

LIBRARY CORNER

Many Chattanooga Bridge Club members may not realize that among our library books is a section of thirty-five fiction books revolving around the game of bridge. Victor Mollo was a journalist and author as well as an avid bridge player who created a series of "Menagerie" books in which animal players with "animal names and mannerisms. . . ." take the reader through "exciting and entertaining deals." Among Mollo's animal characters are Colin the Corgi, Walter the Walrus, and Molly the Mule. The Bridge Center owns 12 of these animal-centered books. Another famous author of bridge books is David Bird who has written over 135 books on bridge, but he also has written fiction stories centered on monks of the St. Titus Monastery that have been collected in book form. Other authors of fiction with bridge-based themes are the father and son duo Phillip and Robert King; Susan Moody with her main character Cassandra Swain; Terence Reese, who co-authored some of his fiction books with David Bird; and Don Von Eisner, who writes about the bridge adventures of Jake Winkman. Many of these books have copyright dates as early as the 1960s, but some were published in 2000 and later. Bridge Club members who enjoy reading fiction may want to check out and read one or more of these books available to them.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

November, 2022



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Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

Fall is here, and it is a great time to add a weekly game to your calendar. With the weather turning colder, where better to spend a cozy afternoon or evening than playing our wonderful game with a room full of friends and snacks? Instead of waiting for someone to call you, just pick up the phone and call or text a friend to arrange a weekly game. It is a wonderful way to be social while also exercising your brain!

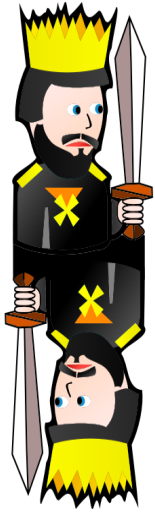


One change to our weekly calendar that newer players should note is the change in the point limitation for our Monday evening game. The point limit was 349. **The new point limit is 149.** For those of you who are new or beginners, this is an excellent opportunity to learn the game in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Our next party is on November 13. It is a casserole lunch. Please bring a side or dessert to share. The club will provide the casserole and beverages. These parties are always fun. Please try to make this game and join in the fun and great food!

Also, don't forget our online games. We are starting our online mentor/mentee game again this month. Please check out the online calendar for information about this game and all of the games hosted by your bridge club, both in person and online.

Iris



A Smidgen of Smiths

Avoidance Plays (Dangerous Opponent Play)

An avoidance play is when you prevent a particular defender from winning the trick and thereby avoiding a dangerous lead from that hand. Your opponent may have established cards in their suit or they could lead through an honor in your hand.

Two methods of keeping an opponent out of the lead are to choose the direction of your finesses properly, or to duck a trick into the non-dangerous opponent. Here's an example. The contract is 4S in the South.

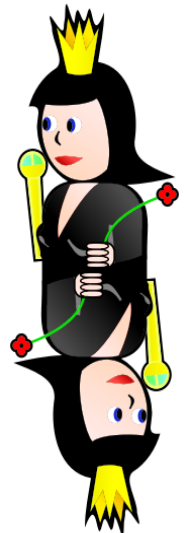
North

♠AJ96
♥742
♦10
♣AQ1062

South

♠K1084
♥Q73
♦A96
♣KJ3

The lead from West is the ♥K (they play K from AK). Their partner (East) discourages the continuation. West switches to a club. East now becomes the dangerous opponent. As you can see, the spot cards in spades make it possible to finesse either way for the queen. You should cash the ♠A, then play the J. If East doesn't cover with the Q, you finesse. If West wins the Q they are now on lead. You have insured your contract. If West cashes the ♥A, they set up your Q. If they lead something else, you can pitch your hearts on the club suit. Should you finesse the other way, and put East on lead, they will lead through your Q of hearts, and you will go down. Always avoid putting your dangerous opponent on lead if possible.



Linda and Ron Smith



**Sending good wishes, warm hugs and
green balloons to Joyce Nicoll. We miss
you at the bridge table.**



Directory Update

For many years now, Winnell Goodner has been in charge of our Unit 206 Directory. She maintains a data base and updates the information on a regular basis. As you can imagine, the data is only as accurate as the information we provide her. Winnell plans to have a printout of the information she has on file available for your review. Please take the time to look it over and make certain that what Winnell has on file is current and accurate. It could be that this past year, you cancelled your home phone or perhaps you got a better deal on your internet provider and your email address changed. Also, there could be someone on the list who you know no longer lives in our area or doesn't play bridge any more. If it is easier, you can review your copy of the December 2021 (salmon colored) directory and if there are any changes or corrections, you can email Winnell at winnellgoodner@comcast.net.



Hardy, Har, Har

Tom, Bob, Bill and Jerry, all avid bridge players, decided to go on a trip together. They figured they could kill two birds with one stone: enrich their lives by visiting a new country and take advantage of their down time playing bridge. All agreed that a safari was the perfect choice. The four meticulously planned their trip even taking time to brush up on Kenya's wildlife, history and geography.

All went well the first two nights, but they all were so exhausted they never got a chance to play bridge. On the third night, after a delicious dinner, Jerry decided it was time to pull the cards out, and the group started playing bridge. After only one hand, the tour guide rushed up to their table and told them in no uncertain terms that they had to put the cards away immediately. "Never, never play bridge on safari!"

The four were stunned and almost in unison asked, "But, why?"

Quickly responding, the guide said, "Because of the cheetahs!"



HATS OFF TO...

There's absolutely no doubt that we owe a tip of the hat and many, many thanks to John Friedl for all that he does for us at the Chattanooga Bridge Center.



John's contributions are numerous and varied, and it is because of this that there's a risk of overlooking something.

Currently, he is a board member and heads up the special ad hoc committee dealing with the long-term financial situation of the CBC. Over the years, he has developed and taught bridge classes for both novice and more experienced players and donated all of the proceeds to the Club. Every month, he writes an insightful and informative column, "One Last Thing," which appears in our newsletter. (If you have a suggestion for an interesting article, contact John at johnfriedl@epbfi.com.) What's even more amazing is that he does all this while dividing his time between Chattanooga and Florida.

Thanks a million, John. We do appreciate all you do.

Myra's Box



We are now fully immersed in the ACBL season. In June/July/August we had NAPs. After that comes GNT qualifiers. Mixed in 3 or so times a year are STaCs (not to mention the "rainbow STaC" we just had). What are all these acronyms you might ask, and what do they mean to me?

First of all, all of these games award extra points. Sometimes they award "pigmented" points at the Club Level. Typically you have to go to a Sectional to get Silver and to a Regional or NABC (Nationals) to get Red or Gold. It is always a bonus when you can get these points locally.

NAP = North American Pairs – as the name states, this is a Pairs event at the Club Level. You can go onto District finals if you do well.

GNT = Grand National Teams – team qualifying event at the Club. You must qualify at the Club Level to play in the next level. If you do well there in your flight, there is a possibility of prize money to go to the NABC tournament.

STaC = Sectional Tournament at Clubs – awards Silver points at the Club. You are ranked among players in the District field hosting the STaC. If you have a good game you can place in the overalls and earn quite a bit of points (~8-20 points). Remember, these are Silver and you normally have to attend a face-to-face Sectional to get these points.

A new type of STaC that we just held – Rainbow STaC – as the name suggests you will get a variety of colors including ¼ gold, ¼ red, ¼ silver and ¼ black. It is EXTREMELY rare to be able to earn gold or red points at the Club. These points are awarded directly from ACBL and do not show on Club recaps.

We will be holding more special games in the future so watch for them in December (including another STaC).

Lots of people are stepping up and supporting Chattanooga Club Bridge. Thank you for that!

P.S. Don't forget online Bridge. We need a minimum of 4 tables for it to be cost effective. Our online schedule:

7 P.M. Tuesday—349er limited game 7 pm349er

7 P.M. Thursday—Open and ALL are welcome. BBO automatically stratifies into

Congratulations



A pat on the back, a high five, a big hug, and many, many good wishes go out to our newest Life Master, Iris Abelson. Congratulations, Iris. We are so happy and proud. You worked hard to earn this distinction. It's time to enjoy your spot in the sun!



FAIRYLAND DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Can you believe it? When FDBC throws a party, no one can resist. In fact, last month, even Dolly Parton and Elvis came! From the photos, it's easy to see that everyone had a great time at the October Halloween party.

Pictured here in their festive finery are first row Suzy Bryant, Susie (Elvis) Crouch, and Leigh Broadway; second row Maryl Elliott, lucky and proud Buddy Landis with date Dolly Parton, and Bob Chapman; third row Bruce Antman and Joy Jones.





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.



Play With Someone New

You may only have a week, but that's still enough time to find a partner for our "Play With Someone New" game. The game is at noon on Tuesday, November 8.

To play in this game, your partner **MUST** be someone with whom you have never played. If you need help finding someone, just let us know. We'll help you find the perfect partner.

Let's have fun getting to know a new partner. You might even win masterpoints. Hope to see you there.



Mark your calendar now so you won't miss the fun at these upcoming events.

November 4-6, Friday-Sunday	Knoxville Fall Sectional
November 8, Tuesday	Play with Someone New!
November 13, Sunday	Casserole Sunday Pairs' Game
November 14 & 28, Monday	Online Mentor/ Mentee Game
November 18, Friday	Face-2-Face Mentor/ Mentee Game
December 10, Saturday	Christmas Party STaC Pairs' Game



Hurry Back

Hey, Teresa Moore, we've missed you. We'd sure like to enjoy your sweet smile and helpful nature again so hurry back soon.





Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Our next face-to-face Friday Mentor/Mentee game is scheduled for the third Friday of the month—November 18. If you would like to participate either as a mentor or mentee, text or call Sue Shramko at 404.304.7017. Sue sends out partner assignments on the Wednesday prior to the game so you have plenty of time to get together to develop a convention card. This is the perfect time for mentees to practice new conventions that they would like to add to their bridge tool box. Also, mark your calendar now because in December, we are going to have a repeat of the popular M/M team game, Congratulations to our October winners:

North/South

First	John Felker/Stewart Lawill
Second	Bruce Antman/Marianne Gilbert
Third	Susan Rothberger/John Hubbard

East/West

Stephanie Felker/Jan Alexander
Bucky Hughes/Linda Metz
Donna Cart/Sara Mayo

It's Back! Our Online Mentor/Mentee Game



Hold onto your hats and kick up your heels. You wished it, and your wish has been granted. That's right, the always popular Mentor/Mentee online game starts back up at 7:00 P.M. on November 14 with a repeat on the 28th—the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Bert Shramko again will coordinate this fun and exciting game. Monday night bragging rights are up for grabs so don't miss this chance to win some masterpoints. Just let Bert know if you would like to play either as a mentor or mentee. Contact him at stdoms48@gmail.com.

Nooga East Bridge Club News

Just in case you haven't heard, there's a fun bridge game at Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East Brainerd Road. We're there every Monday rain or shine. Everyone has a great time so why not test the waters and



come next 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. We'd love 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.



We Miss You



Flowers, balloons, confetti and lots of positive thoughts go out to Sue Ricker as she deals with a serious health issue. Sue, we wish you the best. As you requested, we are praying for a speedy and complete recovery.



November's Blast from the Past is a photo of Kathy Ellis taken at our 2011 Fall Sectional at the East Ridge Community Center. Eleven years ago, and Kathy doesn't look a day older! Wow, bridge must be the elixir of life.



Bridge Tip for November



Preempt in 3rd seat as often as possible—especially when you are not vulnerable.

Marty Bergen



How to Be a Better Partner



Sympathize with your partner if he makes a mistake. Let your partner know that you like him, and always root for him 100%.

Larry Cohen

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE



During the auction, do not comment on any bid or speak unless it is absolutely necessary. It is discourteous to players who need to concentrate (including those at other nearby tables).

November Special Game Casserole Sunday



For many of us, this is our favorite time of year. The weather is changing from humid and hot to crisp and cool and the leaves are strikingly beautiful. What a

delight it is to sit out on the patio and enjoy a morning coffee or afternoon tea without those pesky mosquitos. Fall has arrived in all its glory bringing with it warm casserole Sunday fare—the highlight of our special game for November.

The pairs game is on Sunday, November 13. Lunch will be served at 12:30, and the game will start promptly at 1:00. The club is providing a delicious, yummy, tummy-filling casserole dish. Players are asked to bring sides and/or desserts.

Come enjoy a game of bridge and kick-off the holiday season.

Monday Night 149er Game



Starting immediately, the Monday evening limited game has been changed from an upper limit of 349 master points to 149 or less. This change creates the perfect environment for our newer players to get their feet wet by competing on a more level playing field.

The game is stratified so there is a chance for even our newest players to earn master points. Starting promptly at 6:00 P.M., the game should end around 9:00 P.M. If there is interest from the players, the plan is to hold a short lesson prior to the start of the game as well as have a post-game analysis of several particularly interesting hands while they are still easily accessible in the memory bank. We look forward to seeing you there!



DON'T WORRY—BE HAPPY! WE'VE GOT A PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Since the weather is changing, you golfers, hikers, boaters and gardeners may find you have more time on your hands. No need to worry. The CBC can come to your rescue! Partnership Chair Jan Alexander's (janalexander@epbf.com) committee matches players with other players looking for partners. They're happy to 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 yourself and are looking for a partner, let us assist you. 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 or get stuck watching soap operas. Take advantage of this opportunity to increase your playing time!

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

Susie Crouch provided this precious answer to our monthly fill-in-the-blank question.

To me bridge "is saving the score sheet when I bid and made 6 against the Smiths! For me it's **Making Memories!**"

3H	W	200					28	W	N-S
4S	E		50				29	N	BOTH
5d	N	200					30	E	NONE
3NT	N		720				31	S	N-S
3NT	W	400					32	W	E-W
2d	S		130				33	N	NONE
6H	W	1430	vs	Smiths			34	E	N-S
3NT	N		430				35	S	E-W
2d	W		100				36	W	BOTH

DO YOU KNOW...

What's the Rule of 17? (Pass) 2♥ (Pass) ???



You're in the hot seat. Your partner just opened 2♥, and you hold this hand:

♠KJ3 ♥Q752 ♦AKT9 ♣75

What should you do? You have 13 HCP and 4 hearts, the suit your partner opened. Your agreement is that he is weak (5-10 points), but you have opening count. Should you raise to game or should you pass?

The Rule of 17 may help you make the decision after partner has opened a weak 2H or 2S. It goes like this. You add the number of HCP in your hand to the number of trumps you hold. If your total equals or is slightly higher than 17, the rule says bid game. If you hold at least a King extra giving you 20+ points, you may want to explore for slam.

Of course, there are other factors to consider. Vulnerability is important as well as partner's bidding style. Holding the hand above, you may feel comfortable bidding 4♥ knowing that partner only opens a weak 2 with at least 2 of the top 3 honors. However, if partner is more aggressive and opens a weak 2 holding only JT8643, passing may be the wisest decision.

Many experts recommend using the Rule of 17 only as a guideline and in conjunction with either Ogust or feature-asking 2NT. To illustrate this, partner opens 2♥ holding ♠Q62, ♥QT9853, ♦75, ♣Q9. You've got ♠KT87, ♥A742, ♦AJ7, ♣J9 so your hand fits the Rule of 17 (13 HCP + 4 trump = 17), and you might consider raising to game. Not certain what to do, you decide to bid 2NT asking partner for a feature. She bids 3♥ denying an A or K in another suit and you pass. Once you put the hands together, you see that you are missing ♠AJ, ♥KJ, ♦KQ, ♣AK. Smart move!

But, on the other side of the coin, let's say your partner opens 2♠. You hold ♠KQ3, ♥AQJT98, ♦—, ♣8632. Using the Rule of 17 you should pass (12 HCP + 3 trump = 15), but if partner has as little as ♠AJT984, ♥K7, ♦5432, ♣4 making 4♠ is easy.

In trying to decide whether to bid game, having aces and kings is much more important than having queens and jacks (quacks). Although quacks may be secondary honors, holding QJ6 in the trump suit certainly has more value than holding QJ6 in a side suit (although they are the same 3 points for the Rule of 17). Also, the Rule of 17 does not factor in the value of singletons and voids. Having 3-card trump support and a void or singleton in a side suit is worth more than 4-card trump support with 4333 distribution.

Like so many other "rules" in bridge, the Rule of 17 does not guarantee success. It is merely a guideline to help determine if exploring further has any merit. Good judgment, experience and knowing how to accurately value your hand have far more value than a general guideline.

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

"Shall We Dance?"

A frequently heard comment at the bridge table is "I had an invitational hand." For many newer players the term "invitational" can be confusing, and the decision as to whether to accept the invitation is often a difficult one. In this month's column we'll address the topic of what it means to "invite" partner, and what it should take to accept our partner's invitation.



We'll start with the premise that almost any bid that you make describes a range of values (not just high-card points, but playing strength as well). The simplest illustration is a bid of No Trump. In standard bidding, a bid of 1 No Trump shows a balanced hand with 15 to 17 high-card points, no singleton or void, no six-card suit. Generally speaking, we want to have a combined partnership holding of at least 25 high-card points to play in a 3 No Trump game contract. So if partner opens with 15 to 17, when we have a balanced hand between 10 and 14 or 15 points and no four-card major we'll just jump to 3 No Trump to end the auction.

But what if our hand falls slightly outside that range? If we have 8 or 9 points, and partner has 16 or 17, we'll have the combined 25 points for game. If partner is at the bottom of his 15-17 point range, we usually should not be in game unless we have a long suit that will produce extra tricks. So with a balanced 8 or 9 point hand we want to "invite" partner to bid game if he's at the top of his range, but stop short of game if at the bottom. We can do this by making an "invitational" bid of 2 No Trump, leaving the final decision to partner.

Another possibility is that we have a particularly good hand with 16 or 17 high-card points. Again, generally speaking, we want to have a combined holding of 33 points for a small slam (6 No Trump), so if partner is at the top of his 1 No Trump range we want to be in the slam, but if he's at the bottom we want to stop short. We do this by making the "invitational" bid of 4 No Trump, which says to partner "If you're at the top, bid six; if not, pass." Note that in this auction 4 No Trump is not Blackwood asking for aces – we use the Gerber 4 Club bid to do that, so that we can save 4 No Trump for the slam invitation.

There are many other invitational bids we can make, not involving No Trump auctions. For example, partner opens 1 Spade and we have a hand with four spades and 10 to 12 high-card points. Partner could have opened with as few as 12 points or as many as 21 (with 22 she'd open 2 Clubs, presumably). We want to invite to a game contract of 4 Spades if partner has more than the minimum 12 points, but we want to stop short of game if she is at the bottom of her range. So we make the "invitational" jump raise to 3 Spades, and this tells partner to evaluate her hand and bid the game with something extra, but pass with a minimum opening bid. (Of course if she has a huge hand with 21 she can bid the slam, perhaps asking for key cards along the way.)

There are too many varieties of auctions where an invitational bid would apply for me to try to list them all. But there is one topic that is very important to understand in deciding whether to invite, and whether to accept, and that is the proper technique for evaluating our hand's trick-taking potential.

Continued on the next page.

One Last Thing...continued

When we first learn bridge, we are taught the standard point-count technique: 4 for an ace, 3 for a king, 2 for a queen and 1 for a jack. We add up our points and apply a formula for determining what to bid. As we advance in our bridge skill, it is important that we learn to discard a formulaic reliance on "points" and learn instead to reevaluate our hand based on how many tricks we can take. A suit with 5 cards is more valuable than a suit with 4 cards because the fifth card in the suit has greater potential for taking a trick, even if it is a deuce. A six-card suit is even better. And a hand with two long suits is much stronger than a hand with the same number of high-card points but 4-3-3-3 distribution, because the low cards in longer suits are likely to take tricks even though they have no high-card point value.

So, when you are deciding whether to pass, invite, or bid game, don't just count points, but think about whether your hand should be upgraded or downgraded based on its trick-taking potential. Tens and nines have no point value, but can be very valuable if they are in long suits combined with honors. Honor combinations in the same suit are more valuable than the same honors in separate suits. And of course, long suits are better than balanced distribution. Consider these two hands, with the same cards but different distributions:

AJ109432	AJ10932	-	-
A942	J103	A103	J92

Each hand has 10 high-card points with two aces, two jacks, two tens and two nines. But the first hand has combined honors in long suits with tremendous trick-taking potential while the second is a decent ten-point hand with two aces but nowhere near as strong.

Let's apply this concept in a concrete example. Partner opens 1 No Trump and you have one of the following hands, each with the same high cards but different distributions:

A)	K43	J43	A432	1094
B)	43	43	432	AKJ1094

Each hand has exactly 8 high-card points. With hand A you have balanced distribution, no long suit that offers the potential of extra trick-taking ability, scattered honor cards not in combination in the same suit, and nothing special to cause you to think about upgrading it. You might think about inviting to game by bidding 2 No Trump, in case partner has an absolutely maximum 1 No Trump opening bid. But you might downgrade this hand and just pass.

On the other hand, with hand B you have a long suit with combined honors that has the potential to yield five or even six tricks. Partner clearly has little, if anything, in clubs, but with opening count of at least 15 points she probably has something in the other three suits, and promises at least two clubs as well. So even if the queen of clubs is offside and the finesse loses, unless the suit splits 5-0 you will deliver five club tricks toward the contract. I wouldn't consider making an invitational bid with this hand – I'd just jump to 3NT immediately.

The bottom line – invitational bids are an important part of any bridge player's skill set. But they must be combined with good judgment about when to invite and when to accept. And they require more than just counting points!

