

A L E R T

April 2012
Vol. XXXVII
Number 2



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

President's message...

One of my personal goals as President has been to raise awareness of the different "hats" worn by the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA). On the one hand, the CBA is part of the ACBL organization, having been designated as the governing Unit for the Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky/ Middletown/ Oxford geographic area. If you see references to "Unit 124" and wonder what that is, IT IS THE CBA. The CBA also operates the Cincinnati Bridge Center (the CBC—the place on Cooper Road). The CBA has a lease with the owner of the building within which the CBC is located, and it pays all the expenses related to the physical space (cleaning, utilities, parking lot repaving, etc.). The "Center" is the physical location; the "Association" is the legal entity and organization name.

Understanding these different "hats" is important. As Unit 124, the CBA works to promote bridge in the entire Greater Cincinnati area. We represent ALL ACBL members and sanctioned clubs in the Unit, and we run local sectional tournaments and the Flying Pig Regional held each May. As the operator of the Cincinnati Bridge Center, we also try to maintain a first-class bridge center with a full set of weekly games, bridge lessons, and educational materials. We do our best to ensure that these two roles don't conflict with each other very often.

Over the past year, the CBA Board has tried to shed some financial transparency on these roles as well. We realized that the Bridge Center on Cooper Road, on an operating basis, was not breaking even. We have relied largely on the profits from our tournaments to make up the deficit, which is unfair to the other clubs within the Unit.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

One track mind: Weidenfeld	3
Handling the cards: Orr	5
% plays in slams: Moese-Purcell	6
Nancy's Nasty: Dutson	7
Divagations: Brown	8
50 ways to leave your partner: Felson	9
Aces, Spaces. His majesty's faces: Fisher	11
Mentor-mentee Dialog: Ma-Naber	12
Treasurer's report: Keaney	13
Can Cincinnatians do better: Siutsau	14

The increase in CBC game fees to \$7 will help to reduce the deficit, and we are considering other options as well. First and foremost, the CBA represents the interests of its members, so please let us know what's on your mind.

Our annual Awards Party was held on April 3rd—a hearty congratulations to our 20 new Life Masters! It's been a long time since we added so many Life Masters in a single year. Future Life Masters are strongly encouraged to participate in our popular Mentor-Mentee program, which will start up again at the end of May. You can sign up on the website (www.cincybridge.com) or by completing a form at the CBC.

Our annual Flying Pig Regional is scheduled for May 7-12 at the Sharonville Convention Center, and everyone should make a bridge date to attend. We've got a great schedule, a fantastic Tournament Committee, and, of course, our excellent hospitality. This year features the introduction of Pigasus, our brand new Tournament effigy. Check him out at the Partnership Desk—rumor has it that rubbing his snout brings good luck to those finesses.

AJ Stephani

CBA Board President

All izz well.....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-LltgOtFSg>

A recent movie (named: 3 idiots) about my college in India featured a wonderful song... "All izz well"... search it on YouTube or see the URL above. I like it because it's so full of energy. Teaching in a university sometimes is confusing... you keep getting older and the kids stay the same age so you feel nothing in the world has changed when everything has. I was telling my class of twenty-some-things that I have trouble getting up in the morning... they gave me this look like what's new... we do too... after eleven beers it's always hard....

Welcome back to all of you after Indy regional, Memphis national, Gatlinburg and of course, our stupendous STAC. Have you noticed Bruce Parent's record recently... he has been setting the world on fire... a massive 36.86 in the STAC leaving Norm Coombs in the dust with 31.96 (sorry Norm, you have to play better than THAT!). He and Lalitha Y have been putting some great games together and along with Susan W and the Fishers earned a tough win in a Gatlinburg KO as well. This, after a phenom performance in Dayton Regional last year. Good going Bruce.

How about our twenty Life Masters this past year... is that a record or what. So many good players... get ready to compete hard...

Ronald Jarchow, Elaine Jarchow, Beverly Broomhead, Marlene Middaugh, Sue Wheeler, Ambrish Bansal, Mary Ann Boyle, Dave Claar, Ginny Claar, Lalitha Yalamanchili, Thomas Terwilliger, Jean Allread, Stephanie Richardson, Cynthia Schultz, Marilyn Prossise, Bob Fisk, Nalin Mehta, Arun Gupta, Lou Ukelson, Kris Malhotra....

Congrats to all of you and especially Lou Ukelson; hope we can play more team games together as winning the team event last year with you in the Cincinnati Regional was as sweet as it gets....

All izz well... all izz well... all izz well... I keep consoling my mind fairly often now but work and other pressures sometimes take their toll.... So to Robert Brown and Stephen Felson, a tip of my hat, for making bridge what it's meant to be... fun.... do READ their columns, and wear a seat belt when you do... HILARITY SUPREMO that would make Victor Mollo turn in his grave and write another episode of the Menagerie !!!

Our movie star Rob delivers with force this time... a hand where our mind will play tricks on us... and his message is clear... FOCUS. Potter's column on handling of cards is informative... think of it this way... the difference between a win and a loss in any session is typically one board... and if you lose the board because of a mechanical error like card handling, shame on you and full sympathy to your partner.

Pat Dutson is back as are Ma and Nabor with their wonderful dialogue on 2/1 versus Standard American... Fisher has a special on Grant Baze and the power of Aces and Eugene delivers 3 neat hands for your review and challenge... Amy Fisher is off this month but back in the next issue.

So the other day Nancy and I had a partnership misunderstanding... we assumed we knew what we were doing. When the bloodshed was over, I asked her... what happened... how could you not misunderstand the signal that I had so lovingly implanted between two psychic false cards... because you got it right we got a bad board. Her response was something like "if we can understand the basis of our misunderstandings, we would understand that misunderstandings are understood and if that's too hard for you to understand then we should develop a system where the slightest misunderstanding is understood to be an agreement of some sort so that we don't have any further misunderstandings.... All izz well... all izz well... all izz well...

Amit Raturi

ONE-TRACK MINDS AND PYRRHIC VICTORIES

Rob Weidenfeld

elianadad@gmail.com, 513-317-2337

Playing at the club about a month ago with a competent but intermittent partner, and against very competent opponents, I picked up a decent hand: KJx, AJT, Kx, KQxx....17 wonderful points and NT distribution
My partner responds 2NT to my 1NT opening. This is a transfer to diamonds. I am supposed to bid 3C if I don't like my diamond holding, 3D if I do. Not sure what to do with my honor doubleton, I bid 3C. Partner of course bids 3D and it is passed to me. Our game has been mediocre thus far so I decide to gamble. I think to myself I am at the top of my bid, I have a lot of cards to protect so it is wiser to make me declarer, and there are some who would say 3D with the hand that I actually hold. So I gutsy up and bid 3NT.

LHO (left hand opponent) leads the 8 of clubs. Here is the dummy I see: Txx, Kxx, Q9xxxx, A. We have actually landed in a reasonable contract. Standard bidders would invite with 2NT with partner's hand and my hand would bid 3NT. Obviously I have 3 club tricks, 3 heart tricks (players who think they are good often delude themselves into thinking they can always find the missing Q in the end game!), one diamond and no spades. The bad news is I have a transportation problem to get more diamond tricks. The opening lead knocked out one of two sure entries and now it will take a small miracle to bring in the diamond suit, my apparent source of tricks. My hope is that RHO has A-doubleton diamond. Then by playing a low diamond at trick two to my king and a diamond back and ducking, the A will fall on air.

When I play a diamond to the king it holds and when I return the suit LHO plays the J and RHO plays the 10. Rats!!! Now I can't set up the diamonds and get there with my one remaining entry in hearts! LHO plays a small club to RHO's 10 and my K. I pitch one of my now useless diamonds from dummy. Still only 7 tricks -- what to do?

Playing on hearts is futile because even if I guess right I still only have my 7 tricks. I sure don't want to play their suit, so I guess I must play spades. Beginners are taught to always lead towards your ten-ace, but here I have no choice. So I lead a low spade towards dummy's 10. LHO wins the spade queen and plays another club to partner's J and my Q, as I pitch another diamond from dummy. When I lead another spade to the 10, it holds! Here is the end position with 5 tricks in the bank:

x	KJ
Kxx	AJ10
Q9	-
-	x

I was so excited! I had created another entry to the dummy! Without pausing to reflect, I led a diamond to set up my prospective ninth trick (yes, I still had to find the heart queen). I had just won the battle but lost the war. I lost two spades, two diamonds and a club to go down one.

A moment of reflection would reveal that RHO does not have the spade ace or she would have won it! The lead of my last spade would also have given me my ninth trick but the harmless opponent would now be on lead. He could cash his good club (I pitch a diamond from dummy) but down now to nothing but hearts in the four card ending, his heart lead would have eliminated my guess. The hand with the diamond ace can never get in to cash it while I score 2 spades, 3 hearts, 1 diamond and 3 clubs for nine tricks! Here is the entire hand:

	♠ 10xx	
	♥ Kxx	
	♦ Q9xxxx	
	♣ A	
♠ AQx		♠ xxx
♥ Qxxx		♥ xxx
♦ Jx		♦ A10x
♣ 98xx		♣ J10xx
	♠ KJxx	
	♥ AJ10	
	♦ Kx	
	♣ KQxx	

As in life, one-track minds are not a formula for success in bridge.

Slam Bidding

Slam deals are the spice in a match-point session of bridge or the home runs in a team event. It feels so good to get them right and know what you are doing! That's our goal – *know what we are doing, get them right, and feel good!*

Class 1 April 26: Is slam at all feasible?

Is it possible to investigate without getting too high? Good slam? Trumps, tricks, and, controls, Specific cards, Accurate hand evaluation, Singletons and voids, etc

Class 2 May 3: Controls

Cue bidding controls, Key card Blackwood and the queen ask, 5NT after 4NT, GSF, Gerber, Super Gerber, etc

Class 3 May 17: Slam Bidding After Opening a Major (playing 2/1)

Slow arrival versus fast arrival, Jordan 2NT, Splinter responses, Using a jump to 5 of our major, etc

Class 4 May 24: Slam Bidding After Opening 1NT or 2NT

Jacoby transfers complemented with Texas transfers, Inviting with balanced hands, Evaluating distributional hands opposite a balanced hand, 6-4 slam try, etc

Class 5 May 31: Slam bidding in Competition

Splinters after competition, Handling interference with Blackwood, Jacoby 2NT or 2C opening, Jumping to 5 of our major, Cue bids, etc

Audience: Intermediate to Advanced players,

Instructor: Joe Fisher, jo.fshr@gmail.com, 772-1024

Where: At the CBC, **When:** Our usual time slot — Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 am

How much: 5 classes — sign up for all 5 for \$60, or pick and choose for \$15 a session

ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB

MAY 1ST . & 2ND . REGULAR GAMES

MAY 8TH . & 9TH . NO GAMES(Regional here)

MAY 15TH . UNIT GAME MAY 16TH . REGULAR GAME

MAY 22ND . & 23RD . REGULAR GAMES

MAY 29TH . & 30TH . REGULAR GAMES

GAME STARTS AT 11:30

Anderson Bridge Center
7970 Beechmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45255

Need a partner call Helen 232-2240

Handling the cards by Potter Orr

We all learn the correct way to handle our cards while playing bridge but the simple process is a little more complicated than it seems at first. There are a number of rules and accepted procedures no one ever told me about. The result of that is that I learned these by having the director called on me many times. I would like review some of the basics of card handling for your benefit.

Count your cards As soon as you pull your hand at of the duplicate board, count the cards face down. If you have any number other than 13, call the director immediately. The director has a copy of the hand record and can easily fix the deal. You can be penalized for hanving the wrong number of cards.

Hold your hand close to your chest and away from the table. If you cannot read your cards, get glasses, do not extend your arms.

A Card Played The rules for when a card is considered to be played are different for the declarer than they are for the defenders. A defenders card is considered to be played when it is held in a position where his partner could have seen it. It is not necessary that partner actually did see it, just that he could have. Declarer is considered to have played a card when he has pulled it out of his hand and placed it on or near the table. The near part has no specific measurement that is a judgment issue.

Reviewing a trick You have the right to ask to see all four cards played to a trick until you have turned your own card facedown. After you have turned your card down, you are permitted to ask, but your opponents are within their rights to refuse your request. Once all players have turned their cards in a trick facedown, you may look at your own last card played (but not expose it to anyone else) until a card has been played to the next trick. You may point out to your partner (and dummy may point out to declarer) that a card in the last trick is turned the wrong direction, but only the last trick. You may not point out that a card on any earlier is turned incorrectly.

At the end of Play Once play is finished, you should not mix your cards until all four players at the table have agreed on the result. If you mix your cards prematurely and there is a dispute about the number of tricks taken or about a possible revoke, the director should be called and will attempt to reconstruct the play of the hand. For example, if it is not possible to determine whether or not there was a revoke because one player mixed their cards too soon, the director's bias should be to decide the issue against that player. If the director does come to reconstruct the play the hand, you may not ever touch another player's card. You may certainly suggest to the director on which trick something happened, but you may not touch another player's card. When it is time to return your cards to the board, make sure to mix your cards before returning them to the board (especially if the hand was passed out). After the hands have been returned to the board you may not pull out an opponent's hand without their permission. You should not remove any hands from the board unless one of your opponents is at the table.

Follow the rules and Have fun.....

Learning Points – 2 Ways to Play a Slam

By Steve Moese. Edited by Mike Purcell

Declarer Play Level: Intermediate / Advanced

North Deals
NS Vul
MPs

♠ K8	N	♠ A62
♥ K8	W 13 E	♥ A6
♦ K643	S	♦ AJ7
♣ AQ542		♣ J9876

From the CBA December Holiday Party: Bidding 2 balanced minor suit hands at Matchpoints seems to make NT inevitable (better score than a minor). This often lulls us to sleep about slam. Say you bid to 6♣ (of course you did). When is the best line a 2% difference?

The Bidding

East opens 1♣ and West offers an Inverted Minor Raise. East with more than a minimum should respond 2♠, game forcing but not looking for a 4-4 fit. West denies 4♠ cards. West's 5 controls and 15 HCP look good for slam opposite sound values in East. West can bid 2N for

now and East can show ♣ length by bidding 3♣, still forcing to game. 4♣ Minorwood leads to a 6♣ contract. Note that a 3N rebid (1♣ - 2♣ - 3N) shows 18-19 balanced HCP (East is an Ace light for that bid).

The Plan – There are 2 possible finesses in the minor suits. Which do you take and in what order? (*Trick Question*. Consider trick sources:

Line 1: Eliminate Majors, Cash Top ♦s, and Finesse ♣s. (♦Qx)19% + ♣K 50% (64%) + 26%(16%) (Stiff ♣K and ♦xx with East)= **55%**.

Line 2: Cash the ♣A and if the ♣K does not fall, then rely on the ♦ finesse. The ♣K is singleton 26% so 26% + 50% (100-26%) = 26%+37% = **63%**.

Line 3: 1 of 2 minor suit finesses. 50% for the ♣ Finesse, + 48% of the remaining 50% for the ♦ finesse or 74%. (48% when the same hand needs to hold both ♣K and ♦Q). 50%+48%(100-50%) = **74%**.

Line 4: Eliminate the Majors then cash the ♣A. Win whenever the ♣K is singleton or doubleton with South or failing that, the ♦ finesse wins. The success % is about 26% (Singleton ♣K) + 26% (Doubleton ♣K w/ South) + 50% ♦Q(100-52%) = **76%**

South	North	Cases	%
K103	-	1	11
K10	3	1	13
K3	10	1	13
K	103	1	13
103	K	1	13
10	K3	1	13
3	K10	1	13
-	K103	1	11
TOTAL		8	100

← See Richard Pavlicek's card combination analyzer: <http://www.rpbridge.net/xcc1.htm>

Of 16 pairs, only 2 bid this 76% small slam. Line 2 or 4 earn all the matchpoints (note line 2 is a subset of line 4). Play along elimination lines adds chances. Making 6♣ was a top. Thanks to Mike Ma for pointing out this gem.

Learning Points:

- If you need **either** of 2 finesses success odds are 74% (finessing different hands) or 76% (finessing the same hand). **Always take the better odds line.**
- When facing 2 or more finesses & you can lose only once, improve your chances - **play for the drop in the longer suit and finesse in the shorter suit.**
- Find a line that requires **NO FINESSE**. This will often be superior, even if by only a small margin.
- Considering the suit alone, missing the K10x, lead the J or Q toward the AQ or AJ. This protects against all 3 missing cards outside. **Always make the right play for the hand, not for a suit.**
- A small slam with less than 33 HCP? **Prefer a suit over NT unless you can count 12 tricks.**

North Deals
Both Vul
MPs

♠ J943	N	♠ A62
♥ Q10975	W 13 E	♥ A6
♦ 1052	S	♦ AJ7
♣ K		♣ J9876

♠ Q1075
♥ J432
♦ Q98
♣ 103

EW 6N; 6♦;
6♣; 2♥; 1♠

Contract	Scores		MPs	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
6♣ E	100		15	0
2♣ E		150	14	1
5♣ E		600	13	2
3 NT W		630	9.5	5.5
3 NT W		630	9.5	5.5
3 NT E		630	9.5	5.5
3 NT E		630	9.5	5.5
3 NT W		630	9.5	5.5
3 NT E		630	9.5	5.5
3 NT W		660	4.5	10.5
3 NT E		660	4.5	10.5
3 NT W		660	4.5	10.5
4 NT E		660	4.5	10.5
3 NT E		690	1.5	13.5
3 NT E		690	1.5	13.5
6♣ E		1370	0	15

NANCY'S NASTY by Pat Dutson

This hand was used in an Advanced Two Over One Bridge Class taught by Nancy Sachs.

South is in a 6♥ contract after the following auction:

South	West	North	East
1♥	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	4♥	P
4♠	P	5♦	P
6♥	P	P	P

The opening lead is the ten of clubs (T♣). Dummy comes down and the hands are as follows:

♠ K95
♥ Q53
♦ AQ4
♣ J532

♠ AT7
♥ AKJT96
♦ KJ6
♣ 6

West wins the first trick and continues clubs to East's Q♣ which you ruff in your hand with the 6♥. Decide how you will play the rest of the hand.

Answer on page 10

New Life Masters. 2011



Ronald Jarchow, Elaine Jarchow Beverly Broomhead, Marlene Middaugh, Sue Wheeler, Ambrish Bansal, Mary Ann Boyle, Dave Claar, Ginny Claar, Lalitha Yalamanchili, Thomas Terwilliger, Jean Allread, Stephanie Richardson, Cynthia Schultz, Marilyn Prorise, Bob Fisk, Nalin Mehta, Arun Gupta, Lou Ukelson, Kris Malhotra

DIVAGATIONS OF A TRANSITIONAL¹ PLAYER

ROBERT S BROWN

The ACBL Convention Card compends largely useless information. If the goal is true transparency between competing pairs, then I suggest the Card requires substantial revision – *videlicet*:

- (1) Personality Type. (Scale 1-10; Apollonian to Dionysian). Although a full MMPI would be preferable, the Card should at least disclose this². Indeed, adopted earlier, the essential incompatibility between my partner, the Albatross (an Apollonian 2) and myself (a Dionysian 9) would have been revealed and spared us both much misery.
- (2) Finesse Percentage. (The percentage of time the player/declarer believes finesses will succeed). Perhaps 50-50 statistically, but the Albatross believes they only succeed 30% of the time and plays accordingly.
- (3) Convention Factor. (the number of conventions generally recognized in play divided by the number of conventions claimed to be played). For example, Paul Pschesang claims Drury on his card but hasn't played it correctly since 1947.
- (4) Card Memory. (Scale 1-12; the number of tricks played and recalled before resorting to guesses). The top players are all 12's but ultimately age takes its toll which brings us to . . .
- (5) Senility Index. (How good you are now expressed as a percentage of how good you used to be)³. This is a great comfort to those like the Albatross and myself who have taken the game up late in life. We may be bad but we're better today than we were – few, if any, long-time CBC members can say as much.

Obviously, the preceding only adumbrates possibilities – The Revoke Percentage, Director Call Success Index, Bladder Control Factor, and Psyche/Psycho Ratio also merit consideration.

Editor's note: I would like to add a special box for my opponents -- "We will fix you by passing forcing bids". MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory) was developed in 1939 and identifies many bridge pathologies. Scale 4 measures a persons need for control (Pd or Psychopathic Deviate which is henceforth my nickname for Yauheni replacing "The Hawk". Scale 7 measures worry, anxiety, tension, doubt and obsessiveness, and 2 and 9 are indeed Depression and Hypomania (excitability) scales.

¹ These ruminations should cease with this Issue; less than 10 points (including 5 silver) separate the author from the satori of life membership.

² While there are great players in both camps – e.g., NS, a 1, and NC, a 10; the best are generally found toward the middle – e.g., Amit, a 7, or Yauheni, a 4.

³ Cf. Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* "We give birth astride the grave"; Tennyson, *Ulysses* "Death closes all: but . . . some work of noble note may yet be done". *Vide Fere* J.A. Symonds, *The Valley of Vain Desires* (particularly the last six stanzas).

FIFTY WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR PARTNER

Stephen Felson

Yes, Lord Bane, it's "6-5 come alive," but – with all due respect – waiving your tentacles gives unauthorized information to your partner.

Brown is right. I am a rationalist, Tulsa born. I am calm at the table, I think things out, I play the percentages and I avoid the wild passions which push others into slam missing several aces “just to stretch a little” as Bob would put it when raising my INT opening bid to 6 holding 15 HCP.

So it was not in character for me to lay down the Dionysian space poetry in the last edition of this magazine, trying desperately to explain to myself and others why I am stuck with my partner forever:

I must keep playing with him, and keep playing with him, etc., as we push onward, onward, etc., where no pair has gone before, etc., past the Outer Rim, etc., to that Grand National at the infinite intersection of curved space and curved time etc., etc.

Besides, Einstein was just kidding about all that curvature, wasn't he? I mean look out the porthole – I don't see any curves out there? Do you see curves? Really?

No! I reject determinism! I renounce my last article. I must take matters into my own hands. I must act rationally. **I must find a new partner.**

Are they out there? Sure they are. Bridge enthusiasm is at an all-time high. A hundred million humanoids play duplicate on any given day and assorted miscellaneous “others” are taking it up all over space – carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, even terpsichores. It seems like every mutant in every gin joint in the universe has a copy of the Universal Bridge Bulletin sticking out of his, her or its pouch, pocket, skin slit or whatever other piece of ectoplasm will hold it. Hell, you can go the partnership desk at some obscure sectional on Tibannia, get paired with an ex-Jedi pilot now serving fried insects on the street in Mandalore, look at his convention card and by the moons of Endor he too is playing 2/1 and Bergen raises. So what's stopping me?

The problem may be how to tell him. Always an issue, even here in the 22nd century – how to let the significant other know his or her or its services are no longer needed. Think The Mommas and the Papas:

*If I didn't tell her, I could leave today
California Dreamin', On such a winter's day*

Guilt! He has to tell her. Or Simon and Garfunkel:

*There must be fifty ways to leave your lover, Just slip out the back, Jack, make a new plan, Stan
Don't need to be coy, Roy, just listen to me, Hop on the bus, Gus, don't need to discuss much
Just drop off the key, Lee, and get yourself free*

I wonder how Paul told Artie on that fateful day. But I can't just slip out the airlock, Jock. So what's the plan, man? Should I simply criticize his play until he leaves me on his own. Hah! Good luck. For the better part of a century I've been insulting Brown's overbidding, attacking his careless dummy play, abusing his erratic defense, trashing his unfathomable opening leads, mocking his inadvertent signaling (sighs deeply, mouth falls open, stares at ceiling in disbelief when he sees my lead), rejecting his crazy inferences (locating the queen of trump by watching for an antenna twitch? get real), and lambasting his general lack of

concentration. Has it worked? No – he seems to like it! I’ve had several wives who split after a mere fraction of this mistreatment, but not Bob Brown.

Okay, I’m at a loss – I can’t decide. “Bubble bubble, bid or double, go too high and end in rubble.” Maybe, as our great master teacher says, sometimes you just have to pass and await developments (try explaining that to Bob – “Pass? With a good seven points and intermediate values?”).

The good news: Eventually one of us has to croak, even with all that anti-aging cream, and that will be the end – or will it? Are there gold points in paradise? Pardon me, sir, is this the bridge from here to eternity? What’s it like without this mortal coil? Do I still need to shuffle the cards seven times or will the angels do it for me? May I reject the words of the spirit of Achilles?

Oh shining Odysseus, never try to console me for leaving our unhappy partnership by dying. I know now I would rather suffer bottom scores and 37% games with you than be the Meckwell of the underworld.

Kids, stay tuned to this magazine for further developments.

NANCY’S ANSWER

You have two potential losers: a club and a spade. No finesse is possible in spades so your only hope is a squeeze.

Draw two rounds of trump with the A♥ and Q♥. Play the A♥ first in case there is a 4-0 split in hearts, with the 4 hearts in the East hand. When everyone follows on the first card, continue with a heart to the Q♥.

Ruff a club back to your hand and lead the 6♦ to the A♦.

Play the Q♦ and return a diamond to the K♦ in your hand. The squeeze is now ready. Play off your hearts leaving club J and Kx of spades in dummy and ATx of spades in your hand in the 3 card ending.

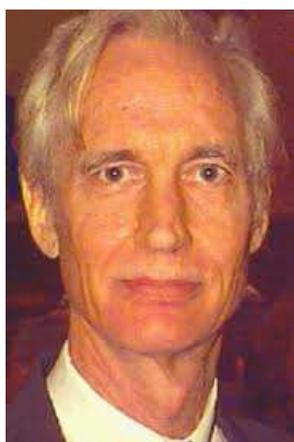
All 4 hands are:

	♠ K95	
	♥ Q53	
	♦ AQ4	
	♣ J532	
♠ 8432		♠ QJ6
♥ 723		♥ 84
♦ 852		♦ T73
♣ T984		♣ AKQ7
	♠ AT7	
	♥ AKJT96	
	♦ KJ6	
	♣ 6	

Aces, Spaces, and his Majesty's faces

Joe W. Fisher

"Six-five, Come Alive!" and "The five-Level belongs to the Opponents", advice from the late, world life master, Grant Baze pictured here. He was one of my favorites — one of everyone's favorites! At a regional in Charlotte, he splintered against me, not with a singleton, but with Ax. He reasoned that with a singleton you lose the first round but win the second (rough). With Ax you win the first round (ace) and lose the second. Same difference! I honored him in the Louisville Vanderbilt with a Baze splinter.



He played in his final Flying Pig in 2008. He died the following March after battling cancer for many years. He was truly a gentleman and one of the most ethical players. After a minute or two at his table you felt as if he had been your friend for years.

In addition to the two bridge lexicon's above, he liked the theme, "Aces, Spaces, and his Majesty's faces". His premise was that the 4-3-2-1 point count system is wrong. It underestimates Aces and overestimates everything else. Playing rubber bridge, if he dealt himself three Aces and a deuce, and dealt you four kings, and rest at random, you would go broke in a hurry! Same for two Aces versus four Queens, or one Ace versus four Jacks. The point is the Ace is the most important card in the deck by a huge factor - much more than is reflected in the point count system. I have a couple of examples to back Grant's lofty view of Aces. First example:

You are playing 4♠ with Q♥ lead. East plays the K♥. Your red suit holdings are

♥ 932	opposite	♥ A64
♦ A84		♦ J32

How can you possibly avoid 4 red suit losers?

See the deal below. You win the A♥ and strip out the clubs as you draw trumps. Finally you throw West in with a heart. He takes his two heart tricks and must lead a diamond or yield a ruff-sluff with a club return. So West leads the T♦. You cover and East plays K♦. You win and lead the 4♦. West must play the 9♦. Now East is stuck. If he overtakes and plays a diamond, your 8♦ wins. If he doesn't overtake, West is endplayed and must yield a ruff-sluff for the game going trick.

♠ 6 ♥ QJT87 ♦ T9 ♣ J9874	♠ AKJ2 ♥ 932 ♦ J32 ♣ A32	♠ 84 ♥ K5 ♦ KQ765 ♣ KT65
	♠ QT9753 ♥ A64 ♦ A84 ♣ Q	

Now interchange your A♦ with East's K♦ and notice the difference. Again you exit with a heart, West cashes 2 hearts and leads the T♦. East overtakes with A♦ and continues diamonds to your king. You still have a diamond to lose. Down one. This deal illustrates the control power of an Ace. We can take it whenever we want. When we interchanged the Ace and king, the king was behind the Ace so it took a trick, but it had to wait its turn - which was too late!

Second example: You are playing in 6NT with ♥ K75 opposite ♥ A983. You need 3 tricks with no entry problems and no worries other than hearts are *not* 3-3. Can you make the magic of the ace and king work for you? You try a low heart to the 7. It loses to the 10. You win the return and get lucky when doubleton Q♥ pops up as you lead toward the K♥. Now the A♥, not only, takes a trick, but also, acts as a connective and control for the finesse the 9♥ for your third heart trick! This was the layout.

♥ K75 ♥ Q6	♥ JT42 ♥ A983	
---------------	------------------	--

From examples like these, Grant recommends adding an extra half point for each ace, and if it is clear the contract will be a suit, add a full point for each ace.

Mentor-Mentee Dialog on 2/1 Rebids in Standard American

Mike Ma and Dick Naber

We are back for our second article in our mentor-mentee series. This time we will talk about rebids in Standard American (SA) when responder makes a 2 over 1 response to an opening 1 major bid. For clarity and conciseness, the following is not a verbatim dialog, but is faithful to the spirit of the conversation.

MM: Anything in particular you want to talk about?

DN: With you and some partners I play 2 over 1 Game Forcing. But with some other partners, I play SA. In SA, does responder owe opener another bid after making a 2 over 1 response? Specifically I am thinking of something like 1H - 2D - 2H. My 2H rebid has been passed to my chagrin when I have game going hand.

MM: I am not that up on current SA bidding, but let's try to breakdown what is going on. What is the point count of the 2D response?

DN: I think 10 or more points.

MM: In normal SA, your 2H rebid limits your hand to minimum opening, 12-14. If responder also has a minimum, especially without a real fit or worse, with a misfit with your H, 2H may be the last makeable contract, so I can see why she may pass your 2H. But I also see your uneasiness, especially since you also play 2/1 GF sometimes.

DN: So how do I show better hands if 2H shows minimum.

MM: I suppose in SA, if you have a GF hand over partner's 10 point 2/1, you will have to jump or fake a new suit bid. Say you have S Kxx, H AKT9xx, D Ax, C Qx. With 16 points, you know you have game after partner's 2D, so you bid 3H. Your jump rebid shows more than minimum, sets the GF and shows 6+ H. Barring a really unusual hand from partner, you expect the final contract to be H or NT. You are happy if partner bids 3N or 4H, or if she makes a move towards slam.

DN: Is it always right to jump?

MM: Say you have AKx, Qxxxx, Axx, A. With 17 points, not to mention 3 A's, you should for sure be in game. But depending on responder's hand, the best strain may be NT, H, D, or even S. You would really want to find out more about partner's hand, but a 3H bid will take away the necessary space. If partner raises you to 4H with xx in H, you most likely

will not be happy. Raising to 3D may not be forcing in SA (another can of worms), and even if it is, will hide your 6th H and still consumes a lot space. 2S, being a new suit, would be forcing, but not ideal and too dangerous with only 3 S.

DN: I would like to rebid 2H, expecting it to be forcing, but I have been getting the dreaded green card.

MM: Well, they didn't come up with 2/1 GF for no reason ☺. Sticking with SA, the above examples show the problem with having to jump rebid when opener has more than minimum. 3H was very descriptive with the first hand, but terrible with the second.

DN: So what to do? 3H is terrible, and 2H may get passed.

MM: Clearly you would prefer to make 2H (simple rebid of the major by opener) one round forcing. One simple way to do that is to play that after a 2/1 response, the auction is forcing to at least 2N. Now you can safely rebid 2H with the right hand, and you would only jump to 3H make what is called a "picture bid", a term used to mean a bid that is very descriptive and specific. With a minimum hand (10-11 points) with 3154 distribution, responder will bid 2N over 2H instead of passing.

DN: Is there any problem with making 2H one round force?

MM: You can't gain something for nothing. It is fine if opener has extra and bid 2H as a temporizing bid. But if opener has 12 and responder has 10, 2N is likely going down if opener does not have good cards for responder's suit. It is bad bridge when you have the balance of points, and end up in the wrong partial going down in an uncontested auction.

DN: So we are back to square one?

MM: A rule of thumb is that you should not play 2N with less than 23 points. That is not to say you will never make 2N with 22 or even less points or that you will always make with 23 points, and of course fitting values, quality of points, and tens and nines matter. But it is a simple rule that works on the average. To avoid getting to 2N with 12 vs. 10 points hands, I propose a simple solution of making 11 the minimum for 2/1 bids.

DN: So why were we taught 2/1 showing 10+?

MM: The original 10+ was based on opening on 13 point hands. Because bridge players over the years have found out the advantage of opening first, the current trend is to open 12 point hands. It is natural therefore to push the 2/1 minimum to 11. By the way, in general the more evenly the points are spread between the two hands, the better things are. So 12 vs. 11 is better than 13 vs. 10 is better than 15 vs. 8 is better than 23 vs. 0.

DN: So what should I do with 10 point hands?

MM: You would just incorporate it into your 1N response, whether it is natural, forcing, or semi-forcing. If opener passed your natural 1N, it is most likely the best contract for your side in spite of your 10 points. Very rarely will your side miss game just because you have 10 points.

DN: I think that should not be difficult. 2/1 shows 11+ points and forces to 2N. Opener rebidding his major may not necessarily show a minimum. How about subsequent bids?

MM: Of course new suits by responder will be forcing. I think it is simplest that after rebidding his major, new suit by opener should also be forcing. For example (opponents silent), 1H - 2D - 2H- 2N - 3C, the 3C bid should be forcing. Opener has a GF hand with 6+ H and 4 C. Note that by making 2H forcing, you can show your extra H first before bidding C.

DN: Sounds easy enough.

MM: Nothing is easy. But it helps a lot if you and your partner are on the same page. We haven't even gotten around to whether opener raising responder's suit is forcing. Then there is the whole hornet's nest of whether opener shows extra by bidding a new suit at the 3 level. And if he rebids 2N, does he guarantee stoppers in the unbid suit and/or at least 2 cards in responder's suit. These cases bring up the concept of so-called "default bids", something for us to talk about in future.

DN: I can't wait.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gayle Keaney, Treasurer,

gkeaney@aol.com

Well, financial operations are definitely looking up (let's hope that continues!). Instead of the \$8580 Ordinary Loss we suffered for the 1st quarter of last year, this year's 1st quarter figure was a Profit of \$2069.....a turnaround of \$10649. So, based on our projections for this year (which would be somewhere between break-even and a small loss), we are currently ahead of the game.

Why? Well, of course some of the credit goes to the increase in CBA games' player fees (\$616 net earnings) and some to the \$4039 increase in table fees charged to the sanction holders.

Adding to that bottom line difference is \$675 contributed by the mild weather, \$2938 contributed by the HVAC system not acting up, \$724 by the copiers & printers being more co-operative and \$1480 in lower CAM charges (associated with rental of the building).

In total the club had 21 fewer games so far in 2012 than in 2011... let's get those numbers up! You can view the details of the 1st quarter financials on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans?

Yauheni Siutsau

All boards are IMP scored and are from a Polish bridge magazine. See how you fare....

Challenge 1: 4♥ (S). Opening lead : ♠K. Plan your play.

♠ 653 ♥ 1098 ♦ A8642 ♣ Q10	N S	♠ A94 ♥ AKQJ753 ♦ 9 ♣ J7
-------------------------------------	--------	-----------------------------------

Solution : We have 9 top tricks : 7 hearts and two aces. Where can we get an extra trick? We should hope that diamonds are 4-3 and we can establish 5th diamond in dummy. We need 4 entries to dummy : to make 3 ruffs and to cash last good diamond. And we have it because of excellent heart spots (1098) and ♦A!

So our line of play is :
 Win first trick and play ♦A and ruff a diamond with ♥J.
 ♥3 to ♥8 and ruff a diamond with ♥Q.
 ♥5 to ♥9 and ruff a diamond with ♥K.
 ♥7 to ♥10 and cash last good diamond discarding a loser.

The full deal :

♠ 653 ♥ 1098 ♦ A8642 ♣ Q10	N S	♠ A94 ♥ AKQJ753 ♦ 9 ♣ J7
-------------------------------------	--------	-----------------------------------

♠ KQ102 ♥ 64 ♦ J73 ♣ A985	N W E S	♠ J87 ♥ 2 ♦ KQ105 ♣ K6432
------------------------------------	---------------	------------------------------------

Notice that you cannot afford to ruff with a small trump or you will be one entry short. BTW, a trump lead would defeat 4♥.

Challenge 2:

	W	N	You
S	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	pass		*15-17 HCP

Dummy (N)

♠ 10x
 ♥ Axx
 ♦ Jxx
 ♣ K1098x

You (E)

♠ QJ98
 ♥ xx
 ♦ K10x
 ♣ AQxx

Partner (W) leads ♥J. S wins with ♥K and plays ♠J and small ♠ from dummy. Plan your defense.

Solution :

As usual you should count points first. Dummy has 8 HCP, you have 12 HCP, declarer has 16-17 HCP (S didn't pass 2NT). Partner has 40-8-12-(16-17) = (0-4) HCP. Therefore it's reasonable to assume that partner doesn't have an ace (W has ♥J already). Let's look at the full deal :

♠ 10x ♥ Axx ♦ Jxx ♣ K1098x	N S	♠ QJ98 ♥ xx ♦ K10x ♣ AQxx
-------------------------------------	--------	------------------------------------

♠ xxx ♥ J1098x ♦ Qxx ♣ xx	N W S	♠ AKxx ♥ KQx ♦ A9xx ♣ Jx
------------------------------------	-------------	-----------------------------------

If you win ♠J with ♠Q (or ♠A) S will play small club to ♠8 and will get 2 spades + 3 hearts + 1 diamond + 3 clubs = 9. (♥A is an entry to long clubs). However, if you **duck first club**, win second one with ♠Q and play a heart (or ♠Q) back, S will get only one club trick and will never make 3NT.

Bottom line: **if dummy has a long suit and not very many entries always think about cutting off declarer's communications.**

Challenge 3:

♠ 10632 ♥ 1085 ♦ KQ43 ♣ 97	N S	♠ AK9 ♥ AK4 ♦ A ♣ AKQJ85
-------------------------------------	--------	-----------------------------------

6♣ (S). Opening lead : ♠Q. Plan your play.

Solution : We have 2 losers : 1 spade and 1 heart. At the first glance, there is no way to get rid of one loser unless ♠Q and ♠J are doubleton. Look carefully at the club spots in dummy. If we lose a trick to opponent's ♠10, later on we will have an entry to ♦K and ♦Q for two discards! That's why you should win first trick with ♠A, cash ♦A and **play ♠5 to ♠7**. Opponents will win ♠10 but now you can play ♠8 to ♠9 and pitch two losers on ♦K and ♦Q.

If diamonds are 6-2 or 7-1 and opponent with short diamonds has more than 2 trumps and will be able to ruff your honor – too bad!! Tomorrow will be another day.....



Ace of Clubs/Mini-McKenney Winners

MPs	Mini-McKenney	Ace of Clubs
0-5	James Brannen	Same
5-20	Linda Pretz	Same
20 - 50	Larry Newman	Pam Preston
50-100	Bob Fisk	Same
100-200	Stephanie Richardson	Same
200-300	Arun Gupta	Nalin Mehta
300-500	Sonya Wilson	Cordell Coy
500-1000	AJ Stephani	Anthony Brockman
1000-2500	Albert Fultz	Rick O'Connor
2500-5000	Amit Raturi	Lorna Davis
5000-7500	Bill Higgins	Same
7500-10,000	Pam Granovetter	Nancy Sachs
10,000+	Matt Granovetter	Norm Coombs



2012 Other Award Winners

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
 FIRST MASTER OF THE YEAR
 SECOND MASTER OF THE YEAR
 JANE WARD MEMR AWARD
 (NOVICE)
 (Experienced)
 MANNY ISRALSKY AWARD
 JAN WEYANT AWARD
 DON WALKER AWARD
 HOROWITZ AWARD

Larry Newman
 Helen Mess
 Sandy Johnson
 Bill Cook and Kent Wahl
 Bill Higgins
 Higgins
 Yauheni Siutsau and Bill Higgins
 Matt Granovetter
 Rob Weidenfeld/Cliff Pleatman

Winners at Indy regional

- 1 103.34 Yauheni Siutsau
- 2 103.34 William Higgins
- 3 101.08 Nancy Sachs

Gatlinburg

- 172 52.73 Norman Coombs
- 192 50.83 David Britt
- 244 46.89 Joe Fisher
- 245 46.89 Amy Fisher
- 307 40.42 Bruce Parent
- 494 31.45 Susan Wisner
- 495 31.45 Lalitha Yalamanchili

Dayton sectional

- 1 16.32 Yauheni Siutsau
- 7 11.76 Amitabh Raturi

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.cincybridge.com

Upcoming Tournaments

Regionals

05/07/12 - 05/12/12 CINCINNATI OH
05/22/12 - 05/28/12 CLEVELAND OH
07/30/12 - 08/05/12 FAIRBORN OH

Sectionals

05/18/12 - 05/20/12 LexingtonKY
06/08/12 - 06/10/12 IndianapolisIN
07/06/12 - 07/08/12 ColumbusOH
07/28/12 - 07/29/12 Lexington
(nlm/500)KY

Summer NABC 2012
July 12-22 Philadelphia

Cincinnati Bridge Association
2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati,
OH 45241

