

I/N News ... especially for you!

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Volume 8, Issue 1
Spring, 2008

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Forcing Major Suit Raises by Jim O'Neil

- Forcing Major Suit Raises** 1
When partner opens with 1 of a major, what is the best way to show a hand with game-going values and good trump support?
- Ms. Information** 5
Using Standard American bidding methods, there is no convenient way for Responder to show a hand with game values and trump support. A simple raise (e.g., 1S - 2S) shows about 6 to a bad 10; a jump raise (1S - 3S) shows a good 10 to about 12. A double-jump raise (1S - 4S) is best used to show a weaker, distributional raise. (Those pairs who still prefer to play the jump raise as forcing will have an equally awkward problem with limit raise hands).
- Table Manners** 6
With Standard methods, the way to show game-going hands with trump support is to bid a new suit first, then jump in Opener's suit. This is usually adequate, but there are a few drawbacks:
- The Mississippi Heart Hand** 7
Should the auction become competitive, partner will act without knowing that we have good trump support.
Partner will not know how good our trump support is. Partner may be wary of moving toward slam with weak trumps.
- Counting ... from Ask Zia** 8
There is less room for slam investigation. By bidding a new suit, then jumping, we may already be at the 4-level.
Consider this hand:
- Tournament Results** 9
♠ - AQ43 ♥ - K43 ♦ - A975 ♣ - 43
Partner opens 1♠. We respond 2♦. The next hand bids 3♣, and partner doubles.
We may feel obligated to pull partner's double, as we have good trump support. If partner has something like:
- Use of the Stop Card at Duplicate** 12
♠ - KJ652 ♥ - QJ6 ♦ - 4 ♣ - KQJ2
3♣ will be defeated several tricks, while 4♠ may go down (Club Ace, Club ruff, Heart Ace, Club ruff). But if we pass partner's double, we might find partner with:
- Tournament Schedules Throughout**
♠ - KJ652 ♥ - AQ72 ♦ - 8 ♣ - AQT
We will probably beat 3♣ about 3 tricks, while 6♠ is cold, and 7 is on a finesse.
We might hold a hand such as:
♠ - Q7642 ♥ - AK ♦ - A3 ♣ - KQ73

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We open 1♠, and partner responds 2♦. We bid 3♣, and partner jumps to 4♠. Slam is certainly possible. But it may be too dangerous to investigate.

Opposite a near minimum like:

♠ – AK83 ♥ – 75 ♦ – K654 ♣ – A65

A Grand Slam is almost cold. But if partner's trumps are not very good:

♠ – 9853 ♥ – QJ3 ♦ – KQJ5 ♣ – A5

We may be down even at the 5 level. And there is no room to investigate.

The Jacoby 2NT Convention

One popular convention designed to handle these types of hands is the “Jacoby 2NT” convention, invented by Oswald Jacoby, who also devised “Jacoby Transfers”. This convention is quite simple: After an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠, a jump to 2NT shows:

- 1) Enough strength to force to game (good 12+ points)
- 2) Support for partner's suit (4 or more cards)

The 2NT response forces to at least game, and asks Opener to further describe his hand.

Note that the Jacoby 2NT convention is used only if responder is not a passed hand, and only if the opponents have not entered the auction. By a passed hand, or in competition, a jump to 2NT is natural, showing a balanced hand of 11-12 points.

The Jacoby 2NT allows responder to show strength and support with one bid. It can allow for more accuracy should the auction become competitive. More importantly, it improves the accuracy of slam bidding, since much information can be exchanged at lower levels.

As with any convention, we give up something to get something. We give up the ability to bid a natural 2NT. This is not a great sacrifice; Responder can generally bid 2NT at his second turn. In the meantime, there is a chance to find a fit in a suit.

Opener's rebids

After a response of 2NT, it is Opener's duty to describe his hand. Opener rebids as follows:

3 of a new suit = singleton or void in the suit bid

4 of a new suit = a second good 5-card suit (usually prom-

ises two of the top three honors)

4 of the agreed trump suit = Minimum values, no singleton or void

With more than minimum values, but no singleton or void, Opener has two options. Opener can rebid 3 of the agreed trump suit, or 3NT. There are many ways to play these two bids. Perhaps the best way to play them:

3NT = about 15-18 pts, balanced or semi-balanced, typically 5-3-3-2 or 5-4-2-2 distribution

3 of the trump suit about 15-18 pts w/extra trump length, or 19+ pts.

After Opener's rebid, Responder can now decide how best to proceed. With no slam interest, he can simply jump to game. If he wants to explore further, he can use Blackwood to ask for Aces, or start cuebidding.

Some examples of the Jacoby 2NT convention in action:

- 1) (Responder) ♠ – KQ65 ♥ – K52 ♦ – T842 ♣ – A3
(Opener) ♠ – AJ973 ♥ – AQ3 ♦ – 7 ♣ – K874

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1♠	2NT (Jacoby)
3♦ (shortness)	Knowing that all his high cards are working, Responder can make a move toward slam. A possible continuation:
4♣ (cue-bid)	
4♥ (cue-bid)	4NT (Blackwood)
5♥ (2 Aces)	6♠
pass	

And a good Slam is reached with only 26 high-card points.

- 2) (Responder) ♠ – KQ65 ♥ – K52 ♦ – T842 ♣ – A3
(Opener) ♠ – AJ973 ♥ – 7 ♦ – AQ3 ♣ – K874

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1♠	2NT (Jacoby)
3♥ (shortness)	4♠
pass	

Knowing that his Heart King is not working, Responder has no slam interest unless Opener is very strong. With a minimum, Opener is glad to pass.

- 3) (Responder) ♠ – AJ94 ♥ – A76 ♦ – D – KJ7 ♣ – 743

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(Opener) ♠ – KQ532 ♥ – K3 ♦ – AQ875 ♣ – 2

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1 ♠	2NT (Jacoby)
4 ♦ (good suit)	4 ♥ (cuebid)
4NT (Blackwood)	5 ♥ (2 Aces)
6 ♠	pass

With good fitting cards in both partner's suits, Responder is willing to move toward slam.

Splinter Bids

Consider this hand: ♠ QT973 ♥ T86 ♦ K7 ♣ KQ4

Partner opens 1 ♦. We respond 1 ♠. Partner raises to 4 ♠. Do we move toward slam or not? If we pass, we might find partner with:

♠ – AKJ5 ♥ – 3 ♦ – AJ42 ♣ – A753

6 ♠ is practically cold. If we try for slam, partner might have:

♠ – AKJ5 ♥ – A753 ♦ – AJ42 ♣ – 3

We may be down even if we can stop at the 5 level.

It would be nice if partner could have bid “4 ♠ with a singleton club”, or “4 ♠ with a singleton heart”. Of course, that is not allowed, but there is another way that is just as good. A very popular convention known as “Splinter Bids” allows either Opener or Responder to show game-forcing values with a good fit, and shortness (a singleton or void) in a side suit.

There are a number of ways to play splinter bids. The simplest and perhaps most common:

At responder's first or second bid, or at Opener's second bid, a double-jump in a previously unbid suit after a bid of 1 ♥ or 1 ♠ is a **Splinter**, showing:

- 1) Enough strength to go to game
For Responder, this means at least a good 12 or more points; at least 9-10 of these should be high-card points. For Opener, this means at least 19 points, at least 16-17 should be in high cards.
- 2) 4 card or better support for partner and
- 3) A singleton or void in the suit bid.

These are splinter bids:

1) A double-jump shift by Responder after an opening bid of 1 ♥ or 1 ♠.

1 ♥ – 3 ♠ or 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ 1 ♠ – 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ or 4 ♥

2) A double-jump shift by Opener after a response of 1 ♥ or

1 ♠.

1 ♣ – 1 ♥; 3 ♠ or 4 ♦ 1 ♣ – 1 ♠; 4 ♦ or 4 ♥

1 ♦ – 1 ♥; 3 ♠ or 4 ♣ 1 ♦ – 1 ♠; 4 ♣ or 4 ♥

1 ♥ – 1 ♠; 4 ♣ or 4 ♦

3) A double-jump shift rebid by Responder after a rebid of 1 ♥ or 1 ♠.

1 ♣ – 1 ♦; 1 ♥ – 3 ♠ 1 ♣ – 1 ♦; 1 ♠ – 4 ♥

1 ♣ – 1 ♥; 1 ♠ – 4 ♦

We do not give up much to play splinter bids; a double-jump in a new suit is not all that useful as a natural bid.

There are other instances in which splinter bids can be played: After a Opening 1 ♣ or 1 ♦ opening bid, after a response of a minor, or 2 of a major, etc. But Splinter bids are most useful after an opening, response or rebid of 1 ♥ or 1 ♠.

It is clear that splinter bids can improve slam accuracy. Consider the example hands:

(Resp.) ♠ – QT973 ♥ – T86 ♦ – K7 ♣ – KQ4

(Opener) ♠ – AKJ5 ♥ – 3 ♦ – AJ42 ♣ – A753

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1 ♦	1 ♠
4 ♥ (Splinter)	4NT (Blackwood)
5 ♠ (3 Aces)	6 ♠
	pass

Responder knows that all his cards are working; Slam is definitely possible.

(Responder) ♠ – QT973 ♥ – T86 ♦ – K7 ♣ – KQ4

(Opener) ♠ – AKJ5 ♥ – A753 ♦ – AJ42 ♣ – 3

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1 ♦	1 ♠
4 ♣ (Splinter)	4 ♠
	pass

Responder's Club honors are wasted; there is little chance for slam. Even the 5 level may be too high.

The Double-Jump Raise

With a very distributional hand, Responder can jump directly to game in Opener's major. To jump to 4 ♥ over a 1 ♥ opening, or 4 ♠ over a 1 ♠ opening, Responder should have:

1) at least 5 card trump support

2) a hand worth about 10-12 points; at least half of these

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should be distributional points

This is a typical 4 ♠ response to a 1 ♠ opening bid:

♠ – K9763 ♥ – 6 ♦ – 732 ♣ – ♣K 643

Even if 4 ♠ does not make, it is likely a good save over 4 ♥ by the opponents.

Partner opens 1 ♠. What do you respond?

1) ♠ – Q654 ♥ – 73 ♦ – AK72 ♣ – 742

2) ♠ – Q654 ♥ – A3 ♦ – AK72 ♣ – 742

3) ♠ – Q6 ♥ – Q73 ♦ – A9732 ♣ – K74

4) ♠ – Q6542 ♥ – 3 ♦ – AK72 ♣ – Q42

5) ♠ – Q96542 ♥ – 3 ♦ – K972 ♣ – 74

You open 1 ♠, and partner responds 2NT. Rebid?

6) ♠ – KQ843 ♥ – 863 ♦ – AK94 ♣ – 8

7) ♠ – KQ843 ♥ – 86 ♦ – A94 ♣ – K83

8) ♠ – KQ843 ♥ – A6 ♦ – K94 ♣ – QJ3

9) ♠ – KQ843 ♥ – 86 ♦ – AK943 ♣ – 3

10) ♠ – KQ8432 ♥ – A6 ♦ – K4 ♣ – QJ3

You open 1 ♠, and partner responds 4 ♣ (Splinter). What do you rebid?

11) ♠ – KQ843 ♥ – KJ6 ♦ – A4 ♣ – 983

12) ♠ – KQ843 ♥ – 983 ♦ – A4 ♣ – KJ6

Answers to Forcing Major-suit raises, hands 1-12:

1. 3 ♠. This hand is worth about 10 pts, not quite enough for a forcing raise.

2. 2NT (Jacoby). This hand qualifies for a forcing raise. Bidding 2NT now is better than starting with 2 ♦, then raising Spades.

3. 2 ♦. We may bid 2NT next. A Spade contract is still a possibility (partner may have 6); we may also want to play in

Hearts (if partner is 5-5) or even Diamonds or Clubs.

4. 4 ♥ (Splinter). Informing partner of our singleton may help partner make a move toward slam.

5. 4 ♠. This hand is worth about 11-12 points, of which 6-7 are distributional. An ideal double-jump raise.

6. 3 ♣. A new suit at the 3-level shows a singleton or void in the suit bid.

7. 4 ♠. This shows a minimum (no more than 14 pts), with no singleton or void.

8. 3NT. This shows extras (15-18 or so) with a relatively balanced hand.

9. 4 ♦. The second good 5-card suit may be more important to partner than the singleton Club.

10. 3 ♠. This shows extras (15-18 or so with extra trump length, or any 19+), and no singleton or void.

11. 4 ♦ (cue-bid). With no wasted values, slam is possible. Partner may be able to cooperate.

12. 4 ♠. With wasted club values, we should sign off in game.

Editor's Note: Some of Jim's lessons are reprinted from past issues because our readership changes so frequently with I/N players moving up in rank and with new members joining our District. These lessons are excellent and we would hate to have anyone miss out on them.

This lesson is reprinted from the Winter, 2005 on-line only edition of the I/N News...especially for you!

Appleton Sectional, March 28-30, 2008, Lincoln Parkway (another NEW location!), 3105 W. Spencer St.

Friday, March 28 **1:00** **Stratified 299er pairs**
7:00 **Stratified 299er pairs**

Saturday, March 29 **10:00** **Stratified 299er pairs**
2:30 **Stratified 299er pairs**

Chairperson **Mary Jane Fero (920) 725-6454**
Partnerships **Sally Hamm (920) 725-3619**



Hayward-Minong Sectional
LCO Casino Lodge & Convention Center, 13767 W County B
May 15-18, 2008

Ask for "Bridge Group Rate #1508" • (800) 526-5634
Comfort Suites "Bridge Group 2008" • (715) 634-0700
15586 County Road B • Hayward, WI 54843
Reservation Deadline May 1, 2008



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Partners: Bill MacLeod (715) 794-2578, cattail2@cheqnet.net

Thursday, May 15TH 7:00 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
Friday, May 16TH 9:00 a.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
1:00 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
7:00 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
Saturday, May 17TH 9:00 a.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
1:00 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
7:00 p.m. Stratified 199er Pairs
Sunday, May 18TH 9:30 a.m. Stratified 99er Swiss Teams
Play Through Includes Luncheon Buffet
New earlier time to accommodate travelers

GREEN BAY SECTIONAL, July 18-20, 2008

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 2040 Airport Drive
Partners guaranteed 30 minutes before game time.

Partnerships: Karen Krueger (920) 468-6555

Chairs: Sharon Basal (920) 468-4722 s_basal@yahoo.com

Rochelle Andress (920) 662-0823 handdress@new.rr.com



FRIDAY, JULY 18

1:30 PM Stratified 199er Pairs
7:00 PM Stratified 199er Pairs

SATURDAY, JULY 19

1:30 PM Stratified 199er Pairs
7:00 PM Stratified 199er Pairs

SUNDAY, JULY 20

10:00 AM Stratified 199er Swiss Teams
Stratified 199er Events: 100-199/50-100/0-50

Lodging:

Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, (920) 494-7300, www.radisson.com/greenbaywi

Room rate includes a complimentary full breakfast buffet as well as a generous casino package.

Ask for bridge rate.

ACBL Members with 0-5 points play free!

Ms. Information

Dear Ms.,

How come it always seems like expert players know what is in their partner's hand?

They always make the right shifts against me and they always make the right bids. Am I just slow??

Help me from Wisconsin

Dear Help,

I remember those days very well. I used to wonder if experts had ESP. Good news! They don't. You can play just like they do. You just have to be patient.

Experts develop good partnerships... and good partnerships are the secret to consistent success in bridge. Using the same methods as one another and being inherently familiar with those methods, experts use bidding as a language to describe their hands. They show each other their long suits and their strong suits, and working together, they can find the right strain and level in which to place the contract.

On defense, experts signal each other when necessary. They watch partner's carding and take full advantage when they can. This enables them to make the right shifts. It is important to give partner count and attitude when he needs it.

Experts gage well not to give count or attitude when it will only aid declarer ... and they give each other latitude to be able to successfully do this.

Playing is the best teacher. You see what works and what doesn't. You employ the methods that work and incorporate them into your own system to benefit you.

Learning this way may seem tedious at times, but it will produce giant strides in your game. One day, you will simply sit down at the table and dawn will strike. You will see how all this works and you will do it too.

Reading about bridge in daily tabloids is another good way to learn... as is taking advanced lessons ... and simply reading bridge books.

Hope this cheers you up and helps you play better and win!

Ms.

(Send or email your questions to I/N news Editor at the address on the back page and Ms will answer your queries in as prompt a manner as she is able. Thank you!!)

Ethics and Etiquette

by Jeff Tang - Table Manners

When dummy lays her hand down, she will usually say, "Good luck, partner." Declarer, upon seeing her hand, will say, "Thank you, partner." In online bridge clubs, you will see these comments shortened to "glp" and "typ." This is just a simple exchange of courtesies intended to maintain partnership harmony. Very serious players dispense with these pleasantries because they prefer focusing 100% at the task at hand, which is OK. If you are into the habit of saying "good luck" and "thank you," though, be sure to do it on every deal, even if you want to strangle partner for his horrendous bidding. Partnerships start breaking down and making more errors when one player decides to be crass and not say "thank you" after his partner lays down an awful dummy. It's also important to not tip the defenders off about your bidding gone awry. If dummy says "good luck" and declarer sighs and shakes his head, the opponents can often make inferences about the deal, and defend better as a result.

At duplicate bridge, it is polite to greet each pair of opponents you face. You are not expected to exchange handshakes and huge grins, but bridge after all is a game and salutations are appropriate. At the end of a round, it is also common for either pair to say "thanks" or "good luck." Only at extremely high-level competitions would you not expect many pleasantries.

During the play of the hand, whether it is regular or tournament bridge, talk is usually kept to a minimum. Declarer can call for cards from dummy, and she, along with the defenders, may claim (to win a surefire, specific number of tricks) at any time. Aside from that, players normally do not chat until the hand is finished. Dummy especially should never say anything to assist declarer. The only thing dummy is allowed to do in tournament bridge is to ask partner if she is void when she fails to follow suit. Dummy is NOT allowed to make or suggest a claim.

When a hand is over, you can compliment any player who did something particularly well, either in the bidding or the play. If you are praising partner, be sure not to overdo it because this may be perceived as gloating (particularly if the opposition made a mistake). It is also considered proper manners to refrain from criticizing partner for some wrong action he took. Squabbling after a hand makes the game less fun for everyone at the table. It also delays the play of the next deal.

ABA/CCBA-ACBL Joint Sectional
June 9-10, 2007
Played At the ABA Midwest Bridge Unit
1420 E. 87th Street, Chicago
Saturday, June 9
1:00 Stratified Open Pairs
6:30 Stratified Open Pairs
Sunday, June 10
11:00 Playthrough
Stratiflighted Swiss Teams
A - 3000+; AX 0-3000
Stratified B/C/D Swiss Teams
B 750-2000; C 750-300; D 300-0
Join the Crowd at the
For determining Stratification:
2 ABA points equal 1 ACBL masterpoint
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A meal will be served mid-way through
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Stars of Tomorrow

299ers Silver Point Sectional, May 3-4

Holiday Inn Express Palatine/Arlington Heights
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847-934-4900



Saturday, May 3

10:00 Compact Knockout, Sessions 1 & 2
Stratified 299er Pairs (0-100, 100-200, 200-300)
Stratified 49er Pairs (0-5, 5-20, 20-50)
3:00 Compact Knockout, Sessions 3 & 4
"Double Win" Stratified 299er Pairs
(0-100, 100-200, 200-300)
"Double Win" 49er Pairs (0-5, 5-20, 20-50)

Sunday, May 4

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

Events or strata may be combined if necessary.
For information, contact Jan Churchwell at 847-714-1942 or
jan8242@gmail.com or the Chicago Contract Bridge
Association office at 630-235-4718 or
www.bridgeinchicago.com

District 13 Spring Regional

April 21-27, 2008

Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI
on Route 50, 1/2 mile E of Route 12. Call 800-558-3417
for reservations before April 1 please! \$101 single/double

Intermediate & Newcomer Events

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0-5 ACBL members play FREE all week
Newcomer Events: 0-5/20/50/100/200/299

Monday: 7:30

Stratified 2 for 1

299er & 49er Pairs

Free entry for later in the week

Tuesday - Thursday -Single Session Games

at 10:00, 3:00, & 7:30

Stratified 299er & 49er Pairs

Friday & Saturday: 9:00, 1:30, 7:30

Stratified 299er & 49er Pairs

Sunday: 10:00 & 2:00

0-299 Swiss Teams:

300/200/100/50

2 separate sessions

Marj Thien, Newcomer Chairman, mcthein@aol.com

Clip and use coupon below while at the District 13 Spring Regional for a chance to win a free entry to the subsequent 299er event of your choice at this tournament.

Drawings will be held daily. Read your *District Daily* for more information.



Remember, you must be present to win!

District 13 Regional

04/21 - 27 2008

299er Coupon

Name: _____

Drawing to win free entry
Must be present to win

Ed. note: Please note proper starting times and schedule for events. The schedule was improperly printed in the January Kibitzer in Chicago and we would hate for you to miss out on events because of the Kibitzer's carelessness.

The Mississippi Heart Hand

♠ AKQ

♥ AKQJT9

♦

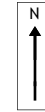
♣ AKQJ

♠ J9876

♥

♦ 876

♣ T9876



♠

♥ 8765432

♦ AKQJT9

♣

♠ T5432

♥

♦ 5432

♣ 5432

West	North	East	South
Pass	7♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When things look too good to be true, they usually are. If you ever pick up a hand like that held by North, you should probably be suspicious . . . especially after you have read the story about the hand. Still, if you were dealt this hand, you'd probably expect to take all the tricks with hearts as the trump suit, even if partner has nothing. Open with what you think you can make, a grand slam in hearts. If you are a duplicate player, you might want to take your time and open with a strong two-bid. If partner has the ♦A, you would want to reach the slightly higher-scoring contract of 7NT.

As North, you might be surprised to hear East double your 7♥ contract. Perhaps East has the ♦A and is expecting to take a trick with it. You might even redouble.

East will be quite surprised to hear North bid a grand slam in hearts. The astonishment shouldn't prevent East from making a penalty double, since East knows the heart suit is breaking badly for declarer . . . very badly. If that wasn't the case, of course, there would be no story behind the hand.

Suggested Opening Lead

East has an easy choice of leads against a heart contract. East would start with the ♦A, not caring too much whether or not it wins a trick.

Play of the Hand

As you are likely to have discovered by now, if you have

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played the hand, it is a disaster for North-South. In a heart contract, North can take no more than six tricks. East keeps leading diamonds at every opportunity and North never gets a trick with any of the high cards in spades or clubs.

In fact, North-South can't make even a game contract. Seeing all the hands, the best the partnership can do is make a contract of 3♠ or 4♣. Not what one would expect with all those high cards.

Defense

There's nothing that needs to be said on the defenders' behalf. Before congratulating each other on the large penalty they are likely to collect, perhaps it's time for the complete story . . .

The Story Behind the Hand

This is the notorious 'Mississippi Heart Hand' and it dates from the days of whist. An equivalent version was published by Edmond Hoyle— of 'According to Hoyle' fame—in 1747, and the modern version was published in 1804 by Thomas Matthews.

The hand was well known among Mississippi river boat gamblers during the Civil War period. They would try to convince an unsuspecting North to make a heavy bet on taking at least seven tricks with hearts as trumps. Of course, the hand is specially set up so that North can never make more than six tricks with hearts as trumps.

The hand was also popular with the professional cheaters in the days of bridge whist when there was no limit to the number of times a player could double or redouble. Even in a low-stake game, the doubling and redoubling could lead to an enormous sum being wagered on whether North could take a seventh trick. It's rumored that Charles Schwab, a wealthy financier and the president of the New York Whist Club, was duped out of \$10,000 on this hand.

The hand is another illustration of the tremendous effect that distribution can play in the outcome of a hand. When you are looking at a good hand and everyone else at the table is bidding up a storm, it's probably because the distribution is wild. Don't be too shy about bidding more when you hold a very distributional hand, and don't be too quick to double the opponents on high cards alone. Most importantly, be cautious when you are offered that 'sure' bet . . . especially if you're on a river boat steaming along the Mississippi!

From Ask Zia

How do I learn to count? **Stop using your fingers!** You don't have enough of them anyway. And it's easier to concentrate if you don't have to stop and recalculate the position after every trick. Take a simple thing like drawing trumps. You start with a suit like this:

Dummy: ♠AQT

Declarer: ♠KJ432

No problem with having to lose a trick, but how many rounds will you have to draw? I've seen people who've been playing the game for ages, and this is what goes on in their heads:

'I have five, and dummy has three, that's eight. Eight from thirteen is five, so the opponents have five spades.'

They draw a round of trumps and everyone follows.

'That's four gone. I have four left, and dummy has two. Four and four and two is ten, ten from thirteen is three, so the opponents have three spades left.'

They draw another round, and again all follow.

'That's 2 rounds so that's 8 trumps gone. I have 3 left and dummy has one. Eight and three and one is twelve, twelve from thirteen is one, so an opponent has a trump left.'

Now how are you supposed to concentrate on tricky things like entries, finesses and so on when you have all that whirling around in your head just so you can draw trumps?

It is far easier to think in terms of the possible initial distributions of the trump suit. We have eight, so the opponents have five, and they can be divided in one of three ways: 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2.

If an opponent shows out on the first round of trumps, the suit is 5-0 and we will need to draw five rounds. So we draw one, but both opponents follow suit. Now we can cross the 5-0 division off our list. If an opponent shows out on the second round, the suit is 4-1 and we will need to draw four rounds. But both opponents follow to the second round. So the suit is 3-2, and we need only draw three rounds.

It's important that you practice thinking of patterns of number that add up to 13. Then you will automatically know the possible ways in which a suit can be divided. For example, if you have three cards in a suit and dummy has four, the opponents have 6, and the suit can be divided:

3-4-6-0

3-4-5-1

3-4-4-2

3-4-3-3

You can do exercises like this instead of counting sheep if you're lying awake at night. They may not help you sleep, but they will certainly help your bridge game!

Tournament Results:

Winterfest Sectional, Arlington Heights, January, 2008

Friday Morning I/N Pairs (11 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.12	1			Susan Gurvey - Michele Raffel, Highland Park IL
1.81	2	1		Richard Steck, Chicago IL; Bindiganavel Srivatsan, Elk Grove Villa IL
1.19	3			Marlene Beranek, Glenview IL; Mary Hilman, Mt Prospect IL
1.36	4	2		William Zamzow, Glenview IL; John Anderson, Mt Prospect IL
1.28	5	3	1	Yusaku Hayashi, Northfield IL; Kimi Fresco, Riverside IL
0.96	6/7	4/5	2	Irwin Krimke, Buffalo Grove IL; Charles Mann, Northbrook IL
0.67	6/7	4/5		Elizabeth Gale - Sybil Brown, Rockford IL
0.72			3	Sam Hull - Barbara Hull, Lake Forest IL
0.54			4	Barbara Mueller - James Mueller, Darien IL

Friday Afternoon 299er Pairs (12.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.32	1	1	1	Bonnie Klein - Andrew Klein, Glenview IL
1.74	2	2		Roger Tweed - John Hansen, Mundelein IL
1.31	3			D Kelly Sullivan - Loretta Sullivan, Elmhurst IL
1.07	4	3	2	Barbara Mueller - James Mueller, Darien IL
0.80	5	4		Margaret Kiernan, Munster IN; Judy Grambo, Schererville IN
0.81	6			Judy Isenberg, Highland Park IL; Walter Krueger, Glenview IL
0.77		5	3	Wen Yang Qi, Skokie IL; Dennis Cahillane, Chicago IL
0.57		6	4	Jack Toslosky - Barbara Toslosky, Tower Lakes IL

Friday Evening I/N Pairs (5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.51	1	1		Robert Young - Shiaomay Young, Northfield IL
1.13	2	2		Dennis Cahillane, Chicago IL; Wen Yang Qi, Skokie IL
0.85	3	3		Karen Sarsfield, Hinsdale IL; Nona Rathsack, Park Ridge IL
0.56	4/5	4/5		Roger Tweed - John Hansen, Mundelein IL
0.56	4/5	4/5		Mary Childers - Gerry Garcia, Des Plaines IL

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs (18.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.93	1			Jonathan Fry, Oak Park IL; Kenneth Prouty, Geneva IL
2.47	2	1		Lynn Ulreich - John Ulreich, Frankfort IL
1.65	3			Rolland Wakeman, Bellwood IL; Jack Eilrich, River Forest IL
1.85	4	2		Mary Johnson, Carol Stream IL; Jack Rowley, Winfield IL
0.96	5			Marlene Beranek - Michelle Winand, Glenview IL
1.79	6	3	1	Robert Subkowsky - Elizabeth Subkowsky, Chicago IL
1.34		4	2	Michele Pockross - James Pockross, Wilmette IL
1.01		5	3	Anthony Miller - Aurora Miller, Lagrange Park IL
0.76		6	4	Jack Toslosky - Barbara Toslosky, Tower Lakes IL
0.60			5	Sam Hull - Barbara Hull, Lake Forest IL
0.43			6	Judy Johnson - David Johnson, Rockford IL

299er Swiss Team (11 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.12	1	1	1	Jeffrey Rabin; John Grossman - Michael Stein - Gerald Schwartz, Highland Park IL
1.59	2	2		Elizabeth - Robert Subkowsky, Chicago IL; Ellen Rubert, Evanston IL; John Shelton, Wilmette IL

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1.19 3 3 Susan Wellek; Marilyn Rivkin, Chicago IL; Ryan Daniels - Jennifer Daniels, Vernon Hills IL
0.89 4 4 Nona Rathsack; Elaine Vandenburg; Rosemarie Mochel; Dolores Lewis, Indian Head Prk IL

Sunday Afternoon I/N Swiss (8 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.82	1	1		Don Malone, Sharon WI; Karen Dale Kent; Lisa Frese; Joan Isenberg, Delavan WI
1.37	2	2		David Golper; Catherine Westbrook; Michele - James Pockross, Wilmette IL
0.90	3/4			Elizabeth - Robert Subkowsky; Ellen Rubert; John Shelton, Wilmette IL
0.90	3/4			J Thomas Johnson - Barbara Chasoff; Mary Hilman; Marlene Beranek

Saturday Evening I/N Pairs (6 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.61	1			Kenneth Prouty, Geneva IL; Jonathan Fry, Oak Park IL
1.52	2	1	1	Valerie Bennett - Sid Bennett, Chicago IL
1.14	3	2		Terrance Rieck, Winfield IL; Richard Roberts, Naperville IL
0.86	4	3	2	Rebecca Anderson, Clarendon Hills IL; Mary Stockmal, Hinsdale IL
0.64		4		Daniel Cieslik, Chicago IL; Walt Werner, Arlington Hts IL

Ripon Sectional, Ripon, WI, January, 2008

Friday Afternoon 199er (4.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.43	1	1	1	Sue Protzman, Oneida WI; Doris Thompson, Green Bay WI
1.07	2	2		Cyann Martin - Jeri Nelson, Neenah WI
0.70	3/4	3/4	2/3	Barbara Stapleford - Bob Stapleford, Luxemburg WI
0.70	3/4	3/4	2/3	Kay Olm - Elaine Mortenson, Ripon WI

Bruce Brown Memorial Sectional, West Allis, WI, February, 2008

Friday Afternoon 199er Pairs (4.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.43	1	1		Marlene Backus - Janet Holmes, Brookfield WI
1.07	2	2		Steve Spitzer - Dennis Price, Burlington WI
0.70	3/4	3/4		Monica Ansay, Oconomowoc WI; Suzanne Haidinger, Wales WI
0.70	3/4	3/4		Paula Meisner - Marlene Nievin, Racine WI

Saturday Afternoon 199er Pairs (3.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.33	1	1		Dianne Kiehl, Muskego WI; Marlene Backus, Brookfield WI
1.00	2	2		James Karolewicz - Kathy Karolewicz, Mequon WI
0.75	3			Shirley Adams, Appleton WI; Cyann Martin, Neenah WI

Saturday Morning 199er Pairs (5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.01	1	1		Mark Harrington, Mequon WI; John Pereles, Milwaukee WI
1.51	2	2	1	Adrian Richfield - Barbara Blackburn, Waukesha WI
1.13	3	3	2	Monica Ansay, Oconomowoc WI; Suzanne Haidinger, Wales WI
0.75	4/5	4		Anna Biederwolf - Rose Zicarelli, Racine WI
0.75	4/5			Sharad Jugal, Elm Grove WI; John Textor, Sheboygan WI

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Wisconsin Holiday Sectional, West Allis, WI, December, 2007

Thursday Morning 299er Pairs (5.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.61	1	1	1	Adrian Richfield - Barbara Blackburn, Waukesha WI
1.21	2	2	2	Morton Newald, Mequon WI; Victor Burstein, Milwaukee WI
0.91	3	3	3	Anna Rindfleisch - Marion Keller, Racine WI
0.68	4			Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI
0.60		4	4	Bill Burks - Ruth Burks, Pittsford NY

Thursday Afternoon 299er Pairs (7 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.72	1	1		Marcia Kleinerman, Milwaukee WI; Kris Stephens, West Bend WI
1.29	2	2		Carol Konrad, Neshkoro WI; Jane Shlimovitz, Mequon WI
1.36	3	3	1	Monica Ansay, Oconomowoc WI; Suzanne Haidinger, Waukesha WI
1.02	4	4	2	Steve Spitzer - Dennis Price, Burlington WI
0.77	5	5	3	Bill Burks - Ruth Burks, Pittsford NY
0.57			4	Kurt Litscher - Janet Litscher, Greendale WI

Friday Morning 299er Pairs (4 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.41	1	1		Monica Ansay, Oconomowoc WI; Suzanne Haidinger, Waukesha WI
1.06	2			Judy Wagner, Waukesha WI; Irene Bolton, Brookfield WI
0.93	3	2		Dianne Kiehl, Muskego WI; Marlene Backus, Brookfield WI

Friday Afternoon 299er Pairs (3.5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.41	1			Charles Becker, Chicago IL; Pete Rub, Hinsdale IL
1.06	2			Judy Wagner, Waukesha WI; Irene Bolton, Brookfield WI
0.79	3			Dianne Kiehl, Muskego WI; Marlene Backus, Brookfield WI

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs (7 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
2.12	1			Jennifer Musson - Grace Rosenke, Racine WI
1.62	2	1		Jane Shlimovitz, Mequon WI; Carol Konrad, Neshkoro WI
1.22	3	2		Marcia Kleinerman, Milwaukee WI; Kris Stephens, West Bend WI
0.91	4	3		Roslyn Krause - Carolyn Easom, Milwaukee WI
1.19	5	4	1	Cathy Brown, Mequon WI; Barbara Swansby, Pewaukee WI
0.45		5/6		Beatrice Boyd - Janet Bate, Milwaukee WI
0.45		5/6		Ronald Cohn, Glendale WI; Ron Ramaker, Brown Deer WI
0.89			2	Morton Newald - Carolyn Newald, Mequon WI
0.67			3	Barrett Graf - Mary Sue Graf, Pewaukee WI

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs (5 tables)

MPs	A	B	C	Names
1.51	1	1		Janet Bate - Beatrice Boyd, Milwaukee WI
0.99	2/3	2/3		Marcia Kleinerman, Milwaukee WI; Kris Stephens, West Bend WI
0.99	2/3	2/3		Ronald Cohn, Glendale WI; Ron Ramaker, Brown Deer WI
0.97	4/5	4/5	1/2	Shirley Adams, Appleton WI; Cyann Martin, Neenah WI
0.97	4/5	4/5	1/2	Marlene Backus, Brookfield WI; Dianne Kiehl, Muskego WI

The District 13 I/N Newsletter , Spring, 2008

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Upcoming Tournaments

WUMBA Spring Sectional, Appleton, WI, March 28-30

Haywood Sectional, Haywood, WI, May 15-18

Green Bay Sectional, Green Bay, WI, July 18-20

District 13 Spring Regional, Lake Geneva, WI, April 21-27

Stars of Tomorrow 299er Sectional, Palatine, IL, May 3-4

ACBL/ABA Sectional, Chicago, IL, June 9-10

Use of the Stop Card at Duplicate by Suzi Subeck

The Stop Card should be used any time you are making a “skip bid.” A “skip bid” is a jump in the level of bidding.

It does not matter whether you are skipping the bidding to show a strong jump shift or a pre-emptive or intermediate opening or overcall. You still use the Stop Card before you make your bid.

To properly use the Card, simply place it on the table before you bid. Place your bid on the table beside it. Leave the Stop Card on the table for approximately ten seconds after your bid is made, and then remove it and replace it in the bidding box for later use.

Implementation of the Stop Card protects everyone at the table. It stops your opponent from bidding too fast with a bad hand and nothing to consider... or bidding too slowly when your bid has given him a problem. These situations would convey unauthorized information to his partner and be unfair to all the players at the table. In addition, while LHO (left hand opponent) uses his ten seconds to think about his bid, the rest of the players at the table get the same ten seconds to consider their future actions.

In other words, your partner may consider his position without conveying unauthorized information to you too.

The Stop Card may not be a perfect accessory, but it is the best we have. If you make a skip bid and fail to use it, you are on your own. Your opponent is still supposed to hesitate before making a call, but the onus of responsibility is on you to make it easy for everyone at the table to do the right thing.

This newsletter is sent to all under 300 masterpoint holders in District 13 and to all District 13 bridge teachers. It comes out four times a year... spring, summer, fall and winter. The spring, summer and fall editions are hard copies that are mailed to your door. The winter edition is on-line only and can be found by going to the District site indicated at the bottom of this page.

If you have ever wanted to meet the current president of the ACBL face to face, you are about to get your chance. Dan Morse and his lovely wife, Joan, are coming to Lake Geneva straight from Gatlinburg for the District 13 Regional. Dan would really like to speak first-hand with as many of the District members as possible. Be sure to attend the Regional to be one of the first to shake his hand.

You can find the I/N Newsletters and the Newsletter Archives on-line at these two locations:

<http://acbl-district13.org/ArticlesAndNewsletters.htm> (current)

<http://pages.prodigy.net/stansubeck/> (archives)