



A publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association June/July 2020

ACBL Cancels NAP/GNT Finals

The ACBL released the following information. Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions in place across the continent, both the North American Pairs (NAP) and Grand National Teams (GNT) events have been canceled for 2020.

With regard to the 2020-2021 NAP, the qualifiers from the 2019-2020 season will play their final in St. Louis in March 2021 and will receive their travel awards if they attend.

For the 2019-2020 GNT, districts that have completed their district finals may choose to send those teams to the National final in the summer of 2021 or may restart from scratch. Those who qualified will be eligible to play in 2021 based on their masterpoint standing at the time of the original qualifying event. This is a district option, not the ACBL's.

Open Letter to CCBA Members

Dear CCBA Players,

Sadly, the Chicago Contract Bridge Association (CCBA) Board of Directors voted to cancel two tournaments, the Windy City Regional and the Labor Day Silver Point Sectional. In light of the pandemic, it was the responsible decision to make.

Windy City was scheduled for August 3-8 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Plans were for the popular Labor Day tournament to be held at the Weber Leisure Center in Skokie, which had been the site for a number of years. The Board was notified a few weeks ago that the facility was not available this year due to the pandemic.

As everyone is aware, bridge brings players into close contact, and the cards, boards, and bidding boxes, are handled numerous times during a game, so the possibility of the COVID-19 Virus unknowingly being transferred exists. Because the Board is concerned about your health and safety, and because planning a tournament has been completely upended by the pandemic, canceling was the prudent step to take socially, as well as fiscally.

In the meantime, we will continue planning tournaments for your future enjoyment, and we hope you will continue enjoying bridge by going online.

We wish you good health.

CCBA President Tom Dressing and the Board of Directors



Happy Independence Day
To CCBA Players and Families



The following is a letter from ACBL Board President Georgia Heth sent April 30:

Dear fellow members of the ACBL,

I wanted to give you a real-time explanation of what is happening with the ACBL in these unprecedented times.

Management and staff continue to perform at an unbelievable pace. Getting online bridge clubs and tournaments going and taking care of our financial situation have been our top two priorities. The first cash distributions from these online initiatives were made to clubs last week and will continue monthly hereafter. BBO (Bridge Base Online) pays us only once per month so we cannot distribute more frequently.

The online bridge games have been more popular than we imagined, running at almost 3000 tables per day. There have been hiccups along the way, but that will happen when projects are being pushed out quickly without time for repeated testing. While these games are raising a lot of money for the clubs, they are not as financially rewarding for the ACBL. For example, the Support Your Club games raise approximately \$16.00 per table for the clubs while the ACBL receives \$1.00 per table.

The online regional tournament Thursday through Sunday this week (April 30–May 3) is a “Support your League” opportunity – offering ACBL-wide competition while raising over \$40.00 per table for the ACBL. Who doesn’t love a big regional – especially when there are no travel or hotel expenses! We hope to see every table full. There are I/N games, Gold Rush pairs, two-session Open Pairs and side games – something for everyone. Login and join the fun.

Most of the organization’s expenses have continued even though very little money has been coming in. The regional is an attempt to increase our income. We will evaluate all aspects of the regional before planning any more ACBL-wide games, so please let us know what you think of your experience.

At the beginning of April, staff was reduced to a 32-hour work week, taking a 20% pay cut. Management took the pay cut as well, but many saw no reduction in work hours. Now that we have a better idea of what is before us, we had to make the difficult and sad decision to furlough much of our staff. We were hoping we would qualify for the payroll assistance program under the CARES act, but we did not.

Starting May 3, approximately 40% of our staff is being furloughed. Furloughed employees’ health insurance remains in effect under the same terms as when they were working. This measure is necessary to bring down the projected loss for the year to a number we can afford. If it turns out that that we were overly pessimistic, we can bring people back from furlough earlier than anticipated.

Furloughed employees are not allowed to perform any work, not even take phone calls or respond to emails, even if they are willing. If you are told a staff member is unavailable because they have been furloughed, please respect that and let someone else help you. I know those of you who deal frequently with Headquarters employees have your favorites you depend on to help you, but that may not be possible at the current time.

We value each and every one of our employees and hope they are able to return to work sooner rather than later. We had to take this step to make sure there is an organization for them, and you, to return to after the coronavirus situation is better under control.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Georgia Heth,

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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.



Today's Topic: Conjuring That Extra Trick



Rowen Bell

Rowen is a gold life master who hasn't been seen as much at CCBA tournaments and clubs in the past few years due to family and work demands. He currently splits his time between Chicago and St. Paul, and stays active in bridge via online play. This hand came from an online matchpoint game.

South is dealer, both vulnerable

| | |
|---------|---------|
| South | North |
| ♠ AKJ64 | ♠ 97532 |
| ♥ 7 | ♥ KQ |
| ♦ AJ7 | ♦ K863 |
| ♣ AT87 | ♣ J9 |

Playing standard methods, and with the opponents silent, a normal auction would be: South opens 1S, North raises to 2S, and South rebids 4S.

West leads the nine of diamonds (standard honor leads); declarer plays low from dummy, East plays the queen, and South wins the ace. South cashes the ace of spades, with both opponents following.

This looks like the contract everybody in the room will be in, and even with the diamond queen's favorable location, you appear to have a loser in both hearts and clubs. Is this the flattest board of the set, with every North-South making +650? Or can you find a way to conjure that extra trick for +680 and a matchpoint top?

Here's a line of play to generate the 12th trick:

After cashing a second high trump to draw the opponents' queen, cross to dummy with a third round of trump, and play a low diamond. Since West led the nine, East rates to have the ten; so when East follows low, insert the seven, and after it holds, cash the diamond jack.

After that, cross to dummy with a fourth round of trump, and now cash the diamond king, pitching your singleton heart. At this point the position with five tricks to play and the lead in dummy is:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| ♠ - | ♠ - |
| ♥ ??? | ♥ ??? |
| ♦ - | ♦ - |
| ♣ ??? | ♣ ??? |

| | |
|--------|--|
| ♠ J | |
| ♥ - | |
| ♦ - | |
| ♣ AT87 | |

Now, lead the jack of clubs from dummy, planning on running it.

If East covers with an honor, you win and play the ten of clubs; your club spots are good enough that you can build the 12th trick in clubs.

If East doesn't cover, you play low. If East was sleeping and the jack wins, that is your 12th trick and you can take a ruffing finesse in hearts for another over-trick. If West wins, a club return into your ace-10 guarantees you a 12th trick in clubs, while a heart return guarantees you a 12th trick in hearts.

Note here that dummy's king-queen of hearts are important! If dummy's heart holding were any weaker, a heart return by West may yield a second defensive trick, since all that crossing to dummy in trumps has left declarer with only one



trump now.

The full layout:

| | |
|---------|--|
| ♠ 97532 | |
| ♥ KQ | |
| ♦ K863 | |
| ♣ J9 | |

| | |
|----------|----------|
| ♠ QT | ♠ 8 |
| ♥ T965 | ♥ AJ8432 |
| ♦ 9 | ♦ QT542 |
| ♣ Q65432 | ♣ K |

| | |
|---------|--|
| ♠ AKJ64 | |
| ♥ 7 | |
| ♦ AJ7 | |
| ♣ AT87 | |

Interestingly, none of this would have been possible if East hadn't made the seemingly-normal play of the queen of diamonds at trick one!

If East lets South win the first diamond trick cheaply with the jack, then declarer can't handle the diamond suit for four tricks, and thus the heart loser cannot be pitched.



"IT IS A READING GROUP, LORETTA ... WE SIT AROUND TRYING TO READ EACH OTHER'S HANDS."

Schuetts reveal joys and challenges of teaching bridge on cruise ships



The Schuetts try their hand at riding camels in Agava Petra, Jordan. The treasury building is behind them.

Not many bridge teachers have visited over 110 countries, met celebrities, and experienced numerous adventures, including riding camels. Ginny and Jeff Schuett, however, have done so as bridge teachers on cruise ships for several decades. And none of it was planned.

It began almost by accident. In 1995 Ginny met, Audrey Grant for the first time, at an ABTA bridge teachers' convention. At the end of the conversation, Audrey asked Ginny if she would be interested in doing a bridge cruise.

Ginny tells the story:

Not realizing how momentous this was, I casually said yes. I came home and told Jeff what happened. We waited – end of summer, fall, winter, spring – no invitation. At the teachers' convention in 1996, Audrey again asked me, saying last year was not a good year to put me on. She wanted me to have a good ship. She was absolutely right when she put me on Crystal. I again said yes, but with a little more enthusiasm.

I came home and told Jeff what happened again, but this time I told him don't count on it. In the early fall, she contacted me and sent me the World Cruise itinerary for 1997 on Crystal Symphony.

Thinking that this would be the first and last time we would ever get to do this, we carefully chose the six-week segments Sydney to Mumbai. We reasoned we could go early and see the sights. We actually thought we could take a day trip to the Great Barrier Reef! We did as much sightseeing in and around Sydney as we could and then boarded the ship.

At that time, Jeff was still working, so he could only go for three weeks to Hong Kong. But, my good friend, Chris Benson, joined me in Hong Kong to Mumbai. After we left the ship in Mumbai, we took a private tour to the Taj Mahal, then London, and then home.

My first time out of the country, I literally went around the world – and I hate flying.

Oh, the bridge on the ship – the reason I was there. At that time, there were three couples who ran the program. One couple did the beginners and the social game. Another couple ran the duplicate game,



Ginny with comedian Jonathan Winters, one of several celebrities the Schuetts have met.



Ginny teaching classes on a cruise ship.

which was usually 14-18 tables. I taught two classes in the morning, intermediate and advanced. In the afternoon duplicate game, Jeff made himself available if they needed a player. This was the schedule every sea day.



Terraced rice fields in Bali

Every port day there was an afternoon duplicate game and we took turns with the other bridge teachers running them. You are asked from time to time to help with activities on the ship – not required but much appreciated if you can.

The ship (any ship) has a rating system (QAP – quality assurance program questionnaire) that the guests can use. If you didn't score an eight with 10 being the top, you wouldn't be invited back.

I was ranked almost as high as Audrey. She was greatly impressed and said she would send me the itinerary for 1998. She did so and we chose another part of the world (Mumbai to London) .so eventually we did go around the world piece by piece. My class of 10-12 tables was dictated to be 45 minutes. I elected to lecture for 15-20 minutes and have the guests

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Schuetts reveal joys and challenges of teaching bridge on cruise ships

(Cont'd from p. 4)

play two hands. Because Jeff was with me doing nothing, I decided he could make up the hands the day before.

So, how did Jeff become a teacher

on the ship? On the eighth cruise, we were ending the cruise in Singapore, but our last stop was in Thailand. We were taking a little outboard motor canoe tour in Bangkok and the driver sped up and turned.

I was talking (naturally) and some of that river water hit my mouth. I did not swallow, but, nevertheless, the damage had been done. That night I was in utter agony. In the morning, I told Jeff he had to do the class because I couldn't even stand up. Since he had prepared everything, he could handle it with ease.

I couldn't stand the agony and called the medical center. They asked what the problem was. I told them. They said, "Stay in your room. We will be right up." They took one look at me and said I was quarantined, and gave me charcoal pills to clear out my system. I felt much better late in the day. When they caught up to Jeff, they quarantined him too even though there was nothing wrong with him. Thank goodness we were leaving the ship the next day to come home. Except for this little hiccup, it was a great cruise. When Jeff retired in 2005, we started sharing all the teaching.

Cruising is a great way to see the world or any part of it. If you especially like an area, you can plan to return there and spend all the time you want.



Dog sledding in Alaska

Cruising allows you to enjoy the food without shopping, preparing and cleaning up; to see the sights with the ship's tours or on your own, and meet many interesting people. Some of these people have become our very good friends. It's like a bridge Nationals – you see friends you haven't seen for three or four months and it's just like yesterday when you see them again at the Nationals.

Here are some of our interesting/exciting experiences.

We were late returning to the ship in Turkey. The crew were getting ready to raise the gangplank as we were running down the pier and yelling. They were able to delay the exercise for the extra minute it took us to get there. The ship waits for no one! Had we missed it, we would have had to find our way to the next port on our own.



Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia

Another harrowing experience happened and we weren't even aware of it until after the fact.

We were cruising in very rough waters off the southwestern coast of Australia. We were in our 10th floor stateroom getting ready for dinner. All of a sudden we were on the floor looking out our veranda at the approaching sea!

The ship popped back up like a cork and continued to fight its battle successfully against that terrible weather, which included 30-foot swells. However, the guests at dinner found food all over them and a lot of broken glass strewn about. Thank goodness, no one was seriously hurt. We experienced our first (and hopefully last) rogue wave.

We've also had to miss ports due to terrorism (Valley of the Kings, Egypt),



Falkland Islands and its penguins

dock strikes (Athens, Greece), 105 foot waves and strong winds (Hobart, New Zealand), the loss of the ship's motor trying to get to Komodo Island in the Pacific, and recently some lovely islands due to the pandemic just to name a few.

Some entertainers or celebrities we've enjoyed onboard include Hal Linden (Barney Miller who was a bridge player that came to class every day), the Smother's Brothers, Debbie Reynolds, Lainie Kazan, comedians Jonathan Winters and Artie Johnson, pro golfer/bridge player Billy Casper, Vanna White, Eva Marie Saint, Barbara Eden, Regis Philbin, Wayne Newton, Olympians Nadia Comaneci and Bart Connor, and baseball star Hank Aaron.

Jeff picks up the story:

Before we started cruising in 1997, we had only been to Canada, but now we've been to over 110 countries and counting. Our favorite sites are Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Petra in Jordan, any iconic monument in Egypt, Great Wall of China, Bora Bora, and Africa safaris. Our favorite cities are Sydney, Cape Town, London, Dubai, Rome, and Singapore. If we can get to a waterfall anywhere, Ginny is happy.

Many friends say you've done it so long, why do you keep cruising? The ships, the food, and crew are amazing, we are NEVER bored, we meet wonderful guests that share our passion for travel, and the places we get to visit most people can only dream about.

So, for those of you that can teach multi-level lessons and direct an ACBL duplicate game, give it a try. There's nothing like it!

Hooray for online bridge. Director tells how to participate in the fun



By Diane Martin
ACBL Director and
club owner

You can't calm the storm...so stop trying. What you can do is calm yourself. The storm will pass. – Timber Hawkeye

What once was an unthinkable scenario, is now reality. Covid19 has touched and changed all of our lives, and our beloved bridge games came to a screeching halt.

Luckily, Bridge Base Online (BBO) and ACBL quickly came up with a brilliant way to solve our dilemma! Meet up with your friends and play online.

You can reserve a table for you and three friends in the casual room, or play as a pair or single. You can play in ACBL tournaments (the first one was a huge success) and even earn gold points.

Play in the games marked SYC and you are helping to support your local clubs. The newest addition is that clubs are allowed to hold actual club games online and award black points. This is a great opportunity to not only support your club but to once again see our bridge family!

Let's get started!

In your browser, first type in Bridge Base Online.

Next click on Bridge Base Online, Play Online Bridge, the first item. The BBO home screen will pop up.

On the right side you will see a red box that says Login/Register. If you have not yet registered, click on Register. Then, follow the prompts. Type in a user name and password. Add your ACBL number. Click on remember me! You are all set.

Click on the different topics to become familiar with what is available to play. To play in an SYC game, click on ACBL World. To actually play in your club game, click on Virtual Clubs (under featured areas) and then on ACBL-North America. (See graphic at right.)

To play bridge in the featured area, you will need to have BB\$. To purchase BB\$, you will see at the top right of your screen, a blue box showing BB\$. Click on

that and follow the prompts.

When you are sorting through available games, please note the start time. You can purchase your entry two hours ahead of time. There are individual and pair offerings. Frequently these games fill up, so login early. You can then logoff or navigate to other areas on the site. BBO will disconnect you if you have been inactive for a while, so make certain to logoff and back on within 10 minutes or so before game time!

To play in your club games: go to Featured Areas, and click on Virtual Clubs. Your club's game will appear two hours before game time. And, same as above, please remember to logoff and back on near game time if you register early!

SELF ALERT-Something different than we are accustomed to doing! Click on the alert button, and then make your bid. 15-17 range NT does not need to be announced by any other range does. Click on alert to make an announcement and type in the info where it says "explain." (See above graphic.)

UNDO-this is not available in "real" games, but in the casual section if you misclick on a bid, you can ask the opponents to allow you to change your bid.

CLAIM-do this as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

CLOCK-the rounds are timed, watch

the clock. It is located near the Board number, and near that area the dealer and vulnerability are shown.

CONVENTION CARDS-You must have a completed convention card or you will be playing SAYC (Standard American Yellow Card). To make out your card, go to ACCOUNT, located on the right side of your screen. Click on account and in the new box that opens directly under the word Account you will see Convention cards. Click on that and then the blue box that says New ACBL Convention Card. Complete the card, put partner's login name in the box that says partner and SAVE. Every time you play with that partner BBO will automatically bring up your convention card. You can create as many different cards as you have partners!



CALL THE DIRECTOR-to call the director, press the blue box (located above the Board number) it has three horizontal lines. Click on call the director and type in the issue you are having. You can also view the opponents' convention card here.

ASKING QUESTIONS-If you want to ask the opponents a specific question click on their user name. A box will pop up and offer a chat line. DO NOT use the table chat bar except for greetings and general chit chat.

OPPONENTS-because the login names are different from the actual player's name, you can click on their login name and see (if they have at the club, but is a wonderful opportunity for us to safely play and be with our bridge family.

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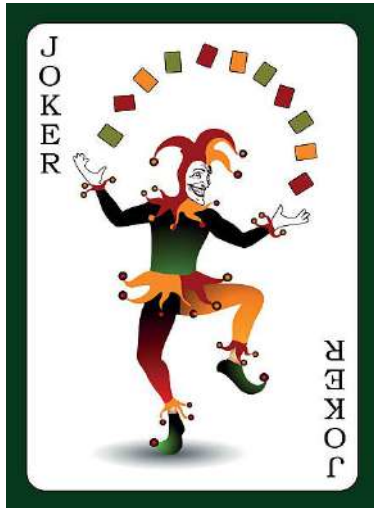
Time to tickle your funny bone

A humorous explanation of virtual bridge player levels and acronyms

By Harland London

(Harland describes himself as a frustrated BBO player who is looking forward to the opening of regular club games.)

All right, so we're rather forced into playing bridge on BBO. You know, Bad Bridge Online.



Which isn't to say playing in virtual club games or BBO, games with your regular partner isn't satisfying, it is. But if you ever venture into a game where you get a random partner, well that's a whole other world.

Players self-designate their ability level. The following is a handy guide to understand those levels.

Beginner: Knows there are 52 cards, 4 suits and 13 tricks.



Novice: A beginner who has read a couple of bridge columns in the *Chicago Tribune* and wants another player to play with them.

Intermediate: A novice who has learned at least two conventions. Stayman and Blackwood.

Advanced: An intermediate that counts trump, and has at least heard of defense.

Expert: An advanced player better than me.

World Class: An intermediate from a country you've never heard of and whose flag you can't recognize and name you can't pronounce. (Like a real World Class player is ever going to play in a casual game with you.)

There are many common acronyms used in the chat that need some explanation:

GLP (Good Luck Partner)

- You are going to need it with this dummy
- You bid it, you play it
- What were you thinking?
- Where is the hand you bid?
- All of the above

WTF (What the F***)

- See explanation of GLP.
- Why that finesse?
- The obvious.
- All of the above.

Sry P: (Sorry Partner)

- Opps
- My bad
- Mis-click

Now think of how difficult it is for the directors; no lead out of turns, no revokes, no slow play warnings. What do they do to get their scowl on? But we all should play in the virtual club games to support our clubs.



Yeah, it's a couple of dollars cheaper to play BBO games, but we want our clubs to be there when this craziness is over. We all can afford it, so do the right thing. AND STAY SAFE!



The Truth Can Be Funny

The following comment by David Burn, a top Brit player, was overheard at a recent online game.

"The thing about ridiculous contracts is that top players find it difficult to believe how ridiculous they are, so a trick almost always gets away."

David Burn was kibitzing a team game hosted by Jill Levin - Ralph Katz and Nick Nickell, who were playing against a Brit pair. Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein, who were Katz' and Nickell's partners, were in the "other room."



Is it wrong to open a weak two when holding a four-card major ?

Conception: "Don't Open A Weak 2-bid with a side 4-card major"

The Truth: Preempts can be made with a variety of shapes.

Players love rules. Bridge teachers sometimes give in to the temptation to give players lots of them.

I can't tell you how many bad things I hear after a sentence starts, "My Teacher told me ..."

The truth is that preempts are entirely too complicated to describe with rules.

None of the following are good rules: "Don't preempt with a void" or "Don't open a weak two-bid with a side four-card major" or "You need two of the top three or three of the top five honors in the suit."

So many rules. So much nonsense.

Deciding what a preempt is depends a lot on seat and vulnerability. In first seat, favorable (not vulnerable against

vulnerable), you might catch me opening two spades with as little as

♠ KJ9876
♥ 8764
♦ 8
♣ 72

However, if you make my side vulnerable or had my RHO passed first, I wouldn't dream of bidding.

Similarly, third-seat preempts can be very wide ranging. Since you don't worry about partner having good values, you can easily preempt with a void or a four-card suit. Also, everyone has their own personal style (aggressive or passive). Most successful tournament players are aggressive preempters.

If you ask an expert for rules, they'll tell you that their preempts should resemble what partner expects given seat and vulnerability.

They paint a picture of your hand. So if your hand is "weak with hearts/

spades/diamonds" and that is what you want to convey, then open two or three of that suit.

How weak this can be, as I've said (I repeat myself as I get older) depends on seat, personal style and vulnerability. But a side void, a side ace, a so-so suit, a side four-card major -- all possible.

Here is one that violates all the "rules" -- Pass-Pass to me, at favorable vulnerability, I would consider it winning bridge to open two spades with:

♠ Q109765
♥ J765
♦ A32
♣ --

If you pass in this situation, you make it too easy for your opponents.

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, and ACBL Top 10 Living Most Influential in Bridge.



How good is your judgment? Take this test and find out



*Winning
with Wimpy
By Jim Diebel*

Go to www.wimpy.biz/bridge for practical tips on bidding, play, and defense.

The extra time I had during sheltering in place gave me the opportunity to play online with several players with whom I rarely have the time to play. This includes a well known player with more master points than I. Let's call him "Caesar", who made some questionable bids.

Let's see if you can do better than Caesar. I'm going to give you three hands, with the accompanying auctions. Decide what you would do before reading the answers. All deals are matchpoint scoring, so aggressive action often is rewarded. You are South.

Hand #1: ♠ AJ984 ♥ K753 ♦ 98 ♣ 53
Nobody vulnerable.

| East | South | West | North |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1D | 1S | Dbl | 2D* |
| Pass | 2S | 3D | Pass |
| Pass | ?? | | |

*Limit raise or better

What is your call as South?

Hand #2: ♠ KQT97 ♥ AJT4 ♦ 7 ♣ A65
Unfavorable vulnerability

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| Pass | Pass | 1S | 3D |
| Pass | Pass | ?? | |

What is your call as South?

Hand #3: ♠ 3 ♥ T542 ♦ A74 ♣ AJT87
Unfavorable vulnerability

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 2S | Pass | Pass | ?? |

What is your call as South?

Solution #1

If anything besides PASS entered your mind, you need tone down your imagination. When you overcalled 1S, you bid the **full** extent of your hand. You had the barest minimum for your action, and if partner doesn't have anything extra, you have no reason to bid further. You don't have a 6th spade, and partner doesn't have four (else **he** would have competed to 3S).

The Law of Total Tricks provides an excellent guideline for hands such as this.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ KT3 | ♠ 752 |
| ♥ 96 | ♥ AQT |
| ♦ AJ4 | ♦ KQ62 |
| ♣ QT872 | ♣ J96 |
| ♠ Q6 | ♠ AJ984 |
| ♥ J842 | ♥ K753 |
| ♦ T753 | ♦ 98 |
| ♣ AK4 | ♣ 53 |

With best defense, both 3D and 3S should go down one. Caesar bid 3S. Caesar did not get the best defense but went down anyway. Minus 50 was worth 24.5 percent of the matchpoints.

Solution #2

I have some sympathy for those who chose to PASS with this minimum collection opposite a passed hand. This kind of passive action will not yield strong results in the long run. Partner might easily be looking at something like

| | | | |
|------|--------|---------|--------|
| ♠ 4 | ♥ Q75 | ♦ KJ984 | ♣ KT93 |
| or | | | |
| ♠ J5 | ♥ Q753 | ♦ K93 | ♣ QT73 |

The first hand should score quite nicely in 3Dx. 3NT is going to have problems unless South shows up with a source of tricks. Keep in mind, South opened in third seat. The second hand should have excellent play for 3H, and might even make 10 tricks in hearts or spades on a good day.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ 82 | ♠ 6543 |
| ♥ K76 | ♥ 853 |
| ♦ 542 | ♦ J983 |
| ♣ KT972 | ♣ 43 |
| ♠ AJ | ♠ KQT97 |
| ♥ Q92 | ♥ AJT4 |
| ♦ AKQT6 | ♦ 7 |
| ♣ QJ8 | ♣ A65 |

I will admit that I have no idea what West was thinking when he bid 3D. The bid was not alerted and I think he was trying to be clever. It turns out that **PASS** is a winner, as best defense will beat it two tricks.

Nonetheless, I believe South should re-open with a double. It might not fare too well this time as North won't find a pass and will bid either 3S or 4C. Both have decent chances of emerging only down one. Caesar chose to reopen with 3H, which ended the auction. The opponents defended much the same as

they bid the hand – terribly – and Caesar played the hand like he had mirrors on all sides. 3H making for +140 was worth 87% of the matchpoints. The results do not excuse the pitiful bidding.



Solution #3

Once again, South has somewhat minimal values and must decide whether to risk a large penalty by re-opening the auction. As I mentioned earlier, this is not a game for the timid. There are too many hands partner might hold for which your hand will provide an excellent dummy. The key, of course, is the singleton spade, and the failure to East to bid further. Partner rates to have some spades, as well as some useful values.

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| ♠ AKT | ♠ Q6 |
| ♥ A7 | ♥ KQJ98 |
| ♦ JT862 | ♦ Q5 |
| ♠ J987542 | ♣ Q43 |
| ♥ 63 | ♣ K965 |
| ♦ K93 | |
| ♣ 2 | |
| ♠ 3 | |
| ♥ T542 | |
| ♦ A74 | |
| ♣ AJT87 | |

Caesar passed it out, and we defended well to beat it one trick for +50. Unfortunately, we were cold for a vulnerable game in No Trump. +50 was worth 19% of the matchpoints. South has a responsibility to balance with any reasonable hand which is short in spades.

The hand should re-open with a double which does not promise a full opening hand, but does promise short spades, at least moderate values, and cards in the other suits.

At equal vulnerability, I admit I would likely pass and convert the double into penalty, but being vulnerable vs. not, I would have chosen 3NT. I would have been subsequently rewarded when the ♠K was in the pocket to produce five clubs tricks and a vulnerable game.

You might very well ask, "If Caesar has more masterpoints than me, then who am I to say that **HIS** decisions were wrong and that mine are right?" Let him write his own column.

Congratulations Rank Advancers

Junior Master

Subhash Deodhar
Sharon Dixon
Sharon Glazer
Brian Geeene
Amy Hausman
Susan Kelley
John Knoepke
Kelly Lanigan
Tijuana Nelson
Kathleen Obrien
Jack Regan
Sandra Reilly
Mary Stock
Frederick White
Leszek Zagozon
Shi Zhang

Club Master

Melinda Blake
Donna Harvey
Diane Heller
Betsy Jeffries
David Kovacs
Jackie Lefevre

Trichinopoly Thayanmanusundar
Teresa Yee

Sectional Master

Caroline Ballantine
Michael Conway
Holly Economos
Jo Ann Flink
Frank Greco
Vallie Henry
Dawn Kasserman
Kenneth Latimer
Leslie McLean
Drew Olson
Bruce Palagi
Jeannie Palagi
Rima Reklaitis
Monique Rub
April Schink
Mary Jane Stipanovich
Steven Strong
Anthony Veeneman
Ginney Qian Ye

Regional Master

Robert Berg

Allyson Pooley
Milda Roszkiewicz

NABC Master

Henry Nadler

Life Master

Fred Princehorn

Bronze Life Master

Fred Princehorn

Silver Life Master

Jeane Greenbaum
Jim Jurik
Judi Katz
Allan Sweet

Ruby Life Master

Guy Franklin
Bill Goldberg
Grace Michael
Dennis O'Dowd
Zenon Wachowicz

Gold Life Master

Paul Hamper

70%

GAMES

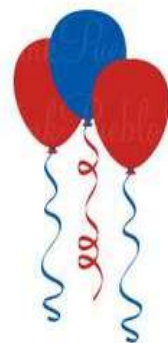
74.3%
Mark Ginsburg and
Toddy Leavitt,
Ace of Clubs

74.1%
Kenneth Tatz and
David Langer, Ace of Clubs

71.9% Robert and Ellen
Kent, Chicago Duplicate
Bridge

71.3% Caryl Brown and
Amin Hakim, Tom's
Game

71.1% Sandra Levin and
Rosale Rappin, Ace of
Clubs



Hooray for Online Bridge

(Continued from page 5)

ROUND IS OVER-new boards will arrive as soon as the round is over. If you are sitting E/W you will be moved to the next table.

RAN OUT OF TIME-If you didn't finish the last board in time DO NOT CALL the director. We have a list of unplayed, unfinished boards that we are able to see. We will handle it!

RESULTS-you can see what other players have done on the same board by clicking on history (which will show you your ongoing results), click on a board and then "other tables." When the game is finished you can go to History



(located on the right hand side of your screen) and go through each board, including the bidding and play of each hand. This is a wonderful feature. You and partner can see what went right/wrong on each board!

Playing online is a little different from playing at the club, but it is a wonderful opportunity for us to safely play and be with our bridge family. Stay healthy and safe. ENJOY! Until we see each other again.

USBF considering new date for USBCs

The United States Bridge Federation (USBF) Board canceled the USBC's scheduled for Schaumburg in May and is now considering its options, including but not limited to holding the event later this summer. A final decision depends on WBF action regarding the World Bridge Games.

The board is hopeful that conditions will allow the World Bridge Games to continue as planned, or to be rescheduled for a date later this calendar year. In either case, qualifying events probably will be held later this summer, with the board taking into

account health safety concerns. If there is no World Bridge Games in 2020, the board is seriously considering holding a 2020 Open USBC when conditions allow for it.

The guaranteed entry deadline for all of the USBCs was changed to May 1; however, additional entries will be accepted after May 1 only if they don't change the length of the event. It is necessary for USBF planning, including with the hotel, to know the length of the events. The board will meet again when information from the WBF has been made available regarding the World Bridge Games.

Schuetts reveal what partner's competitive bids are showing



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

Most players have difficulty judging how strong partner's hand is in many competitive bidding situations. Look at the bidding and try to tell what partner is showing and what you should bid with the indicated South hand.

1. Your Hand as South
♠K83 ♥J875 ♦T6 ♣KJ93

| | | | |
|----|----|-----|---|
| S | W | N | E |
| | 1♦ | DbI | P |
| 1♥ | P | 1NT | P |
| ? | | | |

2. Your Hand as South
♠AT983 ♥K87 ♦3 ♣T973

| | | | |
|----|----|-----|---|
| S | W | N | E |
| | 1♦ | DbI | P |
| 1♠ | 2♦ | 2♥ | P |
| ? | | | |

3. Your Hand as South
♠Q8 ♥A98 ♦Q874 ♣JT42

| | | | |
|---|----|----|---|
| S | W | N | E |
| | 2♥ | 3♠ | P |
| ? | | | |

4. Your Hand as South
♠J8 ♥J8 ♦A87432 ♣642

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| S | W | N | E |
| | 1♣ | 2♣ | 3♣ |
| P | P | 3♥ | P |
| ? | | | |

Answers:

- 1) 3NT. If partner makes a takeout double and then bids his own suit or NT, he is too strong to make that same bid as a simple overcall. So making the takeout double and later bidding NT starts at a good 18 to about 21 HCP with diamonds stopped. You have plenty to want to be in game, so bid 3NT.



- 2) 4♥. The double and bid of his own suit shows 17+ points and 5+♥, so your hand has grown in terms of dummy points because of your shortness in support of hearts and with a good five-card spade suit as a possible source of discards, bid



game. Partner's hand is something like ♠Q72 ♥AQJ93 ♦AT4 ♣KQ.

- 3) 4♠. A jump overcall over a preempt is NOT weak, it is a strong hand with 6+ card suit, looking for partner to raise with about 6+ points and modest fit. An example hand is something like ♠AKJ943 ♥J ♦KJT3 ♣K3.
- 4) 4♥. Partner's initial 2♣ was the Michaels Cue Bid showing at least 5-5 in the major suits. It generally does not show a good hand unless they bid again. Here North chose to bid again, showing extra strength, and because they bid 3♥, I would expect them to have at least a six card heart suit. An example hand ♠KQT73 ♥AKT973 ♦QJ ♣-.

Ginny & Jeff Schuett – bridge teaching, directing, play phone 847-940-7236
Email=jgschuett2@comcast.net

 Happy
Father's
Day! 



**Attention
players,
club owners,
directors**

If you have any news, stories, special events, photographs or hands that you would like considered for publication in the Kibitzer, please contact DeMaris Johnson at de-maris_j@hotmail.com. I'd love to hear from you.

VIRTUAL CLUB GAMES

Players have two ways to help their clubs.

First, players have three chances each day to earn black masterpoints online, with a major part of the fee going back to the clubs. The games begin at 9 a.m., 4:10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The fee is \$6 BB (Bridge Bucks), with 66 percent distributed to the clubs that you frequented last year. For those who played more than one club, the fees will be split, pro-rated among the various clubs you attended. At this time, you may not direct the payment of your entry fee to a specific club. The ACBL notes to do so is a complex task to begin with and trying to accommodate requests like this would add a level of complexity that is not practical. Registration opens two hours before the game, and you can play with any other ACBL member who has a BBO account. (Bridge Bucks can be purchased with a credit card at a \$1 = \$1BB rate. Do not use Apple Pay, because there is a 30 percent up charge, which means that for each dollar in Bridge Bucks, you pay \$1.30.)

Secondly, for those who would like to play against people they know, several local club owners have set up games. The Virtual Clubs include Hinsdale, Ace of Clubs, Tom's Game, Lawson, Chicago DBC, and the Clare. As other clubs are added, they will be listed on bridgeinchicago.com. To participate in a certain club, start at the main menu, select Virtual Clubs, then ACBL Virtual Clubs, and then search for your club's name, and you will see the sessions offered by them. To play in a specific club, you must be a "friend of the game." Prior to the game, message the club owner to have be added to the roster.

The games are stratified. The BBO software automatically creates multiple sections and divides the players into three strats - A, B, and C. The strats are automatically adjusted, with the top third being placed in A, the next third in B, and the bottom third in C. Any points earned count toward the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney races. For the pair games, the masterpoints awarded are the same as an open club game and there will be overall awards as well as section awards. The maximum you can win in any single game is four masterpoints.

The list as of publication:

vacb105395 (Jeremiah and BJBE games) 10:10 a.m., 3:10 p.m. and 6:10 o,n, (Novick, Bartlett)

vacb270876 (ChicagoDBC and Lawson) -also private message ChicagoDB Every day at 12:15 p.m., Monday and Wednesday 6:30 p.m. (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)

Vacb134098 (Hinsdale DBC) (Martin)

Vacb275776 (The Clare, University of Chicago Club) Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., and Friday at 12:15 p.m. (Cohen)

VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT NEWS

In addition to the "club" games, there are Daylong Tournaments, which are solo events played with robots. You can register anytime after midnight, and you have until 11 p.m. to complete your game, and it does not have to be played at once. It is possible to play a few of the 18 boards in the morning, more after lunch, and complete the game in the evening. The maximum award for the Daylong Tournaments is 1.5 masterpoints.

ACBL warns against cheating

The ACBL issued the following warning. "When you play on BBO, every call and every play are recorded. If you cheat online, you will get caught.

"In addition to player reports by BBO, there are automatic surveillance tools to alert the game operators of potential cheating. If a player is found to be cheating in an ACBL sanctioned game, the club will bar that player from BBO. In addition, the player may be subject to discipline under the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Both ACBL and BBO are doing everything possible to maintain the integrity of these online games so that honest players can be confident of a fair contest."

