

THE KIBITZER

February 2008

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Volume 12 • Number 1



More Optimism

by Harold Feldheim

SOUTH	NORTH
1♥	1♠
3♦	4♦
4♥	5♣
5♠	5NT
7♦	

Opening lead: 3♦

When confronted by a near hopeless-looking contract, the enterprising declarer will take an optimistic view, hoping for a near-miracle lie of the cards. On the other side of the coin, when confronted by a cast-iron looking contract, our same declarer will look for hidden dangers that may sink the contract; hence, *optimism*; a word I coined in 'Winning Swiss Team Tactics'. This idea of early planning often reaps surprising dividends.

Consider the following hand:

NORTH

♠ KQJ9
♥ K95
♦ AJ84
♣ A5

SOUTH

♠ None
♥ AQJ82
♦ KQ652
♣ K54

The auction is both businesslike and accurate. I particularly like the jump-shift by South. Despite holding only 15 HCPS with a spade void, this 4 loser hand should be advertised. After fixing the trump suit, cuebids followed by the grand slam try propelled South to 7♦.

South surveyed his prospects with confidence. With five diamonds, five hearts, and the ace-king of clubs in hand, the task seems no more difficult than ruffing a club in dummy for the 13th trick. At this point, *optimism* should kick in. What can go wrong?

There are two possible dangers. First, what if West started life with 4 diamonds and a singleton club? The second is a 5-0 heart split. This last can be handled later via normal technique. The first possibility is a bit more difficult but solvable by a dummy reversal. Believe or not, the key play is the 4♦ from the dummy! If East follows at trick one, pull trump and ruff a club for the fulfilling trick. If East shows out, carefully play the deuce from hand. Then ruff a spade with the K♦ and lead a small diamond to

dummy, winning as cheaply as possible. Trump another spade with the Q♦ and pull trump. Now thirteen tricks are there; six diamonds, five hearts and the ace-king of clubs. This ability to anticipate trouble and convert a very good contract to an absolute certainty is a hallmark of the true expert. The complete hands:

NORTH

♠ KQJ9
♥ K95
♦ AJ84
♣ A5

WEST

♠ A876
♥ 10743
♦ 9653
♣ 8

EAST

♠ 105432
♥ 6
♦
♣ QJ109762

SOUTH

♠ None
♥ AQJ82
♦ KQ652
♣ K54

One fascinating point; as the cards lie, if you don't play to trick one as indicated, the hand becomes awkward and painful. Bridge should never be thus. 

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our old web address, www.ctbridge.org is not currently available to us. Please note our new web site address:

<http://www.nebridge.org/cba/default.html>

Can't Cost – Chapter 15

by John Stiefel



The “can't cost” theme occurred three times in this hand from a New England Flight A Swiss Team Game.

NORTH

♠ – K972
♥ – AQ54
♦ – KQx
♣ – Ax

SOUTH

♠ – J3
♥ – K32
♦ – Axx
♣ – Jxxxx

Dealer: South
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead – 4 of spades (4th best vs. NT)

The auction was pretty straightforward. North was too strong to open a 15-17 1NT. When South responded 1NT showing 6-10 points, North contented himself with a 2NT rebid. (He realized that the North-South hands didn't fit well so game would be unlikely if South passed 2NT.) South, with 9 points, had plenty enough to continue on to 3NT. Nonetheless, despite the combined total of 27 points, there are only 7 top tricks.

South played low from dummy at trick 1. East won the A♠ and returned the 2 to West's Q at trick 2. South now was up to 8 tricks and appeared to need a 3-3 heart split to get up to nine. There was no hurry to play hearts, however, so South made his first “can't cost” play by letting West win trick 2. It appeared from East's return of the 2♠ at trick 2 that West's opening lead was from Qxx.

West should probably have continued spades at trick 3 on the grounds that East seems to want spades continued and South doesn't. Instead, however, he elected to shift to the 9♥. Fortunately for him South didn't have the 10♥ or the shift would have assured 9 tricks for the declarer. As it was, South won dummy's Q♥ and still had only 8 tricks.

At this point South considered trying for a 3-3 club split. The problem with doing that, however, was that he could easily lose 3 club tricks and go down without ever finding out if hearts were splitting. There was still no hurry to try for the 3-3 heart split, so South made his second “can't cost” play to trick 4 – a low club from dummy.

East won trick 4 with the Q♣ and returned the J♥ at trick 5. South won this in hand with the K and led a club to the A to trick 6. West followed suit but East showed out, pitching a diamond.

South now played the A♦ from his hand followed by dummy's K♦ and Q♦. Both opponents followed suit to these tricks to exhaust the diamond suit. Now South tried the A♥ at trick 10, hoping for the 3-3 split. East followed but West discarded a club. This was the position with 3-cards remaining and North on lead.

NORTH

♠ – K9
♥ – 5
♦ –
♣ –

SOUTH

♠ –
♥ –
♦ –
♣ – Jxx

At this point, South can still get home if West's original spade holding was Q10x by playing dummy's K♠, dropping the 10, and cashing dummy's 9. (It seemed likely that the 10 would drop given West's decision to not continue spades at trick 3.) It was time, however, for the third “can't cost” play. East was known to have no more minor suit cards and only 1 more heart, so he must have 2 more spades – so it “can't cost” to lead dummy's last heart to trick 11.

Sure enough, East does have the 10x of spades remaining and is end-played into giving dummy the last 2 tricks. Well done!

Note that West's failure to continue spades at trick 3 was not a terrible play but it cost him a lot on this hand. In general, Flight A players don't make a lot of terrible plays. So, to succeed against them has more to do with capitalizing on their subtle errors rather than waiting for them to simply hand you a top (at matchpoints) or a double-digit swing (at IMPs).



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. If you are interested, contact Ausrage Geaski at ausrage@aol.com or 860-533-7271.



A “Learning Experience” is a Fancy Way of Finding Something Positive After Having Made a Mistake

by Bernard Schneider

The secret of winning bridge is not to try and play as well as Bob Hamman, but to fully play up to your own potential. Overwhelmingly, points are lost not by failing to adopt complex bidding methods or discerning reverse double compound trump squeezes, but by failing to make the bids and plays that you are well capable of making. Show up, stay focused, and follow suit. Bridge is a devilish game, and even long after a hand is completed, the reality is that optimal bidding, play and defense may not be readily apparent. Even more so during the heat of battle.

My rule of thumb is that if your side makes exactly one mistake on a board there is still a reasonable chance, if not a high likelihood, of your getting a good score. The reason should be apparent—the opponents are pretty much guaranteed to also make a mistake on the hand. You’ve overbid by a trick (or two) to a hopeless contract? No problem. The opponents will most assuredly misdefend—just remain alert enough to take advantage. Mistakes even out, and the mistake score remains tied. But making a second mistake is inevitably fatal.

Forty years ago in a Friday night game in New Brunswick, New Jersey, against steady and reasonably competent opponents, I picked up the following hand: ♠KQJ9x ♥Ax ♦xxx ♣xxx. In those days weak two bids were just coming into vogue, and encountering great suspicion from the ACBL. Younger players were intrigued by being able to bid pretty much any time it was their turn as long as they had a five-card suit. Bidding/preempting was more fun, and could serve as a counter to their opponents’ greater skill and experience.

Older players, schooled in strong two bids, perceived the more aggressive weak two’s as somehow a violation of bridge etiquette.

The ACBL even attempted to “do good” by passing a regulation that you absolutely positively had to have at least 6 points (stray jacks counted); and summarily penalized infractions. Furthermore, club directors, when summoned to the table by angry traditionalists would mete out penalties, on their own, if the bidder had only a five-card suit.

Be that as it may, first seat non-vulnerable against vulnerable, I tried two spades.

I had rehearsed my explanation: that the suit was strong, and that the Ace was equivalent to a sixth spade. My left hand opponent and partner passed reasonably in tempo, and right hand opponent, also in tempo, bid five hearts (the suit in which I held the ace). I passed, and left hand opponent, in tempo, bid seven hearts (the suit in which I held the Ace). Oh rapture, oh joy.

Partner now came to life (if that is the right metaphor), with a bid of seven spades. RHO passed, offering at least the logical possibility that someone could still bid seven no-trump. Looking at my hand, who knew what miracles and mysteries remained to be revealed? But my unmerited and undeserved optimism was short lived, as LHO’s double ended the auction.

You know the feeling when you feel betrayed by partner. There could be no possible excuse for partner’s sabotaging me and my brilliant bid. Was there

ever a clearer cut case of “justifiable partnercide?”

The K♥ hit the table, and this was the full hand:

NORTH			
♠	Ax		
♥	xxx		
♦	xxxx		
♣	xxxx		
		WEST	EAST
		♠	1087xxx
		♥	Kx
		♦	AKQJx
		♣	
			♠
			♥ QJ10987
			♦
			♣ AKQJ10xx
		SOUTH	
		♠	KQJ9x
		♥	Ax
		♦	xxxx
		♣	xx

Dealer: South
East-West Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
	2♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
	Pass	7♥	7♠	Pass
	Pass	Double	All Pass	

Looking at all the cards, the hand begins to make some sense. East has his bid; West has made a mistake, but only by one trick (he needed both heart honors to bid seven), so he is still eligible to get a good board. My partner has made a somewhat larger mistake. Still, tie game.

Tournament Results

Guilford Sectional - Jeff Feldman Tournament 12/7/07 - 12/9/07

Friday Stratified Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			C. Michael - C. Graham
2	1		E. Lewis III - R. Gruskay
3			L. Bausher - P. Bausher
4			L. Zeisler - S. DeMartino
5			B. Adler - R. DeMartino
6	2	1	L. Herdle - L. Stern
	3	2	P. Olschefski - C. Olschefski
	4		A. Blake - B. Blake
	5		R. Klopp - C. Heckman

Senior Pairs

A	B	C	
1			H. Jacobs - J. Gischner
2	1	1	A. Honig - R. Manger-Tilney
3			M. Schaffel - R. Teitelman
4			C. Halpin - T. Fidler
5	2	2	S. Danoff - J. Danoff
	3		H. Shields - B. Harvey
	4		O. Bigelow, Jr. - M. Ehrenfreund

Stratified Pairs

A	B	C	
1			B. Adler - R. DeMartino
2			B. Reich - B. Lewis
3	1		E. Lewis, III - R. Gruskay
4			J. Orr - H. Feldheim
5			A. Clamage - H. Lawrence
6/7	2		M. Meyers - M. Flom
6/7			R. Teitelman - M. Schaffel
	3		M. Witt - R. Tupper
	4		E. Shepherd - K. Shepherd
	5	1	P. Olschefski - C. Olschefski
		2	A. Dezieck - J. Parks
		3	L. Herdle - L. Stern

Saturday

A/X Pairs

A	X	
1		S. Becker - R. DeMartino
2		H. Lawrence - H. Zusman
3	1	T. Proulx - J. Rothenberg
4		S. Corning - A. Hummel
5		M. Lucey - B. Adler
6		J. Greer - A. Clamage
	2	A. Geaski - T. Gerchman
	3	A. Dezieck - J. Parks
	4	W. Titley - G. Seckinger
	5/6	T. Hyde - T. Merritt
	5/6	D. Noack - B. Reich

B/C Pairs

B	C	
1		R. Gruskay - E. Lewis III
2	1	R. Klopp - B. Harvey
3		A. Haut - E. Haut
4		E. Antonio - J. Bruce
	2/3	R. Vander Wiede - L. Stern
	2/3	P. Farin - C. Nadel Farin

299er Pairs

A	B	C	
1			I. Schuele - M. Wavada
2	1		D. Storey - M. Lerman
3			E. Inman - M. Eisenberg
4	2		D. Favreau - G. Pumo
5	3	1	M. Whittemore - J. Whittemore
	4	2	S. Zieky - C. Zieky

A/X Pairs

A	X	
1		M. Lucey - B. Adler
2		S. Becker - R. DeMartino
3	1	A. Dezieck - J. Parks

4		J. Greer - A. Clamage
5		L. Zeisler - G. Sieron
6	2	B. Reich - D. Noack
	3	G. Seckinger - W. Titley
	4	T. Proulx - J. Rothenberg

B/C/D Pairs

B	C	D	
1			M. Witt - J. Farwell
2			A. Haut - E. Haut
3	1	1	J. Csizmar - H. Csizmar
4			B. Blake - A. Blake
5	2	2	E. Garner - E. Nuki
6	3	3	P. Farin - C. Nadel Farin
	4	4	R. Klopp - B. Harvey
	5	5	S. Zieky - C. Zieky
	6		I. Schuele - M. Wavada

Sunday

Bracketed Swiss - Bracket 1

1	J. Stiefel, L. Bausher, A. Rothenberg, R. DeMartino
2	T. Hyde, G. Seckinger, B. Reich, D. Noack
3	L. Condon, B.J. Corbani, D. Greenwald, E. Ranard

Bracketed Swiss - Bracket 2

1	P. Pearson, L. Robbins, T. Gerchman, M. Witt
2	R. Benedict, V. Labbadia, I. Schuele, M. Wavada
3	J. Mehta, J. Schiaroli, L. Green, M. Meyers
4	L. Wood, F. Kelly, A. Leshine, C. Yohans, Jr.

Wallingford Sectional

Apologies from the former Kibitzer editor for having inadvertently left out the Sept. 28, Friday afternoon results in the November Kibitzer. Belated congratulations to all the winners.

Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			R. DeMartino - E. Gimon
2			L. Bausher - P. Bausher
3			C. Graham - S. Budds
4			J. Orr - H. Feldheim
5/6	1/2		A. Hummel - D. Elie
5/6	1/2		N. Tkacz - R. Rising

3		D. Hyatt - L. Herdle
4	1	J. O'Shea - G. Reiners
5	2	J. Green - J. Mehta
	4	V. Labbadia - D. Fosberg

Senior Pairs

A	B	C	
1	1		M. Brown - R. Twersky
2	2	1	B. Puklin - B. Harvey
3	3		P. Miller - A. Roberts
4			M. Schaffel - R. Teitelman
5			A. Ustanowski - B. Ustanowski
6			H. Jacobs - P. Wolf II
	4	2	P. Haeckel - E. Haeckel
	5		L. Green - W. Joelson
			S. Schmerl - J. Schmerl

Monroe Magnus Sectional

Masterpoint Race Final Standings for 2007 And the Winner is: Richard DeMartino

1	94.11	Richard DeMartino
2	73.76	Larry Bausher
3	54.75	John Stiefel
4	47.09	Howard Lawrence
5	38.25	Victor King



Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe -- Number 7 – Second hand Play, Part Four

Taking partner off an end-play

By Allan Wolf

In this article, I'll cover another of the exceptions to the "2nd hand low" maxim. This exception has to do with avoiding an end-play (or throw-in play) —avoiding a situation where you or your partner wins a trick at a point where any card led next is helpful to declarer. The unattractive choices, which give up a trick, are conceding a ruff and discard, or leading into a tenace.

In general, the danger is easier to spot when you (rather than partner) are at risk of being thrown in. Here it may be necessary to anticipate the situation well in advance, and unblock – getting rid of the awkward high card(s) with which you can be thrown in.

The situation may be more difficult to recognize when partner is in danger of being thrown in, and you have the opportunity to prevent it. Here is the professor at work in such a situation, where a second hand high play is necessary to save partner.

Majorca

♠ K 10 4 2

♥ K 9 5 2

♦ A 7

♣ K 8 7

Prof. Lobo- chevski

♠ 9 8

♥ Q 8 3

♦ Q J 10 6

♣ J 6 3 2

Warren

♠ 7 6

♥ A J 10

♦ 9 5 3 2

♣ A 10 5 4

Minna

♠ A Q J 5 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ K 8 4

♣ Q 9

The bidding:

Minna	Prof.	Majorca	Warren
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The bidding featured the Jacoby 2NT convention. Majorca's jump to 2NT promised 4-card spade support, opening bid values, and denied a singleton or void. (A hand with similar values, but containing a singleton or void would respond with a splinter bid, identifying the shortness.)

Minna's rebid of 4 Spades showed a minimum opening bid with no singleton or void, the principle of fast arrival.

The play was straight-forward. Minna won the diamond lead with the ace in dummy, and pulled trumps in two rounds. She then played the King of diamonds and a ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy. Then a club to the Queen, Warren ducking, and a club back to King. Warren now took the Ace, and exited with a third round of clubs... his only safe exit, Minna ruffing.

Now the moment of truth was at hand. On the lead of a low heart toward dummy, the professor put up the Queen

in second hand. Why? The situation was all set up for Warren to be end-played. If the professor carelessly played second hand low, Minna could insert the 9 from dummy, leaving Warren on play with no good exit. A heart continuation would set up the King, and a minor suit lead would allow declarer to discard a heart loser from hand while ruffing in dummy.

It is important to note that the professor had a very good count on the entire hand, and was quite sure that Warren had the Ace of Hearts. Declarer had already shown up with 12 high card points, and could not have the Ace of hearts as well, given that her bidding showed a minimum opening.

The professor remembered well a similar hand when he was partnered with Cecil Horne in a Regional pairs event. In an almost identical situation, Cecil had put up the Queen, misreading declarer's holding. Declarer won the King in dummy, and led back towards his remaining A 10, finessing the professor's Jack, and landing an "impossible" overtrick. That play, typical of Cecil's penchant for making the "expert" play at the wrong time cost the pair a regional championship. 

Milestones and Congratulations

New Life Masters

Janet Moskowitz
Carolyn Schneider
Charles Schneider

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Betty Jane Corbani

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Douglas Deacon
Billie Hecker
Ogden Bigelow, Jr.
Jerome Cramp
Wilbert Kaufmann

Bronze Life Masters (500 MPs)

Solomon Field
Shirley Fruchter
Tucker Merritt
Gernot Reiners
Mary Scarfi
William Watson

MEMORY BOWL HAND 2007

In Honor of Sol Z. Silver

by Rick Townsend, Bridge Forum (Hamden)

It may amuse the reader to study the four hands and predict the outcome before reading.

No one tried harder than Sol to play reasonably well. While his bridge game had almost as many recognizable quirks as that of Bill Dyckes, he was almost as popular as Bernie Lipman. Although we lost Sol several years ago, he will not be forgotten for his overcalls on weak suits, takeout doubles with five cards in the opponent's suit, sudden decisions not to open 1NT with a proper hand for it and premature jumps to Blackwood followed by long pauses in which Sol could not figure out what to do with the answer (usually he stopped in five and made six). In 1992, Sol was in the lead for Player of the Year with two weeks to go (he played almost exclusively on Friday), and finished twelfth. He made the final four of the Reynolds Cup in 1999. In the early 90's, Sol played mostly with Mort Levy, then in the middle-to-late decade with his cousin Norman Silver, one of our top players. Sol and Norman were Friday's leading pair in 1997, but the partnership ended in 1999 when Norman took what was going to be a fine sacrifice until Sol redoubled. Sol then played mainly with Helen Molloy, with whom he was second-best pair in 2000.

NORTH

♠ 6532
♥ A5
♦ KQJT6
♣ 53

WEST

♠ QJ
♥ J943
♦ 9743
♣ 642

EAST

♠ AK87
♥ KT87
♦ A8
♣ QJT

SOUTH

♠ T94
♥ Q62
♦ 52
♣ AK987

Sitting South, Sol repeated to himself the instructions that Norman had given him, which so far throughout the session he had been able to follow. As Norman passed and East opened 1NT, the effort of recalling not to overcall at the two-level without two of the top three honours kept Sol from noticing that he had miss-sorted his hand; he thought he was looking at AKT94 Q62 52 987. Well, that was two of the top three honors, wasn't it? He overcalled 2♠, passed to Norman.

Norman decided he liked the playing quality of his hand. Give Sol AQJxxx of his own suit and either outside king, and 4♠ ought to romp home. Norman debated raising to 3S, but knew that Sol would never accept the invitation with fewer than 13 HCP. There were too many hands in the 9-10 point range Sol could hold on which 4♠ would be a breeze. Norman bid the game.

East-West were an experienced pair who had never seen either of the Silvers before. East, seeing the 4♠ bid on the table, debated doubling. But there was no need to risk a double in case West held nothing at all. North was clearly the competent half of the partnership, and would put down a good dummy. South would likely drop a trick in the play. East passed, and West led the club deuce.

Sol was pleased with the sight of dummy. There were two club losers and a diamond loser. He might lose the king of hearts, but he had a vague idea that East might hold that card for the 1NT opening bid, and Sol could discard heart losers on Norman's diamonds. It seemed as if it would all depend on his not losing a trump trick. He would play for a 2-2 split - or, wait! Hadn't Norman told him about some Rule about what to do with nine trumps missing the queen and jack? Trying to remember exactly what Norman had said, Sol fingered the ace of spades and finally saw, to his horror, that it had become the ace of clubs. Before he knew what he was doing, he played it.

The outlook became even more bleak as Sol noticed that his king of spades was

also a club. What could he do? Norman would never play with him again unless he somehow managed to save an almost decent result out of the hand. He saw at once that he didn't dare lead a trump. He had three tricks off the top and could probably get another trick or two in diamonds and maybe trump something. Sol led the diamond three to the four, king and ace.

East had taken the ace in a momentary lapse. The East-West partnership had gone several years using the signal of second highest first to give count from four small cards. Then one day six months ago, West had given such a signal holding 9743 with the seven, only to find that it cost a trick in the play. West had then convinced East to agree to use the third-highest card for a signal from four small, though East, half-thinking that the signal was still second-highest if it clearly could not matter, interpreted the 4-spot as being low from three. With diamonds 3-3 between West and South, there was no reason to hold up, and East instinctively liked keeping exit cards. The diamond ace was followed by the club queen - declarer's shocked look and resorting of the hand suggesting that what had appeared to be a sixth spade might have turned into a second club.

Sol won the club king and decided to see how many diamond tricks he could get. East looked puzzled by the spots on the second round of diamonds, then remembered West changing their agreement and could see no reason to avoid trumping the third diamond with the spade seven. Sol overruffed with the nine, and thought he might as well see how many ruffs he could get before the opponents got in and murdered him. He led the club eight to the six-spot, spade deuce, and East's jack. Dummy's diamond ten was then led.

East paused to take stock of the hand, having recollected the change of signal. This had been confirmed in the club suit - West had held 97642 and led low from an odd number - the deuce - then played the third highest - the six and then the

BRIDGE FORUM (Hamden)

Year End Results

TUESDAY

Jatin Mehta finished the year strongly to claim Player of the Year honours for the first time. Bob Hawes just edged Louise Wood for second, with Jon Ingersoll, Carl Yohans, Al Guntermann and Mary Connolly rounding out the top seven. Bob and Jon were the second-best pair for the second consecutive year, this year behind Al and Carl, as men's pairs swept the top four positions. Marge Simson and her son Marshall Weiss, fifth, were the top mixed pair, while the only women's pair in the top ten overall was Billie Hecker-Muriel Romero, eighth.

FRIDAY

Louise Wood became the first player in either game to defend the Player of the Year title, her fourth Friday title (she also won in 1997, 2003 and 2006) to go with the Tuesday honors in 2000 and 2005. Carl Yohans (1999 PoY) and Arlene Leshine (2001, 2004) made a battle of it, then finished second and third. Muriel Romero-Florence Schannon were dominant as a pair, well ahead of a cluster of other pairs: Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern, Brenda Harvey-Robert Klopp, Jinny Goggin-Al Guntermann, Arlene Leshine-Carl Yohans, Muriel Lipman-Louise Wood and Marshall and Teresita Holly were a distant second through seventh best, respectively.

TUESDAY-FRIDAY combined

MEMORY BOWL: Last year's winner, Florence Schannon, selected **SOL Z. SILVER** as this year's Champion's Honoree. Please see the article on page 7 to read about Sol and his exploits.

This year's competition began with Sylvia Alpert and then Tracy Selmon as early leaders before Muriel Lipman took the lead, which she held from November 14 to December 11, when she was caught by Muriel Romero and Carl Yohans. Carl seemed about to put the win away on December 18, the last in a string of seven good results, which put his frequent partner Al Guntermann into second place. December 21 was disastrous for Carl, dropping him to third place (indeed, had Carl not played on the 21st he would have won). Al, the Muriels, Carl and Joe Pagerino were all likely winners entering the finale on the 28th, but Al, with the lead and a strong game, held off Muriel Lipman for his first cup victory in only his second year with the group (only Brenda Harvey won her first cup on less experience).

Wee Burn News

The following pairs placed well in the Fall Series which ended on November 29:

1. Mary Richardson-Betty Hodgman
2. Janet Soskin-Barbara Johnson
3. Ellie Allen-Ann Fuller
4. Linda Cleveland-Karen Barrett
5. Lois Berry-Jan Moller
6. Jean Thoma-Barbara Trainer
7. Mary Kaufmann-Ellie Spelbrink
8. Joan Hoben-Kathie Rowland

Our fall charity game (to support a local charity) was won by Brooke Megrue and Meg Hovell. Runners-up were Marilyn Tjader and Martha Hathaway.

Congratulations to Janet Soskin who is our 2007 Player of the Year. Coming in second was Lois Berry. This award is given to the Wee Burn member who wins the most masterpoints at Thursday games during the calendar year.

Hartford Bridge Club

It's another first for the Hartford Bridge Club! Yes, the ACBL Nationals are scheduled for late November in Boston at the Marriott and Westin hotels. And yes, the Hartford Bridge Club will be the first local to be granted sponsorship of a full day at a national tournament.

Are we enthusiastic? You bet we are. With the full support of our Board of Directors, Committee Chair Marylin Noll has over 25 members on her committee to plan and execute a program to showcase the HBC on our date of November 23.

Do we have a club to be proud of? You bet we do. The HBC is the oldest member-owned and operated club in the country and has the largest membership of all the clubs in New England with more than 500 members.

Our special thanks to Ausra Geaski who advised our board that there was an opportunity for the HBC to be granted this special day. Ausra is on the board of the Connecticut Bridge League and is serving as the liaison between the CBA and the ACBL.

Members of the committee include Joy Bacci, Inge Schuele, Sandy Zieky, Jan Legrow, Carolyn Wieder, Barbara Caraceni, Jackie Kane, Ruth Tupper, Dixie Mastrandrea, Donna Feir, Ruth Kuzma, Marge Lennon, Ilene Mahler, Carolyn Olschefski, Phil Olschefski, Marilyn Kay, Bill Watson, Norma Healy, Margery Gussak, Linda Starr, Joanna Sarkisian, Paula Beauchamp, Cecilia Vasel, Jose Gaztambide, Arlene Small and Sally Title.

See you all in Boston!

"Learning Experience"

continued from page 3

What next? Its time for me to break the tie and make the final mistake and get a zero, instead of a top. The hand is rather easy to play, if one is not blinded by rage. Win the Ace of Hearts, and play losers. No matter what East plays, never ruff. At trick eight, you will be down to five trumps and a loser, and West will have six trumps. Whatever East plays, West will be forced to ruff in with his long

spade, and you will score your nine of spades. Making six tricks is down seven, minus 1300 (at the old scoring).

That would have been a top, since every other pair in the room had bid six hearts for plus 1430. My partner's bidding was irrelevant—minus 1300 was the same matchpoint score as being plus 200 for doubling seven hearts.

My mission, if I had been thinking clearly, was to shut out what partner

has done, and to do the best I could, which was to take six tricks. At the time, it was "obvious" to me that nothing that I could possibly do could make any difference. But, the point remains. No matter who you are, no matter where you are, and no matter what the contract is (and even if your partner has lost his mind), making more tricks will be no worse, and may well be a lot better than making less tricks. But I was young and foolish and went down seven, for minus 1500. It was a learning experience. 

"Memory Bowl"*continued from page 6*

four. South then had begun with exactly 5-3-2-3 distribution. As West held no trump, there was no reason not to ruff the fourth diamond. Ruffing low meant that East would have to break hearts himself, but South would have only one discard - and if South had started with QJT96 Qxx xx AK8 the contract was now cold anyway, that casual misplay on the first diamond giving away the contract. Whatever East did, he would have to break the hearts at some point. Not liking to allow a loser-on-loser play, East trumped with the eight. Sol overtrumped with the ten.

With six tricks in the bag, Sol had an inspiration. What if he were to lead another club and discard Norman's low heart? But he had forgotten to count the clubs, and thought that the ten was still missing. Then he might go three down, which would be a disaster. As he was still determined not to lead a heart, that left only his four of trumps. East nearly fainted when the spade jack appeared from West. But there was nothing left to do but break the hearts and hope for the best. Just in case South held the queen, better to try leading the ten. East led the heart ten. Sol had forgotten to count East's points, but

instinctively covered an honor with an honor, winning the trick with the queen. Sol still could not recall whether the club ten was still out or not, but now it was safe to take the ace of hearts. He was in the middle of calling for the last diamond from dummy, when he suddenly realized that he didn't have a trump to ruff it, and in a quick panic finished saying, "Play the six... of spades," before he could stop himself. For some reason, East went up with ace and dropped West's queen. Then came a third heart. Why didn't the defenders draw trumps? Sol happily called for Norman's spade five, and found, to his amazement, that the six of diamonds was good. Four spades bid and made. How on earth had THAT happened?

Fortunately for East, West was too amused by the way in which Sol had been able to draw trumps to work out that ducking the first diamond would have killed the timing of the hand. Norman, who had been as puzzled as East during the play, pieced together what had happened during the rest of the session. This left him with a new problem - whether or not to insist that Sol get a stronger pair of glasses. After all, Sol had never played quite so well as that when he could see all his cards..

**UPCOMING EVENTS****MARCH**

Feb 29 - 2 Winter in Connecticut Sectional
Hamden, CT
12 (pm) ACBL Charity Game
6 - 16 Spring Nationals
Detroit, MI
24 - 30 STaC - with unit 106

APRIL

11 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
Local Split
14 (pm) Championship
25 - 27 Spring in Connecticut Sectional
Guilford, CT
30 - May 4 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional
North Falmouth, MA

MAY

Apr 30 - 4 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional
North Falmouth, MA
8 ACBL Int'l Fund Game
12 Unit-wide Charity Game
18 Local (Split) Championship
23 - 28 New York City Regional
New York, NY

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, 2008.

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You can see **The Kibitzer** in blazing color at the CT bridge site:
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