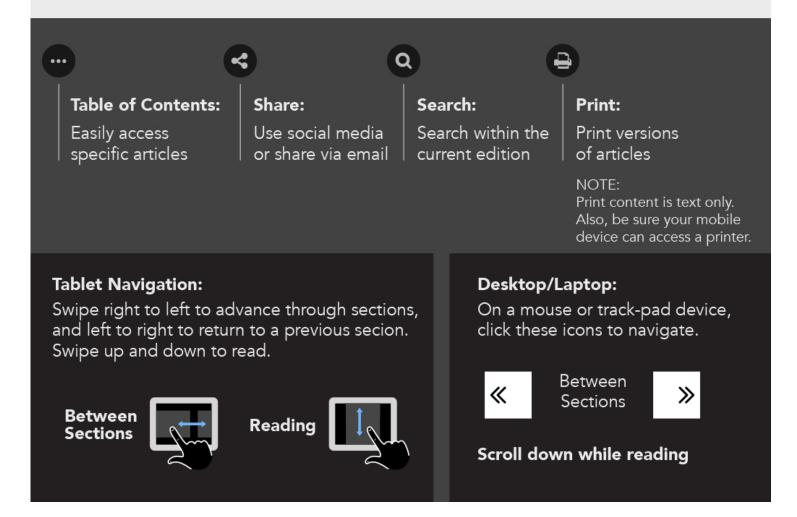


How to get the most out of your reading experience



District 17 Tournament Calendar

Regionals

```
Feb 25-Mar 3. <u>Tucson AZ</u>

Apr 26-28 ... <u>Scottsdale (Phoenix) AZ NLM</u>

May 21-27 ... <u>Denver CO</u>
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Aug 12-18 ... <u>Scottsdale (Phoenix) AZ</u>

Sep 23-29 ... <u>Taos NM</u>

TUCSON WINTER REGIONAL TUCSON EXPO CENTER
FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3, 2019
SouthernArizonaBridge.com

Special Events

Mar 21-31 Memphis NABC

Sectionals

February

```
4-10 ..... Chandler (Mesa) AZ Progressive

8-10 ..... Sedona AZ

15-18 ..... Scottsdale (Phoenix) AZ

15-18 ..... El Paso TX

23-24 ..... Colorado Springs 299er

23-24 ..... Santa Fe NM 499er

24 ..... Scottdale (Mesa) AZ Progressive Final
```

DENVER'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL May 21-27

4-8		<u>Las Vegas NV</u>
8-10	• • • • • •	Golden (Denver) CO
16		Las Cruces NM 299er
21-24		Scottsdale (Mesa) AZ
April		
11-14		Tucson AZ
11-14		Colorado Springs CO
26-28		Glenwood Springs CO
26-28		Scottsdale (Phoenix) AZ
26-28		Las Cruces NM
27-28		Sheridan (Denver) I/N



District 17 News

France awards Legion of Honor to D17 member Stanley Marcus

Ninety-eight year old Stanley Marcus of El Paso, Texas, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre. Stanley is a Jewish war veteran of the U.S. Army and has received eight other medals for his service and heroism during World War II in Belgium, France, Holland, and Germany. Among many other things, he helped to liberate three concentration camps, including Buchenwald Click here to read more on the El Paso web site.



GNT National Teams

By Rod Southworth, D17 GNT Coordinator

The qualifying period for the D17 GNT District Finals is half over, with the qualifying period ending on April, 30. There is still lots of time to qualify, so see your local club manager or unit GNT coordinator for qualification games in your area. Your club may also hold GNT Fund Raisers, with extra master points available.

The D17 GNT finals will be held during the Rocky Mountain Regional in Denver, from May 24-26. It is expected that all games will be completed during Friday and Saturday, with Sunday being a possible day for the Open Flight and Flight A if we have more than eight teams competing in a flight. The D17 board has waived entry fees for Flight C teams.



The GNT Conditions of Contest are on our website at: http://www.d17acbl.org/index.php?page=gnt-coc

Preregistration is required for the Open Flight. Teams must mail a team roster to me, the GNT Coordinator, P.O. Box 21989, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, no later than May 1st, along with a check made payable to District 17 GNT for the first session entry fee (currently \$52). In the event that only one team preregisters, it will be declared the winner and will not be required to attend the District Finals, but must have prepaid the initial session entry fee.

Winning teams that compete in the National GNT Finals in Las Vegas (in July) will receive \$2000 per team from D17. I hope to see you in Denver at the District GNT Finals.

Cruising to Ruby LM

Our district director, Bonnie Bagley, sent congratulations to Mary Neuman, Scottsdale, Arizona for becoming a Ruby Life Master, among other rank advancing members. Here is Mary's response:



Nancy, Cruise Director Barbara Seagram, Mary

"My friends talked me into going on a bridge cruise right after Thanksgiving. As a foursome we thought we would get to play in a lot of team games. But most of the games were pairs. I roomed and partnered with Nancy Whittenburg, who had been my partner in Mesa/Tempe, but moved to Oklahoma a year ago. Not only

was it nice to visit with her, but it was great playing bridge together again. We

earned over five points in the pairs, and I was counting all the way because I only needed 10 points to get to Ruby. Turns out she only needed the five points, so she got to Ruby before me. Then in the first Swiss Teams we came in third and earned about ten points! It was a real kick to think that two old friends would make their Ruby status just days apart on the same bridge cruise!"

Navigating the Online ScoreCard

Some people are having trouble figuring our how to search or print. The trick is put your cursor or finger on the top of the page, which will cause a menu bar to slide down.



The image above shows the menu bar. On the right, there are icons for searching, printing, and sharing. Click the three dots on the left to get a series of thumbnails of all the pages in the issue. This gives you a quick way to navigate to a specific page.

Another question we have received is how to copy words from an article. The answer is that you have to click print, then cut and paste from the print preview page.

There are more tips from John Grossmann in last year's <u>April issue</u> and <u>June issue</u> including how to download the app to your tablet or smartphone.



Denver's Rocky Mountain Regional

May 21-27, 2019

Sponsored by District 17 and Denver Unit 361 of the ACBL

Renaissance Hotel by Marriott 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207 303-399-7500

TRANSPORTATION

- Light rail from the airport or downtown
 Free hotel shuttle or 15 minute
 - walk from Central Park Station
- · Easy freeway access

EVENTS

- Full schedule of pair and team events
- Engaging guest speakers

NEWER PLAYERS

- **Gold Rush Pairs and Swiss Teams**
- 299er Pairs

TOURNAMENT CONTACTS

- Director in Charge Gary Zeiger
 Tournament Chair Wayne Eckerling
 Partnerships Vard Nelson



John's Journal

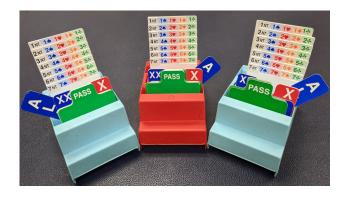
By John Grossmann, District 17 President

Blackstone.co@comcast.net



ACBL staff, with the help of many local volunteers, run three NABCs each year. The 25 Districts are in charge of regional tournaments. Some Districts have a single team that runs their regional events, calling all the shots. In District 17 (D17), we operate under a different model. D17 shares the responsibility of running regional tournaments with host Units.

The host Unit selects the tourney chairperson and recruits key volunteers. The local team designs the schedule of events, develops a budget, negotiates a hotel contract, books guest speakers, and arranges hospitality. D17 sets general standards for regionals, assists



in hotel contract evaluation, reviews tournament schedules, provides financial support for novice programs, delivers **ScoreCard** and **Buzz** publicity, ships hundreds of bid boxes, and picks up some of the costs such as for pre-duplicated hands and Bridgemates.

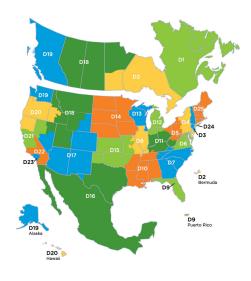
When a Unit runs a profitable regional it keeps the surplus. Occasionally, a tournament will run at a loss. District 17 will often cover a loss, especially when caused by *force majeure* events (circumstances beyond the control of event planners).

Regional tournament results in 2018

District 17 held five regional tournaments this past year and attendance was significantly higher at three of them. Our 2018 lineup was:

- Albuquerque, 1616 tables
- Tucson, 1526 tables
- Denver, 1905 tables
- Phoenix, 1352 tables
- Colorado Springs, 1106 tables

All five tournaments showed a profit, but the year was not without some drama. Phoenix scrambled to shift venues after a flood closed the hotel two days before the tourney. Some fast thinking and lots of hard work allowed Phoenix to run a regional at two club sites. What could have been a disaster ended up with a great result, and a gain of one table over 2017. That is an amazing accomplishment.



How many and where?

Each ACBL District is allowed four regional tournaments a year. Because D17 has over 9000 members, we receive a bonus allocation. The District Board is now working on a **CORE 5** concept. Most years we will hold five regional tourneys. We expect the core five annual sites to be Albuquerque, Tucson, Denver, Phoenix and Las Vegas.

But wait, there's more! D17 has three ways to get an extra regional tournament. We can run a Senior Regional in Arizona, which is currently grandfathered into the national rules and does not count against our annual allotment. An extra slot may also be created when an NABC is held in our district and the host city does not run a regional that year. ACBL allows a district to shift an unused NABC slot to another year. We will have bonus slots from the 2019 NABC in Las Vegas and the 2022 NABC in Phoenix. In addition, if the Las Vegas regional achieves 3000 or more tables, we may get another bonus slot. For thirteen years between 2002 and 2015,

the Las Vegas regional had over 3000 tables. The Las Vegas Unit recently

reformulated and has signed a contract with the downtown Plaza hotel for a 2020 tournament. Viva Las Vegas!

These extra allocations are how Taos and Colorado Springs may get a regional tournament.

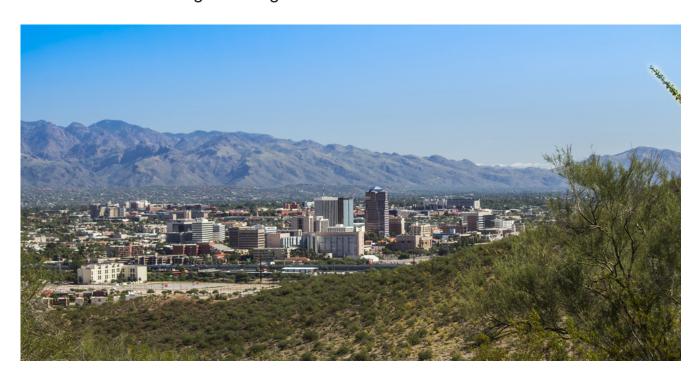
Humor me!

Enough with the business talk. Let's try something new. "Everything is funny as long as it is happening to someone else" - Will Rogers.

Got a funny bridge story, one liner, joke, or cartoon? Email your material to me at Blackstone.co@comcast.net. If Kitty Cooper, our editor, and I choose your submission for *ScoreCard*, you will get a check for \$50.

Tucson Regional

The next D17 regional is in Tucson at the end of February. Steve Reynolds, the tourney chair, always puts on a great event. The D17 Board will take advantage of the warm weather and have our first meeting of the year in Tucson. I am expecting a lot of fun and some great bridge.



Tucson Winter Regional Tucson, Arizona

February 25 - March 3

By Cindy Shoemaker, President ACBL Unit 356

Great weather, a dynamic playing schedule and signature hospitality make this now annual regional the place to play!

Conveniently located just off of I-10 and five miles from the Tucson International Airport, the Tucson Winter Regional will be held at the Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Road, Tucson, AZ. Free ample parking provided.



Players at the Tucson Regional 2018

Players will receive discounted rates at several nearby hotels many of which are within walking distance of the Tucson Expo Center. Packed full of team games, this tournament schedule includes: Five days of gold rush,

KOs, including a Compact KO on Saturday, bracketed team games, Swiss, open pair and side games.



In keeping with tradition, free coffee will be provided daily along with free lox, bagels and cream cheese and pastries each morning and free premium candy each afternoon. A free lunch will be provided on Sunday. A varied and affordable lunch option will be offered onsite daily.

Free lectures by top experts will be held Tuesday through Friday at 1 pm.



Stop by our information desk to receive your tournament patch, welcome gifts for I/Ns, and information on all that is Tucson.

Visit our website at <u>southernarizonabridge.com</u> for more details on the Tucson Winter Regional.

Thanks to the <u>Visit Tucson web site</u> for several of the images in this article.



Phoenix NLM Gold Rush Regional

April 26 – 28

By JoAnne Lowe, Tournament Chair

Join us at the beautiful In Tempo Bridge Center for the fourth annual Phoenix Non Life Master (NLM) Gold Rush Regional. The NLM Phoenix Regional is exclusively for Non-Life Masters with fewer than 750 points. The Regional offers opportunities to earn 33% gold points and 67% red points in two session events.

Take advantage of free lectures by top experts between sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Our great hospitality offers free patches (stickers) and trophies. There will be coffee, tea, snacks, and premium chocolates throughout all sessions. Daily giveaways include gift certificates and free plays. There is free parking at or near the site.



Although we have no host hotels, Scottsdale offers many fine hotels near the playing site. Use Google to find hotels near McDonald and Hayden Roads in Scottsdale. Don't have a partner? Contact Anne Marie Harrington at aharrin708@aol.com or (602) 549 0956. Anne Marie will find you one.

Questions? Contact JoAnne Lowe at pnutlowe@cox.net or (480) 577 9833 or (480) 836 7296.

<u>Check the flyer at the ACBL</u> or visit <u>unit354.com</u> for the playing schedule.



Frank Lloyd Wright's <u>Taliesin West</u> is in Scottsdale

Sedona Sectional now in February

Feb 8-10, Game times 10:00 and 2:30

Single Session Pairs, both Open and 0-200
3 session KO starts Friday, Compact KO Saturday
Friday, Saturday afternoon one session Swiss Teams
Two session Swiss on Sunday

Partnership Chair: Sonya Webber 928 300-0820 sparky4921@gmail.com

Flyer at bridgeinnorthernarizona.com/resources/2019SedonaSectionalVerticalflyer.pdf
Google map: https://goo.gl/maps/BksEZ6ReANz

bridgeinnorthernarizona.com/

Tournament Results

Regional Results

The Albuquerque regional was a fun filled week of good bridge, good weather, and good food. Click here for the full results at the ACBL. Click the image below for a slideshow of the winners.





Sectional Results

Click on the tournament name to get to the results page at the ACBL

December

8-11 Western Conference STaC

January

3-6 <u>Tucson AZ</u>

11-13 Golden (Denver) CO

24-27 <u>Yuma AZ</u>

Partnership - Anne Marie Harrington
(602) 549-0956 - aharrin708@aol.com https://unit354.com/tournaments In Tempo Bridge Center



District 17 Member Achievements

NEW LIFE MASTERS



Scroll to the bottom to read how one player accomplished this goal



Gary Holt, Oro Valley



Jane Heist, Scottsdale



Randi Berkson, Tucson



Virginia Brier, Tucson



Eliot Weiss, Tucson

COLORADO



Robert Grebe, Commerce City



Catherine Evans, Lone Tree



Tom Thomas, Louisville



Nevin & Heather Harwick, Albuquerque

The road to becoming a Life Master

By Gary Holt, New Life Master

I joined ACBL in the 80's as a novice bridge player. I spent a few years trying to learn the game, but wasn't able to spend the time and effort to advance since my work took the majority of my time. I therefore let my membership lapse and did not take up bridge seriously until 2012 when I retired. I reinstated my membership with my .88 master points and was advised that the new rules for Life Master had been elevated to 500 master points.

After a year of learning to play all over again as a novice player in several tournaments, I realized that reaching 500 was going to be a major goal and possibly not obtainable in my life time, yet I pressed on in search of the elusive "gold."

When I was close to 200 master points, I was happy to hear that ACBL had reinstated my eligibility for Life Master at 300 master points. Now my goal was on the horizon and obtainable. I was advised by some savvy mentors to get into team games and pursue my gold at National and Regional events.

And that's what happened in December when my team helped me get over the top by winning 25 gold in knockout team events at the Palm Springs Regional. Now that I have become a Life Master, my new goal is to reach down and help those new I/N players reach their goals.

If you become a Life Master please send your photo to the editors - <u>coopers@d17acbl.org</u> - as well as any thoughts you wish to share about your experience.



Advice for the New Player

By Chris Hasney, Hereford, Arizona

Count Better, Play Better

Today's title is a tribute to the Dorothy Hayden Truscott book *Bid Better, Play*Better. It could easily be subtitled "See Better, Count Better."

The first step in training yourself to count every hand is to train yourself to see EVERY card. You can't just look at those wonderful pointy aces and pretty face cards. You must SEE AND REMEMBER every card played. Trust me, for MOST card players (not just bridge players) this is not a normal or easy task. It requires training, either by yourself or, if you are lucky, by a patient instructor making it part of your I/N training sessions. If you think that seeing (and remembering) are natural, consider the difference between the often unreliable testimony of an eyewitness vs. that of a police officer trained in observation. Even the police have trouble with this, at least at first.

There is no easy way to develop this habit.

However, there are some exercises that could help:

 Don't ALWAYS play duplicate. Try some rubber bridge with friends for money, even if for only a tenth of a cent per point (which won't break



- anyone's budget); this forces attention. You should keep the tricks played in duplicate fashion so you can go back through them after a hand and work on stuff. Rather than concentrating on bidding, as most folks do, try working on seeing and counting the cards (as well as looking for ways to improve declarer play and defense). It will pay far more dividends as you return to your duplicate game. Should you play "We/They" or "Chicago"? Whatever floats your boat is fine. (Just make sure you give credit for honors claimed before the next deal.)
- 2. When you are by yourself, carry a deck of cards. Shuffle and deal yourself three cards. Look at them quickly and put them face down on the table. Say

what the three cards are (suits and spots). When you can do this every time,

move to four, five, and six cards. Now try it with the TV on or with some other distraction. You'll find yourself seeing and remembering better.

Don't "quit" a trick until you have seen (and mentally registered) all four cards. When you turn over your card you quit the trick (in duplicate). The last person to play to the trick might play and turn his card before it registers in your head. If you get in the HABIT of not turning yours over until you have seen all four cards, you will be able to "see" (actually register) every card AND you'll retain the right to ask everyone to show you the cards played to the trick if they've been turned before you've "seen" them.



Apply that same logic to the auction. Especially now that most duplicate games involve the use of bidding boxes, there is no excuse for failing to remember the auction. You have a right to stop folks from picking up their bidding cards until you have visually "reviewed" and registered the entire auction, including all passes, doubles, and redoubles. If you are on lead, you may also ask for additional information on specific calls. (If your partner is on lead wait until the lead has been made to ask your questions lest they be found to provide unauthorized information suggestive of a specific lead. Ask your local director for a lesson.)

Remember the auction? Remember the opening lead? Remember all cards played so far? Now you are on your way to counting the hand. We'll wrap this up next time. For now, practice what we've looked at so far.



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 *Library.com*



On the following pages we have articles from our regular columnists. Please feel free to send us - <u>coopers@d17acbl.org</u> - bridge questions, humorous anecdotes, or an article of your own for this section.



ACBL Unit 383 of Santa Fe Presents:

499'er Nonlife Master Sectional February 23rd & 24th

Leonard Helman Bridge Center 3827 Thomas Road, Santa Fe NM

santafebridgeclub.com

MAP: https://goo.gl/maps/3fo9XqJbYcn

GAME TIMES 9:00 and 1:30

Partnership Desk: Charlie Wilkins cwilkins@compassgroup.net

Flyer:

web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/02/1902064.pdf

I/N Tips

By Paul Zatulove

The Three Cornered Hat

The bridge world is not flat. It is three dimensional. Proper hand evaluation includes high card quality, distribution, and suit controls.



Hat image courtesy of the <u>National</u> <u>Museum of American History,</u> <u>Behring Center</u>

Charles Goren popularized High Card Points, a simple number system to evaluate a bridge hand. There are two other good evaluation methods, Losing Trick Count and Rosenkranz Control Points. All three of these evaluations are equal in importance. This is the Colonial Three Cornered Hat. Used together you will bid more accurately to your games and slams.

"Make High Card Points your servant, not your master," wrote Terence Reese. It will tell you the overall quality of your cards . . . except that jacks are overvalued and aces are undervalued.

Learn to use Losing Trick Count (LTC). "If it Fits, It takes Tricks." This is the second number and corner of our hat to evaluate the distributional power of your cards. The Coopers wrote a short piece on <u>LTC in their Basic Bidding series</u>, repeated in this issue for your convenience. <u>Jennifer Jones, bridge blogger</u> wrote an excellent series of articles in the *Bridge Bulletin*, starting in December 2011 and followed up with another series in May 2018. The problem with LTC is that it undervalues controls.

Use Control Count: two points for an Ace and one point for a King. In 1974 George Rosenkranz published research from 4000 hands in the Bridge World magazine (click here for that chart) followed by a pamphlet on slam bidding in the Championship Bridge Series published by Devyn Press. It listed the "Average Number of Controls" in an opening bid at each level from one of a suit (3-4) and a strong notrump (5-6) up to 2 Clubs (7-9).

This is the third number of our three cornered hat. If you have more controls than is average for your point count be aggressive. If you have fewer, be conservative. You can estimate the Aces and/or Kings in partner's hand with 70% accuracy. Rosenkranz wrote, "Aces and Kings are more important than High Card Points when bidding slams."

Take about 20 seconds to arrive at these three numbers to fully evaluate the power or weakness of your bridge hand and you will find yourself bidding your best contracts far more often.



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.



299er Intermediate/Novice PAIRS Sectional SATURDAY, MARCH 16 Las Cruces, NM

http://lascrucesbridge.com/

GAME TIMES 9:30 and 1:30

Molly O'Evetts 575-644-3722

BELTON BRIDGE CENTER

https://tinyurl.com/BeltonBridge

for partners:

robertmollyevetts@gmail.com

FLYER: web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/04/1904021.pdf

Bidding Basics

By Kitty and Steve Cooper, editors D17 ScoreCard

Losing Trick Count

Losing Trick Count (LTC) is an alternate hand evaluation technique that can be very helpful for your rebid choices. Australian expert Ron Klinger wrote a whole book on the subject! While we do not recommend using LTC as your only form of hand evaluation, it is extremely accurate when you have a major suit fit. It is also a good method to use to resolve close decisions such as whether or not to open the bidding or bid a game.



How many losers in this hand? Answer at the end

Here is the LTC technique; count the losers in your hand in each suit and then total them up. No suit can be counted for more than three losers. In this method, you only look at the top three cards in each suit. Any of them that are not an A or K or

Q are counted as losers.

Some examples are: 1) a suit of five small cards is three losers, 2) Qxxxxx is two losers just the same as Axxxx or Kxxx or Qxx 3) AQxx is one loser as is KQx or AKxxx.

What about shorter suits? With only two cards, the queen becomes a loser (but count AQ as no losers and KQ as one loser). So Qx is two losers the same as xx, while Kx is one loser. When you have a singleton, it is counted as a loser unless it is the ace.

Remember these are not real losers, just LTC losers as a form of hand evaluation. So how to apply this technique? An opening bid is expected to be seven losers. So if you have a marginal opener, look at your loser count to tip the decision. A limit raise is expected to be eight losers so if you have a close decision, use LTC to make up your mind.



Here are two important LTC numbers to remember. If you and your partner have 14 losers and a fit then you can make a major suit game. If your combined assets are 12 losers and a fit then you have a slam as long as you are not off two aces.

For example, say you have opened the bidding on a six loser hand like ♠AQxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣Axxx and partner gives you a limit raise (eight losers), your total is 14 losers so go ahead and bid a game.

On the other hand if you have extra points but seven losers, pass the limit raise. Another example is that you open 1♠ with ♠Axxxx ♥QJ ♦Kxx ♣AJx and partner raises to three. You have fifteen points but eight losers so pass. The hand is only barely better than ♠Axxxx ♥xx ♦Kxx ♣AJx which is a hand that would not even consider bidding a game.



Another place LTC is helpful is when you have responded one of a major to partner's opening bid and they raise you to game (expected to be five losers). If you have seven losers, the partnership total is 12, so bid Blackwood or make a cuebid to try for slam.

One proviso, hands with low loser count but mainly queens and no aces are worth a little less than their LTC value. An adjustment to consider is to count queens as half a loser when the hand has no aces. Or use some of the downward adjustment factors from <u>our hand evaluation article</u>, but subtract half a loser instead of a point.

Answer: The image at the top shows a four loser hand, one in each suit although you might not lose any clubs with eight of them!

This article was previously published in the newspaper version of ScoreCard and can also be found on our district web site at http://www.d17acbl.org/index.php?
page=losing-trick-count



Kitty and Steve were both born and raised in New York City, where they knew each other from the local bridge scene.
Unfortunately, they foolishly married other people. In 2000, both



were again single when they re-met at the Las Vegas Regional. Soon after, they married, and Kitty moved to Albuquerque, where

Steve was living. They moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2008 and left there for `the warmer clime' of San Diego County in 2012.

They are both Grand Life Masters and have won two National Championships together. Kitty has five others and a World Woman's title. They have been your D17 ScoreCard editors since 2010.



Ruling Our Game

By Bill Michael, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Continuing Discussion of the New Open ConventionChart

Last issue I discussed the basics. Here I look into the Exceptions and Overcalls sections of the new Open Chart. This chart went into effect on November 22, 2018. For clarity, I mix discussion and rule together in what follows:

Exceptions to Disallowed Opening Bids

The exceptions allow some bids that are otherwise disallowed in the chart to be lawfully used. Exception one states that "Any opening bid that promises a Very Strong hand is allowed; Exception two states that "Any bid that requires Average Strength to be legal may be made with Near Average Strength in 3rd and 4th seats. Bids with High Card Point minimums do not change."

http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/181AttachmentD.pdf

ACBL Convention Charts

20 March 2018

Introduction

The four new convention charts are listed in order from least to most permissive: the Basic Chart, Basic+ Chart, Open Chart, and Open+ Chart. The Basic and Basic+ Charts are intended for limited master point events. These Charts are written in manner similar to the old charts -- by listing permitted methods.

Rules Regarding Overcalls

Rule one states "After a Natural suit opening bid, a new suit Direct Overcall below 2NT that does not show at least one known suit [is prohibited] unless that bid is an offer to play in No Trump or takeout of the opening bid."

Rule one means that the following are all allowed:

- A transfer overcall, as long as the suit being transferred to is known,
- · An artificial offer to play in notrump, or
- To be an artificial takeout of the opponents' opening bid.

Rule two states "After a Natural suit opening bid, an Artificial direct 1NT overcall that does not show one of the following [is prohibited]":

- a. A Strong hand; or
- b. At least three cards in all of the unbid suits; or
- c. At least 4-4 shape in two known suits; or
- d. At least 5-4 shape in two suits, at least one of which is known.

This applies to ARTIFICIAL Notrump overcalls. Natural notrump overcalls are still constrained only by the agreed point count.

Rule three states "A Purely Destructive overcall [is prohibited]." The same definition us used for overcalls and "initial actions": A "Purely Destructive Initial Action or Overcall [is] an opening bid or an overcall that satisfies none of the following:

- a. 4+ cards in a known suit.
- b. 5+ cards in one of two possible suits.
- c. 5+-4+ distribution in any two suits.
- d. An either/or combination of any two of a, b, or c (which may be the same option twice).
- e. A Three-suited hand.
- f. At least Average strength.
- g. Any Natural or Quasi-Natural opening bid.

Rule four states "Psyching an Artificial overcall `[is prohibited]." If you artificially say you've got it, you are required to actually have it.

Responses and Rebids That Are Not Allowed:

Rule one bars "Psyching an Artificial response below 2NT to an opening bid or an overcall." Rule two bars "Psychic Controls." These are still defined as an agreement, or set of agreements, which set up a risk free psyching environment. For instance, an agreement that a weak two opener may not, on his own initiative, ever bid beyond three of the opened suit, would create a "risk-free psych environment" for responder, so he would not be allowed to psych a response, whether artificial or natural, to a weak two opener.

While not comprehensive, I hope this article has helped you get a feel for the new charts. Remember, as time goes by and real situations occur, different interpretations may be made. Good luck, and, we'll see you at the tables.



Bill has been a professional tournament director since 1997, and full-time since 2007. He helps to coordinate and verify answers for the rulings@acbl.com mailbox, and consequently is very familiar with the laws and their applications. Bill appreciates the comments that he received from people who read his previous column in the Western Conference Forum, and is happy for the opportunity to once again give answers to

D17 players via this online publication. Send him your questions at d17askbill@gmail.com

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

By Curt Soloff, Denver, Colorado

2. Openings, Part II

In the last installment we looked at criteria for a 2. opening. Understanding that opener's 2. bid is 100% forcing, responder must scrape up a response no matter how awful her hand is; after all, opener might have a cold game in hand without a single trick from dummy. Responder must keep the bidding alive for at least one round and perhaps two, depending on partnership agreements. But exactly *how* should you respond to a 2. opening?



There are at least four methods you could use to respond to a 2♣ opening, three of which are reasonable and sensible. Before delving into those options, though, let's

take a look at a method you might use (or have used when you first started playing

bridge) that you should discard: the point count step response method. Playing under this agreement, responder uses a scale of steps to show how many points he has: 2♦ shows 0-3, 2♥ shows 4-6, and 2♠ shows 7-9.

On the surface, this method seems fine, right? After all, your first response tells partner whether you are completely broke, sort of broke, or have a little something. Unfortunately, though, step responses tell the 24 opener nothing about your distribution or the nature of your points. Do three jacks comprise your three points, or do you have a king? Does your four to six include an ace? When opener has a big



hand, one of the most critical things she wants to know is whether you have any controls (i.e., quick tricks, aces and kings). For example, if opener has ♠AKQT8764 ♥AK ♦5 ♠K3 and responder shows five points, opener does not know if those five points are the ♦K and the ♠Q (in which case the defense can cash two aces) or a minor suit ace (plus a jack), in which case a small slam in spades is darn near frigid!

Rejecting point count steps, a good place to start is by playing 2• waiting, the first of the three useful methods you might consider. With this structure, responder nearly always bids 2• in response to 2•. The 2• bid is artificial, says nothing at all about your hand, and is really little more than a noise that keeps the bidding alive. This may not strike you as useful, but it permits your partner—the one with the strong hand—to describe the nature of the 2• opening. Is it balanced? Is it suit oriented? Is it very slammish?

After responding 2• you must remember that *opener's rebid of a suit is still forcing* for one more round! In the second round of bidding you will let opener know whether you have a bust hand or are interested in moving forward. Hence, you need a tool to inform partner, "Hey, I have absolute garbage over here—you are officially on your own the rest of the way." The bid typically used in this situation is

the cheapest available minor suit, most commonly a bid of 3♣. Often referred to as

a double negative, this bid is also artificial; it says nothing about clubs. This bid is reserved for the lousiest of hands; responder should never give the double negative holding an ace or a king, and even a couple of queens is probably enough to treat the hand as forward going.

One of the most common rebids by opener after an initial 2♣ is 2NT. By making this bid opener shows a balanced hand with 22-24 HCP. Technically, 2NT is not forcing, and it is the one rebid by the 2♣ opener that responder may pass. But responder should only do this with a truly awful hand such as zero high card points (or perhaps a jack or two). If proceeding to game as responder, keep in mind that all of your normal NT systems are in place: 3♣ is Stayman, 3♦ is a transfer to hearts, and 3♥ is a transfer to spades. Just pretend that partner opened 2NT and bid accordingly.



Does responder ever bid anything besides 2♦ waiting? Rarely, yes. To bid something other than 2♦, responder should hold at least a good suit—i.e., one in which responder holds two of the top three or three of the top five honors that is at least five cards in length if a major, six cards if a minor, and a hand with at least eight points. Thus responses of 2♥, 2♠,

3♣, and 3♦ are all natural and game forcing, probably with slam interest. For example, ♠KQT976 ♥5 ♦A95 ♣863 is good enough to respond 2♠. You wouldn't want to keep partner in the dark about (a) your lovely spade suit and (b) your slam interest. Opener could easily hold the ♠A, and your partnership would likely be off to the races in a spade slam—maybe even a grand slam!

What about a 2NT bid by responder? Normally this would suggest a balanced 8-10 HCP. In practice, though, you should probably avoid making this bid, as it could cause the strong hand to be tabled as dummy when the final contract is in notrump.

In future installments, we will delve into the remaining two bidding structures that you might consider as alternatives to 2• waiting.



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.

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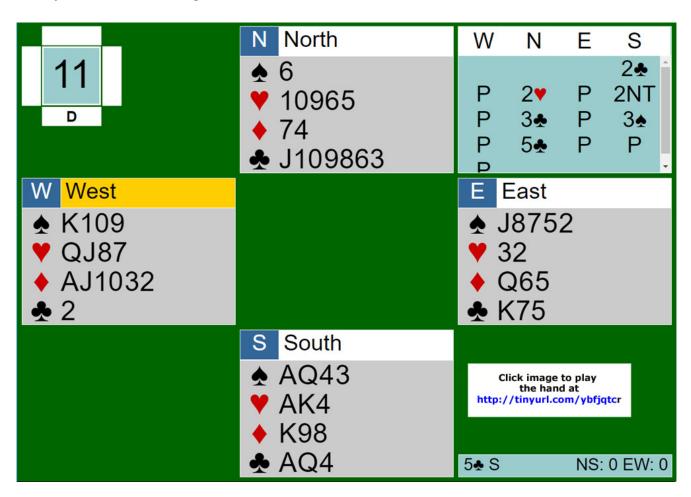
For Detailed Schedule – go to: https://tinyurl.com/ycfy2gim

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

By Larry Matheny, Fort Collins, Colorado

A Minor Victory

Many of our duplicate games are pairs events scored by matchpoints. In those contests, emphasis is placed on bidding games in notrump and the major suits, leaving the poor minor suits at the bottom of the pecking order. However, this is not always true in a team game.



Bidding: North's 2♥ response was a negative bid denying an ace or king. South's 2NT rebid showed a balanced hand of 22-24 high card points. Reluctant to miss a game in a team event, North used Stayman to search for a heart fit. Failing, he decided that the chances in five clubs were better than those in 3NT.

Play: West had no obvious lead and finally settled on the queen of hearts. Declarer won the ace, played the ♠A, and ruffed a small spade in dummy. Next he led a low club from dummy to his queen and ruffed his last small spade in dummy, noting happily that the king of spades dropped, making his queen good. Declarer now ran the ♣J and played another club to his ace, drawing the last opposition trump. Finally, declarer played the ♠Q, discarding a diamond from dummy, and played the king and his last heart toward dummy. West won the jack, but dummy's ten was now high. Declarer thus made his game, losing only one heart and one diamond.

At the other table, N/S ended in 3NT down two for a swing of 11 IMPs.

Born and raised in Illinois, Larry worked at a major insurance company for thirty three 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 he is a frequent lecturer at the monthly unit games.

CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING:

By Robert Todd, Tallahassee, Florida

After a Take Out Double

General Discussion

How to respond to a takeout double is an important topic to discuss with your partner, but it is a discussion that most partnerships forget to have. The question that you need to ask partner is "What do my bids mean in response to your takeout double?" (Terminology note: Your partner, the doubler, is referred to as "intervenor"; you are referred to as "advancer".)



First, let's talk about what you should expect from partner's takeout double. Partner should have about an opening bid and at least three card support for all suits other than the one the opponents opened. If that is partner's minimum possible hand, we need to

figure out how high our side wants to get and what our fit is likely to be. Following is how we do it.

Showing Your Values

When partner makes a takeout double, the first thing that we need to do is show partner our longest suit. We do so by bidding it! The second piece of information that we want to communicate to partner is the strength of our hand. We do this by:

- Bidding cheaply with a bad hand (0 to 8- points),
- Jumping with a decent hand (8+ to 11 points), and
- Cuebidding the opponents' suit with an opening hand (12+ points).

When you (advancer) are 4-3-3-3 with four cards in opener's suit and fewer than eight points you have a real problem. You should bid the lowest of your three card suits that you can bid without raising the level of the auction. For example, if the auction has been $(1 \checkmark)-P-(2 \checkmark)-Dbl-(P)$, you should bid $2 \checkmark$; if the auction has been $(1 \checkmark)-P-(2 \checkmark)-Dbl-(P)$ you should bid $3 \checkmark$ (or 2NT if you have the right hand for it).

An extensive example follows:



Advancer's Bids after (1♣)-Dbl-(P):

- 1♦ shows 4+ diamonds and 0-8- points.
- 1♥ shows 4+ hearts and 0-8- points.
- 1♠ shows 4+ spades and 0-8- points.
- 1N shows 8-11 points and a club stopper.
- 2♣ is a cuebid; it shows 12+ points and is game forcing.
- 2• shows 4+ diamonds and 8-11 points.
- 2♥ shows 4+ hearts and 8-11 points.
- 2♠ show 4+ spades and 8-11 points.
- 2NT shows 12 points and a club stopper.

Notice that jumps do not show additional length in a suit; they may be made with a four card suit. Rather, jumps show values. We figure out if we have a 5-3 or 4-4 fit only after we figure out how high we should bid based on our values. This is a bit of a different approach than when we open the bidding.

When we open the bidding, we first find our fit and then figure out how high to bid. After a takeout double we first show our values and then figure out where we have our best fit.

How Does Intervenor Show Extra Values?

When intervenor wants to show extra values he has a couple of options. The first is to raise partner's bid (no matter if it is a jump or not). This raise promises that our side has a fit. Since advancer has only promised four (and sometimes three) cards in the suit he bid, intervenor's raise must promise four plus cards in that suit. For example, (1♣)-Dbl-(P)-1♠-(P)-2♠ shows extra values and at least four spades.

The next question is how intervenor shows extra values when he only has three card support for advancer's suit? To do this, we cuebid the opponents' suit, which asks advancer to tell us more about his hand. By inference, intervenor must have extra values and only three card support (because he didn't raise advancer's suit). For example, (1♣)-Dbl-(P)-1♣-(P)-2♣ shows extra values and, usually, only three spades.

What if the Opponents Keep Bidding?

If opener rebids his suit, intervenor has a new call available to him: he may double again. This second takeout double will take the place of the cuebid in our previous example. For instance, (1♣)-Dbl-(P)-1♠-(2♣)-Dbl shows extra values and again, only three spades.

Conclusion

We hope that this article helps you and your partner communicate better when you make takeout doubles. Discuss these ideas with your partner and you will do much better in these competitive auctions.



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

contact: Robert@advinbridge.com

ROADRUNNER SECTIONAL Scottsdale - March 21-24

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New Ideas in Bidding

Transfer Like a Pro

By: William Rawlings, Broomfield, Colorado

[Editor's note: We are always willing to publish new bidding ideas but this does not mean we endorse them.]

After your partner opens 1NT, transferring to diamonds is a little tricky for most partnerships. In the most common approach, responder transfers the opener to 3. by bidding 2. After opener rebids 3. responder corrects to 3. The opener does not know the strength of the responders hand; therefore, opener generally treats 3. as sign off bid and simply passes. The responder becomes declarer and the stronger hand is the dummy which is usually not best.

Another method known as "Four-Suit Transfers" uses 2NT as a direct transfer to 3. This is different from the traditional use of 2NT to deny a four card major while showing an invitational hand. Therefore, Stayman in that system has to be used to show all responder's balanced invitational hands and can no longer guarantee a four card major.



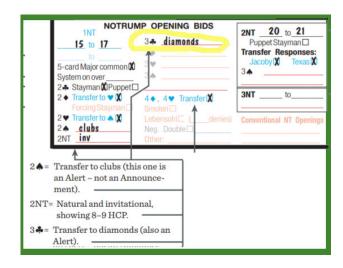
This may cause several problems. For

one, the opponents can sometimes make a lead directing bid at the two level that would be unsafe to do over 2NT. Another is that when opener responds 2♥ to Stayman and responder holds four spades with an invitational hand, he/she must

bid 2♠, since 2NT does not promise a major. This has the disadvantage that the weak hand may become declarer.

The Bridge Bulletin Standard shows: 3♣/3♦ as showing clubs or diamonds (presumably 5 or more) but inviting to 3NT, this makes it difficult to bid a hand where the best contract may be 3♦.

Like most bridge conventions each of the foregoing has some strengths and some weaknesses. In a July 2016 article about filling out a 2/1 convention card in the ACBL magazine Bridge Bulletin Larry Cohen, shows his card as checked to show 3. as a direct transfer to 3. and explicitly states this intention. I have never seen another reference to this transfer, but I suspect Larry Cohen and



other professionals have been using it for years.

By using 3♣ as a direct transfer to 3♦ most of the problems attributed to other methods of getting to 3♦ are eliminated. The responder, who knows the most about the combined partnership strength, remains the captain, the responder may, after the transfer, pass, bid a control, bid 3NT or even ask for aces. If the final contract is 3♦, the strong hand will be the declarer. Unlike in the Four Suit Transfer system, the traditional values of Stayman and 2NT are preserved.



Bill is a certified Audrey Grant Instructor, a Tournament Assistant Director and a member of ABTA who frequently teaches on Cunard, Seabourn, Holland America and Royal Caribbean cruise ships. Bill plays Big Club but teaches both the Standard American and ACOL systems. Please send questions and comments to:

<u>Latitude34.Bill@gmail.com</u>



TOURNAMENTS

Upcoming Sectionals

ARIZONA

Sedona Sectional

Sedona

Friday-Sunday, February 8-10

Stunning red rock views will greet you in Sedona. This sectional has a new date and now runs Friday through Sunday; the Elks Lodge venue is unchanged, and game times remain 10:00 & 2:30. For more information click the title above or look at the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

Phoenix Presidents' Day Sectional

Scottsdale

Friday-Monday, February 15-18

The annual Phoenix Presidents' Day Sectional will again be held at the *In Tempo Bridge Center*. This four day sectional offers something for everyone, including: single session pairs events, a Friday night through Saturday Knockout Teams, one and two session Swiss Teams, and a Compact Knockout. There are 199er events at every session. A food truck will be on site Friday, Saturday, and Monday and there are lunch options on Sunday. For more information click the title above or look at the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.



COLORADO

299er Winter Sectional

Colorado Springs

Saturday-Sunday, February 23-24

This two day 299er sectional will be held at the Unit 360 Bridge Center on 17th Street. The two single session pairs events on Saturday are at 10:00 and 2:00, with a hand review at 1:15. Sunday's Stratified Swiss Teams starts at 1:00 and has six matches of six boards each. SILVER masterpoints will be awarded! For more information click the title above.

Denver Spring Sectional

Golden

Friday-Sunday, March 8-10

The usual venue, the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, with 10:00 and 2:30 game times. Friday and Saturday feature a Beginner Pairs at 10:00 as well as many

other pairs and teams events. For those who can't get enough bridge, there is a 7:00 Swiss Teams on Friday night. Lunch is available for purchase both days. Sunday's Bracketed Teams includes a free lunch. For more information go to denverbridge.com or click the title above.

NEVADA

Glitter Gulch Sectional

Las Vegas

Monday-Friday, March 4-8

Come to Glitter Gulch to enjoy FIVE! days of exciting bridge in Las Vegas (where any errors that you may commit will stay in Vegas!). Stay at the Plaza hotel for only \$32 a night (plus tax and resort fees). For more information click the title above or look at the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

NEW MEXICO

Santa Fe NLM Sectional

Santa Fe

Saturday-Sunday, February 23-24

The Leonard Helman Bridge Center at 3827 Thomas Rd will again be hosting this tournament. Saturday features two Stratified Pairs games, at 9:00 & 1:30. Sunday has a two session Stratified Swiss Teams, starting at 9:00. For more information click the title above or look at the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

Erin Go Bridge! Intermediate/Novice PAIRS Sectional

Las Cruces

Saturday, March 16

Held at the Belton Bridge Center, this one day sectional has stratified pairs games at 9:30 and 1:30. Sign up for both and lunch is free! For more information click the title above or look at the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

TEXAS

Presidents' Day Sectional

El Paso

Friday-Monday, February 15-18

The Decker Bridge Center is again this venue for four days (including the holiday Monday) of bridge, with 10:00 and 2:00 starting times every day. The first event is a one session Stratified Swiss Teams, followed by single session pairs games; Sunday has the usual Swiss. For more information click the title above or look at the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.



DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

D17 ScoreCard volume II issue 1



D17 ScoreCard is a bi-monthly publication announced to over 9,000 bridge players in our district by email blast, website postings, Social Media, and Apps.

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D17 ScoreCard's deadline for articles and ads is the tenth of the preceding month; However, earlier submissions are always preferred. Although we welcome unsolicited articles, there is no guarantee of publication.

Articles submitted will be edited, and may be cut; the author will receive a copy of the edited article before publication.

Email all ads and copy to: Steve & Kitty Cooper, Editors - coopers@D17acbl.org

Advertising

Guidelines for creating ads for this publication are available at: d17acbl.org/uploads/newsletter/AdGuidelinesOnlineD17.pdf

Ads for District 17 tournaments are free but will include a small set-up fee if we do the graphics. For commercial ad pricing please contact John Grossmann below.

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southworth15@yahoo.com