

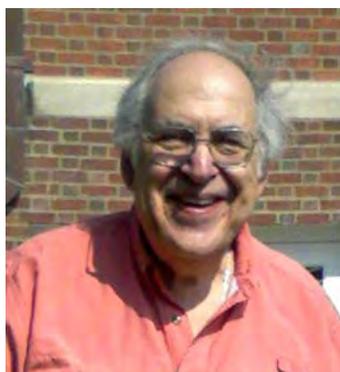


THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Volume 17 • Number 4 • November 2013



Uncle Wiggly

by Harold Feldheim

Bridge is a beautiful game. If it weren't we wouldn't be playing it. There are many features, superb technique or a particularly well bid hand. But for me, an elegant swindle against an expert player is the most exciting and most human side of bridge.

For many years, the Brazilian Olympic bridge team was definitely a force to be feared. Among their many talented young players was Gabriel Chagas. Both charming and extroverted, Chagas had successful partnerships with some of South America's best players. His preferred method was a simple form of Precision but he was capable of adjusting his bidding methods to partner's preferences – a fact he proved many times in South American championships. Perhaps this was because his greatest technique lay in declarer play and defense. He had a particular facility for finding ways to save what seemed to be hopeless situations. The following hand, from a 1980 Olympiad match against Israel is a lovely example of wiggling out of trouble.

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

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The auction: South's 1♥ opening promised five hearts and less than 17 HCP. His partner, Marcelo Branco raised to the two level. With six losers and a healthy opening bid, Chagas tried a help suit game try with 2♠. This was all North needed to bid a game.

The play: Although the contract was dicey at best, West's lead of a small trump seemed to ruin declarer's chances for ruffing losers in dummy. It was clear that the moment declarer played a spade toward his hand, West would win and lead the ♥A followed by a heart skewering any chance of 10 tricks. South's singleton club was an unfortunate holding since it prevented

establishment of the dummy's clubs. His only chance was that the defenders did not know how much trouble he was in. With a cheerful "thank you," he won the heart in hand and led the ♣J, playing low from dummy and losing to the Queen, presenting East with a nasty defensive problem. If declarer held the ♥A, returning a trump would be disastrous. Chagas would win in dummy, ruff a small club and lead a heart to dummy simultaneously extracting the last trump and reaching the now established club suit. What to do? After a heartrending hesitation, East decided the best defense would be to tap dummy's trump length. Armed with this logic, he switched to the ♠Q. Now Gabriel Chagas turned the hand from tricky to a masterpiece of deception by playing a low spade from his hand.

Here, Chagas inserted a commentary. "West could have still have succeeded by overtaking partner's Queen and playing ace of trump and a trump holding him to nine tricks – two spades, four hearts, two diamonds and one club but who can blame him for ducking."

Totally flummoxed and convinced of the correctness of his defense, East continued a spade. Declarer played the Jack, ruffing West's Ace, played the ♦AK, and ruffed a third diamond thus coming to two spades, five hearts, two diamonds, and the ♣A - 10 very enjoyable tricks.



Welcome newcomer bridge players.

Please see page 2 for a listing of ACBL sanctioned newcomer games in Connecticut.



From the CBA President

The Connecticut Bridge Association (CBA) is reaching out to all bridge players who may not be members of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) to join us in duplicate bridge.

Why should you bother? Well, you already know that bridge keeps you sharp, helps your memory and is just a very good game. Duplicate bridge gives you the opportunity to be with more people, test your skills against others, learn and improve your game. At an ACBL sanctioned game, you can begin to earn masterpoints that amass and lead to various levels of achievement.

ACBL is our parent, national association. It sets the rules, organizes the National Tournaments, oversees the awarding of points, is focused on bridge education and, primarily, wants everyone to have a good time at the bridge table.

For another thing, once you are an ACBL member you get a terrific monthly magazine, "The Bridge Bulletin," at

no cost. The Bulletin includes a range of articles and lessons for every level player, notices of where tournaments are across the country, and other useful information. Membership is very inexpensive, only \$28 for one year. In most instances, you can join and pay at a local, sanctioned club game.

The ACBL website (www.acbl.org) is easy to navigate, has excellent bridge information, and allows you with one click to check your own status as you begin to earn points.

Connecticut has many newcomer games. Briefly, the sanctioned games are those registered with the ACBL and at which you can earn masterpoints. They are listed below with contact information. Other games and locations are listed on the CBA website at www.ctbridge.org. Click on "Find a Club" on the left side menu, towns in Connecticut will appear and if you click on the one most convenient for you, you will find the clubs, contact, and days and times of

play. You are always welcome at any of these clubs as long as it is designated an Open game. If you are alone, contact the manager listed and most often a partner will be found for you.

Many other newcomer duplicate games in the state are not ACBL-sanctioned and they are conducted in various senior centers, at continuing education sites and at other venues. These games are another way to be introduced to duplicate bridge play. Some may be listed at your library, or where continuing education courses are held.

I hope you will join us at bridge, meeting new people and making new friends, playing duplicate, earning points and every once in a while seeing your name in print as you reach achievable goals. You just need to get started!

Esther Watstein

Esther B. Watstein
President, CBA



Newcomer Duplicate Bridge in Connecticut

Sanctioned ACBL Games

Note: please check with the manager of the game at the phone number listed to confirm the venues, days and times of the games. Frequently, a lesson or supervised play accompanies the game.

Day	Club	Time	Manager	Phone
MONDAY	Norwalk, Wilton Bridge Club	7 p.m.	Bill Wood	203-838-1122
	Hartford Bridge Club	morning	Donna Feir	860-953-3177, 860-281-7330
	West Hartford Club	morning	Stan Kerry	860-904-2644
TUESDAY	Stamford	afternoon	Jim Misner	203-210-5252
	New Canaan	morning	Karen Barrett	203-286-7530
	West Hartford Club	morning	Stan Kerry	860-904-2644
WEDNESDAY	Norwalk	afternoon	Bill Wood	203-838-1122
	West Hartford Club	afternoon	Stan Kerry	860-904-2644
	Hartford Bridge Club	evening	Donna Feir	860-953-3177
THURSDAY	West Hartford Club	afternoon	Stan Kerry	860-904-2644
FRIDAY	New Canaan	morning	Karen Barrett	203-286-7530
	Hartford Bridge Club	afternoon	Donna Feir	860-953-3177

Also, please note that newcomer pair games are played at all Connecticut Sectional tournaments on Friday and Saturday and the Swiss Team events on Sunday.

Can't Cost Method – Chapter 37

by John Stiefel



In this deal from a recent Regional Swiss Teams, both tables reached a tight vulnerable game, but one declarer found a “can’t cost” play to bring it home and win 12 IMPs for his side.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: North/South

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

Bidding:

Table One

North	East	South	West
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Table Two

North	East	South	West
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 3 (4th best)

The auction merits some discussion. After North opened 2♠ vulnerable, South felt he had enough to undertake a vulnerable game, so he bid 3♥ (forcing). At one table, North raised directly to 4♥. He felt his doubleton heart plus a potential ruffing value in diamonds would give 4♥ a good play and that he had already shown a 6-card spade suit. At the other table, North did rebid his spades but South rebid 4♥, so the vulnerable game was reached anyway. I prefer the direct raise to 4♥.

The opening lead was the ♦ 3 at each table and East’s Ace took trick 1. Both Easts shifted to a low club and South won the Ace, West perforce playing the nine (attitude) even though he didn’t want clubs continued. (When I first started playing bridge a few years ago, I heard a story about a West player who, in a similar situation, “dropped” his ♣ 9 on the floor. While picking it up, he said “small club coming up.” Please don’t try anything like this against me or anyone else.)

At any rate, South now had three losers, two diamonds and the ♥ A, so he had to pick up the ♥ J to make his contract. Both Souths realized that the “percentage play” in hearts was to finesse for the Jack, so both led their spade to dummy at trick 3, planning to lead a heart to the 10 next. (A better play would have been to lead the ♥ K at trick 3 in case West had a singleton Jack. If not, then the finesse against the Jack could be taken on the second round of the suit.)

At any rate, at one table South stuck to his original plan and played a heart to his 10 at trick 4. This lost to the Jack and South had to concede down 1. “I took the percentage play,” he stated.

At the other table, South found the “can’t cost” play of the ♠ K to trick 5 after East played the Queen to trick 3. East had to ruff this (or the ♠ J at the next trick) to prevent South from discarding both of his diamonds and limiting his diamond losers to one. South over-ruffed East’s heart with the ♥ 6 at trick 4 and played back the ♥ K to trick 5. Now there was nothing East-West could do to set the contract. West did the best he could by playing a spade to trick 6, hoping East had the ♥ 10 and would ruff with it to “uppercut” South and set up West’s Jack. East co-operated by ruffing as high as he could (the 5!), but South had no trouble over-ruffing and taking the rest of his tricks, dropping West’s ♥ J in the process.

East pointed out that he would have already ruffed with the ♥ 10 of hearts at trick 4 if he had it. West replied “true, but I made a ‘can’t cost’ play just in case you forgot to ruff with your 10 the first time around.”

So, the bottom line: At Table 2, South, with his “can’t cost” play to trick 4, found an extra chance for his contract in case West originally started with ♥ A J or ♥ J x, and it earned 12 IMPs.



Players...Please Note

Your Home for the Weekend.

At all tournaments there are multiple trash cans around the room. You are invited to use them.

It will be a much more pleasant experience if empty cups, napkins, plates, wrappers, tissues, and other debris are not taking up table or floor space. Be proud of your corner of our home for the weekend. Thanks.

Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #23: Doubleton Leads

by Alan Wolf



There are two common reasons for leading a doubleton. First and foremost, despite your meager holding in the suit, you think it may be a source of tricks for your side. Perhaps partner has bid the suit, or perhaps something in the bidding makes it likely that partner has a good holding.

A second reason is that in a suit contract, you are hoping to gain a third round ruff. Sometimes both reasons are at work.

When leading a doubleton, we always lead high-low, and the lead of the high card can be costly. Leading a suit of Jx, 10x, or even 9x should be avoided, unless there is a compelling reason to lead that suit.

Some examples:

Leading J from Jx costs when declarer and dummy holdings are:

Dummy: K 9 x Declarer: A 10 x
Declarer wins the King & has a finesse against the Queen.

Dummy: Q 10 x Declarer: A 9 x
Declarer covers the J with the Q, and now picks up partner's King

Leading from 10 x may be costly when declarer and dummy holdings are:

Dummy Q x x Declarer A J 9
Declarer covers the 10 with the Q, and picks up partner's King.

Dummy J x x Declarer A Q 8
Declarer covers the 10 with the J, setting up a finesse against partner's 9.

Similar things can occur on the lead of the 9 from 9x

All of these examples give declarer the opportunity to pick up three tricks in the suit without loss, where he would have a sure (or likely) loser if he had to attack the suit himself.

When leading a doubleton in the hopes of getting a third round ruff, several things must work in your favor. All too often, trumps are drawn before you can get the ruff. For this reason the doubleton lead is much more attractive when you have a sure (or likely) quick trump entry with a trump holding such as Axx or Kxx, and will gain the lead at least once while you still have small trumps with which to ruff.

But doubleton leads (or other leads from shortness) should be avoided like the plague when you have sure trump tricks. In this case, ruffing may be neutral AT BEST, and will frequently cost a trick. Witness the following hand.

Professor
(North)

♠ 6 5 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ K 5 4
♣ 9 6 4 2

Majorca
(East)

♠ 9 8
♥ A K 9 3
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ J 8 5

Minna
(West)

♠ Q J 10
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ A 10 7 3

Warren
(South)

♠ A K 7 3 2
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6
♣ K Q

If West, (in a spade contract) ill-advisedly leads the ♥8, and ruffs the third round, declarer will easily make nine tricks. Now the ♠A and ♠K will pull trumps, and the third spade in dummy will take care of declarer's fourth heart which would otherwise be losing to the nine. Much better defense is to lead trumps, winning the third round of trumps naturally. With careful defense, declarer will now lose three heart tricks, plus a trump and a club, making only eight tricks.



2013-2014 CALENDAR

NOV.-DEC.

28-8 Thurs.-1st Sun. ACBL Fall Nationals, Phoenix, AZ

DECEMBER

9 Mon. (Day) Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
10 Tues. (Eve) Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
18 Wed. (Day) Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

JANUARY

3-5 Fri.-Sun. Individual Regional, Newton, MA
14-20 Tue.-Sun. Winter Regional, Rye Brook, NY

FEBRUARY

12-17 Wed.-Mon. Knockout Team Regional, Cromwell, CT



An Equal Level Conversion

by Geoff Brod

So what's that? Let's start with an example:

RHO	You	LHO	Pard
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦		

Your bid of 2♦ is an equal-level conversion (ELC). People who play in this manner agree that the bid of 2♦ does not show extra values as it might normally but simply says you have a somewhat abnormal take out double that does not have the normal support for clubs (generally 3+). Typically, doubler will have a hand with four spades and five or six diamonds and did not want to overcall a direct 2♦ for fear of losing the spade suit. It's an "equal" level conversion because you converted clubs to diamonds at the same level. Had pard for example in the above auction bid, say, 2♦ and then you as the doubler called 3♣, that's no longer an equal-level conversion (you've advanced to the next level). That's not a "corrective" call but instead shows a hand too good to simply overcall a mere 2♣. Normally you'll have 18+ HCP and your auction will no longer promise support for the unbid suits. It's just a hand that was too good for a direct 2♣.

Expert practice in this area is mixed. Many play ELC but many others play in the traditional manner: to double and bid a new suit is always a very good hand.

Today's hand is about an equal-level conversion of a different kind, one that receives almost no attention in the bridge literature.

The venue is the Friday afternoon pairs at the recent Hartford sectional. You started slowly but things have been picking up and midway through the session you hold:

♠J763 ♥J87 ♦J6 ♣KQ105.

Everyone is red and you see:

LHO	Pard	RHO	You
3♣	3♦	Pass	?

There are several points of interest here. First pard has bid over an opening preempt. The general rule of thumb is that when they do this to you pard assumes that you have about 6 HCP or so and bids accordingly. That means that you, as the advancer, should mentally throw away your first 6 HCP and then determine if you have enough above and beyond what he expects to see if your hand warrants action of any kind. Here you have eight, a modest increment relative to what is expected. Furthermore, this is a pretty poor eight, three Jacks and the ♣KQ, hardly the world's fair. In general if all they are going to deal you is an eight count you would much prefer two Aces to three Jacks and a KQ. Aces, after all, are much undervalued in the 4321 point count and Jacks, especially when in short suits or not in combination with higher honors are rather overvalued. So that makes it a fast pass, right? Well, perhaps not.

Here one of your Jacks is in pard's suit. That's likely to be a very useful card. The major suit Jacks are problematic values but they do at least have the virtue of not being opposite expected shortness in partner's hand. After all, your LHO opened 3♣ red. On balance she'll have a 7-card suit. Pard is likely quite short in clubs so should have some major suit length. Don't mentally devalue those major suit Jacks just yet. The clubs however are pretty hopeless. Possibly pard might get a late pitch on a club honor but that's only if he can get to dummy. So for a diamond contract, yes, pretty much all you have is an in-tempo pass.

What about 3NT? The argument against 3NT is that you just simply don't have the normal values. The virtue of 3NT is that it gives value to your club holding. You do have the ♣KQ105. That 10 in combination with the KQ is a big card. It virtually assures that you will have a double stopper.

There are a couple of other considerations. Partner can have a very good hand for his 3♦ call. It could be that, in combination with your cards, 3NT is a normal contract. But probably the most important consideration is that both 3♦ and 3NT contract for the same number of tricks and your hand is going to be far more useful at NT than it will be at diamonds. If both contracts take the same number of tricks, better to play NT where you have a chance for a game bonus when you get lucky. It's just a different sort of equal-level conversion.

All of that sounds reasonable but what if they double 3NT? The answer is that probably they won't. If there were a double lurking about, it probably would be based on some kind of diamond stack with your RHO and it would have happened already. After all this cogitation you've convinced yourself. 3NT it is and all pass. With some trepidation you await dummy.

♠ K 4
♥ Q 5 4
♦ A Q 10 9 8 4 3
♣ 7

♠ J 7 6 3
♥ J 8 7
♦ J 6
♣ K Q 10 5

The lead is a low club and the seven holds the trick as RHO follows with the four. The dummy's HCP is somewhat disappointing but it does have a seventh diamond, a very good thing. At the same time your analysis suggesting that 3NT would be no worse than 3♦ appears to be on the money. If, on the off chance the ♦K is in the slot, you may well make the contract on a mere 19-count between the two hands.

Since you want to be in hand to take the diamond finesse you overtake the seven with the 10 and run the ♦J.



They Bid A Slam – Take Your Ace?

by Gloria Sieron



Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

♠ A 8 7 4
♥ Q 9 8
♦ 10 9 7
♣ A 9 7

♠ 9 2
♥ 3
♦ Q 9 6 5 4
♣ J 10 8 3 2

♠ J 10 6 5
♥ A J 10 7 5 4
♦ ---
♣ 6 5 4

♠ K Q 3
♥ K 6 2
♦ A K J 3 2
♣ K Q

South's opening bid seems obvious playing 20/21 for a two no trump opener. However, South becomes mesmerized by the five-card diamond suit, adds one point for the fifth diamond and opens 2♣, preparing to rebid 2NT, showing 22 to 24 HCP. North bids 2♦, waiting, but more positive than the "I have nothing"

response of 2♥. (This pair plays that 2♥ is a negative response with no A, K or two Q's.) The auction now becomes interesting. East joins in with a bid of two hearts. With the ♥K safely positioned behind the heart bidder, South completes describing his hand with 2NT, a bit of an overbid. North, with two Aces and a Queen, immediately jumps to 6NT, hoping to find South with 23 or 24 HCP rather than 21 plus.

West dutifully leads the singleton ♥3. Should West realize it is a singleton, hop up with the heart Ace and hope partner can provide the setting trick? Or, does partner also possess the ♥2 and will be able to lead through the ♥Q in dummy. East decides to play the ten to declarer's King.

There are clues available to South. Since South holds the heart deuce, West has led from either a singleton or three hearts. Would East overcall a strong auction with a four-card suit? So let's reason out that East overcalled with a six-card suit, and West has led a

singleton. The only unsolved question is who has the ♦Q? This dilemma is easily solvable.

After unblocking the ♣K/Q, it can't cost South to test the Diamonds by playing either the Ace or King. Since East is void in diamonds, South must lose a diamond, and makes 6NT as East is squeezed in the majors.

Should East take his ♥A at trick one? Maybe simple is better. If he does the contract will be down. *(East should realize that the play of the ♥A at trick 1 is probably the correct play. Why? Well, for one thing, the contract is 6NT and if West gets in (to lead another heart) the contract is down! Also, the game is matchpoints. If 6NT is the normal contract it seems to be then preventing the overtrick could be important. Of course, you could also construct hands where the play of the Ace is wrong by giving declarer a second heart trick. On balance, with this auction, I take my Ace. Ed.)*



Equal Level Conversation *continued*

Remarkably, it wins the trick. So, another diamond from hand as your LHO completes an echo with the ♦2. What should you make of that? Probably not a whole lot. It's overwhelmingly likely that a second finesse will win and that your LHO is simply trying to sow confusion. You repeat the finesse and as expected it wins. You now have eight tricks.

The contract is now almost certainly a make as long as LHO has the expected seven clubs. Do you see why? Think about it. LHO preempted in first seat. The early play has marked her with the ♣AJ and ♦K. If she had any of the ♠A or ♥AK she would have had an opening one bid. All of these cards will be on your

right. You simply take all your diamonds and then lead a heart up to the Jack (what a super card that turns out to be) in your hand and righty is going to have to give dummy a ninth trick. In fact the defenders become disheartened on the run of the diamonds and you emerge with an unexpected overtrick for an excellent matchpoint result.

On the lie of the cards, 3NT was far superior to 3♦. Had you passed, 3♦ would have been down at least one trick and possibly two. The opponents could have negotiated both a spade and a heart ruff as well as taking four top tricks with the ♥AK, ♠A and ♣A.



IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the
ACBL Bridge Bulletin

Audrey B. Bell, Darien, CT

Lawrence B. Cale, Southbury, CT

Lois C. Flesche, Branford, CT

Margot. D. Hayward, Westport, CT

Dr. Edward Littman, Norwalk, CT

Ruth M. Teitelman, New Haven, CT

Beverly R. Tootell, Guilford, CT

Lois Zeisler, Fairfield, CT

From the

Wee Burn News

Bridge at Wee Burn has returned to the Main Club and will be held there until next spring.

Summer Series Winners:

1. Linda Cleveland–Betty Hodgman
2. Penny Glassmeyer–Joan Hoben
3. Janet Soskin–Mary Richardson
4. Jean Thoma–Karen Barrett
5. Marilyn Tjader–Carol Davidson
6. Belinda Metzger–Mary Ellen McGuire

We extend happy birthday and best wishes to Betty McCoy who celebrated her 100th birthday on November 2. She is a charter member of the Wee Burn Duplicate Club which was started in 1965 and she has played continuously ever since.



Woodway Country Club

Winners of the summer series are:

- 1st Susan Mayo and Karen Barrett
 - 2nd Carol Davidson and Betty Hodgman
 - 3rd Belinda Metzger and Barbara Johnson
 - 4th Jean Thoma and Linda Cleveland
- Winners of the split local on Sept. 18th are:
- 1st Sue Kipp and Janet Mc Clutchey
 - 2nd Susan Mayo and Karen Barrett
 - 3rd Linda Cleveland and Betty Hodgman
 - 4th Gail Stewart and Mim Moynihan
 - 5th Martha Hathaway and Molly Morgan

Congratulations to our new Life Masters Kris Freres and Susie Nix

JCC Bridge Club

Winners of the club appreciation game are:

- 1st Elaine and Michael Kreigr
- 2nd Carla Sharp and Alan Walton
- 3rd Rochelle Shapiro and Renee Pomerantz
- 4th Elaine and Jim Misner

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: On the last Tuesday of the quarter, Rita Brieger-Harold Miller went back in front of Brian Lewis-Bill Reich by about one second-place finish. Hill Auerbach-Tracy Selmon are about two wins behind in third and equally far ahead of Bob Hawes-Jon Ingersoll and Jatin Mehta-Hasmukh Shah. Mary Connolly is half of both the sixth and seventh most successful pairs.

Player-of-the-Year: After being part of last year's margin-of-error three-way tie, Jon Ingersoll has the lead alone, but not by much. Rankings by combined ordinals: Jon 12, Louise Wood 14, Brian Lewis 15, Vera Wardlaw-Bill Reich 18, Bob Hawes 19. With the Consistency scores of four of the top six very close to within the margin of error, another technical tie looks highly likely.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: Norma and Stan Augenstein have done nearly as well in nine months as anybody else has done in twelve, and they are coasting towards a record year. Rita Brieger-Aniko Richheimer are about a win ahead of Harold Miller-Burt Saxon for second place, with Harold and Burt about two wins ahead of a pack headed by Jean and Kendall Clark and Breta Adams-Karlene Wood. Louise Wood is half of the sixth and eighth most successful pairs.

Player-of-the-Year: After winning six of the last ten years, Louise is likely to win again this year. Harold and Rita are tied for second, but either would need a big fourth quarter to go ahead. The Augensteins (Stan just ahead of Norma) and Shirley Fruchter follow a fair distance behind.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Third Quarter top players: Louise Wood and Rita Brieger were far and away the top two players of the summer, ahead of Harold Miller, Bob Hawes and Fredda Kelly.

Overall Player-of-the-Year: Louise opened up a lead of almost a month's amount of top points over Harold, who is about half a month ahead of Rita. Bob Hawes is a distant fourth. In the last week of September, Jon Ingersoll took over fifth place from Vera Wardlaw.

MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

New Life Masters

- Ronnie Bershad Sachs
- Shelley Emery
- Lawrence Eppler
- Norma Healy
- Sidney Keller
- David Landsberg
- Susan Lewis
- Michael Marcy
- Karen Olsen Nye
- Shari Peters

Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

- David Margolin
- Joel Wolfe

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

- Linda Cleveland
- Stanley Gedansky
- Sheila Katz
- Victor Mazmanian
- Jason Rotenberg
- Allen Siegel

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

- Annet Bonfanti
- John Condon, Jr.
- Sidney Kaller
- Stephen Shamroth



RESULTS

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Frank Blachowski–Joe Pantoja**
- 2 Richard Fronapfel–Roger Crean
- 3 Joel Krug–Geoffrey Brod
- 4 Edith Swatzburg–Joyce Holland
- 5 Wayne Lubin–Morris Feinson
- 6 Al Acker–David Kimball

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Richard Fronapfel–Roger Crean**
- 2 Edith Swatzburg–Joyce Holland
- 3 Al Acker–David Kimball
- 4 Margaret Molwitz–Rodney Aspinwall
- 5 Rebecca Jacobson–Russ Sackowitz
- 6 Gary Miyashiro–Ed Finlay

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Al Acker–David Kimball**
- 2 Rebecca Jacobson–Russ Sackowitz
- 3 Jeff Moss–Karen Moss
- 4 Sid Keller–Jailue Lai
- 5 Anthony Gardener–Gene Massey
- 6 Shirley Fowks–Dorothy McIntyre

SUMMER IN CT

Guilford, CT, August 23-25, 2013

FRIDAY 10:00 AM OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | | | Jeff Horowitz, Cheshire CT; K Hart, Northford CT |
| 2 | | | Lawrence Lau, Westport CT; Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT |
| 3 | | | Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Allan Rothenberg, W Hartford CT |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | Barry Buehler, East Lyme CT; Eugene Massey, Washington DC |
| 5 | 2 | 2 | Cherry McLaughlin, New London CT; Dale Rowett, Palm City FL |
| 6 | | | Dean Montgomery, West Pittston PA; Allan Clamage, Stratford CT |
| | 3 | 3 | Bruce Adler, Weston CT; Richard Tisch, Pound Ridge NY |
| | 4 | 4 | Russ Sackowitz, Stamford CT; Rebecca Jacobson, Westport CT |
| | 5 | | Alice Hummel, Cheshire CT; Joyce Calcagnini, Branford CT |
| | 6 | | Herb Dunn–Marcia Dunn, Miami Beach FL |

FRIDAY 10:00 AM 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|-----|---|---|
| 1 | | | Edward Greenhouse, Wallingford CT; Burton Greenhouse, Montauk NY |
| 2 | 1 | | Paula Pendergast, Key Largo FL; Anne Maletta, Greenwich CT |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Cynthia Lautenbach–Elizabeth Niehaus, Fairfield CT |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | Robert Butterfoss, East Granby CT; Judy Goff, Granby CT |
| 5 | | | G Stephen Thoma–Ron Freres, Darien CT |
| 6 | | | Susan Byron, Norwalk CT; Carla Sharp, Easton CT |
| | 4 | | Ann Gordon, Old Lyme CT; Bernice Krantz, Mystic CT |
| | 5/6 | 3 | Barbara Strickland–Patricia Fitzgerald, Fairfield CT |
| | 5/6 | | Harris Usdan–Woody Bliss, Weston CT |

FRI PM OPEN PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | Allan Rothenberg, W Hartford CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT |
| 2 | | | Janet Gischner, Niantic CT; Jane Smith, Ledyard CT |
| 3/4 | | | Larry Bausher–Phyllis Bausher, West Haven CT |
| 3/4 | 1 | 1 | Barry Buehler, East Lyme CT; Eugene Massey, Washington DC |
| 5 | | | Gail Carroll, Bethany CT; Nancy Earel, Milford CT |
| 6 | | | Lynn Condon, West Redding CT; Linda Green, Fairfield CT |
| | 2 | | John Farwell, Milford CT; Marlene Scholsohn, Scottsdale AZ |
| | 3 | 2 | Ronald Talbot–Lincoln May, Glastonbury CT |
| | 4 | 3 | Shari Peters, Ridgefield CT; Michael Marcy, Niantic CT |
| | 5 | | Stephen Shamroth, W Hartford CT; Peter Solomon, West Hartford CT |

FRI PM 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | | Donald Muller, Bristol CT; Betty Kerber, Wethersfield CT |
| 2 | | | G Stephen Thoma–Ron Freres, Darien CT |
| 3 | | | Sally Solomon–Elizabeth Shamroth, West Hartford CT |
| 4 | 2 | | Cynthia Lautenbach–Elizabeth Niehaus, Fairfield CT |
| 5 | | | Edward Greenhouse, Wallingford CT; Burton Greenhouse, Montauk NY |
| | 3 | | Harris Usdan–Woody Bliss, Weston CT |
| | 4 | | George Levinson–Lucy Lacava, Hamden CT |

SAT AM A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | Names |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Victor King, Hartford CT |
| 2 | | Sandra DeMartino, Riverside CT; Phyllis Bausher, West Haven CT |
| 3 | 1 | Marilyn Caissy, Fairfield CT; Nancy Robertson, Bridgeport CT |
| 4 | | Dean Montgomery, West Pittston PA; Allan Clamage, Stratford CT |
| 5 | 2 | Paul Burnham, Wilton CT; Thomas Proulx, Norwalk CT |
| | 3 | John Farwell, Milford CT; Marilyn Ruff, Huntsville AL |

SAT AM B/C PAIRS

- | B | C | Names |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | | Michael Smith–Susan Smith, Newington CT |
| 2 | | Jesse Weiss, Fairfield CT; David Keller, Trumbull CT |
| 3 | | Paula Najarian–A Borod, East Greenwich RI |
| 4 | | Joan Martin, Bridgeport CT; Margaret Molwitz, New Canaan CT |
| 5 | | Elaine Misner–James Misner, Wilton CT |
| 6 | 1 | Cherry McLaughlin, New London CT; Dale Rowett, Palm City FL |
| | 2 | Mary Whittemore–Jesse Whittemore, Guilford CT |
| | 3 | Stephen Shamroth, W Hartford CT; Peter Solomon, West Hartford CT |

SAT AM 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | Edward Konowitz, Cheshire CT; Marlene Scholsohn, Scottsdale AZ |
| 2 | | | Burton Greenhouse, Montauk NY; Edward Greenhouse, Wallingford CT |
| 3 | 1 | | Jack Miller, Darien CT; John Harrison, Savannah GA |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | Debbie Thornton–Barbara Hartman, Ridgefield CT |
| 5 | 3 | | Karen Sterrett–M Sandra Macri, Simsbury CT |
| | 4 | | Donald Muller, Bristol CT; Robert Butterfoss, East Granby CT |
| | 2 | | Haroula Dobyans, Milford CT |

SAT PM A/X PAIRS

- | A | X | Names |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Alice Hummel, Cheshire CT; Constance Graham, New Britain CT |
| 2 | | Lawrence Lau, Westport CT; Faye Marino, Greenwich CT |
| 3 | | Linda Green, Fairfield CT; Lynn Condon, West Redding CT |
| 4 | | Eric Mock–Louella Berliner, New York NY |
| 5 | 2 | Janice Smola–Paul Simon, Arlington MA |
| 6 | | Burton Gischner–Janet Gischner, Niantic CT |
| | 3 | Debbie Benner–Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT |
| | 4 | Paul Burnham, Wilton CT; Thomas Proulx, Norwalk CT |

SAT PM B/C PAIRS

- | B | C | Names |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | | David Keller, Trumbull CT; Jesse Weiss, Fairfield CT |
| 2 | | B L 'Tink' Tysor, Grantham NH; Mu Zhang, Branford CT |
| 3 | | Elaine Misner–James Misner, Wilton CT |
| 4 | | Rochelle Shapiro, Fairfield CT; Esther Watstein, Stratford CT |
| 5 | 1 | Carol Weiss, Purchase NY; Marcia Goldfinger, Rye Brook NY |
| | 2 | Shari Peters, Ridgefield CT; Michael Marcy, Niantic CT |
| | 3 | Jerry Hackman, New York NY; Joyce Handleman, Westhaven CT |

SAT PM 299ER PAIRS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | | Jan Rosow, Avon CT; Maureen Walsh, West Hartford CT |
| 2 | 2 | 1 | Randall Murphy–Jonathan Clark, Branford CT |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | Barbara Hartman–Debbie Thornton, Ridgefield CT |
| 4 | 4 | | Anne Maletta, Greenwich CT; Paula Pendergast, Key Largo FL |
| 5 | | 3 | Howard Cohen, Orange CT; Scott Butterworth, West Haven CT |

SUNDAY SWISS

- | A | B | C | Names |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | Robert McCaw, Sudbury MA; Victor King, Hartford CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Allan Rothenberg, W Hartford CT |

RESULTS *continued*



- 2 Constance Graham, New Britain CT; Cynthia Michael, Woodbridge CT; Richard Blair, Old Lyme CT; Margaret Mason, Madison CT
- 3 Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT; John Segal, Wilton CT; Lawrence Lau, Westport CT; Dean Montgomery, West Pittston PA
- 4 Mark Stasiewski, Meriden CT; Nancy Earel, Milford CT; Lenny Russman, Madison CT; Gail Carroll, Bethany CT
- 5/6 1/2 **Michael Smith–Susan Smith, Newington CT; Robert Derrah–Shirley Derrah, Springfield MA**
- 5/6 1/2 **Michael Wavada, Enfield CT; Kenneth Leopold, Avon CT; Patricia Fliakos, W Hartford CT; David Landsberg, Higganum CT**
- 7/8 3/4 1 **Barry Buehler, East Lyme CT; Richard Lebel, Danielson CT; Thomas Thompson, Gales Ferry CT; Phanindra Chakraborty, Putnam CT**
- 7/8 3/4 Deborah Noack, Shelton CT; Gary Seckinger, Wethersfield CT; Robert Rising, Trumbull CT; John Farwell, Milford CT
- 5 2 Sandra Reiners–Gernot Reiners–John O’Shea, Branford CT; Nancy Ramseyer, Madison CT
- 6 Elaine Misner–James Misner, Wilton CT; Karen Barrett, Norwalk CT; Douglas Thompson, Acton MA
- 3 John Harrison, Savannah GA; Marilyn Ruff, Huntsville AL; Jack Miller, Darien CT; B L ‘Tink’ Tysor, Grantham NH
- 4 Mary Ann Downes–Mary Beth Murphy, West Hartford CT; Penny Skenderian, Naples FL; Patricia Shimkus, W Hartford CT

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Friday, September 13, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Elaine Lowell–Larry Lowell**
- 2 Charles Stabinsky–Jay Force
- 3 Glyn Holmes–Josie Hamm
- 4 Roger Crean–Bill Titley
- 5 Gloria Sieron–Jatin Mehta
- 6/7 Thomas Hyde–Reginald Harvey
- 6/7 Beverly Saunders–Vera Gerard

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Elaine Lowell–Larry Lowell**
- 2 Glyn Holmes–Josie Hamm
- 3 Diane Storey–Margaret Karbovanec
- 4 David Doolittle–Edward Gentino
- 5 Norma Augenstein–Stanley Augenstein
- 6 Julius Fuster–Ellen Finch

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Glyn Holmes–Josie Hamm
- 2 Arthur Nishball–Scott Butterworth
- 3 Lucy Lacava–George Levinson
- 4 Joan Moen–Gunn Moen

- 5 Steve Grodzinsky–Hank Voegeli
- 6 Rebecca Jacobson–Mimi Van Dyke

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Thursday, September 19, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Betty Pascal–Mary Ellen McGuire**
- 2 Margaret Mason–Constance Graham
- 3 William Wood–Barbara Moore
- 4 Mary Beach–Ann Towne
- 5 John McGuire–Henry Arnold
- 6 Laurie Robbins–Claudia Hurley

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Betty Pascal–Mary Ellen McGuire**
- 2 Mary Beach–Ann Towne
- 3 Kathleen Rowland–Janet Soskin
- 4 Sylvia Blamberg–Paul Fagan
- 5/6 Donald Kimsey–Duncan Harris
- 5/6 Joel Tames–David Keller

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Betty Pascal–Mary Ellen McGuire**
- 2 Sylvia Blamberg–Paul Fagan
- 3 Molly Johnson–Brenda Greene
- 4 Gloria Hayes–William Hayes
- 5 Eric Vogel–Irene Rivers
- 6 Barbara Henningson–Randall Murphy

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Tuesday, September 24, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Franklin Merblum–Simon Kantor**
- 2 Richard Blair–Connie Graham
- 3/4 Elizabeth Nagle–Kathleen Frangione
- 3/4 Richard Fronapfel–Roger Crean
- 5 Marilyn Goldberg–Shirley Gerber
- 6 Howard Zusman–Allan Wolf

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Richard Fronapfel–Roger Crean**
- 2 Jeff Moss–Gene Banucci
- 3 Sandra Werkheiser–Betty Payton
- 4 Renee Pomerantz–Ruth Twersky
- 5 Jon Clarke–Lawrence Stern
- 6 Alan Blake–Carl Yohans Jr

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 **Jeff Moss–Gene Banucci**
- 2 Sandra Werkheiser–Betty Payton
- 3 Sheldon Rosenbaum–Ed Konowitz
- 4 Al Acker–David Kimball
- 5/6 Stu Freeman–Gladys Feigenbaum
- 5/6 Sid Keller–Jailue Lai

CT AUTUMN SECTIONAL Hartford, CT, September 27–29, 2013

FRI AM OPEN PAIRS

A B C Names

- 1 **J Peter Tripp, Williston VT; Gary Seckinger, Wethersfield CT; Garson Heller Jr–Mario Sa Couto, Westport CT**
- 2 1 1 Tom Joyce, East Hartford CT; Yeong-Long Shiu, Manchester CT
- 3 Phyllis Bausher–Larry Bausher, West Haven CT
- 4 Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT
- 5 Susan Fronapfel–Richard Fronapfel, Danbury CT
- 6 2 Paul Pearson, Enfield CT; Laurie Robbins, Windsor CT

- 4 Peter Marcus, Manchester CT; Bunny Kliman, West Simsbury CT
- 5 2 Sally Solomon–Peter Solomon, West Hartford CT
- 6 Ruth Kuzma, Newington CT; Anthony Longo, Wethersfield CT
- 3 Adish Jain–Asha Jain, S Glastonbury CT
- 4 Stephen Shamroth, W Hartford CT; Elizabeth Shamroth, West Hartford CT

FRI AM 299ER PAIRS

A B C Names

- 1 **Susan Schmerl–James Schmerl, Storrs CT**
- 2 Eric Vogel, South Windsor CT; Irene Rivers, Vernon CT
- 3 Dennis Jacobs, Glastonbury CT; John Dinius, Canton CT
- 4 Jan Rosow, Avon CT; Barbara Mindell, West Hartford CT
- 5 1 1 **Mary Walker–Dagesse–David Benoit, Williamstown MA**
- 6 Edward Konowitz, Cheshire CT; Wendy Frieden, Bethany CT
- 2 2 Paul Ibsen, Shelton CT; Douglas Pratt, Norwalk CT
- 3 3 Roberta Halpern, Longmeadow MA; Elizabeth Byer, West Hartford CT
- 4 John Price–Kathleen Price, Glastonbury CT

FRI PM OPEN PAIRS

A B C Names

- 1 **Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Dinesh Gupta, South Windsor CT; Partab Makhijani, W Hartford CT**
- 2 1 Jesse Weiss, Fairfield CT; Richard Sieron, Milford CT
- 3 2 Phyllis Bausher–Larry Bausher, West Haven CT
- 4 Gloria Sieron–Laurel Koegel, Milford CT
- 5 3 1 **Garson Heller Jr–Mario Sa Couto, Westport CT**
- 4 Joyce Calcagnini, Branford CT; Alice Hummel, Cheshire CT
- 5 David Blackburn–Linda Green, Fairfield CT
- 6 Richard Benedict, Avon CT; Ronald Talbot, Glastonbury CT
- 2 Barbara Roy, Newport RI; Liz Brian, Jamestown RI
- 3 Penny Skenderian, Naples FL; Mary Ann Downes, West Hartford CT

FRI PM 299ER PAIRS

A B C Names

- 1 1 1 **Marge Pane, South Windsor CT; Frank Pane, S Windsor CT**
- 2 2 John Calderbank–Nancy Calderbank, Glastonbury CT
- 3 3 Dennis Jacobs, Glastonbury CT; John Dinius, Canton CT

continued on next page

RESULTS *continued*

4	Susan Schmerl–James Schmerl, Storrs CT
5	Irene Rivers, Vernon CT; Eric Vogel, South Windsor CT
6	4 2 Mary Walker–Dagesse–David Benoit, Williamstown MA
5	Marilyn Pikor–Roger Pikor, West Hartford CT
3	Jane Rubenstein–Mark Rubenstein, Norwalk CT
4	Paul Ibsen, Shelton CT; Douglas Pratt, Norwalk CT

SAT AM A/X PAIRS

A	X	Names
1		Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Victor King, Hartford CT
2		Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT; John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT
3	1	K Hart, Northford CT; Jeff Horowitz, Cheshire CT
4		Tom Joyce, East Hartford CT; Hilda Silverman, W Hartford CT
5	2	Elizabeth Lincoln, Longmeadow MA; John Sedgwick, Springfield MA
6/7	3	Lois Labins, W Hartford CT; Susan Pflederer, Burlington CT
6/7		Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT; Russell Friedman, Wilton CT
4		Rachel Brown, Canton CT; Laurie Robbins, Windsor CT
5		Garson Heller Jr–Mario Sa Couto, Westport CT

SAT AM B/C PAIRS

B	C	Names
1		Susan Smith–Michael Smith, Newington CT
2		Dinesh Gupta, South Windsor CT; Judith Merrill, Wethersfield CT
3		Mourad Meredian, South Hadley MA; Luigi Montefusco, Chicopee MA
4		Shirley Derrah–Robert Derrah, Springfield MA
5	1	Roman Solecki, Stafford Spgs CT; Lester Lipsky, Storrs Manfld CT
6		Alice Weagle, Webster MA; Howard Canan, Holden MA
2		Lois DeBlois, Warwick RI; Kathy Thornton, North Scituate RI
3		David Landsberg, Higganum CT; Patricia Fliakos, W Hartford CT
4		Marny Lundy, No Salem NY; Patricia Rudolph, Carmel NY
5		Sarah Smedes–George Smedes, Prospect CT

SAT MORN 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1	1		Carla Sharp, Easton CT; Jacquelyn Fuchs, Trumbull CT
2	2		James Nowill, Florence MA; Anne McCune, Keene NH
3	3	1	Jane Rubenstein–Mark Rubenstein, Norwalk CT
4	4		Allen Bomes–Leonard Messman, Westport CT
5	5		Donald Muller, Bristol CT; Betty Kerber, Wethersfield CT
6			Haroula Dobyns, Milford CT; Joyce Handleman, Westhaven CT

2	Karen Birck–Susan Thompson, Wilton CT
3	John Calderbank–John Price, Glastonbury CT

SAT PM A/X PAIRS

A	X	Names
1		Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT; John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT
2		Lawrence Lau, Westport CT; Jill Marshall, Port Chester NY
3		Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT; Russell Friedman, Wilton CT
4		Donald Foote–Judy Maravolo–Foote, Red Hook NY
5	1	Alice Hummel, Cheshire CT; Helen Kobernusz, Madison CT
6		Jill Fouad, New Canaan CT; Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT
2		Caryll Schenker, Coventry CT; Susan Pflederer, Burlington CT
3		Rachel Brown, Canton CT; Laurie Robbins, Windsor CT
4		Lea Selig, W Hartford CT; Elizabeth Nagle, Wethersfield CT

SAT PM B/C PAIRS

B	C	Names
1		Elaine Misner–James Misner, Wilton CT
2		Paul Miller, Weston CT; Katharine Goodman, Fairfield CT
3		Alice Weagle, Webster MA; Howard Canan, Holden MA
4		Joan Martin, Bridgeport CT; Margaret Molwitz, New Canaan CT
5		Judith Merrill, Wethersfield CT; Dinesh Gupta, South Windsor CT
6/7	1	Lois DeBlois, Warwick RI; Kathy Thornton, North Scituate RI
6/7		Myrna Butler, Westfield MA; Muriel Dane, Longmeadow MA
2		Roz Sternberg, Avon CT; Mary Eisenberg, Hartford CT
3		Sarah Smedes–George Smedes, Prospect CT
4		Rita Levine–Sylvia Alpert, Guilford CT
5		Richard Fronapfel–Susan Fronapfel, Danbury CT

SAT PM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			Eric Vogel, South Windsor CT; John Dinius, Canton CT
2			Carla Sharp, Easton CT; Jacquelyn Fuchs, Trumbull CT
3	1		Kamlesh Goel–Vijender Goel, Avon CT
4			Betty Kerber, Wethersfield CT; Donald Muller, Bristol CT
5			Sharra Canan–Marsha Addis, Holden MA
6	2	1	Paul Ibsen, Shelton CT; Douglas Pratt, Norwalk CT
3			Allen Bomes–Leonard Messman, Westport CT
4			Robert Butterfoss, East Granby CT; Judy Goff, Granby CT
2			Jane Rubenstein–Mark Rubenstein, Norwalk CT

SUN STRAT SWISS TEAMS

A	B	C	Names
1			Allan Wolf, Ridgefield CT; Steve Becker, Old Greenwich CT; Bernard Schneider, Riverside CT; Larry Bausher, West Haven CT
2			Victor King, Hartford CT; Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT; Allan Rothenberg, W Hartford CT; Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT
3	1		Susan Smith–Michael Smith, Newington CT; Robert Derrah–Shirley Derrah, Springfield MA
4			Susan Rodricks, Milford CT; Sandra DeMartino, Riverside CT; Joyce Stiefel–Susan Seckinger, Wethersfield CT
5/8			Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA; Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT; John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT; Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA
5/8			Edwin Lewis III, Bolton CT; Thomas Hyde, Willimantic CT; Dinesh Gupta, South Windsor CT; Judith Merrill, Wethersfield CT
5/8	2	1	Mario Sa Couto–Garson Heller Jr–Leonard Messman–Allen Bomes, Westport CT
5/8			Lesley Meyers, Bloomfield CT; Hilda Silverman, W Hartford CT; Tom Joyce, East Hartford CT; Yeong-Long Shiu, Manchester CT
9	3	2	Nancy Matthews, Darien CT; Carol Taylor, New Canaan CT; Linda Wyse–Dorothea Sullivan, Norwalk CT
4			Deborah Noack, Shelton CT; Gary Seckinger, Wethersfield CT; Robert Rising, Trumbull CT; John Farwell, Milford CT
5/7			Paul Miller, Weston CT; Linda Green, Fairfield CT; Harry Jancis–Maruta Jancis, Naugatuck CT
5/7			Donald Brueggemann, Branford CT; Rochelle Shapiro, Fairfield CT; Ruth Twersky, Bridgeport CT; Esther Watstein, Stratford CT
5/7			Richard Lebel, Danielson CT; Thomas Thompson, Gales Ferry CT; Barry Buehler, East Lyme CT; Lawrence Eppler, Pawcatuck CT
3			John Calderbank–Nancy Calderbank, Glastonbury CT; Marilyn Pikor–Roger Pikor, West Hartford CT
4			Brian Fisher–Flo Fisher–Carol Kirsheman–William Kirsheman, Glastonbury CT
5			Roz Sternberg, Avon CT; Mary Eisenberg, Hartford CT; Lila Englehart, Granby CT; Carol Hill, Simsbury CT





Playing Against Superior Opponents

by Burt Saxon

Let's face it. Unless you are a total egomaniac, you will sit down to the table and realize that your opponents are often superior players. How do I define superior? Let me start by saying there are four levels of bridge ability, with four rungs within each. This is my scale:

1. Beginner (1-4)
2. Intermediate (5-8)
3. Advanced (9-12)
4. Expert (13-16)

This rating scale correlates closely with master point totals, but it is not totally identical. It is also subjective to rate someone, since bridge is a partnership game. It is much easier to rate a chess player or a tennis player. But rating bridge players can be done. I checked out the Connecticut Bridge Association list of the top master point holders in the state. I would rate the top seven at the expert level. All have multiple regional wins. But I would rate each as a 13 or 14, leaving the rating of 16 for players such as Bob Hamann, Jeff Meckstroth, and Eric Rodwell. Lesser skilled national champions would get a rating of 15.

It is helpful to rate oneself. I am going to claim a rating of 10, though my partners and opponents might rate me a 9. At any rate, I can now define a superior opponent as someone who rates three rungs or more above you. So I am saying that when I go to a tournament and play against opponents rated 12 and above, my partner and I are big underdogs.

Does this call for different tactics? The answer is yes and no. On most hands, the answer is no. If my partner has 13 points and four spades and I have 13 points and five spades, the proper contract is four spades. If I thought there was one chance in three to make five at the risk of being set, I would pass up the finesse and go with the field. But there are many situations where one should consider unusual tactics against superior opponents. Here are my three suggestions:

1. Make pressure bids whenever possible.

Harold Feldheim defines a pressure bid like this: Put the opponents on a guess. If they guess right, they get an average score and if they guess wrong, they get a zero. Here is a classic example. Your hand is more like a foot:

♠ xxxx ♥ x ♦ xx ♣ xxxxxx

Your expert opponents are vulnerable but you are not. Your left hand opponent opens 2♣, your gutsy partner bids 3♠, and your right hand opponent bids 4♠. Your automatic call is 5♠, but against an expert pair I would bid 6♠. Let them guess whether or not they have a grand slam. Against expert opponents try to make cooperative preempts as often as possible, especially white against red.

2. Ask why your expert opponent took a certain action.

A couple weeks ago, I met my partner Steve Emerson at the Cavendish Club in New York City. Before the game started, our first round opponents told us to expect lots of wild bidding and doubled contracts. But later in the game, we were playing against a world champion named Bjorn Fallenius, who currently owns the Cavendish Club. Vulnerable against non-vulnerable, I started with a classic weak two bid in hearts:

♠ xxx ♥ AKJxxx ♦ xx ♣ xx

Steve bid 4NT. I replied 5♥ playing 1430 and Steve bid 6♥. It went pass, pass, and then double by Mr. Fallenius. Steve put down a fantastic dummy:

♠ x ♥ Qx ♦ AKxxxx ♣ AKx

I began to salivate. How often does a slightly above average bridge player make a doubled contract against a world champion? Things looked great until Mr. Fallenius led ♠A and another spade. Ask yourself what I asked myself: What should I do now? Before answering the question I factored in every variable I could think of, especially the comment about wild bidding and doubled contracts. I even considered the fact that

Steve was wearing a coat and tie. A high level medical administrator, Steve finds it hard to play more than a few times a year. Maybe Mr. Fallenius thought that suggested we were total novices. All right, back to the hand. Admit it. You might have done what I did. I trumped with the Queen and prayed for a 3-2 trump split. That seemed a lot better than trumping low, cashing the queen of hearts, playing ♣AK, ruffing a club, drawing trump, and then relying on a 2-2 diamond split. Before taking the wrong line of play, I asked myself repeatedly "Why did the opponents not bid?" But on the train back to Connecticut I concluded they did not bid because they did not want to give us any clues. Long story short is that Mr. Fallenius had four trumps to the ten and I went down like a lead balloon. The second line of play, a lower percentage option, would have worked.

3. Take a calculated risk to create action.

Often the best way to create action is to just say pass. For example, let's assume you are playing in a large field and you open 1NT with a solid sixteen count but no 10s or 9s. Your partner bids 2NT and you are pretty sure the great majority of pairs will be playing 3NT. But you need a top. Pass is your best bet.

However, it is a lot more fun to create action with an aggressive bid. The year was 1981. My partner had just cancelled for a Sunday Swiss at a local Sectional but I decided to go and trust the partnership desk. I had been playing duplicate for three years and had about thirty master points. The partnership desk gave me a partner with six master points. Our teammates had about fifteen between them. The teams were ranked, which meant we drew the best team in New England for the first round. The first six boards appeared to be relatively flat. I was sure we were behind by a few IMP's but doubted we were being blitzed.

continued on next page

This was my final hand:

♠ KQxxx ♥ x ♦ AKxxx ♣ xx

I opened 1♠, my partner bid 4NT, I bid 5♦ showing one ace, and my partner bid 6♠. I then bid 7♠ with confidence. This was my reasoning:

1. The contract would absolutely be 6♠ at the other table so we needed to create action to win the match.
2. If my left hand opponent held the missing ace, he might not lead it based on my confident bid.
3. If my right hand opponent held the missing ace, LHO might lead the wrong suit and I would get pitches on my diamonds.

All I remember is making seven and being congratulated by bridge players from all over the room. One of my opponents from the other table came over to our table. He looked a bit angry as he asked me why I bid seven. I told him exactly what I just wrote above. He extended his hand and said, "Outstanding. Congratulations."

To this day that hand remains the highlight of my mediocre bridge career. Now, if I had just made the slam against Bjorn Fallenius...



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Barry Buehler who won the Scott Loring trophy for the most points won by a C/B player in the Summer tournament held in Guilford in August.



Congratulations to Rich DeMartino for winning the 2013 Governor's Cup for winning the most points at the Fall Sectional in Hartford.



THE KIBITZER

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

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, 2014.

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