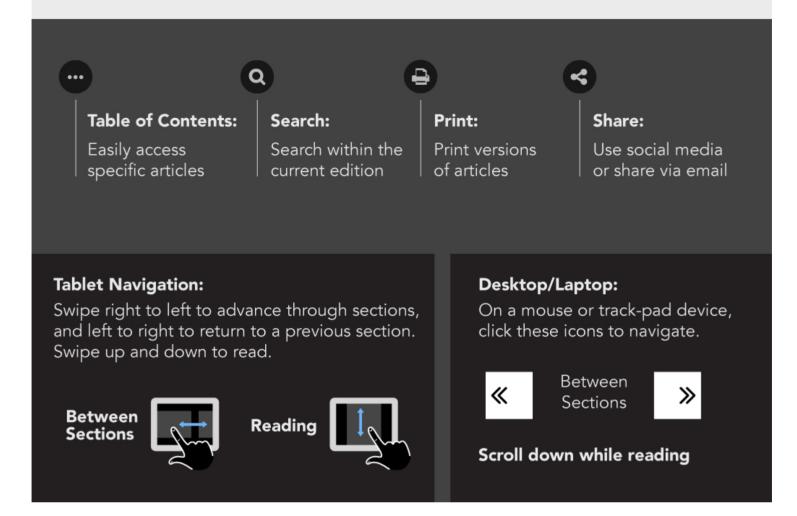


How to get the most out of your reading experience





District 17 Tournament Calendar

Regionals

Nov 14-17 ... <u>Tucson AZ NLM</u>

Jan 20-26 ... <u>Albuquerque NM</u>

Mar 2-8 ... Tucson AZ



Special Events

Nov 13-25 SF NABC Robot

Nov 28-Dec 8 . San Francisco NABC

Dec 9-15 WC Holiday StaC

Sectionals

October

31-Nov 3 Scottsdale (Mesa) AZ

December 9-15

November

1-3	 <u>Albuquerque NM</u>	
2	 Fort Collins CO IN	
8-10	 Golden (Denver) CO	
14-17	Tucson AZ	

BLACK CANYON SECTIONAL

October 4-6

1pm & 7pm Stratified Open Pairs Friday

Sunday 9:30am

Elks Lodge 801 S. Hillcrest Drive Montrose, Colorado goo.gl/maps/rJE5sKx9nTZRg2zg9

flyer:

Stratified 199er Pairs Saturday 10am & 3pm 2 session Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions accomodated)

Stratified 199er Pairs **Stratified Swiss Teams** Double Session with a short lunch break

> Partnerships: Annee Laird 970-596-8005 annee@sundancesafaris.net

web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/10/1910102.pdf

Cactus Flower NLM Regional

November 14-17

By Cindy Shoemaker, Unit 356 President

Exclusively for non-life masters with fewer than 750 masterpoints, the Cactus Flower NLM Regional delivers the gold from Thursday, November 14, through Sunday, November 17, at the Hotel Tucson City Center, Tucson, Arizona.

Gold Rush pairs finishing in the overalls in Strat A will now be awarded 33% gold and 67% red masterpoints! The NLM Gold Rush Sunday Swiss Teams also pays 33% gold to those placing in the overalls.

This upbeat regional offers prizes, trophies, giveaways, and hospitable touches such as complimentary coffee all day plus lox, bagels,



Sign in Old Town

cream cheese, and pastries each morning; and premium candy each afternoon. Sunday lunch is free.

Take advantage of free lectures by top local experts at 12:30 Thursday-Saturday. Lunch is available onsite for a nominal fee.



The Cactus Flower NLM Regional and the Tucson Fall Sectional will be held at the same time and place, but they are two separate tournaments. The Cactus Flower NLM Regional offers gold and red points and the Tucson Fall Sectional offers silver points.

Call the Hotel Tucson City Center today at 520 622-3000 to secure the special room rates of \$79 for studios/king or two queens and \$99 for suites/king or two queens. Set in the Presidio Arts District, this hotel is conveniently located just off of I-10 and minutes from the Tucson International Airport. There is plenty of free parking and even free WiFi.

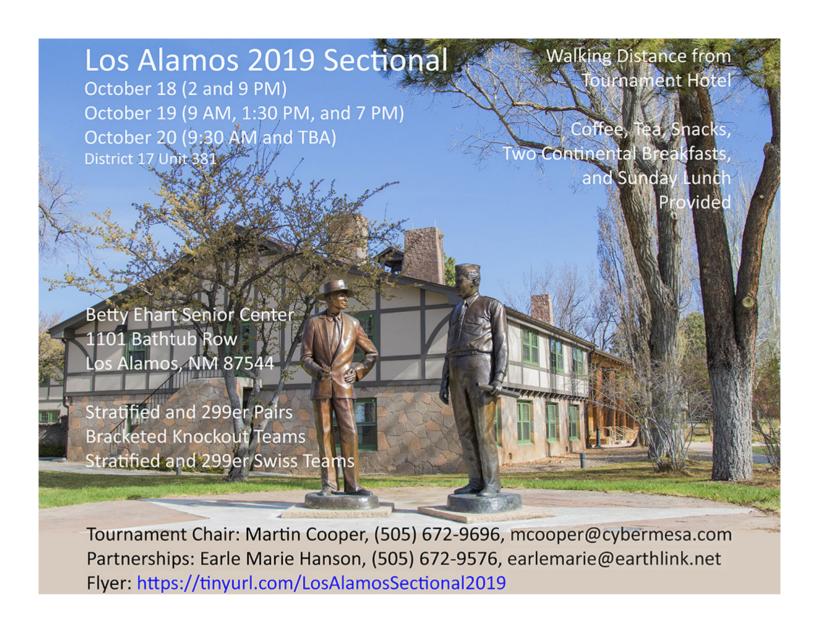
With an average temperature of 74 degrees and plenty of sunshine, November is a great time to sample the sights, flavors, and sounds that make Tucson a must experience destination.



For more information, you can <u>click here for the</u> Statue at the Art Museum <u>Visit Tucson website</u> [provider of the photos used in this article, photo credit for the two skyline photos - Nicci Radhe] or <u>click here for the schedule at the ACBL</u>.



Cover of this issue features the following winners from last year: Thursday Gold Rush Pairs: Kathy Parker – Mike Bording and Gold Rush Teams: Michael Knight - John Miller - Patricia Coker - Carolyn Sittnick





Bon's Mots

By Bonnie Bagley, National Board Representative



The ACBL Board of Directors (BOD) met in July before the Las Vegas NABC, and while the weather was hot outside, the playing conditions inside were optimal. The tournament was a huge success, with 13,622 tables, the largest since the 2015 Summer Chicago NABC (13,685) and the previous Las Vegas NABC (2014 Summer, 16,617). Many thanks to Chair Liz

Hamilton and her able volunteers.

There were 547 District 17 members who attended the Las Vegas NABC, 228 of whom were from the Las Vegas Unit, including James Holzhauer, the Jeopardy champion, who won a respectable 21.17 masterpoints. A list of the top 50 D17 masterpoint winners is at the end of this article. Congratulations to Brad Moss, who tops the list with 241.67.

For you number crunchers, here are some statistics:



Bonnie with "Jeopardy" James Holzhauer

D17 Nationals	Total D17 players	Percentage of D17 players
2005 Denver Fall NABC	1273	32.57%
2008 Las Vegas Summer NABC	1033	13.31%
2013 Phoenix Fall NABC	1566	30.06%
2014 Las Vegas Summer NABC	792	12.20%
2015 Denver Fall NABC	1253	34.55%
2019 Las Vegas Summer NABC	547	10.66%

Highlights of the BOD meeting:

- Up to four sanctioned daylong online robot games may be held daily per approved online club. Up to 24 hours are allowed for play. Each daylong game will play either 12 or 18 boards.
- The masterpoint awards for unrestricted four session Regional events, other than Knockouts, shall be computed by formula increased by 60% and not to exceed 50 masterpoints.
- Effective January 1, 2020 NABC events designated as "Super Senior" will be changed from a minimum of 70 years of age to 75 years of age.
- The Senior age for ACBL events designated as "Senior" will be changed from a minimum of 60 years of age to 65 years of age starting on January 1, 2020 at 62 years old, and rising each subsequent January 1 until it reaches 65.
- February is designated as Education Foundation Fund month. Monies raised from Education Foundation Charity Games shall be distributed to the Education Foundation.
- A guest membership is established at no cost, the benefits of which will be defined by management. The Temporary membership offering will be discontinued.

- ACBL will sponsor a World Bridge Federation (WBF) Management Meeting at the 2019 San Francisco NABC, with expenditures for hotel rooms, food, and beverage not to exceed \$10,000 which will come from funds raised by the ACBL for the North American Bridge Federation (NABF).
- The ACBL President, upon taking office, may not be a member of the board
 of directors or a trustee of any other bridge organization other than that of a
 Unit or District. Restricted organizations include, but are not limited to, any
 ACBL-affiliated charity and/or foundation and other bridge related
 organizations such as the NABF, WBF, USBF, CBF, or FMB.
- A definition of collusive cheating was established: An agreement made between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant, to exchange or pass information illicitly. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
- ACBL will strip all NABC+ titles and second place finishes from any player partnership, each of whom has from the date of August 22, 2015 onward, (1) been expelled from the ACBL for any reason; (2) resigned for the purpose of avoiding possible disciplinary actions; or (3) is currently suspended for ethical violations.
- In addition, any NABC+ titles and second place finishes held by such pairs, or by teams including such pairs, will be stripped to the first date of any recorded partnership of those pairs in the ACBL. Such titles and second place finishes shall remain and be recorded in official ACBL records as "Vacated."
- A member who resigns his/her membership in the ACBL when disciplinary charges are pending for unethical activity may not thereafter participate in any national, District, Unit, sanctioned game or other ACBL activity. (Ed note: This is mainly for foreign players who resign from ACBL to avoid conviction)
- The positions of Unit Recorder and Unit Disciplinary Chair are eliminated. All
 disciplinary matters previously managed by Units will be managed by
 Districts. For disciplinary matters in a District, the District President shall be
 the Charging Party unless otherwise specified in the District's bylaws. District
 Recorders will appoint Assistant Recorders. If a Unit requests that one of its
 members be an Assistant Recorder, such a request shall not be unreasonably
 denied.

http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/2019_LasVegas_draft_minutes.pdf

Top 50 D17 Masterpoint winners at the Las Vegas NABC

1.	241.67	Brad	Moss	Denver	CO
2.	238.57	Roger	Lee	Las Vegas	NV
3.	220.15	Joshua	Donn	Las Vegas	NV
4.	213.57	Daniel	Korbel	Las Vegas	NV
5.	171.67	Geoff	Hampson	Las Vegas	NV
6.	170.76	Sylvia	Shi	Las Vegas	NV
7.	156.85	John	Kranyak	Las Vegas	NV
8.	143.16	Haig	Tchamitch	Paradise Valley	AZ
9.	135.08	Robert	Levin	Henderson	NV
10.	132.48	Drew	Casen	Henderson	NV
11.	130.50	Huub	Bertens	Las Vegas	NV
12.	130.50	Curtis	Cheek	Las Vegas	NV
13.	130.50	Linda	Lewis	Las Vegas	NV
14.	130.50	Paul	Lewis	Las Vegas	NV
15.	127.99	Ishmael	Del'Monte	Las Vegas	NV
16.	127.92	Marc	Jacobus	Las Vegas	NV
17.	125.18	Sundaresan	Ram	Tucson	AZ
18.	124.24	Sheri	Winestock	Las Vegas	NV
19.	121.38	Anne	Brenner	Denver	CO
20.	121.38	David	Caprera	Denver	CO
21.	120.00	Fred	Gitelman	Las Vegas	NV
22.	109.70	Michael	Kamil	Oro Valley	AZ
23.	106.52	Gabrielle	Sherman	Tucson	AZ
24.	100.00	Ben	Blacik	Phoenix	AZ
25.	100.00	Martin	Schiff Jr	Tucson	AZ
26.	79.93	Joann	Sprung	Las Vegas	NV
27.	75.10	Ken	Bercuson	Las Vegas	NV
28.	69.20	Steve	Cohen	Las Vegas	NV
29.	68.50	Danny	Sprung	Las Vegas	NV
30.	63.93	Nancy	Schwantes	Las Vegas	NV
31.	63.47	Roger	Bates	Las Vegas	NV
32.	62.70	Valentin	Kovachev	Las Vegas	NV
33.	60.68	William	Harker	Santa Fe	NM
34.	60.64	Billy	Miller	Las Vegas	NV
35.	58.99	Brenda	Jacobus	Las Vegas	NV
36.	55.17	Allan	Palansky	Henderson	NV
37.	53.29	Cynthia	Goatz	Las Vegas	NV

50.08 47.15 46.93	Phillip Murali Mitch	Nair Towner	Las Vegas Phoenix	AZ
		Towner	-	
46.93	•		Tucson	AZ
	James	Glickman	Las Vegas	NV
46.69	Bobby	Wolff	Las Vegas	NV
46.46	Barry	Plotkin	Mesa	AZ
46.15	John	Mohan	Las Vegas	NV
46.15	Lou Ann	O'Rourke	Scottsdale	AZ
44.76	Bob	Lafleur	Las Vegas	NV
43.55	Scott	McClure	Greenwood Vlg	CO
43.55	Phillip	Yorston	Abiquiu	NM
42.98	David	Lim	Las Vegas	NV
42.37	Dan	Faulkner	Tucson	AZ
	46.69 46.46 46.15 46.15 44.76 43.55 43.55 42.98	46.69 Bobby 46.46 Barry 46.15 John 46.15 Lou Ann 44.76 Bob 43.55 Scott 43.55 Phillip 42.98 David	46.69BobbyWolff46.46BarryPlotkin46.15JohnMohan46.15Lou AnnO'Rourke44.76BobLafleur43.55ScottMcClure43.55PhillipYorston42.98DavidLim	46.69 Bobby Wolff Las Vegas 46.46 Barry Plotkin Mesa 46.15 John Mohan Las Vegas 46.15 Lou Ann O'Rourke Scottsdale 44.76 Bob Lafleur Las Vegas 43.55 Scott McClure Greenwood Vlg 43.55 Phillip Yorston Abiquiu 42.98 David Lim Las Vegas





District 17 News

ACBL Board of Directors Election

By Bonnie Bagley

The election results for the D17 representative to the ACBL Board of Directors (BOD) were announced Monday, September 16; ballots had to be received no later than Sunday, September 15. There were three candidates running: John Grossmann from Greeley Colorado; Cindy Shoemaker from Tucson, Arizona; and Ed Yosses from Denver, Colorado.

Since no candidate received a majority there will be a runoff between the top two candidates, John Grossmann and Cindy Shoemaker. Unit Board members have received their ballot for the runoff and have 30 days to vote. I urge all Unit Board members to vote. Both of these candidates would be an excellent BOD representative for District 17. Please send in your ballot now if you have not already done so.

Sue Weinstein is a Grand Life Master



In 1984, Sue won her first National title, the Machlin Women's Swiss Teams, an event she won two more times along with four other National Women's titles. She lived in Glenview, Illinois for most of her bridge career before retiring to Las Vegas, Nevada.

About her life in Bridge Sue said, "I started playing in the early 1970s and was fortunate to have several of the best players in the Chicago area take

me under their wing and teach me. One in particular would call me an old

washerwoman when I made an error. And boy, did I make them! I was determined to have him stop calling me that, so I tried very hard to improve. In addition to my seven National Championships, I am a WBF World Master, as I have placed in the overalls in World Events. I have also won numerous Regional events. My partners, for the most part, have been, Cheri Bjerkan, Tobi Sokolow, Janice Seamon Molson and, of late, JoAnn Sprung and my husband Jerry Weinstein."

Congratulations Sue!

New Life Masters: How They did it

Mary Aveiro of Sierra Vista Arizona: "I started playing party bridge when I moved to Sierra Vista 19 years ago. In the fall of 2014, my friend and mentor Margaret Glenn convinced me to try duplicate. That October I attended my first tournament with her in Tucson and I was hooked. I give Margaret the entire credit for my success in



becoming Life Master she is a great teacher with untold patience."

Or maybe it was their shoes?



Patricia McKinley of Telluride, Colorado: "I went to the Nationals in Las Vegas this past July. I did not have partners so I went online, posted my profile and the events I was interested in. I played with four different partners over six days. Two of the days I did play with someone I knew BUT had never played with before. On one of the days, my partner was sick so I went to the partnership desk and was able to get a partner right away. I needed just under

three gold points, and I was able to meet that goal and then some. Everyone I played with was extremely nice. I would do it again!"

Jim Wolf of Tucson, Arizona: "I began to play bridge once or twice a week with my twin brother John when we both lived in Colorado, I in Denver and he in Fort

Collins. Our parents had played bridge in the 1950s, so we had been exposed to it. We decided to take some lessons. In 2016, my wife and I got a bit tired of the Denver traffic and snow and moved to a lovely home in a resort community in Tucson for half the price. This move opened more bridge opportunities for me.

"My first big step in pursuit of becoming a Life Master was to venture to the San Diego NABC in November 2017. I advertised for a partner to share room expenses with, and John Heieck came



forward. We had a great time together in San Diego and I made a dent in my gold requirements.

"Then I found another good bridge friend, Life Master Rick Dunie. We began playing weekly in clubs and made road trips to Regional and National tournaments in 2018 and 2019. For most of these events, we partnered with others in order to play in bracketed team events, the best way for us to compete well in our field and win points.

"Our most recent tournament was the Phoenix Desert Empire Regional, held at the Talking Stick Casino Resort in August 2019. We played team events for seven days. At the start of the tournament, I needed two gold points and 25 additional master points to make Life Master. I expected to make the gold point requirement, but 25 master point in seven days of bridge was a bit of a stretch, judging from past tournament experiences. Our team performed well, and on the last day we finished second in our bracket, thus fulfilling my final master point requirement. My team in Phoenix was comprised of Rick Dunie, Mark Leibowitz, Suzanne Greenwood, and Don Taylor. I owe them all my heartfelt thanks for making this goal possible. Mark also became a Life Master at this tournament."



Remembering John Van Ness

By Bonnie Bagley



John Van Ness 1940-2019

John Van Ness, who served longer than anyone else on the District 17 Board and also served a long time as D17 President, died recently. Click here to go to the D17 web site and read the obituary written by his family and click here for a tribute to John in the Aspen News. Following are some memories from his District 17 and Western Conference friends:

Bonnie Bagley: "John was a unique individual who cared deeply about D17 and the Western Conference. It was my good fortune to serve with him on the D17 Board, to learn from him, and to be

his friend. Rest in peace my friend, you are missed."

Jerry Fleming, 2009 ACBL President: "In the 21 years I served on the District 17, Western Conference, and ACBL Board of Directors, I associated and worked with many, many individuals, some of whom, including John, became friends. I was deeply saddened to hear of his recent passing. From the time I met him in 1992, I was impressed with John's wit and with his knowledge of the District 17 organization. Oh, we argued, especially at first, but as time went on, we learned to respect each other's positions and, most of the time, to support each other. John loved to call on the phone at any time of the day or evening, usually because he wanted to use me as a sounding board; some of those conversations lasted for hours. But in all these conversations, we were also two friends enjoying each other's company. I particularly loved to hear him talk about his life as an attorney.

"John paved the way for me on the Western Conference Board. Besides giving me a detailed description of the issues and personalities, he helped me get things done. After I was elected to the ACBL Board, John became District 17 President, and we worked well together. A favorite memory of John was a day in Monterey, California, after a Western Conference board meeting, when John, Kathy, my wife Marion, and I drove South along the California coast and just enjoyed each other's company for a day."

Robb Gordon, ACBL National Recorder: "I was saddened to hear of the passing of John Van Ness. I had the honor of serving with John on the District 17 Board of Directors and was his teammate a few times. He was one of D17's more underrated players – he had real talent.

"I often tangled with John on the Board. He was a formidable opponent with a way of being succinct and precise in his arguments, but he never showed disrespect for his adversaries when presenting them.

"John was an invaluable contributor to the District's operation as well as that of the Western Conference. As an attorney, he was an expert in contracts and was always ready to share his ideas and concerns.

"Goodbye John, as weird as it sounds, I will miss arguing with you!"

Kitty & Steve Cooper, ScoreCard editors

"John was never afraid to discuss even controversial subjects. We always enjoyed editing his columns, and particularly admired his campaign to get Bridge tournaments and clubs to have AEDs (automatic electronic defibrillators) available. Many clubs now have them.



To honor John we include an excerpt from from his President's column about AEDs from the October 2010 *ScoreCard*, also published on the D17 web site at http://www.d17acbl.org/index.php?page=october-2010 "

"When someone collapses into unconsciousness with no pulse or breathing, more often than not it is due to cardiac arrest. This can usually be corrected with a short but precise burst of electricity from a defibrillation device. If such a device is employed within one minute of cardiac arrest the chance of survival can be as high as 90%; if defibrillation is delayed for five or six minutes the chance of survival drops to 5%. The American Heart Association estimates that widespread use of defibrillation could save as many as 40,000 American lives per year.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been around since the mid-1990's. An AED first analyzes the patient's heart and, if indicated, administers an electrical shock; it can cause no harm, except perhaps to waste valuable time. "Automated" means just that. You press the "on" button and the device voice prompts you through the process step by step. " ... "AED's have become commonplace in airports, casinos, government buildings, and most larger hotels."

Ken Monzingo – Western Conference Contract Bridge Forum editor & 2016 ACBL President:

"John, was an insatiable supporter of the Western Conference. He spent many hours writing for the *Contract Bridge Forum*'s D17 *ScoreCard* edition, extolling and educating us all on the values of the conference and its communication vehicle. John was always eager to discuss the success of the Conference and the paper by phone, email, or face to face. It was these tireless, devoted efforts that kept the Conference and and its newspaper viable for its final decades."



Glitter Gulch OCTOBER **Sectional**





Reservations: 800.634.6575

Please use Plaza Code: SPABL19 and book by

OCTOBER 18th!

SUN - THURS NIGHT - only \$36* *Resort fees & taxes apply



OUR EVENTS:

Strat-Flighted Open Pairs! • Round Robin Bracketed Teams! Strat-Flighted Swiss Teams! • Fast Pairs (Friday only)! 0-299er Pairs – all Sessions!

FREE Lectures

for details, go to: https://tinyurl.com/y3wz58nc

Mon-Thurs 2 pm

Tournament Chair: ANGIE CLARK - 847.764.1060

angieclark@comcast.net.

OUR HOST:

Tournament Director: KEN HORWEDEL -

ken.horwedel@acbl.org

Mike Cochran

I/N (0-299er) Chair: VICTORIA HODES - 702.896.2966 hodesrus@cox.net

Partnership GUARANTEED: - KAREN KIMES & GARY MCGOUGH 702.741.9044 partnershipdesk@outlook.com

Tournament Results

Regional Results

Talking Stick Resort and Casino was again the site for Phoenix Regional. Judging by the 1380 tables, players love the venue, **click here for the results**.



Sectional Results

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

2 - 4 <u>Avon (Vail) CO</u>

23 - 24 <u>Albuquerque NM I/N</u>

29-Sep 1 Colorado Springs CO

30-Sep 2 <u>El Paso TX</u>



CACTUS FLOWER NLM REGIONAL
THE TUCSON FALL SECTIONAL
November 14-17



September

13-15	Prescott AZ
13-15	Cheyenne WY
20-22	Carlsbad NM
21-22	Tucson AZ I/N

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

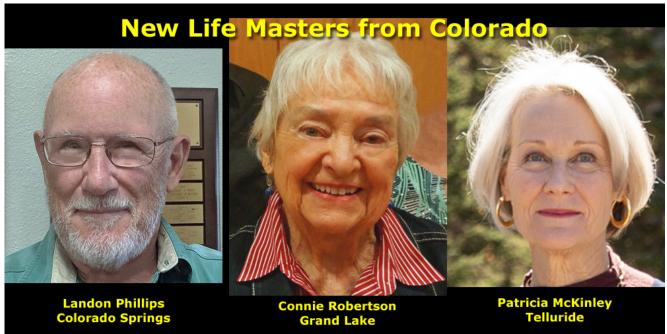
District 17 Member Achievements

NEW GRAND LIFE MASTER

Sue Weinstein of Las Vegas, Nevada is District 17's newest Grand Life Master. For more details about her and stories of how some of our new Life Masters achieved this rank turn to the District 17 News article.



NEW LIFE MASTERS



New Life Masters from near Phoenix, Arizona



Kathye Brown Paradise Valley



Ann Paulson Sun City West



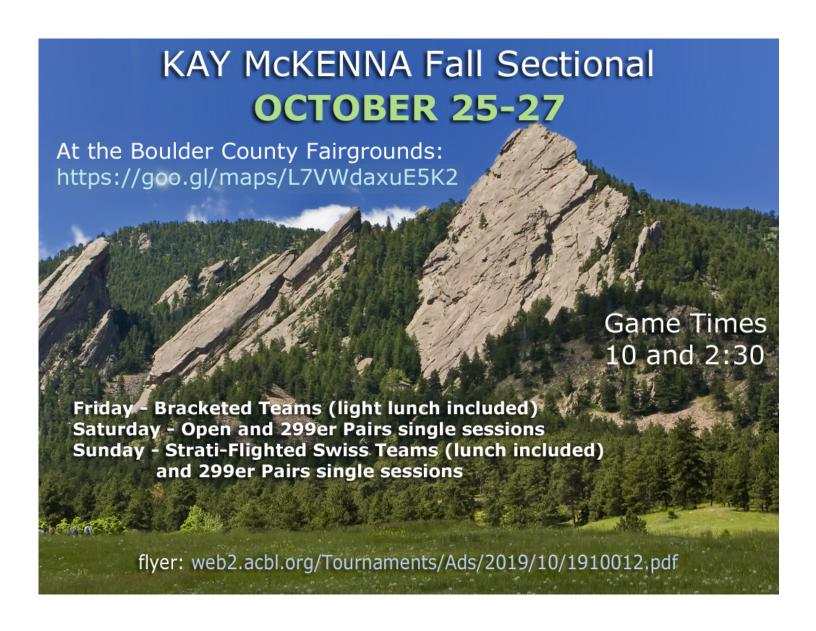
Patricia Liddle Sun Lakes

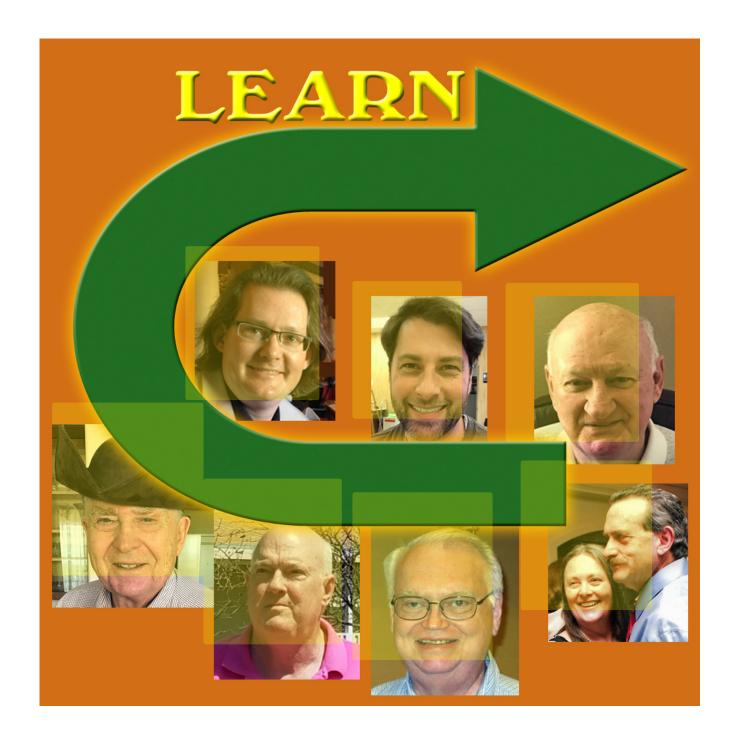






If you become a Life Master please send your photo to the editors – coopers@d17acbl.org - as well as any thoughts you wish to share about your experience.





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.

October 12-13 Denver 299er Fall Sectional

Denver Metro Bridge Studio bridgewebs.com/denvermetro/
5250 Leetsdale Drive, Denver CO 80246

Game starts at 10:00 and Sat 2:30
Saturday: Stratified Single Session Pairs
Sunday Stratified Swiss - double session
Less than 10 mp GAME SUNDAY at 2:00

Newcomers Welcome – 0-5 Play Free Limited Space – Reservations Recommended



Advice for the New Player

By Chris Hasney, Hereford, Arizona

The Triple Ts

<u>Last issue we talked about the Triple Ts</u>. No, not the truck stop East of Tucson. We're talking about three keys to good declarer play (and defense too, if you apply it to that endeavor).



Timing

One of the most common errors made by beginning players is taking honor tricks too soon or too late. The key is to know from the auction and your plan which problem you have, then time your honor play accordingly.

Many beginners jump on a trick as soon as they can win it, then cash their other honors, and only then start looking for the three or so additional tricks they still need in order to make their contract. Not a good idea, and totally lacking in planning.

Another error is the timing of pulling trumps. Often trumps can be pulled right away, preventing the opponents from ruffing your winners, hence the old trope "Get the kiddies off the street." Sometimes, however, declarer needs trumps on the board to use as ruffs, and must risk delaying drawing trump until he has used dummy's trumps to ruff one or more losers. Furthermore, sometimes drawing trumps too soon can result in the loss of trump control. Here's a great hint: If the defenders lead trumps, stop and wonder why. If they lead a suit in which you are short, forcing you to ruff in hand (this is called establishing a tap), you'd better not pull trumps too soon.

Mastery of timing requires a good understanding how to plan a hand.



Transportation

Transportation means managing entries between your hand and dummy. It does you no good to set up a suit you can't get to without some sort of fancy throw-in play, which often requires defender cooperation. You'll not get it very often.

So preserve entries. Don't play a deuce from your hand if you might need it to get to a well-preserved three on the board. Instead, toss a five you don't need. THINK before you squander a potential opportunity for a later entry. THINK before playing a card from the board at trick one. You may need to preserve an entry to your hand or to the board; figure out which one you will need. It may be right to duck a trick to make sure of an entry. All of these things must be considered.

Trump Management

Before you start drawing trump, count the hand. Determine possible trump breaks using your knowledge of normal split percentages tempered by clues from the bidding to decide if you are looking at a probable adverse trump break.

If you don't have them memorized yet, just recall that an even number of enemy cards will tend to split oddly, and an odd number will tend to split evenly. (Exception: two trumps will tend to split 1-1.) So, missing four trumps, odds are you'll get a 3-1 break. Missing five the odds favor 3-2. Again, the auction and the opening lead may get your spidey sense tingling that this hand isn't going to behave normally. [Editors: see this month's Consult the Coopers and Bridge in the Real World for more about how suits break]

Beware the enemy cross-ruff. Sometimes from a transportation standpoint it may look like ducking a trick makes sense, but sniff around a bit first. Why did the enemy offer you a free hook? Will the finesse fail and the bad guy fire back a card his partner can ruff, and off we go? If you've ever been caught in a rip current at the beach you'll have an idea what this situation feels like.



Beware the tap, especially when you are playing a Moysian (4-3) fit. The idea of a tap is for the defenders to gain trump control by forcing declarer to continually ruff in the long hand, usually his own. Eventually the defender with, say, four trumps in a (not uncommon) 4-1 trump split will have the upper hand. You'll know when this is beginning to happen. To counter it, force that defender to ruff. It's a fun thing to watch if you happen to be dummy or kibitzing when this little battle occurs.

The above article is adapted from the author's *College Bridge Series, Semester Two*, free on the Internet for college bridge teacher use. Some of this material may have been "borrowed" from other bridge authors, including from ACBL's "Diamond" series of declarer play lessons. If so, thanks to those who make such material free to all online.

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

<u>Library.com</u>



I/N Tips: The Three Cornered Hat

By Paul Zatulove, Phoenix, Arizona

Applied to Slam Bidding

The Bridge World is not flat, not just High Card Points (HCP). It is three dimensional. The three points of the colonial hat are:

- Overall Quality of the cards High Card Points (HCPs)
- Distribution <u>Losing Trick Count</u>
 (<u>LTC</u>)



Hat image courtesy of the National Museum of

American History, Behring Center

 Control of the Play – Rosenkranz Control Points (RCP) – Aces, Kings, and Voids

This three dimensional approach to hand evaluation is very effective applied to the most exciting aspect of bridge, slam hands. My partners and I find ourselves more often in the top third of those pairs bidding and making small and grand slams. In team events, which can be decided by a slam, we have accumulated gold, red, and silver points faster than our peers.

The expected requirements for making a slam are 33 combined HCPs using the 4-3-2-1 (Ace King-Queen-Jack) for small slams and 37 HCPs for Grand slams. An LTC of five or less in one hand is slam territory (and a total of twelve LTC for the two hands with a fit to make a small slam). Nine to Eleven RCP are expected for successful slams (or even fewer—the more highly distributional the hand, the fewer RCPs are needed).

The three cornered hat is your gateway to exploring those elusive, exciting 27, 28, and 29 combined HCP slam hands.

I promised in previous articles that you could use the Colonial three Cornered Hat concept on *every hand* from just *your side of the table*. The following hand was played at the Airport DBC in Amherst, New York. I lived near the club and was called on to fill in. I was a 199er. Partner was one of the best players in the club. We had never played together. It took three rounds before I could eliminate all those conventions on his card which I had never heard of. On the fourth round I pulled the following cards from the duplicate board:



Partner was dealer, both vulnerable. Most of the other tables quickly got to 4♠ on an auction such as 1♥-(2♠)-4♠ all pass.

After the same start—1♥-(2♣)—at our table, I realized that my VOID was very valuable; it meant we were playing with a thirty point deck (that is, assuming that the opponents had all or most of the ten Club points, we could make an awful lot of tricks if we held all or most of the other 30 points). We had at least an eight card fit in Hearts and I had a nine card Spade suit in my hand. Since I could take care of the opponents' Clubs, I could increase my HCPs by one third to 13+ HCP, an opening hand. I had two Aces, four RCPs, which are usually found in an opening

hand. My LTC was FOUR! Partner's opening bid should have shown at most a seven loser hand. Adding seven to my four losers makes eleven. Subtract that from 24 = 13, the possible number of tricks we could take with a fit and the needed controls.

Trust the Numbers

Let the numbers substitute for lack of experience and you can play with the experts. Marty Bergen advises you show partner your VOID, even before you bid your suit. I made a splinter bid of 4♣, a bid and a half, showing shortness in Clubs, and support for Hearts. I should have had four Hearts, but extreme hands require extreme measures.

The opponents passed throughout the rest of the auction. Partner bid four Hearts, denying interest in slam, but I wasn't finished. LTC said I should "Explore Slam!" so I bid 4 NT, 1430 for Hearts, which I had supported by showing my Club shortness. Partner showed two keycards and the Trump Queen by bidding 5♠, the first time Spades were mentioned. If RHO, the vulnerable Club bidder, held the Club Ace, partner was telling me he had the A-K-Q of Hearts plus four more points. If partner had the Diamond King, I could bid six Spades. If he had the Spade King, I could bid seven Spades.

I next asked for partner's lowest King by bidding 5 NT and he bid 6♠, showing that king. I then bid 7♠. Partner turned white, then red! He thought I had pulled the wrong suit, Spades instead of Hearts, and HE had to play it!!



Since partner's hand was the one shown above, the 23 point Grand Slam was

cold.



Paul Zatulove, Phoenix, Arizona, 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.

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Bridge in the Real World

By Dennis Dawson, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Resnick's Rule

Many years ago, a player named Resnick played a slam with a side-suit loser and a trump suit of QJ10986 opposite A75432. Now you might think that this slam was cold with a twelve-card trump fit, but a funny thing happened on the way to the bank.

Resnick led the trump queen and his left-hand opponent showed out. Resnick shrugged his shoulders and ducked in dummy, losing to the singleton king. The kibitzers immediately immortalized him by creating Resnick's Rule: with only one card out, play for the drop!

This is obviously a sound rule, but about 10 years ago, in a national team game Clem Jackson and I were able to produce a result justifying Resnick's belief that he had a loser.

11 D	N North ♠ A108643 ♥ 5 ♦ 972 ♣ 863	W N E S
W West♠♥ A742♦ KQ10864♠ Q102		E East ★ K ▼ KQJ63 ◆ AJ ♣ AK975
BBO	S South ♠ QJ9752 ♥ 1098 ♦ 53 ♣ J4	Play this hand out at tinyurl.com/y2wlyugv 6♠x S NS: 0 EW: 0

Both Souths preempted 2♠, both Wests doubled for takeout, and both Norths went all-in with a bid of 6♠, making it next-to-impossible for East-West to bid their cold grand slam. This was of course doubled.

At the other table North-South went down four for -800, a good sacrifice against a non-vulnerable small slam, let alone a grand slam.

I led the ◆K, and Clem overtook with the ace. He cashed the ♥K, then the ♣K, on which I gave count, showing an odd number. Now Clem knew that only one more club was cashing, so after taking the ♣A, he led the ◆J. I overtook with the queen and played a third round of diamonds, allowing Clem to ruff with the ♠K, thereby scoring a trick for our side with our only trump. Down five.

Somewhere Resnick smiled and nodded. You could just hear him saying, "See, I knew I had a loser!"

This is a special case of whether to finesse or play for the drop depending on how many cards you have in the suit. Early on we all learned "Eight ever, nine never" as a guideline to finessing if the queen is the only honor missing. Other things being equal (which they often are not), finesse with eight cards but cash the ace and king with nine cards, hoping to drop the queen.

Practical Application

Few players realize this can be expanded to the king and jack:

- Ten ever, 11 never: Missing only the king, finesse with 10 cards (a combination often misplayed) but play the ace with 11 cards, hoping to drop the king
- **Six ever, seven never**: Missing only the jack, finesse with six cards but play the ace, king, and queen with seven cards, hoping to drop the jack.

You might say "Even ever, odd never."



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. Dennis is the author of the newly published book *Santa Fe*

<u>Precision</u>. He currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



CONSULT THE COOPERS

By Kitty and Steve Cooper, editors D17 ScoreCard

Eight Ever, Nine Never

Everyone knows the adage "eight ever, nine never" which refers to finessing for the queen of trumps. A while back we received this question about that. *Why should you play for the Queen to drop when you have nine trumps? Isn't a 3-1 split more likely than a 2-2?*

It is true that when you are missing four cards, a 3-1 split is more likely than a 2-2 split. However, a specific 2-2 split is more likely than a specific 3-1 as we will explain below. When you cash the ace in dummy and lead towards the king-jack in your hand, after RHO follows low, there are only two possibilities left: LHO has the stiff queen or LHO has no more; in the first case you'd play for the drop if you knew, and in the second you would finesse.



The position after you play the ace and another card is shown above. The turned over cards show the possible locations of the queen and the grayed cards are the ones which have already been played.

Each division of the cards does not have equal probability. Once the first card of a particular suit is dealt, the probability of various distributions in that suit changes; here's why: imagine that you have four marbles which you roll down a chute one at a time; each marble falls randomly to a container on the right or the left. Once the first two marbles have fallen, there will either be one on each side or two on one side. When the third marble falls the three marbles will be distributed 3-0, 1-2, 2-1, or 0-3. You can see that the possibilities for the final marble are limited by what has happened with the first three - if all three are on one side, the only possibilities are 4-0 and 3-1; if the three marbles are distributed 2-1 the only possibilities are 2-2 and 3-1. Thus the 3-1 has to be more frequent as it can occur no matter which way the first three marbles fell.

So how can the 2-2 be more likely? Didn't we just see that a 3-1 split was more frequent? Yes but there are more 3-1s than 2-2s so **each specific 2-2** is more frequent than each specific 3-1.

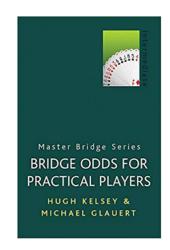
Here is the math. Skip this paragraph if you want to trust our statement that a specific 2-2 is more likely than a specific 3-1. There are 16 ways that four things can be divided into two groups. The probability of a single 2-2 split (of which there are six) is 6.78% and of a single 3-1 split (of which there are eight) is 6.22%. Finally, the probability of each possible 4-0 split is 4.78%. And those are your 16 cases. Note that 6 times 6.78 is 40.68% which is the probability of a 2-2.

In the case shown above, there are only two possibilities left, the 3-1, where the queen can be is finessed, and the 2-2, where the queen is going to drop. Since a specific 2-2 is more likely than a specific 3-1, play for the drop, unless other distributional information changes the odds.

Chris Hasney's column included a mention of how the probabilities change if you have distributional information from the auction or play. A simple example of this is when you know from a preempt that seven of the "marbles" in one hand are

diamonds, then there is less room in that hand for other "marbles." Now the 3-1 (and the 4-0) are more likely, with the preemptor being short. However knowing that the opening leader has a five card suit does not change the odds, since his partner probably also has a five card, just a different one.

If you are seriously interested in the probabilities of bridge you might want to look at *The Mathematical Theory of Bridge* by Emile Borel; the book is out of print (try eBay or a bridge bookseller). A simpler and excellent book is *Bridge Odds for Practical Players* (Master Bridge) by Hugh Kelsey & Michael Glauert.



One reader suggested that "restricted choice" also has a bearing on the decision as to whether to play for the drop or

finesse with nine cards in a suit. It does not affect the decision to drop the queen as the fact is that there are only two cases left at the decision point is reflected in the odds above. However it suggested the topic for another column from us, to be rerun here soon.

A previous version of this article appeared in *ScoreCard* a few years back and is on the District 17 website at http://www.d17acbl.org/index.php?page=nine-never



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.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

By Curt Soloff, Denver, Colorado

Major Suit Raises, Part II: Non-Forcing Raises

In our introductory installment on major suit raises we mentioned the importance of showing partner a major suit fit as early as possible in the auction when you are not strong enough to force to game. If you anticipate that your hand is only worth one bid, use that bid to confirm an eight card (or better) fit in the major that partner opened. Knowing about the fit early will allow opener to judge whether to pass and play a partscore, make some type of game try, or jump directly to game.



Partner opens 1♠, your bid?

As responder, what are your options for raising partner when you have a constructive hand?

• Single (a.k.a. simple) raise: Partner opens 1♠ and you raise to 2♠, showing 6-9 (or perhaps a "bad" 10) points with at least three card spade support. A "bad" 10 point hand, is quacky type of hand with no ruffing value, for example the hand shown above. This hand is not quite worth an invitation to game and should be downgraded accordingly.

- Limit raise playing Standard American: Partner opens 1♠ and you jump directly to 3♠. This shows a good 10 or 11 points—perhaps a "bad" 12 count if your partner frequently opens on the light side—and at least three card spade support.
- Limit raise playing 2/1 Game
 Forcing: Ideally you have two
 different ways to invite game in a
 major, with one bid confirming an
 eight card fit and the other
 promising at least a nine card fit.
 Keep in mind that nine card fits
 have added playing strength and



that opener should be more inclined to accept an invitation with a nine card fit. When responder is invitational with three card support, she first bids 1NT forcing followed by a jump to three of opener's major—e.g., 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)-1NT-2\(\frac{1}{2}\)-3\(\frac{1}{2}\). In contrast, when responder is invitational with four card support, she eschews the forcing 1NT and jumps directly to 3\(\frac{1}{2}\).

What are your options if you have a weak hand with at least four card support for partner's major? Wouldn't it be nice to convey that information to partner while at the same time making it harder for the opponents to find a fit? Modern expert partnerships have found great value in being able to show this hand type, but doing so mandates adding a conventional bid to your major suit raise structure.

One such bid is a Bergen raise (created by, big surprise, Marty Bergen). Playing Bergen, a jump to three of opener's major shows a weak hand–less than five points–and at least four trumps (this is the same bid that shows a limit raise with four trumps when playing 2/1 Game Forcing, as we discussed above).

How much value does the direct weak raise have? On one hand, the balance of power may belong to the opponents, and you make it difficult for them to enter the auction. On the other hand, perhaps the opponents were never going to compete aggressively and you merely get your side too high and turn what would have been a plus score into an unnecessary minus. As with any convention, your partnership has to weigh the pros and cons and decide if having a weak raise in your system is worthwhile.



When partner opens 1♠, this is a mixed raise, so a 3♣ bid playing Bergen raises

Playing the Bergen treatment of 1M-3M as weak means that we must have a way to show at least four card support and a good hand; Bergen uses an artificial bid of 3♦ after partner's bid of one of a major and RHO's pass to show that; an immediate jump to 3♣ shows 6-9 points, also with at least four trumps. Both bids are completely artificial and say nothing about responder's minor suit holdings.



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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CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING:

By Robert Todd, Tallahassee, Florida

Balancing Doubles

General Discussion

When our left-hand opponent (LHO) has bid and both partner and right-hand opponent (RHO) have passed, we are the final line of defense for competing in the auction. This position is called the balancing seat, and it is a time when we should stretch to make a bid.



It is particularly important for us to compete in the bidding when we are short in the opponent's suit. These situations arise in a variety of different cases. We may balance with a takeout double after an opponent opens the bidding. We may also balance after we open the bidding, LHO overcalls, and the

auction is passed back around to us. Let's look at using a balancing double in more detail.

Balancing Seat Doubles

With a three suited hand that is short in the opponent's suit, we can balance with a takeout double with fewer HCP than we need to make a takeout double in direct seat. This is often done with as few as nine HCP, so that when we "borrow" three points from partner, we have a full opening hand.

We should be careful that we have enough defense to defeat the contract if LHO jumps to game. We should also consider if we have enough defense so that if partner passes our takeout double, having made a trap pass, we will feel confident of beating the contract.

Example 1:



Assume that the auction proceeds (1♥)-P-(P) to the hand shown above. We have a perfect takeout double in balancing seat. We may also use a double in the balancing seat to show hands that, after we "borrow three points from partner," are too strong to simply bid a suit. With these hands we double and then bid our suit or Notrump.

Reopening Doubles

If we open the bidding we may also balance when LHO makes an overcall that is passed back around to us. A double is the most common reopening bid when

opener has shortness in the opponent's suit, hoping that partner has a penalty

double of the opponent's suit which could not have been made (as double would have been negative).

Example 2:

After 1♠-(2♠)-P-(P) opener should strive to compete in the bidding. With shortness in the opponent's suit and not a tremendous amount of distribution, Opener should balance with a takeout double. This is to protect the situations where partner has made a "trap pass" with extreme length in the opponent's suit and is hoping to defend. Common distributions to reopen with a double are:

5-4-1-3

5-3-1-4

5-4-0-4

6-4-0-3

6-3-0-4

With more distribution, even with minimum values, opener should strive to bid another suit – showing unwillingness to sell out to a 2♦ final contract or to defend 2♦ doubled if partner has a trap pass.

Change the nine of diamonds to the queen in the hand shown at the beginning of this article and imagine that you opened 1♦, LHO overcalled 1♥, and it comes pass, pass back to you.

Yes you should balance with a reopening double!

Conclusion

Double is one of the most valuable calls in a competitive auction. It is a flexible action that can be used with a variety of different shapes and strengths. But when we are in the balancing seat, we use this call even more aggressively, not requiring as many HCP as we do in direct seat actions. When in the pass-out seat, we try to double whenever it is reasonable because this allows partner to give us some input about where it is best to play, and it protects partner when they have chosen to trap pass. This has the added benefit of keeping partner happy, and makes sure that your side collects a great score when partner has the perfect hand.



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



IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

By Larry Matheny, Fort Collins, Colorado

IT'S MATCHPOINTS

Too often players in a pairs event just "play bridge". This is a mistake, because matchpoint results often earn scores very different from those that the same result would earn in a rubber bridge or team event.



Opening lead: ♠J

Bidding: After East's opening bid, North-South had a routine auction to game.

Play: West led the jack of spades, declarer played low in dummy, and East

stopped to consider the hand. Doing the math, East realized that his partner held no more than two high card points. It was clear this contract was not going to be defeated, so the goal was to give up the fewest tricks. The six-card club suit in dummy also worried East. With all this information, East rose with the ace of spades and cashed the ace-king of diamonds. Declarer won the third diamond and soon had ten tricks.

At other tables, the contract and opening lead were the same, but many East players ducked the first trick. Those declarers ended with eleven tricks: one spade, four hearts, and six clubs. Matchpoint bridge is a unique game and needs to be approached with a different set of goals.



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.

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https://goo.gl/maps/9YJ3KLHZoUn

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GAME TIMES 10:00 and 2:30 plus pairs at 7:00 pm Friday

Flyer: web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2018/11/1811007.pdf

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Schedule

<u>Flyer</u>

Kachina Sectional

In Tempo Bridge Center, Scottsdale

October 31-November 3

Schedule

<u>Flyer</u>

Tucson Fall Sectional

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Hotel Tucson City Center

November 14-17

Schedule

<u>Flyer</u>

Note that this is an open sectional tournament held in conjunction with an NLM regional.



COLORADO

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Schedule

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DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

D17 ScoreCard volume II issue 5



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

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Bill Phillips, Election Secretary (Arizona at Large)
928 266-0865
spheres0000@gmail.com



Lakin Hines (Mesa) 402-540-9436 Lakin57@yahoo.com



JoAnne Lowe (Phoenix)
480 836-7296 (H)
480 577-9833 (C)
pnutlowe@cox.net



Steve Nordberg (Southern New Mexico/El Paso) 915 833-5915 (H) texminn@sbcglobal.net



Becky Rogers (Las Vegas) 702 812-7976 (C) rags04@gmail.com



Rod Southworth (Colorado/Wyoming at large) 307 221-2634 (C) southworth15@yahoo.com