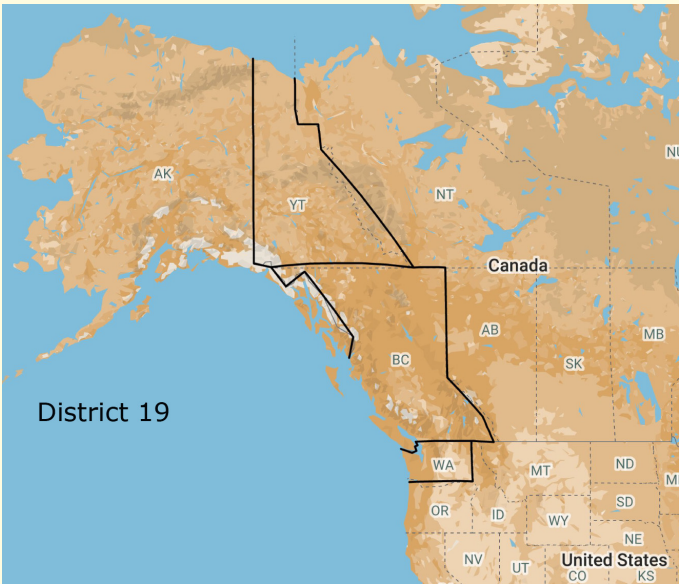


# Bridge North West



Welcome to the inaugural issue of Bridge North West, a newsletter published by and for the ACBL members of District 19. Geographically District 19 covers a huge area, including almost all of Washington state (Vancouver, Wa is in District 20), all of BC, the Yukon and Alaska. We are often known as DINO, short for District Nineteen Organization of the ACBL. Representing some 6000+ bridge players this newsletter is entirely volunteer driven and we expect to publish twice a year in April and October. To keep costs to a bare minimum, and do our part to be environmentally friendly, this newsletter will be published online only. When a new issue is available you'll receive an email notification and a link to view, save or print the newsletter. Links to past issues will also be available through our website, [d19.org](http://d19.org)

This means we can only reach the players who have given a valid email address to the ACBL. If you have a partner or bridge playing friend who doesn't have access to the internet or is not online with the League, please consider sharing this newsletter with them. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we welcome your feedback at [d19news@mail.com](mailto:d19news@mail.com)

*April 2021 Edition*  
*Published at least twice a year for the benefit of members of ACBL District 19*

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*Chris  
Cookson  
District 19  
President*

# From the ACBL Board

*by Tim White*



I'm excited about the launch of our Bridge North West newsletter! Thank you to Nick Stock, Chris Cookson and the other volunteers whose vision and hard work have created this initial edition.

On behalf of the District, I would like to recognize and thank Julie Smith for her outstanding service and contributions to bridge. As an accredited bridge teacher, Julie has brought the joy and the values of the game to her students. As District 19 Director, 2019-20, she applied her professional experience and skill as an expert special education teacher, consultant, and teacher trainer, to new player education and development. While serving on the ACBL Board of Directors, she helped lead the organization toward its goals and kept its focus on adherence to proper standards and accountability. Julie is respected and appreciated by her fellow District and ACBL board members for her thoughtful and collegial approach to service. Thanks, Julie, for your contributions and friendship.

At the beginning of 2021, as I began service as D19 Director, our bridge world and experience were in the midst of the

upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic. As I immediately found, my committee assignments – Strategic, Governance, Appeals and Charges, and Bridge – had me working on many of today's pressing bridge governance priorities. I would like to share with you insights on some of these priorities.

**Return to face-to-face play.** A safe, well-planned return to F2F play is a top priority. Much of the 10-12 March 2021 ACBL Board Meeting was devoted to this objective. I recently sent a letter to D19 Unit Presidents providing information and considerations for preparing for the return to F2F play; the letter is posted on the D19 website: [https://d19.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ltr\\_Units\\_return-to-F2F.pdf](https://d19.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ltr_Units_return-to-F2F.pdf).

Of course, circumstances and trends of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination programs, and local regulations, vary across North America. Thus, although the ACBL has projected aspirational time frames for return to F2F club and tournament play, clubs and tournament sponsors (units and districts) will be developing plans and managing events according to their individual circumstances.

In one view, the return to F2F can be thought of as a progression – club play, then sectional tournaments, then regional tournaments. These stages will overlap and learning and coordination will be important. Units and clubs, and clubs and their players, are encouraged to communicate prospective plans and concerns, so as to coordinate approaches that best meet the needs of all stakeholders. These kinds of conversations should include things like potential policies on mask wearing, vaccination, physical spacing and other COVID-related considerations.

The ACBL furloughed some of its directors during the pandemic. Based on

sponsors' projections for tournaments, it is working to match director staffing with requirements. It has implemented a vaccination policy for its tournament directors.

**Online cheating.** Online bridge has been a salvation for many players. Unfortunately, some players have taken advantage of opportunities to acquire and use unauthorized information during online play. As a member of the Appeals and Charges (A&C) Committee, I have something of a bird's eye view of this problem. A&C reviews and hears cases involving ethical violations, including appeals of lower level disciplinary body decisions and Negotiated Resolutions. There is an abundance of such cases. In preparing for our hearings, our seven A&C members devote a great deal of time to reviewing case documentation. The "Conduct and Ethics" window of the ACBL website: <https://www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/> offers metrics on cases.

"Under Discipline" lists ACBL members under discipline, and provides hearing reports and online and F2F disciplinary disposition charts. Our A&C Committee is working with the National Recorder's Office to reorganize this area of the website to be more user-friendly for disciplinary panel members and others. We're also working on a revision of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations to clarify and strengthen guidelines for disciplines that may be imposed; I'm re-writing section 401 DISCIPLINES IMPOSED.

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/CDR1220.pdf>

Preparing for and participating in A&C hearings has required far more time than any other of my committee work. Additional resources are being assigned to the National Recorders office. I want you to know that the ACBL BOD, the A&C, and ACBL Management take online cheating

seriously and are devoting additional time and resources to deal with it.

### **ACBL governance restructure.**

Presently, the ACBL Board of Directors comprises the twenty-five District Directors. A Board of this size tends to lack agility and create excessive expense. Therefore, the board is transitioning to a reduced size of thirteen members representing thirteen regions; this will take place over the coming three years. In this restructure, D19 (Alaska, BC, most of Washington) and D18 (Alberta, Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, Montana, Utah and portions of Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada) will elect the Region 13 Director to the ACBL BOD.

It is important to understand that the only intersection of D19 and D18 governance is their election of the R13 Director. The districts' operations and finances will continue to be entirely independent of one another. With fewer ACBL Board members, BOD committees will be realigned and the responsibilities and work of some (the Bridge Committee perhaps amongst them) will be subsumed into ACBL HQ. As the current terms of D19 and D18 Directors expire at the end of 2021, this year an R13 Director will be elected for a 2022-24 term.

Please feel free to touch base. Questions, concerns and suggestions are always welcome. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you again at the tables!

Tim  
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# From the President

*by Chris Cookson*

Greetings from the District 19 Board.

We hope this finds you healthy, and making the best of these unusual times. Although face-to-face bridge has been in hibernation for over a year, your District Board continues to meet via zoom planning for an eventual return to the physical tables.

If you picture a Pre-Covid Regional Bridge tournament it is awfully hard to think of anything that is less like "social distancing". Four of us are sitting around a 36- or 42-inch square table, all sharing and handling cards, bid boxes, Bridgemates and Boards. On top of that, our primary demographic are the same people most susceptible to severe complications from Covid 19. Therefore, the Board has concluded that until we can answer yes to the following 3 questions, we do not believe it would be prudent to attempt to hold an in person Regional:

1. Is it legal? - will social distancing rules prohibit the event?
2. Is it safe? - regardless of what the government bodies say, can we reasonably ensure the safety of our players, volunteers, and directors?
3. Will they come? - are we reasonably certain that enough participants will come?

Question 1 is a simple binary option. Either large gatherings will be legal, or they will not be. As I write this BC is in the middle of a 3 week "circuit breaker" with indoor gatherings largely prohibited and face masks mandated. My daughter is rescheduling her wedding for the third time. Today, a return to "pre-December 2019" gatherings still seems a long way off, rather than in the immediate future.

Question 2 is where we listen to the doctors and scientists (and not necessarily the politicians). If the Covid 19 crisis has

taught us anything, it's that situations are constantly changing but at this writing new strains of the virus are appearing. This is not uncommon, or necessarily more dangerous but until enough of us have had a proven vaccine (both shots) or scientists sign off on an alternate result such as herd immunity or an effective treatment, large scale bridge tournaments in D19 are off the table.

Question 3 is where we talk to you. Are you ready to return to a Regional Tournament? These tournaments are large and expensive undertakings. As stewards of the District's financial resources we have an obligation to ensure we do not put on an event without first ensuring there is sufficient demand. Before we can run tournaments, we want to see a successful return to face to face bridge at the club level. We will watch what other Districts are doing. We will be looking at changes in the play and lobby areas of venues to keep everyone safe. But above all, we want to hear from you, to ensure you are ready, willing, and able to attend. That's why, in the coming weeks you will receive a survey. Without good data it's hard to make good plans, so please respond to the survey when it comes. We count on you, our District 19 players, and also visitors from outside the District for our large "destination" Regionals. There may be a period when people are willing to play, but not willing to travel long distances to an event, so we may have to consider temporarily downsizing venues. We expect that Regionals will start small and eventually grow back to Pre Covid levels.

So, what does all this mean? The next Regional scheduled in the District is Whistler in November 2021. While current news reports suggest that it is possible that vaccines will be widely distributed by then, we are not there yet. Stay tuned. An announcement about Whistler will appear shortly.

As for the long term financial health of the District, we are in a good place to weather the Covid storm. ACBL Districts' primary (almost exclusive) source of income is Regional entry fees, and of course we have had no tournament since Whistler in the fall of 2019. Fortunately, we were able to act quickly and successfully canceled all our tournament venues without penalty, and although we will suffer a small financial loss for 2020 and 2021, thanks to successful tournaments in the past and prudent financial management we have a healthy bank balance and we are in a good position to weather this storm. Full details on the District's financials are available on the D19 website (d19.org) under the "Governance" tab.

Incidentally, if you are holding a District 19 free play, set to expire December 31, 2020, all such free plays have been extended by one year.

We look forward to your survey responses and eventually seeing you at the table again.

## Dear Larry



Larry Lang  
Unit 442

From the Tri-City Signal January 2021

**Dear Larry,**

Does a reverse by Opener show extra values after a 2 Over 1 Game Force?

Signed,  
Married to Andy

Dear Married,

There are many different styles of 2 Over 1. I prefer one that is documented, preferably on the Internet, so you don't have to buy bridge books for everyone.

There are two sites I can recommend: Larry Cohen Standard (for you and me) and Bridge World Standard (for those who are smarter than us). Both cover most situations.

Larry Cohen likes to keep it simple. (See <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/lc-standard-overview>). After a 2 over 1 game force, bids are intuitive, and only a few promise extra points.

Cohen has a partnership checklist at <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/detail/543>:

Does Opener's [reverse](#) promise extras?  
Example (1♥-2♦-2♣). No

Does Opener's 3-level Rebid promise extras?  
Example (1♠-2♥-3♣). No

Does Opener's rebid of his major promise six cards?  
Example (1♠-2♦-2♠). Yes (98%)

What is the "default rebid" when opener has a flat hand with xxx in an unbid side suit? 2NT (but not with xx in a side suit).

Does Opener's jump rebid (solid suit) guarantee extras?  
Example (1♠-2♣-3♠). No

Paul Thurston recommends having reverses show extra after a 2 over 1 game force, just to keep things simple. But he is supporting an artifact of a previous age. Cohen's approach, once fully adopted, is simpler.

For example, suppose I open One Heart

with

♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ Q 9 7 4 3 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A 7.

Partner responds 2 Clubs, game forcing. I would much rather be able to bid 2 Spades, showing my hand, rather than bidding 2 Hearts, which might mean almost anything.

Although I am not universally accepted as an expert, I prefer the simplicity of Larry Cohen (and of Bridge World Standard) in which a reverse does not show extra values after a 2 Over 1 game force.  
Signed,  
Larry

From the Tri-City Signal December 2020  
**Dear Larry,**

My partner opened 1NT (15 to 17 HCP).

I had:

♠ J 9 7 6 5  
♥ 10 8 5 4 3  
♦ 4 3  
♣ 7

I decided that playing at 1NT could not be right. So I bid 2 Hearts, transferring my partner to 2 Spades. He did not look happy when he bid 2 Spades, so then I bid 3 Hearts, giving him a choice between spades and hearts. The next thing I knew we were in 6 Hearts!

I asked him, "Why would we ever want to play at 6 hearts? You only had 4 aces."

The look he gave me would have turned less-forgiving partners into stone. He claimed that my 3 Heart bid was a slam try, then he broke two pencils in half and ripped up our convention card. I do not think he was happy. Did I do something wrong?  
Signed,  
Befuddled

Dear Befuddled:

Whenever you choose a bid based on your partner's body language, bad things can happen. For example, you could be accused of cheating, be barred from all future bridge tournaments, and be relegated to playing Tic-Tac-Toe for the rest of your life!

That said, your partner was correct. Whenever you transfer to 2 of a major suit and then bid a lower new suit at the 3 level, this is game forcing. At a minimum, this shows at least 8 HCP with 5-5 in the two suits and concentrated values in the two suits. One possible message is that, if the 1NT opener does not have stoppers in the other two suits, it may be best to play in 4 of the major-suit, even with a 5-2 fit. If Responder only has 5-4 in the two suits, more HCP are needed. Responders can even bid a 3-card side suit for a serious slam try.

Even if Responder is only forcing Opener to Game with concentrated values, if Opener has great fit and lots of aces and kings, slam is possible. Once Responder suggests that slam is a possibility, it can be difficult to slow down Opener if he thinks he has the perfect fit.

I understand why you wanted to play at 2 of a major while allowing your partner to choose the best suit. Unfortunately, with older bidding systems, it cannot be done. You must pick a suit and then transfer your partner into that suit. Then pass, and hope it works out. Luckily, this situation does not come up very often.

Modern experts play "Crawling Stayman" to solve this problem. Responder bids 2 Clubs Stayman, asking Opener to name a 4-card (or 5-card) major suit. If the 1NT Opener bids a major suit, Responder happily passes, knowing they are in at least a 5-4 major suit fit. If the 1NT Opener rebids 2 Diamonds, denying 4 or

more cards in a major, Responder now bids 2 Hearts, showing a weak hand with spades and hearts. If Opener has more spades than hearts, Opener corrects to 2 spades. Otherwise, he passes. This is a modern treatment. It is part of Bridge World Standard, and many experts assume this without discussion. But the rest of us "Seniors" should discuss this first if they want to play this treatment.

Signed,  
Larry

From Tri-City Signal February 2021  
Dear Larry,

I remember the good old days, when men were men, and if anyone opened 1NT, they meant it.

Steve Becker says I should open 1NT with this hand:

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ A K 7  
♦ A Q 7 6 3  
♣ K 7

Do you agree?



Signed,  
The Baz

Dear Baz,

Ah, the good old days. Back then, I once played with a guy named Dixon Shively. He opened 1 diamond with a similar hand, and I bid 1 spade. He squirmed in his chair, and I pretended not to notice. He finally bid 1NT.

I had 9 points. Maybe something like:

♠ J764 ♥ 432 ♦ KJ4 ♣ A54

His 1NT rebid showed 12+ to 15 HCP. (Opening bids were serious in those days).

With 9 points I quickly passed. The opponents attacked spades, setting up the Jack, and he made 4. I was always a bit intimidated by Dixon. I said nothing.

You can open 1 Diamond with the Steve Becker hand, but if partner bids 1 spade, all your rebids are bad.

If you rebid 1NT or 2 diamonds, you show less points than a 1NT opener.

You can jump to 3D, but that shows a good 6-card suit.

You can rebid 2 Hearts (a reverse) which shows 16 or more. No one likes reverses.

Personally, I treat 3 cards as a full stopper unless my partner gets squirrely on me, hinting my weak suit might be a problem.

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ A K 7  
♦ A Q 7 6 3  
♣ K 7

♠ 7 6 4  
♥ Q J 2  
♦ K J 2  
♣ A Q J 4

Declarer has 12 tricks (sort of). Would you rather be at 3 notrump or 5 diamonds?

I open 1NT with almost any 15 to 17 HCP hand that is balanced, regardless of stoppers. In this new era, 5332 is classified as "balanced", and I would open 1NT.

Signed,  
Larry

# Managing your entry to combine your chances

by David Wright

(reprinted from *The Sun* Feb - Mar 2020)

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ 4 3  
♦ Q 7 6  
♣ A 9 6 5 3

♠ K 5  
♥ A K Q J 8 7  
♦ A K 5 2  
♣ K

You declare 6♥ and receive a diamond lead. How do you plan the play?

Assuming hearts are not 5-0, you have eleven top tricks (six hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs). You could score the twelfth trick if the diamonds break 3-3, or if RHO has the ♠ A (as long as you lead a spade from dummy towards your ♠ K).

In order to take advantage of both chances, your plan should be to test for the diamond break before falling back on the spades. You also need to cash (unblock) your ♣ K before you win dummy's ♦ Q, which represents your only entry to dummy's ♣ A.

Therefore you should win the diamond lead in hand with the ♦ A/K, draw trumps (you can play an extra round or two, just to see if anybody discards a diamond, but make sure not to play them all), and cash the ♣ K. You should then cash your other top diamond in hand before crossing to the ♦ Q, discovering the diamond break. If they were 3-3, discard a spade on the ♣ A and concede a spade; if not, discard your diamond loser on the ♣ A and lead a spade towards the ♠ K.

You may hear advanced players estimate a contract's probability of success as a percentage -- how often it will succeed against all possible

distributions of the unseen cards. This hand offers a simple example of how this is calculated. The chance of a 3-3 break in a suit is roughly 40%; the chance of a particular missing card being in a specific opponent's hand is 50%. (This is "in a vacuum" -- assuming no information from the auction which would effectively eliminate some of the possible distributions.) Therefore, 6♥ here will succeed roughly 70% of the time -- 40% of the time (when diamonds break 3-3) plus half of the other 60% of the time (when RHO has the ♠ A). That means you would want to bid this slam. If you go down in 6♥ on this hand, the result may well be reasonably close to average in a strong pairs game, or a push against a good team!

## Maintaining the Social Aspect Online

by Hugh Hendrickson



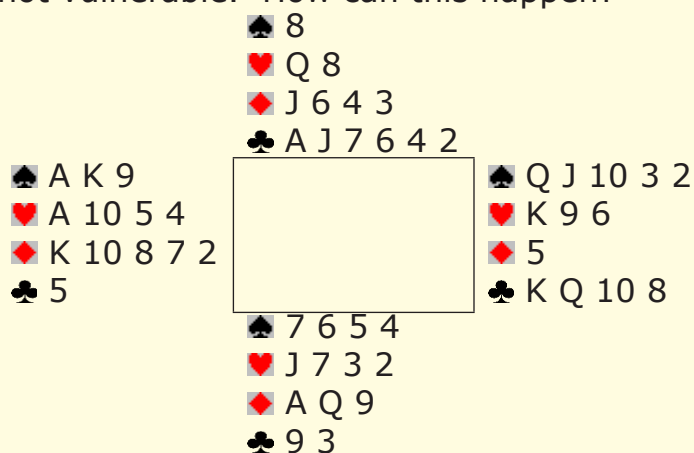
Online bridge always seemed impersonal, lacking a face-to-face experience. When the pandemic hit last year, some local players scrambled to come up with solutions to maintain that social connection. The organizers at Mercercrest Bridge Club in Seattle began combining Zoom with BBO, and were among the first in the country to do so. But cobbling together two disparate platforms had its own issues, such as having to move players from one breakout room to the next for each round, and fitting two windows onto the computer screen.

Then they discovered RealBridge, developed in England. Audio/visual connections happen automatically for each round! The layout in RealBridge



does indeed seem more “real”. Everyone appears next to their cards. Greet your opponents verbally, chat if there is time at the end of rounds. Make your bids from the virtual bidding box. See bids around the table, instead of horizontal lines as on BBO. Self-alert, see the auction and last trick, ask for undo, call the director, see results - it’s all there. No Masterpoints, but Mercercrest now has migrated all its games to this great format.

Let’s look at a recent hand. Usually in an IMP game you’d be happy when the contract is 3NT, and you’re taking 9 tricks. And you normally expect a good result if your defense sets your opponent, down 5. Well, not if THEY are in 3NT, and you only get 250 for setting them 5 undoubled and not vulnerable. How can this happen?



My partner and I are E/W at IMPs. Most of the field is in 4♠ E, often with an overtrick. At some tables North passes as dealer, and E/W have an easy path to game.

At others, North opens the auction with 3♣. (In RealBridge skip bids come with a stop card and automatic delay of the next player’s bid. This avoids the occasional issue of unethical use of the stop card before ACBL got rid of it.) North’s preempt might roll around to West, who easily doubles as E finds the Spade game. At one table South raised to 4♣ yet West’s action is clear: double, leading to a 4♠ contract.

But that’s not what happened at our table.

North opens 3♣, East passes, and South brashly bids 3NT! What can West do? It looks like 3 defensive tricks, and hope for a 4th to hold South to 9 tricks. Perhaps double-dummy, some players claim they would double with West’s 14 HCPs and 3-4 majors, smelling a rat. But at our table West quietly passes, and we’re defending 3NT when we should be declaring. South’s gambit, white vs. red, though down FIVE, certainly paid off.

Oh, you’re wondering - who was South? None other than Jeff Ford, one of Mercercrest’s sponsors.

## Triple Delight

by Dick Yarrington

(This gem is reprinted from the Aug - Sep 2011 Seattle Unit Sun Newsletter with added hand diagrams for clarity. Dick, rest his soul, has since passed.)

Overbidding gets me to some interesting contracts. Here is one from a recent club game. I found myself in 6♠ with the lead of the ♥ 10.



The opening lead was very awkward for me. I thought about winning in hand and cashing three high hearts to pitch my losing club. Then I would take the spade finesse and concede a diamond. This however left me needing both a working spade finesse and a 4-3 split in hearts.

Rightly or wrongly I decided to instead win the ♥ Q and cash two high spades. My

left hand opponent showed up with queen doubleton of spades. This was great news since now I could lose a diamond and still make my contract.

I played two more rounds of trump and LHO began to have trouble finding discards. It dawned on me that he was stuck protecting all of the suits for his side. I realized that I could take all 13 tricks if that was the case. But if I was wrong I would go set in a cold contract. I decided to take the sure make, but what a chance!

♠ Q x	♠ 10 x	♠ 9 x x
♥ 10 9 x x	♥ A K x x	♥ J x x
♦ K 10 x	♦ Q x x x x	♦ 9 x
♣ K J 10 9	♣ Q x	♣ x x x x x
	♠ A K J x x x	
	♥ Q x	
	♦ A J x	
	♣ A x	

All that I had to do was unblock the ♣ A and the ♦ Q and play all of my remaining trump. LHO can only keep five cards, and he needs to keep three hearts, the ♦ Kx, and the ♣ K. On the last trump he will either pitch a heart or the king of clubs since otherwise I can run three diamond tricks (in my hand).

West to play:

♠ ----	♠ ----	♠ ----
♥ 9 x x	♥ A K x	♥ J x
♦ K 10	♦ x	♦ 9 x
♣ K	♣ Q	♣ x x x x x
	♠ x	
	♥ x	
	♦ A J x	
	♣ x	

But pitching either of those gives dummy another trick, the long heart or the ♣ Q, and now he is squeezed in diamonds and whatever suit he retains. Ultimately, he will have to bare his king of diamonds. I could then drop his king and my jack would be the thirteenth trick.

I took my 12 tricks and a top board but with some regret.

## Ask Matt

by Matt Koltnow



(Matt Koltnow is the ACBL Tournament Field Supervisor for districts 14, 18 and 19, our tournament coordinator and an excellent director)

Dear Matt,

We've been playing online for a year now, but our club is talking about opening for face-to-face bridge this summer. I'm the backup director at our club, what do I need to know about these changes to alerts?

Dear Backup,

It's great to hear your club is working on reopening. I'm sure your players miss seeing each other. The ACBL Competition and Conventions committee has updated the regulations regarding conditions of play. These regulations apply at tournaments, and although they are optional at club games, most clubs follow some semblance of the regulations regarding permissible conventions and alerts.

This committee periodically reviews our regulations about conventions and alerts to ensure they keep up with modern trends in bidding. When I started playing, negative doubles were still alertable,

and announcements did not exist. The convention card looked similar, but there were different boxes, with different options in each, such as one for how frequently you psyched! At the end of 2018, the committee implemented new Convention Charts. At the beginning of this year, they introduced a new Alert Procedure. Within a year, a new Convention Card will come out. The new Convention Charts (Open+, Open, Basic+, and Basic) replace the General Convention Chart, Mid-Chart, and Super Chart. The driving forces here were modernization and philosophy. As bidding has become more artificial, making more systems legal just makes sense. Under the new system, there are more restrictive rules for games limited to lower-masterpoint players and more liberal rules for games open to all, especially at regional tournaments where players have more choices of events.

The philosophical change has two facets. First, the Basic and Basic+ charts are defined by what is allowed, whereas the Open and Open+ charts are defined by what is not. This builds in a restrictive nature for the charts designed for newer players and a liberal one for those designed for more experienced players. The other goal was to encourage full disclosure. Under the prior charts, some players would not describe their agreements accurately, because what they were playing was not legal. There is no longer an incentive to omit a detail about one's system if that detail no longer makes the system illegal. Law 40 tells us that partnerships must make their understandings available to the opponents, as bridge is not a game of secret messages.

That gets us to the Alert procedure where there are several changes. One change involves pre-Alerts, which are alerts you give the opponents before the bidding begins on the first board of the round. By the way, a lot of online players do a simple form of this even for systems which are not Alertable, such as, "2/1GF, 4th best, odd/even". The new Alert rules

still require pre-Alerts for canape (bidding shorter suits before longer ones) systems, and for pairs who employ two systems, such as Precision when vulnerable and 2/1 when not. The addition to this family is for pairs whose system includes any one-level opening bid which is not natural, or which is forcing. This includes strong club systems and systems like the Montreal Relay where 1C could be bid with just one club. Players still alert these bids when they come up, and the warning serves to give the other side a heads-up. They might remind each other about their defense to a strong club, for instance. These pre-Alerts are designed to improve disclosure, so that both sides know what the other is doing. The biggest procedural changes relate to Announcements. Remember, Announcements are short phrases which replace Alerts for certain agreements which are straightforward. Gone is the announcement, "May be short," long considered insulting to vertically-challenged players. It is replaced with "May be 2 (or 1 or 0)". Having heard a Pre-Alert, this announcement will probably make sense. Careful readers will note that the agreement to open one club on exactly 4=4=3=2 is considered Natural. If you hear an announcement of "May be 2" without having heard a pre-Alert, you can deduce that this pair's agreement is short club, guaranteeing four diamonds for a 1D opening. If you were pre-Alerted to some other meaning, the announcement would serve as a reminder about their system. Under our old procedure it would have been the first you heard about their system. The other big change replaces the announcement "Transfer" with the announcement of the name of the suit shown. While the exact details are listed in the procedure, the idea is that after any artificial bid which guarantees a single suit, partner says the name of the suit as an announcement. After 1NT-P-2H, partner says, "Spades". This announcement will be used in many situations now where previously an Alert would have been

required, such as transfer responses to 1C or a transfer opening preempt.

There are subtle changes in the Alert procedure which put more responsibility on pairs who use artificial bids to protect themselves. For instance, if a side opens 1C strong, artificial, and forcing, there is no meaning of a 2C overcall which is Alertable. The strong club bidders cannot assume that a 2C overcall is natural, simply because it has not been alerted. Compare this to a natural 1C opening—unless the 2C overcall shows both majors, players will now need to Alert it, whether it is 1960s-style super strong, or natural, or even two suited with spades and another. The new Convention Card is still being designed. Worry not, well-stocked club owners, you can keep using the older style. Just order the new ones when you need to replenish the supply cabinet. Have questions for Ask Matt? Send them to [matt.koltnow@acbl.org](mailto:matt.koltnow@acbl.org) and they might appear in a future column!

## Recent Results

### NABC March 11 - 21

Congratulations to Shelley Burns, North Vancouver BC and Kelvin Raywood, Vancouver BC for winning the NAOBC 0 - 5000 Imp Pairs.

Second place in the same event were Joel Singer, Santa Clara CA and Michael Cohen, Seattle WA.

## District Races

### 2020 Winners

### Mini-Mckenny

Pts at start	Winners	Location	Pts Earned
0 - 5	Carol Sohn	Kennewick WA	254.56

Pts at start	Winners	Location	Pts Earned
5 - 20	David Culbard	North Vancouver BC	63.58
20 - 50	Edward He & Eric He	Bellevue WA	200.34
50 - 100	Lana Chow	Vancouver BC	168.32
100 - 200	Peter Altridge	W Vancouver BC	211.90
200 - 300	Terry Schreder	Windermere BC	172.71
300 - 500	Al Sheasby	Vernon BC	151.85
500 - 1000	Paul Martin	Duvall WA	409.12
1000-1500	Julien Levesque	Burnaby BC	361.91
1500-2500	Karen Hudesman	Seattle WA	300.13
2500-3500	Irene & Anthony Toogood	Qualicum Beach BC	417.45
3500-5000	Elaine Sorensen	Winfield BC	448.21
5000-7500	Chris Penner	Nanaimo BC	423.64
7500-10000	Doug Hansford	Surrey BC	269.94
Over 10000	Ray Miller	Seattle WA	383.96

### 2020 Winners Ace of Clubs

Pts at start	Winners	Location	Pts Earned
0 - 5	Carol Sohn	Kennewick WA	210.01
5 - 20	Lorraine Cameron	Kelowna BC	60.96
20 - 50	Debbie Harris	North Vancouver BC	134.50
50 - 100	Lana Chow	Vancouver BC	147.00



Pts at start	Winners	Location	Pts Earned	Pts at start	Leaders	Location	Pts Earned
100 - 200	Peter Altridge	W Vancouver BC	163.45	1000-1500	Marion Kosior	Penticton BC	209.54
200 - 300	Terry Schreder	Windermere BC	153.62	1500-2500	Gordon Hepperle	Summerland BC	178.65
300 - 500	Al Sheasby	Vernon BC	147.64	2500-3500	Irene & Anthony Toogood	Qualicum Beach BC	151.31
500 - 1000	Marion Kosior	Penticton BC	358.61	3500-5000	Don Bell	Vernon BC	194.75
1000-1500	Julien Levesque	Burnaby BC	336.85	5000-7500	Chris Penner	Nanaimo BC	196.92
1500-2500	Kelly Meenagh	Kelowna BC	281.37	7500-10000	Leo Glaser	Lake Country BC	102.94
2500-3500	Irene & Anthony Toogood	Qualicum Beach BC	417.45	Over 10000	Allan Graves	Vancouver BC	103.39
3500-5000	Elaine Sorensen	Winfield BC	443.07	2021 Leaders Ace of Clubs			
5000-7500	Chris Penner	Nanaimo BC	407.88				
7500-10000	Doug Hansford	Surrey BC	209.58	Pts at start	Leaders	Location	Pts Earned
Over 10000	Ray Miller	Seattle WA	283.84	0 - 5	Marilyn Desmarais	Chilliwack BC	15.51

## 2021 Leaders Mini-Mckenny

Pts at start	Leaders	Location	Pts Earned	Pts at start	Leaders	Location	Pts Earned
0 - 5	Jin Mei Luo	Burnaby BC	20.00	5 - 20	Alan Broome	Kelowna BC	36.05
5 - 20	Alan Broome	Kelowna BC	36.05	20 - 50	Marianne Kersten	Bellevue WA	63.82
20 - 50	Marianne Kersten	Bellevue WA	64.94	50 - 100	John Gordon	Bellingham WA	36.83
50 - 100	John Gordon	Bellingham WA	37.16	100 - 200	Jack Dawson	Kamloops BC	73.46
100 - 200	Judy Burnstin	Seattle WA	83.19	200 - 300	Andrea Petzold	Invermere BC	76.00
200 - 300	Andrea Petzold	Invermere BC	79.47	300 - 500	Catherine Buchanan	Kelowna BC	65.53
300 - 500	Joanne Emerman	Vancouver BC	69.83	500 - 1000	Beth Coones	Spokane WA	80.85
500 - 1000	Beth Coones	Spokane WA	80.85	1000-1500	Marion Kosior	Penticton BC	209.54
				1500-2500	Gordon Hepperle	Summerland BC	178.65
				2500-3500	Irene & Anthony Toogood	Qualicum Beach BC	151.31

Pts at start	Leaders	Location	Pts Earned
3500-5000	Don Bell	Vernon BC	448.21
5000-7500	Chris Penner	Nanaimo BC	196.92
7500-10000	Leo Glaser	Surrey BC	102.94
Over 10000	Ray Miller	Seattle WA	94.97

## District 19 Board Members

Who	Units Represented	Function
Chris A. Cookson	429, 431	President
Karen Rise	436, 442, 448, 450, 453, 454, 455	Vice President
Kathie Hoehne	425, 426, 427	
Karen Madison	436, 442, 448, 450, 453, 454, 455	
Marv Norden	456, 571m 574	
Marla Patterson	433, 437, 439, 441, 443, 451	
Bryan Maksymetz	430	NAP Chair
Eric Sieg	446	GNT Chair
Nick Stock	430	Newsletter Editor
Ann Romeo	446	
Ralph Wilhelmi	446	
Tim White		D19 Rep on ACBL Board of Directors

## D19 Officials

Who	Function
Dudley Brown	Secretary, Tournament Administrator
David Schmidt	Treasurer
Matt Koltnow	Tournament Coordinator, Field Supervisor Districts 14, 18, 19
Steve Hosch	Appeals Chair
John Weinberg	Disciplinary Chair
David Binney	District Recorder
David Taylor	TournTable, District Supplier
Bruce McIntyre	Online Regional Bulletin Editor
J. P. Weber	Webmaster



# Bridge Education

*by Anne Romeo*

## **Send the Kid in your Life to Online Bridge Camp!**

Camp is ON for the summer of 2021! This year, Bridge for Youth is offering three different programs for young bridge players. For each program, Online Camp will run from 10:00 am to noon, then an hour break for lunch, then 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm daily. Typical age range for Campers are 10 to 18, or 4th graders through high schoolers. Tools used for teaching include Zoom, Shark Bridge, BBO and Real Bridge.

Here is a summary of our classes:

**Introduction to Bridge:** a week-long class touching on bridge basics and perfect for a player who is totally new to the game or wants a quick refresher course. Cost is \$100.00, and the course runs from July 19-23. Lead instructor is David Dailey.

**Bridge BootCamp:** a two-week course (week one: Play of the Hand; week two: Bidding/Defense), taught by Al Bender. BootCamp is basically our series of afterschool classes condensed into a 2-week series. Cost for this program is \$200.00 (or \$100 per week). This is aimed at youth who want to immerse themselves in the game, with the goal of being able to play basic bridge. Completion of week one is a prerequisite for week 2 (or permission from the instructor). The course runs from July 26-August 6.

**Intermediate/Advanced Workshop:** a one-week course, with the Advanced Campers taught by Tom Carmichael, and the Intermediate players team-taught by Scott Chupack and Christina van Leeuwen. This week is perfect for those who have completed our afterschool beginning bridge classes, for those who have been to camp before, and for those who have been playing bridge for a year and want

to work on learning more about the game. Class runs from August 2-6, and the cost is \$100.00.

Class size is limited, and financial aid is available for those in need (thanks to the generous support of D19 and the SBU 446). For more information about Camp, please click **here**, or contact Ann, Al, or David Dailey at [contact@Seattlenextgenbridge.com](mailto:contact@Seattlenextgenbridge.com).

## **Update on Youth Bridge in the Seattle Area**

Much has been going on with youth bridge in our neck of the woods. Our merger is complete. Seattle Nextgen Bridge and Bridge for Youth are now one, and the new organization is titled Bridge for Youth (or B4Y for short). Our new president is David Dailey, and the board members are hard at work, running afterschool programs 3 days a week; organizing our Summer Camp (for information, see elsewhere in the SUN), sponsoring Fun Bridge every Sunday for all kids who want to play, and putting on a tournament every 6 weeks or so, for kids who want to test their skills against other young players.

**Tournaments!** At our March 2021 tournament, we had 22 kids participate, including players from Toronto, New Jersey, California, Chicago and the greater Seattle area. Our winners included Aidan Klein & Kevin Jiang, with a 63.28% game, Kelly Haberkorn & Austen Geels (57.03%), Christopher Dickman & Ryan Chung (56.25%), Jerry Shang & Felix MacGregor (52.34%) and Oren Gershony & Nathan Gong (52.34%). Remember these names—they are future stars of our game. And thanks to Jeff Ford, who directed the game, and to all of the table monitors who helped make this event a success.

Our next tournament will be in May, probably on a Sunday, and will be HUGE—as it will include the 60+ kids we have in

our beginner afterschool program. B4Y will be needing a lot of table monitors for this event—if you are interested in helping, please let us know by contacting us at [contact@Seattlenextgenbridge.com](mailto:contact@Seattlenextgenbridge.com).

Afterschool programs. Our afterschool program has been proven a great success. Beginning classes are taught twice a week (Monday: Al Bender; Thursday: David Dailey). On Wednesdays we have two classes: an Intermediate class (taught by David Taylor, with assistance from Ann Romeo and Sylvia Bailey), and an Advancing class (taught by Kim Eng and Eric Sieg). Presently, we are teaching just shy of 100 kids, from all over the greater Seattle area, as well as a one from Chicago and one from the Portland area. We'll doing this again next year. These classes are free and available to any youth in D19, or child who may be a relative of someone in D19. We'll be starting a fresh series of classes in the fall of 2021; watch the SUN for more information, or contact us at [contact@Seattlenextgenbridge.com](mailto:contact@Seattlenextgenbridge.com) for further details.

It is interesting to note that others around the country are noticing our achievements here in Seattle. We have been approached by the ACBL, as well as other local units and districts to find out how we have been able to grow youth bridge in COVID times. Watch for articles in the Bridge Bulletin and on Bridgewinners about our activities—there is a lot to celebrate!

Fun Bridge. Every Sunday, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm B4Y runs a game for our bridge-playing youth. Any young player in D19 who has completed either a beginning series of classes or has gone to Bridge Camp, or has been playing for 1 year or more, can participate. Using Zoom, we have Table Monitors set up tables in the Casual space on BBO, and kids practice their skills in friendly competition. We eventually hope to move this game to the Real Bridge format, but for now, we're

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using BBO and Zoom. If you are interested in playing, click [HERE](#) and we'll put you on the weekly reminder list.

We have a core of kids who come most Sundays to play, and it is a lot of fun to see them progress. Fun Bridge is run by Ann Romeo, with assistance from Aaron Mohrman; and we have cadre of volunteer table monitors, who help out, including Sylvia Bailey, Allyson Welch, Hugh Hendrickson, Gene Gousie, Gary Haldane, Mary and Marty McCune, Christine McKenna, and Ray Miller. We can always use more help; if you are interested, contact Ann at [Ann.Romeo@Seattlenextgenbridge.com](mailto:Ann.Romeo@Seattlenextgenbridge.com).

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My cell: 425-615-1413 (text ok)

Send suggestions for Bridge North West to the Editor: Nick Stock [ngstock@telus.net](mailto:ngstock@telus.net)

Special Thanks to our column contributors: Chris Cookson, Tim White, Larry Lang, Matt Koltnow, Hugh Hendrickson, David Wright, Ann Romeo, Jude Goodwin and the newsletter team: JP Weber, Julie Smith, Chris Cookson.



Introducing  
a 0-20MP  
game



DISTRICTS  
17-19-21-22-23

**99er NiteClub**

# The All-Western 99er NiteClub

Two games dedicated to 99ers where you and your partner can play safely  
and have fun

12-board ACBL Virtual Games, awarding masterpoints®

Mondays-Thursdays

6:20PM PT – 0-20 MPs

6:30PM PT – 0-100 MPs

Followed by post-game analysis on [Zoom](#),  
hosted by our districts' finest teachers

## Prerequisites:

Must have fewer than 20MPs (for 0-20 game)<sup>1</sup>

Must have fewer than 100MPs (for 0-100 game)

Must belong to a club that has opted into the 99er NiteClub program<sup>2</sup>

Must demonstrate BBO proficiency

## Registration:

Games will appear in BBO 2 hours prior to start time

- Log into BBO
- Select "Competitive" under "Play or Watch Bridge"
- Select "ACBL Virtual Clubs" under "Tournaments"
- Look for VACB905265
- Select either "0-20 All-Western 99er NiteClub"  
or "0-100 All-Western 99er NiteClub"

If the ACBL has your email on file, you will also receive an invite on those days  
your club has opted into this program, including the schedule for the day  
plus links to the previous day's program

\$6 entry fee<sup>3</sup> – a portion of the proceeds will be returned to the clubs

Proudly sponsored as a service to our 99ers by Districts 17/19/21/22/23 and Unit 526

For more information, please contact your home club  
or the 99er NiteClub at [99erNiteClub@gmail.com](mailto:99erNiteClub@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> Players with fewer than 20MPs can play in either game

<sup>2</sup> Some players may not be affiliated with a local club – as "free agents," you will be vetted by the club manager when you register

<sup>3</sup> \$7.50 entry fee for 18-board ACBL special events

# 2021/2022 Calendar

Dates	Name	Location	Notes
May 15 - 16, 2021	Grass Roots Weekend	Online at Virtual Clubs	Upgraded masterpoints
May 24 - 30, 2021	Silver Linings	Online at Virtual Clubs	Silver masterpoints
June 01 - 30, 2021	North American Pairs Qualifying games		District NAP qualifying games, club level. Usually extend through August
June 19 - 20, 2021	The Longest Day	Online at Virtual Clubs	Double masterpoints, \$4 sanction fee instead of \$1
June 24 - 27, 2021	Endless Summer	Online ACBL Event	Regionally Rated events
July 10 - 12, 2021	Summer 2021 NABC Robot Individual	Online ACBL Event	Registration opens about 3 weeks before
July 15 - 25, 2021	Summer 2021 North American Online Bridge Championships	Online ACBL Event	
July 26 - August 1, 2021	Stardust Week	Online at Virtual Clubs	Upgraded masterpoints
	Lynnwood Regional		Officially cancelled
November 1 - 7, 2021	Whistler Regional	Fairmont Chateau Whistler	Unlikely to go ahead
November 25 - December 5, 2021	Fall NABC	Austin Texas	Currently scheduled but quite uncertain. Reservations available late summer.
March 11 - 21, 2022	Spring NABC	Reno Nevada	
April 04 - 10, 2022	Vancouver Regional	Delta Hotel Burnaby	
June 2022	Penticton Regional		
Summer 2022	Summer NABC	Providence Rhode Island	
August 2022	Lynnwood Regional		