



THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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THOSE EXTRA CHANCES

To finesse or not to finesse, that's the question.

by Harold Feldheim

Very often, an experienced pair will produce an intelligent auction to arrive at an excellent contract only to be frustrated by bad luck. In today's hand, North-South reached an excellent slam, success depending on one of two finesses – a very good bet. But, more often than not, there is some hidden resource, often overlooked by even very experienced players, that adds a definitive percentage to the potential success of any contract.

The following hand, from a recent Flight A Swiss Teams event illustrates this point.

NORTH

♠ 8 6
♥ A K J
♦ A 9 7 2
♣ Q J 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 10
♣ A K 9 8 7 6

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: Both

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Lead: ♦K

The Auction: In the face of South's 2♣ rebid, North, with opening values

and a good club fit had visions of slam. With this in mind, his 2♥ rebid was both a game force (reverse by responder) and a general probe. South's 2♠ rebid showed a healthy interest. (Note that it could not show a spade suit since he did not bid them over partner's 1♥ response.) This was all the encouragement North needed to launch into Minorwood*. When South showed three controls (two aces + the trump king), 5♦ asked for kings (5♣ would have been to play). South's 6♣ response denied another king and 6♣ became the final contract at both tables.

The Play: Both Souths won the opening lead and quickly noted that if either major suit finesse succeeded, the slam would succeed. For the first seven tricks, the play was the same. South won the opening lead and ruffed a diamond high in hand. Then trumps were drawn in two rounds ending in dummy, West discarding a spade on the second trump. In a continuing effort to get a more complete count, declarer ruffed another diamond, West discarding another spade. In an effort to cover all bases, South led a heart to the ace and ruffed the last diamond. Armed with the inference of a long heart suit at his left, he led a heart to the jack. Against the odds, East won the queen and led back a spade. With no other choice, declarer inserted the queen, West winning the king, defeating the excellent slam.

At the other table, South found

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From the President

We are about to enjoy two new settings for our CBA tournaments. The May 19 – 21 Sectional is at the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church at 480 Racebrook Road in Orange. On August 18 – 20, we move to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 1230 Newfield Avenue in Stamford.

Two events will take place between sessions on Sunday, May 21 at the Sectional tournament in Orange.

Awards will be presented to the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners (see page 11 for winners) and the Connecticut Bridge Association annual membership meeting will be held. The proposed slate of CBA Board for the next two years will be presented for election by all of you, the CBA membership. The proposed incoming officers and elected board members are as follows:

President, Susan Rodricks;
Vice President, Frances Schneider;
Secretary, Debbie Noack;
Treasurer, Susan Seckinger.

Area Representatives:
Panhandle, Sandy DeMartino;
Southwest, Karen Barrett; Fairfield,

Allan Clamage; Southern, Phyllis Bausher; Eastern, Mike Wavada; Central, Scott Butterworth; Hartford, Jan Rosow; Northwest, Sonja Smith; Unit Recorder, Millie Fromm; Unit and STaC Coordinator, Don Stiegler.

In addition to this elected slate, there are at-large representatives appointed by the president and other (some non-voting) CBA Board positions including: Webmaster; Director of Communications; Kibitzer Editor; List Manager; Past President.

All these workers are volunteers. In addition to meetings held on the Sunday morning of every Sectional before the game, communication among the Board members is conducted as needed throughout the year for concerns that are more immediate and require approval or a decision. Everyone works hard, is seriously involved and contributes to the good and welfare of all Connecticut bridge clubs and players.

On a personal level, I thank each and every one of our volunteer board members. They have been diligent in their concerns for bridge and our players. They are all much more than “name only” participants and I offer

them my appreciation and gratitude for their work and thoughtful support on behalf of the game.

So, enjoy the games. Come to the tournaments. Be nice at the table. Encourage our newcomers. Be patient.

Congratulations to each and every duplicate bridge player in the state. You have weathered playing once-in-a-while at the same table opposite a pair of serious “A” players. You have smiled at your partner’s error. You have partnered with a beginner and been pleasant. You have thanked the director at the club game. You have brought and shared a tray full of goodies to an event and complimented wonderful Debby who provides sustenance at the tournaments. You have picked up and used the trash receptacles even when the stuff wasn’t yours.

You are all terrific bridge players who always remember that it’s a game and it’s meant to be enjoyed by everyone. Otherwise why would you, or anyone, ever come back?!

Thanks so much to you all.

Esther Watstein



Those Extra Chances *Continued from page 1*

the extra chance. At trick eight, South distained the finesse and led dummy’s heart to the king dropping the doubleton queen. Now the losing spade finesse was merely for an overtrick. How did South know to play the ace? **The answer was that the heart finesse was an unnecessary risk.** Consider the possibilities. If West held the heart queen, leading the Jack would effectively endplay West forcing either a spade lead or ruff-and-sluff. If, on the other hand, East did win the queen, declarer could still fall back on the spade finesse.

The complete hands:

North
♠ 8 6
♥ A K J
♦ 9 7 2
♣ Q J 5 2

West
♠ K 9 4 3
♥ 10 9 8 7 2
♦ K Q 3
♣ 4

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

East
♠ J 10 7 5
♥ Q 5
♦ J 8 6 5 4
♣ 10 3

Both finesses were offside. Although this was certainly bad luck, yet, more often than we’d like to admit, hidden in the cards is some not-so-obvious coup that could snatch victory from disaster. Try looking for these edges. They can be quite rewarding.

*Minorwood (also known as key-card Gerber) is a slam try convention for minors after a trump agreement has been reached. Responses are by partnership agreement.

BRIDGE AT THE LUNATIC FRINGE Number 22

Don't miss that opportunity for a penalty double. by Al Wolf



The professor had noticed that less experienced players often failed to make a highly lucrative penalty double, at matchpoints missing out on an easy top or near top. With the double employed for so many other uses nowadays (like takeout, negative, support, etc.), a penalty double can be a bit tricky to recognize, often requiring a refined level of partnership cooperation.

Yet the truth is that penalty doubles of low-level contracts are generally far more lucrative than doubles of high-level contracts. When competent opponents have voluntarily bid a game, there is generally little profit in doubling. Even when you hold a trump stack, you must be careful that your double does not give away the situation, enabling declarer to adopt an unusual line of play catering to the 'announced' trump break. Alternatively, your untimely double will sometimes chase the opposition to an alternative makeable contract.

On the other hand, at low levels, an opponent sometimes steps in aggressively with a bid, only to catch his partner with very little, and a bad misfit at that.

One very common situation is the case where your partner opens the bidding and the next hand overcalls. You have a good holding in the overcalled suit (length and some strength) and are unsure what to do. For example, partner opens 1♠ followed by an overcall of 2♦. What is your call holding ♠7 ♥AJ94 ♦KJ1083 ♣J85?

Perhaps with such good diamond stoppers, you are tempted to bid notrump, or with your 4-card heart holding to make a negative double. Instead, follow what the professor did with that holding... Pass! This was

done with the hope/expectation that partner Warren would reopen with a double, which the professor would then pass for penalties.

The important point here is that when you've opened the bidding and the opponents' overcall is passed around to you, you do not need anything extra to take another call, preferably a double if you are short in the overcalled suit and have toleration for the other two suits. This is a "reopening take-out double," but it is also a "protective" double, protecting partner who really wanted to make a penalty double of the overcall, but couldn't because the double in this situation would be negative.

On the other hand, if you, as opener, have length in the overcalled suit, you should be very wary. Partner, who is presumably short in that suit was unable to take any action. He is likely to be very weak and your best action may be to pass and let the opponents play in their misfit.

The four hands were as follows:

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: None

Professor (NORTH)

♠ 7
♥ A J 9 4
♦ K J 10 8 3
♣ J 8 5

WEST

♠ K Q 8
♥ K 10 6
♦ A Q 9 7 6
♣ 10 9

EAST

♠ J 10 5 3
♥ 8 7 2
♦ 5 2
♣ K 7 4 3

Warren (SOUTH)

♠ A 9 6 4 2
♥ Q 5 3
♦ 4
♣ A Q 6 2

Warren	West	Professor	East
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠7

Note: Warren's reopening double, even with minimal values, for the original opening bid.

Some experts might say that West did not have a sound overcall with only a five-card suit, but surely, we all know many players who would make that call with 14 high-card points.

The professor led his singleton spade, not so much because he wanted ruffs, but because it was partner's bid suit. In any event, the slaughter was on. The defense managed to take one spade trick, two spade ruffs, two additional natural trump tricks, two hearts, and two clubs. Down four for +800 and a tie for top. (Two other pairs managed the same result).

Another common situation occurs when partner opens the bidding and the next hand overcalls 1NT. Here an immediate double is a penalty double, saying "Partner, it is our hand; we have the majority of the points. If you have any normal opening bid, pass."

For example, holding ♠7 ♥K J 2 ♦Q J 10 9 5 ♣K 10 6 5. Partner opens 1♠ and the next hand bids 1NT. You should double, planning to lead the ♦Q.

Occasionally one of these doubles will backfire on you, with the contract making. But to adapt a familiar adage: "If the opponents NEVER make a doubled contract, you're not doubling enough."





THERE IS NOTHING MORE GRATIFYING THAN A GOOD HUSTLE ...and snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.

by Brett Adler

I've included a couple of hands in recent articles about desperate plays, which is another way of saying that there is a fortuitous lie of the cards that helps you make your overly aggressive contract after lots of finesses and other things happening such as a squeeze. For this article, I thought I'd include a hand where the advantage is with the defenders, but somehow as declarer, I was able to hustle them and be successful. What is particularly gratifying about the following hand, is that I was declarer against two of the top players in Connecticut in a teams event. At the end of the hand, there was a lot of finger-pointing between opponents.

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: Both

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

Me	West	North	East
			1♣
1NT	Pass	2♦	Dbl
2♥	Dbl	All Pass	

Opening lead: ♣6

After East's opening, I was tempted to overcall in spades, but ultimately decided to overcall 1NT. Partner's 2♦ was a transfer to hearts, and East had a perfect double which said that he has something in diamonds and a good

hand. Because East doubled, South is not forced to bid; so you and your partner should have an agreement as to what it means here to pass or accept the transfer. In our partnership, 2♥ says I have three-card 3 heart support or two/three hearts with a club stopper. If I have more than three-card heart support, I jump to 3♥ to preempt the opponents.

Anyway, here I am in 2♥ doubled and I think West's best lead is a low heart. Because of their length in diamonds after East has implied a diamond suit, West should want to stop any cross ruff by opponents. As you can see, this lead would have resulted in two down or -500 as I would have been held to two spades, three hearts, and one diamond.

Not unreasonably, West led a club and East won the first two tricks with the AK♣ and then gave West a club ruff. It should be noted that when East gave West the ruff, he did so by playing the 3♣ which is his lowest club to tell partner to return a diamond. West followed instructions and played back a diamond. Again, suit preference is in play. West led the 2♦ (his lowest diamond), asking East to play another club if he wins the trick.

The good news is that I can now see my way to a seventh trick; at least -200 won't be a disaster. I won the A♦ and played the AK♠ followed by a third spade ruffing in dummy. I wanted to make sure I only lost two trump tricks; I led the K♠ before the ♣A making it more likely that the opponents would give an honest count as to their spade holding. When both opponents showed an odd number of spades by playing low-high, I was able to successfully ruff with dummy's 4♥ preserving all dummy's high

hearts. Now I led dummy's last club and ruffed it in hand with my Q♥ and waited for West to over-ruff expecting the opponents to beat me one by taking the remaining high trump plus their diamond winner.

West decided not to over-ruff and discarded a diamond. Now I led my good 4♠, waiting for West to ruff it small. Again, I'd be stranded with only seven winners. Fortuitously, West had lost track of the fact that my lowly spade was a winner; so he pitched another diamond. Now I threw away dummy's last diamond. I knew I had them when East thought long and hard. Finally, he ruffed in with K♥. I now had eight tricks – two spades, a spade ruff, three trumps, a diamond, and a club ruff. Plus 670 is a much better score to take back to your teammates than -500 or -200.

The next hand isn't so much a great hand to analyze, but one that put a big smile on my face. It was played in a different teams event. My partner (Larry Lau) and I were playing against a very nice gentleman whom I've played against quite a few times. On this occasion, he was playing with his wife who is not quite as experienced as he is; I think this was her first tournament. In fact, this was the first time Larry and I had met the wife. So, we kicked off with introductions.

The husband now acted as a press agent for Larry and me by telling his wife how we both contributed articles to the *Kibitzer*; were a very strong partnership, and how despite being heavily outgunned, she should relax during the match. I think if I was trying to calm my partner down, the last thing I would talk about is the quality of our opponents.

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EMERSON PRINCIPLE EXPLAINS MOST BIDDING DISASTERS

How to avoid playing “the Blame Game” in partnerships.

by Burt Saxon

Steve Emerson of New York City and Haverford, PA has been my bridge partner since 1979. Since Steve is a devoted medical researcher and administrator, we play infrequently—three times per year at the most. While we have enjoyed pretty good success in Flight B events, we have had a number of bidding disasters. Decades ago, when Steve and I were analyzing our bad boards, I verbalized this principle:

Most bidding disasters occur when one partner makes an inferior bid and the other partner compounds the problem with another inferior bid.

Steve agreed with this principle so we named it the **Emerson Principle**. After all, there is a custom in the bridge world to name conventions after one’s partner; so why not apply this to bridge principles?

Here is an example of the Emerson Principle in action:

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: E-W

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♥	3♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I was playing in Florida with a partner whose knowledge of bidding theory is definitely superior to mine. Non-vulnerable vs. vulnerable, I looked at this hand:

- ♠ K Q 10 x x
- ♥ x x
- ♦ x
- ♣ K Q 10 x x

I thought about passing with no quick tricks in first seat, but I could not resist the temptation to open 1♠ as I would have with Steve. My left-hand opponent bid 2♥ hearts and my partner bid 3♦ diamonds. I was 75%

sure my partner’s bid was forcing, but disaster appeared on the horizon. After my right-hand opponent passed, I reluctantly passed, wishing I had passed originally. After one more pass, my partner went down four with this hand:

- ♠ A x
- ♥ A Q x x
- ♦ Q x x x
- ♣ A J x

My partner had a minor conniption, asking how he could ever trust someone who passed a forcing bid. I said little, suggesting we go on to the next hand and discuss the matter later. A week later, in an extended email, my partner made it clear that this bidding disaster was 100% my fault. He suggested that if I had to open my hand, 1♣ would have been preferable to 1♠.* He did admit that his 3♦ bid put me under pressure. He said that he wanted to inhibit a diamond lead against 3NT and that he wanted to find out if I held six spades. He concluded that I had to bite the bullet and bid 4♣ over 3♦.

I will admit that opening 1♠ might not have been a great idea, particularly with a partner who is a sound bidder as opposed to an aggressive bidder. I will further admit that passing 3♦ was not so great either. My only explanation of my pass is that I just was not sure what my partner was supposed to do with a hand that contained long diamonds and little else. In addition, this partner rightfully has taught me to pass a potential misfit as soon as possible. So yes, this bidding disaster is mainly my fault. But I am far from sure it is 100% my fault. After all, I had opened and my left-hand opponent had bid 2♥ *vulnerable* missing both the ace and the queen. Basic arithmetic says my right-hand

opponent could not have more than two or three high-card points. My partner’s bid of 3♦ with a raggedy 4-card suit to inhibit a diamond lead against 3NT could hardly be necessary. Even by my partner’s own analysis, there was no way we were going to get to 3NT once he bid 3♦ - unless I held six spades.

In other words, I believe the Emerson Principle applies to this bidding disaster. I believe my partner should share some of the blame. How much I do not know. I believe my partner did have other options over 2♥. One would be a simple 3NT, which almost certainly would have led to an average-plus matchpoint score. A double would have been another option. I definitely would have responded with 3♣ and we would have either found a slam in a black suit or 3NT.

Truth be told, I am still not sure how I should have bid this hand, nor am I sure how my partner should have bid his hand. *But I do know this:*

When two bridge partners analyze their bidding disasters by invoking the Emerson principle, something very beneficial occurs.

Blame is replaced by rational analysis. This leads to improved partnership chemistry, which in turn leads to better results at the bridge table. That is the real strength of the Emerson Principle and that is why Steve and I have been partners since Jimmy Carter was in the White House.

***Editor’s Note:** Many players holding 5 clubs and 5 spades of equal strength would prefer to bid clubs first because it offers a better rebid.





COUP EN PASSANT

Deft play promotes lowly cards to winning positions.

by Geof Brod

It's the morning duplicate. Last board of the day. Can you finish strongly?

They deal you ♠AJ97 ♥A1094 ♦AK97 ♣8. At *unfavorable* vulnerability, it goes three passes to you and you start with 1♦. Pass on your left and, somewhat surprisingly, pass by your partner. Right hand opponent keeps things alive with 2♣ and you have a routine double. Left hand opponent bids 3♣, passed back to you. Perhaps you should go quietly, but you are reluctant to let them play here in what appears to be a good fit for them. Since a smattering of cards from your partner and any eight-card fit should play well for you, you double again in what may be an overstatement of your values.

After some consideration partner calls 3♦ and everyone passes. The auction has been:

West	North	East	South (You)
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	2♣	Dbl
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

As he puts down dummy, partner comments that maybe he should have passed. That suggests he may not have 4-card diamond support and sure enough, he doesn't.

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: North-South

Opening lead: ♣ Q

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

Not so good. In fact, it's pretty bad. Compounding all of this is that you're *vulnerable*. You could easily be down two which will be worth, if not zero, very close thereto. If you had just gone quietly, you might well have been plus against clubs. You have to hope that they can make three clubs and that you can hold your losses to five tricks.

West leads with the ♣Q and continues with the ♣J. This surely doesn't appear to be a hand where you may be able to keep trump control and enjoy some side suit winners. Rather it looks like more of a scramble where you try to take as many small ruffs as possible and score whatever plain suit winners that might be available. With that in mind, you ruff the second club and cast about for something constructive to do. While it's unlikely the spade finesse is on (East having shown up with ♣AK on the first two tricks and having passed originally), it's still a possibility. Maybe somehow the opponents will break the spade suit for you.

In the meantime, perhaps you can make something of dummy's ♦10. Playing the hearts may enable you to do that. Since neither opponent bid the suit or led it, it is unlikely there is a second-round ruff about. So, a low heart from hand it is. West hesitates for a second and then plays the deuce. Eight from dummy and East wins the jack and returns a ♠8. Probably the finesse will not win, but there seems to be no good reason not to play low from hand. As expected, West wins the king and returns the ♠5. You win the queen in dummy as East follows low.

Your basic plan was to take ruffs in hand with your small trumps. The opponents haven't provided you with

that second ruff, but now with the lead in dummy, you can do it for yourself. You ruff a third round of clubs with the ♦9 as West follows. Now it's time to see if that ♦10 is useful. First though, cash the ♦AK. On the second round, East follows with the jack. This suggests that she doesn't have the queen and that the suit will split 4-2. Let's look at the five-card ending:

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

Now you cash your spades. West has to follow helplessly. On the fourth spade, you pitch a heart from dummy, then cash the ♥A and as you lead the ♥10 from hand, "*Et voilà!* The *coup en passant** (the coup in passing)." West must play from ♦Q6 in front of dummy's ♦10 and the remaining club. If she ruffs high with the queen, you pitch the club and dummy takes the last trick with a high trump. If she ruffs low, you score the ♦10 immediately. Making three diamonds. A gratifying result on a hand where you expected to struggle to avoid down two.

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Coup En Passant

Continued from page 6

The full hand:

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

*A *coup en passant* is the lead of a plain suit card to promote a low trump card, behind a higher trump card, to a winning position. It describes an action taken by the declarer to promote a trump card of lesser value than the trump card held by a defender.



... Nothing More Gratifying...

Continued from page 4

Anyway, on the very first hand, the husband opened 2♠ vulnerable. After three passes, Larry led a card and we now got to see dummy:

♠	A 10 6
♥	A J 10 9
♦	8 5
♣	A 7 3 2

There wasn't much to the play. The hand was good for ten or eleven tricks, depending on the location of the K♥ (it was off-side). Declarer settled for +170. He now explained to his wife that she had a very nice hand and should have bid, or at least invited game, and they would have scored +620.

"I told you to relax," he said. "Now you're too relaxed."



LARRY'S LITTLE LESSONS

That make a BIG difference

by Larry Lau

Eddie Kantar, with two world championships and scores of popular bridge books to his credit, has given me permission to reprint tips that he has used for his students. In each issue, I will share one tip for bidding, defense and declarer play.

BIDDING

- 1) A direct raise of a second suit promises (in blood) at least four-card support.

You hold

♠72	♥A10X	♦A10X	♣K10XXX
Partner	You		
1♠	2♣		
2♥	?		

Rebid 2NT with 11-12 HCP. Don't ever think of raising hearts with only three pieces.

DEFENSE

- 2) (a) When leading partner's *SUPPORTED* suit, lead your highest card with three or four small headed by the 9 or lower. The lead of a low card in a *SUPPORTED* suit shows an honor.

For example, let's say you raise (support) partner's opening bid of 1♠ to 2♣ with 8652. If you find yourself on lead, the appropriate card to lead is the 8. However, if you raised with J852, the appropriate card to lead is the 2 because you have an honor.

- (b) When leading partner's *UNSUPPORTED* suit, lead high from a doubleton but low from *ANY* three or four cards not headed by a sequence. (This

action is termed: leading the "count card"). With the ace, if you lead the suit, lead the ace. Remember: Your partner opened the suit. He would be happy to see your ace.

For example, let's say partner overcalls 1♠, but you did not have a chance to support (raise) him. From 8652 or J852, the appropriate card to lead is the 2, even though you have an honor in the second holding.

DECLARER PLAY

- 3) Before playing to the first trick, review the bidding and make sure you remember the opening lead, not merely what suit, but what card.

The opening lead may be a small card and then that player may play a second small card. Was it higher or lower than the first? It is often critical to know whether the second card was higher or lower than the first!

For example, you are South playing in a dodgy 3NT contract. West's opening lead is the ♠4. You play low from dummy and East wins with the ♠A. East dutifully leads a small spade in return. You play your ♠K and West follows with the ♠2. Are you paying attention? Oh dear, 4-2, higher-then low. This is not showing a doubleton. West probably started with five spades. You won't be taking any finesses into him!

Don't fall asleep at the switch! It can be embarrassing and we've all been there.



THE WEST HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Great News! The West Hartford Bridge Club is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

We are going to have a luncheon and bridge game for our loyal paid-up members. The exact time will be determined when all of our snowbirds come back home. Stay tuned.

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

On March 30, Newtown Bridge Club marked its second year playing at Edmond Town Hall near the flag pole at the town center of Newtown. In addition to regular Monday through Thursday bridge games and lessons, there are special events on the calendar.

The Longest Day, Wednesday June 21. Play bridge between sunrise and sunset to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. The club's Longest Day committee has planned an outstanding day of fun and bridge as a fundraiser for this worthwhile cause. There will be extra-point charity games morning, afternoon and evening including a Pro-Am game, a game for social bridge players, plus breakfast, lunch, dinner, raffles and more for everyone. For details, please visit www.newtownbridge.org/longest-day.
Audrey Grant, Saturday September 23 and Sunday September 24.

Newtown Bridge Club will host a 2-day bridge festival with Audrey Grant, noted author and teacher, at Edmond Town Hall. Saturday's topic is "Making an Impact on Defense with the Weakest Hand at the Table." Sunday's topic is "Entries Are Everything." Early registration through July 4 is limited to Newtown Bridge Club members only. Club membership is \$20 for 2017. Public registration for the Audrey Grant

bridge festival opens July 5. For more information, please visit www.newtownbridge.org/audrey-grant.

Sunday Swiss. In response to players' requests, a monthly Sunday Swiss is on the 2017 schedule. The games are fun – four rounds of seven boards and a light lunch about 1:30 after the second round. Experienced teams, as well as players trying their first team game, are welcome. For newer players, an explanation of scoring, plus some team strategy tips, will be presented 30 minutes before the game. Contact director@newtownbridge.org for reservations or information. Team games are planned for 11:30-4:00 on May 14, June 25, July 23 and August 13.

Newtown Bridge Club holds five ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games each week open to all players: 12:30 pm Mondays, 10 am Tuesdays, 7 pm Tuesdays, 10 am Wednesdays and 12:30 pm Thursdays. In addition to the open section, there are separate 49er games on Monday and Thursday afternoons and 299er games on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. A sanctioned Chat Bridge game is held Wednesdays at 2:30 pm for newer players (0-20 MPs). Lessons for beginning and intermediate players are available. Games and lessons are held at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown CT. Directions and information may be found on the club's website www.newtownbridge.org. Weekday game fees are \$10 (\$8 for members); no extra charge for special games.

BRIDGE FORUM (HAMDEN/WOODBIDGE)

WINTER NEWS

Tuesday

Leading Pairs: 1. Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz; 2. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller; 3. Lin Li-Bob Silverstein;

4. Abhi Dutta-Paul Johnson; 5. Rick Hall-Simon Rich

Player of the Year Leaders: 1. Jeff Horowitz; 2. Kevin Hart; 3-4. Paul Johnson - Tracy Selmon; 5. Alan Milstone

Leonora Stein Cup preliminaries: Jeffrey Blum, the last player to qualify for the knockout phase, defeated Rick Hall and Harold Miller to reach the semifinals, along with three of the top five seeds. Semifinal pairings are Jeff Horowitz - Tracy Selmon and Kevin Hart - Jeff Blum.

Friday

Leading Pairs: 1. Rita Brieger - Harold Miller; 2. Jeff Horowitz - Alan Milstone; 3. Joyce Handleman - Bob Silverstein; 4. Celeste Hocs - Ruth Sachs; 5. Erik Rosenthal - Jim Uebelacker

Player of the Year Leaders: 1. Rita Brieger; 2. Harold Miller; 3. Alan Milstone; 4. Jeff Horowitz; 5. Joyce Handleman

Aldyth Claiborn Cup preliminaries: Rita Brieger, the only one of the first eight qualifiers to reach the semifinals, had a close win over Carl Yohans. Semifinal pairings are Emmi Sivakoff - Joe Pagerino and Rita Brieger - Jeff Horowitz.

Tuesday/Friday Combined Yearly Statistics

Fewer than 60% of slams have succeeded, but over 75% of penalty doubles succeeded. Doug Tendler, Hara Dobyns and Susan Smith lead in pass-outs. Emmi Sivakoff leads in +1100s. Abhi Dutta-Paul Johnson lead in acquiring the most tops; while Rita Brieger-Harold Miller have done best at avoiding zeroes and are leading for best defending as well. We only had fifteen grand slams in the first quarter, with Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker and the Selmons tied at two.



Overall Player of the Year leaders:

- 1. Jeff Horowitz; 2. Rita Brieger;
- 3. Kevin Hart; 4. Alan Milstone;
- 5. Harold Miller; 6. Tracy Selmon;
- 7. Bob Silverstein;
- 8. Norma Augenstein; 9. Lin Li;
- 10. Helen Selmon

TUESDAY BRIDGE IN DARIEN

The Country Club of Darien ended its winter series on March 21. Prizes were awarded in three categories.

Strat A: Nancy Matthews and Carol Taylor

Strat B: Barb Foley and Deb Suckow

Strat C: Alison Hughes and Mary Lou Ball

Congratulations to all.

WEE BURN NEWS

This column is all about winners: First, the 12-week Winter Series:

- 1. Janet Soskin-Karen Barrett.
- 2. Penny Glassmeyer-Martha Hathaway.
- 3. Betty Hodgman-Sue Kipp.
- 4. Belinda Metzger-Mary Ellen McGuire.
- 5. Marilyn Giannos-Donna Christensen.
- 6. Audrey Cadwallader-Mary Richardson.

Next, the Swiss Teams of March 30:

- 1. Jim Metzger, Meredith Dunne, Lynn Reilly, Joan Bergen.
- 2. Janet Soskin, Doug Thompson, Betty Hodgman, Sue Kipp.

And the ACBL Charity game on April 6:

- 1. Joan Bergen-Sue Kipp.
- 2. Linda Green-Warren Williams.

THE SEVEN NO-TRUMP BRIDGE CLUB

We've had some BIG winners this quarter at Seven No-Trump. Congratulations to **Paul Miller**

and **Elliot Ranard** for winning the March 29 Unit Championship game. They each earned over 8 MP! Also, congratulations to **Paula Eppinger** and **Sandy Sherman** for winning the April 3 Unit Championship game.

They each earned over 10 MP! As you know, April was charity month and we raised \$350 for our local charity, Family Centers. Thank you for playing. Thank you for contributing.

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COME PLAY BRIDGE CLUB OF WESTPORT, GREENWICH AND DARIEN

It's spring and it's planting time. We are planting too – and spreading our roots. Starting Tuesday May 16, **Come Play Bridge of Westport and Greenwich** will begin hosting games in Darien at The Piedmont Club, 152 Heckler Avenue just a stone's throw off I-95 at Exit 10. While our Westport schedule remains the same, we will be suspending our Wednesday Greenwich game at Temple Sholom for the summer. We hope our Greenwich faithfuls will find their way to our new venue and these games at The Piedmont:

Tuesday: 9:30 AM 0-750

Wednesday: 1:00 PM Open stratified

Thursday: 6:30 PM Twilight Limited 0-750 and Open stratified

Friday: 10:00 AM *Start the Weekend Early Bridge* Open stratified

To celebrate our launch, we will be hosting an opening party Thursday evening May 18 at The Piedmont and, as Tom often says, "We'll have as much fun as we can stand!" Detailed information on the festivities will be available on our website: www.comeplaybridge.com.

While we celebrate our expansion, we also recently honored a loss. On Saturday April 15, we ran a charity game to benefit the **Connecticut Humane Society** and honor the passing of good friend and great bridge player Betty Jane Corbani. The event drew 60 of her friends, netted \$900 for Humane Society and celebrated her appropriately with a spirited, high-level bridge game.

Winners of the first **Pooch Awards** were:

North - South:

- 1) Kay Howe/Pat Hartman
- 2) Debbie Benner/Art Crystal
- 3) Susan Rodricks/Susan Seckinger

East - West:

- 1) Joe Grill/Paul Miller
- 2) Warren Williams/Linda Green
- 3) Bill Wood/Barbara Moore

Pooch Award winners left to right: Warren Williams, Linda Green, Pat Hartman, Kay Howe, Susan Rodricks, Susan Seckinger, Paul Miller, Joe Grill





ASK THE EXPERT:

Question: *How do I recognize a “good” 12 versus a “bad” 12 when I’m about to open?*

Pat Hartman has the answer.

by Pat Hartman

When we first learn how to play bridge, we are taught to evaluate hands based on the Work Point Count: Ace = 4; King = 3; Queen = 2; Jack = 1. This method works well enough for balanced, strong no-trump hands, but loses accuracy when used to evaluate weaker or distributional hands.

For weaker hands, it makes sense to include three other measurements: controls, losers and having your HCP (high-card points) in your long suits.

Controls are counted as: A = 1; K = ½.

An opening bid in the 12 – 13 point range should have four controls.

That would be two aces, an ace and two kings or four kings. Knowing that, even if you opened “light,” you have some defense that will help partner immensely if the biddings gets heated.

Losers are counted as the number of cards other than ace, king, or queen in a suit. The maximum number of losers in a suit is 3; so xxx = 3 losers and even xxxxx = 3 losers. A void = 0 losers and a doubleton = 2. A doubleton queen = 2 losers as well because the queen is unprotected. You cannot have more losers in a suit than you have cards in that suit.

An opening bid should normally have no more than 7 losers. It is possible to have 14+ HCP and more than 7 losers, but most systems require those hands to be opened regardless. However, a “good” 12 will have only 7 or fewer losers.

HCP in your long suits are very important when you are opening with a marginal hand. Honors, plus length, increase the trick-taking potential of a suit. Unsupported honors, other than

aces, are over-valued and do not live up to their Point Count or Control Count. ♠A K x x x ♥A J x x x ♦x x ♣x is much more powerful than ♠J x x x x ♥K x x x x ♦A x ♣A. The honor cards in the first hand are combined with length and will work toward establishing length tricks. With the second hand, you have two tricks, one for each ace and a possible trick for the king, if the ace of that suit is favorably placed, but you will have a tough time establishing any length tricks.

In summary, when you open light, your hand should have no flaws. You need 4 controls, 7 or fewer losers, and your HCP concentrated in your long suits. It also helps to have an easy rebid.

Examples of “Good 12s”

♠ 10
♥ 9 8 4
♦ A Q 4
♣ A Q 10 7 5 2

♠ A 9 8 7 4
♥ A J 10 9
♦ K 10 8 4
♣ void

♠ 8 7
♥ A Q 9 6 5
♦ 8
♣ K Q J 6 5
(technically only 3 controls, but still 2.5 quick tricks)

♠ A K Q 9 6
♥ void
♦ 10 9 8 5 4 3
♣ K 3

Examples of “Bad 12s”

♠ Q 3 2
♥ Q J 6
♦ A 10 9 5 3
♣ K 9

♠ Q J 4
♥ K 10 8
♦ K 10 9
♣ K 10 5 2 (OK in 3rd seat)

♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ K J
♦ A Q J
♣ J 9 5 4

♠ K 4 3 2
♥ A Q 7
♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ J 8

Have burning questions you’d like to ask an expert?
Please send them to: info@comeplaybridge.com with Kibitzer
Expert Question in the Subject line.



FUN FACT

Did you know that it’s commonly believed each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king (or Emperor) from history?

Spades - King David
Hearts - Charlemagne
Clubs - Alexander, the Great
Diamonds - Julius Caesar

SPRING IN CONNECTICUT SECTIONAL MAY 19-21

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
May	4	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local clubs
May	17	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
May	19-21	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Spring Sectional	Orange
May	24-30	Wed.-Sun.		District 24 Regional	New York, NY
June	2	Fri.	Evening	Worldwide Bridge Contest #1	Local clubs
June	3	Sat.	Afternoon	Worldwide Bridge Contest #2	Local clubs
June	6	Tues.	Evening	Unit-wide Championship	Local clubs
June	12-18	Mon.-Sun.		STaC with North Jersey (U106)	Local clubs
June	21	Wed.		ACBL Longest Day	Local Clubs
June	20-25	Tues.-Sun.		New England Summer Regional	Nashua, NH
June	27	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	7	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	10	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local clubs
July	11	Tues.	Morning	ACBL Int'l Fund Game 2	Local Clubs
July	15	Sat.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	20-30	1 st Thurs.-3 rd Sun.		ACBL Summer Nationals	Toronto
August	3	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
August	7	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local clubs
August	11	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local clubs
August	16	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local clubs
August	22	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
August	25-27	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Summer Sectional	Greenwich
Aug.-Sept.	29-3	Tues.-Sun.		New England Fiesta Regional	Warwick, RI
Key:	Sect./STaC	Regional	Nationals		
Pigment	Silver	Red, Gold	Red, Gold, Platinum		

Note: GNT and NAOP qualifying rounds pay red points (not gold)

Connecticut Unit 126 2016 Mini-McKinney Winners

Briacket	Player	Masterpoints
0 – 50	Jonathan Jankus	165.10
5 – 20	Pamela Lombardo	54.33
20 – 50	Kishor Lathi	83.64
50 – 100	Silvia Szanto	97.50
100 – 200	Trevor Reeves	219.17
200 – 300	Clifford Wald	138.18
300 – 500	Felix Springer	280.40
500 – 1000	Gary Miyashiro	165.80
1000 – 1500	Susan Smith	289.87
1500 – 2500	Deb Benner	508.51
2500 – 3500	Art Crystal	581.35
3500 – 5000	Randolph Johnson	554.45
5000 – 7500	Sandra DeMartino	379.32
7500 – 10,000	Lawrence Lau	405.72
over 10,000	Doug Doub	802.07

Connecticut Unit 126 2016 Ace of Clubs Winners

Briacket	Player	Masterpoints
0-5	Jonathan Jankus	93.63
5 – 20	Pamela Lombardo	37.29
20 – 50	Kishor Lathi	54.06
50 – 100	Lisette Voorhees	55.66
100 – 200	Ron Kahan	113.71
200 – 300	Clifford Wald	119.95
300 – 500	Russ Sackowitz	146.81
500 – 1000	Vera Wardlaw	134.19
1000 – 1500	Roger M. Crean	150.38
1500 – 2500	Richard Fronapfel	296.46
2500 – 3500	Linda Green	220.99
3500 – 5000	Doris Greenwald	245.01
5000 – 7500	Sandra DeMartino	192.28
7500 – 10,000	Lawrence Lau	133.23
Over 10,000	Geof Brod	202.78



Achievements

MILESTONES

Life Master*

Woody Bliss
 Lucie Fradet
 Robert Glasspiegel
 Robert Huntington
 Stanley Kishner
 Terry Lerman
 Andrew Masiukiewicz
 Lola Meyers
 Mary Beth Murphy
 Douglas Pratt
 Gail Reitman-Heald
 Sheldon Rosenbaum
 Loretta Stamler
 Carol Taylor

Bronze Life Master

(500 MP)
 Judith Crystal
 Lucie Fradet
 Christina Hare
 Jeffrey Katz
 Nancy Matthews
 Lola Meyers
 Harold Miller
 Sheldon Rosenbaum

Silver Life Master

(1,000 MP)
 Joan Hoben
 Adam Lally
 Ruth Twersky

Ruby Life Master
(1,500 MP)
 Robert Gruskay
 Florence Mahoney
 Susan Smith

Gold Life Master

(2,500 MP)
 Mary Petit

Diamond Life Master

(5,000 MP)
 Joel Wolfe

**300 MP for players who joined the ACBL prior to 1/12/2010, otherwise 500MP*

IN MEMORIAM

As listed in the ACBL *Bulletin*

Marjorie C. Ehrenfreund
 Dr. Henry R. Ochman
 Jerry Shaffer

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 **AUGUST 15, 2017**.

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You can see The Kibitzer in blazing color at the CT bridge site:
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