

# Library Corner



## ***Preempts***

**by Warren Watson (2019)**

Watson divides his book into three parts: basic preempts, advanced preempts, and high-level competition. Part three includes sacrifices, high-level decisions, and misfits. For each of these topics, Watson provides real-world example hands and ample discussion of those hands. In the chapter on furthering the preemptive bid, Watson discusses the law of total tricks (LTT), and he quotes Mike Lawrence who noted in his book *I Fought the Law* that one objection to using the LTT is that the law should never replace good judgment. The value of preemptive bids is that they take away bidding space, which makes the auction difficult even for expert players. One benefit to them is helping your partner get off to a good lead. In one example Watson shows how a preemptive bid in 1 st seat caused the opponents to miss a slam bid. The reader should note that Watson uses the term "disciplined preempts." Careful examination of his example bidding and the discussion that follows will help the reader know when and when not to use preemptive bidding to advance his/her game.



## **ALERT!!**

*A publication of ACBL Unit 206*

**November, 2023**



**Editor: Sandy Cervantes**

**Features Editor: Cheryl Whitfield**

## **A message from the president...**



Thanks to everyone for their attendance at and support of the recent October Sectional Tournament! A special "shout out" to Betsy Caldwell who coordinated the food and drinks for the tournament and to everyone else who supported Betsy in her efforts. We realize that there can be challenges in holding the event at the Bridge Center and appreciate everyone's support and patience. To keep you all in the loop, if we had held the event off site as in the past, we would have lost money.

I'd like to give you a "heads up" about our final weekend game of the year on Saturday, December 16. This is our holiday event as well as the annual meeting to kick off 2024. It is a special pairs game with ACBL/District 7 with added points awarded. Save the date and start looking for your partner now.

See you at the Bridge Club!



**Richard Spangler**



It's hard to believe, but these photos were taken 12 years ago at our 2011 Fall Sectional tournament held at the East Ridge Community Center. Pictured on the left are Lee and Suzanne Atchley, and on the right are Janie Hunt and Cheryl Whitfield.



## Unforgettable September



It will probably take until "Hell freezes over" before Ann Keown has another month like September 2023. Starting off on September 2, Ann celebrated a milestone birthday. She was delighted that she was finally able to celebrate her birthday on the actual date of her birth. Shortly after (and to add just a little icing to the cake), the ACBL notified her that she had attained Silver Life Master status. And, as unbelievable as it may seem, there was still a little juice left in the Bridge Gods' spotlight batteries. Ann says that her biggest surprise was when she learned in September that she had earned the most master-points at the CBC in the previous month—a whopping 15.72 points. WOW!

She says, "There are so many bridge partners to thank for the bridge achievements, and I truly appreciate all the 'big' birthday best wishes!"



## How To Be A Better Partner

Any serious partnership takes work. These 3 items are considered essential if you want to build a strong partnership:

1. Keep partnership bidding/system notes
2. Practice bidding hands
3. Review boards after a game





# October Special Gold Team Game



Too bad, 'cause if you missed it, you missed lots of fun and great competition. Last month on October 28, the CBC held a special team game at the club in which gold points were awarded to the winners. Competition was stiff. The teams mounted great game plans and there was an undercurrent of excitement and tension. But, as hard as they all battled, there were three teams earning top billing:

## First Place

Larry Reneau  
Earl Rothberger

Joe Viola  
Susan Rothberger

## Second Place

John Felker  
Margie Moses

Stephanie Felker  
Janie Hunt

## Third Place

Shayna Scott  
Donna Cart

Doug Cart  
Ken Thompson



Although they didn't place in the top three, pictured to the right are the Pumpkin Cuties, four lovely ladies who raised the bar when it came to fashion and team spirit. From left to right are **Anne Donnovin, Mary Duffy, MJ Levine and Betsy Caldwell.**



## PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

NEED  
HELP?

Now that the weather has cooled down, do you find yourself with some extra time on your hands? Since sunbathing and gardening are no longer on your schedule, why not fill in those extra hours by adding a couple of bridge games to your calendar. We guarantee you'll find challenge and excitement at the bridge table. Are you worried you can't find a partner? No problem. Email Partnership Committee Chair **Jan Alexander** ([janalexander@epbfi.com](mailto:janalexander@epbfi.com)). Her committee matches players looking for partners, so before you can say, "Sullen Sally's slam succeeds," you'll be having the time of your life at the bridge table.



# The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

The FDBC treated all players in attendance on October 26th to a free lunch and game to celebrate Halloween. Players came decked out in their finest as you can see from the photos below. Pictured from left to right are Leigh Broadway and Sharon Lewis; Susie Crouch, Sandy Cervantes and Susan Rothberger; and, Ken Spates and Bob Chapman.

Remember to mark your calendar now so you won't miss out on the annual holiday celebration planned for December 14 at the Mountain City Club. The annual business meeting and elections will precede a delicious lunch and awards. You will receive a formal invitation by mail in late November. The Nominating Committee (Sandy Cervantes, Cheryl Whitfield and David Vine) has come up with a slate of candidates for the 2024 board: Suzy Bryant-President; Winnell Goodner-Vice President; Susie Crouch-Secretary; Carole Rowland-Treasurer; Shayna Scott-Assistant Treasurer; and Leigh Broadway-Past President. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. We hope to see you all at the party!



## NO, IT'S NOT TACO TUESDAY IT'S ONLINE 399er TUESDAY

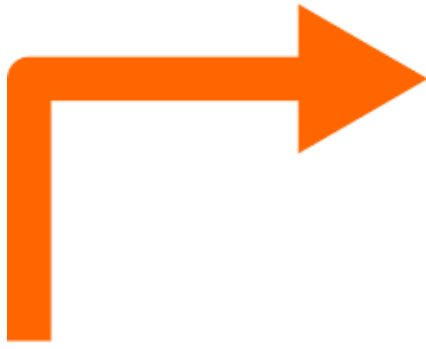
A marvel of technology is that from the comfort of our homes, we can enjoy a great game of bridge and earn ACBL masterpoints in the process. If you have fewer than 400 masterpoints, you are eligible to play in our limited Tuesday evening online game. All you need to do is sign on to BBO (bridgebase.com) at 6:45 P.M. The game starts at 7:00 P.M. and is usually over by 9:00 P.M. so you can still get a good night's sleep. Don't have a partner? Not a problem. Text or call either **Anne Donnovin (423.605.2996)** or **Stewart Lawwill (423.718.0791)**, and you'll get help to find a partner.



## Balloons, Flowers and Big, Warm Hugs

Sending out warm wishes for a quick recovery to Corinne Madden as she recuperates from some complications after her recent surgery. We hope to see her back at the table very soon. And, thanks for her delicious cookies for the tournament—after masterpoints won, they were the biggest hit!





# Arnie's Angle

By Arnie Meagher

## The History of Giving Thanks Thanksgiving Day

Celebrating the harvest and its bounty spans multiple cultures, continents, and millennia. In ancient times, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans held feasts giving thanks to their gods for the fall harvest. Long before Europeans came to the U.S., Native Americans had a rich tradition of celebrating the fall harvest with feasting. Thanksgiving also has a resemblance to the ancient Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot, also called the Feast of Tabernacles- a Torah commanded festival that lasted seven days.

In 1565, the Spanish Explorer Pedro Menendez de Avile on his safe arrival in St Augustine, Florida, invited members of the Tucumua tribe to join him and his crew for a meal after a mass of thanksgiving to God. On December 4, 1619, when 38 British settlers reached Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia's river James, they read a proclamation designating December 4 a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God. Also, the pilgrims brought with them from England traditions of giving thanks to God for times of plenty. So, it was not surprising that in November 1621, after the first corn harvest proved successful, they invited native Americans of the Wampanoag tribe and Chief Massasoit to what is regarded by many as America's first Thanksgiving celebration by a gathering of 53 survivors of the Mayflower and 90 native Indians. History does not record what they had to eat, but historians tell us that the menu probably consisted of lobster, seal, swan, and a deer contributed by Chief Massasoit.

The pilgrims were surprised to meet a Native American, known to them as Squanto, who spoke almost flawless English. He had been kidnapped by British pirates, sold into slavery in London, escaped, and made his way back to his tribe. He was of enormous help to the pilgrims, teaching them how to catch eel, grow corn, and adapt to their new surroundings. He also served as an interpreter—an extraordinary story of a very resourceful individual.

It was not until 1789 that George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation honoring the Constitution but left it up to individual states to implement celebrations as they saw fit. In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially declare Thanksgiving an annual holiday. Southern states were slow to follow, regarding Thanksgiving as a northern custom. In 1827, Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Ladies Book, launched a 36-year writing campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Because of her advocacy, she became known as the Godmother of Thanksgiving. Finally, Abraham Lincoln heeded her call and in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday held on the final Thursday in November. In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week earlier to spur retail sales during the Great Depression, but amid an outcry of opposition, in 1941, he reluctantly moved it back to the 4th Thursday on November. Since then Thanksgiving has grown in popularity featuring family get togethers with turkey as the main dish, parades across the nation with Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade being the most famous, NFL football games, and the US President pardoning one or two turkeys, sending them to a farm in retirement.

However, all was not sunshine. Many Native Americans took issue with Thanksgiving celebrations, and since 1970 they gather a top of Cole's Hill, overlooking Plymouth Rock, declaring Thanksgiving a National Day of Mourning honoring the long bloody history of conflict between Native Americans and European settlers that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands.





# 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.



*Our Partnership Chair Jan Alexander wanted to share the following email she recently received:*

Jan - thank you very much for setting up games for me on Tuesday and Friday with Larry and Shayna. I also had the opportunity to play with Myra Reneau on Wednesday. All my partners were great and the members of the club were very welcoming. Hopefully, when I am called on to pet-sit in the future I will be able to play once again in your club. Please feel free to share my note with the club.

Best Regards, Glen Anderson

## How would you fill in the blank? "To me bridge \_\_\_\_."



The spotlight this month is on **Betsy Caldwell**.

Is enjoying a family tradition. When my father was in college, he made enough money on bridge and poker to buy a Model T Ford with two friends. If you ask, I'll share how he made more money with the car. I grew up watching my parents play with their friends, so in high school 3 of us taught ourselves The Game on the banks of the Brandywine River. I played social bridge for years, and after college, moved on to duplicate--a great challenge!

Our CBC is a gift as we are able to play there 3 days a week and once a month a 4th day. So many nice new friends who smile and help with the "continuing education". I can't stop learning as there is a new convention to put in the brain and then translate to the playing table. So, The Game is helping me stay young and active since it means I am with great people.



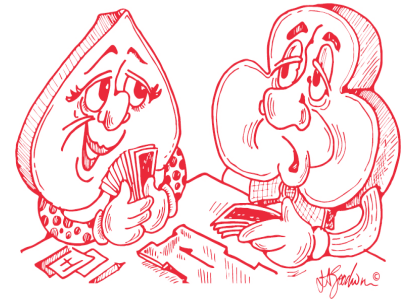
## Bridge Tip for November

One doesn't lead the same against 3NT as against 6NT. Against 6NT, avoid leading from an honor unless you have a sequence.

**Eddie Kantar**



## What are the Most Common Bridge Contracts?



If we were pressed, most of us probably would say that 3NT is the most common contract in bridge, and we'd be right. But, what do you think are the next five most common contracts — and, what is the least common contract of all?

The most common contracts in order are: 3NT, 4S, 4H, 2S, 2H, 1NT. When asked about the least common contract, most guess some 6 or 7 level bid, but that's wrong. Take a minute and think about it. When was the last time you played 5NT?

## November Special Games



On **Tuesday, November 7**, the CBC is hosting a special pairs game in which players in each partnership must never have previously played together. This is always a fun and exciting game with an unpredictable outcome. There's still time to connect with that special someone you've been dying to play with.

Also, on **Sunday, November 12**, **Mary Duffy** is hosting our November weekend game. It's a pairs game that awards extra points. Mary has zeroed in on BBQ as the main course and asks that players bring sides that complement it—coleslaw, potato salad, beans, cornbread, etc. If you can't think of a side that would work, remember there's always dessert—we all love dessert!

To avoid duplications, Mary has posted a sign-up sheet at the CBC. Lunch starts at 12:30 and the game will begin at 1:00.

## Nooga East Bridge Club



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. For those of you in Cleveland or North Georgia, we are just a hop, skip and a jump away. We are a very welcoming, fun group and are always looking for new players of all levels. Interested? Just email [noogabridgeeast@gmail.com](mailto:noogabridgeeast@gmail.com) to make a reservation. 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)**. We are happy to help, although we do hope for some extra time to help you find a partner. And, after you have asked for some help, if you are lucky enough to find someone to play with on your own, please let us know so we can sit back and enjoy our weekend.

Watch your email for food and fun days. If you are not receiving our emails, please let us know by emailing us at the above address. We have lots of special games planned for the rest of the year—remember special games mean extra points. Hope to see you there.

# Online Mentor/Mentee Game

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, we have an online Mentor/Mentee game at 7 P.M. on BBO. **Anne Donnovin** heads up this activity, so if you are interested in playing, let Anne (aaddonovin@bellsouth.net) know early so she can match up mentors with mentees. Anne will send out assignments with plenty of time for you to create a convention card. You are asked to sign on to BBO (bridgebase.com) by 6:45 P.M. This month the games are on November 13 and 27.

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 just might be you earning those masterpoints.



## Do You Know... What's the Rule of 7?

This rule comes into play only when the contract is 3NT. Declarer uses the rule after the opposing partnership has led. It is used to decide whether or not declarer should win the trick if they can, or whether it would be more beneficial to duck (hold up). If it's beneficial to duck the trick once, would it be beneficial to duck it again? If so, how many times should declarer duck before playing their winning card?

This is where you can use The Rule of 7. It is a simple way of working out how many times to duck tricks before playing a winning card. It's easy to use. Declarer simply adds up the number of cards they hold in the suit to the number of cards in the suit held in Dummy's hand and deducts the total from 7. The answer is the number of times to duck the trick.

Usually as declarer, you would use the rule if the Ace is the only stopper you hold in the suit although it would work if you hold the King and the opposition happens to play the Ace in the first round.



## Bridge Etiquette



If there is a problem or you need clarification about something that has transpired at your table, call the director. Say, "Director Please" in a pleasant tone, and keep your hand up so that the Director can quickly determine who called.

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

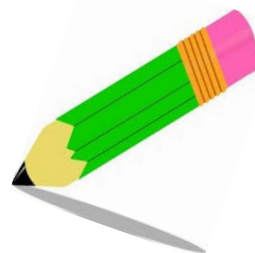
We all had a great time at the Fall Sectional in October, but we can now return to our regular third Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee game this month on November 17. There will be a sign-up sheet at the club, but if you are unable to do so in person, text or call **Sandy Cervantes** at **423.315.1953** if you would like to play.

Although there always may be last minute complications or conflicts, please let Sandy know as soon as possible so she can try to find a replacement for you.





# dates to Remember



November 2-4  
Thursday-Saturday

Volunteer State Fall Sectional  
Knoxville Bridge Center

November 3-5  
Friday-Sunday

Camellia Sectional Tournament  
Hilton Head Beach & Tennis Resort

November 7  
Tuesday

Play with Someone New  
CBC Noon

November 12  
Sunday

Special Pairs Game  
Lunch 12:30/Game 1:00

November 13 & 27  
Mondays

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

November 16-18  
Thursday-Saturday

Magic City Fall Sectional  
Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club

November 17  
Friday

Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee Game  
CBC Noon  
October 9-15

November 23-  
December 3  
Thursday-Sunday

2023 Fall NABC  
Marriott Marquis  
Atlanta, GA

December 14  
Thursday

FDBC Annual Meeting & Holiday Party  
10:30 A.M. Mountain City Club

December 16  
Saturday

CBC Annual Meeting & Holiday Party  
11:30 Lunch & Meeting/12:00 Pairs Game

## Hats off to...

Hats off to **Dan Chandler** and **John Friedl** for their efforts in teaching novices how to play our favorite game along with helping more experienced players improve their skills and understanding. Dan kicked off our effort to recruit new people as well as those players wanting to return to bridge with Learn Bridge in a Day. Dan's continued this effort with lessons on Saturday mornings and Monday night games (including a short lesson prior to the game). John reintroduced his defense class for the past two months, an important skill to improve our game considering that odds are that half of the time we will be playing defense. John had tremendous participation each week for these insightful lessons. Thanks to both for their support of the Club.



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

# One Last Thing...

By John Friedl

## Competing for a Part Score



Bridge is a competitive game - that's why we keep score. In duplicate bridge we compete against others who play the same hands that we do, which ideally takes some of the luck out of the game. Whereas in rubber bridge getting good cards usually means we're winners at the end of the day, in duplicate bridge getting good cards isn't all that important to winning, because the folks we're competing against played those same good cards that we were dealt.

In duplicate bridge we can get a good score by playing the cards we are dealt a little better than our opponents - taking one more trick than they did either on offense or defense can yield a top score on that board. But an important part of duplicate bridge also depends on our bidding and whether we arrive at the best contract for our side.

Bear in mind that the best contract isn't necessarily the contract that yields the highest positive score. Sometimes we can get a top score by getting a negative score. If everyone else is bidding and making two hearts for 110 points and we are bidding two spades and going down one trick for minus 50 or 100 points, we did better than our competitors.

But there are risks to bidding too high in trying to keep the opponents at our table from getting a good positive score on a hand. In the previous example, if we go down two tricks doubled for minus 300 or 500 while everyone else playing the same hand in our direction was only minus 110, we get a bottom rather than a top score on that board.

The art of competing for a part score in duplicate bridge is really a skill that is learned over time with lots of experience, including the experience of making a terrible bid and getting clobbered. In the past I have written that if your opponents never make a doubled game at your table, that is a sign that you are not doubling often enough. By the same token, if you are never going down in a competitive auction and getting a bottom score, it is because you are not aggressive enough in competing.

Sometimes you want to compete for a part score and the opponents are outbidding you. Should you push them one more level? Should you make a risky bid and possibly get doubled?

Here's an example to consider. Your left hand opponent deals and opens the bidding 1 Spade. Partner overcalls 2 Clubs, right hand opponent bids 2 Spades and it's now your call, with the following possible hands:

- 1)     ♠ 42  
        ♥ KJ9  
        ♦ J742  
        ♣ K1094
  
- 2)     ♠ 3  
        ♥ AJ104  
        ♦ A10942  
        ♣ 965

In each case, if you pass and Opener passes, your partner will not know anything about your hand, whether you have support for clubs, whether you have tricks in the side suits, etc. Hearing nothing from you, partner will likely pass and the auction will end.

Let's look a little deeper into what we know about the other three hands. Opener has at least 5 spades and at least opening values - anywhere from 12 to 21 high card points. Partner has at least 5 clubs and something on the side to justify an overcall. Are you vulnerable? If so, partner should have a little more than if non vulnerable. At a minimum partner should have something like AQJxx in clubs and maybe an outside king. On the upper end, partner has no more than about 15 or maybe 16 high card points, because with more than that she should first make a takeout double and then bid clubs at her next opportunity - that's how we show a hand with better than minimum opening values.

# One Last Thing...

*Continued*



Right hand opponent has enough to compete at the 2-level but no more, so anywhere from 5 to 9 high card points and at least 3 spades, maybe 4. Depending on how strong the opening bidder (your left hand opponent) is, your side could have anywhere from 15 to 22 or 23 high card points.

Okay, now let's look at these two hands. In the first one, you don't have much except for very good four-card support for partner's club suit. Your two honors in hearts might be useful, but you can't be sure. Partner has maybe two or three spades, and that's all you know at this point. Do you have enough combined defensive values to defeat 2 Spades if you pass? Probably not. The opponents will lose one or maybe two club tricks, maybe a couple in the red suits, but chances are they will make 2 spades for 110, or even an overtrick for 140.

Not vulnerable, I wouldn't hesitate to bid 3 Clubs with this hand, to push the opponents to the 3-level in the hope that we might set them for a positive score. If they double 3 clubs and they set us for minus 100, that's still a better score than if they make 2 spades for 110.

Vulnerable it's a bit riskier, but I would still venture a 3 Club bid. Of course that opens up the possibility of getting doubled and going down one or more tricks for minus 200 or minus 500, but, as a wise man once said (see above), "if you are never going down in a competitive auction and getting a bottom score, it is because you are not aggressive enough in competing."

With the second hand, I would be even more confident in competing with a bid of 3 Clubs. I do not have such good support for partner's club suit as I do with the first hand, but I have several other features that compensate: a singleton spade which should limit our losers to one trick in that suit, and aces and good spot cards in the two red suits. I'm not sure we can beat 2 Spades by the opponents, but I am pretty sure we have a good shot at making 3 Clubs, and if the opponents bid on to 3 Spades I think we have a good chance of beating that contract.

Give partner something like the following hand:

♠ 765  
♥ Q6  
♦ Q82  
♣ AQJ83

With the first hand above, we stand to lose two spade tricks, one heart, two or three diamonds and no clubs. If we can hold our losing tricks to five, not vulnerable we should get a good score.

With the second hand above, we stand to lose one spade, probably one heart, one or two diamonds and perhaps a club if the king is offside. I would tend to place most of the missing honors in the hand of the opening bidder, which means if all three missing kings are to our left we will have a good chance of making 3 clubs. And if the opponents bid 3 Spades we could very well take 5 tricks for a positive score.

When you are considering whether to compete for a part score, pay attention to the vulnerability. Going down one trick doubled when vulnerable yields a score of minus 200, which is greater than any part score the opponents might have made. Also, when evaluating your hand, if you are in front of the opening bidder it is best to downgrade for honors in a suit that has been bid to your left, while a king in a suit bid to your right calls for a slight upgrade.

Above all, try to overcome your reluctance to compete at the two- and three-level for part scores. If you always sit quietly while the opponents find their fit and then stop bidding, not only will your scores reflect it, but you won't gain the experience necessary to differentiate between when it is safe to compete and when it is best to retreat. And if you push the opponents to a level that you don't think they can make, pull out the red card and double them.