



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

VOL XLVI No. 1 JAN 2021

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



"May you live in interesting times". I always heard that described as a traditional Chinese curse but when I started to write it down, I wondered if that was really true – it is not. Regardless of where the concept originated, 2020 would certainly have to be considered interesting times. 2021 has had a rocky start but there may be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

Face-to-face bridge has been suspended since March 2020 and no one I know has been able to predict when we may be able to resume. The ACBL canceled the spring national tournament and has canceled all other tournaments through the end of April of this year.

We (the CBA board, not the Royal we) have discussed possible ways to resume in person bridge but all the possibilities seem expensive, cumbersome and risky. Our intention is to listen to advice from the governor of Ohio and the ACBL in determining when to resume in person bridge.

As you can imagine the shutdown has been a financial hardship to the bridge Association. Our expenses to run the bridge center have continued even though revenue has virtually disappeared. We have finally negotiated with our landlord a reduction to half rent for a 6-month period. Cleaning and utility expenses have been pared down as far as possible. In addition to the losses for the bridge center, tournaments run in the local area which usually provide significant income have been suspended as well. Despite these problems the bridge Association

Features	Pg	Author
From the President's Desk	1	Potter Orr
One Step Forward	2	Steve Moese, Ed
CBC Vacancies-Soliciting Sanctions	2	Board of Directors
Online Virtual Club Schedule	5	Sanction Holders
Unit 124 News	5	Steve Moese
January 2021 Silver Linings	5	
Partnerships! Unit Name Tags	8	Joanne Earls
CBA Membership Committee	8	Mike Burns
Bidding Quiz - Problems	9	Mike Burns
Visiting With Friends	10	Dean Congbalay
National Champions!	10	
Ep 30: Silencing the Opposition	11	Steve Felson
ALERT Procedures Changes	12	Steve Moese
Unit Survey – Online Bridge	16	Steve Moese
The Theory of Total Tricks Part VI	18	Steve Bloom
Let's Talk Bridge	19	Veida & Judy
ACBL Online Bridge-New Conditions Of Contest	24	Steve Moese
Answers to Bidding Quiz	25	Mike Burns
2020 Rank Promotions/Unit MP Leaders	31	
Appendix O to Conditions of Contest	32	ACBL
2021 Online Event Schedule	34	ACBL
Charity BridgetoSchool Pro AM	35	Matt Granovetter

has been fortunate enough to have sufficient financial reserves to weather the storm.

Some revenue from BBO does come to our local clubs but most of that goes to the individual sanction holders. For example, when Pam Campbell runs a virtual club game on BBO is the sanction holder she receives the local club share of the BBO fees (Pam has voluntarily passed most of that money along to CBA). In addition, BBO run some games designated as SAYC - support your ACBL club. The BBO money from these games is distributed to individual clubs based on which games a player attended prior to the shutdown. For example, before the shutdown most of my play was in the Saturday afternoon game. When I play in the Tuesday morning SAYC game most

of the money from BBO would go back to the Saturday afternoon game. Since CBA normally only runs the Tuesday evening game, very little of the SAYC money comes back to CBA.

Isaac Stephani who had taken on the job of CBC manager and was directing several of the games at the bridge center is indicated that he is no longer interested in that job. As a young man who needs to continue his life, we are sorry for his loss but certainly understand. We are currently reviewing the job description for CBC manager and the issue of finding directors for bridge games at CBC.

Recruiting new members and retaining existing members has also been a problem. While there is still some teaching being done online, it is not the same.

Many of you have been playing online, primarily at BBO, but also at some other sites. For many players this seems to be a satisfactory substitute and we greatly encourage online play. Given the amount of time I have spent at home over the last 11 months, I have probably actually played more bridge than when I was able to work outside the house. Learning the ins and outs of BBO was a bit tedious but now seems pretty routine. We are working on finding ways to help those of you who have not played online to get comfortable with the process. I was going to describe that as "hands-on" but that seems inappropriate.

Potter Orr

President, Unit 124 Board of Directors

ONE STEP FORWARD

The crisis of the Cov-SARS2 Pandemic has grown to what we hope is a maximum impact on everyone around us. We hope and pray that the changes being implemented to improve distribution of the vaccine and Personal Protective Equipment and other necessities to combat this scourge has the intended effect. We are not in a position to predict when face to face bridge will resume. Resume it will. We hope that all our friends return when it is safe to do so, and pray that others who have become discouraged by the limitations on our activities find the motivation

to pick back up the game we have all loved for a lifetime.

So many questions and so few answers.

Of the major clubs in the Cincinnati metro area, only the Cincinnati Bridge Center is losing money. The Board has renegotiated 5 months rent to half and extended the lease by 6 months. The losses are substantial but survivable as long as we get back to face to face bridge at reasonable levels by fall of 2021. The ACBL itself is creating cash revenues in this crisis, thanks to the popularity of online bridge and the revenues from online regionals. Our District 11 is generally unaffected as we do not run Regionals – our Units do.

The Cincinnati Bridge Center has lost a major sanction holder for face to face games. The games affected are Monday Night, Tuesday Morning, Wednesday Morning and Friday Morning. These four games (and other open times) are available to any member and qualified ACBL director to own and run. There are people already interested in Wednesday and Friday Mornings. All four slots will be offered to qualifying sanction holders with the board facilitating competing offers. If you are interested in applying for space at the Bridge Center for one of these sanction times, please see Pam Campbell or Potter Orr, or any Board Member. No decisions will be made up until one month prior to reopening our doors.

Cincinnati Bridge Center Vacancies:

Eligible Sanction Holders, Certified Directors, and members in good standing, and are encouraged to apply for leases to run duplicate games at the following times:

**Monday Night,
Tuesday Morning,
Wednesday Morning,
Friday Morning**

The Board of Directors will facilitate competing offers. Contact Potter Orr or any Unit Board Member 1 month before reopening.

The ACBL Board of Directors has been very busy with changes in work they do as they prepare for

downsizing from 25 Directors to 13 by 2024. In addition, work has begun on transforming the ACBL Board of Governors to make it a more effective representative of our membership. Do you know who your Board of Governors Members are? They are voted on by the Units and represent the District. You can find the current District 11 representatives at: <https://web3.acbl.org/BOG>. There is an ACBL Bylaws amendment recommended to the Board of Directors for their action as approved by 66% of the Board of Governors on January 17, 2021. This proposal would reduce the number of representatives to 75 (3 per District down from 5), create standing committees for

- i) Club and Teacher support, growth, and development;
- ii) Membership growth and retention;
- iii) General matters relating to the play of bridge.

and create the new position of Secretary of the Board of Governors. This role will improve meeting planning and communication, important needs. The bylaw change positions the Board of Governors to serve the business needs as identified by the Board of Directors and Management. We expect this will bring the talents and knowledge of our members to bear on the more difficult business problems the corporation faces. This should lead to better progress on member needs and future strategy. A separate bylaw change will rename the Board of Governors. The current proposal is Board of Representatives, but other ideas such as “Leadership Advisory Council” might be considered. These two motions require Board approval twice by 2/3 vote, and ratification by the Board of Governors in the March Meeting by 2/3 vote. These changes also formalize the duty of the Board of Governors to communicate and coordinate with members, Units and Districts on matters of importance to the ACBL. Hopefully this will allow the newly lean Board of Directors to shift attention toward future strategy and membership growth and retention.

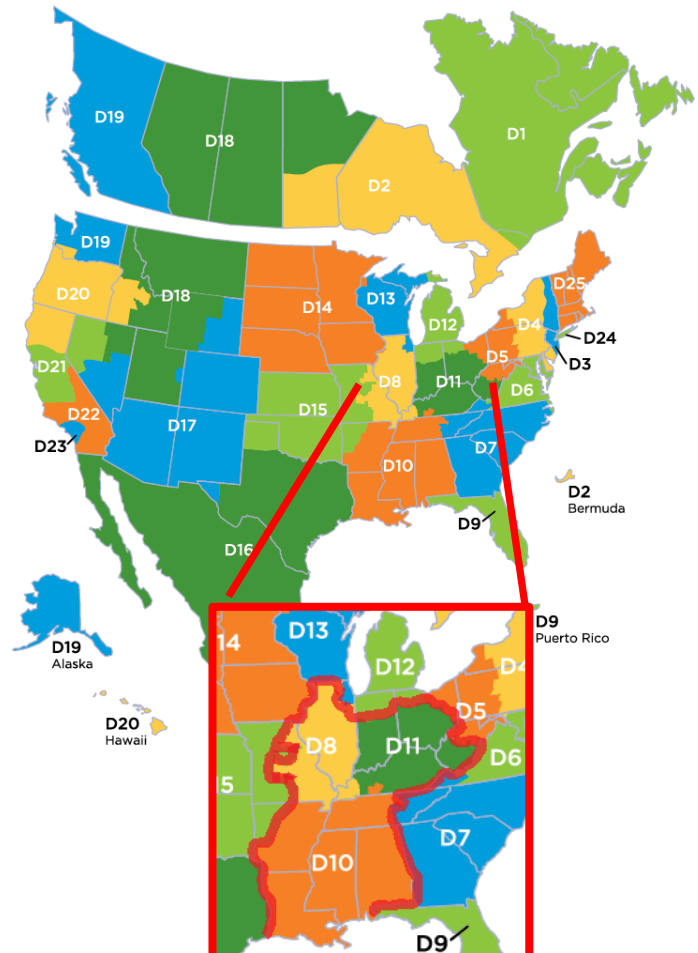


Figure 1: Our New Region Beginning 2024

When the ACBL Board of Directors changes from 25 Director to 13 Regional Directors, District 11 will be represented along with Districts 8 and 10 by one Regional Director. Toward that end, the 2020 Transformation Task Force successfully proposed delegating 13 of 14 non-core functions currently managed by the Board of Directors to Management. Where bridge expertise is important committees will assist Management in their duties. The one function that will eventually move to Management is the work done by the Bridge Committee. They are working on the complex detail to tease out work that would require Board ownership.

In all this change we face so grim statistics. 2020 has accelerated the decline in membership. There is a detailed article in this issue about Unit 124 and our partner units in District 11. Toplines: ACBL has lost 5% of our members year on year in 2020. This is more than 250% of last year’s decline.

The lack of face-to-face play, lost social interaction and lost vacation travel have all contributed poor member retention. Online play has been a salvation for many clubs facing large rent bills (not all clubs have benefitted equally). Of some 2700 clubs there are 1500 running online games alone or as part of an alliance. The difficulty is that only about 40-50% of our members have chosen to play online. On the flip side, the 50-60% that are playing online are playing more than before!

We cannot let our members become discouraged by the lack of face to face play. Now's the time to reach out and play with our newer members and with people looking for partners. If you know how to create an account on BBO, to find a game on BBO and to play online, you might want to volunteer to help show another bridge player not as able with technology overcome their resistance. True, we are all limited in how we do things these days. That shouldn't stop us for reaching out with a helping hand to another bridge player. If we were in their circumstance, I'm sure we'd appreciate the help. Did you know that one-on-one zoom accounts are free? They are also unlimited. What a great way to share what you know about BBO with an interested friend. Give it a try.

This publication, like many benefits from membership in the ACBL and the CBA, depends on the efforts of volunteers. If you appreciate their work, let them know! I am so very grateful that in these times, our volunteer authors are willing to turn out high quality bridge content for our members to enjoy. Given the circumstances, we can agree that well written articles are more important now than at any other time. If you would like to write for the ALERT, please submit your article to the Editor two weeks prior to the publication dates (last day of the months of Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct).

We congratulate our new Board members Lewis Temples and Michelle Barker. Welcome them and let them know how we can help. Your new Officers: Potter Orr, President, Michelle Barker, Vice President, Pam Campbell, Treasurer, and Steve Moese, Secretary are always interested in your feedback and ideas.

Now more than ever we need your support – play as much bridge as you can, bring lapsed players back to the game, reach out to friends who want to learn how to play and get them connected to beginning lessons. There are many resources on the Unit website at <http://www.cincybridge.com>

I urge you to read Mike Burns Article on the Membership Committee. If you have the time and the ability, please volunteer.

The ACBL has cancelled all face-to-face bridge through April 30, 2021. This includes the NABC tournament scheduled for March in St. Louis. We hope that progress with vaccinations among bridge players is sufficient to return to the table by summer. Wouldn't it be great to play safely and comfortably at the Flying Pig in June? We can all hope. However, we have to be watchful and realistic.

Meanwhile we should enjoy our game as much as possible online.

I urge all of you to stay safe, take no unnecessary health risks, follow national, state, and local health guidance, and stay healthy. We can beat this if we do things right.

As always we have wonderful contributions from the inspired authors among us in this issue. Dean Congbalay offers his insights about friendship and bridge. Mike Burns tests your mettle with bidding quizzes, and asks your help for the Membership Committee. Steve Felson continues his intergalactic series on amazing bridge. There are discussions about changes to Alert Procedures, online Bridge conditions of Contest, our Fall Unit Survey on Online Bridge, and another article from Bridge Winners about the Theory of Total Tricks. Be sure to check out the online bridge event schedule for 2021 – a schedule we all hope gets cut short as soon as possible.

Stay safe, get your vaccination, take no practice fineses when it comes to your health!

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

Steve
Editor, The ALERT moesefamily@aol.com



Online Virtual Club Schedule *(Closures for ACBL Tournaments)*

Day	Time	\$/p	MPs	Game (pairs)	Results	Director
Mon	2:00 PM	\$3	1.5x Bk	U50	CBA	Pam Campbell
Mon	6:30 PM	Free	None	Open	NKBC	John Taylor Cordell Coy
Tue	1:45 PM	\$3	1.5x Bk	Open	NKBC/And	John Taylor Cordell Coy
Wed	11:00 AM	\$3	1.5x Bk	U750	CBA	Pam Campbell
Wed	6:30 PM	Free	None	IMPs	NKBC	John Taylor Cordell Coy
Thu	6:30 PM	\$3	1.5x Bk	4 is Enough/Imps* <i>closed 2/18</i>	CBA	Pam Campbell
Fri	1:30 PM	\$3	1.5x Bk	U500 <i>closed 2/19</i>	NKBC/And	John Taylor Cordell Coy

UNIT 124 NEWS

**BRIDGE
CLOSED**

The games at the ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB, the NORTHERN KENTUCKY BRIDGE CLUB, and the CINCINNATI BRIDGE CLUB ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

We do not know when face to face bridge will resume in Unit 124. That will be a club by club decision. Resuming tournament bridge depends on the ACBL making tournament directors available to run them and the local conditions for the covid-19 disease at the time of the tournament. All tournaments have been cancelled through April 30, 2021. Check the Unit Website for updates.

Online Bridge – Virtual Club Games

Here are the recent **table counts** by club:

Tables By Game Type:		Total	Avg
NKBC	Open	277	8.18
NKBC	<500	54	4.50
NKBC	Total	331	7.20
CBA	Open	0	0
CBA	U1000	15	7.50
CBA	U750	75	5.36
CBA	U50	71	4.44
CBA	4 is enough	93	7.75
CBA	Total	257	5.71
10/1/2020 to 1/29/21			

Past 4 months data from ACBL Live4Clubs



If you haven't started playing online, now's a great time to start!

If you need help learning how to navigate BBO, set up your account, or manage the logistics for playing bridge on BBO, please contact a friend you know, or any Board Member. We will find a way to help you.

Here are some very well done videos (free) that cover all you need to know:

[How to Use Bridge Base Online \(Sylvana Morici\)](#)

[Adding BBO \\$'s to your account \(Sylvana Morici\)](#)

[How to Bid and Play \(Sylvana Morici\)](#)

[How to Set up your convention card \(S.Morici\)](#)

[How to Alert your Bids \(Sylvana Morici\)](#)

[How to Play on BBO\(Samantha McDouglas\)](#)

Of course, these links work when you view the ALERT online! In addition there are many articles on our Unit website at:

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

JANUARY 2021 SILVER LININGS!

The ACBL ran its second Silver Linings event for virtual clubs so members can earn much needed **SILVER** masterpoints®. Our inimitable Virtual Club Directors (Pam Campbell, Cordell Coy, and John Taylor) combined to offer 11 sessions of Silver Lining games during January 18-24. We had 100 tables (69 NKBC and 31 CBA). Open games had a total of 62 tables, U1000 11 tables, U500 7 tables, U50 9 tables and 4 is Enough 11 tables!

Six sessions were Open Pairs, two sessions were 0-50, one 0-500, one 0-1000, one 4 is Enough Pairs.¹

SILVER LININGS WEEK MASTERPOINT WINNERS

Dir Pair Names SA SB SC MPs % MP Award

NKBC 1/18 1:45 PM Open

NS	4	Stephen Moese - Michael Purcell	1		119	66.1	2.20	silver
NS	5	John Hassan - Estella Hassan		1	118	65.6	1.54	silver
NS	7	Cordell Coy - Karen Coy		2	109.5	60.8	1.10	silver
NS	6	Susan Wisner - Larry Newman	4		104	57.8	0.77	silver
NS	2	Robert Lail - Anne Rinaldi		3	96.5	53.6	0.64	silver
NS	8	Douglas Milton - S Kelley Keys		2	79.5	44.2	0.45	silver
EW	7	Margaret Young - Howard Simon	1		110	61.1	2.20	silver
EW	9	John Taylor - Peggy Ammon	2		104.5	58.1	1.54	silver
EW	5	Gregory Brinker - Robert Frey		1	98	54.4	1.12	silver
EW	8	Judith Lucas - Judy Barron		1	96	53.3	0.78	silver
EW	10	Edward Felson - Stephen Felson		2	90.5	50.3	0.56	silver

NKBC 1/19 6:30 PM Open

NS	4	John Meinking - Pam Campbell	1		74.5	59.1	1.40	silver
NS	5	Kay Mulford - Lewis Temples		1	73.5	58.3	0.98	silver
NS	1	Jonathan Burns - James Barrett		1	65.5	52	0.70	silver
EW	3	Albert Beaupre - Stephen Moese	1		74.5	59.1	1.40	silver
EW	2	Robert Lail - Anne Rinaldi		1	67	53.2	0.98	silver
EW	4	Micky Dasenbrock - William Atteberry	2		66	52.4	0.60	silver
EW	7	Dennis Schultz - John Williams		2	66	52.4	0.60	silver

NKBC 1/19 1:45 PM Open

NS	4	Howard Simon - Barton Jacobs		1	142.5	66.4	2.60	silver
NS	13	Albert Beaupre - Stephen Moese	2		122.5	57.1	1.82	silver
NS	3	Barbara Levinson - Amy Gerowitz	3		117	54.4	1.30	silver
NS	8	Betty Murdock - Peter Outcalt		2	114	53	1.01	silver
NS	6	Anne Kereiakes - Anne Rinaldi		1	113	52.5	0.80	silver
NS	2	Tak (Oliver) Yip - Timothy Martin	4		107	49.9	0.50	silver
NS	11	Paul Binder - Robert Frey		2	102	47.3	0.56	silver
EW	5	Micky Dasenbrock - William Atteberry	1		133.5	62.2	2.60	silver
EW	9	Donald Duritsch - Jagmohan Malhotra	2		131	61.1	1.82	silver
EW	2	Stephen Felson - James Myers		2	128.5	59.6	1.30	silver
EW	13	Peggy Ammon - John Taylor	4		113	52.4	0.91	silver
EW	3	Jonathan Burns - Agnes Boswell		1	110.5	51.4	0.72	silver
EW	10	Susan Wisner - Sharon Kreitzer	4		108	50.4	0.50	silver
EW	8	Phyllis Mendoza - Janet Thurnau		2	91.5	42.6	0.45	silver

NKBC 1/20 1:45 PM Open

NS	8	mlang - Bobbie McDougal	1		102.5	63.3	2.00	silver
NS	3	Stephen Moese - John Taylor	2		98.5	60.8	1.40	silver
NS	1	Robert Frey - William Atteberry		1	82.5	50.9	0.96	silver
NS	4	Robert Lail - Anne Rinaldi		1	82.5	50.9	0.96	silver
NS	10	Phyllis Mendoza - Janet Thurnau		2	79.5	49.1	0.56	silver
EW	4	Barbara Levinson - Margaret Young	1		95	58.6	1.70	silver
EW	7	Terry Barrett - James Barrett		1	95	58.6	1.70	silver
EW	2	Gail Zimmer - Timothy Martin		2	91.5	56.5	1.00	silver
EW	5	Agnes Boswell - Jonathan Burns		2	88.5	54.6	0.56	silver
EW	9	Rick O'Connor - Joe Pike	4		88.5	54.6	0.54	silver

NKBC 1/21 1:45 PM Open

NS	7	John Taylor - Peggy Ammon	1		81	56.3	1.80	silver
NS	6	Dennis Schultz - John Williams	2		77.5	53.8	1.26	silver
NS	1	Vernon Goetz - Rick O'Connor	3		77	53.5	0.90	silver
NS	4	Lalitha Yalamanchili - Susan Wisner		1	76	52.8	0.96	silver
NS	3	S Kelley Keys - Carla Runda		1	72.5	50.4	0.67	silver
EW	5	Pam Campbell - Stephen Moese	1		93	64.6	1.80	silver
EW	8	Donald Morris - Stephen Creed		1	78	54.2	1.26	silver
EW	9	Robert Frey - William Atteberry		2	74.5	51.7	0.90	silver
EW	6	Jackie Toth - Margaret Young	5		69.5	48.3	0.63	silver

NKBC 1/22 1:30 PM U500

NS	1	Sandra Fielman - Stephen Messinger	1		75.5	59.9	1.12	silver
NS	7	Veida Marie Wasserman - Judy Crotty Hall		1	75	59.5	0.78	silver
NS	4	Barbara Gloeckner - Mary Merryman		1	70.5	56	0.56	silver
EW	4	Estella Hassan - John Hassan		1	82.5	65.5	1.12	silver
EW	2	Pattie Jamison - Jan Kiefhaber		2	71	56.4	0.78	silver
EW	3	Frances Hamilton - Carolyn Murray		3	60	47.6	0.56	silver
EW	1	Sally Raney - Kathryn McCord		1	55.5	44.1	0.24	silver

NKBC 1/21/1:45 PM Open

NS	1	John Taylor - Peggy Ammon	1		117.5	59.3	3.00	silver
NS	3	Bob Stitt - Stephen Vogel	2		117	59.1	2.26	silver
NS	5	Pam Campbell - William Atteberry		1	115.5	58.3	1.70	silver
NS	2	Margaret Young - Howard Simon	4		112	56.6	1.33	silver
NS	6	Rick O'Connor - Vernon Goetz	5		107	54	0.76	silver
NS	8	Gregory Brinker - J Woeste		1	106	53.5	0.90	silver
NS	12	Donald Duritsch - Douglas Milton		2	92.5	46.7	0.64	silver
EW	3	Randy Jordan - abe203	1		119	60.1	3.80	silver
EW	4	Dennis Schultz - John Williams	2		114.5	57.8	2.26	silver
EW	8	Mike Ma - Stephen Moese	3		109.5	55.3	1.52	silver
EW	9	S Kelley Keys - Barbara Levinson	3		109.5	55.3	1.52	silver
EW	6	Stephen Felson - Jagmohan Malhotra		1	105	53	1.28	silver
EW	12	Joe Pike - Robert Frey		2	100	50.5	0.90	silver
EW	5	Imogene Enzweiler - John Ammon		1	98	49.5	0.64	silver
EW	11	Jane Duncan - Stephen Creed		2	95.5	48.2	0.45	silver

CBA 1/18 2:00 PM U50

OW	7	Srivatsa Rajan - ---m18176	1		43.5	60.4	1.20	silver
OW	6	Mary Merryman - Phyllis Rozof	2		43	59.7	0.84	silver
OW	1	Uday Patil - Pratibha Patil	3		41	56.9	0.60	silver
OW	8	Joseph Moravec - Robert Campbell		1	40.5	56.3	0.56	silver
OW	2	Hal Bernstein - Douglas Jose	2		37.5	52.1	0.39	silver
OW	10	Sissy Steams - Marsha Weston		1	34.5	47.9	0.28	silver
OW	5	Mary Goodwin - Laura Gerberick		2	32.5	45.1	0.17	silver

CBA 1/19 11 AM U50

OW	6	Kathryn McCord - John McHugh		1	35	64.8	0.96	silver
OW	2	Joan Goetz - Arlene Luebke	3		30.5	56.5	0.67	silver
OW	1	Barbara Gloeckner - Mary Merryman		2	30	55.6	0.48	silver
OW	4	Joseph Moravec - Susie Schwartz		1	28.5	52.8	0.18	silver

CBA 1/20 11 AM U1000

NS	8	John Hassan - Estella Hassan		1	104.5	58.1	1.76	silver
NS	4	Diane Drew - Paula Wolfe		2	100	55.6	1.23	silver
NS	6	Patt Olexsey - Joanne Oppelt		3	98	54.4	0.88	silver
NS	5	Walter Huber - David Francis	4		95.5	53.1	0.62	silver
NS	3	Stephen Creed - Barry Wauligman	5		94.5	52.5		
NS	7	Liz Lin - Carla Runda	6		92	51.1		
NS	10	Carolyn Murray - Frances Hamilton		2	91	50.6	0.34	silver
EW	5	Betty Murdock - Peter Outcalt	1		126	70	1.76	silver
EW	4	Agnes Boswell - Jonathan Burns		1	125.5	69.7	1.23	silver
EW	1	Hal Bernstein - Robert Letourneau		1	101.5	56.4	0.88	silver
EW	2	Vernon Goetz - Gregory Brinker	4		98	54.4	0.62	silver
EW	7	Debra Chavez - Stephanie Jones		3	83	46.1	0.48	silver
EW	10	Veida Marie Wasserman - Judy Crotty Hall		2	83	46.1	0.48	silver

CBA 1/21 6:30 PM 4 Is Enough Pairs

NS	4	Carla Runda - S Kelley Keys		1	27.8		2.20	silver
NS	8	Sanderson Orr - Potter Orr		2	22		1.54	silver
NS	6	John Ammon - Larry Klein	3		10.7		1.10	silver
NS	5	John Meinking - Jonathan Burns	4		10.4		0.77	silver
NS	11	Estella Hassan - John Hassan		2	4		0.64	silver
EW	11	Joanne Earls - Amy Gerowitz		1	22		2.20	silver
EW	5	Janet Thurnau - Phyllis Mendoza		1	18.4		1.54	silver
EW	1	Liz Lin - Phyllis Rozof		2	18.3		1.10	silver
EW	7	Judith Lubow - Sharon Koster		4	14.9		0.77	silver

¹ 4 is Enough is a limited pairs game. Eligible pairs cannot exceed 4 points. Players points are based on their current masterpoints: 0-400 MPs - 1; 401-1500 MPs - 2; 1501 MPs

and Up - 3. The sum of the pair must be 4 or less. Two 1's, a 1 & a 2 or, two 2's may play together, but a 2 and a 3, or two 3's may not play together.

And here are the MP award winners for the week:

NAME	TOTAL MPS		
Stephen Moese	10.12	John Ammon	1.74
John Taylor	8.65	Stephen Creed	1.71
Margaret Young	8.06	Terry Barrett	1.70
Peggy Ammon	7.25	Potter Orr	1.54
William Atteberry	6.76	Sanderson Orr	1.54
Barbara Levinson	6.22	Mike Ma	1.52
Estella Hassan	5.06	Timothy Martin	1.50
John Hassan	5.06	Joe Pike	1.44
Pam Campbell	4.90	James Myers	1.30
S Kelley Keys	4.84	Rick O'Connor	1.30
Robert Frey	4.44	Hal Bernstein	1.27
Dennis Schultz	4.12	Donald Morris	1.26
John Williams	4.12	Judy Crotty Hall	1.26
Jonathan Burns	3.98	Veida Marie	
Howard Simon	3.93	Wasserman	1.26
abe203	3.80	Diane Drew	1.23
Randy Jordan	3.80	Paula Wolfe	1.23
Amy Gerowitz	3.50	Kathryn McCord	1.20
Anne Rinaldi	3.38	Srivatsa Rajan	1.20
Albert Beaupre	3.22	Sandra Fielman	1.12
Micky Dasenbrock	3.20	Stephen Messinger	1.12
Stephen Felson	3.14	Cordell Coy	1.10
Jagmohan Malhotra	3.10	Karen Coy	1.10
Carla Runda	2.87	Larry Klein	1.10
Betty Murdock	2.77	Liz Lin	1.10
Peter Outcalt	2.77	Douglas Milton	1.09
Gregory Brinker	2.64	Barbara Gloeckner	1.04
Barton Jacobs	2.60	Gail Zimmer	1.00
Robert Lail	2.58	Kay Mulford	0.98
Janet Thurnau	2.55	Lewis Temples	0.98
Phyllis Mendoza	2.55	John McHugh	0.96
Agnes Boswell	2.51	Lalitha Yalamanchili	0.96
Donald Duritsch	2.46	Carolyn Murray	0.90
James Barrett	2.40	Frances Hamilton	0.90
Vernon Goetz	2.28	J Woeste	0.90
Bob Stitt	2.26	Joanne Oppelt	0.88
Stephen Vogel	2.26	Patt Olexsey	0.88
Susan Wisner	2.23	Robert Letourneau	0.88
Joanne Earls	2.20	Anne Kereiakes	0.80
Michael Purcell	2.20	Jan Kiefhaber	0.78
John Meinking	2.17	Judith Lucas	0.78
Bobbie McDougal	2.00	Judy Barron	0.78
mlang	2.00	Pattie Jamison	0.78
Phyllis Rozof	1.94	Judith Lubow	0.77
Mary Merryman	1.88	Larry Newman	0.77
		Sharon Koster	0.77
		Joseph Moravec	0.74
		Arlene Luebbe	0.67

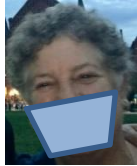
Joan Goetz	0.67
Imogene Enzweiler	0.64
Jackie Toth	0.63
David Francis	0.62
Walter Huber	0.62
Pratibha Patil	0.60
Uday Patil	0.60
Edward Felson	0.56
Paul Binder	0.56
Robert Campbell	0.56
Sharon Kreitzer	0.50
Tak (Oliver) Yip	0.50
Debra Chavez	0.48
Stephanie Jones	0.48
Jane Duncan	0.45
Douglas Jose	0.39
Marsha Weston	0.28
Sissy Stearns	0.28
Sally Raney	0.24
Suzie Schwartz	0.18
Laura Gerberick	0.17
Mary Goodwin	0.17
TOTAL	228.78
Number Earning MPs	113
Avg MP Per Player	2.01

Mike Burns rmikeburnsi@gmail.com
513-574-4067

CBA NAME TAGS

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

Your Name Here
Cincinnati Bridge



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

CBA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Mike Burns



Good riddance, 2020!! It was a most miserable year. I am tired of self-sheltering. My wife is tired of hearing about me being tired of self-sheltering. That’s a whole lot of tired.

There’s hope that after the first third of this year, we can return to some semblance of our past bridge world. It won’t be the same though. There is fear that about a third of our players will be lost to our face-to-face games, either to fear of exposure to other people or to the convenience of online bridge.

The membership committee is going to strive to contain the loss of membership. We will try to improve communication among membership in general and between club leadership and membership. We will strive to improve your game time experience.

The committee will be meeting soon to map out strategy. **We need your input and support. Ideas and suggestions are more that welcome. I look forward to hearing from you.**

Dealing with Change
1. I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better.
– **Georg C. Lichtenburg**
2. The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. – **Amelia Earhart**

PARTNERSHIPS!

By Mike Burns

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

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

Bidding Quiz - Problems



Bob Jones Quizes – Unit 124 Participants

Every Saturday morning, participants get an advanced copy of the Bob Jones quiz published Monday morning in the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mike Burns runs the quiz for dozens of our members. If you would like to participate please send an email to Mike at rmikeburnsi@gmail.com Feel free to send questions to any commenters. As you see, there is rarely one correct answer to bidding problems. Check out the reasons why bidders make their choices. Join the fun – there is no masterpoint requirement to compare your thoughts with other members! Enjoy! You can see the entire library of Unit 124 responses on the unit 124 website at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA-Weekly-Bidding-Quiz.html>

Jan 16 2021

Q1 – Neither vulnerable

♠ K 8 4 ♥ K Q ♦ A K Q 7 4 ♣ T 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	Pass	Pass	?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠ K J 5 ♥ J 7 ♦ K T 8 5 4 ♣ A 7 5

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1S	?		

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠ 7 5 ♥ K J ♦ A Q J T 6 ♣ K J 6 3

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1D	?		

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠ K 7 4 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ A J 8 6 2 ♣ Q T

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	?	

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠ K J 9 6 4 ♥ K 5 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	1S	1NT	Pass
2C	Pass	?	

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠ A 8 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A K Q T 8 6 5 ♣ 9 5

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	Pass	1D	Pass
1NT	Pass	?	

Jan 9 2021

Q1 – Neither vulnerable

♠ J T 9 8 6 4 ♥ Q T ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ A 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
?			

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠ A Q J 9 4 ♥ J T 3 ♦ A J T 4 ♣ 3

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1C	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	?		

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠ Q 7 6 4 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ A Q J

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	?	

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠ Q T 9 4 ♥ T 8 7 5 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ 3 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	?	

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠ A Q 9 6 4 ♥ A J 9 ♦ T 6 4 ♣ A J

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
?			

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠ A Q T 7 6 4 ♥ K T 7 6 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 3

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Dbf	?	

Dealing with Change

3. The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence – it is to act with yesterday's logic. – Peter Drucker
4. The world is changing very fast. Big will not beat small anymore. It will be the fast beating the slow. – Rupert Murdoch

Answers on p. 25

Visiting With Friends

By Dean Congbalay
dcongbalay@comey.com



One of the things I miss about face-to-face bridge: visiting with the friends I made through the years.

So, when my buddy Henry asked me to dinner while his lady friend was away in Mississippi for a few days, it was an easy yes.

We got together at Pho Cali in downtown Sarasota -- and were joined by our pal Paul and his son, Marc.



I was really looking forward to the supper. The last time I had seen either of them -- two of my favorite partners -- was March, just before bridge centers were shut down because of the pandemic.

Since then, Henry suffered a heart attack one summer day after mowing the lawn and then had bypass surgery. He came sporting a new beard.

"Want to see my scar?" he asked us, chuckling.

"Uh, that's OK," I uttered without hesitation.

For the next two hours, we laughed, joked and told stories. We talked about family, health, trips, restaurants and how we've been occupying ourselves away from the card tables.

Both Henry and Paul have been playing on the computer multiple times a week -- sometimes as partners.

"I feel like I'm the only player who isn't doing bridge online," I said. "I just have no desire to do it."

Instead, I explained, I've kind of reinvented myself. After working a bit each morning, I walk a couple miles on the beach. In the afternoon, I hit the pool -- and then take a nap!

As we left the Vietnamese noodle house, I said goodbye to Paul and his son, who parked a few blocks away. I told Henry that I had spent that afternoon watching my Cincinnati Reds lose to the Atlanta Braves in 13 innings in the first of -- I had hope -- three wild card games.

"It was quite a game; Trevor Bauer was awesome," I said. "But ugh, it didn't end well."

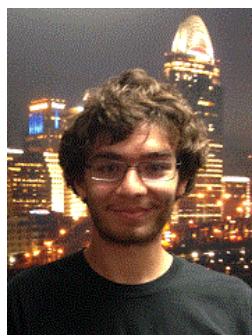
Henry, who grew up on Long Island, said he might go home and watch the Yankees on TV.

"This was fun," I said.

"Let's do it again," he said.

I stopped at CVS on the way home; I was out of ice cream. It was a nice evening.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!



**CONGRATULATIONS
BEN FISK
AND THE ROCKOFF
TEAM -
2020 NAOBC U1500
KO NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS!**

NAOBC 0-1500 Knockout: Rockoff

1	Ge [8]	31	84	113	119
2	Rockoff [30]	31	56	96	135

Live results from bridgewinners.com and the ACBL

Starting at the 30th seed out of 36 teams, Ben's team won their four-way play in over Seed 29 Lieberman. Then they dispatched the following opponents on their way to the finals:

Round of 32: Rockoff (30) defeats Walsh (3) 136-42, in a match they led every quarter.

Round of 16: Rockoff defeats Ravenscroft 163-66, in a match they led every quarter.

Round of 8: Rockoff defeats Kayser, 104-74, in a match they led every quarter.

Semi-finals: Rockoff defeats Niu 147-97. Falling behind Q1 19-34, they fought back in Q2 68-53, and ran away in Q3 115-69.

Finals: Rockoff defeats Ge in a come from behind 4th Quarter reversing a 17 IMP deficit to win by 16. **Congratulations Ben! Unit 124 is very proud of your accomplishment!**

EPISODE 30: SILENCING THE OPPOSITION

By Steve Felson



As some of you may remember, back when everyone you knew was crammed together on Planet Earth there was a lot of ill will, prejudice, tribalism, and, above all, noise. Especially after what they called social media came into being, you just couldn't shut people up, not if you had rules like the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Anyone could say practically anything – call the president a bum who should be thrown out of the White House, tell people

to storm the Capitol, whatever you wanted, as long as you didn't actually do it.

Not so in some of the “quieter” countries.

“Why was there only one tonsillectomy in the entire Soviet Union last year?”

“Because we live in the healthiest country in the world?”

“No, because there was only one person willing to open her mouth.”

Bob Brown, my longtime bridge partner, was always a free-speech advocate, as was I. We were not among those scaredy-cats who were afraid of what might happen if the masses were allowed to hear whatever baloney was going around. In my house all five kids spoke their minds, encouraged by our physician father and outspoken mother. Bob's people were a little farther down the social scale – mule-skinners some people said – but he was raised the same way. Yes sir, the free marketplace of ideas –may the best idiotic theory win the day until the next idiotic theory comes along.

Still, sometimes you have to overcome the strictures of your upbringing. In those bad old days, certain situations arose where you had to make some rather delicate decisions in the matter of silencing free speech. For example, when your political opponents carried poison-tipped umbrellas or suicidal explosives, did the practice of waterboarding prisoners present a speech problem? As I say, a delicate matter. Bob himself wrote a famous secret memo arguing that the whole point of waterboarding was to *promote* speech, not suppress it.

Bridge, on the other hand is different, whether back at your home club or out in deep space. Unlike waterboarding, bridge has rules you really can't ignore – not with everybody watching. Dummies, for example, are cruelly stifled. “You're on the board, partner.” “No more spades, partner?” Does that pass for free speech? And how about in my case, where my partner declares 40% of all deals. For variety I soon started substituting the following questions when Bob showed out:

“Burglar's nightmare?” (No diamonds, partner?)

“Suddenly pacifist?” (No clubs?)

“Cardiologist’s surprise?” (No hearts?)

“No gardening today?” (Out of spades, partner?)

Other than that I just sit there, silent and smiling, watching Bob butcher ... I mean *play* the hand.

So, perhaps you could say Bob was feeling nostalgia for the old days when, as dealer, he picked up this censorship opportunity during a regional on Geriatricus:

NS Vul South Deals	NORTH STEVE ♠84 ♥ J7 ♦ Q62 ♣ QJT843	
WEST ♠ 9763 ♥ K9862 ♦ 9 ♣ A92		EAST ♠ AQJT5 ♥ QT54 ♦ -- ♣ K765
	SOUTH BOB ♠ K2 ♥ A3 ♦ AKJT87543 ♣ --	

You could say that by opening the South hand 1♦ or 2♣ Bob would have *encouraged* speech by our opponents in the form of East revealing its spade holding, whereas Bob’s actual opening bid of 6♦ strongly *discouraged* such a communication.

S	W	N	E
6♦	All Pass		

Then you can argue that West, once excluded from the free marketplace of ideas, made a mistake in leading the AC, which allowed Bob to ruff and (with two trump entries) lead top clubs from dummy, making 13 tricks. Perhaps West should have chosen a trump lead, which would have stuck Bob with a spade and a heart loser. However, I don’t see how West could have gone wrong if allowed to hear about partner’s spades.

“Great bid, Bob. The less they say to each other the better.”

“Fast arrival always works. For me – when you break the sound barrier, they can’t hear a thing until it’s too late.”

ALERT Procedures

By Steve Moese

How we alert bids has changed effective January 1, 2020! *These changes are meant to improve how we communicate our agreements to our opponents. Opponents should know everything about our agreements that we do. There are many changes and we want to share the ones you are likely to see most frequently. The detailed document can be found on the ACBL website at*



<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures2.pdf>

This document is 13 pages of detailed rules and examples. Comments are italicized in blue. Excerpts from the regulations follow in in black. This article is meant to introduce you to the changes and is not authoritative. See the official document for details in the examples.

Executive Summary

There is an emphasis on disclosing artificial systems in advance of play. If you play an artificial system at the one level with a strong 1-bid, you must pre-alert your opponents. Examples include Precision, Polish Club, Any Big Club or Bid Diamond system, Romex.

Announcements

Transfers are now announced by stating the target suit. So instead of saying “transfer” you say “hearts”. This is true for all transfers at all levels, unless other holdings are possible. So 2♠ showing ♣ we no longer alert – instead we say “Clubs”. However, if the bid can have several other possible holdings (say either ♣ or ♦) we must ALERT. If you play Namyats and open 4 of a minor, say Hearts or Spades. If you open 4 of a major, you must alert.

Additionally, if 1♥ - 1N could have 4 spades, you say "Forcing (or semi-forcing), could have 4-spades." If 1N is semi-forcing by a passed hand, no announcement is necessary.

Opening natural 1NT bids range is announced. If your range is 14+ to 17, say "Good 14 to 17".

1♣ and 1♦ Opening bids

In the past, an opening a minor suit bid of 0-2 cards length that was non forcing was announced as "Could be short". That changes. Now you must indicate how short the suit could be! "Could be zero" or "could be 1" and so on. If zero or 1, the bid is artificial. If 2, it is quasi-natural (as in one version of the Precision 1♦ opening bid) or 1♣ balanced systems. Only when the shape is exactly 4=4=3=2 is a 1♣ opening bid considered natural. Jump raises for weak or strong hands are alertable with no competition. However if the opponents intervene with a double, jump raises are not alertable.

Support doubles and redoubles are no longer announced nor alerted.

All control bids in a slam-going auction should be delayed alerted after the auction ends.

Pre-alerts – If you play a system that has a strong 1-bid, you must now pre-alert your opponents before the round begins. This is a change for Precision and Polish Club players among others. You must also tell opponents if you play a canape system or if you play two different systems depending on seat or vulnerability.

When in doubt – ALERT! Alert even if you don't remember your agreement!

The following excerpts are reprinted here for your convenience. Please consult the source document online for details and examples. They will help your understanding.

Pre-alerts

Advise your opponents before the round begins if you do any of these:

1. Any system that includes at least one 1-level Opening Bid that is not Natural or that is Forcing.
2. Any canape system.

3. Playing different systems depending on seat or vulnerability. It is not considered a different system if the only change is No Trump Range (and responses) or Opening Bid strength.

4. Any Artificial Opening Preempts below 3NT.

When to ALERT

If you are not sure whether to Alert a call, err on the side of Alerting it. You should Alert a call that requires (or may require) an Alert even if you do not remember its meaning. However, do not Alert any call that this document says not to Alert. The default rule for Natural bids and Passes is that they should not be alerted, with exceptions shown in italics. The default rule for Artificial bids, Doubles, and Redoubles is that they should be alerted, with exceptions shown in plain text.

Announcements

An Announcement is a word or a short phrase that describes the meaning of partner's call. Announcements are a form of Alerting, and you must still visually Alert the call. Calls that require Announcements must be immediately announced, even if the call would otherwise not be Alerted or if the Alert would be delayed.

Announce the following Agreements:

1. The minimum length of any Non-Forcing minor suit Opening that could be fewer than 3 cards. Use the form, "Could be X" where X is the minimum length of the suit as the announcement. *We no longer just say "could be short".*
2. The HCP Range of any Natural 1NT Opening.
3. Any Artificial bid that primarily shows length in one specific suit and any double or redouble that shows length in the next higher suit. *Use the name of the suit being shown as the announcement.* This does not apply to suits in which you or your Partner have already shown Length.
4. After a 1-level major suit Opening in first or second seat, a 1NT response that is Forcing or Semi-Forcing. Also announce "could have 4 spades" in the unopposed auction 1♥ - 1NT if you routinely bypass a 4-card spade suit.

Natural Bids - Alert the Natural bids listed below. Opening Bids

1. A Natural 2C Opening.
2. A Natural Opening suit bid at the 2 or 3 level that may contain 12 or more HCP. This does not apply to an Opening in fourth seat.
3. A Natural Preemptive bid if there is a second way to Preempt in the same suit at the same level. (e.g. *Namyats where 4♣ = ♥ and 4♦ = ♠, you must alert 4♥ and 4♠*)
4. A Natural Opening suit bid where a second suit bid later in the auction would routinely be longer than the opened suit. (Canape)
5. An Opening No Trump bid that is Natural but always based on a long suit.

Direct Overcalls

1. After a Natural or Quasi-Natural 1-level suit bid, a Natural 1NT Direct Overcall that does not show at least 14 HCP.
2. After a Natural 1-level suit bid, a Natural 2-level Cuebid.
3. After a Natural 1-level suit bid, a Natural jump overcall that shows at least Average strength.
4. After a Natural 1-level suit bid, a Natural 2NT that shows a Strong hand.

Responses to Opening Bids

1. By an unpassed hand, and after an Opening suit bid and an opponent's pass or overcall, a **Non-Forcing new suit bid** at the cheapest level (unless that bid is at the level of game or higher).
2. By an unpassed hand, and after an Opening Bid and an opponent's double, a **Non-Forcing new suit bid at the one level**.
3. After a Natural 1-level Opening Bid, a **single raise that is Forcing**.
4. After a Natural 1-level Opening suit bid and an opponent's pass, a **double raise that does not show Invitational values**.
5. After a Preempt, a Natural response in a new suit that is below game and not Forcing or a 2NT response that is not Forcing.
6. After a Preempt, a below-game raise that is Invitational or Forcing.

Rebids By Opener and Overcaller

1. Unless the Opening bid showed a Strong hand, a 1NT rebid or a raise of a 1-level major suit response

to 2 of that major that **may contain hands of 16 or more HCP**.

2. After a Natural Opening Bid, a rebid by Opener that shows a suit that is routinely longer than the suit opened.
3. After an Opening No Trump Sequence or a Natural No Trump Direct Overcall and a 2C or 3C bid asking for major suit length, a **rebid that shows 5 cards in a major**.

Always

1. A Natural bid which also shows length or values in another suit

Passes

Alert the passes listed below.

1. A pass that is Forcing when the hand passing has not previously shown any strength, unless the partner of the passing hand has shown a Very Strong hand.
2. A pass that shows the hand is not minimum strength in context of the current auction.
3. A pass that shows Length or strength in a suit that was neither the suit most recently shown by partner nor the suit most recently shown by opponents.

Artificial Bids

Alert all Artificial bids except as listed below.

Alert any Quasi-Natural bid that is not Announced.

Do NOT Alert the following bids:

Opening Bids

1. A Very Strong Artificial 2C Opening Bid.

Direct Overcalls

1. After a Natural 1-level minor suit bid, a 2-level Cuebid that shows Length in both majors.
2. After a Natural 1-level major suit bid, a 2-level Cuebid that shows Length in the unbid major and an unspecified minor.
3. After a Quasi-Natural Opening Bid, any Cuebid.
4. After an Artificial Opening Bid, any bid in the same suit or in a suit shown by the Artificial Opening Bid.
5. After a Natural 1-level Opening Bid, a 2NT Overcall showing the lowest two unbid suits.

6. After a Quasi-Natural or Artificial Opening Bid, a 2NT Overcall that shows two suits (known or unknown).
7. Any Cuebid that is a jump.

Responses to Opening Bids and Overcalls

1. After a 2-level Preempt, a Forcing 2NT response regardless of its meaning.
2. After an Opening No Trump Sequence or a Natural No Trump Direct Overcall, a 2C bid over 1NT or a 3C bid over 2NT that asks about the No Trump bidder's major suit holdings. Alert any follow-up bid that reveals that the 2C or 3C bidder may not (or did not) hold a major suit for the bid.
3. A 2D response to a Strong (or Very Strong) Artificial 2C Opening Bid.

Other Artificial Bids

1. A 4C bid asking for aces or keycards directly over a No Trump bid or in an auction that started with an Opening No Trump Sequence.
2. A 4NT bid asking for aces or keycards.
3. After an Opening Bid and an Overcall, a Cuebid by either side that shows a raise, or an Average Strength or stronger hand, or either possibility.
4. After an Opening Bid and a Response, a Cuebid with any meaning.
5. After an Opening Bid and a Response, any suit bid that shows strength in the suit or at least three cards in the suit.
6. Any No Trump Overcall at the 4-level or higher.
7. After a 2C major asking bid, a 2D response that denies a four-card major, and after a 3C major asking bid, a 3D response that denies a four-card major.

Doubles

Alert a double of an Artificial Bid that asks for the doubled suit to not be led, or that asks for a specific suit to be led that is not the doubled strain. Otherwise, do not alert a double of 3NT or higher. Alert a double below 3NT except as listed below. Do NOT Alert the following bids:

After an Opening Bid

1. After a Natural or Quasi-Natural suit Opening at any level, a Takeout Double.

2. After a No-Trump Opening Bid, a penalty or card-showing double.
3. After an Artificial Opening Bid, any double.

After an Opening Bid and an Overcall

1. After a 1-level suit Opening Bid and a Natural suit overcall, a Negative Double by Responder.
2. After a 1-level suit Opening and an Artificial overcall, any double by Responder.
3. After a 2-level or higher suit Opening Bid and a Natural suit overcall, a penalty double by Responder.
4. After a Natural 1NT or 2NT Overcall, a penalty double by Responder. After an Artificial 1NT or 2NT Overcall, any double.
5. After a 1NT or 2NT Opening and an overcall at the two or three level, Negative Doubles, penalty doubles and card-showing doubles by Responder.

After an Opening Bid and a Response (whether or not there was interference)

1. After a Natural or Quasi-Natural Opening Suit Bid and a Natural or Quasi-Natural Response, a Takeout Double.
2. After an Opening Bid and a Response if either the Opening Bid or the Response is Artificial, any double.
3. After a Natural Opening, Natural overcall, and Natural 1NT Response, any double.

At Opener's Rebid and Later

1. All doubles by both sides

Redoubles

Alert redoubles except as listed below.

Do NOT Alert the following redoubles:

1. A redouble that shows general strength, and suggests playing the current contract or penalizing other contracts.
2. A redouble that shows a specific number of cards or strength in partner's suit.
3. A redouble in balancing seat or after a balancing double that suggests doubt about the current contract or is a suggestion to play a different contract.
4. A redouble that shows a control in the suit that was doubled.

Delayed Alerts

In any case where a bid is Alertable, but the bid is 3NT or higher, and the auction is at or beyond opener's

rebid, delay the Alert until the end of the auction. Additionally, Control Bids should be Alerted at the end of the auction even if they are below 3NT. Alerts of passes, doubles, and redoubles are not delayed regardless of the level of the auction. When behind screens or online, do not delay any Alerts.

At the end of the auction both defenders should Alert any Alertable bids by their partners with a Delayed Alert. The declaring side should explain any Alertable bids where Alerts were delayed.

Unit Survey - Online Bridge

By Steve Moese

Link to the Full Report:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/20201024Unit124OnlineBridgeSurvey.pdf>

Background

The ACBL created 2 game types to support club owners during the shutdown of face-to-face bridge. **Virtual Club Games** are restricted to players who played in the club during 2019. All net proceeds go to the club owner. **Support Your Club Games** allow any ACBL member in good standing and provide a rebate to clubs where that player played in 2019 proportional to their attendance. Sectional Tournaments at Clubs return proceeds to the club owner. *The remaining game types (\$1.75 Pairs, \$1.25 Speedball Pairs, \$15 Regional Tournaments, and ACBL Robot games) return no money to clubs.*

For March through August 2020, table counts are **down 86.4%** from one year ago (online virtual club games compared to same face to face).

322 Unit members (36.8%) have played in virtual club games online (ACBL data, Oct. 2020). ACBL membership data from mid-October 2020 shows 179 (20%) Unit 124 members have not earned masterpoints online nor played in virtual club games. We cannot report online play. BBO data is unavailable.

Purpose

This survey was to assess:

- 1) What barriers stop members from playing online
- 2) What could help virtual club games increase attendance, and
- 3) What games are our members playing in, in addition to Virtual Club Games.

Methodology

We sent a link to a Google Forms questionnaire to 683 of 875 Unit members by Pianola email. We posted an announcement on the Unit 124 website. Reminders were offered at VCG games. After 14 days, 182 of 875 members responded to the survey. Responses were anonymous. There are 192 members (22%) who refuse email contact, so we cannot reach them effectively. *We ask everyone to allow emails from the ACBL. Go to acbl.org and update your profile to allow emails.*

Key Findings

Online Play

- Of the 182 respondents **only 10% had not played bridge online** since March 2020.
- 66% said their **online experience** was Excellent or Very Good, while 7.7% said their experience was fair or poor.
- **ACBL Sanctioned games** were the most popular: Virtual Club Games (VCG) > Support Your Club Games (SYC) > Regional Tournaments > ACBL Black Point Pairs, followed by Speedball, Robot, and unsanctioned pair games.
- **LIKES** about online bridge: Low cost > **Play Anywhere** > BBO user interface easy to use > There's a record of my results > Short games > Can help my club > Can play on quick notice > Number of games I can play
- **DISLIKES** about online bridge: **Social engagement** is the biggest factor (Miss socializing at the table > Miss playing with friends > Miss going out to play). Opponent misbehavior is a second but less important factor (Opponents who waste time > Opponents who get strangely good results > Rude behavior at the table). Difficulty with technology or BBO was a distant third (I don't like computers/smart devices > BBO drops me often > User experience on BBO).

Virtual Club Games

- 21% have not played in a virtual club game but have played online
- 27% played 1-2 times per month, 21% played 3-5 times, and 19% played 6-10 times.
- 3% didn't know what a VCG is.
- Of the 3 Unit area VCGs, the NKBC/Anderson game > CBA games > Cincinnati Games. There were 15 single instances of VCG play outside our Unit.
- **Barriers to play:** Games too small > Games cancelled to often > Time of day > Not have a partner > Better alternatives > I play other games at the same time > Not enough games at my level.
- **Preferred games** other than Unit 124 VCGs: \$1.75 18-Board Pairs > Support Your Club > Free Pair Games > Speed ball & other VCGs (tie) > Solitaire

% who claimed to have not played in these ACBL games that are alternatives to VCG:

SYC	35%
\$1.75 Pairs	39%
Speedball	64%
Solitaire	49%
Unsanctioned Pairs	74%
Unsanctioned teams	77%
Social play w/friends	41%

- Only 18 respondents **had not played online yet**. Their main reasons: Want to play with real cards > Social Interaction important & Prefer other pastimes now (tie) > I want to do other things & No patience to sit at a screen (tie).
- **Likelihood to play Face to Face** bridge mid spring 2021 or when bridge returns
 - 38% are extremely likely with 68% at least likely.
 - 16% are extremely unlikely, while 27% are unlikely to some degree.
- **To Make VCGs More Attractive:** Larger Games >> Better Start Times > Lower price & Find Partners & More Limited Games (tie). Responses suggest low energy here.

Face-To-Face Bridge

Returning to face-to-face bridge right away when clubs do reopen – respondents are split 50-50.

For the **2021 Flying Pig Regional**, 35% are some degree unlikely to play, 40% are some degree likely to play, and 25% are undecided.

Of the 18 respondents who have not yet played online, show me how to use BBO and find me a partner were the two **leading asks for help** – however these were very low incidence replies.

When face to face bridge does resume, 77% of respondents expect to **continue playing online** to some degree, with 51% claiming online will be at least half of their bridge play.

57% of the respondents have **visited the Unit Website**. Information recalled: VCG Schedule > VCG Directors > ACBL Tournament Schedule > Prices for VCG > How to find VCG Online > How to Join BBO & Links to Results for VCG (tie) > How to play bridge online > How to find results for VCGs > Incentive programs for VCGs.

Conclusions

- Small game size and price competition are major barriers to better attendance for VCGs.
- The “under \$2” games from the ACBL are limiting VCG attendance and create price competition for Virtual Club Games.
- Under current conditions, for clubs to provide a larger VCG they need to consider a larger alliance. The local Unit alliance is not supporting large Virtual Club Games. This suggests expanding the alliance and joining a larger group so games >12 tables can happen regularly. This is up to the virtual club owners.
- Online bridge is here to stay, and will reduce face to face attendance. Online bridge creates price pressure on clubs.
- The return to face-to-face bridge will not be immediate, but likely a gradual process dependent on factors we do not control. We might see continued member attrition caused by the pandemic.

- Social interaction needs are not being met by online bridge. This is the clear advantage of brick-and-mortar clubs.
- Extreme competition from dozens of online alternatives. And a plethora of <\$2 games for black points, have drawn players away from Virtual Club Games.
- Whether attendance at the 2021 Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional suffers depends on latent demand (not predicted here) and conditions surrounding the pandemic (too early to call). Were we to choose over or under last year's table count, under appears to be the safer bet? I hope to be very wrong (and we surpass the table count).

www.bridgewinners.com
The Theory of Total Tricks:
Part VI – Moving Honors
Around



Steve Bloom May 16, 2013

<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/part-vi-moving-honors-around/>

We will jump right in and return to my first example hand discussed in [Part II of the Theory of Total Tricks](#):

We have nine winners, and can expect to cash 3½ tricks on defense, on average, so this hand yields 18½ total tricks.

North	
♠	KJ32
♥	KJ5
♦	1087
♣	954
South	
♠	AQ654
♥	AQ87
♦	932
♣	6

Now let's remove an ace, to give, say:

Now, we can only win eight tricks, most of the time. Occasionally, hearts split 5-1 and this missing ace allows for several ruffs, so our winner count actually drops by a little more than one. What about our defensive prospects? Obviously, we have one less potential winner. The missing ace also costs a tempo. Sometimes, the opponents will draw trumps and throw heart losers on the diamonds, so their

expected trick total increases by more than one. This is complicated, but the expected trick total is still close to 18½, but may be a little higher.

North	
♠	KJ32
♥	KJ5
♦	1087
♣	A54
South	
♠	AQ654
♥	Q876
♦	932
♣	6

Suppose we swap aces?

This evens out the tempo issue, and returns us to around 18½ total tricks. Swapping around aces doesn't change our basic total trick analysis by very much. To put this another way, aces are pure cards, and moving aces around doesn't detract from the purity of the hand by much.

Now, let's lose a king:

We are now on a finesse for three spades – the missing king costs us half-a-winner. What happens on defense? If the finesse is onside, we still have 3½ expected defensive winners. When the finesse is offside, *and spades are 3-1 or 4-0*, the king won't help them. The losing finesse costs us a full trick, but is only worth a trick in a club contract when spades are 2-2, 40% of the time. Thus, the expected total number of tricks drops by .3, to 18.2.

North	
♠	J1092
♥	KJ5
♦	1087
♣	954
South	
♠	AQ654
♥	AQ87
♦	932
♣	6

Here is another interesting example:

Double dummy, this won't be any different [1], but, at the table, we will lead a *low* trump to the queen, and lose a trump trick when East has ♠K10x or ♠K10xx. Missing both the king and ten of spades drops the total trick estimate to around 18.

North	
♠	J932
♥	KJ5
♦	1087
♣	954
South	
♠	AQ874
♥	AQ87
♦	932
♣	6

[1] This is one of the big flaws of double-dummy simulations that I and others have used to approach this problem.

North	
♠	J1092
♥	KJ5
♦	1087
♣	K54
South	
♠	AQ654
♥	AQ87
♦	932
♣	6

What if we swap kings:

The ♣K is worthless on offense, but half-a-trick on defense, so the trick total falls to 17.7. Or, how about:

Here, the ♦K is mostly neutral, but, if both finesses are onside, it gains us a tempo, and we will take eleven tricks. This king actually increases the trick total slightly, to 18.4.

North
♠ J1092
♥ KJ5
♦ K87
♣ 954
South
♠ AQ654
♥ AQ87
♦ 932
♣ 6

Again, real life is complicated, but, as a general rule of thumb,

Each king moved costs around ¼ of a trick from the total trick estimate.

Obviously, kings facing shortness are very poor, and cost nearly half-a-winner, while kings facing length are mostly neutral. Likewise, intermediates facing shortness are purely defensive. Let's say the opposition is competing in clubs where you hold ♣K32. Subtract ¼ to ½ a trick from your total trick estimate. Change this to ♣K102, and you should subtract ¾ to a full trick.

Now, let's consider what happens when queens are moved about. Try this layout:

North
♠ KJ32
♥ KJ5
♦ Q87
♣ Q54
South
♠ A10654
♥ A876
♦ 932
♣ 6

Each missing queen in our long suits means, essentially, another half-a-loser. Likewise, the queens in their suits are worth half-a-defensive trick. When the ♦A and ♦K are onside, our ♦Q may take a trick for us on offense, so we can add back in ¼ of a trick or so. Still, on this layout, the total trick estimate has dropped to approximately 16 ¾.

Complications arise, as usual.

Qxx facing xx

is worthless on offense, but will take a trick half the time on defense. Yet, make this

Qxx facing Kx

and the result is completely neutral – one trick on offense and one trick on defense. So, deducting for a short suit queen sometimes overstates the result. In general, though, we should subtract ¼ to ½ a trick from the total trick estimate for each missing queen, and for each queen held in our short suits.

The more kings, queens, jacks, tens, and nines we swap around, the more the total trick estimate slips. Our simulations came up with SF+2 as a starting guide to estimating total tricks, but you can start with the very pure SF+3 and work downward, based on your hand. If partner shows the majors, and you hold

♠KQ86 ♥KJ5 ♦865 ♣1083,

bid more aggressively than holding

♠K863 ♥KJ5 ♦865 ♣Q108.

That is pretty obvious advice. Likewise, the trick estimate so far has been based on the expected number of defensive winners likely to cash. You can't know their short suit distribution, but you can see your own. ♠AQxxx ♥AQxx ♦xxx ♣x is better than ♠AQxxx ♥AQxx ♦xx ♣xx. When SF=17, say, we expect, on average, three short suit losers. You can look at your own short-suit holdings and adjust accordingly.

Find the complete Theory of Total Tricks Series by Steve Bloom on BridgeWinners at:

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

Let's Talk Bridge

I received this email from 2 good friends, Veida and Judy. I have their permission to reproduce the question and answer here. I encourage everyone in the Unit to reach out to players with experience who might be able to help you solve problems you encounter at the table. Send me your questions at moesefamily@aol.com. Include the link to the hand or the hand diagram and bidding. I will answer your questions.

<https://tinyurl.com/vy3vghmx>

(URL shortened for space reasons; see post script).

Thanks for showing me how to find hands on line. This looks a bit bulky for a usual redirect on line but what the heck.

You see the bidding. It was Passed out way too soon. We each had the same question to each other: Should you have Doubled sooner?

Judy thought maybe after 2D I could have Doubled. With 9 pts I'm a bit reluctant. However, given the chance now Judy did which was good.

Question 1) Should I have Doubled?

Question 2) After South's Double does 2S imply 10 points- which would have been fine. Or if having more than a bare minimum should I have jumped?

I know staying at the lowest level possible implies minimum; therefore, jumping would show 10+. I'm thinking that's what I should have done. Judy thought with my 2 Passes I had very little. I'm not sure one can make that assumption. Judy Passed the 2nd time because she said she didn't have that 3rd suit covered (having a singleton in Clubs). Maybe South Doubles immediately after 1D to say I have 4/4 in Majors and it's as simple as that. Can you tell us your preferred bidding sequence so we can learn from it? Thanks so much as usual.

Regards,
Veida & Judy

Hi Veida and Judy,
Thank you both for asking about this challenging hand from **#20591 Pairs <500 NKBC/Anderson/Cincy 01/22/2021 - Friday Afternoon MP Limits: 501/215/60 Silver Linings Week Tables: 7**
<https://my.acbl.org/club-results/details/254643>

As you know I never take sides and always assume the question is for the benefit of both people in the partnership. This is a pairs event so scoring is Matchpoints.

Knowing the scoring is important when it comes to bidding and play decisions. In teams we stretch to bid and make games. In Matchpoints we play to be better than the field we are in. They are not the same. For example, when defending at teams it is appropriate to try to set a game contract at any cost because the price for overtricks is small. At Matchpoints the defensive calculation is more complex – risking overtricks can result in a poor score.

It is always very tempting to look at all four hands and try to decide what the best bidding sequence is.

Since we never play the game that way you can imagine the bias that such an analysis introduces. It is also important to have a way to decide what the best possible result is to check our thinking and approach to bidding or play.

Let's portray the thinking for North and South by looking only at one hand at a time. We are not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents. This gives us more permission to bid, and more permission to double them in close contracts. North is in second position. After a

N
♠ Q1053
♥ K85
♦ J6
♣ K863

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	X

pass by West, North has an easy pass. East opens 1♦ and partner passes. West responds

1N denying a 4-card major. North passes (with a J or Q more, a takeout double could be right. West passes and South Doubles. We come to the first serious question of the auction. What does the double of 1♦ mean here? There are many players who think this double is takeout – after all partner is doubling in the pass out seat making this a balancing double – a desire to compete with no clear direction. But is it? Experts will tell you that it cannot be a takeout double. If partner wanted to make a takeout of 1♦ (which is what people think this double of 1N is) they would have doubled one round earlier. This is an important principle to consider. If partner could have made a takeout double of the same strain in an earlier round, the later double shows values in that strain. Also, partner has to have a good hand and not some random 8-9 HCP with Diamonds. Why? 8-9 HCP opposite a passed partner (we passed twice) cannot expect to thrive at the 2-level especially when not holding length in one of OUR suits. Therefore experts prefer to play this double as showing a good opening hand (14+HCP) unable or unwilling to bid 1N with values in the strain doubled. Here that strain is ♦. The 1N bid does not change the focus on the strain. We are telling partner

we can defeat 1N if they lead a ♦.

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	X
2♦	???		

The bidding continues with West bidding 2♦.

(We will wait for the full hand to decide whether this

bid was warranted). Now what? North has arrived at the moment of truth for this hand. Let's review what North should know.

Opponents are vulnerable; we are not. That means that doubled undertricks will score well for our side. Partner has shown a good opening hand and likely 4♦ cards. (Why 4 Diamond cards? Because partner cannot have a pattern that could have made an earlier takeout double. If partner has only three ♦ cards they would have to be three very big ones (AQJ) AND we have to account for partner not overcalling 1N).

Continuing North's analysis, North sees 2 ♦ cards to go along with the 4 they put in partner's hand. This means EW have at most 7 cards in ♦ between them. Since West would likely not raise on 2 cards, they are splitting 3-4. Why does this matter?

We have to look at the **Law of Total Tricks** (better called the Law of Total Trumps) for guidance. Simply, the idea is that the **total number of trumps available to each side is roughly equal to the total number of trick both sides can make in their best trump fit.**

EW current trump fit is 7 cards. If they have an undiscovered 8-card club fit, the chances are they will not find it. North knows that NS best trump fit is 8 cards. That means that if NS can make 10 tricks in say ♠ then EW can only make 5 tricks in ♦. We see that because of the 15 tricks we project are available, take away 10 for NS leaves 5 for EW.

Now North has to do the math. If EW will make only 5 tricks, an 8 trick 2 diamond contract will be down 3 tricks for +800. Even if NS can only manage to set EW 2 tricks, they earn +500, more than the value of any game.

North holds 9 HCP. This is worth an invite opposite a normal takeout double. Opposite partner's minimum holding on this auction we have 23 HCP (known as the balance of power, and enough strength to compete to the 3 level in a fit at least) and enough to consider doubling a 2-level or 3-level contract especially in Pairs. (In teams, allowing a doubled partial (3 or 4 of a minor, 2 or 3 of a Major) to make causes a game bonus that will often lose the

match. Doubling partials at teams has to be done with great caution and great resources. Note however that doubling 2♦ does NOT create a game bonus so the decision for Pairs and Teams is the same).

So, all signs point to wanting to play 2♦ Doubled. How do we get there? Simple. There is a standard competitive bidding principle: **After a penalty double (or redouble) all doubles by our side are penalty unless specifically agreed otherwise.** Here the option exists to make a penalty double not on trump strength (partner has that) but on power (we hold at least 23 HCP). So, the auction should proceed:

If instead we decide to bid ♠, the right bid is 3♠ to show invitational values (9-11). This could lead to either -50, +140, or +420/450. It is very unlikely that we can make 12 tricks in ♠ after this start.

Before how we see our calculations do, let's take a look at the problem from South's perspective. South has perhaps the most interesting problem at their first turn.

S
♠ K964
♥ AQ76
♦ AQ32
♣ 10

South was ready to open 1♦ themselves when East opened in third seat. While third seat openings can be light, this one portends a misfit. South has several options to consider at this point. 1N makes sense on

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	???

South Considers:	South Rejects:
Pass	1♠
1N	2♦
1♥	Michaels for Majors
	-55 please

strength but has a small defect in the singleton club. Small because a singleton there is less of a problem than if it were a major suit. An off-shape takeout double could work because the hand is stronger than average and has both 4-card majors. However, it suggests short diamonds – a major flaw. Overcalling one of a major on a 4-card suit is favored when the suit is strong, the hand is strong (14+) and the hand is the wrong shape for a takeout double. Here the "flaw" is that we hold both 4-card majors (overcalling in a 4-card major tends to deny interest in the other).

If we choose to overcall, 1♥ is much better than 1♣ due to the strength of the suit.

South will narrow their choice to either pass or 1N. Noticing the vulnerability and the chance for doubled undertricks, south will opt for pass. Now the auction continues:

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	???

South gets to spring their trap. Double here is not for takeout.

Indeed it says, partner I

have a very good opening hand and made a trap pass originally. I have Diamonds and want you to lead one if you are on opening lead. They are in trouble and will not play the hand undoubled. Bid a suit only if you are very weak and have 5 cards or more in that suit. If North is on the same page they will cooperate in doubling the opponents by looking at their general hand strength and defensive tricks, and not trump strength. Several outcomes are possible from here.

Here North tells South that if you have a defensive oriented hand we should defend diamonds. So that is what South will choose to do. Have they bid well? We'll see.

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	X
2♦	X	All Pass	

Let's look at three other scenarios:

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	X
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♠

Here North displays a hand with spades and 0-8 HCP. South has a hand worth 15 HCP plus 3 support points for the

singleton club or 18 HCP. That means game is possible if North is near their maximum holding. So South invites by bidding 3♠. On the given hands, North raises to 4 because they are more than a maximum.

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Here North has shown 9-11 HCP and spades. South has an easy raise to game.

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1N	Pass	Pass	X
2♦	3♦	Pass	???

Here North says pick your better major partner, I have 4 in each. Given the nature of South's hand, they

want North to declare so South will bid 4♦ saying we belong in game played by you. Pick a major partner. NOTE: South needs 4-4 Majors to make this bid.

So the two better destinations are 4♠ and 2♦X. Given what we have already discussed, which contract do you think will score better? Let's take a look together.

First we can review the hand as played at the table. Lets look first at the auction as it occurred and the result at the table.

D 16	N	W	N	E	S
	♠ Q1053 ♥ K85 ♦ J6 ♣ K863	P 1NT 2♦ P	P P 2♠ P	1♦ P P P	P X P P
W	E				
♠ J2 ♥ 1032 ♦ 1075 ♣ A9752	♠ A87 ♥ J94 ♦ K984 ♣ QJ4				
S					
♠ K964 ♥ AQ76 ♦ AQ32 ♣ 10					
		2♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

The first 4 calls are as experts would do. West's 1N was "enterprising". Pass is probably better. After a pass North will make a balancing double and EW will bid on toward their spade game.

On the actual auction, South's double was fine. West made a mistake for their side by bidding 2♦. Note 2♣ is a much better bid by West, as partner is likely to have at least 2 club cards and could have 3 or 4. North erred slightly by bidding only 2♠. Quite likely North thought South was making a takeout double (we've already discussed why this isn't so) and bid 2♠ on 9 HCP. This is conservative, not wrong. However North should have considered a penalty double for reasons stated earlier. After only 2♠ South took a dim view of their hand (18 Support point discussed above) and forgot that games still get bonuses even at Matchpoints.

What did this cost?

eliminate Acrobat Reader – a tool they used for many graphics, that was a major source used by hackers, and permanently removed since Jan1, 2021), they did not consider providing a short URL as a convenience to their users. First, let me say that the length of the URL is caused by including the play-by-play details for the hand – each card played is coded in the order played. That’s what makes it so long. Not to fear. There are several services that do this for free and make sharing links to BBO hands more intelligible.

Here a good article on URL shorteners:

<https://buffer.com/library/url-shorteners/>

<https://tinyurl.com/> tinyURL is what I use because I like to convenience of a browser plug-in./

<https://bitly.com/> bitly is a free service

Google’s approach:

<https://support.google.com/faqs/answer/190768?hl=en>

Goo.gl and bitly offer users a way to track how many times their shortened link has been clicked – good if you are an advertiser or influencer on social media.

Here is what tinyurl returns:

<https://tinyurl.com/vy3vqhmX>

ACBL Online Bridge – New Conditions of Contest

By Steve Moese

On August 17, 2020, the ACBL Board of Directors adopted Appendix O to the General Conditions of Contest. Conditions of contest are the rules that govern how bridge is played under ACBL sanction. The new online rules cover several important points. Here is an overview. See the appendix for the full Appendix O text.

- 1) Don’t cheat. Report suspected cheating to the director, the ACBL recorder, or to the online service provider.
- 2) Alert your own calls. Alert everything. There are no delayed alerts online – alert all bids with agreed meanings.

- 3) Ask for clarification of a call by private chat to the person making the call. Do not ask the TABLE.
- 4) Claim when you can. If you reject a claim and play on, the result stands. Call the director if you need to contest the claim.
- 5) “Undo’s” require a director call. (They are currently disallowed for SYC and VACB club games).
- 6) Table chat is authorized to opponents and unauthorized to partner.
- 7) Convention card are encouraged. Info available from the software is authorized, so is consulting a written defense where such is allowed. Illegal aids include system notes on paper or your computer, tracking cards played using pencil & paper or other tracking means, and bridge software online or on your computer to calculate odds or best plays.
- 8) When something goes awry, call the director. Play ceases until the director allows it to restart.

Explain your bids to your opponents. Ask questions only to the bidder. Call the director when something is amiss. See p 34 in the appendix for the detailed Appendix O.

Dealing with Change:

5. Powerful and sustained change requires constant communication, not only throughout the rollout but after the major elements of the plan are in place. The more kinds of communication employed, the more effective they are. – **DeAnne Aguirre**
6. If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading. – **Lao Tzu**
7. If you want what you’re saying heard, then take your time and say it so that the listener will actually hear it. – **Dr. Maya Angelou**
8. If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary. – **Jim Rohn**
9. The announcement is the easy part; it makes the manager look bold and decisive. Implementation is more difficult, because no matter how good and compelling the data, there will always be active and passive resistance, rationalizations, debates, and distractions – particularly when the changes require new ways of working or painful cuts. To get through this, managers have to get their hands dirty, engage their teams to make choices, and sometimes confront recalcitrant colleagues. – **Ron Ashkenas and Rizwan Khan**
10. Change your opinions, keep to your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots. – **Victor Hugo**
11. Few things are more important during a change event than communication from leaders who can paint a clear and confidence-inspiring vision of the future. – **Sarah Clayton**
12. They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself. – **Andy Warhol**
13. As dealing with change becomes a regular activity, leading it becomes a skill to hone, an internal capacity to master. – **Arnaud Henneville**
14. It’s easy to make a buck. It’s a lot tougher to make a difference. – **Tom Brokaw**

Answers to Bidding Quiz

Jan 16 2021

Q1 – Neither vulnerable

♠ K 8 4 ♥ K Q ♦ A K Q 7 4 ♣ T 6 5

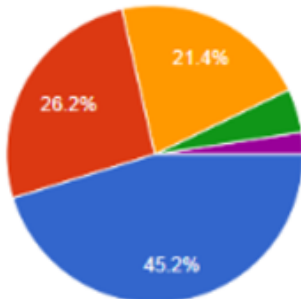
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1S Pass Pass ?

Question 1

42 responses

- Double
- 1NT
- 2D
- 2NT
- 3D



Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠ K J 5 ♥ J 7 ♦ K T 8 5 4 ♣ A 7 5

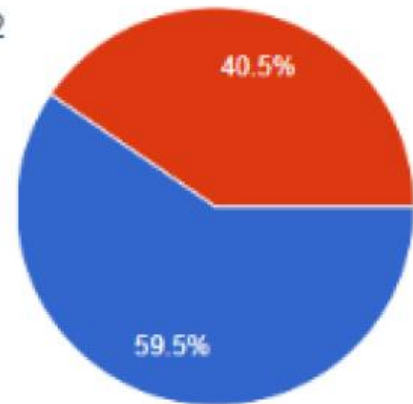
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1S ?

Question 2

42 responses

- Pass
- 2D



Bob Jones	X	1NT in the balancing seat shows 11-14 – about a king less than in direct seat. Start with double, planning to rebid 2NT should partner bid 2♥
Otto Walter	X	X In this balancing position most of us play 1NT as 11-14 points. This, this typical NT opening hand has to be handled with a starting double”.
Bob Fisk	2N	While 2NT in balancing position typically shows 18-19 HCP, it's certainly close to what I'm staring at. Picture partner with Qxx Jxxx Jx Axxx, and imagine the play in 3NT.
Joe Muenks	X	In order to balance with a good 10 count with a normal hand, start hands with 17+ with a double. Next round you might bid 2NT or perhaps a number of diamonds. (Note 1NT here should normally be 11-14/15 depending on partnership agreement.)
Steve Vogel	X	Too strong for balancing 1NT (we play that bid can be up to 16 over 1 or a major).
Steve Moese	X	1N in the balancing seat shows about 11-16 over 1♠. This hand is enough better to double then rebid NT at the 2-level. Yes, a doubleton heart might be an issue if partner gets so excited, they bid 4♥ now, but this is a good hand. Note that a balancing bid of 2NT is 20-21 (not unusual for the minors). So, we need a way to show 17-19 balanced - and that starts with a double.

Bob Jones	Pass	A two-level overcall in a minor should be a six-card suit, or a five-card suit in a good hand. This modest hand should pass.
Otto Walter	2♦	I would like a slightly better diamond suit but I need to take some action with this 12 points hand.
Bob Fisk	Pass	I'm not overcalling 2♦ with this disgusting hand at unfavorable vulnerability. Nope.
Joe Muenks	Pass	Epls (easy peasy lemon squeezy, for any new readers). I'm not even tempted to make a vulnerable overcall in a live auction on this one. ("Live auction" is one where one or more opponents have yet to limit their strength.)
Steve Vogel	Pass	My hand is not strong enough (nor the diamond suit good enough) for a 2♦ overcall. Best to pass for now and await developments.
Steve Moese	Pass	How can you pass an opening hand, Steve? Easy - opponents have the master suit, my shape is not appropriate for a takeout double, and my Diamond suit looks more like a 4-card suit than a 5-card suit. In addition, we are vulnerable. I need a better diamond suit preferably 6 carded to bid 2♦ here. Pass doesn't stop us from getting back into the auction at our next turn.

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

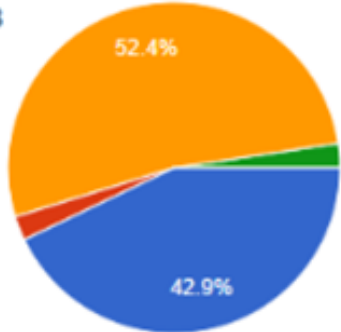
♠ 7 5 ♥ K J ♦ A Q J T 6 ♣ K J 6 3

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1D ?

Question 3

42 responses

- Pass
- Double
- 1NT
- 2C



Q 4 – Both vulnerable

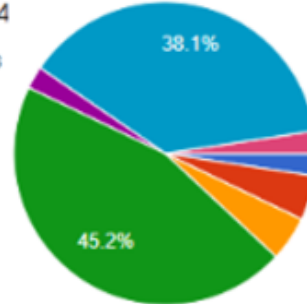
♠ K 7 4 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ A J 8 6 2 ♣ Q T

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1C Pass 1D Pass
1H Pass ?

Question 4

42 responses

- Pass
- 1S
- 1NT
- 2C
- 2D
- 2NT
- 3NT



Bob Jones	Pass	1NT is possible, but with two major-suit doubletons, we would pass.
Otto Walter	1NT	15 points, diamond stopper, "flat" hand shape.
Bob Fisk	1NT	I can't pass, and everything else seems wrong. I could try bidding 1♦ and then saying "Oh, I didn't see your bid. Mea culpa." Mea culpa is Latin for "Don't call the director."
Joe Muenks	1NT	Epls, again, thanks for the easy ones. Describes the strength and even someone who has never played bridge can stop diamonds 3 times.
Steve Vogel	1NT	I am not thrilled with a 1NT overcall, but I view it as the best of the alternatives.
Steve Moese	Pass	What! Pass again! You bet. If partner can double, they are in trouble. I don't have a real source of tricks for NT, and overcalling on a 4-card suit at the 2-level is for my opponents, not me. A takeout double is out and I cannot show Diamonds naturally this round. Patience grasshopper - good things come to those who wait!

Bob Jones	2NT	A 2NT rebid by responder shows an invitational hand. This hand is about perfect. Bid 2NT.
Otto Walter	3NT	"He who knows goes".
Bob Fisk	2♣	XYZ to show an invitational hand. My bid after partner's forced 2♦ response will be 2NT.
Joe Muenks	2NT	I gave the answer I play with most of my partners, invitational hand with spades stopped. Those playing XYZ bid 2♣ next, which would not be 4th suit forcing.
Steve Vogel	2♣	2♣ is an XYZ bid for an invitational hand. Over partner's forced 2♦ rebid, will bid 2NT.
Steve Moese	2NT	1NT here usually limits our hand to 9 HCP (or a bad 10). Here we have a good 11 that's probably worth a bit more because our round suit honors (♣ & ♥ are "round" suits) are working. I don't like jumping to 3♦ with only a 5-card suit and besides, our hand looks balanced so 2NT it is. However, if you play XYZ, then 2♣ is right, followed by 2NT over partner's forced 2♦ bid.

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

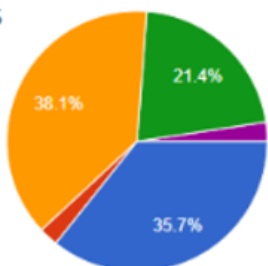
♠ K J 9 6 4 ♥ K 5 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 1C 1S 1NT Pass
 2C Pass ?

Question 5

42 responses

- Pass
- 2S
- 2NT
- 3C
- 3NT

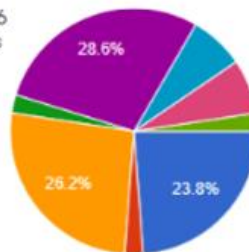


Bob Jones	3♣	2NT is possible, but you've told that story once already. Why not show your fit? Bid 3♣.
Otto Walter	Pass	Partner is suggesting he really doesn't want to play in NT. I think we are high enough.
Bob Fisk	3♣	I'm a bit too good to pass and going back to notrump with no Aces seems problematic. 3♣ it is!
Joe Muenks	2NT	I'm upgrading to 11 pts now that I think I have 5-6 club tricks most days. I really want the lead into my 3 kings, too.
Steve Vogel	3♣	The choices are 2NT and 3♣. If partner is minimum, the hand will likely play better in clubs than no-trump, as it is very possible that the opponents have a ♥ fit.
Steve Moese	2NT	Yes, we could raise clubs here, but a NT invite will likely tell us what we want. If partner returns to 3 Clubs we will pass happily. If partner raises to 3NT we are likely to make. Most times opener will have 6 or more clubs on this auction as 1NT is not forcing.

Question 6

42 responses

- 2D
- 2S
- 3D
- 3H
- 3NT
- 4C
- 4NT
- 5D



Bob Jones	3NT	Partner might not have a real heart stopper and you might have a slam, but how can you find that out? Bid 3NT. Partner will be happy with the dummy.
Steve Moese	3♦	This one depends on your agreements. 2♦, 3♦, or 3NT could all be right. 2♦ is right when playing New Minor forcing. You will follow with a forcing Diamond bid or 3NT after opener's response. If you play XYZ, this hand is a PURE HAND with 5 losers. Since opener has at least 2 Diamond cards (opener will rebid 1M with 4=4=1=4, 4=3=1=5, or 3=4=1=5 patterns) 3♦ playing XYZ sets trumps and asks partner for control bidding. Both Diamonds and NT are in the picture. We are simply looking for the right level. 6♦ has many ways to be right, and 3NT is easy to avoid if partner cannot control bid in hearts over 3♦. (Playing XYZ bidding 2♦ is a game force, but is better used for impure hands - hands with wasted values (quacks) in suits we have not bid naturally. See https://tinyurl.com/y22whhjf for XY1N details.)
Otto Walter	3NT	Partner has a minimum opening hand. While 5♦ will likely make, a NT game will score better. Partner's heart suit is protected from the opening lead by being last to play.
Bob Fisk	2♦	XYZ to create a game force in an attempt to get to 6♦. I'm hoping that partner doesn't have a Heart stopper for notrump (i.e., their points are working). Picture partner with KQx xxx xxx AKxx.

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠ A 8 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A K Q T 8 6 5 ♣ 9 5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 1C Pass 1D Pass
 1NT Pass ?

Joe Muenks	2♠	Ok, I'm answering in order. Therefore, I have to stay consistent on my conventions, so answering playing standard. I need to establish the game force this round to explore for my diamond slam. This hand shows why XYZ has its place as the convenience of the 2♦ bid (unspecified game force) is very helpful here.
Steve Vogel	3♦	In our system, a 3♦ rebid shows a slammish hand with solid diamonds. Partner can show interest by bidding a suit or sign off in 3NT.

Steve Vogel	2♠	This hand falls within the parameters of a 2♣ opening bid, even though it has more defense than typical. Pass is a close second to me, and I would not fault anyone for doing so.
Steve Moese	Pass	There are many who would open 2♣ here. The suit is just too poor, even using Ogust. Holding long spades in a flawed hand allows me to pass in first seat. I can always balance, and I want to hear what partner has to say. If you make the hand QT J109864 Q43 A6, I am more likely to open 2♣ because lower ranking suits can be lost. I expect a big vote for 2♠ here.

JAN 9 2021

Q1 – Neither vulnerable

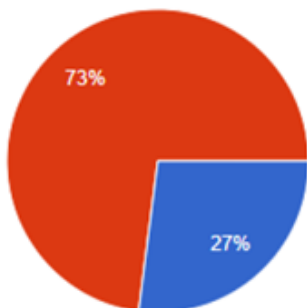
♠JT9864 ♥QT ♦Q43 ♣A6

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
?
?

Question 1

37 responses

● Pass
● 2S



Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

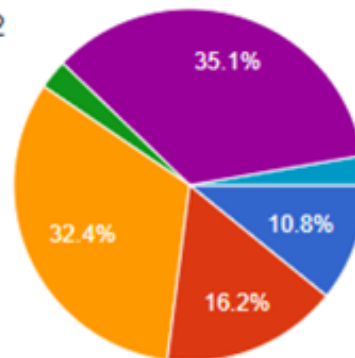
♠AQJ94 ♥JT3 ♦AJT4 ♣3

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1C 1S Pass 2H
Pass ?

Question 2

37 responses

● 3C
● 3D
● 3H
● 4C
● 4H
● 4S



Bob Jones	2♠	In the early days of weak two-bids, no one would have opened this hand. Today, most experts would. Bid 2♠.
Otto Walter	Pass	All of my strength is outside of my long suit. I want my 6-card suit to be headed by at least a Q.
Bob Fisk	2♠	This hand has very little defense and a nice suit (JT98xx) if Spades end up as trump. I don't want two features on the side when I make a weak-two bid, and this hand has only one. Way to go hand!
Joe Muenks	Pass	I'm going to wait until the next round to determine how to enter the auction or not. (I predict 67% of respondents will preempt in today's game, but some of us who started in the 1990's and before are going to have KT9xxx or better in our suit).

Bob Jones	4♥	Partner should have at least 10 points and at least five hearts, so you should force to game. Bid 4♥. Should you play splinter bids, 4♣ is even better.
Otto Walter	4♥	Partner has at last 5 hearts and 10 points.
Bob Fisk	4♥	Although I don't play 2♥ as forcing on this auction, I have a GREAT hand as a dummy in a Heart contract (JTx in support, stiff Club, AQJxx and AJTx in the remaining suits over the opening bidder). While a splinter bid of 4♣ looks tempting, it should show 4+ Hearts and slam interest (close). If I bid only 3♥, partner is going to pass holding xx KQxxxx xx xxx and we're cold for 10 tricks? Why take that chance?

Joe Muenks	4♥	Epls. (Easy peasy lemon squeezy) Partner should have 5+ hearts and 10+ playing points (8+ HCP).
Steve Vogel	4♣	Given my tenaces over the opening bidder, I would not rule out slam in hearts if partner has the right hand. Showing my singleton club in support of hearts is the best way to get us there. Yes, I would prefer to have a higher heart honor, but nothing is perfect.
Steve Moese	4♥	If 2♥ is forcing for you, 4♥ is obvious. If 2♥ is nonforcing constructive, it is less obvious, but right. Shortness in clubs reduces the deck to 30 HCP. Partner has values and length in hearts, and our pointed suit tenaces are very well placed over the opening bidder. A good hand from partner would be xx KQxxx Kxx xxx. Take away one K and partner does not have a 2♥ call. Note that a 3♥ raise will not help partner evaluate wasted club values.

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

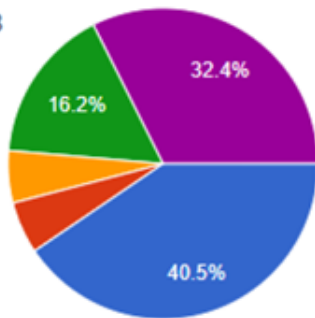
♠ Q 7 6 4 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ A Q J

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	?	

Question 3

37 responses

- 2NT
- 3C
- 3D
- 3NT
- 4S



Bob Jones	3NT	Partner might have raised with only three-card support. Bid 3NT and give him a choice of games.
Otto Walter	4♠	Opener made a minimum rebid - game should be easy. (I would bid 2NT if playing the convention where this asks partner to describe his raise/hand.)

Bob Fisk	2NT	Spiral, asking partner for more information about their hand. I want to be in 3NT if partner has only three Spades and 4♠ if partner has four. If partner has four Spades, 14 HCP, and a stiff Heart with nothing wasted, we belong in slam (picture AKxx x Axx Kxxxx)!
Joe Muenks	4♠	Epls. In matchpoints you might be tempted to try for 3NT with this distribution, but the 3 questionable hearts mean the spade game is best.
Steve Vogel	2NT	I am interested in slam only if partner has a maximum and a small singleton in hearts. The way to find that out is to bid 2NT (extended Wold). If partner has 4 spades, a maximum hand and a singleton heart, he/she will respond 4♥. Otherwise, I will sign off in 4♠.
Steve Moese	3NT	The jump to 3NT here is an offer to play showing 4=3=3=3 and values for game but not slam. Since opener is 11-14, this should work well. With shortness, opener will correct to 4 spades. Over 3NT, a new suit by opener should be shortness. That way we get to play 3NT when best and still have a chance to find the slam when partner's singleton is in Hearts.

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

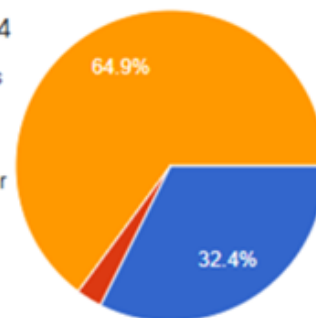
♠ Q T 9 4 ♥ T 8 7 5 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ 3 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	?	

Question 4

37 responses

- Pass
- No Answer
- 2S



Bob Jones	2♠	Passing to show a minimum is tempting, but the opponents will just outbid you. Try to buy it with a 2♠ bid.
Otto Walter	Pass	Partner's bid is not forcing. My hand is a nice minimum for a spades contract.

Bob Fisk	2♠	I play a 1♠ rebid by opener as a one-round force, so as much as I want to pass, I'm going to bid 2♠ to keep partner happy. We should be safe at this level, and if I pass, the opponents are going to balance with 2♣ anyway. 2♠ is NOT forward going.
Joe Muenks	No Answer	Note last week that I did not respond with 5 HCP and a doubleton when I did not have support for partner's suit, therefore I am not bidding 1♥.
Steve Vogel	Pass	Partner did no reverse, so normally, game will be out of the question. Passing does allow the competition to enter the auction in clubs, so I have to balance that possibility with the chance that a raise to 2♠ may get us too high if partner invites game.
Steve Moese	2♠	I have 4 cards for partner so I show them. This does not promise extra values. With an invitational hand I would either jump to 3♠ or bid 2♣ then 2 or 3 Spades (XYZ Convention).

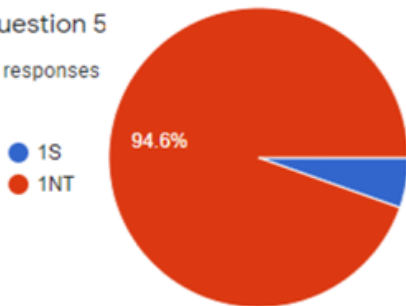
Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠ A Q 9 6 4 ♥ A J 9 ♦ T 6 4 ♣ A J

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
?

Question 5

37 responses



Bob Jones	1NT	Should you open 1♠, there are no rebids to show a balanced 15-17. Open 1NT.
Otto Walter	1NT	This hand is yet another reason why I like 2♣ to be Puppet Stayman.
Bob Fisk	1NT	Nothing else would occur to me.
Joe Muenks	1NT	Epls (3 Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy's in one week). We've this theme in the past, with 15-16 HCP and a 5-card major, still open 1NT lest you'll never have a good rebid.

Steve Vogel	1NT	No reason to avoid a 1NT opening which limits the hand well. The alternative of opening 1♠ creates a rebid issue if partner responds 1NT (would I rebid 2♦???)
Steve Moese	1NT	1NT with 5M-332 shape is common and best - we avoid all rebid problems. Add a tool to your toolkit to identify when opener holds a 5-card major. Done!

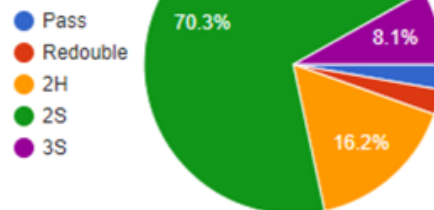
Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠ A Q T 7 6 4 ♥ K T 7 6 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 3

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1C Pass 1S Pass
2C Dbl ?

Question 6

37 responses



Bob Jones	2♠	2♥ is out after the double by East. Choose between 2♠ and 3♠. The singleton club is not a good thing for you. Bid 2♠.
Otto Walter	2♠	Otto Partner's minimum opening and my own 6 card suit should make this a playable contract. As well, playing from my side protected the K of hearts from an opening lead attack.
Bob Fisk	2♠	I would have bid 2♠ in the absence of the double by East, but it's likely that East has a takeout double of Spades (picture x AQxx Kxxx KJTxx), and the last thing I want to hear from partner over 2♥ is 3♣ (ick).
Joe Muenks	3♠	I notice there's no 2.5 spades from the drop down (or in my bidding box), so I'll go aggressive since now my ♥K appears to be full value, so I have a good 10 count.
Steve Vogel	2♠	East could very well have an opening hand with the red suits and shortness in spades (which is why no takeout double of 1♠). In that case, the spades sit well for me (if partner has at least 2). Given my ♥K may not be well placed, I think a rebid of 2♠ (not 3♠) is appropriate.

Steve Moese	2♥	My hand is valuable if we have a fit. Partner can still have 4 hearts (The double is a takeout of Spades, and doesn't promise 4 heart cards). So, I bid 2♥ here to show 9 (of my 10) cards in the majors and not 2 spades showing only 6 of my 13 cards. I intend to rebid spades. 2♥ is forcing for one round. Redouble here would assert the ability to penalize them. This hand is very offense oriented, not defense oriented so XX is out. For now.
-------------	----	--

TOP UNIT 124 MASTERPOINT HOLDERS 1/31/21

Rank	MP's	Name	Rank	MP's	Name
1	27210.9	Coombs, Norman	26	3387	Stephani, A J
2	20469.31	Granovetter, Matt	27	3243.1	Whipple, Peter
3	15196.42	Granovetter, Pamela	28	3239.6	Isralsky, Jeffrey
4	14171.54	Sulgrove, Robert	29	3188	Muenks, Joseph
5	12427.25	Higgins, William	30	3171.8	Goyal, Arun
6	10644.68	Siutsau, Yauheni	31	3131.5	Weidenfeld, Rob
7	8816.14	Raturi, Amitabh	32	3104.8	Ammon, Peggy
8	5707.7	Luetge, Nancy	33	3052.6	Pschesang, Paul
9	5697.26	Davis, Lorna	34	3010.9	Cummings, Deborah
10	5324.34	Levinson, Barbara	35	2981.8	O'Connor, Rick
11	5274.99	Toth, Jackie	36	2975.8	Reynolds, Charles
12	5033.39	Pleatman, Cliff	37	2964	Purcell, Michael
13	4826.41	Klein, Larry	38	2963.2	Ma, Mike
14	4821.35	Fisher, Joe	39	2920.5	Dunnivant, Barbara
15	4777.68	Coombs, Bill	40	2841	Kieffer, Jodie
16	4768.18	Travis, Diane	41	2838.3	Goodman, Diane
17	4481.98	Habash, Anton	42	2802.4	Mays, Terry
18	4475.93	Fisk, Bob	43	2785.2	Mirus, Gerry
19	4303.08	Young, Margaret	44	2753.7	Walter, Otto
20	4233.94	Kendall, Karen	45	2723.2	Wolber, Linda
21	3837.48	De Lany, Agnes	46	2720.9	Mehalko, Jack
22	3645.01	Meinking, John	47	2719.9	Spiegel, Harriet
23	3566.25	Moese, Stephen	48	2708.9	Ruehl, Judy
24	3533.77	Mulford, Kay	49	2701.5	Newman, Patricia
25	3461.6	Meyers, Jacqueline	50	2685.9	Fisher, Amy

2020 RANK PROMOTIONS

The following table lists all Unit Members who have earned new ranks in 2020. The Board of Directors Congratulate your success and wish you continued progress in pursuit of your bridge goals.

Please view the most current table on our website at:

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

You can also find the Unit Life Master Hall of Fame on our website at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA Life Master Honor Roll.html>

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y5c29zbb>

2020	Junior Master	Club Master	Sectional Master	Regional Master	NABC Master	Advanced NABC Master	Life Master **	Bronze Life Master	Silver Life Master	Ruby Life Master	Gold Life Master	Sapphire Life Master
December	Tom Amrine Taylor Asbury Nancy Kollin Rick Read Susie Schwartz	Hal Bernstein Bruce Tepper		Cathy Schreiber					Terry Brausch			
November	Sudhir Matani						Steve Messinger	Judy Barron Peter Outcalt	Micky Dasenbrock			
October	Anita Strauss Sally Thomson	Pratibha Patel		Daniel Meyer	Janet Thurnau		Erin Oblinger	Joel Bromley	William Atteberry			
September	Margaret Rodrigue			Agnes Boswell	Ajay Bansal James Barrett Patt Olexey		Judith Lucas			Joyce Schiller		
August		Douglas Edwards	Carolyn Barnham Thomas Darbie	Jan Kieffhaber	Ben Fisk Robert Lail			Mike Burns Harriet Edwards Linda Pretz	Rita Brendamour John Taylor	Pam Campbell	JUDY RUEHL	KAY MULFORD
July TOP	Christopher Darbie Douglas Edwards	Arlene Luebbe							Jan Polk	James Myers		STEVE MOESE
June	Susan Kahn Diane Nagy Sally Sumarel	James Jacobsen Anne Kerlakes Zigang Pan	Marianne Roedersheimer	Lathy Dewitt					Mary Alice Bartish Stephen Vogel Susan Wisner	Joe Pike John Williams		
May	Andrew Berger Amy Connett Zigang Pan		Robert Letourneau	Robert Lail	Jonathan Burns Debra Chavez Susan Mosher Mercer Reynolds Anne Rinaldi							
April	Sharon Frisbie David Gilner Bruce Tepper								Sharon Kreitzer Jagmohan Malhotra			
March	Joanne Brown Marc Manly William Robinson Winkie Upson	Loren Cornett Jane Olson Joanne Sloneker	Anna Clark	Eileen Barrett	Kathryn Burns			Imogene Enzweiler Carol Scovic		Sheldon Kushner		
February TOP	Sally Raney Joe Von Lehman	Joan Goetz Donna Harpsoe Susan Roberts	Agnes Boswell Tony Liming	Betsy Colth	Judith Painter		Joel Bromley Paula Wolfe					
2020 January	William Bahl	George Kent	Gary Herrington Rod Kaplan	Judy Eilers	Melissa Hellmann		Peter Outcalt		Lalitha Yamanchilli			

Appendix O: Online Play

1. Cheating: Cheating online is a serious offense, subject to the same penalties as cheating in live play. It is illegal to communicate with your partner during a hand via any means other than chat to the full table, to communicate with a kibitzer during the game, to play using an account that is not yours, to gain advanced knowledge of a deal, or to play in one event using multiple accounts.

Any accusation of cheating must be made privately to the director of the event, to the ACBL recorder, or to a reporting mechanism provided by the online platform.

2. Alerts: Alerts (including announcements) are made by the player making the call. An alerted call should be accompanied by an explanation. Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient. You are encouraged to explain calls even if those calls do not require alerts. Any call that would be alerted after the auction in live bridge should be alerted at the time of the call.
3. Any contestant may request information concerning an opponent's methods. Such inquiries should be directed to the player who made the call and must be asked in a private chat. Replies to these inquiries must likewise be given in a private chat. When playing with a Zoom (or the equivalent) screenmate follow up questions are permitted regardless of which player made the call or play.
4. Tempo: In general, bids and plays within 10 seconds are considered to be in tempo.
5. Claims and concessions: If you reject an opponent's claim or concession, and continue play, the result of the board will stand as played. Instead of rejecting the claim or concession, you may call the Director for an adjudication of the result.
6. Unfinished hands: A hand that is partially completed when time expires is adjudicated as equitably as possible to both sides. Any doubtful point will be resolved against the partnership that is considered most responsible for not finishing in time.
7. Undos: Unintended calls or plays will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. A contestant who makes an unintended call or play should summon the Director immediately. As in live play, undos are permitted only upon instruction of the Director.
8. Table Chat: All chat is authorized information for opponents and unauthorized information for partner.
9. Convention Cards: Partnerships are encouraged to have a convention card that includes the players' real names. Pairs without cards will be at a disadvantage in misinformation rulings. If the system loads a default card for pairs without a convention card, then you should not assume that your opponents are playing those methods.
10. Information Available in the Software: All information provided by the software is authorized. For example, if the software has a button to view your convention card during

the hand, then it is legal to use that button to view your own card. Consulting a written defense is allowed in any situation where it would be allowed in face to face bridge. Using any other aid to memory is illegal. Illegal aids include consulting a system notes document or tracking the cards played on paper.

11. Irregularities: The Director must be summoned electronically for any irregularity. Once the Director has been summoned, all play and bidding shall cease until the Director authorizes its continuation.

2021 Online Event Schedule



American Contract
Bridge League

All events tentative based upon BBO/ACBL IT capabilities and COVID-19 protocol changes

January

18-24	Silver Linings Week Silver masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs
--------------	--

February

13-14	Valentine's Weekend Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs
18-21	Hollywood Magic Regionally rated events
22-28	Educational Foundation Week Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs

March

6-8	Spring 2021 NABC Robot Individual NABC Robot Individual tournament
11-21	Spring 2021 North American Online Bridge Championships (NAOBC) Knockout event and pair event
22-28	Stardust Week Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs

April

12-18	Charity Week Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs
22-25	Stay@Home, Play@Home Regionally rated events

May

15-16	Grass Roots Weekend Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs
24-30	Silver Linings Week Silver masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs

June

1-30	North American Pairs (NAP) Qualifying Qualifying games for the North American Pairs
19-20	The Longest Day Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs
24-27	Endless Summer Regionally rated events



Bridgetoschool championship

by Yeshivas Lubavitch of Cincinnati

Date: March 7, 1PM EST Venue: BBO



Pamela and Matthew Granovetter invite you to play in the Bridgetoschool Championship, for the benefit of the Yeshivas High School of Cincinnati, an international boarding school for teenagers.

Play with and against the top bridge players in the world for 20 Boards, while helping a wonderful school!

Date: Sunday March 7, 1:00 PM EST Venue: BBO

Donors may play with a bridge pro or their own partner.

Costs:

\$100 minimum to play with your regular partner as an amateur

\$400 minimum to play with a pro

\$1,000 to register as a "Platinum Pair" (2 pros, 2 amateurs, or a Pro-Am)

To arrange a pro, contact Matt Granovetter at: bridgetoschool770@gmail.com or phone/text 347-702-2002

To play with your favorite partner as a non-pro pair, just sign up at <https://bridgetoschool.raisegiving.com/>

Mention yourself and your partner and your BBO names.

Tax deductible contributions may be paid on this site or by check, or venmo. Email Matt Granovetter at bridgetoschool770@gmail.com for more details or questions. The pros include:

Tracey Bauer

David Berkowitz

Lisa Berkowitz

Bob Fisk

Rose Meltzer

Matt Granovetter

Pamela Granovetter

Marjorie Michelin

Mike Passell

Ron Rubin

Gabrielle Sherman

Alan Sontag

JoAnna Stansby

Zia

and more!

Hand analysis by the Granovetters and Zia! Prizes for the best played hand and best defense and best bidding.

[DONATE NOW!](#)