

The Kibitzer



Summer 2021 | Volume 68, Number 2

THE DIRTY DOZEN



Kibitzer Roundtable Discussion



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ITINERARY DETAILS

Date		Port	Arrive	Depart
10 Aug	Wed	Fly to Copenhagen		
11 Aug	Thu	Copenhagen, Denmark		6:00 PM
12 Aug	Fri	Cruising The Baltic Sea		
13 Aug	Sat	Riga, Latvia	7.00 AM	3.00 PM
14 Aug	Sun	Tallinn, Estonia	9.00 AM	6.00 PM
15 Aug	Mon	St Petersburg, Russia	8.00 AM	
16 Aug	Tue	St Petersburg, Russia		6.00 PM
17 Aug	Wed	Cruising The Baltic Sea		
18 Aug	Thu	Klaipeda, Lithuania	8.00 AM	7.00 PM
19 Aug	Fri	Gdansk, Poland	7.00 AM	3.00 PM
20 Aug	Sat	Helsingborg, Sweden	10.00 AM	6.00 PM
21 Aug	Sun	Cruising The North Sea		
22 Aug	Mon	Bruges (Zeebrugge), Belgium	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
23 Aug	Tue	London (Southampton), England	7.00 AM	

ABOUT SEVEN SEAS VOYAGER



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Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel will be attending the tournament in 2022. There will be TWO free seminars given by Barbara while there. Alex will also be available to go over hands anytime. The Barbados Bridge League is now a full member of ACBL.

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Contact Roglyn Hinds: Tournament chair roglynhinds@gmail.com or 246-231-0149



My name is Barbara Seagram & I am a bridge player, author and teacher. I was born and raised on this beautiful island in the Caribbean. The Barbados Bridge Committee do a wonderful job running this delightful bridge tournament in February each year. Imagine \$1,155.USD per person to spend a week at a hotel on a beach in Barbados in February, including all meals and drinks. They even pick you up at the airport! The players are friendly, the sun shines forever and the island beckons. You cannot afford to not go! It is a very special island and I invite you to visit and enjoy all its magic.
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The Dirty Dozen was an epic buddy film made in 1967 with a big-name cast, including Lee Marvin, Donald Sutherland, Charles Bronson, Telly Savalas, and Jim Brown, (the list goes on). The Dirty Dozen is also the name of an epic buddy story that began in the early 70s and continues today. You can read about this dirty dozen, actually 12 lovely ladies, on page 12: how fitting!

But first, full disclosure, I count all 12 of the DDs as friends of mine. Some of them were there as opponents at the table when I first started playing duplicate bridge in 1989. And last year, many of them attended my 40th birthday party. Okay, maybe it wasn't last year, more like 2003, but it sure feels like last year.

The photo here is of me congratulating one of them, **Brigitte Blackhouse**, for

finishing "in the money" at that party game. I miss her, as I miss **Sallie, Mary, and Sharon**.

So, through the magic of email, we all sat down at the proverbial Kibitzer roundtable, and the ladies hashed out their recollections of how their friendships got started and then prevailed through whatever life had to throw at them. Surely one of the many reasons we play our crazy game is for what they exemplify—the building and sustaining of lifelong friendships. I felt their story should be told; hope you agree. Thanks to **Audrey, Barbara, Bev, Carol Anne, Geri, Jan, Patti, and Sally** for taking the time to tell it.

Also, a big thanks to the big guy: **John Gowdy**, for sharing what he has learned, and, as always, telling stories like only he can (see p. 44).

John's a gentle giant, or maybe he's growing into that role as he ages. As you will read, he early on recognized the talents of his protégé, Torontonians Geoff Hampson, who, like his mentor, went on to become a world class player. Gowdy must be proud(y).

Thanks to our regular columnists: **Dave Colbert** with more numbers to guide you in the bidding, **Janet Galbraith** with a neat little bio on Ely Culbertson, **John Rayner** for more on the cue bid raise, **Robert Griffiths** for his steady stream of bridge lessons and stories, **David Turner** for a fascinating declarer play problem, and our Canadian Junior this issue is **John Dong**—already a world medalist at 17 years of age.

Added to that we have a few contributors: **Bruce Liberman** with a last board slam hand victory, **Brian Gray** with more on the safety play, **Ray Jotcham** with some interesting bidding theory, **Steve Mackay** for a cool defensive play, and **Anna Golding**, perhaps the Kibitzer's first illustrator. Thank you to all the Kib contributors!

Andy Stark
andy.kibitzer@gmail.com

647 530 1360



On the cover: **Sallie Caty** (left inset), **Carol Anne Besler** (right inset) and from left to right: **Sharon Carruthers, Brigitte Blackhouse, Gerada VanLierop, Patti Lee, Sally Rewbotham, Barbara Sims, Jan Fox, Audrey Norman, Mary Bryce, and Bev Ross.**
 Photo courtesy of David Bryce

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Our illustrator this issue is Anna Golding. Anna just finished her second year at the University of Guelph as a Studio Art major and Museum Studies minor.

Although Anna has never played bridge, she has recently developed a winning streak playing Catan.

She creates art in all forms, the most exciting being spray paint, that is established through self expression, demanding both good and bad attention.



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Dear Andy,

Congratulations on the “new look” Kibitzer. As a frequent player at Hart House in the 60s, I enjoyed the stories of those times. One item was overlooked and I would like to report it now. In 1963 the University of Toronto team was composed of John Laskin, Richard Ingram, Tom Greer and Ivan Struminger. We travelled to Montreal and beat the vaunted McGill squad led by Joey Silver to win the Intercollegiate Championship.

Even 58 years later it is still one of my best bridge memories.

Sincerely,
Ivan Struminger

Unit 166's website now has a link for all Unit 166 teachers. If you want to promote your lessons for free please contact our webmaster, Martin Hunter at martinhunter@rogers.com with a brief description of your lessons and your contact info, including a web link if you have one.

To view the following reports and meeting minutes, please click on unit166.ca then click on the appropriate link in the left column.

- August 29, 2020 Board of Director Minutes
- January 4, 2020 AGM Minutes
- Engagement Letter (PDF format) + Financial Statements for FYE2020 (excel format)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday Sept. 11, 2021 at 9:00 am via video conference.

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(Visit www.unit246.com for details)

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- Bridge teachers can list their services on the Unit 246 website free

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**The Unit 249 Annual General Meeting will be held
Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 11:00 am via Zoom.**

**Members interested in attending should email
Jennifer Verdam-Woodward at jenvw@hurontel.on.ca
to be sent the zoom link and instructions.**



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The Kibitzer Information

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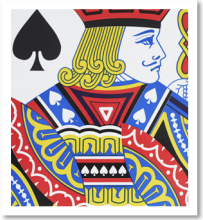
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Issue:	Deadline:	Posted online by:
Fall 2021	July. 15	Aug. 15
Winter 2021	Oct. 15	Nov. 15
Spring 2022	Jan. 15	Feb. 15
Summer 2022	Apr. 15	May 15

Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246, 249 and 255 about tournaments and special events, as well as to entertain with deals and articles of interest. It is also a forum for the exchange of information and opinion among the members. Opinions expressed in articles or letters to the Editor are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Boards of Directors or the Editor. The Kibitzer reserves the right to edit or exclude submitted material.



The Ongoing History of the Dirty Dozen

Their story could very well be your story: friends brought together through a common love of the game of bridge. The original "Dirty Dozen" were Carol Anne Besler, Brigitte Blackhouse, Mary Bryce, Sharon Carruthers, Sallie Caty, Jan Fox, Patti Lee, Audrey Norman, Sally Rewbotham, Bev Ross, Barbara Sims, and Gerarda VanLierop. Their roots can be traced back to the 1970s! Here they are, in their own words, eight members of the Dirty Dozen (DD)

Kib: Let's start at the beginning, before the DD became the DD. What are your first memories of learning to play bridge?

Carol Anne: I played kitchen bridge at my parents' cottage and then a little throughout university.

Jan: While in high school, I kibitzed my parents' regular Sunday night game with neighbours. Then, while at U of T, we played bridge every chance we got, in the common room, at night and on weekends...all kitchen, enhanced by a few beers, but definitely fun!

Patti: I played a bit at university and at peoples' homes over the years. My brother, Bern Comiskey, and two of his friends always came to the Easter Regional and stayed at my house. In 1990, they needed a fourth for the Board-a-Match on Thursday evening. They said if you don't know if something is forcing or not, just bid again (not a bad rule even today). We came in third, and I was hooked. And even better, Bern introduced me to Mary Bryce that evening.

Audrey: I started playing kitchen bridge with my husband Jim and a few other friends. A late starter in 1975.

Sally: I started this game when I was 14. The London bridge club started in my grandparents' home. My parents were founding members of the St. Thomas DBC. It was natural that I would play, as did my brothers.

Bev: My neighbour, and fellow kitchen bridge player, Gloria Bortolussi, in Thunder Bay talked me into duplicate in 1976 and on the 15-minute drive to the bridge club she taught me Stayman, Weak 2s, and Strong 2 Clubs. I was hooked. My parents were avid players but never played duplicate. They wanted to teach my sister and me, but we figured bridge was for "old people."

Barbara: As a child filling in at my parents' Saturday night 4-table party game, complete with cigars. Playing in the common room at Smith College...junior year 'abroad.' Being invited to play at the American Embassy while living in Bogota. Italian Blue Team was the favored system. The play was in many languages: Spanish, Arabic, Italian. No bidding boxes! Prizes were silver spoons. Coming back home and meeting Sharon and Carol Anne at Huron Park where, like



Jan Fox dancing at Rayner's Xmas party

Jan, there was free babysitting for the players in the game. The first night I went to play, Del matched me up with Harold Nesbit and we came second. Then I was hooked.

Gerarda: A friend from my church (Rosemary) asked me to play bridge. Not knowing the game, she soon fixed that and gave me eight handwritten pages to study. This was 1971. The first game was at her home, where she introduced me to four more gals. We played together for the next 12 years. Sadly, Rosemary moved back to Philly in 1973. We met every Wed. at one of our homes for lunch. Sherry, bridge and cocktails at 4. These were the best of times.

Kib: And then how did you end up playing duplicate? What club did you attend and who were your first partners?



Jan, Carol Anne, Bev & Brigitte limbering up for marathon bridge

Audrey: Jim and I and two other couples joined the Saskatoon Bridge Club at the same time. We all played with each other. I was extremely lucky to have the best patient bridge partners around that area. (It did cut into my horseback riding time though.)

Sally: I started playing duplicate bridge in St. Thomas when I was 18. I played with my parents. Mother wouldn't let me play before that for fear I would embarrass them.

Bev: I played in Thunder Bay from about 1976 to 1985. I was lucky to play with the best of T-Bay.

Barbara: My first duplicate partner was Sharon in 1973. We met at Huron Park when she had just moved back from Vancouver. Then Jan...had to play Precision through the 80s...and we traveled to a lot of tournaments.

Gerarda: While filling in at an evening bridge game, I met Margaret Hilton who played duplicate. She invited me to her club to play with her. Like Bev, she gave me 15 mins of instructions while driving to the studio. Stayman, transfers etc. Of course, it was too much info. And remember just playing my kitchen bridge game. There were 15 tables, and we came first!

Carol Anne: When Len and I were pregnant with our first child, we took bridge lessons with Del Gagan at Huron Park; Del introduced us to duplicate and there was no looking back.

Jan: The Etobicoke YMCA offered free babysitting with lessons. My first bridge teacher was Mary Williams who suggested that I try playing duplicate after just two lessons and suggested that I play with her son Doug who was quite an accomplished player. He was my first partner... lucky for me.

Kib: What was happening in your life at the time? Career wise, family wise, etc.? Were you able to juggle life with learning bridge or was it pretty hectic?

Sally: I was too young to have these issues to face.

Bev: My husband was transferred to Regina from Thunder Bay in 1985. Things were not going well in my marriage. I played bridge at the Regina club and at a tournament in Winnipeg I met John Ross and he persuaded me to move to Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1988 to be with him. John was transferred to the Toronto area in 1991 and we started playing in Brampton and at John Rayner's Mississauga-Oakville bridge club.

Barbara: Coming home from Bogota we had two small boys ages 4 and 2, and my husband was out of town a lot for work. There was a lovely teenage girl down the street who had a horse to feed. She would babysit till all hours of the night while Sharon and I went to Carol Anne's house to take lessons from John Rayner—a teenager! We all wore

long dresses and drank a lot. Len Besler poured. When my husband was home there was a lot of friction about bridge playing. Miraculously we have survived.

Gerarda: Life was pretty hectic for me in 1983. I closed out a children's store which I had operated for ten years. That fall followed a real estate course and I began a new career in 1984. Went back to the bridge club and got totally hooked. Real estate often interfered with bridge playing but somehow I managed to play a lot.

Carol Anne: At Huron Park, Barbara, Sharon, Sallie and I put our kids into a rather small room for free babysitting once a week. And trust me, kids were not allowed to be sick on that day.



Jan: Like Barbara, teenage babysitters were a godsend. Working shifts as a pharmacist helped my scheduling afternoon and evening games...and of course tournaments in hotels were like a vacation...no kids, no food to cook, just the game...Nirvana!

Patti: I was still working full time at IBM, so Friday nights and some weekends were all I could do. Bev & John Ross & Motaz taught me 2/1 and other conventions in 10 to 15-minute gulps before the game on Fridays. It led to a few disasters, like passing a Texas Transfer with a doubleton in my hand and a singleton in Motaz's. Needless to say, the

opponents didn't double.

Audrey: We had amazing babysitters and a motor home that we used to travel (along with numerous friends) to every tournament in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and eventually Manitoba. We were addicted—playing at least five times or more a week.

Kib: Seems to me the first few months and couple of years learning bridge are super exciting—especially upon reflection. And there is usually a player who we can point to who was our bridge 'guru.' Did you have a guru?

Carol Anne: My next-door neighbour, Ginger Rubenstein (now Smith) and I, both stay-at-home moms by choice, but desperate for cerebral experience, played weekly at Del Gagan's night game where teenager John Rayner took an interest in us and would join us each week postgame at the bar where he would review the hands we had played. This led to us hiring John to teach bridge in our homes once a week. We invited Barbara Sims, Sharon Carruthers, Sallie Caty, and Sandy Boyko to join us. Sometimes my husband Len, or Roy Dalton filled in. While this was John's initiation into a career in duplicate bridge, it was the beginning of a lifetime of meaningful friendships for us women and the embryo of what was to become the Dirty Dozen.

Gerarda: The time leading up to becoming a Life Master is definitely the most exciting time in bridge. I was lucky to get Martha VanEck as a partner at Lee Szabo's bridge studio in Burlington. I think she took a chance on me because we had Dutch origin in common. We played together for close to 18 years and then she moved away to be near her daughter. She was a formidable presence at the table. We played well together, really clicked and never had words. Played many tournaments with her and had good success. Very fond memories.

Patti: Mary and David Bryce were my go-to people. Mary and I talked almost every night when both of us were in Canada. The conversation often started with "You hold." And then, we would talk about life. Also, John Rayner and later my husband, Marty Miller, were my gurus.

Jan: John Rayner was always our go-to expert at his club. During my early years playing, I think the postgame discussions analyzing and critiquing each hand played in both club games and tournaments were critical to all of our development. Tournaments in the 70s and 80s weren't

flighted...just smoking and non-smoking sections...with the better players always in the smoking sections. My partner was a smoker and so it was definitely trial by fire...improve or find yourself macerated by the amazing field of great Toronto players like Fred Gitelman, Roy Dalton, Kathy Adachi, Jim Priebe, John Rayner, Ken Murray, etc.



Sharon, Barbara, Rod Jansen, Sallie & John Rayner

Audrey: I was so lucky to play with the best around us. Wow, they had so much patience with me. My wonderful teaching partners were Dev Prahkya, Len Racette, Rick Boldt and Jim Norman. One of the questions asked of me then was, "Do you think you go down more when vulnerable than non vul?" I was a bit of a rabbit. My dear partner Sallie didn't think I was that. LOL.

Bev: I had many players in Thunder Bay help me along the way, but I would say my "go-to" guru(s) were John Ross (my ex) and John Rayner after moving to Toronto. Nowadays I will occasionally send out an email to players I think highly of and get opinions on bidding problems, such as Rayner, Andy Stark, sometimes my ex, and others. Larry Cohen is on my list, too.

Sally: My mom was really good at the bidding and my dad played the cards like he could see through the backs of them. I learned so much from them. I used to come home from school, sit down on the living room floor and deal out hands. Mother would come in from the kitchen and join me to answer my questions. Then she would rearrange the cards and ask, "Now what should we do?" It doesn't get any

better than that. Most mothers tell their daughters about boys, makeup, dating, etc. Mine told me, "Minus 200 is never a good score."

Kib: What were some of the early connections you made with each other, and how were they formed?

Gerarda: Ron Groulx and I first played at John Rayner's in 1987 and soon participated in New Year's Eve parties where we met Jan, Sally and Bridget and many others. Soon friendships were formed which have been lasting ones.

Jan: Barbara and I met at Huron Park, and we decided to have a game. We played together for the best part of 15 years. We travelled to tournaments and our most memorable was the first time we won the Ladies Swiss team event at the Easter Regional in 1982 getting Barbara all her gold points to become a Life Master. During those years we also watched John Rayner develop from a fill-in director and teacher to the owner of a thriving bridge club owner as well as the recognized Canadian expert and teacher that he is today.

Patti: I met Sally and Brigitte relatively early in my bridge life when Mary brought me along to a Regional tournament to play in a team event with them. I met Bev at the Brampton Friday night game and then we migrated down to John's game on Fridays. Audrey and Jim were playing Friday nights, so I got to know them. In 1993, Bev asked me to be her partner in the Women's Teams in Saskatoon with Audrey and Sallie. We had so much fun during that event. And then, Sallie invited Bev and me to join the girls' weekend at the Beaver that Fall. Bev and I became #s 9 and 10 in the DDs. And that got me introduced to the others.

Audrey: We met John and Bev Ross at a regional in Toronto. We knew John quite well and only had played against Bev at tournaments. They were instrumental in getting us out to play. Bev then took a chance and asked me to be her partner in the Ladies teams in Ottawa where we met Barbara and Jan, Anne Marie Bullis and her Ella O'Marra. Then of course we joined John Rayner's club. Hooked up with Barbara again. Then the great gatherings at Brigitte and Sally's Friday night after the game. Such fun.

Sally: I met Mary in the early 70s when we were in Kincardine. A duplicate club was started, and we met there. We used to get together with two other friends and play, particularly on snow days. I had a snowmobile, and it was

Audrey Norman's husband Jim was the acting NPC for two DD teams when they went to back-to-back Canadian Women's Finals. Jim writes,

"In 1993 we went to Saskatoon for the CWTC. It was Audrey and Sallie with Bev and Patti. The final was very close, and the girls played great. In 1994, in Toronto, they added Barb and Mary. This was a very good field with all of Canada's best teams. They did extremely well.

The key to their success was that they were a true team. Friends first, last and always, with never a harsh word. I did the basic job of a non-playing captain; however, I was more of a cheerleader and gofer. My contribution to the camaraderie was mostly pouring drinks.

This is a very special group."



photo of Jim with the DDs, celebrating

the only way I could get to her place. I met Brigitte at Bina Adams' game in the Oakville library. It was a great game with a very strong field. We used to go out after the game for drinks and I was a terrible drinker but a very funny drunk (so they tell me). Everybody knew I couldn't drive home after so they took turns having me sleep over so they could be entertained by my antics. Eventually, it was Brigitte's turn.

Bev: We met Patti Lee and Motaz Farag shortly after moving here and we quickly became friends and partners. A year later we met up with Audrey and Jim Norman, who John knew from Saskatoon. They were living in Brantford and later Burlington. Anne Marie Bullis from Rayner's asked me to find a partner to play in the women's CWTC in Ottawa with her and Ella O'Mara along with Barbara and Jan and that's how we met. Also, John and I would play in the Friday night game at Rayner's and there was always a party at BB's and Sally's afterwards where we would discuss hands or just party.

Kib: So now we have bunches of friendships, but there had to be a moment when the DD became the DD. What recollections do you have of that first occasion or party? And who coined the term "Dirty Dozen?"

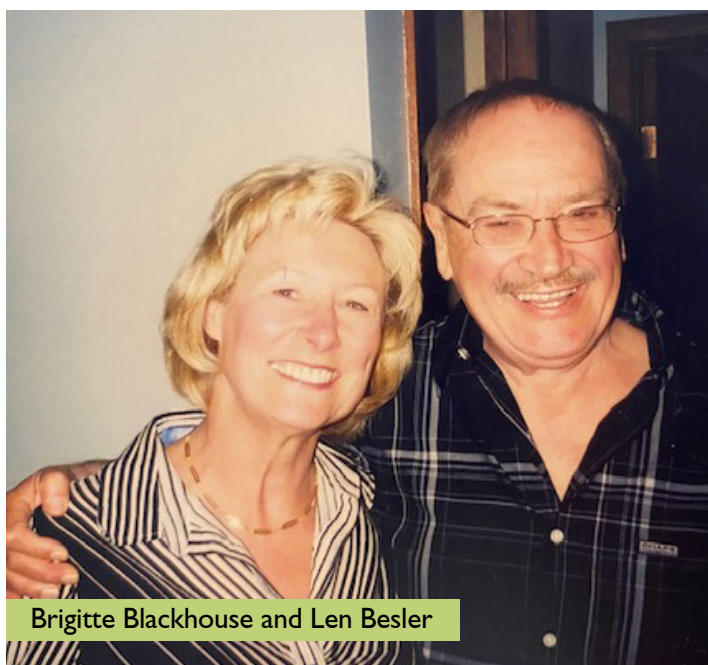
Jan: I remember my husband and I being asked to join a dinner party at Carol Anne's. While I had played against all of the girls, being included in their circle was an accomplishment for me. While the Dirty Dozen was yet to form, I had the great fortune to be a steady summer guest with my kids at Barbara's cottage from the late 70s on.



A bunch of cards and a cow

Bev: It took a year or so, but Audrey and Barbara became good friends as Audrey had started to play at Rayner's Friday afternoons with me and Barbara would often pick her up at the train. After Jan, Audrey was the first to be invited to Barbara's cottage. Then in the next year Sallie, Caty, Audrey, Patti and I played in the CWTC in Saskatoon and won the silver medal. Sally invited us to their fishing lodge that fall, and we luckily became part of the group. I think Mary came the next year and Gerry a couple of years later.

Audrey: I really can't remember if it was Sally or Carol Anne that came up with the term a bit later. She even made us great caps with DD artfully sparkled on the front. It didn't take very long to forge never ending friendships with these amazing women.



Brigitte Blackhouse and Len Besler

Carol Anne: For sure, Sally Rew coined the term "Dirty Dozen." Not sure though at what point.

Sally: We didn't start with 12 but we grew the group to the limit of what Barbara's cottage could host. She knew the limit was three tables and I said, "Oh good, The Dirty Dozen."

Barbara: At first there was Carol Anne, Sharon, Sallie and me for a June weekend. Then what I can remember, Audrey and Bev joined us ... then Jan and Gerry and then Patti. At some point...maybe. Before that, Sally and Brigitte. And Mary. So, it's hard to write about as we have lost three: Mary first,

in December of 2009, then Brigitte in June of 2014, and then Sallie in June of 2018. We were younger then and didn't mind sharing one bathroom at the cottage. The fall weekend at Sallie's Beaver place had two bathrooms.

Patti: Mary was invited to Barbara's cottage in Spring 1994. Gerry joined us later and then we were 12.

Gerarda: Yes, I was #12 and we then became the Dirty Dozen.

Kib: When you think back to the get-togethers, what did you do? How well did you eat? Who were the good cooks and what did they make? I believe wine may have played a part...

Bev: What happens in Vegas should stay there, however, we played bridge, we laughed, we danced, and we drank lots of wine.

Audrey: Food was first rate. Thanks, Sally for doing the bbqing--I couldn't take the mosquitos. We danced, sang, walked on the beach, drank, laughed and then got serious for our 2-day bridge game! I will forever treasure those memories.

Barbara: The cooking always was very well organized. We did have wonderful meals together. Also, long walks on the beach and always a lot of bridge. As for food we all contributed dishes for particular meals.



Bev Ross at the bridge party

Gerarda: For sure had a good time playing kitchen bridge for 12 years, it got even better with the Dirty Dozen. So much fun on all those memorable weekends.

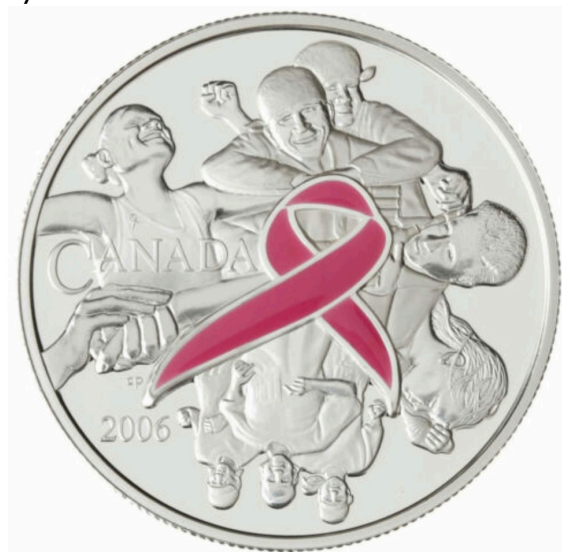
Carol Anne: I remember being on onion chopping duty and evoked a multitude of laughter when I sported goggles to execute this mission. Knowing ahead I was slated for salad creation, I actually packed goggles in Girlie pink! But when it came to dinners, Sal Rew was the chef extraordinaire! Saturday night was typically barbecue night with Sal at the helm. Barbecuing twelve unique steak orders is no easy task, but she met this feat with perfection, often in rain and always with mosquitos doing what they do best.

Jan: Lots of bridge, laughs, walks, wine, and dancing was the rule at Barbara's cottage in the summer and at Sallie Caty's place (called the "Beaver") in the fall. Those weekends were cherished by all. The food was always organized and assigned by meal, and of course, Carol Anne always ordered hers from a caterer.

Patti: The food was fabulous, and the bridge was good and competitive (a little money in the pot didn't hurt!) But what we did was share life together. Kids being married, grandbabies being born, the ups and downs of menopause, the agony of a cancer diagnosis, and the joy of recovery. We dressed up for Hallowe'en a number of times. (Bev even made a Queen of Hearts costume for one of those evenings). We had torch runs in the dark with sparklers down to the beach. We laughed a lot, we cried some, and we formed a bond that goes way past the game of bridge.

Sally: We always enjoyed being together. We shared so much: walking, dancing, eating and drinking. One learns that you can share laughter with many but tears with few. Over the space of so many years we, like all groups, shared experiences like divorces, issues with our kids or grandkids, loss of parents and, eventually, we lost some of our own group members.

I remember after Mary and Gerry had been diagnosed with breast cancer that the Royal Canadian Mint had put out a quarter with a pink ribbon on it. I went to the bank and asked for a dozen of them. They told me they could only give me one and, after I explained our group and the situation, they gave me 12 from the same roll. I handed them out at one of our dinners. Eventually Mary, Brigitte and Sallie were lost to cancer of one kind or another. Gerry kicked it. Yay, Gerry!



The commemorative coin Sally gave to each of the DDs

Kib: Recently I played a casual game on BBO with Roman Klein versus mutual friends Chris Cowan and Debbie Feldman. I typed into the chat, "summer rules?" since Roman and I had not played together for 30 years. He replied, "Of course! Go BB go!" And I was instantly reminded of some of the social games I played in with many of you, when BB would insist on Summer Rules which are perfect for new partnerships. Let's talk about BB. What do you miss about Brigitte? What is a fond memory you have?

Gerarda: Miss everything about Brigitte. She was the best of the best.



Bev, Debbie Feldman, Chris Cowan, Jan, Carol Anne & Roman Klein

Bev: Brigitte was creative. Especially in her bidding.

Carol Anne: For an easy going, caring, considerate and always complimentary woman, Brigitte was dynamite at the table with her legendary, creative bids. She (along with Sally) was a generous host welcoming so many of us for Friday night postgame camaraderie where we wined and dined on popcorn till the wee hours. And how we bonded! Thanks, BB, for your warm spirit.



Barbara, Patti, Bev, Sharon, Carol Anne, Sallie, Sally & Jan

Jan: Her smile and generosity, and the fun filled postgame Friday nights we all had at hers and Sally's place reviewing hands in deep discussion...and how Brigitte could always justify the most unique bids!

Patti: Brigitte was certainly the most creative bidder of all of us. If there was any dispute, she would go around and ask everyone what they would do. As soon as she found someone that agreed with her, she would announce, "So & so would bid the same thing that I bid!" and to heck with anyone else who didn't. Brigitte was also one of the kindest people I have ever met. She genuinely cared about all of us and seemed to know exactly when one of us would need a boost. She never looked for applause herself but was one of the best cheerleaders for others. An amazing woman! I will always remember the fun of the Friday nights at Brigitte and Sally's, diagnosing all the hands and eating popcorn. The weekend started right!

Audrey: Brigitte was this amazing "butterfly" who was generally interested in everyone. I loved how her mind worked. A special person. Thankfully I got to see her a few days before she passed, thanks to Barbara.

Sally: I miss everything, obviously, but mostly that smile. I can tell you that, if there is a heaven, you will eventually find Brigitte and me walking down the beach hand in hand and playing in the evening bridge game against all those friends and family who are there as well.

Kib: How about Mary Bryce? What do you miss about Mary? What do you hear from David?

Gerarda: Shared a bedroom with Mary many times. First time in St. Martin where Sally and Brigitte had invited me to join them. We had so much fun there and ended up buying a timeshare that we still enjoy today. Mary and I would talk and laugh for hours at bedtime. Great gal—missed by all.



A photo op between marathon bridge sessions

Carol Anne: Although Mary and I did not have a history together, from the time we met, we readily made each other laugh. Especially the time at the Beaver, when I sported "dem golden shoes," with magnetic energy to boot? Methinks, we awoke some of the others with our can't-find-a-breath laughing. I miss the infectious chemistry.

Jan: Mary was an amazing trailblazer. Along with David she was the first DD to be a bridge cruise director and teacher. She and David also spent a couple of years in the Czech Republic as ESL teachers. Then they sold their house in the Beaches and bought a house in Muskoka...both sales without agents, simply online! Think about the internet and online ease about 15 years ago!

Patti: Mary was our photographer, though we usually forbade her to publish any of the pictures. Mary was also our prankster, with an infectious laugh.

At one of John Rayner's Christmas Parties at his club, Christmas music came from the table where Mary and I were opponents. I had been let in on the secret, but no one else, not even David, knew what was happening. So, we all searched trying to figure out where the music was coming from; Mary and I sat there with very straight faces. This kept happening periodically during the evening at Mary's table. Later, she owned up to the fact that she had underwear on that played Christmas carols. Only Mary could have found those.

Mary was the best friend anyone could have. She was non-judgmental but always caring. And we laughed so much together. Life was to be enjoyed and Mary lived by that creed. David and I still see each other periodically, though not this last year of course.

Audrey: Mary was a very imaginative person. She loved taking pictures when we least expected it—some great photos came out of this fun. Lots of laughs. I remember her and I think it was Patti who showed up at Sallie's lodge at Halloween in a pink onesie with nipples pinned all the way down—pig.

Sally: Mary was quick to laugh and quick to take a picture. I remember the notebooks that she kept of her travels. She kept little things like a coaster, a tram ticket, the entry stub for some museum or a restaurant receipt. Then she put them into these books and could take you through a virtual visit of where she had been. I remember her challenge to me before BB and I went to Athens. "You have to find the *Sissifos* restaurant and get a picture taken with one of the waiters." (I found it, but it wasn't easy.)

Bev: David misses Mary. He sends us all a very nice Xmas letter. Mary really liked to take pics when we weren't looking. Great sense of humour.

Kib: How about Sallie Caty? The last time I saw her I was dropping bridge magazines off at MOBC and she was playing with Patti. She died a couple weeks later. She must have been in so much pain but there she was playing bridge right up to the end. What are your memories of Sallie?

Patti: Sallie was a fabulous bridge player and a more wonderful friend. At a Bermuda Regional, Sallie was knitting as we played. Two guys were doing well with two rounds to go. They expected easy pickings when they saw Sallie knitting. Two bottoms later, they left our table shaking their heads. But they came up and introduced themselves to us

later and told us the story. We all had a good laugh together, and I am sure they are a lot leierier of women knitting at the table now!

Sallie and I formed a great partnership and went away to a lot of tournaments together. We had some successes, but more importantly, we developed a very strong friendship. She was so smart and so generous with her praise. I think all of her partners will attest that she made them better bridge players. She was fiercely loyal to her friends. I do miss her so much.

Audrey: Sallie was my bridge partner for all the Ladies teams and I so miss her. She always called Jim, "*Mon Capitaine*." I did get to see her that summer before she passed. Always a smile, very considerate to others. We clicked as a partnership. Our best game was 78.5%! Sallie was a great declarer. As a side comment with lots of humour—I named our car 'GPS Sallie' because I knew she would love to tell me where to go! LOL

Sally: Sallie knew that BB and I had been very supportive of getting the right-to-die legislation passed into law. After Brigitte's death I had written different levels of government and had many of my friends and family do the same. When Sallie was ill she was able to use that right. She called Barbara and me and asked us to witness the paperwork that needed to be completed. She said Barbara was the friend she had had the longest and I was the one who had helped ease her way. I took this as the greatest honour of my life.



Sally Rew at 17

Bev: I think I was the last, or close to it, who played with Sallie. We had a great game, and she was so happy that she was “with it” that day. She sure could play her cards. An amazing lady. So sad but she sure put up a fight. Always a good partner.

Gerarda: The weekends at her lodge will never be forgotten. Such a strong lovely woman. Courage is an understatement when it comes to Sally.

Carol Anne: Sallie and I were Friday afternoon partners for decades. She was a much more seasoned and experienced player than I, but with her inspiration, gentle mentoring and knitting, we often won the day. On so many levels, we shared a special best friend relationship. I sooo miss her.

Jan: Sallie was always smiling, happy to see everyone. A fierce competitor who would knit while playing (maybe we were too slow) and tap her fingers to keep the play moving along! A great hostess and a generous friend.

Kib: And that brings us to the 12th DD, Sharon Carruthers. I remember Sharon as being kind and thoughtful. When she heard that her niece’s boyfriend’s band (Blue Rodeo) was going to be playing a concert in Yellowknife, where I was living at the time, she had her niece send me tickets to the concert. Where is Sharon living these days? How is she doing? What memories do you have of Sharon?

Barbara: Sharon was a wonderful friend. She has had some very difficult years. She is now living in Guelph near her younger daughter. The DD had a great weekend at her cottage in Haliburton one fall, too.

Sally: Whenever we were trying to determine which team would be responsible for Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner or Sunday lunch it was unanimous that Sharon needed to bring desserts and Rocky Road squares. Just thinking about them I gain weight. I remember one really, really bad day when BB was ill. I called Sharon and she said, “I’m on my way.” That’s Sharon.

Gerarda: A true lady in every sense of the word. Kind, giving always. Never a cross word about anyone.

Carol Anne: Sharon has been a close friend and bridge partner for decades. She and I especially appreciated partnering when we wintered in Naples, Florida. When Sharon had stopped driving before she moved to Guelph,

I had the privilege to share meaningful time taking her to some of her favourite stores. I am grateful for this opportunity. Sharon was somewhat behind the scenes, but always there for you.

Patti: Whenever I think of Sharon, I think of kindness and gentleness. She was a lady, who cared deeply about her family and friends. She loved her bridge games and her outings with the girls. And she always made the best desserts. I am sure we all want a Rocky Road right now!



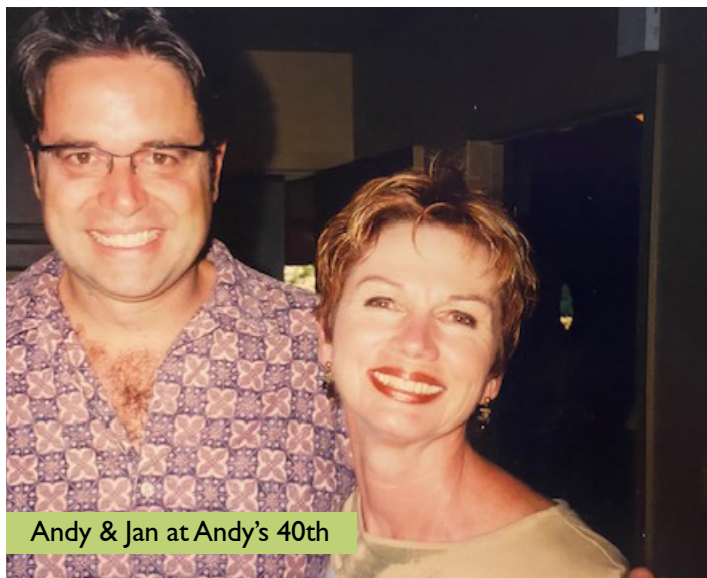
Carol Anne at around the time she first played bridge

Audrey: Sharon is a true lady. Loved spending time with her at our ladies’ weekends.

Kib: Some members of the Dirty Dozen went on to back-to-back high finishes in the Canadian Women’s Team Championships, coached/captained by Jim Norman, Audrey’s husband. When was that? What were the partnerships and is it safe to say that a lot of the success can be attributed to not only good bridge, but the strong friendships and team camaraderie?

Bev: I usually played with Patti, Audrey and Sallie for the first few years. I think Barbara and Mary joined us in Thunder Bay. All in all, I played in Ottawa, Saskatoon, Toronto, Fredericton, Thunder Bay, Penticton and St Catharines. Then I started to direct. As for Jim Norman—he was one of the girls. Love him.

Patti: Sallie, Audrey, Bev and I went to Saskatoon in 1993. Mary and Barbara joined our team the next year in Toronto in 1994. We also hosted the 1994 Women's Teams. In those days, the host city raised money and paid for entertainment, etc., for the event. We sold chocolate bars (oh my!) among other fundraising ideas and had line dancing at the final dinner. It was so much fun! The six of us played another few years' together, with some success. Jim Norman was our fabulous non-playing captain and great mentor. Our motto was "Friendship first." I was thrilled to be part of a team with those five wonderful bridge players and good friends.



Andy & Jan at Andy's 40th

Audrey: "Friendship first." Always! We all had such good times and huge respect for each other.

Kib: Matthew Granovetter had a good line, one that's stayed with me over the years. He wrote, "Bridge is life." What are some of your reflections on bridge and the Dirty Dozen? When you think about bridge and its impact on your life—the friendships, the partnerships—can you imagine ever not playing bridge? What would have filled the void if you never played bridge?

Barbara: Can never imagine life without bridge. I have taught, directed, run tournaments, and served as President of the Unit. Most of my friendships are in the bridge world and they've been kept alive by the miracle of BBO.

Gerarda: Bridge has added so much to my life. All the friendships over the years cannot be measured. A new husband, now 35 years later with whom I still disagree about

hands bid and played. Both of us are always right. A great and fun partnership with Jan and Bill that lasted for over 15 years and took us to many tournaments with a good amount of success. The fabulous times we had cannot be duplicated and are missed for sure. Now we play on the net and wait for things to get back to normal.

Carol Anne: In spite of its competitive nature, bridge ironically serves as a stress reliever. Concentrating on cards fosters forgetting everyday concerns. And while a well-played hand emotes satisfaction, winning inevitably evokes joy. How fulfilling it is to share this experience with a fellow DD! I will always treasure Sallie Caty's quiet high fives!

Jan: Bridge has been very important to my life in that I met my current husband, (and hopefully my last) Bill Howlett playing the game. During the late 90s and early 2000s we had lots of success playing Sectional Swisses with Gerry VanLierop and Ron Groulx. It was through that relationship that Gerry became a dear friend and one of the DDs!

Patti: Bridge became my passion. I took an early retirement package from IBM at the end of 1993 and started teaching and directing bridge. In January 1995, I started directing at tournaments. In the early 2000s, Marty Miller spotted me at a tournament and our love affair started. With bridge, Marty and I travelled all over the world, helping to escort groups or running the bridge program on cruise ships. If visiting a foreign country, we would look for a bridge club and as a result, we have played bridge in many countries. Bridge is a universal language. Without bridge, I never would have met the other DDs or had the wonderful friendships that ensued. It is not the reason that we are friends, but it is the reason that we met. Thank goodness for bridge!



Gerarda, Barbara and Mr. Jan Fox (Bill Howlett)

Audrey: Due to my husband Jim's jobs we moved around a lot. Everywhere we went we were welcomed by the bridge communities. We have met folks from all over and have maintained great friendships because of it. Horses have always been a huge interest to me, so it was a balancing act sometimes. The saying, "Bridge is life—all the rest are details" sure rang true.

Sally: I don't know what we would have done but we all would have found something. We just would not have found one another and that would be sad. We found friends, lovers, careers, travels around the world, intellectual challenges and so much fun. It's a great game. Interestingly, all of us have travelled at some time or another with others in the group. Several years ago, I met Audrey Grant and we became very close friends. She introduced me to teaching on cruise ships. Mary had already done that as had Patti. Brigitte and I snorkelled in Bora Bora. Bev and I did the tour through the white cliffs of Dover (now closed to tours). Carol Anne, BB and I saw the pyramids in Cairo together. I fell in love with Rhodes, Greece and Sallie and Sharon got the best photos in Portugal. Who knew that bridge would give us such experiences to share?

it's time to retire. As for the ladies, my support group. I play regularly with Sal Rew, Patti and others on BBO. Love the speedballs. One game stands out as a highlight, Andy. When you and I won the Open Pairs at the Nationals here in TO, garnering 47 masterpoints and you got your Life Masters.



Mary, Audrey & Barbara prepping for marathon bridge



Carol Anne explaining how she made 7NT

Bev: Bridge has pretty much been a career for me. From being a player, to directing at clubs, being an ACBL director to working at, and then running bridge tournaments. I was also lucky enough to work many Regionals at sea for ACBL. I retired from the ACBL in 2017 and up until COVID set in I directed and taught bridge at Thornhill Country Club. Now

Kib: I remember it well, Bev! Now with Audrey living out west it must be more difficult to get together. How often do you get together nowadays? When was the last time you were all together? A Zoom perhaps? Is there a plan to get everyone in one place at say, a national event?

Jan: We have Zoomed, and each time we do, you'd think that we were back at Barbara's cottage. The conversation flows freely, and always turns to yet another problem bridge hand. We set the Zoom time to ensure that Audrey can join us, as she brings sparkle, and sometimes Jim, as well. She is still the same upbeat great gal that I met at the Ottawa Regional in 1990!

Patti: In June of 2019, all nine of us had a luncheon at Carol Anne's and then later that year, 8 of us had a Christmas luncheon also at CA's, unfortunately without Audrey. I am really looking forward to the time when we can all head out to Vancouver Island again!

Audrey: I have managed to get to Ontario every year but one since we left. The girls came out to Vancouver Island one year—so much fun. We have had a couple of Zoom chats but would love to have more. I'm really looking forward to this pandemic being over so I can visit.



Walking the shores of Georgian Bay

Sally: The last time we survivors were together was at the celebration of Sallie's life. The last time we were together electronically was when Jan arranged a Zoom meeting soon after Covid altered everyone's life. I don't know when we will be able to get together physically but we are never far from one another's' thoughts.

Bev: One year six of us visited Audrey when they lived on a boat on Vancouver Island. Barbie Stewart (Mike Roche's wife) joined us, and along with Audrey, made up our 8. We always played bridge. Along with the partying. Jan arranged a Zoom call early on in the pandemic, but we haven't done it lately. I think the last time we got together at Barbara's cottage was 2016; however, before COVID struck, all who were available would meet for brunch on Friday at 11:00 am before the Friday game at MOBridge.

Kib: Any final thoughts? Reflections?

Patti: For the past 30 years, these fabulous women have been an integral part of my life. I know how fortunate I have been to have them all in my life. Every one of them adds something unique to the group; every one of them holds a special place in my heart.

Audrey: I feel truly blessed to be a part of this amazing group of women. After a Friday night game at John Rayner's club, we would all gather over at Brigitte and Sally's home to rehash the hands and visit. Our weekends at Barb's cottage and Sallie's lodge were some of the best times I've ever had. The laughs, fun, walks and talks will be something I will always treasure. Bridge brings so many people together;

I'm so grateful. Jim constantly talks about what a wonderful group we DD's are. Very special.

Sally: My life has been enriched by each and every one of the Dirty Dozen. I don't know how I got to be so lucky, but I am always grateful.

Bev: I feel very lucky to have had these women as friends. They are my lifesavers.

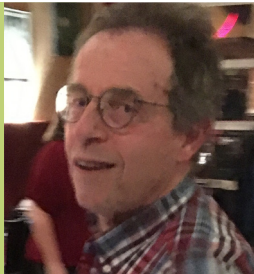
Gerarda: Very lucky indeed. John Rayner's club was the best. All the social events over the years were amazing. Friday evenings at Sally and Brigitte's were the highlight of the weekend. All the weekends with the Dirty Dozen were priceless. Great memories.

Jan: I'm grateful for the friendships that we all forged through bridge. John Rayner's Mississauga-Oakville Bridge club was our social club and second home. There we met, played, and socialized along with many other players who became great friends. The parties, the fun, the rivalry, the spirited in-depth discussions over hands, will all be fondly remembered.

Carol Anne: More than just bridge partners, the Dirty Dozen has evolved into an invaluable sisterhood extending ongoing support extraordinaire! So many blessings in each other's lives!



Bev, Sharon & Jan (back)
Brigitte, Sally, Patti, Carol Anne, Barbara & Mary (front)



For Newer Players

By Robert Griffiths

More Drury Adventures

Some of us have been known to occasionally open light after we learn that our partner has a passed hand. Our partner can use the Drury convention to ask if our one-of-a-major opening bid was made on a full 13 points or if we stretched.

Today, NS passed throughout, and East opened 1♠. West, with a very nice hand started with 2♦. This was intended as a simple 2/1 bid which the pair played as a game force.

However, this hand came up late in a tiring session. Somehow, East got it in his mind that his partner had initially passed and that his own 1♠ bid had been in third seat. If all this were the case, then the 2♦ bid would be Drury promising 4-card spade support with close to an opening bid.

Indeed, East was full value for his opener and had to show this to his partner with a bid other than 2♠ (which, playing Drury would show a sub-minimum opener). He might have bid 3♠ but in the end chose to bid 3♣, showing that he had a full opener with values in clubs.

At this point, West thought he should investigate a club slam but in the end

did the lazy thing and bid what should be an easy 3NT.

Board 21
North Deals
NS Vul

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

East was having none of this. He thought his partner's earlier bid promised four spades, so he went on to 4♠.

That's an odd sequence, thought West. It sounded like East had about seven spades with a side club suit. West was not about to pass 4♠ or bid a meek 5♣, so he jumped right to what he hoped they could make: 6♣.

That's an odd sequence, thought East. Finally, he examined the whole auction and noticed that his partner's bid could not have been Drury! His partner had not been a passed hand

after all. So 6♣ was passed out.

East only had to ruff one heart in his hand to make his club slam.

East-West had staggered into a very good club slam when the field was playing in 3NT. But it was hard to be proud of a sequence in which neither partner knew what the other was trying to say.

For more information on the 2-Way Reverse Drury Convention, try googling what the Bridge Bum has to say:

https://www.bridgebum.com/two-way_reverse_drury.php

Michaels Declined

North dealt and opened the normal 1♦. East bid 2♦, Michaels, showing 5-5 in the majors and asking partner to pick a major. South liked where this was going and passed. West thought about his choice of singletons, but in the end chose to surprise the table by passing 2♦.

North had nothing to say so South was on lead against 2♦. He chose the ♦5.

Board 12
North Deals
NS Vul

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

South kept getting the lead and finding himself endplayed and East squeaked home with 8 tricks and his contract.

Did West do the right thing? Absolutely. We have to remember that our job during the auction is not simply to describe our hand but to help guide the side to the best contract. Occasionally, it will involve leaving our partner shocked and appalled and having to declare with a singleton.

When your partner announces a hand with 10+ cards in the majors and you have 11 cards in the minors, your first thought should be, "How can I get the opponents to play this hand?"

Here, you can't, so get out as cheaply as you can. Imagine if you bid 2♠ and some fool opponent competed with 3 of a minor. Now your fool partner might raise you to 3♠. Passing the first time around says, "Back off, partner, this hand is trouble!"

That doesn't mean that when your partner opens 2♣ and you hold

something like: ♠863 ♥542 ♦3 ♣765432 that you should take charge and pass. When your partner says he has an outstanding hand, let him be the boss. But the Michaels hand above is just a messy competitive auction.

Ignoring Partner's Wishes: The Sequel

The last deal suggested that one might occasionally pass partner's Michaels bid. This week, in a hand played only twice, the two East players each found a reason to shock their partners with similar passes.

When North opened 1♦, East had choices. With a strong 2-suited hand, he could start by simply bidding his good suits. This is a poor plan if there was any danger of his bid being passed out before he had the chance to show his strength.

Or, he could start with an unusual 2NT bid, if the partnership allowed that with a strong hand. In this case, 2NT would show hearts and clubs, the two lower suits.

Or he could double, planning to bid his suits after his partner's expected spade bid, showing a stronger hand than a normal double.

At one table, East doubled 1♦, looking forward to lots of action in the auction. His partner shocked him with a pass and North played 1♦ doubled. West's decision was reasonable with his massive diamond suit. North was able to scrape through with only 5

tricks, going down 2 for 500 points to EW.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

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

At the other table, East tried the Unusual Notrump bid. Over 1♦ he bid 2NT promising a ♥/♣ two-suiter. He would show his strength after West bid one of them. But West didn't want to do what he was told. He chose to hijack the auction by passing, rather than bidding his doubleton club. West was hoping that his partial spade stopper and wonderful diamonds would be enough, so East found himself declaring 2NT.

South led a spade; North winning his ace and returning another. East won his ♠Q then found that playing NT on a misfit is not fun. He started on clubs; North won the second club and returned the ♥J. This gave East his one chance to win his ♥A and cash out his clubs for at least 7 tricks: 5 clubs, 1 heart, and 1 spade. After cashing his winners and exiting with a small heart, he would make his contract by either winning another heart or one of the high cards on the board that he had been cut off from.

Instead, East tried to make his contract immediately by finessing the ♠Q. This cost East the only entry to his hand. South won the ♠K and led a diamond. Declarer took 2 diamonds and the spade in the dummy, then had to give up the lead to North who ran his diamonds while East threw

away his club winners. At trick 12, East was down to the ♣K and the ♥A, misguessed North's last card, and ended up down 3 for -300.

So, one team made +500 at one table and +300 at the other. 800 points makes for a big swing (13 imps) in a

team game.

Ed. Note: For more tales of woe and triumph with the underlead of an ace, be sure to read David Turner's column and the cover story in this issue.



Safety Plays III

By Brian Gray

Winning Suit Combinations

Our first deal comes from Frank Stewart, journalist, author, editor, competitor, teacher, and creator of the popular 'Daily Bridge Club' column on the Baron Barclay website.

Contract: 4♠
Lead: ♣Q

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

The safety play for only one trump loser is to cash the ace, then travel to the dummy with a club, then lead a spade to the queen. This gains versus a singleton spade king with West. But

if declarer has a heart loser, he can't afford the safety play. He must finesse with the queen of trumps, hoping East holds ♠Kx. So, declarer should finesse in hearts first to find out whether he can play safe in trumps.

Contract: 4♠
Lead: ♣J

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

Declarer can afford to lose a trump, a heart, and a diamond. To play super-safe for the contract he leads the ♠2 from dummy, and if East follows with the three, declarer plays the four. (He has no problem if East plays any higher

card.) To play safe for one diamond loser, declarer takes the king and leads the four, intending to play the nine from dummy if West follows with the six or eight.

Other safety play situations were provided by contributor Phillip Alder, a Bridge Bulletin columnist and former bridge columnist for the New York Times. Alder offers an informative and engaging website: www.bridgeforeveryone.com

"When you play Chicago or in a team event, it is pure bridge. You try to make or break each contract and not worry about overtricks. This sometimes leaves you looking for a guaranteed line of play—you win a certain number of tricks whatever the distribution of the missing cards.

“How would you play to win five tricks from each?”

a) ♠ K Q 10 4
♠ A 9 7 5 2

b) ♥ K Q 8 4
♥ A 8 7 5 2

c) ♦ K J 7 6 3
♦ A 9 8 5 4

In A) if the four missing cards are splitting 2-2 or 3-1, it doesn't matter what you do. But what if one opponent has all four spades? If you start with dummy's king, you will have a higher honour over the jack: the queen over the jack if West has all four spades, or the ace over the jack if East has them. But if you cash the ace first, you lose a trick when East has all four missing spades.

In B) though, you are missing ♥J-10-6-3. Again, if these four cards are 2-2 or 3-1, everything works. But what about a 4-0 break? With two honours to capture, you need two higher honours. Here, you must hope that West has all four. You must start with the ♥A in hand, then lead twice through West, using dummy's ♥Q to capture the ♥10 and the ♥K to trap the ♥J.

In C) you need worry only about a 3-0 break. If East has all three, you must lose a trick. But if West has all three, and you start with your ♦A, you can finesse dummy's ♦J on the second round to avoid a loser.

“Finally, this is your trump suit in six diamonds:

♣ Q 7 6 4 3

♣ A 10 8 5 2

“The other three suits are solid, so you can afford one trump loser but not two. What would you do?”

“I think there is a natural reaction to cash the ♣A. Not so good if West discards. Then East gets two trump tricks. So, do you start with dummy's ♣Q? Not so good if East shows out. West must get two tricks. The safety play is to start with a low card from either hand and cover the next player's card, or, if second hand shows out, to play the highest card from the third hand.

“For example, you lead your ♣2. If West fails to follow suit, put up dummy's ♣Q. East wins with the ♣K, but you can play low to your ♣10 on the second round. However, the best play is low from the dummy first. If East shows out, win with your ♣A, and lead through West's ♣K-J up to dummy's ♣Q. The vigorish comes when East has to play a singleton ♣K. Then you gain an overtrick, and if you are playing Chicago for your usual stake of \$1 per point, \$30 is \$30!”

Now for our Canadian contributors. First is Paul Thurston: Canadian Teams Champion, bridge columnist for the National Post, and author of *Bridge at the Breakfast Table*.

“As shown by Bill Pollack when he declared this deal during the 2009 Cavendish Invitational, a safety play can often be about more than just limiting the loss of a trick in a key suit—avoiding losing to a particular opponent can also be a consideration.

♠ 10 9 5
♥ A K J 4
♦ A K 9 7 2
♣ K

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♠	INT
	3NT	All pass	

“After the overcall, West started with king and a second spade for East to win and clear the suit. With two heart winners and two clubs to go with the spade in the bank, South needed to take just four diamond tricks to secure his contract but what was more important was keeping East from regaining the lead to cash the last two spades.

“Accordingly, after winning the ♠Q, South played to a high diamond in dummy and cashed the club king before playing a second diamond to his ten. A very nice safety and avoidance play that was duly rewarded when East had been dealt four diamonds including the jack!”

Ray Lee of Toronto is the founder and publisher of Master Point Press. I asked Ray Lee for his recommendation on what books on safety plays would he give to interested Kibitzer readers.

Ray replied, “Various of our books have sections on safety plays, but the two most appropriate I think would be: “Safety Plays,” by David Bird & Marc Smith, in the *Bridge Technique* series, and “Safety Plays,” by David Bird & Tim Bourke, in the *Test Your Bridge Technique* series.”



For Advancing Players

By David Turner

The Only Chance

Sometimes you have enough total values for game or slam, but the hands fit poorly, and the result is a desperate situation. This is such a case from a recent match—see if you can figure out a way to make the contract.

<p>♠ A 9 6 4 ♥ Q J 8 5 ♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ Q 8 3 ♥ 9 7 ♦ J 7 ♣ J 10 5 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ J 10 5 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ K 9 7 6</p> <p>♠ K 7 2 ♥ A K 6 4 ♦ K 6 4 3 ♣ A Q</p>
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West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♥
All pass			

My 3♦ bid was, unfortunately, only a game try, so my partner, John Gowdy (see p. 44) was right in bidding 4♥, and the duplication in clubs never came to light. I'm a strong believer in differentiating game tries from slam tries for such a reason. If a 2N bid after

2♥ were defined as an unambiguous slam try here, opener could make a 4♣ splinter, and *perhaps* we could have avoided the poor slam. I decided to bid 6♥ rather than 6N after some thought, because maybe trumps would help resolve some suits—so it proved.

The lead: With spades unbid, West led a 3rd/5th best ♠3.

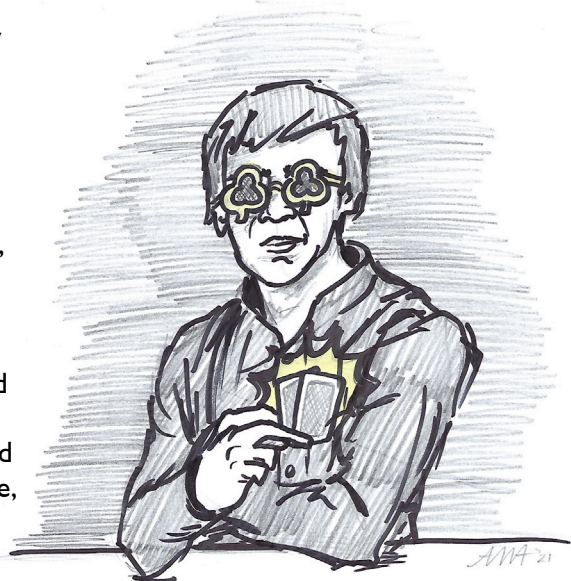
The play: without a small miracle there is a spade and a diamond to lose. Can you see a way to avoid one of those?

I played a small spade from dummy, East played the ten, and I won the king in hand. I drew three rounds of trump (lefty threw a small club). Now ♦K, both opponents followed low - potential miracle one failing.

There was still one chance: small spade to dummy, both following low. Club finesse (the ♣Q wins!), club ace, pitching one of dummy's diamonds. Diamond to jack and ace. Low spade, jack, low, queen - dummy's ♠9 is now good. LHO, out of diamonds, returned a club, so I pitched dummy's last diamond while I ruffed in my hand, and dummy was good! Miracles, two, three, four, and five all came true!

If you've read my previous article on my love for Elimination Play, you might have guessed it would have a role to play here.

This was a very lucky hand, and good for you if you made it, but I couldn't help but wonder if I wouldn't have let it make, too, if I were LHO. If LHO plays the ♠Q(!) when I lead towards dummy's ace, the elimination play fails: his partner has the ♦Q to cash when he wins the ♠J. Based on the bidding and play to trick one it's absolutely safe, but I'm afraid I would have routinely followed small as well. It's a tough game, and defence the toughest part of it. File this hand away under "Constant Vigilance, Need for:"





Slam Gambit

By Bruce Liberman

First of all, I must give credit to my partner Anita Greenberg as she is the one who brought the contract home.

We were playing IMPs on BBO and we knew we were down 14 imps going into the last board of the match. It's the version where you play one pair for a certain number of boards. Your results are cross-imped against the other tables playing the same deals as you on BBO at that time.

Vul: Both
Dir: North

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

Anita
♠ A 10 8 6 3
♥ A Q 5 2
♦ Q J 3
♣ Q

The auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	6♠	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Rdbl	All pass	

My logic was that we needed 14 imps and it was "do or die" time. I figured that by bidding this way I give away

very little information (like I would by making a fit-showing jump of 3♥ over 2♣ or some such play that further describes my hand. Also, I would essentially fully discourage a club lead by redoubling because West would assume that I was void in clubs to jump to 6♠ and then redouble. On a non-club lead, perhaps partner can take advantage of my heart suit...

West led the ♦A (but they should lead the king in my opinion). Anita ruffed and ran the ♠Q. When that held, Anita brought home the contract plus an overtrick for 2470 pts, and...28 imps! That was more than enough to win the match. The full deal:

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

Anita
♠ A 10 8 6 3
♥ A Q 5 2
♦ Q J 3
♣ Q

Making the contract only doubled would have been worth around 12 imps.

The important part of the lesson is that West did not think about strategy: if Anita was going down, doubling was no use; they were ahead 14 imps, so there was no need to double. If Anita is making the contract, then it's all the worse for them if she makes it doubled.

There is also a great argument for EW to find a sacrifice in 7♣ or 7♦.

Anyone can play in these matches on BBO: To set it up, click Casual, open a table, reserve seats for your friends and your partner, then click 'Competitive.'



Anita Greenberg brought home 6♠ XX!



Drury Demystified

By Ray Jotcham

As dealer, you pick up:

♠ x x
♥ Q J x x
♦ A x x x
♣ A x x

You have no problem passing. Partner opens 1♠ in third chair. When next hand passes, you have to find a call. A two-level response in a new suit should show a 5-card suit since partner is allowed to pass with a minimum hand, so the only option seems to be bidding 2NT. This is followed by three quick passes. A club is led, and the following dummy appears:

♠ A K Q J
♥ 10 x x x
♦ x x x
♣ x x

You struggle valiantly but go down two tricks. Is there a way to avoid such a debacle? Yes! Use the Drury Convention! But...but...! Doesn't Drury promise trump support? No, it does not!

Doug Drury invented his 2♣ convention in order to cope with Eric Murray's feather-light opening bids in third chair. He quipped that their bidding showed immediate improvement, "Instead of going for 1100 at the three-level, we stopped at the two-level and only went for 800." However, somewhere along the way, people got the idea that Drury was simply a way to show support for partner's major. Properly used, Drury is much more powerful than that. It is structured to find the best contract without getting too high. Some players are in the habit of passing decent hands and then bidding a lot to compensate, hanging partner in the process. I remember a player saying to his partner "If you opened the bidding on these hands, we would stay out of these bad games!" Drury to the rescue!

I shall debunk some of the ideas that have grown up around the convention and explore its proper use.

Myth #1: If Drury is good, then 2-way Drury is better, (i.e. using a 2♦ response to show four trumps).

How do these people bid the following hand when partner opens 1♠ in third chair?

♠ x
♥ A x x x
♦ K Q x x x x
♣ J x

If partner is minimum and balanced, he might pass a 1NT response, resulting playing in an inferior partscore when game in diamonds or notrump may be on.

For example:

♠ A x x x x
♥ x x
♦ A x x
♣ A x x

The diamond fit makes 3NT a very good contract. Change opener's hand slightly:

♠ A x x x x
♥ x
♦ A x x x
♣ A x x

Now 6♦ is a very good contract which may not be reached after a INT response. Have I convinced you that two-way Drury is not so wonderful?

Another hand:

♠	Q	x	x	x
♥	x	x		
♦	x	x		
♣	A	K	x	x

After partner's third seat 1♠ opener, a response of 2♦ might describe the four trumps, but doesn't come close to describing the potential of the hand. Opposite the right maximum, a grand slam may be biddable, while game may make opposite a dead minimum. For example:

Game:	♠ A K x x x	Grand slam:	♠ A K x x x x
	♥ J x x		♥ A x
	♦ x		♦ A
	♣ Q J x x		♣ Q J x x

The lesson is this: when you have four trumps and a strong side-suit, **DO NOT USE DRURY!** A fit-showing jump to 3♣ gives partner a far-better description of the hand (showing at least nine cards in the two suits).

"But I like to play Bergen responses! Fit-showing jumps get in the way!" Whenever you replace a natural bid with an artificial one, you may gain on certain types of hands, but lose on others where it may be essential to show that suit naturally. Bergen doesn't lose much if used by an unpassed hand, but passed hands lose the ability to make forcing natural responses, since opener is not obligated to find a rebid opposite a passed partner. Further, any hand with support for partner's major suit can be shown with Drury, usually at a lower level.

Myth #2: Drury guarantees trump support.

How does responder show these hands after partner's third seat 1♠ opening?

(1) ♠ x	(2) ♠ x x	(3) ♠ x x	(4) ♠ x
♥ A Q x x	♥ K x x	♥ K x x	♥ x x x
♦ A x x x	♦ K J x x	♦ K J x	♦ K J x
♣ J x x x	♣ K J x x	♣ K J x x x	♣ A J 10 x x x

Hands with a real club suit are difficult to handle if Drury

guarantees trump support. Hands (3) and (4) might be better played in a club game or part-score. Hand (1) might produce a game in hearts even on a 4-3 fit. If partner is minimum and balanced opposite hand (2), 2NT might be the right spot. If they are minimum and unbalanced with a 4-card minor, 3♣ or 3♦ might be right.

A 2♣ response is right on hands (1), (3) and (4), but not on hand (2) where 2NT is correct.

Myth #3: Always use Drury with trump support.

Maybe! Some hands are worth an immediate raise to the three-level, while some other hands with the same (or better) point-count are not. The Losing Trick Count (LTC) is a useful tool in this regard. If you have four or more trumps and an LTC of eight losers, you will usually be right to offer a limit raise to the three-level (or a fit-showing jump). If you either have only three trumps, or an LTC of nine, Drury is indicated.

(5) ♠ K x x x	(6) ♠ K x x x	(7) ♠ K x x	(8) ♠ K x x
♥ x	♥ Q x x	♥ x	♥ K Q x
♦ A x x x	♦ K J x	♦ A x x x x	♦ K x x
♣ x x x x	♣ Q x x	♣ K x x x	♣ x x x x

Hands (7) and (8) must use Drury, with only three-card support. Hands (5) and (6) merit discussion.

Hand (6) has lots of points, but no ruffing values and an LTC of 9 (the unsupported queens are plus values but contribute little to the trick-taking value of the hand. Hand (5) has "only" 7 HCPs, but a true LTC of 8, and is therefore worth a limit raise. Raising to game on these cards might be right but could be punishing partner for trying to steal a part-score.

When should I use Drury?

- 1) The standard case: I have a maximum pass with three or four-card support for partner's major. Exception: with 4+ trumps and a side source of tricks, make a fit-showing jump instead.
- 2) The non-standard case: I have a maximum pass with no support, and I have no 5-card red suit, or I have four hearts (partner has opened 1♠) or I have 5+ clubs.

A summary of sequences after third-seat major suit openings:

Partner Pass ???	You 1♠ 2♣ - asks if opener would bid a game opposite a three-card limit raise; since responder may not have spades , opener should go slowly 2♦, 2♥ - at least a five-card suit, with 10-11 HCP 2♠ - 6-9 HCP, support 2NT - 10-11 HCP, doubleton spade, 4-4 in minors (occasionally 2-2-5-4) - if opener rebids at the three-level, he says this is the spot 3♣, 3♦, 3♥ - at least 4 spades with a source of tricks in the bid suit. A new suit bid by opener is a slam try. Responder may bid shortness if he has some. 3♠ - 4 spades, 10-11 HCP, and a ruffing value (8-loser hand) 4♣, 4♦, 4♥ - 4+ spades, shortness in the bid suit, and a 7-loser hand.
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Pass 2♣	1♠ ???	2♦ - either a minimum opener with no game interest or a good hand with 4+ diamonds; with the good hand, opener will bid again after a sign-off 2♥ - a sound opener with both majors (either 5-4 or 5-5 with weakish suits) 2♠ - a sound opener with 5+ spades 2NT - I like to play this as exactly 14 HCP with 5 spades—a maximum minimum hand 3♣ - 5+ spades, 4+ clubs, good hand (forcing) - since responder may in fact have clubs, game or slam in clubs may be possible 3♦, 3♥ - at least 5-5 distribution, and a good hand (may be 14 HCP with two strong suits, e.g. ♠A K x x x ♥A Q J x x ♦x x ♣x 3♠ - 6+ strong spades, forcing (with real support, responder should cue-bid.) 3NT - 18-19 HCP, 5 spades
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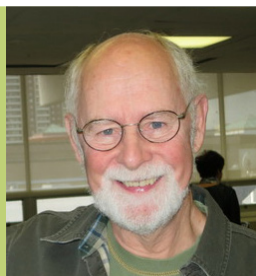
Pass 2♣ have ???	1♠ 2♦ ???	2♥ - shows exactly 4 hearts and may not good spade support -opener can pass with some support and a minimum, bid 3NT with clubs stopped (with 4 diamonds and a good hand), bid 2♠ with 5+ spades or bid 2NT with stoppers in both minors and a minimum. All strains are possible landing spots 2♠ - either 4 trumps with no ruffing value or 3 trumps, 10-11 HCP 2NT - shows doubleton spade, 5 clubs 3♣ - shows 6+ clubs, no spade fit 3♠ - 4+ trumps plus a doubleton somewhere (may be a 9-loser hand)
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Pass 2♣ 2♠	1♠ 2♦ ???	Pass - I'm minimum 2NT - I have a good hand with 5-2-4-2 distribution 3♣ - good hand, 5-1-4-3 shape (bidding my fragment with a good hand) 3♦ - good hand, 5-5 or better, but at least one of my suits lacks concentrated strength 3♥ - good hand, 5-3-4-1 shape 3NT - 18-19 HCP, 5-2-4-2 shape
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By the second round of bidding, the partnership should know the proper strain and the appropriate level for the deal. Similar sequences arise after an opening of 1♥.

A query: If Drury is so good when used by a passed hand, why isn't it just as good by a non-passed hand?

Answer: It is! I have used it instead of the forcing 1NT response in extended team matches and in events where the ACBL Superchart is allowed. I have picked up several swings by staying at the 2-level instead of getting too high with a three-card limit raise. Unfortunately, the ACBL does not allow it in tournaments where the only conventions allowed are those on the standard chart. It doesn't require any special defences, and it has the merit of keeping us out of trouble. If you decide to use it, please call it Jotcham Drury! If you are interested, email me at arjay1077@yahoo.com and I will send you a copy of "Jotcham 2♣."



Spot Cards Can Be Important

By Steve Mackay

Spot cards can be important, even the small ones. Here's a hand I played recently with Gur Baykal in a matchpoint game at Lee's Virtual Club that illustrates this point. Thanks to Gur for noticing. He called me the day after our game, and he sounded excited. "Did we set a record?" he asked. I couldn't guess what Gur was referring to, so he had to explain: "Creating a trick in the trump suit with a very low spot card."

This was the deal:

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

♠ Q 10 9 6 4 2
 ♥ A 9 7 6
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 8 5

West	North	East	South
3♥	3♠	4♥	2♠
Dbl	All pass		4♠

Incidentally, if you don't like the auction, I think we might blame the player in the North seat. North was a robot.

I led the heart jack (we play Rusinow leads) and dummy won. Declarer played the diamond ace and ruffed a diamond with the ♠2 while I showed an even number of diamonds. Declarer cashed the heart ace and ruffed a heart with the ♠8. Now, another diamond, ruffed by declarer with the ♠6. Okay, Deep Finesse can see all the cards so DF would know this was a "squander," but can you blame declarer for trying the ♠6 (instead of the ♠4)?

Declarer now ruffed her last heart in the dummy with the jack, and Gur overruffed with the ace.

Andy Stark's predecessor, John Armstrong, was a stickler for proper terminology while he was editor of the Kibitzer. For example, when defenders are trying to create an extra trick in the trump suit, he liked to make a clear distinction between a promotion and an uppercut. We now had declarer either way.

Gur could have underlead his club ace to my king, I could have returned to his ace, and now another club from Gur would have produced a promotion. Instead, Gur cashed the club ace, led to my king, and when I played my last heart, Gur was there to uppercut with his trump ♠7. Declarer overruffed with the ♠9 and, when she was allowed to win her ♠Q, I now had the ♠K5 over her ♠104. Deep Finesse would not have allowed this to happen, but we were happy to bring the lowly ♠5 into play.

Of course, if Deep Finesse had been sitting in my chair, they would have led a trump. Gur can win the ♠A and play back another trump to my ♠K. Now the defense comes to a total of two trumps, two hearts and two clubs. DF may not have scored the ♠5 *this way*, but would have beaten 4♠ by three tricks, not just two!

Ed. Note: You may be wondering what this Deep Finesse is. Here's a description from www.deepfinesse.com "Deep Finesse is an interactive hand analyser that lets you examine play lines of any bridge deal. You don't compete against Deep Finesse; rather, it's a tool to help promote better human understanding of the game."





The Bridge Teacher

By John Rayner

Modern uses of the cue bid raise: when the opponents open the bidding

In the previous issue of the Kibitzer, we started to explore the various ways by which the cue bid of the opponent's suit can be used in helpful ways. We looked at the cue bid after our side opens in a suit at the one-level. In those cases, we were the Responder.

In this issue we are going to take a look at the cue bid (of the opponent's suit) when our side has entered the auction with a simple overcall in a major suit (not a jump). In these cases, we are the Advancer.

The principles remain quite similar to those we examined last time – that the cue bid of Opener's suit is a "limit raise or better" of the Intervenor's overcalled suit and therefore other raises are often based on the number of trumps held by Responder (or, as we shall see this issue, Advancer.)

Opener	Intervenor	Responder	Advancer
1♣	1♠	Pass	???

2♠ = 6-9 (poor 10) support points, usually this will show exactly 3-card support.

2♣ = A cue bid advance showing a limit raise (or better) of spades, with 3+ spades.

3♠ = Since the cue bid raise is made with all good hands (limit raise or better), this is no longer a limit raise. Instead, we call it a "mixed raise" showing 6-9 support points with 4 or more spades and usually includes a short suit asset (doubleton, singleton, or void). If 4-3-3-3, we can take it back a notch and simply raise to 2♠.

4♠ = This is a two-way bid. It can show a purely preemptive raise with lots of trumps or a good hand

where you expect to make game and want to take the opponents' bidding space away. Slam is extremely unlikely after our side's overcall.

Opener	Intervenor	Responder	Advancer
1♦	1♥	(P/I♠/INT)	2♦ (cue bid = limit raise or better)
P	???		

Intervenor always assumes Advancer has a limit raise.

2♥ = This is Intervenor's attempt to sign off opposite a limit raise.

3♥ = Inviting game opposite a limit raise.

4♥ = Intervenor expects to have a good play for game.

In this example, if the Intervenor rebids 2♥, Advancer's 3♥ continuation indicates more than a limit raise, about 13-14 support points. If our side had opened the bidding this would be enough to insist upon game, but not after a one-level overcall, which could be made with as little as 9 or 10 points.

Opener	Intervenor	Responder	Advancer
1♠	2♥	Pass	???

2♠ = Limit raise or better of hearts

3♥ = About 8-9(10) support points, 3+ hearts

4♥ = Preemptive, or expecting to make game

Things are a little different after this 2-level overcall. Intervenor should have opening bid values or very close to that. If Advancer has 13+ support points, they can expect to make game. The mixed raise option has been taken away from us and is now included in the raise to 3♥.

Quiz time:

Neither side is vulnerable

Opener	Intervenor	Responder	Advancer
1♠	1♠	Pass	???

1) ♠ K 8 7 6 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 7 5 3 2

2) ♠ K 4 3 2 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ 7 4 2

3) ♠ A Q 3 ♥ A J 4 3 ♦ 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8 6

4) ♠ A K 3 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ 7 5 3 2 ♣ 9 7 5

5) ♠ A 8 6 5 4 ♥ 9 8 6 4 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ 7

6) ♠ A Q 5 ♥ A Q J ♦ 3 2 ♣ 6 5 4 3 2

7) ♠ K Q 3 2 ♥ A K Q 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ 7 5 4

Opener	Intervenor	Responder	Advancer
1♠	2♥	Pass	???

8) ♠ A 4 3 ♥ K J 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6 5 2

9) ♠ 4 3 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ A 6 5 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6

10) ♠ A 2 ♥ A J 7 6 ♦ Q 7 6 5 4 ♣ 6 4

Suggested answers:

1) 3♠ - a classic mixed raise, 6-9 support points, 4+ spades

2) 2♠ - without a ruffing value, I prefer the single raise to the 3♠ mixed raise

3) 2♦ - a cue bid, showing a limit raise or better, 3+ spades

4) 2♠ - 6-9(10) support points, usually exactly 3 spades

5) 4♠ - this time you are bidding pre-emptively; you could be strong another time

6) 2♦ - a cue bid, showing a limit raise or better, 3+ spades

7) 4♠ - or 2♦ (cue bid), planning to always go to game

8) 3♥ - 8-9(10) support points, 3+ hearts

9) 2♠ - a cue bid, showing a limit raise or better, 3+ hearts

10) 4♥ - bidding what your side is likely to make; another time it could be preemptive

John has been teaching on Monday afternoons from 4:00–5:30 on Zoom since October of last year. If you are interested in learning more about his online lessons, please visit his website at johnraynerbridge.com





Canadian Juniors

By John Dong

Bruce Zhu and I joined a team of juniors in the prestigious OCBL to practice for the CNTC against outstanding competition. Since we were the only regular partnership on our team, it was no surprise that we weren't doing well. Nevertheless, we were still playing strong opponents in this set during the third day of the round-robin.

The first board the opponents Woolsey'd 3♠ and shut us out of a decent non-vul 3NT, going down 5 for 250. Then, they made a tough game, but we made a couple of conservative disciplined stops as I showed the table how grown up and down-the-middle I was. Our match looked fairly even when Bd. 9 came along.

Red on white, I picked up ♠Q2 ♥AJ ♦AK107653 ♣Q5 and heard 2♥ on my left, showing 5-4 or better in hearts and a minor along with 0-9 points. Bruce doubled and righty passed. If it were MPs, I might've just blasted 6NT and watched the opponents try to find a lead, but at IMPs, I decided to bid more scientifically. I couldn't remember what Bruce and I played here other than "Lebensohl," so I decided to force with 3♥ and then show my diamonds. Bruce bid 3♠, and I calmly bid 4♦. Now I heard a 4♥ cue bid, probably showing a heart control but perhaps just afraid that anything else could be taken as natural. Figuring that it was unlikely we were off two cashing tricks, I launched 4NT, RKCB, and was happy to hear 5♥ from partner. Since we were probably on a 10 or 11-card fit, I asked for kings with 5NT, and Bruce replied 6♣. Perfect! With my spade loser taken care of, I confidently bid 7♦.

It was when Bruce thought for a while before passing that I began worrying about our auction. Had Bruce thought we were playing spades the entire time? Had he showed the ♠K as a key card?

My suspicions were confirmed when RHO doubled, alerting it as requesting the lead of dummy's first bid suit. LHO led

the ♣J and here is what I saw:

♠ K 10 7 6
♥ K 8
♦ J 8
♣ A K 8 3

♠ Q 2
♥ A J
♦ A K 10 7 6 5 3
♣ Q 5

I survived getting a spade lead, but I still had only 12 tricks even if I got diamonds right. Even worse, I couldn't even take advantage of an unlikely heart hook because I had no second club entry to dummy. I could win ♣Q, cash ♦A and ♥AK, hook a diamond since LHO showed a 2-suiter, and try to squeeze LHO in the rounded suits, but he likely only had five hearts (he later confirmed that 2♥ showed exactly 5 hearts). However, I then saw a much better line. I won in hand and cashed the ♦AK. When they broke 2-2, I smiled and ran my diamonds, pitching spades from dummy. Lefty pitched two hearts, a spade, and a club, while righty pitched four spades. Here's the position as I played my last diamond:

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

Lefty was squeezed out of his heart guard, as he had to guard clubs. I threw a club from dummy, and righty

John Dong is a high school senior with a passion for all things bridge. His accomplishments include winning two bronze medals in the World Under-21 Pairs and Under-21 Teams in 2019, being a member of Canadian U16 and U21 teams since 2016 and placing 2nd in a Reynolds KO. John also founded the Richmond Hill Youth Bridge Camp in 2019 with the help of Bruce Zhu, and he has mentored several other Canadian youths. Outside of bridge, John excels at math contests and enjoys biking and playing clarinet; John hopes to have a career in the tech industry.

temporarily survived by pitching his ♠J. Now, I crossed to dummy with the club king to cash the club ace in this ending:

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

Righty was now caught in a twin-entry squeeze. If he pitches a spade, I can get to my hand with the ♥A to cash the ♠Q, and a heart discard sets up dummy's third heart. I was able to claim +2330 and a well-deserved 13-IMP pickup on the normal 6NT reached at the other table.

The full deal:

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

It was evident that the opening leader trusted my confidently bid grand slam enough to lead a club trying to find his partner with a void. However, not doubling wouldn't have helped the defense either, as it would've been an obvious trump lead.

The very next board, I picked up ♠AK1073 ♥K10 ♦AK43 ♣72 and with the opponents silent, Bruce opened a strong 1NT. Seemed like a straightforward transfer sequence, so I bid 2♥ and heard a 3♠ super accept. I control bid 4♦ and responded 5♦ to Bruce's RKC 4NT. All the while, I had taken the opportunity to reply to a couple of texts from school friends, so I didn't realize until it was too late that I had actually mislicked 5♣ to Blackwood! Bruce had signed off in 5♠ in case I had one key card, so I raised to 6♠, technically showing 4 and no kings.

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

As you can see, 7♠ is a good contract, needing either diamonds to behave or a minor suit squeeze if the defender with longer diamonds has 6+ clubs, around a 75% proposition. We were definitely reaching it had I not mislicked 5♣, a likely auction being 5♠ (sign-off in case I have zero) - 5NT (3 keycards along with 2 kings) - 6♣ (asking for 3rd round control for 7) - 7♠. Today, the bridge gods were quite generous as the lie of the cards gave no play to the contract reached by most of the field. However, this time our opponents got the last laugh, as our teammates mis-defended and let our counterparts make 7♠!

Notice that between making 7♦X and defeating 7♠, 60 IMPs could have swung within two boards! What an insane game.



Bridge by the Numbers

By David Colbert

How many points do I need to _____? In my first article I gave my guidelines for different bidding situations, up to and including 8-point hands.

Continuing from there, if I have 8 points, I try to keep the bidding open for my partner if she has just made a one-level overcall. Say I hold: ♠107 ♥Q653 ♦Q98 ♣A943, and the auction begins, (1♦) 1♠ (P) to me. I will bid INT. Why? Because she could have up to 17 (unbalanced) points for her bid, and we could miss a game if I pass.

8 points is the lower limit of a free bid at the one-level: 1♦ (Dbl) INT. This is because we probably won't make INT if I bid it with 6 points and partner has 12. This particular guideline is adjustable: If I have ♠KJ2 ♥865 ♦J3 ♣Q9543 and it goes 1♦ (1♠), I will also bid INT. A free bid. This is 7 points, but the spade honours behind the overcaller have increased the hand value.

If you play Lebensohl, it takes 8 points – 8 to 11 – to bid your suit directly at the three-level in response to your partner's takeout double of a weak two bid. With less, we bid 2NT to ask partner to bid 3♣ so we can sign off.

I have just raised 1♥ to 2♥, and now partner has made a bid to invite me to bid game. E.g. 1♥-2♥, 3♣. When I have 8 dummy points, I usually bid game and jump to 4♥. The exception would be if I have three queens and two jacks, or four queens. And when I have two aces – 8 points – I am spilling over with enthusiasm.

As you follow along you may realize that 8 points is the starting value for a respectable hand. We make little bids if we have to, often up to 7 points. 8 is a step up from that.

9 points is the fewest points I need to make a jump response to partner's one-level takeout double: (1♥) Dbl (Pass) 3♣ for example. A minimum response of 2♣ would, in general, show 0 - 8 points.

Partner has opened the bidding 1♦ and my right hand opponent has just overcalled INT. I hold ♠K8 ♥Q1095 ♦A7 ♣8654. What to do? Double for penalty. This requires, in my experience, 9 points or more. Partner should not be afraid; the opponents should be. If partner has 13 and RHO has 16 and I have 9, then dummy will come down with 2 points. How do you feel when you open INT and play there with a dummy that has two jacks? You look for ways to reduce

the loss. After a penalty double, all subsequent doubles are penalty.

Along with that, turn the 9 upside-down and you get 6: the number of points I need to show a 6-card suit after they overcall INT. I think ♠QJ10865 ♥K7 ♦8765 ♣5 is good enough to bid 2♠ when partner has opened. As long as I have six of them, I have a lot of tricks.

9 points is also my high card minimum to open the bidding in a major in third seat white. Yep. ♠AJ1065 ♥765 ♦KJ6 ♣43 will do it. The opponents probably own the hand, and now they have to toss out all their beautiful agreements about opening bids and responses and start with a takeout double or an overcall. And that makes it much tougher for them. Also, I wouldn't mind a spade lead here to help the defense.

10 points. An average hand. The most forgotten bid in bridge is the redouble to show 10 points. I don't know why so many players ignore their opponent's double after partner opens. If partner has 13 and I have 10 and righty has, say, 12 HCPs, then lefty has 5 points. And righty often has no five-card suit. How are they going to get 7 or 8 tricks?

The mathematics of a redouble are not well known. If they are vulnerable and doubled, we need only to set them one for a good score when we have no game (give lefty 4 points: we have 24). If lefty has 2 points – so we have a probable game – then we only need to beat them two tricks if they are red and we are white. Bottom line: start to redouble and look for a penalty if you have three or fewer of partner's suit. The fewer the better. If the vulnerability is unfavourable, the math isn't as good. You need to beat them four to compensate for your game. In that case I would still redouble, but a penalty double would no longer be my first priority.

10 points is the expected value of a vulnerable one-level overcall. This is a good mental guideline for you and also when considering partner's overcall at the one-level.

11 points: My minimum for opening the bidding with a good hand in third seat vulnerable. It doesn't pay to get too frisky with light openings when red, I have found. You might just play INT or some low-level contract and go down 200 points. And it's good if partner can depend on us to have stuff when we open the bidding vulnerable.

12 points is the number in my head when I contemplate opening the bidding. A recent poll of local experts came with this consensus: open all hands with 12 HCP and a doubleton, and almost all 12-point hands if 4-3-3-3. What are non-openers? A hand which has four queens; a hand with no aces and a KQ doubleton; a hand with no tens or nines and no aces. In my mind, by the way, an ace is worth about 4.25 points and I generally add a point when I have a four-card

suit with a 10-9 combination in it. The fact is that Q1095 facing K32 can often reel in three tricks, while Q742 facing K83 (the same 5 points) makes me likely to get only one trick!

No wonder Marty Bergen says, "Points, schmooints!"

12 points is the cusp value when playing 2/1 and partner opens. We must decide whether to force to game with a two-level bid, or bid INT. This is generally resolved by considering the fit with partner's suit. Counting HCPs, we usually bid INT with a singleton for partner and force to game with three-card support. With a doubleton I would normally bid INT if I am flat and only force to game with a good five-card or longer suit.

13 points. A personal guideline: If partner opens the bidding with one of a major, don't splinter with more than 13 HCPs in your hand.

14 points: the lowest number of points to consider my hand as having "extra" if partner invites me and I've opened. And do you ever open INT with 14? I do, if I have a suit such as ♣AK1086 and also good spot cards. This is rare, and partner expects me to have 15 to 17. But those concentrated 7 points in clubs can get me four tricks more easily than, say, ♦KJ76 ♥K32 – 7 points scattered in two other suits.





Bridge History

By Janet Galbraith

Ely Culbertson – the P.T. Barnum of Contract Bridge

Ely Culbertson (1891 – 1955) was an American bridge entrepreneur whose colourful personality, brilliance and showmanship transformed bridge from a casual social game into a national cultural movement in the 1930s.

Culbertson was born in Romania, the son of an American father and a Cossack mother. His father was a mining engineer who was retained by the Russian government to develop oilfields and the family lived for a time in Russia. He attended Yale and Cornell, as well as universities in Paris and Geneva, studying political science, but he was mostly self-taught. He had an aptitude for languages and was fluent in eight of them, with a working knowledge of many others. He put these skills to good use as a revolutionary in Russia and later as a union agitator in labour disputes in Spain, Mexico, and the US. When the Russian Revolution wiped out the family's large fortune there, Ely made a living as a professional gambler in Paris and eventually emigrated to the U.S. in 1921.

In New York in 1922, the

Knickerbocker Club was an invitation-only club run by Wilbur Whitehead. His stenographer was Josephine Dillon, an attractive redhead in her early twenties. She learned to play bridge from the club greats, earning their respect with her toughness; she became a leading New York bridge teacher.

One night, Culbertson, a stranger to all, showed up with a female partner and won. Within a few weeks, he was playing regularly against the club's masters and winning. Culbertson began courting Dillon around this time. They married in 1923 and agreed to never discuss a bridge hand while sitting at the bridge table.

Jo recognized that it was Ely's gambling instinct and knowledge of human nature that made him successful – he drew inferences from hesitations, voice inflections, and changes in facial expressions. He knew how to rile up his opponents, goading or gloating at

just the right moment. They aimed to become America's best bridge pair, and they spent months training and fine-tuning their partnership.

In 1925, Harold Vanderbilt changed the rules of bridge to reward contracts that were bid and made and in 1927, the New York Whist clubs adopted those rules. Modern contract bridge was born.

At the time, the Culbertsons were in California teaching auction bridge, but when they tried the new contract version, they were thrilled. Ely was convinced that he could create a standardized system of bidding that could enable a novice to learn the game in a matter of weeks. He took notes on thousands of hands and began to develop his Approach Forcing bidding system, which meant that bidding should go slowly, and that certain bids and responses would force partners to bid once more, or sometimes until game was reached.

By 1929 the Culbertsons had two small children and money was tight. However, Ely had a far-reaching plan. Contract bridge was growing across the country, with women as the driving force, and he thought there was big money to be made. His idea was to create a bridge empire, promoting himself as the leader of the game, and he succeeded.



Ely and Josephine Culbertson

First, he and Jo won the American Bridge League championship and the Vanderbilt Cup, bringing attention to the Culbertson name. In that same year, he launched the Bridge World magazine. Then, he created a nationwide network of instructors (Culbertson National Studios) which, at its height in the 1930s, had 6,000 teachers.

His easy prey were housebound wives and mothers. Playing bridge was marketed as a pastime where, with intelligence and skill, women could prove themselves equal to or better than men. When married couples sat together for hours at a small table, an intimate, tension-filled atmosphere was often created. Most couples played together happily, but marriages under stress could crack when eccentricities were exposed at the bridge table. (Author's note – Nothing has changed! I regularly play with my spouse and it is the ONLY place we ever argue.) Marital spats made headlines and got people talking. Just then, the dream opportunity appeared – the Bennett Murder.

Just after The Bridge World was launched, the story of how Myrtle Bennett shot and killed her husband Jack during an evening of bridge in Kansas City with their friends Charles and Mayme Hofman made headlines (Spoiler alert for newer players – Myrtle was acquitted but that is a whole other story.) Ely decided that the third issue of his new magazine would focus on the fatal last hand (a 4♣ contract that went down two). The hand was analyzed and bridge aficionados everywhere dissected it. What no one realized for years was that none of the players involved could remember the distribution of cards, only the bidding, so the analysis was a

complete fabrication. But it vaulted The Bridge World to fame and promoted bridge to the public as an exciting, passionate game full of danger.

In 1930, Ely's comprehensive textbook, The Contract Bridge Blue Book, was published and sold thousands of copies. Elite established players joined forces to combat his threatened domination of contract bridge, working to create an "Official System," so Culbertson challenged his opponents to a team match of 200 rubbers to see whose system was better. This was the famed "Bridge Battle of the Century" against Sidney Lenz. Ely, playing with Jo, won the match and their new fame procured both of them contracts for syndicated newspaper articles. Ely did some movie short features and was also paid \$10,000 per week for radio broadcasts, where he analyzed hands. Even during the Great Depression, Culbertson became extremely wealthy.

A brilliant publicist, Culbertson played several famous challenge matches between 1930 and 1934, winning all of them. He won the trophies now known as the Spingold and the Reisinger. His teams also won the Schwab Cup in 1933 and 1934. His last appearance in a tournament was in Budapest in 1937, where he lost the final of the first world championship team match.

In 1938, with war looming in Europe, Culbertson turned his back on bridge and focused his attentions on political science. He wrote two books – Total Peace and Must We Fight Russia? He wanted a stronger United Nations and advocated for an international military force, voting by simple majority with no veto powers, and limitation of the arms race with international inspectors. Some of his ideas remain in place today.

Ely and Jo divorced in 1938; Ely remarried in 1947. Suffering from emphysema, he died from a cold in late 1955. His autobiography, The Strange Lives of One Man, was published in 1940.

Culbertson's contributions to bridge are ongoing. He created the vulnerability markings on duplicate boards. He was the first authority to treat distribution as equal to or better than high cards when planning bids. Many bridge principles are attributed to him, including Asking Bids, Grand Slam Force, Jump Bids, Strong-Two Bids and New Suit Forcing. He owned the first playing card company to make plastic cards – Kem Cards.

In 1964, he was one of the three inaugural inductees into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame. We will never see another player like him.



Bridge Battle of the Century - Last Round



What I Have Learned

By John Gowdy

John Gowdy is a dog lover. He and his wife Jo-Ann have had Bouviers for 45 years. He says they're a stubborn breed and that you have to be a strong owner in order for everyone to get along. He says, "They're very protective. I can go to the park and shoot my mouth off and nobody's going to bother me." They showed off Harper to me—their new puppy who had tripled in size in three weeks.

In preparation for our Zoom chat John told Jo-Ann that he was going to be answering some questions. Jo-Ann said, "Well, I've heard all your stories; why don't I just do the interview for you?" John laughed that off and stayed to regale me with all kinds of stories. He certainly has a talent for storytelling!

I am the worst speller in the world. I have to get my driver's license out to get my last name correct. In both grade school and high school, I was told time and again that I was stupid. I believed them. I was kicked out of school for acting out and was working in a mail room for \$50 a week when I found bridge and a bridge club. Here I was playing against doctors, lawyers and professionals and watching them play like poop. I thought wait a minute...I know stupid and that's it. After about six months I got tested and learned that I am in the bottom 20% of what I read and retain but in the top 5% of what I hear and remember.

I applied to Centennial College as a mature student, got in and finished first in my class...with the professors making allowance for spelling. Had it not been for bridge that would never have happened. It changed my life.

My first bridge game. A buddy of mine and I went down to Buckman's—the old location on Eglinton when Kate ran it. Turns out it was a mixed pairs club championship. They told us we couldn't play together, but that we could play with an elderly woman who didn't have a partner. For each two-board set one of us would play with the lady while the other kibitzed.

Now it became obvious after a few boards that she was way worse than we were, and we had no clue. She was horrible. So, we finished up and they posted the scores. They had a large white screen where all the scores could be seen by everyone in the room. There on the bottom was Gowdy and this woman's name. The entire room erupted with laughter. I had never seen anything like it before. I heard things—said through tears of laughter—things like, "I guess Bruce had an off day." Pretty sure we had a 15% game. Because you've never seen an 80-year-old woman lying on the floor, holding her stomach and



Gowdy relaxing as dummy

pointing at the score. You wouldn't do that for a 25% game, so it had to be way worse than that.

Around that time, I had heard that my distant cousin Bruce Gowdy was a top player. This is why they thought seeing a Gowdy so low on the scoresheet was funny. So, after hearing all the people laughing at me, I decided right there and then: I'm going to learn this game and I'm going to come back and beat you all. About two weeks later, my friend and I went back, and we won.

My grandmother had given me a book: Howard Schenken's Big Club. We started playing the big club system; then came up against Ray Jotcham, who told us, "Boys, get rid of that book. Just play the simplest game you can possibly play and only add a convention if there's a hole you need to fill." Halfway through the game we switched back to Standard American and four-card majors.

Jo-Ann and I were driving across Canada when she said, "The other day I had a problem. You had opened 1NT and they overcalled and I didn't know what to do." I said, "You've just asked about Lebensohl. Now you'll remember this convention because now you understand why you have to play it. As opposed to just learning a convention and not knowing why you have to play it."

I play Standard carding to this day. I tried upside down once with Bruce, but it didn't go well. I thought, "Here we are, two of the best defenders and we can't even take a trick."

Bruce Gowdy and I are second or third cousins, or second cousins once removed. Early on someone

said to me, "You're going to be just like Bruce Gowdy, who dropped out of university, and just play bridge." I said, "If I end up like Bruce Gowdy, that would be great!" He was the youngest Life Master for a long time.

We played cards all the time growing up. I realized early on bridge was a great card game and something I was good at it. I talk about this with Malcolm Ewashkiw. There's a difference between arithmetic and mathematics. The math in bridge is not mathematics; you're not solving anything. You're counting to 13 or you're subtracting from 40. This is strictly arithmetic. It's work.

By the way, there are three types of bridge players: those who count and those who do not.

If you count, if you put in the work, you can figure things out. I said to some students at the Peterborough Bridge Club the other day, "If you find out the guy had five spades and four hearts and three diamonds, then it should not be a struggle to find out how many clubs they had." Now, I get it—that is not easy to do when you're starting. But at some point, counting will become automatic. You won't have to even think about it.

We called Geoff Hampson, "the Pup" because he was always right behind me kibitzing. He was just out of high school. One time I needed a sub on a CNTC team because the Shoe couldn't make a session. As it turns out our team didn't play all that well except for Geoff. So, when we qualified, we added him to the team. He outplayed us all and was the only reason we qualified.

There was one hand where he played

the queen from his hand from a holding of Qxx towards dummy's Ax. The queen held. I said later, "That was an interesting way to play that suit." Geoff said, "Well since the other guy held this, this, and that, it was my only chance." On another hand he figured out the intra-finesse to make the contract. So, he was playing on a level I hadn't ever seen; we may as well play with him as opposed to against him.

One of the hardest things for me to learn was how to pass. I was always optimistic.

The difference between matchpoints andimps is this: if you can figure out a game contract is 35% or better inimps, then bid it. But if a game is less than 50% in matchpoints, then don't bid it.

I was lucky to play with Percy Sheardown, including his last win in a Swiss Teams event. We beat Kokish-Nagy and Murray-Kehela. I went to compare scores and turn in the slip when I overheard Murray, "You can't go down in 3NT!" And Kokish said, "Well, as it turns out 3NT can't be made." And Murray grumbled, "Well, maybe it goes down on a diamond lead." I thought to myself, "Oh that was me—I led the diamond, yay." Murray said, "But you can still make it." Kokish replied, "But at trick 3, when you let the guy in, he plays the jack of clubs." Murray retorted, "Yes, but then I do this and that and then I let him in again." Kokish: "Now he plays the queen of hearts." Murray: "NOBODY can do that!" Kokish: "Well, it was Sheardown." Murray: "Oh. Well...I guess you can't make 3NT against Percy Sheardown."

That movie, about the cryptographers



Bouvier's best friend

that broke the Nazi's code, that was Shorty.

I also got to play with Eric Murray a lot. One time, before a Knockout semi-final, my 17-year-old dog died the night before. I phoned Murray to tell him I couldn't make the 1:00 pm start but that I could be there for 2:30. I came flying in and there's Murray, ticked off because we were behind by 22imps going into the second half. He told me, "By rights, that dog should have died five years ago." Needless to say, that put me off. However, we sat down to play and for 16 boards we didn't say a word. Just bid, play, call for a card, next hand. Was one of the best 16-board sets I've ever had. We bid a slam that required three of three finesses. They were all on, made it. We stayed out of a slam that only needed one finesse, and it was off. We got all the lucky results and we played perfectly. We came to the last board. Murray opens 1NT. I passed with an 8-count: a pretty good dummy. Murray studies the dummy for five minutes. Plays a card, goes into the tank. The pairs event was finishing up; people were streaming

out of the room. Murray plays another card, stops to think some more. Before the hand is over the room is empty except for our table, and our teammates at the other table waiting to compare results. Murray gets to just a few cards left, finally finding the position he was looking for. Makes 2. He had 7 tricks off the top! But he put everything he had into making 2. He turns to me and said, "Ever lost by one, Gowdy?" That's when I learned the difference between good and great.

We won by 41 instead of 40.

Another Hampson story...his parents were both professional musicians. His dad Joe was in a folk group called the Travellers. And his mom, Sharon Hampson, was the Sharon in Sharon, Lois and Bram, the children's music group. Geoff decided early on that he was going to go pro. His parents had never heard of that career. So, I went over to their house one night with Geoff not knowing. I said to Sharon, "When you left home with a guitar strapped to your back to go live in California and play with David Crosby, did your parents support that move?" Sharon said, "Oh no, not at first." "Well, your son has a talent that nobody's seen before. He's the best bridge player I've ever seen. He loves the game, and he's so good at it. He's going to do it with or without your support, so you may as well support him." Sharon came around and clipped out newspaper hands and Kibitzer articles and proudly showed them off. Even to this day I'll call her up and say, "Your son's on vu-graph." And she'll watch it. Even though she still might not fully understand the play.

Re: the top players in the world, I always felt that if we bring our absolute 'A' game and they take their eyes off the ball just a little bit, we can beat them.

JOHN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2017: won the Canadian National Seniors Teams with David Turner and Fred Lerner - Michael Schoenborn

1992: won the Silver Medal in the Pan American Bridge Championships with Geoff Hampson, David Lindop - Ed Bridson, and Mark Molson - Boris Baran

1991: won the Canadian National Open Teams with Geoff Hampson, and David Lindop - Ed Bridson

1970 onwards: multiple Midnight Swiss Triumphs and Disasters, sometimes even finding the queen when there's a 2-way guess

Here's a Bob Hamman story. We drew his team the Dallas Aces way way back for the first round of a Spingold, back in the early 70s. We were me, a recent life master, and three non-life masters. After the first set of 16 we were down by about 60. Got 15 or so back in the second quarter and 15 or so in the third quarter. Digging in for the fourth quarter we played well and would have won it by a few, but for the last hand at the other table.

Our teammates doubled Hamman in 1NT, and he made it, so we ended up losing by 40 or so, instead of 30. We sat there thinking of what might have been when Hamman came over to say, "Boys, you are the best first round team we've ever played. You played great for...most of the match. Keep it up."

I thought that was really something—the world champ coming over to

congratulate the losing team.

If I could go back and learn the game again, I wouldn't change a thing. Maybe I could have gone to the States and become a pro, but I wasn't really hooked on that idea. I could have won another event or two, but I'm happy with the way things turned out.

I'm a good opponent and a good partner.

John Gowdy was/is a fantastic partner. I wish I could say that I learned that from him but for most of my life I don't think that was true of me. Regardless, he set a good example. He was totally supportive of his partners at the table. If he disagreed with something said at the table, he would offer his insight in private usually, rather than disagree in front of others or embarrass you directly about what you had missed. He did teach me about only taking what you earn.

He never crossed any ethical lines and set a very high standard for courtesy, but if you crossed the line as an opponent, he was very forceful in his hostile response, particularly if you came after his partner. I have never felt so protected as when playing with Gowdy and a confrontation arose at the table.

We were playing Greece on viewgraph in the 1992 Olympiad in Salsomaggiore. The opponents were on their way to slam and I doubled the 4NT bid, something I did quite often back then. My screenmate gave a raised eyebrow kind of query and I just shrugged, saying it doesn't really mean anything. Gowdy explained it to his screenmate as, "He doesn't think you know your methods." His screenmate gave an indignant snort at that point. To his credit, when we got our two aces versus their slam, our opponent said, "Your partner is right!"

Gowdy also was superfast with picking up on a joke and playing along. The sessions with him were littered with chuckles and banter.

As far as discussions go, we tended to hold off deep discussions about problems until later, sometimes waiting for a nice prime rib evening at his place followed by hours of Super Nintendo Mario Bros. There were lots of great discussions over a gaming console or with hockey/baseball playing in the background.

I probably ate at their house as much as my mom's in those days—they lived right around the corner from us, and he and Jo-Ann hosted me constantly.

~Geoff Hampson



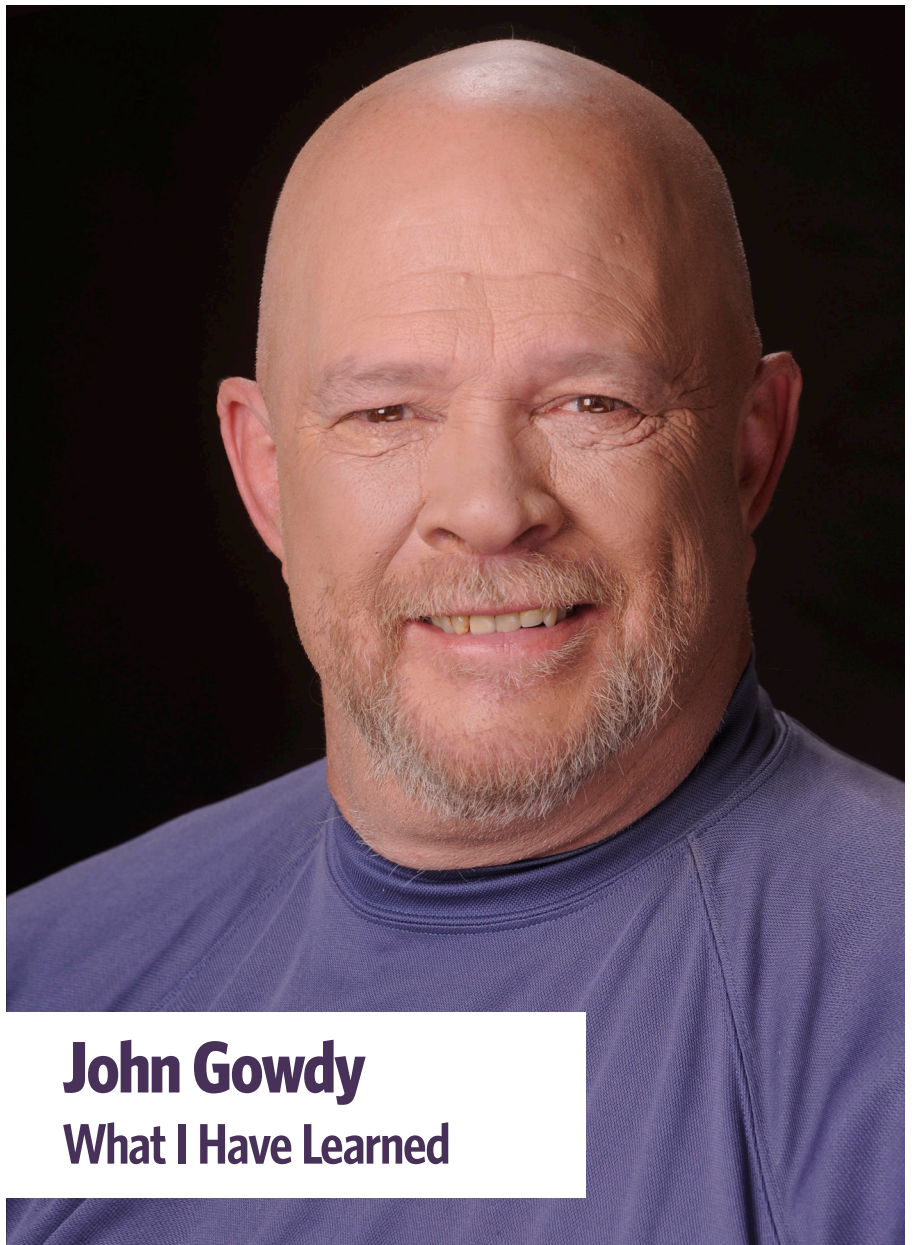
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