



The Studio Scene

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2011



Bert Onstott – Katherine Onstott – Steve Tuggle – Alfred Fortier, III

Grand National Teams

11 Teams Qualify for District Competition

On Sunday, February 13th, 22 B and C teams competed at the Studio in our unit's Grand National Teams qualifying games. Seven teams advanced at the B level, and four advanced at the C level.

Congratulations to all of these winners! We wish you much success at the District competition, which will be held at the Dallas Memorial Day Sectional. And – we hope that you go on to compete and win at the Summer NABC in Toronto.

Here are our B teams that we will be cheering for:

- Bert Onstott - Katherine Onstott - Steve Tuggle - Alfred Fortier III
- Sanford Lobliner - Don Morgan - Gabriel Perry - Youssef Youssef
- Eric Sandberg - Janice Sandberg - Debra Bellan - Nancy Reader

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February 99er Sectional

Silver Points for Success

Held over the weekend of February 25-27, the 99er sectional meant silver points for those who won or placed – and trophy cups for the winners. Some of the winners who made off with the silver:



Marilyn Leimer, Katherine Weiner, Carol Winograd, and Mary Watters



Ellen Valentine, Janice Kruze, Shirley Bloom, and Barbara Squires



Joe Moseley, Marc Beardsley, Larry Spencer, and Michael Kern [continued on page 3](#)

Teacher Tip #1

A bit of bridge advice from Kay Johnson

I would like to give you a few ideas to think about:

1. Take a deep breath and relax. There is no way that any game is important enough to make you tense up your shoulders, arms, and back (headaches usually come later). No game can be played at top efficiency without a feeling of confidence and relaxation. A few butterflies in your stomach are good because they are the motivator to do well and to make you focus on the task at hand.
2. Create an atmosphere to help your partner relax.
3. Go into the game with commitment to do your best. We all play at different levels, and at whatever level we are playing, it is our responsibility to work. Watching, remembering, signaling, and counting require effort and concentration. There is no technical aspect of the game that will reward you more than the effort spent on counting. Count declarer's trumps. Count to analyze everyone's distribution and high-card points at all times.
4. Learn to enjoy your work and the thrill that comes with solving a tough problem in cooperation with partner.

Kay



If you are new to duplicate bridge, come check out Supervised Play with Kay on Thursday mornings at 10:30 -- a fun, low-stress way to learn more about the game. You don't even have to have a partner. Just come and enjoy! 🌟



Ranking near the Top

Our Studio Is One of the Nation's Most Active

In 2010, the Houston Bridge Studio ranked among the top ACBL-sanctioned bridge facilities in the country – 22nd to be exact – hosting 7185 tables for the year.

In case you're wondering, most of the clubs higher in the list are in the NYC area or in big retirement areas like Florida, southern California, Hot Springs, and Arizona. And – the one right above us is Omaha. Is bridge with Warren Buffett a tourist attraction? 🌟

Progress!

0-20 Tuesday Morning Game Now 0-50

Players at The Studio's Tuesday morning 0-20 game have made such progress that the game has been changed to 0-50. Way to Go! 🌟

Studio Happenings

Special Events Planned for March:

- Wednesday, March 9th – 10:30 – Mentor/Mentee Game (no open game)
- Friday, March 11th – 10:30 – Life Master Party for Norma Porter. Plan to come, bring a snack if you like, and help Norma celebrate!
- **March 17th – St. Patrick's Day – Open game at 10:30**
- Friday, March 18th – 7 p.m. -- 8 Is Enough! – Junior Fund Game
- Thursday, March 24th – 7 p.m. – Mentor/Mentee Game (no open game)

[Click here](#) to see the schedule for all March games at The Studio. There are a number of upgraded games this month. 🌟

Grand National Teams -- continued from page 1

- Debi Balter - Joan Sitton - Daniel Jackson - Mark Wallet
- James Woodard - Vijay Shirsat - Rose Carvin - Angela
- Beverley Cheatham - Diane Beardsley - Jeffrey Kroll - Nancy Carlin
- Hallie Eads - Nicanor Prado - John Monroe Jr - Judy Fernald

Here are our C teams to cheer for:

- Richard Polunsky - Pawel Hanus - Bogumil Knypinski - Byron Elliott - Brett Elliott
- Lynn Luster - Barbara Nystrom - Janet Williams - Susan Theiss
- Shou Chao - Shih-Ming Yang - Ming Su - Shyue Yuan Wu
- Peggy Ross - Lucy Nelson - Cynthia DuBois - Carol Laughlin 🍀

99er Sectional Winners -- continued from page 1



Kathy Kent, Janet Pickell, Judith Boyce, and Beverly Tindle



Janet Lipnick, Terry Woskow, Marilyn Leiman, Katherine Wiener



Carolyn and William Harris, Calvin and Janet Beard 🍀

Mentor/Mentee Winners

Kaminsky/Feigley Top the Morning Field

Dianne Kaminsky and Fred Feigley took the overall honors in the A. Winners in B were Alice Heckeroth and Karen Tabak. Tied for top in C were Tomas Romz/Evelyn James and Linda Martinsen/Glenda Faragher.



Fred Feigley and Dianne Kaminsky

Henderson/McKillip Are Winners at Night



Janice Henderson and Geri McKillip



Ron Dalal and Tito Ariwibowo

Winners overall in the A Bracket at night were Janice Henderson/Geri McKillip (1st) and . Leading the way in B were Tito Ariwibowo and Ron Dalal. Tops in C were Stephen Lavoot and Douglas Robertson. 🍀

A Valentine from the Studio



On Valentine's Day The Studio treated players to lunch and a yummy chocolate cake to say "Thanks for choosing to play at the Studio's games!" 🌿

Be Sure to Vote

The Board Election Is Important

If you are playing in the Election Sectional, you will have the opportunity to vote for three candidates who are running for the Unit 174 Board of Directors. Be sure to check out the candidates:

http://www.acblunit174.org/Flyers/2011_Election.html.

Please write for an absentee ballot if you will not be at the tournament to vote in person. 🌿

3 New 0-20 Games

Opportunities for New Players

New 0-20 games are now on The Bridge Studio schedule each week:

- Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
- Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

These games provide a chance to get used to playing competitive bridge and are also a great way to meet people and create new partnerships. 🌿

Need a Partner?

Call The Studio, and we will find you one.

If you would like to play at a specific game and don't have a partner, give us a call at 713-777-0333, and we will work to find you a partner. Obviously the earlier you let us know, the better this works. 🌿

Getting to Know You?

Our first "Who's at the Table?" group is on page 6. Will you send us a good picture of you + a list of 6-7 things you like? houbridgestudio@att.net 🌿

Congratulations!

To All Who Are at New Masterpoint Levels

Junior Masters: John Boynton, Karen Cullar, Karen Jones, Sharon Kagan, Sandie Murphy, Diane O'Neill, Walter Soland.

Club Master: Walter Soland,

Sectional Master: Christine Deane.

Regional Master: John Manderscheid

NABC Master: Robert Ellison.

Life Masters: Phil Bellan, Evelyn James, Margie Nagle, Sandra Pollard, Norma Porter, Stephen Simmons, Elizabeth Vondy.

Bronze Life Masters: Ed Jennings, Virginia Hillegeist, Marilyn Hughes, Anne Knott, Jack Rawitscher, Elizabeth Vondy.

Silver Life Masters: Joyce Booth, Susan Stubinski, Steven Wald.

Gold Life Masters: John Lindsey, Sandra Stephens, Mary Anne Woessner.

15,000+ Masterpoints: Bob Morris and Shawn Quinn. 🌿



Norma Porter: Queen for a Day on March 11th

Cathy Chen is bringing a cake, and others will be bringing all sorts of goodies to the party. What fun to celebrate a new Life Master! Be sure to mark the date on your calendar! 🌿

8 Is Enough!

12 Teams Enjoy Bridge and Dinner in February

The 8 Is Enough! game is a great way for players of different levels to meet and join together on the same team for an evening. And there is dinner also!

On February 18th, 48 players competed in the monthly game. In the A Bracket, winners were Terry Currie, Kyle Leuders, Joan Pleason, and Bobbie Newman. Winning both B and C were Jane Buckman, Julian Barr, Linda Marlin, and Terry Marlin. Congratulations to both teams!



Herb Kalman and Pauline Mitchell



Patricia and Owen Bunn



Rhonda Bryant, Marcella Thomas, Charo Barnett, Katie Moore, and Catherine Brown



Linda and Terry Marlin



Bobby Newman, Kyle Leuders, Joan Pleason, and Terry Currie



Dale White likes

- ✚ Being Grandpa Dale
- ✚ Jazz
- ✚ Sudoku
- ✚ Driving on vacation
- ✚ March Madness
- ✚ Geography
- ✚ Staying at B&Bs



Betty Freedman likes (in this order!!!)

- ✚ Her fantastic family
- ✚ Good friends
- ✚ Playing bridge
- ✚ Eating out
- ✚ Movies
- ✚ Her computer

Who's at the Table?



Joni Smith likes

- ✚ Theatre
- ✚ The Astros
- ✚ Anything related to her 5 grandchildren
- ✚ Trying new restaurants
- ✚ Traveling -- anywhere



Kathy Watkins likes

- ✚ Travel
- ✚ Grandchildren
- ✚ Fried oysters
- ✚ Lessons with Bob!
- ✚ Good friends gambling

Upcoming Classes at The Studio

Improve your bridge and please your partners!

Both Gary King and Terrie Currie have announced classes at The Studio for the spring.



Well known in the Houston area as both a player and teacher, Gary King offers classes for players at all levels, varying class formats to try to meet the needs of all his students. Students appreciate Gary's lively teaching style and his wonderful handouts, which become helpful reference materials after a class has ended. He is also known for making sure that students get multiple examples to help explain each new concept. Gary's website: <http://www.houstoncardschool.com/> His email address: gary@houstoncardschool.com. Contact him for more information about his classes.

- Beginning March 31st, Gary King will teach an 8-week Fundamentals of Contract Bridge class – Thursday evenings, 7-9. (\$125 for the 8-week series)
- Gary has 2 one-day Saturday workshops: Improve Your Declarer Play (March 5) and Bidding and Playing Powerhouse Hands (April 9) – both running from noon to 6 p.m.
- Gary also has a class in Intermediate Play of the Hand beginning on May 18th and running for 8 Wednesday evenings (7-9).

To pre-register for any of Gary's classes, send your name, address, telephone, and email address along with the class fee to:

Houston Card School
PO Box 752652
Houston, TX 77275



Terry Currie, a Diamond Life Master and an accredited ACBL bridge instructor, has over 6000 masterpoints and has won many Regional Events. Terry is also the bridge instructor for Leisure Learning Unlimited, Inc.

She has taught the complete ACBL Series called Bidding in the 21st Century, Terry's supervised play sessions are done barometer style, which makes it easy for students to see their mistakes -- and thus makes learning easier and more fun.

- Terrie's Slam Bidding class begins on Monday, March 21st, and continues March 28, April 4, 11, & 18. This class will cover Gerber, Blackwood, Roman Key Card and Cue Bids. There will be lectures and then practice hands. The class will meet each Monday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (\$90 for the 5-week series)
- Terrie's Defense class (part of the ACBL series) begins on Tuesday, April 12th, and continues on April 19 and 26, and on May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31. The classes will meet each Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (\$130 for the 8-week series).

Call the studio to sign up for Terry's classes (713-777-0333) or contact Terry directly at 832-594-8577.



“Director, Please”

Bert's Comments on Common Director Calls

One of the most common director calls is when someone bids when it is not their turn. ACBL Law 31, “Bid out of rotation”, covers handling of this situation.

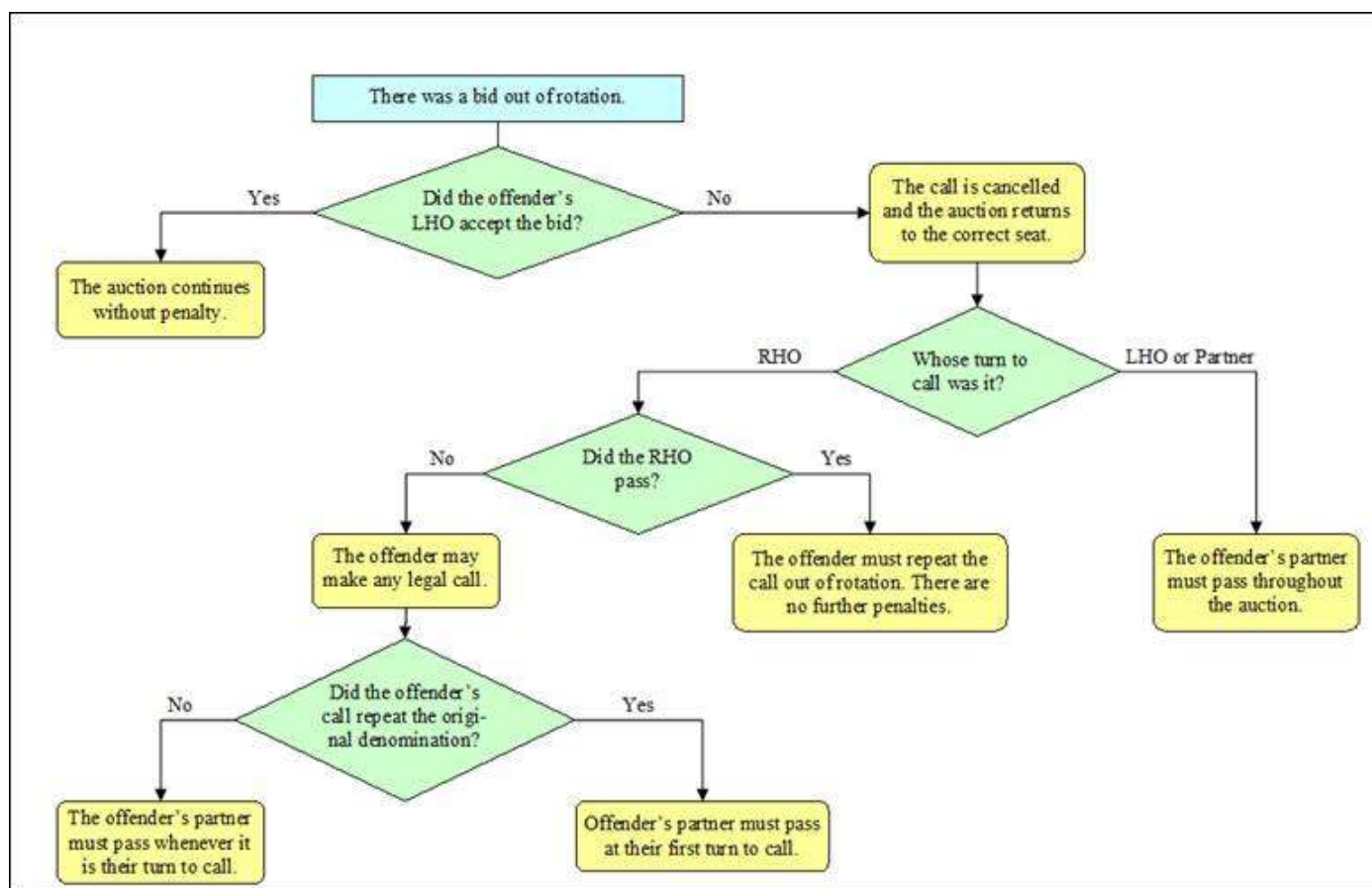
First, the offender's left hand opponent (LHO) always has the option of accepting the bid. If the bid is accepted, the auction continues with no penalty.

If the LHO does not accept the bid, then the bid is cancelled and the auction returns to the proper rotation.

The remedy for a bid out of rotation that is not accepted depends on whose turn it was to bid. There are two cases: when it was the offender's 1) right hand opponent's (RHO), or 2) partner's or LHO's, turn to bid:

1. If it was the offender's RHO's turn to call,
 - a. If that opponent passes, the offender must repeat the call out of rotation. When that call is legal, there is no rectification.
 - b. On the other hand, if that opponent does not pass, the offender may make any legal call. When this call repeats the denomination (e.g. clubs, hearts, or NT) of the call out of rotation, offender's partner must pass at their next turn to call.
 - c. If the offender makes any other legal call, offender's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call.
2. If it was the offender's partner's or LHO's turn to call, offender's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call.

This is illustrated in the following flowchart:



There are more nuances than can be fully shown here. If you are interested, see the Laws at <http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Laws-of-Duplicate-Bridge.pdf>.



Bert is the Unit 174 webmaster and also our representative to the District 16 Board of Directors. He frequently directs games at The Bridge Studio. 🍀