



## Quarterly Newsletter



*Cincinnati*  
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

**VOL XLIV No. 3 July 2019**

2860 Cooper Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 563 2218

### From the President's Desk

The Flying Pig Regional was a big success thanks to the efforts of all volunteers. The Unit thanks you all. We hope everyone enjoyed their time at the tournament and that you look forward to playing more next year.



The Unit Board of Directors has and approved an updated Compensation Policy effective January 1, 2020. This effort was led by Steve Moese. This policy was last updated in 2014.

Do you have a good idea or two for making our experience at the Cincinnati Bridge Center better? We have a comment box on the director's desk. It is very important we get your input/comments to improve everyone's experience. You may submit ideas anonymously. The Board wants our bridge center to be the best and most pleasant place to play bridge. You can help us make this happen!

Good hygiene is important. It is difficult to write this. All of us should wash our hands after using the rest room. Most of us do. No need to touch cards and spread germs. All of us will be healthier. Thank you for your understanding.

On a related topic, if you hate to play with sticky dirty cards, then please avoid eating snacks without cleaning your hands before touching the cards. How do you think cards get dirty in the first place?

Many members ask /tease me "Mr. President it must be a big headache". My response is "I am enjoying it because we (the board) are able to meet your needs".

Potter Orr has updated the telephone directory. Please notify us of any changes to your contact information. New directories are available online and in hard copy.

New playing cards have been ordered to replace old cards. Please notify a director if you notice a deck that needs to be replaced.

Features	Pg	Author
From the President's Desk	1	Nalin Mehta
One Step Forward	2	Steve Moese, Ed
Unit 124 News	4	Mike Lipp
CLUB ♣ CORNER	5	
Membership Committee News	6	Steve Messinger
Partnerships! Unit Name Tags	7	Joanne Earls
All the Compliments I Get...	7	Dean Congbalay
Who Needs to Bid Well?	8	Rob Weidenfeld
Ruminations	9	Robert S Brown
Naming Rights – Columbus 2020	9	
Spingold Round of 64	10	AJ Stephani
Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional	10	AJ Stephani
Much More Than HCP	15	Steve Moese & Dave Dressman
The Theory of Total Tricks Part I	16	Steve Bloom
What Happens in Vegas	18	Steve Moese
<b>SAVE THE DATES</b>	20	
<b>NLM Regional - Louisville</b>	22	<b>Aug 17-18, 2019</b>
<b>Flying Buckeye Regionl</b>	23	<b>Sep 10 – 15, 2019</b>
<b>Cincinnati NLM Sectional</b>	24	<b>Oct 4-5, 2019</b>
<b>D11 NAP Finals – CBC</b>	25	<b>Oct 19-20, 2019</b>
<b>Cincinnati Spooktacular Sectional</b>	26	<b>Oct 31-Nov2, 2019</b>
<b>Lou/Lex Regional</b>	27	<b>Nov 4-10, 2019</b>

The NKy Bridge Club lost the Elsmere Senior Center to flooding about two weeks ago. Games will be held at Pee Wee's 2325 Anderson Road in Crescent Springs, KY (just up the hill off Buttermilk Pike) until the Senior Center is repaired. On Thursdays and Fridays, you must RESERVE YOUR SPACE with Cindy. You must BUY THE \$10 LUNCH deal and pay your \$5 GAME FEE. Space is limited, so be sure get your reservations in to Cindy. No Mon/Tue games for now.

On Wednesdays, there is no provided lunch, but please consider eating dinner at PeeWee's as it will help defray our costs. NO reservations required for Wednesday evenings. See the NKyBC website for details: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/nkbc/>

Enjoy your summer and play lot of bridge. Check out the upcoming events and make your plans now. See you at the tables.

**Nalin Mehta**

President, Unit 124 Board of Directors

Unit 124 Club Games		
Mon	AM Aft PM	CBC 11:00 Inv MIDM 1:00 CBC 7:00 (Ltd) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM PM	NKY 10:00 11:00 CBC, AND, MIDS -- C&P/SP 2:45PM CBC 7:00 Ltd (Call for 0-20)
Wed	AM Aft PM	CBC - AND 11:00 - SCC 10:00 MIDL 12:00 NKY 6:30 CBC 7:00 PM (Ltd)
Thu	AM Aft PM	INT 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - NKy 11:30 AM WHC 12:00 - EAB 12:30 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 Aft	CBC 9:30AM-Noon Supervised Play (SP) CBC 1:00

**ONE STEP FORWARD...**

Summertime is a very active time for the Unit, Clubs and players in our area. Our snow bird friends are back in town, extra masterpoint games are offered at clubs, and there are many tournaments available. Gatlinburg, a 5-hour drive from Cincinnati, is the largest regional in North America every year. Did you know that after the host District (District 7), our District (District 11) sends more members than any other district?

Unfortunately, the data about tournament attendance shows that table counts are indeed in decline (I await official ACBL numbers for March and July – neither have been reported by Management yet). Nevertheless, Gatlinburg was down strongly year over year (7142.5 tables compared to 8113 in 2018 – that’s a 12% decline). We can expect District 11 tournaments to have fewer tables this year (Cincinnati was down about 7% from last year. Indianapolis was down about 10% earlier).

Is this decline temporary or permanent?

Data analyzed by David Rodney (ACBL Board of Governors District 6 – March 2019) and reviewed in the last issue of the ALERT looked at attendance for 760 regionals from 2013 to 2018. His findings are inescapable:

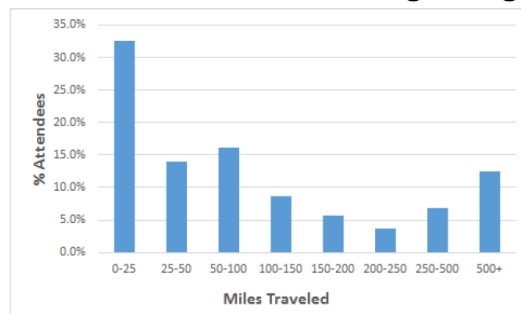
- 1) Players under 200 MPs are a major contributor to the decline in attendance even in the face of increases in Gold Rush Events.
- 2) Players over 70 years old average less than 0.5 regional tournaments a year.
- 3) Players do not travel more than 200 miles to play in a regional.

The data also shows that players above 2500 MPs travel often and play more sessions per tournament than their peers. The more MPs you have the more the more you travel! This should not surprise anyone.

**Number of members attending Regionals**

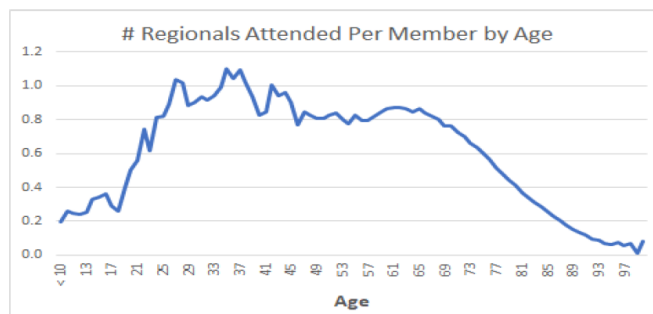
# Master Points	Year					% change 2013-2017	Participation
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
< 50	7210	7390	7250	7355	6752	-6.4%	11.3%
50-100	4607	4549	4323	4265	4061	-11.9%	21.0%
100-200	6520	6581	6249	6178	6106	-6.3%	30.1%
200-500	12876	12624	12222	11635	11535	-10.4%	69.5%
500-1000	10030	10023	9659	9412	9372	-6.6%	52.9%
1000-2500	10341	10162	9847	9585	9593	-7.2%	48.7%
2500-5000	4110	4117	4164	4195	4292	4.4%	60%
> 5000	2043	2160	2238	2311	2402	17.6%	85.7%
Overall	57737	57606	55952	54936	54113	-6.3%	32.6%

**Distances members are traveling to Regionals**



- Average distance = 219 miles, median distance = 58 miles
- Most attendance is local, though there is tremendous variation
- Tracking Regional attendance at same location over time can show patterns in changing attendance

**Impact of Age on Attendance**



- The number of regionals attended by each member declines after the age of 70
- These data have been consistent between 2013 and 2017
- The population has been aging and causing a decline in attendance
  - A 4% decline in attendance between 2013 and 2017 is directly due to aging
  - This decline will continue as ACBL membership continues to age

All of this shows the effects of the aging membership. We have reached the point where our demographics are going to cause tournaments to become smaller.

Clearly the data suggests the real opportunity is to get the 0-500 MP crowd out in force to these tournaments. Gold Rush and limited games (299er and 499er) are tailored to their needs. What is lacking is local promotion of the tournaments for these players. Players under 500 MPs represent almost 70% of our membership. Marketing 101.

### Membership Growth

Everyone at all levels in the organization see membership growth as a fundamental strategy for Clubs, Units, Districts, and the ACBL as a whole. Would that it were so simple. First, we need to get more people who do not know how to play bridge playing bridge. That's easier said than done.

Membership data for this quarter shows District 11 is 25<sup>th</sup> out of 25 Districts (that's right – dead last) when it comes to membership growth (we are 17<sup>th</sup> in size). Our recruiting rate is a bit above 5% just short of average (6%) but our attrition rate is a touch above 9% - so we are losing just under 4% of our members each year. Age and income related causes are understandable and largely unavoidable. However, focusing effort on retaining existing members should be a top priority for all Unit Membership Committees. We have to attack this problem at both ends – growing new members and slowing our attrition rate.

A	B	C	D	E	F	
Current		%Change	%Change	%Change	Growth	Size
Active	#	36 Months	24 Months	12 Months	Ranking	Ranking
District#	Members	Ago	Ago	Ago	(Col E)	(Col B)
1	5,601	-1.9	1.19	-1.75	11	14
2	7,987	1.67	0.9	0.19	1	7
3	6,305	-1.46	-2.39	-2.49	17	13
4	6,371	-2.43	-1.29	-3.16	22	12
5	3,189	-2.38	-2.85	-3.42	24	23
6	7,055	-0.33	-0.62	-1.74	10	8
7	13,702	0.92	-0.21	-1.23	6	2
8	2,723	-2.97	-1.95	-3.23	23	25
9	18,109	0.56	-0.52	-1.87	13	1
10	6,387	-0.32	-1.6	-2.1	15	11
11	4,338	-1.18	-2.03	-3.58	25	17
12	4,223	-1.77	-1.96	-1.65	8	18
13	4,923	-2.35	-1.74	-2.05	14	16
14	3,961	-1.74	-0.79	-1.71	9	20
15	3,094	-0.15	-3.04	-3.04	21	24
16	8,598	-1.31	-0.5	-1.01	5	4
17	9,012	0.9	-0.54	-0.96	4	3
18	4,058	1.14	1.45	-0.17	2	19
19	6,767	1.62	0.69	-0.73	3	9
20	3,776	-0.8	-1.49	-2.88	19	21
21	8,362	-1.36	-1.49	-1.82	12	6
22	6,547	-0.59	-2.64	-2.39	16	10
23	3,237	-0.24	-0.66	-2.59	18	22
24	5,440	-3.02	-2.06	-2.89	20	15
25	8,379	2.19	-0.58	-1.63	7	5
<b>Grand</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>162,144</b>	<b>-0.38</b>	<b>-0.89</b>	<b>-1.81</b>	

Unit 124 Cincinnati Bridge Association is 4<sup>th</sup> best in the District despite being the second largest Unit:

District	Unit Name	Members	P 36 Mo	P 24 Mo	P 12 Mo	District Rank (G)	Overall Rank (Of 298)
11	117 Louisville	516	-1.59	-4.12	-3.55	3	181
	122 Central Ohio	640	1.01	-4.72	-3.9	5	189
	124 Cincinnati	909	-1.56	-0.11	-3.71	4	185
	130 Central Indiana	1,015	-1.98	-0.39	-1.84	1	121
	136 Miami Valley	392	-3.35	-3.46	-6.22	7	239
	164 Bluegrass	351	-0.53	-3.98	-3.04	2	168
	193 So. Indiana	390	2.24	-0.98	-3.94	6	191
	227 WV-Appalachian	125	-6.38	1.52	-6.72	8	246
	District Totals	4,338	-1.18	-2.03	-3.58		

This clearly shows how much work there is to do to shore up membership decline. Our tournaments and our clubs depend on new members.

Unit 124 has very active Education and Membership functions. There has been great effort invested in creating new certified teachers, creating an attractive introductory curricula for Osher Lifelong Learning classes, and providing Come and Play bridge opportunities at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. We hope this will bear fruit over time. Emphasis is being placed on welcoming new members and helping them socialize with other bridge players. This can only help with member retention.

Finally, we ask all members to refer friends and family to our Introduction to Bridge program – word of mouth is the overwhelming way we recruit new ACBL members. If you want ideas how to engage friends and relatives in learning the game of bridge, contact me or any Board members, any member of the Education Committee, and the Unit 124 website itself for ways to engage.

It's not too early now to consider bringing your time and talents to the Board of Directors. Candidates will be identified in August for a three-year term beginning January 2, 2020. Simply get the Nomination Form at <http://www.cincybridge.com/Election%20Petition.htm> and have 10 members sign it to secure your name on the ballot.

This is another great issue thanks to our faithful contributors. Dean Congbalay continues his delightful thought pieces on the social aspects of our game. Bob Brown and Rob Wiedenfeld offer their creative flair for your enjoyment. Many thanks to AJ Stephani and his Tournament Committee for all they do. If you have a story or a favorite hand you want to appear in the ALERT please contact me at [moesefamily@aol.com](mailto:moesefamily@aol.com).

Don't forget to qualify for the NAP District Finals. Qualifying games run through the month of August.

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

*Steve*

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



## Unit 124 News

The Board of Directors publishes the meeting minutes for your perusal (and comment) to the website at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Board%20Minutes.htm>



Thanks to the direction from the Unit Education Committee and the Unit Board of Directors, we sponsored a Best Practices Teachers Workshop in Cincinnati on Monday through Wednesday of the Week of the Flying Pig Regional. The District is

committed to contributing to stakeholder needs at our Regional Tournaments. Patti Tucker (Grand Life Master, Easley Blackwood Award recipient for lifetime achievement) and Grace Major (the author of the Best Practices Teacher workshop) presented the workshop at the Cincinnati Bridge Center on Monday and Tuesday. A total of 18 people attended. 5 were from Ontario Canada, 2 from Illinois and 1 from Michigan. 10 were from District 11. Unit 124 members successfully completing the training were: Greg Brinker, Harriet Edwards, Mike Ma, John Meinking, Steve Moese, and Herb Schapera. In addition, Amy Gerowitz and Jane Duncan were certified.

This training is usually offered at NABC Tournaments and at Gatlinburg – large venues. The Unit decided we needed to support training and certification of new bridge teachers to reinforce our effort to introduce more people to bridge and to help create new members for the ACBL.

The Unit Board decided to offer the training at \$100 per person. (Certification was \$25 extra payable directly to the ACBL). The ACBL charges \$1700 flat fee for the training. They provide the trainers and materials, and require space and hospitality contributions (along with certain visual aids – flip charts).

Originally, we had 25 teachers enrolled and paid. However, 2 dropped out because they felt the SAYC quiz required to take this course was an insult to them. Two had health emergencies and 3 had unforeseeable conflicts.

Net, the Unit contributed the CBC space and \$560 out of pocket (Dinners for the teachers, hospitality foods, and flip charts) toward 8 teachers in the Unit.

In addition, when any new teacher completes two courses of introductory bridge to new people within Unit 124, the Unit will reimburse their training cost (Here \$100 or \$125

depending on whether they completed the certification exam).

The Unit 124 commitment to growth and to education is substantial.

Join us at  
Participating  
Unit 124 Clubs



June 17-22, 2019

The week of June 17-22 saw the annual Longest Day charity drive to support the Alzheimer's Association. Thanks goes to all who volunteered at the NKy Bridge Club and the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Pam Campbell, Cindy Tretter and Cordell Coy deserve credit for their leadership. The Unit raised over \$10,580 (\$7500+ from CBC and \$3080+ from NKy). This strong contribution from our Unit shows the importance our members attach to supporting the Alzheimer's Association.

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

### Make Your Zeal for Bridge Infectious – How to Spread the Fun



Each of us are the very best recruiters for this game of ours. **Now here's a way to make showing people the fun of Bridge easy to do without taking on full scale lessons** (we have wonderful [teachers](#) who can help with that). Adults have more fun doing than listening to lectures anyway. So do youngsters in Middle or High School, even College! One idea is to emphasize the fun and challenge of play, foregoing bidding for when people are ready. Here are two mini-games that do just that. No bidding systems or heavy rules - just a great way to experience much of the fun bridge can be. [Mini-Bridge](#) is practiced in the Americas and Europe. [HOOL](#) is a modified version of Mini-Bridge that shares hand information without the burden of bidding systems. **NOW** invite your friends over, have a **Mini-Bridge/HOOL party**, and get them loving this game enough to take lessons and think about rubber bridge then duplicate. Baby steps!

## 70% Games Apr-Jun

Date	Game	Player	Player	%
7/17/2019	Cinti Country Club	Kathy Shepard	Betsy Coith	70.57
7/8/2019	Deschappelles	Agnes De Lany	Jackie Toth	70.14
6/25/2019	Anderson BC STaC	Jackie Toth	Nancy Luetge	71.43
6/22/2019	Saturday PM CBC	Kay Mulford	Norm Coombs	74.4
6/5/2019	Gold Rush @ Regional	Janet Thurnau	Phyllis Mendoza	73
5/27/2019	Deschappelles	Bill Higgins	Eugene Siutsau	72.56
5/15/2019	NKY	Jim Brannen	Warren Sublette	72.63
5/15/2019	Anderson	Bill Higgins	Eugene Siutsau	73.61
4/17/2019	NKY Wed PM	Larry Klein	Norm Coombs	70.08

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

**Mike's Games** at the CBC has 4 different games.

**Monday Night** is an invitational game. We allow mentor-mentee pairs to play during the mentoring season. The upper masterpoint limit is 2500, but there is some flexibility if the "strong" player is playing with an up and comer.

**Tuesday Morning** – is likely the most competitive game in our Unit for this day. You may end up playing against World Champions. The biggest draw is where else in Cincinnati could you possibly face this competition. Great for improving your game as the players are friendly and willing to impart their bridge wisdom.

**Starting August 6th on Tuesday Morning at 11AM we are starting a NLM 0-500 game as well. Bob Fisk has agreed to do a lecture before the games.**

**Wednesday Morning** is the 4 is enough game. The point system allows newer players to play with more experienced players.

Point system for 4 is enough is

0-399 = 1

400-1500 = 2

1501- unlimited = 3

There is a standby partner at this game, so if you come you are guaranteed to play. Also in all the other games if you need a partner please feel free to call or email me. [lippmichael@gmail.com](mailto:lippmichael@gmail.com) or 513-467-8054.

See you at the tables, Mike

Pam Campbell has opened the **Unit Limited Game on Tuesday evenings** to include any Mentor Pair through the end of September. 0-20 Pairs still require reservations.

**On August 6, 2019, the Tuesday Evening Pair game will offer the ACBL Wide Junior Fund Game. This is an OPEN game so all members are encouraged to come and play for extra masterpoints while supporting Junior Bridge.**

This game awards extra masterpoints and \$1 additional entry fee goes toward supporting Junior bridge. Awards are 81.8% sectional-rated black points.

Overall Awards: 1st, 20; depth of awards, 10 places

District Winners: 1st, 10; depth of awards, 5 places

Northern Kentucky Bridge Club suffered flooding during the heavy rains in mid-July. The Elsmere Is currently under repair. The Timeline Is unclear but updates will be posted at the NKY BC website:



Interior damage from the storm sewer flooding was extensive. Repairs are already underway.



Here you can see the wall board cut away in the Kitchen area of the playing space. New wall board and other cleanup must be completed before NKy returns to their space.

As a temporary measure, the NKy BC has scheduled a limited number of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Games (no Monday or Tuesday Games) at PeeWee's Place 2325 Anderson Road in Crescent Springs, KY (just up the hill off Buttermilk Pike). PeeWee's Place is a family bar and grill. PeeWee serves ham and turkey roll-ups along with a soup and salad bar for lunch.



**Directions to Pee Wee's Place:** Take exit 186 on I75 Buttermilk Pike. Coming from the north, turn right on Buttermilk down hill to Anderson, 3rd light, turn right. Back up the hill through the light, Pee Wee is on your right before you go back down the hill.

**On Thursdays and Fridays, you must RESERVE YOUR SPACE with Cindy. You must BUY THE \$10 LUNCH deal and pay your \$5 GAME FEE.**

Space is limited, so be sure get your reservations in to Cindy.

On Wednesdays, there is no provided lunch, but please consider eating dinner at PeeWee's as it will help defray our costs. **NO reservations required for Wednesday evenings.**

We will play every WEDNESDAY and (BY RESERVATION ONLY) 1st, 3rd, and 5th THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS in August. Our first PeeWee's game is Friday 7/26. Here are the proposed game dates:

Friday	10AM	7/26
Wednesday	6:30PM	7/31
Thursday	10AM	8/1
Friday	10AM	8/2
Wednesday	6:30PM	8/7
Friday	10AM	8/9
Wednesday	6:30PM	8/14
Thursday	10AM	8/15
Friday	10AM	8/16
Wednesday	6:30PM	8/21
Friday	10AM	8/23
Wednesday	6:30PM	8/28
Thursday	10AM	8/29
Friday	10AM	8/30

Robert Todd presented a Seminar to 21 tables of advancing players Saturday and Sunday prior to the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional. The attendees found Robert's topics stimulating and the weekend worthwhile.

"Conformity is the jailer of Freedom and the enemy of Growth".

--- John F. Kennedy

"Stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start being excited about what could go right."

--- Anonymous

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Steve Messenger



I wish I had better membership news to report. After a strong first quarter, only a hand full of new members joined the CBA during the past three months. Declining membership continues to be a significant issue for all regions of the ACBL, and unfortunately, in spite of our efforts we are not bucking this trend. The bottom line is that the aging demographic of bridge players is a significant headwind that we must work to overcome.

On a national level, the ACBL is resourcing initiatives to attract new members. They recently invited 25 clubs/teachers to join a membership Beta Testing Team to evaluate membership recruitment initiatives. As new members are recruited, the beta testers will receive automatic notifications and, at the beginning of each month, a full statement will be sent detailing all recruitment activity. The ACBL will share any insights they gain from this initiative. The ACBL is also working on a strategic marketing plan that is strongly focused on Digital Marketing. Their goal is to promote bridge and its benefits, so more people – especially those in the 50 -65 age segment – start considering adopting bridge as a hobby. They are also working with IT, Education and Club Services to improve teacher and club directories, to ensure that current and future players can find teachers and clubs in their area when visiting the ACBL website.

At home, the CBA website already has a lot of information on classes and educational opportunities. If you haven't visited it lately please check it out <http://www.cincybridge.com/> – and share it with any of your friends and acquaintances who might be interested in bridge.

To help transition new and rubber bridge players to duplicate bridge, our Education Committee is now holding practice duplicate games, and at least one teacher is now teaching a duplicate class. Come and Play, the 0-20 game and feedback from OLLI class students has been very positive.

The Membership Committee is reaching out to all new members who have not yet picked up their badges and we are running an NLM Sectional on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Our efforts to recruit from social bridge clubs and Next Door have not yet been effective. We are supporting the Education Committee since their classes and initiatives are aligned with membership objectives and what better way to recruit new members than to focus on those who have already expressed interest in bridge by taking a class.

Despite the efforts allocated to the above-mentioned objectives, by far the most effective way to recruit new members has been by personal referral – members inviting friends.

What can you do to help our club remain vibrant? Volunteer! When the Education Committee reaches out and asks for volunteers to monitor Come and Play or an OLLI class, step up and volunteer. Let Larry Newman, the Education Committee Chair, know if you can help out. You can also continue to do your part to make the CBA an inviting and supportive place to play. Take to heart the messages on the new table cards. Be supportive of newer players. Games are a lot more fun with more tables.

Have a nice rest of the Summer! I'm off to Northern Wisconsin soon, and fishing, hiking and swimming in a lake are beckoning. I hope you have something fun planned as well!

Best Regards, Steve Messenger, Chair

## VOLUNTEER!!

If you are new to Bridge go to:

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

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)

## 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://www.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.

## All the Compliments I Get!

By Dean Congbalay

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



One of the many things that I love about bridge: All the compliments I get!

Just about every week, someone invariably calls me Mike. At one recent game, I was called Mike not once, not twice but three times — before the lunch break.

Ah, life is good!

The first time I heard it, I was a little confused. Did the person think I actually know how to play?

But as it happened time and time again, I really began to wonder why.

I mean, Mike's a very good bridge player. I'm a hack who just enjoys the game!

Let me noodle over this...

Mike has hair. My head is pretty bare.

Mike sounds like someone who spent a lot of time in China. I sound like someone who spent a lot of time in Chinese restaurants — in Columbus, Ohio.

Mike's pretty serious. I have a laugh that's made me many more enemies than friends.

Mike has no trouble finding bridge partners. I beg for scraps from occasional partners in two states.

Hmmm.

You know, I just made a decision. I'm not going to analyze this any more.

I think I'll just accept the compliments graciously and grin. After all, every time someone makes the mistaken identity, I feel 6 feet tall!

## Who Needs to Bid Well?

By Rob Weidenfeld

Pete the Plumber was well known in his chosen profession. His specialty was cleaning up other peoples' messes. No matter how you managed to bollix up your drain pipes or inside plumbing, Pete always found a way to find the solution. His bridge playing was very similar with one critical difference. He was often the one to create the mess! But Pete made up for it by seemingly always finding the right line of play. Here is an example from a regional in Cleveland a few years back.



<b>NORTH</b>
♠ A42
♥ Q6543
♦ 8
♣ K932
Dealer
West
NS Vul
Lead ♣K
<b>SOUTH</b>
♠ Q6
♥ --
♦ A1097543
♣ AQ106

Playing in a pairs tournament, this is the wild bidding you witness with Pete sitting South vulnerable against not.

W	N	E	S
P	P	P	1♦
2♦*	DBL	3♦**	4♦
4♥	DBL	P	5♣
P	6♣	All Pass	

\*the majors  
\*\*values, support for both suits

The purpose of this article is not to explain good bidding technique, as that would be impossible with this illustration. Let me try and explain the thinking of the participants. Having a passed hand, West decided to show both majors with one bid, even though 5-4-2-2 is a less-than-desirable pattern for a two-suited overcall. With modest values and a singleton in partner's first bid suit, North was more inclined to penalize their major suit choice so weighed in with a double. East had such a flat hand, horrible for offense, but he fell in love with his major suit holdings so asked partner to take a choice at the 3 level. Pete, with no sense of knowing when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em, rebid his suit at the 4 level with modest values to say the least.

Now West fell from grace when he decided to answer his partner's question without stopping to realize that once South took a call, he was no longer required to respond. Now North started salivating, as well he should and said "Not through the Iron Duke" and put the double card on the table. Pete, who sometimes appeared to be playing solitaire, decided to introduce his second suit at the 5 level. North was a bit peeved, but realized Pete had no hearts and a big (!) minor suit hand and took him to slam. East thought about hitting it, but was aware of Pete's reputation for fixing messes and grudgingly passed.

When you are on lead against distributional hands, and especially where you know the opponents don't have the high cards and must make the hand by crossruffing, it is vital to lead a trump. Against this hand it would not have worked and West found the inspired lead of the heart ace on which his partner encouraged. Pete showed to sign of concern but he immediately knew getting 12 tricks on the hand was in jeopardy as he was being shortened in trumps at trick one. Further he knew a crossruff could not succeed as he would collect 8 trumps and 2 side suit aces for 10 tricks. Therefore, he had to set up the ♦ suit.

He began by ruffing in hand and playing ace and another diamond. Both following with West playing the queen and king. He played a club to the queen in his hand and led his last diamond. West discarded a spade. He was looking at this with dummy to play:

<b>NORTH</b>
♠ A42
♥ Q654
♦
♣ K9
<b>SOUTH</b>
♠ Q6
♥ --
♦ 109754
♣ A10

He knew that if he ruffed with the 9 he could draw a round of trump with the king but would then have no way to his hand. West had already shown 9 or 10 cards in the majors and had followed to two diamonds and one club. Realizing that there was no hope if East had 4 trumps to the Jack and that he would most certainly lose control of the hand if he ruffed with the 9 (after he played the trump King his only entry to his

hand was ruffing a heart with the singleton trump ace-end of story and contract!). On a spade lead, the opponents would win and play a heart from with hand making him ruff with the singleton Ace. Again, losing control. He made the only play that gave him a chance to make the hand. He

trumped with the ♣K and played the remaining ♣9 to his ten which held. He drew the last trump and claimed, losing one spade. Here was the entire hand:

Pete's reputation remained intact. The moral of the story is even if your bidding is hopeless, at least learn how to play the hand!

Dealer	<b>NORTH</b>	
West	♠ A42	
NS Vul	♥ Q6543	
Lead ♣K	♦ 8	
	♣ K932	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
♠109753		♠KJ8
♥ AJ87		♥ K1092
♦ KQ		♦ J62
♣ 54		♣ J87
	<b>SOUTH</b>	
	♠ Q6	
	♥ --	
	♦ A1097543	
	♣ AQ106	



## RUMINATIONS



By Robert S Brown

### OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES – II

*In addition to its traditional caviar service at every game, the Club of my fantasies offers a number of ancillary activities.*

*Some as chronicled in the departed, but not lamented, Midwest Monitor follow:*

The schedule of pending social activities at the Club was recently announced beginning with the Summer Séance on July 7<sup>th</sup> in our Meditation Room. This semi-annual event will again be conducted by Madam Sosostri<sup>1</sup> and is subject to rescheduling if ectoplasmic distortions arise. Participation is limited to twenty members all of whom must submit to aura pre-screening no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> to ensure group communion compatibility. In past years trans-dimensional linkages were established with Ely Culbertson and Louis H. Watson. This year Madam S. will try to reach Harold Sterling Vanderbilt – the namesake of one of your reporters.

The Submarine Cruise departs August 1<sup>st</sup> this year from the Public Landing and will be skippered by Captain Mike Lipp (U.S.N. ret'd) who promises not to repeat the unfortunate claustrophobia immersion therapy offered last year. Instead the Cruise will offer intensive instruction on Howell movement techniques in tight quarters. Finally, Mike intends to regale all passengers by reading some excerpts from his latest book "Psycho or Psychic" soon to be available as an on-line download from vanitypress.com.

The Club laboratory failed again in its attempt to create an actual Flying Pig in time for this year's regional tournament. Although a variety of surgical/grafting and gene splicing approaches have been tried, nothing better than awkward gliding has been achieved. While not worthy of public exhibition, this specimen – yclept hyperbolically the "Soaring Sow" – may be seen on the third Friday of each month when guided tours will be offered to Club members.

The Club is saddened to announce the passing of its long-time groundskeeper Tommy "The Hatchet" Higgins. Tommy spent his last few years trying to emulate the financial success of Lloyd Olsen – the owner of "Mike the Headless Chicken" ("Miracle Mike") in the mid-40s.<sup>2</sup> The Club permitted Tommy to maintain a large brood of fowl

in a caged enclosure at the back of the Club where he attempted several times each day to decapitate and reanimate a member of that brood. Apparently, the flock retaliated and attacked Tommy *en masse*. A paronomasic member of the local constabulary, after viewing the grizzly scene, remarked that it was "a deed most fowl" and that the perpetrators had apparently "flown the coop". We shall miss Tommy and his chicken dinners.

Finally, your reporters congratulate President A.J. Stephani on his recent acquittal from the insider trading charges rashly brought against him by some SEC attorneys who not-so-coincidentally had lost a close knock-out round against A.J.'s team. The theory that A.J.'s tournament play was only a cover for his interception of Warren "T-Bone" Buffet's investment communications was far-fetched and supported only by the ten instances in which A.J.'s astute stock trading shortly preceded and tracked exactly T-Bone's public acquisition announcements. A.J. secured an outright acquittal on five of the seven felony counts against him and hung the jury on the other two. Under the circumstances, the pending Amendment to the Club Constitution prohibiting officer service during a period of incarceration is moot and the disgruntled Club members who proposed it have been appropriately chastened.

## NAMING RIGHTS – COLUMBUS NABC MARCH 2020



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<http://www.district11bridge.com/2020-NABC-Sponsorship.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> Vide: T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*, ll 43-59 (1922)

<sup>2</sup> The lively adventures of this decapitated cockerel are well documented. *Exempli gratia* Scientific American, "Meet Miracle Mike . . ." (September 26, 2014)

## Spingold Round of 64

by AJ Stephani

Losing big to a world class team in the Round of 64 doesn't mean you don't have your share of successes. Here was A.J. Stephani and Bob Lyon (playing with teammates Ryan Schultz and Pete Whipple) against the Rimstedt twins Ola and Mikael on Team Zagorin:

Dealer West Both Vul Lead	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ J542 ♥ AKJ87 ♦ 8762 ♣ ---	
<b>WEST</b> ♠ 9876 ♥ 106 ♦ 543 ♣ Q853		<b>EAST</b> ♠ AK3 ♥ 63 ♦ AQ109 ♣ AK64
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ Q10 ♥ Q942 ♦ KJ ♣ J10972	

North opened light with 1♥, and auction continued:

N	E	S	W
1♥	DBL	2♦*	P
2♥	DBL	3♥	P
P	DBL	P	3♠
All Pass			
*Constructive Raise			

North played Ace-King of hearts, followed by a low diamond. Declarer played the 9, and South won his King. A club return allowed North to trump, and another

low diamond was placed on the table. Mikael naturally played the ten, as South won the Jack. Another club return was ruffed, followed by a diamond ruff, another club ruff, a second diamond ruff as declarer pitched his remaining club. Another club, however, allowed North to overruff declarer with his remaining Jack.

If you've been counting, that's 6 trumps, 2 hearts, and 2 diamonds -- down 6! Plus 600 was a nice pickup of 9 IMPs against a less successful defense at the other table.

## Cincinnati Flying Pig 2019

By AJ Stephani

Another year of the Flying Pig is in the books, and any year our trailer isn't stolen is a win for me! (Recall that our storage trailer was stolen about 3 weeks before the tournament a few years ago.) Our host hotel, the Ramada-son-to-be-a-Marriott, is in the middle of a \$10M renovation, so I thank you all for your patience with the transition inconveniences. The conference center space

was refurbished with new lighting, carpet, paint, wallpaper, and doors, and next year you should expect to see a new layout for the bottom floor. The guest rooms will also be completely re-done, so invite your out-of-town friends to check it out.

We were down about over 7% from last year's in-tournament attendance, which is unfortunately par for our Regionals this year. We still finished at a healthy 1102 tables, which makes us the second-largest Regional (St. Louis is first) in the 5 ACBL Districts that make up the Midwest for the 4th year in a row. We continue to innovate with our schedule, hospitality offerings, and tournament add-ons to provide a great experience for our players. Our Pigasus trophy has 6 new names! New Life Masters hailed from California, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, and a special shout out to Don Sulgrove for achieving the rank of Platinum Life Master when he made the finals of the Porky Pig KO. Congrats!

Finally, none of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of the Regional Committee. They deserve kudos for terrific work, so give them a shout out next time you see one of them:

Steve Messinger (Partnership Chair)  
Sandy Fielman (Partnership)  
Reeta Brendamour (Prize Desk Chair)  
Monica Ibarra (NLM Program Chair)  
Carol Scovic (Hospitality Chair)  
Joy Singerman (Hospitality)  
Joanne Essig (Hospitality)  
Jayn Outcalt (Honorary Custom Cookie Chair)  
Barb Levinson (Supplies)  
Sharon Koster (Supplies)  
Steve Moese (Daily Bulletin)  
Nalin Mehta (CBA President)

And our Committee Chairs would tell you they had lots of help, but if I try to list everyone, I'm sure I'd forget someone. You know who you are -- many thanks. See you next year (mark June 8-14 on your calendars)!

### From the Hospitality Committee:

Fellow Bridge Players!

It was such a wonderful experience to be part of a community working together contributing to the success of our Bridge Regional! From your financial contributions to your contributions of cheese trays, cookies, cakes, and food of all types, your time and energy were greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Hospitality Committee, a huge thank you to each and every one of you!!

With gratitude,

The Hospitality Committee - Carol Scovic, Joy Singerman, Joanne Essig

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CINCINNATI

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Monday June 3, 2019



ROBERT TODD SEMINARS JUNE 18-2

DAY ONE  
2019 FLYING PIG  
REGIONAL



CAROL SCOVIC  
HOSPITALITY  
CHAIR

SO MUCH TO DO!!



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TEACHER WORKSHOP  
JUNE 3&4

SO MUCH TO  
ENJOY!!

Tuesday June 4, 2019

CINCINNATI  
TREATS

ENJOYING A  
GRAND FINALE



PLAYING AT THE FLYING PIG REGIONAL



Wednesday June 5, 2019



**WEDNESDAY AT THE PIG**

**24 TOP TABLES ABC PAIRS**

**FRIED CHICKEN HOSPITALITY!**

**GOLD RUSH PAIRS GALORE!**

Thursday June 6, 2019



**GOLD POINTS EVERYWHERE!!**

**THURSDAY SWISS TEAMS**

**FRIENDS FRIENDS! FRIENDS!!**

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Friday June 7, 2019



**COLUMBUS 2020 SHIRTS - GET ONE!**

**IT TAKES AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS TO RUN A REGIONAL! THANKS!**

**HAPPY WINNERS OF THE PRIZED FLYING PIG T-SHIRT!!**

**MARGIE JUDY TRISH**

**JAYN OUTCALT & HER FAMOUS FLYING PIG TRUFFLES!!**

**R. TODD SEMINARS**

**AJ STEVE NALIN**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO AJ AND THE ENTIRE TEAM ON A JOB WELL DONE.**

Saturday June 8, 2019

Congratulations to Cliff Pleatman and Steve Vogel



Sunday June 9, 2019 -

Winners of the Coveted Flying Pig T-Shirt



In all, 6290.6 Master Points were earned by 683 players. Total Attendance was 1102 tables, down from last year at 1187 tables or -7.2%. 721 players attended last year, so individual attendance was down 5.3%.

So, let's cut to the chase – here are the top 50 Unit 124 finishers in the Total Masterpoints won:

Flying Pig Tournament e-Bulletins	
Pre	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190603.pdf">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190603.pdf</a>
Tue	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190604.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190604.htm</a>
Wed	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190605.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190605.htm</a>
Thu	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190606.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190606.htm</a>
Fri	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190607.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190607.htm</a>
Sat	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190608.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190608.htm</a>
Sun	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190609.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190609.htm</a>
Mon	<a href="http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190610.htm">http://100.26.88.51//FastResults/D11/DailyBulletins/DBD11190601520190610.htm</a>

Total masterpoints: 6290.60 earned by 683 players.				
Total attendance: 1102 tables.				
Rank	MPs	Name	City	State
5	91.04	Yauheni Siutsau	Loveland	OH
6	91.04	William Higgins	Cincinnati	OH
10	69.47	Stephen Vogel	Cincinnati	OH
16	53.55	Cliff Pleatman	Cincinnati	OH
17	49.22	A J Stephani	Cincinnati	OH
23	41.13	Lorna Davis	West Chester	OH
24	40.86	Bob Fisk	Cincinnati	OH
28	39.39	Norman Coombs	Brookville	IN
29	39.24	Mike Ma	Cincinnati	OH
31	39.1	Larry Newman	Blue Ash	OH
33	37.49	Larry Jones	Pickerington	OH
37	36.03	Anton Habash	Oxford	OH
38	34.7	Sharon Kreitzer	Cincinnati	OH
39	34.7	Pamela Granovetter	Cincinnati	OH
40	33.92	Stephen Moese	West Chester	OH
41	33.16	Isaac Stephani	Cincinnati	OH
42	32.88	Terry Brausch	West Chester	OH
43	32.85	Dennis Schultz	Harrison	OH
46	31.9	David Dressman	Burlington	KY
47	31.09	Joseph Muenks	Cincinnati	OH
48	29.31	Reeta Brendamour	Cincinnati	OH
51	27.66	Jackie Toth	West Chester	OH
52	27.45	Tom Bishel	Columbus	OH
53	26.24	Albert Beaupre	Cincinnati	OH
54	25.03	Rob Weidenfeld	Loveland	OH
55	24.43	Susan Wisner	Cincinnati	OH
56	24.3	Ryan Schultz	Dayton	OH
57	24.3	Peter Whipple	Mason	OH
59	23.85	Michael Lipp	Trenton	OH
60	23.21	Cheryl Schneider	Westerville	OH
62	23.12	Vijay Vasudevan	Cincinnati	OH
63	22.92	Donald Durack	Cincinnati	OH
64	22.87	Nalin Mehta	Cincinnati	OH
65	22.09	William Atteberry	Cincinnati	OH
66	21.47	Erin Oblinger	Cincinnati	OH
67	20.28	Joe Fisher	Cincinnati	OH
68	20.28	Amy Fisher	Cincinnati	OH
69	19.89	Dean Congbalay	Terrace	OH
70	19.61	Michael Purcell	Loveland	OH
72	18.44	Karen Kendall	Libertytownship	OH
73	18.4	Stephen Felson	Cincinnati	OH
74	18.09	Robert Prosis	Cincinnati	OH
75	18.09	Marilyn Prosis	Cincinnati	OH
76	18.06	Henry Jackson	Cincinnati	OH
77	17.75	Barbara Levinson	Cincinnati	OH
82	17.3	John Taylor	Burlington	KY
83	17.01	Peggy Barrett	Cincinnati	OH
84	16.89	Jane Duncan	West Chester	OH
87	16.63	Diane Travis	Cincinnati	OH
88	16.28	Carol Macksey	Fairfield	OH

Its always fun to see who was at the top of the Barry Crane 500 Masterpoint Race who also played at the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional Tournament. This year we had 23 of the top 500 in attendance!

Rank	MPs	Name	City	State	Rank BC5
1	114.66	Shan Huang	Melbourne	FL	4
2	110.84	Kevin Dwyer	Melbourne	FL	2
3	104.37	Kevin Bathurst	Palm Beach Gardens	FL	14
4	97.55	Joan Millens	Kingston	NY	42
7	91.04	Kathleen Sulgrove	Twinsburg	OH	352
8	91.04	Don Sulgrove	Twinsburg	OH	436
11	67.49	Robert Todd	Tallahassee	FL	264
12	58.59	Sharon Anderson	Eagan	MN	195
13	58.59	Roger Anderson	Eagan	MN	228
19	47.48	Kendra Bridges	Chicago	IL	373
20	47.34	John Russell	N Barrington	IL	337
21	44.97	Jim Bachelder	Columbus	OH	460
22	42.47	Brian Ross	Charlestown	IN	186
26	39.43	Gary Donner	Bluffton	SC	86
27	39.43	Eric Rodwell	Clearwater	FL	16
28	39.39	Norman Coombs	Brookville	IN	398
36	36.06	Bill Cook	Louisville	KY	372
52	27.45	Tom Bishel	Columbus	OH	90
80	17.53	Sue Lan Ma	Kirtland Hills	OH	92
81	17.53	Peter Petruzzellis	Scarborough	ON	95
85	16.89	James Melville	Springfield	IL	203
347	4.74	Michael Zeller	York	PA	467
448	2.83	Billie Brown	Evansville	IN	483

Their Rank for MPs won is in the first column and their rank in the Barry Crane 500 race as of June 1 is in the last column.

As you see, the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional continues to attract a large contingent of top players while continuing to award many Gold Rush pairs the success they look for on the way to their MP achievements.

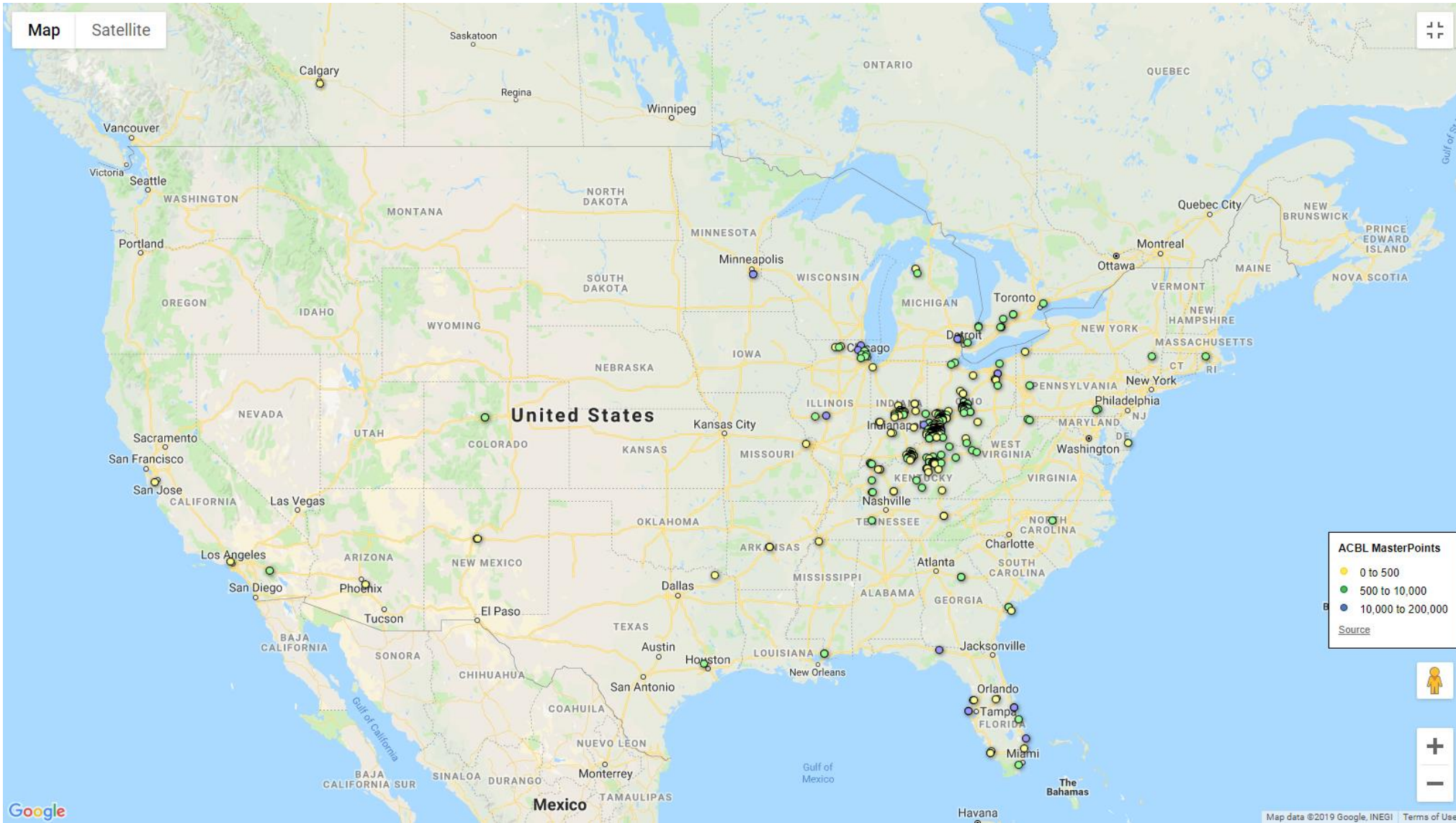
As is tradition the following players advanced to the rank of Life Master at the Flying Pig and will have their names added to Pigasus – the Flying Pig Trophy:

Monica Aedo, Columbus, OH  
 Sue Bennington, Delaware, OH  
 Margie Dalton, Saratoga, CA  
 Martha Harris, Highland, IN  
 Kevin Kington, Columbus, OH  
 Michael Kiwak, Torch Lake, MI

**Special Recognition goes to Don Sulgrove (brother of Robert Sulgrove) who achieved the rank of Platinum Life Master at the Flying Pig Tournament this year.**

If you are a newer player contemplating trying a regional tournament for the first time, there is no better way than to join the fun at the Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional.

Curious about how far away the Cincinnati Flying Pig draws players? Here is a map from this year's tournament. Note the Key – it's color coded by Masterpoint level. You might be interested to know that a California resident earned her Life Master rank at this year's Flying Pig!



# Much More Than HCP

By Steve Moese and Dave Dressman.

Dave Dressman, a mentor, teacher, friend, moderator of the NKy Bridge Blog, and player at the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club came up to me today with a hand. He said I would find it interesting. I now know Dave has a penchant for understatement. The hand came from the A/B/C Swiss teams, a two session event running in parallel with the Gold Rush Swiss Teams.

Table 1			
S	W	N	E
1♠	2♣	3♣	P
3♥	P	3N	P
4♥	P	4♠	AP

Table 2			
P	1♣	1♥	3♣
4♥	5♣	X	P
5♥	AP		

At first glance, these were two very different auctions. One south decided their distribution was so extreme it was worth opening with a 1-bid. Both NS pairs played in a Major suit game. While Dave offered no explanation of the bidding, it would appear North at table 1 made a cuebid raise of ♠,

showing Invitational or better hand with trump support. North's 3N appears to be the "Non-serious" 3NT. This is a slam exploration convention that allows responder to distinguish between hands with good slam prospects from

<p>South Deals EW Vul</p> <p>♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AKxx ♣ AJ109xx</p>		<p>♠ Q10x ♥ AKQ10x ♦ Qxxx ♣ K</p> <p>♠ J ♥ Jx ♦ Jxxx ♣ Qxxxx</p> <p>♠ AKxxxx ♥ 987xx ♦ 9 ♣ -</p>	<p>hands with poor slam prospects. The thinking is once your side has found a 9-card fit in a major, playing in 3N is unlikely to be better than playing in that major.</p>
--	--	--	---

So, rather than leave 3N as a choice of games bid, experts use 3N to separate good slam hands from so-so slam hands. Non-serious 3N means you have a hand that is making only a weak effort toward slam. Playing this way, the direct cue bid of say 4♣ would be a "serious" slam try in a hand with extra values. (Like everything else in bridge you can turn the concept on its head and play it the other way. 3N would be the serious slam try, while a cue bid at the 4-level would be a "non-serious" try).

On inspection, we can see that NS are able to make 12 tricks in either major. There are no defensive ruffs on opening lead. Trumps can be drawn in 2 rounds, and there's only 1♦ trick to lose. Notice that EW can make 10 tricks in either minor suit. So let's make a little table:

Pair	Longest Trump Fit	2 <sup>nd</sup> suit Fit	Tricks	1 <sup>st</sup> +2 <sup>nd</sup> Suit
NS	10	10	12	20
EW	12	8	10	19
Total	22	NA	22	NA

## The Law of Total Tricks

The Law of Total Tricks goes back to Jean-Rene Vernes in a Bridge World article from June, 1969. Vernes said if we add the longest trump fit in NS to the longest trump fit in EW, the total number of trumps will equal the total number of tricks each side can take. Here we see that there are 22 total trumps and that NS can make 12 tricks, EW 10, or 22 total tricks. This approximation is called the Law of Total Tricks. This "Law" is accurate for decisions when to bid to the 3-level, but can be off by 2 or more total tricks when both sides have large trump fits. Expert bidding practices to reveal total trump length in both hands include: Support doubles, Jacoby 2 NT, Bromad, Bergen Raises, Splinters, Mini-Splinters just to name a few. Raising a weak two to the three level on 3-card support and nothing else? Yep, that's the Law of Total Tricks again. Indeed, expert practice is to bid to the 3 level when holding 9 trumps – so the partner who knows the trump count makes that decision.

Larry Cohen's book on the Law of Total Tricks ties in vulnerability more effectively to trump length. He guides how high to compete more effectively than using simple HCP alone. Say we are EW. The thinking follows along these lines. If we have a 12-card trump fit, and the opponents have a 10-card trump fit, then if they are making 12 tricks, we should make 10 tricks. If the opponents bid a slam in their best suit(s), what should we do? If they bid their slam, we score -980 points. If we bid to a 7-level contract and are doubled, we will go down 3 vulnerable, or -800. -800 is a better score than allowing opponents to make a small slam. So, should we bid the 7♣ sacrifice? The answer is a clear NO unless we have double dummy information like we do here. At the table we have much less information about how many trumps each side has. The result of imperfect information will be that we will err in our estimate of the total tricks. -800 could easily be -1100 or -1400. Sacrificing Vulnerable against NV opponents is losing bridge.

Anders Wirgen and Mike Lawrence took on the Law of Total Tricks and found the variability too high for accurate bidding decisions, particularly as the total trump number grew past 18. They argued that Working Points is a better way to view what causes hands to take tricks. For them, shortness in side suits is very valuable. They almost got it right, but their solution is complicated and requires



information not readily available at the time we need to make our final bidding decision.

Steve Bloom (BridgeWinners Series “The Theory of Total Tricks”) <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/the-theory-of-total-tricks-part-i-history-and-application-2/> does a great job moving from Vernes correlation to an understandable cause and effect estimator for tricks we can take. The concept is simple – we add our own two longest fits. The Total Tricks we can take are the second fit total (SF) plus 3 tricks if the hands are very pure (all power in length and none in short suits) Total Tricks = SF+3. However for hands with wasted values in short suits, the estimate is TT=SF+2. Steve (rightly) concludes that the so called “Law” is a correlation based on the true cause- **the second suit fit**.

Wait a minute, what does this have to do with the price of bananas? What about the hand you say?

Well for the HCP adherents among us, they will scoff and protest – who in their right mind worries about bidding a slam on only 23 high card points? Or how about, “Who considers sacrificing against slam when you hold 3 defensive tricks?”

This hand is an exciting example that shows neither HCP nor loser count takes tricks. Tricks come from setting up long suits. Bid more when you have great length and a double fit, and when your honor cards are working in long suits and not wasted in short ones.

Do you think you should open the South hand 1♠? Why don't you go see what many Experts say: <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/bidding-problem-12497-3/>

S	W	N	E
P	1♣	1♥	3♣
4♣	X	4♥	5♣
6♥	X	AP	

Here's how I'd want to see the bidding go. I think South should pass. We appear to own the two top ranking suits. Our distribution is great and we have a source of tricks. South passes the 7-5-1-0 hand, and West opens 1♣. North makes a 1♥ overcall. East jumps to 3♣ thinking Preempt! South can make a control bid implying shortness and good trumps. North has losers in the pointed suits and simply bids game. South figures their SF = about 20 or so, based on the bidding so far. East will wake up and bid the 5♣ sacrifice (notice how much better it would have been to bid 5♣ immediately. Bid to the level of your trumps. Here 11 trumps means the 5 level. The benefit of doing so immediately is we give the opponents the last guess. If we don't we will be making the last guess. Let the opponents do it.

See the full 9-part series on estimating accurately how many tricks we rate to take:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/series/theory-of-total-tricks/>

Or, simply read on – Steve Bloom has graciously allowed us to reprint his fine series here.

## www.bridgewinners.com The Theory of Total Tricks: Part I – History and Application

By Steve Bloom

March 7, 2013

Theory of Total Tricks

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<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/the-theory-of-total-tricks-part-i-history-and-application-2/>



The Law of Total Tricks goes back to Jean-Rene Vernes in a Bridge World article from 1969 (Vernes, June, 1969). Vernes found a statistical connection between the lengths of each side's longest suits and the number of tricks available in those trump contracts. Vernes' work was new and revolutionary, but only in the way it quantified the importance of trump length. As Danny Kleinman wrote (Kleinman, 2013) in a letter to me:

“The value of additional cards in a trump suit for offense was known, though not measured, from before the invention of contract bridge.”

As he pointed out, S. J. Simon had written, almost seventy years ago (Simon, 1946),

“It has probably never occurred to you that a fit in partner's suit is a disadvantage in doubling a contract in another suit. Reflect on it and it becomes obvious. The fact that, between you, you hold most of the suit, means that the enemy holds few of it. And therefore, you cannot hope to make many tricks in that suit.”

Kleinman actually published a penalty double rule well before the Vernes study:

Do not double an opponent's suit for penalties at a level lower than the number of cards you have in your partner's suit.

Replace “double ... for penalties” with “sell out” and we have the modern playbook of competitive bidding written fifty years ago.

### The Importance of Total Tricks

It is Matchpoints, with no one vulnerable, and the bad guys have bid quickly up to three spades. Do you defend or take the plunge? Bidding to make is always nice, but

you can gain even when you don't make. Losing 100 in four clubs doubled is better than paying out 140 if three spades makes. This is where Total Tricks enters the arena. Suppose a little birdie whispered to you,

"There are 18 Total Tricks ready to take on this hand."

By that, the birdie means

*Tricks in spades (their way) + tricks in clubs (played our way) = 18.*

It is then absolutely clear to bid. Let's suss this out with a simple table:

Tricks in ♠	Tricks in ♣	Par Result Defending	Par Result Bidding
7	11	300	400 (150)
8	10	100	130
9	9	-140	-100

Of course they haven't bid their game yet in the last case, and partner might not raise four clubs to five in the first, so maybe those don't count. Otherwise, bidding is a winner in every case, and wins easily in the two middle cases, which are more likely.

Do we have such a birdie? Yes, Vernes' law is our birdie, since Vernes predicted:

**The total number of tricks on a given deal is, on average, the total number of trumps held by each side.**

So, let's say the bidding goes to you. You can expect partner to be approximately 1-4 in the majors. If you are 3-5 in the majors, then you can count a nine card spade fit, and a nine card heart fit. 18 trumps, and so 18 tricks. Your birdie tells you to bid four hearts without even looking at the rest of your hand.

This is an exaggeration, of course, and expert authors have written quite a bit on adjusting the Total Trick count, but estimating trumps, and using that to judge competitive auctions, has become the standard framework for all modern expert bridge players. Take a look at Kit's Corner in this forum and you will see countless references to the number of expected total trumps in competitive decisions.

There was even a Rodwell invention in vogue for a short while: After a one heart opening and a one or two spade overcall,

4 ♥ = four more hearts than spades

4 ♦ = three more hearts than spades

4 ♣ = two more hearts than spades.

Using these methods, opener would know the exact total trump count should the next hand bid four spades, and would be incredibly well-placed to make a five-level decision. This invention certainly shows how deeply this Vernes Law has permeated modern bridge.

So, Vernes found a remarkable connection between the number of trumps held by both sides, and the tricks available on offense and defense. This statistical link has been verified in major studies, but, as of now, there doesn't seem to be any theoretical basis for the amazing Law.

I find that very frustrating. Maybe it's the mathematician in me, but I want to figure out how things work – I want to see the proof. I have spent quite a long time exploring total tricks, and trying to develop a working theory. Finally, things are falling into place. In this series, I am going to explore total tricks, trying to develop a complete theory, from the ground up. Stay tuned.

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*Part II of The Theory of Total Tricks Next Issue*

From Steve Bloom's Bridgewinner's Profile:

About me: Retired mathematician and general curmudgeon.

Favorite Bridge Memory: I once got nailed by a real-life rueful rabbit.

Regular Bridge Partners Betty, my one and only.

Favorite Conventions: Transfers, of many, many breeds.

BBO Username sbloom

ACBL Ranking Grand Life Master

## What Happens in Vegas

By Steve Moese

Up at 3:30 AM to catch an early direct flight from CVG to Las Vegas. The flight left a bit late, but three hours sleep onboard was small compensation. I arrived at 7:30 AM Thursday and took a shuttle (\$20 RT) to Planet Hollywood. We stayed at Planet Hollywood for 4 nights and then switched to the Cosmopolitan for 4 nights. The Cosmo didn't have availability for Sunday night so we had to make due. I waited in the Starbucks for my partner to arrive (PH had no lounge that wasn't a bar and wanted extra for a room I could have by 11 AM. Bridge began at 1PM so Starbucks it was).

Walking to the Cosmo from Planet Hollywood (just across the street) was confusing the first few times. We finally settled on the Miracle Mile Shops Exit and avoided as much of the Casino as possible. Returning at night was loud, raucous, and full of partiers. Could not avoid second hand smoke no matter where we walked.

The breakfast buffet at PH was uninspired. The made-to-order omelets were ok. While the discounted price was just over \$20 with a small tip, value was lacking. We tried a Mexican restaurant in the Miracle Mile shops and found a good \$4.95 2-egg breakfast. Several places offered this deal. We focused on PBR at the strip entrance to the Mall for the rest of the trip. One visit to the breakfast buffet in the Cosmo was enough to cure us of any repeat interest. \$32 pp w/o tip made this a poor value even for the higher quality offerings.

Dinner the first evening brought out the negatives of using a smart phone app inside a hotel complex - maps don't work. We went to Eataly and found the food pricey (\$24 for pasta and water) and the place noisy. The walk from the hotels in 110 °F heat put us off returning (we never explored using the tram). Wolfgang Pucks Cucina had great food and high value offerings at their bar. We ate pizza for dinner twice. Yes, the pizza there was that good. Super toppings and flavors, and a crunchy chewy thin crust to die for. The steak sandwich was superb. Hattie's Spicy Chicken and Secret Pizza in the Cosmo were good but again pricey. For example, a full pizza was over \$30, and 3 slices and a water cost over \$20. Hattie's charged \$5 for unsweetened Iced tea and allowed only 1 refill (32 oz total). Dinner at The Henry (Cosmo) was a highlight. Great sandwiches and meal plates in a comfortable open setting where it was quiet enough to have a conversation.

The highlight meal was at Momofuku. David Chen's Asian fusion restaurant was more than its reputation. The menu while focused (limited is inaccurate) offered great plates. I settled on the Pork Belly Buns, Spicy Pickles and an off

menu Black Truffle noodle bowl. I recommend all three plates without reservation. The Black Truffle Noodles are to die for. (I eschewed the additional duck confit. The bowl was indeed rich enough).

The first hand worthy of comment (there were many) happened in the first round of the Von Zedwitz NABC Pairs. This event is a three-day double qualifier. This from the third board we played in the afternoon (first session):

<b>WEST</b>	<b>Dealer</b>	<b>EAST</b>
♠ KQ987543	South	♠ J2
♥ A	NS Vul	♥ J10974
♦ 10	Lead ♦ K	♦ 9654
♣ K73		♣ A9

The auction was uneventful (1♦) – 4♠ - (DBL) – All Pass. I was West. At first glance it looks like we have 3 losers – a fast trump loser a fast ♦ loser and a slow club loser. If we can ruff a C in dummy, the slow loser goes away.

Trick 1: ♦K – ♦4 – ♦8 – ♦10 (♦8 discourages)

Trick 2: ♠6 – ♠2 – ♠A – ♠3

Trick 3: ♠10 – ♠4 – ♣4 – ♠J

Now we need a plan B. Since this is match Point Pairs an overtrick would be worth its weight in gold. Do you see how? When holding a long suit, running the suit will either produce a squeeze or induce a carding error in your favor.

Trick 4: ♥J – ♥8 – ♥A – ♥2

Trick 5: ♠K – ♣2 – ♥4 – ♦7

Trick 6: ♠Q – ♥3 – ♥7 – ♥5

Trick 7: ♠9 – ♥6 – ♦5 – ♣6

Trick 8: ♠8 – ♦3 – ♥9 – ♦2

Trick 9: ♠7 – ♥K – ♦6 – ♦J

Trick 10: ♠5 - ♦Q??!! - ♥10 - ????

Dealer	<b>NORTH</b>	
West	♠	
Both Vul	♥ Q	
Lead	♦	
	♣ 85	
<b>WEST</b>		<b>EAST</b>
♠		♠
♥		♥
♦		♦ 9
♣ K73		♣ A9
	<b>SOUTH</b>	South to
	♠	discard...
	♥	
	♦ A	
	♣ QJ10	

The potential double squeeze was a pseudo squeeze.

North's discard of the DQ was a blunder – likely thinking that partner protected that suit, but not anticipating

that that the ♦Q was the only thing stopping partner from being squeezed in the 4-card ending. True, the Double

Squeeze was not there as North can (should) protect the red suits and abandon Clubs to partner. South will have to keep ♣QJ10 and discard their ♦A to hold EW to 10 tricks. When the double squeeze failed, the error created a simple squeeze for the overtrick. An 86% board is not a bad way to start. Here is the full hand.

Dealer West Both Vul Lead ♦K	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ 6 ♥ KQ632 ♦ KQ3 ♣ 8542	<b>Board 19</b> <b>1:00PM</b> <b>VonZedwitz</b> <b>NABC Pairs</b>
<b>WEST</b> ♠ KQ987543 ♥ A ♦ 10 ♣ K73		<b>EAST</b> ♠ J2 ♥ J10974 ♦ 9654 ♣ A9
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ A10 ♥ 85 ♦ AJ872 ♣ QJ106	

A double Squeeze requires that one opponent guard one suit, and the other a second suit, with the third suit being guarded by both. By rearranging just two

cards in the opponents hands in a non-material way, we have a pure double squeeze:

Dealer West Both Vul Lead ♦K	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ 6 ♥ KQ632 ♦ K83 ♣ Q842	
<b>WEST</b> ♠ KQ987543 ♥ A ♦ 10 ♣ K73		<b>EAST</b> ♠ J2 ♥ J10974 ♦ 9654 ♣ A9
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ A10 ♥ 85 ♦ AQJ72 ♣ J1056	

Now on the logical lead of the ♦K, the red suit menaces are isolated – North guards ♥ and South guards ♦ and both guard ♣. The ♦9 is now a true threat card against South and the ♥10 is a threat card

against North. The ♣7 is now the threat card in the suit they both control. Note the importance of the ♣A as an entry to dummy to reach the threat cards there. In this arrangement, if North holds 3 ♣ cards he surrenders to the ♥J. So North will pitch down to 2 ♣ and the ♥K. South now must hold onto the ♦A (♦9 threat) and that leaves room for only 2 ♣ cards. Declarer's ♣3 can score the overtrick.

It's useful to see here that the circumstances for a pure squeeze require specific card placement. However if the cards are placed approximately right, a pseudo squeeze might be operating that could fool even sound opponents.

## Meetings

From an ACBL administration standpoint I found the week modestly disappointing. I had arranged my travel to arrive 2 days early to join a putative Board meeting with the Governance Task Force on Friday, only to find that the meeting would not happen. Late decisions closed the meeting to work on aligning 17 of the 25 board members to a change scope that could be supported. Progress will be slow here. For now, the Board will focus on how to create skilled committees to whom they can delegate much of the current workload. This first small step is long overdue and I support it. I have no confidence the Board will find a way to reduce its size. Work here continues. Yes, I was disappointed that the joint meeting did not occur. Yes, I didn't like spending time and money (travel plans made well ahead of a meeting that was not as firm as plans in Memphis made the meeting seem) only to have the objective change late in the plans.

The Membership meeting and the Board of Governors meeting were held on Sunday. This year the ACBL called the membership meeting for 9:00 AM separating it from the Board of Governors (BoG) meeting. This change was announced in the July Bulletin as required by the bylaws. However, were it not for Stu Goodgold's note in Bridgewinners I would not have been aware of the change. The putative reason for the change was to allow more time for the BoG meeting.

The effect of this change was poor IMHO. Only 47 people showed for the membership meeting against a quorum of 250. Then the Management proceeded to give their full report (ACBL President, ACBL Management, ACBL France, ACBL legal) to this small meeting. This meant the 100+ BoG members in attendance at the 10 AM meeting got an abbreviated version of these facts. This means communication with the BoG suffered in this new meeting design. Indeed the number of people more than tripled for the 10 AM meeting. So sad.

Monday was the start of the Spingold. Partners from past NABCs arranged for us to play in the Spingold where we entered the qualifying round in 4-way. In this particular plan, two teams play head to head for 32 boards. The winners go to the round of 64 the following day. The losers have to play off in the evening, the winner continuing on and the loser out. There were 98 teams at the start of the Spingold. That led to 19 head to head matches (top 19 vs bottom 19) and 15 4-way matches. We drew Hill (J Lall, Dwyer, Huang) as our first opponent. The first half had us trailing by 12. Then the client dropped out and play began in earnest. After 32 boards we were ready to play the evening round. We drew a 6-

person team with Max Schierson and Debbie Rosenberg for the second half. Our lead at the half was 4 IMPs.

You fan your cards in third seat and see

♠8 ♥A10 ♦AKQ9874 ♣1072

This is an opening hand in 2/1 or Precision. Your partner in first seat opens 2♦. This artificial opening is a special gadget your partner wanted. It shows a hand with exactly 4441 shape. If 11-15 HCP, partner will have a singleton ♦. With 16+ HCP partner will have any singleton. You have one gadget, 2N, to ask about partner's strength and shortness so you trot that bid out. Partner replies 3♥, showing a 16-18 HCP hand with shortness in one of the minor suits. You would like to know which minor partner is short in. If ♣, You might be able to make 6♦. If ♦ then perhaps 6N can come home. However, you never discussed continuations here. You have 8 tricks. Partner is much more likely to be short in D than C. You have no tool for asking Aces here as no suit is yet agreed. It is theoretically possible that partner holds KQJx KJ10x x KQJx You try 4N hoping partner knows this is Blackwood (no RKB as we have not agreed a suit). Partner responds 5H (showing 2 Aces). Now its trivial to ask 5N and hear 6H (2 Kings) to which we answer 6N. There was no struggle to the play as D split 3-2 (68%) and a supported Q gave us all 13 tricks. Partner's hand was AKQ10 K942 6 AJ98. This won us 13 IMPs as the opponents unexpectedly stopped in game.

I found the use of unfamiliar conventions and incomplete discussion of follow-ups very annoying. Next time I need to plan better.

Unfortunately, our opponents found a 29 HCP slam we didn't sniff at (it made on a finesse) and bid to a minor suit game when our 3N went down 1. Losing wasn't fun, but playing in the Spingold is a great experience.

The bridge venues on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Cosmopolitan were good. All were well lit (I really liked the 12+ lantern lights they added to the 4th floor ballroom. These should be available for all future venues where high ceilings and dim light make for good parties and poor cardplaying). The bathrooms were impeccable throughout the week. The only complaint I'd offer is to stagger the game breaks so that all games do not have a rest break at the same time and the bathrooms are not overwhelmed by poor scheduling.

Directors were prompt, courteous, and helpful. I was involved in no hearing but was near one or two ZT instances that were handled very well. Kudos to the directors.

Bridge was fun. Results wallowed in average. We played in NABC events whenever possible. Thoroughly enjoyed losing to the Hill team in the 4-way. Playing at Kevin Dwyer's / Shaun Huang's table was a treat. Friday was a travel day and partner and I decided to play in one side game session before running off to the airport. Pushing cards got us a 62% that had eluded us all week.

Costs for the trip were up. Las Vegas is not as amenable to AirBnB. Car rental and parking all but eliminate savings. So I booked at site hotels because heat makes alternatives less appealing.

My share of expenses look like this:

Flight	\$270
Hotel	\$720 (2-way split)
Transportation	\$107.
	<i>(\$20 for shuttle, \$87 for parking at CVG)</i>
Food	\$380
	<i>(\$110 for breakfast and \$280 for dinner (splurging at Momofukus))</i>
<u>Bridge</u>	<u>\$428 entries.</u>
Total	\$1915

This trip cost was double anything I've spent in the past 4 years. Vegas was not cheap. Traveling to NABC's takes a lot of cash. This is another reason to take advantage of the NABC in Columbus this coming March 2020. A great venue and a great value for us "locals".

Final thought: The Cosmo was a superior playing venue. The total costs were too high. The rest of Vegas gets in the way for non-gamblers.

### Post Script

In the shuttle to the long-term parking lot a traveler found himself in a pinch. His wife left her passport in the car and he was returning to get it. He had 50 minutes to make his plane. The transport runs every 15 minutes or so but he had to clear security. I offered him a ride to the terminal. He was on his way to Vegas for a conference, Got him there in 10 minutes. I hope he made it.

## SAVE THE DATES



If you haven't qualified already, there's the entire month of August to get your North American Pairs Qualifier done. Check the club nearest you for an NAPQ game. Details are at:

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



## NLM REGIONAL

Louisville Bridge Center  
9870 Linn Station Rd  
Louisville KY

**Aug 17-18, 2019**

Non-life Masters – don't miss this opportunity to compete in a regional for Gold and Red Points. This event is just for YOU!

**Flying Buckeye Regional Tournament**  
**September 10-15, 2019**  
**Ohio Pioneers of Aviation**  
Presented by MVBA & COBA  
**Hope Hotel & Conference Center**  
**Fairborn, OH 45433**  
**(937)-879-2696**

The third of four District 11 regionals are coming up in early September – plan to play the entire week! Your gold points will grow!

*Cincinnati Non-Life Master Sectional*  
**October 4-5, 2019**

Here's home town source of coveted Silver Points just for Non-Life Masters. Plan to play all sessions with your favorite partners.

**Cincinnati Bridge Center**  
**NAP D11 FINALS**  
Flight B (<2500) Sat Oct 19, 2019  
Flts A & C\* Sun Oct 20, 2019  
(\* <500, NLM)  
**Cincinnati Bridge Center**  
2860 Cooper Rd, Cincinnati OH 45241

When you qualify for the D11 NAP Finals, you can compete for cash and for the right to represent your District and Flight in the NAP Championships in Columbus Ohio in March. Don't miss out on this golden Buckeye opportunity! The finals are

Oct 19 (Flight B) and Oct 20 (Flight A & C) at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

**CINCINNATI SPOOKTACULAR SECTIONAL**  
**THUR - FRI - SAT**  
**OCT 31-NOV 2, 2019**

Plan now for three great days of Silver Point Bridge at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

**LOU-LEX2019**  
**Regional Tournament**  
**Nov 4-10, 2019**  
HORSESHOE CASINO  
11999 Casino Center Drive  
Elizabeth IN 47117

Be sure to attend the final Regional of the year in Louisville! Gold and Red Points galore!!

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
THE AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**BRIDGE ON THE BAY 2019**  
NOV 28 to DEC 8  
Fall NABC in San Francisco CA  
November 28–December 8, 2019

Come to the City by the Bay for a week of terrific Bridge, amazing sight-seeing, and fabulous food. Make your plans early.

Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.

--- Benjamin Franklin

All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.

--- Calvin Coolidge

There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of human intelligence, imagination, and wonder.

--- Ronald Reagan

Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

— Andy Rooney

Push your boundaries beyond the ordinary; be that "extra" in "extraordinary."

— Roy T. Bennett

The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living."

— Anatole France



# Grab The Gold



## Louisville's NLM Regional Tournament Aug. 17 & 18, 2019

All events Saturday and Sunday will be stratified

Stratifications: 0-100 ( C ) , 100-300 ( B ) , 300 – 750 ( A )

\$4.00 extra per session for any unpaid ACBL member

### Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup>

2 Session Stratified Pairs ... .....10am & 3:00pm

Single Session games are accepted.....10am & 3:00pm

0-20 MP: We will try and have a separate game if available.....10am & 3:00pm

Education Session ..... 2:15pm

### Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>

2 Session Swiss Team .....10am & TBD

Lunch will be served on Sunday Only

Gold & Red Points Awarded, Free Coffee, Soft Drinks and Snacks all Sessions

**Location:** Louisville Bridge Club, 9870 Linn Station Road, Louisville, Ky 40223

**Telephone (502) 897-3581**

We are in the Plainview Shopping Center. Take I-64 Exit 15 and head North (toward Middletown) on Hurstbourne Pkwy. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> light, turn right onto Linn Station Road, using the two right lanes to stay on Linn Station. The Shopping Center will be on your right. Please follow the signs for parking.

There are several Hotels near the club:

Holiday Inn	1325 Hurstbourne Pkwy	(502) 426-2600
Drury Inn	9501 Blairwood Rd	(502) 326-4170
Baymont Inn	9400 Blairwood Rd	(502) 339-1900
Courtyard by Marriott	9608 Blairwood Rd	(502) 429-0006

**Tournament Chair:** Norman Smith (502) 500-6829 [forspades@msn.com](mailto:forspades@msn.com)

**Partnership Chair:** Hannah Davis (502) 767-5589 [bama426@aol.com](mailto:bama426@aol.com)



# Flying Buckeye Regional: "Ohio Pioneers of Aviation" Sept. 10 - 15, 2019



	10:00AM	2:30PM	7:00PM
<b>Tuesday Sept 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John H. Glenn Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Evening Side Series</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compact KO (Rnds 1-2)</li> <li>• Open Pairs AM Side Series</li> <li>• <b>NLM Pairs</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compact KO (Rnds 3-4)</li> <li>• Open Pairs Aft Side Series</li> <li>• <b>Single Session Swiss</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesday Sept 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Judith Resnick Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Evening Side Series</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orville Wright KO (Round 1)</li> <li>• Open Pairs AM Side Series</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orville Wright KO (Round 2)</li> <li>• Open Pairs Aft Side Series</li> <li>• <b>Single Session Swiss</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Thursday Sept 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Karl G. Heize Gold Rush Swiss Teams and Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Evening Side Series</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orville Wright KO (Round 3)</li> <li>• Open Pairs AM Side Series</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orville Wright KO (Round 4)</li> <li>• Open Pairs Aft Side Series</li> </ul>	
<b>Friday Sept 13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jim Lovell Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs Evening Side Series</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilbur Wright KO (Round 1)</li> <li>• Open Pairs AM Side Series</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilbur Wright KO (Round 2)</li> <li>• Open Pairs Aft Side Series</li> <li>• <b>Single Session Swiss</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Saturday Sept 14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Donn Eisele Gold Rush Pairs and Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b></li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilbur Wright KO (Round 3)</li> <li>• Open Pairs AM Side Series</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilbur Wright KO (Round 4)</li> <li>• Open Pairs Aft Side Series</li> </ul>	
<b>Sunday Sept 15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Neil Armstrong Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)</b></li> </ul>		

Presented by Miami Valley and Central Ohio Bridge Associations

## Venue and Hotel

**Hope Hotel and Conference Center**  
10823 Chidlaw Rd.  
Dayton OH, 45433  
(937) 879-2696

\$90.95/night  
Ask for "Bridge Rate"  
Reserve by August 4

## Tournament Co-Chairs

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Swiss Teams in Red  
NLM Events in Blue  
Championship Events  
in BOLD



## Stratifications

**Open Pairs & Side Games** Stratiflighted Swiss:  
(w/o Gold Rush): B/C/D 300/750/1500  
750/2000/Open A/X/Y 2000/4000/Open

**Open Pairs & Swiss** Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss:  
(with Gold Rush): 100/300/750  
1500/3000/Open

All events stratified by average MPs  
KO events may be handicapped  
NLM Events and Single Session Swiss as Attendance Warrants

\* Dayton and Ohio - The Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers!

\* Fabulous Conference Center on Grounds of Wright-Patt Air Force Base

Daily Lectures \* Daily Online Bulletin

\*Terrific Hospitality! Morning Coffee, Afternoon Treats, and Evening Pizza and Pop

\*Non Life Master Wednesday Special!  
Pizza and Guest Speaker Following Morning Session

\*ACBL Members 0-5 MP Play Free!

\*\$13/Entry - \$4 Surcharge Unpaid ACBL Members - All Players Must Be At Least Temporary ACBL Members

We are a perfume/cologne free tournament.  
Please refrain from wearing fragrances in the playing areas.



# Cincinnati Non Life Master Sectional

October 4-5, 2019



## Friday, October 4

10:00 AM NLM Single Session Pairs\*

(Snacks and expert hand record review  
will be available between sessions)

2:30 PM NLM Single Session Pairs\*  
0-50 Single Session Pairs†

## Saturday, October 5

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

(Snacks and expert hand record review  
will be available between sessions)

2:30 PM NLM Single Session Pairs\*

\* Stratifications: 100/300/NLM <500

† Contingent on attendance

## Silver Points Just for You!

**Cincinnati Bridge Center**  
2860 Cooper Road  
Cincinnati OH 45241  
cincybridge.com  
(513) 563-2218

**Tournament Chair**  
Steve Messinger  
smessinger9063@gmail.com  
(513) 441-8858

**Partnerships**  
Carol Scovic  
cdscovic@yahoo.com  
(302) 256-2190



- \$10 entry (\$5 Youth)  
(\$4 surcharge lapsed ACBL members )
- Fantastic Hospitality!



**District 11 Final: 2-Session Pairs**  
**Saturday, October 19 (Flight B)**  
**OR**  
**Sunday, October 20 (Flights A and C)**

**Saturday, 10/19, 12:00 and 5:00:**  
**Flight B (<2500 MPs)**  
**Sunday, 10/20, 11:00 and 4:00:**  
**Flights A (Open) and**  
**C (NLM, <500)**

**Cincinnati Bridge  
Center**

**2860 Cooper Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45241  
(513) 563-2218**

**cincybridge.com**

**Play in the District 11 Finals in more than one Flight!**  
**You may play in Flights A and B, or Flights B and C.**

**Questions about the NAP?**  
**Go to [www.district11bridge.com](http://www.district11bridge.com) and look for NAP info**  
**under "Tournaments"**

**District 11 NAP/GNT Coordinator:**  
**Ryan Schultz**  
**[schultzrr@gmail.com](mailto:schultzrr@gmail.com) or 937-609-1111**



# CINCINNATI SPOOKTACULAR SECTIONAL

Oct. 31—Nov. 2, 2019

**Cincinnati Bridge Center**  
2860 Cooper Road, Cinti OH 45241  
513-563-2218  
Extra Parking Behind  
9884 Reading Road — Back Lot



**Thursday-Saturday  
Schedule!**

## THURSDAY, OCT. 31

**Zombie Apocalypse Open Pairs...** 10:00AM and 2:30PM\*  
**Zombie Apocalypse NLM Pairs...** 10:00AM and 2:30PM\*  
**Eight is Eerily Enough Swiss** ..... 7:00PM

## FRIDAY, NOV. 1

**Witches' Brew Open Pairs** ..... 10:00AM and 2:30PM  
**Witches' Brew NLM Pairs** ..... 10:00AM and 2:30PM

## SATURDAY, NOV. 2

**Spooktacular Open Pairs** ..... 10:00AM and 2:30PM\*  
**Spooktacular NLM Pairs** ..... 10:00AM and 2:30PM\*

\*Grass Roots Game - 40% More Points! No Extra Fee!

### **Tournament Chair**

John Williams  
513-931-6127  
williajp@miamioh.edu

### **Partnership Chair**

Pete Outcalt  
513-505-3667  
peteou@gmail.com

### **Stratifications**

0-750/750-2500/2500+  
All Events Use Average MPs



### **AREA HOTELS**

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott / 513-842-9112 / 4.4 Miles  
La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham / (513) 771-0300 / 3.8 Miles  
LivInn Suites / 513-772-7877 / 4.3 Miles



## **Fifteenth Annual** **LOUISVILLE – LEXINGTON**

### **REGIONAL**

**November 4 – 10, 2019**

**At HORSESHOE CASINO**

**11999 Casino Center Drive  
Elizabeth IN 47117**

**(Across the River from Louisville KY)**

**Smoke Free - Indiana Law**

**For reservations call:**

**1-866-766-2671**

**Specify Group Code S11LLB**

**\$92 Double: Sunday – Thursday**

**\$112 Friday/Saturday**

**Resort Fee Waived**

**FREE PARKING**

**Deadline for Bridge Rate October 27, 2019**

**PurplePass**

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.

### **NEW TEAM GAMES START DAILY PLUS GOLD RUSH EVENTS TUE – SUN**

Pair games every session  
Door Prizes and Hospitality

**Questions?**

Louisville: Hannah Davis 502-767-5589 or

Lexington: Sondra Holt 859-312-7785

**Partnerships?**

Louisville: Verna Goldberg 502-459-3848 or

Lexington: Terrell Holt 859-351-2023

## **FEATURING**

### **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 Semi-finals (No Carryover)
- Top Qualifier in Each Bracket Chooses from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Place Team as Semi-final Opponent

### **Why You Will Love This Format**

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

## **Eight is Enough!**

**Thur–Fri Evening – WIN GOLD**

- ♥ 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 Points: = 400 – 1500 Masterpoints
  - 3 Points: > 1500 Masterpoints
- ♥ 5 or 6 player teams are permitted, but no team may field a team with more than 8 points in any round

## **Stratifications**

- ♥ **Open Pairs & Side Games** (w/o Gold Rush) 0-750/750-2000/2000+
- ♦ **Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss** 0-100/100-300/300-750

- ♠ **Open Pairs & Swiss** (with Gold Rush) 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+

**All players in events with upper MP limit must be under limit**

**All events stratified by average MPs**

**KO events may be handicapped**

**NLM games stratified**



# GAME SCHEDULE

## 2019 Louisville – Lexington

### Horseshoe Regional

**BOLD – Multiple Session Event**

SWISS Teams in RED

NLM Events in Blue

KO's in Green

	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	7:30 PM
<b>Monday NOV 4</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alysheba Stratified Swiss Teams (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Sir Barton Open Pairs (2 Sessions)</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 Fast Pairs "Side Series B"</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday NOV 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Triple Crown Gold Rush Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Triple Crown Open Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>American Pharoah KO (Rounds 1 and 2)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Real Quiet Evening KO (Round 1)</b></li> <li>• Open Fast Pairs "Side Series B" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLM Pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series A"</li> <li>• 199'er Pairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series A"</li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesday NOV 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>War Admiral Gold Rush Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>War Admiral Open Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Barbaro KO (Rounds 1 and 2)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Real Quiet Evening KO (Round 2)</b></li> <li>• Open Fast Pairs "Side Series B" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLM Pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>American Pharoah KO (Rd 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series C"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>American Pharoah KO (Rd 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series C" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 199'er Pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Thursday NOV 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keeneland Gold Rush Swiss Teams (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Keeneland Open Swiss Teams (2 Sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Eight is Enough" WIN GOLD Horizontal Swiss (Round 1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Real Quiet Evening KO (Round 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Fast Pairs "Side Series D"</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barbaro KO (Round 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series C" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLM Pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barbaro KO (Round 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series C" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLM Pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Friday NOV 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secretariat Gold Rush Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Secretariat Open Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Citation KO (Rounds 1 and 2)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Eight is Enough" WIN GOLD Horizontal Swiss (Round 2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Real Quiet Evening KO (Round 4)</b></li> <li>• Open Fast Pairs "Side Series D"</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series E"</li> <li>• 199'er Pairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series E"</li> </ul>	
<b>Saturday NOV 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seattle Slew Gold Rush Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> <li>• <b>Seattle Slew Open Pairs (2 Sessions)</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Side Swiss Teams</b></li> <li>• Open Fast Pairs "Side Series D"</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smarty Jones Compact KO (Round 1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Citation KO (Round 3)</b></li> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series E" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLM Pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smarty Jones Compact KO (Round 2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Citation KO (Round 4)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Side Swiss Teams</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Open Pairs "Side Series E"</li> </ul>	
<b>Sunday NOV 10</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Churchill Downs Gold Rush Swiss: 0-100/100-300/300-750 (2 Session Playthrough)</b></li> <li>• <b>Churchill Downs Open Swiss: 0-1,500/1,500-5,000/5,000+ (2 Session Playthrough)</b></li> </ul>	