

A L E R T

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

President's message...

Are you excited about our OctoberBest sectional? It's a privilege to be the semi-permanent host for the District Finals for the North American Pairs, and we hope you come out and join us this weekend, October 28-30. In case you missed it, we're moving our sectional to a new location this year – the Crowne Plaza across the street from the Sharonville Convention Center. I think you'll agree it's a great venue!

Have you noticed the CBA website re-organization? If you aren't a frequent visitor to our website, you're really missing out on a ton of great content. I spend a lot of time visiting the websites of other ACBL Units and Districts, and it would be difficult to come up with a more content-rich website than ours. Click on the "Improve Your Game" link on the left-hand side of the home page some time – you'll be astounded at what you find. Steve Moese and Mike Purcell add to their "Learning Points" series all the time, and I encourage you to check it out. Webmaster Potter Orr has done a fantastic job cleaning things up on the website and making it more user-friendly. If you can't find something, just poke around a little bit. It may take a minute or two to locate your favorite link, but I guarantee it's there.

Have you ever wondered who benefits from the ACBL "charity" games held several times a year? A substantial part of the funds raised are allocated back to the ACBL's 25 Districts to allow them to choose their own charity recipients on a revolving basis. Our District 11 was up this year, and instead of choosing a single recipient, the District Board decided to allocate the funds among the Units. I'm very pleased that our Board has selected the Fernside Center for Grieving Children as our charity recipient. Fernside is a non-profit organization offering support and advocacy to grieving families who have experienced a death. As the second grief center for children in the nation, Fernside offers peer support for grieving children, teens and adults. Fernside works to increase community awareness of grief issues through community outreach. Fernside is an affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati. If you're interested in learning more, please check out their website at www.fernside.org for more details.

Continued....

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40th Bermuda Bowl results at:
<http://www.worldbridge.org/>

In the Semi Finals are USA1 vs. USA2 and Italy vs. Netherlands!

US team loses in quarterfinal in Venice Cup!!

...

Our annual election for new Board members will take place during our OctoberBest sectional, and we will reach our final size of nine Board members - reduced from fifteen members just four years ago. More than ever before, we will have to rely on other volunteers to help keep the CBA successful. The Board has successfully established or re-formed several important Committees this year, including our Finance Committee, our Tournament Committee, and a Youth Bridge working group. However, we could always use more help, especially in the area of membership recruitment and outreach, and for promotions and advertising. If you or someone you know are interested or would be a good fit in these areas, please contact me or any of the other Board members.

AJ Stephani

Winning and losing...are they the same thing?

By Amit Raturi, Editor

Mental training is a key ingredient of any successful bridge player. Some of this mental training centers around developing a perspective on winning and losing. Let's say you make the highest percentage play; you spend time and effort counting, analyzing, and inferring, calculate percentages and likelihoods of one thing versus another, feel pretty good about it, and make the play. And it does not work. Have you lost? How about an opponent does the same thing, and it does not work for them and they lose the match. Have you won?

There are two interpretations to winning -- first is the act of winning. A short term, time bound definition - 58.375% was good enough for a win today; next time 68.5% is not good enough. "I won" you say and move on to other things...groceries, driving, kids, grand kids, the price of tea in China etc.

The second interpretation is more significant -- winning is not about the outcome but the action. I took a winning line of play...our opponents won because they played better than us...or, our opponent's lost despite the fact...I tried hard...etc etc. I like the action oriented, adjective, that winning is...outcomes are too static; in that definition, you win today and you lose tomorrow. But if you think of winning as an act, and you try hard every time, and you count your cards, and you develop more detailed agreements with your partner, and you try to go down 5 when you are going down 6 for a cold zero either way...you are winning every time...In this world view, you are a winner because you think so.

Sermon over...time for fun and games. Here is some bridge trivia no one talks about - (1) only the queen of spades is right facing, so finesse carefully, she's looking (2) only the King of diamonds has his head turned left all the way, so whenever possible play for the drop (3) this honor (HA!, that's a pun!!) is shared by only one other person - the Jack of hearts!! (4) the other one eyed jack (spades) faces right...and (5) 52 is an untouchable number, since it is never the sum of proper divisors of any number.

The first ten untouchable numbers are: 2, 5, 52, 88, 96, 120, 124, 146, 162, 188, ...The number 4 is not untouchable as it is equal to the sum of the proper divisors of 9: $1 + 3 = 4$. The number 5 is untouchable as it is not the sum of the proper divisors of any positive integer: $5 = 1 + 4$ is the only way to write 5 as the sum of distinct positive integers including 1, but if 4 divides a number, 2 does also, so $1 + 4$ cannot be the sum of all of any number's proper divisors. 5 is believed to be the only odd untouchable number, but this has not been proven...that's why the fifth suit in bridge is No trumps.

I think I should stick to writing short editorials...did you notice that it's hard for me to stay on track? Last weekend, I was playing 3NT and miscounted the heart suit 3 times!! It went something like this $13 - 4 - 3 = 7$; $13 - 4 - 3 = 7$; $13 - 4 - 3 = 7$. When the deal was over, I was like...what the f.. (inesse) was that!

In this issue, first, Weidenfeld poses a hard, haberdashery-type of bridge problem - should the suit he wears be size S, M, L or XL and concludes that it's XL. Boy, he's grown so much after being in that movie. So, always work on your long suits. Potter has made some very cool changes to our web site...you will like them after a couple of days...change is hard, but always for the better as he points out. Moese and Purcell are grand slam hunting (as usual). I think Stephen can find needle thin grand slams in a haystack. That's a movie I want to make someday - "Grand Slam Hunting" - maybe I can bribe Weidenfeld for a key role in it. Amy's advice is the best you will ever see - KISS - she forgot the stupid part and just titled it Keep it Simple - what amiable presentation! Joe Fisher is looking at the meaning of positional doubles - all doubles under are takeout and over penalty. So in the extreme case, $1S - X$ is penalty, but $1S - P - P - X$ is takeout. I am just kidding - he actually makes a very strong case for positional doubles. Eugene is the one double dipping this time - two problems as well as a double dummy problem he calls the "real deal". The funniest dialogue is on page 9 - Brown and Felson are emerging as formidable opponents at the bridge table. I challenge any one of you to spar with them verbally. I have reread the page six times and am still rolling in laughter. What imagery! What language...and Sisyphus and Bridge so go hand in hand in my mind....

So I still have a long way to go in this FULL page editorial, and I am bored writing it...(SHOTGUN...you cannot make the same claim for reading it since I called first)...BTW that's how my kids reserve the front seat of the car for themselves...but here goes...there are 52 cards in a deck... Fifty-two is also: The approximate number of weeks in a year, the number of white keys on a piano (notes in the C major scale); the code for international phone calls to Mexico (is Rosenkranz still alive?); the number of letters in the English alphabet (majuscules and minuscule), the atomic number of tellurium, and the number of hours I need in a typical day (remember that next time I am late).

So I was playing cards with my wife and I lost...you know the game 52 pick-up...she just flung them at me after I can't tell you what...oh well, you win some and you lose some...Lots of money to win this weekend at the NAOP district final...I will see you there after I pick up these 52 cards...

Amit

Playing My Long Suit

Rob Weidenfeld

Long before I knew anything about bridge, or even cards, I remember being told as a child about “long suits.” In many ways and in completely different settings, it was not uncommon to hear that I should be playing to my strengths. Whether I was playing Little League, working with others in Cub Scouts, or trying out for a play at school, I was often told, ...“that is your long suit, you should use it.”

Many years later, that catchy phrase has come back to haunt me. Yes, I have been playing bridge for all of my adult life. And I have learned a lot of bridge in that time. Unfortunately, I have also forgotten a lot. It is very painful to forget a lesson that you should have incorporated into your essence, even if that essence is that of a bridge player.

How many times have we sat defending a hand while the declarer is running his/her long suit and thought when will it end? Can't he/she play something else? Perhaps we even got a little sloppy in our discards because of our impatience. I recently forgot that I can apply the same pressure.

What I came to realize was that you don't even have to be card counter or be able know exact distributions. Just play your long suit and you will be able to figure out what to do when you are done. Now I should suggest one cautionary note. Sometimes you may have a running suit, but need to develop tricks in another suit. This maxim would not apply in that case. Having said that, let me present to you my tale of woe.

The auction was a straightforward 2NT-3NT from a recent club game. Here were our hands:

<u>Partner (W)</u>	<u>Me (E)</u>
76	AQ9
74	AK5
J8542	K9
KQ103	A9762

South hesitated before leading a low heart, which was unfortunate as a spade lead would have given me 9 tricks off the top. I should have thought that South must have another 4 card suit and couldn't be sure which one to lead, but I didn't. I ducked a heart and looking to find a ninth trick, I realized diamonds was a tricky suit to try. If the ace was offside, I might never recover. Seeing that I might develop a ninth trick in spades, I decided to try. I won the second heart (noticing that South played a little higher heart on round two making me believe that hearts were 4-4), played two high clubs in dummy (both following), and led a spade. North, a normal club player, did what a lot of club players do, hesitated before playing. Often these hesitations are intended to fool the declarer and have no meaning. And of course they are completely unethical. But I was taken in. I always intended to finesse the 9. Sometimes you get lucky and the nine forces the king. The nine lost to the jack. My last heart was knocked out and I promptly got back to dummy with the club 10 and finessed the queen. It lost to the king, a heart was cashed, and a diamond for down one and a bottom.

The finesse of the 9 of spades was the correct play (could afford to find out if J10 was on my right), but when it lost to the jack and my last heart was knocked out, I should have abandoned any idea of finessing into the dangerous hand and played my strength, my long suit. Just cashing those 3 cards would have told me exactly how to play the hand. This would have been the position:

6	AQ
-	-
J854	K9
-	2

South, the dangerous hand has already thrown a spade and a diamond. When you lead your last club, you can tell he has a problem. He finally discards the diamond 10, as you discard a diamond. So what 4 cards are left in South's

hand. It is really easy to figure out. He has one heart but what of his diamonds? Does he have AQ left? If so, he started with 4 hearts, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs, and 3 spades. Therefore he has one spade left? But why would he do that? If it is a small spade, why save it? If it is the king, why would he bare it? Makes no sense. He must not have AQ of diamonds left. Therefore he has 1 heart, 1 diamond, and two spades. But if he has two spades left he must be protecting the king. That gives him 2 spades, 1 high heart and a diamond honor. Unfortunately, you don't know which honor. Fortunately, it doesn't matter. Play the diamond king. If South has come down to the stiff ace, he will cash his heart and be end played to give you your contract. If it is the stiff Q, the play of the K will set up dummy's diamonds. North will cash a heart and shift to a spade, but you will not take the finesse as your diamonds are good for 10 tricks! Then you could have made the hand by leading an early diamond towards the king, but that was definitely not the percentage play. Here was the whole hand:

		10853	
		Q932	
76		Q63	AQ9
74		J8	AK5
J8542			K9
KQ103			A9762
		KJ42	
		J1086	
		A107	
		54	

Making 3 would have given us an average as most received the spade lead and some then allowed declarer to score a diamond for ten tricks. The spades and diamonds were all wrong and 9 or 10 tricks were easy. I told my partner so right after I went down. That's what experience does for you! So play your long suit, figure out what to do and be smarter than I was!

Our New Web site....

Cincinnati Bridge Association
2860 Cooper Rd
Cincinnati, OH
Map to the Club

Cincinnati Bridge Association
513-563-2218

Club Game Results & Hand Records **Local Game Schedule** Week at a Glance **Tourney Schedule & Results** **CBA Board & Editors**

Member Directory **Bridge Class Schedule** **Partnerships Mike Lipp** **Prior Year 2010 Results** 513 467 8054

The Web CincyBridge

2011 Monthly Calendar

[CBA Board & Minutes](#)
[Clubs in CBA Web Sites](#)
[Youth Bridge](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Improve Your Game](#)
[CBA Library](#)
[CBA MstPoints](#)
[70% Games](#)
[Previous Events](#)
[ACE of Clubs Race](#)

N. KY & Middletown web sites are NOT Missing.
See link "Clubs in CBA Web Sites" in the left column

October Team Games:
Tues Morning 10/25

NAP FAQ
(freq. asked questions) - [click here](#)

October is Club Appreciation Month
(more points awarded)
Kay will have C.A. Fri Oct 14, Sat Oct 22 and Wed HS Oct 26
Mike Lipp will have C.A. Mon Oct 24
Agnes will have C.A. Thurs Oct 13
Annease will have Tue Oct 11 (pairs), Tue Oct 25 (team game), Thurs Oct 20 (swiss teams), Thurs Oct 27 pairs, and Sat Oct 15
Boone County Mon 10/17, Fri 10/21. Sat 10/22

Student Game: Nancy & Linda's Students
Sunday Afternoon October 23

Web Site Changes
[Click Here](#) to see a description of some of the recent improvements to this website

October Unit Wide Results
[Click Here](#)

New Learning Points
have been Added: Click "Improve Your Game" at the left side to see them

GNT Practice Session for Flight C teams - [click here](#)

GNT Practice Session for Open teams - [click here](#)

CBA FALL BRIDGE CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT
In addition to excellent offerings from Nancy, Linda, Amy and Joe we are announcing a new beginners series on Saturdays by Potter. A free lecture precedes a supervised game. See flyer for details.

Topics	Day & Time	Starts	Teacher
Beginning	Sat 1-3 PM	Sept 17	Linda Wolber 513 522-1771
Review the Basics	Thu 7-9 PM	Sept 15	awolber@cinci.rr.com
Intermediate I	Thu 1-3 PM	Sept 15	

Hidden Treasures in the CBA Website

by Potter Orr

"Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine" Robert C. Gallagher.

The observant among you have noticed some changes in the Cincinnati bridge Association website. Appearances notwithstanding, I try not to make changes simply for changes sake. Over the last couple of years I have added links to the top and left side of our website to accommodate new features as they have become available. The downside of this is the site was beginning to get pretty cluttered, especially down the left hand side.

I have consolidated many of those links into categories which gave me enough to put a blank line between the remaining links which I hope makes it easier to read. I would like to describe a few of the consolidations in an effort to help you find those items that seem to have disappeared.

Calendar Click on the calendar grid to see a monthly display of upcoming special events and tournaments within our district.

CBA board and minutes this is a combination of the information about the CBA board, the club Constitution, a recent financial statement and a listing of at least the last two years worth of board meeting minutes.

Clubs in CBA websites This page contains links to many of the other bridge related websites that you might be interested in. There is a link there to the northern Kentucky bridge club website that I know many of you use (I mistakenly left it off and it took 15 minutes to receive two e-mails protesting the omission). There is also a link they are directly to the ACBL website and the District 11 website.

Youth bridge this is an entirely new set of pages put together primarily by Steve Moese. Steve, Mike Purcell and AJ Stephani have had a reasonable level of success interesting some local high schools and having a bridge program and we wanted to have a specific area for them on our website.

Newsletters This link points to previous versions of the Alert Newsletter as well as other newsletters.

Improve your game The very extensive set of online learning points developed by Steve Moese and Mike Purcell are on this page. This is just the beginning, there are tremendous number of links that point to a huge selection of articles and lessons available for free on the web.

Previous events This page points to collections of pictures from events held at CBA.

Misc Stuff This is where I put the stuff that I couldn't figure out. Included here are recipes contributed over the years by our members, the group of amusing quotes about bridge, some statistics and a beginner's guide.

Learning Points – Bid that Grand Slam

Bidding Level: Basic / Intermediate

By Steve Moese. Edited by Mike Purcell

North Deals None Vul MPs	♠ AJ ♥ A1097 ♦ K6 ♣ AQJ84	
♠ 653 ♥ Q653 ♦ J1084 ♣ 65	N W 17 E S	♠ 1087 ♥ 84 ♦ Q9732 ♣ 1072
	♠ KQ942 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A5 ♣ K93	NS: 7 ♠ ♥ ♣ N

Bidding slams is more than counting HCP. Best results come from a clear view of 1st and 2nd round controls and number of tricks. Sound bidding gets you there.

The Bidding

Precision: North showed 5+ ♣s and 16+ HCP. South showed 4+ Controls (South holds 5: 1♠, 1♥, 2♦, and 1♣). South also showed ♠KQxxx, ♥K, ♦A, and ♣K. North counts to 13.

2/1 or Standard: Opener's reverse shows shape and strength. Responder's rebid forces game with 5+♠s. Roman Keycard Blackwood and Specific Kings pinpoints controls. North counts to 13.

Precision Auction

North	East	South	West
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²	Pass
2♣ ³	Pass	2N ⁴	Pass
3♠ ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁶	Pass
4♥ ⁷	Pass	5♣ ⁸	Pass
5♦ ⁹	Pass	5N ¹⁰	Pass
7N	All Pass		

West leads ♦J

1= 16+ HCP any Shape

2=12+ HCP 5+ ♠s

3= ♠s, asking fit and Power

4=♠Qxx+ & 4+ Controls (A=2, K=1)

5=Asks ♠ Suit Quality

6=Exactly ♠HHxxx (H=A, K, or Q)

7=Asks control of ♥s

8=2nd round ♥ control

9=Asks control of ♦s

10 = 1st round ♦ control

Standard, 2/1 GF Auction

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4N ¹	Pass	5♠ ²	Pass
5N ³	Pass	6♣ ⁴	Pass
6♦ ⁴	Pass	6♥ ⁴	Pass
7N	All Pass		

1= 1430 RKB for ♠s.

2= 2 Key Cards Plus the ♠Q

3+ Asks specific Kings (6 Key Cards)

4= Specific King

The Play

Declarer counts 14 winners if the black suits behave. Don't claim immediately. Check the ♠ split at tricks 2 and 3. You might need a 3rd ♥ trick. Since ♠s split 4-2, declarer claims (5♠s, 2♥s, 2♦s, and 4♣s). 7NT was worth 7 of 8 MPs.

Post Mortem

Sound bidding and good judgment should get you to the grand slam. When responder shows the ♥K North knows there are 4 red suit tricks and 9 black suits tricks. With all 1st and 2nd round controls accounted for, bid 7NT. NT offers a small advantage (avoiding an opening lead ruff) and beats other scores (MPs).

If South takes control of the auction too soon (say, bids RKB over 2♥), then the wrong person makes the final decision with imperfect information. Don't start RKB until you agree a strain. If a grand slam is possible, know where the tricks are. Grand slams in NT often require we have Qs and Js in our long suits.

Learning Points

1. Use RKB to stay out of slams, not get into them. Count to 12 or 13 tricks and bid accordingly. Control bidding can help.
2. When thinking grand slam, go slow, not fast. Know where your tricks are before bidding RKB or 1430.
3. Collaborate! The partner who has the best information should decide. S/He who knows, goes!

Contract	Scores		Matchpoints	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
7 NT S	1520		7	1
7 NT N	1520		7	1
7 NT N	1520		7	1
6 NT N	1020		4.5	3.5
6 NT N	1020		4.5	3.5
6 ♣ N	940		3	5
3 NT N	520		2	6
3 NT S	490		0.5	7.5
3 NT N	490		0.5	7.5

Amiable bridge: Keep it Simple

By Amy Fisher

How often do you play bridge with a partner that is "less experienced" than you? I know, I know: always. Our mentor/mentee program is simply a microcosm of everyday bridge. Count on your partner to tell you how the previous hand should have been played, defended, or bid.

How often do you and your regular partner work at improving your game? What do you work on, individually or as a partnership?

Correcting partnership system errors in bidding is the easiest of all problems to fix. Say you agree to play Texas transfers, and the bidding goes,

1NT (partner) - Pass- 4H (you) - All Pass.

Your partner made a mistake, pure and simple. You don't even have to point it out because it will be obvious when you announce to your opponents before the opening lead that there was a failure to announce/alert.

Correcting bidding judgement is different. Blame is meted out; emotions are challenged. The conversation may go:

Partner A: *Why didn't you bid game?*

Partner B: *You could have had a different hand to make the bids you did.*

Partner A: *Why would you think that? I showed extra values.*

Does this sound familiar?

Notice the difference in the conversation typically held following a declarer mistake:

Declarer: *Sorry partner, I could have made it if I had played such and so.*

Dummy: *OK, don't worry about it.*

Or perhaps,

Defender: *He could have made it if he had refused the finesse and gone for the endplay.*

Declarer: *Oh, thank you for telling me that.*

The same kind of conversation usually follows a defensive mistake.

Defender A: *I guess I should have switched to a Heart. How was I to know? Sorry.*

Defender B: *I tried to signal you. Oh, well. Next time we will get them.*

Or perhaps,

Declarer: *They could have set me if they hold up their Ace exactly twice and then switch to a Club to get them off the endplay.*

Defenders: *You don't say....*

We have three aspects to the game: bidding, declaring, and defending. Yet it's the bidding mistakes in system or judgment that usually cause the most emotional responses. Getting to the right contract will typically reward you with about an average board; while a bidding disaster will net a zero or loss of many IMPs more often than not. A bidding disaster smacks you in the face and screams, "Fix this! Find out how to bid this type of hand so that this never happens again!". Unfortunately, many partnerships will then adopt a new convention to remedy the situation rather than learn good basic bidding and judgment. Usually, the new convention is not needed: most bidding problems can be handled very easily without conventions. More importantly, conventions do not help with judgment.

Although the match points or IMPs lost on a one-time disaster are an emotional setback, the smaller amount lost hand after hand because of declaring or defending mistakes usually make the difference between making or not making the overalls. Our game can weather the few zeros, but it cannot weather too many average-minuses. But in looking at the recap sheet, the zeros keep smacking away. Here is a simple fact: if you have all average-minuses, you will end up below average.

My point? Concentrate on basics to improve your game; forget about adding conventions or fancy defensive carding until you can execute the basics with confidence.

Which is more important to you, learning Keycard Blackwood and all of its nuances or learning how to read count signals on defense? Learning Smolen, or learning how to execute a simple throw-in/endplay? Count signals are a basic defensive technique, more basic than all conventions except simple Stayman. Yet most players don't want to be bothered with learning how to count on defense. Simple throw-in plays are basic to declaring. Yet after players learn how to finesse, many stop trying to learn better declaring techniques.

When you see that some pairs made an extra trick, do you always assume that it was because of a

defensive error or friendly lead? Perhaps a few Declarers knew a simple avoidance play or they knew to hold up their Ace at No Trump only once rather than twice.

I interviewed some of our local experts who responded to just one question, "If you were to advise novices or intermediates on just ONE thing for them to work on to improve their game, what would it be?" Not one response suggested adding fancy defensive carding or bidding conventions.

Bill Higgins: Learn to count.

Norm Coombs: Count, and count some more.

Nancy Sachs: Defense!!

Ron Babcock: Count cards and analyze hands.

Amit Raturi: Learn to play a steady game against everybody. No second guessing.

When your partner wants to add some new convention, tell him/her that you won't be ready for that convention until you learn how to count distribution on defense. When your partner wants to add a fancy lead or discarding convention, tell him/her that you want to concentrate on learning how many times you should hold up your Ace (on defense or

when declaring). When you forget a new convention or you see that your partnership simply doesn't understand all of that convention's nuances, tell your partner that you are not ready to play that convention until you understand basic bidding better. And consider throwing out most of those conventions and fancy carding that hardly ever come up, tax your energy, and keep you from concentrating on the basics.

Perhaps most of us mistakenly think that partnership bridge begins and ends with bidding understandings and that by improving our partnership bidding understandings we are improving our partnership-- no matter how convoluted our bidding system becomes in the process. Consider, though, that partnerships also depend on understanding and playing good defense. And, any partner will appreciate you when you declare the cards with increasing skill. Joe and I work on our partnership bidding *and* our defense, and I also work independently on my declarer play and my defense. I am still working on counting!

When I play with a non-regular partner, I keep conventions at a minimum and I will not play fancy carding. I do not worry that my partner will think less of me as a player. That is the simple nature of bridge: we all think we are the mentors, not the mentees. :)

ANDERSON BRIDGE CLUB: NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 1ST & 2ND.
NOV 8TH. TUESDAY NO GAME
NOVEMBER 9TH

NOVEMBER 15TH. & 16TH.
NOVEMBER 22ND. & 23RD.
NOVEMBER 29TH. & 30TH.

NEED A PARTNER CALL HELEN 232-2240

Cincinnati Youth Bridge

CBA's High School Bridge Program Expanding! The Education Committee reports Lakota West, St. Xavier, and Walnut Hills will have clubs this year. Indian Hill and Mason are looking to start clubs too! If you know anyone who might be interested, point them to our Youth Bridge website, or have them contact Mike Purcell (mikpur@fuse.net) or Potter Orr (potter@orrcomputer.com).

High School Bridge Players:

- 1) **Play Bridge at the CBA for \$1 (save \$5):**
-Monday 7 PM NLM Game -Tuesday 7 PM 99'er Game -Thursday 7PM 299'er Game
-Saturday 1 PM Coached Game (Sept 24 - Nov 12)(Check out this [flyer](#) for a free bridge lecture)
- 2) **HS Bridge Club Members join the ACBL for Free.** Get your player number and access the web version of the ACBL Bulletin - a monthly magazine that will help you improve your game! See you bridge club leader at school for details.
- 3) **Check out the NEW! website for Cincinnati Youth Bridge.** There's lots of information about Bridge, the CBA, and ways to improve your game. Check out the videos by young champions and see what gets them excited about bridge!
- 4) **Check out the CBA Unit 124 page in You Tube.** Like us, post to the wall, get your firends and bridge partners involved.

DIVAGATIONS OF A TRANSITIONAL¹ PLAYER

ROBERT S BROWN

1. *When I first made the Tuesday night perp walk from the West to the East side of the Center² and heard the raucous “fresh meat” calls, there was only one thing to do. I charged straight at Norm Coombes and slugged him. In response, he beat me to a bloody pulp – but I had made my point. No double diamond, triple ruby, emerald with platinum filigree Grand Life (and Eternity thereafter) Master could scare me.*
2. *I am striving for the Life Master with Albatross³ award. We all should view contemptuously those among us who inch their way up the duplicate Bridge hierarchy boosted by paid professional partners. Why not particularly honor someone like me whose achievements are being made despite the crippling burden of his anal-retentive, unimaginative playing partner?*
3. *Bridge is a zero sum game. For every point winner there is at least one loser⁴ who must go home empty handed. Given this dog-eat-dog reality, the exhortations (appearing elsewhere in this journal) for Amyable [sic] Bridge ring*

¹ An euphemistic adjective describing the author's status – trapped in the Bridge Purgatory/Limbo of NLM with more than 50 master points. I suggest my observations, while not worthy of contemplation by Life Masters or their superiors in the ACBL pantheon, may nevertheless prove instructive to those of lower rank.

² Bridge Center cardinal points which require a 90 ° counterclockwise rotation to align with their planetary equivalents. Allegedly this derives from an ACBL directive that all Norths should lead to the Director. Cf. the ultramontane maxim “All roads lead to Rome”.

³ A metaphor for my regular playing partner – Steve Felson. We have formed a partnership based on mutual distrust and derision. Save only Harriet Spiegel (a different league entirely) no one treats their partner worse than I.

⁴ *Vide* any pairs game recap sheet. Admittedly, the Swiss team matches can deviate from this generalization by their award of *de minimus* points for rounds won, tied, or even closely lost. Cf. Emerson: “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds”.

hollow and hypocritical. Why can't I freely declare that I detest Stephanie Richardson who began this year behind me in master points, will finish it ahead of me, and (in the process) has destroyed my chances of repeating as either a Mini-McKenney or Ace of Clubs winner.

THE ALBATROSS STRIKES BACK *“Lu-u-u-u-u-ke, that double was for takeout.*

My partner Brown and I were headed to a regional on Culbertson, second-largest moon in the Kaplan-Sheinwold galaxy. At my age I ought to have been home tending my garden but I'd promised Bob I'd stick with him right up to Space Master no matter how many bridge books I read that he didn't, how many hands I went over that he wouldn't, and how many bids he made that a sane bridge player shouldn't.

Of course, I'd never have made that promise had I known the UCBL (Universe Contract Bridge League) would keep upping the Space Master requirement until it reached 16,000, including God knows how many gold, red, blue or whatever, without the slightest consideration for those of us who'd been striving since it was 300 and never quite made it. They should have named one of those bridge-circuit moons Sisyphus instead of Vanderbilt, Goren, Jacoby, Sachs, Garozzo, Kaplan, Blackwood, Roth, etc. And considering the cost of space travel, gold points were now far more expensive than gold itself, by any measurement.

We'd have given up long ago if it hadn't been for warp speed and that anti-aging cream you buy at the Darkside Market. At least I would have given up – Brown never gives up on anything, including falling in love with his own hand at the drop of a Wookie and jumping to 4NT no matter what I'm showing. He's also pretty enamored of the concept I will paraphrase as follows: “When I bid a new suit at the 3 level it means what I want it to mean; neither more nor less.”

So we're steaming through space, Bob at the controls trying once again to reach double warp speed, and me trying once again to figure out the percentage play for picking up 4 tricks in spades when dummy holds K-J-x-x-x, declarer holds 10-9, and declarer's LHO has a long club suit. Suddenly the speaker phone lights up and a familiar voice boldly proclaims, “Live long and prosper, Felson-Brown.”

[to be continued?] *Stephen Felson*

The Positional Nature of Doubles^{*}

Joe W Fisher

<<< For Advancing Players >>>

West dealer

West	Partner	East	You
3♦	?	pass	?

West opens with a 3♦ preempt. Would you rather defend 3♦ doubled with ♦ KJ9 in partner's (North) hand or ♦ KJ9 in your (South) hand? Partner's hand. To be of value on defense this holding needs to be *behind* the diamond length-bidder.

Consequently, when it comes to doubling, it is the positional aspect of our holding relative to the length-bidder that should determine whether a double is for *take-out or penalties*. South would not want to make a penalty double holding ♦ KJ9 with the length-bidder on his left. His diamond holding would be neutralized by the length-bidder. On the other hand, if we balance with a double and partner holds ♦ KJ97 with length-bidder on her right, she would consider passing for penalties because she rates to have 3 tricks in diamonds alone! (Of course, modern bidding theory has an immediate double by North for take-out because that use occurs with higher frequency)

In many situations we can tell whether partner intended her double for *take-out or penalties* purely from her position relative to the length-bidder. Here are two simple auctions to illustrate this.

Partner	East	You	West
1NT	2♦	pass	pass
Dble			

Here partner intends her double for *take-out* because the diamond length-bidder is on her left. She may have a hand like this.

♠ KQT6
♥ KQJ4
♦ 75
♣ AJ7

Partner	East	You	West
1NT	pass	pass	2♦
Dble			

Here partner's double is *penalty* oriented because the diamond length-bidder is on her right. We should give her this sort of holding when we consider leaving it in or bidding.

♠ KT5
♥ KQJx
♦ KJ9
♣ Axxx

This simple positional interpretation can help with 3-level competitive decisions at *matchpoints*. Here is an example.

Playing matchpoints your partner as North opens 1♠

Partner	East	You	West
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♦
Dble	pass	?	

What does partner's double say? Positionally, the diamond length-bidder is on her left, so her double is *not* based on a diamond stack. If she had a sixth spade or a singleton diamond, we assume that she would have immediately taken the push to 3♠. Three hearts would have been an artificial game try.

The double in this position shows extra values, but not extra shape. It is not for penalties. But, of course, South can pass for penalties or correct to 3♠ depending on his hand. (North's hand may be something like ♠ A9843 ♥ AT5 ♦ Q7 ♣ AK6. Our competitive 2♠ raise could be made rather light, since it is important to 'support with support' when the competition starts)

Playing matchpoints your partner as North opens 1♠

Partner	East	You	West
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	pass	?	

Your hand is

♠ 854
♥ K42
♦ K52
♣ K763

What is your call?

It is clearly our hand. We can't pass. We must chose between 3♠ and double. Partner's pass should deny a sixth spade or a singleton diamond. The opponent's have at most 8 diamonds and we have at most 8 spades. We have a maximum raise and great defensive potential. But only we know that. Tell partner with a double. While 3♠ might make for plus 140, I prefer doubling and defending hoping that — if 3♠ makes, 3♦ doubled will go off *two* nonvul for 300 or off *one* vul for 200.

From the positional nature of our double *behind* the length-bidder, partner will know that we intend it for penalties.

* Taken from my September 2011 Colchamiro seminar at CBC. Look for another in January.

UNIT WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP OCTOBER 18, 2011

35.5 Tables

A	B	C						
6.52	1		William Higgins, Robert Sulgrove,	66.35%	1.56	5	Michiko Natsume, Peggy Ammon,	59.16%
4.89	2		Norman Coombs, Brian Pauls	65.71%	1.24	6	Richard Pleshek, Laura Owens,	58.97%
4.18	3	1	Dorothy Wierwille - Jean Allread,	63.54%	1.59	2	Sheryl Rokyta - Pam Preston,	57.48%
3.14	4	2	Cordell Coy, Dan Hance,	60.56%	1.19	3	Arlene Frey - Donald Frey	55.48%
2.06	5		Agnes De Lany; Lorna Davis	60.26%	0.89	4	Sandy Johnson - Norah Clark	52.72%
2.35	6	3	Ray Tolston - Robert Rickling,	60.04%	0.67	5	Marti Soffey, Bart Jacobs,	52.71%
2.12	4	1	John Boyd - Terry Ruf,	59.93%	0.67	6	A Tateman, ; Jo Ann Jester,	51.04%

TUESDAY MORNING PAIRS SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

31.0 Tables

A	B	C						
5.81	1		Agnes De Lany; Lorna Davis,	66.44%	1.54	4	Bobby Carter - Nathaniel Reid	58.56%
4.36	2	1	Jackie Swango - Timothy Martin,	64.35%	1.15	5	Courtney Thurman, Betty Hurst,	58.33%
3.27	3		Jacqueline Meyers - Joan Fox,	63.19%	0.86	6	Dan Hance, Cordell Coy	57.18%
2.45	4		Sandra Grimes, Rob Weidenfeld,	60.88%	1.04	3	Carol Byrne - Robert Byrne,	53.94%
2.73	5	2	1 Beverly Broomhead, Frances L Brothers,	60.19%	0.97	4	Betsy Bradley, Iris Shaw,	53.01%
1.38	6		Richard Day - Tuck Asbury,	59.95%	0.58	5	Pam Preston - Sheryl Rokyta,	52.55%
2.05	3	2	Bart Jacobs, Florence; Marti Soffey,	59.03%	0.85	6	Jutta Weatherby, Cynthia Schultz,	52.08%

Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans? Yauheni Siutsau

All problems are from Polish Bridge Magazine.

IMPs, EW vulnerable I. Dealer E.

IMPs, Vulnerable all. Dealer W.

You	N	E	S
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
4♠	pass...		

You	N	E	S
---	---	1♥	1♠
2♦	pass	2♥	pass
2♠	pass	3♣	pass
3NT	pass...		

♠ AKQJ9x	N	♠ x	
♥ x	W	♥ xx	E
♦ KJ9x	S	♦ Q10xx	
♣ Kx		♣ Qxxxxx	

♠ AQx	N	♠ 10x	
♥ x	W	♥ AQ10xxx	E
♦ AK76542	S	♦ Q	
♣ Qx		♣ Axxx	

4♠ (W). Opening lead : ♥K. N plays ♥Q at trick two. Plan your play.

3NT (W). Opening lead : ♠7. You play small from dummy, S inserts ♠8 and you win ♠Q. Plan your play.

Solution :

Obviously you should ruff second heart. It looks like you have 10 tricks now : 6 spades, 3 diamond and 1 club. However if spades are 4-2 (which is more likely than 3-3) you have problems with trump control. Let's say you play 4 rounds of spades. Now you have only one trump left and opponents still have 2 aces. You just don't have time to knock out both.

Look at the full deal :

	♠ 10xxx		
	♥ KQJx		
	♦ Ax		
	♣ Jxx		
♠ AKQJ9x	N	♠ x	
♥ x	W	♥ xx	E
♦ KJ9x	S	♦ Q10xx	
♣ Kx		♣ Qxxxxx	
	♠ xx		
	♥ A9xxxx		
	♦ xxx		
	♣ Ax		

How to solve this problem? Don't remove your small singleton trump from dummy too quickly. Play **small club to the Q at trick three**.

If S ducks – you can draw trumps and knock out ♦A. If S wins – defense cannot hurt you anymore because you can ruff a heart return in dummy, cross to your hand with ♣K and draw trumps.

Solution :

You don't duck the first spade because you want to have a sure entry to long diamonds. If diamonds are 3-2 you have no problems: 2 spades + 1 heart + 7 diamonds + 1 club = 11 tricks. What if diamonds are 4-1 or 5-0?

Look at the full deal :

	♠ 7x		
	♥ Jxx		
	♦ J108x		
	♣ K98x		
♠ AQx	N	♠ 10x	
♥ x	W	♥ AQ10xxx	E
♦ AK76542	S	♦ Q	
♣ Qx		♣ Axxx	
	♠ KJ98xx		
	♥ Kxx		
	♦ 9		
	♣ J10x		

If you cross to ♦Q at trick two, return to your hand with ♠A and try to cash diamonds – you are down. Don't put all eggs in one basket! Since 6 tricks in diamonds would be more than enough, **play ♦A and ♦K at tricks two and three**. If diamonds are 3-2 you just concede a diamond trick and later use ♠A as an entry to 4 more diamonds (I hope you won't pitch a spade from dummy). If diamonds are 4-1 your last hope to make 3NT is establishing hearts. The best chance is small heart intending to finesse with the ♥10. You will be home if N has KJ or Jxx or KJx: 2 spades + 5 hearts + 2 diamonds + 1 club = 10.

CINCINNATI SECTIONAL

OCTOBERBEST

October 28-30, 2011

and

DISTRICT 11 FINALS NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

October 29, 1:00PM and 7:00PM

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(30 minutes before game)**

FRIDAY, OCT. 28

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

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

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

SUNDAY, OCT. 30

Open/NLM Stratified Two Session Swiss 10:00AM
(Non-NAP events stratified by average MP: Open/2000/750)

Co-Chairs:

Barb Levinson
513-258-8216
bsl@fuse.net

Gayle Keaney
513-448-7183
gkeaney@aol.com

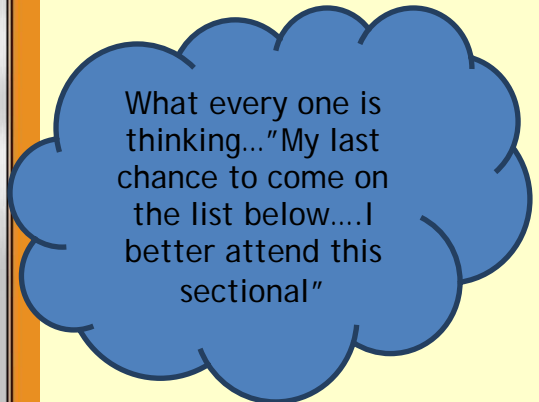
Partnership Chair:

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



WBF Grand Masters 2010 Open Category *

Name	First name	NBO	P.P.										
1 Hamman	Bob	USA	108,25	24 Balicki	Cezary	POL	25	48 Assumpcao	Pedro Paulo	BRA	14,5		
2 Garozzo	Benito	ITA	75,5		Zmudzinski	Adam	POL	25	Saelensminde	Erik	NOR	14,5	
3 Wolff	Bobby	USA	70,25	26 Lawrence	Michael	USA	23,5	50 Kantar	Edwin	USA	14		
4 Meckstroth	Jeff	USA	60,25	27 Perron	Michel	FRA	23	51 Gitelman	Fred	USA	13,75		
5 Rodwell	Eric	USA	59,75	28 Ross	Hugh	USA	22	52 Hamilton	Fred	USA	13,5		
6 Forquet	Pietro	ITA	58	29 Katz	Ralph	USA	21,25	53 Psczola	Jacek	USA	13		
7 Lauria	Lorenzo	ITA	48,5	30 Franco	Arturo	ITA	20	54 Meltzer	Rose	USA	12,5		
8 Versace	Alfredo	ITA	43	31 Mari	Christian	FRA	19,5	55 Kwiecien	Michal	POL	12		
9 Chagas	Gabriel	BRA	41		Sontag	Alan	USA	19,5	Bates	Roger	USA	12	
10 Stansby	Lew	USA	40,5	33 Levin	Bobby	USA	19	Weinstein	Steve	USA	12		
11 Martel	Chip	USA	40	34 Lebel	Michel	FRA	18,5	58 Larsen	Kyle	USA	11,5		
12 Duboin	Giorgio	ITA	39	35 Gawrys	Piotr	POL	18	Branco	Pedro Paulo	BRA	11,5		
13 Nickell	Frank (Nick)	USA	37,25	36 Martens	Krzysztof	POL	17,5	Muller	Bauke	NED	11,5		
14 Fantoni	Fulvio	ITA	37		Groethelm	Glenn	NOR	17,5	61 Hampson	Geoff	USA	11,25	
15 Branco	Marcelo	BRA	35	37 Weichsel	Peter	USA	17,5	Rubin	Ron	USA	11,25		
15 Nunes	Claudio	ITA	35	39 Multon	Franck	FRA	17	63 Lesniewski	Marcin	POL	11		
17 Helness	Tor	NOR	32	40 De Falco	Dano	ITA	16,5	Tuszynski	Piotr	POL	11		
18 Bocchi	Norberto	ITA	31		Rubin	Ira	USA	16,5	65 Fu	Zhong	CHN	10,5	
19 Mahmood	Zia	USA	30,75	42 Brogeland	Boye	NOR	15,5	66 Moss	Brad	USA	10,25		
20 Helgemo	Geir	NOR	30,5		Mello	Roberto	BRA	15,5	67 Fonseca	Christiano	BRA	10	
21 Chemla	Paul	FRA	28	44 Deutsch	Seymon	USA	15	Woolsey	Kit	USA	10		
22 Rosenberg	Michael	USA	25,75		Passell	Mike	USA	15	Westra	Berry	NED	10	
23 Eisenberg	Billy	USA	25,5	45 Levy	Alain	FRA	15	70 Kreijns	Hans	NED	9,5		
					Sementa	Antonlo	ITA	15	71 Siniscalco	Guglielmo	ITA	4	

The Real Deal

By Yauheni Siutsau

Here is an interesting hand from a recent Swiss team tournament in Pineville. Try it double dummy.

	♠ J9xx		
	♥ Jx		
	♦ xxx		
	♣ Q98x		
♠ Axx	N		♠ K10xx
♥ AQxx	W	E	♥ Kxxx
♦ xx	S		♦ xx
♣ 10xxx			♣ AKx
	♠ Qx		
	♥ 10xx		
	♦ AKQJ10x		
	♣ Jx		

You are E in 4♥ with EW cards. Do you like your chances after ♦A lead? Looks pretty much hopeless, doesn't it? Not for my teammate though! The bidding:

IMPs, All vulnerable. Dealer S.

	S	Mate1	N	Mate 2
--	---	-------	---	--------

1♦	pass	pass	dbl	
2♦	3♦	pass	3♥	
pass	4♥	pass...		

S cashes ♦A and ♦K and shifts to a small heart. S draws three rounds of trumps **and two high clubs(!)**. In position:

	♠ J9xx		
	♥ -		
	♦ -		
	♣ Q9		
♠ Axx	N		♠ K10xx
♥ x	W	E	♥ x
♦ -	S		♦ -
♣ 10x			♣ x
	♠ Qx		
	♥ -		
	♦ QJ10x		
	♣ -		

E now plays ♠A and small spade **ducking** and enplaying S. Now defense is forced to give declarer ruff and sluff. East ruffs in dummy pitching club loser from hand and takes a spade finesse against ♠J – making four, +620. Since opponents at our table stopped in 3♥ and get only 140 we won 10 imps (+620 and -140). Very well played mate!

To Our Membership from the President

As you may know, the Cincinnati Bridge Association has come under increasing financial pressure recently. Specifically, the Cincinnati Bridge Center has had increasing operating losses in the last several years, as the income generated by the Bridge Center has remained relatively stable while the expenses related to the Center have grown considerably. Although the CBA presently maintains a satisfactory financial cushion, that situation would change dramatically over the next 5-10 years if we did not address that situation now. The Bridge Center is projected to lose approximately \$30,000 this year alone, and though some of this loss is offset by profit from our Regional tournament, it does not come close to getting us back to even for the year.

The CBA Board takes its role as financial trustees of the Unit seriously, and we believe that it is our responsibility to take action before a potential crisis arises. As much as we dislike raising game fees, it simply wasn't financially responsible to "pass the buck" on this issue any longer.

At the October meeting, the CBA Board voted to raise the game fee for a regular club game conducted under a CBA sanction from \$6 to \$7, effective January 1, 2012. We expect the other games held at the CBC to raise their fees accordingly. This is comparable to game fees charged by other city-wide bridge centers throughout our District (e.g., Indianapolis charges \$7, Lexington charges \$6.50), and well below what many bridge clubs in other parts of the country charge.

Although the increase from \$6 to \$7 is about

16% on a percentage basis, it still falls below the approximately 30% increase in Bridge Center-related expenses since 2006, the last time game fees were increased. We also did not want to raise fees a little bit now and then be forced to raise them in 2-3 years. This change should place us on solid financial footing until at least the end of our lease in 2017.

We didn't make these changes easily -- we're aware of the additional financial burden this places on our members. The CBA Board felt that all stakeholders in the Cincinnati Bridge Center -- sanction holders, Board members, directors -- should shoulder some of the responsibility, and we have tried to spread the burden as prudently and equitably as possible. No one is happy that we've made these changes, but we hope that you understand that it was necessary.

I'd like to end this message on an up-note. With the financial stability provided by these changes, the CBA will be able to consider some new opportunities moving forward. We've cut back our promotions and advertising budget to practically nothing, and we look forward to re-tooling our approach in this area to attract new bridge players and to introduce duplicate to the rubber bridge players in our community. We will re-evaluate our membership appreciation efforts -- we need to do a better job expressing our thanks. Bridge is a fantastic game and an important part of all our lives, and we're grateful for the opportunity to be part of that.

Thanks for your time,

A.J. Stephani
President, Cincinnati Bridge Association

Winners at Dayton Regional

1	93.20	Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland
2	93.20	William Higgins, Cincinnati
4	88.96	Nancy Sachs, Cincinnati
5	88.96	Amitabh Raturi, Cincinnati
14	53.85	Cliff Pleatman, Cincinnati
15	53.85	A Netherwood, Loveland
16	51.32	Bruce Parent, Brookville
21	49.53	V Netherwood, Loveland
38	37.12	Cordell Coy, Villa Hills
39	37.12	Albert Fultz, Ft Mitchell
41	36.78	Robert Fisk, Cincinnati
43	35.53	A J Stephani, Cincinnati
47	30.14	Norman Coombs, Brookville

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11/24-12/4 Fall NABC Seattle

12/26-1/1/12 STaC D-11

1/11-1/15 CLEVELAND, OH

1/6-1/8 Columbus, OH

1/20-1/22 Lexington, KY

Cincinnati Bridge Association
2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati,
OH 45241

