



Kibitzer

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association February/March 2022

ACBL's new District 5 Director discusses major concerns

Getting the players back to the tables is a major concern of Dennis Carman, who was recently elected president of ACBL's District 5.



Dennis Carman

The new district was formed after the ACBL

decided to reduce the number from 25 to 13. District 13, in which CCBA is located, was combined with Districts 12 and 14.

Dennis said, "It will be imperative that we work to get a larger percentage of our members to return to the clubs and tournaments when the pandemic wanes.

He noted that only 1,500 or 60 percent of the 2,500 face-to-face (F2F) clubs that were operating at the beginning of 2020 are open today. Clubs that are doing well are drawing 40 percent of the table counts from just a few years ago.

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Stein to head CCBA Board in 2022

Mark Stein, who was elected three years ago to the 15-member Chicago Contract Bridge Association's (CCBA) Board of Directors, now heads the organization.

He succeeds Tom Dressing as president. Tom, who did not seek to continue as president, was elected treasurer by the board members. Tom brings experience to the position, having held the office several times in the past.

Loring Knoblauch was elected vice president and replaces Mark in that office. Jan Churchwell was re-elected secretary.

The election took place following the Annual Meeting, which was held January 29 by Zoom for the second year, due to safety concerns during the pandemic.

The CCBA's policy allows anyone who wishes to run for an office to do so provided they announce their candidacy no later than the December board meeting.



Mark Stein

Mark said that the board will need to address several important and difficult issues, such as how to attract players to tournaments, and how to keep them safe. The first regional to be held by Unit 123 since 2019 was held last fall. The next tournament, WinterFest, will be held March 1-3 in the same location, Temple Jeremiah in Northfield.

(Continued on page 9)



**Beat the Winter Blahs
Have Fun at WinterFest
March 1-3
Temple Jeremiah, Northfield**
Keep an eye on the CCBA website
www.bridgeinchicago.com
for details on this fun event.

State of the Unit Address



Tom Dressing
2021 CCBA President

Outgoing CCBA President Tom Dressing spoke to Unit 123 members via Zoom at the Annual Meeting on January 29. He noted that during 2021 COVID dominated the board's decisions, particularly those related to tournaments. His remarks follow:

We dipped our feet into the tournament waters with our first tournament on Labor Day 2021 just at the time that Delta reared its ugly head. Our attendance was down, 70 percent (137 tables vs. 458 tables) and we lost \$7,400. Not so good. Most of this, \$5,400, was consumed by rent, so the board decided to find a cheaper venue and reduce the length of the tournament. That's how the "Three-Day Regional" was born in November at Temple Jeremiah.

The CCBA understands that working folks cannot play at a tournament that runs during the week, with no weekend sessions, but given the very poor attendance at Labor Day, we took our best shot. Because this tournament had a rent of only \$900, we made \$5,200, which made up for most of the Labor Day loss. Please understand that this will not be the norm, but we may need to do this one more time until we come out of the mask restrictions that Illinois and its communities are embracing.

At this time, we have another tournament, WinterFest, scheduled for March 1, 2 and 3, at the same site, Jeremiah Temple in Northfield. We're asking the site to allow us to run two evening sessions to have a viable Invitational Pairs, but the jury is still out. We may have to run it during the day, but we are trying to have it during two night sessions. We are running the risk of poor weather and the reluctance of many to play at night, but we'll do our best.

For 2022, we are still investigating the possibility of running a tournament in downtown Chicago on the UIC campus in the summer, Labor Day at Skokie, and then a regional in the western suburbs, probably Schaumburg. Keep an eye on the CCBA website for more details. The bad news on this is that our committee process that finds the sites, creates the schedule, and then runs the tournaments, is "broken" per se. We just haven't had the normal activity to be able to complete these tasks. New board members haven't had to do these things during the normal course of operations. We will overcome these difficulties.

Now we come to the time where we talk about our slate of board of directors for the CCBA. Our board of directors goes through a self-nomination process, and then six members (three from the board, and three at-large) interview the candidates and make recommendations to the board. Our nomination/interview process starts in August and concludes by early October for approval of the board at the October Board meeting. However, if you would like to volunteer your services to help at a tournament or to assist in another way, you don't need to be a board member. We're always looking for help.

Each year, we slate five board members for a three-year term. This year, four board members will return: Jim Diebel, Guy Franklin, Bob Maxson, and Mark Stein.

We do have a departing board member, Todd Fisher. He ran several tournaments for us and pitched in with opinions and directions that he felt the CCBA needed to take. We will miss him, and we thank him for his service to the bridge community. A new member, Georgann Humphrey, with your approval, will be taking his place.

Under normal conditions, we would give out several awards including the Mini-McKenney that recognizes the CCBA players who earned the most masterpoints in the category in which they started the year, the Ace of Clubs which recognizes the player in each point category who won the most points in Unit 123 games during the previous year, the Greg Gran Sportsmanship Award, and the Harmon Wilkes Award, but because of the pandemic, we did not feel that awarding of these prizes would be appropriate this year.



2022 CCBA Officers Board Members

President
Mark Stein

Vice President
Loring Knoblauch

Secretary
Jan Churchwell

Treasurer
Tom Dressing

District Director
Suzi Subeck

Board of Directors
Bill Anspach
Phyllis Bartlett
Joe Connelly
Jim Diebel
Guy Franklin
Georgann Humphrey
Robert Maxson
Steve McConnell
Jamie Rubenstein
Joe Stokes

Kibitzer Editor
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Opinions of columnists are their own and may not represent those of the CCBA. For more information, go to www.bridgeinchicago.com or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.

Meet Your 2022 CCBA Board of Directors



President Mark Stein



Vice Pres. Loring Knoblauch



Secretary Jan Churchwell



Treasurer Tom Dressing



Bill Anspach



Phyllis Bartlett



Joe Connelly



Jim Diebel



Guy Franklin



Georgann Humphrey



Robert Maxson



Steve McConnell



Jamie Rubenstein



Joe Stokes



Suzie Subeck



Feb. 11 deadline to register for GNT Competition

The District 13 Grand National Team (GNT) competition will be played February 19 and 20 at the Hilton Northbrook, 2855 North Milwaukee Avenue, Northbrook.

The deadline for pre-registration, which is required, is February 11. Teams can register with Suzi Subeck, District 13 Director and GNT Coordinator, by calling her at 847-509-0311 or 708-927-6819, or by email at stansubeck@prodigy.net.

Entering teams must have a written confirmation either by email or letter. No team without such a written confirmation should assume that entry has been verified.

Captains should bring the confirmation with them to the site and be prepared to present it when purchasing an entry, according to Suzi.

Flight eligibility is established by ACBL's September 2021 masterpoint cycle. Masterpoints won after the cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Players must reside in District 13 and be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL.

The Championship Flights (unlimited masterpoints), Flight A (fewer than 6,000 masterpoints), and Flight B (fewer than 2,500 points) events will take place over four sessions and will be concluded in a single week-

end. Flight C (non Life Master and fewer than 500 points) will be a two-session Swiss Team event played to conclusion on February 20 only.

One team will qualify in the Championship Flight and Flight A.

In the event that there are eight or more teams in the District Final of Flight B and/or C, that flight or flights will qualify the top two teams. COVID protocols will be in force at the GNT, according to Suzi.



1 new face, 4 incumbents elected to CCBA Board



Georgann Humphrey

Five people were elected at the CCBA Annual Meeting on January 29 to three-year terms on the 15-member CCBA Board of Directors.

Remaining on the board are incumbents James Diebel, Guy Franklin, Bob Maxson and Mark Stein. Georgann Humphrey was elected to replace Todd Fisher, who did not seek re-election.

Each year five terms expire. This year, for the second time, the meeting was held via Zoom.

Georgann retired from working for large advertising agencies and now owns a small ad agency and design firm. She believes her business experience will assist her in contributing to the board.

"My experience has taught me to be flexible, to appreciate the point of view of others, to analyze problems, and to have a broad perspective," she said. "Solving problems will be a group effort. I hope I can be a good addition to the board."

She learned to play bridge after her second child was born. "I was bored." She took lessons and has enjoyed the game since that time.

Communication with partner essential to winning games



Jim Diebel

Winning with Wimpy

I direct many online games and see countless careless plays, most often on defense. Somebody leads a low club against a heart contract and third chair, holding ♣ KQ6 plays the king without giving it much thought. They figure that the king and queen are equals, so it doesn't matter which one they play.

This month's column will tell you that it does matter, because communication with your partner is important. Without it, you have very little chance to win.

Let's start with leads. We are taught to lead top of a sequence. I'm going to define a sequence as three cards in exact order, or three cards where the third card is only missing by one. Therefore: KQJ, QJT, JT9, T98, KQT, QJ9, JT8, and T97 are all fine examples of three-card sequences.

In EVERY one of these cases, you would lead the top card. If the sequence is only two cards, we only lead the top card if it is a short suit (two or three cards). From longer holdings, KQ84, QJ75, JT62, etc., practice has found that leading fourth best usually works best. The longer your suit, the less likely partner has length as well, and partner may be forced to unblock if he holds a doubleton honor.

Against slams, we would generally choose the top of a two-card sequence (if we didn't hold a three-card sequence) because we're less concerned with taking the maximum number of tricks than possibly giving a trick away by leading low.

Once we understand and learn what we lead from certain holdings, we can begin to piece together what partner has when he makes his lead.

More often, we'll begin to form a picture of what partner doesn't have. When partner leads a king against no trump, you should automatically place the queen in his hand, along with either the jack or the ten.

If you can't see it, the ace must be in declarer's hand. If the jack is in your hand, you should assume partner has led from KQT. If it is the latter, you can't expect partner to continue the suit unless you encourage him. After all, declarer will usually duck from AJx(x), and partner doesn't want to hand Declarer a free trick. Thus, it becomes imperative that you play a card to assure partner that it's safe to continue the suit.

You play a relatively high card using standard methods, or your lowest card if you are playing upside down.

When partner leads low to start, you should assume he doesn't have a three-card sequence in that suit, or else he would have led that. If partner leads a deuce and you play fourth best leads, you should assume partner has exactly four cards in that suit. If partner leads a four, and you can see the deuce, you should

keep an eye out for the three. If declarer has it, partner has led from a four-card suit, and if partner has it, he has led from five.

When playing third or fourth chair to a trick, it's absolutely critical to win the trick as cheaply as possible. Many defenders think they'll fool declarer by winning with a higher card than necessary. Unless you are certain that your partner will never get on lead again, this is a dangerous practice.



If you have say, a queen-jack combination, and partner leads low in that suit, it may not matter to YOU which card you play; however, it's going to make a huge difference to partner.

If you play the queen, and declarer wins with the king, you will have managed to convince your partner that declarer holds the jack as well.

Partner trusted that you, holding the jack and the queen, would have played the jack. Playing the queen denies holding the jack, and next time partner gets on lead, he will not play that suit.

Let's look at a common third chair defensive situation: Against a NT contract, partner leads the ♠ 3.

♠ Q64

♠ KT9

This type of problem confuses many inexperienced players. If partner has led from the ace, the king will win. If partner has led from the jack, the nine will force the ace. If partner has led from the ace-jack, the nine will be a winner.

How do you know? If you consider the entire spade suit, instead of a single trick, the answer will appear. If Declarer has the jack, playing the nine will allow him to win the jack, but that's all of the spade tricks he will get.

Had you played the king, it would have won the first trick, but dummy's queen will eventually be set up as a trick for declarer. In other words, if declarer has the jack, he cannot be stopped from winning a spade trick – either now or later.

If declarer has the ace and jack, playing the nine allows him to win the jack, but as long as YOU never lead another spade, he will only get the ace. If you play the king, he gets three spade tricks.

Finally, if partner has the ace and the jack, and you play the king, declarer will eventually get a spade trick. If you play the nine, he gets none. This should make it clear that the nine is the proper play. No matter what declarer holds, playing the nine will insure that he collects the minimum that he has coming to him.

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Advancing in rank

Junior Master

Stephen Beese
Kris Harihara
Maryann Leonard
Therese Prouty
Sally Schuster
Carol Scott

Club Master

Robert Burow
Ginny Collins
Judy Fleming
Mary Hasten
Todd Holes
Paul Kavanaugh

Sectional Master

Donald Alan
Bob Lenet
Jakob Reinke

NABC Master

Lawrence Moelmann

Advanced NABC Master

Peter Bush

Bronze Life Master

Ryan Daniels



Kathleen Gerbosi
Ellen McGregor
Diana McIntosh
Ralph Schindler
Brian Werner

Silver Life Master

Jared Bass
Donald Dvorak
Gordon Parks
Cynthia Polayes
Linda Saville
Glorya Spero

Ruby Life Master

Janet Hickerson
Douglas MacDonald
Marie Maurer

Gold Life Master

Davi Bogolub
John Miller

Diamond Life Master

Samuel Miller

South Suburban players play F2F At holiday party; support pantry

Pictured below are the players who attended the South suburban Bridge Center holiday party during December in Lansing .

“It was our very first big event since going back face-to-face after the pandemic. We had 14 full tables and a lovely catered buffet lunch,” said Lynne Kostopoulous. Diane Martin directed the game.

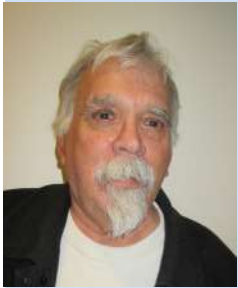
Lou Nimnicht and Steve Watson were the north-south winners, and Terry Bauer and Trudy McKamey were East West winners. The participants brought contributions for the Lansing food pantry.



ACBL Online Event Calendar

- Feb. 1-28 **Grand National Teams Club Qualifying**
2x regular club points, 50% red, 50% black
- Feb. 12-15 **Valentine's Weekend**
2x regular club points, 50% red, 50% black
- Feb. 21-27 **Education Foundation Week**
- Mar. 1-28 **Grand National Teams Club Qualifying**
2x regular club points, 50% red, 50% black
- Mar. 5-7 **NABC Robot Individual**
- Mar. 24-27 **Spring Online Regional**

Treasurer reports CCBA is in good financial shape



Joe Connelly
2021 Treasurer

CCBA Treasurer Joe Connelly reported at the Annual Meeting that Unit 123 is in good financial shape, despite suffering a loss on the Labor Day tournament. Most of that loss, however, was made up by the \$5,200 earned on the unit's first three-day regional, which was held in November.

"We are a not-for-profit organization. Our goal is not to make money, but to support and promote bridge, and to hold tournaments," he said.

"I want to thank the bridge owners for running games and I want to thank the players who have supported the games."

He presented the following summary of the unit's financial statement, as of December 31, 2021.

Assets:		Liabilities & Equity:	
Total Current Assets	143,695	Opening Balance Equity	144,878
Total Accts Receivable	1,914	Net income	<u>1,231</u>
Total Prepaid Rent	<u>500</u>		
Total Current Assets	146,109	Total Liabilities & Equity	146,109



Date	District/Unit	Location	Type
Mar 1-3	13/123	Northfield (Chicago)	sectional
Mar 10-20	Reno NV		Nationals
Mar 14-20	11	STaC D11	STaC
Mar 19	14	Rochester MN	IN event
Mar 25-27	11	Kettering (Dayton) OH	sectional
Mar 25-27	8	Huntley IL	sectional
Mar 25-27	14	Waverly (Lincoln) NE	sectional
Mar 26-27	8	Olivette (St Louis) MO	IN event
Mar 30 - Apr 1	13/149	Mount Pleasant (Racine) WI	sectional
Mar 31 - Apr 3	12	Southfield (Detroit) MI	sectional

Schuetts give pointers on what to lead when the contract is no trump



You are West and need to pick an opening lead after hearing the following bidding.

There are rules about leading against NT. Top of a three card or longer sequence where the highest card is an honor; fourth best from your longest and strongest; top of a broken sequence like QJ984; or top of an interior sequence, etc.

Considerations when leading against NT are different than leading against suit contracts. You often are willing to give up an early trick in hopes of setting up length. Without a clear lead, think carefully about the bidding and consider unbid suit(s). Good Luck!

By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

	S	W	N	E
1. ♠ AK954 ♥ J92 ♦ JT6 ♣ 92	1NT	P	3NT	All Pass
2. ♠ QT4 ♥ QJT86 ♦ 765 ♣ A7	1NT	P	2NT	All Pass
3. ♠ KJ75 ♥ J4 ♦ QJ842 ♣ Q7	1♥ 1NT	P P	1♠ 3NT	P All Pass
4. ♠ A9 ♥ QT85 ♦ KT983 ♣ T3	1♥ 2NT	P P	2♣ 3NT	P All Pass
5. ♠ KJ8763 ♥ Q92 ♦ JT6 ♣ 9	1NT	P	3NT	All Pass
6. ♠ QJ986 ♥ A952 ♦ JT6 ♣ 9	1NT	P	3NT	All Pass
7. ♠ QJ73 ♥ 9852 ♦ 872 ♣ 74	1NT 2♠	P P	2♣ 3NT	P All Pass

Answers:

- ♠ 5, fourth from your longest & strongest. If partner doesn't hold the ♠ Q, at least you are hoping to maintain communications with partner to help you set up your suit and then return your suit when they gain the lead to allow you to run the remaining cards in ♠. Do not lead the ♠ A or K.
- ♥ Q, top of a three card or longer sequence. You do not want to lead fourth best and have declarer win a cheap trick with the ♥ 9. If partner has a high honor like the ♥ K3, she should overtake to unblock.
- ♦ 4, fourth from your longest and strongest. Against a suit, you would lead ♦ Q; NT needs 3 touching or QJ9.
- ♦ T, top of an interior sequence of 3+ cards. Warning, this is often hard for partner to read, but it is the correct lead and very useful if dummy holds Jxx and partner Qxx and can let the ♦ 10 ride if declarer plays low. If dummy has only low cards and third hand holds AJx, they should win the ♦ A and return the ♦ J, high from a doubleton.
- ♠ 7, fourth from your longest and strongest. Any interior sequence must be headed by an honor (10 or higher) and 876 is NOT considered an interior sequence. From K987 lead 7, from KT98 lead T.

6. ♠ Q, top of a broken sequence. Your 9 is just about enough to make your sequence three cards and we don't want declarer to win a cheap trick. Partner will think you have ♠ QJT but this is close enough.

7. ♠ 8, top of nothing in unbid suit. From the bidding, S has 4-cd spades and dummy has 4-cd hearts. With good clubs, partner might double 2C, so try a diamond! Amazing, partner had KJ9xx of diamonds over Q10 in dummy!

Ginny & Jeff Schuett-bridge teaching, directing, play
Email: jgschuett2@comcast.net
Phone 847-940-7236

This is Funny!

What part of a band plays bridge? The trump-it section.



Why is England known for being such a wet country? The queen has been reigning there for generations.

What did the time traveler do when he was still hungry after finishing his dinner? He got up and went back four seconds.

If you commit a first degree murder in Canada, is it a 34 degree murder in the US?

What do you call a noodle that doesn't drink? Soba.



"Life is not always a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes, playing a poor hand well." Jack London

ACBL's new District 5 Director discusses major concerns

(Continued from page 1)

"Targeting former members who dropped out during the pandemic will be important, as well as attracting new members."

"We need to offer them safety at our clubs and a sense of purpose and camaraderie." He added that offering players lessons at the clubs on how to improve their game will be important to attract players back to the clubs.

Regarding tournaments, he pointed out that the ACBL has had many tournament cancellations, and a recent regional in Florida drew just over 20 percent of the table count from two years ago.

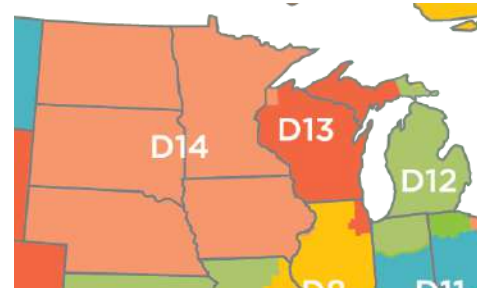
When asked if BBO is a blessing or a curse, Dennis said that it was a blessing for the ACBL in 2020 and 2021

because it helped the League to stay financially sound.

"But this blessing has become a curse, as it has affected table counts at our face-to-face clubs and at our tournaments. The ease of playing on BBO has been attractive to our players, but until in-person play is perceived to be safe, I support BBO play rather than no play.

"I prefer face-to-face play and, currently and historically, I have played at and supported three clubs within 50 miles of my home. However, being able to play weekly with my Knoxville and Detroit area partners on BBO has been a source of happiness for me."

Dennis admits that online cheating happens. "It is important that



CCBA is now a part of Region 5 which the ACBL formed by combining Districts, 12, 13, and 14.

our game is not compromised by unethical players".

"I spend a lot of my Board of Director time reviewing online cheating and disciplinary matters, and I believe that our Online Ethical Oversight Committee has brought many of our worst offenders to task for their offenses. I believe that we will soon shorten the time it takes to weed out cheaters."

Dennis, a Diamond Life Master, said he discovered duplicate bridge in 1972 as a college student. "I read an ad for bridge lessons and never looked back. He met his wife, Susan, at a bridge tournament.

He has been an ACBL member since 1973, and is a certified director, former bridge club owner, and former bridge teacher.

From 1978 to the present, he has been a board member of Unit 195 (Western Michigan) and president since 1986.

Dennis has been on the District 12 Board of Directors since 1986, serving as president or vice president for a total of six terms.

"I look forward to representing Unit 123 and all the members of Region 5. I hope we can improve the duplicate bridge experience for all players," he said.

Stein to head CCBA Board in 2022

(Continued from page 1)

Another issue to be addressed is determining what steps can be taken to help clubs survive, because "they are the backbone of the game. "

"Face-to-face play is important to the game, and it would be a pity to lose it," he said.

Mark is also concerned about the aging population of the players and the need to attract younger players.

Mark said he does not have all the answers. "I don't have a crystal ball, so it will be important for me to rely upon suggestions from players and upon the expertise and experience of other board members. I'll have a lot of support. "

Mark, who began playing bridge as a 15-year-old, said, "I had some success in college, earning my gold points long before I had enough black points to make Life Master. I have never taken a break from the game, and have played in at least one tournament every year."

Beginning in his 50s, he began playing more frequently, and began playing annually in the Grand National Games, "one of my favorites on the bridge calendar."

Because he has enjoyed bridge for years, and because he now has the time since he is semi-retired, the attorney felt that it was time for him to give back to the game that he loves.

Memory Trip down Lane

*Photos from Prepandemic
Winter Fest/Annual Meetings*



Communication is essential to winning

(Continued from page 6)

Now let's say you play the nine and declarer wins the ace. Partner later gets the lead. Initially he led the ♠ 3 from ♠ J853. How does he know to continue the suit?

Partner will conclude that had declarer held the ace and the 10, he would have won the 10, guaranteeing at least two spade tricks.

How does partner know who has the king? Truthfully, he doesn't know. The only thing he is fairly sure about is that YOU hold the 10. If Declarer started with ♠ AK2, it costs nothing to continue the suit, and might be the winner.

Let's go back a moment and assume that instead of the ♠ 9, you played the ♠ 10. After all, they're the same card to you. Partner trusts you.

Partner expects that if you held the ♠ 9 and the ♠ 10, that you would have played the ♠ 9. Now when partner regains the lead, he'll put the ♠ 9 in declarer's hand and won't lead a spade fearing that declarer started with ♠ A92, and you started with ♠ KT7. A spade lead in this layout hands declarer a second spade trick that he could not have gotten on his own. Feel free to work it out for yourself.

To summarize: When partner leads from an honor sequence, mentally put the next lower honor in partner's hand, and if you can't see the higher honor, you know that declarer has it.

When you win a trick in fourth seat, or attempt to win one in third seat, always play the lowest of equal cards. This simple procedure will allow partner to accurately place the cards in both your hand and declarer's hand, and that will guide him to finding the winning defense, if there is one.

Jim Diebel is a bridge teacher, club owner, and director.



Unit 222 Valentine Sectional



FEBRUARY 9 - 12, 2022



GOOD HOPE SCHOOL (4 ACES BRIDGE CLUB) – ROOM #26
2315 W. Good Hope Road - Glendale WI

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9:30 a.m. Pair/Team Game & 299er Pair Game
2:00 p.m. Pair/Team Game & 299er Pair Game

Saturday

9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. BRUCE BROWN CUP OPEN PAIRS
9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. 299er Pair Game (Single Sessions)
We will follow ACBL and local regulations regarding Covid protocols

TOURNAMENT CHAIR: John Pereles (414-559-3463)

jrpereles@gmail.com

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR: Yvette Neary (414-526-9035)

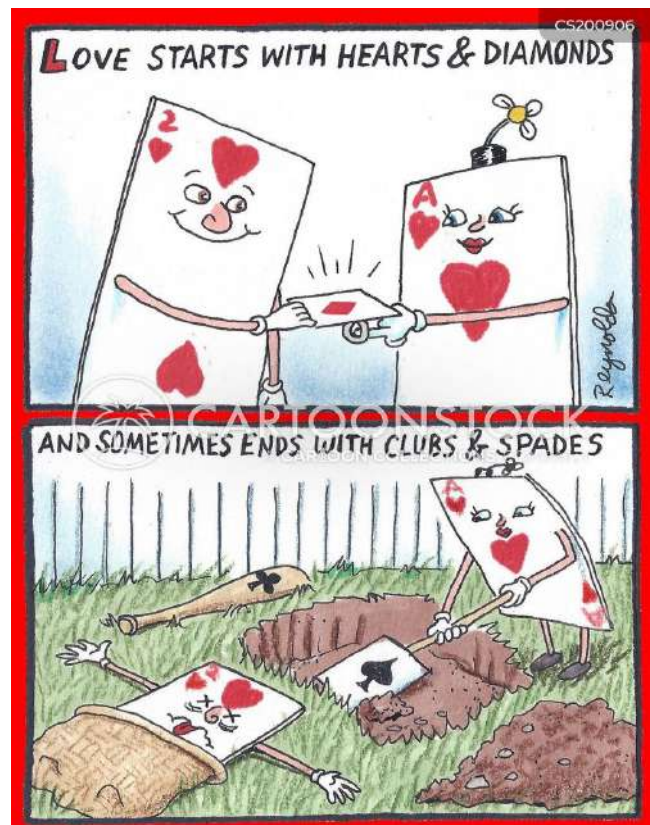
yneary@gmail.com

299er CHAIR: Judy Burzynski (262-391-0970)

Strata for all open games: 0-749, 750-2499, 2500+

Strata for 299er games: 0-49, 50-99, 100-300

(Strats may be adjusted as attendance warrants)





Drury is a convention that CAN be very useful. But before you read about it, I ask: do you open light in third or fourth-seat? If not, then don't bother reading about Drury. If you and partner do open light in third or fourth seat, then Drury can be a very handy tool. Drury is a convention used by the responder after his partner has opened 1♠ or 1♥ in 3rd or 4th seat to show a good raise. When we say Drury, it is really short for "Reverse Drury", but almost no one plays it any other way than the one described below.

The conventional bid (see end of article for variations) is 2♣ to show a good raise, examples below:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠ or 1♥
Pass	2♣		

In all cases, the 2♣ bid is artificial (says nothing about clubs). It shows support for the major (at least 3 cards) and a good raise. "Good" means more than a single raise to the 2-level. So, instead of 6-9, this raise is showing 10+ (counting distribution). Of course, it can't be too strong a hand, since the player bidding 2♣ has already passed.

Here are some examples of hands that would bid 2♣, Drury, after a third- (or fourth-) seat 1♥ opening:

♠ 2♥ Q 8 3♦ A 8 7 6 5♣ K J 4 2, or
 ♠ K J 2♥ K Q 5 2♦ J 8 7 6♣ 3 2, or
 ♠ A 2♥ A Q 2♦ 8 7 6 5 3♣ 6 5 2.

After a third-or fourth-seat 1♠ opener, a Drury bidder might hold:

♠ A K 3♥ 8 7♦ J 5 4 3 2♣ Q 7 3, or
 ♠ K Q J 2♥ A 2♦ 7 6 5 4♣ 10 4 3, or
 ♠ 9 8 7♥ A K♦ K 7 6 2♣ 10 8 7 6.

After the Drury 2♣ bid, the opener can sign-off in 2-of-the-agreed major by bidding it, for example:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Why use this convention? A player who opens in 3rd or 4th seat is often on the light side. The

2♣ response (rather than a limit-raise to the 3-level) has the advantage of keeping the partnership at the 2 level when the opening bid was made on say, an 11- or 12-count.

Notes:

> Some pairs use 2-way Drury. This entails a 2♣ Drury bid which promises exactly (only) 3-card support. With 4+ card support, the Drury bid is an artificial 2♦. As long as you can remember it, this isn't a bad idea.

> When playing Drury, you lose the ability to respond with a natural 2♣ (and a natural 2♦ if playing 2-way).

> It is not a good idea to use Drury over interference. If the opponents double (or overcall) after the major-suit opening, you should just play "natural."

> To play this convention, make sure you can remember it, have discussed which way you play it (I suggest as above), and if you are using 2-way. Also, of course, discuss that it is OFF in competition.

> If opener wants to be in game after hearing the Drury bid, he should just jump to 4-of-the-major and not give away information. [Example: P P 1♥ P; 2♣ P ?? -- Jump to 4♥ with: ♠ A Q 2♥ A Q J 8 7 6♦ 3♣ Q 10 4.

> This convention is not on my top-12 list -- but does make the next grade -- not a bad one.

Drury is alertable.

Larry runs and is the star of Bridge with Larry Cohen. He is a 25-Time National Champion, ACBL Player of the Year, ACBL Honorary Member of the Year, ACBL Top 10 Living Most Influential in Bridge and finally 2020 Hall of Famer.