



## Quarterly Newsletter



UNIT 124

VOL XLIV No. 2 April 2019

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

### From the President's Desk

Unit 124 Members,

Our Education and membership committees are working very hard and making excellent progress. Please read more details in their report in this issue.

Pam Campbell's Tuesday evening 0 to 20 game is gradually getting our new members a very good platform to play duplicate bridge.



We ask your help to make our new members welcome (24 this quarter). It is very important to make our facility more friendly. You will have noticed "play nice" table cards. We are receiving your input to improve them and make them as small as possible. Our Annual Mentor Program begins in May. John Williams is coordinating.

Our 2019 Flying Pig Regional tournament is at Ramada Hotel. Once renovated the hotel will become Marriott. Marriott Management is investing \$10 million to improve the facility. The playing facility has been renovated and the rooms will be renovated by end of this year. The Fairfield Inn next door has additional rooms.

### Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Event
Mon	AM	CBC 11:00 Inv
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (Ltd) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 11:00 CBC, AND, MIDS -- C&P/SP 2:45PM
	PM	CBC 7:00 Ltd (Call for 0-20)
Wed	AM	CBC - AND 11:00 - SCC 10:00
	Aft	MIDL 12:00
	PM	NKY 6:30 CBC 7:00 PM (Ltd)
Thu	AM	INT 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - NKy 11:30 AM
	Aft	WHC 12:00 - EAB 12:30
	PM	CBC C&P/SP 2:45PM CBC 6:30 "8 is ENOUGH" Swiss Team 1/3/5
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00 Open & NLM
Sat	AM	CBC 9:30AM-Noon Supervised Play (SP)
	Aft	CBC 1:00

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Robert Todd Seminars	23	Jun 1-2, 2019
ACBL Best Practices Teacher Wkshp	24	Jun 3-4, 2019
Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional	25	Jun 3-9, 2019

Next year Columbus will be hosting 2020 Spring NABC. Please plan ahead and support/play as often as you can. All the board meetings are posted on the web site. I encourage you to read for more details. See you at the tables.

### Nalin Mehta

President, Unit 124 Board of Directors

### ONE STEP FORWARD...

The news from ACBL Management in Memphis was very disappointing. The ACBL sustained close to \$2 Million in losses from Hawaii (730K), Abandoning the Microsoft CRM Project (330K) and settling two outstanding legal issues (990 K). There was a small offsetting savings.

In addition, Table counts are down almost 2% for clubs, online play 5%, and tournaments (unreported, but 5-10% likely), and membership has dropped to 164400. Membership demographics and their impact on bridge attendance is telling. See later in this issue.

The financial losses have caused some corrective actions that should have lasting benefit. New specifications are being defined for NABC Cities to avoid financial risk. Expect more medium tier cities like Memphis and Columbus in our future. IT projects are starting small and moving from owned servers to cloud-based storage. **ACBL Live for Clubs** will debut later this year. This free service will eliminate the need for clubs to post their own game results. It will also be a step closer to eliminating issues with match point calculations that plague ACBL Score.

ACBL Marketing is looking at new ways to manage memberships. Chief among them is a limited membership that provides prospective bridge players a player number in return for their contact information. This allows the ACBL to maintain a conversation and build a relationship over time with prospects. We hope to have more details in Las Vegas in July. In addition, the ACBL is looking into creating a way to incentivize referrals from members to increase the number of prospects wanting to learn bridge. The idea here is simple – where we have successful on-boarding program for new bridge players, we need to stoke the identification of prospects so that teachers and clubs can focus their energy on what they do best. We also expect to hear more about incentives in Las Vegas.

Marketing Management has contracted with a marketing strategy company to identify ways to effectively create bridge prospects using on-line advertising. This is not a simple task because success requires that once an individual wants to know more about bridge there is a person and a place nearby where they can be referred. The desire for immediate gratification is great and time between wanting to try and getting an opportunity has grown very very short thanks to the fulfillment dynamics on the internet. Just think about your experience on Amazon.com.

The ACBL Board of Directors commissioned a Governance Task Force to develop a proposal to improve the current governance structure for the ACBL. AJ Stephani is one of three Board members on the task force joined by yours truly. Currently we have 25 Trustees on the Board of Directors and 126 Board of Governors elected members. See my article later in this ALERT for more details. There is a general recognition that 1) running club games, and sectional or regional tournaments is insufficient preparation for the zone wide business management necessary for success; 2) there is room to make the board more efficient and to delegate key responsibilities to capable committees; and 3) there is a need to reduce the more than \$500K per year cost for the Board of Directors.

District 11 is taking steps to shore up the infrastructure in our geography. We serve about 4500 members in Southeast Indiana, Southwest Ohio, Kentucky, and Western West Virginia. Check out the D11 Stakeholders page to see the knowledge sharing underway. The idea is simple – we all do better (teachers, directors, club managers) if we collaborate and if we share best practices. One area of strength is that the District has committed to have a seminar during each Regional in the District. Topics are defined by the host Unit. For the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional this June, Unit 124 and District 11 are sponsoring the ACBL Pest Practices Teacher Workshop – see the note later in the ALERT and sign up if you are interested in becoming a bridge player (Teach two courses to beginners in Unit 124 and the Unit will refund the cost of the seminar and certification!!!).

Unit 124 under Larry Newman's adroit leadership has redefined the glidepath to becoming a bridge player in our area. The emphasis is on fun, and self-directed learning. Come and Play has garnered 20 or more people who previously did not play bridge let alone attend the bridge center. Supervised play continues strong. Classes are strengthened by the number of Best Practices Teachers we have. If you are interested in taking a class or becoming a teacher please contact Larry.

April/May always leads to very exciting times thanks to holidays, spring weather, the return of our snow bird friends, and a great schedule of events for everyone. Be sure check out the key events coming this next quarter.

I thank all of you who have offered compliments on this publication. I take no credit but pass it all on to the contributors whose thoughts and words provide the rich enjoyment found in these pages. Thanks to all of our contributors for another excellent edition.

Pam Campbell for updates on table cards and for the Robert Todd Seminar, Larry Newman for Education Committee and Steve Messinger for Membership Committee, Dean Congbalay for the human side of bridge, Amit Raturi for PUNishing insights, Potter Orr for Small Things that matter, Rob Wiedenfeld Curbs our Enthusiasm, and Robert Brown and Steve Felson offer their wit and superlative writing. Well done all! Hope you all have a fun Summer.

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

*Steve*

Editor, The **ALERT** [moesefamily@aol.com](mailto:moesefamily@aol.com)



## Unit 124 News

Congratulations to the Unit 124 2018 New Life Masters, 2018 Mini McKenney and 2018 Ace of Clubs award winners. The Unit 124 awards night was held April 2 at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. The deserts and cake were well enjoyed. Thanks to Pam Campbell for managing the event and providing such great hospitality.

### 2018 New Life Masters

Congratulations to

Sue Baum, Martin Gibler, Steve Vogel, Doug Reams, Michelle Barker, John Williams, Barry Wauligman, Carl Tollison, and Joseph Kammer



L to R: John Williams, Steve Vogel, Michelle Barker, Barry Wauligman, and Martin Gibler.

Here are the medallion award winners:

MPs	Mini McKenney	Ace of Clubs
0-5	Eileen Barrett	Joann Behr
5-20	Mercer Reynolds	Iris Shaw
20-50	Peter Outcalt	Peter Outcalt
50-100	Cecilia Kloecker	Cecilia Kloecker
100-200	Erin Oblinger	Betty Murdock
200-300	Stephen Vogel	Stephen Vogel
300-500	Carl Tollison	Carl Tollison
500-1000	Pam Campbell	Howard Simon
1000-1500	Dennis Schultz	Henry Jackson
1500-2500	Mike Ma	Michael Lipp
2500-3500	Bob Fisk	Margaret Young
3500-5000	Cliff Pleatman	Jackie Toth
5000-7500	Nancy Luetge	Nancy Luetge
7500-10000	Yauheni Siutsau	Yauheni Siutsau
>10000	Norman Coombs	William Higgins

The Mini-McKenney Trophy recognizes the player in Unit 124 who won the most masterpoints during 2018 in all competitions. The Ace of Clubs recognizes the player in

Unit 124 who won the most masterpoints at club games during 2018.



2018 Mini-McKenney Winners L to R: Denny Schultz, Steve Vogel, Mike Ma, Peter Outcalt, Erin Oblinger, Bob Fisk, Cliff Pleatman, and Pam Campbell.



2018 Ace of Clubs Winners: Steve Vogel, Margaret Young, Mike Lipp, Betty Murdock, and Peter Outcalt.

See more at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/U124AwardsNight.html>

Here are the masterpoint winners from the April 2 Awards Night Unit Championship Game

Dir	Sec	Pr	Name	Name	Fit	OA	OB	OC	SA	SB	SB	Score	%	MPs
EW	O	6	Steve Vogel	Cliff Pleatman	A	1	.	.	1	.	.	107.5	63.99	3.94(OA)
NS	O	3	Margaret Young	Lorna Davis	A	2	.	.	1	.	.	99.5	59.23	2.96(OA)
EW	O	3	Robert Fisk	Terry Brausch	A	3/4	.	.	2/3	.	.	96.0	57.14	1.94(OA)
EW	O	9	John Meinking	Potter Orr	B	3/4	1	.	2/3	1	.	96.0	57.14	1.94(OA)
NS	O	8	Joseph Muenks	Sharon Kreitzer	B	5	2	.	2	1	.	93.5	55.65	1.25(OA)
NS	O	5	Gail Zimmer	Warren Sublette	C	6	3	1	3	2	1	92.0	54.76	0.95(OC)
NS	O	2	John Williams	Dennis Schultz	B	.	4/5	.	4	3	.	88.5	52.68	0.62(OB)
EW	O	4	Ambrish Bansal	Arun Gupta	B	.	4/5	.	4	2	.	88.5	52.68	0.62(OB)
EW	O	7	Susan Stacy Vanstone	Martin Gibler	B	.	.	.	3	.	.	86.5	51.49	0.42(SB)
NS	O	7	Nalin Mehta	Ila Mehta	C	.	.	2	.	2	.	84.5	50.30	0.71(OC)
EW	O	2	Danuta Biniakiewicz	Jerzy Cholewinski	C	.	.	.	.	1	.	79.0	47.02	0.44(SC)
One Winner	NLM	4	Uday Patil	Pratibha Patil	C	1	1	1	1	1	1	85.1	67.56	1.24(OA)
	NLM	7	Pete Outcalt	Myrna Waak	B	2	2	.	2	2	.	75.7	60.10	0.93(OA)
	NLM	2	Seema Inamdar	Milind Inamdar	C	3	3	2	3	3	2	71.1	56.44	0.70(OA)
	NLM	10	Betty Murdock	Erin Oblinger	A	4	.	.	4	.	.	70.6	56.06	0.52(OA)
	NLM	8	Mike Burns	Pamela Kennedy	A	5	.	.	5	.	.	68.2	54.13	0.39(OA)
	NLM	11	Steve Messinger	Sandra Fielman	B	.	4	.	6	4	.	66.1	52.44	0.39(OB)
NLM	13	Barb Loebach	David Loebach	C	.	.	3	.	.	3	63.7	50.59	0.46(OC)	

Congratulations to all!

Flt	MP	#	Teams							
O	36.00G	1	Ryan Schultz	Dayton,OH	Peter Whipple	Mason, OH	Bob Stitt	Dayton,OH	Dallas Moore	Trotwood, OH
O	27.00G	2	Douglas Simson	Columbus,OH	A J Stephani	Cincinnati,OH	Isaac Stephani	Cincinnati,OH	Shan Au	Westerville,H
O	18.00G	3/4	Bob Lyon	Fishers,IN	Craig Satersmoen	Huber Heights,OH	Yauheni Siutsau	Loveland,	Stephen Vogel	Cincinnati,OH
			Amitabh Raturi	Cincinnati,OH						
O	18.00G	3/4	Mike Marlin	Versailles,KY	Cheryl Schneider	Westerville,OH	Sandra Marlin	Versailles,KY	Brian Ross	Charlestown,IN
A	30.00G	1	John Hinton	Greenwood, IN	Kay Beck	Noblesville, IN	James Cunningham	Indianapolis, IN	Ralph Letizia Jr	Louisville, KY
A	22.50G	2	Barbara Levinson	Cincinnati, OH	Anton Habash	Oxford, OH	Michael Lipp	Trenton, OH	Albert Beaupre	Cincinnati, OH
A	15.00G	3/4	Michael Purcell	Loveland, OH	Stephen Moese	West Chester, OH	Mike Ma	Cincinnati, OH	Joseph Muenks	Cincinnati, OH
			Diane Travis	Cincinnati, OH						
A	15.00G	3/4	Michael Gladfelter	Columbus, OH	Mary Jane Gladfelter	Columbus, OH	Dean Ishida	Columbus, OH	Suman Agarwal	Columbus, OH
B	26.00G	1	J Michael Hill	Columbus, OH	Mae Hill	Columbus, OH	Thomas Koralewski	Avon, IN	Alex Khrakovsky	Columbus, OH
B	19.50G	2	Barry Wauligman	Hamilton, OH	Donald Durack	Cincinnati, OH	Henry Jackson	Cincinnati, OH	William Atteberry	Cincinnati, OH
B	14.63G	3	Terry Maguire	Louisville, KY	Thomas Lepping	Louisville, KY	Steven Blank	Louisville, KY	Rajagopal Sriraman	Louisville, KY
B	11.56G	4	Sandra Forsythe	Centerville, OH	Steven Forsythe	Centerville, OH	Robert Zangri	Centerville, OH	David Kennedy	Dayton, OH
C	15.00G   R	1	Anirudh Pandit	Mason, OH	Arun Pandit	Mason, OH	Shashi Lalvani	West Chester, OH	Ajay Bansal	Cincinnati, OH
C	11.25G   R	2	Jay Gala	Cincinnati, OH	Cecilia Kloecker	Cincinnati, OH	Thomas Busch	West Lafayette, IN	L Brown	West Lafayette, IN
C	7.50G   R	3/4	Kathryn Garrity	Zionsville, IN	Edward Poe	Indianapolis, IN	Henry Boch	Indianapolis, IN	W Howard Anderson	Fishers, IN
C	7.50G   R	3/4	Carol Scovic	Blue Ash, OH	Joy Singerman	Cincinnati, OH	Robert Roark	Cincinnati, OH	Sharon Koster	Blue Ash, OH
			Terry Raulin	West Chester, OH	Peter Outcalt	West Chester, OH				

Unit 124 and the Cincinnati Bridge Center hosted the 2019 Grand National Teams District 11 Finals at the Cincinnati Bridge Center April 13 and 14. We congratulate all District Champions with special recognition for the Unit 124 players who qualified to represent District 11 in Las Vegas for the NABC GNT Finals. Unit 124 Members who qualify for the finals are:

**Championship Flight – Peter Whipple**

**Flight B – Barry Wauligman, Donald Durack, Henry Jackson, and William Atteberry.**

**Flight C – Anirudh Pandit, Arun Pandit, Shashi Lalvani, Ajay Bansal.**

Well done everyone!

There are 4 flights – Championship or Open, U 6000, U 2500, and U500/Non-Life Master.

The event began in 1973 as a grass-roots event. The initial stages are contested over the course of several months in the 25 geographically defined ACBL Districts where conditions differ; some now hold a single weekend tournament. The GNT is a North American knockout teams contest. In 1985, the event was subdivided into three separate events: Flights A, B and C. Another change came in 2001 when the GNT Championship Flight (for players with more than 5000 masterpoints) was created. Flight A is now a 0-6000 event. The winners of the Championship Flight will have their names engraved on the Morehead Trophy, donated by The New York Times in memory of its longtime bridge editor Albert H. Morehead. The winners of Flight A will have their names engraved on the Goldman Trophy, named in honor of the late Bobby Goldman.

Albert H. Morehead (1909-1996) was born in Flintstone GA and educated at Baylor and Harvard. Ely Culbertson hired him in 1932 because of his outstanding ability as a player and analyst and made him technical editor of The Bridge World in 1933. He proved so invaluable that in

1934 he was made general manager of all Culbertson enterprises. He was only 25 when he played on the Culbertson team that defeated the British in the second international match for the Schwab Cup. Morehead was the first bridge editor of The New York Times with a Sunday column from 1935 and a daily column from 1959. He resigned from the Times late in 1963 to devote full time to writing, editing and publishing of the dictionaries, encyclopedias and thesauruses that made him one of the foremost American lexicographers. During those years, Morehead found time for tremendous service to organized bridge. He was an officer of the United States Bridge Association when that organization amalgamated with the American Bridge League in 1937. He became a governor of the newly formed ACBL and served as president in 1943 and chairman of the board from 1943 to 1945. He was named ACBL Honorary Member in 1946. Morehead was a member of the National Laws Commission and was in charge of production of the International Laws of Contract Bridge. He was also the author of the constitution of the World Bridge Federation --- the first formal definition of the scope, structure, powers and duties of that organization. Morehead was named to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame in 1996.

Bobby Goldman (1938-1999), who became a member of the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, enjoyed a stellar career as a player, author and theorist. His tournament record is impressive. He earned four world titles (the Bermuda Bowl in 1970, 1971 and 1979 and the World Mixed Teams in 1972) and 19 North American championships: the Life Master Men's Pairs (1964); the Life Master Pairs (1968); the Open B-A-M Teams. (1968, 1989 and 1991); the Spingold Knockout Teams (1969, 1978, 1983, 1986 and 1988); the Reisinger B-A-M Teams (1970, 1976 and 1980); the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams (1971, 1973, 1978, 1997 and 1998). Goldman also had 13 second-place finishes in NABC events.

At the time of his induction into the Hall of Fame, Goldman was an ACBL Grand Life Master with more than 25,700 masterpoints, and ranked ninth on the all-time list of masterpoint holders. He was also a WBF World Grand Master. Goldman authored several books on the game, including *Aces Scientific* and *Winners and Losers at the Bridge Table*. His contributions to bidding theory include *Super Gerber*, *Kickback*, *Exclusion Blackwood* and *Goldman after Stayman*. He was one of the principal architects of the *Aces Scientific System*. Goldman served as ACBL recorder from 1986-1988 and was a longtime member of the Competitions and Conventions Committee. His views on the game helped shape the modern-day Alert procedure, the ACBL convention chart, ethics and the appeals process. Goldman was honored by the ACBL by being named the 1999 Honorary Member, presented for long and meritorious service to bridge. Goldman's early career was distinguished by his association with the now-famous Aces, the professional, Texas-based team created by businessman Ira Corn for the purpose of winning world bridge championships. Goldman was a member of the successful squad until 1974.

Flight B winners will have their names engraved on the Sheinwold Trophy while the names of Flight C winners will be engraved on the Mac Nab Trophy.

Alfred Sheinwold (1912-1997) was one of the greatest bridge writers in the history of the game. He was inducted into the Bridge Hall of Fame in 1996. His syndicated bridge column was considered by many to be the best. He had a knack for getting his point across to even the least experienced players. He managed this by making sure that every column had only one main point, marking it easier for his readers to focus. "You could read a Sheinwold column and know in an instant that nobody else could have written it," said Frank Stewart, co-author of the column. "He enlightened and entertained players through seven decades and earned millions of fans." Sheinwold was an editor of *The Bridge World* from 1934 to 1963 and editor of *The Bridge Bulletin* from 1953 to 1958. He was also the author of perhaps the most successful bridge book ever written, *5 Weeks to Winning Bridge*, a book that sold in the millions. Sheinwold served as chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission from 1964 to 1975, as chairman of the appeals committees at NABCs and as chairman of the ACBL Board of Governors from 1970 to 1973. He was named ACBL Honorary Member of the Year in 1983.

Robin Mac Nab (1915-1985) served as a member of the ACBL Board of Directors from 1956 to 1981. He was ACBL president in 1965. He was a past president of the Western Conference, a member of the ACBL Laws Commission and

a member of the executive council of the World Bridge Federation. Mac Nab, a graduate of Cornell University, was a member of the U.S. Olympic track and field squad in 1936.

**CLUB CORNER**  Send Club News to the Alert Editor: [moesefamily@aol.com](mailto:moesefamily@aol.com)

## 70% Games Jan-Mar

Date	Game	Player	Player	%
4/17/2019	NKY Wed PM	Larry Klein	Norm Coombs	70.08
3/30/2019	Saturday PM	Eugene Siutsau	Amit Raturi	71.34
3/29/2019	Friday AM	Eugene Siutsau	Cliff Pleatman	71.3
3/5/2019	Tue PM 0-20	Uday Patil	Pratibha Patil	80.55
1/15/2019	Tue PM 0-20	Carol Lyon	Ron Warner	73.93
1/8/2019	Tue PM 0-20	John McHugh	Mark Manly	80
1/8/2019	Tues AM	Arun Goyal	Steve Vogel	71.13
1/7/2019	Deschappelles	Anne Finn	Jo Ellen Spitz	70.57
1/4/2019	NKY Fri AM	Greg Brinker	John Woeste	70.6

10 games reported in this quarter over 70%!!! Well done, everyone! See [ALL Unit 70% Games](#)

Check the CBA and NKY Websites for details about 2019's Mentoring Programs. Play with an experienced player for fun and tips to improve!

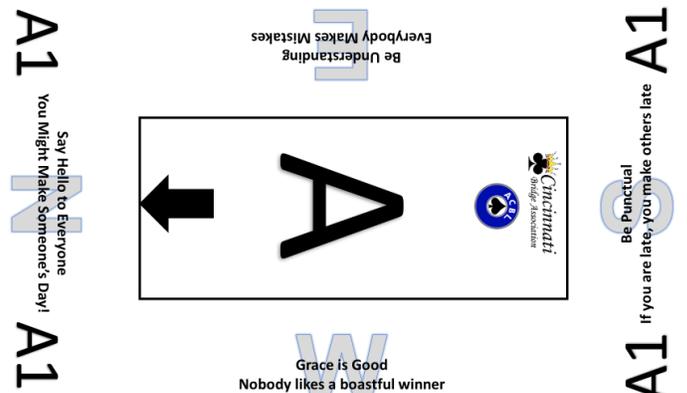
### NEW TABLE MATS at the CBC

Based on member's feedback from our Membership meeting in the fall regarding "Play Nice", the CBA board has responded with new Table Cards. They have not been laminated yet, as they are a test. We have received some initial feedback

1. Too big, but like that the you can see that table letter and number while the boards are on the table.
2. Table numbers and letter should be a larger font
3. Only one saying per direction. Two makes it too busy
4. Disappointment that some have crossed something out on the test table cards
5. Suggestion to see if we have them on legal size paper instead of the current size
6. Infantile and not needed

Pam Campbell will be collecting feedback and taking it back to the board. Please feel free to reach out and provide your input to her.

A1 Say Hello to Everyone You Might Make Someone's Day!



A1 Be Punctual if you are late, you make others late

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Steve Messenger

Like many of you, when I was in college, I often played bridge between classes. It was much more enjoyable than studying calculus or economics, and French and accounting didn't stand a chance if I was anywhere near a deck of cards. Although my GPA might have taken a slight hit, looking back I wish I had played even more bridge in college. I can unequivocally say that bridge has added more to my life than any of the subjects I shortchanged.



If feel the same way about bridge, I encourage you to be active in promoting bridge. ACBL Membership is decreasing by 3%-5% a year, and during recent years membership at the CBA has also decreased. Data shows that most members were attracted to bridge by friends or family. Surprisingly, advertising has been very ineffective in attracting new members. So, it's up to each of us to ensure bridge continues to prosper.

What can you do to help? For some it might be mentoring or volunteering to teach or monitor a class. For others it might be or inviting a friend or family member to take a bridge class or come and play at the club. And for all of us it means spreading our passion for bridge within our own social circles and being friendly and supportive to everyone when they play at our club.

How is our membership trending in 2019? We are off to a good start. Twenty-four new members joined the CBA during Q1. Welcome new members!

What's new? We now have a 0-20 game on Tuesday night and Come and Play sessions Tuesday and Thursday. Now when you invite someone new to duplicate to come to the CBA, they have an and opportunity to play with other newer players. There are also many classes for beginning players and a new emphasis on introducing players to duplicate. The CBA will also have a new suggestion box soon, so please share your ideas to promote bridge and make playing at the CBA a fun and positive experience.

Enjoy the lovely Spring weather! I'll see you at the CBA and Fling Pig. Oh, I almost forgot. Thank you for responding to the request I made in the last "Alert" to bring in your old *Bridge Bulletins*. We include them in the information packets we prepare for OLLI II graduates, as they help showcase what the ACBL has to offer.

Best Regards, Steve Messenger, Chair

# VOLUNTEER!!

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Larry Newman

Current hard-working members of the committee who deserve recognition: Amy Gerowitz, Jane Duncan, Sharon Kreitzer. For the past 2½ years the Education Committee (EC) of the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA) has been working on developing and implementing a somewhat new structure for education at the CBC. This utilizes a set of introductory classes which are being conducted on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:50 – 4:50. These classes are supplemented by a monitored home-style time for new players who have finished their introductory classes to practice and play with guidance of a "coach". This latter program is called "Come and Play". With the help of many volunteers (THANK YOU!!) this has recently expanded to two days a week (currently also held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:50 - 4:50).



With the help of marketing through the University of Cincinnati's OLLI program, we have seen 60 new bridge students annually, and continue to have essentially full enrollment of our quarterly offerings of Bridge 101 (bridge for the person totally new to the game) and Bridge 102 (follow-up course to bridge 101). These classes have utilized the "Bridge in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" curriculum and texts developed and supported by the ACBL. Current Bridge "101/102" teachers are Amy Fisher, Amy Gerowitz, Barry Wauligman, Jane Duncan and Larry Newman (With the aid of many assistants who have volunteered their time - THANKS to all of you ... you know who you are!).

Come and Play is becoming more popular, and we frequently see 2 to 4 tables of players each session. Some of these newer players have been starting to dip their toes into duplicate on Tuesday nights in the 0-20 game offered by Pam Campbell. Pam and I will be working in the months ahead to expand introduction to duplicate games to the new students as well.

Additional educational opportunities (present and recent past) at the CBC (*Sincere apologies if I left any out!!*):

- Matthew Granovetter conducted a 10 week class in December and January on "Tricks 1 and 2", with an enrollment of over 30 students.
- John Meinking is offering a 6 week course on introduction to duplicate this spring.
- AJ Stephani continues to hold private classes at the CBC on an ongoing basis.
- I will conduct a Bridge 103 course for those "graduating" from 102 to finish off their initial introduction to bridge. At the end of these courses (101, 102, 103), new students will have been

introduced to most of the Standard American "yellow card" of the ACBL.

- Bob Fisk continues to offer many review sessions in addition to Supervised Play for the NLM duplicate player.

We are always in need of enthusiastic volunteers to help coach CAP and to assist in classes (Criteria: solid knowledge of bridge basics combined with good people and teaching skills). If interested, please talk to me.

And we are interested in developing new teachers for beginning bridge classes for any who wish to invest more **time and responsibility**. To help with this, Steve Moese has arranged for the ACBL to hold a teacher training and certification program in Cincinnati this June, just before the Flying Pig Regional. **I would strongly encourage anyone seriously interested in committing some time and effort to teaching bridge to consider taking this class.**

I have taken this program in the past, and thought it was excellent in helping one understand the needs of the new student. I expect information can be found elsewhere in this bulletin, but please direct any questions to Steve.

We'd love for you to continue to spread the word, and help make the CBC the place to go to learn and to play bridge. And if you are interested in assisting with our teaching program in ANY capacity, please talk to me or contact me at [ljn.newman@gmail.com](mailto:ljn.newman@gmail.com). See you at the tables!

*Larry Newman*

*Chairman, CBA Education Committee*

For all Unit 124 Bridge Classes, please go to:  
[http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA\\_Lessons\\_3.html](http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_3.html)

## Robert Todd Seminars June 1-2



**By Pam Campbell**

We are pleased to welcome back Robert for his highly praised seminars. This year we have three topics in 2 days.

**Saturday June 1** - Half day Seminar "Is it Forcing?" Club Championship game (open to all) follows at 1:00 PM.

**Sunday** - Full day seminar "Preempts" and "The Finesse". For questions contact [Reeta Brendamour](#) or [Pam Campbell](#). Choose either or both days. Pricing in flyer.  
[http://www.cincybridge.com/Robt\\_Todd\\_2019.pdf](http://www.cincybridge.com/Robt_Todd_2019.pdf)

## ACBL BEST PRACTICES TEACHER WORKSHOP JUNE 3-4

By Steve Moese



The Cincinnati Bridge Association Unit 124 will host the **ACBL Best Practices Teacher Workshop** on Monday June 3 and Tuesday June 4 at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Cost is \$100 per person prepaid in advance (you must prepay to reserve). Prework is required.

There are only 32 seats available and we perceive strong demand. If you are a certified TAP teacher, the Education Foundation will subsidize your fee so the net cost will be \$50 to you. If you want to be certified as an ACBL best practices teacher, you must pass an oral exam at the end of the course (cost \$25 payable to the instructor).

Ms Patty Tucker, Grand Life Master, Blackwood Award Winner, and Master Teacher, Creator of Learn Bridge in a Day® will be leading this workshop along with seminar creator Ms Grace Major.

To apply for this workshop print the flyer (at the following link or in the attachments to this ALERT and send your payment to Steve Moese.

<http://district11bridge.com/20190121-Best-Practices-Teachers-Workshop-Cincinnati.pdf>

## 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](http://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](mailto:jolman@fuse.net)

## Name Tags

Contact Joanne Earls – 772-4395; [jolman@fuse.net](mailto:jolman@fuse.net)

*Your Name Here*  
Cincinnati Bridge Association

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

## OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA

By Dean Congbalay

[dcongbalay@comey.com](mailto:dcongbalay@comey.com)



Somewhere off the coast of Australia, I was getting ready for our afternoon bridge game.

A man plopped himself down on the chair to my left. He looked like he was about 50 — much younger than just about every passenger on the Seabourn Encore.

“Are you a bridge player?” I asked.

“I am!” he replied, much to my surprise. “My name’s Tony. I’m looking for a partner.”

A couple minutes later, Peter, a kind man from New Zealand, walked into the card room. They decided to play together.



After the game, I learned that Tony is a comedian who was to perform a couple shows on the cruise.

Before the next day’s game, I greeted him as he walked into the room and shook his hand.

“The comedy show is always my favorite!” I said. “I am really looking forward to yours!”

We had four sea days in a row as we made our way to New Zealand. Tony and Peter partnered with each other each afternoon; Tony never revealed to anyone that he was an entertainer.

On the day of Tony’s first performance, I ran into some fellow bridge players and urged them to see the show. But I didn’t get a chance to make my pitch to Peter.

As it was, Peter and his wife went — and sat in the front row. He was shocked when Tony got on stage.

The next day, Peter couldn’t wait to tell me what happened in the showroom.

“I sat there, and when the comedian appeared, it didn’t hit me right away that it was Tony!” he said, chuckling.

“But then I started to laugh. I should have figured it out days ago that Tony was a comedian — because of his bids!”

## THE SMALL THINGS

by Potter Orr



In the last issue of the alert I talked about some things that players could do to improve the atmosphere at the table. This time I want to talk about small things that everyone needs to be aware of when

playing duplicate.

Both during the bidding portion of each hand and during the play we are trying to communicate with our partner to maximize our score or the number of tricks we will take. The rules of bridge placed strict limits on the methods we are allowed to use to communicate. The most difficult calls for a director involve whether or not unauthorized information (UI) has passed between partners.

During the bidding we have agreed with our partners on the meaning of each bid we make and this is how we communicate. The easiest example is an opening bid of 1NT. Most people play that this bid shows a balanced hand and 15 to 17 high card points. This is quite legal communication. While almost no one in the bridge world except for a very few at the absolute top of the game try to deliberately pass unauthorized information to their partners, there are a number of bad habits that can have the same effect.

You should never put your hand anywhere near the bidding box until you have decided exactly which bid you are going to make. Moving your hand to the bidding box and resting it there before choosing a bid can seem to imply indecision on your part. Worst of all is touching a bid card and then removing your hand. Touching a bid

card and then touching the smaller cards (including the pass card) is a clear indication that your hand is on the borderline of making a bid. This action delivers unauthorized information to your partner.

Taking way more time than is normal for you to choose a bid or pass may also be seen as passing unauthorized information. There are certainly situations in which you need extra time to decide on a course of action, but you should realize that the break in tempo may quite reasonably be seen by your opponents as delivering unauthorized information. This action places a heavy burden on our partner. Ethically they must bend over backwards not to be seen as taking advantage. If you hesitate and then pass, partner may only bid with a hand that overwhelmingly justifies the bid.

I have seen some players who pull the entire stack of pass cards from the bidding box and place them face down on the table. Some players do this for convenience but others may do it because of hand or wrist issues. Then they pull one from the stack and place it face up when they intend to pass. The ACBL rules on the use of bidding boxes do not cover this procedure. There is probably no problem with this as long as the player does this EVERY time. Seeing the opponent open 2 clubs and then pulling out the stack of pass cards would be a clear indication that they do not plan on bidding. This would be unauthorized information for partner.

Unauthorized information is also an issue during the play of the hand. Just as you should not put your hand near the bidding box before you have chosen the bid, pulling one card halfway up to play and then changing your mind and pulling in different card give unauthorized information to your partner. It is clear from this action that you are considering two different cards to play. Make up your mind before you pull the card.

Do not pull a card from your hand until it is your turn to play. When you pull a card out even if not faced on the table before your turn it makes it clear to your partner that you feel irrelevant on this particular trick. It is also distracting to your opponents.

When you hold a singleton, you should take care to play that card in exactly the same tempo as you would if you held multiple cards in the suit. It is a definite ethical violation to take longer than usual in deciding which card to play when you hold a singleton.

It should go without saying that you should never show emotion through the manner in which you play a card. Showing great reluctance to play a card or slamming it

onto the table in clear irritation both deliver unauthorized information.

Working hard on following proper procedures goes a long way to reducing contentious director calls and forestalls resentment on the part of your opponents and makes the game more pleasant for all.

*My partner gave not a damn  
For putting me in a doomed slam  
Under considerable duress  
I took the impossible finesse  
And it got me out of the jam*

## BRIDGE IS A PUNishing GAME



By Amit Raturi

Eugene the hawk is on my case again!!

*"You were supposed to have 10 plus points for that bid",* he says.

I had only 8.

*"Your argument is void",* I said – *"I had a void to go with my 8 points."*

*"Well, that's not our agreement – stop making empty arguments",* is his response.

*"But sometimes can I disagree with the agreements?"* I ask. It's not clear he agrees.

I want to argue more but then I check my Wikipedia:

*The hawk symbolizes the ability to use intuition and higher vision in order to complete tasks or make important decisions. ... Hawks represent the messengers of the spirit world, so seeing them definitely means the universe wants you to learn powerful lessons or expand your knowledge and wisdom.*

The disagreement is over two points. And I say to myself, *"What's the point?"*

Bridge is a PUN(ishing) game. Full of *tricks*. Feels so *pointless* sometimes!! You think you know; and then you feel so *vulnerable*; and then it suddenly lets you *down*. Sometimes, down two vulnerable. I am colorblind and those boards are colored red and green, so most of the time I have no idea whether I should feel vulnerable or not.

*"Why did you save, red versus not?"* asks Eugene.

*"But how could I be saving if I am -800 versus their +420?"* I ask.

That feels more like drowning to me.

In bridge, when you are saving, you are supposed to be non-vulnerable. Makes no sense. I mean have you heard of Superman, the King of Saving, swoop in on someone

not at risk and not vulnerable. Wonder Woman also saves when she sees vulnerability, like the child on the fifth floor of an apartment on fire, or someone jumping off a *bridge*. Which is what I feel like at this time. Vulnerable. Ready for rescue.

After I see -800, I ask, how do you save yourself after you have saved?

You are the one that needs saving from the hawk.

On the next board, I have to defend three Armani suits and declarer is bent on drawing Trumps out of the White house which does not look like the right (or left, if you are a bleeding hearts liberal, especially when the Trump suit is hearts) line of play given the dummy. All my suits are very expensive, worthy of Kings and Queens. If they play a third Trump (like Eric), I may be subjected to a Progressive squeeze, where, after I throw one good trick in one suit on the third trump (let's say Donald Junior, a Conservative, as opposed to Ivanka, a Progressive), I have to throw another good trick in another suit when they play the suit I just lost a trick in!! I know all this is confusing but that's how progressive squeezes work – as opposed to Conservative squeezes, which trick (and tax) are conserving. Wikipedia tells me "*Conservatism and its modernizing, anti-traditionalist rivals, liberalism and socialism, are the dominant political philosophies and ideologies of the post-Enlightenment era.*" And the use of the word Progressive is declining (see chart).

Thankfully after I false card the Trump Queen from Qx (Yes!! You guessed it, a Melania look alike) on the first round, they don't draw trumps and spare me a lot of agony. Every time I foresee a squeeze in bridge, Beverly

Hills Cop music starts playing and Glenn Fry starts whispering "The heat is on" in my ears but it sounds like "The squeeze is on" (try singing that next time, you are in this predicament – it really helps). On this deal, I say to myself "aha, I did make lemonade after all!"<sup>1</sup>

I always liked the bridge term "we scratched". It's like, what a relief!! Like we had a bridge itch, we wasted 5 hours and finally we settled the itch with a near pleasant experience. Like we showed up, scored 54%, and got a couple of ACBL giveaways to settle the itch. Like we tried to win, were close to winning, but then we are, ultimately, not winners. It could have been better, like no itch. I have always wondered about its origin and will pay money to learn.

Another wonderful sentiment that Norm Coombs has made famous is "why should they go down when we can". It's an over bidder's ode to the bridge gods. It's the bridge equivalent of masochism. Anita Phillips gives the philosophical and sociological arguments in defense of masochism.

*Masochism is "highly autonomous." The art of acting out masochistic fantasies, she writes, is "being hurt in exactly the right way and the right time, within a sophisticated, highly artificial scenario." (Bridge translation: If you overbid and I overbid, maybe you will hurt yourself more than I will.)*

*Phillips turns to Freud, Jung, Foucault, and Leo Bersani to fashion a new definition of masochism, delving into popular culture to demonstrate both its necessity and the major influence it has had on Western culture--from David Lynch's Blue*

## Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:   case-insensitive

between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of

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*Velvet to Jean Genet's The Miracle of the Rose, as well as the martyred images of Christ in the New Testament. (Norm, did you know your Christ-like tendencies?)*

*She argues that masochism is a healthy part of the human psyche that takes secret pleasure in enduring imagined and real suffering at the hands of another when the subject knows that gratification is the ultimate outcome. (We all play bridge, we know all of this!!)*

It's Queen of Sheba's predicament. That is how King Solomon got Queen of Sheba pregnant in Spades. She did not have the Heart for it. "Don't take anything from me", he says, but when she drinks water, her request to not take anything is repealed (just like your Director calls are). And now he can bid 6NT missing two key cards. Bridge vows are a little different from marriage/infatuation vows -- but only slightly so. Why should King Solomon go down when the Queen of Sheba can?

You are being very clever if you avoid a finesse (even though the synonyms for finesse are adroitness, cleverness, dexterity, and sleight). So a practice finesse is a habitual way of being clever (unlike the derogatory meaning that you might be used to). Use the rule "Eight ever, nine never" only if you have nonaphobia (enneaphobia). Cover an honor "sometimes" is a "hijab" like sentiment; cover an honor with an honor "most of the times" means you officially support the "niquab" and if you blindly follow the rule then you support the "burka" (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/24118241> for details).

Another favorite pun Nancy Sachs and I often joked about is restrictive choice. In tallying her restrictive choice plays that did not work, we were often amazed that statistics is actually considered a science. The paradox is that Restrictive choice limits your options -- so you can't use it every time.

And when you get "fixed" on a board --- you should assume (as the dictionary says) that you are **fastened securely in position** and move on to the next board. I am not going to elaborate whether it is the first of the last position as you are smart enough to figure that out.

At the end of the day, punish means inflict a penalty or sanction on someone for (such an offense). Don't punish yourself; punish others for daring to play bridge.

Endnotes:

1. I am so mesmerized by Bob Brown's endnotes, and Brownian motion (defined as erratic random

movements of microscopic bids that will give you either a top or a complete bottom) that I have to add at least one end note to clarify that the reference here is to the act of squeezing lemons you received to make tasteful lemonade.

## CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

By Rob Weidenfeld



Don't we all get excited when we have a great hand, whether it is for playing or defending? But how excited should we get before we play it out or construct our defensive plan. To be or not to be. To think or not to think. Or for our purposes, to ruff or not to ruff.

You are playing at the club and the opponents reach a game with no difficulty while you are sitting with a hand that loves your defensive prospects. Here is the hand\*:

<b>NORTH</b>	Dealer
♠ 954	South
♥ K7	E-W Vul
♦ AKQ42	Lead ♣K
♣ 974	
	<b>EAST</b>
	♠ AKQ
	♥ Q10642
	♦ 53
	♣ 862

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	2♠	P
4♠	AP		

Explanation for the auction. The opponents are playing a basic 2/1 so 2♦ forces to game. High card point wise North might consider just rebidding 4♠, but those ♦s

look ripe for some pitches so North decides to wait and see what partner does. When partner bids 4♠, she is showing no interest in slam, so it is played there.

Sitting East it is hard not to be pleased looking at 3 trump tricks. When partner leads the club king your prospects get even better! What you should be doing now is thinking. Trick one: Time To Think! Declarer appears to be 5-4 in hearts. Since partner is marked with ♣KQ and you have 11, that doesn't leave much for declarer. If declarer has the rest of the high cards that is only 12, not much of an opening. She may be missing a jack. You have no idea on minor suit distribution at this point.

Declarer wins the ♣K with the ♣A and immediately plays a ♦ to the ♦A in dummy and then the ♦K pitching the ♣10 from hand. So your partner has the ♦J and declarer has the ♠J and the ♥J, giving her an absolute minimum 11-count to open the bidding. Now she plays the ♦Q and the question is what do you do? You hate to see her throw a loser from her hand and it certainly looks like she would throw the ♠J. So stop here and take a moment to decide what to do.

## EP 26: Which Way Did They Go?

By Steve Felson



Dr. Fronkensteen: *"You know, I don't mean to embarrass you, but I'm a rather brilliant surgeon. Perhaps I can help you with that hump."*

Eye-gor: *"What hump?"* [Young Frankenstein (1974), Gene Wilder and Marty Feldman]



One of the side effects of anti-aging cream is the occasional problem with the sensory organs. My long-time partner, Robert Brown, will hear music in empty space and is mostly deaf to constructive criticism. I myself often get what we call "the itch," and on rainy days I swear I can smell the inside of a patisserie on the Boulevard Pasteur (15<sup>th</sup> Ar.;

Métro: Pasteur) and even taste some of its wares ... ahhh, there it is ... World War II ... the French ... what a contribution ... what pastry!



And what physical shape we were in back then compared with 170 years later. Ambushing Russians before breakfast alongside the Finnish Ski Corps? Not for weakies.

And how about our Vienna gig in '44? Five shows a day disguised as hootchy-kootchy dancers! Half the chorus were Western intelligence agents. Bob and I could hoof it with the best of them and entertain German officers till dawn broke over the Schonbrunner Gardens. (Don't ask.) And now what have we got? The itch!

Nevertheless, disabilities *can* come in handy. For example, this hand is from a minor in-person tournament in one of our favorite places, Remulak, home of the Coneheads and twin planet of Melmac, which is in turn home of Moesia the Editor. Late on the third day I pick up this fabulous hand and open 2♣, intending to rebid 2NT showing 22-24 balanced (forcing 1 round):

<b>SOUTH</b>	
♠	AJ
♥	AQ
♦	AQ987
♣	AK32

My main fear is that Bob will get rattled up in the slamosphere and we'll end up "top negative score for a declarer." For some reason these Remulak jokers publish

There are three compelling reasons why you should not ruff. Number 1, and most importantly, whether you ruff or not, declarer is still going to pitch her losing ♣! So you gain nothing. Number 2, if you ruff you will then proceed to draw two additional rounds of trump to prevent ♥ ruffs. There will still be a trump left in dummy. Even though declarer has the ♥J, she really does not want to finesse knowing that she has 3 sure trump losers. But by ruffing and drawing trump, you leave her with no alternative! She must take the ♥ finesse and ruff her last ♥ with dummy's last trump, thereby making the hand. Number 3, if you don't use a trump to ruff, declarer will now begin the process of trying to ruff 2 ♥s, ignoring the finesse. Why? Because she will succeed on any distribution where the ♥ are 4-3 and many where they are 5-2 and the hand that is ruffing ♥ began with 3 ♠s. Your only hope is that partner's ♥s are good enough for preventing declarer from ruffing two ♥ in dummy. Here is the entire hand:

Dealer South E-W Vul Lead ♣K	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ 954 ♥ K7 ♦ AKQ42 ♣ 974	
<b>WEST</b> ♠ 76 ♥ 53 ♦ J9876 ♣ KQ53		<b>EAST</b> ♠ AKQ ♥ Q10642 ♦ 53 ♣ 862
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ J10832 ♥ AJ98 ♦ 10 ♣ AJ10	

So after you allow declarer to pitch by discarding a worthless ♣J, declarer plays ♥K, then ♥ to the ♥A and then the ♥9. Your partner ruffs with the 6 and declarer overruffs with the 9 but can no longer make the hand. If she plays another ♥,

West can play the ♠7 winning the trick. With your 3 trump tricks the contract is down one. If she plays a trump, you will draw 3 rounds and play your ♥Q for the setting trick! By playing smartly you did not force declarer into a winning line of play.

One other side note, some of those of us who play and don't like to take too much time thinking often miss the point I am trying to make. Some will not win a high card with an ace because they are trying to be clever. The point here is clever is only clever when some thought goes behind it. If you know why you need to duck the ace, then it is a good play. In this example, you know that it cannot help your cause to trump with a high honor so don't!

\* from Defend with Your Life, authored by Terence Reese and Eddie Kantar, copyright 1981

that stupid item on a daily basis, even if you have a perfectly good excuse.

My left-hand opponent passes, after which comes a long pause. I avoid looking over at Bob so I can't be accused of reading his involuntary twitches, shrugs, and hand movements. Finally, I have to check whether he knows it's his bid.



Instead of a pondering Brown I see a Brown look I've never seen before. It would be a mistake to say he was staring into space, because I couldn't tell where he was staring.

It's finally happened, I think – stroke city. I feel terrible, since

I have always wanted to tell Bob how sorry I am for abusing him over the years and now it's too late. The Big Sit-Out – he'll never overbid again.

But no – he's moving! Yes, he's slowly looking up and down at the same time. He's pressing the **Pass** button. At least we won't be disqualified, and we need the points.

East also passes and West leads a ♥. Bob looks at him quizzically and does nothing.

“Bob – the dummy?”  
Down it comes:

NORTH
♠ KQ
♥ KJ
♦ 106542
♣ 9754
SOUTH
♠ AJ
♥ AQ
♦ AQ987
♣ AK32

Slowly it emerges that, as the cards lie, I can only make 9 tricks in the minors or 8 in NT.

The full deal:

	NORTH	
	♠ KQ	
	♥ KJ	
	♦ 106542	
	♣ 9754	
EAST		WEST
♠ 10975		♠ 86432
♥ 65432		♥ 10987
♦ KJ3		♦ --
♣ 6		♣ QJT8
	SOUTH	
	♠ AK	
	♥ AK	
	♦ AQ987	
	♣ AK32	

And so, yet again, Robert Brown turns a potential disaster into the only positive score on the planet, a partial opposite a failing slam.

But wait – what about my partner? Bob? Are you okay? Did you think West made the opening bid? ... Bob? ... Bob? ... **Bueller?** ...

**Bueller?** [See *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986), John Hughes dir., nothing to do with bridge]

Nice stop, Bob. Look at me Bob, please ... Bob?

## RUMINATIONS



By Robert S Brown

### OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES<sup>1</sup>

*In 2013, CBA President AJS asked me to serve as the Club's correspondent to the Midwest Monitor, a dreary district 11 journal which prosaically regurgitated each unit's activities every quarter. I accepted<sup>2</sup> with the express proviso that my reports would be total fabrications<sup>3</sup>.*

*My two efforts in this venture went singularly unacknowledged. I was replaced; the Monitor sputtered out a few more issues and died. Believing the more enlightened membership of Unit 124 may now enjoy the previously unappreciated, I present my first submission to the M.M. with minor emendations<sup>4</sup>.*

A palpable unease tensioned the grim faces of our Board of Directors at their last meeting. At issue were the gastronomic offerings at Club games. Three separate factions of club members had petitioned the Board to support their respective positions. A long-simmering dispute between caviar devotees had split them into separate camps – Caspian Sea traditionalists and New World sustainable farming advocates. Compounding the

<sup>1</sup> Confer Luke 5:37 (KJV) “And no man putteth new wine into old bottles . . . .”

<sup>2</sup> Erroneously anticipating the Albatross would collaborate in this venture – hence first published under the pseudonyms “The Commodore\* and Big Bird”

\*Harold Sterling Vanderbilt – my hero.

<sup>3</sup> My falsehoods should be defended as aspirational. Confer Oscar Wilde, *The Decay of Lying* (1891): “The true liar” can be recognized by “his frank, fearless statements, his superb irresponsibility, and his natural disdain of proof of any kind.”

<sup>4</sup> Vide Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast* (1964): “The only kind of writing is rewriting.”

culinary confusion, a third group argued that this longstanding service at Club games should be abandoned entirely in favor of healthier and less costly alternatives.

The ensuing debate was spirited, contentious, and emotional. Speaking for the Traditionalists, Dr. Herb Schapera warned of the “slippery slope” the Club would face if its Epicurean standards were lowered: “If you forsake the Caspian Sea beluga for Kentucky spoonfish, what stops further declines to trout, salmon, or even lumpfish roes? Gustatorial excellence must be maintained regardless of cost or a sublime way of life will be irretrievably lost”. In resonance to this impassioned plea, tears streaked the cheeks of many Board members.

The New World advocates paradoxically were led by Sonya Wilson who, despite her Iranian heritage, argued that American aquaculture techniques produce a superior product at lower cost. “Wake up and smell the coffee-colored eggs of California sturgeon”, she urged. “The Shah’s ouster and the USSR’s Balkanization adding three new countries to the seashore have ruined the Caspian harvests. Only a Luddite could prefer eggs harvested in a Kazakhstanian bathtub to the carefully controlled piscatorial produce available here”. Perhaps her message was stridently delivered, but more than a few heads nodded in agreement with the cogent points she made so incisively.

Finally, Yauheni Siutsau fearlessly advanced to the dais on behalf of the Health Food fanatics. Caustically citing the Club’s recent failure to field a track team that could complete, much less compete in, a 50-yard relay, he contended “Caviar’s high cholesterol and the mandatory vodka chasers have produced a membership that is cardiomyopathic, cirrhotic, or both”. He urged the Club to forsake its gourmandise pretensions for fresh fruit, green vegetables, and gluten-free accoutrements. “Save money, live longer, and end the madness”, he concluded with his typical Belarusian insouciance.

Our Directors were not amused. Some of the motile Club members advanced toward “Eugene” with undisguised malevolent intent. Only the timely intervention of the attending Sergeants-at-Arms prevented a physical confrontation. The Directors retreated into Executive Session from which they emerged, several hours later, with this Solomonic pronouncement:

“All evening and weekend games will offer only Caspian Sea products; day games will gradually introduce domestic sturgeon, paddlefish, and salmon roe to the extent

they are supported by consumption. Health food adherents may “brown bag” discretely but must refrain from nutritional proselytizing.”

Tranquility now reigns and the Club remains pre-eminent in and steadfast to its tradition of Lucullan repasts.

## On Governance

By Steve Moese



The Board of Directors has been studying changes in the current governance structure for the past 5 years if not longer. Board turnover has slowed progress, but the lack of a tangible solution that can garner 17 votes (the minimum necessary on the current Board of Directors to effect this change) is the current hurdle. We must act.

To its credit the current Board has established a Governance Task Force with 3 Board members (**Sharon Roe-Anderson, Margo Hemmings, and AJ Stephani**), 4 from the Board of Governors (**Barbara Heller, Steve Goodgold, Brian Wilson, and Steve Moese**) and 1 Education Foundation Representative (**Barbara Heller – 2 roles**).

There are many possible directions.

**In principle, the new design must accomplish these objectives:**

- 1) **Improve decision making and communication**
- 2) **Delegate work to skilled committees**
- 3) **Provide the corporation with skilled business leadership to engage outside expertise where needed**
- 4) **Improve representation for key stakeholders**
- 5) **Deliver better business and membership results.**

**Current State**

The disparity among Districts (Largest 19,000+ members, smallest 2500) makes deciding on what's best for the League instead of what's best for my District very difficult. The skills Board of Directors members bring include running a club, participating in Unit and District Boards and Running Tournaments. Few have relevant membership growth strategy skills and experience, and fewer still have the requisite strategic marketing in the age of e-commerce skills necessary for success.

Additionally, the Board of Directors has seen the Board of Governors as unimportant, uninformed, and unprepared. The image comes from constant complaints, ever changing representatives, and being caught behind the motion driven change management process. Indeed, the Board of Governors needed to appoint a committee to rewrite motions in perfect language because the Board of directors refused to improve or reinterpret the sense of the Board of Governors. Steps are well underway to correct this outage.

Many Board of Directors members report meetings to their District constituents, crossing the lines of responsibility – the ACBL Code gives the Board of Governors that duty – one they have not been doing well over time.

This dysfunction serves the Board of Directors by making then the only credible source of ideas and information about decisions and strategy. The current process also strengthens the Board of Directors control of every decision.

One downside I've observed - broadly admitted among the Board of Directors – is the committee work focuses entirely on managing bridge issues and tournaments, to the exclusion of effort on supporting clubs, teachers and membership growth. This is clearly a case of the urgent crowding out the important for too many years.

You can find the list of ACBL Committee here:

<https://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/administration/board-of-directors/meeting-motions-and-minutes/#comm>

Here is a brief picture:

Appeals & Charges	Stephani(CH), Carman, Janicki, C. Jones, Stephani, Vilhauer – Staff: Dunn
Audit	Munoz (CH), Levy, Ellis – Staff: J. Jones
Bridge	Carman (CH), Subeck, Bagley, Kovacich, W. Smith, C. Jones, Bertoni, J. Smith, Levy – Staff: Weinstein, Metcalf
Exec. Dir. Review	Anderson (CH), Hennings, Lane, Heth – Staff: J. Jones

Finance	Glasson (CH), Lane, Lodge, Munoz, Weniger, Ellis, Heth – Staff: J. Jones
Governance Board Operations	Hennings (CH), Anderson, Cuneo, Janicki, Stephani, Popper, Vilhauer, Zayac – Staff: Dunn
NABC Review	(All members of NABC are also members of Bridge) Subeck (CH), Bagley, Kovacich, Bertoni – Staff: Hudson
Strategic	Cuneo (CH), Anderson, Carman, Hennings, Glasson – Staff: J. Jones
Bylaws	Stephani (CH), Heth, Lodge, Kovacich, Popper, Dunn (ACBL), Yarbrow (ACBL) – Staff: Dunn
Credentials	C. Jones (CH), Janicki, W. Smith, Vilhauer
Election Protest	Subeck (CH), Weniger, C. Jones
Honorary Member	Cuneo (CH), Anderson, W. Smith, Zayac
Minutes	Bagley (CH), Subeck, Zayac
ABA Liaison	Harriett Buckman
Hall of Fame Liaison	Suzi Subeck
Seeding Chair	David Berkowitz
<b>Not shown:</b>	
Ethics and Oversight Committee	
Competition and Conventions Committee	
WBF Liaison- Al Levy	
Masterpoints Committee	

Take another look – there are 19 known committees.

How many committees do you see working on:

Objective	#
Membership Growth	<b>ZERO</b>
Club Growth	<b>ZERO</b>
Teacher Growth	<b>ZERO</b>
Tournament Growth	1
Bridge Rules	3
Bridge Discipline	2
Business Operation	3
Governance	6
Strategy	1
Bridge Liaisons	3

It is incomprehensible that there be no committees working on GROWTH given the verbal commitments made by the Board of Directors over the past 5 years. It is equally incomprehensible that there be no committees for the health and wellbeing of

key stakeholders: Members, Club Owners and Teachers. Joe Jones stopped me in the Hawaii Board of Governor's meeting to tell me he personally supports concrete steps to grow members, clubs and teachers but that he does not have anyone working on growth objective in Horn Lake.

In March the pendulum had begun to swing toward practical attention to these objectives. Business Management has begun taking steps to test ways to identify more prospects and find them good glide paths into bridge and duplicate bridge. Don't read what people say – read what they do.

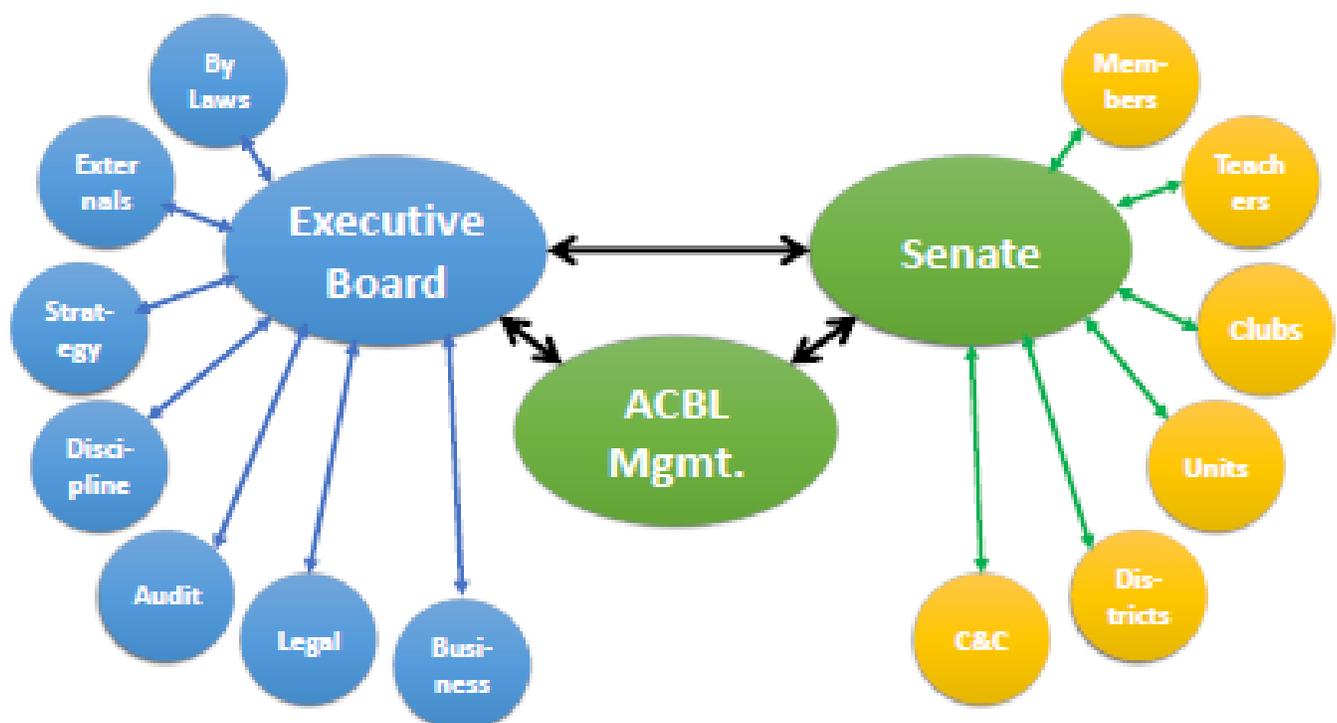
### Clearing the Path Forward

The Governance Task Force deliberated for several months reviewing a myriad of proposals. We settled on one that AJ Stephani originated.

What follows is a discussion in detail of a preliminary proposal that will surely change as more members and leaders weigh in.

## WHY?

- Increase BOD effectiveness (more efficient communication and more focus on the key priorities)
- Change the selection method of Executive Board members based on Skill or Experience, rather than geographic diversity
- Retain critical geographical diversity through a leaner Senate with full responsibility over Bridge Administration and Function
- The Executive Board manages Strategy, Business Oversight, By-Laws, Discipline, and External Relations. The Senate manages all things Bridge not chosen by the Executive Board or required by NY Law.
- Distributed decision authority and work-load
- Lower overhead cost through a streamlined governance that is attuned to current and future business, stakeholder, and membership needs



The key features of the proposal include the following:

Current State	Future State
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Executive Board</b>
25 BoD elected regionally	9 BoD elected zone wide
Elected by Unit Board Members	Elected by: Senate, Unit Boards, or membership (TBD)
Elections every year for 1/3 of the members	Elections every year for 1/3 of the members
One board member per district	No regional limit for executive board.
Manages all League duties	Shared responsibilities with new Senate
<b>District Nominees</b>	<b>Nomination Board</b>
Individuals self-nominate for District wide elections. No skill requirements.	takes applications and recommends 3-4 candidate based on business skills and accomplishments.
<b>Board of Governors</b>	<b>Senate</b>
125 Board of Governors Members plus past BoD Presidents	50 Senators, 2 from each District elected in district wide elections.
Listening and reporting duties	Responsible for all matters for bridge
Return Board actions for reconsideration	Return Board actions for reconsideration
No decision nor fiduciary authority.	Decision authority on bridge matters only.
Stakeholder representation	Stakeholder impact on bridge matters

The idea is to reduce the current 25 members Board to 9 executive members while transitioning from a regional based board to a skill based executive committee. In addition, the majority of bridge related tasks would be delegated from the Executive Committee to the Senate, who would then be charged with creating and managing the Committees necessary to those tasks. We are working out whether the Executive Committee would have authority to overturn Senate Committee decisions.

For those with a legal mind, the ACBL is organized under New York State Non-Profit Laws. These laws define two kinds of committees: Committees of the board of Directors (who must have at least three Board of Director Members) and Committees of the Corporation (no requirement for Board of Director participation). The big difference here is that the Committees of the Board may make decisions and proposals that are binding on the

corporation, while Committees of the Corporation must first get Board of Director Approval.

The new Executive Board would have all responsibilities not explicitly delegated to the Senate. Examples include: Discipline, Business Governance, ByLaws, Finance, Legal, and Business Strategy. This will allow this Board to focus on the important near-term needs while others manage the bridge detail.

The second idea is to strengthen the role of the Board of Governors and engage tangible help to manage Bridge related work.

Instead of the 125 current members (not all seats are filled) who attend irregularly (many send proxies when not planning to travel to NABC Tournaments), and who are not otherwise engaged in ACBL business or governance (many take the role as a honorarium and simply show up to 3 meetings a year, contributing nothing), the Task force recommends **50 Senators** who meet once per year and who actively work 12 months per year on various bridge related committees. This will encourage Districts to bring their most bridge savvy leaders to the Senate.

The Senate would be charged with representing all Stakeholders (Districts, Units, Clubs, Teachers and Members). They would own the following work:

- Competition and Conventions
- Tournament Scheduling
- Bridge Committee
- Masterpoints Committee
- Bridge Liaisons
- Membership Credentials

With 50 Members and reach into their Districts, these 50 Senators form the backbone for committee work. Here's a potential split:

Executive Board	Senate
Appeals & Charges	Bridge
Audit	Masterpoints
Exec. Dir. Review	Competition & Conventions
Finance	Honorary Member
Governance & Board Ops	ABA Liaison
NABC Review	Hall of Fame Liaison
Strategic	Seeding Chair
Bylaws	WBF Liaison
Election Protest	Teacher, Club, Member

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

# SENATE

# OF MEMBERS

9

CONSISTING OF:

- Business Structure and Legal Issues
- Strategic Plan and Business Results
- Organization Capability & Resources to deliver Strategic Plan (Annual Budget, headcount & org design)
- Membership management including Discipline
- Managing process to change Constitution and Bylaws
- Health and operation of the bridge ecosystem



50

CONSISTING OF:

- Bridge matters pertaining to tournament schedule and allocations
- Standard Operating Procedures for Volunteers (Tournaments & Key Services)
- Inter-District Disputes and District Reorganization
- Tournament & Game sanctions disputes
- Zonal Regulations on laws, alerts, and convention charts
- Masterpoint® change management
- Innovation necessary to meet business goals and improve quality of membership experience
- Management counsel regarding Club and Teacher issues/opportunities
- Health and operation of the bridge ecosystem

## MAJOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### SETS & MONITORS

- Strategic Plan
- Financial Results
- Audits
- The Bridge Ecosystem

### PROVIDES

- Resources for the Business
- Growth Plans for Membership

### SETS POLICIES

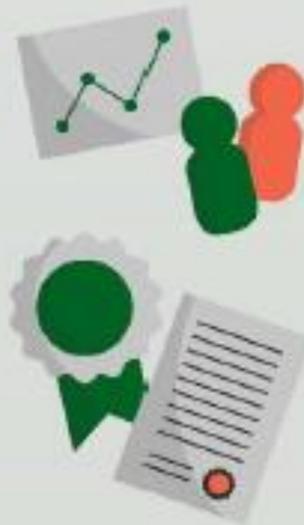
- For the Business Enterprise
- For Discipline
- For Public Relations

### APPROVES

- Changes to By Laws
- Disposition of Assets
- Changes in Corporate Structure

### ADVOCATES

- Public Relations Supporting Bridge
- Links to External Collaborations/Partners
- Transparency in Communication
- The ACBL Mission



### IDENTIFIES

- Needs of Key Stakeholders and Members
- Changes External to the Organization impacting Bridge
- Innovations and the ways to test them

### DELIBERATES

- Proposals for Change dealing with the operation and administration of bridge
- Issues from members and key Stakeholders

### APPROVES

- Committee Proposals pertinent to Bridge
- Changes to Rules, Masterpoints, Conventions, Tournament Allocation, District and Unit Territory, and all Senate Mandate
- Bridge Committees

### OVERSEES

- By-Laws Changes made by the Executive Board materially affecting Senate responsibility, jurisdiction, and function

### ESTABLISHES

- Laws of Bridge for the North American Zone
- Zonal bridge regulations
- Data Standards and Technologies for Bridge
- An environment that grows members and strengthens the ecosystem
- Transparency with members & Stakeholders

MEETS

3-4x PER YEAR

FACE TO FACE & VIRTUAL



1-2x PER YEAR

FACE TO FACE & VIRTUAL

There is a proposed transition plan that takes 3 years to complete. One third of the Board of Directors stands for election every year. Instead of replacing 8 or 9 Board members every year, only three would stand for election in year 1, resulting in a 17 or 18 member board for the following year. Then another 8 or 9 would stand for election to be again replaced by 3, reducing the board to 14 to 15 members. Finally in the last year the remaining 8 or 9 are replaced by 3, bringing the Executive Board to its desired number of 9.

Since the ACBL must work within the NY State NFP Laws, any Board Members must be allowed to serve out their existing term in office. This brings us to a phased 3-year approach. Additionally, the ACBL Bylaws require changes to the Bylaws to be approved by the Board of Directors and by the Board of Governors on two successive readings. This process takes about 18 months to complete. So the fastest we can arrive at the final state is about 4.5 years.

I recommend you peruse the source documents for these governance proposals.

**-Letter from Richard Popper**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/Letter-from-Richard-Popper.pdf>

**-Governance Task Force Graphic**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/20190306GovernanceRenewal-TaskForceProposal.pdf>

**-Transition**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/Transition-Final.pdf>

**-Governance Framework**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/Governance-Structure-Committee-Framework-Final.pdf>

**-Nominating Committee**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/Nominating-Committee-Final.pdf>

**-Senate**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/Senate-Final.pdf>

**-Impact on ByLaws**

<http://www.district11bridge.com/Monitors/ACBL-Bylaws-Article-X-Final.pdf>

The task force and the Board of Directors recognize there is a parallel issue with disproportionate District

and Unit sizes. We have chosen to decouple this issue from the governance question to enable laser focus on structure. Working through reapportionment would complicate decisions and delays progress indefinitely.

**Open Questions:**

- 1) What do our Members really want from Governance of the ACBL?
- 2) Does the Governance Model improve the ACBLs ability to promote bridge and serve the bridge related interests of it members?
- 3) Does the new proposal offer benefits for managing growth in members, tables, and bridge education?
- 4) Can the Board of Directors find 17 votes in favor of any change that reduces their size.
- 5) Dose the Nominating Committee create a closed board who controls the membership of the executive committee?
- 6) Who should elect Executive Committee Members?
- 7) Who should elect Senate Members?
- 8) Should we change the Senate or the Board of Directors first?
- 9) Can we do one or two parts of this plan instead of trying to make the whole change work?
- 10) Will we find enough skilled people to fill the 50 seats in the new Senate?
- 11) Should Board Members serve on the Nominating Committee?
- 12) Why can't we speed up the change?
- 13) Since Committees of the Board require at least three Board Members what do we gain by having a smaller Executive Board?
- 14) Should the Board Members come from the Senate only?
- 15) Should only the Senate be allowed to vote on new Board Members?

The financial benefits to the organization would be large. Once in place, the cost of Board meetings would be 36% of current. At somewhere between \$250K and 500K per year, that's about \$100 to 180K savings per year.

Here are my thoughts for you to consider:

- 1) The entire membership votes electronically or by paper ballot. The vote should be managed by Horn Lake. Unit Board Members or Senate only

voting eliminates membership voice unnecessarily. The Nominating Committee makes sure the election is not a popularity contest.

- 2) The Nominating Committee should be a disinterested panel of 5-9 people qualified to assess business leadership skills in any of 6-8 corporate function areas (marketing strategy, finance, legal, IT, membership management, demand development, etc.)
- 3) The Board of Directors should define the skill makeup of an ideal Board. This skill list guides the work of the Nominating Committee.
- 4) Candidates for the Executive Board provide a complete CV and one phone interview (taped) to the nominating committee who then rank the applicants in order of strength. The top 3-4 stand for election for a specific chair on the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee has not other role nor authority. Floor nominations by the Board of Directors or the Executive Board are not permitted.
- 5) The Senate and Board can recommend candidates to the membership based on the candidate statement of qualifications and reasons for running. The Senate or Board sees no CVs nor interview data.
- 6) The transition to the new structure must begin now and must move everything in parallel. Debating whether to transition the Senate or the Board first defeats the purpose of an integrated system change.
- 7) The temptation to make change happen piecemeal must be avoided at all cost. Piecemeal change is often no change at all. Steps that are too small will deliver no benefit. The lack of a benefit will be attributed to the proposal being poorly constructed, and not the choice to implement it in a piecemeal fashion.
- 8) If the current Board of Directors fails to make substantive changes to the governance of the ACBL, then we must find a way to hold BoD members accountable when major losses in money or trust occur on their watch.

Above all else, I ask that you our members engage this important issue and bring your ideas and proposals to our attention so that we can make effective change happen now.

## Demographics & Declining Regional Attendance

By Steve Moese

As part of his mission as Chair of the Board of Governors Data Analytics Committee, David Rodney presented to the Board of Directors providing insight into the dynamics of attendance at regional tournaments and to demonstrate the power of business analytics.

I am not at liberty to share the specifics of the report. However, the findings are worthy of discussion.

David and the committee studied 760 regional tournaments from 2013 to late 2018. They wanted to answer why was attendance in decline over this period. Thanks David!

Inputs considered were: age, distance, masterpoint holdings, number and location of regionals, zip code of the attendee.

Outputs studied were: Numbers of regionals per year, number of sessions per regional, and various breakdowns of attendance by inputs.

### Key Findings:

- 1) **As members age over 70, they travel less to regionals.**
- 2) **Most of the decline in attendance is from members with <500 masterpoints®.**
- 3) The number of regionals and the number of sessions played is relatively unchanged 2014-2018.
- 4) **Only 33% of members participate in regionals.**
- 5) The decline in regional tables traces directly to Members under 2500 masterpoints®.
- 6) Attendance by members over 2500 Masterpoints® has increased over time.
- 7) **<200 MPs represent 50% of membership. However they have the lowest Regional participation rate** of their MP range in: <50 @ 11%; 50-100 @ 21%, 100-200 @ 30%.
- 8) Average number of regionals attended per year increases as MP holdings increase.
- 9) The more MPs you have the more sessions you play. However, there is a 5 session decline among players with 5000+ MPs from 2013 to 2018.

**10) Distance is a major factor:**

- a. Avg Distance Travelled is 219 miles
- b. Median distance travelled is 58 miles.
- c. **80% of regional players travelled under 250 miles.**

**11) Data within one regional shows LOCAL players (<50 mi) are responsible for the decline in attendance.**

- 12) The more MPs you have the longer you are willing to travel.
- 13) Competing regionals are associated with lower attendance. There is
  - a. no effect for 0-2 competing sites in the same week
  - b. a negative effect (~200 tables)) when 3-7 compete, and
  - c. a major negative impact (400 tables) when 8 compete.
- 14) Average **new member age** has risen from 65.5 to 66 since 2013.
- 15) Average **member age** is a touch above 73 yrs old.
- 16) The ACBL needs 14000 – 15000 new members per year to maintain 165000 members.

Consider the following. If we recruit new members who average 66 years old, and it takes a non-bridge player about 6 years to become life master, and people reduce the number of regional tournaments they play beginning at age 70, we cannot turn back the decline in regional attendance.

Note also that because travel is a major barrier to regional attendance, cutting the number of regionals (making the remaining tournaments further from home for many players) will serve to accelerate the decline and not increase attendance.

In a thought experiment I published on Bridge Winners, someone who learns bridge as an 18 year old college student, drops out for 20 years, and comes back to the competition after marriage, family, and career will likely contribute more than 1000% in bridge fees and membership dues compared to a member who joins at age 65.

These data support many notions that people suspected. They also shout out that the two more valuable target audiences for bridge are college students and 40+ year old people who enjoy games.

Recent empty nesters and retirees are easier to recruit and represent immediate cash flow to clubs. There is no surprise that clubs clamor for attention to this demographic. There is no doubt that this effort must be supported. Just as there is no doubt that this effort is not enough.

Clearly 66+ year old new members are very welcome but they are very unlikely to contribute much to stanch the decline in regional tournament tables.

We need effective ways to engage college students and to engage 40+ year old professionals.

College students have disposable income and are savvy to appreciate the competition found in bridge tournaments. Once they learn bridge and taste competitive success they will stay with the game even if they take a hiatus.

40+ year olds have disposable income but lack time. They are less likely to play one day a week at the club but would play at home or online under the right conditions.

There is a role here for online bridge and bridge technology. When a player faces a life issue that takes them away from active play, these tools will keep them interested in the game and keep their game fresh. Many who read this will have taken a hiatus to raise a family and complete a career. We didn't have a convenient alternative to face-to-face bridge. That's available today. What we need is a proper social framework for engaging the college player and the 40-65 crowd. We want them to learn and to play online under the ACBL umbrella so that when they have free time and disposable income clubs and tournaments can effectively compete for their entertainment dollar. Now, how do we make that happen?



The CBA Mentoring Program will start in May 2019. John Williams will lead the CBC effort. [williajp@miamioh.edu](mailto:williajp@miamioh.edu) Our thanks to Bob Fisk and Barb Levinson for helping build this program to the success that is has achieved. Details TBA and will publish on the CBA Website.

See:

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

## SAVE THE DATES

### NABC Promotion Week Columbus 2020



May 6-12, 2019

District 11 hosts the Spring NABC in March 2020 in Columbus OH. To raise hospitality funds all games in the District are special games. Entry fees increase \$1 that goes directly to the Columbus 2020

Hospitality fund. Don't miss this opportunity to earn double black points all week long.



Coming June 1 & 2 – Robert Todd Seminar returns ([Flyer](#))

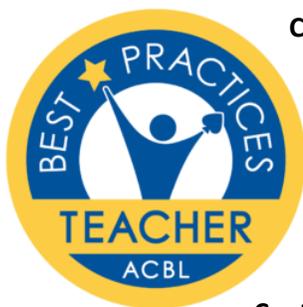
at the Cincinnati Bridge Center:

**Saturday** - Half day Seminar "Is it Forcing?" Club Championship game (open to all) follows at 1:00 PM.

**Sunday** - Full day

seminar "Preempts" and "The Finesse". For questions contact [Reeta Brendamour](#) or [Pam Campbell](#) Choose either or both days. Pricing in flyer.

[http://www.cincybridge.com/Robt\\_Todd\\_2019.pdf](http://www.cincybridge.com/Robt_Todd_2019.pdf)



Coming June 3 & 4 (at the CBC) – **Attention all interested Bridge Teachers!** June 3 & 4 2019 Unit 124 and District 11 will host the ACBL Best Practices Teacher Workshop at the Cincinnati Bridge

Center. \$100 check or money

order in advance reserves your spot. An additional \$25 required for certification. Unit 124 Pays your fee after you teach two bridge class sessions in the Unit. [Sign Up Today!](#) [Details](#). Questions? Contact Steve Moese [moesefamily@aol.com](mailto:moesefamily@aol.com)

<http://district11bridge.com/20190121-Best-Practices-Teachers-Workshop-Cincinnati.pdf>

NAPQ:

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

## CINCINNATI FLYING PIG REGIONAL JUNE 3-9, 2019



Coming June 3 – 9, 2019 – The Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional Tournament. This is the Crown Jewel of the Cincinnati Bridge Association and Unit 124. Grab a partner and play all 7 days. If you become life master at the tournament you get your name engraved on the Pigasus Trophy! You'll find excellent hospitality. The venue is under renovation by new owners (Marriott Hotels) and you can expect good rooms and great facilities. Hospitality is aiming to surpass last year's success.

**Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional Web Page:**

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

Join us at  
Participating  
D11 Clubs



The CBA Mentoring Program will begin in May (TBA) – we are recruiting a chair person to run this important membership program for the CBC players. **Longest Day week of June 21.** Check your local club for games and events. Don't miss your

chance for Platinum in Vegas.

June-July-August  
**NAPQ**  
North American  
PAIRS  
Qualifying Games  
at Participating  
Clubs near You

**LAS VEGAS**  
JULY 18-28  
2019  
NORTH AMERICAN  
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**LET'S ROLL**  
July 18-28, 2019

**Bridge Workshops**  
with  
**Robert Todd**



Robert is a professional Bridge player and teacher from Tallahassee, FL who teaches seminars and workshops all over the country, as well as hosts cruises and plays at the highest levels around the world.

[www.advinbridge.com](http://www.advinbridge.com)

**Saturday, June 1**

**9 am - Is It Forcing?**

**1 pm - Regular Open Game  
(Club Championship \$8)**

**Sunday, June 2**

**9 am - Preempts**

**noon - Lunch**

**1 pm - The Finesse**



**Cincinnati Bridge Center**

2860 Cooper Rd Cincinnati, OH 45241

[cincybridge.com](http://cincybridge.com)



**\$40 Saturday, June 1**

**"Is It Forcing?"**

**(includes seminar book)**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$70 Sunday, June 2**

**"Preempts" and**

**"The Finesse"**

**(includes lunch, seminar book)**

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vegetarian Lunch?** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$85 BOTH DAYS**

**Would you like to be seated with a partner or particular group?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check, made out to CBA, with this form to:**

**Pam Campbell 2860 Cooper Rd Cincinnati, OH 45241**

**Questions? Contact [campbell.ps.54@gmail.com](mailto:campbell.ps.54@gmail.com)**

# ANNOUNCING THE ACBL BEST PRACTICES TEACHER WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Unit 124 – The Cincinnati Bridge Association  
in association with the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional Tournament.

## Where and When

**Workshop:** Cincinnati Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati OH 45241

**Monday – June 3** 10 AM to 2 PM, and 3 PM to 7 PM

**Tuesday – June 4** 9 AM to 1 PM.

## Optional Certification Demonstrations (20 Min.)

**Tuesday – June 4** 2-4 PM (6); 4:10-6:30 PM (14)

**Wednesday – June 5** 8 AM - Noon (12) at the site hotel (4.6 mi.):  
Ramada Plaza Hotel 11320 Chester Road, Sharonville OH 45246



The Bridge Teaching Legend, Ms. Patty Tucker will facilitate the Teacher's Workshop along with Ms. Grace Major, the designer. Don't miss this opportunity.

**Cost: \$100 Prepaid. Money Order or Check only.** Make checks payable to ACBL Unit 124 - Cincinnati Bridge Association. DO NOT make them payable to me. Fill out the form on page 2 and send with check or money order to:

**Stephen Moese**

**8815 Eagle Creek Court**

**West Chester OH 45069-6477**

Once I receive your payment you get a link to the pre-test. Payment and passing the pre-test confirms your reservation. **TAP teachers apply to the Ed. Foundation for \$50 subsidy after completion of this workshop.**

**Payment must be postmarked  
by May 24, 2019. Reservation  
requires payment & pre-test.**

**Contact:** Steve Moese [stephenmoese@gmail.com](mailto:stephenmoese@gmail.com) with questions.

**Who May Participate:** Any ACBL Member in good standing who: has an interest in teaching bridge to new players, has demonstrated proficiency in bridge, and passes a screening test prior to the Workshop.

**Class Limit: 36 Students.** 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served (in order payment received).

**Course Description:** This contemporary workshop is the centerpiece of ACBL's new Teacher Certificate Program. Training focuses on how, rather than what, to teach. The Workshop is built around simulations used to engage participants in analyzing and practicing techniques as well as giving and receiving feedback while delivering bridge lessons. Participants may earn certification as an ACBL Best Practices Teacher by successfully completing demonstrations conducted at the conclusion of the Workshop (extra \$25 fee required). Teachers earning Best Practices Certification receive a special pin and certificate, can place the BP Teacher logo on marketing literature, and have access to special templates for ads, business cards, and promotion material. In addition, they will be distinguished in ACBL's teacher directory as a **Best Practices Teacher**. [ACBL Information](#).

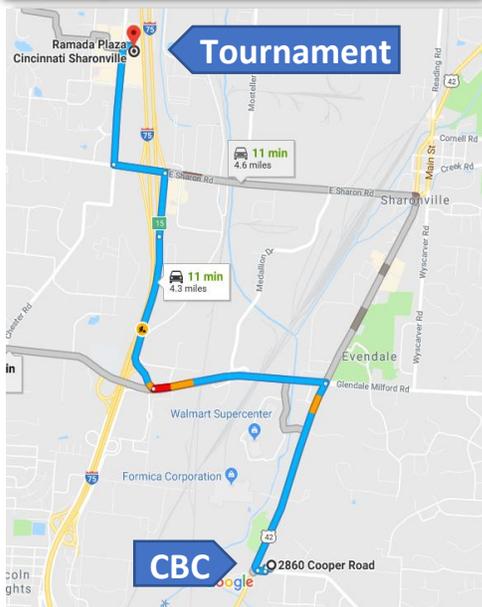
**Hotels & Restaurants:** [http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHomePage.html#Area\\_Hotels](http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHomePage.html#Area_Hotels)

## Benefits:

Unit 124 members get tuition reimbursed when they complete teaching two introductory courses at the CBC. Upon completion of this program, teachers will be recognized as certified by the ACBL and receive these benefits:

- A listing on the ACBL's online Find a Teacher directory.
- A \$100 gift certificate for Baron Barclay for every 25 new members recruited during a calendar year.
- A \$500 bonus check for every 100 new members recruited (no time restrictions).
- An invitation to the ACBL's Teacher/Club Manager **Thank You Reception** at each NABC

**Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional:** <http://www.cincybridge.com/CincinnatiFlyingPigHomePage.html>



**SIGN UP NOW!**



**SIGN UP NOW!**



# BEST PRACTICES TEACHER WORKSHOP REGISTRATION & PAYMENT FORM

Session: June 3 and 4, 2019 (Optional assessments for certification on June 4 & 5, 2019)

Print, complete, and Mail this form with your payment. Make Check or Money Order for

\$100 payable to: **ACBL Unit 124 - Cincinnati Bridge Association**

**DO NOT send payment for the assessment (\$25).**



First Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_ ACBL#\*: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address\*: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address 1\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City\*: \_\_\_\_\_ State\*: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\*: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check all that apply:

- I am willing to play the role of student during someone else's certification demonstration.
- I will take the certification demonstration for this workshop (Additional \$25 payable to the ACBL\*\*)
- I am a TAP-Certified Bridge Teacher and will ask the ACBL Education foundation for a \$50 rebate.
- I currently teach bridge.
- I have experience as a teacher in another field.

**Note that all information marked with a single asterisk (\*) is required. Failure to complete the form will void the application.**

Once we receive this form and your payment, you will receive an e-mail with a link to the pre-test. Once you have successfully completed the pretest, then your registration for the workshop is complete and your space is reserved for Monday and Tuesday. You will receive links to schedule your certification demonstration (optional) and volunteer as a role-play student.

\*\*The cost for the demonstration is \$25 payable directly to the ACBL ahead of the workshop, or payable to the Instructors during the workshop. If you sign-up and pay for assessment in advance you can reserve your assessment time and date.

Once the workshop concludes, we will need 4 "role-play students" to help with the demonstrations. If you would like to volunteer to be a role-play student, you will see what the demonstration involves and be better prepared for your own! We will send you a link for scheduling your demonstration and for volunteering as a demonstration role-play student once your registration is complete.

**Make Check/Money Order Payable to: ACBL Unit 124 – Cincinnati Bridge Association**

Complete this form and mail with your payment to:

**Stephen Moese  
8815 Eagle Creek Court  
West Chester, OH 45069-6477**



**CINCINNATI**  
HOME OF  
THE FLYING PIG!

**June 3-9, 2019**



**Ramada Plaza Sharonville**  
11320 Chester Road  
Cincinnati OH 45246  
(513) 771-2080

**TWO-DAY FLYING PIG PAIRS  
CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
OUR FAMOUS T-SHIRT PRIZE DESK**



**MORE INFO: [CINCYBRIDGE.COM](http://CINCYBRIDGE.COM)**

# EVENT SCHEDULE

## 2019 Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional

We're pleased to accept all major credit cards for entry fees! Please make sure to have your credit card ready when you buy your entry.

**Bold - Multiple Session Event**  
**Swiss Teams in Red**  
**NLM Events in Blue**  
**KOs in Green**  
**\* Grass Roots Game**

	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:30PM
<b>MONDAY</b> <b>JUNE 3</b>	Tournament Set Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pig Out on Points Bracketed Round Robin Teams* (2 sessions) (Overalls in Each Bracket Pay Gold)</b></li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "A"*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "A"*</li> </ul>
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>JUNE 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hog Wild Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Hog Wild Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Porky Pig KO (Rounds 1 and 2)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "B"</li> <li>• <b>NLM Pairs</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "A"</li> <li>• <b>0-49er Pairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "A"</li> </ul>	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>JUNE 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pig in a Poke Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Pig in a Poke Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Road Hog KO (Rounds 1 and 2)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "B"</li> <li>• <b>NLM Pairs</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Porky Pig KO (Rd 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "C"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Porky Pig KO (Rd 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "C"</li> <li>• <b>0-49er Pairs</b></li> </ul>	
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>JUNE 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hog Heaven Gold Rush Swiss Teams (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Hog Heaven Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Eight Is Enough" Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "B"</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Road Hog KO (Rd 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "C"</li> <li>• <b>NLM Pairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Road Hog KO (Rd 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "C"</li> <li>• <b>NLM Pairs</b></li> </ul>	
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>JUNE 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flying Pig Pairs Championship (2 Session Qualifying)</b></li> <li>• <b>Curly Tail Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Miss Piggy KO (Rounds 1 and 2)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Eight Is Enough" Hogwash Horizontal Swiss (Round 2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "B"</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "D"</li> <li>• <b>0-49er Pairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "D"</li> </ul>	
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>JUNE 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flying Pig Pairs Championship (2 Session Final)</b></li> <li>• <b>Three Little Pigs Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Three Little Pigs Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		No Games Scheduled
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Miss Piggy KO (Rd 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "D"</li> <li>• <b>NLM Pairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Miss Piggy KO (Rd 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs Side Series "D"</li> </ul>	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>JUNE 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Stratified Swiss &amp; &lt;2000 Bracketed Round Robin Teams (2 session playthrough)</b></li> </ul>		

# 2019 FLYING PIG REGIONAL Spotlight on Events

## Mini-Soloway KOs

- All KO Brackets Run as 2-Session Swiss or Round Robin For Rounds 1-2
- Top 4 Teams in Each Bracket Qualify for Semifinals (No Carryover)
- Top Qualifier in Each Bracket Chooses from 3rd and 4th Place Team as Semifinal Opponent

### Why You'll LOVE This Format

- KO Teams Guaranteed Two Sessions of Play Every Day
  - No More Side Swiss
- Increased MP Awards for Small Brackets
- No Unlucky First Round Draws
  - More Balanced Brackets



## Eight is Enough!

### Thur-Fri Evening Swiss

- Players are assigned a point value based on MP
- A team may not have more than 8 points of players
  - 1 Point: < 400 Masterpoints
  - 2 Point: 400-1500 Masterpoints
  - 3 Point: > 1500 Masterpoints
- 5 or 6 player teams are permitted, but no team may field a team with more than 8 points of players in any round

### Stratifications

**Open Pairs & Side Games** (w/o Gold Rush)  
2500+/750-2500/0-750

**Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss**  
400-750/150-400/0-150

**Open Pairs & Swiss** (with Gold Rush)  
4000+/1500-4000/0-1500

**Stratiflighted Swiss**  
A/X/Y 5000+/2000-5000/0-2000  
B/C/D 750-1500/300-750/0-300

All players in events with upper MP limit must be under limit  
All events stratified by average MPs  
KO events may be handicapped

## FLYING PIG PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

### Looking for a Regional Event Worth the Trip?

The Only Two-Day Championship Pairs  
Event in the Midwest  
Friday, June 7: 2-session Qualifying  
Saturday, June 8: 2-session Final

## Event FAQ

**Q: What games pay Gold?**

**A: All 2-session events pay gold for event overalls and section tops.**

**Q: Are side games 2-session events?**

**A: If you play in 2 or more side games in the same "side series," it becomes a 2-session event. You do not need to play with the same partner in each side game.**

**Q: What are "Bracketed Round Robins?"**

**A: The entire field is divided into brackets of 8 teams (more or less), and each team plays every other team in their own bracket in a kind of mini-Swiss. These events are newer in our District, though they are quite popular in other parts of the ACBL.**

**Q: When are the Bracketed Round Robins?**

**A: We kick off our tournament on Monday with a RR, and the Sunday Swiss will be a Bracketed RR for all teams under 2000 MPs. The Thursday midweek Swiss has a traditional Swiss format. Bracketed RRs are also the format used for Rounds 1-2 of our Knockouts.**

**MORE INFO: CINCYBRIDGE.COM**

# 2019 FLYING PIG REGIONAL



**Newly Crowned Life Masters at the Flying Pig Are Engraved on our Pegasus Trophy!**



**Winners from Our Famous T-Shirt Prize Desk!**



**Terrific Hospitality Twice a Day!**



**Terrific Caddies!**

### Excuse Our Dust

You will see some changes at our host hotel as it converts to a Marriott-branded property. We're thrilled about the new look, and the renovation of the playing space will be completed by our tournament in June. The guest rooms will still be a work in progress, however, and we've only got a small room block available. We appreciate your patience.

We've negotiated a terrific room rate at the Fairfield Inn-Marriott next door (the parking lots of the 2 properties are connected), and there are many hotels in the area to choose from.



## BEST PRACTICES TEACHER WORKSHOP

MONDAY, JUNE 3 - TUESDAY, JUNE 4

### Calling All Bridge Teachers!

The Cincinnati Bridge Association is pleased to offer the ACBL's new Teacher Accreditation Program - the Best Practices Teachers Workshop. Held in conjunction with the Flying Pig Regional at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Details and sign up information available at [cincybridge.com](http://cincybridge.com).

## ANNUAL PIGASUS SEMINAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - SUNDAY, JUNE 2



### Robert Todd

Tune up your game before the Flying Pig! The Cincinnati Bridge Association is pleased to welcome back renowned bridge teacher Robert Todd on June 1-2 at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Watch for details and signup info coming soon!



**MORE INFO: CINCYBRIDGE.COM**

### ♠ Tournament Chair ♠

A.J. Stephani  
FlyingPig.Chair@cincybridge.com  
(513) 313-0488

### ◆ Partnerships ◆

Steve Messinger  
FlyingPig.Partnerships@cincybridge.com  
(513) 441-8858

### ♣ NLM Program ♣

Monica Ibarra  
FlyingPig.NLM@cincybridge.com  
(513) 240-2767

### ♥ Hotel Information ♥

Ramada Plaza  
11320 Chester Road  
(513) 771-2080

Fairfield Inn by Marriott  
11440 Chester Road  
(513) 842-9112

**\$79/Night Double or King All Week Long**  
Ask for "Flying Pig Regional" or  
"Cincinnati Bridge Association" Rate  
Must reserve by May 20, 2019



**FLYING PIG**  
CINCINNATI 2019