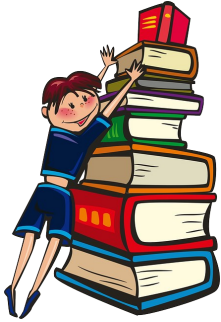


LIBRARY CORNER

Marty Sez. . .Bergen's Bevy of Bridge Secrets

Marty Bergen

The book jacket points out that this book is unique because each page contains exactly one tip. Clever one-liners at the top of the pages are designed to help the reader remember the tip.



Example: "Sandwich Overcalls—Yummy," "Vive La Difference" (when partner's bid follows his initial pass), and "If You [sic] Got It, Flaunt It" (bidding 1NT in competition to show 18-19 HCP after partner passes your opening bid). In fact, we all could probably benefit from the page entitled, *Take a Hike*: "Taking a hike between rounds is often the best remedy for your bridge woes." A glossary is included at the end of the book should the reader not understand the author's terminology. Larry Cohen is quoted as saying this book is "definitely a home run." Be sure to check it out.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

January, 2023



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

Welcome to 2023! Each year definitely goes too quickly. It is important to savor every game at the Bridge Center and the people that we play with throughout the year!

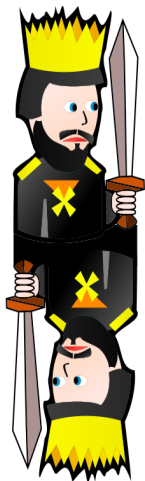


This is my first note to the members of the bridge club as President of Unit 206. It seems not too long ago that I drove by the bridge center thinking that this was a club for people who like to build bridges. Thank goodness you added the cards to the facade! I am glad that I randomly stopped by to learn about the bridge club and am really appreciative of Dan Chandler and Suzy Bryant getting me back into the game. I look forward to serving you throughout 2023 to make this as enjoyable an experience as possible.

A key goal for 2023 will be more and different kinds of games leading to more tables and more fun. ACBL is working hard to bring back the key face-to-face events that occurred prior to COVID-19. For example, almost every month in 2023, we will have a week of special games with added points. We are also hosting an Open Sectional at the bridge center March 24-26. Please make sure that you contact Margie Moses to enroll in this tournament ahead of time. Our space is limited.

See you at the bridge center!

Richard Spangler



A Smidgen of Smiths

Surrounding Play

The surrounding play occurs when you hold an interior sequence that surrounds the dummy's holding. The dummy must be on your right in order set up a surrounding play.

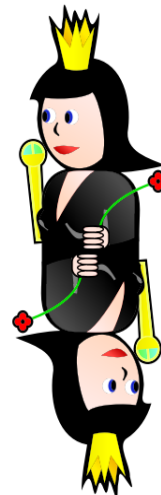
We won't go into the bidding or the contract, just simply the card combinations that are necessary to make the surrounding play work. Here's an example:

	North K32	
West Q87	South (you) AJ96	East (Dummy) T54

South is on lead (not opening lead, sometime in the middle of the hand when you can see dummy). You want to take all 4 tricks in this suit. The dummy is on your right.

- Let's try leading the A. Now, no matter which remaining card you lead, West will be able to set up the Q. If you lead the 9 or the 6, they duck and North will have to win the K, thus setting up the Q. If you lead the Jack after you lead the A, West covers and the ten will set up in the East hand.
- Ok, let's try the 9 or the 6, instead of the A. Same problem. West just ducks and North will have to win the King.
- Well, we're down to leading the Jack. Unlikely looking lead, right? But watch what happens. If West ducks, you will win the trick. You can then lead low, partner takes the King, leads it back, and you have all 4 tricks. But what happens if West covers your Jack with the Queen? North now wins the King and leads the suit back. You now have the ten "surrounded" with your A9. **Magic!** You have again taken all 4 tricks.

There are other card combinations that qualify: AQT3, KJ96, QT83 and more (all where you have interior sequences that surround dummy's honors). Surrounding plays don't come up frequently, but when they do you need to take advantage. Your opponents will be impressed.



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.



Mike Holmes is teaching this course. You can register by emailing him at mdholmes8@yahoo.com, or calling 303 928-9187.



Santa's lovely helpers pictured here from left: **Betsy Caldwell**, **Susie Crouch** and **Anne Donnovin**.

Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

We owe very big debts of gratitude to both **Fran Vine** and **Cheryl Whitfield** for their contributions to our delightful holiday party. Ever the perfect partner, David's wonderful wife Fran, woke up uncustomarily early and prepared our delicious ham main course as well as two scrumptious sauces. And, as usual, Cheryl exceeded all expectations turning our ordinary clubhouse into a merry and festive tableau with her beautiful blue, white, and silver holiday decorations. The backdrop was perfect as was the game that followed. Congratulations to the winners:

North/South

1st **Reneau/Reneau**
2nd **Antman/Levine**
3rd **Vine/Cervantes**

East/West

Thompson/Viola
Lawwill/Friedl
Rothberger/Rothberger

Hardy, Har, Har



The Ravin'

Once upon a midnight, Drury
Drove my partner to a fury.

All I did was bid two clubs;
Don't know why he got so sore.

While I nodded, nearly napping,
I received a verbal flapping.

Partner asked me o'er and o'er,
"Have you ever played before?"

**As for Drury...
Nevermore!**

Thanks to Richard Pavlicek for this witty parody of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven."



HATS OFF TO...

This month we tip our hat to **Shayna Scott** for her extra efforts to support the CBC. Three times a week, EVERY week, Shayna's tummy gratification duties require her to be one of the first to arrive at the club and usually one of the last to leave.

Not only does she set up the snacks, she also cleans up afterwards making sure the food, plates, utensils, etc. are put away. It is great that a lot of people support her before and after by bringing added snacks or helping clean up. But Shayna is the one typically there for almost every game to see that we have hot coffee and snacks to keep us going.

**KUDOS to Shayna
for her support!**

Myra's Box



Happy New Year to all.

1. We are in the process of setting up a new "Unit" BBO game for the Chattanooga area. Everyone please add VACB902064 to your BBO friends list. There will be more details to come as this is in the preliminary stages. Online games that support the Club/Unit will remain at \$6.
2. Nancy will be directing online for me in January due to my travels.
3. GNT (Grand National Teams qualifying) season runs September through March, so look for Swiss team games in the future. Please make your team of 4 players.
4. On the following page there is a copy of the chart of points required to achieve the various levels of ACBL mastery. If you are interested in moving up in rank, look this over. In 2023, there will be a lot more tournaments (including ours in March) as well as more club opportunities to earn points.

Myra

Congratulations and Many Thanks

Congratulations to Bruce Antman and Jim LaFavor, Unit 206's newest board members, who were elected at the holiday party last month. At their first meeting in December, the new board unanimously elected the following members as officers for 2023:



President, Richard Spangler
First Vice President, Bruce Antman
Second Vice President, John Felker
Secretary, Margie Moses
Treasurer, Myra Tatum

Thanks go out to all board members for their much appreciated and valued involvement in the

Hope to See You Soon

Our very best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to **Jim Snyder** as he tries to recuperate from a serious fall. Don't despair, Jim. It just takes a little extra time for mature bones to mend. We hope to see you back at the bridge table soon in good spirits and fine shape. Good thoughts go out to Pat also as she helps Jim deal with this unfortunate event.



ACBL Rank Pigmented Points Required							
Rank	MPs	Colorless	Black	Silver	Red	Gold	Platinum
Rookie	<5						
Junior Master	5						
Club Master	20		5				
Sectional Master	50		10	5			
Regional Master	100		15	15	5 red/gold/platinum		
NABC Master	200		20	25	20 red/gold/platinum 5 must be gold/platinum		
Adv NABC Master	300		50	50	50 red/gold/platinum 25 must be gold/platinum		
Life Master	500		75	75	100 red/gold/platinum 50 must be gold/platinum		
Broze Life Master	750		75	75	100 red/gold/platinum 50 must be gold/platinum		
Silver Life Master	1,000		75	200 silver/red/gold/platinum			
Ruby Life Master	1,500		7	300 silver/red/gold/platinum			
Gold Life Master	2,500		75	500 silver/red/gold/platinum			
Sapphire LifeMaster	3,500		75	700 silver/red/gold/platinum 350 must be gold/platinum			
Diamond Life Master	5,000		75	1,000 silver/red/gold/platinum 500 must be gold/platinum			
Emerald Life Master	7,500		75	1,500 silver/red/gold/platinum 750 must be gold/platinum			
Platinum Life MASTER	10,000		75	2,000 silver/red/gold/platinum 1,000 must be gold/platinum 100 must be platibum			
Grand Life Master	10,000	National Title	75	2,000 silver/red/gold/platinum 1,000 must be gold/platinum 100 must be platibum			
Types of points can be won in these types of games	BBO ACBL	Yes					
	BBO VACB		Regular Games				
	F2F Club		Regular Games	STaC	NAP GNT		
	Sectional Tour.			All Games			
	Regional Tour.		Single Events		Double Events	Double Events	
	National Tour						National Events

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.***



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.

New Membership Fee

The Chattanooga Bridge Center Board of Directors has approved an annual membership fee of \$20 for each club member beginning January 1, 2023. The fee will be assessed the **first time** a player plays in a face-to-face game at the CBC. Once a player pays the annual membership fee, game fees continue at \$7.00; however,

until the membership fee is paid, game fees will increase to \$10.00. Out-of town visitors and non-members who choose not to pay the membership fee may play a maximum of three times for \$10.00/game. After three plays, players are required to pay the membership fee.

To facilitate paying, there will be a board member (not the director) designated to collect the \$20 at the club. Please come prepared as there will be no exceptions. Compliance makes it easier for our volunteers to do their jobs. Checks should be made payable to the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Please note that the "Payable To" name on your check must be exact for the bank to accept it.



Bridge Tip for January



If you ever amount to anything at this game, you must build up a picture of the unseen hands. The idea is to know what the problem is before you try to solve it.

Bob Hamman

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game



January 20 is the third Friday of January, but it is also the second day of the popular Pigeon Forge Sectional and NLM Regional Tournament. Because of this, we have opted not to have a face-to-face Mentor/Mentee game this month. Mark your calendar now, though, for our next game on February 17.

If you are interested in playing either as a mentor or mentee, text or call **Sue Shramko** at 404.304.7017.

What fun everyone had at the team game in December. There were hard-fought battles, but when the dust cleared, these were the winners:

First	Leslie Nelson, Marian Creighton, Sue Shramko, Margie Moses
Second	Carole Rowland, Allison Webb, Earl Rothberger, Jan Alexander
Third	Tate Conlon, Mary Jane Emrath, Cal Brassfield, Richard Spangler

Our Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Many, many thanks to **Bert Shramko** for his role in coordinating our Mentor/Mentee online games. Bert has done a wonderful job holding the reins but decided it was time to turn over responsibility for this popular and successful game. **Anne Donnovin** stepped up and has graciously agreed to take over. The game is always held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month—in January on the 9th and 23rd. You are asked to be online and ready by 6:45. Everyone has a chance to come out on top, so don't miss the opportunity to win some masterpoints. If you would like to play either as a mentor or mentee, let Anne know by contacting her at aadonnovin@bellsouth.net.



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 are 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.





Pictured here with carefree smiles and faces of eager anticipation are Unit 206's new officers for 2012. It's easy to see that not even the stress of board responsibilities can age these fearless four. From the left are John Felker, Bill Adams, Buddy Landis and Pat Whitaker.



COMING SOON



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

January 9 and 23
Mondays

Online Mentor/Mentee Game
7:00 P.M.

January 10
Tuesdays

Bridge Basics II begins—8 week course
9:30-11:30 A.M.

January 15
Sunday

Open Pairs Party
12:30 P.M.

January 19-22
Thursday-Sunday

Pigeon Forge NLM Regional and Sectional
Tournament

February 1
Wednesday

Pick a Partner (one with whom you have never played)
12 Noon

February 4
Saturday

Open Pairs Party—Extra Points
11:30 A.M.



How to Be a Better Partner



Ask not what your partner should do for you, but what you should do for your partner!



BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

If you are sitting North/South, greet and welcome your opponents when they come to the table. If it is appropriate, introduce yourself and your partner. Playing in a friendly environment raises everyone's game.

Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

The FDBC Christmas party was a huge success and a good time was had by all!



This month, our Marvelous Member of the Month is obvious: **Suzy Bryant**, our outgoing President (pictured here holding the beautiful flowers with incoming President **Leigh Broadway**). Suzy has been an outstanding leader. Not only has she undeniably contributed to the club's success with her leadership skills, but every Thursday, her dazzling personality and humor have elevated the enjoyment of our games. Truly,

we will miss her in her leadership role, but are thankful she is not going anywhere.

Everyone is welcome to join us Thursdays at 10:15 at Mountain City Club. No doubt, you will enjoy the people, the food and the relaxed atmosphere. If you are interested, please contact Susie Crouch at susancrouch54@gmail.com to reserve a spot.



SHOUT OUT

We hope that **Doug Cart** can hear our very loud shout out. All of us at the CBC owe him a debt of gratitude for his unselfish contribution to the club. Not only is he diligently overseeing the outside wall construction ensuring that everything is done to perfection, but he has also made multiple trips to the Bridge Center to keep a "winter eye" on our clubhouse.

Thanks, Doug!

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



Are you experiencing the winter doldrums? Do you need something to brighten those dreary, chilly days? No need to look any further. Come on over and play bridge with us. Partnership Chair **Jan Alexander's** (janalexander@epbfri.com) committee matches 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.

January Special Game

It's impossible to say "no" to fried chicken and all the delicious sides that accompany this typically American Sunday fare. Biscuits, mac & cheese, baked beans, coleslaw, and cornbread are only a few. That's why it's really important to make plans now. Grab your favorite partner so you won't be left out of this month's special event. On **Sunday, January 15**, the club will host an open pairs game and will provide the fried chicken and drinks. Players are asked to bring side dishes or desserts.

We'll serve lunch at 12:30 P.M., and the game will begin at 1:00.

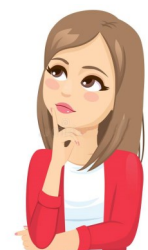
Hope to see you there!



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

Mary Jane Emrath graciously filled in our January blank:

"To me bridge is challenging, interesting, fun, and there's always something new to learn if you so choose— the ultimate card game!"



DO YOU KNOW...

Even the Mighty Can Experience Downs!



A note from your editor: I receive a newsletter from Gavin Wolpert (wolpertbridge.com) that I thoroughly enjoy reading. Gavin is a young, Canadian-American top-ranked bridge player and was a remember of USA2 at the most recent Bermuda Bowl in Italy. His newsletter usually contains a recent video walking through the thought process used in bidding and playing a specific hand as well as links to other videos available including some of his practice sessions with his partner Warren Spector. Notices of upcoming online classes are included also. When I read the following article in the most recent edition of the Wolpert Bridge Newsletter, I thought it contained such valuable insight that I immediately emailed and asked for permission to reprint it in our Unit 206 newsletter. He graciously consented and the article entitled "Confidence Is Key" follows.



Hi everyone,

I am back unsuccessful from the Phoenix Nationals. We went there to defend our title in the Soloway KO teams and were eliminated in the first round. This follows an early exit from the Poland World Championships. Our team is unquestionably in a slump. Even at high levels, it is easy to let bad thoughts into your mind when this is happening. It's very easy to lose confidence in yourself and your team. The problem is that this game is hard enough even when our minds are not clouded with negative thoughts.

Why is my team losing? It's a combination of three things.

- 1) We are making more mistakes than usual.
- 2) Our opponents are making fewer mistakes than usual.
- 3) The cards have not rewarded us in the 50/50 spots.

When your opponents are making fewer mistakes and the card gods are working against you, it significantly amplifies your mistakes. The hardest part about being in a slump is to stay objective about your decision making. Are you doing the right thing but having it work out badly or are you making mistakes?

Luckily at my level, I can very easily look back at a hand and say, "I know I did the right thing, but it didn't work out well." This is something that my students have to work on. Often times, you do the right thing and are not rewarded, while your opponents do the wrong thing, and it works out like a charm.

Why am I on this rant? I know my students battle these confidence struggles on a regular basis, so by sharing my experience I hope to help you calm your negative thoughts and get back to doing your best on every decision. This is a very streaky game. There are times when you can do no wrong, and times when every card you touch is wrong. The important thing is to keep having fun and don't be too hard on yourself. My team is going to turn it around and so can you. Stay positive.

Gavin

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Unusual vs. Unusual

I was playing at the club the other day, and several players commented throughout the day as to how unusual the hands had been. Lots of very distributional hands, bad splits in the suits, long suits and preemptive bids - you know the story by now. Anyway, it got me thinking about distributional hands, and I came to the conclusion that it's not all that unusual after all.



If you think about it, if one player has a seven-card suit and makes a preemptive bid, it's pretty likely (that is, not so unusual) that the distribution is going to be off in the other suits among the four hands. If I'm the declarer in 4 Spades and my RHO opened the bidding with 3 Hearts, it's a pretty good bet that my LHO has more spades than my RHO - after all, he has 13 "vacant places" (i.e., cards that could be spades) and my RHO has only 6.

All of this is an introduction to the conventional bid known as Unusual vs. Unusual. It comes up rather infrequently, but when it does it can be quite useful. The prerequisite for U v. U is that an opponent has made a conventional bid that shows two long suits, and both suits are known.

A good example is a Michaels direct cue bid of a minor suit opening bid. If my RHO opens with 1 Club and I bid 2 Clubs, I am guaranteeing (usually) five spades and five hearts. Another example is the "Unusual No Trump" bid. If my RHO opens with 1 Spade and I bid 2 NT, the jump to 2NT guarantees at least five diamonds and five clubs.

In the Unusual vs. Unusual convention, when partner has bid a suit and the opponent overcalls with a conventional bid showing two known suits, you now have two known suits, both of which are defined by the opponent's bid, in which you can make a cue bid to describe your hand. Bidding the lower ranking of those two suits promises at least a limit raise (a good 9 points or better) in the lower ranking of the "other" two suits, i.e., the two suits that the opponent isn't showing. Bidding the higher ranking of the opponent's two suits shows a limit raise or better in the higher ranking of the other two suits.

Here's an illustration: partner opens 1 Spade and RHO bids 2 No Trump, showing diamonds and clubs. If you now bid 3 Clubs you are promising a limit raise or better in Hearts (the lower ranking suit not shown by opponent's bid). If you bid 3 Diamonds you are promising a limit raise or better in Spades.

There's a twist, however. Partner has only bid one of those two suits. In the example above, if he bids 1 Spade he promises 5 spades, but says nothing about hearts. So if you bid to show a limit raise in hearts (and by inference, denying spade support) you should have extra length, at least a five-card suit. If you bid to show a limit raise in spades, you only need 3 cards in support of partner's suit (which guarantees an eight-card major suit fit).

When this convention is used after an opponent makes a Michaels cue bid, you have to know exactly which two suits he has - otherwise, you can't use the U v. U bid. If partner opens 1 Club or 1 Diamond and RHO bids 2 of that suit he promises both majors, and you can bid hearts to show clubs, or spades to show diamonds. This can be very useful in finding a minor suit fit to explore a game contract.

But if partner opens 1 of a major and the opponent bids 2 of that major, he is promising 5 cards in the other major and 5 in an undisclosed minor suit. In that situation U v. U doesn't apply, and your bid of a minor suit is presumed to be natural. You can bid the other major to show a limit raise in partner's suit, but that is a standard cue bid and not U v. U.

One Last Thing...continued

The value of the Unusual vs. Unusual convention is obvious. When one player has 10 or more cards in two suits, the distribution in the other three hands is likely to be unbalanced as well. When that happens it is handy to have a single bid that enables you to describe both the strength and the shape of your hand.



If you and your partner use this convention, note it on your convention card. In the lower box on the right-hand side of the card under "Other Conv Calls" write in "U v. U." Be sure to alert the bid when your partner makes it (or, if you're playing online, alert it when you make the call).

By the way, if you really want to see unusual distributions, try playing solitaire on BBO. In any normal bridge game your finesses will succeed about 50 percent of the time. In BBO solitaire, you can count on the finesse losing every time, and trumps will split 4-1 far more often than the 3-2 split that occurs in the real world about 68 percent of the time.

happy new year