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Introduction

Dear Fellow Members,

I would really like to get some feedback from the membership as to what they would like to see in the newsletter. In the first on-line edition, I asked for suggestions as to what you would like to see and for material to be included in the newsletter (articles, opinions, etc). I also put out an idea about an on-line club team competition. I have yet to receive a single e-mail. So, I can only conclude that this is voting with your fingers (no e-mails) and question whether this newsletter is a worthwhile endeavor.

What are you thinking people?

If you would like to see results from our tournaments or any ACBL tournaments, go to acbl.org and under the heading Tournaments click on Calender & Results. Regional and sectional results are listed by month and year.

Dennis Ryan

WUMBA Mentorship Program

This program was initiated in the fall of 2011 with the primary goals of: (1) to assist aspiring bridge players to become club members: (2) to help these bridge players improve their bridge playing skills through a supportive relationship with a Mentor. For more details visit the WUMBA website — Mentorship Program.

Remember your initial entry into the world of duplicate bridge, the players who provided supportive suggestions, the players who helped create a comfortable environment, and the players who invited you to be their partner at a club game?. Maybe you have considered giving back to your bridge community by mentoring new players and are looking for an organized program. Perhaps you are currently an ambassador for duplicate bridge, promoting bridge, assisting new players and exploring ways to expand your role. You might be a new bridge player seeking a more experienced player to provide guidance and support. Discuss your interest and ideas with your bridge club manager/owner, advance your ideas to other club members, and select some activities that will work for you and your club.

Many of our members are currently involved in successful mentorship activities and know what? — their suggestions and support is available to us. Here are several examples of mentorship activities currently employed by bridge club members.

- special sessions with rookie players
- mini lessons prior to a club game
- individual Mentor/Mentee partnerships
- mini question/answer session

Those of us with a tired body and active mind can provide support, share ideas and assist where needed. Cheering squads and smiles work too!

Contact Flo Erickson, florentina@frontiernet.net, 715-362-6536, with questions, suggestions, ideas, and any club mentoring activities you would like to share with other clubs.

WUMBA Relationships

I have written and rewritten this article several times. The result has been my getting this to Mr. Ryan very late. I may even be the reason this issue doesn't get out on time. Even the title has changed more times than I have fingers. I just can't seem to include all aspects of what I want to say from any one angle. So with your help this will be part one of a couple of short but long-lasting angles--not an angle that can be measured with a protractor but rather with the heart.

Playing bridge with my sister is a wonderful thing, win or lose. Duplicate with her is simply a joy including

laughter, disappointment, sharing of each other's adventures and shyness in not only bidding but declarer play and defense (even dining between sessions has been an adventure). But I know of other family partnerships. The list goes back to the Kellogg sisters of Stevens Point to the present Grandson-Grandmother-Grandfather partnership of Jim and Helen Sauer playing together in the Minocqua Sectional. It would take more research than I have the resources for to find a complete list. Even if it could be done, the list would not include those segments off the line of partnerships outside blood relationships.

Not only have relatives found their way table-side but many relationships of infinite types have been formed table-side. Paulo and Laurie were first introduced at a partnership desk, and my sister Sylvia and Diane by a director, etc. These relationships have not been restricted to the interior of the playing room but have extended to the exteriors. Many bridge partners have extended their radiuses to transverse many planes including golf courses, real estate transactions, the altar, and travel destinations. Bridge has not only been supplementary to their lives but complementary.

My e-mail is wcmurphy4@gmail.com If you have a bridge relationship you are willing to allow me to include in my list, please send it along. I am sincerely interested. If you are willing to allow me to share your relationship with other next newsletter, please indicate so.

Bridge is truly a ray of joy blessed through many angles.

Murf (aka Bill Murphy)

Grand Slams

The frequency of a grand slam occurring is 1 in 5,848 hands or 0.02% of the time. At the Lake Geneva regional in the swiss team round of 7 boards, 2(!) Grand slams occurred. I held this hand:

♠AJ, ♥AKxx, ♦Axxx, ♣xxx and my partner, George Bleskachek, held ♠Q, ♥xx, ♦KQJx, ♣AKQxxx. As you all know, there are many ways of arriving at a final contract. We play a variation of precision so imagine my surprise holding 16 high card points when

George opened 1♣ showing 16+ HCP's. I responded 2NT which in our methods shows 14+ HCP's balanced. After this auction we play a convention called Baron where we bid our 4 card suits up-

the-line. George duly bid 3♣ and I bid 3♦. The rest of the auction proceeded 4NT-5♦ (0 or 3)-7♦. The clubs broke

4-0 so 7NT and 7♣ do not make. The ♣Jxxx were on my right, so a club lead could not be led for a ruff. Luckily, we had right-sided the contract. At the other table, our opponents played 6♦.

Two hands later both tables bid 7♠ on these hands:

♠KQJxx, ♥Ax, ♦A, ♣AKJxx opposite ♠A10xx, ♥KJ, ♦K10xxx, ♣xx. Two grand slams in 3 hands, during a 7 hand round,— what are the odds of that?!!!! And these hands were hand shuffled and dealt, not by computer for you conspiracy theorists out there.

By the way, the number of possible bridge hands to be dealt is: 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000.

Here are the odds of probable division of opponents' cards:

Number of cards that opponents hold	Division	Probability (as a %)	Number of Combinations	Probability (as %) for each combination
2	1-1	52.00	2	26.00
	2-0 & 0-2	48.00	2	24.00
3	2-1 & 1-2	78.00	6	13.00
	3-0 & 0-3	22.00	2	11.00
4	2-2	40.70	6	6.78
	3-1 & 1-3	49.74	8	6.22
	4-0 & 0-4	9.56	2	4.78
5	3-2 & 2-3	67.83	20	3.39
	4-1 & 1-4	28.26	10	2.83
	5-0 & 0-5	3.91	2	1.96
6	3-3	35.53	20	1.78
	4-2 & 2-4	48.45	30	1.61
	5-1 & 1-5	14.53	12	1.21
	6-0 & 0-6	1.49	2	0.75
7	4-3 & 3-4	62.18	70	0.89
	5-2 & 2-5	30.52	42	0.73
	6-1 & 1-6	6.78	14	0.48
	7-0 & 0-7	0.52	2	0.26
8	4-4	32.72	70	0.47
	5-3 & 3-5	47.12	112	0.42
	6-2 & 2-6	17.14	56	0.31
	7-1 & 1-7	2.86	16	0.18
	8-0 & 0-8	0.16	2	0.08

This table provides a foundation for the study of all problems of probability in the play of the cards.

An excellent book entitled Bridge Odds for Practical Players by Hugh Kelsey and Michael Glauert contains much more information about probabilities.

Bridge is truly a game of mathematics and the better your grasp of statistical probability is the better your results will be. Happy counting!

Dennis Ryan

Useful Tips from Marty Bergen

1) If the thought of being passed out in 1♥ or 1♠ would make you ill, open 2♣.

[Editor note: Don't abuse this one though. I think many people do. Do you have an agreement with your favorite partner that a jump shift by opener is game forcing? Thus, you can force to game with your 2nd bid and not worry about being passed out below game. So, if you open 1♥ and partner passes, it may keep you at a safe, low level.]

2) When declarer has an inevitable loser, he should usually lose it sooner than later. This variation of the holdup play is referred to as a "duck", and its purpose is to preserve entries.

3) If your only strength is in your long, strong suit, it's okay to preempt with a void.

4) When missing 6 cards in a suit, a 3-3 split is against the odds. Don't count on it.

[Editor note: if you look at the probability table, elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see that a 3-3 split occurs 35.53% of the time.]

5) Never signal with a card that might take a trick if you held on to it.

[ed: Marty Bergen is a prolific writer of bridge books. He stopped a successful playing career to concentrate on writing and teaching. You can see a listing of his books by going to the website <http://www.baronbarclay.com>.]

Tournament Calendar – 2012-2013

LaCrosse, WI 11/2-4
 San Francisco, CA nationals 11/22-12/2
 Monona (Madison), WI 12/7-9
 Milwaukee, WI 12/27-30
 Ripon*, WI 1/25-27 (2013)
 Milwaukee**, WI 2/13-16 (2013)
 Madison, WI 3/8-10 (2013)
 Appleton, WI 4/12-14 (2013)
 Green Bay, WI 5/17-19
 Woodruff, WI 6/27-30

*There is some conflicting information available. The ACBL web site has this tournament in Ripon. The D13 tournament coordinator lists the tournament as being in Appleton.

**More confusion. The ACBL web site has this tournament from February 8-10 in West Allis. The D13 tournament coordinator lists the tournament from February 13-16 in Milwaukee.