

Library Corner

Insights on Bridge: Moments in Bidding Book 1 by Mike Lawrence (2019)

Readers can take any advice from renowned bridge player and author Mike Lawrence "to the bank," as the old adage goes. This book is part of a series by Lawrence "designed to turn aspiring players into good players." In the foreword to the book, Lawrence points out that he doesn't promise turning the reader into an expert player—that would be the next step. This series is intended to start the reader's journey to becoming a good player as well as a good partner, perhaps an even more important aspect of playing bridge. The book is not divided into chapters but into hands, of which there are 102. The partnership's hands are shown, the bidding options are considered, and the final outcome is discussed. Each hand takes at most 2 pages in the book, making the book useful for pondering the advice Lawrence gives without overwhelming the reader. Watch for more books in this series to be added to the Bridge Center library as time goes by. For those unfamiliar with Mike Lawrence, he has won two world championships, three Bermuda Bowl titles, 16 North American Championships, and more than 23,000 masterpoints.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

March, 2023



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Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...



Support the Chattanooga Sectional Tournament! We are hosting an open sectional tournament that also includes a section for players with under 300 points March 24-26. Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, are pairs games with the team game on Sunday, March 26. Lunch will be provided. The tournament will be held at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. We hope to see you there. Reservations are required. Please register with Margie Moses.

We have a couple of new events coming up this Spring as well. We will start a Monday night game on May 1 (Open and 199), hoping enough will attend to make this an ongoing event. We will be hosting a "Mystery Partner" event as well in May. Everyone is guaranteed a partner, but you won't know who until you arrive!!

So, we have a busy spring ahead. Hope to see you at the Bridge Center.

Richard Spangler



A Smidgen of Smiths

Which is Better: a 5-3 or a 4-4 Fit in a Major Suit?

In bidding bridge hands, one of the goals is to find an eight-card fit in a major. In general, playing 4H or 4S with an eight-card fit usually scores better than playing 3NT. With your suit breaking evenly (68% of the time), playing in the 4-4 fit usually scores a trick better than the 5-3 fit. Your 5-card suit allows you to pitch losers.

Here's an example:

North

♠AKxxx

♥QJxx

♦x

♣xxx

South

♠QJx

♥AKxx

♦Qxx

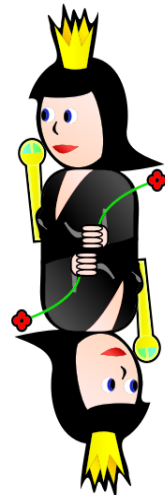
♣Axx

If you play this hand in your 5-3 spade fit, you will make 4S: 5 spade tricks, 4 heart tricks, and the Ace of clubs.

However, if you play this hand in your 4-4 heart fit, you most likely will make 5H. You draw the trumps and they split 3-2, leaving a trump in each hand. You then run 5 spades, pitching 2 clubs from the South hand. You now make 5 Hearts: 5 spade tricks, 5 hearts tricks (one ruff in each hand) and the A of clubs. If the opponents don't lead a club, you have the possibility of making 6H by trumping 2 diamonds before drawing trumps. And, if it's not your lucky day and the hearts break 4-1, you will still make 4H.

For those of you who love to play no trump with 3-4-3-3 hands, keep the above hand in mind. On a diamond lead, you will most likely go down in a no trump contract. On a diamond lead in 4H, you will probably make 5H, possibly 6H. Good to remember.

Linda and Ron Smith



Ask Not What Your Club Can Do For You, Ask What You Can Do for Your Club



Are you feeling a little bored? Do you need to rev up your languishing red blood cells? Are Saturday mornings just not fun anymore? As usual, we've come up with the answer. Join us on Saturday, March 11, in our effort to spruce up the exterior of the Chattanooga Bridge Center. **Doug Cart** is heading up this project and can use extra hands, as well as your brooms, blowers, and rakes.

We'll meet at the CBC at 9:00 A.M. If it's raining or the weather is bad, the back up date is the following Saturday, March 18.

We can use the help. You can use the exercise. It's a match-up made in heaven!



HATS OFF TO...



In March, we tip our hat to **Bruce Antman**! Bruce was recently elected to the Board, and the Board elected him to be our 1st Vice President. Beforehand, Bruce has been very active playing at the Club, serving as an Ambassador and helping with preparing the boards as needed. NEW for Bruce this year is that he is now also a Director. Bruce just started directing this year and has been a great addition to the team. We heard from several players that Bruce's first day directing was quite an initiation for him and that he came through with flying colors. Thanks to Bruce for his contribution to the Club and congrats for a successful kick off to directing our games!

WooHoo!

The Cleveland Bridge Club is proud and very happy to announce that **Wanda Everhart** is Unit 206's newest Life Master. Wanda has worked hard to make this dream come true. Next time you see her, make sure to give her a pat on the back or a big high-five in recognition of her dedication and commitment in achieving this special distinction.



PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



Have you noticed that it's too cold, windy and wet to be outside for any extended period of time. March is perfect bridge weather. To fill up those empty spaces on your calendar, just email Partnership Chair **Jan Alexander** (janalexander@epbfi.com). Her committee matches players looking for partners. If you contact Jan, she'll wave her magic wand and, *voila!* In no time, you will be sitting at the bridge table and maybe even winning a few masterpoints. Stranger things have happened!

Hey-Read All About It Results of February Special Games



This past month, the CBC held two special games: a pairs game on Saturday, February 4, and two weeks later, a Grand National Teams qualifier on Saturday, February 18. This month there will be no special weekend games due to the upcoming March 24-26 Sectional Tournament. Congratulations to our February winners:

Special Pairs Game

1st Place Margie Moses/Iris Abelson
2nd Place Ken Thompson/Joe Viola
3rd Place David Vine/Sandy Cervantes

GNT Qualifier

1st Place Joe Viola, Cal Brassfield, Larry Reneau, Myra Reneau
2nd Place John Felker, Stephanie Felker, Janie Hunt, Margie Moses
3rd Place Buddy Landis, Roger Briley, Earl Rothberger, Susan Rothberger

Judy Monen and MJ Levine hosted the pairs game, and Janie Hunt was in charge of the GNT game. Thanks ladies for a wonderful afternoon and for all your hard work.

Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club celebrated Valentine's Day on February 16th followed by a Mardi Gras celebration on the 23rd. Suzy Bryant made a delicious King cake and, as you can see, nobody found the baby Jesus. Not to worry—there's always next year! This is a fun and relaxed respite, and everyone is welcome. Please come join us. If you are interested, contact Susie Crouch at susancrouch54@gmail.com to reserve a spot.

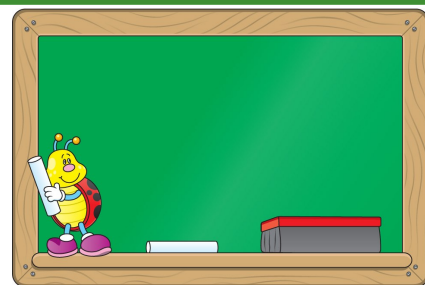


Our Marvelous Member of the Month is Carole Rowland. Carole is our newest Treasurer. She is brilliant and definitely overqualified for this position. We are so fortunate to have her keeping our books in order. She is always willing to pitch in, and she has a keen sense of humor. She's a real treasure. (Get it?) Bada Boom!

Pictured top right in all their Mardi Gras finery are Suzy Bryant, Dan Chandler and Susie Crouch. Bottom left holding the lost baby Jesus is Susie Crouch.

Upcoming Saturday Classes

Beginning on Saturday, April 1, **Janie Hunt** and **Margie Moses** will hold a series of 2 hour classes covering a variety of topics. Classes begin at 9:30 A.M. and should end by 11:30 A.M. Each class costs \$5.00. There will be lots of exercises and even some homework (remember that?). You can take every class or pick and choose the ones you think will be of benefit. Here's the line-up.



April 1	Major openings and rebids
April 8	Help Suit Game Try
April 15	Review Stayman, transfers, and minor relays after partner opens 1NT
April 22	Inverted Minor
April 29	Take out Doubles
May 6	DON'T (Disturb opponents' NT)
May 13	Weak 2 bids and Strong 2 club openings
May 20	Reverses and Jacoby 2NT
May 27	Whatever the class wants or a day of play.



New Class Offering Bridge Basics III

Mike Holmes and the Chattanooga Bridge Club are offering the third beginning bridge class Bridge Basics III--Popular Conventions. 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, March 7, 2023. This is an eight-week course. Class will begin at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 11:30 a.m. The cost of the course is \$70.00. You can register for the course by contacting Mike Holmes at 303-928-9187 or by emailing mdholmes8@yahoo.com There is a full description of the class on the Unit 206 Website (wp.unit206acbl.org/) under Lessons.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CHANCES ARE?

If there are 13 cards in your hand, at least one suit **MUST** contain four cards. However it's actually more likely that your longest suit will have five cards. Here are the figures for the chances of how long your longest suit will be:

Four card suit: 35%
Six card suit: 16.5%
Eight card suit: .47%
Ten card suit: 0.0017%
Twelve card suit: 0.00000032%

Five card suit: 44%
Seven card suit: 3.5
Nine card suit: 0.037%
Eleven card suit: 0.000036%
Thirteen card suit: One in 159 billion!



Myra's Box



Recently, I've heard people wondering about the role of the Director. As you might imagine, you would not play football without a referee nor baseball without an umpire. Well, the same is true for bridge. The Club Director or Tournament Director is there simply to help with interpreting and enforcing the rules. There is no shame nor should there be a problem utilizing the services of the Director. So if somebody calls the Director to your table, don't take it personally. The Director will ensure that things get back in place after any irregularity.

All Directors go through training, whether in person or online, to be able to establish the movement settings for the game, the flights, and then help with rulings at the table. Bridge rulings are designed not to be punitive, but merely to restore equity, as if everything had gone smoothly. Occasionally there has to be some subjectivity, but most times it is straightforward using the rules to remedy the situation. If you ever disagree with a Director's ruling, you can request that a committee review the situation.

One thing we do request is that you say "Director, please". That way we can all have a smile on our face as the Director is called.

Myra



May the leprechauns
be near you,
To spread luck
along your way.
And may all the
Irish angels,
Smile upon you
St. Patrick's Day.

Are You Looking for Fun In All The Wrong Places?

You can stop your fruitless efforts now. We guarantee you that the most fun you can have on a Monday night is right in your own home. All you need is your tablet, laptop or computer tuned in to BBO. Our online Mentor/Mentee game is every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. The games in March will be on the 13th and 27th. **Anne**



Donnovin heads up this very popular activity, and she is always looking to sign up new players either as mentors or mentees. She will match you up and give you plenty of time to develop a convention card. For newer players, this is the perfect opportunity to practice a new convention or get constructive criticism on your play. For experienced players, this is a great way to give back and help keep alive this wonderful game we all love. Everyone has a chance to come out on top, so don't miss this opportunity to win masterpoints. If you would like to play, let Anne know by contacting her at aadonnovin@bellsouth.net.

WE NEED YOU!

Cleveland Bridge Club



There's a game in Cleveland (that's Tennessee not Ohio!) every Tuesday at the Senior Center on Urbane Road. Everyone is invited. The game starts at 1:00 p.m., but please arrive fifteen minutes early so the

game can begin promptly. You are asked to make reservations by texting **Polly Sullivan** at 423.715.0986 or **Teresa Moore** at 423.321.2778 if you plan to play. Reservations help avoid any unnecessary problems in the event of cancellations."

Nooga East Bridge Club



Don't miss out on all the fun at Christ United Methodist Church at 8645 East Brainerd Road. Every Monday, rain or shine, there's a bridge game at 12:30 p.m. Everyone has a great time, so why not test the waters and try it out next Monday. Please arrive no later than 12:15 as the game starts promptly at 12:30. You are asked to make reservations by emailing noogabridgeeast@gmail.com or by calling or texting **Sharon Lewis** at 423.240.5360.

How would you fill in the blank?

"To me bridge ____."

Since I am recuperating from hip surgery in Akron, Ohio, I asked my daughter, Joy, to fill in the blank this month. Here's her answer:

"To me bridge is confusing and indecipherable, but, wonder of wonders, Mama loves it. It's great fun seeing and often hearing her delight (and sometimes frustration) when she plays online with her friends. Bridge has brought her much happiness and seeing that has brought it to me, too."



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 Bridgmates and Place Card agree.



Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Come celebrate St. Paddy's day at our Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee game on Friday, March 17. If you are interested in playing either as a mentor or mentee, text or call **Sue Shramko** at 404.304.7017.

February winners were:



First
Second
Third

North/South

Barbara Anderson/Ginny Gannaway
Suzanne Atchley/Linda Metz
Shayna Scott/Louis Mucciolo
Bruce Antman/Joe Schatz
Margie Moses/Marianne Gilbert

East/West

Earl Rothberger/Geof Workinger
Joe Viola/Leslie Nelson
Donna Cart/Zane Sherrill



Bridge Tip for March

Read what others say you need to know, but adopt conventions only when they make sense to both of you. Dabble with new ideas, but do not add them permanently until you have fully mastered the ones you currently play.

Jerry Helms

Do you know?



The History of our Ambassador Program

(Ann Keown has headed up this successful program since it began in 2016. When asked if she would like to write something about her "baby," Ann quickly and happily provided this information.)

In May, 2015, Bill, my traveling companion for so many years, and I visited Austin and San Antonio, TX. While in San Antonio, I decided to visit a Bridge Club. In looking at their Website, they had a link to their Ambassador Program encouraging anyone to come without a partner and the Ambassador would be their partner. Besides a wonderful trip to San Antonio's Riverwalk, I played at their club with 2 different Ambassadors! They made me feel very welcome! I met the owner of the club and after I returned home, I had a conversation with her as well as the Houston club (this club had the Ambassador Program first). On both of their Websites were very thorough information on their programs, and the information "stood out."

After I returned, I wrote up a proposal for the Board to consider. (I was a Board member at the time.) My recommendation was not approved until May 15, 2016, after one Board member asked what the costs would be (minimal) and everyone agreed that I could proceed. I later was told that many of the Board members were skeptical that the program would be successful, believing I would be unable to find Ambassador volunteers. Early on, I had begun discussing the recommendation with a few people and had their support. I was a newer player at the time, and I believed one advantage would be that newer players would play in the open games with some better players.

The Ambassador Program began on May 31, 2016, and in my email to the Ambassadors, I made the statement that we have Ambassadors for both open game days, but we just need people to come. And, they did! I had collected statistics the first year or so and provided the President data to be used at the annual meeting. For that year, the Ambassador program resulted in a higher number of tables for that year than the previous year.

The original program was just for the Tuesday and Wednesday open games but during the pandemic, it was extended to all weekly online games. The majority of Ambassadors, during this time, paid for their own games and were not compensated for their service, which helped the club financially during this unusual time.

Bruce Antman, Iris Abelson, and I have been Ambassadors since the inception of the program. Others who were the original Ambassadors were Nancy Fletcher, Mary Pierce, Susan Kimm, Bucky Hughes, Harriett Hereford, plus Suzanne Atchley and Pat Whitaker (5th week Ambassadors). I truly appreciate their support during the initial "kickoff" of this program. We owe them a BIG thanks for the Ambassador program's success!

Current Ambassadors are Joyce Boatwright, Richard Spangler, Judy Monen, Mary Duffy, Shayna Scott, Bruce Antman, Leigh Broadway, Ginny Gannaway, Mary Jane Emrath, Jan Alexender, Doug Cart, Margie Moses, Carol Grisanti, MJ Levine, and Mary Robertson. Also, thanks to the many substitute Ambassadors who have volunteered.

In conclusion, I believe the program has been even more successful than anyone thought. I can also say that almost all the original naysayers have personally told me that they were wrong to think that it wouldn't be successful which meant a lot to me! On some days, we have had as many as 4 show up without a partner.

We are always in need of additional Ambassadors or substitutes! Just let me know if you are willing to "give back" to the club by being an Ambassador.

BLAST from the PAST



While involved in a completely unrelated search, Pat Whitaker ran across this sweet photo, and Maryl Elliott was kind enough to help match names to faces. The photo was taken at a game in Cleveland many years ago. Pictured left to right and obviously having a terrific time are Chris Reynolds, Maryl Elliott, Kay Martin, Lois Wyche, Harry Trewhitt, June Carlyle, Pat Whitaker, and an unidentified lady from Dalton.



New Monday Night Game Open and 199er Starting May 1, 2023

In an effort to provide another limited game option to our novice players and to offer an opportunity for players with daytime commitments, the CBC has decided to hold a Monday evening game beginning May 1st. Similar to our current Friday day games, there will be an open as well as a limited 199er game. If, in addition to playing, you would like to enjoy a meal, please bring a covered dish to share. Food will be served at 5:30 P.M., and the game will start at 6:00 P.M. We hope this appeals to a lot of our members, so spread the word!! If there's enough interest, more games like this will be scheduled in the future.

Test Your Bridge Trivia Knowledge

Achieving the distinction of Life Master is a recognition to which many of us aspire. There are only two players on whom the ACBL has bestowed the title of Honorary Life Master. Do you know who they are? Twist your neck to see the answer below.

Charles M. Schulz (1922 - 2000), creator of the world famous comic strip Peanuts, was an avid bridge player, and from time to time Snoopy is portrayed sitting on the roof of his dog house, playing bridge with his feathered friends. You can imagine Schulz' delight when, in 1997, Snoopy and Woodstock were made Honorary Life Masters by the American Contract Bridge League, the only two players to have ever been so honored.



Mark Your Calendar

Be sure to mark your calendar now so you won't miss out on any of these exciting bridge opportunities.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR....



March 13 & 27
Mondays

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

March 17
Friday

Mentor/Mentee Game
Noon CBC

March 24-26
Friday-Sunday

Chattanooga Open Sectional
9:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. CBC

April 8
Saturday

Special Pairs Game
11:30 A.M. Lunch/Noon Game CBC

April 10 & 24
Mondays

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

April 14
Friday

Mentor/Mentee Game
Noon CBC
Note the date change due to Gatlinberg tournament.

May 1
Monday

NEW Evening Game
Covered Dish at 5:30 P.M./Game at 6:00 P.M. CBC

May 9
Tuesday

Mystery Game!
Noon CBC



How To Be A Better Partner Just Laugh



Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain. Laughter can ease the heavy load of anger and diffuse conflict. An added benefit is that laughter can even burn calories! Laughing 10-15 minutes a day can burn 40 calories. There are very few of us who wouldn't benefit from that added plus!



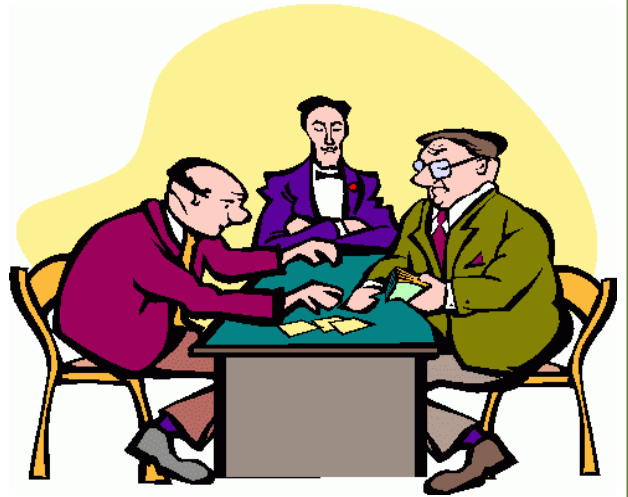
BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Many of us enjoy reviewing the sit-out boards with our partner. No problem. But, if you do review the boards, please be certain to return the correct number of cards to the correct slots. It makes everyone's life so much easier.

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Tempo



All musicians know the importance of staying in tempo. If the band is playing a waltz and the drummer is playing a beat to a march, the audience will be marching for the door. The tempo of a song creates a mood, it sends a signal to the listener. The signal may be loud and clear (think of the opening to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony) or it may be subtle. Regardless, it is always there.

What does this have to do with bridge? I'm glad you asked. When we are at the bridge table, our actions should always be in the same tempo, and if we deviate from that tempo we send a signal to the others at the table, including our partner. Any information we give to our partner by deviating from normal tempo is unauthorized information, and may result in a penalty if it causes a disadvantage to our opponents.

Here's an example from a hand I played several months ago. The auction went as follows:

<u>North (me)</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
3 Hearts	Pass	Pass	1 No Trump
Pass (**)	Pass(*)	Pass	3 Spades
	4 Spades	All Pass	

* Hesitation of more than 20 seconds

** "Director Please"

What did East's hesitation say about his hand? Or better put, what did it not say? If East had no card higher than a ten, would there be anything to think about before pulling out the Pass card? Obviously not. So the long hesitation said, clear as a bell, "I have some values here but I don't know what to do." A Pass in tempo would have put West on the horns of a dilemma, whether to take action against my preemptive bid. But the hesitation, or rather the information communicated by the hesitation, made that decision much easier. It turns out West had a good No Trump opening bid with a five-card spade suit, but the lengthy hesitation nonetheless sent a clear message that it was safe to compete at the 3- or 4-level against the preemptive bid, or perhaps to double for penalty with an appropriate hand.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge include several different references to situations in which a hesitation is impermissible because it provides unauthorized information to one's partner. The Laws specify that a bid (including Pass) "in tempo" should be made within ten seconds, and anything longer than that may be considered a hesitation. When a hesitation might be providing information to the partner of that player, it is appropriate for the opposing pair to call the Director. The initial discussion with the Director merely documents the hesitation without knowing yet whether it led to any disadvantage to the opponents. After the auction is finished and the play of the hand has been completed, if the opposing pair believe they have been disadvantaged they may ask the Director to return to the table and determine whether a penalty should be assessed. But the hesitation must be documented by a call to the Director at the time it occurs, not after the hand has been played.

Continued on the next page.

One Last Thing...continued

OK, let's take a step back and have a realistic view of what happens at the bridge table. We all experience situations in which it is not clear what we should do, both in the auction and in the play of the hand. Should I upgrade my good 9 point hand to a limit raise of partner's suit, or just make a simple one-step raise? Should I cover the jack with my queen or duck? Do I accept partner's invitation to bid game or stop in a part score? These are questions we ask ourselves every time we sit down at the table.

Usually if we ponder what to bid for more than ten seconds and then bid something other than Pass, we haven't communicated unauthorized information to our partner. If my partner opens the bidding with 1 Spade and I take 20 seconds before bidding 3 Spades (limit raise), partner has a pretty good idea of my hand, but she doesn't know whether I stretched to make a limit raise with a good 8 point hand or downgraded a poor 12 point hand that I had considered for a 2/1 game forcing bid.

But if I am in a competitive auction such as the one I described at the outset of this article, if my partner has bid and my opponent has overcalled and now I have to decide whether to enter the auction or pass, my hesitation before passing sends a clear message to partner. Hesitating and then passing is different than hesitating and then bidding.

If in the example I cited my left-hand opponent had hesitated and then doubled, what would his partner know from the hesitation? Only that he had some values? Was he showing a hand with four spades? Or a hand with 9 points but no heart stopper? Or a hand with both minors, hoping his partner had a heart stopper? Or just a good hand asking partner to do something intelligent, including the possibility of passing for penalty. The hesitation before doubling would have been inappropriate but it's hard to say that it would have communicated unauthorized information. But the hesitation before passing sent an encouraging message to the opening bidder that was definitely a communication of unauthorized information.

Newer players obviously have more difficulty deciding whether to bid or pass, and we should all give them more latitude before calling the Director. Nonetheless, it is important for new players to learn about the rules that govern the game we all love, and pointing out a hesitation at the table is the best way to do that. In the example I gave, the opponent was a seasoned life master and I felt it was appropriate to enlist the aid of the Director—something I would not have done had he been a novice player.

One last thing - if an opponent calls the Director to the table to rule on a hesitation, do not be offended. Rather, make it your practice to bid and play in tempo. That being said, I will admit that there are times when I simply cannot decide what to do during an auction and I knowingly take too much time. In that situation I will acknowledge to my opponents that I have hesitated and invite them to call the Director if they feel they have been disadvantaged by my action. That takes the burden off them. But in a situation where I have hesitated I will rarely, if ever, decide to pass unless I am in the pass-out seat and my pass ends the auction.

HAPPY
St. Patrick's
☘ DAY ☘