466-1835  
[cordell.coy@fuse.net](mailto:cordell.coy@fuse.net)

#### Partnerships:

Howard Simon  
859-282-7344  
[simon3780@msn.com](mailto:simon3780@msn.com)

### Directions

#### Doubletree by Hilton at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport

2826 Terminal Drive, Hebron, KY 41048

859-371-6166

[www.doubletree.hilton.com](http://www.doubletree.hilton.com)

NKBC bridge rate \$97 (online code KBC)

**FREE parking in hotel lots**

Take I-275 Exit 4 (4B if westbound) onto Terminal Drive towards airport. Hotel is immediately before terminals. Follow Hotel signs and exit left onto hotel access road.