

Lake Norman Bridge Center January 2022 Newsletter



LNBC is going Live!!

The Lake Norman Bridge Center is anticipating returning to face-to-face (F2F) bridge on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 12:30 PM. This will be our first live game in Cornelius Town Hall in nearly two years. We are excited to see our bridge buddies in person after a long drought because of Covid-19. Some of us have kept in touch by playing online, but others have not chosen that venue, so it will be nice to finally be together again.

As of right now, Mecklenburg County still mandates that we can have a maximum of 50 people in the room at a time and that everyone wears a mask. The board is requiring everyone to be vaccinated. We need an idea of how many of you plan to attend so we can set up and sanitize the tables and chairs needed.

We will start with one day a week, Thursday, but if participation is good and members are interested, we will increase it to two days, Mondays and Thursdays, and hopefully get back to our regular three days as soon as possible. We will keep everyone posted as things become clearer.

If you haven't already done so, please reply to Vicki Cornwell (vcornwell@mahlerco.com) if you will be joining us so we can get a feel for how many will attend.

LNBC and Concord Online Virtual Bridge Club on BBO JUNIOR FUND DAYS

Thursday, January 6 through Sunday, January 9 will be double black points!
Part of the proceeds will go to help Junior Bridge.

SILVER LINING WEEK

January 17 through 23 is Silver Lining week! Double Silver Master Points!! **Every** day this week, \$5.

Congratulations to Myrtle Beach Regional winners!

Ted Jarrell and Lee Dowell: 14.83 points

Sarah Morrison and Judy Graeber: 6.12 points

Unit 153 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race as of January 6, 2022

20-50: Rick Cornwell (25.93)

100-200: Vatsal Raval (125.10), Eric Johnson (114.31), Mahendra Chudgar (104.82),
Mary Singleton (92.19)

200-300: Vicki Cornwell (187.76)

300-500: Dan Kiurski (154.61), Sharyn Brunk (145.88)

500-1000: Jeanne Torello (107.10), Calvin Manship (105.10), Helen Morrison (84.34), Ruth Derrrow (81.84), Vit Patel (68.66)
1000-1500: Ella Rice (317.16), Ted Jarrell (240.45), Dave Weber (131.10)
1500-2500: Susie Sutton (185.53), Art Friday (173.78), Bill Brunk (164.05), Nora Oliver (133.92), Laurie Ross (122.39), John Smith (57.52)
2500-3500: Don Snelgrove (107.35)
3500-5000: Conner Boyd (278.26), Dave Smith (235.89), Gretchen Smith (192.46)
5000-7500: Sue Asbury (86.01)

Unit 153 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Race as of January 6, 2022

20-50: Rick Cornwell (25.93)
100-200: Vatsal Raval (123.47), Eric Johnson (114.31), Mahendra Chudgar (104.82), Mary Singleton (90.86)
200-300: Vicki Cornwell (186.43)
300-500: Dan Kiurski (154.61), Sharyn Brunk (145.88)
500-1000: Calvin Manship (103.62), Jeanne Torello (102.37), Helen Morrison (84.34), Ruth Derrrow (78.89), Vit Patel (68.66)
1000-1500: Ella Rice (311.31), Ted Jarrell (229.69), Dave Weber (129.76)
1500-2500: Susie Sutton (184.15), Art Friday (172.40), Bill Brunk (162.43), Nora Oliver (130.79), Laurie Ross (121.04), John Smith (57.52)
2500-3500: Don Snelgrove (107.35)
3500-5000: Conner Boyd (278.26), Dave Smith (233.56), Gretchen Smith (192.46)
5000-7500: Sue Asbury (80.84)

70% Club

Congratulations to:

Bill Brunk and Laurie Ross - 71.03% on Jan 4
Don Snelgrove and Nora Oliver - 70.14% on Dec 13

Member News

Fern Shierson is recovering from shoulder surgery and doing well. Bill Seymour is now at the Huntersville Health and Rehab and would love to hear from his friends. There is no limit on visitors and visiting hours are liberal.

Red Alert

Reminder: The ACBL Board of Directors unanimously approved a comprehensive update to the ACBL Alert Procedure, the first major overhaul in 20 years. The new procedures went into effect Jan. 1, 2021. The full document is available [here](#).

Bridge has never been a game of secret agreements. Your opponents are entitled to know just as much about what your bids mean as you do. Alerts have always been about making that process easier. Whether or not a call requires an Alert, you have an obligation to explain all of your partnership understandings related to that call upon the request of an opponent.

Pre-Alerts

The first changes are at the beginning of the round. As before, you must pre-Alert the opponents if you play canape methods or different systems depending on seat or vulnerability (but not just because you play different ranges for opening 1NT). Additionally, you now are required to pre-Alert if you play a system that includes at least one one-level opening bid that is not natural or that is forcing. This can be as simple as saying, "We play a strong club" or "We play 1♣ could be short." You are no longer required to pre-Alert if you lead low from small doubletons. However, if you play this, it must be included in your answer when a declarer asks about your leads and carding.

Alert changes

The new Alert procedure starts from the principle that natural calls are not Alerted, and that artificial calls are Alerted. It then gives the deviations from that principle, spelling out the natural calls that must be Alerted (for example, a response to a one-level opening bid that is not forcing), and the artificial calls that do not require Alerts (for example, Stayman). The most common calls that have had their Alertability changed are as follows:

- In an uncontested auction, no natural jumpshift (whether weak, intermediate or strong) requires an Alert.
- A direct cuebid that is not Michaels (showing both majors over a minor, or a major and an unspecified minor over a major) requires an Alert.
- Support doubles and redoubles no longer require an Alert.
- An opening 2♣ bid that does not meet the definition of Very Strong requires an Alert. (This tends to apply to partnerships who agree to open 2♣ on hands with good playing strength, but many fewer high cards than normal. See the Convention Chart for the exact definition to see if it applies to you.)

Announcement changes

There were also a few changes to Announcements, with the biggest change for transfers. Instead of saying the word "transfer," the Announcement is now the name of the suit being transferred to. For example, in the auction 1NT-2♥, where partner's 2♥ showed spades, instead of Announcing "transfer," you will now Announce "spades."

This Announcement is used in any situation where your partner is showing length in a specific other suit, as well as for doubles or redoubles that show the next suit up. For example, if you play that 2♠ shows clubs in the auction 1NT-2♠, then you would announce "clubs." However, if you play that 2♠ shows either minor in the auction 1NT-2♠, then you must say "Alert," even if the 1NT opener is expected to always bid clubs.

An example of the rule for doubles is if you play that after a 1♣ opening is overcalled with 1♦, that a double shows hearts (and says nothing about spades as a traditional negative double would), then you would announce "hearts" when your partner doubled. Traditional negative doubles are never Alerted or Announced.

Instead of saying "could be short" for a non-forcing minor-suit opening that might contain fewer than three cards, you must say the minimum number of cards in the suit, as in "Could be one."

If you have the agreement to routinely bypass a four-card spade suit to bid a forcing or semi-forcing 1NT over 1♥, then you add "could have four spades" to the "forcing" or "semiforcing" Announcement. This is most likely applicable to pairs playing Flannery.

Delayed Alerts

The rules for delayed Alerts have slightly changed, with the main difference being that at the end of the auction, the declaring side should explain any delayed Alerts and point out any control bids that were made during the auction without a requirement for the defense to ask about them. By having the declaring side explain these calls without prompting, there should be fewer cases of the person not on lead asking about calls before they should.

Learning curve

In any time of change, there will be people who make honest mistakes trying to apply the new rules, and there are no automatic penalties for making a mistake. As with the old rules, be guided by the principle that the goal of the Alert procedure is to let the opponents know what you play.



by Richard Pavlicek

Opener's Third Bid

In many cases your partnership will need more than four bids to reach the best final contract, so it is essential to know the proper bidding strategy after responder's rebid. This lesson pertains to the *third* bid by opener on the common auctions that begin with a one-over-one suit response.

As the opening bidder your goal is to describe your hand to partner as accurately as possible. In most cases responder is still the *captain* and will select the final contract.

► General Priorities

The occasions on which you bid three times depend on the strength and pattern of your hand, and the nature of responder's rebid. Listed below *in order of priority* are the options to consider when you plan to make a third bid:

Support responder

Support responder's first suit if you have 3 cards (or 2 cards if he has rebid it). Raise responder's second suit with 4 cards.

Bid a new suit

Bid an unbid 4 card suit at the 2 or 3 level if convenient.

Show extra length

If you have undisclosed length in your own suit, bid that suit again. Do not repeat what you have already shown.

Bid notrump

This is the catchall if you cannot bid anything else. The only time you need a stopper is when there is exactly *one* unbid suit.

The strength required for opener's third bid depends on the meaning of responder's rebid — whether it is weak, invitational or forcing. Each case will be covered separately.



► If Responder is Weak

When responder shows a weak hand (6-10 points), you will usually pass. Partner has suggested a final contract and game is unlikely. Do not become so absorbed with your own hand that you fail to picture the weakness of partner's hand and bid yourself into trouble.

If responder shows a weak hand, you should bid again only with 17+ points or extreme shape.



How can you bid *three* times with the same lousy hand?



Oh loosen up! Wait'll you hear my *fourth* bid!



1.

♠ A J 9 3	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ 2	1 ♦	1 ♥
♦ A K 8 2	1 ♠	2 ♥
♣ Q 9 8 3	Pass	

Partner should have 6+ hearts so 2 ♥ is probably your side's best contract. Do not attempt a rescue bid of 2 NT as you will surely get overboard.



2.

♠ A 10 9 6	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ 5	1 ♣	1 ♥
♦ 8 6 5	1 ♠	1 NT
♣ A K Q 8 4	Pass	

Do not rebid 2 ♣ with only 5 cards. Partner is likely to be pleased with your hand as he probably can run the club suit and obtain a good score in notrump.



3.

♠ 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A Q 8 4 3	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ A K J 3	2 ♦	2 ♥
♣ J 6 3	Pass	

Partner's bid is a *preference* (probably a doubleton heart) so do not make the mistake of revaluing your hand as you would after a raise. If partner held 3+ trumps, he would have raised to 2 ♥ directly; then you would bid 3 ♥ to invite game.



4.

♠ J 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A K 8 6 2	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ A K J 4	2 ♦	2 ♠
♣ 4 3	3 ♠	

Holding 17 points you should bid again. Partner shows 6+ spades so you can raise with a doubleton. Your bid is invitational to game; partner should bid 4 ♠ if he is in the upper half of his 6-10 point range.



♠ —	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A Q J 9 3	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ K Q J 8 3	2 ♦	2 ♠
♣ 9 3 2	3 ♦	

This distribution is extreme enough to warrant an attempt to improve the contract, though I would tend to pass 2 ♠ if I held a singleton instead of the void. You indicate at least 5-5 shape; partner should usually pass or correct to 3 ♥.



♠ 8	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A K 7 5 3	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ A J 10 2	2 ♦	2 ♥
♣ K Q 4	2 NT	

This bid is obviously constructive and shows 17-18 points. Note that partner's preference bid does not indicate normal heart support (usually a doubleton), so the best contract may be in notrump.



♠ K 5 3	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A K 8 4 2	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ 3	2 ♣	2 ♥
♣ A J 9 8	2 ♠	

Here you show 17-18 points with exactly 3 spades (you would have raised at your previous turn with 4). Of course you do not know that partner has 5 spades; but even if he has 4, the 4-3 spade fit may be as good or better than the 5-2 heart fit.



♠ A K 9 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ K 3	1 ♣	1 ♥
♦ 2	1 ♠	1 NT
♣ A J 10 9 7 5	3 ♣	

Here you must jump to make a constructive bid (17-18 points) to invite game. A simple bid of 2 would be appropriate with a minimum opening bid because 6-4 shape is usually too extreme to play in notrump opposite a weak hand.



If Responder Invites

When responder's rebid invites game (10-12 points), you need less of an excuse to bid again. Usually you should pass only with a bare minimum opening.

If responder invites game, you should bid again with 15+ points or undisclosed suit length.



<p>♠ K 10 8</p> <p>♥ 7</p> <p>♦ A K 8 7 4</p> <p>♣ K Q 9 3</p>	<p><i>You</i></p> <p>1 ♦</p> <p>2 ♣</p> <p>3 NT</p>	<p><i>Partner</i></p> <p>1 ♥</p> <p>3 ♣</p>	
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You clearly have additional values plus a stopper in the unbid suit, so take a stab at 3 NT. This does not indicate a balanced hand — if your hand were balanced you would have bid notrump earlier.



<p>♠ 3</p> <p>♥ A K 8 7 6 4</p> <p>♦ K J 3</p> <p>♣ J 7 6</p>	<p><i>You</i></p> <p>1 ♥</p> <p>2 ♥</p> <p>Pass</p>	<p><i>Partner</i></p> <p>1 ♠</p> <p>3 ♥</p>	
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You have nothing extra so pass, especially in view of the misfit with partner's spade suit. If your spades and clubs were switched, you should bid 4 ♥ on the expectation that the hands would fit well.



<p>♠ Q 7 2</p> <p>♥ A J 10 3 2</p> <p>♦ 4</p> <p>♣ A K 7 3</p>	<p><i>You</i></p> <p>1 ♥</p> <p>2 ♣</p> <p>3 ♠</p>	<p><i>Partner</i></p> <p>1 ♠</p> <p>2 NT</p>	
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This sound hand is worth accepting, and there is a chance that partner has 5 spades. Indicating 3 spades will allow partner to place the contract with extreme accuracy — he knows your shape will be 3-5-1-4.



12.

♠ A 3	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ K 9 6	1 ♣	1 ♠
♦ 3	2 ♣	2 NT
♣ K J 8 7 6 5 3	3 ♣	

Rebidding your minor suit over 2 NT is generally discouraging. You are warning partner that game is unlikely and that your hand is doubtful for notrump. If your clubs instead were A-K-J-x-x-x-x (with ♠ x-x), you should take a chance and bid 3 NT hoping to run 7 club tricks.



If Responder Forces

When responder makes a forcing rebid in a new suit (11+ points), you are required to bid again regardless of your hand.

With a bare minimum, bid at the cheapest level. With 15+ points bid at the 3 level or higher.

Observe that only a bid of 2 NT or lower *confirms* a bare minimum and allows responder to pass.



13.

♠ A J 9 4	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ J 6 2	1 ♣	1 ♥
♦ K 4 3	1 ♠	2 ♦
♣ A 10 8	2 ♥	

As always it is a top priority to indicate 3 cards in partner's first suit. This is the way to locate a 5-3 major fit, since partner will not rebid a 5 card suit on his own.



14.

♠ Q 8 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ J 10 3	1 ♦	1 ♥
♦ A K 8 6 2	1 NT	2 ♣
♣ A 5	3 ♥	

You have 15 points, so bid at the 3 level. If partner does not wish to play in hearts, he can correct to 3 NT — remember that he promised 11+ points when he bid 2 ♣.



15.

♠ A K 8 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ 3	1 ♦	1 ♥
♦ K J 10 8	1 ♠	2 ♣
♣ Q 9 7 3	3 ♣	

Even though partner's 2 ♣ bid is suspect, you should raise holding 4 trumps (do not jump raise). Partner will know you have 4-1-4-4 or 4-0-5-4 shape. If his next bid is anything but clubs, you should assume he does not want to play in clubs.



16.

♠ A 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A Q 8 4	1 ♦	1 ♠
♦ K 9 7 6	1 NT	2 ♣
♣ 9 6 2	2 ♥	

It is convenient to show your heart suit so bid 2 ♥; partner may also have 4 hearts and be too strong to bid 2 ♥ (a weak bid) over your 1 NT. Partner already knows you have a balanced hand.



17.

♠ 8 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ 3	1 ♦	1 ♠
♦ A Q 8 6 4 3	2 ♣	2 ♥
♣ K Q 10 4	3 ♦	

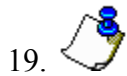
Your first 2 bids implied 5-4 shape so by bidding diamonds again you indicate at least 6-4 shape. It was good judgment to show the clubs before rebidding diamonds because of the good suit quality.



18.

♠ 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A K J 6 4 2	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ K 7 5 2	2 ♥	3 ♣
♣ 4 2	3 ♦	

This sequence of bids also shows 6-4 shape, though it suggests that your second suit is weak. If you held ♥ K-x-x-x-x and ♦ A-K-J-x, it would be wiser to bid 2 ♦ at your second turn followed by 3 ♥ at your third turn.



19.

♠ 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A K J 7 6	1 ♥	1 ♠
♦ 4 3	2 ♣	2 ♦
♣ A Q J 9 2	3 ♣	

You show at least 5-5 shape by rebidding your second suit. Do not jump to the 4 level to show extra strength (3 NT may be right contract). When you make a nonjump bid at the 3 level, your exact strength is unclear and partner should bid again.

20. 

♠ 2	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ A 7 3	1 ♦	1 ♠
♦ K Q 8 5 4	2 ♣	2 ♥
♣ A 9 7 2	2 NT	

You have already indicated 5-4 shape (by bidding 2 suits), and you cannot support either of partner's suits (you need 4 trumps to raise his second suit). Hence there is nothing else to bid but notrump.

21. 

♠ A Q 8 4	<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
♥ 8 2	1 ♣	1 ♥
♦ K 4	1 ♠	2 ♦
♣ A Q 9 7 2	3 NT	

This time you have additional strength so jump to 3 NT to ensure game is reached; remember that partner shows 11+ points. If you bid only 2 NT, partner should pass if he held only 11-12 points, then a game would be missed.