

LIBRARY CORNER

The Complete Book on Hand Evaluation in Contract Bridge **Mike Lawrence**

The copyright date of this book is 1983, so it may not be as complete as it was when first published. But most bridge players can learn from anything written by Mike Lawrence, who is a prolific writer and teacher in addition to being one of bridge's great players. In his introduction to the book, Alfred Sheinwold, says it was written "by one of the best bridge minds of our generation." That is quite a pronouncement coming from another renowned bridge player/author. Lawrence in the Foreword states that "evaluation of the hand is the foundation of every close decision made at a bridge table." He takes the reader from evaluating common holdings such as singleton aces, ace doubletons, length in the opponent's suits, etc., to how to upgrade and down grade your holdings, splinter bids, evaluating good and bad unbalanced hands, and much more. Each chapter is full of example hands and commentary on what to do with those hands. The reader may have to go through the book more than once to fully grasp (or perhaps only partially grasp) all that is contained in it. But the effort taken to learn from Lawrence will be worth the time spent.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

May, 2022



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Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield



Spotlight on The Longest Day

The Longest Day is the day with the most light—the summer solstice. On June 21, people from across the world will join together to fight the debilitating darkness of Alzheimer's Disease. This year's 2022 fundraising event kicks off on Thursday, June 16 and runs through Monday, June 21.

I am so excited that this year's event can be celebrated face-to-face with special games and refreshments. Our goal this year is \$9,000. I know we can do it.

Lots of activities are planned including a Friday game with cookies and ice cream and Sunday games with a nice lunch provided. I am thankful for the continued support of the Chattanooga Bride Club, the Fairyland Bridge Club, the Nooga East Bridge Club, and the Cleveland Bridge Club.

Mark you calendar now so you can participate in all the Longest Day events. More information will follow.



Mary Robertson



A Smidgen of Smiths

Maximal Doubles

Have you seen "Maximal" doubles on your convention card (under Special Doubles)? You might even have it marked but aren't sure what it means.

The ACBL definition: The maximal double is a competitive double used by a player as a game try when the opponent's bids have left no bidding room to make any other form of game try.

The first requirement for a maximal double is that both pairs have agreed upon a suit during the auction. The most basic auction would be:

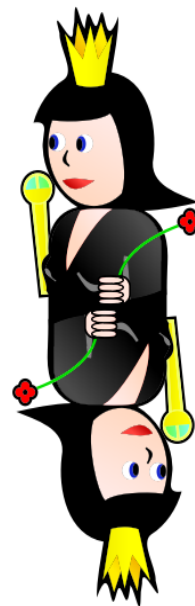
N	E	S	W
1S	2H	2S	3H
?			

Would 3S be a signoff or is it invitational to game? Enter the maximal double:

1. A double would be invitational asking you to carry on to game if you are on top of your raise. It is NOT a penalty double of 3H.
2. A 3S bid would be a signoff. You more than likely have a six-card spade suit and a minimum hand. You have at least 9 trumps between you and should bid to the 3-level (Law of Total Tricks). It is NOT invitational.

There are other situations in which maximal doubles apply, but note that, if there is a space between the opponent's suit and 3 of our suit, **maximal doubles are off**. As in the ACBL definition, you have no bidding room left to make any other game try.

If you play maximal doubles, you will no longer get raised to game when you just wanted to compete. It's a very handy convention.



Linda and Ron Smith



In Memorium



In preparation to send out this newsletter, Myra learned of the passing of Charise Ovalle. At this time, we have no further details, but Myra will keep us up-to-date as she receives further information. Our hearts and prayers go out to Charise's friends and family during this difficult time.

FAIRYLAND BRIDGE CLUB

Fairyland celebrated Easter and Passover with bunnies, an egg hunt and carrot cake. Kathy Ellis found the golden egg and won the Easter basket. This month, on the 5th, we will celebrate mothers by giving them a free-play. Hope to see you there.

Have a free Thursday? Come join the group at the Mountain City Club. Let Susie Crouch (susancrouch54@gmail.com) know you'll be there.

Pictured clockwise from right are Shayna Scott and Liz Norris; Kathy Ellis, John Felker, and Winnell Goodner; Suzy Bryant and Leigh Broadway; and, Rosalie Basten and Susan Rothberger.



Applause, please!

A round of applause, a slap on the back and some extra-towering "high fives" go out to Leigh Broadway, our newest Life Master. Leigh played in the Gatlinburg tournament last month and got all the gold she needed to join that ACBL rarefied ranking. Way to go, Leigh. So happy for you.



Hardy, Har, Har

Did you hear?

About the Elvis Presley coup? It's when your left-hand opponent leads from A-Q around to your K-x: the King is no longer dead!

HATS OFF TO...



May is the perfect month to give a tip of our "Derby" bonnets to our fantastic club manager, Myra Reneau. Myra makes juggling director responsibilities with her club manager duties look effortless. She is always "calm, cool, and collected." But, behind the scenes she has much to do to keep the CBC running smoothly. Some of her many duties are to answer our (often) foolish questions, file ACBL reports and forms, correct our scoring mistakes, be in the know about ACBL special games, stay on top of clubhouse situations, and most importantly, do it all with a smile. Thanks, Myra, .

CLASSIFIED ADS

Employment



Photographer Needed

If you are you looking for a rewarding part-time opportunity, you need 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 professional experience. All you need is a cell phone with a camera. If you think you have what it takes to fill this position, wait no longer. Contact Sandy Cervantes at 423.315.1953 or sandycervantesnm@gmail.com.

Third Request

(Have I not tugged on anyone's heartstrings yet?)

Myra's Box



Hi, we have decided to start a new column for Chattanooga Bridge Club news called "Myra's Box." This month I would like to enlighten everyone about our online games. During the pandemic, online bridge was a lifeline for our bridge club both financially and socially. Now that we are back face-to-face, we want to try to keep an online presence for a multitude of reasons. Because of this, I'd like to remind you of our online-game times. We do accept a limited number of guests; if you know someone from another club that would like to join us, just check with me. Usually, that will be fine. I need to register them prior to the game, but all I need is their BBO name. Also, for those who do not know (and as a reminder for those who do), if Unit 206 does not have an online game scheduled and you have less than 100 points, you can play in district-wide 99er games. These games should show up on BBO as an option in the evenings.

Our online game times are:

District 7 99er games (available when CBC does not have online games Wed-Sun) 7 pm

Tuesday 349er 7 pm

Thursday Open 7 pm

Saturday Open (only cancelled if there's an event at the club or a tournament) 10 am

I hope to see you at the virtual bridge table.



By Tyler Smith and Marilyn Shelton

Last time we discussed the new alert procedures and how they affected the basic Jacoby Transfers over 1NT.

This time we will review how the alert and announce procedure works for those of you who use four-way transfers:

If you open 1NT, and the response is:

2D: Announce "Hearts"
2H: Announce "Spades"
2S: Announce "Clubs"
2NT: Announce "Diamonds"

Note that any response to a club or diamond transfer is alerted as well, because some people play the "gap" bids (the bid in between completing the transfer) in different ways.

Even if opener is just seemingly "completing the transfer" to clubs or diamonds, it is still alerted because it means something different than bidding the gap bid (such as 1NT-2S-2NT -- which is also alerted). If asked to describe the alert, briefly explain the key difference between completing the transfer and bidding the gap, such as "Partner's bid shows a positive response for clubs, usually showing at least 3 clubs to an honor."

We will continue to explore other differences in the new Alert procedure, including jump shift responses and "top and other" bids in future newsletters.

Save
the
Date

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 7

Special 8 is Enough Game — Derby Theme

Monday, May 9

Online Mentor/Mentee Game, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 20

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

Monday, May 23

Online Mentor/Mentee Game, 7 p.m.



Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss our May game on the 20th 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 a mentor or mentee, text or call Sue Shramko at 404.304.7017.

April winners were:

North/South

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

East/West

1st/2nd	Donna Cart/Sara Mayo
Tie	John Felker/Leslie Nelson
3rd	Earl Rothberger/John Hubbard



We have two tournaments coming up later this year:

August 26-28

September 30-October 2

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

Richard Spangler is the overall Tournament Captain, but he can really use your help with these events. We need a Tournament Chair to oversee the tournament (with Richard's guidance), a Partnership Chair to help players find a partner, and a Food Chair to coordinate both snacks and meals. Please get in touch with Richard if you are interested or would like to learn more. You can contact him at raspagler58@gmail.com.



Bridge Tip for May

TIP!

Good spot cards enhance trick taking potential even though no point value is assigned to them.

Max Hardy

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

It is important to decide what you are going to bid before you start to reach for the bidding box. Once you are certain, take the bid smoothly from the box and place it on the

table. It is not proper to fiddle with the bidding box or "reach and unreach" while you are thinking of what to bid. Not only is this a bad habit that can be distracting to your opponents, it also may convey information to your partner.



Online Mentor/ Mentee Game

Are you getting those Monday blues and can't figure out how to get out of the doldrums? Why not try our online Mentor/Mentee games on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The fun and competition are sure to lift your spirits. Dates for May are **May 9** and **May 23**. Games are on BBO and start at 7:00 pm. This is also a great opportunity to play with someone new. If you are interested and would like to play, either as a mentor or mentee, send an email to **Bert Shramko** at stdoms48@gmail.com.

Let's Run for the Roses!

On Saturday, May 7, the CBC will have its very own "Run for the Roses." Beverly Richards and Linda McKinney are hosting an **8-Is-Enough Game** and plan to serve delicious BBQ. Players are asked to bring sides or desserts that would complement the main course. Lunch is at 11:30, and the game will begin promptly at noon. That leaves plenty of time to enjoy a challenging afternoon of bridge and still make it home to see who wins this year's Kentucky Derby.

These games are always fun and exciting. Remember, no team can have more than 8 points. All players are assigned a number 1, 2, or 3 depending on their MP level:

- 1—Players with fewer than 500 MP.
- 2—Players with 500 to 1500 MP.
- 3—Players with more than 1500 MP.

To help these ladies with their planning, there is a sign-up sheet at the CBC.

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

I certainly can identify with Doug Cart when he says,

"To me bridge is an **escape**. I can turn my phone off for 3 or 4 hours and no one can find me. Boy, is that great."



Nooga East Bridge Club News

Every Monday, rain or shine, there is a game at Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East Brainerd Road. The game starts at 12:30. You are asked to arrive no later than 12:15. 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. 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.... Who won?

The fun is over, and the players have returned home. The 45th World Bridge Team Championships held in Italy this past month have ended, and the results are somewhat disappointing for those of us rooting for the teams from the United States. USA1 did make it to the finals in the Wuhan Cup (mixed teams trophy), but lost to France 199 to 163 in the final.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Switzerland defeated the Netherlands 167 to 164. The general consensus is that the final turned out to be one of the most thrilling on record. The lead repeatedly changed hands, keeping the outcome uncertain until the very end. The championship was decided on the last board when the Netherlands stopped short of bidding a makeable game leaving Switzerland to enjoy their victory. USA1 tied with Norway for third place.

The women from Sweden retained the title they had previously won in Wuhan, China, securing the Venice Cup (women's team competition) by defeating Turkey 253 to 170. Third place went to the ladies from England.

In the d'Orsi Trophy, the team competition for senior players, Poland outscored India on each of the first three sets of the final. They were able to maintain their advantage to the end, winning by a score of 239 to 194. Denmark placed third with France coming in fourth.

The next major international competition is the World Bridge Series which will be held in Wroclaw, Poland from August 19 through September 3. This event includes a variety of team and pairs championships (Rosenblum Cup, McConnell Cup, Rand Cup, Mixed Teams, Open/Women/Senior/Mixed Pairs).

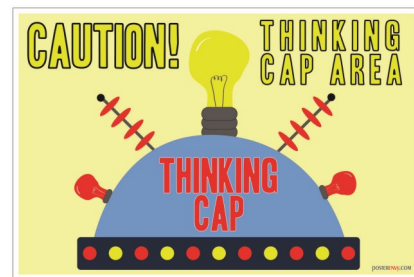


Put Your Thinking Cap On

Our puzzler this month again comes from Richard Pavlicek. See if you come up with the correct answer without peeking at the solution below.

What are the odds against being dealt all four aces?

- A. 4 to 1
- B. 64 to 1
- C. 256 to 1
- D. 378 to 1



(D) The probability of one player being dealt all four aces is calculated as $13/52 \times 12/51 \times 11/50 \times 10/49 = 11/4165$, so the probability of not getting four aces is $4154/4165$. Hence, the odds would be 4154 to 11 against, or approximately 378 to 1.

(As I typed the solution, I realized that I have to accept this information with blind trust. There is absolutely no way this English major could ever come up with these calculations. I wouldn't even know where to start. Can I count on our math pros to validate this answer?)

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

No doubt you've seen this box on your convention card. Perhaps you've even checked it as part of your agreement with your partner. But what is it called, and what does it mean? In this month's column we'll give it a name and explain how it works.

In Standard American bidding dating back to the days of Charles Goren, when partner opened the auction by bidding One Club, it was customary to respond by bidding your longest suit first, or when holding suits of equal length, to bid "up the line." If partner opened One Club and you held four or more diamonds and a four-card major, you would bid One Diamond as your first response, and then if the opportunity arose later in the auction you would bid your four-card major.

In the 1970s, Richard Walsh suggested a different approach, later popularized by Marty Bergen in his 1985 book "Better Bidding with Bergen." The **Walsh Response**, as it is now known, says that when Opener begins the auction with a bid of One Club, if Responder holds a 4-card major and 4, 5 or even 6 diamonds, if he has less than an opening hand he will bypass the diamond suit to bid One Heart or One Spade.

The theory behind this approach is that the primary objective of a bridge auction is to find an eight-card fit in a major suit. If no fit can be found, the next objective is to determine if a contract can be played in No Trump. And whenever the partnership finds itself in a No Trump contract, it is to their advantage to have the stronger hand be the Declarer, because when the stronger hand is Dummy it is visible to the opponents, making it easier to find the best defense.

When Responder's hand is not strong enough to force to game, the best approach is to seek a major suit fit of eight cards immediately, and bidding One Diamond introduces an extra step in the auction. Moreover, if Opener's rebid is One Heart or One Spade and Responder lacks 4-card support, it frequently falls upon Responder to bid One No Trump, thereby "wrong-siding" the contract.

Using the Walsh Response system, when Opener bids One Club and Responder bids One Diamond, Opener can rebid One No Trump with stoppers in the major suits, **even including a four-card major**, on the assumption that Responder does not have four cards in either major. This has the advantage of not only right-siding the No Trump contract, but also concealing Opener's major suit holdings from the opponents.

What if Responder has a stronger hand? With a hand of opening strength or better, Responder will still bypass a 4-card diamond suit to bid a 4-card major, but with five or more diamonds Responder will first bid One Diamond. If Opener then rebids One No Trump (which in this system does not deny a 4-card major), Responder can then **reverse** by bidding the 4-card major at the two level, which becomes a game force either in Responder's major (if Opener has four-card support) or in No Trump.

MINOR OPENING

Expected	Min.	Length	4	3	NF 0-2	Conv.
1♣			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1♦			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES

Double Raise: Force ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☐
After Overcall: Force ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☐
Forcing Raise: J/S in other minor ☐
Single raise ☐ Other: _____
Frequently bypass 4+♦ ☒
1NT/1♣ _____ to _____
2NT Forcing ☐ Inv. ☐ _____ to _____
3NT: _____ to _____
Other _____

Continued on the following page

One Last Thing...continued

Here are a few examples to clarify how the Walsh Response system works. In each case, Opener has opened the bidding with One Club.

1) K1043 85 AJ985 72

Responder bypasses the five-card diamond suit and bids One Spade. If Opener rebids One No Trump, Responder will pass.

2) KJ104 A85 AJ985 7

Responder bids One Diamond with a five-card suit and an opening hand, intending to reverse in the next round and bid Two Spades.

3) KJ104 A85 AJ98 75

With only 4 diamonds, Responder bids One Spade, intending to make a game-forcing bid in the next round. If Opener rebids One No Trump or Two Clubs, Responder can jump to Three No Trump. If Opener rebids Two Spades, Responder will raise to Four Spades.

The Walsh Response system has become standard practice among most advanced partnerships (unless they play Precision or another system in which One Club and One Diamond are artificial bids). If you and your partner adopt this system, be sure to check the box on your card. No Alert is required.



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.