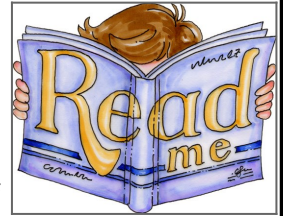
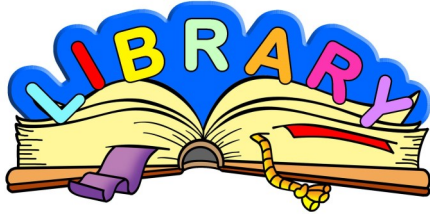


LIBRARY CORNER



Alphabetically by author beginning with *The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge* published by ACBL and ending with *Matchpoints, Second Edition* by Kit Woolsey, the Bridge Center library contains 500-plus books about the game of bridge. Ironically somewhere close to the middle of the collection is Mike Lawrence's book *The Complete Book on Balancing in Contract Bridge*.

With each new book order, a concerted effort is made to balance the collection, which began with a donation by Dr. Robert Ling of 200 books on the game of bridge. The Center's Board has allocated approximately \$300.00 each year to add to the collection. An attempt has been made throughout the years to **balance** the topics covered by the books added to the collection, considering both the topics and the skill levels addressed by new purchases. There is no card catalog per se, but Bridge Club members can leaf through the notebook in the library that contains a spreadsheet of all the titles available for checkout. Because the books are shelved by authors' last names, particular books are easy to find on the shelves once the author's last name is known. By next month, the latest purchases will be available for check-out. Members are encouraged to leaf through the notebook to see if there is any title that appeals to them—and then check the book or books out. This is a great way to improve your game.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

September, 2022



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

Myra Tatum is our member of the month. The board and I are very impressed with the amount of time and energy she has put into her new role as Treasurer. It has been increasingly necessary for us to have well prepared and accurate monthly financial statements. She has done more than just provide the board with these accurate numbers but has also helped analyze our revenue and expenses as we project our needs and income for the future. Her attendance at each meeting to answer questions has been extremely valuable. Congratulations and thank you so much Myra!



Many of you have noticed that the retaining wall at the back of our rear parking lot is not in the greatest of shape. This is an ongoing problem and has been discussed in prior years, but no action has been taken. The board has determined that it is time to replace this wall (repair is not an option). This will entail cutting some trees near the retaining wall, dirt work, ground work and concrete pouring. The cost for this project is approximately \$25,000 which will cut our cash balance in half. This is a problem! We have received several bids, and this was by far the most cost-effective approach.

The Board believes that the remaining cash balance of \$23,000 is not enough to maintain our facility and continue to provide a fun and safe place to play. Our table counts are down considerably since the pandemic. Rather than making money every month, we are currently losing about \$1,000 a month (not including capital expenditures like the roof and the wall—\$36,500). John Friedl is heading an ad-hoc committee to suggest the best ways to improve our financial position.

I will keep you informed about this process and what it will mean for all of us. I feel sure that we can all play a part in making sure our club remains healthy. Please consider ways that you can help and be sure to read the minutes each month for more information about what your Board is doing.

Iris



A Smidgen of Smiths

Leads Against No Trump - The Unblocking Play

Most of us lead 4th best against NT, but what do we lead when we have a sequence? For purposes of this article, let's assume you lead K from AK.

KQJ10x, QJ109x, J1098x:

Easy enough. You would lead the high honor. When you lead from a sequence, you should have at least the top 3 in the sequence. Your partner will be able to unblock his Ax, Kx, or Qx on the first trick, so they will not block the suit.

AKJ10x:

Now it gets interesting. Wouldn't you like to have a way to find out if your partner has the Q? Enter the unblocking play. On this holding we would lead the A (an unusual lead if you lead K from AK). This asks your partner to play the Q under your A (unblock). If they don't have the Q, they would give count. This will prevent you from setting up declarer's Q.

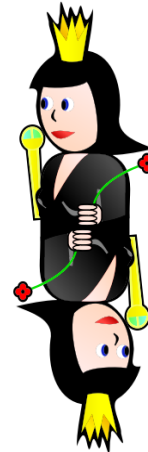
KQ109:

On this hand, you would lead the Q. If partner holds the J, they will unblock it. Again, if not, they will give count. If they hold the A, they will win it and lead it back.

KQxx, QJxx:

Lead 4th best from these holdings.

- ♦ So, if you normally lead K from AK, the rule to remember on leads against NT: Lead of the A asks for unblock or count; lead of the K asks for attitude.
- ♦ If you lead A from AK on leads against NT, reverse this rule: Lead of the K asks for unblock or count; lead of the A asks for attitude.



Linda and Ron Smith



DON'T FORGET— THERE'S A PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Would you like to play more bridge but need additional partners? Jan Alexander (janalexander@epbf.com) heads up our Partnership Committee whose purpose is to match players with other players looking for partners. The team will help both open and limited players (including new players). If you want to play more often, are willing to help a newer player, or are a new player looking for a partner, we are here to assist you. Just let us know, and we will coordinate the entire effort reaching out to players with similar conventions, skills or interest to get the first game going. Don't wait—take advantage of this opportunity to increase your playing time!

FAIRYLAND DBC

Because we love to adorn our members with hats, we held a hat contest. The top three finalists chosen unilaterally by the president were Davis Grizzard, Susie Crouch and Rosalie Basten. The members voted and Rosalie was the big winner.

We've also been treated to cookies, candy, brownies and chess bars this month. Thank you Susie Crouch and Carol Rowland for your contributions. Mountain City Club has been putting out a very nice buffet every week for a mere \$10!

With Labor Day coming up we want to honor our single employee as our Magnificent Member of the Month. He is our manager, director, room-setter-upper and the one to call to cover any other task that needs to be done. Currently, he is working on his serenity. Thank you for all you do Dan Chandler!

All are welcome to play with us Thursdays at 10:15. We have surprises coming so don't miss out. Please RSVP to Susie Crouch if you plan to attend.

**Suzy Bryant
President, FDBC**



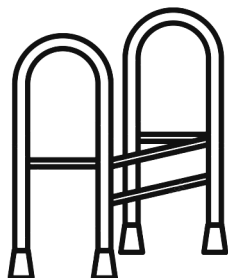
FDBC players adorned with their festive chapeaus: Dan Chandler and Davis Grizzard; Susie Crouch, Leigh Broadway, Joy Jones, and Kathy Ellis; Winner of the hat competition Rosalie Basten and Susie Crouch; and, John and Stephanie Felker.

*"When you wear a hat, it is like
medicine for the soul."*



Hardy, Har, Har

At the retirement home, the bridge game in the dining hall was just about to get underway when John, sitting South at Table 4, looked up and saw an elderly naked lady with a walker rush by. Shocked, he glanced over at Bill at Table 5 and blurted out, "Oh my gosh, what was that?" Bill who had a look of panic combined with horror quickly replied, "I don't know, but we better let the laundry know that they need to do a better job with the ironing."



HATS OFF TO...



Our hats in September are off for the two dedicated and unselfish leaders at Nooga East who always make our Monday bridge game fun and enjoyable. Although they run a tight ship, **Sharon Lewis** and **Sue Riddle** do so with lots of smiles and contagious chuckles. In fact, Mondays are always so pleasant that even if players forget and are caught with their phone on (remember that includes vibrating sounds, too), they happily pay the \$2 fine and consider it a small price to pay for a delightful afternoon. Thanks ladies for all you do.



NLM Tournament

Congratulations to the pairs who finished first at each session during last month's NLM tournament. ACBL will be posting the actual MPs at a later date.

First place winners were:

Friday AM N/W:

Barbara Anderson/Joyce Boatwright

Friday AM E/W:

Richard Bolles/Carol Houston

Friday PM N/W:

Margie Moses/Carolyn Robinson

Friday PM E/W:

Richard Spangler/Mary Jane Emrath

Saturday AM N/S:

Mary Robertson/Linda Metz

Saturday AM E/W

Joyce Boatwright/Leslie Nelson

Saturday PM (Howell)

Leslie Nelson/Barbara Anderson



Myra's Box



While I was running this summer for the ACBL Board, I got to meet Nicholas Hammond. He has done extensive research on the subject matter of cheating. During a group conference call he threw out that he would research any Club's cheating statistics. I knew what I expected from our players. I requested a summary from him on our online club, hoping that his report would match my expectations. Well guess what, it did. Below is his official report, **"NO CHEATING."** Thank you all for upholding the high standards of this "gentlemen's game" that we call bridge. I know we have an awesome bridge club!! Hope to see you soon at the bridge table.

Nicholas' report:

Cheating is around 2-5%.

You have 25 pairs with 1000 boards; no evidence of cheating.

You have 60 pairs with 500 boards (including the 25 above); no evidence of cheating.

Congratulations!

Myra

Bridge Quiz

You are sitting West and this is your hand:

♠ 7 ♥ A K ♦ Q 8 7 4 2 ♣ 10 9 6 3 2

The auction proceeds:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
PASS	2♦	PASS	4♦
PASS	4♠	PASS	PASS
?			

1. Would you act?
2. What do you lead?



Answers are on Page 10

September Special Game

What luck that you can have all your desires fulfilled in one fell swoop by attending this month's special game—a covered dish open pairs' party on Sunday, September 18. Make arrangements with one of your favorite partners and come on down to the CBC for fried chicken and delicious sides and desserts prepared by the players. Lunch will be served at 12:30; the game will start at 1:00.

Everyone knows there's no better combination than bridge and fried chicken. Once you add in those mouth-watering homemade desserts to which we have become addicted, you've got the perfect prescription for an ideal Sunday afternoon. Guaranteed. Be there or be square!



Monday Night 349'er Game

Our 349'er evening game started in August and is slowly but surely growing in size. For those of you who are newer players, why not take advantage of a game with a more level playing field. The game is stratified and starts at 6:00. It should end around 9:00. If players are interested, over time we hope to incorporate a short lesson prior to the game as well as have a post-game analysis of 2-4 hands. We look forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Special Game Play With Someone New

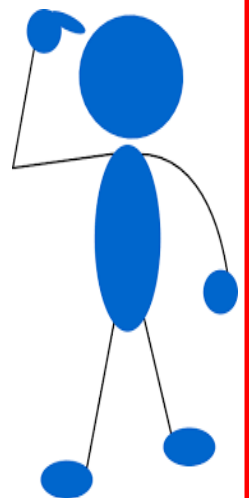
**Special
events!**

There is still time to zero in on that elusive special partner for the Tuesday, November 8, "Play With Someone New" open game. The CBC game starts at noon and your partner **MUST** be someone with whom you have never played. This game provides the perfect opportunity to expand your group of partners and possibly develop an ongoing partnership. If you need help finding someone, we can assist you. **NOW** is your chance!!

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

Dan Chandler, who rarely is without words, said he needed some time to think about how he would answer our fill-in-the-blank question this month. I only had to wait a short while before I received this thoughtful answer:

"To me bridge is opportunity: opportunity to compete with my peers; opportunity to shut out some of the problems of the world; opportunity to work on improving my mind; opportunity to be a good partner; and, occasionally, bridge gives me the opportunity to help someone else do the same. I guess you could say that it's a gift—a gift that keeps on giving!"



It's Time to Share the Fun

We know you love the game of bridge and just how much you want to share the fun. Why not encourage your family and friends to take the *Learn Bridge In A Day* course that will be offered at the Chattanooga Bridge Center on **September 10**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For \$50 if paid in advance or \$60 at the door, they can join us for a day of fun and excitement. This course is designed for people who played bridge in college; those who took classes years ago, but never had the opportunity to play; or, those who look at you with envy and admiration whenever you talk about your 7NT Grand Slam. LBIAD will help them learn the fundamentals, see if the game is for them, refresh their skills, and exercise their minds. Lunch and materials are provided.

Please note regular players at Unit 206 games receive a \$10 discount. The Chattanooga Bridge Center has developed some great plans for follow-up learning including a set of lessons by Mike Holmes, lessons by Suzy Bryant and Janie Hunt, a new game on Monday night for newer players, and more. But, it all starts with *Learn Bridge In A Day*! If you use Facebook, please put the word out to your friends, neighbors and family.

To register or for more information, you can email or call Dan Chandler: DanLChan@hotmail.com or (423) 400-6999. Also, please let Dan know if you would like to volunteer to be a table monitor.



New Class Offering Bridge Basics 1



The timing couldn't be better. Mike Holmes and the Chattanooga Bridge Club are offering the first beginning bridge class *Bridge Basics 1, An Introduction*. This course is for individuals new to bridge or those who have been absent from the game for a period of time. It is a face-to-face course that will be held at the CBC. The first class begins on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**. This is an eight-week course, and class begins at 9:00 a.m. and will finish at 11:00 a.m. The cost of the course is \$60.00.



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.

NEW AD-HOC COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors has created a committee to look into the long-term financial condition of our bridge club. We have to make a costly repair of the retaining wall at the back of our parking lot and that will significantly reduce our capital reserves. In addition, because of the reduced attendance at our club games since the onset of the pandemic, the club is currently operating at a loss each month. The new committee will be looking into ways in which we can return to a profitable month-to-month operation and increase our reserve funding. John Friedl will be heading up this group, and he asks that anyone with suggestions about either subject contact him at johnfriedl@epbfi.com.



Upcoming Special Games

Make sure you mark your calendar now so you won't miss the fun at these upcoming special games. More information will be provided as we get closer to the dates.

September 16, Friday	Mentor/Mentee Game
September 18, Sunday	Fall Covered Dish Pairs' Game
October 22, Saturday	Halloween Party Team Game
November 8, Tuesday	Play with Someone New!
November 13, Sunday	Dinner Casserole Pairs' Game
December 10, Saturday	Christmas Party STaC Pairs' Game

SAVE THE DATE

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game



Our next third Friday Mentor/Mentee game is a pairs game on September 16. If you are interested in playing either as a mentor or mentee, text or call Sue Shramko at 404.304.7017. On the Wednesday prior to the game, Sue sends out partner assignments giving you plenty of time to get together to develop a convention card.

We had 12 teams participate in our first Mentor/Mentee team game last month. Everyone there had a wonderful time playing as well as enjoying hot dogs and delicious sides and scrumptious desserts. The winning teams were:

First Place Marian Creighton, Marianne Gilbert, Myra Reneau, Sue Shramko

Second Place Leigh Broadway, Ginny Gannaway, Liz Norris, Shayna Scott

Third Place Iris Abelson, Jan Alexander, Doug Cart. Jim Lafavor

Our congratulations to the first place winners pictured below: Marian Creighton, Sue Shramko, Myra Reneau and Marianne Gilbert. Way to go ladies!



Nooga East Bridge Club News

Contented players were treated to a delicious pizza lunch last month at the Nooga East Club. If you haven't joined us already, why not make this month your first and come over to Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East

Brainerd Road. We're there every Monday. 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 Sue Riddle at 423.509.3583 if you plan to play. Everyone is invited to come.



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.



Answers to the Bridge Quiz on Page 4

- a. Double. The opponents surely have an eight-card diamond fit, probably 4-4 since opener would hardly jump with three-card support. The defense is poised to take diamond ruffs, using the ♥A K for re-entries.
- b. Lead the ♦8. Start the ruffing plan immediately. Lead a high spot card, suit preference, to request a shift to hearts, the higher ranking side suit. If both your hearts cash, the contract is down at least two (two heart tricks and three diamond ruffs). If an opponent holds a singleton heart, at least your lead beats the contract. If an opponent has a heart void, then good reasoning, but bad luck.

Thanks to Augie Boehm for this month's puzzle.

Blast from the Past

Our Blast from the Past this month is again from our 2012 Memorial Day Sectional. The good looking couple pictured to the right is Joyce and Ray Feher taking a break from the fierce competition.



Bridge Tip for September



A 1NT response to a 1 Diamond opening bid promises clubs.

Marty Bergen



How to Be a Better Partner



Our advice this month comes from Bill Gates who recommends:

"Own up to your own errors. Avoid the human tendency to lay your own errors at your partner's doorstep. It makes a weaker partner feel good to know that you, the stronger player, make errors as well — and is a big enough person to admit them."

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE



If you are on lead, lead face down saying, "My lead?" or "Any questions?" and then turn your card over. This helps prevent the wrong defender from making the opening lead.

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Little White Lies at the Bridge Table

Here's a hand you'd like to see at the bridge table:

♠3 ♥AJ754 ♦KQ10542 ♣9

You pull the cards out of the holder, start to sort them into suits, and immediately you get that familiar rush when you find that you have two long suits – and better yet, all of your honor strength is in those two suits. So despite having only 10 high-card points, you make the easy decision that this is an opening hand.

Okay, you're the dealer. What is your opening bid? In any standard bidding scheme, you are supposed to bid your longer suit first, then your shorter suit. When you are 6-5 in two suits, you bid the 6-card suit first, then the 5-card suit, and then you rebid the 5-card suit to show that you have five.

But you see the problem immediately. If you open the bidding with 1 Diamond, what do you expect to hear from partner? (Hint: it won't be 1 Heart.) After partner bids 1 Spade, what are your choices? You can bid 2 Diamonds to show a long diamond suit, but you really want to tell partner about your 5-card heart suit. After all, partner's 1 Spade bid doesn't deny holding three hearts. But if you bid 2 Hearts, that is a **reverse**, which promises a much stronger hand than you have – at least in terms of high-card points. Also, a reverse is forcing for one round, and if partner has a minimum response with five spades and 6 high-card points, you may have trouble finding your best fit.

Let's say partner's rebid is 2 Spades. Now you're stuck. Do you rebid 3 Diamonds? That may be the safest place to play, but it suggests that you have only 4 hearts, and you may miss a 5-3 heart fit. Do you rebid 3 Hearts, promising 5 hearts and 6 diamonds? What if partner has a singleton heart, 2 diamonds, and is 5-5 in spades and clubs? He'll put you back in 4 Diamonds, and you're probably too high.



Allow me to suggest a solution. When we make a bid at bridge, our goal is to tell partner something about our hand. The two things that are important are our strength and our shape or distribution. Some bids allow us to say something about both strength and shape (e.g., a 1 NT opening bid says we have 15-17 HCP and balanced, no singleton or void). Some bids just say something about one and very little about the other. An opening bid of 1 Club says we have at least 3 clubs and at least 12 up to 21 HCP, but initially we don't know much more than that.

Continued on the next page.

One Last Thing...continued

Sometimes we have a hand like the one above, and there is one bid (or sequence of bids) that shows either strength or shape but can't do both at the same time. In our sample hand, the bid that shows the shape of this hand is an opening bid of 1 Diamond followed by a rebid of 2 Hearts, but that tells the wrong story about strength. If we open the bidding with 1 Heart and then rebid diamonds twice it tells an accurate picture of our strength but misdescribes the shape of the hand by suggesting that we have as many hearts as diamonds, and perhaps more.



The bottom line is that whichever bid we choose as an opening bid for this hand, we're going to be telling a little white lie. Which lie should we choose?

My advice in my bidding classes is that if we are going to lie about either strength or shape, it is always better to tell the truth about strength and to lie about shape. If partner thinks you have a monster two-suited hand he won't shut up until you get to an unmakeable slam. But if he thinks you have a good two-suited hand worth bidding and rebidding your second suit, he'll go along more cautiously, even though you've given an inaccurate picture of your shape.

On our sample hand, I wouldn't hesitate to open the bidding with 1 Heart, intending to bid diamonds next and, if the opportunity is there, to bid diamonds again. Of course, another option is just to pass on your first call and wait to see how the auction develops. That strikes me as a bit timid, because I would tend to upgrade this hand on the basis of its shape and concentration of honors in the long suits. So I'd tell a little fib about shape and tell the truth about strength. If we miss a diamond slam, I could always come up with another little white lie – "Sorry, partner, I had a diamond mixed in with my hearts."



== Happy ==
LABOR DAY