

Get your vaccination so you can play bridge face-to-face.

ALERT

Quarterly
Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

VOL XLVI No. 2 APR 2021

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

BREAKING NEWS

WELCOME

Bienvenu Bienvenidos स्वागत हे ברוך הבא 歡迎 Willkommen

BACK

To the Cincinnati Bridge Center

Evidence of vaccination required ♣ Tables spaced 8 ft 6" ♣ Masks required ♣ No food served ♣ Players play at their own risk.

We are **back to live bridge 2 days each week at the CBC**. We offer an **Open Game on Wednesday, 5/5 @ 11:00 AM** and **Open and NLM Game Friday, 5/7 @ 11:00 AM**. We are excited to start live bridge again and hope you can attend. The requirements to attend are: **proof of vaccination**, a **signed waiver** which will be available that day, and **masks**. **No food** will be served, but coffee and soft drinks are available. Our table set up meets ACBL standards which is 8.5 ft measured from center of one table to center of the next table. We do not anticipate a full house, so we will spread out further (every other table). The carpets are cleaned and sanitized and the cleaning crew has sanitized all tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc. The cost of each game will continue to be **\$8.00 per person**. I will host many extra point games that would normally cost \$9.00 at the \$8.00 cost.

Since most of us have been playing 18 boards per round, we are going to start with **21 boards** and will build up from that. We expect a smaller crowd as some will not be ready to come back. **Encourage your friends to play now!** Since there will be no food, we will not take a lunch break. If you need a snack, we can take a short 10-minute break where you can eat a power bar or something small away from the tables. We are learning how to reopen comfortably for everyone, so please **get us your suggestions**. Arrive early, have coffee and socialize with the friends you haven't seen in so long. Other CBC games will reopen as the club owner decides they are ready. Stay tuned for more bridge. – **Pam Campbell** campbell.ps.54@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



The combination of greatly increased vulnerability of older people to the SARS-Cov-2 virus and the average age of our membership (over 70) meant that conducting bridge games as we have always done was not a possibility.

Since March of last year when we shut down, the question when we might resume face-to-face bridge has been the focus of around 90% of the CBA board meetings and discussions among board members. Until January of this year the question seemed to have no answer.

Courtesy of an aggressive campaign to vaccinate the American public we may finally have an answer. At the beginning of this year, we did not have enough doses of the vaccine available to cover the entire adult population. For once, being old was an advantage. My wife and I were able to get our first shot in early February and the second one later in the month.

Supply has caught up with demand. As I write this there have been 232 million shots given in the United States and over 96 million people are now fully vaccinated. In addition, the experience of all of these vaccinated people has followed the results found in the drug trials. Vaccines have been remarkably successful at preventing infection and close to 100% successful in preventing cases severe enough to require hospitalization.

In consultation with board members Pam Campbell has decided to start in person duplicate games at the Cincinnati bridge center May 5. I'm sure that all of you have received an email notification about game times and conditions of play and information is on the Cincybridge.com website.

As eager as we are to start face-to-face bridge again, we are trying to do everything possible to protect the directors and the players. To that end, the following procedures will be in place:

- Each player will have to provide **evidence** that they are fully vaccinated. That means both doses

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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

Contact Potter Orr or any Unit Board Member.

for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and a single dose for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Please be sure to bring a copy of your card the first time you play.

- **Masks** will be required in the bridge center.
- All tables will be **spaced** with 8 feet and 6 inches between table centers.
- **No food** will be served although coffee will be available.
- Each player will also be required to sign an **agreement** holding both the CBA and the director harmless with regards to Covid infection.

ONE STEP FORWARD

- **Hand sanitizer** will be readily available within the bridge center and all players are strongly urged to use it between rounds.
- All of the air handlers (we have four) will have their fan set to circulate mode which **continuously moves air**.

Initially we will have a very limited schedule of games, Wednesday morning open and Friday morning both open and NLM. Pam plans to run these games with approximately 21 boards to start.

We hope that these games will generate enough players to make continuing viable.

Bringing the bridge center back to life has been a challenge as well. Bob Campbell is working hard replacing batteries in our Bridgemates and cleaning out corrosion where some of the batteries have leaked. The computer in the back room which we used with the dealing machine seems to have died of loneliness. The internal hard drive adamantly refused to work. The second computer in the back room that we normally use for accounting is now also driving the dealing machine. To keep the electric bill as low as possible while the center was closed, I unplugged both refrigerators. That turned out to be about half a good idea. What I forgot to do was prop the doors open. In the damp enclosed space, we grew a vibrant crop of mold – since removed. So far, we've managed to solve all of the problems and expect to be ready to go on May 5.

The ACBL drives the bus when it comes to Sectional, Regional and National tournaments and they have shown no ambition to be the pioneers in face-to-face. They would like very much to see the individual clubs take the initiative and work out the problems. As of today, they have indicated that after August 1 of this year STaCS and downgraded sectionals will be allowed. A much more detailed explanation of their intentions is in a link on the CBA website.

Another question that is still up in the air is what will become of ACBL sanctioned online games after face-to-face restarts. I am certain that online bridge will not be going away.

Potter Orr

President, Unit 124 Board of Directors

So when does Spring start, really? The scientist among us will point to the Spring Equinox, March 20, as the official start of spring. Some wait until the swallows return to Capistrano, others know to celebrate spring on May 1 every year most of the world does.

But this year, the start of our **Bridge Spring** is definitely **May 5, 2021** (far surpassing the Cinco de Mayo celebration - an excuse for nachos and tequila/margaritas/Mexican Beer – that is more celebrated in the USA than Mexico). **Bridge is back!** We all look forward to seeing you at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

The ACBL is in the midst of deciding how to support the reopening of bridge across Canada, USA, and Mexico. Clubs will reopen before tournaments resume, and tournaments will reopen based entirely on local conditions. The current projection is tournaments might begin in September. We will see.

We expect that the ACBL will offer special games for face-to-face bridge, restore masterpoint parity (no MP advantage for playing online) and restore pigmented points to online bridge. All of this will take place over time – there is no fixed schedule because conditions vary across the country and between countries. As I write this there are locations in Canada that are still shut down. As Potter points out, we are blessed that the USA has done so well to vaccinate fully our player age group.

What you can do – **constant support for face to face bridge** is more important now than ever. We hope to have games that start with a stable attendance and grow over time as more of our players are comfortable playing in public. The single biggest answer to “What does it take to grow our games” is to have every player show up – often! There is no substitute for being there.

While the ACBL Management focused attention and effort on converting to online bridge in the face of the pandemic, that wasn't all that they got done. Committees for the Board of Directors have improved

the Code of Disciplinary Regulations and created committees focused on online bridge discipline.

The [Gordian Knot](#) that is the ACBL Codification is getting much needed rework, eliminating (sometimes conflicting) duplication and splitting operations governance (bridge and its play) and governance of the corporation. Simplify and clarify.

The Board of Directors have delegated more decision authority to Management when it comes to daily operations. This is good and long overdue. The Board will focus more energy on growth and the future. You might recall that the Board of Directors voted to change their membership from 25 Trustees to 13 (see January 2021 ALERT for details). This will improve communication, decisionmaking, and focus. Indeed this year 6 of the new Regional Director seats are up for election. District 11 (AJ Stephani) is not up for Regional Director election this year.

With that reduction in size, the Board of Directors eliminated the 1st and 2nd Alternate positions. These were people who could fill in when a Board member was unable to travel to a meeting. The better thinking is that no substitutes should be allowed as they will not be prepared for the depth good decisions require. If a Regional Director seat goes vacant for any reason, there will be an immediate election in that Region to replace the trustee.

The Board of Governors is undergoing transformation as well. We will reduce membership from 125 + all past presidents and BoG chairs, to 75 members. Existing *ex officio* members remain but no new Board Past Presidents will be added. We want the Board of Governors to be the voice of the elected District Representatives. The Board of Governors under the leadership of Doug Couchman, Chair, is tacking to a supportive/advisory role and away from confrontation and complaints. This takes work – preparation to be sure change requests are feasible and meaningful, and consistent with the method for change and the agenda for the corporation.

Too often in the past, proposals were brought as changes to the ACBL Codification. Business proposals need market experience to assess their value, but a codification rule ties Management's hands, and

interferes not only with business learning but also making improvements that can make something good even better. We also expect to engage Board Leadership and Committees on true Codification change proposals so that we can do the discernment necessary to make change feasible, effective, and powerful. No more throwing spaghetti on the wall to see what sticks.

This degree of collaboration requires more effort on the part of the Board of Governors representatives. That means that Board of Governors candidates need to be serious in their commitment to work. It's no longer about a free Sunday continental Breakfast during the first weekend of an NABC, or a special red name tag, but skilled people bringing their know-how and skill to leadership to make useful change happen. If you are interested in running for election to the Board of Governors for the 2022-2024 term, please email your intention to elections@acbl.org before May 31, 2021.

Given all this change, Leadership has tuned their reopening effort appropriately.

I can report that ACBL Senior Management has moved from no effort on growth and membership retention (December 2018) to a full bore effort that you will be hearing about in the coming months. New leadership Mary Stratton (Director of Marketing), Susie Cordell (Director of Information Technology), Peyton Dodson (Director of Finance) Linda Dunn (Legal), and Greg Coles (Director of Operations) are not only responsible for the successful answer to the Covid-19 crisis, but for refocusing effort to member growth and retention.

With the help of expert volunteers, Senior Management are modernizing information management – moving databases from archaic AS400 mainframes to cloud systems, installing business analytics that deliver insights from data already onhand, improving websites and social media, and providing attractive programs to find prospective members and appeal to them to join bridge for the fun of it. Very soon, Management will have data supporting the business value of their marketing choices – an important guide that has

been lacking for too long. Better data means better decisions. Watch as the decisions based on opinion evolve to those supported by data.

Leadership recognizes that social bridge is an important source of prospects for membership and bridge classes. Effort is underway supported by the ACBL Education Foundation to connect social bridge players all over the country. Once connected, they will see value from teachers, clubs, and the ACBL.

There is movement toward building ways youth, college age, and young professionals can be attracted to the game and maintain their connection and interest even as they take on married life and professional careers. This is a step change toward revitalizing our game.



One great success is the new ACBL Guest Member Program. Anyone can sign up for free. It requires contact information and offers a 2 month peek at what membership provides. Guest members receive their permanent ACBL player number, can earn up to 20 MPs in duplicate play, can read the ACBL Bulletin online for 2 months, and will receive helpful offers from headquarters to spur them on their personal bridge journey. When the 2 month are up, they can join the ACBL for a nicely discounted price of \$29.99, A \$20 savings. Of course, we want them to join for 3 years at a time. If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about bridge have them sign up for an ACBL Guest Membership.

Learn more at:

<https://mailchi.mp/d981120f211b/become-a-guest-member>

Sign up at:

https://acbl.site-ym.com/general/pick_username.asp

Existing or lapsed ACBL members are not eligible for the Guest Membership Program.

It's only human nature under the circumstances to expect that our energy and desire to volunteer for bridge are at a low ebb. The impacts of 14+ months under precautions to avoid infection, and the loss of our usual social venues, have drained all of us. Time to start exercising. Time to get out of the house (safely) and engage the world. As you begin reengaging your favorite activities, remember that bridge in Cincinnati depends entirely on our many volunteers and our few sanction holders and teachers. Reach out – thank them for all they've done to get face-to-face bridge back up on its feet. Attend games. Make an effort to play more live bridge than before, at least for the next several months. Encourage all your bridge friends to do the same. Then, reach out and talk to friends, family and acquaintances who might like to learn our wonderful game. Get them started on their bridge journey. They will love you for it!

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. Steve Messenger offers a delightful memory form an earlier time with a wonderful recollection of one of our mutual friends. Steve Felson continues his intergalactic series on amazing bridge. There are discussions about changes to Alert Procedures, online Bridge conditions of Contest, 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 finesses when it comes to your health!

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

Steve

Editor, The ALERT moesefamily@aol.com



UNIT 124 NEWS

Online Bridge – Virtual Club Games

8 is Enough Swiss 5/20

Open Swiss 5/16 & 5/30

Day Time Game Results Director

Swiss Teams - Virtual Clubs

3rd Thu 6:30 P 8=E** [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

2/4 Sun 1:45 P Open [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

Pairs - Virtual Clubs

Mon 2:00 P U50 [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

Mon 6:30 P Open [NKBC](#) [John](#) or [Cordell](#)

Tue 1:45 P Open [NKBC/And](#) [John](#) or [Cordell](#)

Wed 6:30 P IMPs [NKBC](#) [John](#) or [Cordell](#)

Thu 1:00 P U750 [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

Thu 6:30 P 4=E* [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

Thu 3rd 6:30 P 8=E** [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

Fri 1:30 P U500 [NKBC/And](#) [John](#) or [Cordell](#)

Fri 1:45 P Open [NKBC/And](#) [John](#) or [Cordell](#)

Sun 2/4 1:45 P Swiss [CBA](#) [Pam](#)

*4 is Enough (4=E) is a limited pairs game. Pairs cannot exceed 4 points. Points are based on current masterpoints: 0-400 MPs -1; 401-1500 MPs -2; 1501+ MPs -3. Total pair points must be 4 or less. A 2 and a 3, or two 3's may not play together. **8=E Swiss Teams limited to 8 points and 4 players per team using above scale.

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

RANK Promotions Feb/Mar/Apr 2021

Month	February	March	April
Junior Master	Gail Ford	Laura Gerberick Barbara Gloeckner Mary Goodwin Paige Grote Julie Kelly Trish Larsen Thomas Sextro Sissy Stearns Marsha Weston	Paul Binder
Club Master	Robert Campbell Florence Koetters Cynthia Steinmann	Gretchen Dinerman	Ed Cappel Uday Patil
Sectional Master	Kathy Bahl Terry Barrett Tara Eaton Dougls Edwards Phyllis Rozof	Mary Merriman	James Jacobson
Regional Master	John Hassan Tony Liming Veida Wasserman		
NABC Master	Eileen Barrett Phyllis Mendoza	Agnes Boswell	
Life Master			Annette Kereiakes
Bronze LM		Sara Geier	
Sliver LM	Stephen Felson		Betty Fulton Debbie Wiest
Ruby LM	Howard Simon	Stephen Vogel	
Gold LM		Jo Ellen Spitz	

NLM and U50 MP Winners

Congratulation to all who earned masterpoints!

U50 2/22/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award
Marney Bresser - Arlene Luebbe	1			43	59.72	1.20 black
Joanne Glaser - Jane Root			1	42	58.33	0.84 black
Uday Patil - Pratibha Patil	4			37.5	52.08	0.60 black
Joseph Moravec - Robert Campbell		2		36	50	0.42 black
Mary Goodwin - Laura Gerberick			2	34.5	47.92	0.28 black

U500 2/26/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award
Hal Bernstein - Robert Letourneau			1	57	63.33	1.92 black
Mary Merryman - Phyllis Rozof			2	52.5	58.33	1.34 black
Patt Olexsey - Bob Olexsey		3		52	57.78	0.96 black
Sandra Fielman - Stephen Messinger	4			51	56.67	0.67 black
Carol Wilson - Gary Herrington	5			47.5	52.78	0.38 black

U50 3/1/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award
George Kent - Rick Read			1	32	59.26	0.72 black
Sue Woodruff - Marilyn Greenebaum	3			30	55.56	0.50 black
Marney Bresser - Arlene Luebbe		2		29.5	54.63	0.36 black

U500 3/5/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award
Bob Kessler - Rod Kaplan			1	48	66.67	1.20 Black
Paula Wolfe - Joan Simon	2			42.5	59.03	0.84 Black
Stephen Messinger - Sandra Fielman	3			37.5	52.08	0.60 Black
Barbara Gloeckner - Mary Merryman			2	36.5	50.69	0.51 Black
Hal Bernstein - Robert Letourneau			3	35	48.61	0.38 Black

#	U50 3/09/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award
6	Diane Homoelle - Helen Clark			1	32	59.26	0.50 black
3	Marney Bresser - Arlene Luebbe	1			31.5	59.72	0.72 black
2	Barb Laxton - Jane Friedman			2	27.5	52.31	0.36 black

U500 3/12/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award	
3	Barbara Gloeckner - Mary Merryman			1	34	63.89	0.96 black
1	Kathryn Burns - Carolyn Murray	2			28	56.02	0.67 black
2	Robert Letourneau - Hal Bernstein			2	26	50.93	0.48 black

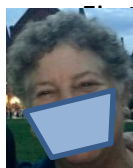
U50 3/15/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award	
3	Robert Campbell - Joseph Moravec		1		24.5	63.75	0.54 black
2	Marney Bresser - Arlene Luebbe	2			22.5	56.25	0.38 black
6	Uday Patil - Pratibha Patil		2		21	52.5	0.21 black
1	Marsha Weston - Sissy Stearns		1		17	42.5	0.12 black

U500 3/19/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award	
4	Hal Bernstein - Robert Letourneau		1		40.5	57.64	1.20 black
10	Carla Runda - Judy Crotty Hall		2		39.5	55.32	0.72 black
7	Bob Olexsey - Patt Olexsey		2		39.5	55.32	0.72 black
6	Rod Kaplan - Bob Kessler		3		39	54.17	0.42 black

CBA NAME TAGS

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

Your Name Here
Cincinnati Bridge



members! Otherwise \$4 each.

#	U50 3/22/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award
8	Robert Campbell - Joseph Moravec		1		47	65.3	0.30G 0.90B
9	Sue Woodruff - Marilyn Greenebaum	2			39	54.2	0.21G 0.63B
2	Uday Patil - Pratibha Patil	3			38.5	53.5	0.15G 0.45B
7	Marney Bresser - Arlene Luebbe	4			36.5	50.7	0.10G 0.31B
4	Helen Clark - Diane Homoelle			1	35.5	49.3	0.10G 0.29B
5	Joanne Glaser - Jane Root			2	35	48.6	0.06G 0.18B
6	Sissy Stearns - Marsha Weston			2	35	48.6	0.06G 0.18B

U500 3/26/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award	
5N	Douglas Milton - Kemal Satic	1			73	81.1	0.24G 0.72B
4N	Rod Kaplan - Bob Kessler			1	52	57.8	0.17G 0.50B
6N	Clare Hoesl - James Barrett		2		44	48.9	0.10G 0.29B
2E	Stephanie Jones - Veida Marie Wasserman		1		57	63.3	0.24G 0.72B
5E	Barbara Gloeckner - Mary Merryman			1	46.5	51.7	0.15G 0.44B
1E	Tom Kereiakes - Annette Kereiakes	2			46.5	51.7	0.15G 0.44B

U50 3/29/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award	
2	Uday Patil - Pratibha Patil	1			45.5	63.2	0.90B
7	Arlene Luebbe - Marney Bresser	2			45	62.5	0.63B
3	Sissy Stearns - Marsha Weston			1	39	54.2	0.53B
4	Ron Warner - George Kent		2		37.5	52.1	0.37B
1	Douglas Jose - Hal Bernstein			2	35.5	49.3	0.26B

U500 4/2/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	Award	
3	Douglas Edwards - Hal Bernstein		1		34	63	0.96B
8	Sandra Fielman - Stephen Messinger	2			33.5	62	0.67B
6	Terry Barrett - Carolyn Murray		2		29	53.7	0.48B

#	U50 4/19/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	MPs
7	Diane Homoelle - Helen Clark			1	32.5	62	0.72B
4	Robert Campbell - Joseph Moravec		2		31	57.4	0.50B
2	David Loebach - Barb Loebach	4			28	53.7	0.36B

U50 4/26/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	MPs	
1	Joseph Moravec - Robert Campbell		1		28.5	71.3	0.54B
5	Diane Homoelle - Helen Clark			1	22	55	0.38B

U500 4/30/2021	SA	SB	SC	Tot	%	MPs	
1	Patt Olexsey - Bob Olexsey		1		32.5	60.2	0.96B
2	Douglas Edwards - Hal Bernstein			1	31.5	58.3	0.67B
5	Mary Lanning - Judy Crotty Hall		3		28	51.9	0.48B

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.

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

Solitaire!



By Dean Congbalay
dcongbalay@comey.com

My newfound pastime is a familiar friend: Solitaire!

I'm not playing it on a laptop or even on my phone; I'm doing it the classic way, with a deck of cards.



It all started around Thanksgiving, when I visited mom in Columbus. One day, I noticed an old deck from the Las Vegas Hilton casino (with the requisite two corners chopped off) and started making the seven piles on her kitchen island.

I was immediately hooked.

Since then, I've played nearly every day. If I have a few minutes to kill, I'll get a hand or two in while sitting on my bed. Or at a table. Or at that kitchen island.

One afternoon, after winning three games in a row (How 'bout that!), I wondered why I enjoy it so much.

The pandemic has closed bridge centers. When I revisited solitaire, it was the first time I touched a deck of cards since last spring.

It felt really good, I reasoned. So comforting.

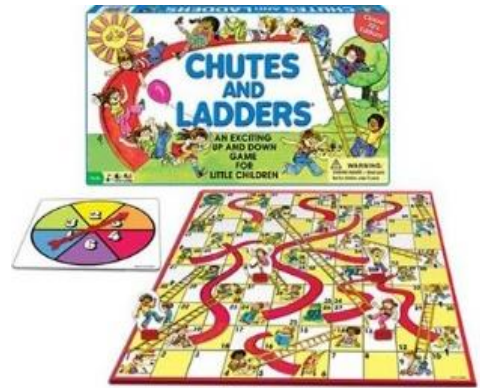
Not the perfect substitute — but for now, I'll take it!

COUPON

For Stephen Messinger, Mentee -
Courtesy of Michael Paris Lipp,
Mentor

Non-transferable May not be
redeemed for cash.

Eligibility requirement for use:
Improved bidding and playing pace



Purchase **CHUTES AND LADDERS** for 12 quarters



and buy
CANDY LAND
for \$3.00
off the Lipp
SRP!

Sweet Memory



by Steve Messinger

Soon after retiring I decided to check into playing bridge, and Mike Lipp was the first person I talked to at the CBC. He encouraged me to play, welcomed me and made sure my time at the CBC was a positive experience. Mike constantly encouraged and coached me, and since we were both avid Cincinnati Reds fans, we always had something outside of bridge to talk about. Eventually I became confident enough in my bridge bidding to question Mike's advice. No surprise - he did not like this - so he informed me that he was going to be my mentor.

Before our first game he told me that I needed to improve my pace of play, and that I would owe him a quarter each time I took too long to bid. After I was out \$3, he said he would waive the fee if I would speed up my play. He gave me other guidance, but the last time we played his final advice Mike gave me in front of our competition - was that I should consider playing Chutes and Ladders or Candy Land instead of bridge. Since we were friends, he considered me fair game for teasing, however, given my last score I think that he might have been on point. But hopefully not. Mike did give me some needed advice, and I am thankful that I had a chance to be his friend and mentee.

[We make wonderful memories and new friends playing bridge - this one touched my heart and felt just right for this time. I too miss Mike. Thank you, Steve - Editor]

Bidding Quiz - Problems



Bob Jones Quizes - Unit 124

Every Saturday morning. participants get an advanced copy of the Bob Jones quiz published Monday morning in the Cincinnati Enquirer. If you'd like to participate, please send an email to Mike at

rmikeburnsi@gmail.com. Feel free to send questions

to any commenters. There is rarely one correct answer to bidding problems. You can see the entire library of Unit 124 responses on the unit 124 website: <http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA-Weekly-Bidding-Quiz.html>

Apr 24 2021

Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz

GOREN BRIDGE APRIL 24, 2021

Q1 - Neither vulnerable

♠ 9♥ QJ6♦ JT75♣ AK765

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT* P ?

*15-17

What call would you make?

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable

♠ K97♥ 4♦ AKJ♣ AJ7643

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1C Dbl Pass 1NT
?

What call would you make?

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable

♠ A64♥ KQ74♦ A87♣ AJ3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1C Dbl Pass 1S
?

What call would you make?

Q 4 - Both vulnerable

♠ AQ64♥ KT63♦ Void♣ AKJ53

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
2S* ?

*weak

What call would you make?

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable

♠ K8♥ AQT75♦ 86♣ 9864

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1D 1S 2D ?

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠ A J 9 7 5 ♥ J 5 ♦ K Q T ♣ 8 7 5

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

Answers on p. 13

EPISODE 31: The Stoical Folsom Preempt Blues



By Steve Felson

*Sad Sack was sittin' on a block of stone,
Way over in the corner weepin' all
alone. The warden said, "Hey, buddy,
don't you be no square, If you can't find
a partner use a wooden chair."*

"Jailhouse Rock" (1957 by Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller, who also wrote "Hound Dog" and many others gems for The King)

When you ain't got nothing, you got nothing to lose.

"Like a Rolling Stone" (1965 by Bob Dylan, who continued his life "with no direction home" until surprised by the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016)

After all these years my esteemed partner Robert Brown and I continue to travel long distances to play bridge – yes, we still need the points. However, Bob's



suggestion that we take a shot at the prison-colony circuit seemed a bit desperate. Trust him, he says, it'll be fun, the food is a problem but the prisoner-run hotel is not too bad, our opponents will be colorful

characters we can hang out with when we aren't playing, and he knows prisons inside and out and will keep me safe in case of trouble.

Do I believe Bob's profession of prison expertise? I know he *talks* like a hardened criminal: "There are two kinds of heists, those where you get away with it and those where you leave witnesses." Sure, there are, Bob. And yes, he claims to have learned his bridge in Lubyanka prison, jokingly referred to as the tallest building in Moscow since you could see Siberia from its basement. Was there a ring of truth in Bob's claim that the more intellectual inmates loved our capitalist game and transmitted bids to the next cell with a knocking code?

Plus, he talks about "The Rock" like it was a second home, with Eldridge Cleaver just next door and Charlie Manson down the block, and how he was the last man to shake Caryl Chessman's hand before the gas hissed into the chamber. I also hear he tells people out of my presence that the initials "FBI" originally stood for "Felson-Brown Investigations," we being the first "persons of interest" to J. Edgar Hoover regarding several high-profile crimes. Such picturesque stories, but are they believable? I know he has criminal *tendencies* but did he ever spend even a single night behind bars?

Unfortunately, many years ago I promised Bob's parents I would watch over him "for eternity," which was a joke at the time but ceased being funny after the invention of anti-aging cream. Anyway, the next thing I know Bob has booked us a week at the Folsom Hilton, Folsom being a desolate moon of Crait, itself a desolate mineral-mining planet without a streak of color anywhere on it. We are also scheduled for tournaments on Ossining, Leavenworth, and finally the Devil's Island Regional, none of which are vacation paradises either.

A few days later we're hanging out in the Folsom rec room and dining hall with a stimulating bunch of inmates whose unique slammer lingo helps take our minds off trying to guess what we're eating.

As you can see, a good $\frac{3}{4}$ of them could live and breathe on earth just like you and me. And of course, they have great underworld names like "Time-warp";

“The Vaporizer”; “Ice-pick Willie”; “Bugsy the Squasher”; “Scales Schwartzman;” Whack-whack McIntyre; and “Glow-worm.”

We even sit in on some classes this enlightened institution provides, and hear people like Sleep-out Louie Defenestra, a man who can nap anywhere and truly deserves his life sentence, ask intelligent questions about Greek philosophy and 19th-century English literature.

The prison bridge players are pretty sharp but none too disciplined, as you can see from the deal below. This was the fourth time we’ve been up against this pair and we feel comfortable calling them “Louie” and “Three-fingers.” Louie’s crime is apparent from his name, and Three-fingers freely discusses the run-of-the-mill bar fight where everyone but him gets killed, he only loses a couple of digits, and of course he is the only one charged. The judge apparently finds that unfair since he sentences Three-fingers to serve his 333 months at Folsom, where a month is only 21 days long.

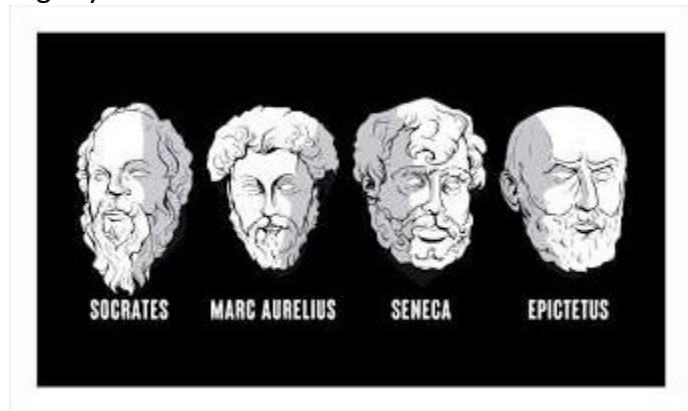
The bidding was simple: East – 6♣, South – 6♠, All Pass.

None Vul East Deals	NORTH Sleep-Out Louie ♠ AQ2 ♥ QJ85 ♦ J107 ♣ 832				
WEST The Albatross ♠ 103 ♥ A3 ♦ KQ985432 ♣ A		EAST Bob “The Warden” ♠ 9 ♥ 642 ♦ 6 ♣ KQJ109765			
[For context, the last time Bob opened at the 6-level we went for -1700.]	SOUTH Three Fingers ♠ KJ87654 ♥ K1097 ♦ A ♣ 4	E 6 ♣	S 6 ♠	W All Pass	N All Pass

If you’ve read any of the previous 30 episodes of this column, you know Bob and I are not experts; perhaps a top player *would* open six clubs with the East hand.

And a better South might have been content to double, take a positive score and be done with it. But criminals are not known for their rationality under pressure. Three-fingers, visibly steaming with so few losers and so many spades, overcalls six spades and goes down one, giving Felson-Brown the only positive East-West score.

I am a little worried when Bob exits the table with the words “Like taking candy from a baby,” but both Louie and Three-fingers have put in many hours discussing Greek Stoic philosophy and they both simply stare straight ahead and nod their heads slightly at the remark.



[Typical bunch of Stoic philosophers.]

Bob tells me afterwards, “I wasn’t worried about it – these guys come to play and no six-level opening bid is going to shut them up.”

*I hear the train a comin', it's rolling round the bend
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when
I'm stuck in Folsom prison, and time keeps draggin' on
But that train keeps a rollin' on down to San Antone
When I was just a baby, my mama told me "son"
"Always be a good boy, don't ever play with guns"
But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die
When I hear that whistle blowin', I hang my head and cry
I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car
They're probably drinkin' coffee and smoking big cigars
Well I know I had it coming, I know I can't be free
But those people keep on movin'
And that's what tortures me
Well if they freed me from this prison
If that railroad train was mine
I bet I'd move it on a little farther down the line
Far from Folsom prison, that's where I want to stay
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away
Johnny Cash*

The More Things Change

By Steve Moese

*Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin'
Into the future*

Track 2 On Fly Like an Eagle by the Steve Miller Band.

Written by Steve Miller, and Steve McCarty.

The ACBL has changed regulations affecting bidding and play. Here are links to the important documents:

New Alert Procedures

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

New Convention Charts

http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/CONVENTIONCHARTS2_2020.pdf

New Online Conditions of Contest

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

From playing online I can tell you that the most abused regulations since the change is how people ask for clarification online. Regardless how the bridge software program works, the only legal way to ask for clarification is to **SEND A PRIVATE CHAT** to the person who made the bid. Clicking on the bid is not appropriate. The reason for this rule is that your interest in clarification tells partner something. To eliminate all possible Unauthorized Information, the ACBL does not allow questions to the table – that includes clicking on the bid made for further explanation.

There's a tie for the next change players aren't doing well: pre-alerting systems with forcing 1-level bids, and properly announcing the length of their 1 of a minor opening bids.

Precision and Polish club are two systems that come to mind that require pre-alerts when you get to a new table.

Instead of just saying "Could be short", you now must specify the number for shortest holding you can have:

1♣ - "Could be short as 2"

1♣ - "Could be short as zero"

1♦ - "Could be short as 1 in third seat only"

1♦ - "Could be short as 2, but a stiff A/K/Q possible in a weak NT hand".

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The Theory of Total Tricks: Part VII – Old School



by Steve Bloom May 29, 2013

This time out, I want to consider two hypothetical competitive problems. In both cases, North opens 1♠ holding a minimum, with five spades, and South raises. The bad guys push up to 3♥. Should North-South defend, or bid on? Everyone is vulnerable.

Case 1: North is 5-2-3-3, South 4-2-4-3.

Case 2: North is 5-1-3-4, South 4-3-4-2.

Case 1 shows how bidding has changed since I started (back in Shakespeare's day). To an Old School player, competing to three spades on two balanced hands, vulnerable to boot, is insane, but most of the old-timers would take the push with North's hand two. They told me, in clipped Olde English, "'tis easier to win five tricks o'er nine," and "flat hands defend." Today, we see nine trumps on each side, and count eighteen total tricks, and bid on to three spades. Does SF (the Second Fit number) give a different result? No. SF is 16 on both hands, with no downward adjustments for short trumps, so SF also predicts 18 winners.

Old-fashioned bridge upgrades for North's singleton. Modern bridge upgrades for South's fourth trump.

This problem is ripe for simulations, and I ran double-dummy simulations for both cases, giving North 12-14 high-card-points, and South 5-9. Here are the results:

Case 1:

The results were very close. In the simulations, there averaged 17.11 total tricks, a number that makes

bidding or defending essentially a toss-up. Defending turned out to be .17 IMPs better than bidding, a difference due almost entirely to the vulnerability. Change the colors and it would be correct to bid. In practice, one should look at honor location to make the final decision, bidding on unless we hold too many honors in our short suits.

Case 2:

This time, bidding was a huge winner. There were 18.05 total tricks on these hands, and bidding netted +3.37 IMPs per hand over defending.

These are fascinating, and surprising results. In both cases, using either SF or the Law, we expect 18 total tricks, but Case 1 falls short by nearly a full winner. All that changed was North's singleton. If I had to guess a rule, it would be this:

- *Total trick prediction is valid if our side has a singleton somewhere, but we should deduct a full trick if we lack a singleton.*

This guess will turn out to be a bit extreme, but it is still fairly close. Next time out, I will analyze, in boring and excruciating detail, the impact of shortness in our hands.

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

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

Answers to Bidding Quiz

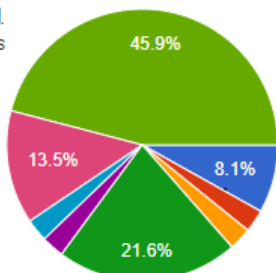
Apr 24 2021

Q1 – Neither vulnerable
 ♠9♥QJ6♦JT75♣AK765

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 1NT* P ?

Question 1
 37 responses

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



Bob Jones	3N	Slam is possible, but not likely, and looking for it might get you too high. Bid 3NT.
Otto Walter	2♣	Puppet for me, even at the two level. If partner should happen to hold five hearts, then 4♥ is my rebid, otherwise 3NT
Bob Fisk	3♠	I play 3♠ over 1NT as 1-3-5/4 (nine minor-suit cards) and game-going values or better. Yep, that'll do it!
Joe Muenks	3N	Playing with most partners I bid the game. With so many partnership points, you know partner has good spades. (Playing with expert partners I bid 3♠, showing 1 spade, 3 hearts and 4-5 or 5-4 in the minors.)
Steve Vogel	3♠	Over 1NT, my partners and I play that 3 of a major shows a game forcing hand with a singleton in the major bid, 3 in the other major and 5/4 in the minors. Partner can now set the contract. We will not make that bid with a singleton A, K or Q.
Steve Moese		Depends on partnership agreements. The approach I prefer is for 3♥ and 3♠ to show a hand with this general pattern. Agreement depends on tools available. Here 3♥ shows a 3-card fragment in Hearts, a singleton spade and 4-5 or 5-4 in the minors. Note if partner opened 1NT with a 5-card Major they are well positioned to place the strain and level. So, this flexible agreement allows our partnership to determine if 3NT, 4M, 5m, 6m or M is in the cards. Now that's a lot of benefit for very small investment. We need 11+ HCP for this bid. The idea is to help opener find the right game or slam contract. If opener has something like xx AKxx AKxx Qxx slam requires a finesse and 5♣ makes when 3NT doesn't. Change that to xxx AKxxx AK Qxx and 6♥ is cold. Many bid the singleton (3♠), but it can be wiser to bid the 3-card Major suit fragment (3♥). Bidding the singleton (3♠) allows opponents a lead directing double they would not otherwise have. (There is version of 5-card major Stayman that starts with 2NT and shows this specific pattern after the response where it fits best - but I digress). As with every convention there are downsides. This biggest here is that the bid reveals a lot of strength and shape information about responder's hand. That can provide a road map for astute defenders.

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

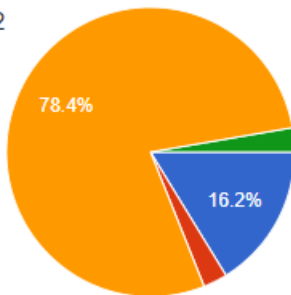
♠ K 9 7 ♥ 4 ♦ A K J ♣ A J 7 6 4 3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 1C Dbl Pass 1NT
 ?

Question 2

37 responses

- Pass
- Double
- 2C
- 3C



Bob Jones	2♣	In a recent online game, the player with this hand bid 3♣ and went down 3. You're outgunned on this one. Just bid 2♣.
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	2♣	I'm a bit too good to pass, although I might regret this bid. No reason partner can't hold xxx xxxxx Qx QTx, and we're cold for 3♣.
Joe Muenks	2♣	Admittedly I stab at 2♣, though I have gone for 500 here with this much, too, when they only had a partial. Partner is broke so this is a last try to go plus on offense or defense and hope they don't bid a makeable game.
Steve Vogel	2♣	Partner likely has length in the majors and may very well be short in clubs. I have a strong hand, but the quality of my club suit is suspect. Still, I would rather get them out of notrump, which might play well for them, so I will rebid 2♣, where I believe my length will protect me to some degree.
Steve Moese	2♣	Partner could not act over 1♣ - (X), so they do not have 5-6 HCP and biddable 4-card suit. They also do not have a weak hand with long suit (weak jump shift territory). While we would rebid 3♣ on this hand in a constructive auction, 2♣ opposite weak partner is enough here.

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

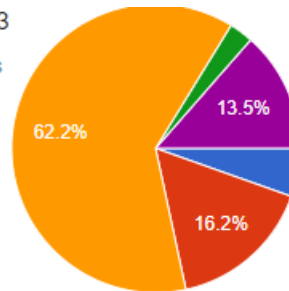
♠ A 6 4 ♥ K Q 7 4 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A J 3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 1C Dbl Pass 1S
 ?

Question 3

37 responses

- Pass
- Double
- 1NT
- 2H
- 2NT



Bob Jones	1NT	1NT here shows 18-19. You would have opened 1NT with 15-17 and you would pass now with less. Bid 1NT.
Otto Walter	1NT	Showing 18-19 type NT hand
Bob Fisk	1NT	Rebidding 1NT opposite a silent partner shows 18-19 HCP (i.e., a hand that would have rebid 2NT if partner had made a peep). Again, regret is possible.
Joe Muenks	1NT	This sequence is a frequent one here. Your 1NT represents 18-19 like you'd jumped to 2NT had partner responded. You are offering it as a place to play or partner can bid their 6-7 card suit non-forcing with 0-5 pts as a place to play.
Steve Vogel	1NT	A 1NT bid on this auction would show 18-19, which is the value of my hand. My other reasonable option is to double, but I think a double would show a more distributional hand (certainly with at least 4 clubs).
Steve Moese	X	Don't even consider bidding 2NT here. Double shows these values opposite a passed partner. Partner has to be very weak to pass over the opponent's takeout double. 18 opposite zero is no way to play 2NT, let alone 1NT. We will pass responder's 1NT bid here, hoping we've right sided the contract (having the lead come to aces is worse than having it come to queens). Yes, our 1NT here shows 18-19 HCP, but we have only 4 tricks and partner might have none. Double to play a 2-level contract in at least a 4-3 fit (4-4 and 5-3 are possible). If we give the doubler 12 HCP and the 1NT bidder 9, that leaves one Jack for partner.

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

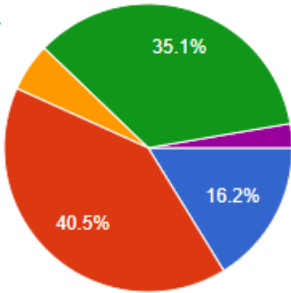
♠ A Q 6 4 ♥ K T 6 3 ♦ - ♣ A K J 5 3

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

2S* ?
Question 4

37 responses

- Pass
- Double
- 2NT
- 3C
- 4C



Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

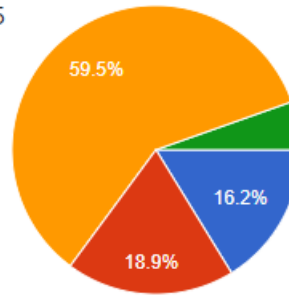
♠ K 8 ♥ A Q T 7 5 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 9 8 6 4

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1D 1S 2D ?
Question 5

37 responses

- Pass
- Double
- 2H
- 2S



Bob Jones	3♣	Should you double, partner is sure to bid diamonds. Bid 3♣. It is OK to have a little extra once in a while.
Otto Walter	3♣	Bridge is a partnership game. Partner, I hope your hand is worth a red suit response.
Bob Fisk	X	Ideally partner will hold x AQJx xxxxx Qxx (good partner), and we make seven Hearts (five Club tricks, four Hearts, two Spades on the somewhat marked Spade hook, and two Diamond ruffs).
Joe Muenks	3♣	This hand is tough. If you can sort your cards and pass smoothly that is probably your best action. But you won't. You wish you did, partner balances with a double with 10 pts and you pass again. Since you hesitated, partner is barred from doubling light, essentially, so bid 3♣ and let's see what happens next. 3♣ is short a card, but you have extra HCP to compensate.
Steve Vogel	X	Not a perfect bid with a void, but since we play Lebensohl, I have protection from a jump by partner in my void suit of Diamonds. If partner bids 3♦, I will rebid 3NT. If partner bids 2NT on the way to 3♦, I will be forced to bid 3NT, which would be bad, but sometimes you have to take a risk.
Steve Moese	2NT	Imperfect on shape, but right on values. We are more likely to land in the proper place than if we start with 3♣. If they double me I run to 3♣. Hopefully partner is inspired to find a fit for their 4-card Major.

Bob Jones	2♥	A responsive double would be perfect, if you play that convention. If not, bid 2♥.
Otto Walter	2♠	My spade shortness is compensated for by holding that king as well as a nice hearts suit. If I had responded 2♥ instead, that might propel us to the three level - not sure I want to be that high.
Bob Fisk	2♥	Responsive showing 4-4+ in the unbid suits. It's nice that I have tolerance for partner's Spades.
Joe Muenks	2♥	This looks like it is a partial hand. If you, like me, play that bidding 2♥ shows 2 spades, 5+ hearts, 10+ pts (I'm taking 1 for the doubleton diamond), it's perfect. If 2♥ doesn't promise spades in your system, I'd pass. (I'd even venture 2♥ if 2♦ was a strong, forcing bid, by the way.)
Steve Vogel	2♥	I have a good suit with tolerance for partner's spades. Definitely worth a 2♥ bid.
Steve Moese	2♥	Given my spade tolerance I want partner to know I have values to bid and at least 5 Heart cards. Double would not imply 5 hearts but would bring clubs into the picture. Clubs aren't worth mentioning yet.

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠ A J 9 7 5 ♥ J 5 ♦ K Q T ♣ 8 7 5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

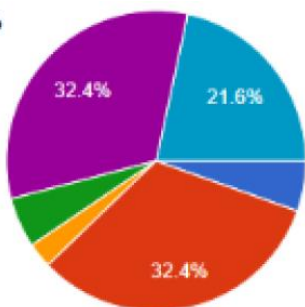
1H Pass 1S Pass

2S Pass ?

Question 6

37 responses

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



Bob Jones	3N	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.
Otto Walter	3♦	Following the concept of game decision before slam decision, partner should interpret this as a game try.
Bob Fisk	4♠	While I could hem and haw a bit and find out whether partner has three or four Spades and a minimum or maximum hand, who am I kidding? I'm going to bid game anyway (that's how I roll). Picture Kxxx Axxxx Jx Ax.
Steve Moese	2N	Depends on partnership agreement. 2NT here asks partner for spade length and shape. I will bid game if partner has 4 spades or 3 spades and a maximum. If we only play Help Suit Game Tries, I'd probably choose 2NT - a strength ask. Bidding 3♣ as a help suit try is for my opponents, not my partnerships. We play 3 spades here as a trump suit quality game try – go to game with good trumps.
Joe Muenks	2♠	Another common theme around here is how we all offer game. Most of us play the 2NT ask, which has more names than John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt. For standard players, offer with 3♠.

Steve Vogel	3♦	A bid of (Wold) 2NT asks partner to further describe his/her hand (3/4 card support, min/max). I plan to sign off facing a minimum with 3-card support, and bid game facing any maximum. If partner has a minimum with 4-card support, I plan to gamble on game hoping for relative shortness in clubs.
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“There are no mistakes, just happy accidents.”
-- **Bob Ross**

“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” — **Albert Einstein**

DRAFT – New ACBL Convention Card

With recent changes to the Alert Procedures and Convention Charts, could a much needed update to the ACBL Convention Card be far behind? The big changes:

- Separate areas for each of 1♣ and 1♦. (There is a check box for “same as over 1♣”)
- Greatly expanded defensive carding methods section.
- We have tried to limit the use of names for conventions where possible.
- More room for style on preempts, and what is to be expected from a balanced opening.
- Same color coding: **Red=Alert**, **Blue=Announce**

DRAFT ACBL CONVENTION CARD

See: <https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/new-acbl-convention-card-draft/>

DOUBLES	Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Thru _____ Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> Thru _____ Maximal <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Thru _____ Rdbl <input type="checkbox"/> T/O Style _____ Other Conv _____	NT OVERCALLS	1NT Direct _____ to _____ Systems On <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/> 1NT Balance _____ to _____ Systems On <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/> Jump to 2NT: 2 Lowest Unbid <input type="checkbox"/> Other 2 Suits _____	Name _____ ACBL# _____ Name _____ ACBL# _____	
OVERCALLS	1 Lvl _____ to _____ Often 4 Cards <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Lvl _____ to _____ Jump Overcalls: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Int <input type="checkbox"/> Str <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/> Responses New Suit: Frc <input type="checkbox"/> NFConst <input type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Raise: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Inv <input type="checkbox"/> Frc <input type="checkbox"/> Cuebid Shows Support <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Vs. 1NT	Vs. _____ > _____ Vs. _____ < _____ Dbl _____ Dbl _____ 2♣ _____ 2♣ _____ 2♦ _____ 2♦ _____ 2♥ _____ 2♥ _____ 2♠ _____ 2♠ _____ 2NT _____ 2NT _____ Other _____	OVERVIEW	Standard American <input type="checkbox"/> 2 over 1 GF <input type="checkbox"/> Except Very Light: Openings <input type="checkbox"/> (Bal Min _____+) Responses <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Preempts <input type="checkbox"/> Frc Open: 1♣ <input type="checkbox"/> 2♣ <input type="checkbox"/> 2♦ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 1NT: Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input type="checkbox"/> Variable <input type="checkbox"/>
DIRECT CUEBIDS	Versus: ♣♦ Quasi/Art ♣♦ Nat ♥♠ Michaels <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Strong T/O <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other 2 Suits <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Describe _____ Resp _____	Vs. TAKEOUT DBL	New Suit Frc: 1 Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Shift: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Inv <input type="checkbox"/> Frc <input type="checkbox"/> Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Rdbl: 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 2NT Over: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Raise <input type="checkbox"/> Range _____ ♣♦ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ to _____ ♥♠ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ to _____ Other _____	MINORS	1♣ Min Length: 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> (4=4=3=2 only <input type="checkbox"/>) NF 1 <input type="checkbox"/> NF 0 <input type="checkbox"/> Frc Art <input type="checkbox"/> Responses (Transfers <input type="checkbox"/>) Bypass 4+♦ <input type="checkbox"/> 1♦ Neg <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 1NT _____ to _____ 2NT _____ to _____ 3NT _____ to _____ Other _____ Raises Single: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Const <input type="checkbox"/> Frc <input type="checkbox"/> Jump: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Inv <input type="checkbox"/> Frc <input type="checkbox"/> After Overcall: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Inv <input type="checkbox"/> Frc <input type="checkbox"/>
Vs. PREEMPT	2NT Overcall _____ T/O Dbl Thru _____ Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 2NT Lebensohl Resp <input type="checkbox"/> Conv T/O <input type="checkbox"/> Cuebid _____ Jump Overcalls _____ Other _____	3 LVL	Style (Seat/Vul) _____ Conv/Resp _____	MAJORS	1♥/♠ 1st-2nd: Length: 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 1NT: Frc <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Frc <input type="checkbox"/> Bypass ♠ <input type="checkbox"/> 2NT: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> _____ to _____ 3NT: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> _____ to _____ 3rd-4th: Length: 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Drury <input type="checkbox"/> Reverse <input type="checkbox"/> 2Way <input type="checkbox"/>
SLAWS	4NT: 0123 <input type="checkbox"/> RKC: 0314 <input type="checkbox"/> 1430 <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ace-Asking Bids _____ 4♣ Gerber: Directly Over NT <input type="checkbox"/> Over NT Seq <input type="checkbox"/> Non-NT Seq <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 1st Control Bid: 1st Round <input type="checkbox"/> 1st or 2nd Round <input type="checkbox"/> 3NT: Serious <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Serious <input type="checkbox"/> Last Train <input type="checkbox"/> Vs Interference: DOPI <input type="checkbox"/> DEPO <input type="checkbox"/> ROPI <input type="checkbox"/> _____	4 LVL	Style (Seat/Vul) _____ Conv/Resp _____ 4♣/4♦ Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	NOTRUMP	1NT _____ to _____ (When _____) 1NT _____ to _____ (When _____) 5-Card Major <input type="checkbox"/> Sys on <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Neg Dbl: 2 Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 2♣: Stayman <input type="checkbox"/> Puppet <input type="checkbox"/> 3♣ _____ Puppet <input type="checkbox"/> 2♦: Frc Stayman <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 3♦ _____ 2♥: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 3♥ _____ Short <input type="checkbox"/> 2♠: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 3♠ _____ Short <input type="checkbox"/> 2NT: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Other _____ Tfr: 4♣ <input type="checkbox"/> 4♦ <input type="checkbox"/> 4♥ <input type="checkbox"/> Smolen <input type="checkbox"/> Lebensohl <input type="checkbox"/> : _____ Denies _____
CARDING	Suits NT <input type="checkbox"/> Standard – Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard – Count <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Upside Down – Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Upside Down – Count <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions _____ Other Carding: Smith Echo: Suits <input type="checkbox"/> NT <input type="checkbox"/> Reverse <input type="checkbox"/> Trump Signals _____	SIGNALS	Primary Signals to: Declarer's Lead <input type="checkbox"/> Partner's Lead <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Count <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Suit Preference <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions _____ First Discard: Std <input type="checkbox"/> Upside Down <input type="checkbox"/> Lavinthal <input type="checkbox"/> Odd/Even <input type="checkbox"/>	2 LEVEL	2NT _____ to _____ Puppet <input type="checkbox"/> 3♠ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 3NT Art <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr: 3Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> 4Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dbls <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 3NT _____ to _____ 4♣: Gerber <input type="checkbox"/> Stayman <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> 4♠ <input type="checkbox"/> One Suit <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/>
LEADS vs. SUITS	CIRCLE CARD LED (if not in bold): Length Leads: 4th <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> Small from xx <input type="checkbox"/> xx xxx xxxx xxxxx Hxx Hxxx Hxxxx Middle of Hand _____ Honor Leads: A K x (+) varies <input type="checkbox"/> K Q x Q J x J T x T 9 x Interior Seq K J T x K T 9 x Q T 9 x Exceptions _____	LEADS vs. NT	CIRCLE CARD LED (if not in bold): Length leads: 4th <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd from xxxx(+) <input type="checkbox"/> xx xxx xxxx xxxxx Hxx Hxxx Hxxxx Middle of hand _____ Honor leads: A K x x (+) varies <input type="checkbox"/> K Q J x K Q T 9 Q J T x J T 9 x Interior seq: A Q J x A J T x K T 9 x Q T 9 x Exceptions _____	OTHER	2♣ _____ to _____ 2♦ Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting <input type="checkbox"/> Very Str <input type="checkbox"/> Str <input type="checkbox"/> Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/> Steps <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 2♥ Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 2♦ _____ to _____ Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Int <input type="checkbox"/> Str <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/> Ogust <input type="checkbox"/> New Suit NF <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 2♥ _____ to _____ Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Int <input type="checkbox"/> Str <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Suits <input type="checkbox"/> Ogust <input type="checkbox"/> New Suit NF <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ 2♠ _____ to _____ Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Int <input type="checkbox"/> Str <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Suits <input type="checkbox"/> Ogust <input type="checkbox"/> New Suit NF <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Jump Shifts _____ New Minor Frc <input type="checkbox"/> 2Way NMF <input type="checkbox"/> XYZ <input type="checkbox"/> 4th Suit Frc: 1 Round <input type="checkbox"/> Game <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Defense vs (V)Str Frc Opening _____

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
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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

July

10-12	Summer 2021 NABC Robot Individual NABC Robot Individual tournament
15-25	Summer 2021 North American Online Bridge Championships (NAOBC) Knockout event and pair event
26-1	Stardust Week Upgraded masterpoints® awards in Virtual Clubs