

# Kibitzer

A publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association Oct./Nov. 2020

## Area pro believes bridge has a bright future if a few changes are made

Ron Smith of Chicago, a Grand Life Master, believes the future of bridge is bright in the U.S., if a few changes are made, primarily by making the clubs the focal point of the ACBL.

"Bridge is popular, at least in the rest of the world and in parts of the U.S., including New York and California.

"In those states and overseas, there are many young people playing the game. And in those games, the old people are in their 40s and 50s," he said.

"On the West Coast, there are lots of young players, thanks to Debbie and Michael Rosenberg. One of the players in their group just became the youngest ever to make Life Master. He's 8 years old."

"Copenhagen has one of the largest clubs in the world, and the club does not give out masterpoints. What it does do is provide an area after the game where players can socialize, and another area where there is a screen and the hands are discussed."

Ron believes that clubs should have an area for those who are primarily interested in socializing and do not want to play competitive bridge and an area for those who want to play competitive bridge.

Some clubs, he noted, attract younger people by holding game nights, where there are various offerings, such as a variety of board games, charades, and other games, including bridge.

"It is a way to introduce younger people to bridge, and to get them interested in the game," he said.

He suggests a reduction in the number of regional and national tournaments to give the League more time to focus on the clubs.

This 2020 ACBL Hall of Fame nominee became interested in the game after finding a book, *Charles Goren's Championship Bridge*, at his local library in St. Louis. He'd watched a television show by the same name.



2020 ACBL Hall of Fame Nominee Ron Smith

When his piano teacher spotted one of the many bridge books that the teenage Ron was reading, he directed him to a club nearby. Ron was not intimidated by the game. (Continued on page 4)

## Bridge club owner becomes real-life hero by donating kidney

Mary Schultz does not wear a cape, leap tall buildings, or exhibit extraordinary strength, but then she is not a comic hero. She is a real-life hero.

Mary, a club owner, donated a kidney to a fellow bridge player, Roger Hendrick. He successfully underwent kidney trans-



Roger Hendrick, Mary Schultz

plant surgery on Friday, September 18, at Loyola University Medical Center.

"It was my privilege and honor to be his donor," Mary said. She quoted Mother Teresa, "The greatest good is what we do for one another." She noted the average wait time for a kidney is five to seven years.

"A designated donor can substantially shorten the wait. A living donor transplant should be the standard of care. A transplant from a living donor should positively impact both the quality and length of Roger's life. He was astute and advocated for himself. My excellent health positioned me to join him in his efforts. Incredibly, he was active on the waiting list for only 16 days!" she said.

### DONOR NEEDED

Celeste Jacklin, who plays bridge in the western suburbs, is seeking her own hero, and she cannot wait five to seven years. Her kidneys are failing due to a hereditary condition, and she is on dialysis.



Celeste Jacklin

She said persons willing to donate a kidney, or who are interested in being tested to see if they are eligible to (Continued on page 3)

Dear CCBA Members,



Despite the pandemic, the summer has flown by. Many people thought the Covid-19 virus would have disappeared by now, or that a vaccine would have been found, but we find ourselves still wearing masks and still limiting our contact with others. As a result, bridge clubs remain closed and tournaments in the foreseeable future are canceled. I wish there was a magic ball that would reveal when things will get back to normal: Back to going to the clubs and playing bridge with familiar faces, and back to going to tournaments, where we can greet old friends and can make new friends. It's been so long, that even hearing a director's call would be a welcome sound.

Although the socialization is gone for now, we are fortunate that there are online bridge games and tournaments. The ACBL is partnering with Bridge Base Online. As many of you have discovered, BBO offers multiple games at numerous times during the day, making it very convenient to play. It is a wonderful site and gives you the opportunity to play with other players from around the world. The only things missing are the socialization - and the delicious snacks - that most bridge players enjoy.

At this point, I cannot tell you when you will see your friends at your favorite club games or when CCBA tournaments will be held. But when the tournaments resume, you can be assured that CCBA is ready to continue the tradition of providing you with top quality, exciting tournaments. Like you, we are anxious to get back to the tables.. As things change, please continue checking the CCBA website and the Kibitzer for the latest news.

Sincerely,

Tom Dressing  
CCBA President



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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



## ACBL Board Chairman gives latest update

### District 13 Director Report

In this new work-from-home environment, the ACBL Board of Directors has adapted to online meetings in gotomeetings or Zoom and is convening much more often than during a “normal” year.

As a result, the BOD is accomplishing more than usual. Everyone has time on their hands and everyone is trying to make lives as pleasant as possible for our members. Management has done a yeoman’s job getting the online games up and running on BBO. BBO has been very cooperative, and while there have been some glitches along the way, I think we have navigated rough seas very well. Record numbers of players from around the world are playing online and improving their games by doing so.

Cheating (self kibitzing or players in the same house seeing things they shouldn’t see) has been a problem, but that too is being addressed as quickly and seriously as possible.

The ACBL has formed a special online ethical oversight committee that is getting its feet wet on a daily basis. As it gains experience, things will go more smoothly, but for now, they are doing their best to level the playing field and maintain the integrity of our games. Again, BBO had been an exemplary partner. They have engines that they use to detect suspicious circumstances that have proven invaluable. BBO also has the right to bar any player from its site if it so chooses.

The ACBL has decided to run gold and silver point games online for now in order for players to attain desired rank advancements. While 2020 may seem a lost cause in many other ways, we want our members to be able to continue achieving higher status and this is our way of promoting this.

There will be no face-to-face tournaments in January or February and we don’t yet know what will follow. As your District Director, I will keep you posted as I learn more information.

Please stay safe. Keep playing online... it isn’t the same as face to face, but it maintains some form of communication between friends and it is always good for us to “see” one another.

Some players from the Western Suburbs have started attending their regular games online Tuesday and Friday nights. After the games, they set up a Zoom room (as if they were going out for a drink or a bite), and socialize. Just something others might like to do as well....

Have fun and win lots of points!

Suzi Subeck  
District 13 Director  
ACBL Chairman of the Board of Directors



## Real Life Hero

*(continued from page 1)*

donate, should go to the website for the National Kidney Registry, which is [www.nkr.org/youruniqueurlhere](http://www.nkr.org/youruniqueurlhere), or contact her at 630-236-4913.



Both Mary and Roger said they experienced little pain from the surgery. She only spent one whole day in the hospital, and he went home on the Tuesday following surgery. In fact, he did so well that they did not follow the usual procedure of placing him in intensive care. Mary bounced back quickly, walking a mile the following Sunday.

“We sure had some challenges on this journey, including the pandemic delaying our evaluations, his required bypass surgery and my arm fracture, among other obstacles. But we kept focused and grounded and ventured forward,” Mary said. “This journey was one of mutual kindness and integrity. Our families and friends offered unending support. Our teams at Loyola provided professional, respectful, kind, and innovative care.”

Roger said it was amazing that Mary offered to donate and even more amazing that she was a match.

Mary indicates on her driver’s license that she would be an organ donor.

“But all too often when people die, their organs are not suitable for transplant, so I decided that I may as well act when I am healthy,” she said.

Prior to being told by his doctors that his kidney was failing, Roger experienced no symptoms. He has had only one kidney since he was 8 years old, when he lost one due to infection.

“Don’t forget, Mary’s the hero,” he pointed out.

Mary said it was such a positive experience, she’d make the same decision again.

“It’s all about kindness and sharing.”

## Ron Smith

(Continued from page 1)



Ron, second from the left, playing in a major tournament

“Right off the bat, I was one of the best players.”

Ron recently played in a New York Regional on a team with three teenagers.

“The sum of all of their ages was smaller than my age, and we did very well. My teammates are good players and fun and smart. One of my partners just turned 16, and my regular partner is 25 years old. He and I won the Warren Buffet Cup in 2019 at a tournament in China,” he said. “I’m like a piper to the young people.”

Much has changed, however, since Ron’s early days in the late 1970s, when pros would play all week and make very little.

The young pros would leave their homes on a Sunday night and sometimes drive 500 miles to the next game.

“We’d sleep four or more to a room. That lifestyle was not for me. Luckily, one of the better players from New York became a successful stock options trader. He started hiring his friends and they became successful and hired others,” Ron said.

He noted that the “bridge bums” like himself became the “market makers” or

floor traders on a financial trading floor in the 1980’s.

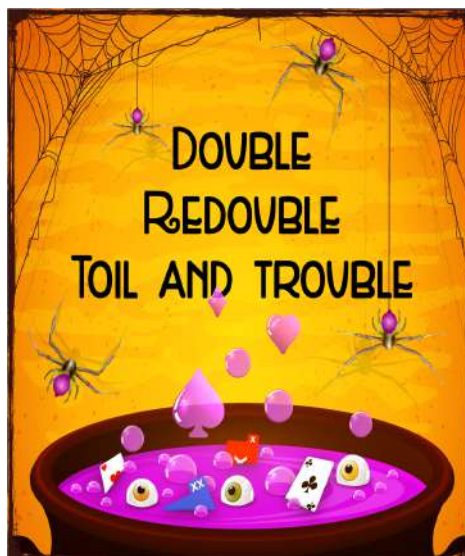
“At the same time, people became

wealthier due to the stock market and these people hired people to play bridge. It got bigger and bigger. When trading on the floor ended, which coincided with the internet taking the trading online, we had professional bridge to fall

back on,” Ron said.

Over the years, Ron became a top player, winning 10 NABC’s including a Reisinger and a Blue Ribbon Panel, 15 second-place finishes, including three Spingolds, and a Bronze Medal in Senior Teams.

His tips for those wanting to improve their game is to read books (“there are some great ones out there”) and *Bridge World*, give up partying, stay focused, learn to read the hands, and play until the game becomes second nature. And after a game, he suggests meeting with your partner to review the bidding.



## Today’s Smiles

An Englishman, Frenchman, Spaniard, and German are all trying to watch a street performer juggle knives. Unfortunately, it’s such a busy day in the city, there are too many other people around to see clearly. Luckily, the juggler notices their plight and decides to climb onto a higher platform so the four men can see. As he balances a knife on his nose, he asks, “Can you see me now?” The four men reply one after the other, “Yes!” “Oui!” “Si!” “Ja!”



Three dinosaurs come across a magical lamp. The first dinosaur rubs it and a genie appears. “I have three wishes. One for each of you,” the genie says. The first dinosaur doesn’t hesitate before his request. “All right, I’ll have a big, juicy piece of meat.” Immediately, a big, juicy piece of meat appears in front of him. Instantly envious, the second dinosaur speaks up. “Well, I want a shower of meat!” As soon as he utters his wish, a shower of meat rains down upon him. The third dinosaur, not to be outdone, has to think for a second about what could possibly be better than a shower of meat. “Aha, I’ve got it!” he proclaims. “I’ll have a meatier shower!”



# Hand evaluation: Game and slam bidding



By Ginny and Jeff Schuett

All bridge players start their decisions about bidding with their high card points (HCP). But whenever considering your value when raising partner, it is critical to consider your distribution, both in terms of long suits and short suits, and positional values when your secondary honors are located behind your opponents.

These clues to good hand evaluation occur in part score decisions, game decisions and slam decisions. Look at the following:

E	S	W	N
	1♥	1♠	2♥
P	3♦	P	4♥
P	P	P	

South	North
♠ 75	♠ K42
♥ AKJ105	♥ Q983
♦ J642	♦ 3
♣ AQ	♣ J10963

Many players look at North's hand and see six high card points, consider it a minimum and cannot look further. In reality, North's hand has a K behind the ♠ bidder, a singleton in South's game try suit to help eliminate losers, and 4-card trump suit, not just 3-card support. That singleton becomes worth 3 points with the 4th trump, so this hand is a

maximum worth nine points supporting hearts. When South makes the game try, accept by jumping to 4♥. With careful play, South will likely lose just one spade, one diamond, and maybe a club to make 10 or 11 tricks.

E	S	W	N
1♣	1♠	P	4♣
5♣	6♠	P	P

South	North
♠ KQT874	♠ A962
♥ –	♥ A9762
♦ AQJ92	♦ K64
♣ A6	♣ 4

This hand was played on BBO the other day at my teaching table.



North has such a good hand that even if South had over-called on some 8-10 point 1♠ over-call, North wants to be in game. Rather than jumping to game, North made the excellent splinter bid of 4♣.

This unusual double jump to the four-level in any new suit shows game values, four+-card support for partner, and a singleton or void in clubs.

On most hands, partner will settle for game. But on this hand South had a terrific hand and might have even started with a double and bid spades to show the big double.

When East sacrificed with 5♣, South could not use 4NT. But with North's good 4♣ splinter raise, she knew there were no ♣ losers and even in the unlikely event North did not have the ♠A or the ♦K, she could pull

trump and finesse in diamonds through the opening bidder



and probably make 12 tricks. South bidding the 6♠ slam was a great decision and with North's great fitting hand, there were 13 tricks.

Know your system agreements and always consider your distribution when deciding your best bid. Extra trump length, fitting distribution and good controls can often lead to great contracts on fairly minimum HCP hands.

Ginny and Jeff Schuett - bridge teaching, directing, play  
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## Too much information for one's own good

Sometimes, one has too much information for his own good. That was the case in the third round robin match, the McAllister team picked up 24 IMPs on the first ten boards in an accumulation of small swings. Half of that margin went away on the final board of the set.

The auctions in both rooms were identical through West's 3H bid. Over 3H, Ron Smith bid 4C in an effort to give his partner a good description of his hand. Spector/Wolpert bid 4H and Kriegel led the C2. Thinking that Kriegel led clubs in response to his 4C bid, Smith insert-

ed the nine. Wolpert won the CQ, cashed the king and jack of hearts followed by the DKQ. He crossed to dummy with a trump and cashed the DA, discarding a spade and conceding two clubs and a spade for +420.

At the other table, John Kranyak chose to make a game try double of 3H. Kevin Rosenberg, East, passed and Demuy retreated to 3S. This was passed around to Rosenberg, who bid 4H. Demuy doubled and led his singleton club. Kranyak won the club and gave Demuy a ruff. Next came a spade to the ace and a second club ruff. Demuy cashed a second spade. The contract was defeated two tricks for +300 and 12 IMPs to Spector.

(Editor's Note: Smith and Kriegel are both local players.)

(A thank you to Suzi Subeck for submitting this match, which was played recently in the United States Bridge Federation INV2 Tournament.)

<div>11</div> <div>D</div>		<div>N ronsmithsf</div> <div>♠ AQ986</div> <div>♥ 92</div> <div>♦ 5</div> <div>♣ AJ943</div>	<div>W N E S</div> <div>1♦ 1♠ 2♥ 2♠</div> <div>3♥ 4♣ 4♥ P</div> <div>P P</div>			
<div>W warrens</div> <div>♠ 1042</div> <div>♥ KQ6</div> <div>♦ A1098</div> <div>♣ K108</div>			<div>E Gavin</div> <div>♠ J3</div> <div>♥ AJ1043</div> <div>♦ KQ</div> <div>♣ Q765</div>			
		<div>S kriegel</div> <div>♠ K75</div> <div>♥ 875</div> <div>♦ J76432</div> <div>♣ 2</div>				
			<div>4♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0</div>			

<div>11</div> <div>D</div>		N jkrans		W N E S			
		♠ AQ986		P			
		♥ 92		1♦ 1♠ 2♥ 2♠			
		♦ 5		3♥ X P 3♠			
		♣ AJ943		P P 4♥ X			
				D D D			
W jgm7x McAllister				E kevsters			
♠ 1042				♠ J3			
♥ KQ6				♥ AJ1043			
♦ A1098				♦ KQ			
♣ K108				♣ Q765			
		S okvince					
		♠ K75					
		♥ 875					
		♦ J76432					
		♣ 2					
				4♥x E NS: 0 EW: 0			



# How does your bidding stack up in these auctions?



*Winning  
with Wimpy*

Due to the pandemic, I have had the opportunity to play online with several players with whom I've rarely have the time to play.

Between running four clubs and teaching a few students, I barely have time to make dates with my few regular partners, much less patrons from my clubs who would simply like to play a session with me once in a while.

Recently, I've played in a few (online) tournaments with a player - we'll call him Caesar - who has made some questionable bids when I felt he should have known better. Make no mistake; Caesar is a well-known player who has more masterpoints than I do. I figured, if Caesar could make these mistakes, perhaps others might as well. Let's see if you can do better than Caesar this month.

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)

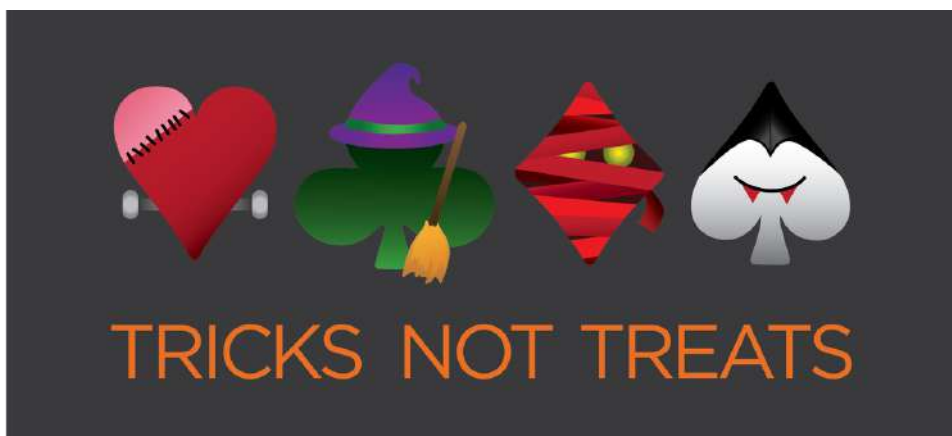
What is your call as South?

## 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 to tone down your imagination. When you overcalled one spade, 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 sixth spade, and partner doesn't have four, or else he would have competed to three spades.

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

♠ Q6	♠ KT3	♠ 752
♥ J842	♥ 96	♥ AQT
♦ T753	♦ AJ4	♦ KQ62
♣ AK4	♣ QT872	♣ J96
	♠ AJ984	
	♥ K753	
	♦ 98	
	♣ 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% of the matchpoints.

## Solution #2

I have some sympathy for those who chose to PASS with this minimum collec-

tion 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 the following:

♠ 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		
♥ K76		
♦ 542		
♠ AJ	♣ KT972	♠ 6543
♥ Q92		♥ 853
♦ AKQT6		♦ J983
♣ QJ8	♠ KQT97	♣ 43
	♥ AJT4	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 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.  
(Continued on page 8)



## Congratulations Rank Advancers

### Junior Master

Sarah Ayers  
Timmie Block  
Ginny Collins  
Daniel Fisher  
Penny Fisher  
Nancy Garrigus  
Margaret Goss  
Elizabeth Hansmann  
Ellyn Hershman  
Marilyn Hines  
Shena Keith  
William Kennedy  
Nancy Lagowski  
Diane Mazurczak  
Mike Mazurczak  
MaryAlice Miller  
Carol Mooney  
Gael Neeson  
Jakob Reinke  
Kurella Sarma  
David Scharf  
Robin Thomas  
Terry Zengeler

### Club Master

Jane Deitz  
Leslie Gilhoolley  
Alexis Kneeland  
Patricia Murlas  
Penny Pollack  
Helen Schwartz  
Marilyn Sherman  
Joan Stelmack  
Thomas Stelmack  
Carol Voelker  
Zhao Yan  
Nancy Yurek

### Sectional Master

Jacob Breneisen  
Magdalena Castro  
Bernard Dost  
Anne Geissinger  
Thomas Goettsche  
John Harding  
Nancy Krippel  
Barbara McGinn  
Carolyn Oesterle  
Marcia Patterson  
Mai Phan  
Pat Price  
Jack Regan  
Honey Rosenfeld  
Sherry Seiner  
Harriet Starr  
Joy Sweet  
John Tung  
Mary Walsdorf

### Regional Master

Sally Allen  
Peter Bush  
Carol Gaspardo  
David Goldberg  
Beth Johnson  
Shelley Johnson  
David Kovacs  
Bob LeFevre  
Sandra Ober  
Betty Philipsborn  
Jill Pollock  
Rob Sax  
William Waddell  
Aloysius Zupancic

### NABC Master

Linda Abrahams  
Pankaj Bhargava

Arnold Flank  
Marcus Gottlieb

### Advanced NABC Master

Sallie Hamm

### Life Master

Jan Sax

### Bronze Life Master

Artie Cohen  
Ronald Feingold  
Katy Gross  
Neal Spero

### Silver Life Master

Mary Hilman  
Joyce Hunter  
Michele Raffel  
Josh Shanes  
Gail Shaps  
Harvey Wineberg

### Ruby Life Master

Stephen Bell  
Steve Brown  
Mark Hanneman  
Denyse Holt  
Mark Pinkowski  
George Sheu  
Barbara Stone

### Gold Life Master

Edwin Glickman  
Jeroen Swinkels

### Sapphire Life Master

Angie Clark  
Tom Fogarty  
Theresa Schneider

## Diebel

(Continued from page 7)

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. Plus 50 was worth 19 percent of the matchpoints.

South has a responsibility to balance with any reasonable hand which is short in spades. The hand should reopen 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 versus not, I would have chosen 3NT. I would have been subsequently rewarded when the ♣K was in the pocket to produce five club tricks and a vulnerable game.

You might very well ask, "If Caesar has more masterpoints than I, then who am I to say that HIS decisions were wrong and that mine are right?"

Let him write his own column.

*Director/teacher at*

*Phone: 630-244-9292*

*Email: wimpy@wimpy.biz*

## Must Be "Friend of Game To Play in Virtual Club Games Online

To play in a virtual club game, you must be a "friend of the game", meaning you had previously played in that club.

To attend a virtual club game, start at the main menu, select "virtual clubs", then "ACBL Virtual Clubs", and then search for your club's name.

You should then be able to see the sessions that your club offers.

It costs Bridge Bucks (BB) to play in these games.. BB can be purchased with your credit card at the exchange rate of one BB per \$1.

It is suggested that you do not use Apple Pay, as there is a 30 percent uplift charge, making the exchange rate one BB per \$1.30.



## 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."





## Here is what CCBA members are doing during the pandemic



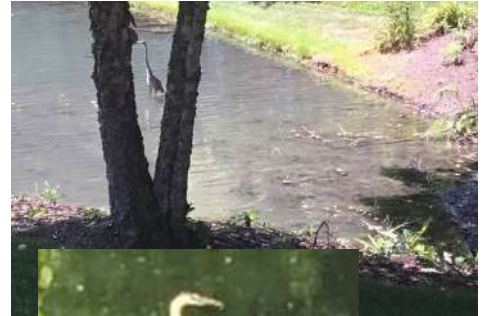
**Suzi and Stan Subeck** celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on August 28. Here the loving couple is seen on their wedding day. At 11:15 p.m. on August 27, Suzi wrote, "In roughly 45 minutes, we will be married 51 years and still playing bridge together! How does that work? Stan has learned 'good play', 'good bid', 'good lead', and 'sorry it was MY fault you led that card!' I agree and we're both happy. Well, I'm happy and he doesn't get lambasted! Happy anniversary, South and West! I love you!"



**Jeff and Ginny Schuett** are enjoying the fruits of their labor, having planted a garden during their extra time this summer. "There is nothing better than the fresh fruits and veggies from your own garden," Jeff said. In addition, they are enjoying walks and on a recent walk they saw the unusual bird pictured above, which has been identified as a tri-colored heron.

**Steve Bell** and family are planning for his daughter's wedding.

**Pat Leatherwood** made Ruby Life Master playing a BB O game with a robot. "We had a 62.5 percent game and came in third out of 35 and got .63 masterpoints. I only needed .07. Who would have thought that a robot and not a human would take me across the line."



**Diane Martin** is enjoying blue heron that visits her backyard. "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine," Diane wrote

**Wende Dallain** is spending the extra time gained from retirement and the pandemic by riding her bicycle every morning, often as many as 25 miles per day.



**Sharon Trube** writes, "One of the pluses for me of being quarantined has been the opportunity to explore my creativity. I've tried so many different media

from scratch art to pastel painting to charcoal drawing and now drawing with pastel pencils. I never would have had the time to do this before. This latest was one of my favorites. "Also, she has undergone two surgeries. Shown above is one of Sharon's latest works.



**Chuck Johnson:** The pandemic is making a basket case out of my cat. lol

## ACBL 2020 Online Event Schedule\*



<b>Oct. 15-18</b>	<b>Fall into Bridge - Regionally rated events</b>
<b>Oct. 26-Nov. 1</b>	<b>Club Appreciation Week - Upgraded masterpoints awards in Virtual</b>
<b>Nov. 7-8</b>	<b>NABC Robot Individual Warm-Up, NABC Robot Individual practice tournament</b>
<b>Nov. 14-15</b>	<b>NABC Robot Individual Warm-Up, NABC Robot Individual practice tournament</b>
<b>Nov. 21-23</b>	<b>Fall 2020 NABC Robot Individual, NABC Robot Individual tournament</b>
<b>Nov. 23-29</b>	<b>Club Championship Week - Upgraded masterpoints awards in Virtual Clubs</b>
<b>Nov. 29-Dec. 5</b>	<b>North American Online Bridge Championships - Knockout event and pair event</b>
<b>Dec. 17-20</b>	<b>Winter Wonderland - Regionally rated events</b>

*\*Subject to change.*

## WBF Cancels USBCs

Although the WBF has not scheduled the 2021 World Championship, they have announced that there will be only one World Championship in 2021.

It will be held in late summer in Salso-maggiore, Italy. The USBF Board has therefore cancelled the scheduled 2020 USBCs. We expect to hold 2021 USBCs in May 2021 to select the teams for whatever World Championship the WBF schedules.

The plan (still to be ratified) is to hold the Bermuda Bowl in 2021 and the World Bridge Games in 2022. Captains of teams that were entered in the 2020 USBCs should have received an email telling them of the cancellation and that they can either move their entry to 2021 or receive a full refund of their entry fee.

If you are a team captain and did not receive the email, you can email Jan at Marteljan@gmail.com for more information.

Byes to the 2021 Open USBC will almost certainly be based on team performance in the 2019 USBC, Spingold, Soloway, and Reisinger, and the 2020 Soloway, and Reisinger and 2021 Vanderbilt, if those events are held.

## Earn Masterpoints by using the app FunBridge

Get Masterpoints by playing Funbridge on your computer, smartphones and tablets. As a partner of the American Contract Bridge League, the online bridge app Funbridge is licensed to run official Masterpoints tournaments allowing you to move up your national rankings as if you were playing in a club.

### HOW TO PLAY ACBL TOURNAMENTS ON FUNBRIDGE

#### HOW TO DOWNLOAD FUNBRIDGE on smartphones and tablets



From an iPhone/iPad: download Funbridge via the App Store.

From an Android device: download Funbridge via the Google Play Store.

Once you download the app, you will be invited to play your first deal. After your first deal, you will have to enter a username to be able to access the main menu of the app and game modes.

#### HOW TO PLAY ON FUNBRIDGE from a computer (PC and Mac)

Type "play.funbridge.com" in the address bar of your



web browser to access the online version of Funbridge. Create your Funbridge account. An account is required to access all game modes. To create an account, enter a username, an email address and a password.

### HOW TO ACCESS ACBL MASTERPOINTS TOURNAMENTS

To play an ACBL tournament, follow the steps below: Open your Funbridge app and log in if needed. Go to "Play a tournament", then "Federation tournaments." Go to "ACBL - Masterpoints." Tournaments are split into three tabs: in progress, soon and archives. You can play ongoing tournaments straight away, register for upcoming tournaments and access your past tournaments in the records.

### ENTER YOUR ACBL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

To be awarded with the Masterpoints earned in these tournaments, enter your ACBL number in the box provided on the home screen of the game mode.

### TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Four daily tournaments: Scored by MPs or IMPs, 12 or 18 deals.



# How Blackwood thought of the most universally used convention that bears his name

## Blackwood on Blackwood

By Easley Blackwood

The following rubber bridge hand resulted in the birth of Blackwood.

North	South
♠K Q 6 2	♠A J 10 8 7
♥K Q J 8 3	♥9 2
♦K Q J	♦A 7
♣6	♣K Q 5

The defenders had no difficulty in cashing their two aces and North-South were at each other's throats. North reflected in no uncertain terms upon South's ability; South pointed out that North could easily have held AQxxx in hearts in which case the slam was cold.

North-South were using the Culbertson 4-5 notrump convention. As the Culbertson bid of 4NT guaranteed either two aces and the king of a bid suit or three aces, South was precluded from using it. Instead, he gambled and lost.

I felt that it was asking too much for the 4NT bid to be both an asking and a telling bid. Why not let this bid ask a question and let it go at that? Let the question be, specifically, "Partner, how many aces do you have?" The responses would be simple:

5♣	0 or 4 aces
5♦	1 ace
5♥	2 aces
5♠	3 aces

The fact that the 5♣ response shows either no ace or all four should not bother you. It always is possible to distinguish which – if partner responds 5♣ and you have even one ace in your hand, he must have none. If you have no aces, he should have four. If you are investigating slam off all four aces, perhaps your bidding system needs an overhaul.

After a Blackwood 4NT and an ace-showing response, a bid of 5NT guarantees that your side holds all the aces and asks partner to show his kings in steps similar to the responses over 4NT.

The Blackwood 4NT bid starts a captain and mate relationship. Your duty as responder is to tell partner how many aces you hold, and if partner then decides to play at the five level, you need an exceptional reason to doubt his word and go on. Similarly, if partner bids a slam, that is where the hand should be played.

However, once partner bids 5NT, confirming possession of all four aces and showing an interest in a grand slam, you come into your own. No longer need you meekly respond with the number of kings you hold – you may exercise judgment. A solid suit of your own that will provide discards or a singleton in an unbid suit may be all that partner needs to make a grand slam, even if one or more kings is missing, and you may jump straight to the grand slam. Caution – danger!

The first thing to learn about the Blackwood Convention is that it is not suitable for all hands in the slam zone. Possession of a combined point count of at least 33 does not guarantee that a slam can be made. You cannot be missing two aces, but there is the possibility that you are missing the ace and king of the same suit, and the opponents can cash two quick tricks in that suit. The Blackwood Convention will not uncover this fact. Consider this hand:

♠K Q J 7 6 4	♥K Q 10	♦7 6	♣A Q
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You open the bidding with 1♠ and partner makes a forcing raise to 3♠. It is obvious that if partner holds the right cards, you should be able to make a slam, so you bid a Blackwood 4NT. Partner dutifully responds 5♥, showing two aces. What now? Partner could hold either of these two hands:

(A)	(B)
♠ AT53	♠ AT53
♥ AJ2	♥ 42
♦ 84	♦ AJ4
♣ KJ32	♣ KJ32

The point count and distribution pattern of the two hands are exactly the

same. However, opposite hand (A) there are two quick losers; with hand (B) 12 tricks are there for the taking.

Thus we have discovered the first cardinal rule for not applying Blackwood: Do not use Blackwood with a worthless doubleton in an unbid suit.

An extension of the above principle brings us to the second cardinal rule: Do not use Blackwood with a void. Unless partner's response confirms that your side holds all of the aces, you will not know whether one of his aces is in your void suit. If it is, you might have too many losers in one of your side suits.

In summary: If partner's response to your 4NT inquiry for aces will not tell you whether or not to bid a slam, DO NOT employ Blackwood.

### About Easley Blackwood

*When the late Easley Blackwood first thought of the convention that bears his name, he was a rising star in the insurance world. He submitted the original article to "The Bridge World" magazine in 1934 under the nom-de-plume Earnest Wormwood, as he was not eager for publicity. It was returned by the late Albert Morehead with a polite note that the Wormwood Convention would never become popular! Morehead was rarely wrong in these matters, but this time.*

*The Blackwood Convention has become the most universally used convention in contract bridge. As a natural corollary, it also has become the most misused. Many players tend to overlook the fact that the Blackwood Convention was designed as much to stay out of unmakeable slams as to get to slams where the only information needed is the number of aces held by the partnership.*

(Article courtesy of the ACBL)



## Virtual Games *(Earn Masterpoints Points) (Clubs listed below)*

*Note: There may be other virtual club games, but we have not been notified of their days or times.*

Day	Time	Club	Fee
Monday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) 66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year
Monday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Monday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Monday	11:30 am	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) vacb134098	
Tuesday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) 66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year
Tuesday	10:30 a.m.	Naper-Chicago (vacb270876) (Diebel)	
Tuesday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Tuesday	12:15 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876)	
Tuesday	6:15 pm	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) vacb134098	
Wednesday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) (66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year
Wednesday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Wednesday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Wednesday	7:15 pm	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) vacb134098	
Wednesday	11:10 am	New Lenox, All Bridge Saints (vacb185751)	
Wednesday	6:15 pm	The Clare, U C Club (275776)	
Thursday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Thursday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Thursday	11:30 am	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:15 a.m.) vacb134098	
Friday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) 66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented last year
Friday	10:30 a.m.	Naper-Chicago (vacb270876) (Diebel)	
Friday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Friday	12:15 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876)	
Friday	12:15 pm	The Clare, U C Club (vacb275776)	
Saturday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) 66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented las year
Saturday	10:10 am 1:00 pm	Jeremiah and BJBE (vacb162636)	
Saturday	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876) Chicago DBC (Dyer, Perkers, Quinn)	
Saturday	11:10 am	New Lenox, All Bridge Saints (vacb185751)	
Sunday	9:00 am 4:10 pm 6:30 pm 1:00 pm	ACBL Games that support your local clubs	\$6 BB (Bridge Bucks) 66% of the funds will be distributed to clubs that you frequented las year
Sunday	12:15 pm	Chicago DBC and Lawson (private message ChicagoDB) (vacb270876)	
Sunday	6:15 pm	Hinsdale, SSBC, Calumet DBC (Newcomers II:14 a.m.) (vacb134098)	
Sunday	3:00 pm	New Lenox, All Bridge Saints (vacb185751)	