

THE KIBITZER February 2010

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Volume 14 • Number 1



Returning the Compliment

by Harold Feldheim

In certain not-so-easy play and defense problems, paying careful attention to the bidding can give away the secret of the hand. Consider the interesting problems of this seemingly simple hand from an International IMP Open Pairs.

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: North-South

NORTH

♠ J 4
♥ A 7 6
♦ 10 8 3
♣ A Q J 7 6

WEST

♠ A 10 9 8 5 2
♥ 8 3 2
♦ Q 2
♣ 3 2

EAST

♠ K 7
♥ J 10 9 4
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ K 10 8

SOUTH

♠ Q 6 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 5 4
♣ 9 5 4

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠10

After West's 2♠ opening, South's balancing 2NT best describes the flat nature of his hand. With close to an opening bid, North has no trouble raising partner to game. This seems like a very simple hand and indeed, most of the time, it was. Whenever South declared 3NT, a spade was led. At the majority of these tables, East won the spade king and returned a spade. West won the ace and cleared the suit, but now South had

an easy time of it. By merely losing the finesse to the club king, he guaranteed ten tricks; one spade, three hearts, two diamonds, and four clubs.

At the remaining minority of the tables, the play took an interesting turn as East took cognizance of the bidding and ducked West's opening lead. South accepted the unexpected largesse and won his queen. However, he was not out of the woods. To fulfill his contract, he needed to bring home the club suit. On this basis, he attempted the finesse. East won the king and returned his last spade, the king. Needless to say, West overtook, and cashed four more spades for a one trick set.

But this very alert defense was not the end of the story. One South decided to beware of Greeks bearing gifts, and that it was better to give than to receive. On this basis, he returned the compliment by declining a free trick and ducking the spade 10. Now of course the spade suit was hopelessly blocked and South could not be prevented from taking nine tricks; three hearts, two diamonds, and four clubs.

This is a good lesson for paying attention to the bidding. Bridge is a battle of intellects which keeps us playing this occasionally marvelous and usually frustrating game.



2010 Calendar

FEBRUARY

2 Day Unit-Wide Championship
4 Day Local Split Championship
6 Afternoon ACBL International Fund Game
10-15 New England Knockout Regional, Cromwell, CT
22 Day ACBL International Fund Senior Game
26-28 Winter in Connecticut Sectional, Hamden, CT

MARCH

3-9 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)
11-21 Spring Nationals, Reno, NV
17 Night ACBL-wide Charity Game
26 Day Unit-Wide Championship
29 Night Local Championship

APRIL

1 Night Local Split Championship
12 Night Local Split Championship
16 Day Unit-Wide Championship
23-25 Day Connecticut Spring Sectional, Hamden, CT
28 - May 2 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional, N. Falmouth, MA

MAY

April 28 - 2 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional, N. Falmouth, MA
10 Afternoon Unit-wide Championship

13 Afternoon ACBL International Fund Game
14 Day Local (Split) Championship
26-31 New York City Regional, New York, NY

JUNE

4 Night Worldwide Bridge Contest
5 Day Worldwide Bridge Contest Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)
7-13 Unit-Wide Championship
21-27 New England Summer Regional, Sturbridge, MA

JULY

1 Night Local (Split) Championship
6 Night Local (Split) Championship
14 Day Unit-Wide Championship
22- Aug 1 ACBL Summer Nationals, New Orleans, LA
23 Night ACBL International Fund Game

AUGUST

3 Day Unit-Wide Championship
9 Night Local (Split) Championship
20-22 Summer Sectional, Greenwich, CT
17 Night Local (Split) Championship
24 Day Local Championship

SEPTEMBER

1-6 New England Fall Regional, Nashua, NH

continued on pg. 3

Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe – Number 13 – Beyond Point Count A Concise Guide to Additional Factors in Hand Evaluation



by Al Wolf

In this article, I'll depart from the usual format of presenting a hand or two of special interest in order to give the professor an opportunity to expound on one of his favorite topics: hand evaluation. The main intent of this article is to improve the bidding judgment of up-and-coming players. When faced with a close judgment call such as whether to invite game or slam, or whether to accept or decline such an invitation, what factors beyond simple point count should be considered?

Facing a distributional partner:

First, opposite a partner who has shown a highly distributional hand, you can throw points out the window. When partner has made an opening 3-level preempt or has bid unusual no-trump or Michaels, look to have **in excess of three** pretty sure playing tricks in order to raise to game.

It is important to consider vulnerability and to know partner's preempt style when making these judgments. If partner is highly disciplined in making vulnerable preempts, then you can relax this requirement slightly. On the other hand, if partner is known to make undisciplined preempts (especially non-vulnerable), then you need to make this requirement more stringent.

For purposes of counting "pretty sure" playing tricks, here are some guidelines:

- Count one for any honor queen or higher in partner's suit(s).
- Count quick tricks for holdings outside of partner's suit(s):
A = 1; AK = 2; AQ = 1½;
KQ = 1; K = ½, but discount these last 2 holdings slightly (without the ace).
- With decent trump support, count one for an outside singleton, two for a void. This may be adjusted based on the opponents' bidding and extra trump length. This hand, for example, ♠KQxx ♥Axxx ♦x ♣Axxxx is worth four pretty sure playing tricks and is a reasonable raise of a preemptive

3♠ to 4♠, despite having only 10 HCP, which is a hand not worth an opening bid (by most players' standards).

But, this hand, ♠KQxx ♥KQxx ♦Qx ♣KQxx is worth less than three pretty sure playing tricks (slightly discounting the KQ combinations) and is not good enough to raise 3♠ to 4♠, despite 14 HCP and a hand surely worth an opening bid. Perhaps at IMP scoring where the premium for making game (especially if vulnerable) is significant, a raise to game could be considered. Partner could have something like seven spades to the A J 10, and the ♦K, making the game a 50% chance on the spade finesse.

Intermediate cards in opponents' suit:

The remaining considerations can all be used to make slight adjustments to point count to help decide whether to take a more aggressive or a more conservative action when point count leaves you on the fence.

Here is some guidance on the value of intermediate honors in a suit bid by the opponents:

- Devalue an isolated Q or J in the opponents suit (especially a doubleton).
- Consider which opponent is likely to have strength in the suit in question. Give full value to honor holdings behind that opponent, but devalue honor holdings in front of that opponent.

Example 1: Partner opens 1♠ and the next hand overcalls 2♦. What do you do with:

- ♠Kxxx ♥AJxx ♦Qx xxx
- ♠Kxxx ♥AJxx ♦xx Qxx

Both hands have excellent 4-card trump support and 10 HCP. With hand 1, devalue the ♦Q and be content with a simple raise to 2♠. With hand 2, cue-

bid diamonds (or take whatever action indicates a limit (invitational) raise in spades).

Example 2: You open 1♣, the next hand bids 1♥, and partner bids 1♠. The next hand passes. What do you do with:

- ♠KQxx ♥AQx ♦x Kxxxx
- ♠KQxx ♥Axx ♦x KQxxx

Both hands have 14 HCP, and surely some spade raise is in order. With 1, devalue the ♥Q (in front of the heart bidder), and be content with 2 Spades. With 2 make the jump raise to 3♠, counting the full 14 HCP plus three for the singleton diamond.

Source of tricks:

Having a long running suit can go a long way to make up for a marginal holding in high cards. Thus, ♠xx ♥xxx ♦AKxxxx ♣xx is worth a raise to 3NT over partner's 1NT opening. A common way to account for this is to count extra points for long suits; one point for the fifth card in a suit, and one more point for each additional card above five. Thus the hand above evaluates to being worth nine points, not seven.

Likewise, ♠Kx ♥AJx ♦xxx ♣KQJxx may be worth an upgrade to open 1NT, even if you play a normal 15-17 range.

Similarly, slams can often be made with minimal high card points when there is a good trump suit, a secondary source of tricks, and controls in the other suits.

Suit "texture" - tens and nines:

Give some extra credit to tens and nines, especially in suits accompanied by higher honors. For example, what to do with 1 or 2 when partner has raised your 1NT opening to 2NT, inviting game?

- ♠KJ109 ♥Axx ♦QJx ♣AJx
- ♠KJxx ♥Axx ♦QJx ♣AJx

Both hands are 16 HCP, flat distribution, differing only by the possession of the ♠10 and ♠9 in hand 1. At matchpoint scoring, I think only 1 is worth accepting the invitation.

continued on next page

Can't Cost – Chapter 22

by John Stiefel



Bridge is a game for ladies and gentlemen. So, if your nice opponents want you to make an unmakeable game, you should be nice and oblige them. Said another way, it's losing bridge to assume that your opponents never make hopeless plays. In this hand, for instance, South went down in a vulnerable game because he did not give enough credit to his opponents.

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: Both

NORTH

♠ K 7 4

♥ 4

♦ K 6 4

♣ A K 10 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ J 9 3 2

♥ A 8 7 5

♦ A 9 8 7

♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
		All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠10

The auction was simple and straightforward. South's 2NT rebid was invitational and non-forcing and North carried on to game on the basis of his strong club suit that he hoped South would be able to use.

Before playing to trick one, South paused to consider. There would be nine easy tricks if the clubs came in for six tricks. He asked the opponents what their leads were and was told "standard." Since this was an unusual lead, he also checked West's (the leader's) convention card, but nothing unusual was marked. (It's generally a good rule to check the opening leader's convention card if you are confused about the opening lead.) South finally decided to play low to trick one and noted East's signal with the eight before he won his Jack. It looked like West had led the singleton 10 or 10X

and East had 4 or 5 spades to the AQ with no side entry, as nothing else made any sense. So:

Trick 1 – ♠10 led, East encourages with the eight, Jack wins.

Trick 2 – ♣Q, all follow

Trick 3 – Diamond to the King, all follow

Trick 4 – ♣A, all follow

Trick 5 – ♣K, East shows out and discards a heart

At this point, declarer could no longer make his contract. He tried a low diamond from dummy. East, ever helpful, played the Jack and West's ten fell under South's Ace. South's nine then forced out East's Queen to set up South's eight, but that was only South's eighth trick. He later tried to end-play East to lead away from his presumed ♠AQ, but that wasn't successful.

So, South went down one. He took one spade, one heart, three diamonds and three clubs.

Before looking at the complete deal, can you figure out where South went wrong?

continued on pg. 8

Lunatic Fringe from pg. 2

Why are the ten and nine so important? It depends on partner's holding in the suit, but opposite certain holdings, the ten and nine have tremendous value. For example, opposite a holding of xxx, with 1 you are still guaranteed two tricks in the suit, and have a 50% chance of three tricks (assuming entries to dummy are not a problem for finesses against the ♠Q). With 2 you have no guarantee of any tricks in the suit, and need to be very lucky to make two tricks (conceivably three) in the suit.

High cards with the long suits:

Hands that have the high cards in long suits are better than hands with an equal number of points, but high cards concentrated in short suits. Thus, over partner's 1NT opening:

1. ♠Qxx ♥Jx ♦xxx ♣KQxxx
2. ♠Qxx ♥KQ ♦xxx ♣Jxxxx

Hand 1 is worth a raise to 2NT. Hand 2 is not.



Calendar from pg. 1

10-12	Sid Cohen Sectional, Hartford, CT
15 Day	Local (Split) Championship
16 Night	ACBL-wide Instant Match Point
23 Day	Unit-Wide Championship
OCTOBER	
8 Day	Unit-Wide Championship
16 Day	Local (Split) Championship
25-31	Danbury Fall Regional (District 3), Danbury, CT

NOVEMBER

2 Night	Local (Split) Championship
4 Day	Unit-Wide Championship
10-14	New England Regional, Waterbury, CT
17-23	Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)
25-Dec 5	Fall Nationals, Orlando, FL
29 Night	ACBL-wide Charity Game #2

DECEMBER

Nov 25 - 5	Fall Nationals, Orlando, FL
8 Day	Unit-Wide Championship
10-12	Jeff Feldman Sectional, Hamden, CT

13 Day	Local (Split) Championship
26-30	New York City Holiday Regional, New York, NY

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Darien Community Association

A Unit-wide game was held at the DCA on Monday, Decmber 7, 2009. Twenty tables were in play. The winners are:

Flight A

1. Susan Schroeder – Susan Harrison
 2. Janet Soskin – Mary Richardson
 3. Marilyn Giannos – Donna Christensen
 4. John Podkowsky – Richard Sieron
- 5/6 Kathleen Rowland – Penny Glassmeyer
5/6 Bonnie Markowski – Janet McClutchy

Flight B

1. Susan Schroeder – Susan Harrison
 2. Marilyn Giannos – Donna Christensen
 3. Bonnie Markowski – Janet McClutchy
 4. Belinda Metzger – Margaret Molwitz
- 5/6 Brenda Greene – Molly Morgan
5/6 Mimi Van Dyke – Thyra Elliott

Flight C

1. Sue Evans – Sabine Goering
2. Louise Holland – Mim Moynihan
3. Ron Freres – G. Stephen Thoma
4. Ursula Forman – Ruth Johnson

Gloria Sieron, Director

Wee Burn News

The Fall Series was successful for the following pairs:

1. Penny Glassmeyer – Joan Hoben
2. Linda Cleveland – Karen Barrett
3. Mary Richardson – Betty Hodgman
4. Lois Berry – Ann Fuller
5. Marilyn Tjader – Martha Hathaway
6. Lois Karcher – Mary Ellen Mcguire
7. Molly Morgan – Stan Steckler
8. Ellie Spelbrink – Betsy Philips

Winners of the December Charity game were:

1. Linda Cleveland – Karen Barrett
2. Lois Berry – Ann Fuller

Proceeds went to the local charity of the winners choice.

Fourteen teams played in the December 17 Swiss Team event. Winners were:

1. Penny Glassmeyer, Joan Hoben, Jean Thoma, Susie Harrison.
2. Linda Cleveland, Karen Barrett, Janet Soskin, Kathie Rowland

Congratulations to Audrey Cadwallader, who recently became a Life Master.

Mildred Fromm

Bridge Forum (Hamden) Fourth Quarter/Year End Results

TUESDAY

Player of the Year looked like a runaway for Bob Hawes, who was leading in all three categories. Eventually he dropped to third in Consistency, while Louise Wood finished second in all three categories, making Bob's win much closer than expected. Jon Ingersoll, Robert Klopp and Fredda Kelly, who finished 3rd-5th, were all in the top ten in all three categories.

Leading Pair: After several near misses, the Hawes – Ingersoll partnership finally finished the year on top, ahead of Jatin Mehta – Hasmukh Shah, Hill Auerbach – Tracy Selmon and Tad Karnkowski – Robert Klopp. Nobody was in two of the top ten pairs, but Rosemarie Tilney was the only player with two partnerships in the top twelve.

Van Dyke Cup: After some lead exchanges during the middle of the competition, Louise Wood built up a carryover of two top boards for the final and coasted to her fifth win in this competition, though her first since 2005. Jon Ingersoll, who has reached the finals eleven times in fourteen years, finished second again. Shirley Fruchter was third and Al Guntermann, fourth.

FRIDAY

Player of the Year was decided by tiebreaker. Louise Wood and Billie Hecker both finished with an ordinal total of 9, but Louise was ranked higher in two categories out of three and became Friday Player of the Year for the fourth year running. Billie was knocked out by Carl Yohans and Janice Bruce winning the last game of the year, which moved Carl ahead of Billie in the Performance category. Carl finished third, Jinny Goggin fourth, and Fredda Kelly fifth.

Leading Pair: Perennial contenders Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern took the honors by about one second-place finish ahead of sentimental favorites Ida Fidler-Greg Klein, Greg becoming established as Ida's regular partner after the death of Ann Honig last year. Muriel Romero finished in the top five with both Florence Schannon and Louise

Wood, Marge Simson in the top ten with Carl Yohans and Joe Pagerino, and Carl managed three top partnerships, placing in the top ten with Janice Bruce and Arlene Leshine as well as with Marge.

Reynolds Cup: Billie Hecker and Louise Wood both had to overcome Al Guntermann's large carryover lead in the finals. They both did so, scoring well over 60%, with Louise pulling it out in the end on the strength of a huge last round. Winning both the Van Dyke and Reynolds Cups brought Louise's overall total of cup victories to 20.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED STATISTICS AND RESULTS

This year, we had a total of 687 slam bids, of which 431 succeeded (62.74%). 32 grand slams were bid and made. Tracy Selmon was the Grand Slam King with seven (three each with Hill Auerbach and Helen Selmon). When she complained about holding terrible cards in the first game of the year, Inge Bellis' high card points were counted for the entire year. At year's end, Inge had played 1,195 deals, on which she held a total of 12,289 HCP (10.28 per hand). Next year we count Jon Ingersoll's HCP.

Memory Bowl: This quickly became a battle between Muriel Romero and Fredda Kelly to see who would break their three-way tie with the late Morse Ginsberg for second place with five cup wins overall. Muriel led into early December, when Fredda took a narrow lead. They stayed neck and neck until Fredda pulled ahead in the last two weeks for her third Memory Bowl win, breaking a four year cupless drought. Shirley Fruchter finished third, Louise Wood fourth and Hank Harman fifth.

Rick Townsend

Woodway DBC

Fall Series winners are:

First	Susan Mayo and Karen Barrett
Second	Millie Fromm and Ann Fuller
Third	Stan Steckler and Molly Morgan
Fourth	Joan Hoben and Jean Thoma
Fifth	Mary Richardson and Martha Hathaway

Joan Martin

Memory Bowl Hand by Rick Townsend

Last year's Memory Bowl champion, Rosemarie Tilney, selected Ann Honig as this year's Champion's Honoree. Ann played almost exclusively on Fridays. She tied with Val Dyer for Player of the Year in 1991. Ann was Ida Fidler's regular spring-autumn partner for many years, and had her best winter results with Norman Silver. After Norman died, Rosemarie became Ann's most frequent and successful partner during Ida's absence.

Ann was not a particularly slow player when she remembered that it was her turn, but she was among the slowest bidders. She never quite became completely accustomed to bidding boxes, being unable to get out of the bad habit of pausing for half a minute with a call half pulled out of the box before she put it back and selected something else. After several years of unheeded reprimands, almost everyone accepted that she was not going to break the habit. Ann was also notorious for managing to bid with a hand from the wrong board, which she would do about twice a year on average. In any event, here is Ann in action.

Board 13

NORTH (Ida Fidler)

♠ Q 10 8
♥ A K 10 4
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ J 10

WEST

♠ K 9
♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ A K 8 5

EAST

♠ A 5
♥ Q J 5
♦ KJ 7 4
♣ Q 7 6 4

SOUTH (Ann Honig)

♠ A 5	J 7 6 4 3 2
♥ 7 3 2	6 2
♦ A J 10	10 9
♣ A Q 9 3 2	9 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥9

Ida opened the bidding with 1♦ and East passed in tempo. Ann, who'd been debating whether or not to open 1NT, hadn't noticed Ida's opening bid or East's pass. Looking up and seeing the auction, she reached into the bidding box and pulled out 2♣. But then she thought

that Ida would probably bid 2NT and declare the hand, and Ida was looking a little tired, as it was the last round of the game. It would probably be better to bid 2NT and declare the hand herself. After all, West looked like the sort of person who would lead a spade against 3NT. After going back and forth in her mind for a moment longer, Ann replaced 2♣ and bid 2NT instead. Both West and East saw that the bid was marked "Forcing" on Ann's convention card, although neither of them knew that Ida was not Rosemarie, whose name was on the card. Ida's card, with no name, was correctly marked "Invitational," but the card was so old and the pencil markings so faint it could hardly be made out. After West passed, Ida, who never refused an invitation, bid 3NT, ending the auction.

West led the ♥9 to dummy's ace. Ann followed with two rounds of clubs. As both East and West had seen Ann's 2♣ bid, it didn't occur to either of them to cover, and each took the other's count as a doubleton. Ann followed with a low diamond to her ten. She then paused, wondering whether she should try the third round of clubs, cross over to dummy for another diamond finesse, or play diamonds out of her hand.

As Ann considered, Ida looked across and noticed for the first time that Ann was playing with red cards while she and E-W were all playing with grey cards. And there was Ann's hand still in the board. With no time to lose, Ida picked up Muriel Lipman's cane from the next table and accidentally knocked East's bidding box off the table. Apologizing profusely, Ida then managed to swing the other side of the cane and knock off her own box. As East and West both knelt, she stood up, trying to apologize, and managed deftly to hit the remaining two boxes as well. East, West and Ann all assured Ida that it was quite all right, and she should just not worry and they would pick everything up. While the others were on their knees, Ida quickly returned Ann's incorrect hand to the next board, took out Ann's correct hand, put the ♥2, ♣2, ♣3 and ♦10 face down and sorted the remaining cards before she sat, still babbling incoherent apologies.

After everyone reviewed the previous trick, Ann thought that her hand didn't quite look like what she thought she'd held. Then she noticed that the ♠4 was

sorted away from its own suit with the ♣9. Muttering that she had a card in the wrong place, Ann started to push the errant spade into its proper place, then decided she might as well lead it. West, who was certain that Ann held the ace, placed East with the jack and played the nine, covered by dummy's ten. East, thinking that Ann seemed the type who would have called for the queen had she held K-J-x(-x), also played low. Then came a partial moment of clarity when Ann called for the spade queen, crashing the ace and king.

Both East and West looked confused. East then picked up Ida's card, squinted at it, and asked about Ann's bid of 2NT. Ida explained that it was invitational, but that she'd bid 3NT because she never refused an invitation. West wanted to ask whether that meant that Ida effectively played everything as forcing, while East decided that West's spades must have been KJ97. No real harm done. As it seemed that the most constructive thing to do would be to establish a heart trick, East returned the ♥Q. Ann won in dummy, ran her spades, and conceded the last two tricks.

While East and West were both too stunned to say anything, Ida opened the score sheet. She saw a solid wall of 660s. Most Norths had not bothered to identify West as the declarer, or, if they had done so, the left portion of the W was so light or hastily written that it looked like an N. Forgetting to write an S after 3NT, Ida automatically put her 630 in the same column as all the 660s, announcing that it was a bottom board, as everyone else had made five.

As both East and West had pieced together that Ida was really getting a top board whether her score was entered as +630 or -630, neither thought it necessary to correct the score. West commented that there must have been a heart lead at every table, after which there was a squeeze.

Ann looked confused, and remarked that she thought she had played the hand well, and didn't see where she could have gotten another trick. East, after taking another peek at his cards, said that she might have tried playing a second round of diamonds when she was in dummy with the ten of spades, but that that would have been very risky and he probably would have played it exactly the way she had done. 

An Amazing Tale of Trump Promotion

by Brett Adler



This hand comes from the 2nd qualifying session of the Von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs at the Washington DC Nationals this year, and would baffle anyone to find the specific card that sets the contract unless you are a frequent reader of Victor Mollo's Bridge in the Menagerie series (or you read the title of this article).

I sat West, and Larry Lau was East. I don't know the name of the person who declared the hand, but at least we found out he had a sense of humor as we all laughed at trick thirteen.

Hand 19
Dealer: South
Vulnerability: East-West

NORTH
♠ K 4 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ 8 7 5 4 2
♣ Q 6

WEST
♠ J 7 6
♥ 4
♦ K Q J 9 6
♣ 9 8 7 2

EAST
♠ 5 3
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ A 10 3
♣ A 10 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 9 8
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ - - -
♣ K J 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
		All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♦K

South opened 2♣, and after a 2♦ response from North, rebid 2♠. North bid 4♠ which ended the auction and at all other tables the result was 10, 11, or 12 tricks depending on whether West led their singleton heart or a diamond, and depending on whether East held up the ♣A to deny an extra entry to dummy for heart finesses.

I led the ♦K and declarer ruffed in hand followed by a club to the Queen and Ace. Larry now played ♦A and declarer ruffed again. South then played the ♥A, followed by the ♥K which I ruffed to play a third round of diamonds.

Declarer ruffed for the third time and played the ♣K and ♣J to pitch dummy's remaining heart. This was followed by a heart which I ruffed with the ♠7, over-ruffed by dummy with the ♠K. Declarer could still make the contract by playing a trump to hand (drawing my last trump), and ruffing a heart which would give him five spade tricks in hand, one heart, two heart ruffs in dummy, and two clubs. But, instead, declarer ruffed a fourth round of diamonds back to hand as East pitched a club, followed by a fourth round of hearts which I was able to ruff in front of dummy with ♠J for the third

defensive trick.

This was a remarkable hand in that trumps were never led, and at trick 12 I led ♦J in the following position:

NORTH
♠ 4 2
♥ - - -
♦ - - -
♣ - - -

WEST
♠ - - -
♥ - - -
♦ J
♣ 9

EAST
♠ 5 3
♥ - - -
♦ - - -
♣ - - -

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ 2
♦ - - -
♣ - - -

Declarer valiantly tried dummy's ♠4 over-ruffed by East's ♠5 and his own ♠A. This meant that at trick 13, Larry was able to set the contract by over-ruffing dummy's ♠2 with the ♠3!



Milestones and Congratulations

New Life Masters

Audrey Cadwallader
Gary Cohen
Ian Fuller
Frank Macri
Belinda Metzger
Victor Tiganila
Charlotte Zultowsky

Bronze Life Masters (500 MPs)

Joan Danoff
Stuart Danoff
Jo-Anne Kerr
Frank Macri
Carl Palmer

Silver Life Masters (1000 MPs)

Marjorie Ehrenfreund
Linda Green
Ruth Kuzma
Susan Tane
Charlotte Zultowsky

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Ann Cady

2009 Monroe Magnus Results

The Connecticut Bridge Association provides the **Monroe Magnus trophy** to the person totaling the greatest number of masterpoints at the Connecticut sectionals held in the calendar year. The winner for 2009 was Richard DeMartino. Congratulations, again!

- 1 78.89 Richard DeMartino
- 2 55.60 Allan Clamage
- 3 48.97 Larry Bausher
- 4 41.64 Bernard Schneider
- 5 40.84 Linda Green
- 6 37.86 Lawrence Lau
- 7 37.27 John Stiefel
- 8 36.97 Allan Wolf
- 9 34.56 Brett Adler
- 10 34.36 Victor King

Results



UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP December 2, 2009

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **George Holland – Lou Carbone**
- 2 Sarah Budds – Allan Clamage
- 3 Dianne Elie – Nancy Earel
- 4 Om Chhabra – Jatin Mehta
- 5 Dixie Mastrandrea – Louis Brown
- 6 Charles Halpin – Mark Stasiewski

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **George Holland – Lou Carbone**
- 2 Om Chhabra – Jatin Mehta
- 3 Paul Carrier – Daniel Nocera
- 4 Beth Rotko – Joan Brault
- 5 Judy Williams – William Jaeger
- 6 Reginald Harvey – Thomas Lorch

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Beth Rotko – Joan Brault**
- 2 Jo-Anne Kerr – Laura Somers
- 3 James McGarr – Carol Tellar
- 4 Barbara Paolini – James Burch
- 5 Charles Heckman – James Larkin

JEFF FELDMAN MEMORIAL SECTIONAL Hamden, CT December 11-13, 2009

FRIDAY MORNING OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|-----|---|-------------------------------|
| | | | 1 L. Condon – J. Mehta |
| | 1 | 1 | 2 A. Hunt – M. Hunt |
| | | | 3 F. Blachowski – J. Pantoja |
| | | | 4 J. Pearson – M. Colchamiro |
| | | | 5 C. Michael – L. Russman |
| | | | 6 T. Lubman – B. MacInnis |
| | 2 | | J. Force – C. Stabinsky |
| | 3 | 2 | G. Smedes – S. Smedes |
| | 4/5 | 3 | R. Talbot – L. May |
| | 4/5 | | J. Williams – R. Blair |
| | 6 | 4 | M. Mahland – N. Healy |
| | | 5 | M. Karbovanec – D. Storey |

FRIDAY MORNING SENIOR PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | 1 C. Graham – H. Kobernusz |
| | | | 2 D. Greenwald – N. Cohen |
| | | | 3 C. Zultowsky – M. Leclair |
| | | | 4 H. Lawrence – M. Bolgar |
| | 5/6 | | B. Loop – E. Ranard |
| | 5/6 | | J. Gischner – J. Smith |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 J. Morrin – L. Bowman |
| | 2 | | N. Augenstein – S. Augenstein |
| | 3 | | J. Goldberg – D. Katzman |
| | 4 | | C. Heckman – R. Klopp |
| | 5 | | M. Witt – L. Kesselman |
| | 2 | | R. Biondino – R. Hawes |
| | 3 | | J. Pagerino – I. Kaplan |

FRIDAY AFTERNOON OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 J. Stiefel – R. DeMartino |
| | | | 2 A. Wolf – H. Zusman |

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 3 | 1 | | K. Harrison – P. Skenderian |
| 4 | 2 | | L. Green – D. Blackburn |
| 5 | | | C. Michael – G. Carroll |
| 6 | | | K. Wiland – D. Doub |
| | 3 | | J. Williams – R. Blair |
| 4 | 1 | | R. Derrah – S. Derrah |
| 5 | 2 | | D. Fosberg – E. Garner |
| 6 | 3 | | H. Winston – M. Goldfinger |
| 4 | | | K. Largay – S. Gillin |
| 5 | | | J. Fouad – K. Olsen Nye |

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SENIOR PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | L. Stern – B. Harvey |
| 2 | | | J. Stiefel – S. DeMartino |
| 3 | | | B. Loop – E. Ranard |
| 4 | | | J. Gischner – J. Smith |
| 5 | | | S. Corning – D. Elie |
| 6/7/2 | | | D. Brueggemann – E. Watstein |
| 6/7 | | | D. Stiegler – J. Farwell |
| | 3 | | F. Gilbert – A. Housholder |
| | 4 | | T. Fidler – D. Lombard |
| | 5 | 2 | R. Biondino – R. Hawes |

SATURDAY MORNING STRATIFIED A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | Names |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | 1 A. Rothenberg – R. DeMartino |
| | 2 | 1 W. Titley – S. Corning |
| | 3 | A. Clamage – H. Zusman |
| | 4 | J. Pearson – M. Colchamiro |
| | 5 | 2 L. Meyers – J. Lowe |
| | 6 | 3 D. Pochos – E. Plato |
| | | 4 L. Sommer – K.J. Sommer |
| | | 5 B. Reich – B. Lewis |

SATURDAY MORNING STRATIFIED B/C PAIRS

- | B | C | Names |
|---|-----|---------------------------------|
| | | 1 J. Proulx – O. Bigelow |
| | 2 | 1 R. Bloom – L. Bloom |
| | 3 | M. Mahland – I.A. Borcea |
| | 4/5 | T. Brown – L. Brown |
| | 4/5 | F. Kelly – S. Fruchter |
| | 6 | 2 E. Inman – M. Eisenberg |
| | | 3 H. Shields – M. Hackett |
| | | 4 S. Zieky – C. Zieky |
| | | 5 D. Wright – T. Karnkowski |

SATURDAY MORNING 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 1 | D. Bauman – W. Rinehart |
| | 2 | | S. Hart – A. Gardener |
| | 3 | 2 | 1 S. Werblood – M. Goldberg |
| | 4 | 3 | T. Elliott – M. Van Dyke |
| | 5 | 4 | J. Gorby – G. Gorby |
| | | 5 | 2 L. Bell – M. Arnold |

SATURDAY AFTERNOON STRATIFIED A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | Names |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| | | 1 J. Boyer – R. Stayman |
| | | 2 J. Fieldman – V. King |

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|
| 3 | | J. Pearson – M. Colchamiro |
| 4 | | L. Bausher – S. Becker |
| 5 | | S. Gladyszak – A. Borgschulte |
| 6 | 1 | D. Rock – S. Smith |
| | 2/3 | D. Montgomery – H. Lawrence |
| | 2/3 | C. Graham – A. Hummel |
| | 4 | T. Gerchman – A. Geaski |
| | 5 | D. Pochos – E. Plato |

SATURDAY AFTERNOON STRATIFIED B/C PAIRS

- | B | C | Names |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | D. Fosberg – E. Garner |
| 2 | | T. Brown – L. Brown |
| 3 | | K. Barrett – D. Thompson |
| 4 | 2 | B. Buehler – G. Brochu |
| 5 | 3 | S. Zieky – C. Zieky |
| 6 | | T. Lubman – E. Gimon |
| | 4 | M. Eisenberg – E. Inman |
| | 5 | D. Wright – T. Karnkowski |

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | Names |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | 1 B. Herring – D. Teixeira |
| | 2 | 1 D. Bauman – W. Rinehart |
| | 3 | 2 D. Doyle – C. Kesmodel |
| | 4 | 3 B. Kaplan – J. Kaplan |

BRACKETED TEAMS

BRACKET 1

- | Rank | Names |
|------|--|
| 1 | A. Rothenberg, R. DeMartino, S. Earl, S. Becker |
| 2 | A. Cady, H. Feldheim, J. Dillenberg, J. Goldberg |
| 3 | A. Wolf, R. Friedman, F. Schneider, B. Schneider |

BRACKETED TEAMS

BRACKET 2

- | Rank | Names |
|------|--|
| 1 | P. Miller, L. Green, N. Tkacz, J. Schiaroli |
| 2 | D. Noack, G. Seckinger, R. Rising, J. Farwell |
| 3 | A. Hummel, C. Graham, H. Kobernusz, S. Rodricks |

BRACKETED TEAMS

BRACKET 3

- | Rank | Names |
|------|---|
| 1 | O. Bigelow, Jr, T. Proulx, C. Dann, E. Douthit |
| 2 | R. Klopp, B. Harvey, G. Holland, R. Hawes |
| 3 | J. Bruce, E. Olson, J. Orr, A. Guntermann |
| 4/6 | J. Pagerino, R. Manger-Tilney, H. Shields, D. Kerwin |
| 4/6 | M. Molwitz, R. Aspinwall, B. Moore, P. Brasher |
| 4/6 | M. Wavada, S. Smith, L. Kesselman, M. Witt |



Can't Cost from page 3

The complete deal was:

NORTH
 ♠ K 7 4
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K 6 4
 ♣ A K 10 5 3 2

WEST EAST
 ♠ Q 10 6 ♠ A 8 5
 ♥ K 10 6 3 ♥ Q J 9 2
 ♦ 10 2 ♦ Q J 5 3
 ♣ J 8 7 6 ♣ 9 4

SOUTH
 ♠ J 9 3 2
 ♥ A 8 7 5
 ♦ A 9 8 7
 ♣ Q

To see where South went wrong, ask the question: "How can it cost to lead a spade to the seven at trick two?" The answer to the question is that the seven

will force East's Ace and South will take THREE spades, one heart, two diamonds and three clubs for nine tricks. He has two red suit Aces as entries to his hand, one to win East's return and the other to get back to his hand for the fourth round of spades after leading to dummy's King.

At first South felt justified in going down because the hand had no play for 3NT without the aid of both opponents at trick one. (Note that East need only play the ♠5 to trick one and South will have no play for his game.) Later he realized that there is never justification for going down in a cold game regardless of when or how the game became cold.

What happened at the other table? South's teammate made the same silly opening lead of the ♠10 and East played the Ace! So the declarer at the other table made 3NT easily and South's team lost a vulnerable game swing!



Club News from page 4

Hartford Bridge Club

As reported in the November Kibitzer, recognized bridge authority and regular contributor to the monthly ACBL Bridge Magazine Mike Lawrence spent October 11 at the Hartford Bridge Club offering in-depth discussions on a varied number of bridge-oriented topics.

The day was a huge success for the eighty members who attended the session. Under the auspices of HBC vice-president Bill Watson, Mike Lawrence has generously consented to donate a host of his texts on bridge to the newly-formed Mike Lawrence Library which will be housed at the Hartford Bridge Club with Partab Makhijami its librarian. Bill has arranged for the display case for the reference material which will be available for borrowing by club members at no cost. "We anticipate adding more material to the facility as donations will allow," Bill said.



**We are still looking for
a Tournament Manager.
If you have an interest,
contact a CBA Board Member.**

THE KIBITZER

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

All comments, news, items related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next *Kibitzer* by April 15, 2010.

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in blazing color
at the CT bridge site:
<http://www.ctbridge.org>**

**If you would like to receive
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twproulx@optonline.net**

Your CBA

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Secretary	Debbie Noack	203-380-0107
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Tournament Manager	Your Name Can Go Here!	
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Recorder	Leonard Russman	203-245-6850

CBA Web site <http://www.ctbridge.org>

Your Link to the Board

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

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Panhandle	Sandy DeMartino	203-637-2781
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