

LIBRARY CORNER

100 Winning Duplicate Tips, New Edition

Ron Klinger

Even though the words "new edition" appear in the title, this book has been around since 1991. That does not mean readers cannot learn from its contents. At the time this book was published, Klinger had written over 50 books. It is a certainty that he has added to that number since then. The five sections in this book cover constructive bidding, competitive bidding, opening leads, declarer play, and defense. To help you put his advice into practice, example hands are provided. In the introduction, Klinger reminds duplicate bridge players that "the yardstick for success is thus not the size of the score but the frequency of outscoring your opponents." His tips are provided with the intent of helping the reader develop his/her best strategy for bidding, playing the hand, and defending in match-point pairs games.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

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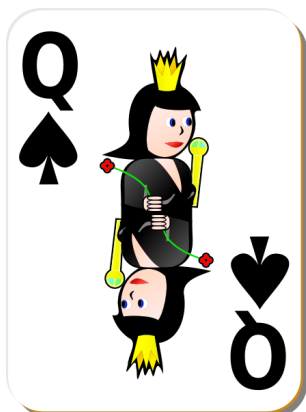
A message from the president...

I can't believe it is March. We have two special events in particular that you should note this month.

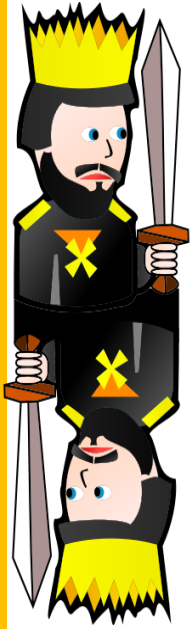


Saturday, March 5 is a team game at the bridge center. MJ Levine and Judy Monen are preparing corned beef and cabbage. Please bring a side or dessert, and join the fun. There is more information about the game inside the newsletter.

Friday, March 11, 2022 - Sunday, March 13, 2022 is our Spring sectional. This was last held in March of 2020! I know we are all excited to return to tournament play. Please support our tournament, and come earn some points! For more information and game times, please go to our website at Unit2016acbl.org and look under the tournament tab. We will be providing individually wrapped snacks so NO COOKING needed. To offset our expenses for these snacks, please donate an amount that you would usually spend on food - or more!! There is an envelope at the bridge center for your contribution. Hope to see you there.



Iris



A Smidgen of Smith

Should I Save?

As much as we all hate to lose a bidding war, sometimes it's right. Outbidding your opponents at the 5-level is one of those times. Most bridge players tend to "bid one more" when they don't know what to do. This might be a good idea at low levels because it's hard to set opponents at the 2-level but be careful at the 5-level. It's usually wrong:

It was a phantom save - opponents were not making their contract.

You go down too many:

Need to take 10 tricks Vul against Not Vul,

Need to take 9 tricks at equal Vul

Need to take 8 tricks Not Vul vs Vul

If you want to save, you need extra trumps, distributional values (another long suit), and few defensive tricks.

Strategy differences exist between matchpoint scoring and IMP (team) scoring. IMP saves are far less common because a phantom save can turn a small plus into a potentially large minus. At matchpoints, you may get one bad board. At IMPs, you could lose a match.

The Law of Total Tricks is a good guideline to follow if you are thinking of saving:

If you have 9 trumps, bid to the 3-level

If you have 10 trumps, bid to the 4-level

If you have 11 trumps, bid to the 5-level

Never make your sacrifice bid when it's the "last guess." If you are going to save, do it as soon as you can. Don't wait to see how high they are willing to go. Take up their bidding room so they have the "last guess."

Speak now, or forever hold your piece

Ron Smith

Bridge Tip for March

Upgrade honors in Right Hand Opponent's suit. Downgrade honors in your Left Hand Opponent's suit.



Marty Bergen

Online Mentor/Mentee Game



Our online Mentor/Mentee games this month are scheduled for March 14 and March 28, at 7:00 pm on BBO. If you would like to play, either as a mentor or mentee, send an email to **Bert Shramko** at stdoms48@gmail.com.

FAIRYLAND BRIDGE CLUB

Fairyland Bridge Club held a fun and festive Valentines Party and the members were good sports with the silliness.
Hmmm...wonder what we have up our sleeves for March 17?

Y'all come join us. Mountain City Club, Thursday, 10:15. AND there's free parking! Please RSVP to Susie Crouch.

See you at the bridge table,
Suzy

Pictured clockwise from top right are Suzy Bryant and Susie Crouch; the Valentine Grinch, Dan Chandler; Susan Rothberger and Buddy Landis; and, Shayna Scott.



Hardy, Har, Har

In a novice game, the declarer calls the director over to the table and tells him he is playing a slam contract, and he has won the opening lead and played the ace and ruffed a diamond, then ruffed a heart and then ruffed another diamond. The director, impressed, asks him why he has been called over. The declarer tells him that the contract is 6NT!

Eddie Kantar

HATS OFF TO...

A tip of the Unit 206 hat this month goes to our trusty librarian, Cheryl Whitfield. For more than 15 years, Cheryl has dedicated her time and talent to keeping our bridge library up-to-date and looking good. She researches which are the best bridge books to buy, purchases the books, sorts them, keeps track of all books checked out and returned and gently reminds us if we have failed in our duty to return a book in a timely period. She maintains an accurate inventory and occasionally culls the shelves when she needs additional space for new purchases. Thanks, Cheryl, for your hard work!





Oh, The Fun We Had!!

What a great time we all had at our special February GNT qualifier. A delicious Sloppy Joe chili (you read it right!) and navy bean soup warmed our tummies as well as our cockles! The scrumptious extras provided by the players added just the right amount of sweet and savory to make the afternoon complete.

If all that delectable food wasn't enough, the game that followed brought not only challenges to the players, but laughter and fun as well. The top three teams:

First Place:

Larry Reneau
Joe Viola

Myra Reneau
Mary Wyatt

Second Place:

John Felker
Stephanie Felker

MJ Levine
Margie Moses

Third Place:

Cal Brassfield
Cheryl Whitfield

Frank Hughes
Sandy Cervantes

Don't miss this month's fun — we have another GNT qualifier on Saturday, March 5. This month we will commemorate St. Paddy's with corned beef and cabbage. Who can resist?



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, March 5

Special Team Game, 11:30 a.m.

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13

Chattanooga Spring Sectional

Monday, March 14

Online Mentor/Mentee Game, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 18

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

Monday, March 28

Online Mentor/Mentee Game, 7 p.m.



Put Your Thinking Cap On

Thanks to Richard Pavlicek for this challenging bridge puzzle. The answer is at the bottom of the column, but don't peek — see if you can come up with the answer on your own.

On the last board of a Swiss team match, the contract at one table was four spades doubled, which was made exactly, vulnerable. The same contract was reached at the other table, but it was *not* doubled. Amazingly, the board was a push! How can this be?



At the other table, four spades was reached by the opposite side after a bidding mishap. This was set eight tricks (vulnerable) for 800, which is a push compared with 790 for making four spades doubled. (The IMP scale nullifies the 10-point difference.)

Answer:

Buona Fortuna

Since football and the Winter Olympics are over, you may be experiencing withdrawal and need to find something to satisfy your competitive passion. Look no further. Bridge's answer to your craving is the upcoming World Team Championship to be played in Salsomaggiore, Italy, from March 27 to April 7. Here are the teams that will represent the USA in these games:



BERMUDA BOWL:

USA1: Nick Nickell-Ralph Katz, Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson, Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein, NPC Jill Levin

USA2: Warren Spector-Gavin Wolpert, Kevin Bathurst-John Hurd, Vince Demuy*-John Kranyak, NPC Kent Mignocchi

VENICE CUP:

USA1: Pam Wittes-Shawn Quinn, Emma Kolesnik-Amber Lin, Cheri Bjerkan*-Rozanne Pollack*, NPC Joe Stokes

USA2: Lynn Baker-Karen McCallum, Jill Meyers-Kerri Sanborn, Janice Molson-Sandra Rimstedt*, NPC Sam Dinkin

WORLD MIXED TEAMS:

USA1: Andrew Rosenthal-Debbie Rosenberg, Dana Berkowitz-Eldad Ginossar, Migry zur Campanile-Chris Willenken, NPC Jeff Aker

USA2: Linda Lewis-Paul Lewis, Disa Eythorsdottir-Mark Itabashi, Ljudmila Kamenova-Ron Smith, NPC Kay Enfield

D'ORSI SENIOR BOWL:

USA1: Mike Levine-Eddie Wold, Mark Lair-Mike Passell, Jeff Meckstroth-David Berkowitz*, NPC Bob Morris

USA2: Bart Bramley-Kit Woolsey, Dan Morse-Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Bob Hamman*-Peter Weichsel*, NPC Joyce Goldstein*

Players who have been added to qualified teams and approved by the Credentials Committee



Chattanooga Spring Sectional Tournament

It's not too late – you still have time to find a partner for the upcoming sectional tournament at the East Ridge Community Center on March 11-13. Or, you could contact Mary Robertson (423.605.7708), who is heading up the partnership desk, and volunteer to play with an out-of-towner. On Friday and Saturday, 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. For more information, a flyer is posted on our website (unit206acbl.org).

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

See you there!



Do you know....

What's a Sandwich No Trump?

The Sandwich NT is a conventional bid (**alertable**) of 1NT after opponents have bid different suits. It is cousin to the Unusual NT in that it shows a weak, 2-suited hand with at least 5-5 shape (although some will play 5-4 shape at favorable vulnerability). The purpose of this bid is to compete with weaker hands at a lower level. The Sandwich NT bid gives up the meaning of a full, natural NT bid, but most experts agree that this bid rarely occurs when both opponents have bid. The name is derived from the position of the advancer—he is “sandwiched” between the two opponents.

Look at the following example:

You hold:	♠ 3 ♥ AT762 ♦ KT943 ♣ 93	North 1C	East Pass	South 1S	You ?
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Here, you would bid 1NT (Sandwich NT) telling partner that you have a 2-suited hand with diamonds and hearts (the 2 unbid suits). With only 7 points, you would be most comfortable playing at the 2 level. Bidding the UNT would show better values since partner must bid at the 3 level and a TOX would show more strength and less distribution.

With the following examples, you may choose different approaches:

Hand 1 ♠ 3 ♥ AK632 ♦ AQ874 ♣ 93	Hand 2 ♠ 3 ♥ KJT982 ♦ KQT87 ♣ 9	North 1C	East Pass	South 1S	You ?
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With Hand 1, you have opening values and can make a TOX to show a hand this strong. With Hand 2, your hearts and diamonds are better (6/5 distribution with 9 HCP versus 7 and good intermediates). You may want to make a preemptive 2NT bid to make life difficult for the opponents.

In response to the Sandwich NT, partner is expected to bid one of your two suits if LHO passes. A jump raise is preemptive, non-forcing and shows at least 4-card support.



FF2F

Friday Face-to-Face



Everyone has a great time at our Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee game. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss the March game on the 18th at 12 noon.

February winners were:

North/South

1st-Shayna Scott/Barbara Anderson
2nd-Barbara Saben/Anne Donnovin
3rd-Susan Rothberger/Sandy Boone

East/West

1st-Larry Reneau/Geof Workinger
2nd-Janie Hunt/Sue Ricker
3rd-Bruce Antman/John Hubbard



March Special Game



Our March special game is another Grand National Team Qualifying game on Saturday, March 5, at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Lunch will be served at 11:30 with the game to start at noon.

MJ Levine and Judy Monen decided this was the perfect time to honor the more than 31.5 million Americans who claim Irish ancestry (including exactly half of all U.S. presidents) so the main course this month is corned beef and cabbage! All you need to do is bring a side dish or dessert, find that gorgeous green sweater you stored away, and arrive ready to enjoy a fun afternoon.

Go n-eiri leat!
Mark your calendar.
March 5, 11:30

How would you answer the question...
"To me bridge is _____ .?"

The spotlight this month shines brightly on Ian Madden whose response really made me chuckle:

To misquote Erich Segal, "Bridge means always having to say you're sorry." But, aside from the game itself, I enjoy tournaments and running into friends I haven't seen for awhile. My previous reunion record of 30 years was shattered at the last Gatlinburg regional. I found myself in the same pairs section with a friend after 45 years !"



BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Remember when you're at the bridge table, it is important to bid and play "smoothly" and

in tempo without hesitations, gestures or mannerisms.



Cleveland Bridge Club News

The Cleveland Bridge 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 Sullivan 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.

(Editor's note: Oops. Before leaving for Florida, John submitted several articles for "Alert," and it is unfortunate that your editor reversed their order. This article on Jacoby 2NT should appear prior to the splinter article in last month's issue. Mea culpa.)



One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

In this month's column we're going to explore the Jacoby 2NT bidding convention. For many novice players, after they have learned the basics of bridge and started to expand their repertoire of bidding conventions, this is one of the first gadgets they learn about. Unfortunately, their understanding of the use and application of this convention often tends to be superficial and fails to extend beyond the first series of bids.

First the convention: when partner opens 1 Heart or 1 Spade in first or second seat (which means you have not passed), and your right-hand opponent passes, if you hold at least 4 cards in partner's major suit, no singleton or void, and at least a minimum opening bid (12 or more points), you bid 2 No Trump to describe that hand.

Opening bidder now has a choice of rebids to describe his hand. If he bids a different suit at the 3-level, he is showing shortness – a singleton or void. A rebid of 3 of his major suit shows a hand worth 18 to 21 points and no singleton or void. A rebid of 3 No Trump shows a hand worth 15 to 17 points and no singleton or void. A bid of a different suit at the 4-level shows a second suit at least five cards long, preferably with two of the top three honors. (Note that there will also be a singleton or void in that hand, but it is more important to describe the strength and length of a second suit.) And a rebid of four of opener's major denies a singleton or void and shows a hand with 12 to 14 points.

If you are the Responder and your partner has now made a second bid, how do you apply the new information you've received? The answer goes to the underlying purpose of this convention. The goal of the Jacoby 2NT convention is to help you find a major suit slam when the combined values in the two hands are less than the standard 33 high card points typically considered necessary to make a slam. Using Jacoby 2NT to uncover a good fit with partner's hand, you can often bid an excellent slam with as few as 26 to 28 high card points.

Let's look at some of the factors to consider. Say you have a hand with 12 to 14 high card points that contains a worthless suit with 3 low cards, something like this:

Hand #1 ♠KQ82 ♥983 ♦AQ109 ♣K3

If partner opens the bidding with 1 Spade, you would bid 2 No Trump. Let's say partner then bids 3 Clubs or 3 Diamonds. You have wasted values in these suits opposite a singleton or void.

But now let's consider what happens if partner rebids 3 Hearts, showing a singleton or void in that suit. Now all your values in the minor suits are opposite partner's values in those suits, and instead of a deck with 40 high card points you are looking at three suits and 30 high card points. If partner has a hand like this:

♠AJ543 ♥4 ♦KJ3 ♣A1075

you now have a laydown 12 trick spade slam with a combined 27 high card points. If the trump suit splits 2-2 or 3-1, you will collect 5 spade tricks, 4 diamond tricks, 2 club tricks and a club ruff in dummy, losing only one heart.

Continued on the next page.

One Last Thing...continued

But if you switch the hearts and clubs in your hand you have a sure loser in hearts and another in clubs and no chance at slam. This would be your hand:

Hand #2 ♠KQ82 ♥K3 ♦AQ109 ♣983

The concept behind the Jacoby 2NT convention is that you want to identify shortness in one hand opposite length but no high honors in the other hand, so that you can ruff losers without wasting high card values. It is important that when you make the 2NT bid you know what to do next, depending on partner's second bid.

In the situation where the opening bidder shows shortness in a suit where you have high card values, it is usually best just to go straight to game in 4 of the major. So in our example of Hand #1 if partner's rebid was 3 Clubs or 3 Diamonds you would just bid 4 of his major.

But what do you do when he shows shortness in your weak suit (Hearts in Hand #1)? Now you should want to explore the possibility of slam, and you would do that by making a control bid or some other bid below the level of game. With Hand #1 you could do this by bidding 4 Diamonds, showing the ace of diamonds (and incidentally, denying the ace of clubs). Now if Partner knows you have that ace and you are interested in slam, and his hand looks like a good fit, he can explore slam by bidding 4 No Trump (Key Card) to see if you also have the king and queen of spades.

What if opener's rebid is 3 of his major or 3 NT? Now you have to evaluate your hand to determine whether the additional strength in opener's hand makes slam worth investigating. If so, you cue bid below game to show an ace; if not, you sign off in game. Keep in mind that you have agreed on a trump suit, so any bid of another suit should show a first-round control.

If opener's rebid is a new suit at the 4 level, you have valuable information about the fit between your hand and partner's. For example, opposite Hand #1 if opener rebid 4 Clubs to show a 5-card club suit with the ace and queen, you definitely want to consider the possibility of slam and you would bid 4 Diamonds to see if partner has at least second-round control in hearts.

Of course, there will be times where you have much more than a minimum opening hand and you're interested in slam regardless of whether your partner has a short suit or a good five-card side suit. Nothing in this bidding sequence prevents you from continuing to explore. If partner's second bid is 4 of his major suit, showing 12 to 14 points and no singleton or void, you can still bid 4 No Trump asking for key cards. And if partner has extra values he can do the same if you sign off in game.

This discussion may sound complicated and confusing, but it is necessary to understand how to apply a conventional bid if you are going to use it with success. Memorization without understanding is not the path to winning bridge.



HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY!