



# ScoreCard

Volume III Issue 4

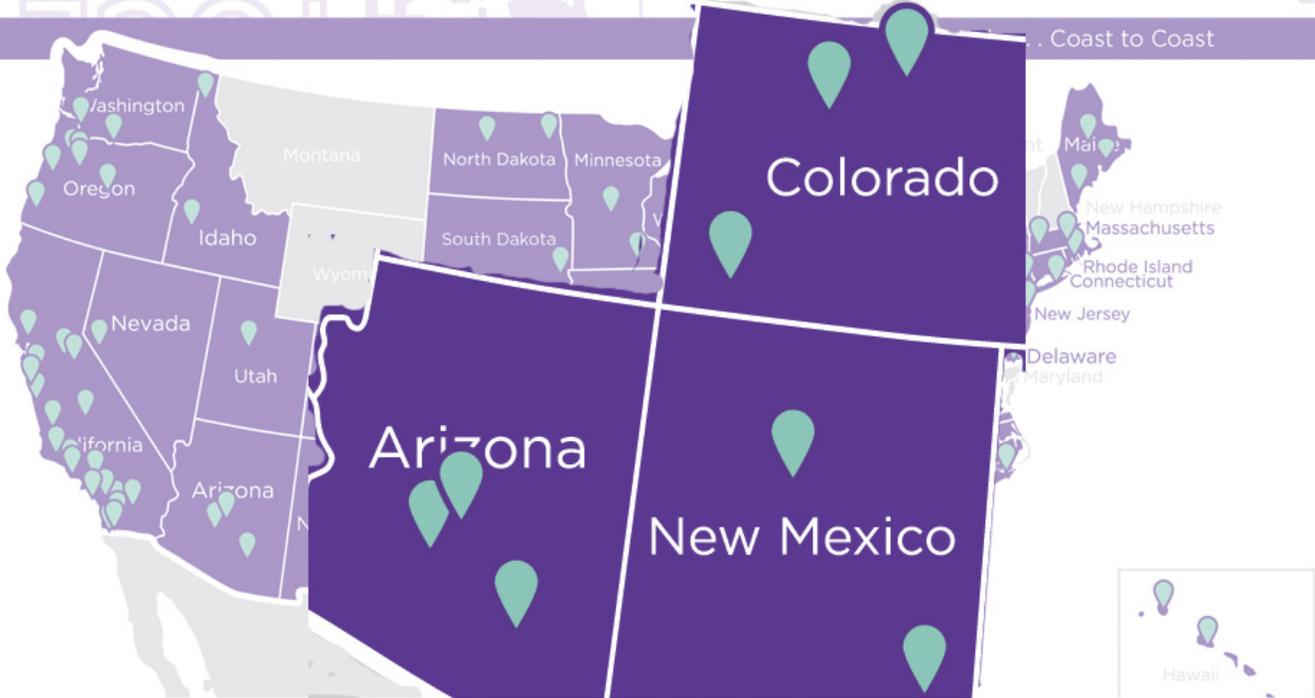
THE LONGEST DAY™

alzheimer's association®



August 2020

Coast to Coast



NEWS

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# John's Journal

By John Grossmann, District 17 President



My wife and I returned to the United States at the end of February just as the Coronavirus was starting to dominate the headlines. In the next four months, more citizens died of this disease than the combined total in the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. The statistics are grim. The pandemic devastated the face to face bridge world. Many of us know people who have died in the pandemic.

I want to update you on the financial impact of COVID-19 on District 17. The ACBL national board will not staff any regionals or sectionals for the rest of 2020. We do not expect any STAC weeks this year. These are the key sources of revenue for the District. Poof, gone.



Sample Zoom Meeting photo by [Chris Montgomery](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Here is what District 17 is doing:

1. We have eliminated the cost of face to face board meetings. We are now Zoomies. We are learning how to run online meetings.
2. We have paused our grant program (more on this later).
3. Many D17 costs associated with GNT and NAP competitions will not be incurred in 2020. These include travel subsidies to district winners and costs of hosting district competitions.
4. We expect to phase out *ScoreCard*, and rely on *Bridge Buzz* and a refurbished website for communications with our bridge players.

These changes will dramatically reduce annual expenses. The total savings will be about \$20,000 this year, and about \$40,000 in 2021. These cuts mean that District 17 could go into a COVID-19 “hibernation” for two years and still have over \$100,000 in cash reserves for when we resume in-person tournaments. District 17 will survive a prolonged pandemic shutdown.



ACBL District 17

Home Tournaments Newsletters For Newer Players LM Achievements Admin

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District 17 of the ACBL

Welcome to the District 17 web site, click the map at the bottom left to learn more about us and please send us [feedback](#) on what you want to see on this site.

Latest News

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Mar 19, 2020  
[Latest D17 Information Regarding Coronavirus](#)

**June 17, 2020 Announcement**  
 ACBL will not staff any sectionals or regionals with tournament directors for the remainder of 2020. This removes any possibility for face-to-face

Search

Current District 17 web site

Our goals for the second half of this year include:

- Replace our 10 year old website. Retired web developer Kitty Cooper did an outstanding job a decade ago to give D17 a state of the art website. The world has moved on and website software has changed. We need a website that works with multiple smartphones, tablets, and laptops.
- Our grant program has stimulated bridge training and membership building at the Unit level. But units are not currently holding in-person events. We are evaluating how we might support bridge education and membership building in a virtual world.
- I believe there is a role for District 17 in promoting bridge education. New “Shark” software combines the power of Zoom video conferencing with a virtual card table. This might be the future version of Learn Bridge in a Day, which District 17 has supported for the past five years.

I hope you have tried virtual bridge on BBO. It is not the same as traditional face to face bridge, but it is what we have. Let's make it work.

John Grossmann, D17 President

[Blackstone.co@comcast.net](mailto:Blackstone.co@comcast.net)

# District 17 News

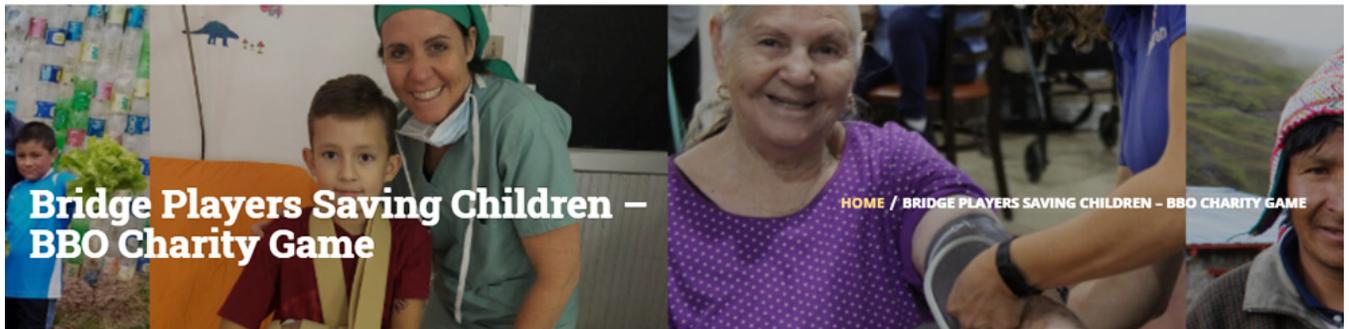
## Phoenix Clubs Sponsor Event for a Local Charity

By JoAnne Lowe, Phoenix, D17 Board

On August 22nd, all ten clubs of the Alliance Online Bridge Community including the [In Tempo Bridge Center](#) in Scottsdale are holding separate charity games, as well as another Scottsdale club, the [Bridge on Shea](#), to benefit the local charity Esperanca. Esperanca, which means HOPE, provides health education and resources to Maricopa County's most at risk and underserved Latino population.



HOME WHERE WE WORK WAYS TO DONATE GET INVOLVED OUR STORIES COVID-19 RESPONSE



In addition, Esperanca partners with other organizations that help families in poorer countries. All, that is 100% of donations from this event will provide medical equipment for the surgical teams that go to low income rural communities in Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Peru.

Players can support the charity by either making a donation or bid on playing with a Pro in one of these 2 games. All donations and bidding must be done on the [Esperanca.org](https://esperanca.org) website. See [esperanca.org/bbo-charity-game/](https://esperanca.org/bbo-charity-game/) for more information.

## Thank you Norma Sands for all you did for Bridge

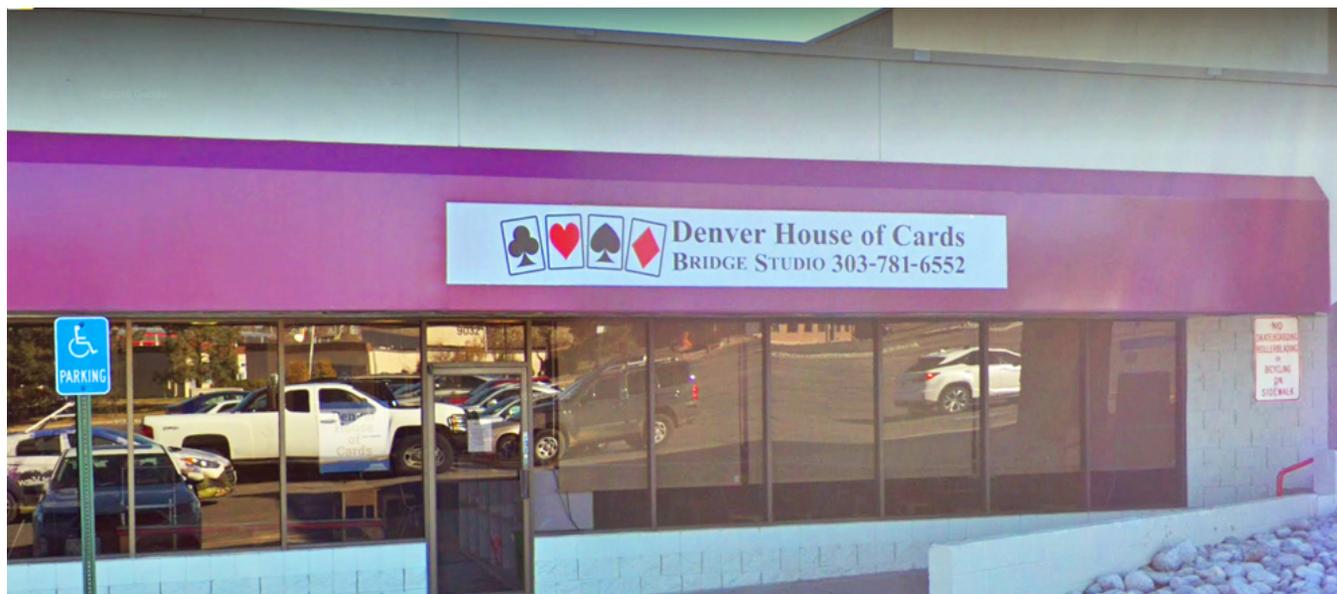
By John Grossmann, District 17 President

Norma Sands, who was a wonderful teacher, player and ambassador for bridge, passed away in June. [Please click here to read her obituary](#) and perhaps even leave a note for her family in the guest book.

## The Denver House of Cards is Closing

By Rick Gardner, President, Denver, Unit 361

The [Denver House of Cards](#) was a fixture in the Denver duplicate bridge scene for over 12 years. It is with the deepest regret that Denver Unit 361 must announce to the bridge community that the Denver House of Cards is now closed.



### [Denver House of Cards from Google Street View](#)

The club was originally started by Georgia Wilson in 2007 in the basement of a building just north of the Oxford and Santa Fe location. Shortly thereafter, she sold the club to Steve Wainz, Ted Witt, and Greg Stander. Steve took ownership with Mike Holmes when Ted and Greg moved out of state. Finally, Mike sold his interest in the club to Paul Ossip. Paul owned and ran the club after Steve retired in 2017. Paul eventually moved the club to its southwest Denver location on Ken Caryl Avenue.

Paul was an owner, director, and teacher, not to mention a great bridge player. He ran the club with professionalism and offered a full array of games and lessons expanding Denver bridge. Paul was always soft spoken and served as a mentor to many new players. With many a game played and stories swapped, the [House of Cards](#) served as a hub for bridge players in the greater Denver area. It will be sorely missed. We wish Paul all the best on his “retirement” and good luck in his future endeavors.



# District 17 Member Achievements

## NEW LIFE MASTERS



### Sue Bush and Joyce Hagin Become Life Masters

Sue Bush and Joyce Hagin, who are friends, bridge partners, and residents of the SaddleBrooke Community north of Tucson, recently became Life Masters – Joyce in January and Sue at the Tucson Winter Regional in March. Sue and Joyce met several years ago while taking lessons with bridge teacher Paul Shalita.

After pairing up in some games together and finding they were compatible, Joyce and Sue decided to enter tournaments in their quest to get silver and gold points. They traveled to the Phoenix Regional at Talking Stick, the Palm Springs Regional, and played in various Tucson events. Becoming Life Masters has been a wonderful achievement for both of them – but all the more special doing it together. Now, during the pandemic, Joyce and Sue play twice a week online for the Northwest Tucson Bridge Center, but they sure look forward to playing live bridge together again.



## Pam Krisak's Bridge Journey

By Pam Krisak



My first exposure to bridge was my mother playing two tables with friends. I was less than eight years old and not allowed to hang around. In college, a group desperate for a fourth, asked me join. A total disaster. I had no clue what they were doing. Fast forward to the 1970s when a colleague asked me to join her in taking a crack at teaching ourselves

bridge on our lunch hour. We dealt the cards out face up on her desk and followed a book. Lo and behold, my boss stopped by and asked what we were doing. Turns out he played bridge. He recruited one of the VPs and an actual lunch game began, with four decks shuffled and ready to be dealt to get the most hands we could over the half hour (well maybe 45 minutes; after all, my boss was playing!)

Children and moves allowed only a few casual games with friends. In 2004, I started playing social bridge a couple of times a month. I also facilitated a group introducing or reintroducing them to bridge. We worked through exercises using Audrey Grant's basic book and they soon joined the social bridge scene.

My first steps into sanctioned duplicate bridge were at a local club with about 8 to 11 tables. It was an open game which a brave friend of mine suggested we try. We were beaten up every time we played but kept at it. The first time we attended a tournament we earned silver points! But still, there were not many opportunities to play due to work and family obligations. I played but rarely for several years but still kept up my ACBL membership.

It wasn't until I moved to Tucson that I was able to play regularly. Availability of learning, play, and tournaments were key in achieving my Life Master goal. The important factor in my coming back to bridge was Adobe Bridge Center's great support of NLMs. Play and Learns, classes, and assistance with partnerships were the keys. A welcoming atmosphere, friendly players, and many opportunities to

play at Adobe and Tucson Charity Bridge (aka Streams) allowed me to improve my game and earn the points I needed.

I could not have done it without my wonderful partners: fun, supportive, and forgiving. Partnership is what I genuinely love about bridge. Oh, I know it is competitive. I/We would not be playing the game unless it was “spirited”. However, the wonderful experience of developing partnerships is key to my enjoyment and success.

If you become a Life Master please send your photo to the editors – [coopers@d17acbl.org](mailto:coopers@d17acbl.org) - as well as any thoughts you wish to share about your experience.



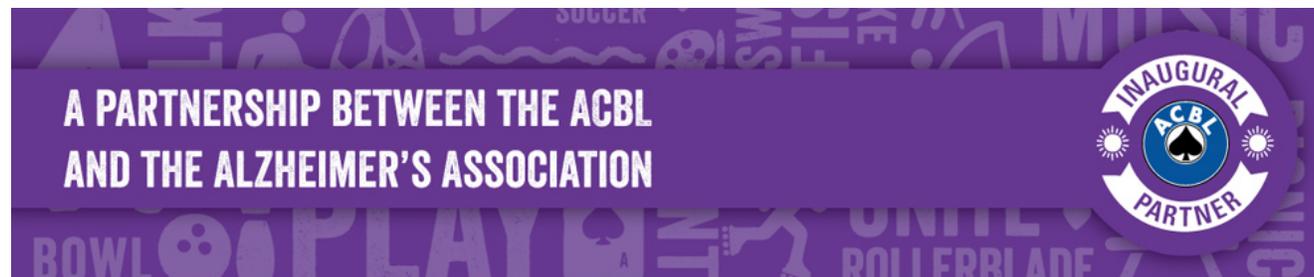
# TOURNAMENTS

## The Longest Day Results

### The 2020 Longest Day Fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association

Every year the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) holds "The Longest Day" event on the summer solstice in June in order to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. From sunrise to sunset, members across the country host tournaments, teach lessons, play multiple sessions, and raise funds in other ways to advance the cause.

This year, due to COVID-19, the ACBL sponsored the Longest Day bridge games online in partnership with [BridgeBase.com](https://www.bridgebase.com).



So how did District 17 do? Scroll down to see few reports. Please feel free to send your Editors - [coopers@D17acbl.org](mailto:coopers@D17acbl.org) - more results for the next issue. The map on the cover of this issue does not reflect every club that ended up participating, just the ones that registered for the event early on.

### Albuquerque, New Mexico

By Felix Moore

Saturday June 20 was our official Longest Day, we had 76 tables playing in 8 games. First one at 7am, last one started at 7pm. On Sunday, we had 26 tables in 3 games. I directed every game, It was a very "Long" weekend!

The Duke City Bridge Club plans to be revenue neutral for those two days, I am not taking any director fees, so after paying ACBL sanction fees, any proceeds will be donated, We won't finalize donations until the end of July.

It was fun and our players really got in the spirit and were very generous. Our fund raising total now stands at \$10,457!

A special thanks to David Baglee, president of the Duke City Bridge Club for sending out an email blast to all his members to remind them to play.



David Baglee

## Phoenix, Arizona

By Kandi Osborne, Manager, In Tempo Bridge Club

Working with Alliance, a group of 12 bridge clubs from coast to coast, In Tempo was able to host hundreds of tables on the Longest Day. We ran marathon games where people could play from dawn to dusk, as well as our regular game schedule.

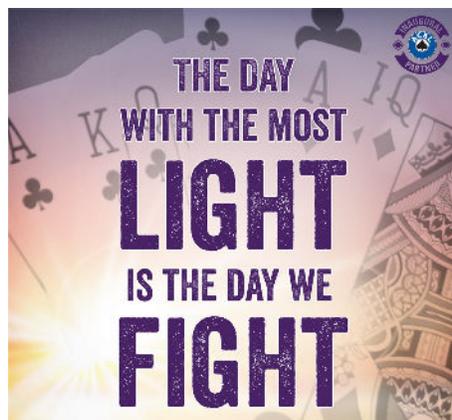
The ACBL donates the sanction fees for these games. Additionally, In Tempo donated all profits from its Longest Day games to the Alzheimer's Association; the dollar figures are not yet available. People also donated \$700 in addition to the game fees.

## Tucson, Arizona

The Boards of both Small Slams and NW Tucson Bridge Clubs voted to send all monies earned for their games on June 20 & 21 to the Alzheimer's Association.

This year Small Slams and NW Tucson formed the team Bridge for Better Brains. So far the clubs have raised over \$6,400.

## Colorado



The [July Buzz](#) carried a longest day article by John Wolff of Unit 363 which included the following report:

“We formed an alliance with Steamboat Springs, Boulder, and Vail Valley which added more energy and enthusiasm to the theme of The Longest Day.

“Literally, we played bridge from sunrise to sunset on June 20. We started our first game at 9:30 am, continued with another game at 3:00 pm, then an evening game at 7:00 pm. On Sunday, we held another game.

“In addition to the games, our players also donated generously to our Unit 363 Alzheimer's Team via our fund page. So far, we have seen \$1,700 in donations.”

Cover image created from the ACBL longest day map and used by permission. See [https://www.acbl.org/clubs\\_page/special-events/the-longest-day/](https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/special-events/the-longest-day/)

# LEARN

**Robert Todd**



**Curt Soloff**



**Larry Matheny**



**Paul Zatulove**



**Chris Hasney**



**Dennis Dawson**



**Dan McGuire**

On the following pages we have articles from our regular columnists. Please feel free to send us - [coopers@d17acbl.org](mailto:coopers@d17acbl.org) - bridge questions, humorous anecdotes, or an article of your own for this section.



# CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING:

By Robert Todd, Tallahassee, Florida

## Two Level Overcalls

Simple overcalls at the two level are quite different bids than overcalls at the one level. A one level overcall can be made on a wide range of HCP (7 to 17+) and with a variety of suit lengths (5-card, 6-card, longer, or sometimes even 4-card suits). Two level overcalls are made only with good hands! A simple overcall at the two level shows approximately an opening hand and something that resembles a 6-card suit. Because these bids are a level higher than one level overcalls, there is a much greater chance that we play here as the final contract if partner has a misfit. We must be prepared for this in both suit quality and hand strength! Let's take a look at what we should have to make a two level overcall.

### Simple Two Level Overcalls

A simple overcall at the two level is one of the following bids:

Over 1♠- a bid of 2♣ or 2♦ or 2♥

Over 1♥- a bid of 2♣ or 2♦

Over 1♦- a bid of 2♣

All these bids show about 12 to 18 HCP and a 6-card suit. Now, just because this is what they “promise” does not mean that we are blessed with having exactly these holdings each time we bid them. See the discussion below on Borderline Decisions to focus on this in more detail.

We usually classify these hands in “Buckets” based on their strength.

- 12 to 14 points: Sound Overcall

- 15 to 18 points: Maximum-Valued Overcall

If our hand has additional distribution, we can re-evaluate our hand's strength. With more values than 18 points, we do not make a simple overcall at the two level. Instead we double and bid our suit to show a long suit and a good 18 or more points.

### **Suit Quality and Suit Length**

Overcalling at the two level can get us into a lot more trouble than bidding at the one level. When we make a simple one level overcall, we are often rescued from a disastrous contract by either the opponents or partner – they often bid notrump, bid a new suit, or double to compete in the bidding, all of which help save us from a difficult final contract. But when we make a two level simple overcall, Responder, Advancer, and Opener all need much better hands in order to compete in the bidding – especially in order to bid notrump (e.g. 2NT showing a good 10 to 12 points by Responder).

Because of this it is important that we have a good suit when making an overcall at the two level. The suit should be a decent 6-card suit or look/play like one. Classic suits to overcall at the two level are:

AKxxxx

AQJxxx

KQJxxx

KQTxxx

QJTxxx

If our suit is only 5 cards, it should be of good enough quality to play well opposite a potential misfit. We should also have good hands, in terms of HCP and shape, when making two level overcalls on only a 5-card suit.

AKJT<sub>x</sub>

KQJ9<sub>x</sub>

## KQT9x

An important thing to keep in mind that differentiates two level overcalls from one level overcalls is that with only 3-card support and 7-9 points, partner will raise. When we make a one level overcall, this simple raise only takes us to the two level; but when we make a two level overcall, partner will take us to the 3-level with the same hand. In order to be safe at this level opposite partner's raise, we either need a good 6-card suit, so that we have a 9-card fit and can be protected by the Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) and/or we need good values, say 13+ HCP. Thus, when partner has only 7 HCP we still have at least half the HCP in the deck and have a chance of making our contract.

### Shape of the Hand

Another consideration for making a two level overcall is the shape of our hand. Hands with 6- and 7-card suits usually have significantly more playing strength than just their HCP suggest, but hands with only a 5-card suit need to have some additional shape in order to make a two level overcall most of the time.

### Examples of Slightly Better Shape

5422

5431

Even some small amount of addition distribution can make a hand play better than 5332 shape (a balanced hand with a 5-card suit). As a matter of fact, with some 5332s, we will choose to make another action, like overcall 1NT or make a takeout double, instead of making a two level simple overcall.

### Borderline Decisions

When it comes to making those difficult choices of whether to stretch to make a two level overcall or to stay out of the auction, the primary determining factor is suit quality. With hands that have only 10 or 11 HCP but have an excellent suit, we can get into the auction with a two level overcall. With the same shape and HCP but a poor 6-card suit, we should not.

After a 1♠ opening bid, overcall 2♦ with the this hand,



but not with this hand.



Another factor that we should use to help us determine whether to overcall is vulnerability.

After a 1♠ opening bid by RHO it is dangerous to overcall this hand at the two level when vulnerable. But non-vulnerable, it is worth getting into the auction and overcalling 2♦.



## Tactical Overcalls

There is one particular two level simple overcall that we may stretch to make because it has additional destructive values. When our RHO opens the bidding  $1\diamond$ , an overcall of  $2\clubsuit$  creates a lot of complexity for the opponents. Responder is then forced to start the auction with a negative double with a large variety of different shapes – including hands with a single 4-card Major. From there, the auction can become quite complicated for the opponents, especially if Opener and Responder cannot find a Major suit fit.

Because of the pressure that our bid may put on the opponents, we will often stretch to make this  $2\clubsuit$  overcall of  $1\diamond$ , especially when non-vulnerable.

## In Summary

Two level simple overcalls are a different animal than one level simple overcalls. When you make a two level overcall you should have something resembling an opening hand and a 6-card suit. Though we do not always have the perfect hand when we make a two level overcall, this is what partner should expect us to have. If we are lacking some HCPs then we should at least have some shape or exceptional suit quality to make up for it. Remember, do not clown around with your two level overcalls. Partner should be able to count on you for a good hand and a good suit in case the auction becomes competitive at an even higher level.



Robert is a professional bridge player and teacher whose hometown is Tallahassee, Florida. But you'll find him all over the country and the world playing and teaching bridge. Robert began playing bridge at a very young age in his parents' party bridge games, and came to duplicate while working on his graduate degree in Mathematics. He spent a year in Helsinki, Finland, where he met and played with many fine European players. When he returned to the States, Robert decided to become a bridge professional himself and has never looked back!

Robert has finished in the top 20 on the Barry Crane list (with over 1500 masterpoints) many times, has posted several top-10 finishes in National-level Pairs events, and won the 0-10,000 Knockout Teams at the Dallas NABC in 2014. This article was previously published as one of Robert's free email lessons in his series published at [advinbridge.com](http://advinbridge.com)

contact: [Robert@advinbridge.com](mailto:Robert@advinbridge.com)



# EDUCATIONAL

## I/N Tips:

By Paul Zatulove

### BRIDGE IS A PARTNERSHIP GAME

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)		DEFENSIVE CARDING	
versus Suits	versus Notrump	vs SUITS	vs NT
<b>X X</b>	<b>X X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>X(X) X X</b>	<b>X(X) X X</b>	Standard: <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>X(X) X</b>	<b>X X X X</b>	Except <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>A K x</b>	<b>T 9 x</b>		
<b>K Q x</b>	<b>K J T x</b>	Upside-Down:	
<b>Q J x</b>	<b>K T 9 x</b>	count <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>J T 9</b>	<b>Q T 9 x</b>	attitude <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>K Q T 9</b>	<b>J T 9 x</b>		
		<b>FIRST DISCARD</b>	
		Lavinthal <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Odd/Even <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Upside Down <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<b>OTHER CARDING</b>	
		Smith Echo <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Trump Suit Pref. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Foster Echo <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>OTHER LEADS:</b>	
		4th Best vs SUITS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vs NT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		3rd/5th Best vs SUITS <input type="checkbox"/>	vs NT <input type="checkbox"/>
		vs NT: A=Unb, K=Att <input type="checkbox"/>	Attitude vs NT <input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Primary signal to partner's leads</b>	
		Attitude <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Count <input type="checkbox"/>
		Suit preference <input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>SPECIAL CARDING</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		<b>PLEASE ASK</b>	

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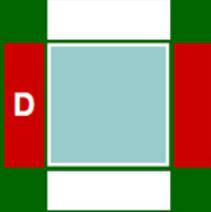
On defense, are you talking to partner through the cards? When filling out a Convention Card with a new partner, I like to start at the lower left corner to make sure we cover defensive signals. There are four sides to the table. You are likely to be declarer 25%, be dummy 25%, and be on defense, 50%. Giving signals to your partner with your cards

adds both interest to the game as well as accuracy to your defense.

If you are going to give each other defensive signals, you must do three things:

1. Agree with partner as to which signals you use.
2. Focus on your partner's every card!
3. Be disciplined in every card YOU play.

Partner was "flashing neon lights" and I was answering with "Sounds of Silence". Partner was 'talking to me and I was not listening'. Partner gave me not one but THREE signals on this critically important deal...and I was not in focus.

	<b>N North</b> ♠ 953 ♥ K942 ♦ J105 ♣ QJ9	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P   P   1NT   P P   P
	<b>W West</b> ♠ 10876 ♥ A107 ♦ K864 ♣ 85	<b>E East</b> ♠ AQ42 ♥ J83 ♦ AQ97 ♣ A4
	Play this hand out at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y4hbbmd2">tinyurl.com/y4hbbmd2</a>	1NT E      NS: 0 EW: 0

The contract was a simple 1NT by East on the last BBO round.

First signal. Partner led the ♣6, fourth best from his longest and STRONGEST suit, followed by dummy's ♣5 and my Jack which is the lower of touching honors. If I played the Queen it would deny the Jack. Declarer played the Ace. Now my partner knew I had the Queen since declarer would have played it if he had it in order to win the Queen and keep the Ace.

Declarer took the next five tricks.

Second signal. On one of the five tricks partner discarded the ♣3. I thought he really didn't have to tell me again that Clubs were his strong suit! I remembered his lead. Partner was giving me COUNT. He had more than four Clubs. Declarer could have no more than three Clubs. Partner then took the seventh trick when declarer tried the Spade finesse.

Third signal. Partner led the Club King! Dummy discarded and I played the nine, ready to take the next trick with my Queen.

Wake up, Paul. Partner was asking me to throw the Queen under his King. We could take all the remaining tricks, setting the contract! Because I saved my Queen, Declarer made the contract. I blocked the suit. I had the count. I knew our strong suit. I was not focused at the crucial time.

I know you will do better than I did. Your use of defensive signals will make your time at the table more enjoyable and productive as well as adding accuracy to your defense.

One more very important part of playing partnership bridge. I did not hear any sighs of despair or critical comments from partner even though my lack of consistent focus cost us first place out of 38 tables. I consider this partner among my best friends and his patient, polite manner is why we are . . . best of friends.



Paul Zatulove is a recent LM who believes everyone should be exposed to bridge and improve the quality of their life. He organized a group of men to improve their bridge and play duplicate. 14 joined the ACBL, one became a director, two won the Ace of Clubs award and one is touring regional tournaments with three lovely ladies.

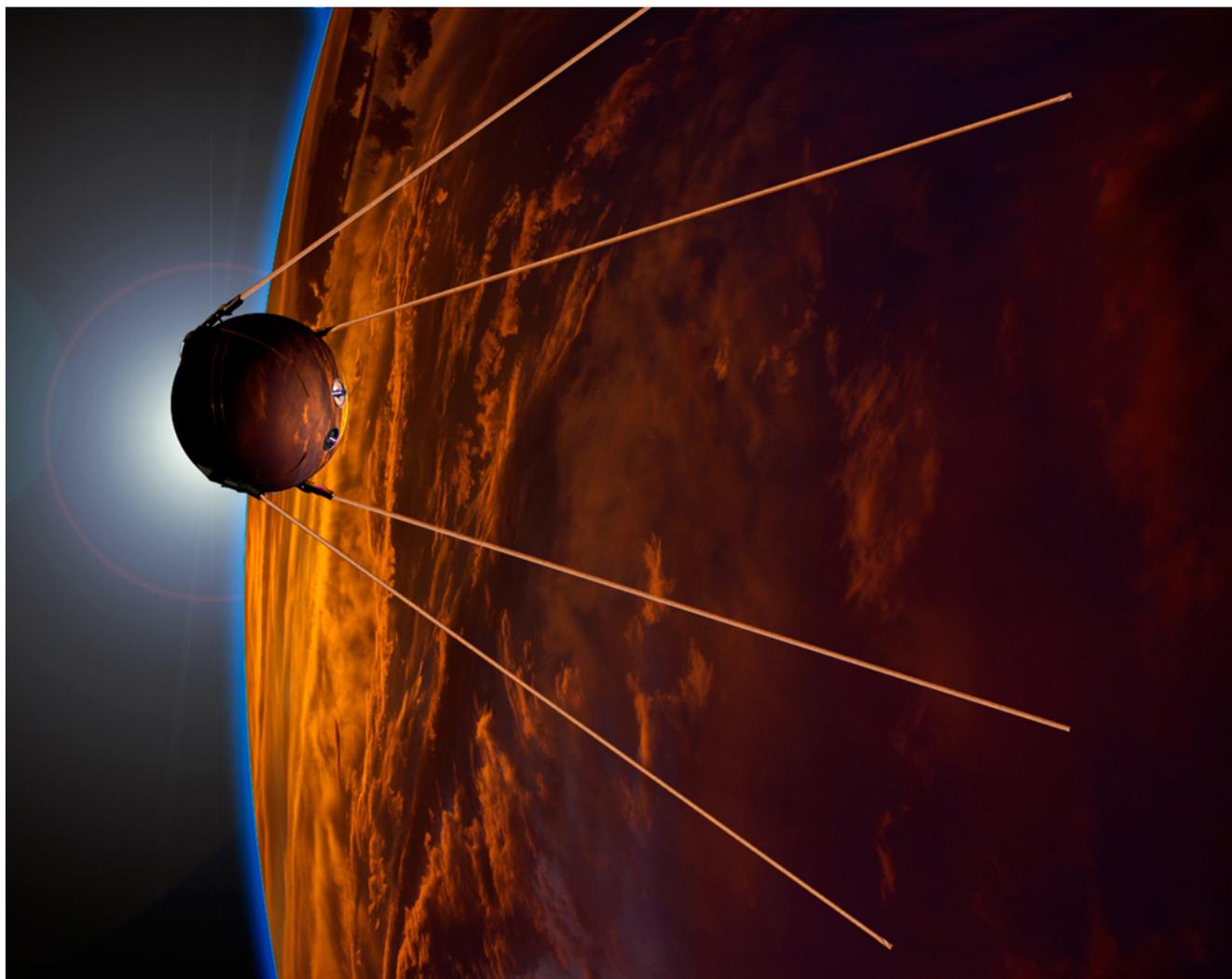


# Advice for the New Player

By Chris Hasney, Hereford, Arizona

## Negative Doubles

Our next fit seeking call is the Negative Double. This one was originally dubbed the “Sputnik” Double after the Soviet satellite which orbited about the time that Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone invented this new type of takeout double. (*“Bridge Is a Partnership Game”* 1957)



[Dawn of the Space Age by Gregory R Todd](#), CC BY-SA 3.0

A negative double is a takeout double made by responder (“our” side). Like the takeout double, it has ranges and multiple uses. Also like the takeout double, it gives up a natural “business” double in favor of greater flexibility, and thus comes with a requirement that opener “protect” by reopening, preferably with a double when appropriate. If you don’t get that, go back and read the preceding couple of my columns. But not to worry, you’ll see it again here, but a bit more abbreviated.

**If you play contract bridge using any sort of “Standard” American system including both SAYC and 2/1 GF then you play negative doubles – they are assumed.** No alert is needed.

Most strong 1♣ systems such as Precision also include at least the basic form of negative double structure as well. It looks like this (we’ll assume a standard system like SAYC in the rest of this article):

- 1♣-1♠-DBL shows four or five hearts, at least eight well-placed HCP, and tolerance for clubs or diamonds.
- 1♣-1♦-DBL shows at least four cards in one major and three in the other (4+-4+ preferred), 5+ well-placed HCP (only five? Yup, because opener can bid 1♥ or 1♠).
- 1♦-1♥-DBL shows exactly four spades (with 5+ you would just bid 1♠), 6-8+ well-placed HCP (a little better because opener has only one choice of suits, 1♠, at the one level), and tolerance for opener’s diamonds or clubs.

Note that because there is an opening bid and then an overcall by intervenor, NOW the double by responder is negative. When first learning this, it’s not uncommon to forget about the intervention requirement and double your partner. Not to worry, most of us have done it. In my case I heard all three other players at the table call for the director! You and partner have some discussion and agreement room with the HCP ranges. With a new partner err on the side of being a little stronger than bare minimum.

**How high is the negative double played?** In SAYC the agreement was through 2♠. Alvin Roth said that there was no upper limit. In practice most tournament players have an unspoken agreement that negative doubles are ON through

players have an unspoken agreement that negative doubles are ON through opener's ability to rebid four spades while higher doubles are still negative but guarantee enough defense that opener can pass with no clear bid. That means 1♣-4♥-DBL is negative, for spades while 1♣-4♠-DBL expects partner to pass unless they have hearts and a good offensive hand. Note that the higher the level at which opener must bid (or pass to convert to penalties – but be careful), the better responder's hand must be. So, if you are insisting that opener take some action at the four level, you must have a solid opening bid and the right shape, the shape partner will expect. It is possible that 1♣-4♥-DBL may have five moth-eaten spades (not six!) and would just prefer not to bid 4♠. You would never do that at the two level – just bid your five card spade suit. See how it works?

**Opener has “Reopening” responsibilities.** This looks much the same as the situation with takeout doubles. If the auction goes, for example, 1♣-1♠-P- P opener should consider responder's pass as semi-forcing. Opener only passes when he has spade length which is a clue that responder wasn't trap passing. Otherwise, opener should reopen with double (preferred if opener has one or two pieces in intruder's suit, rebid a six card suit, or bid a lower ranking four or five card suit (e.g. 1♥-1♠-P- P-2m). With a BIG hand (17+ HCP) that is not suitable for double, opener can bid a higher-ranking suit, a reverse, or 1NT with 18-19 (a hand that was planning to rebid 2NT) and close to a double stopper in the enemy suit.

One last caution. If responder DOES employ a negative double, DON'T pass to convert it for penalties without five GOOD cards in the intruder's suit (e.g., KQ1097), and DON'T jump to game in a suit responder is showing, unless it is the other major, the only suit he will always have. If you must jump in his minor, skip only one level, giving responder some room to rebid – he may have had something else in mind. For example, he could have four cards in the other major with a three card limit raise of your major. If you must insist on game after the double, you can start with a cue bid of the enemy suit.

**Negative doubles are NOT on in an auction where the intruder has made a conventional bid**, like 1♣-2♣ (Michaels, for the majors). Unless you are playing in a pickup game with an advanced plus level player in a Flight A (open) field, it would be rare to find anyone playing negative doubles over a “real” notrump overcall, for example 1♠-1NT (16-18 with spades well-stopped)-DBL. Yes, that can

be played as negative (takeout for hearts, weak hand), but it's not standard.

Usually it is penalty, meaning that intervenor's partner is broke and responder has the balance of strength. Also, that kind of auction does NOT require opener to reopen if responder passes. 1♠-1NT-P-P is not forcing.

For Robert Todd's Scorecard article on negative double follow ups click here:

[http://read.nxtbook.com/acbl\\_district\\_17/scorecard/august\\_2018/constructive\\_bidding\\_robert\\_t.html](http://read.nxtbook.com/acbl_district_17/scorecard/august_2018/constructive_bidding_robert_t.html)

Next time we'll continue with a look at some fit-showing doubles, including support, maximal, and responsive doubles.



Chris Hasney is an accredited bridge teacher from Hereford, Arizona. He supports the college bridge and rubber bridge revival movement. He is the author of *Simplicity Bridge* published as an e-book through [Lybrary.com](http://Lybrary.com)



# EDUCATIONAL

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

By Larry Matheny, Fort Collins, Colorado

### A SHORT SUIT

While most hand evaluation schemes involve counting high card points, others are used to show distribution. This declarer reached a nice slam after a short suit was identified.

	<b>N North</b> ♠ 2 ♥ K105 ♦ AQ87542 ♣ K9	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6♦</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S		2NT	P	1NT	P	3♠	P	3♣	P	4♥	P	4♦	P	5♣	P	4♠				6♦
	W	N	E	S																						
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P	4♥	P	4♦																							
P	5♣	P	4♠																							
			6♦																							
<b>W West</b> ♠ AJ873 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 9 ♣ 10642	<b>E East</b> ♠ K965 ♥ 87632 ♦ 6 ♣ J87																									
<b>S South</b> ♠ Q104 ♥ A4 ♦ KJ103 ♣ AQ53	<p><b>Play this hand out at</b></p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/vpwneur">tinyurl.com/vpwneur</a></p> <p>6♦ S      NS: 0 EW: 0</p>																									

Opening lead: ♠A

**Bidding:** North's 2NT response was a transfer to diamonds. South's 3♣ rebid showed a great hand for diamonds. North's next bid showed interest in game or

slam with shortness in spades. With very little wasted in spades, South's hand was getting better. His next bid of 4♦ was the Minorwood convention, asking for keycards (4 aces + diamond king). North replied he held one keycard, and the 4♠ continuation asked about the diamond queen. North answered with 5♣, acknowledging the queen of diamonds along with the king of clubs. South completed the long auction by bidding the slam.

**Play:** West led the ace of spades after which declarer soon claimed twelve tricks. At other tables those in 3NT failed after a spade lead while those in 5♦ made one or two overtricks depending on the opening lead.

Finding a short suit can keep you out of a bad 3NT and allow you to reach minor suit games and slams.



Born and raised in Illinois, Larry worked at a major insurance company for 33 years, retiring as a director in the systems department. In 2003, he moved to Loveland, Colorado, the home state of his wife, Linda, and soon got involved in the local bridge scene. Larry served as Unit president for ten years. He has written a weekly column for his unit webpage since 2004 and is a frequent lecturer at the monthly unit games.

# CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

By Curt Soloff, Denver, Colorado

## Major Suit Raises, Part VII: Enhancing Jacoby 2NT

In the last installment, we introduced Jacoby 2NT in its “classic” form as a means for you to force to game with four card support for a major suit opening, simultaneously gathering additional information about the opening bidder’s hand. Many experts have created variations to Jacoby 2NT over the years to give it wider application and make it more useful. Modified forms of Jacoby 2NT typically feature the inclusion of the four-card limit raise among possible hand types for responder’s jump to 2NT. In other words, we can describe the auction 1M-2NT as *a limit raise or better with four card support*.

Let’s say you choose to adopt a modified form of Jacoby. What does this mean for the rest of your major suit raise structure? Keep in mind that changes to conventional bids in your system tend to impact other bids outside of that convention – everything is connected! If your 1M-3M auction previously showed a four-card limit raise, you would now have the freedom to use a direct 3M bid to show a different hand type, such as a weak or mixed raise. If you play standard or reverse Bergen, you no longer need to show a four card limit raise with a jump to three of a minor, so that bid is freed up for other uses. Going forward, when an auction begins 1M-2NT, we are forced to a

MAJOR OPENING		
Expected Min. Length	4	5
1st/2nd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3rd/4th	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RESPONSES		
Double Raise:	Force <input type="checkbox"/> Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
After Overcall:	Force <input type="checkbox"/> Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Conv. Raise:	2NT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3NT <input type="checkbox"/> Splinter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	_____	
1NT:	Forcing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semi-forcing <input type="checkbox"/>	
2NT:	Forcing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>modified</u> to <u>Jacoby</u>	
3NT:	_____ to _____	
Drury <input type="checkbox"/>	Reverse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Fit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	_____ splinters	

contract of at least three of our major, but not forced to game. How, then, does this modified Jacoby 2NT work, you ask?

The first priority is for opener to *distinguish a bare minimum opening from one with extra values*. Did you open a balanced (i.e., 5-3-3-2) hand with an ordinary 12 or 13 points? Or perhaps an unbalanced hand with only 11 points? To show this hand type, opener answers 2NT with 3♣, an artificial response saying nothing about clubs. This 3♣ bid neither confirms nor denies shortness in a side suit; opener is merely saying, “Partner, if you have only a limit raise, I am not inclined to accept the game try.” The corollary, therefore, is that *any other bid by opener besides 3♣ creates a game force*.

Upon hearing 3♣ from opener, responder may return to 3M when holding only the invitational raise, and that bid is to play. On the other hand, if responder has a game forcing hand, she has additional options, and *any other bid besides three of your agreed major confirms a game forcing hand*. With no slam interest, she may jump directly to game after opener shows a minimum. Alternatively, she can ask opener for shortness to initiate a possible slam probe. Imagine a hand like this for responder:



If opener held only a 12-point hand, could you still envision a small slam? If he has a nicely fitting minimum, you can begin to picture taking 12 tricks. If opener has 5-3-3-2 shape, then we should probably not pursue a slam. But what if opener has a singleton heart? Perhaps something like this:



Wouldn't you love to find your way to 6♠ on these cards? You are missing the king of trump, but you've got everything else under control. The diamonds are all winners, heart losers could be ruffed in your hand, and club losers ruffed in the dummy.

How should the bidding go in this scenario? In normal Jacoby, opener would simply answer 2NT with a bid of 3♥ to confirm a singleton or void in hearts. With modified Jacoby, however, the auction goes a bit differently. Opener begins with a rebid of 3♣, any minimum. Now responder uses an artificial 3♦ bid to ask for shortness. Opener shows shortness by bidding the suit of the singleton or void at the cheapest available level (3♥, 4♣, or 4♦); with no shortness, opener simply retreats to your established trump suit.

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What if the opener possesses extra values? Let's say opener has a good 14 count or better, a hand that is always accepting a game try. In that instance, opener bypasses the 3♣ response to Jacoby and either shows balanced extras or extras

with shortness. Returning to 3M shows a better than minimum hand without

shortness, but if you have a singleton or void, you show it immediately by bidding your short suit. Hence, if the auction begins 1♠-2NT, opener bids as follows:

3♦ Extras with diamond shortness

3♥ Extras with heart shortness

3♠ Extras with no shortness

4♣ Extras with club shortness



With 15 HCP, nice controls, and diamond shortness, opener's first rebid with the hand above is 3♦. At this point of the auction, your side is forced to game. Now the captain, responder, can decide if she likes the sound of your diamond shortness and can continue the slam probe or attempt to sign off. Note that the 3NT bid is absent from the response schedule, and as we discussed in the June issue, your partnership should decide what this bid shows just as you would in regular Jacoby – a decision that largely rests on whether or not you would open 1NT holding a five card major.

As with any convention, modified Jacoby requires just a bit more memory work with the additional artificial bids. If you are up to the task, though, you can employ

these tools effectively and increase the accuracy of your bidding.

these tools effectively and increase the accuracy of your bidding.

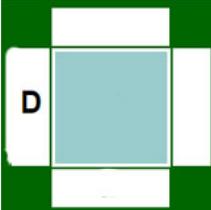


Curt Soloff is a sapphire life master with 15 years of bridge directing and teaching experience. He has served as the manager and director of the Castle Rock Bridge Club since its inception in 2009 and can be contacted at [castlerockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:castlerockbridge@gmail.com).



# Bridge in the Real World

By Dennis Dawson, Santa Fe, New Mexico

	<b>N</b> North ♠ Q8754 ♥ Q3 ♦ Q1087 ♣ A10	
<b>W</b> West ♠ AJ109 ♥ K765 ♦ 9543 ♣ J		<b>E</b> East ♠ 32 ♥ 942 ♦ 62 ♣ KQ9865
	<b>S</b> South ♠ K6 ♥ AJ108 ♦ AKJ ♣ 7432	

Most tables had the auction shown below. There are nine tricks on any lead – six top tricks, plus two hearts and a spade that can be developed. But at one table, Forrest’s mama sat East.

Mama didn’t want to rely on South to pick a chocolate she would like, so she decided to pick one herself and hope for the best. She had five HCP and West was a passed hand; so West has 11 HCP at most, therefore East-West have no more than 16 HCP, leaving at least 24 for North-South.

Passing was an ostrich bid – the other Easts buried their heads in the sand. They should not have been surprised to be run over by an 18-wheeler!

Forrest's mama seized her golden opportunity and opened 3♣! What is South supposed to do? Make a take-out double with only two spades? Overcall 3NT with four low clubs in the face of the club preempt?

W	N	E	S
P	P	P	1NT
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3NT	P	P
P			

If South doubles, North will probably jump to 4♠, which has no play. If South passes and North balances with 3♠, will South bid 4♠? 3NT?

By opening 3♣, Forrest's mama created lots of losing options for North-South where none existed before. Even if 3♣ is the final contract, she will take at least seven tricks and maybe eight, going down one or two. Even if she is doubled (which is hard to imagine), that is a lot better than having North-South bid and make a game.

Someone is surely saying, "But she had only six clubs. Aren't three-level preempts supposed to be seven-card suits?" Partner is a passed hand. You are not vulnerable. This is an emergency! What are you waiting for? Pick your own chocolate.

### ***Practical Advice***

Winners look for reasons to bid, not excuses to pass.



Dennis Dawson is a National Champion, a Bronze Medalist in the Senior World Championship, and an ACBL Grand Life Master. He has won more than 250 regionals. He has taught people throughout the country to play better and enjoy the game more. He currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Currently he offers lessons online for individuals or groups. You can contact him at [dennis@bridgevacations.com](mailto:dennis@bridgevacations.com)



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# My First Squeeze

*By Dan McGuire*

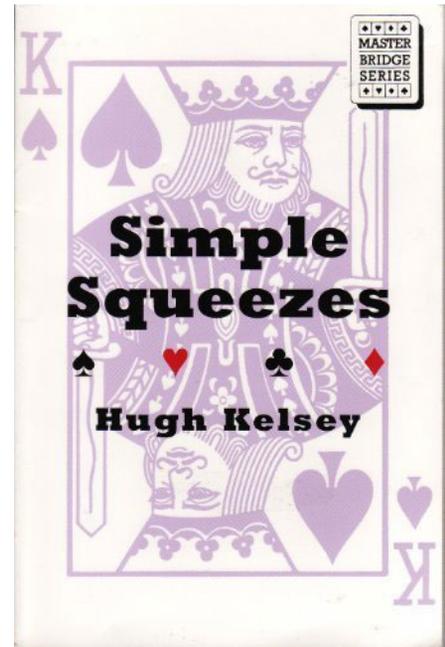
According to the late great Scottish expert bridge writer Hugh Kelsey, a squeeze is the “supreme thrill” of Bridge. But, if you're like me, you don't have the remaining brain cells or days on earth needed to study and master the requirements for all of the squeeze opportunities that may cross your path.

The ability to execute a squeeze on occasion would certainly be a fun addition to anyone's game, but the reward versus learning effort seems rather steep, and very hard to remember in the heat of battle. Most squeeze books try to do way too much way too soon. They say we need to think about what "threat" or "menace" cards we hold and which opponent might be threatened by them, and what type of squeeze might apply here. Don't they know I'm already way too busy just counting to 13? And that I have only five minutes left?

So I decided to try to reverse engineer the most frequent type of squeeze into the simplest possible steps. By just ASSUMING that most of the squeeze conditions are met, it turns out there's really only two things that you need to think about for a squeeze. After you've planned your tricks through normal declarer play:

1. Check whether there's a side suit headed by an ace (or other definite entry); and
2. If so, "rectify the count" (unless it's not safe to give up the lead).

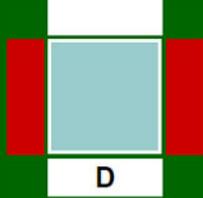
After planning your declarer play as usual, whenever you still have a side suit headed by an ace (or other definite entry), just close your eyes and rectify the count. Ah, that's better. Much less thinking and much less work.



To "rectify the count," just count your remaining winners and subtract that from the number of remaining tricks to get the number of losers left. When there's only one loser left, the count is rectified so the squeeze is ready. If there's more than one loser remaining, duck tricks to the opponents until there is only one.

When only one loser remains, regain the lead and proceed to cash all your winners (first those winners in suits adjacent to the side suit entry, if any, then the winners opposite the side suit entry). Lastly, cash the entry suit and its "loser" and enjoy when that entry suit loser has actually become a winner! It can happen. More often than you'd think.

Let's avoid the easier squeeze examples at slam levels, and instead run through the simplified steps for a more typical hand.

		<b>N</b> North ♠ A1086 ♥ A876 ♦ A7 ♣ 762	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P   4♠   P   1♠ P       P   P
		<b>W</b> West ♠ 5 ♥ K2 ♦ J9542 ♣ J10953	<b>E</b> East ♠ 74 ♥ QJ95 ♦ K1063 ♣ KQ4
		<b>S</b> South ♠ KQJ932 ♥ 1043 ♦ Q8 ♣ A8	<b>4♠ S</b> <b>NS: 0 EW: 0</b>
		Play this hand out at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yagp5ldm">tinyurl.com/yagp5ldm</a>	

The contract is 4♠ and the opening lead is the ♣J. Forget about that bidding, it is typical for a strong club system. Make a plan for the play.

An average player would see nine likely winners and four potential losers, with a 3-3 split in hearts as the best hope for a 10th trick. After winning the ♣J lead with the

♣A and drawing trump, he might go for such a 3-3 heart split at any point, in any order, maybe even immediately cashing the ♥A and then continuing hearts. No luck, down one.

But you, no longer being an average player, apply your squeeze steps to add an extra chance by a squeeze:

1. Check for a side entry suit. Yep, the heart suit is the obvious candidate.
2. Rectify the count. A squeeze is ready when you have only one loser left. Here you start with four potential losers, so your plan is to go ahead and lose three of them.

After winning the ♣J lead with the ♣A and collecting trump, you DUCK a heart. The opponents will likely cash their club trick and continue clubs, which you trump. There are now two losers left, but your goal is to have one loser left, so you duck another heart to reach that goal. The squeeze will then be ready,

Then you just cash all of the winners, first the winners in suits adjacent to the heart entry suit (i.e., cash the ♦A winner), then cross over and play ALL of the remaining winners opposite the heart entry suit. This position is reached just before the final winner, the ♠2, is cashed:

		<b>N</b> North	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
		♠	P	4♠	P	1♠
		♥ A8	P		P	P
		♦ 7				
		♣				
<b>W</b> West			<b>E</b> East			
♠			♠			
♥			♥ Q5			
♦ 95			♦ K			
♣ 10			♣			
		<b>S</b> South	<b>Play this hand out at</b> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/yagp5ldm">tinyurl.com/yagp5ldm</a>			
		♠ 2				
		♥ 10	<b>4♠ S</b> <b>NS: 0 EW: 0</b>			
		♦ Q				
		♣				

You cash that last trump, the ♠2, discarding the useless ♦7 from the board. East will have to discard either his ♦K making your ♦Q good, or discard his ♥5 making your ♥A8 both good. Making 4♠, despite hearts not splitting. Top board!

Note that even if you didn't have the ♦Q, East might have thought you had it and still discard his ♥5, thinking that you might not know your ♥A8 would then be good. How insulting! But it happens. A lot.

You've now executed a squeeze for a top board, and there's still three minutes left on the clock. That was fun. Maybe you'll take another look at that Clyde Love book. [Eds. Clyde Love's [Bridge Squeeze Complete](#) is a classic; a little dry perhaps, but as compensation gives the reader a glimpse of what rubber bridge was like back in the day.]



Dan McGuire is a semi-retired tax lawyer, semi-successful Ruby Life Master, and semi-unsuccessful poker player in Las Vegas, Nevada, who's been studying squeeze books way too much during the quarantine. He can be reached at [danlvnv@aol.com](mailto:danlvnv@aol.com)



## DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

# D17 ScoreCard volume III issue 4



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