



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

July 2014 XXXIX Number 3

2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (513) 563 2218

From the President's Desk

by A J Stephani

The summer months always seem to be the busiest in the bridge world. We wrapped up yet another successful Flying Pig Regional (up 30 tables over last year), and kudos go out to Patti English and the entire tournament cast for their seamless cooperation. Our second NLM sectional was held on May 18-19, and thanks go out to Stephanie Richardson for her leadership as chair. And our support for the Alzheimer's Association on the Longest Day was nothing short of fantastic, as both the Cincinnati Bridge Center and the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club led fundraising efforts, including multiple games on June 21. Our Unit raised over \$15,000, which blew initial projections out of the water. Many thanks to the CBC team leaders, Jusie Clendening and Nancy Luetge, and the NKY team leader, Sheila Dippel for all their hard work. Thanks also to the game directors, who donated their time, all the volunteers who helped in the effort, and of course, to the dozens of CBA members who made donations to the cause. Some of the individual donations are just awesome, and I'm really proud of the generosity of our members.

And that's just what happened in a span of 4 weeks! The Las Vegas Nationals will have wrapped up by the time you read this, and the CBA was well-represented, as usual. I've said this before – our Unit travels to NABCs better, BY FAR, than any other Unit in our District. Our Summer STaC is upon us – it's scheduled for August 4-10, and the CBC will be running its usual extended game schedule, with 3 games/day on Tuesday and Thursday and extra games most other days of the week. Don't sit down, for Northern

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NKy Summer Getaway Sectional	26	Aug 15-17
Flying Buckeye Regional	27	Sep 2-7
D11 NAP Finals	28	Oct 11-12
Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional	29	Oct 24-26

Kentucky's inaugural Summer Getaway Sectional will be held on August 15-17 at the Hilton at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport (yes, free parking). Their Sectional Tournament Committee has put a lot of time preparing for a big turnout, so let's get out and support them. Finally, our Mentor-Mentee program (BOGO free games at the CBC on selected Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons – special games at the NKY Bridge Club through September) continues strong.

As we move into the fall, my thoughts always turn to new member recruitment. This is usually a tough nut to crack, but I'm convinced we haven't come to close to tapping into the social bridge population in the Greater Cincinnati area. The ACBL and others have estimated that there are 20 social bridge players out there for every ACBL member! Most of this group isn't interested in duplicate, or don't have the time to make a commitment, but if we convert just 5% of the social bridge community to duplicate, we would double our membership. The first step starts with you – we can reach to social bridge groups, but we need your help to locate them. Look out this fall for "Refer-A-Bridge Group" requests from the CBA as we try to refine our outreach efforts. Let's spread the word on what a great game this is!

On a bittersweet note, this June saw the retirement of two of most treasured Directors at the CBC, Annease and Marvin Comer. It's not often that we can honor a couple who have genuinely been **important** to the game of bridge, but Annease and Marvin fit the bill. Their leadership roles in the ABA stretch back over 50 years, and they were instrumental in fostering ABA/ACBL cooperation. Space does not permit a full description of their influence in the CBA here, but please go to our website for a wonderful retrospective on their bridge careers.

See you at the Bridge table!



A.J. Stephani
CBA Board President

Check out www.cincybridge.com today!

Collaboration

by Steve Moese

Summer has graced us with enviable weather. We are at the end of July and still enjoying 75° weather. Quite a remarkable season. If this is a dream I don't want to wake up.

Our contributors to this issue are up to their creative best. We have a tribute to the Comers, Marvin and Annease who chose to retire from directing club games at the CBC and continue to

be active in the ACBL and ABA. Check out Patti English's recap of the successful Flying Pig Regional 2014. Justina Clendening, Nancy Luetge and Elaine Jarchow offer updates on a very successful "Longest Day". The Anonymous Baker Street Irregulars debut in this issue. Dean Congbalay offers a tribute to a Bridge friend from Sarasota and asks each of us whom we are helping. Mike Ma returns with Eggs and Baskets of declarer play. Kay Mulford writes about what to do when you do not agree with a club director's ruling. Potter discusses two topics: Pick Up the Pace and a new service for tournament players – Fast Results. We welcome back our resident ghost writer for George Lucas and Steven Spielberg – Steve Felson who conjures insane success where none feared possible. We humor Robert S Brown and his edgy Ruminations decrying Blue Nose editors [*any resemblance to yours truly is purely intentional!*] Pat Dutson & Yauheni Siutsau quiz us again! Rob Wiedenfeld and Amit Raturi have graced our pages once again with imaginative and compelling contributions.

We have a new way to attract and hold new players and members to the CBC. Our **New 2 Bridge** and **New 2 Duplicate** programs attract players who then join the (highly affordable) Supervised Play on Saturdays from 10-Noon. More of these new players are joining the CBA. Our 149er game is growing. All of this is a bright silver lining in an otherwise ominous cloud. Our year-on-year table count at the CBC continues to decline. The more people play at the CBC, the

Unit 124 Club Games		
Mon	AM Aft PM	BCB 10:00 - CBC *11:00 Inv MIDM 1:00 CBC 7:00 (<2000) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM PM	NKY 10:00 - BCB 10:00 - CBC 11:00 MIDS 11:00 CBC 11:00 Open/NLM CBC 7:00* Open/99er
Wed	AM Aft PM	CBC * 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:30 MIDL 12:00 NKY 6:30
Thu	AM Aft PM	INT* 9:00 - BCB 10:00 - CBC 11:00 WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30 CBC 7:00 Swiss Teams
Fri	AM PM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
Sat	AM Aft	CBC 1:00

better we will can maintain a vibrant bridge club. At some point near in time, rising rent (our main cost) and declining table count will drive changes none of us want (Church basements, anyone?).

Collaboration is the LIFE BLOOD of our UNIT.

What can we do?

Volunteer your talent!

The CBA depends on its membership for many things. Volunteers help run the major events on our club and Unit calendars. More volunteers will help spread the load and engage our diverse talents. There's always work you can do to make the CBA and the CBC the best experience possible. Talk to a board member. Engage!

Let's all of us look for friends and relatives to join the fun at the CBC. Bring a friend to the **N2D/N2B** events. Help friends and neighbors find their way to the **Supervised Bridge** games on Saturday.

More than 50% of our members are Non-Life Masters. Mike and Kay Mulford have added a NLM section on Saturdays (attendance permitting). NLM games include Mon PM (<2000 MPs), Fri AM, and Sat PM. Get out and play! The more you play the more fun you'll have, the more friends you'll make.

The Mentor – Future Masters Program is in full swing. Director Mike Lipp has made a great offer to Mentor-FM pairs – Play on a swiss team on Thursday Evenings and the team plays for \$20 (instead of \$28). If you need a pair to make a Mentor-FM team, call Mike Lipp at 513- 467-8054. This is a great way for newer players to have fun at duplicate bridge. Get out and PLAY MORE BRIDGE!

See you at the tables,

Steve

Editor, The **ALERT**

alert@cincybridge.com



CLUB CORNER

Send Club News to the Alert
Editor: alert@cincybridge.com

Memory Lane by Elaine Jarchow

I remember learning bridge from my parents when I was a teenager. They taught my sister and me because they wanted to play a rubber after dinner. Of course, this meant putting off homework and play. TV was still a novelty. I continued to play in college and tried duplicate nearly fifty years ago as a young Ohio English teacher. I didn't know anything about the ACBL rules and was intrigued about these conventions people mentioned. My partner and I decided to make up our own conventions and called two of them The Low Level Ace Convention (you could know the number of aces partner had from the first bid) and The Python Convention (not a memorable one as I scarcely recall it.) We were surprised (and humbled) when the senior players chastised us for making up these conventions!! Fast forward a few years and I found myself married to a bridge player and off to our first nationals in Minneapolis. We brought our five year old daughter and called a local school system to secure the services of a student babysitter. Of course, the daughter learned to play bridge, too. Bridge games at that time were smoky places and I can remember an opponent refusing to stop smoking because he would not play well. What a wonderful game it is, though!

NKBC NEWS

The Club Champions at NKBC are:

Thurs Apr 10- Rick O'Connor & Gerry Mirus

Tues May 6- Tony Brockman & Mark Kellerman

Wed June 11- Karen and Cordell Coy

Fri June 20- Jackie Swango and Tim Martin

Longest Day



NKBC raised over \$4000 on The Longest Day with proceeds coming from a Silent Auction, three games, donations, and jewelry sales by Gerry Mirus.

The Club thanks all those who participated.

Upcoming Events

July 31 – In door Picnic – bring a dish to share

August 5-8 - STAC Week

“One finger cannot lift a pebble”
— Hopi proberb

August 14 and 26 - Mentor/Mentee Games
 August 1, 20, and 28 - NAP Qualifier Games
 August 19 – Unit Wide
 August 27 – Club Championship
 August 29 – Invite a new partner

Congratulations to those who placed in the July 15 and June 17 Unit Wide Events.

Jack Mehalko and Andrea Shepard – 69.01%
 Jeanne Theissen and Imo Enzweiler – 58.07%
 Donna Batchelder and Mike Glatt – 57.41%
 Henry Jackson and Nicky Dasenbrock – 57.43%
 Marcia and Ed Wilz – 56.02%
 Linda Flesch and Greg Brinker – 54.17%
 John Wolfe and John Drew – 49.54%

Linda Flesch and Mike Remindino – 60.86%
 Bob Frey and Greg Brinker – 60.36%
 Cindy Tretter and Tony Brockman – 60.00%
 Tak Yap and John Drew – 58.14%
 Howard and Joan Simon – 57.12%
 Bart Jacobs and Marti Soffey – 53.67%

ANDERSON NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Geri Chavez and Mary Lou Tonnemacher (newly arrived from Evansville). On July 15th, they came in first with a 58.44% game. GUESS WHAT – Both are proudly in their 90s!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Judy Ruehl and husband Chris King. Their 64.42% game earned them a 2nd place in the Unit Game July 15th.

Upcoming Events

August 5 and 6 – STAC Games
 August 12 and 13 – Club Championships
 August 19 – Unit Game

Deschappelles Bridge Club

by Debbie Cummings

As is our tradition, Monday August 4 11 AM is a STaC game open to all. See you there.

Longest Day at the CBC

At the CBC, **Nancy Luetge** (Silent Auction) & **Justina "Jusie" Clendening** led the way for our CBA event, helped by many CBA volunteers of time, talent, prizes, and money. The CBA offered

3 session of bridge and food for participants. In all 29 tables participated.

In addition to table fees, the silent auction and outright donations topped \$6000. These funds are earmarked for the Alzheimer's Association of Cincinnati.



Layne Jusie Nancy Krista Brennan



CBC Silent Auction

A big "Thanks" to the directors A. J. Stephani, Mike Lipp and John Altman, Jr. who donated their time to this cause. Thanks to Susan Wisner who helped advertise this event.

...And of course a gigantic **THANK YOU** goes out to all members that donated generously to make this benefit a success.

For more about the ACBL's Longest Day event, see these links on the ACBL Web Site:

[The Longest Day is Personal for Many](#)

[Longest Day: ACBL - Alzheimers Association Partnership](#)

2014 Flying Pig Regional Recap

by Patti English

HOME RUN! That's exactly what the 2014 Flying Pig Regional was....a home run for Cincinnati!

Everyone should be proud of the very successful Regional that we just hosted for our District. The addition of the Charity Game Monday night helped increase our table count by 30 over last year's total.

This tournament 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 successful ...everyone does their part to help out. There is no way to estimate the

number of people that helped to stage this tournament, but heartfelt thanks to everyone who did. Let me offer a special thanks to those who were in charge of key committees:

Partnerships - **Lorna Davis, Adrienne and Vince Netherwood**

Hospitality - **Joyce Tedrick and Ron Manne**

Supplies - **Debbie Wiest and Carol Vradelis**

Regional Treasurer - **Susan Wisner**

Prize Desk - **Mike Lipp**

NEW LIFE MASTERS at the FLYING PIG: Gary Busch, Jane Duncan, Mona Loft, Terry Martin, Sandy Miles, Janet Vowels. Congratulations to all of you!

Unit 124 Members in the Top 50:

Rank	MPs	Name/City
11	93.53	Yauheni Siutsau , Loveland OH
12	92.36	William Higgins , Cincinnati OH
20	76.22	Norman Coombs , Brookville IN
21	74.10	Bruce Parent , Cincinnati OH
29	63.53	Vijay Vasudevan , Cincinnati OH
30	61.63	Amitabh Raturi , Cincinnati OH
33	50.69	Stephen Moese , West Chester OH
33	50.69	Nancy Sachs , Cincinnati OH
40	40.73	A J Stephani , Cincinnati OH
43	36.97	Dennis Schultz , Harrison OH
44	36.10	Lawrence Newman , Cincinnati OH
47	32.17	Mike Ma , Cincinnati OH
49	30.80	Anton Habash , Oxford OH

Notable Players at the 2014 Flying PIG:

8 of the top 25 & 16 of the top 500 Barry Crane Trophy leaders played the Flying Pig this year (June 8, 2014 Rank): Eric Rodwell (1), Chris Compton (6), Curtis Cheek (8), Marc Jacobus (12), Garey Haden (14), Valentin Kovachev (16), Eddie Wold (24), Bruce Ferguson (25), Greg Hinze (48), Robert Morris (231), Cenk Turcok (264), Frank Trieber III (314), Suman Agarwal (363), Larry Jones (372), Dallas Moore (455), **Robert Fisk (470)** and Howard Piltch (500).

“A choir is made up of many voices, including yours and mine. If one by one all go silent then all that will be left are the soloists. Don’t let a loud few determine the nature of the sound. It makes for poor harmony and diminishes the song.”

— Vera Nazarian

CBA Education News – Sep 13th N2B and Fall Classes

By Mike Purcell

With the start of fall we will be holding our second New to Bridge (N2B) event Saturday September 13th from 9 to 12 at the Cincinnati Bridge Club (CBC). This event will teach the most basic bridge concepts with hands on play. Attendees can then continue on with beginner lessons in the fall complemented with Informal Supervised Play Saturday mornings 10-noon. Attendees can register for this free event by contacting me at mikpur@cinci.rr.com or by phone at 513-702-4007.



Saturday Informal Supervised Play continues to be a huge success with our members. These sessions from 10am to noon at the CBC are open to new players up to 99ers and are a great way to improve your game in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Cost is \$2/person and you do not need a partner to play.

This fall’s lesson schedule is as follows:

Beginner Bridge

- Cincinnati Bridge Club – Beginner Bridge with Phyllis Bishop. Starts Sat Sep 20 – Oct 11, 9am-12, 4 sessions, \$40. Location: 2860 Cooper Road Cincinnati, OH 45241. To register: Email Phyllis at pbb23@fuse.net or contact me by phone at 513-702-4007.
- NKY - Wednesdays, Oct 15 – Nov 19, 3-5pm, 6 sessions, \$70. Location: Elsmere Senior Center (lower level), 179 Dell Street, Elsmere, KY 41018. To register: Call Betty Hurst 859-869-0599 or Cindy Tretter 859-653-4400.
- The Kenwood - Fundamentals II by Linda Wolber, starts Wed Sep 10, 1:30pm, 6 sessions, \$90 + \$10 book (based on 12 students). Location: 5435 Kenwood Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45227. To register: Contact Linda at 513 522-1771 or by email at linda@lindabridge.com.

Intermediate Bridge

- NKY - Wednesdays, Sep 3 – Oct 8, 3-5pm, 6 sessions, \$70. Location: Elsmere Senior Center (lower level), 179 Dell Street, Elsmere, KY 41018. To register: Call Betty Hurst 859-869-0599 or Cindy Tretter 859-653-4400.
- Cincinnati Sports Club – Fundamentals II/Intermediate I by Linda Wolber, starts Wed Sep 10, 10:30am, 6 sessions, \$99 + \$10 book (based on 12 students). Location: 3950 Red Bank Road, Cincinnati, OH 45227. To register: Contact Linda at 513 522-1771 or by email at linda@lindabridge.com.
- Intermediate Bridge by Linda Wolber, starts Tue Sept 9, 7pm, 6 sessions, \$90 + \$10 book (based on 12 students). Location to be announced. To register: Contact Linda at 513 522-1771 or by email at linda@lindabridge.com.

Need Help Finding A Partner?

By Joanne Earls

Looking for a steady partner? Don't hesitate to call or email. I need to know your level of experience, whether you play Standard American or 2/1, which games/days you'd like to play and your contact information. For single game needs, please call the director of the game two (2) days in advance. S/He will help you get a partner. The directors contact information is on the website under **Play/Results** → **Club Games Schedule**.
 Joanne Earls: jolman@fuse.net
 (513) 772-4395.



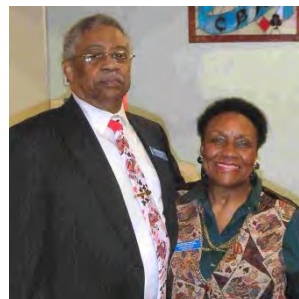
Your Name Here
 Cincinnati Bridge Association

Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.
 \$4 each. (1st one FREE! to New Members).

"It's impossible to be involved in all situations, but there's no excuse not to be involved in something, somewhere, somehow, with someone. Make an ounce of difference." — [Richelle E. Goodrich](#)

Best Wishes Marvin & Annease!

Marvin & Annease retired from directing at the CBC May 31, 2014. They started with this



wonderful game we love so well in different cities: Annease in Dayton, Ohio. Marvin in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1972 they put their playing skills together and were quite a couple to be reckoned with at the bridge table! They remain among the top 100 players in the American Bridge Association (ABA).

Because of their love for the game Annease and Marvin gave back in many areas of bridge.

Some ACBL players - Judy Cohn, JanWeyant and Brenda Mehalko - discovered them directing at a downtown Cincinnati Hotel and recommended them to ACBL Headquarters to direct ACBL tournaments. They traveled to an Atlanta NABC, took the Director's course, became certified and began the directing journey in the ACBL. They were among the five black directors in ACBL's total directing staff of about 200. For many years they directed the famous Gatlinburg tournament as well as other assignments. Among their treasured memory: Annease directing at the last NABC in Cincinnati and Marvin serving as hospitality chairperson working with the Tournament Chairperson, Patty Eber.

Marvin served on the Board of Directors of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). He was also connected with "Easy Bridge" in its early days. Sunday afternoons would often find him at the CBC with large numbers tables of new bridge players trying to "digest bridge"

Annease & Marvin have been directing the CBC Tuesday AM, Thursday PM and 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday PM games for about seven years. They always looked forward to directing the games and treasure the experiences and friendships which have become part of their lives. These experiences are treasured memories. Friends are friends forever.

Annease became National ABA/ACBL Liaison working to combine activities locally and throughout the country. For many years she authored the ABA/ACBL report to the District 11 Regional meetings. CBA hosted one ACBL/ABA game here at the CBC. Eventually a combined ACBL/ABA Nationwide Game grew to be played throughout ACBL and ABA.

On the National level they have both been recognized by the ACBL Goodwill Committee and presented with awards. Locally the CBA recognized them for their contributions to newer players and bridge in general and received the Manny Isralski Award (in the CBC's Wall of Fame).

Annease & Marvin have held ABA leadership positions continuously since 1960. They have directed locally 2 to 3 times weekly as well as directing at ABA tournaments - Nationals, Regionals and Sectionals around the country. Between them they have held almost all offices (nationally, sectionally and locally) from president, treasurer, secretary, parliamentarian, and more during their years of service. At different times both have developed ABA Directors. Keeping ABA bridge alive locally has been and still is part of their lives. They have also been very instrumental in maintaining an ABA bridge home in Madisonville. Whatever it takes to get the job done has been their way of life.

While Annease and Marvin have chosen to retire from active directing at CBC games, they will remain active in the ABA and ACBL. We hope to see them playing with us more often now. Above all, we congratulate them for their lifelong contributions to Bridge, thank them wholeheartedly for their service and leadership with the ABA, ACBL, and CBA Unit 124, and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

Playing Bridge at a Brisk Pace

By Potter Orr

A few comments I have overheard lately lead me to believe that my last column about pace of play was not universally understood to be ironic. This month's list is the **RIGHT** way to play quickly without rushing.



- Get to your next table on time. If you want to get at the snacks, follow these suggestions and finish early.
- Look at each board as you remove your cards to see who is the Dealer. Chances are very good that if you are waiting for someone to make the first bid it should be you.
- If the bidding is over and it is your lead, make your lead (face down, of course) **BEFORE** you write the contract down in your traveling score. That way the dummy can be put down and studied by declarer while you do your paperwork.
- If you are Dummy, put your hand down **BEFORE** you write the contract in your traveling score.
- If you are in charge of the Bridgемate electronic keypad,
 - Make sure you perform any startup duties (lead, put dummy down) **BEFORE** you enter the contract in the Bridgемate.
 - At the end of the hand, enter the result in the Bridgемate and hand it to the opponent for approval **BEFORE** you do your own paperwork.
- If there is another board to play, move on to that board **WITHOUT** post-mortem or discussion of the hand just finished. If you finish the last board before the end of the round, you may use that time to discuss (quietly) any of the hands just played.
- Be aware of your table's pace of play every round. Almost all directors use the time clock on the wall behind the Director's desk. It shows the time left in the round and is usually set to beep when only 3-5 minutes are left. Generally 7 minutes are allowed per board with 1 extra minute for the round. This

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much — [Helen Keller](#)

Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better. — [Andre Gide](#)

Politeness is the poison of collaboration.
— [Edwin Land](#)

means 15 minutes for a 2 board round, 22 minutes for a 3 board round, etc.

- If you are behind, try these things:
 - Pick up your pace
 - Make sure others at your table follow the guidelines above
 - Pass the boards you have finished if the end of round has been called by the director.

“Call the Director”

The Rights of a Player for an Appeal of a Ruling by the Club Director by Kay Mulford

When a Director is called to a table in a tournament (Sectional, etc) for a ruling, and the Player disagrees with the ruling, she may ask for an Appeals Committee. This could also happen in a club game, but it is not required. Most club Directors do not want to deal with setting up a committee, and many players do not want to stay after a game to hear the objection of the ruling.

Players do have rights in a club game when they do not agree with the ruling. If you do not agree with a ruling or think that a ruling is incorrect, it is proper to speak with the Director but without arguing or accusations. A simple “can you show me the ruling in the Law Book?” Rather than a snarly “you’re wrong! I want to appeal!” The object in bridge is to keep it friendly and respectful of all involved in the situation. (Dan Plato)

There are some (bridge lawyers), thankfully few, who argue every ruling hoping eventually one of those objections might go their way.

Players can appeal the ruling by

1. Ask to see the law in the rule book and have it explained. (In a club game)
2. Ask for another Director’s opinion (by phone or someone in the club)
3. The Director can make a temporary ruling until further research and give another ruling later.
4. Select a committee to meet at a later time when tempers are calm (get a record of hands, bidding, etc.)

As a Director (for over 40 yrs.), I always consult with another Director at the ACBL when the ruling is based on the Law Book AND my judgment. This insures accuracy and fairness for the player .

But do not forget, call the Director if there is an irregularity and do not make the rulings yourself.

Thanks to ACBL Directors, Dan Plato and Bruce McItyre for feedback and information.

Tournament Fast Results

by Potter Orr

This is a new service available to ACBL tournament organizers. If the tournament signs up (and we did for the Regional this year) then players will get an email showing the link to your personal Fast Results page.

This is a one hand sample from Tuesday afternoon of the 2014 Flying Pig Regional.

♠2
 9 ♥QJ987 Dlr: North
 ♦764 Vul: E-W
 ♣KT63

♠T874 ♠AQJ93
 ♥KT63 ♥2
 ♦JT9 ♦AK82
 ♣92 ♣Q85

♠K65
 ♥A54
 ♦Q53
 ♣AJ74

6 Double Dummy Makes

4 16 NS: 3♣ 3♥ ♦ 5 ♠5 NT
 14 EW: 1♦ 2♠ ♣ 4 ♥4 NT

LoTT: 17 - 17 = 0

Par: +140 3♥-NS

N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	Contract
200	11.42	0.58	4♣ E -2	5-Orr-Fox vs 5-Lagu-Lagu
200	11.42	0.58	4♠ E -2	12-Grossman-Grossman vs 4-Jarchow-Skaggs
100	7.63	4.38	4♠ E -1	1-Knight-Knight vs 12-Leist-Levine
100	7.63	4.38	4♠ E -1	13-Reid-Sturgeon vs 6-Long-Pleshek
100	7.63	4.38	3♠ E -1	3-Cummings-Meyers vs 1-Martin-Jacobs
100	7.63	4.38	2♠ E -1	2-Venosa-Venosa vs 14-Rueschenberg-Smyth
100	7.63	4.38	3♥ E -1	14-Broida-Simkin vs 8-Franklin-Lichtenberger
140	3.83	8.17	3♠ E	4-Sharp-Sharp vs 3-Sloan-Lewis
140	3.83	8.17	3♠ E	11-Lin-Thesing vs 2-Eger-Baldwin
170	2.21	9.79	3♥ E +1	8-Dell-Clendening vs 11-Hickman-Owens
620	0.58	11.42	4♠ E	9-Buffie-Zimmer vs 13-Beaushaw-Beaushaw
620	0.58	11.42	4♠ E	15-Auer-Schneider vs 10-Rowen-Cronkleton

There are 3 ways to get these results:

1. If you want to see this after the fact, you can go to this website:
<http://www.bridgefinesse.com/FastResults/D2/> and put in your ACBL # at the top of the page.
2. If you want to register with FastResults WITHOUT changing your ACBL profile, you can easily register with the by sending an email to: FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com with your ACBL # (typed in **subject line**)
3. If you want this to be automatic, your personal profile at ACBL must be set to receive emails. To do this:
 - Goto www.acbl.org
 - Click on "My ACBL Login" at the top center of the page
 - Login: Use your ACBL number and the password you set up
 - If you have never done this you must Register for MyACBL which is available on the login page. BTW, you should have this login setup to easily check your masterpoints.
 - Once logged in click Membership
 - Then click Privacy Settings. The following should appear:

The key setting is the last one – Electronic Communications. If you are set like mine is (above) FastResults can get your email from ACBL to send results to you.

Who's Your Stan?

By Dean Congbalay

I met Stan at the bridge center in Sarasota a few years ago. Even though I was just one notch beyond a novice, he was a true novice, and for some reason, he liked to pepper me with questions. Eventually, he asked me to play.

As the years went on, we fit in a game or 2 each month while he was in Florida for season. I gave him tips on how to play hands and taught him a few bidding conventions. But I especially enjoyed presenting him with basic lessons that are sound at or away from the bridge table: Make a plan. Trust your partner. And once you say something, don't repeat it; he heard you the first time!

Stan passed away a couple weeks ago from bladder cancer. It was very fast.

I'll never forget when he phoned this spring to inform me of his diagnosis. "I didn't want to make this call," he said sadly from Maryland. We talked again a couple times after that, and just a week before he passed, he sent me a final e-mail: "I'm home from the hospital, among my stuff, and that makes it a good week."

Stan was a good egg; I valued our friendship. I introduced him to the Alpine Steakhouse, Walt's Fish Market and the Toasted Mango. He was so looking forward to showing us the new condo at the Alinari he was putting together.

He was a good student, too. He took notes on what I taught him and kept a Dean file in his computer (Is that scary, or what?!?). A couple times, we came in first place; he later told me he was so excited even hours after the games that he had to take pills to fall asleep. That gave us both good laughs!

He asked why I mentored him. I told him that a number of people had taken the time to help me get my game to the next level, and I wanted to return the favor. I also told him that I got as much out of it as he did.

It doesn't matter if it's bridge or golf or work. Pay it forward. Give back. Do the right thing.

Continue the cycle. Who's your Stan?

When I was a kid, there was no collaboration; it's you with a camera bossing your friends around. But as an adult, filmmaking is all about appreciating the talents of the people you surround yourself with and knowing you could never have made any of these films by yourself. [Steven Spielberg](#)

Nancy's Nasties

By Pat Dutson

This hand was taught by Nancy Sachs in her Advanced Two Over One Classes. You are sitting South and West leads the A♥.



You see the following:

The bidding has been:

W	N	E	S
			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♥*	P	3♣
P	4♠	All Pass	
*1 round force			

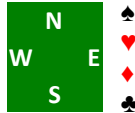
West continues with the K♥ and the Q♥. How do you

play the hand if you are playing in a pairs game? Do you play the hand differently if you are playing in a team game? (Ans. P 19)

South ♠T9
Deals ♥J42
N/S Vul ♦AKQ62
♣Q72

♠
♥
♦
♣

♠AKQ53
♥83
♦J5
♣AJ63



Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

By Yauheni Siutsau

All problems are from the Polish Bridge Magazine.

Problem 1:

IMPs #1 ♠AKxx
♥xx
♦Axxx
♣Axx

4♥ (S).

Opening lead : ♦Q.

Plan your play.

♠
♥
♦
♣

♠xx
♥AQJ10xx
♦xx
♣xxx

Problem 2:

IMPs #2 ♠Axx
♥xx
♦Jxxx
♣Axxx

4♥ (S).

Opening lead : ♣Q.

Plan your play.

♠
♥
♦
♣

♠Kxx
♥AKQ10xx
♦Axx
♣x

Problem 3:

4♥ (S).

Opening lead : ♣K.

Plan your play.

IMPs #3 ♠xxxxx
♥Ax
♦AKxx
♣xxx

♠
♥
♦
♣

♠A
♥KQ10xxx
♦xxx
♣Axx

(Ans. P 20)

The Case of the Brilliant Blunder

By the Baker Street Irregulars

"Rubbish," I'd gasped *sotto voce*. Having just gone down 2 doubled vulnerable in 5♠, my ire reached in vain for harsher epithets. At least we were not vulnerable. 1500 points lost in the last three hands, all because I overbid. "Think nothing of it my dear Watson", said Holmes. "They are cold for a vulnerable game. We've drawn quite close to the All-Britain Champions. Mycroft is in our sights. There's one board left. Steady old boy, focus on this last hand and by rights we'll have them!"

Often I wonder how Sherlock always sees through me. He often brings a weakness to my attention, but this exhortation struck me like ammonium salts thrust under my nose – and jolted me out of my pessimism. Mycroft had gotten us into this. When Mycroft invited Holmes to play in the All-Britain World Championships, I was shocked - perhaps doubly so when Holmes asked me to be his partner. He knows I like cards and that I've played above my ability a time or two. This honor I didn't expect. Of course, Mycroft's invitation was to compete, not join his team. No, that would be impossible. Mycroft wanted the satisfaction of beating his younger brother head to head – and the year-long bragging rights that would bring. Mycroft considers himself and his team the best bridge players in the world, more importantly, the Empire. The drawing room was barley large enough for his ego.

We are fast approaching midnight at the Diogenes Club. An evening storm raged only

hours ago, rinsing away the sooty fog choking the evening air. A gibbous moon painted the streets silvery wet. No one at the Club took notice. The mist of cigar and wisp of fireplace heat envelop the silent members crowded around Mycroft's table. Everything, indeed every one, is deathly quiet. Not even the dogs are barking.

Our two teams remain. 30 have fallen along the way. Day-long head to head competitions are straining. This the 5th and last day of the competition has left me quite fatigued mentally, physically, and emotionally. Holmes has played masterfully, salvaging several contracts that I'd thought were impossible. We are still in the hunt and this match is close. Thankfully, the final hand is upon us. (*Fascinating this competition- dealing hands to envelopes so two teams play exactly the same cards. Index cards for bidding instead of spoken calls, so intonations would not sully communication in unintended way. This was Sherlock's idea – more sporting he said. That way skill would matter more in the result. Sherlock thinks of everything*).

I draw this last hand of the match as East in first seat. No one is vulnerable and I have no reason not to offer 1♠. The Prime Minister, His Excellency William Gladstone chose an inopportune moment to insert 3♦, an accursed weak bid intent on wrecking our auction. These jumps have gotten in the way of sound bidding. I often wish we could return to real bridge. Holmes continues 4♦. This is clearly a game force. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (Scotland Yard, London) Richard Mayne, North, demurs and passes for now. I choose to keep matters simple and rebid 4♠, able to make a constructive noise if I get a next turn. The Prime Minister looks over his *pince nez* and squints if only for a second or two, ascertaining that a pass is best for now. Sherlock has a semblance of a smile on his face and continues with 5♦ to which the Commissioner Mayne passes quickly. I wondered what provoked the smile, when I look down in horror at the bidding cards in front of me. **I had not bid 4♠**

♠	A 10 9 4 2
♥	Q 6
♦	Q 6 5 2
♣	A 3

but 4♥! - an incomprehensible mistake! Since my opponent and partner have bid, there's nothing I can do to correct my mechanical error. Oh the Fates! I have lost us the match!

Sherlock now made his slam intentions clear by bidding 5♦. Fretful that I cause further confusion, I choose to tell him about my ♣ control by bidding 6♣, rather than a panicked 5♠. I glance partner's way to see his aquiline nose tilt down toward his cards. The pulse in his neck quickens. I am certain what he will do next. Indeed he exults 7♥! **Apoplexy!** What do I do? I cannot move, frozen in the moment by fatigue and anxiety.

<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>
1♠	3♦	4♦	P
4♥!!	P	5♦	P
6♣	P	7♥	AP

Surely partner wouldn't bid this without reason. He has shown me a ♦ control. Find the safest least-bad result, Watson! Think! I resign myself to my fate and pass – owning the ignominy of my gaffe at least for the next year. Knowing Holmes it would be longer, much longer.

The Prime Minister takes his time and places an authoritative ♦A on the table. "Nice bidding old boy", allows Holmes as he tables dummy.

To my surprise, I can count 12 tricks and, with any luck, I might be able to fashion the 13th.

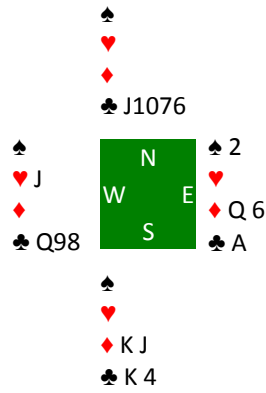
My pulse accelerates to distraction. So close to success - victory over Mycroft - and so far from a certain grand slam. I pull all my will to focus on counting to 13. The ♦A is far from a passive lead. (Holmes taught me that leading passively is key against Grand Slams). What do I know about the South Hand? South likely has 7 ♦ cards and a suit headed by the AK. I need South to hold the ♣K as well. Any squeeze in the minors would have to operate on the owner of the ♦ winners. I ruff low in Dummy (no need to save the trump 2). A trump to hand brings the 3 and 4 from the opponents. A 2nd ♦ ruffed HIGH in dummy brings the ♦7 from South and ♦8 from North. ♦s appear to be 0-2-4-7.

Holmes	
WEST	
♠	K Q 5
♥	A K J 8 7 2
♦	—
♣	Q 9 8 2
Watson	
EAST	
♠	A 10 9 4 2
♥	Q 6
♦	Q 6 5 2
♣	A 3

2 more top ♥s exhaust the trumps, North pitching a small ♣. South has 3 cards left in the black suits. I begin to see the 3 card ending...

I play off two top ♠s as South pitches a ♦. I can now finesse North's ♠J and play 2 more ♠ tricks on which South continues to pitch ♦s.

Now the final ♠ will exact the pressure on South that will give us the final trick. The hoped for end →
Indeed on the play of the ♠2 South can no longer prevent a 13th trick. Pitching a ♣ allows me to



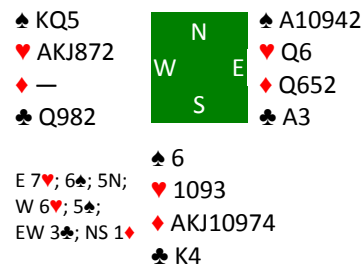
cash the ♣A and ruff a ♦ to the now good ♣Q. Pitching a ♦ allows me to ruff a ♦ making the ♦Q good and return to hand with the ♣A. To my unabated surprise I had just accomplished a simple trump squeeze. Partner's elation? A "Nice play" with little emotion – a relative outburst. My blunder made the grand slam impregnable. I confess to feeling light headed – unsure I'd ever be invited back to partner Holmes let alone play in the Diogenes Club.

Our opponents were flummoxed and very insistent about why I had bid 4♥. I tried to explain that I'd made an unfortunate error. I cannot offer more solace than that. They summoned the Tournament Director and complained vociferously to no avail. "Ladies and Gentlemen," said the Tournament Director, "while the rules prohibit cheating, they do NOT prohibit errors, even when they create unexpected results". He cheerily told us to score up the grand slam and score the match, something about wanting to get to the celebration and the libations that follow.

Lestrade and Lord Munson looked fatigued when we arrived at their table. I could not read their demeanor. (Sherlock had pressed his Scotland Yard friend to play with a mutual friend, Sir Geoffrey Munson – a professor of Mathematics from Cambridge. Sir Munson and Lestrade both acquitted themselves very well in the earlier

rounds – I am the weak link on this team). We had 16 boards to compare. Down 1400 total points at the ¾ mark, I listened intently as Munson and Holmes rattled off the scores. Board 14 where I had lost 500 down 2 doubled vulnerable, our partners scored a small slam for a net +480. Hand 15 where I took a sacrifice against their vulnerable game doubled down 3 for -500, our partners made 11 tricks scoring +650 another +150 to the plus column. Up 630 points with one board to go. I cannot bear it.

North ♠ J873
Deals ♥ 54
None Vul ♦ 83
♣ J10765



♠ 6
E 7♥; 6♠; 5N;
W 6♥; 5♠;
EW 3♣; NS 1♦
♥ 1093
♦ AKJ10974
♣ K4

On the final hand, Mycroft West had elected to support ♠ and NS fell into 6♠.

While the contract was makeable, declarer chose to ruff the the ♦K lead by Lestrade in dummy, eliminating a small trump and

the ability to finesse. Declarer erred by drawing one round of trumps and then played on ♥. Now there were not enough entries to dummy to make 6.

Down 1 for +50 our way, added to the +1510 at our table secured the championship by a mere 400 points! Mycroft was not ungracious, but protested that the form of scoring favored big swings. He'd ask a Math Professor he knew named Moriarty to come up with a more equitable scoring plan before the next All-Britain.

Sherlock, nonplussed, commented instead on the play in 6♠. "There are many lines depending on declarer's choice of plays to the first trick. Declarer can duck the ♦A or ruff it.

If declarer chooses to ruff, play on ♥ before ♠ would protect against a 1-4 split of trumps favoring North. Play three rounds of ♥ discarding a 2nd ♦ unless North ruffs. Then there are many variations. Draw one round of trumps and play a 4th ♥ North must perform ruff, and you East over ruff. Now the key play – Play ♣A and ♣2 toward

♠ 8		
♥		
♦ 8		
♣ J 10 7		
♠ K		♠ A2
♥ 8 7		♥
♦ —		♦ Q65
♣ Q 9		♣
♠		
♥		
♦ KJ1097		
♣		

dummy's Q. South is now end played in ♦s. Here's the desired 5-card ending with South on lead (he scribbled on a table cloth with a blunt pencil). You can ruff the ♦K in dummy and play ♣Q pitching the ♦loser from hand then ♥s, or duck a small diamond to the

♦Q in hand pitching a losing ♣ from dummy. Either way declarer finds 12 tricks.

Of course if North adopts a deep defense and refuse to ruff ♥s, then South draws one round of trump and plays off ♥s pitching ♦s. This can lead to a classic strip squeeze ending where South has no recourse.

♠		
♥		
♦ 8		
♣ J107		
♠		♠ 10
♥		♥
♦ —		♦ Q
♣ Q982		♣ A3
♠		
♥		
♦ KJ		
♣ K4		

West plays the ♠10 to the 10th trick and South has no answer. A ♦ permits an end play forcing South to give up an extra ♣ trick, and a ♣ allows declarer to cash 2 ♣s. Notice this line is better as declarer does not have to find 1-4 ♠ to make.

Now, if declarer instead discards a ♣ on trick 1, South is end played at trick 2. A ♦ continuation sets up the ♦Q. A ♥ mis-times the defense, allowing declarer to cash out in spite of the 1-4 trump split. A ♣ gives up a ♣ trick unnecessarily and a trump allows declarer to pick up the suit then run the ♥s.

12 tricks bid and made any number of ways". Another triumph for the Baker Street Master.

"But Holmes", I protested, "How can East presume trumps are 4-1?" Holmes seemed perturbed by such an impetuous question. He answered, "When faced with an apparently safe contract it's best to consider what could go wrong. 7321 is more likely than 7222 so South likely has a singleton in hand. The absence of a ♥

lead suggests the singleton is not in ♥. The dog that didn't bark. If South is short in a major it is likely to be trumps not ♥. Playing for a 4-1 split is not obvious and the inference is very thin. All in all, ducking the 1st trick is a much better play.

Indeed Watson, playing 7♥ from your side is a great deal easier. I could not declare 7♥ from West because North could lead ♣ initially and kill the squeeze. South of course could not profitably lead a ♣, but would double your 5♣ control bid to alert North to the right lead. Once East cannot count to 13 tricks, a trump squeeze is the only way to victimize South, who must per force hold the minor suit assets allowing the squeeze in the first place - the *necessary assumption, Watson*". My head was spinning. "Holmes, how did you know to bid 7♥ in the first place – I only had a minimum opener?" "My dear friend, we needed the points and your ♥ bid was clearly a mistake brought on by fatigue. I knew the adrenaline from your surprise would focus you on the task at hand and I trusted you to trust me. Besides, South had to hold both ♦ and ♣ for a squeeze to work. Happily you had the ♥Q."

How he saw that during the auction escapes me. "Watson, go grab your coat and hail a hansom. Time to head back to the flat", urged Holmes. The night was indeed dark and cool. I hailed a cab momentarily, and Holmes bounded out of the club jumping past me to take his seat. I felt a mass fall into my coat pocket as he brushed past. I reached in to find a weighty, ribboned gold medal. "Our prize", said Holmes as he tapped the roof. "221B Baker Street" was the last he said. Our ride home filled with street sound, horseshoed hooves and wooden wheels against cobblestones. I knew better than to expect more post mortem conversation, much less celebration, tonight. His mind was already on other things...

See Hand 1 Tuesday Evening July 22, 2014 CBC.

"None of us is as smart as all of us"
— Kenneth H. Blanchard

You Are Unusually Happy in Every Notrump Indubitably

By Amit Raturi

A very unusual player came to town about a decade ago. On one of the early boards against him at that time (I was playing with Bill Higgins), he bid six clubs on a hand after I had opened 1NT. An unfortunate lie of cards for him led to down one and a top for us, but how many of us have the vision to even visualize such a scenario!!

Only one!! Consider this deal I played with him and you will understand what I mean. How many tricks can you make in 2♠?

N	E	S	W				
1N	P	P	2♦*	♠ A432		♠ Q95	
P	2♠	All Pass		♥ Q10987		♥ AJ	
				♦ QJ2		♦ A943	
				♣ 9		♣ J1083	

Lead: ♣6

Trick 1: ♣6 to North's ♣K

Trick 2: ♣A by North, dummy ruffing. Both sides have 6 trumps now so it's not looking good.

Here is my partner's line of play.

Trick 3: ♥Q. Do you cover as N? If you don't, he will have ♥Ax. So you cover...

Trick 4: ♥J cashed, learning that S has only 2...he is a hawk; he watches every card like a hawk.

Trick 5: ♣ ruff in dummy! Eugene's philosophy is that if they do something that seems like good defense, you do more of it to rattle them. Here, of course, he is trying to score some tricks.

Trick 6: ♦Q from dummy, N cover with the ♦K, this one is obvious since he has only 2.

Trick 7: ♣ ruff in dummy!! S is helplessly watching all his partner's high cards falling to the lowly 2, 3, 4 of spades, while he has better trumps than anybody.

Trick 8: ♥10 from dummy pitching a ♦ as S ruffs with the ♠10. If South now plays a ♠, the last ♦ loser will go on the ♥9 as S ruffs with the K. Now a ♦ to the J will allow Eugene to play a 5th ♥ and pick up N's trumps on any holding. So S valiantly plays the ♦10 hoping to (a) either pin the ♦9 from N, or allowing N to score a ruff when a 3rd ♦ is played.

Trick 9: S plays the ♦ ten. Dummy's ♦J winning.

Trick 10: Eugene plays the ♦2 from dummy; N thinking partner must have the 9 to play the ♦10 at trick 9, pitches a ♥ and Eugene wins the ♦9.

Trick 11: ♠ to the ♠A

Trick 12: ♥ from dummy, N ruffs, Eugene over ruffs with the 9, and S ruffs with the K

Trick 13: Eugene scores the ♠Q for his 10th trick!!

Let me restate that...for his 10th trick!! NS scored only 1♣ and 2♠!! I have trouble developing the line of play for 10 tricks after seeing all the 4 hands and he does that without a blink of an eye at the table. We scored all the match points on this board in a 128 table event!!

Here are two more examples from an anonymous donor of bridge hands to my collection.

Hand 2: Eugene is East and holds ♠K10953 ♥8 ♦Q87 ♣7642 (EW Vul, S deals). He hears Pass, 1♠ by his partner, 3♣

and he makes a preemptive raise of 4♠. South bids 5♣ and his partner bids 5♠ which is passed to him. He raises to 6♠!! His partner holds ♠AQ764, ♥AKJ62, ♦K105 ♣---. 6♠ makes and no one else in the room is in 6.

North	♠ 876		
Deals	♥ K432		
None Vul	♦ K5		
	♣ AKQ2		
	♠ A432		♠ Q95
	♥ Q10987		♥ AJ
	♦ QJ2		♦ A943
	♣ 9		♣ J1083
			♠ KJ10
			♥ 65
			♦ 10876
			♣ 7654

Hand 3: Eugene is East and holds ♠63 ♥KJ752 ♦--- ♣KJ9643 (NS vul, E deals). He passes, 1NT(15-17) by S, 2♦ (showing majors) by partner, 2N (Lebensohl), he bids 3♥, South doubles, P, 3NT by N, 4♥ by Eugene, another obvious Double by S (this time with a capital D!) and 3 passes. S can defeat the hand with pinpoint defense, but Eugene takes advantage of a defensive slip and makes 4 for a cold top. South holds ♠AKJ9 ♥Q963 ♦AQ ♣875. W holds ♠Q10542, ♥A1084, ♦K965 and ♣---. The defense got 2 ♠s and 1 ♣.

If good bridge was his only quality, I would not have spent the time writing this article. We have many arguments, some of them quite heated;

returning from a Dayton sectional, we argued about the likelihood of 7 versus 8 card fits for 30 minutes and then another 30 about why after the Jacoby 2NT bid, a 3NT bid should be exactly 14-16 with a flaw for opening 1NT initially. That was one hour of “pure” headache for Nancy and Bill, our teammates. But he is the kindest, gentlest person you will ever meet, and if you talk to him, he makes bridge more fun than you will ever believe.

The title of this article points one way, but here are other indicators that Yauheni is close by :

1. **Y03NT** (read that as Why not 3NT?)? His favorite question in bridge.
2. **Short auctions:** His favorite theory: with 10+ points, if partner opens 2C, just bid 6NT
3. **“You know....”** All his stories start with that phrase. What I want to ask him is, “Well, if I know, why are you telling me, sir?”
4. **“Why did you not....”** is the typical disconcerting question as opposed to “Why did you do this...” ...I find this particularly appealing as a teacher...

As you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Other people and other people's ideas are often better than your own. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life. [Amy Poehler](#)

Eggs in Baskets

by [Mike Ma](#)

Bridge is a game of possibilities and probabilities. All other things being equal, as declarer if you can explore different possibilities to maximize your combined probability of making the hand, you will in the long run beat out those declarers who play for a single possibility with a lesser probability than your combined total. That is, you do better by putting your eggs in multiple baskets than in a single one.

A fairly common situation is when declarer needs one of two finesses to succeed in order to make the hand. If she can arrange to test out both finesses, she will be considerably better off than a

declarer who banks on only one of the finesses to be successful. For example, declarer (S) has ♥AQ while dummy (N) has ♦AQ, and she needs for the K to be in the slot in at least one of the two suits to make 3NT. However, suppose that the defenders have knocked out her ♠ stoppers already, and E holds the remaining ♠ enough to set the hand, while W has no more ♠ and no entry to E. Then declarer can test both finesses by first taking the ♥ finesse. Even if that loses to W, she can still take the ♦ finesse and hope that it succeeds. Whereas if she takes the ♦ finesse first, then she is down if that loses even if the ♥ finesse turns out to work. Thus, the order in which we put our eggs in the two baskets can affect whether the second basket is accessible. Putting them in the wrong order, and we end up with one basket only.

The above example is simple enough. But when put into the context of an entire hand, then what order to put the eggs and which baskets to use are often more complicated. The following hand from one of CBA's February STAC games is quite instructional.

West	East
♠ AQ73	♠ 1095
♥ A62	♥ 984
♦ 2	♦ AK85
♣ AKJ93	♣ 1085

Vulnerable vs. not, W opened 1♣ in third seat and later reversed into 2♠. E ended up as declarer in 3NT. Bidding with a reverse sequence is always nervy, because it seems very few partnerships have actually discussed how to proceed after the reverse bid. When the partners are not on the same page, they can easily be playing a partial when slam is laid down.

3NT is a reasonable contract, so W should try to make it. The ♥7 was led, N took the 10 when declarer ducked. Declarer ducked again when W continued with ♥J, and took the ♥A next. W's play showed that he had the remaining ♥. To simplify things, let's assume ♣'s break (32), how would you play the hand from this point on?

Declarer has 6 top tricks. The ♣ suit provides two other tricks if he has to lose to the Q. So if declarer can play ♣ for no loser or take a winning ♠ finesse, he will make the hand. At the table, declarer, seeing that he had to work on ♣ anyway, chose to take the ♣ finesse. He played a top ♣ just to see if the Q dropped. When it did not, he came to his hand with ♦A, played the ♦K and then ran the ♣10. Luck was not his side that day, and that lost to the Q, whereupon W cashed his last ♥. Worse, since declarer had to play off both of his top ♦'s, defenders now took 2 more ♦'s, and declarer ended up down 2 (should have been down 3, but S threw a ♦ by mistake on the 13th ♥). Given it was Match Points, that was a very poor score.

Declarer put all his eggs in one basket. The ♣ suit was a natural source of tricks, and he was right in tackling it first. But he did not have to bank everything on the ♣ finesse, and should play so that he can fall back on the ♠ finesse. One line he could have taken is to bang down the ♣AK. If the Q drops, he is home. Now his ♣10 actually becomes a second entry to his hand, allowing him to use it to take the ♠ finesse for an overtrick without having to cash his top ♦'s. With an additional entry to his hand, he might even take the double ♠ finesse for additional overtricks. If the Q does not fall, he can knock it out, then use his ♦ entry to take the ♠ finesse to make. This is a common situation where you have two suits with finesse positions, and you play to drop the missing honor in one of the suit, reserving the chance to finesse in the other suit.

Another alternative is to come to his hand with the ♦A, and take a finesse to the ♣J without playing the ♦K. If the finesse wins, he can cash the ♦K and take his 9 tricks (if E ducks with Qxx, congratulate him on his fine play). There are actually plays he can make for overtricks if he is not content with making. If it loses, the ♣10 is now an entry to his hand for him to play the ♦K and take the ♠ finesse. He therefore is able to test finesses in both suits.

Here is the full hand:

Board 6	♠ 862		
East	♥ KQJ10		
Deals	♦ J107		
E-W Vul	♣ Q62		
♠ AQ73		♠ 1095	
♥ A62		♥ 984	
♦ 2		♦ AK85	
♣ AKJ93		♣ 1085	
	♠ KJ4		
	♥ 753		
	♦ Q9643		
	♣ 74		

We see that the ♣Q is not doubleton and E has Qxx, but the ♠ finesse is on, and both alternative lines would have worked. Making is a near top and going down 2 is a near bottom, the difference between putting all the eggs in one basket and having a second basket in reserve.

EPISODE 10: SPACE FEVER AND GOOD LUCK CHARMS

"An exotic bid may fool your partner but it also fools two opponents. That alone makes it worthwhile."—Robert Brown.

I won't bore you with the medical details. Let's just say that the doctors at Meckwell Mercy, using hyper-space-age meds and equipment, diagnosed my rare form of Inner-Space (a.k.a. Galactic) Fever and cured it over a period of several months. Then they got me rehabbed and back on the road to Gold Space Master.

While inside I inquired of several docs about performance-enhancing drugs. When asked for specifics I listed the symptoms: poor declarer play, careless defense, misleading leads and discards, and especially substandard bidding, including failure to recognize space-rookie conventions like Drury and Bergen. I didn't mention whose performance I was talking about. --So, doc, have you got *anything* to enhance bridge performance?

It turns out that such a drug does exist in an experimental ear-spray version. Sadly, ailments such as failing to recognize Drury after playing it for five years are so rare that the drug companies can't make a profit on the cure and won't bring it to market.

Another thing I learned in the hospital: the meds for Inner-Space (Galactic) Fever can create severe delusions. I *swear* I filled out a form that asked:

- Do you have shortness of breath?

- Do you have heart palpitations?
- Have you recently played bridge with Robert Brown?

--Yes, yes and yes!

--Okay, you need help. Follow the red line to the Fever Unit.

Another delusion, repeated night after night: I'm eleven years old and stuck at dancing school, where my mom believes I will learn social skills. I'm plugging away at the two-step like the good boy that I am. I look at my partner, who was a cute eleven-year-old blonde when I asked her to dance. Now I see it's young Bobby Brown, blonde but *not* cute!

Boys are cutting in all around me. I call out: --CUT IN ON ME, I BEG YOU. TAKE MY PARTNER -- PLEASE!

No one cuts in; the music -- "Down Among the Sheltering Palms" (1914, music by [Abe Olman](#), lyrics by [James Brockman](#) and [Leo Wood](#)) -- goes on and on and on, just like a Felson-Brown 38% round.

I was hospitalized for so long I thought Bob might find another partner out of desperation, but no, he stuck with me the way a sailor sticks with a large bird wrapped around his neck, although Bob must know by now that *he* is the horse collar, the cement boot, the load of bricks, the giant anchor, the lead balloon -- in short, my weight of carrion flesh [*warning -- literary allusion*].

To his credit, Bob visited me as often as he could, given the parsecs of space he had to cover. And always he had bridge tales to tell. For example, the increasing sliminess of his interim partners. By the way, it's hard to believe "sliminess" was once pejorative. Today, half the players in the Universe are oozing something or other and many can fly at the same time.

He also expressed concern about all the 40% scores he'd been getting with these new friends. I guess he's forgotten how hard it's been for us to rise above that level, even after a hundred plus years of purporting to play the same convention card.

On one visit, at a time things looked pretty bad, Bob brought me a rabbit's foot to cheer me up. This gave me an idea. Soon, with the help of the nurses, I had a horseshoe over my bed, four-leaf clovers in my salad, a lucky penny in my pocket, and a Moeseian witch-doctor on 24-hour call. I even considered a good-luck tattoo -- "Bye-bye Bob" over a shooting star -- but the docs wouldn't allow it.

Unfortunately, none of these artifacts resulted in Bob finding a new partner and bringing me to tears by throwing me over (*not!*). As soon as he heard my discharge date he signed us up for a tournament schedule that would cause Inner Space (Galactic) Fever in the toughest commander of an Empire battle cruiser. Oh well, back in the saddle again.

At least the good luck charms had some effect. Here's one of the first hands we played *post feveroso gaspachio* (that's Melmacian for "after I recovered").

I open 1♦ and Bob bids 2♣. I jump to 3♦, forgetting that this might trigger one of Bob's traditional leaps of faith to 6NT. This is not to say that he was totally nuts; a few others got there, although more slowly I'm sure.

North	Me		
Deals	♠ AKQ		
Both	♥ 762		
Vul	♦ AK10653		
	♣ 5		
Hairy Tubular			Smooth Tubular
♠ J975			♠ 1064
♥ KJ985			♥ A4
♦ 98			♦ 72
♣ 32			♣ 1098764
	Bob		
	♠ 832		
	♥ Q103		
	♦ QJ4		
	♣ AKQJ		

The luck part is that most of the field was in 3NT by South, going down on the obvious 4th best heart lead, while very few West players would lead a heart against 6NT. Our hairy tubular West didn't either. He (she? it?) led a spade, Bob turned his cards up, and our 13 tricks put us in the top 2% of 18,000 N-S pairs.

I almost dropped my horseshoe.

Ruminations

by Robert S Brown

[Editor's Note. RSB and I were unable to agree on what material is suitable for *Alert* publication. I believe the e-mail string below demonstrates my good faith attempt to accommodate his rather bizarre requests. However, as Editor, I can neither expose the CBA to legal liability for his defamatory comments nor countenance his blatant appeals to prurient interests without redeeming social value. I hope RSB will resume his contributions to future issues if and when he chooses less inflammatory and offensive topics. S.M.]



Dear Steve: I'd like to take "Ruminations" in a different direction by compiling some "Top Ten" lists as a Letterman parody – any objections? RSB

Dear Bob: Of course not. S.M.

Dear Steve: I enclose my article and would appreciate the opportunity to proof it before release. RSB [attachment omitted]

Bob: This is not acceptable. While your discussion of "repulsive versus obnoxious" characteristics is mildly amusing, I can't print your list of the "Top Ten" CBA members in each category. The Albatross's consent notwithstanding, we can't build membership by ostracizing the victims of your calumnies. S.M.

Steve: "Calumnies" is a big word for such a small mind to use. The ostracizing you condemn could really be a much-needed cultural cleansing of our membership. However, I am nothing if not flexible and attach new lists. RSB [attachment omitted]

Bob: Your list of gender-based bridge styles is plain sexism and not publishable. Regardless of how long Tennyson served as Poet Laureate, the *Locksley Hall* quote "Nature made them blinder motions bounded by a shallower brain" would get you thrashed by the "weaker sex". I'm doing you a favor by rejecting this. S.M.

Dear Lunkhead: Somehow I don't feel the love. But on that topic – feeling love – I have put together a new list that I'm sure our readers will find entertaining. RSB [attachment omitted]

Dear Nutcase: Your top ten fantasies while playing dummy is unadulterated smut. Your pretentious quotes from J. Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*; Casanova, *Memoirs*; and the *Kama Sutra* notwithstanding, no one at this Club wants to visit the sick and twisted corridors of what you employ in place of a mind. S.M.

Dear Pinhead: You are an uptight Bowdlerizing prig who is selfishly depriving my many fans of the opportunity to read the best three articles I've ever written for your milk-livered rag. I dare you to at least publish our recent e-mails. If you do, I will surely be flooded with requests for private copies of the articles you have so arrogantly rejected. RSB

[Dear Reader – 'Long live freedom of the press! – Of course, any requests to the Author are at your own risk. We assume NO liability. Editor].

Nonsenses by Bruce Parent

There you go man
Be as cool as you can
Fight piles of trials with smiles
It riles them to believe that
you perceive the web they weave
So keep on thinking free
- The Moody Blues

Know(n) Nonsenses

- A stop in time saves 800.
- Trout fishermen learn on the fly.
- Support doubles are for those people who cannot tell the fours from the threes.
- Sadly my left brain left, it was tired of my right brain always being right.
- Today's forecast: 25% chance of brain.
- Apparently Donald Duck is not all he's quacked up to be.
- We strongly believe in lack of control bidding.
- Cheech and Chong prefer Wimbledon, doesn't everybody prefer to play on grass?

Answer to Nancy's Nasties

From page 10

Let's start by counting winners. In the trump suit, you could have 5 winners if the trumps split 3-3. You could have 5 winners in ♦s and 1 winner in ♣s, for a total of 11 tricks. If we just try to take winners, what are the dangers to our plan? The dangers are:

1. trumps don't split 3-3, and
2. ♦s split 5-1 or 6-0.

Are these real or imagined dangers? Let's look at the probabilities missing 6 cards in a suit:

Split	Prob
4-2	48.5%
3-3	35.5%
5-1	14.5%
6-0	1.5%

The probability of a bad split in trumps is high (64.5%) but the probability of a 5-1 or 6-0 split in diamonds is relatively low (16%). If we factor in the probability that

the J♠ is in the hand with a singleton or doubleton, the probability rises to 54% that it will drop if we play the top 3 honors. Armed with these probabilities, let's go back to our plan for the play of the hand.

As you no doubt remember from my last Alert article, Nancy's basic principles are that "greed is good" in a pairs game but safety is most important in a team game. In a pairs game, we need to try for all 11 possible tricks. After we trump the ♥Q in our hand, should our plan be that we take the 54% probability that the ♠J will drop if we play the top 3 ♠s? Let's now turn our attention to the very important spot cards to answer that question.

Even if the J♠ does drop, our 5♠ will not be able to draw the last trump if spades split 4-2 (the most probable distribution). We now have the answer to the 1st part of our puzzle—there is no difference in our play between a pairs game and a team game unless the ♠s divide 3-3, a low probability.

Why? If we trump in hand, play the top 3 trump, and trumps split 4-2 (the most probable distribution), we run the risk of losing control. When we attempt to run the ♦s, our opponent will trump the third or fourth ♦ and lead the fourth ♥ or a ♣. We are forced to ruff a ♥ with

our last trump or take a ♣ finesse. The ♣ finesse loses if our RHO is on lead so we lose 1 ♠, 2 ♥s, and 1 ♣, down 1.

What happens if we trump the ♥Q in our hand and then lead a **low** trump? Abracadabra, we have our magic solution. Our opponent is forced to win the J♠ or risk losing it. Our opponent has no winning lead:

1. If our opponent leads a spade, we win in dummy with the ♠10, return to our hand with the ♦J, we draw the outstanding trump, and run the ♦s.
2. A ♥ lead can be ruffed in dummy, we can return to our hand with the ♦J, we draw the outstanding trump, and run the ♦s.
3. A ♦ lead is won in our hand with the ♦J, we draw the outstanding trump, and run the ♦s.
4. If our RHO wins and leads a ♣, we spurn the finesse and win the lead in our hand with the ♣A, draw the outstanding trump, and run the ♦s.
5. Although it is counter intuitive with the 3 top trump, the winning play is to immediately give up a trump.

South ♠T9
Deals ♥J42
N/S Vul ♦AKQ62
♣Q72

♠J764	N	♠82
♥AKQ7	W	♥T965
♦84	E	♦T973
♣K84	S	♣T95

♠AKQ53
♥83
♦J5
♣AJ63

"Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in a world all of your own."

— Albert Schweitzer

Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

From Page 11

Solution Problem #1

We have 3 losers: 2 clubs and 1 diamond. Therefore we should hope for 6 tricks in trumps. Simple line is: win first trick, heart finesse, back to dummy, ♥ finesse. If hearts are 3-2 we can claim. What if hearts are 4-1?

South	♠AKxx		♠J10xx
Deals	♥xx		♥Kxxx
N/S Vul	♦Axxx		♦Kx
	♣Axx		♣QJx
	♠Qxx		♠J10xx
	♥x		♥Kxxx
	♦QJ10xx		♦Kx
	♣Kxxx		♣QJx
			♠xx
			♥AQJ10xx
			♦xx
			♣xxx

If RHO has ♥Kxxx we can survive only if we **enter dummy at trick 3 using spades (not ♣A)**. Now we can **reenter dummy with ♠K**, ruff a ♠, **cross to ♣A and ruff last ♠**. We took 8 tricks so far and we have ♥AQ ♦x ♣xx left. Now we can play either minor and wait for 2 more trump tricks.

Solution Problem #2

Again, we have 3 losers: 2 diamonds and 1 spade. And again, we need to take 6 tricks in trumps. If hearts are 3-2 we can claim (again!). Let's think about 4-1 break. If RHO has ♥Jxxx we want to reduce our trump holding twice. Since we have just one entry to dummy(♠A) we should **ruff a ♣ at trick two and only now cash ♥AK**.

South	♠Axx		♠Jxx
Deals	♥xx		♥Jxxx
N/S Vul	♦Jxxx		♦KQx
	♣Axxx		♣Kxx
	♠Qxxx		♠Jxx
	♥x		♥Jxxx
	♦xxx		♦KQx
	♣QJ10xx		♣Kxx
			♠Kxx
			♥AKQ10xx
			♦Axx
			♣x

After revealing 4-1 break we should **cash ♦A, ♠K, enter dummy with ♠A and ruff one more club**. We took 8 tricks so far and still have ♥Q10. Notice that if we don't ruff a club at trick 2, we won't be able to get 10 tricks (nobody will hook ♥J, right?).

Solution Problem #3:

The same story - we have 3 losers (1 ♦ and 2 ♣s) and we need 6 trump tricks. What can we do if ♥s are 4-1? We want to reduce our trump holding

twice. **Win first trick, unblock ♠A, cash ♥K and ♥A**. If RHO has ♥Jxxx we can ruff a ♠, cash ♦AK and ruff another ♠.

However, we can make game even if LHO has 4 trumps. In this case we should hope that LHO has long ♠s as well.

South	♠xxxx		♠Qxxx
Deals	♥Ax		♥x
N/S Vul	♦AKxx		♦QJxx
	♣xxx		♣Jxxx
	♠KJxx		♠Qxxx
	♥Jxxx		♥x
	♦xx		♦QJxx
	♣KQ10		♣Jxxx
			♠A
			♥KQ10xxx
			♦xxx
			♣Axx

At trick 5 we **should ruff a ♠, cross to ♦A, ruff another ♠, cross to ♦K and try to ruff last ♠**. We will score all 6 trumps if W has 4 ♠s.

Better Preempts: What is the upside? part I

by Andrew Gumperz Oct 25, 2012

www.bridgewinners.com

Andrew Gumperz is a part-time bridge professional based in the SF bay area. This article is reprinted with the author's permission from the Gump's Tips series on Bridgewinners.com. See Andrews articles on *Bridge Winners!*



Earlier articles focused largely on self-protection--how to preempt without risking painful consequences. However, controlling damage is only half the battle. The other half is finding opportunities where a preempt is likely to generate a big reward. This is the first of several articles on judging whether an auction offers a small or a large reward for preemption and adjusting your preemption tactics accordingly.

Large and Small Rewards

Experts think of a preempt like a bet. With X% chance of winning, they are risking \$Y to gain \$Z. An expert would rather risk \$10 for a chance to win \$100 than for a chance at \$1. An expert would also prefer his bet has a 75% chance of winning rather than a 10% chance of winning.

To change from the betting metaphor to preemptive terms, we would much rather risk -

500 in a doubled preempt for a chance to win +500 than for a chance to win +50. We have encountered two scenarios where reward for preemption is low:

- The hand belongs to us. In this case a preempt can't win anything at all. If we bid slowly instead, we would reach the same or a superior contract as we would if we preempt.*
- The opponents can only make a partscore.

If you were certain the opponents could only make a partscore, or that the deal belonged to your side, you'd never risk a large number on a preempt, since the reward for victory is small. In practice nothing is ever certain, but often your hand and the auction suggest that the deal belongs to you, or that the opponents *probably* cannot make a game. In those situations your preemptive strategy should be conservative to protect yourself from numbers.

Fortunately, in most auctions, there is some chance of winning big with an effective preempt. But even when a bet offers a large reward, experts will not automatically place a large bet. Suppose the bet will win only 1 time in 10. The expert would only be willing to risk \$1 to win \$10 if the chance of success is 10%. In preemptive terms, if we are going to risk going -500 or -800 we would rather do it with a good chance to collect a 500+ reward than with a poor one. And if we think the chances are poor we should preempt conservatively, only risking -100 or -200 for a small chance to win +500.

How can you tell when preemption will or will not succeed frequently? Let's look at two examples. We will start with an auction where a preempt is unlikely to succeed.

* The exception is opening game bids. An opening 4M or a 1m -- (P) -- 4M response can be bid with a weak or a goodish hand. When bid on a good hand, you hope 4M shuts the opponents out of a cheap sacrifice. You intentionally risk missing a slam in exchange for a better chance to avoid an opposing sacrifice. If you don't fear a sacrifice, or you think slam chances are too good, you bid slowly instead.

Auction 1

W N E S

1♥ P 2♥ 3♠ ?

Consider the 3 ways a preempt can win and whether these outcomes are likely in the above auction:

1. *A preempt might drive the opponents into the wrong strain.* Having already found a fit, the opponents will rarely get to the wrong strain after your 3♠ bid. They could defend when they should declare, but they would virtually never play game in the wrong strain.

2. *A preempt might drive opponents too high or too low.* With RHO a limited hand, LHO often already knows whether the deal belongs in partscore or game, and with RHO so weak, slam is almost always not a factor. Your preempt can only give LHO a problem when he has invitational values, and even then, he will make the right decision at least half of the time.

3. *A preempt can locate a cheap sacrifice.* This is the best chance for your preempt to pick up a decent number of IMPs, as long as partner can judge accurately to avoid a phantom sacrifice.

Why was this auction so poor for preemption? The boat had already sailed before it was your turn to bid. With their 1♥ -- 2♥ sequence, the opponents had found their fit, and one player had limited his hand. Consequently, there was little uncertainty remaining about the deal, and the chance a preempt would cause them to err was small.

Does this mean you should never preempt after a raise? No. You don't want to miss the occasional cheap sacrifice. However, it does mean you don't want to risk a big number after a single raise. Let's take a look at some hands in this auction.

South	W	N	E	S
♠ KJxxxx	1♥	P	2♥	?
♥ xx				
♦ Qxx				
♣ x				

Holding this hand you should pass. 3♠ risks a large number with little upside.

South **W N E S**
 ♠ KQJxxxx 1♥ P 2♥ ?
 ♥ x
 ♦ A10xx
 ♣ x

This is the hand a preempt shows when preemptive tactics are oriented towards finding a sacrifice. Although you might be tempted to bid 4♠ directly, how would you feel if partner tabled ♥QJTx and a stiff ♠? You would have just traded a plus score versus 4♥ for -300 when 4♠ was doubled. Preempting 3♠ allows your side to save when partner has limited defense, and protects you from a phantom sacrifice when he does.

How should advancer continue after your 3♠ preempt? If you promise a very good preempt, partner can afford to sacrifice often and with relatively dull hands. He can judge accurately when their contract will be cold, and he doesn't need much to bid further since he knows your call shows excellent offense. Your preempt is a strong invitation to sacrifice.

Let's look at this from the point of view of the advancer:

North **W N E S**
 ♠ A10x 1♥ P 2♥ 3♠
 ♥ Jxx 4♥ ?
 ♦ xxx
 ♣ Kxxx

This is an easy 4♠ bid. Your hand is rather poor, so what makes it a clear 4♠ call? First, you can tell that 4♥ is a big favorite to make, since partner's hand must be offensively oriented and you have little defense. Second, given the 7-8 offensive trick hand your partner has promised, you can more or less guarantee 8 tricks for your side, and possibly 9. So a sacrifice is likely to be profitable.

Auction 2

The last auction was no fun. Who likes to hear that our wild "creative" calls are pointless? Perhaps we need to look at a high-success auction as an antidote.

W N E S

1♣ 3♠ ?

This time every factor favors preemption: The opening call means the hand likely belongs to the opponents, and at the same time, opener's hand is wildly undefined. He might hold a 4-3-3-3 12-count or he could hold a distributional 7-4-1-1 19-count. Responder has no idea if they have a fit and if they do, where their fit lies. Furthermore, responder has no idea whether the hand belongs in partscore, game or slam, since he has no idea yet how strong opener is. Since your call consumed so much bidding room, the opponents will often be stuck with a pure guess.

Chances that this preempt drives the opponents into the wrong strain or to the wrong level are high. Your preempt also allows to find a cheap sacrifice when advancer has a fit and little defense. The opponents will have more trouble judging when to defend against this 3♠ than the last one, because they are uncertain of the correct level. They fear collecting a paltry +500 when they were due a slam bonus.

What does that suggest about preemption tactics? With such good chances, preempt as often as possible. The only way to preempt more often is to preempt on a wider range of hand types, including many on which risk is substantial or the hand includes significant side defense.

Given the large upside to preemption, 3♠ is a reasonable call by South with each sample hand below after East opens 1♣ in 1st seat:

South	South	South	South	South
♠ KQJ98x	♠ KJ9xxx	♠ KQJxxxx	♠ QJ9xxx	♠ QJ9xxxx
♥ x	♥ xx	♥ xx	♥ x	♥ Axx
♦ xxx	♦ AQ10x	♦ Qx	♦ x	♦ x
♣ xxx	♣ x	♣ xx	♣ xxxxx	♣ xx

What about poor partner? If you preempt on such a wide range of hands, won't he have a terrible time judging what to do? Yes he will. In general, he must guess that your 3♠ call was already an overbid, and err in favor of conservatism, since you are far more likely to have stretched than to have been dealt a conventional preempt. As a result, he may miss a cheap sacrifice a small percentage of the time when your preempt had full preemptive values. That sounds bad, but

remember you are preempting five times as often as the guy who preempts only with full values. As a result, your many victories will outweigh the occasional missed sacrifice. In favorable preemption scenarios, this is a cost of business.

Looking again from the point of view of advancer:

North **W N E S**
 ♠ A10x 1♣ 3♠ X ?
 ♥ Jxx
 ♦ xxx
 ♣ Kxxx

You have the same hand we saw before, but this time you wouldn't dream of bidding on. 4♠ might either go for a huge number or it might be a phantom sacrifice. You have no way to tell because your partner's 3♠ call is so wide-ranging. Fortunately, it doesn't matter much in the long run. You will win plenty of boards when the opponents have bid too little/too much, or arrived at the wrong strain because partner's preempt consumed so much bidding space. Passing will lead to success more often than not. In this scenario, the preempt was oriented towards making the opponents guess wrong, not towards finding sacrifices. Sacrifice only when you have a big fit and shape and limited defense.

Conclusion

Experts preempt aggressively only in situations where they believe that the reward is large and chances of success are high. In these situations, they are willing to preempt on hands where losses could be high if opponents have the cards to double them.

The upside for preemption varies enormously based on the preceding auction. The upside for preemption is low whenever any of the following are true:

1. The hand belongs to you
2. The opponents can't make a game because you have significant defense
3. The opponents probably already know their best final contract

Whenever upside is limited, employ solid preempts and be conservative in advancing to protect yourself from numbers, and to allow your partner to judge accurately when to sacrifice.

The upside for preempting is high when:

1. The hand belongs to them
2. The opponents can probably make a game
3. The opponents don't yet know the correct strain or level

When the upside is good, be aggressive, bordering on foolish, to collect the frequent large rewards for preempting.

On Communication

by Steve Moese, CBA Communications Chair

The CBA Board of Directors has taken consistent steps over the past 7 months to improve how we communicate with you, our members. We hope better information helps you **PLAY MORE BRIDGE!** Some of our efforts you've seen:

- 1) Our updated **Unit 124/CBA website** - always current. Plenty of help & lots of information. CBC Club news on the left, and Unit/General Interest news on the right.
- 2) We publish the **Unit 124 Monthly Flyer** with Key Events and Special Games from all participating Unit clubs.
- 3) Weekly **Future Master Newsletter** is in its 3rd year for our NLM members. Read them all on the website.
- 4) The Education Committee's **planning calendar** for N2B and N2D events, linked with classes and play opportunities for new members.
- 5) We've updated **e-mail lists** so we focus CBC news to the CBC, and Unit news to the Unit unit.
- 6) The Cincinnati Board **minutes** publish one month after the meeting once the Board ratifies them. You can find all meeting minutes on the website.
- 7) ...Not to mention the **ALERT!!**
- 8) And, if that's not enough, check out the updated **[D11 Website](#)** too!

THE AGE OF DISCOVERY*

By Rob Weidenfeld elianadad@gmail.com

The publication of the book and then movie, [Heaven is for Real](#) (a story about a child who briefly dies and converses with the supreme Being in Heaven), has spawned a lot of traffic in social media about groups and conversations that might take place in heaven. It is not hard to imagine that like-minded people would gather behind the pearly gates, much as they do in their



more earthly quarters and enjoy a caste system of bridge players that might be having regular games.

I was wondering what it might be like if some of the more revered explorers of civilization decided that they enjoyed playing together. Could you picture what you could learn if you could sit in on Erik the Red (Greenland), Marco Polo (China), Richard Byrd (North Pole), and Neil Armstrong (moon) while they were playing in a social game of bridge?

Before they dealt the first deal, they began with the customary chit-chat. Erik asked Marco why he had traveled so far to make his discovery play? Richard had to chuckle. At least Marco was warm for most of the trip! That doesn't compare to the suffering we endured to find a bridge game at the polar ice caps! Boys, boys said Neil who was known for his modesty. We all went out of our way, using all the clues at our disposal to make our best discovery play. Let's not quibble. Someone please deal.

North	
♠	943
♥	1063
♦	852
♣	AJ105
South	
♠	KQ
♥	9
♦	AKQJ94
♣	Q632

Just as an aside, did you ever discuss a convention with partner and finding no agreement, decided that it never comes up anyway? Well in heaven, that never happens. It always comes up immediately. ←Here was the first deal.

Neil was destined to sit South and heard his partner pass, his RHO bid 4♥, and he bid 5♦. Erik, sitting West lead an obvious

singleton ♥7. Marco, who had preempted, won the ♥J and continued with the ♥A. So Neil started to discuss the hand. Discussing the hand at the Club is bad enough when the deal is over, but talking about it during the play is strictly verboten. But in heaven, everyone can read your mind so you might as well say what you think.

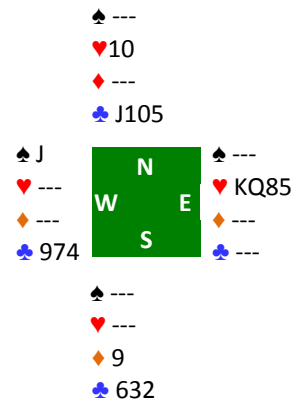
“So what am I supposed to discover on this hand. 5♦ looks like a pretty good contract to me. I have 1♥ loser and 1 certain ♠ loser. If the ♣K is on side, I make 5♦. So what am I supposed to discover?” Richard, the dummy, began to titter, but knew

better than to think about the play, because in heaven, that is the equivalent of hesitating with a singleton during the play.

As Neil pondered, he realized that knowing the king was on side was not enough. If Erik had all 5♣s, the hand could not be made. If he had 3♣s, the hand was easy. What if he had 4♣s. If Erik had ♣K987, Erik would always get a trick by covering the ♣Q. But what if Marco had a singleton 7, 8, or 9? Then I needed to take a 2nd round finesse of the ♣5!

Neil ruffed with the ♦A as Erik discarded a ♠. He drew 3 rounds of trumps and Erik followed 3 times, Marco discarding ♥s. Marco had 8♥s and 1♦. To discover how many ♣s he had, he only had to discover how many ♠s he held. So he led the ♠K at trick 6 and won the ♠ return in his hand. Now, and only now could he lead the ♣Q. It was of course covered and Marco played the ♣8! Now the last ♠ from dummy and when Marco followed to the 3rd spade, you didn't need to be in heaven to see the point of the discovery. Marco had 3♠s, 8♥s, 1♦, and therefore just 1♣. Neil was on lead in this position→

Erik had the remaining ♣s. On the lead of a ♣ from hand, if Erik played the ♣4, Neil could put in the ♣5 and claim. If Erik instead split his honors, er *cards*, and played the ♣7, Neil would cover, ruff the ♥ in hand and take the marked finesse of the ♣5!



“Interesting”, Richard noted, “if you finesse the Q earlier, Erik can win the ♠A and play a ♣. Now you have to guess before you know how many ♣s (or ♠s) Marco has!”

“Discovery isn't enough,” concluded Erik...“the timing has to be there as well.”

**with an assist from H. W. Kelsey, Countdown to Better Bridge, p. 160*

Cincinnati Summer STaC

August 4-10 is STaC Week

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:00PM
Monday 8/4	Open Pairs (Note: 1 1:00AM regular start time)		NLM & Open* Pairs
Tuesday 8/5	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	Open & NLM# Pairs
Wednesday 8/6	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	
Thursday 8/7	Open Pairs	Open & NLM# Pairs	Swiss Teams!
Friday 8/8	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	
Saturday 8/9	Open & NLM# Pairs	Open Pairs	
Sunday 8/10	1:00PM Swiss Teams! (Single Session)		

* Open Section if Attendance Allows

#NLM Section if Attendance Allows

- Separate NLM Sections
- Extra Games Most Days
- Scores Compiled Districtwide for Overall Awards
- All Games \$9 Entry

• All Points Silver !



Summer Getaway Sectional

August 15-17, 2014

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Stratified Open Pairs 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Open Swiss Teams 10 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Stratified Open Pairs 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Bracketed Compact KOs 10 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Stratified NLM Pairs 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

Bracketed Play-Through Swiss Teams 10 a.m.
lunch may be purchased

Stratified pairs: 0-750, 750-2000, 2000 +
Teams bracketed by average master points

- * Our inaugural year
- * Awesome hospitality suite
- * Speakers for all experience levels
- * Concessions on sale each day
- * \$10 entry fee; half-price ages 20-and-under

(\$3 additional per person for non or unpaid ACBL members)

CONTACTS

Tournament Chairs: Elaine Jarchow, 859-816-4581, ejarchow@yahoo.com;
Cordell Coy, 859-466-1835, cordell.coy@fuse.net

Partnerships Chair: Cindy Tretter, 859-653-4400; cgrammy@yahoo.com

For more information, visit
[www. NKYbridge.org](http://www.NKYbridge.org)



LOCATION

Doubletree by Hilton at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport
2826 Terminal Drive, Hebron, KY 41048
859-371-6166; www.doubletree.hilton.com
Ask for \$89 NKY Bridge Club rate, or online code C-NKB

FREE PARKING in hotel lots

Directions: Take I-275 Exit 4 (4B if westbound; both 4.5 miles west of I-71/75) onto Terminal Drive toward airport. Hotel is directly in front of air terminals. Follow **Hotel** signs and exit left onto hotel access road.

2014 Flying Buckeye Regional

Area A, Gate 12A, Fairborn (Dayton), Ohio, 45433, 937-879-2696 Bridge Rate: \$79.00 (Call by Aug 1)

Hope Center Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Tues	Compact KO I ¹ 1-2	10:00	2:30	
Sept 2	Stratified Open Pairs A=2500+, A/x=0-2500	10:00	2:30	
	Gold Rush Pairs ⁴ B=300-750, C=0-300	10:00	2:30	
	Morn/Aft/Eve Side Series Open Pairs ³	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Single Session Stratified Swiss		2:30	
	**Non-Life Master Stratified Pairs²		2:30	7:30
	Evening Knockout II round 1			7:30
Wed	Knockout III round 1 & 2	10:00	2:30	
Sept 3	Stratified Open Pairs (see above)	10:00	2:30	
	Gold Rush Pairs ⁴ (see above)	10:00	2:30	
	Single Session Stratified Open Swiss		2:30	
	**Non-Life Master Stratified Pairs²	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Morn/Aft/Eve Side Series Pairs ³	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Evening Knockout II round 2			7:30
	Evening Knockout IV round 1			7:30
Thu	Knockout III 3-4	10:00	2:30	
Sept 4	Stratified Open Swiss Teams A=2500+, A/x=0-2500	10:00	2:30	
	Gold Rush Teams ^{*4}	10:00	2:30	
	** Non-Life Master Stratified Pairs²	10:00	2:30	
	Morn/Aft/Eve Side Series Pairs ³	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Evening Knockout II round 3			7:30
	Evening Knockout IV round 2			7:30
Fri	Knockout V 1-2	10:00	2:30	
Sept 5	Stratified Open Pairs (see above)	10:00	2:30	
	Gold Rush Pairs ⁴ (see above)	10:00	2:30	
	** Non-Life Master Stratified Pairs²	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Morn/Aft/Eve Side Series Pairs ³	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Single Session Stratified Swiss		2:30	7:30
	Evening Knockout II Final (if needed)			7:30
	Evening Knockout IV round 3			7:30
Sat	Knockout V 3-4	10:00	2:30	
Sept 6	Compact KO VI ¹	10:00	2:30	
	Single Session Stratified Swiss		2:30	
	Stratified Open Pairs A=unlimited, B=500-2000, C=0-500	10:00	2:30	
	** Non-Life Master Stratified Pairs²	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Morn/Aft/Eve Side Series Pairs ³	10:00	2:30	7:30
	Evening Knockout IV Final (if needed)			7:30
Sun	Stratiflighted Swiss Teams	10:00	Play-thru	
Sept 7	[A=unlimited, A/x=0-2500], [B=750-1500, C=300-750, D=0-300, <i>but no one person over 1500</i>]			

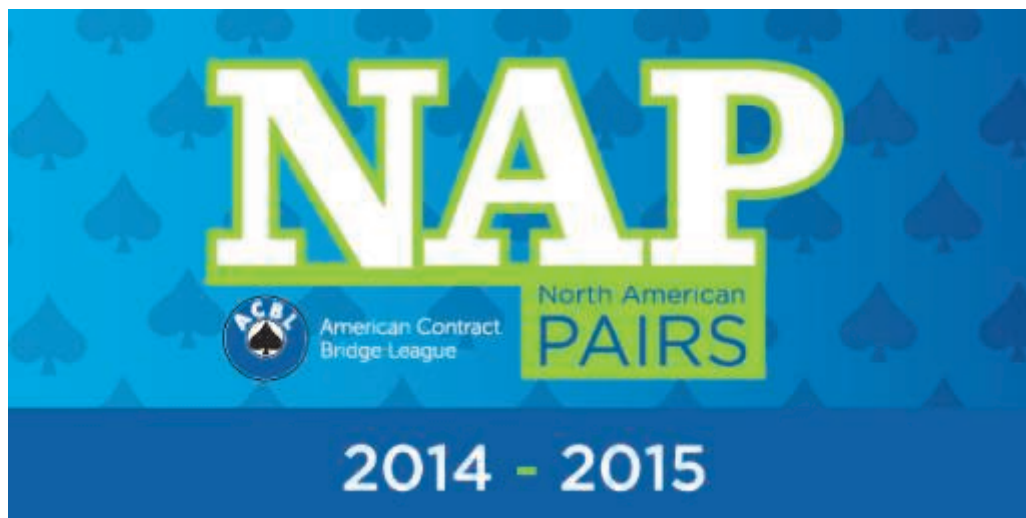
¹Compact KOs - Limit 4 per team

² NLM (Non-Life Master) sessions are single session events

not eligible for GOLD Points & held if attendance warrants

³ Side Series Pairs - Play in at least two side games at same time period on different days to be eligible to win an overall Gold award for side games held that time of day.

⁴Gold Rush pairs - no one over 750 mp and DOES pay GOLD for overalls/section top in B.



District 11 Final: 2-Session Pairs Saturday, October 11 OR Sunday, October 12

Cincinnati Bridge Center
2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241

Saturday, 10/11, 12:00 and 5:00: Flight B (<2500 MPs)
Sunday, 10/12, 11:00 and 4:00: Flights A (Open) and C (NLM, <500)

Play in the District 11 Finals in more than one Flight!
You may play in Flights A and B, or Flights B and C.

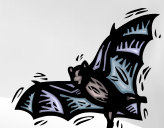
Questions about the NAP?
Go to cincybridge.com and click on NAP logo

District 11 NAP/GNT Coordinator:
Larry Jones
larry.jonesmeadpaper@earthlink.net or
614-530-0551



CINCINNATI SPOOKTACULAR SECTIONAL

October 24-26, 2014



Cincinnati Bridge Center
2860 Cooper Road, Cinti OH 45241
513-563-2218
Extra Parking Behind Viox Building at
9884 Reading Road

Friday and Sunday
2-Session Swiss!

Strats:
0-750/750-2000/2000+
Friday Swiss: Stratified
Sunday Swiss: Bracketed
All Events Use Average MPs

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Open Pairs 10:00AM, 2:30PM and 7:00PM
NLM Pairs 10:00AM and 2:30PM
Zombie Apocalypse Swiss (2 sessions)
. 10:00AM and 2:30PM

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Open Pairs 10:00AM, 2:30PM and 7:00PM
NLM Pairs 10:00AM and 2:30PM
Black Cat Compact KO. 10:00AM and 2:30PM

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

Spooktacular Swiss (2 session playthrough). . 10:00AM
(Buffet lunch included in entry)

Tournament Chair:
A.J. Stephani
513-313-0488
ajstephani@gmail.com

Partnership Chair:
Bob Fisk
513-379-5252
bobsbbcards@gmail.com

\$10 entry (\$5 Youth)
(\$3 surcharge non/unpd. ACBL mbrs)

AREA HOTELS
Hilton Garden Inn / 513-772-2837 / 3.7 Miles
Wingate by Windham / 513-733-1142 / 3.2 Miles
LivInn Suites / 513-772-7877 / 4.2 Miles

