

# THE KIBITZER

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## Maestro Meltdown

by Harold Feldheim

Most bridge players are error-prone; in fact, one of the differences between the expert and the average club player is the frequency of errors.



Harold Feldheim

For this reason gigantic gaffes by experts are more likely to be noticed.

With this thought, consider the following scenario:

The scene is the European Championships, Stockholm, 1956. Going into the last round, Italy and France were tied for the lead. To increase the drama, they were scheduled to meet in the last round. Going into the second half, the scores were very close.

Then came the following fateful hand:

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

Dealer: North  
Both vulnerable

Siniscalco	Jais	Forquet	Trezel
<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
1♥	4♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	7♠		

Jais and Trezel were the more experienced pair, while Siniscalco, co-author of Italian bidding systems, and the youthful Pietro Forquet were rising.

When East bid 4♠ over the 1♥ opening bid, West launched into Blackwood.

East's 6♦ response showed a keycard plus a void. When partner bid 6♠, East decided that his heart void was enough to bid the masterly grand slam, destined to go set with the unlucky trump split. But wait; the fun is about to begin.

---      ---      Dbl!    7 NT!!  
Dbl    All Pass

Forquet's egregious double was almost assuredly a case of nerves gone awry, giving up a grand slam swing since Trezel would now almost assuredly finesse the spade Jack, taking 13 tricks. However, Jais decided that South held a well protected K♠ and therefore, partner held the A♥. With this in mind, he thought to circumvent the poor trump split with chances for a notrump grand slam. Needless to say, North-South doubled with greater confidence.

The play: Some situations are too grim for words; North-South cashed the first six tricks.

But the disaster itself is not the best part of the hand. What launches it into greatness is the aftermath. Many pairs would fall apart after this but the young Italians, without a word of recrimination, set about regaining their lost ground and trick by trick crawled back to eventually win the match by a narrow margin.



## New in August Bracketed Swiss Teams and Brown Bag Pairs at the Guilford Sectional

By Ausra Geaski

The Guilford sectional in August will introduce a new Bracketed Swiss event on Sunday and Brown Bag Pairs on Saturday. These changes in the schedule and events calendar are being made based on feedback received from our members and other players who attend our Connecticut sectionals.

Bracketed Swiss provides a forum for bridge players to play a Swiss Team event within a more homogeneous grouping based on the total masterpoint count of their team. In the current Swiss Team format the stratum each team will play in is determined by the individual with the highest masterpoint total on the team, i.e. the team must play in the Flight A event if any member of their team has reached 1500 masterpoints.

A team playing in the B/C stratum will be scored either in the B or the C stratum depending upon the highest masterpoint total on the team, i.e. all C stratum players must be under 500 or they will be scored within the B stratum which ranges from 500 to 1500.

In the Bracketed Swiss event, the masterpoints of the team members are counted together and the brackets are formed by grouping teams based on the average total count per team. Teams within a bracket will only play against each other for the Swiss event that day. There is no crossover between different brackets. The number of brackets will depend upon how many teams sign up.

Does this sound familiar? If you have played in a Bracketed KO at Regional events, this is the same concept.

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# Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe Second Hand Play, Part Two

by Allan Wolf

In this article, I'll continue with exceptions to the "2<sup>nd</sup> hand low" maxim. In the last issue of *The Kibitzer*, I covered two exceptions: (1) splitting honors, and (2) interfering with transportation to dummy, preventing the run of dummy's long suit.

In this issue, I'll tackle another – playing high as second hand in order to preserve a critical entry to partner's hand.

<b>North</b>			
Majorca			
♠	K 6 4 2		
♥	K 8 5		
♦	K Q J		
♣	9 5 3		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
Prof. Lobochevski		Warren	
♠	Q 7 3	♠	J 10 5
♥	Q J 10 4 2	♥	7 6 3
♦	9 7 2	♦	10 6 4 3
♣	A 6	♣	K 4 2
<b>South</b>			
Minna			
♠	A 9 8		
♥	A 9		
♦	A 8 5		
♣	Q J 10 8 7		

The auction was a very straightforward 1NT – 3NT. The only noteworthy point is Majorca's choice of bypassing Stayman with a perfectly flat hand, choosing the NT game, and possibly

giving up finding a 4-4 spade fit. With Minna's actual hand, the final contract would be the same even after a Stayman inquiry.

Showing good technique, Minna allowed the opening lead of the Q♥ to hold the first trick, as she won the heart continuation with the Ace in the closed hand. Had the hearts been divided 6-2, this first round "duck" would have guaranteed the contract as long as the club honors were split or Warren (East) had both (assuming heart length with West). As the cards lie, the contract will always be defeated as long as East wins the first club lead and forces out the second heart stopper. Declarer clearly must try to establish club tricks to make the contract, but the defense can then come to three hearts and two clubs for a one trick set.

However, if West wins the first club lead, then East will have no hearts remaining upon winning the K♣.

Minna gave the defense a challenge by crossing to dummy with a diamond, and leading a club toward the closed hand.



Allan Wolf

The defense is much easier if declarer leads clubs out of hand – then it is easy for West to duck and allow East to win the first club lead.

Leading clubs from dummy put Warren as East to the test, and he was up to the challenge, ignoring "2<sup>nd</sup> hand low" to rise with the King. The heart continuation forced out dummy's remaining heart stopper, and allowed the Professor to take the setting heart tricks when he later gained the lead with the A♣.

When asked by a kibitzer how he knew to make this exceptional play, Warren replied that his play was very unlikely to cost a trick. "If declarer is taking some sort of club finesse, then my King is doomed anyway. There are adequate entries to dummy for declarer to repeat the finesse. But if partner happens to have the A♣, then it is essential for me to win the first club lead. Setting up and running partner's heart suit looks to be the only way to beat this hand."

The moral of the story: The rules are most often good and the right way to treat most hands, but be on the alert for those hands and those situations that require thinking "outside the box" to reap the best result.



## Notes from the CBA Board Meeting Sunday, March 4, 2007

Mary Witt, Tournament Coordinator, reported that the boards we use for tournament play had been cleaned and reconditioned. The cost of replacing the bidding boxes will be investigated.

A discussion about the Saturday afternoon start times resulted in the decision to start the game at 2:30 as many felt the 3 p.m. time created too long a gap between sessions. Players will be encouraged to bring their lunch. This

change will be effective for the August tournament.

It is necessary to have a tournament or hospitality chair for each tournament to assist the new tournament managers. Ausra Geaski will chair a group to identify the roles needed for a successful tournament.

Don Stiegler reported that the StaCs and Unitwide games had been very successful. As a result, table fees will

stay the same for this year.

Allan Clamage reported that he is looking at software to manage the e-mail list. He will report the actual costs to the board. He is hoping that eventually we will have the capability to do online and/or e-mail surveys, etc. with this software.

Regarding the Jeff Feldman Fund which is designed to be used for bridge

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# Can't Cost – Chapter 12

by John Stiefel



An interesting variation on the “can't cost” theme occurred in this IMP match between two world class teams.

Suppose you are South and hold this hand, second seat, both vulnerable.

♠ 10 x x x  
♥ J  
♦ A K Q 8 7  
♣ A x x

Your RHO (East) opens 2♠ (weak). Do you pass or bid 3♦?

While 3♦ carries some risk of going for a big number, it will gain on a lot more hands than it will lose, so that's what you bid.

Now it goes 3♠ by LHO, 4♠ by partner and pass by RHO. You sign off in 5♦ but partner carries on to 6 and everyone passes.

The opening lead is the A♠ and dummy hits with:

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

6♦ seems like a good contract. If you can bring in the club suit for no losers, you are cold. The obvious line of play (Line #1) is to play West for Q x or Q x x of trumps because he presumably has only 3 spades to East's 6; but can you do better?

Well, what if you make a better effort to get the count? Suppose you draw trumps, note how many trumps each opponent has and then try to get a



John Stiefel

count in hearts before trying to guess clubs. This line (Line #2) seems to have some promise because when you lead the J♥, West might have the K♥ and cover. Then you can play A♥, Q♥ and ruff a heart in your hand to try and get a count.

Another possibility is that West – if he doesn't have the king - might signal the count in hearts for you to prevent East from playing the king and getting it ruffed. The problem with this line is that the opponents know that the heart suit isn't going to get you home. They can count you for only 5 trump tricks, 1 ruff, 2 clubs and 1 or 2 hearts for 9 or 10 tricks in total. So they know you need the club suit and will do everything possible to prevent you from getting a complete count on the hand. Is there a still-better line?

Many textbooks advocate attacking the key side suit first when playing a trump contract. Here you need spade discards on the club suit to make your contract, so should perhaps attack clubs before drawing trump (Line #3.) So the relevant question to ask is: how can it cost to attack clubs at trick 2? In other words, how can Line #3 fail while Line #1 or Line #2 succeeds? Upon some thought, you conclude that Line #3 is “can't cost.”

So you try Line #3; lead to the A♣ at trick two. If both opponents follow, lead a low club at trick three (LHO plays low). What now?

Well, suppose you play dummy's King. If RHO plays the Queen, all is well (you make an overtrick if trumps aren't 5-0), but you are down if RHO ruffs.

On the other hand, suppose you play dummy's Jack. If RHO plays the Queen, what can he do next to hurt you? (His best play is a high spade but you can ruff, play the J♦ return to your hand with A♥ and a heart ruff, and run clubs.) The same is true if RHO ruffs dummy's Jack. You can handle any return, draw trump and run clubs. So playing dummy's Jack is “can't cost.”

So you play the J♣ to trick three, RHO ruffs and you make your contract. True, you could have adopted the simplest line and made seven, but playing for overtricks in game or slam contracts is not winning IMP strategy.

Does Line #3 guarantee the contract? Not quite. RHO could have ♣Q x and be void in diamonds, or LHO could be void in clubs and trump your ace; but Lines #1 and #2 weren't succeeding either against these distributions.



## MILESTONES and CONGRATULATIONS

**Diamond Life Master** (5000 MP)  
Hilda Silverman

**Gold Life Master**  
(2500 MP)  
Dinah Schulman

**Silver Life Master**  
(1000 MP)  
Eleanor Antan  
David Babson  
Elaine Misner  
Linda Otness  
Rochelle Shapiro  
Carl Yohans

**Bronze Life Master**  
(500 MP)  
Louis Brown  
Dibima Burnham  
David Domizi

Dorothy Hulme  
Selma Moffie  
Judith Jacobson  
Larry Wollowitz

**Life Master** (300 MP)  
Muriel Brown  
Dibirna Burnahm  
David Domizi  
Selma Moffie  
Sally Title  
Ruth Twersky  
Susan Vock



# Did You Get to the Slam??

by Gloria Sieron

Hitting a home run in baseball or making a hole-in-one in golf are examples of thrilling moments in sports. The finest example of the fun and excitement of duplicate bridge happens when you bid and make a Grand Slam or a Small Slam. At the end of a session, you've heard the comment "Did you get to the Slam?" or "We didn't have a winning game, but we got to the Slam." There is a special feeling of accomplishment, aside from the points won, about bidding and making a Slam.

This hand came up in a nine-table game of average strength.

Dealer: South

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

South opens with a strong, artificial two club bid. Expert pairs will open any hand with 8 1/2 sure tricks with two clubs, regardless of the high card points. South's hand, with 9 1/2 sure tricks and 22 high-card points, certainly merits a strong artificial two club opener.

Responder has such a good hand he thinks he may have gone to Bridge Heaven. Playing basic methods, the two diamond response is a waiting bid, usually less than eight points. But with the values in responder's hand, North bids two spades. South shows his suit by bidding three diamonds. North now bids his second suit, four clubs.



Gloria Sieron

South is encouraged to inquire into slam by bidding "old-fashioned" Blackwood. North responds 5♠. In possession of all four Aces, South bids 5 NT, asking for kings. North shows the king of clubs. South can now count thirteen tricks in a no-trump contract. Two spades, two hearts, seven diamonds and two clubs.

Bidding and making a guaranteed 7 NT Grand Slam seems easy enough, even with the most basic methods. However, when this board was played eight times, only one pair arrived at seven notrump. The traveler looked like this:

+940	+940	+520	+940	+1020
+940	+1520	+440	+1020	

Players who want to fine-tune their bidding skills play a convention commonly called "Controls" (step responses) to strong, artificial two bids which show how many controls responder holds, counting a king as one control and an ace as two. A 2♦ response shows no controls or at best one king; 2♥ shows two kings or one ace; 2♠ shows one ace and one king; 2 NT shows three kings; and 3♣ shows four controls. Please note the reason for two three-control showing bids. Bridge theorists believe the hand with three kings advantageous to be the notrump declarer.

With the above hand, a 3♦ response shows five controls. With the hand we're discussing, the following auction is a possibility:

South: 2♣
North: 3♦
South: 7NT

This auction caters to the flaw in the South hand – it contains the dreaded worthless doubleton. Some experts believe that holding a worthless doubleton in the unbid suit denies you the ability to ask for Aces.

This hand responds well to basic methods, but many Slam hands depend on locating the trump king. For additional information, many players use Roman Key Card Blackwood. The trump king is counted as the fifth ace. This

convention is commonly called either 3014 or 1430.

In 3014 responses to RKCB, 5♣ shows zero or three key cards; 5♦, one or four key cards; 5♥, two or five key cards; 5♠, two or five key cards with the trump queen. In 1430 responses, the 5♣ and 5♦ bids are reversed. In RKCB, over 4 NT, 5 NT shows two key cards and a usable void. A jump to six of a suit shows one key card and a usable void.

If your suit is hearts, do not use RKCB holding only one key card and without the trump queen, as a response of 5♠ would put you above 5♥, your last safe level.

When there is no agreed upon suit, revert to "old fashioned" Blackwood.

Whether you and your partner play basic methods or have fine-tuned your bidding by learning Controls or Key Card Blackwood, make sure you are on "the same page." This will enable you to experience the thrill of hitting the ball out of the park by bidding the Grand Slam when you can count 13 tricks or try for the Small Slam when you are in the vicinity of 12 tricks. Think of the interesting discussion you'll have on the way home.



# District Director's Report - March 2007



Rich DeMartino, District Director

The Spring NABC was held at the Renaissance Grand Hotel and Renaissance St. Louis Suites Hotel in St. Louis. Attendance was 10,232 tables, slightly higher than the pre-tournament estimate. Regional Events were held in the nearby Convention Center. Although all games were not held in the same building, as is highly desired, the two playing areas were only about a block away from each other. Most thought the playing conditions were excellent.

Congratulations to these Connecticut players who placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Swiss Teams:

Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT  
Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT  
Steve Earl, Avon CT  
John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT

## Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting Financial Results

For calendar year 2006, the ACBL reported an excess of expenses over revenues of \$175,000. This result is \$243,000 worse than the budgeted gain of \$68,000. A big reason for this variance is that the Product Store was sold to Baron-Barclay in mid-2006, which resulted in lower product sales of about \$250,000. For 2007, the Finance Committee is currently projecting a gain of about \$36,000.

The CEO advised the Finance Committee that he is taking steps to strengthen the financial staff in Memphis, which is certainly good news.

## CEO Report

The CEO reported that club tables in 2006 reached a 15 year high, due in part to the increase in the number of on-line tables. Club tables were up about 2.5% over 2005. For tournaments, Regional tables were up about 1% and, combined Sectional/STAC tables, were up about 2.5%. Membership increased by about 1,500 players, to 155,831. More good news: for the first two months of 2007, new members are up 10% over the corresponding two months in 2006.

The CEO also advised the Board that Management is attempting to develop a ranking system based on current per-

formance. As most of you know, one of ACBL's biggest problems is that many players who attain a certain number of masterpoints do not feel they are qualified to play in the top flights of our pair and Swiss team games. Developing a satisfactory method to place players in the right flight based on current performance will be a formidable challenge but I believe, as many others do, that it is essential that we find a satisfactory solution to this problem.

## Grand National Teams (GNT) North American Pairs (NAP) Eligibility

In our efforts to return the GNT and NAP events to their original "grass roots" status, the BOD has learned that some valid situations exist whereby exceptions might be considered. One clear example is "snowbirds," those who spend more than half of the GNT qualifying period in a district other than the district of their principal residence. Another possible exception is for those who live near district borders but who have been members of a Unit in another district for at least 5 years prior to the start of the event. Those who meet the conditions for an exception must receive permission from both District Directors involved. Further, for players in the top flight, a Board Credentials Committee must approve the exception. I believe the Board's effort to tighten the rules to eliminate some of the abuses that have occurred in the GNTs over the past few years is a major step in the right direction.

## NAP Reimbursement

A motion passed 13-12 to change the awards for NAP qualifiers to a fixed amount. The first place qualifiers from each district will receive a flat \$700 each and the second place finishers will receive a flat \$300 each. The third place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the National Finals but will not receive any reimbursement (no change from present rules). Further, no entry fees will be charged for the National Finals of the event. Management requested this change to simplify administration.

## Carryover for BAM Events

The maximum carryover for Board-a-Match Events is changed to the following: For the Reisinger, the maximum carryover is being reduced to three boards for the second day and to five boards for the third day. Four-Session Board-a-Match team events will have a maximum carryover of five boards. These changes were made because many believed the previous carryover formula produced carryovers that were too high.

For more detail on Board actions, please read the minutes of the Board meeting on the ACBL website (ACBL.org).

## Top 5 CT Masterpoint Winners – St. Louis NABC

	Points Won
Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	135.54
Stephen Earl, Avon CT	124.77
John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	122.08
Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	117.44
Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	62.59

The Summer NABC will be held in Nashville, Tennessee (Music City USA) from July 19 through July 29. Nashville is a city rich in history and tradition. I urge you to come and enjoy the fun.

## SAVE THE DATES

### Guilford Sectional August 3 – 5

Guilford Knights of Columbus Hall  
390 S. Union St.

### On Saturday, Brown Bag Pairs

Games start at 10 a.m. and at 2:30 p.m.  
You are encouraged to bring your lunch.  
The game will be over by 6 p.m.  
Note: NO evening game.

### On Sunday, Bracketed Swiss

Team brackets will be determined by the average masterpoints for all members of the team. The number of brackets will depend on how many teams are playing. Clearly, the more teams playing, the better for everyone.

## Hartford Bridge Club

The Hartford Bridge Club is instituting a new series to promote the game of duplicate bridge to persons of all ages and all playing levels.

A weekly game with lessons for novices began on May 2 at 7 p.m.

Players with fewer than 200 masterpoints are eligible to play in this game. Lessons preceding the game are led by Bob Bencker, a silver life master with over 1000 masterpoints and an ACBL certified director.

To further encourage participation in this series, the HBC is offering all players a rate of \$5 per session, which includes the 15 minute lesson followed by an ACBL sanctioned game. The rate for full-time students is \$3.

The April issue of the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin* cited four HBC members for 2006 achievements. In the Ace of Clubs Winners, a designation for masterpoints won at the local level, Bill Watson placed nineteenth in the country 100-200 point category, Larry Wallowitz placed fourth in the 300-500 point category, and Jim Cleary placed ninth in the 5000-7500 point category.

In the Mini-McKenney contest, which recognizes the ACBL member who wins the most points during a calendar year, Peter Tripp placed sixth in the 1000-2500 point category.

Congrats to all four!



**Bob Bencker who will teach at the new weekly HBC novice and lesson game.**

## Wee Burn

The Winter Series ended with a flourish... Janet Soskin and Kathy Rowland were the leaders going into game 12 but they assured their victory with a 76.2 % game!

The leaders were:

- Joan Hoben - Linda Cleveland
- Ed Meyer - Jan Moller
- Lois Berry - Doris Friend
- Penny Glassmeyer - Betty Hodgman
- Mary Ricahardson - Martha Hathaway
- Brooke Megrue - Stanley Steckler
- Belinda Metzger - Audrey Cadwallader

The Spring charity game was won by Marilyn Tjader and Barbara Johnson; with Belinda Metzger and Audrey Cadwallader as runners-up. Proceeds went to the ACBL Charity Foundation.

A Swiss Team game in April had the following winners:

Mary Richardson, Martha Hathaway, Penny Glassmeyer and Betty Hodgman. Runners-up were BJ Whiting, Meg Hovell, Belinda Metzger, and Audrey Cadwallader.

Congratulations to all Wee Burn players who did so well in Bermuda.

## Woodway Bridge Club

The winners of the Winter Woodway DBC Series are as follows:

- Betty Hodgman and Stan Steckler
- Janet Soskin and Linda Cleveland
- Joan Hoben and Kathy Rowland

Several players from Fairfield County who play at Woodway, Norwalk and other clubs in the County did very well at the Bermuda Regional held in January. Marilyn Tjader, Martha Hathaway, Betty Hodgman and Carol Davidson crushed all opposition on their way to victory in a Compact KO.

Additionally, Linda Cleveland, Kathie Rowland, Joan Hoben and Janet Soskin won the Championship Series KO in bracket 2. Congratulations to all.

## Bridge Forum (Hamden)

### Tuesday

This year we should have a spirited contest for Player of the Year, as none of the six players with the most victories are in the top ten in the Consistency category. Louise Wood has a thin lead over Jatin Mehta and Bob Klopp, with Muriel Romero and Mary Connolly rounding out the top five.

Bob Klopp is also running 1-2 in the Pairs competition, in first place partnering with Brenda Harvey and second with Tad Karnkowski. Al Guntermann - Carl Yohans are third, Helen Shields - Barbara Walters fourth, and Rita Brieger - Harold Miller fifth.

**Leonora Stein Memorial Cup:** We have mostly new faces in the Final Four this year, although defending champion Bob Hawes has made it to the three-

week final despite facing elimination six times. He is joined by Brenda Harvey, Mary Connolly and top seed Bob Klopp. 2005 winner Louise Wood finished eighth, 2001-2 winner Muriel Romero fourteenth, and 2000 and 2003 winners Billie Hecker and Fredda Kelly were knocked out before the quarterfinals.

### Friday

Lois Flesche had a strong first quarter to take a good-sized lead for Player of the Year, but two-time PoY Arlene Leshine, who tends to be a closer, had her strongest first quarter yet and is second, just ahead of Sylvia Alpert. Fredda Kelly can move up from fourth by improving a middle Consistency ranking, and Jinny Goggin is a steady fifth.

The Pairs competition is wide open, with the first quarter going to Yale's Jonathan Bittner-Oosman Bashir. Muriel Romero is second with Billie Hecker and third with Florence Schannon, followed by Jinny Goggin-Al Guntermann and Lois Flesche-Fredda Kelly.

### Aldyth Claiborn Memorial Cup -

The only cup which no player has ever won twice will maintain that record for another year, although all four finalists have won at least one of the other cups. Brenda Harvey came through as top seed and made the Stein Cup final four as well. Carl Yohans and Emma Q. Antonio made it through in very different fashion, Carl never facing elimination and Emma surviving five times. Fredda Kelly, the only multiple cup winner in the finals, is going for her sixth win and outright second place (behind Louise Wood with fourteen) breaking her tie with the late Morse Ginsberg.

**General News:** Memory Bowl winner Florence Schannon decided not to decline the victory after all, as she wanted to name Sol Silver as this year's Champion's Honoree.

In sadder news, we deeply regret the death of Bernie Lipman. Bernie was originally one of a group of Bridge Husbands who appeared rarely. In the early 1990s, Bernie played once or twice with Herman Jacobs, but in general appeared once or twice a year, partnering with his wife Muriel. They almost always finished third.



Later, Bernie established a long-running partnership with Marcel Bratu. After Pat Kromer died in 2003, Bernie eventually became the regular partner of Roz Straus. Their most successful year was 2005, when they were among the top twenty pairs for the year. Last year was tougher for them, as they managed one win and one third.

For a while, Bernie played occasionally on Tuesdays with Helen Molloy. It was on one such Tuesday that he was the only player to bid a making slam in spades after a 1♠ opening bid from partner.

After bidding very aggressively to slam, Bernie put down seven-card trump support that included the ace of clubs among the spades. He was probably our most frequent mis-sorter of cards.

Although a number of far more experienced players maintained that Bernie frequently produced unexpected brilliancies against them, he was clearly the one player in the room against whom anyone, other than his wife, would least mind scoring a zero. Dee Altieri in particular claimed that Bernie would always get a top board against her, but that he was her favourite opponent anyway. The only time in her life Fredda Kelly ever apologized for winning was when she defeated Bernie by half a point.

In 2004, Bernie and Roz had their most successful game ever, scoring exactly 70%, but they didn't win, as Muriel scored exactly 75% with Doris Kerwin.

Bernie often gave our young players from Yale bad boards, as they kept trying to ask questions about partnership agreements he never had.

Frequently a Yale pair won or placed high, with only one losing round - against Bernie.

Bernie's last appearance was in our year-ending Individual last December, in which he had top boards with Billie Hecker and Sylvia Alpert, and a bottom against Muriel.

The best way to summarize the impact of the Bernie Lipmans of the bridge world is that thinking of people like Bernie is practically the only way to get through being forced to resolve heated disputes over such points of fact as whether or not a declarer attempted to retract the call of a card from dummy WITHOUT PAUSE FOR THOUGHT when both sides insist the other side is lying and I was on the opposite end of the room at the time.

## East Hartford Sectional March 2 - 4, 2007

Jatin Metha captured 6.05 MP to win the Barb Shaw trophy.

### FRI. AFT. OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C
1		L Bausher - P Bausher
2		H Lawrence - F Blachowski
3		W Hunter - S Mukherjee
4	1	R Fortier - A RMulukutla
5/6		L Meyers - S Seckinger
5/6		A Clamage - W Fontaine
	2	T Waltz - P Arseneaux
	3	P Hoffer - E Hoffer
4	4	J Brault - B Cohn

### FRI. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C
1		B Gischner - J Gischner
2		S Mukherjee - W Hunter
3		P Bausher - L Bausher
4		J Lowe - D Marshall
5		C Michael - L Russman
6	1	L Condon - S Field
	2	S Smith - D Rock
	3	P O'Deane - M Dworetzky
	4	T Brown - L Brown
	1	A Hansen - D Moses
	2	E Hoffer - P Hoffer
	3	A R Mulukutla - R Fortier
	4	R Bailer - P Bailer

### SAT. AM FLIGHT A/X PAIRS

A	X
1	L Bausher - R DeMartino
2	C Michael - L Russman
3	1 S Smith - D Rock
4	H Lawrence - F Blachowski
5	M Lucey - J Greer
6	2 D Montgomery - E Snyder
	3 A Boyer - J Boyer

### SAT. AM FLIGHT B/C/D PAIRS

B	C	D
1	1	1 A Dezieck - J Parks
2	2	2 L Somers - B Clark
3		E Nagle - B Kliman
4	3	3 J Brault - B Cohn
5	4	4 L Lyon - J Phillips
		4 R Fortier - A R Mulukutla

### SAT. AM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C
1	1	1 D Ruksznis - P La Marche
2		R Coopersmith - M Coopersmith
3		B Payton - B Pratt
4		V Labbadia - D Fosberg
5	2	2 B Gregware - C Gregware
6	3	3 G Pumo - D Favreau
	4	S Zieky - C Zieky

### SAT. AFT. A/X PAIRS

A	X
1	L Bausher - R DeMartino
2	L Lau - J Klayman
3	P Burnham - D Stiegler
4	C Hurley - Y Shiue
5	A Clamage - W Fontaine
6	M Lucey - J Greer
	1 S Smith - D Rock
	2 A Geaski - A Siuta
	3 H Pawlowski - S Seckinger

### SAT. AFT. B/C/D PAIRS

B	C	D
1	1	1 A Dezieck - J Parks
2		A Boyer - J Boyer
3	2	2 A Cadwallader - B Metzger
4	3	J Hess - P Leighton
5	4	3 M Hovell - B Whiting

### SAT. AFT. 299ER PAIRS

A	B
1	1 E Nuki - E Garner
2	2 R Benedict - M Wavada
3	C Olschefski - P Olschefski
4/5	E Snyder - A R Mulukutla
4/5	R Klopp - B Harvey
	3/4 F Buddenhagen - W Rinehart
	3/4 S Zieky - C Zieky

### SUN. FLT A SWISS TEAMS

1	V King - J Stiefel - M Marcus - S Gabay
2	M Tyler - F Blachowski - D Montgomery - H Lawrence
3	D Noack - B Reich - J Farwell - R Rising
4	S Pflederer - D Schulman - M Futterman - H Silverman

### SUN. B/C/D SWISS TEAMS

B	C	D
1	1	1 J Mehta - O Chhabra - L Green - R Olson
2		A Boyer - J Boyer - S Smith - D Rock
3		A Pyka - J Pyka - H Strauss - E Nagle
4/5	2	2 S Hart - A Gardener - M Murphy - D Sauer
4/5		R Shapiro - P Leighton - F Gilbert - J Hess
	3	J Kaplan - B McLagan - L Laliberte - P Laliberte
	4	T Gerchman - M Witt - J Hirsch - J Striefler
	3	K Schneider - J Bittner - J Winick - E Kubo



education, Paul Burnham reported that he had met with the Yale students and they support our goal of wanting to bring younger people into the game. Some suggestions for helping them include:

- Free plays at tournaments for players 25 and under
- Transportation to tournaments
- Additions to their bridge library (currently housed under one student's bed)
- Subscription to bridge magazine(s)
- Purchase of bridge tables

The Hartford Bridge Club is currently working with bridge-playing students from Wesleyan.

Charlie Halpin reported that the Nominating Committee is presenting the following slate of CBA officers for the coming year:

President: Ausra Geaski  
 Vice President: Burt Gischnier  
 Secretary: Deb Noack  
 Treasurer: Susan Seckinger  
 Central District: Kay Frangione

Fairfield District: Esther Watstein  
 Hartford District: Betty Nagle  
 Northwestern District: Mary Witt  
 Panhandle District: Sandy DeMartino  
 Southern District: Phyllis Bausher  
 Eastern District: Ed Shepherd  
 Southwestern District:  
 Jennifer Williams

The slate was approved by the board. Elections will take place at the May Sectional Tournament in Hamden.

Ausra Geaski reported that there will be State Days for the New England states during the 2008 Boston Nationals. She is chairing Connecticut Day and would appreciate any suggestions. Several CBA members are volunteering as various tournament chairs and will be looking for additional volunteers for their committees. It was noted that the Nationals are primarily being chaired by volunteers from EMBA and the CBA.

At the recent district meeting, the CBA was lauded for increasing its membership by 29 in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Deborah Noack, Secretary  
 CBA Unit 126

The Brown Bag Pairs on Saturday is a single session pair event, as events are in the current sectional schedule, but with a shortened lunch break. This will provide a full day of bridge ending by 6 pm freeing up Saturday evening. The games will be scheduled at 10 and 2:30 with a quick lunch break. You may choose to 'brown bag' your lunch to allow time for a breather and a little relaxation between sessions.

Over the years the CBA Board has solicited the membership to better understand the wants and needs for our sectional schedules. Through formal surveys and informal conversations, as well as scrutinizing the attendance statistics at the games, the Board has worked diligently to incorporate your feedback to provide the times and events requested. The Board appreciates all of your suggestions and looks forward to your continued feedback, not only for the new changes for Guilford, but for future recommendations that would make bridge a challenging and enjoyable experience for all of our members.

## THE KIBITZER

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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 **August 15**. All ads must be received by **August 1**.

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## Your CBA

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<b>CBA web site</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ctbridge.org">www.ctbridge.org</a></b>	

## 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.

Central	Kay Frangione	860-621-7233
Fairfield	Esther Watstein	203-375-5489
Hartford	Betty Nagle	860-529-7667
Northwestern	Mary Witt	860-658-9395
Panhandle	Sandy De Martino	203-637-2781
Southern	Phyllis Bausher	203-248-3653
Eastern	Burt Gischnier	860-691-1484
Southwestern	Paul Burnham	203-899-3327
Members-at-Large	Joyce Stiefel	860-563-0722
	John Stiefel	860-563-0722
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