



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

January 2015 XL Number 1

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

From the President's Desk

by John Meinking

The new year is here and at least the weather has been nicer than this time last year. Still, be sure to check the website at cincybridge.com for updates when inclement weather strikes.

The new board is in place for 2015. Join me in thanking our departing board members for their years of service. Barb Levinson has served for more years that even she can remember. Also departing are Ron Manne and AJ Stephani. New members elected for 3 year terms are: Nalin Mehta, Bob Fisk and Pam Campbell. Please welcome them and share your thoughts on how we can improve the bridge experience in our Unit.

We had our annual board retreat and meeting on Jan 4th. Two important decisions were made during this meeting concerning the CBC (Cincinnati Bridge Center). The board approved \$3,500 to purchase new chairs and \$2,000 to upgrade computers/technology at the CBC. The CBC Operations Committee is tasked with making these purchases.

Committees for 2015 are largely formed. Check the web site for current assignments and openings. Don't be bashful about volunteering to help with any opening. Many of these positions don't have to be filled by CBA (Cincinnati Bridge Association) board members.

We have several new recruits serving as standby partners at the Tuesday night Unit game at the CBC. There is always a partner available for the Tuesday night Unit game. Check out the standby schedule at <http://www.cincybridge.com/2015Standby.html>

Thanks to new board member Nalin Mehta for organizing the coat and sweater drive for the Cincinnati Free Store. Over 80 items were donated at the CBC.

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Indianapolis Regional	17	Feb 24- Mar 1
Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional	18	June 1-7

Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Event
Mon	AM	CBC* 11:00 Inv NKy 11:00 2 nd /4 th only
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (<2000) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 CBC 11:00 MIDS 11:00
	PM	CBC 7:00* Open/99er
Wed	AM	CBC* 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:30
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30
Thu	AM	INT* 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - NKy 11:30 AM
	Aft	WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30
	PM	CBC 7:00 Swiss Teams
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
Sat	AM	
	Aft	CBC 1:00

New at the CBC is a partnership calendar near the door at the CBC. Thanks to Liz Lin and Joanne Earls for getting this started. More information is available on the web site.

Don't forget to mark your tournament calendar for 2015. Tournaments in our Unit in 2015 include: March 2-8 is a StaC tournament. Extra masterpoints

available at your club games. Next up is the Flying Pig Regional at the Sharonville convention center June 1-7. July 6-12 is another STaC week. The second Northern Kentucky sectional is July 31-Aug 2. Non-life master sectional is scheduled at the CBC on October 10th and 11th. The Spooktacular Sectional at the CBC on October 23-25. Always check the web site for updates on these tournaments and other special games held throughout the year. The week of December 28th is the final STaC week of 2015.

The Board is wrestling with the new ACBL privacy policy. We have two lawyers and a corporate policy expert trying to decipher how this impacts our communications to our members. The Board voted to limit access to the Unit email database until this issue is clarified.

Membership continues to be one of the major challenges of local units and the ACBL. Anyone with friends or family members that want to try bridge are encouraged to come to the "Supervised Bridge" sessions at 10AM on Saturdays. Cost is only \$2.00 for two hours of play and advice. We'll be announcing other duplicate bridge introduction programs sometime in the spring. There are also various lessons and programs scheduled throughout the Unit for players of all levels.

The CBA Board faces another major decision concerning the Cincinnati Bridge Center (CBC). Our lease expires in January 2017 (a short 2 years away). There are many things to like about our current location, but the overall condition of the building isn't what it was when the CBC opened many years ago. The board and other volunteers are developing a list of upgrades to the current CBC and/or features for a new location. This project is a top priority for 2015. Please share your thoughts with members of the CBA Board or the CBC operations committee.

The Unit enters 2015 in very strong financial position with over \$180,000 in liquid assets. This more than covers our potential exposure at the CBC should major repairs to the AC/Heating units be necessary. Thanks to a major effort by Susan Wisner we now have a clear picture of the operating finances of the CBC. CBA policy changes approved in late 2014 require that the Unit operate the CBC as a cost center of the CBA. The good news is that the CBC is running at an operating profit. The bad news is that this operating profit is generated only because of extra revenue generated by the special events held at the CBC. Also, our CBC

expenses are increasing every year and our CBC revenues are flat at best.

Problem 7 in the December ACBL Bulletin (page 39) is from a hand played on Monday 8/18/2014 at the CBC. Unfortunately they messed up the problem for one of the pairs. Even with an extra ace they didn't bid the grand slam. How did you and your favorite partner do on this problem?

I haven't mentioned the web site (cincybridge.com) nearly enough. There is much more available on the web site besides the results of recent games. Weather updates, upcoming special games schedules, tournaments, special events, member rank promotions, lesson schedules and much more are there. Take some time to explore the site and bookmark your favorite pages.



John Meinking
CBA Board President

Check out www.cincybridge.com today!

On Learning & Critical Thinking

by Steve Moese

Winter doldrums threaten – Thank God we're bridge players! Nothing like a simulating game at the club to break the *ennui* from grey January skies. Much is happening this year (check out the annual calendar for our Unit). We continue to work with our sanction holders to ensure major ACBL offerings are available to Unit members. If you see a major game and want your favorite club to host it, be sure to let the director know!

No doubt Bridge is a game and we all play it for fun. Getting good at bridge takes personal investment – a desire to learn. To feed that learning we offer a variety of avenues for new and improving players.

How we learn best is as individual as the clothes we wear and the food we like to eat. Some prefer an apprenticeship – a close personal relationship with a mentor. Some of us like books, others class rooms and teachers. Some of us like to use software or simply practice our new skill until we've mastered it.

Folks who've never played bridge want to learn the basics and engage best when their experience is fun and supportive (not anxious, destructive, or demoralizing). Folks who play social bridge want to feel comfortable with the trappings of duplicate, how

it's scored and what are the laws and etiquette. Again, anxiety, bad results, and negative reinforcement from their early experiences will repel them.

Think what this means if we all want our games to grow and new people to play with us!

Advancing players want richer information and begin to seek more challenge as they learn. They focus more on answering the question why and less on the questions what and how. They begin to hone their skills against better and better competition.

Experts continue their learning looking for better ways to communicate with partner, estimate probabilities and define lines of play on offense or defense.

Learning NEVER STOPS. For some of us this sounds like work. For others this is opportunity.

Bridge classes are taught by board-approved teachers and spans a range offerings for the basic to the advancing player. Check out classes at:

http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html

See also Mike Purcell's Education Update in this issue.

Critical Thinking is the process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information to reach an answer or conclusion. One uses critical thinking to improve one's process of thinking, not to solve problems. How does that apply to bridge?

Think about planning the play or defending a hand. How do you gather the information you need? How do you create a picture of the hand? Do you base decisions/

actions on the information you have? How do you know what choices lead to the best odds possible for a given situation? Those are skills we build over time through learning, practice and effort. They don't happen overnight.

Why talk LEARNING at all? Some players want to get better every hand they play. Some want to win but make little or no effort to improve their skills. Others simply want a day out with friends to have fun.

We must make room for all players of all abilities and goals – the common thread holding us together (and helping our games grow) is a welcoming, supportive environment free from unacceptable behavior. Do

"If we are not prepared to think for ourselves, and to make the effort to learn how to do this well, we will always be in danger of becoming slaves to the ideas and values of others due to our own ignorance." — [William Hughes](#)

your part! Choose to learn a new skill. Choose to be the player you want to play against at your table. The welcoming face at your table is YOU!

Our contributors to this issue bring light to the gloom of mid-winter, and we thank them profusely. We welcome Greg Brinker to Club Notes and thank Elaine Jarchow for her contributions to these pages. Greg offers perspective from NKy and Anderson Clubs in this issue. Check out Joanne Earls offering on scheduling partners and Mike Purcell's overview of bridge classes. Dean Congbalay continues to probe behaviors. We've reprised Potter Orr's essay "**CBA Organization**" to clarify how clubs, the Cincinnati Bridge Center, the Unit (CBA), District 11, and the ACBL relate and work together. This is a must read if you are interested in our organization. Eugene tests us with play problems and Rob delights us with the Marshmallow Coup. We return to Andrew Gumperz series on Preempts and offer a reprise of a note on Balancing. Be sure to check upcoming events and plan to play more!

See you at the tables,

Steve



Editor, The **ALERT** alert@cincybridge.com

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

by Gregory Brinker

NKBC NEWS

2015 Board Members: Greg Brinker, President, Henry Jackson, Vice President, Vern Goetz, Treasurer, Imogene Enzweiler, Secretary and Gerry Mirus and Howard Simon complete the Board.

We have two new Directors: Joe Pike and John Taylor. Evelyn Hance and Edie Smitson hosted our Christmas party. All shared good food and bridge.

The recent Club Champions are:

November 11 – We celebrated our 13th anniversary. The Club Champions of the day were Michiko Natsumi and Bart Jacobs.

November 13 – the Club Champions were Dave Dressman and J.J. James.

December 5 – the Club Champions were Peg Ammon and Margaret Young.

With much sorrow, we must announce the loss of Jackie Swango. She was a Director and founding member of the Club.

NKC 2015 GETAWAY SECTIONAL

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

A DIRECTOR AT AGE 14

By Greg Brinker and Elaine Jarchow

The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club is very proud of its youngest member and newest Director. John Taylor, 14, passed the director's test in November 2014 and began his duties shortly thereafter. John began his bridge lessons at age 3 under the careful supervision of his grandmother Peg. These lessons became a super way to learn logic and math. He played his first game at the NKBC at age 8. Currently, he is ranked 2nd in the entire ACBL membership for points earned by players his age. He loves the competitiveness, the mental exercise, and the problems solving needed to excel. A favorite moment was bidding and making an impossible 6 diamond slam at last year's Flying Pig Regional. Ask him about it when you see him!!! Obviously, it is easy for John to find a partner, but his favorite is his grandma Peg. They play an aggressive style, and, someday, I hope to catch them over bidding. John is freshman at Beechwood High School where he receives excellent grades. The University of Louisville has already shown interest in him. I do not know how he finds time for all these activities. He is on the academic, archery and tennis teams. He is in the Jazz Band and Concert Band and plays the saxophone. He has represented Beechwood at the Kentucky United Nations Assembly the past three years. He is active in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 820 where he became an Eagle Scout at age 13. He and his fellow Scouts organized the table delivery, set up, and caddy assignments for the NKBC sectional. He enjoys travel, scuba diving, woodworking and horseback riding with this grandpa Jack. He does beekeeping with his dad and loves to find recipes to challenge his mom. He also has a wonderful sense of humor.

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN!!!

ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

By Helen Ogle

OUR GAMES ARE EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY AND START at 11:30 a.m. SHARP. WE HAVE JUNIOR FUND GAMES ALL MONTH. SO FAR THE WINNERS ARE:

1/6 Jane/John Burpee

1/7 Eddie Long/Sanford Franklin

1/13 RayTolston/Bill Atteberry

1/14 Terry Ruf/George Ahlrichs

We are really enjoying the Card Dealer that CBA gave us and the Membership Directories for 2015.

We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in June.

We want to congratulate Terry Ruf who just passed 100 points without ever leaving town!

We particularly welcome beginners as we all started where they are now at one time and none of us has forgotten what it was like. Our playing site is :

Anderson Senior Center
7970 Beechmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45255
(behind the firehouse)

If you are in doubt about us playing - if Forest Hills Schools are closed so is the Center so we would not be playing. If you need a partner call Helen Ogle at 232-2240.

CBA Education News – Winter/Spring

By Mike Purcell

Spring cannot get here soon enough and with it our **Spring New to Bridge (N2B) event Saturday April 18th 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 with beginner lessons complemented with Informal Supervised Play Saturday mornings 10-noon. Register for this free event by contacting me at mikpur@cinci.rr.com or by phone at 513-702-4007.

The spring lesson schedule will be out by mid-Feb. Be sure to check the CBA website then for new class details. 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.

A.J. Stephani is starting advanced bridge sessions in conjunction with the Tuesday morning game on a variety of interesting topics. Check out the [Better Bridge FLYER](#) for times and prices.

New Partnership Sign-Up Calendar

By Joanne Earls

Need help finding partners? You are not alone. Try the new sign-up calendar near the door at the bridge center. Just write your name, your contact info, the time of the game you are interested in (if



applicable), the number of points you have and the system you play (Goren, STAM, 2/1, for example) and see who contacts you. This system provides an opportunity for higher-level players to step up and play with a newer player.

Thanks to Liz Lin, Don Etson, Susan Manne, and Debbie Wiest, among others, for suggesting such a system and providing input into how it might work best.

Look for an online partnership desk to be launched by the ACBL sometime this year.

Of course, if you are looking for a partner you can still call the director of the game you want to play in or call me to see whether anyone else is looking.

Thanks for your support!

Joanne Earls

772-4395

jolman@fuse.net

Your Name Here

Cincinnati Bridge Association

Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.

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

Really, Pal?

By Dean Congbalay

You certainly do not realize this, but you came along at just the right time. I was saying goodbye to my partner after an afternoon of bridge and thinking about the disappointing behavior we had just witnessed.

One woman had cut me off as I walked with a cup of coffee (We were lucky that nobody got wet!). Another woman rudely inserted herself in my path as I reached for a snack. Another woman only reluctantly moved her drink from my space after I repeatedly indicated for her to do so. One woman coughed in my face. Yet another woman lied to the director multiple times after even her partner agreed with me that she made a mistake and revoked.

All day, I followed around a miserable-looking woman whom I have never seen smile. She steadfastly refused to leave the table long after being told to get up from her seat.

So when I saw you (actually, you spotted me!) approach me flashing a big smile, you instantly made

my day. It was the first time we had seen each other since you left for Toronto last spring.

"I enjoy playing with him," I told my partner -- and then grinned. "But he's Canadian, and he bids in metric. He adds his points and multiplies by 1.3!"

"That's because I know you can make it!" you quipped, not missing a beat.

We all laughed. Bridge is a game. Shouldn't it be fun?

I truly believe there is good in everyone. Too often, unfortunately, we have to dig hard to find it.

Thanks, pal, for reminding me that sometimes, good is easily evident for all to see.

Cincinnati Bridge Association

– Organization

by Potter Orr

I spent 9 years on the board of CBA including 2 years as President and 3 years as Vice-President and it seems like it took half of that time to figure out how things work. I am going to attempt to shorten that process for anyone who might be interested.

Glossary (jargon decoder)

- ACBL - American Contract Bridge League. Runs duplicate bridge in the US and Canada, awards and tracks masterpoints won at sanctioned games and tournaments
- District - one of 25 subdivisions of the ACBL. Created by the ACBL to manage a specific geographical area. Cincinnati is part of District 11 which includes Ohio south of Toledo and Cleveland, Indiana south of Ft Wayne, almost all of Kentucky and part of West Virginia. [District Map](#)
- Unit - a subdivision of a District. There are 300+ Units and each manages a geographical area within a District. Unit representatives make up the District board.
- CBA - Cincinnati Bridge Association. CBA is an Ohio not for profit corporation created to manage Unit 124 of the ACBL. It represents the 965+/- members of the ACBL who live in Unit 124 (approximately Greater Cincinnati). Its oversight responsibilities includes ALL ACBL sanctioned games in the Unit not just those at CBC.
- CBC - Cincinnati Bridge Center. This is the building at 2860 Cooper Road. In 1997 the CBA board signed a lease for the space and raised money from

the membership to remodel and equip it as a bridge center. The space is rented to sanction holders to run their games and used on Tuesday evening to run a game sanctioned by CBA itself.

- **Sanction** - is the right to run an ACBL sanctioned bridge game at a defined time in a defined location. Any ACBL certified director may apply to the ACBL for a sanction. If the application does not conflict in time or location with an existing sanction, it is granted by the ACBL. Sanction holders are independent business people and may run their games as they see fit within ACBL rules. They collect money from players, pay required fees to ACBL, report the results of their games to ACBL and pay the expenses associated their game.
- **STaC** is a **Sectional Tournament at Club**. These special games have sectional ratings and award Silver points to winners.

I hope that a picture is really worth 1,000 words ([See bottom of this page](#)). This is a pictorial view of the ACBL from the top all the way down to individual bridge games in Cincinnati.

If you follow this down the center, District 11 is a delegate of ACBL, Unit 124 (the CBA) is a delegate of District 11, CBC (Cincinnati Bridge Center), No KY, Oxford, Anderson and Middletown are locations in Unit 124 where sanction holders run games.

Responsibilities & Governance

District 11

All Units within the boundaries set by ACBL of [District 11](#) are members of the District. Each member Unit in

the District appoints 2 representatives to be members of the District board. The District board elects a President and Vice-President. The President then appoints a secretary and treasurer. Other District officers (Recorder, Youth Chair, Educational Chair, etc. are selected/appointed by the board.

[District By Laws](#) (link)

[District Board Members](#) (link)

The primary responsibility of the District is to promote bridge within the District and run tournaments within the District. Technically the District is in charge of all Regional Tournaments but District 11 has historically allocated Regional tournaments to member Units.

Unit 124

All active members of the ACBL who live in the area defined by ACBL as Unit 124 are automatically members of the Cincinnati Bridge Association (which is Unit 124 from ACBL's perspective). The members elect a board of directors in elections held each year at the time of the Fall Sectional tournament. There are 9 board members with 3 positions up for election each year. Board members are limited to 3 consecutive terms (3 years each - total 9 years) before they must take at least 1 year off. The board elects a President, Vice-president, secretary and treasurer each year at their first meeting.

[Unit 124 / CBA constitution](#) (Link)

A Unit's job is to promote bridge within its boundaries and run tournaments but the ACBL disclaims any responsibility for the actions - financial or otherwise -



of its Units. This is one paragraph from the ACBL Unit Agreement: *"The relationship of the ACBL to each of its chartered units is that of an independent organization. This relationship shall not create any association, joint venture, partnership or agency relationship of any kind between a unit and the ACBL. Unless expressly agreed to in writing, neither party is authorized to incur any liability, obligation or expense on behalf of the other, to use the other's monetary credit conducting its activities or to represent to any 3rd party that either is an agent of the other."*

The board of CBA normally meets once each month - usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5:00 PM to 6:45 PM. Most meetings are open to visitors and minutes of the meetings are posted on the website after they have been approved at the next meeting subject to corrections. In some cases, minutes may be posted prior to approval with a "Draft" notation. The board meetings cover many topics during the year, but certain responsibilities are on the agenda of most meetings:

- Reviewing the financial results of the Unit and the CBC
- Long range planning for the Unit
- Scheduling and planning tournaments
- Coordinating bridge education activities
- Promoting ACBL membership within the Unit including the Awards Party, Mentor-Mentee and the Holiday Party
- Publicizing and promoting ACBL special events (Charity, International Fund games, Instant Matchpoint, etc.)
- Operational issues related to the CBC including but not limited to:
 - Cleaning
 - Maintenance of: HVAC, plumbing, computers, copiers
 - Chairs
 - Cards
 - Sanction holder relations

Tournaments run in Unit 124 (CBA):

- **Regional:** Cincinnati is one of the larger units in District 11 and is allocated one of the 4 regionals held in the District each year. It is our unit's responsibility to make all of the arrangements for the tournament and to be responsible for the financial results of the tournament. One of the expenses is a per table fee paid to the district and while there are no guarantees, we have generally made a profit on each regional tournament.

- **Cincinnati Sectional:** Historically Cincinnati has run a sectional tournament in late October each year. Starting in 2013 we also run a non-life master sectional in May. As with the regional tournaments the financial results are completely responsibility of the unit.
- There are currently 3 **STaC tournaments** run within our district and we are the organizing unit for one of them (in either July August). Since STaC games are by definition held at individual clubs scattered throughout the district, there are virtually no risks and no potential for profit in STaC tournaments. They are generally run by a unit primarily for the benefit of the members in that they allow members to win silver points without having to travel to a different tournament site.
- **NKY Sectional:** Prior to 2014 a group in Middletown ran additional sectional in the unit in August. Attendance at the sectional had declined to the point where the Middletown group no longer wanted to run the tournament. When they gave it up, the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club expressed an interest in running a sectional in August. 2014 was the 1st year for their sectional and it appears to have been successful enough that they will continue to run the tournament.
- **NAP District qualification and District finals.** Each year in June, July and August clubs within the District hold special NAP qualifying games. In the Fall all players wishing to qualify to play in the National NAP game play for the right to represent District 11. These games have usually been held in Cincinnati since we are at the geographic center of the District.
- Unit 124 owns 100 bridge tables purchased for tournament use and kept in a storage unit. These tables are used for the Regional and Sectionals in any location within the Unit. In addition, the Bridgemate electronic scoring devices and sets of duplicate boards from CBC are used at tournaments within our Unit and are loaned to Dayton for their Regional (they loan us theirs for our Regional).

In addition to tournaments, the unit board is responsible for other unit-wide events. The 2nd Tuesday of each month we run a **unit wide game** where the CBC, northern Kentucky and Anderson all play the same hands and the winners receive significantly larger master point awards due to the overall scoring of the event. Once each year, typically in April, we run an awards party (and bridge game) where

we recognize the milestones and achievements of members throughout the unit. We publish a monthly planner of all major activities in the unit.

Locations for Bridge games

Ultimately the responsibility for a game falls to the ACBL sanction holder (Club Manager in ACBLspeak) but Units across the ACBL take a number of different approaches to locations for duplicate games. Some of the most common arrangements are:

- Many Units do not have a bridge center. All of the games in the Unit are run by sanction holders in whatever space they can find for a game. Anderson, Middletown, Oxford and Northern Kentucky run games in this manner. Each sanction holder is responsible for their own expenses and supplies.
- Some Units (like Dayton) have a bridge center and hold ALL of the sanctions for games run in the bridge center. They typically hire a manager to run the center and arrange for directors.
- Other Units have a bridge center within their Unit that is owned and run by an individual or a company. The operator of the bridge center generally runs the center as a for profit venture. Some rent the space to sanction holders and others hold all of the sanctions themselves.
- A few Units take on the responsibility of operating a bridge center as a non-profit venture and rent timeslots to individuals who hold their own sanctions

Cincinnati Bridge Center

Our Unit 124 (and only about 25 other units out of 300 in the ACBL) own and operate a bridge center. Years ago Unit 124 leased space for a bridge center, bought tables, cards, computers and the other things needed for a bridge center and then rents out the center to individual directors to run their own games. Of all the games at CBC in a normal week, ONLY Tuesday evening is run using a sanction that belongs to the Unit. All of the other games are run by directors who have their own sanctions from ACBL.

According to ACBL regulations the sanction owner has complete control over their games. This includes:

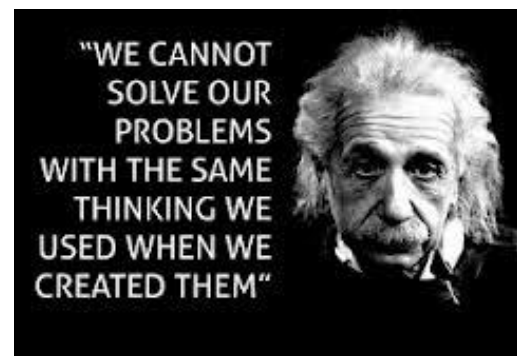
- Exact start times
- Whether or not to cancel due to weather
- Fee to be charged
- Stratification point limits for A, B and C
- Rulings by the director
- Discipline of players

- When and whether to run "special" games
- Even though the Unit has a "Recorder" to handle disciplinary matters as part of its ACBL responsibilities, the Recorder for CBA has authority only over the Tuesday evening game and Unit tournaments (Regional, Sectional and STACs). The sanction holder is the final authority for all discipline, except for allegations of cheating.

The sanction holders pay a rental fee to the Unit based solely on the number of tables they have at their games. The rental fee as of October 2014 is \$15 per table and has been at that rate for the last 2 years. Under the existing arrangement, the Unit is responsible for paying:

- Rent, including common area maintenance charges
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Maintenance of heating/air-conditioning and plumbing
- Cleaning of the bridge center
- Computers, printers and bridge equipment
- Paper and supplies for games
- Cards and duplicate boards
- Chairs and tables
- Coffee, cups, plates and other kitchen supplies

In the past we have made attempts from time to time to prepare financial statements for the Unit that show the bridge center income and expenses separately from the Unit as a whole. Our current treasurer has done a much more comprehensive job. This has demonstrated what most of the members of the Board of Directors instinctively "knew" - the bridge center by itself was not breaking even from club games alone. This condition has gone on for a number of years and was possible only because income from unit tournaments (primarily the regional) was available to subsidize the losses of the bridge center. When we include fair rent for Unit and District events held at the CBC, the CBC has made a modest profit in the past three years since the last table fee increase.



Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

By Yauheni Siutsau

All problems are from the Polish Bridge Magazine.

Problem 1:

IMPs ♠xx
 #1 ♥QJ653
 ♦AJ9x
 ♣Ax

♠ AK9xx
 ♥7
 ♦Q10x
 ♣KQJx

W	N	E	You
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♦	P	3N



Contract: 3NT(S).

Opening lead : ♥4.

Plan your play



Problem 2:

IMPs ♠xxxx
 #2 ♥Ax
 ♦AQJ1087
 ♣x

♠ Ax
 ♥Kx
 ♦9xx
 ♣KQxxxx



Contract: 3NT(S).

Opening lead : ♥J.

Plan your play.

The Marshmallow Coup

By Rob Weidenfeld elianadad@gmail.com

Back in the 1970's, an experiment was conducted with small children at Stanford University. Children were left alone with a marshmallow on their plate and instructed that they could eat it right away or if they waited until the proctor returned, they would be given an additional treat. As you can imagine, most children could not stand the temptation of looking at the entirely edible marshmallow and gobbled it up quickly. Long-term studies were done on the groups. What was discovered? Those who **deferred gratification** (DG), and as a reward received an additional marshmallow, led better life outcomes. So it is in duplicate bridge.

Lack of DG comes in at least two variations in the game of bridge. One is when a defender who is on lead against a suit contract decides to lead a singleton in a side suit while holding 4 pieces in the trump suit. It rarely occurs to them that if you play your cards "right" it is better to force declarer to ruff, thereby shortening his/her trumps suit and causing him/her to lose control of the hand because "you" hold 4 trumps! Another DG technique is not to win a trick just because you can!

A holding of A432 in a suit is not very impressive when taken out of context. It appears to have only one trick, whether you are declaring, defending, playing in no trump or in a trump contract. This (two-loser suit, as LTC fanatics might proclaim) can be so much more that appearances dictate.

Finding a situation where both forms are present in one hand is as rare as Halley's Comet. But that is just what happened when the Three Little Pigs found themselves in a Cincinnati duplicate game and over the course of the evening played the same hand but versus three members of the Wolf clan.

Here was the hand:

Unbelievably, the contract of 4♥ was reached at all tables. First glances indicate that anyone finding the ♥Q will make 6. All others will make 5. But as part of the old Arabic saying goes, "Those who know not, and know not that they know not"have a lot to learn (editorial license).

♠ --
 ♥ K1086
 ♦ AKQ108743
 ♣ 97

♠ K9876
 ♥ A432
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K72

♠ J1043
 ♥ Q
 ♦ J965
 ♣ Q10J6

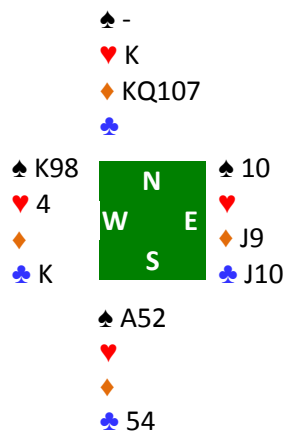
♠ AQ52
 ♥ J975
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A543

The first pig, who knew nothing about DG was looking at the hand record after the game saying, "Wolf 1 had no problem making 6 against us, but it says here you can't even make 4! This must be a mistake. There was no way to stop it!" What was the defense an inquiring mind asked politely? "I led my singleton hoping to score a trick with some of my baby ♥s said the first pig...as anyone would do. I guess Wolf 1 figured out I had a singleton and won in dummy and immediately ruffed a ♦ in hand with the ♥J (all the ♥ spots were equal). Of course I over ruffed with the ♥A and led back a ♣. He took the ♣A and then the ♠A pitching the last ♣ from dummy. He wondered for a moment how to play

trumps. I guess he figured I didn't have the ♥Q, so he played a ♥ to the ♥K, dropping the ♥Q and scoring the rest of the tricks! I thought it would be an average result, but it was a bottom."

The second pig knew a little more about DG. He knew enough not to lead a singleton when holding 4 trumps, but took his Ace of trumps the second time they were led and Wolf 2 made 5 with hardly no huffs and puffs. The third pig was a master of DG. His bridge outcomes were always the pride of the neighborhood. He even led the wrong black suit. It didn't matter because opening leads are not as important as DG. He led a ♠ to declarer's ♠Q. Unaware of what awaited, Wolf 3 led a small ♥ to the ♥Q and East returned a ♣. Wolf 3 won and played another ♥ but the third pig refused to win it. Realizing that there was a 4-1 split in hearts, he thought he better take some protection from a 4-1 break in ♦s. He led ♦A and a ♦, ruffing in hand. He now led his last ♥ from hand and finally now the third pig won the ♥A. This was now the position:

Wolf 3 had lost only 2 tricks but he was no longer in control. Wolf 3's dummy was all good, but he couldn't get there! The third pig could lead anything but a ♥ and declarer would only take the ♠A and the ♥K. He was down 3.



The moral: Get better at DG!

Ruminations

by Robert S Brown

I address below a Miscellany of separate issues – each worthy of passing comment but none entitled to an entire article – perhaps this cranial house cleaning¹ will create enough room for lengthier future expostulations. *(Trivia preempts bluster! – Ed.)*



Bidding Boxes

Their rectangular shape gives distinct visual and spatial advantages to E/W pairs. The visual advantage of being

¹ Confer T.S. Eliot, *Gerontion* (1920): "Tenants of the house, Thoughts of a dry brain in a dry season"

able to see your partner's bid more easily is constant. However, the spatial advantage of more room to display and play cards only inures to my personal benefit on those rare occasions when I am Dummy.²

Mentorships³

This Program is part of a coordinated campaign by Unit 124 to ensnare the unwary into the Game's addictive pleasures. The Home-style Game, Supervised Play, and "Let's Talk Bridge" are all pernicious attempts to divert the gullible from productive pursuits into vegetation at 2860 Cooper Road; but most malevolent are the Youth Outreach Programs which Paul Pschesang, Mike Purcell, and A.J. Stephani champion⁴.

Ebb and Flow₂

Some games rise in popularity while others wane. Foremost among the waners is the Tuesday night game⁵ where the Albatross and I began our less than illustrious career and have played ever since. At the same time, the Monday night game, which we have assiduously avoided, has enjoyed a meteoric rise in attendance. We are loathe to ascribe any personal causality between these two vectors because of the unflattering implications.⁶

A Free Thinking Bridge Philosophy₂

I have long endured the Albatross's hectoring to play by the rules, to agree on conventions, and to observe them. He seeks to suck all the joy and spontaneity out

² Vide RUMINATIONS (Oct. 2012) for further explication.

³ The Ruminator's personal experience with Mentorship is limited. My only attempt to serve as a Mentor was cruelly quashed when my prospective Mentee dropped out of the program immediately upon learning of our pairing.

⁴ Vide Tom Lehrer, "The Old Dope Peddler" (1953):

He gives the kids free samples,
Because he knows full well
That today's young innocent faces
Will be tomorrow's clientele.

⁵ Whose decline is now reaching eschatological proportions.

⁶ No longer, however, we have recently joined the Monday night horde and if this game's seemingly secular trend reverses, we will know and respond accordingly. You have been warned.

of the Game. In rebuke, I offer Sir Richard Burton's (1821-1890) objuration:

Do what thy manhood bids thee do,
 From none but self expect applause;
 He noblest lives and noblest dies
 Who makes and keeps his self-made laws."⁷

Think what a mystery and revelation the Game would be if we should collectively shake the shackles of conformity and play the contracts of our dreams rather than bow to the cruel constraints of what the cards dictate.

Better Preempts: What is the upside? part II

by Andrew Gumperz Nov 1, 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's

articles on Bridge Winners!



<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/better-preempts-what-is-the-upside-part-ii/>

When the hand belongs to the opponents, the upside for a preemptive jump overcall (PJO) is a function of:

- How much information opponents have already exchanged
- How much useful bidding space our bid conveys

Your opponents will be trying to pick a strain and a level in their constructive auction. The biggest determinant of strain is whether or not opponents have a fit. This article, will examine fit auctions for good and poor opportunities to preempt.

Express-Fit Auctions

As we saw last, when the opponents have already bid and raised a suit the reward for preemption has dropped precipitously. Raise auctions are called "express-fit" auctions, because the raise announces the fit expressly. The worst auctions for preempts are express-fit auctions where one opponent has limited their hand:

In all these auctions, preempts (either PJO's or raises) should be sound:

W	N	E	S
1♥	P	2♥ (8-10)	??

We can't afford to risk a large number when chances of causing them to go wrong are small.

W	N	E	S
1♥	P	3♥ (11-12)	??

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	2♣ (6-10)	??

Still bad, but better, are unlimited-raise auctions:

W	N	E	S
1♥	P	2N	??

They haven't yet found their level and they have announced an excellent chance for game or slam, which gives us protection. We have some upside. It's possible we can upset a slam auction, and we have the safety of knowing they have game values. While this is a mediocre time to preempt, it is a great auction to stick in a lead-director because opponents can rarely double effectively.

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	2♣ (Inverted)	??

This auction is better for preemption. Despite the raise, opponents have not necessarily settled on

the strain. NT will often be their best spot. Also, unlike the earlier Jacoby auction, they have not yet settled at their level. In addition, since both opener and responder could be either unbalanced or balanced, there is much more uncertainty than after the Jacoby auction as to where they belong, and a preempt could cause them to guess wrong.

Implied-Fit Auctions

Express-fit auctions are not the only auctions where the opponents' fit affects the potential reward. Consider this hand:

W	N	E	S
		1♥	??

South
♠KQ10xxx
♥x
♦xxxx
♣xx

RHO has shown a five-card heart suit. You have a singleton heart. LHO is likely to hold 3+ hearts. What will happen over your 2♠ preempt? LHO will raise hearts and the opponents will usually bid easily to a comfortable contract. Our preempt didn't do much damage. Why not? LHO already knew about the heart fit before we made out 2♠ call. Even though the fit was not announced in the

⁷ The Kasidah of Haji Abdu el-Yezdi (1870).

auction, the key information (that RHO held 5 hearts) had crossed before we made our not-so-destructive preempt.

Could we have anticipated that 2♠ didn't rate to do much damage? Yes. The stiff heart in your hand means there are lots of hearts in the deck for LHO to hold, and consequently they will usually have a heart fit. The singleton heart makes this an **implied-fit auction**. When the opponents have named their implied fit, the upside to preemption is often not much better than if they had already shown their fit.

Contrast that scenario with this one:

South
♠KQ10xxx
♥xxxx
♦x
♣xx

This time you hold four hearts in addition to your spade six-bagger. LHO probably holds only one or two hearts. Without a heart fit, a preempt rates to be much more disruptive.

After your preempt, LHO will usually make a negative double; if partner can raise to 3♠, the opponents will frequently be in a pickle:

W	N	E	S
1♥	2♠	X	3♠
??			

Now they must find their fit at the 4-level. They will be stumbling in the dark to find both fit and correct level. Your chances of a big plus score are much better in this auction than the last one. Even expert players often overlook how subtle differences in side-suit shape change the odds offered by a preempt.

Implied Fit Auctions in the Sandwich Position

Now let's look at a couple of auctions in the sandwich position.

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♥	??

South
♠xxxx
♥x
♦KQ10xxx
♣xx

Given the implied heart fit, 3♦ has relatively low upside. LHO will often just raise to 3♥ or 4♥, and has a good chance to judge accurately. You might not want to risk a number with such a low upside.

South
♠x
♥xxxx
♦KQ10xxx
♣xx

This time our singleton spade and partner's failure to overcall 1♠ suggest the opponent's fit is in spades, a suit neither one has mentioned. A 3♦ preempt will often cause them to miss

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♥	??

this fit. With much more upside, you can preempt more aggressively. I call an implied fit in an unbid suit a **"hidden fit."** Hidden fit auctions are some of the best times to preempt.

Implied Fit in the Minors

Implied fit is a much bigger factor in a major suit than in a minor. When the fit is in a

W	N	E	S
		1♣	??

South
♠xxx
♥xxx
♦KQ10xxx
♣x

minor, opponents have not settled on the strain since 3NT is a likely final contract. Further, since opener's call didn't promise five cards, they may not always be aware of their fit:

- After 1♣, responder needs 5 clubs to be certain of an 8+ card fit
- After 1♥, responder needs only 3 hearts to be certain of an 8+ card fit

Here the implied fit is in clubs. Unlike our example where the fit was in a major, LHO frequently cannot know about the fit with any certainty. This implied fit is nothing to worry about.

Pushing The Opponents Into Game

In general, I never worry about an opening preempt pushing opponents too high. I do worry about PJO's having that effect. When it occurs, it is usually in an implied-fit auction.

East
♠KQ10xxx
♥xx
♦xxx
♣xx

This is the classic scenario where a PJO could push the opponent

W	N	E	S
		1♥	??

s into a game they would not otherwise bid. What will LHO do if you preempt 2♠ or 3♠? He will raise hearts of course. He may have to overbid, but your call has forced him to guess, and we all know people guess to raise far more often than not. What is worse, you have no defense, so their "lucky" game would roll home. When bidding against an implied fit, you would much rather have a defensive surprise for the opponents that would cause their game to fail if they guess to bid.

East
♠AQ10xxx
♥Qx
♦J10xx
♣x

Contrast this hand with the last one. When preempting against an implied fit, some defensive strength is useful. If your opponents overbid to 3♥ or 4♥, you have an excellent chance for a plus score on defense holding this hand.

Given

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♥	??

 your heart holding, the opponents

East
 ♠KJ10xxx
 ♥KJ9x
 ♦x
 ♣xx

probably have not yet found their fit. Therefore a preempt has great upside. And if LHO does happen to hold a heart fit, your preempt will push the opponents into a tenuous contract.

Scary and Safe Preemptive Raises

Let's look at a couple of preemptive raise auctions, where your partner has opened, and the opponents have overcalled. Should you raise or pass?

NORTH
 ♠xx
 ♥QJxxx
 ♦xxx
 ♣xxx

W	N	E	S
			1♥
1♠	??		

A dangerous preemptive raise. You

have no defense, and opponents have an implied fit in the boss suit which they have bid. Your preempt won't do much damage: you are unlikely to be able to sac in 5♥, and you might push them into an overbid that makes. This preemptive raise makes me nervous.

NORTH
 ♠xx
 ♥QJxxx
 ♦xxx
 ♣xxx

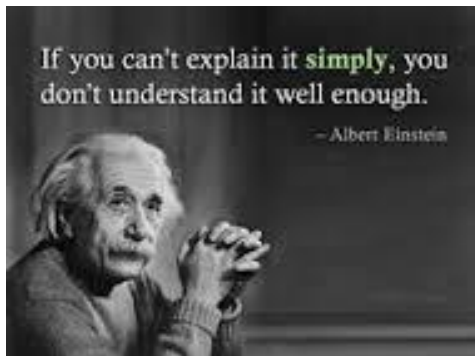
W	N	E	S
			1♥
2♣	??		

This is a fine preemptive raise.

Where is the enemy fit? Unless partner holds four spades, the opponents' fit is in spades, a suit they have not yet bid. 3♥ will make it much more difficult to find that hidden fit. This preemptive raise gives an excellent chance to win a swing.

Conclusion

Any time the opponents have named their strain, a preempt has less chance to succeed. At the other extreme, when the opponents have a hidden fit, a preempt has an excellent chance to do damage. Small differences in your side-suit distribution enormously affect the odds offered by a PJO or a preemptive raise.



Can Cincinnatians Do Better?

From Page 9

Solution Problem #1 - 3NT(S). Opening lead : ♥4
 We have 7 top tricks : 2 ♠s, 1 ♦ and 4 ♣s. If the ♦K is onside we will make an overtrick. What if the finesse fails? We will have enough tricks unless opponents will establish 5 (or more) tricks for the defense.

Let's look at the full deal :

IMPs #1

♠xx	♠Jx
♥QJ653	♥AK1098
♦AJ9x	♦Kxx
♣Ax	♣xxx

♠Q10xx
♥42
♦xxx
♣xxxx

N	E
W	S

♠AK9xx
♥7
♦Q10x
♣KQJx

Apparently **W** holding weak hand has decided to find partner's suit. Now, if we play ♥Q (or ♥J) at trick one, **E** can win and knock out our last ♥ honor. Defense will get 1 ♦ and 4 ♥s. (We cannot even endplay **E** because of transportation problems). Fortunately, we have simple **safety play** here: small heart at trick one. Defense cannot get more than 4 tricks now - 3 ♥s and 1 ♦.

Solution Problem #2 - 3NT(S) Opening lead : ♥J.

We have only 4 top tricks : 1 spade, 2 hearts and 1 diamond. It looks like we should hope for ♦K to be onside. In this case we will get 5 extra tricks. However, if diamond hook doesn't work, defense will continue hearts and we will go down. The finesse will succeed 50% of the time. We can improve our chances by **winning first trick in dummy and playing small club**.

1. Defense could duck ♣K. Now we can shift gears and get 5 ♦ tricks in addition to 1 ♠, 1 ♣ and 2 ♥s.
2. If **E** will play ♣A and clear hearts, we can check clubs before hooking ♦K and, if ♣s are 3-3, we will get 1 ♠, 2 ♥s, 1 ♦, and 5 ♣s.
3. If **W** will win ♣A and clear ♥s, we should hope for the ♦ finesse.

IMPs #2

♠xxxx	♠Kxx
♥Ax	♥J109x
♦AQJ1087	x
♣x	♦xx

The full deal :

♠Kxx	♠QJxx
♥J109x	♥Qxxx
x	♦Kx
♦xx	♣Axx
♣Jxx	

N	E
W	S

♠Ax
♥Kx
♦9xx
♣KQxxxx

On Balance – 1-Level

by Steve Moese

Our match point score depends on how many pairs we beat, not on the score itself. 1- or 2-level contracts are rare, especially against experts. Why? They're easy to make. When opponents stop at 1 or 2 they often have only ½ the HCPs. We have the other ½! It's right to compete 1 more level to improve our score. The balancing bidder is bidding BOTH HANDS. Once partner makes a balancing bid, do NOT punish them by raising. Partner has already bid your hand. The goal is to 1) Push the opponents 1 level higher, increasing our chances to beat other pairs, and 2) to compete in a suit of our own at the 2 (or 3 level) when our 2 hands combined hold 17-23 HCP.

Balancing is the bidding strategy for the pass-out (Balancing) Seat. When opponents stop at the 1 or 2-level we have about half the deck's HCP **on balance** (17-23) – hence the name "Balancing".

When LHO opens 1♣/♦/♥/♠ and you see 2 passes, either partner has values and too many cards in opener's suit to bid, or opener has a big hand. LHO is broke (maximum 4HCP). So, if you hold as few as 8 HCP and the other 3 suits, MP Pairs scoring urges you disturb the opponents! If you have 1 or 2 suits, you can consider bidding. With 1 or 2 suits their rank is important – it is almost always right to bid with ♠s. However if we don't hold ♠s, they do – If partner owns ♠s s/he was too weak to overcall. If opponents own them we'll push them out of a bad score into a good one. Beware!

When the auction goes 1♣-P-P we know:

- 1) Opener has 12-21 HCP and RHO has 0-4 HCP
- 2) Partner cannot double, overcall or preempt. Ever settled into a safe 1N, 2♣, or 2♥ contract only to have your opponent make a bid in the pass-out seat? Don't you just hate having to decide whether to bid, pass, or double? How many times have you gone down 1 when you could have made the contract you had bid if they only left you alone? Were you surprised they didn't have an opening hand? Maybe even only 8 HCP? Were the opponents crazy? Or is there a method to this irritating bid? (Balancing position is the hand that makes the 3rd pass, ending the auction).

Holding ♠AKxx ♥KJ10x ♦xxx ♣xx, **Doubling** suggests itself. We have 3 suits to support partner, both Majors, and expect to hold about ½ the HCP. How's that? LHO rates to have 16 HCP and RHO about 2. We will have

on average 22 HCP so partner has about 11 too. Why didn't partner bid? Likely because 1) They didn't have a 5+ card suit and 2) They held the wrong shape for a takeout double, or 3) partner holds length in their suit and wants to double them. Here are a few hands for balancing at the 1-level

Assume the auction: 1♣ - P - P

♠ xx ♥ xxx ♦ KJ10x ♣ AKxx	PASS! Who has the Majors? Partner doesn't – s/he's too weak to bid a 5-card suit. (1N showing 11-14 HCP is a distant 2 nd).
♠ Kx ♥ Q10x ♦ J10xx ♣ AQxx	Bid 1N (11-14/6 Balanced, does NOT guarantee a stopper , can be off-shape). Denies shape for a balancing double.
♠ Kx ♥ Q10x ♦ AQ10x ♣ AQxx	Double then rebid 1NT to show 15-18 HCP and a balanced hand with a stopper.
♠ Kx ♥ AQx ♦ AQ10x ♣ AQxx	Jump to 2N! The jump to 2N shows a 20-22 HCP balanced hand. Play the same systems you play over an opening 2N bid.

Defending a doubled contract at the 1-level is something experts do rarely. They prefer a trump holding of KQ10xx or better and sufficient HCP to make setting opponents likely but making game unlikely (especially at unfavorable vulnerability). Even with as little as ♠K10xx ♥K10xx ♦QJxx ♣xx experts would double for takeout in Balancing Seat after 1♣ - P - P.

Balancing bidding – Guidelines at the 1-level

Act with a King less than when you open the bidding or make a takeout double (8 working HCP – do not count HCP from Qs and Js in their suit). **Avoid balancing with minimum hands if you cannot compete in at least one of the majors. Be wary of helping the opponents find a fit in their (higher ranking) major.**

- A **balancing 1N** promises 11-14 or 16 HCP no biddable 5-card suit, a balanced hand, usually not 4 of the Other Major (you would double instead) and some fit for one or both higher ranking suits.
- A **balancing cue bid** shows either a strong takeout that does not want to start with a double (Classical, old bridge) or some 2-suited hand (55+). Some play the balancing cue bid as the same as Michaels. Be sure to discuss this with partner.

- The **balancing jump to 2N** is NOT Unusual NT showing the minor suits. It shows shows a hand you would have opened 2N.
- Finally a **balancing jump shift** is: 1) at the 2-level, an intermediate hand (15-17 HCP) with a good 6-card suit, or 2) at the 3-level a strong hand that will make 9 tricks with a good solid or semi-solid (1-loser) suit. These jump shifts are strong & not preempts. Why not? No sense to preempt when you can pass out the hand. If you indeed hold a preempt in balancing seat, opener must surely be strong! These strong hands can be difficult to bid otherwise when starting in the balancing seat.
- As always doubling in balancing seat then: 1) bidding a new suit, 2) jump shifting or 3) cue bidding all show very strong hands.

Now go out there and start irritating your opponents!

Check out Mike Lawrence, **The Complete Book of Balancing in Contract Bridge**, 209 pp. Baron Barclay Books (2006) ISBN-10: 0939460130 ISBN-13: 978-0939460137 available to borrow from the CBA library

Inspirations – Learning and Thinking

"Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts." - [William Bruce Cameron](#) (often falsely attributed to Albert Einstein)

"What we hope ever to do with ease, we must learn first to do with diligence." - [Samuel Johnson](#)

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." - [Aristotle](#)

"The school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize." - [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." - [Derek Bok](#)

"It is today we must create the world of the future." - [Eleanor Roosevelt](#)

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." - [Albert Einstein](#)

"The objective of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives." - [Robert Maynard Hutchins](#)

"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't." - [Anatole France](#)

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." - [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

"If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right." - [MARY KAY ASH](#)

"Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the error that counts." - [NIKKI GIOVANNI](#)

"Knowing a great deal is not the same as being smart; intelligence is not information alone but also judgment, the manner in which information is collected and used." - [Carl Sagan](#)

"Invest a few moments in thinking. It will pay good interest." - [Author Unknown](#)

"Who dares to teach must never cease to learn." - [John Cotton Dana](#)

SAVE THE DATES



March 2-8, 2015
District 11 Spring STaC
Check the clubs near you
for games and details.

April 2 Thursday (morning)
ACBL-wide Charity Game

All of April Charity Club Championship Games

2015 ACBL Wide / District 11 Special Events / Games

All of January	Junior Fund Games
January 31 Saturday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide International Fund Game #1
March 2 Monday (afternoon)	ACBL-wide Senior Game
March 2-8, 2015 (Morn, Aft, Evening)	Spring STaC Monday - Sunday
All of April	Charity Club Championship Games
April 2 Thursday (morning)	ACBL-wide Charity Game
All of May	Grass Roots Fund Game
June 1-August 31	North American Pairs Flight A, B, and C
June 1-7	Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional - CBC Closed
June 5 Friday (evening)	Worldwide Bridge Contest
June 6 Saturday (afternoon)	Worldwide Bridge Contest
July 6 – 12 (Morn, Aft, Eve)	Summer STaC Monday - Sunday
July 15 Wednesday (evening)	ACBL-wide International Fund Game #2
July 31 – Aug 2 (Fri – Sun)	NKy Summer Getaway Sectional – CBC Closed
All of September	Club International Fund Games
Sep 14-20	Dayton – Columbus Regional – CBC Closed
October 16 Friday (morning)	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game
Oct 23-25 Fri – Sun	Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional
October only	Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games
Nov 14-15 Sat, Sun	D11 NAP Finals
November 30 Monday (evening)	ACBL-wide Charity Game
December 21 Monday (morning)	International Fund Game #3
December 26 – January 1, 2016 Morning & Evening, Sat - Fri	Winter STaC

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MONDAY - FEBRUARY 23

- ↪ Bracketed KO Teams I (Round 1 of 4)
- ↪ Stratified Open Pairs (Single Session)
- ↪ 299er Pairs

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 24

- ▶ AM Side Game Series (Session 1 of 5) 9:00
- ↪ Bracketed KO Teams I (Rounds 2, 3 and 4 of 4) 9:00 1:30 7:00
- ** Hoosier Gold Rush Pairs (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ** Hoosier A/X Open Pairs (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ◆ Newcomers 0-20 Pairs (Free!) 7:00

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 25

- ▶ AM Side Game Series (Session 2 of 5) 9:00
- ↪ Morning Horizontal Compact KO (Rounds 1 & 2 of 4) 9:00
- ↪ Bracketed KO Teams II (Rounds 1 & 2 of 4) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Prime Time Open Pairs (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ 299er Pairs 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Stratified Open Swiss (Single session) 7:00

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 26

- ▶ AM Side Game Series (Session 3 of 5) 9:00
- ↪ Morning Horizontal Compact KO (Rounds 3 & 4 of 4) 9:00
- ❖ 49er Pairs 9:00
- ↪ Bracketed KO Teams II (Rounds 3 & 4 of 4) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Afternoon/Evening Side Game Series (Sessions 1 & 2 of 6) 1:30 7:00
- ** Circle City Gold Rush Swiss Teams (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ** Circle City A/X Open Swiss Teams (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00

AM PM PM

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 27

- ▶ AM Side Game Series (Session 4 of 5) 9:00
- ↪ Morning Horizontal Stratified Swiss (Session 1 of 2) 9:00
- ↪ Bracketed KO Teams III (Rounds 1 & 2 of 4) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Weekend Open Pairs (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Afternoon/Evening Side Game Series (Sessions 3 & 4 of 6) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ 299er Pairs 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Stratified Open Swiss (Single Session) 7:00

AM PM PM

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 28

- ❖ 49er Pairs 9:00
- ↪ AM Side Game Series (Session 5 of 5) 9:00
- ↪ Morning Horizontal Stratified Swiss (Session 2 of 2) 9:00
- ↪ Bracketed KO Teams III (Rounds 3 & 4 of 4) 1:30 7:00
- ** Indy Gold Rush Pairs (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ** Indy A/X Open Pairs (Two Sessions) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Afternoon/Evening Side Game Series (Sessions 5 & 6 of 6) 1:30 7:00
- ↪ Stratified Open Swiss (Single Session) 7:00

SUNDAY - MARCH 1

- ↪ Two-Session Stratified Swiss 10:00 AM
Food available on site. Play through

District-wide regulations for all 2015 District 11 Regional Events:

- KO events may be handicapped
- Open events w/o Gold Rush: 0-750 750-2000 2000+
- ** Gold Rush/AX Pairs and Gold Rush/AX Swiss: GR: 0-300 300-750 & AX: 0-2500 2500+
- ACBL Mid-Chart allowed in top bracket of KO and Flight A events

Strata determined by average masterpoints. Games with upper limit on points restricted to those who do not exceed that limit.

- ▶ Pay a full entry for an AM Side game and receive a \$5 non-transferable coupon for your next AM Side Game.
- ◆ Tuesday Newcomers Game: Free for 0-20 players
- ❖ Thursday and Saturday AM: 49er games \$7 per player!

YOUTH BRIDGE
PLAYERS WELCOME

21 and under? ALL GAMES \$7.00
FOR ACBL MEMBERS

Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional

Monday 2:30 Pro Am!

Sharonville Convention Center June 1-7, 2015

	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	7:30 PM
Monday June 1		Pro Am Pairs Call Nancy Luetge to reserve your place (513) 793-2337	Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Evening Side Series
Tuesday June 2	Hog Wild Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 1) Open Pairs Evening Side Series NLM Pairs
	Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series I 99er Pairs	Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series I Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Wednesday June 3	Pig in a Poke Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 3) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 2) Open Pairs Evening Side Series
	Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 3) Baby Back Knockout (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series I NLM Pairs	Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 4) Baby Back Knockout (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series I Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Thursday June 4	Hog Heaven Gold Rush Swiss Teams and Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4) Squeaky Clean Compact KO (1-2) Open Pairs Evening Side Series NLM Pairs
	Baby Back Knockout (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series I 99er Pairs	Baby Back Knockout (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series I	
Friday June 5	Curly Tail Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Squeaky Clean Compact KO (3-4) Open Pairs Evening Side Series Fourth Annual Cincinnati Youth Bridge Championship
	Porky Pig Knockout (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series II NLM Pairs	Porky Pig Knockout (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series II Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Saturday June 6	Road Hog Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Open Pairs Evening Side Series
	Porky Pig Knockout (Round 3) Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 1-2) Open Pairs Side Series II 99er Pairs	Porky Pig Knockout (Round 4) Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 3-4) Open Pairs Side Series II	
	Three Little Pigs Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		
Sunday June 7	Flying Pig Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)		Swiss Teams in Red NLM Events in Blue

♥ **Tournament Highlights** ♥

Tons of Playing Space
Free Parking
Easy Access to I-75 and I-275
Wine and Cheese Hospitality
Unbelievable Hotel Rates

♠ **Tournament Chair** ♠

A.J. Stephani
ajstephani@gmail.com
(513) 313-0488

♦ **Partnerships** ♦

Lorna Davis
(513) 777-1760

Bob Fisk
bobsbbcards@gmail.com

♣ **Hotel Information** ♣

LivINN Suites
11385 Chester Road
Cincinnati OH 45246
(513) 772-7877
\$69/Night
Ask for "Flying Pig" Rate
Reserve by May 4, 2015

♥ **Youth** ♥

U20: Half Price at All Events
Cincinnati Youth
Championship: Free!

More Info: cincybridge.com



Newly Crowned Life Masters are Engraved on our Pigasus Trophy!



Sharonville Convention Center
11355 Chester Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45246



Joint Events with Evansville Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs 10 and 2:30 Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat



Stratifications

- ♥ **Open Pairs & Side Games** (w/o Gold Rush): 0-750/750-2000/2000+
 - ♣ **Open Pairs & Swiss** (with Gold Rush): 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
 - ♦ **Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss:** 0-100/100-300/300-750
 - ♠ **Stratiflighted Swiss:** B/C/D 750-1500/300-750/0-300 A/X 3000+/0-3000
- All events stratified by average MPs
KO events may be handicapped