



Cincinnati Bridge Association

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

**NORM COOMBS
CINCINNATI'S 20,000 M.P. MAN**

By John Burpee

You may be surprised to learn that the first words uttered by Norman Coombs weren't "One No Trump" or "Double!" That didn't happen until he was in his mid-teens, growing up in Hamilton and his parents taught him how to play Bridge. "They both played, but it was my Dad, who was very good, and got me interested in Duplicate."

Bridge stayed on the sideline for college. Norm first went to Purdue on an athletic/scholastic scholarship. Golf was his game, until a disagreement with the golf coach sent him to Ohio State. All was well until the last quarter of his senior year when he "discovered" (his word) women, booze and bridge. "I needed an excuse not to go to class and that filled the bill!" He notes that the career paths of many great bridge players are much the same. Norm says that John Biddle taught him the most about bridge during his time at Ohio State. He's also played a good deal with two other aspiring players: Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell.

One of the hi-lights of his bridge career was winning the Life Masters Mens Pairs in 1978, the most prestigious pair's game at that time. His partner was Tom Hodapp, another Cincinnati. "Before that, I went to my first Nationals, in St. Louis in 1963, and got on a pick-up team. If we had won one more match we would have been in a three-way round robin for the championship."

More recently, there was another hi-lite. At the 2008 Dayton Regional, Norm entered five events (3 knock-outs and two Swiss teams). He won four and was second in the fifth, "for 125 points and change, my best regional ever."

Asked to compare today's game with how it was when he started, Norm says "Back then 5% of the players were very good; 5% were very bad. Today that's the same, but now the 90% in the middle are much better. That's because of better bridge education- on-line, articles in the Bulletin and newsletters, lectures, classes at local clubs. It makes winning a lot harder."

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On that subject, Norm says the most points he ever scored on a single hand was 2630- 6NT, doubled and redoubled. The most points he was ever set: 3400 down six, doubled and redoubled, which he quickly mentions is not the record.. And what was the best contract he ever made? He says it was six hearts, made on a trump coupe at a Gatlinburg Regional several years ago. (See the next ALERT for a description of that hand).

The CBA is proud of its 20,000 point man. Congratulations, Norm. May you continue to ask, "Why should we let them go down, when we can?"

Normisms:

"I've seen worse" when dummy is tabled (it does not matter what you put down).

"We have no chance" when he brings a good scorecard to the table for comparison in a team of four event.

"Keep what you are looking at" when partner discards a card creating a trick (or a threat) in a long suit in dummy.

"That joke-plicator is at work again" when he loses a trick to the doubleton queen in a nine card fit.

"We lost to chairs?!?!?" on losing an event to lower flight players.

Summertime Blues

By Amit Raturi, Editor

We have two new columns for you this issue. First Mike Ma has a very simple and insightful suggestion on how to use Gerber better. Second, an anonymous writer reports on Kafkaesque happenings in the Cincinnati bridge world. For his/her safety we have chosen not to disclose who it is (Kafkaesque is an eponym used to describe situations "marked by a senseless, disorienting, often menacing complexity" (from Wikipedia)).

Amy Fisher has some important tips for ethical bridge. Weidenfeld's summary of fits and hand valuation has some cute ideas for new and intermediate players. For the advanced players is the Moese and Edminston piece on deeper finesse. And then there is, of course, Gayle's library report - the number of books being checked out of our library is at an all time high.

I think there are two kinds of bridge players: those that play the same game all the time and those that never play the same game. Disciplined and undisciplined. The logic of the disciplined player rests soundly on partnership understanding - if partner does not know what you are doing, they are likely to make mistakes they would not have made otherwise. The undisciplined player also has sound logic - what needs to be done at any time depends on many factors - opponents, state of the game (match), streaks (having finessed the wrong way every time so far let me try the opposite rule), and table feel such as the slight hesitation by LHO as you open a normal 1 heart.

Most good partnerships are built on sound discipline that yet leaves room for "performing". Performing is the art of adjusting to the existing conditions. You assess that you are having a 52% game (yes, being able to do that is also

part of bridge skill), so you pass a 14 point hand with no aces. If you miss your cold game or slam - no problem, the average minus puts you at 50.7% and you slip from 4th to 6th. If the opponents get into trouble, you just moved the partnership from an eventless 4th to 1st place with 58.4%.

I hope we all do well in the upcoming nationals and Dayton regional. Send me an email (letters to editor could be a regular column) on any aspect of bridge or Alert (amit.raturi@uc.edu). And have a Great summer....

Winners of the Winter Bidding Contest

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Stephen Moese | 43 |
| 2. Rob Weidenfeld | 42 |

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.

SUMMER BRIDGE LESSONS

INTERMEDIATE

Saturday mornings 10:00 AM - Noon
July 18 & August 15 - Supervised Play

ADVANCED

Friday mornings 9:00 - 10:45 AM

Two Over One Workshops

August 14 and 21

Fees: \$60 for 4 classes or \$17.50 per class

INFORMATION and/or RESERVATIONS

Nancy Sachs 561-1766, or nspp@fuse.net

Matt Granovetter has 10,000 POINTS

Matt Granovetter has recently been at the Nationals working on adding to that total
CONGRATULATIONS, Matt.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE FITS?

By Rob Weidenfeld

E-mail: elliedad@cinci.rr.com

Your partner holds KJxxx, AKxx, Q109x, void. You hold either

#1 AQxx, xx, xxx, KJxx OR

#2 AQxx, xx, KJx, xxxx

The K and J of clubs have been moved to the diamond suit in the second example; the point count is still the same. But the worth of the second hand is much higher than the first. Why?

With the first hand you have at least two losers in a spade contract. At best you will be able to make 5S on favorable distribution. But on a bad distribution, you may not even make 4! Compare that to the second hand where you have only one clear loser in a spade contract (the diamond ace). In the first hand you may only make 4S whereas in the second hand, with exactly the same point count and distribution, you are probably cold for 6!

Here is what the Official Bridge Encyclopedia says about "fit:"A term referring to the effectiveness of two partnership hands in combination; usually a factor only in suit contracts. Once a trump suit has been established, an effective crossruff can be established if there are singletons or voids in the partnership combined holdings."

Your hand is a dynamic entity. The hand you pick up when the bidding starts may not be the hand you wind up with when the bidding is over. It changes after every round of bidding. It goes up in value when you have a fit. It goes up in value even more when you have a double suit fit. Similarly, each time your partner bids suits that you are short in, your hand decreases in value. This is known as a misfit. Misfits are not good to possess

When you have a misfit, get out of the auction as soon as possible. Your hands will need more than game values in order to make a game than the normal 26 HCP. This is why it is wrong to count distributional points when you have singletons or voids but you have not yet heard from partner.

Here's the simple symmetry of this notion: When you have a fit, so do the opponents. When the fits are discovered, that's when you have a spirited auction. Both sides bid like they have a million points, when all they actually have is a good fit. Further, when you have misfit, so do they. If they are competing, let them play the hand. When you have a misfit, it is hard to make anything. But if you can't, they can't either.

A secondary point to consider is this: If your side does have a fit and you happen to hold a void in a side suit, if partner has four cards in that suit, what would be the best holding for him to have?

A tertiary point to consider is this: Among the reasons it is wrong take a call when you have a strong holding in the suit that has been opened on your right is you need to find out if they have a fit. If they do, then it is much safer to come into the auction, even at a later level. If they don't have a fit, it is dangerous to enter the fray, now or later. Pass and see what happens!

The final point I like to make is something my students have heard me say multiple times. I ask them, even if you have a fit, and you happen to know that your partner is void in a certain side suit, what would your perfect holding be in that side suit? The answer is nothing, nada, no high card points. That way all of your cards are working for you.

New Life Masters

Dorothy Gard
Janice Austerman

Junior Life Master
Chris Schwartz

Club Life Master
Dennis Claussen
Kim King
Lorene Kohlan

Sectional Life Master
Roseline Gartner
Susan Wisner

Regional Life Master
Randall Rubenstein

NABC Master
Carl Willig

Bronze Life Master
Dorothy Gard

Silver Life Master
Adam Parrish

AmyAble Bridge

By Amy Fisher (amy.fshr@gmail.com)

When is the proper time to think during the play of the hand? Bridge, after all, is a thinking game. You are allowed to take time to think during the auction when it is your turn to make a call. You may even be thinking about future rounds of bidding. Partner is not allowed to make any inference from your thinking, though. But, during the play of the hand, there are some other guidelines.

Mike Lawrence has recommended ALWAYS hesitating before making your opening lead. Why? Partner can infer when you make a quick lead; you have a very good reason to make the lead you have. He can also infer when you make a slow lead; you may have problems that might become evident. This is another example of unauthorized information.

After the opening lead is made, take time to study dummy, review the bidding and make your plans about covering or not covering an honor. If Declarer plays to the first trick quickly, you have the right to ask for time to study the hand.

But, if you need time in the middle of the hand to think about future plays, you should never take time to think during the play to a current trick when the thinking is not about the card you are about to play. If you have a singleton, play it in tempo. If you need time to modify your defensive plans, ask for time AFTER the play to that trick is over. It is not enough to say, "Sorry, no problem," after you have hesitated in playing a card. If you have only small cards in front of dummy, play in tempo. Do NOT give declarer the impression that you have a problem playing to that trick. This behavior is worse than unauthorized information; it is unethical. "Coffee-housing" is okay in poker, not in bridge.

First example: A number of years ago, I kibitzed an experienced player who hesitated in taking a trick with his singleton Ace. He then made his lead to the next trick in tempo. He had it backwards. His hesitation before taking his Ace indicated that he was thinking about taking that trick and that he had at least one other card in that suit, not what his next lead would be.

A personal example: A few years ago, Joe and I were trying out a new signaling method. It took some time to figure out what we were doing and when we wanted to use the signals. One of the first times we tried it out was a Saturday club game. Jerry Fink was the Declarer, and when he led towards Dummy, Joe took his time to consider the ramifications of our signaling method with only small cards in the suit led. Of course, Jerry figured that Joe had a problem because of honor cards in the suit, and made his play from Dummy based on that. And of course, Jerry was rightfully dismayed when I turned up with the honors and not Joe. After the hand was over and Joe realized what had occurred, Joe made sure the Director knew of the damage and Jerry was given an adjusted score.

Some may say that the moral is never to let the opponents change the way you intend to play a suit based on their hesitations. But the better moral is, as a defender, do NOT hesitate during the play to a trick when you have no reason to think about that trick! And our second issue---Keep your hands where they belong!! Do I sound like your mother? I guess I've had a lot of practice; just ask my kids!

We know that we don't want to give our partner unauthorized information. It is just so difficult for partner to ignore the inference. So here are two guidelines we all need to practice:

1. **Don't reach for a card in the bidding box until you have your mind made up.**
2. **Don't pull a card from your hand during the play (as a defender) until you have made up your mind about which card to play.**

In the first case, everyone at the table, including your partner (unauthorized information) knows what your problem is. In the second case, everyone at the table, including your partner (UA, again!) knows that you have at least one more card in the suit. 'Nuff said.

Checkback Gerber

By Mike Ma

All of you are somewhat familiar with the Gerber convention. A jump to 4C after a 1NT or 2NT by partner is asking for the number of aces. Responses are in step: 4D shows 0, 4H shows 1 etc. Jumping to 4N over 1NT OR 2NT is not Blackwood if you play Gerber; it is a quantitative raise inviting opener to bid slam with a maximum.

Check back Gerber (CBG) is when you want to accept the invitation by partner in this sequence. However, you bid 5C to check for aces to make sure you are not off two bullets. Thus, 1NT-4NT-5C or 2NT-4NT-5C is check back Gerber and responder shows number of aces in steps: 5D shows 0, 5H shows 1 etc.

I will explain below the reason and necessity for this bid. I will assume the opening bid is 1NT showing 15-17 high card points (hcp), but the principle applies to any 1N range and 2N opening also. After a 15-17 1N opening, responder bids 4N to show a 16-17 point balanced hand typically (I will say something about that at the end of this column). Opener will always accept with 17 points because the two hands add up to 33, the magic number when you cannot be missing two aces. However, opener may have a hand with less than 17 hcp, but may want to upgrade to 17 with a source of tricks or good texture. For example, opener may have Qxx, Kx, JT, AKQxxx. Only 15 hcp, but you will have an easy time making 6N opposite partner's 1NT compared to many 17 point flat hands.

The problem is you may have an easier time going down too. When the two hands combine to have 33 hcp, you cannot be off two aces. Occasionally, the person on lead will have A and K in the same suit and set you off the top, but that is rare. When you upgrade, you may have only 32 or even 31 combined points, and may be off two aces. Since with at most one long suit, you won't have 12 tricks without knocking out at least one ace, good opponents will likely figure out to make the other ace and set you. Bidding 5C as CBG allows you to make sure you are not off two bullets when you upgrade. When you are, you can now bid 5N to sign off. You may wish to bid CBG even when you have 17 hcp. This allows responder to upgrade her hand to 16 and bid 4N with a source of tricks or good texture.

Note that just because you play CBG does not mean you have to use it every time. If at times you want to do an "Amit", you can just bid 6N and dare opponents to figure it out when you are missing two aces. Or you can double bluff by bidding CBG and then bid 6N even though you discover you are off two aces. Furthermore, with the right hand, you can even try for seven by asking for K with 6C.

Let me say something about the initial 4N jump raise showing 16-17 points. If you open 1N with 16 hcp, you would not know whether to accept, and will have to guess. Using CBG, you can at least make sure you are not off 2 A's when you accept with 16. Another option is that you bid 5N when you have 16, asking partner to bid 6 with 17. Yet another option is that responder bids 4N right away to show 16 and 4N after 2C Stayman to show 17 (or vice versa). Obviously, if you play that way, responder's 2C does not promise a 4 card major. So if it goes 1N-2C-2H-4N, opener will not know if responder has 4 S's. So if opener is 4-4 in the major and wants to accept the slam invitation, she may wish to bid 5S to check back for 4-4 S fit. Of course, if your agreement is that after 1N-2C-2H/S, 4N is key card Blackwood, you will have to change that too.

This simple gadget is easy to remember and use and may save you a critical match or a board in a tough event. Your comments are of course welcome.

DEEPER FINESSE II - A Deeper Look by Steve Moese & Jim Edminston

Let's take a 2nd look at this fascinating hand again. We can count 26 HCP, 7 tricks off the top (4♠, 1♥, 1♦, and 1♣), and has 2 dummy and 4 hand entries. Our options:

South Deals NS Vul		♠ A62 ♥ 63 ♦ Q6542 ♣ A82	
♠ 108 ♥ K95 ♦ K107 ♣ Q9654	N W 13 E S	♠ 9743 ♥ Q874 ♦ J98 ♣ K10	
		♠ KQJ5 ♥ AJ102 ♦ A3 ♣ J73	Deep Finesse: NS: 4NT
South 1N	West Pass	North 3N	East Pass
West Leads ♣5			

Extra Tricks:	p%	# Tricks we add	# Tricks they add
Double finesse in ♥	75	1	1
♦K onside	50	1	1
3-3 ♦, ♦K offside	18	2	2
4-2 ♦, ♦K onside	42	2	2
3-3 ♦, ♦K onside	18	3	1
Duck ♣A	6	1	0
Playing ♣A trick 1	6	1	0

The ♣5 opening lead is likely from 4 or more cards and implies no 4 card major. Defenders will usually lead high from xx(x). If ♣ split 4-3 (29%), they get 3 ♣ and we can lose one other trick. We can therefore discount 4-3 splits as a threat to the contract (Yes, we risk losing an overtrick). If ♣ split 5-2 (~15%), then they might get 4♣ and one other trick. **We must lose only 1 trick while adding the 2 tricks we need.** Otherwise, they set us before we make 9.

What do we play to the 1st trick? ♣x wins when the ♣KQ are with West or EW can take no more than 3 ♣ tricks, and loses when the honors are split. The ♣A wins when ♣ block or EW can take no more than 3 ♣ tricks. When both honors are with East, both win. Of all the 5-2 ♣ splits, 5% have split honors, 5% have both honors in West, and ~1% have both honors in East. How to play to the 1st trick appears to be a coin flip. The answer lies in the ♣5.

West	East	Ways	%	4th best 5	Ace wins	Low Wins
KQTxx	9x	3	2.2	0.33	0.0	0.7
KQTx	9xx	3	2.7	0.33	0.0	0.9
KQ9xx	Tx	3	2.2	0.33	0.0	0.7
KQ9x	Txx	3	2.7	0.33	0.0	0.9
KQxxx	T9	1	0.7	1	0.0	0.7
KQxx	T9x	3	2.7	0.33	0.0	0.9
KT9xx	Qx	3	2.2	0.33	0.7	0.0
KT9x	Qxx	3	2.7	0.33	0.9	0.0
KTxxx	Q9	1	0.7	1	0.7	0.0
KTxx	Q9x	3	2.7	0.33	0.9	0.0
K9xxx	QT	1	0.7	1	0.7	0.0
K9xx	QTx	3	2.7	0.33	0.9	0.0
QT9xx	Kx	3	2.2	0.33	0.7	0.0
QTxxx	K9	1	0.7	1	0.7	0.0
QTxx	K9x	3	2.7	0.33	0.9	0.0
Q9xxx	KT	1	0.7	1	0.7	0.0
Q9xx	KTx	3	2.7	0.33	0.9	0.0
T9xxx	KQ	1	0.7	1	0.7	0.7
T9xx	KQx	3	2.7	0.33	0.9	0.9
				10.4	6.5	

Club 5 is 4th best		
Ace wins	10.4	1.6
Low Win	6.5	

Odds 8:5 Ace wins!!!

When missing the ♣KQ109654, there are 64 relevant cases or ways these cards split between the opponents. When we require the ♣5 lead 4th best, an interesting picture appears. Only 19 cases of the 64 are relevant. Of these, **13 happen 1/3 as often because the ♣5 can only happen in one of three possible arrangements of the missing small cards (6, 5, 4).** [Say, KQ10xx: only xx = 54 is 4th best! -KQ1065, KQ1064, KQ1054]. 2/3 of the cases do not apply. The 4th best ♣5 also eliminates 6 and 7 card club suits from consideration!

Playing the ♣A to block the suit has a 60% advantage over playing low - a 8:5 odds of success. Who ever thought the answer was in the ♣5?

Deep Finesse uses double dummy information and not best bridge strategy to arrive at the maximum result. So it tells us only what we can make when we have perfect knowledge of defender's cards. Best bridge strategy takes study in complex hands like this - study that is almost impossible at the table.

2009 Mentee-Mentor Games By Annease Comer

Thursday Evenings at 7PM at the CBA has been the home for the 2009 Mentee-Mentors, a thriving program of "bridge enthusiast" chaired by Betty Hurst, Jean Sturtevant, John Stoppiello and Mike Lipp. The 2009 Mentee-Mentor Kick Off Game and the Free game sponsored in the Mentee/ Mentor program have been huge successes.

At the May 14, Kick-Off game; the agenda included lots of good food, door prizes, drinks, hospitality, great manners, and bridge. The winners of the Kick Off 31.5 table event were: 1st Carol Macksey/Jane Burpee; 2nd-Nancy Dever/Marilyn Braun; 3rd-Cordell Coy/Amitabh Raturi; 4th-Peter Carey-Yard and Frank Sensoli; 5th-Joanne Earls/Gerald Black; 6th-Carl Willig /Stephen Moese.

The winners of the 24 table Free Game, June 11, 2009 were: 1st-Sharon Krietzer/Laura Owens; 2nd- Steven Simon/Arun Goyal; 3rd-John Altman/Yauheni Siutsau; 4th-Judy Eilers/Barbara Thoman; 5th-Peter CareyYard/Frank Sensoli; 6th-Peggy Jerves/Sanderson Orr.

As can be seen on our website, other free games are scheduled for August 13 for program participants. Plan your partnerships NOW. During the very active portion of the Mentee-Mentor Program(May through September))there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm; however, even after the official program has its finale in September, players who come out and play on Thursday evenings and fit the mentee-mentor profile will be welcome to play in Strata C in the Thursday evening Open Game.

Thursday evening 7PM game has a spot for YOU: Two Separate games: Open game 3 strata; and a 0-299 game 3 Strata.. If necessary, we will help find you a partner. COME OUT AND FIND YOUR NITCH. EXCELLENT DIRECTORS; ANNEASE & MARVIN COMER (513-281-2027, 513-382-2214.)

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 (1st/3rd 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. 1st Tue Mike Lipp 513-4684111
2nd /3rd Kay Mulford 513-631-8070
4th 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 1st/3rd/5th Stratified Annease Comer 513-281-2027
2nd/4th Stratified Kay Mulford 513-631-8070

Sunday

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

The SECTIONAL is Coming!

The SECTIONAL is Coming!

The SECTIONAL is Coming!

The SECTIONAL is Coming!

OK! It's not until October. But mark your calendar and plan to attend the October 23, 24 and 25th "OCTOBERBEST."

It's Cincinnati's Fall Sectional and the District 11 North American Pairs Championship. It will be held at the UAW 647 Hall at 10020 Reading Road, Evandale (the same as last year). For more information, see the ad in this ALERT and watch for more details on the website (cincybridge.com), and at the CBC.

Questions, or to volunteer to help (please) contact John Burpee, Chair.
johnburp@fuse.net. 677-8240.

Bidding Contest Number 3

Email submissions to yauheni.siutsau@gmail.com and win free entries to club games!!

1. **IMPs** . WE vulnerable. Your hand (S) is : ♠ x, ♥ A9x, ♦ AKJ9xx, ♣ xxx

West	North	East	South
pass	1♥	2♠	3♦
pass	3♥	pass	?

(a) 3♠ (b) 4♦ (c) 4♥ (d) 4♠ Your call ?

2. **IMPs** . All vulnerable. Your hand (S) is : ♠ K10x, ♥ Ax, ♦ KQJxx, ♣ KQJ

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Dbf
pass	2♥	3♠	?

(a) Pass (b) Double (c) 3NT (d) 4♦ Your call ?

3. **IMPs** . NS vulnerable. Your hand (S) is : ♠ AQxx, ♥ AQx, ♦ 10xx, ♣ Kxx

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

(a) Pass (b) 3♦ (c) 3♠ Your call ?

4. **Matchpoints** . None vulnerable. Your hand (W) is : ♠ Ax ♥ 9xxx ♦ KJx ♣ AJ10x

West	North	East	South
		1♦	pass
1♥	2♥*	pass	pass
?			
* - nat			

(a) Double (b) 2NT (c) 3♣ (d) 3♦ (e) 3♥ Your call ?

5. **IMPs** . All vulnerable. Your hand (W) is: ♠ 7x ♥ A7xx ♦ QJ9x ♣ Q7x

West	North	East	South
		1♠	pass
1NT	pass	2♣	pass
2♠	pass	3♣	pass
?			

(a) pass (b) 3♦ (c) 3♥ (d) 3NT (e) 4♣ Your call ?

Results of the Bidding Contest

By Yauheni Siutsau

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♠ (f) other Your call ?

We have both minors and heart support. Unfortunately we know opponents have at least 9 spades and it seems like our life won't be easy here. Double is the most flexible bid. It shows minors and some tolerance in hearts. If LHO will bid 4S and partner does not double (for penalty) we can bid 4NT. If opponents will bid 3S only – we can bid 4H. If opponents will stay silent - we can show limit raise with only 3 card support in hearts (double-pass-1NT-pass-2H OR double-2S-pass-pass-3H).

A.J. Stephani : b) Double is more flexible, as it brings both minors into the picture. I will announce my heart support later, though I'm not particularly proud of it.

Second choice is 2S – limit raise or better in hearts. Normally 2S bid shows **balanced hand**.

Adam Parrish : e. – 2♠. My goal here is to give partner as much useful information as I can in one bid so that her life is easier after the expected 4♠ (for penalty) we can bid 4NT. This hand is much more than a nine-count in this auction, so I'm going to get my strength and support in with one bid...

Steve Moese : e. – 2♠. This hand has a good fit and game potential in partner's suit....My plan is to cue bid spades as a limit raise or stronger and see what partner does. If partner bids diamonds, I will cue spades again. If partner bids NT I will return to hearts cheaply – my hand just got less interesting. Otherwise I will put us in 4 hearts as I expect to make on any hand with no/little wasted values in spades.

2H shows only heart support and does not bring minors. Of course we can still bid 4NT later but if partner has spades it may not be smart to force her to play at the 5 level. 2D (or 2C) is one round forcing but it shows only one suit and says nothing about hearts.

Score (b) Dbl – 10 (e) 2S – 9 (d) 2H – 5 (c) 2D – 3 (f) other – 1 (a) pass – 0

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 ?

Precise auction is a tough problem when opponents preempt. Primary task is to find the best **game** contract in our best suit. 3S by partner is forcing and natural. What should we do? We have decent heart suit which allows us to play in even opposite partners shortage (4H bid). We also have second suit (diamonds) which is perfect if partner has 4-5 card support (4D bid). We have also some spade support (4S bid). If partner has something like AQxxxx x Axx xxx we more likely have 12 tricks in spades.

There is no right answer which bid is better but we think 4C is the best decision here. It should be interpreted as suggestion to play in **either major**. Partner can bid 4D if she has diamonds or 4H if she has support in hearts (Qx would be enough too) or 4S if she has no slam interest. Remember – we want to find our best game (not slam). 4C is already strong bid and if partner will signoff on level 4 we will pass.

4D bid is slightly better than 4H because it allows us to play in any suit. But if partner has something like 6133 – we probably will be in 5D.

4H bid hides diamond suit. Partner can have hand like 5152. **Actual partner's hand was AJ10xxx x QJx Kxx.**

Adam Parrish : c. – 4♦. I've got a two-suiter, so I'll show my second suit. I'm very interested in hearing what partner has to say, as we still have three viable strains. My great controls mean slam is still a real possibility if we have a fit, so I don't want to blast to 4 of either major, which will likely end the auction...

Steve Moese : 4 Diamonds. My Heart overcall is not forcing so partner has some values for 3 Spades. My hand just got very interesting because we only need the two pointed suit aces, and the spade Q with sufficient length in spades (or hearts!) in partner's hand to make 6 of a major. The best way to get there now is to bid out my pattern. I will bid 4 Spades over partner's 4 Heart call and 4 NT over partner's 4 Spade call. Playing 5 of a major is not all that bad if we are off 2 aces.

Score (b) 4C – 10 (c) 4D – 8 (d) 4H – 7 (e) 4S – 4 (a) pass – 0

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 ?

It is an interesting problem. We have 7 tricks but no club stopper. It seems like 3C bid solves all problems – partner will bid 3NT with club stopper and something else without one. But... lets think what negative double over 2C means.

- 1) Partner can have hand with only one major (f.e. Q10xx Kx xxxx Axx. She is going to bid 3D over 2H).
- 2) Partner can have hand with 5-4 in majors (f.e. QJxxx AJxx xx Kx)
- 3) Partner can have hand with only one 5 card major (f.e. AJxxx Kx Jxx xxx. She is going to bid 2S over 2D/2H).

Will partner bid 3NT over 3C with hands 1) or 2) ? It's a question of partnership agreements (as usual in bridge). But it would be wrong to blame partner for bidding major here. We would bid 3C with any strong hand with no clear bid (i.e. AKx Axx AQ10xxx x) , right? That's why we think (c)3D (invitational) is the best decision. Partner will bid 5 card major if she has one or 3NT with appropriate strength.(a) Pass is an interesting bid... if your partner is genius.

The bottom line is: **keep it simple. Actual partner's hand was Axxx Kxxx Jx Jxx**

Score (c) 3D -10 (b) 3C -6 (d) 2D/2S -2 (a) pass -1

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 ?

It's a great shame that we don't have appropriate bid to show a balanced 11 HCP hand with no spade stopper and no 4 hearts. However, we have to bid something. It seems like 1NT is the lesser of two evils (1NT or 2S). If partner has 11-14 HCP – she'll pass 1NT and we'll probably be fine (in worst case opponents will take 5 spades and 1 outside trick). If partner has strong (18+ HCP) hand – she'll bid something. If partner has balanced hand with 15-18 HCP and no spade stopper (otherwise she'd overcall 1NT) – it's too bad....

Adam Parrish : b. – 1NT. We're a little heavy for 1NT, but we don't have a spade stopper, so I'd call it a wash... ..No bid here is perfect – I absolutely will not bid 3♦ with this shape and that suit. 2NT is a huge overbid. 1NT might be a slight underbid, but it is the best description of the hand.

A.J. Stephani : B (1NT). Flat, balanced hand with 10-11 HCP. Partner will not likely put me in game without some semblance of a spade stopper himself, so no worries.

Steve Moese 1 No Trump (reluctantly). This is an ugly hand. On HCP a jump response is by the book, but the 3343 shape and the poor quality of the diamond suit make me look elsewhere to help partner... .. Since I like 1NT to be a little chunky here, I will choose that call even though I do not have a spade stopper. I have some (vanishing) hope partner might have a hand too strong for an overcall and will keep the bidding open....

2S bid is second choice here. What does it mean? It is a question of agreements (again!). Normally 2S bid shows at least invitational hand with 4 hearts. But it also can be used as **game forcing** bid asking partner to bid NT with spade stopper (hand like xx Kxx Kxx AQJxx). If you don't have exact agreements about further bidding (i.e. is 2NT/3C/3D/3H by partner forcing?) it's probably a good idea not to bid 2S here. 3D is an invitational bid which is OK in points but your suit is awful. Sometimes partner will have hand like xxx KQxx Ax KQxx. 2C/2D/2H – is an underbid. You'd bid this way with 0 HCP too. **Actual partner's hand was Kx KQxx Axx Qxxx**

Score (b) 1NT -10 (c) 2S -8 (d) 3D -3 (e) 2D/2H/2C -1 (a) pass -0

5. Matchpoints . WE 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 ?

Opponents preempt again. Fortunately we have a decent hand and both majors. Negative double on level 3 shows at least 9-10 HCP; therefore we have enough to be in game. We think (b) Double is the most flexible bid here. It shows extras (otherwise we'd pass 4D) and asks partner to bid her best major.

Steve Moese (b) Double. I have a very nice hand after partner's major-suit showing negative double... ..When they preempt and raise, my double cannot be on a trump stack – not logical. Instead I should either have an equal choice in the remaining suits, or good cards...

However, we have to admit that we'd double 4D with hand like KQx AKx xxx AKxx too. That's why the second choice is to bid 4H here. Unfortunately we'd also bid 4H with 1426 shape. What partner will bid over 4H with Kxxx Ax Kxx Jxxx ? She'll probably bid 5C...It seems like 5D will solve all problems – partner has to bid her major. But your hand is not strong enough to be on level 5 opposite average 10-11 HCP in partner's hand. In match points we want to take a plus score. It's a tough problem (as usual when opponents preempt). Probably the best decision here is to play **forcing** pass over 4D....
Actual partner's hand was Q9xx AJx xx K10xx

Score (b) Double - 10 (c) 4H - 9 (e) 5D - 6 (d) 4S - 2 (a) pass - 1

Winners

Steve Moese	(e) 2S - 9	(c) 4D - 8	(b) 3C - 6	(b) 1NT - 10	(b) Double - 10 43
Rob Weidenfeld	(b) Double -10	(b) 4C - 10	(b) 3C - 6	(b) 1NT - 10	(e) 5D - 6 42
A J Stephani	(b) Double -10	(c) 4D - 8	(b) 3C - 6	(b) 1NT - 10	(e) 5D - 6 40
Adam Parrish	(e) 2S - 9	(c) 4D - 8	(b) 3C - 6	(b) 1NT - 10	(e) 5D - 6 39



Cincinnati Fall Sectional

OCTOBERBEST 2009

Oct. 23, 24 & 25

**District 11
NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS
Oct. 24**

United Aerospace Workers Hall, UAW 647
10020 Reading Road, 45241

FRIDAY, (10/23)

Stratified Future Pairs (Stratified as warranted) 1PM & 7 PM
Compact Knockout – 1 PM- 1 & 2. 7PM 3 & 4

SATURDAY, (10/24)

FREE Continental Breakfast
5x5 Swiss Team (team MP average) 9AM
Stratified Open Pairs 1 & 7 PM
Strat Future Pairs (s.a.w.) 1 & 7PM

DIST. 11 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS 1 & 7 PM

Sectional pair games single sessions
(A-200-300 B-50-200 C-0-50)
Strat. Open Pairs (C-0-500 B-500-2000 A- 2000+) 1&7 PM

SUNDAY, (10/25)

Bracketed Swiss Teams (play through) 10:30 AM
(teams seeded into brackets based on average M.Ps)
FREE COFFEE & DONUTS 10:AM

Tournament Chair: John Burpee (513) 677-8240
Johnburp@fuse.net
N.A.P. Chair: Chris Schwartz (513) 530-5140
Pat Newman (513) 469 7172
Partnership Chair: Lorna Davis (513) 777-1760

Middletown Sectional

August 28-30, 2009,

Christ United Methodist Church,
(about 2 miles west of the Middletown, I-75 exit 32.
watch for construction at the interchange)

Friday, the 28th: 10:00am, 2:30 and 7:30pm.
Stratified NLM (200-300, 50-200, 0-50)
Open pairs (2000+, 750-2000, 0-750)
2-session Compact Knockout (2:30, 7:30pm)

Saturday, the 29th: 10:00am, 2:30, 7:30 pm.
Stratified NLM (200-300, 50-200, 0-50)
Open pairs (2000+, 750-2000, 0-750)
3-session Bracketed Knockout
(Seeding based on average MPs/player)

Sunday, the 30th: 12:30 PM
Bracketed Swiss Teams

Avoid arriving before noon to enable the church
goers to leave. Please respect their church.

Cost: \$9:00 per session
\$21 for the Sunday (includes a buffet)
Snacks, coffee and sodas will be sold throughout.
Smoking will only be permitted outside the
building, west entrance.

For more info, contact Dave Balsmeyer (513-422-
8928 or (barbbalsmeyer@cinci.rr.com)). For a
partner, contact Ernest Dalton & Bruce Walker
(937) 746-0777 (b2swalk@juno.com). Thank you for
your past attendance; we look forward to seeing
you again. Flvers should be available at the club.

The Real Deal

By Franz Kafka

(This series is non-fictional but the author has chosen to write under an assumed name for safety)

One well-known bridge team has decided to participate in Swiss teams competition. As it often happens, things went not very well. Our heroes needed victory in last 7-board match desperately.

Open room. Our heroes are NS.

IMPs All vul. Dealer E	♠ Qxxx ♥ x ♦ QJ9xx ♣ AKx	
♠ K1098x ♥ AQ10x ♦ A8xx ♣ -	N W E S	♠ x ♥ KJ7xx ♦ - ♣ J98xxxx
	♠ AJx ♥ 98x ♦ K10xx ♣ Q10x	

E	S	W	N
	Hero1		Hero2
pass(1)	pass	1♠	2♦ (2)
pass(3)	3NT(4)	pass	pass(5)
pass(6)			

Bidding commentary:

- (1) Not enough points to open
- (2) 'Not the best overcall but... We need IMPs !'
- (3) Not enough points to make a negative double or to bid 2♥
- (4) 'Who cares about heart stopper? We need IMPs !'
- (5) 'Hmm.. I wonder, -2 or -3 ? I hope they wont double us...'
- (6) Not enough points to do anything

Opening lead was ♠9. S put ♠Q from dummy and played ♦Q. E pitched a small club (standard carding). S has already started to make up some excuses for teammates in his mind for -200 score. Fortunately, W decided to be a nice guy. He played ♦A and diamond back(???). (If you trust your partner, ♣Q must be in declarer's hand . You can count his tricks: 2 spades + 4 diamonds + 3 clubs = 9. Therefore, you have only one chance to set 3NT - ♥K in partner's hand.) Pleased S quickly cashed all diamonds and clubs ending in dummy. In this position (lead from N):

	♠ xxx ♥ x ♦ - ♣ -	
♠ K10 ♥ A? ♦ - ♣ -	N W E S	♠ - ♥ ??? ♦ - ♣ J
	♠ AJ ♥ 98 ♦ - ♣ -	

S went into the tank. Maybe W has AK in hearts and will be end played for 10th trick? Finally S has remembered he is not playing match points and declined slim possibility of overtrick. He played ♠A and gave up. 'I don't think we can beat 4♥ here' - S murmured quietly writing down +600 for NS.

Let's look what happened at the other table.

Closed room. Our heroes are EW.

IMPs All vul Dealer E	♠ Qxxx ♥ x ♦ QJ9xx ♣ AKx	
♠ K1098x ♥ AQ10x ♦ A8xx ♣ -	N W E S	♠ x ♥ KJ7xx ♦ - ♣ J98xxxx
	♠ AJx ♥ 98x ♦ K10xx ♣ Q10x	

E	S	W	N
Hero3		Hero4	
1♥(1)	pass	1♠(2)	Db(3)
pass(4)	2♥(5)	6♥(6)	pass(7)
pass(8)	pass(9)		

Bidding commentary:

- (1) 'Who cares about points? We need IMPs !'
- (2) 'Wow! 1♥ by my partner? Why don't we try to bid slam scientifically? 1♠'
- (3) Takeout double
- (4) 'Please, partner, slow down ...'
- (5) 'Partner, I have around 10 HCP but no clear bid. Please bid your better minor.'
- (6) 'Well....Who cares about scientific bidding? We need IMPs !'
- (7) 'I have no idea what's going on. I pass'
- (8) 'Hmm.. I wonder, -2 or -3 ? I hope they wont double us...very unlikely though'
- (9) 'I have no idea what's going on. I pass'

S decided to lead **small** trump. After short consideration E played small heart from dummy winning first trick with ♥7. He ruffed a club with ♥A, played ♦A (getting rid of spade), ruffed a spade, ruffed a club with ♥Q and played ♥10 in this position:

	♠ Qxx ♥ - ♦ QJ9x ♣ A	
♠ K1098 ♥ 10 ♦ 8xx ♣ -	N W E S	♠ - ♥ KJx ♦ - ♣ J98xx
	♠ AJ ♥ 98 ♦ K10x ♣ Q	

E played K and J of hearts, conceded club and claimed. 'I dont think we can make slam on ♥8 or ♥9 opening lead' - E murmured quietly writing down +1430 for EW. Well done!

"Excellent" bidding + a little luck = deserved +19 IMP.

P.S. Unfortunately, our heroes have lost this match. Please dont ask me how that happend. Apparently, they were not so lucky in remaining 6 boards....

P.P.S. Bridge is fun game , isn't it?

Flying Buckeye



Regional



August 4-9, 2009

Sponsored by COBA (Columbus) and MVBA (Dayton) Bridge Associations

Hope Hotel and Conference Center

Next to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Gate 12A, Fairborn (Dayton), Ohio

Hope Hotel 937-879-2696 Bridge Rate: \$65.00 (Call by July 4)

See map at www.mvba.com

- **Tournament Co-Chairs**

Peter Wahl 937-296-1713 wahl3464@msn.com

Cheryl Schneider 614-804-4815 Jac2NT@aol.com

- **Partnerships**

Marilyn O'Connor 937-885-4395 wandmoconnorpb@yahoo.com

Linda Rice 614-846-1405 lrice39@wowway.com

- **199er Coordinators**

Skip and Jen Stiles skipjen42@msn.com

- **199'er/299'er Events** — All sessions stratified.

ACBL members with 0-5 points play free.

- **Free 199'er mixer following Wednesday AM session**

- **Free Lectures** - Between 10 AM and 2 PM Sessions

- **Daily Bulletin • Free Parking • Free Registration Stickers**

- **Side Series Pairs Events**

- **Senior Pairs Events**

- **Great Hospitality** — 9:00 coffee in Hospitality Room

Great snacks after evening session

From South: Take I-675 to Exit 17 (W.P.A.F.B.) Bear left (Rte 844) & follow W.P. A.F.B. signs for 1.5 miles. Exit on Rte 444 (Fairborn). Turn left at exit ramp (North) and go 0.3 miles to the light. Turn left toward Gate 12A and then an immediate right to Hope Hotel & Conference Center.

From North: Take I-675 to Exit 24(Rte 444). Turn right for 4.4 miles. Turn right toward Gate 12A and then an immediate right to Hope Hotel & Conference Center.

Stratified Open Events: Unlimited/2000/500

Stratiflighted Sunday Swiss: [A=3000+/A1=0-3000]

[B=1250-2000/C=750-1250/D=0-750]

Stratified 199'er/299'er Events

LIBRARY REPORT by Gayle Keaney

Here are the Library's latest new books..

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CARD PLAY TECHNIQUES AT BRIDGE by Guy Leve 2007

"... a compendium of more than 1000 types of stratagem, organized by theme, and progressing from the simplest finesse to the most complex squeeze....major sections (include) thinking techniques, special plays, coups and gambits, techniques specific to trump contracts, technical aspects of squeezes..."

2 OVER 1 GAME FORCE by Audrey Grant & Eric Rodwell 2009 By a premier bridge teacher and a top player & theorist this is the latest of Grant's Better Bridge Series. It "Introduces the basics of this popular variation of Standard American bidding methods.... Now considered mainstream by most players.... " Great for a first foray into 2 over 1.

TEAM TACTICS by Steve Bruno 2008

"... easy to understand tools to improve your chances of winning knockout teams, Swiss teams, compact knockout teams, IMP pairs and board-a-match team games...offers tricks and gadgets for giving your team a chance to defeat much stronger teams..."

(Librarian's note: as a novice-intermediate I did not find this book particularly helpful.)

SOMEHOW WE LANDED IN 6NT by David Bird 2009

The 1st half of this book contains 32 bridge hands bid & played by some of the finest ever bridge players....including Rodwell, Meckstroth, Mahood, Woolsey. There's Sam Lev's lead against 6NT, the world's worst 6NT contracts, Bidding 6Nt after a Psyche, Escaping from 6NT. "...Some are relatively easy, some will cause you to sit back in your chair for awhile."

The 2nd half of the book includes 6NT situations of Bird's various fictional characters.

WIN BRIDGE TOURNAMENTS WITH INNOVATIVE SLAM BIDDING by Irwin S.Landow 2009

Chapters include Signs to Explore for a Slam, Looking for a Slam with a Void or Singleton, Are You Using the Best 2 Club Convention?, Finding the Best Contract after Partner Opens 3Clubs or 3Diamonds. "... Learn to think outside of the box to find slams..."

RETURN OF THE BRIDGE PHILOSOPHER by James S.Kauder 2006 61 hands & stories.

Per the publisher Ron Graber's notes... "In his first collection of stories, The Bridge Philosopher proved to be brutally honest, self-deprecating, funny and good at explaining bridge. In this sequel, 30 years in the making, good old B.P. is as crotchety as ever, and just as funny. He has some things to say to the ACBL....he's still giving you insights into the reasoning process of a bridge expert."

BRIDGE BEHIND BARS by Julian Pottage & Nick Smith 2009

" There was a loud metallic thud as the outside door closed behind Timothy Newman. So this is my new home then, he thought. Prison, clink, the slammer. Prison is no place for an ordinary, law-abiding, middle class guy like me. But it turns out that prison life in Great Yarborough has a silver lining for Tim - Bridge. An expert player, he finds that his ability earns him unlooked-for respect amongst his fellow prisoners, many of whom pass their 'time' at the card table. This is a bridge novel filled with unusual characters and great deals - and a bridge game that gives new meaning to the term 'cutthroat'!"

(Librarian's note... I bet Warren Buffet reads this one!!)

A BRIDGE TO INSPIRED DECLARER PLAY by Julian Laderman 2009 (Newcomer/Intermediate)

" HELP, what do I do now? Every bridge player learns basic card play techniques - finesses, eliminations, endplays, loser-on-loser, and so forth. The trick is to know which technique to use on each particular deal. What features of a bridge hand lead an expert to select the correct line of play from all those available? The carefully chosen examples in this book will help advancing players recognize those features and take action accordingly."

DEADLY ENDPLAY by Ken Allen 2008

A Bridge Novel. " Does personality affect the way a person plays bridge? Of course. Can individual hands affect the lives of players? Less obvious but also true. In this mystery novel, the game of bridge and the mystery are closely interwoven." Author's Preface:Ian Fleming, in Moonraker, has James Bond deal the following bridge hand to the villain, Hugo Drax: AKQJ, AKQJ, AK, KJ9

You could play a lifetime without holding a hand this rich in high cards. Drax accepts it as his due, doubles Bond's grand slam in clubs and doesn't suspect he is being swindled until it becomes apparent that he is not going to take a single trick.

So what could his & his partner's hand been?

10987	----
6543	----
----	Q8765432
76532	AQ1084

MAKE THE WINNING BID by Howard Ringel 2009

Our own Howard is at it again with another new book. As he says in his introduction, " *The purpose of this book, rather, is to give newer and less experienced bridge players a look at the thought processes that an experienced player undergoes in selecting a call - a bid, a pass, double or re-double. Try to understand the thinking processes rather than to memorize the specific situations. Don't take notes, just follow the thinking.*" Each example includes the Situation Set-up, Options, Analysis, the Decision and Summary.

Upcoming Tournaments

Dayton

August 4-9

Louisville 299er

August 15-16

Middletown

August 28-30

Pine Mountain

September 18-20

Fort Wayne

September 21-27

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Visit us at:

www.cincybridge.com

Monday Night Homestyle is BACK!! and it is bringing a Friend

Starting July 20 at 7:00 PM (every Monday) there will be a HomeStyle game

This is a "party bridge" game where you play 4 "deals" at a table and the victory points are awarded by the difference between the total of both sides. It is relaxed and not "timed". You can come without a partner and we will pair you up with someone.

Also there will be a 0-99 game offered and the name of the club is the under 100 club. This will be a duplicate game with hand records and entry is limited to those folks with less than 99 masterpoints.

Both these games will be every Monday night and I look forward to seeing all there. If you need a partner for the 0-99 game please call Mike at 513-467-8054

Cincinnati Bridge Association
2860 Cooper Rd.,
Cincinnati, Oh 45241



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