



## Quarterly Newsletter



*Cincinnati*  
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

July 2016 XLII Number 3

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

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Unit 124 Members,

It has been a busy couple of months for the CBA/CBC. The major renovations at the CBC are almost complete. Completed projects: Parking lot repaved, hallway women's and men's hallway restrooms renovated. These were done at the building owner's expense as part of our lease extension. CBC renovations: Replaced all ceiling tiles and louvers, painted entire space, renovated women's restroom and the carpet has been cleaned.

Somewhere during all this work the Unit has held two major tournaments. The Flying Pig Regional (chair: AJ Stephani) and the NKY Sectional (chairs: Elaine Jarchow and Cordell Coy) are both in our rear view mirror. Thanks to the tournament chairs and all their volunteers for running great tournaments.

This year's Longest Day games and activities raised \$8,000 for Alzheimer Association from CBC activities.. Thanks to Justina Clendening and all her assistants for putting on another successful event at the CBC. NKY raised around \$4,000.

Lots of special activity at our Club games this summer. The Mentor/Mentee program is in process. NAP Qualification games are underway. STaC week is August 8-14.

Three other big events are coming up at the CBC:

**NLM Sectional:** September 17-18.

**NAP District Finals:** October 22 and 23.

**Spooktacular Sectional:** October 28-30.

**CBA Board Elections:** October 28-30.

Always check our web site for the latest special event information ([www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com)).

I want to especially thank **Pam Campbell** and her Decorating Committee (**Betty Murdock, Stacy Vanstone, Sharon Koster, Debbie Cummings**) for their efforts with reviewing and selecting all the materials

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used for the CBC renovations. The renovations would not have gotten done without their time and effort. Make sure to thank them in person the next time you see them.

See you at the tables,

John Meinking  
President Unit 124



### Come Volunteer!

We need you!

Summer has arrived with warm weather and blue skies and lots of good reasons to enjoy the outdoors. Summer's also a great time to think about how you might help bridge in our area. Our bridge population surges by 20-30 people as our snow-birds are in town.

#### Run for the Unit Board of Directors

If you have an interest in serving the Unit and leading positive change, get a nomination form <http://www.cincybridge.com/Election%20Petition.htm>

have 10 Unit members in good standing sign on your behalf, and run for election! We hope to have the slate by September so that the electing at the Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional October 23-25, 2016 offers members many qualified candidates. Each year 3 members finish their elected term. This year John Meinking, Steve Moese and Tom Mess complete their original term of office. Won't you consider joining the Board?

### Volunteer

There are many committees looking for people to help. Our new Membership Chair Lenny Kanterman can use your skills are connecting with members, lapsed members and people needing partners (Joanne Earls). Welcoming new members and having a friendly greeter at our games depends on you – our members – and your willingness to volunteer.

All key roles for the Unit need understudies. Current volunteers are not going to be around forever and if there's a job you'd like to do and excel at, please offer your help to any Board members. Believe me when I say there is always plenty to do and too few hands to get it done.

### Recruit New Members

Believe it or not, the overwhelming majority of new bridge players for the ACBL comes from personal referrals, not ads, not classes, not the ACBL themselves. There's nothing more important to a club game than to keep a steady flow of newer players. We are particularly blessed in this Unit with a very strong New2Duplicate bridge program led by Larry Newman, Chair of our Education Committee. In addition we have a thriving Supervised Play program on Saturday Mornings so newer players can get skilled coaching and build skills quickly. We have a good offering of classes by accredited teachers for Novices and intermediates. We have a lending library of great books, and sufficient on-line content on our website for players of every caliber.

What we need are your friends, family members, work colleagues, and any new-player leads that you can provide. Effort on your part to bring new players to our clubs will pay off in bigger better games, and more fun for everyone.

### Write About Our Unit

That's right – we want your stories, perspectives, magic hands, questions, anything that informs our members and highlights the fun being an active player in Unit 124 is all about. If you like to write, try your hand as a

Reporter or Writer for the ALERT! Get me your story and I will review it for publication. We publish the ALERT at the end of January, April, July, and October.

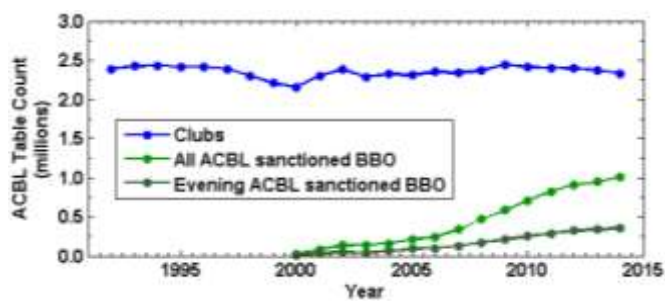
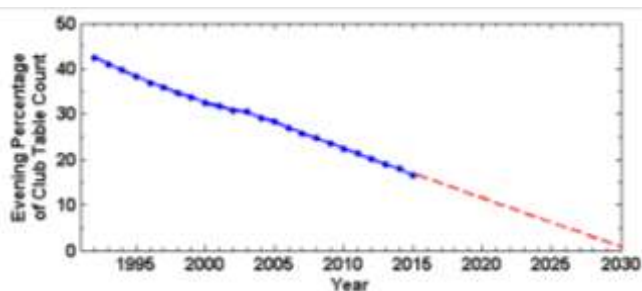
### On What's Happening Around Us

The ACBL has raised table fees for the first time in over 7 years. Some sanction holders have decided to cancel games rather than pay the increased fee. That is unfortunate. The Unit lost the popular Unit Wide Game (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month) because we have only two clubs of the 3 we need willing to pay the fee increase. Today we can get a 3-hour game and a soda for \$5.75 to 7.75, while a 2 hour movie and a soda costs us \$12 – 19. As costs rise and as games shrink, table fees will increase to cover operations. We count ourselves lucky that bridge is so affordable and that small increases in fees can keep the game going for a good long time. By the way, just back from the Washington DC NABC Tournament – NABC+ events now cost \$25 per person per session.

### Something New

Matthew Kidd (LaJolla Bridge Club, LaJolla CA) has written a number of insightful analyses of bridge playing in ACBL. For over 20 years, total club game table counts have stayed about constant. *[For Comparison, table counts at the Cincinnati Bridge Center are DECLINING about 1-3% per year. This impacts cost per game. While our rent will be stable for 10 years, energy costs will continue to increase.]* Evening games are declining in a straight line. The loss of evening games has been covered by the rise in computer (BBO type) games. The ACBL has no preference whether they get table fees from face-to-face bridge or computer bridge. To them it's all the same. The Club Sanction Holder however has a stake in keeping face to face bridge affordable and attractive. Stemming the tide away from evening bridge has been difficult. One way we are doing that in Unit 124 is to offer NLM games and a fun schedule for the Unit-owned sanction (Tuesday Night).

Last week the **ACBL Ethics Oversight Committee** announced the expulsion and banning of two International World Class Expert Pairs: **Fantoni & Nunes** and **Fisher & Schwartz**. They all forfeit all titles, records, and masterpoints. In addition, all teammates forfeit all winnings and titles for four years counting back from last week.



Jay Whipple (ACBL Board of Directors, District 9 – Florida) developed and deployed Fast Results and the Common Game. His latest foray into bringing technology to bridge was the Monday after our Regional in Cincinnati. He recruited four sites along the East Coast of the USA to run a pairs game of 18 hands or so. Big deal, you say? Well the big deal here was that the game was run at 4 sites moderated by an ACBL Director, the games were played without cards or boards or bidding boxes – in fact tables weren't needed. Huh?? How's that possible?

Well Jay's idea is simple – why not allow any bridge playing “engine” to run a game that the players connect to via tablet or smart phone. Have them congregate where they can be physically supervised, and collect the results of the game for processing by ACBL Horn Lake. The game standings and MP won would be reported back to all players within minutes of the conclusion of the game.

Jay ran this experiment in conjunction with a Regional in Tampa. His desire was to prove such an arrangement is feasible and to convince the Board of Directors that Club Games can evolve to the electronic game world with room for sanction holder entrepreneurs (and not competing with them).

The business benefits are obvious. There is much less capital (all we need are comfortable seats for all competitors and a room large enough for monitors to do their thing. The elimination of the investment in cards and boards reduces expenses (though not immediately). The work saved by the sanction holder

or director is tremendous – no more pre-duplication of hands. No more hand records (though a printed copy at the club would still be a nice touch). No more uploading game files to the ACBL (the bridge engine does that). The service returns a game summary in electronic form that the club manager can print out and post to the web. Fast results and a clear log of hand by hand results for each pair. The list goes on.

### The Future Holds

I had the pleasure of talking at length with Mitch Hodus (ACBL Chief Technology Officer). He has a smart direction for the ACBL that we should all applaud and support. Rather than taking a \$17 MM Non-profit Company and making it a software development Company (something the ACBL lacks capability and infrastructure to do) Mitch wants the ACBL to focus on what data it requires to record game results and award masterpoints for clubs and tournaments. This way, the game owner can use any software that complies with the ACBL's data standards. This has implications for ACBLScore – a MSDOS program that is built in an obsolete programming language and that cannot easily be replicated in one step. ACBLScore cannot manage the newer (more complex) Master Point award scales. Reprogramming ACBLScore is not an option.

Recall the ACBL lost more than \$1MM in a failed software investment due in part to disagreement over who owned the software code that resulted. In this new approach, we can use software from the Netherlands that runs games extremely well. Financial reporting (fees to the ACBL) can be managed directly by the ACBL website. MP Awards can be managed by the ACBL – when a game file is received, the MP engine assigns the correct award within seconds, and posts the game summary for the players to see.



If you would like to read more about this wonderful experiment please see:

<https://sites.google.com/site/tabletbridgepilot/home>

There are other technology solutions that are enticing but remain cost ineffective. One exciting technology is a computer controlled dealing device. You need only two decks of cards per table! The device automatically deals the right cards for each hand each round. There are hand records, too. Each device is more than \$900. Costs have to come down substantially for this to make sense, but the idea is very compelling. See: <http://bridgecompany.com/>



### District Elections – ACBL Board of Directors

I cannot remember the last time District 11 has had a contested election for the ACBL Board of Directors post. This ACBL body governs all of bridge in the USA, Canada and Mexico. There are currently 25 Members of the board. AJ Stephani has statement about his candidacy in this issue.

The current Board Design has become unwieldy, and getting to an efficiently managed Board while retaining the 25 District structure we have is a priority. Recruiting new members, retaining members longer, and recruiting youth and junior players is a major need. Financial responsibility – running a lean effective organization so that we can put energy and emphasis on membership growth is an IMPERATIVE.

The incumbent District 11 Board Member, A. Beth Reid, is running for her last term. She is currently chair of the ACBL Finance Committee. She oversaw the fee increases and the software expenditures (>\$1MM) in the past few years. AJ Stephani has served Unit 124 in many capacities – he is a past Unit President, a Youth Bridge supporter, the Tournament Chair for our Regional, and is also responsible for scheduling District 11 Tournaments – no small task given all the moving parts. The good news is District 11 has two good candidates.

Voting for the Board of Director Member is by Unit Board Member only. Please contact us and let us know what you think. We have 9 board members. Each board member will represent 1/9<sup>th</sup> of the Unit

population (959 members). We board members will vote electronically. Unit votes will be tallied across the District, weighted by membership population, and the total will determine our new Board of Director's Representative. We wish AJ and Beth the best of luck.

### Thanks to the CBC Renovation Committee

Pam Campbell and her team of designers have led us to a wonderful renewal of the Cincinnati Bridge Center. While more work will happen next year (kitchen and carpet), this year's improvements were a skillful execution of what you the members wanted done (Recall the Membership meeting in October last year). Let's all take time to thank Pam, John Meinking, Barry Wauligman and the many Unit Members who contributed time and talent to update our playing space.

### This ALERT

I continue to be awed by the content and quality from our ALERT contributors. They are living proof that high quality bridge thrives in Unit 124, and that we all benefit from the rare confluence of their generosity and expertise. Please join me in personally thanking each and every contributor for their thoughtful addition to what we consider THE gem of Unit 124!

See you at the tables,

*Steve*

Editor, The **ALERT** [alert@cincybridge.com](mailto:alert@cincybridge.com)



### Effective Aug 1, 2016 -

#### Item 162-06: Notrump Opener

The ACBL General Convention Chart is modified as follows: DEFINITIONS ... 2. A notrump opening or overcall is natural if, by agreement, it is balanced (generally, no singleton or void and no more than two doubletons) it contains no void, at most one singleton which must be the A,K or Q and no more than two doubletons.



### NKBC NEWS

By John Wolfe

Let's start with the best news: Northern Kentucky Bridge Club's Longest Day raised about \$5,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. The most popular fund-raising event was a silent auction featuring such things as partnerships with top players, handmade women's

cowls from Evelyn Skaggs, handmade jewelry from Gerry Mirus and a homecooked meal from Chef Peter Dehaan.

In the past few months, Howard Simon became the club's first Life Master to qualify under the new standards (500 points), and Tak Yip earned Bronze Life Master status.

Cindy Tretter and Sheila Dippel scored a 70.14 game on July 8.

Last but certainly not least, Betty Hurst and Cindy Tretter will be giving a beginners' bridge class, starting Aug. 24 and continuing for eight weeks. The class will be at the Elsmere Senior Center, Wednesdays 3-5 p.m. Course fee is \$100.

## Unit 124 Tuesday Evening Game at the CBC

By Kay Mulford

Aug 2	<b>NAPQ</b> – Open & NLM
Aug 9	<b>D11 Summer STaC - Open &amp; NLM Pairs.</b> SILVER POINTS
Aug 16	<b>BAM Teams</b> - Open & NLM. Board of Directors Night - Pizza with entry.
Aug 23	<b>Mentor Pairs</b> and NLM Game (NLMs can play in either).
Aug 30	<b>NAPQ - Open &amp; NLM</b> – Win a free play to Tuesday Night! (Must have 5 tables minimum per section for drawing)

**What would make you want to play Tuesday Evenings? Let Kay or another Board Member know!**

### CBA Tuesday night game, 7 pm, winners:

Board-A-Match Team Game, John Taylor, Director:  
NLM -

1st OA: Nelson Leist, Herschell Levine, Carol & Tom Markham.  
2<sup>nd</sup> OA: Stacy Vanstone, Carolyn richards, Elva Jung, & Lois Jones.

Open -

1st OA: Steve Moese, Mike Purcell, Mike Ma, & Paul Pschesang.  
2<sup>nd</sup> OA: Kay Mulford, John taylor, Lew Temples, & Joanne Earls.

## UNIT 124 COMING EVENTS

Here's what's up for the next 3 months!

### North American Pairs Qualifiers - June-August at District 11 Clubs

Look for special NAPQ games at your club. Score 50% or better and qualify for the District Final (see below). Get 3x the Master points (  $\frac{1}{2}$  Red  $\frac{1}{2}$  Black)



### Cincinnati Summer STaC



How are your Silver Points? Need more? There's no better way to win Silver Points than to play at a Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC). District 11's summer STaC runs **Monday August 8 through Sunday August 14**. Check your local club for their STaC Schedule. Check out the Unit Website or the ACBL website (under tournament calendar for Sectional STaCs in August for details). Remember that finishing in the overalls in the District makes you eligible for extra master points. All master points are Silver Points at 80% of the Sectional Award level. Playing at your club is the most convenient way to earn those SILVER points!

### Cincinnati Non-Life Master Sectional - Sep 17-18

If you are a Non Life Master in search of Silver Points, this Sectional is for you! Come for the games and the master points, stay for the hand analyses and hospitality.



### Ft Wayne Regional and the Flying Buckeye Regional:



### District 11 NAP Finals – October 22 and 23



When you and partner qualify in the Unit Club Games June through August, you may now play in any flight for which you hold both hold the requisite master points. The District Finals will be held at the Cincinnati Bridge Center October 22 (Flight B) and October 23 (Flights A&C). Subsidies for top finishers provided by the ACBL or District 11. Top 3 (flight A) and top 4 (Flights B&C) are invited to play in the National Finals in Kansas City in March 2017. Details and history at the District 11 web page:

[http://www.district11bridge.com/District\\_11\\_NAP\\_FAQ.html](http://www.district11bridge.com/District_11_NAP_FAQ.html)

## Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional



Come for the Bridge and Silver Points. Vote for your Unit Board Representative. Three days of fun bridge among the ghosts and hobgoblins (of the mind, of course). Joins us for the weekend tricks and treats!

## FLYING PIG REGIONAL 2016



By AJ Stephani,  
Tournament Chair



### Table Count

We were down 11.5 tables from last year, to 1132 - a rounding error. Although I was

disappointed we weren't net positive, the start of the tournament on Memorial Day unquestionably kept attendance down on that day, and perhaps the first part of the week. If you look at Tuesday-Sunday attendance only in both years (and include the first night of the Evening KO from last year, which started this year on Tuesday), we would have been up a tiny bit.

We will return to our first full week of June next year, with a gap week between Memorial Day and ours. This is good. However, we're in a crowded week next year, with the very popular Greenville Regional running the same week (and two other smaller Regionals). We will take this into account in determining advertising and marketing strategy.

Maintaining our size is above par. Total Regionals were down 2% in 2015, and down around 10% in the limited data we have for 2016. However, there is reason to believe that smaller (<1500 tables) Regionals are suffering more compared to the larger ones, so we may have to accept regular decreases as the norm going forward.



Evening attendance is down even further from last year, as were KO tables. Our two prime time KOs attracted 49 teams this year, compared to 78 for the 3

KOs last year. These numbers are disheartening, especially for those of us raised on IMPs, but they are indicative of trends in our class-size Regional nationally. We will continue to take these trends into account as we adjust the schedule.

There was a question about how adding the extra midweek Swiss would affect the total attendance. On the whole, it seemed to work well, as we had 58 tables on Wednesday AND Friday in those events, compared



to 63 on our single midweek Swiss on Thursday last year. Comparing Wednesday-Friday 10 and 2:30 sessions only YOY, we were up 23.5 tables.

The number of players who earned masterpoints (basically the same as the number of players who attended) was up from last year: 742 (to 713 last year). Our "stickiness" factor -- the average number of sessions played per person -- was down slightly, from 5.83 to 5.62. I would like to figure out how to increase this number, though some of the decline is undoubtedly due to the drop in professional teams from last year to this year (we had only one this year, and they play every session).

### Unit 124

2015: 387 players playing 2065 sessions

2016: 395 players playing 1940 sessions

So, we got a few more people out, but they played fewer sessions/person

### Schedule

We could have scheduled a few more NLM games, but the increased attendance among NLMs can probably be traced to our pre-sold entry efforts (discussed below). Other events had almost exactly the number of entries I expected.

Next year, I want to give this idea a try: a **Two-Day Pairs Championship on Friday and Saturday**, with a two-session qualifying and a two-session final. We'll need to tweak the schedule a little to make it work, and we'll have to market the event like crazy, but we

need to keep innovating. I want to attract good pairs from large cities in surrounding Districts; if generic Regional events aren't an attraction, maybe they'll see the value of making the trip in from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Nashville, St. Louis, etc. for the Flying Pig Pairs Championship. Ideas and your efforts in talking it up are MUCH appreciated.



#### Overall Operation

The directors were very good with the exception of some scheduling glitches Tuesday. We had fewer directors this year than last year, which helped to offset the increased cost of ACBL Directors' fees and Directors' per diem (up quite a bit -- not sure why Cincinnati food got so much more expensive).

#### Hog Heaven! Our Caddies Fly!!

**Ari Gleich, Elenya Stephani, Bobby Lewis**

**Thank you for another great day at the Flying Pig!**



The caddies were outstanding, and the pig hats and enthusiasm they brought to their jobs were definitely recognized (and proved lucrative -- they got great tips).

The venue was relatively complaint-free, aside from the usual gripes. Set up and take down had their share of challenges, but I expect those to be one-off events. The tournament staff did a great job -- kudos to everyone.

#### Pro Am Game

In spite of having the game on Memorial Day, we still brought in 24 tables, which was down from last year's total of 34. It was definitely a success, and I think Margaret, Nancy and Joanne have learned quite a bit after doing it for 2 years now.

#### Prizes

T-shirts were a big hit. For some reason, we had a MUCH bigger demand for the 2XL and 3XL sizes this year compared to last year -- no way to anticipate that. Also, the pink shirts proved even more popular than last, which is opposite of what I predicted (and ordered for). I'll make adjustments again next year.

These t-shirts should hopefully pay off in future years, as our tournament "brand" will get some airtime as people wear the shirts. We spent more in t-shirts than we have in prizes in the past, but I consider this an investment for future years. We also saved a lot of money by not having registration packets. The domed decals were also popular, as usual.

#### Partnerships

Our biggest challenge this year, as we had at least 3 different people functioning as the de facto Partnership Chair at one point or another over the last 6 months. Many thanks to Lorna, who stepped up to handle last minute duties.

#### Hospitality

Again, a great job by Joyce. Timing was great, and more people came this year than last.

#### Financials

Bottom line: we netted \$17,218, which was almost \$2K more than last year, despite the slight drop in table count.

We saved some advertising \$ by not placing an ad in the Bridge Bulletin and doubling up the BBO ad exposure. Not sure it made a difference.

In-tournament expenses were down about \$1300, about half of which was from duplicating all the boards ourselves. Saving the money was nice, but I counted 49 sets of boards I personally duplicated that week, with Bob Fisk doing about 20. I don't want to do that again,

so hopefully we can train caddies to do it or come up with another solution.

Other in-tournament expenses that were less than last year: Directors' fees (slightly, as the 6.5 fewer director sessions were almost entirely offset by the 10% increase in rates); transportation (Mike Roberts lives in Columbus, so cheaper mileage), caddies, and a few miscellaneous charges. Expenses that increased: per diem (rates up 23%!!!) -- our total charges this year were a whopping \$1953. Yuck, and there's nothing we can do about it. T-shirts were a bit more.

### NLM Entry Pre-Sales

Pre-selling entries to NLM games at the discounted rate of \$10 proved to be very popular, as it unquestionably drove traffic in the NLM games. Next year, I will place more NLM games on the schedule and see if we can redouble our pre-sell efforts.

All in, we had a fun and profitable 2016 Flying Pig Regional. See you next year!

Daily Bulletins from the Flying Pig are available on-line here:

<http://bridgefinesse.com/Fastresults/D11/DailyBulletins/>

**Janine Gauthier**, Cincinnati, OH - **Janet Hansen**, Loveland, OH Win the ProAm Pairs! - Here's The Pro Am Pair Field.



### Pegasus Reigns Supreme!

Players who become Life Masters at the Cincinnati Flying Pig have their name inscribed on the Pegasus Trophy. Here are this year's honorees:



Not Pictured:

**Barbara Arlington**, Indianapolis IN

**Bonnie Walker**, Dayton OH



1 Sunday Swiss at the Flying Pig 2016

## MORE FLYING PIG

By Steve Moese

While the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional was heavily publicized on BBO and Bridge Winners and we were successful in the number of people we attracted from the Barry Crane 500 (See Below), there is priceless publicity from having one of the most respected World Class Experts opine on the appeal of our Regional. Read more:



From **Bridge Winners** own Steve Weinstein (Multiple World Champion):

### When Pigs Fly

by [Steve Weinstein](#) April 12

I've never gone to a tournament because of a flyer, but I've got to say, the "Flying Pig" Regional's ad is enough to make me want to go. Last year's ad was pretty good, but this year they just nailed it. Look at that pig! Is he a pirate? With wings? And sunglasses? Count me in.



Unfortunately, I'm playing the weeks before and after the tournament, and my wife appreciates it if I stop home for a few days every now and then, so I'm not going to make it this year. But I'm definitely going to try to put it on my schedule in the future. Especially since Adam keeps telling me how good the food in Cincinnati is. (He got me to try Skyline Chili while I was in Florida a couple weeks ago. It's not the end-all, be-all he made it out to be, but it was good.) So Flying Pig Regional, kudos on the ad, and look out, cause one of these days I'm a-comin'.

Read more (member comments) at:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/when-pigs-fly/>



## Who Did What

Every year we review the player list for insight into area players who won master points at the Flying Pig. We also cross reference winners with the Barry Crane 500 as of the End of May 2016. Here's what we found:

**Total masterpoints: 6853.33 earned by 742 players.**

**Total attendance: 1132 tables.**

### Top Flying Pig MP Winners (District 11 BOLD)

Rank	MPs	Name	City-St
1	133.59	<b>William Higgins</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
2	128.01	<b>Yauheni Siutsau</b>	<b>Loveland OH</b>
3	119.43	David Grainger	Roseville CA
4	117.49	Robert Morris	Houston TX
5	117.28	Eddie Wold	Houston TX
6	115.34	Patti Mullendore	Houston TX
7	84.97	<b>Isaac Stephani</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
8	77.17	<b>Larry Jones</b>	<b>Pickerington OH</b>
9	77.17	<b>Douglas Millsap</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
10	76.49	Peter J Boyd-Bowman	Greensboro NC
11	70.54	<b>Arun Goyal</b>	<b>West Chester OH</b>
12	69.16	<b>Amitabh Raturi</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
13	64.15	<b>A J Stephani</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
14	58.96	Robert Todd	Tallahassee FL
15	58.96	<b>Bill Cook</b>	<b>Louisville KY</b>
16	57.83	<b>Mike Ma</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
17	57.47	<b>Rachna Goyal</b>	<b>West Chester OH</b>
18	51.99	<b>Lorna Davis</b>	<b>West Chester OH</b>
19	51.83	<b>Chris Habegger</b>	<b>Bristol IN</b>
20	51.39	<b>James Olson</b>	<b>Charleston WV</b>
21	51.39	<b>Ellen Olson</b>	<b>Charleston WV</b>
22	50.49	<b>Kimberly Music</b>	<b>Lewis Center OH</b>
23	48.46	<b>Julian Kurtzman</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
24	47.13	<b>Peter Whipple</b>	<b>Mason OH</b>
25	46.58	<b>Norman Coombs</b>	<b>Brookville IN</b>
26	44.69	<b>Jim Bachelder</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
27	44.69	<b>George St Pierre</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
28	43.92	<b>David Dressman</b>	<b>Burlington KY</b>
29	43.54	<b>Russell Shoup</b>	<b>Dayton OH</b>
30	43.33	<b>Tom Gilpin Jr</b>	<b>Princeton WV</b>
31	43.33	Paul Hern	Hilton Head SC
32	42.88	<b>John Meinking</b>	<b>Maineville OH</b>
33	42.1	<b>Stephen Moese</b>	<b>West Chester OH</b>
34	41.78	<b>Scott Gates</b>	<b>Miamisburg OH</b>
35	41.3	<b>Stephanie Alexander</b>	<b>Mentor OH</b>

36	41.3	<b>Robert Alexander</b>	<b>Mentor OH</b>
37	40.52	<b>Michael Gladfelter</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
38	40.52	<b>Mary Jane Gladfelter</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
39	39.17	<b>Cliff Pleatman</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
40	39.03	<b>Phillip Becker</b>	<b>Beachwood OH</b>
41	39.03	<b>Fleur Howard</b>	<b>Gates Mills OH</b>
42	37.03	<b>Marc Low</b>	<b>Centerville OH</b>
43	35.71	<b>Cheryl Schneider</b>	<b>Westerville OH</b>
44	35.71	<b>Anita Torrence</b>	<b>Bexley OH</b>
45	35.32	Sam Borenstein	West Orange NJ
46	35.32	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha NJ
47	31.66	<b>Robert Sulgrove</b>	<b>Centerville OH</b>
48	30.64	<b>William Sentman</b>	<b>Scott Depot WV</b>
49	30.64	<b>Sarah Sentman</b>	<b>Scott Depot WV</b>
50	30.49	Carl Berenbaum	Elkins Park PA
51	30.49	Barbara Kepple	West Chester PA
52	30.23	<b>Lawrence Newman</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
53	30.23	<b>Dennis Schultz</b>	<b>Harrison OH</b>
54	29.26	Ying Peng	Austin TX
55	29.04	<b>Adrienne Netherwood</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
56	27.88	<b>Brian Ross</b>	<b>Charlestown IN</b>
57	27.78	<b>V Netherwood</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
58	26.64	<b>Dallas Moore</b>	<b>Trotwood OH</b>
59	25.63	<b>Deborah Cummings</b>	<b>Villa Hills KY</b>
60	25.39	<b>Joe Fisher</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
61	24.3	<b>Sanford Franklin</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
62	24.15	<b>Tiberiu Ungureanu</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
63	23.39	Howard Pilch	South Bend IN
64	23.07	Sharon Anderson	Eagan MN
65	23.07	Roger Anderson	Eagan MN
66	22.69	<b>Edward Long</b>	<b>Liberty Twp OH</b>
67	22.65	<b>Suman Agarwal</b>	<b>Columbus OH</b>
68	22.49	Bert Newman	West Bloomfield MI
69	22.49	Anastasia Tessler	Ann Arbor MI
70	22.09	Ray Johnson	Park City UT
71	21.71	<b>Romeo Bodrogi-Podoaba</b>	<b>Taylor Mill KY</b>
72	21.67	Wayne Chu	Shanghai
73	21.67	Michael Cassel II	Roseville MN
74	21.49	Randy Helmink	Avon IN
75	21.49	Noel Helmink	Avon IN
76	21.33	<b>William Atteberry</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>
77	21.15	Paul Moss	Millersburg KY
78	21.14	Nancy Riley	Kingwood TX
79	21.14	Bill Riley	Kingwood TX
80	20.89	Gary Kessler	Springfield IL
81	20.84	<b>William Hartung</b>	<b>Bellbrook OH</b>
82	20.63	<b>Bob Fisk</b>	<b>Cincinnati OH</b>

83	20.23	Nancy Wilson	Carmel IN
84	20.23	Fred Wilson	Carmel IN
85	19.81	Howard Simon	Florence KY
86	19.4	Alex Khrakovsky	Columbus OH
87	19.18	Nalin Mehta	Cincinnati OH
88	19.02	Darin Campo	Huber Heights OH
89	18.9	M Halmstad	Brookfield WI
90	18.58	Albert Venosa	Cincinnati OH
91	17.96	Micky Dasenbrock	Cincinnati OH
92	17.47	Henry Jackson	Cincinnati OH
93	17.38	Anton Habash	Oxford OH
94	17.04	Richard Garlough	Springfield OH
95	16.72	Michael Purcell	Loveland OH
96	16.66	Bill Beaushaw	Pearl River LA
97	16.65	Nancy Ogreenc	Wautoma WI
98	16.33	Judy Barron	Cincinnati OH
99	16.31	Michael Lipp	Trenton OH
100	16.3	Karen Kendall	Middletown OH

And who were top players in attendance? As of May 2016 these are the 31 Barry Crane 500 Players who attended –

#### ACBL Top 500 Race - McKenny

Rank	Name	City	State	MPs
1	David Grainger	Roseville	CA	1275.66
5	Eddie Wold	Houston	TX	1169.68
33	Robert Morris	Houston	TX	635.65
42	Peter J Boyd-Bowman	Greensboro	NC	566.08
50	Bert Newman	West Bloomfield	MI	532.64
112	Patti Mullendore	Houston	TX	394.4
125	Mary Jane Gladfelter	Columbus	OH	381.97
125	Michael Gladfelter	Columbus	OH	381.97
136	Norman Coombs	Brookville	IN	368.05
159	Roger Anderson	Eagan	MN	346.58
161	Sharon Anderson	Eagan	MN	344.66
181	Jim Bachelder	Columbus	OH	323.01
189	Phillip Becker	Beachwood	OH	320.92
190	Douglas Millsap	Columbus	OH	320.36
224	William Higgins	Cincinnati	OH	304.74
227	Yauheni Siutsau	Loveland	OH	303
237	Larry Jones	Pickerington	OH	296.21
238	George St Pierre	Columbus	OH	295.25
240	Brian Ross	Charlestown	IN	294.89
245	Michael Cassel II	Roseville	MN	292.58
278	Frank Treiber III	Toledo	OH	275.43

306	Robert Todd	Tallahassee	FL	264.4
391	Robert Alexander	Mentor	OH	239.69
413	Michael Hellmer	Indianapolis	IN	235.63
416	A J Stephani	Cincinnati	OH	235.23
422	Cliff Pleatman	Cincinnati	OH	233.46
428	Barbara Kepple	West Chester	PA	232.16
436	Lorna Davis	West Chester	OH	230.78
437	Carl Berenbaum	Elkins Park	PA	230.31
441	Fleur Howard	Gates Mills	OH	229.5
498	Stephanie Alexander	Mentor	OH	216.23

Now if that weren't enough excitement, take a look at what the **Wall Street Journal** had to say...

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/at-bridge-tables-no-trump-takes-on-a-whole-new-meaning-1469206897>

Quote:

*"At the recent Flying Pig Regional bridge tournament in Cincinnati, a vendor who typically sells bridge books and shawls had a new offering: a jaunty hat declaring "No Trump" in big letters accompanied by the four suits in a deck of cards.*

*"They sell like hot cakes," said club director A.J. Stephani—though he acknowledged that he and others felt the hats crossed a line.*

*"What brings us together is love of the game. You have to keep politics out," he said.*

*The hat salesman, Brett Butterman, of West Palm Beach, Fla., said he is used to taking flak from Trump supporters."*

Let's face it folks, thanks to the untiring efforts of AJ and his Tournament Committee the Flying Pig Regional is definitely on the MAP!

## The NKy Summer Getaway Sectional

By John Wolfe

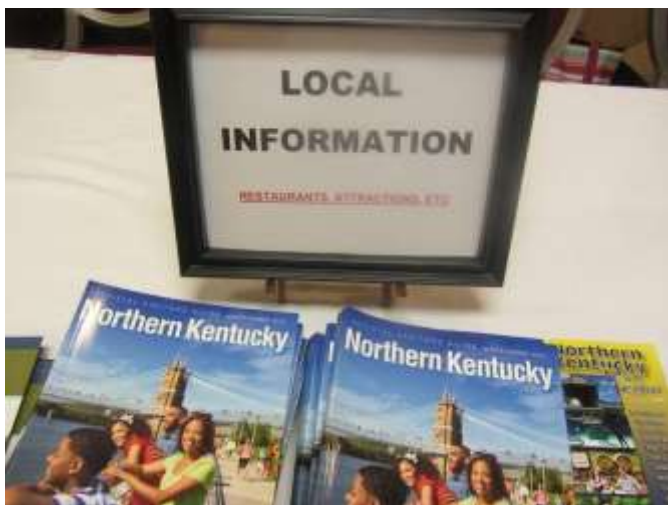
Nobody didn't have fun. That sort of sums up this year's Summer Getaway Sectional, sponsored by the



Northern Kentucky Bridge Club (with a lot of help from Cincinnati Bridge Association and the Anderson Bridge Club).



2-So how many bridge players does it take to set the garbage bags out?



Friday winners:

- Nancy Garriott, Fort Mitchell, Rich Squillace, Harrodsburg, Ky., took the morning NLM Pairs.
- Sandi and James Rachal, Centerville, won the afternoon NLMs.
- Morning Open Pairs were won by Howard Simon and Bart Jacobs, Union.
- Betty Torello, Fairfield, Judith Lubow, Cincinnati, won the Afternoon Open Pairs.
- Cliff Pleatman, Bob Fisk, William Higgins, Cincinnati, Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland, took the Swiss Teams event.

Saturday:

- Leonard Kanterman, Cincinnati, James Jacobson, Dayton, won Morning NLM Pairs.
- Ron and Karen Scott, Powell, Ohio, took the Afternoon NLM Pairs.
- Jackie Toth, Terry Brausch, West Chester, won the Morning Open Pairs.

- Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland, William Higgins, Cincinnati, won the Afternoon Open Pairs.
- Isaac Stephani, A. J. Stephani, Julian Kurtzman, Cincinnati, Bill Coombs, Hamilton, won Bracket One of Compact Knockouts.
- Vernon Goetz, Villa Hills, Henry Jackson, Cincinnati, Mary Ann Boyle, Florence, Elaine Jarchow, Union, took Bracket Two.



3 Elaine Jarchow and a Lucky Split the Pot WINNER!

Sunday winners:

- A/X Swiss Teams were led by Bob Fisk, Amitabh Raturi, William Higgins, all of Cincinnati, Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland.
- Marilyn and Robert Prosis, Thomas and Helen Mess, Cincinnati, took the BCD Swiss event.

In total, 795.40 masterpoints were earned by 226 players, at 210 tables.



Kudos to chairpersons Cordell Coy and Elaine Jarchow, who finished their third year of working together on this project.



#### 4-AWESOME Hospitality

Everyone had good things to say about the awesome hospitality suite. Friday night there was shrimp and homemade pies; Saturday night there was barbeque and homemade cakes; Sunday morning there were cookies, fruit and muffins. For the first time, free morning coffee was offered prior to the games.

Both have put in long hours and put together a suburb organization. Next year, Joe Pike and Gerry Mirus will take over as chairs.



Current Chair Elaine Jarchow hard at work.

Future Chair Gerry Mirus (Joe Pike not pictured).



Margaret Young and Steve Moese gave free lectures between sessions on Friday and Saturday



6-Great (affordable) lunch options



5- Margaret Young Giving Friday's Lecture



7-Sonya Wilson, Sponsor of the Sunday Swiss, Unit Board Member ex-officio, Past Unit Membership Chair, Small Business Owner





8-Elaine Jarchow, Sonya Wilson, Gerri Mirus Presenting the Orchid Corsage



The 2017 Summer Getaway Sectional Tournament will be Aug. 11-13, again at the Doubletree Hotel at the airport.

## ACBL Board of Director Election - District 11

By AJ Stephani

Most of us know that, as members of the ACBL living in Greater Cincinnati, we're automatically members of the

Cincinnati Bridge Association, which is also ACBL Unit 124. Our Unit is one of 8 Units in ACBL District 11 (there are 25 Districts). Each District elects one person to serve on the ACBL Board of Directors, which is the governing body for the ACBL. The Board, which meets 3 times a year, works with the CEO and management to create the strategic vision for the organization and oversees its activities.

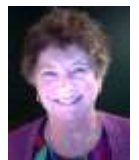
District representatives to the ACBL Board of Directors are elected to 3-year terms, and I have decided to run for the position this year against the incumbent District Director, Beth Reid. Beth has been our District Director for 9 years, and I am thankful for her service. However, recent developments inside the ACBL have convinced me that we need a change in the course being followed by the ACBL. We have seen the ACBL squander almost \$2 million on a failed ACBLScore software project, squeeze clubs and Units for extra money by drastically increasing costs on extra-point club games, and most critically, fail to address the coming demographics cliff that looms ahead of us. Simply stated, the ship is sinking, and it needs a crew.

The election for District Director is complicated, and only members of Unit Boards of Directors in our District are eligible to vote. I have already made trips to Louisville and Columbus to talk their Boards, and I will making trips to Dayton, Lexington, Dayton, and of course, to our own Board in the next month. I appreciate your support, and please let your voice be heard to our own CBA Board members.

Thanks, and wish me luck!

## Calling All Lost Owners!!!

By Joanne Earls



“We have 72 unclaimed name tags at the CBC. If you never picked on up please see the cabinet at the Director’s desk”

If you are NEW to our Unit we are happy to provide you with a Cincinnati Bridge Association Name Tag. (Unit 124 operates as an Ohio Non-Profit Corporation under the name “Cincinnati Bridge Association”). Simply contact Joanne Earls and request your name tag. Lose your name tag? For a \$4 fee we can replace it.

We have a large number of unclaimed name tags. If you see your name please drop by the CBC to claim your name tag. If you know a lapsed member, please help us by contacting them and seeing what it would

take to get them back to the club. Here is a list of currently unclaimed name tags.

### Current Members

Last	First
Bickel	Ann
Blount	Lou
Brennan	Mary Ann
Brown	Joanne
Bulger	Ann
Caldwell	Sue
Cargill	Keith
Cohen	Loren
Comer	Wally
Culp	Patricia
Davis	Jim
Davis	Jenny
Dolan	Phil
Donavan	Nancy
Drew	Diane
Fitch	Barbara
Francis	Dave
Gapen	Cindy
Gartner	Rosalie
Hayes	Katherine
Husky	Karen
Lavens	Maya
Laxton	Barbara
Liming	Tony
Maguire	Charles
Marcum	Trudy
Martin	Bradley
Meyer	Dan
Misrach	Patricia
Myers	Betty
Outcelt	Anita
Outcelt	Doug
Paulsen	Dick
Peters	Jan
Robinson	Lynne
Schneider	Ed
Schreiber	Cathy
Stahl	Patricia
Wadhwa	Subodh
Warman	Pam

### Lapsed Members

Last	First
Alexander	Marcia
Bantz	Philip
Belkin	Maida
Blake	Mary
Blake	Dennis
Brunsmann	Virginia
Burnett	Judy
Coughlin	Mary
Dahms	Ken
Daniels	JoAn
Eatonte	Tara
Gast	Alan
Gustafson	Ron
James	William
Jensen	Mary
Jensen	Mike
LeRoux	Kit
May	Linda
McFarland	Dick
Meinhard	James
Mohr	Vanetta
Ohen	Irim
Ohen	Wilbur
Richter	Sandy
Rogers	Terrie
Smith	Vincent
Snyder	Jacqueline
Snyder	Richard
Sunderman	Hal
Taylor	Norman
Taylor	Jane
Van Gorp	Isabelle

Wendel Beverly  
Wildermuth Marilyn  
Wischer Judy

## NAME TAGS

*Your Name Here*  
Cincinnati Bridge Association

Joanne Earls 513-772-4395 or [jolman@fuse.net](mailto:jolman@fuse.net)

**Need a CBA Name Tag? Contact Joanne Earls.**

**\$4 each. (1<sup>st</sup> one FREE! to New Members).**

## CBA MENTORING PROGRAM



For more information see the **Frequently Asked Questions** at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/CBAMentoringProgram.html>

Dates remaining between now and the end of September. Designated Mentor/Mentee dates at the CBA in Cincinnati:

**Sunday August 21, 1:00pm**

**Tuesday August 23, 7:00pm**

**Sunday September 11, 1:00pm**

If you play in Cincinnati with your designated partner on one of these dates, you play at half price for the pair, and play one stratification lower than the mentor.

Designated Mentor Game dates in Northern Kentucky at the Elsmere Senior Center:

**Friday August 5, 10:00am**

**Tuesday August 23, 10:00am**

**Thursday August 25, 11:30am**

If you play at NKBC, you'll play in the Mentor strat and pay the going rate. None of the above games are mandatory, but they are always fun, educational and enjoyable.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Fisk [bobsbbcards@gmail.com](mailto:bobsbbcards@gmail.com) (513) 379-5252

Barb Levinson [bsl@fuse.net](mailto:bsl@fuse.net) (513)258-8216

For those of you in Northern Kentucky, please contact:  
Cordell Coy [cordellcoy@gmail.com](mailto:cordellcoy@gmail.com) (859)466-1835

## ALERT is Not Just a Newsletter

By Potter Orr

It is a fundamental rule of bridge in every form that no partnership may have a private “understanding” about the meaning of a bid or play. You must inform your opponents about your understandings.



In duplicate bridge the ACBL provides a chart defining which bids require that notice be given to the opponents. The complete chart is on the ACBL website and also on the CBA website (scroll to the bottom of the main page to the site map and look under Learn & Improve.

Below is a short version of alerts, but you can apply this test yourself: Does the bid mean what it says? If so, it probably does not need an alert. If it doesn't, most of the time it needs an alert. For example, a response of 2 diamonds to partner's 1 NT bid does not mean that you have diamonds and requires notification of opponents (an announce in this case). First we will start with HOW the procedure works and then look at some common alerts.

What is an Alert? When notification of opponents is required, the **partner** of the person making the bid must say “Alert” or pull the alert card from the bidding box (or both) in a manner that assures that the opponents are aware. The notice should come before the next opponent bids. You are never allowed to alert your own bid, that is your partner's job.

What is an Announcement? Some bids that are artificial enough to require alerting the opponents are in such wide use that ACBL provides a shortcut to the alert process. These bids are announced rather than alerted. A very common example would be transfers after a NT opening. Rather than alerting the bid, partner says “transfer” aloud to let opponents know that the bid is a transfer.

What happens if partner fails to Alert? No mention of the missed alert is allowed during the bidding. At the end of bidding if your side will be playing the contract (you are either declarer or dummy), the opponents should be told of the missed alert before the opening lead is made. If the omission matters to the defenders, they may call the director for a ruling. If your side is defending, you may not say anything about the missed alert until the end of play as this would provide

information to the partner who failed to alert. At the end of play, the declaring side should be told of the failure to alert. Again they may call the director if they feel the omission put them at a disadvantage.

What can you do if the opponents alert? At your next turn to bid you may ask the person who made the alert what the bid meant. They are obliged to describe their partnership agreement for the meaning of the bid. If they describe the bid with the name of the convention and you do not know that convention, you may ask for a further description of the meaning.

Before listing alertable bids it is worth describing the kinds of bids that are NOT alertable:

- Almost all natural bids, those that mean what they say, are not alertable
- 1 bids that are natural and 10 – 21 points.
- Bids of the opponents suit – if you don't ask, you are on your own.
- Almost all bids at the 4 level or above. Includes Gerber and Blackwood.
- Natural NT opening bids (note the 1 NT requires an announce of the point range)
- Responses to NT openings and strong NT overcalls:
  - Clubs asking for a major
  - 4 clubs asking for aces
  - Natural signoffs in diamonds, hearts, spades
  - 3 level natural responses
- Responses to 1 level suit openings:
  - Non-forcing 1 NT or natural 2 NT bids even if they bypass suits
  - 1 level majors over 1 club even if they bypass diamonds
  - 2 over 1 responses or 3 level jump raises that promise invitational or better values
  - Natural and forcing jump shifts not in competition or natural jump raises in competition regardless of strength
- Rebids by opener or responder
  - Natural 2 level bids after a forcing NT
  - Natural 1 NT or 2 NT rebids even if they bypass suits

Announceable bids are a short list:

- Point range of 1 NT opening bids
- Transfer bids in response to NT openers
- Opening bids in a suit that may be 2 cards or less (short club for example).
- 1 NT as a forcing bid

Most bids not covered here are alertable but some of the more commonly occurring are:



- 1 bids in a suit that indicate unusual length or strength (strong 1 club for example)
- 2 NT as a game force after a major suit opener
- Continuations after Stayman that may indicate no 4 card major.
- 1 level suit openings less than 10 points
- Suit bid responses by a non-passed hand that are not forcing
- 3 level jump raises not in competition that are weak
- Minor suit responses that describe major suit holdings (Drury, New Minor Forcing)
- Doubles promising a specific level of support
- Splinter bids – an exception to the 4 level rule.
- Finally, if the bid clearly does NOT mean what it seems, alert it.

## Unauthorized Information Rules

By Kay Mulford

This is a difficult rule to understand so I'll give some examples:

### Hand 1

N	E	S	W
1♣	2N*	P	3♦**
3♥	P	3N***	All Pass

\*Meant as Unusual for the minors.  
 \*\*Announced by East as "Transfer"  
 \*\*\* Can this bid stand?

1. No w West first took the 2NT for an Unusual Notrump

for the minors (♣ could be a 3 card suit by North. This was on their card. But North had 21 HCP's and should have doubled and then bid notrump to show 19-21 pts.)

2. But when West heard the word "transfer" she became aware of the 2N bid being something else, like a big hand with points.

The word "transfer" became unauthorized information to West. She had 5♦ and 4♣ and should have bid her ♣, not 3NT. 3N made 4 since East had 21 HCP's and not the minors.

### Hand 2

N	E	S	W
1N	2♣	2♦*	P
2♥	P	???	

North says "transfer" and then bids 2H. Now South cannot use that information and attempt to clarify the 2♦ with a

bid of 3♦.

South's hand: ♠76 ♥J32 ♦KJ10654 ♣86 South must pass 2♥ because she has a ♥ tolerance and she must ignore her partner's announcement of "transfer".

If South does bid 3♦, then North must treat that as 5♥ & 5♦ with 9+ HCP's and a game force. If South had made a face when North said "transfer" then North could not use that unauthorized information and pass 3D. Yes, making a face is unauthorized information!

The standard way to play this bidding is 2♦ is diamonds and nonforcing. If you discuss and put on your score cards that it is Jacoby transfer, then it must be announced. Playing transfers over intervening bids is NOT STANDARD It is important to discuss these treatments before playing, and you should have it on your card.

With these examples, North has to pretend she did not see any facial expressions, and South has to put herself in a box to pretend she did not hear the word transfer. On hand 2, South can bid her diamonds IF her hand can not tolerate hearts: ♠765 ♥6 ♦KJ10876 ♣543 But on hand 2, she can tolerate ♥ and must pass 2♥ (and then pray that North has 4 hearts or more).

The bidding may go:

N	E	S	W
1N	2♣	2♦	P
2♥	P	3♦	P
3N	P	4♦	P

North may now wake up to the 2♦ bid as showing diamonds and may realize that they never discuss transfers over intervening bids.

My advice when something like this happens at the table is that you must put yourself in a box and not listen to partner's alerts or other words/facial expressions of unauthorized information.

I had this sequence given to me:

N	E	S	W
1N	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3♥*	
4♥??	P	???	

\*Smolen Convention 4♥ and 5♠.  
 NO ALERT from North.

South's hand: ♠A9876 ♥KJ54 ♦K4 ♣85

The question is it automatic that South pass 4H? Can South change the contract to 4♠ when North did not alert his bid of 3♥, which showed just 4 hearts? Since South new that North bid 2♦ which showed no 4 card major, could South improve the contract from a 4-3 heart fit to a 5-2 spade fit, which is superior to 4-3 fit? What do you think?

Kay Mulford [kmulford@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kmulford@cinci.rr.com) or 513 954-0921

## “Let’s Play,” he said...

By Dean Congbalay

The upcoming Olympics have reminded me of a piece I wrote eight years ago, during the summer games in Beijing. It still makes me think...



An incident from the other night continues to gnaw at me.

At the beginning of a bridge tournament, as I sat down at my next scheduled table, the woman to my left looked at me and said, "You should be at the Olympics."

"Pardon me?" I replied, more than a bit confused.

"Oh, maybe you're not really Chinese," she said.

Ah, then it came to me. She was commenting on my slanted eyes.

"Where are you from?" she continued.

"Columbus, Ohio," I said.

Now, she was the one who was confused. "Where are you FROM?"

"Columbus, Ohio," I repeated.

Her bridge partner was a lady I know and admire. She recognized what was going on and decided to quell the situation.

"He's from Columbus, Ohio," she told her partner in a tone that not only urged her to be quiet, but to also pick up her cards.

Unfazed, the woman continued. "What is your heritage?" she asked me.

At that, I recognized that we had played this oral game long enough. "Filipino," I replied proudly

Then she proceeded to tell me about a guy she knows who years ago traveled to the Philippines, met a woman and brought her back to the States. "She was a real Filipino firecracker," she said. "Once she got her green card, she divorced him!"

Yeah, great...

I've never been accused of being politically correct. Nevertheless, conversations like that amaze me. I know that there are millions of people who refer to themselves as Asian-American or Mexican-American or

African-American or German-American. But I, quite frankly, have always regarded such hyphenated appellations with a bit of disdain. We're all Americans -- period -- when we become citizens, either through birth or naturalization.

As I watched the Olympics on TV, I got choked up whenever the Star Spangled Banner was played. My speech is distinctly Midwestern. When I think of palm trees, images of my back yard in Florida -- not Manila -- come to mind. I proudly fly an American flag outside my house. When I managed a real estate office years ago, I started a practice of beginning every weekly sales meeting by asking everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance; I even lost an agent over it. I still choose as my profession to work with people who help others achieve the American Dream. I vote and go out of my way to personally thank our troops whenever I see them. I exercise my Constitutional rights to religion and free speech. And I pay more than my share of taxes.

I didn't share any of this with that woman. Nor did I tell her, of course, that I always got A's in math, drive a Honda and received a rice cooker from my aunt when I was graduated from high school.

A few minutes later, when my bridge partner and I got up to move to the next table, he looked at me and grinned. "Some people just don't know when to shut up," he said, referring to the woman.

I just smiled. She didn't mean any harm, I assured him. She was really just trying to be nice while carrying on a conversation. "As she kept talking," I said, "I just kept thinking that sensitivity goes in many different directions. She grew up in a different time, and I have to be sensitive to the way she thinks."

My bridge partner -- truly one of the nicest guys in the world -- understood.

"Let's play bridge," he said.

Perhaps that's the way to proceed.

Let's play...

*[Often when race is a difference between strangers, we can fail to understand that the **intent** of what we say and the **impact** of what we say is not aligned. Impact can only be judged by the listener. The only way to align them is to talk to each other, to ask and answer questions that help us know each other, not categorize each other – Ed.]*

## RUMINATIONS

by Robert S Brown

The Ruminator lacks a unifying theme to present and instead must content himself with a bricolage of random thoughts and the consolation that his puissant prose<sup>1</sup> may compensate for that deficiency.



- The Club's "Longest Day" event blatantly appropriates the title of the 1962 film epic starring Wayne, Fonda, Burton, and Anka, "Seeking Senescence" might be a more appropriate cognomen.<sup>2</sup>
- The Ruminator recently amassed 500 master points and the rank of Bronze Life Master – somehow it feels like a demotion to third place.
- The Albatross's mother, Virginia, expired at the tender age of 101 and three quarters. She was revered as a fearless and candid exponent of many causes and played home-style bridge until her early 90s.
- I've formed some new partnerships<sup>3</sup> embracing new conventions – XYZ and Minorwood, for example, – in the obviously vain hope that they will improve my game.<sup>4</sup>
- Romeo departed the Club in high style – a 72% game – and before anyone learned how to pronounce his last name(s).

<sup>1</sup> As contrasted with the sprezzatura scribbling of the Albatross.

<sup>2</sup> Confer T.S. ELLIOT, *East Coker* (1943):  
Do not let me hear  
of the wisdom of old men, but rather of their folly.

...  
Old men ought to be explorers  
here and there does not matter  
we must be still and still moving  
into another intensity.

<sup>3</sup> R.B. – a principal source of new conventions; F.L. – committed to a sempiternal convention card, but providing wonderful baked goods; H.S. – South African eccentric.

<sup>4</sup> This is the same theory on which I rely to justify buying new golf clubs every year expecting to improve my score the three or four times I annually play.

- While we are all aware of the 70+% honor roll maintained by the Club, few know of its reciprocal – the < 30% register. This singular lack of achievement list is maintained by CBA with much more circumspection and secrecy than its counterpart. Rumor has it that summary execution can follow a third appearance.
- Desperate, dateless, and cruelly paired with M.L., the Monday night Director, the Ruminator entered the Eighth Circle of Hell<sup>5</sup> recently. As M.L. blithely preempted with five cards, bid 10% slams, and egregiously hogged the Declarer position, I was transmogrified into the Albatross – carping, judgmental, and petulant. Our second place finish<sup>6</sup> only made it worse.

## Lessons Taught, But Not Learned or Life in the World of Bridge

By Rob Weidenfeld



Yes, I have taught innumerable bridge lessons and many of them have been concerning the same theme, that being play at trick one. So it pains me no end to have to admit that what I thought was long since entrenched, may be in need of a bit of review.

BF Skinner once remarked that "Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten." Maybe as meaningful for me should be a quote from Franklin P Jones. He once said, "Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again."

Not playing on the same regular schedule to which I had become accustomed, I had a sobering session not too long ago. I was instructing my partner during lunch on how to improve on his play, I was horrified to realize that later in the session, I had made a similar mistake.

<sup>5</sup> Aptly reserved for the Fraudulent.

<sup>6</sup> 1 point shy of first place.

First, I will put on my teaching hat, then I will become the dummy, and I don't mean the one who lays his hand down on the table!

I believe that one of the best books I ever read on bridge is by Fred Karpin. It is called "Bridge Strategy at Trick One." Karpin wrote many other fine books and was a ghostwriter for many of the bridge columns attributed to Charles Goren in the 40's. The theme of this book was that more contracts are lost at trick 1 than at any other time. Every single deal in the book looks at making the right play at trick one, even when it is counterintuitive.

Because of his book, you will always hear me say when my partner leads and the dummy is placed down or when the opening lead by the opponent is made something like, "I am going to take a minute to think about the hand." I understand that most of the time it is not necessary because the play seems routine. But top players understand that the opening lead is not about play at trick one. It is about developing a strategy for the rest of the play of the hand. To not take your time at trick one is to tacitly admit that you have no further plan.

So here is how my partner handled the first deal:

The contract was 3NT and he received the lead of the

**IMPS** ♠ 9643  
 North ♥ 108  
 Deals ♦ AQ4  
 ♣ AQ105

♠ 1087  
 ♥ 9754  
 ♦ J1072  
 ♣ J4

♠ J52  
 ♥ KJ6  
 ♦ K963  
 ♣ K93

♠ AKQ  
 ♥ AQ32  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ 8762

S	W	N	E
1N	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	3N	AP

♦2. He thought for a moment and then reflexively called for the ♦Q. When this lost and a ♦ was returned, there was no way to make more than 9 tricks. When he said later that the ♦A would be a better play, I agreed

but added that it would not be the best play. When he commented that playing low doesn't seem logical, I asked what can go wrong if you do? East will be on lead and what harm can he do. If he makes the best play and plays the ♦9, he probably will not continue a ♦ whether or not he has the ♦K. If the finesse is working, you can always take it later! A ♠ or ♣ lead does you no harm. A ♥ lead may be a challenge, but even if it loses, you are no worse off. But a thinking East would find a ♥ shift unsavory as you are most likely marked with ♠AKQ and ♥AQ because you opened 1N (without both

Qs and with 2 Js instead, your hand might be downgraded at it is a flat, horrible 15 count). Declarer might therefore run a ♥ shift by East to dummy's 10, scoring 3 ♥ tricks.

Further, many intermediate players will decide to play the ♦K at trick 1 if declarer plays low from dummy. This is clearly not correct, even if declarer has the ♦J. The correct play is the ♦9. If declarer has either the ♦10 or ♦J, you are only scoring 1 ♦ trick anyway. Playing low at trick 1, allows you to protect your ♦ holding and make on the lie of the cards 10 or 11 tricks.

I further explained to partner, I had once been declaring 3NT and got a low ♣ opening lead. Here was the suit:

♣KJ5  
 ♣Q1086  
 ♣42  
 ♣A973

I had 7 tricks outside of this suit. It looks like the best I can hope for is to score 1 trick in this suit and go down 1, assuming that the honors are split. Fairly quickly I realized that I might gain by playing low if the cards were divided as above. So I played low, a little quicker than I might normally play. Apparently, this gave the impression that I had something in my hand. The defender on my right went up with the ♣A. Now with a subsequent finesse, I had my 9 tricks and a top! Again, my RHO should realize that it cannot be right to fly with the ♣A because you can always get it later. They should work out that they will leave me with an easy finesse, assuming I don't have the ♣Q. If I do, it still doesn't matter. The point is that you have to give the opposition a chance to go wrong! It is surprising how often they accommodate you!

These were similar positions. Playing low towards nothing in your hand. But your RHO will often not be able to read the position and will often believe you rather than the low card that his partner led. My partner appreciated the lesson, but then I went on to demonstrate I had the same clay feet that he did.

I cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's face it, friends make life a lot more fun.

-- Charles R. Swindoll

Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one.

-- Dr. Seuss

**IMPS** ♠ 843  
 North ♥ AQ10742  
 Deals ♦ 5  
 ♣ Q109  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ 863  
 ♦ J1084  
 ♣ J863  
 ♠ AQJ106  
 ♥ J95  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ A54  
 ♠ K52  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ AK7632  
 ♣ K72



Here was the hand:  
 We got to 3NT on a normal auction after East had opened with one spade. I avoided the spade opening lead which would have limited me to 8 tricks. West chose not to lead his better minor as I had overcalled in that suit. When he chose a low club, I now had a chance.

♠ AJ1093  
 ♥ 73  
 ♦ Q72  
 ♣ AJ8  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ QJ8  
 ♦ AJ9654  
 ♣ 72



W	N	E	You
1♥	1♠	P	2N
P	3N	AP	

You judged the hand sufficient for a 2N jump over partner's 1-level overcall. Typically this shows 12-14 HCP and invites game. You haven't found a game you didn't like! Partner's 1♠ overcall can be on 4 cards and as few as 6 HCP. Better not to bid too wildly when the range is 6-16 or so HCP.

West chose the ♥ 6, to the ♥ 3, ♥ 9, ♥ J.

It was clear to me East had to have the ♠AQJ and the ♣A for his opening bid. So delighted was I from the opening lead, that when the 9 in dummy held, I played low from hand routinely, without taking the necessary time to think at trick 1! I was now up to 2 ♣ tricks, but I could no longer make my contract, even with a 3-3 ♥ split! I led a ♥ to my king in hand, it suddenly occurred to me that I had no entry to dummy! I could lead my ♣K, but East would certainly duck as he knows my ♥s will run if I can get there. I should have realized that West most certainly held the ♣J so I could play the ♣K from hand at trick 1 providing a certain entry to the ♥s by finessing the ♣10 in dummy later. After allowing the ♣9 to hold a trick 1" I was no longer able to make the contract...

So next time you play against a declarer who plays quickly at trick 1 and then starts to think at trick 3 and 5 and maybe 8, that should tell you that barring horribly unexpected splits in the suits, that this declarer never made a plan to begin with. So from now on, take more time to think at trick one and less time during the rest of the hand. Try and look like the man/woman with a plan...not the way I looked on this last hand!

## An Interesting Hand

By Steve Moese

Here's an interesting hand from the Summer Getaway Sectional (spot cards are approximate). The event is the A/X Swiss Teams. You are South. EW are strong players but a new partnership. **EW Vulnerable. West deals. IMPS (30 Pt Victory Scale).**

Declarer can see 5 top tricks (♥J, ♠AK, ♦A, ♣A) and needs to develop 4 more. If we give West 12 HCP for their opening bid, East can have no more than 5 HCP. With the ♥ lead **EAST** is now the danger hand. That is if East gets in, then a ♥ lead will finish the suit. If the ♠ can run, perhaps we can put some pressure on East. The ♦ suit offers tricks, but the ♦ K might lie with West. If so, we are down if that finesse loses. The ♠ Q is out but might be falling doubleton. It seems marginally better to try ♠ first.

After winning the ♥J, South plays the ♠ K and a small ♠ to the table. When West plays the ♠Q, South notes that West started with 2 ♠ cards and 5 or more ♥ cards. The ♦ finesse now seems wrong because if West wins, West will know to cash the ♥AK felling the ♥Q - the contract will go down.

Instead, try running the ♠ suit. West will be under pressure to come down to 6 cards. Watch West's discards. West discards 1♦ and 2 ♣ cards on the run of the ♠s. East follows to 4 ♠ cards, but then parts with the ♣3. They play upside down signals. Looks like ♣ strength is behind the ♣ A.

Reviewing the play – West has shown 2 ♠ cards, 5 ♥ cards and thrown 4 minor suit cards (3♣ and 1♦). If we concede West holds the ♥ AK, then West has shown 9 HCP. The ♦K or the ♣ K would give West a fair opening bid. If we put the ♣ K with East, then West sure holds the ♦ K and likely holds it tripleton. That means West started with 2=5=3=3 shape and about 12 HCP. Backing our judgment we cash the ♣A seeing West discard a ♣! Now we can take advantage of the "soft" ♦Kx guard West was trying to protect. Play the remaining ♥ off the table and allow West to win 4 ♥ cards. At Trick 12, West must lead away from their ♦K. Making 3 was worth 6 Imps. This play is called a Strip Squeeze End Play.

When you have a long suit that might run, running that suit can bring pressure to the opponent guarding most of their side's high cards.

Here's the full hand:

<b>IMPS</b>	♠ AJ1093		
North	♥ 73		
Deals	♦ Q72		
	♣ AJ8		
♠Q2		♠7654	
♥AK1062		♥954	
♦K108		♦3	
♣964		♣KQ1053	
	♠ K8		
	♥ QJ8		
	♦ AJ9654		
	♣ 72		



East bemoaned that if West had led a ♣ instead of a ♥, then the contract would be defeated. Declarer can win the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♣ with the ♣ A, and run ♠ as before, forcing West to come down to 5 cards. That stymies Declarer because the defender can exit safely with the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of ♥ and

declarer must break ♦ losing the game-going trick. East comes down to ♥AK10 ♦K10. Now when North plays a ♥, West wins ♥AK and end plays South with the ♥10.

If Declarer wins the 1<sup>st</sup> ♣ trick, then on the run of the ♠s, West comes down to ♥AK10 ♦K10 ♣9, avoiding the squeeze.

I've realized that being happy is a choice. You never want to rub anybody the wrong way or not be fun to be around, but you have to be happy. When I get logical and I don't trust my instincts – That's when I get in trouble.

-- Angelina Jolie

The further you get away from yourself, the more challenging it is. Not to be in your comfort zone is great fun.

-- Benedict Cumberbatch

## DO YOU WANT TO HELP OUT?

There are many ways you can volunteer to make the Unit run smoothly and keep the quality of the bridge experience at our clubs at a high level. Do you know what the one most important thing is you can do for other members?

**PLAY MORE!** That's right – this is no joke.

If we all made an effort to play two more games a month than we do now, our games would be bigger and more fun, and the number of tables per year would grow instead of the steady 1-2% decline we see today.



Do your part – **PLAY MORE BRIDGE!**

**Interested in improving your game?  
Check out these links (must view on-line):**

**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](#)

It's the game of life. Do I win or do I lose? One day they're gonna shut the game down. I gotta have as much fun and go around the board as many times as I can before it's my turn to leave.

-- Tupac Shakur

# Cincinnati Non Life Master Sectional

September 17-18, 2016



Saturday, September 17

10:00 AM 0-NLM Single Session Pairs\*  
0-50 Single Session Pairs

(Brown bag lunch and hand record review with  
experts between sessions)

3:00 PM 0-NLM Single Session Pairs\*  
0-50 Single Session Pairs

Sunday, September 18

10:00 AM Two Session Swiss (team game)  
Lunch included!

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campbellps54@gmail.com  
(513) 720-2621

\* Stratifications: 100/300/NLM <500



- \$10 entry (\$5 Youth)  
(\$3 surcharge non or unpaid ACBL members )
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