



Bob Stitt, editor

Miami Valley Bridge Association
www.mvba.com

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Winter, 2013

Happy New Year to all of our bridge players and their families and welcome to the new **VALLEY TALLY!**

I asked our President, Jan Gimbrone, if I could be the Editor this year of the **VALLEY TALLY**. What's scary is that I am a very poor writer. So, I have asked a few of our players if they would write a few articles throughout the year. Some of these articles will be a continuous series, like the series that Jeff Gargrave will be writing about **FUNDAMENTALS OF BASICS**.

My goal is to give each of our members a reason to anticipate reading the next article, learning from some of the tips that are written, and/or be entertained from some of the stories shared. I hope to have our issues be a combination of the entertaining issues when Russ Shoup was the editor and the informative issues that the Cincinnati unit has in their **ALERT**.

My plan is to have at least four issues published this year. The first issue and the last issue will be sent to everyone at their house. Any of the other issues will be available on-line on our soon to be activated new web site as well as some hard copies that will be printed and available at the MVBA Bridge Center. If you have ideas for articles or would like to contribute an article, please put a note in my file at the Bridge Center or e-mail me at bob.stitt1@gmail.com.

Finally, I would like to share a story with you. When I was first starting to play bridge in the 90's, a few of us would go over to Barbara Nixon's house after a night game. We would sit around and have a few drinks and talk about the hands and bridge in general. I wanted to be like a sponge and absorb any bits of information that I could obtain from these good players. I would ask many questions....Who is the best player in our Unit?Who plays the hands the best?...Who has the best partnership? After I got everyone's opinion, I would then try to emulate each of those players mentioned in order to improve my game.

One of the questions that I asked was "If you were playing in the finals of a National Event and you had a chance to win on the last hand, who would you want playing that hand?" Twenty years later, my

answer would still be the same....I would want the partner that I am playing with at that time. Just to see the joy on his or her face as we won would be enough for me. I get the same pleasure from seeing my partner have a finesse finally work....an unexpected squeeze develop...or the happiness on their face when you say, "Nice lead". For me, that's what bridge is all about. So, the next time you think about correcting your partner for a mistake in front of everybody, just reflect for a second and think about all the good things that your partner brings to the table. It will be more enjoyable for both of you.

I hope you enjoy this issue....I promise to try to make each one better.

Let's have a great year!

Bob



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Congratulations to newly elected Vice President, Bob Stitt (also the new Valley Tally editor), and to Board incumbents Rosie Sullivan (secretary), Steve Forsythe, Stefanie Ginger, Joanne Deutsch and Beverly Dana. Others continuing to serve for 2013 are Jan Gimbrone, President; Jerry Grogan, Treasurer; board members Georgia Banziger, Steve Boehmer, Darin Campo, Tom Coyle, Lori Harner, Marilyn & Wayne O'Connor, and Don Snyder. *A big thank you to the Election Committee: Joyce Dennis, Chair, Jane Ashworth, Judy Berberich, and Stefanie Ginger.*

The recent MVBA Holiday Party was beautiful and loads of fun! Hors d'oeuvres, dinner (catered by Cristy's) & dessert were delicious. Thanks to Stefanie Ginger and committee members Joanne Deutsch, Judy Berberich, Audrey Dyvbad, and Diane Vonderbrink. Three people received Life-Master plaques: Bob Zangri, Joanne Deutsch, and Darin Campo. Lori Harner received the Non-Life Master Award for winning the most points in regional & sectional events, and Dave Kennedy the Charlotte Falkowski Award, for collecting the most points September to September, starting this period with less than 5 points. The 20-table game which followed was challenging as usual and ultimately won by Wayne Penrod/Bobbie Johnson (A); Joe Keim/Bill Gottshall (B), and Chris Ross/John Garrett (C).

The November 18 Bill Schleman Memorial Game, which was made possible by Dallas Moore through a fund left by Bill, had 14 tables in play. Through donations, \$350.00 was given to the Miami Valley Chapter of Alzheimer's Association.

Our December Winter Sectional, chaired by Bev Dana and Jan Gimbrone, was another popular event, with a total of 187 tables; an extra large turnout! The exceptional hospitality was organized and executed by Don Snyder, with the help of Judy Berberich, and Marcie Pavlo, and Steve Boehmer (Beverage Chair). We are now looking forward to the April 12, 13, 14 Spring Sectional, chaired by Jan Sheppe, with Don again handling hospitality.

Because of an afternoon off when normally busy, I recently had the opportunity to play in the fairly new 1:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon game. It is a lightly attended game, laid back, cheerfully directed by Jerry Grogan. It was a very pleasant afternoon, and done close to 4:30. The 7 pm. Thursday evening game is also small, but has a good camaraderie, directed by Roger Dyvbig. Both of these smaller games are a good chance for newer players to transition to our regular games without being overwhelmed, or for anyone to have a relaxed but well directed game. Call either director, or just come. If you don't have a partner, arrive @ 15 minutes early!

For further recaps of 2012, see articles by Jerry Grogan (Treasurer), and Tom Coyle (Club Manager).

I have appointed a new Chairman. Joanne Deutsch has agreed to manage and organize the kitchen facility. With so many different events and games, at times it needs the hand of an "expert". Thank you, Joanne. We're already seeing a spiffier and more efficient kitchen area!

We will continue to emphasize educational opportunities, chaired by Wayne O'Connor. Steve Forsythe is continuing his Saturday (now 99'ers) 11:30 lesson, game and lunch, as well as Monday night's 7 pm NLM lesson and short game. To encourage newcomers, we decided in 2012 to make our highly successful Open House an annual event. Our new, still under construction website, described in the last issue, with opportunity for finding partners and other good stuff, will be unveiled shortly. Our webmaster, Georgia Banziger, had to take a hiatus to work on the directory. The enclosed directory is due to Georgia's hard work, *but any*

discrepancies in your personal information must be directed to ACBL at 662-253-3100 (asking for membership) as their information supersedes ours each time they send an update.

Please look at the games and dates for special events on the enclosed 2013 calendar. Any changes to this calendar will be advertised, in advance, on the website...

Thanks to all for your support and hard work!

Jan Gimbrone, President

The Treasurer's Report:

During 2012 the Board approved a number of projects four were completed and two are in process of being completed. As in 2011 the Board approved the outside parking lot lights but due to weather and contractor problems we did not complete the installation until the first quarter of 2012. This year the Unit has two projects approved but not completed as of the end of the year and neither was weather or contractor related. During the first quarter of 2013 look for a new web page on the internet and an update of awards area.

The Units completed projects for 2012 include the 40 new chairs, addition bridgemates, a replacement Ice Machine and an Advertising Program funded partially by the ACBL. The Unit is looking forward to continuously improving the facilities we use to play bridge during 2013

The Membership Watch:

NEW MEMBERS

Curt & Kathy Fellers, 45458,
(885-4808), curtf@woh.rr.com,

TRANSFERS INTO OUR UNIT

Joseph & Sara Lutz, 45459, (513-659-3380)
jlutz_8260@fuse.net, from Cincinnati.

Patricia and Robert Rolf, 45475,
from W. North Carolina

Daniel Ulrich, 45331, 765-935-7438,
ulricda@bethanyseminary.edu, from Central Indiana.

DECEASED: Ferd J Kopp, Dayton

SUNSHINE CARDS were sent to these MVBA members, who were missed, ill or had surgery:

Ken and Carole Marcroft, Darin Campo, Frank Palazzo, Davey Smith, Gerald Vonderbrink, and Mary Lou Eigsti. Well wishes to all!

Also, Fran Kuhn is in the hospital. Let's wish her well so she can come back to the table and beat up on me some more! Bob

We are happy that Janet Lee, who had knee surgery in both July and October, is back at the Club, playing and directing. Her name was accidentally left off the last Valley Tally Sunshine List.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Susan Googash, on the passing of her mother

NEW LIFE MASTER:

AL KUCHINKA

ACBL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE MOVED FORWARD...

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS Ryan Harner, Robert Heaps, Ernest Spegele, John Kennel, Pat Whitney,

NEW CLUB MASTER, Jean Paulson

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS, John Carlson, Terence Duffy

Book review by Don Messer:

The MVBA bridge library contains very good and helpful books on all aspects of bridge. One of these is *The Lebensohl Convention Complete in Contract Bridge* by Ron Anderson.

If you have played bridge for any length of time, you have run into opponents who are impertinent enough to overcall your partner's strong one no trump. How do you cope with interference over your side's one no trump opening? Here are two examples from the book:

In each case the auction has gone Partner: 1NT

RHO: 2♥ You: ?

Example 1:

♠ 6 5
♥ 843
♦ QJ108654
♣ 7

Example 2:

♠ KQ
♥ 97
♦ AQJ1096
♣ Q98

Here is the problem:

... in hand 1 you belong in 3 diamonds and no more; in hand 2 you might have game in no trump, diamonds, or even a slam in really good circumstances. How do you distinguish the two hands so you can get to the right contract? One solution to this problem is the Lebensohl convention. Generally, after interference, a bid of 2NT by responder forces partner to bid 3♣. In example 1, you would bid 2NT *which requires partner to bid 3♣*. After opener bids 3♣, you bid 3♦ *which is nonforcing and partner will pass*.

...In hand 2 you bid 3♦, which is a game force. You will find whether you belong in 5 or six diamonds or in 3 or 6 no trump in subsequent bids. The convention also allows you to find out if partner has a four-card major. The only thing you give up using

the convention are the transfer bids of 2♦ and 2♥, but these bids are not as important once an opponent has entered the auction, so you are not giving up much considering the benefits of the convention. You also give up the ability to bid 2NT as an invitation to game, but if the opponents enter the auction you are not giving up much there, either.

In hand 2 you bid 3♦, which is a game force. You will Lebensohl can also be used over partner's takeout double of a weak two bid and over reverses. All of these methods are thoroughly and clearly explained in this excellent book. The next time a good pair comes to your table, check out their card. The chances are good that they are playing Lebensohl. Perhaps you should too

FUNDAMENTALS OF BASICS

Many times in the last few years I have acted as a mentor to improving players. Two of the most confusing areas for them are defensive carding and intelligent slam bidding.

It was shocking to me to figure out what declarer had without reliable signals from pard. Beginners have no idea how much information an expert pair can convey through their carding. Too many beginners exhaust themselves trying to defend correctly; many give up and just guess. Frequently the experts, through good carding, know what to play while the beginners face a problem that is unsolvable due to missing data.

Your first duty is to use your cards to win tricks. When your card is irrelevant to promotion or winning the trick, you have an opportunity to send a signal to pard. The aggregate of these signals is defensive carding.

In today's article, I want to give you a few defensive carding tips. The overriding rule is to tell pard what she needs to know. After most opening leads, presuming you cannot help win the trick or promote a defensive honor, you should follow this priority to tell pard:

- 1) **your attitude to the suit led**
- 2) **your count in the suit led**
- 3) **your suit preference**

In standard carding, big cards show a positive attitude and small cards show a negative attitude. To show count, play high low from an even holding

and play low from an odd holding. To figure your suit preference against a no trump contract, look at the dummy and eliminate one of the three remaining suits; play a high card for the higher remaining suit and a low card for the lower suit. Against a suit contract, ignore trump and the suit led and show your preference for the two remaining suits.

This concept of suit preference carries over to many mid-hand carding choices. This week, I led the ten of spades from 10 9 8 6 and caught AKQJ in dummy. When declarer played the second spade, my 9 of spades gave a higher suit preference. Another use for suit preference is choosing the card to lead for pard to ruff; assuming your returned card will not effect winning the trick, the size of your card will give pard your preference for her to get back to your hand. You also can give pard your preference by the order in which you cash two or more winners in one suit.

After your trick one attitude play, you can show your count by playing high from 2 remaining cards and your original fourth best from three or more remaining cards. Many expert pairs carry this concept further by showing their current count whenever their card will not help win the trick

. This method is especially helpful when you have little or no winning cards; pard can be assisted by your current count cards since your attitude should be known already.

One exception to the three step priority for trick one signals occurs when pard leads from AK and the contract is at the four level or higher. Then, you should give count so pard knows how many high cards will cash.

Finally, you can give pard your count in trumps by high-lowing with three trumps.

One experienced player watched his beginner pard make a brutal shift which destroyed the defense. After the hand, he asked if his pard had a reason for that shift. His pard said he did and

explained his logic. The expert concluded by saying "Good! Your reasons will get better."

Jeff Gargrave

PLAN NOW FOR PARTNERS FOR THE MVBA

Friday, Saturday, Sunday APRIL 12, 13, 14, 2013
SECTIONAL!

FRIDAY-SATURDAY EVENTS STRATIFIED (BASED ON AVERAGE PLAYER POINTS):

A... 200 – 500 2000 +

B... 50 – 200 500 – 2000 (*750—2000, if NLM Game is scheduled at same time)

C... 0 – 50 0 – 500 (*0—750, if NLM game is scheduled at same time)

Friday – April 12, 2013:

1:00 pm: NL Master Pairs & *Open Pairs,

7:00 PM Open Pairs

Saturday - April 13, 2013:

11:00 AM NL Master Pairs & *Open Pairs,

4:00 PM NL Master Pairs & *Open Pairs

Sunday - April 14, 2013:

11:00 AM Stratified Swiss Teams (Playthrough),

Based on Team Avg MPs

Famous Dayton Complimentary Sunday Buffet served during session.

*All Hospitality is complimentary at our Bridge Center!
Snacks, soda, coffee and Sunday buffet.*

Tournament Chair:

Jan Sheppe (706)-296-5202 JSheppe9651@aol.com

Partnership Chair:

Marilyn O'Connor wandmoconnorpb@yahoo.com
(937) 885-4395

Reminder: You can purchase MVBA "free plays" to give to friends as Christmas gifts, thank yous, birthdays, etc. Contact Tom Coyle, 433-5986, or stkpikrtom@aol.com

MVBC, 2012 Year in Review, 2013 Preview

The Bridge Center ended with a positive Cash Flow of approximately \$250 after sustaining a loss of over \$2,300 in 2011. Table Count was down for 2012 by about 125 tables: 4,075 in 2012 Vs 4,199.5 in 2011. However, operating costs were reduced substantially due to a contract with Staples Advantage, Commercial division of Staples Retail. We procure from S A items from bathroom supplies to kitchen supplies, associated bridge supplies, expensive printer cartridges, paper, etc. In addition, we've saved substantial money from the investment in the better quality plastic playing cards purchased in 2011 versus the paper cards that required replacement every 10 - 12 weeks at ~ \$63.00 per Board Set for the 11 sets of Boards we use continually at the BC.

MVBC conducted virtually all of the Events offered by ACBL in 2012:

- ACBL Wide Charity Games (3)
- ACBL Wide International Fund Games (2)
- ACBL Wide Senior Game
- ACBL Wide Instant Matchpoint Game
- ACBL Wide Inter Club Championship Games (over a dozen starting May)
- February Junior Fund Month

April Charity Month
June, July, & August North American Pairs Qualification Games

September International Fund Month

October Club Appreciation Month

December Grass Roots Fund Month

Annual Membership Games

MVBC participated in the 3 week long STaC's conducted by District 11, and was host to 3 Sectional Tournaments conducted by the Unit.

MVBC hosted the District 11 Grand National Team Finals and will have hosted the 2013 event Jan 26, 27 as this publication has gone to press.

Thanks to Unit Education Chair Wayne O'Connor and Instructor Gary Hatten, three successful classes, the Club, Diamond, and Heart series were held at the Bridge Center with attendance peaking at over 30 students in the spring & early summer on Saturdays. At the conclusion of those classes, Steve Forsythe started a Supervised play and limited game (now 0 - 99) in conjunction with the Saturday Open Game.

MVBC will continue to participate for the benefit of our players all of

the special events offered by ACBL in 2013 and will resume the next series of classes for newer players in late spring.

(The only ACBL Special Event MVBC does not conduct is the World Wide Bridge Contest due to the additional Fee of \$4.00 per player to benefit the World Bridge Federation).

Thanks to all of the Players who played at the Bridge Center in 2012, our Directing Staff, the Unit which

provided 40 new chairs, a new Commercial Grade Ice Maker, and additional lighting in the Parking Lot.

May all of you find enjoyment at the Center in 2013.

Tom Coyle,

Manager, MVBC

(96th largest Club of over 3,200 ACBL Clubs in North America).

HOT OFF THE PRESSES:

The GNT event was held at the MVBC over the weekend of Jan.26-27 and Unit 136 players shined! The Flight B winners (up to 2000 points) were Lori Harner, Donna Moore, Joe Keim, and Bill Gottschall. They won their semi-final match of 30 boards by 7 IMPs and the final by 8 IMPs.

Not to be outdone, the Flight C winners were Don Snyder, Joan Reeves, Al Kuchinka, and Linda Fadely. They won their final event by a slim 4 IMPs. On Saturday, Joan Reeves became a Life Master!

Both of these teams are eligible to represent District 11 at the Summer Nationals in Atlanta.

In the Championship Flight, Russ Shoup and Craig Satersmoen were on a team that lost in the finals to the Granovetter team from Cincinnati. Of the 29 teams that played, Unit 136 easily had the best results overall. Thanks go to Tom Coyle for scheduling practice matches in advance of the event.