

Tuesday

August 14-20



92° F - 73° F



Daily Bulletin

Welcome to the Gateway to the West Regional!



Late Night Hospitality

St. Louis offers serious hospitality for all. Join us for snacks after the evening session. **Tonight is Healthy Night: Chat & Snack on Soup and Wraps Sandwich Night**– the Chef's selection of soup and a wrap (will be either chicken or turkey).



THE BACKSTOPPERS INC.
the police officers & firefighters fund

1st of Two Charity Events:

Tuesday Swiss Team @ 7 PM

Unit 143 again has selected **BackStoppers**, who provide a **safety net with no strings attached**, to receive the funds raised during the Tuesday Evening single-session Swiss Team held at 7 PM and the Open Pairs event at 9 AM Saturday. BackStoppers, started in 1959, provides financial assistance and support to spouses and dependent children of all police officers, firefighters and volunteer firefighters, and publicly-funded paramedics and EMTs in our area who have lost their lives or suffered a catastrophic injury performing their duty.



New Life Masters...

Find Mary Dolan to get your photo taken; then let us know the details when you go over - and where you're from!

WHAT DO THEY MEAN???

Alerts

Saying "Alert" is a method of drawing the opponents' attention to the fact that *partner's call has a conventional or unexpected meaning*. When bidding boxes are in use, an Alert is made by tapping an Alert card on the table or by tapping the Alert strip on the side of the bidding box and by saying "Alert." When bidding boxes are not in use, the partner of the player making an Alertable call should say "Alert." *Either opponent can inquire* as to the meaning of the call *at their turn* or can reserve the right to inquire at any later turn to call or play. Calls that need to be Alerted are shown in red on the official ACBL Convention Card and noted on the Alert Chart. The *objective* of the Alert procedure is for both pairs at the table to have equal access to all information contained in any auction.

Announcements

Announcements are an extension of the Alert System. An Announcement is a method by which a player uses one word or a short phrase. Announcements are required in the following instances: ♦ After a natural 1NT opening bid, state the range (12-14, 15-17, etc.). ♦ After an opening notrump, a bid of diamonds or hearts transferring to hearts or spades respectively, say, "transfer." ♦ After a 1NT forcing or semiforcing response to a 1♥ or 1♠ opening bid, say, "forcing" or "semi-forcing." ♦ After a 1♣ or 1♦ non-forcing opening where the suit may contain fewer than three cards, say, "may be short." When bidding boxes are in use, say the Announcement word, such as "transfer" and tap the Alert strip in the bidding box at the same time. Calls that need to be announced are shown in blue on the 6 ACBL convention card and noted on the Alert Chart.

SET YOUR ALARM... Join us @ 9 AM

2-Session Stratified Swiss Team events on two consecutive mornings: both Wed/Thurs and Fri/Sat.



Today's Events

199er Pairs

REGIONAL SIDE GAME SERIES 1 Pairs, continued
MONDAY-TUESDAY KO TEAMS 1, continued
TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY KO TEAMS 2
2-SESSION TUESDAY STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
1-SESSION EVENING STRATIFIED SWISS TEAM

Single Sessions

Single Sessions 2-4 of 4
Sessions 2-4 of 4
Sessions 1-2 of 4
Sessions 1 & 2
Single Session

1 PM, 7 PM
9 AM, 1 PM, 7 PM
9 AM, 1 PM, 7 PM
1 PM, 7 PM
1 PM & 7 PM
7 PM

For the Advancing Player

Tom Marsh
Donna Compton

Today's Expert Guest Speakers

Ask the Director

Logic on Defense: thinking logically...

figuring out who has what honors, without signals, or coughing

Only

I/N Room

12:15 PM

6:15 PM

Stratified Events: 0-750/750-2500/2500+; I/N Pairs: Stratified 0-20/20-100/100-200; Bracketed Swiss: Bracketed from Bottom Up; Barometer Pairs: Flt A unlimited; Strat B/C/D: 0-300/300-750/750-2500. All Stratifications by Average MP's in all events. Eligibility for flighted events based on highest MP player. Bracketed KO's/Swiss may be handicapped.

ZERO TOLERANCE IS IN PLACE!

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE PLAYERS PAGE

Bridge Judgement

by Richard Pavlicek

Every bridge player should be acquainted with the priorities for choosing the final contract. The first priority is an eight-card or longer *major-suit* trump fit; second is *notrump* if the two hands are balanced or nearly balanced; and the last is to play in a *minor suit*. This lesson explains some of the finer points necessary to become a consistent winner. It shows where to bend the bidding rules slightly to gain an advantage.

Positional Values

Some honor holdings — particularly A-Q, K-x and Q-x — may be worth an extra trick when the opening lead comes around to them.

Holding A-Q, K-x or Q-x in an unbid suit, look for an opportunity to become declarer, especially in notrump.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ K 8 2 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ A K 9 3 ♣ J 10 2 |  | ♠ A J 3 ♥ K 3 ♦ 10 5 2 ♣ A 9 8 5 4 | West 1 ♦ 3 NT | North Pass Pass | East 2 NT Pass | South Pass Pass |
|---|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|


Holding K-x in hearts East grabs the opportunity to declare the most likely contract. Note that if East made his normal response of 2 ♣, he would become the dummy in notrump.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ Q 7 ♥ A Q 10 6 3 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ K 8 2 |  | ♠ A 8 3 ♥ 4 2 ♦ A J 9 4 3 ♣ A 9 5 | West 1 ♥ 2 NT | North Pass Pass | East 2 ♦ 3 NT | South Pass Pass |
|---|---|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|


In West's view his spade holding may not even provide a stopper, but the positional value warrants the stab at notrump. If the ♠ Q had turned out to be worthless, you would probably fail at a suit bid also.

Choosing the Better Fit


If you discover a fit in two suits, you should consider how the play may go. Usually the more even suit should be trumps so the lopsided suit can provide discards. **With a fit in both majors (or both minors) prefer the more evenly divided suit as trumps (4-4 over 5-3).**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ Q J 10 8 2 ♥ K Q 4 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A 8 |  | ♠ A K 3 ♥ A 8 6 5 ♦ J 8 4 2 ♣ 7 2 | West 1 ♠ 2 ♥ | North Pass Pass | East 2 ♦ 4 ♥ | South Pass Pass |
|---|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|

With hearts trump you will win 11 tricks with normal breaks; but with spades trump there is no way to win more than 10. Also, note that if hearts break 4-1 you might still make 4 ♥ while 4 ♠ is doomed to fail.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ K 9 7 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ A Q ♣ A 8 6 4 3 |  | ♠ A 8 5 3 ♥ A 10 8 6 5 4 ♦ 2 ♣ 7 2 | West 1 NT 2 ♠ | North Pass Pass | East 2 ♣ 4 ♠ | South Pass Pass |
|--|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|

East could jump directly to 4 ♠, but it costs nothing to use Stayman first and a better contract is found. Also note West's choice of opening bids. **Exception:** When a major suit is extremely strong (6+ cards with K-Q-J) or extremely long (7+), it should usually be trumps.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ A 9 8 5 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ K J 3 ♣ A Q 8 |  | ♠ K 6 3 ♥ K Q J 10 7 6 ♦ 8 ♣ K 4 3 | West 1 ♠ 2 NT | North Pass Pass | East 2 ♥ 4 ♥ | South Pass Pass |
|--|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|

East chooses 4 ♥ instead of 4 ♠ because of his extreme heart strength. Note that in spades a trump trick would always be lost, but in hearts you have a chance to discard a spade on the ♦ K.

Notrump with Major Fit

Sometimes, especially at matchpoint scoring, it is desirable to play in *notrump* with an eight-card or longer major-suit fit. There is no way to be certain, but look for these characteristics:

- No singleton or void suit
- No obvious way to gain a trick by ruffing
- Stoppers in the unbid suits with secondary honors

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ K Q J 7 5 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ A 7 2 |  | ♠ A 8 4 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ K Q 6 2 ♣ Q 10 3 | West 1 ♠ 3 NT | North Pass Pass | East 2 NT* Pass | South Pass Pass |
|---|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE PLAYERS PAGE

Bridge Judgement

by Richard Pavlicek

Because of his flat shape and secondary honors, East elects not to support spades unless his partner showed dissatisfaction with notrump. (Older style of bidding.) Occasionally the player with the long major suit must cooperate by not insisting to play in his trump suit. Instead he abides by his partner's decision to play in notrump.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|---------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| ♠ K Q 9 4 | | ♠ 3 2 | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ J 7 2 | | ♥ A K Q 8 5 4 | 1 NT | Pass | 3 ♥* | Pass |
| ♦ K J 3 | | ♦ 10 9 2 | 3 NT | Pass | Pass | |
| ♣ A Q 8 | | ♣ J 5 | | | | |

*not playing transfers. West is supposed to raise to 4 ♥ holding three trumps, but he takes exception with his flat shape and abundant stoppers and to protect his Club holding. East has no singleton or void so he accepts the decision

Seven-Card Major Fit

If an eight-card major-suit trump fit does not exist and notrump is undesirable because of a weak side suit, it might be advantageous to play in a major suit with only seven combined trumps. **If other options are unattractive, consider raising a five-card major with a doubleton honor.**

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| ♠ A K 7 5 3 | | ♠ Q 2 | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ A 2 | | ♥ 9 4 | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass |
| ♦ K 10 9 6 | | ♦ A 8 3 | 2 ♦ | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| ♣ 9 4 | | ♣ K Q 8 6 5 2 | 4 ♠ | | | |

The key bid is 2 ♠, which is preferable to rebidding 3 ♣ with an unsubstantial suit. The opening bidder also uses good judgment not to bid notrump because his heart stopper is primary.

- When your major suit is divided 4-3, the risk is slightly greater because of the likelihood that an opponent will have equal trump length. Look for these characteristics:
 - The four-card suit is sturdy — at least two of the top four honors.
 - The hand with three trumps has the shortness in the weak side suit so that enemy “taps” will not shorten the longer hand.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| ♠ K Q 8 2 | | ♠ J 3 | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ K 8 4 | | ♥ A Q 10 2 | 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| ♦ A 9 8 6 5 | | ♦ K Q 7 2 | 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass |
| ♣ 3 | | ♣ 9 8 2 | 3 ♥ | Pass | 4 ♥ | |

Notice that declarer's hearts are strong (to draw trumps) and the club ruffs can be taken in the dummy. 4 ♥ will yield a better score than 5 ♦ (also makeable).

Minor-Suit Contracts

Minor-suit contracts are avoided, but this does *not* mean excluded. (Some players overdo this aversion to minors.) The characteristics of a good minor-suit contract are: b

- ✓ At least a nine-card trump fit
- ✓ A singleton or void suit
- ✓ Lack of secondary honors in the side suits

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| ♠ 2 | | ♠ A 9 6 5 3 | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ A J 9 7 3 | | ♥ 2 | 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| ♦ K 10 2 | | ♦ 4 3 | 2 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| ♣ A Q 10 2 | | ♣ K J 8 7 3 | 3 NT | Pass | 4 ♣ | Pass |
| | | | 5 ♣ | | | |

The key bid is 4 ♣. Dummy's hand contains all of the desired characteristics. 5 ♣ might fail with repeated trump leads, but note that 3 NT is almost sure to fail.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| ♠ A 2 | | ♠ 9 3 | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ A 5 3 | | ♥ 9 4 | 1 ♦ | Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass |
| ♦ J 10 9 4 3 | | ♦ K Q 8 2 | 3 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass |
| ♣ K Q 7 | | ♣ A 10 9 8 3 | 3 ♥ | Pass | 5 ♦ | |

After 3 ♦ opener expects a nine-card diamond fit and his major suits contain no secondary values. Rather than be committal, he shows his heart stopper; responder then places the contract.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| ♠ A K 9 5 3 | | ♠ 2 | West | North | East | South |
| ♥ 5 2 | | ♥ A 6 4 | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| ♦ K 10 2 | | ♦ Q J 9 8 7 4 | 3 ♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| ♣ Q 10 3 | | ♣ K J 4 | | | | bb |

This case is less clear-cut because responder does have some secondary values in clubs; but the expected lead is a heart. Opener should pass 4 ♦.

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE PLAYERS PAGE

Bridge Judgement

by Richard Pavlicek

Overbid or Underbid

Sometimes you will have a close decision whether to pass or bid for game. There is no simple solution for this — you must consider each situation as it occurs at the table. You can improve your judgment by keeping these factors in mind:

- High cards in partner's suit improve your hand; high cards except the ace in an unbid suit or enemy suit may be useless.
- Intermediate cards (tens, nines and eights) improve your hand, especially in the trump suit or your long suit at notrump.
- Extreme shape (especially with a void in an unbid or enemy suit) suggests an overbid; flat shape (especially 4-3-3-3) suggests an underbid.

♠ K 10 9 7 3
♥ A 9 3
♦ Q 6
♣ A 8 2



♠ Q J 2
♥ 8 2
♦ A K 9 7 2
♣ 7 6 3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | | | |

Opener has a minimum hand but he takes the aggressive push to game because of his good trump texture and fitting card (♦ Q) in partner's suit.

♠ A 7 6 5 4
♥ A K 3
♦ 4 3
♣ Q 8 2



♠ Q J 2
♥ 8 2
♦ A K 9 7 2
♣ 7 6 3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Here opener has the same point count as in example 13, yet he passes because he lacks trump texture and his ♣ Q may be useless. Compare the chances of making game in examples 13 and 14.



Penalty Cards

Generally speaking, any card illegally exposed by a defender, even accidentally, becomes a penalty card. This is another complicated area. There are two sorts of penalty cards: major penalty cards and minor penalty cards. This has nothing to do with the suit they are in!

A minor penalty card is any single accidentally exposed card below a ten.

If you deliberately expose a card, for example by leading out of turn, or accidentally expose an honor (10 or above), or have two or more penalty cards for any reason, then all your penalty cards are major penalty cards.

Any penalty card must remain exposed. A major penalty card must be played at the first legal opportunity. This means that if you end up on lead you must lead your major penalty card. If you have two or more penalty cards which can be played, declarer can choose which.

If you only have a minor penalty card, you may elect to play an honor (10 or above) in the same suit instead of your penalty card. If you are on lead or discarding, you may play a different suit. In either case, your penalty card stays down.

If you are on lead and partner has one or more major penalty cards you must ask declarer, before you lead, if he wishes to impose a lead penalty. If you lead without asking, your lead is illegal and it too becomes a major penalty card! Declarer has three options:

B

He can require you to lead the suit of (any one of) your partner's major penalty cards. If so, your partner picks up all penalty cards of the nominated suit. They cease to be penalty cards. Note that if you don't have a card of the nominated suit that's declarer's tough luck. Your partner still picks up any penalty cards in that suit and you can lead what you like.

He can forbid you from leading one or more of the suits in which your partner has major penalty cards. If so, your partner may pick up all penalty cards in the forbidden suits. For as long as you remain on lead you may not lead any of the prohibited suits (unless you only have cards in the forbidden suits, in which case you can lead what you like).

He can allow you to lead whatever you like, in which case all partner's penalty cards remain down as penalty cards.

Note that these lead restrictions do not apply if partner only has a minor penalty card but the fact that partner has the minor penalty card is Unauthorized Information. That means you can't use it as the basis for any decisions. The subject of Unauthorized (or Extraneous) information is discussed briefly in the section Pause for Thought.

The whole business of penalty cards and Unauthorized Information is another strange, and in some ways contradictory, area. The fact that partner has that particular card, or that he wanted to play it, is Unauthorized Information to you but the fact that he must play it at the first opportunity is Authorized Information. In other words, you're not allowed to know that partner has, say, the King of Diamonds but you are allowed to know that if you were to lead a diamond then partner will have to play the card you're not allowed to know he's got!

Confused? I certainly am. The best advice, as ever, is if you are in doubt as to what you are, or are not, allowed to take into consideration then call the director.

Monday's Results

REGIONAL SIDE SERIES 1 Pairs

Session 1 of 4 Sessions

7 PM

| | | | NORTH-SOUTH | SECTION H | EAST-WEST | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|--------|
| A | B | C | | | | |
| 1 | | | Harley McCabe - Janet Neel Fleenor, Bowling Green KY | | | 63.56% |
| 1 | | | John Samsel, Chesterfld MO; Susan Perez, Maryland Hgts MO | | | 59.27% |
| 2 | | | Sharon Anderson - Roger Anderson, Eagan MN | | | 62.65% |
| 2 | | | C Lee Hastings - Jennifer Luner, Saint Louis MO | | | 57.38% |
| 3 | | | En Xie - Dianne Glick, Saint Louis MO | | | 58.18% |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | Patricia Steiner - Laurie Stern, Saint Louis MO | | | 54.16% |
| 4 | | | John Dicks - Shirley Dicks, Saint Charles MO | | | 56.91% |
| 4 | 2 | | Marie Smerjac, Castle Rock CO; Therese Koller, Pueblo CO | | | 54.13% |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | Beverly A'Hearn, Sarasota FL; Harry Rosenberg, Chicago IL | | | 52.49% |
| 5 | 3 | | Kathleen Kelly - Robert Murphy, Englewood CO | | | 53.61% |
| 6 | 2 | 2 | Simeon Prager - Michael Sherberg, Olivette MO | | | 51.61% |
| 6 | | | John Seng, Champaign IL; Chris Benson, Leroy IL | | | 53.44% |
| | | 3 | Ronnie Frank, St Louis MO; Judith Inker, Chestnut Hill MA | | | 50.89% |
| | | 4 | Anne Agovino, Chesterfd MO; Susan Kilo, St Louis MO | | | 47.65% |
| | | 4 | Mary Dolan - Jackie Schroeder, Saint Louis MO | | | 49.59% |
| | | 2 | Monika Burris, Gladstone MO; Jane Pettinger, KC, MO | | | 47.01% |

MONDAY-TUESDAY KNOCKOUT 1

Teams remaining

7 PM

BRACKET 1

10 Tables

Ron Smith - Oren Kriegel, Chicago IL; Chris Compton, Dallas TX; Christian Jolly, Charlotte NC; Adam Kaplan, Stanford CA

vs

Karen Walker - James Ward, Champaign IL; Tod Moses - Nancy Popkin - Alan Popkin, Saint Louis MO; William Doroshow, Skokie IL

vs

Cookie Potter, Sunset Beach CA; Kimberly Whipple, Boca Grande FL; Shan Huang, Toronto ON; Justin Lall, Charlotte NC; Kevin Dwyer, Melbourne FL

Virgil Stetz, Lincoln NE; Rod Beery, Saint Charles MO; Jack Bryant - Milton Zlatic, Saint Louis MO

vs

Jay Whipple III, Boca Grande FL; Mike Cappelletti, Delray Beach FL; Ron Ashbacher, Saint Louis MO; Stephen Stewart, Overland Park KS

vs

Cheryl Schwartz - Wendy Turk - Chris Champion, Colorado Spgs CO; Mary Olson, Annandale MN

BRACKET 2

10 Tables

George Hawley - Robert Wheeler, Florissant MO; Mark Ludwig, Maryland Hgts MO; Stephen Zenk, Saint Louis MO

vs

Nancy Keefer - Pat Bradley - Twink Baker - Mark Ehret, Saint Louis MO

vs

Ralph Rotter Jr, Granite City IL; Donald Klingsick - Glenda Klingsick, Edwardsville IL; Emil Strotheide, Saint Louis MO

Clay Cuthbertson, Quincy IL; Mark Boswell - Debra Romero, Clarkson Valley MO; Mark Zellmer, Creve Coeur MO

vs

Ron Sholes, Springfield IL; Jim Heller, Petersburg IL; Bill Bulfer, East Peoria IL; William Evans, Bonne Terre MO

vs

Nancy Tiller, Battlefield MO; Bernita Webster - Jill Nance - Carol Pinegar, Springfield MO

BRACKET 3

10 Tables

Arthur Stepp, Saint Louis MO; Mary Ann Mitchell, Ballwin MO; Steve Singer - Gilda Singer, Saint Charles MO

vs

Hall Whitaker - Marcia Ridley - Carol Wilson, Rolla MO; Deborah Pirkle, Clearwater FL

vs

John Antognoli, Clayton MO; Doug O'Leary - Jerome Shen - Mary Kernan, Saint Louis MO

Patricia Berger, Chesterfield MO; Richard Edwards Jr, Florissant MO; Veena Uberoi - Donald Nies, Saint Louis MO

vs

Judy Harralson, Princeton KY; Mary Parker, Minnesott Bch NC; Judith Shepherd - Jane Bright, Paducah KY

vs

Susan Rechter - Mary Rassieur - Patti Disbrow - Gale McMullin, Saint Louis MO

Monday's Results

Fast Results

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 FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com
 OR
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 immediately following the game

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FAST RESULTS, do so today!



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 to your e-mail Inbox or mobile device
MMEDIATELY
 following the game!

BRACKET 4

9 Tables

John Hagedorn - Kathy Hagedorn, Saint Louis MO; Michael Schneider, Wentzville MO; Dan Waeltermann, Saint Charles MO

vs

Kevin Clarkin, Florissant MO; Joseph Butkiewicz, Chesterfield MO; Douglas Larson, Saint Louis MO; Stephen Russell, Fenton MO

vs

Jberry Hoog - Mary Lois Hoog, Chesterfield MO; Jo Ann Froehlich, Ballwin MO; Katherine Hartenberger, Creve Coeur MO

John Levis - Ann Lemp, Saint Louis MO; John Kraemer - Jerry Kraemer, Ballwin MO

vs

Shelley Sarver - Jay Sarver - Helene Siegfried - Judy Pass, Saint Louis MO

vs

Steven Clements, Wildwood MO; Alan Lemley, Saint Louis MO; Pamela Ames, Maryville IL; Vicki Valley, Edwardsville ILB

MONDAY MORNING LESSON with Bruce Greenspan

MONDAY AFTERNOON Newcomers 0-20 MP Pairs Game

1 PM

7 Tables

| | | NORTH-SOUTH | SECTION N | EAST-WEST | |
|---|---|--|-----------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | A Nancy Matheny - Billy Collier, | | | 67.88% |
| 2 | 1 | B Margaret Condie - Alden Pflager, Saint Louis MO | | | 66.22% |
| 1 | C | Kathryn Paar - Margaret Adams, Saint Louis MO | | | 59.88% |
| 2 | C | Susan Goris, Wentzville MO; Julie Thorpe, Des Peres MO | | | 58.33% |
| | | Casandra Wallace - Albert Wallace, Saint Louis MO | | | 52.56% |
| | | Berla Bieller - Kathy Kornberger | | | 52.67% |

1st Overall

Nancy Mathey and Billy Collier



2nd Overall/1st in B

Margaret Condie and Alden Pflager



1st in C Peggy Adams and Kathryn Paar



2nd in C Julie Thorpe and Susan Goris



MONDAY EVENING 0-199ER Pairs

7 PM

| NORTH-SOUTH | | SECTION G | EAST-WEST | | | |
|-------------|---|---|-----------|---|---|--------|
| A | B | | A | B | C | |
| 1 | 1 | Mary Menousek, Kirkwood MO; Linda Patterson, Des Peres MO | | | | 59.23% |
| 2 | 2 | Barbie Freund - Judith Glaser, Saint Louis MO | | | | 59.18% |
| 2 | | Peggy Karner - Bradley Karner, Wildwood MO | | | | 59.05% |
| 3 | | Ken Deutch - Diane Deutch, Saint Louis MO | | | | 54.93% |
| | | Crystal Spencer - Linda Langsdorf, Saint Louis MO | | | | 54.35% |
| 4 | 3 | Kurt Hoener, Ballwin MO; Joan Hoener, Chesterfield MO | | | | 54.58% |
| | | Ann Crowley, Saint Louis MO; Deborah Liefer, Ballwin MO | | | | 53.32% |
| | 4 | Vicky Stringer, St Louis; Elizabeth Mayer, Webster Groves | | | | 52.85% |
| | | Joan Ziskind, Ballwin MO; James Cooper, Manchester MO | | | | 50.72% |

Often people say, "I could never be good at bridge, I am terrible at math." or perhaps, "I have a terrible memory". Even more commonly I overhear people saying, "I'll never be great because I learned the game too late." Do any of these reasons really inhibit someone from excelling at bridge?

In my opinion, no! First, math and memory. While good bridge does require some memory ability and knowledge of math, a photographic memory or a strong grasp of mathematics are not pre-requisites for being a top player. With enough repetition I believe that any average person can master the math and memory techniques necessary for bridge success. In a recent NY Times article the author describes how in 1 year of training he set a new [US speed record for memorizing a deck of cards](#) with his "average memory" using visualization techniques. The author's techniques revolved around associating each card with an unusual visual image. Similarly, bridge players don't focus on memorizing individual cards (or bids) but instead focus on the meaning a bid or played card has and how it fits into the larger puzzle of the entire hand.

While remembering the auction and played cards is important, these will develop over time with experience. Moreover, I believe there are other more important qualities for success:

Deductive Reasoning: The ability to read the situation based on the various inferences available in a hand. In other words deducing what cards an opponent or partner must hold, because they would have bid or played differently with other seemingly possible hand types. This skill is essential both during the bidding and the play. In the bidding you commonly narrow down your partner's hand when they fail to make a certain bid. While during the play there are even more applications because you possess more information after seeing dummy, hearing the bidding, and observing declarer/defense's actions.

Empathy. The ability to visualize the situation from another's perspective (partner or opponent). Being able to understand what potential problems others might have, and how they may solve them will often help you to narrow down their hand. On defense, watching declarer's line of play can help you figure out the hand. You might be able to say, "If I were declaring, I would only make that play if this were my hand."

Foresight: The ability to see problems before they come. If you are the type of person who commonly takes preventative measures, such as putting your passports in your carry-on before packing, or calling a store to make sure they are open before driving there, then you are 1 step ahead. All you need to do is transfer that skill to bridge. Like other situations in life, plan your rebid over common continuations, BEFORE you bid. During the play, check to see if you need to ruff some cards in dummy BEFORE drawing trumps. Also plan ahead with your entries, to ensure you don't leave yourself stranded.

Just because you have these skills, doesn't mean you will automatically be a good bridge player. Like any game, there is a need for repetitive practice in order to improve.

As for starting too late, I've begun to think that it is possible to overcome that, too. If you can understand the way your learning process evolves with age, you can adjust your method of education to accommodate for it. From my experience as a bridge teacher and doing a little Google research on how our brain retains information I've concluded the following:

The Temporary Folder Theory

When we learn something new, our brain stores it in a temporary (know but haven't had any experience to reinforce) folder. Once we've had intense, repeated experience with these new concepts our brain can transfer the information into its permanent (routine, easy as riding a bike) folder.

My understanding is that there is a limited amount of space in this temporary folder. If you try to learn too many new concepts before you've mastered the ones you've already learned, the new concepts will overwhelm the other temporary concepts. The problem with bridge is that most concepts you learn come up so infrequently that there is insufficient time for ideas to naturally progress from the temporary folder into the permanent folder.

I also believe that with age, the temporary folder shrinks. If you learn bridge while you are young, you are able to keep the information long enough for the natural repetition to cement the concepts in your mind. As you get older, the need to master each concept one at a time is amplified. However, the permanent folder remains unchanged until very late in life, meaning that any information that gets mastered is retained.

If this theory is correct, what should we do to effectively teach bridge? I am in the process of testing a more focused method of teaching on my students. Instead of the typical approach of giving students a bunch of concepts and expecting them to retain all of them, I plan to focus on one or two concepts and drill them repeatedly until they become stored in the permanent folder. I will report my progress here. In the meantime, I'd love to hear people's opinions and find out if others have explored any successful methods of teaching the game that aren't mainstream.

Gateway to the West Regional

This Week's Events

Zero Tolerance Policy Is In Place

ALL PAIRS EVENTS FEATURE PRE-DUPLICATED BOARDS

I/N 199er Pairs Games (Single sessions) Everyday

Expert Guest Speakers 45' before each session Monday - Saturday

Tuesday through Saturday: 199er Pairs, Single Sessions 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday: 2-Session Gold Rush Pairs* 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

**Must play in both sessions of Gold Rush Pairs. Only play vs. other 0-750 players.*

Pays Gold for Section Tops (300-750) & Overall.

Sunday: 199er Pairs, Single Sessions 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Regional Side Game Series (Single Sessions)

Series 1: Monday & Tuesday, *Continues today* 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Series 2: Wednesday & Thursday 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Series 3: Friday & Saturday 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Can play in 1 or more games of a series. Must play at least 2 games of same series for overall gold.

Knockout Teams (4-Session events)

Monday-Tuesday Knockout 1, *Continues today* 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout 2 Both days 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday-Thursday Knockout 3 Both days 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Friday-Saturday Knockout 4 Both days 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Saturday-Sunday Knockout 5 Sat. 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM & TBA

Swiss Teams (Stratified, unless noted)

Single Session Evening Swiss: Tuesday – Saturday (Wednesday Charity) 7:00 PM

2-Session Morning Swiss: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 AM

2-Session Morning Swiss: Friday – Saturday 9:00 AM

2-Session Prime Time Stratified Swiss: Thursday 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

NEW 2-Session Bracketed Swiss (0-3000): Sunday, *Play through, finishes by 5:30 PM* 10:00 AM

NEW 2-Session A/X/Y Swiss (0-4000/6000/6000+): Sunday, *Play through, finishes by 5:30 PM* 10:00 AM

Pairs (All 2-Session events, except Saturday AM Charity)

Tuesday Stratified Open Pairs 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday A/X Pairs (0-2500, 2500+) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Thursday Stratified Open Pairs 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Friday Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Friday A/X Pairs (0-2500, 2500+) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Saturday Stratified Open Pairs (*Charity Game*) single session 9:00 AM

Saturday Barometer Pairs, 2 sessions (Qualifying) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Saturday BCD Pairs (0-300, 300-750, 750-2500) 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Sunday Fast Pairs, 2 sessions *over by 5 PM* 10:00 AM

Stratified Events: 0-750/750-2500/2500+

I/N 199er Pairs: Stratified 0-20/20-100/100-200

Bracketed Swiss: Bracketed from Bottom Up

Barometer Pairs: Flt A Unlimited

Strat B/C/D: 0-300/300-750/750-2500

All Stratifications by Average MP's in all events.

Eligibility for flighted events based on highest MP player.

Bracketed KO's/Swiss may be handicapped.