

THE KIBITZER November 2008

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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Finessing for Fun and Profit

by Harold Feldheim

South America has had many excellent players but none more effective than the partnership of Gabriel Chagas and Marcello Branco. Both very short in stature, one of their opponents opined that if they couldn't play bridge, they could hire out as bookends. Having a really good sense of humor, Chagas replied that although they might be of under average height, when seated at the table, they were giants. The following hand, declared by Chagas, fully illustrates his ability.

Dealer: West
Neither side Vulnerable

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K J 4		♠ T 9 8 5 3	
♥ A 9 5		♥ Q T 7 4	
♦ K 9 6 3		♦ 8 4	
♣ 9 6 4		♣ 8 5	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 7 2		♠ A Q 6	
♥ J 2		♥ K 8 6 3	
♦ Q T 2		♦ A J 7 5	
♣ K Q J T 3 2		♣ A 7	

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

The Bidding: This is a very nasty hand. After West's preempt, the auction is almost predictable. It's clear for South to double since 18 HCP is too much to go quietly. North thought long and hard about converting partner's double to penalties by passing. As it turned out, this would have been the winning action, scoring +500 with little difficulty, but this seemed too dangerous. Finally, with 11 hcp and 3-3 in the majors, He chose a cuebid of 4♣, perhaps hoping for partner to hold a 5 card major. In any event, 4♥ became the final contract.

The Play: Owing only a total of seven trumps was a disagreeable surprise, especially since the auction augured bad suit splits. Still, with 29 HCP between the two hands, there should be good chances. Here, he exercised some remarkable technique, beginning with an intrafinesse and culminating with an endplay. He ducked the first club, winning the second club with the ace. Banking on the trumps not breaking 3-3 but hoping for 4-2, he led a heart from hand, inserting the 9-spot, losing to East's 10. When a spade was returned, this confirmed the 6-2 club split. Continuing his plan, Chagas won the spade in hand and led a heart to dummy's ace, noting the jack fall on his right. Staying with his analysis, he returned a heart from dummy, inserting the 8-spot when East played low. This was all very good but he wasn't home

yet. He could claim three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and one club for a total of nine tricks. For his 10th trick, he needed to create a 3rd diamond trick, but West held the protected queen. Having worked all this out, he drew the last trump carefully pitching a diamond rather than a club from dummy and cashed one spade, arriving at the following position:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K		♠ T 9 8	
♥ - - -		♥ - - -	
♦ K 9 6		♦ 8 4	
♣ 9		♣ - - -	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ - - -		♠ 6	
♥ - - -		♥ - - -	
♦ Q T 2		♦ A J 7 5	
♣ K Q		♣ - - -	

Declarer led a diamond towards the dummy, fully prepared to duck if West played low. But awake to the situation, West inserted the ten forcing the king from dummy. Now declarer cashed his last spade, West had to let go a club to keep his diamond queen protected. But fully master of the situation, Chagas led the carefully-preserved club from the dummy, endplaying a hapless West.

Q.E.D.

Congratulations to Harold Feldheim

for winning the most masterpoints at the Governor's Cup Sectional in Hamden, CT, August 1-3, 2008.

The Governor's Cup is awarded to the player who wins the most points, playing in at least two events during the tournament. The Cup has been awarded annually since 1976.

Why Open No-Trump With a Five-Card Major?



by Gloria Sieron

Dealer: North
E/W Vulnerable

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 3		♠ Q 8 7 6	
♥ J 9 8 7 4		♥ 5 2	
♦ 9 8 4 3		♦ 6 5 2	
♣ K T 9		♣ A 7 5 4	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ J T 9		♠ A K 5 4 2	
♥ K 6 3		♥ A Q T	
♦ K Q T 7		♦ A J	
♣ J 6 3		♣ Q 8 2	

In third position, after pass, pass, should South open one spade or, with 20 high-card points, open two notrump?

At Ann Cady's Friday Scandinavian Club Game, only two South's out of twelve pairs decided to open two no trump, showing 20 or 21 HCP. They were rewarded with a two-way tie for top score. Although North barely has the values to continue, with five hearts and four HCP, North decides to transfer to hearts, persuaded perhaps by the attractiveness of the singleton spade. When South accepts the transfer, North decides to bid three no trump, since "we were already at the three level, we might as well be in a game." With three heart honors, South corrects to the eight-card fit, bidding four hearts. With careful play, ten tricks can be made. At the other tables, one spade was opened and was passed out.

The question of the day is, "To show my point count, should I open notrump while holding a five card major?" Ask yourself do I have no trump distribution (5-3-3-2)? If the answer is yes, today many players would open notrump. In fact, if you look at the ACBL convention card, there is a box to check if you often open 1 NT with a 5-card major.

In the early days of contract bridge, the five card suit in the 5-3-3-2 distribution had to be a minor to open NT. Some players reasoned, "what if my five-card suit is a major, why can't I open one no-trump?" Some competitive players experimented with this theory but only with a five-card heart suit. I've heard an expert player suggest "If I have five spades, I'm going to tell my partner about it." I've also heard, "if your five-card major suit is poor, you should prefer to open notrump."

You make your decision by looking at your hand. Does your hand look more like a notrump hand or more like a distributional hand?

New ways of examining bidding result in new methods. As an adjunct to opening NT with a 5-card major, many players have added Puppet Stayman to their convention card. This allows you to find out if partner has a 4- or 5-card major. Whether or not you add Puppet to your convention card, the Jacoby Transfer bid would still be used in the above hand.

Puppet Stayman was developed by Kit Woolsey. It can be used either over one notrump or two notrump although most players prefer to use it only over 2NT. Using Puppet over 2NT, three clubs asks if opener has a 5- or 4-card major suit. With a 5-card major, opener bids his

suit. With no 4- or 5-card major, opener bids 3NT. With no 5-card major but one or more 4-card majors, opener bids 3♦. Responder can then indicate a 4-card major by bidding 3 of the other major, this allows opener to be declarer if there is a 4-4 fit. With two 4-card majors, responder bids 4♦ and again opener becomes declarer.

Changing the above hand a bit:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K T 9		♠ 8 7 6	
♥ J 9 8 7		♥ 5 4 2	
♦ 9 8 4 3		♦ 6 5 2	
♣ 9 4		♣ A K 7 5	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ J 3		♠ A Q 5 4 2	
♥ K 6 3		♥ A Q T	
♦ K Q T 7		♦ A J	
♣ T 6 3 2		♣ Q J 8	

This hand is perfect for Puppet Stayman. After two notrump, North would bid three clubs, asking South for a five-card major. North bids three spades, "Yes, I have a five card spade suit." Voila, the preferred eight-card fit has been found and North raises to game.



Milestones and Congratulations

New Life Masters
Richard Benedict
H. Leland Getz
Robert Klopp
Kathleen Rowland

Bronze Life Masters
(500 MPs)
Raymond Fortoer
Seiho Shimada
Pauline Jewett

Silver Life Masters
(1000 MPs)
Lea Selig
Reginald Harvey
Jennifer Williams

Gold Life Masters
(2500 MPs)
Timothy White
Sherwood Gerard
Laurie Robbins

Diamond Life Master
(5000 MPs)
Faye Marino

Emerald Life Master
(7500 MPs)
Franklin Merblum



Why Make One Error When You Can Make Two

by Brett Adler

Bridge gives us an opportunity to puff our chests out with pride such as when we make a contract that should have been defeated, bid a hard-to-bid slam, or beat a contract that everyone else made. Unfortunately, it also gives us an opportunity to be humiliated when we get something horribly wrong, and for my article I thought I'd show my masochistic side and find some humor in a hand which I got wrong not once, but twice.

Before hearing about my "errors," try not to look at the East/West cards and decide how you and your partner would bid the following hand (no opposition bidding), and what contract you would reach?

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

NORTH			
♠	K 8 2		
♥	A T 9 8 3		
♦	A Q 6 4		
♣	5		
WEST		EAST	
♠	J 9 6 3	♠	5 4
♥	Q 4	♥	K J 5
♦	J T 9 7 2	♦	8 5 3
♣	Q 2	♣	9 8 7 6 4
SOUTH			
♠	A Q T 7		
♥	7 6 2		
♦	K		
♣	A K J T 3		

I was sitting East, and witnessed the following auction:

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠ ⁽¹⁾
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT ⁽²⁾
Pass	5♥ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	???	

- (1) 4th suit forcing to game
- (2) Roman Key Card Blackwood and response showing two key cards out of a possible five (four aces plus K♥), and denying the Q♥.

I think the best contract is 6♠ despite the Moysian trump fit (4-3), and this contract will make easily once you ruff one club in dummy. The opponent's actual choice of 6♥ has no chance of success (unless you are a character from Victor Mollo's Menagerie series).

Following my gut instinct that 6♥ was not making (based on the very tortured auction), I made my first mistake when I doubled the contract in the pass-out seat. At teams, I would be happy for a small positive, but at match-points I got greedy wanting all the matchpoints, rather than most of them. Doubling a contract which is going down is a very good thing unless either of two situations exists: First, you may give clues to the declarer as to how to play the hand (not relevant in this case); Or, second, the opponents may have a better place to play.

South now bid 6NT and I doubled in the pass-out seat again (less confidently), which ended the auction. As South, and declarer in 6NT, don't read any further and plan how you will make this hand on the J♦ lead.

For some reason declarer chose not to cross to dummy and finesse clubs through the hand that doubled. Instead he played clubs from the top and the queen dropped in two rounds (off side) so he now has eleven tricks. The twelfth trick will come if spades break 3-3, if the J♠ can be finessed, or drops in two rounds, or if there is a squeeze that declarer can read.

On this hand, West holds four spades to the jack and also holds the diamond guard, so he will be squeezed once declarer rectifies the count (loses a trick setting up the squeeze position). Declarer took this exact line and after cashing his four club winners, played his 5th club which I, as East, won. I returned a diamond (at this stage what I return makes no difference), and declarer cashed some winners. My hand is now completely irrelevant as I have short diamonds and short spades, and the end position with my partner (West) under the gun is:

NORTH

♠ K 8
♥ A T
♦ 6
♣ - - -

WEST

♠ J 9 6 3
♥ - - -
♦ T
♣ - - -

EAST

♠ 5 4
♥ K J 5
♦ - - -
♣ - - -

SOUTH

♠ A Q T 7
♥ 7
♦ - - -
♣ - - -

Once dummy (North) cashes the A♥, West has no useful card to discard. I think West should discard the diamond as the declarer we were playing against hadn't been paying attention to the discards, but he did pitch a spade and now declarer couldn't go wrong.

The declarer playing this hand was not familiar with squeeze play or rectifying the count, and did not count out the East/West hands. How, then, did he play this hand like a Pro?

The answer is simple if you look back to the title for this article, as I haven't yet told you my second error.

As declarer cashed his four club winners, all of my club spots as East are equals but I played them in the order of 6, 7, 8, and 9. Declarer didn't count the clubs but knew enough to know that lots of high intermediates had been played including the 9 so he played the 3♣ thinking it was a winner. When I won the trick with my "carefully" protected 4♣, declarer loudly groaned but now the squeeze was automatic. Had I played my clubs from the bottom, declarer would have noticed the 9♣ still missing and would have abandoned clubs to focus on spades.

All I could do was apologize profusely to partner, and smile realizing that at least I had some material for my next Kibitzer article.



Can't Cost – Chapter 17

by John Stiefel



This hand from a recent Knockout is a good illustration of the “Can't Cost” method.

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q 4 3 2
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ A 9 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A K 6 5
♥ A Q 8
♦ K 9
♣ K Q 1 0 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	2NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: 4♣ (3rd or 5th best)

The auction was routine and straightforward. North tried Stayman and raised to the spade game when South showed that suit.

Trick 1: dummy plays low, South captures East's 7 with his 10.

Tricks 2, 3 and 4: South draws trump, happily noting the 3-2 split.

Trick 5: K♣, both follow.

Trick 6: Q♣, jack, ace, low diamond from East

At this point, things looked good for declarer, as he only needed the K♥ or the A♦ on side, and he had the potential to end play West even if both cards were offside. South, however, hoped for an

even better chance. So he led the 2♥ from dummy to trick seven and, when East played the 5, he asked himself “how can it cost to play the 8?” He quickly realized that it couldn't cost, so:

Trick 7: 2♥, 5, 8, 10.

West did not relish being on lead, so he tried the K♥ (a diamond would be no better). South won the A and had his 10 tricks. (He tried for an overtrick by leading his 5 of clubs to dummy's carefully preserved 9 and then leading a diamond from dummy; but West had the ace and South settled for +620.)

At the other table, the lead and play to the first six tricks were the same, but East, holding ♥J 9 6 5, concluded that playing the 9♥ to trick 7 “couldn't cost.” South now tried the Q but West won the K and returned the 10 to trick 8. South won (ducking wouldn't have helped, as West would have just played another heart) and led his 8♥ at trick 9 to East's jack. When East now played a diamond through the king, South was down as the defenders took two tricks in each red suit.

12 IMPs to the team that made the “can't cost” play at both tables.

It doesn't take too much “deep thought” by East to realize that he must play the 9♥ to trick 7. After all, South has opened 2NT and has four club tricks and four trump tricks. If he can score a diamond ruff in dummy, it will raise his total to nine tricks and South's red-suit holdings are sure to produce one more trick. (Why? Well, the 2NT opening showed 20-21 points and South has only shown up with 12 points in the black suits. So he has at least eight points in the

red suits and he can't have KJ of both red suits because East is looking at the ♦J.) So the defense must assume that there is no diamond ruff for declarer. In other words, *assume that South has the same distribution as North*, otherwise the contract is cold. So, if South has 4-3-2-4 distribution, playing the 9♥ to trick 7 “can't cost” and might very well be necessary to take partner off an end play.

The complete deal was:

NORTH

♠ Q 4 3 2
♥ 4 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ A 9 3 2

WEST

♠ T 8 7
♥ K T 6
♦ A Q 8 6
♣ J 6 4

EAST

♠ J 9
♥ J 9 7 5
♦ J T 7 5 4
♣ 7 8

SOUTH

♠ A K 6 5
♥ A Q 8
♦ K 9
♣ K Q T 5

Note that South's “can't cost” play can also be described as a “safety play” while East's “can't cost” play can also be described as an “end play defense.” 



Boston Fall Nationals — Check out the ACBL Web Site

Have you checked the ACBL web site recently for the NABC tournaments? The 2008 Boston Fall Nationals are now prominently featured as next in line. A wealth of information is available which includes the tournament schedule, making hotel reservations, transportation tips to facilitate your travel, tours in and near Boston during the tournament.

When you look at the tournament schedule you will see that each day has a special designation for our State Days theme. In Connecticut we have the distinction of two separate days set aside within our state. On Tuesday, 11/25, we have CT State Day to recognize all of our Unit 126 members. On Sunday, 11/23, the Hartford Bridge Club located in West Hartford, CT will be recognized for its unique designation as the oldest, continuously running bridge club in North America (77 years and counting), as well as the largest bridge club in New England. Check out the “Other Events” section on the web site to learn more about each day and some of the surprises for those who stop by the daily display tables.

For those who are in Boston on CT Day on 11/25, please stop by our state display table to pick up your name tag. We would like to recognize all Unit 126 members on their designated day.

Thanks to all for your support and the Nationals Committee looks forward to seeing you at the game tables as we all

MAKE HISTORY IN BOSTON!

Rating the Playing Elements

by Esther Watstein

Early this fall, Elliot Ranard, inspired by a question posed by Morris Feinson, conducted a survey among bridge players in an attempt to determine the value players placed on the importance of bidding, declarer play, and defense in winning bridge

The survey was conducted mostly in Fairfield County with a few experts participating. The initial 40 responders are listed in the table along with their responses.

At the top of the table you can see the MP ranges for the codes along with the average value for each entry along with the average of all values for each category.

Expert Zeke Jabbour had this to say (for a more detailed discussion see his column in the October ACBL *Bridge Bulletin*), "It is a complex comparison. If it involves only experts, bidding takes on huge dimensions. Most of the experts have comparable technical, i.e., declaring and defending skills. Most of the big swings revolve around bidding. As I have noted previously, bidding also has defensive and competitive facets.

If it involves only random club-level players, the technical skills have enhanced value. Many swings are generated by inept play. Defense is the hardest because it is cooperative and the total assets of the partnership have to be inferred, while declarer has them all in sight. As I have already suggested, a good declarer like Zia or Meckstroth can sometimes win boards single-handedly. A good defender can pick your pocket.

So, as I revisit the problem, I keep revising the percentages. Today I lean to 45-25-25-5. The five can go to the bridge gods or to the psychological aspects of play like demeanor and focus."

Thanks to Morris for thinking about this and to Elliot for picking up the ball.

We would welcome comments from our readers about this question. Please send them to the Editor, Tom Proulx whose contact information can be found on page 8. If we get enough interest, we will publish your comments in the next issue.

Segment	MP	Code	Averages			
			Bidding	Play	Defense	Other
Competent	300-1000	C	40.125	25.75	32.25	1.875
Intermediate	1000-2000	I	41.25	26.25	31.875	0.625
Advanced	2000-4000	A	32.4	28	35.4	4.2
Expert	4000-6000	E	28	23	37	12
Expert Plus	> 13000	E+	38.75	26.25	25.625	9.375
Average Values			36.105	25.85	32.43	5.615

	Player	Code	Bidding	Play	Defense	Other
1	EDR Estimate	B	55	25	20	0
2	Rob Rising	C	45	20	35	0
3	Al Roberts	C	34	33	33	0
4	Jason Rothenberg	C	62	11	22	5
5	Seiho Shimada	C	40	32	28	0
6	Maralyn Meyers	C	20	40	40	0
7	Paul Miller	C	50	20	30	0
8	Warren Williams	C	20	30	40	10
9	Allan Siegal	C	50	20	30	0
10	Natalie Cohen	I	55	25	20	0
11	Jay Force	I	35	35	25	5
12	Tom Hey	I	30	30	40	0
13	Jerry Jacobs	I	50	20	30	0
14	Walter Joelson	I	30	25	45	0
15	Elliot Ranard	I	50	15	35	0
16	Bill Selden	I	50	30	20	0
17	Nora Tracz	I	30	30	40	0
18	Ann Cady	A	40	25	35	0
19	Betty Corbani	A	30	30	35	5
20	Morris Feinson	A	18	35	30	17
21	Doris Greenwald	A	36	30	34	0
22	Maeve Lucey	A	25	25	50	0
23	Betty McGinnis	A	30	30	40	0
24	Gloria Sieron	A	30	30	30	10
25	Al Wolf	A	45	25	30	0
26	Bill Wood	A	20	30	40	10
27	Howard Zusman	A	50	20	30	0
28	Allan Clamage	E	25	25	40	10
29	Jim Greer	E	20	20	45	15
30	Larry Lau	E	25	25	25	25
31	Mary Smith	E	50	10	40	0
32	Don Steigler	E	20	35	35	10
33	Marty Bergen	E+	55	25	20	0
34	Larry Cohen	E+	40	40	20	0
35	Mel Colchamiro	E+	20	40	40	0
36	Rich DeMartino	E+	60	20	20	0
37	Harold Feldheim	E+	20	20	25	35
38	Zeke Jabbour	E+	45	25	25	5
39	Eddie Kantor	E+	25	20	20	35
40	Mike Lawrence	E+	45	20	35	0



Upcoming Events

Results

NOVEMBER

- 1 day Local (Split) Championship
- 12-18 STaC
- 20-30 Fall Nationals! Boston, MA**
- 24 eve ACBL-wide Charity Game #2

DECEMBER

- 3 day Unit-Wide Championship
- NOTE: The December Sectional in CT has been cancelled since it was so close in time to the Fall Nationals in Boston*

The Schedule for 2009 (Preliminary)

JANUARY

- 7-11 Stratified Individual Regional, Newton, MA
- 13-19 District 3 Winter Regional, Ryebrook, NY

FEBRUARY

- 13-18 New England Knockout Regional, Cromwell, CT
- 28 - Mar 1 Winter in Connecticut Sectional Location to be announced

MARCH

- Feb 28-1 Winter in Connecticut Sectional, Location to be announced

12-22 Spring Nationals Houston, TX

- 24-30 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC) *Tentative Dates*

APRIL

- 24-26 Spring Sectional Location to be announced
- 29 - May 3 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional, North Falmouth, MA

MAY

- 29 - May 3 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional, North Falmouth, MA
- 20 -25 New York City Regional New York, NY

JUNE

- 9-15 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC) *Tentative Dates*
- 18-22 New England Summer Regional, Sturbridge, MA

JULY

- 23- Aug 2 **ACBL Summer Nationals Washington, DC**

AUGUST

- 14-16 Summer Sectional Location to be announced

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

- 2-4 Sid Cohen Sectional Location to be announced
- 12-18 Danbury Fall Regional (District 3) Danbury, CT

NOVEMBER

- 4-8 Fall Regional Danvers, MA
- 12-18 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC) *Tentative Dates*

26 - Dec 6 Fall Nationals San Diego, CA

DECEMBER

- Nov 26 - 6 Fall Nationals San Diego, CA**
- 11-13 Jeff Feldman Sectional Location to be announced
- 26-30 New York City Holiday Regional New York, NY

Unit-wide Open Pairs Championship Thursday Morn, September 25, 2008

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

Total of 60.5 tables

- 1 James Hastings - Lee Wilcox
- 2 Edwin Lewis III - Thomas Hyde
- 3 Larry Bausher - Richard De Martino
- 4 Margaret Mason - Cynthia Michael
- 5 Penny Glassmeyer - Susan Mayo
- 6 Jackie Zwillinger - John McGuire
- 7 Don Stiegler - Allan Clamage

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Penny Glassmeyer - Susan Mayo
- 2 Lois Karcher - Betty Hodgman
- 3 Lois Berry - Doris Friend
- 4 Janet Soskin - Kathie Rowland
- 5 Mary Beach - Mary Ellen McGuire
- 6 Reginald Harvey - Laurie Robbins

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Lois Karcher - Betty Hodgman
- 2 Lois Berry - Doris Friend
- 3 Mary Beach - Mary Ellen McGuire
- 4 Susan Schroeder - Gloria Hayes
- 5 Ed Meyer - Jan Moller
- 6 Dick Benedict - Stephen Shamroth

Unit-wide Championship Tuesday Eve August 19, 2008

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Ann Hudson - Randolph Johnson
- 2 Esther Watstein - Donald Brueggemann
- 3 J Michael Carmiggelt - Linda Starr
- 4 Kenneth Hirshon - Solomon Field
- 5 Joseph Pagerino - Billie Hecker
- 6 June Hearrell - Carol Minor

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Esther Watstein - Donald Brueggemann
- 2 Kenneth Hirshon - Solomon Field
- 3 Joseph Pagerino - Billie Hecker
- 4 June Hearrell - Carol Minor
- 5 Rita Doucette - Charles Stabinsky
- 6 Janice Bruce - Louise Wood

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Robert Klopp - Tadeusz Karnkowski
- 2 Robert Hawes - Robert Biondino
- 3 Philip Farin - Carolyn Nadel Farin
- 4 Marshall Weiss - Marjorie Weiss Simson
- 5/6 Robert Cohen - Jack Goldberg
- 5/6 Inge-Maria Bellis - Rosemarie Manger-Tilney

Jeff Feldman Trophy 2008

Brett Adler and Larry Lau,

both of Westport, took the 2008 Jeff Feldman Trophy for winning the most masterpoints, playing in at least two sessions, during the annual Jeff Feldman Memorial Sectional held this year in Hartford.

Monroe Magnus Sectional Masterpoint Race

Final Standings for 2008

The Winner for 2008 is Richard DeMartino for winning the most total masterpoints at CT sectionals.

Space would not permit the listing of all the sectional results. Please visit the web site for a complete listing of results.

<http://www.ctbridge.org>

DARIEN COMMUNITY ASSOC. DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

The first session of the Fall Series of the Darien Community Association Duplicate Bridge Club took place on September 8th. The winners are:

1. Ursula Forman and Ruth Johnson
2. Jean Thoma and Karen Barrett
3. Audrey Cadwallader and Belinda Metzger
4. Stan Steckler and Linda Cleveland
5. Joan Hoben and Penny Glassmeyer
6. Peter Hussey and Joe Holmes

BRIDGE FORUM (HAMDEN)

Third Quarter News

TUESDAY

The Player of the Year contest seems to be down to the dominant partnership of Robert Klopp and Tad Karnkowski, who find themselves tied with one quarter to go after Tad won our annual Individual. Defending PoY Jatin Mehta and two-time PoY Louise Wood are in a tight battle for third, some way behind.

The Karnkowski-Klopp partnership has the largest lead ever at this stage for Leading Pair, having won more often than any other pair while also amassing more than double any other pair's second-place finishes. Al Guntermann-Carl Yohans in second place have a comfortable margin over Rita Brieger-Harold Miller and Billie Hecker-Joe Pagerino.

Van Dyke Cup Preliminaries: Of the ten quarterfinalists, eight form four regular partnerships: Karnkowski-Klopp, Guntermann-Yohans, Bob Hawes-Jon Ingersoll and Billie Hecker-Muriel Romero. Louise Wood and Carrie Schnee round out the top ten. Robert and/or Tad should have a large edge in carryover in the finals. Only one of twelve previous finals has not included either Jon or Muriel (and four times both), though neither has won this cup yet.

FRIDAY

Marge Simson and Louise Wood are neck-and-neck for Player of the Year, with the title likely depending on which of them makes up more ground in the other's strongest category. Larry Stern

has a fair chance to advance from third place.

The pairs competition is similarly close between Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern and Arlene Leshine-Gert Pedersen, who are well ahead of the field. Arlene is also in the #3 pair with Shirley Fruchter, as Janice Bruce-Carl Yohans and Marshall and Teresita Holley round out the top five.

Reynolds Cup Preliminaries: Louise Wood, trying to win this cup for the fifth time, has a fair lead over 2004 champion Arlene Leshine entering the quarterfinals. Billie Hecker and Muriel Romero in third and fourth join Louise in the quarterfinals of the Van Dyke Cup as well. Marge Simson (5th), Beverly Tootell (8th), or Mary Connolly (10th) could pick up her first win. Robert Klopp eliminated Larry Stern by less than 1.5 matchpoints to become the last remaining male. Fredda Kelly and Muriel Lipman both last won a cup in 2005.

SPECIAL EVENT: Fredda Kelly's family held the 16th annual edition of her 50th birthday party at Racebrook Country Club on July 20, featuring an 8.5 table Individual with an extremely close finish. Jinny Goggin defeated Fredda by less than five hundredths of a masterpoint, with Robert Klopp and Larry Stern also both fewer than two points out of winning.

In less happy news, we regret to add Ann Honig to the list of our much-missed departed. Our losses this year include:

GINNY ANDERSON: Possibly the fastest player in the state of Connecticut, and well-known at tournaments for playing on teams with the three Sherrys. Ginny's most frequent partners included Mila Sherry, Mary Cohart, Morse Ginsberg and Norman Silver. Ginny inherited the 2001 Memory Bowl when Morse died and won the 2003 Claiborn Cup when her partner Norman bid and made a slam in the last round. By autumn last year she gradually stopped attending.

JUDY KRAMER: One of the quieter players better known at the shoreline games. Judy only played regularly for two or three years early in the decade, but swept to an easy win in the 2002 Claiborn Cup. Later she would play occasionally, often with Arlene Leshine, health permitting, though she did not often get to choose a Chinese lunch for the post-Friday-game repast.

HELEN MOLLOY: Took up duplicate as a senior when she had to give up hiking and golf. Helen was Friday's co-Player of the Year in 2002. She won the Helen Frank Cup in 2005 and the Claiborn Cup this April, becoming our ninth multiple cup winner. Her wide range of successful partnerships stretched from Bernie Lipman and Sol Silver to Fredda Kelly. Her off-days (including Sol-like irregular takeout doubles) were increasing a bit this year, but she still had many good results right up to her accidental death in July.

ANN HONIG: Never quite mastered the concept of deciding definitively what she was going to call before pulling something out of the bidding box. Ann tied with Val Dyer for the Friday Player of the Year in 1991. She had a long-running summer partnership with Ida Fidler when Ida was up from Florida, and also had good results in occasional games with Norman Silver and, more recently, Rosemarie Tilney. Despite increasing health concerns, Ann played fairly regularly with Ida this season until a couple of months ago.

HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Sunday November 23 is Hartford Bridge Club Day at the Boston Nationals and Chairperson Marilyn Noll and her very creative committee have developed a very exciting day for all the attendees to the event.

Three of the sessions are named after distinguished members of the Hartford Bridge Club. The 10 am and 1 pm Stratified Fast Open Pairs will honor former national championship bridge player Howard Merblum, who passed away earlier this year. The 1 pm and 7:30 pm Stratified Open Pairs will honor our oldest member Louise Zachs, who recently celebrated her 105th birthday! And one session will be termed Directors Fun and Fair Game Stratified 299er Swiss Teams in honor of our club manager Donna Feir.

Be sure to stop by the HBC's booth for some truly hot promotional give-aways. There, you can also see visuals about our 500-member club, which is the largest and oldest bridge club in New England.

To quote our new HBC president Louis Brown, "You won't be disappointed."



Hartford Sectional 199ers Sessions

On Saturday, September 13, 2008, at the annual Jeff Feldman Memorial Sectional held at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford, CT, the Connecticut Bridge Association held a special "199ers' Party" with games for players with fewer than 200 masterpoints at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. These games were a smashing success, with a total of 31.5 tables playing in the two sessions, more than in either the Flight A/X pairs or the Flight B/C pairs held at the same times.

Overall, 80 players came for either both or one of the sessions; 46 of these players won masterpoints. The total masterpoints awarded for these two games was 52.18 silver points. **Jo Sue and Eugene Coppa** won the most masterpoints, 2.76 silver points, with **Donna Favreau and Christine Pumo** coming in a very close 2nd winning 2.71 silver points.

Supported by the Jeff Feldman Memorial Fund, special hospitality was given to the players, including bridge gifts, a free lunch, a bridge lesson/talk, and trophies for the winners in each stratum for the best results over both sessions.

Winning the trophies for the 100-200 stratum were **Donna Favreau and Christine Pumo**. Trophies for the 50-100 stratum were given to **Jo Sue and Eugene Coppa**. Finally, in the 0-50

stratum, **Lila Englehart and Alice Rowland** took home the trophies for the best results over both sessions. Special congratulations to these players for their outstanding performance. A list of the top overall performances over both sessions in each stratum follows.

A special thanks to the many people who helped make this event such a success. Many volunteers gave time, money, and other donations so that everyone would have a great time. Thanks go to **Ausra Geaski, Susan Seckinger and Mary Witt** from the Connecticut Bridge Association. **Joy Bacci** donated the trophies given to the overall winners and **Helen Pawlowski** donated her time to give the lecture between sessions. Thanks also to the ACBL, which administers the Jeff Feldman Fund, **Rich DeMartino** for making the arrangements with the ACBL for the Jeff Feldman Fund to provide special funding and **Sue Miguel** for coming all the way from Rhode Island to direct.

Lastly, a very special and overall thanks to **Bill Watson**, who arranged everything, publicized the event, obtained the food and gifts, and served as overall master of ceremonies. His efforts were the key behind the overwhelming success of this great event.

Overall Winners (for 2 sessions) from the 100-200 Stratum

- 1st **Donna Favreau and Christine Pumo**
- 2nd Joe Sue and Eugene Coppa (0.12 matchpoints behind 1st overall)
- 3rd Gary Cohen and Margaret Mahland
- 4th Margaret Molwitz and Walt Rinehart
- 5th Marvin Lerman and Diane Storey
- 6th John Morrin and Sidney Keller

Overall Winners (for 2 sessions) from the 50-100 Stratum

- 1st **Donna Favreau and Christine Pumo**
- 2nd Jo Sue Coppa and Eugene Coppa
- 3rd Lila Englehart and Alice Rowland
- 4th Lawrence Eppler and Cheery McLaughlin
- 5th Nancy Brown and Lynda Hennessey

Overall Winners (for 2 sessions) from 0-50 Stratum

- 1st **Lila Englehart and Alice Rowland**
- 2nd Nancy Brown and Lynda Hennessey
- 3rd Bunny Mostad and Debra Alderson

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 January 3, 2009.

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

<http://www.ctbridge.org>

If you would like to receive *The Kibitzer* via e-mail, let us know.

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

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