

THE KIBITZER

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Those Extra Chances

by Harold Feldheim

What is the difference between the expert and the creative expert? Both know their own bidding system and both will play the cards well. But the creative expert will find those extra hidden chances that lead to subtle success. This is a compelling theme that creates pride of achievement for the most experienced competitor. There are equal opportunities for both defense and offense.

North
 ♠ K 8 6 2
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ A Q J 2
 ♣ K J 5

South
 ♠ Q J 10 9 5
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ 6 5 3
 ♣ A 4 2

Dealer: North

Neither side vulnerable

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|----------|-------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ | 3♥ |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

The auction is straight forward; West tried a preemptive jump but North, with 4-card trump support and extra values, had little trouble bidding the spade game.

South won the opening heart lead and surveyed his chances with pleasure. With two top losers, (a heart and a trump), a successful finesse in either minor would guarantee success. He further reasoned that by taking the diamond finesse first, he could add the extra chance of a 3-3 diamond split.



Harold Feldheim

With this in mind, he played a trump. East won the Ace, cashed a heart, and exited with a trump. Winning in his hand, declarer continued his plan by finessing the diamond. East won and exited a diamond. When South cashed dummy's third diamond, East discarded a heart. Trying his last chance, he came to his hand with the A♣, and finessed the Jack. When East won the setting trick with the Queen, North-South were philosophical; sometimes, the best of contracts are defeated by bad luck. Neither noticed that South missed a subtle extra chance. Do you see it?

The complete hands:

North
 ♠ K 8 6 2
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ A Q J 2
 ♣ K J 5

West
 ♠ 7 3
 ♥ Q 10 9 7
 ♦ 10 9 7 4
 ♣ 10 7 6

East
 ♠ A 4
 ♥ K J 8 6 4
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ Q 9 8 3

South
 ♠ Q J 10 9 5
 ♥ 5 3
 ♦ 6 5 3
 ♣ A 4 2

Instead of the diamond finesse, he can cash the Ace, return to the closed hand, and lead a diamond towards the Q/J/2. If the King lies with West, the fourth diamond serves to discard the potential losing club. If, as in this case, East holds the high diamond, he'll be end-played, forced to lead either a club or provide declarer with a ruff and sluff. Notice that if East holds the singleton King or K/8 or K/8/6, the contract is fulfilled. If East started with four diamonds, declarer will need to guess whether to finesse the club or try to drop East's doubleton Queen (2-5-4-2). In either case, this extra chance will increase the likelihood of success and sidestep the specter of *bad luck*. 

Save the Date

December Sectional
Jeff Feldman Memorial
December 7 - 9

Guilford • Knights of Columbus Hall

Can't Cost – Chapter 14

by John Stiefel

A subtle variation on the “can't cost” theme occurred in the finals of the New England Grand National Pairs. Not all South players got all their tricks.

Vulnerability: Both

Dealer: South

| South | East | North | West |
|-------|----------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | Dbl | 1♠ | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

Opening Lead: A♣ (A from A/K)

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

The auction was pretty straightforward. After West doubled for takeout, North made the same bid he would have made without the double and South bid what he thought he could make. (With Q/J♣ and a stiff in North's suit, South might have contented himself with an invitational three hearts.)

After cashing his A♣, West tried the A♦ at trick two. East discouraged, so West tried to cash the K♣ and South ruffed.

South now had the rest of the tricks if the heart could be picked up. The percentage is to play hearts from the top, despite the double. Crossing to dummy to take a first round finesse risks losing to J, J/x or even J/x/x in the West hand. Yes, I know it's generally unsound to make a takeout double with J/x/x in opener's suit, but this is matchpoints, so anything goes! Also, if West actually has

shortness in hearts, all is not lost, as we will see later. So South tried A/K of hearts at tricks four and five and, sure enough, West discarded on the K♥. If the hearts had split 3-2, there would be no story.

This is the 8-card ending.

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

You know you want the lead to be in dummy at trick twelve and to have Q/10♥ left in your hand. This will “trump coup” East.

Is that doable? Sure, you need three entries to dummy; two to ruff clubs to shorten your trump length to Q/10; and one to get back to dummy at trick eleven, and you have three entries; two in spades and one in diamonds.

Does the order you use your entries matter?

Well, maybe. Remember, West made a takeout double so he suggests four spades, leaving two for East. So if East's original distribution is 2 4 3 4, nothing will matter; he will helplessly follow suit to all your spade, diamond and club leads.

But what if East started with 2 4 4 3 distribution? Then you better use your two spade entries first, otherwise East will pitch a spade when you ruff your last club and your second spade entry won't be an entry after all because West will trump it.



John Stiefel

So the moral of this story is: it can't cost to use your two spade entries first but it might cost if you don't.

We see that the winning “can't cost” line of play is:

Trick 6: J♠, overtaken in dummy

Trick 7: club ruff, East

follows

Trick 8: Q♠, overtaken in dummy

Trick 9: Q♣, ruffed (West discards a diamond)

Trick 10: K♦

Trick 11: diamond to the Q, East follows

Trick 12: spade and West is down to J/x♥ of trump in front of your Q/10.

Those Souths who used their two spade entries first scored an important overtrick for +650 while those Souths who didn't scored + 620. On a good day (for them), the careless Souths would have found West with 2 4 3 4 distribution and still made +650. Not today.

In the end, this hand illustrates the fact that matchpoint scoring is all about the timeliness of the mistakes and the good plays you make. Had West started with 4 2 3 4, the careless Souths would have picked a good hand to be careless and the careful Souths would have wasted their effort. Here, though, the careful Souths were rewarded and the careless Souths paid the price.



“I'm not sure whether glory or masterpoints is first on the list, but I know learning to play better is definitely last.”

- Eddie Kantar

Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe

Finesses are Not Always 50/50

by Allan Wolf

In this article I'll take a respite from the theme of exceptions to "2nd hand low," to feature a hand in which another bridge chestnut "cover an honor with an honor" plays an important role. This deal was adapted from one that occurred in a recent Knock-out event, and was reported to me by Larry Lau. I'll return to the theme of "2nd hand low" exceptions in future articles.

With Minna's regular partner, Majorca, out briefly following a liposuction operation, the demure Minna was paired (unhappily) with the loudmouth Cecil Horne in an IMP pairs event at the Lunatic Fringe Bridge Club. This deal occurred mid-way through the session:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| North | | | |
| (Minna) | | | |
| ♠ Q 5 | | | |
| ♥ K 10 9 7 3 | | | |
| ♦ A 2 | | | |
| ♣ A Q J 4 | | | |
| West | East | | |
| (Warren) | (Professor Lobochevski) | | |
| ♠ 10 6 3 | ♠ K 8 7 2 | | |
| ♥ 4 | ♥ 8 2 | | |
| ♦ K Q J 9 7 6 4 | ♦ 10 5 | | |
| ♣ 8 6 | ♣ K 9 7 3 2 | | |
| South | | | |
| (Cecil) | | | |
| ♠ A J 9 4 | | | |
| ♥ A Q J 6 5 | | | |
| ♦ 8 3 | | | |
| ♣ 10 5 | | | |

Cecil opened the bidding with one heart, and Warren made the preemptive jump to three diamonds. Minna cue-bid four diamonds, and persevered with Blackwood after Cecil's attempt to sign off in four hearts, six hearts became the final contract.

After the opening lead of the K♦, Cecil made short shrift of his analysis of the hand, and proceeded to bluster his way through the play. He needed to avoid a diamond loser, and the most straight forward way to do so was to hope for a successful club finesse, then

his diamond loser could be discarded on the third round of clubs.

But Cecil also saw an extra chance. If he led the Q♠ from dummy, and East covered with the King, he could attempt to ruff out the 10♠, setting up the 9 for a discard of the diamond in dummy. If this line failed, either because East did not produce the K♠, or because the 10 did not drop in three rounds, Cecil still had the club finesse to fall back on.



Allan Wolf

So playing rapidly, Cecil won the A♦, and drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy. He then led the Q♠, but rose with the A when the Professor smoothly played 2nd hand low, failing to cover. Cecil subsequently went down two when the club finesse lost, and berated Minna mercilessly for her aggressive bidding.

Looking at the club suit in dummy, Professor Lobochevski had worked out in advance that declarer likely had alternative lines for eliminating his diamond loser. From the professor's point of view, declarer might have the A, J, 10♠, in which case, covering would be wrong. He wanted to encourage declarer to try the club finesse instead.

Pondering this hand the following day, the Professor saw several problems with the chosen line of play. First of all, declarer might have let the Q♠ ride when he played 2nd hand low. If East did NOT have the K♠, then the club finesse was doomed to fail, as West would not have made a preemptive bid with a long diamond suit headed by the K Q (and probably J), and two outside Kings in addition. This would give West a hand that almost everyone would agree is too strong for a preemptive

action. Put another way, if the Q♠ was losing to West's King, then the club finesse was also doomed to failure. So running the Q♠ was called for when the Professor did not cover.

Furthermore, was a primary reliance on the club finesse really the correct line of play from the outset? A legitimate alternative line is to play East for both the K♠ and 10, planning to finesse twice. Normally, a finesse play that requires one card "in the slot" is superior to a play that requires two cards "in the slot," but the odds can change considerably in distributional hands.

The general principle to understand is that the odds of finding any specific card in one opponent's hand is directly related to the number of unknown cards in each opponent's hand. This idea is best illustrated using the above hand.

West is known to have six or seven diamonds for his preemptive bid. If East begins an echo (standard signaling) with the 10♦ at trick one, we can place him with two diamonds, and West with seven. West also shows up with one heart, and East two. So there are eight known cards in the West hand (seven diamonds and one heart), and four known cards in the East hand (two diamonds and two hearts). So the unknown cards in the two hands are five and nine for West and East respectively. This would make the odds of finding West with the K♦ just 5:9 or about 36% (5/14).

But it is even worse than this, because this counts all hands where West has the K♦ and the K♠ as well... almost impossible given the preemptive bid. This further reduces the chance of a successful club finesse to less than 25%.

On the other hand, finding both the K♠ and 10 with East is (9/14) (8/13), almost 40% and so clearly superior.

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A Pair of Jacks

by Gloria Sieron

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: North/South

North

♠ A J
♥ A Q J 10 9 7 6
♦ A J
♣ J 5

West

♠ 10 4 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 8 7 6
♣ 10 9 8 7

East

♠ 7 6 5 3
♥ K 4 3
♦ K Q 5 4 3
♣ 4

South

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ 8 2
♦ 2
♣ A K Q 6 3 2

There are two popular forms of contract bridge: matchpoint scoring and total point scoring. Total point scoring is used in team games. A grand slam swing, bid and made at one table and going down at the other, can determine a match.

The One O’Clock Single-Session Swiss Team Game was innovated at Regional Tournaments so players knocked out of the KOs could play a session of bridge while waiting for the next Knockout to begin. This Swiss consists of four six-board matches.

Playing in the One O’clock Single-Session Swiss at the recent District 3 Regional at the Danbury Connecticut Hilton Hotel, this hand came up in the second round. My partner and I sat North/South. Both of our opponents, who introduced themselves as a “pair of Jacks,” wore baseball caps. The Jack seated West wore an out-of-the-playoffs New York Yankee’s baseball cap.

Vulnerable North opened one heart and non-vulnerable, cap-wearing Jack in the East position saw fit to overcall two diamonds. With fourteen high card points, South bid three clubs. West passed. North jumped to game, bidding four hearts. East passed. South thought about Blackwood, but sensed that Yankee-capped West was itching to compete to five diamonds over Blackwood, fouling up any meaningful response pattern. So South jumped in and bid six hearts.

Without a bead of sweat showing under his visor, West, with his no-pointer, calmly reached for the seven diamond card!



Gloria Sieron

North doubled. East/West made seven tricks. Down six is worth 1,400 points to “the good guys.” Yankee baseball guy pointed out with glee that his team had earned an IMP as we were cold to make vulnerable six hearts for a score of 1430. We all congratulated him for a brilliant sacrifice. At match point, it would indeed be a brilliant sacrifice. Even North/South congratulated the disappointed Yankee fan on his fantastic insight.

This was the conversation when our teammates returned for the compare. What happened on board #5? They said, “Plus 100.” “We’re Plus 1,400.” That’s 17 IMPs. The teammates of the “Pair of Jacks” (perhaps a “Pair of Jills”?) tried the Grand Slam, which makes on a finesse. If West held the K♥, this would be a different outcome. For bidding and making a Grand Slam in Hearts, they would score 2210 minus their teammates 1400 for a total of 810 or 13 IMPs.

The scoring as well as the strategies for team play present many interesting options and challenges. For a complete overview on team play, see Harold Feldheim’s “Winning Swiss Team Tactics in Bridge.”



Solving the Puzzle: THINK IN PATTERNS

by Larry Lau

Bridge is nothing more than completing a puzzle. Declarer is trying to figure out which opponent has which card(s). Defenders are trying to figure out which card(s) declarer and partner have in their grubby paws. The problem for all of us, of course, is that some puzzles are very difficult to solve.

One suggestion to help you more quickly solve the puzzle, is to try and think in "patterns." When partner or the opponents bid, try and fit their bidding to hand patterns which might reflect their calls.

For instance, think about this bidding sequence: 1♠ - 1NT, 2♥ - 2♠, all pass

This is a simple and often recurring auction. Before dummy lays down her hand, you should be matching declarer's possible suit distributions to the bidding. You know declarer has at least 9 cards in the majors. Therefore, 5-4-2-2 is the most likely hand pattern.

Other reasonable patterns are: 5-4-3-1; 5-4-4-0; 5-5-2-1; 5-5-3-0. These 5 patterns will probably make up over 80% of declarer's possible distributions that would be consistent with this auction. It is recommended that with 6 spades and 4 hearts opener should rebid 2♥ instead of 2♠. Therefore, she might also have a 6-4-2-1, 6-4-3-0 pattern. With a 6-5-1-1 or 6-5-2-0 pattern she would probably bid 3♥ after the 2♠ response.

Declarer's more likely hand pattern will be revealed from either the lead or during the play of the hand, sometimes very quickly.

Let's say that partner leads the 2♣ (4th best vs suit) against this 2♠ contract, and you have 4 clubs also. What is declarer's pattern now? Well, it depends upon how many clubs are in dummy. Since there are 8 clubs between you and partner, it's easy to figure out how many clubs declarer has and therefore what is her most likely pattern.

Dummy has: Declarer's pattern(s) (cards are designated in the following

order; spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs.)

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 1 Club | 5-4-0-4 |
| 2 Clubs | 5-4-1-3, 5-5-0-3 |
| 3 Clubs | 5-4-2-2, 5-5-1-2 |
| 4 Clubs | 5-4-3-1, 5-5-2-1 |
| 5 Clubs | 5-4-4-0, 5-5-3-0 |

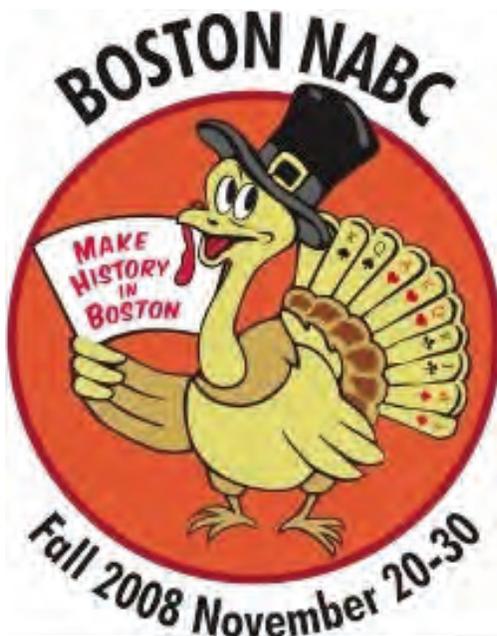
So, before declarer calls the first (or only) club from dummy, you have narrowed her hand down to one or two likely patterns.

Thinking in patterns is not easy, however. It is really difficult for most of us, and requires us to "train" the mind to think this way. The best way to do it is to constantly repeat and "think" patterns whenever you have free time. If you can't sleep, are taking a shower, or sitting in the doctor's lounge, etc, just keep repeating possible hand patterns. After a time it will become "automatic." Start with 4-4 patterns, then 5-4 patterns, 5-5, 6-5, 6-4, 6-3, etc.

4-4-3-2, 4-4-4-1

5-4-2-2, 5-4-3-1, 5-4-4-0

Thinking in patterns will help you complete and solve the puzzle of bridge.



Boston Nationals November 2008

Volunteers are needed for Connecticut Day on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Marriott and Westin Hotels. Volunteers are needed to staff tables at both hotels during non-game times and for other pre-tournament tasks.

Giveaways are particularly needed for Connecticut Day.

If you can supply something in quantity or have ideas where they can be obtained, contact Ausrag Geaski at ausrag@aol.com or 860-533-7271.



From the



Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Third Quarter Results

Tuesday

Player of the Year: After three quarters, last year's Player of the Year Bob Hawes is tied with Jon Ingersoll in his attempt to repeat. Louise Wood, Jatin Mehta and Carl Yohans are not far behind; it is unlikely anyone else will emerge from the pack. The men are dominating the top pairs, occupying the first five positions.

Leading Pairs:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. Tad Karnkowski-Bob Klopp | 3144 |
| 2. Al Guntermann-Carl Yohans | 3117 |
| 3. Hill Auerbach-Tracy Selmon | 2926 |
| 4. Bob Hawes-Jon Ingersoll | 2686 |
| 5. Jatin Mehta-Hasmukh Shah | 2360 |
| 6. Marshall Weiss-Marge Simson | 2268 |
| 7. Brenda Harvey-Bob Klopp | 2052 |
| 8. Billie Hecker-Muriel Romero | 2003 |
| 9. Harold Feldheim-Jean Orr | 1994 |
| 10. Clarice Alderman-Perry Saxe | 1920 |

Van Dyke Cup Early Rounds

This year the original qualifying cut of 40 players caught several former cup winners. As the field was reduced by three each week, several of the leaders have had close calls. The men at one point occupied the top seven positions, and Bob Klopp had a big lead towards the Final Four. Entering the quarterfinals, the top four are virtually tied, with an all-male final highly unlikely.

The quarterfinalists: Jon Ingersoll, Bob Klopp, Bob Hawes, Louise Wood, Mary Connolly, Muriel Romero, Tracy Selmon, Al Guntermann, Fredda Kelly, and Hasumukh Shah.

Friday

Player of the Year - Louise Wood had a strong third quarter to take a good lead over Carl Yohans and Arlene Leshine, with Marge Simson and Lois Flesche tied for fourth a bit further back. Any of the top twelve players, however, could easily put up year-end numbers that would be good enough in most years. The pairs division seems to be shaping up as a battle for second place.

Leading Pairs:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Muriel Romero-Florence Schannon | 2131 |
| 2. Brenda Harvey-Bob Klopp | 1521 |
| 3. Jinny Goggin-Al Guntermann | 1427 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 4. Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern | 1332 |
| 5. Marshall Holly-Teresita Holly | 1299 |
| 6. Billie Hecker-Louise Wood | 1200 |
| 7. Arlene Leshine-Carl Yohans | 1199 |
| 8. Carrie Schnee-Charlie Schnee | 1157 |
| 9. Bernard Gee-Barbara Sloan | 1084 |
| 10. Fredda Kelly-Louise Wood | 1081 |

Reynolds Cup Early Rounds

This cup began with Al Guntermann on the lead after the qualifying cut. The scores stayed a bit lower and more tightly packed together. The lead changed hands three times in consecutive weeks halfway through, from Al to Muriel Lipman to Carl Yohans to Louise Wood, who has held it since and looks likely to have at least a 5% carryover into the final.

The ten quarterfinalists: Louise Wood, Muriel Lipman, Billie Hecker, Arlene Leshine, Florence Schannon, Carl Yohans, Larry Stern, Fredda Kelly, Ida Fidler, and Al Guntermann.

Hartford Bridge Club

Another annual meeting at the HBC and another record membership.

On October 21 at the annual meeting, Vice President Lou Brown announced that there are currently 510 members of the club! And, we held club historian Joy Bacci to her word that she would treat the members to a really big sheet cake at the meeting when we passed the 500 mark. She was, of course, true to her word.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| President | Carole Amaio |
| Vice President | Lou Brown |
| Secretary | Valerie Orefice |
| Treasurer | Hoby Littlefield |
| Trustee (1year) | Joan Salve |
| Trustee (1year) | Bill Watson |
| Trustee (2years) | Partab Makhijani |
| Trustee (2years) | Linda Starr |
| Trustee | Tom Gerchman |
| Trustee | Larry Wallowitz |

After the festivities, the club enjoyed an afternoon of bridge using the new Duplimate shuffling machine, which pre-shuffles the cards before the game and has brought HBC into the vanguard of elite bridge clubs.

Meriden Bridge Club

Sylvia Zietz, the senior member of the Meriden Bridge Club, passed away in July at the age of 99. Sylvia was active in the club up until the last few months of her life. She will be missed.

A life master party was held recently for Peter Amedeo. Peter became Life Master, Bronze Life Master, and Silver Life Master all at the same time.

High scorers for July:

Frank Blachowski, 7.48;
Gail Carroll, 5.61;
Sharon Larson, 4.57;
Ruth Teitelman, 4.53;
Charles Halpin, 4.18;
Alice Hummel, 4.04;
Nancy Earel, 3.87.

A rare feat this past summer occurred when two successive games of over 70% were scored by Gail and Nancy, and by Paul and Dan.

MILESTONES and CONGRATULATIONS

Gold Life Master
(2500 master points)
Sandra DeMartino
Mildred Fromm

Silver Life Master
(1000 master points)
Paul Pearson
Susan Roderiks
Flora Schannon
William Titley
Cecilia Vasel

Bronze Life Master
(500 master points)
Paul Burnham
Robert Gruskay
Marilyn Tjader

Life Masters
(300 master points)
Linda Green
Jean Orr
Betty Putkin

Wallingford Sectional Sept. 28 - 30

Richard DeMartino won the Governor's Cup and leads the Monroe Magnus race for the most masterpoints scored at CT Sectionals in any one year.

FRI. EVE OPEN PAIRS

| A | B | C |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | | L Cavallero - M Mason |
| 2 | | C Latin - B Kliman |
| 3 | 1 | 1 T Waltz - D Waltz |
| 4 | | S Corning - H Kobernusz |
| 5 | 2 | E Nagle - H Strauss |
| 6 | | H Feldheim - J Orr |
| | 3 | D Hyatt - L Herdle |

SAT. MORN. A/X PAIRS

| A | X | |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | | K Wiland - D Doub |
| 2/3 | | L Lau - J Segal |
| 2/3 | | S DeMartino - R DeMartino |
| 4 | 1 | J Hess - N France |
| 5 | 2 | D Greenwald - E Ranard |
| | 3 | M Lucey - H Lawrence |
| | 4 | C Latin - A Geaski |

SAT. MORN B/C PAIRS

| B | C | |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | | M Petit - J Libucha |
| 2/3 | | A Grushkin - B Grushkin |
| 2/3 | | J Marino - J Scata |
| 4 | | D Brueggemann - W K Graebe |
| 5 | 1 | T Proulx - J Rotenberg |
| | 2 | L Stern - B Gee |

SAT. MORN. 299ER PAIRS

| A | B | C |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | B Pratt - B Payton |
| 2 | | M Clark - Sa Clark |
| 3 | 2 | R Benedict - I Schuele |
| 4 | 3 | 1 C Wieder - S Petrie |
| 5 | 4 | M Eisenberg - P Laurencelle |
| | 2 | W Rinehart - F Buddenhagen |
| | 3 | G Pumo - D Favreau |

SAT. AFT A/X PAIRS

| A | X | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | | A Rothenberg - R DeMartino |
| 2 | 1 | T Gerchman - M Witt |
| 3 | | B Corbani - L Condon |
| 4 | | M Lucey - H Lawrence |
| 5 | 2 | T Proulx - J Rotenberg |
| 6 | | L Bausher - SBecker |
| | 3 | J Kuklinski - RSerenyi |

SAT. AFT. B/C PAIRS

| B | C | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | | J Marino - J Scata |
| 2 | | A Grushkin - B Grushkin |
| 3 | | M Petit - J Libucha |
| 4 | | D Rock - C Sallar |
| 5 | 1 | J O'Shea - G Reiners |
| | 2 | D Wright - T Karnkowski |

SAT. AFT. 299ER PAIRS

| A | B | C |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | | R Benedict - I Schuele |
| 2 | | J Morrin - M Wavada |
| 3 | 1 | 1 E Greenhouse - J Berg |
| 4 | 2 | G Pumo - D Favreau |
| 5 | 3 | 2 S Zieky - C Zieky |

SUN. SWISS BRACKET I

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | | G Brod - R DeMartino - J Stiefel - V King |
| 2 | | D Stiegler - T Brewster - P Burnham - L Zeisler |
| 3 | | A Cady - H Feldheim - W Fontaine - A Levitsky |

SUN. SWISS BRACKET II

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | | D Deacon - I Alex Borcea - B Lewis - D Livingston |
| 2 | | A Boyer - J Boyer - S Smith - D Rock |
| 3 | | K Frangione - E Nagle - A Geaski - B Kliman - C Latin |

SUN. SWISS BRACKET III

| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1 | | J Moskowitz - J Mazo - J Gaztambide - E Papineau |
| 2 | | R Klopp - B Harvey - G Holland - C Palmer |
| 3 | | N Cihl - B Donalds - D Sanford - E Fisher |
| 4/5 | | G Reiners - D Hyatt - J O'Shea - L Stern |
| 4/5 | | J Gensheimer - N Phillips - J Brault - B Cohn |

Finesses are Not Always 50/50

continued from page 3

At the time declarer must decide between trying the club finesse or the double spade finesse, the 14 unknown cards may be anywhere from 3:11 (West has seven diamonds and all three hearts) to 7:7 (West has six diamonds and no hearts). Here are the odds of both lines, again assuming that if West has the K♦, he cannot have the K♠.

It is so counter-intuitive! The club finesse is superior ONLY if it appears that West started with six diamonds, and shows up with a heart void. Otherwise, the double finesse in spades is better.

Of course, no one can actually calculate these odds at the table; but there is a line of thinking that gets declarer to the right conclusion:

1. If the club finesse is working (K♣ with West), then the K♠ will certainly be with East (based on West's weak jump overcall). Hence playing spades first cannot hurt. If the Queen is not covered, repeat the finesse and discard dummy's remaining diamond on the A♠.
2. If the Q♠ is covered, you could now finesse West for the K♣ or East for the 10♠, since in most cases there are still more unknown cards in the East hand, the spade finesse is superior.

It is true that if you commit to club finesse, you could first try to ruff out the 10♠ as an extra chance. But the hands where East does not have the 10♠ are the ones where he is most likely NOT to have covered the Queen, as declarer could have A J 10, and the cover would give the whole show away. So all in all, a second round finesse for the 10♠ seems best.



| Division of unknown 14 cards W:E | West has K♣ | AND East has K♣ | Chance of ♣ finesse | East has K♠ | AND East has 10♠ | Chance of double ♠ finesse |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 3:11 | 3/14 | 11/13 | 18% | 11/14 | 10/13 | 60% |
| 4:10 | 4/14 | 10/13 | 22% | 10/14 | 9/13 | 49% |
| 5:9 | 5/14 | 9/13 | 25% | 9/14 | 8/13 | 40% |
| 6:8 | 6/14 | 8/13 | 26% | 8/14 | 7/13 | 31% |
| 7:7 | 7/14 | 7/13 | 27% | 7/14 | 6/13 | 23% |



UNIVERSAL LAWS OF BRIDGE

Editor's note: An interested bridge player sends us the following truisms. Make of them what you will.

Whatever you bid is wrong.

When the opponents make a bad bid, it works out well for them. When you make a bad bid, it also works out well for them.

The probability of a bad trump break increases in direct proportion to how high you have bid, whether you are doubled, and whether or not you are vulnerable. Corollary ...if you have bid game, trumps don't split; if you haven't bid game, they do split.

Kings lie behind Aces when you hold the Aces. Aces lie behind Kings when you hold the Kings.

If you have contracted to take "x" number of tricks, you will take "x - 1".

As soon as you notice that you are having a good game, something will happen.

No matter how many problems you anticipate on a hand, something you hadn't anticipated will come up.

As soon as a tough problem arises on a hand that you really have to think about, the director will call, "All move for the next round please," and break your concentration.

Whenever you think you have pulled all the trumps, someone still has one left.

If your left hand opponent holds a stiff King and you hold the Ace-Queen, you will always have an entry to dummy to try the finesse.

While there may be only one possible way of playing a hand correctly, there will always be an infinite number of ways of playing it wrong.

When you drop a card, spot cards fall face down, face cards fall face up.

A contract that has only one chance in a hundred of going down, will go down.



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

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