

THE KIBITZER



February 2007

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The 4-4 Fit...in Any Suit

by Harold Feldheim

Since early days, we've learned that a 4-4 fit is usually worth an extra trick. In matchpoint scoring, that makes us aware of major suits versus no trump, but not as aware when our hands hold minor suits. This is because minors score 20 per trick while majors score 30. Thus, despite the extra trick found in the 4-4 fit, 2 NT +120 will fail to 3♥ +140 but outscore the minor 3♣ +110.

However, this approach can be costly when dealing with the rarified atmosphere of slam. Consider the following hand.

When partner opens 1NT, we all have various bidding methods - Jacoby transfers, Stayman, Texas and Smolen among others. Please notice that while these methods cater to major fits, minor fits often go unnoticed. The following hand utilized a method whereby North-South reached a top contract while an unfortunate East-West pair suffered a zero simply by being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

When most pairs came across this hand, the auction was fast and to the point: 1NT - P - 4NT - all pass. Slam depends on a successful ♣ finesse plus either a squeeze or a 3-3 split. Since West held the queen, +460 was the popular result. (Needless to say, a couple of aggressive players bid to 6NT and received their just desserts). However, one North-South pair was armed with a very useful convention; a variant of minor suit Stayman.



Harold Feldheim

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

North's 3♠ was artificial, suggesting the possibility of minor suit strength. South's 3NT rebid is a relay allowing North to further define her hand.

Possible rebids were:

- 4♣ - slam try in clubs
- 4♦ - slam try in diamonds
- 4♥ - slam try in both minors (short ♥).
- 4♠ - slam try in both minors (short ♠).
- and finally...

4NT; a flat, quantitative hand but containing the added information about both minors; either 3-2-4-4 or 2-2-5-4.

Since a 4-4 fit is usually worth an extra trick, South leaped directly to a small slam in diamonds. The play was no problem; after drawing trumps, South ruffed dummy's third spade for her 12th trick.

Conclusion: 3♠ is a useful weapon, easily added to your bidding inventory. It costs nothing and it works! Your only investment would be to learn the above responses. It does not occur frequently but when it does, try not to chortle. 🤪

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

Dealer: South
Neither side vulnerable

MILESTONES and CONGRATULATIONS

Emerald Life Master

(7500 MP)
Victor King

Diamond Life Master

(5000 MP)
James Greer

Gold Life Master

(2500 MP)
Howard Lawrence

Silver Life Master

(1000 MP)
Peter Amadeo

Bronze Life Master

(500 MP)
Ed Finlay
Jane Finn
Beverly Grushkin
Arnold Grushkin
David Keller
Betty Levine
Ruth Merblum
Susan Segal
Jeanne Striefler
Rachel Tanowitz
Paul Tungatt

Life Master (300 MP)

Brett Adler
Peter Amedeo
Carol Davidson
Paula Eppinger
Robert Eppinger
Francine Gilbert
Arlene Small
Rachel Tanowitz
Marilyn Tjader
Larry Wallowitz

Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe Second Hand Play, Part One

by Allan Wolf

With this article, I'll begin a series cataloguing the exceptions to the well-worn bridge maxim "second hand low," which is often a good guideline for the defenders, consistent with the principle that high cards are meant to capture other high cards. A standard example:

Dummy	
K x x	
RHO	LHO
A 10 x	J x x x
J x x x	
Declarer	
Q x x	

When declarer leads low toward the King, LHO should NOT play the Ace, but a low card. Playing the Ace gives declarer two tricks in the suit. Instead, play a low card, and keep the Ace over the Queen.

Exception #1: Splitting Honors

This is a rather well-known exception to the 2nd hand low guideline, making sure when you have a sequence of high cards that declarer does not "steal" a trick with low card. With J 10 9 x, play a high card in 2nd hand when a low card is led either from dummy's or declarer's hand.

The choice of which honor card to play is a matter that has undergone some change in thinking. The old-fashioned method was to play the lowest of touching honors when splitting, i.e. the 9 from the J 10 9 x holding. Many players have now adopted the more modern treatment of splitting by playing the highest of touching honors, i.e. the Jack. The reason for this is that it helps partner to place declarer's high cards. Consider:

Dummy:	x x x
Partner:	x x x You: J 10 9 x
Declarer:	A??

A low card is played from dummy. You split by playing the 9, and declarer wins with the Ace. From partner's point of view, you could be splitting from J 10 9 x, Q J 10 9 x, or even K Q J 10 9. Whereas, if you split by playing the

Jack, partner knows that declarer also has the King and Queen of this suit. Note that this only applies in 2nd hand. When splitting in 3rd hand, always play the lowest of touching honors.

Exception #2: Destroying Transportation to the Dummy

This exception to 2nd hand low is intended to destroy transportation to the dummy. One such situation is the following layout of a critical suit, where dummy has no outside entries:

Dummy	
A J 10 9 x	
LHO	RHO
K x x	Q x x
Declarer	
x x	

If LHO plays 2nd hand low when declarer plays toward dummy, declarer will finesse, allowing RHO to win the Queen, but then a 2nd finesse of the King brings the whole suit home. If RHO holds up the Queen, it also prevents the run of the suit, but gives declarer an extra trick.

Instead, LHO should play the King on the first lead, preventing the run of the suit, and holding declarer to one trick. It was knowledge of this expert 2nd hand play that undid Cecil Horne on a rare occasion when he played at the club, filling in for Professor Lobochevski who was off on a trip to Patagonia. Warren agreed to play with Cecil as a big favor to his boss, hoping to strengthen the ties between their respective firms (obviously, the boss was not a bridge player).

Cecil was a brash, obnoxious loud-mouth, much impressed with his own bridge abilities. He constantly brought up hands where he had gotten the better of some well-known expert. But among



Allan Wolf

the best players, he was best known for making the "expert" play at the most inopportune time, often yielding an "impossible" result. This hand was the perfect example:

North (Majorca)	
♠ 8 5 4	
♥ 8 5	
♦ J 8 7	
♣ A J 10 9 5	
North (Cecil)	East (Warren)
♠ Q 7 3	♠ J 10 6
♥ K 7 6 4 2	♥ Q J 10 3
♦ 9 5	♦ 10 6 4 3 2
♣ K 7 4	♣ Q
South (Minna)	
♠ A K 9 2	
♥ A 9	
♦ A K Q	
♣ 8 6 3 2	

The bidding was a straightforward 2NT opening by Minna, raised to 3NT by Majorca. After a standard heart lead, it would seem that the contract is doomed. Declarer has only 7 tricks off the top, and must establish club tricks to have any chance of making the contract. But once the defense gains the lead with a club, they can run four heart tricks, for down one.

But this was Minna's lucky day. Although she was often intimidated by Cecil, she played this hand as if she didn't have a care in the world. Seeing no point in holding up the ♥A, she won the first trick and immediately put a crafty eight of clubs on the table. With a great flourish, Cecil slapped down the ♣K, recognizing the opportunity to stop the run of the club suit. He also felt surely that Minna had a second heart stopper. With only the Ace, wouldn't she hold up?

As Minna won with dummy's ♣A, and Warren produced the Queen, Cecil's transformation from triumph to tragedy was a sight to behold. He actually began to whimper. Warren's comments were small consolation. "Only a true expert could allow declarer to make two over-tricks in a contract that was surely headed to defeat." *continued on page 3*

Can't Cost – Chapter 11

by John Stiefel



We're all taught to "count out every hand." In that regard, there are 3 types of hands:

Easy to get the count;

Impossible to get the count;

Not so easy to get the count but possible if you make the effort.

This hand falls into Category 3 and is taken from a recent Regional Knockout.

You hold:

♠ A x x x
♥ A Q x x x
♦ x
♣ K J 10

As dealer, you open 1♥ and partner responds 2NT (strong heart raise). What do you do now?

That depends, of course, on your methods. Using the methods I prefer, you respond 3♦ (extras with undisclosed shortness – not necessarily in diamonds). Partner would normally continue with 3♥ (describe your shortness) and you would bid 4♣ (singleton diamond). Partner would now normally bid Blackwood and put you in 6♥.

The opening lead is a trump and dummy hits with:

♠ x x
♥ K x x x x
♦ A x x
♣ A x x

6♥ is a pretty good contract if you can get enough of a count on the hand to determine which opponent has more clubs and then finesse that opponent for the Q. So you win the opening lead (trumps splitting 2-1) and draw the second round of trump (LHO discarding a diamond). What now?



John Stiefel

third round of trump right now?

If you do that, RHO and LHO will presumably discard diamonds (as each knows that you have a singleton). The play then proceeds as follows.

Trick 4 - spade ducked

Trick 5 – diamond to the Ace

Trick 6 – spade to the Ace

Trick 7 – spade ruff

Trick 8 – diamond ruff

Trick 9 – spade ruff (LHO follows and RHO throws a club)

Trick 10 –diamond ruff (LHO follows and RHO throws another club)

At this point you know that RHO started with 3-2-3-5 distribution; so at trick 10 you lead the jack of clubs (just in case LHO has the queen and covers). LHO pauses for about a second and plays low. You, however, go with the 5-2 odds, win dummy's ace and finesse RHO's queen to make your slam.

A few observations.

If anyone is interested in my preferred responses to the 2NT strong raise of a major, e-mail me at stief@juno.com.

At the table, the N-S team was far ahead in the match with only a few boards to play, so North, unwilling to

It seems normal to duck a spade, cross ruff spades and diamonds, come down to a 4-card ending with 3 clubs and 1 trump in each hand and then try to guess the club. But how can it cost to play a

“put the board up for grabs,” reasonably settled for 4♥ which turned out to be a “push.” That doesn't detract, however, from a good play problem.

Many hands have been lost by declarer's failure to lead the last trump. The last trump might be the key play to set up a squeeze or an end-play or (in this case) to get the full count on the hand. It's true that you'll go down two if LHO wins a doubleton queen of clubs at trick 12; but safety-playing undoubled game or slam contracts to prevent extra undertricks is not winning IMP strategy. When faced with a 2-way guess for a missing honor(s), don't read too much into slight pauses by your opponents. Instead assume, as was the case here, the opponent knows you have a key guess and is trying to play “not too fast and not too slow.”

Once you play the third round of trump, RHO might try discarding a club instead of a diamond; but declarer should read that discard as being from a 5-card holding and still get the hand right.

You chose this sequence of plays to tricks 4-10 so you would end up in your hand to lead the club jack to trick 11. This gives you a slight extra chance if LHO has the Q and covers.

Thanks to teammate Steve Bloom for suggesting this line of play in the post-mortem of this hand that didn't have any bearing on the outcome of a match that wasn't close.



continued from page 2

Answers to the bridge quiz in last issue regarding hands that can make 3NT with (1) fewest number of HCP against any distribution, and (2) the fewest number of HCP that can make 3NT with highly favorable distribution. (This exercise has absolutely NO practical bridge value.)

The fewest number of high card points that a partnership can have and be ice cold for 3NT is 15. One suit with a 12-card fit, missing only the King, and seven or more running tricks. Two more

aces. The fourth suit protected by declarer or dummy having five cards to the 10, 9, (and 8 if needed). Defense may be able to take four tricks in this suit, but once in, declarer has his nine.

The fewest number of high card points that a partnership can have, and be able to make 3NT due to an absurdly favorable lie of the opponents cards is 7 HCP. Declarer has nine running tricks in an 11-card fit, with the K and Q dropping singleton.

The hand on opening lead consists of a 10-card suit, missing only the Queen.

Other three cards are two singleton aces (or AK and a void), along with the singleton K or Q in declarer's running suit.

Declarer or dummy's only other points are Q third in the leader's 10-card suit. Suits are blocked and the hand on opening lead can take only four tricks before declarer runs his nine.

Minna's comment on seeing this hand was “How silly! Even if the opening lead hand had ‘overbid’ to six of her suit, it would still be a great sacrifice against a cold 3NT!”



Whose Problem is it Anyway?

by Gloria Sieron

In South, first position, you are dealt this 4-3-3-3 distribution hand with 13 points. With six of the 13 in “quacks,” you blink at the marginal values – but 13 is 13 and you must open the bidding with one club.



Gloria Sieron

♠ K 9 2
♥ Q 4 3
♦ Q J 2
♣ A J 10 5

Your partner responds one diamond. Further description of this hand compels you to bid one no trump. Much to your horror, the next card your partner places on the table – of course – is six no trump. At least your marginal first position opening bid will be concealed from view.

The complete deal:

North
♠ Q J 10
♥ A J 5
♦ A K 10 9 8
♣ K 2

West
♠ A 8 7 6 5
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 4 3
♣ 6 4 3

East
♠ 4 3
♥ K 10 6 2
♦ 7 6 5
♣ Q 9 8 7

South
♠ K 9 2
♥ Q 4 3
♦ Q J 2
♣ A J 10 5

After the lead of the ♠A and a spade continuation to declarer’s King, you count your sure tricks and the total is ten, two short of fulfilling your contract. There are two finesses available to you – the finesse of the ♥K or the finesse of the ♣Q. Only the successful finesse of the ♣Q can give you the two extra tricks you need. You decide to run the diamonds to see what discards the opponents make. West discards two clubs and a spade. East discards two hearts; the six and the two. The finesse of the ♣Q looks promising.

Instead of worrying about being in a slam-dependent on two finesses, you, playing South, at trick 8, play the ♠Q.

See what happens to the East hand when South plays the ♠Q:

North
♠ Q
♥ A J 5
♦ Void
♣ K 2

West
♠ 8 7
♥ 9 8 7
♦ Void
♣ 6

East
♠ Void
♥ K 10
♦ Void
♣ Q 9 8 7

South
♠ 9
♥ Q
♦ Void
♣ A J 10 5

East has the choice of parting with a club or playing the ♥10, leaving the ♥K singleton. Whatever East discards, he will have a noticeable problem. Most likely, he will discard a low club, presenting South with the two extra tricks needed to score 6NT.



Four Pearls from the Pacific Ocean

From the left: Sandy DeMartino, Esther Watstein, Doris Greenwald, and Phyllis Bausher not playing bridge during the Fall National tournament in Honolulu.

SAVE THE DATES

March 2, 3, 4
Sectional Tournament
Elks Club
East Hartford

May 4, 5, 6
Knights of Columbus,
Hamden

Call Mary Witt 860-242-9395
More info at
www.ctbridge.org

District Director's Report - November 2006

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Hawaii NABC

The Hawaii NABC was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, a fantastic site on beautiful Waikiki beach in Honolulu. This resort features exotic wildlife including tropical penguins, botanical gardens and 5 pools. There are numerous, good restaurants of all types both in the Village and within walking distance or a short cab ride away. Room rates were very reasonable for Hawaii, with very good rooms as low as \$150 per day. Both the playing space and the hospitality were excellent. I wish to commend the local volunteers for doing a terrific job as hosts.

Unfortunately, attendance was only 8,608 tables, about 1,400 lower than expectations. Many players brought their families and took advantage of the super weather to tour Honolulu and the numerous beautiful and historic sites. Others either left early or arrived late to tour other islands. And others stayed home because of the long trip.

This was the first NABC held in Hawaii since 1983. In my six years on the Board, this is the first NABC I can recall where everyone who attended had a wonderful time; complaints were almost non-existent. I'm sorry that more of you were not there to enjoy this great tournament. Don't miss the next one!

Top Finishers in NABC Events – District 25

MINI - BLUE RIBBON PAIRS

Lawrence Lau, Westport CT 2

SENIOR KO TEAMS

Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT 3/4

Thomas Smith, Stamford CT

Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting Financial Results

For calendar year 2006, Management is currently projecting a loss of \$116,000, compared to a budgeted gain of \$65,000. A significant reason for the difference is the sale of the ACBL Product Store to Baron Barclay. This sale will be beneficial to the ACBL bottom line starting in 2007 but, for the last few months of 2006, the reverse is true since there is a loss of revenue from product sales without a

Rich DeMartino, District Director

corresponding decrease in salaries and benefits. For 2007, I am pleased to report that the Finance Committee is projecting a profit of about \$175,000. What makes this result even more favorable is that there are no proposed changes in fees, except for the following:

Tournament Directors' Fees will be raised 4%, to provide for salary increases. Since TD fees charged are still lower than actual salaries plus benefits paid to the TDs, the Finance Committee approved an 8% increase in TD fees to bring the fees more in line with actual TD costs (a catch-up). The additional 4% in TD fees will be offset by a corresponding decrease in Sanction Fees for Regionals and Sectionals (about a 6.7% decrease).

Mini Life Master Pairs Conditions of Contest

Based on a survey taken of the players, this event will consist of six sessions, two qualifying, two semi-final and two final sessions. Those playing in the event had a definite preference for this format.

CEO Jay Baum Report

Membership has grown by 1,067 since January 1. This is a very good trend and the CEO is especially optimistic because of the increase in paid members.

Participation in 2006 sanctioned tournaments has been strong. Regional tables are up 3.4%; sectional tables are up 2.7%, due in part to 17 additional tournaments; and, STaC tables show an increase of 2.8%.

Masterpoint Committee

The Masterpoint Committee, which I chair, will begin its work in earnest in St. Louis. Many ideas are up for consideration so if you have input, now is the time to let us know your thoughts. I am proposing a new method for computing masterpoints for KOs which is based on the quality of the field, rather than the number of tables in play. Significant additional analysis is needed to determine whether or not this idea has merit.

Top Ten CT Masterpoint Winners Hawaii NABC

	Points Won
Rich DeMartino	112.46
Geoffrey Brod	62.62
Lawrence Lau	48.98
Allan Rothenberg	46.37
Lois Zeisler	36.96
Sandra DeMartino	23.29
Charles Schneider	22.84
Carolyn Schneider	22.84
Phyllis Bausher	22.59

Top Platinum Masterpoint Winners – 2006

The five leading masterpoint winners in NABC+ events for 2006 are: Rich DeMartino (243); Geoffrey Brod (211); Doug Doub (205); Steve Earl (147); and John Stiefel (143).

The 2007 Spring NABC is in St. Louis from March 8 - 18. The 2007 Summer NABC is in Nashville and the 2007 Fall NABC is in San Francisco (beginning on Thanksgiving Day).



Joe Kochman

from Kay Howe, CBA President

Joe, who passed away December 30, 2006, was a past president of both the CBA and District 25. He and his late wife, Terry, were avid bridge players, and Joe continued to play in club games after Terry's death until recently when his health prevented him from continuing.

Joseph Samuel Kochman was born in New York City, and was a resident of Milford for 33 years. A retired psychologist, he worked in both the Bridgeport and New York City school systems. He was a United States Army veteran of the Korean War and was a longtime volunteer for the Milford Oyster Festival. He was a member of the ACBL as a Silver Life Master.

Please join me in expressing deepest condolences to his family and his many friends in our bridge community.

Hartford Bridge Club

One hundred members and guests of the Hartford Bridge Club gathered for the Club's annual New Year's Eve celebration on December 31, 2006. This voracious group of bridge players convened at 11:30 A.M. and did the thing that bridge players do best: they ate and they drank (non-alcoholic punch drinks as per HBC's policy prohibiting the serving of alcohol on the premises). Following this the undernourished group did the thing that bridge players do second best: they ate and drank some more.

After the completion of the sumptuous repast, the group spent the afternoon playing in a twenty-five table duplicate game.

The winners in one section were: Dinah Schulman and Hilda Silverman, David and Theresa Waltz

In the other section the winners were: Paul Hoffman and David Keller, Virginia Krug and Linda Starr

What a way to close out the old year and bring in the new! It doesn't get any better than that.

Wee Burn

The following pairs placed well in the Fall Series:

1. Janet Soskin-Kathy Rowland
2. Penny Glassmeyer-Susan Mayo
3. Jean Thoma-Karen Barrett
4. Mary Richardson-Martha Hathaway
5. Ellie Allen-Audrey Knobloch
6. Brooke Megrue-Stan Steckler
7. Linda Cleveland-Joan Hoben
8. Barbara Munson-Ann Fuller

The December Charity game was won by Betty Pascall and Carol Davidson; Linda Cleveland and Joan Hoben were runners-up.

A 14-table Swiss Team game had the following winners:

1. Jean Thoma, Karen Barrett, Penny Glassmeyer, Susan Mayo.
2. B. J. Whiting, Meg Hovell, Belinda Metzger, Audrey Cadwallader.

Congratulations to new Life Masters: Marilyn Tjader and Carol Davidson. Congratulations also to Janet Soskin who is the Wee Burn Player of the Year for 2006.

Stamford

The Stamford Bridge Club finally resumed play after we were closed all summer due to renovations in our playing room.

We had a lovely Christmas dinner party enjoyed by all. Whenever there is a regional in the area we are closed since we meet Friday evenings, but all other times we're there! Playing fees are \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members. Special deal, join now for half price (\$5). Free parking! Call Betty MacInnis 203-964-9016 for directions and more info about special games.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Tuesday

Player of the Year was locked up early. The top ten:

1. Bob Hawes
2. Hasmukh Shah
3. Jatin Mehta
4. Louise Wood
5. Fredda Kelly
6. Jon Ingersoll
7. Mary Connolly
8. Inge-Maria Bellis
9. Carl Yohans
10. Muriel Romero

The Leading Pair seemed almost certain to be Bob Hawes-Jon Ingersoll at Thanksgiving, but a hot December let Jatin Mehta-Hasmukh Shah finish on top. Al Guntermann-Carl Yohans were a distant third, Rita Brieger-Harold Miller fourth, and Billie Hecker-Muriel Romero fifth.

Van Dyke Cup: The final took place during the STaC week in October. Bob Hawes, trying to sweep both Tuesday-only cups this year, had a carryover lead of more than three tops, but had a tough start. With two rounds to go, Louise Wood was less than a matchpoint behind. Louise scored 31.5 out of 40 in her attempt to win this cup a fifth consecutive year, but Bob's last two rounds scored 33 out of 40. Jon Ingersoll and Muriel Romero finished third and fourth, making it ten years out of eleven that at least one of them has made the final (they've both won other cups but not this).

Friday

Player of the Year was also decided early, but 2-8 were almost indistinguishable.

The top ten:

1. Louise Wood
2. Jean Shepler-Miller
3. Fredda Kelly
4. Lois Flesche
5. Sylvia Alpert
6. Florence Schannon
7. Billie Hecker
8. Larry Stern
9. Dee Altieri
10. Muriel Lipman

The same two men's pairs led the way this year. Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern took top honors over Joe Pagerino-Marcel Bratu. Aylvia Alpert-Lois Flesche were third, Muriel Romero-Florence Schannon fourth and Billie Hecker-Jean Shepler-Miller fifth.

Reynolds Cup: Louise Wood had a carryover of just more than one top board to just over two tops. Louise and Florence Schannon were both trying to become the first three-time winners of this cup, while Jean Shepler-Miller and Emma Q. Antonio were each seeking her second cup victory. Jean stayed close to Louise for a while before fading, letting Florence rise to second. Louise completed her fourteenth cup win overall and ensured that her streak of possessing at least one cup will extend to at least five years.

Tuesday/Friday combined – the Memory Bowl: This year we have had an exciting competition. Fredda Kelly selected Morse Ginsberg (Florence Schannon's old nemesis) as the Champion's Honoree. Of course Florence built up a huge lead, but asked if she could decline the cup rather than win a competition honoring Morse. While Florence held off late charges from Fredda and Jatin Mehta, I decided to count the win officially for her but to allow a runner-up to hold the cup and name the Champion's Honoree in 2007. Fredda, who finished second, has had the task two years running. Third-fifth finishers Jatin Mehta, Hasmukh Shah and Marshall Holly have not been with us long enough as regulars to know players whom we've missed for at least a year, leaving the duty to fall to sixth-place finisher Billie Hecker. *See details of the Memory Bowl Hand on page 7.*

Guilford Sectional Dec. 1 - 3, 2006

FRI. AFT. OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C
1		L Bausher - R DeMartino
2		D Stiegler - J Farwell
3		S Mukherjee - W Hunter
4		M Mason - H Kobernusz
5	1 1	J Mehta - H Shah
6/7	2 2	W Watson - M Raider
3		S Fruchter - L Flesche
4		D Hyatt - J Bruce
5	3	E Garner - E Nuki

FRI. AFT. SENIOR PAIRS

A	B	C
1		S DeMartino - J Stiefel
2		J Orr - H Feldheim
3	1 1	R Kistner - G Cameron
4		P Bausher - H Andrews
5		A Clamage - H Lawrence
	2 2	D Hulme - C Bode
	3	P Kreger - R Sellow

FRI. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C
1		W Hunter - S Mukherjee
2		L Bausher - R DeMartino
3		B Reich - B Lewis
4/6		S DeMartino - J Stiefel
4/6		G Brod - J Stiefel
4/6		G Carroll - N Earel
	1 1	J Goldberg - D Katzman
	2	D Rock - S Smith
	3 2	P Shimkus - M Murphy
	4	S Fruchter - L Flesche
	5 3	S Reiners - G Reiners

SAT. MORN A/X PAIRS

A	X
1	W Selden - M Feinson
2	M Marcus - R Lieberman
3	J Stiefel - R DeMartino
4	A Clamage - J Greer
5	P MacCuaig - S Wheeler
6	1 A Skolnick - G Warden
	2 D Livingston - B Lewis

SAT. MORN B/C/D PAIRS

B	C	D
1		E Nagle - H Strauss
2	1 1	Ch Hofmann - R Hofmann
3	2 2	A Lovejoy - M Huttner
4	3 3	L Stern - R Vander Wiede
5		E Misner - J Misner

SAT. MORN 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C
1		F Patchett - V Tiedemann
2	1 1	F Buddenhagen - W Rinehart
3		S Danoff - J Danoff
4		T Fisher - A Fisher
5	2	B Harvey - R Klopp
	3 2	J Zucker - J Diedrich
	4/6 3/5	J Fouad - H McBrien
	4/6 3/5	S Demou - Elaine Kiratsous
	4/6 3/5	P Shimkus - M Murphy

SAT. AFT. A/X PAIRS

A	X
1	D Kelleher - R Budd
2	1 T Merritt - T Hyde
3	A Clamage - J Greer
4	W Hunter - S Mukherjee
5	B Gorse - J Pearson
6	2 M Perper - T Ng
	3 S Seckinger - S Rodricks

SAT. AFT. B/C/D PAIRS

B	C	D
1	1 1	W Watson - M Noll
2/3		H Kobernusz - P Marcus
2/3		B Ustanowski - A Ustanowski
4		E Misner - J Misner

5		C Latin - B Kliman
6/7	2/3 2/3	S Swope - J Crystal
6/7	2/3 2/3	T Selmon - H Auerbach

SAT. EVE OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C
1		T Hyde - T Merritt
2		P MacCuaig - S Wheeler
3	1	H Kobernusz - G Reiners
4	2 1	P Graebe - N Ramseyer
5	3	D Rock - C Sallar
	4 2	V Labbadia - D Fosberg

SUN. FLIGHT A SWISS

1		J Farwell - L Koegel - R Rising - N Tkacz
2		P Bausher - F Schneider - B Schneider - L Bausher
3		R Blair - H Andrews - W Titley - S Corning
4		D Schulman - H Silverman - Y Shiue - M Futterman
5		H Lawrence - H Feldheim - R Wieland - F Blachowski

SUN. B/C/D SWISS

B	C	D
1		P Lord - R Abhiraman - E Nagle - H Strauss
2	1	P Pearson - L Robbins - R Harvey - T Lorch
3		E Misner - J Misner - J Rotenberg - T Proulx
4	2	D Keller - J Tames - J Mehta - O Chhabra
5		D Rock - L Condon - J Williams - J Smith
	3	P Olschefski - C Olschefski - S Kaplan - N Kaplan
	4	O Bigelow, Jr - E Endrich - D Burnham - C Sauer
	1	P Graebe - S Reiners - G Reiners - J O'Shea - N Ramseyer
	2	L Eppler - C McLaughlin - G Cameron - R Kistner



MEMORY BOWL HAND

by Rick Townsend

As previously mentioned in the *Hamden From The Clubs* items, Fredda Kelly selected Morse Ginsberg as this year's Champion's Honoree. Morse won the Van Dyke Cup three years running from 1997 through 1999, the Reynolds Cup in 2000 and the Memory Bowl in 2001, shortly before he died.

Morse was never Player of the Year, but he and Val Dyer were top pair of the year on Friday three times.

I decided to give Morse one of my simplest-looking but secretly deep hands, placing Morse East and Florence South on this one:

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

Morse dealt and opened 1♣. Florence overcalled INT and was raised to 3NT, which ended the auction.

Val led the ♣10, and Florence called for the three-spot. Morse fingered a low club before he saw that it was the ♠6. He quickly re-sorted, noticed the ♣J in dummy, and played the queen. Florence ducked the queen and king, Val following with the seven.

Morse almost reached for the ♣2 before realizing that Val must have a very weak hand. He looked at Florence's convention card and read that her 1NT overcall was 16-18, leaving Val with 1 HCP maximum. Florence looked at Morse's card and saw he'd have opened 1NT on 15-17.

Morse thought prospects were gloomy. Even with four hearts, Florence would have seven top tricks at most. If she held ♠K J x, she could get two more tricks from spades. Even if not, she could give Morse a diamond trick and he would be unable to set her, having no long club. What could he do?

Looking at his hand and dummy, Morse realized that the only high card Val could hold would be the ♠J. A spade switch would give the defense two tricks at least in that suit and thereby prevent Florence from using dummy's diamonds. Morse reached for the ♠2.

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Memory Bowl from page 7

Then he stopped. He knew Florence had been studying squeezes, and it occurred to him that, if he led a low spade to Val's Jack, he would then hold all the high cards for the partnership. If Florence had two four-card majors, the fourth heart would definitely squeeze him. Instead, Morse led the ♠Q.

Florence looked suspicious. Morse couldn't have opened the bidding without the ♠A. And he would not have been likely to think so long without a diamond stopper. She decided that it might be better to lose a third trick before Morse knew anything else about the distribution. Florence played the eight and Val the three.

Morse fingered the ♠2, but the same objection held. What if Florence won and decided to play for the ace and jack being split, as he'd taken so long to find the spade switch that he didn't think she'd believe he'd started with A Q J x. She might win the second spade with the king and lead a third spade, which

would set her up to squeeze him in spades and diamonds very nicely. No, if Val were to win a trick with ♠J, the clubs would have to be ready to cash. Morse led the ♣2 to Florence's ace, Val's four-spot and dummy's ♦6.

Florence decided to cash all four hearts right away, in an attempt to appear as if her distribution had been 3-4-3-3. On the fourth heart, Val discarded the ♦5 and dummy the ♦7.

Morse knew he could not part with a diamond. He looked at the ♠2 unhappily. Maybe Florence would try the diamonds. But Val's discard made that seem unlikely; she would very likely cross to the ace in dummy and play a spade through his ace...unless he didn't have it any more.

Morse considered the ♠A. Discarding the ace would give Val the spade guard with the jack, while only setting up Florence's eighth trick with the king. Could it go wrong? Yes, if Florence had begun with K x x, A Q x x, K x x, A x x. But Morse decided that Val would not have discarded a singleton diamond in

case Florence, beginning with K J x, were trying to count out the suit for a two-way finesse. Also, Val's ♠3 on the first round of that suit should have been a count signal from a three-card holding. It seemed sure enough that he was right; Morse discarded the ♠A.

Florence glared at him. Unless Morse had begun with ♠ A Q J x and ♦ Q x x or J x x, she could not keep Val off lead. She led the ♦K and low to dummy's ace. Just in case, Val discarded a club. Rather than be set by a long club, Florence gave Morse his diamond trick, discarding a spade while Val threw his last club. Morse had to lead a spade at trick twelve, but Florence's finesse failed.

After the hand, Florence's partner apologized for not introducing the diamond suit, thinking the hand not the right sort to try to play in a suit. Florence lamented that the 3-3 heart split would have allowed 5♦ to make. Morse could not resist. As he rose to leave the table, he asked Val, "Would we have been able to get to 4♥ holding their cards?" 

THE KIBITZER

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