CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CENTER
November 2026
News and Tidbits

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206

Editor: Mary Robertson

A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD SPANGLER, OUR CLUB PRESIDENT

Thanks to everyone for a successful tournament!! The table count was down versus last year, but was still the second highest attendance in 5 years!! We received numerous compliments of the facility but especially strong appreciation of YOUR HOSPITALITY! It was because of YOU that this tournament was a success. Your support of Mary Duffy in providing food, snacks and drinks was very helpful. Added donations were a nice surprise which ensured we had enough food and supplies (especially coffee) throughout the event. Great to see your attendance at the games as well.

The year is coming to a close, so see notices here and subsequent emails on remaining events - especially the Annual meetings and Holiday parties being sponsored by each club. This is a fun time of the year, but also important as new board members are elected.

Richard Spangler
President

A MESSAGE FROM MYRA RENEAU, OUR CLUB MANAGER

You know the saying "it takes a village...". Well it really does. The Chattanooga area is blessed with great Bridge volunteers who step up and fill in where they're needed. We recently had a successful Sectional that could not be achieved without the loads of volunteers. At the helm of this event was Mary Duffy and Richard Spangler. Whether you brought food, parked cars, loaded tables, made coffee, set up meals, cleaned up or any other task it is all much appreciated! Another big shout out, goes out to Iris, who has been our party coordinator for 2026. She has done a wonderful job with all the great food
scheduled for our fun events. There are always a multitude of volunteer opportunities. We welcome any and all to help with the success of local Bridge. Thank you each and everyone! ♠️❤️♦️♣️

HATS OFF TO MARY DUFFY

Hats off to Mary Duffy for her extraordinary and exemplary support of our recent Sectional Bridge Tournament!! Even before announcements went out for the need of a Food Coordinator, Mary had already volunteered to support the October 2026 tournament. The Chattanooga tournament is known for its hospitality and we agreed to bring back another tradition - free food during the entire tournament!! We received numerous compliments of both. Many people were surprised and appreciative of our extra effort.

Mary laid out the lunch schedule for each day and then coordinated via SignUp Genius, emails, and conversations with many of you at the club to ensure enough food, snacks and drinks were available for the tournament. We even heard from several people that they had a lighter dinner because of the extensive array of options for lunch and snacks!!

Kudos again to Mary jumping in so quickly and for her great effort in coordinating this important aspect of our tournaments!!

Mary Duffy had lots of great volunteers during the Sectional

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- 10 AM-12 PM
LBIAD follow up classes
Taught by Dan and/or Suzie
Saturday, November 14th will be the last class

Monday Night Games For Beginners

Join Margie, Janie and others at 6:15
Cost to play $5
Instruction provided as needed
These games will end Monday, November 10th

Open Game **Veteran's Day Party & Open Game Sunday, November 15**
Lunch-12:30 Game-1 PM
Sign up to bring a side dish. Don't cook?
No problem-cash donations are appreciated as well

Chat With Joe Tuesday, November 10th, 10:30-11:30 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.

Post Game Review Tuesday, November 3rd and 17th

Join in the discussions of at least 2 boards played in that Tuesday's game after the game. Reviews ends at 4.

Intermediate Classes - Led by John Felker Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 4

Join us at 10:45 as John' lessons (for 3-4 weeks) will cover Lebensohl (LEB) and Minorwood conventions. $5 per class to participate.

SO-YOU ASKED FOR LEBENSOHL & 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!!

When your side opens 1NT, inviting game with a balanced hand
Written by Joe Viola

It is not unusual to have an invitational hand (8-9 hcp) when partner opens 1NT. If it is balanced, you will usually invite by using Stayman.

> A balanced hand is distributed 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, or 5-3-3-2. 5-4-2-2 is semi-balanced and may be treated as balanced with high cards in the doubletons.

With a 5-card major, transfer into your major and bid 2NT. This asks opener to Pass with a minimum hand and only 2 of the major, to bid 3 of the major with a minimum and 3 or more of the major, to bid 3NT with a maximum and only two of the major, and 4 of the major with a maximum and 3 or more of the major. If you have a major suit fit, the 1NT opener should add 1 point for each doubleton in his/her hand.

Without a 5-card major, but with one or both 4-card majors, bid Stayman. If opener responds in your major suit, raise to 3 of the major. This confirms a fit and invites game.

Without a 4-card major, the game invitations depend on the rest of your bidding agreements. When I learned bridge and almost everyone played Standard American (Goren), this was easy. Bid 2NT and opener will raise to 3NT with a maximum. This is still a good method, but many players like to use 1NT-2NT for different hands.

A popular method is 4-way transfers. In addition to the regular Jacoby transfer bids (2♦->2♥ and 2♥->2♠), you bid 2♠ to show ♣ and 2NT to show ♦. So now the 2NT bid is not available for the invitational hand.

The usual way to handle the invitational hand is to start with Stayman and then bid 2NT no matter what partner bids since you will never have a fit. The 2NT bid should be alerted since responder does not promise a 4-card major.

> If opener bids 2♥, responder will bid 2♠ with a balanced invitational hand and 4 spades. 2NT by responder denies 4 spades.

Some players use the 2♠ bid as a “range ask” or a club suit. Over 2♠, opener shows strength. 2NT shows a minimum and 3♣ shows a maximum. Responder can now pass 2NT, raise to 3NT over a maximum, or show a hand with clubs. Often responder will have a weak hand with 6 or more clubs. S/he can correct 2NT to 3♣ or pass 3♣.

It is a good idea to discuss these auctions with your regular partners.

ONE SMALL THING
WRITTEN BY BRUCE ANTMAN

One Small Thing – Forcing No Trump

The "Two Over One Game Force" system makes bidding simpler and more accurate on hands where you and your partner both have opening bids, especially when a slam may be possible. These days, it is increasingly common even among beginners. The idea is simple – if your partner opens with one of a suit, you have not already passed, and you respond with two of a lower-ranking suit, neither of you is allowed to pass short of 3NT. Some pairs allow stopping in 4♣ or 4♦, or after a penalty double.] Bidding after a two-over-one response can be mostly natural. The main point is that a game bid by either

By limiting the 2/1 bids to game-forcing hands, the system forces more responding hands into the 1NT category. After partner opens 1♠, bid an artificial 1NT with all of the following:

♠986 ♥AK8 ♦Q65 ♣Q843 (bid 3♠ next if possible –1♠–3♠ promises 4 spades)

♠98 ♥AK82 ♦Q65 ♣Q843 (bid 2NT next if possible)

♠8 ♥8 ♦QJ8765 ♣KQ983 (too weak for 2♦, too strong for 3♦)

♠98 ♥AJT8753 ♦Q6 ♣J8 (too weak for 2♥, too strong for 3♥, 4♥ may be wrong suit)

♠6 ♥K982 ♦7654 ♣KJ43 (your last bid unless partner forces you to bid again)

With hands like those, the last thing you want is for partner to pass your 1NT bid. You've almost certainly got a better place to play. 1NT has a reputation of being hard to play, and even without 2/1, a lot of 1NT responses are just not notrump hands.

That's why, in the 2/1 system, a 1NT response to a first- or second-hand **major suit** opening creates a one-round force. Yes, there are times when 1NT is the best possible contract, and the "old-fashioned" bidders will outscore you. But there are many more where you'll get to a better place. **Note**: 1NT over a minor is never forcing.

Let's say the opener has a very ordinary ♠KJ754 ♥Q9 ♦K932 ♣A7. The first hand above belongs in a spade partscore; the second should make 2NT; the third clearly belongs in diamonds; the fourth hearts, and the fifth might make 2♦. A rebid of 2♦ after 1NT can get you to all of those better places. If opener has one more good card, it can get you to makeable games on three of them.

Bidding after a forcing notrump is mostly natural. There's not a lot to remember. Just count points, bid naturally, and you will be right most of the time.

As opener, after partner bids a forcing no trump, you know she has 6-11 points. Assume she has less than 3 or your suit. If she has a 3-card limit raise, that will be a pleasant surprise later, and it won't matter what you bid now. After 1 of a major followed by 1NT, you can rebid:

- 2 of the original major – 11-15 high card points. Generally a six-card suit. [Discuss with your partners whether you can rebid a good 5-card suit; most local players would rather have you bid a 3-card minor.]
- 2 of a lower-ranking suit –11-18 points (not enough to jump shift). 1♠-1NT-2♥ shows 4 or more hearts, but a minor-suit rebid may be 3 cards when no other bid is available.

- 2 of a higher-ranking suit – a reverse, showing 17+ points and 4+ cards in the suit. Forcing.
- 2NT – 18-19 points balanced. Not quite forcing.
- 3 of the original suit – at least a good six-card suit with 16-19 points.
- 3 of a lower-ranking suit – a jump shift, 19-21 points; forcing.
- 4 of the original suit –19-21 points and a near-solid suit.

After the stronger rebids, the 1NT bidder generally has it easy. Consider what you know about combined points and suit lengths, and bid or pass as appropriate.

After a minimum rebid by opener, either in his original suit or a lower-ranking one, the 1NT bidder will frequently pass. But there are several other options:

- With a 3-card limit raise, always bid 3 of opener's suit.
- Bid 2 of opener's original suit, if she bid a lower suit and you have at least as many cards in the first suit. This is called "taking a preference".
- With a fit for partner's second suit, raise with 10 or more support points. Pass otherwise.
- With no fit for either of opener's suits, and a 6-card or longer suit of your own, you can bid your suit. If you are weak, bid at the minimum level, and opener will generally pass. With 10-11 points and a decent 6-carder, jump in your suit as an invitation to game.

Note: If your partner who bid 1NT was a passed hand, she could still have any of the same hands, except weak twos or preempts. If you have a minimum, it's very unlikely there is a game, so you can pass. We say the 1NT bid was "semi-forcing". But you should still rebid something about 90% of the time. I suggest passing only if you have less than 13 high-card points with exactly 5-3-3-2 distribution and a weak suit. [Some pairs play 1NT semi-forcing in all seats, with basically the same rules, but even less chance of passing.]

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

WERE YOU THERE?

THERE WERE SEVERAL SPOOKY CELEBRATIONS - AT FAIRYLAND AND AT THE OCTOBER 31ST TEAM GAME AND LUNCH

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS GROUP!!

BRIDGE UNLEASHED

The Opening Lead Chart

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦

Your holding in the suit	Against notrump	Against a suit contract
Three or more touching cards headed by an honor, or a 10-9-8 run ♥KQJ ♠QJ10 ♦J109 ♣1098	The top card	The top card
Ace-king ♠AK74 ♥AKQ	Fourth highest. With A-K-Q, the ace	The ace (house default)
Interior sequence (two touching cards below a higher honor) ♣KJ10 ♦AJ10 ♥Q109	The top of the inside run: J, J or 10	The J from K-J-10, the 10 from Q-10-9. With A-J-10, lead another suit
Four or more cards, an honor, no sequence ♠K9752 ♦Q8643	Fourth highest: the 5 from ♠K9752	Fourth highest, but often a last choice
Ace with small cards ♥A9752	Fourth highest: the 5	Never underlead it. Lead another suit
An honor with two small cards ♣K83 ♦Q74	The lowest card	The lowest card, usually a last choice
Three small cards, no honor ♠963 ♥842	The lowest card: the 3 from ♠963	The lowest card: the 3 from ♠963
Doubleton, no honor ♦94 ♣72	The top card, mainly in partner's suit	The top card: the 9 from ♦94
Singleton ♥4	Only in partner's suit	The singleton, if you hold a trump to ruff with
The suit partner bid any holding	Lead it	Lead it

Against notrump, lead from your longest and strongest suit. Against a suit contract, lead a sequence, a singleton with a trump to ruff, or partner's suit. Suits shown in the house colors: spades black, hearts red, clubs green, diamonds orange.

Check out Bridgeunleashed.com for more learning opportunities

Hera - A Queen Ant Tells Her Story

Above, a female worker carries food to her colony

INTRODUCTION

Greetings! My name is Hera, and I am a queen ant. I am named after Hera, the queen of the gods in Greek mythology and the wife of Zeus, king of the gods. My most important role is reproduction. I lay the eggs from which our workers, males, and future queens develop. I also produce pheromones—a big word for chemical signals that we use to communicate—which help influence the behavior and organization of our colony. That is enough about me for now. I want to share with you the story of our family and where we live, the structure of our amazing bodies, what we eat, our evolutionary history, and the important role we play on the beautiful planet we all share.

MEET THE ANT FAMILY AND WHERE WE LIVE

We belong to the family Formicidae, with more than 14,000 described species living in organized colonies consisting of different castes, including queens, female workers, and males, known for the ability to work together for the colony's health and survival. The primary function of the queen ant is to produce thousands of eggs to grow and sustain the colony. Female worker ants are the foragers who search for and collect food for the community. They act as nurses feeding, cleaning, and protecting the eggs, larvae, and young. They also dig tunnels, remove dirt, and repair damage to keep the nest safe. In some species, specialized larger workers serve as soldiers, using powerful mandibles to defend the colony. Male ants or drones have a single purpose which is to mate with the queen. They do not perform the colony's usual work and typically die shortly after mating.

We occupy diverse terrestrial microhabitats, building complex nests underground, inside mounds, beneath logs or rocks, within leaf litter, or tunneling through rotting wood and urban structures. We live on every continent except Antarctica, in habitats ranging from tropical forests and deserts to grasslands, mountains,
and cities.

THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF OUR AMAZING BODIES

We have a divided body with three main parts—a large head, a narrow waist, and an oval abdomen, all covered with a hard outer shell called an exoskeleton. Our head contains the brain, eyes that detect light and movement, two jointed antennae that help us smell, touch, taste, and sense our surroundings, and strong jaws called mandibles. Our middle section or thorax holds six jointed legs that end in tiny hooked claws for climbing and grooming. And our rear section, or abdomen, contains vital internal organs and, in some species, a stinger or a small opening to spray acid for defense. We vary in size, ranging from less than a millimeter to over an inch long.

OUR FOOD

We are generally omnivorous, consuming a variety of foods, including plant-based nectar, seeds, and fungi, and animal-based insects, small animals, and scavenged carcasses. We communicate food sources to other colony members, and adapt our diet based on seasonal availability and the specific needs of our colony.

OUR ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

We play a crucial role in the ecosystems we inhabit. We are ecosystem engineers, aerating the soil through our tunneling activities, helping disperse seeds, recycling nutrients, and acting as scavengers by removing dead insects and organic waste. We also help control populations of other insects and provide an important food source for birds, spiders, amphibians, and many other animals. Some ants protect plants from herbivorous insects in exchange for food or shelter.

LIFE INSIDE THE COLONY

I want to emphasize that what makes us truly extraordinary is our collective behavior. No single ant understands the whole colony, yet thousands or millions of ants collectively accomplish extraordinary things. An ant alone is small. A colony of millions of ants working together in harmony is extraordinary. Life in the colony transforms us from tiny insects into members of an astonishing social world. That makes me smile with pride.

ANTS IN HUMAN CULTURE

We serve as powerful cultural symbols, moral mirrors, and social models for human society, involving ideas about teamwork, industry, and social organization. In Greek mythology, Zeus transformed ants into the Myrmidons, a legendary race of fierce warriors who later fought beside Achilles in the Trojan War. Today, scientists study ants to learn how relatively simple individuals can produce sophisticated collective behavior.

OUR EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

Human scientists tell that we share a common ancestor with wasps and bees, belonging to the insect order Hymenoptera, but that our evolutionary paths diverged millions of years ago. Around 100 million years ago, the increasing diversity of flowering plants transformed many ecosystems and provided new opportunities for ants and other insects to evolve and diversify. Some plants and ants developed a cooperative relationship, with plants providing food or shelter while ants provided protection or helped disperse seeds. Roughly 50 million years ago, certain ant groups began cultivating fungi, leading to

complex agricultural systems like those used by modern leaf-cutter ants.

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT ANTS THAT SURPRISE ALMOST EVERYONE

1) Some of us can carry objects many times our own body weight.
2) Some of us block access to our nests by sitting just inside the entrance, with worker heads serving like a cork in a bottle to keep intruders out.
3) Some of us herd aphids, carrying the soft-bodied pests from plant to plant to get their sugary secretions.
4) Some ants raid other colonies and force captured ants to work for them.
5) Ants were farming fungi millions of years before humans began farming crops.
6) Some invasive ants form enormous supercolonies containing millions of ants and stretching for remarkable distances.
7) Scout ants lay scent trails to guide others to food.
8) Some ants form symbiotic relationships with plants**.**
9)Worker ants usually carry the corpses of dead ants to a designated waste area or cemetery.
10) We have no ears, but we feel ground vibrations through our feet.
11) We have no lungs, but have tiny holes all over our bodies, called spiracles, that take oxygen in and push carbon dioxide out.
12) Our outer bodies come in many colors, including black, brown, red, yellow, and combinations of these.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for reading my story. I hope it gave you a good understanding of us and our role on the planet we share. The next time you see an ant in your backyard, it won't be me, as I remain in the nest. It will probably be a worker ant busy with some task. Please remember what I have told you in these few pages, and share my story with your friends. In that way, perhaps we can better understand and respect each other, and enjoy living together on our beautiful planet, Earth.

Yours Truly, Hera

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