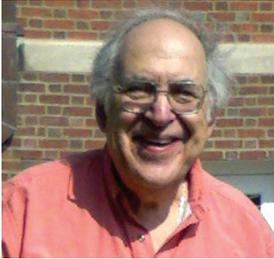




THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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A Point of Luck

by Harold Feldheim

In the book 'Winning Swiss Team Tactics', I coined the word *OPTIPISM*. Simply stated, it means that when a contract seems iron-clad, look for some nasty distributional surprise and try to guard against bad luck. On the other side of the coin, when confronted by a poor contract, look for some slice of good luck that might salvage the situation.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the success or failure of many, if not most, bridge hands can be determined during the first several tricks. Thus when considering either the play or defense of any hand, the winning player analyzes the problems and pitfalls at the very start. This process is most effective when applied before trick one. In other words,

Paint as complete a picture possible before playing to trick one.

The following hand illustrates how recognizing a problem early on can turn a hard to see line of play into a reasonable attempt to obtain a not-so-obvious victory. Here, declarer combined a bit of optimism with a dollop of luck to score a pleasing success.

Dealer: South

Neither side vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1S	2H	dbl	3H
pass	pass	3S	pass
4S	all pass		

NORTH
 ♠ K98
 ♥ 95
 ♦ QJ103
 ♣ A864

SOUTH
 ♠ A10654
 ♥ 107
 ♦ AK6
 ♣ Q105

The auction: North felt that two spades would be an underbid while a game force would be a serious overbid. He compromised with a negative double followed by support, intending to convey an invitational sequence. Although holding minimum values, South, possibly expecting a bit more, carried on to a very dicey game.

The play: West cashed the ♥KQ and switched to the ♦9, won in hand by the ♦A. Prospects looked bleak. Assuming normal breaks, South could count four spades, four diamonds and one club. Barring some distributional miracle, e.g. the doubleton ♠QJ or a singleton club honor, he was looking at two more losers, a club and a trump. In all such situations, *optipism* aided by careful analysis, should come into play. Examining the lead, South found out that EW led A from AK and, therefore, East held the ♥A. The auction told him two important things: first, the remaining high cards lay with

West; and second, West held at least five hearts. Since success depended on being able to force a club lead from West, he set out to try for an endplay. The general plan was to strip away West's diamonds and throw him in with a trump.

Choosing to read West's diamond switch as a doubleton rather than a singleton (the more likely distribution), he cashed another diamond, led up to the ♠K and followed with a low spade. South played for a bit of luck by ducking the trick. West won the ♠Q and, not having the third trump, and realizing that a heart would concede a ruff and sluff, tried a small club. South played low from dummy, realizing that West could hardly overcall at the two level with only 8 HCP, scoring the ♣Q for his tenth trick.

The complete hand:

♠ K98	
♥ 95	
♦ QJ103	
♣ A864	
♠ Q3	♠ J72
♥ KQJ83	♥ A642
♦ 92	♦ 8754
♣ K932	♣ J7
♠ A10654	
♥ 107	
♦ AK6	
♣ Q105	

Continued on page 6.



From the President

Bridge players are basically nice people. Sometimes they may even be too nice. And those really good players that we deem not very nice because they seem so aloof and non-friendly may be the smartest (and most helpful) in the room. As with everything in bridge, we can learn from sitting at a table with top A players, even table demeanor.

Certainly being civil to partner and to opponents is expected. ACBL is focusing on “Playing Nice” and we should all work on that aspect of the game. First and foremost, playing the game, whether at the local club or Sectional, Regional or National tournaments should be a pleasant experience for everyone. Harsh language or downright rudeness has no place at the bridge table.

However, sometimes an offhand comment about a bid or your inadvertent gasp or nod or frown when partner’s card hits the table can convey a ton of information about your hand. Alert opponents pick up on this and on every hesitation, shrug and facial expression you display (and it’s legal for them to do so, but not your partner.) When a player is the declarer, placing the cards is essential to making a contract and winning. Your actions at the table should tell nothing that can help opponents analyze the situation and play the hand the only way it can make.

Serious gamblers look for “tells”, which are those facial expressions, tics, small habits, etc. that give away information. At the table, during play, you should say nothing, except to ask partner if she is really out of the suit when she doesn’t follow suit. You

should be quiet, look at your hand, and at the cards on the table. You don’t want to be expressive or make faces like you-know-who during the first debate.

Which brings me back to the most serious offense of all in this regard. A properly filled-out convention card needs to be on the table, clearly visible at all times. Opponents have the right to pick it up (at their turn to take an action) and look at it to find the information they need about the conventions you play without having to ask you to explain the “Alert” (or lack thereof). This is an ACBL *rule*.

So, when an opponent bids 5♦ after a 4 NT bid by his partner, you need to be able to pick up opponent’s nicely filled-out convention card and have all the information you need to know about what convention they are playing, and what 5♦ means. You do not want to ask, repeat, you do not want to ask because then opponent will say, out loud, for all to hear, what (he thinks) partner’s bid means. Not only do you hear it, so does everyone at the table, including the bidder. Guess what? He didn’t think they were playing that version of responses, or Meckwell vs. Cappelletti in a different bidding sequence. While not legal, he can adjust his bids to compensate for the obvious disagreement and potentially avoid a disaster (the director might disagree with his actions, but sometimes it’s hard to prove.) You may have given the opponents an enormous advantage.

So be a really good card player during the play of the hand. Don’t talk, don’t apologize for a bad play, don’t fling your cards on the table when you’re discouraged. Play every hand

smoothly, in tempo, and quietly. And always have a filled-out convention card on the corner of your quarter of the table.



Can You Defeat this Hand - Part 1

by Burt Saxon

Defense is a very important yet neglected, aspect of bridge. This hand is tough. You should keep reading and then show **Part 2** (page 5) to your partner, or have him reading **Part 2** at the same time you’re reading **Part 1**. You are sitting West with this hand:

- ♠ AK7643
- ♥ 10762
- ♦ 7
- ♣ 32

NS vul, South opens 1♦. Despite your four hearts, you decide to overcall 1♠. North bids 2♠ to show a limit raise or better in opener’s diamonds; your partner passes. South bids 3♦ which ends the auction. Your partnership agreement is to lead king from either AK or KQ. You lead K♠ and this dummy appears:

- ♠ 1095
- ♥ J4
- ♦ AQ1093
- ♣ K108

Now get partner’s input on what he would do with this lead, looking at his hand in **Part 2** and prepare for a lively discussion over **Part 3** (page 11).



STRIP SQUEEZE

by Geof Brod

It's the morning duplicate. Halfway through the session you pick up the best hand you have been dealt so far: ♠A953 ♥7 ♦KQ98 ♣AQJ3. East on your right passes and you open one 1♦. Pass on your left and partner responds 1♥. Another pass on your right and it's up to you. It's normal to bid 1♠. You, however, are playing a weak no trump opening. If they deal you a strong no trump you open in a minor and rebid no trump, at the lowest level. Here you have an option not available to the other pairs in the field. You can conceal your spade suit and rebid 1NT showing 15-17 balanced. There are two clear flaws: your hand is not balanced; and you may miss a spade fit.

Most of the time, however, you will not have an 8-card spade fit and by concealing the nature of your hand you may well gain on the lead and/or subsequent play. Another way you might benefit is that no trump may play for just as many tricks as a 4-4 spade fit for a better matchpoint score. As against that, your hand is prime and looks better for play in a suit. If you score poorly because of an offbeat action, you will not be well placed in the post-mortem. Rightly or wrongly, you rebid 1NT.

LHO passes and partner starts to think. You decide that should she raise to 2NT you will accept. After all, you do have a good looking 16 HCP and your one jack is in a four card suit supported by higher honors. Sure enough, partner raises to 2NT and you go on to game.

West, your LHO, considers at some length and finally emerges with the ♠J. You see:

♠ Q842
♥ K1095
♦ J
♣ K864

♠ A953
♥ 7
♦ KQ98
♣ AQJ3

Perhaps this is the favorable lead you were hoping for. You cover with the ♠Q, covered by East with the ♠K, which you take with you ♠A. It seems normal to start diamonds now. You lead to the ♦J in dummy and East gobbles it up with the ♦A. A low club comes back and you take the ♣A in hand. Time to see how many spade tricks you have. You lead low up to the ♠8 in dummy. West follow low and East wins the ♠10. It appears that West has led from an original Jx as opposed to a long suit of his own. The immediate inference is that he has length in a red suit and not four clubs which might have been led otherwise. East returns another small club and again you arrange to win this in hand with an honor. West shows out, pitching a diamond. So West has ten red cards and was reluctant to lead either since we had bid both.

Your plan now is to cash your remaining black card winners (you have four of them) ending in hand. Yes, you could just simply lead up to the ♥K in dummy while you still have a black suit entry there, but were it to

lose to the ♥A the opponents would potentially be able to take five tricks whereas now you have nine to cash.

You take your winners leaving:

♠
♥ K1095
♦
♣

♠
♥ 7
♦ KQ9
♣

On the run of the blacks, West has tossed three more diamonds and a heart. You are hopeful now that the diamond 10 might fall, but when you cash the ♦K, remarkably East throws a heart. West started with seven diamonds (count 'em) and three hearts, and he's pitched two of those. He holds ♦10 and a diamond and a stiff heart. East has shown up with the ♦A and the ♠K. It is a totally safe play for an overtrick. Lead a heart. West will have to win with his likely ♥A and be endplayed into leading a diamond into your remaining ♦Q9. And so it proves. You end up with a gratifying overtrick.

When you cashed your last black suit winner, West had to reduce to four cards. He could choose to remain with the stiff ♥A and ♦10xx (as he did) or ♥Ax and ♦10x. With this holding his ♦10x would fall under your ♦KQ, leaving your ♦9 good. He knew that wasn't likely to work out for him. He just had to hope that you would get it wrong in the end game. He was strip squeezed.



OUR HAT TRICK

by Brett Adler



Larry Lau and I just completed our hat trick of hat tricks. We played in the von Zedwitz pairs at the Nationals, (a tough and grueling three-day event with a large proportion of the field eliminated each day), for the *third* time. We qualified for day three for the *third* time, and like Icarus flying too close to the Sun, we crashed and burned on the final day for the *third* time.

The field is tough and the slightest error you make always seems to be punished. Having said that, here is a hand from day two of the event, and I've rotated the hand to make myself South (I think I've said this before, but playing with Larry I'm only ever allowed to sit North or West).

Before I tell the story of what happened at our table, how would you play this hand in a contract of 4♠ by North after the lead of the top two clubs from West?

NORTH
 ♠ KQ8752
 ♥ A109
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ J

SOUTH
 ♠ A10963
 ♥ K32
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ 82

In 4♠, there is a guaranteed line which is to ruff the club, pull the opponents trumps, so now two suits have been eliminated; then play the top two hearts followed by the third heart not caring who wins it. If either opponent wins

and plays back a non-diamond you get a ruff/sluff and only lose one diamond, and if either opponent plays on diamonds you are guaranteed two diamond tricks. If East wins the third heart, he has to lead into the AJ♦, and if West wins and plays a low diamond through the AJ♦, you just have to play low – the magic card in the South hand is the 10♦.

Of course, there wouldn't be a story if our contract was 4♠...

North (Larry) opened 1♠, East doubled, and I bid 3NT??? Larry and I were playing a convention that over one of a major, a jump to four of that major by partner is a weak preempt, and a jump to 3NT is also a preempt to four of the major, but shows some outside defense (such as my K♥). We had never discussed whether this was still the case over the double, but I thought Larry would work it out as I hadn't redoubled to show 10+ high card points.

There was no alert, and after three passes I anxiously awaited the lead and a look at dummy.

West led the Q♥, and when I saw dummy I was immensely relieved that they hadn't led a club. Now I had to work out who had the J♥ so I could win three heart tricks.

In the end I decided that leading from the QJ♥ combination was more likely so I won the K♥ and ran 5 rounds of spades ending in my hand. On the second round of spades, West had pitched the 10♣ to show his partner he had

nothing higher in clubs and by inference, that he also held the 9♣. East was concerned that he would get end-played in clubs to lead into dummy's diamond holding, so he unblocked the A♣ and K♣ during the run of the spades.

Now I finessed in hearts and cashed my last spade and heart winner. At this stage I probably had all the match points as I can cash the A♦ for 10 tricks in NT beating all the pairs in 4♠, but I had seen an avalanche of club discards from the opponents and decided that the A♦ wasn't going away, so I exited dummy with the J♣. East won the Q♣, and then exited his "preciously" retained 5♣ which I won with my 8♣ as West had pitched all of his clubs by this point. 3NT making 11 tricks (+660) was, surprisingly, not a common result; all other N/S pairs were +620 for 4♠, +500 for beating 5♣ dbld, or had a minus score for going down in a spade contract. The full hand was:

Dealer North: N/S Vul

NORTH
 ♠ KQ8752
 ♥ A109
 ♦ AJ8
 ♣ J

WEST
 ♠ J
 ♥ QJ84
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ 109763

EAST
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 765
 ♦ K965
 ♣ AKQ54

SOUTH
 ♠ A10963
 ♥ K32
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ 82

My second hand is from a recent club game, and although declarer's bidding and play were less than optimal, I enjoyed the hand as Jeff Goldman and I were able to squeeze the declarer for an extra undertrick.

Dealer North; Vul: None
 Me North East South
 P P 2♦¹ P
 P dbl P 2NT
 all pass
¹ Weak

NORTH	
♠ Q532	
♥ A42	
♦ 10	
♣ A10874	
WEST	EAST
♠ A84	♠ K96
♥ KJ97	♥ 85
♦ 76	♦ KQ9854
♣ Q532	♣ J9
SOUTH	
♠ J107	
♥ Q1063	
♦ AJ32	
♣ K6	

I like the takeout double by North as he's already a passed hand and his partner shouldn't get too excited. I'm not sure why South didn't bid 2♥, but here we are defending 2NT.

I led ♦7 and declarer made the first mistake at trick one when he won the ♦A after East contributed the ♦Q. I did preface this hand by saying declarer played the hand less than optimally, so he now played the ♣K, and finessed the second round of clubs into East's ♣J. East returned the ♥8 covered by the ♥10, ♥J, and won with the ♥A.

Now declarer got the bad news when he cashed the ♣A to discover that the clubs weren't breaking. Next declarer played the ♠2 to his ♠J and both Jeff and I ducked this trick rectifying the count.

NORTH		WEST		EAST	
♠ Q53		♠ A8		♠ K9	
♥ 42		♥ K97		♥ 5	
♦ ---		♦ 6		♦ K985	
♣ 108		♣ Q		♣ ---	
SOUTH		WEST		EAST	
♠ 107		♠ A8		♠ K9	
♥ Q63		♥ K97		♥ 5	
♦ J3		♦ 6		♦ K985	
♣ --		♣ Q		♣ ---	

South now led ♠10 won by East with the ♠K, and East returned the ♥5. I won the ♥7, cashed the ♥K, cashed the ♠A, and South had to surrender when I played my ♣Q. If he pitches his ♥Q, my ♥9 is a winner, and when he holds onto his ♥Q and pitches a diamond, I lead my ♦6 to partner's ♦K and ♦9. We therefore held declarer (or declarer held himself) to five tricks.

Editor's note: it is rare indeed that defenders can produce a squeeze against a declarer who generally has the upper hand in tempo and knowledge. Good defense is a beautiful thing when *YOU* do it...

Can You Defeat this hand – Part 2

{see Part 1 on page 2 after you've decided on your action(s)}.

You are East with this hand:

♠ void
 ♥ KQ983
 ♦ J82
 ♣ A9764

NS vul, South deals and opens 1♦. Your partner overcalls 1♠, North bids 2♠, indicating a limit plus hand. You pass and South bids 3♦, ending the auction.

Your partnership agreement is to lead K from either AK or KQ. What card do you play when partner leads ♠K and dummy plays ♠5? Can you and your partner now figure out how to beat the hand? Make your play, along with a rationale as to why (editor's note: and another as to why it was right even if it didn't work out). Then both of you can turn to **Part 3** (page 11) and discuss how and why you went wrong (if you did) and how you can improve your partnership's communications and chances of dealing with the next difficult defensive problem faced at the table.





INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE

(finding the “Elusive Extra Trick”)

You pick up ♠KQJ97 ♥K5 ♦K952 ♣85. Partner opens 1♣; you bid a quiet 1♠, pretty sure there’s a game somewhere. Opponents remain silent, as expected. Partner bids 2NT. Playing new minor forcing, you bid 3♦, and partner responds 3♠. If you had a singleton you’d think a lot about exploring for slam, but with no short suit on either side and a maximum of 31HCP, you decide to settle for game, 4♠. Lefty leads ♣J and you survey dummy:

- ♠ A83
- ♥ A73
- ♦ AJ6
- ♣ AQ64
- ♠ KQJ97
- ♥ K5
- ♦ K952
- ♣ 85

1 club loser, possibly 2 diamond losers, easy 4; everybody’s bidding it, maybe making 5 on a good day; some might have tried slam and need some good luck to make 5, but you need to make 5 to beat all your “real” opponents, those holding your cards at other tables. Even if both finesses lose (probability = 25%, a really bad day), you can make 5 if the ♦s break 3/3—

what’s that probability? Less than 50%, i.e. not good. How else can we take care of the fourth ♦? Well, how many of the AKQJ of ♠ do we need to draw trumps? Ah hah, Brett Adler told us just last issue the probability of a 3-2 break is 68% (better than 50% for sure), so we don’t need the ♠A to draw trumps; we can use it to trump a ♦ (if the ♦Q & ♦10 don’t show up early.)

So, thinking that the ♣J is not likely to be from KJ10 (a notrump lead), we reject the ♣ finesse, taking the ♣A. We lead a ♠ to the ♠K and a ♦ to the ♦J (It’s unlikely that lefty has a singleton, he would have led it.) Not our day, it loses. Note that righty will give us the ♣Q for a later pitch if he cashes the ♣K at this point; so he leads another ♠. We win in our hand, noting that the suit is breaking 3-2, preserving the ♠A in dummy. We lead to the ♦A and the ♦5 back to the ♦K9 and play the K. If the suit breaks 3-3, we went to a lot of planning and effort for nothing except insurance; if lefty has the last trump and a doubleton we make the same four as everybody else who just drew trumps and lost 2 ♦s. Here righty has four diamonds

and the third spade and we trump the ♦9 with dummy’s carefully preserved ♠A, claiming 5. Yes, we could have finessed the ♦9, and the odds favor a 4-2 break, but we’d look kinda silly if lefty showed up with the ♦10 and we’ve turned a sure 5 into just 4.

How’d we do? One optimistic pair in 6NT down 3; five pairs in ♠4 making four (drew trumps and played for the 3-3 drop); three pairs in 3NT making 4 (same play); two pairs in 3NT making 5 (perhaps with helpful defense i.e. a ♦ or ♣ lead); 9 of 11 matchpoints for us; rather than 4 for making just 4. Not a bad payoff for cheap insurance.

The complete hand:

- ♠ !83
- ♥ A73
- ♦ AJ6
- ♣ AQ64
- ♠ 54
- ♥ 98642
- ♦ 73
- ♣ 85
- ♠ 1062
- ♥ QJ10
- ♦ Q1084
- ♣ K32
- ♠ KQJ97
- ♥ K5
- ♦ K952
- ♣ 85



A Point of Luck

Continued from page 1

Final analysis: South had to play West for a specific distribution, that being 2-5-2-4. Notice that if West held the third trump, playing ♠A, ♠K and another spade, the sluff and ruff would no longer exist since,

with dummy having no trumps, West could exit a heart without harm. This partial endplay is a very satisfying technique, especially when it works. South played for the only possible distribution and Lady Luck rewarded his efforts.

Moral: When a contract looks terrible, take another look. Optimism oft works wonders.

Achievements



MILESTONES

Emerald (7500)

Marvin Rosenblatt

Diamond (5000)

Betty Jane Corbani

Sapphire (3500)

Morris Feinson

Joel Krug

John Segal

Gold (2500)

Burt Gischner

Tom Hey

Michael Smith

Ruby (1500)

Sheila Katz

Aldona Siuta

Mike Wavada

Silver (1000)

Joan Brault

Joyce Calcagnini

David Keller

Marti Molwitz

Theresa Waltz

Vera Wardlaw

Bronze (500)

Larry Bowman

Evan Dean

Karen Emott

Linda Kesselman

Ken Lem

Gordon Mackenzie

Mary Ellen McGuire

Doris Nussbaum

Felix Springer

David Waltz

Elizabeth Wellington

Mary Whittemore

Life Master

Mary-Jane Cross

Georgeann Kishner

Mary Ellen McGuire

Leonard Messman

David Waltz

Theresa Waltz

2016 GOVERNOR'S CUP

The Cup was won this year
by Faye Marino

1. 23.65 Faye Marino
2. 21.97 Doris Greenwald
4. 19.08 Rich DeMartino
7. 15.31 Terry Lubman
8. 14.49 Jeff Goldman
9. 13.19 Kevin Hart
9. 13.19 Jeff Horowitz
11. 12.02 Harold Feldheim
11. 12.02 Jill Fouad
16. 10.33 Russell Friedman
19. 9.34 Natalie Cohen
20. 9.05 Larry Lau

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS

(Top 200)

(published annually by the ACBL)

	MPs	(rank)
Rich DeMartino	27,045	(#44)
Jay Steifel	22,021	(#89)
Harold Feldheim	20,177	(#113)
Doug Doub	17,457	(#166)

CT has a number of players on this major achievement list, and a number who will probably appear in the next year or two.

All of these players are still very active and will probably move up significantly over their remaining competitive years.

DISTRICT 25 NAOP WINNERS

FLIGHT A

- #1 Jay Steifel
#2 Frank Merblum/Doug Doub

FLIGHT C

- #1 Trevor Reeves

These players will represent D25 at the ACBL NAOP finals next Spring in Kansas City. Wish them GOOD LUCK next time you see them.



Achievements

2015 Masterpoint Race Winners & 2016 Race Leaders

<u>Bracket</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016 (at 11/6)</u>
<u>Ace of Clubs (local black points only)</u>		
0-5	Don Ernst 47.50	Jonathan Jankus 54.77
5-20	Brian Fielding 43.89	Pam Lombardo 30.94
20-50	Gordon Kreh 61.33	Joseph Hochheiser 47.34
50-100	Clifford Wald 100.12 (#9 ACBL)	Lisette Voorhees 50.17
100-200	Ru Cole 130.77 (#10 ACBL)	Trevor Reeves 92.92
200-300	Russ Sackowitz 113.59	Cliff Wald 108.03
300-500	Don Kimsey 101.30	Russ Sackowitz 121.40
500-1000	Shari Peters 152.75	Gary Mirashiro 122.09
1000-1500		Roger Crean 128.13
1000-2500	Richard Fronapfel 210.36	
1500-2500		Richard Fronapfel 259.65
2500-3500		Linda Green 181.77
3500-5000	Doris Greenwald 278.66	Betty Corbani 211.28
5000-7500	Sandy DeMartino 218.63	Sandy DeMartino 165.95
7500-10000	Larry Lau 115.40	Larry Lau 84.84
>10000	Geoff Brod 176.21	Geoff Brod 170.91

Mini-McKenney (includes all masterpoints won)

0-5	Don Ernst 58.59	Jonathan Jankus 115.99
5-20	Sylvia Szanto 63.61	Pam Lombardo 41.47
20-50	Gordon Kreh 102.33	Kishor Lathi 72.86
50-100	Cliff Wald 126.77	Silvia Szanto 84.19
100-200	Ru Cole 224.39 (#16 ACBL)	Trevor Reeves 165.18
200-300	Russ Sackowitz 166.71	Cliff Wald 124.92
300-500	Don Kimsey 123.50	Felix Springer 228.94
500-1000	Susan Smith 209.26	Gary Mirashiro 150.90
1000-1500		Susan Smith 266.60
1000-2500	Jill Fouad 365.10	
1500-2500		Debbie Benner 397.41
2500-3500		Art Crystal 471.02
2500-5000	Randy Johnson 590.27(#352 ACBL)	Randy Johnson 414.66
5000-7500	Sandy DeMartino 466.38	Sandy DeMartino 334.06
7500-10000	Larry Lau 478.07	Larry Lau 310.25
>10000	Rich DeMartino 967.32(#108 ACBL)	Doug Doub 671.17

Achievements

Major Recent Tournament Wins

Greenwich Sectional (8/26-8/28)

Jill Fouad/Harold Feldheim	Fri Open Pairs	1A	9.13
Jeff Goldman/Rich Demartino	Sat AM AX Pairs	1A	9.85
Terry Lubman/Doris Greenwald	Sat AX Aft Pairs	1A	10.31

Warwick Regional (8/30-9/4)

Eleanor & Barry Bragin	Wed AX Pairs	4AX	14.58
Tom Hyde/Ed Lewis	Thu Open Pairs	1A	15.31
Felix Springer/Trevor Reeves	Thu Open Pairs	2A1BC	11.48
Theresa & David Waltz	Fri MidFlight Pairs	2B1Y	14.93
Alan Rothenberg/Rich Demartino	Fri Open Pairs	1A	34.01
Victor King/Doug Doub	Fri Swiss	1A	11.55
Alan Rothenberg/Rich Demartino	Sat Open KO	1	28.53
Doug Doub/Geoff Brod/Victor King	Sun Open Swiss	1	27.43

Hauppauge Regional (9/14-9/18)

Jill Fouad/Harold Feldheim	Fri Open Pairs	1A	26.69
Harold Feldheim	Sat Round Robin Teams B1	tie 1	14.37

Rhode Island Sectional (9/24-9/25)

Dave Ehler/Victor King	Sat Open Pairs	1A	22.75
Victor King	Sun AX Swiss	1A	15.68

Naples Regional

Debbie Benner/Art Crystal	Tue/Wed KOs B1	tie 3	23.05
Debbie Benner/Art Crystal	Fri/Sat KOs B1	1	38.71

Watertown Sectional (10/8-10/9)

Jay Stiefel	D25 NAOP Flight A Final	1	36.00
Frank Merblum/Doug Doub	D25 NAOP Flight A Final	2	27.00
Dave Ehler/Victor King	D25 NAOP Flight A Final	9	10.29

Danbury Regional (10/17-10/23)

Al Wolf/Russ Friedman	Wed ABC pairs	2A	21.98
Sandra Gould/Armanda Buscher	Golden Opportunity Pairs	1A	11.03
Stiefel/Demartino/Brod/Ehlers	Fri Round Robin Teams	3	13.64
Susan & Michael Smith	Sat ABC Pairs	5A1B	12.11
Victor King	Sat Round Robin Teams B1	1	25.72
Victor King	Sun AX Teams	tie 2	19.84

October STaC

Phyllis & Larry Bauscher	Wed AM Pairs	1A	11.06
George Holland/Richard Fronapfel	Thu Aft Pairs	1A	13.47
George Holland/Richard Fronapfel	Mon Aft Pairs	1A	15.87

From the

HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

“85 Came Alive” was a wonderful party. On Sunday, October 30 the Hartford Bridge Club celebrated its 85th birthday with a gala, sold out luncheon at Maneeley’s Banquet and Catering in South Windsor. Registration began at 11:30, followed by a wonderful buffet meal, business meeting and an afternoon bridge game with 57 tables. The luncheon was complimentary for all paid up members. A few former members came to reconnect with old friends and to participate in the celebration. One even flew in from California. Lunch selections included beef tenderloin, chicken marsala, fish, pasta, potatoes and salads as well as assorted breads and rolls. Dessert pastries were served mid afternoon. Complimentary coffee, tea and soft drinks were available throughout the event. There was also a cash bar. Thanks to donations from individual members, there were gift bags for all attendees and a beautiful floral arrangement at the registration desk. For one and a half hours during the registration period and luncheon, Paul Bisaccia, internationally acclaimed piano virtuoso of classical and Americana music, entertained the crowd. His appearance was made possible thanks to the generosity of the “Anonymous Music Lovers.” Special guests were Mark Aquino, District 25 Director, and Esther Watstein, President of the Connecticut Bridge Association. Special thanks to Dave Metcalf who directed the game. It was a memorable afternoon, enjoyed by all.

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

On Sunday and Monday, September 11 and 12, Larry Cohen presented “Top 5 Errors”, “Slam Bidding”, Defensive Strategy”, and “Law of Total Tricks for Balancing” to 25 tables of enthusiastic players both days. Along with Larry’s bridge lessons, everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast, lunch and home-baked cookies.

On Wednesday September 14, Harold Feldheim gave an informative talk on “Weak 2 Bids”, prior to the morning game. His lecture was very well received and the 80 players who played that morning were able to put Harold’s insights to use as there happened to be six hands that seemed tailor-made for a weak 2 opening.

Sixty-six teams participated in the Swiss team games October 10-13 during the club’s second annual Team Week.

Newtown Bridge Club plays Monday through Thursday at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown. Directions and information about games and lessons may be found on the club’s website; www.newtownbridge.org

WEE BURN NEWS

The Summer Series “at the beach” was most successful, especially for the following pairs who did well:

1. Penny Glassmeyer/Susan Mayo
2. Janet Soskin/Sue Kipp
3. Belinda Metzger/Mary Ellen McGuire
4. Kathie Rowland/Joan Hoben
5. Molly Johnson/Pat Brasher
6. Jean Thoma/Karen Barrett

And our CONGRATULATIONS to Karen Barrett who just became a GOLD LIFE MASTER.

WOODWAY COUNTRY CLUB

Winners of the summer series:

1. Susan Mayo/Karen Barrett
2. Betty Hodgman/Millie Fromm
3. Marilyn Tjader/Carole Davidson

Winners of our annual ACBL Charity game:

1. Susan Mayo/Karen Barrett
2. Katie Goodman/Tom Hey
3. Gloria and Bill Hayes

Tournament Schedule

DECEMBER

1-4 Orlando Nationals

JANUARY

23-29 Tarrytown Regional

FEBRUARY

15-20 Cromwell Regional

MARCH

3-5 Guilford Sectional
8-19 Kansas City Nationals

Bridge Forum Update

Tuesday

Leading pairs – Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz have more than doubled the performance of any other pair. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller and Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners have been trading second place, well ahead of Abhi Dutta-Paul Johnson in fourth. Player of the Year Leaders: The three leading pairs occupy the top six positions, with Jeff leading. Jon Ingersoll, Hank Banach, Bob Hawes and George Levinson round out the top ten.

Van Dyke Cup preliminaries: Eliminated in the quarterfinals were Hill Auerbach, Tracy Selmon and Bob Hawes, and in the semifinals Alan Milstone, Gernot Reiners and Hank Banach. The four finalists were Kevin Hart, Jeff Horowitz, Harold Miller and Kay Howe, with Kevin having the highest carryover score.

Friday

Leading Pairs: Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker have maintained a fair lead. Rita Brieger-Aniko Richheimer had a summer surge into second, with Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners third. Player of the year Leaders: 1 Rita Brieger; 2 Harold Miller; 3 Erik Rosenthal; 4 Gernot Reiners; 5 Alan Milstone; 6 Aniko Richheimer; 7 Norma Augenstein; 8 Louise Wood; 9 Jeff Horowitz; 10 Joe Pagerino.

Reynolds Cup preliminaries: This cup was close for a while until Rita's late summer surge. Eliminated quarterfinalist were Erik, Jeff and Norma. Eliminated semifinalists were Alan, Kevin Hart and Joe. Well behind Rita entering the finals were Harold, Jim and Gernot.

Tuesday/Friday Combined

Overall Player of the Year: The top three Tuesday pairs have locked up the six top spots, with Jeff narrowly

leading Kevin, and Alan momentarily ahead of Harold, Rita and Gernot in their constant reshuffle for third.

Yearly Statistics: The Hart-Horowitz partnerships leads in getting the most tops, avoiding zeroes, 70% games and profitable penalty doubles (tied on the doubles with Erik.) Pat Rogers-Phyllis Haeckel are the only pair to have two games without no tops or bottoms. Breta Adams-Karlene Wood have bid and made 13 grand slams. Vicki Rethy, Ann Drabkin and Joyce Handleman are leading in passouts.



The Seven No-Trump Bridge Club (NEW!)

In late October, the Seven No-Trump Bridge Club opened in Stamford CT. The owner, Joe Grill, is an ACBL Tournament Director who recently moved to the area from Charlotte NC. The club is located in the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on Newfield Ave, near the High Ridge Road exit off the Merritt. The facility features 25 tables with brand new equipment, comfortable chairs and Bridgemates. There's also PLENTY OF PARKING! A full schedule of professionally run games is offered during the week and the club is expanding its lesson offerings as well. For more information, visit www.7ntgames.com or contact Joe Grill: email: Joseph.Grill@7ntgames.com; cell-979-218-7428

Editor's note: Joe ran more than 7 games a week at the consolidated club in Charlotte, one of which is Jerry Helms' own local game. When I spoke to Jerry in Ottawa, he said that they all were very sorry to see Joe leave because he was so instrumental in their success. His rapid growth in this current location is testimony to his capabilities.

Can You Beat this hand – Part 3

The Analysis: in order to beat the hand, EW need two spade tricks, one spade ruff, one heart and one club. There is only one way to do this: East does not want a late ♠ ruff because he may not have time to develop his heart trick. He should give his partner as neutral a signal as is possible in their defensive carding system. The ♣6 is probably the best bet. One of my partners and I still play Lavinthal discards, so the ♥9 would request another spade lead in our system. West, on winning the first trick, should realize that playing ♠A, ruff ♠ will set up South's ♠Q for a pitch, and, therefore give partner an immediate ruff, retaining spade control. East ruffs and leads ♥K to set up his ♥ while still having C control. ♠ will win the ♥A and draw trumps, but will eventually have to give East his ♣A and ♥K first and West his ♠A second or vice versa but wind up losing all three cards regardless.

If you and your partner can find this defense after reading parts one and two, you are good defenders. If you and your partner found this defense at the table, you are expert defenders. If you found this defense at the table (or with **Parts 1&2** without peeking) within 10 seconds, you deserve the Bols Brilliancy prize. If you found this defense in less than five seconds, you could be accused of cheating.

The whole hand:

- ♠ 1095
- ♥ J4
- ♦ AQ1093
- ♣ K108
- ♠ AK7643
- ♥ 10762
- ♦ 7
- ♣ 32
- ♠ void
- ♥ KQ983
- ♦ J82
- ♣ A9764
- ♠ QJ82
- ♥ A5
- ♦ K654
- ♣ QJ5



Editor's Note:

A note from Harold Feldheim
Richard "Dick" Wieland and I met through bridge and became close friends. He was multi-faceted, with an insightful view of the world and, from him, I learned a great deal, especially in the areas of politics and economics and how things tick. He was a kind and generous friend. I mourn him. I will miss him.

Dick died in late November, having moved from CT to Las Vegas in the last year. He was a significant force in CT bridge for more than 25 years, despite often being out of the state creating and selling businesses in Texas, Washington DC and other locations. I learned a lot of bridge from Dick (and Jim Greer and Mort Friedman and a lot of others at a local pub in the 90s following Roy Erickson's regular Tuesday night game in Ridgefield, long since defunct.) Dick was a staunch proponent of the quintessentially abstruse bid. I myself have been one of his victims more than once. Harold tells the story of Dick making a far-out-there bid, which made obvious sense to him, but Harold was unable to field it and they got a bad result. Dick, in the post-mortem, was sure his view would be held by 90%+ of the field; to prove it, he went to Mike Cappelletti Sr., a

member of their swiss team, and asked for Mike's thought. Mike told him the same thing as Harold had. Dick said: "You're both idiots; you two play together and I'll play with Mike's client." Thanks for the memories, Dick.

IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin*

Billie Hecker

Mildred Helyer

Joan O'Connell

Judith Pinney

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 **JANUARY 15, 2017**.

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<http://www.ctbridge.org>

If you would like to receive *The Kibitzer* via e-mail, let us know. Email Bill Wood at wawool@juno.com

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