

The Hawkeyer

Unit 216 Update

By Stan Gustafson

The election for Directors to serve on the Board of Directors, Unit 216, was held on October 14, 2012 and during the following week. Margie Brennan, Rod Burnett, and Craig Nelson were re-elected to the Board. New Directors are Marilyn Jones, Charlotte Hubbell, and Gary Oliphant. The other Directors on the Board are: Stan Gustafson, Mike Smith, Harry Swanson, Gregg Walsh, Mary Lou Agocs, and Kathi Kellen.

The first meeting of the newly reconstituted Board was held on October 28, at which time officers were elected.

Officers are: Stan Gustafson, President; Rod Burnett, Vice President; Margie Brennan, Treasurer; and Mary Lou Agocs, Secretary. Gary Oliphant has volun-

teered to head up the Advertising Committee. Kathi Kellen will chair the Education Committee which will be very busy in the upcoming months recruiting new bridge players and building on the success of the Learn-Bridge-in-a-Day program. Gregg Walsh and Harry Swanson will chair the Sectional Tournament in Jan.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help out with our various projects, so contact any member of the Board if you are willing to help.

At this time, I would like to thank Dee Wilson for his many years of hard work as President of Unit 216 and for his work furthering bridge in this Unit.

Free Games: Getting the Message

Unit 216—YOUR unit has several free game during the year. Are you getting the message about when they are held? If you're a regular player at the Des Moines Bridge Center, you probably can easily keep abreast of what's going on. If you're not you may be missing out on

some fun activities—and some free games, too!

On Oct. 14th, there was a free game to encourage folks to come and vote for unit board members. As usual, a fun time was held for all.

Then on Dec 2nd, the holi-

Dec. 2012 Highlights

4th Seat Opening.....	3
Great Thoughts.....	4
Poetic Justice.....	5
1NT Resp.	6
Playing to First Trick.....	8
Hate Gerber	9
EBM	10
Common Bidding Situations	12
Trump Suit Preference .	14
More Limericks	14
Up the Ladder.....	15
When to Call the Director	15
Bridget Cartoon	15
Classes	16

day party included a potluck luncheon with turkey and a free "8 is enough" Swiss team game. (Thanks to some awesome teammates we'd never played with before, we held our own!)

If you'd like to be notified of when these unit activities—especially the free ones—are being held, contact Mary Lou Agocs at lagocsjr@aol.com or Mary Lou Agocs; 10190 Hickman Court, Clive, IA 50325. You'll be glad you did. See you there.

Hawkeye Bridge Association

Officers

Stan Gustafson President
Rod Burnett Vice Pres.
Mary Lou Agocs Secretary
Margie Brennan Treasurer
Kathi Kellen Past Pres.

Board of Directors

2015 Margie Brennan
Rod Burnett
Charlotte Hubbell
Marilyn Jones
2014 Mary Lou Agocs
Stan Gustafson
Harry Swanson
Craig Nelsen
2013 Kathi Kellen
Mike Smith
Gregg Walsh
Gary Oliphant

Committees

Advertising: Gary Oliphant,
Craig Nelsen

Appeals: Pete Wityk, Jim
Swanson, Val Laing

Audit: Stan Gustafson, Rich
Newell

Calendar: Scott Riley

Conduct and Ethics: Tom Olsson,
John Gustafson, Val
Laing

Education: Kathi Kellen, Susan
Seitz

Intermediate/Newcomer

Coordinator: Kathi Kellen

Mentoring Coordinator:
Nancy Wilson

Tournaments:

Sectionals: Harry Swanson,
Gregg Walsh
Regionals: Harry Swanson,
Stan Gustafson

Hawkeyer: Terry Swanson

Unit 216 Club Directory

AMES

Heartland Senior Services
205 South Walnut
Sun. 6:30 p.m. (open)
Tue. 7:00 p.m. (open)
Ray Schoenrock 232-4717
Thur. 7:00 p.m. (open)
Ira White 292-5616

DES MOINES

Bridge Center
10190 Hickman Court
Clive, IA 270-0868

Mon. 11 am. Free lesson by
Nancy 285-9916
12 pm (1000/2000/open)
12 pm (100/300/500)
Nancy Wilson 285-9916
Mon. 6 pm Free lesson by
Nancy 285-9916
6:30 pm (0-20) Newcomer
Game

Tue. 11 am Free lesson by
Nancy 285-9916
12:00 pm (600/900/1500)
12:00 pm
(100/300/500)
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Wed. 12 pm Free lesson
12:30 pm (20/50/199)
Bonni Newton 225-
6907, 778-0899
7 pm (300/750/1250 or
LM/non-LM partnership);
Pat Peterson 225-0712

Thur. 11 am Free lesson by
Joan Anderson
12 pm (1000/1500/open)
Pat Peterson 225-0712
12 pm (300/750/1000)

Sat. 12 pm (200/400/750
or non-LM)
Johnnie Ratcliff 276-5897
12:30 pm
(1500/3000/3000+)
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

MARSHALLTOWN

Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center; 20 E State St.
Larry Park 641-752-6121

OTTUMWA

Mon. 6:30 p.m. (open)
Hotel Ottumwa
Rita Stegemann 641-684-8727

PELLA

Thur. 7:00 p.m.
(open/non-smoking)
611 Franklin St.
Bill White 847-977-2380

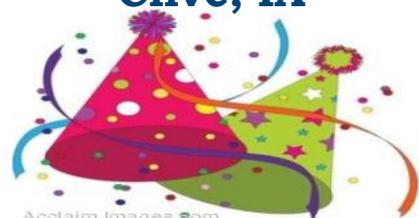


**Start
the New Year
off right**



**Hawkeye Holiday
January 3-6 2013**

**Greater Des Moines
Bridge House
10190 Hickman
Court
Clive, IA**



Acclaim Images.com

Pass, Pass, Pass; What to Open in the 4th Seat

Seems like there was a bit of discussion on one of the B sides about what it means to open 2 of a suit when there are three passes and you're in the 4th seat.

So I sent out the question to some of our better players to see how they play it.

Bud Stowe:

2S, 2H, 2D = 6 card suit, opening hand. (11-15 points with a 6-7 loser hand).

2C = big hand (of course).

No difference in the bid if the suit is Spades, Hearts, or Diamonds).

(If I played 2D as some conventional bid rather than as a weak 2 as I do with some partners, then the 2D bid would retain that normal conventional meaning).

Evie Mintzer:

From experience when there is an opening bid and then 2 passes I will bid 1NT with a balanced hand and 10-14 HCP's. I will bid 2 of a major with 13-15 points and probably a 6 card suit. Double for an even better hand.

The question is what to do with 3 passes. I use the Rule of 15 whether to open a major. HCPs plus number of spades. With 14 or less I pass. So if I have a better hand I can bid 2 of the major and expect my partner to understand my holding. With a

strong hand open 2 clubs. Another factor I take into consideration is vulnerability and can I tolerate another bid should my partner respond in a suit not to my liking.

I would not open a weak 2 D in 4th seat. It opens up bidding by the opponents. Many players use 2 D for either Flannery or Roman (3 suiters) which is 11 - 14 HCPs.

Also I consider what day of the week it is. Some days everything works and other days nothing works. Be prepared!

Gregg Walsh:

When I open in 4th seat on the 2 level my hand will have at least 6 cards in that suit and 11 to 14 HCP. This works for a 2 diamond, 2 heart or 2 spade bid.

You **do not preempt** in 4th seat. You pass the board out!

Pete Wityk

2C is still strong, artificial and forcing.

2D if conventional is unchanged otherwise similar to 2H, 2S.

2H, 2S is more an intermediate strength than a weak two with a good 6+ card suit and no second suit. It's too hard for partner to evaluate their hand if I have an undisclosed side suit. I should be able to

take 6-7 tricks non-vul and 7-8 tricks vul with little more from partner than a small doubleton for support.

It seems to come down to this

- There is no reason to preempt in fourth seat. If there are 3 passes to you, you know partner probably doesn't have 12 points and opponents' total point count is probably ≤ 22 .
- Opening with 2 of a suit clearly describes your hand to your partner (6 of the suit and between 11—15 points, or whatever intermediate range you and partner agree on).
- If you have the really big hand, bid 2C or maybe 2NT.
- Fourth seat opening of 2 is not alertable, it's Standard American. Like the reverse, it's often not understood or not known by newer players. Discuss it with your partners and decide on your point range.
- Since you're going to add this to your arsenal of bidding tools, be sure to couple it with the Rule of 15 (if HCP + number of spades ≥ 15 , BID.). This assures that the opponents can't outbid you with their spades.



Great Thoughts, And Some of My Stuff, Too

By Herb Strentz

In times of increasing career mobility — when relative youngsters are said to have five or six career changes ahead of them — it's refreshing to note that even today some people find one career, task or assignment that keeps them occupied for all their productive lives.

For example, some people do nothing but paint the Golden Gate Bridge — once they finish at one end, they go back because it is time to start anew from the other end.

Sometimes it seems that some road construction workers must spend all their years repairing and repairing again and again a two-mile stretch of I-94 in Chicago. Likewise, times fly by for other workers closer to home as they while away the years repairing — take your pick — 86th, 22nd or Clive Road in Johnston, Urbandale, Windsor Heights and Clive.

What's this got to do with bridge? Well a few people must spend most if not all of their lives writing and rewriting the rules of contract bridge, anticipating and responding to problems of errant play and downright cheating.

It's sort of unsettling to read Mike Flader's *Ruling the Game* column each month in the **Bridge Bulletin** and see the most recent problems that beset bridge players.

And it's not just the honest, down-to-earth folks that cause problems. What's bizarre is when issues arise at the highest levels. Consider this 1975 news item:

SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda (AP) The world contract bridge tournament was faced today with its second cheating scandal in 10 years after two players for world champion Italy were accused of exchanging foot signals while bidding... The last cheating scandal hit the tourney during the 1965 championships in Buenos Aires when two Britons... were accused of using finger signals.

The bridge world's response to all this still hasn't stopped some bridge players from using finger signals.

But what brought all this to mind was a new convention you might try: FIB (Fortuitous Insufficient Bid).

FIB is not exactly cheating, in that the convention is not intended to befuddle or deceive the opposing team, but rather FIB is a survival mechanism against that person sitting East when you're playing West, or North when you are South.

FIB is best used to make sure that declarer play is in the right hand, MINE, particularly when there is a bidding war between you

and your partner and he or she has the higher suit.

You know the auction: 1H-1S, 2H-2S, 3H-3S, with partner repeatedly spurning your rock-solid five-card Heart suit. FIB works best when you hold a minor suit: Then the auction can go:

1-C, 1S; 2C-2S and then — before trotting out 3 Clubs — you FIB and bid an insufficient 2 Diamonds, correcting to 3 Clubs and barring partner from bidding Spades or anything else.

FIB gets a bit trickier when you have Hearts and partner insists on Spades: 1H, 1S; 2H, 2S... your best candidate for FIB, 2 Clubs or 2 Diamonds, is already on the table, buried under 2H.

What to do? Well, ruffle through the bid box and then hurriedly confess: "I can't find 2 clubs. Oh my! That would be insufficient; I guess I'll have to correct to 3 Hearts." With luck, partner is barred from further intrusion and the contract is in the right hand.

Plainly, you cannot FIB frequently. Maybe just enough to give the rule-writers something else to address, while the Italians and Brits focus on beating the opposing pair—and not the opposing partner.



Poetic Justice

By Pete Wityk

I am playing in a Regional Flighted Open Pairs with a strong, regular partner. We are playing a seeded husband-wife partnership. As dealer, all vulnerable, I pick up

♠A98 ♥AJ3 ♦A873 ♣AK10

Twenty high card points in a balanced hand translates to **two no-trump**. Over a **pass**, partner bids **three clubs**, Stayman. East **doubles** this. My clubs are good enough that I would want to consider playing three clubs doubled to punish East for getting into the auction. I should have at least four of them to re-double. Therefore, I **pass** to convey the message of "Three decent clubs and I'm willing to sit," to partner. West also **passes** and partner bids **three hearts**. East now **passes**. I don't take partner to be showing a five card heart suit in this situation, but rather his lowest four card suit and unwillingness to play three clubs doubled. Therefore, lacking a four card major, I bid **three no-trump**. This is followed by three passes. The auction has been:

N	E	S	W
		2N	P
3♣	X	P	P
3♥	P	3N	P
P	P		

The four of clubs is led and this dummy appears:

♠J1053♠ ♥Q985 ♦Q2 ♣865

Well, three club tricks, a diamond, two hearts and a spade is only seven tricks. This is a pair short of what we've contracted for. A heart break and a favorable diamond lie or opponents breaking spades for me would bring the total up to snuff. I play the five from dummy. East plays the jack and I win this with the king. I now start with the jack of hearts. West rises with the king. I play dummy's five and East plays the deuce. The deuce of clubs now appears. This gets the six from dummy and the nine from East. My ten wins this trick. I lay down the ace of hearts. This draws the six, the eight and the four. The trey of hearts draws the seven, the queen and the ten. The favorable heart break brings my total to eight tricks. I cash dummy's nine of hearts. East discards the trey of clubs. I throw the trey of diamonds and West discards the deuce of spades. I now lead the jack of spades from dummy. East covers with the queen, which I win with the ace. West follows with the four. I lead the nine of spades. West plays the seven, dummy the five and East the six. East has only two clubs left. So I can cash the ace and throw him in with the next spade. He can cash a club but then

will be end played and forced to lead away from his king of diamonds. Therefore, I cash the ace of clubs. West discards the four of diamonds. Dummy follows with the eight and East plays the seven. Now, I lead the eight of spades. West plays the king, dummy the ten and East discards the five of diamonds. This is unexpected. West, now down to all diamonds, leads the six. I don't have any choice but to play the queen from dummy and hope. East produced the nine and I follow with the seven. The ten of spades and the aces of diamonds take the last two tricks. The complete hand was:

♠J1053	
♥Q985	
♦Q5	
♣865	
♠K742	♠Q6
♥K76	♥1042
♦KJ64	♦1095
♣42	♣QJ973
♠A98	
♥AJ3	
♦A873	
♣AK10	

Post Mortem

Three no-trump making five for plus 660 was 161/2 of 17 matchpoints. The bidding was typically overaggressive for Flight A events. In what other game would the double of three clubs be considered? Not that I think it has much justification, but at any other form of scoring, it would be

(Justice cont. on page 11)

LEARN with ME: Responding to 1NT with Both Major Suits!

By Bonni Newton (with help from the Wednesday Crew)

On Wednesdays at the <200 pts. game, we have been studying No Trump bidding. We have covered Stayman and Transfers. We are now at the interesting and challenging part: **What do you do with 4 of one major and 5 of the other, when your partner has opened 1NT?**

Time to study!! What discussion the Wed. teachers had! **DISAGREEMENTS!!** We found several ways to bid these. (BUT, there is a "draw-back" to each system.) They all worked well if Opener had at least one 4-card major, but it became complicated when Opener had no 4-card major and Responder had 4 of one major and 5 of the other. How could they find out if they had a 5-3 fit?

We've decided the Smolen convention is the best way to handle this situation when you have game-going pts. Smolen is an extension of Stayman. Smolen lets Responder search for a 4-card major fit by first bidding Stayman. When you don't find one, it allows you to transfer Opener to your 5-card major.

Responding with 4 of one major and 5 of the other and a game-going hand (10 pts. or more) using Smolen

1. If Responder has 5 hearts and 4 spades the bid will go like this

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C*	P
2D**	P	3S***	P
??			

* Stay man
 ** No 4-card major
 *** Smolen: I have a 5-card heart suit and a 4-card Spade suit and game going values. Partner pick your game at 4H or 3NT.
 ?? If Opener only has 2 hearts, he will bid 3NT; if Opener has 3 hearts he will bid 4 hearts.

Why does responder bid his 4-card major and not his 5-card major! Responder wants the NT Opener to be the declarer (the stronger hand).

2. Likewise if he has 4 hearts and 5 spades the bidding will go

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C*	P
2D**	P	3H***	P
??			

* Stayman
 ** No 4-card major
 *** Smolen: I have a 4-card heart suit and a 5-card Spade suit and game going values.
 ?? Partner, pick your game at 4S or 3NT.

Responding with 4 of one major and 5 of the other and an invitational hand (8 or 9 pts.)

This one is not so easy. Responder has to tell partner that he has an invitational hand plus tell partner which major is 4 and which major is 5. Since there is a controversy on how to bid this, we looked for the easiest solution. If Responder has 4 hearts and 5 spades, bid 2 spades.

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C*	P
2D**	P	2S***	P
??			

* Stayman
 ** No 4-card major
 *** I have 5 spades, 4 hearts, and 8 or 9 points. My hand is very distributional. (Responder has described his hand!)
 ?? Now Opener must decide how high (pass, 3, 4) and what contract (spades, hearts, or NT.)

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2d*	P
2H**	P	2S***	P
??			

* Transfer to hearts
 ** Transfer completed (Opener is not at 17 pts and does not have 4 hearts)
 *** I have 5 hearts, 4 spades, and 8 or 9 points. My hand is very distributional. (Responder has described his hand!)

(Majors cont. on page 7)

(Majors cont. from page 6)

?? Now Opener must decide how high (pass, 3, 4) and what contract (hearts, spades, or NT.)

Responding with 4 of one major and 5 of the other and a weak hand (0-7 pts.)

The important thing to remember here is that we want **to find the best fit BUT not let the bidding go above the 2-level!**

When you are 4 of one major and 5 of the other major, and your partner opened 1NT, the bidding ALWAYS goes like this

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C*	P
2D**	P	2H***	P
??			

* Stayman

** No 4-card major

*** Pick your best major!

?? **Opener must pass or bid 2S.** NOTE: this means the Opener MAY be playing in a 4-3 fit but you've described your hand and kept the bidding at the 2-level.

The Wed. team has chosen Smolen as the best way for Responder to bid when Opener has bid 1NT and Responder has 5 of one major and 4 of the other and game-going pts. If you have a better way, email Bonni at bjnbridge@live.com

And if you have less than 200 pts, join Jessie, Gregg, Mike and me (Bonni) on Wednesday afternoon. There is a short lesson at 12 and the game starts at 12:30. We try to be finished by 3:30.

KEEP IN MIND

When Opener bids 1NT (15-17 points)

- and Responder has a game-going hand (10 or more points), *the partnership has 25 or more points and should be in game.*
- and Responder has an invitational hand (8 or 9 pts.), *the partnership has between 23 and 26 pts. This means a 3-level suit bid is probably makeable and a game bid might be possible. Opener must decide.*
- and Responder has a bust hand (0-7 pts.), *the partnership has at most 15 to 24 pts. and the bid probably should not go beyond the 2-level.*



Thank You! Thank You!
From Bonni

I want to thank all that have taken any of my classes this year.

I raised just short of \$10,000 for the Leukemia. Lymphoma Society.

You have saved someone's life suffering from Leukemia. Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma or one of the other blood cancers

I applaud and thank you so very much for your continued support.



Happy 2013

Playing to the First Trick-Part 3

By Evie Mintzer

Here are some more hands Evie Mintzer sent us from teacher Frank Hacker's series on playing to the first trick.

When playing to the first trick remembering his five rules will help you with your declarer play.

1. Count your winners
2. Count your losers
3. Identify the dangers
4. Consider clues from the bidding
5. Formulate a plan

How should you play to the first trick in each of these hands?

Hand 1: The contract is 3NT by S; the opening lead is ♠J.

♠ K32	
♥ 32	
♦ 32	
♣ K109876	
♠ J10987	♠ 65
♥ 76	♥ QJ1098
♦ QJ109	♦ 876
♣ 32	♣ AJ4
♠ AQ4	
♥ AK54	
♦ AK54	
♣ Q5	

Whatever you celebrate
this time of year:
Hanukkah, Winter Solstice,
Christmas, Kwanza,
or just being alive,
may you find
fulfillment,
contentment, and peace.

Hand 2: The contract is 3NT; the lead is ♠Q.

♠ 5432	
♥ A432	
♦ J	
♣ AK32	
♠ QJ109	♠ 876
♥ 98	♥ KQJ10
♦ 87654	♦ A
♣ 76	♣ QJ098
♠ AK	
♥ 765	
♦ KQ10932	
♣ 54	

Answers

Hand 1: South won the opening lead in hand with the spade queen. With 7 tricks outside of clubs, South needed 2 club tricks. He led the ♣Q which held the trick. On the second club lead, South guessed to play the ♣10 from the dummy. East won the Jack. Since dummy had only 1 entry outside of clubs, she was limited to 1 club trick and ended up down 1.

The solution is to lead the 5 of clubs on the first club lead and play to dummy's ♣10. If East ducks, declarer has 1 club trick and just needs to lead a low club from dummy toward his ♣Q to secure the second. If East wins the ♣J, declarer wins the return in hand and leads the ♣ to dummy, overtaking with the ♣K. Declarer can knock out the ♣A while dummy still has the ♠K as an entry.

Hand 2: South won the opening lead in hand with ♠A. With 5 tricks outside of diamonds, South needed 4 diamond tricks. Entries were short and South decided he was being clever by leading the ♦K from his hand. This wasted dummy's ♦J, but South was okay as long as diamonds split no worse than 4-2. Diamonds, however, split 5-1 and West's ♦8 proved to be a stopper. South went down 1 and moaned about his bad luck. He also noted that the worst possible play, leading a low diamond to the jack would have worked.

His partner, always helpful advised him that he made a slight, but costly, error in the play. He should have led a club to dummy and led the ♦J from the board. The appearance of the ace would have obviated the necessity to crash dummy's diamond honor. If the ace didn't appear, then South could follow through with his original plan by playing the king on the jack. Just a slight difference in timing and a tiny extra percentage, but sometimes timing is everything.



Why I Hate Gerber

By Bud Stowe

I think THE most important principle of successful bridge bidding is that you and your partner have agreements for the meaning of each and every bid in whatever system you decide to play. Also, it is important that you remember what the agreements are.

When Pete Wityk and I first started playing bridge together in the late sixties, we loved to try new systems and conventions. We had agreed to play a system called Swiss where responder made a bid of 4 clubs (0-2 key cards) or 4 diamonds (3-5 key cards) in response to partner opening the bidding with one of a major to show a strong raise of that major opening.

So while playing at a tournament where we had decided beforehand to play Swiss and Gerber, I opened the bidding with one heart and Pete responded with a bid of 4 clubs. Now, my mind thought his 4 club bid must be Gerber. (Forgetting that it was agreed between us that it was a strong raise of the major) Because I thought it was Gerber I responded 4 No Trump to show my 2 unalike Aces (we actually played "Roman Gerber." We loved gadgets in those days!). Pete then bid 5 Spades. Well this totally blew my mind (Pete often did that to me!). I could not fathom how he could ask for Aces and then "sign off" in Spades. I somehow finally decided he must have just

bid his own good spade suit. So I passed. Of course, Pete bid 4 Clubs as a Swiss bid with a very good hand and heart support. When he heard me bid 4 No Trump he took it as Roman Blackwood and responded with his 2 unalike Aces. Needless to say Pete was unable to bring home 5 Spades on the 2-1 fit and we missed a cold 6 hearts on a (making) finesse for 7.

I have not played Gerber (or Swiss for that matter) since !!!!

I honestly feel that over the years I have seen the Gerber 4C bid incorrectly more often than not. Either one partner or the other did not take 4 clubs as Gerber, or took 4 clubs to not mean Gerber when it was, or they mistook whether they played 1430 or just aces for the response. I also have seen lack of agreement for what subsequent bid asks for kings --- next highest bid, 4NT or 5 clubs?

The most common misunderstanding centers on whether 4C is natural or not. Pete recalls a simple 1C-2C-3C-4C-pass auction where the 4C bidder meant it as Gerber (and, of course, his partner treated the bid as invitational). This auction began with an inverted minor raise and the opener clearly felt they were forced to game. Understanding and working out with your part-

ner when bids are forcing to game is vitally important to any good bidding scheme.

Many partnerships establish rules as to when 4C is Gerber (and when it isn't). The most common agreement is 4 clubs is Gerber after a first or last NT bid. But even with this "rule" in place, I have seen a partnerships go astray. Clearly Gerber is a fine convention. It allows you to play in 4 of your major when you find out that you are missing two Aces. Even if you lose a trick in addition to the two aces you could still make your contract, but as with any convention, the most important consideration is that you and your partner agree on all the ramifications of the conventional bid.

(Trump Suit cont. from page 14)
but declarer plays another heart and puts you in. You need to make the right switch pronto before declarer's losers go on the diamonds. If partner played hi-lo in trump, you can confidently put your king on the table, expecting the ace (maybe the queen) in his hand. On the other hand, if partner signals lo-hi, you are confident that declarer has the ace of spades and your best chance is to attack clubs. Without this convention you would remain in the dark about what to do next, because partner hasn't had the opportunity to discard.

Evidence Based Medicine for the Confused

By Mike Harvey, D.O., FAAFP

Here is a recipe to think about:

Mix and stir in a large bowl:

- one part medical provider inadequacy
- one part general media hype
- two parts insurers best interests
- four parts unbearable cost burdens
- pinches of internet resources to your liking
- a gazillion technological advances
- add a little economic turmoil

Cook deep in the oven on the federal government setting until boiling, then cool on the counter top of state, local and business “experts”. After cooling, cut into pieces of varying size and toss gently into the breeze.

Medicine today has evolved into a lot more than shot of penicillin for pneumonia, a few hospital stays and family supported hospice. The rate of change is accelerating as fast as the dollar can support. Confusion abounds at all levels.

So what is John Q and Jane Doe to do? Kinda sounds like we need to anticipate RHO having a 5-0 trump split against us more times than not! Hmm!!

As usual, the best answer comes from within. We can't

control most of these issues, so we hope and pray for the best.

However, we can control our self. Here are few ideas we cover in most of these articles, and a few new ones. This first one sounds familiar

1. Live healthy; although not a guarantee, the less medical need you need, the better off you will be.

Eat healthy, exercise your body and mind, maintain your best weight, do not smoke, moderate alcohol, control stress. Hum, sounds familiar although I don't think I heard any of that in those political ads.

2. Use evidence based medicine and common sense to guide your health plans.

Keep immunizations up to date, perform appropriate female or male health checks as recommended. Get regular cardiovascular and cancer screening performed. Properly treat your known health risks including hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, lung or kidney disease, and mental health issues.

Evidence based medicine (EBM) is a fairly new and evolving protocol for care. It is a process where reliable information from numerous

sources is combined and analyzed to determine the benefit and risk of a given procedure or treatment. Information considered are the frequency of an illness, the accuracy of tests, the change in outcomes and how this positively and negatively affects the individual. This information is then quantified so it can be used to help make decisions. This information is also utilized by the policy makers of insurance companies and governmental agencies.

Although this data is suggestive of best practice ideas, individuals have varying needs that are important considerations in care. Likewise, individuals need to be open to new ideas, as yesterdays “medical gospel” changes quickly. Some of these evidence based guideline may work “favorably” in your opinion, others not so much. Review the guidelines and reasoning to the extent you wish.

Guidelines are available for broad topics like cancer screening, to complex treatment of a specific disease process. Guidelines are also available in dentistry, vet med, and other fields. The guidelines apply to otherwise healthy individuals, people without specific symptoms or known high risks.

(EBM cont. on page 11)

(EBM cont. from page 10)

These medical guidelines are published by many organizations: The US Preventive Task Force, World Health Organization, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, the American Academies of Family Practice, Pediatrics, Surgeons to name a few. The federal based Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) has a website with good information and web links. These sites are readily available on the internet.

Here is a list of evidence based recommendations from the USPTF that applies to adults:

- Aspirin therapy recommended for men 45-79 and women 55-79, with consideration for gastrointestinal side effects
- Screening adults for alcohol misuse, tobacco use, STD risks and depression
- Mammograms in women age 50-74
- PAP smears in women age 21-65
- Colon cancer screening age 50-65
- Diabetes screening in hypertensive adults
- High BP screening in adults every 2 years if normal, yearly if borderline
- Lipid (cholesterol) screening in men over 35 and females over 45, younger if increased risk
- Osteoporosis screen (bone density) in females 60 and over
- Abdominal aortic aneu-

rysm screen in men 65-75 who have ever smoked

Interestingly, many common diseases today do not have good screening tools. The USPTF recommends against screening with today's available tools for many diseases :

- Many cancers including bladder, ovarian, pancreatic, lung, skin, testicular and prostate
- Genetic screening for many diseases
- Many STD including herpes and Hepatitis C
- Carotid and peripheral vascular disease
- COPD, like emphysema and chronic bronchitis
- Thyroid diseases
- Glaucoma
- Hemochromatosis

Many recommendations will likely change as research provides better insight into outcomes. Many current recommendations or lack of recommendations are based on incomplete data, and active research is underway on many disease processes.

Many of these recommendations are welcomed information, and some raise an eyebrow. It is important to review this information with your provider and do what is best for you.

It always helps to be informed, make good decisions and live a healthy lifestyle.

(Justice cont. from page 5)

complete lunacy. Note my efforts to take advantage of the double. If partner had one more club, we'd be totaling up the score for three clubs doubled making; possibly with an overtrick if he were 4-4-1-4. Once the opponents make this kind of bid, you need to make them pay. I must admit that the opponents misdefended. How often do you see a normally competent defender endplay herself? On the other hand, her partner did not help with the 'lead directing double.' It's true that I expected to endplay East and was surprised to see West turn up with all three kings. However, it was poetic justice to get the gift.

Newer Players

Don't miss these opportunities to get into duplicate bridge:

Monday evening:
0-20 pt. game
lesson at 6:00 pm
and game at 6:30.

Wednesday afternoon:
0-199 game
lesson at Noon and
game at 12:30.

How to Better Handle Common Bidding Situations: Part I

By Toby White

This article is for beginning to intermediate players, and will focus only on the left-hand side of the standard bidding card. I will discuss the right-hand half of the card in the next issue of the *Hawkeyer*. Furthermore, I will discuss only basic bids here (e.g., those that the majority of players utilize), rather than anything that is alertable. I have tried to identify ten relatively common bidding situations for which I have frequently observed confusion and suboptimal decision-making. Many of these decisions could be improved upon by simply covering these possibilities in a pre-game chat, while the other situations are more universal, and are learned through years of experience (via trial and error).

1) **Negative Doubles** – The primary purpose of negative doubles is to reveal the presence of an unbid 4-card major after partner opens and RHO overcalls. However, if you have 5 cards in the unbid major, you may bid this directly; this means that you should not bid the major directly (in the bidding sequence described above) if you have only 4 cards. Also, if you have at least 5 cards in the unbid major, but are not strong enough to bid at the 2-level (i.e., you have less than 10 HCP), you can also use the negative double, and then perhaps you will have a

chance to bid the suit naturally later; partner will know you are light on HCP but long in the major.

2) **Simple Overcalls** – It is essential that you and partner establish bounds on how strong / weak your hand can be to make a basic 1-level overcall. I play 8-16 HCP. If you also play this range, resist the temptation to make a 1-level overcall with 6 HCP, as partner will count on you for additional strength, and bidding on this inference may result in a future penalty double. Also, if you have a big hand (e.g. – 19+ HCP), doubling and then bidding a natural suit next time is appropriate, but if you make a 1-level overcall, partner will think you are more limited. Don't forget to overcall 1NT (in direct seat) with 15-18 balanced HCP and a stopper in opponent's suit.

3) **Responding to Partner's Double After Opponent's Open** – If LHO opens the bidding at the 1-level, partner doubles, and RHO passes, partner is forcing you to bid, even with 0 HCP, and should not expect anything from you unless you make a jump bid. If you have 9+ HCP, or even a good 8 HCP (perhaps with a decent suit), consider making a jump bid; failing to do so will tell your partner you

are minimal, and is a sure way to miss game. Also, if LHO opens the bidding at the 4 level, and partner doubles, be sure to know whether the double is for takeout or penalty. I like to play 'takeout' through 4H, so that a double of 4S is for penalty (with 4NT = take-out).

4) **Bidding over Opponent's Double After Partner Opens** – If partner opens the bidding at the 1-level, and RHO makes a takeout double, you can be a little more aggressive in deciding to bid if you are slightly light (4-5 HCP), relative to the time when RHO passes. More importantly, if you actually have points (10+ HCP), especially if you do not like partner's suit, stick in a 'Redouble.' Subsequently, the opponents will be scrambling to minimize the damage from having entered the auction, so except in rare circumstances, double whatever they bid for penalty. Much too often, I observe people rescuing desperate opponents just to receive a measly part score in return.

5) **Defense vs. Notrump** – It is not enough to simply discuss (before the game starts) what system you and partner will play (if any) to bid over opponent's opening notrump. There are two ad-

(Common cont. on page 13)

(Common cont. from page 12)

ditional concerns of utmost importance. First, will your system apply in the direct seat only or in all seats? Many people like to play that all bids in the balancing (pass-out) seat are natural, and that a double would be either take-out or for penalty. Second, what will you play against a weak notrump system? It seems that these obstructive opening bids are becoming increasingly common, and most advanced players will have a different system in place to address them.

6) **Balancing Notrump** – This bid is either forgotten or misapplied as much as anything on the card. If LHO opens makes a 1-level opening, and both partner and RHO pass, a 1NT bid by you shows a balanced 11-14 HCP hand with a stopper in opener's suit. It does not show 15-18 HCP, as if you had been in the direct overcaller's position. Furthermore, the basic systems that apply over a regular 1NT opener or overcall do NOT apply over a balancing 1NT. Thus, if you balance with 1NT, a subsequent 2C bid by partner is natural (not Stayman), and a 2D/2H bid by partner is also natural (not a transfer). Misinterpreting partner's NT bid is an easy way to get a 'bottom.'

7) **Opening 3 or 4 Level Preempts** – The rules here are less stringent than when making standard weak-2 level preempts. However, this does not mean that one should

throw 'caution to the wind.' Vulnerability (yours and the opponents) is paramount – you can be more aggressive 'white', especially 'white v. red'. Also, I'm much more likely to make such a preempt in 3rd seat (or possibly in 1st seat) versus 2nd or 4th because the probabilities are much greater in those seats that I will be preempting the opponents rather than partner. I'm old-fashioned in that I like to have at least 7 cards in the suit, but 'more creative' players also interfere with 6 on occasion.

8) **Michaels** – This seems to be one of the first conventions beginning players learn (and it is not alertable); however, in my opinion, it is often misapplied. First, I would not recommend doing this (even non-vulnerable) unless you have at least 5 cards in two of the unbid suits (either both majors over a minor suit opening, or the other major and a minor over a major suit opening); that is, resist the temptation to use this with 5-4 or 4-4 shape. Second, this convention was designed to be applied when one is either weak (to be preemptive) or strong; thus, if you have medium strength (11-14 points), consider bidding the suits naturally, bidding the higher ranking suit first.

9) **Gerber** – Many players (even some experienced ones) are afraid to use this basic slam-bidding convention for

fear that a forcing bid will be passed or misinterpreted. There are two issues that you and your partner should discuss that should clear up potential confusion here. First, does Gerber apply only over NT opening bids (e.g., 1NT-4C, 2NT-4C) or can it also apply when partner arrives at 3NT, and then you bid 4C? I like to play that Gerber is on in both situations. Second, are the responses to a 4C Gerber bid more like Regular Blackwood or 1430 Key-Card Blackwood? Just decide the answers to these beforehand, and you should be fine.

10) **Key-Card Blackwood** – At our club, this seems to be the most popular convention when exploring slam in a suit contract. Note that most Iowa players use 1430 rather than 3014. However, there are two facets of this system that are often neglected. First, don't forget that the king of trump is one of the five key cards, and once it has been identified as such, don't double-count it if subsequently telling about kings. Second, when using 1430, don't forget that over a 5C (1 or 4 KCs) or 5D (0 or 3 KCs) response, one can often freely ask if partner holds the queen of trump by artificially bidding the next highest suit. If not, bailing out at the 5 level may be best.



Trump Suit Preference

By Rich Newell

Looking for a convention that is easy to remember, comes up all the time, and will aid your defense? Give trump suit preference a try. This convention affords you an opportunity to exchange meaningful information when playing worthless trump spot cards on defense. It will force you to be observant with more of the cards that are played, and that can only help your game.

Trump suit preference involves giving a hi-lo in the trump suit when you have a useful card (particularly the A or K) in the highest suit that is not trump. You will

frequently be telling partner if you have a good spade card, unless spades are trump in which case you would usually signal in hearts. I say usually because I need to introduce two caveats:

- (1) Do not throw away a high trump if that card might become a trick.
- (2) If both you and your partner can visibly see there is no point in signaling for the default suit – either because dummy is void or has AK, or because you have already taken those tricks on lead – then signal in the next highest suit that is not trump.

Give yourself the following hand:

♠K10852 ♥A7 ♦432 ♣KT9

The auction goes 1♥ on your right, 1♠ by you, 2♥ on your left, 2♠ by partner, 4♥ by RHO, all pass. Not knowing what lead might be right, suppose you lead a passive diamond. When dummy comes down, you regret it; dummy is:

♠97 ♥QJ52 ♦QJT98 ♣62

Declarer plays the queen of diamonds. Your partner, helplessly holding a doubleton, inserts the king and declarer wins with the ace. Now declarer plays the king of hearts. You duck one round,

(Trump Suit cont. on page 9)

More Silly Limericks

This one was submitted by Peter Reed

A woman played oft at the Bridge House
As did her dear partner and spouse
Although he was quite deaf
and of memory bereft
She stayed quiet as a mouse.

These were submitted by Bob Schutt

Listen bridge players and you shall hear
How to learn bridge in only a year
For twenty-five hours every day
Go to bridge house and play
Soon you will play without any peer.

There was once at unit two one six
A man who won most of the tricks
He knew how to squeeze and finesse
And with coups did he oft impress
Compared to him the rest were but hicks.

Listen bridge players you shall hear
How he found his love so very dear
He open with his heart
When a diamond did its part
Black suits at a wedding then did appear

A woman played oft at the Bridge House
As did her dear partner and spouse
Her signals he usually missed
And his bid he often missed
Even so she still loved the big louse.

This is by the famous poet Anon Emus

Listen bridge players and you shall hear
Of a player much famous far and near
His bidding was grand
He played well the hands
But at the round table, he drank only
beer!

Up the ACBL Ladder (Sept., Oct., Nov.)

New Members: Austin Patison, Daylene Hunt, Jack Mauldin, Becky Webb, Sally Meyer, Linda Brown

New Junior Masters (5 MP): Barbara Rice, Sandra Stoltenow, Becky Webb, Mark Davis, Libby Drew, Penelope Rittgers

New Club Masters (20 MP): Jane Burger, Bruce Martin, Karen Stahlhut, William Hobson

New Sectional Masters (50

MP): Mary Harlan, Sheryl Morrow, Robert Schutt, Elizabeth Holzer, Betty Torgerson

New Regional Masters (100 MP): Phyllis Seim, Carol Long, Roger Rinderknect, Marianne Gideon, Jonann Noftsgger

New NABC Masters (200 MP): Kevin Jones, Dominic Antonelli, Jan Carr

New Life Masters (300 MP): Audrey Couse, J. Ripperger,

Roger Kriebs

New Bronze Life Masters (500 MP): Shirley Krentz, Gerald Oliphant, Rick Hendryx

New Gold Life Masters(2500): Rick Newell, Ann Olsson

Silver (1000): Doris Tometich

Diamond, (5000): Jim Swanson

No new Emerald (7500), Platinum (10000), or Grand Life Masters

When to Call the Director

By Brenda Oliphant

It is not bad manners to call the director when in doubt--he/she is always very happy to keep the game running evenly.

The director **MUST** be called if any of the following occur:

- A revoke
- Bid or pass out of turn
- Insufficient Bid
- Lead out of turn
- Undue hesitation
- Failure to alert

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DUMMY

The Dummy may:

- Point out a revoke after the hand has been played.
- Ask declarer to double-check if he fails to follow suit.
- Warn partner if he seems about to lead from the wrong hand.

The dummy may **NOT**:

- Call the director.
- Play a card except at declarer's request.
- Look at partner's hand.

- Comment on bidding or play before hand is over.

To Summarize: The dummy should attempt to prevent an infraction of the rules but may not take further part in the play of the hand once the auction is over.

At every duplicate bridge game, there is at least one trained referee known as the director. Whenever you are unsure of the proprieties or laws of bridge, you may tell the rest of the players at the table that you are going to call for the director. Then simply raise

your hand in the air and say, "Director, please." The director will then come over to help straighten things out. When in doubt, ask the director! That is what she's there for.



Classes, Classes, Classes

Classes at the Bridge House: 10190 Hickman Court; Clive, IA

On-Going Classes

For Advancing players

Thursday Mornings -\$5

Jessie 9:30am-11am

Joan 11am-11:45am

Contact Louise Dechant

277-4514

Supervised Play

(no partner necessary)

(beginners' tables available)

Fridays: 9:30am-11:30am-\$5

Bonni Newton 778-0899

Or bjnbridge@live.com

Free Classes before Games

Monday 11am-11:45 am

Tuesday 11am-11:45 am

Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Urbandale Senior Center

7305 Aurora Avenue

Urbandale, IA

Free Bridge Lesson

Bidding and playing review -
Some bridge experience helpful.

Thu. 10:30AM-11:30AM

Paul Spong 287-2597

Up-Coming Classes

Beginning Bridge

(8 Week course for people with
no or little bridge experience)

Starting Feb 2: 3:30 am-5:30 am

\$20 for the course

\$15 for the book

Susan Seitz: susanseitz@dwx.com

Mike Smith: mike8smith@dwx.m

8 week: Brush UP Bridge

(Fundraisers for the Leukemia
Lymphoma Society)

Starting Feb. 1: 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

And Feb. 6: 3:00 pm-8:30 pm

\$40 for the course

\$10 for the book

Bonni Newton: 778-0899

bjnbridge@live.com

8 week: Play of the Hand

Starting Jan 16 1pm-3:30pm

Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Starting Jan. 31 7pm-9pm

Kathi Kellen 783-1101

kksbridge@yahoo.com

Or

Mike Smith mike8smith@dwx.com

Cost \$40; book available

A winning way to start the New Year is at the...



Hawkeye Holiday January 3-6 2013

Greater Des Moines Bridge House
10190 Hickman Court Clive, IA

Sectional Bridge
Tournament
Sanction # S1301003



For all events points
are averaged.



Newer Player Events
Strata for newer player events:
A 100-200, B 50-100, C 0-50

Friday, Jan. 4 1 p.m. 0-200 pairs
 7 p.m. 0-200 pairs

Saturday, Jan. 5 10 a.m. 0-200 pairs
 3 p.m. 0-200 pairs

Events held if sufficient attendance.



Open Events

Strata for pairs events: A 2000+, B 750-2000, C 0-750
Thursday, Jan. 3 7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Friday, Jan. 4 1 p.m. Stratified pairs
 7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Saturday, Jan. 5 10 a.m. Stratified pairs (single session)



3 p.m. Stratified pairs (single session)

Table fees: \$8/person/session for ACBL members; \$9 for non and unpaid life masters.

Sunday, Jan. 6 10 a.m. Two session Strata-flighted Swiss Teams

Flight A (Strata: A 2000+ AX 0-2000) Flight B (Strata: B 500-750 C 200-500 D 0-200)

(2 session play-through \$80/team)

Director in charge: Larry Brobst

Chairperson: Harry Swanson (515) 224-1733
tournaments@bridgeunit216.org

Partnerships:
0-500 Scott Riley 238-0606
scottriley7@hotmail.com

500+ Mary Lou Agocs 225-2454
LAgocsjr@aol.com

For tournament results, visit our web site:
<http://www.bridgeunit216.org/>



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ZERO TOLERANCE
TOURNAMENT, PLAY AND
HAVE FUN!



Motels
Days Inn (Clive)
1600 NW114thSt.
515-226-1600
\$52.95
mention Bridge Club
rate

or
Sleep Inn
11211 Hickman Rd.
Urbandale, IA
515-270-2424
\$71.96
mention Bridge Club
rate

THE HAWKEYER
UNIT 216 OF ACBL
10190 Hickman Court
CLIVE, IA 50325

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Mark Your Calendar

Unit 216 Sectionals

District 14 Regionals

ACBL Nationals

Spring Festival

Clive, IA
Apr. 4-Apr.7, 2013

Des Moines Regional

West Des Moines, IA
Jul. 1-Jul. 7, 2013

St. Louis, MO

Mar.14-Mar.24, 2013

Stars of Tomorrow

Clive, IA
Aug. 24-25, 2013

Council Bluffs Regional

Council Bluffs, IA
Jul. 22-Jul. 28, 2013

Atlanta, GA

Aug.1-Aug.11, 2013

Cornbelt

Clive, IA
Sept. 11-14, 2013

Rough Rider Regional

Fargo, ND
Aug. 27-Sept. 02,2013

Phoenix

Nov. 28-Dec. 22, 2013