

The Hawkeyer

Unit Loses Long-Time Supporters

August was a sad month for local bridge players. The unit lost three long-time well-known bridge players: Jayne Larson (page 3) Harriet Byers, and Barb Chiafos.

Harriet Byers

This month local area bridge players, Unit 216, but especially the Des Moines Bridge Center mourned the death of one of our favorite people: player, teacher, friend—Harriet Byers. It’s impossible to assess the effect Harriet had on bridge, especially in Des Moines. The stories about her are almost endless and “...but, but



Harriet said...” will continue to be heard at the Bridge Center for a long time. Last year Harriet was nominated to ACBL as Teacher of the Year. When she didn’t win, her friends and students at the Bridge Center honored her with a dinner as our Teacher of the Year.

Joan Anderson, her long-time friend and partner, is collecting remembrances of Harriet. Send your memory to jla224@mchsi.com.

The following heart-warming letter was sent to the Bridge Center from Harriet’s daughter. The letter is much like Harriet, herself, every time you tried to give her a gift, she returned even more back to you.

Sandy’s letter:

I address this letter to all who celebrate my mother’s life. Anyone that knew H.B., knew of her love and passion for the game of bridge. She started playing party bridge as a young woman. In the mid 60’s she was introduced to duplicate and met Frank. As I look back, I realize that her life changed course because of bridge.

I have been fortunate to spend time with many of you over the years. Others, I have met since my mother’s ill-

(Harriet cont. on page 4)

Sept 2012 Highlights

Jayne Larson	3
New 199er game	4
Bad Break	5
Forcing Bid?	6
Playing to First Trick	7
Best Lead.....	7
Weak Two Bids	8
Elks Ladies Bridge	8
Talking Bridge Quiz	9
Importance of Defense ..	11
Scoring Duplicate	12
Memory Jogger	13
Limericks.....	13
Up the Ladder.....	14
Mentoring Magic	15
Classes	16
Bridget Cartoon	16

Hawkeye Bridge Association

Officers

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

Board of Directors

2012 Margie Brennan
Rod Burnett
Pete Wityk
Craig Nelsen
2013 Mike Smith
Gregg Walsh
Kathi Kellen
Dee Wilson
2014 Mary Lou Agocs
Charlene Hendryx
Stan Gustafson
Harry Swanson

Committees

Advertising: Mary Lou Agocs,
Kathi Kellen, Joan Anderson,
Rod Burnett, Jerry Burgess

Appeals: Pete Wityk, Jim
Swanson, Val Laing

Audit: Stan Gustafson

Calendar: Scott Riley

Conduct and Ethics: Tom Olsson,
John Gustafson, Larry
Harrington

Education: Joan Anderson,
Kathi Kellen

Hawkeyer: Terry Swanson

Intermediate/Newcomer

Coordinator: Nancy Wilson

Tournaments: Charlene
Hendryx, Kathi Kellen, Margie
Brennan, Nancy Wilson

Mentoring: Nancy Wilson, Evie
Mintzer

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

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. 11 am Free lesson
12:00 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

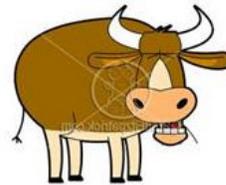
Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center; 20 E State St.
Larry Park 641-752-6121

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



**Steer your
way to
Des Moines
for the . . .**

**Cornbelt
Tournament
Sept 13-16**



Jayne Larson

By Evie Mintzer

Form Jayne's obituary:

Jayne Larson, 51, of Ames passed away June 17, 2012. Jayne enjoyed playing bridge in the American Contract Bridge League.

Jayne is survived by her husband Ira White, son, Jordan and daughter Julia of Ames.

Some 25 to 30 years ago Al and I would play in team games with Jayne Larson and Brian Hayenga. It was always exciting since we never knew what they were going to do. Jayne had an uncanny sense of the cards and would bid on garbage and many times score well on that particular board. Al and I called them the kamikaze kids.

So one night they invited us to play with them in a team game in Ames, Iowa. After the final round when we went to compare scores, Jayne apologized and said she really blew it on the last hand.

North, the dealer, opened one club, Jayne bid one heart (10 x), next hand bid 2 diamonds, and Brian bid 4 hearts (he had 5). Declarer doubled and Jayne went for minus 800. I said, "Don't go home yet, let's compare our scores."

At our table the final contract was 7NT with south the declarer. Here is the hand:

♠ Axxx	
♥ AQxx	
♦ Ax	
♣ AJx	
♠ K10x	♠ Jxxx
♥ Jxxxx	♥ 10x
♦ x	♦ xxx
♣ Qxxx	♣ Kxxx
♠ Qx	
♥ Kx	
♦ KQJ10xxx	
♣ xx	



A heart was led by west and won in hand. ♠A was played; ♦A was played; ♣A was played; six diamonds were played and west's hand was squeezed. The dummy was left with ♥AQx. To protect his heart suit, west discarded ♠K. That set up the ♠Q and with two more hearts, the hand made 13 tricks.

After Jayne humbly announced minus 800, I announced plus 2220. We won the event!

We, as well as others in our unit and district, will miss Jayne very much. Her intuitiveness, excellent card playing ability and friendliness will leave a void in our unit.

Watch your thoughts;
they become words.
Watch your words;
they become actions.
Watch your actions;
they become habits.
Watch your habits;
they become character.
Watch your character;
it becomes your destiny.

(Harriet cont. from page 1)

ness and some of you I feel I know as my mother has spoken of you so often. My brother and I want you to know we appreciate your help in her final days. We are grateful for all of the prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls, visits, words of kindness, movies, and yummy treats.

After mom's death I came across countless boxes of cards and letters, pictures and mementos, from you, her students and friends. Until this time, I really had no idea that she had touched so many lives and held such a special place in so many hearts. If there was ever any doubt in her mind as to the value of her contributions, you put it to rest by expressing your gratitude, respect, love and happy memories. Thank you all for remembering and honoring my mother while she was alive.

As her daughter, I can't tell how much your love and compassion has meant to me. I now understand why H.B. was so close to her bridge friends and considered you a second family.

*Sandy Hayward
660 N.W. 101st terrace
Plantation, Fl 33324
954-551-0384
sabh@bellsouth.net*

New 199er Game

Several Bridge House teachers and directors are pooling their talents to start a new game for 199ers. Beginning Wed. Sept. 5th, Joan Anderson, Jessie Chance, Bonnie Newton, Susan Seitz, Mike Smith, and Gregg Walsh will be offering a lesson and a limited game for players with less than 200 points.

Sometime this summer the folks who were playing in the library (as we used to say) found they had moved on up to the B section, and there were not enough players to fill the C (<200 section). That left several newer players without a place to play at

a comfortable level. So these teachers and directors got together to see if a Wed. afternoon game, limited to players with less than 200 points, would fill that need. They decided to ask ACBL for permission to hold a Wed. afternoon game for players with less than 200 points.

The afternoon will start with a 1/2 hour lesson and be followed by a sanctioned game. Newer players will be able to play for points at their own pace and in a non-threatening environment.

Teaching and directing duties will rotate among Gregg, Bonnie, Joan, Jessie, Mike,

and Susan. Bonnie Newton (225-6907 or 778-0899) will handle partnerships.

As this goes to press all the details have not been worked out. But Gregg says there will probably be table coaches or some method for allowing some coaching during the game. It'll be a great opportunity for newer players to improve their game and win points.

Three tables are necessary so if you can play, be sure to be there Wed. Sept. 5th at 11 for the lesson or 12 for the game. They promise it'll be fun for all!

Bad Break

By Pete Wityk

I am first chair with no one vulnerable in a club level club championship match-pointed pairs. I am playing with a regular partner against a strong player, on my left, playing with a new Life Master, on my right, and pick up:

♠A10972 ♥A ♦832 ♣AQ94

We are playing a forcing club. But, I don't feel this hand is strong enough to open One Club. **One Spade** is my choice. Over a **Pass**, partner responds **Two Hearts**. Over a **Pass**, I rebid **Three Clubs**. After the next **Pass**, partner jumps to **Four Spades**. When East **Passes**, I have no problem finding a **Pass**.

Partner could have made a forcing raise rather than the Two Hearts call. Partner could have found various forcing calls rather than the Four Spade call. Lacking those, I expect heart values and three card spade support without side shortage. My hand does not fit well with that type of hand for slam. I.e., a singleton ace opposite partner's values and a shabby spade suit are enough to tell me to stay away from the five level. A third **pass** closes the auction, which has been:

N	E	S	W
		1♠	P
2♥	P	3♣	P
4♠	P	P	P

The following dummy appears:

♠K43 ♥KQ742 ♦KQ ♣K82

The Jack of diamonds is led

For all of partner's 16 HCP and my fleeting thoughts of opening a forcing Club, a minimum of one trump loser and the ace of diamonds make me glad to be at the four rather than the five level. The queen of diamonds fetches the ace and my deuce. The four of diamond is returned to my trey, West's six and dummy's king.

I think that I need to unblock the heart suit and start trump from my hand to dummy's king. That allows me to get maximum use of dummy's entries and also pick up bad breaks with East holding length. I cannot pick up length in West's hand, but I can do so if East has four or five spades. Further there is little point to leading the ten or nine from my hand. If I lose to a singleton honor, I have needlessly promoted a card in West's hand. If I rise with the king I have wasted the power of my spot cards. And, West is strong enough that he won't cover unless it benefits him.

I lead the deuce of hearts to the trey, the ace and the nine. The deuce of spades is played, followed by the

five and the king. The five of diamonds is sloughed. It appears that I'm going to have to work to avoid three trump losers and the diamond ace that they already have.

I call for the king of hearts. After East follows with the five, I discard the four of clubs and West plays the jack. Is this a falsecard? He has five spades, two hearts and two diamonds that I have seen. If he has only two hearts then will it hurt me to have him trump the third heart? Not if he has three diamonds and three clubs. I don't think that I can make this contract if he has four diamonds and two clubs. The timing will be wrong for an endplay. If he has three hearts, then whether he has two diamonds and three clubs or vice versa, I can make the contract.

So, I play the queen of hearts. After East plays the six, I discard the nine of clubs and West trumps with the six of spades. He plays the jack of clubs to dummy's deuce, East's five and my ace. I lead the queen of clubs to the trey, dummy's king and the six. Now, the eight of clubs is covered by the ten, ruffed with my seven of spades and West follows with the seven of clubs. The eight of diamonds is covered with the ten, ruffed in dummy with the trey and East

(Break cont. on page 6)

Is That Bid Forcing? - A Quiz

By Bonnie Newton

One of the most frequent questions I receive from newer players is, "How do I know if a bid is forcing?"

Here are some of the hands I use to demonstrate forcing/not forcing.. Are the following ?

- | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|----|---|
| 1. | N | E | S | W |
| | 1♥ | P | 1♠ | P |
| | ? | | | |
| | | | | |
| 2. | N | E | S | W |
| | | P | P | P |
| | 1♥ | P | 1♠ | P |
| | ? | | | |
| | | | | |
| 3. | N | E | S | W |
| | 1♥ | X | 1♠ | P |
| | ? | | | |
| | | | | |
| 4. | N | E | S | W |
| | 1♥ | X | 2♣ | P |
| | ? | | | |
| | | | | |
| 5. | N | E | S | W |
| | 1♥ | p | 1♠ | p |
| | 1NT | p | ? | |
| | | | | |
| 6. | N | E | S | W |
| | 1♥ | p | 1♠ | p |
| | 3♥ | | | |

Ans.

1. YES Forcing for 1 round. When partner opens one of a suit, any new suit bid by responder is forcing for one round, unless responder has previously passed.

2. NO Responder is a passed hand. A passed re-

sponder can never make a forcing bid.

3. YES A one-level bid over a X is forcing.

4. NO. A two-level bid over a X is not-forcing.

NOTE: Review #3 and #4. These responses are often confusing at first glance.

5. NO. Your partner is showing a minimum.

6. NO. Now north is showing at least 6 hearts and about 16-18 points. If you have a minimum you don't have game points.

(Break cont. from page 5)

follows with the seven. I call for the four of spades. East discards the nine of hearts, I play the nine and East wins the queen. I claim, as East must now lead from the J8 into my A10. The full hand was

♠K43	
♥KQ742	
♦KQ	
♣K82	
♠QJ865	♠ --
♥J9	♥108653
♦J106	♦A9754
♣J73	♣1065
♠A10972	
♥A	
♦832	
♣AQ94	

Post Mortem

Four spades making four for +420 was five and one-half of eight matchpoints. It was

made twice and three notrumps took ten tricks twice due to the 3-3 club break. In the other section, +420 was worth eight matchpoints. Such are the inequities of matchpoints. There are many lines that work without taking the double-dummy line of letting a middle spade run if not covered. You simply come to a three card end position where West has QJ8 and you have A109. You can even lead the 9 from hand and force West to lead into the A10. That is what could happen if West exited with a diamond at trick seven. I would trump in dummy, cash ace of clubs, king of clubs, trump a club and exit with the nine of spades.

Super Silly Site On the Web

The Impossible Bridge Book is an online site that contains every one of the possible 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 bridge hands.

Don't believe me? Go to <http://bridge.thomasoandrews.com/impossible/> and see for yourself. Though it may be of absolutely no practical use, it is "oh so much fun!" Deal #1 in the Andrews Edition has each hand having 13 of a suit.

Try the rest of the site also for lots of bridge hands and commentaries.

Playing to the First Trick-Part 2

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; opponents haven't bid; lead is ♠6.

♠ QJ2	
♥ 765	
♦ KQJ109	
♣ 54	
♠ K10863	♠ 97
♥ Q1032	♥ J98
♦ 752	♦ A86
♣ 10	♣ QJ982
♠ A54	
♥ AK4	
♦ 43	
♣ AK763	

2: The contract is 4♠; opponents haven't bid; lead is ♥5.

♠ 1098765
♥ KJ2
♦ A
♣ A54

♠ 9765	♠ AK
♦ 96432	♥ Q83
♣ KJ86	♦ J108
	♣ Q109
♠ QJ432	
♥ A104	
♦ KQ	
♣ 732	

Hand 3: The contract is 3NT; E overcalled 1♠; lead is ♠8.

	♠ Q103
	♥ Q76
	♦ K102
	♣ AJ105
♠ 84	♠ AJ976
♥ 5432	♥ J98
♦ A63	♦ 74
♣ 9842	♣ KQ6
♠ K52	
♥ AK10	
♦ QJ985	
♣ 73	

Answers

Hand 1: Play the ♠2 and win ♠A. You are guaranteed 2 spades, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs and 2 hearts, making 4NT.

Hand 2: Play the ♥J. You need an entry to your hand in order to cash the good diamond and get rid of a club loser.

Hand 3: Play the ♠Q. East is removed as a threat. You will now make 3NT or 4NT whether or not East takes the trick. The contract won't make if you play low on the lead.

The following article by Richard Newell has information about leading to that first trick!

What is the Best Lead?

By Richard Newell

Suppose RHO opens 1NT and LHO ends the auction with 3NT and you are on lead with this hand:

♠J86 ♥95 ♦KQ72 ♣KJ72

What are we taught about opening leads? Lead from a sequence, but that doesn't apply here. Lead 4th best from our longest and strongest suit when defending against no trump. But LHO did not bother to bid stayman, so perhaps a major suit is better? It's impossible to know for sure. Or is it?

With today's computing power, we are able to analyze these questions scientifically. David Bird, creator of the comical "Abbot" series in the ACBL magazine, recently co-authored a book entitled *Winning Notrump Leads* which gets to the heart of the matter. He and his co-author generated 5,000 deals

(Lead cont. on page 9)

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing!

Bridge is a great comfort in your old age; AND it also helps you get there faster!

Weak Two Bids—Responder, Part II

By Joan Anderson

The key to Weak Two bid responses is always remembering that the responder is captain of the hand

In the last Hawkeyer we looked at four responses where opener was to pass:

- Any direct or jump raise by Responder of Opener's weak two-bid suit
- Any jump raise to 3NT or a game bid in another suit.

Elks Ladies Bridge

By Jerry Burgess

I grew up in a small town where there were two ladies organizations – Eastern Star and Elks Ladies both a hot bed of bridge but with, I am sure, totally different styles of play. Eastern Star was perceived as conservative and what went on behind the doors of the Masonic Temple was mysterious and secret (this is where Bridge Conventions must have originated). You probably had to talk in whispers. I also have my doubts whether there was anything stronger than lemonade or a robust iced tea served.

My aunt, who is in Eastern Star is well into her 90's and still plays with other Eastern Starrers at not so secret venues such as the country club. She has a hard time remembering my name but, from all I can gather, she can still count trump. Something

Part II: Forcing Bids Responder's Search for More Information

THE 2NT RESPONSE:

- A 2NT bid by responder asks; "Partner, do you have an outside feature?"

NOTE: Responder must have some sort of fit with partner's weak two-bid suit and/or a potential source of tricks.

The 2NT response

- is artificial and forcing for 1 round.
- asks opener for more information. Responder can then determine whether the hands will produce a part score, a game or a slam.
- says, "I have some sort of fit with partner's weak two-bid suit **and/or** a potential source of tricks

I still have trouble with. I can guarantee that these games were, and still are, quite competitive

On the other hand, the Elk's Ladies were first, party animals and second, bridge players. Whenever my mother couldn't find someone to sit with me on bridge day, she drug me along to the Elks Club where I got lunch, plenty of soda and as much Bridge Mix as I could stuff in my mouth.

The "bridge / luncheon room" was not far from the bar and it was from that area where a steady supply of "High Balls" came from during the afternoon. I can't tell you the Ladies overdid it, but laughter got a lot louder as the game went on.

I could also tell something was a little different, because as the afternoon wore on, no one would slap my hand when I reached into the bowls of bridge mix located on the corners of the tables.

And there were ash trays. That's right, the Elks Ladies smoked. The biggest problem to me was the "accidental" mixing up of the ash trays and the bridge mix bowls. The Ladies could care less. I guess they played a pretty good version of Party Bridge but the emphasis was on "Party". I ask you, why wouldn't anyone want to play bridge when they're exposed to card players who sit around the table laughing, sipping and all in all having a good time.

(Lead cont. from page 7)

using a computer where the auction would normally go 1NT 3NT. Because LHO did not bid stayman, your side is statistically likely to have more major cards, so more often than not that is what you should lead. For the hand above, the computer analysis says that the best lead is the six of spades, and the next best lead is the nine of hearts.

The book is a fairly easy read, with tons of sample lead questions under different situations. After each question, a table shows which lead was most effective against match-points (# tricks taken) and

IMPS (chance of setting the contract). So how did I find out about this book? Well, I did a small study of my own and published a 5-page article on passive vs. active leads on the District 14 website and it has gotten a fair amount of attention. Some of the people that read the article directed me to the book.

I looked at a sample of 200 hands and on each hand recorded how the standard lead in each suit would fare according to double dummy analysis. Although my research definitely has its limits, I did take away several key points:

- Avoid leading away from Kxx if you can help it.
- The more points your side has, the more you can afford to make an attacking lead. Conversely when defending 6NT your aim is to not give away a trick.
- Leading away from singletons, worthless doubletons, and worthless suits are generally more effective than anyone gives them credit for.

You can find my article here: http://moot.typepad.com/minnesota_bridge/2012/05/what-is-the-best-lead.html

Talking Bridge?

Know what these bridge words and bridge slang words mean?

1. Acol ____
2. Alcatraz coup ____
3. Blizzard ____
4. Foster echo ____
5. Jettison ____
6. Card Pusher ____
7. Pancake hand ____
8. Pudding raise ____
9. Quack hand ____
10. Smith echo ____
11. SNAP ____
12. Tram tickets ____
13. Twist ____
14. Under the gun ____
15. Scissors coup ____

Ans on Page 15

A) Strong notrump after passing; a one-notrump response by a passed hand to show 9-12 pts.

B) A popular British system based on simple, natural bidding, four-card majors, weak or split notrump openings.

C) A weak player (slang)

D) In a position where action is dangerous because of an unknown quantity behind. (slang)

E) A loser-on-loser play intended to deny an entry to a particular opponent.

F) A deliberate, illegal failure to follow suit to gain information from the opponents.

G) Discard of a blocking card

H) The play of the second-highest card in the suit of

partner's lead by a player not playing third hand high.

I) Poor cards. (slang)

J) On defense against a notrump contract, using the play of an encouraging or discouraging card in the suit declarer attacks to show encouragement or discouragement for the suit of the opening lead.

K) A very weak hand; a hand with no useful cards whatever.

L) A raise based on high-card strength rather than distributional advantage.

M) Secondary suit, usually only four cards. (slang)

N) Hand with 4-3-3-3 distribution. (slang)

O) A hand with mostly queens and jacks.

(Defense cont. from page 11)

little to no help in partner's suit, especially if you have shortness in the suit, it may indeed be better to lead your own suit if doing so can create tricks later in the hand. However, if your hand has little to offer, it may be best to simply lead partner's suit – at least you will likely keep partner satisfied.

5) One of the main differences between expert players and beginning players is the ability of experts to count the hands. For example, when it gets late in the hand, and the 13th trick (on defense) is going to come down to whether or not you save the right card on trick 12, you can be assured that a bad board is coming if you throw away the wrong card. As for clues, try to recall the bidding, and then watch the discards of both your partner and of declarer, but especially that of partner, as declarer may try to deceive you.

6) When discussing your convention card before the game, players often waste too much time on relatively obscure bidding situations that are not likely to come up (e.g. – 3 level bids after 1NT opening bids), but hardly touch upon the bottom-left, defensive-oriented corner of the card at all. I make sure my partner understands the meaning of my first discard, and whether my primary signal is count or attitude. My personal preference is to show 'count,' as I

think there are more situations where 'count' is useful, relative to 'attitude,' and 'count' signals also require me to focus more intently on every card in a particular suit.

7) Another key characteristic of sound defensive carding is to continually play in tempo, meaning that when that 'moment of truth' arrives, one does not take a long pause that gives away additional useful information to the declarer. Examples of this would include whether or not to play an Ace in 'second hand,' or whether to cover an honor with an honor. I typically do cover honors (except when doing so would obviously set up the entire suit for declarer) because it often promotes tricks later on for me or my partner. Try to anticipate what you might do in these challenging situations before declarer puts you to the test.

8) Sometimes, as a hand plays out, defenders may do well to use any updated information they have learned to change their original plan. Don't be so stubborn about your initial plan of attack that you miss or ignore other possibilities that may eventually become even more attractive (or, if desperate, even less unattractive). This happens frequently when defending no-trump contracts, where you may quickly learn that there is no future in continuing to

develop the original suit that you or your partner lead – there may be gold waiting if you decide to switch to another suit.

9) For best results as defender, try to maintain a killer instinct throughout the hand (I can assure you the most advanced players will try to milk every last trick they can). Thus, even if you are already favored to set a contract, don't be satisfied with 'down one' – procuring an additional trick may be the difference between an 'average' and a 'top' board. Similarly, even if your hand holds mostly worthless cards, and your side is not likely to take more than one trick or two, do not use this as an excuse to lose focus. Sometimes, holding the opponents to 10 or 11 tricks (instead of 12 or 13) can be quite lucrative.

10) Finally, and this is one of the hardest parts of defense for me, throughout the entire playing of the hand, from just prior to trick 1 through the end of trick 13, always keep the entire auction of bids in mind. This involves not only the trump suit (if any), but any suits partner may have bid, any extra suits the opponents might have bid, and also any suits the opponents did NOT bid. Once dummy comes down, you can even try to visualize an approximation of where the missing 26 cards lie, both in terms of missing honors, and the suit distributions in the two closed hands.

Don't Underestimate the Importance of Defense

By Toby White

After playing in all five weekly Des Moines club games several times throughout the year, I have observed a wide range in quality of play. Of the three components of Duplicate Bridge (bidding, declarer play, and defense), the greatest difference between the most and least advanced players seems to involve defense. Even in the two limited games (Tuesday afternoon / Wednesday evening), many inexperienced players 'declare' quite admirably when given the opportunity, and although their convention cards may be relatively simple, a fair proportion of these players also bid somewhat soundly. However, partly because far less attention in bridge lessons and books is devoted to defense, there quite often seems to be major gaps in applying basic defensive principles.

Needless to say, in duplicate bridge, a defensive error that leads to the loss of even one extra trick can turn an 'average' into a 'bottom,' or if the opponents are in a suboptimal contract, a 'top' may instead become an 'average-minus.' If a partnership makes five such errors within a single club game, their final score could be 10-15% lower than it would have otherwise been. Unfortunately, there is not an 'easy fix' for these defensive lapses; in fact, even for

expert players, I would argue that this is the most difficult part of the game. Below, I offer ten defensive tips, aimed toward an audience of beginning to intermediate players, which may help decrease the likelihood of future defensive lapses.

1) Some would say that 50% of your score as a defender is determined by the opening lead, so don't execute this task casually. I almost never lead away from aces in unbid suits, and don't often lead away from kings, queens, or jacks in unbid suits either. There are exceptions of course: (a) the bidding indicates that your partner has points in that suit (even if they did not bid the suit), (b) you have touching intermediate honors in the suit, or (c) you are desperate to lead something - maybe you have unsupported honors in every suit!. For more detailed information about what to lead, see the article by Rich Newell.

2) Beginning players often do not value the importance of defense, even though one typically plays defense 50% of the time (unless the player is especially aggressive or conservative in the bidding). Defense will improve with practice, especially if one plays with the same partner

over a long period of time. When discussing the hands after a game, don't just focus on any bidding mishaps you and your partner incurred, but also check the 'Deep Finesse' answer keys for hands where you did not achieve the optimal number of tricks on defense, and see what you might have done differently so that you get it right next time.

3) Against a suit contract, one of the most important decisions on defense can be whether or not one should lead trump. One advantage to leading trump is that it may cut down on the ruffing power declarer has (especially in dummy), which could then eventually make a trick or two in the strong suit of the defenders become good. One disadvantage to leading trump is that the declarer may then be able to set up a side suit (once trump are out) while also pitching losers in other side suits that you could have otherwise attacked.

4) Against a no-trump contract, when partner has bid a suit but the opponents have thereafter bid NT (thus, claiming to have the suit stopped), one of the toughest decisions, when on opening lead, is whether to lead partner's suit or whether to lead one's own suit. If you have

(Defense cont. on page 10)

How Duplicate Boards are Scored

Did you ever wonder how the points you receive for each board are computed? Well it's really simple. Matchpointing is really a chart of how many other teams you beat.

Each side, N-S or E-W, is awarded points equal to the number of teams they beat: 1 point for each team they beat; a portion of the points for each team they tie. First the points are calculated for the N-S teams by comparing their scores. (When E-W gets a score, notice that becomes a negative N-S score.)

N/S No.	Contract	By	Made	N/S	E/W	E-W No.	N-S Pts.	E-W Pts.
1	3D	E	3	(-110)	110	2	1	7
2	3D	E	-1	100		4	4	4
3	4S	N	4	420		6	7	1
4	3NT	S	-1	(-50)	50	8	3	5
5	3NT	S	4	430		1	8	0
6	2H	W	-2	200		3	5	3
7	3D	E	4	(-130)	130	5	0	8
8	3NT	S	3	400		7	6	2
9	3NT	S	-2	(-100)	100	9	2	8
TOTAL							36	36

1. First count the number of times the board has been played.
2. The top points on a board will be one less than the number of times the board has been played. (It's the number of teams your team beat if they beat all the other teams.) In the example above, the best score for N-S is 430 for N-S team 5. That team beat 8 other teams so gets 8 match points.
3. All N-S teams are matchpointed first. In the example, we saw team 5, beat 8 teams and received 8 matchpoints. The second best N-S score was team 3 with a 420. Their score was higher than 7 other N-S teams, so they received 7 pts. The next best score was team 8's 400, which was better than 6 other teams and so was awarded 6 matchpoints. This comparison continues for all N-S teams through N-S team 4 who had the

lowest score of all and received 0 points.

4. When all the N-S points have been awarded, it is easy to calculate the E-W's points. Just subtract the number of points awarded to N-S from the top score possible. In this case from 8 (1 less than the number of boards). In the example, when N-S was team 1 they played E-W team 2. Therefore team 2 received 8-7 or 1 point. On this board, N-S team 4 played E-W team 8. N-S received 3 points so E-W received 8-3 or 5 points on the board.

If two or more boards have identical scores, the number of matchpoints

for those scores are added together and divided by the number of pairs involved. If teams 3, 5, and 8 had all had 400 points. 400 would be the highest N-S score so you would give them the total of the first 3 points (8+7+6=21pts)/3 teams or 7 points for each of the first 3 teams.

Another way to calculate matchpoints for identical scores is to award a point for each team you beat plus 1/2 point for each team you tied. The percentage is calculated by dividing your total points for the game by the total possible points you could win for the game.

If a board is passed out, both teams get a 0. The points each gets depends on the number of positive scores above and below it. If N-S team X vs. E-W team Y passed out a board and all other N-S teams bid it and went down, this N-S would get the highest number of points because it would have the highest score. If some teams made a bid on this board and some went down, the passed team would be somewhere in the middle.

A Memory Jogger

By Kay Stowe

Just had to share this memory as I just achieved the 2500 point mark or Gold Life Master! When I started playing bridge in the late seventies, there were various categories for the nonlife master in the Mini-McKenney awards, but there was only one category for the Life Master.

When I was the District coordinator for the Grand National teams sometime in the eighties, I had contact with Dave McGee, who was our District Director. I mentioned to him that with the then current system of only one category of life master there was no incentive for the life master to keep on playing. It seemed to me that in every unit across the United States there would be one to four players who would always win the award for the most points earned.

I asked him if it would be possible to set goals (point levels) for those of us who were already Life Masters to strive to so we would have a chance to earn recognition in different levels of the life master status. He said, "Good idea," and took the idea to the National Board of Directors. Within the year there were awards set up to recognize different levels in the life master categories.

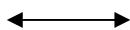
If you have ideas on ways to improve bridge, feel free to contact our District Director. He will listen to you and share on a national level. I always enjoy seeing all of us move up the ladder in our striving to play better bridge and earn some recognition from our fellow players.



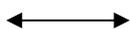
Silly Limericks

By Terry Swanson

My partner was one who knew it all.
And this he said to me,
"My finesses are brilliant.
I am so resilient,
I win even playing with thee."



There once was a man from D M
At bridge he was, ah, such a gem,
His bidding was swell
He defended quite well
But his partners he always condemned.



Play bridge with your spouse if you dare.
It will matter not how well you fare.
The fault will be yours,
'til it can't be ignored.
And divorce is therefore not rare.

There once was a strange bid I tried
Even though it my partner decried
She thought it quite queer
I thought it quite dear
We play now like Jekyll and Hyde.

I invite you, dear readers, to finish these:

A woman played oft at the Bridge House
As did her dear partner and spouse

Or

Listen bridge players and you shall hear

Give to Terry or
Send to hswanson@dwx.com

Up the ACBL Ladder (May, June, July.)

New Members: Sharon Murphy; Jessica Bayouth

New Junior Masters (5 MP): Nicholas Brown, Charity Randolph

New Club Masters (20 MP): Joseph Antonelli; Joyce Johnson

New Sectional Masters (50 MP): Robert Beckwith; Joyce

Knock; Anita Mandelbaum; Eileen Bowerman; Gwen Swanger; Ellen Taylor

New Regional Masters (100 MP):

New NABC Masters (200 MP): Barbara Schipper; Mary Hampel; Rosaeanne Rinderknecht

New Life Masters (300 MP):

Audrey Couse

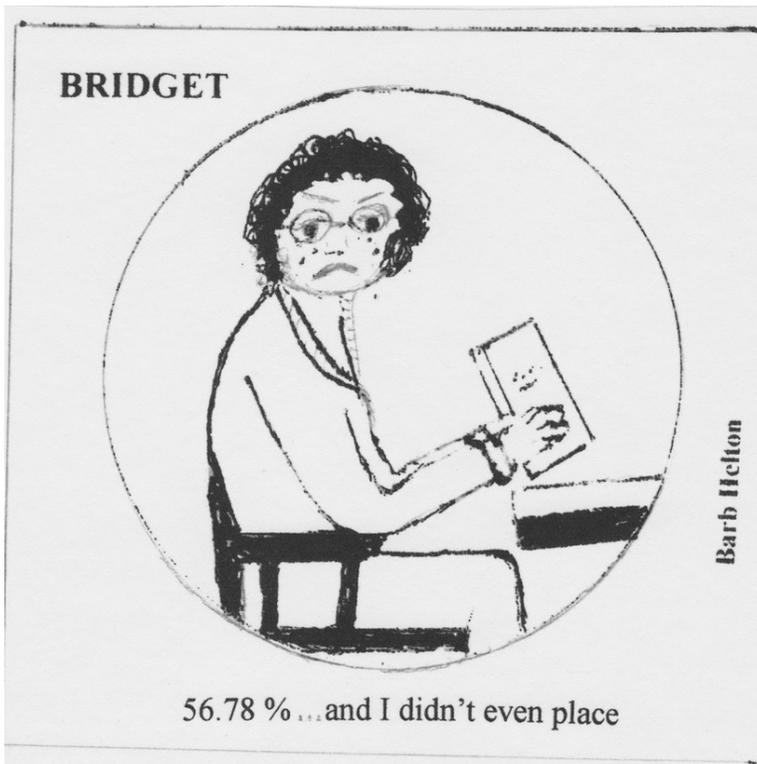
New Bronze Life Masters (500 MP): John Vachris. Thomas Carlson

New Gold Life Masters(2500): Kay Stowe

No new Silver (1000), Diamond, (5000), Emerald (7500), Platinum (10000), or Grand Life Masters

Unit 216 Statistics

	Apr. 01	Aug. 01		Apr. 01	Aug. 1
Total Membership:	450	445	Bronze LM:	58	59
Rookies:	36	36	Silver LM:	54	55
Junior Masters:	35	31	Gold LM:	19	19
Club Masters:	44	44	Diamond LM:	4	4
Sectional Masters:	58	59	Emerald LM:	1	1
Regional Masters:	71	65	Platinum LM:	0	0
NABC Master:	45	47	Grand LM:	1	1
Life Master:	24	24			



Farewell Dear Friends

The tide recedes but leaves behind
bright seashells on the sand.
The sun goes down, but gentle
warmth still lingers on the land.
The music stops, and yet it echoes
on in sweet refrains.....
For every joy that passes,
something beautiful remains.

Bernadette Leary
Lucy Gutenkauf
Earl Roseboom
Mrs. J. W. Grund
Jayne Larson
Harriet Byers
Barb Chiafos

FALL 2012 MENTORING GAMES



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



September 7 & 21, October 5 & 19



Two very effective ways of improving your bridge game:

- playing with someone who is more experienced and skilled than you
- playing against stronger competition

Our mentoring program is designed to help with this learning process. We have a number of skilled bridge players who are willing to work with other players in helping them learn more about the game of duplicate bridge and help them feel more comfortable when playing against higher level players.

The spirit of the Mentoring Program is to promote learning and enjoyment of the game. Therefore, one of the key responsibilities of the mentor is to help their partner feel at ease. The guidance and constructive feedback of a mentor can make quite an impact in helping the advancing player.

Any player wanting to be mentored must complete the registration form which is available at the bridge center. The completed form should be returned to the mentoring coordinator. I will assist you in finding a suitable mentor.



Contact Nancy Wilson: newilson@msn.com or 515-285-9916

Ans for Talking Bridge

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 6. <u> C </u> | 11. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> F </u> | 7. <u> N </u> | 12. <u> I </u> |
| 3. <u> K </u> | 8. <u> L </u> | 13. <u> M </u> |
| 4. <u> H </u> | 9. <u> O </u> | 14. <u> D </u> |
| 5. <u> G </u> | 10. <u> J </u> | 15. <u> E </u> |

Remember

Be aggressive with
6421 shape;
be careful with 4333 hands.

Bid aggressively with hands
that fit, conservatively with
hands that don't.

Classes, Classes, Classes

***Free Classes
before Games
at
The Bridge
House***

MON 10 AM-11:45

***"Commonly
Used Conventions"***

Nancy Wilson
285-9916

and

TUE 11 AM
Nancy Wilson
285-9916

WED 12 PM
Lessons by
Joan Anderson
224-1854
Jessie Chance,
225-1301
Bonni Newton,
778-0899
Gregg Walsh,
771-4802
Mike Smith,
246-9870
Susan Seitz,
246-9870

On-Going
***"Monday Morning
Hints"***
9-11:30
Jessie Chance
(225-1301)&
Bonnie Newton
(778-0899)

On-Going
***"Improve
Your Bridge"***
Thursdays
10AM
Joan Anderson
(224-1854)

Urbandale Senior Center
Free Bridge Lesson
7305 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA
Bidding and playing review -
Some bridge experience helpful.
Thu. 10:30AM-11:30AM
Paul Spong 287-2597

Bonni's Bridge Lessons
(bjnbridge@live.com or 778-0899)

Supervised Play on Fridays

9-9:30 AM lesson; 9:30 11:30 AM play Cost \$5*

Practice Play for the Absolute Beginner

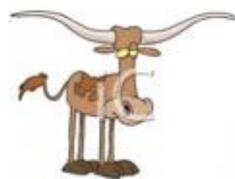
Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:30 PM Cost \$5*

Play of the Hand

8 week course: Sept. 26-Nov. 4 9:30-11:30 AM
Cost \$50; Book \$15

*Proceeds to go to Leukemia Lymphoma Society

Steer your way to Des Moines for the...



Cornbelt Tournament September 13-16 2012

Sectional Bridge
Tournament
Sanction # S1209008



Greater Des Moines Bridge House
10190 Hickman Court Clive, IA

For all events points
are averaged

Newer Player Events

Strata for newer player events:

A 100-200, B 50-100, C 0-50

Friday, Sept. 14 1 p.m. 0-200 pairs

7 p.m. 0-200 pairs

Saturday, Sept. 15 10 a.m. 0-200 pairs

3 p.m. 0-200 pairs

Events held if sufficient attendance.



Note Saturday
times!

Open Events

Strata for pairs events: A 2000+, B 750-2000, C 0-750

Thursday, Sept. 13 7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Friday, Sept. 14 1 p.m. Stratified pairs

7 p.m. Stratified pairs

Saturday, Sept. 15 10 a.m. Stratified pairs (single session)

3 p.m. Stratified pairs (single session)

No te
times!

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

Sunday, Sept. 16 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

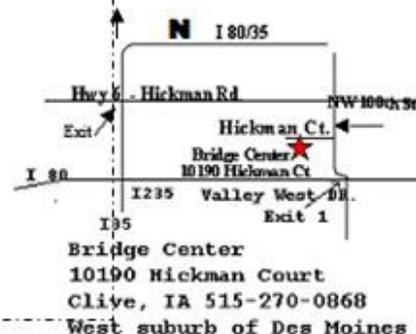
Chairperson: Charlene Hendryx 289-0505
crhendryx@mediacombb.net.

Partnerships:
0-300 Scott Riley 238-0606
scottriley7@hotmail.com

300+ Mary Lou Agocs 225-2454
LAGocsjr@aol.com

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

ZERO TOLERANCE
TOURNAMENT, PLAY AND
HAVE FUN!



Bridge Center
10190 Hickman Court
Clive, IA 515-270-0868
West suburb of Des Moines

Motels

Days Inn (Clive)
1600 NW114thSt.
or 515-226-1600
\$69.95

or
Sleep Inn
11211 Hickman Rd.
Urbandale, IA
515-270-2424
\$89.95

or
Sheraton
1800 50th Street West
Des Moines, IA
515-223-1800
\$ 94. Hawkeye bridge

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1952
DES MOINES, IOWA

Mark Your Calendar

Unit 216 Sectionals District 14 Regionals ACBL Nationals

Cornbelt

Clive, IA
Sept. 13-16, 2012

Fargo Regional

Fargo, ND
Aug. 28 - Sept. 3, 2012

San Francisco, CA

Nov. 22-Dec. 2, 2012

Hawkeye Holiday

Clive, IA
Jan.3-Jan6, 2013

Des Moines Regional

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

St. Louis, MO

Mar.14-Mar.24, 2013

Spring Festival

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

Council Bluffs Regional

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

Atlanta, GA

Aug.1-Aug.11, 2013