

I/N News ... especially for you!

Hand Evaluation - not all points are equal

When you count up your high-card points, you should be aware that points in your long suits are likely to be pulling more weight than points in your short suits.

Contrast these two hands:

Hand (i)

♠ K Q
♥ A J
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ 10 8 7 5 3

Hand (ii)

♠ K Q 10 7 3
♥ A J 9 8
♦ 4 2
♣ 6 5

Both (i) and (ii) have ten points – indeed they each have precisely one ace, one king, one queen...all the way down to one two. They also have the same 5422 shape. Yet there is a world of difference between the two hands. Having honours in long suits, as in (ii) is far more powerful.

Contrast these two suits:

Dummy (a)

K Q 6 5 4

Dummy (b)

6 5 4 3 2

Declarer (a)

3 2

Declarer (b)

K Q



In (a) you can lead towards the king and queen. If the ace is sitting on your left, in front of KQ, both will be promoted. In (b) the ace will take one of your honours, wherever it lies. Plus the suit is blocked, making trick-taking all the more awkward.

Back to our original hands. It is hard to see you taking even one bid with (i), unless partner shows a good hand. (ii) is probably worth opening and certainly worth overcalling. All those points in the long suits – lovely.

Tips for Beginners
by
Andy Robson!

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.

In notrump contracts, play your long suit when you win lead

Many players are frightened of declaring notrumps – without the security blanket of a trump suit. Whilst it is true that notrump contracts can fall apart (typically if the opponents are able to run through a long suit), they are generally easier to declare than trump contracts because there are fewer options available (issues such as whether to draw trumps do not arise). Many notrump contracts boil down to a race: can the opponents set up their long suit before you set up yours? You have the advantage of being able to play both your hand and dummy; but the opponents have the advantage of leading the first card. Let us see a typical such race.

South Deals			
E-W Vul			
♠ 9 7 5			
♥ Q 5 3 2			
♦ K J 4 3			
♣ Q 2			
♠ 10 8 6 4 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ A K 8  ♠ J ♥ K J 8 6 4 ♦ Q 10 9 6 ♣ 5 4 3			
♠ A K Q ♥ A 10 7 ♦ A 8 ♣ J 10 9 7 6			
West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 4			
Made 3			

Focus on NT by Andy Robson for Intermediates!

What happened?

West led ♠ 4 – fourth from the top of his longest and strongest suit – and declarer beat East's ♠ J with ♠ Q. To pass time, he next cashed ♠ K. He then began his long suit (clubs), leading ♣ 6 towards dummy's ♣ Q. West stepped in with ♣ K and led a third spade, declarer winning ♠ A. Declarer followed with ♣ 7 but West took ♣ A and cashed ♠ 1086. Down one.

What should have happened?

Declarer lost the race because he cashed ♠ K unnecessarily at Trick Two. He should devote all his attention to setting up his long clubs (very unlikely to make nine tricks without the suit). After winning ♠ Q he immediately leads ♣ 6. West wins ♣ K and leads ♠ 2. He wins ♠ K and leads ♠ 7. West wins ♠ A and leads ♠ 3 but declarer is in control. He wins ♠ A, cashes the established ♣ J109, follows with ♥ A and ♦ AK, and nine* tricks are his. Game made.

Tip: Notrump contracts are frequently a race between both sides to set up their long suit. Play your long suit each time you win the lead.

In notrumps, focus on each opponent separately and ask yourself: 'safe hand' or 'danger hand'?

It is notrumps and the opponents lead a suit in which you have just one stopper. You hold it up enough times to exhaust one opponent of his cards in the suit. If you lose the lead to him, there is nothing he can do to hurt you. He is the 'safe hand'. His partner, with more winners in the suit led, is the 'danger hand'. It is imperative that if the lead must be lost it should be the safe hand who wins the defensive trick.

North Deals			
N-S Vul			
♠ J 5			
♥ A Q 6			
♦ A K 7 5 2			
♣ A 8 6			
♠ 7 3 ♥ 10 5 3 2 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ Q 9 7 5  ♠ K Q 10 9 4 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ K J			
♠ A 8 6 2 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 10 4 3 2			
West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	1 ♠	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 7			
Made 3NT			

What happened?

East's overcall marked him with five (six) spades, leaving West with at most two. So declarer correctly ducked the first spade – to dummy's ♠ J and East's ♠ Q – and won ♠ K continuation with ♠ A. Needing to develop two more tricks, declarer played ♦ AK, planning to lose a third round. Had West retained ♦ Q, his plan would have succeeded because West, the safe hand, would have won the third diamond. Declarer could win any return from him and cash two long diamonds. However, West made the fine defence of throwing ♦ Q under ♦ K. Now East won the third diamond with ♦ J and was able to cash three spade winners. Down one.

What should have happened?

You as declarer need to keep East off lead and must hope West holds ♦ Qxx. You must lead through West, so that if he plays ♦ Q on the first or second rounds, you let him win the trick. Win ♠ A on the second round and lead ♦ 4. Assuming West plays low, win ♦ K. Then return to ♥ K and lead ♦ 8. If West plays ♦ Q, duck in dummy; assuming he plays low, win ♦ A and lead a third round. West wins ♦ Q, but dummy wins a club/return return and the two long diamonds can be cashed. Game made.

Tip: In notrumps, focus on each opponent separately and ask yourself: 'safe hand' or 'danger hand'?

Poolside tales

My friend Zia Mahmood was irreplaceable at the World Championships in Chennai, leading the USA 1 Seniors to victory. We kept bumping into each other at the swimming pool – I need my exercise at these long events – where I would learn of his derring-dos. Here is a classic one from USA 1 versus Canada.

South Deals	♠ K Q 5 2		
N-S Vul	♥ K J 3		
	♦ Q 9 6		
	♣ 9 8 7		
♠ 10 9 7 6		♠ J 4 3	
♥ 4		♥ 10 9 6 5	
♦ 8 7 3 2		♦ A K 10 5 4	
♣ K 6 5 4		♣ 2	
	♠ A 8		
	♥ A Q 8 7 2		
	♦ J		
	♣ A Q J 10 3		

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦ ¹	3 ♣
4 ♦ ²	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT ³
Pass	5 ♦ ⁴	Pass	6 ♥
All pass			

1. Zia loves to make frisky bids for the lead. He'll stomach the occasional large penalty to attract the lead he wants.
2. Michael Rosenberg jams the bidding.
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
4. One (or four) of "five aces" (incl. ♥K).

6 ♥ was not a bad slam – needing little more than East to hold the king of clubs. Indeed where East had not made the lead-directing 2 ♦ bid, 6 ♥ is rather good; for if you escape the opening diamond lead, you can shed your singleton diamond on dummy's spades (after drawing trumps) and afford to give up to the king of clubs.

At several tables 6 ♥ did go down – two. A diamond to East's king was followed by a switch to the singleton club. With a sinking feeling, declarer finessed – his only chance – West winning the king and leading a second club. Ruffed and down two.

Typically Zia was not content with a mere two trick set of NorthSouth's freely bid slam. He won the diamond lead with the ace and at trick two returned a small diamond (key play).

The unsuspecting declarer naturally ruffed the diamond. He drew trumps in four rounds (meaning that he held no more). He then cashed three rounds of spades, discarding the ten of clubs, then led and (when East followed low) passed the nine of clubs.

West won the king of clubs and the defence scored the remaining three tricks. West led over a third diamond, East beating the queen with the king and cashing two more diamonds. Down four and EW +400.

Declarer was only really culpable for the fourth undertrick. He has seen East follow to three spades and four hearts. Even Zia would have to have five diamonds for the 2 ♦ bid. That leaves room for just one club which, when he led dummy's nine of clubs, he saw. He should have spurned the finesse and settled for down three.

"Great defence Zed", I said.

"I had to", he replied, "otherwise Michael Rosenberg would have killed me". I swam another length.

Bridge with Omar

I haven't been to the Deauville Summer Bridge Festival for some years, but with the combination of Bridge, golf and fabulous French cuisine, what's not to like? But it is still frequented by the world's most famous Bridge player, now 82 years old and semi-retired: yes – Omar Sharif.

It was almost 20 years ago that I partnered Omar – in Juan-Les-Pins. He really did play well then and I heard the great news that the old magic hadn't disappeared.

On one deal Omar held ♠ x ♥ - ♦ Axxx ♣ AKQJxxxx. He heard his left-hand opponent open a "Multi 2 ♦ (showing a weak hand with a sixcard major) and right-hand opponent bid 2 NT (strong ask). Omar tried 3 NT – for now – and was surprised to be left there. Left-hand opponent led the queen of diamonds and dummy tabled ♦ Kxxx and nine low cards. Omar was not hard pressed to score the first ten tricks for a top, but commented that he wanted to duck trick one, expecting a second diamond and an 11th trick (with a long diamond – on a 3-2 split).

Our featured deal from the Men's Pairs was kindly given to me by Kent's Jeremy Willans (West). He and Sussex partner Ian Lancaster failed to find their nine card spade fit, but ironically this was to work rather well. The issue of whether to bid 7 ♠ over the opposing 7 ♥ sacrifice was never in the frame. Those East-West at other tables who bid on to 7 ♠ made it easily and registered +2210.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Willans</i>		<i>Lancaster</i>	
		1 ♣	1 ♥ ¹
2 ♦	4 ♥	5 ♥ ²	Pass
7 ♦ ³	7 ♥ ⁴	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Wafer-thin, but clearcut even vulnerable: he is very keen to receive a heart lead as well as on general disruptive principles.
2. Showing a big diamond raise with first round control in the opposing hearts.
3. Might bid 5 – even 6 – to show interest in bidding on higher than an opposing 7 sacrifice.
4. Unilateral in front of partner, but North really doesn't have any defence.

The English duo did a teeny bit better: and at Pairs that teeny bit is everything. West led the ace of spades v 7 ♥ doubled. He followed with a second spade, East winning, cashing the ace-king of clubs, (West discarding) and leading a third club which West ruffed. With the ace-king of diamonds and ace of trumps to come that was down eight and +2300!

Bridge Heros
by Andy Robson
for Experienced Players

Never Put Down an 8-Card Suit in Dummy By Karen Walker originally in The Advocate

Partner opens 1♠, your right-hand-opponent passes, and you hold

♠Q ♥104 ♦KQJ98654 ♣102

What's your plan for the bidding?

This hand was dealt in the Life Master Pairs at the 1997 ACBL summer championships in Albuquerque NM, and it generated some lively discussions after the game. Some players responded 2D,x planning to continue bidding diamonds until partner got the message. Others, many of whom were playing a system where a 2-over-1 response is forcing to game, chose a Forcing 1NT to limit their high-card strength. This conventional response forces opener to bid one more time so you can continue describing your hand.

Whether you choose 1NT or 2♦, the real problem comes at your second turn after partner jumps to 3♠. What now?

Even though this was an “expert” event, the players varied widely in their approaches with this hand, and the final scores were all over the map. The most frequent choice was a raise to 4♠, which is the contract that would probably score the most matchpoints if it makes. These players figured that their spade queen was a valuable filler, and they hoped their diamond suit would be a source of tricks. Even the two tens might be helpful “pushers” if partner needed to develop tricks in hearts or clubs.

The second most popular choice was a pessimistic pass. Partner's 3♠ bid is highly invitational, but the passers didn't like having a singleton (even a good one) for support, and they were discouraged by their lack of aces and kings.

When I held this hand, the lack of an outside trick slowed me down, too. I chose the Forcing 1NT to limit my hand, with the intention of jumping in diamonds after partner's rebid. When partner jumped to 3♠, I found myself tempted by the high-scoring 4♠ contract but finally decided that my hand rated to be worthless in any contract but diamonds.

I couldn't bid 4♦ because we play any new-suit bid here as a cuebid for a possible spade slam — showing the ace of diamonds and a good hand (10+ points) with some spade support. So I launched off to 5♦, and that ended the auction.

The results: Partner held just what he advertised: ♠AKJ1086 ♥A85 ♦3 ♣K84.

The ♣A was onside, and I pitched my heart loser on one of dummy's spades to end up with 11 tricks — 7 diamonds, 2 spades, a club and a heart. That was good for 80 percent of the matchpoints, which indicates how few pairs were willing to bid 5♦ with this hand. Some pairs stopped in 4♦, and they got the second-highest score. As you can see, the spade contracts were disasters, and most declarers took only seven or eight tricks. The lead was a singleton diamond to the ace, usually followed by a shift to hearts. If declarer tried to cash a high diamond when he was in dummy with the spade queen, he went down three — the diamond was ruffed, the opponents led more hearts, and with no more dummy entries, partner couldn't even lead up to his club king.

Optimism is often rewarded at matchpoints. If partner had held Ax of diamonds and the same spade suit, the spade bidders would have beaten my score. Counting on partner for a diamond fit, though, seemed way too optimistic to me. When you hold an 8-card suit, the odds are heavy that partner is very short, especially when you know he has a long suit of his own.

Good bridge advice

The lesson on this hand was summed by my friend Lee Magee of Kansas City. When we were discussing this hand over New Mexican margaritas after the session, one of our group asked Lee why he had been so confident about his 5♦ bid. “I have a hard-and-fast rule,” Lee bellowed. “Never put down an 8-card suit in dummy!”

That may be somewhat of an over-simplification, but it makes good sense. When you have an auction in which you and partner have both shown long suits, and you're in doubt about which one should be trumps, make the weaker hand the declarer. Since the weak hand will have fewer outside entries, its long suit may score tricks only if it's trumps.

Popular Bridge Quotes:

Here are some of my favorite bridge quotes from Eddie Kantar:

"If you have the slightest touch of masochism, you'll love this game."

"Bridge is a great comfort in old age. It also helps you get there faster." Rueful Rabbit

"The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits."

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

"Your play was much better tonight and so were your excuses."

"Where's the hand you held during the auction?" — Jan Nanitschke when he saw the dummy.

"It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones." — S. J. Simon

"I'd like a review of the bidding with all of the original inflections." — George Kaufman

"Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbor, winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes." Frank Stewart

"I favor light opening bids. When you're my age, you can never be sure that the bidding will get back around to you."
— Oswald Jacoby at 77.



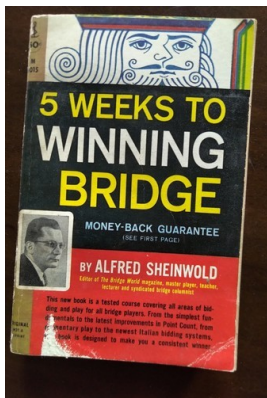
Alfred Sheinwold Quotables:

"The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in."

"One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts."

"Learn from the mistake of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself."

"No five trick set should be considered a complete failure. It can always be used as a bad example."



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Stratified Pair/Teams
Stratified 499er Pairs

2:00 PM
Stratified Pair/Teams
Stratified 499er Pairs

Friday, October 9

9:30 AM
Stratified Pair/Teams
Stratified 499er Pairs

2:00 PM
Stratified Pair/Teams
Stratified 499er Pairs

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Tournament and Partnership Chair: Yvette Neary
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Tips for learners by Karen Walker:

Take it slow. Few people "get it" the first time a bridge concept is explained. You don't need to master any of the steps above before moving on to the next. Give each one a try and plan to come back later to review.

Try to avoid memorizing. Focus on the logic behind the rules and how that reasoning can be used to make other decisions in the bidding and play. Your goal is to throw away the "cheat sheet" and rely on your judgment.

Keep playing. Experience is the best teacher, especially for improving card play. Practice with the online solitaire games as often as possible.

Keep learning. These 12 steps cover just the basics, but that's all you need to start enjoying bridge and acquiring more skills. As you become comfortable with what you've learned here, you may want to add to your bidding system and explore other aspects of the game. These sites are excellent resources:

♣ **Bridge Basics from Richard Pavlicek** -- A concise introduction for the complete beginner.

♣ **Karen's Bridge Library** -- Bidding summaries, quizzes, reference material and "how-to" tips for beginners and beyond.

♣ **American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) Video Library** -- Short video lessons on a wide range of topics for beginners and advancing players.

Take the next step. If you can play beginner-level bridge, you can play duplicate bridge. Consider playing in an online club or entering a novice game at your local club. Here are some helpful sites:

♣ **Discover the Fun & Challenge of Duplicate Bridge** -- An online booklet that explains how a duplicate game works and offers tips for pair and team play.

♣ **Find a Club** -- Search for a duplicate club near you in this directory from the American Contract Bridge League. Many clubs offer games just for beginners.

♣ **Bridgebase Online** -- The biggest online playing site, with free games in a variety of formats. The "Relaxed Club" area has tables for newcomers.



Karen Walker

Bridge teacher
for 45 years
Specializing in
teaching adult
beginners

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	3 ♦	Double
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After partner's leap to four spades, the least you could do was to bid six hearts. How do you plan to make twelve tricks after West leads the two of diamonds, an obvious singleton?

You can make twelve tricks whenever West holds the ace of spades, which is about as certain as one can get at the given vulnerability. After winning the diamond lead with the ace, you draw the trumps, discarding diamonds from the table. The only way to make twelve tricks is to utilise dummy's spade suit, despite the fact that there appears to be only one (club) entry to the dummy.

One possibility is to seek a second club entry to dummy by leading the two of clubs, intending to finesse dummy ten. This would rely on luck, since you would need West to hold the jack of clubs. In any case, in this column an alert West would always spoil your plan by inserting the jack of clubs.

The above plan would be disastrous here as East would win the jack of clubs and cash a couple of diamonds. In fact, there is no need to rely on such a dubious approach. You should lead the queen of clubs and overtake it with dummy's king. You then play the king of spades, discarding a diamond. West wins with the spade ace and has no good return. A spade will give the lead to dummy, allowing you to throw a diamond and club. Similarly, a club exit will promote the ten-nine of clubs into an entry, no matter who holds the jack of clubs.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

(Continued on page 8)

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠ ¹
3 ♥ ²	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5+ spades
2. Pre-emptive

West leads the ten of hearts to dummy's ace. You can see that if trumps are 3-2, you can make all of the tricks – five trumps, a heart, a heart ruff, the ace of diamonds and five clubs. However, there is a good chance that West's pre-emptive raise to three hearts is based on a trump shortage.

Now you have a loser in trumps, but all that does is reduce your thirteen tricks to twelve – provided you are careful. Your plan should be to lose a trump trick at a convenient moment. In fact, the only way to make the slam on this layout is to duck a round of trumps at trick two. Suppose East wins and switches to his singleton club. You win with the king, ruff a heart with the nine of trumps and cash the ace of trumps. You can then return to your hand with the ace of diamonds, to draw the remaining trumps. You have made six tricks already (three trumps, a heart, a heart ruff and a club) and there are six more waiting to be cashed (a trump, a diamond and four clubs).

Some people think bridge is no big "deal",
But we know for certain, the passion is real!
Playing in person or playing online,
Whatever "suits" you, it's fun and it's fine!



Give 'Em A Hand

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.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West leads the two of trumps against your spade game. How do you plan to make ten tricks?

You have four potential losers in your hand, three diamonds and a club. West's trump lead is the only one that gives you a problem. On any other lead, you would play ace and another diamond. On winning the trump return you would play a third diamond. If the suit breaks 3-3, your problems are over and when it does not you would ruff your fourth diamond in dummy.

On the trump lead, you could still try and ruff the fourth diamond in dummy whenever the suit does not split 3-3. You win the spade lead with the nine and continue with ace and another diamond. West wins with the queen and plays a second round of trumps. When you concede a third round of diamonds, East can win with the ten but will then have no trump to play. Does this mean that you will be able to ruff the fourth diamond after all? No! West will ruff the third round of diamonds and defeat four spades by playing his last trump.

Is there another plan? Yes indeed there is! Instead of trying to ruff one diamond in dummy, you should aim to ruff three of dummy's losers in your own hand. Your first move must be to cash the ace-king of hearts, cross to the ace of clubs and ruff dummy's remaining heart. Next you give up a club trick and win the trump return in dummy and ruff a club in hand. After crossing back to dummy with the ace of diamonds, you ruff dummy's last club. You will now have nine tricks and dummy's ace of trumps is your tenth trick. You will make four side-suit winners, three trump tricks (the nine, ace and ten) and three high ruffs in the South hand.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♥ ¹	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 NT ²	Pass	3 ♣ ³
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦ ⁴
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	7 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Five-plus card suit
2. 18-19
3. Checkback
4. Queen ask

How do you plan to make thirteen tricks after West leads the king of clubs?

You have twelve top tricks and the best plan for a thirteenth is by playing to set up a long heart. As the only way to reach any established long card in hearts is with a trump, you will need the trumps to break no worse than 3-1. How will you go about setting up the hearts, though?

After winning the club lead with dummy's ace, you should cash the king-queen of diamonds, followed by the ace of hearts. You then cross to dummy with a trump and play the ace of diamonds, throwing the six of hearts from hand. Now you can afford ruff a heart in your hand with a low trump. You return to dummy with a second round of trumps and lead another low heart, ruffing it with the ace to circumvent any potential overruff.

Next you play another trump to dummy, drawing West's remaining trump in the process. All that remains to do is to cash the king-ten of hearts, discarding the eight and five of clubs from hand and leaving you with a trump to take care of dummy's jack of clubs. You make six trumps, three hearts, three diamonds and a club.

On the above deal, if you do not discard a heart on the diamond ace, you would end up promoting a trump trick for West. In fact, the recommended line has close to an 11% advantage over playing on hearts without discarding a heart on the ace of diamonds.

Rank Advancements!

[First Name]	[Last Name]	[New Rank]	
Michael	Airdo	New Emerald Life Master	
Belinda	Brock	New Life Master	
Belinda	Brock	New Bronze Life Master	
Brandon	Brylawski	New Club Master	
Christina	Fawcett	New Junior Master	
BJ	Groenewold	New Life Master	
Mary	Hartman	New Regional Master	
Maryann	Leonard	New Club Master	
Robert	Listernick	New Bronze Life Master	
Ladd	Mengel	New Club Master	
Jan	Nichol	New Regional Master	
Nicole	Qian	New NABC Master	
Usha	Raj	New Sectional Master	
Madeline	Redmond	New Junior Master	
Laxman	Singh	New Club Master	
Barbara	Brown	New Advanced NABC Master	
Susan	Cambria	New Junior Master	
Pamela	Davis	New NABC Master	
Dorothy	Fischer	New Regional Master	
Daphne	Greenwood	New Ruby Life Master	
John	Herder	New NABC Master	
Kim	Krueger	New Junior Master	
Judy	Kvalheim	New Bronze Life Master	
Judy	Kvalheim	New Life Master	
Doris	Lotz	New Junior Master	
Carol	Malmberg	New Junior Master	
Dennis	McCarthy	New Sectional Master	
Mary	Olson	New Club Master	
Barbara	Piester	New Ruby Life Master	
Catherine	Quella	New Bronze Life Master	
Catherine	Quella	New Life Master	
Jay	Quella	New Bronze Life Master	
Jay	Quella	New Life Master	
Thomas	Rutherford	New Sectional Master	
Karen	Tallitsch	New Club Master	
Rose	Wilcox	New NABC Master	
Phyllis	Brenowitz	New Regional Master	
Craig	Farrell	New Club Master	
Michael	Friedman	New Junior Master	
Gail	Hendley Zhu	New Club Master	
Ernest	Hirn	New Junior Master	
Curtis	Kohlman	New Junior Master	
Curtis	Kohlman	New Club Master	
Nancy	Miller	New NABC Master	
Jane	Sauer	New Sectional Master	

As of October 1

First Name	Last Name	New Rank	
Judi	Cellini	Junior Master	
Dennis	Chaplin	Junior Master	
Kris	Holman	Junior Master	
Jojo	Kim	Junior Master	
Nathaniel	Miller	Junior Master	
Tom	Morsch	Junior Master	
Joan	Platt	Junior Master	
Sandra	Rutherford	Junior Master	
Wesley	Wei	Junior Master	
Anne	Youngquist	Junior Master	
Eric	Youngquist	Junior Master	
Kate	Brown	Club Master	
Jane	Goodman	Club Master	
Aaron	Hannemann	Club Master	
Zhiqiang	Hu	Club Master	
Jeffrey	Slutsky	Club Master	
Mark	Thomas	Club Master	
Deirdre	Brekke	Sectional Master	
Jan	Destefano	Sectional Master	
Jill	Henning	Sectional Master	
Carol	Jenkins	Sectional Master	
Larry	Johnson	Sectional Master	
Kristen	Lampe	Sectional Master	
Peter	Lampe	Sectional Master	
William	McGillivray	Sectional Master	
Elan	Ravishankar	Sectional Master	
Waldemar	Skrzypek	Sectional Master	
Elaine	Stowe	Sectional Master	
Aida	Sulayman	Sectional Master	
Zhiying	Xu	Sectional Master	
Robert	Alexejun	Regional Master	
Virginia	Taylor	Regional Master	
Rebecca	Anderson	NABC Master	
Nancy	Goldberg	NABC Master	
Gary	Olsen	NABC Master	
Sara	Drury	Adv NABC Master	
Zinnia	Meyer	Adv NABC Master	
James	O Donnell	Life Master	
Wendy	Rieser	Life Master	
Rahul	Garga	Silver Life Master	
William	Scott	Silver Life Master	
Henry	Shi	Silver Life Master	
Marilyn	Vercellino	Silver Life Master	
Sharon	Abrams	Gold Life Master	
Nic	Hristea	Gold Life Master	
Dianne	Kiehl	Gold Life Master	
Joseph	Stokes	Diamond Life Master	
Steve	Clark	Platinum Life Master	



As of September 1

	Grant	Jones	Miller	Smith	West	Apple Lane	Forest Road	Marsh Street	Prescott Street	Spring Street	3 homes	4 homes	5 homes	6 homes	7 homes	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$45	\$55
Bill																				
Craig																				
Greg																				
Larry																				
Peter																				
\$25																				
\$30																				
\$35																				
\$45																				
\$55																				
3 homes																				
4 homes																				
5 homes																				
6 homes																				
7 homes																				
Apple Lane																				
Forest Road																				
Marsh Street																				
Prescott Street																				
Spring Street																				

Puzzle Page

Spring is in the air! Peter and four of his friends decided to make the best of the warm weather to earn some money for their summertime projects. They each chose a street in their respective neighborhoods and went from house to house offering to do yard work. Determine the full name of each boy, the street name each chose to work on, the number of homes each boy worked for, and how much money each boy earned.

1. Craig, whose last name isn't Smith, did yard work for the most homes, a total of seven. The boy who covered Marsh Street did yard work for the least, only three homes.
2. The boy whose last name is Miller made less than the boy who worked on Prescott Street and \$10 more than

- the boy who worked for five homes.
3. Larry, whose last name isn't Smith, made \$5 less than the boy who worked on Spring Street.
4. The boy who worked on Apple Lane made \$25, the least amount. The boy who made the most, \$55, worked for six homes.
5. The following list orders the boys from the least amount of money collected to the most amount collected: Bill, the boy whose last name is Jones, the boy who worked for five homes, the boy who worked on Forest Road, the boy whose last name is West.
6. Peter worked for two more homes than did the boy whose last name is Grant. Greg made \$10 less than the boy who worked on Forest Road.

Stan Subeck Central States Regional

October 15-18, 2026

Eventz ... Schaumburg, IL

Goto CCBAUnit123.com, Choose tournaments at top of home page, goto Stan Subeck Central States Reg for schedule and other information!

Schedule:

Thursday October 15

10 and 3:00 Open Pairs (stratified)

Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

Friday October 16

10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)

Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

Saturday October 17

10 and 3 Open Pairs (stratified)

Gold Rush Pairs (stratified)

Sunday October 18

10 playthru

Open Swiss (stratified)

Gold Rush Swiss (stratified)

Tournament Chair: David Sales

kishkes@gmail.com

Partnership Chair: Jan Churchwell

Jan8242@gmail.com



MAD CITY

WINTER SECTIONAL

A warm WUMBA Bridge Tournament

DECEMBER 3-5, 2026

Location:

Patrick Henry Building (left side of building in back)

313 W Beltline Hwy, Madison, WI 53713

Thursday, December 3

9:30 Open Pair Team Game

750 Pair Game

2:00 Open Pair Team Game

750 Pair Game

Friday, December 4

9:30 Open Pair Team Game

750 Pair Game

2:00 Open Pair Team Game

750 Pair Game

Saturday, December 5

Buffet lunch (\$8) with ALL morning entries.

9:30 Open Swiss Team Game

2-session play-through

9:30 750 Pair Game

1:30 750 Pair Game

SUPERIORLAND BRIDGE CLUB

Sectional Bridge Tournament
October 1st, 2nd, 3rd 2026



NMU SUPERIOR DOME
World's Largest Wooden Dome
Built 1991

Tournament Site:

Marquette Township Community Center
1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette, MI

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

All Times Eastern Daylight

Thursday, October 1st, 2026

1:30 PM Stratified 499er Pair/Team
Stratified Pair/Team

7:00 PM Stratified 499er Pair/Team
Stratified Pair/Team

Friday, October 2nd, 2026

9:00 AM Stratified 499er Pair/Team
Stratified Pair/Team

12:00 PM Lunch 'N Learn
Complimentary Soup Luncheon
& Panel Discussion

1:30 PM Stratified 499er Pair/Team
Stratified Pair/Team

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

9:00 AM Stratified 499er Swiss
(2 single sessions)

Stratified Swiss

(2 single sessions)

Lunch provided for a charge

Stratification:

Open games: A = 3000+
B = 1000-3000,
C = 0-1000

At the discretion of the Director

Pair & Team Averaging Entry Fees

\$12 For all Sessions
\$16 for non-ACBL members

Chairpersons

Paul Bonetti, 906-235-2943
pbo@chartermi.net

Mary Lou Mauro, 906-458-2538
giovachino@aol.com

Partnerships

Carole Poggi
906-251-0405
poggicarole@gmail.com

District 13 2026/2027 Grand National Teams

Saturday, February 27, 2027, 11:00 and TBA & Sunday, February 28, 2027, 11:00 and TBA

Good Hope School, Room #26, 2315 W Good Hope Rd, Glendale, WI

Championship Flight, Flight A, & Flight B take place over 4 sessions and will be concluded in a single weekend.

Flight C will be a two-session Swiss Team event played from start to finish 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 2026 masterpoint cycle**. This information was produced on August 6, 2026 in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility.

Each member of the team must be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL, residing in District 13. Club qualifying games are permitted at Unit discretion but are not required at any level of competition. Flight B or C teams 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 Związek Brydza Sportowego), must submit information on their past and/or current ranking in that organization to the GNT Co-Ordinator. Submissions must be in writing (email is fine) and must be received by the District GNT Coordinator or 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 of \$1000 to be split amongst teammates & 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 20, 2027 by contacting:

Suzi Subeck, D13 GNT Co-Ordinator, (847)-509-0311 Home, (708) 927-6819 Cell, stansubeck@prodigy.net.

Entering teams must receive confirmation response by email. A team without such a confirmation should not 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.

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



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/>