

I/N News ... especially for you!

For Beginners by Andy Robson...

A little “Je ne sais quoi”

A word connoting some “je ne sais quoi” in common parlance, a finesse in Bridge is more straightforward. It is an attempt to promote a card, when the opponents have a higher card in the suit. Normally, you must lead from the opposite hand to the card you are trying to promote.

	North	
	♥ K 2	
West		East
? ♥ A ?		? ♥ A ?
	South	
	♥ 4 3	

You lead ♥3 towards ♥K. You hope the opponent playing second, West, holds ♥A. If he does, he is powerless to prevent ♥K from promoting. [He can play ♥A, but North’s ♥2 is played and ♥K makes next time; or, more likely, he can play second-hand-low, in which case ♥K, which you’ll now play, will win the trick].

Note that it doesn’t matter which is declarer’s hand and which is dummy; it doesn’t matter if the opponents can see what you’re doing. It’s all about the relative position of the card you are trying to promote and the opposing higher card.

Now look at this:

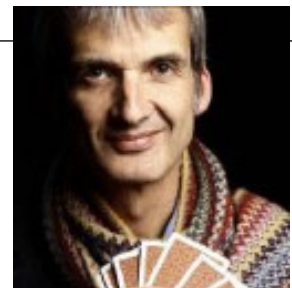
	North	
	♥ K Q 2	
West		East
? ♥ A ?		? ♥ A ?
	South	
	♥ 5 4 3	

Making one heart trick is easy. You can lead ♥K, forcing out ♥A (wherever it is) and promote ♥Q. However say you need two heart tricks so have to promote both ♥K and ♥Q.

Now finesse technique is required. You must lead from the opposite hand to those two honours you are trying to promote. You lead ♥3 and, assuming West plays low, try ♥Q. Half the time East will hold ♥A and ♥Q will lose to ♥A. You’ve promoted ♥K, but cannot make two heart tricks. However say West holds ♥A, in which case ♥Q is promoted. You must now return to the South hand (in another suit), then lead ♥4 towards ♥K. Whether West plays ♥A or not, ♥K is promoted.

Finessing is like the toss of a coin, a 50-50 chance.

In 1995, Andrew Robson founded the highly successful Andrew Robson Bridge Club in South West London. He has written the courses which tens of thousands have taken at the Club over the years. He still teaches several weekends a year. Andrew has written the daily Bridge column for The Times for over 20 years. He has written weekly for Country Life for 30 years and weekly for Money Week for nearly 20 years. He also writes monthly for The Oldie. Andrew produces acclaimed daily instruction “BridgeCast” videos for all levels of players (go to andrewrobsonbridgecast.com) and has seen a meteoric rise in many of his subscribers.



Volume 25, Issue 1
Spring, 2025

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Redouble

We have noted that the general principle for the responder to the opener is to ignore right-hand opponent's take-out double. He does, however, have an extra option. Redouble. This is a rarely used call - for a start you can only use it when an opponent has doubled.

Redouble is an expression of confidence, and the most common situation is the redouble of a take-out double of partner's opening bid. One-of-a-Suit - (Double) - Redouble shows a hand with 10+ points (giving the partnership the balance of the points) and, typically, no good suit (prefer to bid it) or support for partner (prefer to support).

Examples of 1♣ - (Double) - Redouble:

Hand i)	Hand ii)	Hand iii)	Hand iv)
♠ Q J 9 7	♠ 10 9 5 2	♠ K J 4 2	♠ A J 9
♥ Q 8 7 3	♥ K 4 2	♥ A J 9	♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ A J 10	♦ K 10 8 5	♦ A 8 6 3 2	♦ Q J 9
♣ 6 4	♣ A 4	♣ 2	♣ K 3 2

That expression of confidence can enable the opening side to penalise the take-out doubling side - the real point of the redouble.

Take this deal. **Take the West cards and defend**

West Deals	♠ A Q 8		
Both Vul	♥ Q 10 8 2		
	♦ K Q 10 8		
	♣ 7 3		
	♠ 7 6		♠ K J 4 2
♥ K 7 4 3			♥ A J 9
♦ 5 3			♦ A 7 6 4
♣ A K J 9 6			♣ 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Dbl	Rdbl ¹	1♠ ²
Pass	Pass	Dbl ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 10+ points, no good suit or fit for partner. Thus looking for a juicy penalty...
- Redouble counts as a bid, so South can pass the bidding round to partner. Generally a five-card minor or four-card major should be volunteered, however, so South cannot be faulted.
- For penalties - "I think they're going down".

1♠× by South

Lead: ♠6

West led a trump (best - when partner has doubled a partscore), to dummy's eight and East's jack. A club to the ten and West's jack was followed by a second trump to the queen and king. East led a third trump to dummy's ace and won the king of diamonds with his ace. A second club enabled West to win declarer's eight with the nine and lead out the ace-king- six, East throwing all his diamonds.

Declarer trumped the fifth club and tried to cash a diamond. But East trumped, led the nine of hearts to West's king, and took the last two tricks with ace-jack of hearts over dummy's queen-ten.

Down five and North-South +1400 points - an extreme example to illustrate the purpose of the redouble.

Signal & Discard

The most important situation in which the suit preference signal operates is when you are leading a suit for partner to ruff

	Dummy	
	♦ K Q J	
West	-----	East (you)
♦ 3	♥ trumps	♦ A 10 8 5 4 2
		plus
		(i) ♠ A, (ii) ♣ A

West leads ♦3 v the heart contract — surely a singleton. You win ♦A and lead a second diamond, and partner duly ruffs. Partner returns...?

That's the point. Partner doesn't know what to return and is guessing between spades and clubs. Here's where the suit preference signal comes into play. If you want the higher-ranking of the other two suits led back, you lead back ♦10; if you want the lower-ranking suit returned, you lead back ♦2. In (i), you lead back ♦10; in (ii), ♦2. In either case, partner leads back to your ♠A/♣A and you give partner a second diamond ruff.

It can get quite subtle, especially in expert circles. If you're not sure what you want partner to return, lead back ♦5, the middle card. If you think you want a spade but you're not sure, lead back ♦8; if you think you want a club but are not sure, lead back ♦4

	Dummy	
	♥ K Q J	
West	-----	East (you)
♥ 4	♠ Trumps	♥ A 9 7 6 3 2
		plus
		(i) ♠ A

You win ♥4 lead with ♥A and place partner with no more hearts (he'd have led top of two). Before you lead back a heart for partner to ruff, cash the bare ♠A to void yourself. Then lead ♥2 as a suit preference signal for clubs (as opposed to diamonds). Partner ruffs and returns a second club which you ruff. You return a third heart, ruffed and partner returns a third club, ruffed. Assuming you and partner both begin with at least two spades, while declarer and dummy both begin with at least three clubs, you win the first six tricks.

South Deals	♠ K Q 2		
None Vul	♥ Q J 8 6 4		
	♦ K J 5		
	♣ 4 2		
	♠ 9 3		♠ 8 7 6
♥ A 10 3 2			♥ 5
♦ A 10			♦ Q 6 4 2
♣ J 9 7 6 3			♣ K Q 10 8 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♥ ¹
			4♠

All pass

- 1♠-2♥ shows five (or more) hearts.

West was listening to the bidding. North-South had advertised eight hearts between them, leaving just one for East. At trick one, he led ♥A, knowing he was voiding his partner. At trick two, he led ♥10, a suit preference signal for the higher-ranking diamonds (over clubs).

East ruffed and resisted the temptation to switch to ♣K, rather leading a dutiful ♦2. West won ♦A and led a third heart, East ruffing again. Down one.

More Robson For Intermediate Players...

Any one for golf?

The other month I took part in a Charity Golf-Bridge Pro-Am at Surrey's charming Coombe Hill. Those who've seen me play may be surprised to hear I (with partner Paul Tustain) won the Golf. We lost the Bridge. As co-organiser – with the amazing and wonderful ARBC member Godfrey King – I devised a Bridge Quiz – which I gave over dinner.

Try these three of the 12 questions :(1) You are: (a) More likely to hold 11 points than 9 (b) Less likely to hold 11 points than 9 (c) Just as likely to hold 11 points as 9. (2) Who invented the Stayman convention? (a) Sam Stayman, (b) Jack Marx and George Rapee simultaneously across the ocean, (c) Nobody knows. (3). You have three finesses to take. Assuming that each finesse is a 50% shot, what is the chance that at least two of them will work? (a) 25% (b) 33% (c) 50%. ([Click here for answers](#))

On this deal from the Coombe Hill Charity Duplicate, the most common score was 4 ♠ by East making plus two. South invariably led a heart, enabling declarer to rise with dummy's jack, draw trumps in three rounds, cash ♥ AK shedding dummy's club and merely concede to the ♦ A.

East Deals	♠ J 8 4		
N-S Vul	♥ 10		
	♦ 8 7 4 2		
	♣ K 10 9 8 4		
♠ Q 10 9 7 3	N	♠ A K 6 5 2	
♥ J 2	W E	♥ A K 6 4 3	
♦ K J 10 9 6	S	♦ Q	
♣ Q		♣ 6 3	
		♠ —	
		♥ Q 9 8 7 5	
		♦ A 5 3	
		♣ A J 7 5 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♠	2 ♠ ¹
4 ♠	4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Michaels, showing five-five in hearts and an unspecified minor.
2. Please bid your minor, partner.

At our featured table N-S found the unfavourable vulnerability "sacrifice" in 5 ♣ (doubled). Down one would have been a good save. South was to do better. Ruffing the opening spade lead, declarer crossed to the (queen and) king of clubs, then led dummy's singleton ten of hearts. East rose with the king and switched to his singleton queen of diamonds, but declarer won the ace and ruffed a heart, noting West's jack with interest. Declarer returned to his ace of clubs, drawing the last trump, then led the queen of hearts. When West discarded, he could count East for his 5 ♠ 5 ♥ 1 ♦ 2 ♣ shape and discarded a diamond from dummy.

East won the ace and, with no more diamonds, led a second spade. Declarer ruffed, cashed ♥ 98 discarding dummy's remaining diamonds and crossruffed. 11 tricks and doubled game made.

Answers to Quiz: (1)(b): the distribution is skewed because you can hold more than 20 points but not fewer than zero. (2)(b): It all happened as WW2 broke out. Rapee gave Stayman the convention to popularise, whilst the self-effacing Marx kept it to his inner coterie of North London Acolytes. (3)(c): The chances of more finesses working than failing is 50-50.

Robson For Advanced Players...



Spring

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a message about Spring.

Game Page...

T L E M W O N S S S A R G L A
 G C Y C L A M E N S A L I L P
 G N G R O W T H R L L L R S
 O Y I I D L S A R A I E S N N
 L A L N K A I E B E R R O H E
 F M L O A N F E S G M I P W W
 E N A E E E S F I U L R R A L
 I O B Q R A L E O E C S A B E
 R S T U B E S C D D F O S W A
 I A F I G R N N G L I N R H V
 S E O N N R A E O N I L C C E
 E S S O I D E W W B I R S B S
 S I N X R G E E O A A R M E G
 A Y F L P R O R N M L W P E O
 E T E W S S P I L U T R S S R
 R E T S A E P L A N T I N G F

With Spring
 Come the flowers
 And also
 The showers...

I toss off
 My boots.
 And bid the
 Red suits!

Diamonds
 And Hearts!
 And strawberry
 Tarts!

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| ALLERGIES | FROGS | RAIN |
| APRIL | GOLF | RENEWAL |
| BASEBALL | GRASS | ROBINS |
| BEES | GREEN | SEASON |
| CROCUSES | GROWTH | SNOWMELT |
| CYCLAMENS | IRISES | SOFTBALL |
| DAFFODILS | LILIES | SPRING BREAK |
| DANDELIONS | MARCH | SPRING CLEANING |
| EASTER | MAY | TULIPS |
| EQUINOX | NEW LEAVES | WARMER |
| FLOWERS | PLANTING | WET |



District 13 Rank Advancements

First Name	Last Name	New Rank
Susan	Enright	Junior Master
Barbara	Friedman	Junior Master
Jane	Sauer	Junior Master
Kaining	Sheng	Junior Master
Blaise	Vitale	Junior Master
John	Adams	Club Master
Marjorie	Appel	Club Master
Dan	Ehrmann	Club Master
Nathan	Krause	Club Master
Kristen	Lampe	Club Master
Jean	Burgener	Sectional Master
Dorothy	Fischer	Sectional Master
Earl	Fischer	Sectional Master
Gregory	Fritz	Sectional Master
Susan	Fritz	Sectional Master
Richard	Gilmore	Sectional Master
Sandra	Gilmore	Sectional Master
Debbie	Kamin	Sectional Master
Carolyn	Montgomery	Sectional Master
Bryan	Naab	Sectional Master
James	Skinner	Sectional Master
Janis	Arnovich	Regional Master
Sally	Gleason	Regional Master
Gail	Kepley	Regional Master
Helen	Melchior	Regional Master
Mona	Varney	Regional Master
Daniele	Langer	NABC Master
Daniel	Walsh	NABC Master
Gail	Conder	Adv NABC Master
Avery	Wang	Adv NABC Master
Jacob	Breneisen	Life Master
Kunal	Pujara	Life Master
Jacob	Breneisen	Bronze Life Master
Jan	Summers	Bronze Life Master
Terry	Burk	Silver Life Master
Neel	French	Silver Life Master
Ted	Pristash	Silver Life Master
Irene	Beaudoin	Ruby Life Master
Bill	Davis	Ruby Life Master
Steve	Kimmel	Ruby Life Master
Al	Marino	Ruby Life Master
James	Abbott	Gold Life Master
Paul	Prez	Gold Life Master
Frank	Christopher	Sapphire Life Master
Robert	Webster	Emerald Life Master

2nd Annual World Bridge Federation Women's Online Teams!

The Second Annual WBF Women's Online Teams was held from January 3-5, 2025, on RealBridge. There were 74 teams consisting of 453 players from 41 countries participating in the Transnational competition ... pretty impressive! Scheduling the matches across so many time zones was daunting. Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles worked tirelessly to set up and arrange things so players would not have to play through the nights. Shireen and Andy set it up so no one was wildly off schedule.

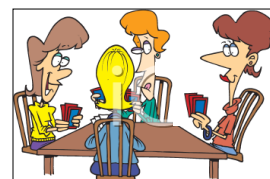
RealBridge is aptly named. It is IMHO the best online platform for "real" bridge play. With cameras and sound, it is exactly like playing in your living room with three of your friends. You interact with the others exactly like you would face-to-face, but you are online and it is very comfortable.

Several North American women participated in this event sponsored by the WBF Women's Committee. The Women's Committee promoted the tournament from start to finish. With 74 teams, the message is clear: Women want Women's Bridge. They like playing one another and if you plan it, they will come! Online offers great ease without the expense or bother of travel.

Kibitzing on RealBridge works well. It is possible to move from table to table following the action. There were more kibs than expected at this event and it went seamlessly.

WBF president, Jan Kamras, approved daily bulletins produced by Mark Horton that were excellent. The bulletins gave the event a branding and it was great. The bulletins are online and you can find them at: worldbridge.org.

Ladies: Consider planning teams for next year. You will be glad you did! You may find new friends and new partners. It is a great way to meet others.



Opener's Rebid – Balanced hands (SA)

As an opening bid, you can show the following balanced hands in one go:

- 15-17 = 1NT
- 20-22 = 2NT

So that leaves two ranges that qualify for an opening bid that we need to find a way to show: **balanced hands with 12-14 and 18-19 HCP**. You will notice that one of these is too weak to have opened 1NT; the other is too strong. The basic principle is simple: we open **1 of a suit** first and then **rebid NT** to show a balanced hand, unless we have 4-card support for Partner's major.

Your opening bid

When you open a suit at the 1-level, you will be promising a different number of cards depending on whether your opening is in a major or a minor:

- 1♥/♠ = 5+ cards
- 1♣/♦ = 3+ cards

If you are 5332 or 4333 with a 4-card minor, you can just open your longest suit (as you would do with an unbalanced hand). However, if you are 4432 or 4333 with a 4-card major, things are more complicated as you cannot open 1Major without 5 cards in the suit. Which minor should you choose instead?

People do different things but the easiest way is to follow the **"Better Minor" convention**. This comprises a simple set of rules:

- One minor is longer than the other = open the longer one
- 4-4 in both minors = open 1♦
- 3-3 in both minors = open 1♣

This ensures that your 1♦ opening will only ever be just 3 cards if you are precisely 4♠4♥3♦2♣.

Your rebid with support

Remember that the **first priority of strain** is to find out whether you have an **8-card major fit** with your partner. So if you have 4-card support for your partner's major, you must show it.

Now think back to the schema you learned in the lesson on rebidding with unbalanced hands:

- 12-15 = minimum, so raise to 2M
- 16-18 = maximum, so raise to 3M
- 19 = you have game opposite Partner's 6, so raise to 4M

If you have a balanced hand, you will be in the 12-14 or 18-19 ranges. So raise accordingly:

- 12-14 bal with 4-card support = minimum, so raise to 2M
- 18 bal with 4-card support = maximum, so raise to 3M
- 19 bal with 4-card support = game-going, so raise to 4M

Your rebid without support

Now let's learn something new!

If your partner has responded **1 of a suit**, you have two NT rebids available below game for describing your hand: **1NT and 2NT**. Therefore, rebidding 1NT shows 12-14 HCP and 2NT shows 18-19 HCP.

If your partner has responded **2 of a suit** instead, you have to show the two different ranges with **2NT and 3NT**: 2NT shows 12-14 and 3NT shows 18-19.

If your partner has responded **1NT (6-9 HCP)**, your options change slightly; this is because he has made a **non-forcing bid**.

- With **12-14 HCP**, you will not make a game opposite Partner's HCP-count; you will have at most 21-23 HCP between you. So you should **pass** with these hands.
- With **18-19 HCP**, you might well make a game, so you should **bid 2NT** with these hands.

Here is a summary for you:

Bid / P's response 1♦ to 1♠ 2♣ to 2♥ 1NT			
Pass			12-14
1NT	12-14		
2NT	18-19	12-14	18-19
3NT		18-19	

Two important points:

1. When you open the bidding, **always have an idea of the rebid you would like to make and the type of hand you would like to show**. This will speed up the auction if you get to make that rebid and help you to make your decision if you are forced to modify it.
2. **Your second bid should tell your partner whether or not you are balanced, unless you have support for your partner's major.**

Give 'Em A Hand!

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 7 3 2 ♥ K 6 3 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A K 7 5 ♠ K 10 9 8 5 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ Q J 4	♠ J 6 ♥ 9 5 ♦ Q J 9 4 2 ♣ 10 8 6 3 ♠ A Q 4 ♥ A Q J 10 7 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ 9 2
--	--

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

As a jump to three hearts would have been semi-preemptive, North's cue bid promised a sound raise in hearts.

West began by leading the queen of clubs. Declarer counted nine tricks with a diamond ruff. The tenth would have to come from either the queen of spades or the king of diamonds. However, in view of West's overcall, neither of those seemed likely on play directly to them. So, declarer set out to endplay West to force him to lead up to one of these honours.

The first step was to eliminate clubs, so, after winning the first trick with the ace of clubs, he cashed the king, then ruffed a club high. After the ace and king of trumps, he played dummy's last club. If West had the remaining club, declarer planned to discard his four of spades; West would win and have to concede the tenth trick by leading a spade or a diamond.

When East produced the last club South had to change tack; otherwise the defence could take two diamonds and a spade as well. As West was likely to have five spades headed by the king, after ruffing the club, declarer continued with the ace and queen of spades. West took two spade tricks and declarer claimed, for West would have to concede a ruff-and-discard or lead away from the ace of diamonds. Either way declarer had ten tricks.

306. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 6 ♥ A Q J 2 ♦ K Q 10 7 4 ♣ A 7 4 ♠ A Q 10 9 2 ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ 3 ♣ Q J 9	♠ 8 7 4 ♥ K 10 8 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 8 6 5 2 ♠ K J 5 3 ♥ 3 ♦ A J 9 8 2 ♣ K 10 3
--	--

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

North promised a minimum of a sound raise to three diamonds with his cue bid and thereafter chose a simple route to the slam because he was unlikely to gain much by any other approach. For example, after a negative double and South's no trump rebid, there may then be uncertainty later in the auction.

Anyway, how should South make his contract when West leads the queen of clubs?

After drawing the outstanding trumps in two rounds, declarer could now ruff three spade losers in dummy. So the only problem was getting rid of the club loser. As West was likely to have the ace and queen of spades, the obvious way to do that was to establish a second heart trick. However that offered a choice between a straight finesse and a ruffing one.

Normally declarer would probably play the overcaller for the heart king and finesse that way. However here that would see East make his king of hearts and West a spade trick, for one down. Luckily South saw that there was no need to play on hearts directly. Instead he cashed the ace of hearts before leading a spade to the jack.

Of course, West won the spade queen but was then without recourse. It did not matter whether he returned a spade, a heart or a club – any return would give South his twelfth trick.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 2 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ J 10 9 8 5 ♣ J	♠ Q 5 3 ♥ A J ♦ Q 6 ♣ 10 7 6 5 4 2 ♠ K 6 ♥ 8 7 6 5 3 ♦ K 7 3 2 ♣ K Q ♠ A J 10 4 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ A 9 8 3
--	--

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West leads the jack of diamonds after a simple strong no trump auction to game. Declarer tries dummy's queen, but of course East produces the king. As nothing is lost by ducking declarer does so, but East continues the suit, forcing the ace.

What should South do now? If he plays ace and another club, although the suit breaks 2-1, and he will have four

extra tricks in the suit, he will lose one club and four diamond trick, finishing one down.

Seeing this fate if he played on clubs, declarer decided to try for seven major-suit tricks instead. After a successful finesse of the jack of hearts, declarer led a low spade (not the queen) from dummy. A finesse of the jack of spades succeeded and dummy was re-entered with the ace of hearts. A second low spade was led and gained a just reward when the king appeared from East. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with the queen of spades, and returned to the ace of clubs to cash the ten of spades, his ninth trick.

Notice that squandering the queen of spades on the first or second round of the suit would leave South a trick short of his contract.

308. Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 7 5 ♥ A K 9 8 4 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ 7 6 2</p>	<p>♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ 9 4 3</p>
<p>♠ — ♥ 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ J 10 9 3 ♣ K Q J 10</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 10 9 8 3 ♥ — ♦ A K 2 ♣ A 8 5</p>

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

While he had a fabulous hand, South was less enthusiastic about it when North only admitted to values in hearts.

West led the king of clubs and South did not see any problems. He took his ace of clubs and played the ace of trumps. Now he had to lose two clubs, a diamond and a trump for one down.

As a 4-0 break occurs a little over 10% of the time, South should have addressed what he could do if trumps were so divided. By now you will have seen what declarer should have done - won the opening lead with the ace of clubs and led the ten of trumps from hand.

This would leave the defenders powerless. If they win this proffered ten of trumps declarer can cross to dummy's seven of trumps on the next round, then discard his diamond loser on the ace of hearts. If instead the ten of trumps holds, which might happen when West holds four trumps, declarer will not have a trump loser and thus will make ten tricks - seven trumps and the minor suit tops while losing just three tricks in the minors.

Often a safety play surrenders a trick but guarantees the contract in return. In most cases on these North-South cards, it comes free of charge when trumps are not 4-0 for unless there is a singleton jack of trumps there are only ever ten tricks if trumps are played from the top.

Valentine Sectional

Unit 222

FEBRUARY 12 - 15, 2025

GOOD HOPE SCHOOL (4 ACES BRIDGE CLUB) - ROOM #26

2315 W. Good Hope Road - Glendale WI
(The school is not visible from Good Hope Road)

From I-43: Exit #80 Good Hope Road West for 1½ miles
Turn left just before the tennis courts on the south

From I-41: Exit # 47 Good Hope Road East for 5.5 miles

Turn right just after the tennis courts on the south side. The drive will take you to the school.

ACBL Sanction #2502366



Wednesday - 2/12: 9:30 a.m. Pair/Team Game & 499er Pair Game
2:00 p.m. Pair/Team Game & 499er Pair Game

Thursday - 2/13: 9:30 a.m. Pair/Team Game & 499er Pair Game
2:00 p.m. Pair/Team Game & 499er Pair Game

Friday - 2/14: 9:30 a.m. Pair/Team Game & 499er Pair Game
2:00 p.m. Pair/Team Game & 499er Pair Game

Saturday - 2/15: 9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. BRUCE BROWN CUP OPEN PAIRS
9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. - 499er Pair Game (Single Sessions)

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Strata for all open games: 0-999, 1000-2999, 3000+
Pair/Team Game Strata for 499er games: 0-99, 100-299, 300-499



WUMBA APPLETON SECTIONAL

Appleton WI

March 27 - 29 2025

Holiday Inn Appleton

1565 N Casaloma Drive, Appleton, WI 54913 United States
Front Desk 1-920-441-0206 Ask for Fox Valley Bridge Club Rate

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT(S)
Thursday, March 27	1:30 PM	Stratified Pair/Team (Single Session) 499er Pairs - Non-Lifemaster
	6:30 PM	Stratified Pair/Team (Single Session) 499er Pairs - Non-Lifemaster
Friday, March 28	9:00 AM	Stratified Pair/Team (Single Session) 499er Pairs - Non-Lifemaster
	1:30 PM	Stratified Pair/Team (Single Session) 499er Pairs - Non-Lifemaster
Saturday, March 29	7:00 PM	Short Match Swiss (Single Session)
	9:00 AM	Stratified Swiss (Two Separate Events) 499er NLM Swiss (3 Team Minimum)

Stratified Pairs: 3000+/1000 - 3000/0 - 1000

Pairs Select Their Own Teammates for ALL Pair-Teams!

Entry Fees ACBL members \$10 Per Session 0 - 5 Masterpoints Play Free! non-members \$14

499er/Non-LifeMaster Events: Stratified by the Director

Sanction Number -- 2503349

TOURNAMENT CONTACTS

Title	Name	Telephone	Email
Co-Chairperson:	Wayne Peters	920 851 3052	wpeters44@gmail.com
Co-Chairperson:	Bill Nelson	920 751 0743	wnelson411@live.com
Partnership:	Gregg Underheim	920 252 5121	greggunderheim@gmail.com
WUMBA (Unit #149) website: www.acbl-wumba.org			

2025 District 13 Spring Regional, Madison Marriott West

1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI, phone: 608-824-2710

Room Rate: \$159—Reservations **must** be made by April 14, 2025 to guarantee rate

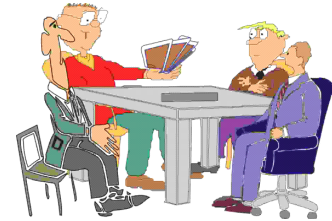
Monday May 5- Friday May 9th

Schedule of Events:

Monday, May 5

10:00 and 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)



Tuesday May 6th

10:00 and 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)



Wednesday May 7th

10:00 and 3:00 Open Swiss Teams (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Swiss Teams (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)

Thursday May 8th

10:00 and 3:00 Open Pairs (0-1500; 1500-3500; 3500+)

10:00 and 3:00 Gold Rush Pairs (0-100; 100-300; 300-750)

Friday May 9th

10 am Stratified Swiss Teams Playthrough ... Lunch Included

Flt A/B/C (3500+; 1500-3500; 0-1500)



Yvette Neary

Tournament Chair

414-526-9035; Email: yneary@gmail.com

Marge Morgan

Partnership Chair

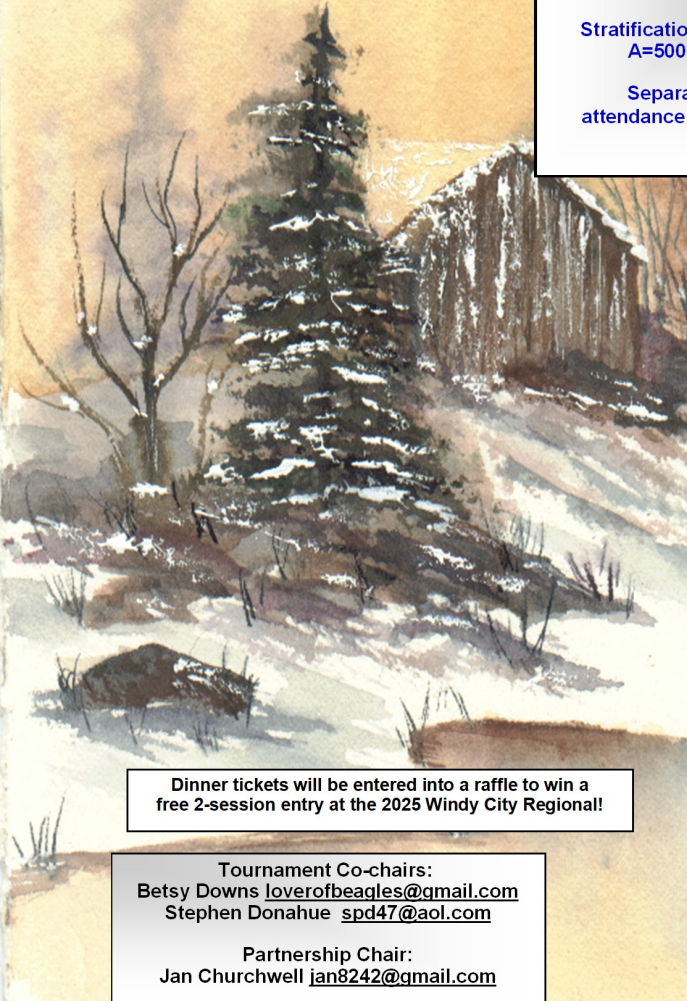
Email: mumorgan55@gmail.com

Unit 123 WinterFest Sectional
January 31-February 2, 2025
White Eagle Banquet Center,
6839 N. Milwaukee, Niles, IL
Come for the Fun! Take home the Silver!

Friday Jan 31 10:00 AM pair/ team game
 3:00 PM pair/ team game
 Saturday Feb 1 10:00 AM & TBD
 Swiss Teams (2 sessions)
 6:30 PM annual dinner and meeting
 (Reservations will be Required)
 Sunday Feb 2 10:00 AM pair/ team game
 3:00 PM pair/ team game
 All pair team events are single session
 pair/team games will be held if number of entries al-
 lows for this format. Separate pair/team events for
 gold rush at Director's Discretion.

Stratification (with masterpoint averaging)
A=5000+ B=2000-5000 C=0-2000

**Separate 750 pair/team events if
 attendance permits (Director's Discretion)**



Dinner tickets will be entered into a raffle to win a
 free 2-session entry at the 2025 Windy City Regional!

Tournament Co-chairs:
 Betsy Downs loverofbeagles@gmail.com
 Stephen Donahue spd47@aol.com

Partnership Chair:
 Jan Churchwell jan8242@gmail.com

On Saturday night,
 Whether loser or winner,
 It's time for our
Annual Meeting and Dinner.

It will be fun.
 It won't be boring...
 The State of the Unit
 Delivered by Loring.
 Electing directors
 Requires a quorum.
 All will come off
 With proper decorum.

We'll have salad & soda
 And mmmm... pizza pies...
 You pay 15 dollars,
 And we subsidize...

Please send your check
 With your RSVP's
 By 1/17
 To Ms. Judy Riehs
 (731 Hapsfield Lane
 Buffalo Grove IL 60089)

Checks should be
 Written to CCBA.
 The bank has requested
 We write them that way!

Pick up your tickets
 From Judy on site.
 And share with your friends,
 A warm winter night!



If I used my
 Crystal Ball,
 I'd think the queens
 And find 'em all!!

Note: We are no longer snail mailing any issues of this newsletter.
Snail mail has become cost prohibitive.
The newsletters are available online only at the District 13 website.
To access the site and find the newsletters, go to:

<http://acbl-district13.org/ArticlesAndNewsletters.htm>
 Newsletters at this address go back to 2001.
 You can read them, print them, and enjoy them from there.

Spring Fling Sectional *
The Lanes on 20
Mt. Pleasant, WI
Apr 2 - Apr 4, 2025
Save the Dates!

District 13 2024/2025 Grand National Teams

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 11:00 and TBA & Sunday, February 23, 2025, 11:00 and TBA

White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles, Illinois

The Championship Flight, Flight A, and Flight B events will take place over four sessions and will be concluded in a single weekend.

Flight C will be a two-session Swiss Team event played to conclusion on Sunday only.

There will be no competition among flights. Players must choose the flight in which they plan to play.

Flight	Masterpoints	Club Qualifying
Championship	Unlimited	Determined by Unit
Flight A	Fewer than 6000 points	Determined by Unit
Flight B	Fewer than 3000 points	Determined by Unit
Flight C	Non Life Master and fewer than 750 points	Determined by Unit

Flight eligibility is established by ACBL's September 2024 masterpoint cycle. This information was produced on August 6, 2024 in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Players must reside in District 13. Each member of the team must be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL. Club qualifying games are permitted at Unit discretion but are not required at any level of competition. A Flight B or C team may qualify under the rules of any Unit where a plurality of team members reside.

In addition, players who are currently, or have ever been in the past, members of another bridge organization, whether domestic (e.g., American Bridge Association) or foreign (e.g., Polski Zwiasek Brydza Sportowego), must submit information on their past and/or current ranking in that organization. Submissions must be in writing (email is fine) and must be received by the District GNT Coordinator or District 13 Director at the time of registration for the event. The information submitted may be used to assign a conversion to ACBL masterpoints for purposes of verifying flight eligibility.

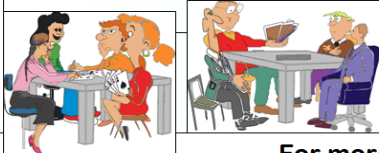
****An entry in the CHAMPIONSHIP Flight is a commitment to play in the National Final. Entries in lower flights may play to conclusion before declaring intent. We understand your reluctance to commit in advance.****

GNT Coordinator:

Suzi Subeck
847-509-0311 stansubeck@prodigy.net

One team will qualify in Championship and Fl. A
In the event that there are 8 or more teams in the District Final of Flight B &/or C, that flight or flights will qualify the 2 top teams.

Any teams representing D13 at the National Event will receive a stipend paid at or just after the NABC.



Registration:

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT.

All teams wishing to enter must provide notification by noon on February 14, 2025 by contacting:

Suzi Subeck, District 13 Director, (847)-509-0311 Home, (708) 927-6819 Cell, stansubeck@prodigy.net, or by registering on line at <http://bridgeinchicago.com> when it is available

Entering teams must have a written confirmation either by email or letter. No team without such a written confirmation should assume that entry has been verified. It is important to know in advance the teams entered. Captains should bring the confirmation with them to the site and be prepared to present it when purchasing an entry.

For more complete information, please consult conditions of contest at acbl.org... both local and ACBLwide... also, turn page for more information... or go to <https://www.acbl-district13.org/>

Covid Protocols: Please stay home if you are feeling ill. In GNT's you can be added to a team if it qualifies!

Excerpted From: 60 Second Bridge

Count Signals... Standard Signals

High-Low and Low-High Count Signals

Count signals may be used when either partner or declarer leads the suit. Give partner good count signals so partner can count out the hand. Use judgment on when to signal as some signals help declarer more than they help partner. Some declarers pay less attention but some pay great attention. Gauge your competition before over-signaling.

Can I show how many cards I have in a suit?

A count signal indicates the number of cards that a defender holds in each suit. Playing high-low in a suit indicates an even number of cards in that suit, while playing low-high indicates an odd number

The count signal is used to show the number of cards held in the suit being led.

A high card (7 and above) implies an even number of cards in that suit.

A low card (6 and below) implies an odd number of cards in that suit.

Count is often given by playing:

High-Low from two cards.

Low-High from three or five cards.

Second-highest card followed with third-highest from four cards.

Types of Count Signals

Hi-Low

As soon as you get a chance, discarding a high card and your second discard being a lower ranked card in the same suit no matter how high or low, tells partner that you hold an even number of cards in the suit you discarded.

Low-Hi

Discarding a low card and then a higher card in a suit tells your partner that you have an odd number of cards in that suit. Discarding the 2 of any suit automatically indicates to partner that you have an odd number of cards in that suit because it's not possible to make a high-low signal for your next discard in this suit.

Middle-Up-Down

Known as MUD. With a holding of 3 cards containing no honor cards, discard the middle card first, then the highest, and on the third lead of the suit play the lowest – partner will be able to work out where the honor cards may be lying.

Hopefully, partner can look at their holdings in a suit and in dummy and work out declarer's holding based on that and your count signals.

Some signals are suit preference but we will deal with that at another time.