



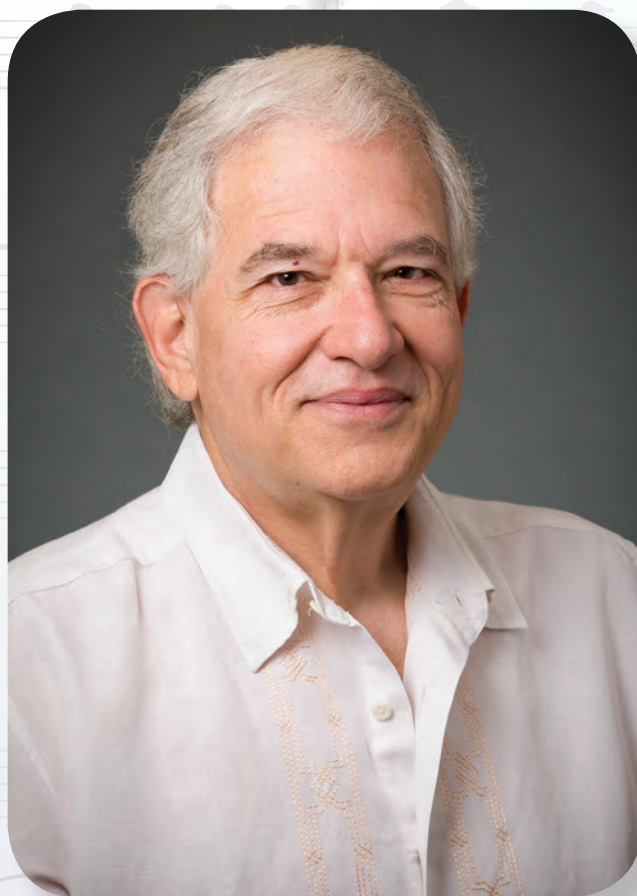
The Quarterly Magazine

A Publication of The American Bridge Teachers' Association
Winter 2016 • Issue 220 • www.abtahome.com



**In-depth
interviews with
Patty Tucker
and George Jacobs**

*Getting
to
know you*





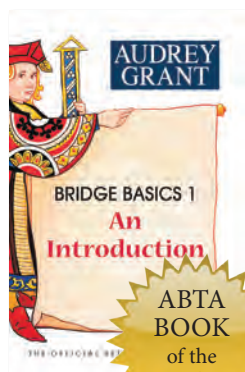
AUDREY GRANT

world-renowned bridge author and educator

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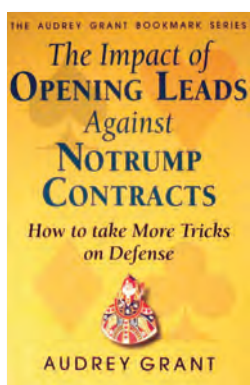
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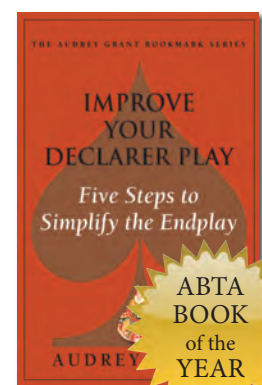
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“To help those who teach bridge to do it better, more effectively, more knowledgeably, more professionally.”

ABTA Membership

At the American Bridge Teachers' Association, we strive to “help those who teach bridge to do it better, more effectively, more knowledgeably, more professionally.”

Who can join the ABTA?

Anyone can join the ABTA. You don't have to teach or even want to teach — all you need is an interest in being affiliated with a professional organization dedicated to improving the teaching of bridge. Curious?

To find the advantages to a membership in ABTA, read this magazine, check out our website at abtahome.com, or call Kathy Rolfe at 816-237-0519.

How do I join or renew my membership?

Joining the ABTA or renewing your ABTA membership is easy: Mail in your check and application or call Kathy Rolfe at 816-237-0519 with your credit card information.

If you provide us with your ACBL number, your ABTA membership will be your qualification for creating a teacher profile in the ACBL Teacher listing. See next column for full details.

ABTA Annual Membership Dues

Dues for U.S. Members

All fees below are in US dollars.

One-Year Membership: \$45

One-Year Household Membership: \$70

Three-Year Membership: \$120

Dues for Non-North American Members

Members residing in countries outside North America are asked to pay a \$5 (USD) surcharge per year to compensate for additional mailing costs.

Thus with surcharge included:

One-Year Membership: \$50 USD

One-Year Household Membership: \$75 USD

USD Three-Year Membership: \$135 USD

To pay by mail or phone

Go to www.abtahome.com to download and print our PDF Application Form. Please fill out all details of the application form and send it with your check or money order to: ABTA c/o Kathy Rolfe, P.O. Box 232, Greenwood, MO 64034-0232. Call 816-237-0519 to pay by phone with a credit card. For any questions or concerns regarding membership fees, email Kathy Rolfe at abtaemail@gmail.com.

Advertising Rates

PLEASE NOTE: The ABTA Quarterly page size is 8.5" x 11" — printed in full color.

Advertising rates for camera ready material:

1/8 page: \$45 1/2 page: \$100
1/4 page: \$60 Full page: \$150 2 pages: \$250

If your ad is not camera ready, our editor can assist you, but there will be an extra charge for the work involved. Please contact the Editor for details.

Brent Manley, Editor
brentmanley@yahoo.com 901-246-6477



The Quarterly Magazine

A Publication of
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Winter 2016 • Issue 220
www.abtahome.com

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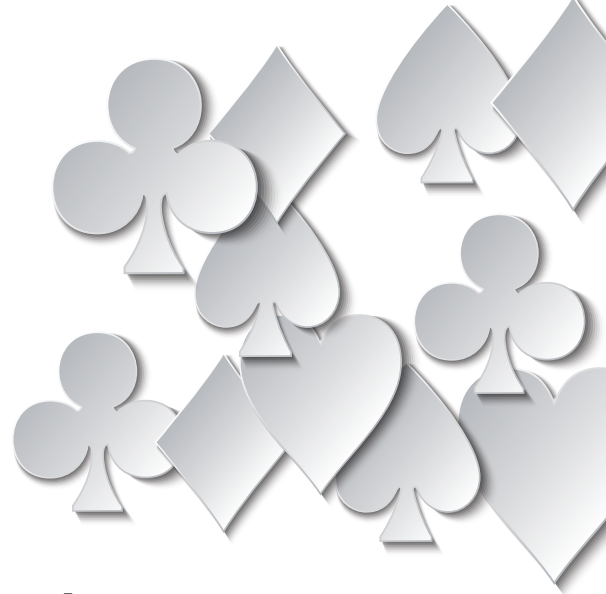
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Finally, an Instructional Book for Beginners that includes 2 over 1.

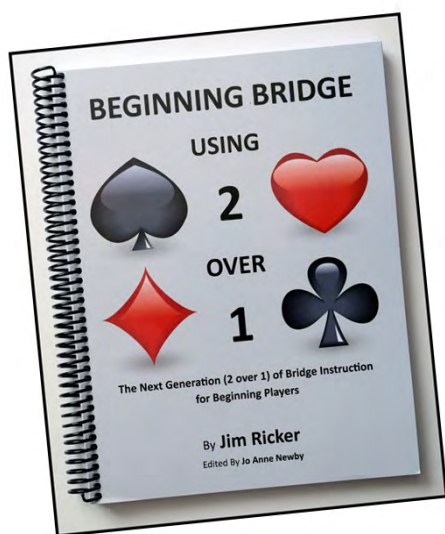
Beginning Bridge Using 2 Over 1

By Jim Ricker

\$25, Softcover, 202 pages (Instructor's Guide is 194 pages and free to verified teachers)

Looking to the Future

"We already had students complain that shortly after graduating from the [newcomer Standard American] class, everyone encouraged them to learn 2 over 1," writes Jim Ricker, a club manager, director and teacher from Knoxville, TN. "They asked, 'Why didn't you teach us that in the first place?' A reasonable question."



LOVE IT, LOVE IT, LOVE IT!

Thought I wouldn't like the idea of not opening 1NT with a 5-card major but love how you've made it simple. LOVE the full auction approach. Not just chapters on opening followed by a chapter of responding. LOVE the analogies...they relax the reader. I'm super impressed.

In case I didn't make myself clear - I LOVE IT. Solid material.

Carol Mathews

30 yr teacher, ABTA member and TAP trainer

Ricker attempts to provide a solution in "Beginning Bridge Using 2 Over 1." It is a solid effort, broken up into 17 lessons, including sections on basic opening bids, 1NT forcing, competitive bidding, defensive bidding and opening big hands. There are various 2/1 styles, and Ricker makes it clear that in his version, 1NT forcing denies a game-forcing hand.

The author communicates with a pleasant, conversational style. Indeed, according to Ricker, "This book is written as if the author were standing in front of a class of students." He provides several practice hands to illustrate his points in each lesson. Readers may also be amused by stories of auctions gone awry or the perils of planning a spaghetti supper for up to 100 bridge players.

One of the most useful features in the book is a mock-up of a 2/1 convention card. Ricker completes the card with descriptions of several common bidding sequences and notes the page numbers so readers can refer to the relevant sections for greater detail.

Although most of the manual is about bidding, the discussion of defensive carding is where Ricker hits his stride. He teaches attitude carding and presents four acronyms that players can easily remember as a guide: LLL (Leading Low Like), LHH (Leading High Hate), FHL (Following High Like) and (Following Low Hate).

Reviewed by Rob Clark
Associate Editor, The Bridge Bulletin (ACBL)

Modern Approach to Learning Bridge

Our club, Duplicate Lite in Surrey was looking for a text book for our beginning students with a 2/1 approach. We reviewed *Beginning Bridge Using 2/1* and ordered 25 copies with the *Teachers Manual*. The books sold out within a week and we had a waiting list. We sold over a 110 copies in a month. Our students like the excellent explanation of concepts and flow of the material. The teacher's manual saves us time in lesson preparation and our students love the review PDFs document from the teaching materials that we send electronically after the lesson. The book and the teaching materials help us to offer a comprehensive and modern approach to learning bridge!

Jane Youngberg

An Instructor's Guide is available, including dealing machine files, hand records with analysis, and weekly handouts.

Available on Amazon.
www.diamondbookspublishing.com

From the Editor's Desk

Brent Manley



You can do anything as long as you have the passion, the drive, the focus and the support.

— Sabrina Bryan

Love of the game

This is the third issue of the ABTA Quarterly that I have edited. I much appreciate the warm welcome I received when word spread that I was hired as the new editor.

I have enjoyed reading the various submissions, and I have gained a new respect for teachers and what it takes to do the job successfully. I'm happy to say that I can count many of you as friends.

As a person who loves bridge and hopes for its long-term prosperity, I thank you for doing your part to assure the future of the greatest game ever.

I doubt that many bridge teachers take on the job with the idea of making millions. Rather, I think, they start teaching because they know what a wonderful game it is and how much a player can get out of it by doing it right. Teachers want to share that passion with others, and they are gratified when the message sinks in.

As mentioned in this space in the previous issue, I thought at one time that I might give teaching a try. I didn't work out. The last I heard, the institution where I thought I might teach was still "thinking about it." Oh, well.

When I was ruminating about a strategy for

teaching bridge to a bunch of young people, I promised myself that the first "lesson" I gave would be on the subject of partnership behavior.

In my 25 years at the ACBL, I wrote more than 200 columns for the Bridge Bulletin, and in a significant number of them, I preached about how important it is to be a good partner and a friendly opponent.

In my early years of playing, I did not fully understand the concept of good partnership and my actions showed that ignorance. I eventually game around, however, and developed an almost evangelical fervor for the subject. When I started writing the column for

new players in the NABC Daily Bulletins, the first article at every NABC was all about being a good partner. I'm still writing that column even in retirement.

At the NABCs, I started off each article with a funny bridge story and told the readers that it was included to remind everyone

that the goal of bridge is to have fun.

I wrote that when a new player — especially a first-timer — has a bad experience at duplicate, the game loses not only that player but also any other social player that person knows. There's a reason that duplicate has a reputation as a scary adventure among social players.

I know you already know this and I'm sure you emphasize behavior when you start a new class. I guess I'm just venting because I still see poor sportsmanship and partnership

(continued on page 7)

*... the goal
of bridge is
to have fun.*

Honoring teachers

In conjunction with Master Point Press, the ABTA will sponsor the 2017 Teacher of the Year Award. We are looking for bridge teachers like you as nominees. We want teachers who provide something extra in the classroom and share their enthusiasm and passion for bridge with students. We are currently searching for 2017 nominees who go that extra mile to create a wonderful atmosphere in their classrooms.

The award-winning teacher will be announced at the 2017 ABTA Conference (July 18-21 in Toronto). Nominations will be accepted beginning Oct. 1.

If you would like to be considered for the award, ask your students to begin the nomination process for you, by going to our website (www.abtahome.com) and completing the student nomination form. Additionally, you will need to complete the teacher's nomination form.

Yes, you are welcome (and encouraged) to reapply if you were considered in previous years. Any material previously submitted is retained by the ABTA and will be reevaluated, along with your updated application.

Questions may be directed by email, to Joyce Penn at: abtaTOY@gmail.com



Submission guidelines

This publication is by and for members of the American Bridge Teachers' Association. The editor relies on submissions from members. Here are some tips for making the process work smoothly.

Deadlines

Deadlines will generally be on Wednesday. In general, *deadlines are not flexible*. If circumstances make a submission delay inevitable, contact the editor (brentmanley@yahoo.com) *before the deadline day* to make arrangements.

See page 19 for 2017 ABTA Quarterly deadlines.

Format

The preferred format for submission of articles is Microsoft Word. If necessary, submissions will be accepted by articles pasted into emails.

Photographs

An article about a person should include a photo of the subject of the article. The photo should be high-resolution, taken with a digital camera rather than a phone.

An article written on a technical subject — e.g., the David Germaine article on page 18 in this issue — should include a photo of the author.

Please do not paste photographs into articles. Photos should be sent as attachments rather than pasted into emails.

Ads

Preferred formats are PDF, JPG or TIF. Resolution should be at least 300 dpi at full size. The color format is CMYK. Fonts must be outlined, or embedded where applicable.

Specs for advertisements will be published in the next issue.

President's Letter

Patty Tucker



We are gearing up for our ABTA Convention in Toronto! It'll be nice to see all of you again this summer.

We are going to try something a little new this year. On Tuesday night, we will offer two workshops set up as classes.

At 6:30 p.m., Jeff and Ginny Schuett will conduct a class on card combinations.

At 8 p.m., I will offer a class on splinter bids after a 1♥ or 1♠ opening.

The ACBL Educational Foundation has approved our grant request to offer these two continuing education classes and video tape them. The taped class will be put on our website, behind the members-only section, for all of our members to access.

The idea is to offer a suggested approach, sample hands and material to teach the topic. We'll start with a discussion of problems you might face, how (and why) we approach the topic in this manner and an actual class on the topic. We will then take questions and address

thoughts, ideas and concerns the "students" (you) might have concerning the class.

We hope this will be useful for some of our new teachers. As their student, I can't wait to see Ginny and Jeff in action!

Please send an email to me at wimsey@mindspring.com to register for either of these classes, designate which class (or both classes)

in your email so that we can make sure we have enough books and boards for everyone who wants to attend.

If we find that this is useful to our membership, we will try to make this a regular feature of our conventions and recruit our Master Teachers to give you a variation of teaching styles and topics.

Remember — Barbara Seagram and Enid Roitman have planned special activities as well. You can read all about it starting on page 8.

This is going to be the best convention ever ... so make your plans now and get your registrations in!

This is going to be the best convention ever!

From the Editor's Desk

(continued from page 5)

abuse when I play. I wish Zero Tolerance was enforced more strictly.

My first idea for this column was to write about some tips for article submission, but as I read over the text, it didn't sound right. I'll leave it to those of you who are curious about this topic to read the submission guidelines elsewhere in this publication. Write to me if you have any questions.

Thanks for letting me blow off some steam about a topic that is really important to me and, I hope, to you. I'm proud to say that the people I play with these days, including Donna, my favorite, consider me an excellent partner.

I wish I could say my game is at the same high level. It's my partners, not me, who need that extra dose of patience these days.



A.B.T.A. TORONTO • JULY 18-21

CALLING ALL TEACHERS!!

PLEASE COME TO TORONTO: 18-21 JULY, 2017

FLY IN ON MON, JULY 17 ...

WE HAVE SO MUCH PLANNED FOR YOU! See coupon below where you can send in your payment and sign up for our special events *now*.

Barbara Seagram & Enid Roitman are both Toronto bridge teachers and have teamed up to organize hospitality while you are here. We are both away a great deal from fall onwards, so we really need to organize all this now. **PLUS** we have to book buses, book theatre seats and arrange restaurants.

Early booking prices are below. This price is available if you reserve and send in payment by March 20, 2017. **Send your checks in now please.** I am gambling on the currency exchange and I am taking the risk personally on these numbers in event of a drastic rate change so please understand why we have to deal with this — *as well as* theatre, bus and restaurant issues — so far in advance.

July is a busy time in Toronto so we need to firm up numbers now. Even though it may seem like ages away, in the world of the tourism industry, it is just around the corner.

ENTERTAINMENT PLANS!

TUE, JULY 18

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Drive to Kleinburg, ON, ½ hour north of where we will be staying in downtown Toronto.

Have a guided tour of the famous **McMICHAEL COLLECTION**, a very well-known art gallery of Canadian art, most famous for the “Group of Seven” artists (see below).

Enjoy some free time exploring the beautiful grounds and share a delicious lunch before returning to the city. The entire venue is well worth seeing.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, circumstances brought together several artists who were committed to exploring, through art, the unique character of the Canadian landscape. Collectively they agreed: Canada’s rugged wilderness regions needed to be recorded in a distinctive painting style. This style would break from European tradition and reflect an increasingly nationalistic sentiment.

Today, these men are among Canada’s

**The 2017
ABTA Convention registration form
is on page 36.**

most famous artists. For many, their works have come to symbolize what is the distinctly Canadian identity.

The original Group of Seven artists were: Lawren Harris, J.E.H. MacDonald, Arthur Lismer, Frederick Varley, Frank Johnston, Franklin Carmichael and A.Y. Jackson. Several others joined the group, including A.J. Casson and Tom Thomson.

This year the AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario) is partnering with the Hammer Museum to introduce Lawren Harris's iconic landscapes to audiences in Los Angeles and Boston. *The Idea of North* is the name of the exhibition: The Paintings of Lawren Harris will be the first major solo exhibition of his work to be shown in the United States. The exhibition is curated by comedian, musician, actor and writer Steve Martin.

There is also an extensive collection of First Nations (Native American) and Inuit art at the McMichael Collection.

Price for the day: \$75 CAD or \$58 USD
Early booking price if you pay by March 20, 2017, which includes the chartered air-conditioned coach to get us there, tour admission and lunch in the restaurant at the Gallery. **Pay after March 20: \$100 CAD or \$75 USD**

Tuesday evening

6-6:30 p.m.: Convention Registration and check-in.

6:30-8 p.m.: Jeff and Ginny Schuett Workshop: How to teach Card Combinations.

8-8:15 p.m.: Break

8:15-9:45 p.m.: Patty Tucker Workshop: How to teach Splinter Bids by responder after a 1♥ or 1♠ opening.

WED, JULY 19

Enjoy a packed day of exciting speakers at ABTA Convention.

Luncheon out with the group @ 12 Noon:
Badali's Restaurant: 156 Front St. West
Enjoy lunch out with your fellow teachers.

We are really hoping that everyone who attends the ABTA Convention will make an effort to come to this luncheon. It is a three-course meal for **\$25 CAD** including tax and grats: **\$20 USD. Early booking price if paid by March 20, 2017.** They are reserving a special dining room just for us so we need to fill it! Badali's is known for its Italian cuisine at delicious prices. **Pay after March 20, 2017: \$35 CAD or \$27 USD**

NOTE: No handicapped or wheelchair access at Badali's.

The fun continues!

5 p.m.: Dinner out at "**Fred's Not Here**" Restaurant 321 King St. West.

Excellent dining and good service.

We walk a few blocks to the restaurant and have a **three-course dinner**.

NOTE: Five steps up to dining area; no wheelchair access.

Then we will be picked up in buses and taken a short way to **Ed Mirvish Theatre**, 244 Victoria St. (Yonge & Dundas).

8 p.m.: Ed Mirvish Theatre

See the new play taking Broadway by storm:

**BEAUTIFUL
THE STORY OF CAROLE KING'S
RISE TO STARDOM**

Carole fought her way into the record business as a teenager and, by the time she reached her twenties, had the husband of her dreams and a flourishing career writing hits for the biggest acts in rock 'n' roll. But it

wasn't until her personal life began to crack that she finally managed to find her true voice.

BEAUTIFUL tells the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than **beautiful** music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation. These are some of her songs:



Beautiful
Take Good Care of
My Baby
Will You Still Love Me
Tomorrow
I Feel The Earth
Move
It's Too Late
You've Got A Friend

Join us for this fun-packed evening!!

Cost for Dinner & Theatre Package
(Best seat category) **\$175 CAD or \$135 USD**
if paid before March 20, 2017.

\$200 CAD or \$155 USD if paid after
March 20, 2017

THU, JULY 20

Enjoy a packed day of exciting
speakers at ABTA Convention.

Thursday Evening: A.B.T.A. Banquet

FRI, JULY 21

More speakers for ABTA Convention
until 11 a.m. or so.

Please pass this on to all other teachers
you know. They do not have to be a member
of ABTA to attend the ABTA Convention.
Send also to interested, keen students, in

hopes they may consider learning to teach
and may attend! This may help to bolster our
membership.

Please sign me up now for the following.
Send payment for above
entertainment only to Barbara Seagram.
Send payment for convention to Kathy
Rolfe (see page 36).

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED (no credit cards
please)

Mail checks (made out to Barbara Seagram)
to: Barbara Seagram
220 Lawrence Ave East
Toronto ON M4N 1T2
Canada

Postage from USA is \$1.20 USD

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Tel. No: (_____) _____

Address: _____

Please **circle** which event(s) you wish to attend:

TUE, July 18:
McMichael Art Gallery: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

WED, July 19:
Lunch at Badali's: 12 noon

WED, July 19:
Dinner at "Fred's Not Here" &
Theatre: BEAUTIFUL

ABTA CONVENTION PAYMENT

Please note that cost of ABTA Convention is not included in above (entertainment) costs.

Cost of attending the ABTA Convention itself, including Banquet:

\$165 USD if paid to ABTA before May 1, 2017.

\$190 USD if paid to ABTA after May 1, 2017.

You may invite guests to attend the banquet for an additional fee of only \$55 USD.

(Note: Only USD will be accepted.

Canadians, please get a draft or money order to send to Kathy Rolfe)

Send payment for ABTA CONVENTION to:
Kathy Rolfe, ABTA
P.O. Box 232
Greenwood, MO 64034-0232
USA

Kathy's telephone number is 816-237-0519, *if you wish to pay by credit card.*

Watch for more information on this in our excellent ABTA Quarterly. Brent Manley is now our Editor (former Editor of ACBL

Bulletin). Be sure to send him material and articles to print!

Contact: brentmanley@yahoo.com

For more information on ABTA, contact Patty Tucker (President) at wimsey@mindspring.com or Kathy Rolfe (Secretary) at abtaemail@gmail.com

SPEAKERS AT OUR TORONTO ABTA CONVENTION

Linda Green has lined up an impressive list of speakers for our convention next year. Have a look at this list!!!

Most are confirmed. Jerry Clerkin

Bob Hamman

Zia Mahmood

John Rayner

Audrey Grant

Jerry Helms

Augie Boehm

Corey Krantz

Fred Gitelman

Chris Moll

Jeff Schuett

Robert Todd

Bob Morris

Julian Laderman

Gene Davidson

Rosemary Boden

Brenda Manning

Leslie Shafer

As well, we will have our annual **Teacher of the Year Award**, sponsored by Master Point Press. Tell your students about this award, and contact Joyce Penn at abtaTOY@gmail.com for more information about this excellent award for GRASSROOTS teachers. There are also Book of the Year and Software of the Year awards.

Contact Pat Harrington at mrsbridge@embarqmail.com for more information.

Apply for the prestigious Master Teacher



upgrade to your teaching status.

Contact Betty Starzec at: lstarzec@comcast.net for more information on how to do this.

Submit an article with your favorite teaching tip. ABTA has an Award called the Apple Basket Award. Submit your ideas for the Apple Basket to Brenda Montague bestbridgeteacher@yahoo.com

SHARE A ROOM

If you need someone to share a room with, Wendy Dewell, one of our ABTA members, has volunteered to help with this.

You can reach Wendy at
wendy_dewell@yahoo.com
408-807-4596



TORONTO NABC (North American Bridge Championships) starts on Friday afternoon

As far as we know ...

NABC events will all take place at the Convention Centre on Front Street

ACBL host hotels:

Royal York Hotel
Westin Hotel (further away than the others)
Intercontinental Hotel

As far as we know ...

Hotel rates at these hotels will be \$159 CAD per night (approx. \$122 USD per night)

To book your ACBL host hotel: contact
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Internet Booking Instruction details:

Go to this link:

<https://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?hotelid=10245&identifier=abta>

This will take you to the reservations page for The Strathcona Hotel.

Select the desired dates and proceed with the reservation.

Internet Booking Instructions (written instructions):

Go to www.thestrathconahotel.com.

Click on the “RESERVATIONS” tab at the top of the page.

Chose your arrival and departures dates,

number of rooms and number of adults/ children.

Click “Enter your access or promotional code”, click “Promo/Corporate Code” and enter the code “abta”.

Click “Continue” and then choose the “American Bridge Teachers’ Association” rates to complete your reservation.

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Guests may call the hotel directly to make their own reservations.

Please call toll free at 1-800-268-8304 or 416-363-3321. Guests may also send an email request to reservations@thestrathconahotel.com to reserve their rooms. Ask for the rates for the American Bridge Teachers’ Association.

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This information has been compiled by Enid Roitman & Barbara Seagram who, along with ABTA invite you to come to our wonderful city and have the time of your life while at the same time becoming an even better bridge teacher!

We really hope you will also stay and play in the excellent NABC that follows. The NABC continues on for 10 days 21-31 July, 2017. Stay for some or all of this!

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American Contract Bridge League

Questions: Email Barbara Seagram
bseagram@uniserve.com

MASTERPOINT PRESS does an ABTA newsletter from time to time.

You have to have signed up for this in order for them to send it to you.

Greetings from Sally at Master Point Press! I'm here to let you know that if you're not currently on our Master Point Press ABTA Teacher's Newsletter mailing list, you should send me your email right away! We send out newsletters with details of teacher specials on our books, interviews with authors and fellow teachers, and coming closer to next year's ABTA convention, we'll be sending out more details about the convention. If you're unsure whether you're on our list, send me an email anyway! I hope to see you all this summer in Toronto.
sally@masterpointpress.com

Fun-loving Jacobs is serious about bridge — and bridge teachers

By Brent Manley

It has been more than a decade since George's World debuted in the Bridge Bulletin. The column has remained one of the most popular features of the ACBL's monthly magazine. There is much more to Jacobs than his writing and bridge expertise (he is a Grand Life Master with notable achievement in high-level competition). He is also regarded as a highly entertaining emcee, and he is one of the ABTA's biggest supporters. What follows is a closer look at the man who keeps George's World rocking along.

You are one of the most colorful and recognizable figures in bridge. Give the readers a short biography - where you live, what you do, information about your family.

I live in Hinsdale IL, a bedroom community outside of Chicago. Hinsdale is famous for the best school system in the state, and for an idyllic downtown area. It is a throwback to earlier eras.

I met my wife, Stacy, at bridge, and we have two lovely daughters. Joanna is now 20 and Kate 15. They make us proud. Stacy also has achieved success at the table and has made vast improvements over the years. In December we won a STaC for all of Mexico and Texas with a 75% game. I hope to make the Bulletin.

My job is running Windy City Limousine and Bus, one of the largest ground transportation companies in the world. A lot of bridge players rely on us to pick them up every time they travel, no matter in what city. We make it simple for them. I have been balancing

work and bridge for 35 years. After selling my previous company in 1998, I retired in 2005. It didn't take, so in 2006 we started Windy City.

How did you get into the limousine business?

It was a total fluke. I was a forklift salesman and was waiting for my client to get off the phone, where he was screaming about the trade-in value they were giving him on the company limousine. He hung up the phone, looked at me, and said these life changing words to me. "George, you're crazy, how about buying our company limousine?" I said, "What would I do with it?" He said, "Go into the livery business." I said "What's that?" And he replied, "Look, we will go as partners, you will run it." I said okay, we put the car into a fleet, and I totally fell in love with the business. After five years, we had five Limousines, and I bought the company from the retiring owners. My partner opted out and so it was on me. It turned out I was a natural at it and grew the company tenfold.

Bridge is obviously an important part of your life. How did you get your start in bridge? What was the attraction? To what do you owe your success?

I have always loved bridge. My parents had a rotating home game and once they asked me to fill in. I pretty much played bridge all night at college at the expense of studying and attending classes. That college lasted only one year as a result.

I played bridge for many years, but was rudderless, never improving or understanding

the nuances. The turning point was Ralph Katz. We were longtime friends and business partners. Our lives were completely entangled. Ralph became willing to help me try to harness what talent I had and we started a 15-year partnership. I'm surprised he is not bald today. I will never forget the key night. We had played at a club game and were sitting in my car in his driveway. For the next three hours, far into the night, he screamed at me about everything. That was the best thing that happened to me.

I realized that I didn't know anywhere near what I thought I knew about bridge. It allowed me to open my mind and learn. From that night forward I was a sponge. He showed me that I was stuck in mediocrity forever unless I was willing to realize how little I knew and how much I needed to learn.

You have had lots of success in bridge, including 11 North American championships and a silver medal in the Bermuda Bowl. Which of your achievements stands out?

Obviously, representing the United States in the Bermuda Bowl has to be the highlight. While I wish that we had won, it was still amazing just playing for the win. Of personal achievements, I'm probably the proudest about two of them. Playing with Alfredo Versace in the Silodor Open Pairs in Pittsburgh 2005, we had the greatest game in the history of bridge, scoring 78.31%. In this game, all 26 boards were above average. My other proud moment

is being the only person in bridge history to win the Herman trophy in back-to-back years. This is given to the person who wins the most points at the Fall NABC.



You write one of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin's most popular columns. How did that get started and what motivates you to keep the column going?

Truthfully, and with no offense intended, I thought the Bridge Bulletin was boring. I had never written before, but I thought I might be able to make it more fun and enjoyable. I had no idea that this would go on for so long. The readers decide what they like and the magazine's editors cater to them. I guess they like the column. I write for

bridge players. I want to appeal to those who want to learn, to those who were at the highest level, and to those who want to be kept up with the latest bridge gossip. Most important of all are those who like to have fun. That's what I'm about, is having fun playing bridge and making bridge more fun for everyone. I am motivated by the readers.

You have a reputation as an entertaining emcee for various functions, including the annual Hall of Fame induction and the ABTA convention. In fact, you often do both on the same night. How did that commitment to the ABTA come about?

While I can no longer remember, I believe it was David Berkowitz or Ginny Schuett who asked me to participate in my first panel. Back

(continued on page 35)

A “super” super-accept

By David Germaine



In the final session of my 16-week course for absolute beginners, I teach Jacoby Transfers. It is usually a revelation for the students to learn that they can respond to their partner’s 1NT opening with no high-card points. All they need is a five-card major. This is the final tool that I place in their notrump toolbox before I send them forth to battle.

Later, in higher-level courses, I teach them about super-acceptance of the Jacoby transfer. When the opener has 17 HCP and four or more cards in their target suit, he jumps to the three level. This sometimes leads to the responder bidding a game that otherwise wouldn’t be apparent. The nine-card fit protects the opener even if the responder is broke and the contract has to be played at the three level.

There is a slight augmentation to this super-accept concept that provides the responder more information about the opener’s hand. It also allows the responder to jump to game with certain hands that have only a combined eight-cards trump suit. It goes like this:

After the responder bids 2♦ or 2♥, opener will normally accept the transfer at the two level. However, if opener has a maximum 17 points and **three cards** in the target suit headed by **two of the top three honors**, he rebids 2NT instead. Now the responder can make a more informed decision.

For example, if responder held
 ♠ Q 10 8 4 3 ♥ Q 4 ♦ K 10 9 7 ♣ 5 3 2
 and opener accepted the transfer with the normal 2♠ responder would pass in a flash. After hearing a 2NT rebid, his hand gets much better. He can now deliver a good six tricks. Say the opener’s hand is

♠ A K 9 ♥ A 8 4 3 ♦ Q 5 3 2 ♣ A 8.

A game contract of 4♠ is on with a successful diamond finesse.

If the opener has a good **four cards** in the target suit and a maximum, he rebids 3♣ rather than 2NT. This time the opener’s hand might be

♠ K J 9 5 ♥ A J 8 5 ♣ A 4 ♠ A 10 8.

Again, with the same responder hand, game will be dependent on the ♥ K being onside.

If responder doesn’t wish to accept the invitation, he merely re-transfers and passes the opener’s 3-level bid. If he wishes to accept, he can re-transfer and raise to game or bid game himself if he would rather declare in order to protect his tenaces.

Let’s look at how this augmented super accept convention works on a whole deal:

Dlr: North	♠ A Q 8		
Vul: None	♥ Q 8 4		
	♦ A J 8		
	♣ A 10 8 3		
	♠ J 7 2		♠ K 4
	♥ K 10 3 2		♥ A J 9 5
	♦ Q 3 2		♦ 10 7 4
	♣ 9 5 2		♣ A 7 6 4
		W	E
		S	
	♠ 10 9 6 5 3		
	♥ 7 6		
	♦ K 9 6 5		
	♣ K J		
West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Both of South’s heart bids are transfers

and the 2NT must be Alerted. This is a close decision for South. The two minor-suit kings should provide tricks, and the fifth spade is a trick. A 17-point 1NT opener should have six and a half to seven losers. South's four "cover cards" are enough to bring in 10 tricks.

If North-South were playing standard transfers, North would end up declaring 2♠. In notrump, East would lead a low heart. Against 4♠, East has no clear-cut lead. He might make a passive lead of a diamond, taking the guess out of the diamond suit. A better lead is the ♥A. The spade finesse is off, but the diamond finesse works if taken against West. North should end up losing two hearts and the ♠K.

Boden named By-Laws Committee chair



Rosemary Boden, a veteran teacher and author of two books for beginning bridge players, has been appointed chair of the ABTA By-Laws Committee.

The Fort Lauderdale FL resident is a Gold Life Master who has been teaching bridge for nearly 20 years. She is the author of *Teaching Bridge on Cruise Ships*, a how-to book for bridge teachers who want to sail free while teaching the world's best card game. She has also written *The Rosie Way to Better Bridge* books for absolute beginners and for those who want to embrace the 2 over 1 game force bidding system.

Before bridge, Boden, who grew up in New Zealand, trained there as a math teacher and was a principal in a computer consulting company. After selling her company, she traveled extensively, teaching bridge to guests on world cruises. She has experienced six round-the-world trips and now she spends much of her time teaching at the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club, where she runs a popular mentor program in addition to her regular teaching schedule.

Boden says she is excited for the opportunity to work with fellow teachers at ABTA and is confident her attention to detail will be beneficial in her new role with the ABTA.

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Submitted by Jeff Schuett

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ABTA Quarterly deadlines for 2017

Spring - March 8

Summer - May 24

Fall - Sept. 6

Winter - Dec. 13

A bridge teacher . . . and so much more

By Eric Emin Wood

If you're familiar at all with the Atlanta bridge scene, you're more likely to recognize Patty Tucker as a bridge teacher than a writer. As founder and president of the Atlanta Junior Bridge Program, she has helped hundreds of kids learn both the basics and intricacies of the game. All that in between (very occasional) professional appearances with husband and bridge partner Kevin Collins, who she married in 2006.

Patty has been president of the American Bridge Teachers' Association since 2015.

Her signature series, *Winning Bridge Conventions*, breaks down a number of bidding techniques for both beginning and novice players.

I reached Patty at her Georgia home on Monday, May 23.

I don't blame you if you don't remember, because I didn't, but you were actually one of the first bridge people I interviewed back in 2009.

I do remember that.

Then you have a better memory than me. I don't want to rehash that interview, but are you still running the Atlanta Junior Bridge Program?

I am. We're still pluggin' along.

How many students have gone through it?
Oh gosh — probably close to 1,600 or so? We probably teach about 300 individual students a year — some repeat, some are brand new — all over Atlanta.

Are they cumulative, or are a lot of these students one and done?

At schools, some of them are one-and-done simply because we can't cover everything, but the ones we teach at the bridge clubs and libraries and rec centers are continuing classes. We always accommodate new kids coming in. We try to get them up to speed — but some of them have been playing long enough to learn more advanced concepts such as two-over-one.

Do you have a recommended time they come to your classes, or is it whenever they want?

Some teachers require that they come every week. My philosophy is if someone wants to play bridge and can only come once a month, I still want them to come. Some of them have done very well, but my goal is not to create kids who compete in the Junior team trials.

My goal is to get a whole bunch of kids playing bridge. (*chuckles*)



I might be biased, but I think that's a much more noble goal.

Well, you're always going to have kids or young adults who really take to it and have the inclination and ability to go far, and that's fine, but I don't think it should preclude any other kid from just playing bridge if they want to just come and see their friends and have a good time.

What have you been up to lately besides the Junior Bridge Program?

Well, I'm still teaching full-time. I teach about 16 classes a week. I formed Whirlwind Bridge, which does a seminar called "Learn Bridge in a Day?", so I've been going around all over the country teaching that.

How does "Learn Bridge in a Day?" work?

It was built for the raw beginner — somebody who's never played bridge in his life. We go from knowing nothing about bridge to the mechanics of play — opening the bidding, responding to the opening bid, opening notrump, overcalls. We teach them with bidding boxes and deal the cards duplicate style.

I've been wanting to do that because I think a lot of teachers don't use duplicate supplies in their teaching, and if your goal is to eventually get them to play duplicate bridge, there's something daunting about walking into a duplicate room, seeing everybody with these things, and you don't know what they are or how they work. It makes you so very self-conscious. So the idea was, we're going to teach 'em all of the things that duplicate players use, so that if they decide they want to pursue it further, they don't get scared when they walk in the room.

They also learn a bit about scoring. They have to memorize the rules for opening bids. They have to memorize the rules for responding. From there we go towards how you should be thinking — that we'd rather play in a major because of the scoring. If not,

then we can play notrump. If not, then minors. We don't say, 'jump when you have 16 to 18.' We say, "How do you like your hand? If you think this is a pretty good hand, then you need a way to tell partner you think that's a good hand. Don't just bid the minimum, bid extra." That kind of thing.

Is there any type of age limit to the program?

Nope. I've actually taught as young as five, and as old as 80.

This interview is supposed to be about books. Can you tell us about your, Winning Bridge Conventions series?

Well, when [Master Point Press founders] Ray and Linda [Lee] talked to me about creating a series for them, I basically took all the material that I use in my classes.

Was it a challenge to adapt them from lesson to book form?

Probably the hardest thing was the hands. When I do hands in my class, I actually just have my students [in groups of two] practice bidding, so I never paid much attention to the other two hands. So probably the hardest thing was having to go back through all of my hands and trying to figure out if I could just keep the other two people from bidding and interfering with the auction. (*laughs*) But the series is basically what I teach and it's basically what I play. It goes through everything from the beginning concept of bridge to very advanced concepts.

What sort of "advanced concepts"?

I play at the national level — I'm a national champion and almost a Grand Life Master, so the system that I play is a little complex. It has a lot of special bids, and what I would call "gadgets," or advanced concepts and conventions. So the books reflect everything from what I teach my very beginning students all the way through to what a more

advanced player trying to work their way into tournament bridge would need. And they also reflect, I think, my personal view of teaching which, as we were talking about with “Learn Bridge in a Day?”, is that memorizing facts is ultimately not a good teaching tool for people who want to continue in bridge.

I strongly believe that from the very beginning you should be teaching people how to think. And that you should talk about why you should treat hands a certain way, and why certain ones are good and certain ones are bad, rather than just have your students blindly memorize some concept that you have. I’m sure most teachers feel the same way.

How did you approach writing the lessons for beginners versus the ones for experts?

What I actually did is have two people help me edit — one for grammar and structure, and the other for content. I purposely used someone who wasn’t very far along in their bridge life for the books’ beginning concepts, because I wanted to reflect things they were having problems with. There were things in the books that I would think I had explained well, but then I would have my inexperienced player come to me and say, “No, I didn’t quite understand that. You need to explain more.” So I think that really improved the quality of the books.

Is there a book of yours that you’d recommend for beginners in particular, and a book for experts?

I think the series of books on competitive bidding that talk about cuebidding in competition, preempts, Michaels cuebids and Unusual Notrump bids, are really good for beginners. For more advanced players, I think the best would be the slam-bidding book — if I remember correctly, Serious 3NT. And I’ll tell you why — I think that’s the best convention invented for upper-level players in a long time. I think it’s a great, great, great convention. It’s gotten me out of a lot of trouble, knowing that bid. (*laughs*)

When did you write your last book? Do you currently have plans to write another?

Actually, I have been writing a little bit more, I think. I finished my last one in 2013, and I do have some more that I’m planning. I want to do more — I’m actually teaching some seminars right now about common-sense decisions at the three-level and five-level in competitive auctions, which is not going to be about any one type of convention, so much as it’s about all the factors you need to take into account when thinking about them in general. I’m having a lot of fun with it. I think it’s going to be a really good seminar, and will end up a really good book.

Going back to when I talked to you years ago, you said you didn’t play professionally very much, but now you said you’re close to being a Grand Life Master? Does that mean you’ve been playing professionally more often?

No. As a matter of fact, in the last five years I’ve basically just played at the local tournaments and at the NABCs. Otherwise I haven’t gotten to play at all — I’ve been too busy teaching and running Junior bridge and Whirlwind Bridge! (*chuckles*) Somebody asked my husband — he made Grand Life Master three years ago, I think? — “Kevin, when is Patty going to make Grand Life Master?” And he said, “whenever she decides to do it.” (*chuckles*) “She just has to decide that ‘yes, I’m going to cut down on teaching.’” But I love to teach, so I dunno. I’m sure I’ll make it eventually. (It happened at the 2016 Fall NABC in Orlando).

For lack of a better phrase, why have you chosen teaching over playing?

I think — and I know this is not true of all professionals, so I’m not trying to lump everybody into the same category, and I’m not saying that anybody’s wrong and I’m right — but I think that there’s an expectation on some of their clients’ parts that if you hire somebody

to play they should win, and I very much feel like every person who plays bridge, when they win, should feel like they've given an equal input to that win.

When I play professionally, if the person I'm playing with does not play well then we probably won't win. Because if they make a bid that's supposed to mean something and deep in my heart I know that they don't really have that hand, I'm still going to bid the way that they told me. Some players have the same exact theory I do, some of them don't. But for me, I think I enjoy helping somebody improve enough to experience the joy of winning for themselves, and I don't think that's always an option when you're playing professionally.

I remember when I asked about your family's playing habits in our last interview you said your son was too busy but he that does play online occasionally, and that your grandchildren played. Any other family stories?

I have my Aunt Betty, who never played duplicate bridge until she was... into her second retirement, let's say. She had played party bridge forever, but one day she decided to play duplicate bridge. So she moved to a place that had a nice duplicate group, started playing with them, and now just plays all the time. She goes to the tournaments, has gotten involved in her district, and made a bunch of new friends. She's even been to the Nationals. So for everybody out there, it's never too late to start duplicate. *(laughs)*

We have a few signature questions I'm supposed to ask. One is, how long has bridge been your profession and did you ever want to do something else?

Well, I've actually taught on and off forever. Before I started teaching full-time, I owned a used collectible bookstore, and before that I was an expert at an engineering company. Then when my son went to college I opened the used bookstore, and when he graduated from college

I started teaching full-time.

How many years has that been now?

Golly, he's... *(long pause)* I'm multiplying... Seventeen, eighteen years? Twenty? About twenty years, I guess.

How old were you when you started teaching?

I was in my early twenties. I taught some people at the local club.

How has your approach to teaching changed over the years?

I think, like anything, the more you do it the more you improve. I think one of the biggest improvements that I can say I've made in my teaching is learning to recognize what the students want. Putting the things before them that are best. For example, I used to think that after students got through the beginning courses of bridge, they would be ready to learn different conventions, and what I've come to realize is, they're not.

After beginners really learn the first basics of bridge, they need to play. It's not that they don't play in class. But they need two or three months to just play and kind of let everything settle. So I've restructured what I teach and how I teach it. I think my beginner course, before I wanted to teach anything else, used to be six or eight months, and now it's almost a full year.

I have two eight-week courses where I teach the basics of bidding, covering Stayman and Jacoby transfers in week two. And then I do an eight-week course on the play of the hand: taking tricks, establishing a long suit, and ruffing. It's not easy to pass that. And then I have eight weeks of basic defense. And then play and defense — I make sure that the hands incorporate the bidding they learned at the beginning. And then I do a review of beginning bridge, where I go back and I review everything, because I realized that maybe they heard me the first time, but they

didn't have the context to really own it the first time. After that, the ones that want to are finally ready to learn something else. And that seems to work really well.

Are there any individuals who have inspired you as a bridge player, teacher, or writer?

I think [Eddie] Kantar is brilliant ... And *Bridge World* magazine — that compilation of thoughts and ideas and concepts — I think is something every bridge player who wants to get a little better and improve their game should make sure they have. I hope they never go away. Writers — I think Curtis Cheek has such a humorous way of looking at things. He handles everything so well — he never gets upset, he seems to love playing and it kind of shows through. And I think Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell's partnership — people could learn a lot from the way they interact with each other. You never hear a cross word or see them taking one another to task in front of anyone else. Such a respectful relationship as a partnership. And — I'll tell you this funny story. Are you ready?

Sure.

When I was first learning to play bridge — like I said, I was eleven, so I was a young kid, playing at the local club, and I had read about Lavinthal discards. And when you first start playing, you want to play everything, right? So my aunt — not the one I just told you about, but my other aunt who played duplicate bridge — said she was going to play with me, and I said, "Can we play Lavinthal discards?" and she said sure. So we're playing, we're defending, and all of a sudden the right card came up and I made a Lavinthal discard against this lady. I was so excited — I said, "Aunt Jane, did you see that?!"

I was excited because it came up and it had worked. But I found out later that the lady who was playing the hand out wasn't so appreciative of how well it had worked, and she said something to my father about me

gloating, so my father said to me, "Listen, this is a respectful game, and if you are going to be disrespectful at the table to anyone, you will not play. So you need to learn how to behave at the table." And I'm still playing respectfully, after 50- however many years.

That's a valuable lesson.

I tell my students when they talk about wanting to play duplicate but are scared of doing something bad: "You know, you will have bad people no matter where you go — book club, golf, tennis — who will say mean or cruel things or bad things to you. That's not a bridge player being a bridge player. That's somebody who wasn't raised right."

So there you go. I like people in the bridge world who were raised right — who know how to treat their partners, who know how to treat their opponents, who make people feel welcome. Those are the kinds of people I admire.

How do you try to incorporate that approach into your own writing?

Well, in the defense book, I actually have two or three pages about how you need to behave as a partner. You need to remember that you're on the same side, that your partner is trying to make good decisions, and that no one is going to get everything right. One thing I tell my students is, if you say to your partner, "How in the world could you have done that?!" You knew that they had blah blah," they can answer, "If I had known that, I wouldn't have done it. Obviously I didn't know." (*laughs in disbelief*) So you have to remember that you're all working together towards a common goal. You're always playing with someone who wants to win just as bad as you. And if they make a mistake, that's just life.

This interview has been lightly condensed and edited.

For more information about Patty Tucker's books, or to make a purchase online, visit ebooksbridge.com or masterpointpress.com.

How much do they REALLY need to know?

By Marti Ronemus

I was having lunch with a girlfriend and she was lamenting her youngest son's leaving for college. "I hate to see him go when I still have so much to teach him."

Yeah, I thought — like cleaning his room — but I bit my tongue.

This got me thinking about our efforts to bring our newest students into our game and get them firmly hooked. If they had any idea how complicated our game is, most of them would run screaming from the room. Fortunately, professional teachers understand that the way to eat an elephant is one tiny bite at a time.

We've learned through hard experience (and much help from our peers!) that if we can get them to *love* bridge, they will be willing to *learn* bridge. Can we quantify the steps to that? Yes.

First, what do they *really* need to know to start falling in love with the game? Naturally, the mechanics of the order of bidding, who's the dummy, who makes the opening lead and that sort of "stuff."

Next, just a little bidding ... the point count for honors, the high-card point categories for minimum, invitational and game-going hands for opener and responder. We want them to remember each bid has to be higher on the bidding ladder, and that long suits and high cards take tricks.

It helps them to understand bridge is a

game of *tricks*, not *points*. They will discover this as they play.

This brings me to the heart of what we know about the philosophy of teaching bridge: The way our students learn to play bridge is — by *playing* bridge!

We are often so eager and so determined to share with them all the knowledge and beauty of our game that we forget that their passion

will be ignited not by what we lecture (no matter how exciting we make our talks!), but by their holding those cards in their hot little hands and playing the game.

Personally, I feel a lot like my girlfriend in that I hate to turn them loose to play until I show them just one more technique or one more bid. As the years have gone by, though, I've seen how little they really need to know to enjoy the game.

I've seen that if I give them just a few bites of the elephant and then *leave them alone* to play (no hovering!), they come back to the next lesson starving for more.

For our brand-new players, if we keep the lessons short — a half-hour maximum — and then let them play (preferably unsupervised), they will fall in love with the game. The teachers who don't seem to be able to hang on to their students are the ones who want them prepared for all eventualities and every hand they will encounter. (On what planet will *that* ever happen!?)



(continued on page 27)

Checkback Stayman, Part 2

By Barbara Seagram

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In the Fall Quarterly, I submitted an article on Checkback Stayman. To summarize:

1♣ — 1♠

2NT — 3♣ (Checkback Stayman)

3♦ = I do not have three spades and I do not have four hearts

3♥ = I have four hearts but do not have three spades

3♠ = I have three spades but do not have four hearts

3NT = I have three spades and four hearts

And

1♦ — 1♥

2NT — 3♣ (Checkback Stayman)

3♦ = I do not have four spades and I do not have three hearts

3♥ = I have three hearts but I do not have four spades

3♠ = I have four spades but I do not have three hearts

3NT = I have four spades and three hearts

Responder now places the contract.

I have received several emails about the following sequence, so I'm sending this along for those who are interested.

1♣ — 1♦

2NT — 3♣

3♣ should indeed be Checkback Stayman. Opener has not denied a four-card major.



Rebids by opener:

3♦ = I do not have a four-card major

3♥ = I have four hearts

3♠ = I have four spades

3NT = I have both four-card majors.

Responder now places the contract.

If responder has discovered a 4-4 fit (e.g. because opener has bid 3♥ and responder has four hearts), responder bids game (he should have at least invitational values to employ Checkback Stayman) or probes for slam.

If opener has bid 3NT showing both majors, responder can now use a relay to allow the stronger hand to be on play. For example:

1♣ — 1♦

2NT — 3♣

3NT — 4♦ = "I have four hearts. Please bid 4♥ so you become the declarer."

Similarly, 4♥ by responder would be: "I have four spades. Please bid 4♠ so you

become the declarer.”

(If the latter is too complex for students, I would omit and let the weaker hand play the contract.)

The following should illustrate the importance of this convention.

West		East	
♠A Q J		♠5	
♥Q J 3 2		♥K 10 5 4	
♦A Q J		♦K 8 7 5 4 2	
♣J 7 3		♣A 5	

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

As you can see, declarer can make at least 11 tricks in 4♥ (losing at most a heart and a club), but in 3NT with a club lead by North (yes, of course, North has the ♠K and also five clubs), West is in trouble as he has to knock out the ♥A, and when he does, North-South will have their way with him in clubs.

www.barbaraseagram.com

Marti Ronemus

(continued from page 25)

Initially, we have to let go, let them flounder and get it wrong, wrong, wrong. All that matters is if their passion is being ignited through playing with their peers. If we can get them coming back fearlessly, they will eventually get it right, right, right... because of the lessons.

Meantime, does it really matter if they don't get it right? My New Year's resolution as a bridge teacher is to remember how little they actually need to know in the beginning of their bridge career, and to remember that my role is to seduce them into *loving* bridge. Eventually, I'll get them to *learn* bridge. I just have to remember to keep the order of those two ideas straight.

In support of the greatest game

From the English Bridge Union

Our bridge-playing friends from across the Atlantic are keen devotees of our favorite game. Besides sending top-flight players to high-level competitions around the world, the English love to promote the game, as indicated by the following.

Playing bridge is one of the most enduring and popular pastimes in the world. It has fascinated people of all types and from all walks of life for over 100 years. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with around 300,000 people playing on a regular basis.

Bridge is recognized as a mind sport, and is partnership trick-taking card game of skill. It is played by four players who form two partnerships; the partners sit opposite each other at a table. There is an auction (often called bidding) and then the play, after which the hand is scored. The more tricks a partnership correctly predicts they will make the better their score — but if they do not make as many as they predict their opponents score points instead. In competitions, the same hands are played at each table so you can compare your scores with the other partnerships and work out who did best with what they were dealt, thus almost eliminating the “luck” aspect that exists in games such as poker.

Who plays bridge? Different people and ages are hooked by bridge, and it is a rapidly growing pastime with ever more individuals enjoying what the game has to offer. In these days of electronic entertainment, including DVDs, iPods and video games, more and more people are returning to board and card games as families see the value of learning and playing together in a more social, interactive environment.

Many couples attend classes together, because bridge is a great inexpensive activity and it's a wonderful way to make new acquaintances.

Finally, bridge is prominent throughout the celebrity and political world: from Bill Gates to Winston Churchill, and Omar Sharif to members of the band, Blur! Sharif is quoted as stating that, “Acting is my living, but bridge is my passion”, and Gates is a self-confessed bridge-obsessive.

Another well-known bridge aficionado is tennis star Martina Navratilova, who is quoted as saying, “Wherever I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table.”

This quote from American industrialist Henry Ford is part of the EBU website: “Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.” What better way to do that than bridge.

Website REVIEWS

kwbridge.com

Karen's Bridge Library

I found Karen Walker's bridge site as a brand-new student in 2000. I used it to supplement my classes and self-teaching. As a teacher, I now recommend it to students who want to go beyond class or who want to learn on their own.

Karen's bridge site came online in March of 1997. Seeing the advantage of self-paced learning, she designed the website hoping to attract non-players and beginners. She feels that if players can learn in short bits — even a few minutes a day — their progress will be greatly hastened.

The website is easy to follow as it groups topics for beginners, advancing players and intermediate to advanced players.

The beginner section has information on bidding, play and defending. I found that having all three aspects of the game was very useful because my class was focused on bidding and I needed help with defense and play.

Over the years, Karen has added more intermediate and advanced material. The material is changed and modernized as bridge changes. On the site, she notes new material with a highlighted box. Her material is copyrighted, but she encourages teachers and students to print out and use the material for themselves. Teachers may appreciate that most



Reviewed by Sharon Carter

of the pages, especially in the beginner section, are formatted so they can be used as class handouts.

Karen's website is dedicated to her aunt, Cathy Smith, who taught her to play in 1964. In the personal section, Karen has tribute to her aunt with suggestions on how we can inspire and

encourage new players as her aunt did for her.

kwbridge.com includes information for Bridge at Ginger Creek DBC, information for District 8 tournaments and links to other websites. In response to requests from students, Karen listed recommended books and has her own book, which includes 2/1. Her only source of financial support for the website is a small commission generated when someone links to Amazon from her website and orders bridge books.

Pat Harrington and Karen Walker and I are members of a new ABTA committee formed to provide Quarterly reviews of websites useful to teachers and/or their students. If you'd like to provide an article reviewing your favorite site, submit your suggestion and draft article in a Word document saved as .doc to Pat Harrington: PPHARRR@gmail.com

2016 ABTA General Membership Meeting

Wardman Marriott, Washington, D.C.

July 20, 2016

This is the first of three parts reporting on the ABTA convention in Washington DC. The third part will be published in the 2017 Spring Quarterly.

I. Call to Order: President Patty Tucker convened the meeting at 8:35. She introduced the panel on stage: Chuck Hodel, immediate past-president; Betty Starzec, President-elect; Sharon Carter, Recording Secretary; Joyce Pen, Parliamentarian and Kathy Rolfe, Business Secretary/Treasurer. Patty asked the Regional Directors to stand and said, "If you don't know who is your RD, come to me and I will introduce you personally."

II. Minutes of General Membership Meeting, August 6, 2015: Patty asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. None was noted. A motion was made by Brenda Montague to accept as presented, seconded by Wendy Dewell, all approved. MOTION PASSED

III. Treasurer's Report: Kathy Rolfe stated that the Report of Cash Balances and Proposed Budget for 2016/2017 were on each table. From Oct. 1, 2014 — Sept. 30, 2015 we had non-reserve funds of \$29,322.54. The amount available to spend from Oct. 1, 2015 through Sept. 30, 2016 was \$31,248.67. For the last fiscal year, we kept our operating costs down to allow \$1926.13 excess to go into reserve funds. The next pages are detail of income and expenses for the last fiscal year. Part of that is the convention for last year. The convention netted \$1983 but we project a loss for this year. In columns K and L, you will see the budgeted amounts vs. the actual amount for 2015-2016. This was current as of July 13. Column Q is where we expect to be at year end showing \$22,940 in income which is considerably less than we budgeted. That is because we have 107 memberships that are not current. At the bottom you see total expenses are projected to be \$21,495, which is less than the budgeted \$25,475. Even though income is down, so are expenses, so we are okay. On the next page are convention expenses;

what was actually spent last year. We don't budget for convention expenses. The cash reserve for 2015-2016 was \$3484, which is not spendable until October 1, 2016. This is in column S, line 6. The next line is the current dues expected, which is greater than previous years, so we are hoping not only to retain members but to recruit more. The next line is Quarterly advertising at \$2800, then interest at \$351 and Teacher of the Year donation at \$1000. That brings expected income to \$26,100. The expenses are projected at \$26,100, so we have a zero sum budget. On the income, this is something that you will be asked to vote on: we have done away with the surcharge for non-North American members. Everyone will pay \$45 for one year or \$120 for three-year membership. Outside North America, there will be a \$5 surcharge to cover excess postage. All are American dollars. The other change is a small increase in the salary for the Business Secretary from \$5200 to \$5400. The other increase you are asked to vote on is a slight increase for printing of the Quarterly. Kathy called for questions. Ray Parnell said the dues are up \$6000 over previous years.

Kathy said it is based on 470 members so if we get everyone to renew, and pay on time, we will be okay. Rosemary Boden said people do not understand when dues are due. Kathy stated that the Regional Directors are supposed to contact members when their dues are past due. Kathy said everybody's dues expire on Oct. 1 of some year. It is on the label on your Quarterly — there is an insert in the fall issue that says look at your label to determine if your dues are due. If you are Canadian, it comes in a big envelope, but still look at the label. Henry Meguid asked about the cost of sending out reminders. Kathy replied that it is mostly the cost of her time. Henry asked how the reminders are sent. Kathy said in addition to the notice in the Quarterly, the President puts it in the President's Newsletter; from Kathy via email and the Regional Directors are sent a request to follow up with a reminder to the member. Ellie Hood asked if there was a way to pay online. Kathy said they are working on fixing the problems. Patty

commented that there will be an email going out from her to address the issues raised.

Patty called for questions regarding the proposed budget. No questions were presented and Ellie Hood moved to accept the budget as presented. Brenda Montague seconded the motion. There was a majority vote with one person opposed. MOTION PASSED

IV. Old Business: Linda Green, convention chair, was present and said there are no changes to the program.

V. By-Laws Committee: Chuck Hodel, chair recognized the other committee members: Joyce Penn, Sandy Stevens, Ellie Hood, and Judy McDonald. Chuck reported that there were two main items under consideration this year. One was the issue of the wording in the by-laws regarding reinstatement of a lapsed Master Teacher. This was brought up at last year's membership meeting. The committee felt that the current wording in the by-laws is adequate and do not recommend a change.

The other item that was brought up was a suggestion to add a new-member category of "Life" or "Emeritus." After thorough discussion, the committee felt this is not needed.

VI. Nomination Committee: Patty said this is actually new business but since Chuck is up here, please present the committee's report. Chuck was assisted on the committee by Brenda Simpson, Marilyn Richards, Donna Stoker and Richard Braunstein. All incumbents for the positions up for re-election were contacted and each person currently holding office said they wished to run, therefore, the slate is:

Secretary	Sharon Carter
New England Dir	Brenda Montague
E. Canada Dir	Kathie Macnab
S. Pacific Dir	Glenna Shannahan
S. Atlantic Dir	Linda Green

Patty called for nominations from the floor by position: No names were presented, therefore a vote was called for the slate. The slate passed unanimously.

VII. President's Report: Patty stated that Christopher Rivera, who had been the Quarterly editor for about two years had to resign due to added personal responsibilities and that Brent Manley, former editor of the Bridge Bulletin, had agreed to take the position. Brent has a printer that he works

closely with and that is why the cost of printing is projected to increase slightly. Brent is still doing contract work for the ACBL but hopefully will be here at some point during the convention.

Patty also had received a resignation from Joe Carbo, the Regional Director for the South Central Region, due to family responsibilities. The interim Director for that region will be Jim Ricker, who was recognized in the audience.

Patty also discussed a joint project with ACBL Education Foundation called "Round Table." This is a meeting of club owners, managers, and teachers. There will be one here on Monday at 10 a.m. It is a place to exchange ideas. We had 21 people in Reno — Barbara Seagram and Betty Starzec were there. They and Audrey will be there for the Monday session and I encourage all who have some free time to come. ACBL Ed Foundation will be sponsoring a breakfast.

Betty worked with ACBL to create a new brochure. She did a great job on that.

Sponsors: Baron Barclay sponsored our breakfast this morning. ACBL will sponsor tomorrow's breakfast. We thank them for that contribution. ACBL Education Foundation gives a grant every year for our convention and we thank them for that support.

Vendors: Jim Ricker
Dave Glandorf
Barbara Seagram
Pat Harrington

Patty announced that next year's convention will be in Toronto from 7/19 to 7/22. We don't know the hotel yet. Barbara Seagram and Enid Roitman are hostesses and after lunch Barbara will be handing out information.

VIII. Other New Business. Barbara Seagram commented that the convention schedule was not on the website and the website also still showed Chuck as President.

Patty said the President information had been fixed and she will check on the other issue.

Patty called for other New Business. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. Donna Stoker moved and Glenna Shannahan seconded the motion to adjourn.

MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Carter, Recording Secretary

2016 ABTA Pre-Conference Board Meeting

Wardman Marriott, Washington, D.C.

July 19, 2016

This is the second of three parts reporting on the ABTA convention in Washington DC. The third part will be published in the 2017 Spring Quarterly.

I. Call to Order: A quorum was reached and the meeting was called to order at 8:34 by President Patty Tucker.

II. Attendance: Patty Tucker, President; Betty Starzec, President Elect; Chuck Hodel, Immediate Past President; Kathy Rolfe, Business Secretary/Treasurer; Sharon Carter, Recording Secretary; Kathie Macnab, Reg Dir; Ginny Schuett, guest; Sandy Stevens, Comm Chair; Brenda Montague, Reg Dir; Jim Ricker, Interim Reg Dir; Joyce Penn, Parliamentarian; Pat Harrington, Historian/Book & Software Chair; Terry Jones, Reg Dir; Dave Glandorf, Reg Dir; Glenna Shannahan, Reg Dir

III. Minutes of Pre-Convention Board Meeting, August 5, 2015: The minutes had been emailed. Patty called for corrections; none being heard, she called for a motion to approve as submitted. Brenda Montague moved to approve, Kathy Rolfe seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

III. Treasurer's Report: The report of cash balances at the end of the fiscal year shows a total Non-Reserve of \$31,248.67, which is a net gain of \$1926.13. On the second page is the income and expenses for the year. The third page details the convention income and expenses. The convention last year made money, so as long as the convention reserve remains above \$7000, we will not have to add funds.

Patty asked about member count and Kathy reported that at the end of fiscal year 2015 it was 477, but as of 7/13/2016 it was 412 with maybe two more added since then. The non-renewals total was 107 but with new members the net loss was only about 50. The next item is the budget for 2015-2016 and projecting where we will be at the end of the fiscal year and projected budget for 2016-2017. There were 107 expired memberships through last October but with new memberships the proposed budget is based on 470 members.

Patty noted that Brent Manley has agreed to be Quarterly Editor and that he wants to work with a local printer, which may cost a couple of hundred dollars more. She said that the format will remain the same but the new printer will be using better quality paper. Nothing changes other than the quality of the paper. Also, Patty asked that Kathy add a small raise for herself in the Budget. Patty stated that there are two other items that may affect the budget so will discuss now.

Nancy Abbott's husband is not doing well health-wise, so she is resigning as Publicity Chair. Patty wants to up the visibility of the organization and one initiative has been the "Roundtables" that were held. These events were conceived to be casual meetings of club owners, managers and teachers for everyone to exchange ideas. At the last one, about 30 people came and several joined ABTA. District 7 is going to do one at their regionals. To continue this initiative, Patty is going to submit a grant request to the Education Foundation of ACBL in Orlando for matching funds. Last year, Glenna was the only one who used the \$200 publicity allocation, and if we get a grant from the Ed Foundation, we can extend the reach of our allocated funds. Patty said that we are printing a new brochure, which will probably incur costs. Betty commented that she is going to go to the ACBL to ask for help with printing the new brochures and also to help design a table-top holder for the brochures so they can be effectively displayed at tournaments. Betty showed a mock-up of the proposed brochure with some changes to be made that were recommended by Michael Hughes. Betty feels that the Ed Foundation is going to be asking ABTA to provide help for their initiatives, so she feels that there will be cooperation. Sandy mentioned that Vista Print has very reasonable printing prices.

Kathy resumed her report by stating that we had \$10,325 in reserves that are immediately spendable; \$6120 dues collected and \$2250 expected; Quarterly ads \$2225 collected and \$650 expected; interest \$189 and \$181 expected and the TOY donation from Master Point Press of \$1000 brings the expected year-end revenue to \$22,940.

The projected budget was \$25,475, so that is less actual than budgeted but some of our expenses will be less. Chuck asked if the budget accounted for the change in the North American dues and Kathy replied yes. She used \$45 across the board since there are very few non-North American members. That will leave us with a net gain of \$1267 for the year. However, the projection for this convention is to have a loss of approximately \$3000, mainly attributable to AV and food costs. Kathy cancelled the Friday morning breakfast because there was no sponsor. Kathy renegotiated the AV contract and still has expected costs at \$4718. Kathy noted that line 6 should show \$3484 available for 2016-17; \$18,900 from dues; \$2800 from quarterly ads; \$351 from interest; \$1000 TOY donation and \$60 for MT application fee bringing the total proposed income budget for 2016-2017 at \$26,595. We show 420 renewals because some members have prepaid. On the expense side, the increases are for the business secretary and Quarterly printing. Publicity remains the same since nothing was spent this year. To balance the budget, Kathy will underestimate the amount of dues being collected, bringing it to \$18,405. This leaves \$495 that would be added to the general fund as surplus and bring the income to \$26,100 and expenses at \$26,100. Patty called for a motion — Betty moved that the budget be accepted as presented and Brenda Montague seconded. MOTION PASSED

IV. Program Report: Linda Green is not here.

V. Conference Report: Kathy Rolfe reported that we have 63 attendees; 19 MT, 25 Professional members; 17 associate members and two non-members. Last year we had 81 in Chicago, 72 in Las Vegas and 70 in Atlanta. There are two Canadian provinces represented; 22 states with Florida having the most at 10. There will be 64 at the banquet, including speakers, 16 for the brunch and 35 for the tour. People can still sign up for the tour and banquet until this afternoon.

VI. Regional Director Report: Betty stated that she knows that Regional Directors have lives but it is totally unacceptable to be getting reports at the last minute. The reports were due June 1. Betty said she will send an email reminder of the duties of the Regional Directors, which are listed only in the Standing Rules.

Michael Hughes has started including ACBL

membership with his beginner classes. Part of the fee comes from lesson fees and part from the club. In the past, Betty didn't think this was a good idea but his numbers have proved that it is successful. Dave commented that his local organization subsidizes half of the fee. Kathie Macnab stated that the Canadian Bridge Federation is giving students a one-year membership, which would cost \$18. In conjunction they are trying to get clubs to hold non-sanctioned newcomer games once a week. After a period of time, the players would move into the 99er game. When they start accruing masterpoints, they want to join ACBL.

Betty commented that one of the reports brought up the problem with PayPal. Kathy brought up that the website has wrong information on the Board listing and she has tried unsuccessfully to get it fixed. Betty commented that the site needs to have a better contact list. Patty commented that they are going to meet with MPP regarding the website. Joyce asked if Betty should move the due date for reports back to June 1. Betty agreed that she would move the date to June 15. Kathy also commented that for ease of collating, the reports should come as a document rather than in an email.

Back to the issue of PayPal, Kathy said it has been an issue for about a year. She would get the PayPal information but would not get the member personal info — she has three people who paid but she still does not have their contact info. There was a question of a third party to handle and finally MPP just took the PayPal option off the site. Terry said that there are some options such as creating your own form with required fields or have the person send an email to Kathy and she would post an invoice on PayPal for them to pay. Currently Kathy is using a credit card option where the new member/renewal involves a phone call to her. This works but it has taken a lot of Kathy's time. Kathy noted that using a credit card on PayPal has higher fees than using PayPal directly. Betty commented that in the new Quarterly we need to have an article asking members to update their info. They may mistakenly think we are getting updates from ACBL.

Glenna commented that she had recently met with 12 teachers and served sandwiches for a casual meeting. None of them belonged to ABTA. All would like to join but they all said that because they have other jobs they cannot take a week off to attend the convention. She asked if we could have

some podcasts from the convention on the website.

VII. Teacher of the Year: Joyce said her report was delayed because of some late finalists' videos. On June 22, she contacted Linda Lee asking that the names of the eight finalists be posted on the website. She was getting phone calls from many of the 62 applicants wanting to know their status. Linda said she could not post the information unless she received permission from Linda Green. This created the deluge of phone calls because all TOY nominees were waiting for them to be posted on our site, no later than July 1. Patty said she will talk about the website.

Joyce said there were 62 applicants, 32 of which are ABTA members. She said for the most part they were clueless as to what the committee is looking for. She brought samples of the submission from Enid Roitman, nominee and you can see how well organized it is. She was a candidate who understood the process. You can see that it was a long, arduous process. The committee looks for teaching excellence, innovation, service to bridge and to the community. They also review the scope of what they are teaching. All of the eight finalists were marvelous. The number of the applicants is based on the publicity we get. Last August, Joyce had an article sent to the Quarterly that was not published. This year, the ACBL put it on the website and the Bridge Bulletin had notices quarterly. This year we had five candidates from Canada, one from Mexico and many states. Six of the eight finalists had videos that will be shown on Friday. Pat asked if the video is a requirement and Joyce said that next year's committee should discuss that. They would need help on how to instruct the nominees to make one. Patty asked why Leslie Shafer is on the finalist list because her understanding is that, if you are a published author of books or software and receive payment for your publications, you are ineligible for TOY. Joyce said the committee discussed that and it is currently up to the committee's judgment. Writing a Bridge Bulletin column does not make a teacher a "published author." Patty said Leslie does a column for the Bridge Bulletin and those have national recognition. Joyce said Larry Cohen was on the committee and felt that there is a difference in connotations re: "published." Restricting nominees to having never written anything will drastically reduce our number of applications.

The TOY committee will address this. Patty reiterated that this not a comment about Leslie, just questioning the committee's criteria for inclusion.

Joyce thinks there are 10-12 new members of ABTA as a result of this contest. Dave Glandorf, who won two years ago, did not know about ABTA when his students submitted his name. Betty suggested that Joyce get back to those nominees who were not members with info about joining. Joyce said she has so much follow-up work that she will refer their names to the appropriate Regional Director.

VIII. Nomination Committee and By-Laws Committee: Patty said we can do nomination and by-laws at the same time because Chuck Hodel is chairman of both. Chuck said his committee members were Brenda Simpson, Marilyn Richards, Donna Stoker, and Richard Braunstein. The positions up for election are Recording Secretary and Regional Directors for E. Canada, New England, South Atlantic and South Pacific.

Incumbents were contacted and all wished to run for re-election. The 2016 slate to be considered is:

Secretary	Sharon Carter
NE	Brenda Montague
E. Canada	Kathie Macnab
S. Pacific	Glenna Shannahan
S. Atlantic	Linda Green

The By-Laws Committee was composed of Chuck as chair, Joyce Penn, Sandy Stevens, Elinor Hood and Judy McDonald. Joyce is the ABTA Parliamentarian.

There were two issues referred to committee by the Board of Directors and another issue presented by a member and in turn, referred by the Board.

On the issue of lapsed Master Teachers, the committee felt that the current article (Article IV, Section 4, Reinstatement) was clear and needed no modification.

At the general membership meeting the By-Laws Committee will present for vote the modification to our dues structure that would level the amount of dues paid by all North American members. This was approved and recommended for a positive vote by the Board of Directors. The by-laws state that the dues are established upon recommendation of the Board of Directors and approval of a majority of members attending the Annual Meeting.

The other item that was considered by the

committee was a suggestion that a new category of “Life” or “Emeritus” be established. The idea is that a person who has reached a certain age, not defined in the request, who no longer taught, could pay a one-time fee of an amount “to be determined” and would then remain in the organization’s data base and could access the Members-Only portion of the website, but would no longer be able to vote. The By-Laws Committee felt that this proposed amendment was not necessary since most members who stopped teaching retained their membership anyway.

Pat asked for clarification about the change to dues — Kathy stated that it was due to the extra charge for mailing to Canada. The surcharge created ill will and the board determined that the extra income was not worth the ill will generated.

Patty reminded everyone that she sent an email last fall asking for a job description and the time involved. Pat did a very thorough job in her description. Patty would like this type description on the website for people to have a quick reference. The Standing Rules were written to be vague on purpose but this type information that includes “best practices” and “this has worked for me” would be a very valuable tool as people take on new positions.

IX. Book and Software Report:

Pat Harrington reported that there were only five entries and because the by-laws restrict reprints or revisions of previous material, that eliminated some entries, including Mike Lawrence. Software had no entries. Vu-Bridge is not software, so it was not considered. Pat said that with all the changes in technology, formats that perhaps the committee needs to have a name and scope change to include newer formats. Terry suggested that the committee be “Books and Media.” Patty asked Chuck and the By-Laws Committee to look at for this for the upcoming year. Pat said that there was a debate on Audrey’s Daily Bridge column, but again it was not considered software. Also, do books encompass eBooks?

There will be one award this year. Pat asked if the committee can start considering technology for next year or does it require a change in the by-laws. Patty stated that she feels the committee can continue to work with their own interpretation but that the by-laws do probably need to be updated.

Pat also asked if there could be a “Website of

the Year.” There are many good ones out there, or maybe it could be a feature in the Quarterly. Patty commented that she agrees and disagrees about apps and technology and that she recently updated her own website and it is very costly. She feels that the quality of the website could be more a reflection of the financial resources available to the builder. Kathie Macnab commented that when she sends her newsletter every week, she sometimes goes to websites for ideas. Pat said the website should have good content and be easy to use. Sharon suggested that maybe rather than a separate award that being featured in the ABTA Quarterly could be in place of an award. Sharon offered to work on this project with Pat and Karen Walker.

X. Membership Credentials: Betty Starzec, Chair, Brenda Simpson, Barbara Seagram, Ginny Schuett, Kathie Macnab, Julian Ladderman, Joyce Penn

Betty said there was an article in the Bridge Bulletin but the article for the Quarterly was delayed. There were not enough people meeting the deadline so she consulted with Julian and Ginny and they wondered if having the candidates come in a day early was part of the problem. They agreed that maybe Tuesday night or an early morning interview would work. They also want a Quarterly article “So You Want to Become a Master Teacher?” to help teachers get ready. This info would also be on the website. There is a sample pre-test on the website and the answers were vetted by Eddie Wold, but their recommendation is for something more comprehensive.

Pat asked if the numbers went down after instituting the \$25 application fee and the group felt the fee was not the issue but the extra travel day is a problem.

XI. Publicity Committee: For those who do not know, Nancy Abbott’s husband is ill and she has asked to be replaced. We need someone who can work with ACBL, the Quarterly, the website, get info out about the Apple Basket. Betty commented that the board is aging and has recently trained Laura Delafield to be a TAP trainer. She is an exceptional person who would be a great person for the position if she would take it. Sandy commented that Laura is very organized and would be excellent.

Betty and Sandy will contact Laura to see if she is interested in the position.

XII. Apple Basket — Brenda Montague said she had 18 submissions and also had a problem with getting submissions on time. Kathy sent an email and most replied via email. Brenda bought five apples, so will have no expense for the next few years.

XIII. President's Report: Patty did send a report via email with her view of what needs to be happening and what we should be looking at in the next year. We need to make use of every opportunity to increase visibility, which will require a strong Publicity Chair and strong Web Manager. Some of the opportunities are that the

George Jacobs

(continued from page 17)

then, they were run by Alan LeBendig. When he passed away, I was asked to take over. I have great respect and loyalty to the ABTA, and always try to accommodate them. One year, I did the emcee duties at the HOF dinner, then did the ABTA panel, and then played the fourth quarter of the GNT quarterfinals.

You were seen at the Fall NABC in Orlando sporting a beard. What's going on?

I grew the beard for the Cubs playoffs. I went as Joe Madden (Cubs' manager) for Halloween. It turns out I hate shaving. The beard may stay for a while, but no commitments have been given to it.

Do you have a parting message for the readers of this publication?

You are the lifeblood of bridge. Please keep doing what you do to get more people intrigued and committed to the great game of ours. Thanks you for all the countless hours of frustration and angst you have endured, especially when it goes 1♣ - Pass - 1♠ - Pass; 2♥ and they don't get it (the reverse). One day they will, but only with your help. ■

School Bridge program will use the book picked by ABTA, the Roundtables, the new brochure. My goal for the next year is to get our name and our people out there.

XIV. Old Business: None

X. New Business;

a. Patty reported that Brent Manley has agreed to be the Quarterly editor. She got approvals from the Executive Board and needs an approval from the full board. Kathie Macnab moved and Ginny seconded that Brent Manley be hired as the new Quarterly editor. MOTION PASSED

b. Jim Ricker was appointed as South Central Regional Interim Director — Joe Carbo had some family responsibilities and had to resign. Joyce Penn moved to accept Jim in the position, Dave seconded and the MOTION PASSED

c. Patty was approached by Bruce Greenspan at ACBL to have a Charity Committee. Patty said we would need to define the structure and what charities would be considered. She suggested that perhaps January would be a good time because the spring and fall are heavy. Kathie Macnab said it must be understood that any money raised in Canada must remain in Canada. That was not understood for the Alzheimer's event. Dave Glandorf asked how this would be funded. Patty said the teachers would pick the charity and the teachers would run games for that month for that charity. Does the group feel that it is worth pursuing? Sharon commented that this would be a way to get publicity for her game. Patty will continue to work out the details.

d. New ABTA brochure: Betty said the new brochure will have pictures of well-known speakers when you first open the tri-fold. There are some wording details to be worked out. Terry commented that the motto has a redundancy in it — it should say “to help those who teach bridge do it better” — leave out the extra “to” before do it. The tri-fold will be slightly larger and have a special tabletop holder for prominent display. These would be provided to each Regional Director.

Patty will send out an email regarding the issues we have discussed. Terry complimented this year's bag.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Carter, Recording Secretary ■

2017 Toronto, ON ABTA Convention Registration

Register me for the Convention, held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON Tuesday evening July 18, 2017 to Friday morning July 21, 2017.

Cost: \$190 USD or (\$25 discount if paid by May 1, 2017, TOTAL with early discount \$165) (\$25 is not refundable. Every effort will be made to refund beyond that if we have not already committed to the expenditure.)

DO NOT MAIL AFTER JULY 5 POSTMARK DEADLINE

Call (816-237-0519) or email (abtaemail@gmail.com) to register and pay in person or with a credit card over the phone after this date

Cost includes:

Continental Breakfast Wednesday - Friday mornings, 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. at the Strathcona Hotel, across the street from the Royal York.

Don't miss the Thursday night Banquet (also at the Strathcona) as this is when our very popular pro-panel will be joining us!

Tues. Jul 18:	6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.:	Check-in
	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.:	Convention
Wed. Jul 19:	8:45 – 9:30 a.m.:	Annual Membership Meeting
	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.:	Convention
Thurs. Jul 20:	9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.:	Convention
	6:00 p.m. – 10 p.m.	Banquet Dinner and Pro-Panel at Strathcona
Fri., Jul 21:	9 – 10:30 a.m.:	Convention

I am unable to attend the Thursday evening banquet.
(deduct \$25 USD from the above conference fee)

Please register my guest(s) for the Thursday evening banquet:

\$55 USD per guest (list guests beyond 2 on the back)

Guest name: _____ Guest name: _____

Convention Only TOTAL \$_____ See below for separate entertainment costs.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Send your registration and check to: ABTA, P.O. Box 232, Greenwood, MO 64034-0232

Or call Kathy at 816-237-0519 and pay with credit card (U.S. dollars)

Additional options and costs:

(Pay all of these options to Barbara Seagram, 220 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto, ON M4N 1T2)

McMichael Art Collection, Kleinburg, ON Art Gallery Trip

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 18

Cost: \$58 USD (\$75 CAD) if paid by March 20, (\$75 USD or \$100 CAD if paid after March 20)

Lunch - open to all, Wednesday July 19, 2017

12 – 1:30 at Badali's Restaurant, 156 Front St. West. (No wheelchair or handicap access.)

Cost: \$20 USD (\$25 CAD) if paid by March 20, 2017 (\$27 USD or \$35 CAD if paid after March 20)

Wednesday Night Out: 5:00 - 10:30 p.m. Dinner at "Fred's Not Here" (No handicap access.)

followed by "Beautiful" at the Ed Mirvish Theatre.

Cost: \$135 USD (\$175 CAD) if paid by March 20, 2017 (\$155 USD or \$200 CAD if paid after March 20)

Hit the ground running

By Agnes W. Lee



After downloading and reviewing Rick Logan's "Play Bridge before Bidding," I discovered I have been reinventing the wheel in teaching beginner bridge with this concept. This prompted me to share my experience with using Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics Series.

Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics Series requires no introduction, and no lack of kudos. For the teacher, could not have made life any easier.

The teacher's manuals are gems. They offer a summary of the Better Bridge Methodology, detailed lesson plans, discussions on the "Play of the Hand" with David Lindop's practice deals, and outstanding teaching tips. The emphasis on Making a Plan (Declarer's Plan — The ABCs) is invaluable in teaching students good habits from day one.

I am in complete awe over the Teachers' Manual, Bridge Basics 2: Competitive Bidding. The summary of the play and bidding concepts for the Additional Deals is superb. It is a quick reference on what deals to use to illustrate additional concepts.

More important, it identifies which deals

to play after a certain lesson so as to avoid bidding concepts that the students

have not yet learned. One can really hit the ground running and offer world-class material with minimum effort!

Now when I prepare my Teacher Cards, I include a summary table of the practice deals up front. In a quick glance, I have a bird's-eye view of the play and bidding concepts for the lesson. With a little more research on the advanced concepts alluded to in the Teachers' Manuals, I can offer the embellished version to more advanced students or as topics for a workshop. I will never argue with "Get Two for the Price of One!"

Agnes W. Lee, an ACBL-accredited teacher and certified Club Director, is an Associate Member of ABTA. Her academic training included Education (B.A.), Learning Disabilities (M.A.), and Software Engineering (M.S.). She began her career in Information Technology with Programmer Basic Training at AT&T. She morphed from programming to project management, product management and International Business Development. Since her retirement, she became an avid duplicate bridge player. While not soaring above 30,000 feet or cruising the Seven Seas, she had come full circle, devoting her time teaching bridge and volunteering.

If you are interested in the Rick Logan book, you can contact him at riclynlogan@bellsouth.net.

See the ad in the Fall Quarterly, page 27.

Welcome New Members

Cookie Ostrow, Palm Desert CA
pookieplay@aol.com

Dan Branscum, Oak Harbor WA
dcb601@comcast.net

Robert Sherburne, Del Ray Beach FL
bobsdelray@aol.com

Tips for teaching bridge

By Larry Cohen

Teachers already know that “hands-on” play of deals is essential. My typical session is made up of some talking, but also four lesson play deals. Each player at the table is declarer one time.

That’s all fairly Standard Operating Procedure, but it is how to orchestrate the four deals that I wish to discuss. The quality of the deals is important. I constantly tweak the layout to try to make them foolproof. If I see an unanticipated defense/bid/play that messes up the intended lesson, I make a small change (a suit, a spot card, the dealer, the vulnerability, etc.) attempting to prevent that hiccup in the future.

If there is a way (a dealing machine or a good/reliable worker) to pre-dupe the boards, that is preferable. I know that it is easier/cheaper to let the students make up the boards, but aside from delaying things, it just isn’t as appealing (for the teacher or the students). I do understand that not everyone can manage the pre-duping — and life will just have to go on.

Here are some useful things I have learned through experience, trial and error:

1) Avoid fat/plastic boards if possible. Stacking four on the table makes it tough to see over them. Best are old skinny plastic or metal boards. (Even if using a dealing machine, a platform helps to get the cards into skinny boards).

2) Use extra-large table guide cards. You can create these with any decent printer and then have them laminated. Why extra-large? With normal guide cards, the directions (W/E/N/S) are obscured. With large guide cards, the directions (WEST, EAST, NORTH, SOUTH) are printed in large bold letters so that they



protrude outside the edges of the boards. Each player knows who/where they are. This is very important for discussion of the deal. When you say: “West leads this — and South plays this,” they can clearly see/know who is who.

3) Place a “cheat sheet” on every table. This is a little plastic guide card that North manages. After the bidding on Deal 1, North slides up the guide sheet to reveal the contract, declarer and opening lead for Board 1.

a) After the auction is over, North announces the “real” contract and declarer. If the table has reached a different contract, North informs the table what the contract will be. The teacher will explain the auction later.

b) North also announces the opening lead (as shown on the guide card). The opening leader can lead on her own if she wishes, or just ask what to lead. If she makes the wrong lead, North tells her what the indicated lead is and the lead is changed.

After the contract and lead are determined, the deal is played out.

This allows for each table to bid/play

when ready without waiting for the teacher to announce/direct the contract and lead.

4) Tell everyone before the first deal that each deal will be played and discussed one at a time. Without this announcement (even sometimes with it), players tend to move on to board two prematurely. Tell them to lay out their cards “dummy style.” You will need to walk around the room and repeat (several times) these instructions. By habit, some players put the cards back in the board.

5) Players will ask/beg: “Why 3NT?” “Why by South?” Tell them: “Just play the contract on the sheet by the declarer on the sheet and make the lead shown. I will explain the auction when I go over the deal.”

6) Give a “two-minute warning.” I used to start talking when I was ready, but that doesn’t work. They want to finish playing or finish the postmortem. It takes them 10-15 seconds to wind down their discussion. If you start talking before their cards are laid out, you lose them. Announce with two minutes left to “finish up.” Then, with 30 seconds to go, announce to stop playing and lay out the cards face up. “We don’t need a result. Just lay them out. If you don’t, you won’t be able to follow.” Don’t try to start talking while people are still playing. Make them stop playing.

7) They will still chatter away for a while unless you can get everyone quiet. Maybe use a joke like: “Everyone — you too — maybe you are quiet, but the person next to you is still talking.” Avoid “Shhhhhhhhhhh.” They don’t like that.

8) Always start by explaining the bidding (even if it is a play/defense hand). Say: “Okay, North is the dealer and opens 1♣. East passes and South bids ...” Take them all the way through to the final contract, pointing out various (simple/easy) things about the auction.

9) Discuss the opening lead and then declarer’s plan (even if it is a defense lesson). Do it, slowly, clearly, then slower. Then even slower than you think is slow. No matter how slowly you go, it isn’t slow enough.

10) Make sure they know when you are talking in general as opposed to when you actually want each player to pull out/play a card. Annunciate very clearly on things such as “eight” or “ace.” Say things like “Turn it over” in order to get them to realize the trick is over with. “Low, low, low, turn it over.” “Everyone.” “Even if you’re not listening, turn it over.”

11) It is difficult to keep everyone silent. Make an issue out of it with a sentence or two: “I know everyone wants to talk — it is natural and tempting. But, I really need you all to listen as I explain. It’s not like I have a big ego, but trust me, the other people at your table want to hear my explanation, not yours.”

12) Towards the end of the deal/play don’t feel a need to dot every last I and cross all the Ts — let someone at the table finish if it is something easy. You can say something like: “And the spades are good, so declarer throws away her diamonds.” You don’t have to call out each winning spade. Just take the play through the early essential tricks. Once you stop talking, they will chat some more, but that’s okay. If they are still chatting after a minute or so, get them onto the next deal.

13) Don’t show off and point out fancy/obscure “what-if’s.” Maybe one bright student will ask you in private why you didn’t say that a diamond shift at trick six would break up the endplay. So be it.

14) I used to allow one hour for four deals. That isn’t close to enough. I find that 20 minutes per deal is about right to do it properly. I could easily explain more and/or allow even more play time, but then I’d lose the faster/better players. Also, some deals lend themselves to faster play. Some deals are slower. So, it could be 15 minutes for one and 25 for another. Try to gauge when most players are done (usually the room starts getting noisy) and start the “two-minute warning.”

15) At some point make it clear that this is for instruction/practice. “Don’t be nervous — and we aren’t keeping score.”

Membership renewal

*By Kathy Rolfe, Business Secretary-Treasurer/
Convention Manager*

Your ABTA dues are very important to this organization. Dues account for 80% to 90% of our general income. If dues are not kept current and we do not continue to add new members as previous members withdraw from the organization, usually because they have stopped teaching, we do not have enough income to provide the quality and quantity of benefits to our members that we feel are needed.

The purpose of this article is to help you better understand our dues structure and how to keep your dues and your contact information current.

As a result of the vote taken at the General Membership meeting in July at the ABTA Conference, our dues structure has changed just slightly. The dues are now the same for all North American members but must be paid only in U.S. dollars. For members residing outside North America — there are just a few of you — the \$5 surcharge per year is still in place. This surcharge is to help subsidize the cost of mailing the Quarterly Magazine.

Those dues must also be paid only in U.S. dollars.

The current dues structure for North American residents:

One year: \$45

Three years: \$120

One-year household membership: \$70

If you live outside North America — just add the \$5 per year, so \$50, \$135 or \$75)

If your dues were not current by the end of the calendar year 2016, you will not have been listed as a teacher on our website and you will not have access to the members-only section.

We also stop mailing Quarterly Magazines at some point after your dues are three months or more overdue. We continue sending emails to you for quite some time, requesting that you update and renew your membership if needed.

Because you don't want to lose your membership benefits, even temporarily, please read the rest of this article to make sure you understand how to determine if your dues are due and then how best to get them paid.

It is particularly important that all of our Master Teachers keep their memberships current. You cannot retain your Master Teacher status if your dues are not current. If you fall behind in your dues and want to remain a Master Teacher, you must pay all the back dues.

ABTA memberships renew every October. It does not matter when you joined and paid for the first time. We make sure you always get a full year for your membership.

In practice, what this means is that if you joined between October and March, your dues are due in October again, but if not paid, we keep your membership active until you have a full 12 months.

If you join between April and September, we make your membership last until October of the following year, giving you up to 18 months for your first year.

Effective this year, those joining between January and September, will have a first-year membership that could be as long as 21 months.

Those joining from October to

December will have a first-year membership of up to 15 months. This is just a slight change, making keeping track of it all easier and in concurrence with the membership database dropping overdue members at the end of the calendar year.

When we say dues are due for everyone in October, it does not necessarily mean your dues are due. You may have renewed previously for multiple years, in which case your dues will be due in another year or two in October.

Every issue of the Quarterly mailed to U.S. members has the member number and the paid-until year on the first line in the inkjet space that contains your name and address on the back cover of the issue. However, if your dues are currently due or a few months from now overdue, the text will read, instead of the year, “DUES ARE DUE” or “DUES ARE OVERDUE.”

Non-U.S. members receive a dues reminder in the envelopes with their magazines when their dues are due. In addition, the envelope itself will be marked with a “DUES DUE” or “DUES OVERDUE” statement. If you are a non-U.S. member and you don’t see any of these things, your dues are current.

The issue you are currently reading is the Fall issue, arriving at your door in late November and with a page that says it is time to renew if dues are due is indicated by the text on the back of the magazine or

on the front of the envelope for non-U.S. members. (See dues form on page 42.)

Please return that page with your updated information and a check to ABTA at P.O. Box 232, Greenwood, MO 64034.

If you do not wish to mail a check, you can email Kathy Rolfe the updates at abtaemail@gmail.com and call her with credit card information at 816-237-0519. Please try to call only between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central time Monday through Friday.

Make sure you leave a message if Kathy doesn’t answer. Phone calls received without a message are not returned. At some point, the PayPal paying procedure on the abtahome.com website will be working again and you can renew using PayPal online.

The preferred payment method from the point of view of ABTA is a check. This saves ABTA the PayPal fees, which are slightly higher for credit cards provided over the phone than they are for online charges. It also saves Kathy time — or lets her shift that time to whatever part of the day works the best for her.

If you have not yet provided your ACBL player number to us and you wish to do so, dues renewal time is a good time to get that done. Providing this number will be one means for you to be qualified for listing as a teacher on the ACBL website.

Please make sure you have kept both your mailing address and your email address correct with ABTA as well. We send many emails throughout the year.

If you are not getting them, either we have an incorrect email or our emails are going directly to your spam folder. Please list us in your contacts to prevent our emails from going to spam. Our email is abtaemail@gmail.com.

If you are not getting your magazine, please contact Kathy to make sure we have your current mailing address.



www.abtahome.com

DUES BILL

BEFORE YOU PAY... check the back cover.

Pay only if your name and address includes a message about DUES.

ABTA, PO BOX 232, GREENWOOD, MO 64034P 0232

TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND SEND TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS WITH YOUR PAYMENT. YOU MAY ALSO EMAIL THE INFORMATION AND CALL KATHY WITH CREDIT CARD INFORMATION OR PROVIDE INFORMATION BELOW AND MAIL.

Enclosed is: 1 years dues (\$45 USD)* 3 Years dues (\$120 USD)*

Household Membership (\$70 USD per year) *

(Please list all member names in the household below).

*Please add \$5 USD per year for all non-North American members to help pay for extra mailing costs.

ABTA makes available an annual roster containing name, address, telephone number, and email. This roster is available only to ABTA members and is not to be used for Commercial Purposes. If you would prefer not to have your contact information listed, please check here ☐ . If you check this box, only your name, city and state will be listed.

If you wish to have any of your contact information removed from the Find a Teacher section of our website, please note that in the comments section here or email us at abtaemail@gmail.com so that we can update your listing.

NAME _____
(first) (last)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST/PROV _____

ZIP +4/Postal CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ website _____
(please print clearly!)

If you have a seasonal mailing address, please include both and specify the dates mail should be sent to each address.

SEASONAL MAILING ADDRESS

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CITY _____ ST/PROV _____

ZIP +4/Postal Code _____ PHONE: _____

DATE ADDRESS IS USED _____

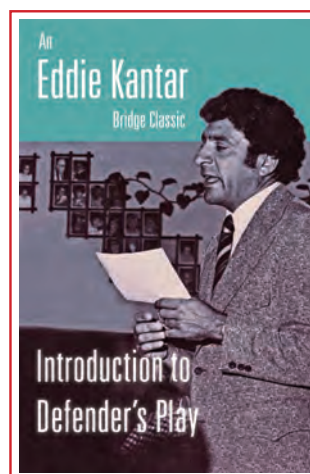
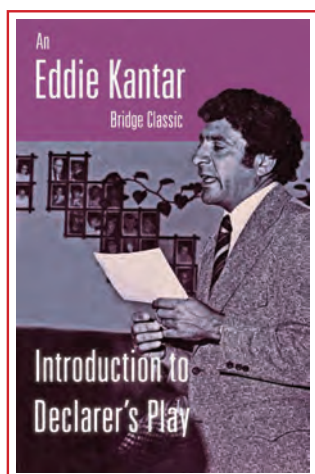
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NEW BOOKS FROM MASTER POINT PRESS



Eddie Kantar Bridge Classics



For more than fifty years, these books are regarded by thousands of bridge teachers to be the best on their subjects. Multiple world champion and Hall of Famer Eddie Kantar covers the basics with clarity, skill, and best of all, humor. If reading this book is your first exploration of the world of card play at bridge, you will find it much easier going than you had thought. You will be in the hands of a master. If you already know how to play, you may be surprised at how many gaps in your knowledge can be filled by Kantar's tips and advice.

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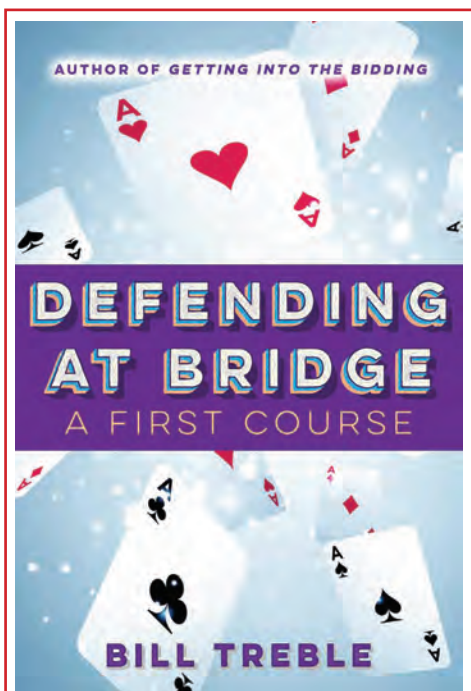
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NEW FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

Defending at Bridge: A First Course

Bill Treble



Just the facts, ma'am. The basics of defense at bridge in eight short, clearly explained lessons, with lots of practical examples. Topics include opening leads, signaling, second- and third-hand play, and discards.

Praise for Bill Treble's 'Getting into the Bidding'

An excellent intermediate-level book covering contested auctions. The focus is on providing a foundation for choosing and using methods – which are available, which are popular, and what are the trade-offs among them.

- The Bridge World

Bill Treble (Winnipeg, Canada) is an expert bridge player and former bronze medalist in the Canadian Teams Championship. His wife Sue, a bridge teacher, wishes Bill would listen to the advice in this book.

