



Cincinnati Bridge Association

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

THE FALL SECTIONAL: ALL ACES!!!!

How sweet it was. Even in this a tough economy, "OctoberBest" was a rousing success easily topping all previous fall sectionals. The three day event drew 273 tables, 40 more than 2008. The District NAP Finals on Saturday were also a record setter with 92.5 tables.

To make matters even better, CBA players came close to sweeping the Top Ten in total points: 1. Larry Klein. 2. Norman Coombs. 3. Bruce Parent. 4. Adam Parrish. 5. Anton Habash. 6. Amitabh Raturi. 7. Nancy Sachs. 8. Yauheni Siutsau. 9. Bill Higgins. 10. Bob Sulgrove (Dayton).

Thanks to all who attended, and to the committee that made it happen; John & Jane Burpee, Lorna Davis, Debbie Cummings, Larry Klein, Adrienne Netherwood, and Tonya Kirkland. Also Gayle Keaney, the volunteer "extraordinaire."

John Burpee reporting

Holiday party 2009

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Robert Sulgrove | Vickie Sebastian |
| 2 Patricia Newman | Deborah Cummings |
| 3 Nancy Luetge | Agnes De Lany |
| 4 Kay Mulford | Rob Weidenfeld |
| 5 Bonnie Parker | David Parker |
| 6 Jerry Katz | Joann Katz |

Thanks to Chris Schwartz, Melanie Onnen and all others who helped organize.

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President's message...

December's here and the year is almost gone. For me that means it's time to thank people. I certainly thank all of the people on the CBA board and our many other volunteers who made my job easier this year. Three of our members will end their terms on the board at the end of this year.

Betty Hurst who lives in Northern Kentucky and plays most of her bridge at the Northern Kentucky Center has been a very hard-working member of our board. This year Betty led the team that ran our very successful Mentor - Mentee program.

Adrienne Netherwood has been a very active Board member and has also been the treasure of CBA. The job of treasurer for our organization is a serious commitment for a volunteer. In addition to paying all of our bills, (s)he gets the reports and rent checks from the directors who run their games at the bridge center and the teachers who hold classes there. I suppose the monotony of that job is compensated for by the excitement of carrying home large sums of cash from the regional and convincing the bank branch that she's not laundering drug money when she deposits it.

Patti English has done it all. In addition to several terms on the Board, she had two years as vice president of the board and close to three years as president. If those jobs were not enough, she also has been the chairperson for our Spring regional for several years and fortunately for all of us will chair the event this spring as well.

In addition to those three who are now leaving the Board, I would like to thank in advance three more people. Mary Clifton and Patrick Hoffman are joining the board for 2010. Anirudh Pandit is taking over as treasurer of CBA.

Potter Orr

Oh the Winter chill...

By Amit Raturi, Editor

My kids often tell me to "chill" - well now is not the right time for that...it's already 20F outside. I was complaining to them about how bridge has reached a plateau and I don't feel I am playing as well or improving - as if Nash equilibrium has set in. My wife would not miss that one - "Does that not apply to only finitely repeated games?" "Well I did not make the top ten of the attendance list for 2009" was my response. Our repartee continues...she is sure she does not want me to play less but can't stand it that I have so much fun. She claims her savings on Tylenol she consumes when I don't play and hang around the house are much larger than the cost of my driving to the bridge center and the entry fees. I am so good that I can false card with a singleton at the bridge table (apologies to Papa) but I can't win simple finesses against my wife. And so I look forward to seeing you all frequently this year.

There is a fine line between wanting to play bridge everyday and mental illness. My favorite bridge player of all times is Papa. His performance in Bridge in the menagerie is simple brilliant. "He dazzles, often blinding himself in the process". Losing to Hog is a precursor to another large bet with the Hog. Themistocles Papadopoulos - an incredible name and an incredible player.

Rob W starts the bulletin with a very interesting deal that you might have played at the club recently about bidding. Joe Fisher introduces a new column about declarer play...his class looks interesting and Joe always has good ideas on play of the hand. Mike Ma gives us an excellent summary of the principle of restricted choice - and some really neat examples where it applies. Extra point games

are becoming controversial in ACBL (see recent ACBL Bulletin) and Gayle informs us on the CBA board's perspective on it. I loved Amy's column on bridge ethics and when and when not to ask questions at the bridge table. Eugene's challenge plays and Dutson's quiz make up the rest of the newsletter.

Based on informal feedback I have added Board minutes of the last meeting. Should we have more? The Board approved 4 free games for all writers in Alert per year and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for this. Also check out the stellar performance of our players in the District 11 mini-McKenney below. Says a lot about our teachers and classes (see page 9 for a complete list). Other results are sprinkled throughout the newsletter.

Good luck to those of you headed to Reno and remembers the words of Papa the Greek...going down in unbeatable slams also requires a lot of brilliance....

Amit

District 11 0-25 MiniMcKenney Race

2 Robert Brown Cincinnati OH 77.03
3 Stephen Felson Cincinnati OH 75.15
7 Marilyn Prosis Cincinnati OH 43.22
8 Susan Manne Cincinnati OH 42.65
9 Carol Macksey Mason OH 41.88
11 Arun Gupta West Chester OH 39.23
12 Arun Pandit Mason OH 36.60
17 Diana Stuck Mason OH 30.16
25 Ronald Manne Cincinnati OH 21.67

President's message (addendum)

I would like to think that 2009 has been a good year for bridge in Cincinnati. I can recall nothing earth shattering, but I don't see that as a bad thing. The table count for our regional was down a little bit, but this was less than what many of the other regionals around here saw. Our summer STaC tournament had an increase over the year before as did the October sectional. NAP that is held along with our sectional also saw a record table count.

The Northern Kentucky Bridge club purchased wireless electronic score pads for their tables. If you have not used these at a large tournament or one of the games in Florida, you should go over and play in Northern Kentucky and try them out. They seem to be the way of the future and we are studying them for the Bridge Center.

At the Bridge Center, we have increased both the number and variety of classes being taught. In addition to two different series of beginner and intermediate classes, we now have a couple of new teachers giving classes for more advanced players.

Soon we'll have the vinyl seats and backs replaced on the chairs that used to be a rather-tattered gray. Better late than never, our building landlord did have the broken pavement in the parking lot patched and the entire surface re-coated.

Potter Orr

When Points are Shmoints

By Rob Weidenfeld

E-mail: elliedad@cinci.rr.com

Marty Bergen wrote a great book in the 1990's entitled Points, Shmoints. The premise of the book is that if you are strictly a point counter, then you are destined to miss a lot of good games and a lot of good slams. This theme is pretty consistent in his writings. Marty could have used the following hand as an example.

Playing at the club game with the esteemed editor of this publication, I held the following hand, with Both vul:

A763
AJ10984
-
1092

The bidding went pass, pass to me. With that good suit, what should I do? I thought my LHO probably has a good hand and no matter what I do the opponents will be competing in the auction. With that in mind, I thought about the obstructive value of bidding two hearts. The problem is I have a hand that could conceivably play in 3 suits and has some defense. Partner will not know how to evaluate his hand if I cram the auction. Meanwhile I do have two aces so an opening bid is reasonable, especially in third seat. A good partner will be very happy with a opening of one heart by you in third seat. Well, I had a good partner so I opened one heart.

The auction proceeded quickly. Double on my left, two hearts by my partner, and 2 spades on my right. Partner only bid two hearts. Is trying for more a bit greedy with my nine opposite a possible 6 in my partner's hand? The answer to the question lies in the auction. I always tell my students that the hand you pick up is not always the hand you end up with. Hands go up and down during the course of the auction. What has happened to your hand during this auction? What's your choice?

Does it sound like the opponents have a spade fit? Is it fair to mark them with 8 spades between them? I think so. All that is required here is to realize that that gives partner one spade and you suddenly have no spade losers! You already have no diamond losers and you have at most one trump trick loser on most days. Your only question mark is the club suit. So I made a help suit game try in clubs, asking partner to bid game with good clubs. Here is the entire auction:

W	N	E	S
P	P	1H	DbI.
2H	P	3C	P
4H	P	P	DbI.
All pass			

Apparently South with his 15 count didn't expect me to make it, and expressed his opinion. Interestingly, a double in this situation doesn't usually cost you very much at match points since if we make game with a combined holding of 15-18 HCP, you can expect you will get no match points anyway. Hence the term, "match point double."
Here was the entire hand:

	2	
	K32	
	9654	
	AQ754	
KQ4		J10985
O5		76
AKJ73		Q1082
J86		K3
	A763	
	AJ10984	
	-	
	1092	

My partner certainly had help in clubs. In fact, it was just what I needed! The play of the hand was easy. After the diamond lead got ruffed, I drew two rounds of trumps and ran the club 10, when that lost to the king, I threw two spades on the long clubs and ruffed one spade in dummy and made 6! Interestingly, the hand with 15 HCP took no tricks in the play! Of the 18 pairs playing that day in our direction, only one other pair bid game, and they were not lucky enough to be doubled. Still they got an 11 for 620 and we got a 12 for 1190!

Yes it was unusual and my partner had a perfect hand for me, but if you are only counting points without thinking, you may be missing out.

Thinking Declarer Play

SIGN UP FOR JOE FISHER'S WINTER CLASS

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 AM, starting January 28
Continuing February 4, 11, 25, March 18
At the Cincinnati Bridge Center
(Bad weather back-up date is March 25)

Have *fun* improving your declarer play in a *group* setting

Topics: Important play tactics including, but not limited to: Reading the opponent's cards, Countering *thinking* defense, Cross roughing, Throw-in, Hold-up, Avoidance, and Unblocking plays, Managing entries, etc.

For students who play on Thursday we will have an 'After Session Seminar' on problems encountered in the play. We will also have a 'Discussion Room' on the web where students can present deals that gave them problems at the table. The idea is to personalize the course and make it at just the right level for you.

To register contact: Joe Fisher, 772-1024, jo.fshr@gmail.com (There's also a Sign-Up Sheet at the CBC) Fee \$60

Watch for: IMPS TACTICS short course just before Gatlinburg Regional and SLAM BIDDING class starting April 22.

Other Mini Mickenney Results (District 11)

Over 10K	1 Norman Coombs Brookville IN	795.75
7.5-10K	1 Matt Granovetter Cincinnati OH	1,501.43
5-7.5K	1 Pamela Granovetter Cincinnati OH	1,069.89
	4 Nancy Sachs Cincinnati OH	576.92
2.5-5K	7 Bruce Parent Brookville IN	311.80
	1 William Higgins Cincinnati OH	730.57
	2 Yauheni Siutsau Loveland OH	719.97
1-2.5K	3 Frank Treiber III Cincinnati OH	622.67
	4 Amitabh Raturi Cincinnati OH	542.22
	9 Lorna Davis West Chester OH	262.94
	10 Anton Habash Oxford OH	257.92
500-1K	1 Adam Parrish Arlington MA	382.18
	5 Rick O'Connor Villa Hills KY	242.69
300-500	6 Mrs. A. Netherwood Loveland OH	230.60
	2 Mary Smith Cincinnati OH	181.11
	4 Bruce Smith Cincinnati OH	168.60
200-300	6 Vijay Vasudevan Cincinnati OH	147.29
	6 Dean Congbalay Terrace Park OH	148.30
	7 A J Stephani Cincinnati OH	144.29
100-200	9 Cordell Coy Villa Hills KY	139.30
	2 Randall Rubinstein Falmouth MA	286.42
	4 Peter Carey-Yard Cincinnati OH	224.07
50-100	3 Lalitha Yalamanchili Cincinnati OH	90.93
20-50	1 Sonya Wilson Cincinnati OH	166.91
	2 Ambrish Bansal West Chester OH	116.40

Just Kidding

Amnesia Double: When you make a lead directing double when you are going to be on the opening lead

Bridge partners are like parking spots, the good ones are taken and the available ones are handicapped

I play bridge to be entertained. If I wanted to be stressed and abused, I might as well stay home with my wife.

Partners are extremely important. Who else to blame when you lose?

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 3NT contract. Examine the hands and the bidding. Then, decide whether you want to be the declarer or play defense. If you decide to play defense, decide on your opening lead.

	♠ 42	
	♥ Q54	
	♦ A63	
	♣ KT643	
♠ AQ9653		♠ 87
♥ 87		♥ T962
♦ KQ2		♦ T954
♣ J7		♣ Q85
	♠ KJT	
	♥ AKJ3	
	♦ J87	
	♣ A92	

The bidding has been:

S	W	N	E
1NT	2S	3NT [Ⓞ]	P
P	P		

Ⓞ Lebensohl—Game going values, no spade stopper.

ANSWER ON PAGE 11

A Play Problem to Test Your Mettle

Joe W Fisher

You (W) end in 6♥ after LHO opens 1♠ and partner doubles and you have to play 6♥ with these hands:

♠ AK7	♠ —
♥ KQ9764	♥ AJT8
♦ Q4	♦ K753
♣ A8	♣ QJT75

Other than opening 1♠, the opponents were silent. Opening lead is the ♠Q by North. Plan your play.

Answer to play problem:

If you can see no answer, but the losing club finesse, back off and review the bidding! If West draws trump and takes a club finesse, North wins and cashes his diamond ace to beat the slam one trick.

Since North is known to hold the outstanding high cards, West can maneuver North into a losing position.

Rough the opening lead in dummy with the ♥A and lead a heart to the king. A low diamond is led to dummy's king and North must duck. (If he wins, West can later unblock his ♦Q before pitching his losing club on dummy's ♦K)

So North ducks and West returns to his hand with the trump queen to pitch two diamonds on West's high spades. Now West forces North on lead with the ♦Q. North must offer a ruff and discard or lead away from his ♣K. Either way West has his 12th trick.

This is an advanced form of the famous Morton's Fork Coup (a play where declarer maneuvers an opponent into a losing position by leading through the opponent's ace - if the opponent wins his ace he immediately gives declarer an extra trick - if he ducks his ace, declarer pitches away his loser in that suit and develops an extra trick elsewhere). Here we perform the coup and execute a throw-in for the extra trick.

Yauheni's 'Play Problem' in the October Alert was another advanced form of the Morton's Fork Coup. After cleverly figuring out which opponent to coup, he used a roughing finesse for the extra trick.

CHOICE AND ITS OTHER STRANGERS

Mike Ma

Happy New Year! After two articles on bidding, I thought I would write one on declarer play. Occasionally my partners do let me play the hand you know. My title for this article is borrowed from the 70's movie "Love and Its Other Strangers" -- it featured the song "For All We Know" made famous by the Carpenters. Below are 4 declarer problems, with the solutions to follow. In all cases, you are S and declarer. If it makes any difference, assume you are playing IMPs.

1) You hold ATxx opposite K9xx in dummy (North) in the trump suit and need to play for zero trump losers to make your contract. When you lead small from your hand, W plays the Q. After taking the K, you play a trump from dummy, and E plays low, do you play the A or do you finesse the 10? What is your relative chance of success?

2) You open a gambling 3N with 7 running C's (no outside A or K by agreement), and play it there. W led the A of S, and N came down with a nice dummy for you: Kxx, KJ, Axxxx, xxx. Obviously W has led the A of S so as to take a look at dummy --defending a gambling 3NT always lead a high honor card, such as an A or K. As expected, she now switches to a low heart. Do you play the J or the K with two or three small in your hand? What is your relative chance of success?

3) You open 1N (15-17 HCP) with KQTx, AJx, AQx, J9x. Your partner invites with 4N, and you bid 6N. W led the 8 of D, seemingly top of nothing. Dummy is J9xx, K9x, KT9, AKQ. You have a combined 34 points with 10's and 9's, but because of the matching 4333 distribution, you only have 11 tricks (3S, 2H, 3D and 3C). You will need to find the Q of H after knocking out the A of S. When you play spades, W wins the second round and plays back a spade. You play out the other suits to get additional information, and find that W started with 3334 distribution and E 2443. Opponents discarded well, and they both kept 3 H's after you played out the other suits. Do you finesse W or E for the Q of H, and what is your relative chance of success?

	J9xx	
	K9x	
	KT9	
	AKQ	
Axx		xx
?xx		?xxx
xxx		xxxx
Txxx		xxx
	KQTx	
	AJT	
	AQx	
	J9x	

4) Same as #3 above, except E had the A of S so W has xxx, ?xx, xxx, Txxx. W made the same lead of the 8 of D. Play goes the same.

Solutions

Hand 1) You take the finesse and the relative probability of this succeeding over playing the A is 2:1, i.e. ~ 67%. At this point you know W either started with QJ doubleton (you should play the A) or Q singleton (you should finesse). It may seem that these two possibilities are equally likely but they are not. With singleton Q, W had no choice but to play the Q on the first trump trick, but with the QJ doubleton, she might have played the J or the Q. So the fact that she played the Q reduced the probability of her having the QJ. This is known as the "Principle of restricted choice" (PoRC), and this hand is a canonical example of it. The 2:1 success stated above assumes W will play the J or Q randomly holding the QJ doubleton. If she always plays the J from QJ, then your relative success rate is 100% since by playing the Q she denies the J. If she always plays the Q from QJ, then you are back to 50% as half the time she will have QJ and half the time she will have the singleton queen. So if you finesse, your relative success rate will never be worse than 50%.

Hand 2) You should play E for the A, and so play the J with a relative success rate of 2:1 or ~ 67%. This is another PoRC situation. If E has both the AQ, it does not matter what you do. So the only relevant configurations are when E holds the A or the Q but not both. Although it seems that it is equally likely for E to have the A vs. the Q, PoRC again tells you this is not so. If W started with both A of S and A of H, it was equally likely that she would lead one of the aces, so the fact that she led the A of S reduces the chance of her having the A of H by half. In hand #1, the choice is about two equivalent cards in the same suit, while here it refers to two equal cards in different suits.

Hand 3) Since E has 4 H's to W's 3, you may think it is 4:3 for E to have the Q over W. Nevertheless, you should finesse W for the H Q because of PoRC. If W had started with xxx in both H and D, he would just as likely have led a H or a D. Since he led a D instead of H, it decreases the chance of him holding xxx in H and thereby increases the chance of him holding the Q. In fact, the ratio of W vs. E having the Q is $2 \times (3/4) = 3/2$, i.e. there is a 60% chance that W has the Q. This example is more complicated than the previous two because we have to combine PoRC with the relative number of H's in the two hands.

Hand 4) This time W has 3 top of nothing suits to lead from if he does not have the Q of H and only 2 if he does. So if you finesse him for the Q, your relative success rate will be $(3/2) \times (3/4) = 9/8$, i.e. ~53% if you finesse W. So it is almost even whether you play him or E for the queen.

Hopefully you have figured out that the title of this article refers to the "choice" in PoRC. Often you are told to not worry about why PoRC works, just accept that it does. Personally, I think one needs to understand the logic behind PoRC in order to apply it properly in situations beyond the canonical case of hand #1. I leave you with this "real life" problem. You are in a game show where you win a Rolls Royce if you pick the correct box out of three. You pick box A. The host opens box C to show that C is not the winning box and offers you the chance to switch to B. Should you?

NOT Points....

Gayle Keaney

Master points. Who is it that doesn't love 'em? Not many of you duplicate players out there, I betcha. Let's face it, they tell us how we're doing. And most of us would like to at least make Life Master (misnomer as it admittedly is!) I won't go into all the pros & cons & opinions of the master points game - those are discussed ad-infinitum monthly in the *Letters to the Editor* of the *Bridge Bulletin*. What I want to do is tell you a little about extra point games.

1st let's state up front - extra points games cost players extra \$\$\$\$..... usually \$1, all of which goes to the ACBL, not to the Director and not to the Club. Some of these extra monies are then restricted as to how they can be spent by the ACBL. These specific-purpose extra points games are the ones of interest here. Why? Because any and all games played at the club can be extra-pointers.... and extra points games often award as much as 3 times the regular points.

There are 3 specific-purpose games that can be held:

A Junior Fund Game (February is Junior Fund Month). Your extra dollar is limited to helping keep the youth programs going.

An International Fund Game (September is International Fund Month). Your extra dollar is limited to defraying expenses of North American Teams in international competition.

A Charity Fund Game (April is Charity Month). Your extra dollar goes to various charities. During the months of February, April & September only the specific fund-named games can be offered. During the remaining 9 months any of the 3 fund games can be held at any time not already 'booked' by some other special game (e.g. Club Appreciation Game).

The authority to designate games as one of the 3 Fund games rests with the holder of the sanction with ACBL for the game. The Tuesday evening sanction is held by the club and therefore the Board of Directors decides when to make any of these games extra-pointers.

Many of the other regularly scheduled games are sanctioned to that game's regular Director.

The Board of Directors has appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to gather information on the feasibility of more extra point games. This is why all Tuesday night games this past September were made extra-pointers and why we may set aside another month to do the same. We will be putting out a questionnaire probably within the month to get your input. So fill it out & make sure you have your say and ask your questions.

LIBRARY NOTICE

It has been the best of years, it has been the worst of years for the club library. At the beginning of 2009 I initiated the Library Honor System with the display. The purpose was to make our library books more easily available to members....and that worked... resulting in at least a quadrupling of books loaned out to those of you who honored the system.

Unfortunately, a thorough inventory of the library at year's end has turned up the disabuse of this honor system. At least 14 books purchased over the last 2 years were taken from the display without a loaner card or a note having been left. This represents almost a full year's library budget. 2 or 3 I could have lived with... not 14+!!!!

Therefore, the library will revert to it's old, not very user-friendly system of either contacting me or getting a key from the Director when you want a book.

Here is a list of the missing books. If you have any of them please return them to the Copier Room on the top of the far cabinet where the Return Books Here sign is:

Bridge: Step by Step Card Play Notrump by Berthe/Lebely
Learn to Play Winning Bridge by Bird
Somehow We Landed in Notrump by Bird
Bridge Lessons at a Glance by Granovetter
Movie Guide for Bridge Players by Granovetter
Bridge Basics - Popular Conventions by Grant
Bridge Basics 1: An Introduction by Grant
2 Over 1 Game Force by Grant/Rodwell
Improve Your Bidding Judgement by Kimelman
Innovative Slam Bidding by Landow
The Setting Trick by McCance
Make the Winning Bid by Ringel
Advanced & Duplicate Bridge Student Text by Silverman
Master Solver's Club by Vine

Asking Questions at the Table

By Amy Fisher

Questions, questions, questions!! Everyone wants to know what is going on. When we play sanctioned bridge, it is our obligation to give our opponents full disclosure of our bidding and defensive methods. This obligation is the reason that we fill out a convention card. When we make a bid that has a nonstandard meaning, we "alert" our opponents that something unusual is happening. We also must "pre-alert" very unusual methods and agreements, like leading low from a doubleton on opening lead.

It gets sticky, of course. Why else would I have a column to write? So let's get some things straight.

First, no matter what your partnership agreement is, you have the right to deviate from it whenever you want. No problem. If you deviate often with the same partner, then you have formed a new partnership agreement (implicit), which typically must be either written on your card or conveyed to the opponents. The idea is that your partner knows something about your style of deviation from the normal that the opponents have the right to know, too. For example, "1NT is 15-17 points but my partner has opened/often opens 1NT with the right 14 points".

You also have the right to make a mistake. In this context, you can forget or misinterpret or completely mess up an agreement that you and your partner have with no penalty. Up to a point though. When Joe and I first started using 'top-and-bottom' cue bids instead of minor-suit-Michaels (showing both majors), we played in a tournament, and sure enough, I forgot an alert. The director was called and he said, "You are allowed to make a mistake, but don't make it again. If you can't remember your system, take it off your card." If you play a system, you are obligated to learn it. Also, in the case of a failure to alert, the opponents may be awarded match points, if the failure caused opponents to take the wrong action.

You are supposed to know your bidding system. What do I mean by that? Well, if you play Standard American, or 2-over-1, or any other system, you are supposed to know what bids mean: if they are forcing, non-forcing, natural, how many points promised or denied and such. For example, say you are playing Standard American or 2-over-1, and this is the auction: You: 1 spade, LHO: 2 clubs, Partner: 2 diamonds. If you allow that partner has fewer than 10 HCP, you have a non-standard agreement. The opponents have the right to know this through an alert.

What am I getting to? No one wants to get FIXED. For some reason, getting a zero because of an off-the-wall action by an opponent feels worse than getting a zero for any other reason. And no one wants to get fixed. Experienced players don't like to get fixed - they have to beat other higher flight players and they know they have a reduced chance if a lower flight player "fixes" them and then gives a top to the other flight A opponent. Double whammy! Players that have less experience don't like to get fixed either or like getting intimidated into a fix. Some

experienced players do not disclose enough weakening the success chances of less-experienced opponents.

To solve these problems, we ask questions, sometimes worsening the ethical dilemmas at the table. Let's go over the way to ask and answer questions so that everybody is happy and bridge is played as a "fair" sport.

First, don't ask a question during the auction unless you are planning on making a call other than Pass. Why? Well, there are a lot of reasons. First, it slows up the game; you or your opponent might need that time later to solve a tricky problem - and that's the real reason we play the game. Second, it gives everyone at the table knowledge that you are (overly?) interested in one particular bid. Asking questions when you have "nothing to do" in the auction is coffee housing and puts partner into many ethical dilemmas. "What is 2C?" after a Drury auction which is alerted is the oldest dirty trick in the book asking partner to lead clubs. So are questions after a Blackwood response. Third, it allows good partnerships a subtle advantage - even though they are supposed to be 'deaf' to partner's explanation, it is confidence building to hear your partner explain your bid just perfectly. Now, on to slam!

But, you say, I need to know the information before I can play or defend the hand. If you are the declarer, ask before you play to the first trick. If you are the opening leader, ask before you choose your opening lead. **If you are the partner of the opening leader, ask after your partner has chosen his opening lead.** If you ask before she leads, you have given her unauthorized information; and she should not base her lead on your question.

1. Best is to lead face down and protect your partner by asking them "Any questions" partner. This is the recommended ACBL standard.
2. If you ask about an auction, make it a general question. It might be better to say, "Please review the auction and give explanations of alerted bids," rather than, "What did the heart bid mean?"
3. Don't say, as partner to the opening leader, "No questions, partner," before he has chosen his lead, or, conversely, "Make your opening lead face-down partner," because when you do or don't say these things, partner now knows something different than usual is going on.
4. In response to a question during the auction naming the convention is typically not in the spirit of giving complete disclosure. Rather than say, "It's Michaels," it is much better to say, "It shows both majors, at least 5-4, and if it is 5-4, then we guarantee 5 hearts."

And what if you don't know the answer? That's fine, too. In response to a yes-or-no question, you can say, 'Yes', 'No', 'I don't know', 'We have no agreement.' And, for those who feel intimidated by questions, you are under no obligation to give information about standard bidding calls. How about the example cited above: You: 1 spade, LHO: 2 clubs, Partner: 2 diamonds. If the opponents start asking about the diamond call, and you play standard bidding, you may say, "It's standard." If they say, how many points does it promise? You may respond, "We play Standard American." If they push you, you can say, "10 or more." If they say, is it forcing? Say, "Yes." And smile. If they start asking again later about another standard bid, call the director (nicely). Explain that you have already had to

explain one standard bid to the opponents, and you don't see the need in explaining all these standard bids, after all, these opponents are the experts (!).

Finally all players that have more experience (whether expert or not), understand that newer players may not completely know their bidding system. They may not know if a bid is forcing or not. Their mission is not to give you fixes! Give them a break. Ask one question. When you see that they are at sea, don't ask any more just to get them upset. When you see that they are uncomfortable, explain what full disclosure is all about; call the director over so that they don't feel like you are taking advantage. And chill out! Inform them only to the level of necessity, and don't give unsolicited lessons. Did you get the idea that a newer player complained to me about intimidating behavior? I thought you did! ☺

Board of Directors Meeting December 7, 2009

Members present: John Burpee, Debbie Cummings, Patti English, Gayle Keaney, Everitt Kitchen, Adrienne Netherwood, Potter Orr, Mike Purcell, Chris Schwartz, AJ Stephani, and John Stoppiello.

Members Absent: Betty Hurst, Barb Levinson and Jean Sturtevant. **Guests:** Incoming Board Member Patrick Hoffman and incoming Treasurer, Anirudh Pandit.

1. Chris Schwartz reported that 106 tickets have been sold for the Holiday Party.
2. President Orr and the board thanked departing board members (Patti English, Betty Hurst, and Adrienne Netherwood) for their service, and encouraged them to attend whenever they get bored or lonely.
3. The board also gave thanks for an abbreviated report from the diligent and hard working education committee.
4. Gayle Keaney reported on her proactive efforts to retrieve past due books for the library
5. Potter Orr provided board members a bound booklet containing the Policies and Procedures, plus Job Descriptions that have been generated in 2009, many at the urging of VP John Burpee.
6. The board passed a motion to provide Tanya Kirkland our cleaning service specialist an increase of \$100 in the level of bonus provided to her in December 2008. The bonus level was \$400 in 2008.
7. The board passed a motion made by John Burpee to continue our lease for rental of the UAW Hall for 2010.
8. The board passed a motion to submit a bid to the District for our Unit to conduct the NAPs in 2010 with fees we will charge to the District quoted about 5% higher than those for 2009. Adjustments to the fees are to be made as deemed justified by the Treasurer and Sectional Chairperson. There was one dissenting vote to the motion.
9. Adrienne Netherwood reported that our contract with the cleaning service, Coverall, renewed automatically in October. Potter Orr will follow-up to evaluate changes the board may want to make in the contract.
10. A.J. Stephanie discussed the Contract/Agreement he has written for use between the CBA board and Club Game Managers. The board agreed to distribute it to

the Club Game Managers and Directors requesting their comments.

The following officers were elected to serve for 2010.

President: Potter Orr
Vice President: A.J. Stephani
Recording Secretary: Everitt Kitchen
Treasurer: Anirudh Pandit

The board requested that Potter Orr reappoint Sandy Orr as Unit Secretary. Potter asked that board members inform him of their preferences for committee assignments.

Everitt Kitchen (recorder)

Winter Class Schedules Now Complete

All at CBA unless noted otherwise

Fundamentals I – Beginner by Linda Wolber
Sat 10am-12pm – Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27

Fundamentals II – Review of the Basics by Linda Wolber
Thurs 7-9pm - Jan 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25

Intermediate I by Rob Weidenfeld
Mon 4-6 pm – Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1, 8, 15

Intermediate II by Nancy Sachs
Sat 10am-12pm – Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27

Introduction to Modern Bridge: The Club Series by Bob Veverka
Wed/Mon 6:45-9 PM, Feb 3, Feb 8, Feb 10, Feb 15, Feb 17, Feb 22

The Next Step: Introduction to Modern Bridge II by Bob Veverka
Sunday 6:30-8:45 PM Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7, +

Thinking Declarer Play by Joe Fisher
Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45 AM, January 28, February 4, 11, 25, March 18

Beginner/Intermediate Update by Helen Ogle
Monday 10-12 AM, Jan 25 to Feb 15,
MERCY HEALTH PLEX, FIVE MILE AND
STATE ROAD, ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans?

Yauheni Siutsau

These hands are adapted from a Polish bridge magazine. Can we do better than the East Europeans? You're in 6♠. Opening lead is ♦Q. Can you avoid 2 trump losers? Good luck.

	♠ Q92		
	♥ AK54		
	♦ AK32		
	♣ K2		
♠ AJ87	N	E	♠ -
♥ 876	W		♥ QJ109
♦ QJ109			♦ 876
♣ 109			♣ QJ8765
	♠ K106543		
	♥ 32		
	♦ 54		
	♣ A43		

Solution: Play ♦A, ♦K and ruff a diamond. Next ♥A, ♥K and ruff a heart. Now ♣A, ♣K and ruff last diamond. In position (lead from S):

	♠ Q92		
	♥ 5		
	♦ -		
	♣ -		
♠ AJ87	N	E	♠ -
♥ -	W		♥ 9
♦ -			♦ -
♣ -			♣ QJ8
	♠ K106		
	♥ -		
	♦ -		
	♣ 4		

Play a club. **W** will ruff with ♠7 and you'll overruff with ♠9. Play ♥5 from dummy and ruff with ♠K. If **W** will duck you'll play spade to the Q, if **W** will play ♠A, he'll be end played.

IMPs, Vulnerable all. Dealer S.

	S	W	N	You
	1NT*	pass	3NT	pass
	pass	pass		*15-17

	<i>Dummy</i>
	♠ 10x
	♥ 10xx
	♦ A10xxxx
	♣ Ax
	<i>You</i>
	♠ 98x
	♥ AJxx
	♦ KJx
	♣ 98x

Opening lead: ♠2 (standard carding, 4th best leads). Declarer wins ♠10 and plays ♦A (♦Q

from W) and small diamond (you partner discards small heart). Plan your defense.

Solution : Count points first. You can see 17HCP, declarer has 15-17. Partner has 40-17- (15-17) = (6-8) HCP. 2HCP he's already shown (♦Q). He has 4-6 HCP left. First impulse is to play spade back and hope for AQ or KJ in partner's hand. But you should use all information you have from the play. We "know" already number of HCP in **W** hand. It's time to think about distribution.

♠2 (opening lead) shows 4 cards exactly and partner has one diamond (♦Q). Can partner have 5 cards in hearts? No, because **S** cannot have stiff heart (1NT opening bid). Can partner have 5 cards in clubs? It's possible. But why didn't he lead a club then? So chances are that W's shape is 4414. That means **S** has only 2 hearts.

Now defense is obvious. Despite partners signal discouraging a heart, you should play small heart in trick 4. When you get in with your ♦K, cash the ♥A and 2 more hearts. The full deal:

		♠ 10x	
		♥ 10xx	
		♦ A10xxxx	
		♣ Ax	
♠ QJxx	N	E	♠ 98x
♥ 9xxx	W		♥ AJxx
♦ Q			♦ KJx
♣ Jxxx			♣ 98x
		♠ AKxx	
		♥ KQ	
		♦ xxx	
		♣ KQ10x	

Yes, partner pitched small heart (discouraged) but that was the right thing to do. As you can see any other pitch by partner gives declarer 9 tricks.

End Played

Kim accompanied Jim, her bridge partner, to the doctor's office. After his checkup, the doctor called Kim into his office alone. "Jim is suffering from a very severe stress disorder. If you don't follow my instructions carefully, he will surely die. Never point out any mistake he makes. Be pleasant at all times. Don't burden him with conventions and bidding systems. Always give him a hug when he feels down. And never discuss the hands. If you can do this for the next few months, I think Wayne will regain his health completely." On the way home, Jim asked Kim, "What did the doctor say?" "He said you're going to die," she replied!!

Cincinnati Bridge Center Games

Day/Time		Club	Director	Telephone
Monday	11:00 am	Deschappelles (private)	Pat Newman	513-469-7172
	7:00 pm	Homestyle & 0-99 duplicate	Mike Lipp	513-467-8054
Tuesday	11:00 am	Tuesday AM Stratified (Last Tues. of month, stratified Swiss)	Annease Comer	513-281-2027
	7:00pm	CBA Stratified*	Bob VeVerka 1st Kay Mulford 2nd/3rd Peggy Barrett 4th	772-5115 631-8070 745-0075
	7:00 pm	Newcomers 0-50	Tom Deddens	851-3857
Wednesday	11:00 am	Homestyle*	Kay Mulford	631-8070
Thursday	11:00 am	Thursday Stratified	Agnes DeLany	513-777-2587
	7:00 pm	0-299 section & Open game	Annease Comer	513-281-2027
Friday	11:00 am	Finesse Club	Kay Mulford	513-631-8070
	11:00 am	Non-Life Master	Mike Lipp	513-467-8054
Saturday	1:00 pm	Saturday Stratified (1st/3rd/5th)	Annease Comer	513-281-2027
		Saturday Stratified (2nd/4th)	Kay Mulford	513-631-8070
Sunday	1:30 pm	Sunday Afternoon	Rob Weidenfeld & Mike Lipp	513-467-8054

NANCY'S ANSWER

It is best to be declarer on this hand but you have to play the hand carefully. West has to decide on whether to lead his/her fourth best spade (6S) or to lead the KD. Our class was divided on which lead was best. Some thought that that they would save the diamonds as possible entries and led their fourth best spade. Others thought it was best to lead the KD to avoid leading from the A-Q tenace in spades. Nancy recommends that West lead his/her fourth best spade. Regardless of the lead, South can make the contract.

If West leads the 6S, South will win with the TS in his/her hand. South can count 8 sure tricks: 1 spade, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs. The club suit offers the only opportunity for additional tricks. But, South must keep East out of the lead to avoid a lead through his/her K-J tenace in spades. So, the best play is for South to cross to dummy with the KC, lead a low club, and cover whatever card East plays. West will win the club trick, but the best he/she can do is cash the AS to hold South to 10 tricks: 1 spade, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 4 clubs.

If West leads the KD, South holds up the AD on the first trick. West must then shift to a spade to avoid giving South the JD. After the spade shift, the hand is played the same.

Plan Ahead (at CBA)
Deschappelles Open Game:
Jan 18, Feb 15, 11 AM
Team Games: Jan 21 7PM,
Jan 26 morn
ACBL Senior Game Feb 22, 1 PM



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Upcoming Tournaments

Jan 13-17	Cleveland regional
Jan 30-31	GNT District Final
Feb 5-7	Louisville sectional
Mar 1-7	Indianapolis regional
Mar 8-13	District 11 STAC
Mar 11-21	Nationals – Reno
Mar 26-28	Columbus sectional
Apr 12-18	Gatlinburg Regional
Apr 23-25	Dayton Sectional
May 3-9	FLYING PIG REGIONAL CINCINNATI

Mon - Sat 3-8

Cincinnati Bridge Association
2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati,
OH 45241

