

# THE KIBITZER

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## Guesstimating a Result

by Harold Feldheim

In a team event, it's always a good idea to "guesstimate" your result after each hand is played, as should your teammates. This gives you an idea of how the match is progressing and enables you to decide if the remainder of the hands should be played passively or aggressively. Of course, while doing this, you must assume that your teammates are playing par. But beware: your guesstimation may be either a negative or positive surprise.

The Lederer Memorial Trophy is Britain's equivalent of our Spingold or Vanderbilt knockout. Since it is an invitational event, the quality of play is usually quite high. The following hand, taken from the 2003 championship is an example of this high level.

At one table, E-W sacrificed in 5♦ against 4♥ going set two tricks for -300. Quite reasonably, they thought they'd achieved a useful 'pickup' of 8 IMPs, (-300, as opposed to -620).

But at the other table, this hand turned out to be an award winning hand for best defensive effort. By defeating 4♥, East-West illustrated the idea that good defense often starts during the bidding.

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: North/South

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

West	North	East	South
Price	McIntosh	Burn	Bakhshi
—	Pass	3♣	Double
3♦	4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Partner: choose a major suit

Many players would have raised clubs, but the 3♦ bid is much better since it provides defensive guidelines. Price's 3♦ bid was a lead-directing club raise and as it turned out, laid the foundation for a successful and elegant defense. If East had had a diamond fit, he would probably have bid again over 4♣ or 4♥. Here he remained silent.

Price, West, had to find an opening lead and realized that it was imperative that the diamond suit was to be attacked as quickly as possible. However, his partner needed to be on lead since, based on the auction, South was very likely to have the ♦K. Since East had opened 3♣, West thought it very likely that he held the ♣K. With this in mind, West led a *small* club. East won with the ♣J and immediately switched to a diamond. West won with the ♦Q, cashed the ♦A and led another diamond allowing East to ruff with the jack promoting partner's trump queen for the setting trick.



## MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

### New Life Masters

Gerry Cameron  
John Condon, Jr.  
Donna Favreau  
Margot Hayward

### Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

Phyllis Bausher  
Constance Graham  
Sonja Smith  
Howard Zusman

### Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Robert Eppinger  
Francine Gilbert  
Nancy Reith  
Michael Wavada

### Diamond Life Master (5000 MP's)

Gregory Woods

### Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Louis Brown  
Janice Bruce  
Bernard Cope  
Maxwell Hughes  
Charles Stabinsky  
Lynn Zimmer



# 'Dip the Apple in the Brew Let the Sleeping Death Seep Through.'

by Brett Adler



For the Disney buffs among you, the quote above may be memorable from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," but a "poisoned" suit in bridge is much like a poisoned apple – the last thing you want to do is take a bite. There are a number of different card combinations that can create a poisoned suit situation, but the basic premise is that whoever leads the suit first loses. In the example below, I have only provided a single suit in a two card ending:

NORTH		
♠ Q 7		
WEST		EAST
♠ J 8		♠ K 9
SOUTH		
♠ A 10		

If North or South lead the suit they will win one trick only – leading low to the Queen loses to East's King, cashing the Ace first still is worth only one trick, and leading the Queen or 7 from North doesn't help as East covers the 7 with the 9 and the Queen with the King. Alternately, if East or West leads the suit North/South will win two tricks: If East is on lead South plays low on the 9 and let's North's Queen win, or if East leads the King, then South plays the Ace letting North's Queen take the next trick. If West is on lead, North plays low if the 8 is lead and would cover the Jack with the Queen again giving North/South two tricks (the Ace and Queen, or the Ace and Ten).

Sometimes the opponents aren't nice enough to play a poisoned suit for you, so an endplay is in order. As an example, here is a hand from a recent club game:

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

After opening 1NT, South ended up as declarer in a 4♥ contract after a Stayman sequence. West led the ♠10, and the club suit provides another type of poisoned card combination. If North or South lead clubs first, then declarer will have three losers. If East or West lead the suit, declarer would be able to win one trick and only lose two tricks. To solve the problem, declarer embarked on an elimination and endplay. South drew three rounds of trumps, played the remaining spade winners, and cashed the top two diamonds leading to the position below:

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ - - -	♠ - - -
♥ K	♥ 9
♦ 9	♦ 8
♣ J 8 5	♣ Q 6 2

Now declarer exited with his last diamond and it made no difference who won the trick – East or West had to lead clubs giving declarer the 10<sup>th</sup> trick, or lead another suit giving a ruff/sluff and again 10 tricks. Interestingly, if North's diamonds were KJ4 or if South's diamonds were AJ8, the Jack offers a finesse option. However, this is a mirage and declarer shouldn't take this finesse option since:

- If declarer decides to finesse the ♦J and it wins, he has 10 tricks (he will lose all 3 clubs as he must play the suit himself);
- If declarer finesses the diamond and it loses, then the defenders can now return a diamond and declarer is stranded with only 9 tricks. A diamond trick has been lost and declarer will now lose three clubs as he has to play the suit himself.

The theme of poisoned suits is in my mind right now as I messed up a hand about as badly as possible recently:

NORTH
♣ Q 10 9 6 3

SOUTH - myself as disillusioned/ misguided declarer
♣ A 5 2

I was in a suit contract of 4♥, and I'm just showing the club side suit in isolation where I had an 8-card fit. I had one definite loser outside of clubs plus a possible loser on a trump finesse. So, as soon as I saw dummy, I was planning how to play the clubs for two winners and maximum one loser. If I have to lead the suit first, then there are three general approaches I can take:

# Can't Cost – Chapter 29

by John Stiefel



In this deal from a recent IMP event, one declarer scored up a vulnerable slam by making a “can’t cost” play his opponent at the other table didn’t.

Dealer: West  
Vulnerability: Both

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 7 5  
 ♥ 10 6  
 ♦ J 10 9 7 5  
 ♣ 9 8 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ - - -  
 ♥ A K J 7 2  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ A K Q 10 5

Auction: Table 1

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♣

\* Weak

Auction: Table 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣*	Pass	6♣

\* Weak

Opening Lead: ♠A (table 1), ♠J (table 2)

The bidding merits some discussion.

First, neither South chose to push for the grand slam which would have been an excellent contract if North had the ♥Q or 4-card club support. I agree with this because my experience is that pushing for doubtful slams is losing strategy. Sure, it’s easy to construct North hands that would produce 13 tricks when combined with the South hand. On the

other hand, suppose North held a hand like Qxxx, xx, Jxxxx, xx. In that event, even a small slam would be in jeopardy. On balance, it seems right to strike a middle ground by bidding the small slam that is likely to have good play opposite most North hands but not gamble on north holding the “magic hand.”

Second, the auction at Table 1 gave South room to bid 4♦ on the way to 6♣. He hoped that North would interpret this sequence as offering diamonds as a possible trump suit, but I nonetheless agree with North’s pass. After all, North knew that the partnership had at least an 8-card club fit but at most an 8-card diamond fit. Give South credit, however, for visualizing the possibility of playing in diamonds (which is actually the best strain). Too bad his play wasn’t as well thought out (as will be seen later).

Before reading further, consider how you would play 6♣ after ruffing the opening spade lead.

At Table 1, South ruffed the ♠A and decided to draw trump, playing for the expected (68%) 3-2 trump split. His plan was to draw all the trump in three rounds and then lead a low heart toward dummy’s 10. This play would only fail if one defender had five or six hearts to the queen. Unfortunately, East showed out on the second round of trump (after both opponents followed low to the first round). Then, when South switched his attention to hearts – playing AK and ruffing the third round in the dummy – East also showed out on the third round of hearts. So South lost control of the hand and ended up down 2. Unlucky. South had adopted a 71% line of play, which would have succeeded if trumps had split or if the ♥Q had ruffed out doubleton or tripleton.

At Table 2, South ruffed the opening lead and asked himself “how can it cost to try to develop hearts before drawing trumps?” He concluded that it “couldn’t cost,” so he played ♥AK to the second and third tricks and then lead a low heart to trick 4, ruffing with dummy’s ♣8 when East followed with the ♥9. Dummy’s ♣8 won the trick, so South lead dummy’s ♣2 of trump to his ace at trick 5 (both opponents following

low) and ruffed another heart at trick 6, West’s queen falling. Now he crossed to a high diamond at trick 7 and played two more high trumps to tricks 8 and 9. West’s ♣J was still outstanding, but South was able to claim at this point stating that “I’ll play red cards until you ruff in and then I’ll have the rest.”

What if clubs had split 3-2 but one opponent had five or six hearts to the queen? Then South would have lost a trump trick that he didn’t have to lose. In that event, however, South would have lost two heart tricks and still gone down if he had drawn trump before playing on hearts. Also, South still makes the hand by playing hearts before trumps if the opponent ruffing the second heart started with three trump. (In that event, South can exhaust the opponents’ trumps in two more leads and score one heart trick, five trump tricks, one heart ruff in dummy and five diamond tricks! The line of play would be to ruff the spade return, draw two rounds of trump, play ♦AKQ of diamonds, ruff a heart in dummy and cash two more diamonds.)

The table 2 line of play is about 92% – considerably better than 71%. Also, the table 2 line of play works whenever the table 1 line works – so the “can’t cost” play adds about 21% to declarer’s chances.

The entire deal was:

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 7 5  
 ♥ 10 6  
 ♦ J 10 9 7 5  
 ♣ 9 8 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ A 8 6  
 ♥ Q 9 8 3  
 ♦ 4 3  
 ♣ J 7 6 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ K J 10 9 4 3 2  
 ♥ 5 4  
 ♦ 8 6 2  
 ♣ 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ - - -  
 ♥ A K J 7 2  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ A K Q 10 5





# Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #17: What Should I Keep?

by Alan Wolf

In today's article, I'll focus on the issue of what to keep when you have one or more discards to make at a critical juncture. Many bridge articles focus on discards, but this is often putting the cart before the horse. The correct approach is often to decide first what suit(s) you need to keep; this will often point the way to what you can afford to discard.

We'll skip any discussion of some of the easier considerations: keeping established winners, keeping sure stoppers in critical suits, and keeping entries back to partner's good suit.

Instead, we'll focus on the more difficult situations, where you have several suits that you may need to protect, and must make a judgment on what to keep. There is no aspect of the game in which strong players distinguish themselves more than this. Here are some guidelines:

1. Keep equal length (or as close as you can) with dummy or declarer's known long suits. The most common situation is keeping all four cards in a suit where there are four or five cards in dummy, or declarer is known to have four or five. Of all the guidelines, this is often the most imperative, and may well apply even when you have to discard winners in other suits.
2. Keep cards in a suit where declarer may have a choice of plays, and a critical decision to make. Certainly do not make any discards that may be helpful to declarer, and if anything, discard deceptively.
3. Keep what partner is discarding.

Consider this deal:

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: None

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

The bidding is of some interest:

North	East	South	West
Majorca	Warren	Minna	Prof.
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

South's 2 NT bid was a 4-suit transfer to diamonds, and North's 3♣ bid said "I don't like diamonds." South's 4♥ bid was then "Redwood," a control-asking convention where 4♦ is control-asking when clubs have been agreed, and 4♥ is control-asking when diamonds have been agreed. (The red suits are control asks, hence "Redwood.") Responses are step responses using same steps as Roman Key Card Blackwood. This convention saves some bidding room when a minor suit has been agreed, and 4NT Blackwood may get the partnership too high.

4NT by North then was the second step, showing three or zero controls, like RKC 1430.

The Professor chose to make the safest lead, the ♥J. Minna won in hand as declarer and proceeded to draw trumps, starting with the king in dummy, and then back to hand for two more rounds,

discarding a spade from dummy on the third round.

In the meantime, the Professor had planned his discards. With four hearts in dummy, discarding a heart was out of the question. His clubs seemed useless, and yet discarding that suit might be helpful to declarer, indicating that any club strength was with East. With that in mind, the Professor decided to play partner for the ♠10 and on the second and third rounds of trumps, he discarded respectively the ♠Q and ♠8, trusting that these discards would let partner know to keep the guarded ten.

At this point, there was still one trump outstanding, but Minna had no convenient discard from dummy on another round of diamonds, and so she elected instead to lead clubs, double-finessing and losing to the king. (The king is the deceptive card that most players make in this situation, although in theory, the correct play in similar situations is to randomly choose between the king and queen).

In with the ♣K, Warren led back his ♥Q, won in dummy. A third round of hearts was now ruffed in declarer's hand, followed by a fourth round of diamonds, as the Professor discarded yet one more spade, coming down to the singleton ♠J. On this trick, the fourth heart was discarded from dummy.

Now declarer was at the critical point of the hand. She first led out the ♠A, getting a better count on the hand, and dropping West's ♠J. Now she could take the club finesse again, OR she could try to ruff out the ♣Q. It seemed from the discards that the Professor was desperately trying to protect his club holding, and so Minna elected to finesse a second time, losing to the queen for down one.

It is impossible to know what would have happened if the professor had discarded clubs early on, but very likely that would have put declarer on the right track. If West has discarded three clubs, declarer can hardly get it wrong. If West has discarded two clubs, the second finesse is right only if declarer believes that West started with six cards to the queen.



## Bridge Forum (Hamden) Third Quarter News

We depart from the usual for something a little different after some sad news. This summer brought several losses.

**Florence Schannon** had been with us since late 1984, after she took one of Scott Loring's courses. She became one of a group of about a dozen players who began with us at a level between Novice and 99er who became Life Masters and crossed the 1,000 masterpoint line. Florence was Player-of-the-Year two and a half times (Friday 1993, Tuesday 1995, and co-Tuesday 2001). She won the Reynolds Cup in 1998 and 2002, and the Memory Bowl in 2006. Over the years, her regular partners included Muriel Chapman, Jean Shepler Miller, Billie Hecker, Fredda Kelly, Louise Wood, Jon Ingersoll, Muriel Romero and Charles Heckman. Also, while several players have brought in their visiting sisters, Florence is the only one to have partnered a visiting child, although she spoke much more often of her granddaughter. Her only appearance this year was on March 18<sup>th</sup>, when she and Charles just missed a placement. Florence died in late August.

**Inge-Maria Bellis**, after a long and distinguished medical career, began appearing regularly in the mid-1990's. She quite enjoyed correcting her partner's perceived mistakes and irritating opponents like Florence by doing such things as bidding once or even twice opposite a silent partner after having opened with a pre-empt. In the early 2000's, Inge had several near misses at winning a cup. Her regular partners included Fioretta Masler, Rosemarie Tilney, Helen Shields, Marie Strickland, Helen Molloy, Judy Pieper, Jon Ingersoll for a while, and lastly Harriett Miller. In late 2008, Inge's constant complaints about holding poor hands led to the counting of her HCPs in 2009. For the year, she held 12,289 HCP for 1,195 deals, but was unimpressed with her average of 10.28.

Inge played until just about a year ago, health concerns forcing her to stop about a couple of months after our pair of high school siblings, of whom she approved, started. Inge died about two or three weeks after Florence; her obituary appeared next to that of **Pat Ardolino**, whom we had not seen for many years but who had been a long-running regular partner of Emma Q. Antonio.

More happily, just before her last game on August 16<sup>th</sup>, **Helen Shields** finally sold her house after several years on the market and moved to Denver. Helen won the Claiborn Cup in 2001 and had highly successful partnerships with Fioretta Masler in the mid-1980's and Billie Hecker in the early 1990's before bringing in Helen Molloy as a partner in the late 1990's. We hope she will still be able to see the cards with the assistance of her portable lamp.

After her last game on July 15<sup>th</sup>, **Fredda Kelly** was on course to wrap up the Overall Player-of-the-Year title by early November. Unfortunately, Fredda has been hospitalized since. When, or if she will return is uncertain. We end the third quarter with Louise Wood set to pull ahead in the first game of October.

## Wee Burn News

The Wee Burn Summer Series was most popular; averaging 14 tables per game. Series winners were:

1. Jean Thoma-Karen Barrett
2. Janet Soskin-Mary Richardson
- 3/4. Audrey Bell-Betty Walsh  
Melissa Hubner-Joan Hoben
5. Linda Cleveland-Carol Davidson
6. Lynn Reilly-Joan Bergen

Congratulations to Joan Hoben and Susan Mayo who had a 75.56% game and were first overall in Flight A of the September 22 Unit game. Brooke Megrue and Penny Glassmeyer were fourth overall in Flight A and Kris Freres with Gail Ord was first overall in Flight C. Woodway and Country Club of Darien members and their guests are welcome to play in the Wee Burn game at any time as drop-ins or as Series players.

## MEMORY BOWL (Hamden) HAND PREVIEW

To tie in with the story of this year's Memory Bowl Hand (honoring Dee Altieri), we present the hand one quarter early:

NORTH		EAST	
♠	J 10 5	♠	9 8
♥	K 10 8 5 2	♥	7
♦	A 2	♦	J 10 8 7 5 4
♣	Q 9 3	♣	K J 4 2
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	A Q 6	♠	K 7 4 3 2
♥	A Q 9 4 3	♥	J 6
♦	Q	♦	K 9 6 3
♣	19 8 6 5	♣	A 7

This hand was dealt and played in 1991. In a way that will tie in with the story of the hand, a poll has been established at our Yahoo Group, named bfhamden. Here is the question:

When this hand was originally played, one declarer bid and made 3NT. In which position did she sit?

Anyone who cares to do so is welcome to vote in the poll. Results will be included with the story of the hand.



## 2011 CALENDAR

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
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

<b>DECEMBER</b>	
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



# Notrump Issues

by Gloria Sieron

Let's say you are playing matchpoint duplicate and pick up the following hand:

- ♠ Q J 5
- ♥ K 9 5
- ♦ 8 7 6 2
- ♣ 10 9 3

You are vulnerable and the opponents are not. Partner deals and opens 1♦, RHO passes, and you respond 1NT. There are those who might pass but 1NT is not an unreasonable bid. Your 1NT bid shows 6-9 points and no 4-card major.

Now, let's change the auction. This time LHO deals and opens 1♣. Partner overcalls 1♦ and RHO passes. What do you bid? First notice that partner has overcalled. In most partnerships partner

likely has five diamonds and could have as few as eight points. You could pass, but no one could seriously criticize a bid of 2♦. After all, you do have six points and four diamonds. On this auction, the one bid you should not consider is 1NT. Why not, you ask?

While partnerships may have other agreements, in general, you are expected to have 8-10 points and no 4-card major. Since you probably have minimal support for diamonds and no major suit length, you must have something in clubs. Do you think this hand qualifies?

Here are two situations for your partnership to consider.

1. When South opens 1♥ and West overcalls 1♠, is 1NT by North still forcing or does it show at least one stopper in opponent's overcall suit?
2. When South opens the bidding 1♣ and West overcalls 1♦, if North passes, does East indicate a club stopper with a bid of 1NT?

In general the answers would be:

1. 1NT is not forcing in this auction and should show a stopper in spades and deny heart support.
2. East should have a club stopper and denies a 4-card major.

Let's look at the entire hand.

Dealer: South  
Vulnerability: East/West

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 8 6  
♥ Q J 10 8 2  
♦ 5  
♣ J 8 6 4

**WEST**  
♠ K 4 3 2  
♥ 7 6 3  
♦ K Q J 9 3  
♣ A

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 7  
♥ A 4  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ K Q 7 5 2

West North East South  
1♦ Pass 1NT All Pass  
Opening lead: ♣K

East's play was on par with his bidding and the result was down five vulnerable for -500.

Isn't it amazing how a simple bid like 1NT can have so many different meanings? Pay attention to the auction and your bidding will benefit.



## WINNERS OF NATIONAL EVENTS

I am presently working on a project with the District 25 Webmaster to create a report of active (living) NABC Winners in District 25. Shown below are those who have won at least one NABC Event according to data sent by ACBL Management. Please let us know if you find any errors or omissions on the report so we can ensure that accurate data is published on the District 25 Website.

-Rich DeMartino

### Unit 126 NABC Winners

	Open NABC Events		Restricted NABC Events	
	Wins	Seconds	Wins	Seconds
Doug Doub	6	5	0	0
Rich DeMartino	5	5	0	0
John Stiefel	4	7	0	0
Geof Brod	2	2	0	0
Frank Merblum	2	2	0	0
Steve Becker	1	1	0	0
Jay Borker	1	1	0	0
Steve Earl	1	0	0	0
Russell Friedman	0	0	1	1
Allan Wolf	0	0	1	1
Bernard Schneider	0	0	1	0
Frances Schneider	0	0	1	0

## Save the Date

**WINTER IN  
CONNECTICUT  
SECTIONAL**

**March 2-4, 2012  
Hamden, CT**



# Forgetting What I Once Knew

by Burt Saxon

I have played very little bridge in the last twenty years – as infrequently as three times per year. Lately I have been playing two or three times per month. I have forgotten a few conventions, but what is more embarrassing are mistakes I have made due to faulty procedural memory. On this hand, I managed to forget every principle of declarer play that I once knew. Here’s an example. I was South.

Dealer: West  
Vulnerability: Both

NORTH  
 ♠ A J x x  
 ♥ - - -  
 ♦ A K J 10 x  
 ♣ A x x x

SOUTH  
 ♠ K Q x x  
 ♥ x x  
 ♦ 9 x x  
 ♣ x x x x

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

Before I tell you how I butchered the hand, figure out what you would have done.

Had enough time? Take a few more seconds, but remember duplicate bridge is a timed event.

Now I will explain my faulty thought process. I got very excited about ruffing two hearts. I ruffed the opening lead, played a spade to my king, and ruffed a second heart. Then I drew a second round of trump. Then I cashed the ♦A, so far so good. But the ♦K did not cash. It got ruffed. Eventually I had to also

lose the queen of diamonds and two clubs.

What should I have done? I should have asked a series of questions in this order:

1. Am I in a good contract or a normal contract? This would have led me to conclude I was in a very good contract. My partner Harold Miller is a very good bidder. His four spade bid was a gem. He upgraded his heart void and bid a strong four spades. Remember that my lousy hand could have been even worse. But Harold knew there was a good play for four spades. If he had bid anything else, such as 3♦ or 3♠, I would have passed. Since I was in a good contract, making four spades would have meant a good matchpoint score.
2. Did I get a favorable opening lead? Yes. A club would not have been as favorable.
3. What do I need to make the hand? All I need is a 3-2 trump split.
4. Am I likely to find what I need to make the hand? Yes, because the opponents passed without hesitation after Harold’s strong bid.
5. What then should I do? Ruff the opening lead, draw three rounds of trump ending in my hand and run the ♦9. If it loses the opponents can cash one heart and I will make four or five. If it wins I might even make six.

Bidding and making four spades on a good call by partner means an average plus. Making any more means a near top. But I got greedy and turned a good board into a near zero. I forgot the sage advice of Larry Cohen, Zia, and others: Avoid zeros.

There were a couple things that I did right on this hand. First, I temporarily forgot about my mistake. In fact, I played the next hand very well and got a top to make up for this near bottom. But I quickly wrote the hand down and went over it after the session was over. This too is a good idea. You will not improve at bridge (or at anything else) unless you go over your mistakes and see that they do not happen again.

My big mistake was having a “partial plan”- a plan that worked great for the first three tricks but then collapsed when I forgot that I would have no way back to my hand without surrendering a trump trick.

My partner helped out too. He did not say anything after my error, although I could see he was a bit disappointed. Harold is an ideal partner not only because of his bridge skills, but because he saves criticism for after the session. We both criticize ourselves first and our partner second.

After I reviewed my error, I asked myself why this error bothered me more than my other errors do. The answer was not hard to find. Although I have not played much bridge since the 1990’s, I do read a bridge column daily. And in the bridge column, I am always South and always the declarer. So my declarer play has not deteriorated as much as my bidding and defense have. That means I get more upset at myself when I misplay a hand as declarer. But everyone makes mistakes, so I have to learn not to be too hard on myself.

There are two ways for me to improve my bidding and defense. One is to play more bridge. That sounds like a good idea. The other way is to read more, which is not quite as much fun, but is definitely a necessity for improvement.



# RESULTS

## UNIT-WIDE CHAMPOINSHIP Tuesday AM August 2, 2011

### FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

1	<b>J. Williams - B. Meisel</b>
2	B. Kliman - B. Watson
3	J. Krug - G. Brod
4	P. Schackner - M. Murphy
5	M. Mason - C. Michael
6	Y.-L. Shiu - C. Hurley

### FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

1	<b>J. Williams - B. Meisel</b>
2	P. Schackner - M. Murphy
3	B. Eisman - R. Shapiro
4	J. Merrill - L. Labins
5	L. Stern - J. Mcgrath
6	R. Pomerantz - R. Twersky

### FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

1	<b>P. Schackner - M. Murphy</b>
2	S. Gould - A. Buscher
3	S. Keller - J. Lai
4	P. Grande - H. Gelin
5	M. Nadel - J. Glazer
6	S. Peters - D. Kimsey

## CT SUMMER SECTIONAL Greenwich, CT • August 19-21, 2011

### Friday 10 AM Open Pairs

1	<b>A. Wolf - L. Lau</b>
2	T. Reyes Hiller - H. Zusman
3	P. Bauscher - L. Bauscher
4	1 1 <b>M. Donahue - A. Rosanelli</b>
5	J. Pearson - B. Gorsey
6	R. DeMartino - B. Schneider
2	2 G. Trost - W. Sigward
3	H.J. Sloofman - T. Baird
4	T. Lubman - N. Lucht
5/6	R. Klopp - B. Henningson
5/6	3 K. AlDoori - B. Nimocks
4	D. Doyle - L. Wyse
5	B. Strickland - P. Fitzgerald

### Friday 10 AM Senior Pairs

1	<b>J. Hartman - F. Hawa</b>
2	1 <b>M. Dworetzky - M. Wavada</b>
3	2 1 <b>R. Margulies - S. Fisher</b>
4	3 D. Katzman - M. Amstel
5	S. Rodricks - S. Seckinger
6	D. Greenwald - N. Cohen
4	2 M. Karbovanec - H. McBrien
5	3 E. Tilzer - C. Stern
6	4 R. Kistner - G. Cameron
5	M. Smith - M. Maloney

### Friday 2:30 PM Open Pairs

1	<b>P. Bauscher - L. Bauscher</b>
2	I. Ewen - G. Robbins
3	M. Kopecky - D. Pochos
4	1 <b>H.J. Sloofman - T. Baird</b>
5	J. Pearson - B. Gorsey
6	J. Marshall - L. Otness
2	M. Cole - M. Fuller
3	D. Blackburn - L. Green
4	W. Williams - D. Thompson
5	B. Thompson - R.B. Sachs
6	F. Gilbert - R. Shapiro
1	<b>R. Gardner - J. Grosz</b>
2	B. Kaplan - J. Kaplan
3	R. Fronapfel - S. Fronapfel
4	C. Hare - J. Liu
5	L. Toporovsky - S. Toporovsky
6	G. Trost - W. Sigward

### Friday 2:30 PM Senior Pairs

1	<b>D. Greenwald - N. Cohen</b>
2	1 1 <b>M. Hayward - S. Lewis</b>
3	A. Housholder - S. DeMartino
4	S. Rodricks - S. Seckinger
5	L. Zeisler - M. Fromm
6	E. Ranard - M. Lerman

2	2 S. Schmerl - J. Schmerl
3	3 B. Pascal - K. Freres
4	4 E. Strauss - L. Stamler
5	5 M. Smith - M. Maloney
6	K. Fox - E. Johnston
6	R. Kistner - G. Cameron

### Saturday 10 AM A/X Pairs

1	<b>M. Macura - M. Kopecky</b>
2	A. McKellar - C. Lamprey
3	D. Cox - B. Cox
4	J. Ahrens - R. DeMartino
5	R. Pfeister - E. Stein
6	L. Bauscher - S. Becker
1	<b>L. Green - David Blackburn</b>
2	J. Marshall - V. Wu
3	D. Kimsey - W. Wood
4	J. Segal - H. Zusman

### Saturday 10 AM B/C Pairs

1	<b>A. Haut - E. Haut</b>
2	J. Maffucci - A. Aitkens
3	S. Fisher - F. Mawyer
4	K. Barrett - D. Thompson
5	E. Misner - J. Misner
6	W. Selden - P. Miller
1	<b>V. Tiedemann - A. Stafford</b>
2	G. Trost - W. Sigward
3	B. Relyea - K. Harrison
4	N. Davis - B. Deutsch

### Saturday 10 AM 299er Pairs

1	<b>M. Whittemore - J. Whittemore</b>
2	1 <b>R. Freres - G.S. Thoma</b>
3	S. Glasspiegel - R. Glasspiegel
4	A. Levy - J. Sternberg
5	J. Weil - P. Kovacs
6	2 H. Salm - S. Welton
3	K. Markby - C. Ballantine
4	1 <b>J. Zucker - J. Handleman</b>
5	2 D. Castagna - W. Hayes
6	3 D. Rowland - J. Miller
4	B. Cuiuffo - F. Cuiuffo

### Saturday 2:30 PM A/X Pairs

1	<b>K. Aker - J. Aker</b>
2	J. Cushing - M. Ozdil
3	M. Lucey - J. Goldman
4	H. Feldheim - J. Martin
5	L. Bauscher - S. Becker
6	1 <b>L. Green - D. Blackburn</b>
2	J. Marshall - V. Wu
3	J. Segal - H. Zusman
4	J. Hartman - F. Hawa

### Saturday 2:30 PM B/C Pairs

1	<b>K. Barrett - D. Thompson</b>
2	R. Kistner - C. Sauer
3/4	1 <b>K. AlDoori - A. Van Dyke</b>
3/4	S. Alpert - R. Levine
5	M. Hathaway - M. Tjader
6	B. Thompson - L. Berla
2	E. Cornejo - M. Yenni
3/4	S. Schroeder - G. Hayes
3/4	C. Hue - M. Raphan

### Saturday 2:30 PM 299er Pairs

1	1 1 <b>K. Wood - H. Dobyns</b>
2	W. Castagna - B. Trainer
3	S. Glasspiegel - R. Glasspiegel
4	P. Scher - P. Pranzo
5	2 2 J. Zucker - J. Handleman
6	3 C. Ballantine - C. Dann
4	3 M. Zolot - V. Rethy
4	H. Stancato - K. Konolige

### Sunday A/X Swiss Teams

1	<b>G. Robbins - M. Rosen;</b>
	<b>I. Ewen - B. Gwirtzman</b>
2	1 <b>S. Pfeister - Ray Pfeister;</b>
	<b>M. McNamara - S. McNamara</b>
3	B. Gischner - J. Gischner;
	D. Montgomery - A. Clamage

4	S. Smith - D. Rock;
	B. Gorsey - J. Pearson
5	J. Segal - L. Lau;
	F. Schneider - B. Schneider
2	D. Noack - G. Seckinger;
	R. Rising - John Farwell
3	D. Byrnes - M. Gupta;
	B. Cox - D. Cox

### Sunday B/C Swiss

1	1 <b>V. Wu - P. Ku;</b>
	<b>B. Ho - W. Ku</b>
2	P. Miller - L. Green;
	W. Williams - T. Lubman
3	D. Thompson - K. Barrett;
	S. Mayo - J. Thoma
4	2 A. Margolin - R. Margolin;
	S. Grosz - J. Grosz
5/6/3/4	M.E. McGuire - S. Kipp;
	B. Megrue - J. Bergen
5/6/3/4	K. Fox - E. Grant;
	H.L. Getz - N. Rizvi
7/85/6	S. Steckler - S. Harrison;
	M. Morgan - S. Brainard
7/85/6	M. Schraub - G. Schraub;
	S. Hodge - J. Hodge

## SID COHEN SECTIONAL Hartford, CT • September 16-18, 2011

### Friday 10 AM Open Pairs

1	<b>R. DeMartino - J. Stiefel</b>
2	P. Galaski - R. Webb
3	1 <b>C. Joseph - J. Merrill</b>
4	Y.-L. Shiu - H. Barry
5	L. Bauscher - P. Bauscher
6	2 1 <b>L. Levy - L. Levy</b>
3	R. Derrah - S. Derrah
4	J. Striefer - L. Kesselman
5	J. Gaztambide - E. Ramspeck
2	R. Freres - G.S. Thoma
3	L. May - R. Talbot
4	H. Salm - N. Gross

### Friday 10 AM Senior Pairs

1	1 <b>L. Green - D. Blackburn</b>
2	A. Clamage - D. Montgomery
3	2 1 <b>D. Gupta - S. Keller</b>
4	M. Goldberg - S. Gerber
5	3 2 M. Pane - I. Rivers
6	4 P. Carrier - M. Stasiewski
5	3 D. Lyons - J.S.-M. Lee
4	E. Konowitz - L. Bowman

### Friday 2:30 PM Open Pairs

1	1 <b>D. Thompson - W. Williams</b>
2	L. Bauscher - P. Bauscher
3	J. Greer - M. Lucey
4	2 1 <b>P. Clay - F. Caine</b>
5	P. Galaski - R. Webb
6	3 J. Gaztambide - E. Ramspeck
4	J. Striefer - L. Kesselman
5	G. Goldberg - C. Goldberg
6	R. Derrah - S. Derrah
2	D. Lyons - J.S.-M. Lee
3	G. Cameron - R. Kistner

### 2:30 PM Senior Pairs

1	<b>J.P. Tripp - P. Lane</b>
2	J. Gischner - J. Smith
3	1 1 <b>P. Bailer - R. Bailer</b>
4/5	A. Clamage - D. Montgomery
4/5	2 2 S. Smedes - G. Smedes
6	M. Goldberg - S. Gerber
3	3 C. Curley - J. Curley
4	4 M. Eisenberg - L. Abrahamson
5	5 R. Talbot - L. May

### Saturday AM 299er Pairs

1	1 1 <b>R. Freres - G.S. Thoma</b>
2	K. Freres - B. Pascal
3	A. Jain - A. Jain
4	2 H. Samuels - J. Lassman



# My Favorite Numbers - Revisited

by Allan Clamage

In the last issue of the *Kibitzer* there was an interesting and stimulating article by Burt Saxon entitled “My Favorite Numbers.” His premise was simple, in a matchpoint event, some scores can usually be counted on for a large number of matchpoints. He identified some of his “favorite” scores and pointed out that context frequently makes a difference.

For example +200 would be on anybody’s list of favorite (i.e. desired) scores, provided it was for defeating the opponents on a hand where you couldn’t make a game. And provided it wasn’t for making five of a major when you could bid and make a game. Even -1400 could be a good score if the opponents were making +1430, but a lousy score if all they could make was game. As several of the experts he consulted pointed out, bidding six of a minor for +920 is a good score, providing the rest of the room is in 3NT. But it’s a bad score if most pairs were in 6NT for +990.

There are really two kinds of “favorite” scores: The first kind includes the unique scores (only one way to get them) that always bring in heaps of matchpoints but may never occur in a life time, like +7600 (for defeating 7NT redoubled by 13 tricks), And the “strange” scores that occur infrequently that also score well like +870 (for... well you figure it out; there are four ways). Of course these are everybody’s favorites but they don’t occur often enough to make the list.

The second kind of favorite score—the one to shoot for—is the reasonably common score that has a reasonably high frequency and scores reasonably well above average. That’s a lot of “reasonably” and more about that in a moment. But the simple fact is that, with few exceptions (like +50), many scores can be achieved in a variety of ways. And their desirability is, therefore, a function of the context.

In the article, both Mr. Saxon and Tom Proulx—the editor of the *Kibitzer*—suggested that it might be possible to

get a better handle on “favorite scores” by statistical analysis of tournament results. This can be accomplished, with caveats, by tabulating all the results of every hand in many tournaments and determining which of them consistently produced the best results (i.e. the highest number of matchpoints).

Here are the three caveats:

First, because there are so many possible results (a typical 2-session event may have more than 70 different scores), a statistically valid sample should include many thousands of hands, from many kinds of events.

Second, without knowing the actual contract there is no context. That is, the conditions under which many results occurred are not immediately available from just looking at raw scores on a recap sheet. Thus there is no easy way to single out the “good” ambiguous scores (like +200 for beating the opponents) from the “bad” ones (like +200 for making five of a major—and missing game).

Third, a “favorite score” in a 299er game may not do so well in a Regional Pairs game, or in a real toughie event like the NABC LM pairs. You will see more about that, below.

Still, despite the problems, it’s worth a try to be a tad more scientific about favorite numbers, which gets us back to “reasonably.”

First, let’s define a “favorite number” as a score which, based on a reasonably large number of results, can be achieved with reasonably high frequency, and which usually brings “a reasonably large number of matchpoints.”

To get a “reasonably” large number of results I tabulated all the scores of a 2-session Sectional 299er game (600 results), two sessions of a Regional Daylight Stratified Open Pairs (1558 results) and the last session of the recent NABC Life Master Pairs (1014 results for three sections). That’s a total of 3171 results. (A mathematician can figure out if that’s large enough for a statistically valid sample.) I had originally planned on combining the three sets of figures, but, as you will see, the disparities

between the three groups were so great this would have confused, rather than clarified, the situation.

For a “reasonably” high frequency, I made a command decision. To be included in the analysis a score would have to appear at least 2% of the time. In a 13-table 2-session game (676 results), as I mentioned above, I’ve found about 70 different scores. So a score that comes up 2% of the time is just 13 times in 676. Not a lot but a lot sounder basis for a decision than a score that comes up only once a tournament, or a year, or a lifetime.

For a “reasonably” large number of matchpoints, I converted each score to a 12-top equivalent and averaged the MPs for each score. I had then expected to use double digits, that is 10 to 12 on a 12 top, as the criterion. That turned out to be unfeasible. None of the reasonably frequent scores averaged 10 or more MPs. Instead, I used 7.2 (60%) of the matchpoints on a 12-top. Table 1 displays the scores which occurred at least 2% of the time, along with the average matchpoints they received. What did these numbers show? You can draw your own conclusions. Here’s mine:

Note that for the 299ers the top three scores (and five of the top eight scores) were for *making* contracts. But the top three scores for the Daylight Pairs and top two for the LM Pairs games were for *setting* contracts. It seems clear that the 299ers should be working on their defense to get more matchpoints.

Not surprisingly, the worst MP results were for minus scores—either for being set or not setting opponents’ partials. But perhaps surprisingly, permitting opponent’s to bid and make game was not as bad as might have been expected. Particularly in the case of the “experts” (LM Pairs) event this suggests greater accuracy in reaching makeable games.

How do the high-scoring results on these lists compare with those on Mr. Saxon’s list?

He suggested 12 favorite results—11 of them for making contracts; only one for beating a contract. Of the 11, four were

*Continued on next page*

for making slams. Slams are obviously good MP generators. But, because of their low frequency, none of them showed up in the charts, below. Four more on his list were for making game. But none of these scores showed up on

the Daylight Pairs list, and only one made the LM pairs list. However, game scores were three of the top nine on the 299ers list...again suggesting that this group has been concentrating more on play than on defense.

Of the three scores for making partials (140, 130 and 120), only one (140) showed up on all three tournament lists; the others, not at all. The lone score for defense on Mr. Saxon's list was for

+200. That was right-on: +200 was the clear overall "winner" on the tournament lists—the one result that placed high on all three lists.

Nevertheless, the best score overall was +300 (9.3 average MPs) but it appears only on the LM Pairs list. This, along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> place +200 suggests that the real experts double more often—and so consistently reap the benefits of accurate defense.

### 1. Best (and Worst) High Frequency, High (and Low) Scoring Results

Scores in the gray areas averaged less than 60% (7.2) of the matchpoints.

Scores below the horizontal line averaged less than 50% (6.0) of the matchpoints.

Sectional 299er			
Rank	Score	Freq.	Avg. MPs
1	90	2.3%	9.5
2	450	2.0%	9.1
3	620	2.8%	8.7
4	200	4.0%	8.3
5	50	4.5%	8.1
6	100	7.2%	7.9
7	140	4.0%	7.4
8	420	4.5%	7.3
9	110	2.8%	7.1
10	-110	4.2%	5.8
11	-90	2.7%	5.3
12	170	2.7%	5.1
13	-650	4.8%	5.1
14	-420	2.7%	4.3
15	-50	3.7%	4.2
16	-200	2.2%	3.1
17	-100	7.2%	3.0
18	-140	2.0%	2.8
19	-150	2.2%	2.1
2 sessions/600 scores			

Regional Daylight Pairs			
Rank	Score	Freq.	Avg. MPs
1	100	6.8%	8.9
2	200	2.1%	8.5
3	50	6.3%	8.2
4	130	2.2%	7.7
5	170	3.4%	7.3
6	110	2.8%	6.8
7	140	4.9%	6.4
8	-170	2.1%	5.7
9	-400	2.8%	5.7
10	650	2.7%	5.7
11	-420	2.6%	5.2
12	-140	2.6%	5.0
13	-110	3.8%	4.9
14	-50	4.6%	4.8
15	-430	3.3%	4.2
16	-100	6.7%	3.5
17	-200	3.1%	2.8
2 sessions/1558 scores (2 AVG+ scores not included)			

National LM Pairs			
Rank	Score	Freq.	Avg. MPs
1	300	2.3%	9.3
2	200	2.7%	9.2
3	140	7.8%	8.0
4	170	2.3%	7.8
5	50	3.8%	7.6
6	620	3.4%	7.1
7	110	2.0%	6.8
8	-420	3.5%	6.7
9	100	6.3%	6.7
10	-630	3.6%	6.4
11	-620	3.1%	6.2
12	-650	2.9%	6.0
13	130	2.4%	5.9
14	-90	2.5%	5.9
15	-50	5.9%	4.9
16	-450	2.8%	4.9
17	-110	2.9%	3.3
18	-140	2.7%	3.3
19	-100	7.4%	2.8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Final Session/3 Sections/600 scores			

Now, to create a list of "favorite numbers" based on the results shown above, I started with the scores which appeared on all three lists. Table 2 matches the scores from the 299ers and Daylight Pairs with the top nine scores in the LM Pairs.

### 2. How Ranks of 299er and Daylight Correlate with LM Pairs

Matching scores are shown in the adjoining rows in the gray area.

299er			
Rank	Score	Freq.	Avg. MPs
4	200	4.0%	8.3
7	140	4.0%	7.4
12	170	2.7%	5.1
5	50	4.5%	8.1
3	620	2.8%	8.7
9	110	2.8%	7.1
14	-420	2.7%	4.3
6	100	7.2%	7.9
2 sessions			

Daylight Pairs			
Rank	Score	Freq.	Avg. MPs
2	200	2.1%	8.5
7	140	4.9%	6.4
5	170	3.4%	7.3
3	50	6.3%	8.2
6	110	2.8%	6.8
11	-420	2.6%	5.2
1	100	6.8%	8.9
2 sessions			

LM Pairs			
Rank	Score	Freq.	Avg. MPs
1	300	2.3%	9.3
2	200	2.7%	9.2
3	140	7.8%	8.0
4	170	2.3%	7.8
5	50	3.8%	7.6
6	620	3.4%	7.1
7	110	2.0%	6.8
8	-420	3.5%	6.7
9	100	6.3%	6.7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Final Session			

Favorite Numbers continued from previous page

Next, I calculated the average rank and matchpoints for the top-scoring results (Table 3). Note that the top three scores in this table are for defense. The next three are for making partials. And none are for making a game—although +620 would have been included if its frequency had been a smidge higher in the Day-light Pairs. This table strongly suggests the real battle for MPs takes place in the trenches: for the partials which make up such a high percentage of the hands.

### 3. My Favorite Scores

Result	Avg. Rank	Expected MPs
200	2.7	8.7
50	4.3	8.0
100	5.0	7.8
140	5.7	7.2
170	7.0	6.8
110	7.3	6.9

Note that while -420 was included in all three lists, it was not included in this list of favorites because the Expected MPs was below average in two of the three events.

The makeable game and slam contracts, and the big doubled contracts all may pay off in MPs. But their frequency is low. So perhaps the two most important lessons you can learn from the numbers are simply these: First, if you want to win in the long run, learn to take advantage of the high-frequency opportunities: to make, and break, the partials. And second, learn to double more. If your bidding is reasonably sound, the relatively low frequency opportunities (the games, the slams and the big sets) will take care of themselves.

Congratulations on slogging through all the numbers. Now, if you've come this far and want to know the four ways to get 870, they're on page 12.

Results continued from page 5

- 5 3 2 K. Wood – B. Adams
- 6 4 C. Hill – L. Englehart
- 5 3 M. Pikor – R. Pikor
- 4 E. Vogel – I. Rivers

#### A/X Pairs

- 1 **C. Joseph – D. Doub**
- 2 1 **B. Reich – B. Lewis**
- 3 J. Stiefel – R. DeMartino
- 4 A. Applebaum – V. King
- 5 2 C. Hurley – Y.-L. Shiue
- 6 M. Goldberg – L. Meyers
- 3 S. Smith – D. Rock
- 4 S. Seckinger – S. Rodricks

#### B/C Pairs

- 1 **E. Nagle – H. Strauss**
- 2 J. Gaztambide – E. Ramspeck
- 3 K. Willson – N. Bartone
- 4 V. Kozlov – M. Kawka
- 5 J. Merrill – D. Montgomery
- 6 C. McLaughlin – T. Thompson
- 1 **R. Janow – L. Fradet**
- 2 G. Perry – R. Bobilin
- 3 D. Gupta – L. Bowman
- 4 M. Garilli – K. Emott
- 5 D. Lyons – E. Nuki

#### 299er Pairs

- 1 1 1 **E. Vogel – I. Rivers**
- 2 2 2 R. Freres – G.S. Thoma
- 3 3 R. Fronapfel – S. Fronapfel
- 4 4 3 K. Wood – B. Adams
- 5 E. Andrews Jr. – F. Caine
- 5 S. Byron – D. Bauman

#### A/X Pairs

- 1 1 **P. Galaski – R. Webb**
- 2 D. Blackburn – L. Green
- 3 3 L. Starr – T. Gerchman
- 4 A. Applebaum – V. King
- 5 S. Gladyszak – A. Borgschulte
- 6 H. Silverman – S. Pflederer
- 4 S. Smith – D. Rock
- 5 C. Hurley – Y.-L. Shiue

#### B/C Pairs

- 1 **T. Thompson – C. McLaughlin**
- 2/3 N. Bartone – K. Willson
- 2/3 E. Nagle – H. Strauss
- 4 D. Landsberg – P. Fliakos
- 5 V. Kozlov – M. Kawka
- 6 J. Gaztambide – E. Ramspeck
- 1 **G. Perry – R. Bobilin**
- 2 P. Sawyer – A. Specyalski
- 3 M. Garilli – K. Emott
- 4 L. Fradet – R. Janow
- 5 D. Wright – T. Karnkowski

#### Sunday A/X Swiss Teams

- 1 **V. King – J. Stiefel;**  
**L. Arvedon – R. DeMartino**
- 2 D. Benner – A. Crystal;  
M. Lucey – J. Greer
- 3 A. Clamage – T. Reyes Hiller;  
D. Montgomery – H. Zusman  
T. Joyce – H. Silverman;
- 4 D. Margolin – M. Futterman
- 1 **R. Blair – S. Corning;**  
**C. Graham – L. Russman**
- 2 S. Smith – D. Rock;  
K. Ciesluk – B. Downing
- 3 J.P. Tripp – P. Lane;  
H. Barry – G. Seckinger

#### Sunday B/C Swiss Teams

- 1 **C. Joseph – P. Beauchamp;**  
**J. Stiefel – L. Wallowitz**
- 2 M. Wavada – M. Dworetsky;  
S. Derrah – R. Derrah
- 3 J. Hyde – R. Talbot;  
S. Keller – L. Bowman
- 4 C. Marcella – M. Kunofsky;  
S. Gedansky – P. Amedeo
- 5 B. Cope – A. Cope;  
M. Ginsberg – R. Ginsberg
- 6 R. Herring – H. Cohen;  
R. Schapiro – J.J. Schapiro
- 1 **E. Inman – M. Gussak;**  
**N. Healy – E. Karp**
- 2/3 J. Moore – J. Anderson;
- 2/3 N. Campbell – D. Verchick  
M. Molwitz – L. Kelso;  
D. Carpenter – J. Scott

#### UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Thursday AM Session • September 22, 2011

#### FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **J. Hoben – S. Mayo**
- 2 S. Budds – K. Frangione
- 3 L. Wallowitz – K. Harrison
- 4 B. Megrue – P. Glassmeyer
- 5 E. Lewis III – T. Hyde
- 6 R. Brown – B. Saunders

#### FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **L. Wallowitz – K. Harrison**
- 2 B. Megrue – P. Glassmeyer
- 3 R. Brown – B. Saunders
- 4 P. Fliakos – D. Landsberg
- 5 R. Aspinwall – M. Hayward
- 6 K. Freres – G. Ord

#### FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **K. Freres – G. Ord**
- 2/3 B. Greene – J. Stanley
- 2/3 J. Bergen – M. Dunne
- 4 E. Spelbrink – E. Meyer
- 5 M. Resnic – J. Collins
- 6 R. Freres – B. Hayes

#### 199er SECTIONAL West Hartford, CT • September 25, 2011

#### Winners of the Three Strati were:

- 100-200 Pat Shimkus and Mary Beth Murphy
- 50-100 Marek and Maria Kawka
- 0-50 Chris Johnson and Mark Sayre

#### UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Friday, October 7, 2011

#### FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **C. Yohans Jr. – A. Leshine**
- 2 L. Stiberth – G. Holland
- 3 R. Kuzma – J. Macomber
- 4 C. Heckman – L. Wood
- 5 P. Miller – E. Ranard
- 6 T. Lorch – L. Robbins
- 7 P. Edwards – E. Schiavone

#### FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **L. Stiberth – G. Holland**
- 2 R. Kuzma – J. Macomber
- 3 P. Edwards – E. Schiavone
- 4 D. Kimsey – R. Shediak
- 5 V. Gerard – B. Saunders
- 6 B. Adams – K. Wood

#### FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **D. Kimsey – R. Shediak**
- 2 B. Adams – K. Wood
- 3 R. Talbot – L. May
- 4 D. Gupta – J. Lai
- 5 T. Blank – J. Goldberg
- 6 M. Hayward – S. Lewis



Dip the Apple continued from page 2

- I can lead the ace and low towards the Q10, and this is fine if the king or jack is singleton or if West plays the king or jack on the second round. I will however have two losers if East has both missing honors (more than doubleton), or if the honors are split and I guess wrongly if West plays low on the second round of the suit;
- The second option is to play low towards the Q10 without playing the ace first. But, if you play the ten losing to the jack, or the queen losing to the king you have to guess how to play the suit on the second round. Do you finesse East for the missing honor or do you play the ace hoping to drop the remaining honor?

Now the first two options may be valid depending on communication between the hands, or information from the opponents on their distribution/point count. But with no extra information, the best approach is:

- Lead the queen from dummy and if that loses, cross back to dummy and lead the ten planning to finesse again. This only loses two tricks if West has both missing honors (25%), and even lets you win all 3 tricks if leading the queen on the first round

smothers a singleton jack in the West hand.

I said this was a poisoned suit because if I have to play it first I will make 1, 2, or 3 tricks depending on the opponent's hands but expect to win at least 2 tricks 75% of the time. If the opponents lead clubs first then I have a 100% chance of making two tricks: if East leads the suit I play low from hand and guarantee at least two tricks. If West leads a low card I can play the 9♣ and again guarantee at least two tricks.

All the analysis above looks at a suit in isolation but after taking his non-club winner, East led the ♣4. As I explained above, playing low guarantees two tricks. However, I hadn't had a chance to draw trumps yet and the lead of the lowest club screamed to me of a singleton. If I played low and lost to West's king then West could now give East a club ruff and I would be down one if the trump finesses lost. Also, I now "knew" that West had the ♣K as it made no sense to me that East would play a low club away from the king as it gives me a significant chance of now playing the suit for no losers.

As a result, I played the ♣A and took a losing trump finesse into the East hand. If the 4♣ was a singleton I'm still fine as East can't get back to the West hand for

a club ruff, and if East has three clubs to the jack, they can play a club to West's king but West won't have any clubs left and again no club ruff. Of course this hand wouldn't be bothering me if things went according to plan: East actually had three clubs including the king (West had the doubleton jack), so East now played the king and gave his partner a club ruff. The club distribution was reasonable so the par result was 10 tricks. East gave me a chance to make 11 tricks by playing the poisoned suit. I emerged with 9 tricks and no match-points.



Favorite Numbers continued from page 8

**How to score 870**

- 2♥ or 2♠, doubled, vulnerable + 1 over-trick
- 3♣ or 3♦, doubled, vulnerable + 1 over-trick
- 3♣ or 3♦, doubled, non-vulnerable + 4 overtricks
- 4NT, doubled, vulnerable

In case you're curious, in the 3171 hands I tabulated, +870 and -870 actually did come up—once each. That's a frequency of just 0.03% each. Is +870 desirable? Certainly...but it's nowhere near frequent enough to make the list of favorite results.



# THE KIBITZER

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