



Cincinnati Bridge Association

2860 Cooper Rd., Cincinnati, Oh 45241, Phone: 513-563-2218

President's message...

We have finally passed the vernal equinox (March 21, the first day of spring) and not a moment too soon. Like many of the school districts in the area we have more than exceeded our quota of snow days for this year.

Spring brings our biggest local tournament of the year. The Flying Pig Regional runs from Monday, May 3 through Saturday, May 8. The Monday start date represents a change from prior years but we wanted to finish the tournament by Saturday. Sunday the ninth is Mother's Day and we did not want to overlap. The regional is actually one week later than its normal time, but by moving one week we were able to avoid the Kentucky Derby weekend. We are hoping that more of our good friends from Lexington and especially Louisville, Kentucky will come to our regional if they don't have to miss a big party weekend to do it.

In addition to supporting the tournament by playing as often as possible, I need all of your support on two other things during the regional. First, remember that all of us are hosts for this tournament. We will have literally hundreds of bridge players from out of town coming to visit us. Say hello, wear your name badges, introduce yourself and do everything you can to make our guests feel welcome. Second, our tournament has gained a wonderful reputation for the evening hospitality that we provide. Please volunteer to help with hospitality parties, contribute food or contribute money to buy food.

If some of you are wondering why there has been no publicity for our annual awards party, the board voted to conduct the Awards and Recognition Party this year on Tues, May 18. This date, later than the historical mid March timing, will permit attendance of more snowbirds (those who for some reason think Florida is warm in the winter time). Because of the potential of attendance outstripping the number of tables we can accommodate, reservations will be required (details coming later). Awards winners will play for free and other attendees will pay the normal game fee.

For those of you who like to fill your dance card well ahead of time, I want to issue an early reminder that our friends in Louisville are hosting the national tournament next spring. In March of 2011 the Spring NABC (nationals) will be held at the Galt House in downtown Louisville. Having a national so close by will be a wonderful bridge opportunity for all of us.

Potter Orr

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THE PIG'S COMING! THE PIG'S COMING!!

By John Burpee

It's that time again. Time for our very own FLYING PIG REGIONAL. And the time is very important, because it's a different week and a different start day than ever before: Monday, May 3 through Saturday, May 8. That's good news! Why? We no longer compete with the Kentucky Derby; we're a week further removed from Gatlinburg and on top of that by finishing on Saturday we avoid "Mother's Day."

It gets better. For that week "The Pig" will be the ONLY regional in the whole country!!! The Sharonville Convention Center could be jammed! As she has done for the past seven years in one capacity of another, Patti English will chair the event. (She claims this will be the last time!). Assisting her will be:

Hospitality Chair: Gayle Keane
Partnership Chair: Lorna Davis
Supply Chair: Debbie Cummings
Set -Up/Take Down: Larry Klein
Prize Chair: Mike Lipp
Promotion: John Burpee
Treasurer: Anirudh Pandit
Head Caddy: Tonya Kirkland

And remember, it is our event. Wear your blue badge. Welcome our out-of-town guests. HAVE A GOOD TIME!!! SCHEDULE ON PAGE 12 →

Doing the right things versus doing things right....

By Amit Raturi, Editor

Alex Smith of Wall Street Journal maintains that the worst bridge partners would be Saddam Hussein (unforgiving), Marilyn Monroe (bad memory) and Gandhi (not competitive enough). The best would be Woody Allen (agreeable), Liberace (good memory) and WH Auden (?). It is amazing how sociology, psychology, statistics, math, ethics, memory and concentration intersect at the bridge table. In addition to practicing these subjects I think we play primarily to please our esteem/ego/self-worth. So then good bridge cannot be just about winning (results) but also about doing the right thing (process).

The paper was titled "The allocation of Esteem and Disesteem: A test of Goode's theory" by Erickson and Nosanchuk (American Sociological review, October 1984). Goode argued that esteem is a function of performance while disesteem stems in part from substandard performance and in part from deviant acts one commits. (The Celebration of Heroes: Prestige as a Social Control system, 1978). A complex theoretical discussion of prestige as a social control system follows. And the target population for the study is bridge players in the ACBL!! Deviant actions frowned upon include looking at opponents cards, taking your partner's tone or pause into account, failing to tell opponents the fine details of your bidding, and trying to distract/disconcert your opponents. And the better players gain more disapproval (disesteem) for these acts. Clearly better players should focus more on doing the "right things" (as opposed doing things right).

That leads to a very interesting conclusion - one aspect of becoming a better player is winning more but clearly that becomes less and less important as you do become a better player - you MUST pay attention to doing the right thing. Tim Crank and I had a very good set against Jeff Meckstroth and his lovely partner in Indianapolis recently. We were done early and after trailing by 13 after 12 boards, we had amassed closed to 60 IMPs in the next 12. We had not compared yet but he smiled: "Congrats; Nice match; we have no chance" and left the table with the grace of a champion!! Sermon over.

This issue highlights a piece of Cincinnati history (page 10) where you will find familiar names. I review "Manny Sez" Intermediate course (Emanuel and Jeff Isralsky) sometimes -- many players in those days were way ahead of their time. Mike Oechsler gives us a very personal view of that. Related to my sermon is Amy Fisher's wonderful piece on what to do when you don't know what to do. And of course the regular fare from Moese, Siutsau, Keaney, Dutson, Ma, Weidenfeld and Fisher.

The big news of course is the upcoming Regional - hope you are getting ready for it - there will be tough competition but that's the good news. And whatever you can shell out to help - muscle, time, moolah, food, good spirits (and bad ones of which you can't have more than two and drive) - do it, will you. SEE THE BIG AD BELOW.

Have a wonderful Regional and write up some good deals for the next issue of Alert. The great Ira Corn used to say that avoiding finesses is usually the best bet. In my view "A finesse has no finesse". Ciao till then, Amit

HELP NEEDED FOR THE FLYING PIG REGIONAL

There is one major challenge caused by this schedule. We have to set up Monday morning and have the facility ready for play by 1PM. That will require a lot of volunteers. Please contact Larry Klein 312-8359; hlarryk@aol.com, or if he asks you, say "Yes."

HOSPITALITY Plan to join us Monday through Friday nights after the game at the Hospitality Suite next door at the LivInn Suites. There will be large spread of food and beverages. But for that to happen we need your help. Sign up to bring one of your signature dishes: salads, sides, desserts of all kinds, or fruit, snacks etc that will be specified on the sign-up sheet at the CBC. Of course, cash donations are also welcome.

THIS & THAT For the newer players there will be daily lectures before the evening games by a flock of local experts, including Nancy Sachs, Steve Moese, Joe Fisher, Norm Coombs, and Rob Weidenfeld. Everyone is invited to stop by the "Books and Bridge Wares" booth between games. The fee is the same as last year: \$12 per game.

THE SHARONVILLE CONVENTION CENTER The SCC has been undergoing major construction changes. We've been assured that the work will not interfere with our tournament. However, let's be prepared to "make due" if necessary. **Schedule on page 12 →**

Statistics for Everyone

By Rob Weidenfeld

E-mail: elliedad@cinci.rr.com

Whats the most common hand pattern?

(4, 4, 3, 2) **21.55%**. There are 136,852,887,600 of these hands out of a total possible 635,013,559,600 hands.

What are some other common hand patterns?

(5, 3, 3, 2) is next with **15.52%** of the hands followed by (5, 4, 3, 1) at about **12.93%**. (5, 4, 2, 2) hands and (4, 3, 3, 3) hands have about the same chance (10.5%). These five hand patterns thus cover about 70% of all hands dealt... all others are less than 5% chance and add up to the remaining 30%.

Eight ever nine never?

Finesse with 8 has a 52.83% chance of success while drop has a 34.74% chance of success.

Finesse with 9 has a 56.22% chance of success while a drop has 57.91% chance of success.

Even though the difference with nine cards is minor, the reason for the rule is the big difference between 34.74% drop success with 8 cards as opposed to the 57.91% drop success with 9 cards. May be the rule should read "Eight never, Nine half the time" since a drop strategy is only marginally better to the finesse strategy with nine cards.

What is the probability of being dealt all four aces? 378 to 1 but that is not necessarily a good hand (aces and spaces!!)

What is the probability of being dealt a hand with no aces? Slightly more than 2 to 1 – these hands are great for defense. So practice your defense and pass more often with these hands.

What is the probability of being dealt a yarborough (a hand with no card higher than a nine)? 1827 to 1 and you have clearly held one of those in your life.

What is the most likely point count in your hand?

10 points (about 9.4%). Other front runners 9 points (9.35%), 11 points (8.95%), 8 points (8.89%) and 7 or 12 points (equally likely at about 8.03%). That's 61% of all the hands. Yet all bidding systems are developed to open hands more than 13 points. Something is wrong here; if the goal of a bidding system is to

exchange information, why would we exclude most of the hands from an opening bid. Maybe systems that open light seem to be more popular nowadays for this reason.

What about a suit breaking?

With 2 cards, 1-1 is more likely than 2-0 (52% to 48%),

With 3 cards 2-1 is more likely than 3-0 (78% to 22%),

With 4 cards, 3-1 is more likely than 2-2 (50% to 40%),

With 5 cards 3-2 is more likely than 4-1 (68% to 28%),

With 6 cards 4-2 is more likely than 3-3 (48% to 36%),

With 7 cards 4-3 is more likely than 5-2 (62% to 31%)

Do you notice a pattern here? With even number of outstanding cards, unusual (unbalanced) breaks are more likely. For example with 4 and 6 cards outstanding, the split is likely to be 3-1 or 4-2. But with odd number of outstanding cards, balanced splits are more likely. Thus with 3 or 5 or 7 cards outstanding, 2-1, 3-2 and 4-3 breaks are more likely. It is like God is saying that if opponents have 4 trumps, they are more likely to break unevenly for you – I gave you nine trumps and the opponents only 4 so having made your life a little easy, I am now going to make it a little tough for you. But if I give you only 8 trumps (and the opponents 5), then I will compensate by dividing the suit 3-2 for you more often (almost 68% of the time)!!

Like wine...

In January I was 78 years old!! 78! I couldn't believe it, and then a few days later I played at the Bridge Center and blew a makeable four spade contract, and poorly defended against 3NT. In each instance, I knew, not immediately, but shortly thereafter that I'd made mistakes. My partner never said a word.

Often, as I look around the CBC during a game I feel like a youngster. There are quite a few wishing they were 78 again. They can't be, but certainly wish they had partners as understanding as mine

You may recall a time when I, and the other 78s, didn't miss makeable four Spades games, but remember your time will come. So, take a deep breath and move to the next hand.

John Burpee

Slam Bidding¹

Slam deals are the spice in a matchpoint session of bridge or the home runs in a team event. It feels so good to get them right and know what you are doing! That's our goal - *know what we are doing, get them right, and feel good!*

- Class 1 April 8: **Is slam at all feasible?** Is it possible to investigate without getting too high? Good slam? Trumps, tricks, and, controls, Specific cards, Accurate hand evaluation, Singletons and voids, etc
- Class 2 April 22: **Controls** Cue bidding controls, Key card Blackwood and the queen ask, 5NT after 4NT, GSF, Gerber, Super Gerber, etc
- Class 3 April 29: **Slam Bidding After Opening a Major** (playing 2/1) Slow arrival versus fast arrival, Jordan 2NT, Splinter responses, Using a jump to 5 of our major, etc
- Class 4 May 13: **Slam Bidding After Opening 1NT or 2NT** Jacoby transfers complemented with Texas transfers, Inviting with balanced hands, Evaluating distributional hands opposite a balanced hand, 6-4 slam try, etc
- Class 5 May 20: **Slam bidding in Competition** Splinters after competition, Handling interference with Blackwood, Jacoby 2NT or 2C opening, Jumping to 5 of our major, Cue bids, etc

Audience: Intermediate to Advanced players

Instructor: Joe Fisher

When: Our usual time slot — Thursdays 9:30 - 10:45 am

Where: At the CBC

How much: Five independent classes — all 5 for \$60, or \$15 a session
Avoid the Rush Later — Sign up now! Joe Fisher, jo.fshr@gmail.com, 772-1024

NANCY'S NASTY By Pat Dutson

This hand was used in an Advanced Two Over One Bridge Class taught by Nancy Sachs.

South is in a 3NT contract. The opening lead is the king of hearts.

♠ J6
♥ A852
♦ 63
♣ KQ543

♠ AT5
♥ 763
♦ AK4
♣ A976



The bidding has been:

S	W	N	E
1NT	2H	2NT ^a	P
3C	P	3NT ^b	

^aLebensohl---Requires South to bid 3C.

^bLebensohl---This bid shows game going values with a heart stopper.

Decide how you will play the hand.

ANSWER ON PAGE 15

Invisible Splinters.... Joe W Fisher

Visible Splinters

My favorite tool is the splinter bid. Splinters occur in many different auctions, in many different contexts, but the simplest is when partner opens a major, say 1♠. A leap to 4♣ or 4♦ or 4♥ shows 3 pieces of information — game values, 4+ trumps, and a singleton or void in the suit bid. It is a descriptive bid which allows your partnership to find a thin slam if partner has something like Txxx opposite the shortness; i.e., nothing wasted opposite your shortness. Why is this? Because 1) all our HCP's are working together in the other three suits where we fit and 2) ruffing 3 or 4 tricks in dummy adds significantly to our trick total. So now slam may be possible with 27-29 HCP's rather than the usual 30-32 HCP's for distribution deals (33-36 HCP's for flat deals).

On the other hand if partner has KJxx opposite my shortness, he should become pessimistic and sign off in 4♠ because the K and J might only contribute to taking one or no trick - one that could be equally well obtained by roughing in dummy, a typical example of 'wasted' or 'duplicated' values. Worse, there are 4 HCP's less working in his other three suits.

The same principle is involved in responses to the Jacoby 2NT conventional response to a major opening, say 1♠. By responding 3♣ or 3♦ or 3♥ to the 2NT ask, opener is showing a singleton in the suit bid. The Jacoby 2NT bidder is hoping the response comes in a suit where his holding is Txxx rather than KJxx. Again a thin 27-29 HCP slam may be reached and made on a dummy reversal (using dummy's hand as the master hand and magnifying the trick total by roughing with declarer's trumps).

Now for Invisible Splinters

You hold ♠ KJ92, ♥ J9862, ♦ QT3, ♣ 9. Your LHO opens 1♠. Partner doubles and RHO raises to 2♠. You bid 3♥ and partner now bids 4♦ and RHO 4♠. Do you see the invisible splinter? Your partner has a spade splinter and will face a 5 level decision when it gets back to him. He has a powerful hand and may be fine at the 5 level with your heart, diamond, and club holdings, but — just in case — help him with the decision by doubling 4♠. This warns him about the wastage in spades.

On the other hand suppose you hold (Deal *Inv*) ♠ T762, ♥ AJ862, ♦ QT3, ♣ 9

Same auction. Don't even think about doubling you have nothing wasted in spades, a good AJ862 of hearts opposite partner's assumed 4 card holding, great support QT3 for diamonds, and a ruffing value in clubs. Your hand evaluates to 11 points in support of diamonds. If partner is a solid bidder and would overcall 2♦ with up to 17 HCP's, then 4NT by you is reasonable. A raise to 5 diamonds is a possibility. Perhaps, a pass is OK. But, *no double, please!* With partner's singleton or void in spades, and no double from you, he realizes all your combined values are working in the other three suits and 5 hearts or 5 or 6 diamonds are in the picture.

High level competitive auctions, where partner or you have an invisible splinter in the suit the opponents are bidding aggressively, come up often. If possible, the decision to 'double' or 'bid on' should be made by the person holding the length rather than the one with the invisible splinter. With wasted secondary honors in their suit opposite partner's splinter, **double**. With nothing wasted, **bid on**, or at least stay out of partner's way by passing!

Back in the 2009 International Team Trials to select two US teams for the Bermuda bowl, Bobby Hammond held ♠ AK ♥ 952 ♦ KQ2 ♣ AQ742. LHO preempted 3♥. Zia overcalled 4♦ and RHO upped it to 4♥. Hammond had no trouble visualizing Zia's invisible heart splinter and confidently bid 4NT Key Card Blackwood and finished in 6♦. Zia's hand ♠ QJ7 ♥ 3 ♦ AJT98753 ♣ J.

The rest of the story on Deal *Inv*: 4♠ goes down only one, but 6♦ was cold. Since you had bid hearts first, your RHO can make a Lightner lead-directing-double (asking for a diamond lead) to beat 5♥. RHO was void in diamonds and can get back to his partner with a club for a second diamond ruff. Even without the ruff, 6♥ goes down because of bad hearts Q543 opposite AJ862. If partner had AJ962 instead (just changing the 8 to a 9), the doubler could make 6♥ from his side! What a game!

One Finesse Too many

by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

East	♠ 86		
Deals	♥ A653		
None Vul	♦ J		
MP Pairs	♣ 985432		
♠ QJ10643		N	♠ A72
♥ Q8		W 18 E	♥ J1092
♦ AK		S	♦ 942
♣ AQ7			♣ KJ6
	♠ K9		EW: 4♠,
	♥ K74		4N
	♦ Q1087653		NS: 2♦
	♣ 10		

The Bidding - South's weak 2♦ removes some bidding space. West starts with a Double, intending to show a strong overcall. East makes a jump in ♥ (9-11 HCP and 4+♥s). West's simple 3♠ bid shows a hand worth 17+ HCP and at least 5♠, and low interest in ♥. East has an easy raise to game.

East	South	West	North
Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
North Leads ♦J			

The Play - West can count 2 losers in ♥s and one loser in ♠s. West can also count 10 winners: 5 in trumps and 5 in the minors. The lead of the ♦J is might be a singleton. Winning the ♦A, declarer tables the ♠Q. When West ducks, declarer calls for the dummy's ♠A!! A 2nd ♠ clears the suit and South wins the ♠K. Declarer claims 10 tricks. 4♠ making 4 is worth +420 and 6 of 7 Match Points.

Post Mortem - Before playing to trick 1, picture South's hand. South has 5-11 HCP and 6 or 7♦s. Missing the ♦AKJ, **South is marked with HCP in the other suits.** Since North did not lead the ♥A or ♥K, these honors are split. (Weak 2's tend to deny 2 defensive tricks outside the suit). The lead of the ♦J is from shortness. Since North failed to cover the ♠Q, West assumed South held that card. Once you give the ♠K to South, then you need to eliminate trumps ASAP or risk losing a ♦ ruff (the defense has transportation in ♥). Besides, the ♠K might be singleton. West judged South held 8 or 9 HCP and 6 or 7♦s. South didn't need the ♠K for the 2♦ opening bid. However opening at the 2 level on 5 HCP with only 2 HCP in your suit is risky. Many won't.

Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MPs	6	6	2	2	2	6	2	2
Score	420	420	-50	-50	-50	420	-50	-50

Learning Points

1. Take the time to reconstruct opponent's hands. Opener's weak 2 can be easy to read.
2. Beware – holding 5 or 6 cards in an opponent's weak-2 suit, be ready for their partner to be short.
3. Many will cover a trump honor when declarer offers a finesse. Not covering might mean their partner holds the missing honor.

Amiable bridge: What do you do when you don't know what to do?

By Amy Fisher

I remember when I first held a bridge hand. I jumped up and ran to dad, "What should I bid?" Oh, if Dad were only here today! Mel Colchamiro addresses that very topic in his book, *How You Can Play Like an Expert (Without Having to Be One)*, highly recommended for players that want to use better judgment. His first bit of advice is not to panic among other sound bridge tips -- but it's

strictly from the bridge aspect. By now, you probably know what I'm getting around to.

The most important thing to remember is that when you don't know what to do, **don't let anyone else in on it!** Keep a straight face: people will be impressed that you are reasoning things out!

(Continued on page 7)

Amiable Bridge (continued)

You are allowed to pause to consider your options, but don't do it with that pained expression that tells the world that you are in over your head. There are only a very few situations where your pausing gives unauthorized information. And, contrary to what some people think, your pausing NEVER bars partner from taking subsequent action—as long as partner bids based on his hand and not your hesitation. I'll give you some situations to consider later on.

Second, make sure that you don't constrain your partner's subsequent actions: don't reach for a pass card, and then pull away, and then reach for some other card. Keep in mind that you are not only giving your partner that information, but you are also letting your opponents know -- **and they can use that information but your partner can't !!!** If you subsequently overbid, they may be more likely to double. Of course, you know that you can never pretend you are in trouble when you aren't. If you purposely mislead your opponents by hesitating without cause or some other antic, other than your legal bids and plays, you are then breaking the ethics code of the game.

When the hand is over, you, fortunately or unfortunately, will probably get three opinions on what you could have or should have done. My advice here is to smile sweetly and say, "Please talk to me about it after the session." Sometimes I can even get Joe to stop giving me advice at the table — although I might need to repeat it a couple of times. Not only will that help the game run more smoothly (I can hear all the directors chuckling right now), but it will also help with your mental stamina and confidence.

When your partner asks what he should have done after the hand is over, I suggest you smile sweetly and say, "Yes, that was a tough one. Let's talk about it after the session."

All right, so what do you do when it's obvious your partner didn't know what to do? Here are some particular situations that you need to be aware of. Suppose your partner has hesitated and then made some call.

1. In most situations, he has made a call other than pass. Now, I know that you can't help wondering what he was considering, but most of the time you can't gain any information from the hesitation. Here is an easy illustration. You open one spade, left hand opponent passes, your partner hesitates and then bids two spades. Was partner considering a pass? Or a limit raise? Bidding another suit? Bidding one no trump? You see, most of the time, you can't tell, so you have gained no unauthorized information. You will take your normal action

without much thought and without worrying about a director call.

2. Here is an exception to the first example. After a Blackwood auction in which partner even asked for kings, partner now hesitates before bidding 6 of your agreed suit. Since he was looking for a grand slam by asking for kings, his hesitation probably is because he is still wondering if he should bid the grand. Unless you find an extra Ace in your hand that you failed to mention (I'm being sarcastic here), you should not 'correct' the contract to 6 no trump or 7 of your agreed suit. Do you see the difference? In the first situation, you could not glean what partner's choices were. In this situation, it is obvious what his choices are.

3. Your partner hesitates and then passes. Now you also pretty much know his options. If the auction stays open back to you, it is because you are in a competitive situation. Partner was either considering bidding one more or doubling the opponents, the only options. You now have the unauthorized information that he has something extra in his hand—extra high cards, extra length in a suit. Here is what I do. I mentally remove myself from the situation and pretend that I was presented with a bridge quiz: what should I bid if the auction went... and I repeat the auction in my mind with no hesitations and a normal, timely pass from partner. Would my hand take further action? Would my bridge mentor tell me to take further action? Only if it's a RESOUNDING yes should I bid on. The rules say that I am allowed to bid on only if a vast majority of my peers would bid on in such a bidding quiz. In other words, I am bidding my hand and not my partner's hesitation.

4. Now, one more tidbit. If you are in a competitive auction where there has been a clear hesitation, there should be an agreement about the hesitation. The director need not be called at that point. Here is how it is supposed to play out. North hesitates unduly and then passes. East looks at South and says, do we agree that there has been some hesitation? (I wouldn't ask Jeff Meckstroth, but he would be okay with it if I did, I'm sure.) South takes no offense by the question and simply answers yes. There is no need for South to explain that North always hesitates, etc. The bidding continues and the hand is played. After the hand is played, if either East or West believe that South inadvertently bid on partner's hesitation, the director is then called. Notice that this is not a felony. It is not a mark against South. And it certainly should not imply that South has done anything unethical. Consider it like a foul in basketball. It simply happens—to all of us at some time. So the director is called, and the director figures out what to do. And we all live happily to play another hand another day.

No big deal; a lot happier group of bridg-ies. 😊

One way to lose the Vanderbilt Final

By Amit Raturi

Board 57 and 58 sealed the Vanderbilt for Zimmerman over Fleisher. Fleisher was ahead 88-81 when these two boards came up.

First Board 57...the Bessis pair had an easy auction in the other room...1D-1S by opponents so W just bid 3NT. Steve Weinstein took a conservative view - with both diamond and spade aces any garbage from partner should produce a ninth trick... lose 11 IMPs as the play has no problems whatsoever.

57	N Helness	W N E S
	♠ 105 ♥ AK109 ♦ KJ974 ♣ 73	1♦ P 1♠ 3♣ P P P
W S Weinstein	E Levin	
♠ AJ3 ♥ 74 ♦ A3 ♣ AKQ862	♠ Q84 ♥ QJ652 ♦ Q102 ♣ 54	
	S Helgemo	
	♠ K9762 ♥ 83 ♦ 865 ♣ J109	
Other table: 3NTW+2 NS: Zimmermann 81 IMPs EW: Fleisher 88 IMPs		3♣ W NS: 0 EW: 0



Then Board 58. What are the chances that two of the greatest defenders in the world - Chip Martel and Lew Stansby will get their wires crossed on this board. At the other table E played in 3C down 1. The Bessis's got to 3NT again in a spirited auction. Having bid a 3 card suit (diamonds) W had no place to go when partner correctly bid 3D...so a hopeless 3NT bid (4C is clearly too high with partner's minimum and possibly 4333 shape). The Vugraph commentators called it down 1 with a squeeze on South. The 3 of spades went to the nine and the ten. Club AK and a club to south. 5 of spades to the A and a spade back to the King...Now a diamond by S...too late...4 clubs, 3 hearts, 1 spade and 1 diamond for 9 tricks for EW and the Vanderbilt trophy!!

58	N Martel	W N E S
	♠ AJ643 ♥ 107 ♦ KQ1086 ♣ 6	1♦ 1♠ P 2♠ X P 3♦ P 3NT P P P
W T. Bessis	E M. Bessis	
♠ 108 ♥ KQ4 ♦ A75 ♣ J9875	♠ Q72 ♥ A986 ♦ J92 ♣ AK2	
	S Stansby	
	♠ K95 ♥ J532 ♦ 43 ♣ Q1043	
Other table: 3♣E-1 NS: Fleisher 88 IMPs EW: Zimmermann 92 IMPs		3NT W NS: 0 EW: 0



Check out the other results at http://www.bridgebase.com/vugraph_archives/vugraph_archives.php

A Little Bit of Cincinnati Bridge History

By Mike Oechsler (By way of Joy Norris)

I started playing in the CBA in 1965. I played once in September of 1964, but had never played before and did not even know the basic rules. It was easy to learn a lot quickly in those days. Tom Hoddap and other good players were at Xavier when I started in 1964. I read a lot of bridge books the next summer and played a huge amount. In those days Cincinnati sectionals were BIG - sometimes with 100 tables or more in the two-session Open Pairs on Saturday. I won one of those in October 1967 for my first big win, with Bill Wright.

There were an amazing amount of good Cincinnati players then. Once a month there was a "Winners game". You had to have a first or second place finish in the past month to play in it. It would be about 14 tables, with seven pairs of experts each direction. The main bridge columnist in those days was Charlton Wallace with the Cincinnati Post. Frances Tyler wrote for the Enquirer until her death in 1979, when I started writing for the Enquirer. (Editor's note: *I read Mike's columns regularly from 1985 till he left Cincinnati - what a super job he did!!*)



Charley Longini and his girlfriend, Louise Miller, ran the CBA in the 60s and the early 70s. They were friends with the Wallaces and foes of all the good, younger players. Only Jerry Steuernagel was able to bridge the gap with graciousness. In 1970 a wealthy Chinese businessman, C.C. Wei, sponsored a team of experts to tour the country playing the Precision club system he had invented. Somehow the call to arrange a match in Cincinnati went to Charlton Wallace, not the CBA. Even though his bridge peak had been in the 1920s and 30s, he decided the Cincinnati team for the two day match would be him, his wife, Herman Lackman (also quite old then, but still a good player), and Gladys Ormsby. I never met her, but think she was a novice-type player. There was a huge storm of protest before the match because there were so many good players who should have played instead. The result of the match was humiliating (160+ to 16 IMPs). The Wei (Precision) players were even angry to play such a silly team.

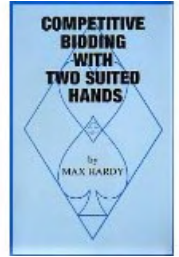
In 1972 Cincinnati hosted the Spring nationals. The two days before it there would be a challenge match. The Dallas Aces, who had won the Bermuda Bowl in 1970 and 1971, contacted the CBA a year in advance to arrange a match against the local players. Six teams played a round robin, with the first place finisher playing the Aces on the first day, and the second place finisher playing the second day. The four sessions averaged over 700 observers.

Edgar Kaplan was one of the Vugraph commentators. After the first day (40 deals), the team of Herb and Betty Wilton, Ben Seagal, Steve Cohn, and Jeff Isralsky was behind by 69 IMPs. I played the second day with Sandy Low (then Frisch), Tom Hoddap, Tiger Morris, and Bill Wright. With one deal to go, we had tied the match!! Alan Truscott gave us a great write up in the New York Times. It was the most exciting bridge I will ever play, and the best I have ever played.

LIBRARY: NEW BOOKS Gayle Keaney

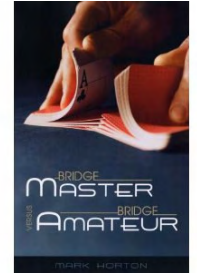
Competitive Bidding with 2 Suited Hands by Max Hardy Advanced

In the Introduction Hardy says "I have noted several situations in which even the expert community has become lax and lazy. Rather than question methods which might not be serving their purpose - that of attaining optimum exchange of information in any auction - the majority of today's most frequent and successful competitors.... woodenly accept methods which are used by the majority. My campaign to educate those who are willing to study other methods which are far more valuable than the accepted tools."



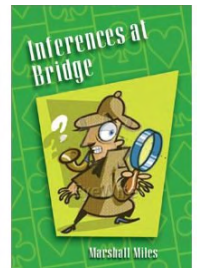
Bridge Master Bridge Amateur by Mark Horton Intermediate

In the Introduction Horton says "The road to bridge mastery isn't.... a Devil's Coup.... The chance to make esoteric plays just doesn't come up often enough. world champion Michael Rosenberg who said 'Nobody's any good at this game; the top players are just less bad than the rest.' Bridge players often attain a certain level of expertise and then..... 'Hit the wall'. No, there are 2 keys to getting to the top... spotting and taking advantage of small opportunities (which) may add only a small percentage but over the long run will pay big dividends...second key is simply avoiding errors..."



Inferences at Bridge by Marshall Miles Intermediate/Advanced

In the Introduction Miles says "The main edge the top experts have is they think in terms of all 52 cards" Then he gives an example.... You are vulnerable, opponents are not, and bidding goes:
LHO PTR RHO YOU
3S pass pass ??? You hold: 83 A 653 AKQ9754
Miles says "At least 9 players out of 10 would bid 4C....(but) I think the odds favor a 3NT bid."
Want to know why????? Take out the book and find out!!!!



Marty Sez... Volume 3 by Marty Bergen Intermediate

".... smorgasbord of competitive bidding tips; over 2 dozen carefully-explained full deals"... including:

1. On 2C auctions, what is needed is a way to do away with waiting bids and second negatives.
2. Negative Doubles never guarantee the unbid minor.
3. The minimum needed to make a takeout double of a 1S opening bid is greater than what you need to double 1C.
4. When RHO transfers, your partner will likely have opening lead. Helping her out should be your #1 priority.
5. When one hand is a lot weaker than the other, declarer must be on the lookout for entries to the weak hand.
6. If partner fails to make a lead-directing double of a Blackwood response, consider leading a different suit



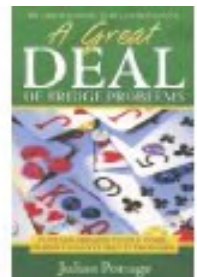
More Declarer Play the Bergen Way by Marty Bergen Intermediate

Some chapters are: Timing is Everything, When Not to Trump Your Losers, Drawing Trumps: All, Some or None, Surviving Bad Splits, Counting Winners in Suit Contracts. Some Bergenisms include:

1. The process of elimination is an excellent way to figure out the best bid on a difficult hand.
2. Because Jacks are the most over-rated honors, be wary of bidding hands containing more than 1
3. Once declarer knows from your lead or previous play that you have a specific card, play it as soon as you can afford to rather than allowing declarer to see any more of your cards
4. When partner doubles the final contract it is usually correct to lead trumps

A Great Deal of Bridge Problems by Julian Pottage

Pottage is using a "theme of simplification" here. On many deals he "asks you not to predict the entire course of the play but just your action on the current trick and those immediately following -- purpose is twofold. First, it simplifies the discussion and more readily replicates conditions you may meet at the table. Second, it makes it easier for you to satisfy yourself whether you have successfully solved the problem as posed." Within each chapter, problems are arranged by increasing difficulty. Chapters headings include Sensational Slams, Watch and Wait, Notrump Niceties, and Riveting Returns.



Additional Books Contributed by Members:

Swiss Match Challenge by Jeff Rubens 1992

Play Winning Bridge with Any Partner Even a Stranger by Charles Goren 1973

Cut for Partners by S.J.Simon 1950

The Best of Jake Winkman by Don Von Elsner 1981

Suit Contract After a 4N Quantitative Raise

Mike Ma

When you open 1N or 2N and your partner gives you a 4N quantitative raise inviting you to slam, you would love to accept when you can. However, when you accept, you do not need to just blast out 6N. It is often advantageous to play in 6 of a suit contract instead, something Joe Fisher taught me long ago (Disclaimer: Joe is not responsible for any bad bridge ideas in this article). For example, the 12th trick may come from a ruff. And of course there is the added security provided by the trump suit. In this article, I propose a scheme to find possible 8 card or better fit if opener thinks the hand may play better in a suit slam.

I'll begin with a recent real life experience. In a team game as north I picked up **S A, H Kxx, D KTx, C AKQTxx** and opened 2N. If you think it was a bad bid, I won't argue with you -- that is not the point of this article. My partner bid 3C (puppet Stayman), and then 4N after my 3N response. I took the 4N as quantitative and with my source of tricks in C, I accepted and bid 6N. East led a top of nothing H, and my partner put down **S Qxxx, H AQJx, D Qxx, C xx** (probably 4N was a bit aggressive). A S lead would have set the contract. Having escaped that, I am now making as long as C's behaved and they did. I was lucky, but we should have been in 6C, which would have made even on a spade lead. I believe one should try for 6C with my hand after a quantitative 4N even in matchpoints.



Afterwards I started thinking about how to get to 6C. I could have bid 6C over 4N of course, but how would my partner know I have 6 C's and not 5? If I had only 5 C's, then his natural bid would be bid with only 2 in the suit. So there should be a way to distinguish between 5 card and 6 card suits. And how would I show 5-4 type hands? Furthermore, it may also be advantageous to investigate a 4-4 fit in minors as a better contract to 6N.

After pondering on this a little, I propose the following scheme. The general goal is to find 4-4, 5-3, 6-2 or better fit in hands where a 6 level suit contract may be superior to 6N. For specificity, I am assuming you are playing 5C as check-back Gerber, **CBG** (Alert, July 2009), and that no suits have been ruled out by previous bidding. If either or both assumptions are not true, some of the bids may need to be changed, or they may be redundant. All suggested bids are basically natural, so little

memorization is needed. In a nutshell, jumping directly to 6C/D shows 6 cards. 6 of a suit after 5C (CBG) shows 5 with no other 4 card suit. Other hands are bid in their natural length up the line starting at the 5 level. The following are bids by NT opener and their follow-ups after a quantitative 4N by responder:

All bids other than 5C CBG by opener is forcing to slam.

5C - CB Gerber. After reply by responder, if opener bids 6 C/D/H/S, she shows 5 in that suit with no side 4 card suit.

5D/H/S - 4+ in the suit. If only 4, denies 4 cards in a lower ranking suit except possibly C. With 5-4, she bids her 5 card suit first. Responder

- raises to 6 with 4+ cards in that suit,
- bids 5 of a higher ranking 4 card suit,
- bids 6 of a lower ranking 4 card suit
- bids 5N to deny a higher ranking 4+ suit

After responder bid, opener continues to bid out her shape by raising partner's suit with 4, bids a higher ranking 4 card suit at the 5 level, bids 6C showing 4 C's. If opener bids a lower ranking suit at the 6 level, she confirms 5 cards in her first suit as well as 4 in her second. If she rebids her suit, she shows 5 in that suit and a side 4 card higher ranking suit she is unable to show due to responder's bid. If responder rebids he suit, he shows 5. A 5N bid at any time by either partner means she has nothing more to tell, allowing partner to bid out her pattern if desired.

5N - 3334 (4 C's). The rare hand where opener is interested in a suit contract in spite of the flat distribution.

6C/D - 6 card suit.

6H/S - Simplest to play this as showing 6 also, but opening 6 card major in NT is rare, so other meanings can be used if desired.

6N - right or wrong, this is where I want to play!

Since 5C is artificial, 5-4 hands with 5 C's cannot be shown simply, and one has to decide whether to bid it as single suit C hand or a 4-4 hand. I think that is a small price to pay to keep CBG. Plus, notice how using CBG actually allows us to distinguish single suited 5 card vs. 6 card hands. Some more complex schemes can be used to handle some of the 5-4 C hands. For example, a 5 level suit bid after response to CBG may show 4 in that suit and 5 C's.

Of course, as always, being able to investigate for fits does not mean you have to do it on any one given hand. Either partner can bid 6N at any time of the bidding sequence.

THE FLYING PIG REGIONAL...HAS FLOWN!

New week...New start May 3 - MAY 8, 2010 CINCINNATI, OH

MONDAY MAY 3

Porky Pig Knockout (rd 1-2) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Pairs (2 sessions) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Side Game Series I 1:00 & 7:00
 Single Session Swiss 7:00
199er Pairs Game 1:00 & 7:00

TUESDAY MAY 4

Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 1) 9:00
 AM Stratified Side Game Series 9:00
 Porky Pig Knockout (rd 3-4) 1:00 & 7:00
 Miss Piggy Knockout (rd 1-2) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Pairs (2 sessions) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Side Game Series 1 1:00 & 7:00
 Single Session Swiss 7:00
199er Pairs Game 1:00 & 7:00

WEDNESDAY MAY 5

Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 2) 9:00
 AM Stratified Side Game Series 9:00
 Horizontal Swiss I 9:00
 Miss Piggy Knockout (rd 3-4) 1:00 & 7:00
Stratified Two Session Swiss 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Side Game Series 1 1:00 & 7:00
199er Pairs Game 1:00 & 7:00

THURSDAY MAY 6

Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 3) 9:00
 AM Stratified Side Game Series 9:00
 Horizontal Swiss I 9:00
 This Little Piggy Knockout (rd 1-2) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Pairs (2 sessions) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Side Games Series 2 1:00 & 7:00
 Single Session Swiss 7:00
199er Pairs Game 1:00 & 7:00

FRIDAY MAY 7

Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 4) 9:00
 AM Stratified Side Game Series 9:00
 This Little Piggy Knockout (rd 3-4) 1:00 & 7:00
Pig Out Compact KO (1-2) (3-4) 1:00 & 7:00
 Stratified Side Games Series 2 1:00 & 7:00
NLM Game 1:00 & 7:00
 Single Session Swiss 7:00

SATURDAY MAY 8 - That's All Folks ...

Stratiflighted Swiss Teams 10:00

SHARONVILLE
 CONVENTION CENTER
 11355 Chester Road
 Exit 15 Interstate 75 (Sharon Rd)
 West on Sharon – 0.2 miles
 North on Chester – 0.5 miles

HOTEL: LIVINN SUITES
 (Next to Convention Center)
 513.772.7877
 Bridge Rate \$59.00
 \$279-Weekly
 Book by April 20, 2010

Free Continental
 Breakfast weekdays
Free Parking
Free and Fabulous
 Hospitality Nightly at
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Open Stratified Events
 A=2000+ B=500-2000 C=0-500
 Stratiflighted
 A=3000+ X=0-3000
 (plays together)
 B=750-1500 C= 300-750 D=0-300
 (plays together)

Compact KOs limited to 4 players

\$12 entry fee/session
 (includes \$2 ACBL
 paid member discount)

Tournament Chairperson:
 Patti English 513.328.8666
 pbenglish@yahoo.com

Partnerships:
 Lorna Davis 513.777.1760
 or
 www.cincybridge.com

Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans?

Yairheni Sursak

IMPs, Vulnerable all. Dealer S.

♠ KQ10	N	♠ J
♥ 10xxx	W E	♥ Ax
♦ KQ	S	♦ AJ109xxx
♣ KQxx		♣ Axx

You (W) opened 1NT, E transferred to diamonds. Final contract is 6♦ from W. Opening lead: ♥K. Plan your play.

Solution: It seems like your only hope is 3-3 break in clubs. But you can improve your chances. If N has stoppers in 3 suits you can put some pressure on him. Let's look at the full deal :

♠ Axx
♥ KQJx
♦ xx
♣ J9xx

♠ KQ10	N	♠ J
♥ 10xxx	W E	♥ Ax
♦ KQ	S	♦ AJ109xxx
♣ KQxx		♣ Axx

♠ xxxxxx
♥ xxx
♦ xx
♣ 10x

Win first trick with ♥A and play 6 rounds of trumps.

♠ A
♥ Q
♦ -
♣ J9xx

♠ -	N	♠ J
♥ 10x	W E	♥ x
♦ -	S	♦ x
♣ KQxx		♣ Axx

♠ xx
♥ xx
♦ -
♣ 10x

Play the last diamond and pitch small heart from your hand. If N will discard club or ♠A - you will take 12 tricks. If N will decide to pitch ♥Q - you'll play club to the K, cash ♥10 and N will be squeezed again for an overtrick!

Bottom line: if clubs break 3-3 you have 12 tricks. But there is no rush to test clubs immediately. Just draw all trumps and don't miss when opponents pitch ♠A or ♥Q and ♥J.

IMPs, Vulnerable EW. Dealer S.

S	You	N	E
1♥	1♠	2♥	pass
4♥	pass	pass	pass

Dummy

♠ QJ84
♥ KQ95
♦ 987
♣ J5

♠ AK9763
♥ 102
♦ KQ10
♣ Q2

You start with ♠A and see ♠2 (standard carding) from your partner and ♠10 from declarer. Plan your defense.

Solution: You can be 100% sure that partner has stiff ♠2 (E cannot have three spades). So, we have 2 tricks (spade AK) so far. We need 2 more to defeat heart game. Let's count points. We see 23 HCP (14 and 9), declarer's jump to 4H shows good hand (15-17 HCP). Partner has 40-14-9- (15-17) = (0-2) HCP. Unfortunately there is (probably) no room for ♦A or ♣A or ♣K in partner's hand.

It seems like you should hope for 2 diamonds trick (if E has ♦J) and shift to ♦K. But if declarer has AJx in diamonds you won't be able to set 4♥ - S will take ♦A, draw trumps and play spade. You will take 2 spades and 1 diamond. That's why defense must play diamonds from E. Play ♠9 in second trick asking for diamond shift (♠3 would ask for club shift). Partner will ruff (she has stiff spade, remember?) and play diamond. This is the only way to defeat 4♥. The full deal:

♠ QJ84	N	♠ 2
♥ KQ95	W E	♥ 76
♦ 987	S	♦ 6542
♣ J5		♣ 1098764
♠ AK9763	N	♠ 105
♥ 102	W E	♥ AJ843
♦ KQ10	S	♦ AJ3
♣ Q2		♣ AK3

These hands are adapted from a Polish Bridge magazine. I hope you enjoyed them.

Cincinnati Bridge Center Games

Day/Time		Club	Director	Telephone
Monday	11:00 am	Deschappelles (private)	Pat Newman	513-469-7172
	7:00 pm	Homestyle & 0-99 duplicate	Mike Lipp	513-467-8054
Tuesday	11:00 am	Tuesday AM Stratified (Last Tues. of month, stratified Swiss)	Annease Comer	513-281-2027
	7:00pm	CBA Stratified*	Bob VeVerka 1st Kay Mulford 2nd/3rd Peggy Barrett 4th	772-5115 631-8070 745-0075
	7:00 pm	Newcomers 0-50	Tom Deddens	851-3857
Wednesday	11:00 am	Homestyle*	Kay Mulford	631-8070
Thursday	11:00 am	Thursday Stratified	Agnes DeLany	513-777-2587
	7:00 pm	0-299 section & Open game	Annease Comer	513-281-2027
Friday	11:00 am	Finesse Club	Kay Mulford	513-631-8070
	11:00 am	Non-Life Master	Mike Lipp	513-467-8054
Saturday	1:00 pm	Saturday Stratified (1st/3rd/5th)	Annease Comer	513-281-2027
		Saturday Stratified (2nd/4th)	Kay Mulford	513-631-8070
Sunday	1:30 pm	Sunday Afternoon 2 nd Sunday only – team game	Rob Weidenfeld & Mike Lipp	513-467-8054

Mentor/Mentee Program Sign-up BeginsTom Deddens

For those of you new to our game, this is a way for the better players in the Club to give something back by helping serious newer players. Players with over 300 masterpoints can choose to be a mentor. Players below 300 points can become a mentee.

Opening night is Thursday May 13th

Generally, it is suggested that Mentor/Mentees play four times during the season (which ends Sept. 9th.) When you play with your mentor is up to the two of you. Thursday evenings will be designated for Mentor/Mentee games when the season begins. You should have some knowledge of the game and play at least basic conventions (Weak Twos, Transfers, etc). During play, the Mentor may point out ways to improve your play.

In the past, there was a dearth of GOOD mentors. I would suggest if you want a mentor and know someone who would be willing to do it, take the initiative and approach the person as soon as possible. Being a mentor is a thankless job. I personally suggest as a small token of your appreciation, you pay for the mentor's bridge.

Preference in pairing may be given to mentees who are close to the 50 master point barrier (of leaving our game), to prepare to move them into the open games. Preference may also be given to mentees who are beyond the "Stayman only" stage, who play regularly and who show an interest in progressing. Also, prospective mentees must complete an application - found on the CBA website.

- How should I have played that hand?
 - Under an assumed name.
- After you go down in a cold 3 NT contract
 - Remember partner eight ever, nine never
- The Elvis Presley coup
 - Lead x from Kx looking at dummy's AQ - declarer puts up the Ace and the King is still alive!!
- Rule of Eleven
 - Number of tricks when I bid slam
- Two over one
 - Much better system than one over one
- Double dummy defense
 - When your opponents defend like real dummies!!



'I guess a bottom's a bottom?' 'Yes, but two bottoms in a row really is too much.'

NANCY'S ANSWER

At first glance, this hand appears simple for South. Win the ace of hearts and take 5 club tricks, 2 diamonds, and a spade trick for a total of 9 tricks. No problem--right? **Wrong!!** Look closely at the club suit. South's high clubs block the club suit! How can you overcome this obstacle? Let West win the first 3 heart tricks. On the fourth heart lead, you can unblock the suit by discarding a high club on the ace of hearts. Even if West shifts to a diamond at trick four, you can still win the trick, cross to dummy with a club, and discard a high club on the ace of hearts.

The four hands are as follows:

	♠ J6	
	♥ A852	
	♦ 63	
	♣ KQ543	
♠ Q8		♠ K97432
♥ KQJT94		♥ -----
♦ QJT4		♦ 9872
♣ 2		♣ JT8
	♠ AT5	
	♥ 763	
	♦ AK4	
	♣ A976	

Defenders--You have no way of knowing that the heart suit is blocked. But, after winning the heart king on the first lead of the suit, consider what happens if you switch to the queen of diamonds. While this is an unlikely line of defense, now South cannot afford to lose three heart tricks and two diamond tricks. The clubs are still blocked and West has a chance to develop two diamond tricks before they are unblocked.

ED NOTE: S can always play a small spade from hand and score 4C, 2D, 1 H and 2 spades to make the contract. The learning point of discarding blocking cards is, however, an extremely valuable lesson.

Plan Ahead (at CBA)

New England Club is now the
Anderson Bridge Club.
It has moved. The address is:
Anderson Senior Center,
7970 Beechmont Ave

TEAM GAME
2nd Sunday of each month
Starts April 11.
Start time 1:30 PM
Call Mike or Rob

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.cincybridge.com

Upcoming Tournaments

Apr 12-18 **Gatlinburg Regional**

Apr 23-25 **Dayton Sectional**

May 3-9 **FLYING PIG REGIONAL**
CINCINNATI



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