

THE KIBITZER

August 2012

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Volume 16 • Number 3



Sturbridge Strategy

by Harold Feldheim

There are often interesting play decisions that revolve around context. There are other hands where such considerations become a chimera. The following two slam hands from the Sturbridge Regional demonstrate when the idea of safety-first applies and when it does not. The first is a common situation.

NORTH

♠ A 10 6 3
♥ A 3 2
♦ K Q 2
♣ A 4 3

SOUTH

♠ K 9 8 7 4
♥ 8
♦ A J 7
♣ K Q 5 2

South	North
1♠	2NT
3♥	4NT
5♥	6♠

Opening lead: ♥K

North's 2NT was Jacoby. When South showed a singleton heart, North launched into Roman Key Card Blackwood. South's 5♥ response denied the trump queen so North settled for the small slam. The only danger is a 4-0 trump split. After winning the opening lead, if he cashes the ♠A and East

shows out, he will lose two trump tricks. Similarly, if he starts with the ♠K and West shows out, he will lose two spade tricks. The sure-fire play is to lead a low spade from either hand and, if covered with a low card, finesse. East-West will almost certainly win the trick but then South, upon regaining the lead, will cash the A-K of trump and claim his contract. This is a common safety play but is it appropriate? The alert declarer will ask two questions. Is this a normal contract and what is the event?

The small slam should be a common contract and if you are playing Swiss team or knockouts, the safety play is first-rate insurance, (30 points versus 1000+), to protect against a highly unlucky split. However, playing matchpoints, this would be a bad investment since the possibility of an overtrick far outweighs the likelihood of losing two trump tricks.

Now try another example:

NORTH

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

SOUTH

♠ J 10 9 6
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ K J 2
♣ 9

South reaches a small slam in hearts. West leads a high spade, ruffed in dummy. Now what? All we need is a 3-2 split in hearts to insure 13 tricks. So, does it follow that in matchpoint play you should try for all the tricks, while in IMPs, declarer should look for a way to guard against a poor trump split? This approach would be wrong on this hand.

At either form of the game, declarer should play safe for the contract and ignore potential overtricks. This is because your excellent contract will be uncommon since your combined holdings add up to only 24 high card points. This means that the slam is unlikely to be bid at many tables and on this basis, any form of insurance is appropriate. So first we look for trouble. If we cash the A-K of hearts and either East or West hold four trumps, you'll have spades to lose. Therefore, the correct play is to lead a heart from dummy, finessing the 9-spot, likely losing the trick. Now, as long as hearts do not split worse than 4-1, your excellent contract will come roaring home. So before deciding on a line of play, consider the quality of the contract and the type of event.

Bridge is so much fun!



Can't Cost – Chapter 32

by John Stiefel



In this deal from a recent Regional Pairs event, most declarers were allowed to make a contract that should have been set with a “can’t cost” play.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: East/West

NORTH
♠ K 10 8 2
♥ K 2
♦ 10 4 2
♣ A J 10 9

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

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♦Q

The bidding was straightforward. After South’s strong NT opening, North checked for a 4-4 major fit and then placed the contract in 3NT.

The opening lead merits some discussion, as West at one table held ♦KQJ9 and was playing standard leads. He chose to lead the Queen. His reasoning was that, on some hands, it would be useful to know whether or not East held the ♦10. For instance, if dummy held ♦xx, East held three diamonds without the Ace and declarer held four diamonds including the Ace, East would presumably encourage if his 3-card holding included the 10 but would discourage if it didn’t (because he would play his partner for QJ). West’s plan, if East discouraged diamonds, was to continue with the ♦K and then assume East’s next diamond card to be “present count”; i.e. a low one presumably showing an odd number of remaining diamonds (so an original holding of two or four) and a high one showing an even number of remaining diamonds (so an original holding of three). Then, if East initially discouraged diamonds and then suggested an original

holding of three, West would know not to play a third round of the suit into declarer’s A10xx. (Note: The above discussion applies when declarer started with three or four diamonds. If declarer started with five diamonds (2-4-5-2 distribution), East will only have two and therefore won’t be able to give West a meaningful signal.)

At any rate, none of this mattered as on this hand dummy had 10xx. So, West continued with the ♦K after declarer ducked the first round. Declarer won trick 2 with his Ace and led the ♣Q to trick 3, East’s King winning. East returned a diamond at trick 4 and the defenders cashed two more tricks in the suit, bringing their total to four. On the defender’s diamond leads, dummy discarded the ♠2 and declarer discarded the ♥4 and the ♠3. So this was the position after five tricks had been played.

NORTH
♠ K 10 8
♥ K 2
♦ - - -
♣ A J 10

WEST
♠ Q 9 3
♥ Q 10 8 6 3
♦ - - -
♣ - - -

EAST
♠ J 6 4
♥ 9 5
♦ - - -
♣ 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ A J 7
♦ - - -
♣ 7 6 5

West had a problem at trick 6. He couldn’t play a club to make declarer do his own work and a lead of either major risked handing declarer his ninth trick if he had the Jack in that suit. Furthermore, declarer had to have at least one of the major suit Jacks to bring his high-card-point total to 15.

What should West lead to trick 6?

At one table, West led a heart and the hand was quickly over. At most tables, West led a spade and declarer played the eight or ten from dummy (depending if West led the 3 or 9) and captured East’s Jack with his Ace. Then three more rounds of clubs left this position with West still having to play to complete trick 9. (This position assumes that West led the ♠3 to trick 6.)

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

West was stuck. A spade discard would set up dummy’s 10 while a heart discard would allow declarer to score three heart tricks.

West found the “can’t cost” play at only one table. That West realized that declarer was always going to make his contract if he had both the ♥J and the ♠J. Furthermore, South probably would have discarded a second heart, not a spade, on the fourth round of diamonds if he had the ♠J but not the ♥J, as this would leave him free to play either defender for the missing ♠Q. Finally, he also realized that even if East had the ♠J, a spade play would leave him (West) in difficulty after the inevitable 3 rounds of clubs at tricks 7-9. So he asked himself, “How can it cost to lead the ♠Q to trick 6?” When he did, this was the position after declarer won trick 6 and played three rounds of clubs to tricks 7-9 (again, with West still having to play to complete trick 9.)

In this position, West had no problem

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

discarding a spade and declarer had to go down.





Don't Show Them Your Hand

by Geoff Brod

You're playing at the local duplicate club and you have the good fortune to be dealt an interesting hand:

♠ - - -
 ♥ K Q 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A J 8 7 5

You're at adverse vulnerability and your right hand opponent passes. So you start with a normal 1♥ and your left hand opponent bids 2♥, Michaels, showing spades and an unspecified minor. Your partner, bless her, bids 3♥ and not unexpectedly your RHO, after having passed originally, bids 3 spades.

So the auction to date has been:

East	You	West	Pard
P	1♥	2♥	3♥
3♠	?		

Well of course you aren't going to let them play 3♠ but that's really not the issue. Almost inevitably, whatever you do now, your LHO is going to bid 4♠. One possibility is to bid 4♣. Were this an uncontested auction (imagine that pard had bid say 3♥, limit raise) that would clearly be a slam try. In a contested auction, 4♣ is more ambiguous but most would play that you are simply showing a second suit, perhaps to attract a club lead, perhaps to let partner know more about your hand so that she can participate in a decision about what to do over the opponent's 4♠. It's important to understand that were you to bid 4♥ directly and the opponents compete to 4♠, your partner is barred from bidding further although she could certainly take the axe to 4♠ if she had something good in the suit. When you bid 4♣ however, partner is allowed to bid over 4♠ if she likes her hand with a heart-club two-suiter opposite.

Here, however, you know in your heart that 4♠ on your left is inevitable and

despite the vulnerability, your plan is to compete further to 5♥. So rightly or wrongly, you bid a simple 4♥. As expected it goes 4♠ on your left and you complete your bidding plan with 5♥.

It goes pass on your left (you like that, you would like to be allowed to declare this hand), pass from pard and RHO goes into the tank. Finally he emerges with a double (not totally unexpected) and everyone passes. Your hope is that pard has enough good stuff in hearts and clubs so that you can get out for down one (-200), less than the value of their game.

The auction has been:

East	You	West	Pard
Pass	1♥	2♥	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

You anxiously await dummy and pard

♠ J 6 5
 ♥ A J 10 3
 ♦ 8 6 3
 ♣ Q 9 4

♠ - - -
 ♥ K Q 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A J 8 7 5

gives you a good catch.

The opening lead is the ♠A. You ruff and draw two rounds of trump ending in dummy as LHO discards a spade. The appearance of dummy makes it virtually 100% that LHO's second suit is diamonds and that means he will be short in clubs. So you lead the ♣Q planning to go back to dummy to finesse for the ♣10 on the next round if it is covered. Your hopes for a make are quickly dashed as LHO wins the ♣K. Now it's his turn to go into the tank.

Apparently it is not clear to him to switch to a diamond. Finally he plays another spade, you ruff, test the clubs which turn out to be 3-2 and now you can discard two diamonds from dummy on your long clubs, give up a diamond and ruff a diamond in dummy – making five for an excellent matchpoint score.

There are a couple of points here worthy of note. Your LHO held ♦Kxxxx and felt he could afford to defend passively but that's only because he didn't know that you might have long clubs. If you had bid 4♣ over 3♠ (or perhaps 5♣ over 4♠) he certainly would have been more aware of the danger the club suit represented and the possibility of diamonds going away on clubs.

Secondly, he probably should have gotten the defense right anyway. His partner had bid 3♠ freely. That by itself doesn't say a lot. Opposite a two-suiter all you really need to compete over 3♥ is a card or two and a decent fit for spades. But then, when the bidding got to the five level, his partner had doubled, a strong indication that he thought the hand belonged to their side (which in fact it did, the opponents were cold for 5♠). LHO held ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣Kx. He knows his pard held the ♠Q and it appears from his point of view that declarer is taking a finesse in the club suit so credit declarer with the club ace. It would seem close to certain that his partner, for his double, should hold something good in diamonds, almost surely the ace. However, it would not have made for such a story if he had.



Unblocking is Fun

by Tom Lorch



Most of us enjoy a flashy hand now and then. Here is one that was played years ago.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	2♥	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	Pass

North/South have difficult hands to bid, especially after interference by West, using Michaels. But North, having a powerful hand drove to slam. The opening diamond lead was ruffed and declarer thought he would have no problem; taking six hearts, four spades and two clubs. The lead of the ♥A uncovered the 4-0 split, however, and declarer now knew that he must proceed with caution.

Declarer would use up five of his six trump in ruffing the opening lead and drawing East's trump. Then, turning, to spades, he would cross to the board to

play the ♠AK. In order to return to his hand to continue spades, he would have to ruff a diamond with his last trump, while still having to give up the lead to his only loser, the ♠Q. At this point he has lost control of the hand. Nor can declarer play off the ♠AK before drawing trump. West's overcall pinpoints a bad spade split and East would surely ruff the second round.

The correct play is, of course, obvious (once you think of it). Simply unblock the ♠AK. On the fourth round of trump, declarer sluffs the ♣A from the board, then plays the ♣KQ, sluffing the ♠AK. Declarer now safely gives up a trick to the ♠Q, while retaining his last trump to regain the lead.

Just your average, run-of-the-mill Ace/Ace/King unblocking play!



2012 MONROE MAGNUS MASTERPOINT RACE (THROUGH MAY 31)

1	55.73	Rich DeMartino	10/11	17.32	Susan Smith	21/22	11.72	Frances Schneider
2	40.50	John Stiefel	12	17.28	Phyllis Bausher	21/22	11.72	Bernard Schneider
3	24.60	Larry Bausher	13	14.22	Margaret Mason	23	11.40	David Rock
4	24.58	Lawrence Lau	14	13.86	Allan Wolf	24/25	10.97	Sylwia McNamara
5	23.01	Cynthia Michael	15	13.22	Constance Graham	24/25	10.97	Karen McCallum
6	21.83	Linda Green	16/17	13.14	Robert Derrah	26	10.85	Paul Miller
7	21.30	Dean Montgomery	16/17	13.14	Shirley Derrah	27	10.06	William Titley
8	18.79	Brett Adler	18	12.37	Steve Becker	28	9.41	Michael Wavada
9	17.54	Allan Clamage	19	12.15	Sandra DeMartino	29	9.33	Lynn Condon
10/11	17.32	Michael Smith	20	11.78	Harold Feldheim	30	8.25	Robert Rising



Negative Inference (NI) (3)

by Larry Lau

Definition of NI: information deduced from a player's failure to take a specific or expected action in the auction or play. (Bridgeguys.com)

Sue Rodricks and I recently bid this hand against Jim and Elaine Misner. We were red vs. white, and in first seat I held:

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

Larry	Jim	Sue	Elaine
1♦	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♣	All Pass

The opening lead against the final contract of 2♣ was the ♦A, which Sue ruffed!

When the diamond was ruffed, I said to Jim "Looks like 4♠-3♥-0♦-6♣." How close was I?

Analysis:

CLUBS: Sue's original pass would indicate that her 2♣ bid was made with less than 10 HCP, else she could have bid 2♣ immediately (NI). With the ♣AQ in dummy, the best 5-card holding Sue could have had would be KJ10xx. But, at this vulnerability, with both opponents showing values without a fit, Sue would not back into the auction holding less than 10 HCP and a ragged 5-card suit. So, she undoubtedly had a 6-card suit. She shouldn't have a 7-card

suit else she could have bid 2♣ or 3♣ directly over 1♠ - even with only 8 or 9HCP(NI).

HEARTS: Sue's pass denied four hearts, else she would have made a negative double (NI). So her heart length was probably two or three.

SPADES: Elaine's 1NT denied 3-card spade support, else she would have raised to 2♠ (NI). If Jim had had six spades, he probably would have bid 2♠ after Elaine's 1NT, or bid 2♠ after 2C came around to him (NI). So it looked like the Misners had a 5-2 or 5-1 spade fit, leaving Sue with four or five spades

Based on these negative inferences, Sue's two most probable distributions were:

	♠	♥	♦	♣
(1)	5	2	0	6
(2)	4	3	0	6

When there are alternative distributions, the more balanced is likely.

Her hand was:

♠ K Q 5 2
 ♥ 9 4 3
 ♦ - - -
 ♣ K J 10 8 7 2

By paying very close attention to the auction, and using all the negative inferences (NI) available, it is often possible to visualize a player's distribution without seeing any cards. The following two problems are presented in such a manner.

(A). Maeve Lucey and I, playing in the Hamden Swiss, defended a hand against John Steifel and Rich DeMartino, two up-and-coming players.

The auction proceeded:

JS	ML	RDM	LL
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2NT	All Pass

When on opening lead try and figure out as much as possible about declarer's distribution before making the lead. This preliminary counting facilitates constructing declarer's hand as play progresses. There is a significant negative inference (NI) in this auction. What is it and what were Rich's more probable distributions?

(B). Faye Marino and I had the following auction:

LL	WEST	FM	EAST
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ ¹	Dbl ²
Rdbl ³	All Pass		

¹ 2♦ was alerted as 4th suit forcing

² Dbl was lead directing showing diamonds

³ Rdbl expressed a strong desire to play 2♦ Rdbl if Faye could cooperate

Identify the key negative inference (NI) and determine my EXACT distribution.

See Next Quarter's Kibitzer



Two Interesting Hands for Very Different Reasons

by Brett Adler



This first hand was played a while ago and shows that there is more to a bridge problem than you can capture in a simple article.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: None

NORTH

♠ 4
♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 3
♦ A 5
♣ A 8 3

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 2
♦ K Q
♣ K

North opened 1♥, and South placed the final contract in 6♠ when East found an ace missing. West led 9♥ and after East won the A♥, a small heart was returned. It is now decision time: do you ruff high and then claim the contract as long as the trumps aren't 3-0 in either hand? Or, do you ruff with the 10♠, claiming so long as West doesn't have the ♠J to go with his (likely) singleton heart?

While you are thinking about this first hand, let me give you a bidding problem from a recent Regional Knockout tournament in Sturbridge:

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: Both

NORTH

♠ K 4
♥ A 6 4
♦ K 9 7
♣ A Q 10 6

SOUTH

♠ A 8 7 5 2
♥ K 10
♦ A
♣ K J 9 8 7 3

I was sitting South, and West opened 3♦ preemptively, followed by my partner (Larry Lau sitting North), overcalling 3NT. I wasn't sure how to bid this hand as 4♣ would be a conventional bid asking for partner to bid his suits up the line (Baron), and 4♥ as a transfer to spades wouldn't work as a rebid by me of 4NT would be quantitative and not ace asking. We have now adjusted our bidding so we can cope with this type of hand, but I had to bid this hand a few weeks ago using our "old" system.

Throwing science out the window I "blasted" 6NT and when my partner claimed all the tricks early on, we put our cards away for the next hand. After the hands had been put away, one of the opponents asked for a recap of the winners, and we could all count only 12 (six clubs and two in each of the other suits). Analysis once you have seen all four hands is much easier, so I now jokingly berated my partner for not cashing the top two diamonds and the top two spades followed by six rounds of clubs. This would have created a diamond/heart squeeze against West and a spade/heart squeeze against East, so North's ♥6 would end up being the thirteenth winner.

Although 7NT can be made from the double squeeze, I was concerned that the opponents might find the right contract of 7♣ and my worst fears were realized when we compared scores. We lost a bunch of IMPs on this hand. After this match we headed to the bar, and I asked our teammates how the hand had been bid at their table. Unfortunately our teammate sitting West had passed the hand initially, so I asked our opponents (two international level players), how they would have bid the hand if they had faced the same diamond preempt.

I now took this hand around the bar asking some very fine bridge players how they would bid the hand (I gave

them the South hand only). Finally I gave the hand to one of the directors (David Metcalf), and he pointed out that it isn't easy to bid hands with 14 cards (North has only 12). I then checked with the opponents and found the same 14 opposite 12 cards had been played at the other table. Luckily this one hand didn't decide the match, but it would have been an interesting director ruling as we had already turned in the match results sheet and it was more than an hour after play.

Anyway, back to the first hand. Did you ruff high as the statistical odds would suggest and go down? Unfortunately the declarer on my right (Bernard Schneider) thought for a long time and then ruffed with the 10♠ making the hand, when as West I followed to the second trick with the K♥. My major holding was ♠J95 and ♥K9, so I turned to Bernard and asked how he got this "impossible" decision correct.

"It was the ♥A at trick one that put me on the right path" he said. "I know you are capable of leading the 9 from K9, but I trust your partner's carding. If he had the ♥AK of hearts, he would have played the King on the first round (lower of touching honors)." The contract was the same at the other table and made with an overtrick when a heart wasn't led, so we did gain an IMP. But let this be a lesson to all of you. Occasionally do something out of the ordinary so your opponents won't get to know your style. I might fool everyone even myself one day by tabling the dummy that I said I had during the auction.





Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #19: Counting and Beyond

by Alan Wolf

For months, an up-and coming player at the Lunatic Fringe Bridge Club, one Goodie Kittman, had been asking the professor to write a column about “counting.” In thinking this over, the professor decided that the focus of the article should be on the broader objective of building up a picture of the opponents’ hands, in order to make the best decision at some critical juncture in the play. Counting is a primary tool to achieve that objective.

The picture that one tries to build includes both the shape and the strength of the opponents’ hands. Thus, counting may involve tracking the number of cards in each suit, as well as high cards and their point value.

As beginners, our first encounter with counting has to do with pulling trumps. In many hands, it is right to lead trumps until the opponents have no more; then stop. Even for beginning students of the game, the professor advises counting in “rounds.” For example, with an eight-card fit, the opponents five cards will most likely divide 3-2, and thus three rounds will pull them all. As the play develops, declarer watches to see if the opponents all follow to two rounds, in which case all is well. However if an opponent fails to follow suit to the 2nd round, then declarer adjusts his thinking to accommodate the 4-1 split.

Thinking this way about counting trumps begins to train your mind to build up a full picture of the opponents’ distributions.

In building up a picture of the opponents’ distributions, it is very useful to have an easy familiarity of all the possible suit distributions, i.e. the ways that four numbers can sum to 13.

Here is a little test of the extent of your familiarity with suit distributions. Answer the question before reading on.

Question: You have a bridge hand that contains exactly one spade, five hearts, and three diamonds. How many clubs do you have?

Well the answer of course is four, and I would venture that nobody got it wrong. But there are (at least) two ways to come up with the answer, and the method you used to come up with the answer tells a good deal.

One method is to do the brute force arithmetic: $1+5+3=9$; $13-9=4$; or some equivalent calculation.

A second method is to instantly recognize that the hand is a 5-4-3-1 pattern, and that four is the missing piece. If this was your method, you have achieved a good level of familiarity with suit distributions, which will make it much easier to build up a picture of the opponents’ hands. Otherwise, this is something to work on.

Following is a summary of the sources of information available that you can use to build up a picture of the opponents hands. Note that the focus is always on reconstructing the original hands as dealt. From there, you can deduce what remains at some point during the play.

BIDDING

Virtually every natural bid reveals something about the length of the bid suit, and/or the overall strength of the hand. Note that the failure to make a bid can also be revealing, for example failing to respond or rebid a major suit at the one-level often implies less than a 4-card suit, e.g., $1\spadesuit$ Pass $1NT$ = no 4-card major; $1\spadesuit$ Pass $1\heartsuit$ Pass $1NT$ = no 4-card spade suit.

The failure to bid can also help to place high cards. For example, when an opponent who has failed to open the bidding then turns up with several high cards, it may be possible to place his partner with other high cards.

Especially after a contested auction, declarer should mentally review the bidding, and mentally summarize what he knows about the opponents’ hands before playing to the first trick.

OPENING LEAD

Declarer should try to assess the nature of the opening lead.

Length leads: 4th best or 3rd/5th reveal information about suit length. Subsequent play of the suit provides more information, for example when a player leads 4th best and then shows up with a card lower than the opening lead, that indicates a holding of five or more cards.

Using the rule of 11 for 4th best leads; rule of 10/12 for 3rd/5th leads will often help to place specific high cards in the opening leader’s hand.

Honor leads will generally imply a holding of other honors in the same suit, for example A from AK or top-of-sequence leads.

The failure to make a certain lead can be revealing. Failure to lead a suit that partner has bid may indicate that the opening leader holds the Ace of that suit. Failure to lead a suit in which their side has considerable strength may provide an inference that the high cards are divided between the two hands.

AS THE PLAY PROCEEDS

Here is where the counting comes in. Whereas information from the bidding and opening lead is largely inferential, counting during the play can provide absolute information about suit distributions. As each suit is led, declarer can keep track of the opponents’ following suit, failing to follow suit, and discards, and is often able to form an exact picture of that suit’s original distribution.

Other situations that occur as the play proceeds provide inferences about suit distributions. One common example is when a defender makes an early discard in a critical suit, i.e. a 4-card suit in dummy. The defender who discards once in that suit is likely to hold five cards.

Declarer can also try to glean what he can from the defenders signals. Of course, these must be taken with a grain of salt. Defenders are signaling to help one another, not declarer, and may very well signal in a way to mislead declarer.

Lunatic Fringe continued from page 7

Finally, as the play proceeds, declarer can track high cards played by each of the defender hands, add the points thereby represented, and match this information against what is expected based on the bidding.

There is a type of declarer play known as "Discovery Play" whereby declarer plays in such a way as to gather information about the opponents' holdings. We'll conclude with such an example:

NORTH
(Professor)
♠ 6 4
♥ K J 3
♦ Q 7 6 5 4
♣ K 10 6

SOUTH
(Warren)
♠ A K
♥ A Q 10 9 8 5 4
♦ 9
♣ A J 5

With neither side vulnerable, the bidding proceeded as follows:

North	East	South	West
Professor	Majorca	Warren	Minna
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♠	4♣	4♠
5♣	Pass	6♥	

East-West bid spades aggressively to interfere with the auction, but that did not stop Warren and the Professor from reaching the slam. Warren's 4♣ bid was a cue bid, showing the ♣A, looking for slam.

The Professor had a maximum for his initial 2♥ raise. With the ♣K, and trump honors, he was happy to cooperate in the slam investigation by bidding 5♣, and that was all that Warren needed to hear to carry on to the heart slam.

The opening lead was the ♠Q, and clearly the contract depended on finding the ♣Q since a finesse could be taken either way.

There were two possible approaches to the play. One was to run many rounds of trumps, and hope that the opponents discarded in such a way as to give away the club situation.

Warren rejected this idea, as the club cue bid had shown clubs to be a critical side suit, and the failure to lead diamonds early (while there were trump entries on the table) would be highly suspicious. Warren was quite sure that Minna and Majorca were good enough to both keep their clubs, forcing a guess at the end.

So Warren instead proceeded on a discovery line of play, planning to ruff diamonds in hand to gather information about how the diamonds were divided. Therefore, he led a diamond at trick two, playing low from dummy, and losing to East's 10. Back came a spade. Warren now proceeded to lead a trump to dummy, diamond ruff, trump to dummy, diamond ruff.

On these tricks, West proved to be void in hearts, and showed up with the ♦A J 2. The picture of the hands was complete: based on the bidding, West had started with five spades, East four. West had no hearts and had shown up with three diamonds.

Where was the ♦K? Surely East had it. Minna would have led a diamond holding both the A and K, and could not have ducked so easily when Warren led the first round of diamonds toward the Queen.

That left West with five clubs to East's two, and therefore strongly favored playing West for the ♣Q. The full hands were:

NORTH
(Professor)
♠ 6 4
♥ K J 3
♦ Q 7 6 5 4
♣ K 10 6

WEST
(Minna)
♠ Q J 10 9 5
♥ - - -
♦ A J 2
♣ Q 9 7 3 2

EAST
(Majorca)
♠ 8 7 3 2
♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 10 8 3
♣ 8 4

SOUTH
(Warren)
♠ A K
♥ A Q 10 9 8 5 4
♦ 9
♣ A J 5



Milestones and Congratulations

Congratulations to Geoffrey Brod who has become a Grand Life Master (10,000+ points including one National Championship).

New Life Masters

Betty Cutting
Margaret Garilli
Ann Hudson
Renee Janow
J. Sun-Ming Lee
Stephen Shamroth
Peter Solomon

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Lindsay Pearlman

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Eugene Coppa
Betty Cutting
Ann Hudson
Harry Jancis
Maruta Jancis



Is the Jack Really Worth One High Card Point?

by Gloria Sieron

Would you trade one King for three Jacks? How about for a Queen and one Jack?

This hand appeared in the analysis sheet for the ACBL-wide International Fund #2.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

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

Players are currently opening 1NT with 15 to 17 high card points (HCP), frequently with a five-card major, especially if there is no convenient rebid. South with a six-loser hand, fits the partnership requirements for a 1NT opener and that is what South opened.

West and East had little to add to the auction except pass.

The North hand is the problem. North has the 15 HCP needed for a 1NT opener. North has also heard some "experts" say: "A notrump opener opposite a notrump opener: Bid a slam." Charles Goren has promised us that Jacks are worth one point. North thought for a long time on this one, evaluating the plusses and minuses.

Suppose the three Jacks turned into the ♣K? Same point count, but now a six loser hand.

This is what Frank Stewart's analysis says, "Some North's will try for slam despite having so many Jacks. South should reject."

Years ago, when Charles Goren publicized Milton Work's point count system that popularized the game of Contract Bridge, what was his real reason to assign one high card point to Jacks? The losing trick count system treats the Jack as just another card. Perhaps Goren thought our Base Ten mentality would be more accepting of a neat 40 point deck?

(As always, Gloria has a most interesting hand. Her major point is absolutely correct. Unsupported Jacks are not worth the full point assigned them. This is also a hand where those who never open 1NT with a 5-card major will point out how easy it makes the bidding on this hand. South will open 1♥ and will likely end up in 4♥. - Ed.)

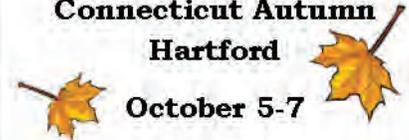


UPCOMING SECTIONALS

**Connecticut Summer
Greenwich
August 17-19**



**Connecticut Autumn
Hartford
October 5-7**



**5th Annual 199er
The Bridge Center
West Hartford
October 14**



**Jeff Feldman
Tournament
Hamden
November 2-4**



Good Advice from George

by Burton Saxon



In 1978, I began playing duplicate at Harold Feldheim's club on Whalley Avenue in New Haven. There were many fine players at the club, but the only players who would play with me were weak players who made it clear that I was a beginner. So I decided to try to find a good player who might teach me a few things.

One day I entered the club early and overheard two average players gossiping about a guy named George Effros. The night before, George had sacrificed against three slams and incurred penalties of 900, 1300, and 1700. One player said, "George loves to go for telephone numbers. One of those slams was clearly beatable." "George is crazy," replied the other. "I could never play with him." Then George walked in, nodded at the two, and went off to a corner to wait for his partner. I had already concluded that George was a fine player so I went over to him and said, "Mr. Effros, why do you love to sacrifice against slams?" He invited me to sit down and said softly, "The scoring system currently favors sacrificing. Please go check the results from last night." I did just that. George and his partner had finished first in a club championship. They were minus 900 when every other EW pair was minus 980. They were minus 1300 when 10 other EW pairs were minus 1430 and they were minus 1700 when every other EW pair was minus 1430. In other words, their sacrifice bidding had yielded 23 of 36 possible matchpoints. George then added, "I'll take that every time. I just wish I hadn't gotten carried away on board 17." (Note: Years later, after George had passed away, the ACBL made the sacrifice penalties much more severe.)

The next week I asked this question, "Mr. Effros, how do you decide which conventions to use?" He smiled, told me to call him George, and replied, "There are two things to think about here. First, is that you use cost-benefit analysis. In other words, are you getting back more than you are giving up? Second is that a convention should fit into the overall structure of the bidding system you are using."

Let me admit that I am not an expert bidder. But I would like to try to honor George's memory by analyzing several

conventions that have been used through the years:

1. Flannery.

For years, a high percentage of bridge players opened two diamonds to show five hearts and four spades with 11 to 15 high-card points. The responses to this opening were very complex, especially when the opponents interfered. Two comments are necessary. First is that Mr. Flannery did realize that a weak two diamonds is not much of a pre-empt. In other words, the cost was low. But the bid may have solved a non-problem. If you have five hearts and four spades, just open one heart. If your partner bids one spade, you have a spade fit. If your partner does not bid spades, you don't have a spade fit. So the bid's real value was that it precisely described a hand that does not occur too often. In other words, the bid was low cost, low benefit.

2. DON'T.

This bid is interesting. Disturbing the Opponent's No Trump is nothing new. Over the years, this action has morphed from Landy to Astro to Pinpoint Astro to Brozel to Cappeletti to DON'T. I am pretty much convinced each change has been an improvement. Because the newer versions allow bidding all two suited hands as well as one suited hands, the benefits are high and the cost is low. So use it but don't abuse it by, say, jumping in vulnerable with a five-four hand. (*The latest convention played over NT is Meckwell. -Ed.*)

3. Weak Jump Shifts (WJS) Throughout.

Here I think what you give up is more than what you get back, but I am a bit uncertain. The other day, playing rubber bridge, my partner opened a heart and RHO passed. I held this weak hand:

♠ Q J 10 9 x x
♥ x x
♦ x x x
♣ x x

I passed and LHO bid one no trump. My partner and RHO passed and I came in with two spades. It then went: pass by LHO, pass by partner, and two no trump (making) by RHO. In other words, this is a hand where I could have shut the opponents out by bidding two spades at my first chance to bid. But why give up strong jump shifts? Here the benefit seems to be moderate and the cost is

moderate, so it's up to you and your partner. Certainly WJS throughout fits in with the modern system of hyper-aggressive bidding at matchpoints.

4. Western Cue Bids.

I like this bid, but realize that few tournament players use it anymore. It involves showing a partial stopper in the opponents' suit on the way to 3NT. For example, let's say my partner opens 1♦, RHO passes, I bid 1♥, and LHO bids 1♠. Partner bids 2♣, RHO bids 2♠ and I bid 3♣. My partner can assume I have a partial spade stopper. That means K stiff, Qx, or Jxx. If my partner has a partial stopper as well, 3NT will be the next bid. I believe this is a good convention but it has been replaced. Bidding the opponents' suit now often shows three card support for partner's suit and a decent point count. Thus Western Cue Bids are no longer used by most partnerships. I will still rate it moderate cost, moderate benefit.

5. Step Controls over Two Clubs.

If you are still reading this article, you no doubt are hoping I will provide a bid with low cost and high benefit and here it is. When your partner opens two clubs, immediately find out how many aces and kings you have. Count an ace as 2 and a king as 1. Responder now bids two diamonds with 0 or 1 control, two hearts with 2 controls, two spades with 3 controls (an ace and a king), and two no trump with 3 controls (three kings). I have played this with all my partners since 1979. I believe it is far superior to using two diamonds as either a waiting bid or a point count bid. This is because when your side has a two club opener, you almost certainly have a game. So you want to immediately find out if you have a slam and this bid will let opener make that determination. Okay, now I will admit that I forgot the darn bid a couple weeks ago. I somehow thought that the bid let you distinguish one ace from two kings so I bid two spades when I only had two kings. We ended up in a 6NT contract that had a 3% chance to make. I went down one

continued on page 11



A View From the Bottom

by Gene Coppa

For beginning and intermediate players the least understood, but very important aspect of bridge, is the opening lead. Since you are on lead about every four bridge hands, you should try to get as many leads correct as possible. During the auction process, you should always be thinking, what would I lead if I were to be on lead.

There are few clues available that will guide you to benefit your side and stop declarer from implementing his plan. Listening to the bidding will help but there will be always some amount of guesswork.

Some suggestions to follow when leading against a suit contract:

1. Fourth-best leads from an honor except leading away from an Ace.
2. Lead the Ace from Ace-King.
3. Lead the top card from a sequence.
4. Lead the top card from an interior sequence.
5. Lead high from three small if you have raised partner's suit.

When leading against a Notrump Contract:

1. Fourth-best leads.
2. Lead the top card from a three-card sequence.

3. Lead low when your suit is headed by a two-card sequence.
4. Lead the top card from an interior sequence.

Let us look at a hand where West is in a 6♠ contract.

Bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

NORTH

♠ 9 2
♥ K 8 5 4 2
♦ A 8 2
♣ Q 8 2

WEST

♠ A K J 8 7 3
♥ 7 6
♦ K J 4
♣ A J

EAST

♠ Q 10 6 4
♥ A 9
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ K 9 7

SOUTH

♠ 5
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 10 6 5 4 3

North has several leads that can be made although only one lead will set 6♠:

1. A passive lead of the 9♠ will allow declarer to make the contract.
2. North could bang down the ♦A.
3. North could lead a low club.
4. On this hand, the only lead to set the contract is the fourth best from the ♥K.

You have to keep an open mind about leads like this. Leading away from a King in a slam contract is not mandatory but could be the winning choice. Unfortunately it is not always easy to tell when they are necessary.

(On this hand you might reason that you need to establish a second trick to cash when you get in with the ♦A. Therefore either a heart or a club would make sense. Since you expect the ♥A to be in dummy there is a good argument for leading a heart. Partner could have the ♥Q and, if declarer has it, most declarers hate to finesse on the opening lead if they have other options. -Ed.)

My recommendation is to purchase a book on opening leads to gain more insight and knowledge on this important subject and you can be on your way to finding those killing leads.



Good Advice, continued from page 10

and we got a cold zero. This leads me to add one caveat to the great advice George Effros gave me more than three decades ago: Don't play a bid if you can't remember it every time. This includes remembering what to do if those pesky opponents interfere. And this leads me to the last convention I will discuss here.

6. Lebensohl.

If DONT is the poison, lebensohl is the antidote. It gives options to the partner of a no trump opener when

the opponents interfere. But the bid is just too complex for me to remember. Apparently lots of other bridge players feel this way too. However, you do need a plan when the opponents interfere with your no trump. My partners and I just bid what we can make. We will bid a suit at the two level with four cards but will almost always have a five card suit to bid at the three level. Double is for penalty, pass shows junk, and 2NT shows 8 to 9 points with a balanced hand. Here, incidentally, responder becomes the captain because opener has limited his hand to a balanced 15-17 points. Note

that when you use step controls, opener is the captain. But deciding who is the captain on a hand is an issue for another article!

I have no doubt that my analysis of these conventions will cause some debate. That is just what I intended. But the real purpose of this article was to honor the memory of George Effros, a fine player and a true gentleman, who gave generously of his time and expertise to a confused rookie bridge player in the year 1978.





Darien Community Association Duplicate Bridge

The DCA celebrated the end of the Spring Session 2012 with an awards celebration on Monday, May 21, 2012, marking the ultimate game of the Spring Series. Players who participated in at least ten sessions, were recognized for high averages.

First: Martha Hathaway and Marilyn Tjader

After a blazing start, they just couldn't be caught. 59.16%

Second: Penny Glassmeyer and Betty Hodgeman

Most consistent at 58.6%

Third: Marti Molwitz, who played with several different partners – 58.36%

and

Mary Ellen McGuire, who played with a variety of partners – 58.28%

Fourth: Pat Brasher and Linda Wyse – 57.17%

The Fall Session of Duplicate Bridge at the Darien Community Association will begin on Monday, September 10, 2012.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Second Quarter Statistics

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Rita Brieger-Harold Miller have pulled well ahead, while Howard Cohen-Pat Rogers have moved into second place ahead of Brian Lewis-Bill Reich. Don Stiegler is the only player with two partnerships in the top ten.

Player-of-the-Year: Rita, Don and Harold are dominating in a virtual tie at the top, with Fredda Kelly a bit back in fourth but well ahead of the field.

Leonora Stein Cup: The April finish had significance this year, as reduced attendance of the Brieger-Miller and Lewis-Reich partnerships let Fredda Kelly thread her way through Bill, Harold and Brian for her second Stein Cup win, nine years after her first, a new record. This was Fredda's ninth cup win overall.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: Harold Miller-Burt Saxon head a tightly bunched lead group, just ahead of Breta Adams-Karlene Wood and Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern. Norma and Stan Augenstein, in fourth place after a late start, might be the favourites.

Player-of-the-Year: As often happens, the Consistency category could be decisive. 1-2 in the other categories, Arlene Leshine outranks Louise Wood 7th-13th in Consistency for the overall lead, ahead of the Miller-Saxon partnership and Vera Wardlaw.

Aldyth Claiborn Cup: The only cup with no male or multiple winner retained both those distinctions. The men were all eliminated by the semifinals. Both semifinals were decided by the tiebreaker, with Lucy Lacava prevailing over Vera Wardlaw and Billie Hecker over Louise Wood. Billie had the lead in the final, but a hand on which her opponents bid Blackwood with a void and were the only pair in a cold slam put Lucy on top by less than 2%. This made Lucy our twelfth player to win at least a second cup.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

At the halfway point of the year, 66.41% of slam bids and 73.23% of penalty doubles have been successful, along with one of two redoubles. We have had 35 grand slams bid and made, Louise Wood leading with six. There have been 49-passouts, with Joyce Handleman leading.

Overall Player-of-the-Year: The top three players of the spring quarter were Louise

Wood, Rita Brieger and Fredda Kelly. For the year, Rita leads Harold Miller by about three weeks' carryover. Don Stiegler, just ahead of Louise for third place, is about three weeks' carryover behind Harold.

Helen Frank Cup: At the halfway point, Rita Brieger led Jatin Mehta, Hasmukh Shah and Don Stiegler with the leaders tightly bunched. The lead score stayed about the same through mid-June, when Pat Rogers pulled ahead. Upward moves by Arlene Leshine and Stanley Augenstein made it likely that a Friday-only player might win for the first time. Louise Wood passed Pat with two games left, but Pat regained the lead in the penultimate game as Vera Wardlaw took over third place. The final game of June began with Pat, Louise, Vera, Rita and Marie Strickland in contention. Pat began well with Lucy Lacava, but they never quite bounced back from a bad round in mid-game. In the end, Vera and Brenda Harvey had accidents on slam hands that cost them many matchpoints, while Louise and Fredda Kelly had an equal number of mishaps that turned out to cost very little. Louise finished ahead of Vera, Pat and Rita for her sixth victory in thirteen contests of this cup, and her twenty-first cup win overall.

Wee Burn News

The following pairs did well in the Spring Series which ended June 14:

1. Linda Cleveland-Karen Barrett
2. Penny Glassmeyer-Joan Hoben
3. Lois Berry-Ann Fuller
4. Mary Beach-Ann Towne
5. Mary Richardson-Betty Hodgman
6. Janet Soskin-Kathie Rowland

The Fall Series will start September 6. Members of the following clubs: Darien, New Canaan, Tokeneke, and Woodway and their guests are welcome to sign up for the Series or to come as "drop-ins."



ATTENTION 0-199er PLAYERS!!

Unit 126 is pleased to announce that the Annual 0-199'er Sectional Tournament has been scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 2012. This event will be held at the Hartford Bridge Club, 19A Andover Street, in West Hartford. It is a two-session event but participants may opt to play in either or both of the games. Players will pay regular tournament entry fees but in return will receive a free lunch, a noon-time tutorial session and a variety of educational handouts. We anticipate upwards of forty pairs and have, in years past, attracted players from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and lower Fairfield County. We hope that you will take this opportunity to pit your skills against others seeking to add pigmented points to their masterpoint total. Questions may be directed to Bill Watson, Event Coordinator at (860) 521-5243 or email jambwats@aol.com.

2012 CALENDAR

AUGUST

6	Mon.	Evening	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
14	Tues.	Evening	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
17-19	Fri.–Sun.		Connecticut Summer Sectional, Greenwich, CT
21	Tues.	Daytime	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
Aug 27– Sept 2	Mon.–Mon.		New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI

SEPTEMBER

14	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
19	Wed.	Daytime	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
20	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
22	Sat.	Daytime	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
25	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs

OCTOBER

4	Thurs.	Evening	ACBL-wide Instant Match Point, Local Clubs
5 7	Fri.–Sun.		Sid Cohen Sectional, Hartford, CT
12 18	Fri.–Thurs.		STaC with North Jersey (U106)
20-21	Sat.–Sun.		District 25 NAP Qualifying
22-28	Mon.–Sun.		District 3 Regional, Danbury, CT

NOVEMBER

1	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
2-4	Fri.–Sun.		Jeff Feldman Memorial, Hamden, CT
14-18	Wed.–Sun.		New England Masters Regional, Mansfield, MA
Nov. 22– Dec. 2	Thurs.– 1 st Sun.		ACBL Fall Nationals, San Francisco, CA
26	Mon.	Evening	ACBL-wide Charity Game #2, Local Clubs

DECEMBER

5	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
10	Mon.	Daytime	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
11	Tues.	Evening	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
14	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-wide Charity, Local Clubs

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday, May 7, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Sarah Corning – Lenny Russman**
 2 Jackie Del Negro – Bob Nardello
 3 Alma Verbillo – Annette Levine
 4 Carole Steckler – Jane Becker
 5 Virginia Naugler – Beverly Saunders
 6 Monica Hopper – Penny Apter

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Jackie Del Negro – Bob Nardello**
 2 Alma Verbillo – Annette Levine
 3 Carole Steckler – Jane Becker
 4 Monica Hopper – Penny Apter
 5 Luisa Kelso – Margaret Molwitz
 6 Joe Holmes – Elouise Spelbrink

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Jackie Del Negro – Bob Nardello**
 2 Carole Steckler – Jane Becker
 3 Joe Holmes – Elouise Spelbrink
 4 Spencer Brainard – Peter Hussey
 5 G. Stephen Thoma – Ron Freres
 6 Ursula Forman – Ruth Johnson

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Richard Fronapfel – Susan Fronapfel**
 2 Karen Barrett – Susan Mayo
 3 Mary Richardson – Martha Hathaway
 4 Rita Doucette – Blanche Eisman
 5 Mark Stasiewski – Paul Carrier
 6 Bobbi Jacobs – Pearl Leferson
 7 Jill Fouad – Karin Nye

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Richard Fronapfel – Susan Fronapfel**
 2 Mary Richardson – Martha Hathaway
 3 Rita Doucette – Blanche Eisman
 4 Mark Stasiewski – Paul Carrier
 5 Bobbi Jacobs – Pearl Leferson
 6 Jill Fouad – Karin Nye

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Richard Fronapfel – Susan Fronapfel**
 2 Pat Doolittle – Francisca Widyono
 3 Sam Anfang – Murray Weingrad
 4 Anant Patel – Roz Sternberg
 5 Margaret Hull – William Jaeger
 6 Jack Miller – William Hayes

SPRING IN CONNECTICUT

Hamden, May 18-20, 2012

Fri AM Open Pairs

- 1 **Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT – John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT**

2 Cynthia Michael, Woodbridge CT – Margaret Mason, Madison CT

3 1 1 **Tracy Selmon, Branford CT – Hillel Auerbach, Woodbridge CT**

4 Larry Bausher – Phyllis Bausher, West Haven CT

5 Karin Olsen Nye, Old Greenwich CT – Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT

6 Ruth Teitelman, New Haven CT – Micki Schaffel, East Haven CT

2 David Blackburn, Fairfield CT – Linda Green, Westport CT

3 Vince D'Souza, Stratford CT – David Keller, Trumbull CT

4 2 Carol Hill, Simsbury CT – Lila Englehart, Granby CT

5 3 Lincoln May – Ronald Talbot, Glastonbury CT

6 4 Harold Salm, Westport CT – Norman Gross, Norwalk CT

5 Maureen Mullane – Barbara White, Glastonbury CT

Fri AM Senior Pairs

1 1 **Peter Katz, Avon CT – Michael Wavada, Enfield CT**

2 2 1 **Margaret Karbovanec, Fairfield CT – Helen McBrien, New Canaan CT**

3 Allan Clamage, Stamford CT – Dean Montgomery, West Pittston PA

4 Robert Rising, Trumbull CT – Betty Jane Corbani, New Milford CT

5 3 2 Leonard Messman, Westport CT – Mark Moskovitz, Norwalk CT

6 4 3 Edward Konowitz, Cheshire CT – Larry Bowman, Storrs CT

5 4 Joel Lipset, Suffern NY – Steven Diamond, Shrewsbury MA

Fri PM Open Pairs

1 **John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT – Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT**

2 Lawrence Lau, Westport CT – Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT

3 Sylwia McNamara, White Plains NY – Karen McCallum, Exeter NH

4 Sarah Corning, Guilford CT – Helen Kobernusz, Madison CT

5 1 1 **Lincoln May – Ronald Talbot, Glastonbury CT**

6 Lynn Condon, West Redding CT – Jay Force, Stamford CT

2 2 Maureen Mullane – Barbara White, Glastonbury CT

3 David Blackburn, Fairfield CT – Linda Green, Westport CT

4 3 Carol Hill, Simsbury CT – Lila Englehart, Granby CT

5 Jill Fouad, New Canaan CT – Margot Hayward, Westport CT

6 Rita Brieger, Bethany CT – Harold Miller, Orange CT

4 Jay Kaplan – Barry Kaplan, Bethel CT

5 Sarah Smedes – George Smedes, Prospect CT

Fri PM Senior Pairs

1 1 1 **Phoebe Edwards, New Haven CT – Michelle Rotatori, Naugatuck CT**

2 2 Katharine Goodman, Fairfield CT – Paul Miller, Southport CT

3 3 2 Susan Lewis, Weston CT – Rebecca Jacobson, Westport CT

4 Mildred Fromm – Lois Zeisler, Fairfield CT

5 Susan Rodricks, Milford CT – Susan Seckinger, Wethersfield CT

4 Richard Lebel, Danielson CT – Thomas Thompson, Gales Ferry CT

5 3 V. Wardlaw, Milford CT – Irene Kaplan, Hamden CT

Sat PM A/X Pairs

1 **Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT – Dean Montgomery, West Pittston PA**

2 Phyllis Bausher, West Haven CT – Sandra DeMartino, Riverside CT

3 Burton Gischner – Janet Gischner, Niantic CT

4 Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT – Russell Friedman, Wilton CT

5 1 **Ann Cady, Roxbury CT – Joan Martin, Bridgeport CT**

2 David Rock, Westfield MA – Leo Sartori, Granby MA

Sat PM B/C Pairs

1 **James Kaplan, Oak Bluffs MA – Perry Miller, Hamden CT**

RESULTS *continued*

- 2 Douglas Thompson, Acton MA – Karen Barrett, Norwalk CT
- 3 **1 Garson Heller Jr – Mario Sa Couto, Westport CT**
- 4 Susan Smith – Michael Smith, Newington CT
- 5 Arlene Leshine, Northford CT – Carl Yohans Jr, New Haven CT
- 6 Rita Levine – Sylvia Alpert, Guilford CT
- 2 Susan Schroeder, Rowayton CT – Kris Freres, Darien CT
- 3 Barry Kaplan – Jay Kaplan, Bethel CT

Sat PM 299er Pairs

- 1 1 Cynthia Anderson – Patty Read, Riverside CT**
- 2 Arjun Chaudhuri, Norwalk CT – Peter Carroll, Darien CT
- 3 2 Elizabeth Niehaus, Fairfield CT – Janice Martinez, Southport CT
- 4 Ron Freres – G. Stephen Thoma, Darien CT
- 5 3 Lucy Lacava, Hamden CT – Linda Chaffkin, Woodbridge CT
- 4 **1 Susan Thompson – Karen Birck, Wilton CT**
- 2 Jan Rosow, Avon CT – Betty Kerber, Wethersfield CT

Sat AM A/X Pairs

- 1 Sylwia McNamara, White Plains NY – Karen McCallum, Exeter NH**
- 2 Brett Adler – Lawrence Lau, Westport CT
- 3 Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT – Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT
- 4 Constance Graham, New Britain CT – Cynthia Michael, Woodbridge CT
- 5 Larry Bausher, West Haven CT – Steve Becker, Old Greenwich CT
- 6 Jill Fouad, New Canaan CT – Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT

- 1 Mildred Fromm, Fairfield CT – Nancy Robertson, Bridgeport CT**
- 2 Paul Miller, Southport CT – Linda Green, Westport CT
- 3 David Rock, Westfield MA – Leo Sartori, Granby MA

Sat AM B/C Pairs

- 1 Susan Smith – Michael Smith, Newington CT**
- 2 Louise Wood, Hamden CT – Fredda Kelly, Orange CT
- 3 **1 Garson Heller Jr – Mario Sa Couto, Westport CT**
- 4 Roz Sternberg, Avon CT – Virginia Labbadia, Canton CT
- 5 Susan Lewis, Weston CT – Margaret Molwitz, New Canaan CT
- 6 2 Susan Fronapfel – Richard Fronapfel, Danbury CT
- 3 Sarah Smedes – George Smedes, Prospect CT
- 4 Margaret Garilli, Simsbury CT – Karen Emott, West Simsbury CT
- 5 Jay Kaplan – Barry Kaplan, Bethel CT

Sat AM 299er Pairs

- 1 Patricia Shimkus – Mary Beth Murphy, West Hartford CT**
- 2 G Stephen Thoma – Ron Freres, Darien CT
- 3 Jan White – Lou Filippetti, Stamford CT
- 4 **1 1 Nancy Needle – Linda Leibowitz, Milford CT**
- 5 2 2 Harris Usdan, Weston CT – Richard Burman, Westport CT
- 6 Mimi Van Dyke – Thyra Elliott, Darien CT
- 3 Anne Kallish, Westport CT – Arjun Chaudhuri, Norwalk CT
- 4 Jan Rosow, Avon CT – Betty Kerber, Wethersfield CT

A/X Swiss

- 1 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT; Victor King, Hartford CT; John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT**
- 2 Brett Adler – Lawrence Lau, Westport CT; Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT; Maeve Lucey, New Canaan CT
- 3 Dean Montgomery, West Pittston PA; Frances Schneider – Bernard Schneider, Riverside CT; Allan Clamage, Stamford CT
- 4/5 Richard Wieland, Redding CT; Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT; Robert Rising, Trumbull CT; Howard Lawrence, East Haven CT
- 4/5 **1 Cynthia Michael, Woodbridge CT; Constance Graham, New Britain CT; William Titley, Woodbury CT; Margaret Mason, Madison CT**
- 2 Sonja Smith, North Granby CT; David Rock, Westfield MA; Bruce Downing, New London NH; Mark Conner, Grantham NH

B/C Swiss

- 1 Robert Derrah – Shirley Derrah, Springfield MA; Susan Smith – Michael Smith, Newington CT**
- 2 George Holland – Carl Palmer, Danbury CT; V Wardlaw, Milford CT; Brenda Harvey, Orange CT
- 3 **1 Karen Emott, West Simsbury CT; Margaret Garilli, Simsbury CT; Joan Brault, Avon CT; Donna Lyons, Naples FL**
- 4 2 Susan Fronapfel – Richard Fronapfel – Stanley Kishner – Georgeann Kishner, Danbury CT



Why do you play bridge?

Did you ever try to explain tournament bridge to non-bridge players? I recently took some vacation time to go to Philadelphia for the Nationals. When I mentioned this to co-workers, they politely asked questions about this bridge tournament. I told them about the size of a National Tournament, how there are games for all levels of players, etc., etc. They were impressed with all of this and then the inevitable question came: What do you get if you win? For some reason they had a difficult time understanding that we pay to play tournament bridge and usually our reward, if anything, is something called masterpoints. They were uniformly unimpressed. No money and no big prizes doesn't seem like much fun to them. They thought that bridge players were really strange. Then, I got a brilliant thought and dug out my LM card. Finally they were impressed! Of course they still think I am strange... -Ed.

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 October 15, 2012.

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You can see The Kibitzer
in blazing color
at the CT bridge site:
<http://www.ctbridge.org>

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