

# THE KIBITZER



February 2004

A NEWSLET THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Volume 9 • Number 8

## Alert in the Funniest Places

by Harold Feldheim



Harold Feldheim

Now and again, bridge hands occur that warm the heart and cause laughter and joy no matter which side of the score you happen to be on. This hand occurred the afternoon of October 19, 2003, during the finals of the Grand National Pairs. Your humble writer (YHW) sat South.

|              |                    |                |         |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| <b>North</b> |                    | <b>East</b>    |         |
| ♠ 5 4 3 2    | ♠ A K Q 10 9 8 7 6 | ♥ 7            | ♥ 8 6 3 |
| ♥ 8 6 3      | ♦ A                | ♦ A            | ♦ 7     |
| ♦ 7          | ♣ Q 6 4            | ♣ K 8 7 3 2    | ♣ void  |
| ♣ K 8 7 3 2  | <b>South</b>       |                |         |
| <b>West</b>  | ♠ J                | ♥ A K Q J 10 5 |         |
| ♠ void       | ♥ A K Q J 10 5     | ♦ K J 10 9 4 2 |         |
| ♥ 9 4 2      | ♦ K J 10 9 4 2     | ♣ void         |         |
| ♦ Q 8 6 5 3  |                    |                |         |
| ♣ A J 10 9 5 |                    |                |         |

Dealer: North

Neither side vulnerable

| North | East  | South | West    |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Pass  | 2 ♣   | 2 NT  | 3 ♣     |
| Pass  | 3 ♠   | 4 ♥   | Dbl     |
| Pass  | 4 ♠   | 5 ♦   | Pass    |
| 5 ♥   | 5 ♠!! | Pass  | 6 ♠!!!! |

The auction was wild, wooly, and needs some explanation. As YHW (South) was thinking of how to describe my monster hand, East started with two clubs. My 2NT was conventional, showing either solid clubs or both red suits. West bid a natural 3♣ and East defined his hand with three spades. West's double of four hearts suggested penalties based on his spade void but West returned to four spades. With 6-6 distribution, I made one more try with five diamonds. North corrected to five hearts. East's five spades was eloquent in its stating no need for support from partner. On this

basis, West (Douglas Doub) made the excellent partnership bid of six spades.

With what looked like no defense, I led my sixth best heart. My hope was that partner (Pat Hartman) would hold the nine and be able to give me a ruff. But the 9-spot appeared in dummy. However, declarer (Frank Merblum) said "play small" and Pat won the eight, Frank contributing the seven. It didn't take long for a club to come back scuttling the contract.

Now here's the cute twist. Six spades was always doomed since declarer had an inescapable club loser. However, I literally led the only card in my hand to give declarer a chance to make his contract.

Bridge can be a very complicated game.

## The Whale

March 5 - 7

Groton Inn & Suites

Groton CT



Trophy will be awarded to the 0-300 MP player earning the most points for the weekend. Winners must play in at least 2 events.

### Pairing:

**Burt & Janet Gischner**

**860-691-1484**

**Anita Jones 860-442-2423**

### Hospitality:

**Kathy & Ed Shepherd**

### Questions:

**Barb Shaw 860-535-2901**

### NOTE: NEW STRATS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| A | 2000+    |
| X | 0-2000   |
| B | 750-1250 |
| C | 500-750  |
| D | 0-500    |

**Directions: From south.** I-95 north to exit 86 (left hand exit from Gold Star Bridge), onto Rte. 184 for 2/10 of a mile. Inn is first driveway on right.

**From north:** I-95 south to exit 86. Take first right, follow Kings Highway to stop sign, take right. Inn is on left.

Groton Inn & Suites. Special rate, \$79  
1-800-452-2191 Cut off date: Feb. 16

### Friday

Open & Senior Pairs 1:30 p.m.

Open Pairs 7:30 p.m.

### 3 Sessions on Saturday

10 am, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

1 p.m. Free Bridge Lecture

### Sunday

Stratflighted Swiss Teams 11 a.m.



# In 2004 the Rabbi is Right Again

By Gloria Sieron

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

This hand emphasizes the significance of holding good intermediate cards and the consequence of not having them. South opens the bidding with one heart. West competes with a one spade overcall. North, with 11 high point cards and a three-card fit, bids two spades – a limit raise or better. East passes. South, with 13 high point cards plus a singleton club, responds to the invitation by leaping to game and bidding four hearts.

West leads his Ace and King of spades, followed by a third spade, ruffed by East. East now leads the two of diamonds. Is it possible, seeing all the hands to score the rest of the tricks? Probably. Is it possible, with the West/East hands concealed from



Gloria Sieron

your view, to examine the clues that could lead to winning the remaining 10 tricks, fulfilling your game contract?

To begin a scientific investigation, the bridge crime scene detective must rely on probability tables. To find a frame of reference for the hand in question, we looked under "Suit Combinations" in *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*, 6th Edition. From page 447 to page 502 you find hundreds of possible suit combinations with the percentage of success. Shakespeare might express it, "To finesse or not to finesse?" The tables say yes, the finesse will produce the maximum number of tricks.

When you are the declarer and your time to be brilliant on any one hand is limited to about seven short minutes, your opponents would object if you stopped play and referred to *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*. However, you do have the advantage of Table Presence. Take a few moments at trick one to analyze the lead, review the auction, count winners in no trump, losers in a suit contracts, and think of how you're going to make all this work.

What clues (facts) do we know? West overcalled one spade. We don't know how good the overcall is. An opening hand? We know about eight high point cards. Does he have six more high points cards? Is his overcall based on a full opening bid? If so, he possesses the heart king and the club king. Do we have any other clues?

As a further tool, we have all the time-worn bridge adages to rely on: Second hand low, third hand high; cover an honor with an honor; and so on.

In a reverential frame of mind, we can invoke the Rabbi's Rule. If you believe the king is going to be offside, play the Ace; maybe you'll catch a singleton king.

## 2003 Mini-McKenney Race

Listed are the Unit 126 leaders in the 2003 Mini-McKenney Race. The Mini-McKenney tracks the most masterpoints won. These are postings for our Unit as of January 2004, for the year 2003.

### Rookie of the Year (0-5 MP)

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Meryl Reyman, Greenwich     | 114 |
| 2 Stuart Reyman, Greenwich    | 108 |
| 3 Robert Bruskey, W. Hartford | 58  |

### Junior Master of the Year (5-20 MP)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 1 Jose Gaztambide, Farmington | 48 |
| 2 Ian Fuller, Norwalk         | 37 |
| 3 Joy Keedy, Stratford        | 33 |

### Club Master of the Year (20-50 MP)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1 Craig Bode, Norwich                    | 80 |
| 2 Penelope Glassmeyer, Darien            | 61 |
| 3/4 Charles/Carolyn Schneider, Danielson | 58 |

### Sectional Master of the Year (50 - 100 MP)

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Jennifer Williams, Wilton     | 121 |
| 2 Eleanor Papineau, Marlborough | 108 |
| 3 Louis Brown, W. Hartford      | 101 |

### Regional Master of the Year (100-200 MP)

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Warren Williams, Wilton  | 187 |
| 2 Norma Augenstein, Hamden | 171 |
| 3 Edwin Lewis III, Bolton  | 166 |

### NABC Master of the Year (300-500 MP)

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Lynn Condon, W. Redding  | 190 |
| 2 Bill Filip, Stuart FL    | 127 |
| 3 Adam Hansen, New Britain | 108 |

### Life Master of the Year (300-500 MP)

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Mary Witt, Simsbury          | 127 |
| 2 Gary Seckinger, Wethersfield | 124 |
| 3 Trudy Patron, Brookfield     | 119 |

### Bronze Life Master of the Year (500-1000 MP)

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 J. Peter Tripp, Vernon    | 247 |
| 2 Thomas Hyde, Willimantic  | 217 |
| 3 Ausra Geaski, E. Hartford | 210 |

### Silver Life Master of the Year

(1,000 - 2500 MP)

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 Lawrence Lau, Westport  | 706 |
| 2 Jay Borker, Greenwich   | 233 |
| 3 Maeve Mahon, New Canaan | 231 |

### Gold Life Master of the Year

(2,500-5000 MP)

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Rita Ellington, Fairfield       | 468 |
| 2 Jim Cleary, Bloomfield          | 290 |
| 3 Frank Blachowski, Windsor Locks | 235 |

### Diamond Life Master of the Year

(5,000+ MP)

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Douglas Doub, W. Hartford | 794 |
| 2 Harold Feldheim, Hamden   | 644 |
| 3 Victor King, Hartford     | 289 |

### Grand Life Master of the Year (10,000 MP)\*

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Richard De Martino, Riverside | 827 |
| 2 John Stiefel, Wethersfield    | 642 |

\*National Championship Winners

# SENIOR MOMENTS

By Jim Greer

Many people scoff at senior events, and I bitterly opposed them, along with other “protected” events, when they were first proposed. Then I got hooked. The atmosphere in seniors is a bit more relaxed than in the open games, and if you do something stupid, so what? It’s a senior event, after all. And bridge is still great fun. Torture sometimes, of course, but still fun.

Allan Clamage (rhymes with “damage”) is my favorite partner for senior games, particularly teams, of which we’ve won a couple. My other favorite partner, Maeve Mahon, is not eligible for senior events.

Repeat – **NOT** eligible.

One thing I’ve noticed about senior events is that people tend to be very territorial about their table space. My LHO in a recent event didn’t want my coffee cup on the table, even though it was within my 25% of the table surface. She also didn’t want my convention card there. Come to think of it, she didn’t really want me at the table either. So I moved my coffee to the chair by my side, whereupon her partner knocked it over.

Here are some examples of senior moments that Allan and I have enjoyed:

**1.** Semifinal match in a senior KO. I’m distracted by chatter with friendly opponents and don’t see a king in my hand, so I pass in second chair. It goes pass, pass, partner tortures me by huddling forever, then bids 1♣. I bid 3NT. Making 4. Win 11. Opponents have a senior moment of their own and miss game at the other table despite the opponent with my hand having opened.



Jim Greer

**2.** I open 2♦ Flannery\* (5♥, 4♠). Pass by LHO and partner bids 2♥. RHO bids 3♣ and I pass. LHO passes and partner bids 3♠.

Curious. They bid 4♣ and I am clueless as to what is happening but I bid 4♥ as I have a maximum with a club void. Turns out he had five spades all along, had his spades in with the clubs. Just another senior moment.

\*Yes, I know I said I don’t like Flannery. That was then, this is

now... Wanna make something of it?

**3.** We are defending 4♠ doubled. One of us miscounts two suits, keeps the 13th card in another suit so as to pitch the setting trick. Minus 790. Lose 13 on the board, win 52-13 instead of 59-0.

**4.** Opponent opens 1NT, his partner bids 2♣. Opener now convinces himself his partner opened 2♣ and bids 2NT intending to drive to small slam while inviting grand. Auction proceeds 3NT; huddle by opener. We rescue them by asking for a review. No swing.

And here is a final teaser and bidding problem for you youngsters. You hold -

♠ Q J 10 x x

♥ A Q x x x

♦ void

♣ Q x x

Vulnerable vs. not, you pick up this collection in an early KO match. You are trailing at the half. Opponents are silent.

You bid 1♠, partner bids 1NT. You bid 2♥, partner bids 3♥.

Up to you, kids.

Answer next issue.

## Milestones Congratulations to...

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Robert A. Tourette  
Joan Salve  
Susan Seckinger  
George Shaver, Jr.  
Raymond Siuta

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Jerome Cramp  
John Libucha  
Lea Selig  
William Titley

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Stuart Carlson  
Vince D’Souza  
Adam Hansen  
Sally Kirtley  
Jeanne Striefler

And congratulations to **Jane Smith** who won the Larry Weiss trophy presented annually to the New England bridge player who exhibits superior behavior and gracious presence at the bridge table while achieving some degree of success in that year’s events. At the presentation, Jane was honored with these words, “Jane is a most delightful partner... her name is frequently found in overall listings at sectionals and regionals. Her attitude toward partners and opponents alike is always gracious. Jane served on her unit board for nine years and was editor of the *Kibitzer*, Connecticut’s newsletter... she is a supporter of local, sectional and New England regional events. ... District 25 would like to recognize Jane’s many contributions and honor her with this award.”



# The 'Can't Cost' (CC) Principle - Chapter II

By John Steifel

To review the "Can't Cost" (CC) method of play: if you know a particular play can't cost, just do it. You don't need to figure out if or how it might gain, only that it can't lose. Said another way, it's often easier to figure out a "can't cost" play to an early trick than all the details of what might happen later.

CC Chapter 2 features this hand from a recent Regional KO where a very fine player went down but would have made it if he had applied CC. (Would I have made it? Of course! I know the East-West hands!)

Dealer - West Vulnerability - Both  
Auction - **W** Pass, **N** 1C, **E** 1D, **S** 1H  
**W** Pass, **N** 1NT, **E** Pass, **S** 4H, All Pass  
Opening Lead - D10

|                      |              |   |               |
|----------------------|--------------|---|---------------|
| <b>North</b>         |              |   |               |
| ♠                    | K J 3 2      |   |               |
| ♥                    | A 2          |   |               |
| ♦                    | K 7 2        |   |               |
| ♣                    | Q 8 4 2      |   |               |
| <b>West (Dealer)</b> | <b>East</b>  |   |               |
| ♠                    | Q 10 9 4     | ♠ | 5             |
| ♥                    | Q 9 4        | ♥ | 8 6           |
| ♦                    | 10 9 4       | ♦ | A Q J 8 6 5 3 |
| ♣                    | 10 7 6       | ♣ | A J 9         |
| <b>South</b>         |              |   |               |
| ♠                    | A 8 7 6      |   |               |
| ♥                    | K J 10 7 5 3 |   |               |
| ♦                    | void         |   |               |
| ♣                    | K 5 3        |   |               |

The auction is interesting and I have a couple of comments. First, I prefer 3♦ to 1♦ with the East hand. With West being a passed hand and East having a low-ranking suit, East-West don't rate to buy the hand; so why not apply some pressure? East at the other table did that, found himself on lead against North's 3NT (after South bid 3♥) and ended up setting the contract four (!) tricks.

Second, what about North's rebid of 1NT with 4♠? Most people would rebid 1 spade but I think that's wrong based on "Dynamic Hand Evaluation" and "9 < 10." "Dynamic Hand Evaluation" says that the value of the North hand started out at 13 points but fell to 10 points (most likely) in a suit contract when

East overcalled. In a No Trump contract, however, the North hand is still worth 13 points. "9 < 10" says that game in No Trump requires only 9 tricks while game in a major requires 10. So which is better, a hand worth 10 points to support a quest for 10 tricks or a hand worth 13 points to support a quest for 9 tricks? Also, South might have a hand strong enough to be interested in a suit slam, so isn't it a good idea to warn him now about potential wasted strength in diamonds?

At any rate South bids 4♥ and ducks and ruffs the opening lead. Then:

Trick 2 - trump to North's A, East and West following low

Trick 3 - trump finesse, losing to West's Q

Trick 4 - ♦ 9 ruffed.

Trick 5 - K of trump, North and East throwing diamonds

Trick 6 - ♠ A

Trick 7 - Spade to North's Jack, East discarding a diamond

Trick 8 - Club to South's King, East ducking

Trick 9 - Club, ducked by West and North, East's Jack winning.

Trick 10 - ♦ A, South ruffing with his last trump

At this point, the 3-card ending is as follows and South can only take one more trick for down 1. He can set up dummy's 13th club for a spade discard, but he's out of trump, so East will cash 2 diamonds if he tries that.

|                      |             |   |     |
|----------------------|-------------|---|-----|
| <b>North</b>         |             |   |     |
| ♠                    | K           |   |     |
| ♥                    | -           |   |     |
| ♦                    | -           |   |     |
| ♣                    | Q 8         |   |     |
| <b>West (Dealer)</b> | <b>East</b> |   |     |
| ♠                    | Q 10        | ♠ | -   |
| ♥                    | -           | ♥ | -   |
| ♦                    | -           | ♦ | Q J |
| ♣                    | 10          | ♣ | A   |
| <b>South</b>         |             |   |     |
| ♠                    | 8 7         |   |     |
| ♥                    | -           |   |     |
| ♦                    | -           |   |     |
| ♣                    | 5           |   |     |



John Steifel

Well, how does CC apply here? I'll answer that with a question. How can it cost to start working on clubs at trick 3? East must have the club ace and he probably has a lot of diamonds

(or West would have scraped up a raise even without many points) so therefore not a lot of clubs, and if East has 3 or fewer clubs including the A, playing clubs now can never cost.

So lead to North's ♥A, play a club to the South's K and then a club to East's J at trick 4. Now East can't tap South in diamonds without surrendering the game-going trick to dummy's king; he has to play a major suit. He'll probably play a heart (a spade or the ♣A won't help). This gives South the key tempo, so he can try the losing trump finesse, ruff the diamond return, draw the last trump, take the winning spade finesse and still have one trump left when he sees that the spades aren't going. Having the one trump left allows him to concede a third-round club trick to East's ace, ruff the ♦A return and score the game-going trick with 4th round (Q) of clubs.

Going back to DT (deep thought), it's possible to think ahead along the lines of "what if the hearts are 3-2, the ♥Q is off, spades are 4-1, the ♠Q is on, clubs are 3-3 and East has the A? Then won't I have to start on clubs first so I don't get tapped out?" Isn't it easier, though, to ask, "how can it cost to play clubs first?"

In summary, the CC line of attacking clubs first is as good or better than the "normal" line of attacking trumps first in almost all likely layouts consistent with the opponents' bidding (including the actual layout). Only in very unlikely layouts (e.g. East has a hand like VOID, Q x x, AQ J x x x, A J x x) is it inferior.

## Darien Community Association

Fall 2003

1. Ursula Forman
2. Ruth Johnson
3. Susan Mayo
4. Frank Johnson
5. Wyman Proctor
- 6/7. Carol Davidson & Betty Hodgman
- 8/9. Mary Richardson & Janet Soskin
- 10/11. Vivian Gaines & Ann Towne

## Wee Burn News

Averaging 20+ tables per session, the 12 week Fall Series had the following winners:

1. Jean Thoma-Susan Mayo
2. Janet Soskin-Ginny Carron
3. Dottie Noyes-Betsy Philips
4. Mary Beach-Adele Hollingsworth
5. Lois Berry-Jan Moller
6. Whitey Spelbrink-Betty Russell

The December 4 charity game was won by Dottie Noyes and Betsy Philips with Jean Thoma and Susan Mayo a close second.

On December 11, 16 tables competed in a Swiss Team event with a tie for first place: Linda Cleveland-Karen Barrett, Jean Thoma-Susan Mayo; Lois Karcher-Betty Hodgman, Mary Richardson-Susie Nix

## Greenwich

The Greenwich YWCA's weekly duplicate game is held Mondays at 12:30 pm. Long-time director Steve Becker notes that a total of 194 players participated in at least one game during the year and 65 players qualified for the 2003 Player of the year contest by playing in at least 15 games.

Final standings are as follows:

- |                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Barbara Thompson | 57.4% |
| 2. Harriet Aberle   | 57.2% |
| 3. Eleanor Gimon    | 57.0% |
| 4. Terry Lubman     | 56.9% |
| 5. Nancy Lucht      | 56.3% |
| 6. Jim Aberle       | 56.2% |
| 7. Lydia Anderson   | 55.9% |
| 8/9 Sally Morgan    | 55.7% |
| 8/9 Lynn Weiss      | 55.7% |
| 10. Pat Dettmer     | 55.6% |

## Stamford

October was a busy month. The club appreciation pairs game was won by Carlos Muñoz and Allan Stauber. Then came our Mayor's cup trophy game won by Dorothy Kolinsky and Peter Schneidau.

Following that was club appreciation team game won by Aimee Housholder,

Doris Greenwald, Natalie Cohen and Betty MacInnis. In November the Men's pairs trophy went to Paul Burlison and Phil Silverstein, and the Women's pairs to Natalie Cohen and Doris Greenwald. December was quiet because of snow days and holidays but our Christmas dinner and Split Local was lots of fun the the game won by Karen Barrett and Doug Thompson. Happy New Year!

## Bridge Forum 4th Quarter/Year End Results

Tuesday - **VAN DYKE CUP:**

Jon Ingersoll, in the finals for the fourth time, came closer than ever to winning. With two rounds to go, he led Louise Wood by just under two tops, then saw his game unravel as the finish neared. Louise had just avoided elimination halfway through the event, but came through strongly in the last month to become the second repeating winner of this cup.

**Final Results:**

- 1 Louise Wood
- 2 Jon Ingersoll
- 3 Florence Schannon
- 4 Jean Shepler-Miller

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**

Poor Jon was pipped at the post again. He had the lead going into December, only to suffer when his partners had to cancel three weeks running, which allowed Fredda Kelly to sneak into a short lead. Jon got the better of the final game, but came one matchpoint short of the finish he needed.

**Final Results:**

- 1 Freda Kelly
- 2 Jon Ingersoll
- 3 Muriel Romero
- 4 Louise Wood
- 5 Inge-Maria Bellis
- 6 Helen Molloy
- 7 Rosemarie Tilney
- 8 Joel Tames

**Leading Pairs:**

- 1 Freda Kelly-Helen Molloy
- 2 Billie Hecker-Muriel Romero
- 3 Eleanor Seaman-David Walker
- 4 Hill Auerbach-Tracy Selmon
- 5 Bob Hawes-Joel Tames

Friday - **REYNOLDS CUP:**

Louise Wood built up a big lead and cruised through the final to become the first player to win three consecutive different cup competitions. Jean Shepler-Miller became the

first player to reach the finals of two concurrent cup competitions twice, but has yet to make it into the winner's circle.

**Final Results:**

- 1 Louise Wood
- 2 Jean Shepler-Miller
- 3 Eleanor Tucker
- 4 Emma Q. Antonio

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**

The Wood steamroller removed all doubt by early November. Helen Molloy secured the rare distinction of being in the top partnership for both days.

**Final Results:**

- 1 Louise Wood
- 2 Arlene Leshine
- 3 Dee Altieri
- 4-6 Ida Fidler, Marvin Jamron, Bob Kidd
- 7 Carl Yohans
- 8 Muriel Lipman

**Leading Pairs:**

- 1 Jan Lewis-Helen Molloy
- 2 Marcel Bratu-Joe Pagerino
- 3 Jean Shepler-Miller-Louise Wood
- 4 Dave Walker-Carl Yohans
- 5 Eleanor Tucker-Louise Wood

Combined - **MEMORY BOWL:** Louise Wood completed a clean sweep of the last eight months of the year by defending the Memory Bowl for her fourth cup win of 2003 and her ninth overall (the late Morse Ginsberg is second with five). Eleanor Tucker led in mid-December, but did not play any of the last three sessions, leaving the door open.

**Final Results:**

- 1 Louise Wood
- 2 Eleanor Tucker
- 3 Arlene Leshine
- 4-5 Marvin Jamron, Bob Kidd
- 6 Muriel Romero
- 7 Mary Connolly
- 8 Muriel Lipman

This year's Champion's Honoree for the Memory Bowl was Valentine Dyer. Val was the Friday Player of the Year in 1991, and with Morse Ginsberg took Friday's leading pair honours four times. He was one of a small handful of players to score over 80% in a pairs game. His last attempt to win an individual cup came the closest, as he finished second to Morse in the 2001 Memory Bowl. After playing three times in 2002, Val went off for a long car trip, only to come back terribly ill and not be able to play again before he died.



**Our fictional  
Val Dyer Memorial Hand:**

**NORTH**

♠ A J  
♥ void  
♦ K (Q J 10) 9 7  
♣ A K Q 3 2

**WEST**

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

**EAST**

♠ 10 8 7 6 5  
♥ J 10 9 2  
♦ 8 6 5 4  
♣ void

**SOUTH (VD)**

♠ K Q 4 3  
♥ A K Q (8) 7 6 5 4 3  
♦ void  
♣ void

**AUCTION:**

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 2 NT  | P    | 3 ♦   | P    |
| 5 ♦   | P    | 7 ♥   | P    |
| P     | Dbf  |       |      |

North sorted incorrectly, putting the ♦Q J 10 between the black suits and the K 9 7 on the end, explaining the 2NT opening bid. Val (who had sorted as if the ♥8 were a singleton diamond) automatically began with a transfer. Then North discovered the sorting error and tried to correct with a jump to 5♦. Not sure what was going on, Val bid what he thought he could make. West pondered a double, but feared either that North's 5♦ might have been intended as a splinter with a suddenly discovered void or that doubling a pull to 7NT might induce East to lead a heart, perhaps disastrously. East decided that the double stood to gain more than it did to lose in the long run.

West was relieved to be directed to lead a club by the double. It would have been embarrassing either to lead the ♦A and have it trumped or not to lead it when it would have stood up. But the ♣4 was ideal; East would trump and could then return a diamond if North were not void.

As dummy went down, a friend of Val's passed by the table and asked if Val was nearly finished, receiving the reply, "I just have to get rid of a loser, and then I'll claim." Val called for the ♣A.

East had been prepared to discard, but paused at the announcement of a loser, presumably a diamond. A three-trick set might be possible if declarer held two clubs and a diamond. Anyway, trumping one club could do no harm. East ruffed with the ♥10 after a slight pause.

Val overruffed with the ♥Q, then noticed that his singleton diamond was really a ninth heart (but without re-sorting his hand). No diamond loser to discard seemed good, but he wondered why East had paused before playing the ♥10. Had East ruffed with the J or the 9, holding of J 9 2, would be reason to

hesitate, for trumping could lose if West held the singleton Q, but trumping with the 10 could never cost.

The instinct that East had all the trumps induced Val to lead a spade to the ace, followed by the ♣K. East, having already realized that a second high ruff could not possibly hurt, was quick to ruff with the ♥9. Val won with the ♥K and decided to trust his hunch. He led a second spade to the J and then the ♣Q.

East paused again. Val was marked with the two missing spades (the KQ) because dummy's J won the second round, the one diamond loser still to be dumped, and therefore six more hearts. Discarding would result in a one trick set. Trumping might lose the heart trick if Val held the 8-spot, but the trick would come back in diamonds. Without the 8, Val might try discarding the diamond loser instead of overruffing, but then West could be given a spade ruff. Confident that there was nothing to lose and possibly something to gain, East ruffed with the ♥J.

Val won the trick with the ♥A and decided to twist the knife. "Sorry, partner, I just couldn't get rid of this on the clubs," he said, tabling the ♥8 with a wink and then the rest of his hand. As East, looking shocked, tried to determine exactly what had happened, Val rose and said to his waiting friend, "I told you I'd claim after I got rid of a loser."

## Guilford Sectional

Dec. 5-7, 2003

### A B C Fri. Aft. Open Pairs

- Jay Force - Jerry Jacobs
- Larry Bausher - Victor King
- Rachel Brown - Frank Blachowski
- 1 Raymond Fortier - John Farwell
- 2 Walter Nason - John Berry
- 3 1 Louis Brown - Robert Gruskay
- 4 Edwin Lewis III - Thomas Hyde
- 5 D. Brueggemann - Esther Watstein
- 6 2 Sally Title - Arline Small
- 3 Lois Karcher - Penelope Glassmeyer
- 4 Judith Hess - Karen Xia

### A B C Fri. Aft. Senior Pairs

- Jane Smith - Janet Gischner
- 2/3 Lenny Russman - Grace Postman
- 2/3 Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler
- Margaret Mason - Helen Kobernusz
- Vesna Hauptfeld - C. Graham
- 6 1 Lois Flesche - Marjorie Ehrenfreund
- 2 Barbara Blake - Alan Blake
- 3 R. Vander Wiede - Lawrence Stern
- 4 Edward Shepherd - Kathy Shepherd

### A B C Fri. PM Open Pairs

- Richard DeMartino - Eleanor Gimon
- 2 1 1 Warren Williams - Jennifer Williams
- Rachel Brown - Frank Blachowski
- Sarah Corning - Joan Martin
- 5 2 Mary Witt - Paul Lord

- 6 Peter Czuba - Henry (Roy) Andrews
- 3 John Berry - Walter Nason
- 4 Eva Hunt - Michael Bolgar
- 5 Thomas Gerchman - Ausra Geaski
- 2 Lawrence Stern - Vince D'Souza
- 3 Martin Conrad - Harriet Conrad

### A B C Sat. AM Open Pairs

- 1 Susan Seckinger - Mary Witt
- 2 Allan Clamage - Lenny Russman
- 3 1 Sonja Smith - David Rock
- 4 Joan Martin - Michael Bolgar
- 5 Don Stiegler - William Kuczynski
- 2 Forrest Smith - Dick Augur
- 3 1 Martin Conrad - Harriet Conrad
- 4 Paul Lord - Ramesh Abhiraman
- 5 Ogden Bigelow Jr. - Nancy Ramseyer
- 2 Judith Hess - Karen Xia

### A B C Sat. PM Open Pairs

- 1 Peter Czuba - Harold Feldheim
- 2 1 Paul Lord - Ramesh Abhiraman,
- 3 2 Sonja Smith - David Rock
- 4 Don Stiegler - William Kuczynsk
- 5/6 3/4 Dick Augur - Forrest Smith
- 5/6 3/4 Alan Blake - Barbara Blake
- 5 1 Marc Hawley - Peter Leighton
- 2 Howard Kudler - Beatrice Kudler

### A B C Sat. Eve Open Pairs

- 1 1 Sandra Reiners - Gernot Reiners
- 2 2 Ausra Geaski - Thomas Gerchman
- 3 Edwin Lewis III - Robert Gruskay

### A B C Sun. Open Swiss

- 1 Victor King - Gregory Woods - Thomas Smith - Richard De Martino
- 2 Burton Gischner - Janet Gischner - Robert LaTourette - Allan Clamage
- 3 Allan Wolf - Russell Friedman - Don Stiegler - Paul Proulx
- 4 Maeve Mahon - James Greer - Debbie Benner - Arthur Crystal
- 5/6 Charlotte Zultowsky - Constance Graham - Jane Lowe - Mary Witt
- 5/6 1 Ogden Bigelow Jr. - John Farwell - Arthur Haut - Elaine Haut - Harry Voionmaa
- 2 1 Peter Kilbride - W. Kenneth Graebe - Joel Csizmar - Helene Csizmar
- 3 Ausra Geaski - Donald Brueggemann - Esther Watstein - Thomas Gerchman
- 4 John Berry - Walter Nason - Paul Lord - Ramesh Abhiraman
- 5/72/4 Howard Kudler - Beatrice Kudler - Martin Conrad - Harriet Conrad
- 5/72/4 Christine Pokorski - Judith Hess - Peter Leighton - Marc Hawley
- 5/72/4 Vince D'Souza - Stanley Gedansky - Seiho Shimada - Sayoko Shimada



Seiho and Sayoko Shimada seriously at work at the Rye Regional Tournament. The Shimadas placed 7 and 8 in the Mini-McKenney ranking for Regional Masters of the Year 2003.

# District Director's Report – December 2003

## New Orleans NABC

New Orleans was a superb site for the 2003 Fall Nationals. The playing facilities, all located in one building – the New Orleans Marriott - were excellent, even for the Regional events. There were many fabulous places to eat, either within walking distance or a short taxi ride away. Attendance was 12,403 tables, better than the initial projection of 12,000 tables but not as good as some of the optimistic predictions made at the beginning of the tournament based on advance room sales.

The tournament started the week before Thanksgiving, but it is becoming clear from surveys that the players prefer starting either the day after Thanksgiving as we did in Phoenix last year or having the Fall NABC begin earlier in the month. Unfortunately, NABCs are scheduled well in advance so many of the upcoming NABC's, including Boston in 2008, will start the Friday before Thanksgiving.

## Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting 2004 Budget

I am delighted to report that in the final budget process the Finance Committee determined that there will be no change in sanction fees for 2004. Further, tournament directors' fees will increase by 4% instead of the planned 6.5%. Both of these actions should be great news for our units and districts. NABC entry fees will increase by \$1.00 per player per session, as previously planned.

Part of the reason we are able to maintain sanction fees at the 2003 level is a change in our potential member marketing guidelines. As head of the Finance Committee, I advocated that we change the existing guideline which stated that we would budget 14.5% for marketing in 2004. The new guideline is that the budget for potential member marketing will be in the range of 12-15%. The actual budget in any year will be the amount needed to fund those projects deemed necessary to achieve the organization's marketing objectives. The Finance Committee remains firmly committed to providing adequate funds for potential member marketing in the future.

## North American Pairs (NAPs)

NAP and GNT attendance has been declining. The Board decided to form a Committee to determine the future of these events. The two most significant problems with the NAPs are as follows:

- Both players and club owners object to the extra \$1.75 for each NAP game held at the club level and, as a result, club owners

now hold far fewer games.

- Publicity from the ACBL, particularly Bulletin coverage, is insufficient. Based upon the recommendations of the Committee, the Board voted unanimously to retain the current structure of the NAPs for the next two years but with the following changes:

- At the club level only, the surcharge per player will be reduced from the current \$1.75 per player to \$1.00 per player. It is hoped that reducing the charge will encourage club owners to schedule more NAP qualifying games and more players to play in them.

- ACBL Management will promote this event more extensively at the Club, Unit, District and National levels throughout North America via the ACBL Bulletin and other promotional material.

- The conditions of contest have been amended to make it easier for players, units and districts to comply. One such change is that a four-session district final will no longer be required if there is no unit final. This change gives District 25 the option of changing our NAP District finals from four sessions to two sessions.

If these proposed actions do not help to revive the event over the next two years, it will probably be discontinued. I strongly encourage all club owners and players who wish to keep this event on the schedule to do whatever you can to help.

The Board unanimously passed the following motion to clarify the scheduling of finals for KOs:

Only in the instance of fewer sessions than originally scheduled, at the option of the sponsor, finals of Knockout matches may be played at a time other than that scheduled if agreed upon by all parties. The entire match must be finished prior to the conclusion of the tournament. When this option is exercised, the event will be deemed complete upon the end of play and the two teams may enter any new event.

## Top CT Masterpoint Winners – New Orleans NABC

| Name                          | Total Points Won | NABC Points Won |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Harold Feldheim, Hamden    | 136.05           | 44.83           |
| 5. John Stiefel, Wethersfield | 114.85           | 106.59          |
| 7. Rich De Martino, Riverside | 112.06           | 108.45          |
| 8. Jay Borker, Greenwich      | 93.75            | 93.75           |

The Spring NABC is in Reno, Nevada from March 18 – March 28, 2004. Reno is a very good site for a Spring NABC. Please plan to come and join the fun!

*Rich De Martino, District Director*

## Where do you rank?

7

At the end of last year, there were 2,762 players who lived in Connecticut, or who were members of Connecticut Unit 126 and lived out of state. Of these, 2,446 had at least one masterpoint.

For the past few years we have published a Percentile Table so you can see exactly where you rank compared to your friends and friendly competitors. Find the number closest to your masterpoint total in the first column of the table and read the percentile in the second column. That shows you the approximate percentage of the players with at least one masterpoint who have fewer MPs than you. For example, if you have just become a Life Master you have more MPs than 65% of our members.

| MPs  | Percentile | MPs | Percentile |
|------|------------|-----|------------|
| 2981 | 99%        | 149 | 53%        |
| 2080 | 98%        | 141 | 52%        |
| 1809 | 97%        | 129 | 51%        |
| 1622 | 96%        | 121 | 50%        |
| 1487 | 95%        | 116 | 49%        |
| 1344 | 94%        | 105 | 48%        |
| 1255 | 93%        | 99  | 47%        |
| 1130 | 92%        | 93  | 46%        |
| 1050 | 91%        | 87  | 45%        |
| 955  | 90%        | 81  | 44%        |
| 891  | 89%        | 79  | 43%        |
| 851  | 88%        | 74  | 42%        |
| 812  | 87%        | 67  | 41%        |
| 772  | 86%        | 63  | 40%        |
| 716  | 85%        | 59  | 39%        |
| 669  | 84%        | 55  | 38%        |
| 632  | 83%        | 51  | 37%        |
| 600  | 82%        | 47  | 36%        |
| 573  | 81%        | 44  | 35%        |
| 550  | 80%        | 40  | 34%        |
| 526  | 79%        | 36  | 33%        |
| 508  | 78%        | 33  | 32%        |
| 491  | 77%        | 32  | 31%        |
| 471  | 76%        | 29  | 30%        |
| 445  | 75%        | 27  | 29%        |
| 426  | 74%        | 26  | 28%        |
| 413  | 73%        | 25  | 27%        |
| 394  | 72%        | 23  | 26%        |
| 383  | 71%        | 21  | 25%        |
| 369  | 70%        | 20  | 24%        |
| 355  | 69%        | 18  | 23%        |
| 339  | 68%        | 17  | 22%        |
| 327  | 67%        | 15  | 21%        |
| 317  | 66%        | 14  | 20%        |
| 305  | 65%        | 12  | 19%        |
| 282  | 64%        | 11  | 18%        |
| 263  | 63%        | 10  | 17%        |
| 244  | 62%        | 9   | 16%        |
| 230  | 61%        | 8   | 14%        |
| 219  | 60%        | 7   | 13%        |
| 210  | 59%        | 6   | 11%        |
| 196  | 58%        | 5   | 10%        |
| 183  | 57%        | 4   | 8%         |
| 175  | 56%        | 3   | 5%         |
| 163  | 55%        | 2   | 3%         |
| 156  | 54%        | 1   | 1%         |



# Doug Doub Brings Home Bronze

Imagine, if you can, what a Regional knock-out would be if it were magnified a gazillion times. That might give you the faintest glimmer of what bridge is like in an international competition such as the Bermuda Bowl. Connecticut's own Doug Doub brought home the bronze this fall from that very tournament played in Monaco. Doub and his team-mates... Steve Landen, Pratap Rashadhyaksha, Bobby Wolff, Dan Morse and Adam Wildavski... competed against 22 of the world's best teams from such far away places as Australia, New Zealand, China, Brazil, and South Africa to place third in the world team championship event.

The team had to first qualify in a grueling competition in Memphis, playing more than 100 matches against 25 teams to determine the team that would represent the US, which sent two teams to Monaco.

Team One from the US won the Bermuda Bowl, with Italy second, and US Two, the Doub team, in the third slot.

Doub reports that the Monaco schedule was intense, "We played three or four matches a day, beginning at 10:30 am and continuing till 11:30 in the evening." Round-robin matches in the beginning determined those who would continue. While a 6-man team allows for some rest, Doub says it was still a test of stamina. And no, he didn't kibitz when he wasn't playing, "No, I rested and tried to relax when I wasn't at the table."

The team started strong, but dropped out of the top eight at one point. They rallied to play US One in the semis, and then a play-off against Norway, last year's second place winners, for the bronze.

Doub talks about the difference in a tournament of this caliber, "The

World Bridge Federation allows more in the way of destructive bids (conventions), making it difficult for opponents to get to their best contract. This requires a lot of preparation to establish counter measures and methods to overcome that interference in order to get where you belong and where you have the best advantage. You must maintain a high level of play all the time and must score well against everyone every day. It's very intense."

Does all this mean that the bronze winners are a shoo-in for the next Bermuda Bowl? Not a chance! Doub says, "We need to re-qualify all over again in new trials. The level of competition at team trials is every bit as difficult as the Bermuda Bowl itself."

What's next for Doub? "Well," he says, "I'm looking forward to the Grand National Teams and, of course, to Cromwell. That's always a good tournament."



## THE KIBITZER

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All comments, news, items (including cartoons) related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next *Kibitzer* by **April 15**. All ads must be received by April 1.

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## Your Link to the Board

If you have something to say, suggest, or complain about ...tell your representative, who is a Board member and your link to being heard.

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