

Grand Slammer

Unit 448 – ACBL

Summer 2013

<http://www.spokanebridge.com>

Labor Day Sectional in Spokane

Aug 30- Sep 2 at **Comfort INN**

Friday August 30

1:00 Stratified Pairs, One Session

6:00 Stratified Pairs, One Session

Saturday August 31

10:00 Stratified Teams, Two Sessions

3:00 (Victory Points) (7 8-Board Matches)

Sunday September 1

10:00 Stratified Pairs, First Session

3:00 Stratified Pairs, Second Session

Monday September 2

10:00 Stratified Teams, Two Sessions

3:00 (Victory Points) (7 8-Board Matches)

Strata: 0-500, 500-1500, 1500+ (Average of the pair or team)

Intermediate/Newcomer

Friday August 30

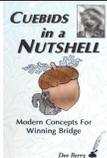
1:00 Stratified Pairs, One Session

6:00 Stratified Pairs, One Session

Sunday September 1

10:00 Stratified Pairs, One Session

3:00 Stratified Pairs, One Session



Dee Berry will speak at the Labor Day Sectional on Friday from 10am to 12pm. Her topic will be “*Cue Bids – Visible and Invisible*”. Come early at 9:30am for coffee & donuts.



Becoming a Teacher?

Dee Berry is willing to hold a *TAP course* (Teacher Accreditation Program) on Wednesday and Thursday before Labor Day. ACBL requires her to have a minimum number to hold the course. The cost is \$125. If interested, contact Brenda Simpson at bsbridge@aol.com



Rules of Being a Good Partner *by Marty Bergen*

"I have always believed that your attitude toward your partner is as important as your technical skill at the game." Rixi Markus, one of the all-time great players

Before you sit down to discuss what you are playing, you should start your partnership off on the right note. Half the battle of winning is being a good partner. Always observe the following:

1. Do not give lessons, unless you are being paid to do so. *"According to an evening paper, there are only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often one gets one of them as a partner." Punch (British magazine).*
2. Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him to say the same to you. If you are unsure whether your partner would want you to say something, don't.
3. Never "result" (criticize your partner for a normal action just because it did not work this time).
4. Unless your intent is to clear up a misunderstanding, avoid discussing the hand just played. If you cannot resist, be discreet.
5. Remember that you and your partner are on the same side.
6. Do not forget that your partner wants to win as much as you do.
7. If you feel the urge to be nasty, sarcastic, critical or loud — excuse yourself and take a walk.
8. When there is time between hands, do not discuss bridge.
9. When you want to consult another player about a disaster, ask about your hand, not your partner's.
10. Do not ever criticize or embarrass your partner in front of others.
11. Remember that bridge is only a card game.
12. Have a good time, and make sure that your partner does also. *"Bridge is for fun. You should play the game for no other reason. You should not play bridge to make money, to show how smart you are, or show how stupid your partner is... or to prove any of the several hundred other things bridge players are so often trying to prove." Bridge legend Charles Goren.*
13. Trust your partner; do not assume that he has made a mistake.
14. Although it may be unfashionable, it really is okay to be pleasant to a partner with whom you also happen to live.
15. Remember: *"The worst analysts and the biggest talkers are often one and the same." Bridge columnist Frank Stewart.* Think twice before verbally analyzing a hand. Do not embarrass yourself with a hasty, inaccurate comment.
16. When you voluntarily choose to play bridge with someone, it is not fair to get upset when partner does not play any better than usual.
17. Never side with an opponent against your partner. If you cannot support your partner, say nothing.
18. If you think you are too good for a partner, and do not enjoy playing bridge with him, do everyone a favor and play with someone else. That is clearly much better than being a martyr. However, be careful before burning bridges — another player's grass may not be greener.
19. Learn your partner's style, regardless of how you feel about it. Do not expect your partner to bid exactly as you would. When partner makes a bid, consider what he will have, not what you would.
20. Try to picture problems from partner's point of view. Seek the bid or play that will make his life easiest.
21. Sympathize with partner if he makes a mistake. Let your partner know that you like him, and always root for him 100%.



Winners in 2013 Lilac Sectional

Saturday I/N Pairs	Saturday Pairs	Sunday Swiss Teams
Duane Munk, Spokane WA James Williams, Spokane WA - o - Beverly Barber, Spokane WA Eileen Hendon, Spokane V. WA	David Corn, Spokane WA Bill Whitesel, Sandpoint ID	Wayne Weaver, Genelle BC Charles Bennett, Spokane WA Dave Westfall, Spokane WA Pete Pluhta, Pullman WA

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"The Learning Corner" by Dennis Cohen



Little Things Can Mean a Lot

One of my most frequent partners is Catherine Creer and her favorite bridge author is Eddie Kantar (www.kantarbridge.com). Arguably his best books are *Take All Your Chances at Bridge* and its sequel, *Take All Your Chances at Bridge 2*. The accompanying deal, taken from an ACBL pairs tournament on Bridge Base Online (a.k.a. "BBO"), could have come from either of those titles.

11		D	
N North		E East	
♠ 642		♠ 9853	
♥ AQ6		♥ 4	
♦ KQ9		♦ A102	
♣ Q963		♣ J10752	
W West		S South	
♠ QJ107		♠ AK	
♥ 75		♥ KJ109832	
♦ J843		♦ 765	
♣ K84		♣ A	

S	W	N	E
1H	P	2C	P
2H	P	3H	P
3S	P	4D	P
4NT	P	5C	P
5D	P	6D	P
6H	P	P	P

The auction was a pretty standard 2/1 offering and, once Catherine heard about heart support and diamond control, she launched into Roman Keycard Blackwood (1430). Learning that a keycard was absent, she checked on the heart queen and learned that I held it, in addition to the diamond king, so she settled into 6H and found herself with a bit of a challenge. If the diamond ace was onside, the contract would be easy to make, but she looked for an extra chance and found it. If the club king ruffed out on the second or third round of the suit, she could park her small diamond on the club queen. For that she required three dummy entries after West led a diamond to the king and ace, eliminating the possibility that the diamond ace was favorably placed, and East returned the diamond ten. A club to the ace was followed by the heart jack to the queen, a club ruff with the nine, the heart king to the ace, and a club ruff with the eight and the satisfying fall of the club king. Now, a carefully preserved small heart to the six allowed her to discard her losing diamond on the club queen. The key to this hand, and others like it, is that you should unblock to give yourself the option of an additional entry when possible. You can draw your own conclusions as to why West led a diamond rather than the more expected spade sequence (East broke tempo slightly over the 6D call), but careful technique made the issue moot.



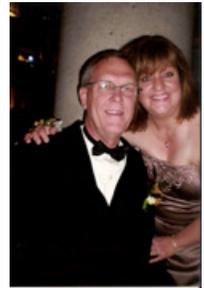
I/N Success in Penticton

Sue Norton was playing with Bette Kelly of Summerland, BC, in the Tuesday morning 199er pair event. There were 15 1/2 tables and Sue and her partner came in first overall--with a 61.04% game. That was worth 3.46 red master points. There were 15 1/2 tables, which means Sue and her partner came in first out of 31 pairs! That's terrific!

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"Spokane Solvers Club" by David Corn

Summer Solution



IMP's, none vul. You, South, hold:

♠ J753
♥ J853
♦ A8
♣ J97

South	West	North	East
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
?			

What call do you make?

Action	Score	Votes
Pass	100	11
2♠	90	10
2NT	70	3
3NT	60	2
3♣	50	4
3♠	40	1

Readers, I culled this problem from a 1988 "Bridge World" that I was reading as I was trying to fall asleep the other night. Before we can begin to discuss the problem, a couple of caveats, please. My first thought, when I saw the problem, was "Gosh, I have an awful lot of HCPs, given the bidding up to this point." Usually, when this type of problem occurs, I am looking at a near Yarborough. Here, I am not.

So, the second thought is how do my expert partner and I convey to one another the nature of our hands, while still getting the plus score we so both desire? Does partner have a pile of HCPs, say AQx, xx, KQJx, AKQx? Or is he more likely to hold something like AK10x, x, KQxx, AKxx with spades a factor? Or something more shapely, like Axx, void, KQJxx, AKxxx?

Personally, I think that all three of the above hands are within the realm of possibility for my expert partner to hold. Is this, then, all just a guess by us, or is there really a solution? Let's visit this month's panel and start with those who are not afraid to defend, and most of whom added what to lead.

CREER: Pass. Partner has a big hand after doubling twice. We don't have a fit, but we have good defensive cards.

MAX GALLOTTI: Nice problem. I wish it had been a MPs problem, then my decision would have been easier. It being IMPs, it requires more attention: my partner has a strong hand, but he never mentioned a suit, so my choices are restricted to (1) a too conservative 2NT, (2) a gambling 3NT (can we make 9 tricks before they get 5+?), and (3) a somewhat risky pass. My decision is pass. Good luck to me (and my team).

SINGER: I've got exactly one distribution that makes sense on the bidding. West is 5-2-5-1, North is 2-2-5-4 and East is 2-5-1-5. I pass and lead a trump.

KEMPER: I'm not happy passing this; my trumps are weak and declarer will not have problems with defensive overruff threats. But pard must have extra values here, and doubling and leading a trump looks to be the winner on balance. Bidding 2S is a reasonable 2nd choice, and might well be the winner, especially if West is partial to psyching. I don't see a reasonable 3rd option.

I really didn't intend to have this turn into a lead problem, but the kids from the Bay area, I believe, may be on to something here. Who amongst us, as East, hasn't opened some 1-5-2-5 minimum, only to find our dummy having the reverse "mirror" of 5-2-5-1, also with a minimum.

These hands always play terribly, but most often we come out unscathed and undoubled. Our partner, on this hand, makes the reverse mirror hand a live possibility with his bidding; now all we need do is have the courage to back our beliefs, pass the second double, lead a trump so our HCPs don't get ruffed out, and accept our +300 or so.... But, then, there are always those teammates who really dislike our bringing back the "crooked" score, like minus 470 (or more).

HANFT: It's a tough problem. Obviously, partner has a lot of cards. But, do we have enough for game, e.g. 3NT where we need to score 9 tricks before they get 5? Or, 4S against a 4-1 or 5-0 break in trumps? Maybe this is the last place we have a plus. I guess 2S. Count me chicken if you must.

HARRIS: In some forms of blackjack, it is possible to "surrender," a good move with this hand, perhaps. Failing that, 2S, in tempo. If they double, sit.

HEMENWAY: David, would you please, please, quit looking back at your old "Bridge Worlds"? I don't like this problem one bit. I don't like any of the reasonable choices: Pass, 2NT, 2S. At MPs I'd pass, but at IMPs, I guess I'd bid 2S.

KEEL: 2S, and accept any game tries. (*Dream on that partner is going to bid on*)

MALCOLM: The first call I make is for the doctor. Actually, I bid 2S and if it goes vicious DBL, I likely will try 2NT. Really, this problem is straight out of Hell.

YARINGTON: This auction sounds like one from the midnight game. My call is 2S. We might actually have spades and LHO could be fooling around. If my partner continues with anything more, I'll bid 3NT. (*Richard, not only may LHO be "fooling around", but how about that RHO, too? He could be awfully light for his bids, no?*)

WEAVER: It seems like West may have psyched his spade bid, so just in case that is what has happened, I bid 2S, partner can take it from there.

Some seem to think that by bidding 2NT, partner may know whether to pass, raise or correct to some other strain. I am not convinced.

CRIS GALLOTTI: 2NT. Partner has shown a very strong hand, though I don't see a 6-card suit in his hand. I give him the chance to better illustrate it, if he wants to.

KEN SCHOLES: 2NT. I can't think of anything else to bid, but maybe we have a 4-4 spade fit and 2S is right?

I found it most interesting that this was almost the entire extent of replies relating to 2NT. Almost without exception, those panelists who opted for 2NT gave no "pithy" comments at all.

Some thought that they knew where the partnership should play. I disagree, but let's listen in:

BRANDON: I have a much better hand than I should on the auction so far, but not much support for the minors, and poor stoppers for NT (*This sounds like an advertisement for Pass, if you ask me - David*) I will bid my better minor, 3C, even though it was bid by my opponents. I expect partner to be 2-1-5-5 or 2-0-6-5. (*Again, I disagree; with those shapes he coulda/shoulda bid 2NT at his first bid, usually*).

ROTTMAYER: 3C. I think partner has a good hand with both minors. Something is fishy, perhaps the 2C bid. Trust partner, not the opponents.

And finally, one of the two panelists with lots and lots of hair on his chest:

MYERS: Were these MPs, I'd likely shoot this out in 2H doubled, since I wouldn't be guaranteed to find the correct spot even if there was one. But today we are playing a team game, and the odds are waaaayyyyy different. Yes, pass could be right, but the odds are only slightly better than Russian Roulette. Partner isn't wildly 2-suited. He could have jumped to 2NT with that shape. In a situation like this, when there is no totally right bid, I like to choose the option that gains the most when right, so I'll try 3NT. I do know that the opponents aren't likely going to run any suit on me immediately, and with all of the relevant HCPs in the opener's hand, the hand may be the type that after a few throw-in plays and such, we may well be able to win the race up to 9 tricks.

ME? *I am a passer, though without great conviction. I am trying to adhere to the Law of Total Trumps, an adjunct of the Law of Total Tricks. If we can, indeed, take 9 tricks, and there are no greater than 7-card fits out there, we should be beating the opponents 2 or 3 tricks, there only being 14 total trumps and all. Furthermore, I can only hope that I am playing on the team that forgives and forgets if my decision comes a cropper.*

As Director Kokish summed it up back in July, 1988 "The passers go for the throat, conceding that they will occasionally be wrong. The cue-bidders and 3NT bashers put their chips on game. The black-suit grunters guess to miss game most of the time. The 2NT'ers fall somewhere in the middle. Bridge is not a game for perfection; and often, as here, you are forced to take a stand. This really is a good problem."

How the Panel voted:

Charlie Bennett, Spokane Valley	pass	Jodi Kimbrell, Spokane	2♠
John Brandon, Denver CO	3♣	Ron Krueger, Spokane	3NT
Rod Caldwell, North Bend WA	pass	Ann Labe, Carlsbad CA	2♠
Dennis Cohen, Spokane	3♣	Hart Leppard, Fernie BC	2♠
Barbara Corn, Spokane	pass	Chuck Malcolm, Topeka KS	2♠
Catherine Creer, Spokane	pass	Gerry McCully, Victoria BC	pass
Neil Fitzgerald, Spokane Valley	3♠	McKenzie Myers, Beaverton OR	3NT
Cris Gallotti, Spokane	2NT	Naomi Paasch, Moorehead MN	2NT
Max Gallotti, Spokane	pass	Bill Rottmayer, Spokane	3♣
Leo Glaser, Winfield BC	pass	Ken Scholes, Bellevue WA	2NT
Mark Hanft, Mountlake Terrace WA	2♠	Sandy Scholes, Bellevue WA	pass
George Harris, Escazu Costa Rica	2♠	Joel Singer, Santa Clara CA	pass
Marilyn Hemenway, Omaha NE	2♠	Wayne Weaver, Genelle BC	2♠
Norma Hols, Spokane	pass	Bill Whitesel, Sandpoint ID	3♣
Darrell Keel, Peoria AZ	2♠	Dick Yarrington, Seattle WA	2♠
Brian Kemper, Sunnyvale CA	pass		

Thanks for listening.....until next time/issue.

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2013 Unit 448 Championship Games at **Comfort INN**

Check updated schedule at spokanebridge.com/events/games/

July, 2013	NO GAME	
August 18, 2013	5:00 pm	One Session
September 22, 2013	1:00	
October 13, 2013	1:00 and TBA	\$1 extra per game Charity Game
November 17, 2013	1:00 pm	One Session
December 8, 2013	1:00 pm	Christmas Party - Site TBA

On May 26, The Spokesman-Review asked readers to submit original verses that anyone can use on memorial service programs handed out at funerals.

As a result, on June 22, The Spokesman-Review published the following:

“Gerry Krueger isn’t planning to die soon, nor is her husband, Ron Krueger. But Gerry Krueger is planning ahead.

If she dies before her husband, she has written a memorial verse to be printed on her funeral program. It expresses her hope that their widow friends will cook dinners for her husband. It’s pretty darn funny. As Krueger’s memorial verse illustrates, sometimes there can be a little “fun” in funerals. Here are the words she’ll leave behind:

In [future] Memoriam by Gerry Krueger



Remember my forest,
remember my dolls,
but remember to feed my husband
when I’m gone.
Remember my needlework,
remember my buttons,
but remember to bake sour cream rolls
for my husband when I’m gone.
Remember my corgis,
remember my sheep,
but remember home-cooked food for
my husband when I’m gone.
Remember my smile,
remember my friends,
but remember to leave your phone number
with hot dishes when I’m gone.
He’s a great guy, give him a hug.
He has a warm heart, make him smile.
But most of all remember to feed my husband
now that I’m gone.

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ACBL Certified Bridge Teachers

For information about classes or tutoring, contact one of these ACBL certified bridge teachers.

Theresa Barthels	Tel (509) 235-5929	ptbarth@centurytel.net
Mike Coopersmith	Tel (509) 599-1545	mikeconniecoopersmith@yahoo.com
Doyle Crook	Tel (509) 590-6122	doylecrook@msn.com
Kay Fergie	Tel (509) 838-3270	catherinefergie@comcast.net
Brenda Simpson	Tel (509) 939-4666	bsbridge@aol.com
James Sremba	Tel (509) 473-9741	jimbosremba@gmail.com

Intermediate & Newcomers

<p>QUESTIONS?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOIN THE EMAIL LIST</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CALL</u> Nancy Edwards 509-448-7994</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEED A PARTNER OR MENTOR?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT</u> David Corn Director 509-535-9000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We welcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Intermediate and Newcomers with 0 – 200 points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL UNIT GAMES Will have an I/N session if there are at least 3 tables of players. Please sign up at the Bridge Club prior to each game.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INTERMEDIATE / NEWCOMERS GAMES Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. At Comfort Inn, East Third, Spokane</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ <u>First and Fourth Wednesday</u> → come with your I/N Partner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ <u>Second, Third (and Fifth) Wednesday</u> → play with a Mentor!</p>
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2013 Weekly CLUB games of Unit 448

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Spokane</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comfort Inn (5th Floor) 923 E 3rd Ave Spokane, WA 99202 <i>I-90 exit 281 (282B westbound)</i></p> <p>Mon 10:00 <i>non-LM</i> Kay Fergie 509-838-3270 Mon 6 :00 Open David Corn 509-443-9073</p> <p>Tue 11:00 Open David Corn 509-443-9073 Tue 6:00 Open David Corn 509-443-9073</p> <p>Wed 12:00 Open Mike Coopersmith 509-466-4404 Wed 6:00 <i>I/N (0-200) Student game</i> <i>I/N Mentor game on weeks 2, 3, & 5</i> David Corn 509-443-9073</p> <p>Thurs 12:00 Open David Corn 509-443-9073</p> <p>Fri 11:00 Open David Corn 509-443-9073</p> <p>Sat 12:00 Open Kay Fergie 509-838-3270</p> <p>See recent results at spokanebridge.com/scores/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Spokane Valley</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I-90 exit 289, Pines Rd, WA</i></p> <p>Tues 11:00 Open Brenda Simpson 509-926-6973 Elks Club - 2605 N Robie Rd, Spokane Valley</p> <p>Thurs 6:00 Open Brenda Simpson 509-926-6973 Opportunity Presbyterian Church 202 N Pines Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99206</p> <p>=====</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Coeur d’Alene / Post Falls</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Garden Plaza of Post Falls 545 N. Garden Plaza Ct.</p> <p>Mon 12:00 Open</p> <p>=====</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Palouse</u></p> <p>Tues 7:00 Open Pete Pluhta 509-334-3245 Moscow, ID 83843 - 1912 Building, 412 E 3rd St.</p> <p>Thurs 1:00 Open Karen Eveland 208-798-3092 Pautler Senior Center 549 5th St Clarkston, WA 9940</p>
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Issues of the SLAMMER (2005-current) can be viewed at spokanebridge.com/slammer.php

Cristina Gallotti, editor <cris.galf@gmail.com>