

CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CENTER

October 2026

News and Tidbits

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson

A Message From Richard Spangler, Our President

Fall is finally here! This is also the busiest time of the year for bridge as well. Several activities are happening as we speak and several are coming up.

Currently, we have in place LBIAD (Learn Bridge In A Day) follow up classes EVERY Saturday from 10-12 being taught by either Suzy or Dan. On Monday nights, Margie and Jane are continuing their Bridge Tips games, transitioning once the LBIAD players are ready to add this to their regimen. Joe is still continuing his discussions on the second Tuesday of the month.

Coming up: Our October Sectional (hopefully you have your partners lined up!!). John Felker will be offering classes for intermediate to advanced players in November. Plus, we have a surprise new addition coming to the bridge center to further improve your play of the game!!

Finally, the holiday parties and annual meetings will occur sooner than you think! Plus, there will be numerous opportunities to earn extra points as the year comes to a close. So, get ready for the "fall madness". Lots of fun and lots of bridge!

Richard Spangler, President



Richard Spangler gladly accepted our Club's certificate for our outstanding 2026 The Longest Day fundraiser results benefitting the Alzheimer's Association. Well done, Unit 206!!! Ann Keown has agreed to lead the 2027 campaign.

A MESSAGE FROM MYRA RENEAU, OUR CLUB MANAGER



I just want to compliment the ongoing Ambassador program. Ann Keown has spearheaded this from its beginning 10 years ago. The main goal of this program is more Bridge for more people. And that is a goal I fully support. And the continued success of this program relies on the volunteerism of the ambassadors. Thank you so much for your dedication to this program! So now if you think you might want to play Bridge, just show up and get matched up.



HATS OFF TO IRIS ABELSON

Hats off to Iris Abelson for her strong support of the club. Every month, we host a party at the center either on Saturday or Sunday. This provides an opportunity to gather in a more social setting, with lunch provided beforehand and many times a theme for the party as well, like the upcoming Halloween game!! Iris has coordinated the meals for these events, working with several people to identify a theme and have the lunch ready for all to enjoy.

Additionally, Iris (with the help of her husband, Lee), was a strong contributor to the Kitchen and Bathroom upgrades. John Prescott led the overall effort, but the added support from them helped tremendously for a smoother transition. Updating the kitchen and bathrooms was a great change to the club personally believing it helped shift the overall Bridge Center to the modern age.

Thanks to Iris for all that she does for the club!

CLUB EVENTS

Look for email updates from Margie Moses

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

Learn Bridge In A Day Classes

Saturdays in October- 10 AM-12 PM

LBIAD follow up classes

Taught by Dan and/or Suzie

Monday Night Games For Beginners

Join Margie, Janie and others at 6:15

Cost to play \$5

Instruction provided as needed

Special GNT Open Game Sunday, Sunday, October 31st

Lunch-12:00 Game-12:30 PM

Winners will have access to extra points.

Sign up to bring a side dish. Don't cook? No problem-cash donations are appreciated as well

Chat With Joe Tuesday, October 13th, 10:30 AM

Do you have a question about a particular hand?

How is your defense? Here is a great chance to seek feedback from an advanced player. Just bring yourself and your questions.

Chattanooga Open Sectional

Thursday-Saturday - October 22-24, 2026

St. John United Methodist Church

Thursday/Friday

Open Pairs & 499 Pairs: 9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Saturday

Swiss Teams, counts as 2 sessions 9:30 a.m.

Reach out to Anne Donnovin if you need a partner



Make sure you sign up online or via one of the sign up sheets posted on the wall. We need your help.

New educational opportunity-Post-game Hand Review

We're going to try something we haven't done in a while. After the Tuesday games on October 6 and 20, some of us will take a few minutes to discuss some of the more interesting hands we've just played. The October 20 date will be just in time to prepare for the Sectional. The idea is to do no more than 3 hands, with a hard limit of 10 minutes on each hand. For starters, discussion leader Bruce Antman will pick one hand to review, and print copies for the participants. By the time we finish discussing that hand, the game should be up on the internet, and we can look at any hand(s) you found difficult. We'll see how these sessions go, and if they are useful we can continue - possibly with different leaders or on different days.

SO-YOU ASKED FOR LEBENSOHL and MINORWOOD

When John Felker completed his classes in March/April, he had requests for classes on Lebensohl {LEB} and Minorwood. Starting on the first Wednesday of November and continuing for at least 3 weeks, John will be back and you can learn how to deal with those pesky opponents who try to interfere with your 1 No Trump sequence by using the LEB convention.

Furthermore you will learn about how the aspects of LEB can be used when they make weak 2 bid openings and how you can overcome that bid; and when your partner has a Reverse bid, and you have a very weak hand.

Minorwood- that's just one Ace asking convention. Lets cover almost all the different types of Ace asking or Keycard asking bids. We will cover basic Blackwood, Keycard Blackwood, Gerber, Minorwood, Kickback and perhaps other Ace asking conventions that will help you get to the right slams or stop when needed.

Be sure your favorite partner also attends unless you are REALLY good at playing it Forward!!

ONE SMALL THING

WRITTEN BY BRUCE ANTMAN

One Small Thing – “Please explain”

This article was inspired by the “Ruling the Game” column in the July ACBL Bulletin. (I recommend that all players except beginners read that column; it’s not just for directors. Also, this is a topic on which I haven’t set a very good example, and I will try to do better!

At your turn to bid, you are allowed to ask about the meaning of any previous call made by your opponents. (A call is a bid, double, redouble, or pass.) It doesn’t matter whether the call was alerted or not. You must ask the partner of the person who made the call.

The ACBL strongly recommends that whenever you ask for the meaning of a bid, you simply look at the bidder’s partner and say “Please explain.” This avoids suggesting possible meanings to the opponents, or providing unauthorized information to your partner. It’s a really good idea. And it’s effectively the only question you’re technically allowed to ask, other than “may I see your convention card?”. We’re not supposed to ask “Was that bid Stayman?”, or “Does it promise a six-card suit?” – at least until they’ve given their initial explanation without revealing the answer.

When responding to “Please explain”, give a full description of what your partner’s call tells you about their hand, in the context of any previous calls, according to any agreements you have. Do not reflect what you know from your cards. Do **not** include anything about responses to that bid, beyond whether you believe it is forcing, invitational, or “drop dead”. The opponents can ask your partner what your response means, after you’ve made one.

Example: Partner opens 2♦, which you have agreed to play as weak. Even if you have 9 diamonds, you still explain it as if you believe it.

You’re not supposed to use the name of a convention as an explanation – or even as part of an explanation. Like explaining the responses, that may give unauthorized information to your partner. If the opponents do either, you may call the director, and possibly get relief.

There are several other acceptable explanations, assuming they are true. These include “I don’t know”, “I forget”, “We haven’t discussed this”, and “It just asks me to describe my hand further”. Don’t attempt to explain what a bid might mean, if you’re not sure.

If the initial explanation given to you is incomplete or unclear, you may say “Please explain further” or call the director. If you have the information you need, be content with that. Asking specific questions can give your partner unauthorized information.

That being said, all of our clubs are somewhat informal about all this. Experienced players often use shortcuts to save time, especially when there are no beginners present. If everyone at the table knows what it means, it’s quicker and clearer to say “limit raise” than “invitational, probably 10-12 support points with at least three of

partner's suit". But in a tournament – including our sectional – give the explanation instead. Always explain fully, if the table includes a beginner or a person you don't know.

Another informality applies when you're asking a beginner to explain. If they're having trouble explaining, be patient, and perhaps help them by asking a specific question like "how many points does that show?" or "is that bid forcing?". Accept that they may not know the answers!

Good example, where West just opened 2♦ in first seat:

North: Please explain.

East: Six card suit, 5-10 high card points, no four-card major.

Good example, where South opened 1NT, West bid 2♠, North bid 2NT and South said "Alert". (This is a lebensohl auction.)

East: Please explain.

South: Should be a weak hand with a long suit, or a game-forcing hand with a spade stopper. Forcing.

East: Pass

South: Three clubs.

North: Alert

West: Please explain.

North: I forced her to bid that. It doesn't say anything about her hand.

West: Pass

North: Three hearts.

South: Alert

East: Please explain.

North: She just wants to play three hearts. It's not invitational.

Note that the word "lebensohl" was never spoken. The 2NT bid in fact forces the 3♣ bid, but responses shouldn't be discussed. (The 3♥ bid must be alerted because it would be forcing in a natural system.)

Some other points about explanations:

- 1) Don't ask questions during the bidding, unless the answer might affect your own call. You could clue your opponents in to a misunderstanding, or anyone could provide unauthorized information to their partner. After the bidding is over, you can ask a question about any bid, or ask for a review with explanations, and everyone can participate – although the defenders should still only explain their partners' calls, not their own.

- 2) Also after the auction, if your partner has failed to alert an alertable bid, or has given a wrong explanation, you **must** call it to the attention of your opponents and provide the correct information. They may then call the director, especially if they feel it has affected their bidding.
- 3) If during the auction, you realize that your opponents have failed to alert or have given an incorrect explanation, and it has affected your bidding, call the director immediately.

LOOKING FOR A BRIDGE GAME?

'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. Players 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, this is 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. Are you interested? Just email noogabridgeeast@gmail.com to make a reservation. Need help finding a partner or have a question? You can text or call Sue Riddle at 423.509.3583 or Sharon Lewis at 423.240.5360.

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, or if you need to cancel, please reach out to Susie Crouch at 423.443.6889. Don't miss out on their fun holiday gatherings.

Partnership Coordinator

If you need a partner, our Partnership Coordinator can help. Contact Anne Donnovin at 423.605.2996.

2026 CBC Board of Directors

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Check out [Bridgeunleashed.com](https://bridgeunleashed.com) for more learning opportunities

Scruffy Long Legs - A Male Emu Tells His Story



INTRODUCTION

Hi there! My name is Scruffy Long Legs and I am an emu. I am a flightless bird, and I get my name from my appearance. My feathers are long, soft, and loosely arranged, giving me a shaggy, somewhat unkempt appearance. In the photo above, a proud emu dad is stepping out with nine newly hatched chicks in tow. But more on the remarkable story of emu fatherhood later. I am anxious to tell you about my family and where and how we live, the features of my elegant body (hiding within a shaggy coat), emus and Australia's native humans, and the important role emus play in the natural world.

THE EMU FAMILY AND WHERE AND HOW WE LIVE

We once ranged across most of mainland Australia, from coastal regions to the interior, wherever food and water were available. We were also found in Tasmania and on nearby King and Kangaroo Islands, but those island populations eventually became extinct. Today, only the mainland emu survives. We are members of the ancient group of large, flightless birds traditionally known as ratites, which include ostriches, cassowaries, and rheas. Our ancestors have been part of Australia's natural history for millions of years. We are highly adaptable birds. When food and water are plentiful, we may remain in one area, but when conditions become dry or food becomes scarce, we can travel hundreds of miles in search of what we need.

EMU PHYSICAL FEATURES

We possess several unique structural features that have evolved, enabling us to survive for millennia, including adaptations to our skeletal and muscular systems. We have stout bodies, long legs, and a long neck that enable us to reach heights of up to 6 1/2 feet tall, making us the tallest bird in Australia and the second tallest in the world, second only to the ostrich. Our lower legs have specialized muscles, similar to the calf muscle in humans, that equip us to run at speeds of up to 30 mph and maintain similar speed over long distances. Our feathers provide insulation against both heat and cold and help us blend into our surroundings. Our wings are greatly

reduced—so small that each wing is only about the size of a human hand, reflecting our flightless nature.

EMUS AND AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS HUMANS

I would like to share with you that in our travels across Australia, we particularly enjoy visiting native Australian communities, as they have retained that deep respect for emus that has been part of our relationship for thousands of years. Because we have been a revered totemic animal, hunting was strictly regulated by cultural protocols to prevent overexploitation. Many Indigenous Australian peoples have long standing cultural relationships with emus. In Indigenous astronomical traditions, the dark dust lanes of the Milky Way form the constellation of the cosmic emu, and in some Indigenous traditions, the changing position of the Emu in the Sky serves as a seasonal calendar, helping people know when it is time to look for emu eggs. Also, emus feature heavily in sacred Dreaming narratives, with some groups believing celestial events or the sun itself originated from emu eggs.

OUR DIET AND FORAGING

We are opportunistic omnivores that consume a diverse diet of nutrient-rich plant parts, insects, and occasional small animals. Our diet changes with the seasons and what is available. We usually forage alone or in loose groups, sometimes gathering in larger numbers where food and water are plentiful. We may travel many miles to find food and water, especially in arid regions.

OUR REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM AND LIFE CYCLE

I am not yet a dad, but hope to be some day soon. At the outset, I promised more information on emu fatherhood. Well, I proudly share with you here the full remarkable story of emu unique parenting. The male emu builds a nest in a shallow depression on the ground made of grass, leaves, bark, and twigs. The female lays a batch of 5 to 15 dark blue eggs. The male incubates the eggs for roughly eight weeks without feeding, drinking, defecating, or leaving the nest, relying on stored body fat. After hatching, he protects his chicks and leads them to food and water, teaching them how to survive in the wild. They remain dependent on him for several months and may stay with him for much longer before becoming fully independent. Male-only parental care is unusual among birds, making the emu one of nature's remarkable fathers.

In the wild, we typically live 10 to 20 years. Danger from predators, habitat loss, lack of water during droughts, and hunting can shorten our lives. In zoos, farms, or sanctuaries we can live up to 35 years. Humans estimate that hundreds of thousands of mature emus still live across Australia.

OUR ROLE IN THE WORLD OF NATURE

Although we may look like awkward giant birds, we play important ecological roles in Australian ecosystems as seed dispersers and opportunistic insect controllers. We eat a wide variety of native plants and vegetation, passing undigested seeds through our digestive tracts across vast distances via our droppings, which naturally helps plant life spread widely. As we saw in the section on our diet, we consume large quantities of insects helping regulate these populations, which is appreciated by Australian ranchers and farmers. We also serve as prey for apex predators like dingoes and eagles, integrating them directly into the local food chain.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EMUS

Before parting ways, I want to share with you 5 facts about emus that surprise almost everyone.

- 1) Our ancient bird relatives go back millions of years, but modern emus evolved long after the dinosaurs disappeared.
- 2) We are powerful athletes. We can run at speeds approaching 30–35 mph, leap over obstacles, and swim well when necessary.
- 3) We follow rain-bearing cloud formations across the Australian outback to locate water.
- 4) We lie awake in bed before falling asleep (This is the historical observation of German zoologist Klaus Immelmann, who spent 10 consecutive nights watching emus sleep at the Frankfurt Zoological Garden).
- 5) Humans once lost a “war” with emus. In 1932, emus began damaging Australian wheat farms. Australia deployed the Royal Australian Artillery with machine guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. Humans may have had the machine guns, but we had speed, endurance, and a talent for scattering in every direction. The operation was abandoned after producing far less success than expected, and the episode became known as the ‘Emu War’.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for reading my story. I hope my story has helped you understand our remarkable resilience, the unique role of emu dads, and the important place we hold in Australia's natural world. We emus have survived for millions of years, and we intend to keep sharing this beautiful planet with humans and all the other creatures who call it home.

Yours Truly, Scruffy Long Legs Email: ajmeagher@aol.com

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