



### Cincinnati Bridge Association

2860 Cooper Rd., Cincinnati, Oh 45241, Phone: 513-563-2218

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year....

....REGIONAL time! What could be more exciting than getting to play bridge at a first class regional right here in your own backyard? The Flying Pig Regional begins on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and concludes with the play-through Swiss on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are plenty of Knock Outs for your team...and plenty of pairs games for you and your partner.

If you need help putting a team together or are looking for a person to play with in a pairs game...give our Partnership person...Adam Parrish... a call. Better yet, visit the website available for just that purpose....partnerships@live.com

For the second year in a row we will be having our highly successful **Derby Day Dinner!** Last year....a hundred and thirty people stayed for a scrumptious dinner and watched the *Run for the Roses* on a big screen TV. Our menu will remain the same....Bourbon Chicken, redskin potatoes...that famous **corn pudding**...and of course Derby Pie! We will also have a little betting on the side....so you and your horse may win! Be sure to buy your tickets early!

Each evening at 6:30 we will feature a guest lecturer with the most amazing handouts that you will ever receive at a tournament. With lectures such as "Partnership (Mis)Understandings" and "Two Heads are Better than One...On Defense"... make your dinner reservations early so that you can return to get a seat for these great sessions.

Our Hospitality hails near and far as the "best in the west"....OK...midwest...and we will once again have our nightly "feast" at the Livinn Suites after the evening session. Our hospitality is successful only because of the help we receive from our members. We ask for nightly contributions and are always amazed at how many of our members help out. As a way to say **THANKS** to you...for all your food/monetary donations that you make, we are going to have a nightly drawing for a necklace or bracelet from the Lia Sophia collection. Anyone that makes a donation will be entered in the drawing and one drawing will take place each night....all five nights!

If you are interested in helping with the Regional in other ways...such as set up, take down, selling dinner tickets....just give me a call. I sure could use you.

Patti English, Regional Chairman  
791.5506 pbenglish@yahoo.com

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### MOVING UP!

In addition to Norm Coombs and our newest Life Masters (listed elsewhere) these members have also moved up the Master Point ladder recently:

Junior Life Masters: Dr. Beth Brinsko, Robert Brown, Stephen Felson, Carolyn Fovel, Amy Gerowitz, Lois Jones, Alice Kitzmiller, Marianne Klekamp, Judith Lucas, Liz Linn, Judith Ludlow, Mary Anne McEvoy, Arun Pandit, Jean Tobias, and Alice Weston.

Club Life Masters: Gregory Brinker, Nancy Dever, Joanne Earls, Robert Frey, Sara Geir, Arun Gupta, Pramod Jhaveri, David Kessel, Vera Lewis, Susan Odel, Aline Simon and Paula Wolfe,

Sectional Masters: Ambrish Baansel, Imogene Enzweller, Patrick Hoffman, James Hurst, Ellen Jackson, Jennifer Stiles and Carl Stillen,

Regional Masters: Mary Ann Boyle, Rica Hodesh and Sandy Jackson.

NABC Masters: Sue Baum, Sue Romer, Charles Ross and Sue Leslie Wheeler.

Bronze Life Master: Donald Duritsch, Al Paster and Linda Woodham.

Silver Life Master: Cliff Pleatman.

Grand Life Master: Matthew Grannovetter.

## Hope we continue to do well...

By Amit Raturi, Editor

Spring is here and so is the excitement of the Flying Pig Regional (see Patti's note on page 1 and the schedule on page 12). Also, we have had some very significant accomplishments by many players in the club that are spread throughout this issue. Hope we continue to do well and protect our home turf at the regional.

We have several additions to this issue. At the apex is a brand new column by Amy Fisher - amiable bridge (page 10). What a great idea for all of us to learn the proper, ethical conduct at the table. And what to do when situations of discomfort arise, as they frequently do. Jim Edminston takes a stab at the analysis by Deep Finesse - on the one hand it makes us think how the best result is achieved and on the other, it makes some impractical and ridiculous assumptions. As Jim suggests, we have to be careful in interpreting the "best" results it gives. Mike Lipp puts together a Director's corner and here he gives us a Director's perspective on psyches as well as the ACBL rules that govern psyches. Finally, Steve Moese and Mike Purcell bring us a column for the advancing player - they start with the most esoteric topic in bridge - squeezes. And of course we have the regulars - Rob, Gayle, Tom and the inimitable Eugene.

We all hope that you like this issue - send us some feedback on how we are doing, what you like and what you don't like about the ALERT. And have a wonderful Spring Regional.

## Winners of the Winter Bidding Contest

1. Bruce Abel 45
2. Adam Parrish 43

*See Eugene's analysis and comments by other players on pages 7 and 8 and try the new one on page 6 for a free game at the Bridge Center.*

## NEW LIFE MASTERS

Sue Mandell  
Patricia Myers  
Suzanne Sale  
Bruce Smith  
Mary Smith  
Courtney Thurman  
John Woeste  
Joe Pike  
Betty Bradbury  
Heroldine Ukelson  
Marilyn Beiting

**NORM COOMBS HAS 20,000 POINTS**  
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Norm Coombs has recently been at the Nationals in Houston working on adding to that total, so an ALERT "Close-Up" on him will be published in the next issue. In the meantime CONGRATUALIONS, Norm, and "look-out above."

## HAVING AN EAR TO THE BIDDING

By Rob Weidenfeld

E-mail: [elliedad@cinci.rr.com](mailto:elliedad@cinci.rr.com)

Neither Vulnerable. South deals.

	A432	
	K83	
	Q9874	
	7	
95		K76
AQ4		J1095
A6		K52
QJ9653		1042
	QJ108	
	762	
	J103	
	AK8	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1C	1D	1H
Pass	2C	Pass	Pass
2S	Pass	Pass	3C
Pass	Pass	3S	All Pass

The lead: CQ

MiniMcKenney and Ace of Clubs winners 2008

0-5 points: Patrick Hoffman

5-10 John Altman for both

10-50 Gayle Keaney for MM and Jutta  
Weatheby for Ace of Clubs

50-100 Cordell Coy

100-200 Dean Congbalay for MM and Donald  
Frey for A of C

200-300 Vijay Visudevan for MM and Mary  
Smith for A of C

300-500 Adam Parish for MM and Anthony  
Brockman for A of C

500-1000 Adrienne Netherwood for MM and  
Peggy Ammon for A of C

1000-2500 Lorna Davis

2500-5000 William Higgins

5000-7500 Nancy Sachs

7500-10000 Matt Granovetter

10000+ Norm Coombs of course

When most of us start playing bridge, we are told fairly quickly that in order to be successful, you must be able to count to thirteen. That's the easy part. What they often don't tell you is how you know when to count to thirteen.

This hand was given to me by Matthew Granovetter, who along with his wife Pamela, moved to Cincinnati some time ago. They are both accomplished experts and publishers of several bridge publications. They have both won world titles.

In competitive part-score auctions, the tough decisions usually don't happen until you get to the three level. That's where the bidding wars are won or lost. Here, because South is unwilling to sell out for two hearts, North-South find their four-four major suit fit. Against less than good defense, they will make their contract.

South wins the club queen with the ace in hand and immediately leads the spade queen losing to East's king. Having won their sides' first trick, East should now pause for reflection. South is marked with the ace and king of clubs because of the lead. South has the queen and probably the jack of spades. That gives South ten points. If South had either red ace, he would have opened the bidding. Without doubt that gives West the heart and diamond aces. Further, South supported North's diamonds giving him at least three. That leaves West with two diamonds including the ace.

East must shift to a low diamond. After two rounds of diamonds and a diamond ruff, West cashed the heart ace for a one trick set. East-West must get their diamond ruff in order to beat the contract. **Get in the habit of counting and the mysteries of bridge will begin to unravel for you.**

If you smell a misfit, underbid.

The only grand slam worth bidding is the one that makes

97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.

There is a new convention called Florida Transfers - it's when you lose your partner during the winter months.

# DEEPER FINESSE

By Jim Edmiston

We've all come to appreciate (and sometimes dread) the hand recaps. These are distributed after each session, and identify all hands, with a computer analysis ("called Deep Finesse") of the optimal results for each hand. This article concerns a recent fascinating hand that not even deep finesse initially revealed to me.

On board 13 of the Friday 2/27 game, my partner and I bid the North-South hands to a quick 3NT on a 1NT-3NT auction:

The opening lead was the C 5, I ducked in dummy and RHO's C K won the first trick. He returned the CT, and again I ducked. RHO then led a small heart, and my T lost to the H K. LHO then returned a club, and I won the CA, RHO showing out. After successfully finessing a second heart, I had eight tricks. Unfortunately (for me), the opponents discarded correctly, and I was down one.

Matchpoints NS Vul Dealer S	♠ A62 ♥ 63 ♦ Q6542 ♣ A82	
♠ T8 ♥ K95 ♦ KT7 ♣ Q9654	N W S E	♠ 9743 ♥ Q874 ♦ J98 ♣ KT
	♠ KQJ5 ♥ AJT2 ♦ A3 ♣ J73	

After the game, I reviewed board 13 and was startled to learn that, according to Deep Finesse, I could make 4 NT against best defense. Do you see how it can be done? (*Hint: it's a trick 1 problem*).

I gave this hand to three very competent players, and none found the winning line. In addition, every person declaring this hand in the actual duplicate game went down at least one trick (one declarer went down two, so we actually got an Average+ for my result, down one). I think that this hand presents a classic "double dummy" problem. Unfortunately, we have approximately 20 minutes to play three boards during a duplicate game, so we cannot afford to spend the time necessary to solve these difficult problems. In order to make 10 tricks, you must play the CA at trick one, and then play a diamond to the A and a diamond back to the Q. If W wins the DK, you have 10 tricks, as the cards lie (4S, 1H, 4D and 1C). If W ducks the second diamond, and the DQ wins, you now have 9 tricks and a nasty guess in diamonds for a 10<sup>th</sup> trick. Do you play another diamond, hoping for a 3-3 break (and 10 tricks) or do you now finesse a heart and hope for nine? "Deep finesse" obviously assumes the former play (resulting in 4 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds and 1 club).

Now the real question is, would any declarer make this series of plays at the table, in a timed event (absent access to a computer or Eric Rodwell's cell phone number)? I think not. Think about the club play at trick one. The only case where playing the CA at trick one works is when RHO holds precisely the KT or QT. Any other combination in which RHO holds either the CK or CQ enables RHO to win trick one and then lead a smaller club, forcing out the A. On the other hand, ducking the CA wins whenever LHO led from KQxx or KQxxx or KQxxxx. Which is more likely??

The lesson here is, I submit, that simply accepting at face value the optimal results for each hand, without analysis of whether these results can be achieved with accurate and reasoned play within the time constraints imposed by our game, is misleading. In the future, don't accept the "Deep Finesse" result without questioning it!

*Editor's note: Jim makes a very good point...in fact ducking is right even when RHO has KQxx, KQxxx, or KQxxxx. However if you view the hand another way DF has a point. To make 9 tricks you must make 2 diamond tricks (to go with 4S, 2H, 1 C and 1 D). Missing the T of clubs, it makes sense to put all your eggs in the diamond basket at trick 2 since diamond king is with LHO (assumedly). You lose when LHO has led from KQ holdings...an even money proposition since club honors are as likely split. An instructive hand indeed that shows the merit of rising with the ace to ensure a blockage in clubs.*

## Nancy's Nasty #2

By Pat Dutson

Examine the following hands, the bidding and the opening lead. Then, decide whether you want to be the declarer or play defense.

Matchpoints NS Vul Dealer N	♠ J53 ♥ K84 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ 543	
♠ 74 ♥ AJ3 ♦ JT73 ♣ QJT9	N W E S	♠ T98 ♥ T97652 ♦ 95 ♣ 72
	♠ AKQ62 ♥ Q ♦ 642 ♣ AK86	

The bidding:

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2C <sup>①</sup>	P
2S	P	4NT	P
5C <sup>②</sup>	P	6S	All Pass

① New Minor Forcing

② One or four Key Cards

The opening lead is the Club Q.

After you decide whether you want to be the declarer or a defender, decide how you will play the hand.

**Answers on Page 17**

## Looking for a Game?

Cincinnati Bridge Center Games  
Cooper Business Center, 2860 Cooper Road  
Telephone: 513-563-2218

### Monday

11 AM Deschappelles (*Private*) Pat Newman 513-469-7172  
7 PM Homestyle (1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Mon) Bob VeVerka 513-772-5115

### Tuesday

11 AM Tuesday DBC Annease Comer 513-281-2027  
6:45 PM Lecture & 0-50 Game Tom Deddens 513-851-3857  
7 PM CBA Strat. 1<sup>st</sup> Tue Bob VeVerka 513-772-5115  
2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> Kay Mulford 513-631-8070  
4<sup>th</sup> Tue Peggy Barrett 513-745-0075

### Wednesday

11 AM Homestyle Kay Mulford 513-631-8070

### Thursday

11 AM Thursday Stratified Agnes De Lany 513-777-2587  
7 PM Strat, Open & 299ers Annease Comer 513-281-2027

### Friday

11 AM Finesse Club Kay Mulford 513-631-8070  
11 AM NLM game Rob Weidenfeld 513-

### Saturday

1:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Stratified Annease Comer 513-281-2027  
2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Stratified Kay Mulford 513-631-8070

### Sunday

1:30 PM Open game Rob Weidenfeld 513-317-2337

## CBA AWARDS

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

JOHN ALTMAN

FIRST MASTER OF THE YEAR

DEAN CONGBALAY

SECOND MASTER OF THE YEAR

CORDELL COY

JANE WARD MEMR AWARD

(NOVICE)

ANIRUDH PANDIT

(EXPERIENCED)

NANCY SACHS

MANNY ISRALSKY AWARD

NORM COOMBS

JAN WEYANT AWARD

AMIT RATURI

DON WALKER AWARD

NORM COOMBS

HORWITZ AWARD

KEN KENFIELD  
& DOROTHY SLAUGHTER

Special Achievements

Pam Granovetter 5,000 mp

Matt Granovetter 10,000 mp

Norm Coombs 20,000 mp

# Bidding Contest Number 3

Email submissions to [yauheni.siutsau@gmail.com](mailto:yauheni.siutsau@gmail.com) and win free entries to club games!!

1. IMPs . None vulnerable. Your hand (S) is :

- ♠ ---
- ♥ 9xx
- ♦ Q9xxx
- ♣ AKxxx

West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠	?

(a) Pass (b) Double (c) 2♦ (d) 2♥ (e) 2♠ (d) other Your call ?

2. IMPs . All vulnerable. Your hand (S) is :

- ♠ Kx
- ♥ AKJ10xx
- ♦ Kxxx
- ♣ x

West	North	East	South
		3♣	3♥
pass	3♠	pass	?

(a) Pass (b) 4♣ (c) 4♦ (d) 4♥ (e) 4♠ Your call ?

3. IMPs . NS vulnerable. Your hand (W) is :

- ♠ Kxx
- ♥ Qx
- ♦ AKQ10xxx
- ♣ x

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♣	DBL.*	RDBL.**
?			

\* - negative  
\*\* - fit plus extras

(a) Pass (b) 3♣ (c) 3♦ (d) other Your call ?

4. IMPs . None vulnerable. Your hand (S) is :

- ♠ 109x
- ♥ AJx
- ♦ J9xx
- ♣ AJx

West	North	East	South
1♠	DBL	pass	?

(a) Pass (b) 1NT (c) 2♠ (d) 3♦ (e) other Your call ?

5. Matchpoints . E W vulnerable. Your hand (W) is :

- ♠ AJxx
- ♥ KQxx
- ♦ x
- ♣ AQxx

West	North	East	South
1♣	3♦	DBL	4♦
?			

(a) Pass (b) Double (c) 4♥ (d) 4♠ (e) 5♦ Your call ?



## Results of the Bidding Contest

By Yauheni Siutsau

1. Matchpoints . EW vulnerable. Your hand (W) is :

♠ AJxx	West	North	East	South
♥ AQxxxx	1 ♥	pass	2 ♦	pass
♦ ---	2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
♣ Kxx	?			

(a) Pass (b) 3♣ (c) 3♥ (d) 3♠ (e) 4♠ Your call ?

It seems like we dont have problems with this hand -- not true. **Third suit bid is not always natural!** Partner can have (KQ, x., AKQxxxx, Jxx). She is just looking for club stopper in order to play 3NT. Of course partner could have KQxx x, AQJxxx, Ax void and slam in spades is possible. Thats why we think 3S is the most flexible bid here. It's 100% forcing and shows decent hand with 4 spades. Now, if partner will bid 3NT (which should deny 4 spades and club stopper) we'll pass easily. 3S bid keeps all routes open – to 3NT, 4S or slam in spades.

**A.J. Stephani** : d) 3S. Not sure what system we're playing, but partner's 2S may not be a real bid. If it is, 3S should set trumps and leave partner room to cue bid the club ace if there is interest in slam...

**Mary Smith** : d) 3S. I might bid 3NT if it were a choice, but it is not. Partner has not promised more than spade stopper, but my spades are very good. There may be a slam here.

3C is an interesting bid.. Normally it shows hand like KQx AQJxxx Qx xx and asks to bid 3NT with club stopper. But it could be also hand with Kxx or Axx in clubs which allows to play 3NT from partners side if she has something like Qx or Jxx. It's a question of partnership agreements. But 3C bid denies spade support – no good in case when your partner has "real" spades.

Score (d) 3S - 10 (e) 4S - 7 (b) 3C - 5 (c) 3H - 1 (a) pass - 0

2. IMPs . EW vulnerable. Your hand (S) is :

♠ AQ743	West	North	East	South
♥ A			1 ♦	1 ♠
♦ K105	DBL*	pass	1NT	?
♣ QJ94	* - negative			

(a) Pass (b) Double (c) 2♣ (d) 2♠ Your call ?

"To bid or not to bid"? It's a tough question, especially in team's game. Actually we think it's very close and depends on player style (aggressiveness). Reasons to pass: partner has at least 5 hearts and not so many points. Further bidding can cost us a lot, even not vulnerable. Let's see our readers opinions:

**Adam Parrish**: a) pass. Partner doesn't have much, and the hand looks like a misfit. I'm not bidding any more, and I don't want to double and have partner take it out. And while I'm not sure where declarer's tricks are coming from in NT, I'm not sure where ours will come from either...

**A.J. Stephani**: a) pass. ...Partner is obviously marked with hearts, so it's unlikely we have a worthwhile fit. West could still have a big hand here, so caution is the rule

**Mary Smith**: a) pass. West probably has only 4 H and East no more than 3. My partner may have Q or J of hearts protected for a trick. I think I may have 6 tricks against NT. Partner rates to have almost nothing.

Reasons to bid (2C) : (1) Sometimes we will be able to make 2-3 clubs (or 2 spades) even opposite garbage (on a lucky day we will find partner with x, xxxxx, xx, K10xxx). It means we will win 5-7 IMPs for bidding and making part scores at both tables (2) Would you bid 2C with hand like AKxxx A Kx QJ9xx ? Opponents don't know your hand. When they are not sure something good can happen – for example, they can make a mistake by bidding too high. (3) It's very hard to defend 1NT especially when you have all points – that's why we can try to get +90/-50 instead of -90/-120.

We think "double" is not great idea here. Partner may pass and we wont blame her. If you have a strong hand with spades and clubs – you can bid 2C directly instead of doubling.

Score (c) 2C - 10 (a) pass - 9 (b) Double - 3 (d) 2S - 1

3. IMPs . EW vulnerable. Your hand (S) is :

♠ A63	West	North	East	South
♥ AQ83			1 ♠	DBL
♦ AJ8	pass	2 ♥	pass	?
♣ A109				

(a) Pass (b) 2♠ (c) 2NT (d) 3♥ (e) 4♥ Your call ?

2H bid shows 0-8 HCP and we have decent hand -- 19HCP, 4 aces and heart support (3433 shape doesn't allow us to call our hand "great"). Well, it seems like we are going to look for a game. There are several ways to invite here. We think 2S bid is the best decision. It's one round forcing bid (often with 3 card support in hearts). Partner has several options – she'll bid 2NT with spade stopper and 4-5 HCP, 3H (or new suit) with bad hand, 3S with 7-8 HCP and no spade stopper and 3NT with 7-8 HCP and spade stopper. Anyway we will be able to decide which game (if any) is more likely to make.

2NT (non forcing) is next choice. It shows 19-21 HCP and balanced hand with spade stopper. Unfortunately 2NT bid loses heart fit. Besides, when you hold Axx in opponents suit you want to play 3NT from partner's side ( in case Qx or Jxx in her hand). 3H is another option to invite game. It's seems OK but your hand has no ruffing values at all and very often 3NT will be the best game opposite semi balanced partner's hand. By the way, if your partner's hand looks like J10x Jxxx Qx Jxxx - it's probably better to be in 2NT than in 3H. Pass – you hand is too strong and you easily can miss the game. You'd pass 2H after regular takeout double (with 12-15 HCP). 4H is an overbid.

**Actual partner's hand was Qxx KJxx xxx Qxx . 3NT(N) was the best game.**

**Score (b) 2S - 10 (c) 2NT - 7 (d) 3H - 4 (e) 4H - 1 (a) pass - 1**

4. Matchpoints . NS vulnerable. Your hand (W) is :

♠ 83  
♥ KJ2  
♦ Q964  
♣ K532

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	pass
2 ♥	2 ♠	pass	pass
?			

(a) Pass (b) Double (c) 2NT (d) 3♥ (e) 4♥ Your call ?

Playing match points you usually don't want to give up, especially at the 2 level. You have to be competitive. Let's start with the worst bid – "pass". We have a decent hand and probably can make 8-9 tricks (21-23HCP statistically is enough) playing in hearts (+110/+140) . Actually our 2H bid was a little underbid. So, passing 2S we are going to get a "zero" – even if 2S will not make (+100). It's fine in IMPs but not in match points. That's why we want to bid. What about 2NT? It's not clear what does it mean – minors 44 or decent hand for no-trump with spade stopper. Try to avoid bids if you don't have partnership agreements. How about 3H? You need 4 card support to bid safe (not vulnerable) on level 3. If you have 9 trumps and 3H will go -1(-50/-100 if doubled) , there is very good chance opponents can make 2S (-110). What about Double? It isn't penalty or takeout double. It just shows extras and only 3 card support in hearts. You want to bid more but don't know how – that's what "double" means here. Let partner decide what to do.

**James Edmiston :** b) Double. We have the balance of points, but my values are soft but.....it's matchpoints!

**Adam Parrish:** b) Double. In front of the spade bidder double should be takeout (or at least cooperative). I'm at the top of my bid and am not going to sell out to 2♠. They have eight spades unless partner has four of them (in which case he will pass my double), so the Law says we shouldn't be defending 2♠. Double is the most flexible action..... Hopefully the worst that happens is we get doubled and -100 beats -110...

**A.J. Stephani:** d) 3H. Seems both right on values and total tricks...

**Mary Smith:** d)3H If we had a system for a double to mean I was at my max for the previous bid, that would let partner bid 3 or 4 H...

**Score (b) Double - 10 (d) 3H - 6 (c) 2NT - 2 (e) 4H - 1 (a) pass - 1**

5. IMPs . None vulnerable. Your hand (S) is :

♠ A10753  
♥ 97  
♦ A1075  
♣ 105

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	pass	1 ♠
pass	3 ♣	pass	3 ♦
pass	3 NT	pass	?

(a) Pass (b) 4♦ (c) 4NT (d) 5♦ Your call ?

It's very likely partner has spade shortage after auction above. In addition our 3D bid didn't promise even 3 card support (we would bid 3D with hand like KQxxx xxx Qx xxx, right?). In reality 5D contract will be not worse (maybe even better) than 3NT. But if partner has appropriate 19-20 HCP – slam is possible because you have 4 card support, 2 aces and not flat shape (5242). That's why we think it's worth to bid with this hand over 3NT. It would be a tough decision in match points ( if partner has 2254 we want to play 3NT), but in IMPs we can stop in 5D which is not big deal. The bottom line is: **if you canrealistically imagine partner's hand which allows us to make slam, you should make a try.**

**Adam Parrish:** b) 4D. I think we have a reasonable shot at slam, and 5♦ should be relatively safe if we're off two keycards. IMPs makes life easier. I'm picturing partner with something like x KQx KQxxx AKJx. x Ax KQJxx AKQxx would not be unreasonable.

We think pass over 3NT is too pessimistic. Look at your hand. It's not "only" 8 HCP: you have quick tricks (aces) and ruffing values (only 2 clubs and 4 trumps). Compare your hand with these : KJxxx Qx Qxx xxx OR QJxxx Jxx Qxx Qx . All hands have 8HCP and diamond fit, right? 5D is better than 4NT because it's important to let partner know what type of hand we have. We definitely want to be in suit contract (not in NT) and we didn't bid 5D over 3C (fast arrival) – therefore 5D is invitational bid here also.

**Actual partner's hand was x AQx KQJxx AKxx.**

**Score (b) 4D - 10 (d) 5D - 6 (c) 4NT - 2 (a) pass - 1**

**Winners (24 entries)**

Bruce Abel (d) 3S - 10 (a) pass - 9 (b) 2S - 10 (d) 3H - 6 (b) 4D - 10  
Adam Parrish (d) 3S - 10 (a) pass - 9 (d) 3H - 4 (b) Double - 10 (b) 4D - 10



## Learning Points - Defending Against Squeezes

by Steve Moese and Mike Purcell

When declarer prepares a squeeze, there are several things we can do on defense. First, don't let declarer correct the loser count. We duck tricks we will win later so declarer cannot exert threat pressure. Threat pressure only happens when there are one (or sometimes 2) losers left. Second, we can attack declarer's transportation by removing entries to threat cards prematurely. Attacking an entry is akin to attacking an option prematurely. We force declarer to commit to a line of play before s/he has sufficient information on the hand. In rare cases, leading declarer's squeeze suit before the squeeze can operate exhausts the only entry before the loser count is right or trumps are drawn.

Forcing declarer to cash suits out of order can make the position extremely complicated. A double squeeze looms when you share stoppers with partner in one suit, and each guard 1 of the remaining 2 suits. There are several classes of double squeezes, each with their respective attack points. Attacking to change the squeeze type or reversing the order of play can cause problems.

See Clyde Love's *Bridge Squeezes*

*Complete for definition and defense tactics.*

Let's look at how to avoid setting up squeezes for declarer. There are situations where the perfect conditions for a squeeze do not exist without modest help from the defense. Crafty declarers will play along squeeze lines hoping defenders make a subtle but wrong choice.

Here is a hand where defenders had to choose which suits to guard and which to discard on the run of trumps. Knowing the type of squeeze and declarer's objectives can make squeeze opportunities disappear. South led a ♠ thinking to cut down ruffs in dummy. After a high level preempt this is a questionable lead. The ♠J fetched the ♠K. Trumps fell in 2 more rounds and 11 tricks are there for the taking. Can declarer establish a 12th trick in a side suit?

Matchpoints NS Vul Dealer E	♠ K9 ♥ KQT6 ♦ KJ4 ♣ QT42	
♠ J ♥ A974 ♦ AT97 ♣ K853	N W E S	♠ AQT8764 ♥ 5 ♦ 652 ♣ A9
	♠ 532 ♥ J832 ♦ Q83 ♣ J76	East opens 4♠. All pass.  South leads the ♠5

To rectify the count, declarer finessed the ♦10, won by North with the ♦J. North switched to the ♥K won by the ♥Ace in dummy. Declarer trumped a ♥ in hand and led a ♦ to the ace (Vienna Coup – this puts the diamond threat in hand to help this squeeze work). A small ♣ to the King was followed by the run of the spades. South discarded the ♦Q, forcing North to guard the suit. In the 3 card ending, the ♦6 is a threat against North's ♦K, and the ♥9 is a threat against South's ♥J. The ♣8 is a threat against both opponents. The lead of the ♠4 by East squeezes South. South held the ♥J and pitched the ♣7. Declarer then pitched the ♥9 (its work now done). North kept the ♦K and pitching the ♣10. Two rounds of ♣ brought in 12 tricks. Notice that the ♥ threat has to sit over the opponent guarding ♥. If North chose to guard ♥ and South ♦ then the squeeze card would have to be in dummy!! **The faux double squeeze fails.** South must realize that a ♥ guard is useless unless held by North (and a ♦ guard held by South). South should throw the ♥J and not the ♦Q. Neither North nor South could sort out which red suit to hold and which to throw. A true squeeze does not exist. This happens more often than we'd like to admit.

Matchpoints NS Vul Dealer E	♠ - ♥ - ♦ K ♣ QT	
♠ - ♥ 9 ♦ - ♣ K8	N W E S	♠ 4 ♥ - ♦ 6 ♣ 9
	♠ - ♥ J ♦ - ♣ J7	East opens 4♠. All pass.  South leads the ♠5

....

# AmyAble Bridge

By Amy Fisher ([amy.fshr@gmail.com](mailto:amy.fshr@gmail.com))

The other day, my partner and I were playing in a club game. She opened 1C. I didn't alert and I didn't announce that it "could be short." In other words, it was a standard 1C opener. My RHO asked about the bid. Now, perhaps he didn't understand standard bidding...

Are you confused as to when you can ask a question, how you can ask a question, what kinds of questions you are allowed to ask, when you can think, what to do when your partner thinks, or what "unauthorized information" means? Over the next several Alerts, I will try to describe such situations and how some of the subtler aspects of the game should dictate our behavior. If you have specific questions, please feel free to email me and I will find out answers for you and write up interesting situations.

Back to the hand mentioned above. It turned out that my RHO had five clubs to the KQ. When his partner was on lead, he had 4 suits to choose. His natural lead was a diamond, but instead, he chose to lead a worthless club doubleton, right into dummy's suit! Or, did he somehow guess that dummy really didn't have a strong club suit? The opening leader wasn't entitled to hear his partner's question about the club bid. This is an example of unauthorized information. Experts bend over backwards NOT to lead a club in this kind of situation.

But RHO didn't have to ask the question and put his partner in such a situation. And RHO doesn't have to worry that I had failed to alert a Precision 1C or had failed to announce that partner's club suit "could be short." AFTER the hand has been played (so there is no transfer of unauthorized information, my RHO could have called the director and gotten an adjusted score if there had been damage.

How about another issue - that horrible red STOP card! How do you spend your time while the card is on the table? Why is that important?

I always use the STOP card, whether I make a strong jump, weak jump or conventional jump. The ACBL recommends always using the STOP card.... or never using the STOP card. But the rules state that if you are the next to bid, you must ALWAYS wait about 8 to 10 seconds while studying your hand, even if no STOP card is used. That's precisely how Eric Rodwell behaved when he played against me in Gatlinburg last year. He had no reason to bid, nothing to say, nothing good in his hand, but he was NOT allowed to convey that information to Jeff by a quick pass or by rolling his eyes while cutely counting aloud to 10.

Here is our example situation. I open a weak 2H, not vulnerable, and my vulnerable opponents must make a decision. Now, my LHO is the first to decide. With a weak hand, she passes; with a strong hand, she finds a non-pass call; with a heart stack, she passes and hopes partner reopens with a double. And with that middle-ish hand, she may find a bid or she may not. Let's say she passes.

After my partner passes (no, it can't be Joe because you all know he would have raised the preempt), RHO must now make his decision. He happens to have a middle-ish hand with Q-third of hearts. Because of his heart holding, he is fairly sure that his partner does not have a heart stack. That is good inference. But, if partner has a middle-ish hand, then perhaps they can make 2S or 3 of a minor. Did his partner give him the unauthorized information he needs to make the decision easier for him? If partner had quickly passed, without much thought, RHO now knows it's most likely not safe to enter the auction. If his partner grimaced, shrugged, and acted as if she were sorry to pass, RHO can jump in the auction without much worry.

If I end up declaring, the same behavior by LHO has given me information about how to play the hand! What are the rules about that? The rules say that partner may not take inference from unauthorized information, but opponents may at their own risk. Just be sure you don't agonize when you have nothing to agonize over. We'll look at that situation next time.

## A Word about Psyches

By Mike Lipp ([mlipp1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mlipp1@cinci.rr.com))

Two opposing viewpoints on psyches are (a) condone every trespass (b) punish every incident. As a club we would like to be somewhere in the middle. Excessive psyching destroys the congeniality of the game while none can lead to insipid and uninspired bridge. No question that it is the one Law in bridge that everyone seems to disagree on. It is almost like the sex question. Some would have total abstinence and others would have us live like Romans.

Board members of the CBA felt that it needed to be addressed and have developed a system to stay somewhere in the middle. For the system to work two things are needed. First, players who psyche excessively need to control it. Second directors need to enforce the policy of the Board with a clear understanding of what constitutes a psyche - they can't be too harsh nor can they be too timid. **While psychic bids are an *integral* part of bridge, a player does not have the right to psyche as frequently as he wishes simply because he enjoys doing so (from ACBL).**

ACBL and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge define it as: *A deliberate and gross misstatement of Honor strength and/or of suit length.* Law 40 goes on to further explain that a player may make any call or any play (including an intentionally misleading one that departs from commonly accepted or previous announced conventional practice) without prior announcement, provided it is not based on a partnership understanding. In other words a player may make any bid that will fool his partner and opponents equally.

ACBL and other sponsoring organizations, however, control the use of psychic bids by controlling the conventional usages which may impact them. It suggests clubs should regulate the use of uncontrolled psyches by saying that the burden of proof will be on the player, if (s) he makes more than two psychic calls per session, to prove that (s) he is not using excessive, frivolous or unsportsmanlike psychic bidding. Disciplinary action should be taken against a player whose bidding does not conform to these regulations.

**ACBL's Policy on Psyches- Psychs are regulated by taking disciplinary action against a player who disrupts a game with frequent, random psyches.**

Psyches which require no regulation or director attention:

1. Any call that deliberately and grossly misstates either honor length or strength is by definition a psyche. However, some psyches are disruptive while others involve bridge tactics. DIRECTORS PLEASE NOT: Overcalling a good 4 card suit is not a psyche.
2. A tactical bid is a psyche that is made to paint a picture in an opponents mind that will cause them to play you for a holding that you do not have, enabling you to succeed at the contract to which you were inevitably headed. Example: After partner opens with 1 spade, responder bids 2 diamonds to try to ward off a diamond lead on the way to 4 spades. Or you might cuebid an ace you don't have on your way to six of a suit. NOTE TO EXPERTS: ACBL DOES CONSIDER SUCH TACTICAL BIDS PSYCHES.
3. A conventional call is never a tactical bid. For instance your partner opens a weak 2 and you bid 2NT with a weak holding or 2H with a doubleton heart and a big fit with partner, knowing well that opponents have game somewhere. That is a psyche.
4. Experts - The psyche should not be used against players of a lesser caliber or strat. Using these tactics could be considered unsportsmanlike!

I think for me the most valuable lesson as a newer player was that when someone psyched me, sometimes I came out ahead. Believe what your partner bids. Don't believe what the opponents bid for if no other reason you won't have to spend the afternoon or evening playing a game based on what the other guy says (s)he has or doesn't have. Sure it makes for the counting of the hand more difficult. Sure it makes for defending more difficult. But if this game were easy everyone would be doing it. After all it is part of bridge just the same as false carding or any other thing we do at the table to keep our advantage. When it happens to you, report it, but for goodness sake don't hold a grudge just because a psyche got a good result. Most people who psyche land on their rear ends with a bad score or worse, a very upset partner.

Today directors are accessible, and act like social workers, keeping the peace and making far more rulings than in the old days. We are so lucky at our club to have so many certified directors willing to give of their time to run our games. We may want to keep in mind that most of these directors are fellow bridge players and not national tournament directors. And they are there so that we can play the game we love.

If a director makes a ruling you don't like or don't agree with, don't try to show them up by ranting. After the session, when things are calm, approach the director with your concerns. After all, sometimes the director actually gets it right.

When you call for the director, remember that opponents don't make mistakes purposely. Call with respect for the director AND your opponents. When a decision goes in favor of your opponents, do your partner a favor. Put it behind you and concentrate on the next call, play or hand. Behaving in the spirit of Zero Tolerance may actually improve your game.



## The Beginners's Corner

Gayle Keaney

Yesterday I sent this email to Audrey Grant:

Dear Ms. Grant...

I am having some difficulty with your section regarding advances to overcalls in the 2nd chapter of your book *Bridge Basics II Competitive Bidding*. You suggest cue bidding a strong hand that supports the over caller's suit. You also suggest same with a strong hand but a new suit - new suit to be bid at 2nd round of bidding. How can over caller know which it is? If over caller has, say 15 points & advancer cues, over caller could go to game & then find advancer hand without trump support. Quiz Part II item (f) covers when the cue bidding advancer did have support. I find no examples where she did not have support. Given that you suggest advancer's bidding of a new suit be non-forcing, I am in a dilemma.

**Guess what???** I got an answer back today...

Hi Gayle,

Thanks for your interest in the book. I do hope you noticed the footnote on Page 62 that says "some partnerships prefer a new suit advance to be forcing." That's actually my preference, for the reason you point out. However, when we polled our experts, the majority preferred a non-forcing (but constructive) approach, so that's what we went with as the 'standard' approach. However, it sounds as though you would prefer the forcing approach, and should probably agree to play that way with your partner.

For the 'recommended' approach, advancer's cuebid doesn't "promise" a fit with the overcaller's suit since advancer may simply have too good a hand to make a non-forcing bid in a new suit. That's not usually a problem. With a minimum, overcaller can simply rebid the suit, and advancer will introduce the new suit, forcing, and the partnership can take it from there. With a non-minimum hand, overcaller should do something other than simply rebidding the original suit. Overcaller can bid a new suit, bid notrump, or jump in the overcalled suit. Overcaller should be aware that advancer may not have a fit, and should avoid jumping (especially to game), with a weak five-card suit – preferring to bid a new suit or notrump. However, even if overcaller does jump to game in the overcalled suit and advancer has no fit, the partnership should be okay. Overcaller has extra values, and advancer has a hand too strong to simply bid a new suit (probably about 15+). So the partnership should make game through power alone, even if the fit isn't too good. Or advancer will have a good enough hand to bid the 'real' suit anyway.

Again, the occasional awkward result from playing a new suit as non-forcing is why many partnerships prefer the forcing approach. It's just no 'standard' (playing the ACBL SAYC, for example).

Hope that helps. All the best,  
Audrey

NOTE: My bridge teacher, Nancy Sachs, recommended that we check off NFCConst in the Simple Overcalls box of our convention cards. I just figured, goody, I can wimp out when I feel like it. Now I see there's at least one real reason for this NFC. **And I like it!**



## Nancy' Answer

If you decided to be declarer, you chose wisely.

When you examine the hand, you see 11 sure tricks: 5 spades (assuming spades split no worse than 4-2), 1 heart (after you drive out the A), 3 diamonds, and 2 clubs. Where will you get your twelfth trick?

The answer is that you can squeeze West in clubs and diamonds. After winning the Club A, draw three rounds of trump. West's best discard on the third round of trumps is the 3 of hearts. Then, play the Q of Hearts from your hand. West will win the A (Note: It doesn't help the defense for West to hold up the A) and his best return is the Club J, which you win with the K. Cross to dummy with a diamond and play the K of hearts and West follows with the J. Now declarer ruffs a heart in his hand and the squeeze begins, West is forced to discard the 9 of clubs.

Declarer now plays the last trump from his hand and discards a club from dummy. (Note: There is a 36% probability that the diamonds are split 3-3 so discarding a club from dummy accommodates that possibility.) West is hopelessly squeezed in clubs and diamonds. If he discards the T of clubs, your 8 becomes your twelfth trick. If he discards a diamond, your 8 of diamonds becomes your twelfth trick.

## Mentor-Mentee Program 2009

- *Mentees: Want to learn from more experienced players?*
- *Mentors: Want to help a mentee to learn more about duplicate bridge?*

*Mentees = less than 300 mps    Mentors = more than 300 mps*

### Kick-off—May 14 @ CBA

*Food served at 6:00 pm with game at 7:00 pm. Mentees please bring a dish for pot luck.*

### Finale—September 10 @ CBA

*Food served at 6:00 pm with game at 7:00 pm. Mentees please bring a dish for pot luck at CBA.*

### Free nights to play: June 11, July 2, August 13

*(free to mentor/mentee partners only at CBA)*

*Sign up on line at [www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com) or get a mentee/mentor form from CBA or NKY bridge club. Specify what you want to work on. Pick your own mentor/mentee or have one assigned to you.*

*For more information contact:*

*Betty Hurst 859-331-7557*

*Mike Lipp 513-468-4111*

*Jean Sturtevant 859-918-5748*

*John Stoppiello 513-868-9638*

## You DO know new players!

It seems like a high percentage of Cincinnati women are active in bridge clubs and bridge marathons. Most of them are only interested in the "social" aspects of party bridge. But the more competitive among them would thoroughly enjoy the challenge of duplicate bridge. They are tired of waiting for the "card gods" to deal them winning cards.

*It is up to you* to invite them to try their hand at a duplicate in the Tuesday evening I/N (Intermediate/ Novice) game (for players with 0-50 masterpoints).

Everyone gets a nametag, and I am available to answer questions - be it about scoring, the bidding boxes, etc. They will especially like getting a sheet showing all the hands they played and the score everyone made on each hand, and what was makeable on each hand.

The Novice-level lecture begins at 6:40 most Tuesday nights. I also send out a weekly e-mail newsletter each Friday night.

Let me know ahead of time so I can help them with the transition.

Tom Deddens



## LIBRARY REPORT by Gayle Keaney

Thanks to Bob Veverka, we have the following 4 additions to our library:

*The New York Times Bridge Series Grand Slams* by Alan Truscott 1985

"Here is an instructive & entertaining examination of 55 of the most dramatic kind of bridge hand. ...discusses freaks, deceptions ,,all the essential points of technique. A masterful blend of advice & commentary..."

*Killing Defense at Bridge* by H.W. Kelsey 1966

"...not for the beginner... a book of instruction rather than a history...hands cited are those kinds one will encounter in an ordinary evening's play..."

*5-Card Majors* by Ron Klinger 1992

"lucid introduction provides a detailed analysis of 5-card methods.."

*On Bidding* by Alan Truscott & Phillip Adler 1990 update of 1964 publication

"presents the common theories underlying expert judgment, whatever system or style a player may use.....regardless of your level of skill..."

### ALREADY HAVES

A Tale of Two Books..... the best of books, the worst of books.....1 of these is for you, 1 isn't

*Roman Keycard Blackwood* by Barbara Seagram & Linda Lee

This book is part of Seagram's Practice Your Bidding series; and, indeed, it delivers on the promise of practice. As an introduction or a refresher for RKC, this handy little gem does the job. And it should, given Seagram's background as a master bridge teacher who owns & runs one of North America's largest bridge schools. Surely, countless students have already successfully test-cased this material for us. Packed into just 13 pages of readable and easy-to-absorb instruction is all you need to know about the basics of RKC, including a review of cuebids. The 2<sup>nd</sup> section of the book is made up of 40 multi-part questions followed by detailed answers. These questions answer questions you may still have. 40 hands are then provided in the last section for you & a partner to practice on along with the authors' suggested auctions for the hands. Format of the hands are such that IF YOU OWN THE BOOK you could, for example, tear out the North hands for your partner to bid from. (Or you can buy your own copy at \$6.95.) A few hours spent with this book and you will be ready to circle RKC (1430) on your convention card! What I call a Velcro book.

*Roman Keycard Blackwood (Slam Bidding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)* by Eddie Kantar 2004.

This, as Eddie says, is his 4<sup>th</sup> try to corral RKB and an attempt to provide a book for 1<sup>st</sup> timers through experts. 235 pages ... all interspersed with hundreds of carefully explained example hands. Obviously a very thorough book and "...the only comprehensive book on RKB covers not only the basics but also the cutting-edge ideas that can improve your slam bidding dramatically..." In addition there are 60 practice hands for you & your partner to bid and then compare with Eddie's suggested and annotated auctions. For beginner/intermediates -fair warning - as even Eddie says in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of the book: "And I'm sure you will be overjoyed to hear that in this book we are going to use 2 sets of responses to RKB

(1) when the strong hand asks the weak hand

(2) when the weak hand asks the strong hand

The rest of the page is devoted to WHEN THE STRONG HAND ASKS ..., THINK 1430. The next page is devoted to WHEN THE WEAK HAND ASKS...,THINK 3014. Now on to the next page & the really complicated stuff! Some other chapter headings are: RKB after GF minor-suit splinter agreement, 4-level non-agreement, Second-suit options, EKB after 2-level non-agreement.

Notwithstanding Eddie's attempt to write a book for everyone, I think the large print notation on the back cover - ADVANCED - is more accurate. This is probably a great book. I doubt I'll ever know ( I keep thinking KGB and Eddie Cantor). But for those of you who really want to get into RKB, it's probably the go-to book.

### LIBRARIAN NOTES

The following are NOT RECOMMENDED as useful for beginner/low-intermediates (Who's the joker who came up with these, anyway???):

*The Modern Losing Trick Count*... really, do we need a book on how to keep track of our losers? how high can we count, anyway? ..... gotta count points, gotta count tricks, gotta count trumps, gotta count yada, yada, yada .....do we need advice on how to lose tricks??? skip it, we already have expertise here. ( Oooops... that's not what it means? Well, maybe you can take a look at this one...)

*Misplay These Hands With Me*.... Really? We don't need more practice here....just ask our partners!!

*Why You Lose at Bridge*.....let us count the ways....

Books the library hopes to find:

*25 Ways to Leave Your Partner, 5 Minutes to 10 (And We Can Go Home!), Telepathy For Crummy Bridge Players*

Seriously, folks, we will be adding to the library's holdings at the Flying Pig. If there is something you'd like to see included in our library, please let us know.

## Upcoming Tournaments

### Dayton

April 22-26

### Lexington

May 15-17

### Gatlinburg Regional

April 13-19

### Cincinnati Regional

April 27 -May 3

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com)

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*Tell us what you think*

**We have made several changes to the ALERT magazine over the last year.**

**These include changes in whats included, format, writers, etc. What do you think.**

**How are we doing?**

**Drop in a line to**

**John Burpee [johnburp@fuse.net](mailto:johnburp@fuse.net)**

**Amit Raturi ([amit.raturi@uc.edu](mailto:amit.raturi@uc.edu))**

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