

I/N News ... especially for you!

Volume 6, Issue 1
Spring, 2006

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Do It With Finesse ... a review of Bridge Hands.com

Inside this issue:

Bridge Hands publishes a free online newsletter for Newcomers, Novices and Intermediates. If you are interested in subscribing to their free email publication, you may sign up by visiting the Bridge Hands website:

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

Do It With
Finesse 1

Hold your cards back...

Dear Ms.
Information 3

Remember: One peek is worth a thousand finesse!!



Here are some sample finessing scenarios from the Bridge Hands site:

How to
Matchpoint 4

A Q 4
4 3 2
Play low toward **Q**

Slam Bidding 5

K Q 5
4 3 2
Play low toward **Q**, if opponent does not play **A**, repeat sequence

Tournament
Schedules & Ads 9

A 5 4
Q 3 2
Play **A** then low toward **Q**

Tournament
Results 10

A J 4
K 3 2
Cash **K**, then play low toward **J**

A J 10 9
4 3 2
Play low toward **J**, repeat low toward **10**

In The Zone 12

A J 9
4 3 2
Play low toward **9**, repeat low toward **J**

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

K J 10

4 3 2

Play low toward **J**, repeat low toward **10**

A Q 10

4 3 2

Play low toward **10**, repeat low toward **Q**

Q 9 5 2

K J 4 3

Play low to **K** (away from **Q 9** tenace first)

A 3 2

J 10 4

Do not break suit, seek an endplay. If desperate, try low to **J 10** once, then cash **A**, hoping to trap honor or doubleton **K** or **Q**

A 3 2

J 9 4

Similar to the above, first play low toward the **J 9** before cashing the **A**

A K J 6

5 4 3 2

Holding a combination of eight cards in a suit, first play the **A** hoping the opponent drops the **Q**, then finesse the **Q** if opponents both play low

A 2

Q 3

Do not break suit, seek endplay. If slam, consider squeeze (play **A** and make opponent guard **K**)

A 3 2

Q 9 8

Simple approach is **A** then lead toward **Q**. When opponents have 3 of top 7 (**K J 10**), and declarer holds 4 or top 7 – **A Q 9 8**. Endplay and squeeze opportunities may be possible. Watch opponent suit discards, first playing other suits

A 4 3 2

K J 6 5

Typically cash **A** then finesse opponent's **Q**. Carefully watch count, signaling, leads, inferences.

A K Q 10

4 3 2

Opponent 4-2 “a-priori” break is 48% and 3-3 is 35%. Consider defender play tactics, watching count and discards

Q 3 2

K

Take *early* play toward hidden stiff **K**. Plan play before playing to trick 1, proceeding early to make a smooth play.

K 10 5

4 3 2

Depending on auction level, an endplay may be mandatory. But simply first playing toward the 10 brings up odds from 50% to 62%. In Notrump contracts consider dangerous opponent.

A J 10

4 3 2

Basic repeated finesse with 75% chance to make 2 tricks

A Q 10

4 3 2

As above, 75% chance to make 2 or a 25% chance for 3 tricks

A Q 9

4 3 2

Same idea here, first finessing to the 9 and then the **Q** has a 62% chance to make 2 tricks

A 3 2

Q 10 4

Cash **A** then play low to **Q 10** hoping Right Hand Opponent goes up and makes life easy.

A 3 2

Q J 6 5 4

With 8 card suit cash the **A** first. This holds your loser to one on all 3-2 breaks and singleton kings

A J 3 [2]

Q 4 3

When playing for 3 tricks, *never* lead **Q**. Play toward **J** and then cash **A**; holding 4 player can actually make 4

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

A 3 2

Q J 5 4

Play the **A** and then lead toward the **Q J** twice. **Never** lead **Q** or **J** (unless only 2 tricks are needed).

if opponent carelessly discards 1 and partner holds **K x** or if opponents are **3-3** and one mistakenly goes up on repeated finesse. However if RHO is marked with honors, cash **A** and then lead toward the **Q** playing RHO for **Kx**.

A K J

4 3 2

Play **A**, then finesse the Left Hand Opponent's **Q**

A K 10 4

J 3 2

Play **A** (hoping West holds **Q x**), next low toward **10**, then cash **K**.

A Q 10 3

J 9 2

Play depends on entries. With entries, tempt with the **J** and West will likely cover holding **K**. Without entries, play **9** and West will not cover – then play **J**.

A Q 9 3 2

K 10 4

Holding intermediates with side suit transportation problems, consider unblocking maneuvers. Lead the **10** to the **A** (not low to A), then **low** to **K** – the only way to make 4 when South is long in suit.

This site has a lot of interesting information on it.

Beware: Not all of the material on this site is accurate.

Even these examples had to be corrected for accuracy. Use the site for entertainment, but use the lessons at your own risk!

The email newsletters can be printed and are good for “reading value” ... They are free so you have little to lose in subscribing.

Dear Ms. Information...

Dear Ms.,

My partner and I recently played at a local club game. We bid a hand to four hearts. My partner was declarer.. Over partner's one heart opening, I bid a Jacoby 2NT showing a forcing raise in hearts with four or more trump. Partner alerted and bid 3♦. Yes, I know that showed a singleton or void diamond, but I forgot to alert. I remembered shortly thereafter, however, I was not sure what to do. At what point should that have been explained to our opponents? And who should have explained it... the declarer or the dummy?

Thank you!

Madison Mama

Dear Madison Mama,

YOU should have been explained to your opponents as soon as you remembered that you had missed the alert... even if the auction was still live. Partner knew what his bid meant so you would not be giving him any information. The opponents are entitled to know too. If you remembered early enough, it may have been possible to back up the auction to the 3♦ call in case your opponent wanted to double to suggest a sacrifice in diamonds or a lead in case you ended up playing the hand in no-trump.

If you had not realized that you missed the alert, partner should have told the opponents after the auction ended BEFORE any opening lead was made.

Partner could not tell the opponents during the auction in case you had forgotten. That would wake you up to the information. The information would then become “unauthorized” to you and you would have to be very careful not to take any advantage from having heard partner's explanation.

If there is unauthorized information transmitted during an auction by the defending side, it MUST be explained to the opponents, but not until AFTER the hand is played. The director should be called to determine if there was any damage.

Ms. Information

Slam Bidding by Jim O'Neil

Once in a while, our partnership will be lucky enough to hold enough strength to be in the slam zone. What does it take to make a slam? First we must have enough strength to take 12 tricks (for a small slam) or 13 tricks (for a grand slam). Second, we must have enough controls - Aces, Kings, singletons and voids - to limit our losers to one (for a small slam) or none (for a grand slam).

To make a small slam, we should have at least 33 points in the combined hands. To make a grand slam, we should have at least 37 points. These need not all be high-card points; points for length and shortness can be added. We also must have the suits controlled; to make a small slam, we must have first-round control (Ace or void) in at least three suits, and first or second round control (King or singleton) in the fourth. To make a grand slam we must have first round control in all suits.

North: ♠K8 ♥K3 ♦K7 ♣KQJ7632

South: ♠AQJ7 ♥AQJ ♦QJ5 ♣T98

South's hand has 17 points in high cards; North's hand is worth perhaps 19-20 points - there are 15 points in high-cards, and 4-5 points in distribution. When South opens 1NT, North knows that slam is there unless there are two quick losers. Unfortunately for N-S, there are two aces missing. N-S have plenty of tricks, but the defense can take their two tricks first. Change South's hand to ♠Axxx ♥Axx ♦Axx ♣Axx, and a grand slam is cold.

North: ♠AK8 ♥K53 ♦A764 ♣762

South: ♠764 ♥A65 ♦K32 ♣AK85

Here controls are not a problem. N-S have first- and second-round control of every suit. But there is not nearly enough strength for slam. In fact, game might not even make. South's hand is worth 14 points, North's hand is worth 14 as well. The combined 28 points are well short of the 33 needed for slam.

How can we find out if both these criteria (strength and controls) are met?

The strength of a hand is revealed during the auction.

When partner opens 1NT, we can count on him for 15 to 17 points; when partner bids 3S over our 1S opening bid, we can count on him to hold about 11 or 12 points. Add these points to our own, and we should know whether or not we have the necessary 33 for slam.

We have tools available to find out about the number of controls. We can use one of two popular Ace-asking conventions: Blackwood or Gerber to find out the number of Aces and Kings in partner's hand, or we can use "cue-bids" to find out specific controls.

The Blackwood Convention

Invented by Indianapolis bridge expert Easley Blackwood in the 1930's, the "Blackwood Convention" is well known to all bridge players today. It is also one of the most mis-used conventions. The convention is quite simple; after a trump suit has been found, a bid of 4NT asks partner to show the number of Aces he holds. Either partner, Opening bidder or Responder, may use the 4NT in this way.

When partner bids 4NT "Blackwood", we respond as follows:

5♣ = Zero or 4 Aces

5♦ = 1 Ace

5♥ = 2 Aces

5♠ = 3 Aces

Responder must not count a void as an Ace.

We should only use Blackwood when:

- 1) We know we have the strength in the combined hand for slam and we only want to make sure we are not off two cashing Aces.
- 2) We've agreed on a trump suit.
- 3) We will know, from Partner's response, where to play the hand.

♠AKQ64 ♥KQ53 ♦KQ4 ♣3

We open 1♠, and partner responds 3♠, showing 4+ Spades and about 10+ to 12 points. We know there is enough strength for slam; our hand was worth about

(Continued on page 6)

(Slam Bidding, Continued from page 5)

20 points when we picked it up. When partner raises Spades, it becomes worth even more – perhaps 22.

We have agreed on Spades, and all we need to know is the number of Aces partner holds. If partner has 1 Ace, we must stop in 5 Spades; if partner has 2 Aces, we belong in 6 Spades. This is perfect for Blackwood.

We should NOT use Blackwood when:

1) We have a void.

♠AKQ64 ♥KQ53 ♦KQ43 ♣void

Again, we open 1♠, and partner responds 3♠. We want to be in slam if partner holds a red Ace; a grand slam will be a good contract if partner holds both red Aces. Blackwood will not help us here. If we jump to 4NT, and partner bids 5♦, showing 1 Ace, we will not know whether or not it is the ♣A. If it is the ♣A, we need to stop in 5; if it is a red Ace, we belong in 6.

In this situation, we should start with a 4♣ "cue-bid", showing first round control of Clubs, and interest in investigating slam. Partner will cooperate by cue-bidding a red Ace if he has one. Do NOT bid 4NT and "chicken out" by signing off in 5♠ over a 5♦ response.

2) We have two fast losers in a suit:

♠AKQ764 ♥KQ53 ♦Q3 ♣A

The auction again is 1♠ - 3♠. And again if we jump to 4NT, we will not know what to do after a 5♦ response. If partner has the Heart Ace, we may be off two cashing tricks in Diamonds.

Again, we should start with a cue bid of 4♣. Again, do NOT bid 4NT and "chicken out" by signing off in 5♠ over a 5♦ response.

After the Responder to Blackwood shows the number of Aces he holds, the Blackwood bidder ask for Kings by bidding 5NT. The 5NT King ask guarantees that his side holds all the Aces, and that a Grand Slam is possible. Responses to 5NT are similar:

6♣ = Zero Kings

6♦ = 1 King

6♥ = 2 Kings

6♠ = 3 Kings

6NT = 4 Kings

The 4NT bidder is the captain of the hand. The Player responding to 4NT must respect the captain's decision.

Grand Slam Force

A jump to 5NT, after a trump suit has been agreed, is not a Blackwood King ask. If a player holds all 4 Aces, and just wants to ask for Kings, he must bid 4NT first, then bid 5NT over partner's 5♣ Response.

After a jump to 5NT, partner should bid 7 of the agreed trump suit with 2 of the top 3 Honors, or sign off in 6.

♠QJT654 ♥void ♦A ♣AKQJ43

We open 1♠, and partner responds 3♠. All we need to know about is the ♠AK. If partner has them both, we want to be in 7 Spades, if he has only 1 (or none), we will stop in 6. We can find out by bidding 5NT.

The Gerber Convention

This convention was invented by John Gerber of Houston, who called it "Four Club Blackwood".

Gerber is similar to Blackwood, and should be used when the 4NT bid is not available as an Ace-asking bid. It is best used only after a limited Notrump bid, showing a balanced hand and a specific point range, such as:

1) An opening 1NT or 2NT bid, showing say, 15-17, or 21-22 points.

2) A NT rebid by opener (e.g. 1C-1S-1NT, showing 12-14, or 1C-1S-2NT showing 18-19).

3) A 2NT response by responder, showing 12-14 points.

In all these cases, a jump to 4NT would be "Quantitative", asking partner to pass with a minimum for his bid, or to bid 6 with a maximum.

After a 4♣ Gerber bid, Responder bids as follows:

(Continued on page 7)

(Slam Bidding, Continued from page 6)

4♦ = Zero or 4 Aces

4♥ = 1 Ace

4♠ = 2 Aces

4NT = 3 Aces

As with Blackwood, the Ace-asker can follow up by asking for Kings with a bid of 5♣. Responder shows his Kings as follows:

5♦ = Zero Kings

5♥ = 1 King

5♠ = 2 Kings

5NT = 3 Kings

6♣ = 4 Kings

Cue-bidding

As we have seen, there are many hands where Blackwood should not be used. However, we can still investigate slam by "cuebidding", that is, bidding a new suit to show a first round control - usually an Ace (but sometimes a void). Once a trump suit has been agreed upon, a bid in a new suit is not needed to show length in that suit; it is best used to show a specific Ace (or void) in that suit and suggests the values for slam. It asks partner to cooperate by bidding a suit where he holds an ace.

To save bidding room when cuebidding, both partners should always bid the cheapest suit in which they have a control (an Ace or void). After a suit has been bypassed, a later bid of that suit shows a second-round control (a King or singleton).

Consider these hands:

♠AKQ64 ♥KQ53 ♦KQ43 ♣void

We open 1♠ and partner makes a limit raise of 3♠. We have noted that a 4NT bid would not tell us what we need to know. We need to know specific Aces, not number of aces, partner has. So we start with a "cue-bid" of 4♣. This shows first-round control of clubs and interest in slam. Partner will "cue-bid" a red Ace if he has one. If partner has the Diamond Ace, he will cue-bid 4♦. We can bid 5♣, and partner can bid 5♥ if he has the Heart Ace as well. Now we can get to the grand slam.

If partner does not have the Diamond Ace, but has the

Heart Ace, he will cue-bid 4♥, and we will bid the small slam.

If partner has neither red Ace, he will bid 4♠, and we will pass.

What if we need to know about a second-round control?

♠AKQ764 ♥KQ53 ♦Q3 ♣A

Again the auction proceeds 1♠ - 3♠, and again we start with a 4♣ cuebid. If partner has the ♦A, he will bid 4♦. We can bid 5♣, and partner can bid 5♥ if he has the Heart Ace as well. Now we can get to the grand slam.

But what if partner does not have the ♦A? Over 4♣ he will bid 4♥ with the ♥A. Now we can bid 5♣, and partner can bid 5♦ with the ♦K (or singleton) - he has already denied first round control when he did not bid 4♦. If partner cannot bid 5♦ over 5♣, we must sign off at 5♠ - the opponents will have 2 cashing Diamonds. And we have just told this to the opponents!

If partner has neither red Ace, he will bid 4♠ over 4♣, and we will pass.

Many partnerships agree that Blackwood can be combined with cue-bidding.

♠KQ7642 ♥KQ53 ♦Q3 ♣A

After 1♠ - 3♠, our hand is unsuitable for Blackwood, so we start with a 4♣ cuebid. If partner cue-bids 4♦, showing first-round control, we know we do not have 2 quick losers in any suit, so we can now bid 4NT, asking for Aces. If partner bids 5♦ (1 Ace), we will stop in 5 Spades. If partner bids 5♥ (2 Aces), we will bid the slam; it should be at worst on a finesse. If partner bids 5♠ (3 Aces), we can look for a grand slam. Rather than leaping to 7, it is probably best to bid 5NT (King ask), and sign off in 6 if partner has no Kings, but bid 7 if he has at least 1.

Partner opens 1♠. What do you bid with each of the following?

1) ♠KQ ♥KQ53 ♦KQ4 ♣A765

(Continued on page 8)

(Slam Bidding, Continued from page 7)

2) ♠KQ76 ♥AQ3 ♦KQJ2 ♣A3

3) ♠AT764 ♥AKQ53 ♦A4 ♣A

You open 1♠, and partner raises to 3♠. What do you bid with?

4) ♠AK9764 ♥KQ53 ♦KQ4 ♣void

5) ♠AK764 ♥K32 ♦KJ42 ♣3

6) ♠KQ764 ♥AKQ3 ♦KQ6 ♣3

7) ♠KQ764 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♣AK

Partner opens with 1NT (15-17 hcp). What do you bid with?

8) ♠AKQ7642 ♥3 ♦KQJ4 ♣3

9) ♠A64 ♥AQ3 ♦K74 ♣KT32

10) ♠AKQ64 ♥3 ♦KQJ64 ♣32

Answers to Slam Bidding, Hands 1-10:

1. 2♣. You have the values for slam, but which slam? We need to find a trump suit, or Notrump first. We can always jump to 4NT later.

2. 4NT. We have the values for slam, and we have a trump suit. If partner has 1 Ace, we will be content with 6♠. If he has 2 Aces, we can bid 5NT to check for Kings. If partner has even 1 King, grand slam should have good play.

3. 5NT. This is the "Grand Slam Force". All we care about is the K and Q of spades. If partner has them both, we want to be in 7, otherwise we will stop in 6.

4. 4♣. We should not Blackwood with a void; if we do, we won't know whether we belong in 5 or 6 if partner has 1 Ace, or if we belong in 6 or 7 if partner has 2.

5. 4♠. We don't have anywhere near the values for slam. We can't even be sure 4♠ is cold.

6. 4NT. A perfect hand for Blackwood. If partner has only 1 Aces, we will stop in 5. If partner has 2 Aces, we will bid 6. (If partner has all 3 missing Aces, he is too strong for a limit raise!)

7. 4♣. We cannot Blackwood with two quick losers in a suit; partner will respond 5♦ with ♠AJ84 ♥Q8 ♦Q75 ♣Q632 or ♠AJ84 ♥87 ♦KQ5 ♣J632. We must start with a cue-bid and hope that partner can cue-bid a diamond control.

8. 4♣. This is the Gerber convention, asking for Aces. In the unlikely event that partner has only 1 Ace, we will stop in 4♠. If he has 2 Aces, we will bid 6♠, and if he has all 3, we can bid the Grand Slam - 7NT.

9. 4NT. This is not Ace-asking. It asks partner to pass with a minimum (15 or a bad 16), but bid 6NT with a maximum (a good 16 or 17). Opposite ♠K72 ♥K842 ♦AJ3 ♣A94, slam is a poor proposition. Opposite ♠K72 ♥KJ42 ♦AJ3 ♣AJ4, slam has excellent odds.

10. 2♥. We probably have a slam if partner has at least 2 Aces, and a grand slam if partner has 3, but which slam? We can start with a transfer bid of 2♥, then bid 3♦. If Partner can support one of our suits, and can cue-bid a club control, then we can ask for Aces. We should never be in a hurry to leap to 4NT or 4♣.

The Blackwood Convention has been around for nearly 60 years; in that time many dozens of variants have evolved.

Void-Showing Responses

Even though we do not count a void as an Ace, there may be times when a void is as good as an Ace. So a system of responses to 4NT has been developed where a void can be shown. In addition to the standard responses of 5♣, 5♦, 5♥ and 5♠, responder can bid:

5NT = 2 Aces and a void

6 of a suit (lower ranking than the trump suit) = 1 Ace, and a void in the bid suit

6 of the trump suit = 1 Ace, and a void in a higher ranking suit (e.g., if Hearts were trump, a leap to 6♥ over 4NT would show 1 Ace and a void in Spades)

Responding over Interference

While it is very rare, sometimes the opponents will bid over a 4NT Ace-asking bid. It is a good idea to have an agreement as to how we will handle the interference. The most popular way is called "DOPI" (which stands for Double = 0, Pass = 1). After the 4NT bid is overcalled, Responder bids:

Double = 0 Aces

(Continued on page 9)

Pass = 1 Ace

Cheapest bid = 2 Aces

Next cheapest bid = 3 Aces

(Slam Bidding, continued from page 8)

If the 4NT bid is doubled, redouble = Zero, Pass = 1, 5♣ = 2, etc.

Key Card Blackwood

One version of Blackwood counts the King of the agreed trump suit like an Ace. Even if there is only one Ace missing, slam may be at best on a finesse, and have no play, unless the partnership also holds the King of trump. Thus there are five "Key Cards" - each of the four Aces, plus the trump King. Playing "Key Card" Blackwood, responder bids over 4NT as follows:

5♣ = Zero or 4 "Key Cards"

5♦ = 1 (or 5) Key Cards

5♥ = 2 Key Cards

5♠ = 3 Key Cards

A follow up bid of 5NT is still a King-ask. But the King of trump is not counted here; it has already been counted as a Key Card.

Roman Key Card Blackwood

A more modern version of Blackwood also includes the Queen of trump in its responses to 4NT. Playing "Roman Key Card Blackwood", responder bids as follows.

5♣ = Zero or 3 Key Cards

5♦ = 1 or 4 Key Cards

5♥ = 2 (or 5) Key Cards, without the trump Queen

5♠ = 2 (or 5) Key Cards, and the trump Queen

If partner bids 5♣ or 5♦, the cheapest bid - other than 5 of the agreed trump suit - asks for the Queen of trump. In an even more modern variation of Roman Key-Card Blackwood, some players invert the 5♣ and 5♦ responses - 5♣ shows 1 or 4, and 5♦ shows 0 or 3. This is sometimes called "1430 RKC".

Specific King Responses

Sometimes the 4NT/5NT asker needs to know not the number of Kings, but whether or not a specific King is held by partner. So a 5NT King asking bid asks partner to bid the cheapest suit in which he has a King. If he has no Kings, he bids 6 of the trump suit.



March Madness Regional, March 6-12, 2006

Intermediate/Newcomer Program

(I/N) Events for 299er Players

**Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, WI
Room Rate \$98 plus \$15 resort fee, single or double.
Call 262-248-8811 or 800-558-3417 before 2/24, 2006.**

Entry fees for I/N games: \$10.00/person/session

All masterpoints are red.

ACBL members with 0-5 MP's play free.

Guest Speaker Program. See Daily Bulletin for details.

Monday 7:30 I/N Stratified Charity Pairs

Tuesday through Friday

1:30 & 7:30 Single Sessions

I/N Stratified Pairs 0-20, 20-50, 100-200, 200-300

Saturday 1:30 & 7:30 Single Sessions

49er Pairs Stratified 0-20, 20-50

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

Sunday 11:00 am & 2:00

299er Stratified Swiss Teams,

0-50, 50-100, 100-200, 200-300

2 Single Sessions, More Points



**Angie Clark, I/N Chairperson: 847-272-1060 or
angieclark@comcast.net**

Tournament Results:

Wisconsin Holiday Sectional, West Allis, WI

Tuesday Afternoon 199er Pairs (9 pairs)

- 1.43 1 Judie Hlavka - Dee Becker, Racine WI
1.07 2 Myrna Hollander, Milwaukee WI; Barb Dettmering, Pewaukee WI
1.15 3/4 1 Joanne Behling, Wauwatosa WI; Nancy Meylor, Pewaukee WI
0.70 3/4 Elaine Gordon - Susan Zellin, Glendale WI
0.86 2 Thomas Didelot - Jay Eggener, Hartford WI

Tuesday Morning 199er Pairs (12 pairs)

- 2.67 1 1 1 Anna Biederwolf - Pat Shea, Racine WI
1.75 2/3 2 2 Beatrice Boyd, Milwaukee WI; Winona Wilson, Thiensville WI
1.75 2/3 Dorothy Grandine - John Grandine, Hartford WI
1.13 4 3 Joanne Behling, Wauwatosa WI; Nancy Meylor, Pewaukee WI
0.93 4 Elaine Gordon - Susan Zellin, Glendale WI

Wednesday Afternoon 199er Pairs (8 pairs)

- 1.33 1 1 1 Maggie Topitzes, Milwaukee WI; Marlene Frey
1.00 2 2 Michael Wagner, Delafield WI; Elijah Hall
0.75 3 3 2 James Karolewicz - Kathy Karolewicz, Mequon WI

Thursday Afternoon 199er Pairs (10 pairs)

- 1.43 1 Dee Becker - Judie Hlavka, Racine WI
1.27 2 1 Irene Bolton, US; Jennifer Musson, Racine WI
0.80 3 Susan Zellin, Glendale WI; Ron Ramaker, Brown Deer
1.11 4 2 1 Clara Zukrow, Brown Deer WI; Jackie Mickelson
0.71 3 Joanne Behling, Wauwatosa WI; Nancy Meylor
0.64 2/4 David Raitt, Madison WI; Jim Mulbrandon
0.64 2/4 Anna Biederwolf - Pat Shea, Racine WI
0.64 2/4 Irma Larsen - Sandra Hetrick, Racine WI

Thursday Morning 199er Pairs (14 pairs)

- 1.62 1 Joanne Behling, Wauwatosa WI; Nancy Meylor
1.07 2/3 Ryan Daniels - Jennifer Daniels, Vernon Hills IL
1.28 2/3 1 Jackie Mickelson; Clara Zukrow, Brown Deer WI
0.96 4 2 John Pereles, Milwaukee WI; Mark Harrington
0.72 5/6 3 Louis Sharp - Patricia Sharp, Libertyville IL
0.49 5/6 Dee Becker - Judie Hlavka, Racine WI
0.86 4/5 1/2 Patricia Diel, Milwaukee WI; Rachel Jacobs
0.86 4/5 1/2 Irma Larsen - Sandra Hetrick, Racine WI

Friday Future Master Teams (8 teams)

- 2.92 1 1 Jay Eggener - Thomas Didelot, Hartford WI; Mildred Schelkun - Penny Hirsch, Milwaukee WI
2.19 2 2 1 Susan Zellin - Ronald Cohn, Glendale WI; Ron Ramaker, Brown Deer WI; Sharad Jugal, Elm Grove WI
1.64 3 3 Chris Unger - Ann Sawyer, Brookfield WI; Joanne Behling, Wauwatosa WI; Nancy Meylor, Pewaukee WI

West Suburban Bridge Club
features special Newcomer
Games every Friday night in
Darien, IL at 7:30 p.m.

Jim O'Neil, popular
columnist for the I/N
News, directs the game. For
more information, you can
reach

Don't Miss the Summer Nationals, July 13 – 23, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago!
There will be a full compliment of I/N Games and Events including speakers, parties,
lessons and entertainment. It promises to be the **GREATEST** time of your life!

For more information, contact Carol LaBarge, I/N Chairman:
CarolHinsdaleBR@aol.com or check out our website (*see page 12 for details*)

Winterfest Sectional, Chicago, IL

Friday Morning 299er Pair (11.5 tables)

- 2.22 1 David Booth, Aurora IL; Ping Liu, Naperville IL
- 1.90 2 1 Caralee Hopman - Ron Hopman, Huntley IL
- 1.25 3 Candace Timson - Marilyn Keil, Hinsdale IL
- 1.43 4 2 Linda Shaw - Julia Kelley, Geneva IL
- 1.07 5 3 Julie Miller-Garino, La Grange IL; Sally Gill
- 1.36 6 4 1 Barbara Chasnoff, Park Ridge IL; Diane Boger
- 0.60 5 Jeannette Chase, Lake Barrington IL; Linda Rough
- 1.02 6 2 Donald Valiska - Patricia Valiska, Highland IN
- 0.77 3 William Kooser - John Jencks, Wheaton IL
- 0.57 4 Honor Mogul, Northfield IL; Myles Cunningham

299er Pairs (12 tables)

- 2.22 1 Joan Siavelis - Penny Carduff, Arlington Hts IL
- 1.67 2 1 Honor Mogul, Northfield IL; Myles Cunningham
- 1.25 3 Charles Nier, Elgin IL; Walter Krueger, Glenview IL
- 1.09 4 2 William Kooser - John Jencks, Wheaton IL
- 0.70 5 Bonnie Franklin - Paulette Swofford, Highland Park
- 0.82 6 3 Karen Dale Kent, Barrington IL; Diane Treslo
- 0.61 4 Celeste Jacklin - Ann Witt, Aurora IL
- 1.13 5 1 Patricia Valiska - Donald Valiska, Highland IN
- 0.85 2 Susan Lambe, Glenview IL; Patricia Matkov
- 0.64 3 Marilyn Rivkin, Chicago IL; Susan Wellek
- 0.48 4 Mary Hilman, Mt Prospect IL; Marlene Beranek

Friday Evening 299er Pairs (5.5 tables)

- 1.62 1 1 1 Steve Boger - Diane Boger, Buffalo Grove IL
- 1.22 2 2 Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Robert Kucaba
- 0.91 3 3 Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL
- 0.89 4 4 2 J Thomas Johnson - Barbara Chasnoff, Park Ridge
- 0.67 3 Jagdish Shah - Shobha Shah, Oakbrook IL

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs (18 tables)

- 2.83 1 1 Ron Hopman - Caralee Hopman, Huntley IL
- 2.12 2 2 1 Nancy Bruick - John Bruick, Libertyville IL
- 1.39 3/4 3/4 Sally Gill, Bloomingdale IL; Julie Miller-Garino, La Grange IL
- 1.39 3/4 3/4 Charles Nier, Elgin IL; Alfred Prus, Elmhurst IL
- 1.41 5 5 2 David Murdoch - Agnes Murdoch, Wilmette IL
- 0.99 6 6 3 John Ulreich - Lynn Ulreich, Frankfort IL
- 0.72 4 Joyce Knauff, Wilmette IL; Richard Maskoff, Chicago IL
- 0.50 5/6 Irwin Krimke, Buffalo Grove IL; Charles Mann, Northbrook IL
- 0.47 5/6 Tom Prucher - Hewlett Prucher, St Charles IL

Saturday Evening 299er Pairs (6 tables)

- 1.62 1 1 1 David Murdoch - Agnes Murdoch, Wilmette IL
- 1.22 2 2 Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL
- 0.91 3 3 2 J C Smyth - Andrew Haider, Gurnee IL
- 0.68 4 4 3 Joyce Knauff, Wilmette IL; Richard Maskoff, Chicago IL

Sunday Morning 299er Swiss (9 tables)

- 1/2 1 Jeannette Chase; Shelly Costello, Barrington IL; Nancy Kisten, Hawthorn Woods IL; Linda Rough, Lake Zurich IL
- 1/2 Eleanor Nuellen - James Nuellen, Hinsdale IL; Michael Sittinger - Shelia Sittinger, Lombard IL
- 3/4 2/3 1 Celeste Jacklin - Ann Witt, Aurora IL; Judy D'Isa, La Grange Park IL; Betsy Hoyd, Brookfield IL
- 3/4 2/3 Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL; Harland London - Holly London, Woodridge IL

299er Swiss (9 tables)

- 1 Charles Johnson - Demaris Johnson, Aurora IL; Manish Dixit - Lan Tang, Naperville IL
- 2 1 1 Diane Treslo, Rolling Meadows IL; Lois Waskowski, ; Lisa Frese, Lake Barrington IL; Karen Dale Kent, Barrington IL
- 3 2 Donald Valiska - Patricia Valiska, Highland IN; Larry Trilli, Munster IN; Joan Slattery, Lansing IL
- 4 Jeannette Chase, Lake Barrington IL; Shelly Costello, Barrington IL; Linda Rough, Lake Zurich IL; Nancy Kisten, Hawthorn Woods IL

Bruce Brown Valentine Sectional
Tommy G Thompson Youth Center
640 South 84th ST West Allis, WI
February 10-12th, 2006

To encourage participation by newer players, there will be separate games, each session, for players with 0-5, 0-20, 0-50, 0-100, and 0-200 masterpoints. Depending upon attendance, these games will may be consolidated for play but stratified for purposes of determining awards.

Friday, February 10th

- 9:30 AM Stratified "Pair team" - Single Session Only
- 2:00 PM Brown Cup 1st Session - Single Session Available
- 7:30 PM Brown Cup 2nd Sess. - Single Session Available

Saturday, February 11th

- 9:30 AM Bracketed Knockout Teams Begin 1st Session
- 2:00 PM Open Pairs Stratified - Single Session
- 7:30 PM Board-A-Match Teams - Single Session

Sunday, February 12th

- 11:00 AM Swiss Teams Playthrough

Richard Murray - Tournament Chair - (414) 543-6604

William Hackbarth - Partnerships - (262) 376-1259

John Stimson - Partnerships - (262) 781-2475



Student Game (5 tables)

- 0.78 1 Nick Mucia (WY), Chicago IL; Jurgis Alvikas, WYHS Chicago IL
- 0.59 2 Nick Seltzer (LFA), Middleton WI; Brett LFA Myers, Lake Forest IL
- 0.44 3 Joyce Tam - Angela Tam, WYHS Chicago IL
- 0.33 4 Michael Hubbard Yee - Ruby Torres, Chicago IL

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Upcoming Tournaments

Bruce Brown Sectional, February 10-12, West Allis, WI

March Madness Regional, March 6-12, Lake Geneva, WI

Appleton Spring Sectional, March 24-26, Appleton, WI

District 13 Spring Regional, May 1-7, Lake Geneva, WI

In The Zone ... from NorthShoreBridge.com

Athletes frequently speak about being "in the zone," a period of exceptional receptivity to external stimuli. Basketball players in the zone make behind-the-back no-look passes or anticipate an enemy pass for a steal. Tennis players anticipate the next return and hit the lines with a winner. Golfers read every green and routinely drop 20-ft birdie putts. Bridge players, too, can be in the zone, drawing correct inferences, both positive and negative, from every bid and play and, at their own risk, from the body language and mannerisms of the opponents.

The opposite of being in the zone is being on auto-pilot. A good experienced player on auto-pilot can usually have a 55 percent game just by making routine bids and plays and avoiding careless errors. To score better without receiving lots of gifts requires instant recognition of those situations where routine bids and plays will not suffice. This means total concentration on every hand until it becomes clear that the hand is truly routine. The winning player spends more time in the zone than the also-rans.

I wish I could tell you how to get in the zone and stay there; it is much more important than mastering criss-cross squeezes and other tough plays. Bob Hamman does it better than most players. His refuses to discuss the last hand, or even to think about it; to do so merely distracts him from concentrating on the hand which is about to be played.

Getting plenty of sleep the night before is vital; coffee may help but is no substitute. Good physical condition is

important; many top players run, play tennis, or work out to prepare for national tournaments.

Concentration is vital in pair games, where a single undertrick or overtrick can cost you a full board. In team games, you can sometimes get away with focusing your concentration on the big hands (games or slams), going on auto-pilot, if you must, on the partscore hands where an error might not lose the match. Concentration problems really hurt in Board-A-Match Teams, which is scored essentially as a two-table pair game with a top score of 1; each board is either a win, a tie, or a loss, so overtricks are even more vital than in matchpoints.

If you can't get in the zone yourself, at least do everything possible to keep your partner in the zone. A sure zone-killer is to criticize partner's bidding or play. A good partner already knows when he has made an error. Criticism merely turns partner defensive and makes it impossible for him to concentrate on the next hand, especially if your criticism was a subconscious attempt to divert attention from your own error.

Players with good partnership skills score better because their partners play their best game; the occasional inevitable bad result does not ruin the rest of the session.

**Check out the new
2006 Chicago Summer NABC website at:
<http://www.geocities.com/thesubecks@sbcglobal.net/>**