LIBRARY CORNER

25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding Barbara Seagram & Marc Smith

Canadian Barbara Seagram is a best-selling and prolific writer of bridge books, having written or co-written over 30 books on various aspects of the game. In 1999 she won the American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year Award, and in 2012 ACBL named her number 40 out of the 52 on their list of the "most influential bridge personalities" during the 75 years ACBL had been in existence at that time. The Chattanooga Bridge Club library has 9 titles by Mrs. Seagram, several of which have titles that begin "25 Ways To . . . ," and all of which have much to offer to bridge players of all levels of play. In the introduction to this book on competitive bidding, the authors make an interesting comment: "If you are happy to pass once the enemy has opened the bidding, you don't need this book—you should buy one on opening leads and signaling, since you are going to be doing plenty of defending." The authors then set about showing their readers how to compete safely, keeping in mind that it is imperative the bidder and his/her partner be "on the same wavelength." Overcalls, takeout doubles, notrump overcalls, and bidding over preempts are some of the topics covered in this book. The book has plenty of examples to aid the reader's understanding of the concepts presented. If the reader wants to know if he/she has understood what the authors present in each chapter, example situations are presented at the end of each chapter, and the reader can apply the concepts learned. Clearly written and instructive, readers will find this book a valuable resource.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

July, 2022



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

As always, there are lots of fun activities coming up at our bridge center. You should all have received an email from Margie Moses concerning lesson topics for online bridge lessons by Michael Holmes. I know I'm looking forward to these lessons.



July 9 th, Myra and Larry are hosting a salad lunch followed by a pairs game. Lunch will be at 11:30 with the game at noon. This will be a NAP game with extra points. The more players, the more points! Please bring a salad, fruit, appetizer or dessert to share. Thanks to Leigh Broadway and your board, we also have a special surprise to present that day!

Our new Website is nearly ready! It may even be out by the time you read this. Please be sure to take a look at it. I think you will like it, and I hope you will find it very useful and up to date. Check it out!!



I want to give a big shout out to Mary Robertson and her committee and to all of you for the very successful "Longest Day" fund raiser. We truly outdid ourselves. We should be super pleased with our contributions to this cause.

Until next month,

Iris



A Smidgen of Smiths

Linda and Ron Smith

Your Bid Should Send a Message to Your Partner

In first seat your partner opens 1 heart. Your right-hand opponent (RHO) bids a preemptive 3 clubs. You are next to bid. What would you bid with the following hands?

(1)	 AQxx	♥ J10xx	◆AQx	♣ XX	
(2)	 AQxx	♥ J10xx	◆Kxx	♣XX	
(3)	 Axxx	♥ J10xx	♦Kxx	♣XX	

On hand (1) you should cuebid 4C. This tells your partner you have heart support and an opening hand. It says nothing about your club holding. This is a good message for your partner.

On hand (2) you should bid 4H. You only have a limit raise, but your RHO has taken away the bidding room to show a limit raise, so you take the high road and bid game. Another good message – you don't have an opening hand when you jump to game.

On hand (3) you should bid 3H. Just because your RHO has preempted, you still need to show your partner a raise. This is a hand that would normally go 1H-2H without the interference. The message is that you have less than a limit raise.

Be consistent with your bids, and your partner will have the right information to better evaluate their hand.



Ah, the things you hear at the bridge table!

Joe Viola and Myra Reneau recently clued me in on a defensive move called the "Stripe-Tailed Ape Double," a strategic double of an opposing game contract. The player who doubles actually thinks the opponents can make a slam, but hopes they'll settle for the smaller score of the doubled game contract. However, clever opponents may redouble the contract, and here's where the name comes in. If the opponents do

redouble, conventional wisdom has the doubler running like a "stripe-tailed ape" to a (sometimes costly) sacrifice! Here's how it works:



The opponents are in $4\sqrt[4]{4}$ vulnerable and you double. They make 6 for 1190. You've pushed them to $5\sqrt[4]{4}$ and again you double giving them a score of 1050. Still both are better scores because if the opponents had bid their slam, they would have scored 1430. However, if the $4\sqrt[4]{4}$ doubled contact is redoubled making 6, the score is 1880. As they say, sometimes the best laid plans backfire!



FAIRYLAND BRIDGE CLUB

This coming July 7 Fairyland is having a party. We will have a "free day" to celebrate freedom. Members will not only play for free, but also lunch is on the house. So wear your red, white and blue (or we will do it for you!!) and come enjoy the fireworks. Of course guests are

always welcome, and we'd love to see

any and all who would like to join us. Guests pay \$6 to play and \$10 for lunch. Parking is free. Please RSVP to Susie Crouch: susancrouch54@gmail.com.

> Suzy Bryant President, FDBC



11/1/







Reports are that he is not quite this bad, but he has had to endure some pretty heavy duty repair work! Get well wishes go out to Lee Atchley as he recovers from tendon surgery. Iron man Lee was working out with his personal trainer when he unexpectedly tore his quadriceps tendon. Lovely nurse Suzanne assures us that he is on the mend and has been a model patient. She also says that right now, they are in a holding pattern regarding their upcoming travel, especially since his physical therapy won't start until early August. Prayers and good wishes go out for a speedy recovery.

Hardy, Har, Har

A man was playing duplicate bridge with his father, who had not played the game in many years. On the first hand, the father was the dealer. He looked at his cards and quickly said, "Pass." His son told him, "Dad, you have to use the bidding box." Looking a little confused (but wanting to do the right thing), his father picked up the bidding box and whispered into it: "Pass."

Thanks go out to Ana Roth from World Bridge for this bit of bridge humor.

HATS OFF TO...

This month we tip our hat to those who helped pull off our Longest Day fundraiser and achieve a resounding success: Mary Robertson and her dedicated team of volunteers. Jan Alexander, Leigh Broadway, Sandy Cervantes, Dale Robertson, Bert & Sue Shramko, and Myra Tatum went the extra mile to make sure Unit 206 realized its goal.

Our gratitude also goes out to the individual clubs in Unit 206 that donated free plays to the raffle effort, as well as each player who made a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or bought raffle tickets.

It was a true team effort and the results clearly show this. Hooray! We should be proud.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@



Myra's Box

North American Pairs time is here! Here is a link to the FULL District 7 Conditions of Contest for 2022-2023. The main piece of data is that the strats are set at A=Open, B= 0-2500 and C= Non Life Master <500 mps.

http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/coc/nap/07.pdf

You may ask, "What does that mean for me?" On the surface it is an "Extra Point" game. These are PAIR events and you qualify as an individual, not a pair. You are eligible to play at the next level by qualifying at the Club – 50% of the field qualifies. (You may have noticed there are online NAPs happening too). There will be District Finals in the future (note, no Unit Finals for 2022.) If you have interest in advancing please see me if you need more instructions. If you do well at the District level you could earn a stipend to use at the Nationals. Ask Bob Tate and Bob Chapman as they won this one year! ©

On the masterpoint front, ACBL is listening and trying to encourage F2F Bridge. Points earned online are being reduced, and points at Sectionals and Regionals are being increased. Hopefully you can attend a tournament soon! Richard can use lots of help in hosting Chattanooga Sectionals!

There is a wonderful surprise in store for those who come to the July special game. Be sure to find a partner to play in the game and come take a peek at the treat that awaits you.

Myra

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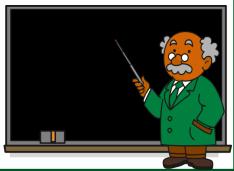
Can You Come Up With the Answer?

North has as many HCP as South and East together; West has as many HCP as North and East together. East has more HCP than South and no two players have the same number of HCP. How many HCP does each player have?

HCP East has 7, North 11 and West 18. jected because it gives Morth the same total as East. Hence, South has 4 the condition that East has mor HCP tan South, and the last (S=0) is retions: S=12 E=1; S=8 E=4; S=4 E=7; S=0 E=10. The first two do not satisfy and W=N+E, substitution produces: 35+4E=40, which has four integer solu-The deck has 40 HCP so we have the equation: N+S+E+W = 40. Since N=S+E

2-Way New Minor Forcing/XYZ

Thanks so much to John Friedl for his enlightening and defining series of classes on the elusive 2-Way NMF/XYZ conventions. There is still one class left, but as has come to be expected, John has taken a confusing and difficult convention and integrated the information into easily digestible portions. In fact, the portions are so palatable, that in our last Friday game, my partner quickly recognized my 2NT bid as forcing to 3C! Now, let's see if I can return the favor and make sure I bid 2D after his 2C invitational bid. That will be the decisive test of how well we've mastered the subject matter.





There'll Be Some Changes Made



Your board would like to inform you of several upcoming game changes. The Saturday BBO online game is cancelled effective immediately. Also, July will be the last month for our online 2nd and 4th Monday Mentor/Mentee games. The 3rd Friday Face-to-Face game will continue.

On Monday evening August 1, we will inaugurate our 349er game at the CBC at 6:00 p.m. This game will provide the perfect venue for newer players to earn points and "learn the ropes" in a more relaxed environment. The plan is to incorporate an educational feature (either a pre-game class or a post-game hand analysis); however, at this time, it has not been determined exactly how it will be structured.

Make sure to mark your calendar now.



From the desk of... Bert Shramko

One of the relatively unknown but long-standing duties of the Coordinator of Directors is to resolve members' concerns regarding directors. While the role of a director is difficult, I also believe they have been doing a very good job. Resolving any issues between directors and members is a difficult task, but resolution is needed for the benefit of all. This task is not all that unusual as there are similar procedures in place at tournaments. This description can also be found on our website under policy.

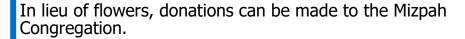
The following is from Chattanooga Bridge Center Coordinator of Directors job description adopted by the Board of Directors, March 23, 2010:

Handling Members' Concerns Regarding Directors:

- The coordinator will be the next line of communication for members who have been unable to resolve an issue through direct discourse with a director.
- After listening to the member's concerns, the coordinator will attempt to resolve the issue by meeting with the director in question.
- If the matter remains unresolved, the coordinator may bring the matter before the Board of Directors if he/she feels that it is appropriate to do so.

With Deep Sympathy

It is with a very heavy heart that we let you know of the passing of MJ Levine's husband, Howard. A service will be held on Tuesday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Mizpah Congregation Sanctuary, located at 923 McCallie Avenue. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club at 12:00 noon.







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.



Special Games

As part of our Alzheimer's fundraising effort, Unit 206 held a special team game on Sunday, June 19. There were six teams competing in the event. All enjoyed the delicious BBQ provided, and these teams enjoyed the added benefit of placing:

First Place: John Friedl Larry Reneau Myra Reneau Ken Thompson Second Place: Leigh Broadway Donna Cart Doug Cart MJ Levine Third Place Roger Briley John Graef Teresa Moore Bert Shramko

Don't miss out on our next special game on Saturday, July 9. It's a pair's game so talk to one of your favorite partners and come for lunch at 11:30. The game will start promptly at noon. Summer salad is the theme so bring one of your delicious hot-weather dishes to share (including desserts—we always LOVE desserts), and enjoy a challenging and fun afternoon of bridge. Beverages will be provided, and extra points will be awarded.

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss our July game on the 15th at 12 noon. Remember—this face-toface 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. June winners were:

North/South

Ken Thompson/Scotty Jones 1st 2nd Sue Shramko/Liz Norris 3rd Shayna Scott/Geoff Workinger

East/West

Stephanie Felker/Jan Alexander 1st 2nd Sandy Cervantes/Jane Bricard 3rd Myra Reneau/Gloria Poynter



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

John Felker is on the hot seat this month and says, "When people ask me what I think of bridge, I reply it is the greatest game [not just card game] ever invented because:

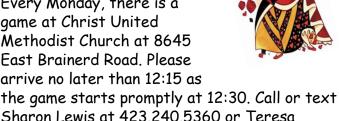
- a] You have to develop personal skills to be a good partner because your partner won't play well if you do not encourage her/him.
- b] Like chess, you have to use logic and plan 3-8 moves ahead when you are declarer.
- c] On defense, you have to make assumptions and have intuition to defeat declarer.
- d] You learn something new every time you play.
- e] You only have to be able to count to 13.
- f] Even if you're in a bad contract, you might make it if you can visualize a particular pattern the defenders could have.
- g] And, in Chattanooga, you get all this for only \$6 for 3+ hours.

Most people say, "What a Country!!" I say, "What a Game!!""



Nooga East Bridge Club News

Every Monday, there is a game at Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East Brainerd Road, Please arrive no later than 12:15 as



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.

To celebrate the 4th of July, come join us for an ice cream social.

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.

Another Nonagenarian— Wow, are we lucky!

On June 10, the CBC joined together to celebrate Bucky Hughes' 90th birthday. Although caught by surprise, the fashions gods worked their magic and (as you can see in the photo), just by chance had Bucky choose her clothes to match the beautiful decorations provided by Cheryl Whitfield. Bucky's Friday partner, Linda Metz, generously donated ice cream, plates and napkins, and a gorgeous, oversized balloon that summed it up, "It's All About Me!"

Bucky is a true testament to the important role bridge has in healthy aging. She has been active in the Chattanooga Bridge Center for years and, along with her husband Nat (below), was instrumental in getting our current location (and first clubowned building) built. Always modest, Bucky quickly points out

that she and Nat were not alone and that there were many players who took on active roles in achieving this goal. Today, she continues her involvement playing regularly at the club on Fridays, as well as a couple of times a month in our online Thursday game with son, Frank.



Happy Birthday, Bucky. You do us proud!

Get Ready for the World Premier

Margie Moses wants everyone to know that our new Unit 206 Website should be up and running sometime during the first week in July. Be on the lookout for an email message letting you know when it's fully functional.





How much more evidence do you need? Here's a photo of Norm and Gloria Poynter with Bert Shramko at one of our holiday parties. They are living proof of the spectacular benefits bridge has on aging, Taken over 10 years ago, these 3 don't look a day older today!





Calling all Non Life Masters

This coming month, Unit 206 is hosting a Non-Life-Master tournament right here at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Make sure to mark off Friday-Sunday, August 26-28, 2022, so you won't miss this unbelievable opportunity. Any NLM with less than 499 points is eligible to play. There will be morning and afternoon pair games on Friday and Saturday and a two-session Swiss Team game on Sunday. Pair games are stratified based on the player with the highest points. The Swiss stratification is based on team average.

This is a convenient (and obviously less expensive) way for local players to earn silver points and gain tournament experience. There is a flyer online, but if you need further information, you can contact Richard Spangler at raspangler58@gmail.com. Margie Moses (Margie.moses1@gmail.com) is the Partnership Chair.

And, don't forget—for our upcoming Fall sectional, Richard is still looking for a food coordinator and a tournament assistant.

Bridge Tip for July

If you know your side has at least 23 HCP and the opponents "have the bid," you only have two options! Double or bid on! Pass is not an option.



Mel Colchamiro

Online Mentor/Mentee Game



Still looking to charge up your life on Monday nights? Then, it's time to try our online Mentor/Mentee games on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The fun and competition are sure to add just the right amount of excitement to the start of your week! Dates this month are July 11 and 25. The games are on BBO and start at 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to play with someone new and perhaps pick up a few useful pointers. If you are interested, just send an email to Bert Shramko at stdoms48@gmail.com.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

It is important to remember not to give unsolicited lessons and/or advice to anyone at the *bridge table*. If your opponent or partner wants to know what they did wrong or how to better play or bid a hand, they can ask. It is better to keep one's own counsel even when you believe your advice would be beneficial.



LEARN BRIDGE IN A DAY

Learn Bridge In A Day is back! This is a fun day both for people who have never played bridge or who played in the past and are curious about getting back into our great game. It is also an opportunity for experienced players to come and act as table monitors to help participants feel comfortable and have fun. Lunch is provided as is a notebook detailing everything presented during the day includ-



ing copies of all the slides and exercises used during the course. Some 400 participants have been through this fun day. Many of the people playing in Unit 206 today began their bridge journey at a Saturday Learn Bridge In A Day. Obviously, participants will not as leave bridge experts, but should learn enough to make the decision as to whether or not they would like to continue on their own bridge journey.

The course will be held at the Chattanooga Bridge Center on Saturday, September 10, at 9:45. Cost is \$40. if paid prior to the event; if paid at the door, it is \$50. To register or volunteer as a table monitor, call Dan Chandler at 423.400.6999 or email him at danlchan@hotmail.com.

This is the perfect time to talk to your neighbors, your brother-in-law, your book club, your dentist, your pastor (in other words—everyone you know) to clue them in on just how much you love the game and why you think they would enjoy it also. You might mention the number of nonagenarian birthdays we have celebrated recently, and tell them about research that focuses on the important role bridge plays in healthy aging.

After Learn Bridge in A Day, Mike Holmes will follow up with a series of lessons to reinforce the knowledge learned and introduce new concepts. Beginning Bridge Lessons will start on the following Tuesday, September 13. The classes will be held at the Bridge Center and begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish at 11:00 a.m. This is an eight-week class. The cost is \$60. To register for the class, contact Mike at 303 928-0187 or email him at mdholmes8@yahool.com.



Education Corner

Mike Holmes and the Chattanooga Bridge Club are offering the first beginning bridge class "Bridge Basics I, An Introduction." This course is for individuals new to bridge or those who have been absent from bridge for a while. The course is a F2F course held at the bridge club. The first class will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. This is an eight-week course. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. and will finish at 11:00 a.m. The cost of the course is \$60.00.

Also, Mike Holmes is offering a Summer Convention Workshop. This is series of 6 classes where there will be a brief discussion of the convention followed by bidding and play practice. This is an online class that will be held on Wednesday evenings in July and August. The class will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. A posting has been sent out to the bridge club asking potential students to pick 6 conventions they would like discussed and practiced during these classes. The final picks will be sent out to the club on July 1st. We are asking students to sign up in advance for all or any number of the classes. The cost will be \$6.00 per class.

If you need more information, you can email Mike at mdholmes8@yahoo.com.

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Q-Q (Quantity and Quality)

Let's say you are the dealer and this is your hand:





♦AKJ52





You make the normal opening bid of 1 Diamond, fully expecting your partner to respond 1 Heart, your short suit. (My partners always manage to find a way to bid the suit for which I can offer no help.) But you are surprised when partner instead responds 1 Spade. Now what do you do?

I know many players who wouldn't think of raising partner to 2 Spades without knowing whether he has four or five cards in the suit. If he has only four spades you will be supporting him in a seven card suit, and no one wants to play a contract with a 4-3 trump fit. But what else can you do with your hand? You can't bid 1 No Trump with only a singleton heart, and do you really want to bid 2 Clubs with that collection of four losers?

I wouldn't hesitate in bidding 2 Spades with this hand. I have two honors in the suit, so good support. And I have a singleton which allows me to ruff a loser or two from partner's hand in the dummy with the shorter trump holding (that's always a good thing). I don't want to rebid my five-card diamond suit, and 2 Spades seems like the best alternative.

Okay, now let's put ourselves in Responder's hand. Partner raised our 1 Spade bid to 2 Spades, so what could he have? As far as strength goes, he didn't jump-raise so we know he has fewer than 16 support points, but at least 12 high card points for his opening bid. And he probably has four spades for his raise, but we can't be sure. Let's look at some alternatives for our next bid.

First, if we have a weak hand with four or five spades and six to nine points, we don't have enough for game even opposite partner's maximum rebid, so we just pass. If we have a strong hand with opening values and five spades, we are sure of at least an 8-card fit and the strength to bid game, so we just jump to 4 Spades.

It's that nettlesome in-between hand, invitational values of around 11 or 12 points, that gives us trouble. We don't want to jump to game opposite a minimum opening hand, and we aren't so sure about playing for 10 tricks in 4 Spades with only a seven-card trump suit if we can make 9 tricks in no trump. Also, we might have a better hand of 12 or more points, but only four spades, and we want to be in a game, but which one? How do we decide whether to play in 3 No Trump or 4 Spades?

Enter the "Q-Q" convention, sometimes also called "Spiral." I first heard it called the "Artificial 2 No-Trump Game Try." Whatever you choose to call it, here's how it works.

This is a bid used only by Responder. Partner opens the bidding at the 1-level and Responder bids 1 Heart or 1 Spade. Partner raises to 2 of Responder's suit. Responder now bids 2 No Trump, which is alerted and, if asked, Opener explains that it is artificial and forcing, asking Opener to further describe his hand.

Opener now has four choices of bids to make at the 3 level. Bidding a minor suit shows 3-card support for Responder's suit, and bidding a major suit promises 4-card support. 3 Clubs, the lower ranking minor, shows 3-card support for Responder's suit and a minimum opening hand of around 12-13 high card points. 3 Diamonds, the higher ranking minor, shows 3-card support and a better opening hand of around 14-15 high card points. 3 Hearts, the lower ranking major, shows 4-card support with a minimum opening hand, and 3 Spades shows 4-card support with a better hand. (Each of these bids must be alerted and, if asked, explained by Responder.)

Responder now has all the information he needs to proceed. He knows whether there is an 8-card trump fit, and also whether there is adequate strength in the two combined hands to venture on to game or stop in a part score. He can assume that Opener with only 3-card support has shortness in a side suit (otherwise, Opener

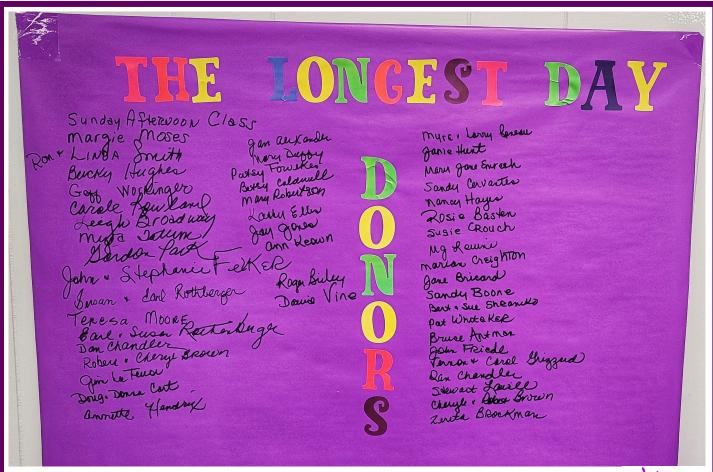
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One Last Thing...continued



would just rebid 1 No Trump). With a strong hand, Responder may choose to bid game in the major with a 4-3 trump fit, or he may instead bid 3 No Trump. With an invitational hand he can decide whether to stop at the 3-level or go on to game either in the major suit or in no trump. And if Opener's bid promises four-card support, Responder can proceed to game or stop at the 3-level if he needs better than a minimum opening hand from partner.

The Q-Q convention is a handy gadget for finding the information you need to get to the best contract. It does require some memory, both for the artificial 2 No Trump asking bid and for the 3-level responses. And if you and your partner are unlikely ever to raise each other's suit without four-card support, I wouldn't bother adding Q-Q to your convention card. But if you agree that the hand at the beginning of this column warrants a rebid of 2 Spades, then by all means consider adopting Q-Q. If you do, then write it in on a blank line at the bottom right section of your convention card under "Other Conv. Calls."



How great it is that Jan Alexander, Treasurer for The Longest Day fundraiser, is still counting money and has more names to add to the purple poster! Under Mary Robertson's expert leadership, Unit 206 has exceeded their goal of \$9000, shattering previous totals. Jan and Mary report that they should have a final accounting for the August newsletter.

Kudos, applause, a big high-five and heartfelt gratitude go out to all who contributed.