

I/N News ... especially for you!

Volume 4, Issue 3

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Bidding Over Interference by Jim O'Neil

Inside this issue:

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| Bidding Over Interference | 1 | Competitive bids by the opposition can take away valuable bidding space. Often we will be able to bid as if there had been no interference; but sometimes this will not be possible. There are two important points to remember when dealing with interference: 1) We should stretch to show a fit for partner's suit, especially if that suit is a major. 2) No bid by partner is forcing if RHO does anything other than pass. Partner is guaranteed another chance to bid. With minimum values and nothing to show, it is often best to pass. Remember "Majors, Notrump, Minors" |
| Tournament Results | 9 | Our first priority is to find a playable major suit fit if there is one. The best thing we can do is raise partner's major suit when we have support. If we don't have support for partner's major suit, we can introduce our own major suit - either by bidding the suit, or making a "Negative Double". |
| The Principle of Fast Arrival | 10 | If we do not have a major suit fit, we should next look to Notrump - our second priority is to show partner a stopper or stoppers in the opponents' suit; we can show our strength at the same bid. If we lack a major suit fit, we can look to raise partner's minor suit, or to introduce a minor suit of our own. |
| Play Bridge to Stay Healthy | 10 | Finally, with no fit at all and no stoppers in the opponents' suit, it is often right to defend. We can pass, or even double. <u>I. RAISING PARTNER</u> |
| Using the Partnership Desk | 11 | When partner opens with 1 of a major, we should generally raise partner whenever we have 3-card support or better. After a simple overcall or double, we can make the same bid we would have made without the interference. After a preemptive overcall, we must sometimes stretch a bit. It is usually right to bid when there is a fit; even when we go set, we find the opponents could have made something. |
| Hocus-Pocus... a review | 11 | After a simple overcall by RHO: (For example, 1♥ - 2♣ - you) A simple raise (e.g., 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♥) still shows about 6 to a bad 10 points; a double raise (e.g., 1♥ - 2♣ - 3♥) shows about a good 10-12, just as without the overcall. A jump to 4 (e.g., 1♥ - 2♣ - 4♥) is still preemptive, showing a weaker, distributional hand. |
| Beating the Best | 12 | What do we do with 13 or more points? Without the overcall we would have started by bidding a new suit, then jumping in partner's major. (Or, we could use the Jacoby 2NT Convention). With the overcall, however, we need to find a better way. If we start by bidding a new suit, the auction may be too high by our next bid; in competitive auctions, we need to show a fit right away. And |

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(Bidding Over Interference, continued from page 1)

Jacoby 2NT should not be used in competition - 2NT is needed to show about 11-12 points and stoppers in the opponents' suit. The solution is a cuebid. (e.g., 1♥ - 2♣ - 3♣). When our first bid as responder is a cuebid of the opponents' suit, it shows a good hand (values for game) and support for partner.

*** Another way to play the cue-bid and jump raise is described at the end of this article.

After a double by RHO: (For example, 1♠ - dbl - you)

Again, a simple raise (1♠ - dbl - 2♠) shows 6 -10-; a double raise (1♠ - double - 3♠) is about 10+-12, and a jump to 4 (1♠ - double - 4♠) is preemptive, as without the overcall.

With a game going hand and support, we start by redoubling (1♠ - dbl - rdbl), then jumping in partner's suit. When our first bid as responder is a redouble, it shows a good hand (at least a good 10 points; with support at least 13 points).

After a jump overcall by RHO: (For example, 1♠- 3♣ - you)

After a preemptive overcall, we do not have as much room to maneuver. We can no longer raise to the 2-level. Still, we should stretch a little to show support; and partner should allow for this. A simple raise (1♠- 3♣ - 3♠) should show about 8-10; we can even shade this a point or so with extra trump length. A jump raise to 4 (1♠ - 3♣ - 4♠) shows 11 or more, and may include a lot of distribution. With a very good hand, say 15-16 points or more, we can cuebid (1♠ - 3♣ - 4♣); this lets partner know we have a very good hand and are thinking about slam if he has better than a minimum opening bid.

After a double jump overcall by RHO: (For example, 1♥ - 3♠ - you)

We should still stretch to bid if we have a good fit - we can raise (1♥ - 3♠ - 4♥) with about 10 points, and may shade this a bit with distribution.

II. NOTRUMP BIDS

Notrump responses after an overcall show about the same high-card strength as without the overcall, but also promise stoppers in the opponent's suit. A 1NT bid, if available, shows about a good 7 to 10 points. (With a bare minimum response, it is best to pass; with a good hand partner can bid again). A 2NT bid shows about 11-12 and a 3NT bid promises 13 or more.

After a double by RHO, a redouble by responder shows at least a good 10 points. With a good hand and no particular fit, it is often best to try to penalize the opponents. Rather than bidding 2NT or 3NT natural, start with a redouble and see if you or partner can double the opponents in whatever suit they run to. So a 2NT or 3NT response after a double should be based on a source of tricks in a good suit, usually a minor suit.

After 1♠ by partner and a double by RHO:

♠ - 74 ♥ - QJ76 ♦ - AQ9 ♣ - KT94

Rather than bidding 2NT, start with a redouble. Unless partner has a lot of distribution, we will probably get a better score by doubling and defending.

♠ - 74 ♥ - K6 ♦ - AKJ97 ♣ - T974

We may not be comfortable if partner doubles the opponents in 2♥, so we might as well bid 2NT.

****Another use for the 2NT bid, the Jordan Convention, is described at the end of this article.

III. NEW SUIT BIDS

After an overcall by RHO:

A new suit bid at the 1 level, if available, shows at least a good 6 points, and at least 4 cards in the suit bid. (With a bare minimum response, it is best to pass; with a good hand partner can bid again). A new suit bid at the 2-level shows at least a good 10 or more points, and usually at least 5 cards in the suit bid. It is permissible to bid a 4-card minor suit on occasion - especially with a game-going hand; a major suit at the 2-level or higher promises at least a 5-card suit. A new suit at the 3-level always promises a 5-card suit.

A new suit bid by responder is forcing. When bidding a new suit at the 2-level, take care to note at what level partner can rebid. If

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partner can rebid 2 of his suit, it is permissible to make a new suit bid with 10 points. If partner will be unable to rebid 2 of his suit, it is best to have close to an opening hand.

Consider these two hands:

♠ - 84 ♥ - AQJ74 ♦ - 732 ♣ - K64

If partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♦, a 2♥ bid is best. With no fit for Hearts, partner can always go back to 2♠.

But: ♠ - AQJ74 ♥ - 84 ♦ - 732 ♣ - K64

If partner opens 1♥ and RHO overcalls 2♦, a 2♠ bid can get us too high. Best to start with a Negative double.

After a new suit bid, Opener rebids naturally, the same as he would have without the overcall. If overcaller's partner acts, Opener should stretch a bit to show a fit, and can pass with a balanced minimum.

If RHO makes a takeout double:

A new suit at the 1-level shows at least a good 7 points, and at least a good 4-card suit. (Remember that the takeout doubler implies a good holding in this suit.) It is best to treat 1-level bids as forcing. Years ago, it was thought best to redouble with all hands with a good 10 or more points; but this can lead to problems: ♠ - 84 ♥ - AQJ74 ♦ - KJ6 ♣ - A54

If partner opens 1♦ and RHO doubles, we may not be able to conveniently show our Hearts if we start with a redouble. What if LHO jumps in Spades and partner doubles? Do we pass and find we would have done better in our Heart suit or bid hearts and find partner with no fit? Best to bid Hearts now.

A new suit at the 2-level should be played as non-forcing, showing a good 7 to a bad 10 points And at least a 5-card suit.

A jump in a new suit is weak, showing a good 6+ card suit and nothing else. Responder should not have any fit for Opener's suit, especially if that suit is a major.

IV. THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE

When the opponents overcall, the Negative Double is a most useful convention.

An example: ♠ - 843 ♥ - QJ74 ♦ - 73 ♣ - AJ64

Partner opens 1♦ and our right-hand opponent overcalls 1♠. Had RHO passed, we would have an easy 1♥ response. But the overcall has deprived us of the chance to show Hearts at the 1-level. We cannot bid 2♣ or 2♥ (we are not strong enough - we need at least a good 10 points for a 2-level response, and should have a 5-card suit), nor can we bid 1NT (that would promise a stopper in Spades).

The solution is to use the "Negative Double" here. Once called the "Informatory Double" and sometimes called the "Sputnik Double", the Negative Double provides a way to show many types of hands

that cannot be shown any other way.

What are the requirements for a Negative Double?

Distribution. Ideally, a Negative Double promises 4 or more cards in each of the two unbid suits.

If there is one unbid major, doubler should have 4 cards in the unbid major; he may not necessarily have the unbid minor. In any case, Doubler must be prepared for any rebid by opener; if Opener cannot support a major, Doubler must have another place to play the hand. Some examples:

In each case partner opens 1♦ and RHO overcalls 1♠.

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Labor Day Sectional
Weber Leisure Center,
9300 Weber Park Place,
Skokie IL

Chair: Kay Hathaway
Vice Chair:
Gerry Szymanski

For more information
call 847-998-9642

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Stratified Pairs

7:30 Future Master

Stratified Pairs

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Stratified Pairs

7:30 Future Master

Stratified Pairs

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Stratified Pairs

7:30 Future Master

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7:30 Double Win Pair

Game

Sunday at 11:00 am

0-299 Swiss Teams

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♠ - 843 ♥ - QJ74 ♦ - 73 ♣ - AJ64

This is the ideal negative double. We have 4 cards in each unbid suit.

♠ - 843 ♥ - QJ74 ♦ - AJ64 ♣ - 73

This hand is worth a double as well. If partner rebids 2♣, we can easily go back to 2♦.

♠ - 84 ♥ - KJ8754 ♦ - 73 ♣ - Q64

Double. We will bid Hearts next. Partner will know we have long Hearts but not enough points to bid 2♥ initially.

♠ - AQ3 ♥ - KJ74 ♦ - 7432 ♣ - K6

Double. If partner does not have 4 Hearts, we will bid 3NT next.

The situation is trickier when there are 2 unbid majors. After 1♣ - 1♦, responder can bid either major at the 1-level; but after 1♦ - 2♣, it is difficult to bid hands with a 4-card major and fewer than 4 in the other major. Again, Doubler must be prepared should Opener bid the major he does not have. In each case partner opens 1♦ and RHO overcalls 2♣.

♠ - 84 ♥ - QJ74 ♦ - 743 ♣ - AJ64

Pass. There is no good rebid should partner rebid 2♠.

♠ - 84 ♥ - Q874 ♦ - AJ64 ♣ - 743

We cannot double. If we were a little stronger, we could double and bid 3♦ over 2♠. But this hand is not good enough to commit to the 3-level. However, it is worth a 2♦ raise.

♠ - J3 ♥ - KJ74 ♦ - 7432 ♣ - AQ6

Double. If partner bids 2♠, we can bid 2NT.

Strength. As in the case of the takeout double, the minimum strength required for a negative double depends on the level at which partner can respond. The higher the level, the more points are required.

If partner opens 1♣ and RHO overcalls 1♦, partner can bid either major at the 1-level. With no 4 card major, partner can rebid NT at the 1-level. Responder can make a negative double with only 6 points.

If partner opens 1♦, and RHO overcalls 1♠, partner will have to bid Clubs or Hearts at the 2-level. He will be able to rebid 1NT. Responder should have at least a good 7 points to double. If partner opens 1♥, and RHO overcalls 2♦, partner will have to bid Spades or NT at the 2-level, or clubs at the 3-level. Responder should have 8 or more points to double. If partner opens 1♦, and RHO overcalls 2♠, partner will have to bid 2NT or a suit at the 3-level. Responder should have at least 10 points to double. (Responder could have less with a good diamond fit) If partner opens 1♦, and RHO overcalls 3♠, partner will have to bid 3NT or 4 of a suit. Responder should have a full opener to double here. Sometimes the choice is between a Negative Double or another bid - a raise, a NT bid or a new suit bid. A raise of partner's major suit is preferable to a negative double, a negative double is usually preferable to a raise of partner's minor, a NT bid, or a new suit bid. Partner opens 1♠ and RHO overcalls 2♦.

♠ - J43 ♥ - KJ74 ♦ - 432 ♣ - Q64

Bid 2♠. You have an 8-card major suit fit. Let partner know.

♠ - J3 ♥ - KJ74 ♦ - AQ2 ♣ - Q64

Double. If partner does not have 4H, we will bid 3NT.

S - K3 ♥ - KJ74 ♦ - K4 ♣ - AQ764

Double. We are strong enough to bid 3♣, but we don't want to miss a potential Heart fit.

Partner opens 1♦ and RHO overcalls 1♠.

♠ - J3 ♥ - KJ74 ♦ - 7432 ♣ - AQ6

Double. We can go back to Diamonds later if necessary. Our first priority is to find an 8-card major suit fit.

When possible, raise partner's suit and lead partner's suit. It will keep harmony at the table for both of you. If it is wrong, you can blame partner for bidding, and if it is right, you can congratulate yourself on doing the right thing!

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When is a double a "Negative Double"?

A double is negative when partner has opened 1 of a suit and RHO has overcalled in a suit at a low level. Negative doubles are not used when the opening bid is 1NT, 2♣, or a preempt; doubles of NT overcalls are always for penalty. Exactly what does "low level" mean? Different partnerships define this differently. Some partnerships play Negative Doubles "through 3♦", meaning that a double of a suit overcall of 3♦ or lower is negative, while a double of an overcall of 3♥ or higher is for penalty. Perhaps the most common level is "through 3♠", meaning that a double of a suit overcall of 3♠ or lower is negative, while a double of 4♣ or higher is for penalty. Whatever level you decide to play, make sure that you and your partner agree. **After an opening of 1 of a suit, Doubles of a suit overcall of 4♥ or lower are not alertable if "Negative", but alertable if for penalty. Doubles of a suit overcall of 4S or higher are alertable if "Negative", but not alertable if penalty.**

How should Opener respond to a Negative Double?

Opener's first duty is to support a major suit that Doubler has shown. Without support, Opener should bid NT with a stopper. With no support and no stopper, Opener can rebid a good suit or bid an unbid minor that Doubler has implied - Doubler must be prepared for any rebid by Opener.

With a minimum, Opener rebids as cheaply as possible. With a bit more, Opener can jump. With game-going values, Opener can jump to game. If Opener is unsure of which game, he can cue-bid. Do not jump to 4 of a major after 1♦-2♣. Remember that partner may have only 1 major. Start with a cue-bid of 3♣.

For example: 1♦ - 1♠ - double - pass // you

Opener should rebid Hearts if he has them. A 2♥ rebid here would show 13-15; 3H would show about 16-17 and 4H would show 18+. Without 4 Hearts, but Spades stopped, Opener can rebid 1NT. With 13-15, 2NT with 16-17 or 3NT with 18+. Otherwise Opener can rebid 2♣ or 2♦ with 13-15, or 3♣ or 3♦ with 16-17. With 18+, Opener should not rebid 4 of a minor, but should instead cue-bid 2♠. After a 2-level overcall, there is sometimes not as much room.

For example: 1♠ - 2♦ - double - pass // you

We can still rebid 2♥ with 13-15, 3♥ with 16-17, or 4♥ with 18+. And we can rebid 2♠ with 13-15, or 3S with 16-17 if we have a good suit. But there is not as much room in Clubs or NT. This is why doubler should be a little stronger here than in the previous example. A 2NT rebid would show about 13-16, and a 3NT rebid about 17+. A 3♣ bid should show about 13-16; with 17+ Opener should cuebid 3♦.

Sometimes Opener's rebid is awkward:

♠ - QJ743 ♥ - KQ3 ♦ - 32 ♣ - AQ6

We open 1♠, LHO overcalls 2♦ and partner doubles. We cannot rebid such a bad spade suit, nor can we bid NT with no stopper. We must bid one of the other suits. In this case the best bid is 2♥. (We must have at least 7 Hearts between us, and may have more; we have at most 7 Spades between us, and may have fewer.)

♠ - AQJ73 ♥ - AQ3 ♦ - 32 ♣ - AQ6

Again we open 1♠, LHO overcalls 2♦ and partner doubles. We have enough for game, but which game? Start with a cue-bid of 3♦. With a great holding in the opponents' suit, Opener convert partner's negative double to penalties:

♠ - KQ764 ♥ - 9 ♦ - AJT82 ♣ - K4

We open 1♠, LHO overcalls 2♦ and partner doubles. We should collect our biggest score by defending 2♦ doubled.

What if we wanted to make a penalty double?

♠ - 43 ♥ - A74 ♦ - KJ973 ♣ - Q74

Partner opens 1♠ and our right-hand opponent overcalls 2♦. We could bid 2 or 3 Notrump, but what we would really like to do is defend 2♦ doubled. We cannot double ourselves, for that would be a negative double, promising 4+ Hearts.

The solution is to pass. Even if LHO also passes, partner will get another chance to speak. He should balance with a takeout double, which we can happily convert to a penalty double. Whenever partner is short in overcaller's suit (in this case Diamonds), he should balance with a double, rather than rebidding his suit, or introducing a new suit.

♠ - AK642 ♥ - KJ63 ♦ - 2 ♣ - K86

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Fall Fest Sectional

Lindner Conference Center, a smoke and alcohol free facility, 660 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard

Novice Intermediate Schedule:

Friday, November 12
10:30 a.m. Future Master Stratified Pairs
3:30 p.m. Future Master Stratified Pairs
7:30 p.m. Future Master Pairs

Saturday, November 13
1:00 p.m. Future Master Stratified Pairs
6:30 p.m. Future Master Strataified Pairs

Sunday, November 14
11:00 a.m. 299er Stratified Swiss Teams:
0-100, 100-200, 200-300

Tournament Chairman
Jim Kolb 630-961-5750
jakolb@sbcglobal.net

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After opening 1♠, LHO overcalls 2♦ and two passes follow. Opener should reopen with a double. If partner has the previous hand, 2♦ doubled will go down about 3 or 4 tricks. An we may not even make 3NT. If partner was not waiting to penalize 2♦, he can bid 2♥, 2♠ or even 3♣.

But: ♠ - AK642 ♥ - 4 ♦ - Q842 ♣ - A74

Again we open 1♠, LHO overcalls 2♦ and two passes follow. We should pass. Partner surely was not waiting to double 2♦. And where are the Hearts? If partner has Hearts, he has a very bad hand, as he did not make a negative double. If partner does not have Hearts, the opponents have missed their 9-card Heart fit. They will likely find it if given another chance.

We should always be wary of balancing when short in an unbid suit, especially an unbid major. We should strain to balance when short in the opponents' bid suit.

V. PASS

Finally, with no other bid available, we can pass. While we would like to bid with any hand containing a good 7 points or more, sometimes we hold a hand for which there is no bid available.

♠ - J43 ♥ - 74 ♦ - QJ73 ♣ - A64



Partner opens 1H and the RHO overcalls 2♣. We cannot raise with a doubleton. Nor are we strong enough to bid 2NT or 2♦. We should have at least 4 spades to make a negative double. We must pass and hope to get another chance to bid.

Sometimes an overcall comes after an opening bid and response:

(For example, 1♦ - pass - 1♠ - 2♣ // you)

Again, frequently we can make the same bid we would have made without the overcall. A simple raise (in this case, 2♠) shows a minimum opener (13-16 or so), and promises support – usually 4 cards, but occasionally 3, especially with ruffing value; a jump raise (3♠ here) shows an intermediate hand (17-18) with 4-card support, and a double-jump raise (4♠) promises a maximum (19-20) with 4-card support.

Notrump bids are approximately the same as without the overcall. If a 1NT rebid is available, (example: 1♦ - pass - 1♥ - 1♠ // 1NT) it shows a sound opener, with the opponents' suit stopped. A 2NT rebid after a 1-level response by partner shows about 18-19, with good stoppers in the opponents' suit. With better than a minimum and a good holding in the opponents' suit, especially with no fit for partner, Opener can double for penalties. After 1♥ - pass - 1♠ - 2♦, opener should double with:

♠ - 3 ♥ - AKT74 ♦ - KJT3 ♣ - A64

A simple rebid of opener's suit (2♦ in this case) shows a minimum opener but with a good suit – at least 6 cards, preferably headed by some honors. A jump rebid to 3 (3♦ here) shows about 16+-18 with a good suit. A nonjump rebid to 3 (example: 1♣ - pass - 1♠ - 2♦ // 3♣) shows better than a bare minimum (perhaps 14-17) with a good suit.

When Opener chooses to rebid a new suit, he must be careful. Remember that if Opener bypasses the cheapest rebid of his own suit, he is making a *reverse* bid, which promises extra values - at least 17 or so. For example: After 1♥ - pass - 1♠ - 2♣, opener can safely rebid 2♦ with a minimum. With a minimum response, partner can pass or correct to 2♥. But after 1♦ - pass - 1♠ - 2♣, Opener needs reversing values to bid 2♥ - Partner may have a minimum response with no fit and no rebiddable Spade suit; he may have to correct to 3♦, which will often be too high if opener does not have reversing values.

With a balanced maximum opener (19-20) but no obvious bid (no 4-card support for partner, no stopper in the opponents' suit), Opener can cue-bid overcaller's suit (example: 1♦ - pass - 1♠ - 2♣ // 3♣).

Never discuss hands until after the round is over. Every hand is a new situation and you want to concentrate.



Deal me four hands.
I can handle it!

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Stars of Tomorrow Sectional
American Legion Hall,
1435 Pfungsten Road,
Northbrook

Saturday, October 9

9:00 Bracketed Knockout
Teams

Teams are ranked by
Masterpoints, then grouped
into

brackets of eight. Each bracket
has a winner.

1:30 Bracketed Knockout
Teams, semi-finals

Stratified 299er Pairs (0-100,
100-200, 200-300)

Stratified 49er Pairs (0-5, 5-20,
20-50)

7:30 Bracketed Knockout
Teams, finals

“Win an Entry” Stratified 299er
Pairs

(0-100, 100-200, 200-300)

“Win an Entry” 49er Pairs (0-5,
5-20, 20-50)

Winners receive a free two-
session entry to another
CCBA tournament

Sunday, October 10

11:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (0-
100, 100-200, 200-300)

Playthrough — Out by 6:00

Events or strata may be
combined if one has
insufficient attendance.

Directions to American Legion
Hall: 1435 Pfungsten Rd,
Northbrook. From 294,
exit onto Willow Road east; at
the third stoplight turn left onto
Pfungsten. Drive north 1 mile;
hall is on right side. From the
Edens Expressway, exit Willow
Road west; drive about 4 miles
and turn right onto Pfungsten.
Site telephone: 847-564-9558.

For information or partners,
call Jody Wadhwa 847-564-4546
or fwadwa@comcast.net

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Now responder can bid 3NT with a stopped, rebid Spades, show Hearts, etc.

With a balanced minimum and no good stopper in the opponent's suit, Opener can pass. Partner will get another chance to bid. With a bare minimum and a balanced hand, pass may be preferable to rebidding 1NT with a marginal stopper, or rebidding a poor 6-card suit.

If an Opponent doubles after an opening bid and response (Example: 1♦ - pass - 1♠ - dbl // you), we can generally make the same we would have made without the double. Two exceptions: with a strong balanced hand (17+) we can redouble, and with a balanced minimum we can pass.

****Another use for the Double and Redouble by Opener is described at the end of this article.

PROBLEM HANDS:

Partner opens 1♥. RHO overcalls 2♣. What is your call?

1. ♠ - Q64 ♥ - KQ64 ♦ - J4 ♣ - K642
2. ♠ - A64 ♥ - KQ64 ♦ - J4 ♣ - AJ42
3. ♠ - KQ64 ♥ - 84 ♦ - J84 ♣ - K942
4. ♠ - KQ64 ♥ - 984 ♦ - J842 ♣ - K4
5. ♠ - KJ64 ♥ - 84 ♦ - KJ842 ♣ - K4
6. ♠ - KJ6 ♥ - K4 ♦ - AK42 ♣ - 9842
7. ♠ - QJ642 ♥ - 84 ♦ - J42 ♣ - K4
8. ♠ - KQ2 ♥ - 84 ♦ - A42 ♣ - AJ842

You open 1♠. LHO overcalls 2♦. Partner doubles and RHO passes. What is your call?

9. ♠ - KQJ64 ♥ - A984 ♦ - 42 ♣ - K4
10. ♠ - AQJ64 ♥ - KQ84 ♦ - 42 ♣ - A4
11. ♠ - K8764 ♥ - K84 ♦ - AK4 ♣ - 42
12. ♠ - K8764 ♥ - K84 ♦ - 42 ♣ - AK4
13. ♠ - AKQ64 ♥ - A84 ♦ - Q2 ♣ - K43

Partner opens 1♠. RHO doubles. What is your call?

14. ♠ - KQ64 ♥ - 984 ♦ - QJ42 ♣ - K4
15. ♠ - 42 ♥ - KQ75 ♦ - A982 ♣ - AQT
16. ♠ - K4 ♥ - 94 ♦ - QJ842 ♣ - K74
17. ♠ - A7642 ♥ - 9 ♦ - JT842 ♣ - 74

Answers to Bidding over Interference, Hands 1-17

1. **3♥**. We have a limit raise; this is the way to show it. Don't consider a natural NT bid when you have a 9-card major suit fit. (For those who wish to play a cue-bid as a limit raise or better, a bid of **3♣** is appropriate here.)
2. **3♣**. We are too strong for anything else. A jump to **4♥** here would be preemptive.
3. **Double**. We are not strong enough for 2NT.
4. **2♥**. There is no reason to double when we have trump support.
5. **Double**. We could bid **2♦**, but we might as well show both suits at once. If we were stronger, say ♠ - KJ64 ♥ - K4 ♦ - AJ842 ♣ - K4, we could start with **2♦**, then bid Spades. With less than game—going values, it is best to start with a double.
6. **2♦**. An off-shape negative double is also possible, but what we would like to do is get to 3NT whenever partner has a club stopper. We do not want to encourage a spade bid.
7. **Double**. We are not nearly strong enough to bid **2♠**.
8. **Pass**. Partner is short in Clubs, and should reopen with a double, which we will happily pass.
9. **2♥**. What else? We have a minimum hand with four cards in partner's suit.
10. **3♥**. This shows more than a minimum, again with four cards in partner's suit.

Flight C GNT (0-500)
October 16, 2004
Sheraton Chicago NW
3400 W. Euclid Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL
Session Play -
12:30 & 6:00
Info: Tom Sucher
630-894-4048



Haven't we been sitting
on these eggs long
enough? The card game
starts in ten minutes.
Let's go play cards!

(Continued on page 8)

(Bidding Over Interference, Continued from page 7)

11. **2NT**. We have a minimum hand with the opponents' suit well stopped.
12. **2♥**. There is really no other choice. We have at least 7 Hearts between us and should have at most 7 spades.
13. **3♦**. We have game somewhere, but where? Start by cue-bidding the opponents' suit.
14. **3♠**. We have a limit raise. (For those who wish to play the Jordan convention, a bid of **2NT** is appropriate.)
15. **Redouble**. We have a very good hand with no fit; we would like to penalize the opponents in whatever suit they try to run to.
16. **2♦**. Over a takeout double, a new suit at the 2-level is not forcing.
17. **4♠**. A double jump is preemptive. The opponents may have a game or save in hearts; we will try to keep them from finding it.

NEW CONVENTIONS FOR ADVANCING PLAYERS: For those interested in learning new conventions, here are two you may find useful: As always, **Before playing any convention, make sure you discuss it in detail with your partner. Also, make sure to alert the opponents when required.**

Cue-Bid showing a Limit Raise or Better

Some pairs prefer to play that, after a simple overcall, a jump raise of partner's suit (1♥ - 2♣ - 3♥) is preemptive - too weak for a simple raise, yet not quite distributional enough to raise all the way to 4. (A simple raise still shows about 6-10-; a jump to 4 is still preemptive). But now a cuebid (1♥ - 2♣ - 3♣) shows 10+ or more (and support). If Opener is bare minimum, he rebids 3 of his suit; now responder can pass if he has a limit raise, or bid on if he is stronger. Of course, if Opener has more than a bare minimum, he can go to game himself.

Cue-bids are not alertable. The jump raise is no longer alertable.

The Jordan Convention

After a takeout double by RHO, it is often right to try and penalize the opponents when you have a majority of the points and no fit. Rather than bidding 2NT or 3NT natural, start with a redouble and see if you or partner can double the opponents in whatever suit they run to.

A convention devised by Robert Jordan gives up the natural meaning of 2NT, and allows Responder to make a weak raise. A jump raise (1♠ - dbl - 3♠) is preemptive - too weak for a simple raise, yet not quite distributional enough to raise all the way to 4. (A simple raise still shows about 6-10-; a jump to 4 is still preemptive). Now the 2NT bid (1♠ - dbl - 2NT) shows 10+ or more, and support for partner. If Opener is bare minimum, he rebids 3 of his suit; now responder can pass if he has a limit raise, or bid on if he is stronger. Again, if Opener has more than a bare minimum, he can go to game himself.

Another important point: a redouble (1♠ - dbl - rdbl) denies support for partner's suit; it shows about 11 or more points.

The Jordan 2NT bid is alertable. The jump raise is not alertable.

And one more convention you might think about:

Support Doubles (and Redoubles)

In competitive situations, it is often critical to know whether our major suit fit is an 8-card fit or a 9-card fit (or perhaps only a 7-card fit) when deciding how high to compete. A convention called the "Support Double" can help us do just that.

If the opponents intervene with a simple overcall after an opening bid and a response of 1 of a major (For example: 1♦ - pass - 1♥ - 2♣; you):

- 1) a raise of partner's major (2♥, or even 3♥ or 4♥) promises at least 4-card support
- 2) a double promises 3-card support
- 3) any other call, including pass, denies 3-card support

If Opener really wants to penalize the opponents, he must pass; Responder, when short in Overcaller's suit, should reopen with a double. An extension of this: If the opponents intervene with a double, a redouble shows 3-card support; a raise shows 4 or more and anything else denies as many as 3.

Support doubles and redoubles are alertable.

Midsummer Madness Regional Results:

| EDUC FOUND 199ER PAIRS | | | | 17 Pairs | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.53 | 1 | 1 | | Wende Dallain - Gerard Dallain, Oak Park IL | 117.00 |
| 1.90 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Jagdish Shah - Shobha Shah, Oakbrook IL | 111.94 |
| 1.42 | 3 | 3 | 2 | Celeste Jacklin - Ann Witt, Aurora IL | 109.50 |
| 1.07 | 4 | 4 | 3 | Robert Renuart, Aurora IL; Terrance Rieck, Winfield IL | 108.56 |
| 0.80 | 5 | | | Esther Walenga - Edward Walenga, Homewood IL | 106.31 |

| TUES AFT STRAT 299ER PAIR | | | | 20 Pairs | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|---|--|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.83 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Terrance Rieck, Winfield IL; Robert Renuart, Aurora IL | 108.93 |
| 2.12 | 2 | | | Daniel Wiemerslage, Gurnee IL; William Clarke, Wilmette IL | 106.57 |
| 1.39 | 3/4 | 2/3 | | Benjamin Stephan - Leslie Prizant, Chicago IL | 103.00 |
| 1.39 | 3/4 | 2/3 | 2 | Marlene Foster, Bonita Springs FL; Henry Metzner, Rolla MO | 103.00 |
| 0.99 | 5 | | | Mary Southwick, Lisle IL; Robert Forbes, Sugar Grove IL | 98.00 |
| 0.85 | 6 | 4 | 3 | Craig Smith, Round Lake IL; Erik Smith, San Francisco CA | 89.21 |
| 0.71 | | 5 | | Hem Gupta, Chicago IL; Audrey Filar, Flossmoor IL | 86.00 |
| 0.55 | | | 4 | Emma Heitzman - Carla Heitzman, Urbana IL | 82.21 |

| TUES EVE 299ER PAIRS | | | | 14 Pairs | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.40 | 1 | 1 | | Charles Johnson - Demaris Johnson, Aurora IL | 69.50 |
| 1.80 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Bob Meixner, Hinsdale IL; John Finnegan, Downers Grove IL | 68.50 |
| 1.35 | 3 | 3 | 2 | Mary Dandurand - Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL | 66.50 |
| 1.01 | 4 | | | Faye Anderson, Schererville IN; Barbara Walczak, Munster IN | 64.00 |
| 0.90 | 5 | 4 | | Janet Conway - Alice Ernster, Chatfield MN | 63.50 |
| 0.83 | | | 3 | Henry Metzner, Rolla MO; Marlene Foster, Franksville WI | 61.50 |

| 299'ER PAIRS | | | | 18 Pairs | |
|--------------|---|---|---|--|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.68 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL | 110.79 |
| 2.01 | 2 | | | Sam Katz, Hinsdale IL; Daniel Goldfein, Lincolnwood IL | 95.21 |
| 1.61 | 3 | 2 | 2 | Dorothy Garrett, Milan IN; Frances Harlow, Cincinnati OH | 93.39 |
| 1.20 | 4 | 3 | 3 | Mary Knoll, Palatine IL; Marilyn Brown, Wheeling IL | 90.79 |
| 0.90 | 5 | 4 | 4 | Judy Olsen, Bonita Springs FL; Carolyn O'Brien, Lake Forest IL | 89.21 |
| 0.68 | | 5 | | Wende Dallain - Gerard Dallain, Oak Park IL | 88.93 |

| WED EVE 299'ER PAIRS | | | | 23 Pairs | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 3.11 | 1 | 1 | | Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL | 115.20 |
| 2.33 | 2 | | | Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL | 101.38 |
| 1.75 | 3 | 2 | | Gale Shillington, Downers Grove IL; Philip Voorhees, Willowbrook IL | 93.01 |
| 1.31 | 4 | | | Eleanor Grinstead - Kenneth Grinstead, Ann Arbor MI | 92.41 |
| 1.12 | 5 | 3 | 1 | Deborah Bossy, Hinsdale IL; Mary Ann Nelson, Elk Grove IL | 92.09 |
| 0.74 | 6 | | | Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Johanna Strong, Winfield IL | 91.14 |
| 0.78 | | 4 | | Dorothy Garrett, Milan IN; Frances Harlow, Cincinnati OH | 90.14 |
| 0.57 | | 5 | | Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL; Ruthann McCarty, Naples FL | 88.72 |
| 0.84 | | | 2 | Mary Dandurand, Glen Ellyn IL; Karen Grottke, Wheaton IL | 84.08 |

| THURS AFT 299'ER PAIRS | | | | 22 Pairs | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---|---|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.97 | 1 | | | Janet Conway - Alice Ernster, Chatfield MN | 110.50 |
| 2.23 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Carolyn O'Brien - Judy Olsen, Lake Forest IL | 108.50 |
| 1.67 | 3 | 2 | 2 | Bob Meixner, Hinsdale IL; John Finnegan, Downers Grove IL | 104.00 |
| 1.25 | 4 | | | Barbara Walczak, Munster IN; Frank Sells, Highland IN | 96.00 |
| 0.94 | 5 | | | Pat Warren, Westchester IL; Helen Mehler, Hinsdale IL | 95.50 |
| 1.04 | 6/7 | 3/4 | | Penny Carduff - Joan Siavelis, Arlington Hts IL | 92.50 |
| 0.94 | 6/7 | 3/4 | | Thomas Kozik, Glenview IL; Barbara Niehus, Highland Park IL | 92.50 |
| 0.83 | | | 3 | Lynne Marley, Downers Grove IL; Craig Wakefield, Des Plaines IL | 77.00 |

| THURS EVE STRAT 299ER PRS | | | | 22 Pairs | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|---|---|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.97 | 1 | 1 | | M Lynn Ostergaard, Oak Park IL; Timothy O'Reilly, Naperville IL | 108.00 |
| 2.23 | 2 | 2 | | Janet Conway - Alice Ernster, Chatfield MN | 97.50 |
| 1.67 | 3 | 3 | | Brian Meltzer, Buffalo Grove IL; Jan Ratliff, Highland Park IL | 94.00 |
| 1.25 | 4 | 4 | | Bill Grisham - Vi Grisham, Algonquin IL | 90.50 |
| 1.47 | 5/6 | 5/6 | 1 | Jagdish Shah - Shobha Shah, Oakbrook IL | 89.50 |
| 0.82 | 5/6 | 5/6 | | Joan Siavelis, Arlington Hts IL; Penny Carduff, Indianapolis IN | 89.50 |
| 1.10 | | | 2 | Gale Shillington, Downers Grove IL; Philip Voorhees, Willowbrook IL | 89.00 |
| 0.83 | | | 3 | Mary Knoll, Palatine IL; Marilyn Brown, Wheeling IL | 88.50 |

| FRI AFT 299ER PAIRS | | | | 24 Pairs | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|---|---|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 2.72 | 1/2 | 1 | 1 | William Clarke, Wilmette IL; Thomas Goodman, Highland Park IL | 106.50 |
| 2.72 | 1/2 | | | Norma Brown, Highland Park IL; Danna Dudnick, Northbrook IL | 106.50 |
| 1.90 | 3 | 2 | 2 | Penny Carduff, Indianapolis IN; Joan Siavelis, Arlington Hts IL | 98.00 |
| 1.31 | 4 | | | Susan Fox - Marvin Fox, Glenview IL | 92.50 |
| 1.42 | 5 | 3 | 3 | Bob McDonnell - John Flershem, Palos Heights IL | 91.50 |
| 0.94 | 6/7 | 4/5 | 4 | Eleanor Wuellen, Hinsdale IL; Rose Ann Donzelli, Lombard IL | 90.00 |
| 0.94 | 6/7 | 4/5 | | Barbara Walczak, Munster IN; Frank Sells, Highland IN | 90.00 |
| 0.64 | | | 5 | Lena Holley - Bill Holley, Naperville IL | 88.00 |

| FRIDAY EVE 299ER PAIRS | | | | 24 Pairs | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|--------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 3.11 | 1 | 1 | | William Artz - Kevin Litz, Chicago IL | 144.50 |
| 2.33 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Robert Kucaba, Downers Grove IL | 131.00 |
| 1.75 | 3 | 3 | 2 | Robert Subkowsky - Elizabeth Subkowsky, Chicago IL | 126.00 |
| 1.15 | 4/5 | 4/5 | 3/4 | Danny Price - Beverly Price, | |

Eau Claire Sectional
October 8-10
St. Bede's
Conference Center

Friday, October 8
8:00
Stratified 199er Pairs

Tournament Chair:
Walt Klein
715-834-3243

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Sessions
Monday - Wednesday, 12/27-
29: 9:30, 2:30, 7:30
299er Stratified Pairs -
Single Sessions
Thursday, 12:30: 10:00 299er
Swiss Teams

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minutes before game time!

For more info:
Marilyn Charlson, 262-646-2246

(Midsummer Madness Results, Continued from page 9)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|--------|
| 1.15 | 4/5 | 4/5 | 3/4 | Lockport IL Paul Primeau - Mary Primeau, Hinsdale IL | 124.00 |
| 0.78 | 6 | 6 | 5 | Barbara Morgan, Park Ridge IL; Fred Johnston, Chicago IL | 121.00 |
| SAT AFT 299'ER PAIR 26 Pairs | | | | | |
| | A | B | C | | |
| 3.25 | 1 | | | Gale Luckman, Highland Park IL; Joyce Meitus, Lake Forest IL | 165.38 |
| 2.44 | 2 | 1 | | Jo Kohn, Schaumburg IL; Reiko Hunter, Palatine IL | 161.29 |
| 1.83 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Sid Bennett - Elizabeth Subkowsky, Chicago IL | 152.77 |
| 1.37 | 4 | 3 | | Mary Knoll, Palatine IL; Rose Ann Donzelli, Lombard IL | 150.21 |
| 1.19 | 5 | 4 | 2 | Judie Hlavka - Dee Becker, Racine WI | 149.76 |
| 0.77 | 6 | 5 | | Kathryn Chamberlain - Daniel Chamberlain, Rockford IL | 147.51 |
| 0.89 | | | 3 | Celeste Jacklin - Ann Witt, Aurora IL | 129.25 |
| 0.67 | | | 4 | Valerie Bennett, Chicago IL; Ellen Rubert, Evanston IL | 127.44 |

| 299ER SATURDAY EVE PAIRS ONLY SESSION | | | NORTH-SOUTH | | SECTION F | | EAST-WEST | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|--------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-------|
| A | B | C | | | A | B | C | | |
| 1 | | | Terry Snower - James Snower, Northbrook IL | 115.00 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Michael Kramer - Vicki Kramer, Addison IL | 91.50 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | Robert Renuart, Aurora IL; Terrance Rieck, Winfield IL | 106.50 | 2 | 2 | | Daniel Cieslik, Chicago IL; Walt Werner, Arlington Hts IL | 91.00 |
| 3 | 2 | 2 | Barb Tadin, ; Jean Donahue, Westchester IL | 92.00 | 3 | 3 | 2 | Nancy Bruick - John Bruick, Libertyville IL | 90.50 |
| 4 | 3 | | Joyce Russian, Mt Prospect IL; Rose Ann Donzelli, Lombard IL | 90.00 | 4 | 4 | | John Garrett - Dorothy Garrett, Milan IN | 89.00 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL | 89.50 | 5 | | | Barbara Walczak, Munster IN; Faye Anderson, Schererville IN | 88.50 |
| | | | | | | | 3 | Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Robert Kucaba, Downers Grove | |

West Suburban Bridge Club
features special Newcomer
Games every Friday night in
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Jim O'Neil, popular columnist
for the I/N News, directs the
game. For more information,
you can reach
Jim at 708-660-9673 .



Bridge is the best
game in the world
and that's no bull!

Fast Arrival Has Nothing to Do with Game Time by Suzi Subeck

Expert players generally use the principle of "fast arrival" to decide when to bid a game and when to bid a slam. Fast Arrival applies when you and partner have an auction where you are already committed to bidding a game. How does it work? The faster you arrive at game, the less you are interested in a slam.

For example: West opens one diamond; East responds two clubs; West bids three diamonds... East has shown 11+ high card points, enough for a 2-over-1, and West has shown 16-18 with a good 6-card diamond suit. Certainly the points are there for a game. But what about a slam? If East bids five diamonds, using the principle of fast arrival, he would show less of a hand than a raise to four diamonds.

Say that East holds: ♠ xx ♥ QJx ♦ Kxx ♣ KJxxx. He has nothing extra for his two-over-one. He would bid a hasty five diamonds to discourage West from considering a slam.

On the other hand, if East holds: ♠ J ♥ Kxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ AKxxx, he would bid only four diamonds. This leaves room for West to Blackwood or cuebid, making it easy to find a slam if the hand belongs there.

Remember: Fast arrival applies in any auction once your side has committed to bid game.

Did you know???

A study shows that playing bridge can boost your immune system. The findings were presented at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans. University of California biologist, Marian Diamond, conducted an experiment showing that individuals have increased numbers of immune cells after a game of bridge. Playing bridge stimulates a gland that produces white blood cells, which patrol the body in search of viruses and other invaders. Dr. Diamond said that bridge is an ideal activity to study in humans. Bridge players must plan ahead, use working memory, show initiative, and keep many items in sequence – mental challenges involving the dorsolateral cortex. Translation: playing bridge just might make you feel better!

Hocus-Pocus ... a review by Stan Subeck

Hocus-Pocus by Erwin Brecher is not a manual for magicians. Rather, it is an entertaining collection of logic puzzles and bridge problems. Each chapter contains a bridge problem and a puzzle. Most of the puzzles are logic problems; although some require a little scientific knowledge. The bridge problems are presented in a double-dummy format and are both interesting and solvable by the intermediate level player. Most are high-level contracts (game or slam) and therefore involve only a limited number of play variations. Even if you don't solve a problem, you will enjoy reading the creative solutions. Here is a sample problem set: one double dummy bridge problem and one puzzle. See if you can make 6♥ on the lead of the ♥2.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ T87 ♥ Q98 ♦ J9854 ♣ 87</p> |  | <p>♠ AQ9432 ♥ 7 ♦ T63 ♣ 543</p> |
| <p>♠ KJ65 ♥ 432 ♦ 92 ♣ KJT9</p> | | <p>♠ ♥ AKJT65 ♦ AKQ ♣ AQ62</p> |

Solution: Win the heart in dummy and play a spade discarding a high diamond. Win the return; draw one more trump and cash two diamonds. Enter dummy with a trump and discard 3 clubs on dummy's diamonds.

A logic puzzle: Three men met on the street –Mr. Black, Mr. Grey and Mr. White. “Do you know”, asked Mr. Black that between us we are wearing black, grey and white, but not one of us is wearing the color of his name. That's right said the man in white. Can you say who was wearing which color?

This book makes great bathroom reading since each chapter is a pair of independent problems. Solving double-dummy problems does improve your bridge play. You learn to think ahead and visualize the opponents' hands.

Answer: Mr. Black is talking to the man in white so Black is wearing grey; Grey is wearing white; White is wearing black.

Using the Partnership Desk by Carl Sharp

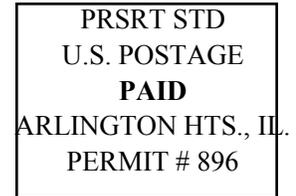
I have been manning the partnership desk for quite some time at Chicago area tournaments. Newcomers (Intermediates and Novices) are the majority of my clientele. This, of course, stands to reason since many new players have not yet formed regular partnerships with other players. I try very hard to make good match-ups... players with similar holdings of masterpoints and similar personality traits. To date, I have been very lucky, and for the most part, these partnerships work out quite well. Some have even developed into long term pairings and long term friendships.

When you come to the partnership desk to find a partner or teammates, it is important that you come early. A half hour before the game is just barely enough. An hour ahead is significantly better. You must fill out a form with your name and number of masterpoints so I can best do my job.

While you are waiting for an assignment, it is possible that you will run into an acquaintance or friend from your local duplicate or someone you met at a tournament in the past. You might then decide to play for the day with that person. That is perfectly fine. However, it is not fine if you do not stop back and let me know. If, after you have set up your date to play, I match you with someone else, that someone else will think he has a game when he really does not. That is not fair. Please abide by “partnership desk etiquette” and be sure to let me know if you find your own partner once you have signed up at the desk.

The CCBA (Chicago Contract Bridge Association) always guarantees partners for new players up to a reasonable time before the start of the game. To do this, we have what is called a “guaranteed partner.” This guaranteed partner promises not to make his own dates for games at the tournament so he can be available to play when we need him. Guaranteed partners play for free. A Guaranteed partner can stipulate which days he is willing to be available. On those days we are set, and we look for others to be the Guaranteed partner for the remainder of the schedule.

I am always in need of people to volunteer to help out with this. In particular I need one set of volunteers with less than 100 points and one set with less than 299 points. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me, Carl Sharp, at 834 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60621 (snail mail), (773) 483-3734 (home phone), ibsharp@mailstation.com (email). Thanks in advance!



Upcoming Tournaments

Labor Day Sectional, September 3-6, Skokie
Iron Mountain, September 17-19, 2004, Iron Mountain
Eau Claire, October 8-10, 2004, Eau Claire
Stars of Tomorrow, October 9-10, Northbrook
Flight C (0-500) GNT, October 16, Arlington Heights
Central States Regional, October 18-24, Lake Geneva
Fallfest Sectional, November 12-14, Lombard
Madison, December 3-5, 2004
Holiday Regional, 12/26-30, Lake Geneva

Beating the Best by Suzi Subeck

One of the best things about bridge is the ability to play against the best in the world. No other sport affords the “average,” much less the “novice,” a chance to do that. An up and coming golfer would not be likely to find himself in a foursome with Tiger Woods. An up and coming tennis player would never get to play one-on-one with Venus Williams. And a little leaguer would not get a chance to hit off of Roger Clemens. However, in bridge, if you don’t restrict yourself to playing novice games, you CAN and WILL get your shot at the pros.

I strongly recommend playing open events at least some of the time. When I was starting out in bridge in the early seventies, there were no “newcomer” games. The closest thing to that was the “Non-Life Master” pairs and that was open to anyone who did not meet the requirements for Life Master, no matter how many points he had. I didn’t complain though, because I realized that on any hand, any pair can beat any other pair... you just have to play enough to make it happen... and when it does, the satisfaction, is amazing. When I beat the late Jim Jacoby’s team in a Swiss match, and never beat another team all day, I went home feeling good. Just sitting at the table with Jacoby and his entourage of kibitzers made me feel important. I knew that these people were not there to kibitz me; still, when I got the best of a board and the kibitzers told me how well I did, it made me feel really important... and in doing this, they built up my confidence in my own abilities, and that made me stronger... individually and as half of a partnership. Confidence is a major factor in beating better players.

You cannot beat a better pair or team by underbidding. Good teams always bid their games and slams. The way to beat better players is to bid close games, especially vulnerable ones. Distribution matters as much as high cards. When playing high level competition, you want to stretch your values as much as you can on a hand, bid the maximum, and play your best to make your contract.

You want to be careful about doubles. Newer partnerships do not always defend perfectly. On the other hand, I was playing at a club game years ago, and the “worst” player in the game doubled me in three spades. I thought, “How bad can that be? This lady always slips a trick or two on defense.” Everyone else in the room was in the same contract I was, but undoubled, going down THREE! This little lady slipped her usual trick against me and only beat me TWO. Of course, that gave her 300 while the rest of the field only scored 150. She could afford to slip a trick on defense since she doubled. She went away feeling pretty good about it.

Be confident. Remember you CAN beat good teams. As in golf, where making one great shot can make your whole day even if you never par another hole, in bridge, beating one good team or one good pair, can make you feel like really great! Give yourself the chance. You will be glad you did!

| |
|---|
| Madison Sectional December 3-5 Eagle School 5454 Gunflint Trail Madison WI 53711 Saturday, December 4 9:30am 399er Strat. Pairs 1:30pm Stratified Pairs Players with 0-5 masterpoints play free if ACBL members! Tournament Chair: Diane Vaughn 608-238-0851 |
|---|