



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

OCTOBERBEST 2009
Cincinnati Fall Sectional
Oct. 23, 24 & 25

PRICE CUT: \$8.00 PER GAME

District 11 **NORTH AMERICAN PAIR**
Saturday Oct. 24 (qualification required)

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

FRIDAY, (10/23)

Stratified Future Pairs 1 & 7 PM
Compact Knockout 1 PM (1 & 2), 7PM (3 & 4)
Strat Open Pairs 1 & 7PM
(C-0-500, B-500-2000, A-2000+)

SATURDAY, (10/24)

FREE Continental Breakfast
5x5 Swiss Team (team MP average) 9AM
Stratified Open Pairs 1 & 7 PM
Stratified Future Pairs 1 & 7PM
DIST. 11 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS 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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Octoberbest 2009	1, 6
Answer to a Bridge Trivia question: Weidenfeld	3
Planning the play: Moese	4
Norm's Best: Burpee	7
Amyable Bridge: Fisher	8
Follow-up bids to 2C- 2H negative: Ma	10
Plan Defense at trick one: Siutsau	11
A Play problem: Siutsau	12
Interview with two front runners	13
The International Scene	15

President's message...

It will be October before you read this and our Octoberbest Sectional is coming at the end of the month. As we have done the last few years, we are combining our sectional tournament with the district qualifying event for NAP (North American pairs). Over the course of the summer, many games as CBA were designated as NAP qualifying games. If you played in one of those and had a Q next to your name on the recap, you have qualified to play in the District event. The winners from this event get to play in the NAP finals at the national tournament. Playing in this tournament is quite an honor and I hope that everyone from our unit who qualified will come and play.

In addition to the NAP, we have a full schedule of pair games on Friday, an abbreviated Swiss team's event on Saturday morning (before the NAP) and a Swiss team's game on Sunday. Overall winners in sectional events received Silver Master points. Your board reviewed the finances of our unit and decided that we could afford a special benefit to the members at the sectional tournament. The entry fee for sectional events (not including the NAP, that's not up to us) will be only \$8 per person. This is actually a decrease of one dollar from last year's price. We hope everyone will come and take advantage of us.

We also have our annual election in conjunction with the October sectional. This year we have three people running for three vacancies so we've been able to call off the international team of election monitors who would normally be there to prevent ballot box stuffing. As I'm sure every one of you will remember, the new bylaws approved last year include reducing the size of the board from 15 down to nine members over a period of time. As we reduce the size of the board, we will be asking more of the members in terms of getting the work done at CBA. I'm sure you will all continue to support your organization by cheerfully saying yes when we called to ask you for help.

Potter Orr

And the leaves that are green....

By Amit Raturi, Editor

Fall is always an interesting time of the year. I wonder how Simon and Garfunkel would do as bridge partners. Parsley (♥), sage (♠), rosemary (♦) and thyme (♣)? And what would the overlapping harmonizing be...cue bid, cue bid, cue bid...

**Celia, you're ruffing my hearts
You're finessing my queens daily
Oh Cecilia, I'm in a triple squeeze
Begging you let me bring the contract home**

Now with Octoberbest coming up, I need not remind you of your three obligations....play bridge (Page 6), vote in the CBA Board Elections, and buy some bridge books in the library sale.

**Playing bridge in the afternoon
With Cecilia in the CBA club room
I went up with my ace
When I tried to get partner in,
I led right into their tenace.**

This issue has all kinds of new and old stuff. Rob has a story he will never forget (I have heard it about 11 times, but it is such a good story!). Moese's learning points take us through a 3NT adventure and Ma's auction over 2C-2H (negative) are instructive. Burpee delivers on Norm's best hand - an en passant trump coup (we need one from Matt Granovetter after his recent win in the Spingold...any volunteers). Amy has worldly advice about not gloating at the table and Eugene has the results of the bidding contest and two challenges (one defense one play) both of which are tough...try them and relish the logic.

Finally I put together some tidbits for you. First, it seems that our unit is doing extremely well in the Mini-McKenney. So I compiled the list and interviewed Felson and Brown from this list. Boy I hope they win this year. And seems like Matt G should be a lock and Pamela G. has a good shot for the national title. And what about Sonya Wilson...what a great showing!! Adam Parrish and Frank Treiber will probably take the trophy in the District but I would not discount the Higgins-Siutsau duo since they play on teams with probably the best players in the world (!!!).

You will also see a glimpse this issue of the world of national and international bridge. We are all mighty proud of Matt's Spingold victory. I talked with Jansma as he was the commentator of Vugraph and I have not seen a more confident player...the team knew before the last round that they had it. Way to go! Also if you have not been to www.bridgebase.com I have instructions for you to watch all the international tournaments including a key board from the Bermuda Bowl final.

So have a great Fall and remember S & G when you put your wonderful dummy down for partner (Like a bridge over troubled waters...I will lay my hand down)....Amit

CBA Board Elections are coming at the Octoberbest Sectional

Nominees are:

Mike Purcell - currently on the board and chairman of the education committee.
Mary Clifton - an active player in Lebanon.
Patrick Hoffman - plays regularly at CBA.

THE "OCTOBERBEST-2009" COMMITTEE

Chairman	John Burpee
Director	Jay Albright
Hospitality	Jane Burpee
Treasurer	Adrienne Netherwood
Partnerships	Lorna Davis
Facilities/Set-Up	Larry Klein
Supplies	Debbie Cummins
Promotion	John Burpee
Caddies	Tonya Kirkland
Book Sale	Gayle Keaney
NAP coordinators	Chris Schwartz & Pat Newman

Bridge Trivia: Least number of points for a small slam?

By Rob Weidenfeld

E-mail: elliedad@cinci.rr.com

When I picked up this hand about 30 years ago, I was a rank novice playing in a local duplicate game in Parkersburg, WV. Little did I know that it would become the most fascinating hand of my life. My partner, Kathy was sort of a mentor to me. We were having a mediocre round. Earlier in the game I had to make a decision in a competitive auction when the opponents got to 6 hearts. I was pretty sure they could make that so I bid our minor at the seven level. It is I know what has become the first of many Pyrrhic victories at the bridge table. For on that hand, I won the battle but lost the war. They didn't double. They bid seven and they made it! Further, they were the only ones there!

I was still thinking about that hand several rounds later when this one came up. My hand was something like: S -, H -, D 8765432, and C A109753. I was playing against two middle-aged men who seemed rather brusque, if not competent. My RHO opened one spade. Though I had never held a 7-6 hand, I knew what to do now. I trotted out a tool I had learned not that long before, the unusual NT (2NT shows the minor suits, usually at least 5-5). At equal vulnerability, the auction went amazingly quickly. My LHO quickly said 4S and my partner just as quickly said 6C! My RHO thought for a few seconds and then said 6S. Now it was my turn.

My partner obviously had a lot of clubs and I most certainly had maybe one trick if the club ace lived. Should I bid again and chance that they could make 7? Could it happen twice in the same evening? I was frozen and petrified at the same time. Though lacking in experience, I thought how bad off could we be in 7 if we have a big fit and I have TWO voids! I bid 7C and the thunder of "Double" could be heard immediately and convincingly to my left. Yet, in retrospect, who could blame him? His partner had opened the bidding, jumped to slam and he had 17 HCP's!

For review, here was the bidding:

South West		North East	
		P	1S
2NT	4S	6C	6S
7C	Dbl		
Opening lead: Diamond A			

RHO led the diamond ace from what looked like a sure cashing trick. My partner smiled and said "Thank you, partner...I hope they're splitting." I had no idea what she was talking about. I thought she was just being polite. Then she ruffed the opening lead and led a club towards my ace. It went Q on my right and K on my left. Here was the entire hand:

S	-
H	-
D	8765432
C	A109753

S	KQJ8	S	A10972
H	AQJ95	H	K1086
D	J109	D	AKQ
C	K	C	Q
	S	6543	
	H	7432	
	D	-	
	C	J8642	

Partner ruffed diamonds and soon dummy was good! Making 7! I didn't know it then, but this hand became the answer to a trivia question. Years later a group of us were talking bridge when one of the mavens asked us, "What is the least number of HCP your partnership can hold and make 7 of a suit bid?" I didn't even have to think! The answer, obviously, is 5 HCP!

The opponents were outraged by the result. They yelled, "Fix!" They swore somebody set them up. But all I knew was that I was not in on the joke. Here is the funny part: while we were cold for 7 clubs on our 5 HCP's, they could not make 6S or 6H on their 35 HCP's! I would be on lead and the club ace looks like a normal lead. Then, even I would know to switch to a diamond for down one. If I start with a diamond, they will be down 2! No, I will never forget this one!

Editor's note: Serious underbid since declarer has 6 clubs in dummy, 4 ruffs in hand and 4 diamond tricks in dummy!!

Planning the Play

Interpretation by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

♠ Q862 ♥ 73 ♦ KQJ75 ♣ 82			
♠	N	♠	
♥	W	E	♥
♦			♦
♣	S	♣	
♠ A43 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ 1092 ♣ A64			
South	West	North	East
1N	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3N	Pass
<i>Passed Out</i>			
West Leads ♣7			

This hand comes from August Boehm, "Talking Shop" The Bridge World, April 2009 page 26.
 You sit South, and find a pretty nice hand. After the auction you know that partner has enough points for game – you expect at least 9. Partner has 4♠ and not 4♥. 3NT looks right. When partner tables dummy s/he didn't have 9 but a good 8 points. The ♠Q helps, and ♦ are a source of tricks.

The Plan - ♣7 lead is uncomfortable & likely 4th best. How do you play?

Count Points - you have 25 HCP. They have 15 HCP and passed each turn. Partner's hand is semi-balanced, NT is likely every time this hand is played tonight. Will all pairs bid game? No. Making 9 tricks will be a good score.

Count Winners – 1♠, 3♥, 0♦, and 1♣. 5 to start. You count top tricks to see how many tricks you have to develop. You've contracted for 9 tricks, so you have to find 4 more before opponents win 5 tricks and beat you.

Count Losers – 2♠, 1♥, 1♦, and 2 or more ♣ The opponents might have enough tricks to beat you. The lead of the ♣7 found your weakness.

Assume opponents' defense will be perfect. See if you can find a plan that eliminates their threats.... 4 tricks might come from ♦ unless they can cash 5 ♣

first. You might be able to add the ♠Q as a winner if the ♠K is right. ♦ look like the right place to attack. What should you play to the 1st trick? If West wins you expect a slew of ♣. West is the **dangerous hand**. If West holds the ♦A, then the contract is down – you lose 4 ♣ and 1 ♦ before you get your tricks. **Put the ♦A with East** and plan accordingly. If East wins the ♦A, you will likely get a ♣ back unless East has no more ♣ to return. You suspect that West has 5 ♣, so East has 3. Waiting to take your ♣A until the 3rd ♣ round (a **Hold-Up play**), cuts East off from West. East discards on the 3rd ♣. West started with a 6-card ♣ suit.

Thinking about ♦, defenders can hold up against you and they do! West discards on the 3rd ♦. The opponent's hold-up cuts you off from Dummy! You now have no clear way to get back to the board without risking that West wins the missing ♠K (or East takes your ♠Q and returns a ♠). You have to **place the ♠K in East's hand** too. Running ♥ winners might help. West plays the ♥J on the 3rd trick and the ♥10 is still missing. Playing the 4th ♥ will put the ♥10 owner on lead. This rates to be East unless West is doing something funny. If East is on lead with 3 tricks left, you can play ♠ safely for two tricks!!! You have just made your first **end-play** because East has only ♠ to return and must lead away from the ♠K! You make 3N against expert defense, winning 1 ♣, 3 ♦, 3 ♥, and 2 ♠. **Well Done!**

Post mortem – What East discards at trick 3 is not trivial. A ♥ discard establishes declarer's 9th trick immediately. Which ♠ can East discard? Looks like a fine argument in favor of **upside down signals**.

The Full Hand:			
♠ Q862 ♥ 73 ♦ KQJ75 ♣ 82			
♠ 97	N	♠ KJ105	
♥ J64	W	E	♥ 10982
♦ 83			♦ A64
♣ KJ9753	S	♣ Q10	
♠ A43 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ 1092 ♣ A64			

Learning Pointers:

- 1) Before playing to trick 1, **make a plan** to make your contract. Use the evidence you gather to adjust your plan. Failure to plan leads to disaster later on. Put key cards where they must be for success.
- 2) **Count HCP / Count Winners / Count Losers / Assume perfect defense.** You'd be surprised how many contracts make because you assume defense is perfect.
- 3) **Pay attention to discards.** They tell you the shape of opponent's hands and where their high card points are. Never play past trick one without knowing all 4 cards on every trick.



Know your district -- District 11

President	Robert Sulgrove	rsulgrove@woh.rr.com
Vice President	Jill Ohlson	coffeel@windstream.net
Treasurer	John Hinton	johnbrenda.hinton@sbcglobal.net
Secretary/Recorder	Nancy Sachs	nspp@fuse.net
Tournament Coordinator	Bob Lyon	lyonking@ameritech.net
District Director	A. Beth Reid	breid@1400willow.com
GNT/NAP Coord	Bill Higgins	bhiggins@swrw.com
Charity Chairman	Susan Bullard	susbul@aol.com
Education Chairman	Rob Weidenfeld	elliedad@cinci.rr.com
Appellate Chairman	Jim Cunningham	jcunninghamesq@yahoo.com
Midwest Monitor	Bradley A. Bartol	mwmonitor@mac.com
ABA Chairman	Annease Comer	acomer@zoomtown.com
Web Site	Potter Orr	pottero@fuse.net



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

	♠ A832	
	♥ T743	
	♦ Q95	
	♣ 97	
♠ KQJT974		♠ --
♥ --		♥ 982
♦ 87		♦ KJT32
♣ J862		♣ QT543
	♠ 65	
	♥ AKQJ65	
	♦ A64	
	♣ AK	

The bidding has been:

S	W	N	E
2♣	3♠	P ^⓪	P
4♥	P	P	P

⓪ Has some values

The opening lead is the K♠.

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

ANSWER ON PAGE 15

**THE CINCINNATI FALL SECTIONAL IS COMING!
THE DISTRICT 11 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS IS COMING!
WE HOPE YOUR'E COMING TO BOTH!!!**

If a double-header bridge tournament and great hospitality in a first class setting is your thing, get ready for the Time of Your Life. It all comes together Friday, Saturday and Sunday (October 23, 24 & 25) when the CBA hosts "OctoberBest - 2009."

For the second year in a row, the event will be held at the UAW 647 Union Hall, 10020 Reading Road. From the Bridge Center turn North (that's right on to Reading) and go to the first traffic light. Turn right, and immediately right again. There's lots of free parking at the rear of the building. The building entrance is at the front, so you might want to let passengers off before parking.

Whether you prefer Pairs or Team games the Sectional has something for you each day. (Incidentally, an early flier omitted the Pairs game on Friday. There is one!) On top of Sectional games, there's the NAP District Finals Saturday afternoon and evening for all who have qualified earlier at their local clubs. Between sessions check out the Book Sale organized by Gayle Keaney.

In recognition of the current economic climate, the CBA has lowered the price of all Sectional games to \$8.00 per person (\$16 for team games and not including the NAP).

As has become a Cincinnati trademark, hospitality will be first rate. Free Continental Breakfast Saturday; Free coffee and donuts Sunday. During the break in the Sunday Swiss Jane Burpee's Hospitality Committee will offer a Sandwich Bar with a wide selection of sandwiches at \$2.00 each. Tickets will be on sale when you register Sunday morning. Want a free sandwich? Come in a Halloween costume (just a mask won't get it).

Tournament chairman, John Burpee, hopes all CBA members will participate in "OctoberBest!" Volunteer (say, "Yes" when asked to help), Contribute (there are sign up sheets at the CBA) and, of course, Play! Play! Play! And, most important, ENJOY!!!

HOME RUN! That's exactly what the Regional was....a home run for Cincinnati!

Everyone should be proud of the very successful Regional that we just hosted for our District. The turnout was down a bit, however.... hospitality continues to be a huge draw... we met our concession stand minimum every day but one.....and the Derby Dinner was lots of fun. This event is a huge undertaking, but we had an unbelievable amount of help from our members. Actually, that is the only way that a Regional can be successfuleveryone does their part...to help those in charge. There is no way to really calculate the number of people that helped to stage this tournament, but heartfelt thanks to everyone that did. Our local lecturers were the BEST...and they had great handouts! We should feel very lucky that we have numerous great people to ask to do this. Set Up and Take Down continued to be a breeze...BUT only because of the wonderful volunteers that worked in the heat to get us ready to go and then take us back home. Hospitality was FANTASTIC! We continuously heard comments regarding how "over the top" our Hospitality is. You know it's great when we have to flick the lights to get people to go home. Now...we need to get ready for next year. And next year will be a really new adventure! We are one week later in May...that means we do not have to worry about the Kentucky Derby and we are one week further away from the world's largest regional....Gatlinburg. So mark you calendars for the week of May 3rd...and help us hit a Grand Slam next year. Thanks to All,

Patti English

NORM'S BEST

By John Burpee

In the last edition of the ALERT we asked Cincinnati's "20,000 Point Man," Norm Coombs what was the best contract he ever made? Here's his answer.



It was at the Gatlinburg Regional several years ago. He says the hand demonstrates why it's important to be a Pirate when playing Bridge.

	<u>N</u>		
	S AJxxx		
	H K		
<u>W</u>	D Axxx	<u>E</u>	
S Kx	C AJ9	S QTxxx	
H x		H Jxxx	
D KQJxxx		D xx	
C Qxxx		C 10x	
	<u>S</u> (Norm)		
	S x		
	H AQTxxxx		
	D x		
	C Kxxx		

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1 S	P	1NT	2D
3NT	P	5H	P
6H	P	P	P

Norm started by taking the D King with the Ace, playing the H King, ruffing a D in hand (on which E completed a high-low echo). Next comes the H Ace, on which W plays a diamond as does dummy. Now Norm played a S to the Ace and trumped a S in hand. Following that he led a low club and finessed the jack which won; then another S ruff. Now a C to the A and back to Norm's King. At this point E is toast. If he ruffs, Norm plays low, takes any return, draws trumps and claims. If E ducks, Norm plays the K, the runs out the plank - his last club to W, E's H J x are goners to the old pirate's Q 10.

Six Hearts bid and made +1430. In the eight sections of Open Pairs playing this hand, no one else bid the slam and only one other pair made 6.

Amyable Bridge

(Nancy's Rule)

By Amy Fisher

Don't you love to get Amit? Or maybe you just dream about getting Amit. You can picture it, can't you? He walks away from the table; he is looking down, shaking his head back and forth; and he is saying, "Un-be-LEEV-able."

A short time ago, Amit doubled me in a cold contract. Maybe I played too fast; maybe I played too scared. But I went down... in this COLD contract. Do you know what Amit and Nancy did? They folded up their cards and put them back in the board. We then played the next hand. Amit did *not* explain to Nancy why he doubled; he did *not* tell me how I could have played the hand better; he did not say a word. In short, he did not gloat. I felt bad enough about the hand, and it would have been very frustrating for me to endure any conversation after the hand was played.

We all are competitive beings. That's one of the reasons we like bridge so much. But when we get a good result, let's all try to act like Amit and Nancy did. Let's lose graciously *and* win graciously. Think about your opponents before you speak. As my friend Mary said the other day, "I know I make mistakes, but I just don't like getting my nose rubbed in it."



Maybe you think you are just clarifying something to your partner: that might not be how it sounds to your opponents. "But," you protest, "I NEVER get a good result against Amit and Nancy. The one time I do, isn't it okay to celebrate? Just a little?" Well, we play bridge, not football. Let Chad Ochocinco jump into the crowd; we are going to act like we've been there before.

I propose a new rule to help with our Zero Tolerance policy. When our *partner* starts to say something after a good result, smile, and say (with a nice voice), "Remember Nancy's Rule." And then go on to the next hand or the next table. What about reminding our *opponents*? It's my belief that I can't be everyone's mother, and it's not my job to teach everyone manners. Just keep telling yourself that they can't be *that* good: they don't even know Nancy's Rule!



Editor's Note: I hope I never break this rule....

PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP BIDS TO 2C – 2H NEGATIVE

Michael Ma

The artificial 2H negative response to a forcing 2C opening has become quite popular. Yet it seems many pairs who play it do not have clear agreements about what subsequent bids mean. Is opener's rebid forcing? If you open 2C with a 8 ½ to 9 trick one-suited hand, then 3 level is probably the limit. If your suit is H or S, then it is fine because you can pass 2H or bid and rebid S. But if your suit is C or D, you would like to bid 3C/D to play. You can do that if you play 3C/D non-forcing. But then what would you do with two-suited minor hands? Or other two-suited hands? I propose the following method as follow-ups to 2C-2H.



The **advantages** of the method are that i) single vs. two-suited hand are immediately distinguished, ii) single suited hands, including minors, can be played at the 3 level when appropriate, iii) both suits of a two-suited hands are specified right away, iv) sufficiently strong 4-6 major-minor hand can be bid, and v) the two-suited bids are mostly “natural”, so not difficult to remember. The **disadvantages** are i) 2S by opener after the 2H response is now a conventional bid, ii) sometimes the wrong hand will play the contract, iii) most two-suited hands are forced to the 4 level, which can be disgusting when responder has fit for neither suit, and iv) 5-4-3-1 or worse 4-4-4-1 type hands by 2C opener which are not suitable for rebidding NT are still problematic.

In this method, 2S is a conventional bid after 2H showing a single suited hand or a balanced 3N hand, while all other suit bids show two-suited hands. Since 3N bid by responder to play after a two-suited bid by opener should be very rare, one can use it as a general no fit bid, or a transfer, or some kind of relay, depending on partnership agreement.

Bids after 2C – 2H

- 1) 2N is natural. 3N is to play, and based on a source of tricks.
- 2) 2S by opener is conventional showing a single-suited hand or a balanced 3N hand. Responder bids
 - a) 2N to ask opener to clarify. Opener bids 3N to show the strong NT hand. With a single-suit, Opener bids it at the appropriate level, and is non-forcing.
 - b) 3C/D/H/S shows a 6 card or longer suit. If it is not too difficult to remember, I recommend the meanings of 2N and 3C by responder be interchanged, so that 3C is the asking bid and 2N shows C.
- 3) 3C to 4D by opener after 2H are all two suited bids showing at least 5-5 and one round force.
 - a) 3C/D shows that minor and S. Responder shows preference for the suits at the appropriate level. New suit by responder should deny fit and be at least 6+ and good quality since he will likely hit a singleton in opener.
 - b) 3H shows the minors. Responder can use 3N/4C and 4N/5C as transfer to C/D by partnership agreement.
 - c) 3S, 4C, 4D shows the suit and H.
- 4) 4H/S shows 4 card in that major and an unspecified 6 (or longer) minor. 4N asks for the minor. Obviously, this must be based on a very strong hand.

Comments

1) Note that 3N directly after 2C-2H as based on “tricks” while strong 3N hands based on points will go through 2S. This will allow responder to possibly show a 6 card suit prior to the 3N bid and also allow him to make an informed decision after 3N (e.g. what to do with 5-4 in the majors).

2) In some cases, the above structure will lead to the wrong hand playing. Some of these can be avoided by using transfer like the 3N/4C bid after 3H. Nothing can be done of course if the contract is H.

3) We can exchange the 3 and 4 level major bids so that 3H/S shows the 4-6 hands a la Kokish, and 4H shows major two suiter and 4S shows both minors. Some meaning can also be given to 4N too if desired.

4) 3-suited hands are terrible to bid after 2C-2H. For that reason, it is best to open them at the 1-level if there is no danger of the hand getting passed out.

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. I thank Jim Edmiston for some previous feedback.



Plan Defense at Trick One Yauheni Siutsau

This is an adaptation of a problem from a Polish Bridge magazine. Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans?

IMPs, Vulnerable all. Dealer S.

S	W	N	You
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	pass
pass	pass		

Dummy

♠ Q_{xx}

♥ J8_{xx}

♦ J10_x

♣ Q_{xx}

You

♠ AK9

♥ 109_x

♦ K_{xx}

♣ A_{xxx}

Opening lead : ♠8. Declarer plays small from dummy. Plan your defense.

Answer: Dummy has 6HCP, you have 14 HCP and declarer has 18-19 HCP(2NT bid). Partner has 1-2 HCP (you should hope for 2HCP – red queen – otherwise defense have no chances). “Normal” line is to play 3 rounds of spades and hope for the best. Let’s look at the full deal:

	♠ Qxx	
	♥ J8xx	
	♦ J10x	
	♣ Qxx	
♠ 87xx	N	♠ AK9
♥ Qxx	W E	♥ 109x
♦ xxx	S	♦ Kxx
♣ xxx		♣ Axxx
	♠ J10x	
	♥ AKx	
	♦ AQxx	
	♣ KJ10	

Declarer will hook yours ♦K, concede ♣A and will have 9 tricks. That's why you shouldn't let declarer reach dummy (to prevent diamond hook). Play ♠9 at **first trick**. Later you should duck ♣K (or ♣J). Take ♣Q with the ace, cash ♠A and ♠K and play a club. If declarer will play 3 rounds of hearts you should hope for a club shift from your partner. The bottom line is : **plan your play at trick one!**

A Play Problem to Test Your Mettle Yauheni Siutsau

You (W) opened 1♣ as dealer and have to play 6♣ with these hands:

♠ Kxx	♠ Axx
♥ Qx	♥ Kxx
♦ x	♦ AQJ
♣ AQ109xxx	♣ KJxx

Opponents were silent. Opening lead: ♠Q by North. Plan your play.

Answer to play problem:

Win first trick and draw opponents' trumps. It would be nice to know where the ace of hearts is:

1. Let N has ♥A. You should play low heart from your hand. If N will duck – you can play ♦A and ♦Q pitching ♥Q and later use ♦J to get rid of last spade. You will lose only 1 diamond. If N will rise with ♥A – you'll be able to use ♥K for spade pitch.
2. Let S has ♥A. You should play low heart from dummy with the same ideas.

Unfortunately, you don't know for sure who has ♥A. Let's say, you haven't guessed it right. Now you need to get second diamond trick in order to get rid of your last spade. If N has ♦K you should hook, otherwise you should take a ruffing finesse. Consider the opening lead. It seems like N has QJ10 in spades. If she has ♥A AND ♦K she'd probably overcall over our 1♣ opening bid. That's why you should assume that S **has ♥A**. Play low heart from dummy to the queen and, if N will win with ♥A – take a ruffing finesse in diamonds for spade pitch. The full deal:

	♠ QJ10x	
	♥ Axxx	
	♦ 10xxx	
	♣ x	
♠ Kxx	N	♠ Axx
♥ Qx	W E	♥ Kxx
♦ x	S	♦ AQJ
♣ AQ109xxx		♣ KJxx
	♠ 9xx	
	♥ J10xx	
	♦ Kxxxx	
	♣ x	

Local players score BIG in the National Mini McKenney

2009 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races Updated 9/07/2009

17 players made the National list as of September!! That's pretty outstanding for a club our size. This includes the 1, 2, 3 spots in the running as the races draws to a close in 2009. And check out their standings in District 11!! (# Numbers in bracket show their standing in the District Races). Listed below are national ranking, name, city/state, points and district rankings.

0 to 5 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

43 Stephen Felson Cincinnati OH 43.43 (#3)
 45 Robert Brown Cincinnati OH 42.67 (#4)
 66 Arun Pandit Mason OH 36.60 (#5)

20 to 50 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

27 Sonya Wilson Cincinnati OH 99.39 (#1)
 43 Ambrish Bansal West Chester OH 86.06 (#2)

100 to 200 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

2 Randall Rubinstein Cincinnati OH 262.55 (#2)
 72 Peter Carey-Yard Cincinnati OH 125.69 (#6)

200 to 300 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

66 A J Stephani Cincinnati OH 126.37 (#5)

500 to 1000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

23 Adam Parrish Cincinnati OH 281.31 (#1)

2500 to 5000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

21 Frank Treiber III Cincinnati OH 494.37 (#1)
 27 Yauheni Siutsau Loveland OH 461.44 (#2)
 28 William Higgins Cincinnati OH 458.56 (#3)
 99 Amitabh Raturi Cincinnati OH 324.11 (#5)

5000 to 7500 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

3 Pamela Granovetter Cincinnati OH 724.99 (#1)
 50 Nancy Sachs Cincinnati OH 377.59 (#4)

7500 to 10,000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

1 Matt Granovetter Cincinnati OH 1,160.36 (#1)

Over 10,000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race

97 Norman Coombs Brookville IN 516.46 (#1)

An Interview with Two Front Runners

Amit Raturi

I caught up with **Stephen Felson** and **Robert Brown**, leaders in the 0 to 5 race for Mini-McKenney on Tuesday night after the game for an interview.

“Did you know that you are on the cusp of changing the world?” I asked them.

“Yes, it looks like we have the Noble Prize in bridge in the bag this year” said Stephen.

Robert not to be outdone chimed in, “We’ve been playing for a year, 4 times a week, and we have won a couple of sectionals, and can handle the toughest opposition at the table. And all we get is a Mini-M? We should be getting some Maxi-M award.”

“It’s a pretty good start”, I said, “Plus look at it this way; if you do well in the upcoming Louisville regional, you might even win the national award. Anyway, what got you going?”

“Tom Deddens and Nancy Sachs are the two biggest culprits here”, in unison, “we’d never seen a bidding box in our life before and these two now have us going down the aisle with it, and the awful wedding gown on a rectangular and red profile somehow does not look that good. But what the heck, once married, stay married.”

“Is that it? Your strength, I mean. The bidding?” I asked.

“No, we think our biggest strength is defense. We have this oven and when we turn it on, most opponents go down in ice cold contracts”.

“Neat! But shouldn’t you turn it off when you are playing the contract. I mean what if Robert forgets to turn it off and Stephen is declaring the next board. An ice cold 6 Spades – 12 tricks – you could throw the cards against the wall and not go down. And in the heat, Stephen forgets to draw trumps and revokes for a two trick penalty.”

“You know that’s we love about this game – the challenge of knowing oven controls, this bridge center, the people, and indeed the possibility of a Nobel prize. But there are some bad things too. First, the food. Bridge does not make any sense without crunchy peanut butter”, says Robert.

“And booze”, adds Stephen. “We are adults. The center should get a liquor license. I know that the last few boards will be much more interesting every night if that’s the case”.

“I agree”, I said. “Last time we had a bridge party, after a couple of Bacardi and Cokes, I led fourth best from three small and partner still could not get it right. Anyway good luck in your Mini-McKenney run and I hope you win the national title making us all in Cincinnati very proud”.

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 772-5115 Kay Mulford 2nd/3rd 631-8070 Peggy Barrett 4th 745-0075
	7:00 pm	Newcomers 0-50	Tom Deddens 851-3857
	11:00 am	Homestyle*	Kay Mulford 631-8070
Wednesday	11:00 am	Thursday Stratified	Agnes DeLany 513-777-2587
	7:00 pm	0-299 section & Open game	Annease Comer 513-281-2027
Thursday	11:00 am	Friday Stratified	Kay Mulford 513-631-8070
	7:00 pm	Non-Life Master	Mike Lipp 513-467-8054
Friday	11:00 am	Saturday Stratified (1st/3rd/5th)	Annease Comer 513-281-2027
	11:00 am	Saturday Stratified (2nd/4th)	Kay Mulford 513-631-8070
Saturday	1:00 pm	Sunday Afternoon	Rob Weidenfeld & Mike Lipp 513-467-8054
	1:30 pm		

Top ten finishers in Cincinnati Regional 2009

Total masterpoints: 6135.27 earned by 718 players.

Total attendance: 1068 tables.

- 6 73.87 Norman Coombs, Brookville IN
- 7 69.97 Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland OH
- 8 69.97 William Higgins, Cincinnati OH
- 9 69.97 Nancy Sachs, Cincinnati OH
- 10 66.54 Vijay Vasudevan, Cincinnati OH
- 13 62.24 Arun Goyal, Cincinnati OH
- 17 59.54 Frank Treiber III, Cincinnati OH
- 18 57.84 Marshall Tuly, Fairfield OH
- 20 53.24 Rachna Goyal, Cincinnati OH
- 26 33.84 A Netherwood, Cincinnati OH



Top ten finishers in Washington Nationals 2009

- 2 307.00 Matt Granovetter, Cincinnati OH
- 76 132.73 Frank Treiber III, Cincinnati OH
- 92 123.54 Norman Coombs, Brookville IN
- 118 107.69 Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland OH
- 128 104.76 William Higgins, Cincinnati OH
- 148 97.50 Tim Crank, Cincinnati OH
- 234 78.73 Amitabh Raturi, Cincinnati OH
- 239 77.79 Nancy Sachs, Cincinnati OH
- 286 71.74 Pamela Granovetter, Cincinnati OH
- 332 64.65 Marshall Tuly, Fairfield OH



The National and International Scene

Jansma impressive in Spingold KO victory



Winners of the Spingold Knockout Teams: Louk Verhees, Ron Rubin, Ricco van Prooijen, Jan Jansma, Russ Ekeblad and Matthew Granovetter.

2009 Spingold Final						Team	Carryover	Segment	Total
Segment 2 of 4						Meltzer	7	16	23
BBO www.bridgebase.com						Jansma	23	64	87
#	Open Room			Closed Room			IMPs		
	N: Larsen S: Meltzer	E: Ekeblad W: Rubin	E: Sontag W: Helness	N: vProoijen S: Verhees					
17		3NTE=	400	3NTE=	400			--	--
18		3NTE+1	430	3♠E+1	170				6
19	2NTN=	120				2♦S+2	130	--	--
20	4♠S+1	650				4♠S+1	650	--	--
21		1100	4♠xE-5			5♦N+1	620	10	
22			4♠E+1	650	4♠E+1	650		--	--
23	3♠S+2	150				5♠S-1		6	
24	4♦N-2		100			3NTN-2		--	--
25		200	5♦W-2		3NTW-2		200	--	--
26			4♠W=	620	3NTW-1		100	12	
27	4♠N+1	450				6♠N=	980	11	
28		50	3NTW-1		5♦E-1		50	--	--
29			2♠E+1	140	4♠E-1		100	6	
30			4♠W+1	450		300	2♦xS-2		4
31			4♠W+1	450	5♦xE-2		300	13	
32	1NTS+1	120			1♥xE-3		800	12	

It was a real treat watching the Spingold finals on Vugraph in Washington DC this summer. In a span of seven boards in the second set Boards 26-32), the losing team lost close to 60 IMPs. Just validates Zia's theory that bridge is a game of streaks and when you are in a bad zone, you can't do much EVEN IF YOU ARE A WORLD CHAMPION. You can see for yourself what happened on these seven boards as Jansma build a close to 70 IMP lead and then held on. Go to www.bridgebase.com, Click on Vugraph schedule, and then click on Vugraph archives. Now type Spingold in the Search box. And while you are at it, you might as well see USA2 beat Italy 285-249 in the Bermuda Bowl final In Sao Paulo. Half of the 36 IMP margin came from this board (see below) where USA2 played 5H doubled in one room and 5S doubled in the other room, MAKING!!

12	N SEMENTA An ♠ 1082 ♥ ♦ KQ97 ♣ QJ10752	W 1♥ 2♣ 3♠ 3♠ 4♥ P P X P 4♠ 5♥ X P P P	E S 3♠ 3♠
W MAHMOOD Zi ♥ QJ ♠ KJ10832 ♦ A5 ♣ K93	♠ Q	E HAMMAN Bob ♥ 3 ♠ A9764 ♦ J43 ♣ A864	
	S DUBOIN Gio ♠ AK97654 ♥ Q5 ♦ 10862 ♣	5♥x W	NS: 0 EW: 0
Other table: 5♠xS+1 NS: ITALY 79 IMPs EW: USA 2 83 IMPs			

NANCY'S ANSWER

It is best to be declarer on this hand but you have to play the hand carefully. Do not play the A♠ on the opening lead of the K♠ because you know East must be void in spades and you don't want to waste it. Also, don't play the A♠ on the subsequent lead of the Q♠ and the J♠. On the third spade, ruff it in your hand. Draw trump ending in dummy and

THINKING DEFENSE AGAINST SUIT CONTRACTS

SIGN UP FOR AMY FISHER'S FALL CLASS
October 29, November 5, 12,19, 24, December 4
Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 AM
At the Cincinnati Bridge Center

LEARN THE OTHER HALF OF THE BRIDGE GAME BY:

- *Analyzing Dummy Types
- *Counteracting Declarer
- *Analyzing the Auction to Find Inspired Opening Leads
- *Signaling
- * Counting Declarer's Points and Distribution to Find the Winning Defense.
- *Expert Authors and Teachers will be Referenced for Continuing Home Study.

To Register Contact
Amy Fisher: 772-1024 AMY.FSHR@GMAIL.COM
Or CINCYBRIDGE.COM
(There's also a Sign-Up Sheet at the CBC)
FEE: \$60

Bidding Contest 4 (yes, the last one) Yauheni Siutsau

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 ?

Partner has shown six (or decent five) cards in hearts; otherwise she might have bid 3NT or 3S or 4C or 4D. We think (a) 3S is the most flexible bid here. If partner then bids 3NT (showing a weak spade stopper like Axx) we'll bid 4H. We didn't bid 3S over 2S therefore partner will realize we have good diamonds, heart fit AND short spades. What is partner does not bid 3NT over 3S? Great - this means we don't have wasted values in spades and slam in hearts looks very reasonable. Second choice is (d) 4S. It's a Splinter bid and normally shows 4 card support. (c) 4H is an underbid. (b) 4D says nothing about heart support. Actual partner's hand was J10x KQJ10xx Qx AJ.

Score (a) 3S -10 (d) 4S -7 (c) 4H -3 (b) 4D -1

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

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

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

It's a tough problem. We started with the double intending to bid 2NT later but now bidding has gone too high. All bids seem risky. We have 19HCP, RHO is vulnerable so has a decent hand (good 15HCP or more). So partner has 0-6 HCP. Can we make a game opposite 0-6 HCP? Very unlikely. We have only one spade stopper that's why 3NT has no chance. Sometimes partner will have hand like x-KQxxxx-xxx-xxx but in this case she'll probably bid 4H over 3S herself. We have a defensive hand and will probably set 3S one or more. That's why we think (a) Pass is the best decision here. It's tempting to bid (d) 4D but partner will take it as forcing and will bid game with hand like x-xxxxx -Axxx- xxx. (d) Double asks partner to "do something intelligent" - she'll bid 99% of the time. But why bid if nobody can make anything?

Score (a) pass -10 (b) double -6 (d) 4D -5 (c) 3NT -2

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	pass	pass	Dbl
1♠	3♠	Pass	?

(a) Pass (b) 3♦ (c) 3♠ Your call ?

Partner didn't overcall over 1D and now jumps to 3C. It seems like she has good six cards in clubs and 8-9 HCP. We can make 3NT if partner has diamond stopper (our club K is golden). The main question is if opponents bid two suits, do we ask for the stopper or show it? As usual, it's the matter of partnership's agreements. Playing IMPs we should be aggressive and since we are in the game zone, (a) pass is too timid. Actual partner's hand was: Jx xxx xx AQJxxx.

Score (b) 3D -9 (c) 3S -9 (a) pass -3

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 ?

LHO has made a natural bid in our suit. We can expect something like AKQxxx(x) or AQJxxxx . If opponents have an outside trick they will get -50/+110 playing 2H. It seems like partner is short in hearts that's why we probably can make some diamonds (or 3 NT if partner has Ax or Kx in hearts) . We think (e) 3H is the best bid here. It's a cuebid (yes, even after our 1H bid) and asks partner to bid 3NT with heart stopper. Second option is (a) double. It's for penalty and sometimes we'll be lucky enough to get +300. (d) 3D is non forcing - just a competitive bid. (c) 3C is non forcing too. It shows 4 hearts and 5 or more clubs (hand like xx Jxxx x AQxxxx). How to bid strong hand?

1. We would bid 2C over 1D with 4hearts and 5+clubs .
2. We would double 2H for penalty with 5 hearts and 4+ clubs
3. We would bid 3NT (or 3H) with 4hearts and 4clubs.

(b) 2NT is an interesting bid. Some may interpret it as takeout for minors (showing 3diamonds and 4clubs). But we think it's better to play 2NT as natural here. Actual partner's hand was KJ10x x AQ10xx Kxx.

Score (e) 3H - 10 (a) double - 5 (d) 3D - 3 (c) 3C - 2 (b) 2NT - 2

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 ?

Partner did not pass 2S, and so has some extra values(15-17 HCP). It looks like we can make a game but the problem is which one. If partner hand is AQxxx- Kx- x- AKxxx we want to play 3NT. If she has AKJxx- x- Kx- AJ10xx we want to be in 5 clubs. If partner has AKQJx- xx- x- AJxxx we want to be in and probably can make 4S. It's not an easy decision but we think (b) 3D is the best bid here. It shows a good stopper and some worry about hearts. Partner will bid 3NT with heart honor. (d) 3NT is the next choice. It's a practical bid (sometimes opponents will lead a diamond or partner will have Jx or Qx in hearts). (c) 3H is natural bid showing hand with 5 hearts (something like xx AQxxx Qxx xxx). Partner will probably bid 4H with Kx. Pass is reasonable but too pessimistic.

Score (b) 3D - 10 (d) 3NT - 7 (e) 4C - 6 (c) 3H - 4 (a)pass - 2

And the winners are:

Steve Moese	(a) 3S	- 10	(a) pass	- 10	(c) 3S	- 9	(e) 3H	- 10	(c) 3H	- 4	43
Howard Ringel	(a) 3S	- 10	(b) double	- 6	(c) 3S	- 9	(e) 3H	- 10	(e) 4C	- 6	41
Paul Pschesang	(a) 3S	- 10	(a) pass	- 10	(a) pass	- 3	(e) 3H	- 10	(d) 3NT	- 7	40

Plan Ahead

CBA Holiday Party

Wednesday Dec 9
(at the Bridge Center)



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.cincybridge.com

Upcoming Tournaments

Owensboro KY Sectional
October 9-11

Columbus Sectional
October
16-18

Cincinnati Sectional
October 22-25

Louisville Regional
November 2 - 8

Indianapolis Sectional
November
20-22

Dayton Sectional
December
4-6

NABC Winter National, San Diego
November 20 - Dec 8

Cincinnati Bridge Association
2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati,
Oh 45241

