

Steel City Bridge

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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EDITED BY CRAIG BIDDLE

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EVENING BRIDGE IS COMING TO TOWN

The PBA Board has put forth an initiative to bring another evening bridge game to town. Contract negotiations for space at Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church are nearly complete. The games will start at 6:45 on Thursdays, and our start date is tentatively scheduled for January 27th. The only remaining hurdle is obtaining the sanction for the club. I hope that doesn't take 3 weeks.

As things stand now, I will be the primary director and club owner. Proof of vaccination will be required as long as the state health department has not lifted that restriction.

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIDDING

THE FIVE LEVEL BELONGS TO THE OPPONENTS

We've all heard the above aphorism before. But we all violate it regularly. The swings generated by 5-level decisions are especially critical at IMP scoring, but even at matchpoints, a five-level decision can produce a full board swing. What should we be thinking about when the opponents bid to the five-level?

This discussion will focus on cases where we think we own the hand and could have made a game somewhere, but the nasty opponents have outbid us for the moment. What should we be looking at in order to decide whether to bid on?

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1. We need to have a first-round or second-round control of their suit. When neither of us has such a control, then (a) they're at the 5-level with only 9 trumps, and (b) we need to have no side losers to make 11 tricks of our own. Generally, when this is the situation, we should double and lead a trump.

2. We need to have extra trump length. If we have only an 8-card fit, and the opponents are at the 5-level, trumps are going to be 3-2 less often than normal.

3. In the absence of extra trump length, we need a side suit that can be a source of tricks. Usually, we want one of us to have 5 cards or more in the side suit. And when you know you have a double fit, you almost always want to keep bidding.

4. We want our high cards to be situated behind their high cards. That's easier said in the post mortem than in the middle of the auction. And this is a double-edged sword; if our high cards are well placed for offense, they will be well placed on defense, too.

OK, how do we communicate all this to partner? The standard method is to use the concept of a forcing pass. This is based on the logic that if we have invited game, and neither of us has a lot of shape, then we will have enough high cards to beat them 75% of the time or more. So they should not be allowed to play at the 5-level undoubled.

If you are the first to act over the 5-level bid:

- You double if you are concerned that you might have two losers in their suit.
- You bid on if (a) you have first or second round control of their suit, and (b) your high cards are not devalued by being positioned badly, and (c) you have either extra trump length or a source of side tricks.
- Otherwise, you pass.

If partner has passed over the 5-level bid, you know that you don't have to worry about losing the first two tricks in their suit. So you bid on if your hand has useful high cards and you have either extra trump length or a source of side tricks. Otherwise, you double to say that you don't have any extra offense or that your high cards don't look useful for offense.

If partner has doubled their 5-level bid, you must pass with 2 losers in their suit. You will also pass if your high cards look like they are positioned badly, or if you have no extra offense. But if your high cards look like they are well positioned, and you have extra offense, you are allowed bid on.

And of course, if partner has bid on, you will have to decide whether to bid more or just pass. That's another issue, but at least you know some useful things about partner's hand.

Oh, one last thing. When you double them at the five-level, sometimes they have so much offense that they will make it. Don't let that deter you. You will usually find that, if you hadn't doubled, your score would not have been much better. In a recent online matchpoint tournament, I played 3NTX making 6. The double cost them precisely a half a matchpoint; only one other declarer managed to make 12 tricks in notrump. Since this involved 60-something tables, they were getting 120:1 odds by doubling.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

SUIT COMBINATIONS

When declarer formulates the play of a hand at trick 1, it's essential that each suit combination in the combined hands is evaluated both for potential winners and potential losers. Early on, you are taught to count winners for notrump because usually the play of a hand in notrump is a race to set up winners before the defenders set up their winners. And you are taught to count losers in a trump contract because it is assumed that your trumps can take over guarding a suit once you run out of high card tricks there. But in reality, you need to count both winners and losers in both types of hands.

For starters, I am going to show a bunch of suit combinations where you have the potential to escape for no losers. Your job is to find the best play for no losers in each combination. Assume that adequate entries are available unless noted. And while you're doing this exercise, make note of the ways in which the defense can foil your less than optimal attacks. Also, assume that this is your trump suit, so that preserving spots when you can may help out in the later play.

	Dummy	Your hand			
	1. AQ9xxx	10xxxx	8.	AQxxx	109xx
	2. AQ9xx	10xxxx	9.	K9xxx	AQ10x
	3. AK9xx	10xxx	10.	Kxxxx	AQ10x
	4. AQ9xx	10xxx	11.	K10xxx	AQ8x
	5. AQ97x	10xxx	12.	KQ10xx	Axx
	6. AKJ7x	10xxx	13.	KQxxx	A10x
	7. AKxxx	109xx	14.	KQ9xx	A8x
			15.	KQ10x	A8xx
			16.	Kxxx	AQ8x
			17.	KQxx	A9xx

OK, the answers are:

1. Low to the ace. Should you finesse? After LHO plays the missing J, RHO has 13 “vacant spaces” that could house the K, while LHO has only 12. So playing for the drop is a 13:12 favorite, and the finesse a 12:13 underdog. Small difference, but good card play is all about accumulating small extra percentage chances. And playing the K from KJ doubleton in front of the AQ would just be nuts.
2. Low to the Q unless LHO plays the K. It doesn’t matter whether LHO plays the J or the 8, they can play one or the other with equal abandon if they have both of them. Covering the 8 with the 10 loses to the singleton J offside, which is about a 13% chance, and wins against KJ8 onside, which is about an 11% chance. And if the J or 8 is singleton, you have no chance to avoid losing to the K.
3. Start by leading low toward the AK. If LHO plays the J or Q and RHO follows low, come back to hand and lead low toward dummy if you want, but you should put up the other high honor, as it’s a very weak play to split honors from QJx in front of the AK. Cashing the other high honor immediately is just as good a play unless LHO is very inexperienced. Putting up the Q or J from Qx or Jx in front of the AK is a known falsecard, setting up a position known as the “idiot’s finesse.” If RHO, on the other hand, plays the Q or J to the first trick, come to hand and finesse. This wins against singleton Q or singleton J behind the AK, and loses only to QJ doubleton. The odds on this finesse are 22:12 in your favor. This is known as the “principle of restricted choice,” because with the QJ doubleton behind the AK, you can play either while with a singleton quack (Q’s and J’s are known as quacks, a hand stuffed full of them can be called a quacker box), RHO’s choice of cards to play is restricted.
4. Low to the Q. This wins against singleton or doubleton J behind the AQ, and is the best you can do. The double finesse wins against either small singleton on your right, but the Q wins against singleton J and TWO Jx combinations. And the Jx combinations are more likely than small

singletons. Again, the vacant spaces idea matters. If LHO has Kx as you assume, and RHO plays small to the first round of the suit, RHO has 12 spaces for the J while LHO has only 11 spaces.

5. Lead the 10. You're going to play the Q if LHO plays small, for the reasons stated above, but LHO may decide to cover from KJ8x. That will be a mistake. Giving the opponents a chance to make a mistake is always a good idea, if it doesn't cost when they don't.
6. Lead the 10 to the Ace or K. Again, you are tempting LHO to cover from Q98x. Are you getting the idea that "cover an honor with an honor" isn't always a good idea? Good. But beware, when you have Q98x in front of that suit in dummy, you'd better be thinking about whether to cover the 10 as soon as you see dummy. If you hesitate on the 10 and play small from this holding, declarer is entitled to let the 10 run. And woe unto you if you have huddled from two or three small – you have done something very unethical. This is why I always fold my hand up between tricks while defending. The second or so that it takes me to fan my hand out again helps to mask little breaks in tempo in an ethical manner.
7. Low to the ace or king, then back to hand and finesse if RHO plays a quack, but play for the drop otherwise. Just seeing if you were paying attention. What do you do if RHO shows out on the first round? Don't ask me. It's just the breaks of the game unless you have the 8.
8. Low to the Q. Just seeing if you are paying attention. Here, it's OK for LHO to cover the 10 or 9 from KJ87. This is why you need to be thinking about your suit combinations on defense. Sometimes, covering a 10 or 9 is free, other times it's disastrous.
9. Start with the A or Q, or low to the A or Q. If someone shows out, you will be poised to pick up Jxxx on either side.
10. Cash any high honor. Here, you can't pick up J9xx behind the 10 no matter what you do. But as declarer, you need to pay attention to the fact that combination 9 requires precise play and 10 doesn't. There are many other similar situations.
11. This one is nasty. If you start with the K, you can pick up J9xx on your right. If you start with the A or Q, you can pick up J9xx on your left. There's nothing you can do that will handle both 4-0 breaks. Sometimes you will get clues from the bidding or early play that can guide you to finding the void, but without that, and other times your entry situation will preclude you from starting with the King.
12. Low to the K or Q, then back to the ace. You will pick up all 3-2 breaks, all singleton jacks, and Jxxx on your left.
13. Start with the ace. You'll pick up all 3-2 breaks and singleton J on either side. You'll never get enough information to pick up Jxxx on your right. You could also start with the K or Q, but it's good technique to clear the honors out of the shorter holding most of the time, and it doesn't cost here.
14. Low to the K or Q, then back to the ace. You will pick up all 3-2 breaks, and singleton J or 10 on your right. Wait a minute, if LHO plays the J or 10 can't I play low back to my 8 on the 2nd round? You can, and it might work, but in addition to losing to J10 doubleton on your left, you could lose to J10x. Splitting J10x in front of KQ9xx is OK if you know that declarer has the ace for this reason.

15. Low toward the KQ, then back to the ace. What if LHO plays the 9 on the first round of the suit? Shouldn't you cash dummy's other high honor to pick up Jxxx on your right? It depends. Playing the 9 from J9xx in front of KQ10x is a very advanced falsecard, intended to sucker declarer into doing exactly that. Note that if you don't play the 9 from this holding, a good declarer will never go wrong.
16. Low from dummy toward the AQ8x. This only works against very strong defenders on your right. If one of them has J9xx, and plays the 9, he will be very embarrassed by the subsequent play in the suit. But lesser defenders might split from J10xx or 109xx, you'll get them too. Otherwise, you're just picking up 3-2 breaks no matter what you do.
17. Start with the KQ. Sometimes you'll catch LHO with the singleton J or 10. No sneaky move available with this combination that I know of.

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:

♠ x
♥ Q9x
♦ AK98x
♣ KT87

The auction:	W	N	E	S
		1 ♣	1 ♥	2 ♦
	P	3 ♣	3 ♠	?

You hoped North could bid 2NT over 2♦, but he bids 3♣ and East surprises you by bidding 3♠, presumably showing 4+ spades and longer hearts. Now what?



Here is what the panelists who bid 4♣ or 5♣ have to say:

Steve Nolan: 4♣. Forcing. I have already shown my strength. It is now imperative to show my club fit.

Gail Carns: 4♣. Clearly invite. I don't think this is a game force.

Bernie Fudor: 4♣. Forcing.

Ernie Retetagos: 5♣. Too strong for 4♣, too weak for 4♠.

Richard Katz: 4♣ as partner is unaware of my clubs.

Herb Sachs: 5♣ clubs. Can't see any other bid quickly enough ♣.

Webb Hawthorne: 4♣. 5♣ if playing IMPs.

RF: ♪♪♪♪ ... I can see clear'-ly'-now' ... ♪♪♪ ...:

We should bid 4♣ forcing.

We should bid 4♣ nonforcing.

We should bid 5♣.

That settles it. We shall bid 4¹/₂♣, semi-forcing. But out of curiosity, let's see what the other 4♣ and 5♣ bidders have to say:

Paul Caplan: 5♣ clubs shows a good hand, but the action may not end here. Whose hand is it?

Connie Hoechstetter: 4♣. I already showed where my strength is. Don't have help with majors. I think 4♠ bid is too aggressive.

Stanley Ruskin: 4♣, forcing, is "the only bid I think makes any sense," since it sets the suit and avoids any "strange cue bid." Stanley says partner denies four spades and probably lacks three diamonds unless North has 6 clubs. Importantly, Stanley points

out the danger of LHO bidding “at least 4♠ over my 4♣.” That makes NS guess whether 6♣ is off two Aces.

RF: Stanley’s argument favors 5♣, not 4♣, to prevent LHO from bidding 4♠. But I suggest below a better way to avoid guessing what to do if EW compete over 5♣.

Frank Cymerman: I would bid 5♣. I don’t know how to get to 3NT. Not good enough to bid 4♠.

RF: The best way to get to 3NT is to follow the Bob Hamman rule and just bid 3NT yourself. 3NT by South looks eccentric with your not-so-robust stoppers (♠x and ♥Qxx), but 3NT should be a good spot on the auction. North appears to lack a top heart honor (since he did not bid 2NT or 2♥), and since you have the ♦AK and the ♣K, North must have strength in spades (Thank you, Bill!). If North has as little as the ♠QJx or ♠K10x, you should win 9 tricks before EW can cash 4 tricks. If North also has the ♦Q, you may even make an overtrick if EW do not cash out their 4 tricks first.

(You may have a tough decision if East breaks the heart suit by leading the ♥J. Do you duck to try to block the suit when West has a doubleton ♥A or ♥K, or do you rise with the ♥Q playing East for ♥AKJT_x(x)? This defense is even more likely if *North* plays the hand in 3NT, and East leads the ♥J at trick 1. Blocking the heart suit is futile when it breaks 5-2, since East can get back on lead with top spade honor and cash out. So 3NT may be better by South than by North! If this defense happens to you, find a softer game).

Bob Zimmermann: 4♣, nonforcing. Like Frank, Bob wishes he could play 3NT from the North hand, but since he cannot, he chooses 4♣. Since North was forced to bid after your 2♦, Bob is concerned that North may have a balanced hand with 5 (possibly 6) clubs and no heart stopper. Such a hand might have 3 fast losers off the top just to start with. Since it is MPs, not IMPs, and North has another bid, Bob is “slightly less concerned” about missing the game bonus.

RF: Bob may well be right about North's hand, but with a balanced hand, North should try to steer the contract into 3NT (or at least 2NT). For example, North could rebid 2♠ over 2♦ to show concentrated values, even if he does not have 4 spades (this treatment is manageable as long as South refrains from raising 2♠ to 4♠). Therefore, I tend to place North with an unbalanced hand with a broken 6-card club suit, which my ♣KT87 fills in nicely.

Trudy Cohn: I bid 5♣ because I expect to make it, and I have little defense against the major suits. Also, I don't want to leave room for opponents to explore their best contract.

RF: Trudy, Stanley and Paul all reminded us that we are not alone. EW may be able to make 9 or more tricks in a major. Bidding 5♣ is therefore superior to 4♣ because: (1) you might make 5♣; (2) EW might take a phantom sacrifice in 5♣ (perhaps you will win 300 instead of losing 100); (3) 5♣ doubled down one vulnerable (-200) might be a good save against an EW game; and (4) 5♣ blocks LHO from bidding 4♠ (and if West passes, it is hard for East to compete). Bidding 5♣ also avoids any ambiguity over whether 4♣ is forcing.

But, before we settle on 5♣, let's hear from the 4♠ bidders:

Craig Biddle: 4♠. Good club raise, spade control, no heart control. Surely the best I can do at describing my hand in the limited space available.

Gus Costanzo: 4♠. The overriding issue is that opener is unaware of the wonderful club fit of 10+ cards. Since 3NT by partner is now impossible, our side must decide between 4♣, 5♣ or even 6♣. With such a fine hand in support of clubs, I will cue bid 4♠, showing a spade control, a club fit and a good hand.

Bill Holt: 4♠. Agrees clubs and shows ♠ shortness [**RF:** or perhaps some other spade control?]. Partner must have a high card in the majors since AQJ is the most points he can have in clubs. I think this hand is 'slammish' given the auction.

RF: 4♠ is my choice too. As Craig points out, 4♠ not only shows a spade control, but denies a heart control. With that information, North's bidding decision will be easy if EW compete to 5 of a major. When North has two or more

small hearts without the Ace, he knows to double and give up on slam. If North has the ♥Ace (or void), he can take charge and bid 6♣. With a singleton heart, North can bid slam if he has the ♠A or can make a forcing pass (implying the heart control), and let you decide what to do (since you do not have the ♠A, you will double). After your 4♠ bid, partner is no longer flying blind.

4♠ has its detractors. Stanley calls 4♠ “strange.” Ernie and Connie think the hand is not strong enough to cue bid. But when there is a reasonable chance of a slam and we face interference, we need to provide partner with as much information ASAP. Besides, cue bids *below* game are cooperative and do not promise extra values (unlike cue bids above game). There is nothing strange about bidding 4♠.

Here, we are short in HCP points, but 6♣ will be laydown opposite hands as weak as ♠Axx ♥x ♦xx ♣AJxxxx or even ♠432 ♥A2 ♦Q2 ♣A65432. The only drawback with the 4♠ bid, compared to a direct 5♣ bid, is that West can double 4♠ on some hands, enabling East to compete further. But given all the useful information conveyed by 4♠, I will bid it every time.

The Extra Points

A. Hand evaluation is dynamic; it changes with the auction.

When North first opens 1♣ with, say, ♣AJ6542, he could expect on average *roughly* 4 tricks in the suit, perhaps slightly more with better spot cards. This assumes the 7 outstanding clubs and top club honors are randomly distributed among the 3 other hands. But combined with South’s ♣KT87 and ♠x, NS will usually make 8 club tricks (6 running clubs and 2 spade ruffs). Your fit thus gains about 4 more tricks in the club suit alone. South’s light opening bid is now a powerhouse from an offensive standpoint.

B. Is 4♣ forcing on the auction shown?

As it turns out, we need not decide, since our best rebids on this hand are 4♠ and 5♣. However, if forced to decide, I would use the default interpretation that 4 of a minor (4m) is forcing since the scoring disfavors minor suit games. Some exceptions where 4m is considered nonforcing are:

- If you preempt in a minor and partner raises it to 4 of the minor;
- If you or partner run to 4m from a doubled contract; or
- Where your side has explored for 3NT, but neither partner can stop the opponents' suit or has extra values.

There may be other situations, such as the problem hand, where 4m may be nonforcing *if so agreed*.

C. The benefits of fit-showing jump shifts (if you play them).

Gus points out that this month's hand is an elegant example of how the use of "fit showing jump shifts" (here, you would bid 3♦ instead of 2♦ to show a good club fit and a good diamond suit, both headed by at least 1 top honor). In this hand, a 3♦ bid puts your partner in a good position to make well informed decisions: whether to bid 3NT (from the North side), cue bid for a club slam, or signoff directly in 5♣.

Scoring

Here are the vote tallies from bridgewinners.com and the Steel City Bridge panelists:

Bid	BW		SCB		Score	Comments
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.		
5♣	21	40%	5	31%	90	A good practical bid.
4♣	15	29%	8	50%	40	See comments below.
4♠	15	29%	3	19%	100	Better than 5♣.
3NT	0	0%	0	0%	40	See comments above.
DBL	1	2%	0	0%	0	What is he thinking?
Pass	0	0%	0	0%	0	Clearly, you must compete.
Total	52	100%	16	100%	---	

Bridgwinner.com voters were closely divided between 4♣, 4♠ and 5♣, but it is unknown how many of the 4♣ bidders considered their bid forcing. The clear majority would bid least 5♣, some by bidding 4♠ first.

Sixteen SCB panelists commented. While 8 of them bid 4♣, 3 of the 8 considered it forcing and 5 either said, or seemed to imply, it was nonforcing. Thus, only 5 of 16 panelists (31%) were willing to stop in 4♣, and 11 (69%) wanted to be in at least in 5♣.

I scored 4♣ as only 40 because the bid was tactically inferior and inherently ambiguous. You should only make an ambiguous bid when you are truly indifferent to either possible interpretation (which may be the case with some of the bidders) or when are in trouble and have no plausible alternative. No matter how good a bid may be in theory, if you think it might be ambiguous to partner, look for a reasonable alternative and clear up the ambiguity when the game is over.

While 4♠ is not perfect – for example, West can double 4♠ to show spade support but cannot double 5♣ to show spade support – it is very descriptive and will greatly help partner make a good decision when further competition seems likely. With a somewhat weaker hand with very little prospect chance of a slam or further competition, I would bid 5♣ directly.

If you think there is significant risk you will be down 1 in 5 of a minor, why not try 3NT when you have lots of minor suit winners and plausible, though not certain, stoppers? Even when you are wrong, sometimes opponents guess the wrong major, partner has some unexpected help or a suit blocks.

See you next month. Happy New Year!

Comments from the editor – I am amused that the two soundest bidders on the panel (Gail and Paul) were both willing to treat their 4♣ bids as nonforcing. If I were playing with one of them, I would be worried about missing a slam with this hand on this auction.

UNIT NEWS

LORRAINE HANNA

Happy New Year. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy new year. Hope one of your resolutions is to play Face to Face Bridge.

Yeah!! Our Sectionals are Back

Mark your calendar...Here are the dates:

Spring Sectional May 20, 21, 22

Summer Sectional July 29, 30, 31

Fall Sectional October 21, 22, 23

More info to follow.

Bridge Games in the Burgh

Monday game at Rodef is temporarily closed. Good news, you can play at Rodef on Thursdays at 11, starting January 20th.

Check this link for games currently opened: <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/clubresults.htm>

Evening Bridge Game??

We have heard from some working members and those who cannot play during the day that they would like the opportunity to play in the evening. Craig Biddle and Bill Holt are actively searching for a site to hold an evening game to satisfy this need. Any suggestions for an affordable venue? Contact Craig or Bill. You can reach them from this link <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/board.htm>

[Editor's Note – this is a done deal, as you saw on Page 1. Thanks to the board in general for assisting me to make this happen.]

Membership

In 2019 Membership in our Unit, was 831 players

Unfortunately, our membership is currently 710 players

With your help we could increase our membership roster by encouraging rubber bridge players to convert to duplicate, join the ACBL and come to our face to face games.

We also need active teachers to teach this fascinating game. The ACBL offers teacher certification on line. Here's the link.

<https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/online-teacher-certification/>

Board of Directors

Chris Wang has moved out of state and has resigned from the Board. We will miss him and thank him for his contribution to our Bridge World. He has served a number of years on the board in several capacities and was recently President. Chris is going to continue reporting Big Games in our newsletter.

Become a Board Member!

Interested in becoming a Board Member? Nominations go through a process starting in the summertime; names are then published in our Newsletter and then voted on. Ken Bergman is in charge of Elections and you can contact him for more information on the process. Please consider being part of the Board.

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

PBA Board Minutes:

We have had a request to publish our Board Meeting Minutes. We had a meeting in December which should be approved late March. Approved minutes will be available to view from this site.

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

Sorry you have to fill out a form to obtain these minutes. Board members have been scammed when we had our contact information online. Scammers would send emails throughout the board representing themselves as a Board Member soliciting bogus donations, etc.

Congratulations to Bud McElhaney on becoming a Gold Life Master. Sandra McCall, Ruby Life Master and Mahendra Patel, Bronze Life Master

Cleveland Rock and Roll Regional is on: Dates January 5-9. There's a link to information on our website.

<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/2201CLV.pdf>

Bridge Class: I will be teaching Bridge Basics 2, Competitive Bidding. Here's a link to the Classes and Lessons page for more information.

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

Have fun playing bridge. Be kind to your partner and kind to your opponents.

STREAKS AND BIG GAMES

CHRIS WANG

Big Games

Bill Holt and Connie Hoechstetter	85% at Edgeworth
Bill Holt and Connie Hoechstetter	73.81% at Edgeworth

Streaks

Ronald Sain	2 in a row at Greensburg
Ethel Levine and Don Averbach	2 in a row at Concordia

OUR PEOPLE

PHYLLIS GEINZER

For the second month in the past few, Phyllis has no bad news to report. I guess the Grim Reaper decided that taking Jane Marshall from us was enough for a while.

(Advertisement)

Expert-level Bridge Lessons for advancing and intermediate players

Richard, the "King of Deception Plays," has shared his expertise with a dose of wit in Zoom lessons to players wanting to improve their game. Want to elevate your game? Richard's lessons will bring you to the next level and beyond. – *Lorraine Hanna*.

Richard Finberg – Virtually Outstanding. Teaching bridge well requires skill and knowledge, and playing bridge well is an art. Richard does both and his play of the hand is, I think, amazing. He has since the Covid crisis shared his expertise with our Unit members by giving free virtual lessons. Students at every level can learn so much from him. – *Arlene Port*.

In addition to my free group lessons, I also give private individual lessons on Zoom at affordable rates. I focus mostly on play and defense but can teach you "anything bridge," ranging from basic suit combinations to squeeze play. I can also improve your bidding judgment without overloading you with conventions. Playing lessons are also available.

I am offering an introductory package for \$99. You get:

- 5 hours of Zoom lessons (typically, 5 one-hour lessons).
- An 18-Board playing session on BBO, with hand review.
- Copies of my three most popular handouts: *Swiss Team Tactics*, *The 7 Deadly Sins of Bad Bidding*, and *The 7 Deadly Sins of Bad Declarer Play (Unforced Errors)*.

Also, please join my **FREE** group Zoom lessons.

FREE EXPERT BRIDGE LESSONS on ZOOM

Mondays, Jan. 17 & 31 and Feb. 7 & 21 at 4:20 p.m.

Email me at doublemenot@gmail.com or call me at (412) 304-9254
for login information or to be included on my email notices.