

Northwest Arkansas Bridge Players

ACBL Unit 247



October 2012

Issue 13



Focus On –

Our NW Arkansas Sectional Tournament, held in Bella Vista, Sept. 21-23 was a big success.

The playing site was ideal, the hospitality was great and the local bridge players were very supportive.

Of the 22 sectional tournaments that were held in North American on that weekend, ours was the second largest. Only Austin, Texas drew a larger contingent of bridge players.

Bolstered by our success, we have already scheduled our tournament for 2013. It too will be at Riordan Hall in Bella Vista, September 20-21, 2013.

We expect next year's event to be even bigger and better.



Riordan Hall: site of our Tournament



Q. I was playing in a tournament recently and held a six-card heart suit, headed by the A-K.

After a one diamond opening, I made a weak bid of 2H. The bidding proceeded with P-P-DBL and P-P-P.

My partner had seven points, including the singleton Q of hearts.

When the play was completed, I was down four tricks for minus 1100. I'm still numb. Can you give me some advice?

A. First of all, we have all experienced those kinds of unfortunate surprises.

On that hand, your side was Vulnerable and the opponents were not Vulnerable. Therefore, a two trick set (doubled) was going to be more profitable for them than any game score they could make.

At unfavorable vulnerability, we need a good suit and we need to be close to our upper High Card Point (HCP) range to enter the auction.

Your suit, headed by the A-K seems like an adequate holding. Finding your partner with the trump Q was a bonus.

So maybe the issue is with the strength of the hand. If our HCP range for jump overcalls is 6-10, then our partners would typically expect us to be in the 8-10 HCP range for a weak 2-bid; at unfavorable vulnerability.

As you found out, with your 2-6-2-3 distribution pattern, the opponents are quite capable of plucking all of the losers out of our hands. The outstanding trumps were 5-1, so your only tricks were trumps; A-K-Q and one other heart.

At first glance, your hand looks like a routine choice for a weak-two overcall. But on closer examination, the hand does not even qualify for a one heart overcall. A reluctant Pass is the best call. If partner can enter the auction, then you would be safe in mentioning your heart holding.

Good luck and don't be afraid to jump into the auction. As in most situations, we need to look before we leap. So pay close attention to vulnerability.

Fourth Best Leads

Jan: Why did you lead the nine from K-9-7-5-2?

Sue: I play fourth best.

Jan: Then why not the five?

Sue: Darn! I always forget which end to count from.



Climbing the Ladder

Rank advancements reported in the 3rd Quarter of 2012

Junior Master (5+ Master Points)

Dr. John Buck – Cotter
James Scott – Bella Vista
Carolyn Cook, Gamaleil
Roni Ray, Bentonville
Michael Jirka, Mt. Home

Club Master (20+ MP's)

Margie Brown, Mt. Home
David Lawhon, Mt. Home
Cole Spencer, Fayetteville

Sectional Master (50+ MP's)

William Garner, Mt. Home

Regional Master (100+ MP's)

Brenda Mirsch, Holiday Island

Clyde McPhee, Rogers

Georgia McGill, Harrison

Ron Nativi, Bella Vista

Michael Smith, Bentonville

Life Master (300+ MP's)

Judith Wart, Bentonville

Way to go players!

Unit NOP Qualifying Game

The Holiday Island DBC hosted our Unit North American Open Pairs qualifying event on Saturday, September 8th.

We had a great turnout; with 16 tables in play.

The local players did an outstanding job of organizing this special game for us.

All areas of our Unit were represented. The players who qualified at the Unit level are now eligible to compete at the District qualifying game – Saturday, November 3rd in Wichita.

The winners at the District qualifying game will represent our District in the National event, next Spring in St. Louis.

Tournament Schedule – 2012

Lee's Summit Sectional - October 12 - 14, 2012

Wichita Sectional - November 2 to 4, 2012

[NOP D-15 Qualifying](#) on 11/3 - at Wichita Sectional

November 5 - 11, 2012 - [District 15 STaC Fall National](#) - [San Francisco, CA](#) - Nov 22 - Dec 2, 2012

Overland Park Regional - December 26 to 31, 2012

On our web site we have a longer-range tournament schedule.



Bob Dray is teaching bridge at the Eureka Springs Middle School. Classes are open to 5th grade through High School students. His next set of lessons (nine classes of two hours each) will begin in February 2013. For more information, contact Bob at 479-253-7611 or robertdray@cox.net.



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.

Contact us at:

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Major Suit Openings

Years ago I tried a bidding system called "Three-Card Majors." Alas, I ran afoul with the ACBL because I would often fudge.

Like the 10-12 notrumpers who usually had 9, I started to open strong doubletons; then I became obsessed and ignored the "strong" part.

The ACBL insisted I write "Two-Card Majors" on my card, but I knew that wouldn't last with my crazed obsession. Therefore, to keep everyone satisfied I now call it "Splinters at the one level."

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.

Web Site

Several new pages have been added to our web site; including a Club Manager Section.

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

<http://www.acbl-unit-247.org>