

Steel City Bridge

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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EDITED BY CRAIG BIDDLE

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HAND EVALUATION

Hand evaluation is an essential tool for playing bridge well. Point count is fine, for the first round of the auction. But Marty Bergen wrote a book titled *Points, Schmoints* that was so well received that he wrote a second volume. Wait a minute! I know how many points I have, what else is there to know? Well, the answer to that is, practically everything.

Your hand is ♠Q109x ♥Axxx ♦AKxxx ♣void. You open 1♦. Do you think it matters whether partner responds 1♥ or 1♠? If your answer is yes, but only because you know I wouldn't be asking this question if the answer was no, then you're still wrong. The answer is yes, it matters. But the question is, why?

If partner responds 1♥, your spades are of uncertain value. But if he responds 1♠, your spade holding is probably worth at least as much as the Axxx. And your ace of hearts has value even opposite a void. Indeed, I would raise a 1♥ response to the 2-level, but a 1♠ response to the 3-level. This hand has a decent play for slam opposite ♠AJxxx ♥Kxx ♦Qx ♣xxx, probably needing simply to establish the 5th diamond with one ruff even against 3-1 spades as long as the spade finesse is on. And it might make slam against 2-2 spades with the K wrong. But opposite ♠Axx ♥KJxxx ♦Qx ♣xxx you could easily have a loser in each major and, on a bad day, you could even be down in 5♥.

Bob Winters (you probably don't remember, or even know of) him, used to say that the queen of trumps is worth an ace. Bob and Warren Oberfield were one of the best pairs in District 5 for much of the 1980's. I'm not sure about that, but note the value of the Q109x in filling out AJxxx. Bob is still around, but hasn't played in over 30 years that I know of.

Let's try another one. You open 1NT (15-17) and partner raises to 4NT. Which hand would you rather have, ♠AJx ♥Kxxx ♦Jxxx ♣AK or ♠AJxx ♥Kxx ♦AKJx ♣xx? It's pretty

clear that the 2nd hand is better than the 1st. Why? Because your two jacks are both in combination with higher honors and also both in 4-card suits. Partner could have, for example, ♠KQx ♥AQJx ♦Qx ♣Qxxx where you have an easy 12 tricks if they don't lead a club against the 2nd hand, and have no way to avoid losing two diamonds opposite the first. Indeed, you probably would make only 10 tricks in notrump if partner has that hand.

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You have probably heard of “upgrading” a hand. By that, we mean treating a “good” 14 as a 1NT opening, or a “good” 11 as an opening hand. (Or, for Phil and I, a “good” 9.) Here are some ideas you can apply based on the two discussions above.

- Queens and jacks are much better when you hold higher honors, or the 10-9, than they are at the top of a suit with no supporting spot cards.
- Queens and jacks are much better in suits where partner has length than when facing short holdings. Indeed, Qx opposite Jx is a holding we have all come to dread, watching the opponents run the first 5 tricks against our 3NT when that’s out holding in their suit.
- All honors in long suits are better than equivalent honors in short suits. Indeed, Edgar Kaplan and Jeff Rubens once proposed a hand evaluation method where you multiplied your HCP in each suit by the number of cards in that suit, added all that up, and divided by 10. There were other things involved, but if you look at the two strong notrump hands I gave above, the first is 4.5 on that scale and the 2nd 6.1. For completeness, the other part of the count was to count aces as 3, Kings 2, Queens 1, and Jacks 0.5 if two higher cards held, 0.25 if one higher card was held, otherwise nothing. That makes those two hands 14.75 and 16.85 points respectively. There were also adjustments for 10’s and 9’s and for very long suits. If you’re curious, go to <http://www.rpbridge.net/8j19.htm>. Warning, your head will probably explode. And it’s not really something you can use at the table. But it gives a lot of insight into how top players think about the value of their hands.

LEVELS

Players and partnerships think about defensive problems differently. A recent posting on bridgewinners provides a fantastic opportunity to see how different levels of players think.

Dummy (RHO): ♠862 ♥AKQ987 ♦106 ♣82

You: ♠1094 ♥6 ♦J52 ♣AKQJ53

Auction

YOU LHO PARD RHO

1♣ 1♠ P 2♦*

P 2♥ P 3♠

P 4♠ All Pass

*- transfer to hearts

Partner leads the ♣6 (4th best) to the 2-J-4. Let’s think about the hand.

Level 1 – as played at the table.

What are the likely shapes around the table? You're probably not used to seeing transfer bids in auctions like this, so let me give you some help. The usual agreement is that opener must accept the transfer cheaply unless (a) he has real support, when he can jump raise with a minimum or cue-bid with extras, or (b) he has a void or singleton and extra length in his own suit, or (c) he has a void or singleton and another 5-card suit to show, or (d) he has a balanced hand with a stopper and wants to invite 3NT.

Given those agreements, declarer is then 5=1=(43) or 5=2=(33) or 5=2=(42) or 6=2=???. What about high cards? Suit lengths are in S=H=D=C order, parens mean those two adjacent suits can be split either way.

I'm missing the ♠AKQJ ♥J and ♦AKQ – if declarer had all that and a singleton club as well, he wouldn't have bid so quietly, so partner has something. If partner has the ace or king of spades, I can cash a club and lead my heart; partner will get on lead with her trump trick and give me a ruff.

Should I play a diamond instead? That will require partner to have either the ♦K and ♠A, K, or Q or the ♦AK or AQ. Also, since partner appears to have 4 hearts, if she has the J10xx declarer likely won't have enough tricks if he has a trump loser, he'll need six spades in order to get 5 trump tricks to go with dummy's 3 heart tricks unless he has ♦AKQ.

Which is it? A heart or a diamond? A good basic rule of defense when faced with a choice is to choose the option that works opposite the weakest hand partner can have. That's clearly the heart, it can work when partner has only the ♠K.

Would you make the same decision if partner, with her marked 4 hearts, had made a negative double? I don't think you should. ♠Kx ♥Jxxx ♦Qxxx ♣xx6 is a pretty lousy negative double, but even that hand will be beaten by a diamond shift; declarer will take 4 spades, 3 hearts, and two diamonds unless he makes the remarkable decision to finesse into the opening bidder for the ♥J.

So you cash the ♣A (do you care which club you play here?) and play a heart.

Level 2

I'll cash a 2nd club – if that doesn't live, I don't see how we can beat the hand. Trick 2 goes ♣A-9-7-8. Hmm. The missing club is the 10. Partner will know from my sequence of plays that I want her to tell me what to shift to, and she played her lower club. So I'll switch to a diamond.

Level 3

From partner's point of view, there are three possible successful defenses. For all partner knows, I have the ♠A and she may have ♠Qx. In that case, she wants me to play a third club, jump the ♠A on the first round of the suit, and play a 4th club so her ♠Q makes the setting trick. Or, she could have 4 little hearts and the ♠Ax or Kx and want me to play a heart. Or, she could have two diamond tricks to cash.

But she only has two clubs to play. What should she do? She can't "want" a heart shift on her own. So she should play her higher club to ask for a diamond and her lower club to ask for a club.

Are you sickened by the idea that at levels 1 and 2 a low club asks for a diamond shift and at level 3 a low club asks for a club shift? You should be. Level 3 is simply unplayable. But it was initially suggested by a player who is a heck of a lot better than I am, although the crowd has talked him into accepting Level 4.

Level 4

The same as level 3, but the low club always says "play a diamond" and the high club always says don't play a diamond. (Don't be confused by the emphasis on diamonds. It's merely the lower-ranking of the two remaining suits after you eliminate the trump suit or the suit you are using to signal. It would be more accurate for me to say "lower suit" and "not the lower suit." But that detracts from the analysis of this deal, which is really an excellent lesson deal for several levels of player.

Level 5

Finally, after all this discussion, Kit Woolsey chimed in. Now I know why he's such a great player. Here is his comment, edited for clarity:

1. If partner can't be relied on to give a suit preference signal from her two remaining clubs, your percentage shift is to a heart, since that requires partner to have only one card. (Level 1). If partner had two useful cards, she would likely have made a negative double. (Side lesson – if you have a descriptive call available, don't be shy. Make the call and worry about going for 800 later.)
2. Unless you are not planning to play with this partner in the future, you should assume that partner has made the correct suit preference signal and shift to a diamond. Whether if it is right, congratulate partner on her suit preference signal. If she gives you a blank stare, a discussion is in order. If it is wrong, you know a discussion is in order later. So if partner did the right thing and knew it, you will reinforce the idea. If partner played a random card and it turned out well, the discussion will be painless but will also lead to better defense in the future. And if partner played a random card and a heart shift would have worked, the discussion will have to begin with, "Sorry, but the good players I know would have played the ♣10 to tell me to not play a diamond. Here's why they play that way. We should try to do that too." And it should be after the session, not at the table where emotions can get in the way.
3. It should be noted that partner isn't the only one with the opportunity to give a suit preference signal. You had a choice of three club honors to play at trick two. Here's what they mean.
 - a. The ♣A says I have a singleton heart. Now partner should play her high club to tell you to lead your heart and they will go down, or her low club to tell you a heart shift won't work.
 - b. The ♣Q says, I don't have a singleton heart, but I have the ♦A or K. Now partner should encourage to ask for a diamond shift and discourage to ask you to play something else.

- c. The ♣K says, I have the ♠A, what do you want me to do? Partner should play high for a diamond and low for a 3rd round of clubs.

Very interesting. Oh, by the way. Partner's hand opposite was ♠x ♥10xxx ♦AQxxx ♣1076. If you shift to a heart at trick 3, declarer has the rest. In fact, he has 12 winners, but he can't argue with your two tricks in the hopper.

YOU BID WHAT???

COMMENTARY, SCORING AND ABUSE BY RICHARD FINBERG

(doublemenot@gmail.com)

Match points. N-S Vul., EW Non-Vul.

As South, you hold:

- ♠ A64
- ♥ AQJ982
- ♦ 7
- ♣ AQ9

The auction:

	S	W	N	E
	1♥	P	2♣	P
	?			

Your partner's 2/1 response to your 1♥ opening is natural and game forcing. Our panelists respond with a five-card suited straight: 2♥, 2♠, 3♣, 3♦ and 3♥. Which of these do you bid?

Why not 2♥?

Bernie Fudor: 2♥. Waiting for partner's rebid.

Connie Hoehstetter: 2♥. Wait to see partner's next bid. Planning to be in some slam.

Webb Hawthorne: 2♥. I hope this shows 6 hearts in our methods, but I want to conserve room. We might end up in a club slam, but many players bid 2♣ without promising a 5-card suit. I don't want to commit the hand to clubs yet.

Frank Cymerman. 2♥. In my partnerships this shows 6 hearts. Partner could have only 4 clubs. I will bid 3♣ over 2NT, and splinter 4♦ over 3♣, followed by a 3♠ cue bid. [Director! (CB) I'm sure Frank meant he would bid 4♠ after his splinter rebid, although he IS getting old.]

Ernie Retetagos: 2♥. If I don't rebid hearts now, partner won't play me for a strong 6 card suit. It saves bidding room and gives partner a chance to make a descriptive rebid. I can bid 3♣ after a 2 NT bid from partner.

Stanley Ruskin: 2♥. Partnership has [RF: at least 28-30 HCP], and I have a good fit for partner's suit. On hands like these without interference, you should not waste bidding space, so I bid 2♥ which usually shows 6.

Partner's next bids will dictate where we are going. If he bids 3♥, I bid 4NT RKC. If he rebids 2NT, I bid 3♣ which is also a good hand. If he rebids 3♣, I bid 4♣ which should show a very strong hand and ask him to cue bid. Once I raise clubs, partner should raise hearts with ♥Kx (or Qx or Ax) since he knows I would have raised 2♣ directly with 5 hearts and three clubs.

RF: The 2♥ rebid seems reasonable as a "waiting bid" and does indeed save bidding space. Its shortcomings are that it tells partner very little about your hand. Your auction so far is consistent with a minimum hand with no club fit. You have not yet shown your diamond singleton, terrific club support, extra HCP, or controls in every suit. Nor have you fully expressed the quality of your heart suit.

The Case for 2♠

Herb Sachs: 2♠. Clubs will be my next call which should pinpoint the diamond shortness. Too many choices. Can't bid them all.

RF: A 3♦ splinter would tell the same story in one bid (all jumps in a new suit after a 2/1 are splinters), although it 'promises' 4 clubs. Partner might think 2♠ shows 4 spades or that your third-round club raise is a cue bid, not strong 3-card support.

In fact, partner may conclude that if you had a singleton diamond you would have rebid 3♦, not 2♠.

How about 3♣?

Rob Zimmermann: 3♣. Partner can show some heart tolerance, or we can start cue bidding. If 4♦ (“Redwood” RKC) were allowed, it would be tempting.

Gus Costanzo: 3♣. A wonderful hand for a discussing 2/1 sequences. The normal meaning of 3♣ is 4+ clubs with extra values. The normal meaning of a jump to 3♥ is a self-sustained heart suit with extra values and able to play opposite a void. Although the hand has extra values, it appears imperfect for either bid (hearts not quite good enough for 3♥ and only 3 clubs). Since I intend to tell a lie, the least damaging and utilitarian would be 3♣. I want to give partner a chance to show heart support. 3♥ is too unilateral because he might bid 4♥ without real support, believing my suit is better. I have ambitions for something greater than 4♥.

RF: I agree with Gus’ analysis, and I would also rebid 3♣. I write only to quibble with the requirements for a jump rebid of 3♥. In Marty Bergen’s recent articles in the ACBL Bulletins (When to Jump, (August 2021) and Tips to Improve Your 2/1 Auctions (Sept. 2021)), Bergen describes opener’s jump rebid of his suit as: (1) promises a great suit of 6+ cards with the expectancy of at most 1 loser, (2) sets trump, and (3) does not promise extra values. Since 3♥ sets the trump suit, RKC will resolve whether you are missing any keycards, and you will stop in 5, 6 or 7 hearts accordingly.

Also, note that in 2/1 game forcing auctions, Bergen’s emphasis is on suit quality (his example hand is ♥AQJTx); he does *not* require extra HCP for the jump rebid. You can require extras for 3♥ or not; just make sure your partner is on the same page.

Gail Carns: 3♣. I bid 3♣ showing extra values and hope partner bids 3♥. Then I would cue bid 3♠.

Trudy Cohen: 3♣. I bid 3♣ to confirm a good fit. I will have the opportunity to rebid hearts later. If partner shows heart support, we will explore slam in hearts. Otherwise, slam in clubs.

Bill Holt: 3♣. I will start with 3♣ and strut my extras after I hear from partner. Are they coming in Hearts? Clubs? Either way, this hand looks to be ‘slammish.’

RF: Some panelists, especially the 2♥ bidders, express concern that partner might have only 4 clubs, but North will almost always have 2+ hearts or the stiff K when he only has 4 clubs (the possible exceptions are hands with weak Spades or Diamonds which North chooses not to introduce). You or partner will rebid Hearts at some point, if only to make Hearts the Key suit in a RKC auction.

Make a Splinter Bid with 3♦?

Richard Katz. 3♦. I owe you one club. Much safer: two hearts or three clubs (but I still owe one club).

RF: A 3♦ bid is superficially more descriptive than 3♣, and as Richard says, both bids are one ♣ short. But I prefer bidding 3♣ because I do not want partner to think ♦AKx, ♦AKJ or ♦AQx include wasted values. Specifically, your primary source of tricks in a club slam will come from setting up tricks in hearts. Our top clubs may be crucial entries to both set up *and cash* the heart tricks. A second diamond ruff (with the ♣Queen) may create a club loser (if North has, say, K10xxx), and even one ♦ ruff by South may take away a late entry to the good hearts (if EW attack my ♠Ace at trick one and partner lacks the ♠K). So, I do not want to discourage partner from bidding slam with two diamond stoppers. I just want to show partner I have good club support and let defenders guess whether to attack diamonds or spades.

Show Semi-Solid Hearts and Set Trumps with 3♥?

Craig Biddle: 3♥. As usual, club bids are of suspect length. I have a heart suit that can play for one loser opposite a singleton, and a lot of extra values. If partner bids 3NT here, I will bid 4♣. Since he knows I am not a hand hog, he will realize that I probably have this shape and a very good hand.

Paul Caplan: 3♥, showing extra values and a good 6 card suit.

Steve Nolan: 3♥. Show my strength and the good six-card suit. If partner bids 3♠ or NT, I bid clubs to show slam interest.

RF: For a good discussion of responses and rebids in 2/1 auctions, see Marty Bergen's articles cited above. I will not try to repeat his advice but will only highlight the points most relevant here.

One general idea is that when you are in a game forcing auction, you should conserve bidding space when possible. That may be why 6 panelists chose to rebid 2♥. Jump rebids have specific meanings. Opener's jump in a *new* suit is a splinter bid (3♦ on this hand). As said above, Bergen's jump rebid of his major (here, 3♥), promises a "great suit of 6+ cards" which is expected to have at most one loser. The jump rebid sets the trump suit. Perhaps surprisingly, Bergen does not require extra values for the jump rebid (make sure your favorite partner agrees with you whether extra values are required).

Bergen's specific example of a suitable jump rebid is ♥AQJTx. This hand should make 5 tricks *roughly* 62% of the time opposite a void and 84% of the time opposite a singleton (start by finessing the Queen).

Our hand of AQJ98x is weaker. Partner will be void in hearts only about 7% of the time which usually results in 2 losers. But if partner has 1 small heart or two small hearts, you will win 5 tricks around 60% and 85% of the time respectively (start by finessing the Queen and repeat the finesse if possible). Of course, partner is *allowed* to have the ♥K, 10 or 3 small, so your odds of having 2 losers are even less. I am guessing that Marty considers AQJ98x to be adequate for a 3♥ rebid. Of course, with RKC, you may be able to find the ♥K with certainty.

Caution: Marty Bergen suggests some auctions that you or your partner might not consider standard, so make sure you and your partner are on the same page.

Final Comments and Conclusion

In fairness, the 2♥ bidders believe that waiting to see what partner does next will guide them, and they intend to make a descriptive bid next, such as a delayed club

raise. Sometimes waiting bids work fine, but bidding should be a two-way conversation, and oftentimes when you wait you miss an opportunity to tell partner something important and bring him into the decision making process. Here, a 3♥ rebid both sets the suit (making the ♥K a keycard) and shows good intermediate cards. Better, a 3♣ rebid tells partner his suit is now good for several tricks and that you have extra values, bringing a potential 6NT contract into play. The 3♦ bid says the same thing about clubs and also shows a singleton or void in diamonds.

On the problem hand, almost every experienced pair should get to 6♣ or 6♥ regardless of what they rebid on their second turn. But choosing which slam matters. And showing club support will help partner get you to 6NT on certain hands with long clubs and solid help in diamonds and spades, such as ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AQx ♣Kxxxx.

The ♣AQ9 is a fantastic holding in partner's suit. It turns Kxxxx into a goldmine and in my view is much better support in a slam auction than weak 4-card support such as ♣Jxxx. Opposite our hand, 6♣ will likely make with as little as ♦A, ♠K and Kxxxx(x). In fact, 6♥ is a strong favorite opposite as little as ♣Kxxxx and the stiff ♥K. Add the ♦A and ♣J, and 7NT is a virtual certainty.

The Scoring

Here are the vote tallies from bridgewinners.com and the Steel City Bridge panelists. The SCB panel did an excellent job in finding good alternatives to the mundane 2♥ rebid. Only 6 out of 16 (37.5%) SCB panelists bid 2♥. In contrast, 82% of the voters on bridgewinners.com rebid 2♥. The scoring is a close call, as most of the proposed auctions have substantial merit, and 2♥ is very popular. But this is how I see it:

BW

SCB

Bid	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Score	Comments
2♥	47	82	6	38	80%	Popular but not ideal in my view.
2♠	0	0	1	6	30%	Imaginative but too confusing.
3♣	4	7	5	31	100%	Natural, extras, helps find 6NT.
3♦	1	2	1	6	90%	Good descriptive bid but see text.
3♥	5	9	3	19	90%	Sets trump for RKC, but likely loses any chance to support ♣.
Total	57	100%	16	100%	N/A	

See you next month. Richard

[CB: In my style with Phil, our immediate 3♥ rebid would show a suit at least as good as AKQ10xx or AKQxxxx. And our immediate 3♣ raise would show 4 cards and extra values (I had one today, ♠Kxx ♥AJ10xx ♦x ♣AKxx). So with Phil I would be required to rebid 2♥, allowing him to describe his hand.

But here, I assume I am playing a less structured version of 2/1 and I think 3♥ is the best bid. My problem with the immediate club raise with only 3 is that, if partner has a balanced hand, he's likely to start a 3NT search. And if his hand is something like ♠xxx ♥Kx ♦AKx ♣Kxxxx, he's going to rebid 3♦ to show his stopper. Now if I bid 3♥, is that a 6-card suit or a hand like ♠Qxx ♥Axxxx ♦xx ♣AQx? Confusion reigns. If I have this hand, partner has to stab at 3NT; it's the last making spot on normal breaks.

And this is why I detest the "Hardy" style 2♥ rebid to promise 6. In that style I have to rebid 2NT with, basically, all 5332 minimum hands; stoppers be damned. In fact, Phil and I play that after a 2/1 response to a major, opener's 2NT rebid promises 6. This allows us to use the 2 of the major suit rebid as a punt, allowing partner to tell us whether his response was based on a long suit, a balanced GF, or a strong 3-card raise, all at an economical level. And if Phil rebids 3♣, NOW I will splinter, secure in the knowledge that he has 5+ clubs and expressing my slam interest. But in the more likely case where Phil has a doubleton heart, we will get to the higher-scoring slam when HE sets trump by bidding 3♥.

But using 2NT to show 6+ cards in my major is neither necessary nor everyone's cup of tea. You can simply play that 1M-2♣, 2M is waiting (as many of our panel and the majority of the bridgewinners crew do), reserving your 2NT rebid for 5332 minimum hands with stoppers in both unbid suits and your raises for minimum hands with 4-card support and your splinters for extra value hands with 4-card support and shortness. As long as you are playing 2/1, you can take your time and only chew up bidding space when you have a specific picture to paint. That's good bidding in my book.

A number of my frequent partners are prone to mad leaps to slam. They're good players, so it usually works out. But I often wonder, do they think I'm so dumb that they can guess what I have better than I could tell them if they gave me a chance to do so? And sometimes their mad leap fails. 😞]

UNIT NEWS

LORRAINE HANNA

Last minute cancellations

Text GAMEOFF to 84483 to receive text alerts of last minute game closings. It's better to know before you leave the house if your game has been cancelled due to weather or some other factor.

Career Masterpoints for Units 142 and 229

Go to our webpage and click onto Masterpoints to see where you stand in Units 142 and 229 as of December 2021.

A detailed explanation of why your online points aren't showing up in the McKenney and Ace races can be found on the Masterpoints page.

Mentors/Mentees

F2F bridge is back in a number of locations. This program is ongoing. If you want to become a Mentor or Mentee, check our website and click on the Mentor link for more information. If you're already enrolled consider resuming your participation.

Bridge Basics 2, Competitive Bidding Class starts February 15, 2022

Here's a link to classes in the Burgh

<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/classes.htm>

Patty Tucker Bridge for Youth Program

Patty Tucker facilitated a program in Kentucky based on the success of her Atlanta Junior Bridge Program and has a "Jump Start" program designed for teaching bridge in schools where school teachers are actively involved in the process. We had a successful Bridge in Schools program in the Burgh, but unfortunately has not been active in the last several years because of Covid.

Here's a link to Atlanta's Program

<https://atlantajuniorbridge.org/>

Patty was one of the architects of Learn Bridge in A Day, which we had been presenting annually and hope to resume when we can.

Last month I encouraged you to have an active role in the Board of Directors and become a Director yourself. Elections are held on an annual basis; Members serve for a 2 year period. We have a limit of 15 Board Members. Here is a link to our current Board.

<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/board.htm>

Pittsburgh Bridge Association Board of Directors.

An important goal of the PBA is to increase our Membership and keep bridge alive. Unfortunately, over the last several years we have lost a good deal of members. Teaching youth, college students, newly retired, retired, adult learning and moving social bridge players into the Duplicate World will have a positive effect. We need everyone's help. Several of our Board Members are working on this issue. You can contact Board Members through this link with your suggestions: <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/board.htm>

Here are the Officers of the PBA

President

Lorraine C. Hanna. 2 year Term expires 11/2022

The President presides over quarterly meetings of the Board and General Membership meetings. Appoints, secures and confirms Committee Chairs. Selects recipient of Jane McIntyre Award. Strives to grow membership.

President appoints Vice President

Vice President

June Threkeld will step into the role of President November 2022 and will appoint the next Vice President.

Presides over Board in absence of President

Secretary

Pat Anders

The Secretary takes and prepares Minutes of Board Meetings. Maintains Roster of Unit Members, Unit Board Members and Committees. Prepares Agenda and records and maintains minutes of Board and Planning Committee meetings. Maintains correspondence for the Unit. Liaison between our Unit and ACBL regarding Unit Board activities.

Treasurer

John Aliotto

Collects and deposits all funds generated by Unit events. Reimburses members for hospitality, printing and other expenses associated with Unit events. Pays rent, storage fees and other costs associated with Unit events. Pays honorariums to designated Unit personnel. Maintains all financial accounts for the Unit. Maintains archives and reports the Unit financial and event attendance records. Prepares files, maintains and archives tax forms and information. Treasurer is bonded.

In later issues, I will delve into various roles our Board performs.

Spring Online IMP league

The Wednesday evening Vichill League is tentatively scheduled to start on March 2. Many of you have played in this fun 9 week competition. Stan Dub will be sending out particulars shortly. If you haven't played in the past and would like to, you can contact Stan at Stan.dub@gmail.com. You can have as many as 6 players on your team. Get your team together and join in the fun.

PEOPLE NEWS

PHYLLIS GEINZER

Once again, Phyllis has no bad news to report. I have a brief apology to make for the tardiness of this newsletter, but I have been coping with the Omicron variant of COVID. It didn't hit me very hard, but it did just about double the amount of sleep my body needed. And I am a little fuzzy still, although it's pretty much gone. (Who was that who said I am always a little fuzzy? Speak up!)

STREAKS AND BIG GAMES

CHRIS WANG

Two in a row

Cecilia Powell	Export	Mon
James Gump	Glenshaw	Wed
Sandra Brand	Glenshaw	Wed
Ronald Sain	Export	Wed
Hugh McMaster	Edgeworth	Wed
Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Wed
Marcella Retetagos	O'Hara	Tues
Janice Phillips	O'Hara	Tues

Big Games

None

Reminder: Two new games on Thursday.

Rodef Shalom at 11 am

Glenshaw Presbyterian at 6:45 pm

Simple Squeeze Lessons Made Simple

for advancing players and Wannabe Experts

Many bridge players think squeezes are too complicated to learn and are the sole domain of experts. Some exotic squeezes are indeed difficult, but the basic simple squeeze and its minor variants are relatively easier to learn *and occur frequently*. So, by learning just a few basic squeezes, you can match the top expert's results most of the time.

I am starting a 6-session lesson on simple squeezes. **Lesson 1 is FREE** and will be repeated several times to make it accessible to everyone. The free lesson will allow me to show you my new **Shark Bridge™** software that I will be using in many future lessons. With **Shark Bridge™**, I can seat everyone at their own table to individually play out pre-set deals and repeat the play until you fully understand it. You can also collaborate with other students. If you can explain something to someone else, you own it. It is the most effective way to learn squeeze play – practice with virtual cards with real-time access to expert advice!

Unfortunately, the improvements in teaching methods came with a cost (e.g., my training on SB, ongoing SB user fees, some computer upgrades, and a lot of my time), so Lessons 2-5 are a paid course (\$75 for approx. 5 hours of lessons). Time and dates of future lessons TBD to best fit everyone's schedule. But Lesson 1 is **FREE** at the following times (Eastern):

Monday, Feb. 7 at 4:00 p.m (all times are Eastern)

Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb.11 at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 14 at 4:00 p.m. (Happy Valentine's Day)

To attend Lesson 1 one or more times, just sign into **Zoom** at:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5664734334?pwd=Ui9vclFBcVpZby9MRfZ6eiswUWROU09>

If you are not already on my regular mailing list, please email me at doublemenot@gmail.com or call 412-304-9254 (cell) for more information. It is best to give me your email for updates and reminders. Private lessons on any bridge topic are also available. Richard Finberg