



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

VOL XLIII No. 1 January 2018

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

From the President's Desk

Unit 124 Members,

The new year is a great time to thank all the people that make our bridge experience in the Cincinnati area special. Far too many names for an Alert article, but anyone interested can find them with a few clicks of the mouse on the www.cincybridge.com web site. On the main page click the "Saturday Supervised Play" link to see all the members that are volunteering their time to help newer players. Under CBA Board check the Committee and Key Roles link to see all the members that are working and planning activities behind the scenes. Under the "Websites" link you find all the clubs that are active in our Unit. All these players deserve our thanks and appreciation for all their hard work. We can easily find a spot for anyone willing to do help out.

The new year finds the Education committee in new student mode. The first Bridge 101 OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) thru the University of Cincinnati was completed in early December. Both OLLI Bridge 101 and 102 starting in February have registered students at our limit of 24 per class and a wait list. We will also be offering a Bridge 101 course at the Jewish Community Center this spring. OLLI and JCC offer us tremendous opportunity to expand our reach into the community. Larry Newman (Education Committee Chair), Elaine Jarchow, Jane Duncan and Mike Lipp worked tirelessly last year to develop and promote these opportunities. I am fully behind all these new education initiatives and am looking forward to participating in them and hope they continue to grow in 2018 and beyond.

There are lots of special events on the horizon in February. The REACH event begins on Saturday Feb 3 and last a week and offers players a chance to win gold points playing in their local club game. Details on our web site for interested players and clubs. We are trying a new "Progressive Sectional" the week of Feb 26 that

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Unit 124 Club Games

Mon	AM	CBC* 11:00 Inv Nky 11:00 2 nd /4 th only
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (Limited) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 AND 11:00
	PM	CBC 11:00 MIDS 11:00 SP 2:45PM CBC 7:00* NLM (Open Coming 3/23)
Wed	AM	CBC* 11:00 - SCC* 10:00 - AND 11:00
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30
Thu	AM	INT* 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - Nky 11:30 AM
	Aft	WHC* 12:00 - EAB 12:30 SP 2:45
	PM	CBC 6:30 "8 is ENOUGH" Swiss Teams 1&3
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00
	PM	
Sat	AM	CBC 9:30AM-Noon Supervised Play (SP)
	Aft	CBC 1:00

pays silver points. The Grand National Teams district 11 finals are Feb 24-25 in Louisville.

See you at the tables,

John Meinking
President Unit 124



Take Advantage!!

by Steve Moese

So tell me – how happy are you with how bridge fits in your life? Are you taking full advantage of all the club games in your vicinity? Have you thought about sharpening your game by taking a class or two? How about your friends? Is there someone who would have tons of fun playing bridge and is just waiting to be asked by you to give it a try?

You have a wealth of resources at your fingertips!

You can start with the Unit Website, a Board Member, or a director, and they can put you in touch with someone who can help you find what best meets your needs.

For example, If you are a non-life master, have you considered playing in the District 11 Grand National Teams qualifier? Haven't played teams yet? Not a problem – get 4 friends together and give it a try.

Have a skill that you think might help the Unit? Step right up! We are always looking for volunteers. Our key work has committees appointed and they are always looking for help. Check out <http://www.cincybridge.com/Committees.html> And see what strikes your fancy.

Have a good idea about making bridge more fun or finding new players? Tell a Board Member. We are always looking for good ideas and people to help carry them out.

Need GOLD Points? Try the Grand National Teams. Try the REACH (Regionals at the Club House) event (Feb 3, then Feb 5-9, 2018). Pay \$30 (for individuals willing to compete for gold) plus table fees and have your two best games chosen for national ranking. You can play up to 6 games (depending on club participation). Gold is awarded to the top ranked individuals. Those not entering the REACH pay only table fees. Why not give it a try?

We are adding a progressive sectional this year (two qualifying weeks and one final competition). Check it out on the Unit website!

We get to play bridge at our clubs for \$5 to \$8 depending on the venue and whether there is a special game. Time for some sticker shock. AMC movies cost anywhere

from \$9.75 per ticket to \$14 (3-D Omnimax) in our area give or take. Bridge at the Glen Rock Club in NJ is \$15 per session. In LA, my friends pay \$18 per session. Honors Club in NY (the largest club in tables per year in the ACBL) Charges \$30 per session. We certainly have it good here. Are you taking advantage of our lower cost and playing as much as you can? What would it take to add one more game to your weekly schedule? Just do it!

We are blessed because our Unit is currently financially sound. See our 2017 financials at: http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_financials.pdf

The Board of Directors is taking robust action to invest in Membership and Education in an effort to grow our base in our area. We depend on your help – if you have a friend or family member who might like to learn bridge please get them in touch with our Membership and our Education Committee.

In addition, we continue to invest in improving the Cincinnati Bridge Center. The Bridge Center is an important Unit asset that service 6 sanction holders and all Unit members within driving distance. We are also the preferred site for the District 11 NAP Finals and host sectionals and NLM regionals.

This year we look to renovate the floor. So what will it be? Resilient flooring or carpet – there are pluses and minuses for both. We ask only that you weigh in the next time you are at the CBC – see the flooring samples and make your choice known. What we do this June will have to last us for another 9 years!

Time to unburden yourself from all the New Year resolutions you've committed. Kick back and enjoy the January 2018 issue of the ALERT. As always we have excellent content from our stalwart contributors. If anyone knows a better Unit News Letter, let us know!

We begin our 43rd year with this Unit-wide publication. It has undergone many transformations – from a stapled and mimeographed set of mailed copies to today's electronic version. Have a good question? Have a good story? Get it to me and we'll include it in the next ALERT. This is your newsletter. Tell us what's new!

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

Steve

Editor, The ALERT moesefamily@aol.com



70% Games Oct-Dec 2017

11/1	Wed Eve NKy	Peggy Ammon	John Taylor	70.57
10/10	NKy AM	Mary Smith	Cindy Tretter	71.06
10/4	Anderson	Bill Higgins	Eugene Siutsau	71.68

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Seventy%20Percent.htm>

NORTHERN KENTUCKY BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

By Greg Brinker

A new board was elected for 2018. Cindy Tretter is President. Ron Jarchow is Treasurer. Bart Jacobs is Secretary. Sheila Dippel is Club Manager. Also Iris Libby, Brenda Mehalko, and Lynne Schomaeker are contributing members.

On a sad note, we lost Jim Hurst an original member of the club and Sue Brinkman, a longtime member.

We could not find an affordable venue for our Sectional, thus we will not host a Sectional Tournament in 2018. We would like to host it next year! We will continue to search for an appropriate venue.

The latest Club Champions

Tuesday : Bob Frey and Howard Simon
 Wednesday : Larry Klein and Norman Combs
 Thursday : Bob Frey and Greg Brinker
 Friday : Don Duritsch and Dan Hance

The Club made a major purchase! We now have a new dealing machine, making that job quicker and easier.

John Taylor qualified and played in the National Junior Bridge Tournament in Atlanta. His grandparents Jack and Peg Ammon are very proud. Said John, "I traveled to Atlanta to compete in the U21 United States Bridge Federation Trials, with a team mainly from the Cincinnati Unit (Isaac played with JD, I played with someone from Maryland). We lost by 5 IMPs in the semifinals to a team from Silicon Valley that went on to win it all."

The bridge club is a whole lot more than playing bridge. It is a social club, great old friends and new friends every year. Cindy, our President has found Holidays to celebrate that I didn't know existed. We are having fun with Popcorn Day, Hat day, Backward day and more. I enjoy the Tuesday and Friday lunch break. Every time you end up at a different table, a different pair to dine with. Recent conversations such as: Do the Eagles have a chance against Tom Brady? One member loves those damn Steelers. We spoke about the antique cars they

have restored. About his 75th birthday with a very German theme. Her trip to observe the "eclipse". About serving the less fortunate free lunches. Then there is always the grand kids...

CBC NEWS

TIME CHANGES:

"8 is Enough" Swiss Team starts at **6:30 PM** every 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings. Players are assigned a Point value based on the number of master points as follows: 1 Point: <500 Masterpoints; 2 Points: 500-2000 MPs; 3 Points: > 2000 MPs. No Team can have more than 8 Points. Great Fun. Sign up with John: jokingme71@gmail.com

GAME LIMIT CHANGE

The Unit 124 NLM Game (7:00 PM Tuesday Evenings at the CBC) has changed to include any player under 500 Masterpoints®. This means life masters under 500 points can now play! As always contact Debbie Wiest with any questions.

GAME FORMAT CHANGE

Mike Lipp's Monday night and Wednesday morning games have changed to **4 is enough** pair games.

Partnerships!

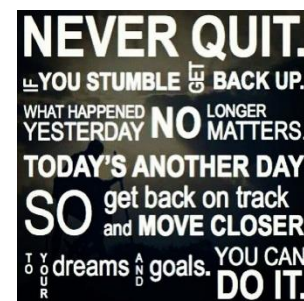
By Joanne Earls

If you're looking for a partner for a single game, call the director of the game you want to play in - s/he's the first to know about others who are available for that game. You can find directors' names on the cincybridge.com website. Another great way to meet prospective partners is at lessons or during supervised play. Unsure about an appropriate game? Call me!



If you'd like a regular partner, give me a call or send an email telling me about your game and your interests. How many master points do you have? What system/conventions do you play? Are you a ferocious competitor or a more relaxed player? Which games are you available to play in, and when can you start? I'll do my best to find someone who's also looking for a standing game.

Joanne Earls
 772-4395
jolman@fuse.net



Name Tags

Contact Joanne Earls – 772-4395; jolman@fuse.net

Your Name Here
Cincinnati Bridge Association

First nametag FREE to new members!
Otherwise \$4 each.

OH BILL, BILL, BILL!

By Dean Congbalay
dcongbalay@comey.com



I was playing with my buddy Mr. Cook at Anderson. On the very last board, he opened 1♠ in the second seat. I nearly fell off my chair. In my hand were 23 points — with a long suit! I made an economical bid of 2♥, and once we determined that we had all four aces and all four kings, we zoomed to 7NT. It may not have been the most scientific bidding, but hey, we're Realtors, not P&G engineers!

Once the lead was played, I told Bill to close his eyes as I laid down my dummy. After I placed all my cards on the table, I took out my phone and got the camera ready. "OK, buddy, open your eyes!" I said — and then promptly snapped his picture as he took in all the beautiful faces looking at him.



He brought home all 13 tricks, and smiled as he placed his cards back in the tray.

After the game, he was still grinning. "You know, that was the first time I ever bid and made a grand slam," he said as we walked away from the table.

"Ah, my friend, you never forget your first time," I said. "You never forget your first time!"

ACBL Board of Directors - D11 Update – San Diego

By AJ Stephani



Just a quick check in to let you know about the happenings on the ACBL Board level and inside the ACBL. . . We knew that our San Diego meetings would be packed with motions and discussion items, which made up for the Summer NABC meetings in Toronto, which had fewer motions than normal. I won't detail everything, but these decisions affect a wide swath of activities across the ACBL ecosystem.

CEO Update

Our new CEO, Bahar Gidwani, has been a whirlwind of ideas and activity in his first 6 months. From what I see, Bahar is a tireless worker, and his energy has injected much-needed introspection into the organization. He has asked a lot from the various ACBL Board Committees and Task Forces. Many of you have read or have heard of "Bahar's Big Ideas," as they're coming to be known. Some of these ideas are terrific — some not so much — but they all needed some serious work before they were implemented, or in some cases, discarded. We got a chance to do this in San Diego, prioritizing his Big Ideas and integrating them into formal Board motions. Some of the ideas proposed struck us as management overreach. Some weren't big deals, but they struck a top-down authoritative tone that we felt was inappropriate for an organization as diverse as ours.

On the whole, the Board had a productive set of meetings with Bahar in San Diego, and he has worked more closely with us in developing his next set of Big Ideas, which are already out and in the process of being absorbed. I am eager to see what 2018 has in store for us.

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

New ACBL President



I'm pleased to announce that Jay Whipple (Boca Grande, Florida) is our 2018 ACBL President. The President of the Board is a 1-year volunteer elected position that serves as something of an ambassadorial role to the ACBL Membership. You probably all know Jay

through the innovations he has introduced to our daily bridge lives – he's the moving force behind The Common Game, Fast Results, and many of the electronic support services behind our Regional tournaments. We may see Jay in one of our Regionals this year!

Developments Affecting Regionals

Regionals have attracted a lot of the Board's attention over the past year. Regional attendance is down significantly (almost 7% between 2013 and 2016), and the rate of decrease is accelerating. Yet, the number of Regionals is increasing slightly. As a result, we see "thinning" in individual Regional events, with many small Regionals unable to attract teams for more than 1 KO bracket and some events being canceled entirely. No District wants to give up a Regional, however, as they continue to be profitable (though less so) and serve the needs of our members. A solution will not be easy.

Nonetheless, the Board is encouraging Regionals to innovate, one of which is the "Mini-Soloway" format for KOs. Brackets are run as 2-session Swisses or round robins the first day, with the top 4 teams in each bracket qualifying for the semifinals the second day. Our own Flying Pig Regional will use this approach next June 11-17 – look for details soon.

REACH Experiment and At-the-Table Changes

I'm really excited about our new **REACH** (Regional Events At Club Houses) experiment, which will be underway (or just completed) as you read this. We'd love your feedback!

Sometime in 2018, you can expect the Board to pass a complete re-write of our convention card charts. I'm not talking about our convention cards, which are designed and printed by private companies, but the charts that govern which conventions are legal in different events, including tournaments and games at your local club. Likely gone will be the General Convention Chart,

Midchart, and Super Chart, and in their place will be 2 streamlined charts for MP-limited games and newer players (the Basic Chart and Basic+ Chart) and 2 charts for all other games (the Open Chart, and Open+ Chart).

I won't attempt to list the likely changes you will see, but if you are interested in those kinds of things, the biggest change is that the Open and Open+ Charts will be "Blacklist" charts. This means that all bidding agreements will be allowed unless they are specifically disallowed. This is different from the current convention chart structure, all of which are "Whitelist" charts (bidding agreements disallowed unless specifically allowed). Make sure you're reading the charts properly when you use them.

We meet in Philadelphia for the 2018 Spring NABC, and I hope to see many of you there! Drop me a line to let me know if you're going, and if you see me, definitely say hi! And GET READY FOR COLUMBUS Spring 2020! There's nothing more I would love to see than charter busses running from Greater Cincinnati to Columbus several days throughout the tournament, with a Masterpoint Winner list filled with players from the Cincinnati area. So, put March 19-29, 2020 on your calendar now!

As always, thanks for the opportunity to be your representative on the ACBL Board of Directors, and I welcome your feedback and input. I am always available by phone (513-313-0488) or e-mail (AJStephani@gmail.com) with questions or concerns.

The 2018 Flying Pig Regional will be held June 11-17 at the Sharonville Ramada Plaza. Put in on your calendars now!



"Don't bother to be better than your contemporaries or your predecessors. Try to be better than yourself."
– William Faulkner

2017 UNIT 124 AWARDS

By Steve Moese

The Unit 124 Board of Directors wishes to extend their congratulations and best wishes to the following winners of major awards announced during the 2017 Holiday Party and Game:

Peggy Ammon - The Jerry Steuernagle Award, given annually to the player best exemplifying ethics, kindness, and high character in bridge based on: Contributions to the promotion of bridge, setting high ethical standards, compassion, sportsmanship and sense of humor, and willingness to help less experienced players. Jerry Steuernagle (1940 – 1971) was one of Cincinnati's most liked and respected bridge players, known for always being a gentleman at the bridge table. This is considered the highest Unit honor. Peg merits this award based on her demeanor at the table, friendliness to new players, service to the Unit, teaching and mentoring new players, and her infectious happiness.

Robert S Brown - The Patti Eber Award, given to those members for service to the Unit above and beyond the call. Robert has been instrumental in helping the Unit with it's search for a new facility for the CBC, with negotiating favorable terms for a long term lease at our current location, exploring solutions to the parking limitations at the CBC, and of course for his highly read "Ruminations" series in the CBA ALERT.

Mike Purcell - The Nancy Sachs Mentor of the Year Award. Mike has served the Unit as Education Chair and Unit Board member in the recent past and continues to organize the very popular and well attended Saturday Supervised Bridge Series.

We are very lucky to have you supporting the mission of our Unit. Congratulations one and all. Well done indeed. (see p. 15 for Holiday Party Bridge Results)

Stop in the Name Of ???

By Potter Orr

After two decades of use, the STOP card is history – at least for all ACBL Regionals and Nationals.



The Board of Directors decided that the Stop card was not being used for the purpose intended but was instead mostly used to alert the Stopper's partner to the existence of a jump bid. This use constitutes unauthorized information and led to the

ban. In addition, it has always been a source of confusion for newer players. On balance the negatives outweighed the positives.

Individual Clubs are allowed to keep the Stop card but are encouraged to remove them so their players will not have to play one way locally and a different way at tournaments.

In addition to the ban of the Stop card, players in tournaments are no longer permitted to verbally announce the jump by saying "Skip Bid" or any variant of the phrase. Every player at the table must watch each bid and appreciate it's meaning.

Despite the absence of "reminders" the rules require each player to pause at their turn to bid (nominally 10 seconds) after their right hand opponent has made a jump bid. The purpose of the pause is to make sure no information is passed to their partner. A 10 second pause EVERY time assures that partner has no possible inference. Without the uniform pause and instantaneous Pass after a jump bid would indicate no values. On the other hand a pause might be taken as out of tempo and suggesting values. Taking 10 seconds every time allows the extra time sometimes needed to rethink the alternatives after opponent's jump bid.

My mother was from Mississippi so I try to count at least 8 of her home state after a jump bid.

(See P 15 for a special thank you to Potter and Sandy).

EPISODE 21: FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN

By Steve Felson

*Falling in love again
Never wanted to
What am I to do
I can't help it.*



[Marlene Dietrich, *The Blue Angel* (1930); English lyrics by Sammy Lerner]

*What is Love, I ask you,
And my answer is complete,
It's the smile upon the face of
A rhinoceros in heat.*

["What is Love" from the hit album *The Harvard Lampoon Tabernacle Choir Sings at Leningrad Stadium* (Vanitas Records 1961); Lyrics by C. Cerf & M. Frith; **Shades Felson on saxophone; available wherever weird music is sold**]

Back in 2013 I wrote an *Alert* episode (# 9) called “Falling in Love with Spades.” The Love in question compelled my spade-loving partner, Robert Brown, to open 2♠ vulnerable with:

♠	K 10 8 7 4 3
♥	2
♦	9 7 2
♣	10 8 3

Since this bid produced a top board, and since Bob only considers results, I used my *Alert* space not to chide him but rather to discuss the complicated connection between Love and the world of bridge. Naturally, I put the most emphasis on the expert opinions of the old-time songwriters, who plainly knew a lot about Love. (Come on, everybody knows that’s true.) In other words, I kept quiet about the rules of preemption, merely ending my episode with “Well played, partner – gotta love those spade preempts.”

I now feel compelled to return to the theme of bridge, Love, and spades, in light of Bob’s bidding below. I will start with Robert (Bob) Frost’s most profound literary rule: “Rhymeless love poetry is like netless tennis.” And I think most bridge teachers would say the same thing about bidding rules. Ignore them and you end up wildly swinging catgut to no purpose, no fun for you and certainly no fun for the cat. (*Poetic license alert:* In the world of tennis, “catgut” is merely a slang term for the cow and sheep intestine used to make racket strings before synthetics.)

On the other hand, there do still exist a few emotional, risk-taking, true poet-players like Bob Brown. He will ski down any snowy cliff in the known universe as long as there is an orthopedic surgeon at the bottom. He sobs at Buster Keaton movies, such as this sad scene.



So many rules just for preemption. A rule for preempting vulnerable and a rule for preempting non-vulnerable. A rule for length in a side-suit major and a rule for side aces. It’s almost biblical (see Ecclesiastes Ch. 3, verses 2-8, and the Pete Seeger cover song from the late 1950s, which he called *Turn! Turn! Turn!* and which bridge players may think of as *Count! Count! Count!*)

In perfect consistency, he spits vigorously (*ptui!*) on hard-and-fast bridge rules, arguing that their followers (like me) have minds which are small, infertile, barren, sterile, fruitless, blocked, unproductive, idle, inactive, fallow, and uncreative. “Rules,” he says, “are a *Phoebastria albatrus* around my neck.” As a reminder he keeps this over his bunk:



[Short-tailed albatross, Midway Atoll, 2007]

Yes, the Felson-Brown partnership, passion versus rules, and here is yet another example, from a recent sectional on the Loop of Henle. This kidney-shaped dump is a major source of sodium, potassium, and chloride ions; fine powder everywhere. The residents are dim, dry, dirty, dusty, and nondescript, as at any bridge venue where mining is cheap and hand-soap expensive. At least half the players in the hall would not qualify for any known branch on the primate family tree. However, we’re here to play bridge, not to gossip about the dust-repellent exoskeletons of the locals, so we pick up our first board, East dealer, both vulnerable.

“An ounce of performance is worth a pound of promises.” - Mae West

I expect some action for two reasons:
First, the hand I'm holding looks pretty good:

♠ A2
♥ QJ65
♦ AQJ43
♣ 103

Second, I see Bob's face across the table:



I haven't seen such an ecstatic rhino smile since Operation Aphrodisiac on the grassy plains of Maridun. I know I'm not allowed to take any inference from this unauthorized information but I can't help anticipating extra values or wild distribution. East passes. Bob fiddles around with his bidding buttons and finally lights up 4S. I know from bitter experience that this could mean anything from 6-10 spades; 5-10 losers; 0-6 hearts; and 4-11 HCP. What about 7-6-0-0 with slam possibilities? Sure, he preempted with that very distribution just last week. So I follow the advice on page 1 of my recent pamphlet, *Bidding With / Against Robert Brown*: "When

you see a rhinoceros in love, stand back, stay calm, and, whatever you do, don't overbid.

Contract: **Me**
4♠ ♠ A2
Lead: ♥4 ♥ QJ65
♦ AQJ43
♣ 103

♠ KQ75 ♠ ---
♥ 4 ♥ K102
♦ 9862 ♦ K1075
♣ AQ54 ♣ KJ9862

N
W E
S

Robert
♠ J1098643
♥ A9873
♦ ---
♣ 7

Everyone passes 4♠, West leads his singleton heart, and – you guessed it – love conquers all.

Despite his having only seven spades to the jack and despite his ignoring

the possibility of a heart fit, Bob has come up with a love-bid that goes down only on the unlikely lead of the AC – otherwise he has time to get rid of his club loser on the AD. Even better, if (like many Souths) Bob had decided to pass and "come alive" later, or (like many other Souths) had opened 1S, East-West might well have gotten to 5 clubs (as many did), also beatable only on the unlikely North lead of the AD and another diamond (and by no lead whatsoever from south, if East is declarer).

Did I criticize my creative partner for breaking a few lousy preemption rules and giving us a top board over 191 other pairs? Absolutely not. Spades are spades and Brown is Brown and True Love is forever. Ask an expert such as Cole Porter, who wrote True Love" for Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly to sing sweetly in *High Society* (1956):

Feeling far above par
Oh, how lucky we are

And you just know Mr. Porter (Winchester, Yale, Harvard) played bridge.

A HUMOR-FREE DISCUSSION OF SUIT COMBINATIONS

By **Rob Weidenfeld**



I vary from my normal witty presentation of fictional characters who offer bridge lessons that can be found nowhere else but in the fantasy-driven mind of this author. Today I will be more disciplined and give you a sampling of how many players tend to butcher the play of a suit combination which appear at the table on a regular basis.

When I came to Cincinnati 40 years ago, I decided to get serious about bridge. After playing a lot and reading even more, I invested in The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge. It is a publication of the ACBL, updated yearly. We have older copies in our bridge library if you are interested.

I read a lot about systems, squeezes and odd things like winkles, but I was truly fascinated by suit combinations. As an aficionado of the mechanism involved, it can be truly painful to watch players, particularly experienced ones, not play a combination for the maximum number of tricks. The beauty of studying even a few pages of them is that you begin to get a feel for what to watch for and then figure these combinations out on your own.

When I present the ones for today, I will divide them up into 3 categories. One set for beginners, one for intermediates, and one for advanced players. In the encyclopedia, the chapters are divided by first, how many points the defense has. Then by which cards they have which total those points. Finally by how many cards you have in the combination.

Here is a simple example:

Axxxx opposite Q109

You are declarer and you are looking at dummy. The defense has 4 points in the suit. How do you play the suit?

The answer is you don't know yet. While most often at matchpoints you want to maximize your tricks, that is not always the case. And it is frequently not the case in a team game. Here, there is a different answer depending on the number of tricks you need to take.

For 4 tricks, the answer is to run the queen. If it loses, get back to your hand and run the ten. The pages tell us that you have a 60% chance of scoring 4 tricks. If you are playing in a team game and need only 3 tricks, lead small to the 9 and you have a 98% chance of getting 3 tricks. If you want to maximize your tricks, lead small to the 9, run the Q through next. You will take on average 3.57 tricks.

The encyclopedia has 9 entries for just this combination when the declarer has a total of 8 cards. This is why there are 56 pages in the encyclopedia of just suit combinations. Now let's try some for you. Answers are at the end.

BEGINNERS

1. **AQ10 opposite xx** - Declarer has 5 cards. How do you play for 2 or 3 tricks? What must the holding be for East or West so you can take 3 tricks
2. **Qxx opposite J9** - Declarer has 5 cards. How do you play for 1 trick? What is your hope to be able to take even one trick?

INTERMEDIATE

3. **AQxxxx opposite xxxxx** - Declarer has 11 cards. You lead small towards dummy and West plays small. How do you play for 6 tricks?
4. **AK10x opposite Jxx** - Declarer has 7 cards. How do you play for 4 tricks? What is the only East or West holding where you can accomplish this goal?

ADVANCED

5. **AQxx opposite J9xx** - Declarer has 8 cards. How do you play for 4 or 3 tricks?
6. **Qxxxx opposite 10xx** - Declarer has 8 cards. How do you play for 3 or 2 tricks?

ANSWERS

1. To get 2 tricks, lead towards the Q or 10, although playing the 10 is slightly superior. You have a 76% chance of success. For 3 tricks, you must play to the 10 first. Playing to the Q first will never work because you need to have the king and jack in the West hand. If you play to the Queen first, you cannot pick up the K-J any longer even if it is the West hand. Your odds here are 25% and can be easily calculated. The odds of finding any given card in a hand is 50%. The odds of finding any two specific cards in one hand the odds are (50% x 50%, or 1/2 x 1/2) which equals 25% of ¼.
2. Short of finding the the ace and King in the same hand which is against the odds, you should play low towards your hand and insert the 9, hoping that the 10 is in the East hand. Your chance to make one trick are 50%.
3. Play the ace. The singleton king with East is 2% more likely than Kx with West. Your success ratio by playing the ace is 52%
4. Obviously 3 tricks are always there. To play for 4 tricks, your best shot is to lead to the ace, get back to your hand and lead towards the 10. Don't lead the jack from hand. Why? West may have Qx.
5. For 4 tricks, start by finessing the queen. If it holds you must guess when you get back to your hand if to lead the jack trapping the now singleton 10 in the East hand or leading small to the ace, hoping that the king was doubleton in the West hand. If the K10x is in the West hand, you cannot take 4 tricks. You have a 16% chance on this line. For your best chance at 3 tricks, do not finesse! Lead to the ace, and then back to hand to lead small to the Q! This is a 90% line of play for 3 tricks.
6. For 3 tricks, lead small to the queen. If the jack appears from West, cover with the queen, and then duck the next round; if the ace or king appears on the first round, lead to the queen again; and if the jack does not appear from West and you lose to the ace or king, you cannot make 3 tricks. There is a 20% chance you will be successful. For 2 tricks, that happens anytime the cards are 3-2 against you. To increase your odds, lead toward the queen and duck the first trick. If an honor

appears on the first round, lead small to the 10 next; otherwise lead to the queen again.

So how did you do? Here is my scale if you tried them all.

IF YOUR SCORE IS:

- 0- There is still hope for you...at solitaire.
- 1- Be patient. Bridge players aren't built in a day, or in your case maybe a few years.
- 2- Hey you are out of the beginner phase. Now it's time to get serious.
- 3- Be happy...opponents are not chuckling anymore when you sit down to play against them.
- 4-Directors are now starting to consider not putting you in a section because there are already enough good players in that section.
- 5- Other players are telling the director they would rather play in a different section.
- 6- I have some open dates coming up. Please give me a call.

RANKINGS AND RATINGS

By Steve Moese

There's much discussion about how well one's accumulated masterpoints® reflect one's current strength and skill as a bridge player. There is general agreement that a player with 100 points is usually less capable than one with 1,000 points, who is usually less capable than one with 10,000 points. However, one's skill can certainly differ from one's masterpoint holdings. Certain new players have terrific judgment but lack experience. Then there's the apocryphal rubber bridge veteran who plays duplicate only occasionally. Recent success is a better predictor of how well one will do in a given event but is somewhat harder to measure.

Chris Champion (Colorado Springs Unit 360) has created an individual ranking system. See:

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/PR.HTM

Chris's algorithm takes into account your results across all your partnerships and determines what score you would expect in an average field if you played with yourself. Here's a brief description of the method:

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/DEFI NEPR.HTM

How might one use power ratings? Check out:

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/How%20to%20use%20PR.htm

The concept of individual rating can be generalized to rate pairs, teams, Units and even Districts. Unit Power

"We don't rise to the level of our expectations, we fall to the level of our training." - Archilocus

Ranking (How strong are our players compared to other units?)

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/WEB PAGES/UNITPR.HTM

District 11 Individual Power Rankings

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/WEB PAGES/DISTRICT/D11RANK.HTM

A Pair's rating is the average of the two power ratings. Same for a team. Indeed Chris Champion provides a predictor of your success with (almost any) partner in a pair game or your teammates in a team game. If you want to try out this tool check out:

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/prpr edt.htm

Want to add your club games to the Colorado Springs Data? Here's how:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/colorado-bridge-ratings-wants-your-club/>

There are other proposed approaches to defining one's playing strength to rely less on lifetime accumulated masterpoints and more on your recent competitive record.

Ping Hu (Unit 123) introduced an ELO rating system that works similarly to Chess Master ratings. See:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/an-elo-rating-system-for-bridge/>

for a brief presentation of results.

The English Bridge Union computes individual and partnership grades:

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/ngs> and
<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/miscellaneous/ngs/full-guide.pdf>

The Unit 124 Website (Milestones menu) has two links to Power Rankings. The Top 5000 list:

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/WEB PAGES/ALLPR.HTM

Unit 124 Power Rankings:

http://www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/WEB PAGES/U124WEB/U124UWP.HTM

Here is the current (January 25, 2018) Masterpoint rankings for the top 100 Unit 124 members:

Cincinnati Lifetime Master Points

MP Rank	MP's	Name	Top 5000
1	26059.97	COOMBS, Norman	1308
2	19881.43	GRANOVETTER, Matt	80
3	14554.41	GRANOVETTER, Pamela	267
4	13690.98	SULGROVE, Robert	1418
5	10884.94	HIGGINS, William	4895
6	8577.15	SIUTSAU, Yauheni	69
7	8442.65	PARENT, Bruce	
8	7582.38	RATURI, Amitabh	520
9	5470.14	CRANK, Tim	
10	5353.88	LUETGE, Nancy	
11	4851.87	DAVIS, Lorna	2399
12	4784.87	LEVNSON, Barbara	
13	4703.49	COOMBS, Bill	3750
14	4567.73	TOTH, Jackie	4725
15	4514.47	KLEN, Larry	
16	4494.13	TRAVIS, Diane	
17	4434.74	FISHER, Joe	
18	4148.61	CHERNIN, Sherby	
19	4017.74	KENDALL, Karen	
20	3868.34	PLEATMAN, Cliff	760
21	3862.11	HABASH, Anton	4209
22	3604.16	LANY, Agnes	
23	3452.71	FISK, Robert	2721
24	3374.82	YOUNG, Margaret	
25	3348.34	MEYERS, Jacqueline	
26	3286.29	MEINKING, John	1446
27	3233.13	ISRASKY, Jeffrey	
28	3161.87	MULFORD, Kay	1443
29	2971.27	MUENKS, Joseph	1934
30	2914.52	PSCHESANG, Paul	
31	2910.61	REYNOLDS, Chuck	
32	2885.16	WHIPPLE, Peter	
33	2868.33	STEPHANIA	401
34	2843.48	WEIDENFELD, Rob	
35	2843.13	MOESE, Stephen	1455
36	2815.75	DUNNVANT, Barbara	
37	2726.63	CUMMINGS, Deborah	
38	2690.68	MAYS, Terry	
39	2685.14	WOLBER, Linda	
40	2675.19	PURCELL, Michael	2209
41	2667.26	WALTER, Otto	
42	2656.62	KIEFFER, Jodie	
43	2635.68	NEWMAN, Patricia	
44	2635.61	AMMON, Peggy	2570
45	2610.71	GOODMAN, Diane	4091
46	2603.56	ZEFF, Ann	
47	2563.77	O'CONNOR, Rick	
48	2507.02	GOYAL, Arun	3626
49	2487.64	MEHALKO, Jack	
50	2449.95	DIPPEL, Sheila	

50	2449.95	DIPPEL, Sheila	
51	2418.33	FISHER, Amy	
52	2329.34	KOLODZIK, Marvin	
53	2324.82	LPP, Michael	
54	2300.28	SPIEGEL, Harriet	
55	2287.14	MIRUS, Gerry	
56	2285.04	MA, Mike	1835
57	2222.57	SPIITZ, Jo	
58	2218.16	NETHERWOOD, A	
59	2210.83	PETER, Mary	
60	2200.45	CAMPBELL, Lou	
61	2174.72	KATZ, Jerry	
62	2160.68	FOX, Joan	
63	2152.68	HANCE, Dan	
64	2150.86	FREEMAN, Michael	
65	2134.91	OWENS, Laura	4792
66	2111.19	BROIDA, M	
67	2094.37	KATZ, Joann	
68	2076	LONG, Edward	
69	2073.1	HURST, Betty	
70	2061.68	REYNOLDS, Nancy	
71	2037.29	VASUDEVAN, Vijay	3607
72	2009.31	MARRS, Patricia	
73	2001.21	OGLE, Helen	3880
74	1977.45	MEHALKO, Brenda	
75	1970.64	BARRETT, Peggy	
76	1944.81	HERRE, Ema	
77	1929.23	RUEHL, Judy	
78	1927.16	REID, Nathaniel	
79	1917.42	TRETTER, Cindy	
80	1833.34	MINEARD, M	2546
81	1824.67	SUAREZ, Belen	
82	1806.15	NETHERWOOD, V	
83	1775.47	COOMBS, Ann	
84	1768.29	BOSWELL, Barbara	3922
85	1766.47	EBER, Patty	
86	1737.83	ROSEN, Myrna	
87	1731.91	ETSON, Donald	
88	1710.63	WULF, Ray	
89	1685.07	CHAVEZ, Gerakline	
90	1660.75	SCHOMAEKER, Lynne	
91	1654.4	BROCKMAN, Tony	
92	1617.43	COY, Cordeil	
93	1606.35	BURPEE, Jane	
94	1602.72	CARTER, Bobby	
95	1586.56	MARTIN, Timothy	
96	1542.85	BEHR, Herb	
97	1530.64	NORWOOD, Alfred	
98	1523.91	WAGAJ, Prakash	
99	1508.09	PLESHEK, Richard	
100	1506.17	PARKER, Bonnie	

Certainly, you recognize many member names from your club and tournament games or the time they spend coaching other players.

Next to the list of Masterpoint holdings is a Top 5000 ranking. This shows the ranking of Unit 124 members in the top 5000 players of over 35,000 ranked players (remember there are 168,000 or so ACBL members). Let's show just those with a top 5000 ranking in declining rank order:

Cincinnati Lifetime Master Points				
MP Rank	MP's	Name	Top 5000	Top 5K Unit Rank
6	8577	SIUTSAU, Yauheni	69	1
2	19881	GRANOVETTER, Matt	80	2
3	14554	GRANOVETTER, Pamela	267	3
33	2868	STEPHANI, A	401	4
8	7582	RATURI, Amitabh	520	5
20	3868	PLEATMAN, Cliff	760	6
1	26060	COOMBS, Norman	1308	7
4	13691	SULGROVE, Robert	1418	8
28	3162	MULFORD, Kay	1443	9
26	3286	MEINKING, John	1446	10
35	2843	MOESE, Stephen	1455	11
56	2285	MA, Mike	1835	12
29	2971	MUENKS, Joseph	1934	13
40	2675	PURCELL, Michael	2209	14
11	4852	DAVIS, Lorna	2399	15
80	1833	MINEARD, M	2546	16
44	2636	AMMON, Peggy	2570	17
23	3453	FISK, Robert	2721	18
71	2037	VASUDEVAN, Vijay	3607	19
48	2507	GOYAL, Arun	3626	20
13	4703	COOMBS, Bill	3750	21
73	2001	OGLE, Helen	3880	22
84	1768	BOSWELL, Barbara	3922	23
45	2611	GOODMAN, Diane	4091	24
21	3862	HABASH, Anton	4209	25
14	4568	TOTH, Jackie	4725	26
65	2135	OWENS, Laura	4792	27
5	10885	HIGGINS, William	4895	28

So now you see how recent success at the table and lifetime accumulated masterpoints® do not necessarily correlate.

Let's take one more look at our Unit. This time we list to top 100 players by power rating. Surprised?

Top 75% of All Rated Players			
Rank	PR	Games	Name
1	67.18	281	SIUTSAU, Yauheni
2	66.89	80	GRANOVETTER, Matt
3	64.79	90	GRANOVETTER, Pamela
4	63.95	134	STEPHANI, A
5	63.41	165	RATURI, Amitabh
6	62.58	333	PLEATMAN, Cliff
7	61.93	85	SALEM, Frank
8	61.93	61	VOGEL, Steve
9	61.55	41	COMER, Marvin
10	61.26	541	COOMBS, Norman
11	61.06	218	MEINKING, John
12	61.05	203	SULGROVE, Robert
13	61.05	114	MOESE, Stephen
14	61	106	MULFORD, Kay
15	60.38	197	MA, Mike
16	60.16	53	MUENKS, Joseph
17	59.81	67	PURCELL, Michael
18	59.54	358	DAVIS, Lorna
19	59.51	70	MEHTA, Narendra
20	59.37	105	MINEARD, M
21	59.35	100	AMMON, Peggy
22	59.16	331	FISK, Robert
23	58.58	140	BEAUPRE, Albert
24	58.27	82	VASUDEVAN, Vijay
25	58.26	111	GOYAL, Arun
26	58.16	44	SIMON, Howard
27	58.15	252	KOPPENHAFFER, Daniel
28	58.14	39	COOMBS, Bill
29	57.99	26	OGLE, Helen
30	57.94	48	EGER, James
31	57.92	176	SCHULTZ, Dennis
32	57.88	63	BOSWELL, Barbara
33	57.8	306	GOODMAN, Diane
34	57.7	238	HABASH, Anton
35	57.42	230	BRAUSCH, Terry
36	57.29	219	KUSHNER, Sheldon
37	57.26	424	TOTH, Jackie
38	57.22	71	LATHAM, Mary
39	57.21	176	OWENS, Laura
40	57.21	47	KURTZMAN, Julian
41	57.15	27	JACOBS, Barton
42	57.14	318	HIGGINS, William
43	56.98	267	YOUNG, Margaret
44	56.93	303	LANY, Agnes
45	56.93	102	FISHER, Amy
46	56.9	92	STEPHANI, Isaac
47	56.84	220	ZEFF, Ann
48	56.84	127	WILLIAMS, J
49	56.82	128	HERRE, Emma
50	56.78	225	NEWMAN, Lawrence

"The highest levels of performance come to people who are centered, intuitive, creative, and reflective - people who know to see a problem as an opportunity." - Deepak Chopra

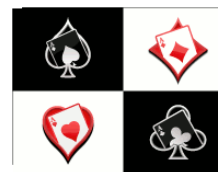
Top 75% of All Rated Players

Rank	PR	Games	Name
51	56.74	72	ORR, P
52	56.72	46	TAYLOR, John
53	56.72	348	LEVINS ON, Barbara
54	56.59	73	WEIDENFELD, Rob
55	56.36	162	PROSISE, Marilyn
56	56.33	120	WALTER, Otto
57	56.27	157	KLEIN, Larry
58	56.22	49	CARTER, Bobby
59	56.17	190	KENDALL, Karen
60	56.12	204	CUMMINGS, Deborah
61	56.06	80	BRITT, David
62	56.01	112	KATZ, Jerome
63	55.93	140	FISHER, Joe
64	55.92	36	ROSE, Janet
65	55.83	197	BARRETT, Peggy
66	55.78	112	MARRS, Patricia
67	55.75	40	JACKSON, Henry
68	55.71	136	MALHOTRA, Jagmohan
69	55.66	170	FRANKLIN, Sanford
70	55.61	89	OPPELT, Joanne
71	55.6	184	TIGHE, Martin
72	55.57	173	RINGEL, Howard
73	55.52	452	LPP, Michael
74	55.51	121	JARCHOW, Elaine
75	55.35	35	KOLODZIK, Marvin
76	55.34	55	BISHOP, Phyllis
77	55.34	140	LONG, Edward
78	55.18	52	O'CONNOR, Rick
79	55.13	87	DUNNIVANT, Barbara
80	55.01	349	LUETGE, Nancy
81	54.89	211	SPITZ, Jo
82	54.82	163	PETERSEN, Martin
83	54.81	44	COY, Corde ll
84	54.79	122	WISNER, Susan
85	54.71	242	RUEHL, Judy
86	54.58	73	GUPTA, Arun
87	54.48	253	BRENDAMOUR, Reeta
88	54.46	312	BURNS, Mike
89	54.45	76	BANSAL, Ambrish
90	54.29	194	TEDRICK, Joyce
91	54.28	232	WAULGMAN, Barry
92	54.18	71	LICHTENBERGER, Frank
93	54.14	56	WICKSTROM, Harry
94	54.12	70	PROSISE, Robert
95	54.1	95	GRIM, Alexander
96	54.02	148	MESS, Helen
97	54.01	212	FELSON, Stephen
98	53.95	81	MESS, Tom
99	53.93	35	MIRUS, Gery
100	53.74	21	SCHOMAEKER, Lynne

SAVE THE DATES

Crossroads of America Regional

Jan 29 - Feb 4, 2018



International
Fund Game

At the CBC

Date: February 3 (Saturday Afternoon)

Masterpoints: 50/50 red and black at 81.8% sectional rating.

Overall Awards: 1st, 20; depth - 10 places
District Winners: 1st, 10; depth - 5 places

Winners recognized on website and in the Bridge Bulletin. Hand records and analyses provided electronically.

FIRST REACH GOLD POINT EVENT

REACH REGIONAL EVENT
AT CLUB HOUSE

Play at your local club for a chance to win gold points!
February 3 and 5-9 ♦

REACH (Regional At the Club House) Coming in Early February - Starting with the International Fund Game on Saturday February 3, 2018. Pay a one-time \$30 and your best 2 games through 2/3, and 2/5-9 put you in contention for **GOLD POINTS** in a national competition. Regular club table fees also apply. Not interested in competing for gold? No problem - come and play your game and pay regular table fees for black points. Participating Clubs only.

ACBL Details: <http://www.acbl.org/reach-2/>



For details see:

<http://www.district11bridge.com/GNT.html>

Cincinnati Bridge Association PROGRESSIVE SECTIONAL

SILVER POINTS!

Finals: October 7, 2018

More Points Than STaCs!

Two Qualifying Weeks:

Feb 26 to Mar 4, 2018 and October 1-6, 2018

This could be the best way to get your silver points at the club!

New days for our Premier Sectional – Thursday – Friday – Saturday



March 8-18, 2018

Philadelphia PA
Philadelphia Marriott

"If you can't measure it, you can't improve it."

– Peter Drucker

"I often say when you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot measure it, you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind." – Lord Kelvin



HOLD THE DATES! JUN 10-11 2018

Robert Todd Lectures at the CBC

Need more information on Robert?

Go to his website: <http://www.advinbridge.com>

Want some references? Ask Pam Campbell, Stacy Vanstone, Martin Gibler, or Cecilia. There will be two-day (Sun and Mon), one-day (Sun), or half-day (Mon) options. Want to be on a "Update Me" Email list: give your email to Cecilia Have any other questions: Ask Cecilia. Ceciliakloecker@gmail.com Great way to tune up for the Flying Pig!

**June 11-17 2018
Cincinnati Flying
Pig Regional**

"Not everything that counts can be measured, and not everything that can be measured counts."

- Albert Einstein

RUMINATIONS

By Robert S Brown

[Flashback to the cliffhanger ellipsis of the last issue:]

“The perp is obviously a germaphobe and only one Club member fits that description – namely. . . .”



[And now:]

Dean Congbalay. Obviously our felonious friend seized the opportunity to force replacement of those filthy cards and bidding boxes with ones more congruent to his extraordinary standards of sanitation¹ – case closed.

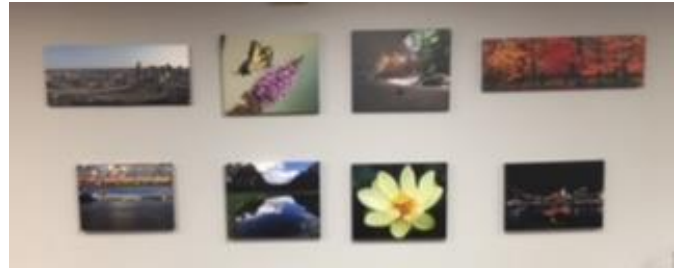
[This concludes my demonstration of transmogrification—the successful transformation of one small thought into two ALERT submissions.]

[And the master footnoter gets his just deserts. ☺ - Ed]

CBC NEW ART WALL

By Pam Campbell

Thanks to Potter and Sandy Orr for lending the Bridge Center fabulous Cincinnati photographs from their collection. Come see our Cincinnati Wall.



UNIT 124 HOLIDAY PARTY

Congratulations to the 2017 Holiday Party Unit Champs:

1st Flight A: John Meinking and Norman Coombs

1st Flight B&C: Amy Gerowitz and Jane Duncan.

There were 19 full tables for a Saturday Brunch celebration. Thanks to all Unit Volunteers who made this holiday celebration possible. For Full Results, go to: <http://www.cincybridge.com/Cal2017/December2017.html>

Here is a table of all masterpoint winners:

Unit 124 Holiday Party Club Championship - December 16, 2017

Masterpoint Winners

Dir	Sec	Pair	Player	Player	Strat	OAA	OAB	OAC	SA	SB	SC	Mtchpnts	%	Masterpoints
EW	A	3	John Meinking	Norman Coombs	A	1	.	.	1	.	.	141.5	65.51	4.23(OA)
NS	B	3	William Higgins	Yauheni Siutsau	A	2	.	.	1	.	.	135	62.5	3.17(OA)
EW	B	1	Adrienne Netherwood	V Netherwood	A	3	.	.	1	.	.	126.5	58.56	2.38(OA)
NS	A	1	Amy Gerowitz	Jane Duncan	C	4/5	1	1	1	1	1	125	57.87	1.93(OB)
EW	B	3	Joe Fisher	Amy Fisher	A	4/5	.	.	2	.	.	125	57.87	1.56(OA)
EW	A	7	Robert Fisk	Ben Fisk	B	6	2	.	2	1	.	124.5	57.64	1.45(OB)
NS	B	7	Joann Katz	Jerry Katz	A	.	.	.	2	.	.	123.5	57.18	0.97(SA)
NS	A	7	Diane Goodman	Jo Ellen Spitz	A	.	.	.	2	.	.	120.5	55.79	1.02(SA)
EW	B	4	Dennis Schultz	John Williams	B	.	3	.	3	1	.	120.5	55.79	1.09(OB)
EW	A	8	Howard Ringel	Terry Brausch	B	.	4	.	3	2	.	120	55.56	0.81(OB)
NS	A	9	Jacqueline Meyers	Deborah Cummings	A	.	.	.	3	.	.	119.5	55.32	0.73(SA)
NS	A	8	Joan Fox	Justine Solomon	B	.	5	.	4	2	.	116.5	53.94	0.61(OB)
NS	B	9	Margaret Young	Jackie Toth	A	.	.	.	3	.	.	112.5	52.08	0.70(SA)
EW	B	8	Sharon Kreitzer	Susan Wisner	B	.	6	.	4	2	.	112.5	52.08	0.49(SA)
EW	B	6	Judith Lubow	Linda Pretz	C	.	.	2	.	.	1	111	51.39	0.88(OC)
EW	A	5	Albert Beaupre	Barbara Levinson	A	.	.	.	4/5	.	.	110	50.93	0.40(SA)
EW	A	6	Stephen Felson	Robert Brown	B	.	.	.	4/5	3	.	110	50.93	0.40(SA)
NS	B	5	Joan Mehl	Rica Hodesh	C	.	.	3	4	1	1	106.5	49.31	0.66(SB)
NS	B	1	M Mineard	Madeleine Gordon	B	.	.	.	.	2	.	106	49.07	0.46(SB)
NS	A	2	Cecilia Kloecker	Susan Namei	C	.	.	4	.	.	2	105	48.61	0.49(OC)
EW	A	9	Susan Stacy Vanstone	Martin Gibler	C	.	.	.	.	.	1	96.5	44.68	0.47(SC)

¹ Dean’s hygiene hysteria is well-documented in past issues of this publication. *Videlicet* ALERT (January 2014) p.15: “I actually had to ask a grown woman to cover her mouth and turn away when she coughed.”; ALERT (October 2013) p. 15

“Wash your hands often – with soap. Those cards are filthy!”; ALERT (January 2013) p.11: “Hygiene was not their strong suit . . . I’m so glad I got my flu shot.”

Education Committee News

By Larry Newman,
Chair, Education Committee



For the past 2 years the Education Committee (EC) has been working on developing and implementing a somewhat new structure for education at the Cincinnati Bridge Center (CBC). Hard working members of the committee who deserve recognition: Elaine Jarchow, Jane Duncan, John Meinking and Mike Lipp

In the past, we've had many good instructors offering lessons, but no formal curriculum, only modest consistency among instructors, minimal marketing of classes and no real supervision of the process by the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA) board. We feel that in the long run, our bridge family will be better served by a program that is sparked by, sponsored by and operated by the CBA.

Initially, the focus is on the new player. We are hoping to offer a series of classes, all of which will utilize the same curriculum with the same textbooks from quarter to quarter. Students taking "101" in spring 2018 from "teacher A" should get the same basic information as those taking "101" from "teacher B" in the winter quarter. We are hoping to see multiple teachers participate, and will be training newer teachers to contribute as well.

The curriculum anticipated is written and endorsed by the ACBL – the "Bridge in the 21st Century " series. We plan to have courses run during fall, winter and spring quarters each year. Each course will last 10 weeks, and cover one of the ACBL texts. Topics and teachers will be directed by the CBA. This new curriculum was started last fall with a "101" course, and will be followed by "101" and "102" courses in subsequent quarters.

In the past, we were also hampered by the limited number of new students who were able to find us! It's so hard to grow our bridge community without a way to reach "new blood"! We have begun to partner with other organizations in Cincinnati and are hopeful that we will be better able to reach potential students throughout the city in the future.

So, how is this going so far?

We began working with Osher Life-long Learning Institute/ University of Cincinnati (OLLI) almost 2 years ago, and have finally realized the introduction of bridge

courses that are offered through OLLI but held at the CBC. To date, all courses have filled to our designated maximum of 24 students in the 1st day of offering. And we are very hopeful that this new pattern will continue. Once this curriculum gets rolling, we intend to tackle more advanced courses aimed not at new bridge players, but at the intermediate/advanced players who are already playing duplicate regularly.

More on this in subsequent issues.

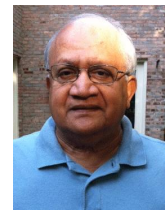
In the meantime, continue to spread the word. Our challenge is still to get new players to our Bridge Center and to keep our current players stimulated. And **we need you to spread the word.** Please tell your friends and your children about our game. And about our educational opportunities.

Your feedback is appreciated. Catch me at the Bridge Center, or email me at ljn.newman@gmail.com.

BEING A BOARD MEMBER

By Nalin Mehta

I just started my second term as board member. I wanted to share my experience, perspective and thoughts.



1) When I was approached by few members to run for the board, I agreed not knowing what I was getting in or how I would be able to contribute. Once my name was on the ballot. few members said good luck. watch out, you do not know what a mess you getting in. All this I took as a challenge if I get elected.

2) Initial board meetings were challenging. Listening was limited. I told myself that you need to share /use your experience at P&G on how to run, manage and contribute in these meetings.

3) Let me not dwell on the first year which was not pleasant. We have come a long way. Board members are listening to each other and if a member is not heard other board member jumps in and say that we have not heard her/him. Nobody dictates or is allowed to dictate.

4) I have been a member of renovation committee and you can see the result. We saved thousands on these projects. I have started winter coat drive which members have contributed generously. I was instrumental in finding a new home for our Regional tournament and has resulted in thousands of dollars in savings yearly.

5) With this pleasant experience I ran for the second term. I am looking forward to contributing and to making our club very FRIENDLY.

Last thing, yes, we did not have pleasant things going on in past but we all have come a long way. I want to thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve you on the board.

D11 North American Pairs Finals – Qualifiers

MP	OA	%	Name	Name
24 G	A1	62.06	John Meinking, OH	Norman Coombs, IN
18 G	A2	59.87	Shan Au, OH	Douglas Simson, OH
13.5 G	A3	58.50	Gregory Potts, OH	Charles Kopp, OH
16 G	B1	59.50	Judy Ruehl, OH	Albert Beaupre, OH
12 G	B2	58.84	Paula Byrkett, OH	Don Byrkett, OH
9 G	B3	58.72	Michael Miedema, IN	Henjin Chi, IN
6.75 G	B4	57.88	John Taylor, KY	Peggy Ammon, KY
10 G/R	C1	57.92	Martha Sutt, KY	Susan Finnegan, KY
7.5 G/R	C2	54.83	Beth Dlutowski, KY	Stuart Ray, KY
5.63 G/R	C3	54.57	Stephen Baldwin, KY	Terry Raulin, OH
4.22 G/R	C4	54.43	William Davis, KY	R Blaine Mullins, KY

“There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time.” - Malcolm X

“Confidence... thrives on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection and on unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live.”
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Don't lower your expectations to meet your performance. Raise your level of performance to meet your expectations. Expect the best of yourself, and then do what is necessary to make it a reality.
- Ralph Marston

TOP 10 THINGS I CAN DO TO MAKE BRIDGE BETTER

Fill out this list and track your progress during the year!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Now take your list and share it with your partners and friends and see if they agree.

Not sure? Try one or all of these:

- Volunteer at the club and at tournaments
- Bring friends and family so they can learn the joy of bridge.
- Help a newer player feel welcome and comfortable at the bridge center.
- Be the partner you want to play with.

“I can only control my own performance. If I do my best, then I can feel good at the end of the day.”
- Michael Phelps

2018 Indianapolis Crossroads of America Regional

January 29 - February 4 - 2018
Wyndham Indianapolis West
2544 Executive Drive

Wonderful playing site with great lighting
FREE airport shuttle FREE Wi-Fi Onsite Restaurant
FREE 24 hour business and fitness centers FREE Parking
Amazing evening hospitality sponsored by CIBA bridge clubs

MONDAY January 29th

Indy GOLD RUSH Charity Pairs (2 sessions)	1:30	7:00
Indy A/B/C Open Charity Pairs (2 sessions)	1:30	7:00
Circle City Bracketed KO Teams (1/2 of 4)	1:30	7:00
Single Session Stratified Charity Swiss		7:00

TUESDAY January 30th

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (1 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (1 of 4)	9:30	
299er Pairs	9:30	1:30
Capitol City Open Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Circle City Bracketed KO Teams (3/4 of 4)		1:30 7:00
Compact KO Teams (1/2)		1:30 7:00
Tuesday Single Session Stratified Swiss		7:00
After Dinner Side Series (1 of 3)		7:00
Newcomers 0-20 Pairs (FREE)		7:00

WEDNESDAY January 31st

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (2 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (2 of 4)	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (1 of 4)		1:30
Hoosier GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Hoosier A/B/C Open Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Crossroads Bracketed KO Teams (1/2 of 4)		1:30 7:00
Wednesday Single Session Stratified Swiss		7:00
After Dinner Side Series (2 of 3)		7:00

THURSDAY February 1st

** Rise 'n Shine Side Series (3 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (3 of 4)	9:30	
Thurs/Fri Morning Compact KOs (1 of 2)	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (2 of 4)		1:30
Mid-week GOLD RUSH		
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Mid-week ABC		
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Crossroads Bracketed KO Teams (3/4 of 4)		1:30 7:00
After Dinner Side Series (3 of 3)		7:00

FRIDAY February 2nd

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (4 of 5)	9:30	
Early Bird Bracketed KO Teams (4 of 4)	9:30	
Thurs/Fri Morning Compact KOs (2 of 2)	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (3 of 4)		1:30
Open Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams (1/2 of 4)		1:30 7:00
299er Pairs (Single sessions)		1:30 7:00
Friday Evening Stratified Swiss		7:00

SATURDAY February 3rd

**Rise 'n Shine Side Series (5 of 5)	9:30	
AM Single Session Swiss	9:30	
Newcomers 0-20 Pairs (FREE)	9:30	
199er Pairs	9:30	
Afternoon Side Series (4 of 4)		1:30
Weekend Bracketed KO Teams (3/4 of 4)		1:30 7:00
White River GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
White River A/B/C Pairs (2 sessions)		1:30 7:00
Saturday Evening Stratified Swiss		7:00

SUNDAY February 4th

Sunday Gold Rush Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		
(0-100; 100-300; 300-750)		
Sunday ABC Swiss Teams (2 sessions)		
(C 0-1500; B 1500-3000; A 3000+)		

9:30 (play through)
Food available at playing site

From I-70 (east of Indianapolis): Take I-70 through Indianapolis to Sam Jones Expwy. (located on the southwest side of Indianapolis.) Merge onto Sam Jones Expwy. and exit at Executive Drive.

From I-70 (west of Indianapolis): Take I-70 east to I-465 North to Sam Jones Expressway. Merge onto Sam Jones Expwy. and exit at Executive Drive.

FOR RESERVATIONS

THE EARLIER YOU RESERVE, THE MORE YOU'LL SAVE!

Until January 8, 2018

\$97 plus tax (includes 2 breakfast coupons daily)

After January 8, 2018

\$107 plus tax (includes 2 breakfast coupons daily)

DEPENDING ON ROOM AVAILABILITY!

NOTE: To ensure the tournament rate, your reservations for the Wyndham can be made by pasting this link:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/hr/central-indiana-bridge-assoc>
OR

Call: 317-248-2481 between 8 am and 4 pm, Mon.-Fri.
Mention Central Indiana Bridge Association rate.

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

**Pay a full entry for a Rise 'n Shine side game and receive a \$5 non-transferable coupon for your next Rise 'n Shine side game.

KOs, Compact KOs or Swiss Team events offered daily.

Non Life Master Events: Gold Rush (M, W, Th, S and Su); Newcomers (0-20 - Free Games Tuesday and Saturday); 299er pairs (Tuesday and Friday); 199er pairs (Saturday)

Session Charge: \$14 per session. Add \$4 surcharge if not an ACBL member, or if an ACBL member whose dues are unpaid.

Youth Bridge Players Welcome - Free games on Tues. and Sat. for 0-20 MPs. All other youth players with ACBL membership play for \$7.00 per session.

District 11 regulations for Regional Events

- KO events may be handicapped
- Open events w/o Gold Rush: C 0-750 B 750-2000 A 2000+
- Gold Rush/ABC Pairs and Gold Rush/ABC Swiss: GR: 0-100 100-300 300-750 & ABC Pairs: C 0-1500 B 1500-3000 A 3000+
- ACBL Mid-Chart allowed in top bracket of KO and Flight A events

Co-Chairs: Liz Brown 317-250-7922 (c) lab1613@aol.com
Maribeth Ransel 317-649-0866 (c) marjoeransel@live.com

Partnerships: Sheila Baker 317-437-5458 bakers7935@att.net
Peggy Kramer 317-727-0009 margaretkramer@gmail.com

Sponsored by the
CENTRAL INDIANA
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Zero Tolerance Observed