



BARBARA & ALEX'S NEWSLETTER AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2012

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HOW TO GET BETTER AT BRIDGE

by Larry Cohen www.larryco.com

In this one article, I wish to provide “universal” information on learning how to get better at bridge. Sure, you can take many lessons and read many books. A good memory is useful, but it is not the key ingredient to improving your bridge game.

Here, in a nutshell are my observations:

1) Concentration at the table is the number-one ingredient to playing well. Some days are just bad-hair days. Your brain won't be in high gear (personal issues, medication, aging, etc.). On those days, you will make errors. Just accept it. Some days are worse than others. When you are having such a day, stop lower in the bidding and hope the other players are going down in game/slam.

2) Logic is much more important than memory. Don't try to solve bridge problems by rote. Face each decision (in bidding, play, or defense), by using a logical checklist. It goes to the tune of, “If A, then B.” “If not C, then D.” Translated to bridge terminology, your thinking needs to go: “Since he bid hearts twice, he has six of them, so I should not insist on notrump.” Or, “Since partner didn't lead diamonds, I doubt he has the ace-king, so declarer must have one of the high diamonds.”

3) Memorizing and learning new conventions is not the way to improve your game. Sure, if you have a good memory and lots of time to thoroughly study and learn high-tech methods (and a partner who does the same), it will be a slight help. But, I see this to be a poor use of time and effort. It is much better to understand completely the most important conventions. Yes, you all know Stayman and Blackwood, but even those methods are often misunderstood and abused. Negative Doubles and even something as basic as Takeout Double and Responses are an important area to master. These come up lots of times every session. Thorough understanding of all doubles and basic bids on the one- and two-levels would be infinitely more useful than learning “transfer lebensohl” just to keep up with the Joneses.

4) At-the-table attitude and demeanour is crucial to playing well. Keep partnership harmony. No faces. No negative comments to partner. Be nice to the opponents. Try to actually enjoy this great game. It will clear up your mind to think more clearly and logically.

5) When you do take bridge lessons (or read bridge), please be realistic. Be easy on yourself. 😊 Even a college student can't memorize tons of information and accurately recall it weeks and months later. When learning bridge, try to just grasp a few key issues clearly—don't bite off too much at once. When I teach a two-hour session, and give, say 15 “pointers,” I'm happy if my students walk away and have learned 3-4 of them well. Until you've heard the same lesson over and over, it is not reasonable to expect to get it all.

There isn't much technical bridge advice in this article (there is tons of it at www.larryco.com if you wish to indulge). However, I feel that if you read #1-5 before each session, work hard at these concepts, and don't fall back into your old habits, you will get instant gratification. Your game will improve as will your experience. Good luck!

WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE GAME

by Marilyn Hemenway

Bridge is such a hard game.....there are so many things to learn, to remember and to put into practice. Once you become semi-proficient at bidding, declarer play and defense, there are lots of little things that you can do that will help you to continue to improve your game. These are just a few of them.

During the bidding:

- (1) Avoid opening bad hands....for example 4-3-3-3 hands with 12 HCP's unless there's a couple of Aces
- (2) Be very careful in competitive auctions when you are bidding ahead of partner. It's quite possible that partner does NOT have a fit with you and would like to be penalizing the opponents for getting in your way.
- (3) Avoid like the plague using Blackwood or RKC Blackwood with two or three cards or a void in an unbid suit.

When you are declarer:

- (1) Draw trumps at once if you can...especially if you think that the opponents will be ruffing your winners in side-suits. However, if you need to ruff some losers in the hand with the fewer trumps postpone drawing the trumps. Instead embark upon a method to ruff some of your losers with the short trumps.
- (2) If you decide the best way to make a contract is to crossruff the hand, remember to cash out your side suit winners first.
- (3) Know the "hold-up" rule, i.e. the Rule of 7. (A guideline for the declarer in holding up an Ace when declaring a NT contract is to subtract from 7 the total number of cards in the suit in his own hand and in the dummy....the answer is the number of times the declarer should hold up before playing the Ace.) But beware of holding up at all if there is extreme danger in another suit.!
- (4) At times it may be wise to refuse to ruff in order to keep from losing control of the trump suit.
- (5) Read about and practice safety plays.
- (6) Make a habit of trying to picture one or both of the opponents' hands. This is done by taking inferences from their bidding, their leads, their carding and their discards. So pay attention to all the spot cards etc.!!
- (7) False card when appropriate but do NOT do it all the time. Do it when you think it is appropriate only.
- (8) Consider eliminating side suits and then throwing an opponent in so that they have to lead into your tenace.
(Ed. Note: Otherwise known as an end play or a Strip & Throw-In)

When you are a defender:

- (1) Cover an honour only when there is a chance to promote a card in your own hand or in partner's hand but do NOT do so if your honour is safe.
- (2) When declarer leads from touching honors (QJ, J10) cover the second honor unless you are short in the suit in which case you should cover the first honor.
- (3) Second hand low is a good rule MOST of the time.
- (4) In suit contracts always consider leading trumps in order to cut down on the opponents cross ruffing possibilities. But avoid leading singleton trumps.
- (5) If you're going to be ruffing declarer's tricks try to ruff out his winners, not his losers. This is particularly important to the defender who plays second to the trick.
- (6) If dummy has a long suit that can be established, good defenders will attempt to knock out dummy's entries before the suit can be set up.
- (7) Do not overruff automatically as often refusing to overruff increases the chances of developing more trump tricks. Thus with a natural trump trick don't overruff unless you want the lead or hope to get a second ruff.
- (8) If declarer will be forced to overruff you ruffing high might promote a trump trick for partner.
- (9) Do NOT signal unnecessarily. Instead when discarding, pitch cards that do you no good and serve to show no interest in that suit.
- (10) Leading against slams is not the same as leading against game or partscore contracts. When the opponents' bidding indicates that they have balanced hands, it's normally best to be passive. On the other hand it generally pays to be aggressive if their bidding indicates long suits that will produce a lot of tricks when they are in control.

TOURING NEWFOUNDLAND

Jane Walcroft and Barbara toured Newfoundland in late June and early July this year. We toured with a company called "McCarthy's Party". It was like visiting another country: unique, special and enchanting. The people are exceptionally welcoming, have a phenomenal sense of humour and in 30 years of taking groups around the world, this was the best tour guide we had ever had. We laughed hysterically for 8 days as this man, Bill Brophy, regaled us with stories and we learned about the culture of this wonderful province. The language alone is a delight, the accent heart-warming. Our bus driver was equally entertaining. It was fantastic. We highly recommend this tour to all of you.

Barbara taught two classes at the local club in St. John's, owned and operated by Marilyn & Randy Bennett, a wonderful couple. The Ace Of Clubs mgbennett@nl.rogers.com

Walking along the street one day, in the middle of St. John's, the capital, two of the group were in the middle of the street. Several cars were behind, wanting to pass. We called out: "David, Jenny, move over!" With that, the driver of the van drove slowly by and rolled down his window and said with great earnest: "Tek yer time, me darlins, tek yer time." And that is what they were like everywhere. *In Toronto, they would have been honking their horns and hollering "You idiot, get off the road!"*

Unanswered questions: Why do USA and parts of Europe have an embargo on Newfoundland seal products? Animal rights groups have won on the issue of how the seals are killed and they are no longer clubbed. As we understand it, if this embargo continues, the seal population needs to be culled as they eat too many of the fish and there are simply too many seals. So many people depend on the seal industry to make a living. The seals are not killed only for their pelts; all parts of the seal are used. Seal oil capsules, for example, are very good medicinally.

Another unanswered question: Why does Canada allow other countries to fish within the 200 mile limit of our International boundary? These countries fish to excess with equipment and processing trawlers that allow the fish no chance at all. The Newfoundland fishermen particularly are suffering as they struggle to make a living. The Grand Banks are the best fishing grounds in the world. Do we have to share these?

Touchy subjects indeed. Tough to get answers.

Trump leads by KAREN WALKER

www.kwbridge.com

On some hands, a trump lead can actually be your strongest attack because it shortens declarer's or dummy's trump length. The types of auctions that will give you the strongest clues about this possibility include those where:

Steve Rutledge, the volunteer who spends 6 months of each year in Laos building schools and installing water filters, will be present to speak about Laos and to do a slide show and show a video which will help you to understand. SANDWICHES will be served at 11 am. Donations of \$20.00 or more will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Declarer has shown a two-suited hand, especially if you have strength in declarer's non-trump suit. Many players consider it virtually mandatory to lead a trump to an auction such as:

West	East
	1D
1H	2C
2D	Pass

If you're South holding ♠1098 ♥KQJ ♦643 ♣AJ96, lead the diamond 3. There's a strong possibility that dummy will be relatively short in declarer's second suit (clubs), and you expect declarer will try to use dummy's diamonds to trump his club losers. Both opponents have shown minimum values, so they may not have enough in high-card power alone to make their contract.

A trump lead can also be an effective attack in other situations where the weaker hand shows limited trump support. These include auctions where responder takes a preference after opener makes a two-suited bid (Flannery 2D, for example, showing 5♥'s & 4♠'s). The same principle applies to two-suited overcalls:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO	
1S	2NT *	DBL	3D	* (both minors)
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass	

You don't even need to see your hand to know that a trump lead must be right. Partner's first double showed values (around 10+ high-card points) and his second double showed a desire to defend. Even if you don't have a strong holding in the other minor, it's likely that partner does, so you want to prevent the short-trump hand (declarer) from using his diamonds to trump dummy's club losers.

The short-trump hand (usually dummy) is marked with shortness in another suit. You can almost see dummy's singleton club after this auction:

West	East
1D	1H
1S	1NT
2H	4H

Opener's sequence here typically shows some extra values with 3-card heart support. Since opener pulled out of 1NT, he should have an unbalanced pattern -- probably 4-3-5-1. If you hold ♠109 ♥865 ♦QJ76 ♣AK82, resist the temptation to cash a high club, which may give declarer the tempo to eventually trump two club losers in dummy. You want to lead trumps as many times as possible, so start with the ♥5. If declarer wants to set up ruffs in dummy, he'll have to lead clubs himself, and you'll be in again for a second trump lead.

You have a clear advantage in overall power. This may be especially important if you've doubled the contract.

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1NT	Pass	2C	2S
Pass	Pass	DBL	All Pass

After this auction, a trump lead is a good idea, even if you have an unattractive holding such as ♠Q84 ♥QJ10 ♦KQ102 ♣AJ6

Although partner should have moderate spade length and strength, his double may be partially based on knowledge that your side owns significantly more than half the high-card strength. In this case, declarer's only prayer may be to score tricks with a few of dummy's trumps. Every trump lead you can make could cost him a trick.

You have a clear advantage in trump length and strength.

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1D	DBL	All Pass	

Holding ♠QJ102 ♥KJ76 ♦8 ♣AK63, lead the ♦8. Partner rates to have better trumps than declarer, so start attacking declarer's suit. Partner may even be able to draw all of declarer's and dummy's trumps. This is one of the rare exceptions to the "rule" about never leading a singleton trump.

Passive trump leads

"When in doubt, lead a trump" is an old guideline that tends to be invoked too often. Ideally, you'll have a good reason and a clear strategy when you choose a trump lead. Sometimes, however, the good reason will be that no other lead is safe. After a 1S-2S auction by your opponents, you have an unappealing choice of leads from ♠754 ♥A1082 ♦KJ32 ♣J4. There are dangerous honor holdings in all the unbid suits, so try the spade ♠4. You don't necessarily expect this to hurt declarer, but you hope it won't help. Since partner has only one or two trumps, probably the worst that can happen is that you'll locate his doubleton queen -- and that's something declarer may have found for himself anyway.

A few caveats: You should avoid leading a trump when:

- Declarer has shown a long suit and dummy hasn't raised. A trump lead into a one-suited hand isn't likely to be an effective attack (trumps is probably dummy's shortest suit) and it's not always safe.
- It's a singleton. Your trump shortness is a clue that partner has length, and this lead will often pick up his

honors. It's better to lead a long suit and try to force declarer to trump himself down to the same or shorter length than your partner.

- You have a dangerous honor holding such as Jxx, Jx, K10x, A10x or Ax. Leads from these trump suits will be safe only if partner holds no trump honors. If he has the jack or queen, a lead from one of these combinations can make one of your natural trump tricks disappear immediately. Or, more likely, it may give declarer a finessing position that picks up your honor on the next lead.

A Brief History of The Briars Resort

Jackson's Point, ON

Alex and Barbara just spent the weekend at The Briars with their family. We have only ever been there in spring and fall, to run our bridge weekend. That is always wonderful but summer is something else. We had no idea that so much is offered. Water sports: kayaks, paddle boats, free boat rides on Lake Simcoe (did you know that Lake Simcoe is 287 sq. miles ...my island home of Barbados (166 sq miles) would fit easily into this!) Tennis, golf, two outdoor swimming pools and one indoor. The list goes on and on. The meals are to die for.

The original land was owned by British Navy Captain William Bouchier. Capt. Bouchier built the Regency manor house that overlooks Lake Simcoe in 1840.

The captain died four years later, leaving his wife and children to survive the harshness of this new land on their own.

Mrs. Bouchier, unwilling to cope with the remoteness of the area, moved to Toronto. She rented the house, often to new residents, who would rent the house while their own homes were being built. In the late 1870s, while visiting his neighbours, Dr. Frank Sibbald fell in love with The Briars and found Mrs. Bouchier happy to part with the property. After purchasing The Briars, Frank added two wings to the main house, a coach house, stables, a gatehouse, a barn for his championship shorthorns (this became the Red Barn Theatre, Canada's oldest summer theatre) and a peacock house (the only one like it in Ontario). All of these fine buildings are still standing.

Frank Sibbald also planted many trees, now majestic in their maturity, including Austrian Pine, Norway Spruce and Gingko. (Guests particularly enjoy looking down "the Avenue" from the dining room, the original driveway lined with century-old trees.) The picturesque cedar hedges that give Hedge Road its name were planted at the same time. In an area still sparsely populated at the time, especially in the winter when the cottagers had returned to Toronto, The Briars became a focal point in the area for agriculture and hospitality.

The Briars passed through the generations and the property evolved according to the requirements of the day. The Briars Dairy was started, its prize-winning butter a trophy local farmers proudly displayed. A golf course was opened in 1924 in an effort to provide increased summer enjoyment for the area's population of cottagers. During the Depression, portions of The Briars' of property were sold to meet bills.

During World War II, many cottagers could not find domestic help for their summer places. They asked Jack Sibbald to hire staff to centralize this effort. Using the Club House and moving in some buildings to make cottages, The Briars Inn & Country Club was born [1942].

The focus of the property became the resort and by the mid-1970s, the family home was in disrepair. The choices were to tear down and sell or renovate in such a way that the property could pay the taxes. Fulfilling a dream shared with his father, John Sibbald and his wife Barbara renovated the Manor House as a new centre for the resort. In the Manor House, six guestrooms were created and furnished with antiques, the Library and Drawing Room were refurbished and the Old Galley became a games room.

The West Wing held the offices. The Manor House was joined across the driveway to the Coach House to make the Garden Court dining room. The Coach House lofts became small meeting rooms. An outdoor pool was placed between the Manor House and the new Bouchier Wing was built. A large meeting room, Jalna, and the kitchen rounded out the first round of renovations. In late 1977, just in time for start of the cross-country ski boom, the Lieut. Gov. Pauline McGibbon opened The Briars as a year-round resort.

Five years later, another guestroom wing was built and named after the Canadian humorist, Stephen Leacock, who grew up nearby and visited The Briars frequently. Leacock Wing's lower level houses a solarium pool, whirlpool, sauna, games rooms and fitness room. The Leacock Wing main floor houses Drinkwaters' Lounge.

During this round of renovations, the Great Hall, the Gathering Place and the Front Room were built to create more space to meet and relax.

In 1990, the six-story Tower was opened. The Tower looks over the property and Lake Simcoe, a favourite place for guests to watch the canoeists, kayakers, tennis players, the birds and the woods. The Briars celebrated their 50th anniversary as a resort in the summer of 1992.

As it has evolved over the years, The Briars has maintained its reputation for true hospitality. Described by guests as "Another World," The Briars is known as a superb place to relax and be looked after, enjoy the fine country dining, cozy up in a corner to read, or to venture out on the property and lake.

John & Barbara Sibbald continue to own and operate The Briars with the help of their younger sons, Hugh and Andrew. Their oldest son, Peter, is a photojournalist—you can see much of his work on their web site. www.briars.ca

The next generation are a little young to serve you. They are about, though, and are experiencing and learning the warmth of hospitality to keep the Briars traditions alive for future generations.

If you want to spend a special weekend away with your family, you don't need to go cruising. Briars is just as excellent and is only an hour's drive north of Toronto.

OR come to our Fall & Spring **Bridge at the Briars** and experience the magic of this fabulous property.

ALL ABOUT LAOS

We know we have told you about Laos previously but need you to hear it again. They need your help. They are 20 years behind all other South East Asia countries. Here's why:

Laos is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in the history of the world. More so than Japan and Germany and Japan during World War II combined. There was an average of one bombing mission over Laos every 8 minutes around the clock for nine years. More than 580,000 bombing missions were conducted over Laos. This was spearheaded by United States and took place between 1964 and 1973 during what is now called the Secret War in Laos. Out of the 2 million tons of bombs, including 250 million cluster bombs that were dropped on Laos, approximately 30 % did not detonate. These are now called UXO's or unexploded ordnances. 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war. All 17 provinces of Laos suffer from UXO contamination. (A cluster bomb typically weighs 1000-2000 pounds and opens in mid-air, releasing approximately 650 sub-munitions called "bombies". They continue to plague the entire countryside of Northern Laos 40 years later. It is estimated that over 9 million bombs have yet to be found and disposed of, which will take roughly 100 years. These are a constant and lethal threat to indigenous farmers and especially children who are not aware of the dangers these impose (bombies look much like baseballs or oranges). UXO's continue to maim and kill many unsuspecting victims.

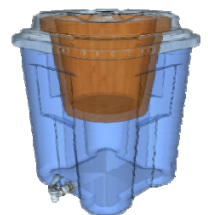
The outlying villages are so very, very simple. Their needs are small but they need education and clean water. Steve Rutledge from Port Hope, ON is on the ground there for 6 months of the year as a pure volunteer. He sponsors students for University himself (with a friend, Mike Yap) and builds schools and works with a hospital there. Imagine a hospital with no running water, delivering babies! (The hospital now has water, thanks to Steve.) The following is from Steve:

" Hygiene is important among the rural villagers. What little money they are able to make, generally goes to their version of healthcare - mostly caused by poor hygiene and poor drinking water. In Pha Yong Village, just before I distributed water filters to each of the 84 families (plus two for the school), I asked the 84 families, all sitting in front of me, how many of them had had diarrhea over the previous 6 months - literally every hand went up in the village. I asked the same question 3 months later (after the water filters had been in place and long after I had done hygiene training), and only 2 people put up their hands. They were easily able to recognize the improvement in their lives. That extra money could now be spent on education for their children or a multitude of other things that would improve their basic living. Most rural villagers make less than \$30 per year.....yes, per year.

**Call Kae Ferraro
at
1-800-465-2376
9 am – 5 pm
to book or make
inquiries**

www.briars.ca

**Mention bridge
for a favourable
rate!**



The water filters cost \$65. This includes a hygiene training course for the receiving family (an absolute pre-requisite), plus transportation, delivery and distribution to the villages. We generally provide water filters systems for each home in every village we are doing major projects in like schools, new water sources, school or village toilets etc.

The Filter:

While the plastic container holds 36 litres of water at a time (suitable for 8 family members), it is the ceramic pot that does all the work. The clay that is used has very small porous holes in it that filters out 95% of all the particles and bacteria present. With an additional silver substrate lining, the water is 99.998% clean - better than most of the water we drink. It has a life span of up to 20 years. To replace the pot in case of breakage is \$9. Maintenance is easy too. We supply a soft brush and whenever there is a build-up of material on the inside of the pot, a light brush to loosen it and a quick rinse is all that it takes. I have had mine for two years and it still looks as clean as the day I bought it (in Laos) although I am using tap water from Luang Prabang. The method is approved by the World Health Organization and various other organizations worldwide.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donors in Canada who donate \$20.00 or more.

Each family receives a filter stand (bamboo), the filter system and a water bottle (similar to what you see at your own water coolers) plus we provide a label with the country of the sponsor in the background (example: Canadian Flag) or a picture that the sponsor would need to email me. In the forefront on the label, the caption is "In Friendship and Respect" (in Lao) and at the bottom we include the sponsors name (or name of their choosing), the city/town where they are from and province/state.

Each sponsor receives an emailed picture of the receiving family with filter and label where they can zoom in and read their own name. Last year it was a popular gift for Christmas to those who have everything they need. Other examples to be put on the labels are "In memory of, Canadian Friends, The Jones Family, etc."

To date we have installed 440 water filter systems to families, schools and hospitals.

For those interested in donating one or more water filters, please email the following information: srutledge@bell.net

Name: Address: (for mailing and tax purposes) Phone: (in case there are payment issues)

Email: (so we can send you a picture of the receiving family or school or hospital with the filter(s) and the label)

What you would like to see on the water filter: (ie. The Jones Family, Toronto, Ontario)

You may also email me a picture for the background instead of the country flag

Cheques may be written and mailed to: Adopt A Village In Laos, 8081 Caldwell Court, RR#1 Campbellcroft, Ontario L0A 1B0

We also accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express: If this is your preferred method of payment, please email me and state this - I will give you a call to get the information. Your Statement will say Pendock Mallorn. (Cleve Pendock, a fellow Rotarian is the secretary of our organization and has generously agreed to absorb all costs related to credit card charges.)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime: Steve Rutledge srutledge@bell.net
<http://AdoptAVillageinLaos.wordpress.com> 905-885-0456

QUOTES FROM FAMOUS PLAYERS

- It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones....Alan Sontag
- It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents....Alfred Sheinwold
- Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster.
- One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts...Alfred Sheinwold

I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night,
It's Amen to Stayman, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.
My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on my right!
So for now it's all over- I'm off to the back wood
I'm bidding Good-bye to Gerber and Blackwood.
I can't stand the hassle; I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
So I'm giving up bridge- tonight's a bad night
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.
My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope
And when he/she says "double", I know we're in trouble.

My points are not high and I'm wondering why
He/she kept bidding right up to the sky.
We're in seven spades and all my hope fades
When surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays!
We're winning all tricks' the defenders feel sick,
And I have to admit my partner's a brick.
But I'm giving up bridge- tonight's my last night
Farewell to conventions- I give up the fight!
So I leave with few words but some that are true,
Bridge is a game- not for me, but for you!
So be kind to your partners and don't mind their cheek
For it's only a game- Oh! Yes, I'll see you next week!!!!!!

PLAY & LEARN

with Josee Hammill

Josee Hammill starts her Play & Learn games for less experienced players on Tues am Sep 11th. at 2737 Bayview Ave. TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 9.30 am – 12 noon.

You may ask questions, change your lead, change your bid, change your mind.

VERY relaxed atmosphere. You may use your cheat sheets at any time.

\$10.00 per session. LOTS of fun. Non-threatening environment.

mjhammill@rogers.com if you have any questions

SUPERVISED PLAY

with Wayne Ruttan

This game goes on all year round on Monday evenings at 63 Taunton Rd. Mt Pleasant & Eglinton.

Much like Josee's game (see above)

wayne.ruttan063@sympatico.ca

Very relaxed. Help available at all times.

MURPHY'S OTHER LAWS

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

The things that come to those that wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in the dark.

JOIN ACBL

SPECIAL RATE FOR NEW MEMBERS

Ask for a membership form from Josee, Craig or Barbara or Alex. they will give you an instant ACBL number and get your points you have accumulated over the past year recorded for you with ACBL. You receive an excellent publication every month.

AND you will also be supporting the largest organizing body of bridge in the world.