

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

November 2003

To Overcall or Not to Overcall?

Bonnie Melchior

This hand from a pairs game at the Little Rock Memorial Day Tournament illustrates the difference between pairs vs. team-game strategy and the danger of overcalling anemic suits when vulnerable.

With N-S vulnerable and E-W not, East (my partner Gerald Koonce) opened 1♠ in third seat and South overcalled 2♦. I held a void in ♠s, ♥ A 4 3, ♦ J 9 7 3, and ♣ J 10 7 5 4 2—a lovely hand opposite my partner's opening ♠ bid. (Partners always bid your voids.) I passed, dreading what was coming: either I would hear a reopening double, or—even worse—more ♠s at exalted levels.

North passed and East, as expected, reopened with a double. At imps, I might have bid 3♣ because my hand was so weak and I did have a playable suit. (They might wrap 2♦ doubled for minus 180 or 380 opposite the possible plus 50 or minus 110 our team-mates would bring back for 3♣ either making or going down a trick at the other table.) If South's suit had been a

major, in a team game the odds would favor bidding 3♣ even more, since minus 670 opposite plus 50 or minus 110 could cost the match. At pairs, however, I chose to chance going for plus 200 and I passed.

Here are all four hands:

	♠ J 7 6 5	
	♥ J 10 6 5	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ A 8 6	
♠ void		♠ A K 10 3 2
♥ A 4 3		♥ 9 8 7 2
♦ J 9 7 3		♦ Q 6
♣ J 10 7 5 4 2		♣ K Q
	♠ Q 9 8 4	
	♥ K Q	
	♦ A 10 5 4 2	
	♣ 9 3	

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
P	P	1♠	2♦
P	P	X	All Pass

With a void, one can't even lead through the dummy to partner's bid suit. Hoping my partner wasn't long in ♣s, I led my ♣J. When the dummy went down, it looked as if we might actually defeat this contract! In fact, it turned out there was no way South could make his bid opposite any minimum defense—all lines go down.

North took my ♣J with his ♣A, East playing the ♣K. (A duck might be a better play, but on this hand it wouldn't matter.) North then led low to the ♥Q, Gerald signaling an even number, and I took the trick with the ♥A. I led to Gerald's ♣Q and discarded my ♥s on his high ♠s. Gerald led another ♠ for me to ruff, and I returned a ♣, which he ruffed with the ♦Q, declarer over-ruffing with the ♦A. We were still due a ♦ trick, so declarer was

OPEN GAMES

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
MONDAY 0-50	LESSON 6:40 P.M.; GAME 7:00 P.M.-9:30 P.M.
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 0-300	9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
THURSDAY	11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY 0-300	7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY	12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY	1:30 P.M.

All games are stratified when possible.

All games are non-smoking. <->

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Be sure to go to DeGray to **VOTE** in the Unit 161 Board election. Polls will be open 6:30–7:30 p.m. Friday, 2:00–3:00 p.m. Saturday, and 9:00–10:00 a.m. Sunday. The only contested seat is Position 6, between ANNE MARTIN and G. L. RHOADES. These seats are uncontested: DAVID SIEBERT for Position 2, WARREN SWIFT for Position 4, JERRY FERRELL for Position 8, and SHARON CISSELL for Position 10/Vice President.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME BASH DEGRAY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT DeGray State Park, Arkansas October 31–November 2, 2003

Friday, October 31 & Saturday, November 1

10:00 a.m.	Bracketed Knockouts (3 sessions - 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., & 7:30 p.m.)			
10:00 a.m.	Single Session Stratified Paris	C: 0-500	B: 0-1,500	A: Unlimited
3:00 p.m.	Single Session Stratified Paris	C: 0-500	B: 0-1,500	A: Unlimited
7:30 p.m.	Single Session Stratified Paris	C: 0-500	B: 0-1,500	A: Unlimited

Sunday, November 2

10:00 a.m. & TBA Stratified Swiss Teams
A: (unlimited)
B: 750-1,500
C: 300-750
D: 0-300

Novice/Intermediate Stratified Pairs
(every session if attendance warrants)

0-20 0-100 0-200 0-300

Tournament Chairpersons:

Teri LaBove 501-915-9101
Gene LaBove

Partnerships:

Ann Ferrill 501-664-7941
Fran Anderson 501-922-4942

Entry fee: \$9 per person per session
 \$80 per team on Sunday

Snacks & Refreshments following afternoon
and evening sessions of Friday & Saturday

Lunch included in Swiss entry on Sunday

Section Top Awards

DeGray Lodge bridge room rates: \$74
single/double occupancy
Call 1-800-737-8355

Reserve Bridge Rate before Oct. 15
Highway 7, 6 miles North of I-30 (exit #78)

Halloween Costume Contest Friday & Saturday (after nite session)

THIS IS A NON-SMOKING TOURNAMENT WITH SMOKING BREAKS

down one for minus 200. We tied for top on the board, so another South in our section must have made the same overcall.

South had committed two cardinal bridge sins when he overcalled at the 2-level: first, he was vulnerable and his bid suit was weak (only 5 cards with 1½ honors and a K Q in a short suit). Second, he had length in the opponent's suit, a dangerous situation because the opponents, with no fit, were much more likely to double.

If South had not overcalled, we would not have been in a wonderful situation. If I were to pass (I wouldn't), we would be in 1♠ and West would get only one trick from my hand. If I were to bid a semi-forcing 1NT, West might pass or bid 2♥, and I would leave him there—yuck. South had challenged the gods of bridge probabilities and lost. Walking on the wild side is safer when you're armed in a stout suit. ♠

Local Leaders

2003 Under-300 Totals At October 26

Total Masterpoints	Name	Points
Less Than 10	Bert Turner	6.91
Less Than 50	Diana Nagel	12.61
Less Than 100	Bill Cardin	13.47
Less Than 300	Norma Campbell	61.38

2003 Overall At October 26

Peggy Jett	109.75
Ann Ferrill.....	96.58
Ruth Gilliam.....	88.11
Helen Abbott.....	86.77
Tommye Davis	84.36
David Cockcroft	75.44
Bonnie Melchior.....	67.55
Madalyn Reinhardt	63.03
Norma Campbell.....	61.38
Bernice McNutt.....	56.64

National Masterpoint Races

As of October 6, 2003, six LRDBC members were ranked nationally in masterpoint races:

- Al Childs—#178 Lifetime Top Masterpoints.
- Mike Compton—#28 Mini-McKenney Regional Master of the Year.
- Jane Dickey—#29 Mini-McKenney NABC Master of the Year.

- Alex Phillips—#25 Youth of the Year.
- Allan Siebert—#16 Barry Crane Top 500; #25 Lifetime Top Masterpoints; #12 Mini-McKenney Grand Life Master of the Year.
- David Siebert—#64 Barry Crane Top 500; #34 Lifetime Top Masterpoints. ♣

MAKE TRAVEL PLANS

Check *The Bridge Bulletin* published by the ACBL or the ACBL web site at www.acbl.org for details on these and other upcoming tournaments.

NATIONALS (NABC)

November 20–30, 2003, New Orleans, LA
 March 18–28, 2004, Reno, NV
 July 17–27, New York, NY

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS TO CONSIDER

December 26–31, Kansas City, MO
 December 26–31, Reno, NV
 January 12–18, Honolulu, HI
 January 19–25, Biloxi, MS

NEARBY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

October 31–November 2, Lake DeGray, AR

November 7–9, Huntsville, AL
 November 8–9, Baton Rouge, LA (0–NLM)
 November 14–16, Shreveport, LA
 November 14–16, Lake Charles, LA (0–300)
 November 15–16, Jackson, MS (0–300)
 December 5–7, Baton Rouge, LA
 January 2–4, Memphis, TN
 January 9–11, Jackson, MS
 January 9–11, Oklahoma City, OK
 January 16–18, St. Charles, MO
 January 15–18, Metairie, LA
 January 29–February 1, Richardson, TX
 February 6–8, Gulf Shores, AL
 February 6–8, Bartlesville, OK
 February 13–16, Huntsville, AL
 February 13–15, DFW Airport, TX
 February 20–22, Hattiesburg, MS
 February 27–29, Buchanan, TN
 February 26–29, Birmingham, AL
 February 27–29, Branson, MO
March 12–14, Hot Springs Village, AR
April 16–18, Little Rock, AR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEGRAY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2
BRIDGE HOUSE CLOSED

CLUB TOURNAMENT GAMES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 11:00 A.M.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 11:00 A.M.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 7:00 P.M. 0–300
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 7:30 P.M.

NEW BRIDGE HOUSE POTLUCK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, PARTY 7:00, GAME 7:30 P.M.
Bring a dish to share

BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 12:15 P.M.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1:30 P.M.
LRDBC members with birthdays in November play free

SECOND FRIDAY PARTY NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, PARTY 7:00, GAME 7:30 P.M.

ACBL WIDE CHARITY GAME

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 11:00 A.M.

MASTER/NOVICE GAME

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:00 P.M.

THANKSGIVING DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
BRIDGE HOUSE CLOSED

October Board Minutes

Jo Blanchard, Secretary

October 12, 2003

Ann Ferrill called the meeting to order. The attendees were Jo Blanchard, Mike Compton, Dick Heil, Margaret Kelly, Rick Lowens, Jan Trotter, Bobby Morgan, and Diane Tait.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, amended, approved, and seconded.

A treasurer's report was not provided for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The new Wednesday morning bridge session is reported to be going well with pretty good attendance and has resulted in 21 new memberships. Mailboxes will be setup for the new members. STaC games are scheduled for the week of December 8 – 14. The STaC games previously scheduled in October were cancelled.

The remaining remodeling tasks (which include filming the front glass doors to prevent glare, adding a chair rail in the playing area to prevent marks on the walls, adding baseboard trim in the bathrooms, etc.) were discussed. Mike Compton will employ one of his contacts to complete these projects.

Discussion on increasing the playing fees is still tabled until November so pertinent financial information may be obtained and be available for the discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made to make the Club Manager a voting member of the Board. The motion was seconded and approved.

Implementing a "Zero Tolerance Policy" was discussed. If accepted, suggestions were made to include articles in the *Newsletter* to list the types of behavior that will not be tolerated and also to include informational articles for new members on playing rules and etiquette. The discussion was tabled until a copy of the "Zero Tolerance Policy" as published by the ACBL can be printed and reviewed by the Board.

A potluck to initiate our new club facilities is scheduled for Friday, November 7.

The fee for a Yellow Page ad is \$666. The board voted to cancel and not continue our ad. We will just have a general listing in the business pages.

Jeanne Lloyd is chairing the 2003 Christmas Party. She raised a concern to the Board that we might not have enough space at our present location and offered the following solutions: rent a larger space for the party, hold 2 separate parties, or take reservations for a single party to be held at the club. The options were discussed and will be explored further.

The meeting was adjourned. ♦

