

THE KIBITZER



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Belladonna Revisited

by Harold Feldheim

About a decade ago, the world lost one of the most colorful champions of all time. Georgio Belladonna was there at the beginning of the fabled Italian Blue Team, winner of the world championship twelve times in a row. There were many greats that passed through the ranks; Pabis Ticci, Forquet, Avarrelli, Garrozzo, and of course, Georgio himself. The following hand, almost certainly apocryphal, was attributed to Belladonna in actual play. But then again, many weird and wonderful hands involved Belladonna at the helm. The following is a marvel.

North

♠ A Q 9 8 6
♥ A 9 7
♦ A 8 6
♣ K 4

South

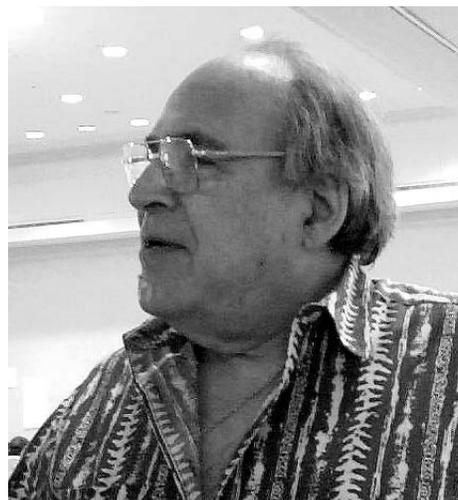
♠ K J 10 7 2
♥ K 3 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A 2

E-W vulnerable

Opening lead: 3♣

The auction should be left to posterity. In any event, South is declarer in 4 spades. There seems to be little to the hand; with three red cards to lose, this should be a very flat board, however...

Against the opening lead, declarer thoughtfully played the king on which East produced a trump! South, seemingly unperturbed, plays the A♣. East, missing the signal for a diamond, returned the Q♥, won by dummy's ace. South drew trump in two rounds and cashed the A♦ and the K♥. He then led a club. With nothing left but clubs, West had to cede a ruff-sluff, but this was not enough for declarer. He sluffed a heart from dummy and a diamond from his hand and this was the third and last trick for the defense. Forced to lead another club, declarer discarded dummy's last heart while ruffing in his hand, making 4 spades.



Harold Feldheim

The complete hand:

North

♠ A Q 9 8 6
♥ A 9 7
♦ A 8 6
♣ K 4

West

♠ 4 3
♥ 8 4
♦

East

♠ 5
♥ Q J 10 6 5
♦ K Q J 10 9 7 5
♣ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 3 2

South

♠ K J 10 7 2
♥ K 3 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A 2

West started to shoot his partner down in flames. "How could you not return a diamond?" he asked tersely. Never one to stay out of a post-mortem, Belladonna pointed out that West could have easily defeated the contract.

"Don't be so fancy," he advised. "If you lead the Q♣, the play will of course be the same except that when I play the club, you can play the three-spot. Now there are three unavoidable red suit losers."

"Very interesting," he continued. "East ruffs the richest possible trick (A-K-Q♣) while West defeats the contract by conceding the poorest possible trick (4-3-2♣). That would be truly a partnership effort," he laughed.

Save the Date!

March 4, 5, 6 at the Shelton Ramada-Marriott Plaza hotel at 780 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton. This is a great site and easy to get to.

See page 12.

The 'Can't Cost' (CC) Principle Chapter VI

by John Steifel

To review CC: if you know a particular play can't cost, just do it. You don't need to figure out if or how it might gain, only that it can't lose. Said another way, it's often easier to figure out a "can't cost" play to an early trick than all the details of what might happen later (deep thought or DT).

CC Chapter VI features this hand from a recent club game.

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: North/South

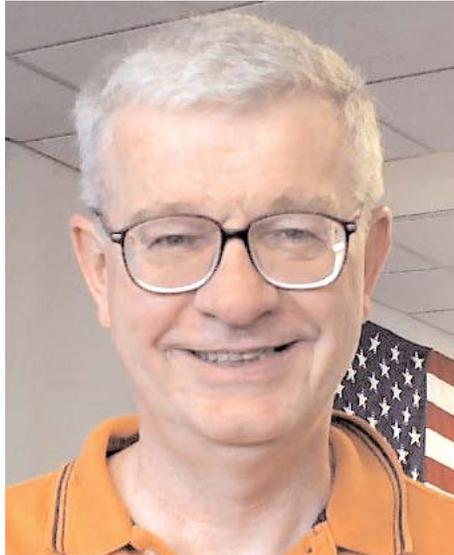
South	West	North	East
1♣	P	3♣	P
3NT	all pass		

Opening Lead – 5♠

North	
♠	K 4
♥	10 2
♦	10 9 7 5
♣	10 9 4 3 2
South (Dealer)	
♠	A J 3 2
♥	Q J 9 4
♦	A
♣	A Q 6 5

Note: North-South play "inverted minors," so North's raise to 3♣ was pre-emptive.

At trick one, North plays low and South captures East's queen with his ace. He tries a heart to the 10 at trick two. East wins this with the king and continues spades to North's king. South leads a club to the queen at trick 4 and gets "good news – bad news." The good news is that the queen wins. The bad news is that West shows out (sluffing a diamond). With nothing better to do, South continues hearts at trick 5. West wins this and leads the 10 spades to trick 6, East discarding a diamond.



John Steifel

What now? It seems automatic to win the jack, cash the two good hearts and hope something good happens. But wait! How can it cost to duck this trick? (Can't Cost Principle). Nothing bad can happen and perhaps there's a better chance that something good might happen if you wait until the next trick.

So South ducks trick 6 and West continues spades to South's jack at trick 7. South cashes one of his heart winners at trick 8, leaving the following 5-card end position.

North		East		South	
♠		♠		♠	
♥		♥		♥	9
♦	10 9	♦	K J	♦	A
♣	10 9 4	♣	K J 8	♣	A 6 5

South leads his 9 hearts at trick 9, discarding dummy's 9♦, and East is stuck. East's actual diamond discard allowed South to cash his A♦ and then lead a low club to dummy's 9. East won the jack at trick 11 but was end-played at trick 12, having to lead a club from his K 8 to declarer's A 6 and dummy's 10 2. A club discard would have been no better. That would have reduced East to two clubs and allowed South to play clubs to set up his ninth trick while retaining his A♦ to stop that suit.

"Deep thought" (DT) people will point out that this is a "delayed duck squeeze end-play." It's easier, however, to think of it as keeping track of how many clubs East has saved.

A more elegant description of the ending was given by Bart Bramley, world-class player originally from Wallingford. Bart calls this the "ace squeeze" because declarer must have the ace (or aces) in whichever side suit (or suits) the victim holds.

Finally, readers will note the defenders can set the hand by playing diamonds any time before trick 8. That's easier to do, however, when you see all four hands than when you are looking at a seemingly-strong diamond holding in dummy.



District Director's Report – November 2004

by Rich DeMartino, District Director

The Orlando NABC was held at the Orlando Marriott World Center, a magnificent and spacious resort hotel. The attendance was 14,642 tables, which makes this the third largest Fall NABC of all time, behind only Las Vegas 2001 and Orlando 1992. The tournament was held on one floor, which is ideal, and the playing rooms were generally well-lit and spacious.

Orlando continues to be one of the most popular sites for our NABCs. I believe that everyone who attended had a great time.

TOP CONNECTICUT FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS

SENIOR KO TEAMS 3/4
 Dan Colatosti, Waltham MA
 Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT
 John Malley, Pascoag RI
 Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA
 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting CEO Report

CEO Jay Baum reported that the upward trend in membership is continuing. As of October 31, membership for 2004 is up approximately 800 members. Another positive is that retention of first year (to second year) members has reached 65%, a 9% increase over 2003 and a 13% increase from two years ago.

Regional tournament tables are up 6% over 2003 and Sectional tables are approximately the same as 2003 (total tables are up 1% but the average is lower by two tables). The club level of the North American Pairs increased from 27,822 tables to 38,224 tables, an increase of 38%, and the highest number since 1995. This is a very good result and bodes well for the continuation of this event in the future. We continue to encourage club owners to run the NAP qualifying games and players to play in the games. The lower entry fees (an extra \$1.00 instead of \$1.75) will be continued this year.

Hall of Fame

Several changes were proposed to the Hall of Fame Charter, the main change being that the electorate be reduced from approximately 800 voters, which includes members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors, to about 160 voters: all living HOF members; up to 10 bridge journalists; plus those who have won at least 5 WBF/NABC Championships including at least one +++ event (e.g., Spingold, Bermuda Bowl, etc.). The other major change is that a minimum percentage will be required for a person to be elected (50% for 2004 with the expectation that this percentage will be raised for 2005 and later after we gather more voting data from the new electorate).

The motion passed 22-3. I voted for the motion. I was selected in July to act as a liaison with the HOF Committee; this committee strongly recommended that the existing electorate of around 800 persons had to be reduced to a smaller, more knowledgeable, group.

Unit - Wide Championships

Don Stiegler, Unit Coordinator for CT, proposed combining morning and afternoon games into the same session, I discussed this point with Management and the following motion ensued: For proposes of Unit-Wide Championships, morning and afternoon sanctioned games are deemed to be the same session when there is not more than a 3 1/2 hour time difference between the starting times of the games. The motion passed without dissent.

2005 Budget

For 2005, the following fee changes are approved:

Directors' fees will be raised 6.5% (3.5 % for salary increases and 3% catch-up). The net increase will be only 3.5% because sanction fees will be lowered by an amount equivalent to the 3% catch-up.

Sanction fees will be lowered by 4.2% (to offset the 3% catch-up in Directors' fees).

ACBL Goodwill Committee Appointments

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following appointments to the ACBL National Goodwill Committee. These are lifetime appointments honoring players who have contributed substantially to bridge in our District.

National Goodwill Committee

Helen Pawlowski, Westfield MA
 Ausra Geaski, East Hartford CT

Members selected to the Goodwill Committee are those who consistently behave in an exemplary manner and spread goodwill among both partners and opponents. Both Helen and Ausra are always friendly, courteous and gracious at the table. Each has also done a terrific job providing hospitality to the players, Helen at the Springfield Regional for the past several years and Ausra at CT Sectionals.

Top CT Masterpoint Winners – Orlando NABC

Name	Total Points	Points Won In NABC Events
Harold Feldheim Hamden	137.66	66.74
Rich De Martino Riverside	124.60	124.60
Douglas Doub W. Hartford	98.37	70.48
John Stiefel Wethersfield	96.70	73.05
Allan Rothenberg W. Hartford	54.60	54.60
Edwin Lewis III Bolton		52.25
Thomas Hyde Willimantic		52.25

The Spring NABC will be held in Pittsburgh from March 10 through March 20. Hope to see you there.



Milestones Congratulations to:

Gold Life Master

(2,500 master points)
Lawrence Lau

Silver Life Master

(1,000 master points)
Marie Abate
John Farwell
Ausra Geaski
Mary Leclair
Elizabeth Nagle
Sibyl Shirley
Helma Strauss

Bronze Life Master

(500 master points)
Debbie Benner
Fredda Kelly
Barbara Sloan

Life Master

(300 master points)
Audrey Bell
Suzanne Goldsein
Jo-Anne Kerr
Tucker Merritt
Valerie Orefice
Eleanor Papineau
Dana Rossi
Sayoko Shimada
Seiho Shimada
Jennifer Williams

Peter Czuba

We are all saddened by the untimely, unexpected death of our friend and club manager, Peter Czuba. Bill Wood writes, "Peter and I have been friends and bridge associates for over 8 years and Peter was a prince of a person. We shared many of the same views on bridge and life and the vagaries of running a business in what is, in most parts of the world but not necessarily in ours, a declining market. I know he shared my positive view about what we can do about the future of local bridge development and bridge in general, and his role in this development, since he was just starting a game in Fairfield on Fridays."

Should any of you wish to send a card to Sherry, his wife, the address is 52 Saw Mill Road, Durham CT 06422.

New Game in Fairfield

A new game on Friday morning at 10 a.m. is available at the Scandinavian Club in Fairfield, at 1351 South Pine Creek Rd. Ann Cady has taken the game over for Peter Czuba. She can be reached at 860-354-1457, email cadybrook@aol.com.

As those who have played in Peter's games know, light lunch type food is available. The entry is \$9. Ample parking is available, as is air conditioning, and the site is wheel-chair accessible.

Directions:

Going EAST on I-95 coming from Westport: Take Southport Exit 19 and continue to Post Rd. Turn right on Post Rd. till you see Mobil/Sunoco Stations on your right. Turn right on South Pine Creek Rd. for approx. 1 mile past golf course.

Hamden Memory Bowl Game

continued from page 9

Finishing his calculations, Norman cashed the two high spades, ending in dummy. He then led the A♦, discarding a spade from his hand, and trumped the third round of spades. When West followed to the third spade, Norman took the king and ace of clubs, then won the critical ninth trick by trumping the third round of diamonds with 5♥. Then he simply led his low club, showed his K Q 10♥, and claimed the contract.

As Sol took a few minutes to calculate that the score for 6♥ redoubled making came to 2170 and not 2020, East and West congratulated Norman on his good card reading. East remarked that it was unlucky West's diamond lead allowed Norman three ruffs in hand, but they soon worked out that a spade, club or even an impossible heart lead from West could not have resulted in a set by force. Even if East were on lead and led a club, declarer could still get home by winning the first club in the North hand, finessing 10♥, cashing the three high hearts and leading K♣, then another heart if East followed or

Going WEST on I-95 coming from Bridgeport: Take Mill Plain Rd. Exit 21. Turn left off ramp going south under the bridge to the Post Rd. Turn right on the Post Rd. till you see the Sunoco/Mobil Stations on your left. Turn left on South Pine Creek Rd. for approx. 1 mile past golf course.

Going WEST on the Merritt. Take Exit 44 (Black Rock Tpke). Go South under the Merritt and turn immediately right (parallel to the Merritt) onto Congress St. Continue to Burr St. (stop sign). Turn left on Burr which turns into Mill Plain Rd. (approx. 2 mi.).

Go under the I-95 and continue under the railroad bridge to the Post Rd. Turn right on the Post Rd. till you see the Sunoco/Mobil stations on your left. Turn left on South Pine Creek Rd. for approx 1 mile past golf course.

discarded. East, in with her last trump, and with no third club to lead for the setting trick, would have been forced to give declarer the twelfth trick in diamonds or spades, the J♠ being the only play to give declarer a chance to err.

As Sol finished calculating the score, Norman was about to say that the 1660 they would have scored for making 6♥ doubled surely would have been quite good enough. Just then, however, Sol opened the traveling score sheet. Norman beheld an almost solid wall of 1700s in the N-S column for defending 3♦ doubled down six. Presumably every other West in the room had come in with 2NT over 1♥, and all the Souths had been able to make themselves leave in North's penalty double of the runout. There was even a score of 2000 when West declared 2NT doubled down seven. Norman stalled as long as he could by explaining the double squeeze by the defence against 2NT doubled, but at last the moment came when he just had to do it. He took a deep breath, then said, "Good redouble, Sol."

The Wimbledon Concurrent

by Gloria Sieron

Apparently, the Wimbledon Bridge Club would like to be as famous for bridge as Wimbledon is for tennis and the British Open. Many of the bridge clubs in the London area possess automatic dealing machines, which read pre-dealt hand records to sort coded cards. This would be a director's dream, especially for STaC Week.

This year, the Wimbledon Bridge Club, located in a suburb of London, will be experimenting with an activity called "A Piece of Cake."

The announcement reads, "This is just like any duplicate session except that every table plays the same boards during the same round. At the end of the first round, the director will announce the results (In third place with 59% is Mary and William, in second place, etc.). The pair that has won the round has tea served to them by Ellen – Fortnum & Mason's afternoon blend with a selection of yummy cakes from Flanders of New Malden (our usual supplier), served on Buckingham Palace 2004 china. The subsequent round winners receive the same service (except the two winning players of the last round can choose to take their cake home as they may have a train to catch). The overall winning pair receives a cake each. Only one rule – you may not discuss the boards at the table."

Several United States duplicate bridge directors received an email from Maurice Cahm, a director of the Wimbledon Bridge Club with an invitation to participate in its worldwide tournament. The first of the scheduled games was to be held on Monday, December 13, 2004. Since I direct a game on Monday at the Darien Community Association, I asked DCA members if they would like to participate at no extra fee. It was an offer too good to refuse. We scheduled the game.



Gloria Sieron

A printout of the hands, together with analysis by Ian Fogg, was sent to us on the Internet. Mr. Fogg apologized because his analysis is based on the ACOL style of bidding but he hoped to make the analysis more "international" in the future.

Hand No. 2 was especially interesting:

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: North/South

North		East	
♠	Void	♠	K 10 9
♥	A K Q J 10 6	♥	3 2
♦	10 9 6 3	♦	A K Q 7 5
♣	Q J 5	♣	10 9 8
West		South	
♠	A Q J 8 6 4 3	♠	7 5 2
♥	4	♥	9 8 7 5
♦	J 8	♦	4 2
♣	7 6 4	♣	A K 3 2

With a great variety of auctions, most East/West pairs were allowed to play in four spades. The vulnerability, it seems, was too unfavorable for North to compete to five hearts. So let us defend four spades. After we lead the A♥ at trick one and take a look at dummy, what thought process would enable us to shift at trick two to a club?

West's bidding might indicate a long, solid spade suit – that's seven tricks. With A K Q♦ on the Board, the second heart can be trumped and the four-spade contract is scored.

Is there a discard South can make to let partner know he has four hearts (and the A K♣)?

Hands like this make bridge both interesting and challenging. Also, if the bidding goes 1♦ by East, 4♠ by West, would you as a vulnerable vs. non-vulnerable North be brave enough to have bid 5♥?

The winners of the very first Wimbledon Concurrent held at the Darien Community Association Duplicate Bridge Club were:

1. Vivian Gaines - Ann Towne
62.68%
2. Barbara Johnson - Nancy Newton
59.44%
3. Marie Moore - Consuelo Nusbaum
58.56%
4. Betsy Philips - Whitey Spelbrink
57%
5. Mary Richardson - Carol Davidson
55.79%
6. Constance Bergin - Laura Wilks
54.17%

Branford Bridge Club

Fritz Reimers earned a total of 23.51 master points at the Branford Bridge Club during the 2004 year ranking him first in points earned among the players in the Wednesday games.

Ranking among the top 10 were:

2 Alan Blake	22.04
3 Arlene Leshine	21.40
4 Betty Tobin	20.58
5 David Hyatt	19.44
6 Marvin Jamron	18.69
7 Denise Lombard	18.61
8 Robert Kidd	18.34
9 Louise Wood	18.29
10 Billie Hecker	18.28

Winners of the October STaC game in Branford, North-South were:

- 1 Muriel Romero - Muriel Lipman
- 2 Alan Blake - Fritz Reimers
- 3 John McGuire - Joan Panico
- 4 Gernot - Sandy Reiners

East-west winners were:

- 1 John Farwell - Don Stiegler
- 2 Carl Yohans - Arlene Leshine
- 3 John O'Shea - Nancy Ramsyer
- 4 Elaine Gwyther - May Bernick

The Swiss Team winners in a Club Appreciation game were:

- 1 David Hyatt, Lee Herdle, John O'Shea, Nancy Ramseyer.
- 2 Ginny Anderson, Muriel Lipman, Ida Fidler, Ann Honig
- 3 Alan and Barbara Blake, Midge Ehrenfreud, Louise Cotsales
- 4 Arlene Leshine, Carl Yohans, Shirley Fruchter, Elaine Haut

The December Club Championship was won by:

- 1 Ginny Anderson - Muriel Lipman
- 2 Billie Hecker - Jean Shepler-Miller
- 3 Ann Honig - Rose Cordano
- 4 David Hyatt - Lois Flesche
- 5 Helen Kobernusz - Dee Altieri

Games are played on Wednesday mornings at the Branford Community House starting at 10 a.m. For partners or information call Lois Flesche at 203-488-3585 or Arlene Leshine at 203-488-2389.

Wee Burn News:

The Fall Series ended on December 2 with the following winners:

- 1 Jean Thoma - Karen Barrett
- 2 Audrey Bell - Ellie Allen
- 3 Janet Soskin - Susan Mayo
- 4 Mary Beach - Adele Hollingsworth
- 5 Bippie Grubbs - Ann Fuller
- 6 Penny Glassmeyer - Stan Steckler
- 7 Ed Meyer - Barbara Simpson
- 8 Brooke Megrue - Joan Hoben

December Charity game winners:

- 1 Belinda Metzger - Audrey Cadwallader
- 2 Audrey Bell - Ellie Allen

There were 14 tables in the Swiss Team event held on December 16:

- 1 Penny Glassmeyer - Stan Steckler - Janet Soskin-Susan Mayo
- 2 Betty McCoy - Ann Towne - Mary Beach-Adele Hollingsworth

Wee Burn Bridge is saddened by the recent death of two of its longtime players: Jean Byrne and Dottie Noyes.

Bridge Forum Hamden Year-End News

Tuesday Results

By the middle of November, it was clear that Player of the Year was Muriel Romero's title to lose.

A reasonably good end to the year saw her win by a wide margin.

The top 10:

- 1 Muriel Romero
- 2 Fredda Kelly
- 3 Helen Molloy
- 4 Jean Shepler-Miller
- 5 Jon Ingersoll
- 6 Eleanor Seaman
- 7 Mary Connolly
- 8 Billie Hecker
- 9 Louise Wood
- 10 Barbara Walters

Muriel was also in three of the top ten pairs for the year, with Fredda and Billie each in two.

Leading Pairs:

- 1 Fredda Kelly - Helen Molloy
- 2 Billie Hecker - Jean Shepler-Miller
- 3 Hill Auerbach - Tracy Selmon
- 4 Billie Hecker - Muriel Romero
- 5 Fredda Kelly - Muriel Romero
- 6 Jean Pyne - Pat Rooney

Van Dyke Cup Final

Marie Tilney and Bob Hawes were in their first Final Fours. Jean Shepler-Miller was making her sixth attempt for that breakthrough win. Ten-time cup winner Louise Wood was trying to tie the late Morse Ginsberg's last remaining record by winning this cup for the third consecutive year. The first half saw bad nerves all around - none of the finalists scored average. In the second half, Jean went ahead after a big round against Rosemarie. But Louise, spurred on by a pep talk from partner Emma Q. Antonio, and relieved still to be within reach after her shaky first half, scored over 75% in the final two rounds to retain the cup, leaving Jean second (again!), Bob third and Rosemarie fourth.

Friday Results

1999 Player of the Year Carl Yohans and 2001 PoY Arlene Leshine traded the lead all year, and entered the final week in a statistical dead heat. A good second half with partner Judy Kramer (back for the first time after missing many months due to illness) gave Arlene the title, while Fredda Kelly, with favourable results from four other players, came from far back to second, becoming the first player to finish as PoY runner-up for both sessions in the same year.

The top 10:

- 1 Arlene Leshine
- 2 Fredda Kelly
- 3 Carl Yohans
- 4 Shirley Fruchter
- 5 Louise Wood
- 6 Jinny Goggin
- 7 Ginny Anderson
- 8 Eleanor Tucker
- 9 Jean Shepler-Miller
- 10 Muriel Romero



Leading Pairs:

- 1 Mary Cameron - Norma Petchler
- 2 Jinny Goggin - Arlene Leshine
- 3 Marcel Bratu - Joe Pagerino
- 4 Janice Bruce - Carl Yohans
- 5 Ida Fidler - Ann Honig

Reynolds Cup Final

For the first time in any cup competition, all four finalists were Players of the Year: Billie Hecker, Carl Yohans, Arlene Leshine and Louise Wood. Both Carl and Arlene were trying for a first cup victory. Billie was trying to tie Florence Schannon's record of winning cups four years apart, and Louise was trying to complete a successful defence of two cups in the same week. The first half was huge for both Louise and Arlene, putting Billie (eventually third) and Carl (fourth) out of contention. Early in the second half, Emma Q. Antonio, who had partnered Louise to victory in the Van Dyke Cup, had a big round against Louise. When Louise was unable to make up lost ground, Arlene finally won her first cup.

Tuesday-Friday combined Memory Bowl Results

Selected by Louise Wood, this year's Champion's Honoree was the late Norman Silver. One of the group's most feared declarers, Norman played for many years with his cousin, Sol Silver. Norman and Sol were the year's top pair in 1997. In 2000, Norman reached the final of the Claiborn Cup, eliminating Arlene Leshine and Morse Ginsberg in single elimination before losing to Eleanor Tucker in the final. Norman's last full year of playing was 2002, in which he and Helen Molloy were co-Player of the Year for the Friday session. In 2003, Norman played only three times, but in his penultimate appearance he partnered Ginny Anderson to victory in the Claiborn Cup. Norman didn't play in regionals and so never reached Life Master rank, but made as few mistakes from failure to count the hand as anybody in the group. He was one of the few people who held his own against top pairs like the Augensteins and Val Dyer-Morse Ginsberg, though he did have a curious run of eleven losing rounds running once against Pat Kromer.

This year's Memory Bowl competition quickly became a two-player race between Muriel Romero in pursuit of her fifth cup win and Fredda Kelly in pursuit of her fourth. A top board in their head-to-head round in the last game of the year gave the win to Fredda.

The top ten:

- 1 Fredda Kelly
- 2 Muriel Romero
- 3 Jinny Goggin
- 4-5 Tadeusz Karnkowski - Carl Stone
- 6 Louise Wood
- 7 Florence Schannon
- 8 Hill Auerbach
- 9 Ginny Anderson
- 10 Bob Hawes

See page 9 for more on the Memory Bowl.

Madison Duplicate Bridge Club

Margaret Mason, who earned a total of 53.78 master points for the year 2004, ranked first among the list of players earning points at the Madison Duplicate Bridge Club.

Others ranking in the top ten for the 2004 year include:

Lenny Russman	51.25
Roy Andrews	43.33
Dee Mozzocchi	33.60
Joan Panico	32.84
Denise Lombard	28.24
Gernot Reiners	27.43
Helen Kobernusz	27.18
Ogden Bigelow	26.42
John McGuire	26.06

Tuesday Winners

The annual Tuesday evening Swiss Team Match, played in memory of Rose Zieger, was won by Charles Halpin, Millie Sullivan, Allan Clamage and Sarah Budds. Teams tied for second-third place were: Ogden Bigelow, Helen Kobernusz, Gernot Reiners and John McGuire, with Joan Panico, Denise Lombard, Don Stiegler, and John Farwell.

Tuesday STaC game winners

- in mid-October were: (North-South)
- 1 Ken Graebe - Peter Kilbride
 - 2 David Domisi - William Wamester
 - 3 Margaret Mason - Lenny Russman
- (East- West)
- 1 Don Brueggmann - Esther Watstein
 - 2 Roy Andrews - Jackie Zwilliger
 - 3 Carol Minor - Mike Bolgar

Winners in the Club Appreciation game:

- 1 Phyllis Robbins - Midge Ehrenfreund
- 2 Arthur - Elaine Haut
- 3 Ogden Bigelow - Nancy Ramseyer
- 4 Jackie Zwilliger - Mike Bolgar

The ACBL Charity Game winners in November were:

- 1 Margaret Mason - Carol Minor
- 2 David Domisi - Lois Flesche
- 3 Roy Andrews - Michael Bolgar
- 4 Lenny Russman - Denise Lombard

Overall winners in the Club Championship game in December were:

- 1 Al Poirier - Dee Mozzocchi
- 2 Margaret Mason - Lenny Russman
- 3 Helen Kobernusz - Louise Cotsales
- 4 Arthur - Elaine Haut
- 5 Sarah Corning - Roy Andrews

Thursday Winners in the December Club Championship:

- 1 Margaret Mason - Lenny Russman
- 2 Larry Stern - Robert vander Wiede
- 3 Dee Altieri - Arlene Leshine;
- 4 Vlaire Sauer - Janice Bruce
- 5 Don Stiegler - William Kuczinski

Overall winners in the Thursday Club Appreciation game in October were:

- 1 Janet Gischner - Harris Jacobs
- 2 Charles Halpin - Phyllis Bausher
- 3 Don Stiegler - Larry Bausher
- 4 Dolores Johnston - Lenny Russman

STaC game overall winners in mid-October were:

- 1 Lynn Gallagher - Dolores Johnston
- 2 Lenny Russman - Joan Panico
- 3 Roy Andrews - Denise Lombard
- 4 David Hyatt - Dee Herdle
- 5 Fritz Reimers - Alan Blake
- 6 Ogden Bigelow - John McGuire

October Swiss Team winners:

- 1 Don Stiegler, Larry Bausher, Cindy Michaels, Louise Cavallero
- 2 Margaret Mason, Lenny Russman, Roy Andrews, Al Poirier
- 3 Joan Panico, Dee Mozzochi, John McGuire, Gernot Reiners
- 4 Helen Kobernusz, Diburma Burnham, Elaine Haut, Carl Yohans

The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. and on Thursdays at 10 a.m. The games, which are played at the Madison Memorial Town Hall on the Town Green, are open to all players. All games are stratified.

Stamford Bridge Club

It's tough being a Friday night club. We are closed the night before all holidays and for local sectionals and nearby regionals. However, we did manage to have a game or two including a lovely Christmas party with appetizers, dinner and dessert, and various liquid refreshments. It was a split local won by visitors from Westchester. Our Mayor's Cup trophy in October was won by Natalie Cohen and Betty MacInnis.

In November the Men's Pair trophy went to Allan Stauber and Carlos Munoz. Aimee Housholder and Doris Greenwald won the Women's Pair trophy. We do meet as often as possible. For more info, contact Betty at 964-9016 or email Billbett@optonline.net.

Greenwich

Final standings for Player of the Year at Steve Becker's Monday afternoon game at the YWCA of Greenwich are as follows:

- 1 Eleanor Gimon
- 2 Sally Morgan
- 3 Harriet Aberle
- 4/5 Lydia Anderson
- 4/5 Jim Aberle
- 6 Barbara Thompson
- 7 Pat Dettmer
- 8 Nancy Lucht
- 9 Lynne Weiss
- 10 Ronnie Bershad-Sachs

Newspaper clipping sent by Ann Cady

"Weird but True"

A 102-year-old driver has been fined for deliberately driving on the wrong side of the road to get to a bridge game.

Charles Ford, who's had a license since 1918, told cops he didn't have time to wait for a traffic jam to clear in Los Angeles. The offense cost him a \$170 fine... not that it bothered Ford.

"Whenever I know I have done something wrong, I don't put no squawk with the police. I know better," he said.

CBA Bridge Calendar

CBA Web site: www.ctbridge.org

February

- 5-6 Dist. 25 Grand National Teams, Sturbridge, MA
- 10 Thursday morning Split Local
- 16-21 District 25 Regional, Cromwell, CT
- 25 Friday morning Unit-wide championship
- 28 Monday afternoon ACBL-wide Senior game

March

- 4-6 Unit 126 Sectional, Shelton, CT
- 8 Tuesday evening Unit-wide championship
- 10-20 Spring ACBL Nationals, Pittsburgh, PA
- 15 Tuesday evening ACBL-wide Charity game
- 30 Wednesday evening Split Local

April

- 8-10 Unit 126 Sectional, E. Hartford, CT
- 12 Tuesday evening Split Local
- 18 Monday evening Split Local
- 27-1 District 25 Senior Regional, North Falmouth, MA

May

- 5 Thursday evening Split Local
- 11 Wednesday afternoon ACBL International Fund Game #2
- 16 Monday morning Split Local
- 20 Friday morning Unit-wide championship



Hamden Memory Bowl Game



by Rick Townsend

This year's Memory Bowl Hand was actually played in real life. I was a little surprised that nobody bid slam, but hands on which one partner has a solid (appearing) suit and the other partner has controls are not always easy. But away we go:

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: Both

North		East	
♠	A 9 7 4	♠	J 3 2
♥	2	♥	J 9 8 7 6
♦	A Q 7 6 3	♦	K 5 2
♣	A 10 3	♣	7 5
West		South	
♠	Q 8 5	♠	K 10 6
♥		♥	A K Q 10 5 4 3
♦	J 10 9 8 4	♦	
♣	Q J 6 4 2	♣	K 9 8

It was Board 10, the final hand of a game in which Norman had reunited with his former partner Sol. Sol had followed all the rules Norman had set out for him; not making a takeout double with length in the opener's suit, having two of the top three honors in all his preemptive suits, and not redoubling, etc. Now on the last board Norman, sitting South, opened 1♥ in second position. West's hand flickered towards the bidding box. Then she looked down at the board, appeared to notice the vulnerability, and passed. Sol also displayed indecision, eventually pulling out a bid of 2♠.

East looked at Norman, who explained that Sol had gotten him to agree to play weak jump shifts. After East passed, Norman's rebid was easy. With Sol holding AQxxxx♠, they had an easy slam, and Sol couldn't hold the A♣ as well. To protect his K♣ from the lead, Norman bid 6♥. West did not take long to double, and then with a sense of dread Norman saw Sol pull the forbidden blue redouble out of his box. West led the J♦ against 6♥ redoubled.

There was universal surprise expressed at the appearance of the dummy, but Sol had a perfectly good explanation ready. He had wanted to bid 2-over-1 forcing to game and was about to respond 2♦. But then he had remembered that a Life Master had told him the other day always to show the major suit first when he had two suits, but he didn't want to bid only 1♠ when he had a good enough hand to bid 2-over-1, and so he'd compromised on 2♠. As for the redouble, he knew he'd broken Norman's rule, but Norman had explained his bid as weak and he held three aces. He'd been wondering whether or not he ought to bid seven, though he hated to do it with only a singleton in support.

On seeing the lead, Norman hoped for a moment that it might be from K J 10, which would allow him to score both queen and ace and discard both his black suit losers. But a check of the opponents' convention card told him they led the ten from K J 10.

Norman thought. Holding no ace or king, West must have doubled with all five trumps. Besides the opening lead, Norman had two further entries to dummy. If he could trump three times in his hand with his low trumps and cash the black-suit AKs along the way, then after the third ruff he could lead his loser, and West would be forced to trump and lead into his waiting Q 10♥. As it didn't seem urgent to him to take the A♦ first, he ducked in dummy, trumped the first diamond in hand, and then led the A♥. West discarded the 2♣.

While Norman was busy reassessing the situation, Sol asked West why she had doubled with a void in trumps and no aces. West explained that it was a Suggest-a-Save Double, that when the opening leader against a slam bid by the stronger side doubled the slam it showed no defence and asked partner to sacrifice unless her own hand made the chance of a set look likely. East then chimed in that such a double was only used in a competitive auction. West gasped, blushed and was silent.

Norman decided in the end that this was if anything a favourable development. He could, after all, execute his play against East just as well as against West, and he might have wasted an entry to dummy on a finesse of the 10♥. As long as he could ruff with his three low trumps, he would make his slam. If East held four diamonds and two black doubletons, he would be fine, especially as East would be unlikely to falsecard by dropping K♦ on the third round of the suit. But if East's pattern were 5-3-3-2, he would have to guess the location of the doubleton and take his third ruff in the other black suit. The ninth trick would be critical - Norman would hold K Q 10 5♥ and a black-suit loser, and would need to win that trick with the 5♥ while East came down to all trumps, not the 10♥ on an overruff. If only he'd been dealt the eight-spot instead of the five, he'd have been spared this guess. Should he play East for a doubleton club or a doubleton spade?

Given that E-W began the hand with seven clubs and six spades, Norman thought at first that the odds favoured East holding three clubs. West had apparently forgotten that she'd changed her mind and passed on the first round. Possibly with 4-0-5-4 distribution she'd almost made a takeout double. But if the J♦ lead were honest, West could only have held 7 HCP, and would have been unlikely to contemplate a double even on the perfect pattern. And surely, Norman recollected, her hand had gone to the upper section of the bid box before she'd passed. No layout with a single-suited hand could do Norman any good. That left the Unusual 2NT as the competitive call West had contemplated, which would mark West with a maximum of three spades.

continued on page 4

By the Numbers

by Allan Clamage

According to the ACBL, membership in November, 2004 was 168,604 - the highest it's been in nine years. About 60 percent of our members are women and 39 percent are men (the other 1 percent didn't answer the question). In Connecticut Unit 126, we have a somewhat higher percentage of women (65 percent)

However the distribution of master points holders in the ACBL doesn't match the distribution by gender. As you can see below, about 65 percent of the players with less than 5 MPs are female. With but one exception (at 500 MPs), as the number of master points increases, the percentage of females in the group decreases until, at the end of the scale (10,000+ MPs) the percentage of women sinks to 20 percent and that of men rises to about 80 percent.

Lawrence H. Summers, President of Harvard, recently launched a firestorm of dissent when he suggested that innate differences between the sexes might account for women's lagging progress in science and mathematics. I have no intention of entering the debate by citing bridge statistics. I'm sure you have a better explanation.

The ACBL has also published the year-end list of leading master point holders. The top 25 in Unit 126 are listed in the table above.

Top 25 Overall MP Leaders

No.	Name	Rank	Total
1	R. De Martino	Grand LM	14,910
2	Harold Feldheim	Diamond	14,527
3	John Stiefel	Grand LM	12,987
4	Douglas Doub	Diamond	9,060
5	Larry Bausher	Diamond	7,823
6	M. Rosenblatt	Diamond	6,889
7	Victor King	Diamond	6,845
8	Frank Merblum	Diamond	6,622
9	Jim Cleary	Diamond	5,441
10	Steve Becker	Diamond	5,290
11	Geoffrey Brod	Gold	4,851
12	Hilda Silverman	Gold	4,585
13	James Greer	Gold	4,349
14	Charlotte Brody	Gold	4,289
15	Jane Smith	Gold	4,090
16*	Grace Postman	Gold	4,089
17	Winifred Clark	Gold	3,919
18	Allan Clamage	Gold	3,892
19	Gregory Woods	Gold	3,848
20	M. Goldberg	Gold	3,667
21	Pat Hartman	Gold	3,497
22	Don Stiegler	Gold	3,320
23	F. Blachowski	Gold	3,280
24	Jeanne Fedell	Gold	3,263
25	Jeff Goldman	Gold	3,231

This list uses the old rank designations. When new lists are published, one of our players (Harold Feldheim) will become a Platinum Life Master and two others (Doub Doub and Larry Bausher) will be Emerald Life Masters. Compared to last year, neither the names nor the order have changed much; only the totals have gone up. But what may be more interesting is to look at the list, above, of the top 25 masterpoint winners last year.

**Sad to note, Grace Postman passed away this past January.*

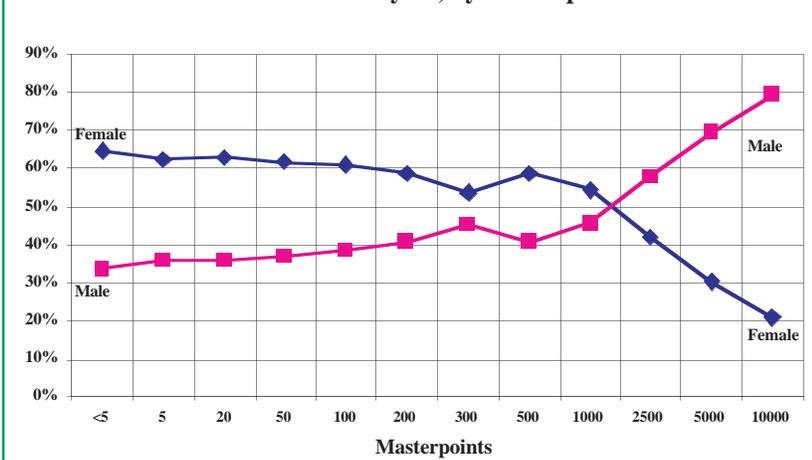
Top 25 Masterpoint Winners in 2004

No.	Name	Rank	Total
1	Harold Feldheim	Diamond	942
2	R. De Martino	Grand LM	928
3	John Stiefel	Grand LM	835
4	Douglas Doub	Diamond	599
5	Lawrence Lau	Gold	540
6	Victor King	Diamond	404
7	Larry Bausher	Diamond	346
8	Geoffrey Brod	Gold	322
9	Ausra Geaski	Silver	306
10	Don Barnett	Silver	263
11	Frank Merblum	Diamond	249
12	Allan Clamage	Gold	249
13	Thomas Hyde	Silver	248
14	Lesley Meyers	Silver	238
15	James Greer	Gold	225
16	Susan Seckinger	Silver	225
17	Jim Cleary	Diamond	213
18	Lynn Condon	Bronze	201
19	Allan Rothenberg	Gold	197
20	Harris Jacobs	Silver	195
21	Edwin Lewis III	Life Master	187
22	Don Stiegler	Gold	182
23	Joan Brod	Gold	180
24	Kay Frangione	Silver	176
25	Hilda Silverman	Gold	174

Among the familiar names are a number of up-and-comers. They're not on the Top 25 Overall chart yet, but they'll be there soon if they keep up the pace. Some are silver or bronze LMs. And one, Ed Lewis, was barely a Life Master when the year began. Perhaps the most spectacular performance was by Larry Lau who went from 715 MPs to 2434 in three years' time.

One final statistical note: 39 of the members of Unit 126 live outside of Connecticut. Most (29) live in Florida. But four other states ranging from New York to California are represented, as well two other countries: Canada and Mexico. There must be something about the Nutmeg State that retains our émigrés' allegiance.

Male and Female Players, by Masterpoints



NEWINGTON SECTIONAL

December 3 - 5



Fri. Aft. Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			Richard De Martino - E. Gimon
2			Geoffrey Brod - Joan Brod
3	1		C. Woodring - M. Beckenstein
4			Don Stiegler - John Farwell
5			Jane Lowe - Bunny Kliman
6			Phyllis and Larry Bausher
	2		Jennifer Williams - Lynn Condon
3	1		George Levine - Barbara Levine
4			Libby Pearl - Mary Witt
5			Ausra Geaski - T. Gerchman
6			Susan and Gary Seckinger
	2		Jose Gaztambide - Marilyn Noll
3			Tracy Selmon - Hillel Auerbach
4			Barbara Clark - Betty Pratt
5			Judith Hess - Christine Pokorski

Fri. Aft. Senior Pairs

A	B	C	
1			Lois Zeisler - Terry Brewster
2/3	1/2	1	A. Gardener - Cornelia Snape
2/3	1/2		O. Bigelow Jr - Helen Kobernusz
4			Sarah Budds - Charlotte Brody
5			Jane Sedlmayr - Thomas Geelan
6			Allan Clamage - Richard Wieland
	3	2	Carole Amaio - Louis Brown
4			Lois Flesche - M. Ehrenfreund
5			Paul Wolf II - Helma Strauss
	3		P. Schackner - Mary Murphy
4			Lars Guldager - Ann Gordon

Fri. Eve. Charity Pairs

A	B	C	
1	1	1	Barbara Levine - George Levine
2			Geoffrey Brod - John Stiefel
3	2	2	Susan Schiffres - R. Gencarelli
4			Richard Wieland - Allan Clamage
5	3		Maureen Denges - Carol Schaper
6	4		Lois Flesche - M. Ehrenfreund
	5	3	Jan Kulas - Zbigniew Gudaneck
6			JoAnn Scata - Joyce Marino
	4/5		Seiho Shimada - Sayoko Shimada
	4/5		Paul Wolf II - Jo-Anne Kerr

Sat. Morn. A/X Pairs

A	X	
1	1	J. Fieldman - Facundo Chamut
2		Victor King - John Stiefel
3	2	John Farwell - Howard Zusman
4/5		Robert Casey - Paul Wolf II
4/5		Lynn Condon - Harold Feldheim

Sat. Morn. B/C/D Pairs

B	C	D	
1/2	1	1	Pamela Palmer - Aldona Siuta
1/2			David Rock - Lesley Meyers
3	2	2	David Keller - J Sun-Ming Lee
4			Eleanor Gimon - Susan Rodricks
5	3	3	Seymour and Irene Friedman
6			Helen Kobernusz - Roy Andrews
	4	4	Tracy Selmon - Hillel Auerbach
	5		Maureen Denges - Carol Schaper
6			Stanley Kerry - W. Kaufmann
	5		David Hiley - Al Roberts

Sat. Morn. 299er Pairs

A	B	C	
1	1		Jean Orr - Aldonna Wedge
2			Joe Stankewich - Roger Norris
3/4	2/3		R. Vander Wiede - L. Stern
3/4	2/3		David Wright - T. Karnkowski
	4		Manfred Adler - M. Schaffman

Sat. Aft. A/X Pairs

A	X	
1		Geoffrey Brod - Don Barnett
2		Marsha Futterman - Tom Joyce
3		Natalie Hertz - Dan Hertz
4		Sarah Corning - Cynthia Michael
5/6		A. Levitsky - Walter Fontaine
5/6		Victor King - John Stiefel
	1	Paul Burnham - Lois Zeisler
	2	John Farwell - Howard Zusman

Sat. Aft. B/C/D Pairs

B	C	D	
1	1		Patrick Salve - Ronald Brown
2			C. Woodring - M. Beckenstein
3			Irving Germain - John Kilbourne
4	2		D. Brueggemann - W. K. Graebe
5	3	1	Jan Kulas - Zbigniew Gudaneck
6	4		Fredda Kelly - Louise Wood
	5/6/2/3		T. Gerchman - Gloria Rosenthal
	5/6/2/3		Alvin Hamilton - Edgar Taylor
	4		David Hiley - Al Roberts
	5		Jo-Anne Kerr - Eileen Inman

Sat. Aft. 299er Pairs

A	B	C	
1			Jason Grove - M. Scarborough
2	1		Nick Phillips - Jack Gensheimer
3	2	1	Claire Tanzer - Lila Englehart
4	3		R. Vander Wiede - L. Stern
5/7	4/6/2/3		Samuel Marks - Audrey Marks
5/7	4/6		David Wright - T. Karnkowski
5/7	4/6/2/3		Philip and Jean Gladstein

Sat. Eve. Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			D. Marshall - J. Lowe
2	1	1	P. Burnham - D. Keller
3			W. Fontaine - A. Levitsky
4			Robert Casey - Paul Wolf II
5			Natalie Hertz - Dan Hertz
6	2	2	Jan Kulas - Zbigniew Gudaneck
	3		Mary Witt - Helma Strauss
4			C. Woodring - M. Beckenstein
5	3		Maruta Jancis - H Jancis
6			Louise Wood - Fredda Kelly

Sun. Flight A Swiss Teams

1		Allan Wolf - Russell Friedman - John Farwell - Howard Zusman
2		Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler - Sarah Budds - K. Frangione
3		Phyllis Bausher - Larry Bausher - Joyce Stiefel - John Stiefel
4		James Greer - Maeve Mahon - H. Lawrence - Frank Blachowski

Sun. Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams

B	C	D	
1			J. P. Tripp - J. Berry - G. Seckinger - R. Erwin
2	1	1	T. Webster - L. Wallowitz - Jose Gaztambide - Marilyn Noll
3	2	2	F. Gilbert - Blanche Eisman - Judith Hess - Christine Pokorski
4			David Rock - Sonja Smith - Helen Pawlowski - Amos Foster
5			Susan Seckinger - Nancy Bartone - Elizabeth Nagle - Ausra Geaski
	3	3	Marilyn Tjader - M. Hathaway - Mary Richardson - Lois Karcher
	4/5		Paul Wolf II - Nancy Brown - Bruce Emond - Vitaly Kozlov
	4/5		D. Brueggemann - W. K. Graebe - P. Gibbs - Esther Watstein.

Masterpoints Designations

Rookie	Fewer than 5
Junior Master	5
Club Master	20
Sectional Master	50
(5 must be silver)	
Regional Master	100
(15 silver, 5 red or gold)	

NABC Master	200
(50 pigmented, with at least 5 gold, 15 red or gold and 25 silver)	
Life Master	300
(50 silver, 25 gold and 25 red or gold)	
Bronze Life Master	500
Silver Life Master	1000
Gold Life Master	2500
Diamond Life Master	5000
Emerald Life Master	7500
Platinum Life Master	10,000
Grand Life Master	10,000*

*This is the highest rank in the ACBL. It requires 10,000 masterpoints and one victory in one of the following: NABC+ event with no upper master point limit, Open or Women's Team Trials or its equivalent, or any of the following WBF events: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Rosenblum Cup, McConnell Cup, Open Pairs, Women's Pairs, Team Olympiad, or Women's Team Olympiad.



Save the Date!

March 4, 5, 6 at the Shelton Ramada-Marriott Plaza Hotel

780 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton

This is a great site and easy to find. Telephone: 203-929-1500.

The Barbara Shaw trophy will be awarded for the highest points received by a 0 – 300 player for the weekend. The winner must play in at least two events.

Pairing: John Farwell, 203-401-1592.

Chair: Mary Witt, 860-242-9395.

DIRECTIONS TO THE RAMADA PLAZA

I-95 North or South

Exit 27A, stay on Route 8 North towards Shelton/Waterbury. Take Exit 12 (Old Stratford Road) off Route 8, Left at the end of the Exit. Left at the second set of lights, onto Bridgeport Ave. Ramada Plaza is on left.

I-84 going West or East

Route 8 South (toward Bridgeport) Exit 19. Exit 12 (Old Stratford Road) off of Route 8, right at the end of the exit. Left at the first set of lights onto Bridgeport Ave. Ramada Plaza is on left.

Route 8 North

Exit 12 (Old Stratford Road) Left at the end of the exit, left at the second set of lights onto Bridgeport Ave. Ramada Plaza is on left.

Route 8 South

Exit 12 (Old Stratford Road) Right at the end of the exit, follow directions above.

Merritt Pkwy. North and South towards Waterbury

Exit 52, take Exit 12 (Old Stratford Road), left at the end of the exit, follow directions above.

NEXT

April 8, 9, 10 at the East Hartford Elks Club, 148 Roberts St., East Hartford. Pairing Chairs are Tom Hyde, 860-423-9888 and Jane Lowe, 860-643-1177.

Co-chairs are Kay Frangione and Carol Amaio.



THE KIBITZER

The Kibitzer is published quarterly by the Connecticut Bridge Association, Unit 126 of the American Contract Bridge League.

All comments, news, items (including cartoons) related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next Kibitzer by **April 15**. All ads must be received by April 1.

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Your Link to the Board

If you have something to say, suggest, or complain about ...tell your representative, who is a Board member and your link to being heard.

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	Sandy De Martino203-637-2781
	Joyce Stiefel860-563-0722

You can see the Kibitzer in blazing color at the CT bridge site: ctbridge.org. If you would like to receive Kibitzer via e-mail, let us know.