

## Library Corner

### ***Insights on Bridge: Bid, Play, and Defend Book 2***

by Mike Lawrence (2020)

As in book 1, Lawrence presents more of his insights on how to bid, play, and defend specific hands. He points out in the foreword to this book that, "Bridge isn't a game where you can immerse yourself for six months and become a good player. There's just too much to learn. You have to start somewhere and then move in the right direction." This should give hope to the novice player who at first might expect to become a good player in a short time. For most players, that won't happen. The longest discussion of a hand in this book only covers about four pages. Most hands cover only 1-2 pages. The reader can take his/her time studying what Lawrence presents, covering a few lessons at a time and not be overwhelmed by the content. A note on the back cover of the book explains perhaps the primary benefit to reading and studying the examples in this book. "The material in this book is devoted to situations and problems you will see at the table but are hard to find in books."



## ALERT!!

*A publication of ACBL Unit 206*

**April, 2023**



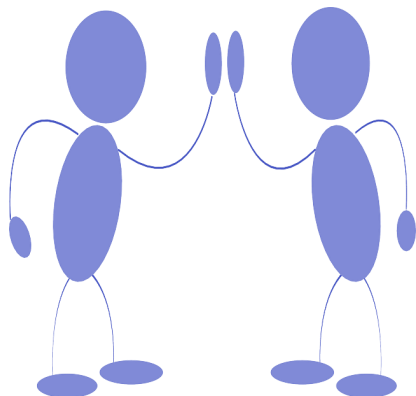
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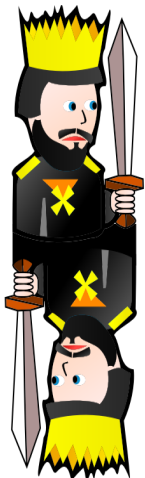
## A message from the president...



A very big thanks to you! Because of YOU, we had a successful Sectional Tournament March 24-26 with those visiting especially voicing appreciation of a great event. Personally, I believe our success was because of your tremendous support! Everyone was very welcoming and engaging with our visitors. Many of you brought food, snacks and drinks; plus, donations to cover our food costs were at an all time high. It was wonderful seeing all of the carpools to manage the tight parking. We came out ahead financially versus the loss from the last open sectional. Because of its success, we are already planning dates for more tournaments at the Bridge Center! Again - thanks to all of you for making this tournament such a success!



**Richard Spangler**



# A Smidgen of Smiths

## 635,013,559,600

The number above is the total number of possible bridge hands. We are going to talk about the percentage play of one of those card combinations.

Your dummy holds: A1072

Your hand is: Q965

The percentage play (with no opposing bidding) is to double finesse. You would lead low to the 10. If you lose to the Jack, you will come back to your hand to lead the Queen and finesse for the King. There's a 78% chance of losing only one trick using this line of play. You must hold the 9 to make this work. If you have a 7-card fit, the same rule applies.

However, if you hold a 9-card fit, the rule changes.

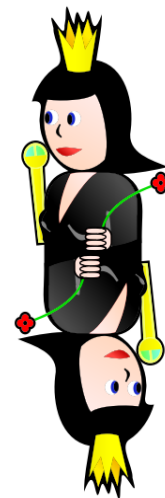
Your dummy holds: A10732

Your hand is: Q965

The correct play (with no opposing bidding) is to cash the Ace and then lead low towards the Queen. There's an 83% chance of losing only one trick using this line of play.

If one of your opponents bids, you may need to change your strategy and play them for the missing high card points.

You can find all the card combinations and the percentage way to play them in the Encyclopedia of Bridge. The Bridge Center Library has many copies.



## Linda and Ron Smith



## Attention New Players

### New Game Help Us Spread the Word

We will be starting a new game for players with fewer than 50 masterpoints. Soon, we will reach out to a lot of you to determine the best day and time of the week to hold the game. We plan to start the new game within a month. Look for an update shortly!



## April Special Game "Lettuce Play Bridge"

The salad bar opens at 11:30 on Saturday, April 8 when the CBC hosts the April special game—"Lettuce Play Bridge." The club will provide a taco salad, and players are asked to bring a salad of their choice to help fill out the food table. Pasta, fruit, vegetable, rice—you name it—all salads are welcome. If salad is not your bailiwick, remember we all love desserts and, luckily, this month, no one is watching their weight! Play begins at noon, and extra points will be awarded. Come join the fun for good food and games.



## HATS OFF TO...



We want to thank Bert Shramko for his tremendous coordination of providing food and drinks for the Sectional Tournament. We have had a tradition of providing complimentary food and drink for attendees at our tournaments. To succeed, this requires significant effort by the Food Coordinator to line up people to bring food, snacks and drinks. This also involves ensuring beverages and snacks are available throughout the game, that a set-up and clean-up crew is assigned for each day of the tournament, and adjusting to last minute challenges that typically arise. Bert definitely went above and beyond the call of duty taking on added



bathroom cleaning effort after an unfortunate incident. Thanks to Bert for all that he did for the club to make the event a success!

## Easter Groaners



Why did the bunnies go on strike?  
They wanted better celery.

Why couldn't the Easter Bunny fly home for the holiday?  
He couldn't afford the hare fare.

What do you call an Easter egg from outer space?  
An eggs-traterrestrial.

Who is the Easter Bunny's favorite actor?  
Rabbit DeNiro

What does the Easter Bunny say before he eats?  
Lettuce Pray

Why did the Easter Bunny have to fire the duck?  
Because he kept quacking the eggs.



## PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Daylight savings started in March, so you may find that you've got some extra time on your hands. There's no better way to fill those idle hours than with a fun and competitive bridge game. Need help finding a partner? Just email Partnership Chair **Jan Alexander** ([janalexander@epbfi.com](mailto:janalexander@epbfi.com)). Her committee matches players looking for partners so there's no excuse. Let the committee know you'd like to play and in no time you'll be having the time of your life (and maybe making a new friend).

# To The Victors Go The Spoils (or points as it may be)

## WINNERS



Everyone had a terrific time at our recent March Sectional Tournament. Great food, wonderful competition, enjoyable opponents, well-run games and delightful out-of-towners—all combined to insure that the tournament was a roaring success. The following five players found it extra entertaining since they were atop the leader board. Notice that they are all from Unit 206? Way to go!

1st	Myra Reneau	24.16
2nd	Larry Reneau	22.07
3rd	Dan Chandler	16.91
4th	Susan Rothberger	13.45

## Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

Never a group to miss a chance to revel and rejoice, the FDBC welcomed players to their shenanigan festivities a day early to celebrate St. Paddy's Day. If you missed the fun, there's always another party around the corner. You are invited to join the group at the Mountain City Club every Thursday at 10:15 A.M.—just contact Susie Crouch at [susancrouch54@gmail.com](mailto:susancrouch54@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.



Maryl Elliott is our Marvelous Member of the Month since she is so loyal to come all the way from Cleveland. While Maryl is a powerhouse player, she always exudes a calming and pleasant demeanor. We are so happy she makes that trek.

Pictured from the left are Buddy Landis; Richard Spongler and Winnell Goodner; and, the official Shenanigan Coordinators Susie Crouch and Suzy Bryant.



## New Monday Night Game Open and 199er Starting May 15, 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 will have a Monday evening game beginning May 15. Similar to our current Friday day games, there will be an open as well as a limited 199er game. If you would like to share a meal, please bring a covered dish. 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.

# Do you know?

## What's Garbage Stayman

Garbage Stayman (sometimes called Drop Dead Stayman) is an artificial bid made by the responder after his partner has opened 1NT. Responder bids 2C and plans to pass any bid by Opener.

Here are a couple examples of when to use this treatment:

### Hands 1

#### Opener

♠AK6  
♥KJ7  
♦AJ92  
♣743

#### Responder

♠9873  
♥T842  
♦7654  
♣6

### Hands 2

#### Opener

♠AK6  
♥K975  
♦AJ9  
♣743

#### Responder

♠T852  
♥Q842  
♦T7653  
♣

The general consensus is that any 2-level suit contract other than 2C will play better than 1NT. In the first example, North with 16 points would open 1NT. Responder with his dismal 0 points uses the Stayman 2C response intending to pass whatever bid Opener makes. Opener responds 2D saying that he does not have a 4-card major and Responder happily passes. In the second example, Opener has 15 points. Again, he opens 1NT and Responder makes the same 2C bid. Here Opener does have a 4-card major and bids 2H. With his 2 points, Responder still passes Opener's bid.

The Garbage Stayman bid works best when Responder has a very weak hand—3 points or less. Simulations show that when Responder has a singleton or void in clubs, the likelihood of making a 1NT contract is:

#### Responder's HCP

0-3 HCP  
4 HCP  
5 HCP  
6 HCP

#### Likelihood of Making 1NT

7 percent  
36 percent  
45 percent  
64 percent



## Saturday Classes

It's not too late to take advantage of our Saturday classes. **Janie Hunt** and **Margie Moses** are teaching 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.

# Myra's Box



Hi All,

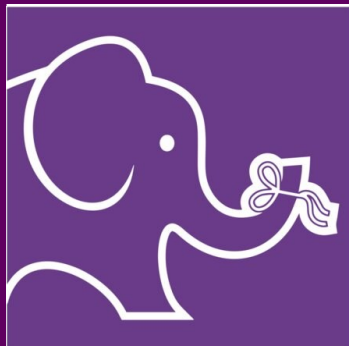
Not much to report, but I wanted to let you know that I have heard there is an increase in the masterpoints awarded in face-to-face pair games. I tried to confirm this as well as what the increase would be, but could not do so prior to the newsletter deadline. I will give you more information next month.

Also, I'd like to share an interesting hand I recently played in an online game. The question on this hand is what does South pitch on the 7<sup>th</sup> trick?

		N seacolt 8	
		♠ 107	
		♥ AJ75	
		♦ 103	
		♣ KQ974	
W bridgkat 7+	W N E S	E joerick123 7+	
♠ 92	Pass Pass 1♦ 2♠	♠ AQ	
♥ K93	3♦ Pass 3NT Pass	♥ Q862	
♦ 9864	Pass Pass	♦ AKQ7	
♣ A1062		♣ J53	
		S scottrehob 6+	
		♠ KJ86543	
		♥ 104	
		♦ J52	
		♣ 8	
		3NT East	
		0 0	

South made a critical mistake. He was on opening lead and led a spade. East won with the Queen. As East runs the diamonds, South makes a fatal pitch of the 10 of hearts. Once he sees this card, East just goes to dummy and finesses North out of all his hearts and makes 3NT. Why is South keeping all those spades and chooses to pitch a valuable heart? He has no entry to his spades and should be able to count to 13. Throw the spades away. Help your partner!

*Myra*



## Let's Go Purple

For years, Unit 206, in conjunction with the ACBL, has supported one annual fundraiser: the Alzheimer's Association's **The Longest Day**. On behalf of your Unit 206 TLD Team - thank you for your tremendous support over the past years. This club amazed me when our 2022 total funds raised exceeded \$13,000. Unbelievable.

So many of our CBC friends have been touched personally by the horrific effects of Alzheimer's or dementia; and this is a meaningful way for us to come together to show our support and compassion for those who have suffered or who are suffering.

TLD's 2023 game schedule will be posted soon. The Summer Solstice will occur on Wednesday, June 21 as Spring ends and Summer begins. Plan on joining us at our TLD games for cards, good food and a chance to share your generosity. Feel free to invite other bridge players to join us.

Let's play bridge!

*Mary Robertson*

# Are You Having Withdrawal Pains?

Since you're an excitement junkie, we know you're in a tough spot now that March Madness is over. If you are looking to get the same adrenalin rush that you get watching the ball go through the basket as the buzzer sounds, we've got the answer. We guarantee you can get the same high by playing in our Monday Night online Mentor/Mentee game. All you need is your tablet, laptop or computer tuned in to BBO. The game is held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. The games in April will be on the 10th and 24th. **Anne Donnovin** heads up



this very popular activity and 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, it's 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](mailto:aadonnovin@bellsouth.net).

## Cleveland Bridge Club



It is with a tremendous amount of disappointment that we inform you that the Cleveland Bridge Club is closed for play at this time. Currently, the club is exploring the options available to them and

will communicate any news as soon as the information becomes available.

Stay tuned and keep your fingers crossed!



## 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](mailto:noogabridgeeast@gmail.com) or by calling or texting **Sharon Lewis at 423.240.5360**.



## How would you fill in the blank?

"To me bridge \_\_\_\_."

Linda Burns kindly agreed to fill in the blank this month.

"To me bridge is a way to interact with my friends as well as make new friends. It's also a good way to keep my mind sharp as it is a constant learning experience."



## 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.

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

Escape the pain of taxes and come enjoy our Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee game on Friday, April 14. Note that the date has changed from the usual 3rd Friday to the 2nd Friday so as not to compete with the Gatlinburg tournament. If you are interested in playing either as a mentor or mentee, text or call **Sue Shramko** at 423.304.7017.



March winners were:

	North/South	East/West
<b>First</b>	Susan Rothberger/Carol Rowland	Earl Rothberger/Barbara Anderson
<b>Second</b>	Ann Keown/John Prescott	Cheryl Whitfield/Mary Robertson
<b>Third</b>	John Graef/John Hubbard	Judy Monen/Jim Lafavor Margie Moses/Janet Horton



## Bridge Tip for April

If partner passes your takeout double of 1 club or 1 diamond, he must have a massive holding in opener's suit. Partner would like to draw their trumps A♠A♣, so unless you are void, lead a trump.

**Marty Bergen**



## Blast from the Past

Our Blast from the Past this month centers on a photo taken at our 2009 ProAm game at the Chattanooga Bridge Center. Pictured are Shirley and Everett Hixson, two very special people. It's sad that we have lost this wonderful couple. Shirley passed away in 2018; Everett followed just this past March.

Both these individuals were the epitome of Southern charm—always thoughtful, kind, and warm. It was a pleasure to arrive at their table and be welcomed with bright smiles and friendly banter even during the fall football season. Shirley was a Georgia graduate while Everett graduated from Georgia Tech where he played college football under Bobby Dodd. We can only imagine Shirley's joy these past two years as she looked down and saw her beloved Bulldogs' success. We are certain that Everett, as would be typical of this kindhearted and considerate Southern gentleman, would delight in Shirley's delight.

Everett and Shirley treated each other with appreciation, respect and care. Shirley, ever the consummate competitor, took bridge more seriously than Everett and relished winning, while Everett relished Shirley. Even when the stakes were high, you never heard a cross word or insult—perhaps, just Shirley's sweet voice saying, "Now, Everett, you know..."



It was a true pleasure to know them both, and they will be deeply missed. Everett and Shirley personified goodness, kindness and graciousness, traits that sadly are becoming rarer with the passing of time.

## Test Your Bridge Trivia Knowledge

What is the probability that a random bridge deal will contain a singleton or void in at least one hand?

- A. 37 percent
- B. 58 percent
- C. 79 percent

Answer:  
C. Most people are surprised by this, but almost four deals out of five have a singleton or void somewhere. I have made practical tests on this, and it holds quite true.



Thanks to Richard Pavlicek for this month's bridge trivia.

If you are sitting West, it is your responsibility to check the Bridgmate and approve the contract and score as entered by North. It is important to take the time to review the information and not just automatically hit the "accept" button. Keeping the Director happy keeps the game happy!

# One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

## Some Thoughts on Bidding Conventions in Bridge



Do you sometimes wonder why bridge players are so enthralled with bidding conventions? Do you know someone who never fails to want to play every convention known to humankind, and even to invent new ones that you've never heard of? So what's the big deal about conventions, and why do we need so many?

Let me put the question somewhat differently: suppose before you began the auction, you could see every card in your partner's hand. You couldn't see what your opponents had, that is, you wouldn't know how the other 26 cards were distributed in the two hands held by your opponents, but if you knew all 26 cards that you and your partner held you'd be pretty accurate at arriving at the best contract.

Of course you're not allowed to see your partner's cards while you are bidding; in fact, if one of partner's cards should accidentally fall onto the floor face up and you saw it, the director might make a ruling so that your side could not take advantage of that "unauthorized" information.

But bidding conventions, when used correctly, offer the next best thing to a "peek" into partner's hand. A convention is an artificial bid that describes what we have, not exactly for every card, but enough to allow for a "conversation" between partners to hopefully arrive at the best contract.

Let's look at some examples, starting with the simplest one - Stayman. Partner opens One No Trump and you have a good ten point hand with two spades, four hearts, four diamonds and three clubs. You know you want to be in a game contract, but which one? If partner has four hearts you have the magic eight-card major suit fit and you want partner to play in Four Hearts. If she doesn't have four hearts, then Three No Trump is the best place to play.

You can't just blurt out "Hey partner, I've got four hearts and ten points!" But you can bid 2 Clubs (Stayman) which asks partner to bid her four-card major suit(s) if she has one or both, and if not, then to show that by bidding 2 Diamonds. So if she bids either 2 Diamonds or 2 Spades (which denies holding 4 hearts) you'll jump to 3 No Trump, ending the auction. If she bids 2 Hearts, you'll jump to 4 Hearts, also ending the auction.

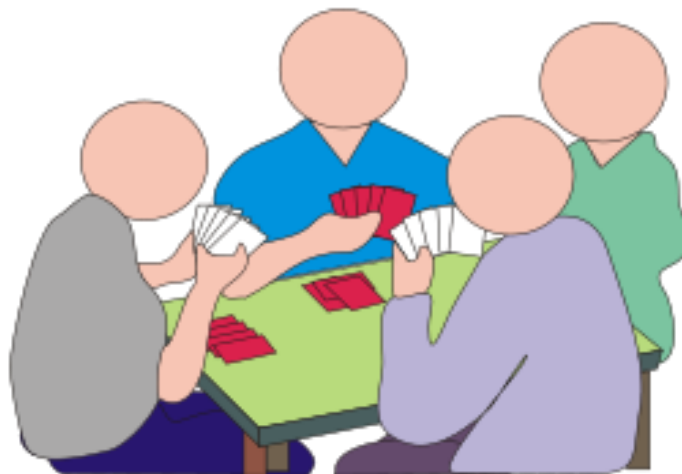
That's the easy one, and there are a few more simple and universally used conventions (transfers, Blackwood, and negative doubles come to mind). But it's not long into a bridge player's learning curve that we start to teach new conventions that are fun to learn but not as easy to master. For example, everyone likes to play Jacoby Two No Trump, but not everyone knows what to do after that first set of bids. There is a complicated conversation that should be taking place when you bid 2 No Trump and partner shows diamond shortness by bidding 3 Diamonds. But if you're not familiar with the underlying theory behind the conventional bid, you might just routinely jump to game and miss the lay-down slam.

So, as promised, here are some thoughts on bidding conventions.

1. Don't try to use more conventions than you can remember. You'll get into a lot of trouble if partner makes a conventional bid and you don't recognize it. You open One Spade and partner bids 4 Diamonds. You aren't sure, but you think it means he has a fistful of diamonds and not much more, so you pass with your singleton diamond and hope he can take ten tricks. But partner was making a splinter bid showing 4+ spades and a singleton or void in diamonds and now he's playing in a 1-1 fit with the opponents holding the other eleven cards in the trump suit (and no, they didn't double because partner would run to Four Spades in a New York minute).

# One Last Thing...continued

2. If you adopt a convention, be sure you know all of the variations that arise in that conventional sequence, what they mean, and how you can use that knowledge to find the best contract. Take Jacoby Two No Trump again as an example. The goal of the convention is to find a slam with fewer than the supposed requisite 33 high card points, when all of your values and all of partner's values are concentrated in three suits and you have only one or no loser in the fourth suit. If you have three small clubs and partner has a singleton or void in clubs, then you have all of your high cards in the other three suits, and if you have no losing tricks in those suits you have a slam with 30 high card points or even fewer. But if Partner has a holding like KQ53 opposite your three small cards, then you have a definite club loser and perhaps a losing trick in another suit - at least you'll need more than 30 high card points to make the slam because partner's 5 points in clubs are not working for you - you'd rather he had a singleton and the king and queen in another suit.



3. If you use a convention, use it with discipline. If your partner can't rely on you to stay within the boundaries of the conventional bids, then pretty soon she'll start to get very conservative when you make one and you'll find that you are not achieving the best results. I used to play with a partner who had a love affair with conventions, and would bend all the rules to be able to make a conventional bid with a hand that didn't quite fit. So a Flannery 2 Diamond opening bid (5 hearts, 4 spades, and 11-15 high card points) sometimes became 6 hearts and 4 spades, or even 6 hearts and 5 spades, sometimes with only 10 high card points or even a "good" nine. A Michaels cue bid that normally shows 5 cards in 2 unbid suits would sometimes be made with only 4 cards in one of those suits. You get the picture.

4. When you go over your convention card with partner before the game, be sure you spend the time needed to clarify your understandings on each box that you've checked. You may think that some things are "standard knowledge" - until it comes up in an auction and you find that you and your partner really never quite reached an agreement on how to treat a sequence of conventional bids.

5. Lastly, when the opponents make a conventional bid be sure you understand what it means and what their agreement is about it. It is best not to ask for an explanation during the auction if you don't intend to bid yourself, because you are just giving the opponents a chance to clarify their misunderstanding. But after the auction is over, when they can't help each other with further explanations, don't hesitate to ask. And don't accept the name of the convention as a suitable answer. The proper response to a request for an explanation is not "Flannery 2 Diamonds" but rather "five hearts, four spades and 11-15 high card points." That way, if they sometimes will make the bid with six hearts or with 10 high card points, they will tell you how they interpret that bid. Don't be shy about asking for the agreement, not the name of the convention.

Conventions are fun and are an important tool for your bridge game. Use them wisely and watch your game improve.

