



May 2024

Newsletter for Unit 124

Editor: Mike Ma

Index

2. From the President – Bill Brewer
3. From the Editor – Mike Ma
4. Flying Pig Regional - Arun Goyal, Chair
6. Flying Pig Regional June 2- 8 Schedule
10. NABC@Louisville
 11. Potter Orr article
 - 12-14. Steve Moese article
 15. Song Parody
16. Directors' Corner
- 16-17. Weekly Bridge Quiz
18. Tuesday Newcomers' Game – Amy Fisher

From The President



I hope you enjoy this issue of the Unit 124 Alert. I want to thank Mike Ma and his committee for taking on the task of editing and producing this newsletter. We have changed the focus slightly to concentrate more on the unit.

As I mentioned in my email to you in March, the Unit Board was hard at work on our NLM Sectional in April, and then proceed to the Flying Pig Regional in June, STAC in August and our Spooktacular Sectional in October. These are in addition to our numerous special events such as a holiday and awards party and new mentor/mentee game.

Our current cincybridge.com website is being redesigned to make it more user friendly and easier to find information such as game schedules, results and other pertinent information. My hope is that we will unveil the new site sometime this summer. Most of the features of our current site will remain but some rarely used features may be placed elsewhere.

I hope you will all consider being a part of our Mentor/Mentee program in either Northern Kentucky or Cincinnati. As a beginning player it was so helpful for me to be mentored by more experienced players. We particularly need mentors. In general, if you are a life master or have more than 400-500 points you could benefit a less experienced player. So please sign up soon or let John Williams, Mentor/Mentee chair know that you would like to participate. Both clubs will enjoy a special Mentor/Mentee Game on Saturday, September 14th at 12:30 at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

Enjoy this issue of the Alert. As always feel free to reach out to me with questions or if you need assistance. Please help us bring new players to the Club every chance you get!

Bill Brewer
President Unit 124 Board of Directors
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From The Editor

Hi fellow Unit 124 members, this is Mike Ma. I am attempting to be the new editor of Alert, our unit newsletter. While I have done newsletter for other organizations before, the template and format for previous editions of Alert proved somehow unworkable for me, so I will try to start from scratch. Hopefully as times progress, I will do a better job. If not, please do not hesitate to replace me! ☺

Prior to going on hiatus, the Alert Newsletter was going strong and thanks to contributors, contained many instructive and helpful Bridge articles. But it was also getting quite bulky, and it was suggested to me that some streamlining might be beneficial. Also, it was suggested that Alert should focus more directly on our Unit and its members. Unit 124 is a community with a shared interest. We'd like to know more about our members, both within Bridge and even outside of Bridge. Bridge articles are great, but they are even greater if related to our Unit. How about sharing hands you played or are aware of playing by another Unit member? The ACBL Bulletin for example contains many useful Bridge articles written by professionals. We don't need to duplicate their effort here. But we would sure appreciate Bridge articles specifically relevant to our Unit.

In times past, the Alert was very much an instrument of information dissemination for our Unit. But now with our own Unit website, information are readily obtained there, and in a much more timely fashion. So Alert is better served for communicating opinions, stories, and lengthier forms of information. I would love to have our members send in letters to share with their fellow members. Such letters will also point to what articles we might and should have in Alert.

When Alert was published as hard copies, the two column format worked well. But it was not so easy to read on screen. This was one of the feedback I got when I took on this job. Now that Alert is published electronically 100%, we are eliminating the two column format.

As I said, this is a work in progress for me. But I also need your help. I need your advice, and I need your contributions in the form of articles, letters, suggestions, etc. I look forward to hearing from you.

In the rest of this newsletter, texts in italics are my preambles or comments to articles.

Mike Ma
mma926@gmail.com, 513 225-6529

Flying Pig Regional June 2-8



It has been an almost a year since our last Flying Pig Tournament. Thanks to everyone, it was a great success. As a new chairperson of the tournament, I had a lot to learn. We listened to our members and participants and are trying to incorporate their suggestions this year.

The Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional is again seven days long, from June 2 to June 8, 2024. The first six days will be held at the host hotel Delta Hotel in Sharonville, culminating in a two session Swiss Team competition on Saturday at the Cincinnati Bridge Center (2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati OH 45241). We have something for everyone each day and every session: team games, pair games and Under 750 events. We have also added two days (4 sessions) of Under 100 pair events. Together with evening sessions, we expect this year's Flying Pig Regional to be bigger than ever! Just look at the schedule and you will see how much we have to offer. The team games offer flexibility for working people play in the tournament, as they can play on five or six person teams.

We will again award trophies for all Under 100 and Under 750 event winners. In order to have these sections, we need a big enough turnout. So, if you like these events, please join us and tell your friends to join as well. Only you can guarantee these sections.

Our hospitality was a big hit last year. We are bringing it back Monday through Thursday between afternoon and evening sessions and a full lunch on Saturday.

We have also reduced entry fee to only \$15 per person per session. Therefore, we need your support and help. I am requesting everyone as an ambassador of Unit 124 to spread the word about the Flying Pig Regional. Foremost, please join us for as much as you can, preferably even all 7 days to take advantage of our great schedule of events.

Lastly, we are still looking for volunteers for the help desk. Please contact Arun if you wish to volunteer.

Arun Goyal, Tournament Chairperson
Jim Barrett, Gary Herrington, Monica Ibarra, Shoba Kale, Pam Campbell,
Barbara Levinson, Mike Ma, Ila Mehta and Diane Travis

Tournament Schedule
Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional
 Jun 2-8, 2024
 Delta Hotels by Marriott
 11320 Chester Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45246
 PH: 513-771-2080

Tournament Chair

Arun Goyal
 Email: arung@alum.mit.edu

Partnership Chair

James Barrett
 Email: FlyingPig.Partnerships@cincybridge.com

Director in Charge

Michael Roberts

Stratification

¹ 99er Pairs (by avg) :	A: 50-100	B: 20-50	C: 0-20
² Gold Rush Pairs (by avg) :	7: 400-750	4: 150-400	1: 0-150
³ B/C/D Swiss (by avg) :	B: 2500-4000	C: 1500-2500	D: 0-1500
⁴ Eight is Enough Swiss :	A: 1500+	B: 400-1500	C: 0-400
⁵ Open Bracketed KO/Teams :	A: Bracketed by attendance		
⁶ Side Pairs (by avg) :	A: 2500+	B: 750-2500	C: 0-750
⁷ Open Pairs/Swiss (by avg) :	A: 4000+	B: 1500-4000	C: 0-1500
⁸ A/X Swiss (by avg) :	A: 5000+	X: 0-5000	

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Open Bracketed Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	12:00 pm & 4:00 pm
Open Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	12:00 pm & 4:00 pm

Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	12:00 pm & 4:00 pm
Side Pairs A (Session 1, 2 of 6)	12:00 pm, 4:00 pm

Monday, June 3, 2024

Open Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Soloway Bracketed Knockout (Session 1 & 2 of 4) two sessions qualifying; two sessions semifinal and final	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Side Pairs A (Session 3, 4 of 6)	10:00 am, 2:30 pm
Mon-Tue Eve Open Bracketed Teams (Session 1 of 2)	7:30 pm
Mon-Tue Eve Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	7:30 pm

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Open Bracketed Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Open Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Soloway Bracketed Knockout (Session 3 & 4 of 4) two sessions qualifying; two sessions semifinal and final	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Side Pairs A (Session 5, 6 of 6)	10:00 am, 2:30 pm
99er Pairs (Single Session)	10:00 am, 2:30 pm

no player over 100 MPs	
Mon-Tue Eve Open Bracketed Teams (Session 2 of 2)	7:30 pm
Mon-Tue Eve Gold Rush Pairs (Session 2 of 2)	7:30 pm
no player over 750 MPs	

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

A/X Swiss Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
B/C/D Swiss Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 4000 MPs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Side Pairs B (Session 1, 2 of 6)	10:00 am, 2:30 pm
Wed-Thu Eve Eight is Enough Horizontal Swiss (Session 1 of 2) 0-400= 1 pt, 400-1500+ 2 pts, 1500+ =3 pts; maximum 8 pts per team	7:30 pm
Wed-Thu Eve Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	7:30 pm

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Open Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Soloway Bracketed Knockout (Session 1 & 2 of 4) two sessions qualifying; two sessions semifinal and final	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Side Pairs B (Session 3, 4 of 6)	10:00 am, 2:30 pm

<p>99er Pairs (Single Session) no player over 100 MPs</p>	10:00 am, 2:30 pm
<p>Wed-Thu Eve Eight is Enough Horizontal Swiss (Session 2 of 2) 0-400= 1 pt, 400-1500+ 2 pts, 1500+ =3 pts; maximum 8 pts per team</p>	7:30 pm
<p>Wed-Thu Eve Gold Rush Pairs (Session 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs</p>	7:30 pm

Friday, June 7, 2024

<p>Open Bracketed Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2)</p>	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
<p>Open Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2)</p>	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
<p>Gold Rush Pairs (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 750 MPs</p>	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
<p>Soloway Bracketed Knockout (Session 3 & 4 of 4) two sessions qualifying; two sessions semifinal and final</p>	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
<p>Side Pairs B (Session 5, 6 of 6)</p>	10:00 am, 2:30 pm

Saturday, June 8, 2024

<p>A/X Swiss Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2) held at 2860 Cooper Rd, Cincinnati</p>	10:00 am & TBA
<p>B/C/D Swiss Teams (Session 1 & 2 of 2) no player over 4000 MPs; held at 2860 Cooper Rd, Cincinnati</p>	10:00 am & TBA

NABC@Louisville

The three NABC tournaments each year are special Bridge events, bringing in all levels of players, including the very top players from not only North America, but all over world. There are games that will appeal to every kind of players. The NABC tournament that was held recently this March was hosted by Louisville. The proximity to our area allows many of Unit 124 members to attend some or even all of the 1-½ week long tournament. Two of them, Potter Orr and Steve Moese have kindly given us personal accounts of their experiences. Steve has also compiled some of the noteworthy results of our Unit and District (11) players.

You never can tell what pleasant surprises there may be at NABC. While there, Kevin Chang from our Unit talked to a husband and wife couple, Dianna and Gary Dickson, who turned out to be from our area, but have not played in any of our games. Kevin told them about our Unit club games, and they have since come to and been welcome at our club games. For myself personally, I sat down at a table for a Pairs event, and my opponents, whom I did not recognize, said "you must be Mike Ma from MIT". It turned out I played with them many evenings into early mornings (those were the days!) at MIT Bridge Club, but have not heard from them since I left MIT almost 40 years ago. It was so great to rekindle our friendship and "Bridgeship". We have since played together on private games on BBO.

Playing With the Big Boys and Gals at NABC

Potter Orr

After a lot of years of playing in our club games, our sectional games, regional tournaments throughout our district and “baby” games at NABCs I thought I knew something about playing duplicate bridge. As it turns out I was mistaken.

I made two separate trips to Louisville for the NABC. The first time was to play with Judy Ruehl in the Senior Mixed Pairs. This was a new NABC+ event. On the second trip I played with Fred Pollack who used to live in Cincinnati and play at CBA and was also for awhile a teacher for my wife and I. He is now a professional bridge player and a top player in Canada. He and I played in the Silodor Pairs. Both of these are nationally rated events, which means there is no upper limit on masterpoints and no stratification.

Both events had two sessions the first day to qualify the pairs who would continue and compete on the second day.

I had good partners in both events was lucky enough to qualify for the second day both times. Second day is when my education really began. Almost everyone left in the event were really good players.

In addition to requiring way better-than-average play on the part of my partners and I, at that level there’s no such thing as a gift. In the two sessions of the finals the mixed pairs we played one round against the winners of the event. This was a husband-and-wife pair who had 28,000 and 30,000 points in years of playing together. In the finals of the Silodor Pairs between the two sessions, in addition to playing a lot of good players, we played against the 4th, 5th and 12th ranked players in the ACBL’s all-time masterpoints list.

Playing at this level delivered a lot of lessons but the ones that stick out the most in my mind are:

- You need to drink a lot more coffee during the day to maintain the level of concentration needed.
- Always asked the opponents about their leads. I failed to do that and on at least one occasion it was rather costly. On opening lead the opponent led the J diamonds and I just assumed that he had the 10 but not the Q. The “sure thing” finesse I later took against the Q diamonds failed along with my contract. Had I asked I would have found out about that unusual lead. *Ed. The lead of the J with Q (leading the lower of touching honors) is a feature of what is called the Rusinow Leads. Leading Rusinow is popular with top players, especially European players.*
- These people play a different game. After a hand where I declared in spades, the opponents were reviewing the results and one of them said to the other “Well I played the 6 of hearts, then the 7 of hearts and then the 4 of hearts which showed a slight preference for diamonds”

Fairy Tales Come True, It Can Happen to You

Steve Moese

I cannot thank my partners for Louisville enough – it was a thrill to play 8 days in a home town North American Bridge Championship. Few sports allow you to play against the very best. That’s one of the most attractive facets of duplicate bridge. Having great partners helps too!

Louisville attracted the world’s best players and put on a fine show for everyone involved. Congratulations to Joann Traver and her Louisville 2024 Committee for a job well done.

Good friends did very well in Louisville. That’s always fun to see and share. Potter Orr and Judy Ruehl placed 17th overall in the new Senior Mixed Pairs for 14+ Platinum Masterpoints. Potter also took a top 50 place in the Silidor Open Pairs playing with Fred Pollack, a Cincinnati native and Grand Life Master. Siraj Haji and Cliff Pleatman finished 14th overall in the NAP Flight A Championship. Isaac Stephani and Steve Vogel finished 4th overall in the NAP Flight B Championships. Bob Fisk and Pamela Granovetter finished 25th in the Rockwell Mixed Pairs.

I had the distinct pleasure of playing with Judy Ruehl in the Life Master Pairs – another two day qualifying, finals NABC+ event. Needless to say competition was very tough. Our first round 43% put us realistically out of any reasonable path to qualify for the second day. Perhaps my 2-hour drive early in the morning before play began was not the best way to start for me. Nonetheless we decided to play with the single goal in mind to reach the second day.

Two hands stood out from our second session embodying the idea “Never give up”. We sat down at Renae and Tim White’s table (Tim is the Regional Board

♠ AK 7
♥ A 9 7 3
♦ 6 3
♣ AK 5 3

♥ J lead

Representative for Region 13 – Districts 18 & 19. You can meet most of the Board of Directors playing in the NABC events). After two passes, Tim opened a weak two in ♥ to my left. Partner chose to double with her big hand. RHO passed. Playing Lebensol I bid 2N intending to stop in 3 of a minor. Partner raised my 2N to 3N. All pass and dummy came down with a prime rich holding.

With only 5 top tricks we were going to need a lot of help. Paying attention to the bidding, I surmised that RHO had only 1 heart card. I had to place several important cards with RHO as well, and played on that assumption. Rightly

or wrongly I chose the ♥A, and saw RHO dropped the ♥Q. While it’s possible South had only 5 ♥s, better to assume the Q was singleton. A small ♦ to the 10 wins. A ♣ return to the Dummy got the 10 and 6 from the opponents. A second ♦ drew the ♦A from RHO, who switched to a small ♠. Inserting the ♠J won the trick and brought the winner count up to 8 – 3♠, 1♥, 2♦, and 2♣. If ♣s behaved 9 tricks were there. So I led a ♣ to dummy and LHO showed out. RHO had 2 ♣ winners. Nothing left to do but played RHO for 3=1=5=4, so I cleared ♠ seeing the ♠Q drop on the third round, and played the third club to RHO. RHO cashed their second club winner but must play a

♦ away from the ♦Q into my waiting ♦KJ. Making 3 was all the matchpoints. I showed the entire hand here. →

My partner Judy was not to be outdone! On Board 22 in first seat I held

♠ K Q 10 8 6 and chose to open a mundane 1♠.
 ♥ J 9 Partner responded with a Forcing
 ♦ Q 1N. I rebid a natural 2♣, and
 ♣ A J 9 7 2 partner continued with 2N. I
 decided my hand was worth a
 descriptive 3♣, and partner continued to 3N. The
 opening lead was the ♥5 (4th best). How do you
 continue?

Dir: N 17
 Vul: None

13	♠ Q 8 6	
18	♥ Q	
5	♦ A Q 9 8 4	
4	♣ Q J 8 6	

♠ A K 7	♠ J 9 3
♥ A 9 7 3	♥ 6 5
♦ 6 3	♦ K J 10 7
♣ A K 5 3	♣ 9 7 4 2

♠ 10 5 4 2
♥ K J 10 8 4 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 10

[Double Dummy Makes](#)
 NS: 2/1♥♣♦4♠6NT4
 EW: 3♣2♦1♠3NT♥5

[Par Score](#)
 -300 4♥*-N-2

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

♥5 lead

Partner astutely judged that a ♠ to the 10 would offer two ♠ tricks instead of 1, and leave the defense in a position to help. However, that would be a very risky play. Instead, partner continued ♥, won by North who continued ♥, revealing the show-out in South. Having lost 1♥, the contract was not in danger. A small ♦ to the Q in dummy was taken by South's A. South returned the ♦2. Not wanting to break either black suit, partner ran ♦ with South winning the 4th round and North showing out. South was down to all black cards and had to give partner a trick in either suit. Making 3 was a 69% board for us. What struck me at the time was that we both found end plays on touchy hands to make our contracts. That's a thrill indeed.

Dir: E 22
 Vul: E-W

3	♠ J 5 3	
11	♥ Q 8 6 5 2	
13	♦ 8 6 4	
13	♣ 8 5	

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

♠ A 9 7 4
♥ K 7
♦ A 10 7 2
♣ Q 4 3

[Double Dummy Makes](#)
 NS: ♣2♦4♥5♠3NT3
 EW: 4♣3♦2♥3♠4NT

[Par Score](#)
 -630 4NT-EW

As a result of these boards and many other good results, we finished with a 57+% and a first in section (1.91 Platinum Points), just barely enough to qualify for the finals.

I wish I could report a fantasy finish for us on day two. That wasn't in the cards. Our third session was average, and our fourth below average. Nevertheless, we had a wonderful time.

Fun at an NABC comes in many ways – shared meals with friends, seeing friends do well, meeting friends from far away and sharing memories. The best part is that there is something for everyone at these tournaments.

Monica Ibarra
of Covington
KY became a
Life Master on
Wednesday when
her team won
Bracket 8 of the
Sarah Sentman
Bracketed Round Robin Teams. Ibarra
played with James Danziger, Jim
Barrett and Terry Barrett. When she



Congratulations to Monica Ibarra who became Life Master in Louisville.
Hats off to all Unit 124 members who had fun!



Melissa Hellmann, Cincinnati OH



Kevin Chang, Cincinnati OH

D11 NABC RESULTS			
OA Place	OA	MP	Players
Baldwin NAP Flight A	14	21.05	Cliff Pleatman and Siraj Haji
NABC Senior Mixed Pairs	17	14.55	Judy Ruehl & Potter Orr
NABC Lebharr IMP Pairs	3	56.25	Dennis Hesthaven & Ralph Letizia
	29/30	11.6	Siraj Haji & Rajagopal Sriraman
	41	8.7	Michael & Mary Jane Gladfelter
NABC Kay Platinum Pairs	22	38.71	Michael Xu & Marshall Lewis
U10K Swiss Teams	6	20.87	Katherine Loh, Thomas Musso, Terrell & Sondra Holt
NABC+ Open Pairs	12	29.41	Eric Rodwell & Doug Simpson
Levintritt Silver Ribbon Pairs	22	15.38	Cheryl Schneider & Terry James
Rockwell Mixed Pairs	25	13.71	Bob Fisk & Pamela Granovetter
	31	11.11	Saleh Fetouh & Tony Bales
	32	10.81	Matthew Granovetter & Riki Tulin
0-2500 Swiss Teams	4	20.04	Melissa Hellmann, Huang Chia Chang, John Altman Jr. John Altman Sr.
0-10000 KO Teams	1	52	John Hinton, Tom Bishel, John Bishel, Rajagopal Sriraman
Silodor Open Pairs	57	8.06	Fred Pollack & Potter Orr
Smith Women's Pairs	8	24.64	Toni Bales & Allyson Wolfe
0-2500 Pairs	12	7.25	Chip Dombroski & John Taylor
Golder NAP Flight B	4	26.67	Isaac Stephani & Steve Vogel

My Junior The Pest

We conclude our section on NABC in Louisville with a Bridge parody song. The lyrics are a takeoff of Peter Paul and Mary's song Flora, which itself is adapted from the traditional song Lily of the West. PP&M's original song lyrics can be found at <https://genius.com/Peter-paul-and-mary-flora-lyrics>. The parody is a fictional account of a Bridge player's adventures at NABC Louisville.

When first I came to Louisville, Platinum points there to find,
I secured a junior player for partner there, his bravado scared my mind.
His wild preempts, his crazy bids, they put me to the test.
I just called him Junior, others called him the Pest.

I was doing well with Junior, he promised to partner me and not to go.
But soon a tale was told to me that filled my heart with woe.
They said he's courted by a rich sponsor, who'd put his promise to me in jest.
And yet I trusted Junior, the one they called the Pest.

Way down in a Galt Ballroom, a man with no Bridge pedigree,
He spoke unto my Junior there and offered him an enormous fee.
The answer that my Junior gave to him, like arrows pierced my breast.
I was betrayed by Junior, the one they called the Pest.

I stepped up to my rival, a Bridgmate in my hand.
I tore up his convention card, and I ordered him to stand.
All in my desperation I threw the Bridgmate at his chest.
I disgraced myself for Junior, the one they called the Pest.

And then I had to stand my Bridge trial, I had to make my plea.
I begged for mercy but still, they placed a lifetime ban on me.
Although he swore my Bridge life away, deprived me of my GLM quest.
Still I thank my partner Junior, the one they called the Pest..

Directors' Corner

Our club game directors are at the forefront making our ACBL sanctioned games functioned. We all know how thankless their jobs are, and we should all remember to thank them at the end of each club game. Our directors see and know things that we miss playing the game. They are also aware of new ACBL rules and regulations and can update us. I'd like to devote a section in the Alert for our Unit directors to tell us about useful information and interesting stories of their games.

For this issue, Bill Brewer, director of two (sometimes more) of the weekly games at CBC in addition to being current Unit 124 Board President, has written something to remind us the importance of calling the director and when. I hope other directors will contribute their opinions in future issues of the Alert.

ACBL's Laws of Duplicate Bridge are a series of 93 Laws with subsections. These laws are meant to ensure that all bridge games are equitable, friendly and "fun". Unlike social bridge, these laws help ensure that everyone who pays their entry fee has a good time and gets a "fair shake." It is incumbent on each game director or sanction holder to ensure that the laws are followed but they cannot do that, if players are making their own rules or ruling at the table. It is important that as a player you call the director at the moment there is an irregularity. (Dummy cannot call the director for an irregularity until the end of the hand, except when partner has given an incorrect explanation of a bid or a failure to alert) While it might seem expedient to just say "that's okay" or "go ahead", or "I don't care, this is a friendly game", it is against the laws to do so and also you lose your right or the opponents right to any rectification. While some experienced players might want to make a ruling, it is always wise to call the director in charge since rules are not always what they seem or there are newer options or protocols. A simple, "Director, please" call can go a long way to ensure that all games are friendly, fun and fair.

Bill Brewer,

Director – Monday AM Game and Tuesday AM Game at CBC

Bob Jones Quizzes – Unit 124

Every Saturday morning participants get an advanced copy of the Bob Jones quiz courtesy of Unit 124 member Mike Burns. If you'd like to participate, please send an email to Mike at rmikeburnsi@gmail.com. Mike also invites a panel to give more detailed comments on their answers to the quizzes. Feel free to send questions to any commenters. There is rarely one correct answer to bidding problems. You can see all past quizzes on the unit 124 website:



<http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA-Weekly-Bidding-Quiz.html>

Below is for example, the weekly quiz for May 11.

Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz

GOREN BRIDGE MAY 11, 2024

Q 1 – Neither vulnerable,

♠A T 6 3 ♥Q 6 5 2 ♦Q 8 ♣A Q 8

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ Pass 2NT* Pass

3♣** Pass ?

*Game-forcing spade raise, at least 4 spades

**Shortness in clubs

What call would you make?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠A 3 ♥Q 7 6 4 ♦K J 8 5 ♣J 8 3

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♠ Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠Void ♥Q J T 7 5 ♦A Q J 6 4 ♣J 9 7

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

2♣* P ?

*Weak

What call would you make?

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠A Q T 6 4 ♥K 3 ♦A Q 7 ♣A 8 4

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

2♠* ?

*Weak

What call would you make?

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠A Q T 9 7 ♥T 7 ♦Q 8 6 5 ♣K J

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass

2♦ Pass 2♥ Pass

?

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠A K Q 9 ♥J ♦J 7 5 ♣K Q 8 6 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass

1♠ Pass 1NT Pass

?

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

Making New Friends at the CBC Tuesday Play and Learn Game

Amy Fisher

If you are reading the Alert, you probably agree that Bridge in general, and Duplicate Bridge in particular, is a wonderful game. However, Duplicate Bridge is an organized structural game with some protocols that newcomers may find somewhat daunting and/or confusing. Some may need a little help to overcome the initial barriers. To this end, our Unit President Bill Brewer has organized a game for newcomers that helps them with protocols like bidding boxes while at the same time allow them to develop their Bridge with their peers under supervision. Amy Fisher is one of the more experienced players who has volunteered to assist in this endeavour. Below is an account of her personal experience in her participation.

I have a lot of new friends. Starting with around four tables worth and growing. Now around nine tables full of new friends.

When Bill Brewer started his game for newcomers on Tuesday mornings, I immediately thought how fun it would be for me to help out. I volunteered; Bill accepted my help; we haven't looked back.

Tuesday morning is a limited game for newcomers. Newcomers to bridge in general and newcomers to duplicate. We take the time to teach about how to use the bidding boxes, how to keep score, how to use the bridgemates, and how, at times, to handle difficult hands. We help our players understand the rules of duplicate Bridge, including that a director call is a necessary aspect of the game to maintain fairness and decorum. We only play 18 boards and we are out of the bridge center by noon. My only problem is how many times I have to throw water on my face so I can be there by 8:40!

Before each game, either Bill or I give a 5-10 minute chat on some aspect of play or bidding. We try to keep it short and focus mostly on only one point, although sometimes I tend to ramble a bit. We don't give lessons as much as we try to clarify some point in the bidding or the play.

Our group is a great group. They are eager players and they all want to have fun playing bridge. Some have graduated to more competitive games. One of our foursomes recently came in second in the 8-is-enuf Thursday evening team game. Our success, though, can be seen by how many of the players are gaining confidence and enjoying the game of duplicate bridge.

And, for my benefit, now I have a lot more friends.