



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

## President's message...

Why do you play bridge? It seems to be an easy, almost self-evident question, but it's amazing how important the answers are when it comes to the decisions made by the CBA. It's also amazing how many different answers you get when you actually ask! Some of us play because it's a social event – many friendships and even longstanding relationships have been made at the bridge table. Some of us play because we love puzzles and the mental challenges that the game presents. Some of us play because it's a relatively inexpensive form of entertainment. Some of us play because we crave competition. Some of us play because of habit, or the desire to learn something new, or to keep our minds active.

Of course, most of us play because of some combination of these reasons. However, we are sometimes blinded to the motivations of others we may not share, and this occasionally can produce a frustrating experience at the table. I often hear from players with complaints or concerns that, at bottom, are really expressions of dissatisfaction with the fact that someone is playing bridge for different reasons than they are. In the end, we need to remember that every member of Unit 124 of the ACBL is entitled to an equal claim on the reason why we play bridge. Although we may wish that the game of bridge exists for those reasons we cherish as individuals, the reality is that it exists for the benefit of all of us collectively.

Did you know that collective "us" totals 989? That's the current number of ACBL members in our Unit, which encompasses Greater Cincinnati and includes northern Kentucky. Hopefully, that number will grow, thanks to the "Learn Bridge in a Day" (LBIAD) workshops conducted at the Northern Kentucky Bridge Club and at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Most recently, the CBC held their first LBIAD event on September 8, which was a huge success! They actually had to close the registration about a week before the event because the event was already at capacity, and actual attendance was close to 120. Great job to Phyllis Bishop and the rest of the LBIAD volunteers!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|  |    |
|--|----|
| The Round Table Isn't: Weidenfeld                | 3  |
| Movements in Duplicate Bridge: Orr               | 5  |
| Defending a balancing Act: Moese-Purcell         | 6  |
| Rule of 11: Walter                               | 7  |
| 2 Diamonds are better than one: Hastie           | 8  |
| Ruminations of a life master: Brown              | 10 |
| Episode 5 -The meaning of Life: Felson           | 11 |
| Winds of Late October: Fisher                    | 14 |
| If Declarer holds up, consider switching: Fisher | 15 |
| Beautiful bidding: Ma-Naber                      | 17 |
| Treasurer's report and Library news: Keaney      | 18 |
| Can Cincinnatians do better?: Siutsau            | 20 |
| Roman Key Card Extensions: Geagan                | 22 |

The Northern Kentucky Bridge Club has also enjoyed tremendous success with their LBIAD workshops, and they will have hosted their second LBIAD event on October 20 by the time you read this. Events like this have a certain kind of regenerative energy – a way of stimulating all sorts of activity that was never part of the original plan. We're looking to build on the success by hosting additional LBIAD workshops, so contact Mike Purcell in Cincinnati or Mary Ann Boyle in northern Kentucky if you're interested in getting involved.

Also, by the time you read this, our annual end-of-October sectional will be upon us. We're back at the Crowne Plaza in Sharonville on October 26-28 as we continue to host the District 11 Finals for the North American Pairs on Saturday, October 29. Come out – we've got plenty of events to choose from! While you're there, remember to vote in our CBA Board elections.

See you at the Bridge table!

**AJ Stephani**

CBA Board President

# It's Just Another Day

*Ev'ry day she takes a morning bath she wets her hair  
Wraps a towel around her as she's heading for the bedroom chair  
It's just another day*  
Paul McCartney

*Taking deep finesses, stepping into slams  
Dipping into Key Card Gerber  
It's just another day....  
At the Bridge club where the bidding grows she doubles 'em all  
Drinks another coffee an' makes a slam with NO keycards at all  
It's just another day....*

My writers are making it harder and harder for me to write an editorial that matches their wit, intellect, grace, bridge sense, command of the language etc etc etc. So I thought I will bring my song writing capability to the forefront. Deal with this all ye damsels and knights before thou contributeth to the next issue of Alert vide my challenge prima facie.

*"Let us be partners and bid our contracts together  
I've got some conventions here in my bag  
So we bought an entry and Mrs. Wagner pies  
And we walked off with the first prize in America"*

Weidenfeld is back in Sherwood forest with a new car. Accident or no accident, this man is unstoppable. We just hope that all of his remaining accidents are at the bridge table or the Alert. Recognizing who his characters are, is part of the deal here Mr and Ms Readers. Ye all are invited to guess the right characters in this issue or the last one. The correct answers will beget a free entry (I have been forgetting to use mine and have collected quite a few over the last two years).

He is not the only one back in the saddle again. The Inimitable Bob Brown lambasts us with Brownian rhetoric again. Check out Felson's column for a new episode of Brownian Bridge. And I am not making this up..." Brownian bridge is a continuous-time stochastic process  $B(t)$  whose probability distribution is the conditional probability distribution of a Wiener process  $W(t)$  (a mathematical model of Brownian motion) given the condition that  $B(1) = 0$ . ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brownian\\_bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brownian_bridge)) Let me restate the last phrase..."Given the condition that be one is equal to zero....Hmmm I knew Brown's bids were stochastic....but that last line is very DEEP philosophy... even I don't get it!!

BTW, it is critical that I mention that in the last issue of Alert, Felson's article was supposed to terminate with "Back in the saddle again." Which probably meant that he is playing with Brown more frequently? This issue's article convinces me that what's good news for Felson-Brown is bad news for World Bridge. If you agree, please do congratulate both of them on their writing.

I had to look up mental ruminations in the dictionary - "contemplation or reflection, which may become persistent and recurrent worrying or brooding". We want to see the "seamy underbelly of bridge" Mr. Brown; and the reason we want you writing for Alert is not nepotism even though I am also brown.

Please welcome Walter back who writes an insightful piece about the Rule of 11 and Hastie, who reports on a very unusual deal - it goes something like this - twice (double) of 1 diamond is two diamonds, so if you are in one diamond doubled, you might as well bid two diamonds and take them both home.

*These rules are made for balking, and that's just what they'll do  
one of these days these rules are gonna walk all over you*

Potter reviews the rules of the game. Amy Fisher writes the many reasons to feel thankful about our game, our partners, or opponents, our club. Joe puts together a masterpiece on the principle "switch when declarer holds up." BTW what were the Beatles thinking when they picked up a Yarborough...

*Oh yeah, I'll tell you something, I think you'll understand  
When I say that something, I want to hold your hand*

A hand with no honor cards is called a Yarborough after Charles Anderson Worsley, Second Earl of Yarborough (1809-1897), who is said to have bet 1,000 to 1 that such a hand would not occur. Was it a good bet?

Mike Ma and Eugene round up this issue with their usual flair...Problem 3 in Yauheni's column is pretty challenging so I gave it a separate page. The other day he gave me a very hard double dummy problem for a \$1 bet. I have yet to solve it and it's been two months!! On October 1<sup>st</sup>, I started paying demurrage of \$0.25 per day so by the end of this month I will owe him \$1 + \$7.50 if I don't solve the problem. SOMEONE PLEASE HELP!

Finally I included a piece by Mike Geagan. It's been years since he passed away but those who knew him miss him a lot. He wrote this piece by hand so I typed it up into an article. Just look at his fine analysis and thinking in RKC auctions.

*Imagine there's no conventions, It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to bid or double for, And no bidding too  
Imagine all the people, Playing bridge in peace...*

Congratulations to the entire Learn bridge in a day (LBIAD) team for a VERY successful event....See u all at the Sectional....

Amit Raturi

## The Round Table Isn't What It Used To Be

By Rob Weidenfeld, [elianadad@gmail.com](mailto:elianadad@gmail.com), 513-317-2337

My article in the last issue of the Alert provoked a lot of inquiries. People wanted to know why they had not seen the merry men and women of Sherwood Forest at the bridge club when it was clear to me that it was their vision, not my reality which was distorted. Many other denizens of folklore inhabit our club but they often prefer to remain incognito. The latest occupiers could be heard gaily singing before the game. Their refrain was “*Whan that aprill with his shoures soute, the droghte of march hath perced to the roote...*” I was later told that in Middle English that roughly meant that the dry season of March brought the showers of April...and did it ever.

On this rainy morning in April, Lady Guinevere had summoned three formidable bridge players to Camelot to pass the time while King Arthur was off on another quest. She chose the courteous and gallant Sir Gawain to be her partner while the villainous Mordred was left to play with the mystical Merlin. The most proper Guinevere loved to say there was not a more congenial spot than Camelot. That was true until this deal:

*Everybody vulnerable*

Sir Gawain

♠KJ43

♥QJ1053

♦87

♣42

Mordred

♠Q7

♥A9642

♦1054

♣J105

Merlin

♠10952

♥8

♦A932

♣AQ96

Lady Guinevere

♠A86

♥K7

♦KQJ6

♣K873

The Lady had no reason to be intimidated by the experts seated around the table, but none-the-less she loved to pick up a nice strong NT hand. Befitting her station in life, she proudly opened 1NT. Merlin of course passed and Gawain transferred to hearts. Dreamer though he was, he had already decided that at this vulnerability he would love to apply the ax if the opponents should interfere, courteous though he was known to be. He had no idea the gift that awaited him. Mordred passed and the Lady accepted by bidding two hearts, awaiting developments. Now Merlin, known to pull a few rabbits out of his conehead hat, decided it was time to stir the waters. He said double which all knew to be takeout. This was a dream come true for Gawain who tried to say his redouble in tempo.

Now Mordred began to show his true colors. He was not happy. His best suit was theirs but he thought he couldn't beat two hearts, though he could. Having nothing else to say, he passed and left it to the rabbit puller. But he couldn't resist saying to all within earshot, “He always does this to me. Why can't he just bid normally without finding exotic bids that no one else thinks of?” You know you're not Arthur. You can't pull the sword out of the stone”. So after two passes Merlin said two spades, oblivious to the piercing leers from partner. No longer a dreamer but now a fantasizer, Gawain now said double, as he entered two zeroes on his scorecard, not sure if he would get 200, 500, or 800. That became the final contract. Here was the bidding:

|           |        |        |          |            |
|-----------|--------|--------|----------|------------|
| Guinevere | Merlin | Gawain | Mordred  |            |
| 1NT       | P      | 2D*    | P        |            |
| 2H        | Dbl    | Rdbl   | P        |            |
| P         | 2S     | Dbl    | All pass | * transfer |

So confident was he that he neglected to lead a trump which would put a quick end to Merlin's plans. Gawain led the heart Q and Merlin gave no sign of approval or disapproval, though I would swear that his upper lip seemed to rise just slightly as though to say "I must have a potion for this one." Merlin won the ace, played the jack of clubs, then the ten as Guinevere ducked. A third club was led and Gawain ruffed for the first trick for the defense. Still fearing a trump lead, he continued hearts. Merlin ruffed in hand and led the club ace. Suddenly Gawain became aware of his heavy breathing. Not wanting Merlin to score a cheap trick he ruffed with the king as Merlin pitched a diamond from dummy. Here was the position:

|        |         |           |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Gawain | Mordred | Guinevere |
| ♠J4    | ♠Q7     | ♠A86      |
| ♥J105  | ♥964    | ♥-        |
| ♦87    | ♦105    | ♦KQJ6     |
| ♣-     | ♣-      | ♣-        |
|        | Merlin  |           |
|        | ♠1095   |           |
|        | ♥-      |           |
|        | ♦A932   |           |
|        | ♣-      |           |

Merlin was up to 4 tricks and when Gawain shifted to diamonds, he won the ace and played another diamond. 5 tricks. Convinced that trump leads must be wrong, she continued with a low diamond. Gawain ruffed with the jack as a ferocious nausea set in his gizzard. Merlin over ruffed for six tricks and led a heart from dummy. At this point it mattered not but she pitched her last diamond as Merlin ruffed with the 5 for trick seven. He then tabled the 10 and 9 of spades and said making two.

As Merlin walked away from the table, I would swear that I heard him humming the refrain from "Camelot."




---

## Supervised Play Lessons

---

**Wednesdays  
4-6 PM**

**Nov 14, 28 and Dec 5**

**Series includes six 2-hour classes and the fee is \$90 per person.**

**Individual classes are \$18 each**

**Contact Nancy Sachs at (513) 561-1766 or  
[nsp@fuse.net](mailto:nsp@fuse.net)**



## Movements in Duplicate Bridge

### Potter Orr

*One of our directors at the bridge center routinely reminds players before each game that duplicate bridge is a timed event. Most players like to feel that they've gotten their money's worth and expect the game to be 27 boards (plus or minus). While some hands represent an extra challenge in either the bidding or the play or both, most are routine and can be finished quickly. Most of us are accustomed to paying attention to our surroundings including our vulnerability on each hand, the conventions played by our opponents, and even the bidding styles of our opponents. This awareness should also extend to our pace of play. If our table is running late compared to the rest of the room, it's time to look for some shortcuts to finish up quickly. At the very minimum we should be aware that the round has been called, and should pass the boards we have finished to the next table without being asked. Dawdling over paperwork, or conducting a postmortem, when your table is behind is inexcusable as it delays everybody.*

*I often hear players comment that the computer-generated hands we play at the bridge center are more bizarre than normal. I was curious about this and asked a tournament director at one of our regionals. He was aware of the comments but assured me that the computer-generated hands are genuinely random. He explained that normally dealt hands are not random due to people not shuffling enough. It requires 7 shuffles of the deck to produce a truly random deal and most players settle for 3 or 4 shuffles. Since then I have conducted a very unscientific experiment. Each time I play in a Swiss or knockout event where the players are expected to shuffle and deal, I have been very careful to shuffle at least seven times. My experience is that on the boards that I have shuffled thoroughly, hands are similar to those that come from our automated shuffler, the Duplimate. The program we use (Windup32) does pull hands at random and there are no "filters" used to select or omit certain types of hands.*

*When I started playing duplicate I always wondered how a director determined how many boards would be played each round. Finally, I couldn't stand it anymore and asked. It turns out the explanation is very simple. A set of duplicated boards contains 36 boards, so 12 or fewer tables can play 3 boards a round. If there are more than 12 tables there will be only 2 boards a round. For very small games you may play 4 or even 5 boards per round. In the standard Mitchell movement (that's the one where you are either east-west or north-south for the entire round) if there are an even number of tables we have to have a skip halfway through. **Remember that the boards are moving down and the pairs are moving up.** (Board get younger People get older is one way to remember). With an even number of tables you would meet the boards you started with after the halfway point.*

*When a section gets very small, the director will change and use a Howell movement. This is the game where you will move from table to table and switch back-and-forth between being east-west and north-south. This movement is necessary because they would otherwise be too few rounds. For example, with only five tables there could be only five rounds in a standard movement but you can have nine rounds with a Howell. This movement also ranks the players in a single section and can award points to more players.*

## Learning Points – Defending a Balancing Act

By Steve Moese. Edited by Mike Purcell

October 1, 2012

Bidding & Defense Level: Basic / Intermediate

Board 5      ♠ K J 6 4  
North Deals    ♥ 10 9 4 2  
N-S Vul        ♦ K 6 5  
                  ♣ A J

♠ A 5  
♥ A K Q 8 6  
♦ A Q  
♣ Q 8 7 5

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

W 4♥ 3N  
3♠ 4♦;  
EW 4♣;  
E 3♥ 2N  
2♠ 3♦

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♦    | Pass | Pass  | 1♥?? |
| Pass  | 1N?? | Pass  | 3N   |

All Pass

North leads ♦4

the ♣5. North must choose again. Since you want to play one more round of ♥s from your side and have a safe exit later (♣J) you Win the ♣A and play back the ♥10. This causes declarer a moment's thought. Finally she discards the ♦6 and partner follows low. The ♣7 finds your ♣J and declarer's ♣K, and partner playing low. A 3<sup>rd</sup> ♣ back catches partner's ♣9 and the dummy's ♣10. What do you discard? The ♣4 invites a ♣ lead from partner so that's what's best now. Declarer plays the 4<sup>th</sup> ♣ from dummy, you pitch a ♦ and declarer pitches a ♦. Here's what South sees → South must resist any temptation to lead a 3<sup>rd</sup> ♥ or a 2<sup>nd</sup> ♦. A small ♣ is right. How does South know? North's 1<sup>st</sup> ♣ card was the discard of the ♣4 showing a ♣ preference. We use upside down attitude then count signals when discarding. Besides, North played the ♣AJ, and ♦K with no ♥ honors. North must hold the ♣K for the opening bid. A red suit lead risks end-playing North in ♣s.

♠ A 5  
♥ Q 8 6  
♦ A  
♣

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ 7  
♦ J 7  
♣

Board 5      ♠ K J 6 4  
North Deals    ♥ 10 9 4 2  
N-S Vul        ♦ K 6 5  
                  ♣ A J

♠ A 5  
♥ A K Q 8 6  
♦ A Q  
♣ Q 8 7 5

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

♠ Q 9 7 3  
♥ 3  
♦ 10 9 8 3 2  
♣ K 4 2

W 4♥ 3N  
3♠ 4♦;  
EW 4♣;  
E 3♥ 2N  
2♠ 3♦

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ J 7 5  
♦ J 7 4  
♣ 10 9 6 3

cards, leading ♥s would cut communications and might develop a ♥ winner. North could discount a ♣ or ♠ lead as East bid 1NT. Declarer's attempt to endplay South in ♣s would have worked had South not led the ♣2. Declarer loses 5 tricks (1♠, 1♥, 1♦, 2♣). 3N by West down 1 gave NS 5.5 of 7 MPs (79%).

Thursday Night Club Championship, Annease & Marvin Comer Directing at the CBA. Amy Gerowitz is my partner.

Big hands in Balancing Seat need care. When defending against a strong dummy think end-play (Dummy of course!).

**The Bidding** - North's opens 1♦ with 4=4=3=2 shape. This is the only time we open 1♦ with a 3-cards suit. South's Pass shows extreme weakness (< 5 HCP). West has 21 HCP, 4.5 losers and 7 controls. 1♥ led to 1N by partner and 3N was destiny.

**The Play** - North led the ♦4 (low from Hxx in partner's suit) and declarer finessed the ♦Q. Winning the ♦K, North has a decision. Partner is broke (< 5 HCP). Returning a ♣, ♦, or ♠ appears to give away a tempo or a trick. Better to not continue ♦s as they are blocked. Can a ♥ hurt? If declarer has the ♥J, then they have 7 tricks for sure. If not then we can sever communications in their trick source by leading them now. A small ♥ brings the ♥J from partner and declarer must lead away from dummy. Declarer tries

### Post Mortem

West's bidding was risky. A 1♥ bid in balancing seat might be as weak as 8 and not as strong as 17 HCP. Double is better. (2N shows 20-21 but 5332 shape not 5422. A modern balancing cue-bid shows a 2-suited hand). East's response of 1NT is off the mark holding 4 ♣ cards. 1♠ would have been better (What if EW have a 4-4 ♣ fit? 1N will never allow them to find it). East's 1NT bid wrong-sided their NT contract!

North's switch to ♥s leading into dummy's length and strength might seem strange – it's not. Holding ♥109xx it's safe if South holds ♥J, and neutral if not. When declarer lacks entries to hand, end-playing dummy is good strategy. Since East rated to hold 2♥

# Rule of 11

Otto Walter

Winning bridge consists of doing the little things correctly. One of those little things is to understand and **use** the Rule of 11. Rather than a rule, this is actually a mathematical truism. The Rule of 11 applies to leads of the fourth best card in a suit. This is the lead we will most often make against no trump contracts but it equally applies to fourth best leads against suit contracts.

The Rule of 11 involves the following operation. Subtract the value of the card led from 11. The result is the number of cards higher than the card led held by the other three hands. Thus, if the lead is the 5,  $11-5=6$ , which means the other three hands hold six cards higher than the 5.

In the following two hands, the bidding went 1NT – 3 NT. Partner leads the 7 of Spades. Dummy is

♠K 3 2, ♥6 4 3, ♦A Q 5 3 2, ♣ Q 7 4

Declarer plays the 2 of Spades. Your Spades are A J 9 5. Which card do you play and why?

The full hand might be something like:

|            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
|            | ♠ K 3 2     |            |
|            | ♥ 6 4 3     |            |
|            | ♦ A Q 5 3 2 |            |
|            | ♣ Q 7       |            |
| ♠ Q 10 8 7 |             | ♠ A J 9 5  |
| ♥ K 7 2    |             | ♥ Q J 10 8 |
| ♦ 7 4      |             | ♦ 9 8 6    |
| ♣ 8 5 3 2  |             | ♣ 10 6     |
|            | ♠ 6 4       |            |
|            | ♥ A 9 5     |            |
|            | ♦ K J 10    |            |
|            | ♣ A K J 9 4 |            |

Play the 5 of Spades. Using The Rule of 11,  $(11-7=4)$ , there are four cards higher than the 7 held by the other three hands. We see all of them and can safely play the 5 to keep partner on lead for a second lead through the King and, thus, enable our side to win four tricks. If we had played the Ace instead, declarer wins 12 tricks and if we had played either the Jack or 9, declarer wins 11 or 12 tricks.

In the second hand, partner leads the 6 of Spades.

The dummy hand is: ♠10 7

♥K 3 2

♦K Q 6 5

♣K 4 3 2

and your hand is: ♠Q J 3

♥7 6 5 4

♦J 10 9 4 3

♣7

Declarer plays the 10, you cover with the Jack (play lower of touching honors) and declarer wins with the King. Declarer continues by playing the Ace and Queen of clubs. What card do you discard and why?

Discard the Queen of Spades. Using The Rule of 11,  $(11-6=5)$ , you know that declarer holds no other high Spades and that partner's Spades are ready to run. Partner is not certain about the location of the Queen of Spades and may be reluctant to continue his suit when he gets the lead. From partner's perspective, declarer may have elected to win the first trick with the King of Spades while also holding the Queen. See next page for the full hand.

Certainly, Rule of 11 won't always be as useful as in these two examples. However, as with all of our other bridge tools, if you don't always try to use it you will miss those occasions when it would have guided you to the correct

decision. And yes, declarer can also profitably use this tool – but that is a story for another time. In the second hand, the full layout may be something like:

|                    |           |              |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
|                    | ♠ 10 7    |              |
|                    | ♥ K 3 2   |              |
|                    | ♦ K Q 6 5 |              |
|                    | ♣ K 4 3 2 |              |
| ♠ A 9 8 <u>6</u> 5 |           | ♠ Q J 3      |
| ♥ A 10 4           |           | ♥ 8 7 6 5    |
| ♦ 2                |           | ♦ J 10 9 7 3 |
| ♣ J 10 8 6         |           | ♣ 7          |
|                    | ♠ K 4 2   |              |
|                    | ♥ Q J 9   |              |
|                    | ♦ A 8 6   |              |
|                    | ♣ A Q 9 5 |              |

## Two Diamonds are Better than One

Chris Hastie

I contemplated taking this humiliating and impossible bridge error to the grave, but ultimately decided to share it since we all need a good laugh. On a recent Tuesday evening Tom Platt was trying to play bridge with me but I had left my brain at home. It was the last round and last hand of the night. Our opponents were Mike Ma and Joe Fisher. I was dealer and picked up my second 6/5 hand of the round - a 6D/5H, 4-loser hand: ♠ 5, ♥ K Q 10 8 7, ♦ K Q J 8 3 2, ♣ 5

I opened 1D, Mike doubled. Tom and Joe both passed. I'd like to preface my next action with a list of meaningful excuses, but I can't think of a single legitimate one. I put the 2 Diamond card on the table. Yes, I raised my own doubled contract! I could have passed, bid 1 H or redoubled, *but no!!* Mike cracked up! Tom looked mystified. Joe was smiling and shaking his head like he had now seen it all. I was still in my happy place on a mental lunch break. Mike now bid 3 clubs. And Tom bid 3 hearts. Joe bid 5 clubs.

|                     |        |          |        |         |
|---------------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| The bidding so far: | S (Me) | W (Mike) | N(Tom) | E (Joe) |
|                     | 1D     | Dbl      | Pass   | Pass    |
|                     | 2D     | 3C       | 3H     | 5C      |

I was finally back in the game. I was thrilled with Tom's heart bid! I was now looking at a maximum of 3 losers and thinking slam. I bid 5 hearts. Mike bid 6 clubs. I thought about bidding 6 hearts and certainly should have since I had no defense in my hand...but swish. Mike was the only one in the room who made 6 clubs. When it was all over my partner calmly and kindly said, "What was wrong with one diamond doubled?" I was speechless. I told another player the story and said, "I could not have made more mistakes in one hand!" He said, "Oh yes you could have! You could have doubled Mike's 6 Club bid."

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠ Q 9 6 4 2  
♥ A J 9 5 4 2  
♦ —  
♣ 10 6

♠ A J 8 7  
♥ 6  
♦ 10  
♣ K Q J 8 7 3 2

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

♠ K 10 3  
♥ 3  
♦ A 9 7 6 5 4  
♣ A 9 4

♠ 5  
♥ K Q 10 8 7  
♦ K Q J 8 3 2  
♣ 5

NS 5♥; EW 5♣; EW 3♠; EW 1N; EW 1♦





# Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional

New Date!

Sharonville Convention Center

June 4-9, 2013

|                             | 10:00 AM  | 2:30 PM  | 7:30 PM  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Tuesday<br/>June 4</b>   |  <b>GOLD RUSH and OPEN PAIRS</b>        |  | Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 1)<br>Open Pairs Evening Side Series<br>Piglet Single Session Swiss<br><b>299er Pairs</b>   |
|                             | Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 1)<br>Open Pairs Side Series I<br><b>99er Pairs</b>  | Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 2)<br>Open Pairs Side Series I<br>Piglet Single Session Swiss<br><b>99er Pairs</b>                                  |  |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>June 5</b> | <b>Pig in a Poke Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b>  |  | Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 2)<br>Hogwash Evening KO (Round 1)<br>Open Pairs Evening Side Series  |
|                             | Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 3)<br>Baby Back Knockout (Round 1)<br>Open Pairs Side Series I<br><b>299er Pairs</b>   | Miss Piggy Knockout (Round 4)<br>Baby Back Knockout (Round 2)<br>Open Pairs Side Series I<br>Piglet Single Session Swiss<br><b>299er Pairs</b> |  |
| <b>Thursday<br/>June 6</b>  |  <b>GOLD RUSH and OPEN SWISS TEAMS</b>  |  | Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 3)<br>Hogwash Evening KO (Round 2)<br>Squeaky Clean Compact KO (1-2)<br>Open Pairs Evening Side Series<br><b>299er Pairs</b>  |
|                             | Baby Back Knockout (Round 3)<br>Open Pairs Side Series I<br><b>99er Pairs</b>   | Baby Back Knockout (Round 4)<br>Open Pairs Side Series I<br>Piglet Single Session Swiss<br><b>99er Pairs</b>                                   |  |
| <b>Friday<br/>June 7</b>    | <b>Hog Wild Open Pairs (2 sessions)</b>   |  | Pig in Mud Evening KO (Round 4)<br>Hogwash Evening KO (Round 3)<br>Squeaky Clean Compact KO (3-4)<br>Open Pairs Evening Side Series<br><b>Second Annual Cincinnati Youth Bridge Championship</b> |
|                             | Porky Pig Knockout (Round 1)<br>Open Pairs Side Series II<br><b>299er Pairs</b>   | Porky Pig Knockout (Round 2)<br>Open Pairs Side Series II<br>Piglet Single Session Swiss<br><b>299er Pairs</b>                                 |  |
| <b>Saturday<br/>June 8</b>  |  <b>GOLD RUSH and OPEN PAIRS</b>    |  | Hogwash Evening KO (Round 4)<br>Open Pairs Evening Side Series<br><b>299er Pairs</b>   |
|                             | Porky Pig Knockout (Round 3)<br>Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 1-2)<br>Open Pairs Side Series II<br><b>99er Pairs</b>   | Porky Pig Knockout (Round 4)<br>Pig Out Compact KO (Rnds 3-4)<br>Open Pairs Side Series II<br><b>99er Pairs</b>                                |  |
|                             | <b>3 Little Pigs Open Swiss (2 sessions)</b>  |  |  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>June 9</b>    | <b>Flying Pig Stratflighted Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough)</b>   |  |  |

**Tournament Highlights**

- Only Regional in the Nation!
- Tons of Playing Space
- Free Parking
- Easy Access to I-75 and I-275
- Wine and Cheese Hospitality
- Great Restaurants & Hotels
- 15 Minutes from Downtown

**Tournament Chairs**

Patti English  
penglish@yahoo.com  
(513) 328-8666

Gerry Mirus  
gerrylee517@hotmail.com  
(513) 543-8044

**Partnerships**

Lorna Davis  
nons@cinci.rr.com  
(513) 777-1760

**Hotel Information**

LivINN Suites  
11385 Chester Road  
Cincinnati OH 45246  
(513) 772-7877  
\$59/Night \$280/Week  
Ask for "Flying Pig" Rate  
Reserve by May 4, 2013

**Newcomers and Youth**

- 0-5 MPs and U21:
- Half Price at All Events
- Cincinnati Youth Championship: Free!



Newly Crowned Life Masters are Engraved on our Pegasus Trophy!



Cincinnati Bridge Association

**Stratifications**

- Open Pairs & Side Games (w/o Gold Rush): 0-750/750-2000/2000+
- Open Pairs & Swiss (with Gold Rush): 0-3000/3000+
- Gold Rush Pairs & Swiss: 0-300/300-750
- Stratflighted Swiss: B/C/D 750-1500/300-750/0-300 A/X 3000+/0-3000 (Stratified by average masterpoints)



Sharonville Convention Center  
11355 Chester Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45246

Friday Night 7:30 PM  
Cincinnati Youth Bridge Championship - Free!



# RUMINATIONS OF A LIFE MASTER<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT S. BROWN

1. My new status entitles me to play for pleasure rather than points. This hedonistic outlook has compelled certain changes in strategy – which the Albatross has yet to grasp – and whose enumeration could be enlightening to him and others:
  - (a) Declarers have the most fun; therefore always bid with that objective.<sup>2</sup>
  - (b) Defenders have more fun than dummies; if you can't declare, let your opponents win the auction.
  - (c) Ignore the odds – *exempli gratia*, if missing a King, always play it to drop as a singleton.<sup>3</sup>
  - (d) Strive for *sang-froid* – don't play by the book; make your standard leads non-standard.<sup>4</sup>
2. I am rankled by those "Precision" bidding snobs – SM, MP, MM, and their ilk – and formulating a new system titled "Vague" to unhorse them.<sup>5</sup>
3. The merit of continuing these self-indulgent essays is debatable. The Author warns those who urge their continuance that he contemplates exposing the seamy underbelly of Bridge by graphic depictions of the sex, violence, and other unspeakable practices which permeate the Game and have been long ignored. *Caveat Emptor*.<sup>6</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup> Newly anointed, as presaged by a prior *Alert*; hence "Ruminations" reflecting a more profound insight *vis-à-vis* the jejune "Divigations" previously published. Alas, despite Herculean efforts by the Author, the Albatross still lags behind.

<sup>2</sup> *Ergo*, your partner is your competitor – never support his suit.

<sup>3</sup> Often done when it's one of two or three outstanding cards; but the true aesthete seeks the ecstasy of watching it drop on a four-one split. Similarly, eschew the simple finesse in favor of the double.

<sup>4</sup> Or "sub-standard" in the eyes of the Albatross. For opening leads, avoid your Partner's suit and lead to Declarer's strength. These ploys may not succeed often but this is more than offset by the elation experienced when they do. *Confer* the last words of Nicola Sacco before his execution on August 23, 1927: "Long Live Anarchy".

<sup>5</sup> *E.g.*, an opening bid promises thirteen cards – nothing more. All subsequent bids are meaningless. The inherent beauty of this system is that virtually anyone can learn to play it flawlessly.

<sup>6</sup> *Sed Vide*, Bartolomeo Vanzetti, on the same occasion as in note 4 *supra*: "I wish to forgive some people for what they are now doing to me."



# EPISODE 5: THE MEANING OF LIFE

*Stephen Felson*

*Better to play terrible bridge all day every day than to contemplate the meaning of life for even one nanosecond.*—The Accelerator of Malastare

Another election year! Electronic voting is the norm - no more dark basements in churches, schools and union halls. It's simple - pick a candidate, the taller one or maybe the one who looks better in jeans; identify yourself with a greasy finger, a watery eyeball or plain old bad breath; push a button; get on with your life.

Here in the 22d century some form of democracy reigns in maybe 50 per cent of the known universe. Everywhere else you have mountain bandits, desert rats or jungle muggers, all following some scruffy tribal lord intent on one thing only: attacking the next tribe over, killing the males and abducting the females for purposes of procreation. Well, I've tried democracy and I've tried tribal warfare, and believe me, democracy is better - for the most part. Just like bridge beats spreading genetic material all over the Milky way.

The great thing is, no matter who wins this or any other intergalactic election, bridge thrives. Aside from the warning to "leave all telepathic devices at the door," everything's the same as it was 100 years ago. The only other constants in the universe are the soporific nature of election rhetoric, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Felson-Brown partnership.

Higgerson is well known for his witty put-downs, having once told me, "I don't see why you even showed up today - you played 12 wrong cards on that last board." And Frisko, having failed to interest three different directors in adjusting his score upwards after a Felson-Brown bidding misunderstanding some decades ago resulted in a top against him, coined the phrase directors everywhere now use: "You can't punish dumb bidding." To his credit, he never complained when the Great Bridge Powers put it in the Interstellar Bridge Rule Book as "the Felson-Brown Rule" without even mentioning his name.

So here we are sitting East (me) and West (Bob) against Frisko (South) and Higgerson (North). I see that Frisko is still a young-looking dude, though he must be 140. And Higgerson has absorbed so much anti-aging cream (220 Universal Space Dollars per ounce at any Darkside Market outlet - get it while it lasts) he resembles the Keir Dullea character, Dr. Dave Bowman, at the end of *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXS8POHksQo>]. I'm sure he's never seen the movie - still a cult favorite after 150 years - but he's a top bridge player despite (or maybe because of) his narrow horizons.

Not that I didn't try one last time to escape. When direct insults didn't work I started calling his kids "cankers on the time warp of progress." Did he fire me as a partner? No. All he said was, "Yeah, they're bums. Now how about that Regional on Carlac? You in?"

So, off to Carlac, home to gigantic insects and an 88,000-table tournament. Your only defense against the insects is to "get 'em in the antennae - they're helpless without the antennae." [*Them* (1954) - always turn to the movies for life-saving advice in such circumstances] As for the tournament, it's stratified to the max, with beginners galore just waiting to give us top scores by overbidding, underbidding and forgetting to take setting tricks.

But the luck of stratification operates in strange ways, and we immediately come up against two super-beryllium life-master expert types, Higgerson and Frisko, who have more space points than Carter has little liver pills. They even have a contracted name like Meckwell and Woodstein (of Watergate fame): "Friggins."

Here's our first board against Friggins - West deals, both vulnerable:

S: Q96543  
H: Q  
D: 104  
C: AKQ3

S: 82  
H: AK98  
D: K9862  
C: 54

S: AJ  
H: 106542  
D: A  
C: J9762

S: K107  
H: J73  
D: QJ753  
C: 108



The bidding:

P-1S-P [with slight pause]-2S  
P[pretty good pause by Bob]-3S-P-P  
4H! [after a nice long pause]-P-P-P

Higgerson leads the KC, looks at the astounding dummy, calculates what West must have to jump in vulnerable at the 4 level, and concludes that his partner has few points and a singleton trump, West needing 6 for his bid. So, after taking 2 club winners North leads a low club on the brilliantly conceived possibility that Frisko's singleton trump may be a king which will force the ace and promote North's stiff queen as the setting trick. South dutifully ruffs low, Bob overruffs, and Friggins' chance at a fourth trick goes bye-bye. Of course, I didn't catch on to what the Higman was doing until he told me later; it'll be a cold day on a Sachs moon when either Bob Brown or I make an inference of that subtlety. And please note that the old-time phrase "when pigs fly" has obviously lost its meaning here in the 22d century, where everything flies.

While I didn't examine every bidding sequence available on spacebridge.com, I'll bet there wasn't a single East player who bid 4H vulnerable with 9 HCP, a 2-4-5-2 distribution and a disastrous losing trick count. The only other +420 for E-W was in a non-humanoid strata limited to 4-8 tentacles and 0-2000 space points, which I always ignore - too many "hand" signals. Among the 38,000 or so two- to four-legged E-W pairs we had the absolute top score. And no, our overall tournament result was not the 32% you'd expect from a pair subject to Bob Brown's bidding technique; we were way above average and scored a nice bunch of space points as a result.

Afterwards Frisko asked Brown how he knew his partner was loaded with hearts, making it safe to bid at the four level with only AKxx. "I didn't," he said. "I bid on the principle that it's more fun to declare than to defend." The stares didn't seem to bother him. "It worked, didn't it?"

And so I continue with the partnership that treads where no pair has trod before:

*Who needs Zia, Nancy or Grue  
Robert, I'll take my chances with you.*

[Editor's Note: Will someone please ask the author what this piece has to do with the meaning of life.]





***Eighth Annual***  
**LOUISVILLE - LEXINGTON**  
**REGIONAL**  
**November 5 - 11, 2012**  
**at**  
**Horseshoe Casino**  
**( Across the river from Louisville, Kentucky )**



**Monday**

|                                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|
| Charity Stratified SWISS            | 1:30 |      |
| Charity Stratified Pairs            | 1:30 |      |
| <b>Alysheba Bracketed KO (Rd.1)</b> |      | 7:30 |
| Stratified Side Game Series 1       |      | 7:30 |

**Tuesday**

|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| Alysheba Bracketed KO 1 (Rd. 2,3,4)              | 9:30 | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified SWISS                                 | 9:30 |      |      |
| Stratified Side Game Series 1                    | 9:30 | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+)                       |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Ft. Knox <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> (0-300, 300-750) |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| <b>Keeneland Bracketed KO</b> (Rd. 1 & 2)        |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Swiss                                 |      |      | 7:30 |

**Wednesday**

|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| AM Compact KO 1 (4 people)                       | 9:30 |      |      |
| (Continue Thursday morning)                      |      |      |      |
| Stratified Side Game Series AM                   | 9:30 |      |      |
| Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+)                       |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Ft. Knox <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> (0-300, 300-750) |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| <b>Barbaro KO</b> (Rd 1 & 2)                     |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Keeneland KO (Rd. 3 & 4)                         |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Side Game Series 2                    |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| SWISS Teams                                      |      |      | 7:30 |

**Thursday**

|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| AM Compact KO 1 (Cont.)                          | 9:30 |      |      |
| Stratified Side Game Series AM                   | 9:30 |      |      |
| Stratified Swiss                                 | 9:30 |      |      |
| Stratified Swiss Teams                           |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| (A:3000+ Ax:0-3000; B: 750-3000)                 |      |      |      |
| Ft. Knox <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> (0-300, 300-750) |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Barbaro KO 2 (Rd. 3 & 4)                         |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Side Game Series 2                    |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Swiss                                 |      |      | 7:30 |

**Friday**

|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| Stratified Side Game Series AM                   | 9:30 |      |      |
| AM SWISS   | 9:30 |      |      |
| AM Compact KO2 (4 people)                        | 9:30 |      |      |
| (continue Sat AM)                                |      |      |      |
| Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+)                       |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Ft. Knox <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> (0-300, 300-750) |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| <b>Churchill Downs KO</b> (Rd 1 & 2)             |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Side Game Series 3                    |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Swiss                                 |      |      | 7:30 |

**Saturday**

|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| Stratified Swiss                                 | 9:30 |      |      |
| Stratified Side Game Series AM                   | 9:30 |      |      |
| AM Compact KO 2 (Cont'd)                         | 9:30 |      |      |
| Churchill Downs Knockouts (Rd 3 & 4)             |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Side Game Series 3                    |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+)                       |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Ft. Knox <b>Gold Rush Pairs</b> (0-300, 300-750) |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Compact KO 2 (4 people)                          |      | 1:30 | 7:30 |
| Stratified Swiss                                 |      |      | 7:30 |

**Sunday**

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Stratified Swiss Teams                | 10:00 |
| 499er Swiss Teams                     | 10:00 |
| Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750 |       |

*November 6 is Election Day! Remember to Get Your Absentee Ballot and Vote before Coming!*

All Swiss Teams Stratified by **avg.** points of teammates

For reservations at  
**HORSESHOE CASINO**, call  
**1-866-766-2671**  
 Group Code (S11LLBR)  
**\$90.00 Double Sunday-Friday**  
 Saturday \$110  
**FREE PARKING**

Make Reservations by October 28, 2012,  
 for this rate. Mention bridge tournament.

**199er SCHEDULE**

**Single Sessions**

**Tuesday thru Saturday**

**1:30 PM and 7:30 PM**

**Tuesday afternoon 1:30**

**0-20 Players play and receive**

**Free entry any other session**

Stratified at Director's Discretion

(approximately equal strat sizes)

**New Team Games Start Daily**

**Registration Gifts - Daily Bulletins**

**Door Prizes - Hospitality**

**Tournament Chairpersons**

**Sondra Holt (Lexington)**

(859) 312-7785

[seholt37@insightbb.com](mailto:seholt37@insightbb.com)

**Hannah Davis (Louisville)**

(502) 767-5589

[Bama426@aol.com](mailto:Bama426@aol.com)

Partnership Chairpersons

**Terrell Holt (Lexington)**

(859) 351-2023

[seholt37@insightbb.com](mailto:seholt37@insightbb.com)

**Verna Goldberg (Louisville)**

(502) 459-3848

[docgold@insightbb.com](mailto:docgold@insightbb.com)

Additional Motel: Holiday Inn Express

(812) 945-2771 \$74.95

Deadline October 28, 2012

**Directions to Casino**

From I-64 West, in Indiana take ext 123. Take first right. Take right at West Main-Hwy. 111— 8 miles to the casino. From I-65 South, take I-265W to I-64 West. Take ext 123, first right, then to West Main-Highway. 111. Turn right— 8 miles to the casino. From I-64 East, take exit 123, go straight to West Main-Hwy 111, turn right, 8 miles to the casino.

**ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB**

NOVEMNBER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>. ELECTION DAY NO BRIDGE

ALL NOVEMBER WILL BE REGULAR GAMES EXCEPT NOV. 20<sup>TH</sup>. UNIT GAME

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

PARTIES DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>. & 11<sup>TH</sup>. UNIT GAME DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.

NO GAMES DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>. & 26<sup>TH</sup>.

WE PLAY EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EXCEPT AS NOTED

ALL GAMES START 11:30

ANDERSON SENIOR CENTER

7970 BEECHMONT AVE., CINCINNATI, OH 45255

CALL HELEN FOR PARTNER 232-2240

# The Winds of Late October

Amy Fisher

Sometimes my bridge game is just awful. Some of those times, I have an excuse: I may not be feeling 100%, or even 75%; or I may be worried about my family. I may not even be at fault: maybe my partner isn't feeling 75%; or maybe an opponent took a shot at slam which made on some lucky line of play that didn't occur to anyone else. Maybe I was unlucky to play a very difficult hand against a very good opponent. Or maybe I am just not good enough to play some hands very well. For many reasons, I might go through an extended time of non-successful bridge. Why do I continue to subject myself to all of this nonessential frustration?

Yes, it's that time of year again, when we turn reflections into thanks and thanks into expressing appreciation. I am thankful for all the bridge players in the Cincinnati Bridge Association. We are a group of warm, outgoing, thoughtful people of various backgrounds, various political leanings, various abilities, various.... Well, you get it. The only thing we do not vary enough in is age! But thanks to a number of people, we are working on increasing the age variability, too. Look at how many members volunteered at the "Learn Bridge in a Day?" session. These members were the reason that event was so successful.

I am thankful for all the wonderful people who give their time to serve on our CBA board. What a tough, important job! These people are the ones that keep our organization running. They find the volunteers that keep our tournaments successful. They mediate, educate, and communicate. We simply would not have a CBA without them.

Along the same lines, I am thankful for all of our directors. A great bunch! Think of all the unhappy, perhaps even angry or hurt, bridge souls they have dealt with over the years, and they still show up week after week. Whether they wanted to or not, they have learned and then embraced new technologies. They keep up with the ever changing rules. They keep the games moving in spite of players that think too much or talk too much.



I am thankful for our members that volunteer to give lectures before our games. Some are not professional teachers, yet they teach. Nonprofessional speakers speak in front of strangers. And how about the people that organize the lectures?

And the people that order our supplies? Our members that fix things, build pathways, manage our club, keep our website up and running, bring food to games, edit our newsletter, write our articles, help hand out boards, cleanup after the game? How about all of the players that organize and participate in the mentor-mentee program and our high school bridge clubs? And all of our tournament volunteers? How easy for us to play a session of bridge because of all of these kind, thoughtful and giving people!

I am also thankful for the players that smile when I sit down at the table, compliment me on a bid or play, or wish me well when I leave the table. And I am thankful for the people that cannot do those things, at times, because bridge can be just so awful and frustrating! Every time I play, someone asks me how my children are, how my grandchildren are, how I am feeling, or how my vacation went. Some of these people I have known for many years, but some of them are new acquaintances who are quickly becoming old friends.

I am thankful for all of my wonderful partners, and I am thankful that all of my partners are wonderful. They put up with a lot. Even when my game is awful, frustrating, and humbling, I remember that bridge is a great game, and I keep coming back, just like you. Why? Easy answer. It's the people!



# Declarer holds-up, Consider switching

Joe W. Fisher

This week I encountered two deals with a theme reminiscent of one which Mike Oechsler, our Enquirer Correspondent, introduced in his column many years ago. When the declarer of a no-trump contract holds-up — consider *switching*, if you have *no likely entry to your suit*.

You are on lead against 3NT after LHO opens 1♠ and, with your side passing throughout, the opponents bid 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3NT.

♠ KJ753  
♥ AKT72  
♦ 84  
♣ 6

♠ 84  
♥ J95  
♦ KT752  
♣ QJ7



You lead ♦5 to partner's ♦Q. On partner's ♦9 return declarer plays ♦J and you win with the K♦. Now what? It's clear that declarer has ♦A and is holding-up. Should you return a diamond to knock out declarer's ace, or do something else? If you had held the ♣A instead of the QJ, you would go ahead and knock out declarer's ♦A by returning a suit-preference ♦2. You would be hoping that partner would win a major suit trick and return a club to beat the contract 2 tricks.

Without the ♣A, what is the chance that you will get in with a club or heart in time to beat this contract? If declarer has as little as ♥Qxx and ♣A and ♠Q, he is making this contract — unless? Unless partner has ♣K! You smartly switch to ♣Q, so when partner gets in with ♠A, your side can cash two club tricks to beat the contract. Here is the entire deal:

♠ KJ753  
♥ AKT72  
♦ 84  
♣ 6

♠ 84  
♥ J95  
♦ KT752  
♣ QJ7

♠ AT96  
♥ 64  
♦ Q96  
♣ K832

♠ Q2  
♥ Q83  
♦ AJ3  
♣ AT954

Nancy reports that, in a recent class, she told the students they should hold-up their ace, so two students took aces out of their hands and held them up in the air!

By the way this deal is an advertisement for 2/1 GF rather than Standard. 2NT is not forcing in Standard, so South felt he must jump to 3NT. Pairs playing 2/1 GF would bid 2NT which is forcing since 2♣ was GF. Partner can now bid 3♥ which South happily raises to 4♥. Here North had to guess over 3NT whether to pass, or bid 4♥ and guessed wrong — provided that *you switch* to a club rather than continuing diamonds.

Here is another example deal from a local duplicate game. As dealer with favorable vulnerability, you pick up the East hand here. You decide to have a little fun by opening a weak 2♦.

♠ 843  
♥ KQT8754  
♦ 32  
♣ K

♠ Q75  
♥ J3  
♦ KQJ54  
♣ T98

LHO overcalls 3♣, partner bids 3♦. They carry on to game by (2♦) - 3♣ - (3♦) - 3♥ - P - 3NT!  
Thanks to your help partner knows which suit to lead and leads the ♦T.

You overtake with the ♦J and declarer holds-up his ace. What do you do next? Why is declarer holding-up? Perhaps partner has the ♥A. Declarer must hold-up before knocking out partner's ♥A, so he won't be able to lead a diamond over to you. Since the declarer bid 3♣ the king on dummy will likely serve as an entry for declarer's hearts. So the prudent thing to do would be to return a club immediately to remove the entry to the heart suit. You have declarer caught between a rock and a hard place! He must hold up in diamonds, but he risks losing the club entry to dummy if you switch to clubs. So *switch* to clubs.

The entire deal:

♠ 843  
♥ KQT8754  
♦ 32  
♣ K

♠ KT92  
♥ A6  
♦ I87  
♣ 5432

♠ Q75  
♥ J3  
♦ KQJ54  
♣ T98

♠ AJ6  
♥ 92  
♦ A96  
♣ AQJ76



□





## A Beautiful Piece of Bidding

Mike Ma and Dick Naber

Dick Naber, my co-writer in the mentor-mentee dialog series is still recuperating from surgery, so I am going solo again this time. With the mentor-mentee series suspended, I thought I would report a beautiful piece of bidding by Amy and Joe Fisher, which included a 5NT "pick a slam" bid. This usage of 5NT is the subject of a current series of articles by Bergen in the Bridge Bulletin. I highly recommend it. Bergen is calling this use of 5N as his favorite bid, so it was great to see it in action, even if I was on the wrong side of it.

The hand occurred at the September 4 Tuesday evening club game.

|                 |                |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| <b>Board 24</b> | ♠ Q J 10 9 3   |           |
| West Deals      | ♥ K 8 3        |           |
| None Vul        | ♦ A 10 9       |           |
|                 | ♣ K 3          |           |
| ♠ 7 4           |                | ♠ 8 6 5 2 |
| ♥ 6 4 2         |                | ♥ Q J 5   |
| ♦ K Q J 4 2     |                | ♦ 8 7 6 5 |
| ♣ Q 6 4         |                | ♣ J 5     |
|                 | ♠ A K          |           |
|                 | ♥ A 10 9 7     |           |
|                 | ♦ 3            |           |
|                 | ♣ A 10 9 8 7 2 |           |

I was dealer as W playing with Steve Moese, and Joe and Amy were N and S. The bidding went

P<sup>a</sup> - 1S - P - 2C  
 2D<sup>b</sup> - P<sup>c</sup> - 2H - P  
 3C<sup>d</sup> - P - 3D<sup>e</sup> - P  
 3N - P - 5N<sup>f</sup> - P  
 6S<sup>g</sup>

a) Some people might have opened a weak 2D with my hand, perhaps making it difficult for NS to find the slam, especially if E raised to 3D over N's 2S. We were playing Precision, so that option was not available to me.

b) At this point it is quite likely Joe would be declaring in 4S or 3N, so I decided to put in a lead directing bid, hoping I would not get doubled for a number. This is more dangerous against a quality pair like Amy and Joe, as they

would know when and how to double without a trump stack.

c) With a balanced hand no clear direction, Joe made the first good bid by passing, allowing Amy to possibly reopen with a double if her hand was also balanced. This was my point about them being able to double without trump stack.

d) I would probably bid 2N here with Joe's hand. Once it is established that NT is a possible contract, the partnership could bid comfortably at the 3 level to exchange useful information. I would think that 3C should show 3 C's or KQ. Would Amy bid 7C with the C J? However, Joe's 3C bid did allow Amy to be aggressive in going for slam, so I can't argue with success.

e) 3S is another possible bid here. I assume Amy has already committed to slam here, so by bidding 3D here and continuing for slam afterwards let Joe know she has singleton D. I wonder how they would play a 5N bid here -- pick a slam or a grand slam force?

f,g) "Pick a slam". This bid is made within context of previous bids. Since Joe has already supported C, and Amy is showing uncertainty about which slam, she must have two good S. Joe made the great decision to bid 6S.

6S made 7 for a cold top. Actually any slam that made would have been top since no other pair even sniffed slam, not surprising with a combined 28 points at a club game, perhaps compounded by a 2D opening by my hand at some tables. But it does not detract from an excellent piece of bidding by Amy and Joe, including using effectively and with great understanding 5N.

As Bergen stressed in his Bulletin articles, the 5N "pick a slam" bid is a great gadget, but you need to have good agreement with your partner of when it applies (e.g. see point e above). A simple way is to do what Bergen suggests, which is to play 5N as pick a slam except when it is part of a Blackwood sequence. Let me end

with a mishap that happened to me playing at a regional KO a couple of years ago.

We were playing Precision, and I opened 1C with a good 19 point 544- hand. Partner responded 2N showing 14+ balanced hand, so I knew we had slam and it was a matter of finding the trump suit and whether to go for small or grand slam. In our system, 3S by me now would be complicated. 3S Baron (bid 4 card suit up the line) would have been great, but we played Stayman. Over 3C, if partner

responded 3H/S, I would have been in good shape. If he bid 3D denying 4 card major, I could bid 3S and we could then bid naturally to find our trump fit. But partner bid 3N (an impossible bid in the system), and I was stuck. I trotted out the 5N bid, hoping partner would interpret it as pick a slam. Unfortunately, we had never discussed this before, and my partner took it as GS invitation and signed off in 6N. He had 4 D's and had we found our D fit, 7D would be laydown. Instead we were down in 6N. ☹

---

## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER...

Gayle Keaney, Treasurer, [gkeaney@aol.com](mailto:gkeaney@aol.com)

Check out the bulletin board. The September 2012/2011 Comparative Profit & Loss Statement shows the club's Net Ordinary Income up from a loss in 2011 of \$22,078 to a profit in 2012 of \$1586... a welcome upswing of \$23,664. \$18,646 of this upswing is as a result of the 2012 increase in player fees and sanction holder table fees. Our mild winter and a switch of telephone carrier helped out to the tune of \$1980.

---

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

November is support your local (CBA) library month. We will be having a library fundraiser here at the center... proceeds to be used to offset new book costs. Used, duplicated library books will be set out, so help out....

**TAKE A BOOK.... LEAVE A DONATION !!!!!**



## **LIBRARY NEWS** At last - new books for you readers!!

**THE RODWELL FILES** Eric Rodwell & Mark Horton Intermediate-Advanced

*"I'd been looking for a regular partner, and when I met Eric in 1974, I mentally clapped my hands together and said to myself, "That's the guy." Read this book and you'll see why. Jeff Meckstroth The first draft of this book has been in existence for more than 20 years, but it is only now that Rodwell has decided to allow his 'secrets' to become public knowledge."*

**DYNAMIC DECLARER PLAY VOLs 1 & 2**

**OWL, FOX & SPIDER** Krzysztof Martens  
3 books for the advanced player. The first 2 provide practice with advanced player problems while the 3<sup>rd</sup> discusses how to develop expert deceptive practices.

**LOOSING TRICK COUNT** Jennifer Jones  
Pamphlet...as featured in the Bridge Bulletin.

**THE ROMAN TWO DIAMOND OPENING & VARIATIONS** Robert Munger

All the 2 Diamond openings explained in detail including Roman, Mini-Roman, Precision & others.

**THE ABCD's of BRIDGE** Gail Greenburg  
Novice-Intermediate

Shows how competition changes the meaning of bids. Includes practice exercises.

**MATCHPOINTS vs IMPs: DIFFERENT GAMES, DIFFERENT STRATEGIES** Augie Boehm

*"Matchpoint scoring rewards frequency of gain....IMP scoring rewards amount of gain... Each form of competition is distinctive...a successful, well-rounded player must master a broad range of strategies."*

*"Boehm's book has the sort of stuff no one ever explains."* Zia Mahood

**BRIDGE with BELLS & WHISTLES** Mary Ann Dufresne & Marion Ellingsen Novice-Intermediate

*"...few books for the player who has completed a beginner course & is ready to add... Reviews basic bidding concepts and goes beyond...quizzes reinforce."* Includes forcing & non-forcing, major

suit raises ( Bergen, Jacoby and beyond), overcalls, doubles, balancing, Roman Keycard and more.

**THE IMPACT OF OPENING LEADS AGAINST NOTRUMP CONTRACTS** Audrey Grant

*"...focus on how opening lead impacts subsequent defense...for players with a wide range of experience & skill....includes practice deals at the end of each chapter which reinforce concepts... covers maxims for opening leads & guidelines for handling entries"*

**BRIDGE THE 7 DEADLY SINS** Joe Blatnick

*"..cover what appears to be the most lacking aspects of the average player's game." Balancing, negative doubles, penalty doubles, duck/holdup, card combinations, unsupported Aces, trump leads and breaking new suits. " This book will primarily deal with errors of omission and not commission."*

**WHY YOU SELDOM WIN AT BRIDGE** Joe Blatnick

Because of Your Bidding.... e.g., in love with HCP - location, location, location

Because of Your Defense... e.g., helping partner - unblocking, covering an honor, second honor

Because of Your Declarer Play... e.g., ducking, false card, trump as an entry, end play

**HOW GOOD IS YOUR BRIDGE?** Danny Roth

*"Forget Masterpoints! This fascinating quiz book on declarer play and defense lets you make a realistic assessment of your own bridge game....while you are improving it... presents a series of card play problems and assigns you scores based on how close to the optimum solutions you get...expect to increase your ratings as you work through the book, painlessly learning as you go."*

**WHO HAS THE QUEEN?** (The Bridge Players Handbook of Card Reading) Frank Stewart

*"..treats some of the thinking players can use when they are facing a guess...full of interesting deals in which finding the missing queen, or one of her relatives, is the key to making a contract."*

# Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans?

## Yauheni Siutsau

All boards are IMP scored and are from a Polish bridge magazine.

### Problem 1

IMPs, Dealer S.

♠ Axxx  
♥ x  
♦ xx  
♣ AQxxxx

|   |           |   |  |
|---|-----------|---|--|
|   | N         |   |  |
| W |           | E |  |
|   | S         |   |  |
|   | ♠ KQJ10   |   |  |
|   | ♥ AK10xxx |   |  |
|   | ♦ A       |   |  |
|   | ♣ xx      |   |  |

|         |      |      |     |
|---------|------|------|-----|
|         | N    |      | You |
| W       | E    | S    | You |
| ----    | ---- | ---- | 1♥  |
| pass    | 2♣   | pass | 2♣  |
| pass    | 4♠   | pass | 4NT |
| pass    | 5♥   | pass | 6♣  |
| pass... |      |      |     |

6♣ (S). Opening lead: ♣9. Plan your play.

#### Solution :

In order to make slam we need to establish hearts. That's why we don't want to hook ♠K, besides opening lead could be made from shortness. Let's look at the full deal:

♠ Axxx  
♥ x  
♦ xx  
♣ AQxxxx

♠ xx  
♥ QJ9x  
♦ KJxxxx  
♣ 9

|   |           |   |         |
|---|-----------|---|---------|
|   | N         |   |         |
| W | E         | S |         |
|   |           |   | ♠ 987   |
|   |           |   | ♥ xx    |
|   |           |   | ♦ Q10xx |
|   |           |   | ♣ KJ10x |
|   | ♠ KQJ10   |   |         |
|   | ♥ AK10xxx |   |         |
|   | ♦ A       |   |         |
|   | ♣ xx      |   |         |

Win first trick, **cash ♥A and ruff small heart**. Now return to you hand with spades and **ruff second small heart with ♠A(!)**, play last spade from dummy, draw remaining trumps and claim. This line will work if spades are no worse than 4-1 and hearts are no worse than 4-2.

### Problem 2

IMPs

♠ xxx  
♥ Ax  
♦ xxxx  
♣ Qxxx

|   |         |   |  |
|---|---------|---|--|
|   | N       |   |  |
| W |         | E |  |
|   | S       |   |  |
|   | ♠ AKQJx |   |  |
|   | ♥ KQxxx |   |  |
|   | ♦ xx    |   |  |
|   | ♣ x     |   |  |

4♠ (S). Opening lead: ♦A. W plays ♦K at trick 2 and ♦Q. Plan your play.

#### Solution :

We have 3 losers (2 diamonds and 1 club). That's why we cannot afford to lose heart trick. If hearts are 3-3 we have no problem. What if they are 4-2? The full deal :

♠ xxx  
♥ Ax  
♦ xxxx  
♣ Qxxx

♠ 9xx  
♥ J10xx  
♦ AKQ  
♣ 10xx

|   |   |   |         |
|---|---|---|---------|
|   | N |   |         |
| W | E | S |         |
|   |   |   | ♠ 10x   |
|   |   |   | ♥ xx    |
|   |   |   | ♦ J109x |
|   |   |   | ♣ AKJxx |

♠ AKQJx  
♥ KQxxx  
♦ xx  
♣ x

We should hope that defender with doubleton heart has doubleton spade as well. So, ruff third diamond and play **two rounds of trumps (AK)**. Now you can **cash two (or three) top hearts and try to ruff small heart with dummy's last trump**. E won't be able to over ruff since he is out of spades. Now you can ruff last diamond, draw remaining trump and good hearts.

If spades are 4-1 (we will see it after cashing AK) our plan won't work. In this case we should draw all trumps and hope for 3-3 break in hearts.



**Problem 3**

IMPs, NS vul, Dealer E.

♠ AQ  
 ♥ AKQx  
 ♦ xx  
 ♣ AKJ10x  
 N  
 W            E  
 S  
 ♠ K109xx  
 ♥ J10xx  
 ♦ Kx  
 ♣ xx

|         |      |      |      |
|---------|------|------|------|
| W       | N    | E    | You  |
| ----    | ---- | 3♦   | pass |
| pass    | DBL  | pass | 3♠   |
| pass    | 4♣   | pass | 4♥   |
| pass    | 5♥   | pass | 6♥   |
| pass... |      |      |      |



Learn Bridge In a Day

6♥ by S. Opening lead: ♦9. E plays ♦A and ♦Q, W follows. You cash three rounds of trumps : W has 3 hearts and E has doubleton. Plan your play from here.

**Solution :**

Preemptive bids can backfire since declarer usually has pretty clear picture of defender's hand. Here we know that E has seven diamonds and two hearts. Since we didn't get *Lightner double*, we can assume that E does not have a club void. So, we should **cash two top clubs**. If E has singleton club our problems are over : E has 3271 shape and all spades are good. If E follows twice we should **cash ♠A**. If E is void in spades his shape must be 0274. In this case we can make marked ruffing finesse against ♠Q.

If E has a spade we should **play ♠Q** and:

- a) E discards. His shape is 1273 and we can play small spade from our hand, ruff a club (3-3 break) and claim.
- b) E has second spade. His shape is 2272 and we can overtake ♠Q and make marked ruffing finesse against W's ♠J.

The full deal :

|          |          |            |
|----------|----------|------------|
| ♠ AQ     |          |            |
| ♥ AKQx   |          |            |
| ♦ xx     |          |            |
| ♣ AKJ10x |          |            |
|          | N        | ♠ x        |
| ♠ J87xx  | W E      | ♥ xx       |
| ♥ xxx    | S        | ♦ AQJ10xxx |
| ♦ 9x     |          | ♣ Qxx      |
| ♣ xxx    |          |            |
|          | ♠ K109xx |            |
|          | ♥ J10xx  |            |
|          | ♦ Kx     |            |
|          | ♣ xx     |            |



Who says Elvis isn't alive? To look at Ryan Pelton, posing with NABC Chairperson Patty Eber at the Regal Hotel! Saturday night, you'd swear the King had just arrived from Graceland. Pelton, one of the country's best-known Elvis impersonators, knocked 'em dead at the post-game show.

# ROMAN KEY-CARD Extensions

Michael Geagan

*Many of us at the Cincinnati Bridge Association remember Mike Geagan fondly. Even with virtually no sight he continued to play bridge having his partner read the dummy and remembering all the hands throughout the play and thereafter. Here is an article he wrote on RKC. I transcribed his notes back then and mailed it to Bridge World. This is just the first part of an 8 page system for high level auctions. Editor.*

## A – Responses to 4 NT:

1. 5 ♣ with 0 - 3 key cards
2. 5 ♦ with 1 or 4 key cards
3. 5 ♥ with 2 or 5 key cards and not holding the Q of trump
4. 5 ♠ with 2 or 5 key cards and holding the Q of trump

B - Note that 5 ♣ and 5 ♦ are ambiguous as to holding the Q and one may ask by bidding the next higher ranking suit. Thus, 5 ♦ over 5 ♣ and 5 ♥ over 5 ♦ inquire as to the Q of trump. Responses are:

1. Without the Q, respond the next highest suit to deny the Q
2. With the Q, respond:
  - a) 6 ♠ with no outside K
  - b) Either 6 ♣, 6 ♦ or 6 ♥ holding only one K, that being in the suit bid
  - c) 5 NT with either 2 or 3 Kings. If Partner wishes to inquire as to which Kings you hold, 6 ♣ now becomes the asking bid. A denial cue bidding network now pinpoints the exact holding.

Therefore, responses to 6 ♣ are:

- 6 ♦ denies the ♦K and shows both the ♥ and ♣ K
- 6 ♥ denies the ♥K and shows both the ♦ and ♣ K and
- 6 ♠ denies the K one cannot show, i.e. the K of ♣ and shows both the ♥ king and ♦ king
- With all 3 kings, respond 6 NT to 6 ♣.

C -When either holding the Q Of trump or when the response to 4 NT is either 5 ♥ or 5♠, the Q of trump is known not to be held by the enemy.

1. If the NT bidder needs a specific K in a side suit in order to bid seven, he/she may do so by bidding directly 6♣ or 6♦ or 6♥. Partner denies or affirms with the following steps:
  - a) 1st step denies holding the K of the suit bid,
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> step shows the K of the suit bid and
  - c) 3<sup>rd</sup> step shows both the K and the Q of the suit bid.
  - d) Notice carefully that when any one K is needed in order to bid the grand slam, you may inquire by bidding 6 ♣ and rebidding 6 ♥ after the expected 6 ♦ response. This now alerts partner to the fact that any one K in his/her hand is sufficient to bid the grand slam.
2. When 2 or 3 Ks are needed in order to bid the grand slam, Partner may inquire by bidding 5 NT. The responses are:
  - a) 6 ♣ which denies the ♣K and shows both the ♦K and the ♥K.
  - b) 6 ♦ which denies the ♦K and shows both the ♣K and the ♥K.
  - c) 6 ♥ which denies the ♥K and shows both the ♣K and the ♦K.
  - d) 6 ♠ which shows either 0 or 1 king. Note that if partner needed only 1 king, he/she could have bid 6 of the suit in which they needed that K in order to bid seven. Necessarily, this apparent ambiguity becomes clarified when one realizes that this bid may have an overlapping function as to its meaning.
  - e) 6 NT shows all 3 kings.

# CINCINNATI SECTIONAL

## OCTOBERBEST


October 26-28, 2012

and

### DISTRICT 11 FINALS NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

October 27, 1:00PM and 7:00PM

Crowne Plaza  
 11320 Chester Rd, Cincinnati 45246  
 Exit 15 Interstate 75 (Sharon Rd)  
 across from Sharonville Convention Center  
 Open Playing Area / Free Parking  
 Grab-n-Go Concessions Available

  
 \$9 entry (non-NAP events)  
 0-5 MP: FREE for Friday 1:00PM  
 Youth: 1/2 price (non-NAP events)

**Non-NAP Open Pairs:**  
 0-750/750-2000/2000+  
 (average MPs)

**FRIDAY, OCT. 26**

Open Pairs ..... 1:00PM and 7:00PM  
 NLM Pairs ..... 1:00PM and 7:00PM  
 Compact KO I ..... 1:00PM and 7:00PM

**SATURDAY, OCT. 27**

Single Session Swiss ..... 9:00AM  
**NAP DISTRICT 11 FINALS..... 1:00PM AND 7:00PM**  
 NLM Pairs ..... 1:00PM  
 Open Pairs ..... 1:00PM and 7:00PM  
 Compact KO II ..... 1:00PM and 7:00PM

**SUNDAY, OCT. 28**

Bracketed Swiss. . . . . 10:00AM (two-session playthrough)  
**Guaranteed Teammates for Sunday Swiss!**  
 (30 minutes before game)

**Co-Chairs:**  
 Barb Levinson  
 513-258-8216  
 bsl@fuse.net

Stephanie Richardson  
 513-919-9438  
 stefphd1@mac.com

**Partnership Chair:**  
 Bob Fisk  
 513-379-5252  
 bobsbbcards@gmail.com



**LODGING:**  
 Crowne Plaza (on site) / 513-771-2080 / Bridge Rate: \$89  
 LivInn Suites (across the street) / 513-772-7877 / Bridge Rate \$59/\$64

**Winners at the Middletown Sectional  
August 2012**

|    |       |               |
|----|-------|---------------|
| 2  | 13.36 | Robert Fisk   |
| 4  | 13.36 | A J Stephani  |
| 5  | 13.35 | Lorna Davis   |
| 6  | 13.35 | A Netherwood  |
| 8  | 10.79 | V Netherwood  |
| 10 | 10.38 | Norman Coombs |

---

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com)

---

**Upcoming Tournaments**

**Regionals**

Louisville 11/5-11/11

**Sectionals**

Dayton 11/30-12/2

STAC 12/26-1/1

Columbus 1/11-1/13

**NABC**

San Francisco 11/22-12/2

St. Louis 3/14-3/24 2013

Atlanta 8/1-8/11, 2013

Cincinnati Bridge Association  
2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati,  
OH 45241

