



Quarterly Newsletter

 **Cincinnati**
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

October 2015 XL Number 4

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

From the President's Desk

Unit 124 Members,

I'd like to congratulate our three new board members elected this past weekend to a 3 year term.

Dan Kopenhaffer

Kay Mulford

Barry Wauligman

We just completed the **Spooktacular Sectional** on Sunday. Thanks to the tournament co-chairs **Mike Lipp** and **Isaac Stephani** for an outstanding tournament with big assist from **Bob Fisk** (Partnership) and **Joyce Tedrick** (Hospitality).

Next big event at the Cincinnati Bridge Center (CBC) is the **North American Pairs (NAP) District 11 Finals** on Saturday Nov 14 (flight B) and Sunday Nov 15 (flights A and C).

The annual **CBA Holiday Dinner** and bridge game is being held on Thursday December 10th. We'll have details out soon and will be trying an internet registration service rather than selling tickets.

The lease at the CBC expires in only 14 months at the end of February 2017. The CBA building committee and board have been actively reviewing options for the future of the CBC. We received a lease extension proposal last Friday that included some badly needed upgrades to the property. We will evaluate this proposal and other property options. There seem to be hundreds of locations within a few minutes of the CBC with space, but we always run into the issue of adequate parking. The decision to stay or move will likely fall to the new board sometime early in 2016.

John Meinking
President, CBA Board of Directors



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**Interested in becoming a Director?
Contact any Unit Board Member or
current director. Unit 124 needs
Directors!**

Integrity

The end of August brought earthshaking change to World Championship Bridge. Four major pairs have been accused of illicitly exchanging information with the intent to cheat. The pairs are: Fulvio Fantones and Claudio Nunes (Monaco – Italy), Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz (Israel), Alex Smirnov and Josef Piekarek (Germany), and Cesary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski (Poland). All are under active investigation by the World Bridge Federation.

This shocking news was catalyzed by a late night appeal during the Spingold KO Teams in Chicago. After a failed appeal against the Cayne Team (Fischer-Schwartz) Boye Brogelund (Norway) took action. He assembled a team of bridge experts who analyzed video tapes of hands from European Championships held to qualify for the Bermuda Cup played in Chennai, India. Brogelund set

up a website to detail his complaint against Fisher-Schwartz: <http://bridgecheaters.com/>

The illicit methods for the first two pairs are clearly defined. Smirnov and Piekarev confessed to past cheating (though not specifying a means nor in what events publicly) and offered a self-imposed suspension of 2 years and a commitment to never play again as partners. Work continues on the case against Balicki and Zmudzunski. If you are interested in learning more about the methods, the forensics and the investigators I'd recommend you go to the Bridge Winners website at <http://www.bridgewinners.com>.

Friday October 30, 2015 The ACBL suspended Fisher-Schwartz and Fantoni-Nunes pending a hearing by the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee. The hearing has been postponed at the request of both pairs until March 2016 NABC in Reno.

In a separate action, the ACBL announced that Mike Passell had been convicted of a serious violation of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. They suspended Mike for 13 months and cut 25% of his masterpoints (more than 19,000 points). Shortly thereafter the ACBL suspended Mike's sentence – indicating that there will be a successful appeal announced in December at the Denver NABC.

The ACBL and Robert Hartman (CEO) are front and center combatting cheating at the highest level of the game. You can read Mr. Hartman's letters in full at the ACBL website:

Message on Accusations

<http://www.acbl.org/a-word-from-the-ceo/>

ACBL Task Force Takes on Cheating

<http://www.acbl.org/acbl-task-force-takes-on-cheating-2/>

We welcome this forceful change in approaching the cancer that would destroy our games.

The effort required to identify how these world class experts cheat is beyond what disciplinary committees can muster. Since cheating allegations must remain secret until convicted by the appropriate disciplinary committee, the forensic analyses necessary for building the case (motive, means, method, benefit) is severely hindered. Creating networked high level experts doing the heavy lifting – the forensic analysis of video taped hands – provided the data that supports the existing allegations. Without the modern evidence from high

quality videos and networked analysts, the case for the three pairs would not have been made.

On receiving the case evidence from the analysts, the Israeli Bridge Federation began investigation of Fisher-Schwartz. The Israeli Team withdrew from the Bermuda Bowl. Jimmy Cayne came forward to relinquish event titles, masterpoints, seeding points won with Fisher-Schwartz on their team.

The Monaco Team (Fantoni – Nunes) Also withdrew from the Bermuda Bowl. Geir Hegelmo has disavowed any awards won with them as teammates.

The German team (Smirnov & Piekarek) withdrew from the Bermuda Bowl. In addition, Sabine Auken and Roy Welland have renounced the 2014 Vanderbilt and all titles, masterpoints and seeding points won with the German pair.

Unfortunately the number of events that may well be tainted by the four pairs in question will number in the dozens dating back as far as 15 years ago. There may be no way to restore equity to the other teams from those competitions.

Why? I fear we will never know.

Why discuss this in the **ALERT**? Bridge is a unique competition. While we depend on directors to restore equity when an irregularity or infraction have occurred, we are self-governed. Players are expected to behave ethically and with propriety at all times. We are also expected to call each other out when irregularities occur.

The cheating by the top level experts may have continued uncontested for years, but many whispers by top players suggest people suspected bad behavior was at play. In fairness, we must await adjudication for all 4 pairs. It took one brave young player to launch a revolution that will eventually purge the game of this cancer.

But why discuss this in our Unit? If you ask people what matters most to their enjoyment of the game you'd hear a fun casual environment where we can play comfortably with friends. If you ask tournament players what they want you'd hear a respect for the Laws, especially those that apply to Unauthorized Information.

Most club players will be familiar with Zero Tolerance and Play Nice! These address creating the friendly environment we all want.

Unfortunately most club players are unaware of Unauthorized Information (UI), how our behaviors at the table might create it, and what the consequences are when UI is in play. No one wants to take a lesson on ethics and proprieties, but awareness and practice is the best way to learn. See my article later in this issue on Unauthorized Information.

What does UI and club play have to do with Cheating at world Championship level bridge? While the top level rids itself of bad actors, the clubs players can strengthen their commitment to ethical play and help each other guarantee both fun and fairness. We want both.

We all want fun (Zero Tolerance) and we all need fair communication (UI Rules) – the combination FAIR FUN makes for the best in competition and integrity.

In this issue we have **AJ Stephani** updating us on the recent Unit Tournaments. **Rob Weidenfeld** evoking Superman to gather clues from side suits to find the missing honor. Both **Steve Felson** and **Robert Brown** take on cheating with their usual aplomb and unique perspectives. We discuss **Unauthorized Information** with an eye toward learning more about fairness at the table. **Mike Ma** opens a discussion about RKB vs Ole Black. **Dean Congbalay** continues his focus on partners evoking something we all see.

Finally, the Board of Directors will be announcing the Annual Membership Meeting sometime later this year. This is a once per year meeting in which membership engages in open dialog with the Board of Directors, and proposes actions for the Board of Directions to vote on in later meetings. This meeting will discuss in some detail the lease question we face on our current building. The date will be decided at the next Board meeting in November. Stay tuned for the date and time, then make plans to have your voice heard.

See you at the tables,

Steve

Editor, The ALERT alert@cincybridge.com



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

ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

By Helen Ogle

We are proud to announce our new club manager as of November 17th, will be **Jodie Kieffer**. She comes to us

with a lot of experience and is a very capable director. Her assistant will be **Al Norwood** who will direct the Wednesday games. Al is from South Carolina where he directed club games.

For the month of September we collected \$422 for the international fund games.

Henry Jackson and **Mickey Dasenbrock** won second place in the October Unit Game.

We welcome beginner players and look forward to everyone who enjoys a nice friendly game. **Cappy Peters** brings a snack for everyone and it is a treat to see what she brings each week. She goes to Florida in January when she is gone pickings are slim.

Game starts at 11:30 sharp and we play at the Anderson Senior Center. We are behind the firehouse.

If you need a partner call Helen Ogle at 232-2240.

UNIT 124 Tournament Report

By AJ Stephani, Tournament Chair

Fall always seems to be a busy time for special events, and this year is no exception. We've just concluded a successful **Spooktacular Sectional**, with many thanks going to co-Chairs Mike Lipp and Isaac Stephani, Hospitality queen Joyce Tedrick, and the entire tournament staff. We had 180 tables this year, almost exactly the same as last year -- a perfect size for a sectional held at the CBC.

Our annual **NLM sectional** moved to its permanent fall timeslot this year in early October, and co-Chairs Pam Campbell and Stacy Vanstone did a great job. Our Unit started hosting a NLM sectional a few years ago, and it's a great opportunity to pick up a few silver points without traveling too far from home. **Three** events should be on your horizon:



November 14-15: District 11 North American Pairs Finals. We should remind ourselves how fortunate we are to host the NAP Finals each year. Players travel from all over the District -- as far as Evansville, West Virginia, and Terre Haute -- to

attend this event in our own backyard. The top 4 pairs in each flight (top 3 in Flight A) travel to the National Finals next spring in Reno, and the ACBL and District

provide financial support for expenses. Flight B (<2500) play a two-session pairs final on Saturday, and Flights A (Open) and C (NLM <500) play the same format on Sunday. Grab a partner (or two, you can play in more than one flight!) and come on out! More information at http://www.district11bridge.com/District_11_NAP_FAQ.html .

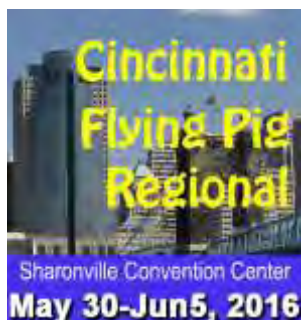
December 26-January 1: STaC week. Win those precious silver points at a STaC game! The CBC will run on it regular club schedule, with an additional pairs game likely added for Sunday, December 27. Check the schedule for other participating clubs in the Unit.



January 30-31, 2016: District 11 Grand National Teams Finals. We're lucky to host both the NAP and GNT Finals this year at the CBC. Teams from 4 different Flights (Open, <6000, <2500, NLM <500) will win a trip to National GNT

Finals next summer in Washington, D.C. The District and Unit chip in \$1500/team for expenses. Personally, this is my favorite event on the entire bridge calendar, and if you haven't participated before, now's a great chance to put together a team. More information is at <http://www.district11bridge.com/GNT.html>.

May 30 - June 5, 2016: Flying Pig Regional. It's not too early to put this on your calendar! We've added a two-session Swiss this year (and a few other twists), and we're back with our fabulous t-shirt prize desk.



Joanne Earls 513-772-4395 or 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).

Paper Stacks

By Dean Congbalay

The papers are folded in half and neatly stacked on a table in a side bedroom.

Each is adorned with the name of a bridge partner who unfortunately is no longer with us. I can't allow myself to throw the convention cards away.

One was created for Elaine. We never did well, but we celebrated our lackluster games by heading out to dinner.

Another was for Jim. We won the last game we played. As I drove him home that afternoon, my car couldn't contain his smile -- or mine.

And then there's Stan's card. I taught him so much. When we came in first place one day, he was so excited that he had to take not one but two pills to sleep that night.

I just added Linda's card to the pile. I learned so much from her. We both looked forward to laughing as we played our game every month, either in Sarasota or in Cincinnati.

All duplicate bridge players have similar stacks. They are the vestiges of partnerships memorialized forever.

Bridge is a great game. It challenges the mind -- and if we play our cards right, it forms the basis of cherished friendships that live on in our hearts long after we leave the table.

We learned about honesty and integrity - that the truth matters... that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules... and success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square.

- Michelle Obama

Unauthorized Information

By Steve Moese

Proper behavior at the bridge table, like charity, begins at home. When we first come to play bridge at a club, we concentrate on our bidding system and our signals and learn how to play the hand. We play to be with friends and to socialize. We enjoy the snippets of conversations we have with our opponents throughout the course of a session, the laughter we share and the congeniality among all the players. We all want fun and the chance to do well. We owe it to each other to

respect the game. The Laws and Regulations of the ACBL prescribe the rules, proprieties, and ethics.

Bridge is a game of incomplete information. The more information we can share through legal means, the better results our side stands to gain. **The laws of the game prohibit intentional and unintentional sharing of information other than by approved calls and plays.** Lessons about bridge and talk at the table rarely focus on the proprieties, laws and regulations. Think about it – you want to learn how to improve – how to plan the play of a hand – how to bid better. Who in their right mind takes lessons on proprieties?

Few take time to read and understand the laws and regulations. This can be a daunting task. Relevant information is among several references from the ACBL. Besides, we have the director to help sort out the laws for us. Right?

Not quite so fast.

Enforcement of the laws can vary by director and circumstance. Directors strive for consistency, but no one gets every ruling right. Directors have a lot of work to do during a session, so teaching players about the law has to take a back seat to running the game. We players have an obligation to understand the rules and the proprieties of the game. These apply to all players regardless of experience.

Unauthorized Information rules can be very difficult for to understand. If you are familiar with coffeehousing in rubber bridge, similar issues exist in duplicate bridge. ([Click here for more on "coffeehousing"](#)).

The ACBL classifies information as one of three types: Extraneous or Unauthorized Information (UI), Authorized Information (AI), and Misinformation (MI).

Authorized Information (AI) – *See Law 16A 1-4 below.* Player may base their action only on authorized information. AI comes from Legal calls and plays, information from withdrawn actions by the opponents, information specified by law to be authorized, information from legal disputes at the table.

Unauthorized Information (UI) – Extraneous information from partner, sources outside the hand in question, or withdrawn actions by our side. Players may not base their action on Unauthorized Information if there is a Logical Alternative.

Misinformation (MI) – A wrong explanation in response to a question. A misrepresentation or mis-

description of the partnership agreement. Opponents are required to tell you their agreements, but they are not required to tell you what they actually hold. Let's look at common ways Unauthorized Information occurs.

Breaks in tempo are a big UI beacon. We tend to take more time when we have a problem than when we are certain what to do. **Both slow and fast bidding and play can communicate UI!** That's right – UI can occur in either the bidding or play of the hand.

A slow first pass after RHO had passed suggests a near opening hand that has a flaw of some kind. A slow pass over RHO's bid might mean, "I have values in their suit" or "I'm too strong for a pass and have no clear cut bid". A fast pass after RHO preempts surely indicates a weak hand, while a slow pass over RHO's artificial bid may mean they have something in that suit.

If partner forgets to alert your artificial call, that forgetting is UI to you – you may not adjust your next bid knowing partner forgot. If partner mis-describes your agreement and thereby tells you something about their hand, that information is UI to you. Additional remedies might be required. If you're declarer, the mis-description must be corrected before play begins. If you're defending, you must wait until the end of play to inform the opponents. If you are defending, and mention the mis-description before the end of play, you create UI and a possible procedure penalty.

If partner's penalty card is an Ace, and that allows you to make an inference about their holding in another suit, that inference and information is UI to you.

If partner calls attention to a specific strain during an opponent's auction, there may be UI if partner holds that suit or a void in that suit, or want the lead of that suit. If you ask for an explanation of an alerted call and are not prepared to take some action on the information you get from the opponents, there may be UI. If you ask for explanations so partner understands what's transpired, you have not created UI, but you have created an irregularity (LAW 20G). You're never allowed to ask a question for partner's benefit. An irregularity is a violation of proper procedure and an infraction is a violation of a law.

If you reach for the bidding box near or touching the bid section, but pass instead, you have possibly transmitted UI. Ditto if you reach for the pass cards then switch to a bid.

How you use the **STOP** card may deliver UI – The stop card comes out when you are very weak, but is not used when you have a sound preempt. The **STOP** card stays on the table for longer than it takes for the bid to be made may be UI. (Guidelines require you retract the stop card immediately – leaving it on the table to “enforce” a delay is an irregularity). Once a session begins you must either use the stop card all the time or not use it at all. If you choose to use it you must use it for all jump bids and not just for preempts.

If you detach a card from you hand, bring it at to near the table but do not face it, return it to your hand, and choose another card, you may have created UI for partner. Likewise if you select a card, replace it, choose another then go back to the first you might be telling partner you only have two cards in that suit or that you are concerned about being on lead.

If you hesitate when holding the Ace of a suit declarer has led toward dummy and don't play it, there may be UI toward partner about your possession of the Ace. If you hesitate noticeably, then play a singleton, you are not sending UI but you have created an irregularity (See LAW 73D2)

Expressing displeasure during the play of the hand is a violation of the proprieties, and might also be UI to partner.

Only declarer and dummy may touch dummy's cards. It is an infraction for a defender to touch Dummy's cards during play. It might also transmit UI.

So what happens next?

If partner commits UI, bridge for our side stops and the laws take over. The impact UI has on the equity in the game is so severe that the restitution greatly limits what the offending side's partner may do.

Once the director determines UI exists, the laws and procedures dictate whether a subsequent action by the offending side may be allowed. The partner of the UI sender may not choose an action that is demonstrably suggested by the UI. They must instead choose from the remaining logical alternatives. Say, you will clearly bid 6♠ when partner shows a void in ♦, and partner hesitates a substantial amount of time before showing that void (suggesting weakness or flaws), you may not stop short of 6♠. Partner's hesitation demonstrably suggested a lower level contract.

See LAW 16B2(b) below for the definition of logical alternative.

Notice that a Logical Alternative (LA) is one that a significant proportion of your peers might consider – it is not the most popular nor most correct choice. Only when the intent behind the UI is not clear will the director allow a non-LA bid to stand.

Finally, if by one's own behavior, there is a discernable pattern to the tempo of one's bids or plays over time, there may be a bigger concern. If partner begins to understand the pattern and bases their action on that extraneous information, then improper behavior may be established leading to potential discipline.

So what's a person to do?

- Evaluate your hand quickly and early.
- Plan some actions in advance. Think ahead, don't always play catch-up.
- Don't reach for the bidding box until you've decided what to do.
- Don't detach a card from your hand unless you are sure you will play it, and never before your turn to play.
- Don't pause when you hold the Ace, singleton, or the missing Queen.
- Don't vary tempo to mislead opponents (playing slowly to make declarer think you have the Q when you don't is an infraction).
- Strive to bid and play in tempo.
- Ask for clarification in a way that does not call attention to a specific bid. A simple “What's the alert?” Or “Please review with explanations” is better than asking “What's the jump to 4♦ mean?”
- Take your time to think, but remember you are limiting partner's options.
- Expect to be accountable for possible UI from your side.
- When partner creates UI, don't take the indicated action – choose another bid or lead. Just do it.
- Don't let others get away with UI/MI – Know enough about the laws so you know when and why to call the director.
- Keep smiling!

Remember UI happens and the laws are there to restore equity.

[Editor's Note: This follows on Potter Orr's wonderful article “Play Proprieties” in the July 2015 ALERT. If you haven't read that article, you might want to. You can find past ALERTS at <http://www.cincybridge.com>]

“Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters”

— Albert Einstein

LAW 16**AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION****A. Players' Use of Information**

1. A player may use information in the auction or play if:
 - (a) it derives from the legal calls and plays of the current board (including illegal calls and plays that are accepted) and is unaffected by unauthorized information from another source; or
 - (b) it is authorized information from a withdrawn action (see D below); or
 - (c) it is information specified in any law or regulation to be authorized or, when not otherwise specified, arising from the legal procedures authorized in these Laws and in regulations (but see B1 below); or
 - (d) it is information that the player possessed before he took his hand from the board (Law 7B) and the Laws do not preclude his use of this information.
2. Players may also take account of their estimate of their own score, of the traits of their opponents and any requirement of the tournament regulations.
3. No player may base a call or play on other information (such information being designated extraneous).
4. If there is a violation of this law causing damage, the Director adjusts the score in accordance with Law 12C.

B. Extraneous Information from Partner

1.
 - (a) After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as for example by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected (i.e., unexpected in relation to the basis of his action) alert or failure to alert, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism, **the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information.**
 - (b) A **logical alternative action** is one that, among the class of players in question and using the methods of the partnership, would be given serious consideration by a significant proportion of such players, of whom it is judged some might select it.
2. When a player considers that an opponent has made such information available and that damage could well result, he may announce, unless prohibited by the Regulating Authority (which may require that the Director be called), that he reserves the right to summon the Director later. The opponents should summon the Director immediately if they dispute the fact that unauthorized information might have been conveyed.

3. When a player has substantial reason to believe that an opponent who had a logical alternative has chosen an action that could have been suggested by such information, he should summon the Director when play ends (It is not an infraction to call the Director earlier or later). The Director shall assign an adjusted score (see Law 12C) if he considers that an infraction of law has resulted in an advantage for the offender.

C. Extraneous Information from Other Sources

1. When a player accidentally receives unauthorized information about a board he is playing or has yet to play, as by looking at the wrong hand; by overhearing calls, results or remarks; by seeing cards at another table; or by seeing a card belonging to another player at his own table before the auction begins, the Director should be notified forthwith, preferably by the recipient of the information.
2. If the Director considers that the information could interfere with normal play, he may, before any call has been made:
 - (a) adjust the players' positions at the table, if the type of contest and scoring permit, so that the player with information about one hand will hold that hand; or
 - (b) if the form of competition allows of it, order the board redealt for those contestants; or
 - (c) allow completion of the play of the board, standing ready to award an adjusted score if he judges that unauthorized information may have affected the result; or
 - (d) award an artificial adjusted score.
3. If such unauthorized information is received after the first call in the auction has been made and before completion of the play of the board, the Director proceeds as in 2(c) above.

D. Information from Withdrawn Calls and Plays

When a call or play has been withdrawn as these Laws provide:

1. For a non-offending side, all information arising from a withdrawn action is authorized, whether the action be its own or its opponents'.
2. For an offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action and from withdrawn actions of the non-offending side is unauthorized. A player of an offending side may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the unauthorized information.

**For when the One Great Scorer comes
To write against your name,
He marks-not that you won or lost –
But how you played the game.
— Grantland Rice**

Play the Side Suits!

By Rob Weidenfeld elianadad@gmail.com

It was visitation day at the Metropolis State Prison and Lex Luthor had invited Superman to play some bridge with some of the inmates. Lex watched Superman play and defend several hands when he couldn't resist an editorial comment.



"You know having superspeed may be an asset when you are trying to stop criminal geniuses like me from one end of the globe to the other, but it is not so advantageous when you play this game," said Luthor smugly. "For example, you never stop to think, especially at trick one. Your results would improve immeasurably if you took the time to develop a plan. Counting the hand is not an advanced matrix in mathematics. It is very easy. For example, I was declarer with this hand last week:"

Lead: ♠J

"My partner had just bid at the 5 level thinking that I might have only a limit raise. I had much better than that. I had enough to go on, but where? Thinking that playing in NT night

Vul N-S, ♠ 7
 MPs ♥ AJ1053
 ♦ A732
 ♣ K94

♠ J10985	N	♠ AQ632
♥ -	W	♥ Q87
♦ 1074	E	♦ J95
♣ 108642	S	♣ J3

♠ K4
 ♥ K9642
 ♦ KQ6
 ♣ AQ5

	W	N	E	S
P	1♥	1♠	2♠	
4♠	5♥	P	?	

give me options that I wouldn't have in a suit contract and knowing that

it was matchpoints, I bid 6NT.

I got the lead of the spade jack which went to the Ace and a spade was returned. I pitched a heart from dummy. Twelve tricks looked easy (1S, 5H, 3D, and 3C), but there was no rush. Sometimes when you pause to think, a new thought surfaces. While playing my 10 card heart suit seems obvious, maybe I can learn something about the hand by playing the other suits.

Can't hurt! Let's try it!

First how are the spades divided? Clearly East has at least 5. West jumped to 4 with little or nothing (we do have 29 highs!). So we can assume that spades are 5-5. I start by playing 3 rounds of diamonds ending in dummy. Interesting-diamonds are 3-3. I cash the good

diamond throwing a heart from hand and then play three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy. Wow! East shows out on the third club! So he started with 5 spades, 3 diamonds, and 2 clubs and must therefore have all 3 hearts!. Therefore, I can proudly announce that I am cashing the heart ace and finessing for the queen. Sure I might have assumed West to be short for her jump to 4, but we weren't sure in what suit. Isn't it fun to take your time and use all the clues that are available to you? Superman, play the side suits first and figure it out!

"If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything." — Gordon A. Eadie

EPISODE 14: No Cheating Here, Thank You

By Steve Felson

You can fool some of your opponents all of the time, and all of your opponent some of the time, but that's no reason to stop trying to fool all of your opponents all of the time. — R. Brown



Coughing, card riffling, fingers on the table, fingers on the cards, change the angle, change the dangle – none of these matter anymore. The Universal Bridge Federation has solved the cheating problem by somehow lighting up anyone in the room who tries even the slightest bit of telepathy in order to get partner to lead that void suit. Forget about it. The guilty Poles, Israelis, Germans, Germans with foreign names, Italians, Italians playing for Monaco – all still banned for life and no new cheating scandals for many decades.

How does the UBF do it? Who knows – it guards its anti-cheating technology like the U.S. Army guarded Fort Knox in the days before asteroid gold mining and refinery planets. (See *Aliens*³ (1992), which turned out to be an accurate prediction of today's world of heavy metals.)

However, you can also fool your opponents with ethical play, and here is how my praiseworthy partner did it this time. On purpose? Pure accident? We'll never know for sure until we see his memoirs.

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." — Samuel Johnson

West ♠ QJ73
 Deals ♥ K653
 Both ♦ Q986
 Vul ♣ 2

♠ K962	N	♠ A1084
♥ AQ82	W	♥ J1097
♦ 2	E	♦ KJ3
♣ J863	S	♣ Q7

♠ 5
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A10754
 ♣ AK954

After two passes East opens a weak NT. Bob, no doubt dreaming of zero-gravity grilled mutton kidneys, bids an insufficient 1♣. The Automatic Overhead Director speaks, Bob's left-hand opponent responds, I end up barred from the bidding, and Bob gets a chance to do what he does best –

escape from a self-created pickle.

I guess you would call Bob's 3♣ bid rising to the occasion. West doubles, undoubtedly believing that he (male gender somewhat uncertain) and his partner (no gender clue whatsoever) have a majority of the HCP and that the gender-certain male humanoid (Bob) sitting South has lost his way. No one asks me to explain Bob's bid, and, anyway, the best I could've come up with would have been, "My partner is probably attempting to fool all of the people all of the time."

Barred though I was, it occurred to me, very briefly, that if I were a less ethical person I would try to signal a preference for diamonds, let's say by rubbing a diamond stud located in one of my ears. But no, my ethics are above reproach – never would I do anything resembling what Bob Dylan's monkey did in "I Shall Be Free Number 10" (1971): "He wagged his tail and shook his head and he went and did the Cat instead." In any event, I don't see how wagging and shaking would suggest diamonds instead of clubs. I did rub my left ear several times while trying to recall the contents of King Solomon's Mines (1950; Deborah Kerr and Stuart Granger) – diamonds? rubies? – but daydreaming can't be against the rules.

Well, for whatever reason, Bob checks out both opponents, stares at me, studies his cards, squints at the ceiling, breathe deeply, and escapes to 3♦. West hesitates, doubles, and I feel much better.

The result: most North-South pairs defended against a major-suit part score, some doing better, some doing worse, but we ended up +870. And, dear reader, would you like to guess where that ranked among the 3200 North-South pairs? Just think of how Ol' Blue Eyes, the Chairman of the Board, would've put it:

King of the Hill
Top of the Heap

A Number One
Top of the List
King of the Hill
A Number One
 (etc., varying tempo, *ad nauseam*)

("New York, New York," 1977, music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, a corny pop-singer vehicle which tells you nothing about New York City except for its sleeping habits. Hard to believe that, 11 years earlier, these two Liza Minelli worshipers wrote the most poignant piece of musical theater ever, Cabaret (1966))

In any event, thank you Bob for that top board, and thank you Kander and Ebb for *Cabaret*. I don't make it a habit of comparing timeless theater with a single deal in a faraway regional, but I will make an exception in this case – all three of you are Kings, Tops, and A-Number-Ones.

Oh yeah, as to the reasoning behind Bob's bid, all I could get him to say afterwards was that once he bid 1♣ while intending to bid 2♣, symmetry now demanded that he bid 3♣. As they say in the world of three-card monte, fool 'em once, fool 'em twice, here come the cops, sorry, gotta move on with your money in my pocket.

Ruminations

by Robert S Brown

Despite the *au courant* lamentations of the Albatross elsewhere in this *Alert*, the solution to illegal cheating is manifest.¹ Rather than pursue a gallimaufry of proposed sanctions, we need to make cheating legal, respectable, and regulated.² I modestly advance a few suggestions to this end which may both assuage the discord sewn by the revilement of the self-righteous "ethical" players who plague the Game and concurrently introduce a new dimension and skill set to our competitions.



First – let's not call it cheating. Instead, I suggest "Binary Bidding" which removes the opprobrium of the

¹ I assume a moderately literate readership requires only an allusion to George Santayana's adage rather than its recital.

² *Confer*, e.g.: alcohol, gambling, marijuana, sodomy, etc.

former term in favor of neutral terminology honoring equally information conveyed conventionally and additional data more subtly disclosed.

Second – Binary Bidding (“BB”) must be discreet and subject to appropriate regulation. Accordingly, all BB players will be required to disclose their signaling system only to the Director on a sealed BB Signaling Card (“BBSC”).³ In play, the aspect of BB players should be “as blank and pitiless as the sun”.⁴ Any opponents who correctly identify the signaling system used by a BB pair should receive a two trick addition to their hand score. This balanced “carrot-and stick” approach would both reward the observant conventional players and hold BB players to a high level of competence.

Third – let us openly honor our great Binary Bidders. Some quantitative analysis akin to the Power Ratings should be devised to rank the relative skill and achievement of Binary Bidders. Perhaps, they could win “Spymaster” points in addition to the more conventional awards.⁵

None of my proposals fundamentally change the Game as it is played today. Already, the truly great Binary Bidders glide among us effortlessly finding improbable contracts or unique defenses to the bafflement of conventional players. We sit in awe at their artistry and skill. Many of us dream of the days when we too can join their ranks. Why do some insist on criticizing players who are willing to go the extra mile to achieve success? Let us abandon the spiteful squabbling and the pious claims of morality by those who would reduce the Game to a totalitarian set of rules we all must follow in lock step obedience. Let us allow those who can break free of the Game’s shackles to soar

³ Much like the Card of the one-eye merchant “which is blank, is something he carries on his back, which I am forbidden to see”, T.S. Eliot, *The Wasteland*, Ch. I, The Burial of the Dead (1922).

⁴ W.B. Yeats, *The Second Coming* (1919).

⁵ Some may find my proposals specious – reasoning that the same difficulties inherent in punishing cheaters applies to honoring them for their successes. I dissent. While cheaters dissemble and lie to avoid detection, Binary Bidders would freely and honestly file their BBSCs knowing that their clandestine skills would ultimately be honored.

unhindered and reveal its highest levels of achievement.⁶

[Editor’s Note: The ALERT welcomes tongue-in-cheek satire in the spirit provided for the entertainment of the Unit Membership. Resemblance to a serious bridge article is purely coincidental]. ☺

CBA Website

By Steve Moese

Hats off to Potter Orr for bringing Unit 124 into the digital age. Potter has not only set up our first website, he developed the application by which directors can post game reports including hand records and head to head match scores within ½ hour of the end of any club game at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Our Unit website also hosts results from the Anderson Bridge Club and the Erie Belles. Potter’s contributions include setting up the automatic dealer so directors can create as many sets of pre-dealt boards and matching hand records as they need. Potter also defined the e-mail software we use to send messages to almost 1000 Unit 124 members monthly. What’s more amazing is how he has found the best low cost solutions for our needs. Directors, the Communication Chair and the Education Chair have remote access rights so we can update you in real time without having to travel to the CBC.

Have you been to our website lately? Here’s the home page: <http://www.cincybridge.com>



There’s Google Site Search for content on our site alone, there’s a “Contact Us” button for new players looking for information. The 8 Beige Menu Buttons turn burgundy when you hover your cursor and expand

⁶ Some of you may detect in the Albatross’s amphigories a recurrent theme of illogical actions leading to improbable successes. Do you suspect, despite his ethical protestations, that these results have a more sinister and less aleatory origin? Let Binary Bidding out of the closet and perhaps our secret can be revealed.

to menu selections for easy navigating. You'll find help to join the ACBL, Information about the CBA, help to improve your game including current classes and teacher contact information, results from games at the CBC, area game websites as well as links for District 11 and the ACBL, Milestones including the Unit 124 Power Rankings, District 11 and Unit 124 Tournaments, and detailed information about your Unit 124 Board of Directors.



The links on the left speak to beginners and Non-Life Masters. The Popular Links make it easy to find common pages like game results, the ALERT, and the member's directory, and the website user guide. Major events show up in large icons so you always have a clear view of coming attractions. A Unit-wide calendar (Thank you Google!) shows daily games and announces special game events. The center court of the home page shares news of timely interest to the entire Unit. Toward the bottom of the page you'll find ways to Expand the game calendar to full screen and decode the special event tags. There's also a site map that can help navigate when using certain tablets or smart phones.



The CBA Website is chock full of information for all players. Why not give it a visit and explore – you'll be glad you did!

“Integrity is not a conditional word. It doesn't blow in the wind or change with the weather. It is your inner image of yourself, and if you look in there and see a man who won't cheat, then you know he never will.” — John D. MacDonald

Check out these links:

Learn to Play Software (Free – Windows PC):

[Learn Bridge Basics](#)

[Intermediates: Beyond the Basics](#)

New to Bridge? Check Out these Bridge Resources:

[CBA Unit 124 Bridge Class Schedule](#)

[CBA Unit 124 Newcomers Page](#)

[Improve Your Bridge Page](#)

[CBA Unit 124 Learning Guide](#)

The Tuesday Evening Game Need You! We had 8+ NLM tables and 6 Open Table for Pizza Night October 27. Come on out and make your Tuesdays an exciting night to play bridge. Join the fun.

“I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.”

— **Frederick Douglass**

“I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have.”

— **Abraham Lincoln**

“Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.”

— **Oprah Winfrey**

“Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, treating people with respect.”

— **Stephen Covey**

“Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.” — W. Clement Stone

“He who closes his ears to the views of others shows little confidence in the integrity of his own views.” — William Congreve

“If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything.”

— **Gordon A. Eadie**



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FREE PARKING

Deadline for Bridge Rate October 25, 2015

Additional Motel: Best Western Plus

411 West Spring Street

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(812) 945-2771 \$84.95

Free Breakfast

Deadline for Bridge rate: October 12, 2015

Strats (unless otherwise specified):

A=2,000+; B=750-2000; C=0-750

Pairs & Swiss Teams stratified by average
masterpoints but no one may exceed the upper MP
limit of the event

Top Bracket in all KO's may be handicapped.

Monday

Charity Stratified Swiss	1:30		
Charity Stratified Pairs	1:30		
Alysheba Bracketed KO (Rd.1)		7:00	
Stratified Side Game Series 1		7:00	

Tuesday

Stratified Side Game Series 1	9:30	1:30	7:00
Alysheba Bracketed KO (Rd. 2,3,4)	9:30	1:30	7:00
Stratified Pairs		1:30	7:00
Compact Knockouts (4 people)		1:30	7:00
Keeneland Bracketed KO (Rd. 1 & 2)		1:30	7:00
Stratified Swiss			7:00

Wednesday

AM Compact KO 1 (4 people)	9:30		
(Continue Thursday morning)			
Stratified Side Game Series AM	9:30		
Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+)		1:30	7:00
Ft. Knox Gold Rush Pairs (100/300/750)		1:30	7:00
Barbaro KO (Rd 1 & 2)		1:30	7:00
Keeneland KO (Rd. 3 & 4)		1:30	7:00
Stratified Side Game Series 2		1:30	7:00
IMP Pairs			7:00

Thursday

AM Compact KO 1 (Cont.)	9:30		
Stratified Side Game Series AM	9:30		
Stratified Swiss	9:30		
Stratified Swiss (1500/3000/Open)		1:30	7:00
Ft. Knox Gold Rush Swiss Teams (100/300/750)		1:30	7:00
Barbaro KO 2 (Rd. 3 & 4)		1:30	7:00
Stratified Side Game Series 2		1:30	7:00
Stratified Swiss			7:00

Friday

Stratified Side Game Series AM	9:30		
AM Compact KO2 (4 people)	9:30		
(Continue Sat AM)			
Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+)		1:30	7:00
Ft. Knox Gold Rush Pairs (100/300/750)		1:30	7:00
Churchill Downs KO (Rd 1 & 2)		1:30	7:00
Stratified Side Game Series 3		1:30	7:00
Stratified Swiss			7:00

Saturday

Stratified Swiss	9:30		
Stratified Side Game Series AM	9:30		
AM Compact KO 2 (Cont'd)	9:30		
Churchill Downs Knockouts (Rd 3 & 4)		1:30	7:00
Stratified Side Game Series 3		1:30	7:00
Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+)		1:30	7:00
Ft. Knox Gold Rush Pairs (100/300/750)		1:30	7:00
Compact KO 3 (4 people)		1:30	7:00
Stratified B-A-M			7:00

Sunday

Stratified Swiss	10:00 & TBA
Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750	

199er SCHEDULE
Single Sessions
Tuesday thru Friday
1:30 PM and 7:00 PM
Stratified at Director's Discretion

New Team Games Start Daily

Registration Gifts - Daily Bulletins

Door Prizes - Hospitality

Tournament Chairpersons

Sondra Holt (Lexington)

(859) 312-7785

seholt44@twc.com

Hannah Davis (Louisville)

(502) 767-5589

Bama426@aol.com

Partnership Chairpersons

Terrell Holt (Lexington)

(859) 351-2023

tholt41@twc.com

Verna Goldberg (Louisville)

(502) 459-3848

docgold123@yahoo.com

**November 3rd is Election Day! Remember to Get
Your Absentee Ballot and Vote Before Coming!**

Grand National Teams (GNT)

District 11 Final

Cincinnati Bridge Center
January 30-31, 2016

Qualifying Swiss

Saturday 1/30

12:00PM and TBD

Semifinals and Finals

Sunday 1/31

10:00AM and TBD

Flights

Championship: Open

A: <6000 MPs

B: <2500 MPs

C: NLM <500 MPs

Cincinnati Bridge Center

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513-563-2218

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Questions?

Go to cincybridge.com and click on GNT logo

District 11 NAP/GNT Coordinator:

Kit Overpeck

kitoverpeck@yahoo.com / 502-202-4938



Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional

**Monday 2:30
Pro Am!**

Sharonville Convention Center

May 30-June 5, 2016

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:30PM
Monday May 30		Pro Am Pairs* (reservation required - see details in sidebar) Open Pairs Side Series I*	Open Pairs Evening Side Series
Tuesday May 31	Hog Wild Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Evening Side Series NLM Pairs
	Miss Piggy KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series I NLM Pairs	Miss Piggy KO (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series I Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Wednesday June 1	Road Hog Gold Rush Swiss Teams and Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2) Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 1) Open Pairs Evening Side Series
	Miss Piggy KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series I NLM Pairs	Miss Piggy KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series I	
Thursday June 2	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 NLM Pairs
	Baby Back KO (Round 1) Open Pairs Side Series I NLM Pairs	Baby Back KO (Round 2) Open Pairs Side Series I Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Friday June 3	Hog Heaven Gold Rush Swiss Teams and Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Evening Side Series
	Baby Back KO (Round 3) Open Pairs Side Series II NLM Pairs	Baby Back KO (Round 4) Open Pairs Side Series II Piglet Single Session Swiss	
Saturday June 4	Curly Tail Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)		Open Pairs Evening Side Series
	Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 1-2) Open Pairs Side Series II NLM Pairs	Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 3-4) Open Pairs Side Series II	
	Three Little Pigs Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		
Sunday June 5	Flying Pig Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)		Swiss Teams in Red NLM Events in Blue * Charity Game - Championship Rated

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agerowitz@me.com

♣ **Pro Am Pairs** ♣

Reserve by May 23
Margaret Young
margyoung@msn.com
(513) 284-5731

♥ **Hotel Information** ♥

LivINN Suites
11385 Chester Road
(513) 772-7877
\$79/Night \$89/Studio
Ask for "Flying Pig" Rate
Reserve by May 2, 2016

Fairfield Inn by Marriott
11440 Chester Road
(513) 842-9112
\$99/Night Double or King
"Bridge Tournament" Rate
Reserve by April 29, 2016

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



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