

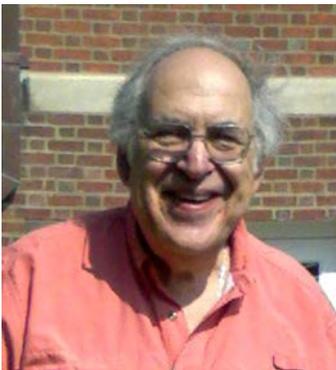


# THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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## Deception is the Mother of Prevention

by Harold Feldheim

A major point of IMP strategy relates to bidding borderline games. When game is a “pick-em” prospect, the success or failure of a contract may become a matter of luck. The expert player, whether declaring or defending, will look for those extra chances to either fulfill a contract (declarer) or to scuttle a contract (defender). Sometimes, an alert player can muddy the waters by some clever deception. This hand, from the semifinals of a 1940s Vanderbilt knockout, is a good example.

Dealer: South  
Vulnerability: Both

<p>West</p> <p>♠ 7 5 2</p> <p>♥ 7 6 3</p> <p>♦ Q 10 3</p> <p>♣ 10 9 6 4</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♠ K 10 6 3</p> <p>♥ 4 2</p> <p>♦ A J 8 2</p> <p>♣ K 7 3</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ A Q 8</p> <p>♥ A Q 10 9 8</p> <p>♦ 9 7 5</p> <p>♣ J 5</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ J 9 4</p> <p>♥ K J 5</p> <p>♦ K 6 5</p> <p>♣ A Q 8 2</p>
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<p>West</p> <p>---</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Opening lead: ♥7</p>	<p>North</p> <p>---</p> <p>3NT</p>	<p>East</p> <p>1♥</p> <p>All Pass</p>	<p>South</p> <p>1NT</p>
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In both rooms, the auction and the opening lead were identical. South’s 1NT overcall with only 14 HCPs may seem somewhat risky, but the likely double heart stopper led both players to choose 1NT, cheerfully raised to game by North.

In the open room, East ducked the opening heart lead, losing to the jack. South analyzed the hand in an effort to maximize his probabilities. He could count seven tricks; two hearts, two diamonds, and three clubs, plus lots of chances. He began by leading the ♠J, losing to East’s queen. East continued with the ♥A and a heart, clearing the suit. Since it was clear that East held the ♠A, declarer would have to develop two tricks in the minors. This could only occur via a diamond finesse, plus either minor suit splitting 3-3. He began by leading to the ♦J. When this worked, he tried cashing A-K-Q of clubs. When clubs split 4-2, he tried his last chance by cashing the third diamond. When that suit broke, he had his nine tricks. Both sides assumed the result would be duplicated at the other table. However, things are not always as they seem. In the closed room, East found a deceptive play to give declarer a chance to go wrong.

In the closed room, the play went like this: East won the opening lead and returned a heart, losing to declarer’s jack. Like his compatriot at the other table, he counted seven sure tricks,

and, exploring the possibilities, led the ♠J. This time, East won the ace, giving South his eighth trick, but setting up a diabolic chimera. East led another heart clearing the suit. South cashed three high clubs hoping to establish the thirteenth club as the game-going trick. When this failed to happen, his choice became to finesse against the ♦Q or the ♠Q. Be honest: Which would you choose? As would we all, he finessed against the *marked* queen of spades; East cashed two more hearts for +100.

Note: The deception play involved a far-reaching, although not uncommon, gambit. Basically stated, East traded a trick for an ambiguity. As seen in the first play, South tested all his chances, landing on his feet at the very end. In essence, he had little choice. Here, East gave up a trick to create a losing alternative for his opponent. Nicely done!





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# From the CBA President

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**A**t a pairs' session in Providence, we played a set against a man and his 11-year-old son. They were terrific. The boy was shy, but knew his way around the deck. The father was calm, barely spoke, and let the game take its course. I spoke with them at a break in a team event. They were from California, and the boy wasn't happy because they couldn't stay until the end of the tournament as he had to go back to school.

Talk about the future of bridge! All kids like to fool around with a deck of cards... if all of us parents and grandparents would join that play, mess with the cards and the kids, maybe talk about the value of the suits and cards, and begin some bridge basics, I bet we could succeed in making them curious and eager and maybe begin to instill a love of the game.

Speaking of Providence, I bumped into a newcomer I recognized from our Connecticut games. I remember that she'd been nervous about going to a "NATIONAL!!!" but we encouraged her,

saying it would be great and she would have a really good time. Well, when I saw her, she was beyond excited...she'd won her first point! She was bubbling and couldn't wait to get back to the table.

And isn't that what this is all about? People having a good time, engaging in a game that, while often frustrating and always challenging, ultimately brings us great satisfaction and pleasure. That is an integral part of any sport...being a "good sport" and being aware that while we all want to win, assuring a pleasant experience for everyone is an essential aspect of the game.

Speaking of aspects of the game, it's time again to elect officers for the Connecticut Bridge Association, our governing organization. Our annual meeting is Sunday, June 14, in Hamden. I hope all of you will come, vote for the slate of the CBA, and be among those receiving awards and recognition.

The nominating committee works hard to find the best people to handle the details of bridge in Connecticut for the benefit and enjoyment of all. In addition to the officers, the Board includes representatives from areas in the state as well as at-large members of the Board and those with specific duties. We think we know a lot of people, but we don't know everyone. If you're interested in participating in the CBA Board, please let me, or any member of the Board, know. We'd welcome you, and your input would be valuable. You can find Board members, their positions and contact information, on the last page of this Kibitzer. Please consider joining us and being an active part of bridge in our state.

I hope you're having a good year, good results at the table, and, most of all, a good time. Spring is almost here and that's reason enough to celebrate.

*Esther Watstein*  
President, CBA

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## ACBL New Partnership Desk

It has been said that it's easier to find a compatible spouse than a bridge partner – until now. Introducing the ACBL Partnership Desk, the newest member benefit, that connects players for club, tournament, and online play.

From MyACBL, members can post requests and search for partners by club location or by tournament. Profiles already contain rank and masterpoint information with options to add a picture, preferred systems and more.

Learn more about the Partnership Desk and then see for yourself.

Want to visit a new club? Are you traveling or new to an area? Need some gold masterpoints, but your partner isn't available for tournament travel? Use the ACBL Partnership Desk and never miss a game again!

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## Attention All Teachers

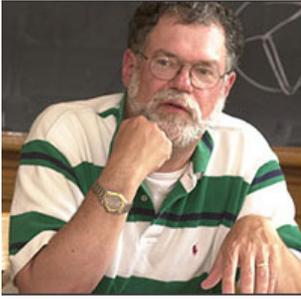
The ACBL has many tools to help both those teaching young people and those working with the growing number of baby boomers who are now retiring and interested in playing duplicate bridge.

The ACBL-sponsored education programs are fully funded and include teacher stipends and free textbooks. Register at The ACBL Resource Center for the School Bridge program and to order necessary supplies.

In addition to youth programs, the ACBL supports college programs and has developed A College Bridge Kit and Guide to help teachers and Junior members establish an active and competitive bridge team on their local college campuses. Both items are available for order and download on the Resource Center.

Baby boomers are important future duplicate-bridge players. The ACBL Life Long Learning Program helps teachers introduce the game of bridge to adults through establishing continuing education programs at colleges and universities. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has approved programs at hundreds of schools, and supports several bridge classes.

To learn more about these programs, contact the Education Department at [education@acbl.org](mailto:education@acbl.org).



## Divine Providence

by Burton Saxon

I recently spent three days at the Fall Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island. This turned out to be a wonderful experience, in part because my expectations were quite realistic. I wanted to learn something and I wanted to help my local partner, Harold Miller, become a life master.

My long-term partner, Steve Emerson, and I have played together for 35 years. We only play twice a year, so obviously our results are often not stellar. In February 2012, a minor miracle occurred. We finished first in an open regional in Cromwell. This was an absolute shock for both of us. It happened in part because we were given three gifts in 48 boards and we were never fixed, either by our opponents or by the field. In addition, Steve's declarer play that day was superb. So we received a Blue Ribbon Pairs qualification. We could have used it in the Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs (0-5000) in Providence, but we decided to enter the main draw. For one thing, Steve wanted to be back in New York City by Thursday morning. He's one of America's leading cancer researchers. The guy actually believes there are things in life more important than bridge.

We chose the main draw for another reason. We wanted to learn something by playing against the best pairs in the world. We learned several things. First, we learned that high-level players make almost no basic mistakes. I thought we would be subjected to many squeezes, esoteric end plays, and advanced bidding sequences. Instead, we faced players who always found available overtricks, defended with precision, and knew when to compete and when to pass. What was even more encouraging was that the top-level players were always pleasant to both opponents and partners. The ACBL has good reason to be proud of its bridge professionals.

The ACBL also has good reason to be proud of itself. The gift at registration in Providence was a nice blanket, shuttles to hotels were available, dining

suggestions were very helpful, and the directors were all high level. Steve and I were thrilled to have a slightly below average game in the first session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs. In the evening...uh... water found its own level, if you know what I mean. But Steve can say he held the same cards as Zia and I can fondly remember how Michael Rosenberg ended up in one spade making four when I failed to balance and then misdefended.

The next day, we decided to try the Fast Pairs. Five-and-a-half minutes a board was too fast for us, but as Steve said, "We could have been given all day on some of those hands and still have gotten average minus scores." So our results were discouraging. But bridge is like sex. Even when it's bad, it's good.

On Wednesday night, Steve drove me back to Milford. My wife, Myra, and I took him to Scribner's restaurant, a hidden gem one block from our house. Myra and I told Steve we hope he gets to be a grandparent (we have seven grand kids), but warned against suggesting marriage for his children, even though he really likes their significant others.

That brings me back to Harold. The guy is a fine player. He first registered masterpoints in 1966, played locally until 1971, and then stopped playing for 35 years. You might ask why, but perhaps you can guess. He got married and his wife liked having him around in the evenings and on weekends. My wife was always asking, "When are you playing bridge again?" My other long-term partner, Rita, introduced me to Harold, saying "I've known him my entire life. He has the best demeanor of any bridge player alive. He wants to play twice a week. I can play Tuesday nights. Can you play Fridays?" My answer was yes.

As of this past summer, Harold needed at least 12 red/gold points with at least 7 golds to become a life master. We went to the Warwick regional for the Gold Rush Pairs. My brain turned to a bowl of mush in the second-to-last round of the second session, and I went down in

a cold contract. At least Harold received one red point. The Danbury regional was better. We had a section top in the first session, but I decided to mastermind a hand at the end of the second session. Harold went down three and we finished fifth overall for 3.89 golds. Had I not bid like a madman, we would have finished third for 6.54 golds. But if my aggressive bid had worked, we might have won the event.

My point is that I really wanted to play well in the Gold Rush Pairs in Providence. I owed my partner some decent bridge. Things seemed to be going fine in the first session until I failed to unblock a trump suit. Dummy had J8xx of spades and I had AQ1092 in my hand. Playing the 8 from the board is a necessity if you want to return to the board and have no remaining entry. But I led the jack and played low. Not good. Later, Harold was on defense and declarer led J from Jx on the board. Harold had Kxxx and he covered. Declarer had all the intermediates, so that wasn't good either. But Harold's play could be justified. Mine was a bonehead play. Most of our other boards seemed fine, so our result of 53% was surprising and discouraging. Even worse, we were fifth of five 300-750 pairs in our section and didn't make the overall list, which stretched to 41st.

Harold didn't get to play one hand in the first session and I'm not a hand hog when I play with Harold. We did notice one thing as we commiserated over dinner at Murphy's Deli. Twice, we'd been "fixed by the field." Once, our opponents stopped in 2NT. They took their eight tricks and we took our five tricks. But.....every other East/West pair was in 3NT, going down one. Later, these two young guys bid a slam against us. The slam depended on a finesse. The finesse worked. Great for them, disaster for us since no one else bid the slam.

*continued on page 12*

## Volunteers honored at Goodwill meeting

The following article is reprinted with permission from the December 2, 2014, NABC Daily Bulletin.

The ACBL Goodwill Committee was created in 1955 and renamed after its longest-tenured chair, Aileen Osofsky, after her death in 2010. She served as chair for 25 years and entered the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame as the 2009 recipient of the Blackwood Award – for long service to the game without necessarily being a world-class player.

The Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee convenes on the first Monday of every NABC so that the members can strengthen their resolve to spread goodwill beyond the committee. The goal: making bridge fun for everyone at all times.

When Robert Harman, ACBL's chief executive, was called upon by Goodwill Chair Sandy DeMartino to address the crowd, he said, "Of all the events I speak at, this is my favorite. You are friends of the game and great ambassadors. Thanks for all you do."

After welcoming everyone, DeMartino announced that Eddie Kantar was selected by the ACBL Board of Directors as the Honorary Member of the Year. "We couldn't believe he didn't already have the award," she said, "and we found that he does an incredible amount of work in his district." Kantar lives in Santa Monica CA (District 23).

At the Fall NABC, it's customary to honor volunteers, the lifeblood of the organization. ACBL President Phyllis Harlan did the honors for the Volunteer of the Year – Mike Carmen of the St. Louis area. Among his many contributions to the game was his chairmanship of the 2013 Spring NABC in his home town.

Harlan said the list of suggested winners was long and impressive, but Carmen was a standout. Although Carmen was not present, Harlan sent him a message: "Thank you for all the goodwill you spread." To the assembled Goodwill Committee members, she added, "You are the best ACBL has to offer."



*District 25 Director  
Richard DeMartino  
and NABC Co-Chair  
Joe Brouillard.*

Richard DeMartino represents District 25, the host district for the NABC. He was called upon to name the top volunteer for his district. He also noted that the list of candidates was large and impressive, but he decided on NABC Co-Chair Joe Brouillard for the honor.

Said Brouillard, "I volunteer because I enjoy the game and I wanted to contribute to make it better." Brouillard had the crowd laughing when he noted that in the two years he spent preparing for the Fall NABC, "I had two good trainers – Captain Morgan and Jack Daniels."

DeMartino said credit and thanks are due to the NABC committee members for the effort that goes into putting on such a big tournament.

One of Sandy DeMartino's final duties was announcing the Goodwill Member of the Year, presented each year to the member who has exhibited unselfish dedication to the causes of good conduct, worthy participation and ethical behavior.

The 2014 winner is James Flesher of Salt Lake City UT. DeMartino quoted from the nomination form for Flesher: "For more than 35 years, he has given his time and talents to Utah bridge. He is welcoming, courteous and ethical. He demonstrates by example the intangibles of bridge: active ethics, courtesy and enthusiasm."

The Volunteer of the Year and Goodwill Member of the Year awards will be presented to the winner at the 2015 Spring NABC in New Orleans.



*Goodwill Committee Chair  
Sandy DeMartino.*

DeMartino closed the meeting with a familiar entreaty: "Please proudly wear your Goodwill pin, support goodwill in your districts and units and remind others we can be competitive and still be friendly, caring and ethical. Remember – enjoy!"



## A Missed Preempt

by Geoff Brod

Today, we're going to eschew the morning duplicate for an online team game, scored at IMPs. Your opponents are an expert pair who have done well in national competitions. Not to be terribly disadvantaged, your partner is an expert as well, with something of a reputation for offbeat actions. Unfortunately, you've never played with him before and you've only had the benefit of about ten minutes of discussion before you (figuratively) sit down at the table.

You get off to a slow start (the match is 28 boards). Results at the other table have been soft, but it's not as if your results have been great. Anyway, about halfway through, you're dealt:

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

Your LHO (West) opens a strong no trump and your partner calls 2♣, showing the majors. The vulnerability is favorable, so it's possible partner might be a little more aggressive than normal. RHO passes and it's up to you. Your call?

You should appreciate that opposite a major two-suiter, this is an enormous hand. Had, for example, partner opened the bidding 1♥, you would have content yourself with a limit raise to 3♥, but here you know partner has 4 or 5 spades as well, which makes your KJ of that suit super cards. Were you to call 3♥ at this point, that would be simply invitational, promising 4-card support, but in light of the auction, your hand is much better than that. So 4♥ it is. All pass.

A further note regarding evaluation: In contrast to an auction in which partner opens 1♥, here, because of the 1NT opening, you are going to be able to place most of the opponents' high cards when you see dummy. A somewhat smaller advantage is that the strong hand is going to have to make the opening lead away from its high cards. Usually, it would be more advantageous to have the weak hand leading up to the strong hand. And finally—and perhaps most

importantly—while the opponents will have a fair idea of what's going to hit in dummy, they'll have no idea what to expect in your hand except good heart support and some expectation that 4♥ might have a play. These are not trivial considerations.

Your LHO leads the ♦A and you see:

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

Well, you were hoping for a little more, but on reflection, you consider that you would have taken the same action. The diamond lead is not the best for you. Still you really have no option here but to ruff and go about your business. How do you play to trick 2?

One thing is fairly clear. You can't start trump. You're going to have to lose the lead at least twice and if you denude the dummy of trump, you're going to lose control. That leaves a black suit. Spades don't appeal. Certainly, you wouldn't want to finesse the partner of the strong NT for a queen he's unlikely to hold. The only other play is to try to ruff the suit good, but that doesn't rate to help you a lot when five hearts will still be outstanding.

That leaves clubs. There's a standard play in the suit. Lead low and put in the 8 if RHO plays low. You hope RHO holds an Honor10xx combination of some kind, so you can develop a second, and perhaps a third, trick in the suit. Had your RHO opened the strong NT, you would have to give serious consideration to playing the jack. Here, however, it's highly unlikely that both the queen and king will be in the slot.

So a club to the 8 it is. RHO wins the king, which offers some hope. Almost immediately, without apparent thought, he leads the ♦K. Your opponents play A from AK on opening lead, so you expected him to have this card. You are somewhat surprised, however, to see the king played so swiftly.

A note about hesitations: At the table they can be quite informative; online they're virtually meaningless. All four players are sitting at a computer, many times several thousands of miles apart, and all four are subject to all manner of distractions that none of the other three can possibly make heads nor tails of. Best to ignore them.

Fast tempo, however, can impart information. Here, at trick one, your RHO played the ♦6 (which would appear to be ambiguous at best), while you followed with the 3. Yet now, at trick three, your LHO had no problem continuing in tempo with the king. You decide that he felt this was safe in the context of the suit, and mentally place him with the queen. That gives him 12 HCP that you know about (♦AKQ, ♣K).

For the moment, you have nothing better to do than continue to develop clubs. So another low club off dummy, RHO plays the 10 (the card he is known to hold), you finesse the jack. It wins. While your RHO could have been false-carding the 10 from an original Q10xx (he's expert enough to know to do that), you decide to hope the suit is 3-3. You lay down the ace and all follow. Now what?

It's time to find out who holds the ♠Q. How to do that? Play hearts, of course. Whoever holds the ace won't have the spade card. And you've got a good club sitting over there in dummy that you won't be able to take advantage of unless you get out some hearts. So, you play a small heart to the king in dummy. It wins. That puts 16 HCP in LHO's hand. However, counterintuitive it was at trick two to finesse RHO for the ♠Q, it's now, against reliable opponents (not always the case), virtually 100% to lead low to the ♠J.

It's not totally clear to you how important it is to play spades in this manner, but you feel confident enough about your analysis to lead low to the jack. It wins. You cash the ♠K and lead a third round of diamonds.



## Country Club of Darien

Congratulations to The Country Club of Darien Fall series winners:

1. Joan Bergen–Meredith Dunne
2. Peter Nicoletti–Christina Hare
3. Carolyn Halsey–Tony Halsey

## Darien Community Association

Karen Barrett is giving bridge lessons at The DCA in Darien. Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 is for advanced intermediates, and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 is for intermediates. Lessons are held on a drop-in basis, and you can come with a partner or alone. Each lesson consists of eight prepared boards, and attendees will be given written material covering the day's topic. Contact Karen at 203-286-7530 or kebob@optonline.net to be on the mailing list to be notified what topics will be covered and if there's a change in venue, which sometimes happens.

## Fairfield County Bridge

Fairfield County Bridge has started a newcomers' duplicate game. The game is open to players with 0-20 masterpoints who want to try duplicate bridge in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. The game is held at The Mather Center in Darien on Wednesday mornings. For information, or to be on the mailing list, contact Karen Barrett at 203-286-7530 or kebob@optonline.net.

## Hamden Bridge Forum

The Bridge Forum has welcomed two new life masters, Vera Wardlaw and Harold Miller.

Sad losses in 2014 include Ida Fidler, Stan Augenstein, and Brian Lewis. A memorial game featuring hands played by Brian is scheduled for 3/31/15.

### TUESDAY WINNERS

Leading Pairs: Kevin Hart–Jeff Horowitz maintained their lead and remained comfortably on top. Rita Brieger–Harold Miller, in second place, finished closer to first than to third, while Alan Milstone–Gernot Reiners just slipped into third place in the final game. George Levinson was the only player in two of the top ten partnerships.

Player-of-the-Year: Kevin and Jeff were 1-2 in all three categories. They played almost exclusively together, but Kevin did slightly better when they played separately and took the top spot. Jon Ingersoll, Vera Wardlaw, and Fredda Kelly rounded out the top five.

Van Dyke Cup (July-October): Jeff outscored Kevin in the early stages as the two took a lead that gave Jeff a big carryover in the final game. Fredda Kelly was able to overtake Kevin for second place, with Harold Miller fourth. Jon Ingersoll, who almost always makes the final of this cup, went out in the semifinal.

### FRIDAY WINNERS

Leading Pairs: Norma and Stan Augenstein had already broken their record-setting performance from last year before Stan's unexpected death in early November. Steve Grodzinsky–Hank Voegeli set a new second-place record. New pair June Comcowich–Lynne Leibowitz finished an impressive fourth, almost overtaking Hill Auerbach–Larry Stern. Carl Yohans was in two of the top ten pairs.

Player-of-the-Year: The Augensteins played exclusively together all year, winning two categories and finishing second in the third. As Norma won two cups this year, it was Stan's turn for the honors. Louise Wood and Larry Stern finished third and fourth.

Reynolds Cup (July-October): This played out like the Van Dyke Cup, with Fredda Kelly chasing a dominant pair, this time not quite passing Stan for second place. Norma successfully defended the cup for her third win. Shirley Fruchter finished fourth.

### TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Overall Players-of-the-Year:

1. Kevin Hart
  2. Jeff Horowitz
  3. Fredda Kelly
  4. Rita Brieger
  5. Louise Wood
- Fredda, Rita, and Harold Miller were the top players of the fourth quarter.

Champions Cup (formerly Memory Bowl, November-December): Fredda Kelly began with a carryover lead. Rita Brieger went ahead until the Hart–Horowitz partnership went well ahead in December. Kevin had a small carryover lead; Jeff played once without Kevin and pulled into a tie, but Kevin had the winning tiebreak of one more overall win for the year. On the last day, however, had Alan Milstone–Gernot Reiners received a 4-3 trump split to let them make 4♠ with only six trumps, Gernot would have won the cup instead.

Fourth Quarter Slam Challenge: Vera Wardlaw defended the Slam Challenge title, narrowly holding off Hill Auerbach 60.53% to 60.09%.

### YEARLY STATISTICS

Rita Brieger scored six penalties of +1100 or greater without a -1100. Harold Feldheim was second at 3-0.

Sixty-two grand slams were bid and made. Alan Milstone–Gernot Reiners and Steve Grodzinsky–Hank Voegeli each bid and made five. Fredda Kelly had eight grand slams with six partners.

We had 195 passouts, on which fourth seat scored 50.95%. Jeffrey Blum and Billie Hecker tied for most passouts, with Joe Pagerino third.

The success rate for small slams was 55.62%, 65.96% for grand slams, 72.81% for penalty doubles, and 50.00% for redoubles.

Tracy Selmon rallied with good cards in the autumn quarter to average just under 10.015 HCP per hand for the year.

Simon Rich defended the Fast Play title, playing 47 times without having a late or missed board. Shirley Fruchter missed only one board in 61 games.

# From the

## HAND of the YEAR

This year's selection, played on May 27th, was made both to congratulate Sara Ann Auerbach on the correct execution of a squeeze and to sympathize with Harold Miller for knowing how he wanted to break up the squeeze, but finding the one layout on which he couldn't:

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

Harold sat South and Sara Ann sat East. With 32 HCP, all the aces and three kings, and a red suit of AQxxx in each hand, 6NT could easily have been much more likely to make, and was bid at seven of ten tables. Two pairs stopped in game and one in 6♦ by West (in which contract it appears that declarer won a club lead with East's ace and played the trey, thus coming up short of entries later to establish and cash the long heart). I saw Harold win a heart finesse at about the fifth trick, after (presumably) a spade lead won by the king and three rounds of diamonds.

Harold then paused for thought. As declarer was marked with the three aces, East could cash out for eleven tricks. As East had bid hearts, he could see the squeeze coming on the run of the minor winners, West's ♠10 and East's long heart constituting the threats. But, with no entry to the West hand in spades, a second round of hearts would cut declarer off from one of the threats -- but this was the only one of ten possible holdings of four to the king from which South couldn't play a second round of hearts. A low heart would have allowed the ten to win at once, while the jack would have established East's seven-spot by crashing North's 98 doubleton. In the end, Harold got out with a club. If partner had begun with the ♥98x, the slam would fail without an immediate second heart; if the actual layout existed, declarer might err.

Sara Ann made no mistake. She cashed the two black aces in hand, but not the ♥A, then led a second club to cash dummy's four winners, keeping the ♥A7 in hand and the two major tens in dummy. Harold hopefully came down to the two major jacks, but Sara Ann's ♥A and seven took the last two tricks.

Why, then, did the other six declarers in 6NT all go down? I'm going to guess they ran the diamonds right away, before taking the heart finesse. Then they discarded three hearts from the East hand, left the ♠A in the East hand, or cashed the clubs in the wrong order.

## JCC Duplicate Bridge Club

- Winners of the Unit Wide Game on Dec. 22 were:
1. Jesse Weiss–Nancy Robertson
  2. Jim–Elaine Misner
  3. Rob Rising–Debbie Benner
  4. Sherrill Werblood–Myra Goldberg

## Newtown Bridge Club

In January, Newtown Bridge Club marked its first year of operation as a member-owned, not-for-profit club, carrying on a 70-year tradition of competitive duplicate bridge in the Newtown-Danbury area.

During 2014, the club added a Monday afternoon game to the existing Tuesday morning and evening, and Wednesday morning games. Lessons were introduced for beginners, novice, and intermediate players. "Under 21" sections were added to all games for players with 0-20 masterpoints. The Board of Directors' commitment to maintaining a friendly environment while encouraging high levels of competitive bridge was well received. Participation grew 67% from 790 tables to 1,325 tables in the past year, and 151 players joined the club as members.

Players are enjoying competitive bridge. Many new players participated in their first tournament in 2014, and 31 Newtown Bridge Club players finished in the top ten ranks for the unit's Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney competitions. Newtown Bridge Club holds four ACBL-sanctioned duplicate-bridge games each week, open to all players: Mondays at 1 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.,

and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. A novice game (0-20 MPs) is held Mondays at 10 a.m. in conjunction with Easybridge! lessons. Games are played at the Hawleyville Volunteer Fire Station, 34 Hawleyville Road, Newtown, CT, 0.3 mile north of I-84, exit 9. The Club's website is [www.newtownbridge.org](http://www.newtownbridge.org).

## Southport Duplicate Bridge Club

Southport Duplicate Bridge Club recently celebrated two new Gold Life Masters: Linda Green and Susan Rodricks. Linda Green was also the big winner for the club in December, ranking second overall in the Unit-Wide Game on December 15 with David Benjamin, and winning the Club Championship with Irene Santa. Linda also won the Ace of Clubs Award in her category. The Southport DBC also welcomed a new Life Master: Katie Goodman.

## Wee Burn CBC

- Fall Series winners at Wee Burn CBC were:
1. Janet Soskin–Betty Hodgman
  2. Kathie Rowland–Susan Schroeder
  3. Marilyn Tjader–Barbara Johnson

The December Charity game winners were:

1. Audrey Cadwallader–Belinda Metzger
2. Linda Green–David Blackburn
3. Joan Hoben–Penny Glassmeyer

Congratulations to our 2014 Players-of-the-Year, Joan Hoben and Janet Soskin. This award goes to the Wee Burn members who have won the most masterpoints at home games during the year.

## West Hartford Bridge Club

The West Hartford Bridge Club announces that it has welcomed 25 new life masters in the past seven years – and hopes to welcome 25 more!

## Woodway Duplicate Bridge Club

- Winners of the Fall Series at Woodway DBC were:
1. Susan Mayo–Karen Barrett
  2. Betty Hodgman–Mary Richardson
  3. Marilyn Tjader–Martha Hathaway
  4. Linda Cleveland–Barbara Johnson
- Linda Cleveland and Barbara Johnson also won the Club Championship.



# Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #26: A Tale of Two Jacks

by Alan Wolf



The following hand generated a great deal of discussion when played at an important international tournament.

♠KJ ♥AKQ74 ♦872 ♣AK4

With your side vulnerable, against non-vulnerable opponents, your partner (North) opens 1♠ and your RHO bids 2NT... unusual for the minors. You now bid 3♣, a convention known as “unusual over unusual.” When the opponents’ two suits are known (clubs and diamonds, in this case), your bid of one of their suits shows a good hand. Bidding the lower-ranking of their two suits shows a good hand with the lower-ranking of the other two suits, and similarly, bidding the higher-ranking of their suits shows the higher-ranking of the other two suits.

So the 3♣ bid in this case showed a good hand (game forcing) with hearts, while a direct bid of 3♥ would be non-forcing, with a good heart suit.

Over your 3♣ bid, LHO jams the auction by jumping to 5♦, which is passed around to you. So the bidding has been:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2NT	3♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	???

Before deciding on an action, let's consider the implications of the bidding thus far (there are many). RHO presumably has 5-5 or more in the minors. His partner jumped to 5♦, and we have three of them. Surely partner is short in diamonds—either a singleton or void.

Partner's pass of 5♦ implies some heart support. With heart shortness, he would likely have doubled the 5♦ bid. On the other hand, he almost surely does NOT have as many as four hearts, for then he would surely have bid 5♥ himself.

What does partner have for his opening bid? Outside the diamond suit, only 10 HCP are available—the ♠A and ♠Q, ♥J, and the ♣Q and ♣J. With such soft values outside the spade suit, it doesn't look like an opening bid—maybe a weak two bid or preempt of 3 or 4. (Well, maybe with a diamond void, the 10 HCP

qualifies as a 1♠ opening.) Most likely, partner has a singleton diamond honor—the ace or king.

In any case, with your 20 HCP, and partner's diamond shortness, a slam looks certain opposite partner's opening bid. But what strain? Hearts or spades? And what about the possibility of a grand slam?

With this analysis in mind, most of the expert opinion preferred a bid of 5NT, intended to solicit partner's help picking the best strain, implying some help in spades, or a heart slam if partner liked his support for that suit. This use of the 5NT bid is often referred to as “pick a slam.” And that bid leaves room for partner to cue bid 6♦ with a void or singleton Ace in that suit. After the cue bid, you would ask partner to pick again—at the 7 level.

Professor Lobochevski did not agree with this approach, feeling that the South hand should plan to commit the hand to playing a spade contract. Possession of the ♠J was critical in his opinion. With this in mind, he preferred a cue bid of 6♣, which even more strongly encouraged partner to cue bid 6♦ in return.

Why did the professor make this unilateral choice of strain? Well, it seemed quite likely that the partnership didn't have better than an eight-card fit in either major. If that were the case, then at least one of the major suits was *guaranteed* to break badly. (The unusual NT bidder had to have a singleton or void in at least one of the majors.) So control of the fourth round of trump was critical, hence the importance of the ♠J.

If you could know for sure that partner had the ♥J for his (hypothetical) heart preference, then hearts might be an acceptable strain. But there's no way to find that out. Missing the ♥J, a 5-2 spade fit might even play better than a 5-3 heart fit. With a hand like ♠AQ10xxx ♥xxx ♦A ♣Jxx, partner would likely choose hearts, and the inferior 7♥ contract would need a 3-2 heart break, while 7♠ could survive even a 5-0 spade break.

Furthermore, there's a very good chance that partner has more spades than the five promised by his opening bid. Given some presumptions previously discussed, partner is expected to have no more than one diamond, and no more than three hearts. Assume further that he doesn't hold as many as 8 spades (with such a long suit, his bidding would likely be different). Together, these assumptions imply that partner must have at least two clubs. So, as a worst case, we're envisioning partner's hand with 5+ spades, 3 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2+ clubs. The remaining two cards (spades and/or clubs) come out of a pool of cards not yet accounted for—six spades and three clubs. (Seven spades are accounted for; partner's five and my two. Ten clubs are accounted for; RHO's five, partner's two, and my three). We don't need to do a combinatorial analysis to see that there are many more ways to finish off partner's hand with one or two more spades than there are with exactly two clubs.

In actual practice, the South player bid 5NT, and North took a preference to 6♥. The full hands were:

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: North-South

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

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2NT	3♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: ♦Q

*continued on next page*



# Can't Cost Method – Chapter 42

by John Stiefel

In this deal from a recent match-point club game, declarer arrived at a very good contract, but failed to recognize the need for – and to execute – the “safety play” to protect it.

Dealer: West  
Vulnerability: None

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

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

Opening lead: ♣3 (4th best)

A few notes about the bidding and opening lead.

First, North's 2♠ rebid was forcing to game and “promised” four spades. This bid is definitely flawed because it lies about North's spade length, but I think it's less flawed than any other available bid – so it's my first choice. Other possible bids would be 3♣ (planning to correct clubs to diamonds), 3♥ (not forcing, so inadequate – and also promising four hearts), 3♦ (very inadequate), 4♥ (adequate, but promising four hearts) 4♣ (splinter bid, showing club shortness, but 4-card heart support), and 5♦ (right on values, but too unilateral and showing a better diamond suit and no other place to play). A good guideline, which North followed here, is “when in doubt, make the cheapest available bid to give the partnership the most room to probe for the best contract.”

Second, South's raise to 3♠ (forcing and really promising four spades) was automatic. When North's next bid was 4♥, South knew North didn't have four hearts (since he didn't raise hearts at his second turn) or four spades (since he didn't carry on to 4♠); so he passed 4♥ because he had better hearts than spades.

When West led the unbid suit, South pitched dummy's losing spade and won trick one with his ace. It seemed like the best strategy was to draw trump and set up diamonds, so South's next play was a low heart at trick two, dummy's 10 winning. Then South played the Ace of diamonds (trick three) and ruffed a diamond low (trick four), thereby making all of dummy's diamonds good. He led the queen of hearts to trick five, which won the trick as East followed suit.

At this point, South led a heart to the ace, planning on claiming the rest of the tricks if East followed (i.e. if hearts were originally 3-3). Unfortunately, East discarded a spade on this trick. South started running diamonds at trick seven, but East trumped in right away with his king of hearts and led a second round of clubs. South was now out of trumps, so this allowed the defense to cash four club tricks in addition to its trump trick and put the contract down 2. North-South received ½ of a match-point on a 17 top.

Once the queen of hearts won trick five, South should have played safe by leading a spade to dummy (trick six) to start running diamonds (trick seven), discarding a club from his hand. West would have trumped in with his 9 of hearts at trick seven and presumably continued clubs at trick eight (his best play), forcing dummy to ruff with the ace of trump.

This would have been the 5-card ending.

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

At this point, South can lead a good diamond, discarding his last club and – regardless of when West ruffs in – his only trick will be the K♥. 4♥, making five, would have given North-South 15 matchpoints out of 17, losing only to two North-South pairs who overreached to 6♦, a lucky make on a club lead.

It should be noted that South would have made six instead of seven if trumps actually were 3-3, as his only loser would have been the K♥. So South lost 14.5 matchpoints by trying for thirteen tricks (instead of twelve) if hearts were 3-3, even though an original 3-3 split (36%) is less likely than an original 4-2 split (48%).



### Lunatic Fringe *continued from previous page*

With the diamond lead to the ace, West continued diamonds, forcing a ruff with the jack or ten, and setting up the ♥9 as the setting trick.

It's difficult to fault North for taking the heart preference. After all, if South had a small spade instead of the jack, and a sixth heart as well, a heart contract would be safer against a bad major-suit break.

In summary, only South knows about the possession of the ♠J. That important information should be enough to choose spades as the strain, rather than leaving the choice to partner.



# UNIT 126 TOP 200\*

Rank	MPs	Name	Rank	MPs	Name	Rank	MPs	Name
1	25,558	Richard DeMartino	69	2,962	Howard Lawrence	137	1,827	Walter Joelson
2	20,912	John Stiefel	70	2,914	Ann Cady	138	1,812	Nancy Krech
3	18,933	Harold Feldheim	71	2,905	Thomas Hyde	139	1,807	Louise Wood
4	16,298	Douglas Doub	72	2,865	Seth Cohen	140	1,801	June Hearrell
5	11,870	Victor King	73	2,821	David Benjamin	141	1,796	Sharon Larson
6	11,761	Geoffrey Brod	74	2,774	Elliot Ranard	142	1,790	Jane Finn
7	10,945	Larry Bausher	75	2,770	Susan Seckinger	143	1,786	Arlene Leshine
8	9,772	Franklin Merblum	76	2,758	David Margolin	144	1,769	Nell Otto
9	7,585	Lawrence Lau	77	2,682	Flora Bery	145	1,767	Debbie Benner
10	7,457	Marvin Rosenblatt	78	2,667	Nancy Starr	146	1,757	Hilda Kolb
11	6,927	Steve Becker	79	2,658	Natalie Aronsohn	147	1,750	Ronald Brown
12	6,301	Hilda Silverman	80	2,651	Barb Shaw	148	1,750	Marie Abate
13	6,107	Allan Clamage	81	2,646	Jay Force	149	1,746	Judith Merrill
14	5,632	Arthur Waldmann	82	2,615	Vesna Hauptfeld	150	1,740	Gerald Greitzer
15	5,470	Marilyn Goldberg	83	2,589	Caryl Schenker	151	1,739	Mark Stasiewski
16	5,092	Franklin Silver	84	2,574	Charlotte Zultowsky	152	1,732	George Holland
17	5,088	Monika Weber	85	2,565	Linda Green	153	1,721	William Watson
18	5,024	Bernard Schneider	86	2,562	Virginia Naugler	154	1,719	John McCartney
19	5,023	Sandra DeMartino	87	2,556	Micki Schaffel	155	1,700	Kate Burton
20	4,982	Jane Smith	88	2,531	Terry Brewster	156	1,698	Denise Lombard
21	4,658	Allan Rothenberg	89	2,526	Helen Kobernusz	157	1,697	Beverly Saunders
22	4,562	Sarah Budds	90	2,514	Susan Pffederer	158	1,686	Alice Hummel
23	4,503	Cynthia Michael	91	2,513	Aimee Housholder	159	1,676	J Michael Carmiggelt
24	4,463	Betty Jane Corbani	92	2,511	Susan Rodricks	160	1,658	Jean Schiaroli
25	4,441	Don Stiegler	93	2,508	Frankie Brown	161	1,658	Lois Labins
26	4,376	Doris Greenwald	94	2,478	Ausra Geaski	162	1,647	Dave Richheimer
27	4,357	Janet Gischner	95	2,472	Kathleen Frangione	163	1,635	Peter Amedeo
28	4,275	Randolph Johnson	96	2,470	Gail Carroll	164	1,624	Lea Selig
29	4,149	Stephen Earl	97	2,463	Peter Bonfanti	165	1,606	Paul Pearson
30	4,099	Tom Joyce	98	2,461	Elizabeth Nagle	166	1,590	Solomon Field
31	4,019	Joan Brod	99	2,436	Burton Gischner	167	1,582	Kevin Hart
32	3,995	Frances Schneider	100	2,423	Russell Friedman	168	1,577	Robert Rising
33	3,988	Richard Wieland	101	2,406	Bunny Kliman	169	1,551	Rochelle Shapiro
34	3,986	Jeff Horowitz	102	2,392	John McGuire	170	1,551	Paul Proulx
35	3,941	Allan Wolf	103	2,335	Joyce Stiefel	171	1,547	Lynn Zimmer
36	3,910	Frank Blachowski	104	2,301	Laurie Robbins	172	1,523	Joan Salve
37	3,847	Jeffrey Goldman	105	2,273	Amos Foster	173	1,520	Joy Bacci
38	3,801	Lesley Meyers	106	2,258	Karen Barrett	174	1,518	Donald Brueggemann
39	3,670	Lynn Condon	107	2,251	Donna Feir	175	1,505	Carl Yohans Jr
40	3,628	Yeong-Long Shiue	108	2,246	Thomas Hey	176	1,502	William Selden
41	3,623	Pat Hartman	109	2,194	Jerry Jacobs	177	1,498	John Farwell
42	3,585	Margaret Mason	110	2,184	Nancy Earel	178	1,494	Vera Gerard
43	3,559	Gloria Sieron	111	2,176	Nancy Robertson	179	1,494	Joann O'Connell
44	3,549	Sarah Corning	112	2,157	Linda Starr	180	1,492	Mary Leclair
45	3,547	Kenneth Abelson	113	2,155	Bill Reich	181	1,480	Susan Tane
46	3,469	Charles Halpin	114	2,130	David Ulmer	182	1,473	Lorraine Marcinek
47	3,445	David Ehler	115	2,078	Barbara Biggs	183	1,466	Lucia Hilton
48	3,365	Peter MacCuaig	116	2,078	Michael Smith	184	1,464	Terry Fidler
49	3,364	Maeve Lucey	117	2,069	William Titley	185	1,454	Daniel Nocera
50	3,354	Edwin Lewis III	118	2,047	Kay Howe	186	1,449	Thomas Gerchman
51	3,274	Joel Wolfe	119	2,027	Eleanor Gimon	187	1,446	Michael Hess
52	3,273	Marsha Futterman	120	2,025	Joan Martin	188	1,445	Judith Pyka
53	3,265	Sonja Smith	121	2,021	Paul Miller	189	1,443	Adrian Rebollo
54	3,208	Mildred Fromm	122	2,016	Anita Lanzoni	190	1,441	Richard Moss
55	3,186	Morris Feinson	123	2,005	Jeanne Zendman	191	1,434	Billie Hecker
56	3,157	Enid Steinmark	124	2,000	Helma Strauss	192	1,428	Jill Fouad
57	3,155	Brett Adler	125	1,984	Reginald Harvey	193	1,411	Cecilia Vasel
58	3,147	Arthur Crystal	126	1,975	Hoby Littlefield	194	1,411	Louis Brown
59	3,144	Constance Graham	127	1,951	Mary Scarfi	195	1,407	Carmela Marcella
60	3,144	Sallie Abelson	128	1,951	Betty Ustanowski	196	1,390	Chet Latin
61	3,132	John Segal	129	1,938	James Misner	197	1,385	Thomas Lorch
62	3,119	Jay Borker	130	1,932	Patrick Salve	198	1,381	Partab Makhijani
63	3,100	Natalie Cohen	131	1,929	Bess Economos	199	1,380	Esther Watstein
64	3,077	Lenny Russman	132	1,922	Terry Lubman	200	1,379	Jean Thoma
65	3,041	William Wood	133	1,919	Dixie Mastrandrea			
66	3,004	Phyllis Bausher	134	1,892	David Blackburn			
67	2,996	Joan Panico	135	1,840	Bonnie Reyes			
68	2,971	Sharon Santow	136	1,831	Elaine Misner			

\*Paid-up members as of Jan. 7 2015



# 2015 CALENDAR



## FEB.-MAR.

27-1 Fri.-Sun. Connecticut Winter Sectional, Hamden

## MARCH

2 Mon. Aft. ACBL-wide Senior Game, Local clubs

12-22 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs-4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Spring Nationals, New Orleans, LA

24-30 Tues.-Mon. STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs

## APRIL

2 Thurs. A.M. ACBL-wide Charity Game, Local clubs

9 Thurs. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

24 Fri. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

## APR.-MAY

29-3 Wed.-Sun. New England Senior Regional, North Falmouth, MA

## MAY

6 Wed. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

20-25 Wed.-Mon. New York City Regional, New York, NY

## JUNE

1 Mon. Eve. Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs

1-7 Mon.-Sun. District 3 Regional, Saratoga Springs, NY

5 Fri. Eve. Worldwide Bridge Contest #1, Local clubs

6 Sat. Aft. Worldwide Bridge Contest #2, Local clubs

12-14 Fri.-Sun. Connecticut Spring Sectional, Hamden

15-21 Mon.-Sun. STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs

23-28 Tues.-Sun. New England Summer Regional, Nashua, NH

## JULY

1 Wed. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

14 Tues. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

15 Wed. Eve. ACBL Int'l Fund Game 2, Local clubs

24 Fri. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

## AUGUST

4 Tues. Eve. Evening Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

6-16 1<sup>st</sup>Thurs.-3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. ACBL Summer Nationals, Chicago IL

21-23 Fri.-Sun. Connecticut Summer Sectional, Hartford

24 Mon. Eve. Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs

25 Tues. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

28 Fri. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

## SEPTEMBER

1-6 Tues.-Sun. New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI

9 Wed. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

15 Tues. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

17 Thurs. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

26 Sat. Day Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs

29-4 Tues.-Sun. District 24 Regional, Smithtown, NY

## OCTOBER

5-11 Mon.-Sun. District 3 Regional, Danbury

16 Fri. A.M. ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint, Local clubs

17-18 Sat.-Sun. District 25 NAP Qualifying, Sturbridge, MA

19-25 Mon.-Sun. STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs

30-1 Fri.-Sun. Connecticut Fall Sectional, Hamden

## NOVEMBER

4-8 Wed.-Sun. District 25 Regional, Mansfield

12 Thurs. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

16 Mon. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

30 Mon. Eve. ACBL-wide Charity 2, Local clubs

## NOV.-DEC.

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

## DECEMBER

14 Mon. Day Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

15 Tues. Eve. Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

21 Mon. A.M. ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3, Local clubs

26-31 Fri.-Wed. New York City Regional, New York, NY

## IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin*

Stanley Augenstein, North Haven, CT  
Stanley Berger, Greenwich, CT  
Richard Blair, Old Lyme, CT  
Robert E. Hale, West Hartford, CT

Paul M. Ibsen, Shelton, CT  
Julie Noyes, Niantic, CT  
Cal Tinson, Glastonbury, CT

Bridge offers multiple chances for redemption, but the evening session seemed pretty much like the afternoon session except that Harold was the declarer on eight hands. He seemed to be doing great. On this hand, he opened four clubs as West and the bid was passed out.

	North	
	♠ Q J x x	
	♥ K Q x x	
	♦ J x x x	
	♣ K	
West		East
♠ 9		♠ K 10 x x x
♥ A x x		♥ 8 6
♦ x		♦ A K x x x
♣ Q J 10 9 x x x x		♣ x
	South	
	♠ A x x	
	♥ J 10 x x x	
	♦ Q x	
	♣ A x x	

Who could blame North-South for passing? And who could blame North for leading a heart? My little club produced a trick. My diamonds produced two tricks. Harold made his contract, losing two clubs and a heart. After the session, we checked the leader board and were shocked to learn we were leading our section by 17 points. A few seconds later, Harold learned we had a 69% game.

A couple of minutes later, the overall results were posted and we had vaulted from approximately 46th all the way to 5th. Harold received 5.54 golds and now all he needs are 1.5 red points to become a life master. How could the scores have turned out to be so bizarre? How could two solid games turn into one average game and one spectacular game? Divine Providence, a fancy phrase for luck.

In the afternoon, we had no luck. In the evening, we had tons of luck. On the way back on I-95, we got stuck in construction for a full hour. We had plenty of time to go over some hands.



**Missed Preempt** *continued from page 5*

The position is now:

North
♠ A 9 8
♥ 9
♦ - - -
♣ 9
South
♠ - - -
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 9 8
♣ - - -

All follow as you ruff in dummy. Now, you play the ♠A, tossing your last diamond. You get a bonus. LHO ruffs with the ♥A(!) and continues with a fourth round of diamonds. RHO desperately ruffs with the ♥J, but to no avail, as you emerge with a highly unlikely overtrick.

Your LHO held ♠105 ♥A3 ♦AKQ1042 ♣K74. What do you think of that?

You should think that it's far too good for a strong NT (15-17). Consider, in evaluating a long suit for NT purposes, it's generally reasonable to add a point for the fifth card in the suit and two points for the sixth, if the suit quality is good. You may have to temper this a bit because, were you to evaluate this as 19 and express it as 19, partner may expect you to have more in the way of stoppers in the short suits. A 1♦ opening is normal. However, were someone to force you to choose between 1NT and 2NT, you should opt for two. It's less of an overbid than one is an underbid.

And think about this: If your LHO had opened 2NT, he would have preempted you out of 4♥.



# 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 April 15, 2015.

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

**If you would like to receive The Kibitzer via e-mail, let us know. Email Linda Starr at [lindastarr48@gmail.com](mailto:lindastarr48@gmail.com)**

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