

The Hawkeyer

Bridge Center Fund Raiser

By Mike Smith

December 2016 has been a giving month at our new Bridge Center. Letters were handed out to nearly all ACBL members who have been playing at the new Bridge Center. They were asked to support a fund drive to pay off debt incurred during renovation of our new facility.

Fund Drive Chair Mike Smith reported that by the end of the December 23rd game, 160 letters had been passed out and 115 donations totaling \$62,000 had been received from 132 players. Several players reported that they had not received a letter and asked for one.

Greater Des Moines Bridge House Board President Ron Nielsen expressed gratitude for the generous response from so many players. Additional donations are expected during the next few months in response to requests mailed to absent players.

The fund drive has erased the renovation debt and will restore a modest operating reserve for the Greater Des Moines Bridge House. Ron expects that the board will be providing more information on operating costs for our new facility, as well as other board business. Bylaw revisions will be on board agendas early in 2017.

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Unit 216 Club Directory

DES MOINES

Bridge Center
8529 Hickman
Urbandale, IA 270-0868

Sun. 2-4:30 pm (0-50) New
players Lesson/ Chat Bridge
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Monday

12 pm (1000/2000/open)
12 pm (100/300/500)
Nancy Wilson 285-9916
6 pm Free mini-lesson by
Nancy 285-9916
6:30 pm (0-50) Newcomer
Game

Tuesday

12:00 pm
(0-2000 Stratified)
(200/300/500)
Nancy Wilson 285-9916

Wednesday

12:00 pm Free lesson
12:30 pm (20/50/199)
Bonni Newton 778-0899
7 pm (500/1000/1500 or
any non-LM partnership)
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

Thursday

12 pm (1500/2500/open)
12 pm (300/750/1000)
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

Friday

9:30-11:30 Supervised Play
Bonni Newton 778-0899

Saturday

12 pm (300/500/750 or
non-LM (partnership)
12:30 pm (Open)
Gregg Walsh 771-4802

AMES

Heartland Senior Services
205 South Walnut
Sun. 1:15 pm (open)

Ira White 292-5616
802-1246

Tue. 6:30 pm (open)

Ray Schoenrock 232-4717
291-3444

Thur. 6:30 pm (open)

Ira White 292-5616
802-1246

Hawkeye Holiday Tournament Jan 5-8, 2017



Th. 1/5: 7PM
Stratified Pairs

Fr. 1/6: 1 and 7 PM
Stratified Pairs

Sat. 1/7:
9:30 AM Brunch
10 AM and 3 PM
Stratified pairs

Sun 1/8: 10AM
Strata-flighted Swiss Teams

See page 15 for additional
information



From the Education Liaison

By Penny Rittgers

The Education Committee has scheduled the following classes for late winter and early spring.

Bonni Newton will teach the *ACBL Bridge Series Bidding* on Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30, beginning January 11, 2017. \$5.00 per session plus the cost of the book.

Jessica Chance will teach her intermediate classes on Thursdays in January, 10:00-11:30, beginning January 12 for three weeks. She will then resume her classes later in March. \$5.00 per session. Her topics are usually selected by the participants.

Nancy Wilson will teach *Play of the Hand* on Saturdays, 10:00-12:30, beginning January 14 in the classroom. \$15.00 for the book and \$5.00 per session.

Perter Wityk will resume *Moving to the A-Side* in mid-April or early May.

Paul Spong will teach *Bridge Basics I* at the Urbandale Senior Center on M, W, F, 1:00-2:30, for 8 sessions beginning March 13. He will then teach *Bridge Basics II* for 6 sessions. Registration is through Urbandale Parks and Rec.



Success for Six

By Rita Reed

Life Masters at last for the happy six shown celebrating here at our great new facility.

The August regional in Omaha proved to be a happy one as we achieved that glittery gold goal.

Several needed less than one gold point, and Carolyn Nielson went straight to the Bronze level .

Mary David left before her event was scored , not realizing that she had won until she arrived home. She was greeted by many balloon and signs.

Congrats to all and thanks to our fellow mates who cheered us on- in Omaha and from Des Moines.



From left: Pete Reed Rita Reed,, Mary David, Betty Torgerson, Carolyn Nielson, and Ron Nielson

Throw Losers, Keep Winners

By Pete Wityk

I am playing in a match pointed pairs local club game with a semi-regular partner against a Flight C pair. With LHO as dealer, and Vul vs Not, I pick up:

♠K952 ♥9764 ♦A83 ♣K3

Dealer Passes as does partner. East, in 3rd chair opens 1♠. Over my Pass, West bids 2♠. Over partner's Pass, East rebids 3♠. After my Pass, West rebids 4♠. This closes the auction, which, as our British colleagues would say, has been most rustic. The auction has been

N	E	S	W
			P
P	1♠	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♠
P	P	P	

I choose to lead the 7♥ and the dummy appears

♠J108 ♥K1082 ♦Q764 ♣Q10

7♥ lead

♠K952 ♥9764 ♦A83 ♣K3

I can see 3 tricks without anything from partner. Declarer calls for the K♥ and partner wins with the A♥. So, with care, we should set 4♠ one trick.

Partner continues with the Q♥ which declarer ruffs with the 3♠. The K♦ appears from declarer. With two singletons, declarer might have made a game try in the second suit rather than the more ambiguous re-raise.

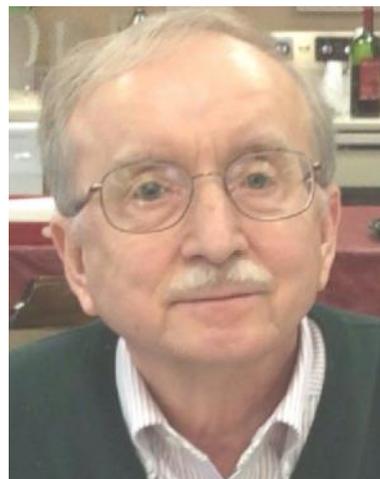
So, it should be safe to duck this with the 3♦ to get a better idea of what declarer's hand is like. Dummy plays the 4♦ and partner the 5♦.

The J♦ appears next. I win this with the A♦ while dummy contributes the 6♦ and partner the 2♦. I have to exit. Leading either black suit could give up a trick, so even though a diamond may give declarer an extra entry and discard, it is safer.

My 8♦ draws dummy's Q♦, partner's 9♦ and declarer's 5♣. Dummy's J♠ gets partner's Q♠, declarer's A♠ and my 2♠.

Declarer now plays 4♠ to my 5♠, dummy's 8♠ and partner's 4♥. Next, the Q♣ is led from dummy. Partner plays the 2♣, declarer the 6♣ and I win the K♣.

I draw trump by playing the K♠ which draws dummy's 10♠, partner's 10♦ and declarer's 6♠. My 9♠ gets the



7♦, the J♥ from partner and the 7♠ from declarer. I lead the 3♣ to the 10♣, 4♣ and A♣. Declarer continues with the J♣ and concedes the 8♣ to partner's 9♣ for down 3. The full hand:

♠Q	
♥AQJ3	
♦10952	
♣9742	
♠J108	♠A7643
♥K1082	♥5
♦Q764	♦KJ
♣Q10	♣AJ865
♠K952	
♥9764	
♦A83	
♣K3	

Post Mortem

4♠ down three for +150 was a top. However my partner forgot a basic guide for defenders, **throw losers, keep winners**. Partner neither counted the hand nor made the available inferences from

(Throw Losers cont. on page 13)

Don't Drop Defensive Tricks-1

By Toby White

This is the first article in a 3-part series on defense. Here, we focus on basic defensive strategies during the hand (ignoring trumps), while in upcoming articles later in 2017, we continue this discussion with special focus on trumps, and then conclude with a somewhat comprehensive overview of defensive carding methods.

At the end of any pairs session with accompanying hand records, I always check how many tricks we gained/lost relative to 'double dummy' results on both hands declared and hands defended. It is a very instructive exercise because it allows partner to discuss how we might improve next time to cut down on tricks lost, and only takes about 2 minutes to complete. In fact, every trick lost (as either declarer (or dummy) or on defense) tends to lower one's final percentage score by about 1%.

In an average session, the opponents will drop about

10 tricks overall, about 5 on offense and 5 on defense (although these counts may be lower in open games). Thus, if you can cut these errors in half (i.e., perhaps 3 on offense and 2 on defense), your average score will improve by something close to 5%, a huge upgrade!

Below, I identify 5 general defensive principles where I observe less (and often more) experienced players making errors, while then discussing how these mistakes may be avoided:

1) **Being too aggressive (early) or being too passive (late)** – They say that about half of the total weight allocated to defensive success is directly from the opening lead. My general strategy, especially when defending against a suit contract, is to be passive on the opening lead but more aggressive if I get back in later in the hand, once I have more information about where to attack.

My greatest priority on the



opening lead is to avoid giving the declarer an extra trick that they would not otherwise be able to develop without my help. This implies that I will seldom lead away from high honors in unbid suits, and I will rarely lead a non-trump suit that declarer may be able to establish while later pitching losers in suits I should have led.

However, later in the hand, the strategy changes. Now, when I am back on lead, I may no longer be able to afford the luxury of playing it safe; I must go after our remaining tricks while they are still there for the taking. This involves taking some calculated risks, but the

(Defensive Tricks cont. on page 6)

(Defensive tricks cont. from page 5)

probability of being wrong (and giving away tricks) is much less, now that a greater amount of information is available, not the least of which is I can see both my hand and dummy's hand after trick

2) **Jumping up with the Ace too early or ultimately going to bed with an Ace**

– This is one of the more difficult decisions a defender has; that is, is it better to take a sure trick right now, while possibly sacrificing another trick down the road, or is better to duck the trick now, but risk the one trick going away later on?

Playing the Ace (second hand) too early can have two dire consequences. First, if declarer has the K and Q in the suit (but little else) they are now going to take two total tricks in the suit rather than the one if defender had ducked. Second, if declarer was leading up to a holding of KJx, and your partner has the Q, you may very well score both the Q now (and the A later) by ducking, where as if you play the A right now, declarer will

likely play the K on the next trick and partner will never score the Q.

However, there are situations where you have one and only chance to score your Ace; the most common one is when declarer is leading up to a singleton K. Try to infer what shape the declarer might have based upon the bidding, dummy's hand, and the cards played so far.

Declarer will often put you to the test early in the hand before too much information becomes available – it is best if you think about this tough decision prior to the exact moment of truth, but if you forget to do this, take a moment to think about the ramifications rather than rushing and making an error.

3) **Failing to lead partner's suit**

– This is an especially egregious error. While there are times to lead one's own suit rather than partner's suit, these times are relatively rare. If in doubt, it is typically best to keep partner happy, if only to maintain partnership morale! In some auctions, the only purpose partner had in bidding a suit (or in doubling a cuebid from the oppo-

nents) is to direct the right lead from you.

If partner never bid anything, perhaps later in the hand, partner will signal the best suit to lead. Even without a direct command from the auction or a clear signal, you can typically use card sense to infer the best suit to attack. For example, if dummy (on your right) has three small cards in an unbid suit, you have an easy lead in that suit; even if declarer has an honor in that suit, you are leading through that strength.

Note that if your lead is a low card in that suit, you are implying that you also have an honor (so that partner might return the suit); otherwise, play your highest card (which denies an honor).

4) **Failing to keep adequate protection in one of declarer's suits**

– Perhaps the biggest difference between more and less experienced players on defense is that the stronger players almost always know what to keep, so that by trick 13, they show up with the right card. The less experienced player will not count the hand so carefully, or will ignore what their partner is dis-

(Defensive Tricks cont. on page 12)

Hand Evaluation History

by Rich Newell

The idea of traditional high card points (A = 4, K = 3, Q = 2, J = 1) was first published in 1915 and popularized by Milton Work in the 1930's and Charles Goren in the 1950's. Have you considered the plethora of hand evaluation methods that have arisen since?

Modern thinking favors a revision to the high card point structure; one alternative to traditional HCP is: A = $4\frac{1}{2}$, K = 3, Q = $1\frac{1}{2}$, J = $\frac{3}{4}$, T = $\frac{1}{4}$. Those of you that struggled with fractions in school won't fancy this approach, but it obviously gives more weight to aces and tens, and less to quacks. I routinely open any hand with two aces and a king, while others add up 11HCP and pass.

3-2-1 systems exist which ignore jacks completely and give the ace, king, and queen the same relative worth as in the example above.

The Bergen convention advises you jump immediately to the 3 level once a 9+ card trump fit is found. The three level bids are used to show HCP ranges, but only as an afterthought after hogging bidding space. So HCP and distribution are both considered important.

Sometimes the number of controls (A=2, K=1) are bid in response to a 2♣ opener. The possibility of making a slam often depends on those cards. Modern Precision bidding systems can convey the number of controls to the strong hand after agreeing on a trump suit and help decide whether a slam is feasible.

Blackwood and Gerber offer the user the number of aces in partner's hand. If that number is satisfactory, information about kings may be obtained. Blackwood evolved into 0314 or 1340 because the king and queen of trump are of crucial importance in a suit contract. These methods show the relative worth of aces and kings – when was the last time you heard an opponent trot out a jack-asking bid?

Going back in history, 13 HCP was a minimum to open a hand and quick tricks (AK = 2, AQ = $1\frac{1}{2}$, A = 1, KQ = 1, K = $\frac{1}{2}$) were a major consideration. Now opening lighter hands is commonplace, and in his book *Points Schmoints* Marty Bergen advocates the Rule of 20: open a hand at



the one level if the total HCP plus the length of the two longest suits is 20 or more.

People have dreamed up all sorts of systems and conventions. One is called ZAR points. Devised in 2003, this system factors in a surprising amount of information:

1. Start with the HCP
2. Add the number of controls (A=2, K=1)
3. Add to that the sum of the two longest suits
4. Add to that the difference between the longest suit and the shortest suit.

If you have 26 points you can open. Somebody thought this was valuable enough that they wrote a 38-page paper on the subject!

This article only begins to scratch the surface on a crucial skill in bridge; in order to succeed you must understand the value of your hand.



The Trump Echo

By Jessie Chance

A trump echo is a count signal only in the trump suit. It is used when following suit or when ruffing a trick. Playing high low in the trump suit is a signal showing an odd number of trump, usually three. As you know this is totally the opposite to standard count, in which playing high low shows an even number in a suit, either two or four. So why deviate from the norm? The purpose of the trump echo is to provide partner your count in the trump suit especially for the purpose of giving you a ruff. Trump echoes should be reserved for those situations only when you want to ruff.

Here is an example: You are defending 2 Spades.

Dummy's (North) hand:
♠A32 ♥QJ9 ♦9863 ♣Q82

Your (East) hand:
♠J65 ♥75 ♦K72 ♣109765

The Bidding

W	N	E	S
1♥	P	P	1♠
2♦	2♠	P	P
P			

Against 2 spades partner leads the A of hearts. You

and your partner have agreed to lead K from AK so you know partner is missing the K and you give a discouraging signal the 5♥.

However partner perseveres and leads another heart declarer's Q♥ winning.

At trick three declarer leads the A♠ from the dummy. This is the situation that calls for a trump echo because you are interested in ruffing a heart, so play the 6♣. When declarer then leads the 2♠ from dummy you will echo with the 5♠ showing an odd number.

Partner wins this trick with the K♠ and noticed your echo and knowing declarer has the K♥ since you surely would have played it, proceeds to lead a third heart to give you a ruff. Had partner not known you had 3 trump they might have looked elsewhere for tricks and missed this opportunity.

Partner's (West) hand:
♠K7 ♥A10432 ♦AQ54 ♣J4

Declarer's (South) hand:
♠QJ984 ♥K86 ♦J10 ♣AK3
Here is another example:
You are defending 4 hearts.

Dummy (North):
♠K3 ♥KQ94 ♦KQJ10 ♣1097

You (West):
♠J10974 ♥853 ♦5 ♣KJ52

The Bidding

W	N	E	S
P	1♦	P	1♥
P	2♥	P	4♥
P	P	P	

As west you lead your singleton 5♦, hoping to get a ruff. Partner wins the A♦ and looking at dummy decides you must have a singleton. Partner returns the 9♦ for you to ruff. Be careful to ruff with the 5♥ intending to play the 3♥ at your next opportunity to show three trump.

You dutifully return a spade suit preference for the higher ranking suit and declarer wins the K♠ in dummy. Declare leads a trump, partner wins with the A♥ and you now echo with the 3♥.

**THIS TELLS PARTNER
YOU HAVE A THIRD
TRUMP.**

Partner now leads the 3rd diamond and you get another
(Echo cont. on page 12)

No Winter Doldrums Here

By Michael Harvey, D.O.

Winter brings plenty of challenges, and medically related issues are often “trump”. Several things come to mind as winter sets in. Infectious illnesses, falls, and effects on chronic illnesses all need to be addressed to minimize adverse results.

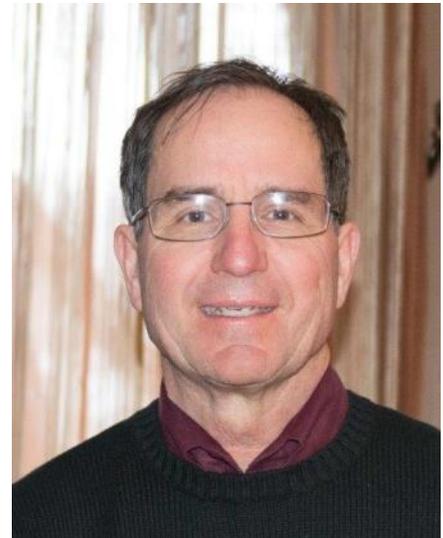
Infectious illnesses are an obvious sign of winter, especially in enclosed areas where large groups gather. Most of these illnesses are seen year around, just more frequently in the winter. This difference is a result of several factors including the immune suppressing effect of the cold and lack of sunshine. It only takes one or two people in the confines of the Bridge House to expose all of the players.

Viral infections head the list with colds and stomach flu. Contagiousness of these illnesses frequently begin a day or so before symptoms, peak the first few days, and continue until fevers are gone and improvement begins. Although most viral infections are relatively mild, complications of pneumonia, dehydration and aggravation of chronic illnesses are potentially serious.

Bacterial infections commonly seen in the winter are sinusitis and pneumonia. Many times these infections start out similar to a viral cold, but generally progress to more serious symptoms like high persistent fevers, pain in sinuses or chest, shortness of breath and severe bodily symptoms of aches, pain, headache and lethargy. These illnesses require medical intervention and remain contagious until significant improvement occurs.

Falls are more common in the winter, not surprisingly both indoor and outdoor. Outdoor falls are commonly related to ice, but clumsy bulky clothing and the extended hours of darkness contribute as well. Darkness, bulky clothing, wet floors and holiday décor commonly contribute to indoor falls. People tend to downplay the significance of falls, but falls impact both survival and quality of life significantly.

Ongoing health issues are effected by seasonal changes. Increased energy demands of being outside impact those with heart and



lung diseases. Depression is impacted by the darkness, lack of sunshine and stresses of the holidays. Most other illnesses are adversely effected as well.

Snowbirders will find a whole new set of contagious illness at both ends of the trip. What can we do? First of all, using good judgement and commonsense top the list.

Stay home when you have an illness in the contagious state. Avoid crowds as much as possible, both when sick and healthy.

Make sure you are up to date on influenza and pneumonia vaccines. Vaccination against Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is now available for adults. Shingles is common in the winter, so make sure you

(Doldrums cont. on page 13)

Remembering Newt (Dr. Newton Bowers, Jr.)

By Evie Mintzer

My first thought in remembering Newt Bowers was when I happened to be on a Swiss Team with him. He carefully coached me on the difference between match points and Swiss team scoring. He stated you do not double and gave me several scenarios with the answer always being "PASS." For example if I were holding 6 hearts to the AKJxxx and they were in a 6 heart contract, should I double. I passed Newt's quiz with flying colors when I said I would say PASS."

We lost the first round of the team event. Newt had doubled the opponents and the contract made!

Newt was one of the most brilliant people that Al and I were privileged to know and to count as one of our friends. He was a graduate of Yale University with a deep interest in history. In the late 1970's and '80's he with several others wrote the text book *Actuarial Mathematics* which was the text for 1st year actuarial students. He was recognized as a leader in the field of actuarial science by his colleagues. At Drake the center was named in his honor along with Warren Adams,

also a bridge playing actuarial professor.

I played frequently with Jean prior to their marriage and following their marriage Al and I played with them in many team and KO events. One of our highlights was when playing in Omaha against a top team, Al and I were in a 6D vulnerable contract doubled, making. Jean and Newt were in 5H making, giving us around 17imps. But we won that round regardless of that one score.

Newt and Jean traveled widely, to many foreign locales and to many bridge tournaments. Newt told me they were picking up about 400 points a year.

Two favorite teammates were Judy and Phil Swartz



and Vernon and Monte Evans.

One summer the four of us took a cruise to Alaska and then toured Denali Park. On the cruise ship they had a trivia game and we entered, confident that Newt would be our winning ticket. Yes we did win. Onboard we noted Newt's recreational reading was the History of Southeast Asia. Jean told us in their travels, Newt was always better than the tour guides.

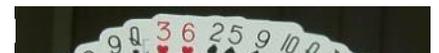
An exceptional person, with a kind demeanor, he truly will be missed and his memory will be a blessing.



Free-Never Used

Hearing Microphone for Resound Hearing Aid
And
Another hearing aid, purchased from Costco

(Contact: Evie Mintzer 515-360-5302)



Bloody Marys and 15 Pt. Slams

By Evie Mintzer

Hospitable Craig Nelsen went out of his way to accommodate the requests of all the participants. When Al Mintzer commented on the hospitality table on Saturday, he figured something was missing. So he asked, "Why are you not serving Bloody Marys?"



Upon arrival on Sun., he was greeted by Craig with an embellished Bloody Mary, that Al said was the "best ever!" Maybe this was not a good idea as on the last round of the Swiss, Al (maybe looped) forgot to double our opponents 4S contract which would have moved us up a place in the overalls.

But we had a most exciting hand that day, played by our partners, Stan and Betty Gustafson. How do you make a slam with a total of 15 points when your right hand opponent opens with a 2NT bid? You have heard the expression, **Points, Schmoits**. Here is the classic example:

♠J109x	
♥10xxx	
♦x	
♣Jxxx	
♠xx	♠Kx
♥xxxx	♥AKQx
♦xx	♦KJx
♣A10xxx	♣KQxx
♠AQxxx	
♥J	
♦AQxxxxx	
♣void	

Betty easily took 12 tricks in the spade contract.

As Newt Bowers would state, "Do not double in Swiss team events!"



"Opening Lead Guidelines at NT from the ACBL Educational Foundation's *Learn to Play Bridge Appendix 6*

- In general, lead from your longest and strongest suit
- Lead the top card from a sequence of 3 or more touching high cards..
- Lead the card below the gap from a 4-card interior sequence. For example, lead the Jack from a K-J-10-9.
- Lead the 4th best from all other 4-card suits.
- Lead the high card from a doubleton or from 3 small cards.
- Lead the highest card from a 3-card suit headed by 2 touching high cards
- Lead the smallest card from all of 2-card suits
- Leading a suit your partner has bid is the best opening lead there is. It is usually better to lead an unbid suit than a suite the opponents have bid.
- Try to find as safe a lead as possible against 6NT or 7NT. A safe opening lead is one that will not immediately lose a trick.

(Defensive Tricks cont. from page 6)

carding, and error on the side of keeping their highest card(s), regardless of what suit they happen to be in.

Most experienced declarers will try to be as deceptive as they possibly can to lure you into discarding the wrong suit. They will often lead out additional trumps (after all of defender's trumps are gone) in order to observe the discards of you and your partner.

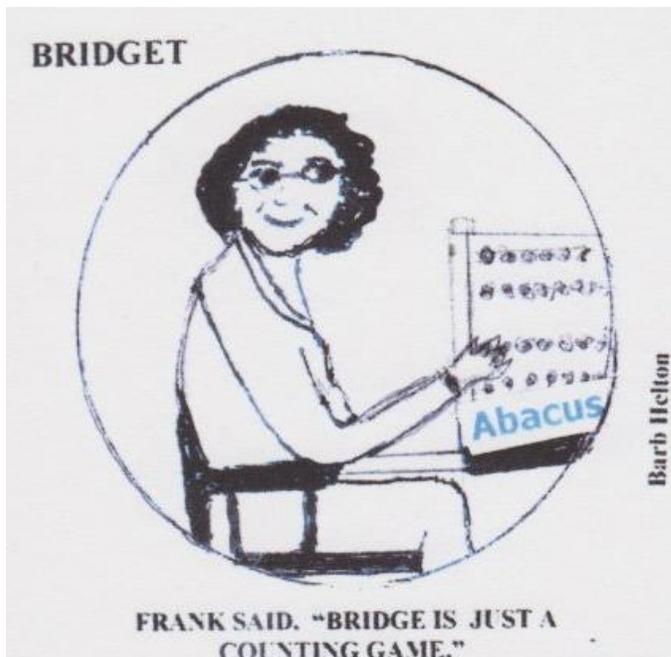
One slip up and an average board can turn quickly into a bottom board. The best advice here is to focus

all the way to a hand's conclusion, even if your side will only be taking one to two tricks overall.

5)Failing to keep a safe exit card – This last tenet is perhaps more advanced, and requires advance planning, but you don't want to be stuck toward the end of a hand having only one suit left to lead when that choice involves finessing yourself. Here, an 'exit' card refers to what would be a safe lead that does not give the declarer more than he/she is entitled to. It might be a card that declarer will ruff, or it could

be a card for which declarer has a single high card in that suit remaining.

For example, if you have just won trick 10 in your hand, it would be better to have a low heart and KJ of diamonds to lead from than to have no hearts and KJT of diamonds. Perhaps declarer has the AQ of diamonds left and a trump (spade). If you still have the heart left, you can safely lead it, and will then get one of the two remaining diamonds. Otherwise, you must lead a diamond, giving the declarer all 3 of the remaining tricks.



(Echo cont. from page 8)

er ruff to set the contract. Had you not trump echoed partner would not have known for sure you could ruff another diamond.

Partner's (East) hand:

♠65 ♥A ♦A9642 ♣Q8643

Declarer's (South) hand:

♠AQ82 ♥J10762 ♦873 ♣A



(Throw Losers cont. from page 4)

declarers play of the hand. Declarer has one heart (ruffing at trick 2), two diamonds (discarding at trick 5, is missing either the A♣ or K♣ (playing a diamond rather than leading A♣ at trick 3), and is missing the A♠ or K♠ (not playing a high spade at trick 3).

So, at trick 7, don't discard the 3♥. That could be a winner or entry to partner's winner depending on declarer's subsequent discards from dummy. The 2♣ will not be a winner or useful in making a higher club a winner. It can be safely discarded. Then at trick 9, don't discard the J♥ as it is a winner. And, at trick 10 don't discard the 10♦ as it also is a winner. In both cases partner knows that we have a heart to lead to him so a club is the correct discard! Now declarer must (a) discard down to 10♥ and 8♥, 10♣ and (b) guess right when I lead the 6♥ (play the 8♥, not the 10♥) to avoid going down 5!

Why am I stressing the defense error when we got a top? To embarrass our opponents or my partner? **Certainly not!** At matchpoints you don't always have a good idea of what happens at other tables. Others might take the same optimistic view

that our opponents did. We need to take all our tricks to tie the results of all those optimists. And, we might want to score +250 to beat those Wests who guess right. If other Wests have to guess, then our West should share that 'privilege.'

We cannot leave obvious matchpoints on the table. That is an easy way to spoil a good game. And, in a strong game with a strong field, that is an easy way to turn a winning game into an also ran game. Creating winners for declarer by throwing our winners to keep losers is leaving obvious matchpoints on the table! You can't afford to have your concentration slip and your tricks slip away because you have a contract set. You must maintain focus to take all your tricks!

To change tracks slightly, if this were IMPs, assuming our teammates stay at 2♠ and make it, each extra trick we get over down two is an extra IMP when they are NV!

Matches have been won by margins of one or two IMPs! Good defense will keep you on the right side of that margin! Even if IMPs is easier than matchpoints, you still must maintain focus and remember, **throw losers, keep winners!**

(Doldrums cont. from page 9)

have this vaccine as well. (Some of these vaccines are age related.)

Wear proper clothing to stay warm and get good traction while walking. Be sure to remove bulky clothing as soon as possible when indoors. Be sure to keep items off the floors, especially in common traffic flow areas. This includes holiday décor. Lighting is a key preventer of falls, so use it. Night lights, flashlights and cell phone flashlights are all helpful, but frequently we just need to turn on a light. Leave that bathroom light on 24/7.

Keep your health issues in check. Be aware of the season effects and treat accordingly. Visit your healthcare provider to make sure all prescriptions are correctly used and refills are available. This is especially important in the winter as travel may not be easy if you need a medication stat. Those who snowbird need to address medication well before departure.

A few precautions can make winter an enjoyable time.



Up the ACBL Ladder (Sep., Oct., Nov.)

New Members: Karen Cordes, Jo Fitz, Jill June, Thomas Leahy, Mary Beth Wilk, Louise Cook, Jeanne Halloran, Steve Boeckman, Mary Kourey, Saul Mirsky, Laura Mitsky	bers, Bruce Heilman, David Nelmark, Diane Sweet	Silver Life Master
Rookie:	NABC Master: David Burt	Ruby Life Master
Junior Masters: Alan Beecher, Carol Curnes, Sylvia Hill, Kaye Lozier, Cheryl Roe, Barbara Wood, Ewa Pratt, Christy Spooner, Molly Theleen	Regional Masters: Rebeca Joseph, Brad Albers, Robin Koger, Mark Wellman, Kathy Zumbach	Gold Life Master
Club Masters: Elizabeth McDonald	Adv NABC Master	Sapphire Life Master: Toby White
Sectional Master: Katie Al-	Life Master: Carolyn Nielsen, Ron Nielsen, Peter Reed, Rita Reed, Betty Torgerson	Diamond Life Master
	Bronze Life Master: Carolyn Nielsen, Joann Friedman, Mary David	Emerald Life Master
		Platinum Life Master
		Grand Life Master



Unit 216 Membership Rankings (Dec. 1, 2016)

Total Membership..... 450	NABC Master 200+.....45	Gold Life Master..... 15
Rookie 0-5 pts.....45	Adv NABC Master.....2	Sapph. Life Master..... 8
Jr. Master 5+ pts.....42	Life Master.....23	Dia. Life Master.....6
Club Master 20+ pts.....39	Bronze Life Master.....60	Emer. Life Master..... 1
Sect. Master 50+ pts.....51	Silver Life Master.....32	Plat. Life Master..... 1
Regl Master 100+ p.....56	Ruby Life Master..... 23	Grand Life Master..... 1



THE HAWKEYER
UNIT 216 OF ACBL
8529 Hickman Rd.
Urbandale, IA 50322

name
street
City St zp

Mark Your Calendar

Unit 216 Sectionals

Hawkeye Holiday

Jan. 5-8, 2017
Urbandale, IA

Spring Festival

Mar. 30-Apr. 2, 2017
Urbandale, IA

Stars of Tomorrow

Aug. 19-29, 2017
Urbandale, IA

Cornbelt Sectional

Sep 14-17 2017
Urbandale, IA

District 14 Regionals

Bloomington

May 22-28, 2017
Ramada Mall of America
Bloomington, MN

Greater Des Moines

Jul. 3-9, 2017
Sheraton Hotel
West Des Moines, IA

Council Bluffs

Aug. 7-13, 2017
Mid-America Center
Council Bluffs, IA

ACBL Nationals

Kansas City, MO

March 9-19, 2017
Westin & Sheraton

Toronto, ON

Jul. 20-30, 2017
Convention Center

San Diego CA

Nov 23-Dec 3, 2017
Grand Hyatt