



Lake Norman Bridge Center November 2022 Newsletter



Veteran's Day - November 11
Happy Thanksgiving - November 24 (no game)

Congratulations on Reaching the Next Plateau

Bill Taylor: Silver Life Master

November Games

All November games will be regular games. Ella may designate special games throughout the course of the month.

November Schedule

November is still affected by voting where we will be **upstairs in Room 204 until Monday, November 14th**. The schedule is:

Monday, November 7 - **Cancelled due to Ella's covid**

Tuesday, November 8 – **No bridge – Election Day**

Thursday, November 10 – **We play from 12-3...24 boards**

Monday, November 14 – 12:30 -4pm – **Back to normal.**

Upcoming Sectionals and Regionals in November

<https://tournaments.acbl.org>

Click on the link and then on the highlighted "info" to view the tournament flyer and information.

Member News

Jane Wilhelm has two more weeks left of a radiation protocol for hereditary rectal cancer. She will then have IV chemo every other week for 4 months. She is very optimistic. After this massive Radiation/Chemo treatment, they will operate to take the tumor out. Beth Quinn is recuperating following a diagnosis of congestive heart failure last week. They need our prayers and support! Bill Seymour continues to improve, and we may see Jean and Bill at the bridge table as early as December!

Congratulations to Charlotte Regional Winners

Laurie Ross	21.37	Bill Bendert	5.27
Fred Weber	20.58	Deryck Wynter	5.27
Vicki Cornwell	20.12	Ted Jarrell	3.83
Bill Brunk	18.75	Ken Fittz	1.94
Eric Johnson	18.63	Joan Fittz	1.94
Ella Rice	18.12	Bob Van Buskirk	1.84
Mary Singleton	17.13	Missy Kuykendall	1.68
Lauren Judson	15.68	Fern Shierson	1.68
Sally Ziemba	15.68	Calvin Manship	1.62
Susie Sutton	14.04	Peggy Yountz	0.86
Art Friday	14.04	Peter Gerrard	0.76
Shirley Jeffers	14.03	JoAnn Massey	0.76
Jeff Baude	13.04	Rick Cornwell	0.57
Bernie Hadelor	9.38	Karla Arnold	0.33
Steve Hamburg	7.86	Kathy Smith	0.33
EB Dyer	6.56	Rob Tirsch	0.25

Bridge Tools

Bridge Book – a ledger that you bring to live bridge and record your games in...this way you can go back to your game in a handy book and review over and over. Here is the link to order one: [How to Order](#). We can order for you if we have 6 or more requests. You would save on postage and cost overall. [MrsKGB](#)

Bridge - Card Holder for those that have a problem holding the cards.

We have these available at our club:





Name Tags - Cost \$5

There is an order sheet posted on the Bulletin board.



Partnership Desk

Call **Marlene Smith**, our Partnership Director, when you want to play but need a partner. She can charm anyone to come in and play, and she will always try to get the best match for you!!

Thanks for the Goodies!

Thanks to Nora, Delanne, Marlene, Carolyn, and Calvin for the candy and baked goods.

Visit our Web Page at <http://Inbridgecenter.org/>



MaryAnn Diesburg

I grew up in Waterbury, CT with a younger brother and sister. After earning a BA in math from the University of Connecticut, I entered the working world with IBM as part of the Gemini space program in Owego, NY. When IBM in Huntsville, AL received the specs for a breadbox sized computer to fly in the new Apollo program, I was invited to move south to write the mathematical functions for that computer and then the software that would allow communication and guidance for early orbital flights. That's how I became a "rocket scientist". We were able to accomplish amazing things with a computer that had less function, storage and power than early hand-held scientific calculators!

My first husband, an engineer, was a fellow UConn student and IBMer. One of our daughters graduated from Cornell University and is Assistant Director of the Northwestern University Executive MBA program. The other is an electrical engineering graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and earned a PhD in biomedical engineering at Drexel University, where she is on the staff of Drexel Medicine. I was a stay-at-home mom for eight years, until the girls were in school full time. During that time, I earned a MS in Computer Science from Union College in Schenectady, NY and did all kinds of fun stuff I wouldn't have time to do once re-entering the workforce,

including learning to play (Goren) bridge, and played socially several times a week. We lived in San Jose, CA, the Washington DC suburbs and Hopewell Junction, NY during that time. We skied and conveniently had condos in Colorado, which encouraged us to give up skiing in the rocky, icy northeast.

The second phase of my working career was spent in programming, marketing and sales management with IBM in the Hudson Valley and involved world-wide responsibility for several product lines and employees scattered around the US, earning me million-mile status with American Airlines and umpteen thousand nights with Marriott.

When IBM started cutting back and my travel was reduced, I took up modern bridge at the local club, passed the director's test and directed their Sunday games. Soon after I retired, our local club closed. It was then an hour drive to play bridge. I was asked to consider starting a new bridge club. How hard could it be? The next ten years were spent running the club, as Unit president, and serving on the ACBL District 3 board. If you played in the Danbury Regional during this time, you would have encountered me as the weekday second floor caddy (up to 6 rooms of knock-out and side game players). My District Director honored me with membership in the ACBL Goodwill Committee and the ACBL Charity Committee as well as the District 3 Goodwill Committee. Four hundred new local players later, I sold my club with free play there for life. That's when I found myself in the middle of 19 years of non-stop family caregiving and not much bridge. We moved to Mooresville in 2009 as the NY winters were becoming too cold and icy for us.

I've spent a lot of time working on my genealogy. All my grandparents emigrated to the US in the early 1900s, but none ever talked about life in Lithuania under Soviet rule and all died young. I've been to Lithuania 8 or 9 times and found a second cousin on my father's side and the graves of 3rd and 4th great grandparents on my mother's side at a small cemetery one mile from the Latvian border. When I was a pre-school child, we only spoke Lithuanian at home. It's been easy to re-learn the language during my travels.

In January 2014, while donating my recently deceased Mom's durable equipment, I met our own Bob Allen when responding to a poster at the Mooresville Senior Center to become an AARP TaxAide volunteer. So, as they say, the rest is history. Dan (another engineer) and I were fellow volunteers at a Baptist church in NW Charlotte. We've been married 6 years and are now the leaders of 25 enthusiastic volunteers at the site. We have consistently placed in the top 3 of 88 AARP sites in NC in number of tax returns filed. We respond to our clients year round, and prepare over 1000 tax returns annually.

I introduced Dan, a long-time social player, to duplicate bridge. We started playing again this July after more than 2½ years away. We came in first (of 100+ players) and earned 16+ silver points on our last bridge cruise before covid. We have been enjoying our life at our home on Lake Norman, which Dan describes as "like being on vacation every day".

Dan and MaryAnn Diesburg



INTRODUCING... Dave's Faves - by our very own David B. Smith

Welcome to **Dave's Faves!** This is the first of what I hope will be a regular column for players trying to find answers and trying to improve on this often "complex" game we call **Bridge**.

This hand appeared in a virtual ACBL open game with close to 150 tables in play. With this size of field, it is easy to see numerous approaches to bidding and to see what works well and what does not. This hand presents a good example of an important convention that was played by only about one-half of the **E-W** partnerships that day – **Forcing Notrump**.

Dealer: W
 Vul: None

N

♠ K 8
 ♥ 8 6 4
 ♦ K 5 2
 ♣ A 8 7 6 3

E

♠ -
 ♥ Q J 10 7
 ♦ Q J 9 8 7 6
 ♣ Q 10 2

W

♠ A Q 7 4 2
 ♥ K 3 2
 ♦ A 10 3
 ♣ J 9

S

♠ J 10 9 6 5 3
 ♥ A 9 5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 5 4

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

What is the correct contract on this hand? Depending on defense, **N-S** has a shot at making a contract of 2 ♣. **E-W** can easily make 3 ♦. Other contracts in either direction are at peril with good defense.

Approximately 95% of the field opened the West hand with a bid of 1 ♠. With the spade void, this opening poses an interesting response dilemma for East. With only 8 HCPs, the East hand does not have the strength to make a call at the two-level if playing Standard American or the 2/1 System. In any system, it is poor evaluation technique to count shortness points in partner's bid by suit. It is often a disaster to respond a "natural" 1 NT in Standard American with a void in partner's suit. However, if playing Standard American, the only good response with 8 HCPs is likely 1 NT. After all, this bid does show 6-10 HCPs and less than 3-card support for partner's major. Again, in Standard American, West should **PASS** following the 1 NT response by East. With good defense, a notrump contract at any level will **not** make.

So, what is the answer to this common problem? With less than game values, how do you get to the best contract on a potential misfit without over-stating hand values? The simple answer is **Forcing Notrump**. This convention or treatment is the cornerstone of the 2/1 System. However, it is easily incorporated into Standard American with partnership agreement. I personally played **Forcing Notrump** with Standard American partners for many years before playing 2/1.

A bid of 1 **NT Forcing** following an opening of 1 ♥ or 1 ♠, shows 5+ to 12 HCPs. It represents a hand that cannot be bid at the two-level, but does require partner to bid one more round, describing further the shape and strength of the opening bid. It is particularly effective when responder has a minimum point count, but a long heart suit over a 1 ♠ opener **or** a long minor suit over an opener in either major. Following a minimum rebid by opener (other than a rebid of the original major suit), responder plans to bid that long suit (usually 6-card length or better). IF opener has no extra values, the suit bid by the **Forcing Notrump** bidder should be **TO PLAY** and must be **PASSED**.

Obviously, opener will often have to bid a 3-card minor suit following the 1 **NT Forcing** bid by partner. In this situation, responder will correct to the long 6-card or greater suit if weak **or**, as in this example, will **PASS** if the long suit is bid by opener. This is the best way to reach the optimum contract of 2 ♦ or 3 ♦ in this example hand. (**Note:** If opener happens to have a 4-card or longer heart suit following the 1 ♠ bid,

that suit will be shown instead of a minor. That is how in our example the partnership will not miss some level of hearts in a 4-4 fit.)

One-half of the tables reached a contract of 2 ♦ or 3 ♦. The remainder of the field ended in a wide range of contracts, many in some level of notrump. Many of these alternate approaches ended in disaster because the level was too high. *Without using 1 NT Forcing following a 1 ♠ opener and ending in a diamond contract, what led the bidding to other contracts and levels?* Let's review why these alternate directions were unsuccessful.

Alternate Bidding 1: At about 5% of the tables in play, West decided to open with a bid of 1 NT. The most common range for a 1 NT opener is 15 to 17 HCPs with balanced distribution. However, there is a growing school of thinking that modifies this range to 14+ to 17- HCPs with 5-3-3-2 distribution. The addition of a 5-card suit pushes a 14 HCP hand to 14 "plus." I am not a big fan of opening this type of hand with 1 NT, but it might take care of some rebid dilemmas. I personally am not in favor of this approach holding a 5-card *major* suit. At tables opening with 1 NT, East responded with a Stayman 2 ♣ bid (i.e.: 8-9 HCPs), hoping to find a 4-4 or 5-4 heart fit. Lacking this, most tables ended the auction in 2 NT, 3 NT, or 5 ♦ - all with negative results.

Alternate Bidding 2: At a number of tables where E-W played Standard American, East decided to "stretch" the bidding by responding 2 ♦ over the 1 ♠ opener, not liking any other bid. After all, the hand can be valued at 11+ HCPs with the spade void – **or not! RED FLAG: In the first round of bidding, never count shortness points in partner's bid suit.** For partnerships taking this approach, it is difficult for West to visualize East with only 8 HCPs. These tables generally ended in a notrump game or too high in a diamond contract – again with less than positive results.

Alternate Bidding 3: At 13% of the tables, North overcalled the opening 1 ♠ bid by West with a bid of 2 ♣. With favorable or equal vulnerability, such an overcall requires only 10+ HCPs in most systems. However, experts generally agree that a minor suit overcall at the two-level should show a better suit or at least a 6-card holding. Nevertheless, aggressive players will often make this call. With the 2 ♣ interference, East now has a legitimate **Negative Double**. This approach still got the E-W partnership to the optimum diamond contract in about half of these situations.

The Bottom Line . . . and I'm sticking to it. **Yes**, two tables bid and *did* make 3 NT played from the East hand. **Yes**, one table bid and *did* make 4 ♦ played by the West hand. There is always bad defense, as opposed to good bidding and play. These three tables represent only 2% of the tables in play. I would rather bank on better percentages and **not** depend on my opponents to defend poorly.

Although many pros are now going to **1 NT Semi-Forcing** sitting in all seats, the "forcing" version is still a popular treatment among most of us peons following a major suit opening bid by partner in first or second seat. It is still the cornerstone of the 2/1 System. However, as previously stated, it is easily used by Standard American players. There are just too many hands that cannot be bid normally without a **Forcing Notrump** option. Space does not allow for complete discussion of this convention, but your partnership should find a good online resource or reference book to learn details. Beginning 2/1 System reference books are an excellent place to see how the convention is used. I strongly consider **Forcing Notrump** to be one of the most important first additions that a beginning/novice pair can add to a basic convention card.

Have further questions? You can always call or e-mail me for an opinion. My *opinion* is always free! Please feel free to send me hands you feel may be of interest to others if discussed in this format.

I love bridge. I love those players that want to get better at this game!

Dave

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