

THE KIBITZER

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Women in Bridge

by Harold Feldheim

For many years, Larry Bausher has been recognized as one of New England's most successful players. However, there is a growing suspicion that many of Larry's excellent results are based on the superb play technique of his wife Phyllis. The following hand, submitted by Dean Montgomery, is quite compelling evidence.

North			
♠ K J 7			
♥ 8 3 2			
♦ A 5 4 2			
♣ 5 4 3			
West		East	
♠ 8 5 2		♠ 10 9 6 4	
♥ 7 6 4		♥ K J 10	
♦ 9 8		♦ K J 10 7 3	
♣ A 8 7 6 2		♣ K	
South			
♠ A Q 3			
♥ A Q 9 5			
♦ Q 6			
♣ Q J 10 9			
South	West	North	East
1N	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	2N	P
3N	all pass		

Opening lead: ♣6



Harold Feldheim

After Phyllis as South bid 1NT, North invited game via Stayman (not promising a four card major). Playing 15-17 no trumps, South had no trouble carrying on to 3NT.

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HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

It's going to be a blast!

Sunday, September 10, is the date for the gala celebration at the Hopmeadow Country Club in Simsbury commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Hartford Bridge Club.

In March 1932, fifty members of the bridge group moved the game to a new site at 550 Farmington Avenue in Hartford and officially adopted the name The Hartford Bridge Club. In June of that year, the club was turned over to



Committee members (standing): Barbara Murray, Ilene Mahler, Ausra Geaski, Bob Gruskay, Jackie Kane, Joan Salve and Lea Selig. (seated) Ed Lewis, club director Donna Feir, and Bernie Selig

An extensive group of volunteers has been working diligently since March on this event. Co-chaired by Ausra Geaski and Bob Gruskay, the 24-member committee promise a successful and fun-filled event.

Seventy-five years ago, a duplicate bridge game was held at the Hotel Bond in Hartford becoming the genesis of what is known today as the Hartford Bridge Club. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Emery organized this first game and subsequent bridge events were held at both the Bond Hotel and the Hartford Golf Club.

the members and has continued in operation to the present day. Since 1995, the club has been operating at a recently-renovated site at 19A Andover Drive in West Hartford.

In 1997, the Connecticut Bridge Association proclaimed the HBC to be the oldest bridge club in North America. Through the years, the club has remained member-operated with 35 presidents, many club officers, and numerous members of the Board of Governors providing oversight for all the club's activities.

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Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe - Number 1

Morton's Fork or Wolf's Conundrum?

by Allan Wolf

It was late Tuesday evening, with one 3-board round to go at the regular game of the Lunatic Fringe Bridge Club. Professor Lobochevsky and Roger, who had been outrageously "fixed" throughout the evening, were surely out of contention, or so the professor thought.

The professor was head of the Department of Encyclopedic Studies at Kitchy Koo University (so nicknamed because it offered studies in whatever tickled your fancy). As a side interest, he occasionally conducted private bridge lessons, and several regulars at the Lunatic Fringe Tuesday night game were his former students.

For the final round, the new partnership of Majorca and Minna came to the table. Majorca was an earnest, up-and-coming player, a demure matron who had taken up bridge seriously when her husband passed away almost two years ago.

Minna was an experienced player... a woman of gargantuan proportions and appetites, whose bidding was rock-solid dependable, if not imaginative.

On the first board of the final round, Roger as dealer sensibly passed his awful 12-count, and Minna likewise passed.

North (Roger)

♠ Q J 7 5
♥ A J 4
♦ Q 10 6
♣ Q 6 2

West (Majorca)

♠ A 9 3
♥ 9 5
♦ A J 7 5
♣ 10 7 5 4

East (Minna)

♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ 7 6 2
♦ 8 3 2
♣ A 9 8

South (Professor Lobochevsky)

♠ K 4
♥ K Q 10 8 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ K J 3

Dealer: North

Neither side vulnerable

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

The professor had a choice of opening bids, and chose to open with his 5-card major, knowing Roger's strong preference to always open the major rather than 1NT. (Playing with his regular partner, Professor Lobochevsky would have opened this hand 1NT.)

Roger twitched slightly as he used reverse Drury to show heart support and near-opening values. This nervous tic acted up whenever Roger employed some bidding gadget that he feared partner might forget.

With solid values and protected Kings all around, the professor rebid 2NT, and Roger happily raised to three.

Majorca led a 4th best ♦5, and was a bit distressed when the professor won the trick with the nine. She had learned enough bridge to realize that she had eliminated the guess for the jack; but, in fact, the diamond lead was as good as any.

The professor could see that 3NT was a cinch. He could use his honor sequences in either spades or clubs to establish two tricks in that suit, plus a second trick in diamonds, and five off the top in hearts.

But in a pairs contest, 3NT would not be enough. With the eight-card fit, many pairs would play a 4-heart contract, making 4 easily (barring awful distribution). In 3NT, there was a clear danger of losing a trick to the thirteenth diamond in addition to the three aces.

The professor knew therefore that he needed the overtrick in 3NT, and thought that the best chance was to try to "sneak a trick through" in either spades or clubs. If the opponents did not immediately take their Ace, he could then switch to the other black suit to make his overtrick. Having won the opening lead in the closed hand, at trick two the professor put the ♠4 on the table.



Allan Wolf

Majorca hesitated as to whether to play 2nd hand low. Her feminine instinct told her that there was chicanery afoot.

Lobochevsky's slightly crooked grin was highly suggestive of this. So perhaps she should go against the rule and put up the ace immediately.

Her hesitation made it clear that she held the Ace, and as she pondered,

the professor realized that he was about to make his overtrick whether she took her ace immediately or not. Majorca faced a conundrum: If she took her Ace, she would give up a third spade trick. If she played 2nd hand low, the professor would switch to clubs.

Majorca finally elected to play low on the grounds that she could more easily justify her play in any post-mortem, following the "2nd hand low" rule, rather than defending her feminine intuition. The professor won the trick in dummy, switched to clubs and duly made his overtrick.

As the play concluded, Minna began to chastise the professor for his failure to play "the honor first out of the short hand" in the spade suit, totally missing the point of the hand. The professor had taught his students this rule to avoid blocking a suit. Roger quickly came to her rescue, preventing her from further embarrassing herself in her analysis of the hand, diverting her attention through the suggestion of food – a stop at the Fortune Diner immediately after the game, for an overgenerous slice of their incredible blueberry cheesecake.

This board turned out to be a tie for top, and with two other excellent results in the final round, Roger and the professor elevated their otherwise mediocre game to a 56%, which won the North-South direction on a tightly packed leader board.

Can't Cost – Chapter 9 or Think of Bridge as a Simple Game



by John Steifel

As I said in the opening paragraphs of the Can't Cost – Chapter 8 article that appeared in the May issue of the *Kibitzer*, “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.”

An excellent example is this deal from a Grand National Open Pairs club qualifying game that occurred earlier this spring.

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

♠ 7 3 2
♥ J 10
♦ K 9 2
♣ K 6 4 3 2

South deals and opens one spade. You pass and watch your opponents arrive at two spades. The auction:

1♠ P INT P
2♠ All Pass

What do you lead?

It seems right to lead one of the unbid suits and the ♥J seems safer; so you lead that card and dummy hits with:

♠ J 4
♥ Q 7 5 3 2
♦ Q 7 5 3
♣ Q 5

I think North's preference to two spades is too aggressive. True, majors score higher than minors and this is a matchpoint game. On the other hand, game is remote with partner limited to 17 points and the diamond fit is known to be at least as good and perhaps better (if partner has 4 or 5) than the spade fit.

The play to the first two tricks proceeds as follows.

Trick 1: ♥J, 2, 8, Q

Trick 2: low ♥, 10, 3, 9

You are in. What now?

You have no more hearts and leading a diamond (declarer's second suit) seems silly; so the choice seems to be between a club and a trump. A club will cost a trick if declarer has A x (having started with 5, 3, 3, 2 distribution) while a trump will cost a trick if partner has K x x or Q x x. On balance a club seems more likely to be “can't cost” because declarer might have a singleton (having started with 5, 4, 3, 1 distribution) or might not have the ace. A club play also might help if partner has the ace and declarer has a singleton.

But wait! Is a diamond play really “silly?” Upon further thought, maybe it “can't cost.” With trumps breaking 3-3, a club play is unlikely to lead to tapping declarer out because declarer can play on diamonds (low from his hand) before exhausting dummy's trumps. So the diamond might be the “can't cost” play after all. So:

Trick 3: ♦2, low, J, A

Trick 4: ♠K low, low, partner wins the A

Trick 5: ♣A from partner, J, you play the 2, opponent the 5.

You played the ♣2 at trick 5 even though you have the king because you know (but partner might not know) that you led away from your ♦K at trick 3. So partner can get a diamond ruff if declarer originally started with 4 and partner with 2 the suit. Partner seems puzzled by your ♣2 and starts to think. He did start with ♦J x and finally concludes that a diamond return to trick 6 “can't cost” and might gain. Even if declarer started with 3 diamonds and ♣J x (unlikely as you would not have played the ♣2 to trick 5) declarer will not be able to use dummy's ♦7 for a club discard regardless of his diamond holding.

So partner trusts your signal (isn't that nice!), returns his diamond to trick 6 and you give him a ruff at trick 7. Later partner scores the ♥A for the setting trick.

The original deal was:

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

Thanks to Victor King of Hartford (my partner) for finding this “can't cost” diamond play to trick 3 and making this hand worth sharing with you.



John Stiefel

A Voyage to Virtual Vienna

by Gloria Sieron

In his June 29, 2006, *NY Times* bridge column entitled, "...The Value of Being Aggressive," Phillip Alder concludes with, "As Edgar Kaplan liked to say, cautious passes cost more points than aggressive calls. Do not be afraid to act, especially when you entertain realistic hopes of hitting a fit with partner." In the Saturday, June 10th, 2006, STaC, Edgar Kaplan's advice rang loud and clear. Let's look at Deal 26.

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

All vulnerable. East is the dealer and passes. South has 19 HCP and no trump distribution. If South opens one club, North may pass with only 5 HCP. Or if North does bid one spade, South will bid two no trump. North may pass, fearful of bidding again – or if North does bid three hearts and South corrects to three spades, North will surely pass. Take another look at the South hand. If you count one more point for the fifth club and, as a well-known Florida expert advocates, aces should count 4-1/2 points, you can convince yourself to open two no trump aggressively (twenty or twenty-one HCP is a common range). How aggressive should North be with 5 HCP, plus a doubleton? How competent a declarer do you think you are? When the trump king is onside and doubleton – you bid and make game in spade. Being aggressive paid off in a big way on Board 6 as well.

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

East-West vulnerable this time. East is the dealer and passes. Playing 15 to 17 HCP no trump, South opens one no trump. North seizes the infrequent opportunity to use the Gerber ace-asking convention and bids four clubs. South has two aces and responds four spades. North checks for kings bidding five clubs. Five hearts promises South holds one king. North now bids seven no trump! When the contract was made after a successful finesse of the ♥J, plus executing a double, non-simultaneous squeeze with a Vienna Coup, North commented, "We had all the aces and kings, so I knew we could make seven no trump." Maybe, maybe not. Some thoughtful declarer play is required.

In the July 2006 *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*, Zeke Jabbour describes "The Vienna Coup" as follows: "The Vienna coup is believed to have been discovered in – you guessed it – beautiful Vienna during the pre-bridge whist era. It is an unblocking play, made in preparation for a squeeze. Declarer plays a high card(s), teasingly establishing a high

card for an opponent, this clears the way for a squeeze."



Gloria Sieron

In our case, West leads the ♦10 to the ♦K in dummy. Analyzing the lead indicates East holds the ♦Q. Declarer cashes five club winners. He then prepares for the Vienna Coup by cashing the ♦A.

Position at trick 7:

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

Declarer plays the ♥A. No problem. He then successfully finesses the ♥J. Big sigh. He then cashes the ♥K. East now has a big problem. He is squeezed. If he discards the ♦Q, declarer will win the 13th trick with the ♦J. If East throws a spade, South's third spade will be the 13th trick.

A combination of aggressive bidding and thoughtful play brings the contract home... having all the aces and kings isn't always the answer. 



Women in Bridge

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East won the opening club and, having no clubs to continue, found the safest switch; a small spade won in dummy by the jack. After negotiating the heart finesse, she led the club queen to West's ace, establishing two clubs in hand. West led another spade, won by dummy's king. The deuce of diamonds extracted the king from East who cleared the spade suit, establishing his 13th spade.

With nine tricks in view, (two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs), the contract seemed home but cashing two diamonds was difficult due to entry problems. "Well," reasoned Phyllis, "if I can't find an entry myself, I may as well let the opponents do it for me."

With this in mind, she cashed the two high clubs. On the first club, East parted with a diamond arriving at the following position with South to play.

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

Now Phyllis cashed the last club throwing a heart from dummy and giving East a choice of suicides. If he discarded a heart, the ace would fell the king establishing the 9-5 in hand while a diamond would be equally disastrous since she could then overtake her queen with the ace, winning dummy's 5-4. With such potent spot cards as threats, East was forced to part with his 13th spade. Now, with the setting trick disposed of, she simply cashed the her two high red cards and led another heart to East's king who was forced to concede the game-going trick to dummy's ♦A.

Once again, Phyllis brought home an excellent result for the Bausher pair. 

Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe

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In discussing the most interesting hands immediately after the session, I (the club's proprietor) recognized the professor's play as something akin to the Morten's Fork coup. But it was not a Morton's Fork, which (according to the *Encyclopedia of Bridge*) involves the ability to discard a loser if second hand plays low.

A typical example of the Morton's Fork Coup follows:

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

In a six spade contract, declarer wins the opening diamond lead, pulls trumps, and leads a low heart from the closed hand towards the Queen in dummy. West is caught in a Morten's Fork; if he ducks the Ace, declarer will discard his King of hearts on the diamond winner, and lose only one club trick. If West takes his Ace immediately, declarer will be able to take two club discards in hand (one each on diamond and heart winners), thereby avoiding a club loser.

So the professor's play apparently had no name, although it was (in the professor's view) equally as clever as the Morton's Fork Coup, presenting the second-hand player with an impossible dilemma. The play deserved a name.

I am pleased and honored to report that Professor Lobochevsky's choice of a name is Wolf's Conundrum Coup, named after Yours Truly, Al Wolf, Proprietor and Chief Correspondent of The Lunatic Fringe Bridge Club. 

HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

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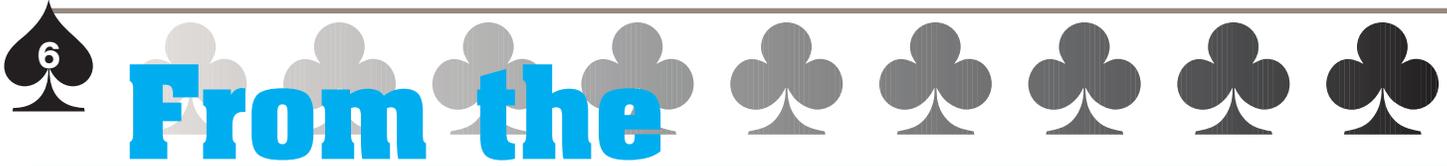
Today, the Hartford Bridge Club can boast of over 450 members. Games are held daily with evening games on Tuesday and Thursday and a special novice game on Thursday afternoon.

The many efforts of the membership have been recognized in special ways. In 1945, Charles Goren accepted the invitation from then club president Warren Mansfield to visit the club to play in a tournament event. The club members were extremely pleased to have the presence of such a highly regarded bridge icon at their club. In 2004, the HBC was recognized by the ACBL for its numerous efforts to promote the game of bridge by being honored as a recipient of the Jane Johnson Club of the Year Award.

"We are looking forward to the September 10 date when all our members can celebrate together the successes that the HBC has attained over the past 75 years. We are truly the Club with a Heart," said HBC Club Manager Donna Feir. 



Co-chairmen Ausra Geaski and Bob Gruskay with HBC Club Manager Donna Feir



Woodway Country Club

Spring series winners:
Kathy Rowland - Janet Soskin
Martha Murphy - Ann Fuller
Betty McCoy - Lorraine Belliveau
Karen Barrett - Penny Glassmeyer
Audrey Bell - Ellie Allen

Wee Burn

Trophy games were held in early May and the winners were:

Coulter Cup:

Linda Cleveland a- Karen Barrett.

Robertson Bowl:

Joan Hoben - Kathy Rowland.

The following pairs were in the money for the Spring Series:

1. Connie Bergin - Ann Towne
2. Linda Cleveland - Karen Barrett
3. Janet Soskin - Carol Davidson
4. Betty McCoy - Martha Murphy
5. Lois Berry - Jan Moller
6. Barbara Munson - Ellie Allen

Stamford

We're still here! Friday Eve at 7:30. The June World Wide Pairs was won by Dede Pochos and Rob Stayman E/W and Allan Wolf and Russ Friedman N/S.

On Saturday, playing in Westchester, two of our members, Kassie and Carlos Munoz came in 5th in the world!!!

Our annual dinner was catered and then election of officers was held. The slate is as follows:

President - Terry Lubman
Vice-president - Doris Greenwald
Secretary - Rita Doucette
Treasurer - Natalie Cohen
Ass't Treasurer - Frances Schneider
Board of Directors - Carlos Munoz, Phil Silverstein, Aimee Housholder
Director - Joan Martin
Manager - Betty MacInnis.

Trophies for the year were awarded to:

Mayor's Cup

Carolyn and Phil Farin

Men's Pairs

Phil Silverstein and Paul Burleson

Women's Pairs

Natalie Cohen and Betty MacInnis

Mixed Pairs

Terry Lubman and Phil Silverstein

Swiss Team

Frances and Bernard Schneider,
Allan Stauber and Paul Burleson

Charity Game

Doris Greenwald and Natalie Cohen

Open Pairs

Dean Montgomery and David Babson

High Average

Paul Burleson

Placement Points

Natalie Cohen

The Non-Life Master trophy went to May Lou Woods for the second consecutive year.

At our annual meeting, we remembered our absent members Sayoko Shimada and Pat Marber.

We congratulated Kassie Munoz and Phil Silverstein for becoming Gold Life Masters, Bobby Jacobs for Silver Life Master and Karen Xia for becoming alife master in a very short time. Well done everyone. Join us in Stamford on Friday evening. Call Betty MacInnis 203-324-9016.

Meriden Bridge Club

The Meriden Bridge Club and the Bridge world mourn the recent passing of Aldonna Wedge after a long bout with cancer. She was well loved and respected by all the people that knew her. She will be missed.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Connie Fairchild's husband after a long illness.

Also Laura Marcopulos left us recently, a quiet but well-liked lady.

Others on the club's D.L. and hopefully on the road to recovery are Sylvia Zietz, Jim Brown, Estelle Troj, Marie Strickland, and Helen Sweeny.

On the bright side, a festive life-master party was recently held to celebrate the induction of Ray Fortier and Alice Hummel. Congratulations to them.

The food spread was unbelievable as usual.

Congratulations to the several club players that made the top 50 in the recent STaC games.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Tuesday

Bob Hawes maintains a substantial lead for Player of the Year, ranking in the top five in all three categories. Brenda Harvey has moved into second place, but is closer to ninth place than first. Perhaps Fredda Kelly, in fifth, has the best chance to overtake Bob if she can improve her consistency ranking of 20th.

Leading Pairs:

1. Pat Gibbs - Fredda Kelly
2. Jatin Mehta - Hasmukh Shah
3. Billie Hecker - Muriel Romero
4. Bob Hawes - Jon Ingersoll
5. Hill Auerbach - Tracy Selmon

LEONORA STEIN MEMORIAL CUP THREE WEEK FINALS:

Bob Hawes brought a perfect record from the elimination rounds into the final four, hoping to become the first #1 seed to clinch one of the April cups in two weeks. He faced an imposing array of opponents with nineteen cup victories between them - Louise Wood, Helen Molloy and Fredda Kelly.

Bob almost pulled it off, but Fredda outscored him by 1.5 points in the second week after he beat all of the other three finalists in the first. But Bob rallied with a comfortable win in the third week to win his first cup and put all six cups in different hands for the first time since autumn 2002.

Friday

The Friday Player of the Year is much more wide open than Tuesday, with Florence Schannon narrowly ahead of Sylvia Alpert at the halfway point. Louise Wood, Jean Shepler-Miller, Fredda Kelly and Emma Q Antonio are all reasonably within reach of the lead.

Leading Pairs:

1. Hill Auerbach - Larry Stern
2. Sylvia Alpert - Lois Flesche
3. Muriel Romero - Florence Schannon
4. Janice Bruce - Carl Yohans
5. Shirley Fruchter - Louise Wood



ALDYTH CLAIBORN MEMORIAL CUP:

As power-packed as the Stein Cup Final Four was, that of the Claiborn Cup was full of surprises. Muriel Lipman tried to shed her eternal runner-up status against Joe Pagerino, Sylvia Alpert and Larry Stern, each of whom was in a final for the first time. In the closest cup finish ever, the outcome was determined by the top seeding Muriel earned. In the Stein and Claiborn Cup finals, the higher seed wins a head-to-head match by winning either two of the three weeks against an opponent or by having a higher total percentage.

Larry had the highest total percentage of the four finalists by a considerable margin, but Muriel defeated him two weeks out of three. Joe defeated Muriel two weeks out of three, but her total percentage was higher. Accordingly, as the #1 seed, she squeaked through both matches and won her first cup after seven near misses.

In the end, Larry did too well against Joe in the final week. In their head-to-head round, Larry played 3NT +2 twice. Had Larry made no overtricks in those contracts or bid slam on either - as others did on both - and gone down, Joe would have had a higher total percentage than Muriel, and Larry would have won the three-way tiebreak.

Tuesday/Friday Combined

HELEN FRANK MEMORIAL CUP:

It doesn't always happen, but this time many of the players who made deep runs in the Stein/Claiborn Cups started very well in the Helen Frank Cup - Joe Pagerino briefly led, Helen Molloy was in the top five most of May, and Bob Hawes remained among the leaders throughout. Mainly, throughout May the Helen Frank Cup seemed to be Fredda Kelly's to win or lose as she stayed on or very near the lead. One of Fredda's partners, Pat Gibbs, took the lead in late May, but unlike last year when Helen Molloy defeated her opponents by a record total margin of almost 30 top boards, the lead score stayed fairly low.

In early June, Brenda Harvey pulled into contention when she and Betty Puklin were first overall for the whole Unit in the Tuesday evening STaC.

Fredda dropped out of touch with the lead after a bottom finish and rallied for an eventual sixth. Up from the depths of below average rose perennial power-houses Louise Wood and Muriel Romero. Then Brenda took the lead when she and Bob Klopp scored just under 80%.

Over the last two weeks, Brenda briefly surrendered the lead but regained it, then held off Muriel in her final test to sit on a three-top lead over Pat in the final session which they both missed. No one made a move, and Brenda became not only a first-time cup winner but the first player to win a cup in the rookie season, as it were, as Brenda has been playing with us less than a year and is still delighted with any above average result.

**MILESTONES
and
CONGRATULATIONS**

Silver Life Master (1000 master points)
Michael Bolgar
James Misner

Bronze Life Master (500 master points)
Patricia Gibbs
William Kaczynski
Stanely Kerry
Marjorie Lennon
Fran Mann
Janet Soskin

Life Masters (300 master points)
Raymond Fortier
Penelope Glassmeyer
Betty Hodgman
Gernot Reiners
Mary Richardson
Jean Schiarol

**UNIT 126
JUNE STaC TOP 50**

June 12, 2006

1	14.22	Linda Green
2	12.01	Janice Lamartine
3	10.62	Fran Mann
4	9.97	Mel Weisel
5	9.13	Lawrence Lau
6	8.73	Phyllis Bausher
7	7.92	Lenny Russman
8	7.66	Larry Bausher
9	7.57	Hank Fox
10	7.53	Cynthia Michael
11	7.52	Al Wolf
12	7.44	Don Stiegler
13	7.40	Patricia Gibbs
14	7.23	Dee Benevento
15	7.00	Brenda Harvey
16	7.00	Betty Puklin
17	6.96	Peter Amedeo
18	6.94	Harold Feldheim
19	6.77	William Selden
20	6.76	Nancy Starr
21	6.31	Arlene Leshine
22	6.18	John Segal
23	6.10	Walter Joelson
24	6.07	David Benjamin
25	6.03	Margaret Mason
26	5.91	Mary Scarfi
27	5.81	Fredda Kelly
28	5.07	Robert Eppinger
29	5.07	Janet Gischner
30	5.07	Paula Eppinger
31	4.95	Nancy Sharp
32	4.91	William Kuczynski
33	4.87	Joan Panico
34	4.65	Karen Barrett
35	4.64	Stan Steckler
36	4.55	Carmela Marcella
37	4.54	William Wood
38	4.52	Harris Jacobs
39	4.27	Lois Karcher
40	4.21	Louise Wood
41	4.19	Henry (Roy) Andrews
42	4.10	Ann Cady
43	4.08	Shirley Fruchter
44	3.75	Sarah Budds
45	3.75	Leo Ditkoff
46	3.70	Gertrude Pedersen
47	3.67	Barbara Blake
48	3.67	Carol Davidson
49	3.53	Betty MacInnis
50	3.44	Betty Hodgman



Connecticut Shines in Chicago

Connecticut took a back seat to no one at the ACBL National Tournament held in Chicago in July.

The team of Bernard and Frances Schneider, Allan Wolf, and Russell Friedman, captured the District 25 Flight B Grant National Team event with a resounding victory. The Fairfield County team won every match in the event against opponents from Ohio District 5.

The Schneiders went on to capture 7th place with a pair from Arizona in the Senior Swiss Team event held later in the week.

The winners of Senior Swiss Team event were another Connecticut foursome: Geoffrey Brod, Stephen Earl, Richard DeMartino, and John Stiefel. Third place in this event was captured by a team that included Steve Becker and Larry Bausher.

Many other Connecticut names appeared in the winning columns during the tournament. Congratulations to all for all the victories and bringing such glory to the nutmeg state and District 25.



The Fabulous Foursome, left to right: Bernard and Frances Schneider, Allan Wolf, and Russell Friedman

Taking Advantage of Your Opportunities

by Bernard G. Schneider

Winning team events requires discipline, focus, and an element of adventure by both partnerships. The following deal from the finals of this summer's Grand National Teams Flight B event shows the winning Connecticut foursome of Al Wolf (captain), Russell Friedman, Frances Schneider and myself, representing New England, in action.

North

♠ K Q 10 x
♥ K x x x
♦ A x x
♣ A x

West

♠ x
♥ A Q x x
♦ J 10 x x
♣ J x x x

East

♠ J x x x x x
♥ J 10 x x x
♦ x
♣ Q

South

♠ A x
♥ Void
♦ K Q x x x
♣ K 10 x x x x

North-South were vulnerable, and Al Wolf opened the South hand one diamond to allow him to bid both his suits conveniently. Wolf-Friedman then bid smartly and aggressively to six diamonds. Along the way, they used a Blackwood variation they had developed that specifically identifies the heart void.

The contract is excellent and can survive bad breaks in both minor suits. Declarer won the spade lead, drew two rounds of trumps, and because of the club spots, was able to ruff out West's jack of clubs, scoring plus 1370.

As the other half of the team, Frances and I are sitting East/West and our opponents opened with South bidding a precision two clubs. North answered two diamonds, probing for a major suit fit. My partner, Frances, sitting East, now stepped in aggressively with a three club cue bid, describing a distributional hand in the majors. South bid three diamonds, and West jumped to four hearts. North now had a dilemma, and his double ended the auction.

Playing along crossruff lines, West made eight tricks, for down two, or minus 300. When we compared scores, this hand resulted in a net pickup of 14 IMP's and contributed to our Flight B win for New England, District 25.



Bernard Schneider

What's the Connecticut Bridge Association?

If you're a member of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), then you are a member of the CBA. The ACBL is the national bridge organization that is composed of units. In our case the entire state of Connecticut is a unit (CBA Unit 126). Units are part of a larger organization or district, in our case the New England Bridge Conference, District 25. There are 25 separate districts in the ACBL. The Units run sectional games and the District is responsible for the Regionals.

Currently, Lenny Russman is the CBA Recorder. The Recorder's primary responsibility is to deal with issues involving either a player's general behavior or ethics. Lenny handles complaints that are 1) not serious enough to warrant filing formal charges; 2) are serious but with only an implication of wrongdoing and without substantial evidence necessary to bring formal charges; 3) are a request to have behavior modified by counseling.

He may file a complaint with an appropriate disciplinary body and he may choose to inform the subject that a complaint may be filed in the future should the undesirable behavior continue.

So, if you perceive a serious behavior problem on the part of a player, you may send a memo to, or speak with, the CBA Recorder, Lenny Russman, and he will investigate and determine the most appropriate action for the specific incident.

And if you're wondering who and what the Unit Coordinator is, here's a quick answer. Don Stiegler is the CBA Unit Coordinator. Don maintains the CBA bridge calendar and coordinates the dates for Unit-sponsored games which include our three sectional tournaments at the clubs

(Stac games). Stac games are now combined with clubs in the north New Jersey area, making the field larger, thus awarding more master points.

These games are played at those local clubs usually scheduled for a game that day. These games award higher master points than the typical daily club game. In addition, Don helps to promote ACBL-wide events in the Unit. Don is the interface between the club managers and the ACBL board.

More about other Board members' responsibilities to come.



Connecticut Bridge Association
ACBL Unit 126

Tournaments | Masterpoint Races | Club Games | The Kibitzer | Information

Welcome to the CBA Home Page. Here you will find lots of information about the game of bridge in Connecticut. The CBA sponsors tournaments in Connecticut sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL).

YOU TALKED... WE LISTENED

The Connecticut Bridge Associate (CBA) recently conducted a survey to determine what your preferences and suggestions were relative to Saturday evening attendance at our Sectional tournaments.

We have also listened to your comments about the tournaments in general. We have heard that you like to play in a nice venue that is easy to find and where the parking is good. You like snacks and good lighting and clean bathrooms. You come to play bridge and don't want an excessive amount of time between sessions. You'd like to get home earlier in the evening.

We get it. So here is what was decided by your Board.

DISTRICT 25
NEW ENGLAND BRIDGE CONFERENCE
NEWCOMER PROGRAM
DISTRICT 25 NEWS
CALENDAR
TOURNAMENT RESULTS
MASTERPOINT RACES

Calendar

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2006	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Masterpoint Races

- 2006 Monroe Magnus Connecticut Sectional Masterpoint Trophy
- 2006 Barb Shave Trophy
- 2006 Scott Loring Memorial Trophy
- Latest Mini-McKenney Results (ACBL)
- Latest Ace of Clubs (ACBL)
- Top 200 in Connecticut
- Masterpoint Races from 2005
- Masterpoint Races from 2004
- Results Prior to 2004
- This year's Tournament Results
- The CBA Home Page

CBA functions as any other organization, with a board of volunteers that meets regularly and has oversight of sectional tournaments, Stac games, unit games and other particulars of the game.

Besides the usual officers, the Board is composed of representatives from various areas in the state. The officers and reps are listed on the last page of each *Kibitzer* along with their phone numbers. Bridge players in a sanctioned game who have a problem or an issue can contact their rep to resolve the issue or bring it to the attention of the right person. That "right person" is usually the Unit Recorder

Everything you need to know is available on the CBA web site: www.ctbridge.org

bridge games. Lenny investigates complaints and tries to resolve the situation. He also maintains a record of all incidents and memos, including the investigation and resolution. He must maintain confidentiality of the process. The Recorder has no disciplinary authority.

Ruling the Game

by Associate National Tournament Director, Mike Flader

Responding to Questions About Our Agreements.

Law 40C states that a director determines if a side has been damaged through their opponent's failure to fully disclose their partnership agreements. That means... that a player must fully disclose any agreements this partnership has. Even if the question is not asked exactly correctly, the player must fully disclose all agreements relative to the question.

For example, if defender asks in the middle of the play of the hand, "What are your leads?" he probably wants to know about your signals. An appropriate answer to this question might be something like, "We lead the top of a sequence or fourth best. When signaling, high cards are encouraging, low cards are discouraging."

Remember also that it never adequate to explain an agreements by stating the name of the convention being played. Rather than say, "Flannery," when opponent asks the meaning of your partner's 2 diamond opening bid, it is correct to say, "Four spades, five hearts, and 11-15 high-card points."

Additionally, it is important to respond to a question about method by saying what your partnership agreement is. Frequently, as player will ask a question like, "How are you taking your partner's 2♦ bid" You may get into trouble if you answer this question by stating what you think the bid should show and it turns out that your partner is not on the same wavelength with you. It is better to state the partnership agreement.

You are never obliged to disclose information of which you become aware through your bridge expertise. Stick to what your partnership agreement is.

It is also okay to respond to a question about method with the answer, "We have no agreement." This is no time to speculate if you're not sure. The opponents may want to call the director to clarify the situation and it is possible that partner may have some unauthorized information from your honest response, but you are less likely to have to pay a penalty.

If you and your partner's convention cards both match the explanation, it will not matter if your partner does not have the hand he is supposed to hold. That is not an infraction of the law.

If your convention cards are differently filled out, or if one or both of you does not have a filled out convention card, then in cases of doubt, the director is going to proceed on the assumption that you and your partner have misinformed the opponents.

Reprinted from the Daily Bulletin from the National tournament in Dallas, Texas, this April.

TOP 100 SCOTT LORING MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

May 8, 2006

1	20.25	Richard DeMartino	35	5.12	J Kuklinski	69	3.01	Margaret Mason
2	17.91	John Stiefel	36	4.77	Lawrence Stern	70	2.98	Fredda Kelly
3	17.28	Don Stiegler	37	4.76	Shirley Fruchter	71	2.98	Louise Wood
4	13.75	Allan Clamage	38	4.63	Patricia Gibbs	72	2.71	Sharon Larson
5	13.06	Lawrence Lau	39	4.59	Lee Herdle	73	2.71	Carl Yohans Jr
6	12.80	Dean Montgomery	40	4.58	Janet Gischner	74	2.71	Joe Proulx
7	12.41	Stephanie Hamilton-Diesel	41	4.56	Edward Shepherd	75	2.66	Barbara Blake
8	12.41	Michael Diesel	42	4.56	Kathy Shepherd	76	2.66	Alan Blake
9	9.75	Jonathan Fieldman	43	4.51	Ausra Geaski	77	2.64	Harold Feldheim
10	9.75	Victor King	44	4.49	Frank Blachowski	78	2.64	Lynn Condon
11	9.21	James Greer	45	4.49	Howard Lawrence	79	2.58	Pierina Graebe
12	8.41	Tucker Merritt	46	4.39	Janice Bruce	80	2.44	Jane Finn
13	8.41	Thomas Hyde	47	4.23	Robert Hawes	81	2.44	Solomon Field
14	7.84	Cynthia Michael	48	4.20	Kelley Hwang	82	2.44	Kenneth Hirshon
15	7.59	Paul Burnham	49	4.18	Bunny Kliman	83	2.44	Nick Kopeloff
16	7.31	William Wood	50	4.11	Burton Gischner	84	2.39	Billie Hecker
17	7.31	Debbie Benner	51	4.10	David Hyatt	85	2.36	W Kenneth Graebe
18	7.31	Arthur Crystal	52	4.07	Gernot Reiners	86	2.36	Donald Brueggemann
19	7.25	Bob Gorsey	53	3.93	Robert Vander Wiede	87	2.36	Judith Hess
20	7.25	Joyce Pearson	54	3.92	Nancy Hall	88	2.34	Eleanor Gimon
21	6.62	John Farwell	55	3.92	Pete Hall	89	2.30	Deanna Mozzochi
22	6.55	Marjorie Ehrenfreund	56	3.72	Lois Flesche	90	2.27	John O'Shea
23	6.29	Mary Witt	57	3.63	Phyllis Bausher	91	2.27	Karen Abate
24	5.83	Lenny Russman	58	3.62	Jean Bramley	92	2.27	Dibirna Burnham
25	5.48	Russell Friedman	59	3.61	Gerald Greitzer	93	2.23	Judith Crystal
26	5.48	John Segal	60	3.61	Sarah Corning	94	2.23	Constance Sommer
27	5.48	Nancy Starr	61	3.61	Adrian Rebollo	95	2.15	James Misner
28	5.44	Helen Kobornusz	62	3.38	Maeve Mahon	96	2.15	Elaine Misner
29	5.22	Nora Tkacz	63	3.36	Claire Sauer	97	2.11	David Blackburn
30	5.22	Robert Rising	64	3.32	Morris Feinson	98	2.10	Jian Wang
31	5.22	Jay Force	65	3.32	Henry (Roy) Andrews	99	2.10	Philip O'Deane
32	5.22	Elaine Haut	66	3.31	Virginia Goggin	100	2.08	Mary Leclair
33	5.22	Arthur Haut	67	3.26	David Rock			
34	5.12	Robert Serenyi	68	3.09	Larry Bausher			

SCOTT LORING MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT



Guilford, May 5 - 7, 2006

Jonathan Fieldman won the Scott Loring trophy.
Jonathan played in flight A and won the A team game, however, he has less than 600 masterpoints.

FRI. AFT. OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Michael Diesel -
Stephanie Hamilton-Diesel |
| 2 | | Mary Witt - Dean Montgomery |
| 3 | | Howard Lawrence -
Frank Blachowski |
| 4 | | Cynthia Michael - Lenny Russman |
| 5 | | Richard DeMartino -
Eleanor Gimon |
| 6 | 1 | David Hyatt - Lee Herdle |
| | 2 | 1 Ed Finlay - Bob Meisel |
| | 3 | 2 Thomas Martin - Pierina Graebe |
| | 4 | 3 Robert Eppinger - Paula Eppinger |

FRI. AFT. SENIOR PAIRS

- | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler |
| 2 | | Henry (Roy) Andrews -
Deanna Mozzochi |
| 3 | | Ruth Teitelman - Micki Schaffel |
| 4 | | Charles Halpin -
Kathleen Frangione |
| 5 | | Margaret Mason -
Helen Kobernusz |
| 6 | | Lois Zeisler - Terry Brewster |
| | 1 | Marjorie Ehrenfreund -
Louise Cotsalas |
| | 2 | Shirley Fruchter - Lois Flesche |
| | 3 | Claire Sauer - Richard Blair |
| | 4 | 1 Emilia Sivakoff - Raymond Fortier |
| | 5 | 2 Phyllis Haeckel - Eugene Haeckel |
| | | 3 Helen Shields - Penny Apter |

FRI. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | | Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler |
| 2 | | Kelley Hwang - Lawrence Lau |
| 3 | | Bob Gorsey - Joyce Pearson |
| 4/5 | 1 | Patricia Gibbs - Robert Hawes |
| 4/5 | | Michael Diesel -
Stephanie Hamilton-Diesel |
| 6 | | Cynthia Michael - Lenny Russman |
| | 2 | 1 Lawrence Stern - Lee Herdle |
| | 3 | 2 Philip O'Deane - Jian Wang |
| | 4 | 3 Robert Vander Wiede -
Pierina Graebe |

SAT. MORN. A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | John Stiefel - Richard DeMartino |
| 2 | | Don Stiegler - Paul Burnham |
| 3 | | Lawrence Lau - Maeve Mahon |
| 4 | | Michael Diesel -
Stephanie Hamilton-Diesel |
| 5 | | James Greer - Allan Clamage |
| 6 | 1 | Jean Bramley - Morris Feinson |
| | 2 | Dean Montgomery -
David Blackburn |
| | 3 | Thomas Hyde - Tucker Merritt |
| | 4 | Walter Nason - William Nason |

SAT. MORN. B/C/D PAIRS

- | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|
| 1/2 | | Helen Kobernusz -
Marjorie Ehrenfreund |
| 1/2 | | David Rock - Gernot Reiners |
| 3 | 1 | Janice Bruce - Billie Hecker |
| 4 | 2 | Brian Mahony - Florence Mahony |
| 5 | 3 | Barbara Blake - Alan Blake |

SAT. MORN. 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | C |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 James Schmerl - Susan Schmerl |
| 2 | 2 | 2 Margaret Hovell - Barbara Whiting |
| 3 | 3 | 3 Constance Sommer - Judith Crystal |
| 4 | 4 | Brenda Harvey - Jean Diedrich |

SAT. AFT. A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Thomas Hyde - Tucker Merritt |
| 2 | 2 | J Kuklinski - Robert Serenyi |
| 3 | 3 | Ausra Geaski - Bunny Kliman |
| 4 | | Bob Gorsey - Joyce Pearson |
| 5 | | John Stiefel - Richard DeMartino |
| 6 | | Lynn Condon - Harold Feldheim |
| | 4 | Terry Fidler - Lenny Russman |

SAT. AFT. B/C/D PAIRS

- | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Gerald Greitzer - Adrian Rebollo |
| 2 | | Joe Proulx - Sharon Larson |
| 3 | 1 | 1 Lawrence Stern -
Robert Vander Wiede |
| 4 | 2 | Elaine Misner - James Misner |
| 5 | 3 | Elaine Haut - Arthur Haut |
| 6 | | David Rock - Gernot Reiners |
| | 4 | 2 Constance Sommer - Judith Crystal |
| | 5 | Thomas Gerchman - Mary Witt |
| | 6 | 3 Virginia Goggin - Shirley Fruchter |

SAT. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | | Sarah Corning - Cynthia Michael |
| 2/3 | | Mary Leclair - Charlotte Zultowsky |
| 2/3 | | Louise Wood - Fredda Kelly |
| 4 | | Dean Montgomery - Don Stiegler |
| 5 | | Jane Smith - Barb Shaw |
| | 1 | Patricia Gibbs - Anthony Tusa |
| | 2 | Judith Hess - Robert Hawes |

SUNDAY FLT. A SWISS

- Victor King - Jonathan Fieldman -
Richard DeMartino - John Stiefel
- Debbie Benner - James Greer -
Arthur Crystal - William Wood
- Russell Friedman - Lawrence Lau
- John Segal - Nancy Starr
- Burton Gischner - Dean Montgomery -
Janet Gischner - Allan Clamage
- Paul Burnham - Phyllis Bausher -
Larry Bausher - Don Stiegler

SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS

- | B | C | D |
|---------|---|--|
| 1 | | Jay Force - Robert Rising -
John Farwell - Nora Tkacz |
| 2 | 1 | Nancy Hall - Pete Hall -
Edward and Kathy Shepherd |
| 3 | | Arthur Haut - Elaine Haut -
Barbara Blake - Alan Blake -
Marjorie Ehrenfreund -
Helen Kobernusz |
| 4/6/2/4 | 1 | Solomon Field - Kenneth Hirshon
- Jane Finn - Nick Kopeloff |
| 4/6/2/4 | | Lois Flesche - Claire Sauer -
Karen Abate - Dibirna Burnham |
| 4/6/2/4 | | Virginia Goggin - Shirley Fruchter
- Janice Bruce - Carl Yohans Jr. |
| | 2 | Lawrence Eppler -
Cherry McLaughlin -
Anthony Gardener -
Donald Migliaro |

Upcoming Tournament

Newington

September 15, 16 & 17

Mary Witt at 860-658-9395
has all the details.

Zen and the Art of Bridge

by Bruce Greenspan

1. The No. 1 rule of bridge: there are no rules, only guidelines.
2. How many of you play better after partner whines and complains about your play?
3. Keep the bidding in mind as you play a contract. Remember the bidding... Declarer play is much easier when you know where the opposition high cards are hiding. If there is an overcall or double, put most of those points in that hand. If the opponent makes a two-suited overcall, as in Michaels or the unusual 2NT, (you have) a road map on how to declare.
4. Stay in the present. Worry about a mistake you made last deal and on the next one you'll soon be worrying about another error. ...Learn from your errors and move on. Dwell on them and you and your partner are in for a long night.
5. If you really want to learn how to play this great game... move up a level as soon as you are ready. Play against the best players and when you get to Flight A and learn from them.
6. Be flexible. Adjust as the contract is being played. Preconceived notions can be deadly. When partner is on lead and plays a 9, don't assume it is top of nothing. Look at your cards, dummy's cards and the card declarer plays. A 9 is maybe the lowest of 3 cards... or even a singleton.
7. Search out the top players in your area. For the most part, they will be happy to offer advice on bidding and play. Avoid players who think they are the top players and give unwanted lessons at the table.
8. Count, count, count... The more you count, the easier the game becomes. Be aware, however, that when you start counting, your game may hit a speed bump. You're so involved with counting that the basics may disappear in the tall grass.
9. Don't get discouraged. This is a most humbling game and sometimes it seems you get sucked into a Black Hole and will never get out. Don't worry. This too shall pass.
10. Cherish your partner. Without him or her, you would be playing solitaire.

Reprinted from the Daily Bulletin published at the National Tournament in Dallas, Texas, in April.



THE KIBITZER

The Kibitzer is published quarterly by the Connecticut Bridge Association, Unit 126 of the American Contract Bridge League.

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 **October 15**. All ads must be received by **October 1**.

Editor: Esther Watstein

108 Jamestown Road

Stratford, CT 06614

Phone & Fax: 203-375-5489

Email: ctbridge@optonline.net

Design & Layout: Blaine Kruger

You can see *The Kibitzer* in blazing color at the CT bridge site: ctbridge.org. If you would like to receive *The Kibitzer* via e-mail, let us know.

Your CBA

President	Kay Howe	203-299-1630
Vice President	Ausra Geaski	860-528-3807
Secretary	Debbie Noack	203-380-0107
Treasurer	Susan Seckinger	860-513-1127
Past President	Charlie Halpin	860-347-5223
Tournament Coordinator	Mary Witt	860-658-9395
Tournament Director	Susan Patricelli	860-243-5058
Unit Coordinator	Don Stiegler	203-929-6595
Recorder	Lenny Russman	203-245-6850
CBA web site	www.ctbridge.org	

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.

Central	Kay Frangione	860-621-7233
Fairfield	Esther Watstein	203-375-5489
Hartford	Betty Nagle	860-529-7667
Northwestern	Mary Witt	860-658-9395
Panhandle	Sandy De Martino	203-637-2781
Southern	Phyllis Bausher	203-248-3653
Eastern	Burt Gischnner	860-691-1484
Southwestern	Paul Burnham	203-899-3327
Members-at-Large	Joyce Stiefel	860-563-0722
	John Stiefel	860-563-0722
	Geoff Brod	860-677-1018