

Northwest Arkansas Bridge Newsletter

July 2011

Issue Eight



Purpose: To promote contract bridge play in Northwest Arkansas.

Our aim is to build a sense of community among all of the bridge players – young, old, new, veterans, party bridge or competitive – Let's work together to promote bridge play at all opportunities. If you feel that playing bridge has been good for you, then accept the challenge to give something back to the world of bridge play.

At the Clubs



Bella Vista DBC

July 5 - North American Pairs Qualifying
July 12 - Club Championship
July 21 - NA Pairs Qualifying
Aug 9 - NA Pairs Qualifying
Aug 11 - Club Championship
Aug 18 - NA Pairs Qualifying
Aug 23 & 25 - Silver Point Games
Sept 6 - International Fund Game
Sept 15 - Split Unit Game
Sept 22 - International Fund Game
Sept 27 - Membership Game

Razorback DBC

Sept 14 – Instant Matchpoint Game
Hand records and **Gold Points!**

Club Managers – please email us information about your clubs and about any special games you are hosting. (nwa-bridge@cox.net)



Bridge Corner

Preempt Agreements

by Jim Diebel

A month or so back, I was playing (Matchpoints) in a Flight A Regional Pairs and picked up: ♠AK853 ♥AJ73 ♦Q4 ♣AT. My partner, vulnerable vs not, opened 3♦ in first seat. What would you do? Most of you would probably do what I did and bid 3NT. Partner tabled ♠4 ♥96 ♦KJT8753 ♣Q75. I was lucky and the opponents misdefended, allowing me to get out for only down 2. Who was to blame?

This one was entirely my fault. 5♦ was cold, and I should have known better. If you think 3NT wasn't such a bad call, you need to decide whether or not partner's call of 3♦ was acceptable. If you agree that it is, but that partner might have tabled a hand as good as ♠Q42 ♥6 ♦AK98753 ♣84, you have a serious problem. Opposite the first hand, there is likely no play for 9 tricks in no trump, while

with the latter things would have to go quite badly to go down in a grand slam..

Unfortunately for me, that day I was playing with a partner who had a wide range of acceptable holdings for a 3 level preempt. In fact, because we were playing Flannery, I'd seen him open 3♦ with a decent 6-bagger. If you think this makes my life more difficult, you are dead right. The two hands have almost nothing in common except a 7 card diamond suit. One hand will produce a lot of tricks with very little help, and the other will be nearly useless without a lot of it. How is a reasonable player supposed to know what to do?

Good partnerships do not have this dilemma. At the bridge table, there is nothing more important than *reliability*. If you are the type of player who does one thing with a certain hand this time, and something else with the same hand the next, you are a nightmare to play with. Can 2♠ be either ♠AQJ853 ♥J7 ♦965 ♣74 or ♠QT9853 ♥A9 ♦94 ♣KT5? Can it be ♠Q98653 ♥JT7 ♦Q4 ♣J5? Some believe that playing a convention like Ogust can allow all these hands to be opened using the same bid. Count me out.

My intent with this column is not to belittle those who play Ogust, or strong or weak preempts. Rather, it is to suggest that you and your partner have an agreement, and to *stick to it*. I like to play that a weak two bid promises a suit absolutely no worse than KJTxxx and that a 3 level preempt always denies the Ace, (and often the King). It's easy to see with that simple agreement in place, that the question I posed to start this column should not have presented a problem. The only game with any real chance was almost certainly in diamonds, and it should have been found.

Every time I go to a table – *every time* – I believe I am capable of winning. This is true whether my opponents are inexperienced club players or national champions. I always try to describe my hand to my partner, not hide it from my opponents. I see this (hiding) strategy frequently, and I find it foolish. If you go into a match (or a 2 board round) with the game plan of keeping your strength and distribution a secret – lest the enemy profitably use that information against you – you've likely lost before you've started. Great players rarely have to guess whether or not to bid games or slams. Their partners have provided the necessary information, *within a narrow range of possibilities*, and the teammate in the best position to place the final contract does so. If they are unsure about a stopper or a control they know how to ask for it – so they don't just blast somewhere and hope for the best.

A few quick examples:

With 3 Quick Tricks, (or 12 hcp and 2.5 Quick Tricks), I always open the auction. With 15-17 points and balanced distribution, even with a 5 card major, I always open 1NT. With a minimum opening hand and 2 four card minors, I always open 1C. I always bid 4 card suits up the line (with the exception of a 3NT response which might conceal 4-5 diamonds).

These examples may seem trivial, but when you put them all together, along with many other simple treatments I've agreed to, it allows my partner to draw several accurate inferences about my hand. When I *don't* do something, he can be confident about what I *don't* have as well. This all comes back to that word I used earlier: *Reliability*. I need to know what my partner has when he's preempting. It really doesn't matter much whether you choose to preempt with strong suits or weak

ones, *as long as you have an understanding about which it will be.* First or second chair preempts which have a wide range of strength suggest to me that you fear your opponents far more than you trust your partner.

This article was republished by permission of the author. It originally appeared in the Chicago Contract Bridge League, Kibitzer, January 2009

Web Site

There is a wealth of information there. If you have not yet checked out the site, please do.

<http://members.cox.net/nwa-bridge>

**Overheard at the bridge club:
We had a 75-percent game last night!**

**Three out of four opponents
thought we were idiots.**

Tournament Trail

Here are the tournament results from the 2rd Quarter and the master point awards.

Districts 15 & 14 STaC 03/28-04/03/11

20.68 Marina Scott, Rogers AR
14.49 Stan Stankus, Mountain Home
14.04 Joe Scott, Rogers AR
12.79 W Dale Wagar, Mountain Home
11.63 Billye Hart, Mountain Home AR

11.57 Al Cookson, Mountain Home AR
10.11 Doug Dorland, Goshen AR
8.25 Pierre Hoover, Mountain Home
7.71 Sally Dungan, Bella Vista AR
7.71 Bob Dungan, Bella Vista AR
7.37 Jeanne Foster, Fort Smith AR
7.37 Elva Stone, Fort Smith AR
7.25 Thomas Graff, Fayetteville AR
7.25 Roger Koeppe II, Fayetteville
6.52 Curtis Bell, Shell Knob MO
6.39 Brian Simet, Rogers AR
6.00 Bernice Mahoney, Shell Knob MO
6.00 Almyra Klassen, Shell Knob MO
5.68 Charles Urban, Fayetteville AR
5.57 Bob Dray, Holiday Island AR
5.39 Dolores Weiss, Holiday Island
5.12 Rosie Schuler, Eureka Springs
4.80 Len Fettig, Bella Vista AR
4.51 Mike Foley, Springdale AR
3.71 Pauline Longstaff, Bella Vista
3.32 Barbara Francis, Bella Vista
3.12 Robert Makela, Bella Vista AR
2.95 Marilyn Bell, Shell Knob MO
2.78 Billie Supeter, Mountain Home
2.71 Linda Huber, Shell Knob MO
2.64 Billie Herriott, Bella Vista
2.63 Robert Gromatka, Bella Vista
2.54 Lila Wylie, Bella Vista AR
2.37 Raymond Lynch, Bella Vista AR
2.25 Fay Frey, Rogers AR
2.21 John Jennings, Rogers AR
2.15 Warren Matz, Mountain Home AR
2.11 Sue Rolfe, Rogers AR
2.11 Ronald Rolfe, Rogers AR
1.98 Michael Smith, Bentonville AR
1.98 Kaye Cotton, Rogers AR
1.91 Bill Remington, Emporia KS
1.85 Lorraine Ivnik, Eureka Spgs AR
1.81 Paula Fettig, Bella Vista AR
1.76 Ralph Seeck, Bella Vista AR
1.76 Cathy Nelson, Shell Knob MO
1.75 Shelba Crawford, Bull Shoals
1.75 Paula Bloyd,
1.74 P. Joyce McCord, Bella Vista
1.72 Lillian Timmons, Bella Vista
1.66 Jeanette Briggs, Bella Vista
1.65 Jean Razer, Holiday Island AR
1.57 John Gilmore, Shell Knob MO
1.54 Ruth Ann Vavrinek, Bentonville
1.52 Claudette Ittner, Noel MO
1.51 Jay Lacy, Bella Vista AR
1.51 George Watson, Bella Vista AR
1.50 Mary Goebel, Ft Smith AR

- 1.50 Les Braswell, Greenwood AR
- 1.42 Harriet Rhea, Shell Knob MO
- 1.42 Dave Felder, Shell Knob MO
- 1.40 Pat Malmanger, Bella Vista AR
- 1.36 Cathryn Jones, Rogers AR
- 1.23 Stephen Noller, Shell Knob MO
- 1.17 Janice Swiggart, Holiday Island
- 1.17 Betty Adams, Holiday Island AR
- 1.14 Geneva Neal, Ft Smith AR
- 1.14 Freda Patterson, Fort Smith AR
- 1.11 Linda McRay, Fort Smith
- 1.11 Judy Worden, Fort Smith AR
- 1.11 Catherine Crosland, Fort Smith
- 1.11 Carolyn Thomas, Fort Smith AR
- 1.08 Betty Redman, Bella Vista AR
- 0.99 Jim Scott, Bella Vista AR
- 0.91 Doloros Whitt, Holiday Island
- 0.88 Luther Faulkner, Shell Knob MO
- 0.88 Erma Lee Sack, Shell Knob MO
- 0.84 June Dettwiler, Holiday Island
- 0.81 Ned Shievely, Bella Vista AR
- 0.81 Mary Alice Gardner, Bella Vista AR
- 0.79 Sharon Easley, Fort Smith AR
- 0.79 Darlene Ray, Fort Smith AR
- 0.77 Jessica Alger, Bella Vista AR
- 0.76 Jeff Lacaze, Bella Vista AR
- 0.76 David Hirsch, Holiday Island
- 0.76 Brenda Hirsch, Holiday Island
- 0.75 W Barbee, Springdale AR
- 0.75 Ann Haggard, Fort Smith AR
- 0.71 William Ward, Fayetteville AR
- 0.71 Wanda Wallace, Rogers AR
- 0.71 George Denny, Fayetteville AR
- 0.71 Diane Fischer, Rogers AR
- 0.71 Dale Morrisett, Bella Vista AR
- 0.71 Beverly Cunningham, Rogers AR
- 0.65 Carolyn Bonsteel, Harrison AR
- 0.64 Lorraine Wickstrand, Bella Vista AR
- 0.61 Billy Youens, Belle Vista AR
- 0.58 Jackie Barker, Harrison AR
- 0.57 Linda Richmond, Fort Smith AR
- 0.57 Joe Patton, Bella Vista AR
- 0.57 Annette Landrum, Fort Smith AR
- 0.54 Robert Inge, Bella Vista AR
- 0.54 Mary Inge, Bella Vista AR
- 0.54 Lee Hollcroft, Bella Vista AR
- 0.54 Doug Hollcroft, Bella Vista AR
- 0.53 Mary T. Mercer, Bella Vista AR
- 0.53 Doris Kenworthy, Bella Vista
- 0.36 Ron Nativi, Bella Vista AR
- 0.36 Jo Bain, Bella Vista AR

**Spring Fling Sectional
Hot Springs Village AR
April 1-3, 2011**

- 18.67 Darlene Ray, Fort Smith AR
- 15.45 Carolyn Thomas, Fort Smith AR
- 11.88 Linda Richmond, Fort Smith AR
- 11.88 Ann Haggard, Fort Smith AR
- 6.70 Jacqueline Davis, Bella Vista
- 6.65 Judy Worden, Fort Smith AR
- 6.62 Jeff La Caze, Bella Vista AR
- 2.73 Sharon Easley, Fort Smith AR
- 2.73 Emily Jane Gaer, Van Buren AR
- 2.63 Linda McRay, Fort Smith AR
- 2.03 Joe Patton, Bella Vista AR
- 2.03 Elaine Patton, Bella Vista AR

**OKLAHOMA CITY SPRING
Oklahoma City OK
May 30- June 5, 2011**

- 5.01 Becky Mincke, Rogers AR
- 2.78 Linda Richmond, Fort Smith AR
- 2.78 Julia Farrar, Lavaca AR
- 2.16 Juanita Huckelbury, Van Buren
- 2.16 Ann Haggard, Fort Smith AR

**Western Conference STaC
5/2-8/2011**

1.83	1	1	Eunice Chambers - Wilbur Whitman; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
1.28	2	2	Gerald Herr - Dale Morrisett; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.92	3	3	Doris Kenworthy - Jeanette Briggs; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.64	4	4	Billie Herriott - Lillian Timmons; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.37	5		Sally Dungan - Bob Dungan; Bella Vista Duplicate Br

0.71		1	Becky Mincke - George Breslau; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
1.83	1	1	Nancy Weatherly - Robbie Tyler; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
1.28	2	2	Jeff Lacaze - Robert Dailey; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.92	3	3	Robert Inge - Richard Landis; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.51	4/5		Betty Redman - Raymond Lynch; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.52	4/5	4	Pat Malmanger - Mike Foley; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.88		1	Doug Hollcroft - George Watson; Bella Vista Duplicate Br
0.62		2	Ron Nativi - Ned Shively; Bella Vista Duplicate Br



Climbing the Ladder

Rank advancements reported in the 2rd Quarter of 2011

Bronze Life Master

Jeff LaCaze – Bella Vista, AR

Life Master

Linda Richmond – Ft. Smith, AR
Robert Dray, Holiday Island, AR

Way to go players!

Reminder: The Rank requirements for Life Master were changed.

It now takes a total of 500 points – 75 Silver, 50 Red/Gold and 50 Gold/Platinum – to make Life Master.

The Bronze Life Master rank has been eliminated.

A new rank, Advanced NABC Master, replaces the old Life Master rank.

These changes apply to any player who joined the ACBL after 1/1/2010. Members before 1/1/2010 are grandfathered under the previous rank requirements.

The annual World Wide Pairs Bridge event, played on Saturday, June 4

Top Local Winners:

Mary Anne Moncier & Linda McRay
Fort Smith, ranked 634 out of 5281 pairs

Carolyn Thomas & Judy Worden, Fort Smith,
ranked 735 out of 5281 pairs.

Joe knows nothing about the game. His wife plays twice as well

Tournament Schedule – 3 QTR 2011

Little Rock Sectional - July 8 - 10, 2011
Lee's Summit, Mo Sectional - July 15 - 17, 2011
Hot Springs (0-300) Sectional – August 19 - 21, 2011
Tulsa Regional - August 22 to 28, 2011

On our web site we have a longer-range tournament schedule and links to the event schedules.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our ACBL Unit (#247) will host the North American Pairs Unit Qualifying Event on Saturday, September 24, 1 p.m. at Riordan Hall in Bella Vista, AR.

This is a single session event. Winners will advance to the District Qualifying event in Oklahoma City, November 12. The top three pairs (in Flights A, B and C) at the District level, will be eligible to play in the National event - Memphis, TN, Mar 15 – 25, 2012. The top finishers at the District level earn a free trip to the National event.

Bridge Classes

Robert Makela is teaching bridge at the Northwest Arkansas Community College – Bella Vista site at Lancashire (US 340) and Forest Hills Blvd.

Details about the schedule are available from NWACC. Robert is teaching three classes on a revolving basis.

The classes cover bidding, play and defense. As his students complete one class, the next class in the sequence will be offered the following session.

Mr. Makela is offer each of the classes in each enrollment session. So interested individuals can start the series at any session and move easily through the full curriculum.

Suzanne Krutsinger is teaching bridge at the Adult Wellness Center in Rogers (behind the Dixieland Mall). Contact the ADC for class schedules.

In addition to her classes, Mrs. Krutsinger has open forum practice sessions for her current and former students on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9:30 am at the AWC.

Both Mrs. Krutsinger and Mr. Makela are ACBL Accredited Bridge Teachers.



Editorial Policy

We plan to make mistakes in the content of this newsletter. If we have omitted someone or misstated information, please let us know. We will cheerfully announce corrections in the following issue. Information has been collected from a variety of sources that we feel are reliable and whose content we believe to be Public Domain.

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