

THE KIBITZER

May 2006

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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In the Good Old Days

by Harold Feldheim

Many experts believe in the superiority of the modern tournament players based upon the evolution of the auction. I tend to agree with this conclusion since the amount of new conventions, treatments, and special agreements now in common use create bidding understandings that simply didn't exist in the good old days. This hand from the Swedish National Championships, is an example of four high-level experts trying to reason out a situation without a conventional compass. The results are hilarious.

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

Dealer: South

Neither side vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	P	2♦	P
3 NT	P	4♠	P
4 NT	P	5♦	P
5♥	P	6♠	All P

The auction requires some explanation. Since North-South were not playing two-over-one, North's two diamond response is eminently correct. He holds excellent spade support and if partner has a diamond fit, slam is not out of the question.

When South rebid 3NT, showing extra values, North completed his story by correcting to 4 spades. With his prime hand, South was not going to give up and launched into Blackwood. When North showed only one ace, South's perilous heart holding created a problem. He attempted to solve this by an "asking bid" of five hearts. North determined that this was a cue bid indicating a need for club assistance and, on this basis, had no problem bidding the slam with a singleton club. Having reached this twelve trick misunderstanding, the

focus shifts to West who must decide on a lead. West analyzed South's thought processes and agreed that 5 hearts was an asking bid and that North bid the small slam based on the ♥K.

With this in mind, he tabled the ♥4 hoping to find partner with the ♥Q. After all, who on earth would underlead an ace against a slam? "Thank you partner," said South as he played low from dummy.

The camera now shifts to East who inserted the ♥9. After all, who on earth would underlead an ace against a slam? The hand played quickly as South won the queen, drew trumps, and established the diamond suit taking all the tricks. Needless to say, the post-mortem was horrific but one must assume that North-South won this argument.



Harold Feldheim

MILESTONES and CONGRATULATIONS

Silver Life Master
(1000 MPs)
Robert Bencker
Lynn Condon
J. Michael Carmiggelt
Bronze Life Master
(500 MPs)
Linda Cleveland
Blanche Eisman

Margot Handal
Thomas Lorch
Alice Humel
Margaret Franco
Dorothy Roy
Lothar Siberth
Thomas Webster
Jennifer Williams

Life Master
(300 MPs)
Blanche Eisman
Jane Finn
Shirley Fruchter
Margot Handal
Pamela Palmer
John Scranton
Janet Soskin

Frisky Frances

by Bernard G. Schneider

I met my wife Frances at the New York Nationals in 1974. We played a lot of bridge in those days, traveling to tournaments regularly. But when our children were born, we had to change.

Our children, now in their 20s, are out of the house and working. The opportunity to play serious bridge has again presented itself. As I studied the game over the years, it appeared that I needed to change our approach in line with the fact that successful players are aggressive, to say the least. They bid more often, disrupting and pressuring their opponents' auctions.

When it is their hand, they bid to every game in sight. Meckstroth-Rodwell, the most successful American partnership and one of the best partnerships in the world, make no bones about it. They are well-known for their 23-point, no-trump games. Bridge is about tactics and pressure – bluff and double bluff. Some call it “active bridge.” My word for it is “frisky.”

All this involves an increased level of anxiety, as you live on the edge, and occasionally experience disasters unmatched in the rest of the room. Good players are well aware of this, and inevitably opt for sins of commission rather than of omission.

It did take a while for Frances to get into the spirit, and let go of the comfortable, conservative approach, where everyone “had their bids.” But soon enough it became clear that Frances was rapidly buying into the concept; she was increasingly ready not just to push the envelope, but to turn it inside out.

Recently we played in a two-session sectional Swiss team event. At the end of six (of eight) rounds, we were in first place by 19 Victory Points, but would have to play a very strong team, including a member of the current world champion, junior international team. If I were to put a label on the other team, it was of national caliber.

As the round progressed, we were not playing badly, but our opponents were playing particularly well.



Bernard Schneider

None of this bothers me, as such. There is no embarrassment in losing to good/better players. They are expected to play well. Finishing second or third is respectable. But there is an admonition here, too – no matter whether you are winning or being carded out, you must still play your game. Go with what you've got.

And so, on the last board, with everyone vulnerable, Frances held

♠ x
♥ J x x
♦ A Q J 10 x x
♣ 10 x x

In first seat, white against red, I opened 4 hearts. We play Namyats, so this is the “weaker” way to preempt in hearts. (A four club opener would show something like eight solid hearts, or seven hearts and a side Ace). I could hold a variety of hands, and thus we were already in the world of uncertainty. Her right hand opponent thought for a moment and bid 4 spades – good players always seem to find a bid in these situations.

What would you do with this hand? Five hearts, perhaps, or five diamonds which would imply a heart fit, trying to get partner involved in anticipation of further bidding. But in giving your partner information, you also help the opponents. With barely a thought, she bid 6 hearts, completely in tempo. Welcome to the world of deeper uncertainty. On this board, she hit pay dirt. Here is the full hand:

				North
				♠ x
				♥ J x x
				♦ A Q J 10 x x
				♣ 10 x x
		West	East	
♠	A K x x x x	♠	J x x x x	
♥		♥	10 x x	
♦	K x x x	♦	x x	
♣	Q x x	♣	A J x	
South				
♠ Q				
♥ A K Q x x x x				
♦ x				
♣ K x x x				
South	West	North	East	
4♥	4♠	6♥	6♠	
P	P	Double	All P	

What was East to do? Who was sacrificing against whom? His partner had come in at the four level and he did have five spades, making it hard for him not to bid. But he had essentially no other information about the hand. Conceivably no spade tricks were cashing; and reason suggested (correctly) that partner was void in hearts. If Frances had bid six hearts to make, it was right for him to bid; if Frances had bid it as a knowing sacrifice, it was also right for him to bid.

But Frances had something in between, and it was wrong for him to bid.

At our table, declarer lost the obvious three tricks in six spades for minus 500. At the other table, South opened one heart, West overcalled one spade, and eventually, when the auction reached the six level, East, having had more of an opportunity to describe his hand, decided to sell out to six hearts, going plus 200. Net plus 700 or plus 10 IMPs on the board.

In the end, we didn't win the match, or come that close. But the slam adventure had pulled us back from being blitzed, to a 3-17 loss. We entered the final round still in the lead by 5 Victory Points. The team we played in the seventh round won the final round in a blitz, but our team also had a good match, winning 18-2. We won the event by 3 Victory Points. *continued on page 4*

Can't Cost – Chapter 8 or Think of Bridge as a Simple Game



by John Steifel

Perception is important – in life as well as in bridge.

You will get better results to the extent that you perceive bridge problems to be simple. In other words, the more hands you think are simple, the more hands you will get right. Conversely, the more hands you think require deep thought, complex analysis, lucky guessing or spectacular plays, the more hands you will get wrong.

Take for example this deal from a recent Flight A pair game.

With both vulnerable at matchpoints, you (West) hold:

♠ Q J 9 7 3 2
♥ K Q 2
♦ A 5 2
♣ 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
			1♠
2♦	P	3 NT	All P

What do you lead?

You consider leading the “surprise” ♥K, hoping to hit partner, but reject that lead as more likely to hurt than help you. Even if partner has a heart holding like J 10 x x x, South will likely be able to hold up until the third round of the suit. If partner has an even-more-magic holding like A 10 x x x, there will still be time to lead hearts after gaining the lead with the ♦A. And there are many holdings where the ♥K lead will give declarer a valuable tempo. (See the full hand.)

So you try the normal ♠Q and dummy hits with:

♠ 10
♥ 10 9
♦ K 10 8 7 6 4
♣ A K 9 7

North's vulnerable 2-level overcall is aggressive. It might lead to a juicy number for East-West or it might induce South to bid too much. On balance, however, it has more to gain than lose, as bridge – especially matchpoints – is a bidder's game.

The early play proceeds as follows.

Trick 1: ♠Q, 10, 4, A.

Trick 2: ♦3 to North's King (you duck your Ace).

Tricks 3-5: Three rounds of clubs (partner and declarer follow suit and you pitch two low spades).

At trick 6, declarer calls for dummy's ♣A, partner pitches the ♦J, declarer follows and you pitch the ♦5. By this time, you and your partner know that the diamonds are no longer a threat because dummy's last entry is gone.

Play continues as follows.

Trick 7: ♥10, 5, 3, K.

Trick 8: ♦A, ♦Q from East and ♥8 from South.

Trick 9: ♠J, partner plays the 6, declarer wins the King.

At trick 10, declarer leads his good club and you have to discard from ♠9, 7 and ♥Q, 2. What do you do now? Well, partner's ♥5 (standard count) showed an original holding of an even number of hearts, so declarer and partner started with four. Declarer has played ♥2, showed out of diamonds and is leading his last club, so his remaining cards are one spade and two hearts which means that partner's remaining cards are also one spade and two hearts.

There are 2 clues as to what exactly declarer and partner have.

1. Partner's play of the ♠6 to the second round of the suit suggests that he started with 8 6 x, not 7 6 x. With an original holding of 7 6 x, he would have played the 7 (“highest of equals when declarer leads”).

2. Declarer might well have the ♥J. If he does, you must keep both of your hearts. Also, you will also be end-played if you keep the ♠9. Declarer will lead his spade to trick 11 and you will have to lead into declarer's ♥A, J at the end.

With these clues, you realize that you have only one discard to hold the position: the ♠9!

Declarer exits with his low spade at trick 11, but partner wins the 8 and declarer can only get one more trick (the ♥A).

Your nice opponent (yes, they are all nice! Think what your life would be like if you had NO opponents!) congratulates you on a “spectacular unblock.” You accept his nice gesture but you know you didn't do anything special – all you did was count, trust your partner, AND make a “can't cost” play to trick 11.

The original hand was:

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



John Stiefel



The Defense Rests

by Gloria Sieron

Last week at the club, the players sitting East - West were complaining, "This game is just like a newspaper column. North - South is getting all the hands and South is playing them." There were also many complaints about an East - West couple who took forever to defend even the simplest of hands. I heard, "They made us lose our train of thought (concentration and focus). What were they thinking about?"

When I looked at the final totals, I noticed that the East - West pair in question scored first place. Here is a hand where some thought would have given other East - West pairs a much better match point score.

North

♠ A K Q 5
♥ K Q
♦ 7 5
♣ K J 10 9 3

West

♠ 10 9 3
♥ A 10 9 7 6
♦ A J 4
♣ 8 5

North opens with one club. South responds one NT. North makes a reverse rebid of two spades to describe his game-going hand. South proceeds to three NT indicating his hand is at the top of the range (eight or nine points).



Gloria Sieron

West leads his fourth best heart, the seven, and takes a long look at the dummy. When South plays the Queen from dummy, East contributes the ♥2. Much to West's surprise, at the next trick South makes the shock and awe play of calling for the ♥K!

Players, this is not the time for the defense to rest. It is time to analyze what South might hold in his hand. It is time to say "How would I play this hand if I were the declarer?" You have five hearts, partner has three. The most South can gain is one trick holding three to the Jack. Why wouldn't South be interested in setting up his best source of tricks – the club suit? Maybe South isn't worried about clubs. Let us

surmise he holds the Ace and Queen. The spades are solid for three tricks, four if they split. That makes nine sure tricks: an additional heart would bring the total to ten tricks.

Let's count up points. If South holds the ♣ A and Q, he has seven high card points we know about. Can the ♦Q be the

two more points he needed to jump to 3 NT over partner's reverse? If so, partner has the King. Are you up to shifting to the four of diamonds at trick three? If partner has the king and leads the suit

back, you will hold the declarer to nine tricks and get a really good match point score. But if you are one of those players who says, "You didn't expect me to lead low from the Ace Jack?" you probably haven't thought about what you would do if you were the declarer and you were playing the hand.

The complete hand:

North

♠ A K Q 5
♥ K Q
♦ 7 5
♣ K J 10 9 3

West

♠ 10 9 3
♥ A 10 9 7 6
♦ A J 4
♣ 8 5

East

♠ J 8 4
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ 7 6 4

South

♠ 7 6 2
♥ J 4 3
♦ Q 6 3 2
♣ A Q 2

When anyone makes a play that seems a bit unusual, don't automatically do what you were planning to do before you saw the play. Think about it! What could they be up to? Thinking like this just might earn you a really good result.



Frisky Frances

continued from page 2

On the way home, I made it a point not to ask Frances why she bid 6 hearts. When your partner does something wonderfully successful like that, you don't want to plant the slightest seed of doubt in her mind. Who am I to question what I don't fully understand? But I did ask her why she doubled 6 spades. If my minor suit holdings were reversed, the opponents would be cold for the slam. She said that she was well aware of the state of the match and that we

were close to being blitzed, so that another bad result wouldn't make much of a difference. However, the opportunity for a large swing in our favor (having put the opponents under pressure) had to be taken. Right (on the edge) again.

One hand, one way or the other, doesn't prove anything. In the world of objective reality, the limit of the hand for either side is exactly 10 tricks. But my point is that both bridge and reality are more subtle and complex than that. When I got home, I looked up the word "frisky" in the dictionary; "active, energetic and spirited." That seems to me a useful formula for winning at bridge. 

Coming Soon!
East Hartford
Sectional
August 4 - 6

District Director's Report – April 2006



by Richard De Martino, District Director

Dallas NABC

The Spring NABC was held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas. Attendance was 10,319 tables, down about 6% from the pre-tournament estimate of 11,000 tables.

The playing areas were all located on two floors in the main hotel. Sites that have all the games in the same building are highly desirable so this goal continues to be a high priority for the ACBL. The playing space was excellent, being well lit with ample room between tables and appropriate room temperatures.

Room rates at the main site were almost \$150, including taxes, which I consider to be quite high for Dallas at this time of year. I did learn that several players chose to book via the Internet with some finding rates as low as \$50 per night at fairly good hotels just a short DART ride from the main site.

Top Finishers In NABC EVENTS – Connecticut

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – A

Doug Doub, West Hartford
Frank Merblum, Bloomfield 6

MACHLIN WOMEN'S SWISS TEAMS
Carol Minor, Madison 7

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

Financial Status

For calendar year 2005, the ACBL reported an excess of expenses over revenues of \$693,000. This is \$343,000 worse than the budgeted loss of \$350,000 and almost \$250,000 worse than Management's projections just 5 weeks before the end of the year in Denver. To make matters worse, in late September, Management made the following statement, "Management believes that the budgeted loss of \$350,000 continues to be a realistic target for 2005." Just 14 weeks before the end of the year, the forecast was off by \$343,000!

There was significant discussion of the methods our CFO uses to do his projections and, as a result, several changes are being implemented to ensure

that this embarrassing situation will not recur in the future. The only good news out of this fiasco is that, despite this very poor result, the ACBL remains well within our financial guidelines.

Senior KO Teams

A motion was passed unanimously that beginning in 2007, the Senior Knockout Teams at the Fall NABC will start on Friday instead of Sunday. Pre-registration shall close at 11:00 a.m. the day of the event. This motion will be referred for final approval to the Conditions of Contest Committee, which meets in the Summer. Starting two days earlier will have two benefits: (i) the finals will be completed no later than the day before Thanksgiving and, (ii) there will be no conflict with the 6-session Reisinger BAM or Open Swiss Team events which start on the last Friday.

Bridgmate Wireless Scoring System

A demonstration was presented to the BOD on the new Bridgmate wireless scoring system being used in Europe. With this system, there is a 25 button keypad on each table to enter the scores. After verification by an opponent, the result is transmitted electronically to a central receiver. The system has great potential as it eliminates scoring errors, the need for caddies to pick up scoring slips and the need for scores to be entered by the directors. I am very impressed with this product and predict that it will be in use at ACBL tournaments within the next year or so. Management is evaluating the product and will present its recommendations later in the year.

Masterpoint Committee

President Harriette Buckman has decided to convene the Masterpoint Committee a year early (normally this committee meets only every fifth year). I am pleased to report that I have been chosen to head the committee again. As soon I get this committee going, we will be seeking as much input as we can get regarding changes that need to be made to the masterpoint formulas. Please feel free to give me your thoughts on this important subject.

For a full description of all the actions taken by the BOD, refer to the Dallas Minutes on the ACBL website, which will be posted within the next week or so.

Top Connecticut Masterpoint Winners – Dallas NABC

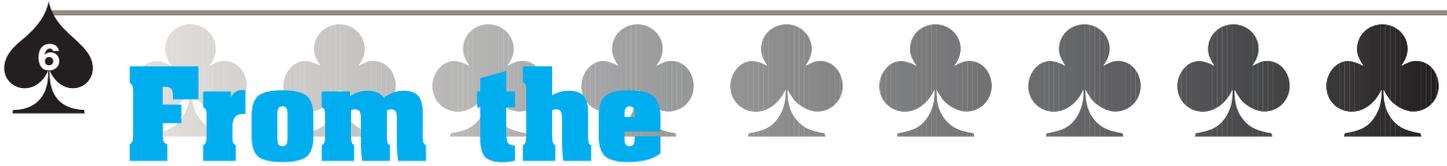
Name	Total Points	Won In NABC+
1 Lawrence Lau, Westport	83.19	20.00
2 Brett Adler, Westport	72.18	27.41
3 Douglas Doub, W. Hartford	61.93	61.93
4 Maeve Mahon, New Canaan	52.87	7.41
5 James Greer, New Canaan	46.39	
6 Harold Feldheim, Hamden	39.52	11.43
7 Debbie Benner, Fairfield	33.73	

The Summer NABC will be held in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency Chicago from July 13 through July 23. I look forward to seeing more District 25 players there than were in Dallas. 

Card sense is when it's technically right to do something, the little man that sits on my shoulder or anyone else's shoulder says, "Don't do that."

And you say to yourself, "Well, wait a minute, that's the right way to play." And he says, "Yeah, but you don't wanna play that way." That instinct is card sense. It's almost an ability to feel where the cards are. It's something that you can't buy, you can't find; you're born with it. The ability to do the right thing at the wrong time or really to do the wrong thing at the right time.

– Barry Crane



Woodway Country Club

The winners of the winter series at the Woodway Country Club were:

1. Barbara Munson - Ellie Allen
2. Janet Soskin - Kathy Rowland
3. Audrey Knobloch - Adele Hollingsworth
4. Ann Towne - Betty Mc Coy
5. Betty Kay - Lorraine Belliveau

Wee Burn

The following pairs placed in the Winter Series:

1. Marilyn Tjader - Martha Hathaway
2. Janet Soskin - Betty Hodgman
3. Lois Berry - Jan Moller
4. Mary Beach - Adele Hollingsworth
5. B.J. Whiting - Meg Hovell
6. Whitey Spelbrink - Betsy Philips
7. Connie Bergin - Ann Towne
8. Laura Wilks - Ann Fuller

The ACBL Charity game was won by Kathy Rowland-Joan Hoben, with B.J. Whiting - Meg Hovell and Brooke Megrue - Karen Barrett as runners-up.

The Spring Swiss Team game was won by Janet Soskin-Betty Hodgman, Lois Berry, and Ann Fuller.

Congratulations to our newest Life Masters: Penny Glassmeyer, Martha Hathaway, and Mary Richardson.

Hartford

This year marks the Diamond Jubilee of the Hartford Bridge Club. Yes, we have been bidding, making and setting bridge hands for 75 years, and to celebrate this momentous occasion, the club is hosting an all-out wing-ding this fall for our approximately 450 members.

Co-chaired by Ausra Geaski and Bob Gruskay, the planning committee for this anniversary gala has been meeting regularly to work on a site, publicity and agenda for this brunch-and-bridge function .

An early call for volunteers to work on the fete brought out some of the most creative personalities of our group, including Bunny Kliman, Ed Lewis, Lea and Bernie Selig, Claire Girard, Jo-Ann Kerr, Ilene Mahler, Elaine Jaworski, Diane Natrass, Connie Scott, Jackie Kane, Marilyn Noll, Barbara Murray, Joan Salve, Betty Payton, Betty Pratt, Ruth Tupper, and Joyce Marino. Club director Donna Feir will handle reservations.

We will keep you posted as final decisions are made at future meetings.

Jose Gaztambide and Tom Webster represented the HBC and District 26 in the North American Open Pairs - Flight C at the Spring Nationals in Dallas March 30 - April 9. These partners placed 15th out of the 67 qualifiers who attended the event.

The HBC is offering a new weekly novice game on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. starting May 6. The field is limited to players with fewer than 200 master points.

The Wilton (Norwalk) Bridge Studio

It hardly seems a year since we lost our friend and compatriot Peter Czuba; my thanks to all of you who participated in our memorial game in his honor. Peter was a key part of our extended family for many years. The trophy that was created to memorialize his life with us has as its most salient feature a boat. As many of you know he was, among many other things, an Olympic sailor, and he chose a boat as his Wilton Bridge Studio Christmas tree representative ornament, so it seemed appropriate that we honor him in this vein. The trophy will rest with the winners, Peter Tripp and Don Stiegler, for the next year, although they may choose to occasionally let us show it off here at the club.

Counting all of the entry fees, some extra contributions, and my matching gift, we raised over \$500 for Peter's musical foundation, a fitting tribute to his ongoing memory.

When we had our anniversary party in September, the Lady Gina award, given to that person who has done the most to advance the finer aspects of the game of bridge in our area, was not made as the committee could not come to an agreement on the appropriate person.

With their concurrence, I have decided that the right person is actually Peter, posthumously. His legacy is still with us. He, with Harold and Lynn's help, was intending to move the Friday morning Bridgeport game to Fairfield and hopefully to build on our small pocket of bridge growth in a continually declining countrywide bridge membership. That game is operating today at the Scandinavian Club under the direction of Ann Cady.

Despite the competitive impact it was going to produce for me, I wished him well in his enterprise because I thought there was room for both of us to be successful. From nearly nothing five years ago, together Peter and I have built games totaling nearly 25 tables, certainly a positive in a no-growth business overall. His name on the Lady Gina plaque is certainly appropriate.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

First Quarter Results
Tuesday

Player of the Year Leaders

1. Bob Hawes
2. Mary Connolly
3. Pat Gibbs
4. Tracy Selmon
5. Muriel Romero
6. Hill Auerbach
7. Carl Yohans
8. Jon Ingersoll
9. Arlene Leshine
10. Billie Hecker

Leading Pairs

1. Hill Auerbach - Tracy Selmon
2. Billie Hecker - Muriel Romero
3. Arlene Leshine - Carl Yohans
4. Mary Connolly - Shirley Fruchter
5. Pat Gibbs - Fredda Kelly

Leonora Stein Cup

Qualifying/Quarterfinals/Semifinals

Form held up well in the Stein Cup. Twelve of the top sixteen seeds qualified for the quarterfinals, and three of the top four won their qualifying groups.

Quarterfinals: Top qualifier Bob Hawes went undefeated to retain the #1 seed in the semifinals. Helen Molloy, Tracy Selmon, Mary Connolly and Muriel Romero qualified easily. In the elimination round for the last three places, Fredda Kelly defeated Billie Hecker, Shirley Fruchter defeated SaraAnn Auerbach, and Louise Wood defeated Jon Ingersoll.

Semifinals: Bob continued his undefeated run to claim the advantageous #1 seed in the Final Four. He will be the only finalist seeking a first cup victory. Louise, looking for her fourteenth triumph, gained the #2 seed, and Helen, last year's most frequent contender and this year's only Stein-Claiborn double semifinalist, took the #3 seed. In the battle for the #4 spot, five-time cup winner Fredda defeated Muriel (the only



two-time Stein Cup champion), ending Muriel's run of consecutive years in the Stein Cup Final Four at five.

Friday

Player of the Year Leaders

1. Louise Wood
2. Jean Shepler-Miller
3. Dee Altieri
4. Emma Q. Antonio
5. Larry Stern
6. Fredda Kelly
7. Sykvia Alpert
8. Fioretta Masler
9. Lois Flesche
10. Billie Hecker

Leading Pairs

1. Billie Hecker - Jean Shepler-Miller
2. Inge Bellis - Fioretta Masler
3. Shirley Fruchter - Louise Wood
4. Hill Auerbach - Larry Stern
5. Muriel Romero - Florence Schannon

Aldyth Claiborn Cup

Qualifying/Quarterfinals/Semifinals

While form held up in the Stein, the Claiborn Cup provided one surprise after another. Only six of the top sixteen players made it through the qualifying round. Among the casualties were six of thirteen cup champions, including our runaway leader, Louise Wood.

Quarterfinals: As the five rounds of the quarterfinals played out, four of the seven remaining cup winners were eliminated, guaranteeing that the Claiborn would remain the only Cup without a two-time champion. Two of last year's finalists, Emma Q. Antonio and Helen Molloy, did advance but survived five elimination rounds between them.

Semifinals: Our perennial cup bridesmaid Muriel Lipman went undefeated to claim the #1 seed in the Final Four. Muriel was joined by first-time finalists Sylvia Alpert, Joe Pagerino and Larry Stern. This year's champion will be the sixth Claiborn Cup winner out of seven for whom the win will mark his or her first cup triumph.



Barb Shaw Tournament

Hamden • March 10, 11, 12, 2006

The Barb Shaw Trophy is given to the person who wins the most masterpoints at the tournament and who starts the tournament with fewer than 300 MPs.

The winner of the Barb Shaw Trophy in 2006 was Bill Watson from W. Hartford.

FRI. AFT. OPEN PAIRS

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--------------------------------|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | | | H. Lawrence - F Blachowski |
| 2/3 | | | Linda and Daniel Friedman |
| 2/3 | 1 | | L. Condon - J. Williams |
| 4 | 2 | | N. Tkacz - R. Rising |
| 5 | | | M. Mason - H. Kobernusz |
| 6 | | | Larry and Phyllis Bausher |
| | 3 | | O. Bigelow Jr - M. Ehrenfreund |
| 4 | 1 | | K. Hirshon - N. Kopeloff |
| 5 | 2 | | L. Schmuttenmaer - E. Gwyther |
| | 3 | | M. Richardson - B Hodgman |

FRI. AFT. SENIOR PAIRS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | | | M. Fromm - B. Loop |
| 2 | | | R. Teitelman - M. Schaffel |
| 3 | | | G. Carroll - N. Earel |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | E. Sivakoff - R. Fortier |
| 5 | | | L. Kelleher - D. Robertson |
| 6 | 2 | | T. Hey - E. Ranard |
| | 3 | | D. Lombard - T. Fidler |
| | 4 | 2 | J. Pieper - I. Bellis |

FRI. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | | | C. Michael - S. Corning |
| 2 | | | F. Blachowski - H. Lawrence |
| 3 | | | A. Clamage - R. DeMartino |
| 4 | | | V. Hauptfeld - C. Zultowsky |
| 5 | | | H. Kobernusz - M. Mason |
| 6 | 1 | | N. Tkacz - R. Rising |
| | 2 | 1 | L. Stern - R.Vander Wiede |
| | 3 | | D. Rock - S. Smith |
| | 4 | 2 | B. Snyder - K. Magiday |
| | | 3 | E. Sivakoff - R. Fortier |

SAT. MORN. A/X PAIRS

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| A | X | |
| 1 | | L. Condon - H. Feldheim |
| 2 | | J. Stiefel - R. DeMartino |
| 3 | | P. MacCuaig - S. Wheeler |
| 4 | | P. Burnham - P. Hartman |
| 5 | | D. Benjamin - T. Brewster |
| | 1 | B. Reich - D. Noack |
| | 2 | J. Rotenberg - T. Proulx |

SAT. MORN. B/C/D PAIRS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| B | C | D | |
| 1 | | | J. Jacobson - A. Housholder |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | P. Haeckel - E. Haeckel |
| 3 | 2 | 2 | J. Hess - C. Pokorski |
| 4 | 3 | | Elaine and James Misner |
| | 4 | 3 | S. Fruchter - V. Goggin |

SAT. MORN. 299ER PAIRS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | 1 | | Stuart and Joan Danoff |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | J. Mehta - V. Anand |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | K. Wood - B. Harvey |
| 4 | 4 | 3 | M. Arnold - E. Beveridge |
| 5 | | | F. Rogler - D. Lamson |

SAT. AFT. A/X PAIRS

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| A | X | |
| 1 | | B. Adler - M. Mahon |
| 2 | | J. Stiefel - R. DeMartino |
| 3 | | L. Kelleher - D. Robertson |
| 4 | | D. Greenwald - E. Ranard |
| 5 | | K. Chawla - D. Kowarsky |
| 6 | | S. Corning - C. Michael |
| | 1 | N. Robertson - M. Witt |
| | 2 | J. Rotenberg - T. Proulx |
| | 3 | T. Hey - S. Santow |

SAT. AFT. B/C/D PAIRS

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| B | C | D | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | J. Kulas - Z. Gudanek |
| 2 | 2 | | M. Perper - T. Ng |
| 3/4 | 3/4 | 2/3 | J. Hess - C. Pokorski |
| 3/4 | 3/4 | 2/3 | P. O'Deane - J. Wang |
| 5 | | | D. Rock - T. Gerchman |

SAT. AFT. 299ER PAIRS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | | | J. Mehta - O. Chhabra |
| 2 | | | C. Hue - M. Raphan |
| 3 | 1 | | J. Lamartine - L. Green |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | B. Harvey - K. Wood |
| 5 | 3 | | Carolyn and Phillip Olschefski |
| | 4 | | Stuart and Joan Danoff |
| | 2 | | Jeffrey and Melissa Parkin |
| | 3 | | G. Holland - C. Palmer |

SAT. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|----------------------------|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | | | P. MacCuaig - S. Wheeler |
| 2 | 1 | | E. Etkind - D. Richheimer |
| 3 | | | L. Kelleher - D. Robertson |
| 4 | 2 | | L. Wood - F. Kelly |
| 5 | | | W. Fontaine - D. Stiegler |
| 6/7 | | | M. Perper - T. Ng |
| 6/7 | 3 | 1 | J. Rotenberg - T. Proulx |
| | 4 | | D. Rock - T. Gerchman |
| | 2 | | J. Kulas - Z. Gudanek |
| | 3 | | J. Hess - R. Hawes |

SUN. FLIGHT A SWISS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | |
| 1 | | | S. Becker - L. Bausher - J. Stiefel - R. DeMartino |
| 2 | | | H. Lawrence - F. Blachowski - L. Condon - H. Feldheim |
| 3 | | | R. Blair - S. Corning - H. Andrews - L. Russman |
| 4 | | | W. Fontaine - D. Stiegler - J. Greer - A. Clamage |

SUN. B/C/D SWISS

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|---|
| B | C | D | |
| 1 | | | T. Gerchman - W. Watson - R. Bencker - M. Witt |
| 2/4 | | | N. Tkacz - P. Gibbs - J. Farwell - R. Rising |
| 2/4 | 1/2 | | D. Brueggemann - R. Shapiro - W. Graebe - E. Watstein |
| 2/4 | 1/2 | | J. Gaztambide - E. Lewis III - S. Title - E. Papineau |
| 5 | | | H. Strauss - V. Orefice - E. Nagle - K. Frangione |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | A. Siegel - I. Fuller - R. Benson - M. Kohler |
| | 4 | 2 | A. Carta - E. Meinke - D. Sauer - M. Murphy |
| | 3 | | R. Williams - V. Williams - R. Olson - J. Mehta |



Worthy of Serious Review

by Morris Feinson

Board #9 from Friday night at the Hamden Sectional in March is worthy of serious review and shows the benefits of serious thinking during the play of the hand.

Consider this (the hands have been rotated for convenience):

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

Dealer: West

The Bidding

West	North	East	South
P	1♣	P	1♠
P	3♠	All P	

West led the ♥K. Declarer won with the ♥A and played the ♣A, followed by the ♣K. When the ♣Q dropped, declarer played the ♣J, pitching his losing heart. West trumped with the Ace. Now the hand was an open book.

West showed up with the ♥K and Q (implied by the opening lead), the ♣Q and the ♠A. A bit of serious review led declarer to determine that if West had the ♦K, she would have opened the bidding.

West had 3 black cards. South's thinking went as follows: If West had 6 hearts, she would have opened the bidding and she could not have only

4 hearts; if she did, she would have the ♦K. Her distribution was most surely 1, 5, 5, 2 and East was 4, 4, 1, 4 with the singleton being the ♦K.

Declarer could not draw trump without losing control. He played the ♦A at trick 6, dropping the known singleton King and continued with the ♦Q. East trumped and returned a club which declarer trumped.

At trick 8, South led the ♦J discarding dummy's last club. East trumped and, at trick 9, declarer had 4 trumps in dummy, 3 of which were winners.

The good news was that 3 spades was made; the bad news was that, in reality, we were in 4 spades. 🤖

THE KIBITZER

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