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- Edinburgh
- Zeebrugge

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Introducing BridgeFeed

Our members have made it increasingly clear that they are hungry for online bridge content in addition to their monthly Bridge Bulletin magazine. Last fall, a team at ACBL designed a special website to tackle the project, and in late November, BridgeFeed was unveiled.

Located at acbl.org/bridgefeed, the site is filled with tips on how to play, player profiles, announcements for ACBL members, articles from past and current issues of the Bridge Bulletin, and lots of photos. Additionally, visitors to the site will see extensive coverage of the Fall NABC in San Diego.

The site has already attracted quite a few eyeballs, with almost 81,000 hits in its first two weeks of existence. Much of this traffic was driven by folks looking for news from San Diego, but we hope that even more visitors will check out BridgeFeed soon to see the great material there, including some crossover content from newspaper columns: Frank Stewart’s Daily Bridge Club and Bob Jones’s Goren Bridge are regularly featured on the site.

Even though BridgeFeed will entertain ACBL members, the site is open to the public – membership is not required to view it – so fans of the game who aren’t necessarily duplicate enthusiasts can also enjoy the extensive content. With articles by regular Bridge Bulletin columnists such as Eddie Kantar, Mike Lawrence and Larry Cohen, there’s something available for players of all levels. Beginners, especially, will find fun pieces on how to improve their game. BridgeFeed is also an easy way to showcase the game to friends who are curious about bridge, but who may not be ready to try duplicate.

Because the Bridge Bulletin magazine has limited amounts of space, we frequently have to turn down good contributions from talented authors – there’s just no room. With BridgeFeed, however, the editors can publish articles from these writers online. Got a great story? Let us know. Good photos and videos are a plus if they’re relevant to the piece.

We hope that members and non-members alike will check out BridgeFeed soon. We welcome your feedback on the new site, too.

Paul Linxwiler, editor@acbl.org
Handicaps as ratings

I noted with interest the letters from Barry Elberg and Marty Deneroff in the October issue concerning an effective rating system for ACBL players. That very subject has concerned me for some time. Using maximum total accumulated masterpoints (MPs) as a player’s handicap is a bizarre system. What it says is that no matter what, you will forever be rated at your absolute maximum total point MPs. The analogy that I like to use is that I once had a golf handicap of 9, but today it is 17 and creeping higher. If golf were to use the ACBL system, I would always have a 9 handicap. There wouldn’t be much enjoyment for me today playing in local club and group tournaments trying to carry a 9 handicap. I would have no chance. No matter how much people profess about the fun of playing against the stars of the game, I believe everyone likes to have a chance.

The matter of a fair and balanced rating system likely would not matter to the professionals, but I believe it does matter to the paying public.

I suggest that an ACBL personal handicap could be devised by some combination of lifetime accumulated MPs and those earned in the last 12 or 24 months. Given the powerful computers of today and the skilled programmers available to ACBL, a member’s handicap could be updated monthly or even daily.

WESLEY W. ANDERSON
Kelowna BC

Socialization

I read your editorial in the November Bulletin with great interest. It is high time that ACBL took a serious look at involving social bridge players in the organized world of bridge. There are many advantages for social bridge players, such as meeting other players and learning more about the game.

I personally know several casual/social bridge players who have not joined a duplicate bridge club, but do enjoy playing the game at home with friends or family. What would it take for them to make the move to join a club?

Research on this issue would be helpful in developing a social bridge strategy that local clubs could employ to entice new members to join. Your suggestions about hosting bridge parties is a cool idea. I also think that local clubs could do more to encourage social bridge players to come out of their bridge closet and join with others at the club. Perhaps clubs could offer social bridge in their schedule of regular games, or hold social bridge events in combination with potluck dinners. Let’s hear from ACBL members on their ideas!

Branding is a big deal, but bridge has a bad brand image (only for elderly, slow play, too difficult, etc.). Bridge was big 50 years ago. Perhaps social bridge could be branded as Retro Bridge to help bring millennials into the game.

The bottom line is that we need a constant infusion of fresh blood to keep this game alive for the future. Investment in this area is critical and necessary.

CAROLE COPLEA
Nepean ON

In the November 2017 issue, Michel Bellefeuille wrote a letter about promoting the casual game of bridge to increase interest among new players.

I am a member of the Clear Lake Bridge Club located in the Bay Area of Greater Houston. Our bridge teacher, Dave Glandorf, initiated this very idea many years ago. Our club runs what he calls “Bridge Lab” on Sunday and Tuesday afternoons. Bridge Lab allows new people to play duplicate in a supervised forum, but it is casual, where questions can be asked, etc. Even when Houston is hosting large tournaments (such as the Lone Star Regional), Dave makes sure the Sunday lab is held.

This type of activity promotes the game to new players such that many of those players are now regulars during ACBL-sanctioned games. It works!

EVVIE GILBERT
Seabrook TX

Praising the Partnership Desk

In the November Bulletin, Amanda Stewart’s interview with the CEO needs to be addressed. The experiences that I’ve had from being “fixed up” at the partnership desk are the direct opposite of Amanda’s dreadful game. Many people have found excellent partners and formed lasting friendships with the people they were paired with at tournaments.

I just returned from the Ventura Regional, where I was paired for a Gold Rush game at the last minute. My partner had 28 points, and there was only a few minutes for us to review our convention card. We had two 50-plus percent games, and we plan to play again at regional tournaments. Not only did I leave with masterpoints, but I found a wonderful new bridge partner and a fresh perspective on how important it is to be respectful of your partner and other players at the table.

In addition to my latest experience, I met my regular partner three years ago at the partnership desk and played at the San Diego NABC with someone that I was paired with last February.

I hope that you will publish my letter so that bridge players won’t get the wrong impression about using the...
partnership desk. Meeting new people is what keeps me coming back to play bridge. For me and many others, bridge is about the social aspect of the game and not just about earning points.

LESLIE BRUCKER
Los Angeles CA

In early November, I drove more than three hours from my home in Maine to Mansfield MA to play in the New England Harvest Regional. I did not have a partner.

The idea of going alone was new for me. I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I contacted Partnership Chair Sabrina Miles by email, and she assured me she could find a partner for me.

True to her word, Sabrina had a fine partner for me for the afternoon session Friday afternoon. We didn’t win anything, but it was fun.

But despite Sabrina’s efforts, no one was available for the Friday evening side game. I waited at the partnership desk and told Sabrina it was no problem. I’d just go out for dinner and have a quiet evening.

But that wasn’t good enough for Sabrina or for the evening’s directors, Peter Marcus and Doree Sobol. As everyone was seated and play was about to begin, they went through the room asking loudly if anyone was looking for a partner.

A moment later they returned and told me someone had been found. They led me into the room and introduced me to Mark Aquino, my partner for the evening.

I’d never met Mark, but I knew his name. He is the Board member for District 25 and a national-level bridge player. I later learned he has about 11,000 masterpoints. I have about 150. Think of a duffer being introduced to Tiger Woods on the first tee!

Mark had other plans for the evening, but canceled them so that one man without a partner was not disappointed.

Was I nervous at being paired with an expert? You bet I was, but that was my fault, not Mark’s. He went out of his way to be gracious and understanding, even when I made bonehead bids and plays. His comments – which I requested – were gentle. Despite myself, I had a wonderful evening.

Between rounds we talked about the issues Mark faces as a member of the ACBL Board of Directors, especially those involving ethics. I’ve been a national board member of two journalism organizations and the ethics chairman of one. Mark wanted to know if I had any ideas that might help him as he considers ethics questions for ACBL. It was flattering for a player at my level to be asked.

While the evening was not a success at the bridge table – I doubt Mark can remember the last time he had a 43 percent game – it was a success in every other way, and a great evening that I will always remember. I came away feeling that if ACBL is being led by people like Mark, the game is in very good hands.

A final note: On the last two days of the tournament, Sabrina helped find a new partner, Ellen Brown, who lives in the Boston area. She also has about 150 points. We played three rounds in the 299r game and came in with a first, a second and a third, winning about six red points. It was a good tournament.

DAVID B. OFFER
Hallowell ME

Years ago at an Atlanta regional, I met a lady after the game and asked how she had done. She replied that she had picked up a partner from the partnership desk, and they had a 28% game. I started to say how sorry I was for her experience, but she stopped me to say that this was the best partner she had ever had, and they had agreed to play the entire week. Because this wasn’t the reply I expected, I asked why. She said, “Every time I did something really awful, she would do something worse, just to make me feel better.” What a nice attitude to have. Near the end of the week I saw her again and asked how her week had gone. She said, “11.45 gold points, and we are meeting at another regional in a few months.”

Take heart, Amanda. I hope your perfect partner is waiting for you.

TERRY LAVENDER
Arlington VA

I read the “CEO Corner” column in the November Bulletin, and I hope that Amanda is not going to give up on tournament bridge in general or on the partnership desk in particular because of one bad partner. I have attended a number of tournaments with and without a partner, and the vast majority of the partners I have met through partnership desks have been pleasant to play with and very capable bridge players. Here’s a hint: The larger the tournament, the more potential partners tend to be available.

I would like to extend my appreciation both to the volunteers who staff the various partnership desks, and to the partners who have put up with me over the years.

GARY ANSOK
Camarillo CA

Columbus coup

In October, I noticed that I was close to becoming a Ruby Life Master: I was just 9.72 masterpoints shy of the 1500 milestone. So on Monday, Oct. 9, I earned 1.33 points, leaving me 8.39 points away. When I arrived home after the game, I realized that by playing on Columbus Day, my total had become 1492 masterpoints (rounded to the nearest point).

JAN BAISDEN
Kernersville NC
What’s next?

Jay Whipple III, the 2018 ACBL president, is fond of signing his emails with the phrase “What’s next?” At first, it made me crazy (“How much harder or faster could our staff work?”). However, after a five-day, highly productive Board meeting at the Fall NABC, it seems fair that I try to answer his question.

ACBL currently has three goals: grow membership; improve our technology platform; improve the management and treatment of our volunteers. To achieve these goals, we must innovate – the programs we’ve tried before haven’t worked – without building new bureaucracies or spending too much money.

Ours hopes for growing membership – we would like to add a net of 15,000 new members in 2018 – rest on improving teaching, strengthening our clubs, and encouraging more social bridge. In each of these areas, we are looking for examples of local programs that work well. We hope to learn best practices in each area that we can share among our stakeholders. As an example, we hosted a Teaching Initiative discussion in San Diego. Prior to the meeting, we interviewed a wide range of bridge teachers and listened to their views on how best to present bridge to novice students. At the meeting, 20 experts reviewed a summary of these concepts. By the time you read this article, we should have sent a survey to thousands of teachers that asked them to examine these concepts, rate them, and offer ideas on how to implement them.

To accelerate the introduction of new technologies into ACBL bridge, we are opening our platform and collaborating with outside developers. We are testing three different developers’ systems for automating KO starts and Swiss movements. We’d welcome more new products for improving tournament bridge. We are starting to certify game-scoring software that can replace ACBLscore in clubs. We also want to encourage the adoption of third-party systems for displaying club game results and helping clubs and teachers reach new players. Our development team is focused on building interfaces to these outside tools, upgrading our ability to respond to questions from our members and clubs, and improving our website and our security systems.

We haven’t forgotten about volunteers! We believe our network of volunteers is trying to run too many tournaments. ACBL districts and units ran 137 regionals and 916 sectionals in 2017. The Board agreed to allow staff to examine this issue and propose options for improving the situation. The Board also led the development of a volunteer training webinar that will be released very soon.

The above could lead you to believe that “What’s next?” may be chaos and uncertainty! We hope to mitigate the risk of massive confusion and disruption through three techniques:

- Transparent disclosure of our proposals and the process we intend to follow.
- Robust discussion of each proposal with all who might be affected by it.
- Implementation in steps so that we can measure our progress and improve our proposals.

Our staff is only 200 strong. Just “keeping the lights on” (running events, producing the Bulletin, managing scoring) keeps our staff pretty busy. For us to move forward, we must ask for help from our thousands of smart, hard-working, caring members. We’ll then be able to be sure that the right question to “What’s next?” is “More and better!” and not “We’re not sure.”
Philadelphia is setting the table for the North American Bridge Championships March 8–18.

A variety of games for all levels of players, morning, afternoon and night, satisfy the most avid bridge player’s taste. Free classes and celebrity speaker presentations speed newer players’ advancement up the ranks.

For those tournament goers who enjoy fine dining as well as those who look for cheap eats, Philadelphia is your kind of town.

Adjacent to the playing area is the Reading Terminal Market. One of the country’s largest and oldest public markets, Reading Terminal houses more than 30 restaurants, in addition to offering an array of locally sourced produce, cheeses, baked goods, confections and more.

Certainly cheesesteaks and hoagies abound throughout the city, but food sightseers might want to check out all the regional favorites on “50 Things You Need to Eat in Philadelphia Before You Die” on thrillist.com.

The Philly NABC promises to be delectable in every way. Make your travel plans now!

**Site**

All events will be played at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown and the Pennsylvania Convention Center at 1101 Arch St.

**Hotels**

- Philadelphia Marriott
  1201 Market St.
  $160 plus tax

- Courtyard Philadelphia
  21 N. Juniper St.
  $160 plus tax

**ONPEAK**

Call onPeak at 855–992–3353 or email acbl@onpeak.com to book your reservation. You can also make your room reservation online at acbl.org.

**Philadelphia NABC hotel cancellation policy**

A one-night room deposit is charged to your credit card at the time of booking. Reservations may be cancelled without penalty on or before Jan. 8. For reservations cancelled on or after Jan. 9, the deposit is nonrefundable. This deposit, which is applied to your stay, is separate and apart from any cancellation charge that may be imposed by the hotel.

**Air travel**

Omega World Travel is the official travel agency for the ACBL. For air travel assistance, call 800–969–4152, fax 866–445–6705 or email groupair@owt.net.
2018 SPRING NABC SCHEDULE

Stratification for regional, side and I/N events is by average masterpoints. Stratified open events: A = Unlimited, B = 750–3000, C = 0–750.

Three-flight events: A/X = Unlimited/6000, B/C = 3000/1500, Gold Rush = 750/300.

Two-flight events: A/X/Y = Unlimited/6000/4000, B/C/D = 3000/1500/500 (if no Gold Rush); A/B/C = Unlimited/3000/1500, Gold Rush = 750/500/200.

In B flights, no single player may be over 3000. In Gold Rush events, no single player may be over 750. I/N events are stratified at the discretion of the director.

To be eligible for Senior events, players must have been born before Jan. 1, 1959.

Events, dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please check www.acbl.org for changes.

Wednesday, March 7
1 & 7:30 pm BALDWIN NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS, FLIGHT A
2 qualifying & 2 final sessions. Pre-qualification required.

Thursday, March 8
1 pm International Fund Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
International Fund 299er Pairs

1 & 7:30 pm BALDWIN NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS, FLIGHT A
Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)

7:30 pm Educational Foundation Bracketed KO Teams
Continues 9 am Friday & Saturday
Educational Foundation Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Educational Foundation 299er Pairs

Friday, March 9
0–5 Newcomer Pair Games Are Free Today!
9 am Educational Foundation Bracketed KO Teams
Friday–Saturday Morning Compact KO Teams
Friday–Sunday Morning Side Game Series
10 am 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
10 am & 3 pm Gail Bell Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Friday Daylight Compact Knockout Teams
1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
1 & 7:30 pm NORMAN KAY PLATINUM PAIRS Pre-qualification required.
2 qualifying, 2 semifinal & 2 final sessions
LEBHA IMP PAIRS 2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
0–10,000 SWISS TEAMS
10% Platinum overall, 2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
Bobbie Gomez Friday–Saturday Bracketed KO Teams
Jeanne Fisher Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
3 pm Side Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
7:30 pm Evening Swiss Teams
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

Saturday, March 10
9 am Junior Day / Krauss Investment Group Day
Educational Foundation Bracketed KO Teams
Friday–Saturday Morning Compact KO Teams
401K Saturday–Monday Morning Bracketed KO Teams
Friday–Sunday Morning Side Game Series
10 am 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
10 am & 3 pm Estate Planning Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Estate Planning Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
College Planning Daylight Compact KO Teams
1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
1 & 7:30 pm NORMAN KAY PLATINUM PAIRS
LEBHA IMP PAIRS
0–10,000 SWISS TEAMS
Wealth Transfer A/X (unlim/6000) and B/C (3000/1500) Open Pairs
Wealth Transfer Gold Rush Pairs (750/500)
College Planning Compact Bracketed KO Teams
Bobbie Gomez Friday–Saturday Bracketed KO Teams
3 pm Side Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

Saturday, March 10 continued
7:30 pm Evening Swiss Teams A/X/Y (unlim/6000/4000) and B/C/D (3000/1500/750)
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
11:30 pm Zip KO Teams
Junior Zip KO Teams. 25 and younger free!

Sunday, March 11
Krauss Investment Group Day
9 am Phil Krauss Sunday–Monday Morning Compact KO Teams
401K Saturday–Monday Morning Bracketed KO Teams
Friday–Sunday Morning Side Game Series
10 am 299er Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
BridgePlus+ Free lesson, 14 deals follow (no card fee)
10 am & 3 pm Retirement Safety Play Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Retirement Safety Play Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Finessing Taxation Daylight A/X/Y Swiss Teams (unlim/6000/4000)
Finessing Taxation Daylight Bracketed Flight B Teams – no player over 3000. Brackets of 8 teams by avg. MPs, 3 teams in each bracket earn Gold
1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
1 & 7:30 pm Norman Kay Platinum Pairs
Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs 2 qualifying & 2 final sess.
Pre-qual. required. Must have been born prior to Jan. 1, 1959.
President’s Cup North American Pairs, Flight C 2 qualifying & 2 final sessions. Pre-qualification required.
Retirement Checkback Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Retirement Checkback Swiss Teams A/X (unlim/6000) and B/C (3000/1500)
David Dansby Gold Rush Swiss Teams (750/300)
Rusty Krauss Sunday–Monday Bracketed KO Teams
3 pm 299er Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
7:30 pm Preemptive Planning Swiss Teams
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
11:30 pm Zip KO Teams

Monday, March 12
Goodwill Day / Krauss Investment Group Day
9 am 401K Saturday–Monday Morning Bracketed KO Teams
Phil Krauss Sunday–Monday Morning Compact KO Teams
Monday–Tuesday Morning Compact KO Teams
Monday–Wednesday Morning Side Game Series
10 am 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
Monday, March 12 continued

10 am & 3 pm Emma Beck Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Phil Krauss Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Precision Planning Daylight Compact KO Teams

1 pm Phyllis Wachsman Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series

1 & 7:30 pm VANDERBILT KNOCKOUT TEAMS
Pre-registration required by 6 pm, Sunday, Mar. 11.
LEVENTRITT SILVER RIBBON PAIRS
0–10,000 KNOCKOUT TEAMS
Pre-registration required by 10 am, Monday, Mar. 12.
GOLDER NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS, FLIGHT B
PRESIDENT’S CUP NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS, FLIGHT C
Asset Asking A/X (unlim/6000) and B/C (3000/1500) Open Pairs
Asset Asking Gold Rush Pairs (750/300)
Precision Planning Senior Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Open to players born before Jan. 1, 1959
Rusty Krauss Sunday–Monday Bracketed KO Teams
Precision Planning Compact KO Teams

3 pm Retirement Squeeze Side Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

7:30 pm Monday–Tuesday Evening Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Continues Tuesday 7:30 pm
Swiss Teams A/X/Y (unlim/6000/4000) and B/C/D (3000/1500/750)
Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series
299er Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

11:30 pm Zip KO Teams

Tuesday, March 13

9 am Monday–Tuesday Morning Compact KO Teams
Monday–Tuesday Morning Side Game Series

10 am

10 am & 3 pm Jane Segal Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Daylight Compact KO Teams

1 pm Phyllis Wachsman Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series

1 & 7:30 pm VANDERBILT KO TEAMS
ROCKWELL MIXED PAIRS 2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
0–10,000 KNOCKOUT TEAMS
A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Arnie Fisher Tuesday–Wednesday Bracketed KO Teams

3 pm Side Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

7:30 pm Monday–Tuesday Evening Open Pairs
Swiss Teams A/X/Y (unlim/6000/4000) and B/C/D (3000/1500/750)
Monday–Tuesday Side Game Series
299er Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

Wednesday, March 14

9 am Tuesday–Thursday Morning Bracketed KO Teams
Tuesday–Thursday Morning Compact KO Teams

10 am

10 am & 3 pm Daylight Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Daylight A/B/C Swiss Teams (unlim/3000/1500)
Daylight Gold Rush Swiss Teams (750/500/200)

Noon & 7 pm VANDERBILT KO TEAMS
0–10,000 KNOCKOUT TEAMS

1 pm Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series

1 & 7:30 pm ROCKWELL MIXED PAIRS
A/X (unlim/6000) and B/C (3000/1500) Open Pairs
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300)
Charlie Gray Mixed Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Compact KO Teams
Arnie Fisher Tuesday–Wednesday Bracketed KO Teams

3 pm 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

Wednesday, March 14 continued

7:30 pm Wednesday–Thursday Evening Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Continues Thursday 7:30 pm
Swiss Teams A/X/Y (unlim/6000/4000) and B/C/D (3000/1500/750)
Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series
299er Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

11:30 pm Zip KO Teams

Thursday, March 15 DAVE TREADWELL DAY

9 am Tuesday–Thursday Morning Bracketed KO Teams

10 am & 3 pm Delaware Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Life is a Beach Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
D’Avetre Adwell Daylight Compact KO Teams

Noon & 7 pm VANDERBILT KO TEAMS
0–10,000 KNOCKOUT TEAMS

1 pm Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series

1 & 7:30 pm SILODOR OPEN PAIRS 2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
SMITH LIFE MASTER WOMEN’S PAIRS 2 qualifying, 2 final sess.
Dave Treadwell Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
Hall of Fame Open Swiss Teams (unlim/3000/750)
Thursday–Friday Bracketed KO Teams

3 pm Partner Leads Side Swiss Teams
Bad Jokes 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

7:30 pm Wednesday–Thursday Evening Open Pairs
Evelyn Levitt Side Swiss Teams
Wednesday–Thursday Side Game Series
Peacock 299er Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

11:30 pm Creights Zip KO Teams

Friday, March 16

9 am Thursday–Saturday Morning Bracketed KO Teams

10 am & 3 pm Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Daylight A/X/Y (unlim/6000/4000) Swiss Teams
Bracketed Flight B Teams – no player over 3000

Noon & 7 pm VANDERBILT KO TEAMS
0–10,000 KNOCKOUT TEAMS

1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series

1 & 7:30 pm SILODOR OPEN PAIRS
SMITH LIFE MASTER WOMEN’S PAIRS
Unit 168 A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Compact KO Teams
Thursday–Friday Bracketed KO Teams

3 pm Unit 168 299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

7:30 pm Swiss Teams A/X/Y (unlim/6000/4000) and B/C/D (3000/1500/750)
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

11:30 pm Zip KO Teams

Saturday, March 17

9 am Thursday–Saturday Morning Bracketed KO Teams
Morning Swiss Teams

10 am & 3 pm Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs (unlim/3000/1500)
Daylight Gold Rush Pairs (750/500/200)
Daylight Compact Knockout Teams

Noon & 7 pm VANDERBILT KO TEAMS

1 pm Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
Saturday, March 17  continued
1 & 4:30 pm  NABC+ FAST PAIRS  2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
1 & 7:30 pm  JACOBY OPEN SWISS TEAMS  2 qualifying, 2 final sessions
Bill Bauer Compact KO Teams  
Saturday–Sunday Bracketed KO Teams  Continues Sun. at 10 am
Open Pairs (unlim/3000/750)
3 pm  Side Swiss Teams
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs
7:30 pm  Side Swiss Teams
Friday–Sunday Side Game Series
299er, 199er, 99er, 49er, 0–20 & 0–5 Pairs

What’s cooking?
Eclectic eats in Philly are right across the street from the playing area at the Reading Terminal Market. Most of the vendors are open till 6 p.m. at the latest. From visitphilly.com, here are “10 Awesome Things to Eat at Reading Terminal Market.”

1  **Roast pork sandwiches at DiNic’s**: Get in line, it’s worth the wait. The winner of the Travel Channel’s “Best Sandwich in America,” DiNic’s scores 4.8 on the Zagat excellence scale.


3  **Apple dumplings at Dutch Eating Place**: Served warm with cream – get one for dessert to go.

4  **Soft pretzels at Miller’s Twist**: Hand-rolled from fresh dough, brushed with butter and served warm. There’s also a breakfast pretzel ...

5  **Whoopie pies at Flying Monkey**: Whoopie pies are a regional specialty, but Flying Monkey does them in all flavors. Chocolate? Of course, but there’s red velvet, lemon lavender and more.

6  **Mint-lemon-rosewater lemonada at Kamal’s Middle Eastern Specialties**: Bright green, extremely refreshing drink specialty of this go-to vegetarian vendor.

7  **Birchrun blue cheese at Fair Food Farmstand**: Pick up a bottle of wine, a French baguette and this locally produced blue cheese for a romantic in-room, after-game picnic.

8  **Roast duck and roasted pork noodle platter at Sang Kee Peking Duck House**: Order the No. 7 and you can have both the duck and the roasted pork. Comes with rice, which you can swap out for noodles.

9  **The Train Wreck Po’ Boy at Beck’s Cajun Café**: Kind of a Cajun Philly cheesesteak on steroids – steak, salami, andouille sausage, cheese and onions. There’s a vegetarian po’ boy on the menu, too.

10  **Scrapple at Down Home Diner**: An actual diner in and amongst the stalls and tables, Down Home serves fresh food sourced from local farmers. Super breakfast menu! Not familiar with scrapple? It’s a Pennsylvania Dutch specialty. Think of it as pork pâté.
New President Looks Ahead

District 9’s Jay Whipple elected 2018 ACBL president

BY SUE MUNDAY
Photo by Francesca Canali

“What’s next?” reads Jay Whipple’s email signature line. Now the new ACBL president is the one answering the question.

Elected to spearhead the organization in 2018, Whipple has an agenda for the year that centers around a single theme: the smooth functioning of the ACBL chief executive officer and the Board. “That involves greater communication and close work together,” Whipple explains.

“We have a great CEO,” Whipple says of Bahar Gidwani, who was hired in mid-2017. “By the end of our Board meeting here, we had a clearer understanding of whose role is what.”

Whipple has sincere praise for predecessor, President Bob Heller.

“Bob did an amazing job of restructuring Board committees to align with function rather than politics,” Whipple says. The new president has asked Board members to serve where they can contribute the most, with flexibility in assignments that will enable them to move between committees as their experience and the need dictate.

He uses the Harkness table as a model for bringing people together. A learning evolution Whipple first became familiar with in high school, the Harkness table seats a teacher and students around an oval table where everyone is a partner – nobody’s ideas count more than anybody else’s.

“We want to bring our strategic partners into our discussions at the table – teachers, clubs, units, districts – bring all our talent together to learn from each other,” he says.

Technology is a familiar thread in Whipple’s ambitions. He describes himself as an entrepreneur “who packages things and puts them together with people.” One such innovation was Fast Results, a service that emailed game results immediately upon posting. It grew quickly to become an indispensable service for clubs and tournaments interested in providing their players with immediate scores.

Fast Results transitioned to ACBL Live, though a “heavily district-centric” component of Fast Results still enables tournament organizers to set up daily bulletins and survey attendees.

“I’m blessed to have been able to work with extremely talented people in the organization, during the development of Fast Results, especially the tournament directors who took me under their wing.”

Whipple is also responsible for the Common Game. It started when bridge expert Allan Graves was lamenting about “how we used to go to bars and talk about hands following the game,” Whipple says.

“So we developed technology that would enable us to share hands across multiple clubs, and Allan provided hand analysis.” Now the Common Game allows clubs access to aggregate results daily, three times a day. Pros volunteer their analysis.

“Lynn Berg writes a quip – two sentences about each hand,” says Whipple. “It’s the most read analysis we do.”

Earlier this month, the ACBL experimented with a pilot “Regionals at Clubs,” a concept proposed by Whipple and District 6 Board Director Margot Hennings.

“We want to respond to the people who quit going to the club because they can’t get the gold points they need to make Life Master – the ones who say, ‘Why bother? I can’t get there before I die.’”

Using the Common Game, players participated in a regional, paying a week’s worth of card fees to play electronically via BBO. The clubs acted as monitoring sites. The infrastructure requirements – such as a reliable internet connection – were difficult for some clubs to meet, but Whipple says it was an excellent learning experience.

“We launched Kitty Hawk; we did it – we flew. We learned. Now management has informed direction as to how we continue.”

Whipple says the two most exciting outcomes from the pilot were, first, “The buzz! People came out of the woodwork! Clubs reported waiting lists to get into games.”

The second positive outcome was finding that individuals played three times more than usual.

Whipple, who represents District 9 (Florida), is in the second year of his second three-year term on the Board. He chairs the Board’s Strategic Committee and headed up the CEO Search Committee, which studied and met dozens of candidates before recommending Gidwani for hiring by the Board of Directors. He lives in Boca Grande with his wife Kimberly, whom he credits “for her unwavering support.”

Sometimes, Whipple says, his email correspondents respond to his signature line. He nods and smiles.

“What’s next?”
Rising Star

Yokel wins Molnar Award
BY BRENT MANLEY

Tournament Director Lynn Yokel is the 2017 winner of the Jean Molnar Employee of the Year award for extraordinary work in her field. The annual award, given to a tournament director, is named for the longtime TD from San Diego who died of cancer in March 2016. Yokel was presented the award at the San Diego NABC.

In correspondence nominating Yokel for the award, she was praised for her skill in dealing with players while getting the job done. One letter said, “Lynn strikes the perfect balance between getting her work done well and taking good care of the players. Lynn has taught beginners and is extremely patient with newer players, taking time after the game to more fully explain rulings to them. The intermediate/newcomer players love her. More advanced players appreciate her professionalism, knowledge and approach to directing and running tournaments. Lynn is the ultimate team player and everyone loves working with her.”

“Lynn has the bridge smarts and the people smarts that make up the perfect combination for her to become one of the best,” says Arleen Harvey, ACBL’s field supervisor for the districts that include Yokel’s home town of Campbell, in the San Francisco Bay area. Says Harvey, “I would clone her if I could.”

National TD Matt Koltnow says Yokel “combines being a pro with being customer-service oriented and friendly. The qualities we loved in Jean are what Lynn exemplifies.”

Yokel’s interest in directing began after she started teaching bridge at her home while still playing. She eventually branched out by buying the Tuesday evening game at the San Jose club along with two other players. That led to the start of an EasyBridge game every Thursday evening. Yokel still runs four games a week at that club.

Yokel found herself attracted to directing because of her love of tournaments and the friendships she developed with directors. At one tournament about five years ago, she talked to National TD Matt Smith about directing. “He was very encouraging,” Yokel says. She took the TD exam and soon was working sectional tournaments. She notes that there are sectionals easily accessible from San Jose just about every weekend, so help was needed. Her first assignment was at a sectional in Monterrey. Her first regional was in Sacramento. “That was really exciting,” she says, “because regionals are so much more complicated than I realized.”

Yokel’s first truly big tournament was the 2014 Summer NABC in Las Vegas. She went to attend a seminar for new TDs and ended up working a national event. “They threw us out on the floor. It was much more challenging, and there was a lot of action, but I came through it OK. I survived.”

Yokel, a Diamond Life Master, recalls that early in her directing career, she worked almost exclusively with veteran TD Dianne Barton-Paine. “I saw how people reacted to her,” Yokel says. “Everyone loved her. It was what I aspired to for myself.”

Barton-Paine says Yokel is her favorite TD to work with. “From the beginning,” Barton-Paine noted, “she was always a step ahead. The I/N people love her, and she’s a very good player. You can put her anywhere.”

Harvey, Yokel’s “boss,” says Yokel is “very low key with a wonderful presence at the table, and she is respected by novices and high-level players.”

“I try very hard,” Yokel says, “to be friendly and in a good mood when I’m called to the table.” Yokel doesn’t play as much as she once did, so she misses that aspect of bridge, but she can still have fun at bridge without turning a card. “I’m lucky,” she says, “to work with people I like who are really good at what they do.”

Upcoming

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• Daily lectures
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888-816-2457 Details and Tournament Schedule at: www.AliceTravel.com
Fall NABC Results

Winners from the Fall NABC in San Diego – part 1

Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs: Joe Grue, Eric Greco
Nail Life Master Open Pairs: Dennis Bilde, Alon Birman
Whitehead Women’s Pairs: Katarzyna Dufrat, Justyna Zmuda
Super Senior Pairs: Patricia Dovell, Mark Jones
Senior Mixed Pairs: Rhonda Foster, Gerry McCully
0–10,000 IMP Pairs: Bill Grant, Ron Kay
0–10,000 Fast Pairs: Daniel Miles, Justyne Zmuda
0–5000 Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs: Juan Castillo, Saul Gross

Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams:
Yinghao Liu, Jack Zhao, Yuxiong Shen, Zijian Shao

Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams: Richard Schwartz, Diyan Danailov, Jerry Stamatov, David Gold, Michael Bell

Marsha May Sternberg Women’s BAM Teams: Ljudmila Kamenova, Rozanne Pollack, Cheri Bjerkcan, Pam Wittes

Keohane North American Swiss Teams: Agnes Snellers, Berend Van Den Bos, Wubbo De Boer, Joris van Lankveld

NABC+ Mixed Swiss Teams: Valentin Kovachev, Viktor Aronov, Ahu Zobu, Lynne Rosenbaum

Baze Senior Knockout Teams: Mike Levine, Marc Jacobus, Jerry Clerkin, Dennis Clerkin, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold

0–10,000 Swiss Teams:
Phil Altus, Muriel Altus, Martha Woodworth, Greg Michaels

Goren Trophy: Joe Grue

Mitchell Open BAM Teams – 136 teams (Top 25)

1. Richard Schwartz, Boca Raton FL; David Gold, United Kingdom; Jerry Stamatov – Diyan Danailov, Bulgaria; Michael Bell, England
2. James Cayne, Boca Raton FL; Alan Sontag, Gaithersburg MD; Giovanni Donati – Alfredo Versace – Lorenzo Lauria – Mustafa Cem Tokay, Italy
3. Nikolay Demirev, Arlington Heights IL; Rose Melzer, Chapel Hill NC; Vladimir Marashev – Ivan Tsonchev – Rosen Gunev – Kalin Karaivanov, Bulgaria
4. Sjoert Brink – Bas Drijver, Netherlands; Jacek Piszczola – Josef Blass, Chapel Hill NC; Jacek Kalita – Michal Nowosadzki, Poland
5. Norberto Bocchi, Spain; Antonio Semente – Giorgio Duboin, Italy; Dennis Bilde, Denmark; Alejandro Bianchedi – Agustin Madala, Argentina
6. Jared Lilenstein – Michael Polowan – Barry Rigal, New York NY; Fu Zhong – Jie Li, China; Glenn Milgrim, Ransomville NY
7-8. Andrew Rosenthal – Aaron Silverstein – Chris Willenken, New York NY; David Berkowitz, Boca Raton FL; Bob Hamman, Dallas TX; Eldad Ginossar, Chicago IL
7-8. May Sakr, Ardmore PA; Krzysztof Martens – Katarzyna Dufrat – Justyna Zmuda, Poland
9. Stan Tulin, Boca Raton FL; David Bakhshi, England; Louk Verhees Jr. – Cornelis Van Prooijen, Netherlands; Alon Birman – Dror Padon, Israel
10. Tom Hanlon, Ireland; Leslie Amolits, Toronto ON; Ishmael Del’Monte, Las Vegas NV; David Sabourin, Ottawa ON
11. Joe Grue – Martin Fleisher, New York NY; Brad Moss, Denver CO; Chip Martel, Davis CA; Eric Greco, Beverly Hills CA; Geoff Hampson, Las Vegas NV
12. Dano De Falco, Italy; Patricia Cayne, Boca Raton FL; Tim Verbeek – Danny Molenaar – Bob Drijver – Bart Nab, Netherlands
13. Paul Street, Delray Beach FL; Nicolas L’Ecuyer, Montreal QC; Cedric Lorenzini – Jean Quentin – Thomas Bessis – Frederic Volcker, France
14. Neil Silverman, Fort Lauderdale FL; Venkatrao Koneru, San Antonio TX; Kerri Sanborn – Stephen Sanborn, Delray Beach FL; Ron Rubin, Las Vegas NV; William Pollack, New York NY

Second in the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams: Mustafa Cem Tokay, Giovanni Donati, Alfredo Versace and Lorenzo Lauria. Not pictured: James Cayne and Alan Sontag
15. Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA; Gavin Wolpert – Vincent Demuy, Palm Beach Gardens FL; John Kranak, Las Vegas NV; Joel Wooldridge, Astoria NY; John Hurd, New York NY
16. Bulent Kaytaz – Gokhan Yilmaz, Turkey; Jovanka Smederevac – Alexander Wernle, Austria
17. Kevin Dwyer – Shan Huang, Melbourne FL; Joyce Hill, Saint Augustine FL; Justin Lall, Charlotte NC; Kevin Bathurst, Palm Beach Gardens FL
18. Jim Mahaffey, Winter Park FL; Sam Lev, New York NY; Piotr Gawryls – Michal Klukowski, Poland; Roger Lee, Las Vegas NV; Steve Weinstein, Montclair NJ
19. Kevin Castner, Kentfield CA; Williard Doroshow, Skokie IL; Christophe Grosset, France; Borislav Popov – Stefan Skorchev, Bulgaria
20. Daniel Friedman – Linda Friedman, Orinda CA; Richard Meffley – Farid Assemi, Fresno CA

21. Steve Robinson, Arlington VA; Peter Boyd, Darnestown MD; Douglas Doub, West Hartford CT; Dan Morse, Houston TX; John Sutherlin, Dallas TX
22. Mary Ann Berg, Atherton CA; Jason Feldman, San Diego CA; Krzysztof Buras – Marcin Lesniewski – Michal Kwiecien, Poland; Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Chapel Hill NC
23. Roy Welland, New York NY; Sabine Auken, Denmark; Reese Milner, Sarasota FL; Hemant Lall, Dallas TX; Frederic Wrang – Johan Sylvan, Sweden
24. Yuxiong Shen – Zijian Shao, China; Jack Zhao, Boca Raton FL; Yinghao Liu, Minneapolis MN; Harry Tudor, Miami FL
25. Billy Miller, Las Vegas NV; Vinita Gupta, Woodside CA; Jan Jansma, Netherlands; Zia Mahmood, New York NY; Fredrik Nystrom – Johan Uppmark, Sweden

Marsha May Sternberg Women’s BAM Teams – 20 teams

1. Ljudmila Kamenova, South Setauket NY; Cheri Bjerkan, Elmhurst IL; Pam Wittes, Venice CA; Rozanne Pollack, New York NY
2. Yiji Starr, Wayland MA; Pamela Granovetter, Cincinnati OH; Rose Yan – Shao Hong Wu, China
3. Claire Alpert, Miami FL; Signe Buus Thomsen, Denmark; Lindsey Weinger, Delray Beach FL; Sylvie Willard, France
4. Joanne Weingold, Boca Raton FL; Shannon Cappelletti, Delray Beach FL; Janice Seamon-Molson, Hollywood FL; Catherine D’Ovidio, France
5. Phyllis Yates, San Diego CA; Rebecca Rogers, Henderson NV; Christine Urbanek, Tonawanda NY; Sharon Benz, Buffalo NY
6. Paula Nataf, Beverly Hills CA; Sabine Rolland – Jessie De Tessieres – Aurelie Thizy, France

Jim Sternberg stands with the winners of the Marsha May Sternberg Women’s Board-a-Match Teams: Ljudmila Kamenova, Cheri Bjerkan and Pam Wittes.

Baze Senior Knockout Teams – 26 teams

1. Mike Levine, Boca Raton FL; Eddie Wold, Houston TX; Mike Passell, Plano TX; Marc Jacobus, Las Vegas NV; Jerry Clerkin – Dennis Clerkin, Bloomington IN
2. Nick Nickell, New York NY; Ralph Katz, Burr Ridge IL; Robert Levin, Henderson NV; Michael Rosenberg, Cupertino CA; Eric Rodwell, Clearwater FL; Jeff Meckstroth, Clearwater Beach FL
3–4. Paul Lewis – Linda Lewis, Las Vegas NV; Ross Grabel, Palm Desert CA; Mark Itabashi, Murrieta CA; Lynn Deas, Schenectady NY; Peter Weichsel, Carlsbad CA
3–4. Herve Vinciguerra, England; Marc Bompis – Philippe Soulet – Michel Abecassis, France
5–8. Karen McCallum, Exeter NH; Victor King, Hartford CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT
5–8. Larry Robbins, Deerfield IL; Steve Beatty, Mill Creek WA; John Lusky, Portland OR; Allan Falk, Okemos MI
5–8. Leo Bell, Carlsbad CA; Jeff Roman, Bend OR; Rick Roeder, La Mesa CA; John Jones, Santa Fe Springs CA
5–8. Anne Brenner – David Caprera, Denver CO; Robert Bitterman, Sarasota FL; Robert Cappelli, Sanibel FL

Second in the Marsha May Sternberg Women’s Board-a-Match Teams: Pamela Granovetter, Yiji Starr, Shao Hong Wu and Rose Yan

 Winners of the Baze Senior Knockout Teams:
Jerry Clerkin, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Dennis Clerkin, Marc Jacobus and captain Mike Levine

Second in the Baze Senior Knockout Teams:
Captain Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz, Bobby Levin, Michael Rosenberg, coach Eric Kokish, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell

Jim Sternberg, Marsha May, Pam Wittes, Ljudmila, Cheri, Rozanne, Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz, Bobby Levin, Michael Rosenberg, coach Eric Kokish, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell.
Nail Life Master Open Pairs – 324 pairs (Top 25)

1. Alon Birman, Israel; Dennis Bilde, Denmark 2637.08
2. Quentin Robert – Godefroy De Tessieres, France 2601.14
3. Thomas Bessis – Frederic Volcker, France 2574.24
4. Espen Lindqvist – Boye Brogeland, Norway 2524.85
5. Sabine Auken, Denmark; Roy Welland, New York NY 2519.01
6. Cedric Lorenzini – Jean Quantin, France 2490.84
7. Chris Willenken, New York NY; Eldad Ginossar, Chicago IL 2472.39
8. Peter Trenka, New York NY; Thomas Paske, England 2471.86
9. Mark Feldman, Austin TX; Adam Wildavsky, Dillon CO 2455.65
10. Peter Trenka, New York NY; Thomas Paske, England 2455.65
11. Fredrik Helness, Norway; Tor Helness, Monaco 2454.25
12. Stephen Shane, White Plains NY; Jill Levin, Henderson NV 2436.43
13. Ari Greenberg, San Francisco CA; Roger Lee, Las Vegas NV 2359.77
14. Francisco Bernal, Miami FL; Agustin Madala, Argentina 2343.83
15. Sylva Shi, Las Vegas NV; Kevin Rosenberg, Cupertino CA 2340.79
16. Douglas Doub, West Hartford CT; Yijiu Stare, Wayland MA 2339.70
17. Radu Nistor, Woodside NY; Julian Rotaru, New York NY 2339.31
18. Ed Davis, Seal Beach CA; Jill Meyers, Santa Monica CA 2328.69
19. Leonardo Cima – Barbara Dessi, Italy 2324.07
20. Maarten Schollaardt – Tom Van Overbeeke, Netherlands 2321.46
21. Michael Kamil, Oro Valley AZ; Christophe Grosset, France 2296.16

Super Senior Pairs – 148 pairs (Top 25)

1. Markland Jones, Phoenix AZ; Patricia Dovell, Gainesville FL 1283.61
2. V. Jay Tipton – Linda Tipton, Irvine CA 1244.96
3. Bert Newman, West Bloomfield MI; Dennis Kasle, Bloomfield MI 1207.61
4. Nancy Phillips, Tulsa OK; Don Stack, Kansas City KS 1193.05
5. Shome Mukherjee, Randolph MA; Richard Budd, Portland ME 1184.45
7. Claude Le Feuvre, Van Nuys CA; Dwight Hunt, Granada Hills CA 1164.92
8. Mike Savage, Signal Hill CA; Thomas Lesser, Enchino CA 1163.16
9. Sidney Brownstein, Santa Monica CA; Ed Davis, Seal Beach CA 1158.68
10. Ed Lazarus, Baltimore MD; Bob Etter, Sacramento CA 1157.84
11. Tom Kniest, Brentwood MO; Ed Schulte, Tampa FL 1156.32
12. Michael Levy, Tucson AZ; Jeffrey Taylor, Eugene OR 1150.76
13. Lynne Feldman, San Diego CA; Chris Benson, Leroy IL 1146.54
14. Gilbert Stonebaugh, Van Nuys CA; Joan Rubin, Encino CA 1143.24
15. Bob Lafleur – Jan George, Las Vegas NV 1129.43
16. Robert Liu – Godfrey Chang, Honolulu HI 1122.92
17. Sheila Sache – Donald Sache, Burnaby BC 1118.75
18. Barry Bragin, Fort Pierce FL; Mark Laken, Glyndon MD 1114.08
19. Charles Davis, Duluth GA; John Hassett, Johns Creek GA 1113.69
20. Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko, Tequesta FL 1110.19
21. Lawrence Derito, Jupiter FL; Barton Buffington, North Kingstown RI 1109.40
22. Susan Woodrow, Waterford MI; Philip Smith, Fenton MI 1103.03
23. Michael Klemens, Tarzana CA; Joel Schiff, Calabasas CA 1100.89
24. Bob Bowers – Jacob Karno, Metairie LA 1099.55
25. Bud Marsh – Marianne Spanier, Scottsdale AZ 1095.19
**0–10,000 Swiss Teams – 30 teams**

1. Philip Altus – Muriel Altus, Tampa FL; Greg Michaels, Cleveland OH; Martha Woodworth, San Diego CA  
   120.32
2. Debbie Benner – Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT; Adam Kaplan, Stanford CA; Adam Grossack, Newton MA  
   112.53
3. Ellen Kent – Robert Kent, Marina Del Rey CA; William Schreiber, Valley Glen CA; Martin Hinds, Bakersfield CA  
   105.48
4. Albert Shrive, Naples FL; Michael Ranis, Miami FL; Anthony Barre, Marco Island FL; Donald Dalpe, Fort Myers FL  
   104.65
5. Mark Leonard, Long Beach CA; Edward Piken, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA; Steve Cohen, Las Vegas NV; Ron Feldman, Redondo Beach CA  
   103.43
6. Monica Angus – Alex Hong, West Vancouver BC; Jack Lee – Sidney Yang, Richmond BC; Nongyu Li, Palo Alto CA  
   98.83
7. Maritha Pottenger – Kent Hartman, San Diego CA; Norman Schwartz, Carlsbad CA; Heni Farhi, Chula Vista CA  
   98.77
8. Rhoda Katenstien – Corey Krantz, Delray Beach FL; Michael Cassel, Roseville MN; Barry Purrrington, Eagan MN  
   98.68
9. Michael Flander, Eagan MN; Joel Kramer, Minneapolis MN; Theo Lichtenstein, Tallahassee FL; Suzanne Cook, McKinleyville CA  
   96.99
10. Peter Cheung, Fremont CA; Arjun Dhir, Alpharetta GA; Ahmed Soliman, Astoria NY; Yoko Glubok Sobel, Brooklyn NY  
    94.91
11. Robert Guedard, Brossard QC; Bob Kerchner, Potomac MD; André Houde, Montreal QC; Larry Whitlow, Saskatoon SK  
    92.88
12. Randy Okubo, St. Paul MN; Mark Krusemeyer, Northfield MN; Rebecca Anspach – Keith Connolly, Minneapolis MN  
    90.84
13. Norman Beck – Kristen Onsgard – Joan Jackson, Dallas TX; Nancy Passell, Plano TX  
    90.15
14. Bruce Luttrell, San Jose CA; Kou-Ping Cheng, Saratoga CA; Rajeev Gupta, Oakland CA; D. Lionel O’Young, Walnut CA  
    88.52
15. A.J. Stephani, Cincinnati OH; Stephen Moese, West Chester OH; Jess Jurkovic – Bill Begert, New York NY  
    85.80

0–10,000 IMP Pairs – 92 pairs

1. Ronald Kay – William Gran, San Diego CA  
   85.60
2. Bill St. Clair, Cypress TX; Seth Cohen, Stamford CT  
   73.55
3. Alan Wood, San Jose CA; Bob Enenstein, Los Altos CA  
   62.54
4. Paul Foster, Oceanside CA; Sara Rothmuller, Occidental CA  
   60.81
5. Giuseppe Delle Cave, Italy; Francisco Bernal, Miami FL  
   60.44
6. Mary Ann White – Jimmy Reynolds, Laredo TX  
   58.73
7. Bill Kertes, York ON; Ina Demme, Maple ON  
   55.37
8. Andrew Russell, St. Catharines ON; Michael Gamble, Shawnigan Lake BC  
   53.96
9. Anthony Barre, Marco Island FL; Donald Dalpe, Fort Myers FL  
   51.47
10. Virgil Massey, Driftwood TX; Charlene Sands, Pflugerville TX  
    49.88
11. Ben Tucker, Vashon WA; Howard Einberg, Los Angeles CA  
    41.86
12. Susan Stubinski – Bruce Wick, Houston TX  
    35.77
13. Edward Piken, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA; Steve Cohen, Las Vegas NV  
    35.05
14. Kou-Ping Cheng, Sarasota CA; D. Lionel O’Young, Walnut CA  
    32.68
15. Joe Houde, Vista CA; Andrew Loh, Solana Beach CA  
    29.88
16. Julius Sigurjonsson, Iceland; Margaret Peterson, Larkspur CA  
    26.43
17. Jim Johnsen, San Diego CA; Harvinder Sidhu, Scottsdale AZ  
    24.75
18. Stephen Mackay, Markham ON; Donald Rumelhart, Ann Arbor MI  
    23.51
19. Roger Zellmer, San Diego CA; Murray Warmath, La Jolla CA  
    22.26
20. Grant Vance, Oakland CA; Andre Fargeix, Berkeley CA  
    22.24
21. William Hall, Thousand Oaks CA; Jon Wright, San Diego CA  
    22.02
22. Norman Schwartz, Carlsbad CA; Heni Farhi, Chula Vista CA  
    20.03

Winners of the 0–10,000 Swiss Teams:  
Phil Altus, Muriel Altus, Martha Woodworth and Greg Michaels

Winners of the 0–10,000 IMP Pairs: Bill Grant and Ron Kay

Second in the 0–10,000 Swiss Teams:  
Adam Grossack, Adam Kaplan, Debbie Benner and Arthur Crystal

Second in the 0–10,000 IMP Pairs: Seth Cohen and Bill St. Clair
My wife, Pamela, was invited to play on the USA women’s team for the $250,000 Beijing Hua Yuan Cup Women’s Elite Bridge Tournament in October. I had been to China for the 2007 Mind Games Olympiad and had fond memories. Pamela had not gone, so it would be exciting to go together. The team had three partnerships: Lynn Deas and Janice Seamon-Molson, Kerri Sanborn and Irina Levitina, and Pamela Granovetter and Sylvia Shi. Eight teams were invited, finishing in this order: USA, France, Beijing Hua Yuan, China, Denmark, England, Scotland and Italy. The event was played round-robin style, with every team playing two 12-board matches against every other team.

The Chinese Contract Bridge Association and the Hua Yuan corporation did an amazing job of hospitality. They provided hotel rooms and meals for the players. In our case, because we keep kosher and could order food only from one restaurant in the city (Dini’s Kosher at the Beijing Chabad House), the organizers gave us a very generous food allowance. The Beijing Renaissance hotel was lovely, and all the people there were gracious. In fact, the people we met all over the city, whether those who knew us at the hotel or shopkeepers on the street, were respectful, upbeat and kind beyond anything we have ever seen. The language barrier was not a problem. Once the maid came to our hotel room to ask us if we needed more towels. When she saw I didn’t understand, she whipped out her iPhone and hit a translation app!

The BEIH Pairs

Preceding the team event there was a three-session pair game, called the BEIH pairs, with the 24 pairs from the teams. The winners were Deas and Seamon-Molson, with a 58.8% score, taking the $10,000 first prize. Second were Fiona Brown and Sally Brock of England with 55.10%. Everyone on the USA team was happy for the winners, but even happier when they learned later that there was an “R&F Cup” $10,000 prize for best overall performance, and this prize would be shared with the whole team! The USA team also shared the $30,000 first prize in the team event. Here are some interesting deals from the American stars. Some of the deals have been rotated for convenience.

A solid preempt

Deas is known as an aggressive player, but her action on this hand might very well be called traditional or even old-fashioned.

东 5♠

| Dlr: East | ♥ A J 7 |
| Vul: None | ♠ 10 5 4 2 |
| ♣ 9 8 6 4 |
| ♦ 5 4 |
| ♥ Q 8 6 5 |
| ♦ 9 3 |
| ✔ K J 3 |
| ♥ A J 5 2 |
| ♠ A K Q 10 7 6 2 |
| ♥ 9 4 2 |
| ♦ Q 8 |
| ♣ 3 |

East opened 1♦, Precision style, and Deas bid 3♠ with the South hand. Most of the other South players bid 1♣, thinking the hand was too good for a preempt. West now had to make a negative double at the three level, and East had poor alternatives, choosing to pass out the double, hoping to defeat the contract.

The ♠ 3 was led to the ace, and East switched to the ♥ K and another club. Deas ruffed and led the ♦ Q to the king.

On a heart switch, Deas won the ace and led a low diamond from dummy, ruffing. When the jack dropped, there was hope. She led two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. When the spades turned out to be 2–2, the ♦ 10 took care of one of her heart losers, so she made three for a top score. East could have defeated the contract by switching to the ♥ 3, but shifts like that are always easier in your armchair at home while studying the entire diagram.

The right suit first

Seamon-Molson showed perfect technique on this deal, also from the pairs game.

| Dlr: South | ♠ Q 8 6 |
| Vul: None | ♥ A Q 9 3 |
| ♦ K 10 4 |
| ♣ K 10 8 |
| ♣ K J 10 7 2 |
| ♥ 5 4 |
| ♠ 9 5 |
| ♥ 10 8 7 6 |
| ♦ 3 |
| ♥ Q 9 8 5 2 |
| ♣ 9 6 5 3 2 |
| ♥ A 4 3 |
| ♥ K J 2 |
| ♠ A J 7 6 |
| ♣ A Q 4 |

West North East South

Pass 1♥ Pass 2NT
Pass 4NT Pass 6NT
All Pass

West led a club. Seamon-Molson, South, won and counted 10 sure tricks: one spade, four hearts, two diamonds and three clubs. Diamonds presented a possibility for one or two more tricks, and spades for one if the king was onside. She accurately tested spades first to see how many diamond tricks she would need (one or two), and if she only needed one extra trick in dia-
monds, she could bide her time before deciding which way to finesse.

Seamon-Molson led a low spade at trick two and West won the king. After this, declarer could cash the spades, hearts and clubs, coming down to three diamonds in dummy and three in hand. At that point, East had showed out in both black suits, so West was known to hold 5=2=1=5 shape, and Seamon-Molson was able to take a sure finesse in diamonds on the second round, leading to the king and then a diamond to the jack.

**Team event**

In the team event, USA took second place after the first day and then took first place and held it the rest of the week. They practically locked up first place with two rounds to play. One of the reasons for their solid performance was their team spirit. Everyone liked each other, which psychologically encourages the players to try hard. Wisely, bridge hands were rarely discussed at the dinner table at the conclusion of each day’s play. That was a time to relax.

“**Well done – lose nine!”**

Another reason for their success was their steady team play. You could see on their scorecards that they lost points on very few boards, mostly against unorthodox preempts that happened to work. For example, here’s a hand Shi played brilliantly only to lose 9 IMPs!

```
Dlr: West       Vul: None
              ♠ K 10 6 4 8 2 10 6 5 4
                      ♦ K 7
              ♥ Q 9 5 2 4
              ♣ J 8 3 7 9
              ♠ A 7 3 9 4 2 6 5
```

```
♠ 9 8 5 4 3
♥ 8 4 3 2 1 9 6 2
♦ A K 10 6 2 3
♣ A 4 3 2 1 6 5 4
```

West led the ♠ 2 (fourth best). Shi could see two spade tricks and probably six diamonds. The ♠ K looked like the ninth trick, but again, declarer was careful to bide her time. Shi played low from dummy and allowed East’s 8 to win the trick. The ♠ J was returned. It appeared that West held a singleton or void in hearts, and had led from four to the queen in spades. Would she do that if she held a five-card club suit to lead instead?

Shi backed her judgment by cashing the ♦ A and finessing the 10 on the next round. Making nine tricks for plus 400. At the other table, however, North opened 3♦ on her six-card suit and support for either major (notice how I’m pointing out the flaws in this bid). The American East player naturally overcalled 3♥ and was doubled, down four, minus 800. Lose 9.

**Monster hand**

In a match against Italy, Sanborn picked up the biggest hand of the year. It won’t be hard to find it:
open 4 ♣ with the West cards, and after a double by North, South bid 4 ♥. North then bid to a small slam.

**Profitable passes**

It’s not always a bidder’s game. How often do you earn 1000 points by passing? This final deal won the award for best defense, though it might have won for best bidding, even though East–West never took a bid.

Dr: South ♠ A K J 9 8 7 2
Vul: E–W ♥ J 8 5 4
♦ 4
♣ Q 10 6 5
♥ 10 8 6 5 3
♦ 10
♣ K 10 7

West North East South
Shi Granovetter 1 ♥

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Dbl Redbl All Pass

After South’s 1 ♥ opening, Shi (West) had no good bid and decided to wait. When North responded 1 ♠ and South bid 2 ♥, Shi doubled. In top-level bridge, a double after three suits have been bid is considered takeout of the second suit bid, in this case spades. North now miscalculated by redoubling. Perhaps she had a plan to redouble and then jump in spades to show a strong hand and long suit, but she didn’t get another chance.

Granovetter, East, might have bid 2 ♥ but chose to pass the redouble with her weak hand. In their system, this pass does not show a club stack, as some partnerships play. It simply shows a weak hand, and she had that for sure! South, not suspecting the danger she was in, also passed. Finally, Shi was in the catbird seat.

“Tenvisioned partner with short diamonds,” she said afterwards, “and she didn’t bid two hearts, so she must have a few trumps. Anyway, where was I going?”

Shi led a spade, a good idea to make sure partner knew she held a singleton. Declarer won in dummy and led the ♠ 9 around to the jack. Shi now cashed the ♥ K and ♥ A, then gave partner a diamond ruff by underleading. Granovetter ruffed and returned a spade for Shi to ruff. Then another low diamond was led for Granovetter to ruff. Declarer had to lose two more tricks to the ♠ A Q for down three, doubled and redoubled, a score of 1000 points to East–West.

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**BridgeFeed debuts online**

In November 2017, the ACBL launched BridgeFeed, a new mobile-friendly, online news site. See it at acbl.org/bridgefeed.

While members are still discovering it, the site drew about 81,000 page views in its first two weeks. It averaged almost 3000 unique visitors per day the first week, with 45% of them accessing it on handheld devices.

Dan Storch, the ACBL’s director of marketing, called these numbers very encouraging. “It is clear our goal to make BridgeFeed readable on every platform is paying off,” he said.

During NABC’s when Daily Bulletin articles are posted, NABC-related content dominates BridgeFeed. The rest of the time, it’s a mix of quizzes, bridge columns, news, announcements and flashbacks from Bridge Bulletin archives, including classic humor pieces.

It’s easy enough to scroll through the stories to find those that interest you, but you can also filter the stories displayed by selecting a category from the menu. To access this option on a mobile device, touch the three bars in the lower right of the green field across the top of the page. From there, you can select, for example, Tips & Tools for bridge columns or People for feature stories about players.

Matthew Granovetter is a world champion, six-time NABC winner and the author of more than 20 books.
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The Coups of Bridge

BY SIMON COcheme

coup \ˈkʊ\ n, pl coups \ˈküz\ [Fr., blow, stroke] 1 : a brilliant, sudden, and usu. highly successful stroke or act 2 : COUP D’ÉTAT

Let us start with the ship. The American steamship Merrimac was scuttled in Santiago Harbor, Cuba, in 1898, during the Spanish-American war.

A Merrimac Coup is where a defender sacrifices a high card, usually a king, to remove an entry to dummy before its long suit is set up. It may cost a trick or two, but it can save three or four.

In a Deschapelles Coup (named after an early 19th century French chess and whist player, Alexandre Deschapelles), a defender leads or discards a high card to create an entry to partner’s hand. He might play an unsupported king, for example, to force out the ace, in the hope or expectation that partner has the queen. Or he might discard an ace, hoping that partner has Q–x sitting over the king.

Merrimac and Deschapelles are defensive coups; the Vienna Coup is one more humble form of declarer play:

Your finesse has failed. Tomorrow it will succeed; But don’t count on it.

Have a look at a deal that shows one of the three high coups in action. Read all about it and then name the coup:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✧ 8 7 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ A 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ Q J 10 7 5 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 10 9 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>♥ Q 7 6 5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Q 9 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ K 9 2</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dir: South Vul: Both 1NT
West  North  East South
Pass  3NT All Pass

South is at the wheel in 3NT, and West leads the ♠ J. East goes up with the ace and, knowing from the bidding that declarer holds the ♠ K, switches to the ♦ K to remove the entry to dummy’s clubs. Declarer wins the trick and plays on clubs, hoping for a 2–2 break. He is out of luck. East takes his ♣ A on the third round and exits with the ♦ 6. Declarer wins and tries to get to dummy’s club winners by playing a heart to the queen. That loses and now he is held to eight tricks, two in each suit. If East returns a spade at trick two, the contract would make, with at

Simon Cocheme of London UK is a frequent Bridge Bulletin contributor.
least one overtrick.

Top marks if you said that the play of the ♦ K was a Merrimac Coup, probably the most common of the three. There was just a deceptive hint of a Deschapelles in there, with East creating a slow entry to West’s ♦ J, but the fact that the ♦ A and ♦ Q were in different hands did not mean there was a Vienna Coup.

The fourth of the famous coups from the whist era is the best known and by far the most frequent, the Bath Coup. Declarer, holding A–J–x, plays his low card when the king is led by his left-hand opponent. If LHO continues the suit, then declarer makes an extra trick. If LHO switches, then declarer gains a tempo. Accurate signalling can (or should) help the defense, but the coup still seems to work surprisingly often. There is a similar situation (a Shower Coup, perhaps) when declarer holds J–x–x and dummy has A–x–x. Again, if LHO leads the king, playing low from both hands means that LHO can’t lead the suit again without giving up a trick.

With no clues as to the whereabouts of the ♠ Q, declarer plays the jack from dummy and, when East plays low, discards a card from a different suit. As soon as West follows, South picks up his revoke card and plays a spade; the 3 if West had followed low, but the ace if West had played the queen. West is allowed to take his queen back, but declarer can take the marked finesse. Suffice it to say that this is cheating, and the laws of the game were changed so that a declarer cannot gain from such a play. I am only telling you about it so that you are forewarned, not so that you can try it out.

The Briar Patch Coup is another one that should not be in your armory. Feigning weakness with a comment, or by hesitation, facial expression or body language, to try to get your opponents to play a suit you like, is not something even bridge rabbits should do. Opening your weaker four-card minor, however, in an attempt to dissuade your opponents from leading the suit, is quite acceptable, and bridge foxes have been doing it for years.

What about a more modern coup? Well, the Senior Coup has been so-named by me, based on an article by English international Brian Senior. (As an aside, Brian modestly denies any connection with that frequent occurrence at the bridge table, the Senior Moment.) Imagine you are declarer (South) with this suit:

```
Dummy
♥ K 4 3 2

Declarer
♥ A 5 3
```

You play a low heart away from dummy’s king. If the queen wins, you cross back to dummy and play another low heart. You haven’t given up on your only legitimate chance, that your RHO started with ace-doubleton, but he might now play the ace from A–x–x or A–x–x–x, fearful that you started with queen-jack doubleton. West will have given East a count in the suit on the first round, but knowing the distribution doesn’t help RHO at all.

None of these coups is recognized in Scotland. There, the word coup has a single connotation: a gross error caused by a loss of concentration. It is an abbreviation for that well-known Scottish expression about bovine aviation, “A coo flew by.”

To be continued.
Hugh Ross 1937–2017

By Warren Cederborg

Hugh Ross, ACBL Hall of Famer and Grand Life Master from Oakland CA, died Nov. 20. Ross was a three-time Bermuda Bowl champion and also had four silver medals in world-level play. In North American championships, Ross had 19 titles.

Over the nearly 50 years that I knew Hugh, I always found it amusing that his email address was “huge loss,” but – speaking for all his friends – nothing now seems more appropriate.

Hugh Ross was not only a world-class bridge player, but a great friend and an incredible human being. And all who knew him cherished his sense of humor.

Bart Bramley echoed those thoughts. “Hugh’s gentle manner belied a powerful intellect and a fierce will to win,” Bramley said. “But what I will miss most about him was his keen sense of humor; he could find absurdity in any situation, and he never hesitated to point it out, even when the joke was on him. He was one of a kind.

“Hugh and I first ‘bonded’ when he was captain of my Bermuda Bowl team in Yokohama in 1991. In 1992, we started a regular partnership that lasted several years. That same year, my wife Judy and I started a Thanksgiving tradition of dinner with Hugh and his wife Min, along with Darwin and Kay Afdahl. The Thanksgiving tradition outlasted our partnership by a wide margin, and was a highlight of every fall national. This is especially poignant coming so near to Thanksgiving.”

Min Ross said the occasion of Thanksgiving normally brought out a humorous story. “When Hugh was 19, he won a 21-pound turkey at a local Montreal bridge tournament, partnering with reputedly the worst player at the club.”

Kay Afdahl said, “Hugh always had a unique sense of humor – so dry it crackled. He had a knack for seeing through the most complicated situations and extracting only the barest facts to reach his conclusions. To this day, I can hear him say, ‘Nonsense!’ after listening to everyone chattering on about nothing and everything. Then he would pounce on the solution, which to his mind was ever so obvious. Hugh did not see things in shades of gray. Perhaps that was why he had no patience with complicated bidding systems. He had no trouble speaking clearly and being understood by many different partners using only the 17 words in the language of bridge.”

Longtime friend Mike Lawrence said that Hugh “was as close to having a perfect personality as possible. My wife observed that Hugh never had to apologize because he never had anything to apologize for. As for his bridge, he was one of the few who could march to a slightly different beat than others and do very well with it.

“Along with Barbara and Gerry Fox and Joe and Shirley Nedham, my wife Suzie and I were part of a gourmet dinner group that met regularly for 42 years at Min and Hugh’s home in Oakland.”

Gerry Fox said, “When I think of Hugh, three things come quickly to mind: first, his gentle and considerate nature; second, his remarkable intellect; and, third, his ability to find humor in obscure places. When Hugh spoke, everyone listened; when Hugh laughed, everyone wanted to know why.

“After his first stroke, he had a serious problem with numbers and was told that he would no longer be able to play bridge. About a month later, we tested him at the table. I had prepared four relatively easy hands, all of which would have him as the declarer. The play problem was a simple holdup, which he executed perfectly. He was on his way to nine tricks, when he took an unlikely detour and managed to go down. He immediately started to laugh and said, ‘That’s the problem with matchpoints; I was trying for an overtrick.’”

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NABC TITLES


Vanderbilt Knockout Teams 1984, 1987

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Student-union bridge is getting a push on college campuses throughout the country.

The ACBL Educational Foundation has launched a new Collegiate Bridge Initiative to support students, faculty members and nearby unit players as they get bridge clubs and classes going on campus. Supplies, stipends and enrollment bonuses are funded by the ACBL and ACBL Educational Foundation. The League is also partnering with BBO to offer College Bridge Online (CBO) – daily tournaments and monthly championships that award prizes and free access to BBO robots. Information about the program is available at acbl.org/college.

The College Bridge Bowl, which crowns the collegiate champions for the year, has been revamped. Unlike previous years, the championship – which will be held during the Summer NABC in Atlanta – will be open to any and all college teams. An online tourney in the spring allows teams to compete for an expense-paid trip to the bowl game.

“In the past, students advocated for greater interaction, and the new Bridge Bowl format responds to that suggestion,” says Stephanie Threlkeld, ACBL’s manager of education.

In Atlanta, all the entering teams will compete in a round-robin over a day and a half; while the top teams go on to play head-to-head in the semifinals and final, the other students will compete in individual tourneys.

Supplies and stipends aside, the critical campus connections are the students and faculty members who work to make bridge happen.

### Getting credit

Several institutes offer bridge as a credit course/elective. The University of Minnesota’s Honors Experience was profiled last year (June, pg. 28). Matthew Bribitzer-Stull, director of the Honors Program, says the school is offering the for-credit elective again in the spring semester. “In the fall,” he adds, “we got a bridge club going; about 12 students attend each week.”

Lisa Mantini, who teaches mathematics at Oklahoma State University, had to get the OK from two departments to make a bridge class available. She did, and Games of Strategy: Contract Bridge is offered as a math add-on class through the Honors College.

“We set the capacity at 24,” Mantini says, “The class, which meets once a week for 75 minutes, is full!”

A year into the course’s availability, she now finds there’s a need for Bridge I and Bridge II.

Mantini shares teaching duties with colleague Jeff Mermin. When they can, they get away to play duplicate at the Fun and Games DBC in Oklahoma City. “We’ve met some folks from our unit in Oklahoma City, and they have offered help in various ways if we’d ever like to develop a sanctioned game here on campus.”

Douglas Vander Griend chairs the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Calvin College, a small liberal arts college in Grand Rapids MI.

“Here, contract bridge is an interdisciplinary course and therefore not associated with a department,” Vander Griend says, “All students can take it, and I get a mix of majors from all over the campus.”

The class of 28 students is taught on a pass-fail basis for three weeks straight, three hours a day, during the January term.

“I find it a great setting to learn bridge, which has a bit of a steep learning curve. It is a very popular course and always maxes out. By the end of the 45 contact hours, I have them all playing duplicate bridge at the local bridge club, though generally committing many gaffes and getting beat soundly.”
Vander Griend says his goal with the class is to get students enough into bridge that they can continue on their own. “Therefore I try to teach rubber bridge, I require students to get the Bridge Baron app and I have a lesson or two on how to best teach others.”

In the clubhouse
Surveying colleges with successful programs, the usual powerhouses of recent years are well represented: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2012), University of California at Berkeley (2014), University of Chicago (2015), University of Illinois (2016), and Georgia Tech (2017) have all won collegiate championship titles in the last decade.

Other schools enrolled in ACBL’s College Bridge Initiative include Allegheny College in Meadville PA; Columbia University; Harvard University; Harvey Mudd in Claremont CA; Iowa State University; Rice University; Trine University in Angola IN; University of California at Santa Barbara; University of Maryland; University of Virginia and Wake Forest University. Some programs have as few as one player regularly competing in online tourneys, and some have as many as a couple dozen. With the exception of Iowa State, Trine, UC Santa Barbara, Maryland and Virginia, all advanced to the online qualifying stage of last year’s College Bridge Bowl.

Northwestern University
Last year, Northwestern earned a trip to Toronto to play in the College Bridge Bowl, but finished out of the money. Kyle Rockoff, a member of that squad, heads up the club this year.
“Our current membership is around 18 students,” he says, “with about 10 to 12 showing up regularly per meeting. We also have about five to 10 community members that come either for mentorship, to learn the basics or just to play duplicate.”

University of Alabama
The bridge club at the University of Alabama was started in 2013, but treasurer Turner Arndt says that it wasn’t until recently that they got more serious about adding members to the roster and improving the quality of the club.
“Our bridge club has been slowly growing,” he says, “and I think this is because we’ve gotten a lot better at retaining our new members past their first semester.”
Arndt says the informal group meets weekly for an hour at the student center. “Our club, The Bridge, plays casually for no score and talks strategy to better our play.”
He says that one incentive that keeps some of their members coming back is the occasional free pretzels from the nearby Auntie Anne’s.
“In addition to our weekly meetings,” Arndt says, “we take trips to a local retirement home – Capstone Village – to play bridge with the residents once every other Sunday. To me, these two functions of our club satisfy our objectives: to foster and encourage a love for the game and to use that passion to serve some of Tuscaloosa’s most deserving citizens.”

Tufts University
Zachary Grossack is a junior majoring in psychology at Tufts University in Medford MA. He is also an expert player with several North American championships and World Junior gold medals to his credit. As a way of sharing his
passion for the game, he started a bridge club in the spring of his freshman year, and while he could count on four regular participants, he says the bridge club didn’t get a good following.

“Then, last year was hard,” he says. “There are a lot of barriers to becoming a club on campus and I’d sort of given up.”

Returning his junior year, Grossack says he felt somewhat ambivalent, but two regulars from his freshman-year lessons – twins Ilana and Risa Goldberg – refused to let the club die. At the beginning of the year, Ilana and Risa set up a table at the club fair. Grossack says he got a text from them during the fall event – “A bunch of people were signing up for bridge club!”

Of about 50 who indicated interest, 20 showed up for the general information meeting. Eight weeks into classes, Grossack has eight regulars. “This year is going significantly better. Two tables is really good for a small school like Tufts.”

Grossack teaches using the BBO robots. He encourages his students to play the eight-board college individual online tournaments every day “because that’s how I learned – just by playing a lot of hands.”

As for Ilana and Risa, Grossack says, “They’re real excited now because they want to play bridge with their grandmother.”

**Princeton University**

Nathan Finkle says bridge at Princeton is doing OK! “I am a freshman who was thrust into the position of organizing the bridge club.” The club, which consists of 10 members, organizes their meetings using GroupMe, a group-messaging app.

“So far, with everything going on – recruiting for internships, jobs, etc. – we haven’t met often. But we hope to meet weekly. I personally aspire to get to the semifinals of the College Bridge Bowl or better. But I’m just the team dreamer.”

Finkle encourages his team to play in the CBO tourneys. “We’ve had mixed results. Some days we score 60% and some days we score 45%. I personally think daily practice makes a huge difference, especially when there’s a competitive aspect and a team-building aspect to it. We want both to do better individually than everyone else (on our team and outside), but also, we want to do well so that our school can top the leaderboard.”

**Carleton College**

Alexander Frieden is president of the bridge club at Carleton, a small, “nerdy, but fun-nerdy” liberal arts school in Northfield MN.

“We get at least three tables every meeting,” says Frieden. “We meet twice a week: for two hours on Saturday afternoon before dinner, and then at 8:30 Tuesday evenings. We’ve been known to play at the Campus Café till 1 a.m.” He says that with the enthusiastic new members who have joined the group this year, they’ve even played till 5 a.m. on a couple of occasions!

“We work to find the balance between playing bridge at a higher level and playing for fun. Some people come to meetings to learn and grow, and others – snowed under with schoolwork – come just to hang out and play some cards. And that’s OK.”

The Carleton Club is sanctioned by the student senate, and with that recognition, receives a good deal of financial support. With funding provided through the school and the use of school-fleet vehicles, the club is able to attend one sectional a trimester and a regional at the end of the year. They also pile in a van on Friday nights to drive an hour north to the Grand Slam Club in Minneapolis.

“Our aims this year are to qualify one GNT Flight C team, and send two teams to the Bridge Bowl,” Frieden says.

His passion is undeniable. “I love bridge and I love learning to improve my game, but I think that in order to get young people to play, it is vital to just let them have fun.”

The emphasis at Carleton College bridge club meetings is in having fun.
The folks in Omaha were probably surprised to see a pair from the Oregon Coast show up at their sectional. With that stop in Nebraska in October under their belt, Monica Taylor and Lew Richardson completed a goal set almost 10 years earlier: playing in at least one bridge tournament in each of the 50 states.

Both live in Astoria, the northernmost city in Oregon, and began playing tournaments in nearby Seaside in 2007. The pair had little more than 100 masterpoints each and had played only in four states – Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Colorado – when Richardson decided in March 2008 that he wanted to collect them all. “I had not traveled out of the Northwest much before playing in Colorado and thought it would be fun to play against different people from many areas.”

Now, after 31 regionals, 23 sectionals and eight NABCs – all requiring air travel – plus 55 tournaments in Oregon and Washington, they’re Ruby Life Masters.

They didn’t do it Chris Compton-style, criss-crossing the country going from one tournament to the next. They kept most of their trips short, three or four days, for a number of reasons: pets at home in Astoria; Taylor having two club games a week to direct there; and Richardson, 75, having diabetic neuropathy in his feet. One time they tried going to back-to-back tournaments in Pennsylvania and New York, and didn’t like it very much. So they spread their trips out and hit five or six states a year. The heaviest travel year was 2013, when they visited eight states.

Except for their first four states, the only one they visited more than once for tournaments was South Carolina. (They’ve also played in British Columbia three times and Ontario once.) The other 45 states were one-and-done. The lucky site for each of those states was selected based on weather, proximity to airports and timing to avoid family and club obligations, Richardson said.

Although they didn’t spend much time in most of the 50 states and enough of it was spent at bridge tables to bring in more than 300 masterpoints, that doesn’t mean there wasn’t time for sightseeing. Taylor has fond memories of taking a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier in Denali National Park in Alaska and a horse-drawn carriage in Savannah GA; visiting the Nantucket Whaling Museum in Massachusetts, an old gunpowder plant in Delaware and Glacier Park in Montana; and taking a small plane to the Grand Canyon during the 2008 Summer NABC in Las Vegas. They saw the final draft of the U.S. Constitution in New Hampshire and a multitude of solar panels in Vermont.

50 TOURNAMENTS IN 50 STATES

Seaside OR ............... Oct 2007
Reno NV .................. Dec 2007
Vancouver WA .......... Feb 2008
Denver CO ............... March 2008
Boise ID ................. May 2009
Whitefish MT ............. May 2010
Cheyenne WY ............ Sept 2010
Orlando FL ............... Nov 2010
Charleston SC ......... Dec 2010
Yuma AZ ............... Jan 2011
Richmond VA ........... May 2011
Anchorage AK .......... June 2011
Pittsburgh PA .......... Sept 2011
Schnectady NY ............ Sept 2011
Lake Geneva WI ........ Oct 2011
Albuquerque NM ..... Jan 2012
Rapid City SD ........ May 2012
Fargo ND ........ Aug 2012
San Francisco CA ...... Nov 2012
Overland Park KS .... Dec 2012
Honolulu HI .......... Jan 2013
Savannah GA ......... Feb 2013
St. Louis MO .......... March 2013
Hyannis MA .......... April 2013
Oklahoma City OK ... May/June 2013
Salt Lake City UT .. Sept 2013
Cambridge MD .......... Nov 2013
Wilmington DE ........ Dec 2013
Dallas TX ............ March 2014
Raleigh NC .......... May 2014
Gulfport MS .......... June 2014
Fairborn OH .......... Sept 2014
Danbury CT .......... Oct 2014
New Orleans LA ....... March 2015
South Bend IN .......... April 2015
Edwardsville IL ......... May 2015
Council Bluffs IA .... July 2015
Nevington NH ........ Aug 2015
Farmington Hills MI .. Oct 2015
Birmingham AL ......... March 2016
Hot Springs Village AR .. April 2016
Manchester VT ......... May 2016
Wheeling WV .......... Aug 2016
Warwick RI ........... Sept 2016
Louisville KY ...... Feb 2017
Portland ME .......... March 2017
Nashville TN ........ July 2017
Allendale NJ .......... Sept 2017
Omaha NE .......... Oct 2017
There were also bridge highlights and lowlights along the way. Taylor, Richardson and their Alabama teammates won money at the regional in Birmingham. Thinking a hand had been passed out in Fargo ND, Richardson, in second seat, exposed his hand at his first turn to bid, barring Taylor from the auction and allowing the opponents to make an impossible 3NT with little to nothing when declarer got to choose which of the 13 penalty cards Richardson had to play at each turn.

The most dramatic moment of their journey came when a tornado hit the Oklahoma City sectional on May 31, 2013, at the start of the evening session. At check-in, Biltmore Hotel staff had advised Taylor to put a mattress over the bathtub to create a shelter. As tornado alarms went off, the manager entered the playing area and ordered everyone to leave – and found out what happens when anyone tries to tell bridge players to put their cards down. As Taylor headed for her bathtub, reluctantly, the more die-hard players exited. “There was flash flooding, baseball-sized hail, and the trees around the hotel were snapped off and pulled out of the ground,” Taylor said. Although there was an inch of rain on the hallway carpet Saturday morning, the games resumed.

By the start of 2017, Taylor and Richardson had just five states left on their list: Kentucky, Maine, Nebraska, New Jersey and Tennessee. By the start of fall, there was just one. Two weeks after the 10th anniversary of their first Seaside Regional, they reached the finish line in Omaha.

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**Calendar’s trick-or-treat**

At the Valencia Bridge Studio in Santa Clarita CA, there’s one weekly night game on Tuesdays. It’s a special treat for the club when Halloween falls on a Tuesday, as it did in 2017. Manager Kathy Swaine and director Rand Pinksy held a Halloween Costume Club Appreciation Game and gave awards for the best costumes. Many players provided candy and Halloween-themed cakes and cookies. The Valencia Halloween game usually happens once every five or six years. However, due to a trick of the calendar, club members had been waiting 11 long years since 2006 to have a real Halloween at the club. They’re looking forward to 2023 already.

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**A new VP scale**

By Ron Hartlen | Meaford DBC | bridgewebs.com/meaford

When clubs hold Swiss team games, there are several options available in ACBLscore for converting IMPs to victory points. But at Meaford DBC, a small club in Ontario, director Ron Hartlen found each option leaving something to be desired.

Most directors are familiar with the ACBL 20-point and 30-point scales, as found on typical scoresheets. A lesser-known offering is the WBF continuous 20-point scale. What are the main characteristics, pros and cons of these scales?

The ACBL scales are simple. Net IMPs convert to simple integer values of victory points. However, over ranges of up to 4 IMPs (20–23, for example) the VPs earned remain the same. Thus many IMPs won are essentially worthless for victory points! The 30-point scale starts off more steeply than the 20-point scale, providing relatively more VPs for simply winning a match, even if...
The ACBL is pleased to recognize people who have recruited 100 or more new members in the past 12 months. Each has received a $500 recruiting bonus.

Donna Lombardini, Alcester SD
Judy Knox, Memphis TN
Kenneth Powell, Livingston NJ
Jesse Laird, Fort Lauderdale FL
Cheryl Schneider, Westerville OH
Susan Menache, Alexandria LA
Grant Petersen, Taylor MI
Claude Daganais, Laval QC
Joanne Molt, Grand Rapids MI
Michelle Golden, Sarasota FL
Joyce Ryan, Houston TX
Kimberly Hayward, Edina MN
Susan Miguel, Tiverton RI
Andrew Halpern, Chagrin Falls OH
Lisa Procter, Dover MA
David Birnbaum, Pegram TN
Cheryl Scott, Charleston SC
Judy Elbogen, Mission Viejo CA
North is the dealer, but South opens 1♥ out of turn. It is not accepted. North opens 1♠, and East–West are silent. Is 1♥ now by South a comparable call?

No, 1♥ would not be a comparable call per Law 23. To be considered comparable, the replacement call must meet one of three independent definitions:

1. It needs to have the same or a similar meaning to the replaced call, or;
2. It needs to define a subset of possible meanings of the replacement call (the 2008 version of Law 27 said “as or a more precise meaning,” which can be useful to evaluate this), or;
3. It needs to have the same purpose as the replaced call.

In general, to be deemed comparable, a replacement bid must encompass everything, or nearly everything, that the withdrawn call showed. A 1♥ opener shows opening values and, for most players, five or more hearts. A 1♥ response, however, shows at least 5 or 6 points and four or more hearts. This gives it a considerably wider range of meanings, so it does not pass the test of “a subset of possible meanings.” In fact, it would be considered a “superset.” This also stops it from having the same or similar meaning as the withdrawn 1♥ “opener,” which we would normally say is the case if the distribution shown is very similar and the point range is within 2 or 3 points. Finally, it certainly isn’t a call that has the same purpose. These bids refer to artificial meanings (relays, asking bids, etc.).

A strong jump shift to 2♥ would be a comparable call, if they happen to play them, as it could be considered a subset of the 1♥ opener due to it showing at least five hearts and virtually every point range consistent with a 1♥ opener.

North is the dealer, but South opens 1♥ out of turn. It is not accepted. North opens 1♣, and East–West are silent. Is 2♥ now by South a comparable call?

If South bids 2♥, that is a comparable call, but not necessarily because it is a subset of 1♥ openings. If 2♥ is not game forcing, there are certainly hands that would respond 2♥ which might not be opened 1♥. So in that case, 2♥ is not a subset of hands that would open 1♥. 2♥ in “standard” shows five or more hearts and at least 10 points, but a 1♥ opening shows five or more hearts and at least 12 points. However, the two bids should be ruled comparable because they are “similar” per Law 23A1.

North opens 1NT, East passes, and South bids 2♦ as a transfer to hearts. North bids 2♥ out of turn (not accepted by East). West gets his turn and bids 2♠. Is 3♥ by North a comparable call?

Pass would now be a comparable call for North since all hands that would pass would have bid 2♥. 3♥ should also be accepted as a comparable call, although not necessarily by the subset definition because some hands that bid 3♥ might have super-accepted the transfer (i.e., opener may have jumped to 3♥ to show a maximum and four-card support). But 3♥ is surely “similar” to 2♥ and should be allowed for that reason. If the slight extra information available from the withdrawn 2♥ bid (the failure to super-accept) turns out to assist South in making winning decisions later, the director has recourse to Law 23C (Non-Offending Side Damaged).

South opens 1♥ out of turn with East as dealer, not accepted by West. East opens 1♠. Would double be a comparable call?

2♥ would be a comparable call for South, but double would not. Double is not a subset of 1♥ openings, and the distributional differences between the two calls are too much to deem them “similar.”
See the West and East hands that appear on pages 53 and 55 respectively, and try bidding them with a regular partner. Compare how you performed with the expert pairs whose auctions you can read about in this month’s column. The North–South players are silent unless otherwise noted. The competitors were not informed of any interference by the opponents before the bidding commenced. The form of scoring is matchpoints with a 12 top.

The Bridge Bulletin auctions are meant to portray possible bidding sequences to one of the top-scoring contracts using common methods.

Our pairs this month comprised the winning foursome in the Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss Teams at last summer’s NABC in Toronto. Joann and Bob Glasson have seamlessly survived 40 years of marriage and bridge partnership (no easy feat!), finally winning their first NABC title together. They are also co-chairs for the upcoming Spring NABC in Philadelphia, and Joann is the District 4 representative on the Board of Directors. This was Bob’s first NABC win, while Joann has several NABC titles and world championship medals in Women’s events. The Glassons play Precision with 14–16 notrumps, and their 1♦ opener promises at least two cards in the suit.

Marty Rabinowitz and Rick Rowland, a partnership for 25 years, have been a major force in the District 4 bridge community. This was their first NABC title together (Rick, a Grand LM, earned his second victory in the Senior Swiss), to go along with more than 100 regional wins. They play a fairly standard 2/1 system with 15–17 notrumps and a few gadgets. “We’re solid citizens,” Rowland noted, so don’t expect to see them open balanced 11-counts.

Problem 1

Bob North Joann South
1♥ 1NT (Pass)
2♥ (Pass) 2♠ (Pass)
3♥ (Pass) 3♥ (Pass)
4♥ (Pass) 6♥ All Pass

A tough choice right away for East. Joann opted for the 1NT overcall, and a transfer auction ensued. 3♥ was natural and game forcing, and Joann intended 3♥ as “liking diamonds ... I’d have bid 3♠ now or pre-accepted earlier [with a three-level bid over 2♥] if I preferred spades.” Bob wasn’t so sure, but rebid his nice diamonds anyway, which Joann assumed set trumps and showed slam interest. She cuebid 5♠, but Bob signed off, fearing wasted heart values opposite.

Rick chose to pass 1♥ (Marty would have overcalled 1NT, “but this worked out great!”), feeling he could handle anything partner did. Marty balanced with 1♠, and Rick’s 2♥ showed strength ambiguous as to spade fit. He struck gold when partner showed diamonds, so he bid 3♥ to see if Marty had rebiddable spades. Over partner’s diamond rebid, Rick just bid what he thought he could make.

### Problem 2

West East
♠ A 9 7 6 4 ♠ Q J
♥ — ♦ A K 5 3 2
♦ K Q 9 7 3 ♦ A 6 4 2
♣ 9 4 2 ♣ A 10

Bob North Joann South
1♥ 1NT (Pass)
2♠ (Pass) 2♥ (Pass)
3♥ (Pass) 3♥ (Pass)
4♥ (Pass) 6♥ All Pass

A Bridge Bulletin auction: (1♥)–Dbl–(Pass)–2♠–(Pass)–2NT–(Pass)–3♦–(Pass)–3♥–(Pass)–4♥–5♣–(Pass)–6♦–All Pass. We think East is just good enough for double, then notrump. West’s heart void strongly suggests that East has an unusual double, so we like starting low with 2♠.

Scores: 6♦ 11; 4♠ 8; 5♣ 6; 3NT, 5♦ 4; 6♠ 3; 4NT 2

Glassons 4, Rabinowitz–Rowland 11
With no comfortable rebid over a 1♥ response (a raise would promise four cards), Joann chose to pass her balanced 11-count, unusual for a Precision pair. Bob’s 1♣ opening, showing 11–15 HCP with two or more diamonds, left her with some unpleasant choices. Not wanting to bid notrump with two low spades, she decided on an inverted raise, which could have left them in a six-card fit. Bob’s 2NT showed a good 12 to 13 balanced, and Joann was happy to play there.

The men had a standard auction after Rick’s sound initial pass. Marty had nowhere to go after the invitational 3♣.

**Bridge Bulletin** auction: As Marty and Rick, but only if the 1♥ rebid promises at least four clubs. Matchpoint considerations might get us to raise hearts anyway.

**Scores:** 3♥ 11; 2NT 7; 3♣, 3NT 5; 3♦ 3
Glassons 11, Rabinowitz–Rowland 16

**Problem 3**
South deals. E–W vulnerable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ Q10 8 5 4</td>
<td>♠ A K 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ A 4 2</td>
<td>♥ Q 9 8 7 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ –</td>
<td>♦ A 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ K Q J 10 7</td>
<td>♣ A 9 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bob**
1♠
3♣
4♥
5♦
6♦
Pass

**Joann**
2♥
3♠
5♠
6♠

**Problem 4**
West deals. Both vulnerable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 7</td>
<td>♠ A 6 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ A</td>
<td>♥ 9 7 6 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ K 10 8 2</td>
<td>♦ Q J 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ A 10 9 6 5 4</td>
<td>♣ K Q</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bob**
2♣
3♦
3♠
4♦
4NT
5♦
5NT
Pass

**Joann**
2♣
3♦
3♠
4♦
4NT
5♦
5NT
Pass

**Problem 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 7 6 5</td>
<td>♠ A K Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ J 6 5 3</td>
<td>♥ A 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ A Q 4</td>
<td>♦ K 9 7 6 5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ A 8</td>
<td>♣ K 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bob**
1♠
1NT
3♠
5♦
6♦
Pass

**Joann**
2♣
3♦
4♦
5♦
6♦
6NT
Pass

**Rabinowitz**
1♣
1♥
3♠
4♦
5♦
5♠
6♦
6NT
Pass

**Rowland**
1♥
2NT
3♠
4♦
5♦
6♦
6NT
Pass

The Glassons like to “pattern out” when possible so Bob chose 3♣ as his rebid, fortunate that it doesn’t show extra values as they play. Joann showed her spade support, and Bob completed the picture with 4♥ though he didn’t have to have three. Two cuebids followed, and Joann’s 5NT showed interest in seven on the way to 6♣. Bob had an easy pass with his minimum.

Marty opted for the immediate heart raise, as a 3♠ rebid would have promised extra values. 3♥ was ambiguous as to length, perhaps just a doubleton honor. 4♣ was a “non-serious” cuebid, and Rick’s 4♦ promised the ace. Marty signed off with his weak spades, but Rick launched Blackwood with plenty of strength in reserve. He signed off in 6♣ over the one key-card reply. As Rick put it, “We were trapped by finding hearts first.”

Marty signed off with his weak spades, but Rick’s 4♦ promised the ace. Marty signed off with his weak spades, but Rick launched Blackwood with plenty of strength in reserve. He signed off in 6♣ over the one key-card reply. As Rick put it, “We were trapped by finding hearts first.”

Marty, loving her minor-suit cards with nothing wasted in the majors, bid 3♠, ostensibly looking for a heart stopper. Her subsequent 4♠ clarified 3♠ as a cuebid looking for slam. Bob showed his diamond control, and Joann attempted to sign off with 4NT. Bob interpreted that as looking for a heart control, so he bid 5NT as “pick a slam.” 6♣ was a bit too high.

After a standard start, Rick took a practical approach with his pointed-suit stoppers and fitting club honors. “Hopefully the hearts break 4–4, or they won’t find the lead.”

**Bridge Bulletin** auction: 1♠–1♥; 2♣–2♦; 3♦–3♠(?); 4♣–5♠; Pass. East’s majors don’t look good for notrump when West shows 10 minor-suit cards.

**Scores:** 5♠ 10; 4♥ 6; 2NT 4; 3NT 3; 3♠ 2; 4♦, 6♣ 1
Glassons 22, Rabinowitz–Rowland 22
A very simple auction for our Precision pair: strong club, response showing 8–13 balanced (no five-card suit), natural rebid and raise. Joann’s 4♥ was key card for diamonds, and her 5♥ asked for kings after the two-plus-trump-queen reply. Bob’s 6♦ denied a king, but Joann could count 12 tricks in notrump. Both remarked later, “We needed a jack-ask!” but as we all know, it’s difficult to find a jack-ask in the bridge world.

Many would open 2NT with the East hand, but Rick did well to start with 1♥. The excellent fit was found immediately after the 2NT rebid, and Rick cuebid 3♥ to see if partner was interested in slam. Marty’s 4♣ was all Rick needed to hear to ask for key cards via 4♦. 5♠ showed two with the queen, but 5♥, intended as a request to show specific kings, was interpreted as a possible place to play. Marty hoped 5♣ was, “Partner, please bid 5NT,” and Rick knew something went awry since he held the ♦ K. He made one more try, then bid 6NT over Marty’s signoff. Rick knew something went awry since he held the ♠ Q 10 7 6 4 2.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 2NT–3♠; 3♦–4NT; 6NT–Pass. We think the hand is too strong to open 1♥, especially with difficult rebids over major-suit responses.

Scores: 7NT 12; 7♠ 11; 7♥ 10; 6NT 7; 6♦ 6; 6♥ 4; 5NT 2
Glassons 29, Rabinowitz–Rowland 29

Problem 6
South overcalls 1♥ if possible. North raises to 2♥ if possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ J 4</td>
<td>♠ A 9 7 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ 7 4 2</td>
<td>♥ 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Q 9 8</td>
<td>♦ A K J 6 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ A J 9 8 3</td>
<td>♣ K Q 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bob North Joann South
1♥ (1♥)
2♠ (2♥) 3♥ (Pass)
3♥ (Pass) 3♥ (Pass)
4♣ (Pass) 4♥ (Pass)
4♠ (Pass) 6♥ All Pass

Rabinowitz North Rowland South
Pass (2♥) Dbl (Pass)
2NT (Pass) 3♥ (Pass)
4♦ (Pass) 5♥ All Pass

After the strong club (16-plus unbalanced or 17-plus if balanced) and overcall, Bob’s 2♠ showed five or more clubs with at least 8 HCP. Joann raised, and Bob, finding himself a bit stuck, “punted” with 3♥: “Hopefully Joann will know what to do!” She tried 3♥, hoping to hear 3NT, but when Bob denied a heart stopper, she tried 4♠, key card for clubs. Joann bid the slam after finding one key card, believing that Bob would have bid 5♣ over 3♠ with a dead minimum. As it was, all she needed to find was a sixth club opposite, or a heart lead.

Marty, with responding values but no good bid, had an easy pass. His 2NT over the reopening double announced minors with longer clubs. His subsequent diamond raise was all Rick needed to bid game.

Bridge Bulletin auction: As Marty and Rick. West can’t have a natural notrump bid after passing originally, so the minors interpretation is logical.

Scores: 5♥, 5♠ 10; 4♣, 4♥ 4;
2NT, 6♣ 1
Glassons 30, Rabinowitz–Rowland 39

Problem 7
South deals. Both vulnerable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>East</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ 7 4</td>
<td>♠ Q 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ A K 9 6</td>
<td>♥ 8 7 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ J 10 9 6 3</td>
<td>♦ A K Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ A J</td>
<td>♣ K Q 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bob Joann
1♥ 1♥
2♠ 3NT
Pass

Rabinowitz Rowland
1♥ 1♥
2♥ 2NT
3♠ 4♥
4♥ Pass

Bob’s 2♥ raise promised four-card support with minimum values, as they often raise to 3♥ with the equivalent of 14 or 15 support points in the Precision context (he did give 3♥ some consideration). So, despite her 19 points, Joann was not tempted to look for slam, and wisely offered notrump with her 4–3–3–3 shape. Bob made the winning decision to pass after long thought.

Marty’s raise could have been based on three-card support, so Rick’s 2NT asked for clarification. 3♠ showed a maximum with four hearts, and Rick tried a 4♥ cuebid. When Marty showed no interest Rick gave up, a good stop for that strain. Rick later remembered that 3NT over 3♠ would have been a serious slam try, “which was probably a better call with my hand.”

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♥ –1♥; 2♥–3NT; 4♥–Pass. We like Joann’s evaluation to downgrade the West hand with the sterile shape.

Scores: 5NT 11; 4♥ 7; 5♥ 6; 5♦ 3; 6♥, 6♦, 6NT 1
Glassons 41, Rabinowitz–Rowland 46

Problem 8
West deals. None vulnerable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ A J 4 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>♥ K 3</td>
<td>♥ A 7 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Q 10 7 6 4 2</td>
<td>♦ A K J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ 9</td>
<td>♣ K Q J 5 4 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bob Joann
1♥ 2♠
2♥ 3♥
3NT 4♥
4NT 6♥
Pass

Rabinowitz Rowland
1♥ 2♥
2♥ 3♠
4♥ 4♠
6♥ Pass

2♥ was a natural game force for both pairs. Bob’s 2♥ announced real

continued on pg. 52 ➤

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♠ 4 3 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ Q 6 5 ♣ A 9 7 3

- Pass
- Dbl
- Pass
- ?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
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<th>Award</th>
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<td>2♣</td>
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<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♦</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♣</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>

Meckstroth isn’t thrilled with his 1NT, “but I don’t have enough values to bid more. Getting to the wrong minor would be catastrophic.”

1NT by Cohen. “I wouldn’t know which minor to bid, nor on which level. Sure, I don’t love ace–empty, but I think 1NT is the best guess. I wish I could transfer to 1NT in case partner has, say, ♥ Q–x.”

Colchamiro: “1NT. Despite potentially being positionally undesirable, is there really another matchpoint choice?”

Sanborn bids 1NT. “I don’t like potentially wrong-siding the contract, but this is about right otherwise. I don’t want to pick a minor, then be wrong.”

Weinstein calls 1NT the easy part. “The hard part comes when they bid 2♥. It would depend on your agreements whether double is now takeout or you have to bid 2NT minors.”

Donn likes 1NT. “Much easier than if my majors were the other way around.”

Shi opts for 2♦. “I don’t think I have enough to cuebid, so I’ll just bid my higher minor. Then I can bid again if the auction gets competitive. I don’t like jumping in a minor with only four. In my experience, 1NT is right only when it helps us get to 3NT – otherwise partner likes to hear me respond in a suit when they make a takeout double.”

Meyers’ plan is similar. “2♦, and if they bid 2♥ on my left, I bid 3♣. I have 10 high-card points, but no tricks.”

Eventually Lawrence decides on 2♣. “This is a tough hand. Funny how some problems get under your skin. I will bid 2♣. Why? I don’t want to bid 1NT. If partner has some values and if he has heart help, it should play from his side. If there is more bidding, I should be well placed. Good problem.”


西 北 东 南

♠ K Q 10 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ 10 3 ♣ K J 9 7 4

- Pass
- 1♦
- Pass
- 1NT
- Pass
- 3♣

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Right and wrong

In August, Brad Theurer posted this problem on Bridge Winners, where it generated a lot of conversation. 1NT didn’t get much love, but here, it’s the experts’ preferred call.

Rigal explains. “I could guess which minor to bid, but I think 1NT covers most bases. This is the sort of hand where, even if the opponents lead hearts and set up the suit, I can pitch losers on the run of the hearts and come to seven or eight tricks. If I had to guess a minor, I’d bid 2♣, planning to balance with 2NT over 2♥.”

Boehm: “1NT. Probably wrong-sided, but right on values. And it’s matchpoints.”

Hampson keeps it simple. “1NT. I have a heart stopper and a balanced 10 count. I don’t want to elevate the level or guess the wrong minor to play.”

Lee bids 1NT to show a little bit of life without hanging partner for keeping the auction open. “I think we are under strength to cuebid, and guessing which minor to bid is an even bigger risk than 1NT!”

Systems check

A convention called two-way checkback makes this hand more manageable, but, unfortunately, Bridge Bulletin Standard plays plain old new-minor forcing and not two-way checkback. So the question is, what is 3♠? Weak? Invitational? Strong? Your call depends on the answer.

Meyers: “I don’t know if 3♣ is forcing in Bridge Bulletin Standard, but regardless, I am bidding 3♠. If partner has a singleton heart, I don’t want to be bidding 3NT.”

Boehm: “3♠ shows a concentration after bidding notrump and implies doubt about hearts – the bypassed suit. One heart stopper may not be enough if the tricks are slow.”

Cohen explains. “I want to be in game, but 3NT would be silly opposite short hearts. If partner has short
spades, he can now bid 3NT with something like:

♣ x ♥ J x x ♠ A Q x x ♦ A x x x x.

If not, we'll play 5♣:

♥ J x x ♥ x ♠ A Q x x ♦ A x x x x.

"3♣ should get us to the best game," says Meckstroth. "I want to play clubs opposite short hearts, notrump opposite short spades."

Ditto Korbel. "Sounds like partner has at least nine minor-suit cards, and I have a clear accept. If he has some heart help, we can play 3NT. If not, we will play 5♣."

Shi, 3♠: "5♣ will be on if partner has the right shortness. Here, if partner has a singleton spade and three hearts, they could continue with 3NT."

Hampson drives the point home. "3♠. I will play 3NT unless partner is short in hearts."

Lee doesn't want to give away the show. "3NT. 3♠ is tempting, but we might just rip nine tricks opposite the ♠ A and running clubs, so I will go for the most likely game without telling the opponents too much."

Weinstein: "3NT, assuming 3♠ is invitational. I want to bid 3♣ and try to avoid 3NT if partner has a stiff, but I'm worried that he won't bid 3NT over 3♣ with two low hearts. I feel a little better about just shooting out 3NT with neither opponent overcalling 1♥ when they had the opportunity."

Lawrence, too. "On the assumption that 3♠ is invitational, I rather like my hand. I can be fancy or I can make a value bid. I'll vote for 3NT. Game is very possible. Picture ♠ A Q x x along with the ♠ A or the ♥ K. And these values are still too few for my idea of a 3♣ bid."

3NT by Colchamiro. "The heart situation makes it dangerous, but everyone else will bid it, so why not me? 'Down with the crowd' or 'Make with the crowd' isn't such a bad matchpoint strategy. Sure hope they lead a spade. Maybe partner's shortness is spades – such as:

♠ x ♥ x x ♠ A Q x x x ♦ A x x x x."

That's what my partners always put down when I try to get scientific by bidding 3♣ at matchpoints. But really, damned if ya do and damned if ya don't. That's why I go with the field (I hope)."

Rigal assumes 3♠ is weak and he passes. "Without knowing the system for sure, I can't say what I'd bid. Is there a sensible meaning for 3♠ other than weak? Yes, forcing, though you'd expect partner with 2=2=5=4 to bid 3NT, and with five clubs, start with an inverted minor raise. And with 1–3 or 3–1 in the majors, to splinter. So I'll pass and blame my partner if I'm wrong. He's used to it by now."

Sanborn questions the system, then passes. "There being no other way to sign off in clubs, I am guessing that this is it."

Robinson also passes. "Partner should have something like:

♣ x ♥ x x ♠ A Q x x x x ♦ A x x x x, which makes 3NT or 5♠ low percentage."

3. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠ Q J 2 ♥ A J 6 2 ♠ A K Q 6 4 ♦ J

West North East South

1NT(1) 3♠ ?

(1) 15–17 HCP.

The perfect bid

Scorer and expert player Karen Walker explains 5♠ as the perfect solution for this problem, "but maybe you had to have been playing for decades to have ever had a good opportunity to use it. I'm a bit surprised that no panelist chose it, but it's still worth 100 points."

Walker recounts a regional pair game, where a similar hand was held by her partner, Tod Moses of St. Louis. "He bid 5♠, which is the standard (but rarely used) way to ask for a first- or second-round spade control. As it happened, I had ♦ K–x and bid 6NT and made it. We had eight-card fits in both red suits, but the spade ruff defeated those slams."

Korbel gives an imaginative nod to 5♠, but goes with 6NT. "If we are missing specifically the ♠ A K, that's life in the big city. It would be nice if 5♠ asked partner to bid 5NT with no spade control and bid on with one."
6NT by Robinson, who adds up the points. “We have at least 33 HCP. It’s too dangerous to play in a red suit because they could get a ruff. I’ll pay off if East has the ♠A K.”

Weinstein is one of the 6NT bidders. “I’m going to play partner for a spade card, but I’m scared of a ruff against a suit contract if partner has the ♠A K.”

Cohen, 6NT: “With 33 HCP, it is possible we are missing the 7 points I most fear. I’ll take that chance. I wonder if I’m going to play partner for a spade contract if partner has the ♠A K, but I’m scared of a ruff against a red suit. Note this may put the void spade on lead, which could be a very good idea.”

Lawrence also asks partner to pick a slam with 5NT. “We are not out of the woods yet.”

Lee tries 4♦. “But we are probably headed for 6NT, as I’m not paranoid enough to think we are off the ♠A K, and any suit contract risks a ruff while also having siding issues.”

Sanborn bids 4NT. “We have so many shaded notrump openings anymore that I can see no spade honor opposite.”

Colchamiro shuns the field by bidding 3NT. “I can’t believe I’m underbidding by so much, but what can East have besides ace–seventh/eighth of spades or ace–king–seventh/eighth? Only if East has exactly king–seventh/eighth might we survive a slam. Besides, 5NT means partner is void, and 5♣ might show something like ♠4 ♦J 75 ♣Q 1084 ♠Q x x x, though some would try ♣A 1♠ with that. An additional point is that sometimes partners puff up 14-counts. Seems like the odds are in favor of slam failing that the gross underbid is in order. We’ll see how many other panelists adopt this extreme position.”

Crickets.

4. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠A ♥J 8 3 ♦A Q 7 2 ♣A K Q 10 5

West North East South

1♣

(1) Weak.

5. IMPs. North–South vulnerable.

♠A ♥J 10 6 5 ♦A K 9 8 7 4

West North East South

(1) Negative.
Meyers, 5NT. “If I was sure that pass was forcing, I would pass. But I’m not sure pass is forcing to the world.”

Meckstroth: “5NT is my best guess to have pard pick a slam.”

Colchamiro loves everything about double. “If double means extras, check! If double means short in partner’s suit, check! If double means convertible values, check! 5 ♦ – forcing, of course – is my second choice.”

Weinstein, double: “Not enough shape for 5 ♦. 4NT would be Roman key card Blackwood for spades. I will drive to slam if partner bids anything but 4 ♠.”

Double by Boehm: “At this level, double is logically cards, although partner won’t expect this much. Still, what else? If partner pulls, as he often will, I’ll be in a better position.”

Hampson doubles. “I have a good hand with no fit (again), so I double.”

Rigal does what others merely talked about. He passes. “Clearly forcing. I’m restrained not to open 2NT!” perhaps 5 ♠ is clearest? How restrained not to open 2NT!”


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<tr>
<th>♠ A J 7 4</th>
<th>♥ 10 9 6 3</th>
<th>♦ K 7 2</th>
<th>♣ 8 6</th>
</tr>
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West  North  East  South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Dbl
Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠ ?

The right stuff

This is one of those glass-half-full/glass-half-empty kind of hands, and the panel firmly disagrees. There’s also no universal understanding about partner’s 2 ♠ – minimum or extras? – a decent topic for partnership discussion.

4 ♠ by Cohen. “Presuming 2 ♠ shows extras – likely based on short hearts – my fitting ♦ K should be perfect to make this a good game. Picture as little as ♠ K Q x x and ♦ A Q J x x.”

4 ♠ by Meyers. “I don’t think 2 ♠ necessarily shows extras, but partner has short hearts and I have the golden ♠ K.”

Lawrence goes into more detail. “Assuming 2 ♠ shows a good hand, I bid 4 ♠. What 2 ♠ shows is obscure. It could be a hand good enough to bid 3 ♠ if I had responded 2 ♠. I don’t expect that much. I’m hoping for 14-plus HCP, perhaps with a stiff heart.

♠ K Q x x ♥ x ♦ A Q x x x ♠ x x x

is enough to make game, and I expect a tad more than this.”

Weinstein explains his rosy evaluation: “With nothing wasted in hearts and fitting values in suits, game rates to be good.”

Sanborn’s a 4 ♠ gamer, too. “My cards should be working for game better than for defense. Partner should have a shapely hand with not so much in high cards ... something like:

♠ K Q x x ♥ x ♦ A Q 10 x x ♠ K x x.

That should get us to 10 tricks.”

Meckstroth: “4 ♠. Seems like I have just the right stuff if spades don’t split too badly.”

Lee offers 3 ♣. “It doesn’t seem like quite enough to make a game try (via a double), though it depends on the partnership style for 2 ♠. I play it’s just an OK minimum with four spades. Passing is out, because both plus 100 and minus 140 rate to score poorly. So 3 ♣ is all that’s left.”

Robinson inquires with 3 ♣. “I have a minimum negative double, so I’ll let partner decide if he wants to bid more. I think it’s right to play that 2 ♠ shows 11–14 with four spades – the same bid you would have made had the auction gone 1 ♠ – (Pass) – 1 ♠ – (Pass). Bidding 2 ♠ with the known eight-card fit forces East to bid at the three level. It also allows you to bid 1 ♠, which shows exactly three spades.”

Boehm’s 3 ♠ is a matchpoint choice. “It is close to 4 ♠, which is my bid, vulnerable at IMPs.”

3 ♠ by Colchamiro. “Despite being a Law violation, my ♦ K–x–x suggests this could be a two-suit fit all the way around. I presume that 2 ♠ is just a minimum 13–15 raise – as if I had responded 1 ♠. I also presume that double would be a game try, so that leaves only pass and 3 ♠.”

Korbel elaborates on his pass. “It’s normal these days to play the jump to 2 ♠ here as not promising any extra values (giving partner an easy 1 ♠ bid with three-card support and no heart stopper, or a terrible hand with four-card support). If partner competes to 3 ♠, I will consider raising to 4 ♠, as a hand like:

♠ K Q x x ♥ x ♦ A Q J x x ♠ x x x

is certainly possible.”

Rigal passes. “Same hand I held the round before – it hasn’t gotten any better than the one-bid hand it was then. Neither double nor 3 ♠ looks appropriate to me.”

Shi agrees. “Pass. Modern style for me is that 2 ♠ shows a minimum with four spades. If partner has a balanced hand, I’m not thrilled about competing when suits might be breaking poorly, and we are vulnerable at matchpoints.”

Hampson’s double is a game try. “I expect this shows a good 3 ♠ bid, which I have – assuming 2 ♠ shows some extras.”

Donn goes for the throat. “Double. I want a penalty. Sometimes a double like this is a game try in spades so that 3 ♠ can be competitive, but I don’t think it makes sense for 3 ♠ to be competitive when we are known specifically to have a 4–4 fit. This is one opponent bidding on his own, and I think he has made a mistake.”

The top It’s Your Call online scores are on pg. 74.
There’s an old saying that sums up my philosophy to teaching:

*Buy someone a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach someone to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.*

If you learn a rule, all you can do is apply that rule in the specific situation to which it applies. If you learn the reason the rule exists – how to correctly think about a problem and come to a solution – you can apply the same logic in similar situations.

There’s a reason that computers can’t compete with humans (yet) at bridge: You can’t be a good bridge player simply by following rules. That’s what makes the game so fascinating. And it’s why a rule-based approach to learning can only take you so far.

Bridge is a hard game. But when you think about the right things, it becomes easier. Often we can break a complex problem into smaller, more manageable parts.

Here’s a simple example of what I’m talking about. This is a layout that most beginning players get wrong.

West cashes the ♥ A K and gives her partner a ruff. That’s too bad, but the rest of the play looks easy enough. No losers in spades, no losers in hearts, no losers in diamonds. Piece of cake.

Declarer wins the diamond return and draws trumps. She’s ready to claim, but then she looks at her hand and notices something strange: a spade loser has appeared.

Where did that come from? It wasn’t there a minute ago. Try as she might, there’s nothing declarer can do about it now, and down she goes.

What went wrong? The error, as it is most often the case, was in declarer’s thought process. On the surface she did everything right — she counted her losers and made a plan. The problem was that she counted her losers incorrectly. She counted no spade losers, when in fact she had one spade loser. Yes, there was only a doubleton spade in the dummy. But the third spade in her hand was still a loser unless she did something about it. Her mistake was combining steps in her head: She saw the loser and the way to eliminate it (ruff it in the dummy) at the same time, but never stopped to acknowledge the loser or incorporate eliminating it into her plan. You can’t make a plan to eliminate a loser you haven’t counted, so you have to count every possible one. And you need to count from one hand or the other, not both. It’s true that dummy has no spade losers, but it also has three diamond losers that declarer didn’t count. If you count losers in one suit from your hand and another from the dummy, you’re going to get a distorted view of the losers you have.

The proper thought process required counting losers in the master hand, the hand with longer trumps. This would highlight the spade loser, and her plan would have to account for eliminating that loser. How do we avoid the spade loser? Simple. We ruff it in the dummy. Now it’s easy to see the snag:

```
♠ J 4
♥ K 8 5
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ J 8 7 2

♠ A K 3
♥ A Q J 9 4
♦ A
♣ Q 5 4 3
```

```
West  North  East  South
Pass  2 ♥  Pass  4 ♥
```

West leads the ♥ A K, declarer cashes ♥ A and ruffs ♥ K. She draws trumps and is ready to cash ♦ Q. East leads ♦ J but declarer cashes ♦ J 9, counting ♦ J 9 as her last loser and ruffing ♦ A. West cashes ♦ J 8, declarer cashes ♦ J 9, and East cashes ♦ 8, declarer cashes ♦ 7, and East cashes ♦ 5. East cashes ♦ 6, declarer cashes ♦ 5, and East cashes ♦ 4, declarer cashes ♦ 2, and West cashes ♦ 1. East cashes ♦ K, declarer cashes ♦ Q, and West cashes ♦ J. East cashes ♦ A, declarer cashes ♦ K, and West cashes ♦ Q. East cashes ♦ J 8 but declarer cashes ♦ J 9, and declarer is down.
Let’s continue our look at deals in which a defender should give a count signal. Here is a problem for you to study.

Dlr: South  Dummy
Vul: None  ♠ 4 2  
♥ 73  
♦ 8 6 5 2  
♣ K Q J 10 9

West  
♠ Q J 10 9 8  
♥ K 4 2  
♦ 9 3  
♣ A 6 3

West  North  East  South
Pass  3NT  All Pass
(1) 20–21 HCP.

West leads the ♠ Q: 3, king. Declarer immediately plays a club. How should West plan the defense?

West wishes to minimize the number of club tricks declarer can collect. He must win the ♣ A on the trick that South is playing his final club (if he can).

This might be the full layout:

If West wins the first or second club trick, declarer collects two spades, one heart, three diamonds and four clubs. That’s one down instead of one over. However, suppose this is the distribution:

Now, if West ducks the first two rounds of clubs, declarer runs for home with two spades, one heart, four diamonds and two clubs. Whereas if West takes the second club trick, the contract will be defeated.

How does West know what to do? Because East tells him. In the first diagram, East drops the ♣ 7, playing high–low with a doubleton. Now West can calculate that declarer began with three clubs and hold back his ace until the third round of the suit. In the second situation, though, East plays the ♣ 2 on the first round to advertise an odd number of clubs. Then West wins the second club trick. Without a count signal from East, West would face a nasty guess.

We must ruff the spade before drawing all the trumps or else dummy won’t have any trumps left. So we can draw two rounds of trumps, cash the ♠ A K, ruff the ♠ 3, then return to hand with a diamond ruff and draw the remaining trump(s).

It’s not a hard deal, but it’s easy to get wrong if you’re not thinking in the right way. Most bridge problems are like this: When we break them down into manageable pieces, we find they’re not really that tough. That’s what I’m hoping we can accomplish.
Are you often in a quandary over how to plan your play as declarer? A careful look at the dummy might suggest a line of play. In this article, we’ll examine the long and short of doing just that.

Dlr: South  ♠ K 10 2
Vul: Both  ♥ 7 5 4
       ♦ Q 6 5
       ♣ 9 2
♠ 6 5
♥ K Q J
♦ 10 4 2
♣ Q J 7 6 3
♠ A Q J 9 8
♥ 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ A K 8 4

West North East South
1 Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
All Pass

West leads the ♥ K and it’s time for declarer, South, to plan the play. Step one comes before calling a card from dummy.

Identify the losers in South’s long-trump hand. There are five losers: two hearts, one diamond and two clubs. To make 4 ♠, declarer must eliminate two losers. North has a doubleton club. A short suit in dummy is a clue to consider ruffing one or more of declarer’s losers in that suit. South counted two club losers and it’s possible to ruff both of them using two of North’s trumps.

Without too many losers, declarer’s first priority is often to draw trumps. Drawing trumps here will take three spade leads, leaving North with no trumps for ruffling. Declarer must get two club ruffs before drawing trump.

As soon as the defenders relinquish the lead, declarer cashes the ♥ A K and ruffs a club. The ♥ A or a high trump serves as the entry back to South’s hand to ruff the last club. Don’t take any unnecessary risks. With such a strong trump suit, ruff both clubs high to avoid any chance of an overruff.

What line of play does dummy suggest on the next deal? West leads the ♥ Q against 4 ♠.

Dlr: North  ♠ A Q 4
Vul: E–W  ♥ A 5 3
       ♦ A 2
       ♣ K J 10 8 5
♠ 8 6 2
♥ Q J 10
♦ K J 8 7 3
♣ Q 10 9 5
♠ 9 7
♥ A 10 7 5 3
♦ 8 7 2
♣ 6 4
♠ Q 2

West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2NT(1) Pass 4 ♠(2)
All Pass

(1) Invitational, showing a balanced 18–19 points.
(2) South’s 6 HCP plus 2 length points make enough for game.

South counts four losers: two hearts, one diamond and one club. This time, one loser must be avoided. Again, dummy has a doubleton, which suggests ruffing diamond losers. The problem is that declarer also has a doubleton. In order to ruff a suit in dummy, declarer must have greater length than dummy. Dummy does, however, have a useful distributional feature – the long club suit.

A side suit where dummy has greater length than declarer suggests the possibility of discarding losers on winners in that long suit. If declarer leads the ♥ Q – high card from the short side first – followed by a second club, declarer can discard losers on any remaining club winners in dummy. The heart lead made South’s heart losers fast losers, but the diamond loser is a slow loser, so declarer cannot be set when East–West win the ♥ A. To avoid ruffs by the defenders, declarer should draw trumps before playing the long clubs. North’s ♥ A will provide the entry needed to reach clubs if East doesn’t win the first club lead.

Declarer used the short-suit plan of ruffing losers in dummy on the first deal. Consider employing this plan when you see a suit in dummy with fewer cards than declarer – a suit where declarer will still have one or more losers left once dummy becomes void.

Even though dummy had a short suit in the second deal, declarer didn’t have any losers left to ruff after dummy was depleted of diamonds. Dummy’s long suit, however, suggested using the long-suit plan where declarer discards winners on good cards in that suit.
Jump bids are an important element in telling a bridge story. They can be preemptive (weak), intermediate (invitational) or strong (forcing). Either opener or responder might need a jump bid to describe the hand’s value and the length of the suit bid. A good place to start is to identify whether your hand is weak, invitational or strong.

**Opening jump bids**

Except for 2♣ and 2NT, all opening bids at the two level or higher show hands with less than opening count. They are also called preempts.

- **2♦, 2♥, 2♠** show six-card suits and usually 10 or fewer high-card points. Most of the points should be in the bid suit.

- **♠ K Q 10 8 7 4 2♥ 6**

  This is a typical weak-two opening hand. It has only one ace or king outside. The minimum strength of the suit is a matter of partnership agreement.

- **3♣** shows seven-card suits and 10 or fewer HCP.

- **♠ K Q 9 8 7 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ 9 6 2**

  It’s permissible in most agreements to open 3♣ with a good six-card suit since there is no two-level bid to show a club preempt. Otherwise, the requirements are like those for two-level preempts.

- **Four-level opening bids** show preempts with eight-card suits. Sometimes, though, in third or fourth seat, four-level bids in the majors could be stronger and even have only seven-card suits.

**Jump overcalls**

A hand that would open with a preempt can also make a jump overcall. These days, almost all jump overcalls are preempts. Note that there must be a jump. If an opponent opens 1♥ and you bid any suit at the two level, it’s a preempt. But if the opening bid was 1♠, two-level overcalls are not jumps; they show good hands. You’ll have to bid at the three level to preempt: 1♠ – 3♠ for instance.

There’s an old story about the man who wrote a book about what you should bid after you’ve preempted: all the pages were blank! Indeed, preempts have the great virtue of telling your story with a single bid. You and your partner have to agree on what responses to a preemptive opening are forcing. Otherwise, you’ll be floundering around at the table, maybe overbidding, maybe missing a game or a slam.

**Responding jump bids**

Depending on your agreements (there’s that word again), responder may also preempt. Some partnerships allow “weak jump shifts.” Say opener has opened 1♥. A 2♣ response would be very weak:

- **♠ K 10 9 7 4 2♥ 6 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 5 4 3**

  Responder has a long suit, not enough points for a one-level response (fewer than 6) and little or no support for partner’s suit. It warns opener to back off, because the only value for responder’s hand is in his suit being trump.

Another time responder might jump with a weak hand is to raise partner in a competitive bidding situation (that is, the opponent has taken an action before your turn to bid). Say your partner has opened 1♥ or 1♠ and there has been a 2♣ overcall. You hold:

- **♠ K 9 7 2 ♥ A 8 4 3 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 8 7**

  A popular agreement is that a jump raise by you to three of partner’s major shows single-raise values (6–9 HCP) and four trumps. You are assuring partner that your side has a nine-card fit: he promised five cards for his opening bid and you have four. If you want to make a jump raise of partner’s minor, it’s safest to have five-card support since partner often has a four-card suit and sometimes will have only three cards for his minor-suit opener.

When partner opens a major and you have five-card support, there’s a classic treatment which allows you to go straight to game. You don’t just have five-card support, though: If your distribution is balanced, like 5–3–3–2, your trump length may be redundant. But what if your distribution were 5–1–2–5 and partner opens 1♠:

- **♠ K 9 7 5 4 ♥ 8 ♦ 9 6 ♣ A 10 8 4 3**

  Even though you have only 7 HCP, your hand is worth a 4♠ bid. You have 1) five-card trump support, 2) a long side suit, 3) a quick trick. Long table experience has shown that hands like this will frequently produce 10 tricks. Besides, who wants to defend when we have a 10-card trump fit?
Dear Jerry,

My partner tells me that I should not open with a preempt when holding a side four-card major. What do you think?

Michael

Hi Michael,

I have a couple of “isms” which apply to this question.

It’s usually better to be in the auction than out of the auction. Look for reasons to bid before settling for excuses to pass.

Fundamentally, I believe that if you allow your opponents a free auction, reasonably competent players will most often reach reasonable contracts. Before dealing with your question, let’s establish a few points about preempts in general. The three major factors:

1. Position at the table
2. Vulnerability
3. Partnership style

Position at the table: The best time to preempt is in first seat before the opponents can begin their exchange of information. I have heard comments like, “I didn’t want to preempt my partner.” I don’t like preempting my partner either, but I certainly like preempting the opponents.

Second seat is the least effective time to preempt because after right-hand opponent passes, your LHO knows that their partner does not have an opening bid. Often, this can be useful.

Third seat is almost as good as first seat, because while your LHO knows partner does not have an opening bid, you also know your partner does not have an opening bid. This allows you to be looser, i.e., a little stronger, a little weaker, a little off-shape, etc.

There is no such thing as a weak preempt in fourth seat.

Vulnerability: It’s all about risk versus reward.

Best: not vulnerable versus vulnerable

Worst: vulnerable versus not vulnerable

Neutral: equal vulnerability

Partnership style: I sometimes refer to this as partnership sense of humor. It is important to be consistent. Either tend toward conservative, or tend toward aggressive, but don’t mix it up so that partner has no clue which of the two styles you are opting for on any particular deal.

Now, to answer your question. Holding:

♠ K Q J 10 x x ♥ x x x x ♦ x x ♣ x x, how could you possibly fail to open with a weak 2♠ in any seat, at any vulnerability? Even if your partner has a singleton spade and four or five hearts, spades is probably at least as good, and likely better, as a trump suit.

♠ A x x x x x ♥ K x x x ♦ x x ♣ x

A weak 2♠ with this hand is a much riskier proposition. Partner, holding a reasonable hand with a stiff spade and four or five hearts, may not be amused.

A decision on a hand like this is more about partnership style:

♠ — ♥ x x x x x ♦ Q J 10 x x ♣ J 10 x.

As dealer in first seat, I would choose a 3♦ opening bid 100 percent of the time ... my style. My thoughts would be that holding only 4 HCP leaves 36 points to be divided by the other three players at the table, making it 2–1 more likely that I am damaging them more than I am damaging partner.

Any time I am missing 13 spades, I am nervous. If partner holds spades, I don’t want to hear about it ... unless he really, really wants to bid them! If the opponents hold spades, I want to make it as difficult as possible for them to find their fit and bracket their values.

I like to bring in sports analogies when I can. My son, Jake, played basketball for Bobby Jones, a University of North Carolina All-American and NBA All-Star. Jones stressed playing with a high degree of sportsmanship – no dirty play ever permitted – but to play hard. He liked to quote David Robinson, a highly educated Naval Academy graduate, who, at 7 feet 2 inches tall, had an illustrious career as an NBA player: “You must not allow the opponents to drive the lane with impunity.”

At the table, do not allow your opponents to bid with impunity!
Bidding Basics

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

Responding to 1♠

Last month, partner opened 1♥. This month, there will be lots of similarities. Our auction to examine is:

Partner   Opponent   You
1♠        Pass        ?

1NT response

This shows at least 6 HCP, and it usually denies three-card spade support.

The upper limit of the range depends on system. I recommend 6 to 12 HCP as part of the two-over-one (2/1) game-forcing system. If you want to play the old way (“standard”), then 1NT is limited to 6–10 HCP. If you have heard the term “1NT forcing,” I suggest it simplest to ignore that for now.

Does 1NT show a balanced hand? Stoppers? No and no. Think of 1NT as a catchall response. You have enough to respond, usually fewer than three spades (more on this below), and not enough to go to the two level in a new suit. With each hand below, you would respond 1NT:

♠ Q 4 ♥ K 2 ♦ K 8 7 6 5 3 ♣ 6 5 4
♠ — ♥ J 3 2 ♦ Q 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 8 6 4 2
♠ J ♥ K Q 5 3 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ J 5 4 3 2

2♣/2♦ response

This shows four-plus cards in the suit bid. The strength required depends on what system you play. If you wish to play old-fashioned standard, only 10 HCP are required. I strongly recommend the modern way, however, where opening-bid strength is promised and the partnership is forced to game. Again, this modern way is called 2/1 game forcing.

Assuming you opt for 2/1 GF, respond to 1♠ with 2♣ or 2♦ (whichever is longer; if 4–4, tend to bid 2♣) with the hands below.

♠ K Q ♥ A 9 8 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A K 6 4 3
Respond 2♣.
♠ 6 5 2 ♥ 4 ♦ A Q 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q J
Respond 2♦.
♠ K 4 ♥ K J 3 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ K 10 6 5 4
Respond 2♣.

2♥ response

This shows the same strength as 2♦ or 2♦, but guarantees at least five hearts. Respond 2♥ with any of these hands:

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

2♠ response

This shows three-plus spades and 6 to a bad 10 points in support, counting useful distribution. Raise to 2♥ with:

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

2NT response

This used to be a natural bid, and if you are allergic to conventions, you can use it as such. However, almost all duplicate players use this as a conventional response, the Jacoby 2NT. It promises four or more trumps and enough for at least game. The follow-ups will be covered in a future article. Here are some examples of a Jacoby 2NT response to 1♠:

♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ A ♦ A 7 6 5 ♣ A 7 6 5
♠ K Q J 7 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ Q 3 2
♠ K J 7 6 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ A K Q ♣ 4 3 2

3♣/3♦/3♥ response

These can be played in many ways. They could be natural (very strong or very weak). They can be conventional (Bergen raises are popular). I recommend intermediate/invitational with a good six-card or longer suit. This is a matter of partnership agreement. If you aren’t 100% sure that you and your partner know what the bid means, don’t make it. If playing it as invitational, here are some examples:

♠ 7 6 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ A Q J 10 8 7
Respond 3♠.
♠ 4 ♥ A 3 ♦ K J 10 8 7 6 ♣ Q 7 6
Respond 3♣.
♠ — ♥ K Q J 10 8 7 6 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ 3 2
Respond 3♥.

3♠ response

This is a limit raise (a good 10 to 12 points in support) with four-card or longer support. Opener can pass with a minimum. Here are some examples:
indicates a singleton or void in the suit force (same as Jacoby 2NT), but also shows four-plus trumps and a game topic. The gist of it is that the response and your partner have studied the “splinter” bid. Don’t try this until you have 4–3–3–3 distribution.

3NT response
This can be played in many ways, but to keep things simple, I recommend 13–15 HCP, balanced, with all unbid suits stopped. Typically, it should show 13–16 HCP, balanced, with all unbid suits stopped. Typically, it should show a singleton or void in the suit double-jumped into. The range is approximately 13–16 points in support. Either hand below would qualify:

- ♠ K 6 5 2 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ A 8 7 6 5 ♣ 2
  Respond 4 ♣.
- ♠ Q 7 6 2 ♥ A Q 6 5 ♦ 2 ♣ K J 4 3
  Respond 4 ♦.

4♥ response
Really, this should also be a splinter bid showing something like:

- ♠ K J 7 6 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q 4 3 ♣ K 10 7 6.
  However, it is a really dangerous bid to make. If your partner forgets your agreement and thinks it is natural, you could wind up playing in a 2–1 trump fit!

4♠/4♦ response
Experienced players use this as a “splinter” bid. Don’t try this until you and your partner have studied the topic. The gist of it is that the response shows four-plus trumps and a game force (same as Jacoby 2NT), but also indicates a singleton or void in the suit.

Stop card tossed from bidding boxes

In 2017, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to eliminate the Stop card for any sanctioned tournament that starts after Jan. 1, 2018. ACBL-affiliated clubs are encouraged to do the same to provide players a consistent experience at both tournaments and clubs.

With this change, the onus is on players to develop the good habit of pausing after their right-hand opponent has made a skip bid. The pause should be about 10 seconds, but strict observance of this duration is less important than making sure that there is a clear break in the tempo of the auction.

While pausing, players should give the appearance of studying their hand – even if those players have a clear-cut pass. Players should not exhibit lack of interest, for example, by keeping their hand folded or verbally counting off the seconds of the required pause. Likewise, if those players have an “automatic” bid or double after the skip bid, they should wait approximately 10 seconds before making that call.

Slowing down after jumps helps prevent the skip-bidder’s right-hand opponent from receiving unauthorized information via LHO’s tempo.

What is your response to partner’s 1♠ opening with each hand below?

1. ♠ — ♥ 10 8 7 3 2 ♦ A 8 7 6 5 ♣ 2
2. ♠ K 9 8 ♥ K 10 8 7 6 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ 2
3. ♠ K Q J 8 7 ♥ A Q 4 3 ♦ K 2 ♣ 4 3
4. ♠ Q J 10 4 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q 8 7 6 ♣ 10 7 6
5. ♠ K 3 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ Q 10 8 7 2 ♣ 6 5
6. ♠ K J 8 7 6 ♥ 2 ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ 5 4
7. ♠ A 7 6 ♥ K J 8 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ Q J 8
8. ♠ A K 2 ♥ A 2 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 ♣ K 3 2

**Answers**

1. 1NT. You have too much to pass, but not enough to respond on the two level.
2. 2♠. Support with support. Even if you wanted to show hearts, you are too weak.
3. 2NT. Game-forcing raise (Jacoby 2NT).
4. 3♠. Limit raise. This hand is not strong enough for a splinter bid.
5. 1NT. If “forcing,” you’d bid 3♠ next. I recommend 1NT as “6–12, not forcing.”
6. 4♠. Typically five trumps and a weak hand.
7. 3NT. Assuming your partnership has agreed to play this as 13–15 HCP with a flat hand, all side suits stopped.
8. 2 ♦. For now, planning to raise spades later. Simplest/easiest if 2 ♦ creates a game force.
Mike’s Bridge Lesson

BY MIKE LAWRENCE  michaelslawrence.com

An unusual safety play

Dlr: South  ♠ Q 5
Vul: E–W  ♥ 3
♠ A K Q 10
♣ 9 6 5 3 2
♥ N 4 3 2
♥ A K 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 4
♦ 8 2
♠ 10 J 9 7
♥ A 2
♣ 9 6 5 4
♣ 7

West  North  East  South
2NT 3 ♥ 4 Pass 2 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass
Db1 All Pass

North’s 3 ♠ bid created a guessing game for East. East guessed to bid 4 ♥. This was passed to North, who made another guess. He guessed East–West could make 4 ♥, so he bid 4 ♠ hoping that South would go down three or less.

West led the ♥ K, won by South’s ace. South ruffed a heart. Next, declarer led the ♦ Q from dummy. West let it win. This was bad for South. South had to get to his hand to draw trumps, so he led a club from dummy. East took his ace and returned a heart. South ruffed and played a low spade, which West won with the jack. West led a heart and South ruffed. At this point, South had the ♠ K 10 and West had the ♠ A 4. South was doomed. If he led another spade, West would win and make South ruff something. That would set up a spade trick for the defense, which would be the setting trick. Worse, the defense would take another winner because South would be out of trumps.

So South gave up on trying to make. Instead, he led diamonds and let the defenders have a ruff to go with their winning spades. Down one.

It’s a bad result for two reasons. The first is that East can’t make 4 ♥. South leads his singleton club and gets in with his ♥ A. North wins a diamond trick, and South ruffs a club. One more diamond trick for North sets 4 ♥ one.

But worse is that South should have made 4 ♠. His problem was that after West ducked the ♠ Q, South wasn’t able to draw trumps.

The solution? Assuming West leads the ♥ K and diamonds divide, South should make 4 ♠. Do you see how?

Win the heart lead and ruff a heart in dummy. You actually have two good plays. One is to ruff low and lead the ♦ Q to the king! The other is to ruff high and lead a spade to the 10. In either case, the defenders can win this trick and force South to ruff something, but South is ahead as long as spades aren’t 5–0.

Here are two related combinations.

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

In this layout, West leads a diamond, which you win. You need two spade winners. Can you guarantee them? You can: Lead the ♠ 2 and finesse the 10. If it wins, lead back to the queen, setting up a second trick in the suit. You might even get three tricks. If the finesse loses to the ace, you can later lead the queen to the king. This establishes two sure winners. And if the 10 loses to the ace, you can get two or three tricks depending on whether the jack drops on the king.

If you lead the queen, the defenders will let you have the trick and when you lead the 2, you will have to guess whether to play the 10 or king from dummy.
Toward the end of a long match, I pick up a decent hand:

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

With only our side vulnerable, the player on my right has nothing to say, but when my partner passes, East opens 2♠️, which is weak. I could bid 3♣️, but with a six-card suit and a probable stopper in spades, I decide upon 2NT, which partner raises to game, giving us this simple auction:

West North East South  
Pass Pass 2♠️ 2NT  
Pass 3NT All Pass

West leads the ♥️ 6, and when dummy appears, I see the contract is not exactly a laydown:

♠️ 8 3 2  
♥️ J 9 7  
♦️ Q10 5 4 3  
♣️ K 5

♠️ J 5  
♥️ 8 6 3 2  
♦️ A K 9 7 6  
♣️ Q 9

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

What to make of the lead? A player who leads his own suit in this situation can usually be relied upon to have a strong holding. Backing my judgment, I put up dummy’s queen, and East contributes the jack. That’s a good start! I cash the ♦️ K and continue with a club to the jack. West wins with the queen, cashes the ♥️ A K, East discarding two spades. It is only now I realize that my hand is squeezed. When I discard the ♥️ 10, West exits in that suit, and I eventually have to concede two spades to East. This was the full deal:

♠️ 8 3 2  
♥️ J 9 7  
♦️ Q10 5 4 3  
♣️ K 5

♠️ J 5  
♥️ 8 6 3 2  
♦️ A K 9 7 6  
♣️ Q 9

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

Postmortem  
I suspect the reader will be ahead of me here. Having taken the first trick, declarer should play a club to the jack. Even if that loses, the ♦️ K remains as an entry to play a spade towards the king, establishing a ninth trick.

In the other room West opened with a 10–12 1NT and East bid a natural 2♠️, rebidding the suit when South bid 3♣️. The defense was strong. South cashed a top heart, North following with an upside-down jack. South switched to the ♣️ A and another club. North put a heart through to let South take two more tricks. South then led a third club. Declarer did well to ruff with dummy’s jack and play a spade to the ace and a spade, but that was still down two, minus 100, so we lost 5 IMPs. □

Bidding Box  cont. from pg. 39  
diamonds (he might have had only two), and 3♦️ set trumps. Bob offered 3NT to play, but Joann had way too much to settle for that. Her 4♥️ was RKCB, and she quickly bid slam opposite the one key-card reply. This was a borderline opening for Marty. (‘Rick was probably surprised.’) After his 2♦️ rebid, Rick showed his fine support, short spades and extra values with a 3♠️ splinter. That fit Marty’s hand perfectly, so despite his dead minimum he took over with 4♦️, asking for key cards. He bid the excellent slam over the zero-or-three reply.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♥️ – 2♠️; 2♦️ –3♠️ [shortness]; 4♥️ –6♣️; Pass. Once West cuebids 4♥️, East “knows” that partner has the ♣️ A but not the ♣️ A: What else could he have to justify the cuebid? This hand highlights the advantages of a special minor-suit key card convention.

Scores: 6♥️ 11; 3NT 6; 4NT 5; 5♥️ 3; 5♣️ 2; 6♣️ 1

Final score: Glassons 52, Rabinowitz–Rowland 57
Here’s a defensive Chalk Talk problem. Let’s test your team-game defense.

You are West. With neither side vulnerable, you hold:

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

South, on your right, deals and opens 1♠️. Here’s the full auction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2 ♠️</td>
<td>2 ♥️</td>
<td>2 ♠️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4 ♠️</td>
<td>All Pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You decide to lead the ♥️ 3, and down comes the dummy:

**Dummy**

♠️ K 4 3
♥️ K
♦️ 9 8 5 4
♣️ A K J 6 2

**You**

♠️ 5 2
♥️ 8 6 4 3
♦️ A J
♣️ 9 8 7 4 3

Your ♥️ 3 lead fetches partner’s ace and declarer’s 9. Partner shifts to the ♥️ 2, and declarer plays the 10. Plan your defense.

**Solution**

Your best chance is to play partner for the ♥️ K. Therefore, win trick two with the ♥️ A and return the ♥️ J. If the stars are in alignment, partner will overtake with the king and return a diamond allowing you to ruff declarer’s queen for the setting trick. This is the full deal:

♠️ K 4 3
♥️ K
♦️ 9 8 5 4
♣️ A K J 6 2

♠️ 5 2
♥️ 8 6 4 3
♦️ A J
♣️ 9 8 7 4 3

♠️ A Q J 9 7 6
♥️ Q 9
♦️ Q 10 3
♣️ Q 5

Notice if you win the first diamond with the jack you will only be able to take two diamond tricks, as the suit is blocked. Declarer will be able to pitch the ♦️ Q on a club winner from dummy after drawing trumps.

Thanks to Danny Kleinman who was sitting East on this hand. He still has his ♦️ K by the way.

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**West hands for the January Bidding Box**

Bid these hands with a partner. The East hands are on pg. 55. The North–South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 37–39.

**Problem 1.** North deals. None vul. North opens 1♥️.

♠️ A 9 7 6 ♥️ 9 7 3 ♦️ A 9 2

**Problem 2.** East deals. N–S vul.

♠️ 9 7 6 ♥️ K J 6 5 ♦️ A J ♣️ A 10 8 5

**Problem 3.** South deals. E–W vul.

♠️ Q 10 8 5 ♥️ A 4 2 ♦️ K Q J 10 7 5 2

**Problem 4.** West deals. Both vul.

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

**Problem 5.** North deals. N–S vul.

♠️ J 7 6 5 ♥️ J 6 5 3 ♦️ A Q 4 ♣️ A 8

**Problem 6.** East deals. E–W vul. South overcalls 1♥️ if possible. North raises to 2♥️ if possible.

♠️ J 4 ♥️ 7 4 2 ♦️ Q 9 8 ♣️ A J 9 8 3

**Problem 7.** South deals. Both vul.

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

**Problem 8.** West deals. None vul.

♠️ A J 4 2 ♥️ K 3 ♦️ Q 10 7 6 4 2 ♣️ A

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**Patron Members**

John and Peggy Sutherlin of Dallas TX were inadvertently omitted from the Patron Member list that appeared in last month’s magazine.
This new series will use some of my favorite lesson deals. The emphasis will be on cardplay, where the average player loses more points than in the bidding. My hope is that an alphabetical approach will help the reader categorize and recognize ideas, far and away the best way to learn.

Avoidance means keeping a dangerous opponent off lead. A noted New York teacher, Sallie B. Johnson, used the terms “pussycat” and “alley cat.”

With you declaring notrump, left-hand opponent, who opened 1♠, leads a low spade, dummy follows from two low, RHO plays the queen, and you hold ♠A 3 2. Naturally, you hold off until the third round. At this point, would you rather lose the lead to RHO, the pussycat, or LHO, the alley cat?

Identifying the felines here is easy. What about a heart holding of three low in dummy facing K–x–x in hand. Your king is exposed to a finesse if RHO leads the suit but worth a trick if LHO leads a heart. Many avoidance situations depend on similar finessing positions. For example, you are declaring 3NT:

The lead is the ♠7 and East follows with the 2; plan the play.

Holding eight top tricks, the choice is whether to finesse diamonds or hearts. Furthermore, you have a two-way heart finesse: either lay down the ace and finesse dummy’s 10, or lead the ♥2 from dummy and finesse your 9. Although you lack a clue about the location of the ♥Q or ♥K, your course is clear!

East’s play at trick one marks West with the ♠A Q and presumably length. The alley cat is East who may lead through your ♠K J and finesse you out of your holding. Accordingly, reject the diamond finesse, cross the dummy in clubs, and lead a low heart to your 9. If it wins, there’s your ninth trick with a chance for more. If it loses, you have built a heart trick in dummy to ensure your contract.

If West wins the ♥Q and shifts to a diamond, you could play low from dummy, hoping for overtricks if the ♥K lies with West. However, that risks losing what is now a laydown contract. The alley cat is still looming as East, ready to pounce.

Avoidance plays also apply to suit contracts.

Declaring 4♠ versus the ♥Q lead, you note four possible losers: one heart, two diamonds and one club. The most vulnerable suit is diamonds because your king may be captured if East shifts to diamonds and West holds the ace. East is the dangerous opponent (aka alley cat).

Assuming spades divide no worse than 3–1, draw trumps finishing in dummy, and lead a low club, putting the dangerous opponent in second seat. Since you play after he does, you have the advantage. If East plays low, play the 9. When you regain the lead, run dummy’s clubs against a 3–2 split, discarding losers from hand. If East plays an honor on the first club, you must rise king and try to lose your club trick to West. If East splits his honors from ♥Q J x, and the ♥A is offside, too bad – you gave it everything you had. By the way, if East splits from ♥J 10 x, West must unblock his ♥Q from Q x, else he will be stuck on play with the queen at the next club trick.

I hate to ask, but you did duck the opening heart lead, right? What a shame if you played clubs correctly but West was later able to put East on lead with the ♥K. Be ever vigilant against that alley cat.
A valuable overtrick

This is based on a Real Deal from last year’s ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game. As South, with both sides vulnerable, you hold:

♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 7

Perhaps this hand is too strong to preempt, or you don’t like all the cards on the side, but I’m fine with opening 3♥. Left-hand opponent doubles and partner raises to 4♥. Everyone passes and LHO leads the ♠ A.

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

It looks like you’ll lose at most a trick in each side suit. Even if trumps are 3–0, you will play for the takeout doubler to have the void by starting hearts with the ace. Likely, you are playing for an overtrick. You can’t do anything about the spade loser, but you should try to get rid of a club on the diamonds.

If you win the ♠ A to play a diamond to the queen, it loses to the king. West plays a spade to East’s king and a club switch is won by your ace. Hearts are 2–1, but you have no overtrick.

Here is the Real Deal:

Dlr: South Vul: Both
♠ A 10 ♦ A 4 2 ♣ A 7
♥ Q 8 5 4 ♦ A 9 5 4 8 5 4 2
♠ Q J 9 7 ♦ K J 7 3 ♣ K J 10 9 8 7 3

After winning with the ♠ A, a diamond to the 8 is the winning play. Why would you do that? From West’s takeout double and the lead (♠ Q), you can place the ♠ K with East and almost all the remaining high-card points with West. He must have both minor-suit kings. When the ♠ 8 loses to the jack, West plays a spade, but that is the last trick for the defense. Why? Later on, you will play your ♦ Q, which West must cover. Then, when you ruff a diamond, the 10 falls, making the 9 good for a club discard. Lucky? A little, but worth trying. (Note: Declarer should be careful when playing a heart to the ace to retain the 3 in hand, so he can later reach dummy for the good diamond.)

Squeeze experts will note that the overtrick can also be made by ducking the first trick. West can eventually be squeezed in the minors.

If I had titled this article Intrafinesse, I would have given away too much information.

East hands for the January Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The West hands are on pg. 53. The North–South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 37–39.

♠ Q J ♦ A K 5 3 2 ♣ A 6 4 2 ♠ A 10

♠ 8 4 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ K Q 10 3 ♣ 7 6 3 2

♠ A K 6 ♥ Q 9 8 7 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ A 9 6

♠ A 6 5 3 ♥ 9 7 6 2 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ K Q

♠ A K Q ♥ A 4 ♦ K 9 7 6 5 2 ♣ K 5

♠ A 9 7 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A K J 6 4 ♣ K Q 5

Problem 7. South deals. Both vul.
♠ Q J 8 ♥ Q 8 7 3 ♦ A K Q ♣ K Q 7

Problem 8. West deals. None vul.
♠ 8 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ A K J ♣ K Q J 5 4 2
Intermediate Players

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JULY 15–21
Missouri Western State University
St. Joseph MO

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“It was exhausting and brain frying but I LOVED it!”
“I had a lot of fun! Playing random hands helped me a lot in practicing bidding. Playing with different partners was also good in being able to learn from your partner. Thanks so much! It was great!”

OUT OF HAND  BY BILL BUTTLE

Challenge of the Month

As South, you are declarer in 6♥ (IMP scoring) on an uncontested auction.

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

West leads the ♠ Q. You win the ace and cash the ♥ A K, East showing out on the second round, discarding a club. Now what?

“Double vision!! Y’know, that’d go a long way towards explaining his bidding!!”

Challenge Answer

The defense found your weak spot on the opening lead, and then you discovered that West started with the Q–10–x of trumps, meaning you have a sure trump loser. So you need to get rid of both spades in your hand before West gets in with the trump queen. What’s the best way to do that?

It might seem right to play three rounds of clubs first, but this only allows you to pitch one spade. You’ll need a discard on the diamond suit, too. Put another way, you need West to hold at least three diamonds to have a chance at making your contract, so it’s right to tackle that suit first before playing on clubs. Consider this layout:

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

When East unexpectedly shows out on the third diamond, you can safely finish the suit to pitch a spade. Then you cash your club winners to pitch the other loser. If diamonds were 3–3, however, you would play just three rounds of the suit before switching to clubs, hoping to take a pitch from that suit before throwing your last spade on the last diamond.
How much can you figure out (continued)

Last month, I presented the following: As West you hold:

♠ K ♥ 8 7 6 2 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ 8 6 4 3.

With both sides vulnerable, your partner opens 1♦ and your RHO jumps to 4♠. You pass and lead the ♦ 4. North tables:

♠ — ♥ A J 9 5 4 3 2 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ 10 9 7 5 2.

Trick 1 consists of dummy’s ♥ 3, partner’s ♥ 9, and declarer’s ♥ Q.

We now used the wonderful principle “cheapest of equals,” to determine that partner’s original diamond holding was ♥ J 9 2. And once we knew that partner had opened 1♦ with three diamonds only, we then knew that partner’s distribution had to be four spades, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. That meant that declarer’s distribution was eight spades, no hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

At trick 2, declarer led the ♥ 10, and you won the ♥ K. Dummy discards the ♥ 2 and partner follows with the ♥ 8. The question now is, what card will you lead at trick 3? Are you ready to continue with the correct answer?

You must not lead clubs or hearts. Declarer has no hearts, so you don’t want him to win dummy’s ♥ A. You don’t know declarer’s exact club holding, but it must be better to force him to break that suit. Therefore, you will lead another diamond. There is no possible advantage in leading the king, so lead the ♥ 5. Dummy’s ♥ 8 is played, partner plays the ♥ J and declarer wins the ♥ A. At trick 4, he leads the ♥ Q. What suit will you not discard?

A diamond! You expect partner to win the ♥ A and lead a diamond. After you win your ♥ K, you need a safe exit card. Once you correctly determined that you never want to lead clubs or hearts, it is clear to now punt by leading the 13th diamond.

What I would discard is a heart. You know that declarer is void in that suit, so you want to tell partner that he does not need to keep any of his ♥ K Q 10 3. The sooner that he sees your four hearts, the easier it will be for him to know that declarer is heartless, so partner can get rid of all of his heart “stoppers.”

Partner does capture the ♥ Q with his ♥ A and leads the ♥ 2. You win the ♥ K and exit gracefully with the ♥ 6. Partner will discard a heart and declarer will ruff.

Declarer will now reel off his five remaining trumps. You can’t wait to discard all of your remaining hearts. So, after partner follows to two more rounds of trump, he will know to get rid of all his hearts, and cling to his clubs for dear life. So at trick 13, partner will take the setting trick with his ♥ K.

Here is the entire deal:

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

West North East South

1 ♦ 4 ♠

All Pass

P.S. The most difficult skill in bridge is learning to defend well. There is no magic answer, but there are effective strategies:

- Focus on the many clues available from “cheapest of equals.”
- Be willing to think.
- And most important of all, try to count.

You might amaze yourself with what you can know about the concealed hands.
In his book “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,” Stephen Covey ends with a call for readers to pursue a goal of continuous improvement. He terms it “sharpening the saw,” and that advice is a fitting wrap-up for this series. Bridge is not a pastime for those who seek instant gratification. You can learn enough in a few hours to begin having fun with the game, but if you want to excel, it requires time and effort – and you have to do more than just play.

Writer Malcolm Gladwell popularized the idea that it takes 10,000 hours of “deliberate practice” to become world-class in any field. Using that theory, if you devoted 20 hours a week to working on your bridge skills, it would take almost ten years to become a true expert.

The obvious flaws in the 10,000 Hour Rule are that it doesn’t take into account natural talent and the complexity of the subject matter. Gladwell’s main point, though, is that even those with moderate abilities can master a field of learning if they put in enough time and they practice in a way that pushes their skill set.

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Whether you aspire to a world championship or just want to hold your own at your local club, bridge is more fun if you feel you’re making progress. Improvement comes naturally as you gain playing experience, but if you’re serious about advancing your game, it’s important to pursue learning opportunities away from the table, too.

**Review your play.** Playing bridge is good practice, but it’s not the “deliberate” form that Gladwell recommends. To get the most out of a playing session, budget some time to study hand records and results after the game. Analyze your mistakes and triumphs, then look at the contracts played at other tables and try to reconstruct their auctions and the play.

**Read regularly.** Continuity is important, so make an effort to stay tuned into bridge between games. Even a few minutes a day with a bridge book, magazine or website will keep your mind active and help you avoid the rusty feeling that many experience when they haven’t played for an extended period.

**Play “up.”** One of the best ways to take your game to a higher level is to get out of your comfort zone and play against tougher opposition. The purpose is to learn, not to win, so don’t be discouraged by a poor score. You may find you actually play better against expert players – and that placing average in Flight A is more satisfying than winning the Flight C game.

**Work on specific skills.** For beginners, repetition is the key to developing a good bridge memory. Drill yourself on basic numbers – hand patterns, suit breaks, point distributions, simple odds – until the answers pop into your head without doing the arithmetic.

More advanced players can take advantage of many excellent books and websites that offer double-dummy problems, defensive quizzes, counting exercises and other practice opportunities. Identify the weak areas of your game and challenge yourself by working through problems that target those techniques and strategies.

**Improve your memory?** Be wary of products and programs that promise to enhance cognitive skills. The quest for keener memory gave rise to the “brain-training” industry, which claimed that their video exercises could raise IQs and stave off age-related memory loss.

Scientists have debunked those claims and the industry leader, Lumosity, was fined for false advertising. Research showed that while brain-training games can improve performance on the trained tasks, they don’t yield any broader benefits.

The best ways to improve your bridge memory are to study, play and practice bridge. Fortunately for all of us, they’re also the most enjoyable.

**In the next issue:** The #1 way to sharpen the saw.
Test Your Play

BY EDDIE KANTAR
kantarbridge.com

1. Dlr: North ♠ K 6 4 2
   Vul: Both ♥ Q 10 ♦ A K Q J 4
   IMPs ♣ J 3 ♥ Q J 9 8 6 5 3 2 ♦ J ♣ 10 2

West North East South
1 ♠ 1 Pass 1 ♥
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♥
Pass 5 ♥ All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ A (they lead the ace from A–K). West shifts smartly
to a trump at trick two which you win
with the ace to avoid blocking the suit.
Where do you go from here?

Instant Matchpoint Game winners

The winners of the ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game in October
were Harvey and Marie Sugar of Somers NY. Playing at the Heritage Hills
Duplicate Bridge Club in Somers, the Sugars scored 76.33%.
There were 3494.5 tables in play. Local winners at each club won one
gold point.

1. Harvey Sugar – Marie Sugar, Somers NY 76.33%
2. Robert Hurley, Richmond Hill NY; Barry Nish, Little Neck NY 72.83%
3. Arthur Flashinski, Wausau WI; Richard Rhoad, Westerville OH 71.85%
4. David Butler, Keswick VA; Michael Lane, Charlottesville VA 71.49%
5. Samuel Kass, Fredonia KY; Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY 71.39%
6. Graydon Vadas – Robert Wieboldt, Mount Pleasant SC 71.15%
7. Jackie Khilling – Nancy Lewellyn, Fort Smith AR 70.41%
8. Greg Caucutt – Genny Rice, Rochester MN 70.23%
9. Dan Peters – Steven Sundheimer, New City NY 70.21%
10. Curtis Carpenter, Pollock LA; Grady Gravel, Alexandria LA 69.68%

Top scores by district

1. Mona Brydges, Haley Station ON; John David, nonmember 67.29%
2. Deanna Tomas – William Woodcock, Sarnia ON 69.46%
3. Harvey Sugar – Marie Sugar, Somers NY 76.33%
4. Betsy Hattersley, Havel NY; Clara Kelly, Honesdale PA 68.00%
5. Maxine Davis, Westline PA; Bonnie Smith, Bradford PA 64.00%
6. David Butler, Keswick VA; Michael Lane, Charlottesville VA 71.49%
7. Graydon Vadas – Robert Wieboldt, Mount Pleasant SC 71.15%
8. Samuel Kass, Fredonia KY; Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY 71.39%
9. Kenneth Abelson – Paul Freiberg, Naples FL 69.15%
10. Curtis Carpenter, Pollock LA; Grady Gravel, Alexandria LA 69.68%
11. Patty Eber, Cincinnati OH; Judy Ruehl, Batavia OH 68.46%
12. Philip Smith, Fenton MI; Susan Woodrow, Waterford MI 66.96%
13. Arthur Flashinski, Wausau WI; Richard Rhoad, Westerville OH 71.85%
14. Greg Caucutt – Genny Rice, Rochester MN 70.23%
15. Jackie Khilling – Nancy Lewellyn, Fort Smith AR 70.41%
16. Betty Dickerson – Kathryn Evans, Midland TX 68.25%
17. Helen Bledsoe – Carolyn Wiley, Grand Junction CO 66.58%
18. Shari Kohoutek – Sharon Patton-Griffin, Great Falls MT 66.44%
19. Judy Clerke, Vernon BC; Elaine Sorensen, Winfield BC 67.04%
20. Lorinda Pearson, Ontario OR; Mary Jo Rode, Scottsdale AZ 63.48%
21. Michael Kruley, Pleasant Hill CA; Michel Schneider, Berkeley CA 67.12%
22. John Kissinger – Susan Kissinger, San Clemente CA 66.72%
23. John Bralliar – George Welsh, Long Beach CA 65.41%
24. Robert Hurley, Richmond Hill NY; Barry Nish, Little Neck NY 72.83%
25. Jagdish Agarwal, Concord MA; Jimmy Becker, Andover MA 68.71%

Solutions are on page 61.
This is a deal from Bridge Base Online which includes many fascinating things that I had never seen before.

Dlr: East ♠ 10 3
Vul: N–S ♥ A K Q 9 5
♦ 8 6 3
♠ 9 8 6
♠ A K
♥ —
♦ A Q 9 7 5 2
♣ A Q 4 2

West North East South
2♠ 5♥

All Pass

South’s 5♥ is a bid that might be described as impetuous. West led the ♠ 5. Take over as declarer.

There is a lot of good news/bad news here. The good news is that 5♥ is a good contract. The bad news is that 6♥ is a better contract. The good news is that North has three tricks. The bad news is that you may have trouble using them. The good news is that your partner has some diamond support. The bad news is that it may not help.

Having won trick one, what do you do now? Here’s what the South player on BBO did. He led the ♥ A at trick two. The opening bidder showed out: West started with the ♥ K 10 4.

South had no recourse. No matter what he did, West eventually got in and led the ♥ K and the ♥ 10. There was no miracle in clubs, and declarer lost one diamond and two clubs.

Is there a better line? Here’s a hint: 5♥ is around 98% to make. Because diamonds will divide 3–0 around 22% of the time, it’s something you want to cater to if possible.

Here’s the secret. At trick two, don’t lead the ♥ A. Don’t lead the ♥ Q or ♥ J. Lead a low diamond towards the dummy. If diamonds are 2–1, you will lose this trick, but you can next play the ♥ A and then get to dummy with the ♥ 8. Then the heart tricks are enough to get rid of your clubs.

When you lead a low diamond, West wins the 10, and East shows out. West has nothing much to do but lead another spade, which you win to lead another low diamond. West will take his king, but the ♥ 8 is now an entry, allowing you to use the heart winners.

Here is the full layout:

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

♠ 7 6 5
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ K 10 4
♣ K 10 5
♠ A K
♥ —
♦ A Q 9 7 5 2
♣ A Q 4 2

Interesting hand. You have only one trump loser, but in order to make 5♥, you have to sacrifice a trump winner in order to avoid losing two clubs. Equitable.

Yes, leading the low diamond costs you one trick when diamonds are 2–1. In fact, if the ♥ K is singleton, you could have taken all 13 tricks. Would you have made 5♥?

There is a fascinating twist to this hand. Say that when you lead the ♥ 2 at trick two, West shows out. This is unlikely, but possible. East has the ♥ K 10 4 in this variation, and no matter how you play, East can keep you from getting to dummy. But let’s change East’s diamonds a little. Give dummy the 4 and East the 3. This is the new layout:

♥ 8 6 4
♦ —
♠ K 10 3
♣ A Q 9 7 5 2

When you lead the 2 to the 4, East wins his 10. East will lead a club back, and you now have a difficult decision. Should you finesse, hoping East has the king, or should you play the ace, hoping East has a singleton? I would guess to play the ♠ A, hoping East has a singleton. East could have 6=3=3=1 distribution. Now a low diamond to dummy’s 6 loses to East’s king. If East has no more clubs, you can get to dummy with the 8 to use the heart tricks.

Who would have thought that switching the 3 and 4 of diamonds would make such a huge difference?
Solutions to Test Your Play

1. Modesty prevents me from mentioning I was the declarer on this hand from an ACBL Spring Championships in Dallas many years ago.

   It might seem right to lead a club to the 10 and then the ♥ J. However if West has ♥ A 10 x, he can win the ace and put you back in dummy with a club. Now you have to get back to your hand to draw that ♥ 10. You can either ruff a third club or a third spade to get there; however, neither works, as West started with two black-suit doubletons and overruffs either black suit you lead.

   The winning play is to cash the ♠ A K and then the ♣ A. Next play a club to the 10 before driving out the ♥ A. Now when West wins the ace, he has to put you back in your hand allowing you to draw the last trump.

2. Given that nasty trump shift, it is pretty clear you are not going to be able to ruff a spade in dummy.
   In order to avoid losing three spades and at least one club, play West for the ♠ K and duck a club at trick three (key play).

No matter what is led at trick four, win, draw trumps, and lead a club to the queen. Assuming the finesse works, cash the ♠ A, discard your losing spade(s) on a winning club(s), and rack up a top or tie-for-top matchpoint result. The full deal:

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

Notice that East–West playing three rounds of spades to the first three tricks doesn’t help. You can ruff the third spade in dummy with the ace, cash the ♠ A, draw trumps and lead a club to the queen. West is a big favorite to have the ♠ K once East turns up with the ♦ A, and there is no reason to lose a club to a blank king in the East hand.

Two Hands

Bid to me boldly with thy hearts and I will raise with mine,
If West should play his lonely eight, I’ll cover with my nine.
The trumps we hold will not grow cold as all hands dwindle down,
But will be played to bring us in with glory and renown.

Thirteen low cards the dealer gave no king, no queen, no knave,
A lovely ace I did not see as partner bid to me,
I heard her say, “This is our day!” but points I couldn’t amass,
And from her bid my hand I hid and offered just a pass.

Eugene Wells, Leesburg FL
In a bracketed knockout teams, both sides are vulnerable. East, the dealer, opens 1♠, and as South I must choose an action with:

♠8 3 ♥Q10 9 7 4 ♦AK973 ♣A.

For some players, my hand would be suitable for a Michaels cuebid, showing length in hearts and one of the minors. I wouldn’t criticize that action, but I adhere to the classical approach where Michaels is appropriate with either a weak, offensively oriented hand (suitable for a sacrifice) or a huge hand. With in-between hands such as this, I overcall 2♥.

West passes, my partner raises to 3♥ and East passes. I should have a play for game if North has good trump support and little more. Of course, he might have three low hearts and a bunch of clubs honors, and then we may be overboard at 3♥, but I can’t afford to miss a vulnerable game at IMPs. So I bid 4♥ and am relieved when nobody doubles.

West leads the ♠2.

♠K10 ♥KJ83 ♦J1054 ♣Q86
♠83 ♥Q10974 ♦AK973 ♣A

North’s ♠K might as well be the 4, but I suppose he still had his 3♥ bid. I play the 10 from dummy, and East takes the queen and ace before shifting to the ♥A and a second heart. West follows, and I win in dummy. They have drawn trumps for me, so now everything depends on whether I can bring in the diamonds.

I wonder if I can do any card-placing. East doesn’t need the ♦Q to have an opening bid. He could have the ♠A Q, the ♥A and the ♦K. It occurs to me that I can lead the ♦Q from dummy as a “discovery” play. If East has the king, he will surely cover; if instead he plays low, I can place West with the king, hence East with the ♦Q, since West would have raised to 2♠ with the ♠J, ♦Q and ♦K.

When I lead the ♦Q, East covers. Next I take the ♥A, and both defenders play low. No clues from the bidding are compelling. If East held:

♣A Q754 ♥A2 ♦Q86 ♠K103
he might have opened 1NT, but I think that inference is too slender on which to stake the contract.

Luckily, I can rely on a stronger inference – from the defense. Suppose West had a low singleton diamond. He knows his partner has a good hand, maybe with some aces. How would West have defended? Matter of fact, if West had a diamond singleton, they could have beaten me easily. West leads his singleton; I win and lead a trump; East takes the ace and gives West a diamond ruff, and then they take two spades.

Because nothing like that happened, I don’t think West has a singleton. I bang down the ♥K, and the full deal is this:

♠K10 ♥KJ83 ♦J1054 ♣Q86
♠J962 ♥A ♥Q754 ♥A2 ♦86
♣Q2 ♥86 ♦J9542 ♦AK973
♣83 ♥Q10974 ♦AK973 ♣A

Some inferences are valid only against experts whose play can be trusted implicitly. The inference I drew here would be reliable even against a novice West. All players are attracted to leading singletons.

Players often tell me that they are reluctant to draw inferences from the play because their opponents can’t be trusted to operate logically. That argument is specious. Always assume your opponent has played correctly. If he hasn’t, and you go down in a contract you could have made, you can laugh it off. You can tell yourself that you made a thoughtful play that failed because your opponent was out to lunch. But if you assume that your opponent has erred when in fact he didn’t, you will have only yourself to blame.
Dear Billy,

I would like your advice on an auction my partner and I had recently. Probing for a heart slam, my partner bid 4NT, which we play as Roman key card Blackwood with 1430 responses. But then, my right-hand opponent overcalled 5♣. Our agreement was to use “DOPI.” What my partner and I had not discussed was whether the DOPI responses were 1430 for key cards or simply for the number of aces. For instance, would a double of my RHO’s 5♣ show one/four key cards or would it show zero aces? What’s your advice?

Not Dopey

Dear Smarty,

As I do not play 1430, I’m not sure how it would affect DOPI responses. I would play that the responses are key cards not aces, because that’s what 4NT was asking for.

For those not familiar with the DOPI acronym, D stands for double which shows O (zero) aces, and P stands for pass which shows I (one). Making those RKCB responses, the D = 0 or 3 key cards, and the P = 1 or 4. The next step (5♦ in this case) = 2 key cards without the trump queen and the following step (5♥) = 2 with the queen. If you want to flip-flop your first two responses to stay consistent with your normal methods, it’s up to you. Agree with your partner in advance or you will be guessing at the table.

Dear Mr. Potato Head,

I like to play that after partner’s simple overcall at the one level, jump shifts (when the next player passes) are forcing one round, and new suits without a jump are forward-going but not forcing. Your hand is perfect for a forcing jump to 2♠ because of the strength and the six-card suit. I would not jump-shift with a five-card suit. Holding a similar hand with only five spades, you must cuebid and then bid spades. The big thing to agree on and understand is that a cuebid after partner’s overcall does not guarantee support unless the cuebidder is a passed hand. Then, the cuebid always shows true support.

I have a special rule when faced with a cuebid by partner that may not have support: If I would jump to game opposite a limit raise or better in my suit, I cuebid too. Say this is the auction:

Opener  Me  RHO  Partner
1♣  Pass  4♣  ?

If I had a hand good enough to bid 4♥ if partner has a limit raise, I would cuebid 3♠ instead of jumping to 4♥. Partner can then clarify the meaning of his original cuebid. Should he try 3NT, I might pass. If he bids 3♦ or 3♠, I would know he does not have heart support, and I will proceed sensibly knowing his hand was too good to bid 1♥ or 2♥. If partner does have hearts, he will bid 3♥.

One last thing: If partner overcalls at the three level, a new suit by you is 100% forcing. At the one level and even the two level, that’s another story.
Bridge with the Abbot

BY DAVID BIRD

Sister Myrtle’s offer

The Abbot had endured a tiresome session in the unwelcome partnership with the nuns’ confessor, Monsignor Agostino. Despite showing no hint of bridge ability himself, the Monsignor felt entitled to criticize his partner’s efforts at every turn.

“Move for the last round, please!” called a shrill voice from across the convent cardroom.

The Abbot had rarely heard more welcome words. He took his seat for the final round of the evening and was further consoled by picking up a handsome 20-count.

Dlr: South
♠ A Q J 10 9 8 3
♥ 2
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 5 4

Vul: N–S
♥ 2
♦ 4
♣ Q 5 4
♠ 4
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ K J 9 5
♣ A Q 6
♠ K 5
♥ A K 3
♣ A Q 6
♦ A 7 6 3 2

West North East South
Sister Mons. Sister The
Myrtle Agostino Benedict Abbot

2NT
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
Pass 6 ♠ All Pass

Sister Myrtle led the ♥ 10 and the Monsignor laid out his dummy. “I wouldn’t normally bid six on this,” he explained. “We’ve done so badly, I thought we needed a good one.”

The capacious Sister Myrtle unwrapped another Sharp’s treacle toffee, popping it into her mouth. “You could have been missing two aces, Monsignor,” she mumbled. “Aren’t you playing Blackwood? It’s very useful.”

Sister Benedict nodded her agreement. “It’s unusual to play transfer responses and not Blackwood,” she said. “If your partner has 21 points and you have 9, that’s ... er ... 10 points missing. You could be missing two aces and a vital queen somewhere.”

Ignoring the inane chatter, the Abbot paused to make a plan. Suppose he won with the ♥ A and played a club to the queen. If this lost to the king, East would doubtless switch to a diamond. With the ♥ A gone, he would no longer be able to discard a club on the ♥ K, establish the club suit with a ruff and get back to the long cards. Not unless trumps were 2–2, anyway.

Sister Myrtle leaned forwards. “Perhaps you’d like one of these toffees?” she said, proffering a nearly empty paper bag. “I always like to chew something when I play a contract. It helps me to concentrate.”

The Abbot waved the bag aside. “Beautifully played, Hugo!” exclaimed a female voice.

The Abbot spun round to see the pale figure of Sister Grace, who was wearing a utilitarian grey dressing gown that had seen better days. “It’s wonderful to see you,” said the Abbot. “Are you sure you should be out of bed?”

“I’m so glad I came,” Sister Grace replied, “otherwise I’d have missed this hand. Mind you, I am feeling rather weak. Perhaps I will return to my room.”

The Abbot rose to his feet, suddenly feeling great warmth towards his cousin. “Let me help you upstairs, my dear,” he said. “We only have one more hand to play. I’m sure the others won’t mind waiting for a few minutes.”
George’s World

BY GEORGE JACOBS  NOBET8888@aol.com

Wild hand at the Skokie Sectional.
You hold:

♠ K ♥ Q 10 8 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K J 10 8 7 6 2

at your usual unfavorable vulnerability. It goes 1♦ by your favorite partner, who happens to be the love of your life (and you so want to impress her), 4♠ on your right. We will get back to your call shortly. Think about it.

From correspondent Mike Edwards, reporting from barren Iowa, comes his best lead-out-of-turn story. Playing in the Mixed Pairs in Utica NY against Jay Merrill, who was declaring 7♥, Mike led out of turn. Jay shrugged and accepted it. Mike’s partner, Nancy Boris, ruffed it.

Some good news to report: Marc and Brenda Jacobus have safely returned from the Philippines with their luggage. In more good news, I received the check back from the hotel for my change from the $2500 check of Ron Anderson’s that I sent them. The bad news is that they sent my change in the form of a check for $1200 that Ron Anderson had given them. So I have wired them the balance. Did I come out ahead?

Anyway, back to the hand at question. There is a little known rule in bridge: When you are trying to impress your girl, bid more. So I chose to bid a vulnerable 5♣, hoping for one of three things: 1) that I could make it; 2) that they were cold for 4♠; or 3) that they’d bid again. It went 5♠—double— all pass.

Our actual declarer went wrong at trick one, pitching a club on my diamond lead. She then lost a club, the spade finesse (I almost left in the phrase “state finance,” which was what my iPad thought I meant) and a heart for down one.

But wait, it’s all about trick one, isn’t it? Let’s say that she pitches a heart instead of a club. Watch the play now. When she leads a club from the dummy, righty has to go up with the ace. Now they would return a trump, trying to cut down on club ruffs. Declarer cannot afford the finance (finesse?) and must rise with the ace. This catches the singleton king and allows the club ruff. Making six. Hmm … maybe I should have bid more!

Next month’s column is all about infrafinesses to the 8. I know you eagerly look forward to it. Went to the Puerto Vallarta Regional for the first time. Will report on that also. I love Puerto Vallarta. They have such good Chinese food.

Ciao for now.
**Big Games + 75% + Big Games + 75% + Big Games + 75% + Big Games**

**Marlene Stregack – Joseph Stregack**
Valencia Shores DBC, Lake Worth FL

**Danny Ioannidis – Steven Mehta**
Shoreline Bridge Club, Burlington ON

**Dennis O’Brien – Sheldon Per**
Bridge Alert, Warminster PA

**Bill Williams – Peggy Bailey**
Hemet (CA) DBC

**Greg Lindsay – Mark Ominsky**
Sun City Carolina Lakes DBC, Indian Land SC

**Janet Colchamiro – Lita Talus**
Boca Raton (FL) DBC

**Ben Ydadgaroff – Ron Fischer**
Hollywood (FL) Bridge Club

**Christopher Dorton – Shari Dorton**
Maggie’s Bridge Club, Frisco CO

**William Ravreby – Steve Grossman**
Raffles For Bridge Club, Philadelphia PA

**David Rosenstein – Donald Stanger**
Las Vegas (NV) Bridge World

**Martin Robins – John Griscom**
Jourdan’s Bridge Club, Delray Beach FL

**Gary Sawyer – Kaye Kernodle**
Rudioso (NM) DBC

**Carol Huston – Charles Hodel**
Bidwell Bridge Club, Chico CA

**Lori Moore – Cindy Moore**
Mike’s Bridge Club, Bloomington IL

**Joyce Nakasaki – Joseph Thomas**
Veterans Park Club, Redondo Beach CA

**Suzanne Jones – Kathy Ragland**
Friday Afternoon Club, Boulder CO

**Scott Hanham – Jerry Cox**
County Public Bridge Club, Seaside CA

**Bill Anderson – Ben Hooyer**
Tillsonburg (ON) DBC

**Marie Sugar – Harvey Sugar**
Heritage Hills DBC, Somers NY

**Phillip Sanford – Maureen Olafson**
Campbell River (BC) Bridge Club

**Christie Showalter – James Showalter**
Adult Center of Prescott AZ

**Val Jakubowitch – Mart Liinve**
Northern New York Bridge Club, Watertown NY

**Gill Schramm – Anna Crouch**
Squamish (BC) Bridge Club

**Benjamin Eisenberg – Susan Eisenberg**
Jourdan’s Bridge Club, Delray Beach FL

**Marcia Zabronsky – Marvin Meyerson**
Bridge School of Long Island, East Meadow NY

**Michael Minoff – Robert Moskowitz**
Philadelphia DBC, Philadelphia PA

**Leland Nettles – Dwayne Jones**
Unit 139, Lynchburg VA

**Phil Michaelson – Greg Frank**
The Village Card Club, Hot Springs Village AR

**Janice Riple – Robin Weidener**
Roswell (GA) Bridge Club

**Evelyn Hodges – Janet Tetkoskie**
Little Rock (AR) DBC

**R. Arthur Cannamela Jr. – Baskaran Sankaran**
Alpharetta (GA) DBC

**Norman O’Brien – Bruce Perry**
Moncton (NB) DBC

**Bruce Busby – Brian Busby**
Squamish (BC) Bridge Club

**Irwin Krull – Robert Surrey**
Temple Sinai DBC, Delray Beach FL

**Linda Krause – Myrna Price**
Bridge School of Long Island, East Meadow NY

**John Bacsa – Rosanne Schabinger**
Ace of Clubs Jeremiah, Northfield IL

**Patty Cole – Eleanor Grinslade**
Indianapolis (IN) Bridge Center

**Louis Nimnicht – Barbara Graegin**
Community Bridge Club, Gary IN

**William Toutant – Steven Blank**
Olympic Bridge Club, Louisville KY

**Maria Mitchum – Paul De Marsh**
Hampton Roads Bridge Club, Newport News VA

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**Reporting Big Games**

Big Games must be reported to the Bridge Bulletin. These results are not automatically picked up from club files. The club director, manager or the players themselves may send a notice to biggames@acb.org. Requirements:

- **75% or higher** scores in a club matchpoint game that is open or non-restricted. (For example, masterpoint-restricted games or country club games restricted by membership do not qualify. Nor do cruise games, sectional or regional games.)

- At least **five tables** with at least **20 boards** in play. Both players are ACBL members in good standing.

- A **game recap** must accompany the report — either via an email file or an online link to where the results are posted.

Be sure to include the club’s name and location.
New Life Masters

Canada
Pat Anderson, Calgary AB
Jan Brawn, Calgary AB
Cynthia Thomson, Victoria BC
Kent Ritchie, Halifax NS
Brigitte Cormier, Oakville ON
Marianna Wright, Toronto ON
Micheline Jacques, Sherbrooke QC
Judy Von Colditz, Ste.-Agatha-Des-Monts QC
Fred Smith, Saskatoon SK

Mexico
Keith Coates, Ajijic

United States
John Morris, Jonesboro AR
Sally Morris, Jonesboro AR
Steven Sahl, Tucson AZ
Kenneth Agress, Anaheim CA
Terry Ahern, Santa Clara CA
Barbara Augustine, San Diego CA
Sue Blom, Indio CA
Richard Fabbre, Roseville CA
Albert Folkman, San Diego CA
Marcelo Gumucio, Atherton CA
Gerald Kibb, La Mesa CA
Arthur Levine, Goleta CA
Patricia Reid, Carlsbad CA
Richard Simkin, Rancho Santa Fe CA
Jane Skinner, La Quinta CA
Graetchn Torres, South Pasadena CA
Mary Amato, Ormond Beach FL
Judy Duell, Alford FL
Robert Hedinger, Naples FL
David Ingram, Palm City FL
Stanley Jacobson, Palm Beach Gardens FL
Henri Kent, Clearwater FL
Jerry McClurg, Boynton Beach FL
Della Morris, Fort Pierce FL
Karen Nuthmann, Deland FL
Carolyn Oates, Spring Hill FL
Anshul Paliwal, Gainesville FL
Judith Powell, New Smyrna FL
Margaret Sarno, The Villages FL
Connie Trelar, Ormond Beach FL
Nancy Watts, Marianna FL
Chris Gardner, Palatine IL
Carolyn Koehler, Indian Head Park IL
Lee Baatz, Columbia City IN
Alice Huus, Evansville IN
Daniel Kirwan, Bloomington IN
Joyce Riley, Prairie Village KS
Teresa Scales, Wichita KS
Dixie Wantoch, Overland Park KS
Thomas Keslin, Lexington KY
Jan Polk, Southgate KY
Stuart Ray, Louisville KY
Livingston Carroll, Sherborn MA
David Hogan, Marlborough MA
Peter Laubenstein, West Chatham MA
Betsy Stegeman, Falmouth MA
Jeffrey Sweeney, Braintree MA
David Arbuthnot, Lusby MD
Terry Coates, Wheaton MD
John Horner, Silver Spring MD
Judith Perrier, Bethesda MD
Ruth Shilkret, Arnold MD
Barbara Teng, Bethesda MD
David Waterman, South Harpswell ME
Nicholas Erpelding, Minnetonka MN
Linda Bestimt, Raleigh NC
Elaine Bretsel, Durham NC
Maryanne Freiburger, Cornelius NC
Jodianne Johnson, Charlotte NC
Nancy Lide, Winston-Salem NC
Linda Meyer, Goldsboro NC
Heather Pierce, Winterville NC
Eva Muir, Nashua NH
Thomas Provost Sr., Canterbury NH
Sara Bellesheim, Bronsvale NY
Jodi Edmonds, New York NY
Catherine Fazzolari, Staten Island NY
Ten-Pao Lee, Grand Island NY
Scott McDermott, New York NY
Joe Miranda, Hamburg NY
Eugene Nawotniak, Clarence NY
Indur Shivdasani, New York NY
Charlie Kobida, Cincinnati OH
Liz Lin, Cincinnati OH
Thomas Weeks, Maumee OH
Joan Goldstein, Philadelphia PA
Harry Stutts, Chambersburg PA
Barry Gilbert, Lincoln RI
Kathryn Kimmerling, Blythewood SC
Mechel Frost, Nashville TN
Ittoop Maliyekkel, Knoxville TN
James Wynalek, Franklin TN
Gaylene Jewell, Houston TX
Kathryn Papermaster, Horseshoe Bay TX
Ani Sippola, Richardson TX
Claire Zimmerman, Pearland TX
Marsha McCandless, St. George UT
Jim Anderson, Williamsburg VA
Joanne Livingston, Glen Allen VA
Patricia Eastman, West Windsor VT
Carol Nystrom, Vancouver WA

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Welcome back, Member!
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Member Card
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January 2018 Bridge Bulletin 67
Life Master

MILESTONES

Jeff Meckstroth
Clearwater Beach FL
Grand Life Master
85,000 masterpoints

Neil Silverman
Fort Lauderdale FL
Grand Life Master
10,000 masterpoints
World Open Teams (1986)
D’Orsi Senior Teams (2017)
von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs (1976)
Wernher Open Pairs (1980)
Grand National Teams (1997)

Ron Fischer
Oakland Park FL
Platinum Life Master
15,000 masterpoints

Hugh Hughes
Greenville SC
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints

Emerald Life Master (7500 MPs)
Edward Schwartz, Phoenix AZ
William Grant, San Diego CA
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA
Michael McGuire, Hernando MS
Kay Enfield, Santa Fe NM
Sylvia Shi, Las Vegas NV
Ronald Perry, Hilton Head SC
Jack LaVigne, Houston TX

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)
Ben Takemori, Burnaby BC
Dave Douglass, Oro Valley AZ
Brian Gilbert, Irvine CA
Susan Kissinger, San Clemente CA
Tony Miller, Ridgecrest CA
Joseph Viola III, Altadena CA
Richard Wilson, Roseville CA
Ronald Fennell, Panama City FL
Diane Graeze, Jacksonville FL
Peggy Robinson, Boca Raton FL
Lynda Shourds, St. Augustine FL

Albert Strive, Naples FL
Aubrey Strul, Boca Raton FL
Muriel Wasserman, Fort Myers FL
Ira Zucker, Venice FL
Wagner Van Vlack, Carmel IN
Jack Ambach Jr., Glasgow KY
Elaine Rowe, Hagerstown MD
Susan Jackson, Roseville MN
Karen Callihan, Raleigh NC
Marianne Goff, Margate City NJ
Nancy Schwantes, Las Vegas NV
Gary Helman, Syosset NY
Cathy Nathan, New York NY
Don Lowry, Wilsonville OR
Irv Neyhart, Corvallis OR
Louis Sachar, Austin TX
Norma Walker, San Angelo TX

Robert Lix, Mesa AZ
Donna Bell, Thousand Oaks CA
Dorn Bishop, San Diego CA
Jean Holt, San Marcos CA
Nathan McCay, Del Mar CA
Linda Rancourt, Sacramento CA
Alan Rowen, Coronado CA
Lynn Shannon, Campbell CA
Leila Sink, Los Gatos CA
Vandana Vidwans, Fremont CA
Weishu Wu, Irvine CA
Sallie Abelson, Naples FL
Joyce Blumenthal, Bonita Springs FL
Patricia Cayne, Boca Raton FL
Charles Christmas, Tallahassee FL
Jack Jones, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea FL
Dottie King, Jacksonville FL
Michelle Alterman, Atlanta GA
Arlene Conway, Woodstock GA
Losia McCann, Marietta GA
David Zeckets, Atlanta GA
James Milam, Idaho Falls ID
Vicki Angus, Rutland MA

Walter Lee, Sudbury MA
Andrew Stark, New York NY
Jay Barron, Tulsa OK
Jack Killough, Bethany OK
Geoff Booth, Houston TX
Rose Marie Cleveland, Houston TX
Harry Elliott, Cypress TX
Jimmy Reynolds, Laredo TX
Hua Yang, Plano TX
Ronald Orr, Falling Waters WV

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)
Donald Donoahue, Oakville ON
Peter Kirk, Tillsonburg ON
Marian Thompson, Toronto ON
Susan Wain, Toronto ON
Marilyn Harries, Pierrefonds QC
Gerard Turcotte, Quebec QC

Elizabeth Chapman, Mesa AZ
Sandra Hampton, Tucson AZ
Mitch Towner, Tucson AZ
Thomas Gay, Apple Valley CA
David Lodge, Rancho Mirage CA
Edwin Seputis, Oakland CA
Diane Williams, Mill Valley CA
Sheryl Siegel, Greenwood Village CO
Doris Berkman, Boca Raton FL
Ricky Dashefsky, Delray Beach FL
Lawrence Derito, Jupiter FL
Charlene Erskine, Fort Myers FL
Jane Hudson, The Villages FL
Susan Konsvik, Deland FL
Jerry Scott, Naples FL
Anne Ballard, Atlanta GA
Susan Davis, Marietta GA
Bob Luxton, Alpharetta GA
Roger Theis, Naperville IL
Jean Donoho, Louisville KY
Anita Pettus, Lexington KY
Donna Graves, Severn MD
Diane Lucci, Chester MD
John Powell, Aberdeen MD
Ruth Sherman, Lutherville-Timonium MD
Thomas Roberg, Raleigh NC
Myrna Sullivan, Grand Island NE
Krystyna Ciesluk, Merrimack NH
Ruth Bernstein, Ramsey NJ
Gregory Gorskiov, Somerville NJ
Bob Vogel, Montclair NJ
Ross Lounsbury, Clifton Park NY
Judy Paul, Valley Stream NY
Dawn Campbell, Portland OR
Gerard Halle, Hillsboro OR
Arlene Jacobell, Jeannette PA
Gene Waltz, Bloomsburg PA
Marsha Brown, Alexandria VA
Bill Goldstone, Bellingham WA
Robert Mandel, Mequon WI

Ruby Life Master (1500 MPs)
Hal Jones, Calgary AB
Nancy Baal, Victoria BC
Andy Hellquist, Surrey BC
Maureen Donovan, Halifax NS

Jeff Ziemer
Taylors SC
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints

Peter Friedland
Cupertino CA
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints

Sally Meckstroth
Clearwater Beach FL
Platinum Life Master
10,000 masterpoints

Priscilla Kennedy, New Waterford NS
Mark Spear, Kentville NS
Pierrette Fuoco, Ottawa ON
Tara McCabe, Ottawa ON
Adele Pick, Etobicoke ON
Sheila Puz, Kitchener ON
Ed W.J. Wright, St. Thomas ON
Jeannie Anne Yagminas, Renfrew ON
Hubert Grondin, Cantley QC
Claire Lemire, Gatineau QC
Ron Goldfon, Hoover AL
Dorothy Wendt, Huntsville AL
Paul Black, Green Valley AZ
Robert Rose, Phoenix AZ
Jon Stromquist, Green Valley AZ
John Bakulich, Laguna Woods CA
David Chang, Palo Alto CA
Leda Fields, Arroyo Grande CA
Thomas Herzog, San Diego CA
James Howe, San Jose CA
Steve Hubbell, Mountain View CA
Rick Jasper, San Jose CA
James Lasswell, San Diego CA
Eusebio Menezes, Cupertino CA
Michael Nistler, Petaluma CA
James Perkins, Los Angeles CA
Sudha Shah, Rancho Santa Fe CA
Betty Davis, Jacksonville FL
Elizabeth Getman, Naples FL
Carol Golden, Boca Raton FL
Christine Matus, Vero Beach FL
Ronald Mittleman, West Palm Beach FL
Lois Moran, Naples FL
Nancy Moran, Fort Lauderdale FL
Anthony Pastore, Clearwater FL
Norman Rocco, Sun City Center FL
Lenore Silver, Boynton Beach FL
Sherry Spalding Fardie, Port Orange FL
Peggy Warner, Vero Beach FL
Charles Fritts, Savannah GA
Carol McDonald, Calhoun GA
Susan Wolfe, Marietta GA
Harry Rogers, Wailuku HI
Theodore Clemens, Gurnee IL
Chris Habegger, Bristol IN
Carl Minick, Huntsertainment IN
Nelson Daigle, Metairie LA
Timothy Hill, Wellesley MA
Deborah Blake, Ocean Pines MD
Ellen Rosenthal, Potomac MD
Jacqueline Sullivan, Bangor ME
Jack Herman, Gwinn MI
Scott Roland, Grand Rapids MI
Jerry Johnson, Eagan MN
John Miller, Stillwater MN
Nancy Cadwell, St. Louis MO
David Powers, Hattiesburg MS
James Callen, Brevard NC
Marilyn Starner, Pinehurst NC
David Cox, Randolph NJ
David Booth, Henderson NV
Lynn Baker, Poughkeepsie NY
Nancy Defren, Rockville Center NY
Sara Hidary, Brooklyn NY
Michelle Lattman, New York NY
Marvin Shapiro, Akron OH
Eric Genheimer, Edmond OK
Yvonne Coursen, New Kensington PA
Deborah Crisfield, Philadelphia PA
Jere Duncan, Oakati SC
Karen Hinson, Hanahan SC
Carol Holihan, Pawleys Island SC
Nancy Maulding, West Columbia SC
Debbi Schadt, Memphis TN
David Luzzatto, Dallas TX
Terri Orlean, Houston TX
Tom Whitesides, Dallas TX
Mark Gospodnetic, Richmond VA
Jeffrey Klemm, Mclean VA
Elizabeth Lewis, Irvington VA
James Darcy, Everett WA
Charles Gravenkemper, Seattle WA
James Knight, Blaine WA

Becky Stevens, Mercer Island WA
Linda Yount, Federal Way WA
Robert Bodoh, Madison WI

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)
Barbara Webster, Calgary AB
Ronald Dixon, Vancouver BC
Faye Gilraine, Vancouver BC
Russell Boyle, Tantallon NS
Jean Cooke, Halifax NS
David Douglas, Toronto ON
Robert Maxwell, Toronto ON
Patti McCabe, Ottawa ON
Max Chauvet, Naucaulpan, Mexico

Missy McCain, Heber Springs AR
Diane Patterson, Hot Springs AR
Andrea Scott, Cottonwood AZ
Charlotte Blank, Palm Desert CA
Buki Burke, Ventura CA
Alex Chen, Arcadia CA
Ann Croupe, Pasadena CA
Deborah Davis, Carmel Valley CA
Helene Ettelson, San Francisco CA
Louis Goldsmith, Indio CA
Lorraine Grawoig, Walnut Creek CA
David Ingraham, Carlsbad CA
Joan Kulpa, Laguna Woods CA
Stephanie Rogers, San Francisco CA
Rick Wilson, Pleasanton CA
Shari Frankel, Boulder CO
Steven Plumb, Hartsel CO
Jeanette Roberts, Delta CO
Melody Henderson, Wilmington DE
Chester Feldman, Boca Raton FL
Robert Friedman, Boynton Beach FL
Mary Gilbertson, Tallahassee FL
Elwood Godlewski, Ocala FL
Paul Hagerty, Oviedo FL
Jake Marantz, Cooper City FL
Sandra Schwab, Boca Raton FL
Lee Taylor, Largo FL
Judith Vittone, Naples FL
Lee Weiner, Fernandina Beach FL
Sherry Zimand, Orlando FL
Barbara Goldman, Atlanta GA
Terrence Kessler, Savannah GA
Alan Kosansky, Kailua HI
Ted Witt, Ketchum ID
Charles Johnson, Aurora IL
Thomas Koralewski, Avon IN
Lois Clark, Lawrence KS
Richard Nelson, Olathe KS
Vicki Helms, Owensboro KY
Robert Juneau, Millbury MA
Elizabeth Paige, Duxbury MA
Arkady Shifrin, Natick MA
Jeffrey Sweeney, Braintree MA
Marta Clements, Bryant Pond ME
Joyce Downing, Muskegon MI

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In Memoriam

Canada
* Doug Hawrelak, Edmonton AB
* Edward C. Griffin, New Maryland NB
* Robert Bercovici, Toronto ON
* Peter G.A. Brand, Toronto ON
* Ronald J. Butters, St. Thomas ON
* Ken S. Lounsberry, Etobicoke ON
* Andrew M. Monk, Orillia ON
* Penny A. Pomeroy, Thornold ON
* Odette Rouviere, Orleans ON
* Gladys C. Wengen, Barrie ON
* Penny A. Pomeroy, Auburn AL
* Sam M. Harris, Auburn AL
* Charles B. Bradley, Sun City West AZ
* Dr. Herbert Liston, Phoenix AZ
* Shonnette K. Weisman, Scottsdale AZ
* Rolland H. White, Lake Havasu City AZ
* Dr. Robert P. Abend, Pasadena CA
* Brian K. Huley, Santa Rosa CA
* Kenneth L. Kennington, Vallejo CA
* Kenneth L. Kidd, Santa Monica CA
* Sandi Oest, Palmdale CA
* John D. Richardson, Santa Rosa CA
* Eleanor K. Warren, Laguna Woods CA
* James E. Wilson, Carmichael CA
* Donald R. Barnett, Grand Junction CO
* Fred Carter, Boulder CO
* Robert H. Lincoln, Longmont CO
* Francine Gilbert, Westport CT
* Carl E. Meyer, New Canaan CT
* Paul R. Pearson, Enfield CT
* Janis Shafran, Stratford CT
* Marcia S. Clark, University Park FL
* Ann S. Croft, Winter Park FL
* James Devoy, Ocala FL
* Dr. John L. Green, Sarasota FL
* Albee P. Gutman, Boca Raton FL
* Jerome B. Gutman, Boca Raton FL
* Richard Hess, Palm Beach FL
* Helene C. London, Delray Beach FL
* Jean R. Minneman, Sarasota FL
* Irving H. Murphy, Rotonda West FL
* Art J. Nasso, Boca Raton FL
* J. Rothfuss, Bradenton FL
* N. Lally Rush, Jacksonville FL
* Judy C. Shuel, Jupiter FL
* Ruth Stokes, Cape Coral FL
* Jeannette A. Winters, Tallahassee FL
* Carl A. Copollino, Brookhaven GA
* Norman A. Crandell Sr., Woodstock GA
* Joe Fulcher, Sea Island GA
* Dorothy E. Smith, Blairsville GA
* Rev. Walter Sobol, Savannah GA
* Gayle M. Zimmermann, Kennesaw GA
* Kathy P. Goltzten, Kaiula Kona HI
* Sheila Honeywell, Lahue HI
* Mary I. Buckingham, Milford IA
* Jan E. Swenson, Coralville IA
* Stuart R. Levin, Glenview IL
* John Stutzel, Rockford IL
* Stephen A. Moyer, West Lafayette IN
* Rosemary C. Shafer, South Bend IN
* Barbara J. Bell, Leawood KS
* Douglas L. Kidd, Wichita KS
* Dot Gallaugher, Lake Charles LA
* Mitchell L. Lebert, Lake Charles LA
* Dr. Allan C. Morgan, Manchester MA
* Felicia Daly, Berlin MD
* Thomas K. Everngam, Easton MD
* Mary E. Holt, Severna Park MD
* Jerry G. Keller, Laurel MD

United States
* Jerry G. Keller, Laurel MD
* Mary E. Holt, Severna Park MD
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* Felicia Daly, Berlin MD
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* Dr. Allan C. Morgan, Manchester MA
* Felicia Daly, Berlin MD
* Thomas K. Everngam, Easton MD
* Mary E. Holt, Severna Park MD
* Jerry G. Keller, Laurel MD

Marvin Hamm 1944–2017

By Merlin Vilhauer, Beaverton OR

Marvin Hamm and I wrote the first scoring program used by the ACBL called Director. It was used from 1982 to 1991, and many of the commands used in the current scoring program, ACBLscore, are from Director.

Marv and I started writing the program in 1980 on a home computer that Marv built. We got the idea for doing it after reading an article in the Bridge Bulletin. Marvin was the main programmer. In addition to writing the program, we trained directors on its use during the first year it became available.

Marvin passed away Oct. 24 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, son and three grandchildren. RIP, Marv. You were the best.

Marvin Hamm 1944–2017

By Richard Jacobson and Mark Robertson

David Certa 1954–2017

By Richard Jacobson and Mark Robertson

David Certa, a Diamond Life Master of Phoenix AZ, passed away Jan. 21, 2017. He was 62.

Dave was highly respected in the Phoenix/Scottsdale bridge community as a player, mentor, teacher and friend. He played at local clubs and in regional tournaments throughout the southwestern United States, and he captained a team that made it to the quarterfinal round in the Mini-Spingold at the 2012 Summer NABC in Philadelphia.

Dave was a paragon of good sportsmanship at the bridge table. He was modest and self-deprecating, always quick to compliment another’s good play. He was kind and generous and unfailingly displayed impeccable ethics. Along with his love of art, fine dining and traveling, he loved playing bridge more than anything else, but just as important to him was his desire that others enjoy the game that meant so much to him.

At an incredibly well-attended memorial duplicate game in Dave’s honor, longtime friends and fellow bridge players made the following comments in a memory book: “His sparkling smile will continue to play in my memory of him”; “What a wonderful friend and a fierce opponent; I’ll miss his kindness at the table”; “Dave touched our lives and made us better by example”; “Dave gave me the biggest bridge score game of my life”; “Dave was a kind and gentle soul”; “Dave was an inspiration to me from the first time I met him at my very first duplicate game”; “As a partner at the bridge table, Dave always took the blame whether it was his fault or not”; “We should all follow his lead, no pun intended”; “I’m not sure Dave ever believed how much people respected him as a bridge player, a person, a friend.”

Bridge for many of us will never be quite the same without Dave. For most of us, however, it is and will always be immeasurably better because of knowing him. Perhaps the best tribute we can all pay to Dave is to be kind to our opponents, to our partners and to ourselves.
Steve Goldberg 1945–2017

Two-time national champion Steve Goldberg of Las Vegas died Oct. 27. He was 72.

In the early ‘70s, Goldberg enjoyed a successful partnership with Hall of Famer Lou Bluhm (who died in 1990). They were members of the winning squads in the 1972 Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams and the 1974 Spingold Knockout Teams. In 1973, their team tied for second-third in the Men’s (now Mitchell Open) Board-a-Match Teams.

In World Bridge Federation events, Goldberg finished third in the WBF Continuous Pairs in 1990, and his team made it to the quarterfinal round of the Rosenblum Teams in Albuquerque in 1994.

Steve Landen 1952–2017

Grand Life Master Steve Landen of Ellicott City, MD died Oct. 29. The 64-year-old, who had battled the effects of Alzheimer’s for several years, died of hypothermia complicated by a fall he suffered walking near his home.

Landen was a six-time NABC champion with wins in the 1990 and 2000 Werther Open Pairs, the 2002 Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, the 2003 Baldwin (Flight A) North American Pairs, the 2007 Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs and the 2010 Silodor Open Pairs. Landen had seven second-place finishes in NABC contests.

In world-level play, Landen earned a bronze medal for the United States at the 2003 Bermuda Bowl in Monte Carlo, and a silver medal at the 2012 World Senior Teams in Lille, France.

A full-time player, Landen amassed more than 20,000 masterpoints during his career.

The Baltimore Sun reported that after he graduated from high school in 1971, Landen enrolled in the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, but left the school to pursue playing bridge. He later returned to finish his undergraduate degree.

“Steve was always a nonconformist,” said his wife, Lynne Schaefer. “He spent a while touring the country. He was a fierce opponent. But away from the bridge table, he had a great sense of humor and loved his family deeply.”

Landen is survived by Schaefer, to whom he was married for 25 years, children Matthew Landen and Samantha Landen, and three siblings.
Centenarian Double Squeeze

BY MARTY SELIGMAN

Leon Finkel celebrated his 100th birthday on April 2, 2017. A native Philadelphian, Leon was a paper hanger by trade, back when that was a valuable skill. The Hamilton Club in Philadelphia, founded by Milton Work in 1887, is the oldest bridge club in America. This makes Leon the oldest member of the oldest American bridge club.

Playing in a club championship with his son Richard Finkel – a young 68 – the always optimistic Leon took advantage of some defensive slips to execute a lovely double squeeze against me and my partner, Dick Morgen.

When Leon led his last diamond, Dick was forced to part with a heart to keep the ♠A. So Leon discarded the ♦9 from dummy, but then I was squeezed because I couldn’t guard both the hearts and the ♠8.

If partner had taken the ♠A early, we could have held declarer to 10 tricks. Even better, I could have held Leon to 10 tricks by switching to a heart when I was in with the ♠A. The spade continuation was a defensive error; a heart exit is mandatory to cut communication between declarer’s hand and the dummy.

Leon made 11 tricks for plus 460 and a tie for top.

I won with the ace. I continued with a spade to declarer’s jack. Now the defense was helpless when Leon ran the diamonds. This is the four-card end position:

When Leon led his last diamond, Dick was forced to part with a heart to keep the ♠A. So Leon discarded the ♦9 from dummy, but then I was squeezed because I couldn’t guard both the hearts and the ♠8.

If partner had taken the ♠A early, we could have held declarer to 10 tricks. Even better, I could have held Leon to 10 tricks by switching to a heart when I was in with the ♠A. The spade continuation was a defensive error; a heart exit is mandatory to cut communication between declarer’s hand and the dummy.

Leon made 11 tricks for plus 460 and a tie for top.
**Upcoming TAP Seminars**

**Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP)** provides an exceptional foundation for players wanting to become bridge teachers.

**Philadelphia PA (NABC)**
- March 8–10
- ACBL Education Department
  - education@acbl.org

**Gatlinburg TN (Regional)**
- April 17–19
- ACBL Education Department
  - education@acbl.org

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**Club and Cruise Director Courses**

The Club & Cruise Directors Course prepares candidates for directing club and bridge cruise games. Includes the ACBL Club Director test.

**Houston TX (Regional)**
- Jan. 27–29
- Bill Riley 832–289–3838
  - ichibanbill@yahoo.com

**Vancouver WA (Regional)**
- Feb. 21–23
- Deborah Lackey 360–216–7484
  - deborah@deborahlackey.com

**Williamsburg VA (Regional)**
- Feb. 24–26
- Dianne Morton 757–258–3088
  - mortondi@aol.com

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**Tournament Directory**

**January**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue/Club</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>AB/Calgary</td>
<td>Clarion Hotel and Conf. Centre</td>
<td>Carrie Stockman</td>
<td>403–697–0629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>AL/Montgomery (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Montgomery DBC</td>
<td>Linda Tarver</td>
<td>334–320–8430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>AZ/Tucson</td>
<td>Hotel Tucson</td>
<td>Steve Reynolds</td>
<td>520–488–7730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–7</td>
<td>CA/MONTEREY</td>
<td>HYATT REGENCY MONTEREY</td>
<td>Pamela Hughes</td>
<td>916–774–0990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–7</td>
<td>FL/ORLANDO</td>
<td>THE DOUBLETREE SEAWORLD</td>
<td>John Moschella</td>
<td>407–971–3118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>IA/Urbanbale</td>
<td>Des Moines Area Bridge Center</td>
<td>Gregg Walsh</td>
<td>515–771–4802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>IL/Huntley</td>
<td>Sun City Huntley-Jameson's</td>
<td>Ron Hopman</td>
<td>847–659–1780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>MD/Silver Spring (DC)</td>
<td>Margaret Schweinhard Sr. Center</td>
<td>Brad Theuer</td>
<td>301–527–8819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–7</td>
<td>MI/Jackson</td>
<td>Banquet Center</td>
<td>Phil Reynolds</td>
<td>517–787–1455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>OH/Columbus</td>
<td>Haimerl Center</td>
<td>Paul Grygier</td>
<td>419–209–9834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>ON/Toronto</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Yorkdale</td>
<td>David Halasi</td>
<td>647–924–6939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>PA/Philadelphia</td>
<td>Bala Golf Club</td>
<td>Thomas Purl</td>
<td>610–518–6790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>TN/Memphis</td>
<td>Agricenter International</td>
<td>Judy Knox</td>
<td>901–737–8007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>TN/Pigeon Forge</td>
<td>Holiday Inn</td>
<td>Peter Misslin</td>
<td>423–884–3550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>TX/Austin</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza</td>
<td>Jo Dee Bowen</td>
<td>512–657–7506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>TX/Richardson (Dallas)</td>
<td>Richardson Civic Center</td>
<td>Catherine Tucker</td>
<td>972–407–9857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>VA/Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Bridge Center of Hampton Roads</td>
<td>Joan Park Buckle</td>
<td>757–451–0404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>CA/San Francisco</td>
<td>Janet Pomeroy Center</td>
<td>Elizabeth Noronha</td>
<td>415–566–9485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>CA/San Juan</td>
<td>South Orange County</td>
<td>Bridge Center</td>
<td>949–697–6446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>CO/Golden</td>
<td>Jefferson County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Frances Krause</td>
<td>303–694–6478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>FL/Fort Myers (nlm/500)</td>
<td>McGregor Point Bridge Club</td>
<td>Va Covalcic</td>
<td>239–415–8168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>FL/Jacksonville</td>
<td>Jacksonville School of Bridge</td>
<td>Trella Bromley</td>
<td>904–859–8381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>FL/Palm Bch. Gardens</td>
<td>Mandel Community Center</td>
<td>J. Sanford</td>
<td>754–214–0785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>FL/St. Petersburg</td>
<td>St. Pete Bridge Club</td>
<td>Charles Gill</td>
<td>727–363–1136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–14</td>
<td>HI/HONOLULU</td>
<td>HAWAII PRINCE HOTEL WAIKIKI</td>
<td>Glenn Mason</td>
<td>808–387–1256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–14</td>
<td>LA/SHEREVEPORT</td>
<td>WYNDHAM GARDEN</td>
<td>Claire Covington</td>
<td>318–426–0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–14</td>
<td>LA/Metairie (New Orleans)</td>
<td>LBA Clubhouse</td>
<td>Beth Todd</td>
<td>504–343–1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>MO/St. Charles (St. Louis)</td>
<td>St. Charles Park Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Michael Carmen</td>
<td>314–872–8439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>MT/MISSOULA</td>
<td>Ruby's Inn and Conv. Center</td>
<td>Judith Hartz</td>
<td>406–544–2132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>NC/Pinehurst</td>
<td>Village of Pinehurst Assembly Hall</td>
<td>Katherine Fiske</td>
<td>910–725–0725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>NJ/Allendale</td>
<td>Guardian Angel Auditorium</td>
<td>Marilyn Cavell</td>
<td>845–425–9013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–14</td>
<td>OH/INDEPENDENCE (Cleveland)</td>
<td>EMBASSY SUITES</td>
<td>Jim Overcashier</td>
<td>330–412–2961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>VA/Richmond</td>
<td>ACCA Temple</td>
<td>Barry Fratkin</td>
<td>804–837–6782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>WA/Vancouver (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Vancouver Bridge Club</td>
<td>Elizabeth Fullerton</td>
<td>360–258–1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–21</td>
<td>CA/PALM SPRINGS (nlm/750)</td>
<td>THE PALM SPRINGS PAVILION</td>
<td>Scott Magged</td>
<td>818–731–3282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–21</td>
<td>FL/Daytona Beach</td>
<td>Metropolitan Bridge Club</td>
<td>Jim Geary</td>
<td>386–235–6420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–21</td>
<td>FL/Sarasota</td>
<td>The Devyn</td>
<td>Newton Brightwell</td>
<td>760–396–6544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–21</td>
<td>GA/Macon</td>
<td>Henry Tiff Bridge Center</td>
<td>Tom Wight</td>
<td>478–747–1096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–21</td>
<td>KS/Hutchinson</td>
<td>4-H Encampment Bldg.</td>
<td>Ardith Alexander</td>
<td>620–663–2265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Tournament information is subject to change.**

Visit acbl.org for the most up-to-date information.

Attention tournament contacts plus unit and district officials:
Please check your tournament information. If a change is necessary, email tournaments@acbl.org.

REGIONALS ARE LISTED IN ALL CAPS.

Legend: cr=Cruise • sr=Senior • nlm=non-Life Master • pf=progressive final
‡=note change • nc=non-championship sectional

**Upcoming TAP Seminars**

**Teacher Accreditation Program**

ACBL's Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) provides an exceptional foundation for players wanting to become bridge teachers.

**Philadelphia PA (NABC)**
- March 8–10
  - ACBL Education Department
  - education@acbl.org

**Gatlinburg TN (Regional)**
- April 17–19
  - ACBL Education Department
  - education@acbl.org

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**January 2018 Bridge Bulletin 73**
January (continued)

19–21 KY/Lexington Bridge Club of Lexington
20–21 LA/New Orleans (cr) Norwegian Pearl
19–21 MS/Gulfport Gulf Coast Bridge Clubhouse
18–21 MX/Mazatlan Hotel Plaza Mazatlan
18–21 NC/Durham (0-500) The Bridge Academy
19–21 NC/Charlotte (nfm/500) Charlotte Bridge Association
15–21 NM/ALBUQUERQUE MARriott PYRAMiD NORTH
19–21 NV/Bufalo M and T Fire Hall
18–21 TX/San Antonio Omni Hotel
19–21 UT/Salt Lake City Sons of Utah Pioneers
26–28 AB/Red Deer Red Deer Bridge Club
25–28 AZ/Yuma Hampton Inn and Suites
26–28 BC/Vancouver St Mary’s Ukrainian Cultural Ctr.
26–27 CA/San Marcos Lake San Marcos Conf. Center
27–28 CA/Livermore Chrisstenen Middle School
26–28 FL/Fort Walton Beach Elks Lodge
26–28 FL/St. Petersburg St. Pete Bridge Club
26–27 GA/ST. Simons Island (nfm/500)

TOP ONLINE SCORES FOR NOVEMBER
(1048 players)

Andre Blanchet, Montreal QC 480
Mark Chen, Oak Hill VA 480
Jonathan Green, Melbourne FL 480
Carle Levsegue, St. Honore de Temiscouata QC 480
Andre Prodan, Mississauga ON 480
Brad Theurer, Gaithersburg MD 480
Robert Cappelli, Sanibel FL 480
Jonathan Fleischmann, Bloomfield MI 470
Marlys Moholt, Silver Spring MD 470
Joseph Pospis, Saddle Brook NJ 470
Wei-Bung Wang, Redmond WA 470
Ken Cohen, Philadelphia PA 460
Jack Dean, Houston TX 460
William Fogel, Portland ME 460
Peter Galbraith, Kaneohe HI 460
Martin Henneberger, Coquitlam BC 460
Dianne Isfeld, Coquitlam BC 460
Alexander Kolesnik, Los Angeles CA 460
Mark Obermeyer, Kitchener ON 460
Eugene Sor, Richmond VA 460
Zizhuo Wang, Minneapolis MN 460
David Ackterchirken, San Francisco CA 450
Paul Block, Washington DC 450
Richard Bobilin, Fonda NY 450
John Clark, Kingsport TN 450
Charles Collins, Shenandoah TX 450
Richard Comstock, Centerburg OH 450
Jeff David Indianapolis, IN 450
Jeanette Dean, Houston TX 450
Mahmoud Elgindy, Newport Beach CA 450
Nathan Finkle, New York NY 450
Sherman Gao, Santa Ana CA 450
Scott Gates, Miamisburg OH 450
Pete Gordon, Bluffton SC 450
Paul Gutterman, Eagan MN 450
Ledon Hitch, Clearwater FL 450
Blair Hoffman, Moraga CA 450
James Hudson, Elmhurst IL 450
John Ide, Winston-Salem NC 450
Kevin Kacmarynski, Monmouth OR 450
Bill Kennedy, Campbell River BC 450
William Northrop, Schoolcraft MI 450
John Oberman, Dubuque IA 450
David Peim, Torrance CA 450
Lou Primavera, Norristown PA 450
Dana Rossi, Westport CT 450
Jean Savoie, Rosemere QC 450
John Strauch, San Diego CA 450
Edward Wacker Jr., Elyria OH 450
Jim Whitney, Madison WI 450
February (continued)

9–11 CO/Pueblo Sangre De Cristo Arts and Conference Center Barry Roof 719–544–6725
9–11 DE/Wilmington Bridge Studio of Delaware Jeff Ruben 302–475–0469
3–10 FL/FT Lauderdale (cr) RCCL HARMONY OF THE SEAS Russell Delaney 914–926–4531
8–10 FL/Panama City Beach St. Andrews Episcopal Church Pam Ramirez 850–832–3358
9–10 FL/Vero Beach Vero Beach Bridge Club Jamie Portell 772–234–8643
9–11 HI/Kihei (Maui) Maui Bridge Club Jack Patnode 808–876–0140
9–11 ID/Boise Wyndham Garden Boise Airport Leslie Muir 208–401–4108
8–11 MX/Ajijic Real de Chapala Richard Mitchell 210–764–5061
10–11 KY/Owensboro Riverfront Convention Center Doris Mills 270–929–6835
8–11 MI/Southfield (Det) Bridge Connection Satish Shah 313–954–7250
10–11 OK/Oklahoma City Fun and Games DBC Cherry Blevins 580–695–4004
9–11 ON/St. Catharines Holiday Inn Parkway Conf. Centre Wybren Hoogland 905–688–0734
5–11 SC/Hilton Head ISLAND
9–11 SK/Saskatoon (0-500) Saskatoon Bridge Club Catherine Walsh 306–373–6580
8–11 TN/Nashville Vanderbilt Bridge Club Richard Chalal 615–794–5506
9–11 TX/San Angelo Suez Shrine Center Norma Walker 325–949–3354
10–11 TX/Austin (nlm/500) Bridge Center of Austin Mark McAllister 512–257–2320
9–11 UT/St. George The Red Lion Hotel Sheila Berry 435–640–1778
9–11 WA/Bellingham Northwood Hall Gay Parrish 360–676–9066
9–11 WA/Spokane Spokane Bridge Center Jodi Kimbrell 509–464–3323
7–10 WI/Glendale (Milw) North Shore Event Center John Pereles 414–332–3464
16–19 AZ/Scottsdale In Tempo Bridge Center JoAnne Lowe 480–836–7296
16–19 CA/Fresno Fresno Bridge Center Laura Da Costa 559–999–2825
16–18 CA/Palm Springs Palm Springs Pavilion Scott Magged 818–731–3282
14–19 CT/Cromwell RADISSON CROMWELL Helen Pawlowski 413–530–1278
16–18 FL/Orlando Orlando Metropolitan Bridge Ctr. Ruth Einsig 407–277–8664

Glenn meets Ms. Bid Too Much

At the San Diego NABC, Glenn Eisenstein was playing in a pairs game with his wife, Abbie, when he had an experience that probably had him thinking, “Just when you think you’ve seen everything ...”

Eisenstein opened a weak 2 ♦ and his left-hand opponent passed. Abbie raised to 3 ♦ and RHO doubled for takeout. Eisenstein passed and LHO bid 2 ♣. When it was pointed out that 2 ♣ was insufficient, LHO corrected to 3 ♣. “You’re getting close,” said Eisenstein, “but it’s still not enough.”

Finally, LHO bid 4 ♣.

Abbie raised to 4 ♦ and RHO doubled again. Eisenstein made the contract, and the discussion between the opponents began.

“What did you have?” asked the player who doubled twice. “I had just three points,” was the answer. “But,” said the doubler, “you bid three times!”
MID-ATLANTIC

Upcoming Regionals

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
Feb. 5–11, 2018
Marriott Resort and Spa
Co-chair: Ann Grindstaff (843) 341–6337
annkurt52@gmail.com

WILLIAMSBURG, VA
Feb. 26–March 4, 2018
Williamsburg DoubleTree by Hilton
Chair: Jane Farthing (703) 850–9635
jane.farthing@gmail.com

PINE MOUNTAIN, GA
March 19–25, 2018
The Lodge & Spa at Callaway Gardens
Co-chair: Emory Whitaker (478) 737–5273
lewhitaker@cox.net

GATLINBURG, TN
April 16–22, 2018
Gatlinburg Convention Center
Co-chair: Pete Misslin (423) 884–3550
pmisslin@tds.net

www.mabcbridge.org

February (continued)

16–18 FL/Palm Bch. Gardens
16–18 FL/Venice
16–18 IA/Davenport
17–18 IL/Collinsville
16–18 KS/Leavenworth
16–18 KY/Louisville
14–16 MX/Puerto Vallarta
16–18 NC/Wilson
15–18 NE/Omaha
17–18 OH/Canton
15–18 TX/Houston (0-300)
15–17 TX/Longview
16–18 TX/Corsair Christi
16–19 TX/Ei Paso
16–18 TX/TEMPLE
15–18 VA/Fairfax (DC)
16–18 WA/Bellevue (Seattle)
23–25 AB/Edmontan
24 BC/Victoria (0-200)
23–25 CA/San Luis Obispo
24–25 CA/Redwood City
24–25 CO/Colorado Springs
19–25 FL/PALMETTO
23–25 FL/Tallahassee
22–25‡ GA/Atlanta
23–25 HI/Kailua Kona
23–25 KS/Emporia
23–25 MA/Watertown
(Boston)

Venice Bridge Club
Izaak Walton League Davenport
The Heritage Center
Louisville Bridge Center
Club de Leon
Wilson Community College
Jewish Community Center
Canton Bridge Center
Bridge Club of Houston
Holiday Inn Express Hotel/Suites
Holiday Inn Downtown Marina
Decker Bridge Center
Cultural Activities Center
Fairfax Elks Lodge
Vasa Park
Edmonton Bridge Centre
Mesa Spirit
St. Aiden’s United Church
Elks Lodge
Canada College – The Grove
Unit 360 Bridge Center
Tallahassee Senior Center
Double Tree Hotel
Makua Lani Christian Academy
Best Western
Armenian Cultural Center
J. Sanford
James Gordon
Vickki Shelley
Charles Keltner
Patricia Lombardi
Norman Smith
Mary Seggerman
Helen Paszek
Rick Ackermann
Sara Furey
Beverley Cheatham
Shirley Shelton
Martha De Cou
Ashley Erwin
Lynn Sykes
Margot Hennings
Larry Holdren
Michael Harvey
Linda Brock
H. Roy Sadd
Leda Fields
Marc Renson
Ann Parker
Carol Hamilton
Joyce Stillwell
Ron Torre
Renne Ring
Jean Morrow
Catherine Cooper
754–214–0785
941–488–0799
563–729–1209
618–654–5106
913–306–4500
502–491–9460
322–222–8987
252–443–5508
402–932–6262
402–932–6262
281–444–1300
703–245–9573
361–853–9196
252–675–2554
254–933–1125
703–560–0245
425–869–2156
780–451–4033
602–380–1212
750–510–4745
770–554–3251
808–345–0036
781–932–2566
719–660–7165
941–371–0949
850–510–4745
770–554–3251
808–345–0036
620–481–1075

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Tournament Chair: Kathleen Sharpe Keane

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February (continued)

24–25 MI/Flint (nlm/500) MI/Flint Eastside Senior Center Susan Parnes 810–233–5843
23–25 MS/Hattiesburg (nlm/500) Sigler Center Janet Slay 601–408–0152
23–25 SC/Myrtle Beach (nlm/500) Larry Paul Bridge Center Betsy Stanton 843–332–7587
22–25 TX/Austin (nlm/500) Bridge Center of Austin Mark McAllister 512–257–2320
23–24 TX/Richardson (0-300) Dorsey's Bridge Studio Dorsey Shaw 972–517–6331
19–25 WA/VANCOUVER (nlm/500) VANCOUVER WASH. HILTON Linda Redman 503–477–6957

February/March

28–4 AK/Anchorage Anchorage Bridge Center Donald Bladow 907–830–5723
26–4 AL/BIRMINGHAM HILTON PERIMETER PARK Ann West Richmond 205–988–5774
26–4 AZ/TUCSON (sr) TUCSON EXPO CENTER Steve Reynolds 520–488–7730
24–4 MX/SAN MIGUEL LA CASONA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER Jorge Rosen 525–683–1732
26–4 VA/WILLIAMSBURG DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON Jane Farthing 757–229–7275

March

3–4 BC/Burnaby (Vcvr) Engineers Hall Kathryn Shannon 604–984–4167
2–4 CA/San Diego (nlm/500) Marina Village Conference Ctr. Lamya Ageelid 615–887–1012
2–4 CA/Orange St. Barbara Greek Ortho. Church Susan Seckinger 860–513–1127
1–3 FL/Milton (Pensacola) The Venue at Moors Lakes Michelle Crane 850–438–9493
2–4 FL/Fort Myers (nlm/500) McGregor Point Bridge Club Val Covalciuc 239–415–8168
2–4 FL/Gainesville Gainesville Country Club Eric Taylor 386–752–6764
2–4 FL/Rockledge Martin Anderson Senior Center Doris-Jean Olson 321–636–0568
2–4 FL/Stuart Khatib Bridge Club Audrey Crandall 772–336–3363
2–4 GA/Macon (nlm/500) Henry Tift Bridge Center Tom Wight 478–747–1096
2–4 HI/Honolulu Ala Wa Clubhouse Naomi Nortman 808–927–7786
3–4 ME/Portland Woodfords Club Lance Bukoff 207–542–4852
2–4 MO/Springfield Ramada Oasis Convention Center Doug Bloch 417–886–0403
1–4 MT/Great Falls Big Sky Bridge Club Linda Lee 406–899–7126
2–4 NJ/Woodbridge Hungarian-American Citizens Club Joseph Lebretore 732–739–9782
3–4 NM/Santa Fe (nlm/500) Leonard Helman Bridge Center Marcia Berridge 505–988–9544
2–4 OH/Cuyahoga Falls Quirk Center Robert Ryan 330–467–6543
2–4 OH/Toledo (nlm/500) Toledo Bridge Center Lavis Gehring 419–882–0896
3–4 ON/Oshawa Ltv Pavilion Keith Balcombe 905–493–4886
2–4 PA/Wilkes-Barre Quality Inn & Suites Walter Mitchell Jr. 570–472–3290
2–4 SC/Charleston Charleston Masonic Center Andrew Hurd 843–367–7383
2–4 TN/Kingsport Foy Reid Employee Center Lawrence Moore 423–926–0605
1–4 TX/Richardson (Dallas) Richardson Civic Center Donna Compton 214–394–5830
1–4 TX/San Antonio Fiesta Bridge Club Ed Rawlinson 210–372–9629
2–4 TX/Lubbock Lubbock Bridge Center Marsha Postar 806–368–5999
2–4 TX/McAllen Las Palmas Community Center Rene Wallace 956–513–8394
9–11 BC/Duncan Cowichan Exhibition Park Barbara Schultz 250–743–2705
10–11 CA/Santa Barbara Santa Barbara Bridge Center Patti Monroe 713–249–4686
10–11 CA/Santa Cruz (0-500) Kirby School Jan Winham 831–479–7880
9–11 CO/Golden Jefferson County Fairgrounds Allen Kane 303–694–6478
2–11 FL/Miami (cr) Port Miami Brett Ramsey 901–870–1293
9–11 FL/Naples Bonita Bridge at Wiggins Jo Ellen Blandford 239–777–1515
9–11 FL/Ocala (nlm/500) American Legion Building Meryl Margolies 352–208–6774
9–11 FL/Sun City Center Sun City Center Comm. Center Michael Molinari 813–633–5651
9–11 GA/Savannah Knights of Columbus Thomas Roush 912–925–2160
9–11 NC/Salisbury Rufty-Holmes Senior Center Myrnie McLaughlin 704–636–9781
10–11 ON/Burlington (nlm/500) Royal Canadian Legion Darlene Scott 905–257–0304
9–11 TN/East Ridge East Ridge Community Center Suzy Bryant 423–802–1231
8–10 TX/Beaumont Beaumont Bridge Studio Kris Cherry 409–745–9429
7–18 PA/PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT Spring NABC aclb.org
15–17 AZ/Sedona Elks Lodge Sedona Darryl Helton 928–554–5474

TOURNAMENT CHAIRPERSON: Carol Hamilton  (941) 371–0949
HOST HOTEL: Courtyard by Marriot
Transportation will be provided to and from the Convention Center from the host hotel. For a full list of local hotels go to:
www.unit102.com

VANCOUVER REGIONAL
Delta Burnaby Hotel Conference Ctr.
4331 Dominion Street
Bunyac BC • April 2–8
jdemail@shaw.ca or rttafler@shaw.ca

PENTICTON REGIONAL
Penticton Trade and Convention Ctr.
273 Power Street
Penticton BC • June 11–17
marv.norden@gmail.com

MIDNIGHT SUN REGIONAL
Anchorage Bridge Center
639 West International Airport Rd.
Anchorage AK • June 18–24
anchorageregional@gmail.com

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL
Lynnwood Convention Center
3711 19th Street West
Lynnwood WA • August 20–26
thansen2@mindspring.com

www.d19.org
Evening start time 7 pm. Bracketed Swiss on Sat. & Sun.; New Fast Pairs on Fri. & Sat. with later morning start times; 2-sess. morn/aft pair games Tue.-Thu.

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs
.............................................. 1 / 7 pm

0–5 Pairs (Free Today)

NLM 100/300/500 Swiss Teams
.................................. 7 pm

Columbine (0–1500/1500–3000) Swiss Teams

Laurel Falls Mid-Flight

Stratified Board-a-Match Teams
.................................. 7 pm

Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams
.................................. 7 pm

Stratified Board-a-Match Teams
.................................. 7 pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 17
Gregory Bald (0–5000, 5000+) Swiss Teams .................................. 9 am

Laurel Falls Mid-Flight
(0–1500/1500–3000) Swiss Teams .................................. 9 am

Columbine Gold Rush (300/750) Swiss Teams .................................. 9 am

Gregory Bald, Laurel Falls, and Gold Rush Swiss Teams all continue 9 am Wednesday.

Early Bird Stratified Open Pairs .................................. 9 am & 1 pm

Laurel Falls Compact Morning KOs .................................. 7 pm

Two 12-board matches. Continue 9 am Wednesday.

Elkmont Stratified Side Game Series
(1st of 5 sessions) .................................. 9 am

Sunrise NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 9 am

Elkmont Stratified Side Game Series
(2 of 5 sessions) .................................. 9 am

Sunrise NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 9 am

Early Bird Stratified Open Pairs .................................. 9 am & 1 pm

Metcall Bottoms Compact KOs .................................. 9 am

Two 12-board matches. Continue 9 am Friday.

Elkmont Stratified Side Game Series
(3rd of 5 sessions) .................................. 9 am

Sunrise NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 9 am

JoAnne Newby Thursday Open KOs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Open (0–5000, 5000+) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Mid-Flight (0–1500, 1500–3000) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Dogwood Stratified 300/750 Gold Rush Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Rocky Top Stratified Side Game Series
(3 & 4 of 6 sessions) .................................. 1 & 7 pm

0–5 Pairs (Free Today)
.................................. 1 & 7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Susie Clayman Dinner Bell Compact KOs .................................. 4:45 pm

First of four 12-board matches. Finish approximately 6:30.

Continue 4:45 pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Stratified Open (0–5000, 5000+) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Mid-Flight (0–1500, 1500–3000) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Labrador Stratified 300/750 Gold Rush Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Mt. LeConte Stratified Side Game Series
(1 & 2 of 4 sessions) .................................. 1 & 7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Open (0–5000, 5000+) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Mid-Flight (0–1500, 1500–3000) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Labrador Stratified 300/750 Gold Rush Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Mt. LeConte Stratified Side Game Series
(1 & 2 of 4 sessions) .................................. 1 & 7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 22
(Two 12-board matches. Continue 9 am Saturday.

Elkmont Stratified Side Game Series
(4th of 5 sessions) .................................. 9 am

Sunrise NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 9 am

Goodwill Fast Pairs
(2 sess./24 boards/5 min ea) .................................. 10 am & 1:30 pm

Marlene Wass Friday Open KOs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 Swiss Teams .................................. 7 pm

Goodwill compact Swiss Teams
.................................. 7 pm

Two 12-board matches. Continue 9 am Saturday.

Elkmont Stratified Side Game Series
(5th of 5 sessions) .................................. 9 am

Sunrise NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 9 am

Mt. LeConte Stratified Side Game Series
(3 & 4 of 4 sessions) .................................. 1/7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 1/7 pm

Stratified Open (0–5000, 5000+) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Mid-Flight (0–1500, 1500–3000) pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Goodwill compact Swiss Teams
.................................. 7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 Swiss Teams .................................. 7 pm

Two 12-board matches. Continue 9 am Saturday.

Elkmont Stratified Side Game Series
(Final session) 9 am

Sunrise NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 9 am

Smoky Mountain Fast Pairs
(2 sess./24 boards/5 min ea) .................................. 9 am & 1:30 pm

Two-Session Bracketed Swiss Teams .................................. 1 & 7 pm

9 team brackets by MPs – 4 teams in each bracket

Win Gold (extra teams in top bracket)

Stratified Open (0–5000, 5000+) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Mid-Flight (0–1500, 1500–3000) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Redbud Stratified 300/750 Gold Rush Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Newfound Gap Stratified Side Game Series
(1 & 2 of 4 sessions) .................................. 1 & 7 pm

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Open (0–5000, 5000+) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Stratified Mid-Flight (0–1500, 1500–3000) Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Redbud Stratified 300/750 Gold Rush Pairs .................................. 1 & 7 pm

Newfound Gap Stratified Side Game Series
(3 & 4 of 4 sessions) .................................. 10 am & 2 pm

NLM 100/300/500 & 20/50/100 Stratified Pairs .................................. 10 am & 2 pm

NLM 100/300/500 Stratified Swiss Teams .................................. 10 am & 2 pm

Seven days of Gold Points!

**Gold Points Events in bold letters. Must play 2+ sessions in Pairs events for gold.**

*/" indicates single session events.
When making reservations, please let hotels know you are part of the Gatlinburg Regional Bridge Tournament! Most of the hotels are holding rates at or near 2017 prices, but check for other fees and taxes. Ask for Tournament Rate!

See www.gatlinburg.org for a detailed hotel description/amenities and a map of the locations.

Our HOST hotels are within walking distance of the Convention Center or provide shuttle service:

- **Bearskin Lodge**
  - 3014 404 Historic Nature Trail
  - (865) 436-4933
  - $149/night

- **Hampton Inn Historic Nature Trail**
  - 520 Historic Nature Trail
  - bit.ly/1txmXBE

- **Hilton Garden Inn Gatlinburg**
  - 635 River Road
  - bit.ly/2q6Reox
  - $139 to $169/night. Reserve by 4/4/18.

- **Mountain House Inn Downtown**
  - (800) 462-7298 or 247 Newton Lane
  - (865) 436-6626
  - mountainhousemotorinn.com

- **Quality Inn Creekside**
  - 125 LeConte Creek Drive
  - qualityinncreekside.com
  - From $95.

- **Royal Townhouse Motor Inn**
  - 938 Parkway
  - (865) 436-5818
  - $86.95+tax, 1-4 guests.

- **Sidney James Mountain Lodge**
  - 610 Historic Nature Trail
  - sidneyjames.com
  - From $74.

The following hotels, motels, and condominiums are our SPONSORS:

- **Brookside Resort & Event Center**
  - 102 Baskins Creek Bypass
  - (865) 451-9597
  - From $79 to $199.

- **Gatlinburg Inn**
  - 755 Parkway
  - gatlinburginn.com
  - From $117.99/night.

- **River Edge Inn**
  - 665 River Rd.
  - riveredgegatlinburg@gmail.com
  - From $79–$232 (sleeps 8) /night; 10% off for bridge players.

- **Oak Street Condominiums**
  - 685 River Road
  - gatlinburgoaksquare.com
  - From $89.

- **Old Gatlinburg Rentals**
  - 306 Baskins Creek Road
  - oldgatlinburgrentals.com
  - From $89.

- **Parkside Lodge Downtown Gatlinburg**
  - 1109 Parkway
  - daysinngatlinburg.com
  - Deluxe room with K or 2 Qs from $69.80. Suites & Jacuzzi 15% off.

- **River Edge Inn**
  - 665 River Rd.
  - riveredgegatlinburg@gmail.com
  - $89/night weekday; $109/night weekend.

- **Sleep Inn & Suites**
  - 335 East Parkway
  - sleepinnatgatlinburg.com

- **Summit Manor Condominiums**
  - 125 LeConte Creek Dr.
  - summitmanorgatlinburg.com
  - Fully furnished 1-BR unit $119.99, 2 BR unit $209.99.
  - Stay 6 nights, 7th is free.

**Airport Taxi Service**

- **Knoxville Taxi**
  - (865) 406-9105
  - $25 one way with pre-arranged shuttle (24 hr. advance required).
  - Airport to Gatlinburg: April 15: 4 & 8:30 pm; April 16: 10 am & 2:30 pm; April 17-18-19: 1 pm if at least two riders; Convention Ctr. to Airport: April 20: 5:30 pm; April 21: 8 am & 5:30 pm; April 22: 7 am & 5:30 pm
  - Other times, $75 one way—flat rate; split between travelers.

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**Life Master Milestones**

- Joyce Hyslop, Marquette MI
- John Morgan, Fort Gratiot MI
- Dan Sutherland, Northville MI
- Theresa Seeger, Rochester MN
- Patti Disbrow, St. Louis MO
- Lee Smart, Olive Branch MS
- K.A. Mowery, Cary NC
- Helen Reinhardt, Hickory NC
- Grace Schmidt, Fletcher NC
- Ashok Agarwala, Edison NJ
- Lynn Chapin, Manasquan NJ
- Endel Pool, Whiting NJ
- Roberta Salovitch, Verona NJ
- Harold Zucconi, Las Cruces NM
- Raymond Elias, Great Neck NY
- Joan Saltz, Purchase NY
- Jeffrey Sosnick, New York NY
- Doris Weiser, Katonah NY
- Lori Hamer, Dayton OH
- Oscar Ogg, Mansfield OH
- Harry Wickstrom, Cincinnati OH
- Louis-Amaury Beauchet, Sherwood OR
- Jeff Howell, Corvallis OR
- Caroll Patterson, Ontario OR
- Ricky Boyer, Mechanicsburg PA
- Martha O'Connor, Scranton PA
- James Porter, Johnstown PA
- Brian Snyder, Allentown PA
- Barbara McGee, Charleston SC
- Larry Jackson, Memphis TN
- Mimi Kopald, Memphis TN
- Kenneth Baker, League City TX
- A. Desmond, Jersey Village TX
- James Moody, Austin TX
- Tod Pontius, Austin TX
- William Leishear, Goldvein VA
- Martha Potter, Seattle WA
- Marilyn Steele, Richland WA
- Ted Peck, La Crosse WI

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**Bronze Life Master**

- Michael Shuster, Banff AB
- Esther Wiebe, Victoria BC
- Gwenda Jablonski, St. John’s NL
- Geraldine Macsween, Dartmouth NS
- Bruce Bowden, Port Hope ON
- Merrill Burton, Toronto ON
- George Duncan, Sault Ste. Marie ON
- Doug Elliott, Egmondville ON
- Jeremy O’Connor, Brockville ON
- Paul Pointet, Toronto ON
- Susan Wark, London ON
- Janet Waters, Guelph ON

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**Keith Coates, Ajijic, Mexico**

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**continued from pg. 69**

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**continued on pg. 80**
### March (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location/State</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>CA/Chico</td>
<td>Eagles Hall</td>
<td>Odd Fellows Hall</td>
<td>Douglas Jacobs</td>
<td>530–894–5297</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>CA/Santa Rosa</td>
<td>Bridge Club of Bradenton</td>
<td>Brian Howard</td>
<td>941–794–0453</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>FL/Bradenton</td>
<td>Clearwater Bridge Club</td>
<td>Nancy Alciatore</td>
<td>727–251–6643</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>FL/Clearwater</td>
<td>St. Augustine Bridge Club</td>
<td>Joann Vergnolle</td>
<td>904–327–8952</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>FL/Gulfport</td>
<td>Gulfport Club House</td>
<td>Stewart Cayton</td>
<td>337–477–9658</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>NC/Wilmington</td>
<td>Coastline Conference Center</td>
<td>Bruce Stinson</td>
<td>228–223–2927</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>NM/Las Cruces</td>
<td>Belton Bridge Center</td>
<td>Judith Phelps</td>
<td>910–547–5736</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>ON/Ottawa</td>
<td>Ron Kolbus Centre</td>
<td>Norma Duttweiler</td>
<td>575–639–1412</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>OR/Albany</td>
<td>Linn County Fair &amp; Expo Center</td>
<td>Janie Peery</td>
<td>541–757–3221</td>
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<td>16–18</td>
<td>SC/Anderson</td>
<td>Westside Community Center</td>
<td>Linda Lewis</td>
<td>864–261–3478</td>
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<td>16–18</td>
<td>SC/Hilton Head Island (0-500)</td>
<td>Hilton Head Island</td>
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<td>16–18</td>
<td>TX/Richardson (Dallas) (0-300)</td>
<td>Dorsey's Bridge Studio</td>
<td>Dorsey Shaw</td>
<td>972–517–6331</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>UT/Salt Lake City</td>
<td>Sons of Utah Pioneers</td>
<td>Rosalee Gardner</td>
<td>801–738–1278</td>
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<tr>
<td>16–18</td>
<td>VA/Fredericksburg</td>
<td>Fraternal Order of Eagles</td>
<td>Deborah Hage</td>
<td>540–498–1206</td>
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<tr>
<td>23–25</td>
<td>AB/Calgary</td>
<td>Clarion Hotel and Conf. Centre</td>
<td>Dorothy Mersereau</td>
<td>403–245–4536</td>
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<tr>
<td>23–25</td>
<td>AZ/Scottsdale</td>
<td>In Tempo Bridge Club</td>
<td>Clifford Hudson</td>
<td>480–725–8991</td>
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<tr>
<td>23–25</td>
<td>BC/Kamloops</td>
<td>Brock Seniors Centre</td>
<td>Russel Specht</td>
<td>250–851–2700</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>BC/Sidney (Victoria)</td>
<td>Mary Winspear Centre</td>
<td>Tony Farr</td>
<td>250–598–0662</td>
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<td>22–25</td>
<td>FL/Daytona Beach (nlm/500)</td>
<td>St. Pete Bridge Club</td>
<td>Charles Gill</td>
<td>727–363–1136</td>
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<td>19–25</td>
<td>GA/PINE MOUNTAIN (Columbus)</td>
<td>THE LODGE AND SPA AT CALAWAY GARDENS</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>IA/Hills</td>
<td>Hills Community Center</td>
<td>Len Perkins</td>
<td>478–477–4022</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>IL/Huntley</td>
<td>Sun City Huntley Jameson’s</td>
<td>Carol Whites</td>
<td>319–351–5002</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>MD/Hagerstown</td>
<td>Hagerstown American Legion</td>
<td>Julia Kelley</td>
<td>630–886–7430</td>
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<td>22–25</td>
<td>MI/Southfield (Det)</td>
<td>The Bridge Connection</td>
<td>Patricia Damoon</td>
<td>207–872–5568</td>
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<tr>
<td>22–25</td>
<td>MO/Oliverette (0-300)</td>
<td>Waverly Community Center</td>
<td>Owen Lien</td>
<td>826–424–5905</td>
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<tr>
<td>22–25</td>
<td>NE/Waverly</td>
<td>St. Louis Bridge Center</td>
<td>Mark Ziegelman</td>
<td>314–821–2550</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>OH/Dayton</td>
<td>Miami Valley Bridge Center</td>
<td>Gerry Callaghan</td>
<td>902–833–7006</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>ON/Puslinch</td>
<td>Puslinch Community Centre</td>
<td>George Banziger</td>
<td>937–439–4073</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>OR/Ontario</td>
<td>Four Rivers Cultural Center</td>
<td>Thea Davis</td>
<td>519–856–9371</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>OR/Phoenix (Medford)</td>
<td>Dan Voorhies Bridge Center</td>
<td>John Oglevie</td>
<td>541–727–7576</td>
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<tr>
<td>24–25</td>
<td>RI/Johnston</td>
<td>Johnston Senior Center</td>
<td>Sharon Fausch</td>
<td>817–560–9465</td>
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<tr>
<td>19–25</td>
<td>TX/FORT WORTH</td>
<td>HYATT REGENCY DFW</td>
<td>Anne Barlow</td>
<td>434–237–8143</td>
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<tr>
<td>23–25</td>
<td>VA/Lynchburg</td>
<td>Forest Recreational Center</td>
<td>Maria Patterson</td>
<td>360–941–1612</td>
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<td>23–25</td>
<td>WA/Everett (Seattle)</td>
<td>Heavenly Haven</td>
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### March/April

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<td>26–28</td>
<td>FL/Pinecrest</td>
<td>Temple Beth Am</td>
<td>Cessy Rubinson</td>
<td>305–235–0794</td>
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<tr>
<td>28–30</td>
<td>FL/DeLand (0-300)</td>
<td>Deland Bridge Club</td>
<td>Lynn Berg</td>
<td>386–726–2228</td>
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<tr>
<td>27–1</td>
<td>CA/SAN DIEGO</td>
<td>TOWN &amp; COUNTRY HOTEL</td>
<td>Sheraton Toronto Centre</td>
<td>William Grant</td>
<td>619–260–0197</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ON/TORONTO</td>
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<td>David Halasi</td>
<td>647–924–6939</td>
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*continued on pg. 81*
### Life Master Milestones

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas King III, Ferndale MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irene Mead, Grand Ledge MI</td>
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<td>Kathleen Woudstra, Grand Rapids MI</td>
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<td>Barbara Wijdicks, Rochester MN</td>
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<td>Darlene Londeree, Columbia MO</td>
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<td>Elaine Brestel, Durham NC</td>
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<td>Alice Gray, Huntersville NC</td>
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<td>Linda Meyer, Goldsboro NC</td>
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<td>Elaine Burger, Omaha NE</td>
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<td>Deb Summers, Elkhorn NE</td>
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<td>Frank Altamuro, Wyckoff NJ</td>
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<td>William Waddle Jr., Brookings OR</td>
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<td>Arthur Coddington, West Point PA</td>
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<td>Frank Greiner, Rock Hill SC</td>
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<td>Barbara Newcomb, Hilton Head SC</td>
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<td>Vivian Cyprus, Houston TX</td>
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<td>Judith Earle, Houston TX</td>
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<td>Linda Garrett, Austin TX</td>
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<td>Louise O'Brien, Dallas TX</td>
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<td>Robin Tucker, Austin TX</td>
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<td>Mike Vivian, San Antonio TX</td>
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<td>Nancy Conley, St. George UT</td>
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<td>Jim Anderson, Williamsburg VA</td>
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<td>Armanda Henderson, Ashburn VA</td>
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<td>Parke Messier, Richmond VA</td>
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<td>Jo Ann Shirrefs, Richmond VA</td>
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<td>Donald Stark, Seattle WA</td>
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<td>Donald Urquhart, Kenosha WI</td>
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### Calendar

| April |
|---|---|
| 5–8 | AR/Hot Springs Village |
| 2–8 | BC/BURNABY (Vancouver) |
| 6–8 | CA/Saratoga SJBC & West Valley College |
| 2–8 | FL/CORAL SPRINGS |
| 5–8 | IA/Iowa Urbanede Des Moines Area Bridge Center |
| 6–8 | IL/Effingham TBA |
| 5–8 | LA/Baton Rouge Baton Rouge Bridge Center |
| 6–8 | MA/Watertown (Boston) Armenian Cultural Center |
| 5–8 | MD/Silver Spring (DC) Margaret Schweinhaut Sr. Center |
| 7 | MI/Lansing (nlm/500) Lansing Bridge Center |
| 6–8 | MN/Rochester Rochester International Event Center |
| 5–8 | NC/Charlotte Charlotte Bridge Association |
| 5–8 | NC/Durham (nlm/500) Triangle Bridge Club |
| 6–8 | NJ/Allendale St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral |
| 7–8 | NY/Bedford (Rochester) TBA |
| 6–8 | OH/Columbus The Haierl Center |
| 6–8 | OH/Parma St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral |
| 2–8 | OK/MIDWEST CITY (OKC) SHERATON |
| 1–8 | TX/Galveston (nc)(cr) RCCL Liberty of the Seas |
| 5–8 | TX/Kerrville Inn of the Hills |
| 6–8 | VA/Virginia Beach Bridge Ctr. of Hampton Roads |
| 2–8 | WI/LAKE GENEVA GRAND GENEVA RESORT AND SPA |

| May |
|---|---|
| 14 | BC/Vancouver (0-200) Vancouver Bridge Centre |
| 9–15 | CA/MODESTO MODESTO DOUBLETREE HOTEL |
| 12–14 | CA/Garden Grove (OC) Garden Grove Methodist Church |
| 13–15 | CA/Redding Win-River Resort & Casino |
| 12–15 | CO/Colorado Springs Masonic Center |
| 11–13 | FL/Naples (nlm/500) Bridge Club |
| 13–15 | FL/Fort Lauderdale Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club |
| 13–15 | GA/St.Simons Island Golden Isles DBC |
| 13–15 | KS/Overland Park TBD |
| 13–15 | MA/Sturbridge (0-300) Sturbridge Hotel Host |
| 13–14 | MI/Bloomfield Hills (0-300) Birmingham Unitarian Church |
| 13–15 | MS/Jackson Cabot Lodge at Millsaps |
| 13–15 | ND/Minot Moose Lodge |
| 13–15 | NM/Las Cruces Belton Bridge Center |
| 13–15 | NY/Williamsville (Buffalo) Main-Transit Fire Hall |
| 13–14 | OR/Springfield (Eugene) (0-300) Emerald Bridge Club |
| 13–15 | PA/Philadelphia Bala Golf Club |
| 13–15 | PA/Titusville Cross Creek Resort |
| 13–15 | QC/Quebec Montmarte |
| 12–15 | SK/Saskatoon Saskatoon Bridge Club |
| 14–15 | WA/Vancouver Washington School for the Deaf |
| 13–15 | WI/Sturtevant Fountain Hall |
TELEPHONE AND EMAIL SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Your personal masterpoint information

The masterpoint update on the back cover is for the member the magazine is addressed to and possibly for a household member if space is available. If you have more masterpoint activity than can fit in the space provided, you can check or your masterpoints at acbl.org. Log in to MyACBL and click on Masterpoint History.

R/C – Rating Code

GNT/NAP.................................1
Club Tournament....................2
Charity Game.........................3
Club MPs................................4
Local Tournament....................6
Sectional...............................7
Regional...............................8
NABC.................................9
Correction............................0

E/C – Event Code

Women’s/Men’s Pairs/Teams..........A
Mixed/Unmixed Pairs/Teams.........B
Open Pairs......................... C
Master Pairs/Teams................. D
Non-Master Pairs/Teams........... E
Consolation (All)..................F
BAM/Swiss Teams..................G
KO Teams....................... H
Individual.....................J
Side Game...................... K
Charity Pairs...................L

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**Intermediat/Newcomer Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5–6 AL/Montgomery (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Montgomery DBC</td>
<td>Linda Tarver</td>
<td>334–320–8430</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–14 FL/Fort Myers (nlm/500)</td>
<td>McGregor Point Bridge Club</td>
<td>Val Covalciuc</td>
<td>239–415–8168</td>
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<tr>
<td>13–14 WA/Vancouver (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Vancouver Bridge Club</td>
<td>Elizabeth Fullerton</td>
<td>360–258–1900</td>
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<tr>
<td>18–21 CA/PALM SPRINGS (nlm/750) THE PALM SPRINGS PAVILION</td>
<td>Scott Magged</td>
<td></td>
<td>818–731–3282</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–21 NC/Durham (0-500)</td>
<td>The Bridge Academy</td>
<td>Henry Meguid</td>
<td>919–724–6239</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–21 NC/Charlotte (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Charlotte Bridge Association</td>
<td>Lauren Campbell</td>
<td>704–579–8333</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26–28 SC/Columbia (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Columbia Bridge Club</td>
<td>Sue Hopke</td>
<td>803–743–9481</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 VT/Williston (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Burlington Bridge Club</td>
<td>Kenneth Kaleita</td>
<td>802–288–1018</td>
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<th>February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 PA/York (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Bridge Boardroom</td>
<td>Edward Scanlon</td>
<td>717–434–3298</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 CA/Camarillo (0-500)</td>
<td>Camarillo Senior Center</td>
<td>Buki Burke</td>
<td>805–377–0236</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10–11 CA/Sacramento (0-500)</td>
<td>Sacramento Bridge Center</td>
<td>David Willmott</td>
<td>916–709–8958</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 OK/Oklahoma City (0-300)</td>
<td>Fun and Games DBC</td>
<td>Cherry Blevins</td>
<td>580–695–4004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–11 SK/Saskatoon (0-500)</td>
<td>Saskatoon Bridge Club</td>
<td>Catherine Walsh</td>
<td>306–373–6580</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 TX/Austin (nlm/500)</td>
<td>Bridge Center of Austin</td>
<td>Mark McAllister</td>
<td>512–257–2320</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15–18 TX/Houston (0-300)</td>
<td>Bridge Club of Houston</td>
<td>Beverley Cheatham</td>
<td>281–444–1300</td>
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**Special Events Calendar**

- All of January
  - Jan. 23 Tuesday (afternoon)
  - Feb. 3 Saturday (afternoon)
  - Feb. 21 Wednesday (afternoon)
  - March 19 Monday (afternoon)
  - All of April
  - April 25 Wednesday (morning)
  - All of May

* Games include hand records and analyses.

**Upcoming NABCs**

- Fall NABC in San Diego CA
  - Nov. 23–Dec. 3, 2017

- Spring NABC in Philadelphia PA
  - March 8–18, 2018

**Upcoming Regionals**

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<tr>
<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>16–22 NV/Jackpot</td>
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<tr>
<td>20–22 OR/Seaside (nlm/750)</td>
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<td>16–22 TN/Gatlinburg</td>
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<td>27–29 AZ/Scottsdale (nlm/750)</td>
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<td>25–29 MA/Falmouth (sr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April/May</td>
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<tr>
<td>30–6 DE/Claymont (Wilmington)</td>
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**STaCs**

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<th>January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2–7 Units 194 &amp; 230 (D1)</td>
<td>Bill Halliday</td>
<td>902–443–4676</td>
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<tr>
<td>8–14 District 25 (except 126)</td>
<td>Carolyn Weiser</td>
<td>781–935–1831</td>
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<tr>
<td>15–21 District 1</td>
<td>Louise Mascolo</td>
<td>514–768–0616</td>
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<td>15–21 District 20</td>
<td>Richard Carle</td>
<td>360–425–0981</td>
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<tr>
<td>22–28 District 6 &amp; DE Unit 190 (D4)</td>
<td>Donald Berman</td>
<td>301–906–7651</td>
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<tr>
<th>January/February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29–4 District 14</td>
<td>Richard Newell</td>
<td>515–518–8999</td>
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<tr>
<td>29–4 District 15</td>
<td>Gloria Smith</td>
<td>316–641–2889</td>
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<th>February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5–11 District 8</td>
<td>Peter Wilke</td>
<td>414–716–0132</td>
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<tr>
<td>5–11 Unit 128 (D9)</td>
<td>Shirley Seals</td>
<td>904–285–7767</td>
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<tr>
<td>9–11 Unit 155 (D24)</td>
<td>Stephanie Culbertson</td>
<td>917–771–6395</td>
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<tr>
<td>9–11 Unit 242 (D24)</td>
<td>Lee Launer</td>
<td>516–628–2546</td>
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**All of January Junior Fund Games**

- Jan. 23 Tuesday (afternoon) ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game #1 *
- Feb. 3 Saturday (afternoon) ACBL-wide International Fund Game #1 *
- Feb. 21 Wednesday (afternoon) ACBL-wide Charity Game #1 *
- March 19 Monday (afternoon) ACBL-wide Senior Pairs #1 *
- All of April Charity Club Championship Games
- All of May Grass Roots FUNd Games

* Games include hand records and analyses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanction/Tourn. Code</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<th>Points</th>
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B=Black, R=Red, S=Silver, G=Gold, P=Platinum, O=Online. More information for the codes below on page 82.

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**ACBL Masterpoints**

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Fast & Around the Clock

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