

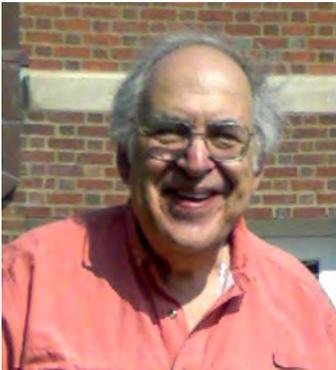


# THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Volume 19 • Number 2 • May 2015



## Taking Tricks

by Harold Feldheim

**P**rologue: Very often, the success or failure of a contract depends on declarer's ability to establish a side suit. That often means either ruffing or finessing in an effort to establish long spot cards. Added to the mix is the possibility of less-than-perfect opponent distribution, in which case, special techniques might be needed for success. Frequently, unlucky distribution can scuttle our contracts, but the careful declarer can often avoid the wrath of Lady Luck. This hand from a high-level team match illustrates the care and feeding of such problems.

North  
♠ A K 4 3 2  
♥ 10 2  
♦ A Q 3  
♣ K 3 2

South  
♠ 6 5  
♥ A K Q J 4 3  
♦ 7 6  
♣ A 5 4

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2N	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	X	5♣	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Contract: 6♥  
Opening lead: ♦10

**The Auction:**  
Some pairs play 2-over-1 as game forcing unless a suit is rebid, but this N-S pair played 2-over-1 as an unconditional game force. South's 3♥ rebid, therefore, attempted to fix the trump suit, asking for further information. Although 10x is sparse support, North correctly determined that his extra values justified an encouraging cuebid. East's double was lead directing and, after another round of cuebids, South settled for the appropriate small slam in hearts.

**The Play:**  
West dutifully led the ♦10. South surveyed his chances. He could count two spades, six hearts, one diamond, and two clubs for a total of 11 tricks, with two basic chances for a 12<sup>th</sup>; a finesse or establishing North's spades. Since the auction argued against the diamond finesse, South rose with the ace, banking his chances on dummy's spade suit. The next step was to determine the right technique to bring in the suit. If spades, split 3-3, there was no problem; he could claim 13 tricks. But if spades broke 4-2, (the expected distribution), special technique would be required. With an outstanding diamond loser, declarer didn't have the option of ducking a spade in both hands so...he cashed two rounds of spades and played a third spade. When East followed with the 9, South catered to the 4-2 split and pitched his

losing diamond. Now the defense was helpless. East returned a club, but South won in hand, led a heart to the 10 and ruffed another spade. Now all that was needed was to draw trump, cross to dummy's high club and cash the now established spade for his 12<sup>th</sup> trick.

The complete hands:

North  
♠ A K 4 3 2  
♥ 10 2  
♦ A Q 3  
♣ K 3 2

West  
♠ J 10  
♥ 9 8 7 6  
♦ 10 9 8  
♣ J 9 8 7

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

South  
♠ 6 5  
♥ A K Q J 4 3  
♦ 7 6  
♣ A 5 4

Please notice that if South ruffs the third spade high (to avoid an overruff), crosses back to the high heart in dummy and ruffs another spade, the setting trick will magically appear in the form of West's fourth heart.

**Epilogue:** We agree that a 4-2 break is unlucky, but by employing the loser-on-loser play, declarer didn't have to succumb to bad luck.





# From the CBA President

One of the tasks of club and tournament directors is to keep the pace of the game timely. Pacing isn't always easy; all players need to think carefully about their bidding, and deep thought is sometimes required during the play of the hand before putting a card on the table. Excessive pauses or uneven timing can disrupt the game, however, to the discomfort of all. At tournaments, clocks determine the allotted time for each round. At one time or another, almost every player has been a victim of the dreaded "hesitation" penalty that results when a director determines that an undue hesitation gave partner information. Playing in tempo is a lesson we all learned early, but frequently forget during the course of play.

One way players can help keep the timing on track is to lead before entering the contract on their score or convention cards. It's a courtesy that gives declarer time to study dummy and plan the play. It also gives leader's partner time to figure out defense. And it vastly improves the pace of the round. Leading before writing is a standard rule at every bridge table; we all just have to remember to do it.

Play at the table provides great opportunities to learn. Everyone likes to win and all players hope to have an equal chance to win as they move from table to table

or welcome opponents to their table. But how many groans do you hear or eye rolls do you see when B or C players find themselves at a table where the "big guys" – those infamous A players – are sitting? Often, the B or C players take deep breaths, mentally score minuses for the boards, and just hope to get through the round relatively unscathed.

I urge you to think again. For the most part, A players are extremely tolerant and patient with B or C players. They tend to lose patience only with their own partner. If that partner is a student, they save the lesson for post-game and keep the conversation to a minimum. Those at the top know the rules, as well as the courtesies, of the game and taking advantage of a lesser player is definitely not "according to Hoyle."

So you're a B or C player sitting at a table you don't want to be at, and you've already lost the round in your head. But you can actually gain a great deal from your time with these boards and these opponents. Pay attention to the bidding, ask questions when it's your turn or before the lead is made if you don't understand a sequence or a convention. Concentrate on the play of the hand. The way the hand is played or defended by a top-ranking player is a lesson, and you're in a prime seat to take advantage of it. If your game has hand records, try to remember the play and review it later.

One of the fascinations of bridge is that you never really know it. The learning is ongoing and forever. It's not fun to lose a board or two, but feeling that you have no chance and conceding the round in advance only assures failure. At club games, we all have this amazing opportunity to sit at the table with really smart players or terrific pairs and see what they do with the same cards we're playing. It's a great opportunity for a lesson – and all we paid was our entrance fee!

And if, by the beneficence of the great bridge gods, we play or defend a hand really well, there's nothing quite as sweet as that A player acknowledging our brilliance with a "well done!" It happens...and it's one of the things that keeps us coming back again and again.

See you at the Sectional in Hamden on June 12-14. And remember the Regional in Nashua, NH, June 23-28. There will be lots of opportunities to win...and to learn!

Another note: CBA is now on Facebook. Typing "Connecticut Bridge Association" into Facebook's search engine should get you there; you can then add your bridge-related posts or photos. You'll also find there links to the CBA and New England Bridge Conference websites.

*Esther Watstein*  
President, CBA

## MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

### New Life Masters (300 MPs)

Peter Carroll  
Tom Floyd  
Katharine Goodman  
Janet McClutchy  
Harold Miller  
Felix Springer  
Jim Walsh

### Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Sandra DeMartino  
Bernard Schneider

### Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Ausra Geaski  
Susan Rodricks

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Robert Darr  
Stanley Kerry  
Barbra Moore  
Mary Richardson  
Susan Smith  
Marilyn Tjader  
Weiling Zhao

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

D. Abraham  
Ann Barton  
Maragret Karbovanec  
Michael Marcy  
Susan Nix  
Judith Voss  
Jesse Weiss



# Can't Cost Method – Chapter 43

by John Stiefel

In this deal from the National IMP Pairs, declarer made a thoughtful “can’t cost” play to bring home an “unmakeable” game.

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: None

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

Bidding: 1♦ - 1♠ - 1NT - 3NT (East-West pass throughout.)

Opening lead: ♣J (standard leads)

The bidding was very straightforward. South showed a minimum balanced hand without four spades, so North – with a full opening bid of his own – jumped to the NT game.

Before playing to trick one, South paused to consider. Only seven top tricks – four in diamonds and three in clubs – were available, so two additional tricks had to be developed. The spade suit represented the only option for developing those tricks, but that option was probably doomed to failure because the opponents were likely to shift to hearts and cash four tricks in that suit when they gained the lead with the ace of spades.

One consideration for South was his play in the club suit. If he won dummy’s queen, West would know declarer had the king (because East didn’t play it), but East wouldn’t. If he won dummy’s ace, West would also know declarer had the king (because East would play a low club – standard count and attitude – to discourage continuation of the suit),

but East wouldn’t. So, either way, West would know what was happening in the club suit, but East wouldn’t.

Declarer finally decided to win dummy’s queen. His reasoning was that if East held the ace of spades, she might be reluctant to continue clubs and set up dummy’s queen, even if she thought her partner had the ♣K. Declarer *did*, however, want East to continue clubs if she had the ace of spades, so he played the card (the queen) that was most likely to encourage a club continuation from East.

Another consideration for South (before playing to trick one) was whether there was any way to induce the opponents not to shift to hearts when they got in with the ace of spades. His first reaction was “probably not,” because West (if he had the ace of spades) would surely know there was no future in clubs, and East (if she had the ace of spades) would probably figure that out also. His next thought, however, was, “What if I play hearts myself?” So, at trick two, South called for dummy’s ♥3. He thought this play couldn’t cost because normal play seemed doomed to failure. East followed to this trick with the ♥4 (standard count and attitude) and West captured South’s jack with the king.

West gave some thought to his counter at trick three. He finally decided to continue clubs, even though he knew from East’s trick-one signal that South had the king. He hoped to develop a fourth-round club winner – and this seemed doable because he had a second heart stopper himself and he knew his partner would have to have a high card in spades or diamonds if there was any chance at all to defeat the contract.

At trick four, South won dummy’s ♣A and finally started on spades, leading dummy’s king. This won the trick, East playing the ♠2 and West the ♠3 (standard count and attitude). So far so good, thought South, but I’m only up

to eight tricks. So he continued spades. East, who started with A62 of the suit, ducked again to prevent South from enjoying a fourth-round spade winner. That seemed like a worthy goal because declarer had apparently cut himself off from dummy when he won dummy’s ace of clubs.

Well, as the expression goes, East won the battle, but lost the war, as South quickly scampered home with two spades, three clubs, and four diamond tricks. South had made another nice play to win dummy’s ace of clubs instead of his king two tricks earlier, as this helped create the illusion that he had stranded his fourth round spade winner in dummy.

South played the hand very well and very deceptively, but E-W could (and probably should) have figured out what was happening. The first and best clue was the count on South’s hand. He opened 1♦, so presumably had four cards (or more) in that suit. Subsequent play in clubs and spades marked him with three cards in each of those suits. That left him with three (or fewer) hearts. So a question the defenders should have asked is, “Why is South trying to develop tricks in his 3-3 heart fit when North has a semi-solid four-card spade suit with plenty of entries?”

The second clue was declarer’s apparent willingness to use up all of North’s entries before the fourth round of spades could be established. The defenders could (and should) have asked, “Why is declarer willing to do that? Whose side is he on?” Declarer’s “can’t cost” play gave the opponents a problem and they didn’t solve it.

When you give opponents a problem, sometimes they get it wrong. (An important corollary to that axiom is that when you give *partner* a problem, sometimes she gets it wrong as well.)





## Hamden Bridge Forum

### TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Kevin Hart–Jeff Horowitz are off to a fast start with about double the top results of any other pair. They're followed by Rita Brieger–Harold Miller, Paul Proulx–Don Stiegler, Hill Auerbach–Tracy Selmon, and Scott Butterworth–Bill Reich. Simon Rich is in three of the top twelve pairs.

Player-of-the-Year: Kevin and Jeff, who have yet to play separately this year, are tied well in front of Bill Reich, Bob Hawes, and Jon Ingersoll.

Leonora Stein Memorial Cup Preliminaries: Highly unusually, the women were all eliminated before the quarterfinals, in which Alan Milstone, Rick Hall, Jeff Horowitz, and Kevin Hart defeated Simon Rich, Jon Ingersoll, Bill Reich, and Bob Hawes.

Brian Lewis Memorial Game: On March 31, we held an Instant Matchpoint game using 24 boards collected over the last five years on which Brian had scored nineteen tops and five bottoms. Appropriately, Bill Reich won with Simon Rich, holding off late charges from Rita Brieger–Harold Miller and Jeffrey Blum–Abhi Dutta.

### FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: Although they only played twice, the Hart–Horowitz partnership did well enough to better the less consistent results of the more regular pairs. They lead Erik Rosenthal–Jim Uebelacker, Jeffrey Blum–Allen Sparer, Hill Auerbach–Larry Stern, and Rita Brieger–Harold Miller. Breta Adams–Karlene Wood, in sixth place, are the only women's pair in the top thirteen.

Player-of-the-Year: This is wide open. Jeffrey Blum ended the winter in front of Rita Brieger. Well back were the pair of Erik Rosenthal–Jim Uebelacker and Joe Pagerino.

Aldyth Claiborn Memorial Cup Preliminaries: We're guaranteed a first-time cup winner. After barely getting through the previous round, Larry Stern and Hill Auerbach won their quarterfinals over Joe Pagerino and George Levinson. Jeffrey Blum just got

past Judy Long, while Marilyn Zolot kept alive the chance of preventing a first male winner of this cup with a win over Erik Rosenthal. Larry just missed winning this cup in 2005. The others are all this far for the first time.

### TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Overall Player-of-the-Year: Kevin Hart and Jeff Horowitz traded the lead (Kevin ending ahead) as Jeff's game last year with David Richheimer worked its way out of the rankings. They are already a month ahead of Rita Brieger, Hill Auerbach, and Harold Miller.

Rita Brieger defeated Vera Wardlaw in the Slam Challenge, and faces Tracy Selmon in the spring.

Fredda Kelly had an up-and-down quarter of card-holding, ending on the plus side, averaging 10.04 HCP per hand.

Only twelve grand slams were bid and made in the winter quarter, three by Erik Rosenthal–Jim Uebelacker (nobody else has two yet).

We only had twenty-four passouts, with Louise Wood leading Fredda Kelly and Jean Clark.

## Newtown Bridge Club

Newtown Bridge Club has moved to Edmond Town Hall near the flag pole at the town center of Newtown. In the past year, the morning games outgrew the capacity of the Hawleyville Fire Station, where the club had played since 2008. The club's new location in the Alexandria Room on the second floor at Edmond Town Hall readily accommodates 20 tables. There's a large parking area, elevator access, and a deli next door. Edmond Town Hall is a Colonial Revival building on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to games, beginning in May, the club will host two new series of lessons for intermediate and novice players, including free introductory lessons for absolute beginners.

Newtown Bridge Club holds four ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games each week that are open to all players: 1 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays. A novice game (0-20 MPs) is held Mondays at 10 a.m. in conjunction with Easybridge! lessons.

Games are played at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown. Maps and directions may be found on the club's website: [www.newtownbridge.org](http://www.newtownbridge.org).

## Wee Burn CBC

The Winter Series ended March 26 with the following winners:

1. Mary Richardson–Karen Barrett
2. Joan Hoben–Penny Glassmeyer
3. Janet Soskin–Betty Hodgman
4. Belinda Metzger–MaryEllen McGuire
5. Gail Ord–Sue Kipp
6. Lynn Reilly–Joan Bergen

Our Spring Swiss Team game was won by Mary Richardson, Karen Barrett, Janet Soskin, and Betty Hodgman. Twelve teams participated.

The Summer Series will start June 11 and run for twelve weeks. Because of space limitations, this series is limited to Wee Burn members and their partners.

## West Hartford Bridge Club

Lars Guldanger a longtime player at the West Hartford Bridge Club has donated \$4,000.00 to the club for the purchase of a Dealer 4 Sorter machine. Club members are ecstatic about this and have all pitched in to help run the sorter. Thank you Lars!



## IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the  
*ACBL Bridge Bulletin*

Richard M. Stone, Cos Cob, CT  
Cal Tinson, Glastonbury, CT



## Stayman is Overrated

by Geof Brod

Today, we return to morning duplicate. Early on, you pick up this hand:

♠ 6 5 4 3  
♥ Q J  
♦ K Q 8 6  
♣ 10 6 4

Not terribly exciting, right? Don't worry, you have a key decision to make.

Partner – much to your delight – opens 2NT. Over to you. Stayman? Perhaps. It is matchpoints scoring, however, and if a no-trump contract takes as many tricks as a 4-4 spade fit (a not unlikely possibility with your slow values), it would score well compared to the pairs who opt for the major-suit game.

Your doubleton is strong and the ♥QJ are values that point to NT. Were your hearts Kx or Ax, that would suggest you might get extra tricks ruffing hearts in dummy. When you have QJ tight a heart ruff is unlikely to be important. Also, your major is weak. A spade contract could easily run afoul of a bad split that would be just a minor annoyance in NT. And finally – and perhaps most importantly – every time you take an extra bid to get to your ultimate contract, you provide the opponents with information likely to help them in the defense. And, if any of your extra bids are artificial, you give them opportunities to get off cost-free doubles that could be important in directing a lead or finding a save. For all those reasons, it's likely that your best call here is to simply raise directly to 3NT. After all, the odds that partner will have four spades are far less than 50 percent, and even if she does, NT may play as well anyway.

Alas, you elect Stayman. Your LHO doubles; partner calls 3♥ and you follow with 3NT which floats. The auction has been:

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
2NT	Pass	3♣	X
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Now you get to sit in partner's seat and see how best to handle this contract. The opening lead is the ♣7.

North  
♠ 6 5 4 3  
♥ Q J  
♦ K Q 8 6  
♣ 10 6 4

South  
♠ A K J  
♥ A 8 4 3  
♦ A 10 9 2  
♣ A 5

Just look at the fine mess you've gotten yourself into. Your marginal Stayman call appears to have induced the best lead for the defense. Otherwise, your contract is normal. You just have to find a way to recover.

You play low from dummy, as RHO puts in the 9. You do the best you can by ducking, but another low club comes back. You play the ace, perforce, as LHO drops the king. That's not good. The opponents' carding strongly suggests that LHO is unblocking from an original king-third, a lead he would have been unlikely to find in a less informative auction.

On the assumption that you can pick up the diamonds for four tricks, you have eight on top. Two spades, a heart, four diamonds, and a club. You can get a ninth with a winning finesse in either hearts or spades. Your LHO appears to have just three clubs making him modestly more likely to hold either missing major suit honor. It appears to be a complete guess.

There is, however, a compelling reason to try spades. It's the morning duplicate, it's matchpoints, and overtricks are esteemed. If you take the spade finesse and it's right, you might be able to develop a tenth trick if the suit splits 3-3. No such chance is available if you go for hearts.

As your LHO appears to have just three clubs, his is the hand more likely to hold

four diamonds. So ♦A from hand, then the 10 overtaking with the king as all follow. Now a spade to the jack winning for a ninth trick. Now two more high spades, but unfortunately LHO shows out on the third round. No extra trick there.

You could, of course, press your luck with the heart finesse, but that would be well against the odds. You place LHO with three clubs and just two spades; that means he has eight spaces in which he might hold the ♥K, as opposed to just four spaces in his partner's hand. That's 2:1 odds against. Not the way to bet. You take your nine tricks.

The entire hand:

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

When you check the recap sheet you're disappointed to see that +400 is worth just two matchpoints on a 12 top. Most pairs are making 10 tricks; some even make 11. Probably many of them used Stayman as well, but their RHO did not find the lead-directing double. West then might well have chosen to lead a heart anyway (nothing else is terribly appealing) and now declarer can take a spade finesse for a tenth trick without jeopardizing his contract.

Sometimes it's just right to give Stayman a rest; particularly when your values are slow and your doubleton is strong.



# A Couple of Victor Mollo-Type Puzzles and an Ethics Challenge

by Brett Adler



## Puzzle #1

Dealer: South  
Vulnerability: East-West

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♦ 4

In this hand, played in a Regional Pairs event, most declarers went down one. Declarer at our table, however, managed to play the hand less than optimally and went down two. After I led a diamond and declarer took a losing spade finesse, we were able to take four diamond tricks, two spade tricks, and the ♣A. Which *specific* card was our eighth defensive trick?

After my opening diamond lead, declarer won the ♦K and took a losing spade finesse to partner's queen. East returned a diamond, and I cashed four diamond tricks, as the other three hands made a number of discards. After playing the last diamond, the cards were:

North		East (Larry)	
♠ K1076		♠ 3	
♥ K7		♥ Q9	
♦ ---		♦ ---	
♣ 10		♣ J652	
West (Brett)		South	
♠ A9		♠ 84	
♥ 864		♥ AJ	
♦ ---		♦ ---	
♣ A4		♣ KQ8	

I now led the ♥8. South won the ♥A and played the ♠8. I covered with the ♠9 and dummy (North) won the ♠10. At this point, I was waiting for declarer to play a spade and claim down one as we had the ♠A and ♣A to come. Fortunately for me (as I was looking for interesting hands for this article), declarer called for the last club from dummy, which I won with the A. I then led the ♥6, which dummy had to win with the ♥K. With only spades left, dummy had to play to my ♠A, and our eighth trick was my lowly ♥4!

## Puzzle #2

Dealer: East  
Vulnerability: Both

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	3♣	3♠
		All Pass	

Opening lead: ♣J

This hand was played in the same Regional Pairs event. As you can see double dummy, declarer can make eleven tricks, losing just the ♥A and a heart ruff. At our table, declarer took an "interesting" line and managed to emerge with only nine tricks. What were our four defensive tricks?

After my lead of the ♣J, declarer covered with dummy's Q and ruffed out my partner's A. He cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond, and pitched a heart on dummy's ♠K. He then embarked on a cross ruff of diamonds in dummy and clubs in his own hand. Warned by East's club preempt – presumably holding a seven card suit – declarer ruffed clubs with high trump.

After ruffing the fourth round of diamonds in dummy (and yet to lose a trick), declarer played the ♥J from dummy with the remaining cards as shown:

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

The ♥J was covered by the queen, king, and ace. I now played the ♥7, which let Larry ruff with his ♠8. Larry returned a club, and when declarer discarded the ♦J, I was able to win my ♠3. I then played the ♠4 to East's 10 and declarer's A. The setting trick came at trick 13 when declarer's ♠6 lost to my 7. Our defensive tricks in order were: ♥A, ♠8, ♠3, and ♠7. Let me know if you figured it out.

## Ethics Challenge

Dealer: East  
Vulnerability: North-South

North (Me)		South	
♠ 7 6 5		X	
♥ A Q 8 6 5		3♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	
♦ 4 3		4NT	
♣ A 7 6		7♠ <sup>(5)</sup>	
West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>(2)</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	4NT
5♦	5♥ <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	7♠ <sup>(5)</sup>
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♦ 2

Larry Lau and I were playing in the Lebhar IMP Pairs in New Orleans when I faced an interesting ethics problem. My left-hand opponent opened this hand with a weak 2♦ and Larry doubled for takeout. Now look at my hand (North, above). What would you bid?

# RESULTS



## Hamden, CT February 27–March 1, 2015

### FRI AM OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			<b>Jeff Horowitz–Richard DeMartino</b>
2			Larry Bausher–Phyllis Bausher
3			Sandra DeMartino–Frances Schneider
1			<b>Mark Stasiewski–Lee Herdle</b>
2			Gordon Kiernan–Dean Montgomery
3			Elaine Misner–James Misner
1/2			<b>Felix Springer–David Landsberg</b>
1/2			<b>Jesse Weiss–David Keller</b>
3/4			Diane Storey–Marvin Lerman
3/4			Eric Vogel–Ronald Talbot

### FRI AM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1	1		<b>Rufus Cole–Ron Kahan</b>
2			Norman Gross–Harold Salm
3			Jackie Pare–Sara Kober
2			Nancy Horn–Jeffrey Blum
3			Linda Dale Mulholland–Rosemary Benedict
1			<b>Marie Coviello–Robert Pauker</b>
2			Mayank Mehta–Michael Shore
3			Nicole Hornick–Peter Nicoletti

### FRI AFT OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			<b>Barton Buffington–Alexander Levitsky</b>
2			John Hrones Jr–Lloyd Arvedon
3	1		<b>Elaine Misner–James Misner</b>
2	1		<b>David Landsberg–Felix Springer</b>
3	2		David Keller–Jesse Weiss
3	3		Russ Sackowitz–Vera Wardlaw

### FRI AFT 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			<b>Harold Salm–Norman Gross</b>
2	1	1	<b>Riva Lewinter–Sharon Kochen</b>
3			Jackie Pare–Sara Kober
2			Linda Dale Mulholland–Rosemary Benedict
3	2		Peter Nicoletti–Nicole Hornick
3	3		Lynda Bluestein–Paul Bluestein

### SAT AM A/X PAIRS

A	X	Names
1	1	<b>Thomas Gerchman–Daniel Sullivan</b>
2		Lloyd Arvedon–Richard Budd
3		Lawrence Lau–Brett Adler
2		K Hart–Jeff Horowitz
3		Gordon Kreh–Linda Starr

### SAT AM B/C PAIRS

B	C	Names
1	1	<b>Jack Liu–Christina Hare</b>
2		Jean Schiaroli–Margaret Molwitz
3	2	Bruce Adler–Richard Tisch
3		John Dinius–Ronald Talbot

### SAT AM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1	1		<b>Suzanne Leary–John Leary</b>
2	2	1	<b>Lynda Bluestein–Paul Bluestein</b>
3			David Foster–Stacey Weiss
3			Anne Tierney–Michael Winterfield
2			Ron Kahan–Ben Briggs
3			Michael Hajosy–Brenda Koblick

### SAT AFT A/X PAIRS

A	X	Names
1	1	<b>Paul Burnham–Paul Miller</b>
2		Sandra DeMartino–Phyllis Bausher
3	2	Gary Miyashiro–Don Stiegler
3		Bill Reich–Scott Butterworth

### SAT AFT B/C PAIRS

B	C	Names
1		<b>Jean Schiaroli–Margaret Molwitz</b>
2	1	<b>Howard Cohen–Tracy Selmon</b>
3		Louise Wood–Fredda Kelly
2		Shari Peters–Michael Marcy
3		Genot Reiners–Alan Milstone

### SAT AFT 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			<b>Bonnie Murphy–Jonathan Clark</b>
2			Vera Kaplan–Mark Kaplan
3			Barbara White–James White
1			<b>Ben Briggs–Ron Kahan</b>
2	1		<b>Mayank Mehta–Aarati Mehta</b>
3			Michael Hajosy–Brenda Koblick
2			Kim Smith–Susan Gersh
3			Joan Levinson–Claire Cohen-Stelzer

*continued on page 8*

Victor Mollo *continued from previous page*

(1) I debated between 3♥ and 4♥ (I was too good to bid 2♥), and eventually decided to bid 3♥. But as soon as I did, I heard something that truly made me panic: Larry alerted my bid, and I suddenly remembered we had agreed to play a convention called Transfer Lebensohl over opponents' weak two bids. Using this convention, my 3♥ bid showed invitational values or better, with at least five spades. With the hand I held, I should have bid 3♦ to show invitational+ values and five or more hearts.

(2) In response to my 3♥ bid, Larry responded 3♠, which means that opposite the hand I had shown (but did not hold), Larry only wanted to play in a part score – in other words, unless I have better-than-invitational values along with my spades, Larry only wanted to play in 3♠.

Ethically, I was taught that if you have a bidding misunderstanding and are alerted by partner's explanation, or in this case an alert (because the opponents never asked for an explanation), you should continue as if you're unaware of the problem. I, therefore, had to decide how to continue the auction.

(3) If I bid 3♥ naturally (showing an invitational hand with hearts), and partner bid 3♠ (forcing), then I should raise partner's spade suit with three-card support. Therefore, I bid 4♠ and waited for the double. Not only was there no double, partner now bid 4NT asking for aces!

(4) This auction had become my worst nightmare. Based on our system, my partner said he only wanted to play a 3♠ part score opposite the hand I'm supposed to have. And now he's heading toward a slam! Fortunately, the opponents intervened with a 5♦ bid, which gets me off the hook – or does it? The same active ethics that made me bid 4♠ is still in effect, so I should continue bidding as though my 3♥ bid was interpreted as natural by Larry and he has shown a strong hand with spades. So here we are heading for a spade slam and we may be in a 3-3 fit.

Over opponents' interference, it's important to have a partnership agreement as to what your responses mean. We've lost two levels of bidding, (5♣ and 5♦), but we've also gained two levels of bidding (pass and double). In response to Roman Key Card Blackwood,

Larry and I play that double shows one or four key cards and pass shows zero or three. I can, therefore, bid 5♥, which shows two key cards without the queen.

(5) Larry now bid a spade grand slam and, if the opponents didn't double him, then I certainly should!

The opponents led a diamond and Larry immediately claimed 13 tricks. Fortunately, there was nothing to the play as his hand was: ♠AKJ109842; ♥K9; ♦A7; ♣K.

"Why did you only bid 3♠?" I asked. "I could have passed." "How can you pass a new suit at the three level?" Larry responded. At this point, I commented that we were playing Transfer Lebensohl and that I had temporarily forgotten. Larry admitted the same thing; he had forgotten as well, so he'd bid 3♠ – as *natural and forcing*.

"Why did you alert my 3♥ bid?" I asked, and I started to laugh as soon as I heard Larry's response. "I didn't alert," he said. "I coughed."

At this point, all I could do was apologize to our opponents, who were one of the top ranked pairs in the event, and move on to the next hand.



# 2015 CALENDAR

## JUNE

1	Mon. Eve.	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
1-7	Mon.-Sun.	District 3 Regional, Saratoga Springs, NY
5	Fri. Eve.	Worldwide Bridge Contest #1, Local clubs
6	Sat. Aft.	Worldwide Bridge Contest #2, Local clubs
12-14	Fri.-Sun.	Connecticut Spring Sectional, Hamden
15-21	Mon.-Sun.	STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs
23-28	Tues.-Sun.	New England Summer Regional, Nashua, NH

## JULY

1	Wed. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
14	Tues. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
15	Wed. Eve.	ACBL Int'l Fund Game 2, Local clubs
24	Fri. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

## AUGUST

4	Tues. Eve.	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
6-16	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs.-3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun.	ACBL Summer Nationals, Chicago IL
21-23	Fri.-Sun.	Connecticut Summer Sectional, Hartford
24	Mon. Eve.	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
25	Tues. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
28	Fri. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

## SEPTEMBER

1-6	Tues.-Sun.	New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI
9	Wed. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
15	Tues. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
17	Thurs. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
26	Sat. Day	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
29-4	Tues.-Sun.	District 24 Regional, Smithtown, NY

## OCTOBER

5-11	Mon.-Sun.	District 3 Regional, Danbury
16	Fri. A.M.	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint, Local clubs

17-18	Sat.-Sun.	District 25 NAP Qualifying, Sturbridge, MA
19-25	Mon.-Sun.	STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs
30-1	Fri.-Sun.	Connecticut Fall Sectional, Hamden

## NOVEMBER

4-8	Wed-Sun.	District 25 Regional, Mansfield
12	Thurs. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
16	Mon. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
30	Mon. Eve.	ACBL-wide Charity 2, Local clubs

## NOV.-DEC.

26-6	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.-1 <sup>st</sup> Sun.	ACBL Fall Nationals, Denver, CO
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## DECEMBER

14	Mon. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
15	Tues. Eve.	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
21	Mon. A.M.	ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3, Local clubs
26-31	Fri.-Wed.	New York City Regional, New York, NY

Results *continued from page 7*

### SUN SWISS TEAMS

1		<b>Lawrence Lau, Brett Adler, Victor King, Richard DeMartino</b>
2		Steve Becker, Bernard Schneider, Frances Schneider, Larry Bausher
3		Karen Barrett, Douglas Thompson, Elaine Misner, James Misner
1/2		<b>Deborah Noack, Bill Reich, Robert Rising, John Farwell</b>
1/2 1		<b>Michael Wavada, Kenneth Leopold, David Landsberg, Felix Springer</b>
3 2		James Nowill, Anne McCune, Marlene Myers, Maxine Cechvala
3/4		Neil Kreuzer, Akhil Ketkar, Vikram Srimurthy, Eric Throop
3/4		Jatin Mehta, Joy Mehta, Mayank Mehta, Aarati Mehta



## 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, 2015.

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