

Hand Evaluation I by Steve Moese Tue 2/18

Here's a hands from the Tuesday Evening STaC game where the Open and NLM flights differed. What do you think?

Bidding: South opens 1♣ (bid the 6-card suit 1st w/ 6-5) and North knows game is likely. 4♣ by North shows 13-15 HCP and a balanced 4-card raise. North must be 4=4=32/23. RKB finds one Ace and the ♠Q missing. Knowing we have 9 card ♠ fit is an advantage on the field. Bidding 6 missing a key card and ♠Q is risky. Here risk was rewarded. (If South opens 1♠, Jacoby 2N will make North the decider about slam). If you bid only 5, you might not score well on this hand but will beat all slams when the ♠Q scores a trick.

Board 3

♠ J842	♠ 107
South ♥ KJ64	♥ 8732
Deals ♦ AJ10	♦ K9653
E-W Vul ♣ A9	♣ 87

♠ Q5	♠ 107
♥ AQ105	♥ 8732
♦ 8742	♦ K9653
♣ Q54	♣ 87

♠ AK963	♠ 107
NS 6N;	♥ 9
6♠; 6♣;	♦ Q
2♥; 2♦	♣ KJ10632

	S	W	N	E
	1♣	P	1♥	P
	1♠	P	4♣	P
	4N	P	5♥ ¹	P
	6♠!!		All Pass	

1 = 2 Keycards, no ♠Q

Play: West led the ♥A and continued the ♣4. South let the ♣ ride to hand, winning with the ♣ 10. Declarer must find the ♠Q. Play ♠A (seeing the ♠5 and ♠7 from defenders) and go to dummy with the ♦Q (a 2nd ♣ risks an immediate ruff). Lead a ♠ (which one doesn't matter as the ♠10 is still out). When RHO plays the ♠10, play the ♠K and claim your slam. A ♣ to the ♣A, a ♦ ruff and a ♣ruff will set up South for 12 tricks.

If West fails to cash the ♥A, South can make 13 tricks. Take a ruffing finesse! This is superior to the regular finesse in ♦. Once trumps are dispatched, lead the ♦Q to the ♦A and play the ♦J from the table. If East covers, ruff. If not, discard your losing ♥. When the normal ♦ finesse loses, opponents will cash a ♥ trick. If the ruffing finesse loses, you still have 12 tricks.

Post Mortem: Experts debate whether to open 11-13 HCP hands that are 5M-6m in the minor suit or the Major suit. Some insist rebidding the major implies a

2/18 - NLM STaC Leaders

1st OA: **Dave & Sue Sivertson** (65.8%)
2nd QA: **Darleen Yound & Natalie Crowe**(57%)



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 2/21 STaC NLM** & Open games @ 10 AM. Need a partner, call Kay 631-8070

Area Tournaments

February STaC – CBC	Feb 17-23
South Charleston WV Sectional	Feb 28-Mar 2
Indianapolis, IN Regional	Mar 3-9
ACBL Tournaments http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php	

GF reverse. In fact, opener will have either the GF Reverse hand or a 6-5 Come-Alive offensive hand. Patient rebidding identifies which hand opener holds. It is important to see that if South opens 1♠, North will use Jacoby and be captain for the slam decision. If South opens 1♣, North will jump to game showing a balanced 13-15 HCP with 4=4 in the Majors. (Responder splinters with a singleton and uses 4th suit forcing (2♦) with a 3-card GF raise). South is captain here. Bidding 6 is a gamble open game players take. Usually we avoid slam missing 1 Key Card and the trump Q unless we hold enough trumps to lower the risk of only 11 tricks.

Here's the **unofficial MPs scored as one field**. How did you fare in the open game?

Bd 3	Scores		MPs		1 Field	
	NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
6♠ S	1010		5	0	10	0
6♠ S	980		3	2	8	2
6♠ S	980		3	2	8	2
6♠ S	980		3	2	8	2
4♠ N	510		1	4	5.5	4.5
3NT N	430		0	5	0	10
5♠ S	510		4.9	0.1	5.5	4.5
4♠ S	480		3.1	1.9	2.5	7.5
4♠ S	480		3.1	1.9	2.5	7.5
4♠ S	450		0.7	4.3	1.5	8.5
4♠ S	450		0.7	4.3	1.5	8.5

Newcomer News — by Steve Moese, batting for Mike “Keeping Fun On My Convention Card” Purcell 513 702 4007

Last Saturday’s New to Duplicate Event (NTD) brought 5 new bridge players to the Bridge Center. We had lots of fun and played in the Supervised Play game. We look forward to seeing our new friends return soon!

Supervised Play and STaC Games

Come to Supervised play Saturday February 22 then stay to play in the Open 2:30 STaC Pairs Game. There is a 10 AM NLM STaC Game for those interested in playing in a limited field. Get yourself a team and play in Sunday’s single session STaC Swiss. STaC games offer awards in Silver Points at Sectional Rating (more points than club games).

Here is the schedule for the next few Saturdays:

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

Mar 1 – Judy Ruehl and TBD

Board 14 ♠ AJ92

East ♥ KJ103

Deals ♦ AJ9

None Vul ♣ AQ

♠ KQ ♠ 65
♥ Q74 ♥ A
♦ K106 ♦ 87543
♣ K9764 ♣ J10853

NS 5♠; 5♥; ♠ 108743
3N; W 2♠; ♥ 98652
EW 1♦; ♦ Q2
E 1♣ ♣ 2

E	S	W	N
P	P	1♣	Db1
3♣ ¹	P	P	Db1 ²
P	3♠	P	4♠ ³

1= Preempt

2= Take Out with Extras

3= Big hand

losers. There are 18 HCP outstanding so we place 12 in West’s hand. We need to find out where the ♥A is. The only entry to hand is a ♣ ruff, eschewing the finesse. We play ♣A and Q ruffing; all follow. The ♥9 ducked fetches the ♥A from East. A ♠ return clears the suit. West is in fact endplayed. We will finesse the Q if West leads a small ♥. We will throw a losing ♦ from hand while ruffing on the board if West continues ♣s. We will run a small ♦ lead to our hand. Once East shows up with the ♥A, they can have at most one Queen more (or West opened light on an unworthy hand shape).

Play is straightforward for 11 tricks. Nice when we have only 22 HCP. Games come from tricks, and tricks come from shape (length) and Working Points!

The common theme for these two hands is how we visualize tricks from our bids and decide what risk to take. Optimism was rewarded. That’s not always the case. **1-Field Match Points are for illustration only, are NOT official, and show how the NLMs fare in one large field. NLM results in blue section.**

Hand Evaluation II by Steve Moese Tue 2/18

Here’s another evaluation challenge in a competitive auction.

Bidding: West opens 1♣-Double-3♣ (preempt) to you. You pass mindful that a 5-5 shape in the Majors offers some opportunity. When this passes back to partner s/he doubles again. What does this second double mean? This second double says “I have more than a minimum takeout double partner, and no 5-card suit to bid. Please do something smart.” Often this means 14+ HCP with little upper limit. If partner had a hand so distributional and powerful that they would not want to risk you passing this second double, they would cue bid 4♣ here. Partner did not do that so such an offensive powerhouse is not in his/her hand.

South can take more tricks declaring than defending. Bid 3♠ (4♣ “pick-a-Major partner” shows a better hand). Partner raises to 4♠ showing a big hand. Your initial pass limited your hand to about 7-8 HCP. Partner knows after the 2nd double you are bidding under duress. Partner raised to game opposite the minimum hand you can hold – zero HCP and a 5-card ♥ suit. You have an asset in a side 5-card ♠ suit and the singleton ♣.

Play: The Lead of the ♠K is won in Dummy. Pause to count winners and losers. We have one ♠, two ♥ and 1♦

Bd 14	Scores		MPs		1 Field	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	NS	EW
5♥ S	450		4	1	8.5	1.5
5M	450		4	1	8.5	1.5
4♠ S	450		4	1	8.5	1.5
4♣ x W	300		2	3	6	4
3♥ S	170		1	4	4.5	5.5
3 NT N	100		0	5	1	9
4♥ N	450		4.9	0.1	8.5	1.5
2♥ N	170		3.7	1.3	4.5	5.5
2♥ N	140		2.5	2.5	3	7
4♣ W	100		1.3	3.7	2	8
3 NT N		50	0.1	4.9	0	10

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/>