

## Library Corner

### ***Matchpoint Defense: Kick It up a Notch*** **by Stewart Terry and Bo Asserson (2019)**



The authors' intent with their book is to provide practical advice on improving the readers' skills at defending at the bridge table. The authors stress two important practices that are integral in developing these skills. (1) Approximate how many high card points your partner has after every trick. (2) Use defensive carding "more often and more accurately." Regarding the latter, the authors point out that when one's carding becomes "reliable, trusted, and accurate," then he/she should "dial it back" because the declarer will be watching your carding also. The authors primary focus is learning to estimate the points in your partner's hand when defending, doing this at every stage of the hand. On the first page of the book, the authors point out that as defenders, players should always use the good practices of "estimating, revising, and counting down" as the hand is played. Many of the example hands used in the book were actually played at their club, so the information about the hands is realistic. The authors also discuss other skills including opening leads, estimating distribution, taking advantage of declarer's mistakes, and more. Included in the appendices are instruction in matchpoint scoring, estimating points and shape around the table, defensive carding, and opening leads. There is a lot to learn here for the players who wants to improve his/her game.



# ALERT!!

*A publication of ACBL Unit 206*

## July, 2023



Editor: Sandy Cervantes

Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield

## A message from the president...

I would like to thank to everyone for their tremendous support for The Longest Day fundraisers this month. We are on track to achieve our goal this year of \$10,000! Special thanks go out to **Mary Robertson** for coordinating the schedule of games and added activities.



This past month was a great month. In fact, we increased our table count by almost 50% compared to the first four months of the year! We have added games for players with fewer than 50 masterpoints and a night game as well. Plus, we have more people attending our regular games. We appreciate your added support!

**Richard Spangler**

# The Longest Day

Dear Unit 206 Bridge friends,



Joining other ACBL members throughout the USA, our local ACBL Unit 206 observed the Alzheimer's Association's The Longest Day annual fundraiser celebrating the summer solstice, showing their tremendous support for those who have suffered from the effects of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. This year's The Longest Day fundraising season included fellowship, bridge games and refreshments at the Bridge Center, 'Nooga East, and the Thursday Fairyland club. Due to your overwhelming generosity, we are at \$8,171 - close to reaching our \$10,000 goal. We plan to wrap up the campaign at the end of June. There is still time to make your donation. Cheers to **Jan Alexander**, our treasurer, for keeping track of all the contributions and submitting them to the Alzheimer's Association. Thanks to **Jim LaFevor** for coordinating the raffle sales. And, thanks also go to **Leigh Broadway**, **Sue Riddle** and **Sharon Lewis** for pitching in and helping out. Thanks to everyone who brought something delicious to be shared at one of our meals, especially to **Linda Metz** for baking 2 wonderful cakes served at the Friday Mentor/Mentee game. **Janie Hunt** and **Margie Moses** graciously contributed income from their Saturday classes to our campaign. Through your amazing support and your generosity—no matter how large or small your heartfelt donation was—it's all coming together beautifully. It has been an honor to serve as The Longest Day coordinator for Unit 206, and I hope you all had as much fun as I did.



**Mary Robertson**  
Unit 206 TLD Fundraiser Coordinator

## And Here's The Icing on the Cake

"Games like bridge may help keep memory loss and Alzheimer's disease at bay," says Dr. Richard Lazaroff, a retired pediatrician and a board member at St. Louis Bridge Center. Bridge may help with three aspects of brain functioning.



First is cognition which is the learning of a skill through study. In bridge, it's learning the bidding conventions and play of the hand. Second is executive functioning which is about "planning" with frequent changes in the data. When the play begins, every bid and every discard during the play of the hand requires all players to readjust their strategy and plan to make the hand as declarer or defend. And finally, is memory. "Counting to 13' is a saying in bridge, because you are always counting cards to account for every card in the deck," Lazaroff says. "Bridge helps build neurological pathways, causing [the players] to be more resilient to memory loss."

Taken from the September 28, 2019 issue of St. Louis Magazine



Turn the clock back 10 years. Here are **Ann Keown** and **Joyce Feher** at our March 2013 Mentor/Mentee Tea. Back then, once or twice a year we held special games where novices were paired with more experienced players. Now return the clock to 2023. Today, you can enjoy our face-to-face mentor/mentee games every third Friday of the month. Just make sure you sign up with Sandy Cervantes (423.315.1953) if you would like to play.



## PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



Have those hot, hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer put you in the middle of the dreaded summer doldrums? Are you looking for something to elevate your mood? Why not play some bridge? We've made it so easy you have no excuse because if you can't find a partner, we will. Just email Partnership Chair **Jan Alexander** ([janalexander@epbf.com](mailto:janalexander@epbf.com)). The Partnership Committee matches players looking for partners, so before you can say "Betty Boop bids badly," you'll be having the time of your life at the bridge table.

## How would you fill in the blank?

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

**Sue Riddle** rose to the occasion when asked the question, "To me bridge...?"

"To me learning bridge was one of my top goals on my retirement bucket list. Luckily, someone in my new neighborhood started a bridge class. I quickly fell in love with the game. I met Sharon Lewis at that bridge class. A few years later she says, let's start a bridge club! Nooga Bridge East was born, and we just passed our 7-year anniversary. A few years later, we decided we should become Club Directors. What an experience! Through bridge, I've met so many good people. I've kept my mind sharp by studying bridge conventions and laws. I hope to play bridge until I'm too old to get to the club."



## Get Well Wishes



We send our warmest get well wishes and a bouquet of daisies out to **Bucky Hughes** as she recuperates from a fall she took in her home. It's unbelievable, but true—this amazing nonagenarian only ended up with bumps and bruises! No serious fractures.

We miss you at the bridge table, Bucky, and look forward to your speedy return.







# 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.



## How To Be A Better Partner



It is important to learn your partner's style. Consider her passes just as seriously as you would think through her bids. Remember, "pass" does not translate into "I have no points." Rather, pass says "Partner, I have no bid." The two are not equal.

## Fourth of July



The US Congress made July 4<sup>th</sup>, known as Independence Day, a federal holiday in 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations date from the American Revolution. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1776, the Continental Congress met at the Philadelphia State House (now Independence Hall) where Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for independence from Great Britain. Congress appointed a five-man committee — Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Robert Livingston of New York - to draft a formal document of independence. The vote for independence took place on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1776, but it was on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776 that the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence establishing the United States of America.

From 1776 to the present July 4<sup>th</sup> has been celebrated as the birth of American Independence with celebrations in early years involving the firing of canons and muskets accompanied by the public readings of the Declaration of Independence to bonfires, parades, concerts, fireworks, family gatherings and outdoor barbecues. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1777. George Washington issued a double ration of rum to all his soldiers marking the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1871 Massachusetts became the first state to establish July 4<sup>th</sup> an official state holiday.

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Go Easy on the Rum.

Arnie Meagher

## A vibrant illustration of a green-skinned fairy. She has short, curly green hair adorned with white snowflake patterns. Her large, translucent white wings also feature delicate snowflake designs. She is wearing a bright pink, sleeveless dress with a large bow at the back. The fairy is captured in a dynamic, mid-air pose, with one leg bent and arms extended forward, as if she is dancing or flying gracefully. The background is plain white.

Our marvelous member of the month is **Dan Chandler**. Not only does Dan serve as our club manager, but also as our primary director. And, although he usually gets director calls wrong, he does so with humor and wit. Dan makes Thursdays fun. In fact, he's nice to everyone on Thursdays even his partner. Most importantly, he turns 75 on July 11. So many reasons this month to celebrate Dan Chandler, our horse even if he never wins a race!

## A bowl of Beef and Vegetable Curry with rice. The bowl is filled with a rich, brown curry sauce containing chunks of beef, carrots, and green peas. A generous portion of white rice is served on top of the curry, garnished with fresh green herbs. The bowl has a wooden handle on the right side.



(423.718.0791),

That's right, our online **349er game is now the 399er game**. If you have fewer than 400 masterpoints, you're eligible to play. Please come and join us Tuesday evening on BBO (bridgebase.com). The game starts at 7:00 P.M., but we ask that you sign on by 6:45 P.M. Don't have anyone to play with? Not a problem. Text or call **Anne Donnovin (423.605.2996)** or **Stewart Lawwill**, and they will help you find a partner.

ETIQUETTE

interaction standards touch decorum good form norms code manners social philosophy culture polite rules of conduct expectations proper behavior friendly genuine protocol social class effort good

It is North's responsibility to make sure the boards are pointed in the correct direction and that they are played in order. If you are playing several boards each round, some of the boards may be removed, but the board in play must remain on the table.

# Do you know What's Ogust?



Your partner makes a weak 2 spade opening bid, and you look at your hand wondering if there might be a game. What should you do? Ogust (named after Harold Ogust, a New York City businessman who founded Goren International) is a convention designed to determine the strength of your partner's opening bid. By making a conventional 2NT bid, you are asking your partner to further describe his suit and his hand strength. To make this bid, you should have a strong hand (most experts recommend 14+) and interest in game. Quite often the Ogust bidder will have trump support, but that's not guaranteed. The Ogust 2NT bid is forcing for one round.

Opener's rebids are conventional and are as follows:

- 3♣ Bad hand/Bad suit (5-7 points) and only one of the top 3 honors in his suit
- 3♦ Bad hand/Good suit (5-7 points) and 2 of the top 3 honors.
- 3♥ Good hand /Bad suit (8-10 points) and one of the top 3 honors
- 3♠ Good hand/Good suit (8-10 points) and 2 of the top 3 honors.
- 3NT Good hand/Best suit (8-10 points) and all 3 top honors

Take a look at the following example.

## Opener

♠AT8754

♥Q73

♦95

♣73

2♠ (1)

3♠ (3)

Pass

## You

♠K96

♥AT

♦Q8432

♣KQ9

2NT (2)

3♠ (4)

- (1) Weak 2 spade opening bid
- (2) Ogust asking for further information
- (3) 5-7 points and 1 honor
- (4) Sign-off bid

Holding the above hand, you meet the Rule of 17 (HCP plus number of trump = 17+), a guideline used to determine if you should raise your partner to game. However, being the thoughtful player you are, you want more information so you bid 2NT. Once you realize that your partner has minimum points and only one honor, you are happy to set the contract at 3♠.

In this example, you hold the same hand, but partner's hand is different:

## Opener

♠AQT875

♥K73

♦95

♣73

2♠ (1)

3♠ (3)

Pass

## You

♠K96

♥AT

♦Q8432

♣KQ9

2NT (2)

4♠ (4)

- (1) Weak 2 spade opening bid
- (2) Ogust asking for further information
- (3) 8-10 points and 2 honors
- (4) Game contract

Once you know that partner has a nice suit and maximum point count, you feel comfortable bidding game.

Typically, in competition, if the 2NT bid is doubled, conventional responses by Opener are still on, but if the opponents make an overcall, responses are off.

# Myra's Box



Hi all,

Just a word about our Club's online games.... First of all, I want to thank all of the coordinators of our Mentor/Mentee games as well as everyone who supports the games in person and online.

Lately, online it has been difficult to find many "subs" who match our game. Therefore, when the online game starts and we have a  $\frac{1}{2}$  table, I spend about 4 minutes looking for a sub. (This is a two part process for me but that is more than you care to know). If I can't find a match, I put in a "Robot" to play. If I start with a robot, I leave them the entire game. They do play well so that is only fair to the field.

But, what if the robots win (as they often do)? Well ACBL has protected our club players. The robot's name will show as the winner but they DO NOT get any points. Basically, everyone moves up one spot. This will show on your Live for Clubs score.

So, I hope you can jump in and join us online soon.

*Myra*

## Nooga East Bridge Club



Have you been looking for a great way to kick start your week? As you might expect, we've got the answer. Every Monday at 12:30 P.M., there's a bridge game at Christ United Methodist Church located at 8645 East Brainerd Road across from Hurricane Creek Shopping Center. You are asked to arrive no later than 12:15 P.M. so the game can begin promptly. We are a very welcoming, fun group and are always looking for new players of all levels.

Interested? All you need to do to make a reservation is email [noogabridgeeast@gmail.com](mailto:noogabridgeeast@gmail.com). Need help finding a partner or have a question? You can text or call **Sue Riddle (423.509.3583)** or **Sharon Lewis (423.240.5360)**. Hope to see you there.

## Nothing Lasts Forever



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](mailto:lannbu25@gmail.com).



## Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, we have an online Mentor/Mentee game at 7 P.M. on BBO. If you are interested in playing, let **Anne Donnovin** know (aadonnovin@bellsouth.net). She matches partners and sends out assignments with plenty of time to develop a convention card. You are asked to sign on to BBO (bridgebase.com) by 6:45 P.M. We guarantee lots of fun and great competition.

This month the games are on July 10th and 24th. If you are a regular, but have a conflict, Anne asks that you let her know so she does not include you in the July assignments.

This is the perfect opportunity for more seasoned players to provide on-the-spot useful, constructive suggestions 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.



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

July 21 is the 3rd Friday of the month and the date of this month's 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.

Please text or call **Sandy Cervantes** at 423.315.1953 by Monday, July 17, if you would like to play.

Our June winners were:

### North/South

<b>First</b>	Suzanne Atchley/John Hubbard
<b>Second</b>	Earl Rothberger/Carole Rowland
<b>Third</b>	Myra Tatum/Ray Webb

### East/West

Stephanie Felker/Mary Duffy
Carol Grizzard/Rosalie Basten
Bert Shramko/Jim LaFevor

And, make sure you don't miss our **August Mentor/Mentee team game** on August 18.



## Bridge Tip for June



Any deceptive play made by the Declarer can deceive only his opponents.

*Louis Watson*





## Mark Your Calendar

June 30-July 2  
Friday-Sunday

Athens, GA Sectional  
Athens Bridge Center

July 1  
Saturday

The 4th on the 1st Pairs Game  
11:30 Lunch/Noon Game CBC

July 10 & 24  
Mondays

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

July 14-15  
Friday-Saturday

River Region NLM Tournament  
Montgomery Bridge Club, AL

July 21  
Friday

Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game  
Noon CBC

July 26  
Wednesday

8 is Enough Team Game  
Noon CBC

August 18  
Friday

Mentor/Mentee Team Game  
Noon CBC

## Hats off to...



This month, we would like to acknowledge **Shayna Scott's** support for the club! As you know, bridge can demand a lot of you, physically and mentally. Fortunately, we have a variety of snacks and coffee to keep us going at every one of our games. This is because of Shayna's extra effort- typically being one of the first to arrive to set up the snacks and coffee and purchasing as needed to ensure sufficient supply. Thanks to everyone helping Shayna in this effort. Much appreciated. The Board wants to especially thank Shayna for going above and beyond!



## July Special Game

### The 4th on the 1st



There is no better way to celebrate our nation's birthday than with bridge and a juicy hot dog. Come join us at the Chattanooga Bridge Center on Saturday, July 1, for a special pairs game. The club will provide hot dogs and drinks and asks players to bring their favorite side dish or dessert to share. Come join in the fun. You just might earn some masterpoints, too. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., and the game will start at noon. Hope to see you there.

# Our Sincere Condolences

It is with sadness that we report that fellow bridge player, **Doctor Steve Coulter**, passed away this past Saturday, June 24th. You would often see him at the CBC playing with another Signal Mountain player, Dorothy Seeber. Steve was always upbeat and friendly, and had a kind word for all. He will be missed.

Our most sincere condolences go out to his wife Beverly, his children, grandchildren, and his extended family and friends as they go through this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you.



## 8 Is Enough

Mark off Wednesday, July 26, as you definitely won't want to miss our upcoming **"8 is Enough"** team game. These games are always fun and exciting. In fact, quite often determining the winner comes down to the final wire.

In an "8 is Enough" game, every 4-person team is comprised of players whose combined rating totals no more than 8 points:

A players	1500+ MP	3 points
B players	500-1500 MP	2 points
C players	0-500 MP	1 point



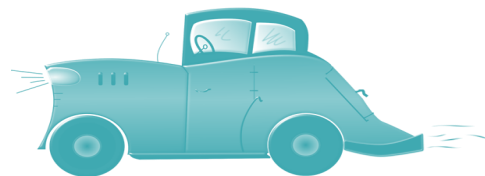
If a team has two A players, then its other two members must be C players:  $3+3+1+1 = 8$ . With one A and one C player, the other two could be B players:  $3+1+2+2 = 8$ . Or, a team could be comprised of four B players:  $2+2+2+2 = 8$ . A team can have fewer than 8 points, but can never exceed 8 points.

The game will take the place of our regular Wednesday noon game. We would like to be able to start the game promptly at noon, so please come early. This will give you time to talk over strategies with your teammates. Remember team games are scored with IMPs and that brings a different game plan.

## JUST A HEADS UP!

Our back retaining wall is repaired; however, the new striping for the parking lot will be scheduled sometime in the future. In the meantime, we ask that you not pull your car close to the hedges or the building. The lot is

designed to have an area in front of the cars which is to be used as a "sidewalk." Please do not park so that your front bumper is beyond the faint line that is marked on the parking area.





# One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

Count on Defense for Winning Bridge. The previous sentence is meant as a double entendre. If you've read my recent article in the newsletter or taken my lessons, you know that I am a firm believer in good defense as the path to success at bridge. And you also know that I believe that the key to good defense is developing the ability to count quickly and accurately. In defending a hand we have to count high card points, trumps, declarer's likely tricks, defense's possible tricks, declarer's probable distribution and partner's probable distribution. All this counting is hard work, but if you practice and continue to improve your ability to count, you can be certain that your success at the bridge table will prove that the effort was worthwhile.

Here is an example of a hand where counting is essential to finding the right defensive strategy. It may look hard at first, but as you'll see, it's pretty simple once you figure out how to count what you need to know.

You are sitting West, holding the following hand:

♠ 84  
♥ A1062  
♦ A7  
♣ QJ1053

North-South are playing 2-over-1 game forcing system. South is dealer, and the auction proceeds as follows:

North	East	South	West (you)
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

You are on lead to the first trick. You pause to consider your options, remembering what you read in Mike Lawrence's excellent book *Opening Leads*. Mike offers the following guidelines:

- Never underlead an ace against a suit contract
- Avoid leading an unsupported ace (i.e., an ace without the king)
- The lead of a top of an honor sequence is often good (a 3-card sequence is even better)
- When in doubt, lead trump

You look over your hand and see that you have two unsupported aces and a 3-card honor sequence in clubs. So what is your opening lead?

If you automatically reached for the queen of clubs and put it on the table, it's too late! Declarer will rattle off eleven tricks, losing only to your two aces.

If you haven't read Mike Lawrence's book, or if you read it so long ago that you forgot, then it's a good idea to go back and look at Chapter 3 – What Does the Bidding Suggest? In this example you have an iron-clad path to set the contract, but only if you pause to think about the auction and count the high card points and what you know about the two suits bid by your opponents.

# One Last Thing...continued

South has an opening hand, so at least 12 or more high card points (HCP). South also has at least 5 spades, maybe 6. From the first response, you know North also has an opening hand, at least 5 hearts, maybe 6. You have 11 HCP. So you know partner has the rest, perhaps 5, probably fewer.

South's second bid shows heart support, at least 3. North's second bid shows spade support, probably exactly 3 (with 4 North would have bid Jacoby 2NT rather than 2 Hearts).

Now it's time to count. You have two sure tricks, the red aces. Partner might have a high card that will win a trick on defense, but you can't be sure. What you do know for certain is that North-South have at least 8 hearts between their two hands, and you have 4, which means partner can have no more than one. You also know that partner has at least 2 spades – if he has only 1, then South started with a 7-card spade suit, unlikely on this auction. What should you do with this knowledge gained from counting?

Answer: smile politely, gently place the ace of hearts on the table and watch as North puts the dummy's cards on the table. You win that trick. What do you do next?

Here you have a choice – assuming that partner played a singleton heart under your ace, you now intend to give him a ruff. That will be two tricks for the defense. You still need two more. It is crucial to the defense that after he ruffs the second heart trick partner returns a diamond to your ace, rather than a club to declarer's ace. You need to give partner another heart ruff before declarer can gain the lead and draw partner's last trump(s). The way to do this is by giving partner a *suit preference signal* with the heart you lead at trick 2 – you lead a high heart if you want him to return the higher of the two remaining suits, and a low heart if you want the lower suit returned. Here you want a diamond, the higher suit, so you lead the 10 of hearts for him to ruff. He will then return a diamond which you'll win with the ace and lead a third heart for a final ruff. In all you take one heart, one diamond and two heart ruffs for 4 tricks, down one.

As you can see from the full deal (below), any other line of play allows declarer to make his contract or perhaps even make an overtrick. A club lead from that perfect sequence allows declarer to take five spades, at least three hearts, one diamond and two clubs. Leading the ace of diamonds hoping to find the king in partner's hand means you've lost the entry to your hand to give partner the crucial second heart ruff.

Here's the full deal:

		<u>North</u>	
		♠ 1097	
		♥ KQJ53	
		♦ KQ6	
		♣ K7	
<u>West (you)</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠ 84		♠ J53	
♥ A1062		♥ 8	
♦ A7		♦ J10954	
♣ QJ1053		♣ 9642	
		<u>South</u>	
		♠ AKQ62	
		♥ 974	
		♦ 832	
		♣ A8	