Library Corner

Introduction to Defense, 2nd Edition by Eddie Kantar (Revised and Updated by Barbara Seagram) (2019)

In the book's introduction, noted author Barbara Seagram states that in her opinion this book and Kantar's earlier companion book Introduction to Declarer Play are the two best bridge books ever written. "Best" and "Ever" make a pretty big statement. Kantar argues that 50% of our opponents' contracts can be defeated by good defense—but 80% of them are fulfilled. The things he states the good defender needs are: (1) knowing which suit and which card in that suit will give your partner the maximum amount of information when you lead, (2) knowing when to signal, (3) knowing when to use an attacking defense (taking your tricks as quickly as possible) or when to use a passive defense, and (4) deciding what the declarer is trying to do by studying how he plays the hand. Each chapter ends with a "Test Yourself" section as well as the answers to the tests so that the reader can apply and learn from the material in the chapter. Kantar also includes TIPs throughout the chapters. An example from Chapter 1, "Usually when you lead a suit the opponents have bid, you are saying, 'Let me give you a hand with making this contract.' Not recommended!" He begins each chapter with a list of things the reader is going to learn. He presents the material needed to learn those things. And the quizzes at the end of the chapters will enable the reader to learn if the list has, in fact, been learned. Review is always possible to enable the reader to learn the things covered in the chapters.



ALERT!!

A publication of ACBL Unit 206

June, 2023



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

A message from the president...

The Longest Day is just around the corner. This event is THE KEY fundraiser for the ACBL and the Chattanooga Bridge Center to support the Alzheimer's Association in its battle to find a cure for this devastating disease. During this time, thousands from all over the world come together to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's Disease.

Beginning on Thursday, June 15, and running through the Summer Solstice on Wednesday, June 21, extra masterpoint games and fun events will take place at each of the clubs in the Chattanooga area. In addition to our usual games during this period, on Saturday, June 17, at the Chattanooga Bridge Center, we will have a special game with fabulous food and great competition. Please see Mary Robertson's letter on the next page for more information on this fundraiser and how you can participate. Information will also be posted on the Unit 206 Website. I look forward to seeing you at the games!

Richard Spangler



The Longest Day

Dear Unit 206 Bridge friends,

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. This club amazed me when our 2022 total amount raised exceeded \$13,000. Unbelievable and amazing! Our 2023 goal is \$10,000. Can we meet and beat this? I'll need your help.

So many of our Unit 206 friends have been touched personally by the horrific effects of Alzheimer's Disease or dementia; and, this fundraiser is a meaningful way for us to come together to show our support and compassion for those who have suffered or who are suffering. This year's TLD Fundraising games will begin on Thursday, June 15, and wrap up on Wednesday, June 21st—the Summer Solstice. The games' schedules will be announced closer to these dates.

If you find it in your heart to make a donation and you wish to send a check, please make the check payable to the Alzheimer's Association and send it to our TLD Treasurer Jan Alexander at 1459 Sedgefield Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421. For those of you who prefer to contribute online, please follow this link: <u>Unit 206 TLD Donation site</u>. Look for raffle ticket sales at our face-to-face games during TLD week - our local bridge clubs have generously each donated 10 free games to be "raffled" off.

It is important to know that every dollar you donate benefits those affected by Alzheimer's Disease in our community. Stay tuned for updates on several new drugs designed to offset the effects of dementia. Your gift supporting The Longest Day helps the Alzheimer's Association continue its mission of finding the first survivor of this devastating disease. Let's be a part of the solution!

Thank you for your participation. Please plan on joining other bridge players as we celebrate this important fundraiser together.

Mary Robertson Unit 206 TLD Fundraiser Coordinator



Hats Off To ...

This month we recognize Sandy Cervantes for her tremendous support. Sandy edits our newsletter, researching, collecting and coordinating information from contributors to ensure that all players in Unit 206 stay informed about special upcoming games, activities, and pertinent bridge news. As you might imagine, this is not an easy task. Nonetheless, the Board thought that Sandy might be looking

for even more to do, so we recently reached out to her to see if she would be willing to coordinate the monthly Face-to-Face Friday Mentor/Mentee game. As you might guess, Sandy said YES! We are excited to have her take on this added role starting this month. Finally, you can always count on Sandy to support Club events, such as providing food for our special weekend games and tournaments.



This photo of Carlos and me was taken at the 2009 ProAm game at the Chattanooga Bridge Center.

My Story

Most of you are aware that my husband Carlos suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. Carlos was diagnosed over 12 years ago. From his behavior, I knew something was wrong, but like many others, Carlos did everything possible to avoid going to the doctor for cognitive testing. He finally gave in when his internist at Emory forced him to get what he called a "baseline assessment." Carlos was 70 at the time. The neuropsychiatrist spared no words when he presented the results. "You have Alzheimer's Disease. It is progressive, degenerative, and incurable." We walked out stunned, but I was thankful that he did not have an imminent life-threatening situation. And, the truth is that our lives were only minimally affected for many

years. Carlos continued to play tennis, to take an active role at church and in politics, and to oversee our finances. But as was inevitable, Alzheimer's relentlessly and insidiously took over.

Athletic Carlos stopped playing tennis. Social Carlos was less talkative and less interested in attending events. A man who rarely hesitated to speak his mind, intellectual Carlos was most comfortable when I spoke for him. Spotlight Carlos uncharacteristically took a backseat. All this effort to deal with and hide his disease did not take away his confusion, his anger, nor his frustration. In fact, it only added to them. His anxiety and depression grew. His ability to cope was gone. As if all this was just to test us, I had to face the most difficult truth of my life. I could no longer care for Carlos. He needed to be in memory care.

When I visit him, Carlos senses that he knows me, but cannot remember my name. He has a smile on his face but has no recollection that I was there the day before. He asks if I am married, and when I reply that I am, he clearly is disappointed. When I tell him that I am married to him, his smile returns. Fifteen minutes later, he asks me again if I am married.

This disease is devastating not just to the person who has received the diagnosis, but to the entire family and circle of friends. Watching a loved one whose life is perniciously eroding in front of your eyes is horrible. Outwardly, Carlos looks the same, but that is only his shell. He has difficulty communicating and understanding. When I visit, I pull out my phone to share photos of family and friends - the same photos I share on every visit. Although the photos seem to raise his spirits, his vacant look stabs me in the heart.

My journey has been difficult, but manageable. Others may not be as fortunate. I am blessed that my family is united in battling the crushing effects of this disease. My children are always supportive and encouraging. My loving sisters are sympathetically loyal. Friends are compassionate and understanding, going out of their way to ease my circumstances. I have not felt alone nor lonely. Well, let me take that back. Maybe if I am completely truthful, there are those infrequent times when I want to run something by Carlos and realize that I can't because "Carlos" is gone. It is then that I have those rare pangs of loneliness.

I know it will take some time, but I am encouraged that there will be an answer to this disease. The phrase, "there but for the grace of God" never rang more true than with Alzheimer's. This disease has no conscience. None of us is immune.

In the meantime, I stay optimistic and am grateful that I am not left to carry this burden alone.



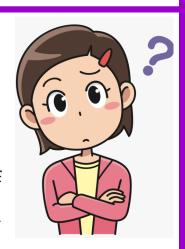


Our Blast from the Past this month is not an oldie, but it is a goodie! Pictured here with their beautiful smiles are players from Unit 206's 2019 The Longest Day fundraiser. Don't we look great!

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

Mary Robertson filled in the blank this month:

"To me bridge is a great way to transition to retirement; I was hooked after Learn Bridge in a Day. Five years later, I am still learning. Not only have I made lots of new friends, I appreciate opportunities of continued learning and those who share their bridge expertise and knowledge with newcomers like me. I was advised by a lady who told me that growing thicker skin would help as I began learning the game. Lots of smart people at the CBC."





PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Getting a bad back from all that Spring gardening you're doing? Having trouble sleeping because of the resulting sciatic pain? You need to take a break and play some bridge! If you need help finding a partner, all you need do is email Partnership Chair Jan Alexander

(janalexander@epbfi.com). Her committee matches players looking for partners so there's no excuse not to play. 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).



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.



Attention Newer Players

We invite you to join us every Saturday in June for a (hopefully) stress-free opportunity to improve your bridge. We are offering a relaxed, fun game from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. The cost is \$5.00, and we ask that you arrive by 9:15. Mentors will be available to answer your questions. Why not take advantage of the laidback atmosphere to get to know other players while learning more about this fascinating game. Because June 17 is also a party for our Longest Day annual fundraiser for Alzheimer's, play will begin at 9:00 A.M. so we can finish before the party.

There are lots of other games that might be of interest:

12:00 Noon Friday—Face-to-face game for players with fewer than 199 masterpoints. If you can, come with a partner, but there will be an ambassador available if you unable to find someone with whom to play.

9:00 A.M. Tuesday—Face-to-face game for players with less than 50 masterpoints.

7:00 P.M. Tuesday—Online game (through Bridge Base Online) for those with fewer than 399 masterpoints. For more information, please contact **Anne Donnovin** at 423-605-2996 or **Stewart Lawwill** at 423-718-0791.

12:00 Noon 3rd Friday—Face-to-face Mentor/Mentee game. This is the perfect time to play bridge with a Mentor who will offer advice about bids and card play to help you improve your bridge game. Contact Sandy Cervantes at 423-315-1953 if interested.

With all these opportunities, we hope to see you more often at the Chattanooga Bridge Center.



Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

Our Mother's Day game was a great success. All mothers played for free and everyone who was there had a great time. Why not join us this coming month for fun and frolic at the Mountain City Club. We meet every Thursday at 10:15 A.M. The game starts at 10:30, and we break midday for a delicious buffet lunch. To make it even better, someone usually brings a scrumptious dessert to share. The game typically ends by 2:30 P.M. The people are nice and welcoming, and the food is wonderful. We hope you will join us. All you need to do is contact Susie Crouch at susancrouch54@gmail.com to reserve your spot. This is the perfect time to give us a try.

Heads up for all the gentlemen out there. We plan to celebrate fathers at our June 15th game. All fathers will play for free. We hope to see you there.

Monday Night Game Open and 199er

For those of you with daytime conflicts, we now have a Monday evening game on our schedule. The game is on the 3rd Monday of the month, which this month is June 19. As we currently do on



Fridays, if there are enough players, we will simultaneously hold 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 many of our members, so spread the word. If there's enough interest, more games like this will be scheduled in the future.



DON'T FORGET

Some people want to take off 50, but not us. In fact, we added 50! That's right, the limit and the name of our Tuesday evening online game has changed. The **349er game is now the 399er game**. If you have fewer than 400 masterpoints, you can still play in this popular game. Please come and join us on BBO at 7:00 P.M. We ask that you sign on by 6:45 P.M. Hope to see you online.



Bridge Etiquette

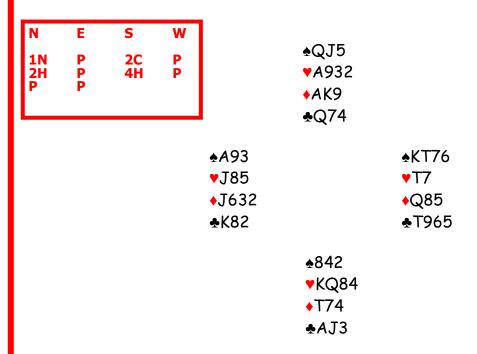
An important part of bridge etiquette is the principle of full disclosure. In other words, all information available to your partnership should also be made available to the opponents—either by announcing, alerting, or by providing an up-to-date and accurate convention card in the event the opponents ask.

Do you know? When Not To Use Stayman

According to the ACBL, "Stayman is the granddaddy of bridge conventions." It is one of the most popular conventions because it is simple and effective and can be incorporated into most systems played today. A responder with game interest and at least one 4-card major typically uses Stayman after a notrump opening. The general consensus suggests that it is usually easier to play in an 8-card (or longer) trump fit than to play in a notrump contract. But, as we've all sadly discovered, in bridge, there are no absolutes. There are times when it is better for responder not to use Stayman.



Take a look at this auction:



In this example, North has a 16 HCP balanced hand and opens 1NT. Responder with 10 HCP has a game forcing hand and dutifully bids 2C, asking opener to show a 4+-card major. When he hears 2H, he is elated and immediately jumps to 4H. Unfortunately, North/South go down 1 in that contract, losing 2 spades, 1 diamond and 1 club. Their disappointment is compounded when they see that they could have made 3NT losing the same 4 tricks. Why didn't the 4H contract work? South has a flat hand and no ruffing values. With no short suit, there is no way to take advantage of the extra trump in each hand—instead they fall on each other.

The lesson here is that just because there is a convention that allows us to determine if partner has a 4-card major, we are under no obligation to use it. In this auction, it makes more sense for South to jump to 3NT with his flat (3-4-3-3) distribution and 10 HCP. A side benefit of this is that in doing so, South reveals little about his hand distribution.

Many of the expert players today carry this idea a step further. If a responder has a flat (4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2) hand and exactly 8 HCP, they think it is better to pass partner's 1NT opening. This will be the right decision most of the time. It's true, there may be a time you miss a 3NT game. However, that disappointment is offset by avoiding the more frequent negative score resulting from going down in either 2NT or 3NT.





Hi all,

We are having great crowds, online and in person, especially with the Mentor/ Mentee games. We really appreciate all who are participating. I did want to bring up something that has been brought to my attention multiple times by several players, especially in reference to online play. Remember our bridge games are timed events, so it is important to

watch the clock carefully. When playing online, you don't have to note the score or move the boards, so we really need to be able to play the hands in the allotted time. Our club has chosen seven minutes per board. This is as slow as any other club and slower than an ACBL BBO games. Slow play by one can force other players to speed up when they are not at fault. Let's try to be extra conscientious about the time clock. Remember, it is also good etiquette to claim if you know you are taking the remaining tricks.

STaC week is coming up June 5-11. This is your opportunity to earn silver points at the club. These are our face-to-face games and not online games. I hope you can join us on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday for these extra masterpoint special games.

Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Mark your calendar now so you won't have a conflict. June 16th is the 3rd Friday of the month and the date of our face-to-face Mentor/Mentee game. Sign up early as this is one of the most popular events at the CBC. It's the perfect opportunity for newer players to get some personal coaching to improve their game and for our more experienced players to share their knowledge.



Also, Sue Shramko will no longer be the contact for this game. We owe her a big thanks for all the time and effort she generously devoted. Sue did a wonderful job organizing, promoting, and administering this game. She's a hard act to follow, but in the future, please text or call **Sandy Cervantes** at 423.315.1953 if you would like to play.

Our May winners were:

North/South

First Second Third Larry Reneau/Barbara Anderson Jan Jensen/Beth Wyngarden Shayna Scott/Beverly Richards

East/West

Jan Alexander/John Hubbard Susan Rothberger/Arnie Meagher Mary Jane Emrath/Sandy Boone



Hot Fun in the Summertime

Don't let those long, hot dog days of summer get you down. We can help you defeat the ancient Greek predictions of lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. All you need to do is sign up for our Monday Evening Mentor/Mentee online game. We guarantee lots of fun and great competition. We'll do our best to ensure there are no fevers or

mad dogs. Unfortunately, we can't control bad luck. Grab your tablet, laptop or your computer and sign on to Bridge Base Online (bridgebase.com). The games are always on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 P.M. This month's dates are June 12th and 26th. Anne Donnovin loves to sign up new players either as mentors or mentees. If you are a regular, but have a conflict this month, please let Anne know so that she does not include you in her June assignments.

This is the perfect opportunity for more seasoned players to provide on-the-spot useful, constructive criticism to help our newer players develop their game. Everyone has a chance to come out on top, so it might be you earning those masterpoints. If you would like to play, let Anne know by contacting her at aadonnovin@bellsouth.net.



All Good Things Must Come to an End



We have sad news to report. It's definite. The Cleveland Bridge Club is disbanding, and as a result, they are selling and/or donating their equipment. They

have bidding boxes, cards and plastic boards. If you are interested, know of anyone who might be or need further information, please contact Linda Burns at 423-284-3446 or lannbu25@gmail.com.

Nooga East Bridge Club





Bridge Tip for June

by emailing noogabridgeeast@gmail.com.



Lead passively against a grand slam or 6NT. Lead aggressively against all other slams.

Marty Bergen



June 1-3 Knoxville NLM Sectional Thursday-Saturday Knoxville Bridge Center

June 11 Special Pairs STaC Game Sunday 12:30 CBC

June 12 & 26 Online Mentor/Mentee Game Mondays 7:00 P.M. BBO

June 12-17 Greenville, SC Regional Monday-Sunday Hyatt Regency Greenville

June 15-21 The Longest Day Fundraiser

Thursday-Wednesday Face-to-face and online opportunities to earn extra points

June 16 Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game

Friday Noon CBC

June 22-24 Birmingham, AL Sectional

Thursday-Saturday Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club

June 30-July 2 Athens, GA Sectional Friday-Sunday Athens Bridge Center



JUNE

How To Be A Better Partner



"Bridge is for fun. You should play the game for no other reason. You should not play bridge to make money, to show how smart you are, or show how stupid your partner is...or to prove any of the several hundred other things bridge players are so often trying to prove."

Bridge Legend Charles Goren

June Special Game

Call your favorite partner to see if she's available to play in our June weekend game. The CBC is hosting a special STaC game on Sunday, June 11. Remember, in STaC

games depending on the table count, if you score high enough, you may get as many as 15+ masterpoints. Since our Longest Day activities start the following week, there will be no lunch provided—just good company and lively competition. The game starts at 12:30 P.M.

Make that call now. You won't want to miss all the fun.

One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

If you're a regular reader of bridge columns in the newspaper or the ACBL Bulletin, you know that the common theme is that the author chooses a hand to illustrate the point he/she is making and the hand fits perfectly. I have to admit that I'm guilty of this

practice – when I am teaching a class and want to illustrate a point, I will choose or construct a hand that does so clearly and without ambiguity.

If only bridge were such an easy game, and all the hands we play fit neatly into a pattern that guided us in the play. If only there were a set of rules that we could memorize, and if we choose the right rule we'll always reach a successful result. Alas, that's not the case. Bridge is mostly a game of nuances, not bright line distinctions. It requires judgment as well as memorization.

For today's column I thought I would choose a hand that shows how difficult it can be to find the right result, to choose the right path. I will show you the declarer and dummy hands below. You are South, both sides vulnerable, and you are the declarer in 3 No Trump. West leads the Queen of Diamonds. Before you read further, decide how you will play the hand to take nine tricks. What is the best approach?

North

- **★** 754
- **♥** KJ8732
- **♦** 3
- ♣ A102

South

- **v** 0
- ♦ AK2
- ♣ KJ9754

A friend showed me this hand and asked me how I would play it. I studied it for a long time before concluding that there was no simple answer, no obvious right way to approach the play of the hand. So I used a tool borrowed from strategic planning, called a SWOT analysis – look at Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

First the strengths: you have a good club suit that should guarantee at least five tricks, maybe six. You have diamonds stopped twice, and you have a certain heart stop and very probably a spade stop as well.

Next, the weaknesses: you have a poor spade stop and the opponents have seven cards in that suit, and although you have diamonds stopped twice, one opponent has at least five cards in that suit. You have only one sure entry to dummy (the ace of clubs) and a possible second entry if West holds the queen of clubs and you take the finesse against the West hand.

Opportunities: you have four fast tricks (ace-king in clubs and diamonds) and possibly four more club tricks, for eight. You can score a ninth in hearts as long as you preserve an entry to dummy (if one opponent takes the first heart trick). Another possibility is that you can drive out the ace of hearts and if the suit splits 3-3 you can cash five heart tricks, but that will require two entries to dummy if the opponent with the ace of hearts holds up on the first trick in that suit.

Threats: the spade suit can collapse if West holds Ace-Queen, and the diamond suit can result in three losers if the opponents knock out your second stop and regain the lead. You can also lose a trick in clubs if you play for a 2-2 split and one opponent holds Qxx, or if you finesse against the queen and it loses.

Continued on the next page.

One Last Thing...continued

By now you're probably thinking "OK, now tell us what we're missing; tell us the rule we should follow in playing this hand." Sorry to disappoint you, but this isn't your ordinary bridge column. The point I want to make is that after you survey the hand, count your winners, assess the threats to your contract, you have to choose a line of play that offers the best possibility.

For starters, you have at most eight tricks in clubs and diamonds, if you bring in the club suit successfully by finding or dropping the queen. You need a ninth trick, and that should come from hearts. So at trick 2, I would lead the heart queen from my hand. Best defense is to duck, unless the player with the ace also holds a singleton queen of clubs and senses the need to attack (here that would be to attack the spade suit). So now you have a potential ninth trick, and it's time to focus on the club suit. Should I finesse or should I play for the queen to drop (singleton or 2-2 split)?

The odds favor playing for a 2-2 split or a singleton queen, but only slightly. A 2-2 split will occur about 41% of the time; a 3-1 split 50% of the time; and a 4-0 split 9%. However, when a 3-1 split occurs, the singleton queen will appear one in four times, for a 12.5% likelihood. So playing for the 2-2 split or the singleton queen gives you about a 53% chance of success.

If you play the ace and king of clubs and the queen doesn't appear, it looks like you're doomed. You can lead another club to drive out the queen, but when a diamond comes back you will only come to eight tricks—five clubs, two diamonds and one heart. After cashing your clubs you'll end up leading a diamond or spade from your hand and the opponents will take the rest of the tricks.

Here's another approach: if you can successfully finesse against the queen of clubs in the West hand you will have two entries to dummy (the ace and ten of clubs) and you can lead a high heart to drive out the ace, creating a second heart trick and maybe even more if the suit splits 3-3. The chance of the queen of clubs being in the West hand is (unless there is information to the contrary from the auction) 50%, not quite as good as playing for a 2-2 split or a drop. The chance of the heart suit splitting 3-3 is about 36%. Of course, if you lead a heart from dummy you'll give up the lead and the opponents will either attack your diamond or spade suit, setting up tricks for themselves. And if the club finesse loses to East, you won't be able to play for that extra heart trick because East will come back with a diamond and you'll have to cash your eight tricks (otherwise opponents will take six tricks: 3 diamonds, one club, one heart and one spade). And you'll feel pretty foolish if East held the singleton queen of clubs.

So what's the right answer? I purposely did not include the East and West hands in this diagram because I didn't want to suggest that there was a rule to guide you in the play of this hand. As I said at the beginning, there are many hands that don't fit neatly into the box of rules you learn as a beginner. You have to use your judgment, apply what you know about the opponents' hands from the auction and the opening lead, and give

it your best shot. You don't have to memorize a bunch of statistics about suit splits, but you should have a rough idea of how to play combinations that typically come up at the bridge table.

How would I play this hand? That depends on the game I'm in. If I'm playing in a team game using IMP scoring, the most important goal is to make the contract, and overtricks aren't nearly as important, so I'll probably play for the club suit to bring in six tricks, which means I'll lead the queen of hearts at trick 2, and then play ace and king of clubs. If I'm in a pairs game using matchpoint scoring, I'll try to assess how I'm doing and what the competition is like. If I'm having a good day up to this hand, I'll take a safer route and play for the queen of clubs to drop. If I'm having a bad day and really need a top board, I'll finesse in clubs and play for the hearts to split and the queen of spades to be onside (with East) and hope to take 11 tricks for a top board. That's where judgment comes in.