

# I/N News ... especially for you!

Suzi Subeck, Editor  
Marilyn Charlson, President  
Tom Sucher, Vice President  
Sandy O'Brien, Secretary-Treasurer



Volume 1, Issue 2

*Inside this Issue:*

A 600-Year-Old Story	2
All in the Game - A Limerick	3
Letters to the Editor	
Team Game Strategy	4
Recent Area Tournament Results	5-8
Bridgepassion - A web site review	9
Overcalls	10

## The Mechanics of Master Losing Bridge by Tom Sucher

Sometimes my qualification as a ranking "Grand Life Master Of Losing Bridge" becomes readily apparent, to myself and to my opponents. Do you too have this feeling of "crashing and burning" at the table? Perhaps the Goddess of Bridge does not favor me as she does others. Such seems to be my fate at the bridge table far too often.

But, what really happens?

You and your favorite partner sit down before the session to discuss what you are playing. You both agree to "play what you know and know what you play". As part of the discussion, would you ever tell your partner that every so often during the session...

1. You may miss a signal or two? (But don't be alarmed, you will see most of them.)
2. When it is your turn to lead, you are going to yield the choice of cards to declarer? That should really improve your result!
3. You decide that you will donate a trick or two to the declarer? That should not hurt your game too much.
4. To further advance the cause of declarer, when you know what to lead and your partner does not, you decide to make life easy for your partner (if you still have one)

and make the lead for him?

Does this really happen? NO. But does it?

My sons would say, "Dad, you had another rectal-cranial inversion." It is known by me as "Inattention Surplus Disorder" or "NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE BRIDGE TABLE."

The above were not a result of my inability to play bridge. THEY WERE A RESULT OF MY INATTENTION DURING THE SESSION.

Let us look the aforementioned happenings:

How do you expect to take all the tricks to which you are entitled if you do not use carding signals or do not watch partner's signals? Your partner just might be trying to tell you how to best defend a hand. Why not "listen"? If you do not, your partner may decide to forego the effort. "Hmm, I wish I had seen your discard, partner."

How do you expect to take all the tricks to which you are entitled when you revoke or lead out of turn? This creates penalty cards and subjects you and partner to lead restrictions. You yield the choice of suit to be led to the declarer. How can that help your game?

When your partner fails to

follow suit, you must always inquire as to whether he has a card of the suit led? Surely it is worth your time not to give the declarer one or two tricks as a result of a revoke. A penalty card is a better alternative.

You must always lead face down! Wouldn't it be a shame to find the killing lead, face it and find it is not your lead? That would give declarer five options from which to choose. That never helps your score.

Are there more scenarios like these? Yes! Was your bridge prowess at fault? No! But your basic mechanics of bridge were. You must improve your mechanics of the game if you ever hope for better results. Better players make fewer mechanical mistakes. Concentration is the key factor.

You must be aware of what is happening at the table. Keep your socializing to a minimum until after the play of the hand.

Be a good partner—pay attention to the game.

RULE: LAZY BRIDGE IS LOSING BRIDGE. (And believe me, this is spoken with a lot of personal experience at losing at the table.)

## A 600 Year Old Story from Harriette Buckman

*Bridge is not a  
matter of life  
and death... It  
is far more  
important than  
that!  
Unknown*

The next time you play bridge, take a good look at the cards. What you are looking at is a 600 year-old storybook, for the cards have changed little since they first appeared in Europe.

The suits represent the four estates or ranks of society as known in the Middle Ages, and the face cards are either legendary or Biblical heroes still dressed in medieval robes and holding their ancient symbols of authority.

### THE SUITS

♠'s come from the Spanish word (spada) for sword and represent the military.

♥'s stand for courage and the highest development of humanity; this role was assigned to churchmen.

♦'s stand for the wealthy merchants who traded in gold and precious stones.

♣'s stand for the farmers and peasants. In typical muddling fashion, the British, from whom our cards are derived, took the club symbol - a trefoil or clover leaf - from French card-makers, but named it for the wooden cudgels shown on Italian and Spanish cards.

### THE KINGS

These represent the four great monarchs of world history as known in the Middle Ages.

The king of spades is David of the Bible who killed Goliath and ruled over Israel.

The king of hearts is Charlemagne who reformed the Roman Empire in 800 A.D. after it had been overrun by barbarians. He is the only king whose robe is traditionally adorned with bands of ermine. Incidentally, he is the only one without a mustache - even Julius Caesar has one!

The king of diamonds is Julius Caesar. Whereas the other kings had swords, he is shown with a

battle axe - the fasces, a bundle of rods with a protruding axe head, which was the symbol of official power in ancient Rome.

The king of clubs is Alexander the Great. He is the only king shown with an orb, the symbol of his world empire.

### THE QUEENS

Curiously enough, they are not the wives of their respective kings.

The queen of spades is Athena, the Greek goddess of war and wisdom. She is the only one shown with a royal scepter. She also holds a flower as do the other queens.

The queen of hearts is the Biblical heroine Judith, who proved her courage (heart) by hacking off the head of an Assyrian general.

The queen of diamonds is Rachel, another Biblical heroine, for whom Jacob toiled for seven long years.

The queen of clubs is usually identified with "good Queen Bess", Elizabeth I of England.

### THE KNAVES

Spades: Hogier, the Dane, a cousin of Charlemagne

Hearts: LaHire, a famous French warrior who fought with Joan of Arc

Diamonds: Sir Hector, half-brother of Sir Lancelot - Knight of the Round Table

Clubs: Sir Lancelot of the Lake - Knight of the Round Table

### THE JOKER

He is the oldest relic of all, a holdover from the tarot deck which is the earliest known set of playing cards. That 78-card pack also contains such ominous faces as the Hanging Man, the Judgment, the Devil, and the Wheel of Fortune. This deck is still used by Gypsies for fortune telling.

### TRUMPS

The word is simply a short form of "triumph". A trump card triumphs over the cards of all other suits.

## Central States Newcomers Schedule

October 22 - 28, 2001

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, on Route 50, one half mile east of Route 12. Room Rate \$98 single or double. Call 262-248-8811 or 800-558-3417 before October 7 for reservations!

Tournament Chairperson:  
Tom Sucher 630-894-4048 or  
tsucher@juno.com

Partnership Chairman: Carl Sharp  
773-483-3734 or 312-497-4277

I/N Program: Ann Majchrowicz  
630-427-0783 or  
zmack99@aol.com

0-100 Players!

Partners Guaranteed

Monday at 7:30

Free Stratified 0-199er Pairs

Special Game Tuesday at 10:00

—  
Future Master 2-for-1 Pairs  
Everyone who plays gets a free,  
one-session entry to use later in  
the week.

Tuesday - Friday 10:00 and 3:00  
Future Master Stratified Pairs  
0-20, 20-50, 50-100

Saturday at 1:30 & 7:30 Students  
20 and Under Play Free Saturday  
Afternoon - 49er Pairs Stratified  
0-20, 20-50

Sunday at 11:00 am 0-199 Swiss  
Teams—Two Separate Sessions

Special Party and Registration

## Getting There



Friday's rush hour is  
the pits!!

## Letters to the Editor ... We Get Mail!

May 4, 2001

Suzi,

My compliments on the I/N News publication. I've been enjoying it.

I have a suggestion for a future issue, along the lines of "Reading a Recap Sheet." I just got back from playing in my first Regional tournament at the Grand Geneva, where I was a little baffled by the terms on the schedule sheet. I understood "stratified" and "Swiss teams," but what is a "bracketed KO" and what are "continuous" pairs? How about "stratiflighted?"

Jonathan Fry, Oak Park, IL

*In Response:*

*A "Bracketed KO" is a single elimination knockout event where the teams are bracketed by number of masterpoints from the top down in groups of usually 12-16 teams so the event can be finished within three or four sessions. Frequently, all four (or six) players' points are considered, but on occasion, only the top two players' masterpoints are added together for the purposes of the bracketing. Each bracket has its own set of overall awards.*

*"Continuous Pairs" is simply a multi-session pairs' event where you can play in as many sessions as you desire with as many partners as you desire. The player (yes, it is more or less scored as an individual style event since you can have more than one partner for successive sessions) with the highest two session scores when combined is the winner. You must play at least two sessions to qualify for the overall awards, however, those two sessions can be one on Monday and the next on Tuesday and the third on Wednesday, for example, until the event ends. Most Regionals feature two or more Continuous events during the course of the tournament. You must be careful when reading the schedule to be sure you stay in the same event for at least*

*two sessions if you are interested in the overall prizes.*

*"Stratiflighted" simply means that the event is stratified for flights B, C, D, etc. with flight A being played and scored separately. Many newer players are intimidated by the flight A players and when an even is stratiflighted, the A players are no longer an issue (as they would be in stratified.)*

May 7, 2001

Suzi Subeck -

... just a word of THANKS.

...for the issue of the I/N Newsletter Such a wonderful variety of bridge subjects.

Floreine J. Kurtzweil, Edgar, WI

Dear Suzi,

You asked us to tell you if we liked the "mini lessons" in the last issue. Please keep them coming. I have 85 masterpoints and they will help me.

If I learn a tip a week, that's fifty-two tips at the end of the year.

Arthur Santow

*In Response:*

*We are most gratified by the overall response to the first issue of the I/N News. For now, the District 13 Board of Directors has voted to publish it twice a year in April and October. We welcome your questions, comments and input. You can send any material to me, Suzi Subeck, editor, at 2625 Corinth Road, Olympia Fields, IL 60461 or you can email them to me at:*

*stansubeck@prodigy.net*

*Thanks for your thoughts so far!*

## All in the Game

There once was a man from  
Nantucket,  
Who played bridge with his head  
in a bucket.

He said, with a grin,  
As he seldom did win,  
I never take my ace. I just duck  
it!

*My friend Irma*

### Turkey Bowl Sectional

**November 23-25, 2001**

Prisco Community Center,  
Corner of McCullough Park  
Aurora, Illinois

#### Friday, November 23

1:00 p.m. Charity Pairs  
7:00 p.m. 99er Stratified Pairs

#### Saturday, November 24

9:00 a.m. Handicapped  
Knockout Teams, 1st session  
1:00 p.m. Handicapped  
Knockout Teams, 2nd session  
Stratified Pairs  
7:00 p.m. Handicapped  
Knockout Teams, 3rd session  
Stratified Pairs

#### Sunday, November 25

11:00 a.m. Brown Bag Stratified  
Swiss Teams (Bring your own  
lunch. Save time & money.)

Free coffee, fruit and cookies

Chairman: Kay Korte  
(815) 337-3722

Partnerships: John Pree  
(630) 377-9116

Special 99er Game

**The Golden Rule  
of Bridge:**

**Treat your  
partner and your  
opponents as you  
would like them  
to treat you!**

## He Said - She Said



She said: "Ooh, a gift from my favorite partner?"

He said, "Don't take this wrong please ... It's a book on declarer play."

She said, "Hmmm, I hope you read it first!"



It never hurts to have an extra ace up your sleeve!

Hopefully, the tips in this newsletter will act as your extra aces!

*Happiness is ...  
Getting through  
the session  
without trumping  
partner's ace or  
his trumping  
mine!*

## Team Game Strategy ... IMPs vs Matchpoints by Suzi Subeck

There is a definite difference in strategy when playing IMP scoring as in Swiss teams and Knockouts and Matchpoint scoring as in Duplicate.

### IMPs

In IMPs your main goal is to get as many plus scores as possible.

You NEVER jeopardize your contract to try for overtricks. Overtricks mean very little in team games, and game swings, part score swings and slam swings mean a lot.

You ALWAYS try to beat the opponents' contract. If there is a chance to defeat a game, a slam, or even a part score by playing partner to hold a specific card or cards ... no matter how unlikely the holding ... you do just that in an effort to maximize the chances of generating a plus score.

You ALWAYS bid AGGRESSIVELY ... especially for vulnerable games. Vulnerable game swings are the most likely way to win matches at IMPs. I am not suggesting insane bidding and wishful thinking, but I am suggesting that you use logical thinking, and if it is close whether or not to bid one more time to get to a vulnerable game, just do it! If it goes down, the swing will be five or six IMPs in their favor (minus 100 plus their part score). If it makes the swing will be thirteen IMPs in your favor! The odds on this work for you.

Non-vulnerable game swings are either plus or minus five or six IMPS depending on whether they make or go down, so the odds are even. It is not as important to bid every non-vulnerable game.

The same is true of slams. The vulnerability carries a high premium and you really want to stretch to bid more in all vulnerable situations when

possible.

### MATCHPOINTS

In matchpoints, it is important to take all the possible tricks

As declarer, it is imperative to try for overtricks. Every trick you score more than any other pair, gains you a point in the overall scoring. Sometimes, you even risk your contract to try for those elusive extra tricks.

As defender, it is important to take all the tricks to which your side is entitled ... whether it beats the contract or not. Every trick you miss taking costs you overall points.

In matchpoints, it is often not necessary to bid close games. If you can play the hand one trick better than the field, you need not risk getting too high.

### IN CONCLUSION

Most players find it much harder to play matchpoints than IMPs. Clearly, it is easier to simply worry about making the hand or beating the hand than making extra tricks. Sometimes, there are two or more possible ways to make an extra trick and you must decide which way affords you the highest percentage play. On the other hand, there is usually only one way to insure making or beating the hand, so are faced with less difficult decisions.

In matchpoints, it is often easier to defend by trying to construct the opponents' hands. In IMPs, it is often adequate to simply construct partner's hand.

### OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

In IMPs, both sides of your team MUST keep score. This is necessary so that you can compare with one another after the round.

You must NOT shuffle the

boards before the halfway point. Whether you are playing in a round robin (a knockout match involving more than two teams) or a head-up (a knockout match involving exactly two teams), you NEVER re-shuffle the boards until after you compare the scores. (Note: This happened in the first round of a club game years ago and the only solution was for the players to switch teammates! It was impossible for them to compare scores when they all played the same boards in the same direction!)

In duplicate, you may or may not keep score. If you do, always close your score card after you record the result since the opponents will be playing the same boards in a round or two.

Both team games and pairs' games are fun. Mixing them up keeps the game fresh and keeps you on your toes!

### Eau Claire Sectional St. Bede's Conference Center

**October 5-7, 2001**

All pair games are SINGLE session events!

Friday, October 5  
1:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
8:00 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
49er Pairs

Saturday, October 6  
10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
3:00 p.m. Stratiflighted Pairs  
7:30 p.m. Individual  
(Cash Prizes)

Sunday, October 7  
10:30 a.m. Stratified  
Swiss Teams

Chairman: Walt Klein  
(715) 834-3243 for more information or directions

Non-Smoking Building!

# Fallfest Sectional I/N Schedule of Events

Cardinal Stritch  
University

Sierra Dining Hall  
6801 N. Yates Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

September 28-30, 2001

Friday, September 28  
10:30 a.m. Stratified 199er Pairs  
3:00 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs  
7:30 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs  
Saturday, September 29  
9:30 a.m. Stratified 199er Pairs  
1:30 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs  
7:30 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs  
Sunday, September 30  
11:00 a.m. Stratified Future  
Master Swiss Teams  
(2 session playthrough)

For more information or  
partnerships, contact  
tournament chairperson Yvette  
Neary at 262-241-5846 or email  
Yvette at  
Yvette\_Neary@firststar.com

*Never use facial  
expressions that  
give away your  
hand. Never let  
the opponents  
know you have a  
problem. Let  
them figure it  
out on their own!*

Madison Regional I/N Results:			
Tuesday Aft 299er Pairs 10 Pairs			
A	B	C	
2.10	1	1	1 Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI
1.58	2		Joanne Altenburg, West Allis WI; Ruth McGinley, Waukesha WI
1.25	3/4	2	2 Loren Ameen - Marvin Zehnder, Marquette MI
1.04	3/4		Viola Rengstorff, Madison WI; Eleanor Rock, Spring Green WI
Tuesday Eve 299er Pairs 10 Pairs			
A	B	C	
2.10	1	1	J Rothfuss, Madison WI; Karen Kramer, Sun Prairie WI
1.58	2	2	1 Robert Olson, Monona WI; James Kemmeter, Madison WI
1.18	3	3	2 Elinor Patrick - Betty Basler, Oregon IL
	4		Jane Montgomery - Jan Buffo, Madison WI
Tuesday Morn 299er Pair 10 Pairs			
A	B	C	
2.10	1		Jane Montgomery, Madison WI; R Kirschner, Vancouver WA
1.80	2	1	1 Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI
1.18	3/4	2/3	2/3 Louise Malmstadt - Patricia Reinartz, Milwaukee WI
1.18	3/4	2/3	2/3 Jon Holtzman, Cambridge WI; Lynn Lund, Middleton WI
Weds. Morn 299er Pairs 12 Pairs			
D	E	F	
2.24	1		Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL; Leda Kulawinski, Indianapolis IN
1.47	2/3		Jane Montgomery - Jan Buffo, Madison WI
1.93	2/3	1	1 Bob Kirschner, Madison WI; Lynn Lund, Middleton WI
1.45	4	2	2 Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI
1.09		3	Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI; Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI
0.81		4	Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI; Joan O'Leary, Portage WI
Wednesday Aft 299er Pairs 10 Pairs			
A	B	C	
2.10	1	1	1 Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI; Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI
1.58	2	2	2 Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL; Elisabeth Diaz-Herrera, Fitchburg WI
1.18	3	3	Joan O'Leary, Portage WI; Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI
0.89	4	4	Jan Michaelis, Oregon WI; Ruth Kraemer, Madison WI
Weds. Eve. 299er Pairs 14 Pairs			
A	B	C	
2.38	1	1	1 Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI; Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI
1.79	2		Glenn Devries, Aurora IL; Donald Cisek, St Charles IL
1.54	3	2	Chester Morgan - Helene Morgan, Oak Ridge TN
1.15	4	3	John Chaplik - Barbara Chaplik, Port Aransas TX
1.31	5	4	2 Elinor Patrick - Betty Basler, Oregon IL
0.98		3	3 Clark Good - James Hamblin, Madison WI
0.74		4	4 Anthony Reeves - Carl Johnson, Madison WI
Thurs Morn 299er Pairs 10 Pairs			
D	E	F	
2.10	1	1	1 Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI; Joan O'Leary, Portage WI
1.58	2	2	2 Kermit Jamison - Donna Jamison, Bradenton FL
1.18	3	3	Betty Christensen, Middleton WI; Ruth Kraemer, Madison WI
0.78	4/5		Leda Kulawinski, Indianapolis IN; Alice Quam, Deerfield WI
0.78	4/5		Grace Hiles, Middleton WI; Marie Peterson, Mount Horeb WI
Thursday Aft 299er Pairs 12 Pairs			
A	B	C	
2.24	1		James Karius - Donna Karius, Waukesha WI
1.80	2/3	1/2	Elisabeth Diaz-Herrera, Fitchburg WI; Dorothy Dittmer, Madison WI
1.80	2/3	1/2	Kermit Jamison - Donna Jamison, Bradenton FL
1.37	4	3	1 Loren Ameen - Marvin Zehnder, Marquette MI
0.86		4	Marie Peterson, Mount Horeb WI; Grace Hiles, Middleton WI
1.03		2	2 Joan O'Leary, Portage WI; Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI
Thurs. 299er Pairs 8 Pairs			
A	B		
1.96	1		Leona Ellerby, Oregon IL; Dorothea Dunk, Mount Morris IL
1.67	2	1	Joyce Gibson, Dixon IL; Shirley Rogers, Oregon IL
1.10	3		Jane Montgomery - Jan Buffo, Madison WI
1.25		2	Ina Stoehr, Oregon WI; Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL
Friday AM 299er Pairs 8 Pairs			
A	B		
1.96	1	1	Philip Simon, Pewaukee WI; Evelyn Schneider, Hartland WI
1.29	2/3		Josephine Brandt, Madison WI; Elaine Wake, Stoughton WI
1.29	2/3		Jon Holtzman, Cambridge WI; E Elizabeth Kretschmar, Madison WI
1.25		2	Penny Ericson, Cottage Grove WI; Joan Jensen, Oregon WI
Friday Aft 299er Pairs 8 Pairs			
A	B		
1.72	1/2		Josephine Brandt, Madison WI; Elaine Wake, Stoughton WI
1.72	1/2	1	1 Leona Ellerby, Oregon IL; Dorothea Dunk, Mount Morris IL
1.10	3/4	2/3	2/3 Grace Hiles, Middleton WI; Marie Peterson, Mount Horeb WI
3/4		2/3	2/3 Joyce Gibson, Dixon IL; Shirley Rogers, Oregon IL
299er Pairs 6 Pairs			
1.82	1		Jane Montgomery - Robert Lewis, Madison WI
1.37	2		Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL; Cathy River, Madison, WI
I/N Pairs 8 Pairs			
A	B		
1.96	1		Trevor Joike - Rebecca Joike, Rockford IL
1.67	2	1	1 Milton Mendelsohn - Lorena Mendelsohn, Madison WI
1.25	3	2	2 Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL; Cathy River, Madison, WI
Summerfest, Darien, Regional I/N Results			
Tues. Eve. Strat. 99er Pr 12 Pairs			
A	B	C	
1.87	1		Christine Miley - Gene Miley, Hinsdale IL
1.47	2	1	1 Carol Stibbe - Elaine Forbes, Naperville IL
1.10	3	2	2 Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Robert E. Kucaba, Downers Grove IL
0.69	4/5		Elizabeth Sibbach, Hoffman Estates IL; George Brandt, Palatine IL
0.83	4/5	3	Ernest Lowden - Frances Lowden, Olathe KS
Tue Aft Strat 99er Pairs 20 Pairs			
A	B		
2.33	1	1	Diane Laforte - Candace Timson, Hinsdale IL
1.75	2	2	Barbara Bebee - Katy Gross, Lake Forest IL
1.31	3		Genevieve Hardy, Mount Dora FL; Margaret Holmes, Elmhurst IL
0.98	4		Ashley Szymski - Virginia Szymski, Westmont IL
0.82	5		Elaine Bowers, Plainfield IL; Nick Cordell, Yorkville IL
0.95	6	3	Kathleen Gleason - Jane Morrissey, Hinsdale IL



Can't decide on the perfect lead?  
 Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Mo  
 My mother said to pick the very best one ...  
 And that is Y-O-U!

**Remember:**  
*The director is your friend. He is there to help with whatever happens and to protect the rights of everyone at the table!*

0.71		4		Diane Beyer - Terri Kies, Orland Park IL Weds. Aft. Strat. 99er Pr 17 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
2.22	1	1		Jane Morrissey - Kathleen Gleason, Hinsdale IL
1.67	2			Dodi Larrick, Hinsdale IL; Ashley Szyski, Westmont IL
1.25	3			Elaine Bowers, Plainfield IL; Catherine Pretsch, Omaha NE
1.19	4	2		Laurie Hamachek - Chere Morrison, Elgin IL
0.89	5	3		Carol Stibbe - Elaine Forbes, Naperville IL
0.67		4		Carol Thorne, Burr ridge IL; Candace Timson, Hinsdale IL Weds.Eve. Strat. 99er Prs 12 Pairs
	A		B	
1.64	1/2	1		Paul Primeau - Mary Primeau, Hinsdale IL
1.64	1/2			Edna Barbour, Whitewater WI; Rick Lepscier, Tinley Park IL
1.10	3	2		Revi Jairath, ; Mohnish Pabrai, Long Grove IL
0.83	4	3		Mary Foxwell - Beth Fisher-Brace, Hinsdale IL Stratified 99er Pairs 16 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
2.10	1	1	1	Deanna Sup - Barbara Stone, Libertyville IL
1.58	2	2		Diane Beyer - Patricia McElliott, Orland Park IL
1.04	3/4			Ashley Szyski - Virginia Szyski, Westmont IL
1.04	3/4	3		Laurie Hamachek - Chere Morrison, Elgin IL
0.66	5			Bonnie Bergdoll, Oak Brook IL; Terese Kinney, Hinsdale IL Thurs. Eve. Strat.99er Pr 16 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
2.10	1	1	1	Deanna Sup - Barbara Stone, Libertyville IL
1.58	2			Charlotte Schmidt, Plano IL; Nick Cordell, Yorkville IL
1.19	3	2		Judy D'Isa, La Grange Park IL; Betsy Hoyd, Brookfield IL
0.89	4			Bonnie Bergdoll, Oak Brook IL; Alice Mansell, Hinsdale IL
0.89	5	3		Raymond Tunelius - Susan Tunelius, Davis IL
0.67		4		Louis Sharp, Libertville IL; Patricia Sharp, Libertyville IL Stratified 99er Pairs 20 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
2.33	1			Carol Thorne, Burr ridge IL; Patricia Taylor, Hinsdale IL
1.75	2			Oksana Marchuk - Ruth Barnes, Hinsdale IL
1.31	3			Charlotte Schmidt, Plano IL; Nick Cordell, Yorkville IL
1.89	4	1	1	Tom O'Reilly, Naperville IL; Donald Mason, Woodridge IL
1.24	5/6	2/3		Paul Primeau - Mary Primeau, Hinsdale IL
1.24	5/6	2/3	2	Marlene Zielinski, IL; Marlene Zielinski, Burr Ridge IL
0.80		4	3	Robert Kucaba, Downer'S Grove IL; Steve Bell, Warrenville IL
0.62		5		Candace Timson - Diane Laforte, Hinsdale IL
0.59			4	Tom Dearing - Lois Hoyer, Geneva IL Friday Aft 99er Pairs 22 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
2.45	1			Richard Murdock, Warrenville IL; Richard Claus, Wheaton IL
1.84	2			Dodi Larrick - Patricia Taylor, Hinsdale IL
1.38	3			Patricia Costanza - Karen McAleenan, Hinsdale IL
1.79	4	1		Ernest Lowden - Frances Lowden, Olathe KS
0.86	5			Pat Warren, Westchester IL; Carolyn Koehler, Western Springs IL
1.34	6	2		Candace Timson, Hinsdale IL; Carol Thorne, Burr ridge IL
1.01		3		Mohnish Pabrai, Long Grove IL; Ravi Jaivath, IL
0.76		4		M Aleem, Roscoe IL; Dian Ulrich, Rockford IL
1.21		5	1	James Peterson, Lincolnshire IL; Vello Saarva, Deerfield IL
0.91			2	Susan Zellin - Bernard Chulew, Glendale WI 49er Pairs 10 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
1.58	1			Judy D'Isa, La Grange Park IL; Betsy Hoyd, Brookfield IL
1.15	2/3	1/2		Richard Stone - Barbara Stone, Libertyville IL
1.15	2/3	1/2		John Bruick - Nancy Bruick, Libertyville IL
0.67	4			Larry Cohen, Villa Park IL; Howard Cohen, Rosemont IL
0.91		3	1	Ronald Kohn - Jo Kohn, Schaumburg IL
0.52			2/4	Chris Hancock - Amy Richardson, Downers Grove IL
0.52			2/4	Marion Hunter - Reiko Hunter, Palatine IL
0.52			2/4	Carol Retzky - Herbert Retzky, River Forest IL Sat Aft Strat 99er'S Prs 16 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
2.10	1	1		Judy D'Isa, La Grange Park IL; Betsy Hoyd, Brookfield IL
1.58	2	2		Nancy Linzy, Wildwood MO; Robert Fredricksen, Plainfield IL
1.18	3			Christine Miley - Gene Miley, Hinsdale IL
0.89	4			Janet Valentine - Sabrina Walden, Chicago IL
0.66	5			Patricia Costanza - Karen McAleenan, Hinsdale IL
1.21		3	1	Barbara Morgan, Park Ridge IL; Fred Johnston, Chicago IL
0.80	4/5	2/3		Leslie Prizant, Chicago IL; William Loewe, Bolingbrook IL
0.80	4/5	2/3		Carol Stibbe - Elaine Forbes, Naperville IL 299er Swiss Teams 13 Teams
	A		B	
			C	
4.83	1	1		Frank Greenwald-Farlin Caufield, Woodstock; Thomas Hardy-E Kain Sr, Huntley
3.62	2	2		Chandarana, Indianhead Park; Shashi Shah, Naperville; N Shukla, Glen Ellyn; Dahyabhai Patel, Willow Springs IL
2.72	3	3		Linda Hargnett, River Grove IL; Ashley Szyski, Westmont IL; Wesley Suzuki, Western Springs IL; Ellen Miller, Highland Park IL
2.80	4	4	1	Dodi Larrick - Patricia Taylor - Diane Laforte - Candace Timson, Hinsdale
1.53	5			Steve & Julie Oshen, Glen Ellyn IL; Lois Copeland, Oksana Marchuk, Hinsdale
1.84		2/3		Daniel Larson, Lincolnshire IL; John Soule, Nices IL; Stewart Skolnick - Philip Lapalio Jr - Toby White, Chicago IL
1.84		2/3		Robert Fredricksen, Plainfield IL; Nancy Linzy, Wildwood MO; Margaret Holmes, Elmhurst IL; Genevieve Hardy, Mount Dora FL Oconomowoc Sectional I/N Results Friday Morn 199ers Pairs 12 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
1.47	1			Barbara Volk - Harriette Myers, Mequon WI
1.25	2	1	1	Myrna Hollander - Norma Sabbath, Milwaukee WI
0.83	3			Peg Meisenheimer - Bill Heimlich, Waukesha WI
0.94	4	2		Therese Janick, West Allis WI; Louise Malmstadt, Milwaukee WI
0.79		3	2	Donna Cooper - Patti Weigler, Mequon WI
0.53		4		Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI
0.59			3	Barb Dettmering, Pewaukee WI; Alice Wagner, Milwaukee WI Friday Aft 199ers Pairs 21 Pairs
	A		B	
			C	
1.93	1			Barbara Volk - Harriette Myers, Mequon WI

1.45	2		S Tuff, Oconomowoc WI; Jay Francis, Fort Atkinson WI
1.42	3	1	Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI; Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI
1.07	4	2	Margery Becker - Irvin Becker, Milwaukee WI
0.96	5		Evelyn Schneider, Hartland WI; Philip Simon, Pewaukee WI
0.80	6	3	Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI
1.05	4	1	Ron Ramaker, Brown Deer WI; Roger Resek, Milwaukee WI
0.47		5	Kermit Jamison, Mukwonago WI; Donna Jamison, Bradenton FL
0.79		2	Elijah Hall, Brookfield WI; Colleen Simmons, Milwaukee WI
0.59		3	Myrna Hollander - Norma Sabbath, Milwaukee WI
			Fri Eve 199ers 8 Players
0.57	1/4		Colleen Mayer, Milwaukee WI
0.57	1/4		Michael Mayer, Wauwatosa WI
0.57	1/4		D Jean Donahue, Westchester IL
0.57	1/4		Barbara Tadin, Westchester IL
			Sat Aft 199ers Pairs 11 Pairs
1.47	1		Philip Simon, Pewaukee WI; Evelyn Schneider, Hartland WI
1.10	2		Barbara Tadin - D Jean Donahue, Westchester IL
0.83	3		Mary Cunningham, Milwaukee WI; Mary McCormick, Waukesha WI
0.62	4		Darlene Zellmer, Pewaukee WI; Donna Billings, Slinger WI
			Future Masters Swiss Team 7 Teams
			D E
2.55	1	1	Philip Simon, Pewaukee WI; S Tuff, Oconomowoc WI; Jay Francis, Fort Atkinson WI;
			Evelyn Schneider, Hartland WI
1.91	2		Paul Hamper, Chicago IL; David Secondino, Rochester WI; Henry Sokol, Milwaukee;
			Gerald Greene, Glenview IL
1.43	3		Leone Townsend - Mary Lee Herro - Ellen Easley, Racine WI; Sue Smith, Kenosha WI
			Labor Day Sectional Results
			FRI. MORN STRAT 99ER PAIR 16 Pairs
			A B
1.32	1/2		Donald Cisek, St Charles IL; Richard Roberts, Naperville IL
1.32	1/2		Ellen Gross, Northbrook IL; Arlene Karel, Highland Park IL
1.05	3	1	Candace Timson, Hinsdale IL; Carol Thorne, Burr Ridge IL
0.79	4	2	Susan Carney, Vernon Hills IL; Barbara Harris, Riverwoods IL
0.53	5		Patricia Costanza - Karen McAleenan, Hinsdale IL
0.59		3	Judith Koss - Jerome Koss, Tinley Park IL
			FUTURE MASTER STRAT.PAIRS 20 Pairs
			A B C
1.67	1	1	Joyce Hooks - Vaughn Hooks, Hinsdale IL
1.25	2	2	Mary Payne, Naperville IL; Celeste Jacklin, Aurora IL
0.94	3	3	Chris Hancock - Amy Richardson, Downers Grove IL
0.70	4		Donald Cisek, St Charles IL; Richard Roberts, Naperville IL
0.58	5	4	Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Robert Kucaba, Downers Grove IL
0.42	6		Diane Beyer - Terri Kies, Orland Park IL
			FUTURE MASTER STRAT.PAIRS 20 Pairs
			A B C
1.67	1		John Otto, Winfield IL; Richard Murdock, Warrenville IL
1.25	2		Karen McAleenan - Patricia Costanza, Hinsdale IL
1.20	3	1	Joyce Johns, Hinsdale IL; Lucille Joerms, Western Springs IL
0.70	4		Dolores Wehn, Willow Springs IL; Johnnie Faxon, Tulsa OK
0.93	5	2	Chere Morrison - Laurie Hamachek, Elgin IL
0.42	6		Edna Barbour, Whitewater WI; Carmelita Blackman, West Des Moines IA
0.68		3	Bette Gilbert - Charles Nisen, Evanston IL
0.70		4	Elaine Forbes - Carol Stibbe, Naperville IL
0.52		3	Tom Dearing - Lois Hoyer, Geneva IL
			FUTURE MASTER STRAT.PAIRS 14 Pairs
			A B C
1.42	1		Edna Barbour, Whitewater WI; Carmelita Blackman, West Des Moines IA
1.13	2	1	Bette Gilbert - Charles Nisen, Evanston IL
0.87	3	2	Robert Kucaba, Downers Grove IL; Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL
0.60	4		Denise Kadleck - Scott Huddleston, Chicago IL
0.65	5	3	Ronald Kohn - Jo Kohn, Schaumburg IL
0.48		4	Charles Johnson - Demaris Johnson, Winfield IL
			STRAT. 199ER PAIRS 28 Pairs
			A B C
2.20	1	1	Gene Miley - Christine Miley, Hinsdale IL
1.65	2		Joan Lager - Jon Lager, Lisle IL
1.24	3	2	Ashley Szyski, Westmont IL; Dragan Scepanovic, Naperville IL
0.93	4		Rudolph Brunty - Lawrence Thomas, Arlington Hts IL
1.10	5	3	Shashi Shah, Naperville IL; N Shukla, Glen Ellyn IL
0.77	6	4	Gail Paris, River Forest IL; Marsha Gentile, Oak Brook IL
1.13		5	Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL
0.85		2	Elaine Forbes - Carol Stibbe, Naperville IL
0.64		3	Charles Johnson - Demaris Johnson, Winfield IL
0.48		4	Sue Miller - Carol Gouty, Clive IA
			STRAT. 199ER PAIRS 20 Pairs
			A B C
1.83	1		Helen Mehler, Hinsdale IL; Pat Warren, Westchester IL
1.50	2	1	Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL
1.13	3	2	Oksana Marchuk - Ruth Barnes, Hinsdale IL
0.85	4	3	Judith Koss - Jerome Koss, Tinley Park IL
0.58	5		Lawrence Thomas - Rudolph Brunty, Arlington Hts IL
0.55	6/7	4/5	Boguslaw Humienik, Des Plaines IL; Stanislaw Kolesnik, Dekalb IL
0.64	6/7	4/5	Joyce Hooks - Vaughn Hooks, Hinsdale IL
0.48		4	Betsy Hoyd, Brookfield IL; Judy D'Isa, La Grange Park IL
			FLIGHT C SWISS TEAMS 17 Teams
			C D
4.05	1		Ping Liu, Shashi Shah, Robert Forbes, Naperville; Dahyabhai Patel, Willow Spr.
3.04	2	1	Dodi Larrick - Patricia Taylor - Kathleen Gleason - Jane Morrissey, Hinsdale IL
2.28	3		Bruce Perryman - Janet Perryman, Riverside IL; Joan Lager - Jon Lager, Lisle IL
1.71	4		Frederick Clayton, John Fitzpatrick, John Otto, Richard Murdock, Warrenville IL
1.28	5		Pat Warren, Helen Mehler - Jean Faeth, Tom Dashiell, Carol Stream IL
1.41		2	Toby White, Philip Lapalio Jr, Stewart Skolnick, Chicago IL; John Soule, Niles



Always lead face down.  
It saves on penalty cards!

*Don't forget to use the skip bid warning when you are jumping the bidding a level ... and don't forget to wait ten seconds before bidding if your opponent jumps!*



What's trump???

## Playing the Odds by Stan Subeck

**Can playing bridge help our memory? Probably. For most of us, our minds are like a steel trap -- rusty and illegal in 37 states!!**

How often have you heard a declarer say, "I knew it was right to finesse, but I thought I could drop the offside queen"? It's great to have good instincts, but in the end, the mathematical probabilities work.

Any worthwhile text on declarer play will contain basic suit-division probability tables. For example, "eight ever – nine never" (meaning that you should play a high card and assuming both opponents follow you should then finesse for the queen when your side holds eight cards in a suit headed by the ace, king, jack, while you should play for the queen to drop when you hold nine cards in the suit.) Another and more general memory aid is "odd holdings break evenly and even holdings break unevenly" (meaning the most common division of an even number of cards is not half in each opponent's hand, while the most common division of an odd number of cards is as close to 50/50 as possible. e.g. the most common division of 6 cards is 4-2, while the most common division of 7 cards is 4-3.) Memorizing probability tables and cute guidelines is certainly a useful technique, but most good declarers have made an effort to understand the basis of these tables so that they can make their own calculations as a hand is played. If you do not have a strong math background, you are unlikely to want to deal with the nomenclature of probability and statistics. However, you may be able to understand and recreate the table below, known as "Pascal's Triangle of Binomial Coefficients". This table provides the basic division of any number of cards between two hands.

Reading from left to right in each row, we find the number of ways each division of a suit can occur. For example, if 5 cards are outstanding the possible divisions are as shown in the following table:

Cards									Tot
0	1								1
1	1							1	2
2	1						2	1	4
3	1					3	3	1	8
4	1				4	6	4	1	16
5	1			5	10	10	5	1	32
6	1		6	15	20	15	6	1	64
7	1	7	21	35	35	21	7	1	128

The interesting property of Pascal's Triangle is that each row can be created easily from the row above. Each row starts with 1 and each of the subsequent terms is equal to the sum of the two numbers surrounding it in the row above. The actual percentages that you will see in suit division tables will be slightly different from those you would calculate from Pascal's Triangle because those tables provide percentages for suit breaks as a part of a thirteen card hand. This is generally unimportant for evaluating plays in a single suit.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>WAYS</u>
0-5	1
1-4	5
2-3	10
3-2	10
4-1	5
5-0	1

Generally, the extreme holdings (voids) are less likely than indicated by Pascal's Triangle and the more even suit divisions are more likely than indicated. For example, a single suit calculation suggests that the 2-0 and 1-1 breaks are equally likely. The actual probability for a thirteen card hand is 48% for the 2-0 and 52% for the 1-1. That is why you should play for the drop when you are missing only the king and a small card.

When considering alternative plays, experts attempt to reduce the problem to a small number of relevant positions and then compare the number of holdings on which each play succeeds. Pascal's Triangle can be used in these calculations to count the number of holdings that are possible for a specific suit break.

**Winterfest Sectional  
Hyatt Regency  
O'Hare, 9300 W. Bryn  
Mawr Avenue,  
Rosemont, IL, 847-696  
-1234**

**Friday, January 18**

10:30 a.m.

Future Masters Strat Prs

8:00 p.m.

Future Masters Strat Prs

**Saturday, January 19**

1:30 p.m.

Future Masters Strat Prs

8:00 p.m.

Future Masters Strat Prs

**Sunday, January 20**

11:00 a.m.

Stratified Swiss Teams

0-100 and 100-300

Jackie Addis, chairman,  
630-515-0101

Carl Sharp, partnerships,  
312-234-1945, days, or  
773-483-3734, nights

**Annual Membership  
Dinner & Meeting  
Saturday, January 19  
\$15 per person, Unit  
123 subsidized**

**To purchase dinner  
tickets in advance,  
send a check payable  
to the CCBA to  
Jackie Addis, 7326  
Gigi Lane, Darien, IL  
60561**

**Please include a SASE.**



# BridgePassion, Com

Bridgepassion.com is a totally free site for new and advancing players to learn the basics of Bridge on the Web. Here is a sample beginning lesson taken directly from their online introduction to the game.

The lessons get progressively more difficult and range from novice to intermediate in depth. The site is a great place to reinforce what you already know about the game or even to learn the game from scratch. We recommend you check it out for yourself and see if you don't think it improves your scores.

In addition to the lessons, there are quizzes for you to test what you have learned. There are also bridge columns and practice hands. As a novice resource, this site should not be missed.

Bridge is a partnership game of cards derived from Whist. Bridge provides a social and competitive outlet for hundreds of thousands of players around the globe. The game knows no boundaries. It's a game where you'll see an elementary school student playing with an octogenarian. Where you might see Bill Gates sitting across the table from Omar Sharif. Where a player who is blind uses Braille cards.

Bridge requires just a deck of cards and four players - formed into two partnerships -- and a basic understanding of how to bid and play the hands. The object of the game is for your pair to accumulate more points than the other pair. Players bid for the minimum number of tricks they hope to win, then play their hands to accomplish their goal, with the opposite partnership working to defeat them.

There are four players in two fixed partnerships. Partners sit facing each other. It is traditional to refer to the players according to their position at the table as North, East, South and West, so North and South are partners playing against East and West.

The game is played clockwise. A standard 52-card deck is used. The cards in each suit rank from highest to lowest:

A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2.

## Deal

The player to the left of the dealer (or the computer) shuffles the deck of cards and hands it to the dealer. The dealer then gives the deck to his right hand opponent for a cut. The dealer deals out all the cards one at a time so that each player has 13. Turn to deal rotates clockwise.

## Bidding

There is next an auction to decide who will be the declarer. A bid specifies a number of tricks and a trump suit (or that there will be no trumps). The side that bids highest will try to win at least that number of tricks bid, with the specified suit as trumps. The player who first named the trump suit from the pair who won the bid becomes the declarer.

## Play

The player to the left of the declarer leads to the first trick. Immediately after this opening lead, the dummy's cards are exposed. The dummy should arrange them neatly in suits, so that all the cards are clearly visible, with the trump suit if any to dummy's right (declarer's left).

Play proceeds clockwise. Each player must if possible play a card of the suit led. A player with no card of the suit led may play any card. A trick consists of four

cards, and is won by the highest trump in it, or if no trumps were played, by the highest card of the suit led. The winner of a trick leads to the next.

Dummy takes no active part in the play of the hand. Whenever it is dummy's turn to play, the declarer must say which of dummy's cards is to be played, and dummy plays the card as instructed (as long as it is legal). Dummy is not permitted to offer any advice or comment on the play. When dummy wins a trick, the declarer specifies which card dummy should lead to the next trick. If when calling for a card the declarer specifies the suit only, dummy is to play the lowest card of that suit.

## Scoring

If the declaring side wins the number of tricks they bid, they will receive a score plus a bonus for any overtricks or doubles. If the declaring side fails to win the number of tricks contracted, the defending side will win points for every undertrick achieved. The cost per trick will vary depending on vulnerability and whether or not a contract was doubled.

To access this site, simply go to:

<http://www.bridgepassion.com>

Other highly recommended sites for novice/intermediate lessons include:

<http://www.rpbridge.net/1a00.htm>

<http://www.beginnersbridge.com/>

[www.richardsampson.inuk.com/](http://www.richardsampson.inuk.com/)

In coming issues, we will review these and other sites and include some material from them for your evaluation. The Worldwide Web has become a valuable source of information and learning tools for bridge.

**“Next to bridge,  
all other forms of  
human endeavor  
shrink to  
insignificance.”**

**General**

**George**

**S. Patton**

# The Simple Overcall by Jim O'Neil

When an opponent opens the bidding, the most common action (other than pass) taken is the simple overcall. This is simply a non-jump bid of a new suit directly after an opponent has opened the bidding. Some examples of simple overcalls:

East      South

1♣          1♠

East      South

1♥          2♣

East      South

1NT        2♦

East      South

2♦ (weak) 2♥

East      North      West      South

1♠          Pass          Pass          2♥

What is gained by overcalling?

- 1) It may be our hand. Although an opponent has opened, we may still be able to buy the contract. Or, we could push the opponents too high.
- 2) Even if the opponents are able to outbid us, we may have a good sacrifice.
- 3) An overcall may get partner off to the best lead
- 4) An overcall can have a certain "nuisance value". It can make it more difficult for the opponents to find the right contract.

What are the risks of overcalling?

- 1) We might get set too much. If the opponents have most of the points, and a few tricks in our suit, they may decide to double.
- 2) We might give away too much information. Our bidding gives information to the opponents as well as partner. If we do not buy the contract, our overcall could help declarer during the play of the hand.

What do we need to overcall? There are a number of considerations – The strength of the hand and quality of the suit, the level of the overcall, the vulnerability, the form of scoring, whether or not partner is a passed hand, the preemptiveness of the overcall.

How aggressive to overcall is a matter of partnership preference. Some pairs prefer to "mix it up", overcalling on very marginal hands. Overcalling a 1♣ opening

bid with 1♠ on:

♠Q6543 ♥K2 ♦J73 ♣Q942

can make life difficult for the opponents sometimes, and also for partner. What, then, is partner to do with:

♠K8 ♥A65 ♦Q642 ♣J765

If overcaller could have the above hand? 1♠ is high enough, and even that might not make. But if overcaller has:

♠AQ9763 ♥K4 ♦KJ3 ♣82

then 4♠ is a good contract..

At the opposite end of the spectrum, some pairs will not overcall without a good hand and a good suit. Not overcalling with:

♠JT653 ♥AK ♦AK2 ♣J76

runs the risk of missing an easy game when partner holds:

♠Q6 ♥542 ♦QJ43 ♣KQT2

or:

♠KQ74 ♥764 ♦Q642 ♣53

Though the modern tendency is to bid more aggressively in all aspects of the game, including overcalls, it is best to have some minimum requirements for an overcall: It is important to discuss with partner how aggressive or conservative the partnership's overcalls will be.

To make an overcall at the 1-level, we should have about 9-16 points, and a 5-card or longer suit. With minimum values for an overcall, the suit should be good. With less, we should pass, or with very good 6-card or longer suit, make a preemptive jump overcall. With more, we should first double and then bid our suit.

To make a simple (nonjump) overcall at the 2-level, we should have about 12-18 points, and a very good 5 card suit or a reasonable 6-card suit. Again, with minimum values, the suit should be very good.

When right-hand opponent opens 1♦, overcall 1♠ with:

♠AK765 ♥53 ♦Q64 ♣J53

Minimum values, but a good suit.

1) If we are to compete on this hand, we will probably be competing in spades.

2) We definitely want a spade lead from partner.

3) A 1♠ bid will make it a little more difficult for the opponents to find a heart fit, should they have one.

♠J7654 ♥A3 ♦K64 ♣AK3

Not a very good suit, but a very good hand.

♠AJ765 ♥A3 ♦4 ♣KQJ53

Do not double with shortness in an unbid major unless you are too strong for a simple overcall. Doubling here runs the risk of getting too high on a misfit, and may lose the club suit.

Do not overcall 1♠ with:

♠Q7654 ♥K3 ♦A65 ♣J53

Do not overcall with minimum values and a poor suit. We don't necessarily want a spade lead.

♠Q7654 ♥AK53 ♦4 ♣AQ3

Good values, but it is best to double – to overcall 1♠ risks losing the heart suit.

♠KQJ765 ♥53 ♦Q64 ♣J53

A good suit, but a preemptive jump to 2♠ is the most descriptive bid here.

♠AKJ65 ♥A3 ♦AQ6 ♣J53

Double. This hand is too strong for a 1♠ overcall.

When right-hand opponent opens 1♠, overcall 2♥ with:

♠A6 ♥KQT654 ♦K63 ♣54

Minimum values, but a good suit.

♠A6 ♥KT9874 ♦AK ♣K63

Not a very good suit, but values to compensate.

Do not overcall 2♥ with:

♠65 ♥AJ753 ♦A64 ♣K53

After a 1♣ or 1♦ opening bid, this would be a fine 1♥ overcall. But after a 1♠ opening bid, an overcall is just too dangerous. Pass.

♠Q5 ♥J7653 ♦AK4 ♣AK3

A better suit is needed to overcall at the 2-level, even with maximum values. Best to Double.

Some other factors to consider when deciding whether or not to overcall with marginal hands:

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Overcalls, Continued from page 10)*

The “preemptiveness” – Overcalling a 1♣ opening bid with 1♠, or a 1♦ opening with 2♣ does can make things difficult for the opponents. Overcalling a 1♥ opening with 1♠ or a 1♣ opening with 1♦ does little to get in the opponents’ way.

The vulnerability – when not vulnerable, the penalties for going set are less than when vulnerable. We can be a little more aggressive not vulnerable.

The form of scoring – at matchpoint pairs, it is acceptable to risk a big loss trying for a small gain. At IMPs or rubber bridge, it is losing tactics in the long run.

### Responses to simple overcalls

#### If RHO passes:

1) When partner overcalls, responder’s first obligation is to show support, if possible.

After a 1-level overcall:

With about 7-10 points, and support (at least 3 cards), raise partner to 2. With 11-13 points, and support, jump raise to 3. With 14 or more, and support, raise to game.

After a 2-level overcall:

With 7-10 points, and support (at least 3 cards, or good doubleton), raise to 3. With 11 or more, and support, (at least 3 cards), raise to game.

2) Without support for partner, but with good stoppers in the opponent’s suit, responder can bid notrump.

After a 1-level overcall:

With about 8-10 points, and a stopper in the opponent’s suit, bid 1NT. With 11-13 points, and good stoppers, jump to 2NT. With 14 or more, and good stoppers, jump to 3NT.

After a 2-level overcall:

With 8-10 points, and stoppers, bid 2NT. With 11 or more, and stoppers, jump to 3NT.

If partner has overcalled in a major, responder’s first obligation should be to show support. If partner has overcalled in a minor, responder, only with very good stoppers and marginal support, can bid NT rather than show support.

3) With no support, or stoppers, but a good suit (usually 5+ cards), and a good hand (9+ points), responder bids the suit.

4) Finally, with a good hand, (about 13+ after a 1-level overcall, or 10+ after a 2-level overcall) but no support, no stopper, and no suit, responder can “cue-bid”, that is, bid the opponents suit. Game is likely unless overcaller has a bare minimum This asks overcaller to help in placing the final contract. Overcaller can show a second suit, bid NT, or rebid a very good suit, and the right contract can be reached.

5) With any other hand, pass.

#### If RHO bids over partner’s overcall:

If RHO intervenes by raising opener’s suit, bids by overcaller’s partner have much the same meaning, though it is permissible to stretch a bid to raise, and good stoppers are needed to bid NT. (There is one further option – a “responsive” double.)

If right-hand opponent bids a new suit at the 1-level, or makes a negative double, bids are the same as before. (There is an additional option: a double of a new suit, or a redouble after a negative double.)

If right-hand opponent bids a new suit at the 2-level, bid only with support, or with a good suit of your own – the opponents have the majority of the points.

If right-hand opponent intervenes by bidding NT, be wary of bidding – the opponents have the majority of the points and some trump tricks.

#### Overcalling after a 1NT or Preemptive Opening Bid

When the opening bid is 1NT, be very careful. Left-hand opponent knows a lot about his partner’s hand and can double more easily than if his partner had opened one of a suit. While many pairs still play natural overcalls after 1NT openings, the modern tendency is to play conventional overcall systems.

When the opening bid is a weak 2-bid, or a 3-bid, overcalls have much the same meaning. There are a couple of exceptions, however. A jump overcall should be treated as strong – don’t preempt over a preempt. A nonjump 2NT bid should be natural – not unusual. And since the overcall is necessarily at a higher level, better values are needed to enter the auction.

### Balancing Overcalls

When left-hand opponent opens the bidding, and partner and right-hand opponent both pass, the overcall structure changes somewhat. A jump overcall should show a good hand. A general rule of thumb is that overcaller’s bids should show about 3 points less in balancing seat than in direct seat. Correspondingly, overcaller’s partner’s bids should show about 3 points more.

Overcalls after 1NT openings and balancing overcalls will be discussed in greater detail later.

### Overcalls

Different partnerships have different agreements as to the range of a simple overcall. There are advantages to very aggressive overcalls, especially at matchpoint pairs, and there are dangers.

RHO opens 1♣. Do you overcall with the following hands? (There are no right or wrong answers here; it is only important that you and partner agree.)

- 1) ♠AQ765 ♥83 ♦K94 ♣J64
- 2) ♠K94 ♥83 ♦AQ765 ♣J64
- 3) ♠AQJ765 ♥A5 ♦K6 ♣Q32
- 4) ♠Q7653 ♥A75 ♦Q64 ♣A6
- 5) ♠KQJ652 ♥75 ♦K64 ♣T6
- 6) ♠AKQJ ♥75 ♦764 ♣J432

### Responding to Overcalls

LHO opens 1♣, Partner overcalls 1♠, and RHO passes. What do you bid now with?

- 7) ♠K64 ♥K632 ♦Q962 ♣75
- 8) ♠K64 ♥K632 ♦Q962 ♣K5
- 9) ♠A64 ♥K632 ♦KQ62 ♣K5
- 10) ♠64 ♥K62 ♦Q962 ♣KJ53
- 11) ♠64 ♥AQ2 ♦Q962 ♣KJ53
- 12) ♠K4 ♥AQ2 ♦Q962 ♣KJ53
- 13) ♠K4 ♥K62 ♦AQ962 ♣Q53
- 14) ♠K4 ♥K632 ♦AQ62 ♣Q53

Answers to Overcalls, Hands 1-6:

There are no right and wrong answers here; it is only important that you and partner agree. I would overcall on all of these hands – 1♠ on hands 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6; 1♦ on hand 2.

Some points to consider:

- 1) This is a sound 1♠ overcall. A good 10 points, a good 5-card suit, and a 1♠ bid

*(Continued on page 12)*

### Upcoming Tournaments

Fallfest Sectional, September 28-30, 2001  
Eau Claire Sectional, October 5-7, 2001  
Central States, October 22-28, 2001  
Turkey Bowl, November 23-25, 2001  
Winterfestival, January 18-20, 2002

*(Overcalls, Continued from page 11)*

prevents the opponents from bidding a red suit at the 1-level.

2) This may seem to be identical to #1, but a 1♦ overcall has no preemptive value. This is a marginal 1♦ overcall.

3) This is borderline between a maximum 1♠ overcall and a minimum double followed by a Spade bid.

4) 12 points, but a bad suit. The 1♠ bid has preemptive value, yet may get partner off to the wrong lead.

5) A minimum 1♠ overcall, or a maximum 2♠ preemptive jump.

6) Only a 4-card suit, but a 1♠ bid has preemptive and lead-directional value.

Answers to Overcalls, Hands 7-14:

7) This hand is worth a good 9 points in support of Spades. Raise to 2♠, which shows about 7-10.

8) This hand is worth about 12 points. Jump to 3♠, showing 11-13) (The modern style is to play jump raises as preemptive. If you play this way, then "cue-bid" 2♣ here, which tends to show a limit raise or better.)

9) This hand is worth about 15 points. Jump to 4♠. (Again, The modern style is to play jump raises as preemptive. If you play this way, then you must start with a 2♣ cue-bid, which tends to show a limit raise or better, then insist on game.)

10) With 9 points and the opponents' suit stopped, this is a perfect 1NT bid. 1NT shows about 8-10.

11) With 12 points, bid 2NT. (This shows about 11-13)

12) You will rarely get a hand this good. Bid 3NT.

13) A good 14 HCP and a good 5-card suit. You want to be in game somewhere, but where? 4♠, 5♦, 3NT and even 4♥ are possibilities. Bid 2♦, forcing; partner can further describe his hand.

14) Again, you want to be in game, but have no suit to bid. Nor can you raise or bid NT. Start with a 2♣ cue-bid and see what partner does.

### 299er Sectional Results

#### Bracketed KO Team I (6 teams)

1 Jon & Joan Lagar, Lisle, IL, Janet & Bruce Perryman, Riverside, IL  
2 Arlene Snap, Loves Park, IL, Sandra Warren, Rockford, IL, Phyllis Freeman, Freeport, IL, Karen Golden, Davis, IL

#### Bracketed KO Teams II (5 teams)

1 Joan O'Leary, Portage, WI, Audrey Gehrig, Janesville, WI, Jacqueline Rapp, Karen Vetter, Arlington Heights, IL

#### Stratified 299ers (19 pairs)

1 Daniel Driggett, Glendale Height, IL, Kimberly Wolfe, Clarendon Hills  
2 Jason Rosenfeld, Evanston, IL, Jonathan Levell, Oak Park, IL  
3 Sandra Andreen, Clarendon Hills IL; Jonathan Rivet, Lombard IL  
4 Shirley Mueller, Wheeling IL; Budd Goldstein, IL  
5 William Kilbride, Flossmoor IL; James Blocker, Oak Park IL  
6 Larry Cohen, Villa Park IL; Howard Cohen, Rosemont IL  
7 Theresa Schneider - Forrest Schneider, Northbrook IL

#### Stratified 299er Pairs (35 pairs)

1 Jason Rosenfeld, Evanston IL; Jonathan Levell, Oak Park IL  
2 Daniel Driggett, Glendale Hts IL; Kimberly Wolfe, Clarendon Hills IL  
3 Ping Liu, Naperville IL; Bruce Derylo, Plainfield IL  
4 Bonnie Bergdoll, Oak Brook IL; Alice Mansell, Hinsdale IL  
5 Robert Walk, Evanston IL; Keith Anderson, Northbrook IL  
6 Ira Marcus - Charles Whitman, Chicago IL  
7 Pat Warren, Westchester, IL, Helen Mehler, Hinsdale, IL

8 James Peterson, Lincolnshire IL; Vello Saarva, Deerfield IL

9 Marlene Benzuly - Sandra Sachs, Highland Park IL

#### Stratified 299er Swiss (22 teams)

1 Jonathan Levell, Oak Park IL; Jonathan Rivet, Lombard IL; Chuck Chang, Evanston IL; Atif Syed, Lawrenceville NJ  
2 Edward Hung, Chicago IL; Darina Demirev - Nikolay Demirev, Palatine IL; Edward Wang, Glen Ellyn IL; Kenneth Zuckerberg  
3 Arlene Snap, Loves Park IL; Sandra Warren, Rockford IL; Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL; Joseph Florentine, Park Ridge IL  
4 Paul Hamper - Laurie Endsley, Chicago IL; Sandy Palmer - Dennis Hawtin, Shorewood WI  
5 Shirley Mueller, Wheeling IL; Diane O'Connor, Arlington Hts IL; Budd Goldstein - Ed McIntyre, IL  
6 Daniel Driggett, Glendale Hts IL; Ellen Walsdorf, River Forest IL; Wende Lane - Gerard Dallain, Oak Park IL  
7 Bonnie Bergdoll, Oak Brook IL; Alice Mansell - Jean Faeth - Ruth Barnes, Hinsdale IL  
8 Susan O'Connor - Pat Ball, Chicago IL; Ann Dumler, Kenilworth IL; Jan Churchwell, Northbrook IL; Jean Falk, Skokie IL  
9 F La Master - N La Master, Munster IN; Robert Gordon, Northbrook IL; David Jones, Skokie IL

Look for your next issue of the I/N News ... Especially for You in April, 2002. This publication is sent out twice a year: in April and October. The only people who receive it are members of District 13 with 300 masterpoints or fewer. We hope you enjoy our efforts.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed on upcoming events for Intermediate/Novice players in the area as well as to impart to you some ideas/suggestions about the game which we hope will improve your scores.