



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

April 2017 XLII Number 2

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

From the President's Desk

Unit 124 Members,

The Spring & Summer calendar is loaded with special events, special games and local tournaments:

- 3x master points at all participating games **May 8-14**.
- Mentor/Mentee program is underway with the 1st CBC game on Wednesday **May 31** and the 1st NKy game on **May 1. Register NOW!**
- Flying Pig Regional **June 5-11**.
- Longest Day special schedule and auction on Wednesday **June 21**.
- STaC week **July 10-16**.
- Northern Kentucky Sectional August **11-13**.

Check other articles and flyers in this addition of the Alert as well as our web site www.cincybridge.com for details on each of these events.

We held our annual awards party for 2016 on Tuesday May 2 to celebrate our 13 new life masters, Ace of Clubs winners, mini-McKenney winners and special Unit awards. Congratulations to all. Special congratulations to Betty Wills who made life master at the age of 97. She will turn 98 next week!

Barry Wauligman, Pam Campbell and their committees are busy planning for the renovation of the kitchen at the CBC. Renovations happen when the CBC shuts down during the Flying Pig Regional.

One of the issues I've seen in my years on the CBA board is that the board spends too much time on day to day operations issues at the CBC and not enough time working to promote bridge throughout the CBA region. For this reason we have hired Mike Lipp as the CBC Manager to handle the day to day operations.



See you at the tables,
John Meinking,
President Unit 124

Features

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Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Event
Mon	AM	CBC* 11:00 Inv NKy 11:00 2 nd /4 th only
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (Limited) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 AND 11:00 CBC 11:00 MIDS 11:00 SP 2:45PM
	PM	CBC 7:00* NLM (Open Coming 3/23)
Wed	AM	CBC* 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:00
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30
Thu	AM	INT* 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - NKy 11:30 AM
	Aft	WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30 SP 2:45
	PM	CBC 7:00 "8 is ENOUGH" Swiss Teams 1&3
Fri	AM PM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
Sat	AM	CBC 10AM-Noon Supervised Play (SP)
	Aft	CBC 1:00

"...you have to want to be engaged. There has to be deep-seated desire in your heart and mind to participate, to be involved, and to make a difference. If the desire isn't there, no person or book can plant it within you." –Tim Clark

Growing...

by Steve Moese

We have 923 active members down 11 from the same time 2015 (934).

Last quarter we shared the above statistic and discussed our membership by rank. Recall, about 64% of our members are not yet life masters.

The ACBL has chosen a membership strategy that focuses on recent retirees and the soon to be retired. Indeed the average age of our new recruits at the zonal level (Mexico, Canada, and the USA – the ACBL geography) is 65.5 years old. Contrast that with our total membership average age of 71.1 and we have a compelling story.

We want new members.

It's certainly easy to sit back and let our teachers and club owners handle all the recruiting. After all they are the "responsible parties" here, right? Some of us might think: "Let's let the ACBL help us recruit new members." I can't recall the last new member that came from a ACBL Headquarters lead. "Isn't recruiting the work of the District and the Unit Boards? After all they have the resources." Our Unit has a very active Education Committee with a rich [class schedule](#) and a working [master plan](#) that recruits people new to bridge and new to duplicate (two different target audiences). The downward membership trend continues even with these best in class efforts in full swing. The District has no additional funds nor volunteers to do more than arrange tournament schedules, manage delegation of the 4 Regionals, and ensure NAP and GNT tournaments are properly run and attended.

We need your help.

In the past we have spent advertising funds on community newspapers and National Public Radio ads to no avail. Broadcast ads are simply too expensive with little proven return. Relatively recent ACBL data has some valuable insights:

Club Owners & Officials	32,704	64.4%
Teachers	4,568	9.0%
Internet	1,542	3.0%
Friends	9,918	19.5%
Advertising	273	0.6%
Others	1,756	3.5%
Total	50,761	100%

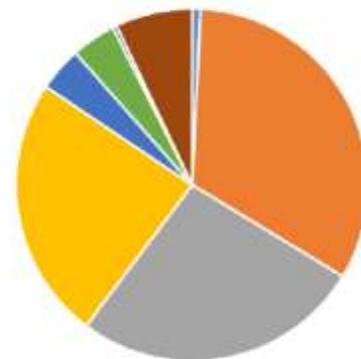
Referrals By Year

Source	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
ADV = Advertisement	47	53	73	35	12	53	273
C = Club Official	2802	3851	3515	3665	4041	2245	19619
CLB = Bridge Club	1705	2527	2560	3371	1108	1814	13085
F = Friend	1740	1880	1911	1921	821	1645	9918
INT = Internet	332	295	279	248	311	277	1542
OTH = Other	284	339	289	299	124	275	1614
S = School/College	19	34	23	32	8	26	142
T = Teacher	1249	1302	612	604	319	482	4568
	8178	9781	9262	10175	6544	6821	50761

Source	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
ADV = Advertisement	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
C = Club Official	34%	34%	36%	36%	62%	33%	39%
CLB = Bridge Club	21%	26%	28%	33%	17%	27%	26%
F = Friend	21%	19%	21%	19%	13%	24%	20%
INT = Internet	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	3%
OTH = Other	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
S = School/College	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
T = Teacher	15%	13%	7%	6%	5%	7%	9%

2015

2015 - New Members by Referral



● ADV = Advertisement	● C = Club Official
● CLB = Bridge Club	● F = Friend
● INT = Internet	● OTH = Other
● S = School/College	● T = Teacher

Our own data from the Learn Bridge in a Day events showed an overwhelming referral by friends and family, and not from the advertising we could afford.

The ACBL has published approaches for advertising on Facebook developed by successful large club owners. The approach is quite elegant – for a low monthly fee, we can reach several thousand people looking for games, and other related events on Facebook with a targeted ad. What works is to direct them to an immediate call to action (Join a class, Join New to Bridge, Join New to Duplicate) and then expose them to the game to emphasize fun first and competition second. This will reach newer players (most of our membership are not Facebook users. For now reach only 37 people and have 32 followers. Certainly we need to get these numbers up – tune into our page if you want to follow us...

<https://www.facebook.com/cincybridgelessons/>

Having 30 of some 948 members following us on Facebook emphasizes the point – by advertising in Facebook we can reach nearby people with potential interest in learning our great game whom we are not reaching today. More soon.

The key takeaway for US is the importance of referrals from existing members – yes, this means YOU! Almost 20% of the new member referrals were from friends and family. This is where we want your help.

Know someone who wants to play bridge? Learn the game for the first time? Experience play in a supportive, friendly atmosphere? Put them in touch! There are many ways to do this. They can contact us from the website by clicking on the Contact Us Icon:



This will send an e-mail message directly to our in-take teacher and our partnership chair.

Or, you can have them go to our [Bridge Class Page](http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html).

http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html

They will find the current class offerings and can contact any teacher directly for information about future classes. Soon we will add an “Enroll Now” button that will connect the student with the teacher directly.

If your friend is more of the “I like to read/learn on my own” offer them our introductions to bridge:

[For Newcomers](#)

http://www.cincybridge.com/NLM/Newcomers_Bridge.html

[CBA Learning Guide](#)

http://www.cincybridge.com/2012_CBA_Learning_Bridge_Series.html

[Improve Your Game](#)

http://www.cincybridge.com/Improve_Your_Game.html

FREE PC Software they can download (Not for Macs):

[Bridge Basics](#)

<http://www.bridgebase.com/download/ltpb1setup.exe>

[Beyond the Basics](#)

<http://www.bridgebase.com/download/ltpb2setup.exe>

Note: these links have been on the CBA Unit 124 website. You can also send web-savvy friends to our [home page](#) <http://www.cincybridge.com> and have them explore. Better still, why don't you send them a link to this document so that they can read all about it!

Check out <http://www.cincybridge.com> TODAY!

If you know a high school or college that wants a bridge club to learn how to play, contact us! We will work with our Education Committee, You Bridge Coordinator, and Unit Volunteers to help set one up.

The important thing is we all act on a prospect when you find one.

We have two very special offerings for the advancing player (I know enough about bridge to play with 3 other people).

The CBA Mentoring Program pairs a newer non-life master player with an experienced player who serves as a casual coach and mentor. Ideally the mentor provides coaching and insight about how to think and play while the newer player directs the discussion to their needs. See the article in this issue for more details.

The Saturday Morning (and Tuesday Afternoon) Supervise Bridge game. For about 2 hours newer players can play with their peers and get active coaching during hands as questions occur from knowledgeable coaches. This is a great hands-on way to improve your game, and a major jewel in the crown of offerings Unit 124 has for our members. If you are just beginning your duplicate bridge journey be sure to check out the Supervised Bridge sessions available at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

This issue is chock full of great articles. I thank each and every contributor for a richness that spans the breadth and depth of this game. Thanks to Potter Orr, Mike Lipp, Amy Fisher, Elaine & Ron Jarchow, Jodie Kiefer, Barry Wauligman, Dean Congbalay, AJ Stephani, Robert Brown, Steve Felson, and John Meinking.

As Spring turns to Summer we hope to see you often at the Club games and tournaments in our area.

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

Steve

Editor, The **ALERT** moesefamily@aol.com



“We can't be afraid of change. You may feel very secure in the pond that you are in, but if you never venture out of it, you will never know that there is such a thing as an ocean, a sea. Holding onto something that is good for you now, may be the very reason why you don't have something better.” — C. JoyBell C.


CLUB CORNER

 Send Club News to the Alert
 Editor: moesefamily@aol.com
NORTHERN KENTUCKY BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club held its 2016 Club Awards program on Friday, March 31. A pot luck was enjoyed by all before a Junior Fund game was played. The following Northern Kentucky bridge players earned awards:

Rookie: 0-5MP = **Ann Bickel**

Junior Master 5-20 MP = **Peter Dehaan**

Club Master 20-50 MP = **Dorothy Caster**

Sectional Master 50-100 MP = **Paul Stratman**

Regional Master 100-200 MP = **Dave Tollison**

NABC Master 200-300 MP = **John Taylor**

Advanced Master (NLM) 300-500 MP = **Howard Simon**

Life Master 300-500 MP = **Vern Goetz**

Bronze Life Master 500-1000 MP = **Greg Brinker**

Silver Life Master 1000-1500 MP = **Dave Dressman**

Ruby Life Master 1500-2500 MP = **Peg Ammon**

Gold Life Master 2500-3500 MP = **Margaret Young**

Distinguished Life Master 3500+ MP = **Norm Coombs**

The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club Championship game was held Friday, March 3. **Dave Tolson** and **Sheila Dippel** were the winners.

Another Club Championship game was held Thursday, March 23 with **Jack** and **Brenda Mehalko** as the winners.

Dave Dressman and **Peg Ammon** had a 71.62 game at the ACBL Wide Charity game on Thursday, April 27.

Iris Libby is the chair for the Mentor-Mentee program which will kick-off on Tuesday, May 2.

A Swiss team championship game will be held Tuesday, May 30.

Anderson BC News

Our Anderson Club is participating in the Longest Day for Alzheimer's with the NKY Club. We are moving our game up to 10 AM so that players from our club will be able to go play 2 more sessions if they like. So, June 21 only we'll be starting at 10 AM.

CBC NEWS
Mike's Games at the CBC by Mike Lipp

All the games under this sanction are using a new results provider. It is called Pianola and if you haven't logged in using the invite I've sent you, you are missing out. It has tools to let you replay hands using different leads, keeps stats on your declarer play your leads and even your dummy play! (That is your partner's declarer play if you had not heard of that one).

We still use the Common Game files so there are some analysis of some of the boards. On Monday Night Bob Fisk kindly analyzes all 36 boards and they are available to review on www.cincybridge.com under the results tab for the Monday night game.

Wednesday morning's game is new. I decided that there was a need for an intermediate game during the day so for the time being I have a limited game 999 or less. There is always a standby players at all three games that I direct.

If you have any questions about any of my offerings feel free to contact me. lippmichael@gmail.com or 513-467-8054

All games run at the Cincinnati Bridge Center are Common Games. Common Games share hands with other participating clubs around the country. This allows you to compare your results in your favorite club with hundreds of other players. The Common game also provides expert analysis of select hands. You can access the analysis at the common game website or on Bridgewinners. Be sure to sign up for the common game so you can see how you do!

Common Game: <http://www.thecommongame.com/>

Bridgewinners: <https://bridgewinners.com/commongame/>

John Meinking shares that the "8 is Enough" Swiss Team format has shown some success with about 10-12 tables every 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings. Players are given a Point value based on the number of master points as follows: 1 Point: <500 Masterpoints; 2 Points: 500-2000 MPs; 3 Points: > 2000 MPs. No Team can have more than 8 Points. Great Fun. Sign up with John: jokingme71@gmail.com

Debbie Wiest continues to grow the Tuesday evening NLM game. This is very encouraging for our Unit. Come on out and join the fun every Tuesday Evening.

We are working to revive the **Tuesday Evening Open** game. On March 23 and April 25, we had 5 tables. **ATTENTION PLEASE!** The next Tuesday Evening Open Game will be **Tuesday May 16** – the night of the Unit Board Meeting. Starting in June we will schedule the 2nd Tuesday of the Month for this game. Each month we will run an open game where each member of the board of directors will bring another partner. That gives us 4 ½ tables. An informal poll says there is sufficient interest to bring another 2 ½ to 4 ½ tables. We hope to have a 7-9 table open game once a month, in addition to the NLM game currently thriving. The only change will be strict adherence to the **GOLDEN**

RULE: Open Game players will be expected to treat all other players as they themselves want to be treated – PLAY NICE! We are willing to be strident in enforcing **smiles** and **sunshine** to prove that talent and good behavior can indeed go hand-in-hand.

CBA Education News – Spring

By Larry Newman

The Spring calendar is chock full of great lessons – more lesson offering than we've seen in recent years. We have a newer cast of very experienced teachers and span a range of topics from very beginners to advanced topics for tournament players.



In addition several teachers are just now completing their accreditation with the ACBL. If you haven't checked recently, I urge you to go to the Bride Lessons page on our website.

See http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html

Partnerships!

By Joanne Earls

Need help finding partners? You are not alone. Of course, if you are looking for a partner you can still call the director of the game you want to play in or call me to see whether anyone else is looking. I will help find you a partner interested in a standing game.



Thanks for your support!

Joanne Earls

772-4395

jolman@fuse.net

Your Name Here

Cincinnati Bridge Association

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

OH WHAT WE LEARN!



By Dean Congbalay

dcongbalay@comey.com

Oh, what we learn at the bridge table!

We were at the club in Venice, Florida, conveniently positioned an astonishingly short distance from St. Peter's Gate.

On the final round, a friendly couple came to our table. The man was wearing an attractive checkered shirt featuring half the colors of the rainbow.

"That's a very nice shirt!" I commented to him.

Then, I reflexively turned to his partner, whom I assumed was his wife and said, "Where did you buy it?"

"Denmark!" I heard her say in a charming European accent.

"Oh?" I said a bit excitedly. "I'm going to Denmark in a couple months!"

She gave me a puzzled look.

"No, not Denmark!" she said, slowly enunciating every syllable. "Stein Mart!"

The whole room erupted in laughter. My partner, hardly the quiet sort, nearly fell off her chair.

So here are two lessons for the day:

#1: Watch your mouth! Many claim that they can't hear, but they certainly do listen!

#2 Sometimes it pays to venture into a new store. I checked out Stein Mart, and even though I didn't find a cool shirt, I did get a great pair of shorts!

FLYING PIG REGIONAL UPDATE

By AJ Stephani



Are you psyched for the Flying Pig Regional? It's almost here (June 5-11), so make your partnership and team dates now! Remember that we're moving to the Ramada Inn this year (directly across the street from the Sharonville Convention

Center). We hope that you like the upgraded playing venue, in-hotel restaurant, tournament hospitality, and as always, easy access to dozens of nearby eateries.

Once again, we're kicking off the tournament with our popular **Pro-Am** event. . . . All pairs are Life Masters randomly paired with NLMs. Meet your partner at 1:30 PM Monday, with play beginning at 2:30 PM. The overall winning Am(ateur) wins a LARGE trophy and the Pro bragging rights. You must pre-register for this event: Am(ateur) players please contact Margaret Young [513-284-5731](tel:513-284-5731) or margyoung@msn.com. Pros - please RSVP to Nancy Luetge at [513-793-2337](tel:513-793-2337).

If you have friends from neighboring Districts, please let them know about our terrific tournament. Our room

rates are still an incredible \$79/night, so they can't afford NOT to come!

Flying Pig Pairs Championship! We're running a two-day pairs championship for the first time this year, with a two-session qualifying day on Saturday and two-session final on Sunday. We hope to attract strong pairs from not only around our District, but cities in surrounding Districts, like Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Nashville, St. Louis, and Chicago. There's no event like this between New York and California, so here's your chance to play against the best in the Midwest!

Did you know that our tournament attendees average 5.6 sessions per person? We'd love you to play more! If everyone played just 1 more session, we'd be the 3rd largest Regional in the Midwest (we've got a ways to go before catching Gatlinburg)!

The Flying Pig Regional features **5 separate 2-session Swiss teams**, **Gold Rush** events every day Tuesday-Saturday, **Fast Pairs** in the evening (to get you home at a reasonable time), **NLM events** every day, and more! For more details, go to the [cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com) website and click on the "Tournaments" button or go directly to: <http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHomePage.html>

So, clear **June 5-11** on your calendar, and help us spread the word to everyone you know in your bridge circle.

A.J. Stephani
Chair, Flying Pig Regional

CBA MENTOR PAIRS PROGRAM 2017

By Bob Fisk



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



How do I participate? Fill out the application 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.

Mentor Program Details:

Sign Up Now On-Line:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/forms/mentee2017/mm2017.php>

Print Form and Bring to Club:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Mentor-Mentee-Form-2017.pdf>

Program Details:

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

See the **Frequently Asked Questions** below for more information.

Welcome to the 2017 Mentor/Mentee Program!

Opening night at the CBC is Tuesday, May 31st 7:00pm. Mentees 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:

Wednesday May 31, 7:00pm

Sunday June 18, 1:00pm

Wednesday June 21, 7:00pm (Longest Day charity game)

Sunday July 9, 1:00pm

Wednesday July 19, 7:00pm

Sunday August 6, 1:00pm

Wednesday August 30, 7:00pm

Sunday September 17, 1:00pm

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

Tuesday May 2, 10:00am

Wednesday May 24, 6:30pm

Friday June 16, 10:00am

Tuesday June 27, 10:00am

Friday July 7, 10:00am

Thursday July 20, 11:30am

Thursday August 3, 11:30am

Wednesday August 9, 6:30pm

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who should be a mentor?

Any Life Master Non-Life Masters who feel that they are willing and able to help newer players

Who should ask for a mentor?

Any non-Life Master with less than 300 points who has an interest in advancing their skill.

Can I be both a mentor and a mentee?

Yes! All non-Life Masters who are willing and able are encouraged to become both a mentor. and a mentee. Some newer players aren't ready to take advantage of

the advice provided by some of the veterans at the center. They also might be intimidated at the idea of sitting down at the table with someone with 2000+ Masterpoints. These players would benefit greatly from having an experienced non-Life Master help them improve their game.

Can I choose my own mentor/mentee? Many of you have already spoken to someone about forming a mentor partnership. If you have already come to an agreement with someone, then you need to make sure you enter each other's names on the Mentor Pair Application. If you do, then we will definitely put the two of you together. It would be best if you choose someone you do not play with on a regular basis to be your Mentor/Mentee, although this is not a requirement. Please do *not* choose someone who has been your Mentor/Mentee in the past.

How will mentors and mentees be paired for those of us who haven't already reached an agreement?

Partnerships will be made based on Masterpoint and experience levels. The committee will look at the information provided on the applications and attempt to make the best pairings possible. For example, the newest players who do not play modern conventions might be paired with non-Life Masters for the most part. An experienced non-Life Master with 200 or more Masterpoints might be paired with a mentor with thousands of points since they are more able to take advantage of the mentor's Bridge knowledge.

Must mentees be ACBL members?

Yes. If someone seeking a mentor is not a current member s/he will be asked to send in their dues to get their membership up to date before being allowed to participate in the mentor pair program.

When do the mentor pairs play together?

Pairs are asked to play together a minimum of four (4) times between the kickoff event in May and the final event in September. Dates designated for Mentor Pair discounts will be provided when available.

How will the specially designated mentor pair games be stratified?

The special games will be stratified the same way that most open games at the club are stratified with the following adjustment. Mentor/mentee pairs will play one level lower than the stratification that would be assigned if they were not a mentor pair. For example, if the mentor has over 2000 Masterpoints, the pair would normally play in the 'A' strata. Because they are playing as a mentor/mentee pair, they will be placed in the 'B' strata. If the mentor has less than 2000 Masterpoints, the pair will be placed in the 'C' strata.

How much will it cost to play in the specially designated mentor pair games? Mentor pairs will be able to play for half price, but only during the designated games at the CBA. All players are eligible to play in these games, but those who are not part of the mentorpair program will pay full price.

Responsibilities of the Advancing Player:

Contact your mentor to arrange dates for playing Bridge. Do this as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last minute. Tell your mentor what you would like to work on to improve your play. Ask your mentor for input/suggestions. Be willing to negotiate/compromise.

Mentor Responsibilities

Be kind and patient with your new partner. Mentees are newer, and looking to you for guidance. The "extent" of your mentoring is up to you. Be willing to share what you know and direct your mentee to any other resources s/he might find helpful. CBA has a great library available, and there's lots of great information on our website!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Fisk	Barb Levinson
bobsbbcards@gmail.com	bsl@fuse.net
(513)379-5252	(513)258-8216

Iris Libby
bridgerone@gmail.com
 (513)381-4061 (925)289-6036

UNIT 124 GATLINBURG TOP 10

Rank	MP --	Name	Total 3270 point winners.
7	115.34	Pamela Granovetter, Cincinnati OH	
8	115.34	Matt Granovetter, Cincinnati OH	
73	73.39	Bob Fisk, Cincinnati OH	
84	68.34	Cliff Pleatman, Cincinnati OH	
206	49.07	Stephen Moese, West Chester OH	
207	49.07	Mike Ma, Cincinnati OH	
310	38.07	Norman Coombs, Brookville IN	
311	38.07	John Meinking, Maineville OH	
338	36.61	Dennis Schultz, Harrison OH	
349	35.97	Larry Newman, Cincinnati OH	

UNIT 124 CELEBRATION NIGHT!

The Unit's celebration for achievement at the Bridge Table took place Tuesday Evening May 2, 2017.

Here are UNIT 124's New Life Masters for 2016:

Stacy Vanstone	Howard Simon
Charlene Comeaux	Pam Campbell
Sylvia Maltz	Robert Sefton Smith
Patrick Lammers	John Taylor
Betty Wills	William Cook
Norah Clark	Daniel Koppenhafer
	Harriet Edwards

Here are Unit 124's Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs Winners for 2016:

MP Range	MiniMcKenney	Ace of Clubs
0-5	Kevin Henry	Kevin Henry
5-20	Bradley Martin	Carol Wilson
20-50	Betty Murdock	Dorothy Caster
50-100	Mike Burns	Joan Simon
100-200	Gail Zimmer	Carl Tollison
200-300	Al Venosa	Al Venosa
300-500	Isaac Stephani	Howard Simon
500-1000	Henry Jackson	Henry Jackson
1000-1500	David Dressman	David Dressman
1500-2500	Bob Fisk	Peggy Ammon
2500-3500	Cliff Pleatman	Cliff Pleatman
3500-5000	Lorna Davis	Lorna Davis
5000-7500	Yauheni Siutsau	Yauheni Siutsau
7500-10000	William Higgins	William Higgins
Over 10000	Norman Coombs	Robert Sulgrove
Top 10 Link	Link	Link

Unit 124 Mini McKenney:

<http://web2.acbl.org/as400/mpraces/unit/2016/mm124.htm>

Unit 124 Ace of Clubs:

<http://web2.acbl.org/as400/mpraces/unit/2016/ac124.htm>



MiniMcKenney Winners!



Ace of Clubs Winners!



Cake for the 2016 Life Masters!



2016 Life Masters! – Bill Cook, Betty Wills, Dan Koppenhafer, Stacey Vanstone, Pa Campbell, Harriet Edwards

Jane Ward Novice Award and Elaine Bohannon Rookie Award: Kevin Henry	Future Master: Isaac Stephani Master of the Year: Norm Coombs.
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Special STANDING OVATION for Betty Wills – A Unit 124 New Life Master at the age of 97 – She celebrates 98 years next week!

D #	Open Pairs		Flt	OA	OB	OC	SA	SB	SC	Pts	Pct	MP
EW 3	Robert Fisk	Karen Kendall	A	1	.	1	.	.	.	107	63.69	4.23(OA)
NS 2	Peggy Ammon	David Dressman	B	2	1	1	1	1	.	103.5	61.61	3.17(OA)
NS 4	Lorna Davis	Cliff Pleatman	A	3	.	2	.	.	.	101.5	60.42	2.38(OA)
EW 5	John Meinking	Norman Coombs	A	4	.	2	.	.	.	99	58.93	1.78(OA)
EW 8	Joseph Muenks	Sharon Kreitzer	B	5	2	3	1	.	.	94	55.95	1.34(OA)
NS 7	Albert Beaupre	Barbara Levinson	A	6	.	3	.	.	.	92	54.76	1.00(OA)
NS 1	Daniel Koppenhafer	Stephen Moese	B	.	3	4	2	.	.	86	51.19	0.98(OB)
NS 6	Michael Lipp	A J Stephani	B	.	4	.	.	.	.	85.5	50.89	0.73(OB)
EW 2	Joy Singerman	William Cook	C	.	5	1	4	2	1	84.5	50.3	1.12(OC)
EW 9	Stephen Felson	Robert Brown	C	.	.	2	3	2	.	81.5	48.51	0.84(OC)
NS 5	Joyce Tedrick	Barry Wauligman	C	.	.	3	.	1	.	76	45.24	0.63(OC)

D #	NLM Pairs		Flt	OA	OB	OC	SA	SB	SC	Pts	Pct	MP
EW 3	Anirudh Pandit	Arun Pandit	A	1	.	1	.	.	.	113.2	67.4	1.31(OA)
EW 5	Alex Grim	Gail Zimmer	A	2	.	2	.	.	.	103.8	61.78	0.98(OA)
NS 2	Betty Murdock	Carol Scovic	A	3	.	1	.	.	.	96.07	57.18	0.74(OA)
EW 6	Carla Runda	Susan De Roos	B	4	1	3	1	.	.	95.72	56.98	0.76(OB)
EW 7	Joe Nurre	Doug Reams	A	5	.	4	.	.	.	92.36	54.98	0.41(OA)
EW 4	Margaret Booker	Charles Edwards	B	.	2	.	.	.	.	91.86	54.68	0.57(OB)
NS 7	Terri Mackey	Charlie Kobida	A	.	.	2	.	.	.	88.83	52.88	0.48(SA)
NS 8	Nelson Leist	Herschell Levine	A	.	.	3	.	.	.	86.87	51.71	0.35(SA)
NS 5	Patricia Burnam	Leonard Kanterman	A	.	.	4	.	.	.	84.59	50.35	0.24(SA)
NS 6	David Benoit	Verna Gibson	B	.	.	.	1	.	.	78.35	46.64	0.35(SB)

TEXT ALERT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

By AJ Stephani



Has your partner for next week's game at the club canceled on you? Looking to play an extra game? Want to know who's looking? I've started a text-based partnership service called "Remind" that allows you to receive text messages for players looking for partners for specific games. This service is different from other group text apps because it does not allow you to "Reply All" to everyone on the list.

I've been trying it out at the Cincinnati Bridge Center for about a month, and I'd like to offer to all the clubs in our Unit. Here's how:

To Receive Partnership Requests

- Send me a message at AJStephani@gmail.com telling me you'd like to sign up. I need your name and cell phone number -- remember, this is a TEXT-based service. You will receive a text message once I process your request confirming you've signed up. I will place you in NLM partnership service or with the Open partnership service, depending on your MP total and experience.
- You will receive additional messages when someone is looking for a partner. If you're not interested, do nothing. If you'd like to contact the person looking for a game, contact them directly to set it up.
- You will NOT receive text replies from anyone else, there's no obligation, and you can cancel at any time.

To Request a Partner

- Send a text to me through "Remind" or e-mailing me at AJStephani@gmail.com, providing your: (1) name; (2) number where you want to be reached; and (3) specific game and club for which you need a partner.

That's it! If you're interested, give me your name and cell number and you're all set!

CLAIMS – BRIDGE NOT BAGGAGE

by Potter Orr

There must have been something in the water one day recently when I was the director at the Bridge Center. There were at least 3 director calls for claims that were not agreed to by the opponents. While each one of these claims were "deficient", not all



of them required the reassignment of tricks. The director's job is to resolve claims as equitably as possible.

There is nothing inherently evil about claims and they can save time when properly done. Keep in mind that there is no requirement that a player make a claim. If you are not comfortable claiming, don't.

A claim is made when a player (usually declarer) announces that he will win all or a specific number of the remaining tricks and faces his remaining cards. The companion is a concession where a specific number (but less than all) of the remaining tricks. For example, declarer tables his cards and says "I will lose 1 trick and take the rest"

If the opponents agree to the claim or concession, the board is scored and life goes on. If either opponent disagrees, the director should be called and play must stop. There is no such thing as cancelling a claim and asking declarer to "play it out". If declarer is making a concession, the dummy may object to the concession and the director should be called.

All claims should be accompanied by a **clear** statement of the intended line of play. The director will use this statement in adjudicating the claim. If no clear statement of the line of play is made like declarer saying "They are all mine", the claimer will have no right to later explain his plan.

There are some simple guidelines for claims that will greatly reduce problems.

- Don't claim if there defenders have any trump left unless your line of play includes the intention to draw them immediately.
- Don't claim if you have any losers unless your line of play includes a specifics about how those losers will be avoided. A statement that the remaining cards would be cross-ruffed made at the time of the claim would be sufficient.
- Be wary of claims that require finesses.
- Don't claim unless your side (you or dummy) has the lead.

As noted above, the director's job is to find equity in a disputed claim. In doing that doubtful points will be decided against the claimer. For example, if a claim is made with a trump out and it is possible for a defender to use that trump then the defenders will be entitled to a trick. Claimer would not then be allowed to say that he would have trumped high or that he would have drawn the remaining trump.

CBC REMODEL TIMELINE



By Barry Wauligman

In early 2016, we signed a ten year extension on our lease at the bridge center. Since this committed us to our facility for an extended period of time, we felt it was necessary to make some improvements to our space. Remodeling improvements are somewhat difficult to execute, because the bridge center is open fifty-one weeks of the year and closes only during the Flying Pig regional tournament. In order to make the construction procedure as innocuous as possible, we schedule remodeling to be done during this one week period when the center is closed.

During last year's Flying Pig regional, the landlord made improvements to the parking lot and the common area bathrooms off of the hall. The Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA) handled the other renovations which included gutting and redecorating the women's restroom in our space, replacing all the ceiling tiles, painting all of the rooms, and installing a reverse osmosis filtration system. All, or at least the bulk of this remodeling, was done during the Flying Pig tournament when we were shut down.

For the 2017 Flying Pig regional, the bridge center will close at 5:00pm on Saturday, June 3rd and will not reopen until Monday, June 12th. During this time frame, we plan on gutting and redoing the entire kitchen area and pantry. This renovation will include removal of the no load bearing wall and a complete tear out of cabinets and flooring. We were able to secure bids from contractors who could meet our needs by committing to work evenings and weekends during this short time span. We ultimately accepted the bid from National Construction, the same contractor who did our remodeling work in 2016.

When our bridge center reopens on Monday, June 12th, we hope to see:

- about 375 square feet of new porcelain tile floor installed in the entire kitchen and pantry areas
- the no load bearing wall being totally removed
- new base cabinets along the rear kitchen wall
- a microwave wall cabinet
- a small island, similar but smaller than the existing folding table we are now using as an island
- a 12 foot buffet cabinet to the left of the pantry door, replacing the folding tables now being used

- an 8' long 1"x10" poplar wood shelf above the buffet cabinet
- quartzite countertops
- the reverse osmosis (blue in color) tank will be relocated to the pantry versus the existing area next to the coffee machines
- the kitchen area walls will be painted an accent color

Since countertops cannot be measured and fabricated until after cabinets have been installed, it is likely that we will need to use a temporary sink and countertops/tables for a few weeks after we reopen on June 12th. The directors are aware of this, and we hope this will be just a slight inconvenience.

Looking forward to 2018, we hope to focus our renovation efforts on replacing the flooring for the playing floor, and also possibly replacing the existing overhead fluorescent tube lighting fixtures with LED tube fixtures. The five lighting fixtures closest to our entrance were already converted to LED tubes last year. Our remodeling committee consists of myself, Pam Campbell, Nalin Mehta, and John Meinking. If you have any recommendations or expertise with flooring options or LED conversion, please feel free to contact one of us. We are hopeful and optimistic that both our Flying Pig regional bridge tournament and our Flying Pig remodeling work will be a great success!

INSPIRED

By Amy Fisher



I have been fortunate to be able to teach a few bridge classes now and then at the CBA. The players in my classes have heard me say that the classes inspire me to become a more thoughtful player. By reading the bridge books and organizing my thoughts about particular topics, I can more easily transfer the lessons over to my own game. And when I have to respond to a question in class, my own information gets fortified.

Another personal benefit from teaching is getting to know so many players so much better. I have found new friends...and new partners! We can laugh at our mistakes; many of the points brought up in class automatically come with a recent triumph or disaster from the table. In a recent class, after a defensive tip was brought, one unnamed player said, "Oh, I just did the opposite from that tip three times today." Now, as Joe always says, bridge is not a perfect game. So I was well-prepared to hear her say that the wrong thing

worked out every time. I hesitantly said, “And?” “It was wrong every time!” was the quick reply.

Every teacher hopes that the benefits are just as great for the players. If you have ever wondered about a bridge class, talk to others about it. If everyone in your group has never taken a class and is nervous, remember there is courage in numbers! You can find out from other players that have taken a class more about the different styles of the teachers and see if a particular class feels like a good fit for you. Ask a teacher if you can sit in on a class just to see if it is the right level for you.

Whenever I learn a new skill at bridge or in any activity, I end up enjoying the activity even more than I did before. I'm betting all of you feel the same. And remember, if you end up taking a bridge class, you will be one of the ones helping teach the teacher, too.

Bridge classes are win-win situationsjust like the losing finesse that guarantees a contract, a winner on each side.

THE ELUSIVE PERFECT SCORE

By Steve Moese

Have you played at the Northern Kentucky Bridge club recently? There's a wonderful young director, John Taylor, who just happens to be a Junior in Beechwood High School. Yes, he loves bridge, scuba, tennis and is active in leadership at school. I have the pleasure of playing with him once a month. His predilection for bridge conventions exceeds my own and his judgment is quite accurate. We never fail to score MPs. I can't say enough for his temperament and skill.

While I have never heard of anyone scoring a perfect (100%) game in bridge, John did accomplish that feat in a much more important venue. You see, John scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test as a JUNIOR! That is quite a feat, one that makes any bridge accomplishment pale in comparison. Over 1.8 million students take the test every year and only 2000 or so get perfect scores (99.9 percentile).

Yes, John is a Life Master as well. If you don't know John now, you will soon. I recommend you find the article recently published in the Fort Mitchell Living Magazine Vol 33 No 4 April 2017 at the following link. Go to page 8. Learn more about John. You won't be disappointed. Way to go, partner!

Download the MAGAZINE .pdf here:

http://www.livingmagazines.com/Fort_Mitchell_Living/images/1704/1704_FM_Digital.pdf



EPISODE 18: TOYS IN THE ATTIC

By Steve Felson

Two o'clock in the morning and it's pitch black and I'm all alone and there, standing in my lobby, is a Neanderthal man, with the eyebrow ridges, y'know, and the hairy knuckles. He had just learned to walk erect that morning, I think. Came right to my house in search of the secret of fire. A mouth breather looking at me, y'know. I took my watch out and dangled it in front of him 'cause they're mollified by shiny objects sometimes. He ate it. I pulled out my teargas pen and pressed the trigger and some ink trickled down my shirt. So I'm standing in the lobby, two o'clock in the morning, with a product of a broken home, and a fountain pen in my hand. He comes for me and starts to tapdance on my windpipe, so very quickly I lapsed into the old Navajo Indian trick of screaming and begging.— Woody Allen, 1964.



Looking back at past episodes I notice a disturbing and pretty boring pattern: Catchy title, humorous epigram, trashing of partner, rehabilitation of partner, segue

segue segue, reach the deal of the day, show partner doing something incredibly crazy which turns out well, and then tie it all up in the last sentence. This is literature? Who am I kidding? Or, if you like, *whom* am I kidding? Literature requires a beginning, a middle and an end, the way O. Henry (William Sydney Porter, 1862–1910) did it in *The Gift of the Magi* (1905) and *The Ransom of Red Chief* (1910). Start with the deal, tell the story step-by-step, skip the clever references, and walk off into the sunset like a real man – Ernest Hemingway, for example (see photo).



That settled, here goes and I hope somebody stops me if I stray from the true path to high literary achievement.

Tired of bouncing bids around the back channels of the space grid, Bob and I land on Quibbelov, a

Yekaterinburg moon named after the famous Russian semanticist (b. 2061 and still quibbling), for a week of face-to-face bridge against all manner of grifters, grafters, and grovelers made unemployable by artificial intelligence and robotics. Sitting North I pick up the following hand, with South the dealer and both vulnerable:

♠	---
♥	AKT9xx
♦	Qxx
♣	Qxxx

My partner, Robert S Brown, opens 1♥ and we soon reach a 4♥ contract which my right-hand opponent doubles. East, on my left, bids 4♠. Bob suddenly develops severe facial and upper-body twitches, indicating that something is desperately wrong (and not for the first time).

I should add here that Bob's putative father was a poker-faced horse trader who did very well in business deals along the Sverdlosk-Sebastopol axis back on earth and subsequently cursed Bob with a middle initial only, having been unable to decide between Robert Sverdlosk Brown and Robert Sebastopol Brown.

Okay, after East ventures 4♠ it's up to Bob, who sighs deeply and calls for the director. She approaches, wearing traditional Russian costume and looking as stern as Garbo's commissar in *Ninotchka* (1939), before she laughs.



They begin a conversation away from the table. Bob shows her his cards, then suddenly sinks to the floor and grabs her around the legs, drawing concerned attention from much of the room. I hear wailing. She manages to pull him up to his feet, slaps him a couple of times, applies some calming words, pats him on the head, and helps him back to the table. Now she announces that she will watch the play and then make a decision. Bob looks up at her, she nods, and he doubles 4♠.

It soon becomes apparent that despite opening 1♥ Bob has no ♥ at all but, by some miracle, holds 5 trumps to the A-Q-T and we end up with a plus 1400. Now it is our opponents who start to twitch and wail. In fact, they each produce flaring shoulder scales and swell up in size, revealing alarming horizontal red and green stripes which pulse like a toy-store Christmas display. But it does them no good – the director explains in heavily accented English that bidding mistakes happen, that Bob meant to open 1♠ but pressed the wrong button, that there was no illegal agreement, and that she could not prohibit him from doubling. Our opponents slump back down to normal size and their shoulder scales retract. We stand up, ready to move on, and Bob's cheery "Good night and good luck" – an innocent quote from the 2005 movie of the same name starring David Strathairn as Edward R. Murrow – lays an egg as an exit line.

"Bob," I ask him on our way to the next table, "I understand the mis-bid – it could happen to anyone in your mental condition – but what did you say to the director while you were on your knees sobbing?"

"Very simple – I told her I meant to open 1♠ but I'm 214 years old, I'm tired from traveling day and night for 480,000 miles, I've had 6 wives and 12 knee operations on five planets, I was once tortured by Turks and Kurds at the same time, and if she didn't let me double I would leave the game of bridge immediately and and take up Mahjongg."

Once again, the only response I could think of was, "Brilliant, partner."

[Hmm, that was easy. I should write this way more often.]

[Ed. Note –The Postman always rings twice ☺]

RUMINATIONS – A TRAGI-COMEDY



By Robert S Brown

Setting:

A club room beckons unprepossessingly. Chairs of every description flaunt their defiance of homogeneity and imply that their denizens' posteriors run an analogous gamut of gluteal amplitude and rigidity. The tables, cup holders, bidding boxes, and cards all display similar variations in age and condition but without the anatomical inflections.

Action:

The Traveler enters and plods towards the Director's desk. With well-practiced timidity, he asks: "Partner available?"

The Director, disheveled and doleful (ML perhaps):
"Sadly only one."

Traveler: "Why sadly?"

Director: "We call him the Albatross for reasons best left unexplained. He's never been quite here since his partner defected to a Mahjong club. But if you can put up with his quirks – he's available."

Traveler: "What quirks?"

Director: "They're unpredictable, indescribable – without any pattern or discernable intent."

Traveler: "Alright I'll take him. By the way I sometimes enjoy making a little side bet on the game; is that possible?"

Director: "With the Albatross as a partner, you can get all the action you want."

• • •

Same setting, pre-game meeting:

Traveler: Scanning the Albatross's card, "What type of card is this?"

Albatross: "I call it an adult card – some conventions are not suitable for children under 13; the ones marked in red invoke both violence and profanity: the blue ones contain nudity and graphic sex."

Traveler: "There is a lot of money at stake here – can't we play standard 2 over 1?"

Albatross: "You mean the 'ménage a trois' that's one of my blue conventions."

Traveler: "Are you completely insane?"

Albatross: "Not completely."

• • •

Same setting, a montage of scenes from the game

[interspersed with portions of the Albatross's convention card]:

[Red Convention] – Director ruling against Traveler with a stream of profanity-laced invectives.

[Red Convention] – Traveler being pummeled (literally and figuratively) by an opposing pair.

[Blue Convention] – Traveler sexually assaulted during break by two women aroused by his slam bidding.

[One Round to Go Posting] – T & A have a slim lead [Children with eyes shielded by their protective parents] - Albatross, after psyching a four-card ♠ suit with unfavorable vulnerability and going down 2200: "Sorry partner"

• • •

Same setting, post-game:

Traveler to Director: "Where is that Mahjong Club? I need a new game."

LEGEND OF SPEARFINGER

By Steve Moese

The Smoky Mountains are as legendary as they are old. While Gatlinburg has become the Mecca for bridge players in recent times with the largest Regional in all of Canada, Mexico, and USA, the old legends still find time to touch us.

"The misty ridges of the Great Smoky Mountains are home to many ghost stories, but few are as terrifying as the Cherokee legend of Spearfinger. According to legend, the witch had a long, sharp finger made of stone, and she walked the Smokies' trails disguised as an elderly woman and lured children who wandered too far from their village. She'd hold the children and sing them to sleep and then used her stone finger to cut out their livers, which she would eat. There's also the tale of a settler who was murdered on the north shore of Lake Fontana while looking for his daughter, and lost hikers have reported a mysterious light that leads them back."

See: <http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/eco-tourism/photos/8-creepiest-places-in-us-national-parks/norton-creek-trail-great-smoky>

Some believe that truth underlies folklore. The Great Smoky Mountains have more than their share of stories and tall tales. I've always shrugged them off as wild imagination from a time when belief mattered more than fact, and bias filtered our understanding of what we didn't understand. I knew nothing of Spearfinger until today, when I am certain I witnessed her vengeance at my table.

The Smokies are the most popular National Park in the USA. If you love nature you must visit and spend time exploring here. If you love bridge then you will join the thousands that flock to the largest Regional Tournament in the ACBL.

You were asked by an old friend to play in Bracket II KOs. Since you would never turn down this opportunity, you grab your best partner and play. After modest success in round 3 of 4 (up 25 at the half) you find another mundane hand. Little do you know...

You play Precision. Partner is steady and imaginative. Your opponents are very steady and you are lucky to be up at the half. You spread the pasteboards and see:

N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	??

West	
♠Qx	
♥Qxxxx	
♦KJx	
♣KQx	

Your choices are:

- 2N Jacoby Forcing ♥ Raise,
- 4♥ as a 2-way raise - either preemptive or a balanced opening hand with no slam aspirations opposite common maximums).
- 1N (Forcing) then 4♥ - this typically shows a hand with too many controls (5-6) for direct jump to 4♥.

So what's your pleasure?

Jacoby 2N promises 4 trumps and either a balanced hand or a hand too strong for a splinter bid. On the other hand, 4♥ usually promises only 3-4 trumps and little shortness. 1N then 4♥ would bring a singleton or void, 5+ trumps and one trick outside ♥.

Not thinking too deeply, you chose a pedestrian 4♥. Partner duly alerted and explained your agreement. The auction continues:

N	E	S	W
1♥	P	4♥	P
P	X	???	

Your next decision please?

It seems fairly useful to rewrap this auction at this point so partner knows which of the two hand types you have. Do you agree? Well, that's what happened:

N	E	S	W
	1♥	P	4♥
P	P	X	P
4♠	X!	P	???

Do you act?

There a sudden chill in the room, the lights flicker and dim... your call please...

N	E	S	W
1♥	P	4♥	P
P	X	XX	4♠
X!	P	P	P

You choose to pass, trusting partner's judgment. Besides you have soft values that will be somewhat more useful on defense than offense.

Before partner leads he calls the Director. We all review the auction with alerts and explanations. Then they huddle away from the table. The director says play on and monitors us throughout.

♠Qx	W
♥Qxxxx	S N
♦KJx	E
♣KQx	
	♠J
	♥A109xxx
	♦xxx
	♣Jxx

Partner leads the ♥J. Here's the Dummy (South) you see:

Any ideas what's going on yet? Better still do you see what the final outcome will be? There's a chill in the air...(Spearfinger is

watching her latest handiwork...)

♠Qx	<table border="1"> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>S N</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> </table>	W	S N	E
W				
S N				
E				
♥Qxxxx				
♦KJx				
♣KQx				
	♠J			
	♥A109xxx			
	♦xxx			
	♣Jxx			

Partner's ♥J runs to the Declarer's ♥K!!.
Declarer plays a small ♠ toward dummy and Partner wins the ♠A. The ♣10 from partner runs to Dummy's J, your Q and Declarer's A. Another small ♠ from declarer is ducked to your Q. You and

partner clear 2 rounds of ♣ and partner continues with a low ♦. Have you pictured partner's hand yet?

When the dust settled, declarer made only 4 tricks. The full hand?

West	♠ J8xxx				
	♥ K				
	♦ Axx				
	♣ Axxx				
♠ Qx	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ AK109x
N					
W E					
S					
♥ Qxxxx	♥ J				
♦ KJx	♦ Qxxx				
♣ KQx	♣ 109x				
	♠ J				
	♥ A109xxx				
	♦ xxx				
	♣ Jxx				

Having watched the play and result, the Director ruled no adjustment - a mechanical mistake occurred and there were no UI/MI issues with the subsequent bidding.

The play was demonic...

The irony compelling...

Unfortunately for our Canadian opponents (who were the utmost gentlemen under the circumstances), their teammates combined to reduce their deficit by 8 IMPs to -17 in the final 12 boards. We moved on to the Bracket II finals, but were haunted by the margin on that demonic board: +18 IMPs. Time to throw some salt over our shoulder and move toward the sunlight. Beware Spearfinger.

BRIDGE MAXIMS DONT WORK AT THE PONDEROSA



By Rob Weidenfeld

There was a time when you would have to say to a younger person that a certain TV program was before your time. No longer. With a thousand channels at everyone's disposal and all the recycled TV shows, everyone will know that the Ponderosa was the locale of Bonanza, the most popular TV show of its time. It featured the wise father Ben, the elder intellectual son Adam, the gargantuan Hoss, and the somewhat wild youngest son Little Joe.

Adam had spent much time trying to acculturate his seemingly hopeless brethren. He tried reading them

poetry, playing ballads on his guitar, and as a last resort, bridge. He was lecturing them one evening on why bridge maxims were so important. "In order to achieve a degree of competence in this game," he said with the wisdom of the eldest, "you must apply knowledge that has a time-proven value. Such notions as "eight ever, nine never", "when in doubt, draw trump", and "second hand low" are there for a reason. They have been learned after years of practice and should never be ignored," he continued sounding a bit this side of pompous.

Little Joe, who preferred a game with a little more action, agreed to play but could not abide with this concept. "There are too many rules in this game," he blurted out. "When everybody plays by the rules, it takes all the fun out of it," he said. "The fun is in winning, Little Joe, but let's try a few hands and see if I can make the point," Adam countered. There was no need to wait. The very first hand proved instructional.

Adam picked up this hand:

Adam
♠ AKQ107
♥ KJ
♦ AK2
♣ K8

Playing a system remarkably similar to what might be popular today here was the auction:

Adam	Little Joe	Ben	Hoss
2♣	P	2♥ ¹	P
3♠ ²	P	4♣ ³	P
4♦ ³	P	4♥ ³	P
7♠ ⁴	ALL PASS		
1= Positive 2= Solid Suit AKQ10xx/ AKQxxxx 3= Control bid 4= Adam could count 12 tricks.			

If Ben had any queen 7 was laydown. If he had length in any side suit, 7 had to have a good play.

Little Joe led the ♦Q and this is what Adam saw:

Contract	Ben			
7♠	♠ 63			
Lead: ♦Q	♥ A9842			
	♦ 764			
	♣ A62			
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
	Adam			
	♠ AKQ107			
	♥ KJ			
	♦ AK2			
	♣ K8			

Adam surveyed the dummy and was not displeased. No extra honors, but ♥ length which would allow a ♦ discard if ♥ were 3-3 or if Little Joe had a doubleton 10 or queen. Pretty straightforward he assessed.

He won the lead in hand, rapidly led 3 rounds of trumps while Little Joe discarded a small ♣, and then played the ♥K and then ♥J. Joe followed small to the first but played the ♥10 under the ♥J. "That's all I need gentleman," Adam declared confidently as he won the ♥A in dummy. Knowing that Joe could not have the ♥queen-ten and not cover, he played the ♥9. If Hoss played the ♥Q he would ruff and get back to dummy with the ♣A and pitch a losing ♦ on the good ♥. When Hoss followed small he pitched his losing ♦ and claimed making 7. His Cheshire grin quickly dissipated when Joe produced the ♥Q and said, "Down One."

"I can't believe that you didn't cover the ♥J when you were only left with the ♥Q10," bemoaned Adam finding this loss to his clearly inferior brother hard to swallow. Here was the full hand:

Contract	Ben		
7♠	♠ 63		
Lead: ♦Q	♥ A9842		
	♦ 764		
	♣ A62		
Little Joe			Hoss
♠ 52			♠ 984
♥ Q105			♥ 763
♦ QJ10			♦ 9853
♣ Q10543			♣ J97

	N	
W		E
	S	

"You forgot to mention one of the maxims, big brother," said Little Joe with the Cheshire grin that he had just stolen from Adam. "Always cover an honor with an honor is one of the silliest ideas you ever tried to teach me," he declared triumphantly. And bridge was never again the same at the Ponderosa.

Adam
♠ AKQJ107
♥ KJ
♦ AK2
♣ K8



The **CBA Unit 124 Mentoring Program** begins **May 2** in NKy Bridge Club and **May 28** in the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Be sure to sign up. This is a great way to improve your game, and to meet players you might not know well.

In March 2020 the NABC Championships come to Columbus! The week of May 8-14 marks the first of several fund raising events throughout the next 3 years to raise funds for the NABC. When the NABC completes, Units in District 11 will share proportionally according to their generosity. These special games cost \$1 more per person more and offer **TRIPLE MASTERPOINTS**. Come early and play often at participating Unit Club Games near you. Details at: http://www.district11bridge.com/NABC_Fundraiser_Game.pdf



The summer solstice brings the biggest charity event of the year - The Longest Day with games at participating clubs scheduled morning noon and night. Check the flyer for more details.

Need those elusive **SILVER POINTS**? Join us at any participating Club in our Unit. Schedules and games will be posted in advance.



SAVE THE DATES



Don't miss the **Flying Pig!** This is Unit 124's biggest event of the year. Get your favorite partner and play all 7 days!

For more information click on one of the following links:

- Tournament Information <http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHomePage.html>
- ACBL Tournament Page <http://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?tourid=32516>



Toronto beckons. Summer NABC's are the best. Make plans now!

Right in the middle of "Vacation Month" comes NKy's Summer Getaway Sectional. Don't miss this event!





Columbus 2020 NABC FUNDRAISER GAME

3X POINTS!

MAY 8-14, 2017

COLUMBUS NABC

How Much?

Just \$1/person more –
Proceeds Go To Columbus
2020 NABC Hospitality Fund

Club Managers

♣ Any ACBL Sanctioned Game
at Your Club - Pairs or Teams

♣ No special sanction needed
In ACBLScore, select "Fund"
and then "NABC Promotional
Game" for the Event Rating.

♣ When you DBADD the game,
a report will be printed to send
to the Columbus NABC
Treasurer. Forward along with
\$4/table (checks payable to
"Columbus 2020 NABC") to:

Judy Auer
6844 Ballantrae Place
Dublin, Ohio 43016

♣ Regular club game fees will
be included with your club's
month-end report.

May 8-14,
2017

DON'T MISS This Opportunity For Triple Points At Your Club!

(And you'll be supporting the
Columbus 2020 NABC!)



2020 NABC Total
\$??,???

NABC Promo
Games at Clubs
\$??,???

D11 Regional
Contributions
\$??,???

Sponsorships
\$??,???

\$17,000

D11 Seed Money

COLUMBUS NABC



2017 Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional: Hog Heaven

Two-Day Flying Pig Pairs Championship!

Ramada Plaza Sharonville

June 5-11, 2017

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:30PM
Monday June 5		Pro Am Pairs* (reservation required – see details in sidebar) Open Pairs Side Series I	Open Pairs Evening Side Series II* Piglet Single Session Swiss*
Tuesday June 6	Hog Wild Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) Hog Wild Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series II NLM Pairs
	Pig Out KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series I 199er Pairs	Pig Out KO (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series I Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Wednesday June 7	Road Hog Gold Rush Swiss Teams (2 sessions) Road Hog Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 1) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series II
	Pig Out KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series III NLM Pairs	Pig Out KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series III NLM Pairs	
Thursday June 8	Pig in a Poke Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) Pig in a Poke Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 3) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 2) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series IV NLM Pairs
	Carolyn Ahlert Memorial KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series III 199er Pairs	Carolyn Ahlert Memorial KO (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series III Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Friday June 9	Igpay Atlinlay Gold Rush Swiss Teams Igpay Atlinlay Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4) Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series IV
	Carolyn Ahlert Memorial KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series V NLM Pairs	Carolyn Ahlert Memorial KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series V NLM Pairs	
Saturday June 10	Flying Pig Pairs Championship (2 Session Qualifying) Flying Pig Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) Three Little Pigs Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Open Fast Pairs Evening Side Series IV
	Open Pairs Side Series V 199er Pairs	Open Pairs Side Series V NLM Pairs	
Sunday June 11	Flying Pig Pairs Championship (2 Session Final) Hog Heaven Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)		Swiss Teams in Red NLM Events in Blue * Grass Roots Game Championship Rated

♥ **Tournament Highlights** ♥

New Location!

Great Rooms @ \$79/Night at Playing Site
Easy Access to I-75 and I-275
Wine and Cheese Hospitality Daily
Only Two-Day Championship Pairs Event in the Midwest

♠ **Tournament Chair** ♠

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

♦ **Partnerships** ♦

Steve Messinger
smessinger9063@gmail.com
(513) 441-8858

♣ **Pro Am Pairs** ♣

Reserve by June 1
Margaret Young
margyoung@msn.com
(513) 284-5731

♥ **Hotel Information** ♥

Ramada Plaza
11320 Chester Road
(513) 771-2080
\$79/Night Double or King All Week Long
Ask for "Flying Pig" or "Bridge Tournament" Rate
Reserve by May 15, 2017



Newly Crowned Life Masters Are Engraved on our Pigasus Trophy!



Two-Day Flying Pig Pairs Championship Saturday-Sunday
Our Famous T-Shirt Prize Desk



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 750-1500/300-750/0-300 A/X 3000+/0-3000
- All events stratified by average MPs
All players in events with upper MP limit must be under limit
KO events may be handicapped

More Info: cincybridge.com

Calling All Bridge Players

Support the
Alzheimer's Association
by playing bridge on
The Longest Day!

The Cincinnati Bridge Center
2860 Cooper Road
Cincinnati, OH 45241

is hosting an all-day event on
June 21 where you can play
the game you love and help a
great cause. Whether you play
socially or haven't played since
college, join us to raise funds for
the fight against Alzheimer's.

CONTACT

Justina Clendening
513-793-1920
jclendening@cinci.rr.com

 *Cincinnati*
Bridge Association



www.alz.org/thelongestday

All proceeds go to The
Longest Day, helping to
advance the care, support
and research efforts of the
Alzheimer's Association.

Duplicate Games at 11:00AM,
3:00PM (18 boards),
and 7:00PM
Hot Dog and Hamburger
Cookout at 6:00PM!

Summer Getaway Sectional

August 11-13, 2017

Event Schedule

Friday

Stratified **Open** Pairs & Stratified **NLM** Pairs 10AM
 Stratified **Open** Pairs & Stratified **NLM** Pairs 2:30PM
Afternoon event is GRASS ROOTS FUND, 40% More Silver Points

Saturday

Stratified **Open** Pairs & Stratified **NLM** Pairs 10AM
 Stratified **Open** Pairs & Stratified **NLM** Pairs 2:30PM
Afternoon event is GRASS ROOTS FUND, 40% More Silver Points

Sunday

Strati-flighted Play-Through Swiss Teams 10AM
*Sunday teams with any player over 1500 must play A/X
 (lunch may be purchased)*

All events stratified by average master points
 Stratified open pairs: 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+
 Stratified NLM pairs: Director Discretion
 Strati-flights: A/X: open/0-2500
 B/C/D: 750-1500/300-750/0-300

- ★ **Southern Hospitality**
5:30 Fri & Sat evenings
Wine, beer, appetizers,
Homemade Pies on Fri
- ★ **Daily 50/50 Drawing**
- ★ **Concessions Each Day**
- ★ **\$11 Entry Fee**
Half-price under age 21
(\$3 additional for non or
unpaid ACBL members)
- ★ **40% Bigger Awards,**
At the afternoon events,
No extra fee!
- ★ **Sensational Support
and Supplies:**
Anderson Bridge Club
Cincinnati Bridge
Association



Contacts

Tournament Chairs:

Gerry Mirus
513-543-8044
jewelwithgerry@yahoo.com

Joe Pike
859-801-8058
jpik@fuse.net

Partnerships:

Howard Simon
859-282-7344
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

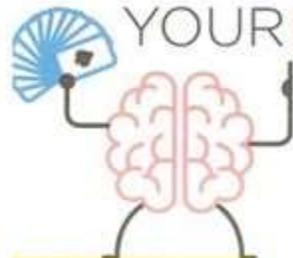
NKBC bridge rate \$97 (online code KBC)

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.

BOOST

YOUR **BRAIN** POWER



Challenge your mental muscles and make new friends. Learn the game of bridge!



Cincinnati Bridge Association invites anyone who wants to learn the game of bridge.

- certified bridge teachers
- classes for various levels and topics
- sanctioned duplicate games 6d/week

For details or course offerings:

Go to www.cincybridge.com

or

Contact: Larry Newman at
LTPBridge@gmail.com

Cincinnati Bridge Club
2860 Cooper Rd.,
Evendale, OH 45241

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