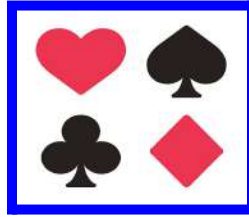


ALERT! November2025

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson



A Message From Richard Splanger

Our President...

Mark your calendars - We have two key events coming up in December for the Chattanooga Bridge Club and the Fairyland Club. Both clubs hold their annual meetings concurrent with their Christmas/Holiday parties in December. These are important events to update everyone on the performance of each club and to enjoy these special, holiday games together. The Fairyland Club will hold their event on Thursday, December 4 at the Walden Club. The Chattanooga Bridge Club will hold their meeting/party on Saturday, December 13 at the bridge center. More

information to follow.

ACBL is ramping up their efforts to award added or special points at local club games. It has already started with recent events that included silver, red and even gold point opportunities. This will continue through the rest of the year and probably into 2026. So, look for announcements of these special games and take advantage of this opportunity that typically would only be available by going to tournaments.

Richard

A MESSAGE FROM MYRA RENEAU

OUR CLUB MANAGER

"What I Did This Summer"

Well another summer in North Carolina has come to a close. I was blessed again this year with the opportunity to direct bridge in NC. As you know, any way I am able to share this wonderful game with others makes me happy. I always brag about my home bridge club of Chattanooga because it is simply the best!

One day while I was in the mountains, there was an amount of pairs they did not have table mats for. I said, "Well, we can run it if you can just follow the Bridgemates". At that point, with it successful, they believed I was magical. That sort of cracked me up.

Well, I'm off to go on a Larry Cohen cruise. Hopefully, I can learn a lot more bridge stuff myself. It's a perpetual learning experience as everyone knows.

It is team game season, so look forward to all the special team games and the special events we're going to have in 2026. See you at the Bridge Club.

HATS OFF TO... Leigh Broadway

Hats off to Leigh Broadway for her support of Unit 206 across a variety of areas. You are probably aware that Leigh will be moving at some point and she will be missed!! The hands that we play each week would not be available without Leigh's extra efforts. She has been a key member of the Shuffling committee preparing the pre-dealt hands from ACBL each week. You can thank her when you get the good hands!! You may also recall that Leigh was the President for the Fairyland Club and she has supported both clubs across several other areas like snacks/food and in helping people obtain their Life Master status. Leigh has also supported Mary in our The Longest Day fundraising efforts for years. We wish her the best in her new endeavors!!



Leigh was preparing boards one Sunday when she observed the availability of this carpet shampooer. She jumped right in and led the initiative!!

CBC CALENDAR UPDATES & REMINDERS

Look for email updates from Margie Moses
Please note that our December calendar will be busier with many fun festivities and card games.

For the most current events calendar, follow this link to our club's website calendar for more information: CBC Calendar

[Calendar of Events](#)

Novice Game

Mondays-6:30-9PM

Enjoy a short lesson at 6:30, followed by a game at 7 and ending at 9 PM. More experienced players are encouraged to come play with Novices. A Novice (newer player) can have zero masterpoints, but simply wants to learn more about playing duplicate bridge. \$5 per player.

199er Game

Saturday, November 8 at 1 PM

Game only, no lunch

Feel free to bring snacks

Chat With Joe

Tuesday, November 11 at 10:30 AM

Open Game/Party

Sunday, November 16 at 12:30 PM

A main dish will be provided for lunch, please sign up to bring a side dish. The Open Game begins at 1 PM. Come on out and spend the afternoon with your good bridge friends. What a great opportunity to sign up with a more advanced player to enhance your skills.

LBIAD Lessons

Saturdays at 10 AM

Dan and Suzie continue with their amazing lessons, of common bridge conventions and play of the hand. This is a no cost opportunity-come on out and be a part of fellow bridge players working hard to improve their bridge skills.



One Small Thing

By Bruce Antman

One Small Thing – Drury convention

Do you play Drury? The main point of Drury is to allow a passed hand to make an invitational raise of a major-suit opening by artificially bidding 2 of a minor, in case partner opened light in 3rd or 4th seat. There are several variations of Drury played in Chattanooga, of which the most common is “reverse two-way” Drury. The basic rules for that are:

Opener in 3rd or 4th seat opens 1♥ or 1♠.

Next bidder passes or doubles.

Responder, a passed hand with 10+ to 13 support points, bids 2♣ with 3-card support or 2♦ with 4. Both bids are alertable. [With more support points, just bid game.]

Opener rebids:

2 of the original major, with a light opener (10-12 declarer points)

3 of the original major, invitational, with 12+ to 14 declarer points

Game in the major with 15+ points but no slam interest

Lowest possible bid of a new suit, forcing, probably interested in slam

Other bids are possible, but less likely, and require partnership agreement.

Let's look at some example declarer hands. Assume the Drury bidder has a minimum:

♠Q73 ♥A54 ♦852 ♣A832

If each partner has 10-11 points, it's unlikely that you can make 3 of a major:

♠KJ963 ♥KJ8 ♦J7 ♣Q96 P – (P) – 1♠ – (P) – 2♣ – (P) – 2♠ - all pass

With a normal minimum opener, bid game only if the Drury bidder is at the top of the range:

♠AJ963 ♥KJ8 ♦J7 ♣K96 P – (P) – 1♠ – (P) – 2♣ – (P) – 3♠ - all pass

With 15+ points, you must be in game. Unless you might have slam opposite an invitational hand, just bid it:

♠AKJ96 ♥KQ8 ♦97 ♣QJ6 P – (P) – 1♠ – (P) – 2♣ – (P) – 4♠ - all pass

With slam interest, bid naturally, starting with a new suit (possibly artificial).

♠AKQ962 ♥KQ86 ♦K7 ♣J P – (P) – 1♠ – (P) – 2♣ – (P) – 2♥ – (P) – ?

If you play any form of Drury, you must be careful of this auction:

P – (P) – 1♥ – (P) – 3♥ or P – (P) – 1♠ – (P) – 3♠

This is NOT a limit raise, since Drury replaces all invitational raises by a passed hand. It is mostly preemptive, showing four-card support (or more), a weak hand (generally under 6 HCP), and at least one short suit. Opener needs about 20 points (including distribution) to raise to game.

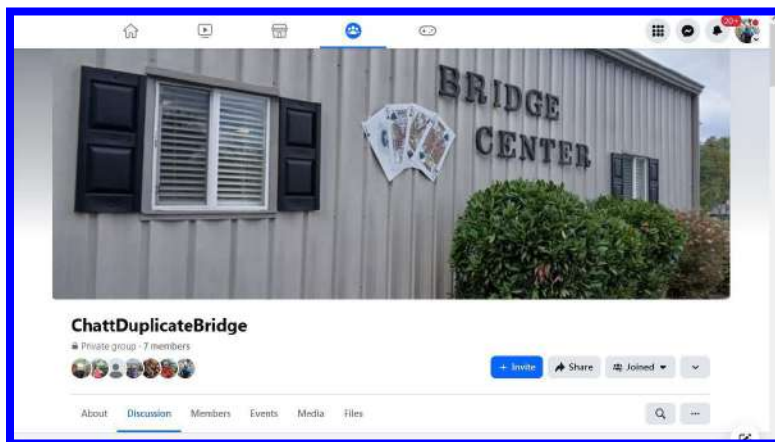
Everyone forgets Drury several times before they get the hang of it. There's no penalty for simply forgetting, except that you frequently reach a bad contract. But if you **both** forget, or if you forget and then remember later, please call the director. And if you do play Drury, you **MUST** play as if your partner remembers it – as with any other convention. If you forget too many times, either drill it until you will both remember, or take it off your card.

Our Club Has A Facebook Group -- ChattDuplicateBridge

by John Hubbard, Group Administrator (Bruce Antman is co-Administrator)

This is a discussion group on Facebook for all Chattanooga Bridge Club members and all members of its affiliated clubs. You ask to join. Then one of the two Administrators processes Approvals.. Now you can see the posts made by group members and make your own posts and comments to posts. Its purpose is for the members to discuss any bridge related subject.

Select your Facebook app. Search for the Group by its name --



ChattDuplicateBridge. You will go to this page.

Find the blue Join button under the Bridge Center picture and tap it to ask to join. (John is a member and so this picture shows the blue Invite button.)

Following is the About information for this Group.

This Group will get better and better as more members join and start interesting discussions.

Use this group to ask for a last minute partner, to share an interesting hand, to find out who is going to a tournament, maybe seek to share a ride to the tournament. Even seek help with a project or activity you do for the club's welfare. You can write prose and add pictures to your post, just like in your own Facebook page.

Join and enjoy!

[Chattanooga Bridge Club](#) -click on this link to see our Facebook page

The Longest Day 2025 Wrap Up



We celebrated our Club's 2025 TLD Success!

Abigail Cox, our Alzheimer's Association representative, came from Nashville to meet many of us and say thank you and congratulations for our Club's outstanding The Longest Day results. We raised over \$15,000 which speaks directly to the generosity of each of you.

Abby brought cupcakes for us to share at our Friday game and was able to chat with many of you. Abby reiterated the scientifically proven fact that playing bridge-using the brain-is one of the most beneficial ways to prevent or delay Alzheimer's symptoms. What does this mean? Come and play bridge regularly and often. It's a win-win even if your game is not as perfect as you'd like.



199 High Card Points or Less?

If you enjoy playing bridge and have 199, or fewer, high card points and are having difficulty in finding a partner for the Friday game (or any other game), reach out to the interim Partnership Coordinator, Mary Robertson at 423.605.7702. She can help you try and find a great partner. One suggestion is that those who need partners try and establish a regular partner on designated days. For example, if you know you are usually only available to play on the first and third Fridays, seek out someone who can play one of these Fridays regularly. Once you have established a regular partner for that date, then look for someone who is available on a regular basis to play the other open dates. It's easier to find a regular partner if you look for someone once a month versus every single Friday. If you have questions or need more help with this, reach out to Mary or one of the Bridge Center's instructors.

Nooga East Bridge Club

The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

The Fairyland Bridge group plays every Thursday at our Club. This group often combines celebrating special occasions along with a delicious lunch and great cards. Stay tuned to upcoming game announcements to make sure you don't miss the fun. Players should be registered before 10:15 to allow play to begin at 10:30. Lunch is provided between 12-12:30, afterward the game resumes. Reservations are appreciated, please reach out to Susie Crouch at 423.443.6889.

When I got these photos from Susie Crouch, I laughed so hard! These pictures are from the October Halloween party/game held by Fairyland. Wish I had been there-between the skeletons and the pregnant beauty pageant lady, it could only be a truly fun day!



Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee

Because of the November and December holiday schedule, there will be no Mentor Mentee games in November and December. Our popular Friday Face-to-Face will resume in January 2026.

Partnership Committee

If you need a partner, our Partnership Committee can help. During the month of September, contact Mary Robertson at 423.605.7702. Anne will be back as the regular Committee Chair in mid October.

2026 Directory

We are beginning our annual process of updating all of our club members' information for the Chattanooga Bridge Club Directory. This handy booklet provides members' contact names, telephone numbers and email addresses. A printout of the current directory will be made available for the next few weeks so that each of us can review our own personal data and update it as needed. Please take time to review your data. Thank you, Winnell, for undertaking this big task!

Arnie's Angle - For Those Who Wish To Learn More About The World In General By Arnie Meagher

Humans - Our Story

Hello! Hello! Our names are Fiona and Miguel and we would like to share with you the extraordinary story of how we became humans. It is easy to forget that not very long ago we humans did not exist. It is also easy to forget that we are animals. That is not how we usually think of ourselves. Our parents may have scolded us - "stop being an animal". That would be difficult to stop being what we are. What about - we are the apex animal? Now that makes us feel a smidge better. We may be at the apex, the pinnacle of life on our planet, but how did we rise so high so quickly? How did we—Homo sapiens—emerge from the ancient soil of time, and achieve the amazing feat of landing two humans- Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin - on the moon on July 10, 1969 and return them to Earth safely? The story of human evolution is not a straight line. It is not the march of progress from ape to human. It is a winding path filled with dead ends, dramatic shifts, strange cousins, and unexpected leaps. It is a story billions of years in the making—slow, violent, beautiful, and often tragic. It's also a story still being written. We are still evolving.

To understand where we came from, we must travel back—way back beyond history, into a world when no humans existed. Life on our planet Earth began about 3.5 billion years ago, perhaps even earlier, in a world utterly alien to our own. There were no trees, no animals, no oxygen-rich air—only oceans and volcanic landscapes, simmering with the building blocks of biology. From this ancient broth, the first simple cells emerged. They were tiny, single-celled, and unimaginably ancient. For over two billion years, life remained microscopic. Then something revolutionary occurred. Some cells learned to cooperate, forming complex organisms with internal structures and specialized functions. These were our ancestors in the most rudimentary sense. Multicellular life exploded in diversity - plants, fungi, and animals arose. Some crawled onto land. Others stayed in the sea. Over millions of years, vertebrates evolved spines, fish evolved limbs, and some creatures began to breathe air. Among them, the mammals would eventually take center stage—but only after catastrophe.

When the Dinosaurs Died, Mammals Rose. About 66 million years ago, a space rock roughly the size of a city struck Earth near what is now Mexico. The impact was cataclysmic. The skies turned black. Plants died. Food chains collapsed. In the mass extinction that followed, the age of dinosaurs came to a fiery end. Nearly 75% of all species were wiped out. But out of that disaster came opportunity. Small, warm-blooded mammals, once hiding in the shadows now had space to evolve and diversify. Over tens of millions of years, some of these mammals returned to the sea and became whales. Others took to the skies as bats. Still others stayed on land, becoming hooved runners, gnawing rodents, and sharp-toothed predators. Among them was a lineage of creatures living in trees, with grasping hands, good vision, and complex social lives. These were the primates—our ancient relatives.

The Rise of the Primates. Primates evolved roughly 60 million years ago, likely beginning as small, insect-eating creatures that scampered through tropical forests. Over time, they developed traits that would come to define the group - forward-facing eyes for depth perception, flexible hands for gripping branches, and large brains relative to body size for navigating complex environments. As millions of years passed, primates split into two major groups. One included lemurs and lorises, mostly found today in Madagascar. The other group—anthropoids—included monkeys, apes, and eventually, humans. From the anthropoids came the great apes, or hominids—orangutans, gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and us. These animals didn't just survive by brute strength. They built relationships, used tools, mourned their dead, and even recognized themselves in mirrors. But only one lineage would take the leap to language, art, and spaceflight. That leap would take place in Africa.

The African Crucible. Some six to seven million years ago, in the forests and savannas of central and eastern Africa, a population of ape-like creatures began to change. These were not yet humans, but they were not quite apes either. They walked upright, at least part of the time. Their brains were small, but their hands were nimble. They lived in groups and probably communicated with rudimentary vocalizations. They were the hominins—the direct ancestors and close relatives of humans. Fossils offer tantalizing glimpses into this mysterious period. These creatures walked upright before they had big brains. Walking on two legs—bipedalism—was one of the first major changes in our lineage. But why

did it happen? Perhaps standing up freed the hands for carrying food or infants. Maybe it helped in seeing over tall grass or regulating body temperature in the hot African sun. Whatever the reason, bipedalism was a defining step on the road to humanity.

The First Truly Upright Ancestors. Around 4 million years ago, a new genus emerged: *Australopithecus*. These hominins were fully bipedal, with strong legs and humanlike feet, but they still had long arms and curved fingers—hints of their tree-dwelling past. They lived in diverse environments and likely used simple tools, though no stone artifacts are directly linked to them. One of the most famous members of this group is “Lucy,” a 3.2-million-year-old discovered in Ethiopia. Her skeleton revealed the graceful blend of primitive and advanced traits that marked this stage of evolution. These beings were survivors—clever, adaptive, and social. But they were not yet builders of civilizations. That would come later, with a bold leap: the evolution of a larger brain.

The Birth of the Genus *Homo*. Some 2.5 million years ago, climate change began to reshape Africa’s landscape, turning lush forests into open savannas. Hominins that could think quickly, learn socially, and adapt behaviorally had an advantage. From these pressures, a new kind of creature emerged: *Homo habilis*, the first species in the genus *Homo*—our own group. Their name means “handy man,” because they left behind clear evidence of stone tools. With these tools, they could butcher meat, crack bones for marrow, and alter their environment in ways no creature had before. *Homo habilis* had a brain capacity of around 600–700 cubic centimeters, substantially larger than their predecessors. They were learning not just to survive, but to manipulate the world around them intentionally.

***Homo Erectus*: The First Global Wanderers.** Around 1.9 million years ago, a new species evolved—*Homo erectus*. They were taller, stronger, and smarter than their predecessors. They made better tools, controlled fire, and most remarkably, they left Africa. *Homo erectus* spread across Eurasia, from Indonesia to Georgia to China. They adapted to cold, to deserts, to forests. They hunted in groups, cared for each other, and lived in structured communities. They survived for over a million years, making them one of the longest-lasting human species ever. In many ways, they were already human in mind and body. But they were not us. The final steps toward what we became still lay ahead—and these steps would take many different forms.

A Tangled Family Tree. For a long time, scientists imagined human evolution as a ladder: a straight progression from primitive to advanced creatures. But reality is far messier. It’s more like a bush, or a river delta, with many branches—some ending in extinction, others merging, diverging, or running parallel. In the past few decades, we’ve discovered a dazzling variety of ancient human relatives. Around 800,000 years ago, *Homo heidelbergensis* appeared, showing a further increase in brain size, and a likely ancestor to both Neanderthals and us. Then there was *Homo naledi*, with a strange mix of ancient and modern features. There was *Homo floresiensis*—the “hobbit” of Indonesia, barely over 3 feet tall. And in Siberia, the Denisovans left behind DNA but almost no fossils. These species overlapped in time and space. Some interbred. Others vanished. Evolution did not favor a single path—it explored many. And then, about 300,000

years ago, in Africa, *Homo sapiens* appeared, the species to which all modern human beings belong and the only member of the genus *Homo* that is not extinct.

The Dawn of Us Humans. Early *Homo sapiens* were not dramatically different from their cousins. They made tools, hunted game, and lived in small bands, but these activities were gradually accompanied by evidence of complex symbolic behavior, such as deliberate burials, personal ornaments like shell beads, and abstract art. Things were changing. There was the emergence of complex language—such as grammar, metaphor, storytelling. There was cultural evolution—the ability to pass on knowledge through generations, to build not just physically, but socially and intellectually. Whatever the spark, it gave humans a unique advantage. We became not just smart, but self-aware. We asked questions. We invented gods. We made music. We remembered the dead. Around 60,000 years ago, small bands of *Homo sapiens* began leaving Africa, spreading into the Middle East, Asia, Australia, and Europe. Along the way, they encountered other humans—Neanderthals, Denisovans—and sometimes, they mingled. The Denisovans, together with the Neanderthals, are the closest extinct relatives of modern humans. Today, many humans carry small amounts of Neanderthal or Denisovan DNA. These were not alien others. They were kin. But only *Homo sapiens* survived.

Why Did We Survive When Others Did Not? This remains one of the great mysteries. Neanderthals were intelligent, tool-using, fire-controlling humans with large brains. Denisovans were similarly advanced. Why did they vanish while we thrived? Perhaps climate change pushed their populations past the point of recovery. Perhaps competition with *Homo sapiens* for food, mates, and territory proved too much. Perhaps interbreeding led to their gradual absorption. Or maybe, just maybe, the key was imagination—the ability to cooperate in larger groups through shared myths, beliefs, and goals. It was not just our biology that gave us an edge. It was our minds, our imaginations.

From Hunters to Farmers to Cities. For 95% of our history, humans lived as hunter-gatherers. We moved with the seasons, followed herds, gathered fruit, and lived in tune with nature's rhythms. Our brains evolved in this context—tribal, mobile, communal. But around 12,000 years ago, something extraordinary happened: we began to farm. The Agricultural Revolution was not inevitable. It arose in scattered places—Mesopotamia, China, Mesoamerica, and others. People domesticated wheat, rice, corn, and animals. For the first time, humans could settle in one place, produce food surpluses, and grow large communities. With farming came cities. With cities came governments, laws, religion, art, and war. Written language appeared. Civilizations rose and fell. Empires expanded. And always, behind it all, human evolution continued—not just biologically, but culturally, technologically, socially.

Are We Still Evolving? It's a common question. Is human evolution still happening? The answer is yes—but not in the way it once did. In the past, evolution was driven by natural selection—survival and reproduction in response to the environment. Today, medicine, technology, and global society have changed those rules. We no longer evolve just to survive lions or plagues. But evolution is not just about hardship. It's about change in gene frequencies over

time. And that is still happening. Genes related to disease resistance, metabolism, high-altitude adaptation, and even brain function continue to shift. And our culture now evolves faster than our genes. We've entered a new era—an age where we may direct our own evolution through genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology. Whether this leads to harmony or hubris remains to be seen.

The Story That Never Ends. The story of human evolution is not just a tale of fossils and DNA. It is the story of who we are, where we came from, and what we might become. We are the product of ancient stars and ancient apes. We are born of dust and dreams, blood and stardust, chance and choice. No other species on Earth tells stories about itself. No other creature composes symphonies and wonders where it came from. No other animal asks what it means to be conscious, or where the universe is going. We are alone, but not isolated. We are new, but rooted in the ancient. We are flawed, but capable of great things. And our evolution is far from over. What comes next? Will it be an unexpected leap forward? Or will it be a cataclysmic event that changes everything? Slow gradual change seems to belong to the distant past.

Thank you for reading our story. It is truly an epic tale that bears reading aloud and listening intently. It is also your story. Please share it and discuss it with others.

Yours truly, Eve and Adam

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