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### Introduction

Dear Fellow Bridgers, If you have any items that you want included in the newsletter (announcements, criticisms, questions, answers, stories, etc), please e-mail them to me at [denr@wwt.net](mailto:denr@wwt.net). Your involvement in the newsletter is important.

Thank you, Dennis Ryan

### Letter from Bill Murphy (belated)

Hope all of our WUMBA members enjoyed the Thanksgiving season and will feel the joys of the Christmas holidays. Family members often reunite in thanks and in a spirit uniquely special. Please allow me to take this newsletter space to express the uniquely special thanks we all have to each and every member of our WUMBA family.

The giving of so many is felt by all in so many ways. Most of our clubs are directed and managed by volunteers or by those paid so little it hardly covers their gas costs. The time spent matching up partners week after week is endless. Abundant hospitality exists not only at our sectionals but at most club games as well. The board members give in more ways than I had ever imagined until became a part of it. All positions such as treasurer, secretary, membership chair, mentor chair, tournament chairs and workers, committee

members (and there are many committees from budget and finance, tournament, I/N and education, to name a few ) are filled by volunteers or for people given free plays again an amount that doesn't cover their transportation costs. Many have given up playing opportunities (and playing is what we really love to do) to give in the spirit of serving. At some tournaments the entire cleaning of the playing site including the bathrooms is done by our family of volunteering members. These people give the of themselves. I'm aware of so many folks providing transportation to club games, sectionals, and regionals as well as to and from other events not related to bridge. Club directors cover for each other in some cases driving many miles to do it. George often doubles part of his work load running pair/team events. We are truly a gifted family wrapping and unwrapping gifts that keep giving.

The hugs and greetings expressed as we again come together are no different from those expressed by our biological family members at such holidays as Thanksgiving and Christmas. We sincerely welcome each other not only table side at tournaments but at our club games, and when our paths cross in the grocery store or post office. Every time an out of town WUMBA family member happens to show up at the game, we are as thrilled as when a cousin walks through the door at Christmas to see them and to be able to play with each other again.

What joys we are blessed with as we enjoy our sport of bridge and each other.

Happy Holidays to all of OUR family.

Thank you. We all are a WUMBA Santa in so many, many ways.

Sincerely,

Bill Murphy

## Ripon Tournament Thank You (author unknown)

Thanks to all who help make our tournament a huge success. To Rob Webster for handling partnerships and doing too many other things to keep track of. To Jerry Marchant for storing and transporting tables, and for getting all the signs made so everybody knows where recap sheets, hand records, and tournament flyers are located. Also, Jerry also gets the fudge that is awarded to the team winners on Sunday.

To everybody who baked and brought goodies for us to enjoy.

To Bremner (a.k.a. as Rippin Good Cookies) for The great price on cookies that we use for door prizes and 299er prizes.

To Comfort Suites for the special room rate And for providing the free room as the grand prize drawing. To Royal Ridges for not only providing the great playing site, and taking care of all the refreshments, but also for the Friday night and Sunday noon meals.

To our caddy Molly Krause, who came back to Ripon from Stevens Point to again serve as our caddy. Molly has served as caddy every year of the tournament. I may have to rethink my position on money as a motivator.

Thanks to George, who is back performing the Director duties, and doing his usual excellent job. And I checked for George, and none of the local golf courses are open.

And of course a big thank you to anybody and everybody that I failed to mention. But I saved the biggest thank

you for last. A big thank you to all the players, because, without the players, there would be no tournament. And if you had a good time come back next year. And don't just tell your friends about the tournament, bring them along next year.

## Speaking of Par (from Ripon handout, author unknown)

Returning to golf, what is the definition of absolute par on a bridge hand? Absolute par is the score achieved when both sides perform to the maximum. For example, assume that North-South can make four hearts, but not five, for +420. However, East-West have a four spade sacrifice that wins eight tricks, going down two. Absolute par would be +300 North-South for defending against four spades doubled.

So what does Deep Finesse, the computer program that does hand analysis for the hands that are used in ACBL tournaments, say is absolute par for the following hand?

♠ 10842 ♥ 10752 ♦ J62 ♣ K7	♠ K9765 ♥ 94 ♦ A74 ♣ 1098 ♠ QJ3 ♥ Q63 ♦ KQ98 ♣ AQJ ♠ A ♥ AKJ8 ♦ A74 ♣ 65432
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According to Deep Finesse, North-South can make one spade, one diamond, and one club. That makes absolute par +80 for North-South, as any contract by

East-West would go down, and doubled down one would be + 100 for North-South.

Incidentally, there were only three contracts that made on this hand. I have seen a hand that only had two contracts that make. Has anyone ever seen a hand where only one contract makes, or where no contract makes?

**Sacrifice that Jack!**  
(from Ripon handout, author unknown)

You pick up an undistinguished three count with nine black cards.

♠Q974 ♥94 ♦J5 ♣108643

After a strong club opening bid on your right, and a positive one heart response, the opponents end up in six hearts. Partner leads the queen of clubs and you see the following dummy.

♠A105 ♥AQ752 ♦A63 ♣AK

Declarer wins in dummy, plays a trump to his hand, partner following, and a second trump to dummy with partner discarding a club. Next declarer cashes the king of clubs, discarding a diamond. This is followed by a spade to his king, a spade to dummy's ace, and a third round of spades which he ruffs. Next comes a diamond to dummy's ace, and a diamond from dummy. Do you still have the jack of diamonds? I hope not. Declarer's shape is known as 2-5-5-1. He has no trump losers and no black suit losers. The only chance for the defense is if partner can win two diamond tricks. But what if you play the jack on the second round of the suit and declarer ducks from an original five card holding to the queen?

The entire hand:

♠ A105	
♥ AQ752	
♦ A63	
♣ AK	
♠ J863	♠ Q974
♥ 10	♥ 94
♦ K109	♦ J5
♣ QJ975	♣ 108643
	♠ K2
	♥ KJ863
	♦ Q8742
	♣ 2

I had a long discussion with a friend (a former geometry teacher in fact) that there is no holding against which it cannot be correct to play the jack of diamonds underneath the ace. Do you agree?

"Bridge is the most diverting and intelligent card game that the wit of man has so far devised. I would have children taught it as a matter of course, just as you are taught dancing; in the end it will be more useful to them, for you cannot with seemliness continue to dance when you are bald and potbellied; nor, for that matter, can you with satisfaction to yourself or pleasure to your partner continue to play tennis or golf when you are well past middle age. But you can play bridge so long as you can sit up at a table and tell one card from another. In fact, when all else fails, — sport, love, ambition — bridge remains a solace and an entertainment."

W. Somerset Maugham

**Manage Your Entries Even When  
They Aren't Apparent  
(from Ripon handout, author  
unknown)**

I have always been somewhat paranoid as a bridge player. I believe there is a great card god watching my every play, and as soon as I make a play that charitably could be referred to as grotesque, He/She makes certain that for the remainder of the session all of my finesses lose, and suits never split favorably. I mention this because, in the following hand, declarer erred at trick one, yet was given an opportunity to recover later in the hand, but did not.

♠ J72	
♥ QJ732	
♦ 6	
♣ J1072	
♠ A10654	♠ 8
♥ A85	♥ 96
♦ Q973	♦ J8542
♣ K	♣ A9853
♠ KQ93	
♥ K104	
♦ AK10	
♣ Q64	

The bidding will not win any awards. West opened one spade, and east responded one notrump (non-forcing), obviously well- prepared for a major suit rebid from partner. South bid two notrump (I think I would have doubled) and north (thinking two notrump was unusual) had an easy three club bid. And east, not content to meekly watch the opponents flounder, doubled.

South tried three notrump, and west, thinking Christmas had arrived early, doubled. North gets full credit for not bidding four hearts, as that contract,

assuming east-west find at least two of their black suit ruffs, will fail by a few.

West led the five of spades, and declarer won the nine. He then proceeded to knock out the ace of hearts. West won the third round, and got out with a diamond. Declarer won and tried the spade king. It was a simple matter for west to duck that to prevent the spade jack from becoming a dummy entry. Next came the club queen, and east ducked to deny a club entry to dummy. Try as he might declarer could only come to eight tricks.

If declarer had won the opening lead with an honor instead of the nine, there would have a dummy entry available in spades. Even without a spade entry to dummy, declarer got a second chance. By playing the club queen under the king, declarer could have forced a dummy entry in clubs. Either play, with careful play thereafter, would have resulted in nine tricks.

While reviewing this hand I was wondering why some people get two opportunities on one hand, while I only get one opportunity per session. Given that I was +200 on the hand, perhaps it is just my paranoia again.

**Unusual 2NT Convention**

Here is a hand I played recently in a rubber bridge game. I held

♠Qxx ♥AKxx ♦K8xx ♣Qx.

The scoring was Chicago and we were vulnerable; the opponents not. I was the dealer and the bidding went as follows:

1♦-(2NT)-3♣-(5♣)  
X-(P)-5♦-P-P-P.

Some thoughts on this bidding:

- 1) 2NT is the unusual 2NT convention showing at least 5/5 in the 2 lowest suits (in this case ♥ and ♣). The strength of this bid is subject to partnership agreement and can be very weak not vulnerable to a strong hand (16 hcp). There are some considerations to be taken into account before making this bid frivolously. For example, a) will I be giving declarer too much information by showing my 2-suited distribution b) are we likely to declare this hand or defend (what is defensive potential of hand), c) is partner a passed hand. d) is there a suit you want led (it may be better to make a simple overcall.
- 2) There is a convention called "Unusual vs Unusual" that is used against conventions that show 2 suits (michaels, unusual 2NT). There are different variations of it so you and your partner must decide which you are going to play if you plan to use it. I play that the cuebid of the lower suit, here 3♣, shows a limit raise or better in partner's suit, in this case ♦. A cuebid of the higher suit, which would be 3♥ shows a game forcing hand with ♠ (the unknown suit). A raise of partner's suit is a simple competitive raise (less than limit raise). A bid of the unknown suit, here ♠, would be like an opening weak 2 bid in spades and is non-forcing but may be advanced with a good hand.
- 3) 5♣ is a preemptive action and makes the opponents "GUESS" what their best contract is.
- 4) X says "partner I have no real interest in slam perhaps defending would be our best result"  
Pass here would show a stronger hand and defer the decision to partner. (5♦ would show a distributional hand, without slam interest and no desire to defend.)
- 5) 5♦—partner decides we can score better in 5D than 5CX'd.

The Play: A small ♣ is led and the dummy is: Axxx, Q10x, QJ10xxx, void. Declarer ruffs in dummy and leads the diamond Q. RHO wins the ace with LHO following. The J of hearts is now led giving declarer 4 heart winners. The contract now depends upon avoiding 2 losers in spades. Plan your play before reading on.

There is a sure-fire way to make 5♦ based on the knowledge you have from the bidding. The 2NT bidder's distribution is either 2=5=1=5 or 1=5=1=6. So utilizing this information, you draw the last trump and ruff the club Q clearing that suit. You then cash your heart winners clearing that suit also. Declarer now plays a spade to the ace and returns a small spade toward the Q. There is no way for the opponents to defeat this contract. If RHO plays small, declarer need only cover RHO's card because if LHO wins they have no spades to return and declarer can jettison their losing spade via a ruff and sluff.

The actual hands were:

♠ A532	
♥ Q103	
♦ QJ10752	
♣ —	
♠ J4	♠ K1087
♥ 98542	♥ J
♦ 3	♦ A9
♣ KJ972	♣ A108654
♠ Q96	
♥ AK76	
♦ K864	
♣ Q3	

Dennis Ryan

### Useful Tips from Marty Bergen

- 1) When making a discard, letting partner know which suit you don't like is often a better approach than signaling which suit you do like. This allows you to hold onto your good cards.
- 2) When you have unattractive holdings in all 3 side suits, you should usually lead a trump.
- 3) Fourth hand should open if your high card points plus number of spades totals 15 or more.
- 4) When your side opens 1NT and the opponents find a fit, they probably have distributional hands, so a trump lead is the way to go.
- 5) A negative double followed by a new suit shows a long suit but a weak hand.

## Tournament Calendar – 2013

### .WUMBA 2013 Sectionals

Ripon	January 25 - 27
Madison	March 8 - 10
Appleton	April 12 - 14
Green Bay	May 17 - 19
Woodruff (Minocqua)	June 27 - 30
Madison	July 26 - 28
Three Lakes	September 20 - 22
Eau Claire	October 11 - 13
La Crosse	November 8 - 10
Monona (Madison)	December 5 - 7

### Nationals

St. Louis	March 14 - 24
Atlanta	August 1 - 11
Phoenix	November 28 - December 8

### GMBA Sectionals

Milwaukee	February 6 - 9
Sturtevant (Racine)	April 5 - 7
Brookfield	July 18 - 21
Milwaukee	October 3 - 6

### Regionals

Lake Geneva	April 22- 28
Bloomington, MN	May 20 - 26
Crystal Lake, IL	June 17- 23
St. Charles, IL	July 8 - 14
Harris, MI	August 19 - 25
Lake Geneva	October 21 - 27