



Cincinnati Bridge Association

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

President's message...

Welcome to spring! After the winter we've had, I think we certainly deserve the pear tree blossoms that have appeared over the past week. The year so far has been a busy one at the Cincinnati Bridge Center, and I'm honored to have been part of it as your new President of the CBA. It's customary at this point to thank outgoing Presidents for their service, but Potter Orr makes it easy. Potter, it was a pleasure to serve under your leadership, and on behalf of the entire membership, we owe you our deepest thanks.

As I write this, we've just finished up our annual Awards Party and Member Appreciation Night, having recognized our Mini-McKenney award winners, Ace of Clubs award winners, Rookie of the Year, etc., and, of course, extending formal congratulations to our newest Life Masters. Reaching that milestone is indeed a tremendous accomplishment—Kudos!

Our CBA Board is undergoing its own version of a progressive squeeze, as our Constitution was amended several years to gradually reduce the size of the Board. We said goodbye, with thanks, to John Burpee, John Stoppiello, and Jean Sturtevant, and welcomed new Board member Cordell Coy. The Board now stands at 11 members, and we will achieve our final size of 9 members with next fall's election. All Board members are listed on the website; if you have feedback or would like the Board to consider one of your requests, please feel free to contact any of us.

The big news of the past several months was, of course, the NABC held in Louisville during March. This was the first "National" held in our District since we played host back in 2000, and I was thrilled to see so many familiar faces from our Unit throughout the 12-day tournament. For many attendees, it was the first time at a National, and I hope you all enjoyed the experience.

On a more local note, we've taken several steps to ensure better Unit-wide coordination across the various bridge clubs inside our territory. We've held several Unit Championships—games scored across a number of clubs playing the same hands at the same time—and we've tried to ensure greater communication across all club managers and directors. We've supported or introduced a number of school-based bridge clubs, and we hope to expand this initiative significantly over the next few years.

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Finally, the New Year sometimes brings sad news of departure or retirement. We thanked Kay Mulford for her many years of service as Cincinnati Bridge Center Lead Director as we welcomed Mike Lipp to the position (under the new title of CBA Coordinator). We said good bye, with thanks, to Larry Klein as CBC Facilities Manager, welcoming Don Etson to the position. And finally, we note with much sadness, but with our most sincere thanks, the retirement of Tom Deddens as Director of the Tuesday evening Novice game at the CBC. For many of us, Tom was an icon at the Bridge Center—he was the first person who formally introduced us to duplicate bridge on Tuesday evenings, and we could not ask for a kinder or more gracious steward of the game. Keep your calendar open for a special Tuesday evening opportunity over the next month so we can thank Tom for his service.

AJ Stephani

PS: Don't forget to make the upcoming Cincinnati Regional the best ever!!!

Spring time....

By Amit Raturi, Editor

Why is everyone tired in April? Because they have just finished a long 31 day March!!

Jan-Mar was a long 3 months for me - I was teaching 4 classes (one at Purdue university), had many unfinished research projects, and there is always something more you can do for students...to profess is hard sometimes...I make "an open declaration of" of this which is what the transitive verb profess means...

In this issue, Rob highlights some of the many problems associated with asking questions (or not) during a live auction...advanced players are very sensitive to this issue...and if you don't believe me, read the last 30 pages of "Bridge, Zia...and Me" By Michael Rosenberg. I don't think there is better bridge analyst in the world as Rosenberg and Rob is showing evidence that he is not far from Mike...

Moese's Vanderbilt journal is more than "could have"...instructive hands for team play and some very cute results. Joe F takes on Barry Crane's advice to heart and offers his own two cents. Amy F's column has excellent suggestions for making partnerships work - read this piece with your partner. Mike Ma and Pat Dutson will be back next time but check out the Pulitzer masterpiece that Keaney has put together. And last but not the least if you see the nuances in the second hand put together by Eugene "The Hawk" Siutsau, you are blessed!! Bill Higgins and I

have started calling Eugene "The Hawk" for a reason....he can spot a spot card 30 miles away. Our last conversation after a team match was something like...Mr Siutsau getting very upset about a humongous bridge issue: "Why did you play the six of clubs and not the seven? "

Arun Goyal and I had had the most unusual auction on a hand in the Silodor Open pairs in Louisville. We each made 7 bids and both he and I were on the same page with ourselves only!!! We both had perfectly valid interpretations of our bids and our partner's responses and they were all wrong (WARNING as in TV commercials: Do not try this at home or you risk seriously injuring yourself). We arrived at the optimum contract after 8 misinterpretations that turned out to be perfectly sane for the hand in question. If anyone replicates this feat in bridge history, I will offer them the piggy banks of all three of my kids and more....

We have some national level accomplishments in the Min-McKenney last year that deserve mention. Bob Fisk and Bill Higgins made the overall national list in their category; Pamela Granovetter won her category!!! Congrats and good going, all three of you!!!!

Springtime is here and I hope all of you are planning a smashing turnout at the upcoming regional (SEE PAGE 15). Our partnership chair, Honorable Lorna Davis, promises a partner for you even if you don't have one....so just show up and have a good time...I will be drinking a lot at the hospitality sessions afterword, but please don't tell my wife....

Ciao...Amit



Asking Non-Bids: To Ask or Not To Ask? Part I

Rob Weidenfeld, E-mail: elliedad@cinci.rr.com

If you've played for any length of time, you are familiar with the concept of asking bids. These bids are an attempt to solicit information from your partner. There is another kind of asking bid, which in my experience has become quite prevalent, and can become a serious breach of ethics when utilized. This article is not about bidding. **It is about information which is conveyed to partner, intentionally or not, but most definitely inappropriately, by the questions that are asked at the table.**

Before you stop reading, you may say that this is something that only inexperienced players need to hear. Yet with regularity, I hear competent, experienced players asking questions at times that will invariably bring into question the ethics of a given partnership.

First, it is not unethical to ask questions about a bid or bidding sequence that you do not understand. But these questions should only be asked if you are thinking about bidding. If you have no possible call with your hand, you should go quietly and wait for the auction to end. Then if you are on opening lead, you can ask to your heart's content.

If you are not on lead, you are REQUIRED to wait for partner to make his/her opening lead face down, and then you can ask to your heart's content. Some may think but why can't I ask if I am in the pass out seat and no one else will be bidding. The reason is that your question may give information to partner before the lead is made. Let me illustrate with an example.

You as West hold:

S xxx H QJx D xxxx C QJx

The auction proceeds

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1S	P	2C	P
2S	P	4S	

At this point East, your partner, turns to the declarer-to-be (South) and asks, "What is 2C"? South, a little annoyed, says it is natural or I would have alerted it. East says "OK" and passes. What do you lead?

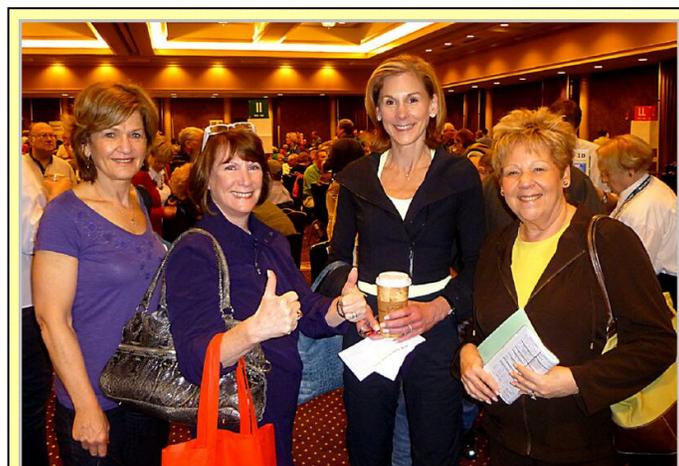
It is clear that before the question was asked you could have reasonably led any suit, BUT CLUBS. Now the club lead becomes a lot more attractive and you may want to lead it. I mean why would your partner even ask such a question unless she actually held a club suit. But if you do lead a club, your partnership has committed two breaches of ethics.

First your partner's question should have been asked after you had made your lead face down. It is absolutely improper to imply, suggest, or finagle a lead by any action OTHER THAN YOUR BID. Equally, it is just as wrong for you to take advantage of the fact that your partner has been improper. You should go out of your way to never lead the suit that was improperly asked about by your partner (or until you have no other choice).

You may say, but what if North is trying to fool me with 3 small clubs or has made some exotic conventional call which South forgot to alert. Don't we have a right to know before the auction is over? In the second case, if an alert was missed, the director should be called immediately and if the failure to alert has hurt the defenders, there has been misinformation and an adjusted board will be awarded by the director. In the first case, if the sequence finds EAST with a really good club suit, there are conventional ways to show it later in the auction (i.e. East can double the final contract calling for the lead of the first bid suit by dummy).

The point is that nothing bad will happen if you just follow the rules and play ethically. You don't need to try to gain an advantage by asking a question at the wrong time.

By the way, the same holds true for questions that are asked in the middle of an auction when you have no intention to make a call. It is exactly the same ethical consideration.



**Cincinnati Players at the Louisville nationals
March 2011**

Newsflash from Louisville _....

Lyricists Barb Levinson & Gayle Keaney won a fa-a-a-bulous bidding box for winning the St. Patrick's Day Limerick Contest with:

Once was a lass Cincinnati
No bonnet had she for St. Patti
Donned tam at a tilt
And won Vanderbilt
With luck'o'the'Irish green hatti

Patti English came up with this cute ditti but, alas, lost the contest (follow instructions Patti!)
There was a bridge player named Paddy....
Who tried to hit on a caddy!
She drank a green beer....
And wacked his big rear!
He went home a sad lonely laddie.

So what other hidden talents are lurking around the center???



HELP WANTED

The current Librarian would like to retire. If you are interested in taking over please contact Gayle Keaney at gkeaney@aol.com or 448-7183. This is NOT a time-consuming job and you get to pick the new books & have 1st dibs reading them!

VOLUNTEER!!! New blood & a fresh eye are a good thing!

Tom Deddens Rules.....

Here are the results from the Novice games

Jan 4	Amy Gerowitz	Beverly Shores	A	1	60.42
Jan 25	Charlie Kobida	Terri Mackey	A	1	55.50
	F James Hunkler	Lewis Temples	B	1	55.50
Feb 8	Garen Wisner	Steven Simon	A	1	60.00
Feb 15	Terri Mackey	Charlie Kobida	A	1	63.75
Mar 1	Steven Simon	Garen Wisner	A	1	60.61
Mar 8	Beverly Shores	Amy Gerowitz	A	1	60.57
Mar 15	Rodney Gray	Timothy Fischer	A	1	54.85
Mar 22	Mona Kerstine	Richard Kerstine	A	1	57.6
Apr 5	Andy Heldman	Verna Gibson	C	1	65.00

Sorry...these were all the ones I could find on our website...those of you that won on other days..

April 5 Awards Night Winners

Bob Fisk	Stephanie Richardson	C	1	66.74
Yauheni Siutsau	William Higgins	A	2	65.58
Amy Fisher	Joe Fisher	A	3	63.45
Barbara Levinson	Norman Coombs	A	4	59.15
C Willig	Dean Congbalay	B	5	57.1
Albert Fultz	Helen Ogle	A	6	55.81

Good Going Bob and Stephanie....

And the lady who does so many things quietly in the background....



The Vanderbilt Cup Knockout Team Championship held at the ACBL Spring NABC had 67 seeded teams. The last 12 teams vied for 9 spots to bring the field to 64. Three 4-team brackets decided which 9 teams advance. (1st session winners advance. The losers play for the 3rd spot). Mike Ma and I invited Amy and Joe Fisher to join us for some NABC fun. In our 1st round we lost to the Raider team (Raider, Schoenfel, Kral, Fleischer). Two District 11 Teams completed our group of 4. Stephani (Stephani, Vadsudevan, Camillus, Schulz) advanced, leaving us vs Netherwood (Vince & Adrienne, Arthur, Cliff) for the final spot. After the 1st 16 boards we managed a slim 2 IMP lead. After 32 boards the teams scored more than 120 total IMPs, but the margin was the same +2 IMPs. The next day we drew 9th seeded Gordon (Rajadhyaksha & Gordon, Aa & Molberg, Sontag & Berkowitz). Amy & Joe faced Sontag and Berkowitz while Mike (North) and I (South) played against Gordon and Pratyashka. We dropped 56 IMPs in our 1st quarter, and resolved to mount a charge. Here are a few stand-out hands from the 2nd quarter:

North	Both Vul				
♠A	N	E	S	W	
♥A10x	1♣ ¹	P	1♥ ²	P	1=16+ HCP any shape
♦AQx	2♣ ³	P	2♥	P	2=8-11 HCP any shape
♣A109xxx	3♥ ⁴	P	4♣ ⁵	P	3=5+ ♠s
South	4N ⁶	P	5♣ ⁷	P	4=Game Force
♠Kxx	5♦ ⁸	P	5♠ ⁹	P	5=Cue Bid 1 st or 2 nd
♥KQxxx	5N ¹⁰	P	6♣ ¹¹	P	6= 1430 Blackwood
♦xxx	7♥	P	P	P	7=1 or 4 key cards
♣Kx					8=Do you have the ♥Q?
					9=Yes and I have ♠K
					10=We have all Keys
					11= Plus the ♣K.

When ♥s and ♠s split 3-2 there is little to the play. The ♦AQ offers extra chances if the ♣s break 4-1. Note the grand slam fails if South holds ♣Kxx as the 3rd ♣ is a loser (♣QJ are not doubleton).

Our opponents bid to the grand slam (in 11 rounds of bidding). Ahead 56 IMPs this was not an odds-on choice for them. We wanted a 13 IMP gain but earned a push.

North	None Vul				
♠xxx	S	W	N	E	
♥xxxx	1♣ ¹	1♥	2♣ ²	2♥	1=16+ HCP any shape
♦Ax	3♣	P	3♦ ³	P	2=5+ ♠s 8+ HCP
♣AK10xx	3♣	P	4♣ ⁴	P	3=♦ values (Stopper or suit)
South	6♣	P	P	P	4=No ♥ stop for NT
♠AKxx					The absence of a 3N bid by North suggested all strength was working. ♥s were led and continued. After a 2 nd round ♥ ruff, 12 tricks were available. Opponents made 3N. Making 6♣ gained us 10 IMPs.
♥x					
♦KQJxx					
♣QJx					

Cin'ti/Dayton Teams in the Vanderbilt:

- 52 William Higgins - Nancy Sachs - Amitabh Raturi, Cincinnati, OH; Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland OH
- 56 V Netherwood - A Netherwood, Loveland OH; Arthur Moore, Raleigh NC; Cliff Pleatman, Cincinnati OH
- 61 Joe Fisher - Amy Fisher - Mike Ma, Cincinnati OH; Stephen Moese, West Chester OH
- 67 A J Stephani - Vijay Vasudevan, Cincinnati OH; David Camillus - Ryan Schultz, Dayton OH

West	East	
♠Q10x	♠AJxxx	Against Amy and Joe opponents competed to 5♥. Amy guessed to bid 5♠ and Joe made the contract for +650. Opponents reached 4♠ at our table. I led the ♥A and saw partner's ♥8. Declarer asked about the ♥8 - a ♦ suit preference signal, and decided South held the ♠K. I held ♠xxx, ♥Axxx, ♦KQJxx, ♣AK9x. Partner can't want a ♦ switch so I continued ♣x. Partner's ♠Q fell under the ♣A. Declarer refused the ♠ finesse. 1♥, 1♦, 1♣ ruff and 1♠ trick spelled defeat. Down 1 added 13 IMPs.
♥x	♥KJ	
♦KQJxx	♦xxx	
♣AK9x	♣Jxx	

The very next hand (NS Vul) opponents bid to a 3N game: 1♣-P-1♥-P-2N-P-3♦ (alerted as checkback)-P-3N. Partner led a ♦x to Dummy's ♠QJxx ♥ J9xx ♦Qxx ♣Jx. Declarer plays low from dummy. You hold ♠xxx ♥A10xx ♦Ax ♣xxxx. Take your ♦A and switch to your 4th best ♥. Partner wins the ♥Q, thinks, then cashes the ♥K and returns a ♥. We set 3N! At the other table our partners made 4N (black suit lead) gaining 11 imps.

On the last board we played a 4♣ game by North when 4♥ by South would have been easier. They failed to lead a ♦ and partner accurately finessed the trump Q, making. Opponents went down at the other table for +10 IMPs (they did not finesse. Trumps were 3-1). We gained 31 IMPs on the last 3 boards to complete a 65-25 2nd quarter. Down only 16 at the half meant we were still in this match. Dinner would be happy! Gordon/Rajadhyaksha sat out the 3rd quarter. After 48 boards we were in a -78 IMP hole against their top 2 pairs. This mountain was too big to climb in 16 boards so we conceded. Our opponents were gracious. These 2 days at the Vanderbilt were a great experience. Thank you Mike, Joe and Amy!

On a social note, Adam Parish says hello to all his friends in Cincinnati. He returned to Boston last year and is doing well. He introduced us to Dana and yes, they are dating. Dana is in her 3rd Year at Harvard Law and plans to work at a firm in NYC this summer. Of course, they met at the bridge table. As I left the Vanderbilt venue, I went to commiserate our loss and see how they fared in the Mixed Pairs. To my surprise I found David Berkowitz telling them about his team's win! Turns out David is Dana's Dad. Talk about being preempted...

Tip from the Master – Barry Crane¹

Joe W Fisher



Hollywood producer Barry Crane of *Mission Impossible* and *Mannix* was the finest matchpoint player of all time. He was also the most flamboyant. I remember him from a regional in downtown Indianapolis – played high a top the old Blackstone (?) Hotel. He was dressed to the nines and had a gallery of 15 to 20 kibitzers.

Of course, all the good players wanted to play with him or on his team. But if you were a top player and he chose you to play with him, you had to follow his list of rules. A simple one I mentioned in my class recently was 'Don't pull partner's high-level penalty double'. Another one, 'At team play, don't bid a grand slam unless you can count all 13 tricks', because they may not even be in slam at the other table.

I think if he were alive today he would add a new rule for today's free-wheeling sacrificers:

'At team play, don't sacrifice unless you are sure they are getting to game or slam and making it at the other table and your sacrifice won't be more expensive than the value of their game or slam.'

With sacrificing you have *three* ways to lose:

- 1) if your teammates don't get to game or slam at the other table, there is no reason to sacrifice;
- 2) the game or slam the opponents bid at your table doesn't make;
- 3) the sacrifice is too expensive.

All of these are too difficult to judge — especially when you must guess what is happening at the other table. Consequently, with this new rule, you will not sacrifice very often. *If in doubt – don't sacrifice!*

In bridge we are always searching for bids that have more than one way to win and a sacrifice has three ways to lose. This is quite a reversal from what we strive for. At the Nationals, we saw a wild pair go for 800 against a possible nonvul game. They set themselves up to lose 9 imps even if the game made. *Better yet — don't sacrifice!*

¹Taken from 'Stories about, and tips from *the Masters* - Blackwood, Goren, and Crane' by Amy & Joe Fisher at Flying Pig Regional on Friday, May 7, 2010

Amiable Bridge: Partnership Agreement

By Amy Fisher

☺When you play with a regular partner, sometimes things go awry. Blame is spread, and we all know how partners can be defensive. (We never are, of course!). We know about partnership agreements in bidding styles and conventions. Let's discuss Partnership Agreement-- that is, ways that your partner relationship can be more agreeable.

Since we all must live to play another day with our regular partners, I thought I would spend a few articles on how to be a good partner. Once again, I would love to hear your ideas for this series. Ashamedly, once again, I only hope to improve my own agreeableness.

1. A good partner bids out his/her hand. Have you ever been ashamed of your bidding? Say partner opens the bidding with 1 Club and you have Axxxx of Spades and nothing else. Pass or bid 1Spade? If you choose to respond 1 Spade, you must continue to bid if partner forces you. If you get too high, apologize. But for partnership harmony, don't pass a forcing bid (like a reverse). For all you know, that is exactly the holding your partner needs to make game. If you fail to bid, your partner might not trust you the next time. Another example is when you open the bidding and then wish you hadn't. No matter what, don't pass a forcing bid. Apologize later.

A few weeks ago, Joe overcalled opener's Precision 1 Diamond bid with 1 Heart. After the next person passed, I cue bid 2 Diamonds. Joe passed with a 4 card diamond suit and a lousy hand. Even though I made 2 Diamonds, we could have made 2 Hearts. Joe 'knew' I would end up overbidding, and so he justified his Pass. We will never know if I would have or not, but I wasn't happy. Better if Joe had bid out his hand and apologized later for Partnership Agreement.

2. Trust your partner, not the opponents. On the flip side, do you have a partner that sometimes makes a weird bid? An off-shape takeout double? A two-over-one game forcing bid on an invitational hand? (A lousy overcall?)

You can spend an awful lot of time trying to figure out if partner's bid is legitimate or not. My advice is always to trust your partner. If partner has his/her bid, your trust will lead to the right contract. If partner does not have his/her bid, let your partner apologize later. Once your partner knows you will always trust his/her bidding, your partnership bidding is bound to improve. If you find that you can never trust your partner, maybe you can get a new partner... or at the very least, you can have a pre game conversation on the benefits of partnership trust.

Remember that once you know that partner has a history of certain odd actions, even if they are not explicit agreements, you are obliged to tell your opponents if they ask. For example, you may agree that a weak two bid is only made with a 6 card suit. If you have seen your partner make that bid more than once with a 5 card suit, you must tell the opponents, when they ask about your weak two-bid style, "Our agreement is that it is a 6-card suit, but he will sometimes make the bid with a 5-card suit.". If partner takes that action more than twice, rewrite your agreement on your convention card.

3. Good partnerships realize how to react when a disaster occurs. Boy, this is a tough one, isn't it? Some partners can wait pleasantly until the session is over for discussion. Some can wait until the round or match is over. Some can even wait until the hand is over. And then some make comments as soon as dummy comes down. Which one are you? Bobby Hammon teaches in his book, *At The Table*, the importance of putting disasters behind you so that you can make the most of the remaining hands. He refuses to spend his energy on past hands so that he can keep his competitive edge for the future ones. Most experts say that they only talk about disasters during a session to clear up any bidding misunderstandings.

Now, I am no psychologist, so I do not know how to help all of us do better. But here are some suggestions to funnel your exasperation into a more constructive outcome.
a. Realize that your behavior problems are yours. Your partner is not to blame for your actions and words. As I like to say, be an adult and own up to it!

b. Keep a diary during the round. You can write on the inside of your convention card if you don't want to carry extra paper. This way you won't forget the points you want to make so badly at the time.

c. Repeat to yourself, Partner really is on my side; Partner is trying his best, as I am.

d. Take a few days off to contemplate your actions-- before a director asks you to! You might be surprised how

a forced absence from the game you love will increase your patience with and appreciation of your partner.

e. Play with someone else for a while. (This one worked wonders for Joe and me.) Be sure to explain to your partner why you are playing with other people for a while. It really is your problem and not partner's.

Next time. how Joe and I cope with each other... At least at times! :)

MEL'S RULES

(from a beginner/intermediate standpoint)

By Gayle Keaney

My partner had been bugging me to get Mel Colchamiro's *How You Can Play Like an Expert* claiming it was the best thing since the Montreal Relay. Well, wouldn't you know, it's been missing from the library for months (BRING IT BACK!!!!). Anyway, I finally broke down at the National & bought it. I haven't gotten too far into it yet, but so far I like it. It's basically a numbers game - trumps, HCP, short points, table seat, level of bidding, day of the month, etc.etc. Whatever he finds has worked 80-90% of the time.

The first 2 chapters have to do with using DON'T (Disturb Opponents No-Trump) which my partner & I use (that is, we use what is probably the 3rd grade version... but you gotta start somewhere!!). It's mainly for messing with the opponents who have opened a strong NT.

When to use it? That's what Mel addresses. And the answer is different when you are in the balancing seat versus in the direct seat. Good grief!!

If you are in the balancing seat Mel asks you which hand you'd rather have...

A84	Q842
K963	A63
K92	9
K86	J8642

14 HCP vs. 7. That's easy, right? But, no-o-o-o-o-o.

Mel wouldn't touch this big hand in the balancing seat with a 10 foot pole. But the 7 point hand - that one he loves!!! How come? Well, he knows the points are pretty evenly divided between the pairs, so your partner has somewhere around 13 points - those points being positioned to take finesses of the declarer's cards. With the big 14 point hand your finesses figure to mostly lose.

This is the Rule of 2.... balance whenever you have at least 2 short points... no matter how few HCP you have (really the fewer the better).

Then there's Mel's Rule of 8, Rule of 9, Rule of 17, Rule of 23, Rule of Frank Sinatra.....

Editor's note: *The Rule of Frank Sinatra only applies to Brooklyn Bridge*

Cincinnati Bridge Center

Cooper Business Center
2860 Cooper Road
Cincinnati, Ohio
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BRIDGE LESSONS

Spring/Summer 2011

BEGINNING Thursday evenings 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Beginning April 28

REVIEW THE BASICS Saturday mornings 10:00 AM - Noon
Beginning April 30

INTERMEDIATE I Thursday afternoons 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Beginning April 28

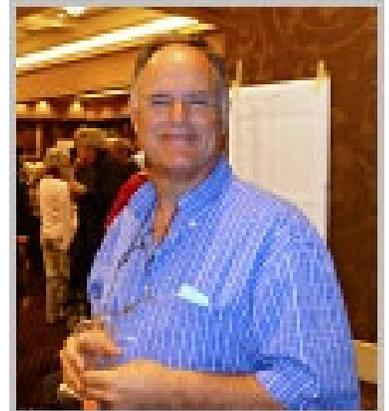
Linda Wolber is the teacher for the above classes. She is a Gold Life Master with more than 30 years experience teaching bridge. For information/registration, contact Linda at 522-1771 or ewolber@cinci.rr.com.

SUPERVISED PLAY Wednesdays 4:00 -6:00 PM
Beginning May 4

TWO OVER ONE GAME FORCE WORKSHOPS Saturday mornings 10:00 AM - Noon
Beginning May 7

Nancy Sachs is the instructor for the above classes. She is an Emerald Life Master with more than 30 years experience teaching bridge. She is an ACBL accredited teacher and director. For information/registration, contact Nancy at 561-1766 or nspp@fuse.net.

A complete schedule of the class sessions will be discussed at the first class. Each series includes six two-hour lessons. The fee for a series is \$90 per person. The fee is based on a class size of 12 to 16 students. An adjustment will be made for classes with fewer than 12 or more than 16 students. Workbook - \$10.



Can Cincinnatians do better than the East Europeans?

Yauheni Siutsau

All problems are from Polish Bridge Magazine.

IMPs, Vulnerable all. Dealer W.

♠ AQx		N		♠ J98
♥ J109x	W		E	♥ Q
♦ KQJ109		S		♦ Axx
♣ A				♣ QJ109xx

3NT(W). Opening lead : ♠5. You plays ♠8 and S plays ♠6. Plan your play.

Solution :

Its reasonable to assume that N has ♠K. In this case you have 100% plan for 9 tricks. Win first trick with ♠Q, cash ♠A, cross to dummy with ♦A and play ♠Q pitching ♠A from your hand. The full deal:

♠ K10752
♥ Kxx
♦ xxxx
♣ x

♠ AQx		N		♠ J98
♥ J109x	W		E	♥ Q
♦ KQJ109		S		♦ Axx
♣ A				♣ QJ109xx

♠ 6x
♥ Axxxx
♦ x
♣ Kxxxx

If defense continues spades you'll have an entry (♠J) to long clubs. (You unblocked the ♠A; remember?). If defense refusea to give you an entry you'll have enough time to establish 2 additional tricks in hearts (1 spade + 1 club + 5 diamonds + 2 hearts)

IMPs, Vulnerable all. Dealer N.

S	W	N	You
		1♣	pass
1♠	pass	2♠	pass
4♠	pass	pass	pass

Dummy (N)

♠ 10964
♥ 95
♦ AK2
♣ AQ108

You (E)

♠ 73
♥ AK86
♦ 1083
♣ KJ75

Partner (W) leads ♥4 (standard carding, 4th best leads). You win ♥K (♥2 from S) and cash ♥A (♥J from S and ♥3 from partner). It seems like partner has 5 hearts (Q10743) so you safely exit with spade at trick three. S cashes ♠A and ♠K (♠2 and ♠5 from partner) and plays ♠9 to the queen (♠2 from partner). You win ♠K. Plan your defense.

Solution :

If partner has a spade trick you don't have problems - it will be 4th defensive trick. So you should assume that S has 5 spades.

♣2 from partner shows odd number of clubs: 1 or 3. You know that S has only 2 hearts. Therefore S shape is 5224 (if W has 1 club) or 5242 (if W has 3 clubs). Let's consider both cases.

1. 5224. With ♦Q (hand like AKQJx Jx Qx 9xxx) S will eliminate diamonds, cross to closed hand with trump and endplay you in clubs.

2. 5242. With ♦Q (hand like AKQJx Jx Qxxx 9x) S has 10 top tricks.

That's why you should play that ♦Q is in partner's hand. Unfortunately diamond shift is dangerous. If declarer with 5242 has ♦J and ♦9 and guesses right - defense won't get a diamond trick.

Lets count declarers tricks: 5 spades + 2 diamonds + 1 club = 8. You can afford to give him 9th trick by playing a small club after ♠K. It doesn't matter how many clubs does S have - if partner has ♦Q you will defeat 4♠.

Lets look at the full deal :

♠ 10964
♥ 95
♦ AK2
♣ AQ108

♠ 52		N		♠ 73
♥ Q10743	W		E	♥ AK86
♦ Q76		S		♦ 1083
♣ 432				♣ KJ75

♠ AKQJ8
♥ J2
♦ J954
♣ 96

Heart return: S will pitch a diamond from dummy and later will ruff 2 diamonds. Diamond return: S will guess (they always will). Winning defense is small club return: S will be 1 trick short.

Asking Non-Bids: To Ask or Not To Ask? PART II

Rob Weidenfeld (elianadad@gmail.com or 513-933-9453)

Some may still maintain that the simple asking of a question about a suit bid by the opponents before a lead is made, does not automatically imply evil intent, nor is it even necessarily evil. While I may agree that there is often no evil intent, I maintain unless you ask about all bids in every auction, then your singling out one bid by an opponent is always a serious breach of ethics. I guess I will have to illustrate.

You hold: S xxx H Q10xx D Kxx C xxx

The auction with you as EAST proceeds as before:

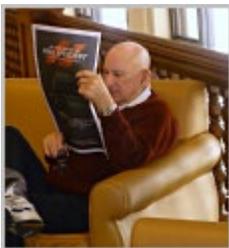
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1S	P	2C	P
2S	P	4S	

Do you have any questions before partner makes his/her opening lead? Are you wondering about any of the bidding? Of course not. You have a non-descript hand and nothing strikes you as unusual. When partner makes the face-down lead and asks, "Any questions?", you will of course say no. So you're saying to yourselves, simple Rob, but what's your point?

OK. Same auction, different hand. Now you have:

S xx H Q10xx D xx C AKJ10x

Because of this club holding, you naturally wonder if North has made some kind of funky bid, or is just playing around. **BUT YOU ARE STILL NOT ALLOWED TO ASK.** To ask now broadcasts to partner, as well as to the opponents, that you have the exact club suit you are holding. The point is whether you have a holding of xxx or AKJ10x in clubs, you still have **NO CALL**. You are required to pass in tempo on both hands. To do otherwise may be construed the same as cheating. This may account for declarer's testiness when you ask at the wrong time "What is 2C"?



Harsh words, especially for newer players. But I have taught enough novices to know that they sometimes feel so overwhelmed by the quality of their opposition, that they will go to any lengths to deceive their opponents. A few feel that by hesitating with two small cards in a suit when declarer has led the jack is a good way to fool an experienced player. Yes, except it is cheating. Deception, as legally practiced in bridge, is an art learned by advancing players. Intermediate level players should put all their focus on making the right bid and finding the right defense or line of play. In fact, go out of your way to totally paint a complete picture of exactly what your hand looks like for your partner.

Others will simply ask for an explanation of bids because they know that partner may not be clear on what is going on. In general, this practice is frowned up by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Personally, I have asked opponents to explain bids when I am playing with a novice because they may not have the experience to grasp what is happening. But in general, it is against the rules to ask questions for the purpose of informing partner.

A final thought. I will not jump on players who ask these kinds of questions, especially if they are newer players or it has not happened before. Sometimes you ask before you even realize. I did so myself last month, but then promptly apologized. The point is to make people aware so that it doesn't happen repeatedly. Because if I am your opponent, I will call the director.



0 to 5 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Robert Fisk Cincinnati OH 92.47
 2 Thomas Mess Cincinnati OH 67.54
 3 Jane Duncan W Chester OH 50.21

National Placing
 District 11 Winner

District 11
 Winner

5 to 20 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Stephanie Richardson Cincinnati OH 121.71
 2 Helen Mess Cincinnati OH 85.10
 3 Janet Jones Cincinnati OH 80.91

20 to 50 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Marilyn Prosis Cincinnati OH 129.14
 2 Susan Manne Cincinnati OH 107.47
 3 Robert Prosis Cincinnati OH 106.58

It was close for a while....

50 to 100 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Robert Brown Cincinnati OH 74.91
 2 Stephen Felson Cincinnati OH 72.84
 3 John Wolfe Florence KY 72.50

100 to 200 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Ambrish Bansal WestChes OH 109.17
 2 Michael Remondino Cre Hills KY 106.06
 3 Lalitha Yalamanchili Cincinnati OH 91.39

District 11
 Winner

200 to 300 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Sonya Wilson Cincinnati OH 233.02
 2 Marlene Middaugh Union KY 129.76
 3 Carol Vradelis Cincinnati OH 125.38

300 to 500 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 A J Stephani Cincinnati OH 181.04
 2 Dean Congbalay TerrPark OH 159.30
 3 Cordell Coy Villa Hills KY 130.55

District 11
 Winner

500 to 1000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Arun Goyal Cincinnati OH 306.12
 2 Stephen Moese WestChes OH 212.82
 3 V. Netherwood Loveland OH 197.17

1000 to 2500 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Albert Fultz Ft Mitchell KY 384.90
 2 Lorna Davis WestChes OH 277.98
 3 Mrs. A. Netherwood Loveland OH 246.07

2500 to 5000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 William Higgins Cincinnati OH 747.54
 2 Yauheni Siutsau Loveland OH 727.20
 3 Tim Crank Cincinnati OH 375.53

National Placing
 District 11 Winner

5000 to 7500 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Pamela Granovetter Cincinnati OH 1,480.01
 2 Nancy Sachs Cincinnati OH 404.24
 3 Bruce Parent Brookville IN 378.03

District 11
 Winner

Over 10,000 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race
 1 Matt Granovetter Cincinnati OH 1,610.66
 2 Norman Coombs Brookville IN 662.18

National Winner
 !!!



A Comedy in Two Acts
Amit Raturi

Act I: Silodor Open Pairs, Board 9, Arun Goyal (AG) and Very famous player (VFP henceforth)

VFP as East picks up Kxx, T9xxx, AKJ, Ax and opens 1H. The rest of the auction was as follows:

N	E	S	W
P	1H-a	3C	4C-b
P	4D-c	P	4S-d
P*	4NT-e	P*	5D-f
P*	5S-g	P*	6C-h
P*	6D-i	P*	6H-j
P**	P-k	P**	

	QTxxx Qx Xxxx Xx	
A9x AKJx Q9xx KT		Kxx T9xxx AKJ Ax
	Jx Xx Tx QJ9xxxx	

Opponents: So what did this auction mean?

AG: 4S was key card for hearts?

VFM: Non-jumps are cue bids; my 4 NT was key card for hearts.

	AG's version	VFP's interpretation
a	Must have opening bid	I look for an excuse to open
b	Good hand for hearts	Must be short clubs with Qxx of hearts
c	Partner cannot be cue bidding missing AKJ of trumps; must be second suit	I look for an excuse to cue bid
d	Key card for hearts	Good hand with good spades; still Qxx of hearts; could be spade ace and good hearts; why is partner not bidding 4NT; must have really bad diamonds
e	1 or 4 keycards; must be 1	Key card in hearts; I'd better take control of the hand
f	Do you have the queen of trumps	0 or 3 key cards; must be 3 key cards
g	K of spades and Queen of hearts; still have a club loser but diamond finesse should be on	Do you have the queen of hearts
h	Second round control of clubs; is NT better	Yes queen of hearts and club king
i	Alternative slam e.g. KTxx, Q9xxx, AKJx, -; still trying for grand	Showing diamond king
j	Not sure about spade loser	I am done
k	Definite spade or club loser	I am done too
*	CONFUSION!!!!	CONFUSION!!!
**	SUPER CONFUSION!!!!	SUPER CONFUSION

VFP: I had all my bids....

AG: I had all my bids too...what a fine auction....this is how to get a section top in Silodor Open pairs....

Act II: Principle of Fast Arrival

VFP pick up AJT, AKxx, Ax, Kxx and

AG has xx, xx, KQxxxxx, QJ

VFP's LHO opens 2S and VFP doubles. AG bids 3NT (gambling?) and VFP thinks highly of his 19 count and bids 6NT. Heart lead, club to the J and then the Q to score 1 spade, 2 hearts, 7 diamonds and 2 clubs for a cold top!! The 2 spade bidder held Kxxxxxx, JTx, xx, xx and had they led a spade, defense scores a spade and club ace. The opponents are visibly upset about the 3NT bid with no spade stopper - AG: the principle of fast arrival applies here, does it not?

VFP: Absolutely; if you are going to get to the wrong contract, you got to get there fast!

The 2011 Flying PIG REGIONAL						
Cincinnati, Ohio						
						April 26 - May 1 2011
TUESDAY April 26			SATURDAY April 30			
Porky Pig Knockout (rd 1-2)	1:00	7:00	Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 4)	9:00		
Stratified Pairs (2 sessions)	1:00	7:00	AM Stratified Side Game Series	9:00		
Stratified Side Game Series I	1:00	7:00	This Little Piggy Knockout (rd 3-4)	1:00	7:00	
Single Session Swiss		7:00	Pig Out Compact KO (1-2) (3-4)	1:00	7:00	
199er Pairs Game	1:00	7:00	Stratified Side Games Series 2	1:00	7:00	
WEDNESDAY April 27			SUNDAY May 1			
AM Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 1)	9:00		That's All Folks: Stratiflighted Swiss Teams	10:00	play thru	
AM Stratified Side Game Series	9:00					
Porky Pig Knockout (rd 3-4)	1:00	7:00				
Miss Piggy Knockout (rd 1-2)	1:00	7:00				
Stratified Pairs (2 sessions)	1:00	7:00				
Stratified Side Game Series 1	1:00	7:00				
Single Session Swiss	1:00	7:00				
199er Pairs Game	1:00	7:00				
THURSDAY April 28			SHARONVILLE CONVENTION CENTER			11355 Chester Road
AM Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 2)	9:00		Exit 15 Interstate 75 (Sharon Rd)			West on Sharon – 0.2 miles
AM Stratified Side Game Series	9:00					North on Chester – 0.5 miles
AM Horizontal Swiss Rd 1 of 2	9:00					Nightly at LIVINN Suites
Miss Piggy Knockout (rd 3-4)	1:00	7:00	Free and Fabulous Hospitality			
Stratified Two Session Swiss	1:00	7:00	HOTEL: LIVINN SUITES			(Next to Convention Center)
Stratified Side Game Series 1	1:00	7:00	513.772.7877			
199er Pairs Game	1:00	7:00	Bridge Rate \$59.00 \$279-Weekly			Book by April 10, 2011
FRIDAY April 29			Free Continental Breakfast weekdays			Free Parking
AM Elmer Fudd Knockout (rd 3)	9:00		Open Stratified Events			
AM Stratified Side Game Series	9:00		A =2000+ B=500-2000 C=0-500			
AM Horizontal Swiss Rd 2 of 2	9:00		Stratiflighted A=3000+ X=0-3000			
This Little Piggy Knockout (rd 1-2)	1:00	7:00	(plays together)			
Stratified Pairs (2 sessions)	1:00	7:00	B=750-1500 C= 300-750 D=0-300			
Stratified Side Games Series 2	1:00	7:00	(plays together)			
Single Session Swiss		7:00	Team events stratified by average.			
199er Pairs Game	1:00	7:00	Compact KOs limited to 4 players			
Tournament Chairperson:			Potter Orr 513.240.9561	potter@orrcomputer.com		
			\$12 entry fee/session (includes \$2 ACBL paid member discount)			
			Partnerships: Lorna Davis 513.777.1760			



A Feel Good Story

On Monday evening March 21, we had some unwanted excitement in the bridge center. During the game, Janet Jones fell and broke her femur. The Evendale Fire Department quickly responded, and transported Janet to Bethesda North Hospital, where she is in rehab as I write this. We look forward to seeing her back at the bridge table shortly.

I want to thank all the players for how well they pitched in during this emergency. Bridge gave way to real life, as it should. People helped by calling 911, calling Janet's family, and moving tables so that the EMTs could easily get in and out. Special thanks go to the three physicians present, who made sure that Janet got great care until the EMTs arrived; they are David Greenfield, Paul Volkman, and Dick Kerstine.

We play bridge, and it's a great game. But it's moments like this that remind us that bridge players are great people, not just game players.

Mike Lipp, Director

Winners at the
Louisville Nationals, March 2011

134	96.29	Pamela Granovetter
149	93.07	Matt Granovetter
165	86.81	Amitabh Raturi
172	84.16	Yauheni Siutsau
173	84.16	William Higgins
181	81.20	Nancy Sachs
442	39.21	Arun Goyal
444	39.13	Lorna Davis
474	36.93	Bruce Parent
515	34.29	Diane Travis
554	32.58	Norman Coombs
607	30.11	Joseph Muenks
656	27.96	A J Stephani

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05/24/11-05/30/11 CLEVELAND OH

Sectionals

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06/10/11-06/12/11 Columbus OH

06/24/11-06/26/11 Louisville KY

06/24/11-06/26/11 Canton OH

Nationals!!

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