



THE KIBITZER

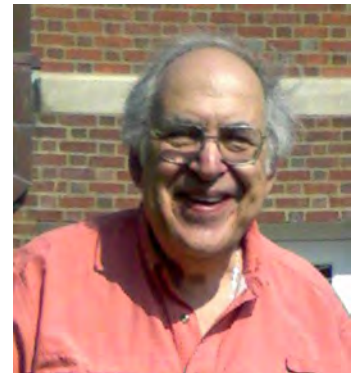
A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Volume 19 • Number 3 • August 2015

A Cast-Iron Contract?

by Harold Feldheim



Bridge has many facets of enjoyment, which is probably why so many of us are addicted. One of its great joys is finding a way to convince one's opponents to not take their maximum number of tricks. This is particularly satisfying when perpetrated by the defenders. In the case below, one must almost feel sorry for declarer. If he hadn't held the ♠9, he wouldn't have had a problem, but...

Dealer: South
North-South Vulnerable

North
♠ A K Q 7
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 5 4 2

South
♠ 9 5 3
♥ K 7 2
♦ A K 4
♣ A K 8 7

South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass

Lead: ♦10

The bidding was straightforward. North chose not to bid Stayman because of his 4-3-3-3 shape. I'm not sure I agree with that decision, since South might have been off-shape, but it would have made no difference; 3NT would still have been the final contract.

It looks like a fine contract; with three spades, one heart, two diamonds, and two clubs, a ninth trick will appear if either the spades split 3-3 or West holds the ♥J. Winning the opening lead, South cashed the A-K of spades, East producing the J-10. This has both good and bad features; his ♠9 is now a trick, but if he plays the queen, West's ♠8 becomes the high card.

Needing a second heart trick, South leads a spade to his 9 and a heart to dummy's 10 losing to the jack. East leads the ♦Q, scuttling the contract. The complete hands:

North
♠ A K Q 7
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 5 4 2

West
♠ 8 6 4
♥ 8 6 4 3
♦ 10 9
♣ J 9 6 3

East
♠ J 10 2
♥ A J 9
♦ Q J 8 6 3
♣ Q 10

South
♠ 9 5 3
♥ K 7 2
♦ A K 4
♣ A K 8 7

As it turned out, spades broke 3-3 and the potential 4-2 split was an illusion perpetrated by East. Due to East's alert false card, North-South was the only pair to get set in 3NT. South, who was above all things an excellent sport, gave full marks to East:

"If only I didn't hold the nine of spades," he said wryly.



Do you ever wonder what the bridge pros make? According to bridgeguys.com, "for a weekday three-hour tournament at a club, pros fetch anywhere from \$150 to \$225. For regional tournaments, pros make in the neighborhood of \$500 to \$1,000 for a day, which consists of two three-hour tournaments. For larger national tournaments, pros make up to \$3,000 per day, while the very best pros charge clients annual retainer fees of up to \$200,000 and pull in seven-figure incomes."

From the CBA President

It happens occasionally. The hand is over, you're ready to record the score—unfortunately down one—and RHO doesn't agree. You're sure it's down one; opponent has it down two. Opponent's partner has lost her voice; your partner has collected and shuffled her cards and returned them to the board.

After a lot of back and forth, the director helps figure it out, but this is the reason the ACBL requires all players to correctly place their cards face down after each play. (A played card is placed lengthwise, pointing toward the opponents if lost; pointing toward partner if won.) This is the record of the play and, at the end of the hand, everyone needs to agree on the result. Sometimes declarer is so involved in the strategy of the play, he doesn't focus on keeping his cards correctly. It's not a good idea for dummy to communicate anything to declarer during the play of the hand, however. Information (i.e. correcting the number of tricks won or lost) communicated to declarer during play can interrupt his concentration and affect how he finishes playing the hand. Opponents, however, need to be mindful and careful that they're positioning their cards properly for each trick.

It's definitely dummy's responsibility to keep the played cards in their proper order, regardless of what declarer has in front of him. And it's the responsibility of all four players not to "mush-up" their

cards before everyone is in agreement about the outcome.

Speaking of shuffling the hand; it's a good idea to do that before returning the hand to the board. This is most obviously important if the hand is passed out. Those nicely arranged cards can give players at the next table a good portion of the story. Players can take inference and gain information about the play of the hand from the order of the cards as they come out of the board. Agree on the hand result, shuffle your cards, and return them to the board.

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This has come up recently, so to refresh everyone's memory, your CBA Board arranges—usually four—Sectional Tournaments each year in convenient locations, with two sessions each day on Friday and Saturday and a Swiss Team event on Sunday. The two session games on Friday and Saturday are scored individually and players are welcome to play one session or both as they choose. Players can earn both silver and black points at Sectional Tournaments. Gold (and red) points are earned at Regional Tournaments, which are arranged by the New England Bridge Conference at sites throughout the New England states.

Players who are members of the ACBL, our national association, can play and earn points at any tournament throughout the United States, in

Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda. They can also earn points at ACBL-sanctioned games, at open club games, on cruise ships, or online at Bridge Base.com.

The purpose is for everyone to have an enjoyable experience playing bridge at a club or tournament, on the computer, or aboard ship. At tournaments, players have the opportunity to play in larger games, which are either stratified or strati-flighted. Often, a special 299er or newcomer section is held. ACBL rules state that clubs within 25 miles of a Sectional or Regional tournament may not hold special events or award extra points during the dates of a tournament.

All that being said, I hope to see you at our Hamden Sectional, October 30-November 1 or at the Regional in Warwick, RI, September 1-6—and, of course, at the club.

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We are saddened by the death of Bernard Schneider who passed away very suddenly on July 2. Bernard was an active member of the CBA Board. He loved bridge in every phase; the play of the game, the work of the Board, the governance of the association, and the procedures of the tournaments. Bernard will be greatly missed.

Esther Watstein
President, CBA

California, Here She Comes!

By Liz Shamroth



Hilda Silverman, long a major presence in the world of Connecticut duplicate bridge, is moving to California to be closer to family.

A Diamond Life Master with nearly 6,400 points, Hilda has been playing duplicate bridge for more than 40 years. Initiated into the game by friends, she was a quick study, rapidly achieving extraordinary expertise. She won several important national pairs and team tournaments, and was twice champion at the Bermuda Regional. In addition to being a regular player at the Hartford Bridge Club, Hilda also taught bridge classes at the Hartford Golf Club and the Town and County Club in Hartford. By her estimate, at least 100 people have passed through her classes. She advises new players to "Get in the kitchen and take your licks." She also suggests that less experienced players "Pick the brains of better players."

Hilda has witnessed many changes through the years, both in the game of bridge and at the Hartford Bridge Club. She notes that both the game and the club have become more inclusive and more welcoming to newcomers. At HBC, for example, there is now a strong emphasis on instruction.

Although Hilda is looking forward to the mild winters in southern California and to reuniting with her favorite bridge partner, Valerie Klein, she is sorry to be leaving all her Connecticut bridge friends and partners.

Good luck Hilda. You will be missed.



Can't Cost Method – Chapter 44

by John Stiefel

In this deal from a recent Regional Swiss Team event, declarer made a thoughtful “can’t cost” play to bring home a seemingly unmakeable game.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: None

North
 ♠ 9 5 4
 ♥ K 6 4 3
 ♦ A Q J 6
 ♣ A 6

South
 ♠ K 10 7 3 2
 ♥ A J 8 5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 5 3

Bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥7 (lowest from odd/third best from even)

The bidding was fairly straightforward. North showed a minimum balanced hand without four spades. South’s 2♣ bid was “new minor forcing.” North, with a maximum hand for a 1NT rebid and a ruffing value, jumped to 3♠ and South bid the spade game.

At trick one, declarer played low from dummy and captured East’s ♥9 with his jack. It seemed right to get a club ruff in dummy, so the next three tricks were A♣, club to the king, and a club ruff. At trick 4, West played the ♣9 and East played the queen.

Now South started on trump, leading dummy’s 9♠ to East’s 6 and West’s queen. (Technically, the best play in the trump suit is low, but South hoped he could coax East into ducking from a holding like Qx or Jx.) At trick 6, West returned the ♥2 and—surprisingly—East discarded a diamond and South was able to win this trick with his ♥5!

At this point, South remembered the old rule: “Stop and think when something unexpected happens.” His first conclusion was that East didn’t ruff because he was out of trump; so

East started with 1-1 in the majors and West started with 4-4 including AQJ8 of spades. His second conclusion was that playing any more rounds of trump at this point was doomed to failure, as West would win the trick as cheaply as possible, exit in any side suit, and sit back and wait for his two remaining trump tricks. His third conclusion was that he could make the hand if West started with exactly 4-4-2-3 distribution. So he played the hand based on that assumption: He led a diamond to dummy’s ace at trick seven and ruffed a diamond at trick eight (both opponents following). This reduced his trump holding to the same length as West’s. Then he cashed the ♥A and dummy’s ♥K at tricks nine and ten. (Not surprisingly, West, who couldn’t ruff a heart lead at trick six, still couldn’t ruff heart leads at tricks nine and ten). Now South was down to K107 of trump and West had AJ8, so South could lead any card from dummy and play any trump from his hand, and West would be endplayed at trick twelve—forced to lead away from his spade tenace to give South the game-going trick. In actual practice, South led a spade from dummy and played his ♠7 to trick eleven and West, upon winning his ♠8, had to lead away from his AQ at trick 12. The entire deal was:

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

A few comments.

First, North might have bid 3♥ instead of 3♠ in response to South’s “new minor forcing” 2♣ bid—the theory being that a 4-4 heart fit (if one exists) might play better than a 5-3 spade fit. I agree with North’s actual choice for two reasons.

First, his ruffing value in clubs (ruffing in the short hand) is likely to be more useful in a spade contract than in a heart contract. Second, a good general guideline is “the less information you give your opponents in the bidding, the better.” Indeed, West might not have led a heart if he’d known North also had four cards in the suit.

Second, I don’t like East’s ♣Q falsecard at trick four (when North ruffed the third round of clubs). As is often the case with falsecards, partner is fooled, but declarer isn’t harmed at all. In this case, it seemed to West that declarer had started with five clubs in addition to his five spades, so he would have no losers outside the trump suit and a heart return at trick seven would be as good as anything else.

Third, what if West had started with one diamond or none? Wouldn’t he be able to ruff North’s ace or over-ruff the second round of diamonds, exit safely in clubs, and wait back with his trump tenace? Well, yes—but then there would be no way to make the hand anyway. So South’s diamond plays were “can’t cost”—gaining the contract on this particular distribution, but losing the same four trump tricks on any other distribution.

Before closing, I leave you with this bidding problem.

At favorable vulnerability, you hold ♠A64, ♥KJ1085, ♦83, ♣AK7. Your partner opens 2♦ (weak), RHO overcalls 2♠, you bid 3♦, and LHO raises to 3♠. Now partner—surprisingly—bids 4♦. RHO passes and now it’s up to you. Do you pass 4♦ or raise to 5?

Answer: Neither! You bid 4♥, which “can’t cost.” Partner is likely to be void in spades in this bidding and, although you expect him to be 6-5 in the minors, there’s no reason he can’t actually have three or even four hearts. If he is 6-5 in the minors, he can remove 4♥ to 5♣ and you can always get to 5♦ after bidding 4♥. Partner’s actual hand was: ♠—♥Q1073 ♦AQ10765 ♣943.





Fairfield County Bridge

Beginning September 14, at 9:30 a.m., a Monday morning "Newplicate" game will be held at the Mather Center in Darien. The game is open to players with 0-20 masterpoints. For more information, or to get on the mailing list, contact Karen Barrett at 203-286-7530.

Hamden Bridge Forum

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz have set a record-smashing pace, and may already be too far ahead for anyone to catch up. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller are about one win ahead of Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners for second. Jon Ingersoll is in two of the top ten partnerships.

Player-of-the-Year: Jeff played once without Kevin, which has put him ahead, as they both have a commanding lead over the Rita-Harold partnership and Bill Reich.

Leonora Stein Cup: The Jeff-Kevin juggernaut continued all spring as they became the first pair of regular partners to reach a Cup final against each other. A tiebreaker was prepared, but proved unnecessary, when Kevin missed the first week of the final and Jeff played with David Richheimer, easily beating the absentee score and picking up yet another Cup victory.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker had a strong run early in the quarter to pull ahead. Steve Grodzinsky-Hank Voegeli and Breta Adams-Karlene Wood are not far behind, with a bit of separation from a tight pack. No player is in two of the top twelve partnerships.

Player-of-the-Year: The wild first quarter standings have settled a bit. Jeffrey Blum retains a slim lead over Harold Miller, with the Erik-Jim partnership third and Rita Brieger fifth.

Aldyth Claiborn Cup: Both halves of the Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern partnership reached the semifinals. But, while Larry defeated Marilyn Zolot to insure this Cup's first male winner, Hill lost to Jeffrey Blum, who took a decent lead in the first week of the final. Larry rallied in the second week. In the end, Louise Wood played spoiler, gambling on a grand slam that her partner's ace was

in the right suit opposite her 6-6 hand with one loser. The resulting set gave Jeffrey an extra half match point, which he needed to preserve a margin of victory of 0.18%.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Yearly Statistics: Breta Adams-Karlene Wood bid and made three grand slams in one game to take the lead with five, one ahead of Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz and Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker. Fredda Kelly, Louise Wood, and Judy Long are leading in passouts. Halfway through the year, Fredda is averaging 10.16 HCP per hand. Rita Brieger defeated Tracy Selmon by 64.86%-48.58% in the Slam Challenge and defends against Louise in the summer.

Overall Player-of-the-Year: Nobody new broke into the top five, although Kevin Hart and Jeff Horowitz increased their lead over Rita Brieger to more than five weeks. Harold Miller did go into fourth place over Hill Auerbach.

Helen Frank Cup: Early good form came from Hank Banach, Tracy Selmon, and Larry Stern, but the Kevin and Jeff juggernaut was in full command before the end of May, and it was only a question of which would have better luck in the opponents he drew. In the end, Jeff prevailed, having defeated his opponents in May and June by nearly 36 top boards.

Newtown Bridge Club

Summer and fall are bringing additions and changes to Newtown Bridge Club.

NLM/499er sections, exclusively for non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints, will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for four or more tables.

Hand records will become available for all games in August, when new dealing equipment is implemented.

Beginning September 14, the start time for the Monday afternoon game will be moved to 12:30 p.m. to allow players to finish the game in daylight despite the shorter fall and winter days.

During the month of September, game fees for the 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening games will be \$5 for all players. These will be special games as part of the ACBL's International Fund month. Partners will be available for walk-in players.

The club will be closed October 5-7 for the Danbury regional tournament.

October 12-14 will be Team Week at Newtown Bridge Club. Swiss Team games will be held Monday, October 12, at 12:30 p.m.; Tuesday, October 13, at 10:00 a.m.; Tuesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, October 14, at 10:00 a.m. Advance reservations are recommended.

Newtown Bridge Club plays Monday through Wednesday at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown CT. Directions and information may be found at the club's website: www.newtownbridge.org.

Southport Bridge Club

The Southport Bridge Club has moved. Please join us at our new location: The Trinity Episcopal Church 1734 Huntington Turnpike Trumbull, CT Monday July 27, 2015 Game time: 10:30 a.m. Phone: [203 923 2899](tel:2039232899)

Directions to Trinity Episcopal Church: Take the Merritt Parkway North. Get off at Exit 51, Huntington Turnpike. At the end of the ramp, turn left. Go over the Merritt. Continue for a short distance and you'll see the library and the church on the right. Turn into that driveway and park in the back of the building. Don't use the stairs in the back of the building. There's an entrance on the right side of the back of the building where you can just walk in.

Wee Burn

Players are enjoying bridge at the Beach Club this summer. Spring Series winners were:

1. Molly Johnson-Mary Ellen Mcguire.
2. Marilyn Tjader-Barbara Johnson
3. Meredith Dunne-Joan Bergen
4. Linda Cleveland-Mary Richardson
5. Janet Soskin-Betty Hodgman
6. Dave Mordy-Joe Holmes

WOODWAY DBC

Winners of the Spring Series are:
First Place: Mary Richardson and Betty Hodgman
Second Place: Millie Fromm and Janet Soskin
Third Place: Martha Hathaway and Marilyn Tjader

We have a new Gold Life Master: Susan Mayo.





Fixes, Gifts, Etiquette, and Perspective

by Burton Saxon

Duplicate players frequently use the terms “fix” and “gift.” Both terms refer to a key reason your score during a single session of duplicate will be high, average, or low. Yet there are many nuances here and, I will argue, those nuances have implications for bridge etiquette and for a healthy perspective about the game.

A fix is when the opponents do something wrong, but get a good result. Here’s an example: The opponents bid 6NT, missing three kings and needing three successful finesses to make twelve tricks. All three finesses succeed, and you and your partner are unhappy to see a 12.5% slam come home. You’ve been fixed by the opponents. What do you say about this at the table? Nothing—absolutely nothing. Nada. Zip. Zilch. Not a word. You try not to look at the opponents. Nor do you look at your partner, raise your eyebrows, or roll your eyes. You just go on to the next board. You do this even if one opponent says to the other, “nice bid” or “nice play.” You remain silent even when the scores are revealed and one opponent says, “We got a top!”

Sometimes, however, you’re fixed, not by the opponents, but by the field. In those cases, your opponents bid and play perfectly and receive a well-deserved top. Perhaps they’re the only pair in the room to bid a slam. Perhaps they make an overtrick through a well-designed squeeze. Or perhaps they find the killer defense. In a way, you’ve been fixed here

as well, but you don’t have to remain silent at this fix. Here, you should complement your opponents with a quick “nicely done,” “well-played,” “well-bid,” or “well-defended.”

If you know the opponents are experts, asking a question may be appropriate after you get a bad result. Once in Florida, I played against an expert whose name frequently appears in The ACBL Bulletin as a top-ten finisher in national tournaments. His partner bid 1NT, I passed, the expert bid 2♠, his partner alerted, and all passed. I neglected to ask for an explanation before my final pass. I thought it was possible the expert was playing with a client and that asking about the alert might not be a wise thing to do. After the expert made three, I noticed they played Jacoby transfers. I asked why they hadn’t used Jacoby on that hand. Their response was rather complicated; it involved using Jacoby with one type of spade holding, but bidding two spades with a different type of spade holding. The explanation certainly let me know why they both were experts. My partner and I ended up with a cold zero, but we were in no way “fixed” by the opponents. We were victims of expert bidding and declarer play.

Unlike in the real world, a gift at the bridge table doesn’t require thanks. In fact, a “thank you” is inappropriate. Let’s say the opponents in the example above bid 6NT missing three kings and this time all three kings are *offside*. You score

up 200 for your partnership, noticing that every other opponent scored 630 for 3NT making four. Once again you say nothing. Not one word. If the opponents say, “We just gave you a gift,” a quick “thank you” might be acceptable. But that’s it.

How much do fixes and gifts affect your duplicate score? A great deal if we’re talking about one round. Anywhere from a lot to a little if we’re talking about one session. Not much if we’re talking about one’s duplicate career. Luck does even out or, if you are mathematically inclined, you could say there is a regression to the mean.

Of course, we also need to note that the higher the level of play, the lower the number of fixes and gifts. But even experts occasionally get off track and give their opponents a fix or a gift.

So we also need to ask, “What is the optimal perspective toward fixes and gifts?” Perhaps the answer comes in these lines of Rudyard Kipling’s famous poem “If.”

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster

And treat these two impostors just the same:

That’s right. Shrug it off. Finish the session, thank your partner, and go on with your life. Will that always be easy? No. But it will keep you playing bridge and enjoying the game.



MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

New Life Masters (300 MPs)

Jon Bergen
Jonathan Clark
Judith Crystal
Midge Pappas
Mimi Van Dyke
Jane Young

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Kathleen Frangione
Russell Friedman
Judith Hyde

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Dinesh Gupta
Betty Hodgman
JoAnn Scata

Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #27: An Extra Chance

by Alan Wolf



Roger and the Professor had started playing a variation of Bergen raises that have become popular in some circles.

In this variation, responses to a major-suit opening are:

- 3♣ shows a 4-card raise with 7-12 points.
- 3♦ shows specifically a 3-card limit raise. This is the hand that, with old methods, you first bid 1NT, then jumped to three of the major at your next turn.

Following the 3♣ response, opener can then bid 3♦ to find out whether the 3♣ bid was constructive (7-9 points) or a full limit raise (10-12 points). Responder returns to three of the major to show the 7-9 range; any other bid implies a full limit raise.

The advantage of this variation is that the 3♦ bid gets the nature of your hand off your chest immediately at the three level; whereas, over a forcing 1NT, your opponent can make a competitive or lead-directing bid at the two level.

Professor (North)

♠ K J 8 3
♥ 6 4
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A Q 5 2

Warren (South)

♠ A Q 9 7 4 2
♥ A K 2
♦ 4
♣ 7 6 2

With both sides vulnerable, the bidding proceeded:

North	East	South	West
Professor	Majorca	Warren	Minna
	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Warren judged that he wanted to be in game if the professor had a full limit raise (10-12), but would be content at the three level if the Professor had only a constructive (7-9) raise. Hence, the 3♦ bid. In response, the Professor showed a full limit raise, cue bidding his ace along the way, in case Warren had slam interest.

The opening lead was the ♥Q.

When dummy came down, Warren saw that this was an easy contract, losing at most a diamond and two clubs. The club finesse would provide an easy overtrick, so important in a matchpoint game. Warren found an extra chance for the overtrick, even if the club finesse was off.

The layout suggested the possibility of an end play. After drawing trump, both red suits could be eliminated, still leaving trump in both dummy and declarer hands. The problem was getting East on lead at the right time, forcing him to lead a club into the AQ or to concede a ruff and sluff. The very low club spots made a club throw-in unlikely. Only if the West hand had a very unlucky club holding such as KJT or KJT9 could he be thrown in with the club suit.

Warren won the heart lead and took out trump in two rounds, ending in dummy. He then led a diamond, won with the king by East, who tried to cash the ♦A. Warren ruffed, cashed his second heart winner, and ruffed the third heart in dummy.

Now came the key play. Judging the unlikelihood of ducking a club into the West hand, Warren now cashed the ♠A before ruffing the third diamond back in hand. Then a club toward dummy's queen. If the king were with West, his club losers would still be limited to only one, but by playing this way, he would also limit his club losers if East started with king doubleton, as he would now be forced to lead a red card, giving up a ruff and sluff.

Sure enough, East won with the ♣K, and led back a diamond, allowing Warren to discard his remaining club loser, while ruffing in dummy.

The full hands:

Professor
(North)
♠ K J 8 3
♥ 6 4
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A Q 5 2

Majorca
(East)
♠ 10
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ Q 10 9 7
♣ J 10 9 3

Minna
(West)
♠ 6 5
♥ 9 7 5 3
♦ A K J 3 2
♣ K 8

Warren
(South)
♠ A Q 9 7 4 2
♥ A K 2
♦ 4
♣ 7 6 4

The AQX♣ combination in this hand is noteworthy. With a sure loser in the suit, it costs nothing to cash the ace first, planning later to lead toward the queen. On a lucky day, you may catch a singleton or doubleton king, to East's disadvantage.



IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the
ACBL Bridge Bulletin

John F. Akers, Westport, CT

Dixie L. Mastrandrea,
West Hartford, CT

The odds against each player being dealt a complete suit are
2,235,197,406,895,366,368,301,559,999
to 1.



Two Leads

by Geof Brod

Once again, it's the morning duplicate (and, yes, you are a regular). Halfway through, you pick up ♠Q63 ♥Q1043 ♦9874 ♣43—not very interesting, but don't worry, both partner and opponents are going to contrive to make things more lively.

You're in third seat and everyone is red. Partner starts with 2♠ and your RHO ventures 3♣. You, quite reasonably, decide not to get involved. 4♣ on your left; 4♥ on your right and then a majestic 7♣ on your left. Partner surprisingly doubles this and all pass. The auction has been:

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
2♠	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	7♣
Dbl	All Pass		

Before you can lead, the opponents volunteer that 4♣ was minorwood; in other words, a raise of partner's minor to the four level asks for keycards in that suit. Here, the 4♥ bid showed 0 or 3 keycards for clubs.

What's the double all about? Well, partner has smacked a freely bid slam. The general expectation is that he wants you to find an unusual lead. Frequently, he may have an unexpected void. Occasionally, he may have an ace in a suit he doesn't expect you to lead. In this instance, since the opponents used a keycard sequence, they're probably—barring a misunderstanding—not off an ace. Partner is likely to have a void.

A general rule that's useful in these situations is: Don't lead a suit bid by the partnership and absolutely do not lead trump. There are exceptions to the "don't-lead-a-suit-bid-by-the-partnership" rule, but they usually

involve opening leader having preempted in a suit at the three or four level and his partner wants to alert him that he can ruff that suit. That doesn't apply here.

Over to you—so not a spade and not a club. Which red suit are you going to opt for? You have equal length in both, so that's not helpful. Consider instead what kind of hand your LHO might have for his auction. He asked for keycards, and finding them all accounted for, committed to a grand.

It's possible he could have a big balanced hand just bristling with high cards, but those hands, while possible, are much less likely than a hand with a big trump fit and a side suit he expects will be a source of tricks. If that's his hand—and that's far more likely than the big balanced hand—dummy is going to hit with a red suit that's six- or seven-cards long and pretty solid, with all the keycards accounted for.

If that's the case, there's a clue and that clue is your ♥Q. Yes, it's true that dummy could hit with a heart suit that looks like AKJ10xx(x), but holding the queen suggests that dummy's source of tricks is more likely diamonds. It's far from 100%, but the odds are that partner can ruff a diamond. A diamond it is and you're gratified to see partner ruff.

Dummy's hand: ♠A ♥A97 ♦KQJ1062 ♣QJ6.

All right. If you didn't get that one, here's another chance. At favorable vulnerability, you hold ♠KJ105 ♥KQ86 ♦10832 ♣8 (once again from the morning duplicate). This time, the auction goes (you are West):

North	East	South	West (you)
1NT	2♥	3♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

First, some explanation: 1NT is strong, 15-17; 2♥ is DONT, showing both majors, and 3♦ by South is natural and forcing. This time, the opponents never asked for keycards. It's possible they could have had an accident, but frequently an auction like this suggests that declarer has a void and that Blackwood wasn't going to be helpful. Assume for the moment that partner's double is asking for an unusual lead. In other words, don't lead a suit bid by the partnership and absolutely never, never lead trump. Over to you.

This is an easier problem. Remember the "don't-lead-a-suit-bid-by-the-partnership" rule. What are those suits? They are hearts and ... yes, that's right ... spades. Partner did bid 2♥ showing the majors. Put a diamond on the table.

Partner's hand: ♠987432 ♥AJ10954 ♦void ♣5. She gratefully ruffs the diamond and lays down the ♥A which lives.

Lightner doubles are rare birds. You can go months, even years and never have an opportunity to use one. These two happened within the space of eight days, all at the morning duplicate.

Sadly, while the narrative would suggest that both resulted in good results, neither had a happy ending. On the first board, a spade was led and declarer chalked up 2330. On the second, the chance for the lead-directing double was missed when East passed at her final turn. West, with no reason to lead a diamond, put a spade on the table and declarer was able to pitch his losing heart and score 1390.



Do you think you recognize the hand you've just picked up?
 Have you seen it before? Unlikely!
 The number of possible hands one player can hold is 635,013,559,600. The total number of possible bridge deals is 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000.

2015 CALENDAR

AUGUST

4	Tues. Eve.	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
6-16	1 st Thurs.-3 rd 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 th Thurs.-1 st Sun.	ACBL Fall Nationals, Denver, CO
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DECEMBER

14	Mon. Day	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
15	Tues. Eve.	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
21	Mon. A.M.	ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3, Local clubs
26-31	Fri.-Wed.	New York City Regional, District 24

Hamden Bids A Fond Farewell...

by Rick Townsend

The Hamden Bridge Forum regrets to announce the passing of Emma Q Antonio, whose middle initial was perhaps second only to that of Grace Z Postman. Emma was able to play for several months past her 97th birthday this past January, her last game with us being on May 15.

Seven years ago, a private six-table individual (won by Sylvia Alpert) was held to celebrate Emma's 90th birthday. A feature of the party was a group photograph, in which all the invitees (except Muriel Lipman, who stuck by her principles) wore a hat. But we learned Emma's age long before she began to be proud of it. In 1985, on Martha Hollander's 70th birthday, she mentioned in loud tones in front of a half-full club that she couldn't believe she was only three years older than Emma.

In the 1980's, Emma and Pat Ardolino were a regular fixture in daytime games. Later, Emma became an extremely popular partner, even after February 1992, when Emma and Helen Frank finished second by half a point only hours before Helen died. Emma's most frequent partners this year were Arlene Leshine, Gert Pedersen, Lucy LaCava, and Mary Connolly.

In 1996, when the Van Dyke and Reynolds Cup were introduced, Emma and Eleanor DeBarros were the first two winners. Later, Emma reached the finals of the Claiborn Cup three times in five years without winning. While she never won another Cup, Emma was Louise Wood's partner when Louise broke Morse Ginsburg's record and won the Van Dyke Cup for a fourth consecutive year, even though nerves led Louise to pass Emma in a Bergen raise.

My favorite Emma hand was one on which Emma, playing with Dee Altieri, remembered to make a perfectly normal reopening double holding ♠AKxxx ♥Kxx ♦Kxx ♣Jx on the auction 1♠-2♣-Pass-Pass. This was highly fortunate, as Dee held ♠xx ♥J10 ♦Axxx ♣AQ1094, Emma's LHO having chosen to overcall vulnerable at the two-level on a five-card suit headed by the eight. Along the way to their +1400 for defending 2♣x (when the popular score was -50 for 3NT -1), Dee began cashing trump tricks late in the hand. Emma, having by that time completely forgotten which suit happened to be trumps, turned to LHO and asked, "Didn't you bid clubs?"



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, 2015.

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