



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



VACCINE REQUIREMENT ENDED!!
The CBA Board voted on Monday 5/1/2023 to end the Covid19 vaccine requirement for players playing at the Cincinnati Bridge Center and at any CBA sponsored tournament.

Unvaccinated players may play at the Flying Pig Regional and any game at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

Spring is here and that can only mean one thing: The FLYING PIG REGIONAL is just around the corner. Dates this year are Sunday June 4 thru Saturday June 10. Lots of volunteer opportunities at the tournament. Contact tournament chair Arun Goyal at flyingpig.chair@cincybridge.com. Setup on June 4 AM and tear down on Friday June 9 PM can always use last minute assistants. Note that the Saturday June 10 events are held at the CBC. You can check out the full tournament flyer and schedule on our website (www.cincybridge.com). No Covid19 vaccine required to play.

Congratulations to CBA members that won their flight in the GNT's recently. Flight C: **Jim Steinke, Linda Costura, Joan Behr and Sudhir Matani**. Flight A: **AJ Stephani and Bob Fisk**.

STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs). The Cincinnati Bridge Association will be sponsoring a STaC the week of July 31 thru August 6. STaC games pay those precious silver points, with extra awards for high overall finishes District-wide in eligible games.

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Next on the local tournament calendar is a Non-Life Master tournament being held at the CBC on August 18, 19 and 20. See the flyer on the CBA website for tournament details.

I'd like to congratulate Bill Brewer on his two new successful games at the CBC. The Monday Invitational game (similar to Thursday) and the Tuesday 0-99 MP and education game are running 7+ tables every week. Check them out!!

Thanks to Jim Steinke for taking over the Wednesday AM game at the CBC.

Melissa Hellmann has spent many hours getting up to speed as our new treasurer. 2022 and Q1 2023 financial statements should be available on the web site soon.

See you at the Flying Pig Regional,

John Meinking

President, Unit 124 Board of Directors

Editor's Note



By Bill Brewer

I am happy to assist the Unit in editing this issue of the Alert. Many thanks to Steve Moese for his editorship over the past decade and for stepping in to help prepare this issue. This is your newsletter and we hope it is another way you can stay abreast of the happenings in our Unit.

In this issue we welcome Matthew Granovetter as a contributor, updates on the Flying Pig Regional in a few weeks, and news about some of the sanctioned games in our Unit as well as an excellent article by Steve Moese.

Please feel free to email suggestions to me for future articles or if you would like to contribute an article as well.

Finally, my editorship of The Alert is temporary and we are actively seeking an individual who would look like to assist the Unit in this capacity.

Enjoy this issue.

Bill

Bill Brewer

Editor, The ALERT brewerwe@miamioh.edu



UNIT 124 NEWS



Congratulations go out to **Yauheni (Eugene) Siutsau** who won the March 2023 Online NABC Robot Championship. Check out Eugene's note in the ACBL Bulletin May 2023. Eugene scored 69.42%, and wins for the second time (2021). Eugene is a Platinum Life Master from Unit 124 (Cincinnati). On BBO, Eugene has earned A "K" for

King, meaning he is 2nd-30th in the historical table of BBO Points won.

RANK PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Judy Ruehl** our newest **SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER** March 2023. **Mercer Reynolds** became a **Bronze Life Master** and **Terry Raulin** earned **Life Master** in the same month. **J Woeste** became a **Silver Life Master** in February.

Other Promotions:

2023	Junior Master	Club Master	Sectional Master
April	Bob Grubber Cathy Higgins	Nell Wickstrom	Joe Von Lehman
March	James Danziger Anil Marfatia Shobhana Marfatia Kathryn Shumrick		
February	Patricia Culp	Elizabeth Leland Sudhir Matani Bill Pirman	Huang-Chia Chang

Well done everyone!

Congratulations to all our members who achieved new ranks this past quarter. You can check your recorded Masterpoints and rank through MyACBL at www.acbl.org. Once on the website click on MyACBL. (If you haven't registered, it will help you create your password). The ACBL will create a current status report for you!

[Ranks Promotions](#)

[Masterpoints](#)

70% GAMES

2/24/23	CBC	Steve Vogel Cliff Pleatman	70.83
2/22/23	CBC	Steve Moese Mike Ma	72.02



The **CBA Mentoring Program** has started again for this year. This is your chance to pair with an experienced player or to help out someone who wants to improve. There are designated play dates and reduced rates at both the Cincinnati and NKY clubs. [Additional details.](#)

Is this the year you are going to participate in the CBA mentoring program? Whether you are interested in improving your game or helping others do so, you are encouraged to participate. Information about the program appears along the top of the CBA website under "Learn." The Northern Kentucky program is already underway but joining is still fine. The CBC program starts in mid-June and the application link appears in the website information. Below are comments from some previous mentees. Feel free to contact Greg Brinker for questions regarding the NKY program and John Williams for the CBC program.

"I've participated in the M/M program for a few years. The M/M program helped me to identify and focus on specific areas of improvement. I think the program is well worth the investment of time. I would encourage any player interested in fine tuning or improving their bridge game to work with a mentor. The M/M program is a great way to start that process."

"There's learning bridge and there's mastering bridge. From my experience mentoring is a must for the latter."

[CBA MENTOR PROGRAM DETAILS](#)

[SIGN UP](#)

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

Greg Brinker
gregab999@gmail.com
859-331-1868



NEW! Virtual Club 2024 Louisville NABC Fundraising Game Starting Wed Eve Apr 26, 2023.

Entry \$6/person. \$3 goes to the Louisville Committee (75% of net proceeds). All District 11 players are

eligible to play. Players not from District 11 can be added to the games by the director. The games are stratified so there is something for everyone. You can pick your level of play.

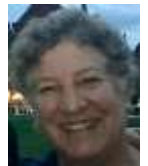
- 1) Non-life master (NLM)
- 2) 0 to 1250 MP
- 3) Open

The NLM game will begin at 7:00 pm, the 0-1250 at 7:05 pm, and the Open at 7:10 pm. [FLYER](#)

NAME TAGS

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

Your Name Here
Cincinnati Bridge



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

Partnerships!

If you're looking for a partner for a single game, call the director of the game - s/he knows others who are available for that game. Find directors' names on the Bridge Club's websites. You can meet prospective partners at lessons or during supervised play.

Supervised play is a fun, informal opportunity for I/N players to play with peers and hone skills at the same time. Experienced coaches advise every table and answer your questions as they occur. Hand records reinforce

Supervised Play

learning. While these games do not award ACBL Masterpoints, they reward I/N players with improved skill, new friends, and a deeper appreciation of the fun that bridge offers. Don't forget the free seminar 1/2 hour before supervised play begins! Stay current with the schedule for this weekend favorite: <http://www.cincybridge.com/Saturday-Supervised-Play-Schedule.html>



Website:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/cincinnati-center/>

Monday 10 AM Game

Bill Brewer, director

The Monday 10 AM game is growing and now averaging 7 tables. This game, while invitational, is open to all. It is stratified in a manner that maximizes the potential for pairs to earn MP.

We have a break for a great lunch including many homemade items and allow time to socialize as well. It is a strictly enforced zero tolerance game to ensure everyone's enjoyment. We finish close to 1:30 so you can plan the remainder of your afternoon.

Also Deschappelles members should note that their first time playing in the game is free. So, come and rejoin the wonderful woman of that club as well.

Flight A pairs are welcome as well on a reservation basis.

We have added a notebook at the Cincinnati Bridge Center that allows you to sign up for our Monday through Thursday games. This allows the directors to plan for seating/food etc. But you can also let me know via email or text and we always can

accommodate those who decide at the last minute. Better yet, if you don't have a partner, we can promise you will have one. So come and enjoy this newest sanctioned game at the Cincinnati Bridge Center.

Tuesday 9 AM 0-200 Game

Bill Brewer, director

What started out as an experiment for the month of March has turned into the popular Tuesday morning 0-200 MP game. The game has been averaging 7 tables and is a lot of fun and offers great learning.

We okay 18 boards and players are allowed to ask questions. Many thanks to Amy Fisher who assists and always provides expert coaching and advice as well as contributing to the fun and learning with great anecdotes and examples. We start promptly at 9 Am and finish between 11:30 and 11:45, so you have the rest of the day free.

IF you haven't played for a while or just want to improve your game in a fun environment this is the game for you. You also can receive masterpoints. The game is stratified in a such way as to maximize the potential for players to receive points.

We serve a light breakfast and always have juice and coffee and tea. Finally, if you don't have a partner, you are still welcome and we promise you will play. It is helpful to let us know you are coming in advance but not necessary. So, if you have 0-200 MP, I hope to see you at a Tuesday morning 'play and learn' game soon.

Bidding Quiz



Bob Jones Quizzes – Unit 124

Every Saturday morning participants get an advanced copy of the Bob Jones quiz. 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 all past quizzes on the unit 124 website:

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

Goren on Bridge: Weekly bridge quiz

GOREN BRIDGE MAY 6, 2023

Q1 – Neither vulnerable

♠K 8 5 ♥K 8 ♦A K T 7 5 ♣K J T

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

?

What call would you make?

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠9 8 7 ♥7 3 ♦J 9 8 5 4 2 ♣7 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1NT* P ?

*15-17

What call would you make?

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠J 8 3 ♥K Q J T 6 ♦K 8 ♣7 6 3

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

Pass Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠K J 8 6 ♥5 3 ♦A K Q J ♣8 7 5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

2♠ Pass ?

What call would you make?

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠K T 8 5 ♥A Q J 9 3 ♦9 8 6 4 ♣Void

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1♣ ?

What call would you make?

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠K Q 7 4 ♥Q J T 8 7 4 ♦K J 7 ♣Void

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass

?

What call would you make?

Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional



By Arun Goyal

Our Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional Tournament, yes “Ours” because it belongs to all the members of our unit, is fast approaching. It will be held at the Delta Hotel on Chester road from Jun 4th to June 9th and here at the CBC on Cooper road on June 10th.

This will be my last appeal before the tournament.

I ask all the members to come together and help in any way possible. We are still looking for volunteer and/or monetary help.

Volunteers

We need volunteers for the registration and the partnership desk. We are trying to get as many people as possible. This way the burden does not fall only on few people and the desk staff can still participate and play in the tournament. We are trying to keep the desk open before each session from Sunday to Friday.

Monetary

We are requesting for donations to defray the cost of hospitality and the gift baskets.

- We need items for about six Gift Baskets. Each basket will have a value of about \$75 and we will raffle them on Thursday and Friday.
- In addition we can use high priced items that we can auction and raise money.
- We need cash donations for the hospitality because hotel will allow food only from the vendors. We will have hospitality from Monday to Thursday between second and third sessions.
- We also need help for the full lunch that we will be providing at the club on Saturday. Snack items can be donated for this.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Method Bridge

by Matthew Granovetter



Most bridge students first learn point count and apply it to various bidding systems and conventions. They then learn to count the points around the table. But did you know that the shape of a bridge hand is just as important, if not more important than points, especially when declaring or defending a hand?

The following illustration comes from my new book about shapes, entitled Method Bridge. In the book I introduce the idea that memorizing the shapes of hands and suits is similar to Method Acting (developed by Konstantin Stanislovski in the early 20th Century) — once you know the shapes, you don't have to count; instead you picture them.

Everybody's hand has 13 cards with four suits and there are four suits distributed around the table with 13 cards in each suit, so the patterns are the same. If you can picture a shape of a suit or a hand, instead of counting to 13, you will make life easier on your brain, and you'll have more time to concentrate on your strategies and goals. The top five bridge shapes in order of frequency are:

Shape	Approximate frequency %
4432	22
5332	16
5431	13
5422	11
4333	11

One particular shape that can help you enormously to play a hand is the 5-5 shape, especially when it's one of your opponents who describes a 5-5. On this hand, West uses Michaels, showing at least 5-5 shape, but you buy the contract in a slam!

Awards

We need cash for the trophies that will be awarded to every 1st place winner in U750 events.

How to Donate

There are two boxes at the club, one for the gift items and another one for cash or the check. When making out a check, please make it to Cincinnati Bridge Association.

Physical Presence

We would like you to participate in at least two more sessions than what you had originally planned.

There are so many possibilities for everyone to participate. If you are working during daytime, consider joining a five or a six person team where you have to play only 50% of the time and still receive 100% of the points (however, note that points are proportioned in Swiss). We also have evening teams and pairs events for you. Every session includes both Open and U750 (people with under 750 mps) team and pair events. By having bracketed teams, each bracket can be limited further in MP requirements, so you play only with people who are close to you in points. All these are possible only if we have enough participants. So, PLEASE don't miss the fun and make this the best attended tournament in our district.

We also need your help for publicity. As an ambassador of Unit 124, please spread the word about our upcoming 2023 Flying Pig Regional in June. Goyal, Tournament Chairperson, 513-226-3001 FlyingPig.chair@cincybridge.com

Jim Barrett, Pam Campbell, Gary Herrington, Monica Ibarra, Shobha Kale. Mike Ma, Ila Mehta and Diane Travis

South dealer N-S vulnerable
North ♠ A K J 8 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 8 5 3
South (you) ♠ Q 9 7 5 2 ♥ K 2 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ A K 4

S	W	N	E
1♠	2♠	3♥	P
3♠	P	4♦	P
4♥	P	6♠	AP

West leads the ♥Q against your slam. Keep in mind he has shown 5-5 with five hearts and a minor. You win the king and draw trumps in three rounds, as West follows once and discards a heart and a club on the second and third round of spades.

You now have an endplay on either opponent. You cash your ace of hearts and ruff a heart. It is as if West has literally shown you his hand. He has shown five hearts and one spade, so he has 5-2 shape in the minors one way or the other. And so does his partner, East. You can visualize this when you become familiar with the second most frequent shape, 5332. You have 3-3 in both minors between your hand and dummy. If West has five, his partner has two: 5332 around the table in that suit. If West has two, his partner has five: again 5332 around the table.

So you can cash the ♦AK and ♣AK. Then play a loser in either minor. If West wins, he will give you a ruff-sluff, and if East wins, he will also give you a ruff-sluff. Study this hand and put it in your memory-recall, as Stanislovski would call it.

Interestingly, this hand can be played correctly without any bidding by the opponents, with the help of the Method. In the auction I gave, West provided a clue by using Michaels. But really you don't need that clue if you know your shapes. When dummy comes down, you can see you have two losers, one in each minor suit. But how will those minor suits divide around the table? They might be 4333 or they might be 5332. If the latter, you can make the contract by playing the hand the same way as described: Draw trump, ruff out the hearts, cash the two A-K's and play a minor-suit loser. If the two minor suits are 5332 around the table, they are likely to be split (one five-card suit on your right and one

on your left). So someone will win the minor-suit trick and be forced to concede a ruff-sluff. For example, the hand might look like this:

South dealer NS vulnerable	North ♠ A K J 8 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 8 5 3	
West ♠ 10 4 ♥ Q J 10 4 ♦ J 2 ♣ J 9 7 6 2		East ♠ 6 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q 10
	South (you) ♠ Q 9 7 5 2 ♥ K 2 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ A K 4	

The book Method Bridge will be available soon at Methodbridge.com or Amazon. I'd also like to take this opportunity to invite our unit players to participate in the third annual Bridgetoschool charity game on August 6 online, which benefits a school in Cincinnati. Please see bridgetoschool.com for details, or contact me at granovetterm@gmail.com

FORCING PASS

By Steve Moese



Sounds like a contradiction in terms doesn't it? Don't we pass when we are too weak to bid? Forcing Pass seems to be a bridge oxymoron.

Let's take a closer look at this important bidding tool. We will want to add this to our competitive bidding arsenal.

Suppose we are dealt something like:

♠ KQ976
♥ KQ10
♦ KJ54
♣ 3

We open 1♠ and left-hand opponent (LHO) decides to preempt with 3♣. Partner bids 4♣, a game force with a good hand and very likely spade support. Irritatingly, right-hand opponent (RHO)

bids 5♣. What now? How do we show a hand that is very good given the bidding that has some slam interest with the right hand from partner?

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♠	3♣	4♣	5♣
???			

We have the choice of several calls. We can Pass, we can double, and we can bid some number of

Spades on our own. Before reading on, decide what you would do.

Obviously, you want to tell partner something like:

I have a good hand for my bidding so far, with no wasted values in their suit.

The way to do that is with a **FORCING PASS**.

A FORCING PASS says: “I have a good hand for my previous bidding and no wasted values in their suit. We must not let the opponents play undoubled. Please help decide whether to double or bid on, partner.”

When we have shown a game force, or when we have shown invitational values and they bid to the 5-level (or are clearly preempting) we play that a pass immediately over their interference by either partner is FORCING.

Here our side showed game forcing values (4♣ is a game force) and opponents have bid to the 5-level. Opener’s pass is FORCING. With:

♠ AJ 32
♥ A6
♦ AQ109
♣ 987

Partner will know that there is no wastage in clubs, but they will not be sure about our side’s control of the ♣ suit. (A control stops them from taking two tricks in a suit. A control can be an Ace, King, singleton or void). One way to find out is to offer 5♦ to

show a ♦ control (♦A). Now opener can bid 5♥ to show both a ♥ control and a ♣ control (the suit that responder passed over). Yes, a singleton in their suit is a “control” for slam purposes. Now responder has no trouble bidding the excellent spade slam that the preempting opponents tried to stop us from finding.

♠ KQ976	♠ AJ 32
♥ KQ10	♥ A6
♦ KJ54	♦ AQ109
♣ 3	♣ 987

(Aside: Notice that only 29 HCP makes 12 tricks. We “know” this because there is no wastage in clubs, we can lose at most one club trick when spades are

trump, and all 29 HCP are working. Indeed if you replace our ♥Q and partner’s ♠J with spot cards, a small slam is still a sound contract. Rule of 26: If you have an 8+ card

trump fit, and can count 26 HCP in three suits, and only one loser in the fourth, check for keycards and be ready to bid a makeable slam. Here the check for keycards was done by control bidding not Blackwood or Roman Keycard Blackwood. Our opponents bidding took that possibility away. Indeed, either took is a poorer approach to finding slam here because the key is the singleton club – something we cannot tell partner about except in a disciplined control bidding auction. But I digress).

Change opener’s hand to:

♠ KQ976
♥ KQ10
♦ KJ5
♣ 43

and opener bids 5♠ not 5♥ over responder’s 5♦ because our side has no club control.

Change responder’s hand to:

♠ AJ32
♥ A6
♦ 10987
♣ AQ9

and responder will **DOUBLE** instead of control bidding a red suit, saying “I’ve heard what you said partner and we are beating 5♣ enough to make up for our game bonus”. Partner’s double says “I have wasted values in their suit, or I have a bare minimum for my previous calls.”

Let’s consider a different auction. This time we are vulnerable and they are not.

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♠	3♣	4♠	5♣
???			

What should we do now, holding the same hand as before?

First, we look at the requirements for a forcing pass to decide if this is a forcing pass situation.

- 1) Do we have a fit? **YES!**
- 2) Did our opponents bid to the 5 level? **YES!**
- 3) Did we show invitational values or a GF in our auction? **NO!**

THIS ISN’T A FORCING PASS AUCTION. Note partner had the choice to make a stronger bid of 4♣ to create the forcing pass opportunity. They chose not to do that. Some experts consider this a forcing pass auction because we are vulnerable and bid a game freely. Perhaps that’s a reasonable choice. However sometimes partner will have:

♠ J108543
♥ J32
♦ Q872
♣ --

We make 4♠ but they might well be making 5♣.

Consider something like:

	♠ -- ♥ 98 ♦ 10963 ♣ AQJ10987	
♠ KQ976 ♥ KQ10 ♦ KJ54 ♣ 3		♠ J108543 ♥ J32 ♦ Q872 ♣ --
	♠ A2 ♥ A7654 ♦ A ♣ K654	

Opponents can make a small slam in clubs! Our best choice is to let them play in 5♣ missing their slam bonus! Partner's jump to 4♠ did its job to make a smooth

constructive auction impossible. Having a FORCING PASS here would cause partner to double when PASS is the only right call.

Here are a few more auctions. Decide which ones show a forcing pass and which ones do not:

1)

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	1♠	2♠	4♠
PASS			

2)

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	Pass	1N ¹	2♠
PASS			
1= forcing one round			

3)

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	Pass	2♣	2♠
PASS			

4)

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♥	1♠	3♥	3♠
PASS			

5)

Us	LHO	Partner	RHO
1♦	1♥	2♥	3♣
PASS			

Here is what I think each of the above auctions show:

- 1) NOT A FORCING PASS – our opponents have not bid to the 5 level and we have only shown invitational values.
- 2) NOT A FORCING PASS – while 1N was forcing, we are not forced to game and partner has NOT shown invitational values (yet).
- 3) DEPENDS – If you are playing 2/1 Game Force this is a FORCING PASS because we are in a game forcing auction. If you play Standard American, this is NOT A FORCING PASS auction. Bidding agreements matter!
- 4) NOT A FORCING PASS – with an invitation, partner would bid 2♠ not 3♥.
- 5) FORCING PASS – here is a situation below game where partner has forced us to the 3 level by using the invitational cuebid. Many players would think – “Pass shows weakness and bidding shows strength”. Think about that for a moment. Bidding 3♦ says I decline your invitation (I am not strong enough to go to game). Since bidding 3♦ shows weakness many experts define the pass here as forcing. This makes a double by opener for penalties.

One additional observation. When a forcing pass is available, a double is PENALTY.

Let's review what we have learned:

- 1) A FORCING PASS consults partner as to the best course of action.
- 2) Once we issue a forcing pass, either we will declare or they will be doubled. Passing the auction out undoubled not in the cards.
- 3) A FORCING PASS can occur in several different auctions.

Criteria for a FORCING PASS:

- 1) We have shown a Game Forcing Auction
- 2) We have shown invitational values, and they have bid to the 5-level

- 3) We have shown invitational values and they have bid below 3 of our agreed suit.
- 4) They are clearly preempting – even the janitor knows they are preempting.

Watchouts:

- 1) Like all good agreements, be sure to discuss the FORCING PASS in detail with partner before adopting them.
- 2) Doubling too often can give good scores to opponents. Use the guidelines. Consider the auction. Don't double just because you have been outbid or have a minimum hand.

Want to read more about forcing passes?

I recommend a wonderful and free reference for your consideration: Andrew Robson and Oliver Segal, Partnership Bidding – The Contested Auction (1993) starting at page 45:

<http://bridge.mgoetze.net/robson-segal.pdf#page=45>

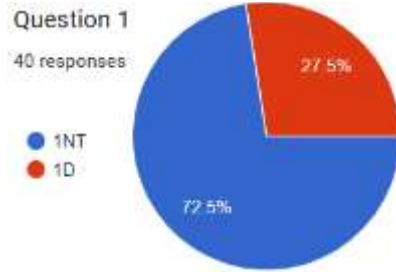
Here are two hands from live play for your consideration:

http://www.cincybridge.com/Lessons/20090112_High_Level_%20Slam_Decisions_II.pdf

http://www.cincybridge.com/Lessons/20120310_Let_Opponents_Make_the_Last_Decision_I.pdf

Bidding Quiz - Answers

Q1 – Neither vulnerable
 ♠K 8 5 ♥K 8 ♦A K T 7 5 ♣K J T
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 ?



Bob Jones 1♦ The 5-card suit and the 2 working 10's make this hand too good for 1NT. Open 1♦, intending to rebid 2NT.

Steve Vogel 1♦ This hand is worth 18+ points, 17HCP plus additional points for the good 5-card diamond suit as well as the 10's in the minors. Accordingly, I believe it is too strong for a 1NT opening. My plan is to open 1♦ with the expectation of rebidding 2NT over partner's expected 1-level response.

Joe Muenks 1♦ The ♣T with the ♦J and ♦T in a good 5 card suit lead me to upgrade this hand as an 18 pointer, so I open 1♦ and bid 2NT next. Starting 1♦ means essentially forcing any 6 pt hand to game whereas opening 1NT is where you'll play it if partner has 6 or 7. This hand feels like one that will make many times when partner has fewer than 8.

Bob Fisk 1♦ I'm going to rebid 2NT. While this hand is technically in the 15-17 range, it behaves more like a hand in the 18-19 HCP range. If you generate 20 7-HCP hands for partner, I'm willing to bet that 18.4 of them will have a strong chance to make 3NT opposite this hand. Let's make one randomly--Jxx Qxx Qxx Qxxx. Sweet.

Steve Moese 1♦ I treat this as an upgrade and will intend to rebid 2NT next. The online tool shows that this hand is closer to 19 than 17!!
http://bridge.thomasoandrews.com/evaluator/#K85_K8,AK1075,KJ10

- 1♦ offers two advantages:
- 1) We have a clearer path to a ♦ slam if right, and
 - 2) We will bid making games and slams that others might miss.

Otto Walter 1♦ - Opening 1 diamond allows your to rebid 2NT showing 18-19 points. That gives partner a better picture of your hand.

Q 2 – North-South vulnerable

♠9 8 7 ♥7 3 ♦J 9 8 5 4 2 ♣7 6

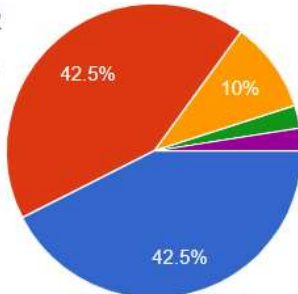
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1NT P ?

Question 2

40 responses

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



Bob Jones 2NT This hand will probably play at least 3 tricks better in diamonds than in no trump. Use whatever method you have to sign off in diamonds. For us, it is 2NT – a transfer to diamonds.

Steve Vogel 2NT (Diamonds) This is a close call. We may be better off in a 1NT contract versus a 3-level diamond contract, but I believe the odds favor the higher level diamond contract, given my lack of help in all other suits. In imps, I might be more inclined to pass 1NT, and hope partner has a decent source of tricks.

Joe Muenks 2NT This is close to just pass and let partner struggle, but the opponents probably have a major partial they could find, so I'll play 3♦ (or partner will) and I assume we'll get 2 more tricks with diamonds trump than in no trump. Scary hand, though.

Bob Fisk 2NT (Diamonds). I play this as a transfer to Diamonds. If partner bids 3♦, I'll pass. If partner bids 3♣ (i.e., partner is allergic to Diamonds), I'll bid 3♦. Bridge is easy!

Steve Moese Pass 7 tricks will be hard, but 9 tricks will be even tougher. Since we have no way to stop in 2♦, I will pass and hope they reopen. The vulnerability stops me from transferring to 3♦.

Question 3

Q 3 – East-West vulnerable

♠J 8 3 ♥K Q J T 6 ♦K 8 ♣7 6 3

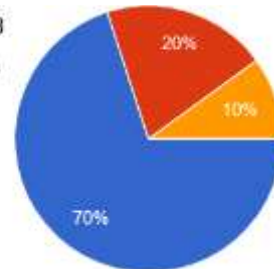
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

Pass Pass ?

Question 3

40 responses

- 1H
- Pass
- 2H



Bob Jones 2♥ Opening 1♥ in third position would not be a crime, but we prefer to ramp up the pressure and take advantage of the position and the vulnerability. Open 2♥.

Steve Vogel 1♥ Third seat non-vulnerable, I definitely want to take the opportunity to get partner off to a heart lead if the opponents buy the contract, or we could end up buying the contract.

Joe Muenks Pass We love to stretch to open in 3rd seat and even 4th seat at times, but I'll be a little better than this to open myself like 11 HCP in a square hand or a rule of 20/22 hand or a rule of 15 hand with spades.

Bob Fisk 1♥ Light 3rd-seat opener. I'd open 2♥ if you took away my ♦K.

Steve Moese 1♥ 3rd seat this is a fine 1-level opening.

Q 4 – Both vulnerable

♠K J 8 6 ♥5 3 ♦A K Q J ♣8 7 5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

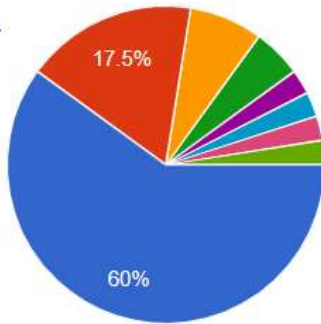
1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

2♠ Pass ?

Question 4

40 responses

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



Bob Jones 4♠ This hand is not quite worth a slam try. Just bid 4♠.

Steve Vogel 4♠ Another close call. Based on the bidding (partner did not bid 2♥ over Stayman), I expect partner to have 4 spades, 2-3 hearts and, therefore, 6-7 cards in the minors. My 3 small clubs are a big liability, making slam unlikely. Yes, partner could have the perfect hand for slam, but if I invite (by bidding 3♥ in our system), we will get to an unmakeable slam too often. If I had the ♠Q instead of the Jack, I would invite slam.

Joe Muenks 5♠ You might play this differently with different partners, but you are on the cusp of slam points, your off suit is phenomenal but you cannot ask aces with 2 quick losers in even ONE suit, and we have 2 wretched suits, so we'll offer a general spade slam try and announce our 2 quick loser problem.

Bob Fisk 3♥ I play that a bid of three of the other major in an auction that begins 1NT-2♣; 2M shows strong slam interest in partner's major (Baze). This allows the auction 1NT-2♣; 2M-4NT to be purely quantitative (i.e., I had the other major and around 16 HCP). It also allows the auction 1NT-2♣; 2M-4♣ to show strong slam interest in partner's major and a splinter in Clubs.

Steve Moese 4♠ This is a great hand opposite 4 spade cards and partner could have just the right cards to make a small slam. But look closer. Give partner A752 AJ2 109 AKJ6 and slam still requires two finesses and a 3-2 trump break. That's well under 17% by my rough calculation. We need something like Q752 AK2 109 AKJ6 opposite and even that is at

best 34%!! (68% trumps are 3-2 times 50% for the inside ♣Q).

Q 5 – North-South vulnerable

♠KT 8 5 ♥A Q J 9 3 ♦9 8 6 4 ♣-

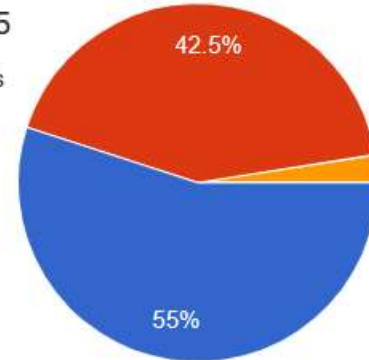
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1♣ ?

Question 5

40 responses

- 1H
- Double
- 2C



Bob Jones 1♥ Bid 1♥. Should they persist in clubs, you can double at your next turn without showing extra values.

Steve Vogel X The big question is whether to overcall 1♥ or double (yet another close call). My heart suit is very strong, suggesting the overcall, but given my void, if partner has 4 spades, a 4-4 fit will tend to play better than a 5-3 fit where I may lose trump control. I would choose a takeout double (and hope partner does not pass with club length).

Joe Muenks 1♥ Double, burying your 5th heart will often work to find the best trump suit, but I'll see if partner has 3 hearts this round and if not I hope I can double next time to show support everywhere. Or if West declares spades or NT I've gotten partner off to a good lead.

Bob Fisk 1♥ I'll double at my next turn. Picture the auction continuing (1♣)-1♥-(2♣)-Pass; (Pass)-Double. If I double immediately, partner is going to bid 1♦ holding Qxx Kxx Kxxx xxx, and we'll get a bad matchpoint score.

Steve Moese 1♥ I prefer to show my 5-card Major when I can. Here I can rebid spades when appropriate. By the way, agree to allow partner to bid 1♠ on 4 cards here as if they did not open the bidding ((1♣) - 1♥ - (P) - 1♠) and we never miss our 4-4 fit. Never. I strongly dislike Michaels here and

discourage partners from bidding that way. Save that two-suited cuebid for 55+ shapes.

Q 6 – East-West vulnerable

♠KQ74 ♥QJT874 ♦KJ7 ♣-

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

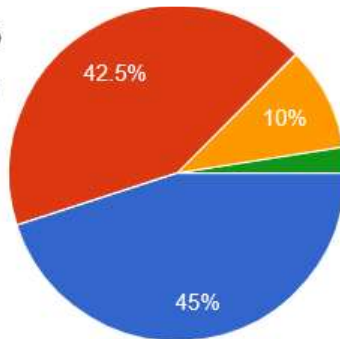
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass

?

Question 6

40 responses

- 2H
- 2S
- 2NT
- 3H



Bob Jones 2♥ Bid 2♥. Partner will bid 2♠ next if he has four of them.

Steve Vogel 2♠ Partner's 2♣ bid does not deny 4 spades, so I choose to rebid 2S over bidding 2NT (which in our system shows 6+ hearts). Over partner's expected 2NT or 3♣ rebid, I will bid 3♥ showing 4-6 shape in the majors.

Joe Muenks 2♥ With minimum hands with a 6 card major I like to open then rebid 2 of that major, like here. I do not deny 4 spades, so partner might bid those next.

Bob Fisk 2♠ During an auction, your job is to show partner as many of your cards as you can without cheating. If you simply rebid 2♥ here to show your sixth Heart, you've shown partner six cards. If you rebid 2♠ here, you've shown partner nine cards. Nine is more than six (I checked that on Wikipedia). If partner doesn't raise either major with their rebid, you'll bid 3♥.

Steve Moese 2♠ We have an easy rebid here showing 9+ of our cards instead of only 6 of them. We can show our 6th heart next. 2S does not show extra values.

POST SCRIPT

By Steve Moese



Thank you everyone for your kind attention and contributions over the years. As you see from this ALERT, we have a new Editor. I wish Bill Brewer all the best. I have enjoyed my more than 11 years and savor the camaraderie among all contributors. Please support the ALERT and the Unit by volunteering. Share a fun article. Take on a Unit job. We need people like you!

Save the Dates:





CINCINNATI
HOME OF
THE FLYING PIG!

June 4-10, 2023



MORE INFO: CINCYBRIDGE.COM

Delta Hotels by Marriott
11320 Chester Road
Cincinnati OH 45246
513-771-2080
Online Reservation Link

EVERYDAY FEATURES
TEAM EVENTS
U750 EVENTS
PAIRS EVENTS

2023 Cincinnati Regional Jun 4-10

Delta Hotels by Marriott 11320 Chester Rd, Cincinnati OH 45246 513-771-2080

Room Rates \$99/night

U750: Limited Game all players with less than 750 mps
Bracketed and Soloway Events will have U750 section

Schedule subject to change
Events may be combined based on attendance

	10:00 AM	2:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sunday	Note: Sunday's Sessions are at 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM		
	Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 sessions		
	Open Pairs 2 sessions		
	Bracketed Swiss 2 sessions		
	Side Series Pairs A	Side Series Pairs A	
Monday	Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 sessions		Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 1 of 2
	Open Pairs 2 sessions		
	Soloway Bracketed K/O 1 and 2 of 4		Bracketed Horizontal Swiss 1 of 2
	Side Series Pairs A	Side Series Pairs A	
Tuesday	Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 sessions		Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 of 2
	Open Pairs 2 sessions		
	Soloway Bracketed K/O 3 and 4 of 4		Bracketed Horizontal Swiss 2 of 2
	Bracketed Swiss 2 sessions		
	Side Series Pairs A	Side Series Pairs A	
Wednesday	Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 sessions		Open Pairs 1 of 2
	A/X & B/C/D Swiss		
	Side Series Pairs B	Side Series Pairs B	8 is Enough Horizontal Swiss 1 of 2
Thursday	Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 sessions		Open Pairs 2 of 2
	Open Pairs 2 sessions		
	Soloway Bracketed K/O 1 and 2 of 4		8 is Enough Horizontal Swiss 2 of 2
	Side Series Pairs B	Side Series Pairs B	
Friday	Under 750 Gold Rush Pairs 2 sessions		Legend
	Open Pairs 2 sessions		
	Soloway Bracketed K/O 3 and 4 of 4		Gold Rush in Red
	Bracketed Swiss 2 sessions		Pairs in Black
	Side Series Pairs B	Side Series Pairs B	K/O in Brown
Saturday	A/X & B/C/D Swiss		Swiss in Blue
	Will be held at: 2860 Cooper Rd, Cincinnati OH 45241		8 is Enough in Green
	Transportation from the Hotel will be provided at 9:30 AM		

2023 FLYING PIG REGIONAL Spotlight on Events

Mini-Soloway KOs

- All KO Brackets Run as 2-Session Swiss or Round Robin For Rounds 1-2
- Top 4 Teams in Each Bracket Qualify for Semifinals
- Top Qualifier in Each Bracket Chooses from 3rd and 4th Place Team as Semifinal Opponent

Why You'll LOVE This Format

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



Eight is Enough!

Wed-Thurs Evening Swiss

Players are assigned a point value based on MP
A team may not have more than 8 points of players

1 Point: < 400 Masterpoints

2 Point: 400-1500 Masterpoints

3 Point: > 1500 Masterpoints

5 or 6 player teams are permitted, but no team may field a team with more than 8 points of players in any round

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Pairs Games
U750 Games
Team Games

Every Session
Every Session
Every Session



Completely Remodeled!



New Restaurant and Bar with Starbucks



Totally Renovated Sleeping Rooms

Stratifications

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

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

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

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

MORE INFO: CINCYBRIDGE.COM

2023 FLYING PIG REGIONAL



Newly
Crowned Life
Masters at
the Flying Pig
Are Engraved
on Pigasus!

Trophies
For all U750 Event
Winners

Hospitality
After 2nd Session Mon-Thu
Lunch Sat

Lectures Mon-Fri
After 1st Session

Spacious
Playing
Rooms!



Event FAQ

Q: What are the COVID vaccination requirements?

A: Proof of vaccination is required. Please bring your vaccination card — you will not be allowed to play without one. — Vaccination not required

Q: Are masks required? We will provide masks, if requested by your opponents

A: Current ACBL policies follow CDC guidance, which do not require masks for players. In the unlikely event that the CDC recommendations or local regulations change, we will comply. We welcome you to wear masks, especially out of respect for opponents who are wearing them at your table.

Q: What games pay Gold?

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

Q: What are "Bracketed Round Robins?"

A: The entire field is divided into small brackets and each team plays every other team in their own bracket in a kind of mini-Swiss. These events have proven to be quite popular across the ACBL.

VACCINATION NOT REQUIRED



MORE INFO: CINCYBRIDGE.COM

♠ Tournament Chair ♠

Arun Goyal
513-226-3001
FlyingPig.Chair@cincybridge.com

♦ Partnerships ♦

Jim Barrett
513-504-1094
Gary Herrington
513-615-1599
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♣ NLM Program ♣

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

♥ Hotel Information ♥

Delta Hotels by Marriott
11320 Chester Road
513-771-2080

6/4-6/9 \$99/Night

Double or King

ask for "Flying Pig Regional" Rate
Must reserve by May 14, 2023

Online Reservation Link





DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Cincinnati Bridge Association

Non Life Master Silverpoint Sectional

Friday August 18 thru Sunday August 20

Cincinnati Bridge Center
2860 Cooper Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

Friday and Saturday 10 AM and 2:30 PM

Two Single Sessions
Lunch Served between Sessions



Sunday 10 am

Stratified Swiss Play Thru
Lunch Provided



Stratifications 0-100 C 100-200 B 300-NLM A

Entry Fee for all Sessions \$14/per player

Partnerships

Terry and Jim Barrett
513-504-1094

cincibridgecenterdirectors@gmail.com

Tournament Chair

Bill Brewer

513-255-7240

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