

2/2 Ground Hog Day – One Table No Scores.

2/5 Tuesday Eve Leaders

1st OA: **Pam Campbell & Judy Barrick** (69.8%) 
2nd OA: **Richard Horvitz & Karen Kalla** (65.6%)

CBA Seminars	CBA	Date/PM	Who	Topic
	0-30 Sat	Feb 9	Mike Purcell	Suit Contract Play – Cross Ruffing
	99er Tue	Check back for new 99er seminar plans.		

CBA NLM Games – Play Often!

Mon NLM 7 PM CBA Wed Home Style 11:00 AM CBA
Tues 99er 7 PM CBA Wed 199er 6:30 PM NKY BC
Thurs NLM 7 PM CBA 1st Fri 99er 10:00 AM NKY BC

0-30 Sat 1 PM CBA (Lecture 12:30 PM) Partner provided

Area Tournaments

Feb 9–10 Owensboro KY S
Feb 15–17 Louisville, KY S
Feb 18 – 24 Cincinnati OH D11 STaC S
Mar 1 – 3 Gilbertsville KY S
Mar 4 – 10 Indianapolis IN R
Mar 14 – 24 St Louis MO N

For Details go to <http://www.acbl.org/tournament-calendar/>

Need **SILVER** ? Get ready for the Sectional Tournament the Club (STaC) February 18-24. Silver points galore!

A Killing Lead by Steve Moese

South

♠ A K J 8
♥ 6
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 6 5 4 3 2

Sometimes you play a hand and watch defender's creativity scuttle an impregnable contract. Tip your hat. Enjoy other's success of at the table and you are a long way toward appreciating this game.

This ↑ hand is from Tuesday Evening February 5 at the CBC. Mr. John Altman Jr. directing. **You are South.** The auction is →

	East	South	West	North
You are on lead.	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
Make your choice	1♥	Pass	3♠ ¹	Pass
before reading the	4♥	All Pass		
top of the next	1= Splinter Bid – GF, 0/1 ♠			

column.....*Choose the opening lead*

- A) ♠A B) ♠K C) ♥6
D) ♦9,7,5 E) ♣6,5 F) ♣3

Before making an opening lead, we first learn as much as we can from the auction. West has shown at least 4♦s and 4♥s with a singleton or void in ♠s (leaving room for 3-4 or more ♣s) in a hand strong enough to insist on game opposite a possible 5 HCP minimum in East. West has a hand worth 21+ Support Points. Since East stopped in game, East must be limited to 10 Support Points without a minor suit Ace. Why? With a minor suit Ace, East would have made a control bid in that suit over 3♣. If West is 1=4=4=4 shape (a reasonable starting assumption though 1=4=5=3 is possible too) then:

- 1) North has 3 or 4 cards in Trumps
- 2) There are 3 ♣ cards between North and East
- 3) North might have a minor suit Ace.

You can see 3 possible defensive tricks before looking at Dummy: ♠A, Minor A, and Trump Honor. Can you find a lead that might develop a 4th trick for your side?

If you chose E) ♣ 6 or 5, you chose wisely! The only chance you can set this contract is to find partner with a singleton or void in ♣s and either K-3rd or Q-4th in trumps. Why a high club spot? Suit Preference! Here's how the play unfolds (winning card in **Blue** and Suit Preference Signals in **highlight**).

- 1) ♣ 6 – 10 – 7 – Q **Declarer**
- 2) ♥ 2 – 6 – J – K **Defense**
- 3) ♠ 2 – Q – A – 10 **Defense**
- 4) ♣ 5 – J – ♥ 10 – ♣ **Defense**

Board 22 ♠ 9 6 5 4 2
East Deals ♥ K 10 4
E-W Vul ♦ A 10 8 6
♣ 7

♠ 10	N	♠ Q 7 3
♥ A Q J 8	W E	♥ 9 7 5 3 2
♦ K J 3 2	S	♦ Q 4
♣ A K J 10		♣ Q 9 8

NS 3♠;
EW 3♥;
2♣

♠ A K J 8
♥ 6
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 6 5 4 3 2

The ♣ 6 lead does multiple duty, denying a ♣ honor and hinting at an entry in ♠s. The ♠2 return is suit preference and asks for a ♣ back (lowest of remaining suits). Declarer has the ♦A to lose. 4♥ down 1 was worth 4.5 of 5 MP (90%). If you

led F) ♣3 partner might still decide that ♠s offer the only possible entry back to your hand. Suit preference is good insurance. Notice this is a clear example when leading from AK is wrong. Think before you lead – you will enjoy the results much more!

What made this hand extra special? The defense was as shown by Isaac Stephani and Julian Kurtzman, two very promising Youth players from the Cincinnati Bridge Association's High School Program. Yes, JD and Isaac played in the Open game. Yes, they found this defense at the table. What's that you say? Maybe they should be writing these columns? Stay tuned...If JD and Isaac continue playing this way, we'll be reading more about them soon. Yes, our Director is a strong Youth player in his own right and a prominent member of our High School Program too. John and Isaac played in the Youth Nationals last year.

Feels good all around! ... even though I sat West. 😊

Bd 22	Scores		MPs	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
5♥ E	100		4.5	0.5
4♥ E	100		4.5	0.5
3♥ E		170	3	2
4♥ E		620	1	4
4♥ E		620	1	4
4♥ E		620	1	4
4♠ E	200		3	0
5♥ E	100		1.5	1.5
5♥ E	100		1.5	1.5
3♥ E		140	0	3

Newcomer News – Mike “Having Fun is Always on My Convention Card” Purcell [513 702 4007](https://www.5137024007.com)

Hi Everyone,

The weather last Saturday lowered attendance so we had a 1 table supervised play session. Thanks to the 4 brave souls who made it! This Saturday we hope Punxsutawney Phil delivers on the promised early spring bringing the game back to full strength. I will be running the game and presenting this week's 12:30 seminar: Suit Contract Play – Cross-ruffing. With the right hand, cross-ruffing can be very effective and equally frustrating for the opponents. This week we look at a hand that illustrates the risk/reward of matchpoint scoring.

Board 3 ♠ 8 6
 South Deals ♥ A 5 4
 E-W Vul ♦ A K 10 7 2
 ♣ Q 8 6

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

NS 4N; 4♠; 2♣ ♠ A Q J 9 7 3
 S 4♦; N 3♦ ♥ 8 2
 EW 2♥; ♦ Q 3
 ♣ K 4 3

Bidding – On this hand South deals. With 12 HCP and 6 good ♠s opens 1♠ (12+ HCP and 5+ ♠s). North has an opening hand so is looking for game. Without 3 ♠s North will start with a 2♦ response (10+ HCP, 5+ ♦s). Some East's with only 7 HCPs but a solid 6-card ♥ suit will sneak in a 2♥ bid (typically 10+ HCP and 5 good ♥s). Regardless, South with a minimum but an extra ♠ rebids 2♠. North knows there is an 8-card fit in ♠s and raises to 4♠. **Play of the Hand** – West leads the ♥9 (top of a doubleton) to partner's suit. South assesses their hand with 4 losers (1♠, 1♥, 2♣ assuming opponent's Ace captures one of the honors) but knows they can pitch at least 1 loser on ♦s and maybe more if they can draw trumps without losing the K. Declarer rises at trick 1 with the ♥A and finesses for the ♠K. West wins and returns another ♥ and when East wins and

returns the 3rd ♥ the contract is doomed. West's ♠10 is promoted to a winner. Declarer loses 2♣, 1♥ and 1♠ for down 1.

Post Mortem – Everyone in the open game who played in 4♠ went down 1 even though the contract can be made. The easiest way to make is ducking the 1st ♥ and winning the 2nd. Now West cannot get to East's hand to get a 3rd ♥. Why didn't anyone make this play? Because it is only necessary when ♥s break 6-2 and West has 3 or more ♠s to the ♠K10x. Also taking this line of play gives up the opportunity when the ♠K is in the East hand to draw trump and quickly pitch your ♥ loser on ♦s to make overtricks.

Matchpoint Scoring – Imagine if one of the 9 pairs in the open game gave up on the overtrick but made their game. In this deal they would score +420, 8 Matchpoints and a top board. However if they are wrong and make exactly 4♠ when everyone else makes an overtrick they will receive 0 Matchpoints and a bottom board. That is the power of matchpoints. It is usually prudent to stay with the field unless you are sure the odds are in your favor.

Bd 3	Scores		MPs	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
3 NT N	400		8	0
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5
4♠ S		50	3.5	4.5

Looking to improve your game? If you have an Intel Computer we highly recommend the **free software** offered by the ACBL and developed by Mr. Fred Gitelman. Check it out at: <https://web.acbl.org/LearnToPlayBridge/>