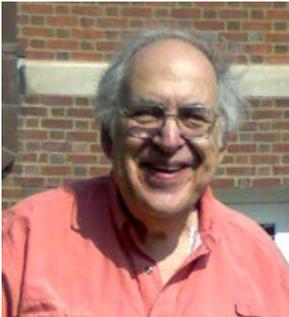


THE KIBITZER

May 2011

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Playing the Percentages

by Harold Feldheim

There's a great deal of luck in bridge. You bid a game dependent on a finesse but the finesse loses. In the very next round, you languish in a part score only to discover that as the cards lie, game was icy cold. These things happen but more often than not, so-called "unlucky hands" turn out to be merely misplayed hands. The following interesting hand is from a Flight A knockout match.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: Both

NORTH
♠ K J 10
♥ A Q 3
♦ K Q 3
♣ A Q 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 5
♥ K 9 6
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ 5

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

The bidding:

Holding 21 high card points, North knew that a least a small slam was in the cards. Playing 2/1, two clubs was game forcing with the jump to three spades showing better than a simple preference. The rest of the auction is cuebidding. With all of the first and second round controls theoretically accounted for, North bid 5NT asking partner to bid a grand slam with two out of three top honors in trump. South dutifully bid seven spades, ending the auction.

The play:

At both tables, the opening lead was the ♣J, giving declarer a difficult problem. He had 12 top tricks; five spade tricks, three hearts, three diamonds and the club ace. The 13th trick seemed to depend either on the club finesse of a lucky diamond split. Since the auction marked dummy with the club ace, a skilled West defender might well be underleading the king, putting declarer to a guess at trick one. The alternative was to play for a 3-3 diamond split. Here, the declarers took different paths. At the first table, South determined that while the club finesse was 50%, a 3-3 diamond division was only 36%. On this basis, he finessed the club and went down without a fight. At the second table, South went against the percentages and rose with the club ace playing for either a 3-3 diamond split or a minor-suit squeeze. Unfortunately for declarer, West started with the long diamonds and again, the grand slam failed by a trick. The board was a push – no score either way.

The complete hands:

NORTH
♠ K J 10
♥ A Q 3
♦ K Q 3
♣ A Q 8 3

WEST
♠ 6 3 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ J 9 8 7 6
♣ J10

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10
♣ K 9 7 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 5
♥ K 9 6
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ 5

While both declarers noted that neither of their plans worked, they overlooked the best line of play for the 13th trick. Barring nightmarish side suit splits, this contract would come home anytime the trumps split 3-2, a 68% chance of success. Do you see it?

By ruffing clubs in hand and drawing trumps in dummy, an extra trump trick appears as if by magic. At trick one, win the ace of clubs and ruff a club. Lead a trump to dummy and ruff another club, (high to avoid blockage). Repeat the process by leading another trump to dummy and ruffing the last club in hand. Since you've no trumps left in your hand, cross to a red card in dummy and draw the defender's last trump. You've now taken *six trump tricks*, (three in hand by ruffing clubs and three in dummy), three hearts, three diamonds, and the ace of clubs. This technique, a dummy reversal, is frequently missed. Look for this idea of gaining an extra trump trick by ruffing in the long hand. It occurs more frequently than you might think and, when executed, will produce a very satisfying score.





Can't Cost – Chapter 27

by John Stiefel



In this deal from a recent Sectional Open Pairs event, South found a “can’t cost” play to make a vital overtrick while East and West each missed an opportunity to make a “can’t cost” play that would have stopped the overtrick.

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: None

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	?

South held: ♠Q3, ♥A7654, ♦Q10, ♣A975. What, if anything, should he bid?

No sound player would even consider bidding over a strong NT with this hand. South’s hand is an 8-loser hand, his two suits are weak, he has a clear opening heart lead to make, his queens are not likely to pull their full weight, and his partner has already passed. Bidding could easily lead to -500, -800 or even -1100.

On the other hand, always having sound values isn’t winning matchpoint strategy. Also, matchpoint scoring suggests competing more aggressively when neither side is vulnerable. For example, down 1 for -50 beats 1NT making; down 2 for -100 beats 1NT making 2; 2♥ for +110 beats 1NT down 1 or down 2 and 2♣ for +90 beats 1NT down 1. The odds change, however, if East-West are vulnerable because 2♣ for +90 loses to 1NT down 1 and 2♥ for +110 or +140 loses to 1NT down 2.

At any rate, South chose to bid 2♣ (DONT – showing clubs and another suit) and ended up in 2♥ after North responded 2♦ (pass with diamonds, bid your other suit otherwise). Everyone passed and West led the ♠9 (standard leads).

NORTH

♠ 6 5 2
♥ Q J 3
♦ A K 9 5
♣ J 4 3

SOUTH

♠ Q 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 7 5

Note that North had a good hand for hearts but passed 2♥. He had seen his partner’s DONT bids before.

East won his partner’s ♠9 lead with the ♠K and continued with the ♠A and ♠J. South ruffed the third round as West followed. At tricks 4 and 5, South played the ♦Q and the ♦10 to dummy’s ♦K. Then South led dummy’s ♥Q at trick 6, east covered with the ♥K and South won his ♥A. He then led a heart to dummy’s Jack at trick 7, everyone following. Next he cashed dummy’s ♦A, pitching a club from his hand. Everyone followed, but the ♦J didn’t appear. This was the 5-card ending.

NORTH

♠ - - -
♥ 3
♦ 9
♣ J 4 3

SOUTH

♠ - - -
♥ 7 6
♦ - - -
♣ A 9 7

At this point, South had made his contract but hopes for an overtrick seemed grim. It couldn’t cost to try, however, so he led a low club from dummy to trick 8 and made a “can’t cost” duck when East played the Queen. East now led the ♦J, South ruffed and West overruffed with the ♥10.

West now stopped to think, but it was too late. A spade lead would give South a useful ruff-sluff but, when he played a low club, South ducked in dummy and captured East’s ♣K with his ♣A to make the last three tricks. (The ♣10 would have been no better, as South would have just covered with dummy’s ♣J to set up his ♣9.)

The entire deal was:

NORTH

♠ 6 5 2
♥ Q J 3
♦ A K 9 5
♣ J 4 3

WEST

♠ 9 8 7 4
♥ 10 9 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ 10 8 2

EAST

♠ A K J 10
♥ K 8
♦ J 8 5 4
♣ K Q 6

SOUTH

♠ Q 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 7 5

As noted above, East and then West missed chances to make “can’t cost” plays. When South led a club from dummy to trick 9, it “can’t cost” East to play low. South is known to have three clubs remaining and South will always score a second club trick if he has the 10. So East should play low in case partner has the 10. (If South has the 10, East will still make a club trick.) When East led the ♦J to trick 10, West missed his chance by over-ruffing. (One of my rules is “If you don’t want to be on lead, maybe you shouldn’t take the trick.”) West should decline to overruff and discard a club instead. South can try for an end-play by putting West in with the ♥10 at trick 11, but West will have a good spade to lead to trick 12.





Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe – #16: Beware the Friendly Defense

by Alan Wolf

In today's hand, we'll start off posing a defensive problem. This hand is played at matchpoints, where overtricks are so important.

After bidding of 1NT - 3NT, partner leads the ♥J, which by your lead agreement denies a higher honor. This lead agreement is called "coded 9s and 10s," whereby the lead of one of those two cards promises either zero or two higher, and the lead of the jack indicates none higher. For example, from K J 10 x x, or from 10 9 x, you lead the 10. From A 10 9 x, or from 9 x x, you lead the 9. From J 10 9 x you lead the J.

You hold the East hand.

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

Opening lead: ♥J

Pity partner did not find a spade lead. In any event, declarer wins the ♥Q in dummy, and continues with a club to his king, and the ♣J, forcing your ace. In with the ♣A, consider what you would do next before reading on.

At first glance, the lead of the ♠K seems obvious, setting up spade winners in your hand. But consider: 13 points in dummy, 11 in your hand, and at least 15 in declarer's hand for his 1NT opening bid. That's 39 points accounted for, leaving one for partner, and he led it!

You can't possibly set this contract... you can count sure tricks for declarer: one in spades, three in hearts, two in diamonds and four in clubs, a total of 10 tricks. Surely, if you force out the ♠A, declarer will not jeopardize the contract by taking the diamond finesse, but will cash the ♦A and ♦K and (luckily for him) drop the ♦Q, making the rest of the tricks.

So the correct answer to the defensive problem is to continue hearts, allowing declarer to retain his spade stopper, thereby making it "safe" for him to take the diamond finesse, and possibly enabling you to hold declarer to 10 tricks.

NORTH (Warren)		WEST (Majorca)		EAST (Cecil Horne)	
♠ J 7	♥ Q 5	♠ 8 6 3 2	♥ J 10 9 6	♠ K Q 10 9 5	♥ 8 7 4 3
♥ Q 5	♦ A K J 10	♦ 8 6 3	♦ 3 2	♦ Q 7	♦ A 6
♦ A K J 10	♣ Q 10 7 5 4	♣ 3 2		♣ A 6	
SOUTH (Prof. Lobochevski)					
♠ A 4	♥ A K 2				
♥ A K 2	♦ 9 5 4 2				
♦ 9 5 4 2	♣ K J 9 8				

In the actual play of this hand at the local club game, Cecil Horne made the correct defensive play of a heart continuation at the critical juncture. When the time came to tackle the diamond suit, the Professor thought the matter over. Cecil was a fine player, despite his propensity to make the

expert play at the wrong time. Yet, the spade shift seemed so obvious when Cecil was in with the ♣A. The only reason not to lead spades would be to lure the professor into a losing diamond finesse. Therefore, respecting Cecil's ability, the Professor played off the A♦ and K♦, dropping the Queen, and tying for top on the board.

The moral of the hand is to be highly suspicious when a good player makes a play that seems to be very helpful to your side. He is surely up to something, and you may well be able to infer what he is up to, and counteract his efforts.

A similar situation arises when a defender presents you with a finesse you could not take yourself. For example, consider a holding of A 10 x x in dummy opposite your KQ doubleton holding. Having cashed the KQ earlier in the hand, LHO gains the lead, and plays a low card to dummy's remaining A 10, giving you an opportunity to finesse the jack, a finesse you could not take yourself. There is a fair inference that this finesse will not work, and that you should make the play you would have to make without this "help," namely rise with the ace, hoping to drop the jack.

Of course it is all a cat-and-mouse game, and as clever a defender as LHO may lead the suit, expecting you to go up with the ace, setting up his jack as a winner for later.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jay Borker of Greenwich, CT, who, with his partner Jan Jansma of the Netherlands, finished first in the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Orlando NABC.

Congratulations to Rich DeMartino who finished first in the 2010 ACBL Masterpoint Race in the Senior (most points won in Senior events only) category.



Bridge Forum (Hamden) First Quarter News

Tuesday

Leading Pairs: Three partnerships have gone well ahead already, with Don Brueggemann–Esther Watstein in front, Harold Miller–Rita Brieger second and Bob Hawes–Jon Ingersoll third. Tracy Selmon is the only player with two partnerships in the top ten.

Player-of-the-Year: The pairs' results carry over, with Don and Esther tied for the Player-of-the-Year lead ahead of Tracy. Harold and Rita are tied for fourth.

Leonora Stein Memorial Cup early rounds: 2000 and 2008 champion Billie Hecker was the most notable casualty of the qualifying rounds. Barely dodging bad weather most weeks might have made the results a bit more erratic in January and February, so that more top players than usual failed to make the last twelve for the Knockout phase. Louise Wood seemed to be a huge favorite to coast to her 21st cup win before she was upset in the quarterfinals by Irene Kaplan. In other quarterfinals, Jon Ingersoll defeated Hill Auerbach, Tracy Selmon defeated Pat Rogers, and Vicki Rethy defeated Harold Miller. Of the four semifinalists, Jon won the Helen Frank Memorial Cup in 2002, and the others are first-timers.

Friday

Leading Pairs: George Levinson–Lucy Lacava had a hot start, and have a modest lead over Helen and Tracy Selmon. Billie Hecker–Robert Klopp are narrowly in third place. Carl Yohans and Irene Kaplan are both in two partnerships in the top ten.

Player-of-the-Year: Billie Hecker finished the quarter with second overall in the STaC, which also put her just in the lead for Player-of-the-Year, ahead of six-time P-o-Y Louise Wood. George Levinson and Lucy Lacava, mostly on their pair showing, are third and fourth, with the Consistency category leader Charles Heckman fifth.

Aldyth Claiborn Memorial Cup early rounds: Friday has been more true to form than Tuesday all along. There were no surprise winners in the qualifying

groups. Nobody who qualified for the final twelve was lower than 17th in last year's Player-of-the-Year rankings. In the quarterfinals, Billie Hecker defeated Arlene Leshine, Fredda Kelly squeaked past Louise Wood, Larry Stern eliminated Lucy Lacava, and Emma Q Antonio (whose one cup win was in 1996) made her first final four since 2005 by defeating Geroge Levinson. All four semifinalists have won cups, with 14 total between them.

Tuesday-Friday Combined

Overall Player-of-the-Year: In part largely because of regular attendance in the bad weather, Harold Miller and Rita Brieger held the lead until mid-March, when they were overtaken by Jon Ingersoll. A week later, Jon was passed by Fredda Kelly, who finished the quarter leading Jon, Louise Wood, and the Harold–Rita partnership.

Statistics: Both slam bids and penalty doubles have a success rate slightly greater than 66.7% this year. Redoubled contracts have a 50% rate of success. We have had 33 passouts and nine grand slams. Judy Long is the grand slam leader with three.

Hartford Bridge Club

It was a big loss for the Hartford Bridge Club when Jim Cleary and Susan Patricelli left snow covered Connecticut for a much warmer climate in Surprise, Arizona at the end of March. Jim has been playing at the Hartford Bridge Club (HBC) over 50 years, arriving in Hartford immediately following his college graduation. Susan, a nationally recognized tournament director of 25 years, has been instrumental in assisting HBC game directors in setting up various special events and in clarifying the laws of bridge. Everyone at our Club could count on Susan to give an absolutely accurate ruling on proper procedure with a caring authority.

Jim will especially be missed by the eight players he directly mentored - though he may not miss the sometimes less than desirable results. In addition to his core group, following every game, a group of players with questions would crowd around Jim who calmly and thoughtfully answered each and every one.

I personally owe Jim a great deal for having to put up with me over the past seven years. I came to HBC after retiring as a complete novice and was fortunate to be partnered with Jim. In the beginning I was overwhelmed with new conventions, bidding rules and playing combinations. This uncertainty would slow my play to an uncomfortable pace, annoying everyone at the table. After passing splinter bids, forcing bids, and mixing up conventions many times, Jim would just look at me, suggest the correct play, and move on. It's hard for me to believe he could put up with my bad play for so long, but that's the type of person he is.

All of us will sorely miss Susan and Jim's input and presence but wish them all of the best as they settle into a new bridge community.

–Larry Wallowitz

Wee Burn News

The Winter Series at Wee Burn was won by Penny Glassmeyer and Betty Hodgman with Lois Berry and Doris Friend as very close runners-up. Third were Betty McCoy-Ann Towne and fourth were Linda Cleveland-Mary Richardson.

Congratulations to Dave Mordy and Joe Holmes who were first overall in the Thursday afternoon STaC game on March 24.

Fifteen and one-half tables attended our Spring charity game which was won by Janet Soskin and Kathie Rowland, followed by Mimi Van Dyke and Brenda Greene in second place.

Our semi-annual Swiss team game was won by Kathie Rowland, Karen Barrett, Penny Glassmeyer, and Betty Hodgman. Second were Marilyn Tjader, Barbara Johnson, Bette Sheridan, and Martha Hathaway.

Our Monday games will begin on June 6th at 12:45 PM at the Beach Club and continue there all summer. Just a reminder: One member of each partnership must be a Wee Burn member.

RESULTS

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Monday, January 24, 2011

FLIGHT A

1	N. Augenstein – S. Augenstein
2	B. Buehler – L. Eppler
3	T. Lorch – L. Robbins
4	J. Soskin – M. Richardson
5	J. Gischner – C. Graham
6	D. Stiegler – A. Clamage

FLIGHT B

1	N. Augenstein – S. Augenstein
2	B. Buehler – L. Eppler
3	J. Soskin – M. Richardson
4	U. Forman – R. Johnson
5	M. Nadel – J. Glazer
6	D. Doyle – C. Kesmodel

FLIGHT C

1	B. Buehler – L. Eppler
2	U. Forman – R. Johnson
3	M. Nadel – J. Glazer
4	D. Doyle – C. Kesmodel
5	R. Kistner – G. Peteros
6	A. Bruhn – J. Stankewich

WINTER IN CONNECTICUT Hamden, CT March 4-6, 2011

Friday 10 AM Open Pairs

1	B. Schneider – R. DeMartino
2	L. Bausher – P. Bausher
3	B. J. Corbani – L. Lau
4	J. Gischner – C. Graham
5	G. Carroll – N. Earel
6	1 R. Fortier – J. Farwell
2	L. Green – D. Blackburn
3	A. Aitkens – J. Maffucci
4	R. Harvey – G. Seckinger
5	1 B. Kaplan – J. Kaplan
6	2 S. Grosz – J. Grosz
3	P. Rogers – T. Selmon
4	R. Janow – L. Fradet

Friday 10 AM Senior Pairs

1	D. Montgomery – H. Zusman
2	G. Sieron – R. Sieron
3	1 T. Thompson – R. Lebel
4	2 L. Koegel – W. Sumner
5	3 S. Augenstein – N. Augenstein
6	4 1 E. Coppa – J. S. Coppa
5	2 M. Sa Couto – G. Heller Jr.
6	3 Adish Jain – Asha Jain
4	M. Raviele – J. Sun-Ming Lee
5	R. Kistner – G. Cameron

Friday 2:30 PM Open Pairs

1	B.J. Corbani – L. Lau
2	B. Schneider – R. DeMartino
3	C. Michael – M. Mason
4	L. Bausher – P. Bausher
5	J. Force – J. Mehta
6	H. Feldheim – J. Fouad
1	F. Kelly – S. Fruchter
2	1 N. Matthews – M. Van Dyke
3	R. Derrah – S. Derrah
4	2 M. Wavada – M. Dworetsky
5	3 M. Raviele – J. Sun-Ming Lee
4	P. Rogers – H. Cohen

Friday 2:30 PM Senior Pairs

1	D. Montgomery – H. Zusman
2	1 T. Thompson – R. Lebel
3	2 1 E. Coppa – J. S. Coppa
4	3 2 R. Kistner – G. Cameron
5	4 3 M. Eisenberg – K. Largay
6	5 4 M. Karbovanec – H. McBrien

Saturday 10 AM 299er Pairs

1	M. Whittemore – J. Whittemore
2	L. May – R. Talbot
3	1 P. Carroll – M. Moskovitz
4	2 1 R. Fronapfel – S. Fronapfel
5	3 2 L. Lacava – G. Levinson
6	F. Patchett – J. Crystal
4	3 K. Wood – B. Adams
5	A. Kallish – A. Chaudhuri
4	H. Stancato – K. Konolige

Saturday 10 AM AX Pairs

1	C. Michael – C. Graham
2	J. Greer – A. Clamage
3	L. Bausher – R. DeMartino
4	S. McNamara – M. McNamara
5	B. Adler – L. Lau
6	J. Martin – H. Feldheim
1	D. Noack – G. Seckinger
2	A. Geaski – B. Kliman
3	T. Hyde – E. Lewis III
4	S. Seckinger – S. Rodricks

Saturday 10 AM B/C Pairs

1	K. Barrett – D. Thompson
2/3	R. Derrah – S. Derrah
2/3	G. Klein – J. Pagerino
4	1 P. Rogers – T. Selmon
5	2 M. Wavada – M. Dworetsky
6	3 M. Colburn – C. Curley

Saturday 2:30PM 299er Pairs

1	1 P. Carroll – M. Moskovitz
2	M. Whittemore – J. Whittemore
3	2 1 M. Zolot – V. Rethy
4	3 2 R. Fronapfel – S. Fronapfel
5	R. Pfeister – R. Millson
6	A. Bollag – P. Bollag
4	3 T. Yablonski – J. Rosow
4	C. Halsey – W. Halsey

Saturday 2:30 PM A/X Pairs

1	V. King – J. Fieldman
2	B.J. Corbani – M. Feinson
3	L. Bausher – R. DeMartino
4	S. Gladyszak – A. Borgschulze
5	P. Burnham – D. Stiegler
6	1 L. Green – D. Blackburn
2	R. Klopp – R. Hawes
3	A. Geaski – B. Kliman
4	T. Gerchman – L. Starr
5	B. Reich – B. Lewis

Saturday 2:30 PM B/C Pairs

1	1 M. Wavada – M. Dworetsky
2	K. Barrett – D. Thompson
3	L. Wood – F. Kelly
4	2 M. Colburn – C. Curley
5	M. Connolly – J. Bruce
6	R. Derrah – S. Derrah
3	B. Kaplan – J. Kaplan

Sunday A/X Swiss Teams

1	D. Doub – W. Ehlers, V. King – M. McNamara
2	D. Montgomery – H. Feldheim, H. Lawrence – R. Wieland
3	B.J. Corbani – B. Loop, M. Form – M. Feinson
4	1 D. Noack – G. Seckinger, R. Rising – J. Farwell
5	S. Field – L. Condon, L. Otness – H. Klein
2	R. Blair – M. Stasiewski, L. Russman – C. Graham

Sunday B/C Swiss Teams

1	T. Gerchman – L. Starr, M. Wavada – M. Dworetsky
2	F. Gilbert – R. Shapiro, J. Bruce – M. Whittemore
3	1 R. Talbot – J. Larson, J. Schmerl – S. Schmerl
4	2 M. Sa Couto – G. Heller Jr., A. Bomes – L. Messman
5	R. Klopp – R. Hawes, C. Palmer – G. Holland
3	P. Carroll – M. Moskovitz, M. Karbovanec – H. McBrien

A Choice of Plays

by Brett Adler



I wrote in my last article about the first completely red hand I have held in my bridge career with six hearts, seven diamonds, and voids in clubs and spades. Expecting to wait a long time to see such an extreme distribution again, I was playing in a recent team event in Hamden when I picked up another 13 red cards, this time with nine hearts and four diamonds.

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

With the opponents preempting in spades, it was hard to bid the hand scientifically.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: None

North	East	South	West
1♣	2♠	3♥	4♠
5♣	5♠	6♥	All pass

Opening Lead: ♠A

East's 2♠ jump overcall was weak, and when he rebid 5♠ he broke the golden rule of pre-empting which is to get your hand off your chest in one bid. After pre-empting you shouldn't make another bid in the auction unless partner makes a forcing bid or suggests an action which makes you re-evaluate your hand. On this occasion East didn't know what his partner's 4♠ meant so he should have passed. West could have a very strong hand and was bidding game to make, or might have a weak pre-emptive hand of his own, or might have a hand with a lot of defensive tricks and was hoping to push the opponents to 5♣ or 5♥ so that he could make a penalty double.

Unfortunately on this occasion 5♠ did limit my options so I just bid a small slam in hearts. I'm sure there are many ways to bid this hand including a 3♠ bid at my first opportunity, but distributional hands are much easier to bid this way when you have a fit with partner. It is also hard to set hearts as trumps and then find out about partner's diamond holding which is key to the hand. I'm presenting this as a single dummy problem. How would you play the hand after the lead of ♠A from West?

♠ 8 7 6 2
♥ K
♦ A K
♣ A Q 10 9 4 3

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

Clearly there are 12 top tricks so the play isn't too challenging, but how would you declare if you were in a grand slam? There are at least three different lines but the key is that this is teams, so make sure of your contract (don't try for 13 tricks and miss making 12). The line that would have worked is to cash dummy's diamonds and end up ruffing one of your diamonds with dummy's singleton King of trumps and pitching the other one on the ♣A. I rejected this line as it risks the contract. If the outstanding diamonds break 6-1 or 7-0 and the person with the void or singleton diamond also has two hearts, they would ruff one of my diamond winners and play a trump stranding me with a diamond loser at the end.

All other lines generally lead to 12 tricks as there is no squeeze on the hand, but if you can see through the cards you can make 13 tricks. At trick two lead a trump to ♥K then ruff a club high. Draw trumps and then cross to a high diamond and play the ♣A and ♣Q, smothering West's three-card suit to the Jack.

Another interesting hand came up in a recent club game, and the choice of plays was interesting when you analyzed the score sheet.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: North/South

South	West	North	East
1♦	3♠	Dbl	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠Q

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

In this auction, West spent a lot of time thinking over my 1♦ bid before he preempted with 3♠. Once my partner doubled for takeout with the North hand I bid 3NT despite my unbalanced shape. I wanted to protect the ♠K, and I thought I would have a source of tricks with my diamond suit. I may have looked confident at the table when I bid 3NT, but it wasn't without a little trepidation. East might have a quick entry which West finds on the opening lead, and now a spade through my King might see me losing the first 8+ tricks. Over 3NT, West made a very slow tortured pass suggesting to me that he had even more distribution than the 3♠ bid suggested, and now it was North's turn for a slow agonizing pass – worried that we might be missing a diamond slam.

After the ♠Q lead to East's Ace and a spade return there are two ways to try for 12 tricks. One option is to take all your heart and diamond winners so that at trick 12 you can take a club finesse which happens to lose, or you can play for a heart/club squeeze against East which happens to work. To engineer the squeeze, you check that the diamonds are breaking and then cash the ♣A (Vienna Coup), before cashing all of your diamond winners (discarding all of dummy's clubs). The end position becomes:

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

When South cashes the ♦3 and discards the ♣J from dummy, East's goose is cooked. He can't discard a heart as dummy will now be high, and if he discards a club South's clubs are all winners. When we looked at the score sheet most North/South pairs had played game in diamonds with a couple of people in a diamond slam – all of the diamond contracts had made exactly 11 tricks so all of the declarers probably took the losing club finesse. Only one declarer in addition to myself had played in No Trump (game not slam), and we both made 12 tricks for +690. A couple of the East/West pairs had been able to buy the hand in 4♠ doubled which was worth +500 to N/S and would have been a better board for E/W if a couple of pairs hadn't gone down in the diamond slam.

All the declarers in diamonds could have made the same 12 tricks through a Vienna Coup, but is 6♦ always makeable? East/West must lead a spade at trick one or their spade winner disappears on dummy's hearts. The focus is therefore on East's lead to trick two. If he leads a heart at trick two, 12 tricks can no longer be made as the entry for the squeeze is removed. To take this analysis a step further, if East plays South for the ♣Q or for length in clubs, the slam can't be beaten unless South has a singleton heart as East will always be squeezed as indicated above. The expert play is therefore the ♥J at trick two just in case South's singleton heart is the ten.

All I can state is that I am very glad that I wasn't sitting East on this hand and wasn't put to the test defending 6♦.



**UNIT-WIDE OPEN PAIRS
CHAMPIONSHIP
Friday AM, April 15, 2011**

- FLIGHT A
- 1 **M. Mason – C. Michael**
 - 2 R. De Martino – J. Stiefel
 - 3 B. Sloan – M. Strickland
 - 4 R. Hawes – C. Palmer
 - 5 I. Santa – B. Loop
 - 6/7 E. Nagle – B. Watson
 - 6/7 B. Kliman – H. Pawlowski
- FLIGHT B
- 1 **B. Sloan – M. Strickland**
 - 2 R. Hawes – C. Palmer
 - 3 M. Schiller – I. Busch
 - 4 H. Walker – D. Andrews
 - 5 R. Brown – J. Macomber
 - 6 L. Stiberth – G. Holland
- FLIGHT C
- 1 **M. Schiller – I. Busch**
 - 2 E. Kiratsous – J. Fouad
 - 3 A. Jain – A. Jain
 - 4 M. Madigan – F. Morris
 - 5 M. Fiedler – J. Roman
 - 6 D. Kimsey – M. Hayward

**UNIT WIDE CHARITY PAIRS
Tuesday AM, April 5, 2011**

- FLIGHT A
- 1 **M. Sullivan – M. Abate**
 - 2 G. Gorby – J. Gorby
 - 3/4 B. Ustanowski – J. Libucha
 - 3/4 G. Holland – R. Fronapfel
 - 5 A. Wolf – L. Lau
 - 6 J. Pyka – P. Pierson
- FLIGHT B
- 1 **G. Gorby – J. Gorby**
 - 2 G. Holland – R. Fronapfel
 - 3 N. Bentley – L. Marcinek
 - 4 B. Moore – P. Brasher
 - 5 D. Favreau – J. Williams
 - 6 B. Buehler – L. Eppler
- FLIGHT C
- 1 **G. Gorby – J. Gorby**
 - 2 B. Buehler – L. Eppler
 - 3 M. Walsh – J. Guglielmo
 - 4 M. Murphy – P. Schackner
 - 5 A. Buscher – S. Gould
 - 6 D. Wolf – D. Damberg



MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

New Life Masters

- Eugene Coppa
- Gary Kellman
- Margaret Molwitz
- Barbara Moore
- Nancy Peffley

Bronze Life Master

(500 MP's)

- Carolyn Joseph
- Lois Karcher
- Susan Kellman
- Barbara Moore

Silver Life Master

(1000 MP's)

- Jean Bramley
- Rachel Brown
- Thomas Gerchman
- Thomas Lorch
- Partab Makhijani
- Selma Moffie
- Aldona Siuta

Gold Life Master

(2500 MP's)

- Susan Patricelli

2011 CALENDAR

MAY

April 27-1 Ethel Keohane Senior
Regional, Hyannis, MA
9 (aft) Unit-wide
Championship
11 (aft) ACBL Int'l Fund Game
13-15 Connecticut Spring
Sectional, Hamden, CT

JUNE

3 (night) Worldwide Bridge
Contest
4 (day) Worldwide Bridge
Contest
14 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
17 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
20-26 New England Summer
Regional,
Sturbridge, MA
30 (eve) Local (Split)
Championship

JULY

6-12 Sectional Tournament
in Clubs (STaC)
13 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
21-31 ACBL Summer
Nationals,
Toronto, ON
22 (eve) ACBL International
Fund Game

AUGUST

2 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
8 (eve) Local (Split)
Championship
16 (eve) Local (Split)
Championship
19-21 Summer Sectional,
Greenwich, CT
23 (day) Local (Split)
Championship
29-Sep 4 New England Fiesta
Regional, Warwick, RI

SEPTEMBER

Aug 29-4 New England Fiesta
Regional, Warwick, RI
14 (eve) ACBL-wide Instant
Match Point
16-18 Sid Cohen Sectional,
Hartford, CT
11 199er at the Sid Cohen
Sectional
21 (day) Local (Split)
Championship
22 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship

OCTOBER

7 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
15 (day) Local (Split)
Championship

15-16 North American Pairs,
Sturbridge, MA
17-23 Danbury Fall Regional
(District 3),
Danbury, CT
24-30 Sectional Tournament
in Clubs (STaC)

NOVEMBER

1 (eve) Local (Split)
Championship
3 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
4-6 Jeff Feldman
Sectional, Hamden, CT
16-20 New England Masters
Regional,
Mansfield, MA
24-Dec 4 Fall Nationals.
Seattle, WA
28 (eve) ACBL-wide Charity
Game #2

DECEMBER

Nov 24-4 Fall Nationals,
Seattle, WA
7 (day) Unit-Wide
Championship
12 (day) Local (Split)
Championship
26-30 New York City Holiday
Regional,
New York, NY

Club News continued from page 4

Woodway Country Club

Winners of the Woodway
Country Club Spring Series
are

- 1st Anne Town and
Ann Fuller
- 2nd Kathy Rowland and
Linda Cleveland
- 3rd Betty Hodgman and
Mary Richardson
- 4th Betsy Philips and
Martha Murphy
- 5th Belinda Metzger and
Brenda Greene



THE KIBITZER

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