

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

A Zero Tolerance Club

August 2004

Double, double, toil and trouble. . .

Bonnie Melchior

To double or not to double—that is the question. Is it nobler in the mind to throw slings and arrows at the opponents' preempt or to bid 3NT—that was my problem. I made the wrong decision. It wasn't just "wrong"; it was WRONG.

The hand looked promising when I first picked it up: ♠ K 10 9 8, ♥ 3, ♦ A 7 4 2, ♣ A K 5 3. Dealer, to my right, opened 2♠, and I had no problem at that point: I passed in tempo. Doubling with four in opener's suit and a singleton in the other major is a classic "no-no." However, the wheels were already grinding. What was I going to do if LHO passed and my partner re-opened with a double? At unequal vulnerability, I would have no problem: if we were vulnerable, I would bid 3NT, and if they were vulnerable, I would pass for penalties. But this was equal vulnerability, where I would have to

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OPEN GAMES

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
MONDAY (0–49) *	7:00 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.

* Free mini-lesson at 6:30 p.m.

All games are stratified when possible.

All games are non-smoking.

Counting and Visualization

Allan Siebert

Counting is absolutely essential to play effective bridge!!!! You must visualize hands from the bidding and counting in declarer play and on defense to be effective!!!

Vul: N–S

Dir: S

♠ A J 9 x x

♥ K

♦ K Q 8

♣ A x x x

♠ Q 10 x x x

♥ A Q J 10 x

♦ A J

♣ x

Bidding:	N	E	S	W
			1♠	5♣
	6♣	P	6♦	P
	6♠	P	P	P

Opening Lead: ♣K, ♣A, ♣x, ♣x
♥x, ?

Analysis: From the play so far we know West has 8 clubs. Is there any way to find out if we should hook for the ♠K or play for the drop? After all, there are only two spades left and East is odds on to have more spades. There is a way to be 100% certain what to do as long as West has at least two hearts. You take ♥A and play high hearts out, throwing all diamonds. Then play ♦A followed by ♦J and count West's hearts and diamonds. It turns out he actually had two hearts and one diamond, which left him two spades. So you hook for a 100% play. Of course if he ruffs at any time you simply over-ruff and your problem is over. ♠

set the opponents three tricks to make up for a lost game, so I started agonizing. (It's well in these situations to start agonizing in advance—it saves time if not agony.)

Well, the decision seemed really close, but I reasoned that I had a good shot at down three, and who wants averages, matchpoints being a game of adventure. I had two trump tricks (barring an unlucky trump holding in dummy), and if my ♣A K and my ♦A lived, that made a total of five. All my partner would have to contribute would be the ♥A Q over a ♥K in dummy; then a heart return would provide a trump promotion. Or, if no trump promotion, perhaps the ♦K. Also, if my partner had the same 4-4-4-1 distribution I had and mediocre spot cards (as I had), 3NT would be difficult (especially if her points were in hearts). Therefore, when Helen Abbott, my luckless partner, did indeed reopen with a double, I went for the brass ring and passed.

I led the ♣A, and was appalled when dummy went down—but not as appalled as I was about to be shortly. Dummy had three small spades, a singleton club, three diamonds to the Q, and a truly ferocious heart suit: A Q J 10 9 8. It didn't look as if we would be getting many clubs and hearts. Since I didn't have the half-hour it would have taken me to compute whether giving up at least one of my spade tricks by leading trumps would bring me back two or more club tricks, I hopefully led my ♦A. The good news was that Helen gave me a come on. The bad news was that when I led the suit again and she played her ♦J on dummy's small, declarer ruffed. Setting this contract three was now a phantasm from some remote past life.

Declarer then ruffed a club in dummy, ruffed the third diamond back to her hand, and led a heart. She finessed, evidently either not counting the heart suit or not believing in odds (my partner should have had three or four hearts for her reopening double, leaving me with at most two, and making her more likely to have had the ♥K). Helen won the ♥K and returned a heart. I ruffed declarer's heart (she had two), and led the ♣K (two trumps remained in dummy). Now, no matter what declarer did, I would get three trump tricks (or another club and two trump tricks).

The good news is that we set the contract one trick (one club, one diamond, one heart, and three trump tricks). The bad news is that we probably got a zero

because ten tricks in NT, even with a heart lead, are cold. Declarer could even have made the contract if, instead of finessing the heart, she had trumped her third club, then played ♥A and another heart. My partner would win, but then, whether she led a club or a heart, declarer could wangle eight tricks. Try it; it's interesting. Here are all four hands:

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

The hand is fascinating from the perspective of defense—so many permutations. I whiled away the tedium of my 30-minute walk the next morning by trying one variation after another in my head. (There were so many, that I barely finished!) Even if I had switched to a trump at the second trick, declarer could have made the hand by playing ♥A and another heart (refusing the finesse) before trumping a club.

I still don't know whether I erred in theory or just in fact, but this I do know: It is a truth universally acknowledged that greed—when not successful—is Bad. ♥

Tournament Report

New York City NABC

- Lisa Whitbeck & partner—2nd in A/B/C in 299er Paris (54 pairs) ♦

Masterpoints Won at the Bridge House

2004 Under-300 Totals at July 2

Total Masterpoints	Name	Points
Less Than 10	Claudia Ragon	9.29
Less Than 50	Sheila Mehaffy	15.29
Less Than 100	Bert Turner	34.85
Less Than 300	Bert Turner	34.85

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

August 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>1:30 PM Swiss Team Game</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Open Game</p> <p>6:30 PM Free Mini Lesson</p> <p>7:00 PM 0-50 Game</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Open Game</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>9:30 AM 0-300 Game</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Open Game</p> <p>6:30 PM Free Mini Lesson</p> <p>7:00 PM 0-300 Game</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Margaritas & Mexican Potluck</p> <p>7:30 PM Open Game</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>12:30 PM Open Game</p>																																																																																																	
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>12:15 PM Board Meeting</p> <p>1:30 PM Open Game</p> <p><i>Birthday Sunday</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Open Game</p> <p>6:30 PM Free Mini Lesson</p> <p>7:00 PM 0-50 Game</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Open Game</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>9:30 AM 0-300 Game</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Open Game</p> <p>6:30 PM Free Mini Lesson</p> <p>7:00 PM 0-300 Game</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Italian Potluck</p> <p>7:30 PM Open Game</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>12:30 PM Open Game</p>																																																																																																	
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2004 Overall at July 25

Peggy Jett	88.61
Tommye Davis	67.64
Bonnie Melchior.....	65.04
Ruth Gilliam.....	64.65
Ann Ferrill.....	62.44
Norma Campbell.....	56.64
Helen Abbott.....	56.52
Betsy Berry.....	55.75
David Cockcroft.....	54.93
Deb Phillips	42.15

Unit 161 Masterpoint Races

The Mini-McKenney races recognize the calendar year masterpoint achievements of all players at each level of achievement (Rookie, Junior Master, etc.) and the Ace of Clubs races recognize calendar year achievement just at the club level. The standings at July 7 in Unit 161 are shown below. ACBL-wide standings are given under "National Masterpoint Races."

Mini-McKenney

Rookie of the Year: #1 Sherry Wortsmith; #2 Sheila Mehaffy; #3 Bill Jones; #6 Judy Chapman; #7 Dick Adkisson; #8 Linda Goldsmith; #9 Barbara Blaine; #10 Nancy Tracy.

Junior Master of the Year: #1 Bert Turner; #3 Gwen Briscoe; #6 Richard Chapman; #9 Kris Baber.

Club Master of the Year: #3 Diana Nagel; #8 Fran Harp; #10 Gregg Sterne.

Regional Master of the Year: #1 Bonnie Fincher; #2 Ann Lewis; #3 Diane Lord; #7 Mike Porta; #9 Art Pfeifer.

NABC Master of the Year: #3 Margaret Mathews; #4 Barbara Miles; #7 Jane Teed #9 Gerry Chism.

Life Master of the Year: #1 Jane Dickey; #2 Mike Compton; #3 Norma Campbell; #6 Burla Sims.

Bronze Life Master of the Year: #1 Deb Phillips; #7 Lou Morris.

Silver Life Master of the Year: #1 Ann Ferrill; #2 David Cockcroft; #3 Edna Savoy.

Gold Life Master of the Year: #3 Bonnie Melchior; #6 Peggy Jett; #9 Ruth Gilliam; #10 Helen Abbott.

Diamond Life Master of the Year: #2 Dane Clay; #3 Ann Clay.

Grand Life Master of the Year: #1 Allan Siebert; #2 David Siebert; #3 Al Childs.

Ace of Clubs

Rookie of the Year: #1 Sheila Mehaffy; #4 Judy Chapman; #5 Sherry Wortsmith; #6 Nancy Tracy; #7 Claudia Ragon; #9 Dick Adkisson; #10 Blanche Moore.

Junior Master of the Year: #1 Bert Turner; #4 Gwen Briscoe.

Club Master of the Year: #6 Fran Harp; #9 Charles Johnston.

Sectional Master of the Year: #9 Bill Cardin.

Regional Master of the Year: #2 Ann Lewis; #3 Bonnie Fincher; #6 Gene Marques; #8 Dean Phillips.

NABC Master of the Year: #3 Diane Tait; #6 Barbara Miles; #8 Betty Karnes; #9 Gerry Chism.

Life Master of the Year: #3 Norma Campbell; #10 Monica Heseman.

Bronze Life Master of the Year: #8 Deb Phillips.

Gold Life Master of the Year: #5 Peggy Jett; #6 Bonnie Melchior; #7 Ruth Gilliam; #8 Helen Abbott;.

Diamond Life Master of the Year: #2 Dane Clay; #3 Ann Clay.

Grand Life Master of the Year: #1 David Siebert; #2 Al Childs. ♣

National Masterpoint Races

At July 7, 2004, 4 LRDBC members were listed in national masterpoint races. The Barry Crane Top 500 and the "of the year" races are for 2004; the Player of the Decade measures platinum points earned since the beginning of 2000.

Barry Crane Top 500: #43 Allan Siebert; #122 David Siebert.

Mini-McKenney Junior Master of the Year: #6 Bert Turner.

Mini-McKenney Grand Life Master of the Year: #30 Allan Siebert.

Ace of Clubs Junior Master of the Year: #23 Bert

Turner.

Player of the Decade: #78 Allan Siebert (at May 14). ♠

July Board Minutes

Jo Blanchard, Secretary

July 11, 2004

Margaret Kelly called the meeting to order. The attendees were Jo Blanchard, Norma Campbell, Mike Compton, Tommye Davis, Ann Ferrill, Dick Heil, Leah Lasley, Rick Lowens, Barbara Miles, Bobby Morgan, Lou Morris, and Diane Tait.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Rick provided a treasurer's report. The year to date net income as reported through June 30, 2004 is \$5,749. Since our last two sectional tournaments made a profit, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to discontinue the accounting practice of expensing 25 cents per table. (The 25 cents was accumulated to produce a side fund to subsidize our tournaments in case of a loss.) Mike reported \$1,000 was received from the unit as reimbursement for education expense and another \$1,000 reimbursement has been requested from District 10. It was reported proceeds from the profits of Hot Springs Regional Tournament have not been received yet.

New Business:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to appoint Mike Compton as the chairman for our 2005 sectional tournament. The tentative date is Memorial Day weekend. Mike provided information regarding a possible and very probable site which is the Comfort Inn located downtown. It was reported the Comfort Inn has been recently renovated and can provide the accommodations needed for a reasonable fee.

The feasibility of implementing and allowing PLAY COUPON BOOKLETS was discussed. A sample will be designed.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to book a Sectional STaC August 23-29. This STaC will benefit Bridge at Schools. A motion was also made, seconded, and approved to remove all of the previously scheduled North American Pairs Open from our August schedule

except for one—the one scheduled for a Thursday night game.

Old Business:

It was noted we have 54 new members as the result of Ann and Dick's recent classes. A typed list of the new members was requested as an addendum to the current directory. It was also noted separate member listings are being maintained so as new members are added a common form needs to be used to obtain information for the directory and the information needs to be shared with Jane Dickey, Dick Heil, and Rick Lowens.

The status of the crash bar was discussed. It is still scheduled to be ordered and installed.

The status of the web site was discussed. The site will be established for a six-month trial period. A \$35 fee is required to reserve the web name of "lrbridgehouse.org" for one year.

Meeting was adjourned. ♥

BRIDGEATSCHOOLS STaC

BridgeAtSchools, a 501(3)(c) nonprofit school bridge organization, is sponsoring a STaC fund raiser. This silverpoint bonanza begins on Monday August 23 and continues through Sunday August 29.

Each pair session of this tournament is a distinct event, with its own overall awards across all of the clubs participating in that session. All pair sessions are stratified A=1000+, B=300-1000, C=0-300.

Because so many clubs participate, the first overall awards for many pair games will reach 15 to 20 masterpoints, first overall for B often will be greater than 10 points, and for C greater than 5 points. There really is a good chance for players to earn a bushel of silver points. Regular novice and intermediate games are included as part of this tournament. ♦

MAKE TRAVEL PLANS

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

UPCOMING NATIONALS (NABC)

November 18–28, Orlando, FL

March 10–20, Pittsburgh, PA
July 21–31, Atlanta, GA

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS TO CONSIDER

August 16–22, St. Louis, MO
August 31–September 6, Atlanta, GA
August 31–September 6, Richardson, TX
September 13–19, Tunica, MS
September 21–26, Wichita, KS
November 4–7, Baton Rouge, LA (0–300)
January 24–30, Biloxi, MS
June 6–12, Jackson, MS

NEARBY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

July 30–August 1, Bentonville, AR
August 27–29, Slidell, LA
September 3–5, Columbia, MO
September 11–12, Muskogee, OK
September 24–26, Lafayette, LA
September 30–October 3, Moss Point, MS
October 1–3, Monroe, LA
October 8–10, Metairie, LA (0–300)
October 8–10, Jackson, MS
November 5–7, Lake DeGray, AR

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE HOUSE — A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB
TANGLEWOOD SHOPPING CENTER, SUITE 122
7509 CANTRELL ROAD, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207
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Officers

Margaret Kelly 224-4045 (H)	President kclmfkelly@aol.com
Mike Compton	Vice President
Jo Blanchard	Secretary
Rick Lowens	Treasurer
Ann Ferrill	Past President

Board of Directors

<i>One Year</i>	<i>Two Years</i>
Leah Lasley	Norma Campbell
Lou Morris	Tommye Davis
Burla Sims	Barbara Miles
Diane Tait	Art Pfeifer
Bobby Morgan 666-2435 (H)	ACBL Club Manager bobbymorgan@arkansas.net
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