

# LIBRARY CORNER

## 52 Bridge Mistakes to Avoid David Bird



A review of this book refers to the mistakes covered in it as "common," adding that the top players of the game make these mistakes very infrequently. The mistakes covered by Bird include those involved in bidding, play of the hand, and defense—in other words, all aspects of the game. Because the author has included 52 of these mistakes, there is ample here for players of varied levels of play to learn something. Bird has included deals from actual tournament play, showing the mistakes made by those playing the hands. Some hands even come from world championship games, showing that even the most experienced players can make them. Bird includes some hands where the expert made what he refers to as "wayward" decisions. He does note that expert players make such errors infrequently. Bird encourages the reader to analyze what went wrong in a hand before reading his thoughts about what happened. Bird is one of the best and most prolific writers in the field of duplicate bridge, so players are encouraged to find his books in the library and learn from the information and examples he includes to illustrate the points he is making.



# ALERT!!

*A publication of ACBL Unit 206*

**December, 2022**



**Editor: Sandy Cervantes**

**Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield**

## A message from the president...



The Holiday season came early to our bridge club! We are very honored to be given a bequest from a couple who were dedicated to our bridge club for many years. Bridge was a big part of Reba and Dan Jernigan's life. So much so, that they remembered us in their final will. We have let their daughter, Amy Jernigan, know how much this gift means to all of us and our great appreciation for her parents, both in life and after.

This is my last article as president. The last three years have certainly presented some challenges, but I think we have emerged from the worst and are only getting stronger from here.

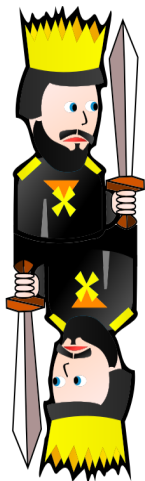
I am constantly amazed at how many hands it takes to run our club. I am even more amazed that I have hardly ever been turned down when I have asked one of you to take a job or handle a task. Because of the wonderful players we have, my job has been very rewarding.

In addition, the people who have served on the board over these past three years are so dependable! I have never been on a board, much less headed one, where EVERY board member volunteers in some leadership way. Our board meetings have been efficient and pleasant because all are focused on the same goal—to make our bridge club a fun, challenging and friendly place to play our favorite game. Thank you to each board member who has served these last three years. I appreciate you more than you know!

For 2023, I look forward to serving on the board under a new president. I also look forward to being just a bit more relaxed when I enter the building. I look forward to being able to help the new officers. And I look forward to enjoying bridge with many of you in 2023.

I hope we all have a happy and healthy new year and that we all get 13 points in every hand!

*Iris*



# A Smidgen of Smiths

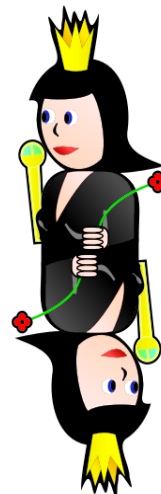
## A Side Benefit of Stayman

You pick up your hand and see:

♠ 8742  
♥ J65  
♦ Q9532  
♣ 3

Haven't had an exciting hand all day, and now you are looking at this 3-point hand. Your partner opens 1NT and your right-hand opponent (RHO) passes. So only having 3 points, you must pass. You don't like it. You wish you could bid 2♦ to play, but that would be a transfer to hearts.

Here's a new thought. With this distribution, bid 2♣ Stayman. No matter what your partner bids, YOU WILL PASS. You would be happy to play 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠. Much better to play in a suit when you have a singleton. Remember, you must be able to pass whatever partner bids, so you will always be short in clubs.



**Linda and Ron Smith**

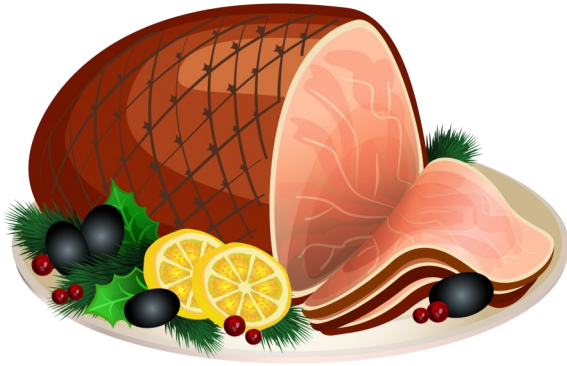
## Bridge Lessons

Bridge Basics and Beyond and the Chattanooga Bridge Club are offering the second beginning bridge class "Bridge Basics II Competitive Bidding." This course is for individuals new to bridge or those who have been absent from bridge for a while. The first class begins on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. This is an eight-week course, and classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and will finish at 11:30 a.m. Our approach to teaching bridge is a series of three 8-week courses with BBII being the second class. When students have finished the three courses, they are ready to play social bridge or a beginning duplicate bridge game. Due to the club and ACBL guidelines, each participant needs to be fully vaccinated to participate in the course. Proof needs to be provided the first day of class.



The teacher for the course is Mike Holmes. You can register for the course by emailing to [mdholmes8@yahoo.com](mailto:mdholmes8@yahoo.com), or calling 303 928-9187.

# Annual Meeting and Holiday Party



It's time to pull out your silly holiday sweater, Santa hat or elf slippers and find a partner for the Unit 206 annual meeting and holiday party. Come and join us on Saturday, December 10th at the CBC. Lunch will be served at 11:30. There will be a short annual meeting at which time we will vote for 2 new board members. The pairs game will begin after the meeting. This is a STaC game so extra points are up for grabs.

Cheryl Whitfield always dresses the club in beautiful and festive holiday finery, and David Vine promises to make his delicious baked ham. The CBC will provide sweet potatoes and drinks. Players are asked to bring side dishes, appetizers or desserts.

Don't miss this fun party. Mark your calendar now.

## Hardy, Har, Har

Hal and Gloria, a bridge-playing couple, are trying to come up with the perfect gifts for each other. Hal is racking his brain and finally in desperation, he breaks down and asks Gloria to give him at least a couple of options. It didn't take her more than a second or two to give him a general idea of what she would like.

On Christmas morning, Hal hands her a small present the size of a jewelry box. Incredibly excited, Gloria rips open the box and finds a deck of bridge cards.

"You've got to be kidding me," she screams. "What's wrong with you? Didn't you even listen to what I told you?"

Astonished, Hal looks at her and says, "What do you mean? Of course I listened to you. You said all you wanted was something with diamonds."



## HATS OFF TO...



Just like magic, every year at our annual meeting, we get a brightly covered new Unit 206 membership directory. You may be surprised to find out that Santa's elves play no part in this project.

This month we tip our hats to record-keeper extraordinaire Winnell Goodner. Maintaining a database that includes the four clubs in Unit 206 is no easy feat, but Winnell makes it look effortless. She even came up with the idea to cross-reference first names in a separate section to help when all we can remember is a player's given name.

Thanks Winnell for all your hard work. There's no way we could survive without our directories.





May the magic  
and the wonder  
of the holiday season  
stay with you  
throughout  
the coming year

## The Bridge Player's Prayer

Lord, grant me a partner who won't trump my aces.  
Deliver me from short suits and cards without faces.  
Grant me finesses that work as I've thoughtfully planned,  
And, just once today, please, a nice Grand Slam hand!



# 52 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CHILD SMARTER!



The ACBL Educational Foundation, creators of **BridgeWhiz™**, invite your kids to join a free, online beginning Bridge program that teaches young people the excitement of contract bridge.

- ◆ Bridge is a proven gateway to better concentration, focus, and reasoning, all scholastic benefits while your child is having fun playing with, and competing against, other kids.
- ◆ BridgeWhiz uses certified and background-verified bridge teachers. Students play in a secure area.

Playing bridge improved nearly everything for me, whether it's my brain, my mind, or my swiftness of eyeing the cards. ♣♣

- Dora J., 5th Grade

***Hurry! Winter classes begin  
January 17, 2023.***

***Register your children today  
at [BridgeWhiz.org](https://BridgeWhiz.org).***



The American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation (ACBLEF) is a nonprofit organization established in 2017.





# 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

Our first "Play With Someone New" game on November 8 was a resounding success. Everyone had such a great time that there are plans to have repeat performance soon.

Congratulations to the winners:

### North/South

1st	Marian Creighton/Mary Robertson
2nd	John Felker/Leigh Broadway
3rd	Bert Shramko/Jane Bricard

### East/West

1st	Donna Cart/Stephanie Felker
2nd	Betsy Caldwell/Earl Rothberger
3rd	Susan Rothberger/Anne Donnovin

## Bridge Tip for December

It is usually a losing proposition to overcall in a suit that you do not want led.



**Dorothy Truscott**





## Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

December 16 is the third Friday of the month and this month, our face-to-face Friday Mentor/Mentee game is a team game. If you are interested in playing either as a mentor or mentee, text or call Sue Shramko at 404.304.7017. Sue will match up mentors with mentees and make team assignments. We plan to have an hors d'oeuvres party to celebrate the holidays. Each partnership is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Congratulation to our November winners:

### North/South

First	John Felker/Leslie Nelson
Second	Susa Rothberger/Mary Robertson
Third	Sara Mayo/Sue Carol Elvin

### East/West

MJ Levine/Jane Bricard
David Vine/Stewart Lawwill
Susan Kimm/Marian Creighton

## It's Back! Our Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Our popular Mentor/Mentee online game is always on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, so mark your calendars for December 12 and 26. The game starts at 7:00 P.M., but you are asked to be online and ready by 6:45. Bert Shramko coordinates this fun and exciting game. Monday night bragging rights are up for grabs so don't miss this chance to win some masterpoints. Contact Bert at stdoms48@gmail.com if you are interested in playing in this game either as a mentor or mentee.



## 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.



## BLAST from the PAST

Here's further proof that bridge keeps you young and happy. Pictured at the right are Sue and Bert Shramko ten years ago at one of our holiday parties.



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

December 1 Thursday	Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club Holiday Party 10:30 A.M. Mountain City Club
December 5-11 Monday-Sunday	STaC Week—Compete Against the District—Earn Extra Points
December 10 Saturday	Unit 206 Annual Meeting and Holiday Party 11:30 A.M.
December 12 and 26 Mondays	Online Mentor/Mentee Game 7:00 P.M.
December 16 Friday	Face-2-Face Mentor/Mentee Game Team Game 12 Noon



## How to Be a Better Partner



The truly good partnership handles the inevitable disaster with a touch of humor. If your partner doesn't have to worry that you'll have an apoplectic fit whenever something goes wrong, he'll play better.

## BRIDGE ETIQUETTE



Even though you may be thinking, "Where in the heck is the hand she was bidding?" say thank you to your partner when she puts the Dummy on the table.



## Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club meets Thursdays at 10:15 at Mountain City Club. We welcome all to our fun, relaxed social game. If you are interested, contact Susie Crouch at [susancrouch54@gmail.com](mailto:susancrouch54@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

Our Marvelous Member of the Month is Susie Crouch. She is our head she-nanigans organizer, a relentless partner finder, Suzy Bryant's personal secretary and just so darn cute. Give her a big thank you next time you see her.

Y'all come play bridge with us!



## Attention Newer Players Monday Night 149er Game



Don't forget that 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 everyone 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.



## Upcoming Board Elections

A nominating committee consisting of Margie Moses, Stephanie Felker and Anne Donnovin has nominated Bruce Antman and Jim LaFavor to replace two Board of Director members rotating off the Board at the end of this year. Election of officers will be held at the annual meeting on December 10, 2022. If you would like to add your name to the slate of officers, please contact Margie Moses at 910-620-4582.

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

Are you bored sitting at home watching old movies and eating bonbons? Do you find that with the change of season you have a few free days on your hands? We're here to help. Partnership Chair Jan Alexander's ([janalexander@epbfi.com](mailto:janalexander@epbfi.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.



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



Mike Holmes was kind enough this month to fill in our blank:

"To me bridge is a gift that gives us fun, partnerships, and challenge."

# DO YOU KNOW...

## What's a Lightner Double?



A Lightner double, named for its creator Theodore Lightner, is a lead-directing double of an opponents' slam contract. It often implies a void and is asking partner (who is on lead) to make an unusual lead hoping for a ruff. In general, the double is asking partner to:

1. Lead Dummy's side suit (if one has been bid).
2. Lead Declarer's side suit (if one has been bid).
3. Make any other unusual lead (often leader's longest suit) to get a ruff.

Most importantly, the Lightner double asks partner **NOT** to lead any suit that your side has bid and, in addition, **NOT** to lead trump.

For example, the bidding has progressed as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	6♥	X

With this example, your double requests a club lead because your RHO bid clubs.

But, say the bidding is as follows:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♠	3♣	3♠	5♣
6♠	Pass	Pass	X

Here, you are asking partner not to lead a club (your side's suit) and instead are asking for an unusual lead—a diamond or a heart. As in all things bridge, sometimes it is easier to decide which suit to lead—usually the suit in which the leader has the longest holding. Other times, when the partner on lead has equal length in both suits, life is more complicated. That's when you just think and think and think some more and then make a lead. If the bridge gods are favoring you this week, your choice works. If not, the opponents make 6S doubled. That's when you hope that no one else bid the slam!

## The Fun Never Stops!

Congratulations to our newest **Life Master**



Iris Abelson attained Life Master status on our cruise by finishing in the overalls in bracket 2 of the knockouts.

Thanks to Ann Keown, it's easy to see how happy Iris was when she became Unit 206's newest Life Master. Here's a copy of the announcement made at the ACBL Regional at Sea with Larry Cohen. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone with a bigger smile!

# One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

## Reverse 2-Way Drury

Do you and your partner ever open One Heart or One Spade “light” in third or fourth seat? If not, you should consider doing so. After partner has passed and one or both opponents have passed, if you have a decent five-card major and close to an opening hand, there are a couple reasons why opening light can work in your favor.



If you have close to a full opener and at least one of your opponents has passed, they usually don't have game, and if you and your partner have an eight-card major suit fit you can compete for a part score. If the opponents buy the auction and your partner is on lead, she'll have a better idea of what the best opening lead might be.

If you still aren't convinced that opening light in third or fourth seat is a good idea, then the following discussion on the Drury convention won't help you, and you can skip to the end for a chuckle. But if you do sometimes open light, then you need to incorporate Drury into your bidding agreements if you don't already use it.

The advantage of the Drury convention is that it enables the partnership to play in a major suit part score at the two-level when the opening hand is less than a full opening bid. Without using Drury, the Responder must show a limit raise by jumping to three of Opener's major suit, and if Opener was light that may be too high. Using Drury, you can keep the bidding at the two-level.

In the original Drury convention, if partner opened One Heart or One Spade in third or fourth seat and you had a good 9 to a bad 12 points, you bid 2 Clubs (artificial and alertable). Partner would then assess her hand and, if she held a full opening bid with enough to bid game opposite a limit raise, she would bid 2 of her major suit. If she held a light opening hand, she would bid Two Diamonds. Responder would bid accordingly. In this original version, Responder did not necessarily have 3-card support for Opener's major suit. If the partnership agreement required a fit, there is a box on the convention card to check for "FIT." (That box no longer appears on the latest revision of the ACBL convention card.)

That was the Drury convention as originally created back in the sixties. But today almost everyone plays "Reverse" and "2-Way" Drury, both of which are improvements over the original version.

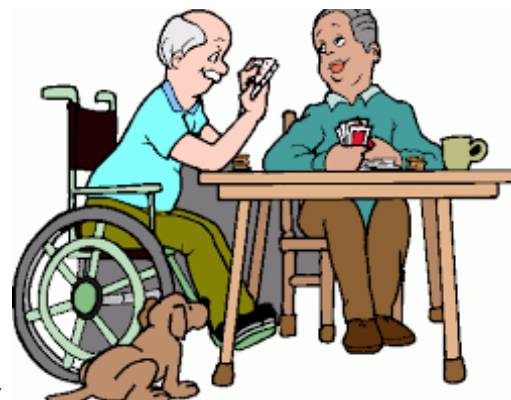
In Reverse Drury, if the opening bidder has a light opening hand, she rebids her major suit at the two-level, which tells partner that she has no interest in game. That auction might look like this: P (P) 1H (P); 2C\* (P) 2H (P); P (P). If the 2 Diamond bid is available (i.e., if Responder's bid is 2 Clubs), Opener can use that bid to show a full opening bid but uncertainty about bidding game, and ask Responder how good her limit raise is. With a maximum limit raise Responder bids game; with a minimum, she bids the part score at the two level.

If the 2 Diamond bid isn't available (i.e., Responder's bid is 2 Diamonds), then Opener can bid 2 No Trump or a new suit at the 3-level to inquire about how good Responder's limit raise is. (Having found an eight-card major suit fit, these bids are not to play, but are asking for more information.) With a maximum limit raise, Responder bids game in the major; with a minimum limit raise, Responder bids the major suit at the 3-level. Of course, if Opener has better than a full opening bid (say, 16+ playing points), she can simply jump to 4 of her major.



# One Last Thing...continued

In 2-Way Drury, instead of using the 2 Club bid to show three or more card support for Opener's major suit, Responder bids 2 Clubs to show exactly three-card support, and Responder bids 2 Diamonds to show four or more cards in Opener's suit. This information about the extra trump card fit can help Opener evaluate her hand to decide whether to bid game, invite to game, or sign off at the two level.



The two bids together are commonly played as Reverse 2-Way Drury. If you and your partner use this convention, you should check the boxes under Major Opening on your convention card, and be sure to alert these bids when they come up.

One remaining question is what to do if the opponents bid after your One Heart or One Spade opening bid—is Drury still on? If partner opens in third or fourth seat and your RHO bids, is your 2 Club or 2 Diamond bid still a Drury limit raise, or is it natural? Expert opinion is divided on this question. My preference is to play Drury on over a double or when partner bids One Heart and RHO overcalls One Spade; otherwise I prefer to play that it is off over other interference. But it is, like so many other things, a matter for partnership agreement. Be sure you discuss this with your partner.

If Drury is a new convention for you, I can guarantee that you'll forget it the first few times it comes up. Do not dismay! We all did—but eventually it catches on and it comes up frequently enough that it will be a very useful addition to your bidding arsenal. One way to help you remember it is that every time you pull the cards out of the holder, before you do anything else, think to yourself "what seat am I in, and who is vulnerable." The vulnerability is important for other reasons, but your position on that deal is the key to remembering Drury. If you're in first or second seat and you pass, when partner opens you will remember (hopefully) that you are in a position to make a Drury limit raise. If you're in third or fourth seat and partner has passed, you'll remember (again, hopefully) that partner is now in the position to make an artificial limit raise of your major suit opening.

I can't leave this subject without a side story. Years ago, as a college student in Berkeley, I had a roommate who was an avid bridge player. He got me interested in playing and soon we were off to a regional tournament. We're sitting at the table and I open in third seat by bidding One Spade. My left hand opponent passes and my partner bids 2 Clubs, which I alert. RHO looks at me and asks what my partner's bid means, and I reply "We play Drury, and he has . . ." at which point she interrupts me and says "Yes, thank you, I know what it means."

After the hand was played and the round ended, our opponents got up to move to the next table. RHO picked up my convention card, glanced at it, and asked me "Are you John or Doug?" I said "I'm John, my partner is Doug." She smiled and said "Hi John, I'm glad to meet you. My name is Peggy Drury."

Shortly after that I graduated, got a job, started a family, and gave up bridge for thirty years until I moved to Chattanooga. It's good to be back.

