



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

October 2014 XXXIX Number 4

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

From the President's Desk

by Steve Moese

The July August September quarter casts a heavy pall. We lost one of the Beacons of our Bridge Community when Nancy Sachs passed away September 3, 2014. We offer an extended tribute to her in this issue.

Our President AJ Stephani chose to resign in August. AJ has led many important improvements with the support of the Board of Directors to help put our tournament and bridge center planning on a sound base. He has also improved how we communicate with our members. We thank AJ for his unselfish service on behalf of the entire Unit for many years.

CBA Board work was delayed as the Board was met with two separate complaints. The 1st complaint by Kay Mulford was set aside prior to charges, with no hearing. This complaint about the Unit's taking of the Comer Sanctions (Tuesday Morning, Thursday Evening, and Saturday (odd games)) was successfully resolved through negotiation. Kay now owns the sanctions promised her by the Comer's. The Unit Board negotiated the settlement upon learning of Kay's prior claim to the sanctions.

The second disciplinary complaint filed with the District 11 by the Netherwoods contained 9 complaints and 11 requested actions. District Leadership (new President Dr. Terrell Holt) urged mediation. Terrell came to Cincinnati Friday afternoon October 10, 2014 to mediate a resolution. The meeting lasted 5 ½ hours. In the end, the Board agreed to these actions: 1) send a letter of apology to the Comers, 2) to define the Unit policy for distributing any newly acquired unit sanctions for recurring club games, and 3) to publish a joint letter to the Unit membership expressing satisfaction with the settlement. The Netherwoods and the Board agreed to permanently resolve the complaint through this settlement. This agreement included a side bar arrangement for sanction ownership of the Tuesday

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Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Game
Mon	AM	BCB 10:00 - CBC *11:00 Inv
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (<2000) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 - BCB 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	PM	MIDS 11:00 CBC 11:00 Open/NLM CBC 7:00* Open/149er
Wed	AM	CBC * 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:30
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30
Thu	AM	INT* 9:00 - BCB 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	Aft	WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30
	PM	CBC 7:00 Swiss Teams
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	PM	
Sat	AM	CBC Supervised Play 10-Noon.
	Aft	CBC 1:00

and Thursday Games. This side-bar was beyond the reach and authority of the Unit Board at the time of

the mediation. The minutes from the Board's actions in this matter are available on then Unit website.

There are no disciplinary charges established and no findings nor disciplinary actions taken against anyone.

The Board learned that there was a gap in our Policies and Standard Operating Procedures regarding how we handle unit-held sanctions for recurring club games (not including customarily owned game like our Tuesday Night game). We have a draft policy ready for final change and implementation by our November 18 Board meeting.

Through discussion with Christina VanLeeuwen (ACBL Assistant National Recorder) and Carole Roberts (ACBL Membership Director) the Board learned that:

- 1) Sanctions can be bought and sold.
- 2) ACBL allows Units to purchase of sanctions.
- 3) The ACBL strongly prefers that Units defer to private sanction owners. A prior verbal agreement is sufficient to create a preference for the new sanction holder over Unit ownership.

Any newly acquired regular club game by the Unit (not special events nor historical games held by the Unit) must be transferred to a qualified individual or group upon request. A newly acquired Unit club game cannot compete with another game in the same neighborhood.

Now back to business. Several important steps are underway to improve the strength of our Unit:

- 1) **The CBC Operations Committee** (Deb Cummings and Mike Purcell Co-Chairs) joins the Sanction holders (Kay Mulford, Deb Cummings, Mike Lipp, AJ Stephani, and Isaac Stephani) with the CBA Board Executive Committee (Steve Moese, Mike Purcell, Barb Levinson, Susan Wisner, Tom Mess, and Sonya Wilson) to work together to run the Cincinnati Bridge Center with excellence – growth from a responsible business model. The Unit Board (CBC owner) provides a breakeven budget for the CBC. The new committee will reinvigorate volunteer support, and create a yearly plan to better serve you, our players.
- 2) **CBC¹ Cost Center Financial Accounting.** Thanks to (heroic) efforts by Susan Wisner and the CBA²

¹ **CBC** Cincinnati Bridge Center – the facility the Unit owns and rents for club games and other Bridge activities.

² **CBA** Cincinnati Bridge Association – the business name for Unit 124 of the ACBL. Map: <http://tinyurl.com/Unit124CBA>

Finance Committee, we have a new CBC Cost Center income statement. We account for CBC separate from the other CBA activities. This also creates a principle-based accounting for all rents, including Unit, D11 and ACBL events (all pay customary rent to the center – no more free rides). The CBA will run the CBC at breakeven including minor capital costs (chairs and tables) and a CBC coordinator. This rational approach ensures we understand the CBC's health as we approach the end of our lease for the current space (Feb 2017).

- 3) **CBA Financial policy.** This Board will update our financial policy based on equity – the Unit Resources belong to the Unit and the CBC resources focus on CBC operations. We can no longer in good conscience use Unit funds to cover **operating** losses at the CBC. The CBC serves about 30% of the Unit membership. The Unit must ensure our tournament schedule and its financial health, and continue funding efforts to grow membership in the Unit.

Improvements

We have enabled sanction holders and directors at the CBC to e-mail CBC Players about their game plans once per week. This is in addition to the successful Monthly Unit Planner that delivers game plans for participating unit sanctions once per month to all members, and the weekly Future Masters Newsletter that reaches over 550 NLMs in the Unit with weekly events and bridge discussions.

We have updated our website so the next 4 major events (Unit/Club) are shown. (We have recently updated the District 11 website too!)

NKy Summer Getaway Sectional

A special shout-out goes to Elaine Jarchow and the Committee who planned and executed an excellent, successful first sectional! **WELL DONE!** Plan to attend next year – **let's grow this tournament!**

Instant Match Point Game

We congratulate Debbie Cummings for a successful the Instant Matchpoint Game on Thursday October 16, 2014. Debbie provided a sumptuous lunch, and changed the start time to Noon to comply with the ACBL conditions of contest. 19.5 tables attended.

Unit 124 spans North (Springboro OH), South (Elsmere KY), West (Oxford OH) and East (Lebanon OH).

Future Growth

We see a trend in how the ACBL is approaching **special games** run at the Unit level. In the past, games like the Worldwide Charity Game or the Instant Matchpoint games were always in the evening. The ACBL recognizes the evening game attendance is in decline. They want to grow the morning and afternoon games. We should be thinking along the same lines. Many tournaments are moving to the 10 AM and 2:30 PM daytime game slots. This appeals to daytime players and has been instrumental in helping maintain steady attendance at tournaments when others are in decline. This does not serve the working players, a shrinking percent of our club and tournament goers. John Meinking did a review of activity at the CBC and can demonstrate that there are 2x as many players who play in the morning than there are that play in the evening. Special ACBL games at the Club level have moved toward afternoon time slots. If we want to participate in the National **Interclub Game(s)** we must change our times. In addition, a free service called the **Common Game** requires specific time slots that don't match our current 11 AM daytime games. This service provides hand by hand analysis by expert players and a ranking across hundreds of players who played the same hands all sent to your e-mail address within hours of playing the Common Game at our club. We cannot participate in this free service because of when we choose to run our games.

When we think about growing our game there are several opportunities (**4 Grow's**):

- 1) **Grow Membership** – we rely on recent retirees to swell our ranks. Efforts underway to recruit school aged youth players has been slow at producing paid members.
- 2) **Grow Attendance** – We want you to play more games per year! We rely on getting the news out to our membership about our existing offerings and helping players without partners get a satisfactory partner for any game. This relies almost entirely on the sanction holder's efforts.
- 3) **Grow Games** – We are stymied by our current schedule, one that is mismatched with the ACBL's daily plan, and one that limits demand. If we were to rearrange the schedule only slightly, so that we had both morning and afternoon slots available, we'd have more opportunities for more games, run perhaps by more sanction holders. With customary start times we have only 5 daytime game slots where 10 are possible, and likely to

encourage more play (and rent for the CBC). This would also serve to increase the variety of games available to members (bridge is much more than match point pairs) and would give aspiring new directors (and future sanction holders) a chance to develop a game and serve our bridge community.

- 4) **Grow Directors** – we are woefully short on talented directors. If you have an interest, please contact a director or board member so that we can help get you started. The more qualified directors we have, the more games we can run, and the more fun is available for our members.

We want to encourage more bridge and keep costs of running the CBC down (avoid inflationary pressure on entry fees). Running more games is something we must enable. That doesn't mean we expect 10 games where we now have 5. No, we should open the schedule to enable new games where entrepreneurial sanction holders think they can create opportunity for players, themselves, and the CBC. This requires modest adjustment for existing games (say, 10 AM or 2:30 PM start). Of course, you, our members, have the final say. Let's explore how viable this is with you, new directors, and the CBC Operations Committee.

Transition

3 Board members complete their volunteer service to the Unit with distinction. AJ Stephani, Barbara Levinson, and Ron Manne will retire from the Board of Directors at year's end. We thank you all for your steadfast leadership and your ability to steer the Unit's activities in a very collaborative way. All CBA members owe you a big debt. We wish you well.

Holiday Celebration!

We hope you join us at the Unit Holiday Party on December 10 at the CBC, chaired by Melanie Onnen and Diane Thaller. Expect the best! Play in the ACBL Membership Game (3x Master Points)! Consider bringing a dessert or holiday treat. I ask only 2 things: 1) Volunteer to help Melanie and Diane – let them know you can help, and 2) Buy your entry early (they go on sale in mid November – look for a notice in your e-mail and on our website) and get all your friends to attend – Let's fill the CBC with Holiday Merriment.

I am sure we can all use a big celebration to lift our spirits. See you at the Tables!

Steve Moese
CBA Board President
Editor, The **ALERT**



CLUB CORNER

by Elaine Jarchow

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

ANDERSON CLUB NEWS FROM HELEN OGLE

We are owned by the bridge community and have three directors. Ray Wulf is our president; Cynthia Schultz is our treasurer, and Joan Rogers is in charge of communications concerning illness, etc.

We will celebrate our 50th anniversary next year.

We have several new members Meme Cullen, Jan Wallenberg, Barb Loebach, Ann Rinaldi, Vasudga Kale, Donna Glover, Judy Painter, Judy Bratton, Carol Wilson and Debbie Chavez. We especially welcome new to bridge people, as we all started there at some time. This is the life line of bridge as we lose so many members every year.

Our special games this month are club appreciation games on the 7th & 8th and unit game on the 21st. Games start at 11:30 at the Anderson Senior Center, 7970 Beechmont Ave. Every Tuesday and Thursday.

NKBC NEWS

The recent Club Champions are:

July 11 – Mary Smith and Lynne Schomaeker

July 29 – Team – Sheila Dippel, Michi Natsume, Mary Smith, and Mike Glatt

August 27 – Vern Goetz and Jack Mehalko

September 25 – Mike Glatt and Howard Simon

Peg and Jack Ammon & Family hosted a Hayride for club members on Oct 4th. A good time was had by all.

NKBC 2015 SUMMER GETAWAY SECTIONAL

The next 2015 NKBC Summer Getaway Sectional will be held on July 31, August 1 and 2 at the CVG Airport Doubletree.

PLAYING BRIDGE IN SAUDI ARABIA

by Elaine Jarchow
I lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during the 1998 academic year and in 1999 my husband Ron joined me for my second year. My assignment was to help develop a women's college. The first year was hard because I was on my own. The Saudi women were wonderful to me, though, inviting me to join their family activities from time to time. I learned to snorkel in The Red Sea with a master diver. BUT, what really saved me was bridge. My compound was composed of sixty 3-bedroom villas and a British bridge player and his wife occupied one of them. He invited me to play in three weekly games. Two were held at the French

consulate and one at the Italian consulate. Some Saudi men joined us for the games – usually about 12 tables. Arab women played, too, but not Saudi women. We were a multinational ExPat group who often shared a meal after the game. One very special game occurred once a month when Sheikh Abdullah, former Minister of Civil Aviation, invited a few of us Westerners to his mansion for a 4-table game that included his wife. This was special because his wife could never have played in mixed company with Saudi men. The game always included a dinner served by the staff. We switched partners and often got to play with the host and his wife. Sometimes the venue changed to the sheikh's summer home on The Red Sea. I was always disappointed that we were not invited to his homes in Cannes or London or New York. Although we could have had a car (driven only by Ron), we elected not to do so. We traveled in an old cab driven by John, a delightful Pakistani man. My most enduring memory is of Sheikh Abdullah and his wife standing on their ornate front porch with an adjoining ten car garage, bidding us goodbye as we got into that old cab. Bridge certainly provides us with some great memories and experiences.

The Birchcroft Bunch

by Pam Campbell



Fourteen members of the Cincinnati Bridge Association gathered in Lake Leelanau, Michigan at the family vacation home of Stacy Vanstone for the first Birchcroft Bridge Blowout during the week of September 6. Participants were: Stacy Vanstone, Martin Gibler, Richard Horvitz, Karen Kalla, Sharon Koster, Patricia Burnam, Salty Roark, Lisa Eisenstein, Judy Hall, Liz Lin, Reeta Brendamour, Susan DeRoos and Pam Campbell with Mike Lipp as our director. There were also 3 spouses who tagged along for the fun and managed to avoid playing (or learning) bridge for the entire week.

The week did not go without some excitement! Between the urgent care trip for a misdiagnosed pink eye, an attack by fruit flies and numerous director calls as a result of our many non life master antics, a good time was had by all. Mike managed to drill (literally) some rules which were informative, but a little irritating to some of us. It turns out that the dummy CANNOT tell the declarer they are on the board unless the declarer makes a move toward the incorrect hand. So, be warned!! We will be calling the director. In addition, there will no longer be grimacing or saying hmmm or any other noise or face-making as a result of a bid or a card played. Some learned to simply use their pass card too. The most important lesson we learned is that Mike Lipp is not Bossy, he just knows what we should be doing!

There were 2 sessions of bridge played each day. This left everyone a few hours in-between sessions to enjoy Sutton's Bay, Leland, Traverse City, and Lake Leelanau areas. We went to Pyramid Point for a spectacular view of Lake Michigan, a few wineries and hung around the beautiful property. There were a total of 32 points awarded during the week and no one went home empty-handed. First prize (a bottle of wine) went to Salty Roark with 3.98 points and the booby prize went to an unnamed participant who went home with a little in the way of points and a shot glass in which to drown her sorrows. There is talk of doing this again in 2015, and if anyone has a remedy to ward off fruit flies, let us know.

All in all, the trip was a success with great food, abundant bridge and a whole houseful of friends (old and new).

CBA Education News –

By Mike Purcell

Supervised Play at the Cincinnati Bridge Center

Here in Cincinnati we have put together an integrated approach to recruiting and retaining new players that is bearing fruit. The Education Committee developed a Master Plan that provides outreach for new players (New2Bridge) and recruits home bridge players to duplicate (New2Duplicate). At the core of this plan is a weekly fun game (not for master points) on Saturdays where new players can practice their skills in a relaxed environment called Informal Supervised Play.



Saturday Informal Supervised Play

Saturday Informal Supervised Play is a huge success with our members with attendance of 20-30 people regularly. These sessions from 10am to noon at the CBC are open to new players up to 99ers and are a great way for our players to improve in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. For only \$2/person, we provide experienced friendly coaches to help with bidding and play questions on the spot. Because this is not a regular duplicate game, we can have folks of like skill level play together the entire session. This provides a much better experience for our players and has been a key driver for our success.

New 2 Bridge (N2B) Events

To get people interested in bridge to the point they can join Informal Supervised Play, we hold 3-hour New to Bridge (NTB) events in the spring and fall. N2B focuses on basic concept like High Card Points (HCP) and bridge play in notrump and trump contracts. We do not cover bidding in favor of getting attendees playing right away. Attendees can continue with four beginner lessons and move on to participate in Informal Supervised Play.

New 2 Duplicate (N2D) Events

For bridge players not accustomed to duplicate, we hold New to Duplicate sessions one hour before our Informal Supervised Play to welcome these new players to our club, discuss the basic differences of duplicate bridge and then allow them to play in Informal Supervised Play.

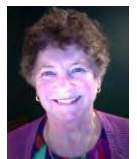
Why It Works

We have an enthusiastic core of experienced players who volunteer their time on Saturday mornings before the regular 1pm duplicate game. Add in a dedicated teacher (thank you Phyllis Bishop) to help beginners get started and a fun environment for new players to play and you have a format that keeps new players coming back weekend after weekend.

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.

Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.

\$4 each. (1st one FREE! to New Members).

Your Name Here

Cincinnati Bridge Association

Silence Please!

by Jim Myers

Although I have never measured the decibel level of The Bridge Center mid-game, it often feels as if it would rival the noise at Paul Brown Stadium shortly after a Bengals touchdown, or at least a first-down. Sometimes the din is such that it is self-canceling, so that you can't really pick anything out of the general roar. But then someone will shout out "It went 1 spade, two hearts, etc...." or "Down 2 in four hearts, should have doubled partner!" and whether you wanted to know or not, you are suddenly aware of the bidding or the result at the table next to yours, or the table five tables away, depending on who is doing the announcing. It has become so common that most of the directors seem to have given up on quieting it down.

Does it effect the results of the game? Probably not all that often, although sometimes it does.

About a year ago, I was discussing with a friend a hand in which many teams had bid a slam, perhaps it was 6 Spades. My friend said, "I played this hand against Joe who was sitting North (not his or her real name) and his first bid was 6 Spades." After I got home from the game I wondered about how that might have happened and I went to the website to see who had played that board at the previous table. As I suspected, it was someone that most regulars would recognize as having a very piercing voice and who sees every hand as an opportunity to give his/her partner a lesson. Did Joe benefit from the shared lesson? Was it conscious or unconscious? I have no idea. Perhaps Joe made a lucky guess.

Similarly, a few weeks ago, I was sitting North when I heard the South player at the next table say very crisply "6 Diamonds Doubled." It was a set of three boards, but I was fairly sure that I would recognize the board when the bidding started — so, as required by rule, I informed the director.

The director and I informed the opponents and my partner that I had some unauthorized information and it was agreed that I should try to ignore it. But when on the second board the bidding began, "One Diamond, Two Diamonds, ?", holding Kxx, A, AJTxxx, Kxx — I realized that I couldn't ignore it. We were awarded an average by the director. The hand made 6DX, 5D, 4NT, and went off 1 at 6DX (at the table from which I overheard the contract), and my partner was denied the pleasure of playing such a good hand.

We all hear things said by people who are oblivious to the fact that others can hear them. Sometimes we are successful in ignoring what we have heard, sometimes we aren't. A few of us may not even try. We could all improve the game that we love by simply abiding by the rule.

Take Play Nice to the Next Level

by Mike Purcell

Since we started over a year ago, **Informal Supervised Play** continues to be a great venue to play bridge for new players through 99ers. I enjoy seeing both players and volunteers laughing and having a good time and can't help thinking why can't we have more of that in our regular club games? I am proud of the high level of bridge played at our club but sometimes I think we bring a tournament mentality to our regular games and miss an opportunity to welcome in new members and have more fun. I can still remember telling my grandma that I was playing duplicate years ago. She was dismayed calling our game "the devil's bridge". In her mind, duplicate games were way too serious and regular bridge players were not welcome. The ACBL has made efforts over the years to work on our image and bring fun back into the game. The recent Play Nice poster inspired by our own Dean Congbalay (<http://www.cincybridge.com/Play-Nice.html>) is well worth reviewing. Better yet, make your own version. Here is mine:

- Say hello to everyone, welcomed members are happy members
- Smile often, hard to have fun with a frown.
- Be understanding; some people are just getting started on their bridge journey. Don't discourage them.
- Sometimes you will lose, that's ok. It will make winning later all the sweeter.
- Value your partner; they have one heck of hard job to do.

- Respect the director, they are there to help.
- Keep your priorities straight. It is ok to relax and have fun. The bridge championship of the world will not be decided in a club game.
- Save hand analyses for when the round is over, this leaves more time for bridge. More bridge is always good.
- Enjoy the game! Remember you can't spend the masterpoints you earn but you can have fun memories and make friendships that last a lifetime.

That's my list. What yours? (with apologies to the editor when RB submits his list).

Congratulations to Unit 124's Newest Board Members

The Unit 124 Elections, ably run by Joe Muenks our Elections Chairperson, resulted in 3 new Board Members for 2015:



Pam Campbell, Nalin Mehta, and Bob Fisk. Unit 124 congratulates you on your election and the Board of Directors welcomes you. We look forward to your leadership and contributions during your 3- year term.

Many thanks go to the Election Committee for another job *Well Done*.

SECTIONAL REFLECTION

By Elaine Jarchow

Those who attempt something new hope to succeed. Those of us who organized the first NKBC Summer Getaway Sectional Tournament believe that we did succeed. We hoped for 200 tables and seated 207.5 tables with over 260 individual participants. We also received lots of praise. To frame this reflection, I goggled New Ventures for quotes that might speak to this effort.

Since PBS's *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* just concluded, I chose Eleanor Roosevelt's' comment, "***The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.***" When I joined the NKBC

Board of Trustees, I learned that the members did not believe that the club's size could carry a tournament. After a feasibility study and a member survey, Board members decided to "give it a go."

The English writer Samuel Johnson said, "***Nothing at all will be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome.***" Luckily our Board was willing to offer helpful advice and suggestions but unwilling to insist that all their concerns be met. For example, would clubs from the surrounding area come to the Airport Doubletree?

Les Brown noted, "***You don't have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great.***" We started with a terrific committee composed of Co-Chair Cordell Coy, Cindy Tretter (Partnerships and Registration), Peg Ammon (Hospitality), John Wolfe (Publicity), Andrea Shepard (Novice Events and Signage), and Brenda Mehalko (Speakers). We met every month to shape and implement our plans. We did not always agree but managed to achieve consensus and move forward, A.J. Stephani and Patti English served as superb advisors to the committee. Jack Mehalko handled the finances and Brad Jacobs analyzed the evaluation data.

I've always liked Yogi Berra's sage advice, "***When you come to a fork in the road, take it.***" It's not as lofty as Confucius saying, "***A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step***", but it's close. I think those forks in the road could be obstacles we overcame or steps along the journey. We wondered where we would get the 70 card tables and who would move and assemble them. CBA came to the rescue with their stored tables and Boy Scout Troop 820 made table movement and assembly a service project. Lucky for us that Eagle Scout John Taylor of Troop 820 is a member of NKBC. We also worried about caddy availability, but once again Troop 820 came to our rescue.

Another obstacle was certainly the budget. Do we have the funds to break even? Can we provide some niceties at the tournament? Can we supply hospitality and candy for all throughout the tournament? Our NKBC members could not have been more generous in that they donated over \$600 and food and beverages. Carol Fultz on behalf of The Al Fultz Foundation sponsored the Sunday Swiss and The Anderson Bridge Club sponsored the Compact Knock-Outs.

An old English Proverb states that, ***“A good beginning makes a good end.”*** The actual tournament began and ended well. We had three excellent directors. The NKY Convention Bureau gave us welcome bags and helpful inserts. The Airport Doubletree staff could not have been more accommodating. After all, this was a first venture for them, too. The hospitality, organized by Peg, was great fun. Cindy’s desk personnel were always there to help. Andrea’s brochure and signs were truly helpful. Brenda’s speakers were wonderful. John’s promotional flyers did their job. Cordell was always ready to solve problems. Rick’s analysis helped chart the course of future tournaments.

We will “give it a go” once again on July 31, August 1 and 2, 2015. We have our To Do List underway – Make sure the internet allows the results to be available on Friday... Omit the evening sessions...Post some outside directions...Encourage more attendance, especially by novices...

I enjoyed my role as Co-Chair. I like to organize events and was extremely pleased with the outcome of this effort. I tried to find a fitting closing quote and here it is, ***“Beware of all enterprises that require a new set of clothes.”*** (Henry David Thoreau).

Amiable Bridge

By Amy Fisher

Joe and I got a bad result on a hand the other day. That’s no surprise. What may be a surprise is that Joe didn’t say a word, I didn’t say a word, and the opponents didn’t say a word.

An average board usually indicates that no one did anything particularly wrong or particularly brilliant. Usually after an average hand, everyone shrugs, not much is said, and we all go on to the next hand.

Sometimes I create a line of play or defense that results in an above average board. The opponents may say, “Nicely done!,” or they may be feeling quite unlucky to have played this particular hand against my one flash of brilliance for the month.

More often, I make a bonehead mistake that results in a below average board. The error is already pretty obvious to me, but Joe might feel the need to point it out, or the opponents may be so thrilled with the result that they cannot help but celebrate a bit.

So, remember this the next time you feel like commenting after a hand:

- Your comments may make your partner feel bad.
- Or they may make your opponents feel bad.
- Or you may end up feeling worse.
- And, if none of those things happen, then the hand is probably not worth talking about!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Right?

By Dean Congbalay dcongbalay@comey.com

We are ladies and gentlemen playing a game we love with other ladies and gentlemen, right?

At a game in Florida, the declarer to my right was playing a 5C contract. With all the trump out, each person was left with three cards. In rapid succession, he plunked down his K of diamonds, then his Q of diamonds and finally a low diamond.

I, too, had three diamonds in my hand, and my highest card was higher than his lowest card. I raised my hand and called for the director.

The man, whom I had never met, made an audible sigh.

“Well, if that’s the way he wants to play!” he huffed to his partner.

When the director arrived, he told her he was playing his low diamond to the J on the board so he could call for the low remaining diamond to his K and Q.

The director declared it to be a claim poorly stated and awarded him the three tricks.

The man’s partner was a woman I don’t know well, but she always seemed to be pleasant, courteous and amiable. We ran into each other at a club game up North last spring when I was babysitting for my nephews.

“You’ve seen where we play near Chicago,” she said to me after the director walked away. “The people there get away with a lot of things.”

“Then you should call the director,” I said.

“Well, the directors there aren’t very good,” she said.

Disappointed that a woman I believed to be honorable would try to justify her partner’s actions, I got up and refilled my coffee mug. When I returned, I was heartened that my partner that day was Betty, my very patient and understanding bridge wife. She knew I was annoyed and greeted me with a reassuring smile.

"I just don't understand why people lie," I lamented as I picked up my cards for the next round.

We are ladies and gentlemen playing a game we love with other ladies and gentlemen, right?

Miscellaneous Bridge Things You Might Not Have Heard Yet

By Potter Orr

Most of us take bridge lessons at one time or another and even those who don't are occasionally subjected to lessons from partner or an opponent. In spite of that, there are some very useful points that are often overlooked and are only learned the hard way. Some of these are mine and others are from Eddie Kantar's series in the Bridge Bulletin "Just the facts".



- In a competitive auction where you are bidding spades and the opponents are bidding hearts, don't bid 3 spades unless you are comfortable defending 4 hearts or being pushed to 4 spades. You may push them into a game they may not otherwise bid.
- When you sort your cards, put short suit (singleton, doubleton) in the middle. Some people watch where you pull the card.
- When the opponents bid and support a suit, don't count points for a queen or jack in their suit.
- If partner bids 2 suits and you have to choose between them, always go back to the first suit with equal length – even if you must go up 1 level.
- Leading the top of a 2 card honor sequence (KQ, QJ etc.) is a favored lead against a suit contract, but we all "know" that a 3 card sequence is needed against NT. That sequence may have a gap at the lower end and still qualify. K Q 10 or Q J 9 or even J 10 8
- When you are selecting a card with which to signal partner, **DON'T** be subtle. If you play standard carding and have the 7, 8 and 9 available, play the 9. If you have the 6, 8 and 10, think about how much you really need that 10 and balance that against how much more likely partner is to notice the 10.
- As declarer when you are not winning a trick (particularly the first trick) don't play the lowest card in the suit unless you must. Opponent leads the ace of hearts and his partner plays the 6. If you hold Q 7 2, muddy the waters for opening

leader by playing the 7. If you play the 2 the opening leader has a much easier job understanding his partner's play. It cost you nothing to instill some doubt.

- In the same vein as declarer, play the top of equivalent cards to leave doubt in defender's mind. Opening lead is a small heart, low heart from dummy and the other defender plays third hand high, the queen. You hold A K. Play the ace, your partner (dummy) will not be deceived but the defender who played the queen will wonder who has the king. If you played the king, he would know you have the ace since his partner was unlikely to have lead away from it.
- Leading against 6 NT is different than leading against 3 NT. You only need 2 tricks to beat the contract not 5. Sane opponents have a lot of high cards if they are in 6 NT and a 4th best lead is very likely to give them a free finesse. Look for a lead that will do no harm. Holding K 8 5 3 of diamonds and J 10 3 of hearts, the J of hearts is a much better lead (most days) than the 3 of clubs. Let declarer guess about the king of clubs.

Don't Lose Focus over a Bad or Unlucky Bid

By Mike Ma

We all know the importance of staying focused in Bridge, even when, actually especially when things are not going well at the table. One example of this is when you make a bad or unlucky bid early in the auction, to maintain your judgment to get back on track of the auction or at least minimize the damage if possible. The following hand from a recent Regional Compact Knockout event illustrates this. Your opponents are some of the top players in the area.

With both sides non-vulnerable, RHO deals and passes. Your hand is ♠KQJT874 ♥K8 ♦AJ ♣74. In second seat, you have your first decision to make, whether to open 1♠ or 4♠. You need quite a bit to have slam, but e.g. the AQ of hearts, A of club, and one of the K's would be enough for 6♠ to be basically laid down. You have the master suit, so you are not so concerned about preempt by opponents. 1♠ it is.

You immediately regret your choice when you see LHO bid 3♠. Your partner asks your RHO what that means, and RHO replies that there are several possibilities, but they have no clear understanding. Partner passes. To you, it is clear that LHO has a long

running suit, obviously ♣, and is asking RHO to bid 3NT with a ♠ stopper, a fairly standard treatment. 3NT is indeed RHO's bid. You curse yourself for not opening 4♠. If you would have opened 4♠, you would have "preempted" them out of exploring for 3NT. Before reading on, you may wish to decide what you will do over 3NT.

You suspect LHO has 7 ♣ tricks and probably the ♥A, although the ♦K instead is possible, or he may have both. RHO should have the ♠A unless he is bluffing. There is a good chance they have 9 tricks. It must be right for you to bid 4♠. If this is Match Points, your opening 1♠ instead of 4♠ has probably given you a bad board by allowing them to bring NT into the picture and you can do nothing about it. But in IMPS, getting them out of their makeable game may mean just a small loss or none. They won't know how many ♣ tricks they have on defense, so they can't really double you easily even if partner is broke. Who knows, you may even make it if partner has something like ♦KQ and singleton ♣. If you pass and both 3NT by them and 4♠ by you make, the double game swing may well decide the match in a short IMPS match. So you bid 4♠, followed by 2 passes.

After some thought, RHO bids 4NT. Probably he has something extra and is making a two way bid, to make or to get us out of our game or both (similar to our 4♠ bid). If e.g. LHO has A and Q of ♥ or if RHO has QJ of ♥ along with LHO's A, they will make 4N. Should you do something other than pass? Double? Bid 5♠?

No way. Anything other than pass would undo the good you did in pushing them to 4NT. It is doubtful you can set them more than one, so double is pointless. Unless partner has not been paying attention to the bidding, you have zero chance of making 5♠. Sacrificing is at best a small gain if they make 4NT, but a big loss if it is phantom. Even if they think they can make 5NT, which they won't, they have an easy double of 5♠ in IMPS. You cannot undo the 1♠ bid, but you stay engaged and got them out of their game into hopefully a contract that will be set. The full hand:

North		W N E S	
♠ 5		1♠ 3♣ P 3NT	P
♥ A54		4♣ P P 4NT	?
♦ 32			
♣ AKQJ963			
West		East	
♠ KQJ10874		♠ 6	
♥ K8		♥ Q10763	
♦ AJ		♦ Q87654	
♣ 74		♣ 8	
South			
♠ A932			
♥ J92			
♦ K109			
♣ 1052			

You judged correctly. 3NT makes, but 4NT is one down. In ♠, after a high ♣ lead and ♠ switch, defense will take 5 tricks if N defends correctly to not give him entry to the board to take the ♦ finesse when declarer plays a ♥. Otherwise they take 4 tricks. 5♠ X would have been down 2 or 3, undoing all the good of the 4♠ bid by W over 3NT. If W has opened 4♠, presumably N would bid 5♣, which is down 2.

So by not harping on your opening bid and staying focused, you are able to get back to even or a small loss (opponents playing 4NT rather than 5♣). A further lesson I should mention is that in a team game, you are only comparing to one other pair, who may bid just as badly as unluckily as you. Indeed, your opponent sitting W at the other table also opened 1♠, so any difference in the score on this hand was not due to the opening bid.

Unfortunately, this was not the whole story at the table. I was W and did not heed my own advice, and continued to wonder about my opening bid throughout the auction. When S bid 4NT, I stupidly bid 5♠, doubled of course. I managed down 2 when N misplayed and took the A on my ♥K. Hopefully I learnt my lesson and won't let an earlier bid distract me in the rest of the auction in future.

EPISODE 11: ZERO TO SHAKY SLAM IN 3.2 PARSECS

By Steve Felson

Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this son of Brown.-- Original draft of Richard III, Act I, scene 1, January 1592

Fast ever, slow never. – Robert S Brown, Alert, January 2092

Looking back over my past reports in this venerable journal concerning bridge in outer space, I notice a surprising and ugly theme: All I ever do is whine, complain, and grouse about my partner, the estimable Robert S Brown. I have called him a goatish, clay-brained barnacle, a roguish, hedge-born varlot, and an errant, motley-minded lout. True, I appeared fairly mature and forgiving at the end of Episode Nine, where I seemed to praise one of his *extremely* light preempts. However, in the very next episode I mentioned five of his weaknesses in the second paragraph, implied that playing bridge with him caused my hospitalization, begged others to "take my partner, please," and considered tattooing "Bye-Bye

Bob” on my arm. These shenanigans put me firmly back into the “trash thy partner” camp.

But surely my partner has some good qualities. Everyone has *some* good qualities. So, I asked myself, do I ever point them out? No. *Should* I point them out? Yes, of course. And to make amends I will devote this episode to a thorough search for the good qualities of a unique 22nd century personage, Robert Brown, son of Jacob and Shirley, one of the fastest bidding and most optimistic bridge-heroes of our time.

In keeping with this new attitude I am changing my usual format. In the past I’ve denigrated Bob’s abilities in the first few paragraphs, used the next section to beg others to take him off my hands, and then redeemed him by recounting one deal, standing alone in the carnage, in which his impulsive bridge habits should have caused a disaster but instead gave us a top score. In contrast, here I will set forth the wondrous bridge hand first, and then, in the spirit of my above-mentioned new outlook, I will gently analyze his bidding and praise him to the greatest extent possible.

The deal in question is from a Double-Point West Milky Way Galaxy Marathon Sectional, held recently in and over Tipoca City (*Star Wars Episode II*, 2002, starring Natalie Portman, who, I am certain, plays bridge):

North	♠ 75		
Deals	♥ 94		
Both Vul	♦ Q8742		
	♣ AKQ10		
♠ AKQ10843		♠ J	
♥ K7		♥ AQJ1065	
♦ 963		♦ K5	
♣ 5		♣ 9872	
	♠ 962		
	♥ 832		
	♦ AJ10		
	♣ J643		

Okay, fast ever, slow never, says Bob, and if there was ever a theoretician who put his ideas into practice
P-1♥-P-4NT
P-5♣-P-6♠
all pass
Did I grimace, wail or moan? Did I

threaten to go home? Did I let my apprehension, exacerbate my tension? No, not at all. I still firmly believe in trusting one’s partner. Besides, I couldn’t see his hand and assumed he had the minors covered.

North led the KC and may have taken any number of inferences from South’s play of the 3, including that declarer had a singleton club, that a diamond continuation might be a good idea, or that a club was best. Surely North would have been perfectly

reasonable in concluding that if South had any chance of taking a trick it would be with the king of hearts. However, leading the 9 of that suit as he did made six spades a laydown; only a diamond shift would have beaten it. Plus 1430 gave us every match point from Tipoca City to Timbuktu.

Now here’s where it gets tricky. In the old days, meaning approximately last week, I would’ve castigated such bidding as an example of why we have regularly gotten bottom scores and 35% games, year after year after year after interminable year for over a century. Bob, I would have said, why not respond one spade, let me show my six hearts, you then show your great spades, we look for aces, and then you outbid me to whatever level necessary to become the declarer? And, Bob, since you refuse to listen to reason, I am now certainly going to vote for the proposed anti-hand-hog rule which the UCBL is circulating, even though I’m sure it’s meant primarily for professionals and their clients.³

But no, I will not do any of that. After all, I’m not a kid anymore. (See *Bobby’s Girl*, 1962, written by Gary Klein & Hank Hoffman, originally performed by Marcie Blane; enjoy at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YLdKzddpCk>). In other words, I just wanna be Bobby’s guy.

I don’t have much room left but let’s still take a quick look at the positives:

- We did get a top score.
- “The middle road is the only one which does not lead to Rome.” - Arnold Schoenberg, Foreword to *Three Satires for Mixed Chorus*, Opus 28 (1925-26)
- “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance,” from [Essays: First Series](#) (1841)
- “The middle of the road is where the white line is – and that’s the worst place to drive.” - Robert Frost

³Proposed Item 12132-02: “That the Universal Code of Disciplinary Bridge Regulations (UCDR) be amended by adding a new prohibition as follows:

Purposefully, regularly and repeatedly making unusual bids in an effort to prevent partner from declaring hands.

Penalty: 1 year probation and / or up to one-year suspension plus 10-50% of Disciplined Player’s total master point holding.

So those are the positive principles, that's the first-string individualist lineup, and here's the fight song:

*Emerson Schoenberg Frost and Brown,
Make their marks on the edge of town.
Frost and Schoenberg, Emerson and Brown,
Our boys will never let us down.*

To conclude my Brown *festschrift*: "Fabulous bid, partner."

RUMINATIONS



By Robert S Brown

Politician:

"I'll double-cross that bridge when I come to it".⁴

It is October and the fate of our Nation may hinge on the predominating whims of an irrational electorate. Tragically, on a micro scale, a similar future awaits the Cincinnati Bridge Association whose electors are being called upon to select new members to its Board of Directors. Despite the public outcry and pleas of many⁵, the Albatross and I have refused with Shermanesque finality⁶ all calls for our election.⁷

This year there are four candidates for three Directorships.⁸ All four candidates meet the threshold qualification of being certifiably insane but that seems to be their only point of commonality. As an act of public service, the Ruminator has carefully parsed the profiles on the CBA website of the Directorial aspirants and presents below the hidden meanings concealed therein.

FITNESS FREAK

Pam C. is an avid Kegler and four-time Coach-of-the-Year award winner for her promotion of that disgusting sport. Her thinly veiled agenda is to inject physical fitness into a game which exalts inertness. Her election sickingly portends the prospect of auxiliary bowling leagues, nature hikes, and stretching classes forcibly thrust upon our sedentary pastime.

⁴ Oscar Levant, *The Memoirs of an Amnesiac* (1965).

⁵ *Id est*, maybe one.

⁶ "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected."

⁷ And with good reason – just as we never agree on anything when playing Bridge, each of our Board votes would always nullify the other's.

⁸ There can only be one lucky loser.

INTINERANT LUNATIC

Obviously shiftless, Nalin M. admits to prior residences in India, Yemen, and England before his recent arrival here. The mechanical engineering degree and self-proclaimed project management experience are a thin veneer over a deeply disturbed psyche. Nalin openly admits to playing a "CRAZY" game rife with argument.

SLASHER

Larry M's psychopathy bleeds through his bland self-portrait. There is much to fear from a man who employs a meaningless adjectival construct "pediatric/adult" to modify his medical specialty. Is there some other stage of human existence? His other word choices are even more sinister. When he says he wants to "cut back", I see him swinging wildly with a machete – sectioning players at a Sectional.

RECIDIVISM RISK

Obviously, Bob F's alleged "2009 retirement" was the year of his release from an undisclosed penal institution to which he had been committed for heinous crimes. His "get a life" references suggest a life sentence commuted by a carefree parole board oblivious or indifferent to the dangers posed by his unfettered release into our society.

Ambrose Bierce defined the vote as "the instrument and symbol of a freeman's power to make a fool of himself and a wreck of his country" and politics as "a strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles".⁹ More than a century later, his words ring ominously true.

Penny Wise and Pound Foolish

By Rob Weidenfeld Elianadad@gmail.com

Among the little known mini-novels of British literature is a sequel to A Christmas Carol where all of the original characters are included. In it, there is a scene where a nearly reformed Ebenezer Scrooge has modified his avaricious behavior enough to allow an occasional diversion from the toils of the 80 hour/week work load he endured and expected his employees to graciously embrace. On one such occasion, he was playing bridge with his favorite foil and full time employee, Bob Crachit. He had allowed Crachit to spend some time teaching him some of the finer points of the game. He was not always a quick study as this hand will attest.



⁹ *The Devils Dictionary*

Mr. Scrooge was declaring and Bob Crachit was the dummy. The contract was 3NT and the ♠9 was placed on the table as the opening lead. East hesitated briefly and then played low. Here was the hand:

NORTH

♠ QJ10
♥ 85
♦ K5
♣ AJ10984

SOUTH

♠ A54
♥ AK9
♦ J87642
♣ K

The auction had been a rather mundane 1♦ by South, 2♣ by North and a closeout bid of 3NT by South. West led the ♠9 and even Mr. Scrooge could see that 3 ♠s were going to come his way. He also noted that 2 ♥s and 2 ♣s were top tricks. He was up to 7. If the ♦K was on side he could bring in 8, but he saw no way to get to 9 tricks. Maybe the ♦s would set up or the ♣Q would be doubleton. With no

more of a plan than a wing and a prayer, he won the ♠Q in dummy and not one to turn down a proven finesse-it was after all, money in the bank, a practice in which Mr. Scrooge excelled. He repeated the ♠ finesse, winning as West followed low. Now a ♣ to the K and a ♦ to the K. When that lost to the ♦A and the ♥Q was returned, he unceremoniously went down in his contract.

Humbug, he griped! Here was the whole hand:

“Bob”, he declared disconsolately, “I am trying to take Tim’s advice by blessing everyone, but it’s just not working for me!” “Well Mr. Scrooge, it’s just that old habits die hard”, he replied. What do you mean Bob? Mr. Scrooge, sometimes you still try to win things as cheaply as possible! “Bob, Mr. Scrooge said imploringly, why do you insult me when you know I am trying to change?” “Mr. Scrooge”, Bob retorted, “you need to remember the old English proverb, Penny Wise and Pound Foolish!” How does that help, Bob?

Mr. Scrooge, you should see that your best chance to make the contract is to score 5 ♣ tricks. To do that you must overtake the ♣K with the ♣A and play on ♣s until the ♣Q is knocked out. But in order to do that you need a sure entry to dummy. East would have made it easy for you if he had covered the ♠ at trick 1 for then you would have 2 entries to the ♣s. When he didn’t, you have to overtake the ♠Q at trick 1 with the ♠A! Now the ♠QJ in dummy are a sure entry. You lose a trick in ♠s, but gain 4 in ♣s! Though it looks like you squander the A at trick 1, actually the return you get makes it a great investment!

“Bob”, said Mr. Scrooge approvingly, “that is the kind of language that I understand! Let’s talk about my portfolio in the morning!”

Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

By Yauheni Siutsau

All problems are from the Polish Bridge Magazine.

IMPs #1	IMPs #2	IMPs #3
♠ xxx	♠ Axx	♠ J98xx
♥ Kx	♥ xxxxx	♥ KQ
♦ AKQx	♦ xxx	♦ AQ10
♣ K10xx	♣ AKx	♣ QJx
N	N	N
W E	W E	W E
S	S	S
♠ Kx	♠ KQJ10xxx	♠ A10
♥ AQJ10xx	♥ AKx	♥ AJx
♦ xxx	♦ Kx	♦ KJxx
♣ Ax	♣ x	♣ A109x
Contract 6♥ S	Contract: 6♠ (S).	Contract: 6N (S).
Lead: ♦10	Lead: ♥Q.	Lead: ♥10.

Plan your play! (Answer P 20)

“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, ‘I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.’ You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt, *You Learn by Living: Eleven Keys for a More Fulfilling Life*

“Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak knits up the o’er wrought heart and bids it break.”

— William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”

— William Arthur Ward

Footprints On Our ♥s

"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart"

— Eleanor Roosevelt



And so we begin together, tracing your foot prints. So many memories. So many good-byes. Tangible sadness. True loss. Grieving to replace loss with fond memory. So we begin.

My good friend Pat Dutson has offered many articles to this ALERT gleaned from his private lessons with Nancy Sachs. He's clearly enjoyed them. Patrick stops with this last offering.

Nancy's Nasties

By Pat Dutson

Nancy Sachs was my friend, my mentor, and the inspiration for this column. I have been writing this column since 2008. With Nancy's passing, I no longer feel the inspiration to write this column. I hope one of Nancy's former students will volunteer to write this column.

Nancy's favorite topic to teach was defense. This hand was taught by Nancy Sachs in her Advanced Two Over One Class in February, 2006. The bidding has been:

S	E	N	W
1♠	P	1NT*	Pass
2♠	P	3♠	Pass
4♠	AP	* Forcing	

You are sitting East and West leads the 3♥. Dummy comes down and you see the following:

♠Q98	♠J2
♥965	♥KJ4
♦T6	♦J9532
♣AQJT7	♣K96

Declarer plays the 5♥ from the dummy, you play the ♥K, and South wins the trick with the ♥A. South draws trump with the ♠A and ♠K from his/her hand. South then leads the ♣4 and finesses the ♣10. You win the ♣K What do you do now?

Answer Page 19

On Losing Your Best Bridge Partner, Accidentally....

By Amit Raturi

Let me play a game with you - I have 3 folded chits with \$ amount written on them. You have no idea of what these amounts are. As you pick a chit and open it, you have 2 choices:

1. Keep: if it is the highest \$ amount in the three chits, you get all the money, otherwise nothing.
2. Pick another chit. If lower than the first, pick the third chit. If higher, you can again, keep or pick.

In all cases, if your selected chit is not the highest of the three, you get nothing.

What is your optimal strategy?

I know you know the answer, since you know "restricted choice" in bridge. Let's say the amounts on the three chits are \$1, \$2 and \$3. Then the order in which you will pick the chits has 6 combinations. And you have ONLY 3 playing strategies:

Strategy 1: Pick 1 chit and keep

Strategy 2: Pick 2nd chit, and pick 3rd if the 2nd is lower than 1st (you must, as otherwise you will not get any money) but keep 2nd chit if it is higher than the 1st.

Strategy 3: Pick 3rd chit, even if 2nd is higher than 1st.

Case	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	S1	S2	S3
A	\$1	\$2	\$3	LOSE	LOSE	+\$3
B	\$1	\$3	\$2	LOSE	+\$3	LOSE
C	\$2	\$1	\$3	LOSE	+\$3	+\$3
D	\$2	\$3	\$1	LOSE	+\$3	LOSE
E	\$3	\$1	\$2	+\$3	LOSE	LOSE
F	\$3	\$2	\$1	+\$3	LOSE	LOSE
Win %				33%	50%	33%

For those of you who are mathematically inclined, with 4 chits the

optimal strategy is the same: pass 1 chit and pick the 2nd. With 5 chits, pass the first and the second and pick the third. For 100 chits, pass 37 and take the first candidate thereafter (please don't ask why, it just is!) Why does strategy 2 of discarding the first choice and keeping the second if higher, win more often. Because it preserves your options! What seems like a 33% game is now a 50% game because (a) you did not commit too early as in strategy 1, and (b) you should not wait till the end as in strategy 3.

Nancy Sach's very untimely demise did not give any of us any options. It was a losing game for all of us. Why am I using this example? Because Nancy and I had a favorite joke at the table whenever we played together (that's only 1500+ games together over a 19 year span). With KT987 opposite A654, Nancy would always make the **right play** of restricted choice -- small

from any hand, and if an honor is immediately played, finesse on the way back. For example, see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle_of_restricted_choice and <http://www.acbl-district13.org/artic003.htm>

And she would always lose to the QJ doubleton! About 12 years ago, I was struck by how the probability Gods were stacked up against her in this play and tabulated a whopping 80% losses for her on what is the correct % play (the statistical average on losses with this correct strategy should be 35%). And every time I saw that card position with her declaring the hand, I would snigger, knowing the outcome. But she did not waiver in her belief; she knew what was the right thing to do and second guessing bridge theory is the last thing a good teacher will ever do.

We all miss her so, and I keep wondering what I would give to have one more moment of our bridge camaraderie again. I was getting ready to drive with her to Dayton for the Regional on Tuesday morning when Paul's message came. We were supposed to play together the whole week. On Tuesday evening, I wrote a poem in my native language (Hindi), praying hard that Wednesday would bring good news.

सामयिक है यह जीवन माना, अस्थिर है खुदाई, आज खेलने का दिन था,
फिर तुम क्यों न आई
कई बार तुमने मुझे सहज, जीत की रीत सिखाई, जीवन-मृत्यु का खेल
तुम, फिर क्यों न जीत पाई
आज खेलने का दिन था, फिर तुम क्यों नहीं आई, श्वसन सुस्त हो रही
है, ये तुमने कैसी चोट पाई
बेवक्त न हमें कहो तुम, मैं हो चली पराई, ज़िंदगी ने तुमसे कभी आंख
मिलाई, अभी आंख चुराई
आज खेलने का दिन था, फिर तुम क्यों न आई, फ़र्जी राज हमें दिखा,
ज़िंदगी ने अहम बात छिपाई
कल हमसे बात की थी, फिर आज तुम क्यों न आई

Life is temporal I acknowledge, unstable somewhat is
Godliness,
Today was the day to play, then why did you not
come.

Many times you, with ease, taught me the way of
victory,
Then in this game of life and death, why have you not
won,
Today was the day to play, then why did you not
come.

Your breath is sluggish now, how did you hurt yourself
so,

Do not tell us inopportune, that you may walk away
now,
Why did life greet you one moment, and then turn
away so,
Today was the day to play, then why did you not
come.

Many fictitious secrets life showed us but kept
important ones hidden.
Yesterday, you talked to us, then why did not you
come today.

It was not to be. The will of God supersedes human
will, and our choices are restricted.

Our Memories – Your Footprints

"About a year ago, I was attending a party at our Condominium, when a neighbor introduced me to a new neighbor, telling her that I am "a really great bridge player." In a spirit of honesty, I demurred saying, "I'm a pretty good bridge player, but far from great."

*I was immediately contradicted: "No, he's a **great** bridge player. He's a friend of **Nancy Sachs!**" I'm too proud of this latter assertion to ever deny it."*

- Jim Myers

"Ron and I knew of Nancy Sachs only from afar. We admired her greatly (her reputation always preceded her!) but never felt that she knew us nor did we ever chat with her on a regular basis. We played against her a few times and noticed how genuine she was - never pompous, always kind. She struck us that she treated all players as if they were worthy adversaries (and that always feels good!). Finally, at a tournament somewhere in the south, we decided to make our move and introduce ourselves and ask Nancy a bridge question. She proved as kind and genuine as we hoped. She sat down with us and explained how we could bid the hand in question. She exemplified a certain grace that is hard to describe. I truly regret that we won't get to ask more questions of or engage in conversations with this very special woman."

- Elaine and Ron Jarchow

"Nancy shared this story with Otto (Walter) and me. Nancy was kibitzing her mother and her mother's friend while they were playing bridge. Nancy's mother was called on to make a discard when unable to follow suit. She discarded the ♣2 while holding ♠AK94. Nancy

suggested to her mother that playing the ♠9 would suggest to her partner that she wanted a ♠ lead.

Nancy saw her mother 2 days later and asked her if she had an opportunity to make a discard so her partner would lead that suit. Her mother replied that she played the ♥10 holding the ♥AQ behind dummy's ♥Kxx. Her partner led a ♣. Nancy asked her mother if she asked her partner what she was thinking. Her mother replied, "Yes, my partner replied that she was thinking of what dress she was going to wear to the wedding."

- Frank Salem

"When Bob Brown and I took up duplicate bridge five years ago we hired Nancy to do the impossible -- teach old guys with ossified brains how to play bridge. She was certainly up to it, but we made a terrible mistake. Bob, the ultimate host, decided he would have Nancy and me out to his house for dinner and we would have our lesson afterward.

The problem was that Bob served magnificent food, magnificent wine, and didn't spare on the quantity. Nancy loved the food, she loved the conversation around the table, and she loved the wine. She loved her first glass of wine, her second glass of wine, and her third glass of wine.

Somehow we would finally get ourselves to the bridge table where Nancy would pull out the evening's lesson. By that time, Nancy would be telling stories and Bob and I could barely read the cards. I think I can safely say that the key point of each lesson -- for example, a holdup play, a discovery play, a proper lead against No Trump -- was completely lost on us. We literally never got one problem right the first time, and I'm talking about maybe 20 lessons. However, it was fun for all and we kept at it."

- Stephen R. Felson

"I played with Nancy only one time -- the Tuesday night game one week before she died. I came forgetting that the Albatross couldn't play because of some repairs to his gullet. Nancy came to play with Norm Coombs who, for the first time in memory, forgot a Bridge date. For me, the concatenation of these events was a serendipitous syzygy; for Nancy not so much. As we know Nancy always played to win and only played with winners (except for Paul who enjoyed a conjugal exemption). I suggested she was stuck with me. Nancy struggled to maintain her composure

realizing she couldn't escape the worst pairing of her competitive bridge life. She glanced at my convention card, pointed out six inconsistencies, asked me to resolve two of them, and then we played. Like a nerd dancing with the Prom Queen, I introduced "my partner Nancy" to each opposing and bewildered pair we played.

Nancy's game was solid. I made more than my usual share of blunders and dragged us down to a 48.15% game. Nancy accepted the debacle with diplomacy and grace -- even pointing out the few things I had done well. Nevertheless as our game progressed, I saw Nancy, my long-time teacher and very dear friend, increasingly stare at me with the expression we've all seen in Frankenstein movies when the good doctor finally realizes what he's created is not only alive, but also a monster.

The day before she died, I saw Nancy at the transgender Deschappelles Labor Day game. She told me she enjoyed the Frankenstein analogy and was going to add it to her shtick. It's a shame that she didn't get the chance to use it."

- ROBERT S BROWN

"I will never forget Nancy's laugh, especially every time she said "No contract is too high when your partner is playing it!" Another very humorous moment in her supervised play classes, of which I was privileged enough to take at least 6, was when she would review each table's bidding and say that we have 8 different ways to bid this and only 7 tables and 1 table got to the correct contract but not by properly bidding the board! She is very sorely missed."

- Lisa Eisenstein

"I had the privilege of playing with Nancy in the 2013 Dayton Regional. It was an absolute blast, from the first hand played until the last. She was so easy to play with. Nancy was also a great bridge teacher. Many great players simply can't teach. That was certainly not the case with Nancy. Her students revered her. She was also the perfect bridge teammate with her positive attitude. Nancy and I shared the same birthday, and I will have a special thought for her on that day forever. Nancy's list of accomplishments in bridge are too bountiful to mention, but that is not how I will remember her. I will remember Nancy as a friend; her laugh and her zest for life I will never forget."

- Fred Pollack Laval, QC

"This May...I called Nancy to ask her if she would be willing to do a lecture at the Regional tournament. Traditionally...Tuesday was Novice/Intermediate day and Nancy always did the lecture. Thus the conversation....."

"Hi Nancy....I was wondering if you would like to do a lecture for the upcoming tournament. I would love for you to kick off the lectures on Tuesday," I said.

"Of course I will do a lecture....just tell me what I talked about last year," she answered.

I explained that I did not have lectures last year as we went to the new morning/afternoon session and I wasn't quite sure if there would be enough time for lunch and a lecture too.

"Oh no... I know I did a lecture last year....I just can't remember the topic I spoke about. Can't you look back in your files and see?" she queried.

"Nancy ...I am pretty sure I didn't have lectures last year....a couple of people requested that I bring them back this year," I further substantiated..

"I know I did a lecture somewhere last year!" Nancy admitted....and then went on the add...."well...it really doesn't matter because if I can't remember what I talked about NO ONE will remember what I said!!!" To which we both laughed.

Tuesday between sessions....Nancy gave a lecture on GAMBLING 3NT. I had 50 copies of her handout ... they were snatched up within minutes. Later that afternoon....I went and ran off 30 more for her to distribute that evening.

I wish I could hear another one of Nancy's lectures....."
- Patti English

"We took lessons from Nancy for several years and also played in her Friday game before she retired from directing.

We remember her as the ONLY DIRECTOR we have ever known who ALWAYS arrived at the table with the rules in hand!

We have many good memories from lessons, especially those in Pat Dutson's family room. Remarkably funny was her advice to move a like colored card to a two card holding if supporting partner was your only bid. Then when tabling the hand, she suggested we say, "Oh, I thought that was a (whatever suit was trump)!"

And, of course, we will always remember Paul being the ever-present student in case he was needed to fill in a table. What a great support he was!!"

- Bruce and Mary Smith

"Good bye Nancy. I am but one of many who miss you and will carry fond memories of you far into the future.

Nancy's bridge skills have been top rate ever since I first had her as a teammate in 1988. I would have thought that Nancy would have a lot of stories about some really great bids or plays she made - but, no - instead her favorite story was about the time she became annoyed by a very experienced psycher, so much so that she psyched in return AND it worked beautifully. Our experienced psycher was so done in that the director was called to report Nancy for psyching. The director came and heard the story, then started laughing."

- Bob Sulgrove

"Nancy was my "go to" bridge person. When I had a bidding problem, she would always help with it. I will miss her insight and experience of bridge."

- Laura Owens

"I remember fondly the wonderful sense of humor Nancy brought to her teaching! She will forever be a 7 No Trump!"

- Sharon Kreitzer

"Nancy was always generous and gracious with her help and advice. In spite of her skill and experience, she never once made me feel stupid when playing against her. And she was funny!"

- Joanne Earls

"Nancy was a friend and an extraordinary teacher. She displayed her love of the game with humorous anecdotes some of these experiences REALLY happened and some happened but she embellished them. But we did not know which and we had a laugh. I started my bridge learning about 1992 when I retired. About the same time, my friend Sue Mandell, now my mentor, retired. At this time, the middle 90s, there was a Wednesday night game that featured the paragons of the bridge community. Sue and I would leave our safe havens and go to the "slaughterhouse" to meet our opponents. Nancy always congratulated us for going to play bridge with the best. And that was encouragement. If we had a situation which needed an explanation, we could bring it to class or if we saw Nancy before the class and had the hand with us, she would give us help. That was Nancy. After Lou retired

in 98, he attended the classes. Nancy heard me call Lou "Honey". Thereafter she always called him Honey. Lou would smile. I shall always miss those Honeys-Lou and Nancy."

- Heroldine Ukelson

"There are numerous comments I could make about Nancy Sachs. She was my friend, my mentor, and my bridge teacher. I could easily heap praise on her prowess as a bridge player and teacher. But the thing I remember the most about Nancy is her love of her family. When we would meet for dinner, her eyes would always light-up when she talked with pride about her family and their accomplishments. My impression is that she was a very warm and loving mother and grandmother. I am sure her family will miss her greatly, as will we, her friends."

- Pat Dutson

"When I was asked to find bridge players that knew Nancy Sachs to write for the Alert, I thought, "Sure! Piece of cake". It wasn't until I started writing that I knew I had been given a difficult task, and have failed miserably on her behalf. Although I have known Nancy for at least thirty years, I am finding it difficult to do her justice.

I was very glad to have had the opportunity of a visit from Nancy and Paul in Michigan as I did not know her very well. She did, however, know a lot about me, and everything about Potter. She reminded me that we competed together in tennis and golf many moons ago when our bodies hadn't fallen apart. I then remembered she beat me at every sport and now bridge.

She was always complimentary about my poor play in tennis and golf, as well as bridge, yet she had the self confidence to win at every opportunity. She knew she was better than everyone at most things and never said so. She was always a lady and always gracious.

When we had a moment of silence in her honor at Deschappelles, I had to stop myself from smiling because it was in Michigan that I found out she never shut up. Especially when we were drinking wine and she was sneaking cigarettes. She was hysterical and made us laugh the entire week of her visit. She told great bridge stories and loved reminiscing her tennis and golf matches, yet never bragged. I might have been the only one in the conversation that knew she won them all.

She was dedicated to Paul and her children and grandchildren. If she had best friends I do not know who they are, as you always felt like you were her best friend when she was talking to you.

I know Paul, her children, and I will miss her very much. Potter may even miss her more."

- Sandy and Potter Orr

"My memories of Nancy reinforce her brilliance with a well practiced love of life and laughter. One recent Tuesday Night her Husband Paul had just paid me a small wager and she chimed in, "Paul you have to stop losing our gas money. It's too long to walk home!" I once had the audacity to give Nancy a wager I had lost to Paul – did Paul ever let me know what a bad choice I had made he had no hopes of seeing that money. Lesson learned. Then there's thee dinner at the Steak House in Gatlinburg (Nancy loved good food). 'Here's a hand,' she said. You'll never guess what partner opened. And we still got to 3N to win the board and the match!' Nancy never tired of a good story or a fun hand.

I was able to partner Nancy once and found the experience an exquisite pleasure – trust and partnership ethic were paramount and we rarely discussed my mistakes. She made none. Seriously. How many sessions of mistake-free bridge have you ever played with an unknown partner? From then on, I would ask myself – What would Nancy do?

My final memory of Nancy comes only days before her death. We were enjoying a luncheon with the usual suspects at Robert Brown's firm. Nancy held court. She displayed the wit and enthusiasm that kept the conversation alive and changing continuously. She was indeed the life of the party and the heart of our Unit. Thanks, Nancy for all you have given us."

- Steve Moese

*"The darker the night, the brighter the stars,
The deeper the grief, the closer is God!"
— Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Crime and Punishment*

"Only people who are capable of loving strongly can also suffer great sorrow, but this same necessity of loving serves to counteract their grief and heals them."

— Leo Tolstoy

The Cincinnati "Blue Team" with countless Regional wins:



Bill Higgins, Yauheni Siutsau, Nancy Sach, Amith Raturi



Nancy and Linda Wolber – Great Friends and Great Teachers. Did you know that Nancy had 14 active in-home bridge groups at the time of her death?

Answer to Nancy's Nasties

Let's start by counting points. Dummy has 9 HCP, you have 9 HCP, and South's bidding has indicated that he/she has a minimum hand with 12-14 HCP, let's assume 13HCP. That leaves 8-10 HCP for partner so he/she has some values.

Let's now think about the distribution. South's bidding and the play of the hand has indicated that he/she has 6♠s. The most probable distributions for South are 6-3-2-2 (5.6%) or 6-3-3-1 (4.6%).

South ♠Q98
Deals ♥965
N/S Vul ♦T6
♣AQJ7

♠T3	N	♠J2
♥QT832	W	♥KJ4
♦AQ74	S	♦J9532
♣32		♣K96

♠AK7654
♥A7
♦K8
♣854

The ♠s are now set up for discards so it is important that the defense take their tricks quickly or South's losers will be discarded on the ♠s. Although the probabilities favor a 6-3-2-2 by a very small amount, if you try to cash a ♥ and South has a singleton, you will lose any potential ♦ tricks. Thus, the most prudent course of action is to shift to a ♦. The defense now sets the contract by taking 1♥, 2♦s and 1♣.

Nancy Sachs 1945–2014

BY FRIENDS OF NANCY SACHS

On Sept. 2, a tragic fall took the life of Nancy Sachs, an Emerald Life Master of Cincinnati OH. For 40 years, Nancy taught the game at all levels to thousands of players in District 11 and on cruises across the globe and competed with great distinction at the local, regional and national levels.



Photo by Jonathan Steinberg

Nancy wrote four bridge books and served as editor of the District 11 Midwest Monitor. She served as a district tournament chair for 15 years, and she was also a club president and regional recorder. Nancy was a member of the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee.

Nancy won virtually every Mini-McKenney or Ace of Clubs award offered at the club and unit levels, and she is a past recipient of the Jerry Steurnagle Award, Unit 124's highest distinction for exemplary ethics, kindness and character.

Unit 124's quarterly publication, The ALERT, regularly featured articles about Nancy – ranging from problems she posed called "Nancy's Nasties" to a tribute extolling the boldness and confidence of her bidding, e.g., 1♣-1♦-Dbl-5♦ by Nancy, forcing opponents to make a decision at the five level in the first round of bidding!

Nancy was fiercely competitive throughout her life. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati at age 19 and was an exceptional golfer before embarking on her bridge career. Her combination of grit, grace, wit and good humor endeared her to all who knew her.

Our hearts go out to Paul Pschesang, her life partner, sons Jeff and Steve, and three adoring grandsons. They and we stand together – impoverished by Nancy's absence, enriched by her memory, and comforted by the certain knowledge that we will always bear the gentle but indelible imprint of her magnificent life.

Nancy's family has established a fund to support Junior bridge. Please mail contributions in Nancy's memory to The Cincinnati Bridge Association, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati OH 45241, attention Susan Wisner, Treasurer.

Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

From Page 13

Solution Problem #1

We have 11 top tricks: 6 hearts, 3 diamonds and 2 clubs. We can get one more trick if ♠A is onside or diamonds are 3-3 or somebody has "short" ♣QJ.

♠AJxxx	♠xxx	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠Qxx
N						
W E						
S						
♥xx	♥Kx		♥xxx			
♦109	♦AKQx	♦Jxxx				
♣xxxx	♣K10xx	♣QJx				

In order to maximize our chances we should **win first trick and draw trumps**. Next we can **cash ♠AK and ruff a club**. If ♠10 is good we have 12 tricks, otherwise we can **cash top diamonds**, and if diamonds didn't split 3-3 we can **try spade to the king**.

Solution Problem #2

We have 11 top tricks again: 7 spades, 2 hearts and 2 clubs. Now we have only two chances to get extra trick – hearts are 3-3 or ♦A is onside.

♠Axx	♠xx	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠x
N						
W E						
S						
♥xxxx	♥QJ10		♥xxx			
♦xxx	♦AJxx	♦Qxxx				
♣AKx	♣Jxxx	♣Qxxx				
		x				

We want to use both chances, so, we should **win first trick and draw two rounds of trumps (leaving ♠A as an important entry), cash ♥K and ♣AK discarding a heart and ruff a heart**.

Now, if hearts are 3-3 we can enter dummy with ♠A and cash 13th heart; otherwise we can **play diamond to the king**.

Solution Problem #3:

Now we have only 9 top tricks : 1 spade + 3 hearts + 4 diamonds + 1 club. It looks like we need to find ♣K onside. However, if E has ♠KQ or only one "short" spade honor (H or Hx), we will be able to get extra trick (or tricks) by playing small spade to the ♠10.

Check <http://www.cincybridge.com> today!

**Share the Joy of Bridge – Play with a
New Friend today!**

♠J98xx	<table style="border: 1px solid black; border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠Qx
N					
W E					
S					
♥KQ		♥xxxx			
♦AQ10	♦xxxx				
♣QJx	♣xxx				
♠Kxxx		♠A10			
♥109xx		♥AJx			
♦xx		♦KJxx			
♣Kxx		♣A109x			

Win **first trick in dummy and play small spade**. If E will insert ♠Q or ♠K we will establish 4 tricks in spades. Let's say E plays small, we play ♠10 and W wins. After winning next trick we **should cash ♠A** and, if second spade honor drops, we have 12 tricks. Otherwise we should hope for **club finesse**.

Notice that we can not make slam if we hook ♣K at trick 2.

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday December 10, 2014 - 6 PM @ CBC – Join us for the **Unit Holiday Celebration** - \$25 per person. Beverages bar, appetizers, a fine meal, and plenty of desserts, plus a Unit Membership Game (3x Master Points). See a sanction holder or contact Melanie Onnen onnwnmk@cinci.rr.com or Diane Thaller dlthaller@gmail.com. Entries on sale mid-November

December 26-January 1, 2015 D11 Winter STaC – Check your local club for participating games. This is a great chance to win silver master points at your club. Overall District finishers earn extra points.

January 24 and 25, Dayton Kettering Bridge Center – the **District 11 Grand National Team Finals**. This 2-day event (Saturday and Sunday) qualifies teams for the GNT Finals, held this year at the Chicago Summer NABC Tournament.

"At least in the world we know, it takes trials to make something beautiful and useful out of the raw materials of life. The student's struggle with truth develops his intelligence; the athlete's struggle with his records and his opponents helps to develop his muscles and coordination; the musician's struggle with more difficult pieces develops his playing skill; and the soul's struggle with the trials of life helps to build character."

— Warren W. Wiersbe, Why Us?: When Bad Things Happen to God's People