

LIBRARY CORNER

It's Your Call Marshall Miles

Those of us who read the *Bridge Bulletin* routinely will recognize the title of this book as one of the regular articles in the magazine. A panel of experts is presented with five bidding situations and asked to state how they would bid the hands. Each panelist can score a possible 100 for each bid. For 25 years, author Miles moderated a similar bidding panel for a California publication. In this book, he has collected his favorite problems from those years. He presents the panelists' views and includes his own comments at the end of each of the 106 problems included in the book. Part two of the book includes bidding suggestions, and parts three and four of the book include a set of problems for the reader to solve Miles' answers to the problems. His book *How to Win at Duplicate Bridge* is considered a classic, and he is one of the world's leading theorists on bidding, so there is much to be gained by reading this book and absorbing the advice contained in it.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

June, 2022



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

June should be a beautiful and extra fun time for bridge. This month, we have a whole week of The Longest Day festivities and fundraising for Alzheimer's. Please read all about it elsewhere in this newsletter and make plans now to attend. It will be especially fun if we all make an effort to support the club and donate funds to lessen the effects of this terrible disease.



Since before the pandemic, we have had lots of our players make life master. This is an important achievement for all duplicate players. We will honor them during The Longest Day week on Friday, 17. The game will be a mentor/mentee game. I hope we have a great turnout for all of our new life masters!

I want to tell you about something that happened in the last few weeks. A player at our club had something to discuss with the board. I have welcomed them to our next board meeting and they will, I am sure, present some excellent suggestions or ideas. The board welcomes any player to make a presentation to our club board. However, don't think you have to wait for a board meeting to have your voice heard! Tell any member of the board of any ideas, suggestions, and, yes, even complaints that you may have. We will add your topic to our agenda for the next board meeting.

Not sure who is on the board or chair of a committee? Fear not! That information is on our website. Even better news is that sometime in June, thanks to Margie Moses and Tyler Smith, our new website will be up and running. More about that next month.

Iris



A Smidgen of Smiths

Linda and Ron Smith

An Interesting Side Benefit for Blackwood/RKC

This is your South hand:

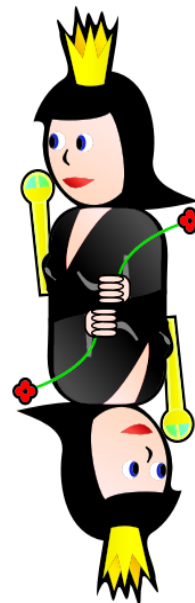
♠J102
♥Jx
♦xx
♣AKQJ10x

The bidding:

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	2♠	P
4N	P	5♣	P
5N	P	?	

Let's examine the bidding. Partner opens 1♠. You bid 2♣ which is game forcing. Partner bids 2♦, which is a second suit. You now bid 2♠, showing exactly 3 spades. You would have used Jacoby 2NT if you had an opening hand with 4+ spades. Partner now bids 4N, which is Roman Keycard - 1430. The bid of 5♣ shows 1 or 4 keycards. If you are playing Blackwood, you would bid 5D, showing 1 keycard. (We strongly suggest you learn Roman Keycard. It has many advantages.) Now partner bids 5N. What is she asking? Partner is asking you to show kings. But, when she bids 5N, she is also telling you that together you have ALL the keycards – all the aces and the King and Queen of trumps. So, not only is opener asking for kings, but she is also making a grand slam invitation. Look at your hand. You have 6 tricks for your partner. Partner has shown at least 5 spades headed by the AKQ, and the other 2 aces. So, you have 5 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 6 clubs = 13 tricks. You do not need to show your K of clubs. You can confidently bid 7NT!

You don't get to bid 7NT often, so don't miss your chance.



In a deck of cards, which King is called the suicide king?

The King of Hearts. The King of Hearts is depicted with a sword by his head that makes it look like he's stabbing himself with it, hence the nickname.



FAIRYLAND BRIDGE CLUB

The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club loved celebrating our mothers in May and look forward to honoring our dads June 16th with a free play. Come join us on Thursdays at the Mountain City Club! The game starts promptly at 10:30. RSVP to Susie Crouch (susancrouch54@gmail.com) if you would like to play.

Suzy Bryant
President, FDBC



Wishing a wonderful Father's Day to all of our dads, stepdads, granddads, and great granddads.
You've earned it and deserve it!



Get Well Wishes

Our warmest get well wishes go out to Susie Crouch as she recovers from her recent heart surgery. Looks like she is on the mend and will soon be able to take her place at the bridge table. We've missed your beautiful smile and twinkly eyes, Susie, and are so happy that all went well. See you soon.

Hardy, Har, Har



Daffynition:

Gerber Convention:



A meeting of baby
food manufacturers.

HATS OFF TO...



This month, a very special tip of the hat goes to the Unit 206 directors. These talented and knowledgeable people collect money, report results, resolve problems and make rulings, all with a smile and good humor. Every game at every club in the unit as well as our online games require their services so we'd like to thank them for taking time from their busy schedules to keep our games up and running smoothly. Thanks to Dan Chandler, Teresa Moore, Myra Reneau, Larry Reneau, Sue Riddle, Richard Spangler, Nancy Watkins and Mary Wyatt. We may not show it very often, but we do appreciate all you do.



Myra's Box

Let me just say that I am so glad F2F bridge is back! However, when the pandemic struck, F2F bridge was not an option. I quickly implemented online bridge (BridgeBaseOnline or BBO) as a way to keep revenue inflow to the Chattanooga Bridge Center. We still had a building to maintain - lights, water, cleaning service, taxes, roof repairs and other costs associated with our building. It is truly a blessing that we own our own building. Not all clubs are so lucky and sadly many F2F clubs folded during this difficult time.

I am reflecting on this time to say that "Online bridge" is here to stay in some form or fashion. The CBC has chosen to continue holding an online schedule with many opportunities for all levels of players to play, especially since we have not restarted any F2F night games. This month I just wanted to again outline the club schedule. We are in a partnership for 99er play with the district. Every time you play in that game, the CBC gets a part of your entry fee. Thank you for all of those that participate in that nightly.

99er Schedule:

99er play 7:00 pm Wednesday -through Sunday nights (if you are eligible to play in that game, it should show up as a choice for you)

The schedule for CBC online games is as follows: (and a SUPER BIG SHOUTOUT to those who are actively playing!)

2nd and 4th Mondays Mentor/mentee (mentee player under 500 typically) 7:00 pm

349er play 7:00 pm Tuesday evenings

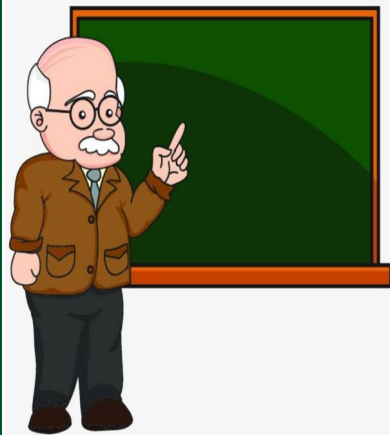
Open play 7:00 pm Thursday evenings (this game is stratified into true thirds, so any level is welcome to play)

Open play 10:00 am Saturday mornings (this game is stratified into true thirds, so any level is welcome to play)

These are the games that provide revenue to the CBC. We strongly encourage you to play in these games as your first choice. At other times you are welcome to play other places that are not over their "guest" quota. The club does not get any money from BBO or other virtual clubs that are not outlined above.

On that final note, if you have friends that want to play in our games, they are welcome as we are currently under our guest limits. Please just give me their BBO name in advance and they will be set to play.

PS — With F2F gaining momentum, we want to remind everyone about the parking lot. Please do not extend the front of your car over the line painted in front of the building. This gives a "clearance" walkway for people to enter the building. Also, use extreme caution when drive around the building. Our guttering system was run over last week. Sadly, this is not the first time this has happened



New Lesson Series

2-Way New Minor Forcing/XYZ

John Friedl is offering a series of at least four lessons on the bidding conventions known as 2-Way New Minor Forcing/XYZ. The lessons will take place on Tuesday afternoons immediately after the open game at the Bridge Center, beginning Tuesday June 7 and continuing throughout the month. The class should last no longer than 45-60 minutes.

There is a fee of \$20 for the series, with the entire proceeds going to the bridge club.

At least four sessions are guaranteed, with the pace of instruction adjusted to the requirements of the class. If we don't cover the topics in four sessions, classes will be added as needed at no extra cost. Additionally, if after completing the scheduled subject matter, there are others that those in the class would like to consider or discuss, we'll add them as well, also at no extra cost.

Note: These lessons are designed for intermediate and advanced players and not for beginners. If you are not currently using regular New Minor Forcing with your primary partners, or if you are using it but frequently miss the conventional bids when it is your turn to bid or when your partner makes this bid, then you probably won't derive any benefit from the lessons.

Dear Unit 206 Bridge friends,

For years, Unit 206, in conjunction with the ACBL, has hosted an annual fundraiser during the week of the summer solstice to support the Alzheimer's Association's **The Longest Day**. On behalf of your Unit 206 TLD Team, I thank you for your tremendous support in past years. Based on historical giving, can we meet a \$9,000 goal?

We will be face-to-face in 2022! This year's TLD fundraising games will begin on Thursday, June 16 and wrap up on Tuesday, June 21st - the actual summer solstice. The game schedule will be announced closer to these dates.

If you find it in your heart to make a donation and you wish to send a check, please make the check payable to the Alzheimer's Association and send it to our TLD Treasurer: Jan Alexander at 9419 Shadow Point Circle, Chattanooga, TN 37421. For those of you who prefer to contribute online, please follow this link: [Unit 206 TLD Donation site](#).

Every dollar you help raise benefits those affected by Alzheimer's disease in our community. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another type of dementia, killing more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. Your gift supporting The Longest Day helps the Alzheimer's Association continue their mission of finding the first survivor of this devastating disease.

Thank you for your participation. I hope to see you at the Bridge Center in June.

Mary Robertson
Unit 206 TLD Fundraiser Coordinator





MANNERS ARE IMPORTANT!

Respect the time of others



- ♦ We recommend that you arrive at least 15 minutes before starting time.
- ♦ Watch the timer and be considerate of others; move when the round is called. Don't move early or late; move only after the round is called.
- ♦ Have a completed Convention Card (both you and your partner).
- ♦ Make your opening lead or table the dummy before you enter the contract in your private score sheets or the BridgeMates. Remember the opening lead is to be led face down to allow for questions!
- ♦ Bid and play in a timely manner.
- ♦ When moving to a new table, make sure you are at the right table with the right opponents.
- ♦ Also check to see that Bridgemates and Place Card agree.



Hi All!

The Chattanooga Bridge Center will be having name badges made for all members who would like one. There will be no cost to you, and we can keep them handy at the bridge center or you may take them home. We believe these badges will be very beneficial in getting to know one another. Before the order is placed, I will need to know the name you would like on your badge in case it's different than what is in the directory. A list of members will be made available so please indicate yes or no next to your name. If there is anyone who should be included feel free to add the name on the sheet. If you have any questions, please text me at 325-812-3280 or email me at lbhway@pm.me.

Thanks!

Leigh Broadway



It's Time to Party Hearty!

As part of The Longest Day fundraising efforts, Unit 206 is having a party to honor our most recent lifemasters. Our regular third Friday Mentor/Mentee game on June 17 will provide the backdrop to the celebration Pat Whitaker has planned. We will pay tribute to **Leigh Broadway, Bob**

Chapman, John Graef, Ann Keown, Bob Tate and Mary Wyatt. Ed Eller will also be honored as he was unable to attend our last lifemaster party.

These players have worked hard to achieve this ranking, and we salute their efforts. If you would like to attend the event and are not signed up as either a mentor or mentee, text or call Sue Shramko at 423.304.7017.



Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Make sure to mark your calendar now so you won't miss our June game on the 17th at 12 noon. Remember—this face-to-face game is always the 3rd Friday of the month at the CBC. If you would like to play as either a mentor or mentee, text or call Sue Shramko at 404.304.7017.



May winners were:

North/South

1st	Susan Rothberger/Sandy Boone
2nd	Shayna Scott/Sue Ricker
3rd	Marilyn Shelton/Harold Peterson

East/West

1st	Larry Reneau/Leslie Nelson
2nd	Sandy Cervantes/Joyce Boatwright
3rd	Earl Rothberger/Gray Boehm

How would you fill in the blank? "To me bridge ____."

Unit 206's newest life master, Leigh Broadway, filled in the blank this month:

"To me bridge satisfies my love of cards and challenges my mind. Interacting with so many interesting and colorful people is just icing on the cake. Most of all, it gets me out of the house. You're welcome, John!"



Nooga East Bridge Club News

Every Monday, rain or shine, snow or sleet, there is a game at Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East Brainerd Road. Please arrive no later than 12:15 as the game starts promptly at 12:30. Call or text Sharon Lewis at 423.240.5360 or Teresa Moore at 423.321.2778 to let them know that you plan to be there. Everyone is invited to come, and we hope to see you there.



Cleveland Bridge Club News

The Cleveland Bridge Club would like to invite any and all players 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 Sullivan at 423.715.0986 or Teresa Moore at 423.321.2778. It is important to know who is coming so that in the event the Center should close unexpectedly, players can be notified.





Do you know.... Splinter Bids

A splinter bid is a convention in which a double jump response in a different suit shows at least 4-card support, 10-12 high card points, and a singleton or void in the suit bid, not including the ace or king. ACBL Hall of Famer Dorothy Hayden Truscott is credited with popularizing splinter raises in the early 1960's.

For example, a four clubs (4♣) response to a one heart (1♥) opening establishes hearts as the trump suit and indicates a singleton or void in clubs. With a strong hand, a responder and opener may be able to make slam on sheer strength, so splinters by responder are normally reserved for hands containing 10-12 high card points and a void or a small singleton in the splintered suit (but not a singleton honor). With the double jump, splinter bids use up bidding space, but they are very descriptive and help partner to reevaluate his/her hand. Soft honors (such as a king, queen or jack) in the splinter suit lose value, while honors in the other three suits gain value.

In showing shortness, responder is helping partner determine whether he has wasted values. For example, opener is happy to hold Axxx in the splinter suit; however, holding KJxx (also 4 high card points) is almost worthless.

Splinters are most often used after major suit openings. For example, after a 4♥ opening, 3♠, 4♣, and 4♦ are all splinter raises; after a 1♠ opener, 4♣, 4♦ and 4♥ are splinter bids. Opener can also make a splinter bid of responder's major suit. However, since responder is only promising 6 points, opener should have at least 15 high card points plus distribution points.

The four diamond bids in the following bidding sequences (with East-West passing throughout) are generally agreed to be splinter bids establishing spades as the trump suit:

North	South
1♠	4♦

North	South
1♠	1♠
4♦	

North	South
1♠	1♥
1♠	4♦



It's important that you and partner have discussed adding splinter bids to your convention card. From personal experience, I know that there is little worse than playing a contract of 4♥ with partnership holding only 4 cards in the suit—especially when 4♠ makes 6!

VOLUNTEER



We can use help for these upcoming Chattanooga tournaments:

August 26-28

September 30-October 2

**NLM (under 500 points) Sectional
Open Sectional**

Richard Spangler is the Unit 206 Tournament Chair, but he can really use your help with these events. In particular, he still needs to fill two vacancies: someone to co-chair the September tournament with him as well as a food chair for this same event. If you can help out or would like more information, you can contact him at raspangler58@gmail.com.

Bridge Tip for June



When responding to an opening preemptive bid, value your hand by counting tricks, not points.

William Root

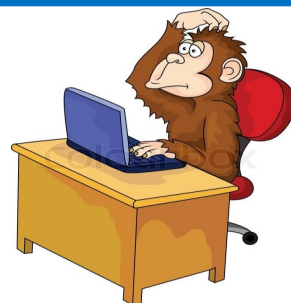
BRIDGE ETIQUETTE



It is important to remember that voices travel. At no time during the game should there be any discussion of the hands. Wait until the game is over for post-mortems. Not only is it illegal to discuss hands in front of opponents, it is usually not in the best

interest of a partnership effort. When North scores the result on the Bridgmate and offers it for approval, there should be no discussion of the hand.

Online Mentor/ Mentee Game



We heard you've been complaining that Monday night has become boring since summer reruns started. If that's true, why not try our online Mentor/Mentee games on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The fun and competition are sure to entertain you. Dates for this month are June 13 and June 27. The games are on BBO and start at 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to play with someone new. If you are interested, just send an email to **Bert Shramko** at stdoms48@gmail.com.

Put Your Thinking Cap On

Once again this month, Richard Pavlicek provides us with a challenging bridge puzzle. See if you can come up with the answer.

In a victory-point Swiss team event (playing 7-board matches), the sets of boards commonly used are Boards 1-7, 8-14, 15-21, 22-28, and 29-35. One of these sets of boards gives its table a slight advantage over all the others. Which set is it?



Boards 1-7 have two deals with both sides vulnerable and only one with neither side vulnerable. Hence, they offer the greatest potential for IMP gains or losses, which, of course, means more victory points.



*By Tyler Smith and
Marilyn Shelton*

Alert!

To continue our series of changes to the alert system, today we look at a change to jump shifts.

Now **no** natural and direct jump shift responses are alerted in an uncontested auction. This is referring to the bid made by responder after an opening bid, such as:

1♣ (P) 2♥, or
1♦ (P) 2♠

If the agreement is that the responder's jump shift is natural for the suit bid, of any strength, it is now no longer alerted. Our parents played these jumps as very strong and a few old school pairs still do. Some play these jumps as opening hands, but the most common practice is now a preemptive hand with 0-5 HCP.

If you are not sure of the strength of your opponent's bid, you are welcome to ask. It has an unusually wide range of possibilities (zero to unlimited points). Make sure you protect yourself by asking what range your opponents play if you have a bid to consider.

Remember that this change is only for opener and responder, only when there is no interference, and only when the agreement is that the suit bid is natural showing length in that suit.

If you would like to get more information on the recent alert changes, you can visit <https://www.acbl.org/red-alert>.

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Here's a section of the convention card that hardly ever gets discussed. How many times have you heard the question: "Partner, if you overcall and I bid a new suit, is it forcing?" I'm guessing the answer is somewhere between zero and none. But the good folks at ACBL must have some reason for including this information in their standard convention card. So let's dive a little deeper and see what it's all about.

SIMPLE OVERCALL	
1 level _____ to _____ HCP (usually)	
often 4 cards <input type="checkbox"/>	very light style <input type="checkbox"/>
Responses	
New Suit: Forcing <input type="checkbox"/>	NFConst <input type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/>
Jump Raise: Forcing <input type="checkbox"/>	Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input type="checkbox"/>

The first line is pretty straightforward – what do you expect partner to have when she makes an overcall in a suit after the opponents open the bidding? This section applies only to overcalls in a suit; if you have a balanced hand with a stop in the opponent's suit you can bid 1 No Trump with 15 to 18 high card points. If you have more than 18 (don't laugh – I had that hand once!) you double first, then bid No Trump when the auction comes around to you again. And if you have fewer than 15 without a good suit to bid and the wrong shape for a takeout double, you probably have to pass and wait to see what happens next.

For an overcall in a suit, on the upper end, you should probably have a limit of about 16 high card points. With more than that, you should double first, then bid your suit at the next turn. That's the only way you can show a big hand. So let's put 16 in the second blank space.

What about the lower limit? Would you overcall with a suit like AQJxx and no other high cards? If so, then put 7 in the first blank space. If you and partner agree that you should have something closer to an opening hand, then write in 10 or 11 or whatever you agree on. The main thing is that you discuss this with partner so that you don't have a misunderstanding that results in a huge negative score.

Will you overcall a suit with only four cards if you have at least three honors – something like AKQ10? If so, check that box. Is your style very light – overcalling with six or seven points and a ragged five-card suit? That's becoming more common among experts, and if you're so inclined, check that box too. Again, be sure partner knows what to expect.

Now comes the hard part. What if partner overcalls in a suit and you bid a different suit? For example, your left-hand opponent opens the bidding 1 Heart, partner overcalls 2 Diamonds, right hand opponent raises to 2 Hearts and you bid 2 Spades. Is your bid forcing? Not forcing but showing a good hand and a good suit (constructive)? Or just any old hand with a five-card spade suit (non-forcing)?

Time out for a quick talk about math. In a 40-point deck it is possible for three hands to have opening values. If you typically open a 12-point hand, $3 \times 12 = 36$, and there's enough left over for the fourth hand to hold an ace. And if you add distributional values, the fourth hand could have an ace and a jack or a king-queen combination, enough to raise the opening bidder to the 2-level in her suit. In the example I gave above, you could have a hand like this:

AK1095 3 Q74 Q983

Continued on the next page.

One Last Thing...continued

You could raise partner's 2 Diamond overcall to 3, but it's not unreasonable to hope to find partner with 3 spades and a hand like this:

Q84 762 AK1095 K2

Put these two hands together and you're odds-on to make 4 Spades, maybe with an overtrick.

On the other hand, if partner overcalled 2 Diamonds with just AK1095 of diamonds and no other honors in her hand, you'll be lucky to make 3 Diamonds, and you don't want to push the auction too high.

So, back to the original question: Is a new suit bid by you (the "Advancer") after partner's overcall forcing, constructive, or non-forcing? I'll bet if I went around the room and looked at everyone's convention card, at least half of them wouldn't have anything checked in this line.

I don't have an answer to this question, because it depends on what you and your partner have decided to do in the first line. If your overcalls tend to be weak, then a new suit by Advancer should probably be non-forcing and constructive, giving partner the option of passing if she can tolerate your suit and doesn't want to get too high in the auction. If your overcalls tend to be stronger, close to an opening bid or better, then you can treat a new suit by Advancer as forcing, showing enough to at least invite to game. But a word of caution here: if you are going to make a forcing bid in a new suit, it's best to have some tolerance for partner's suit so that you have a safe place to land if the opponents level a penalty double against you.

Last but not least, what do you do about a jump raise? Is it forcing, invitational or weak? My inclination in this situation is to treat a jump raise as weak, taking up the opponents' bidding space and making it more difficult for them to find their best contract. The auction would be something like this:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	2♦	2♥	4♦

I would expect to have something like five diamonds and 4 to 7 high card points, a little more if I'm vulnerable. If I have a really good hand with support for diamonds, I have a better bid available – a cue bid of 3 Hearts. This forces the auction to at least 4 Diamonds, and it gives partner a suggestion for a possible save at 5 Diamonds if the opponents bid to game.

However you decide to treat these bids, I encourage you not to skip over this box when you're filling out a card with a new partner. This is a situation that comes up very frequently in the course of a day's play, and it's always a good idea to be prepared in advance for something that is likely to arise at the table.

By the way, I thought I'd share with you a new bid I learned while playing in Florida this winter. It's called the "Reverse Upside-Down Polish Redouble." I was playing against a pair I hadn't met before, and it was also their first time playing together. In the first hand of the day, my left-hand opponent opened the bidding with 1 Club, partner passed, and right-hand opponent (named Samuel Kozlontovich) hemmed and hawed and after a long pause, pulled out the blue XX redouble card and placed it backwards and upside-down on the table. I called the Director, who came to the table and asked Mr. K what he meant to do. He replied "I don't know – isn't this the Canasta tournament?"

Have fun and play well!