

## LIBRARY CORNER

### *Take All Your Tricks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

Edwin B. Kantar

The subtitle of this book is "Over 550 declarer play tips you can take to the bank." Given that the author is one of the most prolific writers of bridge books as well as a world-class player, the reader can most assuredly take his promise "to the bank." This book is all about the play of the hand including finesses, discards, entries, and counting. The latter is where Kantar says the game begins and ends. If you don't know how to count, you need to start learning how to do so. Among other topics the author covers that will most assuredly up your game are end plays, squeezes, and safety plays. Kantar ends this book with *Bonus Tips* among which is this gem, "The quickest road to disaster is to stop thinking about the contract you are in—thinking instead about the contract you wish you were in." An interesting fact readers may not know about Mr. Kantar is that in 1996 he was inducted into the Bridge Hall of Fame as well as the Minnesota State Table Tennis Hall of Fame! There are many books in the Bridge Center Library by Eddie Kantar, so be sure you check out and read at least one in 2022.



## ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

February, 2022



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

### A message from the president...

Happy Valentine's Day! February is a great month to think about what you can do for our club. Here are just a few suggestions on ways you can give back.



\*A great gift would be for an experienced player to ask a less experienced player to play in an open game. I have heard that some of our less experienced players are uncomfortable playing in the open games. Inviting them to play in an open game and letting them see that these games are really fun will encourage more play by everyone. It is (for most of us) about the fun of the game and the social interactions and not about how many points we win in a particular day.

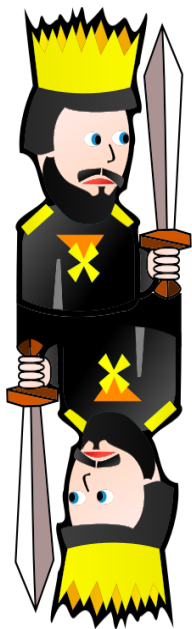
\*Shayna Scott purchases and serves snacks for our weekly games. As many already know, she provides this food using money we donate. If you regularly attend 2-4 times a month, a reasonable donation for food might be \$5 a month. If you come more often, please consider at least \$10 a month. If you regularly make these snacks your lunch, you might want to consider a larger donation. At the rate we consume this food, it appears those in attendance really enjoy it!

\*And speaking of food, our monthly parties depend on food donations by every player. If you are unable or unwilling to cook or purchase food, please contribute some cash to the hostess of the day to help out.

\*We need hosts for the monthly lunch parties. This is not at all a daunting task. It can be as easy as picking up fried chicken or BBQ or boiling hot dogs. Please talk to Leigh Broadway to choose a date and main course. The club reimburses the host for food and beverages. All you contribute is a little of your time.

These are just a few of the ways you might help our club. If you need more suggestions just let me know. I feel sure there is something everyone of us can do. May we all get gifts in return from the bridge gods!

*Iris*



## A Smidgen of Smith

Here is a "small," but occasionally valuable tip:

For those of you who never miscount your trump suit, you may skip this article. For the rest of us mortals, this is a tip that will come in handy. As declarer, when you come to a point in the hand when you have nothing left but high trumps and good cards in the other suits, you may claim. Before claiming, why not play one extra round of trumps to check for lurkers. You will be rewarded occasionally when you find you have, in fact, miscounted trumps.

ACBL Laws state that once you make your claim, play is suspended, and you face your cards on the table. If a trump is still outstanding and you have not acknowledged it in your claim statement, you will not be able to draw that trump. You may lose a trick if the opponents are able to trump a trick with normal play.

By the way, if either opponent objects to your claim, call the director. They are always available to help.

**Ron Smith**

## CLASSIFIED ADS Employment

### Photographer Needed

Are you looking for a rewarding part-time opportunity? Look no further. Our success at **Alert** starts with our people, and we are seeking someone just like you to fill a critical vacancy. Why not join our growing, enthusiastic team as our staff photographer? Duties involve capturing the perfect shot at special events, team games, tournaments, parties, etc., so we can preserve our fun and comradery for posterity. Salary is commensurate with experience. Equipment needed: Cell phone with a camera. If you think you have what it takes to fill this position, please contact Sandy Cervantes at 423.315.1953 or [sandycervantesnm@gmail.com](mailto:sandycervantesnm@gmail.com). Don't let the fun pass you by! **WE NEED YOU.**



## Online Mentor/Mentee Game



Join the fun this month by playing in our Online Mentor/Mentee game. Dates for February are the 14th and 28th at 7:00 p.m. on BBO. The dividing line between a mentor and mentee is 500 points. Less experienced players enjoy and benefit from playing with a seasoned mentor. This game allows mentees to "try out" new conventions in a more relaxed and comfortable setting and get advice and suggestions from their mentor. Partners will be matched up early so that they have enough time to develop a convention card. If you would like to play, either as a mentor or mentee, email **Bert Shramko** at [stdoms48@gmail.com](mailto:stdoms48@gmail.com).



# CONGRATULATIONS

We all know that bridge provides a variety of meaningful benefits. Our favorite pastime offers a venue for social interaction, strengthens communication and teamwork skills, helps preserve mental sharpness, and even contributes to boosting our immune system. The icing on the cake is the competitive challenge and the gratification of winning. Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Ace of Clubs masterpoint race for Unit 206.

## 0-5 Masterpoints

Gayle Coleman

## 5-20 Masterpoints

Ronald Robertson

## 20-50 Masterpoints

Mary Robertson

## 50-100 Masterpoints

Gary Higbee

## 100-200 Masterpoints

Margie Moses

## 200-300 Masterpoints

Susan Crouch

## 300-500 Masterpoints

Bruce Antman

## 500-1000 Masterpoints

Tom Trivers

## 1000-1500 Masterpoints

Sandy Cervantes

## 1500-2500 Masterpoints

Stephanie Felker

## 2500-3500 Masterpoints

John Felker

## 3500-5000 Masterpoints

Daniel Chandler

## 5000-7500 Masterpoints

Joe Viola

## Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Ron Smith



## Hardy, Har, Har

While Sam, a notoriously bad bridge player, was polishing a lamp, out popped a genie. The genie told Sam it was his lucky day, and he would grant him one wish. After thinking long and hard, Sam said, "Let all the world live in peace and harmony." The genie looked at him and said, "You have got to be kidding! I'm only a genie. Think again." After a short while, Sam said, "Well, okay, you can make me a winning bridge player." Without any hesitation, the genie said, "You better give me a map of the world!"

## HATS OFF TO...

A special tip of the hat goes out this month to Leigh Broadway for heading up our special weekend games. She always comes through by either handling the event herself or finding the perfect host/hostess to pull off a terrific party. Leigh says she is having a wonderful time tackling these events, but certainly doesn't want to be selfish and hog all the fun. Why not help her out by volunteering for one of our upcoming special games. Check your calendar and see which date fits your schedule perfectly. Leigh will be grateful, and so will the club.





# memo from Marilyn

## Declarers and Defenders take notice!

When you are declarer, always ask defenders what discard system they use. If they say Odd-Even or a like system, you are privy to their strengths and weaknesses by interpreting two cards, their first discard. This is how it works:

An odd card conveys a positive interest in the odd card's suit.

An even card discourages play of the even card's suit. A low-even card encourages their partner to lead the lower-ranking suit and a high-even card encourages a lead to the higher-ranking suit.

An observant declarer can use intel from defenders to place absence or presence of missing honors.

I'm against displaying rigid information to an opponent via one card. A discard system should be as flexible as a yoga instructor. It should allow a defender leeway and time to make better decisions. This can happen if defenders make use of the carding style (standard or upside-down) they already know to show interest or disinterest in the discarded suits. This slow disclosure is more dynamic. Plus when random suits of varying worth are passing by declarer, it is harder to make sense of what is being said.

Marilyn Shelton



## Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 13

Special Team Game, 12:15 p.m.

Monday, February 14

Online Mentor/Mentee Game, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 18

Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game,  
12 Noon, CBC

Monday, February 28

Online Mentor/Mentee Game, 7 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13

Chattanooga Spring Sectional  
East Ridge Community Center

## Happy Birthday, Joyce



No one would ever guess that Joyce Nicoll turned a very young 98 in January. The Nooga East club celebrated this momentous occasion with (what else) a green cake and very many well wishes from Joyce's bridge-playing friends.

**You go, girl!**

# Do you know...

## The Maximal Double?

The Maximal Double is a competitive double used to invite game when the auction is too crowded for a "help suit game try" bid. For example, if the auction has progressed:

1S (2H) 2S (3H) ?

how do you ask partner to bid game if he is maximum, but still be able to sign off in 3S in a competitive auction. As opener, you might hold either of these two hands:

### HAND 1

AKJ954

J2

KT63

65

### HAND 2

AKJT98

3

QJT6

KJ



With **Hand 1** having an extra spade, you would like to compete to the 3 level, but don't want partner to be encouraged with your 3S bid. However, if partner has a maximum 2S bid with **Hand 2**, you are optimistic about game. With Maximal Doubles, in this auction, a bid of 3S is a sign off and a double would invite partner to bid game if he has a maximum hand. If not, partner would bid 3S.

The Internet is filled with good information about maximal doubles — (check out [www.larryco.com](http://www.larryco.com) — Larry Cohen's site) or you might like to read a book dealing with a variety of double bids, *Double! New Meanings for An Old Bid*, written by Mike Lawrence.



## Chattanooga Spring Sectional Tournament

Now is the time to make sure you have a partner for our Spring Sectional tournament. Plan early so you can have three full days of fun and excitement (and win silver points, too!). The tournament will be at the East Ridge Community Center on March 11-13. On Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, there are open and 299er pairs games scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. There will be a Stratified Swiss Team game on Sunday, March 13, starting at 10:00 a.m. (6 matches that will end by 5:00 p.m.). Covid protocols will be strictly observed as recommended by the ACBL and any local regulations. If you know any out-of-towners coming, they need to book their stay at the Hilton Garden Inn by February 8, to take advantage of the discounted bridge rate. For more information, a tournament flyer is posted on our website ([unit206acbl.org](http://unit206acbl.org)).

Session fees are \$12. There is a \$5 discount for players who have under 50 master-points playing in the 299er game and Swiss Team game.



## See you there!

# FAIRYLAND BRIDGE NEWS

The Board of Directors and Club Manager of Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club LOVE our members, and we believe our treasury is not only for expenses but also for the benefit of our membership. To show our love and affection, we will be treating the membership to a Valentine's party February 17 at the Mountain City Club. Bridge fees and lunch are on us!! You MUST RSVP to Susie Crouch ([susancrouch54@gmail.com](mailto:susancrouch54@gmail.com)) by February 10 so mark your calendars now. Please come and play so that we may show you our appreciation.



FDBC is a unique bridge experience. We have players of all master point ranges who come from all over. We compete but we also break for lunch, which makes our day a bit more social. As one new member recently stated, "I love this game. Breaking for lunch let's you really get to know people better than when you're just competing." Another member said, "This is becoming my favorite day to play. Everyone is just so pleasant."

We also are a member club of the Southeast Bridge Consortium. If you play with us, you automatically become a member of the consortium and are eligible to play in their online games. There are games every day ranging from open to 49er. I've had novice members thank me for this opportunity to play at a comfortable level especially during the pandemic.

FDBC is centrally located in downtown Chattanooga at the Mountain City Club which provides free parking. We are open to all, and guests do not need an invitation to play. (We do ask that you RSVP to Susie Crouch.) After three visits, membership is automatic, and dues are \$10 per year. Come join us!

**Suzy Bryant**  
President, FDBC



## FF2F

### Friday Face-to-Face



We had another great Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee game in January. Everyone always has a great time, so don't miss our February game on the 18th. If you are interested, Mentors and Mentees alike need to let Sue Shramko know. You can call or text Sue at 423.304.7017 or sign up at the CBC.

January winners were:

#### North/South

1st-**Richard Spangler/Liz Norris**  
2nd-**Leslie Nelson/Barbara Anderson**  
3rd-**Donna Cart/Sara Mayo**

#### East/West

1st-**Marty Hershey/Nancy Hayes**  
2nd-**Ron Boyers/John Hubbard**  
3rd-**Stephanie Felker/Steward Lawwill**

## BRIDGE ETIQUETTE



A major tenet of bridge ethics is the principle of full disclosure. This means that all information available to your partnership also must be made available to your opponents.





## February Special Game

Our February special game is a Grand National Team Qualifying game, and it is guaranteed to be "souper" in many ways.

The game will be on Super Bowl Sunday, February 13, but won't conflict at all with football mania. Plans are to open the doors at 12:15 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:30, and the game will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. You'll have plenty of time to enjoy a competitive game of bridge and still make it home to watch the Super Bowl.

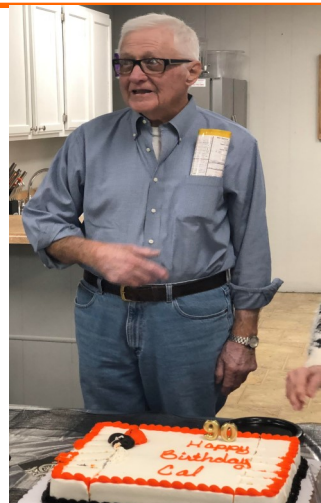
Food will be bean soup and chili. Find a partner, put together a team, and bring a dish to share. What could be better than a Sunday with football and bridge.

**Mark your calendar.  
February 13, 12:15**

## OMG—They're Nonagenarians!!

We don't have many nonagenarians in Unit 206, but coincidentally two of them celebrated significant birthdays in January. Joyce Nicoll, pictured on page 4, commemorated her 98th birthday with a beautiful green cake at a Monday Nooga East game. And, the gentleman pictured to the right, Cal Brassfield, celebrated his 90th birthday at the CBC with an orange and black cake (colors of his beloved Oklahoma State Cowboys) accompanied by lots of birthday wishes from his bridge friends.

Both of these amazing individuals are true testaments to and perfect examples of the advantageous effects of our favorite pastime. Congratulations Joyce and Cal! We wish you many, many more!



## How would you answer the question...

"To me bridge is \_\_\_\_\_ .?"

"my life. Bridge is my passion and has been an intricate part of my adult life. I am a lifetime learner, and bridge is an excellent way to keep achieving that goal. I want to share bridge with EVERYONE. It's the greatest game EVER!"



**Myra Reneau**

## Cleveland Bridge Club News

Polly Sullivan is taking over as President of the Board of the Cleveland Bridge Club. The club would like to invite any and all to come and play in Cleveland on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. You are asked to arrive early so the game can start on time. The venue is the Bradley/Cleveland Senior Center on Urbane Road. Please confirm that you plan to play by texting Polly at 423.715.0986 or Teresa Moore at 423.321.2778. It is important to know who is coming so that players can be notified in the event the Center should close unexpectedly.





# One Last Thing...

By John Friedl



In a recent Newsletter column I discussed the Jacoby 2NT bidding convention. In that column I pointed out that the purpose of the convention is to uncover a fit for a successful slam when one hand has several low cards in a suit where the other hand has a singleton or void, so that none of the values held by the partnership are wasted. The losers in one hand can be ruffed in the other hand.

In this month's column we'll look at a similar convention with the same purpose in mind, matching shortness in one hand with a suit with few or no values in the other. The convention is called the Splinter. Here's how it works.

When partner opens one of a major (1 Heart or 1 Spade) if Responder has an opening hand with at least four card support for opener's major and a singleton or void in a side suit, Responder makes a double jump into the suit with shortness. For example, if my partner opens 1 Spade and I have at least 4 spades, at least a good 11 high card points, and a singleton or void in another suit, I make a double jump in my short suit – either to 4 Clubs, 4 Diamonds or 4 Hearts. (If the opening bid is 1 Heart, a double jump to 3 Spades is a Splinter.) I might have a hand something like this, where I would bid 4 Diamonds after partner opens 1 Spade:

♠ K842

♥ AJ54

♦ 9

♣ KQ108

Opener now evaluates his hand for a possible slam investigation, based on how well his hand fits with the hand I have described. If he has three or four relatively useless cards in diamonds, he will see that his hand fits well with mine. If he has a holding in diamonds like KJ10 he will see this as wasted values, and unless he has a lot of extra strength in the other suits he will just sign off in 4 Spades. Here are two possible hands partner could hold:

Hand #1 ♠ AQ1095

♥ K83

♦ J76

♣ A9

Hand #2 ♠ AQ1095

♥ 1083

♦ KJ10

♣ A9

Although these two hands look fairly similar in terms of strength and distribution, note the wasted values in the hand with KJ10 of diamonds. Hand #1 can play to ruff two diamonds in dummy and sluff a heart on the queen of clubs for an excellent play for slam. Hand #2 has a certain diamond loser and a likely heart loser, with a poor chance for taking 12 tricks.

Some things to keep in mind. First, this bid is a double jump, so it should not be confused with a weak jump shift (a bid like 1 Spade – 3 Clubs), showing a long suit and a weak hand (fewer than 6 HCP). A double jump is not a bid that describes a long suit – it specifically describes a short suit in an opening hand with good trump support.

*Continued on the next page*



# One Last Thing...continued

Second, it is important that you have at least four-card support for opener's suit. Otherwise, the opponents can lead trump and possibly eliminate your ability to use dummy's trumps to ruff the losers from opener's hand.

Third, because this conventional bid uses up so much bidding space, it is best to put an upper limit on the strength of Responder's hand when making a Splinter bid. Most players consider the appropriate range to be from 11 to 15 high card points. With more than 15, it is a better strategy to make a game forcing bid (if you play 2 over 1 Game Forcing, use that approach) first and then to bid opener's suit to show support. That way you can progress slowly toward exploring for slam and exchange more information along the way. The double jump shift leaves very little room below game – the opening bidder has but one level of bidding available, and sometimes not even that much.

Finally, when evaluating your hand for a possible Splinter bid, discount a singleton ace or king. A high honor singleton can be useful to opener in developing a source of tricks, whereas a low card singleton is useful for a different type of hand where opener has wasted values. If you hold a singleton ace opposite partner's KQJ5 in the same suit, you have eliminated a loser and given partner a way to sluff losers from your hand. In that case, it is usually better to make a game forcing bid and show the control in your singleton ace or king later in the auction. If you make a Splinter bid in a suit with a singleton ace, partner holding KQJ5 in that suit will not recognize your bid as one that enhances his fit with your hand, and he may sign off in game and miss the slam opportunity.

Remember that a Splinter bid by Responder should be alerted and if asked by the opponents, it should be explained as showing a hand with at least four-card support for opener's suit, 11 to 15 high card points and a singleton or void in the suit bid by Responder.

The opening bidder will then decide whether to probe for slam or sign off in game. The most likely slam probe will be 4NT asking for key cards with the agreed upon trump suit.

The Splinter bid does not come up often, however when it does, it can be a very effective way of finding a near-perfect fit leading to a slam with as few as 26 high card points. If you and your partner adopt this convention, be sure you discuss it and agree upon the exact type of hand for which you will use it.



The two charming ladies pictured to the left were truly surprised when each showed up to play at the Bridge Center dressed in their finest only to find "their finest" adorning someone else. Myra Tatum (left) and Mary Jane Emrath both look beautiful in their new sweaters and lovely smiles.