

I/N News ... especially for you!

Volume 2, Issue 1

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A Balancing Act by Jim O'Neil

Inside this issue:

Balancing is one of the most important, yet least discussed and least agreed-upon areas in all of bridge. "Balancing" refers to a bid or double made in the pass-out seat after the opponents' have stopped at a low level. There are many balancing situations. Here are some examples:

		<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
Balancing	1	1♦	pass	pass	?
		1NT	pass	pass	?
Club Capers	5	2♥	pass	1♥	pass
		2♥	pass	pass	?
Poker Bridge	6	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
		2♥	pass	pass	?
Improve You Game	7	1NT or 2♣	pass	pass	?
		1♣	pass	1♥	pass
Play Bridge With Larry Cohen ... A Software Review	7	2♣	pass	pass	?
		2♥	pass	pass	?
Ode to Easy Blackwood	8	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
		2♥	pass	pass	?
Tournament Results	9	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
		2♥	pass	pass	?

These are among the most common:

- 1) Balancing after 1 of a suit-pass-pass
- 2) Balancing after 1NT-pass-pass
- 3) and 4) Balancing after both opponents have bid and found a fit.
- 5) Balancing after both opponents have bid and not found a fit.
- 6) and 7) Reopening to "protect" partner's hand

When RHO opens one of a suit, bidding entails some risk – the opponents' strength is as yet unlimited; partner could be broke. When the opponents pass at a low level, however, they have announced that they do not have the values for game. Partner can now be credited with a certain amount of strength. If the opponents have found a fit and stopped at a low level, the situation is even better; it improves the chances that our side has a fit as well. So in balancing position, we should be a little more aggressive. On fitting auctions we should be more aggressive still.

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*A well-balanced
player makes up for
his inadequacy
in the bidding with his
ineptitude in the play.*

Richard
Pavlichek



(Balancing, continued from page 1)

The reasons for and risks of balancing actions are somewhat different from actions in direct seat. We still would like to suggest a possible contract to partner, or get partner off to the best lead. But we aren't interfering with the opponent's auction; it has already died. On many balancing auctions it is much less likely that we will get doubled and go for too big a set. However, reopening the auction can, in some cases, allow the opponents back in to find a better fit. The main reason to balance is that it may be our hand; we may have enough values to outbid the opponents; we may even have game. To understand when to balance and when not to balance, we must try to get a general idea of the points and distribution of the other hands – especially partner's.

When the auction has proceeded 1 of a suit, pass, pass –

We know that opener has about 12-20 points, and responder 0-5. On average, the opponents will have anywhere from 16-22 points. They could have a little more, they could have a little less. (If the opponents are very aggressive bidders, they won't have much more and could have a bit less). It is a good rule of thumb to assume that they have about 16-22, and we have about 18-24. If we have 10 points, then partner has about 8-14. When balancing after 1 of a suit, pass, pass - don't count on partner for more than about 15 pts or so. With 17 or more points, avoid the "trap pass". The person who gets "trapped" is often partner.

We also need to consider suit distribution. If we are short in an unbid suit, then either partner has length in that suit, or the opponents' have a fit in that suit. Yet if partner is marked with values he might have overcalled with a long suit (especially if he could have done so at the 1-level); if he doesn't have length, then the opponent's may have a better fit.

When the auction has proceeded 1NT, pass, pass –

Now there is no such assurance that partner has values. Opener has a balanced 15-17. Responder has anywhere from 0-8, and is likely balanced, or he would have bid something.

When the auction has proceeded 1 of a suit, pass, raise to 2, pass, pass –

Opener has about 12-15 points, and responder about 6-9. On average, each side will have about 18-22 points. The opponents have a fit, so it is likely that we also have a fit somewhere.

Balancing after 1 of a suit, pass, pass:

What do various actions mean in balancing position? Constructive actions – simple overcalls, doubles and 1NT overcalls retain their meanings, though these actions can be made with less strength than is required in direct seat. There is little logic to preemptive bids in balancing seat – we can end the auction by passing. So jump overcalls should be natural and fairly strong. A jump to 2NT is usually played as a strong balanced hand, though a few players play it as a good hand with the 2 lower unbid suits. A cue-bid is played many ways – as a good Michaels hand, or one of several types of powerful 2- or 3-suited hands.

Bids in balancing seat can be made about 3 points lighter than in direct seat:

A simple overcall at the one level should show about 7-13 points but could be made with as few as 6 or 7 points and a good suit. A simple overcall at the 2 level should show about 9-14 points. With maximum values and a good suit, the hand qualifies for a jump overcall.

A takeout double has no upper limit, but can be made with as few as 8-9 points with very good shape.

A 1NT overcall should show about 12-15 points, and a reasonably balanced hand with opener's suit stopped. With 16-18, double first and then bid NT as cheaply as possible. With 19-21, jump to 2NT immediately.

A single jump overcall shows a hand with a reasonable suit, but a little too good for a simple overcall. A single jump overcall to the 2 level should show a fair 6-card suit and about 12-16 points – if on the low end, a very good suit is needed. A single jump overcall to the 3 level should show about 14-17 points and a good 6-card suit. With enough points, but without a very good suit, double and then bid the suit.

Higher jump overcalls should also be strong. There is little agreement even among experts as to what this bid should mean. A double jump to 3 of a major should show about 7 playing tricks and a very good suit. A jump to 4 of a suit should show about 8 playing tricks. This suit will be trump.

Try to balance whenever you have a good action. With a good suit, balance in that suit. Make a simple

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(Balancing., continued from page 2)

overcall, jump overcall, or double and bid the suit – whichever is appropriate. With values and support for the other suits, double. With values and a balanced hand, including stoppers in opener's suit, balance in NT. Bid 1NT, double and bid NT, jump to 2NT – depending on high-card strength.

On marginal hands, when deciding whether or not to balance when a one-bid is passed around to you, here are some guidelines to keep in mind: Avoid balancing with length in the opponents' suit. When you have length in the opponents' suit, partner is marked with shortness. Yet partner would strain to act in direct seat with shortness in the opponents' suit, either with an overcall or a double. The fact that he did not do so suggests he does not have values.

Avoid balancing with shortness in an unbid suit, especially an unbid major. Either partner has this suit, or the opponents have a fit in this suit. Since partner did not overcall in this suit, he either does not have this suit (in which case the opponents have a better fit available, and might find it if you give them another chance) or he does have this suit (in which case he does not have the values for an overcall).

Avoid balancing with very weak hands, even with a long suit or with great distribution. Partner should strain to do something with a good hand. He should not have more than 15-16 points. The fact that he passed suggests he does not have that many points. The hand belongs to the opponents. They may find a better contract if you give them a chance.

Responses to Balancing Bids

Since actions in balancing position show about 3 points less than those in direct seat, responses must show about 3 points more.

After partner balances with a suit:

Partner typically has less than opening-bid strength, so you are free to pass with a weak hand and no fit. A raise of partner's suit shows about 8-11 points and support. (Over an intervening bid a raise may be made with a slightly weaker hand – opener bids again, stretch to raise if you have a fit).

A jump raise of partner's suit shows about 11-13 points and good support.

No-trump bids are natural, showing stoppers in the opponent's suit and no fit for partner's suit if it a major. (It is preferable to bid NT than to jump in partner's minor). It is important to remember that partner could have as few as 7-8 points. Over a 1 level balancing overcall, a bid of 1NT shows about 9-12 points, a jump to 2NT shows about 13-14. Over a 2-level balancing overcall, a bid of 2NT shows about 12-14. In either case, a jump to 3NT should show about 15-16 points with some kind of help in partner's suit.

A new suit bid shows a 5-card or longer suit and a good hand, usually 11 or more points. Over a major-suit overcall, a bid in a new suit should deny support for partner's suit.

A cuebid (a bid of the opponent's suit) should show a good hand. It should suggest that game be reached unless balancer and responder are both minimum.

After partner balances with a double:

Partner may be extremely light. We need about 3 more points to jump or bid NT than we would need in direct seat. A jump in a suit should show about 11-14 points. A 1NT bid should show 11-13 points and the opponent's suit stopped. A jump to 2NT should show about 14-15.

After partner balances with 1NT:

Partner has a fairly balanced hand with about 12-15 points. There are several ways to play responses. You can play "all systems on" – Stayman, Transfers, etc.

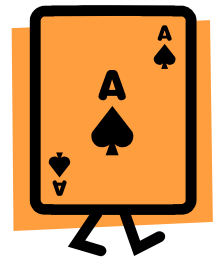
The auction goes 1♦ by RHO, pass, pass to you. What do you bid with:

- 1) ♠ – K53 ♥ – AJ765 ♦ – Q843 ♣ – 6
- 2) ♠ – K5 ♥ – 765 ♦ – 43 ♣ – AQ7654
- 3) ♠ – 6 ♥ – AJ765 ♦ – Q843 ♣ – K53
- 4) ♠ – K5 ♥ – J7 ♦ – AK543 ♣ – K64

(continued on page 4)

There are three kinds of bridge players:

- 1. Those who can count, and*
- 2. Those who can't.*



Never let your aces get away from you!

Upcoming WUMBA Tournaments

Minocqua - June 5-9, 2002; at Woodruff Senior Center

Marquette - August 23-25, 2002; at Comfort Inn

Iron Mountain - September 20-22; at Pine Mountain Resort

Eau Claire - October 4-6, 2002 Previous notice of a date change is CANCELLED! Back to original date! at St Bede Priory

STAC - November 4-10, 2002; (TENTATIVE)

Madison - December 13-15; at Eagle School

Appleton - April 4-6, 2003

Eau Claire - October 3-5, 2003

(Balancing, continued from page 3)

5) ♠ - K62 ♥ - AJ75 ♦ - KQ83 ♣ - 64

6) ♠ - K765 ♥ - AJ76 ♦ - 3 ♣ - J964

7) ♠ - K5 ♥ - AKJ765 ♦ - 54 ♣ - K64

8) ♠ - AK985 ♥ - AJ7 ♦ - 53 ♣ - K64

The auction has proceeded as follows:

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1♦	pass	pass	1♠
pass			

What do you bid with?

9) ♠ - 654 ♥ - A76 ♦ - QT3 ♣ - J964

10) ♠ - 65 ♥ - A976 ♦ - Q32 ♣ - J964

11) ♠ - Q5 ♥ - AJ76 ♦ - QT3 ♣ - J964

12) ♠ - K765 ♥ - AJ7 ♦ - K3 ♣ - J964

13) ♠ - K7 ♥ - AJ76 ♦ - QJ3 ♣ - Q964

Answers to Balancing, hands 1-13:

1. Bid 1♥. Partner is marked with some values. Remember that overcalls can be made about 3 points lighter in balancing seat.

2. Bid 2♣. With such a good suit, this hand is worth an overcall in balancing seat.

3. 1♥ is possible, but more dangerous than on hand 1. Where are the Spades? Either partner has Spades, in which case he is weak (he did not overcall), or the opponents have a Spade fit. It is probably best to pass.

4. Pass. Partner is short in Diamonds, yet did not double, or overcall a major. You probably do not have a game, and the opponents may well have a better spot.

5. 1NT. About 12-15 points here.

6. Double. With good shape, 9 points is plenty.

7. 2♥. This shows a good hand and good suit.

8. Double, planning to bid Spades next. This hand is strong enough for a 2♠ bid, but the suit length and quality are not good enough to insist on Spades. Hearts, No-trump and even Clubs are possibilities.

9. Pass. Partner will act about 3 points lighter in balancing seat, we should be about 3 points stronger.

10. Pass.

11. 1NT. This shows about 9-12 points.

12. 3♠. A typical hand for this bid.

13. It is unclear where this hand belongs. Start with a cue-bid of 2♦.

Tom: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Bill: Why not? Do you have a heart problem?

Tom: No. He's just played with me enough to know.



I never know what to lead. I will have to start bidding more to avoid this problem!

Club Capers by Dave Shelton

The following hand is from a local club game. Against us the opponents bid six spades and made seven. There were two pairs that did not even bid slam, and no one bid the grand. Is it biddable? Strangely, it is more likely to be bid if North is dealer than if South is dealer. If North has the chance to open four spades, South will Blackwood. North will show one key card and a club void, and the grand will be bid perforce.

Dealer: S ♠ AJT97543
None Vul. ♥ Q985
 ♦ 9
 ♣

♠ 2
♥ 72
♦ K8542
♣ AT964



♠ KQ6
♥ AKT
♦ A63
♣ Q832

♠ 8
♥ J643
♦ QJT7
♣ KJ75

How will it proceed with South as the dealer?

South will likely open one club, intending to bid two-notrump over his partner's response. West will likely pass. North needs to count losing tricks, not high cards to have any chance to reach the grand. There are: two losers in spades, two in hearts, one in

diamonds, and none in clubs. The void in clubs and the extra length in spades make this a very powerful hand with just seven HCP. North will respond one spade and wait to see how the auction progresses. *When you have extra length and voids, go slowly to find out what partner can provide.* East passes. South bids: 2NT. This promises 18 - 19 points and a balanced hand. *Notice that aces and kings are worth more outside the trump suit than within it.* West passes. What should North bid now?

My recommendation is 3♥. 3♠ is non-forcing. 4♠ is a closeout bid. East passes. South now has simple decision. He is in a forcing auction, so 4♠ is dangerous as it is too likely to be passed. It also takes up too much bidding room. South should bid 3♠, implying a preference, but not sure what the final contract should be. West passes.

North should keep the auction going by bidding four clubs. This has to be a first round control cue bid after a suit has been supported. *When your hand has a void, you must refrain from using Blackwood!* East passes.

If South's hand is ♣AQ and ♥Kxx, he will still be willing to show four diamonds, but looking to put on the brakes. He must make sure there is no duplication of values on the hand. South four diamonds and West passes.

What should North bid? I suggest five diamonds. *Raising a cue bid shows second round control.* North has shown South a second suit at least four card long, hearts, and first round control in clubs. Now is the time to tell South that he has second round diamond control. *Always help your partner value the placement of Aces and Kings.* East passes. South bids 5 Hearts. West passes.

The bidding has arrived at a key point. One more time North is in the driver's seat. What should he bid?

Let's review the situation. North has a five loser hand. South has

18 - 19 points and a balanced hand, 4 quick tricks with at least two cards in every suit. That means North/South have at least ten cards in the trump suit. There have been cue bids showing, first round controls in clubs, diamonds and hearts and second round control in diamonds. South has shown an implied preference for spades and should have three spades. This makes the trump suit very solid.

There is an old fashioned bid that should now do the trick, North should bid 5NT. In Culbertson's era, this asked partner to bid the grand slam if he held two of the top three honors in the trump suit. South is not only looking at those values, but also has the ace and king of hearts, North's second suit, and the ace of diamonds. He should have no problem bidding SEVEN spades.

At our table, the auction actually went:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠*	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		



*alerted and explained as implying at least five cards in the spade suit

I have a feeling that most pairs either made closeout bids, forgot quick trick evaluation, jumped the auction too quickly or did not cue bid. It is hard to imagine not getting to at least the six level on the hand... and as we have illustrated, it is certainly possible to find your way to the seven level.

Following is a hand summary with tips for better slam bidding:

Evaluate your hand for losers.

Do not use Blackwood or other ace-asking bids when you have a void in your hand. Cue bid instead.

Cue bids promise first round controls when the suit is first bid after another suit has been agreed upon.

Aces and kings are worth more when located outside of the trump suit.

Put on the brakes if there is duplication in controls.

Tips for better game bidding are:

Show your high card point count and distribution with basic prepared bids. Anticipate probable responses by partner and have your responses ready in your mind.

Remember that certain bids should also imply quick trick strength. Try not to overvalue or undervalue your high card strength as well as your distribution. Remember: distribution can be even more valuable than high cards once you have found a fit.

Help partner evaluate his hand by showing second suits and controls. Cue bidding is tricky but it really pays off when you need to know about controls in specific suits. Only cuebid when you have interest in proceeding further.

Green Bay Sectional
May 3-5, 2002
Best Western
Washington Street Inn
321 Washington Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 437-8771
 Ask for Bridge Rate
by April 2, 2002
 File Code: CGWU

Friday, May 3
1:00 Stratified 199er
Pairs
(Awards for Winners)
 7:00 Stratified Pairs

Saturday, May 4
 1:00 and 7:00 Compact
 Knockouts
 1:00 Stratified Pairs
 7:00 Stratified Pairs

Sunday, May 5
 10:00 Stratified Swiss
 Teams (Light Lunch
 Provided)

Chairman: Charleen
 Guinther (920) 337-9762
 Partnerships: Peter
 Loken (920) 437-3377

Poker Bridge by Walt Schafer

Here's a hand from the 2001 Motor City regional, near Detroit, Michigan. I held:

♠92 ♥J63 ♦J864 ♣QJ62

I am playing in a pairs game and partner opens one spade at favorable vulnerability. RHO bids four hearts. I pass, of course, and it occurs to me that this would be the perfect time for the ♠2 lead, hoping to trick declarer into ruffing low on the third round or high on the second round.

My hopes were immediately crushed as it went 4♠ - Double - Redouble. Doesn't look like the sneaky ♠2 has a chance now, does it? I passed again and LHO bid 5♣. Pass from partner. *No Dbl* from partner is big news. Partner just heard 4♠ get redoubled. Surely he would double 4♣ with either the ace or king. So I guess a ♣ lead is out.

RHO bid 5♦ and my devious mind was at it again. No club honor from partner? They cue bid spades on my left and RHO redoubled my partner's double . . . I didn't like our chances on defense. I doubled 5♦ hoping to slow them down in the bidding.

LHO thought and bid five hearts, RHO thought and passed. That was what I was hoping for, but now it is time to lead.

A red suit lead is surely out of the question. Do I lead a hopeless spade or a hopeless club? I decided to go back to the diabolical deuce of spades, as my partner later called it. A club seemed a lot less attractive to me and besides, it is a close decision, and the deuce of spades would make for a much better story if it happened to work!

I tabled the spade deuce and this is what I saw:

♠ AJ75
 ♥ K7
 ♦ 95
 ♣ AT753

♠ 92
 ♥ J63
 ♦ J864
 ♣ QJ63



The auction:

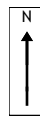
East	South	West	North
1♠	4♥	Pass	4♠
Dble	Redble	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Dble	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer won the ♠A and led a diamond. I had doubled 5♦ but still, partner won his ♦A and led the ♠K. Declarer started thinking. Could it be? The next thing I knew, declarer ruffed with the ♥A and played a low trump to dummy's king. My partner showed out.

Declarer lost the ♦A and a trump, making five. He lost a trump with AKQ *tenth* of trump. Here is the whole hand:

♠ AJ75
 ♥ K7
 ♦ 95
 ♣ AT753

♠ 92
 ♥ J63
 ♦ J864
 ♣ QJ63



♠ KQT853
 ♥
 ♦ AT72
 ♣ K84

♠ 6
 ♥ AQT98532
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ 9

It was possible for the ♦A to be offside, and my double would normally assure that it was

offside. If that were the case then declarer could not draw trumps. He needed a diamond ruff in the dummy to make six. So he "had" to lead a diamond from dummy at trick two.

My partner hopped with the ♦A because he thought the ♠K was cashing; he believed my ♠2 lead also. That was a great play by partner. If the ♦K wins, declarer would probably assume the Ace was onside. It would be pretty hard for me to duck with the ace, since we might have two fast diamond winners, for example. If declarer then played a trump to the king it would have exposed the 3-0 break. Declarer would either draw trumps and play for the ♦A onside or be forced to ruff the spade low. In essence, he would have no choice but to make six.

The story took an interesting twist when I went to check our scores. We finished 6th overall but 1st was an interesting name, Robert Ciaffone. It was especially noticeable to me since I just read a book about Omaha (poker) by a Bob Ciaffone. I looked at his number and we had played him.

I looked around the room but I didn't see him. I checked to see which boards we had played against him and *it was him!* We played this hand against him! I did not get to speak to him at the tournament but locals assured me he was the one who wrote the book. When I got home I saw Bob Ciaffone's picture in another poker book and, in fact, he was the declarer.

My poker playing in the bidding and the leading had been perpetrated against the poker player!

*Joe knows nothing
 about bridge... and
 his wife knows twice
 as much!*

Richard Pavlichek



They start 'em playing cards earlier and earlier these days!

Play Bridge With Larry Cohen ... a Software Review by Stan Subeck

One of my favorite bridge authors was Terrance Reese. His books led you through his thought process as he bid or played a hand. Larry Cohen follows in Reese's footsteps on a somewhat simpler level with his software in the "Play Bridge With Larry Cohen" series. The target of this series is the Intermediate player who wants to win against better competition.

"Play Bridge With Larry Cohen – 1999 Life Master Pairs" gives you the chance to follow Larry's thinking through the first day of a major national event. This program is what I call a "computer book." You participate in the story through the interactive capabilities of your computer. The \$29.95 price tag for 56 deals (Day One of the LM Pairs) is just about what you would pay to play in the event. While you won't get masterpoints from the computer program, you will improve your game enough to win those extra points the next time you play.

The program installed easily and the computer interface designed by Fred Gitelman is simple to use and mimics a book with a table of contents, chapters and pages.

You bid and play each deal with Larry. The bidding is modern Standard American with discussion of why you chose each bid and with consideration given to alternatives that are available. For example (Session 1 – Hand 6), should you preempt or pass holding:

♠Kxxxx ♥Txxx ♦A ♣xx

in second seat? Larry explains why pass is his choice...bad suit, side 4-card major, some defense, and positional disadvantage. Do

you consider all of these factors before you preempt? I doubt it. You may not fully agree with passing (Larry says he's getting old. Kxxxx used to be good enough for him), but you will do well to follow his thought process and consider his ideas.

Explanations of when alerts are needed are somewhat tedious and distracting. Larry attempts to put you, the reader, in the most interesting seat on each deal. He does not attempt to match his actual table results since he and David Berkowitz play Precision, a complicated strong club system.

If you are declarer, Larry teaches you to plan the play and take the mathematically correct plays. He also discusses matchpoint play considerations, such as playing for overtricks and cashing out for down-one rather than risking down-two in some situations. After each hand you see the actual matchpoint results and Larry discusses his thoughts on how these results occurred.

Even if you don't think you're ready for high level National Tournaments, you can learn a lot from watching an expert bid and play and even more from interactively playing along with him.

Springtime Sectional

Appleton, Wisconsin
March 22-24, 2002

Thompson Community Center
820 West College Avenue
Highway 47 at College

Friday, March 22

199er Pairs 1:00 p.m.

Trophies for 199er winners

Chairman: Carolyn Kuske
(920) 749-1258

Improve Your Game By Suzi Subeck

While you and your partner should work together to hone your game and perfect your skills, it is best not to try to do this at the bridge table. It is best to work away from the table with a pad of paper and a number 2 pencil. If a problem occurs during a duplicate session, it is best to make a note of it and discuss it after the game. Working together, you can generally straighten out whatever bidding screw-ups have occurred so that next time your system will handle the situation.

Try to locate a mentor. A mentor is a player with greater experience with whom you have regular contact. Use the mentor not to teach you but to help you and partner work out the cause of problems in your bidding and play. Most experienced players are willing to act as a mentor when approached the right way. When you bring a hand to your mentor, be sure to have both the auction and hand written down accurately. Be sure you have all thirteen cards in each hand. Saying that you held "something in spades and a couple of hearts" just won't cut it. If you want proper advice, you have to supply proper information.

It is important for all advancing players to work on their games: alone and with their partners and mentors. Just how much time you spend doing this is up to you. The more you work at it, the better you will become.

It is also important to come up with the proper balance of "playing time" and "discussion time." Both are important to your game and both will improve your skills. The most important thing, however, is to remember not to mix the two activities. Enjoy your playing time and talk later for best results.



What's trump???

*Law of Total Tricks:
A new Nevada ordinance
to reduce prostitution.
Quick Tricks:
Last-minute scurry by
hookers to beat the
ordinance.*

Richard Pavlicek

Ode to “Easy” Blackwood by Ellyn Batko

Recalling a hand from Boston...
The tournament was a blast.
Hordes of duplicate players
Hoping for points to amass.

I met a very nice player.
We seemed to be getting along.
Just 5 card majors and Blackwood,
With Stayman we couldn't go wrong!

And then we met these fellas
“Come play with us in the Swiss”
I said, “Well, I don't know, maybe...
I'll check with my partner, Chris.”

We're over 3000 they told me.
It's 'A' we'll have to play in.
“I'm nervous,” I said, “But it's worth it
Just think of the points that I'll win.”

We shuffled the boards at our table.
The event was soon to begin.
The excitement was making me giddy.
(But that's a state that I'm normally in.)

Along came this hand, what a whopper!
A grand slam in hearts they were in.
“Double,” said Chris, very smoothly.
(My nerves were now growing thin.)

Imagine contracting for seven.
Missing the ace of trump!
My heart was beating wildly
Thump, thump, thump!

Soon the fur was flying
All over the place.
“Down one doubled,” said Chris,
A vulnerable smile upon his face.

We checked our scores carefully.
For sure this board was a top.
Plus 200 for our side
We now were licking our chops.

But at the other table,
Much to our chagrin,
Our partners arrived at a contract
The same one our opponents were in.

I can't explain what happened.
This round had turned to “mush.”
Believe it or not, Mr. Ripley,
Our top became a push!

The moral of my story
Is as plain as it can be.
Easy does it, Mr. Blackwood.
(He surely would agree.)

So be careful when you're bidding.
You don't have to be too smart.
Easley would never be in seven
Off the ace of hearts!

The Master Race

Men are masters at getting their way.
They never pass anything you have to say.

Contracts, like marriages, in Heaven are made.
Men never play minors, only no-trump or spades.

They always outbid their opponents one more.
Who cares if the results are a big minus score?

Men are so steady, so quick and so bright
As long as you tell them they're 100% right.

When they make a mistake, they say, “I took a view.”
But you're always wrong when it happens to you.

They play every hand, you're forced to abide.
Even if no-trump plays best from your side.

They double all slams, then scream they've been fixed.
God love 'em, without 'em, how'd we play the Mixed?

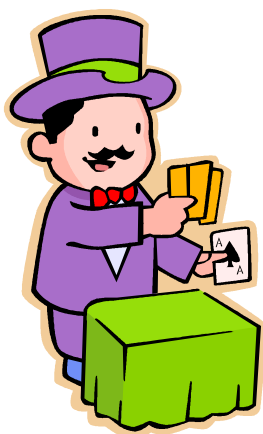
(Ellyn Batko spends the winters in Florida, but her main residence is in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Ellyn is a member of the District 13 Board of Directors and a frequent contributor to the I/N Newsletter... especially for you!)

Ellyn's writings illustrate her great sense of humor but if you read them carefully, there is a ring of truth and a lesson to be learned in each of her poems.

We look forward to including more of Ellyn's work in future issues.)

*Sorry, partner. I
woulda led my
singleton...
but I couldn't find it
— it was so small.*

Richard Pavlichek



If you're gonna “pick a card,” it may as well be an ace!

Winterfest Sectional (Rosemont, IL)

Fri Eve Future Masters 28 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.92	1			Rick Lepscier, Tinley Park IL; George Goewey, Chicago IL	163.00
1.58	2	1	1	Joyce Hooks - Vaughn Hooks, Hinsdale IL	160.50
1.19	3	2	2	Stephen Bell, Warrenville IL; Robert Kucaba, Downers Grove IL	157.50
0.89	4	3		Sue Holbert, Evanston IL; Leslie Prizant, Chicago IL	149.00
0.59	5/7	4/5	3/4	Ronald Kohn - Jo Kohn, Schaumburg IL	148.50
0.85	5/7			Theresa Schneider - Forrest Schneider, Northbrook IL	148.50
0.85	5/7	4/5	3/4	Laurie Hamachek - Chere Morrison, Elgin IL	148.50
0.58		6		Judy D'Isa, La Grange Park IL; Betsy Hoyd, Brookfield IL	147.50
0.40			5	Terri Kies, Orland Park IL; Mike Strong, Winfield IL	146.00

Fri. Morn. Future Masters 20 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.67	1	1		Terri Kies, Orland Park IL; Robert Walk, Evanston IL	105.00
1.25	2			Carole Gleason, Des Plaines IL; Eleanor Langhenry, Arlington Hts IL	103.30
1.01	3	2	1	Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL	102.50
0.70	4			Kathleen Gleason - Jane Morrissey, Hinsdale IL	101.36
0.76	5	3	2	Sharon Frantz, Warrenville IL; Marcia Conarty, No. Aurora IL	93.29
0.57	6	4	3	Mary Southwick, Lisle IL; Kathy Beranek, Wheaton IL	92.21
0.43		5	4	Karl Dencker, Lk In The Hls IL; Patrick Haverty, Woodstock IL	92.07

Sat Eve Future Masters 26 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.92	1			Joe Orenstein - Scott Huddleston, Chicago IL	161.00
1.50	2	1		Larry Cohen, Villa Park IL; Howard Cohen, Rosemont IL	155.50
1.13	3	2	1	Sharon Frantz, Warrenville IL; Marcia Conarty, No. Aurora IL	150.50
0.84	4	3		Nancy Linzy, Wildwood MO; Robert Fredricksen, Plainfield IL	147.50
0.61	5			Helen Donovan - Denise Kadleck, Chicago IL	143.50
0.75	6/7	4/5	2/3	Steve Oshen - Julie Oshen, Glen Ellyn IL	143.00
0.75	6/7	4/5	2/3	Laurie Hamachek - Chere Morrison, Elgin IL	143.00
0.48		6	4	Mary Southwick, Lisle IL; Kathy Beranek, Wheaton IL	142.50
0.36			5	Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL	139.50

Sat Aft Future Masters 28 Pairs

	A	B	C		
2.00	1	1	1	Dragan Scepanovic, Naperville IL; Sue Buss, IL	203.00
1.50	2	2	2	J. Randy Dahl - Lynwood Dahl, Barrington IL	198.50
1.13	3	3	3	Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL	188.50
1.00	4			Rick Lepscier, Tinley Park IL; George Goewey, Chicago IL	182.00
0.70	5			Carole Gleason, Des Plaines IL; Eleanor Langhenry, Arlington Hts IL	179.00
0.79	6	4	4	Ellen Rubert, Highland Park IL; Valerie Bennett, Chicago IL	178.50
0.52		5	5	Diane Treslo, Rolling Meadows IL; Jacqueline Rapp, Arlington Hts IL	176.50
0.55		6		Sid Bennett - Elizabeth Subkowsky, Chicago IL	175.50

Flight C/D Swiss Teams 20 Teams

	C	D			
4.50	1			Larry Feigen, Wauconda IL; Robert Walk, Evanston IL; Satoko Kato, Northfield IL; Chisato Kiriyama, Arlington Hts IL	92.00
3.38	2			Shashi Shah - Roger Theis, Naperville IL; Dahyabhai Patel - Meera Patel, Willow Springs IL	91.00
2.53	3			Robert Dekeyser, Rockton IL; Susan Tunelius - Raymond Tunelius - Renee Shambeau, Davis IL	89.00
1.90	4			Jean Faeth - Christine Miley - Gene Miley, Hinsdale IL; Daniel Driggett, Glendale Hts IL	88.00
1.42	5			Dragan Scepanovic - Robert Forbes - Timothy O'Reilly, Naperville IL; Donald Mason, Woodridge IL	83.00
2.13	6/7	1		N La Master - F La Master, Munster IN; George Brandt, Palatine IL; Elizabeth Sibbach, Hoffman Estates IL	81.00
0.94	6/7			Mary Grummons - Milo Grummons, Warrenville IL; Linda Hargnett, River Grove IL; Janet Perryman, Riverside IL	81.00
1.60		2		Jacqueline Rapp - Eleanor Langhenry, Arlington Hts IL; Diane Treslo, Rolling Meadows IL; Carole Gleason, Des Plaines IL	66.00
1.20		3		John Soule, Niles IL; David Kuchar - Stewart Skolnick - Philip Lapalio Jr, Chicago IL	58.00

Mad City Sectional (Madison, WI)

Stratified Swiss Teams 17 Teams

2.28	1	J Gerlach - Mary Gerlach - Jerald Wendt - Nancy Wendt, Whitewater WI	62.00
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Knockout Bracket #3 6 Teams

4.40	1	Dennis Phillips, Middleton WI; Constantin Tivis, Dickeyville WI; Qi Yang - Steven Cook, Platteville WI
3.30	2	Eric Giefer - Jessica Sanner - Bob Esser - James McGonigle, Madison WI

Sunday Swiss Teams 27 Teams

5.27	1	Asher Kach, Chillicothe IL; Dragan Scepanovic, Naperville IL; Brian Hartwig, Madison WI; Ramiro De La Vega 83.00
2.22	2	David Secondino, Rochester WI; Michael Munz-John Wennerstrand, Sturgeon Bay WI; Henry Sokol, Milwaukee WI 72.00
1.36	3/4	Evelyn Schneider, Hartland WI; Philip Simon, Pewaukee WI; Jay Francis, Fort Atkinson WI; S Tuff, Oconomowoc WI 56.00



Remember: Every trick counts and you should be counting every trick!

*Overheard at the bridge club:
We had a 75-percent game last night!
Three out of four opponents thought we were idiots.*

Richard Pavlichek

(Continued on page 10)

(Results, continued from page 9)

1.36 3/4 Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI; Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI; Joan O'Leary, Portage WI; Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI 56.00

Holiday Sectional (Milwaukee, Wi.)

Thurs Morn 199er Pairs 11 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.47	1			Alice Wagner, Milwaukee WI; Larry Wagner, Plano TX	62.50
1.25	2	1	1	Amy Utter - Doug Utter, Hartford WI	57.14
0.94	3	2		Patricia Reinartz - Louise Malmstadt, Milwaukee WI	52.00
0.70	4	3		Joe Rosplochowski - Marian Langer, Manitowoc WI	50.86
0.53		4		Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI	50.50
0.74			2	Jeri Poker, Milwaukee WI; Carole Parker,	50.29

Thurs KO Bracket #3 6 Teams

4.40 1 John Textor, Sheboygan WI; Paul Stunkel, Vlg Of Lakewd IL; John Novak, Lk In The Hls IL; Sandra Andreen, Clarendon Hills
 3.30 2 David Secondino, Rochester WI; Henry Sokol - Gwen Rotter, Milwaukee WI; William Hackbarth III, Cedarburg WI

Thurs Aft 199ers Pairs 16 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.65	1			Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI; Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI	104.00
1.33	2	1	1	Clarie Zukrow, Brown Deer WI; Sylvia Pasch, Greendale WI	102.00
1.00	3	2	2	Suzie Potter - Donald Potter, Milwaukee WI	99.00
0.61	4/5			Lynette Koski, Pewaukee WI; Sue Waggerhauser, Waukesha WI	94.50
0.75	4/5	3		Carol Herr, Greenfield WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI	94.50
0.59		4	3	Amy Utter - Doug Utter, Hartford WI	89.50

Friday KO Bracket #3 6 Teams

4.80 1 Dragan Scepanovic, Naperville IL; Dave Srinivasan, Bolingbrook IL; Roger Hendrick, Western Sprgs IL; Manohar Rao
 3.60 2 Henry Sokol - Gwen Rotter, Milwaukee WI; David Secondino, Rochester WI; Janis Friesler, Mequon WI

Fri Morn 199er Pairs 16 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.45	1/2			Lynette Koski, Pewaukee WI; Sue Waggerhauser, Waukesha WI	96.50
1.45	1/2			William Burks - Ruth Burks, Rochester NY	96.50
1.33	3	1	1	Thomas Myers, Waukesha WI; Don Sundeen,	94.00
1.00	4	2	2	Suzie Potter - Donald Potter, Milwaukee WI	90.50
0.75	5	3	3	J. Randy Dahl - Lynwood Dahl, Barrington IL	88.50
0.56		4	4	Maripat Shaw - Patricia Kornfeld, Shorewood WI	87.00

Fri Aft 199er Pairs 16 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.65	1			Shashi Shah, Naperville IL; Dahyabhai Patel, Willow Spgs IL	111.50
1.24	2			Mary Eldridge, Elm Grove WI; Kathleen Lucas, Milwaukee WI	106.50
0.93	3			Marian Brill - Muriel Silbar, Milwaukee WI	96.50
1.25	4	1		Adrienne Kamp, Skokie IL; Judi Singer, Highland Park IL	89.00
0.52	5			Peg Crilly - George Crilly, Milwaukee WI	88.50
1.05		2	1	Thomas Myers, Waukesha WI; Don Sundeen,	86.50
0.79		3	2	Milton Peckarsky - Vivian Peckarsky, Milwaukee WI	85.50
0.59		4	3	Jane Stoel - Margaret Scholtes, Waukesha WI	82.50

Saturday KO Bracket #3 6 Teams

4.80 1 Marvin Weber, Greendale WI; Wayne Young, W Milwaukee WI; Barbara Subak, Northbrook IL; Lois Ingram, Arlington Hts IL
 3.60 2 Thomas Ohlgart, Brookfield WI; Ted Zelman, Chicago IL; William Murphy, Rhinelander WI; Anthony Reeves, Madison WI

Sat Morn 199er Pairs 8 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.28	1			Sauny Baron, Milwaukee WI; Barbara Volk, Mequon WI	51.00
1.08	2	1		Maxine Cohn - Ronald Cohn, Glendale WI	39.50
0.81	3	2		Patricia Reinartz, Milwaukee WI; C Jean Bluemner, Franklin WI	39.00

Sat Aft 199er Pairs 10 Pairs

	A	B	C		
1.38	1			William Zimmerman, De Forest WI; Timothy Luker, Green Bay WI	66.50
1.08	2	1	1	Lucy Will, West Allis WI; Jeri Poker, Milwaukee WI	58.50
0.78	3			Sauny Baron, Milwaukee WI; Barbara Volk, Mequon WI	54.50
0.81	4	2	2	Maxine Cohn - Ronald Cohn, Glendale WI	53.50

Stratified 299er Swiss 6 Teams

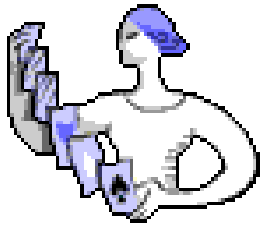
	D	E	F		
2.40	1			Marian Brill - Marilyn Fine - Sauny Baron, Milwaukee WI; Barbara Volk, Mequon WI	66.00
1.93	2	1		Mildred Schelkun - Vivian Peckarsky - Milton Peckarsky, Milwaukee WI; Nancy Jane Sykes, Cedarburg WI	56.00

Turkey Bowl Sectional Aurora, IL

Fri Eve Strat 99er 12 Pairs

	A	B			
1.33	1	1		Ronald Kohn - Jo Kohn, Schaumburg IL	65.50
1.00	2	2		Charles Johnson - Demaris Johnson, Winfield IL	58.00
0.75	3			Sandra Hoette, Glen Ellyn IL; Nick Cordell, Yorkville IL	54.00
0.64	4	3		Timothy O'Reilly, Naperville IL; Donald Mason, Woodridge IL	53.50
0.48		4		Steven Wilson - Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL	51.50

(Continued on page 11)



My partner thought she could perform a card trick last night at the local duplicate. She was wrong. She tried to make the opponent's ace of trump disappear against our grand slam! Maybe next time she will simply try

Want to be an expert?

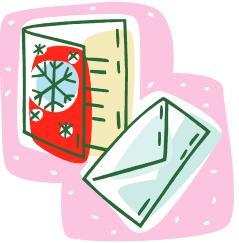
Rule #1: Never take a finesse to make your contract when you can go down on a squeeze play!

(Results, continued from page 10)

Central States Regional Lake Geneva, WI

Table with columns for scores, categories (A, B, C), and names of participants. Includes sub-sections like '0-199er Stratified Prs 15 Pairs', 'Future Masters Pairs 16 Pairs', 'Tues. Aft. Future Mast. 16 Pairs', 'Wed Morn Future Masters 16 Pairs', 'Wed Afternoon 199 Pairs 14 Pairs', 'Thurs Morn 199'ER Pairs 21 Pairs', 'Thurs.Aft.Future Masters 24 Pairs', 'Friday Morning 199ers Prs 13 Pairs', 'Friday Aft 199ers 16 Pairs', and '199'ER Pairs 28 Pairs'.

Did you hear about the guy who wanted to learn bridge in one day? He bought 35 copies of "Five Weeks To Winning Bridge."



When I said I needed new cards, I meant playing cards ... not greeting cards!

(Continued on page 12)

The District 13 I/N Newsletter, April, 2002

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Upcoming Tournaments

Appleton Sectional, March 22-24, Appleton

District 13 Regional, April 22-28, Lake Geneva

Green Bay Sectional, May 3-5, Green Bay

Minoqua Sectional, June 5-9, Minoqua

Marquette Sectional, August 23-25, Marquette

Iron Mountain Sectional, September 20-22, Iron Mountain

Eau Claire Sectional, October 4-6, Eau Claire

Central States Regional, October 21-27, Lake Geneva

Madison Sectional, December 13-15, Madison

(Results, continued from page 11)

2.31	2			Joan Bailey-Murray, Rockford IL; Dolores Witte, Roscoe IL	153.50
1.93	3	2		Lucy Will, West Allis WI; Jeri Poker, Milwaukee WI	149.00
1.45	4	3		Sandra Woodland, Madison WI; Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL	147.00
1.54	5	4	1	Donna Cooper, Mequon WI; Mickey Sattell, Milwaukee WI	146.00
1.12	6	5	2	Barbara Morgan, Park Ridge IL; Fred Johnston, Chicago IL	143.00
0.77		6		Stewart Skolnick - Philip Lapalio Jr, Chicago IL	140.50
0.84			3	William Lee, Burlington WI; Sarah Eldred, Springfield IL	140.00
0.65			4	Zoe Baxter Buchanan - Jean Adcock, Naperville IL	135.50

Saturday Eve 199er Pairs 11 Pairs

	A	B	C		
2.05	1	1	1	Zoe Baxter Buchanan - Jean Adcock, Naperville IL	56.40
1.54	2	2	2	Sandra Woodland, Madison WI; Jacqueline Rapp, Arlington Hts IL	53.50
1.15	3	3		Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI; Joan O'Leary, Portage WI	51.60
0.76	4/5	4		Danny Price - Beverly Price, Lockport IL	51.00
0.76	4/5			Phyllis Seeman, Freeport IL; Mary McCormick, Waukesha WI	51.00
0.74			3	Marion Hunter - Reiko Hunter, Palatine IL	48.00

Sunday Morn 299er Swiss 12 Teams

	A	B	C		
3.08	1	1		Daniel Cieslik - Jennifer Parello - Walt Werner, Chicago IL; Mark Fritz, Naperville IL	62.00
2.31	2			Sandra Andreen, Clarendon Hills IL; George Clark, Lititz PA; John Wennerstrand, Sturgeon Bay WI; Dee Dee Gooze, Arlington Hts. IL	53.00
1.73	3	2		Robert Forbes - Dragan Scepanovic - Tim O'Reilly, Naperville IL; Donald Mason, Woodridge IL	48.00
1.30	4			Jon Lager - Joan Lager, Lisle IL; Kimberley Wolfe, Clarendon Hills IL; Gwen Meehan-Braun, Manitowoc WI	47.00
1.37			1	Joan O'Leary, Portage WI; Jacqueline Rapp, Arlington Hts IL; Diane Treslo, Rolling Mdns IL; Audrey Gehrig, Janesville WI	45.00

Sunday Aft 299er Swiss 11 Teams

	A	B	C		
2.94	1	1		Daniel Cieslik - Jennifer Parello - Walt Werner, Chicago IL; Mark Fritz, Naperville IL	55.00
2.21	2	2		Robert Forbes - Dragan Scepanovic - Tim O'Reilly, Naperville IL; Donald Mason, Woodridge IL	52.00
1.65	3			John Soule, Niles IL; Julie Coplon, Evanston IL; Stewart Skolnick - Philip Lapalio Jr, Chicago IL	45.00
0.96	4/6			Jon Lager - Joan Lager, Lisle IL; Kimberley Wolfe, Clarendon Hills IL; Gwen Meehan-Braun, Manitowoc WI	44.00
0.96	4/6			Rob Speer - Judy Cohen, Chicago IL; Babette Brenner, Morton Grove IL; Denise Kadleck, Harwood Hts IL	44.00
1.37	4/6		1	Zoe Baxter Buchanan - Jean Adcock, Naperville IL; Jan Churchwell, Northbrook IL; Joyce Knauff, Wilmette IL	44.00

The I/N Newsletter ... especially for you is published twice a year in April and October. If you have any questions or comments or suggestions, address them to the editor please at the address above. We welcome all submissions, contributions and letters to the editor.



Always hold your cards back!
Remember: A peek is worth a thousand finesses!