



ScoreCard

Volume III Issue 3
June 2020

Back Home Tourney #4774 (VACB103333) Table 9 S1/T9 #4774 Pairs 12.45pm 0-1000 Duke City Bridge Club Log off Help BBS VACB103333

MPs Round: 8/9 Clock: 15 North 3 6

Running Tournaments Pending Tournaments

VACB103333 #4774 Pairs 12.45pm 0-1000 Duke City Bridge Club
T# 4774 (Pairs) 13 tables

VACB103333 #4795 Pairs 1.00pm Open Duke City Bridge Club
T# 4795 (Pairs) 10 tables

DIRECTOR CALLS

JillNM 4+ VACB103333 #4795 Table 8
we need to see you

cdromm 3+ VACB103333 #4774 Table 8
for sue

Create Tournament Include/Exclude Lists

#4795 Pairs 1.00pm Open Duke City Bridge Club

1	jo1004	2	suef	9	jrjacob	2+	mmerickson2	Jc
2	rerrolld	9+	parwill	8	SwimCoach	5	iamcandys	3
3	chervmit	4	McBride53	3+	nannv	8+	aviav36	Re
4								
5	1	jack burch	2+	BOB MCPH	2E	BarthbRidg	2+	JackiesM
6	2	KentAlbuq	2+	jbsoren	2+	GeneCoving	3	slborgo
7	3	Jan McP	3	judithreed	3	joanneveye	2	conrad50
8	4	dschwein73	krau1088	2+	ccschine	2+	lizmcgui	
9	5	rvpasquale	3+	ellenmar	proslin	3	jmmoya	
10	6	thkeith	3	larrysaine	3+	gravescs	5	graveswt
7	pennysg	2+	deedem	bcoffrin	3	DSCoff		
8	cdromm	3+	JaniceGHe	3+	suebonline	2+	kareltou	
9	DBarbour	3+	CherriB	3	jokeyser		MeeJean	
10	Bandezeer	2+	bunky2020	Zelliebelf	3	kas448		
11	jlmitchi	3	ghysner80	cindyclogs		mamilich		
12	gregorybel	3	shellymarg	3	Nbobo	3+	belangho	
13	kellyalti	2+	esmoya	3	LSBenson	2+	abqdalse	

Refresh

conrad505 (Private): problem with system allowed a message that was meant to go to the table to go to joanne just as the new round started. never happened before. just wanted you to know.
DBarbour (Automated): We have a player off line
→Table: lets wait a few secs
→Table: here she is
conrad505 (Private): gjp

→Table Message Chat

NEWS

WINNERS

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How to get the most out of your reading experience

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Between Sections



Reading

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Between Sections



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District 17 Tournament Calendar

Regionals

Jun 26-28 ... [Windsor \(Northern CO\) NLM](#) (Cancelled)

Aug 10-16 ... [Scottsdale \(Phoenix AZ\)](#) (Cancelled)

Sep 28-Oct 4 [Taos NM](#)

Nov 9-15 ... [Las Vegas NV](#)

Nov 19-22 ... [Tucson AZ NLM](#)



Special Events

August 17-23 [WC Summer Fun STaC](#)

Sectionals

June

5-7 [Albuquerque NM](#) (Cancelled)

12-14 [Durango CO](#) (Cancelled)

26-28 [Windsor \(Northern CO\)](#) (Cancelled)

27 [El Paso I/N](#) (Cancelled)

July

10-12 [Prescott AZ](#) (Cancelled)

10-12 [Golden \(Denver CO\)](#)

17-19 [Mescalero \(Ruidoso NM\)](#) (Cancelled)

24-26 [Los Alamos NM](#) (Cancelled)

31-Aug 2 [Avon \(Vail CO\)](#)

John's Journal

By John Grossmann, District 17 President



In the COVID-19 era, we have a lot of everyday heroes in our bridge family, people who have become volunteers in their communities, who have stepped up and taken responsibility. Let me brighten your day with some examples.

Bill is helping at the local food bank. Ruth is supporting her church outreach to seniors. Kathy is reading picture books to kids. And many of our players are sewing face masks. Bravo.



Steamboat Springs is a mountain town, far from urban areas. In March, **Sharon Smith** persuaded ACBL to let her start a trio of weekly virtual games. She was a pioneer, learning fundamentals of BBO directing and then sharing that knowledge with many other clubs in Colorado. Sharon has been working to develop online bridge education classes at a local college. This May she rolled out a [new website for Steamboat](#). Bravo.

Last summer, **Cindy Shoemaker** and I campaigned to become the next District 17 representative to the ACBL National Board of Directors. Cindy won. Since then she has been heavily engaged in the many issues triggered by the pandemic: NABC cancellations, contingency planning, financial troubleshooting, virtual bridge rollout, NAP/GNT rescheduling, staff furloughs, and other crisis plans. These involve weekly and sometimes daily ZOOM



meetings. This isn't fun stuff, it's hard work. Bravo.



Let me end on a personal note. I have been a friend and a long time bridge partner of **Tom Goings**. Tom was drawn into the pandemic maelstrom during the COVID outbreak at Colorado Springs Bridge Center in mid-March. He was hospitalized for eight weeks, including four on ventilators. Hard duty, alone, no visitors. I was buoyed by his recent phone call. We talked about bridge of course. He was discouraged that he probably would not take a planned bucket list trip to Alaska this summer to play in a local tournament, but in addition there was also a sense

of rebound and recovery. Tom was released from the hospital after eight long weeks. He played in the first virtual game in the Springs on May 12. Bravo.

Show your appreciation of our everyday bridge heroes. Say "Bravo".

BRAVO



District 17 News

Grand National Team Status for 2020

By Rod Southworth, D17 GNT Coordinator

At this point, D17 has completed the District Finals for the Championship Flight, but has no plans for the other three flights. A lot of decisions are still pending, due to the current pandemic. As soon as the District makes any decisions, our D17 website will be updated. Following is some information distributed by ACBL recently.

“Due to continued restrictions in place across the continent due to COVID-19, the Grand National Teams events have been canceled for 2020.



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

North American Pairs Update for 2020

By William Hines



From the ACBL web page: “Due to continued restrictions in place across the continent due to COVID-19, the North American Pairs event has been canceled for 2020. The qualifiers from the 2019-2020 season will play their final in St. Louis in

March 2021 and will receive their travel awards if they attend.”

Colorado Springs COVID-19 Update

Karen Campbell of Colorado Springs reports that all of the players stricken with COVID-19 are now out of the hospital and they have initiated a campaign dubbed “Operation Grand Slam” for plasma donations. Sadly four of their players died of the virus.

The Springs’ bridge club has resumed play online. We wish them well.

The ScoreCard June Cover shows the screen of Felix Moore directing online

A number of clubs reported on their online experiences in the [recent BUZZ newsletter](#). Check with your local club's website to see whether they are open online. There is also more on how to play online at the ACBL website at <https://www.acbl.org/clubsupportonlinegames/>

Tournament Results

Regional Results

The online ACBL regional had a very large turn out including many District 17 players. [Click here for the full results at the ACBL.](#)

Congratulations to Glenn Heath and Tiffany Destefano of Las Vegas, Nevada for winning the 264 table [Friday May 1 afternoon 299er pairs](#)



Tiffany Destefano and Glenn Heath, 299er winners




The Denver Rocky Mountain Pro/Am

By Rob Vetter

The Rocky Mountain Pro/Am has, for the last several years, been one of the featured events at the Denver Rocky Mountain Regional bridge tournament. It is the LARGEST Pro/Am event in the country. It gives an opportunity for newer bridge players to play competitively with a more experienced player, and a chance to enhance their experience with Tournament Bridge.

Due to the recent outbreak of Corona Virus, the Denver Regional (normally held the week ending on Memorial Day) was cancelled. After reviewing options for online play, it was decided to try to run the Pro/Am virtually on [Bridge Base Online \(BBO\)](#). With the assistance of Elly Larson (owner/director of The Denver Metro Bridge Studio) we were able to set up the game. The response was outstanding. On May 19th we ran the virtual event with 60 pairs including players from all over District 17!

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		<div>4♥ E</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>																	
<div> <div>Rewind</div> <div>Previous</div> <div>Next</div> <div>Options</div> <div>GIB</div> <div>Play</div> </div> <div>BBO</div>																			

Curt Soloff analyzing a hand from the Denver Regional ProAm

Immediately following the game, Curt Soloff (manager of the Castle Rock Bridge Club and bridge teacher) ran a post game hand evaluation. This was also very well received, and we had 48 participants.

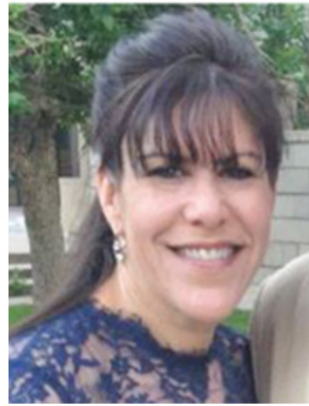
District 17 and Denver Unit 361 wish to thank the Pro/Am organizers (Shelbie Bastaains, Sheryl Siegel, and Jennifer O'Neill), Elly Larson, and Curt Soloff for their work on this event, and to thank ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS who made it a success.

Congratulations to the winners - Sandi Ogin and Marie Smerjac. who had a 65.04% game. [Click here for the results at the ACBL](#) or **click the image below for a slideshow** of the top 8 finishers.

PRO/AM Team:



Sheldie Bastiaans
(AM Chair, Regional PRO/AM Originator)



Sheryl Siegel
(Technical Coordinator,
Virtual PRO/AM Originator)



Elly Larson (Denver Metro Bridge Owner)



Jennifer O'Neill (Regional PRO Chair)

Click above for a slideshow of winners. Photos (online screenshots) and photo montage by Sheryl Siegel.



MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

District 17 Member Achievements

NEW LIFE MASTERS

By Marcia Dalton, Peoria, Arizona



New Life Master Marcia Dalton,
Peoria, Arizona

Who would have known? I am a “Coronavirus” Life Master! I began the journey taking lessons in 2012 in Frisco, CO where I also got my first masterpoints in 2013. My first tournament was the Fall 2013 NABC Tournament in Phoenix. Over the next few years I continued to take lessons, study, play at local clubs and go to tournaments.

I really was not convinced that I would be able to get all the required points for Life Master, especially all the extra gold and silver points required for those of us who joined after 2010. After getting the last of the needed gold at Talking Stick Resort this past August and the last of the silver in Tucson the following month, I was hoping to complete the balance of the remaining 500 points sometime in 2020.

Amid the Covid-19 shut-down I turned to [Bridge Base Online](#). On April 26 playing with 3 Robots in a BBO Instant Tournament, I achieved this goal. Looking back, it took a lot of effort, but could not have been done without the help and encouragement of all my instructors, mentors, partners, and the entire bridge community. Also, a big thank you to all my Tucson partners and friends!!!

By Gordon Graves, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Cathy and I want to give a hearty THANK-YOU to our “LOCAL” clubs – [Duke](#)

City and Durango – for including us in their on-line games even though we are



New LMs Gordon and Cathy Graves, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

far from local. Direct invitations and inclusion from both of these clubs to their on-line (and in-club) games has been greatly appreciated. Felix Moore and Wayne Caplan have done more than their share to help and encourage us.

I have a series of e-mails over the past couple years where Cathy and I complained to the ACBL & District 17 about the problem we had with no local sanctioned club. We had enough total

Points for our Life Masters; BUT we did NOT have enough Black Points AND we did NOT have a local sanctioned club (Durango is 70 miles one way and Duke City is about 250.) The time and money it would take for us to get those black points was ridiculous (Gas, hotels, restaurants, etc.) and all with no guarantee that we would earn the black points when we traveled. ACBL had no sympathy. When I talked about our problem with another “rural” ACBL member – Bill from South Fork, Colorado - he just laughed and said “yes, absolutely no sympathy” and that he became a Bronze Life Master at the point when he finally had enough Black Points.”

Unfortunately this COVID-19 problem was a fortunate solution for our Black Point deficiency. I encourage the ACBL in the Post-COVID-19 future, to continue to allow a certain amount of on-line Black Points to be earned every year by any member. This will solve a Black Point deficiency problem for both those ACBL members in rural areas AS WELL AS those with handicaps that keep them from regular near-by club attendance.

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

LEARN

Robert Todd



Curt Soloff



Larry Matheny



Paul Zatulove



Chris Hasney



Dennis Dawson

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



Bridge in the Real World

By Dennis Dawson, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Linus Clutches His Security Blanket for Dear Life

Many players lack confidence in their declarer play and consequently join Underbidders Anonymous, perhaps unconsciously. This stunts their growth as bridge players. They feel their play is not up to snuff. My advice is to bid the hand to the best of your ability, and then raise the level of your play so you can make the contract.

Passing is not always safe, nor is going low, especially against the bridge guerrillas who are out to steal your eyeteeth. Bid the full value of your hand the first time! This limits your hand and makes your partner the captain. Then you can relax, having done your job.

Many players underbid when advancing partner's take-out double.

D

1

N North

♠ 9632

♥ J9

♦ KJ654

♣ 43

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♥
X	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♠	P	P	P

W West

♠ AQ85

♥ 10

♦ A972

♣ KQ109

E East

♠ K1074

♥ A8543

♦ Q

♣ J85

S South

♠ J

♥ KQ762

♦ 1083

♣ A762

Play this hand out at
tinyurl.com/yaydpjsx

3♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

North-South took full advantage of the vulnerability to make life hard for East-West. South opened light in third seat. This is winning strategy with a good five card major that you want led, especially nonvulnerable against vulnerable opponents. West doubled for takeout, and North came in with 2♦. This denies heart support and usually shows a good five card suit with fewer than 10 points. (Think weak two bid. With 10 points or more, North would redouble.) East bid only 2♠, a huge underbid as that shows about 5-7 points. East should jump to 3♠ with 9-11 points (eight can go either way), and this hand is no exception despite having only four spades. West doesn't guarantee four spades, but you can't play scared bridge. The ♦Q is probably useless, but you know you have a spade fit, so the singleton diamond is worth about three points. This hand is close to a maximum for 3♠!

South muddled the waters even more by raising to 3♦, pretending to have some high cards. Even if West thinks East has only 5-7 points, West should still bid 4♠. Why? West has 15 HCP plus three for the singleton heart (once there is a spade

fit). And the auction tells West that East has a singleton diamond. This means that there are no wasted values in diamonds. Perhaps West was mesmerized by all the North-South bidding. If you must pick who to trust, pick partner, not the opponents!

Intermediate and Advanced Online Classes

Dennis Dawson, National Champion

Email dennis@bridgevacations.com

Let's look at the play. The Master Hand is the one with the most trumps. Usually this is declarer's hand, but it might not be, especially if there was a transfer auction so that the long trumps are in dummy. If you are in a 4-4 fit, either hand could be the Master Hand, and then it's usually best to pick the hand with the stronger trump holding as the Master Hand, which here is the dummy.

From dummy's point of view, there are no spade losers on a normal break, no heart losers, three diamond losers, and one club loser. As many diamond ruffs as possible should be taken in declarer's hand before drawing trump. Making ten or eleven tricks is the normal result.



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



Advice for the New Player

By Chris Hasney, Hereford, Arizona

The Take Out Double

The grandpappy of all non-penalty doubles is the Take Out Double which is an immediate “demand” double of an initial enemy bid by the person in the intervenor position (opener’s LHO). Ostensibly this call has a VERY specific meaning.

“Partner, I have support for all the other suits and enough values to demand that you bid something if your RHO passes. Please do so, with emphasis on any unbid major. If you elect to pass you’d better have a darn good reason, which is NOT just a lack of values. In fact, the less you have, the more important it is that you bid something. Pick a suit and bid it!”

Now let’s consider intervenor’s subsequent actions. With a normal takeout double he will just pass the bid advancer (the partner of intervenor) makes, but with four card support and extra values he will raise. Since advancer could have 0 points, typically intervenor raises to two with 16-18 and to three with 19+. He only raises to game when it would make opposite no points at all, for example, a hand such as the following when partner responds 1♠ to a takeout double of 1♥.



What values are shown by a “normal” takeout double? If advancer can show his major(s) at the one level the takeout double can be fairly light – about 9 HCP including 1½ quick (defensive) tricks—for example, if RHO opens 1♥ and you hold ♠AQxx ♥— ♦xxxxx ♣Kxxx or ♠Axx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣Qxxx, especially if the spots are robust, with lots of tens, nines, eights, and sevens aboard. Note the shape. Things change as the shape gets less shapely. If doubler’s holding in opener’s suit is a doubleton then add a king, you need two quick tricks with some fillers – basically a minimum opening hand.



Minimum takeout double of 1♥

As the level increases, so does the strength requirement but, interestingly, the more shape can mutate. The higher the level, the more intervenor is forced to help partner by doubling or bidding rather than passing with values and hoping partner

makes the right choice between going quietly and balancing. The higher the level of the minimum bid partner must make to take out the double, the greater the chance that partner will pass, converting intervenor's takeout double to penalty, and therefore the stronger the hand intervenor should have and the more defense oriented it should be. Concomitantly, the less advancer needs in the enemy suit to pass (try to be right if you do that!). You'll want to read this paragraph a few times.

At all levels of skill, it is understood that when the opponents open 4♥ your double asks partner to bid 4♠ if they have four of them (although if you also have a Heart stack partner shouldn't be too disappointed if you pass!). For now you should consider it etched in stone to bid at least 4♠ if you have four. (It's also OK to bid six if you really like your hand.) Intervenor should have a big hand, although once again shape plays a part. Over a 4♥ opening intervenor might hold as little as ♠AKJTx ♥— ♦Axxx ♣Axxx—only 16 HCP, but four quick tricks and a VOID in opener's suit. (Yes, I know, he could just bid 4♠, but I hate being so unilateral with all these goodies in the three open suits.) With a less shapely hand intervenor should be stronger.

Advancer has duties over his partner's takeout double. First, remember that your partner has INSISTED that you bid something, even if (especially if) you are completely broke. First priority is to bid an unbid major – if you have both, bid your longer 4+ card major or hearts if both are exactly four cards. If you have no unbid four card major, about 7-8 HCP, balanced distribution, and 1½ stoppers (such as AQx) in opener's suit, you may bid 1NT (with 10 bid 2NT, with a full opening bid try 3NT). None of the above? Bid your longest minor. DON'T PASS for penalties unless you hold not less than AKJ987 in opener's suit! NOTE WELL – Things change if advancer's RHO "takes him off the hook" by bidding or redoubling. Now advancer need not bid without a good reason, so any action he takes is a positive response, absent partnership agreement to the contrary.

How high should advancer bid? Your partner has assumed you have zero to about eight HCP and indicated that he can handle whatever you bid. If you have significantly more (essentially an opening bid) you may jump ONE level. Don't go nuts and jump to game; you don't know what type of takeout double partner was

making. Give him some room to do some more 'splainin'. Oh, and remember that in the balancing seat intervenor can have a king less than is required for the same takeout in direct seat. Therefore, advancer needs a king MORE than the full eight HCP balancer is spotting him to get excited.

[Click here for the excellent article Robert Todd wrote on Responding to Take Out Doubles](#) in the February 2019 issue of ScoreCard.

Next time we'll discuss intervenor's more unusual takeout 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



IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

By Larry Matheny, Fort Collins, Colorado

Remember the Auction

We are often reminded that the auction provides clues for both declarer and the defense. Here it was used by declarer to uncover an opponent's distribution.

N North
♠ Q953
♥ K63
♦ QJ96
♣ K6

W	N	E	S
			P
P	P	1♣	1♠
3♣	3♠	P	P
P			

W West
♠ 4
♥ J972
♦ 754
♣ A9852

S South
♠ K10876
♥ A8
♦ K82
♣ 1073

E East
♠ AJ2
♥ Q1054
♦ A103
♣ QJ4

Play this hand out at
tinyurl.com/ty45pd9

3♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Opening lead: ♣A

Bidding: In a pairs game scored by matchpoints, part score bidding is usually very competitive, and overtricks matter a great deal. West's jump to three clubs was a weak bid. and North's 3♠ bid ended the auction.

Play: West led the ♣A and was not pleased to see the king in dummy. He shifted to a heart at trick two and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. He saw three certain losers (one spade, one diamond, and the club already lost), so the contract was not in danger, and that he needed to find the ♠J in order to avoid a second spade loser.

The auction gave him the answer. West's preemptive raise should promise at least five clubs, leaving East with only three. East must hold three spades for with only two he would have eight red cards and would have opened 1♦ (with four) or 1♥ (with five) rather than a three card club suit. Armed with this information, he won the ♥A followed by a low spade to dummy's queen. East won the ace and exited with a heart. Next, declarer led a low spade to his ten and then drew the last trump. He only needed to concede a diamond and ruff a club in dummy.

The overtrick meant a good score for N/S. Those who played for spades to break 2-2 were disappointed.



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.



CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING:

By Robert Todd, Tallahassee, Florida

Rebids After We Overcall

General - Captain

When we make an overcall we have not communicated much about our hand to our partner (in terms of overall shape or HCP). Thus, our partner will need to describe their hand to us when they think we might have a game available. It will be up to us to try to control the level of the auction (because we will know more about our side's combined values than our partner, the Advancer). That means that the Intervenor is generally the *Captain* of the auction.



Hands to Describe

At the one level, Intervenor's possible hand strengths are:

- 7-9 points Subminimum
- 10-12 points Minimum
- 12+-14 points Sound Overcall
- 15-18 points Extra Values

We will describe our hand and let partner know what is going on by trying to slow down or speed up the auction based on what Advancer shows us with their bid.

Note: Our partner will never assume that we have a subminimum. Partner will always play us for either a minimum, sound, or strong overcall. If we have a subminimum overcall, it is our fault and we have to find a way to survive the

auction with such a weak hand.

Advancer's Bids

The way in which we further describe our hand after we overcall will vary based on what Advancer bids and what it shows. Let's look at a basic list of Advancer's possible calls and then further examine the more interesting examples.

Suppose that the opponents open the bidding with 1♣ and we overcall 1♥. Let's look at each of the normal options when Advancer does not have a fit for Intervenor's suit:

- New suit at the one level (1♠) = 8+ pts, forcing one round, 4+ card suit
- New suit at the two level (2♦) = 10+ pts, forcing one round, 5+ card suit
- 1NT = 8-11(12) points, no stopper required (similar to 1NT Semi-Forcing)
- 2NT = Good 12-13 points, stopper in the opponent's suit. Usually Balanced. No 5+-card suit
- 3NT = 14-16 points, stopper in the opponent's suit. Balanced, no 5+-card suit. 2+ card support for Intervenor's suit

Now we will examine Intervenor's rebid options after each of these bids by Advancer.

Forcing Bids by Advancer

When Advancer makes a forcing bid, Intervenor's first priority is to describe the strength of the hand to partner. With a subminimum or minimum hand, Intervenor rebids their suit. This does not show a 6+ card suit, and is rather just an effort to end the action (show a bad hand.) Let's look at some examples in more detail.

When Advancer responds in a suit at the one level showing 8+ points:

For example, after (1♣)-1♥-(P)-1♠-(P), all Intervenor's bids are nonforcing except the cuebid. Here are Intervenor's possible actions:

- 1NT – Shows some values
 - Minimum or sound overcall (10-14 points)
 - Stopper in opener's suit (Clubs)
- 2♣ - Cuebid of the opponent's suit, shows a good hand

- Sound overcall or extra values (good 12-18 points)
- Not sure of strain to play in, usually just three card Spade support
- Forcing for one round, used with most forcing hands
- 2♦ - Natural
 - Subminimum or minimum (7-12 points)
 - 4+♦ (could still be 6-4)
- 2♥ - Weak Action
 - Subminimum or minimum hand (7-12 points)
 - Does NOT promise 6+♥
- 2♠ - Simple Raise
 - Subminimum or minimum (7-12 points)
 - 3+♠ (yes, we can raise on three card support)
- 2NT – Good Hand
 - Extra values, at least 15-16 points
 - Stopper in the opponent's suit
- 3♣ - Discuss with Partner (either natural or a Western Cuebid)
- 3♦ - Shape-showing bid
 - Sound overcall (good 12 to 14 points)
 - 5+♦
 - Invitational
- 3♥ - Natural with values
 - Sound overcall (good 12 to 14 points.)
 - 6+♥
 - Invitational
- 3♠ - Strong Raise
 - Sound overcall (good 12 to 14 points)
 - Four card support
 - Invitational
- 3NT
 - Extra values max (16-18 points)
 - Stopper in the opponent's suit (here that is Clubs)

When Advancer responds with a suit at the two level showing about 10+

points. For example, after (1♣)-1♥-(P)-2♦-(P), Intervenor can bid:

- 2♥ - Weak Action
 - Subminimum or minimum hand (7-12 points)
 - Does NOT promise 6+♥
- 2♠ - Natural and Values
 - Sound overcall (12-14 points)
 - Non-forcing
- 2NT – Natural and Invitational
 - Sound overcall min (12-13 points)
 - Stopper in the opponent's suit
- 3♣ - Cuebid of the opponent's suit
 - Western Cuebid, asks for a stopper
 - Sound overcall max or extra values (good 14 to 18 points)
 - Game-forcing
- 3♦ - Shape-showing bid
 - Sound overcall min (good 12 to 13 points)
 - 3+ card support
 - Invitational
- 3♥ - Natural with Values
 - Sound overcall min (good 12 to 13 points)
 - 6+♥ suit
 - Invitational
- 3♠ - Natural and Forcing
 - Sound overcall or extra values (12-18 points)
 - 5+♠, 6+♥
 - Game-forcing
- 3NT – To Play
 - Sound overcall plus or extra values (good 13 to 18 points)
 - Stopper in opponent's suit

When Advancer responds 1NT, (non-forcing 8 to bad 12 points). For example, (1♣)-1♥-(P)-1NT-(P), Intervenor can bid:

- 2♣ - Cuebid of the opponent's suit. good hand

- Sound overall plus or extra values (good 13 to 18 points)
- Forcing 1-round (used with most forcing hands)
- 2♦ - Natural, non forcing
 - Subminimum or minimum (7-12 points)
 - 4+♦ (could still bid 6-4)
- 2♥ - Weak Action
 - Subminimum or minimum hand (7-12 points)
 - Does not promise 6-card ♥ suit
- 2♠ - Reverse
 - Extra values (15-18 points)
 - Forcing one round
- 2NT – Good Hand
 - Extra values min (15-16 points)
 - Stopper in the opponent's suit
 - Non-forcing
- 3♣ - ??Discuss with Partner (either natural or a Western Cuebid)
- 3♦ - Shape-showing bid
 - Sound overcall (good 12 to 14 points)
 - 5+♦ suit
 - Invitational
- 3♥ - Natural with Values
 - Sound overcall (good 12 to 14 points)
 - 6+♥
 - Invitational
- 3♠ - Jump Reverse
 - Extra values (15-17 points)
 - 5+♠, 6+♥
 - Game-forcing
- 3NT – To Play
 - Extra values max (16-18 points)
 - Stopper in opponent's suit
- 4♥ - To Play

When Advancer responds 2NT, invitational (Good 12 to 13 points), Intervenor's continuations are:

- 3♣ - Cuebid
 - Good hand (good 12 to 18 points)
 - Searching for strain (often with 6 bad ♥)
 - Game-forcing
- 3♦ - Natural and Weak
 - Subminimum or minimum hand (7 to bad 12 points)
 - 4+♦
 - Non-forcing, wants to sign off
- 3♥ - Natural and Weak
 - Subminimum or minimum hand (7 to bad 12 points)
 - 5+♥, does not promise 6-card suit
 - Non-forcing, to play
- 3♠ - Natural and Values
 - Sound overcall (12+ points)
 - 4+♠ (usually 5+♠)
 - Game-forcing
- 3NT – To Play
- 4♥ - To Play

When Advancer responds 3NT (14-16 points)

Advancer has taken away almost all of our bidding space. Generally speaking, this asks the Intervenor to pass if they have only a 5-card suit and to bid 4 of their major with a 6-card suit. If the Intervenor has extra values (17-18 points) they should raise to 4NT Quantitative.

Conclusion

An overcall does not precisely describe our hand; it leaves a large range in high-card points and in shape. On the second round of the bidding Intervenor strives to let Advancer know if they have a good hand or a poor hand for their overcall. It can

be tricky to communicate this in many competitive auctions, but it is important not to “misrepresent” your values to partner when you are given a chance to further clarify the auction. Since this is the kind of bidding situation that comes up frequently, it is worth some time and effort to look at your rebid options after making an overcall.



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

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I/N Tips:

By Paul Zatulove

The Three Cornered Hat continued



Hat image courtesy of the [National Museum of American History, Behring Center](https://www.nmnh.si.edu/american-history/behrlab/)

Before you start learning fancy bidding conventions, as a Novice/Intermediate player you ought to keep in mind a basic premise of Bridge: It's a partnership game!

Are you concentrating on partner's first bid? Do you single out the most important feature of your hand partner

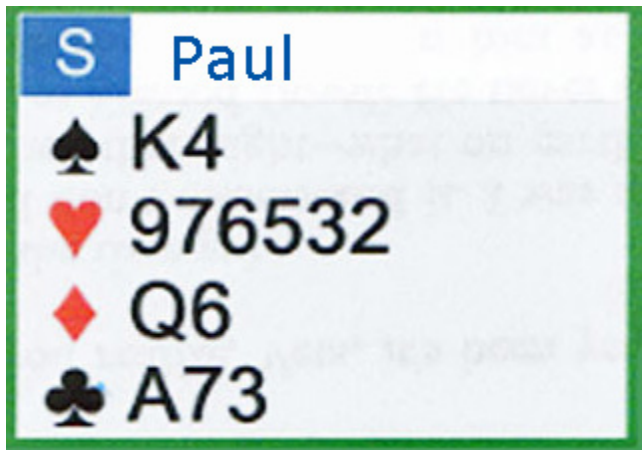
should know? Do you put together your hand with what you know of partner's hand and bid accordingly? Most important of all, do you instill trust? Does your partner instill trust?

I would like to see an introduction to every bridge book that discusses the partnership aspects of the game of Bridge. We could learn a great deal from such discussion.

My partner and I are at the I/N level. Our partnership agreement promises adequate honors and High Card Points (HCP) to back up our bids. Advanced and Expert players may be more aggressive because they can make that extra trick. We are still learning how to do that.

I held this hand in an online tournament on [Bridge Base Online \(BBO\)](https://www.bridgebase.com/). East was dealer with none vulnerable. I was South in second seat with nine HCP and six Hearts to the nine, I passed for the following reasons: 1) My weak two bids

promise honor cards in the preempt suit which I did not have; 2) In second seat I am only preempting ONE opponent plus my partner; 3) If my partner is on lead he



is likely to lead a Heart, which I don't want.

This board was played at 15 tables. After East passed, many South players holding my hand opened two Hearts. At our table, after three passes, my partner bid 2NT, showing about half the HCPs in the deck. I was glad I had not

preempted. Now I could show off my Heart length with a three Diamond transfer bid. My partner then made the key bid no other player made, FOUR Hearts! He was trying to tell me something. He got my attention! I surmised he had the top honors in Hearts or at least four Hearts and bid Roman Key Card Blackwood (1430) for Hearts. Back came 5♣ one or four keycards, here obviously four.

I matched up our two hands. Partner has the ♥AK, ♠A, and ♦A plus 5-6 more points. If he has four Hearts it doesn't matter if he has the Queen since when the opponents have only 3 trump it is an extremely low percentage to find the Qxx offside. If he has the ♥Q, it doesn't matter if he only has three Hearts. One more King and I can count seven heart tricks with a probable ruff of a short suit, two Spades, three Diamonds if Partner holds the ♦K, or two Clubs if Partner holds the ♣K. A successful finesse or more HCPs would also yield 13 tricks. I bid 7♥, which partner played and made (keeping two entries to his hand in case Diamonds split 4-2 with the Jack in the long hand).

The full hand was:

14 D

N 87azbob ♠ A62 ♥ AKQ ♦ AK1073 ♣ J9	W N E S P 2NT P P P 4♥ P 4NT P 5♣ P 7♥
W armort ♠ QJ93 ♥ 104 ♦ 952 ♣ 8642	E scheinercp ♠ 10875 ♥ J8 ♦ J84 ♣ KQ105
S M787897 ♠ K4 ♥ 976532 ♦ Q6 ♣ A73	7♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Rewind Previous Next Options GIB Play BBO

All 15 tables took 13 tricks. We were the only pair to bid the 30 point grand slam!



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.



CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

By Curt Soloff, Denver, Colorado

Major Suit Raises, Part VI: Jacoby 2NT

When we began our journey down the path of game forcing major suit raises, we hinted that you would reach a fork in the road. We have already explored one path – the splinter – and now the time has come for us to take the other path: Jacoby 2NT. When partner opens a major suit and you have four card support for that major and want to force to game, beginning with Jacoby 2NT is a viable option, especially if your hand does not contain a singleton or a void.

Strangely, Jacoby 2NT seems to be among the first conventions that bridge players learn; unfortunately, many of them do not get the full story. In my fledgling days as a bridge rookie, a random player told me that if my partner opened with a major suit and I had four of their trumps and an opening hand, I was supposed to jump to 2NT. What that person failed to share with me was that opener's answer to 2NT was also conventional, showing various hand types! Suffice it to say that if you are not going to play a convention all the way through, there is little benefit to playing it at all.

MAJOR OPENING		
Expected Min. Length	4	5
1st/2nd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3rd/4th	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RESPONSES		
Double Raise: Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Inv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weak	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Overcall: Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> Weak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conv. Raise: 2NT	<input type="checkbox"/> 3NT	<input type="checkbox"/> Splinter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other: <u>Jacoby</u>		

Why play Jacoby 2NT? Why give up a natural jump to 2NT – which would ordinarily show a balanced hand but not promise four card major support – to play this convention? Provided you play 2/1, there is really no reason to employ a natural jump to 2NT, as it serves no purpose other than eating up bidding space

that could be put to better use. If you have three or fewer cards in the major partner has opened, you can simply introduce a new suit to force, and soon enough either opener or responder is bound to offer NT on most deals where there is no major suit fit. As *ScoreCard* columnist Robert Todd likes to say, “2NT isn’t a contract, it’s a convention,” and Jacoby is one of many conventional applications of the 2NT bid.

Bearing in mind our previous discussion of splinter bids, to use Jacoby 2NT, responder’s hand will typically meet the following criteria:

- Four card support for the major suit partner has opened
- Opening values (give or take a point)
- Balanced hand OR a hand with shortness somewhere and points above your agreed splinter range (i.e., the hand is too strong for a splinter)

While there is some judgment involved with points (2) and (3) above, you should never deviate from the first point. Using Jacoby 2NT without four card trump support is a dangerous error to make, as opener may be considering slam tries based on that critical nine card fit.

Once responder has set a game force with the jump to 2NT, how should opener respond? We are going to start with the “classic” version of Jacoby 2NT responses, but please be aware that partnerships employ many variations of this convention. In future articles, we will be discussing ways for you to customize your Jacoby 2NT. Also, keep in mind that both the jump to 2NT and all of opener’s responses to it are alertable:

- New suit at the three level: Shortness (singleton or void)
- New suit at the four level: Natural, GOOD quality secondary suit (two of top three or three of top five honors at a minimum)
- 3M: Extra values with no shortness anywhere
- 4M (game): dead minimum opener, no shortness

One available bid between 2NT and 4M that we did not account for is 3NT. If partner bids Jacoby 2NT, what does a bid of 3NT by opener mean? I have seen

varying treatments for this bid, and perhaps the biggest reason for variance is that 3NT is inextricably linked to whether you would have opened 1NT with a five card major if you held 15-17 balanced points. Bet you didn't even think of that, did you? *[Eds: In past years 3NT showed extra values just like 3M, but 3M showed a better suit and 3NT more outside high cards.]*

In the past, most players did not like to open 1NT with a five-card major; hence, when opener answered 3NT to Jacoby 2NT, it would show 15-17 balanced. In the modern style, a majority of experts prefer to open 1NT with a five-card major when they hold 15-17 points and the hand has 5-3-3-2 shape. Therefore, if this is your style, any time you open 1♥ or 1♠ you cannot have 15-17 balanced. Alternatively, some players (this writer included) like 3NT to show a good minimum, for example, a hand with just 13 or 14 points that contains useful controls, for example:



It may seem like we are trying to thread a needle here, but don't you feel like jumping to 4M is underselling your opening bid just a bit? Partner might envision some quacky 12 count, but you've got two aces in side suits along with a fairly nice trump holding. It would be awful to miss a great slam because partner pictured you with a less useful hand.



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.



DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

D17 ScoreCard volume III issue 3



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