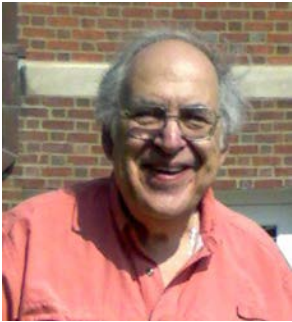


THE KIBITZER November 2012

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Volume 16 • Number 4



Representing

by Harold Feldheim

In poker, a large bet on a mediocre-to-terrible hand is an attempt to frighten the opposition by *representing* a more powerful hand to the other players. Of course, the other players have to decide whether or not our hero has a powerful hand or is bluffing in an effort to frighten the opposition into folding.

As with many other pastboard tactics, this bluffing attempt has found its way into bridge, sometimes at a very subtle level. First, consider a bid to direct the defense. Assume you sit South and hold:

♠ A K Q 7 6 5 4
♥ J 4
♦ - - -
♣ J 8 7 2

The bidding goes:

South	West	North	East
-	2♣	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♥	4♠	5♥
?			

What to do? In a European championship, South found the excellent lead directing bid of 6♦. Now, East-West could no longer bid the grand slam because South has told the table he could trump the opening diamond lead.

This is wonderful strategy and one of our own District 25 players, Walter Fontaine of North Providence, Rhode Island, found a way to infuse tactical poetry into this strategic coup.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: North-South

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ K 10 8 7
♦ A 5 3
♣ A Q 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ A Q 6 4 3
♦ K 7
♣ K 4 3

South	West	North	East
1♥	3♠	4♠*	6♣!!
6♥	Pass	Pass	6♠
?			

*Heart support

And there we are – same situation from the other side. South knows there are enough cards to make a grand slam but the vagaries of the distribution were in the way. South thought for a while about 7NT but couldn't see his way to 13 tricks. So, reluctantly, South doubled and collected a mere 1100, poor even against a small slam. But if the hand was entertaining, the post-mortem was terrific. The complete hands:

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ K 10 8 7
♦ A 5 3
♣ A Q 6 5 2

WEST
♠ Q J 10 9 5 4
♥ J
♦ Q 10 2
♣ J 8 7

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

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ A Q 6 4 3
♦ K 7
♣ K 4 3

By infusing tactical thought into strategy, East (Walter) represented a club void and this competitive psyche was enough to keep North-South out of either seven hearts, or seven no trump. The analysis was fun to follow.

“What were you going to do if they bid seven hearts anyway?”

“I guess I'd bid seven spades. It's still a cheap sacrifice.”

“And what if they bid seven no trump?”

There was a silence. Then, “I guess I'd say nice bid.”

And there the analysis ended.



Governor's Cup Winner for 2012

Marsha Futterman is this year's winner of the Governor's Cup awarded annually to the person who wins the most master points at the CT Fall Sectional.



Can't Cost – Chapter 33

by John Stiefel



In this deal from a recent National Mixed Board-a-Match Team event, West made an unusual “can’t cost” play to present declarer with a losing option which she elected.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: East-West

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

- ¹ 17+HCP
- ² 0-7 HCP
- ³ 3-card spade support

Opening Lead: ?

On lead vs. 3NT, reached via the auction above, West held the following:

♠ 7 5 3
♥ K J 7 4
♦ J 7 2
♣ 7 6 5

He selected the ♦2 as his lead for the following reasons.

- The form of scoring was Board-a-Match, so overtricks were important.
- The auction was strong and West held xxx in both of declarer’s suits. So, the defense’s goal was more likely to be to hold down overtricks than to actually defeat the contract.
- The auction suggested that both opponents held heart honors.

Dummy (North) hit with the following hand (displayed above the West hand).

NORTH
♠ 8 6 2
♥ A 7 4 2
♦ 10 5 3
♣ K 10 5

WEST
♠ 7 5 3
♥ K J 7 4
♦ J 7 2
♣ 7 6 5

Partner won the opening lead with the ♦A, declarer’s Q falling, and returned the ♦6, declarer’s K winning.

At trick 3, declarer cashed the ♠A, dummy playing the 2 and East the 4. Then he cashed the ♣A at trick 4, dummy playing the 5 and partner the 8. Trick 5 was a club to the K, partner showing out and discarding the ♦2.

Declarer now played a club to his Q to trick 6, partner discarding another diamond. Before playing his mandatory ♣7 to complete trick 6, West paused to plan his defense. (This was a good time to break tempo – when there was no possibility of giving “unauthorized information” to partner.)

Declarer clearly held 4-1-2-6 distribution and her singleton heart might well be the Q. Also her spade holding was likely to be AKJx, as her ♠A play to trick 2 was seemingly made in hopes of dropping a stiff Q. So West was going to have to find 3 discards. It seemed “obvious” to discard the ♥7 and then the ♥4 (standard signals) to show partner a good heart holding. The problem with that, however, was that it could induce East to unguard hearts. Then West would have to discard a low spade to trick 9 to keep his guards in hearts and diamonds and that might induce declarer to finesse in spades to take the rest of the tricks.

West realized that partner could guard hearts – as long as she kept two. So he discarded the ♥4 to trick 7 and the ♥7 to trick 8 noting that partner had only discarded one heart up to this point.

When declarer led her last club to trick 9, West followed through with his plan to unguard hearts to suggest the he, rather than partner, had the ♠Q. He started to play the ♥J when he thought “If I’m going to come down to only 1 heart, how can it cost to discard the King instead of the Jack?” So he discarded the ♥K to trick 9. This forced partner to keep ♥10, 9 hearts and discard all her diamonds.

This was the 4-card ending.

	NORTH		EAST
	♠ 8		♠ Q 4
	♥ A 7		♥ 10 9
	♦ 10		♦ - - -
	♣ - - -		♣ - - -
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 7 5		♠ K J 4	
♥ J		♥ Q	
♦ J		♦ - - -	
♣ - - -		♣ - - -	

All of a sudden, South had two additional options beside the “normal” play of leading to ♥Q to the ♥A and taking the spade finesse. New option 1 was to overtake the ♥Q with the ♥A and cash the ♥7 if it was good (she had watched carefully for spade discards but hadn’t seen the need to watch for heart discards). If the ♥7 won, then West, if he had ♠Qx and ♦J, would have to make a fatal discard to trick 11. New option 2 was to lead the ♥Q and let it win and perhaps get the ♥A later. After some thought, she concluded that West held the ♠Q to account for his unusual ♥K discard. So she selected New option 1.

East was happy to win trick 11 with her ♥10. She had to lead a spade to trick 12, but South, still convinced that West had the Q, went up with the A and held herself to 10 tricks.

At the other table, the opening lead was a low heart won by declarer’s Q. So declarer easily made 12 tricks with the aid of the spade finesse. So the “can’t cost” discard of the ♥K helped win the board.



Negative Inference (4)

by Larry Lau



Definition: Negative inference is information deduced from a player's failure to take a specific or expected action in the auction or play (Bridgeguys.com).

Often by paying very close attention to the auction, and using all the negative inferences (NI) available, it is possible to visualize a player's pattern. This can often be accomplished without referring to your own hand. The following two problems are presented in such a manner.

(A). Maeve Lucey and I, playing in the Hamden Swiss, defended the following hand against John Steifel and Rich DeMartino.

The auction proceeded:

JS	ML	RDM	LL
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	2NT	All Pass

What were Rich's probable distributions?

A solution often begins with a very simple question: what was Rich's 5-card suit? Upon reflection, it was highly likely that Rich did NOT have a 5-card suit. If he had had five spades, he most probably would have passed 2♠ Dbl (NI). If he had five cards in any of the remaining three suits he might have bid that suit (NI).

If Rich did not have a 5 card suit, then his distribution was limited to the following three generic patterns: 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, 4-4-4-1. (see the second article in this series).

As it happened, Rich's pattern was 4=1=4=4.

(B). Faye Marino and I had the following auction:

LL	West	FM	East
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ ¹	Dbl ²
Rdbl ³	All Pass		

¹2♦ was alerted as 4th suit forcing

²Dbl was lead directing showing diamonds

³Rdbl expressed a strong desire to play 2♦ Rdbl if Faye could cooperate

What was my EXACT distribution?

The first question to resolve was the length of my diamond holding. With East showing between four and six diamonds, I most probably had four+ diamonds. If I had held only three diamonds and a stopper, I might have made an easy 2NT bid (NI). Else I could have passed (forcing) to let Faye further describe her hand (NI). So the desire to play 2♦ Rdbl strongly suggested a holding of at least four (good) diamonds.

But if I had held four diamonds, and four spades, then why did I open 1♣? The fact that I did NOT open 1♦ with four diamonds means that my clubs had to be longer (NI). The only pattern consistent with the auction was: 4=0=4=5. At this point in the auction, the three players should have known my exact pattern!

The previous articles in this series focused on NI during an auction. The following problem highlights NI on defense. It would have been a difficult problem for almost all of us; only a very few top players in the CBA would have solved it "at the table." Never the less, this problem is well worth the study.

Problem: Al Wolf and I defended the following hand at the Rye regional against a strong player.

	Dummy		
	♠ Q 5 2		
	♥ J 10 9 4		
	♦ Q 6		
	♣ K Q 7 3		
Al		Larry	
♠ K 4		♠ 10	
♥ K 7 3 2		♥ Q 6	
♦ J 8 2		♦	
♣ J 10 8 6		♣ 9	
	Declarer		
	♠ - - -		
	♥ A 8		
	♦ - - -		
	♣ A		

Declarer	Al	Dummy	Larry
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Trick one: ♣6, 3, 9, A.

Trick two: ♥A, 2*, 4, 6 (*encourages a club return – "reverse Smith echo").

Trick three: ♥8, 3, 9, Q

Trick four: ♠10.

Construct South's and East's exact distribution. Assume South had exactly four spades, and 1NT was 15-17HCP.



Milestones and Congratulations

New Life Masters

Trudi Brown
 Karen Emott
 Karen Harrison
 Luisa Kelso
 Elizabeth Nuki
 Joel Tames
 Robert Taylor
 Thomas Thompson
 Linda Wyse
 Sandra Zieky

Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

Natalie Cohen
 Elliot Ranard

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Patricia Dettmer
 Fredda Kelly
 James Macomber
 Jean Orr
 Janet Soskin
 Lee Wilcox

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Pat Brasher
 Margaret Garilli
 Richard Lebel
 Peter Marcus
 Elizabeth Nuki
 Thomas Proulx
 Joan Stroup
 Joel Tames
 Sandra Zieky

A Coup in the Auction

by Geoff Brod



You're playing in a long KO match. A very long KO match. This is the United States Bridge Federation Senior Trials. The winner gets to go to Lille, France in August 2012 to represent the ACBL in the equivalent of the Bermuda Bowl for the old folks.

Your first match of the event went OK. Fifteen teams were entered and you survived the first round with an exciting come from behind victory to advance to the quarterfinals. Here you encounter the number one seed, a team captained by Mike Passell. You expect to have your work cut out for you and that's what happens.

Almost from board one things go wrong in one manner or another. After the end of the first segment of fifteen boards you find yourself down 21 imps. That's hardly the match however. There are six segments in all, 90 boards in total but as you proceed it doesn't get better. In fact you have been unable to outscore your opponents in any one of the first five segments and going into the last 15 boards you find yourself down 66.

My sense of how to proceed in a situation like this has always been that you continue to try to play sound bridge and hope for some good things to happen, like a two-way finesse that your side gets right and the opponents get wrong. In general, wild preempts and first or second position psychic bids are much more likely to lose than gain. So you really look to avoid off-the-wall actions. What you do look for are opportunities to create swings with actions that while they may be anti-percentage are only modestly so. You hope for a number of these and for the swings to go in your favor.

In this situation you like your partnership's methods. For openers you are playing a weak notrump (12-14) and your one club opening can be as few as two in a balanced hand outside of the range for a no trump opening. That one club opening can include a hand with 5 diamonds and 3 3 2 distribution in the other suits, 15-19 HCP. Additionally your two diamond opening is 11-15 with some 4 4 4 1 distribution that always includes 4 diamonds. If you get a few cards you should be able to create auctions that will not be duplicated at the other table. That's what you want: differences in the hope that they will create swings.

Immediately things start to go better. You have several good results and you estimate that you have picked up 25-30 IMPs. Not bad but a far cry from the 67 you need to win. Finally you come to the 12th board of the set. Just four more chances to beat the other team. You pick up:

♠ 10 6 3
♥ 10 8 7 6 4
♦ 3
♣ J 8 7 4

That's a pretty dismal collection. Everybody's vulnerable and your partner opens 1NT. That's 12-14 remember. Remarkably it goes pass on your right. What are your thoughts?

Your first reaction should be that they have a minimum of 25 HCP and that it has to be close to 100% that they are cold for a game, most likely 3NT but possibly 4♠ or even 5♦. Second, there is a decent chance that whatever you do here they may be able to extract a large penalty or, barring that, bid to their most likely game, whatever that may be.

The normal action here would be to transfer to hearts and hope that they aren't able to penalize you and perhaps have some mix-up where they fail to bid their game. Actually you aren't too worried about being penalized in hearts, although it certainly could happen. So your thoughts turn to trying to do something to keep them out of game. A transfer to hearts isn't likely work too well. Almost all expert pairs play that a double of two diamonds shows a hand that would have doubled a weak no trump in the direct position. That's probably what would happen here.

You consider Stayman but almost instantly reject it. There are many problems with the continuations. You would have to bid 2♥ over a 2♦ response and that would invite a correction to 2♠ by partner with three spades and only two hearts. Also, Stayman does not impede the opponents very much. Again, a double by your LHO would show not clubs but a hand that would double a weak NT in the direct position.

Finally it occurs to you to Texas into 4♥. Think about it. Usually this would show a hand with long hearts and some high cards that would hope to have a fair chance of making. One of its appeals is that it does not announce weakness. You can not unreasonably hope to catch the

opponents with two balanced hands in the neighborhood of 12-14 HCP where neither of them has any obvious action over the transfer.

So you do it. Your LHO hesitates briefly and passes. Partner dutifully takes the transfer, again it goes pass on your right, you put the green card on the table and hope for another green card on your left. You are hoping to go down 200 or 300 undoubled against +600 or + 620 at the other table.

Alas, not unexpectedly, it goes double. Now think about that for a minute from the perspective of the opponents. Is this for penalty or takeout? Have they ever talked about it? I have to confess that I've never discussed it with any partner. It's not as if this comes up every other session in duplicate. In any event, there's a good chance for a misunderstanding. I of course am rooting for the takeout interpretation.

Partner passes of course and much to your delight, your RHO bids 4♠. You breathe a sigh of relief but that's short-lived as when it comes back to partner he puts the red card on the table. Oh well, if they don't score overtricks that's just -790 compared to the -620 you were booked for.

Actually that's much too pessimistic an assessment. For a hand with just a jack, you have a lot of defensive potential. You have a singleton to lead and three trumps and it's even possible on some layouts that the ♠10 could be promoted into a trick. So you lead your diamond. Partner has the magic hand. Declarer wins the diamond but partner holds ♠AK and the ♥A and you are able to negotiate two diamond ruffs to achieve +500, a tremendous result. The opponents were jockeyed into a 4-3 spade fit and were cold for 3 NT. You gain 12 IMPs on the board.

But it's not enough. While both you and your teammates have good cards you pick up just 43 IMPs and fall short by 23. Still it was a good run. How would 4♥ doubled have fared? I don't know. I'm afraid to compute the result.





Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #20: 1NT – 2S Invitational

by Alan Wolf

Starting with this article, I'll begin a series of articles on bidding gadgets, i.e., minor add-ons to your bidding arsenal that may prove effective.

This article deals with a change to the way of playing 4-suit transfers over 1NT. With this gadget, the bid of 2♠ over 1NT is **NOT** a transfer to clubs, but is instead an inquiry about the strength of the opening NT bidder's hand. With a minimum NT opening, opener rebids 2NT, with a maximum, 3♣. These bids say nothing about opener's club holding.

Responder generally makes this 2♠ bid with one of two sorts of hands:

- A hand lacking a 4-card major, that is worthy of a NT invitation, i.e. about 9 HCP.
- A weak hand with long clubs, looking to play 3♣. Note: when the bidding starts 1NT-2♠ 2NT, opener must pass a 3♣ bid by responder.

If responder's intent was the NT invitation, he will pass opener's 2NT rebid, and will bid 3NT over opener's 3♣.

The main advantage of this gadget is that it avoids responder having to go through the Stayman convention in order to make a NT invitation, a standard practice when playing 4-suit transfers. When responder does not have a 4-card major himself, the response to Stayman is of no interest to him, but may be helpful to the opponents. For example, after 1NT-2♠

2♥-2NT, the opening leader is on alert not to lead a heart, even though it might have been the normal lead were it not for the artificial 2♣ bid. 1NT-2♠ serves to conceal opener's major suit holding.

The disadvantage of this approach is that responder cannot find out about opener's club holding. Playing normal 4-suit transfers, a system of either "pre-acceptance" or "acceptance" provides this information, which on rare occasions may get the partnership to a marginal NT game.

Occasionally, the 1NT-2♠ gadget may be used in lieu of a direct 4NT slam invitation, and allow opener to play in 3NT when he would decline a slam invite. An example:

NORTH
(Minna)
♠ Q 7 3
♥ A 9
♦ A K Q 4
♣ J 9 4 2

SOUTH
(Majorca)
♠ A J 5 2
♥ Q 8
♦ J 5 2
♣ A K 10 7

Playing in a team game, Majorca and Minna employed this gadget, bidding as follows:

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

When Majorca as South showed a minimum for her opening NT bid, North settled for 3NT, which as it happened was not assured on the opening heart lead, even with a combined 31 HCP.

Majorca hopefully played low on the opening heart lead, and lost to the King. When a heart came back, she had only eight tricks on top, and needed to develop the ninth without giving up the lead. Either of the two black suit finesses was possible, but Majorca found the winning line by giving herself an extra chance. She cashed the ♣A and ♣K, hoping to drop the ♣Q (a 40% chance), planning to fall back on the spade finesse if the ♣Q did not drop. As it happened, the Queen did drop, West having started with Queen doubleton, and Majorca now rolled home with an overtrick.

At the other table, the bidding was 1NT 4NT, passed out. After the heart lead and continuation, declarer needed two additional tricks, and the club finesse offered by far the better chance for that. So declarer tried the club finesse, losing to the ♣Q. This resulted in two down, and provided a big swing for the Minna/Majorca team.



2012 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

1, Thurs. Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
2-4, Fri.-Sun.	Jeff Feldman Memorial, Hamden, CT
14-18, Wed.-Sun.	New England Masters Regional, Mansfield, MA

Nov. 22– Dec. 2
Thurs.–1st Sun.
26, Mon. Evening

ACBL Fall Nationals,
San Francisco, CA
ACBL-wide Charity
Game, #2, Local
Clubs

DECEMBER

5, Wed. Daytime	Unit-wide Championship, Local Clubs
10, Mon. Daytime	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
11, Tues. Evening	Local (Split) Championship, Local Clubs
14, Fri. Daytime	Unit-wide Charity, Local Clubs



Hartford Bridge Club News

In November of 2010 the Hartford Bridge Club initiated a 0-50 master point game to complement our long standing Thursday afternoon instructional game. We opened with four tables, employed a supportive and understanding director and introduced "fledgling" players to a competitive yet friendly environment.

The game has grown to an average of fifteen tables and continues to expand from month to month. As players have accumulated master points and as word has spread, the Club has gradually raised the master point ceiling to a present limit of 199. Computer printouts of the day's hands are available at the close of the game and the director is available to answer questions and offer constructive advice.

If you are interested in improving your game and have fewer than 200 master points we would love to introduce you to our tables. For further information please call us at (860) 953-3177. Games are held weekly on Fridays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Every effort is made to accommodate a player who arrives without a partner; a phone call in advance is advised.

Wee Burn News

Throughout the fall and for the winter series all games will be held at the Main Club on Thursday at 12:45 PM.

Summer series winners were:

1. Linda Cleveland–Susan Mayo
2. Jean Thoma–Karen Barrett
3. Janet Soskin–Betty Hodgman
4. Joan Hoben–Carol Davidson
5. Brooke Megrue–Kathie Rowland
6. Lois Berry–Ann Fuller

Players with fewer than twenty master points are encouraged to join the new/plicate group which meets at the same time as the regular game each week, but is of shorter duration.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Third Quarter News

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Rita Brieger-Harold Miller continue to set a record-breaking pace. Brian Lewis-Bill Reich, after an absence of some months, began playing again towards the end of this quarter and regained second place. Howard Cohen-Pat Rogers, just behind Bill and Brian, have a modest cushion over the chasing pack. Jon Ingersoll is the only player with two partnerships in the top ten.

Player-of-the-Year: Thanks to an 80% score the week she played with Simon Rich, Rita will probably remain ahead of Harold. Riding a lengthy hot streak, however, Jon has nearly caught them both. Fredda Kelly and Don Stiegler round out the top five.

Van Dyke Cup Preliminaries: We appear headed towards our first finish in which all the finalists have won this cup before. Leaders Jon Ingersoll, Bob Hawes, Fredda Kelly and Louise Wood have won nine times between them, all in the last eleven years. Jon and Bob, who fortunately are due not to be partners in the final week, are significantly ahead.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: While Tuesday has been no contest, Friday has been a whirlwind. Harold Miller-Burt Saxon were leading at the end of August, and have been in second place every week since. The lead has passed to Breta Adams-Karlene Wood, Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern, Norma and Stan Augenstein, and finally back to Hill and Larry.

Player-of-the-Year: Harold and Burt, would be the first pair to tie for Player-of-the-Year playing exclusively together. They just inched ahead of Stan (who played twice with Robert Klopp, preventing this being a two-pair contest) in the last game of the quarter. Arlene Leshine and Larry Stern are within reach of the lead with a consistent fourth quarter or inconsistency from the leaders.

Reynolds Cup Preliminaries: This competition is looking likely to finish with an all-male final, the winner joining Carl Yohans in 2005 and the late Morse Ginsberg in 2000 in keeping the women from a clean sweep. Seven men and only three women remain, with Larry Stern well in front and top woman Vera Wardlaw in seventh place. But seven-time winner and defending champion Louise Wood has survived this far, and can never be counted out.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Overall Player-of-the-Year: The last game of September was very good to Harold Miller. Not only did he and Burt Saxon take the Friday lead after that game, he also inched back ahead of Rita Brieger for the Overall lead. Harold was the top player for the summer quarter, with Jon Ingersoll and Bernard Gee second and third. Overall, Harold and Rita would almost have to stop playing to give Louise Wood, Robert Klopp or Fredda Kelly in third through fifth places a chance to catch up. Last year, Fredda was almost exactly this far ahead in the middle of July when she had to miss several months, and her lead lasted until the end of September.



IN MEMORIUM

Connecticut residents as listed in the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin*

Melvin L. Cantor
Lawrence A. Gochberg
Christopher E. Teehan



Do You Analyze Before You Lead?

by Gloria Sieron

It's only the second round at a recent club game. On the first board you bid and make three hearts. When you open the traveler, you find that the previous North/South pair bid the game and made it defended by a very competent East/West pair. Here's the hand.

You should probably cover North, East and South hands before you go on.

NORTH

♠ Q 3
♥ J 9 7 5 3
♦ 8 3
♣ K 8 4 2

WEST

♠ J 8 7 5
♥ K 4
♦ A J 3 2
♣ A 9 3

EAST

♠ 10 9 6 2
♥ 8 6
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ 10 7 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 4
♥ A Q 10 2
♦ 10 9 7
♣ Q J 6

With North the dealer the bidding was simple: Pass, pass, one notrump, pass,

two diamonds (transfer), pass, three hearts, passed out. How the first pair got to game will be shrouded in mystery forever. How did the game make? Why that's easy. West must have led a spade. Declarer gets to throw off one of dummy's diamond losers on the spade winners. I asked several experienced East pairs if they had doubled North's transfer bid for a diamond lead. They each said they thought East's hand was too weak.

Barbara Kirtley sat West at my table. She said, "Would you like to know why I led the ♦A? Years ago I attended lessons given by Roy Erickson (a director and teacher in Western Connecticut). This is what I learned from Roy. I have a 13 HCP opening bid. The notrump bidder has an announced range of 16 to 18. Let's give him 17. 17 plus 13 equals 30. Therefore, there are 10 high card points distributed between dummy and my partner East. I wanted to get a look at the board so I could get a better idea of how to defend."

Sure enough, East could signal high perhaps even with the King. Two diamonds one club and the King of hearts held the contract to three.

Barbara added that her alternative lead would have been the ♣A. Seeing the ♣K in the dummy, she would shift to the ♦A and receive the encouraging signal.

Absent the lead encouraging double of the transfer bid, were you able to analyze the opening lead in West's position? Or, did you choose to lead a spade as many West's did?



Top Masterpoint Winners at the 199er Sectional



Congratulations to John Clark and Lillian Serrano for winning the most masterpoints at the 199er Sectional in West Hartford on October 14, 2012.

They had games of 60.88% in the morning and 58.93% in the afternoon. The event included a lesson from Larry Wallowitz, free lunch, and lots of good bridge book handouts. There were 16.5 tables in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

Complete results can be found in the Results Section of this newsletter.

RESULTS

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday July 27, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **John Stiefel - Richard DeMartino**
- 2 Ed Rosenfield - Arthur Rosenfield M.D.
- 3 Julius Fuster - Pete Amedeo
- 4 Margaret Karbovanec - Diane Storey
- 5 Paula Beauchamp - Dot Grogan
- 6 Laurie Robbins - Rachel Brown
- 7 Helen Walker - Doris Andrews

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Ed Rosenfield - Arthur Rosenfield M.D.**
- 2 Julius Fuster - Pete Amedeo
- 3 Margaret Karbovanec - Diane Storey
- 4 Helen Walker - Doris Andrews
- 5 Judith Voss - Annet Bonfanti
- 6 Paul Grande - Howard Gelin

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Ed Rosenfield - Arthur Rosenfield M.D.**
- 2 Judith Voss - Annet Bonfanti
- 3 Paul Grande - Howard Gelin
- 4 Marilyn Zolot - Vicki Rethy
- 5 Rebecca Jacobson - Susan Lewis
- 6 Jackie Del Negro - Bob Nardello

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday July 31, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Judith Hyde - Aldona Siuta**
- 2 Geoffrey Brod - Joel Krug
- 3 Virginia Naugler - Bob Gruskay
- 4 Judith Merrill - Lois Labins
- 5 David Margolin - Larry Wallowitz
- 6 Susan Pfederer - Lesley Meyers

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Judith Hyde - Aldona Siuta**
- 2 Judith Merrill - Lois Labins
- 3 Penny Skenderian - Mary Ann Downes
- 4 Carl Palmer - George Holland
- 5 Jerry Hirsch - JoAnn Scata
- 6 Fred Stein - Louis Brown

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Patricia Shimkus - Sandy DeGregorio**
- 2 Patricia Schackner - George Pollard
- 3 Robert Neff - Bob Meisel
- 4 Martin Arnold - Pam Blawie
- 5 Richard Fronapfel - Bob Rowley
- 6 Barbara Falkin - Howard Falkin

FRIDAY UNIT-WIDE SESSION

September 14, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Donna Lyons - J Sun-Ming Lee**
- 2 Hillel Auerbach - Lawrence Stern
- 3/4 Norma Augenstein - Stanley Augenstein
- 3/4 Stan Gedansky - Bill Titley
- 5 Robert Klopp - V Wardlaw
- 6 Thomas Hey - Don Stiegler
- 7 Lea Selig - Helen Pawlowski

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Donna Lyons - J Sun-Ming Lee**
- 2 Hillel Auerbach - Lawrence Stern
- 3 Norma Augenstein - Stanley Augenstein
- 4 Robert Klopp - V Wardlaw
- 5 Mark Moskovitz - Peter Carroll
- 6 Joan Stroup - Elizabeth Nuki

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Donna Lyons - J Sun-Ming Lee**
- 2 Mark Moskovitz - Peter Carroll
- 3 George Levinson - Lucy Lacava
- 4 Woody Bliss - Leonard Messman
- 5 Paul Grande - Howard Gelin
- 6 Monica Akelaitis - Marg Fiedler

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday, September 20, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Thomas Lorch - Reginald Harvey**
- 2 Ed Meyer - Peter Hussey
- 3 Nancy Bartone - Susan Seckinger
- 4 Robert Lahey - J Michael Carmiggelt
- 5 Margaret Mason - Constance Graham
- 6 Charles Halpin - Terry Fidler
- 7 Marilyn Goldberg - Dot Grogan

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Ed Meyer - Peter Hussey**
- 2 Robert Lahey - J Michael Carmiggelt
- 3 Belinda Metzger - Mary Ellen McGuire
- 4 Duncan Rowland - Scott Hutchason
- 5 Rodney Aspinwall - Margot Hayward
- 6 David Mordy - Joe Holmes

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Ed Meyer - Peter Hussey**
- 2 Duncan Rowland - Scott Hutchason
- 3 David Mordy - Joe Holmes
- 4 Lynn Reilly - Joan Bergen
- 5 Catherine Tomasello - Kathryn Ferguson
- 6 Elizabeth Stumpp - Ellen Beveridge

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

September 25, 2012

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Richard Blair - Connie Graham**
- 2 Robert Klopp - Barbara Henningson
- 3 Laurie Robbins - Reginald Harvey
- 4 Howard Zusman - Allan Wolf
- 5 Lesley Meyers - Susan Pfederer
- 6 Lee Getz - Nusrat Rizvi
- 7 Eric Vogel - Irene Rivers

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Robert Klopp - Barbara Henningson**
- 2 Lee Getz - Nusrat Rizvi
- 3 Eric Vogel - Irene Rivers
- 4 Richard Fronapfel - Susan Fronapfel
- 5 Roger Crean - Sandra Gould
- 6 Bob Meisel - Judy Williams

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Eric Vogel - Irene Rivers**
- 2 Richard Fronapfel - Susan Fronapfel
- 3 Peter Carroll - Mark Moskovitz
- 4 Nancy Ramseyer - John O'Shea
- 5 Sherri Mehler-Carten - Diana Genung
- 6 Mary Murphy - Patricia Schackner

SUMMER IN CONNECTICUT

Greenwich, August 17-19, 2012

Friday AM Open Pairs

- 1 **Richard DeMartino - William Ehlers**
- 2 1 1 **Thomas Proulx - Robert Hartman**
- 3 2 Elise Luskin - Amy Frolick
- 4 Robert Stayman - Ann Van Dyke
- 5 3 2 Bruce Adler - Richard Tisch
- 6 Steven Lockwood - Jill Marshall

- 4 Margery Binder - Jack Binder
- 5 3 George Trost - William Sigward
- 6 4 Barry Kaplan - Jay Kaplan
- 5 Judith Lapolla - Douglas Dill
- 6 Peter Carroll - Mark Moskovitz

Friday AM Senior Pairs

- 1 **Sallie Abelson - Barbara Loprete**
- 2 Sharon Santow - Thomas Hey
- 3 1 1 **Donna Doyle - Carol Kesmodel**
- 4 2 Bobby Rose - Jane Finn
- 5 3 Robert Zipf - Joan Carter
- 6 Gloria Sieron - Jatin Mehta
- 4 2 Barbara Dempsey - Carol Ducret
- 5 Diane Storey - Marvin Lerman
- 6 3 Sandra Bandler - James Bandler
- 4 Diane Mott - Lynne Forrest
- 5 Betsey Relyea - Karen Harrison

Friday PM Senior Pairs

- 1 1 **Rebecca Margulies - Susan Fisher**
- Kenneth Hirshon - Kenneth Abelson
- Sallie Abelson - Barbara Loprete
- Jatin Mehta - Gloria Sieron
- 2 2 Margaret Karbovanec - Rebecca Jacobson
- Fred Hawa - Susan Pfeister
- 3 Mort Amstel - David Katzman
- 4 Luisa Kelso - Margaret Molwitz
- 5 Elaine Misner - James Misner
- 6 Robert Zipf - Joan Carter
- 3 Donna Doyle - Carol Kesmodel
- 4 Gordon Mackenzie Jr - Lola Meyers
- 5 Nancy Brookman - Marina Engel

Friday PM Open Pairs

- 1 **Steven Lockwood - Jill Marshall**
- 2 Dean Montgomery - Allan Clamage
- 3 1 1 **Thomas Proulx - Robert Hartman**
- 4 2 Casey Stern - Judy Gruenberger
- 5 3 Diana Wendy - Ellen Berger
- 6 4 Linda Green - David Blackburn
- 5 Fern Lindsay - John Farwell
- 6 2 Judith Lapolla - Douglas Dill
- 3 George Trost - William Sigward
- 4 Suzanne Curtis - Timothy Curtis
- 5 Deborah Kessler - Mary Case

Saturday AM AX Pairs

- 1 **Bob Gwartzman - Glenn Robbins**
- 2 1 **Jill Marshall - Bob Rebelein**
- 3/4 Jiang Gu - Sharon Goldman
- 3/4 Lawrence Lau - Brett Adler
- 5 2 Jerome Miller - Bud Rottman
- 6 3 Paul Burnham - Farley Mawyer
- 4 Susan Seckinger - Susan Rodricks
- 5 Joan Martin - Lois Zeisler

Saturday AM B/C Pairs

- 1 **Hasida Korper - Dorothy Kaplan**
- 2 Mary Sue Saltsman - Leia Berla
- 3 1 **Daniel Fromm - Jake Neuthaler**
- 4 2 Susan Fronapfel - Richard Fronapfel
- 5 Jeffrey Allen - Theo Allen
- 6 Diane Storey - Marvin Lerman
- 3 Dale Rowett - Cherry McLaughlin
- 4 Susan Schnur - Jean Frankel
- 5 Hazel Heggie - Dona Seutter

RESULTS *continued*



Saturday AM 299er Pairs

- 1 **Susan Kipp - Ann Piper**
- 2 David Joelson - Peter Joelson
- 3 Jan White - Lou Filippetti
- 4 Walt Rinehart - Jackie Scott
- 5 1 **Arjun Chaudhuri - Andrew Colman**
- 6 Sherrill Werblood - Myra Goldberg
- 2 1 **Allison Hellman - Michael Hellman**
- 3 Liliana Geldmacher - Rhea Bischoff
- 4 Judy Helderman - Sherry Lieb
- 5 Sharon Phillips - Cathy Dann
- 2 Charles Pankenier - Mary Worrall

Saturday PM A/X Pairs

- 1 1 **David Rock - Sonja Smith**
- 2 Sandra DeMartino - Phyllis Bausher
- 3 Faye Marino - Paul Lewis
- 4 2 Arthur Crystal - Debbie Benner
- 5 Dean Montgomery - Allan Clamage
- 6 Frances Schneider - Bernard Schneider
- 3 Kenneth Abelson - Barbara Loprete
- 4 Solomon Field - Lynn Condon
- 5 Farley Mawyer - Paul Burnham

Saturday PM B/C Pairs

- 1 **Hazel Heggie - Mary Leinbach**
- 2 Terry Lubman - Fern Lindsay
- 3 Thomas Hey - Katharine Goodman
- 4 Elaine Misner - James Misner
- 5 Leia Berla - Mary Sue Saltsman
- 6 1 **Susan Fronapfel - Richard Fronapfel**
- 2 Jake Neuthaler - Daniel Fromm
- 3 Diane Mott - Lynne Forrest
- 4 Karen Harrison - Betsey Relyea

Saturday PM 299er Pairs

- 1 **Jan White - Lou Filippetti**
- 2 1 **Sharon Phillips - Cathy Dann**
- 3 Randi Margolin - Alan Margolin
- 4 Ilene Mankoff - Harvey Skolnick
- 5 Walt Rinehart - Jackie Scott
- 6 G Stephen Thoma - Ron Freres
- 2 1 **Thomas Walker - Scott Hutchason**
- 3 Judy Helderman - Sherry Lieb
- 4 2 Karlene Wood - Breta Adams

Sunday A/X Swiss

- 1 **Melih Ozdil, Justine Cushing, Sharon Goldman, Jiang Gu**
- 2 Glenn Robbins, Ira Ewen, Michael Rosen, Bob Gwartzman
- 3 Lawrence Lau, Allan Wolf, Frances Schneider, Bernard Schneider
- 4 1 **Gloria Sieron, Ann Cady, Jatin Mehta, Joan Martin**
- 2/3 Lynn Condon, Sonja Smith, David Rock, Solomon Field
- 2/3 Paul Burnham, Jason Rotenberg, Farley Mawyer, Thomas Proulx

B/C Swiss

- 1/2 **Lu Ganley, Jane Finn, Susan Klein, Robert Krissoff**

- 1/2 **Robert Derrah, Shirley Derrah, Susan Smith, Michael Smith**
- 3 James Misner, Elaine Misner, Rochelle Shapiro, Esther Watstein
- 4 Vivian Wu, Victor Mazmanian, Terry Lubman, Linda Green
- 5 Deborah Noack, John Farwell, Jean Schiaroli, Robert Rising

- 1 **Georgeann Kishner, Stanley Kishner, Richard Fronapfel, Susan Fronapfel**
- 2 Susan Grosz, John Grosz, Karen Sanders, Jan White

CT AUTUMN SECTIONAL Hartford, October 5-7, 2012

Friday AM Open Pairs

- 1 **Clayton Parker - Edith Parker**
- 2 Larry Bausher - Richard DeMartino
- 3 1 **Beverly Saunders - Vera Gerard**
- 4 2 1 **Ronald Talbot - Lincoln May**
- 5 Tom Joyce - Marsha Futterman
- 6 Cynthia Michael - Margaret Mason
- 3 2 Adish Jain - Asha Jain
- 4/5 Robert Gruskay - Selma Moffie
- 4/5 Linda Green - David Blackburn
- 6 3 Marge Pane - Irene Rivers
- 4 Michael Marcy - Shari Peters

Friday AM Senior Pairs

- 1 **Lesley Meyers - William Watson**
- 2 Mary Petit - Elizabeth Nagle
- 3 David Benjamin - Gloria Sieron
- 4 Marilyn Goldberg - Shirley Gerber
- 5 1 1 **Phyllis Curcio - Carol Tellar**
- 6 Sarah Budds - Kathleen Frangione
- 2 Richard Sieron - Laurel Koegel
- 3 2 Sarah Smedes - George Smedes
- 4 Marie Abate - Betty Ustanowski
- 5 Paul Miller - Katharine Goodman
- 6 Lea Selig - Aldona Siuta
- 3 Donna Lyons - J Sun-Ming Lee
- 4 Betty Payton - Barbara Clark

Friday PM Senior Pairs

- 1 **Paul Miller - Katharine Goodman**
- Lesley Meyers - William Watson
- 2 1 **Dinesh Gupta - Sidney Keller**
- 3 2 Alan Godes - Karen Barnett
- Marilyn Goldberg - Shirley Gerber
- Mary Petit - Elizabeth Nagle
- 4 3 Phyllis Curcio - Carol Tellar
- 5 4 Carol Kirsheman - William Kirsheman

Friday PM Open Pairs

- 1 **Larry Bausher - Richard DeMartino**
- 2 Tom Joyce - Marsha Futterman
- 3 Constance Graham - Richard Blair
- 4 1 **Carolyn Joseph - Judith Merrill**
- 5 Judy Maravolo-Foote - Donald Foote
- 6 Geoffrey Brod - Victor King

- 2 1 **Richard Roth - Liz Brian**
- 3 Beverly Saunders - Vera Gerard
- 4 2 Larry Levy - Loretta Levy
- 5 3 Betty Kerber - Donald Muller
- 6 Judith Hyde - Richard Benedict
- 4/6 Roz Sternberg - Anant Patel
- 4/6 Shari Peters - Michael Marcy
- 4/6 Lincoln May - Ronald Talbot

Saturday AM A/X Pairs

- 1 **Donald Foote - Judy Maravolo-Foote**
- 2 Douglas Doub - Carolyn Joseph
- 3 Larry Bausher - Phyllis Bausher
- 4/5 1/2 **Constance Graham - Alice Hummel**
- 4/5 1/2 **Edwin Lewis III - Thomas Hyde**
- 6 3 William Titley - Richard Blair
- 4 Susan Seckinger - Susan Rodricks

Saturday AM B/C Pairs

- 1 **Shirley Derrah - Robert Derrah**
- 2 Larry Wallowitz - Paula Beauchamp
- 3 1 **Carol Hill - Lila Englehart**
- 4 2 Allen Bast - Jacob Bast
- 5 Partab Makhijani - Dinesh Gupta
- 6 H Lane Jr - Arthur Giovannangeli
- 3 Sarah Smedes - Jacquelyn Del Negro
- 4 Margery Gussak - Norma Healy

Saturday AM 299er Pairs

- 1 1 **Eric Vogel - Irene Rivers**
- 2 2 Alan Godes - Karen Barnett
- 3 3 Janice Martinez - Lou Filippetti
- 4 Janet Bannister - Suzanne McMullen
- 5 4 1 **Bernd Selig - David Brandweil**
- 5 Mary Beth Murphy - Patricia Shimkus
- 2 Haroula Dobyms - Judi Zucker
- 3 Georgeann Kishner - Stanley Kishner

Saturday PM B/C Pairs

- 1 **Larry Wallowitz - Paula Beauchamp**
- 2 1 **Sarah Smedes - Jacquelyn Del Negro**
- 3 Muriel Dane - Myrna Butler
- 4 Michael Wavada - Peter Katz
- 5 Marilyn Noll - Lea Selig
- 6 Susan Smith - Michael Smith
- 2 Allen Bast - Jacob Bast
- 3 Richard Fronapfel - Susan Fronapfel
- 4 Stephen Shamroth - Elizabeth Shamroth
- 5 Alan Berg - Jean Berg

Saturday PM 299er Pairs

- 1 **Jerry Hackman - Joyce Handleman**
- 2 1 **Alan Godes - Karen Barnett**
- 3 Sandra DeGregorio - James Larson
- 4 Mary Whittemore - Jesse Whittemore
- 5 2 Irene Rivers - Eric Vogel
- 3 1 **Bonnie Murphy - Randall Murphy**

continued on next page

RESULTS *continued*

- 4 2 Stanley Kishner -
Georgeann Kishner
5 3 Karlene Wood - Breta Adams
4 Judi Zucker - Haroula Dobyns

Saturday PM A/X Pairs

- 1 **Marsha Futterman -
Hilda Silverman**
2 Allan Wolf - Russell Friedman
3 1 **Susan Rodricks - Susan Seckinger**
4 2 William Titley - Richard Blair
5 3 Ausra Geaski - Bunny Kliman
6 4 Elizabeth Lincoln - John Sedgwick

Sunday B/C Swiss Teams

- 1 **Michael Smith, Susan Smith,
Robert Derrah, Shirley Derrah**
2 Paul Miller, Linda Green,
Fern Lindsay, Terry Lubman
3 1 **Loretta Levy, Larry Levy,
Dinesh Gupta, Eugene Copp**
4/5 2/3 Susan Fronapfel, Richard Fronapfel,
Sandra Gould, Roger Crean
4/5 2/3 Michael Wavada, Michael Dworetzky,
Jerry Hirsch, Kenneth Leopold
4 Norma Healy, Margery Gussak,
Patricia Schackner, Mary Murphy

Sunday A/X Swiss Teams

- 1 **Franklin Merblum, Sheila Gabay,
Victor King, Alan Applebaum**
2 1 **Burton Gischner, Janet Gischner,
Thomas Proulx, Paul Burnham**
3 Marsha Futterman, Hilda Silverman,
Yeong-Long Shiue, Tom Joyce
4 Allan Wolf, Maeve Lucey,
Lawrence Lau, John Segal
2 Zachary Grossack, Donald Caplin,
Joyce Pearson, Jori Grossack
3/5 Bill Reich, Brian Lewis,
Robert Hawes, Simon Rich
3/5 Deborah Noack, Gary Seckinger,
Robert Rising, John Farwell
3/5 James Osofsky, Ausra Geaski,
Michael Heider, Bunny Kliman

UNIT 126 1999 SECTIONAL W. Hartford, October 14, 2012

Sunday AM 199er Pairs

- 1 **Brian Fisher - Flo Fisher**
2 1 **Jonathan Clark -
Lillian Serrano**
3 Maxine Cechvala - Marlene Myers
4 2 Bob Butterfoss - Judy Goff
5 John Dinius - Dennis Jacobs
6 3 Jan Rosow - Barbara Mindell
4 Wayne Sherman - Jim Eck
5 1 **Edward Kwash -
Sharon Kwash**
6 Maureen Mullane -
Barbara White
2 Carol Magowan - Ruth Adams
3 Kate Beatty - Ann Patton
4 Tony Mortimer -
Edward Vandeventer
5 Nancy Stangel -
Barbara Edelstein

Sunday PM 199er Pairs

- 1 **Judy Collins - Lise Dutil**
2 1 **Wayne Sherman - Jim Eck**
3 2 1 **John Calderbank -
Nancy Calderbank**
4/5 3/4 Jonathan Clark - Lillian Serrano
4/5 3/4 Doug Vagts - Joyce Vagts
6 5 2 John Price - Kathleen Price
6 3 Mary Carsky - Jan Shapiro
4/5 Kate Beatty - Ann Patton
4/5 Tony Mortimer -
Edward Vandeventer



Top 100 in CT

October 8, 2012

1	23370.65	Richard DeMartino
2	19057.58	John Stiefel
3	17796.90	Harold Feldheim
4	14660.91	Douglas Doub
5	10442.85	Larry Bausher
6	10309.82	Victor King
7	10297.93	Geoffrey Brod
8	8609.68	Franklin Merblum
9	7355.69	Marvin Rosenblatt
10	6697.32	Steve Becker
11	6448.65	Lawrence Lau
12	5977.79	Hilda Silverman
13	5708.13	Allan Clamage
14	5630.33	Arthur Waldmann
15	5138.53	Marilyn Goldberg
16	5043.55	Franklin Silver
17	4871.21	Jane Smith
18	4320.14	Don Stiegler
19	4290.70	Allan Rothenberg
20	4243.58	Bernard Schneider
21	4215.68	Cynthia Michael
22	4192.65	Sandra DeMartino
23	4160.54	Sarah Budds
24	4150.90	Janet Gischner
25	4149.34	Stephen Earl
26	3873.99	Jeff Horowitz
27	3850.33	Joan Brod
28	3830.69	Frank Blachowski
29	3808.89	Betty Jane Corbani
30	3688.31	Jeffrey Goldman
31	3668.35	Doris Greenwald
32	3622.45	Pat Hartman
33	3492.46	Dot Grogan
34	3492.37	Allan Wolf
35	3444.90	David Ehler
36	3434.67	Richard Wieland
37	3422.02	Gloria Sieron
38	3416.96	Tom Joyce
39	3392.37	Frances Schneider
40	3353.24	Maeve Lucey
41	3321.13	Charles Halpin
42	3314.27	Lesley Meyers

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Kibitzer Editor Wins Prize



Tom Proulx with the B Winner trophy at the Greenwich Sectional

Tom Proulx, editor of the CBA newsletter *Kibitzer*, snagged the top honors at the recent CBA tournament held in Greenwich on August 17, 18, 19. Tom won the huge trophy, pictured, for capturing the most points for the tournament awarded to B players.

Tom scored above 60% at each session of the Friday game playing with Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL, who was visiting the Connecticut Sectional over the weekend. Robert played both sessions with Tom handily beating the field.

Robert didn't fare so well on either Saturday or in Sunday's Swiss. But Tom, playing on Sunday with longtime partner Jason Rotenberg teamed with Paul Burnham and Farley Mawyer to come in 2/3 in the A/X game for another 4+ master points giving him the weekend B category win. The Proulx team tied with another Connecticut four-some: Gloria Sieron, Ann Cady, Jatin Mehta, and Joan Martin.

FROM OUR READERS

Tom,

Burton Saxon's dismissal of the utility of the Flannery convention seems somewhat short-sighted to me. He wrote that "If your partner does not bid spades (after you bid 1♥), you don't have a spade fit." The problem is that you often do not have a rebid either. If you are playing 2/1 with a Flannery hand, you will probably be forced to bid a two-card minor if partner bids a forcing 1NT. Playing Standard American you might have no reasonable bid at all if responder bids two of a minor.

The other commonly occurring benefit of Flannery is that it allows responder to discriminate between hands with four spades and five. If partner opens 1♥, responder does not need to show a four-card spade suit. If opener has four spades and a big hand, he will reverse into spades.

Flannery also has some subtle benefits. I sat West when we recently scored a top on the following layout:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 9 4 2	♥ A Q 8 5	♠ A K 6 3	♥ 10 7 4 3 2
♦ J 7 6 2	♣ 7 5	♦ A 9 8	♣ 4 3
WEST		EAST	
♠ 5	♥ J 9	♠ A K 6 3	♥ 10 7 4 3 2
♦ K Q 5 4 3	♣ A Q J 6 2	♦ A 9 8	♣ 4 3
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ Q J 10 8 7	♥ K 6	♠ A K 6 3	♥ 10 7 4 3 2
♦ 10	♣ K 10 9 8 3	♦ A 9 8	♣ 4 3

Partner (East) opened 2♦. I jumped to 3NT and ended up taking eleven tricks when North was understandably reluctant to underlead the ♥AQ. Her diamond lead made the contract very easy. If East had opened 1♥, he would have started a very uncomfortable auction. The most common contract was 3♦.

On the other hand, playing Flannery often requires a sense of adventure. In the last sectional in Hamden I opened 2♦ with the following hand (both vulnerable):

♠ Q 8 7 5
♥ A Q 9 8 3
♦ 10
♣ A K 7

Partner alerted and explained the bid. LHO bid 3♦. Partner had to figure out what to do with this hand:

♠ K 4 3 2
♥ J 10 7 4
♦ 6
♣ Q J 9 4

He chose to compete with 3♥. RHO then bid 4♠(!). He thought that his partner's bid was Michaels even though our bids had clearly shown eight hearts, and he was looking at two of them in his own hand. For all that I knew, however, he could have held nine spades. I passed and so did a puzzled LHO. My partner knew that 4♠ was going down a lot, but he decided not to double because he figured that the opponents might notice that they held eleven diamonds between them. So, he passed. We could have set 4♠ by eight (!) tricks, but only if we took out their trump starting at trick one. As

it was, our opponents got a very good board going down only four because nearly everyone in our direction made 4♥.

Mike Wavada
Enfield, CT

The author responds:

Mike Wavada's letter provides a strong defense of the Flannery convention. While it is important to present hands where Flannery, or any other convention, is successful, Mike's best observation is that Flannery often solves a rebid problem.

I still believe this is a bid that should only be used by experts. When the opposition bids a minor suit at the three or four level, the Flannery partnership needs to thoroughly understand a complex number of options. Interference thus often becomes an effective pressure bid. If the Flannery partnership guesses right, they receive an average board. If they guess wrong, they get a zero.

Experts moved away from the bid before average players began to abandon it. I would be most interested in finding out how many of Connecticut's expert players still use Flannery.

Burt Saxon



Top 10 continued

43 3285.05	Sarah Corning	61 2809.63	Jay Borker	81 2504.49	Elliot Ranard
44 3251.60	Margaret Mason	62 2804.05	Arthur Crystal	82 2479.41	Charlotte Zultowsky
45 3171.08	Randolph Johnson	63 2789.62	Sallie Abelson	83 2478.37	Vesna Hauptfeld
46 3142.18	Yeong-Long Shiue	64 2775.29	William Wood	84 2447.01	Terry Brewster
47 2982.90	Mildred Fromm	65 2745.68	Brett Adler	85 2434.23	Susan Seckinger
48 2963.08	Lynn Condon	66 2707.42	Constance Graham	86 2426.12	David Margolin
49 2954.69	Howard Lawrence	67 2701.38	Phyllis Bausher	87 2422.29	Virginia Naugler
50 2953.05	Peter MacCuaig	68 2699.08	Howard Zusman	88 2416.75	David Benjamin
51 2942.76	Marsha Futterman	69 2694.77	Seth Cohen	89 2352.46	Joel Wolfe
52 2929.71	Ruth Teitelman	70 2691.03	Thomas Hyde	90 2351.42	Nancy Starr
53 2921.39	Edwin Lewis III	71 2660.27	Sharon Santow	91 2338.74	Jane Lowe
54 2902.69	Sonja Smith	72 2656.19	Natalie Aronsohn	92 2305.72	Burton Gischner
55 2897.78	Kenneth Hirshon	73 2651.11	Barb Shaw	93 2301.60	Jay Force
56 2826.54	Morris Feinson	74 2606.49	John Segal	94 2278.74	Helen Kobernusz
57 2820.55	Joan Panico	75 2563.83	Natalie Cohen	95 2260.46	Susan Pfloderer
58 2816.38	Ann Cady	76 2563.20	Barbara Kirtley	96 2257.18	Aimee Housholder
59 2812.89	Lenny Russman	77 2556.18	Lois Zeisler	97 2254.10	Gail Carroll
60 2812.55	Kenneth Abelson	78 2538.41	Flora Bery	98 2239.83	Ausra Geaski
		79 2538.24	Micki Schaffel	99 2232.38	John McGuire
		80 2537.13	Caryll Schenker	100 2228.20	Amos Foster



2012 Monroe Magnus Trophy

October 9, 2012, After our 4th Sectional: Hartford

1	77.62	Richard DeMartino	36	14.08	Robert Rising	71	9.25	Franklin Merblum
2	41.49	Larry Bausher	37	13.77	Douglas Doub	72	9.25	Alan Applebaum
3	41.26	Lawrence Lau	38	13.57	Michael Wavada	73	9.25	Sheila Gabay
4	40.50	John Stiefel	39	12.83	Robert Hartman	74	9.24	Russell Friedman
5	33.10	Linda Green	40	12.72	Susan Fronapfel	75	9.07	Deborah Noack
6	30.93	Dean Montgomery	41	12.72	Richard Fronapfel	76	8.61	Jane Finn
7	29.82	Allan Wolf	42	12.70	Hilda Silverman	77	8.58	Esther Watstein
8	29.32	Michael Smith	43	12.37	Steve Becker	78	8.49	David Blackburn
9	29.32	Susan Smith	44	12.06	Tom Joyce	79	8.45	Ann Cady
10	28.22	Phyllis Bausher	45	11.83	Solomon Field	80	8.43	Margaret Molwitz
11	28.11	Robert Derrah	46	11.78	Harold Feldheim	81	8.34	Barbara Loprete
12	28.11	Shirley Derrah	47	11.78	Richard Blair	82	8.32	Bob Rebelein
13	27.17	Allan Clamage	48	11.58	John Farwell	83	8.27	Lou Filippetti
14	26.05	Cynthia Michael	49	11.51	Janet Gischner	84	8.19	Fern Lindsay
15	25.45	Jill Marshall	50	11.51	Burton Gischner	85	8.09	Linda Starr
16	24.87	Brett Adler	51	11.38	Gloria Sieron	86	7.81	Lincoln May
17	23.17	Thomas Proulx	52	11.04	Jatin Mehta	87	7.81	Ronald Talbot
18	22.64	David Rock	53	10.97	Sylvia McNamara	88	7.79	Irene Rivers
19	20.27	Constance Graham	54	10.97	Karen McCallum	89	7.78	Howard Zusman
20	19.56	Marsha Futterman	55	10.56	Maeve Lucey	90	7.78	Thomas Gerchman
21	19.05	Frances Schneider	56	10.38	Steven Lockwood	91	7.70	Katharine Goodman
22	19.05	Bernard Schneider	57	10.13	Carolyn Joseph	92	7.50	Brian Lewis
23	18.96	Sonja Smith	58	10.04	Farley Mawyer	93	7.50	Ira Ewen
24	18.95	Paul Miller	59	10.00	Justine Cushing	94	7.50	Bill Reich
25	18.64	Sandra DeMartino	60	10.00	Melih Ozdil	95	7.50	Michael Rosen
26	18.32	Terry Lubman	61	9.85	Joan Martin	96	7.47	Bruce Downing
27	18.25	Victor King	62	9.76	Susan Seckinger	97	7.31	Linda Otness
28	17.77	Paul Burnham	63	9.76	Susan Rodricks	98	7.15	Mildred Fromm
29	17.50	Glenn Robbins	64	9.56	James Misner	99	7.14	Sarah Smedes
30	17.50	Bob Gwartzman	65	9.56	Elaine Misner	100	7.14	Tania Reyes Hiller
31	17.26	Margaret Mason	66	9.50	Donald Foote			
32	15.46	William Titley	67	9.50	Judy Maravolo-Foote			
33	15.35	Jiang Gu	68	9.33	Lila Englehart			
34	15.35	Sharon Goldman	69	9.33	Carol Hill			
35	14.96	Lynn Condon	70	9.33	William Ehlers			

Total Masterpoints reported: 1519.82
 Players selected: 100 out of 836



THE KIBITZER

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All comments, news, items related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next Kibitzer by January 15, 2013.

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