

The threat of bad weather kept many regulars at home. Too bad. They lost the opportunity to see **Stacy Vanstone and Martin Gibler win** a 10 pair field by a comfortable margin of 3 match points (over yours truly). They beat 9 pairs including 4-A and 2-B pairs. They took 8.5 of 12 match points from us in the last round, erasing a 2 match point lead we'd enjoyed up to then. Well done Stacy and Martin! Proof positive that our Future Masters can indeed play with A players and win.



Fits in 2 Suits by Steve Moese Tue 2/4

| |
|--------------|
| South |
| ♠ KJ87 |
| ♥ AQ1085 |
| ♦ KJ8 |
| ♣ 9 |

You deal and sit South. 14HCP and a singleton ♣, this hand looks promising. 1♥ will do for now. Let's see what partner does. West passes and partner responds 1♠. This is a wide ranging call

from 6 HCP or more. East intervenes with 2♣. What do you do?

While you play support doubles holding 4 or more cards in partner's major is not the time to double. Certainly it's right to raise ♠s, but how high? 2♠ shows a 12-15 HCP raise. While we have 14 HCP we also have 3 support points for the ♣ singleton. 17 Support points might make game opposite the right 8-9 HCP or so. A ♣ cue-bid here shows a bigger hand – one that can force to game opposite only 5-6 HCP in partner's hand, with some interest for slam. A jump to 4♠ would be a 20 HCP (or so) balanced raise to game with 4 trumps. So 3♠ seems right. Indeed an invitational jump says "Partner if your hand is toward the top of the minimum range you showed me, please bid game." Here the minimum range for responder is 6-9. If responder has a hand worth 8 or more they accept the invitation and bid game.

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | P | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 3♠ | P | 4♠ | AP |

East led the ♣A and continued a ♣. Declarer ruffed small in dummy and went to

hand with a high ♦. Declarer led a low ♥ to the ♥10, winning the trick. A ♠ to the ♠A felled East's Q. Another ♥ revealed the 4-1 ♥ split – West ruffed small. Declarer was in control, drawing 2 more rounds of trump and finessing ♥s, losing only the ♣A and ♥ ruff. As it turns out, West can limit North to 10 tricks by

2/4 - Future Master Leaders

1st OA: **Stacy Vanstone & Martin Gibler** (62%) & 1 MP!!
2nd C: **Liz Linn & Fay Otto** (49%)



Let's Talk
BRIDGE



Bring your Questions, Hands, Ideas.
Let's learn together!

Tues Eve 6:30 PM Sharp!



CBA Newcomer Games – Play Often!

| Mon 7 PM | Tue 11 AM | Tue 7 PM | Fri 11 AM | Sat 10-12 AM |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | | Let's Talk BRIDGE 6:30 PM | Free Lesson 10:30 AM | Supervised Play |



Events at the Cincinnati Bridge Center

February is **Junior Fund Month** - special games with extra points. Don't miss **Friday 2/7 Lecture (Bob Fisk - Penalty Doubles – 10:30 AM)** & the **Friday NLM & Open games @ 11 AM (Junior Fund)**. Need a partner, call Kay 631-8070



Area Tournaments

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Owensboro, KY Sectional | Feb 8-9 |
| Louisville, KY Sectional | Feb 14-16 |
| February STaC – CBC | Feb 17-23 |
| ACBL Tournaments | http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php |



refusing to ruff the 2nd ♥. Ruff the 3rd ♥ instead. This cuts transportation to dummy. Declarer cannot draw the remaining trumps without exposing the ♣ loser.

Board 3 ♠ A542
South ♥ 762
Deals ♦ AQ7
E-W Vul ♣ 543

♠ 10963
♥ 4
♦ 10643
♣ Q1072

| | |
|---|---------|
| N | ♠ Q |
| W | ♥ KJ93 |
| E | ♦ 952 |
| S | ♣ AKJ86 |

| | |
|---------|----------|
| NS 5♥; | ♠ KJ87 |
| 4♠; 2N; | ♥ AQ1085 |
| 1♦; | ♦ KJ8 |
| EW 1♣ | ♣ 9 |

holding ♥KJ93 might seem worthy, except when the ♥ bidder sits to your left. Then the double locates the trumps and encourages declarer to take deep finesses. Tsk Tsk. Greed 'll get ya'!

One pair played in 4♥ doubled and made it. The only time the 5-3 trump fit is better than the 4-4 is when the 4-4 suit breaks 4-1 or 5-0. Doubling 4♥

| Bd 3 | NS | EW | Scores | | MPs | |
|--------|-----|----|--------|----|-----|----|
| | | | NS | EW | NS | EW |
| 4♥ x S | 690 | | 4 | 0 | | |
| 4♠ N | 450 | | 3 | 1 | | |
| 4♥ S | 420 | | 2 | 2 | | |
| 2♥ S | 200 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| 2♠ N | 140 | | 0 | 4 | | |

Newcomer News — by Mike “Keeping Fun On My Convention Card” Purcell 513 702 4007

Remember Saturday Feb 15th we will host a special **New to Duplicate Event** for 90 minutes starting at 8:30am before the regular 10am game. This event is for folks currently coming Saturdays and new folks who want to learn more about duplicate. Please invite your friends who may have an interest. See our flyer for more details. A light breakfast will be served so if you are interested in attending, please register with me by email at mikpur@cinci.rr.com or by phone at 513 702-4007. If you are not planning to come to the 8:30 event but still want to play at 10 you do NOT need to register, just show up as usual.

Here is the schedule for the next few Saturdays:

Feb 8 – Mike Purcell and Bob Fisk

Feb 15 - Mike Purcell and Pat Hoffman (plus New to Duplicate Event at 8:30)

Feb 22 – Judy Ruehl and Bob Fisk (Feb STAC)

This week we look at a hand where proper signaling for a defensive lead during the bidding and great communication between partners during the play results in a top board.

Board 7 ♠ Q 8 2
 South Deals ♥ J 8 3 2
 Both Vul ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ 10 8 6

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

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| EW 1N; 1♠; | ♠ A K J |
| 1♥; 1♣; | ♥ K 4 |
| N 1♦; | ♦ 8 6 5 2 |
| | ♣ A 7 4 3 |

Tuesday 2/4

Bidding – On this deal South opens 1NT (15-17 HCP balanced). North with 9 HCP and 4 hearts bids 2♣ (Stayman Convention, 8+ HCP, at least one four card major). Playing East I doubled the 2♣ bid. In this sequence the double is not takeout but lead directing since the 2♣ bid is artificial and does not show a club suit. South without a 4-card major rebids 2♦. Responder invites game with 2NT which is passed to play.

Defense of 2NT – Partner (West) dutifully open leads the ♣J as I requested and declarer ducks. With no more clubs to lead, partner now wisely switches to the ♥6 (fourth best) and declarer plays low from dummy. What should I play? Let’s think about what partner is trying to tell us with the heart switch. With 4 hearts in dummy it is fair for me to assume partner must have 4 hearts of their own to make attacking this suit worthwhile. Now I can assume their heart card really is fourth best. What cards above the ♥6 can partner have? He can have the A, K, 10

and 7. If he had AK it is more likely he would have led the ♥A, not the 6. Besides declarer opened 1NT and given the dummy and my hand I know they must have the A or K because 13 HCP (♠ AKJ, ♦ J, ♣A) is the most they can have outside of hearts. I can infer therefore partner has the ♥10 so playing the ♥9, not the ♥Q, is the right play. Declarer wins the ♥K and switches to a diamond playing the ♦Q to finesse losing to my ♦K. I now play clubs pushing out the ♣A. When declarer continues to work on diamonds, partner wins and masterfully plays another low heart. I win with the ♥Q and cash the rest of my clubs and return a heart back to partner. In all we scored 9 tricks (3♥, 2♦, 4♣) for +400, one more trick than we deserved due to a heart pitch by declarer when the clubs were running.

| Bd 7 | Scores | | MPs | |
|--------|--------|-----|-----|----|
| | NS | EW | NS | EW |
| 3 NT N | 200 | 3.5 | 0.5 | |
| 2 NT S | 200 | 3.5 | 0.5 | |
| 3 ♣ N | 300 | 1.5 | 2.5 | |
| 3 ♦ S | 300 | 1.5 | 2.5 | |
| 2 NT S | 400 | 0 | 4 | |

Post Mortem – Defense is the hardest part of the game but critical to scoring well. Listening to the bidding and developing defensive signaling with partner, like fourth best leads against NT, is the best way to immediately improve your bridge results.

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/>