



THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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ARCH REVISITED

by Harold Feldheim

My enthusiasm about ARCH has been constant, and with good reason. Since the fate of many, if not most, contracts is determined within the first couple of tricks, some sort of disciplined “*plan ahead*” strategy is necessary. ARCH is the acronym for such a strategy. For those unfamiliar with this acronym,

- A=analyze the lead
- R=review the auction
- C=count your tricks
- H=how to proceed

There is no problem finding illustrative hands; the woods are full of them. But some are more spectacular than others. Consider the following gem from a South American tournament which gave both the defense and offense an opportunity to either ARCH their way to victory or to play woodenly and thus miss a golden opportunity for inspired play.

NORTH

♠ A Q 6
 ♥ A Q J 7
 ♦ 10 7
 ♣ A 7 5 3

WEST

♠ 9 3
 ♥ ---
 ♦ J 9 5
 ♣ K Q J 10 9 8 4 2

EAST

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

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 7 4 2
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A 8 4 3
 ♣ 6

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: East-West

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

Lead: ♣K

The Bidding: After South’s 1♠ opening bid, West tried to block North-South communications, but North was too strong and continued with a five-level cuebid. South’s 5♦ cuebid is good partnership; despite minimum values, the 6th spade plus a singleton club is sufficient for aggression. North cuebid 5♥ and South bid a discouraging 5♠. But North felt his hand was too good to pass and carried on to slam.

The Play: South surveyed the dummy. The hand seems very simple. South has 12 tricks; six spades, four hearts and the two minor suit aces. If South plays the ace from dummy, and East ruffs, declarer’s 12 sure tricks are reduced to 11. On one hand, the ruff is certainly an unlucky turn of events, but judicious ARCHing might well turn disaster into triumph.

The first rule of ARCH is to pause at trick one and glean information. The lead is clearly from KQ. A review of the auction presents a disturbing possibility. West’s 4♣ bid was at unfavorable vulnerability. This means that an 8-card suit is a real possibility. With this in mind, South ducks the first club trick and when West

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From the President

Hi. I'd like to introduce myself. I was recently elected president of our CBA (Connecticut Bridge Association), Unit 126.

My name is Susan Rodricks and I live in Milford. I have been a member of the ACBL since 1992. When I joined, I had no idea what I was actually joining. I had a couple of friends who would come to my home every week to play bridge. One day, one of them told us about a bridge weekend in Williamstown, MA where we could take some lessons and play a little. We could also take a hayride, see the museums and enjoy charming Williamstown.

None of us understood what we had actually gotten ourselves into. It was an intermediate bridge tournament. We took the lesson and then sat down

to play a (serious) game of bridge. Director calls and (hysterical) laughing aside, we, as two separate pairs, managed to glean .28 masterpoints apiece. We were hooked and joined the ACBL on the spot.

The experience kindled our desire to learn more. Someone knew a teacher and we signed up for private lessons. The teacher took out his standard lesson curriculum, but we somehow knew we wanted more. We told him we wanted to play duplicate bridge and he (excitedly) took out a whole new set of lessons.

It is now 25 years later and bridge has never let me down. No matter what other circumstances have changed in my life, bridge and my bridge friends were always available. I never had "nothing" to do or nowhere to go. We who understand what bridge has

done for us would love to share this experience with everyone we know.

As the new president, I welcome your suggestions regarding how to attract new players to the most fascinating card game in the world. We all know that the average age of a bridge player keeps rising. We need to interest and excite new players.

Please email, call or speak to me when you see me. With your help, I hope we can make a positive impact on the future of our game.

My email address is srodricks@optonline.net and my cell number is 203-521-2075.

Hope to see you at the tables.

Susan Rodricks



ARCH Revisited *Continued from page 1*

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

continues the suit, South ruffs, draws trump and claims his 12 tricks.

Very nice. However, an inspired East employed a defensive ARCH. Reasoning that declarer's first-round club duck was a "safety play," she determined that a minor miracle was necessary. Since East could actually see 11 hearts, she ruffed partner's trick, closed her eyes, and led a heart. Partner ruffed. Down one!

The important thing about this hand is that while both the defense and offense were first rate, careful analysis at trick one made both plays possible. Without this planning at trick one, neither would be possible.

So does all this have a moral? Whether declaring or defending, the successful competitor always tries to plan ahead. As stated in the beginning, the success or failure of a contract is most often determined in the first couple of tricks. This hand is not atypical; so, *plan ahead*. There were a remarkable number of additional results revolving around this hand. The slam result above was the tip of the iceberg. South did well ducking the club, but East is the real heroine to this story. Not easy trumping partner's winner and waiting for the post-mortem if her ARCH heart switch didn't defeat the contract.





THE ART OF BALANCING

Is it art or science? Or does it even matter?

by Brett Adler

Knowing when to pass in the pass-out seat, or take an action when the opponents 2-bid auction appears to be dying, is often a frustrating dilemma. Is the decision one that comes from the gut or something more empirical? Let's look at these two hands I recently played.

In the first hand, North, on my left, opened 1NT and it went pass, pass to me. Would you balance (bid in the pass-out seat), with ♠ 9 8 7 5 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ A J 5 4 ♣ A 6, or would you pass quietly?

In the second hand, South, on my right opens 1♣, responder on my left bids 1♥, and after partner passes, opener rebids 2♥. Although you aren't in the pass out seat, your gut feel is that if you pass, that will be the end of the auction. So, do you take any action with: ♠ K J 7 2 ♥ 10 6 4 ♦ K 7 ♣ A 10 9 4?

For the first hand, I decided to enter the auction. After all, I had paid my entry fee and held 13 cards:

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: North-South

South	Me	North	East
		1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass		

2♣, as we play it, showed a two suiter (a major and a minor). If my hand ended up being dummy, I could always claim a misort and slide a club in with my spades and a heart in with my diamonds. Partner bid 2♥ which we play as "pass or correct." If I have hearts, partner is happy to play there. If I don't have hearts, I will correct to spades (which is what I did at the table). If partner doesn't like spades, he can bid his own suit at the three level, or bid 2NT asking me which is my long minor.

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

North led ♠A, ♠K, and a third spade and I had no trouble in the play, only losing one in each of the other three suits and scoring +110. Interestingly, I can actually make nine tricks by eliminating hearts and spades, and now leading the ♦A and a small diamond. North is end-played with the ♦K, and must lead a club or give me a ruff/sluff by leading the thirteenth heart. So my club loser disappears. At the table however, I wasn't too concerned about whether I had scored +110 or +140, because I quickly looked at North's tricks had I simply defended 1NT.

My quick analysis only showed North likely to make only 5 tricks. Our +110 wouldn't score well against most East/West pairs scoring +200.

For the next hand, I checked again and yes, I also had 13 cards and again had paid my entry fee. I therefore overcalled 2♠ with my broken 4-card suit and that ended the auction.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

South	Me	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: J♣:

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

There are some hands where you focus on making your contract, or finding overtricks. This was one hand where just trying to minimize the damage was my objective.

I won the opening lead with my ♣A, then played three rounds of diamonds hoping to pitch a heart loser. South however ruffed the third diamond with the ♠5, and I over-ruffed with my ♠7. Next, I led a low heart to dummy's ♥9 and surprisingly this held the trick. I now played another 4th round of diamonds and over-ruffed with ♠J after South ruffed with the ♠8.

Now I played another heart, which North won with ♥K, then North led a heart to South's ♥A. South now cashed one high club on which North shed the 13th heart. Correct defense now is for South to play his last trump. Fortunately, South tried to cash their other high club, and North who only had trumps left had to ruff and couldn't stop me from scoring up my ♠K for my 7th trick... down only 1.



THE GADGET MASTER

Lebensohl 2NT defense against 1NT attacks.

by Barry Bragin



The Gadget Master started writing articles on bidding treatments for the Washington Bridge League Bulletin in the early 1970s. He has recently moved to Connecticut to be closer to his grandkids. CBA and *The Kibitzer* are pleased to present the first in his series of articles.

After too much turkey at a large family gathering, the old Gadget Master was trying to get a little nap on the couch. The grandkids would have none of that.

“Wake up Grandpa, you promised to tell us about how weird things were in the ‘good old’ days.”

“OK. Do you want to hear about a time when people could only make phone calls from their homes or offices?”

“No, you told us about that last time.”

“Well, how about when it took days or even weeks before you could see the photos you took with your camera?”

“Boring.”

“Here’s one you won’t believe: there was a time when you could bid a natural, invitational 2NT in a competitive auction.”

“No way!”

“I don’t believe it.”

“That must have been a zillion years ago.”

Lebensohl 2NT

Actually, the convention started up in the 1960’s as a counter measure to aggressive overcalling of 1NT opening bids. It reached formal status when an article in *The Bridge World* by George Boehm in 1970 described it in detail. Before that, it was assumed that a 2NT response by partner would have the

same meaning as if there had been no overcall: 8-9 HCP and balanced distribution. Players started realizing how infrequently that hand came up. It was more important to be able to distinguish between a competitive and a forcing hand. Also, the partnership needed a way to locate a 4-4 major fit and ensure that the overcaller’s suit was protected. By giving up the natural meaning of 2NT, a lot more information could be exchanged.

After this sequence, 1NT by partner, 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ by RHO, the basic outline of defense by responder is:

- Double: balanced hand, enough points to compete,
- 2 in any suit: natural, non-forcing,
- 3 in any suit (except the suit overcalled): natural, forcing to game,
- Q-bid (3 in overcalled suit): Stayman, asking opener about a 4-card major, denying¹ a stopper in the overcalled suit,
- 3NT: to play, denying¹ a stopper in the overcalled suit,
- 2NT: a relay bid forcing the opener to bid 3-clubs²; after that:
 - 3 in suit of lower rank than overcalled – natural, non-forcing,
 - 3 in suit of higher rank than overcalled – natural, invitational,
 - Q-bid – Stayman as above, but promising² a stopper in the overcalled suit,
 - 3NT – to play, promising² a stopper.

¹ Bid “fast without a stopper” by going directly to the 3-level (either Q-bid or 3NT) with no stopper.

² Bid “slow with a stopper” (by going through 2NT).

Note: Some players reverse the meaning of these bids.

In “better minor Lebensohl,” opener bids three of his better minor rather than always 3♣. This sacrifices the ability to get out in 3♣ with a long club suit and a bad hand, but allows finding the better fit when responder has both minors and wants to compete.

Stay tuned, in future articles, the Gadget Master will discuss other uses for 2NT in competitive auctions including Lebensohl over WeakTwo-bids, Rubensohl, and good/bad 2NT.



Achievements

CONGRATULATIONS

Grand National Team
Flight A Winners

Barry Bragin, Weiling Zhao,
Michael Hess, Gary Miyashiro,
Susan Smith, Michael Smith

CONGRATULATIONS

National 0-10,000 Mixed
Swiss Team Winners
Michael and Susan Smith

CONGRATULATIONS

Mike Wavada winner of
the Larry Weiss Trophy

presented by
The New England Bridge
Conference

*“For Grace and Skill
at the Bridge Table”*



BRIDGE IN THE (CT) MENAGERIE

by Geoff Brod

Well, there weren't any Rueful Rabbits or Hideous Hogs or Walter the Walruses, but nonetheless there was a "menagerial" quality here in the mix.

Today finds you in the Saturday afternoon duplicate, as opposed to the more normal weekday morning games. Midway through the session, you pick up ♠ 10 5 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ Q 10 6 3 2 ♣ 10 8 6.

Nobody is vulnerable and it goes two passes to you. You decide to stir the pot a tad and open with a weak 2♦. Hopefully, your partner will be understanding if this doesn't work out.

Not surprisingly, fourth hand takes action by overcalling 2♥. Partner decides to make life more difficult for the opponents and raises to 3♦.

Your RHO passes as do you and LHO contests with 2NT. Yes, that's right, an insufficient call. Partner, somewhat inattentively, instead of calling her opponent to account, is about to put a green card on the table, but suddenly realizes what is going on and starts to reconsider. The director is called and rules that the green card is played. Your LHO passes. It's up to you. The auction has been:

West	North	You	South
Pass	Pass	2♦	2♥
3♦	Pass	Pass	2NT(!)
Pass	Pass	3♦?	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Partner was willing to compete to 3♦. Surely it can't be right to sell out to

2NT. How bad can it be to (re)compete to 3♦? So you do it – 3♦.

LHO and partner pass. You're feeling relatively pleased with yourself when North, hitherto silent North, raises to 3NT. Suddenly you get a sick feeling: OMG, what if they make it? It's a real possibility. You have a mere six count and just bid 2♦ competitively, *with a partner who couldn't open with a bid*. You await the dummy with apprehension. Partner leads a low spade and North tables an impressive hand, remarking that declarer should have a good chance if she has one key card:

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

Now you are totally dismayed with yourself. Well, there's nothing to do but play it out, hope that 3NT is a normal contract reached in a rather abnormal manner and that you may escape with a score that approaches average.

Declarer plays a low spade from dummy, you put up the ten and declarer wins the jack. After some brief thought, declarer lays down the ♣K from her hand.

Question: Is this a good thing or a bad thing? **Answer:** It is a good thing.

Regardless of who held the club king, declarer, holding a doubleton club or better, was always destined to get six club tricks. It's much better for your defensive chances that the club king is not part of your partner's values.

Anyway, while it is going to be painful to watch declarer run six clubs, the defense here is pretty clear cut. Partner probably has the diamond ace not to have led the suit (recognizing that declarer freely bid 2NT and must have an honor in diamonds) and you are going to have to hope partner has something good in spades. You follow to the first three clubs, signal vigorously in hearts, and toss two low diamonds on the remaining clubs. Partner, encouragingly does not throw any spades. At trick 8, declarer leads a heart from dummy, you rise with the ace and return your remaining spade. Partner claims. Down two. What on earth were you worried about? The full hand:

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





BRIDGE MAXIMS TO LIVE OR DIE BY

Guidelines can help curb your enthusiasm.

by Paul Burnham



Sitting East, you pick up, in fourth seat, what seems like a not very interesting assortment: ♠ Q 7 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ 10 6 4 ♣ 10 9 6 4. No one is vulnerable.

You hear your left-hand opponent open 1♠ and your partner overcall 2♥. Right-hand opponent then bids 4♣, which is alerted as a splinter bid showing shortness (void or worthless singleton) in clubs, at least four spades and a game-forcing hand. What do you do now?

There is a hoary maxim passed down by all bridge teachers to their students: “support with support.” Yes, you have three-card support with some values. Then there is a second maxim: “Make a bid that puts your opponents to a decision because sometimes they will make the wrong one.” The opponents were going to bid four spades; so you are not giving them any decision to make by bidding four hearts. Then there is also a third maxim: “All bridge rules have exceptions.” Four clubs was a skip bid; so you have time to consider all three rules without calling attention to the fact that you have some thinking to do. Perhaps your fingers have reached for the four-heart or the five-heart card before you remembered the third maxim.

You know your partner is a sound bidder. She is not very likely to overcall at the two level at equal vulnerability without nearly an opening hand. Your left-hand opponent made an opening bid and your right-hand opponent has forced his side to game. They are not beginners. You have eight high-card points. The last time you checked there were only forty points in the deck. What is going on?

Unless opening bidder is psyching, partner cannot have more than ten HCPs. So, she will almost assuredly have six hearts. You have three. Chances are over fifty percent that the hearts split 3-1 or 4-0 between the opponents’ hands. As a consequence, they have two short suits — hearts and clubs. One of your opponents, most likely opener, knows that already after his partner’s splinter. His partner does not know yet (*at least not until you support your partner’s hearts that is*). Not only does this pinpoint the distribution for your right-hand opponent (RHO), it also indicates to your left-hand opponent (LHO) that there is not apt to be any wasted heart honors in his partner’s hand. RHO will suddenly see his hand’s playing strength increase considerably.

Therefore, you need to pass.

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: None

NORTH

♠ A K J 8 6

♥ 8 6 4

♦ K 7 3 2

♣ 8

WEST

♠ 5

♥ A Q J 10 9 7

♦ 9 5

♣ Q J 7 2

EAST

♠ Q 7

♥ K 3 2

♦ 10 6 4

♣ K 10 9 6 4

SOUTH

♠ 10 9 4 3 2

♥ 5

♦ A Q J 8

♣ A 5 3

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

⁽¹⁾Splinter bid showing club shortness and 4-card support of spades.

At the table, the fellow with your hand (you are East) bid 5♥. Opener had an easy 5♠ call and his partner an easier 6♠ bid.

Another 22 high-card point impregnable slam. But one which very few partnerships could reach without your assistance.

Maxim #4: Never forget to factor in Maxim #3: All Bridge rules and maxims have exceptions.



From the Clubs ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

COME PLAY BRIDGE CLUB OF WESTPORT, GREENWICH AND DARIEN

We’ve enjoyed “summering” and meeting new friends in Darien at The Piedmont Club while hosting our Wednesday and Friday duplicate. Great fun was had by all at our Darien Open House with dinner and complimentary-

social and duplicate bridge the evening of May 18th. A complete listing of our fall duplicate, supervised play and lesson schedule can be found at www.comeplaybridge.com





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.

SLAM BIDDING

- 1) It is dangerous to use Blackwood holding a void. If partner shows one ace or two aces, you won't know which aces. It's better to start with a cuebid to show a control after suit agreement.

For example, you hold:

♠ K Q J 10 7 ♥ VOID ♦ A K 6 2
 ♣ A K Q J. Let's assume you've found your spade fit and are interested in 7♠. You would not want to bid 4NT Blackwood because if partner shows only one ace, you can't be sure it's the ♠A.

For example, you hold:

♠ K Q J 10 7 ♥ VOID ♦ K Q J 10
 ♣ K Q J 8. Let's assume you've found your spade fit and are interested in 6♠. You would not want to bid 4NT Blackwood because if partner shows two aces, one might be the ♥A.

Lau: There is a convention called Exclusion Blackwood, which applies

when asker has a void. You can research this treatment online.

SLAM DEFENSE

- 2) One does NOT lead the same against 3NT as against 6NT. Against 6NT, AVOID leading from an honor unless you have a sequence.

For example, holding:

♠ K 10 7 6 3 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ J 5 ♣ Q 9 2,
 lead the ♠6 against 3NT. Lead the ♥J against 6NT. Assuming the opponents have the expected 32-33 HCP, guess how many HCP partner holds? Zero!

DECLARER

- 3) When leading low from dummy toward a number of equal honors in the closed hand, play the higher or highest equal honor if second hand plays low.

For example:

You lead the ♠5 from dummy toward the ♠K Q J in your hand. If your right-hand opponent follows low, play the king, NOT the queen or jack. Say RHO has the ♠A. If you play the ♠J and it holds, RHO will know you also have the ♠K and probably ♠Q. However, when the ♠K wins, RHO cannot be sure who has the ♠Q and ♠J.

... The Art of Balancing...

Continued from page 3

Minus 50 would be a great score I thought; so, my normally good table analysis has made two predictions:

- There will be no matchpoint difference on the first hand between +110 and +140
- On the first hand, we should have earned a terrible matchpoint score

On the second hand, we should have a great matchpoint score

I was right one out of two:

- There was no difference on the first hand between +110 and +140 because to my surprise, we received all the matchpoints. Although I initially thought North could only make five tricks, East/West don't have the timing to score eight tricks. Most of the E/W results were +100 with a couple of -90s, and our +110 scooped the pool.
- For the second hand, -50 was the only score in the North/South column as the board was passed out at most tables with a couple of E/W positives making a 1-level making contract.

Averaging 50% on these two boards was exactly the prediction I'd made, albeit polar opposites, in terms of how we got there. Maybe I should start overcalling 3-card suits and see how that works out.



From the Clubs

THE SEVEN NO TRUMP BRIDGE CLUB

We have had some BIG winners over the past few months at Seven No-Trump! In the July 7th unit-wide game, John Bauer and Judy Finneran took home the big prize - 11.38 MP! Not satisfied with that win, John came back on July

10th and played with Larry Winick. They came in 6th in the unit for another 5.88 MP. Watch out Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney contenders! John Bauer's coming for you. Did you know our Wednesday evening

game is now FREE? Come join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for a free game. We still run all of the special games too. For a full schedule of games and classes, please visit our website: www.7NTgames.com



NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Bridge Players Celebrate Summer Solstice with Fundraising Efforts

For the first time, Newtown Bridge Club participated in The Longest Day, supporting the fight against Alzheimer's disease. On Wednesday June 21, the event planning members, Doris Andrews, Rosemary Benedict, Helen Benson, Lynn Cripe, Roz Ettlinger, Sandy Gould, Georgeann and Stan Kishner, Gary Miyashiro, Linda Dale Mulholland, Marsha Scherr, Beth Schweitzer, Chuck Slater and Millie Sullivan, were up at sunrise preparing for a full day of bridge and fun.

When the doors opened at 8:00 AM, enthusiastic players, many wearing The Longest Day's signature purple, came in for bagels and coffee, then sat down for a lesson about notrump play presented by club manager Susan Fronapfel. By 10:00 AM, so many had arrived for the morning open duplicate and social bridge games that extra tables, chairs and bidding boxes were set up just before game time. Players filled the main room to capacity and overflowed into a second playing area. Lunch followed, accompanied by jazz pianist Stan Kishner and sign-up for the afternoon Pro-Am game. Since all the Pro-Am partnerships were new, players focused on the basics and socializing with their partners. At 5:00 PM, the dinner buffet was ready and a jazz trio was onstage. The evening open and 49er games continued the bridge play until sunset. After cleaning up, Linda Dale Mulholland, chair of The Longest Day committee, put her feet up, tallied the final results (61 tables and over \$4,700 raised for the Alzheimer's Association) and commented, "Next year's summer solstice falls on a Thursday. I'm hoping even more players will join us for The Longest Day on June 21, 2018."

NEWTOWN CLUB NEWS

In addition to the regular Monday through Thursday schedule, Newtown

Bridge Club has these special events on the calendar.



Monthly Sunday Swiss, 11:30-4:00.

The upcoming games are scheduled for September 17, October 22, November 19 and December 10. The games are fun – 4 rounds of 7 boards and a light lunch about 1:30 PM after the second round. Contact director@newtownbridge.org for reservations or information.

Audrey Grant, Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24.

Audrey Grant, noted author and teacher, will hold a 2-day bridge festival at Newtown Bridge Club. Saturday's topic is "Making an Impact on Defense with the Weakest Hand at the Table;" Sunday's topic is "Entries Are Everything." At this writing, seats are available for both days. For more information, please visit www.newtownbridge.org/audrey-grant.

Team Week, October 2-5. During Team Week, the regular duplicate pair games will be replaced by single-session Swiss Team games on Mon. Oct. 2 at 12:30 PM, Tue. Oct. 3 at 10:00 AM, Tue. Oct. 3 at 7:00PM, Wed. Oct. 4 at 10:00 AM and Thu. Oct. 5 at 12:30 PM. 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 game time.

Directions and information about Newtown Bridge Club may be found at www.newtownbridge.org.

GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

Newtown Bridge Club is delighted that four of its members were on District 25's six-person team that

won the Grand National Team Flight A event at the Toronto NABC. Our NBC directors Gary Miyashiro and Weiling Zhao, along with their partners, Michael Hess and Barry Bragin, defeated the California District 22 team in the final round on Sunday, July 23. The four NBC players started this competition in April when they won the two-day Flight A qualifier in Sturbridge. An extra pair, Susan and Michael Smith from Newington, CT, was added to the team for Toronto. According to Gary, the five-day event in Toronto was "a great experience, but grueling." Play started on Wednesday, July 19, with teams from each district competing for the top 16 positions. Each of the following knock-out days, they played four sessions with 56 boards per day. The last two days, they played with screens which Gary said took awhile to get used to. The screens limited outside distractions, and as a result, the players could better focus on their game, which their results clearly proved. Weiling summarized the event, "We enjoyed the journey from the beginning to the end." What a wonderful ending it was. We congratulate Barry, Weiling, Gary, Michael; and their teammates, Susan and Michael, on a job well done!



WEE BURN NEWS

Wee Burn players are enjoying weekly games at the Beach Club this summer. A trophy game held earlier was won by:

Coulter Cup: Joan Hoben and Kathie Rowland.

Robertson Bowl: Janet Soskin and Karen Barrett.

Leaders in the **Spring Series:**

1. Joan Bergen-Sue Kipp.
2. Janet Soskin-Karen Berrett.
3. Lynn Reilly-Mary Ellen McGuire.
4. Dave Mordy-Joe Holmes.
5. Belinda Metzger-Donna Doyle.
6. Molly Morgan-Carol Taylor.

It is not too early to sign up for the twelve-week Fall Series starting September 7. All games will be held at the Main Club. Players from reciprocal clubs are welcome.



BRIDGE FORUM (Hamden/Woodbridge) SPRING NEWS

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: 1. Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz; 2. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller; 3. Abhi Dutta-Paul Johnson; 4. Lin Li-Bob Silverstein; 5. Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners

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

Leonora Stein Cup: As usual, Jeff Horowitz and Kevin Hart swept their semifinal opponents to meet in the final. Again Kevin had to miss the first week. This time Jeff and David Richeimer did not better the absentee score, giving Kevin the cup-win.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: 1. Joyce Handleman-Bob Silverstein; 2. Hank Banach-George Levinson; 3. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller; 4. Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker; 5. Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz

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

Aldyth Claiborn Cup: Joe Pagerino and Jeff Horowitz got to the final, where Jeff won the first week by 13.63% - enough to hold off Joe's edge of 10.09% in the second week.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Yearly Statistics: Conversion rates: Small Slams 64.96%, Grand Slams 61.04%, Doubles 72.37%, Redoubles 50%. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller are the top defenders, have all three double wins, and are tied with Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz with seven 70% scores. Kevin and Jeff lead in both most tops and fewest zeroes; Jeff is first in +1100s. Breta Adams-Karlene Wood have reclaimed the grand slam lead with four and have locked

up the optimistic bidding title. Bob Silverstein, Doug Tandler and Jane Mathias lead in passouts.

Overall Player of the Year: Kevin Hart was the top player for the spring quarter, moving to second overall behind Jeff Horowitz. Joyce Handleman had the third best spring, moving her to seventh overall at the halfway point.

Helen Frank Cup: The lead passed from Alan Milstone to Erik Rosenthal to Gernot Reiners in the first half of June before the Hart-Horowitz partnership took command. In the last game, Kevin almost erased his deficit, but Jeff prevailed again in the end.

POST WILTON BRIDGE STUDIO

Au Revoir Bill Wood - We'll see you at the tables.

Two years ago this month, after 25 years at the helm, Bill Wood, club owner, director and teacher, shuttered his Fairfield County bridge club, The Wilton Bridge Studio. The Wilton Bridge Studio was one of the very few, full-time bridge clubs in Connecticut. Its closure left a void that remains hard to fill. Though Bill has remained in our bridge community, playing and directing, later this month, he will leave Connecticut to frequent the tables of South Carolina strictly as a player. Over the course of his bridge career, Bill directed a staggering 100,000 tables and taught almost 4,000 players the game. Largely before the advent of dealing machines, scoring devices and bridge software, he did it all. Thank you Bill for your role in developing CT bridge.

Here are 5 Fun Facts about Bill before we wish Bill adieu:

1. We know the analytical side of Bill. Who knew he had an artistic side and is, (or was, he says) a clarinet player?
2. We've witnessed Bill's winning bridge skills, but did you know that his poker-playing prowess paid for much of his Amherst college expenses?
3. Asked about the craziest thing he ever did, he replied, "During the Vietnam War, I ejected from

a burning F-4 Phantom jet and landed in the shark-infested waters of the Tonkin Gulf." Of course, that seemed a better alternative than crashing into the water.

4. What's left on his bucket list? Diamond Life Master. (Yes, even Bill still has bridge goals.)
5. How would he like to be remembered by his fellow players and students? "Fondly" he says with a devilish grin.

If you'd like to wish Bill farewell, email him at wawool@juno.com.



HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

The shadow of Alzheimer's disease hangs over all senior citizens and the stories of devastation wrought by the disease are legion. Pam Lombardo, an active and vibrant member of Hartford Bridge Club has her own Alzheimer's story, but it is one of hope. When the ACBL decided to schedule this year's Longest Day charity event on June 21, it seemed like the perfect opportunity for Pam to publicize her story and for HBC to donate all the day's proceeds to the Alzheimer's Association. With the goal established, HBC held three sessions of play, two were pairs play and one was a team game. Play started in the morning and extended through the evening. There were 42½ tables, with pizza served between the afternoon and evening sections. \$2800 was raised.

In her own words, here is Pam Lombardo's story...

PROOF OF HOPE! PAM LOMBARDO'S STORY

In 2008-2009, I started having cognitive issues, affecting my speech, word-finding ability and balance walking. Both my mother and aunt were deceased by the age of 72 from early onset Alzheimer's and its complications.

I started with the Memory Center at the Institute of Living. After extensive testing, I was told I had Early Onset Alzheimer's/ Frontal Lobe Dementia and that I would not even be able to dress myself in three years.

Continued on page 10.

ASK THE EXPERT:

Question: Rich, where do you stand regarding the controversy about opening 1NT with a 5-card major?

by Rich DeMartino

Rich DeMartino:

I'm glad you asked that question. For as long as I have been playing bridge, there has been no consensus on whether or not to open 1NT with a 5-card major suit. All kinds of rules have been put forth, but I believe it all boils down to the following. There are three basic schools of thought:

Group 1: Never open 1NT with a 5-card major

Group 2: Freely open 1NT with a 5-card major

Group 3: **Use judgment on whether to open 1NT with a 5-card major.**

My judgment is that the majority of experts are in Group 3 with 10 - 20% in Groups 1 and 2.

I am a proponent of Group 3. Here are some guidelines:

1. When playing the 2/1 system, it is usually preferable to open 1♠ when you have five spades, especially with 16 or 17 HCP.

Example 1:

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 7 6 5	♠ K 8 3 2
♥ K 5 4	♥ A 3
♦ K 9 7	♦ 8 3
♣ A 3	♣ 10 8 6 5 4

Over a 1NT opener, responder will pass and a good game is missed. Opening 1♠ is unlimited and responder with 6+ points will bid.

2. When you have hearts, it is sometimes best to open 1NT because you will often have rebid problems if partner responds 1♠.

Example 2:

♠ 4 3
♥ A 10 8 5 4
♦ K Q 4
♣ A Q 5

If you open 1♥, you have no good bid over 1♠. 1NT shows 12-14 HCP and you have 15. Partner will not play you for 15 HCP if you rebid 1NT.

You will miss a game if partner has a hand like this: ♠ A 10 8 5 ♥ J 9 ♦ A J 4 3 ♣ 10 x x

In example 3, 1♥ is OK. If partner bids 1♠, you will bid 2NT (shows 18-19 HCP).

Example 3:

♠ 10 4
♥ A J 10 7 6
♦ K Q 4
♣ A K 9

Editor's Note: To summarize, with 15 HCP and either 5-card major, it's best to open 1NT. With a 5-card spade suit and 16-17 HCP points, open 1♠. With 17 HCP and a 5-card heart suit, open 1♥ (and then tell a small fib in your rebid of 2NT). With only 15-16 HCP and 5-card heart suit, open 1NT because there is no convenient rebid.



Proof of Hope! Pam Lombardo's Story

Continued from page 9.

Being me, I went to two other neurologists for second and third opinions. Both doctors confirmed the diagnosis. One of the neurologists was at the Alzheimer's Research Center at Brown University. I was asked if I would be part of a clinical drug trial.

I was approved to participate in a Pfizer Clinical Study, Phase 2 at Brown. For two years, this involved injections, extensive cognitive testing, blood tests, spinal taps, etc. During this time, I did not know if I was getting the placebo or the real drug.

I actually improved. The doctor said, "My patients don't get better." I had received the real drug!

Thinking that I might have been misdiagnosed, I consulted a neurologist connected with Yale. He told me that Pfizer's "drug" was an experimental vaccine that breaks up amyloids on the brain. Subsequently, Pfizer stopped this drug trial. No one could find out why, not even the chief doctor who ran the trial.

In 2015, I had more extensive testing done and the finding was: "**No Indication Of Any Progressive Dementia.**" Recently, there has been a critical development. Dr. Salloway of Brown University confirmed that an antibody, aducanumab, reduces the amyloids in the human brain.

Continuing my fight against Alzheimer's, I am presently in another clinical drug trial at Yale. Statistically, fewer people taking insulin develop dementia. So, I now sniff insulin twice a day. Sniffing sends insulin directly to your brain.

I have been blessed and I want to share my resources. I'm fortunate to have had such dedicated, knowledgeable doctors and staff.

Thank you for supporting the fight against Alzheimer's! Early diagnosis allows people to participate in clinical trials that help researchers develop new treatments and eventually find a cure.

Pam Lombardo, June 2017





IN MY OPINION:

Michaels Cue Bids should be limited to suits other than clubs.

by Jon Jankus

Bidding developments over the last 40-50 years have led me to an undeniable truth: the 1♣ opening bid seldom means the bidder has more than three clubs in hand — and they may not be of any quality. This becomes even more true when one factors in all the 16 HCP range 1 NT openings that include a decent club suit in the hand.

Cue bids of a suit bid by an opponent will logically signify something other than a desire to play as declarer in a suit in which the opponents have shown length and/or strength. Probably the most common of these conventional bids is the Michaels Cue Bid which generally shows a two-suited hand, excluding the suit in which the cue bid was made.

I cannot remember a time, when I used the sequence 1♣-2♣ to show a hand with a 5/5 holding in the major suits. Most often, it is more useful to simply bid spades and later show hearts, perhaps repeatedly.

I am not suggesting that the 1♣-2♣ Michaels bid will never be appropriate. I am, however, saying that a much more common occurrence would be the situation in which you hold a hand strong enough for an overcall and your five-card suit happens to be clubs. I would not suggest this with regard to any other suit. For clubs, however, the likelihood of the opener's club bid being "real," given your holding of a decent club suit, is slight.

My suggestion is that immediate cue bids of an opponent's suit retain their Michaels meaning for all suits except clubs. In the case of clubs, the sequence 1♣-2♣ simply means "My hand is good enough to overcall and my suit happens to be clubs."

Sometimes, this will lead to being declarer in a club contract, though this

is not necessarily expected since any other suit will overpower clubs in the bidding. Moreover, this bid gives your partner a safe opening lead should your left-hand opponent wind up being declarer, an event that is not unlikely given the 1♣ opening on your right. On fewer occasions, it may be the information your partner needs in order to make a NT bid.

In summary, I am advocating for the 1♣ by opener - 2♣ by opponent sequence to maintain a "natural" rather than

conventional meaning. When used with a suit of substance, there is little risk of a hurtful club stack on your right and, and even if so, at least it is on your right. Thanks to the club suit's minimal rank, the opponent's delay in showing its existence, only raises the probability that it will never be shown. Given the probabilities, the natural interpretation of the club overcall seems very compelling, especially given the implications of the bid for a defensive opening lead and the ability to do so at the lowest possible level.

Let us know if you agree or disagree:
robin_sanders@verizon.net



2017 UNIT 126 CALENDAR

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
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	18-20	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Summer Sectional	Stamford
August	22	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
Aug.-Sept.	29-3	Tues.-Sun.		New England Fiesta Regional	Warwick, RI
September	7	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
September	14-18	Wed.-Sun.		District 24 Regional	Smithtown, NY
October	7-8	Sat.-Sun.		District 25 NAP Qualifying	Watertown
October	9-15	Mon.-Sun.		District 3 Regional	Danbury
October	16-22	Mon.-Sun.		STaC with North Jersey (U106)	Local Clubs
October	25	Wed.	Afternoon	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint	Local Clubs
October	27-29	Fri.-Sun.		CT FALL SECTIONAL	Wethersfield
November	8-12	Wed.-Sun.		District 25 Harvest Regional	Mansfield, MA
November	14	Tues.	Evening	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	21	Tues.	Evening	ACBL Charity Game	Local Clubs
Nov.-Dec.	23-3	4th Thu.-1st Sun.		ACBL Fall Nationals	San Diego, CA
December	8	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	13	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	20	Wed.	Evening	ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3	Local Clubs
December	26-30	Mon.-Fri.		New York City Regional	New York, NY
Key:	Sect/StaC		Regional	Nationals	
Pigment:	Silver	Red, Gold	Red, Gold, Platinum		
Note: GNT and NAOP qualifying rounds pay red points (not gold)					

Achievements

MILESTONES

LIFE MASTER*

Ramesh Abhiraman
Linda Beizer
Joan Bergen
Phoebe Edwards
Joyce Handleman
Deborah Neiman
Tracy Selmon
George Smedes
Joan Stone

**300 MP for players who joined ACBL prior to 1/1/2010. Otherwise 500.*

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(500 MP)

Dottie Carpenter
Mary-Jane Cross
Tom Floyd
Kenneth A. Leopold
Robert E. Lister
Deborah Neiman
Midge Pappas
Russ Sakowitz
Carla Sharp

SILVER LIFE MASTER

(1,000 MP)

Elaine Lowell
Gary Miyashiro

RUBY LIFE MASTER

(1,500 MP)

Paul Burnham
Ann Hudson
Ruth Kuzma
Richard Lebel
Charles Stabinski

GOLD LIFE MASTER

(2,500 MP)

David Blackburn
Jill Fouad
Michael Hess

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

(3,500 MP)

David Benjamin
Mildred Fromm
Constance Graham

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

(5,000 MP)

Tom Joyce

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Bolgar
Gerard E. Caron
Betty Jane Corbani
Dr. Gordon Q. Jonas
Samuel S. Marks
Ruth Z. Merblum
Carolyn M. Olschefski
Gail Ord

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 **OCTOBER 9, 2017**.

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