



THE KIBITZER

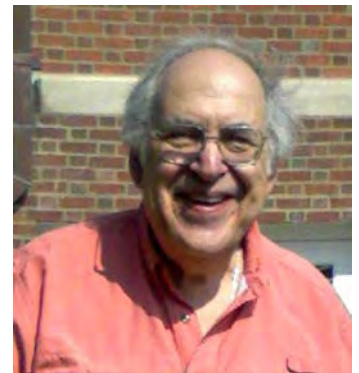
A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Volume 18 • Number 2 • May 2014

The Phantom Strikes Again!

by Harold Feldheim



An important area of bridge tactics revolves around sacrifice bidding. The concept is to take advantage of a good trump fit and become declarer rather than letting the opponents fulfill their contract. Thus, if the opponents can make a vulnerable slam (+1430) and you can play in your suit and go set only -800, you'll net a substantial gain, in this case 1430 - 800 equaling 630 points or 12 IMPs. But when a sacrifice turns out to be ill-judged and you go set but the opponents cannot fulfill their contract, this is known in the parlance as a *phantom save*. A point of strategy, especially in a short match, is to determine whether a sacrifice is a good result or a bad result since this information might influence later decision-making.

While not terribly remarkable, the following is an interesting example from a Swiss event and exemplifies the possible pitfalls in this type of analysis.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: North/South

	North		East
	♠ J 10 7 4		♠ 9
	♥ 7 6 5 4		♥ 10 9 8
West	♦ K 3		♦ Q J 10 9 5
♠ A 6	♣ J 9 4		♣ 10 5 3 2
♥ K J 3		South	
♦ 8 7 6		♠ K Q 8 5 3 2	
♣ A K 8 7 6		♥ A Q 2	
		♦ A 4 2	
		♣ Q	

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

North's 3♠ was intended as preemptive. Knowing this, East decided to pass, hoping that the N-S pair would languish in a part score. But South, holding a good 6-card suit and a 5-loser hand, had no problem carrying on to game. Now East, with favorable vulnerability, four trumps, and shortness in the opponents suit, decided to sacrifice in 5♣, and was doubled by his opponents.

The defense was +300, scoring two diamonds, one heart and one club. And East was unhappy because it looked like N/S could not make 4♠. With the nasty heart position, South figured to lose one club, one spade and two hearts. East assumed his teammates would also be in four spades, down one. So instead of pushing the board, East thought the "sacrifice" had cost nine IMPs.

Trying to get the "guestimated" IMP loss back, East-West indulged in some over-aggressive action on the next board and were doubled for -500. As it turned out, their team lost a close match.

At the other table, South declared 4♠. West led the K♣ and switched to the A♠ and another spade. Declarer won in dummy, ruffed the small club, cashed two high diamonds ruffing the third diamond in dummy to reach the following 6-card ending.

	North		East
	♠ J		♠ - - -
	♥ 7 6 5 4		♥ 10 9 8
	♦ - - -		♦ Q J
	♣ J		♣ 10
West		South	
♠ - - -		♠ K Q 8	
♥ K J 3		♥ A Q 2	
♦ - - -		♦ - - -	
♣ A 8 7		♣ - - -	

South led the ♣J from dummy, discarding a heart well and truly endplaying West. So as it turned out, the sacrifice was successful as opposed to phantom; +620 vs. -300 gaining 8 IMPs!

Post-Mortem: East-West were 100% at fault for at least two reasons. First, the opponents at the other table may have indulged in the same sacrifice and second, their analysis might be wrong. Here, they erroneously believed the sacrifice had cost them IMPs, and thereby lost the match trying to win back IMPs they hadn't actually lost. In this case, it was wrong by 17 IMPs (instead of losing 9 IMPs, they won the board by 8).

Probably the most important point is to trust your teammates; they may come back with some surprising successes. Don't ruin their triumphs. It's bad karma and it's bad bridge.





From the CBA President

We all go to a club or tournament game dreaming we will win, hoping we will “scratch” and, most of all, having faith that at the very least, we will enjoy ourselves and the experience of playing bridge.

Unfortunately, sometimes that doesn't happen. But there is help for some of those unpleasant situations.

One of the least understood positions on the CBA Board of Directors is that of Recorder. According to the ACBL, our national organization, the role of Recorder is a required responsibility in all unit, or district, organizations.

Essentially, the Recorder is the go-to person to receive, investigate, and evaluate player's memos, which might be questions about another player's behavior during a club or local tournament game. Other issues might be in the form of complaints or a request for clarification of something general that occurred during the course of a game or scoring process and which is not clearly understood.

Issues, questions or complaints may be filed by players or directors of the CBA, as well as by non-members participating in ACBL sanctioned events.

The Recorder evaluates the issue and decides if filing a formal charge (with the ACBL) is in order or not. Most often, these issues do not require such a filing. Many are not that clear cut and are only implication of a wrong-doing and lack enough evidence to bring formal charges.

Lenny Russman is the Recorder for the CBA. He can be reached by phone 203-245-6850, email (lbrussman@sbcglobal.net) or regular mail. Lenny follows the practice of most recorders and will usually ask for a written description of the issue or question. He will talk with the person and then, if the issue is a complaint, he will communicate with the subject and if the circumstances require, speak with witnesses as well.

He will make a determination as to whether the complaint is of a very serious nature and necessitates being referred to a disciplinary body. Lenny does not engage in any form of discipline, nor does he recommend such action.

Assuming it is not a matter requiring referral, he will attempt to mediate, arbitrate and educate. The Recorder always notifies - in writing - the results of the investigation to the complainant as well as the subject of the complaint. Records are kept of all communication with the parties involved in the Recorder's administrative file. One of the purposes of keeping records is to establish patterns of behavior. This is particularly important if a frequency of behavior or complaint becomes evident. Confidentiality and privacy are always maintained.

Directors and club managers have the right, and it is considered an essential part of the job, to control and deal with behaviors that may disrupt a game or annoy and distract other players.

Directors also have the right to conduct the process of the game.

Knowing ACBL bridge rules is part of a director's obligation. But issues about rulings are NOT part of the Recorder's job description. If a player disagrees with or doesn't understand a director's ruling, he or she may request a “committee” usually composed of one's peers, or more experienced players, to hear the issue. Players may also directly contact the ACBL.

We assume that most directors deal with behavioral situations in a just manner to ensure the comfort and enjoyment of everyone at the game. If dissatisfied with the director's handling of a behavioral issue or some other circumstance, players have the right to contact the Recorder for a fair and non-biased adjudication of the issues.

It is a primary goal of duplicate bridge that people have a good time. Players are expected to compete fairly, to be considerate, to follow the rules, and have a pleasurable bridge experience at all of Connecticut's club games or tournaments.

Esther Watstein
President, CBA

MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Grand Life Master and Kibitzer Contributor John Stiefel who has passed 20,000 masterpoints!

New Life Masters

Larry Bowman
Roger Crean
Carolyn Halsey
Rebecca Jacobson
James Larson
Nancy Matthews
Doris Nussbaum
Joseph Pagerino
Jackie Stone

Emerald Life Master (7500 MP's)

Faye Marino

Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

Jay Force

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Leia Berla
Roger Crean

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Audrey Cadwallader
Lee Herdle
Carol Kesmodel
Joseph Pagerino
Jackie Stone
David Wright

Wanted:

More Youth Bridge Groups

How can you help?

If you know of a school faculty member or other school-connected individual who would help recruit students to learn to play bridge, New England Youth Bridge, Inc. (NEYB) will assist by supplying lesson plans and – if you do not want to teach the students yourself – by recruiting a bridge player to teach the lessons. Just contact a board member of NEYB (names are listed below) to talk about how to proceed.

NEYB is a tax exempt charitable organization. NEYB, which charges no fees for teaching youth to play bridge, offers not only lesson plans, teaching tips, cards, boards, and bidding boxes, but also, as necessary, financial assistance to help the youth bridge club succeed.

NEYB board members are Adam Parrish, Murthy Ayyagari, Pam Miller, Jeff Lehman, Jim Rasmussen, Lisa Allison, and Adam Grossack.



Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #25: IMPs vs. Matchpoints

by Alan Wolf

Some very fine players will tell you that duplicate bridge is a totally different game when scored at matchpoints versus IMPs or rubber bridge. This is certainly an exaggeration, since the mechanics of the game are unchanged and bidding methods and techniques of play generally apply to either method of scoring.

Yet there are significant differences in strategy, and matchpoint scoring surely presents a much more difficult challenge. The two scoring methods imply different objectives during the play of the hand.

In IMP scoring, as declarer your objective is generally clear cut. Make your contract.

If the contract is a good one, and requires only normal breaks, play as safely as possible. Overtricks are unimportant.

If the contract is shaky or doubtful, take chances. Play for whatever holding of the opponents' cards will enable you to succeed, no matter how unlikely.

Likewise, when defending at IMPs, go all out to defeat the contract.

With matchpoint scoring, the objective either declaring or defending is to do better than the pairs who hold the same cards when the hand is replayed at other tables. In bidding, this leads to close doubles of partscore contracts, unheard of in IMP scoring.

Good matchpoint players talk of “the magic +200,” since +200 beats the common partscores in the range of 110 to 170. When the opponents are vulnerable, beating them one trick for +100 is not a good result when your side could be making a partscore for 110 or more. But +200 is likely to be a very good result. Hence the close doubles.

In the play, as overtricks are very important, a good declarer may even jeopardize a contract to go after them. Defenders often have a difficult time deciding that defeating a contract is

not likely. They must instead focus on limiting overtricks.

In determining how much risk to take, declarer often has to make a judgment about what the rest of the field will be doing on a particular deal. Two issues are particularly important.

1. Is the contract normal? If yes, declarer may still take some prudent risks to try to beat the field. But, if the contract is unusual, declarer must go all out to try to beat the field, taking great risk if necessary.
2. Has the defense been effective against you, opening lead in particular? If the defense has been especially good, you may need to take extra risks to make up ground. If on the other hand, the defense has been sloppy (perhaps a gift on the opening lead), then you can afford to play conservatively, since you're already ahead of the game.

The following is an example. This hand was played by Minna when she was new to duplicate (matchpoint) bridge, and did not understand these subtleties. Instead, she believed based on her rubber bridge experience, that making the contract was always paramount.

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: North/South

Majorca
(North)
♠ K J 9 4
♥ K 10 5
♦ 10 7 3
♣ A J 9

Professor
(West)

Minna
(South)
♠ Q 8 7 5 2
♥ A 9 2
♦ A K
♣ Q 10 4

Warren
(East)

South	West	North	East
Minna	Professor	Majorca	Warren
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Even with the five card major suit, Minna elected the 1NT opening, and Majorca, with a perfectly flat 4-3-3-3, raised to 3NT, not exploring for a major suit fit. Thus the partnership failed to find their 9-card spade fit. It happens.

The play was not very difficult, or for that matter very interesting, except for the match-point implications.

The professor led a fourth-best ♦ 4, on which Warren played the Jack as Minna won with the King. She now forced out the ♠A, won by Warren, who continued diamonds. The professor followed with the deuce, so that surely looked like an original 5 card holding.

Minna could now count nine winners, four spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club.

She could see the possibility of a club finesse, which if it worked would have her making five. But if the finesse lost, she would likely lose five tricks, the ♠A, the ♣K, and three diamond tricks, for down 1 in an ice-cold contract. So, she eschewed the finesse, and settled for making 3NT.

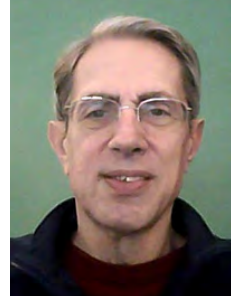
In the post-mortem, the professor gently helped Minna to understand the implications of matchpoint scoring: surely many pairs in the room would find their way to a Four Spade contract, either with a 1♠ opening bid or thru use of Stayman following a 1NT opening.

In that contract, declarer would not be concerned with diamond losers, and so would be able to take the club finesse with impunity, making 4 or 5. Thus taking the club finesse was absolutely indicated. If it won, she would beat out the 4♠ contracts, and if it lost she would get the same terrible matchpoint result as 3NT making 3. As it was, 3NT making 3 salvaged half a matchpoint, as she tied for bottom with one other pair.



Bid More, Make Less

by Geoff Brod



You're playing in an elevated pair event. That is one that carries a national rating. It's four sessions played over two days. You've qualified for the second day but you have a relatively low carryover. Fortunately, your third session was good so you are in contention for a high overall placing.

Midway through the fourth session you encounter one of the seeded pairs. Both your hand and partner's are unexceptional so the opponents have the auction to themselves. After three passes your LHO opens 1♠ and it goes 2♣ Drury on your right. This promises at least three spades and limit raise (or perhaps even better after reevaluation) values. You still have nothing to say so it goes pass to LHO. He thinks for a little bit and then being something of a garrulous sort slaps the 4♠ card on the table muttering to the effect that to do anything else would create jeopardy.

The hand proves to be routine and declarer is soon claiming five. What in the world was all the chatter about? Well it's matchpoints. Overtricks have far more import here than they would in a Swiss or KO match. He had a hand where after Drury there was the possibility of slam but he finally judged that there was simply too much risk in exploring for what was likely to be a marginal slam and in the process providing the opponents with a lot of information that might well cut down on the overtricks. At IMPs, where overtricks are of less meaning, he may well have risked an informative auction in order to explore for slam.

Fast forward to the final weekend (this is the recent Dallas NABCs). It's the two day nationally rated North American Swiss. Once again you've qualified for the final day. Once again your carryover ain't so hot (you were in the middle of the pack of the qualifiers) but once again things seem to be picking up as you have a small loss and the two solid wins

(scored at Victory Points) so you have chances of a decent overall finish.

It's the fourth match of the day and you sit down against two quite accomplished players. Note that it is players, not pair. That's because it is an ad hoc partnership formed just the day before for this event.

You have a very good result on the first board stealing the contract in 3♥ making after the defense goes astray when the opponents are on for 4♠. On the second board your LHO (East) picks up a fine hand. Take his seat and see how you think it should be handled:

♠ 6 5
♥ J
♦ A K 10 9 4
♣ A K J 9 8

Everyone is not vulnerable and your RHO (North) opens 1♥ in front of you. You elect to call 2NT showing your distribution. LHO passes and pard jumps to 4♦, pass to you.

Well it's not hard to see that you could be cold for a slam. After all why can't pard hold something like ♠Axx, ♥xxxx, ♦Qxxx, ♣Qx. That isn't much and if diamonds are no worse than 3-1 and clubs 4-2 he'll be able to draw trumps, throw his losing spades on clubs and ruff a spade in hand for 12 tricks. Even something like ♠Axx, ♥xxx, ♦xxxxx, ♣xx will provide a play and if pard decides he needs the club finesse it will be through the opening bidder. Over to you.

You decide to bid 4♥. If pard bids 4♠ you will bid a slam. So 4♥ it is. Somewhat disquietingly it goes double on your left. Pard bids 5♦ and that's the end of it.

The auction has been:

North	East	South	West
1♥	2NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Dble	5♦
All Pass			

Today you get a bonus. You get to go back to your original seat (North) and make the opening lead knowing what's coming down in dummy:

♠ A J 4
♥ A Q 9 8 6 3
♦ 10 3
♣ 7 6

What's South's (partner's) double all about? One thing that it is not about is a string of small hearts. It shows a card in the suit: an Ace, King or Queen. Since you expect dummy to have a maximum of three cards in the majors and since your hand suggests that it would be advantageous for pard to gain the lead and put a spade through you put a small heart on the table. If you didn't hold the ♥Q there would be a fair amount of jeopardy attached to this but since the double shows one of the three top honors there is little risk

Voilà! Pard wins the King and instantly understands what is expected of him. Since he holds the ♠Q you collect two more tricks, plus 50.

So what went wrong here? Your opponent's lack of partnership hurt. West thought that his jump to 4♦ was clearly preemptive denying a good hand. In his methods if he had been interested in game he would have cue bid 3♥ before bidding 4♦. East on the other hand expected West to have invitational values. Since so little in the right spot would have been enough to make a slam, he felt compelled to make a try. But alas, it was a case of bid more, make less.

At the other table, your teammates had the same auction up to 4♦. They however had much firmer partnership understanding. The 4♦ bid was clearly preemptive so East was not tempted to make a slam try and simply bid a direct 5♦. Not surprisingly your hand did not find the underlead of his heart honors and spade losers went away on clubs.





Can't Cost Method – Chapter 39

by John Stiefel

In this recent deal from a recent Regional Swiss Teams, South played well to overcome bad splits in 2 suits to bring home his grand slam.

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: Both

North
 ♠ A K J 6 4
 ♥ A 10 8 3
 ♦ A 9 8 7
 ♣ - - -

South
 ♠ Q 3 2
 ♥ K Q 9 7 4
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ A 6

North	East	South	West
		1♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♥	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♦K

A few notes about the bidding. North's 5NT bid was the "grand slam force" and asked South to bid 7♥ if he held two of the top three honors in that suit. Otherwise, North was supposed to sign off in 6♥. (Some pairs play other additional responses to the grand slam force, but these require careful discussion.) North reasoned (correctly in my opinion) that a grand slam would have played regardless of what South held – as long as he had the KQ of trump – but it would be difficult or impossible to determine with assurance that the grand slam does not have good play if South has KQ of trump. Another advantage of North's direct approach is that it gives little information to the opponents. (See more about this below.)

At any rate, how would you play this hand after winning West K♦ with North's Ace? (Hint – the hand will be trivial if there are normal splits in the major suits, so planning the play should involve how to handle bad splits in one or both of the majors.)

South's first play was to cash the K♥ (i.e. following the "double honor first" rule when holding all 3 top honors in the combined hands). This allowed him to pick up Jxxx in either opponent's hand.

Sure enough, West showed out, marking East with Jxxx.

South now could count 13 tricks (he thought) via five spades, five hearts, two minor suit aces and one club ruff. So he ruffed his ♣6 with dummy's ♥10. This allowed him to continue with the ♥A and ♥8 and to overtake the ♥8 with the 9 when East didn't cover. Then he drew the last trump, discarding a diamond from dummy. This was the position after seven tricks had been played.

North
 ♠ A K J 6 4
 ♥
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣

South
 ♠ Q 3 2
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ A

It seemed like South had the rest of the tricks via five spades, a trump and the club ace; but South realized that it "couldn't cost" to lead the last trump to trick 7 and the ace of clubs to trick 8 (discarding dummy's losing diamonds on each of these tricks). West discarded a diamond to trick 7 and then "went into the tank" at trick 8, finally discarding a spade. Sure enough, West's last six cards were 10-9-8-x-x of spades and the ♦Q; so he had the unenviable choice of discarding the ♦Q to set up South's J (East had played a discouraging diamond to trick 1) or to set up dummy's ♠6 for the 13th trick.

Now let's go back to North's 5NT bid and say that he had instead responded 1♠ to South's opening bid and then eventually bid to 7♥. East, who started with a void in spades, would have presumably doubled 7♥ to ask for "an unusual lead, often dummy's first bid suit" and trumped the opening spade lead to set the contract. (North might have run to 7NT, but there are only 11 top tricks in that contract and perhaps a 12th via a "squeeze/end-play" against West.) In the actual hand, I think East should have nonetheless doubled the final contract

to ask for an "unusual lead" and hoped that West would have figured out to lead a spade for him to trump. In the actual hand, West started with five spades, four diamonds and four clubs; so he would presumably have "gone with the odds" and led his longest suit for his partner to ruff.

True – there are hands where doubling 7♥ might induce North to run to a makeable 7NT – and there are other hands where West will not guess correctly which suit East is void in. I nonetheless favor the bold double of 7♥ rather than the "safe" pass hoping that somehow the Jxxx of trump or something else will be enough to set the grand slam. Sitting quietly and going for -2210 is not going to be a good result at any form of the game.

Finally, note that South goes down if he carelessly ruffs his ♣6 with dummy's ♥8 at trick 3. (After the ♥A wins trick 4, East doesn't cover dummy's ♥10 at trick 5 and South is forced to lead a spade at trick 6 to try to get to his hand to draw the last trump.)



IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the
ACBL Bridge Bulletin

Bobbi B. Jacobs, Stamford, CT
 Peter M. Kilbride, Branford, CT
 Gary F. Seckinger, Wethersfield, CT

Tough Defense, and Which Slam Should you Bid

by Brett Adler



Playing in the Grand National Teams in Sturbridge recently, I had a tough defensive problem, and an interesting bidding problem that almost gave me a headache.

Here is my defensive problem:

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: North/South

West	East
♠ A J 10 7 6 2	♠ 5
♥ 10	
♦ A 6	
♣ Q 9 6 5	
	South
	♠ K
	♥ 6 4 3 2
	♦ Q 9 8 2
	♣ A K J 10

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

I sat West, and as a result of my spade overcall, partner led the 5♠. How are you going to beat this contract? The answer is at the bottom of this article...

In terms of the bidding problem, Larry Lau (my partner) opened 1♥ in second seat and I held ♠Q54, ♥A74, ♦A, ♣KQ10986. To support hearts straight away I should have at least four card support with a hand this strong, so I started with a 2♣ bid to show my length and game going values as we play 2/1. When Larry supported my club suit by bidding 3♣ I got excited as a double fit between our two hands normally plays very well.

I now bid 3♥ to confirm the double fit and also asked Larry to cue bid as we play that 3♥ is stronger than 4♥ in this sequence (slow arrival in a game forcing auction with a trump fit should show better values as you are giving yourselves more opportunity to make cue bids).

The auction proceeded:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
???			

Larry's bids of 3♠ and 4♣ were cue bids showing first round control, and my bid of 3NT was a waiting bid, denying first round control of clubs and inviting partner to make another cue bid.

I'm now at the cross roads and I have options as to how to continue the auction. In a bridge auction, the objective is to communicate your values and distribution to your partner until one of you knows enough about their partner's hand to take control of the auction – to become the captain.

When I look at my hand I have a 6th club, a singleton A♦, and the Q♠, all of which would be hard to describe to Larry if I didn't take control of the auction. As a result, I now bid 4NT which was Roman Key Card for hearts. The auction continued:

West	North	East	South
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
???			

And I had to make another decision as to how to continue, partner's 5♦ showed 0 or 3 Key cards, so I now knew that partner had the ♠A, ♥K and ♣A, and a grand slam was looking a distinct possibility.

If I now bid 5NT telling partner we had all the key cards and asking for kings, the risk is that we might end up in a grand slam with a heart loser. As a result I decided to ask Larry if he had the Q♥ by bidding 5♠. Larry's response of 5NT showed the Queen, but also denied the Kings of clubs and/or diamonds (no surprise about clubs as I was looking at this King in my own hand). Without the Queen, Larry would have returned to the trump suit as cheaply as possible and bid 6♥.

Larry's style is not to show Kings in suits higher than the agreed trump suit, so Larry may also have had the ♠K, but I now had to place the final contract:

West	North	East	South
5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
???			

Based on the assets between the two hands, I decided to bid a Grand Slam, but which one? In clubs we had a 9 or 10 card fit with no losers in the suit – if we were missing four clubs including the Jack I could play the King from my hand and then finesse either opponent to avoid a loser in case they broke 4-0. I also knew that we had at least an 8 card heart fit with at least the top three honors, but it was possible that there would be a deep heart loser. I was also worried that as we had so many clubs there might be a club lead and a ruff, if hearts were trumps.

7NT was also an option and if I could make five tricks in hearts I could count 13 tricks, but if hearts didn't run I could be in trouble. Playing teams they say that you should only bid a grand slam if you can count 13 tricks so now I gave partner different hands in my mind and bid the Grand Slam in clubs as it had a higher probability of success:

The hearts might run; partner might have a 6th heart and I can set up the suit; partner might have the ♠K; partner might have the singleton ♠A and I can ruff spades in dummy; and even if none of these is in play, I still have chances if partner has a holding such as ♠Ax, ♥KQxxx, ♦QJx, ♣Axx. I can ruff the last heart good for one spade pitch, and try to get rid of the other spade loser on a diamond ruffing finesse. If partner's holding is the same with only ♦Qxx or ♦Jxx, I would also have the chance of playing a spade/diamond squeeze against my left hand opponent (so long as they don't lead a spade at trick one and force me to commit to a line too early).

continued on next page

From the

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz are about one win ahead of Rita Brieger-Harold Miller with Hank Banach-George Levinson well back in third place. Bob Hawes and Simon Rich are both in two of the top ten partnerships.

Player-of-the-Year: Jeff and Kevin have taken a significant lead for Player-of-the-Year, leading in two of the three categories and second in the third. Fredda Kelly, Jon Ingersoll and Vera Wardlaw are closely bunched for third place.

Leonora Stein Cup Early Rounds: A few new faces reached the sixteen-player knockout rounds, most notably Jeffrey Blum, who eliminated defending champion Louise Wood. This proved to be a good omen for the men, who claimed seven of the eight quarterfinal places. Quarterfinal winners were George Levinson, Jon Ingersoll, Rita Brieger and

Jeff Horowitz over Harold Miller, Kevin Hart, Bob Hawes and Jeffrey Blum.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: Norma and Stan Augenstein recovered from a slow beginning to move about one second-place finish ahead of Steve Grodzinsky-Hank Voegeli. Janice Bruce-Carl Yohans, Helen and Tracy Selmon and Lucy Lacava-George Levinson complete the top five. Breta Adams-Karlene Wood are the top women's pair.

Player-of-the-Year: Tracy Selmon has the slightest of leads over the Augensteins at the end of the first quarter. Larry Stern is within reach of the top, with Shirley Fruchter and Helen Selmon heading the chasing pack further back.

Aldyth Claiborn Cup Early Rounds: Seven of the eight top seeds were eliminated in the round of sixteen. In the quarterfinals, Arlene Leshine held off a late rally from last man in Hank Voegeli, guaranteeing that this cup's first male winner would not appear this year. Lucy Lacava squeaked past Rita Brieger,

while Norma Augenstein and Janice Bruce won by wide margins over Karlene Wood and Emma Q Antonio.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Overall Player-of-the-Year: Early leaders Larry Stern and Harold Miller were overtaken by Louise Wood in late February, with Rita Brieger and the Hart-Horowitz partnership joining Harold in a chasing pack.

Slam Challenge: After the two were exactly tied in mid-February, George Levinson opened up a big lead over Joe Pagerino and held on for a 53.48%-49.21% win. George takes on new challenger Vera Wardlaw in the spring.

We have had 58 passouts for the year so far, with fourth hand scoring 50.39%. Jeffrey Blum has passed out most often, followed by a tie between Billie Hecker and Simon Rich.

continued on page 9

Tough Defense *continued*

For the record, I got a club lead and immediately claimed 13 tricks as partner did indeed have the ♠K: ♠AKx, ♥KQxxx, ♦xx, ♣AJx and I could count three spades, three hearts, one diamond, and six clubs.

Once I saw dummy I wished we had been in 7NT. Lucky you didn't bid the heart grand slam said one of the opponents, as the hearts were breaking 5-0 – just as well we “right sided” the contract and didn't get a heart lead I thought, and we picked up on this hand as opponents only played in the small slam in clubs at the other table.

This next hand is the defensive hand at the start of this article, so see if you can find the winning defense looking at all four hands:

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: North/South

North		East	
♠	Q 9 8 4	♠	5 3
♥	A K Q	♥	J 9 8 7 5
♦	J 10 4 3	♦	K 7 5
♣	7 2	♣	8 4 3
West		South	
♠	A J 10 7 6 2	♠	K
♥	10	♥	6 4 3 2
♦	A 6	♦	Q 9 8 2
♣	Q 9 6 5	♣	A K J 10

Partner led the 5♠ at trick one, and if you take dummy's King with your Ace what do lead at trick two to beat this contract?

The answer to this is that there is nothing that will now beat the contract, so long as declarer plays on diamonds to set up two winners in the suit as a priority. If you play the ♠J at some stage, declarer can eventually set up a second spade trick to go with three hearts, two diamonds, and two clubs.

If you don't play a spade holding declarer to one trick only in the suit, once declarer has set up the diamonds declarer can play on clubs and make 9 tricks via one spade, three hearts, two diamonds, and now three clubs. The problem in setting up your spade suit is that you only have two entries (one of which is used at trick one), and declarer has two stoppers in the suit.

I said this was a tough defensive problem, so the only way to beat the contract is to actually duck the ♠A at trick one, and let the singleton ♠K win (which seems counterintuitive). Now declarer is stranded with 8 tricks whether he plays on diamonds or take the club finesse – assuming declarer plays a diamond now, East can win it with their King and lead the second spade. This allows you to win your Ace of spades and lead the ♠J setting up tricks in spades whilst you still have the ♦A available as an entry to enjoy them. If declarer takes the club finesse then you can set up spades the same way.

On this board our teammates declared 3♦ which made in comfort, but they expected to lose IMPs rather than gain on the hand.



The Modern Game: Reassigning the Meaning of Bids

by Bernard Schneider



Bidding is a language by which we convey information to partner. If we could physically show our hand to our partner, he would know where to place the contract, whether to declare or defend. When we open 1NT, we convey certain information broadly, 15-17 points, relatively balanced hand. It puts responder in the ballpark, and there are further conventions and bids by which we elicit additional information. For example, responder bids 4NT to ask opener about his point range, looking toward slam.

What meaning should be assigned to a bid of 4♠ by responder over an opening 1NT? Surely such is not necessary to show spades; that is what Jacoby and Texas are for. But it is a bid that is available to convey information. Let's say that I assign it the following meaning. It is exactly the same as a raise to 4NT as to point-count, slam invitational, but also conveying a hand with at least four cards in each minor, and suggesting that perhaps a minor suit slam would be better than no trump.

Consider: ♠Axx, ♥Kx, ♦AQxx, ♣Kxxx and ♠Kx, ♥Axxx, ♦KJxx, ♣AQx. Twelve tricks are pretty much certain in diamonds, even on a 4-1 diamond break and 13 tricks a live possibility; while 6 no trump depends on clubs breaking 3-3 (36%).

Over the history of bridge, the meaning of bids is constantly being reassigned. At one point, every one played four card majors; soon enough every one moved to five card majors. There was a time that all two bids were strong. Players soon came to realize that there was a great advantage to getting into the auction early to interfere with the opponents, but the hand fitted neither as a three-level preempt, nor a one-level opener.

So the bidding structure needed to be adjusted; it became convenient that an opening bid of two clubs could show a variety of strong hands. After partner's inevitable two diamond response, opener could bid two hearts (or spades), and very little was lost on the strong hands,

but there was now a great advantage in being able to open a weak two bid instead of passing. This was an advance in bidding for two reasons. First, it took bidding space away from the opponents. Second, by bidding, and for any bid that you would make, partner would have information about your hand. Passing would leave him in the dark. Passing and then entering the auction at a higher level is demonstrably more dangerous, and less disruptive, since the opponents have had a round of bidding to exchange information.

And so, I would like to turn to the modern game of bridge, and some recent adjustments, all simple in nature, but that reflect the ability to bid more accurately in competitive situations, which is what the game has become. In each case, when a bid is reassigned from its prior traditional meaning, something can be lost, but the benefits clearly outweigh.

Two technical points. The partner of the opening bidder will be called the responder, and the partner of an overcaller will be called the advancer. For ease of description of auctions, bids in parentheses are used for the opponents' bids.

1. Using an opening 2♦ bid two to show a really really weak two bid in either major.

Consider whether to bid or to pass the following hand in first seat, nobody vulnerable: ♠87, ♥A9532, ♦Q982, ♣75. Bear with me for a second, as I consider the hand's good qualities. First, the two honors are in the long suits. Second, the hand has some distribution, i.e., it is not 5-3-3-2; and it does have some spots, again in your long suits. Looking at bridge theory, we hear from Jeff Meckstroth: "In my experience, when faced with a choice between bidding and passing, I have found that bidding is inevitably the right choice." And, from Sabine Auken: "He who bids first, bids twice."

So why not open this hand 2♥? The problem is not that the hand is too weak

and the opponents can punish you. This is just a risk you have to take in order to interfere with the opponents. The problem is with partner; if you could open 2♥ on this hand and also on ♠76, ♥KQJ1076, ♦K54, ♣87, he will be pretty much in the dark on every hand and, inevitably, demoralized under the recurring pressure.

So what is the solution? How can you have your cake and eat it too? As follows: a bid of 2♥ or 2♠ show a traditional weak two bid in the 7-11 range. An opening of 2♦ shows a weak two bid in either major: vulnerable 4-7 points, nonvulnerable 0-7; an increasingly prevalent convention at the expert level. I won't go into the further mechanics of this convention as to how the partnership can bid constructively, but it has been worked out; most of the time responder will bid 2♥, pass or correct.

2. 2NT in competitive auctions is never (ever) natural.

We have one example, already, Lebensohl. At one point in the history of bridge, if partner opened 1NT and the next hand bid 2♠, 2NT by responder was natural (whether competitive or invitational). Admittedly, a hand could still come up where you would want to use 2NT for its prior meaning, but everyone now agrees that Lebensohl is a better idea.

The change in the nature of the game, bid early and often, has served to make the 2NT call more useful as a form of raise of partner's bid/overcall in a variety of contexts.

Take the following common auction: (1♠) 2♥ (2♠) and you are next to speak. Back in the day, opener could be counted on to be solid, say 13+ points. Partner's 2♥ overcall would be something near an opening bid, say 12+ points, and the spade raise would show 6+ points. As a result, Advancer could be expected to have little. He would rise to 3♥ with 6-8 points and a fit; with no fit, he would pass. Nowadays it is Katie Bar the Door. Opener, particularly playing a strong

continued on next page

Club News con't

Wee Burn

Wee Burn players were fortunate in that only one game of the Winter Series was canceled due to bad weather.

Winners were:

1. Mary Richardson–Betty Hodgman
2. Audrey Cadwallader–Joan Hoben
3. Linda Cleveland–Karen Barrett
4. Mary Beach–Ann Towne
5. Dave Mordy–Joe Holmes
6. Marilyn Giannos–Donna Christensen

Sixteen tables participated in the March 27 ACBL Charity Game. Winners were:

1. David Blackburn–Warren Williams
2. Doug Thompson–Karen Barrett
3. Dave Mordy–Joe Holmes

Twelve teams entered our semi-annual Swiss Team event. There was a tie for first place between:

Mary Richardson-Betty Hodgman-Linda Cleveland-Karen Barrett and

Mary Beach-Ann Towne-Carol Taylor-Nancy Matthews

Congratulations to Penny Glassmeyer who is our 2013 Player of the Year'.

Madison Shoreline

Dave Hyatt has retired from the Thursday morning game in Madison. Sarah Corning and Connie Graham will be running the game, 10:00 A.M., at the Memorial Town Hall in Madison. Call Sarah (203-453-3933 or Connie (860-505-7833) for partners or information.

Woodway

Winners of the Woodway Country Club Winter Series are:

- 1st Janet Soskin–Mary Richardson
- 2nd Betty Hodgman–Linda Cleveland
- 3rd Marilyn Tjader–Gail Schulz
- 4th Millie Fromm–Betsy Philips

Darien

Darien Country Club's Winter Series winners were

1. Dorothy Baker–Liz Dwyer
2. Nancy Matthews–Carol Taylor
3. Carolyn Halsey–Tony Halsey



Modern Game *continued*

club system, could have as few as 10 high card points, perhaps less in third seat. Partner's overcall covers a wide range and the spade raiser can have who knows what? Thus, in the Modern Game, advancer can have a variety of hands with real strength-- as much as, say, ♠xx, ♥Axxx, ♦Kxx, ♣KJxx. How can advancer convey that strength to partner, to allow partner to make an intelligent decision? The normal cue bid of 3♠, takes one beyond 3♥.

The answer is 2NT, to show a limit raise or better in support of partner's suit. The use of 2NT to show a general 9-11 points, but without a fit, is less practical. Even if you have a double stopper in the opponents' suit, which the opponents will attack on opening lead, without a fit, you have no source of tricks.

Next, consider the following auction: (1♦) 1♥ (2♦), with you next to speak. Here, 3♦ is available to show a limit raise; but we can introduce a refinement. 3♦ would be a limit raise with three trumps, while 2NT would be a limit raise with four trumps. That extra trump makes a real difference in playing strength and the nature of the hand, and now you have a way to convey same to partner. It is analogous to a direct limit raise over an opening bid of one of a major to show a four-trump raise, while going through a forcing 1NT shows a three-card raise.

Another example. We all play that if partner opens a weak two bid, then 2NT by responder does not show a particular hand/high card points, but asks opener about his hand. Some play, feature-showing; some play Ogust, asking about quality of hand and suit. The same consideration applies in the following auctions:

(1♣) 2♥ (pass) 2NT

(1NT) 2♠ (pass) 2NT

In both situations, and in others similar (even if advancer is a passed hand), partner's overcall can carry a wide range, and the use of 2NT to show a certain level of strength, but without a fit, is not a useful treatment. In both cases, better if advancer asks the overcaller about his strength, which will allow advancer to determine the likelihood of game, in partner's suit or in notrump.

3. Bidding one spade to deny four spades.

Your partner opens 1♦, the next hand overcalls 1♥, and you hold: ♠Ax, ♥xxx, ♦Kxx, ♣Kxxxxx. These hands come up with a fair frequency. You want to bid, but no bid is available. Perhaps you compromise and raise to 2♦, not an unreasonable choice. But if the opponents continue to compete, as they always do, partner is likely to misread the partnership's prospects. Furthermore, doubling here allows partner to bid 1NT.

So, a little rearranging/reassigning is in order. A double here would show four or five spades. Opener can now become the

declarer at spades, and the overcaller is put on lead, both great advantages. A bid of 1♠ by responder would show the values for, and an interest in, competing, but without four spades, much like the hand above. To take it a step further, if opener has three spades, he can respond one spade to the negative double (allowing the partnership to play in spades while still considering its other options) and opener bids 2♠ with four spades and even a minimum hand. If opener has stronger hands with four spades, he can cue bid the opponents' suit. I don't want to take any more time discussing the nuances, only to point out the general notion that bids can be reassigned, to advantage.

There is more, of course. But note one common feature of all of the above. They are all in competitive situations. Everyone bids more nowadays. Consider the following. In standard bidding, an opening one-level suit bid is roughly in the 12-19 point range, an 8-point spread. Now consider a strong club system, where a one club bid shows 16+ points. Thus, keeping the same eight-point range, an opening suit bid could be between 8 and 15 points. OK; maybe 8 point openings are stretching things a bit, but 10 point suited openings, with some distribution are not. Such an approach will be alerted, but the opponents will have much more to deal with than against standard bidders. And, if so, they need to fine tune their own methods in the Modern Game.



RESULTS

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday AM, February 25, 2014

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Simon Kantor-Franklin Merblum**
- 2 Muriel Dane-Myrna Butler
- 3 Gary Miyashiro-Beth Schweitzer
- 4 Morris Feinson-Wayne Lubin
- 5 Virginia Naugler-Bob Gruskay
- 6 Joan Brault-Michele Raviele

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday AM, February 25, 2014

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Muriel Dane-Myrna Butler**
- 2 Gary Miyashiro-Beth Schweitzer
- 3 Joan Brault-Michele Raviele
- 4 Doris Reeves-Linda Kesselman
- 5 Sarah Hart-Anthony Gardener
- 6 Paul Norman-Irving Rosenthal

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday AM, February 25, 2014

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Gary Miyashiro-Beth Schweitzer**
- 2 Joan Brault-Michele Raviele
- 3 Doris Reeves-Linda Kesselman
- 4 Sarah Hart-Anthony Gardener
- 5 Paul Norman-Irving Rosenthal
- 6 Inara Larson-Irene Rivers

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday AM, April 3, 2014

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Jill Fouad-Harold Feldheim**
- 2 Richard Wieland-Jean Schiaroli
- 3 June Hearrell-Carol Minor
- 4 Donna Feir-Lois McOmber
- 5 Margaret Mason-Cynthia Michael
- 6 Robert Lahey-J Michael Carmiggelt

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday AM, April 3, 2014

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **June Hearrell-Carol Minor**
- 2 Robert Lahey-J Michael Carmiggelt
- 3 Adish Jain-Asha Jain
- 4 Donald Brueggemann-Jon Clarke
- 5 Peter Solomon-Stephen Shamroth
- 6 Bonnie Murphy-Kurt Hummel

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday AM, April 3, 2014

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Adish Jain-Asha Jain**
- 2 Peter Solomon-Stephen Shamroth
- 3 Bonnie Murphy-Kurt Hummel
- 4 Eric Vogel-Irene Rivers
- 5 Scott Butterworth-Rebecca Jacobson

WINTER IN CONNECTICUT

Hamden, CT, March 7-9, 2014

FRI AM OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | Richard Lebel-Barry Buehler |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | Irene Rivers-Eric Vogel |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | Richard Sieron-Elizabeth Stumpp |
| 4 | | | Richard DeMartino-John Stiefel |
| 5 | | | Susan Seckinger-Donna Feir |
| 6 | | | David Blackburn-Linda Green |
| | 4 | | Robert Rising-Jean Schiaroli |
| | 5 | 4 | George Levinson-Lucy Lacava |
| | 6 | | Margaret Molwitz-Rodney Aspinwall |

FRI AM 0-300 PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | | | Scott Butterworth-Irene Kaplan |
| 2 | | | Jonathan Clark-Bonnie Murphy |
| 3 | 1 | | Vijender Goel-Kamlesh Goel |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | Brian Fielding-Esther Gagnon |
| 5 | | | Joan Stone-Arthur Layton |
| 6 | | | Marlene Myers-Maxine Cechvala |
| | 3 | | Suzanne Leary-John Leary |
| | 4 | | Moaiz Daya-Nurjehan Daya |
| | 5 | | Patty Read-Cynthia Anderson |
| | | 2 | Ann Drabkin-Lucille Alderman |
| | | 3 | Marcia Montano-Rosemary Benedict |

FRI PM OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | | | Richard DeMartino-John Stiefel |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | Irene Rivers-Eric Vogel |
| 3 | | | Margaret Mason-Cynthia Michael |
| 4 | | | Gloria Sieron-Laurel Koegel |
| 5 | | | Sarah Corning-Richard Blair |
| 6 | | | Dean Montgomery-Allan Clamage |
| | 2 | 2 | Barry Kaplan-Jay Kaplan |
| | 3 | | Susan Fronapfel-Richard Fronapfel |
| | 4 | 3 | Evan Dean-Janice Dean |
| | 5 | 4 | Muriel Brown-Ann Small |
| | 6 | 5 | Garson Heller Jr-Mario Sa Couto |

FRI PM 0-300 PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | | Moaiz Daya-Nurjehan Daya |
| 2 | | | Donald Muller-Betty Kerber |
| 3 | | | Mark Moskovitz-Peter Carroll |
| 4 | | | Jonathan Clark-Bonnie Murphy |
| 5 | | | Woody Bliss-Leonard Messman |
| 6 | | | Marlene Myers-Maxine Cechvala |
| | 2 | 1 | Gillian Hall-Lewis Clark |
| | 3 | 2 | Scott Butterworth-Howard Cohen |
| | 4 | | David Foster-Stacey Weiss |
| | 5 | | Linda Bradford-Joyce Handleman |
| | | 3 | Susan Glasspiegel-Leon Weisburgh |

SAT AM A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | Names |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | | Dean Montgomery-Allan Clamage |
| 2 | | Tania Reyes Hiller-Doris Greenwald |
| 3 | | Jill Fouad-Harold Feldheim |
| 4/5 | 1/2 | Sharon Santow-Jay Force |
| 4/5 | 1/2 | Karen Barrett-Douglas Thompson |
| 6 | 3 | Linda Starr-Thomas Gerchman |
| | 4 | Paul Burnham-Thomas Proulx |
| | 5 | Jeff Horowitz-K Hart |

SAT AM B/C PAIRS

- | B | C | Names |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | | Susan Fronapfel-Richard Fronapfel |
| 2 | | David Keller-Esther Watstein |
| 3 | 1 | Richard Roth-Liz Brian |
| 4 | | Solomon Field-John Knopf |
| 5 | 2 | Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners |
| | 3 | Garson Heller Jr-Mario Sa Couto |
| | 4 | Anthony Gardener-Sarah Hart |

SAT AM 0-300 PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | | | Peter Carroll-Arjun Chaudhuri |
| 2 | | | Myra Goldberg-Sherrill Werblood |
| 3 | | | Bonnie Murphy-Jonathan Clark |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | Paul Hannah-Carol Boehly |
| 5 | | | Jan Rosow-Betty Kerber |
| 6 | 2 | | Vijender Goel-Kamlesh Goel |
| | 3 | | Cynthia Anderson-Patty Read |
| | 4 | 2 | Mayank Mehta-Aarati Mehta |
| | 5 | | Karlene Wood-Breta Adams |
| | 6 | 3 | Tony Mortimer-Robert Pauker |
| | | 4 | Nancy Horn-Jeffrey Blum |

SAT PM A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | Names |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Jeff Horowitz-Kevin Hart |
| 2 | | Richard DeMartino-Lloyd Arvedon |
| 3 | | Jill Fouad-Harold Feldheim |
| 4 | 2 | Joan Martin-Jerry Jacobs |
| 5 | 3 | Shirley Derrah-Robert Derrah |
| 6 | | David Rock-Sonja Smith |
| | 4 | Debbie Benner-Arthur Crystal |
| | 5 | Constance Graham-Alice Hummel |

SAT PM B/C PAIRS

- | B | C | Names |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Liz Brian-Richard Roth |
| 2 | | Louise Wood-Fredda Kelly |
| 3 | | Mary Connolly-Janice Bruce |
| 4 | 2 | Eric Vogel-Irene Rivers |
| 5 | 3 | Barry Buehler-Lawrence Eppler |
| | 4 | Michael Wavada-Michael Dworetzsky |

SAT PM 0-300 PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | | | Arjun Chaudhuri-Peter Carroll |
| 2/3 | | | Arthur Layton-Lou Filippetti |
| 2/3 | 1 | 1 | Aarati Mehta-Mayank Mehta |
| 4 | | | Carla Sharp-Jacquelyn Fuchs |
| 5 | 2 | 2 | Paul Hannah-Carol Boehly |
| 6 | 3 | 3 | Nicholas Miller-Polly Miller |
| | 4 | 4 | Peter Nicoletti-Sue Westphal |
| | 5/6 | | Karlene Wood-Breta Adams |
| | 5/6 | | Nancy Horn-Jeffrey Blum |

SUNDAY SWISS TEAMS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 1 | | | Victor King, Douglas Doub, Richard DeMartino, John Stiefel |
| 2/3 | | | Cynthia Michael, Constance Graham, Sarah Corning, Richard Blair |
| 2/3 | | | Glenn Robbins, Lloyd Arvedon, Steve Becker, Larry Bausher |
| 4 | | | Richard Wieland, Sonja Smith, David Rock, Harold Feldheim |
| 5 | 1 | | Lee Herdle, Mark Stasiewski, Carmela Marcella, Peter Amedeo |
| 6 | | | Allan Clamage, Dean Montgomery, Bernard Schneider, Frances Schneider |
| 7 | 2 | | Susan Rudd, Helen Pawlowski, Norann Coggins, Cynthia D'Arrigo |

continued on next page



The Non-Playing Director Director Appreciation Day

by Gloria Sieron

Is being a non-playing director at a local club a stress-free assignment? Usually, yes. Everyone comes in with his own partner. When highway traffic or an appointment interferes, the director is asked to fill in “until my partner gets here.” Sometimes, the non-playing director is asked to fill-in at the end of the game for (1) I have to leave early for a medical appointment, (2) to catch a train, (3) for the theater or whatever.

Most of the time, you haven’t ever played with the partner. You really don’t want to be responsible for wrecking their game. Players somehow believe that directors are automatically good players and have unwarranted expectations. Recently I was asked to sit-in for the last round (two boards). These were the hands that were dealt:

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: All

	North		East
	♠ K Q J 7		♠ - - -
	♥ J 8		♥ 7 6 5 4 2
	♦ A J 9 6 4 3		♦ Q 10
	♣ 4		♣ Q 9 8 7 5 3
West		South	
♠ 9 8 5 4 2		♠ A 10 6 3	
♥ A K Q 9 3		♥ 10	
♦ K 2		♦ 8 7 5	
♣ K		♣ A J 10 6 2	

The second board was just as exciting.

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: None

	North		East
	♠ J 3		♠ A 10 9 6 5 4 2
	♥ A Q 8 7 3		♥ J
	♦ K		♦ A 2
	♣ A 10 9 8 7		♣ Q 4 3
West		South	
♠ Q 8		♠ K 7	
♥ 9 5		♥ K 10 6 4 2	
♦ Q J 9 7 5 4 3		♦ 10 8 6	
♣ J 5		♣ K 6 2	

After a pass by South, West bid 1♥. Filling in at North, I felt justified in overcalling 2♦. With his law of total tricks hand, East bid game in hearts. Pass, pass to me.

Bridge is a bidder’s game. Let’s participate in the fun and excitement of duplicate bridge. I bid 4♠. 4♠ was passed out and looked pretty good until the spades split five-one. Actually, E/W make 4♥ so 4♠ down one was a pretty successful sacrifice.

West opened 3♦. North remembered “Bridge is a Bidder’s Game.” North also had heard the expression “five/five come alive.” North overcalled 3♥. East now bids 3♠. South made the law of total tricks bid -- he bid 4♥ which was passed out. This time, the law of total tricks worked, game was made with 23 HCP. The director went on to score the game.



Results *continued*

- 8/9 3/4 1/2 **Mario Sa Couto, Garson Heller Jr, Allen Bomes, Leonard Messman**
- 8/9 3/4 1/2 **W Daniel Kelsey, Barbara Wolner, Glen Perry, Richard Bobilin**
- 5 David Keller, Jesse Weiss, Donald Brueggemann, Esther Watstein
- 6 Deborah Noack, Brian Lewis, Bill Reich, John Farwell
- 7/8 Kerry Cotterell, Ellen Cotterell, Michael Sattinger, Ulla Sattinger
- 7/8 Elaine Misner, James Misner, Douglas Thompson, Karen Barrett
- 3 Diane Storey, Joan Martin, Tara Ashmore, Leslie Caruso
- 4 Richard Benedict, Patricia Fliakos, David Landsberg, Carol Hill



2014 CALENDAR

- MAY**
21-26 Wed.-Mon. New York City Regional, New York, NY
- JUNE**
2 Mon. (Eve) Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
6 Fri. (Eve) Worldwide Bridge Contest #1, Local clubs
7 Sat. (Aft) Worldwide Bridge Contest #2, Local clubs
9-15 Mon-Sun STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs
17-22 Tues.-Sun. New England Summer Regional, Nashua, NH
- JULY**
2 Wed. (Day) Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
11 Fri. (Aft) ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3, Local clubs
15 Tues. (Day) Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

- 17-27 ACBL Summer Nationals, Las Vegas, NV
- Thurs.-4th Sun. **AUGUST**
1 Fri. (Day) Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
5 Tues. (Eve) Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
8-10 Fri.-Sun. Connecticut Summer Sectional, Hamden, CT
12 Tues. (Day) Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
18 Mon. (Eve) Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
26-31 Tues.-Sun. New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI
- SEPTEMBER**
5 Fri. (Day) Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs

Due to space limitations, the full 2014 tournament calendar could not be included. You can find it on the CBA website: <http://www.ctbridge.org>

21st Century Technology Comes to New England Bridge Tournaments

Two dynamic new features have been added the NEBridge.org website. They are certain to enhance the experience of attending sectional and regional tournaments in New England.

The first is the **Online Partnership Desk** program. I first used this software before embarking on a bridge cruise in December of 2012. I was very impressed with how professional the system's design was and how easy it was to use. I have been on both sides of partnership desks many times. Occasionally you can find a partner or teammates with whom you really hit it off. Just as often, however, the match is not ideal. In any case there is no time to go over the convention card in any type of detail. The worst case scenario is that you end up as the odd person out and don't get to play at all. This has happened to me, and the drive back home was not pleasant.

One of the first things that I did when I joined the district's website committee one year ago was to lobby for the inclusion of the Online Partnership Desk as a new tab on the left side of the main page of NEBridge.org. Detailed instruc-

tions and a video are included there, but you probably will need neither of them. You can register in a few seconds and then start looking for a suitable partner and/or to add yourself to the list of those available. The listing for each player shows his/her point range. You can make contact by telephone or e-mail.

If you have ever missed a tournament because you could not find a partner, this software is for you. The program is already available for all ACBL-sanctioned tournaments in the New England district. Club managers can also make it available for use in their games.

The other new program is called **Fast Results**. Beginning with the Keohane Senior Regional/Cape Cod Sectional this technology will enable NEBridge.org to provide detailed results of every event at regional tournaments within minutes of the end of the event. Individual players can even register to have personalized results sent directly to their smart phones. This program has been tested in other districts and has proven to be tremendously popular.

District 25 has taken great strides in making the experience of attending sectional and regional tournaments more enjoyable and rewarding. In addition to the technological breakthroughs, a new program of presentations by expert local players will debut at the Cape and will continue at subsequent regionals – Nashua, Warwick, etc. New events have also been designed to increase competitiveness and enjoyment.

In short, those who confine their bridge-playing to the kitchen table or even the club are missing out on a great new experience.

-Mike Wavada

New ACBL Ruling on Senior Bridge

Bridge players who turned 55 years of age on or after January 1, 2014 must wait until they turn 60 before being eligible to play in an ACBL senior event. Those players who were born before 12/31/58 are eligible to play in senior events.

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 July 15, 2014.

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