

# THE KIBITZER February 2009

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## Pragmatic Defense

by Harold Feldheim

There are many fine players from around the world whose brilliance deserves more than a footnote. My next few columns will feature some of these unsung heroes.

One secret of winning bridge is to protect partner from a reasonable, though disastrous, line of play on defense. This hand from the 1974 World Bridge Federation championships features the very talented Mado Paoli seated East. She was a member of the French Women's Team and although their squad finished a disappointing fifth, the insightful defense she put up on this hand shows the importance of envisioning and mapping out a total defense before playing to trick one.

Dealer: South  
Vulnerability: None

**NORTH**  
♠ J 8 7  
♥ A 6 5  
♦ K 9 6 4  
♣ A Q 4

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

**EAST**  
♠ A 2  
♥ Q 10 9 8 4 3  
♦ 10 2  
♣ 6 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 10 9 5 4  
♥ K 7  
♦ A Q J 7  
♣ J 8

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	(All Pass)

Opening lead: ♥J

### The Bidding:

The auction was very standard. North's 2♥ rebid was an attempt to find out if the hand contained any slam potential based on shape or extra values. When South's third bid was 2NT, North drove to what looked like a safe 3NT.

### The Play:

The 5-spot was called from the dummy and East settled in to analyze the hand. The opening lead looked like a gift from the gods. So long as partner held an entry, (most likely in spades), he'd have a chance to lead another heart, setting up his heart suit.

But there was a fly in the ointment. The hand was an open book to East. If West holds two hearts, then South would, if the auction was to be believed, be looking at 5-2-4-2 distribution. Having worked all this out, there were two problems.

First, it was clear that if declarer ducked the first heart it would skewer the East-West communications.

Second, even if declarer wins and leads a spade, West might duck, since his partner could possibly hold Qx. Having worked all this out, East played the queen on partner's Jack. South was in a quandary. Was East unblocking for West's heart suit? Quite reasonably, South ducked trick one, but East responded with a killing club shift. Declarer tried the jack, covered by the king and ace. When he led a spade from the dummy, East knew that partner's entry must be preserved and rose with the ace followed by another club. Now declarer could come to no more than eight tricks; two hearts, four diamonds, and two clubs; down one!

Brava Paola for a totally electric defense!



## Milestones and Congratulations

### New Life Masters

Nancy Bentley  
David Blackburn  
Ellen Greenfield  
Brenda Harvey  
George Holland  
Virginia Labbadia  
Victor Mazmanian  
Carl Palmer

### Gold Life Masters

(2500 MPs)  
Allan Wolf

### Silver Life Masters

(1000 MPs)  
Debbie Benner  
Jane Julius  
Terry Lubman  
Susan Mayo  
Paul Miller  
Deanna Mozzochi  
Phyllis Pierson  
Jill Rosen  
Mark Stasiewski

### Bronze Life Masters

(500 MPs)  
Nancy Bentley  
Carol Davidson  
Richard Franklin  
Susan Goldstein  
Robert Klopp  
Ted Mao  
Victor Mazmanian  
Jean Orr  
Thomas Pritchard  
Susan Vock

# Can't Cost – Chapter 18 – Life in the Big City

by John Stiefel



The “Can’t Cost” theme occurred for both sides in this fascinating deal from the 2007 World Championships in Shanghai.

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: Both

NORTH  
♠ K 8 3  
♥ A K Q 4 3 2  
♦ 10 6  
♣ Q 10

SOUTH  
♠ A Q 9 6 5 2  
♥ 10 8  
♦ A Q  
♣ A 8 3

South	West	North	East
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♦	Pass
7♠	(All Pass)		
Opening Lead: ♣7			

The auction requires some explanation. South’s 3♣ rebid was game forcing (3♠ would not have been forcing). Then North’s 4♠ bid showed 3 card support with good trump. (A 3♠ rebid by North would still have been forcing but could have been based on a doubleton or three small.) South then launched into Roman Key-Card Blackwood and North showed 2 key cards. Now South’s 5NT was a “courtesy bid” – he fully expected that 6♠ would be the limit of the hand (with North having shown a minimum), but he wanted to show North that all five key cards and the trump queen were accounted for. North now bid the grand, counting on his strong hearts to provide discards for South’s minor-suit losers. (Presumably North’s 7♦ bid showed good hearts in case South wanted to play there.)

South played dummy’s ten to West’s ♣7 lead to trick 1. He knew that West would never lead from the king but might lead from the jack. East, however, had the jack. So, South won the ace.

At trick 2, South crossed to dummy’s ♠K. This is the proper technical play to

guard against J10xx in the East hand. When East followed to this trick with the jack, South led another spade to his ace. East discarded the ♣5 on this trick. The next four tricks (4-7) were won by South’s spades.

- Trick 4 — ♠Q, West and dummy follow, ♦4 (East)
- Trick 5 — ♠9, ♦8 (West/encouraging), ♦6 (dummy), ♦7 (East)
- Trick 6 — ♠6, ♣2 (West), ♥2 (dummy), ♦9 (East)
- Trick 7 — ♠5, ♣4 (West), ♣Q (dummy), ♣9 (East)

It now appeared to South that West had led from a worthless 4 card club holding headed by the seven and (based on his signal) was holding the ♦K behind South’s ♦AQ. It seemed that South’s only chance was to run dummy’s hearts. So he led the ♥8 to dummy’s ace at trick 8. West contributed the jack to this trick, and this was the position with five cards to play.

NORTH  
♠ - - -  
♥ K Q 4 3  
♦ 10  
♣ - - -

SOUTH  
♠ - - -  
♥ 10  
♦ A Q  
♣ 8 3

After some thought, South decided to play West for having made a “Can’t Cost” false card ♥J from a holding of Jx; so he led a heart to trick 9. Unfortunately, West was not false-carding and South had to go down. (East’s 9xxx of hearts was enough to stop the suit.) It turned out that the East, not West, actually had the ♦K; so South was able to hold his losses to down 1, taking 6 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club.

As soon as the hand was over, South realized that he could, and should, have made the hand by making a “Can’t Cost” play of the ♦10 to his ace at trick 9. This would collect East’s king (as East had to keep his 9xx of hearts and ♣K) and then

the ♦Q would squeeze East between clubs and hearts (the ♣8 serving as a threat card against East’s king). In other words, when South led the ♦Q to trick 10, discarding dummy’s ♥3, North’s last three cards would be ♥KQ4 and East would still have to discard from ♥976 and the ♣K. A heart discard would set up dummy’s suit while the ♣K discard would set up declarer’s eight.

The original deal was as follows.

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

Note West’s “Can’t Cost” play of the ♦8 to trick 5. West realized that East would have to keep the ♣K and four hearts, so he would have no choice but to discard diamonds if South ran his trumps. Without this thoughtful discard, South might well have made the hand.

This board was played 12 times in three different events, and only three pairs reached the good grand. Also, the other two declarers in 7♠ played ♠AQ to tricks 2 and 3, neglecting to guard against J10xx in the East hand. They then played two rounds of hearts, the second round getting ruffed by East. It was no consolation to South, however, that he and his partner had bid the hand better than nine of the twelve pairs and that he had played it much better than the other two declarers in 7♠. By his standards, he had misplayed the hand.





# Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe

## Number 10 - Don't Draw Trumps!

### Part One: The Dummy Reversal

by Allan Wolf

As bridge beginners, we're taught that it's generally right to draw trumps right away. With experience, we learn that (as with most bridge maxims) there are many exceptions to that generally sound guidance. Beginning with this article, I'll examine some of the more interesting exceptions.

Two related and gratifying lines of play are the cross-ruff and the dummy reversal. In the cross-ruff, declarer does not draw trumps, but makes trump tricks by ruffing back and forth between the declarer and dummy hands. I'll do a cross-ruff example in a future article.

In a dummy reversal, declarer arranges to take many ruffs in the hand that starts out having the greater trump length (usually declarer's hand) to the point that the other hand (usually dummy) has the greater length. It's best understood by example.

Dealer: South

Prof. Lobochevski  
(NORTH)  
♠ K Q 10  
♥ A Q 7  
♦ K Q 4  
♣ J 6 4 3

Cecil Horne  
(WEST)  
♠ 7 6 4  
♥ K J 6 3  
♦ 8 3  
♣ 10 9 8 2

A Client  
(EAST)  
♠ 3  
♥ 10 8 4 2  
♦ 9 7 6  
♣ A K Q 7 5

Warren  
(SOUTH)  
♠ A J 9 8 5 2  
♥ 9 5  
♦ A J 10 5 2  
♣ Void

Warren (South)	Cecil (West)	Prof. (North)	A Client (East)
1♠	Pass	2♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass
4♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	7♠ <sup>(5)</sup>	(All Pass)

#### Bidding Notes:

- (1) Stuck for a bid, the Professor elected to make a 2-over-1 game-forcing bid in his stronger 3-card diamond suit, rather than his weak 4-card club suit. No number of notrump did the hand justice, and the immediate options for a strong spade raise all would promise 4-card support.
- (2) Splinter (shows a singleton or void) in support of diamonds. Although a weak hand in terms of high cards, a very powerful playing hand in support of diamonds.
- (3) A cue-bid, knowing that the hand would be played in Spades, not Diamonds
- (4) A cue-bid, following the splinter, promising a club void.
- (5) Really expecting opener to have the ♥K. (Even assuming both ♦AJ and ♠AJ, that's only 10 HCP.) But the grand slam was an excellent contract even missing the ♥K.

Cecil elected to lead the club ten, despite knowing from the bidding of declarer's void.

Often a safe trump lead is best against a grand slam.

Warren paused to take stock. There were 12 tricks off the top: six spades, five diamonds, and a heart. If the spades broke 2-2, there would be no problem, as he could then run the diamonds, pitching two heart losers from dummy, and ruff the heart loser with dummy's remaining trump. If that line failed, there was possibly a heart finesse to try for the 13<sup>th</sup> trick.

But best of all, was the dummy reversal. If Warren could arrange to trump all four of dummy's clubs in hand, that would provide an extra trick; the four ruffs, plus three trumps in dummy, plus the five diamond winners and the ♥A. This line was almost sure-fire, as long as trumps were not 4-0, or diamonds not 5-0, he needed 4 entries to dummy to pull it all off.

So Warren proceeded along those lines, ruffing the club lead, then a trump to dummy's ten, a club ruff, a trump to dummy's queen, and a third club ruff. At this point, North, South and West each had one trump remaining. So now Warren played a diamond to the king, followed by a ruff of dummy's fourth club with declarer's last trump. Then a heart to the ace, and a spade from dummy pulling West's final trump as Warren discarded his heart loser. Now Warren was able to claim, with trumps out, and all good diamonds remaining.

The club lead was helpful, as it reduced by one the number of entries needed to dummy. But even on a neutral lead (like a trump), play should proceed along similar lines. Now the only difference is that declarer will need to risk a second diamond entry to dummy while a trump is still outstanding. Still, a 3-2 diamond break is a better chance than a 50-50 heart finesse.

The hand given above is a modification of the actual hands. When this hand was played in the first round of a Regional pairs event, Cecil was playing with a client that he was anxious to impress (and help her win the masterpoints needed to become a life master). Cecil did lead a trump. But in the actual hand West had *not three* but all four of the missing trumps. So now a dummy reversal was not feasible. Warren made quick work of the hand, claiming if the heart finesse was on, down one otherwise.

Cecil was livid over this result, knowing that few (if any) pairs would reach a grand slam on these cards. So he and his client were off to a bad start. His frustration was exacerbated by his cursory analysis of the hand, thinking that this was a grand slam entirely dependent on a finesse, when in fact it was an excellent contract given normal suit breaks.

Even worse, the grand would surely have been defeated with a heart lead. Not yet knowing about the 4-0 trump break, declarer would surely rise with the ♥A, expecting to make the contract on a dummy reversal.



# Take a Deep Breath and Balance!

by Gloria Sieron



Dealer: West

Vulnerability: None

NORTH

♠ 10  
♥ J 9 8 7 6  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ A 10 9 8

WEST

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

EAST

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

SOUTH

♠ K 7 4  
♥ A 3  
♦ Q 10  
♣ K Q 7 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
3♠	Pass	Pass	?

Opening lead:

Should South enter the auction with

a balancing bid? When this hand was played, South decided to overcall with four clubs and, much to the surprise of all, North raised to game. [At matchpoints, a significant number of players would balance with 3NT.- *Ed.*]

Balancing theory suggests that the balancing bidder, South, may “borrow an ace” from North’s hand to qualify for entering the auction at the four level. When South borrows an ace from partner, North is obligated to subtract an ace from his holding. But, with four card support for partner’s suit, temptation overtook North and, instead of subtracting the borrowed ace, North raised to game.

Making eleven tricks in the contract of five clubs appears doomed, since South must lose the spade ace, as well as one heart and one diamond. However, careful play allowed declarer to make 5♣. The opening lead of the spade queen went to the ace, and was followed by a spade to the king in declarer’s hand. Declarer drew trump, ruffed his

remaining spade and played a heart to the ace. West played the deuce. Unfortunately for West, the next heart to his king left him in an impossible end-play. If he leads a diamond from the king, south’s queen scores a trick. A spade lead will provide South with a sluff and a ruff.

West can make it more difficult by unblocking the ♥K when declarer leads to his ♥A. Declarer leads a second heart to the nine and East wins. If East plays the ♥Q, declarer ruffs, goes to the board and pitches a diamond on the ♥J. If East leads a diamond, declarer must guess to insert the ten and loses no diamonds. Given West’s play of ♥K under the ace he is likely to have the ♦K. If West had ♦J as well there is nothing declarer could do.



## Boston NABC

And a good time was had by all! The votes are in and the results show that the 2008 Fall Nationals were among the best held. Even with the current economic challenges, over 5,000 players from 43 countries traveled to join their fellow bridge enthusiasts in Boston. Besides the passion we all share for the game, there was excellent hospitality each day, door prizes given courtesy of the State Days, great registration and section top prizes, a wonderful variety of tours available, and many more special features which helped to make this National such a tremendous success.

Connecticut players should be proud of their efforts in contributing to the successful outcome of the tournament. Many volunteers from our Unit 126 chaired committees and worked numerous hours for over two years in the planning for the event. During the Nationals many more from our state rallied to volunteer in the different areas which needed support to ensure that this National would be the most memorable for players from around the world. Connecticut was also well-represented at the bridge tables throughout the tournament and made a good showing in the overall results.

During the tournament, Connecticut players had the opportunity to showcase their state during two of the “State Days” events. On Sunday, November 23, the Hartford Bridge Club sponsored a day. The exhibit highlighted many of the memorable events during its 78-year history as the longest continuous running club in North America and the largest in New England. The display table showcased the many awards and accolades provided to the club over the years including the prestigious Jane Johnson award from the ACBL. HBC members brought with them many gifts to hand out to those who stopped by their table, demonstrating why they are the “Club with a Heart.”

On Tuesday, November 25, our Unit 126 hosted Connecticut State Day to showcase the many beautiful offerings of our state. Two beautiful gift baskets filled with products made in our state, and a bountiful gift bag donated by Prudential, were given out in daily drawings and very happily received by three lucky players. The Bigelow Tea Company donated individually wrapped tea bags which were given out to anyone who stopped by our table, along with some other gift items donated by the Connecticut Travel and Tourism department and the Hartford Bridge Club.



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# Memory Bowl Hand

by Rick Townsend, Hamden

Last year's Memory Bowl champion, Al Guntermann, has selected Jean Shepler-Miller as this year's Champion's Honoree. One of my original novices from 1984, Jean left the state last year to live with relatives after her illness forced her to give up bridge. A native of Nottingham, England, Jean Brown distinguished herself at age 11 by winning a major British Under-16 piano competition. Later, married to Glen Shepler and living in Hamden, she had a long career as a highly popular music teacher at the Foote School. After retirement, widowhood and attaining the rank of Life Master, Jean eloped in the late 1990's with the renowned scientist Neal Miller, with whom she honeymooned on an Antarctic cruise. Eventually she became the second of my regular players to cross the 1,000 masterpoint mark. Sadly, we all saw Jean's illnesses eroding her capacity during her last year of bridge. Although Al is one of our newer players, he did have the opportunity to partner Jean, and remembers her fondly.

Stories of Jean at the bridge table could easily fill several volumes of this worthy publication. I shall content myself with praising her fortitude and persistence. Jean was a great favorite of Harold Feldheim (who would make me rig the draw so that Jean would draw him as her partner in Novice-Expert games), whom she would even allow to squeeze her knee when she came to his table. Back in the days before Stratified games were invented, Jean played with a regular partner in a Friday night Open game with a reasonably good field for over a year, the pair's best result being once to score exactly average. Jean was also one of two regular fourths at Sectional and Regional tournaments on teams with Bill Sherry and his parents. Her trials and tribulations on the long road to Life Masterhood (in the good old days before Regionals sold out to the Knockouts-R-Us franchise) are too legendary and tragic to recount. If I were to compare Jean to a fictional character, I might say she reminds me of S.J. Simon's Mrs. Guggenheim, only with a hard-earned happier result for all her effort. I can think of no one who tried harder to be a good bridge player. It is consoling that Jean managed to pull herself well out of the Guggenheim class.

Among Jean's regular club partners

over the years were Bill Sherry, Ellen Wright, Pat Rooney, Eva Sittnick, Linda Barton, Eleanor DeBarros, Helen Frank, Fioretta Masler, Billie Hecker, Jon Ingersoll, Ginny Anderson, Louise Wood and Fredda Kelly, to name but thirteen. Jean was the Friday Player of the Year in 1995 and the Tuesday Player of the Year in 1998. After numerous near misses, she won the Claiborn Cup in 2005.

I have also just come across a copy of a brief Guide to Opening the Bidding which I composed for Jean in 1985. For many years, she carried a summary of it on an index card stuck into her convention card holder. Composed long before any of my players had ever heard of the Rule of Twenty, it was a more thorough version of what one now sees in the ACBL Bulletin as the "Rule of Twenty Plus Two."

This year's Memory Bowl Hand was composed in memory of how Jean once executed a double squeeze correctly, one of the trickier ones in which all the suits had to be played in the correct order. Jean always maintained that that was a complete accident. The following hand is set in 1986, when Jean had graduated from Novice games and before bidding boxes and Announcements were common or required.

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: None

		NORTH				EAST	
		♠	K 10 8	♠	A J 9		
		♥	J 10 3 2	♥	9 8		
		♦	A 10 7	♦	K Q J 9		
		♣	6 4 3	♣	K J 8 7		
		WEST				SOUTH	
		♠	7 5 4 2	♠	Q 6 3		
		♥	6 4	♥	A K Q 7 5		
		♦	6 5	♦	8 4 3 2		
		♣	Q 10 9 5 2	♣	A		
East	Jean	West	Eva Sittnick				
1NT	2♥	2NT <sup>1</sup>	3♥				
Pass	4♥	(All Pass)					

Opening lead: ♣9

<sup>1</sup> Intended as Lebensohl requesting partner bid 3♣.

Jean took a little time before bidding 2♥, but not because she was contemplating a double. Just the round before, she'd remembered that she and Eva had forgotten to discuss the meaning of a double of a 1NT opening bid, which made it too dangerous to try out of the blue. She had been studying Brozel, and wondered first whether it would be acceptable to use the convention with 5-4 suit length not vulnerable, and second whether the diamonds were good enough to be counted as a suit. Making a mental note to ask someone about it later, she bid 2♥. Eva did not bother asking for an explanation of West's 2NT bid. Trying to understand the opponents' conventions gave her a headache. Lately she'd been raising all of Jean's overcalls with four-card support and more than a couple of points, and it had been working very well for her. Jean had not even heard West's 2NT or East's Alert. She'd been occupied picking up and looking at the opponents' convention card. It was the sort of thing she had seen Harold Feldheim do every time his opponents opened 1NT. He would pick up their card and study it. As she had seen her RHO playing as Harold's partner on multiple occasions, Jean wanted to do the done thing. She wasn't sure what she was supposed to be looking at, and she couldn't read all the writing, especially in the box for Notrump Opening Bids. Hearing Eva raise her 2♥ to three, Jean put down the opponents' convention card and bid the game.

As Eva was putting down the dummy, Harold Feldheim came over. "Look out for this lady," he told East after greeting Jean. "I taught her everything she knows about declarer play. In exchange, she has to let me squeeze her knee whenever I see her." After the obligatory knee squeeze, Harold left the table. Jean, still slightly pink, felt obliged to declare with extra attention.

After taking the club king with the ace, Jean was about to lead the trump ace when she was reminded of a hand she had seen Harold play with the AKQxx of trumps. He had used all three of them to trump a suit in which he'd held a singleton and called the play a dummy reversal. Jean had been very impressed by that, and thought she could almost make the same play. She led a low trump to the jack, trumped a club with

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## Hartford Bridge Club

Lou Brown, President

As we enter our 78th year, the Hartford Bridge Club, the longest continuously-operating bridge club in North America, reflects with pride on our legacy and strives to further the growth of this wonderful (and frustrating) game.

We were honored to host Hartford Bridge Club Day at the recent Boston Nationals. Pride exuded from all as we reveled in the success of our committee so ably chaired by Marylin Noll.

Under the vigilance of our manager Donna Feir and a caring and competent cadre of directors and board members, we have implemented changes that hopefully will promote bridge to players of all levels. While we continue our well-received novice program, we recently initiated a 0-399 game and a 0-750 game for its graduates. Our goal is to provide a smooth continuum that will allow a comfort level when playing against our world-renowned members.

While we attract some college students and continue to promote the minimal fee games to this group, a most exciting challenge has developed at the elementary school level. Under the auspices of the ACBL, board members Bill Watson and Larry Wallowitz have initiated an after-school bridge program at Webster Hill School in West Hartford. All 12 students who began the eight week two-hour-a-week sessions saw it through to completion. Eight of the 12 have enrolled in a second session commencing in January. A third session is anticipated for the spring. As a testament to its success, two additional schools have expressed a desire to begin a similar venture.

The members of the Hartford Bridge Club wish all a healthy and successful year with match points and IMPs galore.



Display in Boston on Hartford Bridge Club Day

## Wee Burn CBC

Our 12 week Fall Series which ended November 20 was won by:

1. Janet Soskin -Kathie Rowland
2. Joan Hoben-Linda Cleveland
3. Jean Thoma-Karen Barrett
4. Audrey Cadwallader-Belinda Metzger

The December Charity game with 19 tables in play was won by:

1. Penny Glassmeyer-Susan Mayo
2. Wendy Castagna-Susie Harrison

Congratulations to Janet Soskin and Kathie Rowland who had a 73% game to win the Thursday afternoon STaC in November.

## Meriden Bridge Club

The Meriden Club lost two of its finest recently with the passing of Loren Bernau and Roy Andrews. In December a special memorial game was held for Loren and plaques were presented to the winners, Lenny Russman and Deanna Mozzochi.

Best wishes for speedy recoveries to Mimi Kunofsky and Doryl Shea.

## Bridge Forum (Hamden) Fourth Quarter News

### FRIDAY

Louise Wood was Player of the Year for the third consecutive year and fifth time overall. Marge Simson won the Consistency category and finished second overall, with Larry Stern third. Shirley Fruchter and Arlene Leshine filled out the top five. Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern were the leading pair, with Louise Wood, Arlene Leshine, Shirley Fruchter and Muriel Romero each playing in two of the top six partnerships.

The Reynolds Cup, like Player of the Year, was won by Louise Wood for the third consecutive year and fifth time overall. Louise took a decent carryover lead into the final. Arlene Leshine closed the gap a little until she missed a slam against Louise and fell back to a comfortable second. Muriel Lipman finished third and Muriel Romero fourth in a strong Final Four.

### TUESDAY

The partnership of Tad Karnkowski-Robert Klopp was so dominant that

we had an unusual contest between partners for Player of the Year. Robert had other partnerships, while Tad did not. Robert was ranked first in two of the three categories, but was knocked out of the top ten in consistency when other players passed him in the last two weeks, making Tad Player of the Year for the first time (it also became the first time the Player of the Year has been male three years running). Bob Hawes and Jon Ingersoll finished a distant third and fourth ahead of Billie Hecker, who won both Tuesday-only cups.

The Van Dyke Cup had a three-way finish within half a matchpoint. Robert Klopp and Tad Karnkowski both made the final four but had to miss the last session, thus taking the absentee score of 45%. As Robert had the lead, this eliminated Tad. Robert had a big carover advantage on a 5 top of 10.3 matchpoints over Jon Ingersoll and 13 over Billie Hecker. Jon, playing with Jinny Goggin, and Billie, playing with Joe Pagerino, both had good games. With only Board 2 outstanding, the cup was up for grabs, Jon needing 3.7 and Billie 4.5 of 5 to overtake Robert. The hand was:

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

Billie had played North and Jon East at different tables. Billie and Joe had reached 4♠. On a diamond lead, Joe made a fortunate overtrick, as another N-S pair had played 3NT +1. (A trump lead and continuation is very interesting. Declarer plays two more rounds of trumps, discarding a heart and a diamond from dummy. The fourth trump squeezes East: a heart lets declarer discard clubs and play the hearts for one loser, a diamond establishes dummy's nine-spot, and a

club lets declarer discard hearts and play clubs for one loser or even endplay East in hearts. Not easy, but a possible read given East's 1♦ opening bid.) Jon and Jinny had defended 4♥, which ought to have made. Declarer was talked out of the club finesse, however, and then got stuck on the timing, going one down. As the last table started the board, I looked at the traveling score and saw that both Jon and Billie were top in their respective directions, which assured that one of them would win the cup. The N-S pair playing the board was Fredda Kelly-Muriel Romero. Muriel doubled the 1♦ opening bid. Fredda considered and rejected a pass because of the vulnerability (N-S would have needed a little help to score +800). As the auction progressed, however, the duplication in diamonds receded from Fredda's mind, and she could not resist taking a stab at 6♥. Jon needed Fredda to score no worse than -100, but even just looking at two hands one down would have had almost no chance. Fredda ended three down, Jon's ninth time in the Van Dyke Cup final had the same result as the other eight, and Billie won the cup for the second time, eight years after the first.

## FRIDAY-TUESDAY COMBINED

The Memory Bowl, contested in November and December, saw the usual mix of players passing around the early lead: Billie Hecker, Muriel Lipman, Gert Pedersen and Inge Bellis all topped the standings early. By late November, Rosemarie Tilney had the lead. Rosemarie needed to post a good total score, as she had to leave for Florida after December 9. Rosemarie left with a good-sized lead, but with Louise Wood and Muriel Romero within striking distance. After Rosemarie was gone, Louise went ahead, only to drop back after a game in which she made three unsuccessful penalty doubles. Louise, Muriel and Mary Connolly began the last game of the year all within reach. Early on, Louise went ahead when she bid and made a slam with three cashable losers off the top. However, Helen Shields and Judy Long, both regular partners of Rosemarie, had a strong round against Louise, which was enough to put Rosemarie back in front for good. This is Rosemarie's first cup victory on really the first occasion when she's been in contention.



## FEBRUARY

- 3 Unit-wide Championship #2
- 5 Local (Split) Championship
- 11-16 New England Regional  
Cromwell, CT
- 23 ACBL-wide Senior Game
- 27- Mar. 1 Connecticut Winter  
Sectional  
Hamden, CT

## MARCH

- 6 Local (Split) Championship
- 9 Local (Split) Championship
- 12-22 **Spring Nationals**  
**Houston, TX**
- 17 ACBL-wide Charity Game #1
- 25-31 STaC with North Jersey  
(U106)

## APRIL

- 2 Local (Split) Championship
- 13 Local (Split) Championship
- 17 Unit-wide Championship #3
- 24-26 Connecticut Spring  
Sectional  
Hamden, CT
- 29- May 3 New England Senior  
Regional  
North Falmouth, MA

## MAY

- 11 Unit-wide Charity Game
- 13 ACBL Int'l Fund Game #2
- 15 Local (Split) Championship
- 20-25 New York City Regional  
New York, NY

## JUNE

- 5 Worldwide Bridge Contest #1
- 6 Worldwide Bridge Contest #2
- 8-14 STaC with North Jersey  
(U106)
- 23 Local (Split) Championship
- 24-28 New England Summer  
Regional  
Sturbridge, MA

## JULY

- 2 Unit-wide Championship #4
- 7 Local (Split) Championship
- 15 Local (Split) Championship
- 24 ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3
- 23- Aug. 2 **ACBL Summer Nationals**  
**Washington, DC**

## AUGUST

- 6 Local (Split) Championship
- 10 Local (Split) Championship
- 14-16 Connecticut Summer  
Sectional  
Greenwich, CT
- 18 Unit-wide Championship #5
- 25 Local (Split) Championship

## SEPTEMBER

- 2-7 New England Fall Regional  
Nashua, NH

- 9 ACBL-wide Instant Match  
Point
- 13 199'er Olympics  
Hartford, CT
- 16 Local (Split) Championship
- 25 Unit-wide Championship #6

## OCTOBER

- 2-4 Sid Cohen Sectional  
Hartford, CT
- 9 Local (Split) Championship
- 10-11 NAOP District 25 Finals  
Sturbridge, MA
- 12-18 District 3 Regional  
Danbury, CT
- 31 Local (Split) Championship

## NOVEMBER

- 4-8 New England Regional  
Waterbury, CT
- 10 Local (Split) Championship
- 18-24 STaC with North Jersey  
(U106)
- 30 ACBL-wide Charity Game #2
- 26- Dec. 6 **ACBL Fall Nationals**  
**San Diego, CA**

## DECEMBER

- 2 Unit-wide Championship #7
- 7 Local (Split) Championship
- 11-13 Jeff Feldman Memorial  
Hamden, CT

# Results

Unit-wide Pairs Wednesday Daytime  
December 3, 2008

## FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Dixie Mastrandrea - Louis Brown
- 2 Bernie Rosen - Renee Janow
- 3 Lenny Russman - Henry (Roy)  
Andrews
- 4 Don Stiegler - David Benjamin
- 5 Karleen Heller - Donna Favreau
- 6 Gail Carroll - Cynthia Michael
- 7 Armanda Buscher - Sandra Gould

## FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Bernie Rosen - Renee Janow
- 2 Karleen Heller - Donna Favreau
- 3 Armanda Buscher - Sandra Gould
- 4 Dorothy Kolinsky - Florence Perna
- 5 Laurie Robbins - Paul Pearson
- 6 Allen Segal - John Kilbourne

## FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Bernie Rosen - Renee Janow
- 2 Armanda Buscher - Sandra Gould
- 3 Dorothy Kolinsky - Florence Perna
- 4 Deborah Neiman - Marjorie  
Goldman
- 5 Sidney Keller - Herb Felsenfeld
- 6 Margaret Milch - Nancy Nason



*Memory Bowl Hand  
Continued from page 5*

the ace, then led her other low trump to the ten and trumped the third club with her king. Of course, when Harold had done it, he hadn't had any trumps left at the end. Jean wondered if she should lead the ♥Q. Were all the trumps out? She'd forgotten to count, but decided she might need the queen for an entry to her hand later.

It was time to play diamonds to see if they would divide 3-3. Leading low from her hand, Jean was debating between dummy's ace and ten when she remembered that Harold usually ducked the first round of a suit he was establishing if he had losers in it. Accordingly, Jean called for the seven. East took the nine and returned the diamond king. Should she duck again? No, the high diamond would put her in the wrong hand. Jean called for dummy's ace and then the diamond ten, sighing with disappointment when West discarded a club. East played the last diamond, which Jean trumped in dummy. She would need the spade finesse after all.

Jean had hated finessing ever since she had gone down in 6♦ against Harold by losing a trump finesse to his singleton queen with A743 in her hand opposite KJ95 in dummy. [NB: That actually happened to Jean in 1988, although not against Harold.] Harold had told her that, if she had put down the ace first, she could have made her contract. She

had always remembered that hand, although in her mind his instruction to put down "A" top honor occasionally blurred into "THE" top honor. Now, staring at the spades, it occurred to Jean that a holding of KQ10 divided between the two hands was the same as a holding of AKJ, only with a top loser. She was not about to lose to a singleton queen - or, in this case, jack. "King of spades, please." After all, it was the top honor she held in the suit.

East gave Jean what seemed to be a look of approval, took the spade ace, and returned the spade nine. Jean looked slightly distressed. What had happened to her spade finesse against the jack? She was not sure, but she knew that, if West held the jack, it would score if she ducked. Could the jack be doubleton? Jean decided not, because East had held four diamonds, and would have had to hold... was it four or five... yes, five spades if West had a doubleton jack, and East would not have opened 1NT with five spades and four diamonds. Then, too, there was East's play of the spade nine. It reminded Jean of the way Harold would often lead a nine or eight through an AQ in dummy, scare her out of taking the finesse, and later turn up with the king. This East was quite as good as Harold, and would be just as capable of playing that false card. She ducked, and received the congratulations of her opponents after the score for 4♥ making was entered.

"The lead made it impossible for me to

fool you about the high clubs. You knew my partner didn't lead the nine from J109, so I couldn't hold KQ, and I didn't think I could fake KQJ10. You saw we were playing 15-17 notrumps, so that marked all the high cards for you at the first trick. I liked your finesse of the seven of diamonds, in case my partner had the doubleton nine," said East.

"I liked your avoiding the backward finesse in spades," said West. "Of course, after you had eliminated the clubs, there was no reason to play me for the nine of spades by leading the ten through my partner when the king lead always wins, but I keep seeing people make that kind of mistake. We'll have to tell Harold how well he's taught you."

"Oh, please don't," said Jean, turning pink again. "He'd only think he could squeeze both my knees next time."



*Boston NABC*

*Continued from page 4*

To all the numerous volunteers who gave their time to make the 2008 Fall Nationals so successful and to all of the players who joined us at the bridge tables in Boston, a very sincere "Thank You"! Without your support this could not have happened. For those who missed out on the fun, don't despair. The NABC will be coming back to Boston again soon, perhaps as early as 2015. Mark your calendars to join the volunteers and players to see if we can top 2008.



## THE KIBITZER

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