



THE KIBITZER

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LUCK IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

but you have to recognize it!

by Harold Feldheim



How often have we seen a player get set in a contract that depended on either a suit break, a finesse, or some other bit of generic bad luck?

“Just my luck,” he’d moan. “If either (a) or (b) had happened, the contract is cold.”

Interestingly enough, more often than not, bad luck can be averted because of a stroke of good luck. The following hand is a good example of a bit of good luck being overcome by declarer’s inability to take advantage of it.

NORTH

♠ 10 6 3
♥ K Q 8 7
♦ 6 5 3
♣ 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A K J 9 4
♥ A
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A 6 4

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: North-South

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥J

The bidding: In response to South’s 2♣ opening bid, North’s 2♦ response guaranteed at least one king and was therefore game forcing. After South’s 2♠ rebid, North decided that he did

not have much beyond the original promised king and jumped directly to 4♠, ending the auction.

The play: West’s opening lead did not give anything away. As it turned out, a club lead would have been considerably more dangerous. Nonetheless, South is hardly out of the woods. The unfortunate blockage in hearts means that South is in danger of losing two club tricks, one diamond trick, and the queen of trump. However, all was not lost. South led the A – K of trump, hoping to fell the doubleton queen. When West discarded a heart on the second spade, declarer had to concede 4 tricks for down one.

The postmortem: South grumbled about his luck. “Yes, I know the queen dropping doubleton is anti-percentage, but I hoped for a bit of luck.”

“In that the opponents did not lead a club, you were lucky,” responded North. “The only problem is that you didn’t recognize it.”

South was puzzled. “Either way, didn’t we need the trump queen to fall doubleton?”

In fact, without an opening club lead, barring some very unfortunate distribution, the 4♠ game is a superb contract. Do you see it?

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Upcoming Events

ACBL Spring National
March 21-31

Gold Mine Regional
April 11-14 in Sturbridge

NE GNT
April 13-14 in Sturbridge

NE Senior Regional
April 24-28 in Falmouth

199r Tournament
May 4 in Stamford

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THE SYMMETRY PRINCIPLE

Partners of equal ability seem to match each other in bad and good calls and plays.

by Burt Saxon

After several decades of play, my only contribution to bridge theory has been the **Emerson Rule**: *When two non-expert players get a bad board, often both have contributed.* This means one partner has taken an inferior action and the partner has compounded the error.

Now, a quarter century after I proposed the Emerson Rule in a pamphlet virtually no one read, I have a second idea about partnership errors—called the **Symmetry Principle**. It especially applies to long-term partnerships.

My hypothesis is that long-term partnerships survive in part because both players are of relatively equal ability. This means that individual errors tend to be evenly divided between the two.

Recently I played in the Danbury Regional with Steve, my partner since 1979. We did fairly well, but four errors left us in 16th place in a 68 pair field. Not bad, but far from sensational.

Analysis of our game suggests that we defended fairly well but were occasionally victimized by fine play by our opponents. Each of us made one bidding error and one error as declarer. Symmetry.

At one point, Steve transferred my 1NT bid to 2♥. My right-hand opponent had three heart tricks coming, but he cashed two high hearts when he should have only cashed one. I didn't notice that my ♥8 on the board was higher than his ♥7, so I committed a cardinal bridge sin by forgetting to draw the last trump.

On the last hand of the second session, I sat in second seat with both sides vulnerable. I doubled 1♥ with this hand:

♠ K J 10 9 x x
♥ A x
♦ x x
♣ A K x

North	East	South	West
1♥	Dbl.	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	3♠	Dbl.	All Pass

I bid 2♠ over my left-hand opponent's weak 2♥ response. But when the opening bidder went to 3♥, I committed a second bridge sin: I fell in love with my hand and bid 3♠. Unfortunately, I was doubled in 3♠ and was lucky to escape for down one—minus 200. I should have said a four-letter word: pass. Defending 3♥, leading the ♣K and switching to the ♥A and another trump would have set the opponents two tricks—plus 200 for us.

As for Steve, proving my theory of symmetry in another hand, he bid a forcing 1NT over my 1♠ opening. When I responded 2♦, Steve bid 2♠ with a singleton ♠J and five hearts to the queen. I held three hearts and a strong hand. So we would have been much better off in hearts, and perhaps better off still if he hadn't bid at all!

On another occasion, Steve failed to find an endplay. This was a hand where John Stiefel would have said "Can't cost to try."

On the plus side of the ledger, Steve did find a nice endplay on a different hand. I found a squeeze, though pretty

much by accident, as well, ending the day with symmetry in bad and good calls.

In summary, the Flight A players played well as always—and without our matching errors, we would have finished in the top five.

However, if we could fly, we would both be astronauts.

Believers in both the Emerson Principle and the Symmetry Principle, we don't go crazy blaming each other. We are now figuring out when we can play again and whittle down our matching errors.



WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Despite being moved to temporary playing quarters for the Winter Series, the games went on as usual – not even any cancellations because of snow!

Janet Soskin and Karen Barrett had two games of over 70%, thus securing their win for the Series:

1. Janet Soskin-Karen Barrett
2. Belinda Metzger-Mary Ellen McGuire
3. Lynn Reilly-Joan Bergen
4. Mary Richardson-Sue Kipp
5. Betty Hodgman-Doug Thompson
6. Marilyn Tjader-Barbara Johnson



TO BID A GRAND SLAM, YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE KEY CARDS THAN THE OPPONENTS



Stellar play can't overcome over-ambitious bidding.

by Brett Adler

Playing in a recent pairs event, I obviously had a rush of blood to the head as I forced our partnership to the 7 level, only to discover that we were missing three of the five key cards (four aces plus the king of the trump suit).

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: Both

North	East	Me	West
1♥	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♦	4NT ¹	Pass
6♦ ²	Dbl	Pass ³	Pass
6♥ ⁴	Pass	7♠ ⁵	Pass
Pass	Dbl ⁶	All Pass	

4NT¹ The more diamonds the opponents bid, the shorter partner's diamond holding. So I aggressively bid Roman Key Card Blackwood.

6♦² Partner showed an odd number of key cards plus a diamond void. With an even number and a void, the response is 5NT. I was convinced partner had the perfect hand with 3 key cards.

Pass³ Rather than give up and just bid a small slam, I decided to give partner a chance to show more.

6♥⁴ Partner now showed me the ♥K, so, I thought I could count 13 tricks. Plus, I may be able to set up partner's heart suit for 14 or 15 tricks. Boy did these hands seem to fit each other well.

7♠⁵ Based on my expectation of partner's hand, this now seemed a distinct underbid ...

Dbl⁶ This seemed particularly unsporting of the opponents, and I now realized that partner might only have 1 key card instead of 3. Right-hand opponent was doubling to ask partner to lead a heart—dummy's first bid suit (Lightner Double).

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

Fortunately, West led a high diamond. So I ruffed in dummy and then played a small club back to my ♣Q. I ruffed a second diamond and played the top two clubs, pitching my hearts. Now I led the ♥K, and when East covered with the ♥A, I ruffed. My third diamond was now ruffed in the dummy and the ♥Q allowed me to pitch my last diamond.

I played a third round of hearts and East pitched a diamond. So, I ruffed, and all I had remaining in my hand were the top trumps missing the king.

NORTH
♠ ---
♥ 9 6 5
♦ ---
♣ 9
SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣

In Victor Mollo's Bridge in the Menagerie series, the Rueful Rabbit always has success in this type of situation. On this occasion, the good news was that the missing four spades were divided 3-1. The bad news was that the singleton trump wasn't the ♠K ... So near and yet so far. Down one. 

Luck is Where you Find it

by Harold Feldheim

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The complete hands:

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

After winning the opening heart lead, the winning play is the ♠J. If East wins the spade, South wins any return, crosses to the ♠K, and throws away his two club losers on the K – Q of hearts. If East ducks the ♠J, continue with the ♠9.

Please notice that against a club lead, which would establish three sure tricks for East-West, South would not have the luxury of a safety play, since the defense would have three established tricks in addition to a potential trump trick.

Thus, no club lead was lucky, however...



BRIDGE AT THE LUNATIC FRINGE

Present Count REALLY counts in bridge.

by Al Wolf



In this article, I'll explore the count signal—a signal to partner as to your holding of an odd or even number of cards in the suit. The usual count signal begins on the first lead of a suit, but there are circumstances when it is important to give count after the suit has already been led once. Almost always, this is on the second lead of the suit. Most commonly, this happens because on the first lead of the suit, the defender had a first obligation to signal attitude, or because he had to play third-hand high.

It's important to understand the use of "present," meaning that the count signal indicates the number of cards presently held, NOT the number of cards he started with.

The importance of giving "present count" is best illustrated by showing the reader a defensive problem:

Vulnerability: Both

North East South West
(Cecil) (Warren) (Minna) (Professor)

Pass Pass 1♥ Dbl.
3♥¹ All Pass

¹ A preemptive raise

NORTH
Dummy (Cecil)
♠ 7 5
♥ A 9 8 7 3
♦ J 8 4 2
♣ 7 6

WEST
Professor
♠ A K Q 10
♥ K 5
♦ K 10 6 5
♣ 10 8 3

Opening lead: ♠A

The Professor's opening lead was a top spade, on which his partner, Warren (East), played an attitude deuce (2-spot card) on trick one, a discouraging signal indicating no help in that suit. The Professor continued with a second high spade and partner followed with a count-card 8-spot at trick two. If partner has given the correct count card, the Professor now knows that the declarer started with 4 spades and he can now plan the defense accordingly. He then shifted to a club, which partner (East) won with the ♣A and declarer followed with the queen. Warren now continued with clubs, won by declarer's ♣K. Declarer ruffed a spade in dummy, cashed the ♥A (Warren following with the ♥J) and another heart, won perforce by the Professor's ♥K, and Warren followed with a low club.

The Professor was now on lead and had to decide what to do next, with four defensive tricks already taken, and the following cards remaining:

Dummy (Cecil)
♠ -
♥ 9 8
♦ J 8 4 2
♣ -

Professor
♠ Q
♥ -
♦ K 10 6 5
♣ 10

All alternatives presented dangers. A black suit lead might give declarer a ruff and sluff, enabling her to shed a diamond loser, while a diamond lead could be right into declarer's ♦A - Q. Declarer has already shown up with 5 points in clubs and 2 points in hearts.

She surely must have the ♦A. That 11 points is enough for a third-hand opening. So, there is room for partner to have the ♦Q. What would you do?

Actually, I haven't yet provided sufficient information for you to make the right decision. It all depends on partner having given an accurate "present count" signal in the spade suit. If, after playing the ♠2 on the opening lead, he played high-low, indicating an even present count, then he must have started with 3 cards in spades (can't be 5, for then declarer would have started with only 2). In this case, leading the ♠Q is right (let dummy ruff), but this is something declarer could do for himself anyway.

If, on the other hand, partner played low-high on the second and third round of spades, indicating an odd present count, that means he started with four pieces, and thus declarer had only three spades. Then a club continuation is called for. Even in the worst-case scenario, declarer having started with three spades and two clubs, this will yield a ruff-sluff, allowing declarer to shed a diamond loser. Declarer's original shape would have been 3-5-3-2. He would still have to lose a diamond to the Professor's king.

The full deal is as follows:

Dummy (Cecil)
♠ 7 5
♥ A 9 8 7 3
♦ J 8 4 2
♣ 7 6

Professor
♠ A K Q 10
♥ K 5
♦ K 10 6 5
♣ 10 8 3

Warren
♠ 8 6 2
♥ J
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A J 9 5 4 2

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LARRY'S LITTLE TIPS

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 uses for his students. In each issue, I will share tips for bidding, defense, and declarer play.

BIDDING

A 1NT response to a takeout double shows 6-10 HCP.

A 2NT response to a takeout double shows 10-12 HCP.

Some 10-point hands are better than others because of strong intermediates (8s, 9s, and 10s). You cannot be a slave to point count. Intermediates count! Which 10-point hand would you rather have when partner makes a takeout double?

1. ♠ K 10 9
♥ Q 10 9
♦ Q 4 3
♣ Q J 10 9
2. ♠ K 7 6
♥ Q 7 5
♦ Q 4 3
♣ Q 9 8 6

DEFENSE

To lead an honor card against a suit contract, two adjacent honors are necessary, NOT THREE, and the higher honor is led. Lead the ace from **A** K x (x), the king from **K** Q x (x), the queen from **Q** J x (x), the jack from **J** 10 x (x), and the 10 from **10** 9 x (x).

When dummy is expected to come down with a long, strong side suit in a trump contract, and there are two unbid suits, lead your stronger suit. **However**, if one suit is headed by an ace, lead the other.

With K J x x and K x x x, lead from the K J x **x** (the stronger suit).

With A J x x and Q x x x, lead from the Q x x **x** (the suit without the ace). You hope to develop the weaker suit and preserve the ace as an entry into hand once the first suit is developed.



Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe

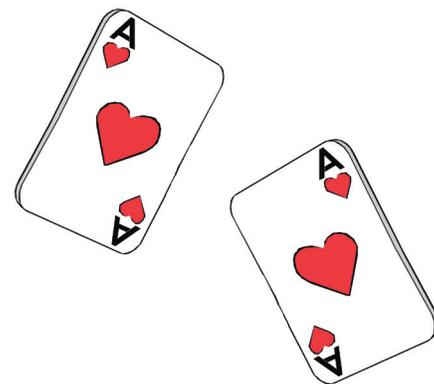
by Al Wolf

Continued from page 4

Declarer (Minna)
♠ J 9 4 3
♥ Q 10 6 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ K Q

As can be seen, only the spade lead sets the contract at the critical point in the hand, and the “present count” signal was the critical factor in finding this defense. It forces declarer to lead a diamond into the Professor. Warren could also have made the defense easier by shifting to a diamond when in with the ♣A!

Note: If playing upside-down count and attitude, the signaling would work just as well. Warren would start with the ♠8 (upside-down attitude, discouraging) and continue with the ♠2 and then the ♠6 (upside-down count, an even number).

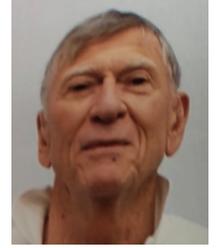




ASK THE EXPERT:

Doug, when my partner makes a preemptive Weak 2 or Weak 3 bid, I never know what to do whether I hold a strong or weak hand?

by Doug Thompson



Sometimes our partner's preempt makes us shudder. Sometimes it presents an opportunity. A mature partnership will have agreements to properly advance and capitalize on the opportunity that a partner's weak opening bid presents.

When we hold length in partner's suit with a weak hand, one error that's often made is to pass partner's bid. Another is to make a single-level raise and then later raise again after the opponents have found their fit. NOTE: An additional raise of partner's suit at that point presents a sitting duck for the opponents to lay the double hammer on the table. A good rule to follow is to bid the max according to the law of total tricks at your first opportunity. At favorable vulnerability, think about adding an extra level with extra distribution.

Let's look at two types of holdings in which partnership agreement is required:

Responding to partner's Weak 2 bid when we have part score or possible game interest:

1. Holding 4-card support and a singleton or void:

Raise to the 4 level at your first call, even over a call by your RHO.

With favorable vulnerability, consider going to the 5 level immediately.

2. After a takeout double by the RHO:

a. Holding support for partner's suit plus a good side-suit (A Q J X or K Q J X), bid the side suit (McCabe Adjunct¹). This confirms partner's suit and is forcing (partner must bid).

b. Holding doubleton (A x or K x) in partner's suit, make a redouble. This tells partner it's safe to lead his suit if he is on opening lead.

Responding to partner's Weak 2 or Weak 3 bid when we have a strong hand and want to explore slam:

The best holding partner can have for a Weak 2 or 3 is a suit headed by A K Q X X X (X). With anything more, partner would open one of that suit. In fact, most players would open one of a major with a six-card suit headed by the A K Q.

Step #1 - Recommended

Convention: *Ogust 2NT* is an asking bid used to search for game over partner's Weak 2 bid. The standard responses are:

3♣: Bad Suit, Bad Hand (minimum points)

3♦: Good Suit, Bad Hand (minimum points)

3♥: Bad Suit, Good Hand (maximum points)

3♠: Good Suit, Good Hand (maximum points)

3NT: Good suit headed by the A K Q

Note: If partner shows a 6-card suit headed by the A K Q and you have a void in that suit, I suggest you not pass a 3NT response. Believe it or not, I defended that hand, and as soon as my partner and I realized what had happened, we busily discarded our holding in that suit at every opportunity.

Step #2 - Recommended

Convention: *Mini Key Card* is a slam investigation over partner's Weak 2 opener. The bid of 4♣ by responder at any time after partner has made a preemptive opening bid below 4♣ should be treated as the Mini Key Card asking bid. This agreement allows responder to first use Ogust to check the quality of partner's hand.

Note: Mini Key Card is also on over partner's 3-level preempt. 3♠ - P - 4♣ is also Mini Key Card.

Mini Key Card Responses:

4♦ = no ace or king

4♥ = the ace or king, but no queen

4♠ = the ace or king and the queen

4NT = the ace and king, but no queen

5♣ = the ace, king, and queen

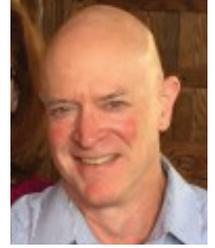
These are all great systems, and worth the brain strain, but only if you and partner are on the same wavelength and don't forget your agreements and responses.

McCabe Adjunct¹ - After opener's preemptive Weak 2 bid, McCabe provides a mechanism to differentiate signoff 3-level bids in a new suit and various invitational game-asking bids. Responder's calls are conventional and alertable: https://www.bridgehands.com/M/McCabe_Adjunct.htm



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Tom Hunter



The biggest complaint of duplicate bridge players is slow play. People do not like to wait. The second biggest complaint is being rushed. Bridge is a complicated game, and people need time to think ... and chat.

Here are some simple tips that will give you more time to think. And chat.

1. When you are on lead for trick one, get your choice face down on the table first—and write down the contract on your score sheet **after** you have turned your card. **When you write first, no bridge is being played.** You'll have plenty of time to write as the dummy comes down.

2. When you are dummy, lay your hand out on the table and then write the contract on your score sheet.

When you write first, no bridge is being played. Plus, your partner wants to know what she has bought.

3. Some games use remote scoring devices like Bridgemates or BridgeTabs. In addition to the contract and the result, some games (for example, all of my games) ask for the opening lead to be entered as well. The best time to enter the contract and the lead is as the dummy is coming down and the opening lead is on the table. Ever flounder at the end of the hand trying to remember the opening lead? Save some time and brain-strain—enter it before play begins.

4. This idea is really a bridge tip. Think about your opening lead during the auction. You know what your right-hand opponent has bid; so you know what you might be leading

against. If you take extra time to make a lead, the declarer may draw some inferences (at her own risk). Your partner is not allowed to draw such inferences. This is not the director's favorite situation to encounter when called to the table. Likewise, a prompt and confident lead can be intimidating. Slow? Quick? If you don't like any of your choices, maybe you should be bidding???

5. Almost everyone likes to talk about the hand (quietly, of course). How would no trump have fared? Could we or should we have bid the slam? Before you plunge into a discussion, check your situation. Is the round over? Are other players moving? Are we behind on time? Is the director scowling?



FUN FACTS

Believe it or not!

The Chinese invented playing cards in AD 1000. Some interesting facts and observations about playing cards:

Did you know that the traditional deck of playing card is a strikingly coherent form of a calendar?

There are 52 weeks in the year and there are 52 playing cards in a deck.

There are 13 weeks in each season and there are 13 cards in each suit.

There are 4 seasons in a year and 4 suits in the deck.

There are 12 months in a year so there are 12 court cards (those with faces, namely Jack, Queen, King in each suit.)

The red cards represent day, while black cards represent the night.

If you let Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and Kings = 13, then add up all the sums of $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots$ to $13 = 91$. Multiply this by 4, for the 4 suits, therefore $91 \times 4 = 364$, add 1 that is the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 being the days in a year.

Is that a mere coincidence or a greater intelligence?

Of interest is the sum of the letters in the names of the cards, e.g., add up the letters in "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, Jack, Queen, King" and they come to 52!

The Spades indicate plowing or working.

The Hearts indicate love thy crops.

The Clubs indicate flourishing and growth.

The Diamonds indicate reaping the wealth.

There is a deeper philosophy than just merely playing cards. The mathematical perfection is mind-blowing.





BRIDGE FORUM

Jeff Horowitz-Kevin Hart were the top Tuesday pair for the year. Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker were the leading Friday pair for the year when one of my computers died; Aniko Richheimer-Rita Brieger were the leading Friday pair for the last third of the year.

Cup Competitions: Van Dyke Cup (Tuesdays, July-October) 1 Kevin Hart; 2 Hill Auerbach; 3 Rita Brieger; 4 Lin Li. Reynolds Cup (Fridays, July-October) 1 Jeff Horowitz; 2 Norma Augenstein; 3 Erik Rosenthal; 4 Hank Voegeli. Champions Cup (combined, November-December) 1 Lin Li; 2 Harold Miller; 3 Kevin Hart; 4 Bob Silverstein

Statistical Leaders (sessions consisting of two short games):

Jeff Horowitz-Kevin Hart had the best defending, most double wins, most tops, fewest zeroes, and most 70% games; Jeff and Kevin also finished 1-2 for most plus four-figure penalties.

Breta Adams-Karlene Wood were the most optimistic bidders and the most consistent pair. They also had the most successful grand slams (11) for the second year running.

Doug Tendler-Jane Mathias had the biggest shutout round (25-0 in matchpoints). George Levinson-Hank Banach were the pair closest to average (Ahuva Munzer-Allen Sparer were the only pair to score exactly average in both halves of one session). Hill-Auerbach had the most games without any tops or bottoms. Helen Selmon had the most passouts, including a run of three consecutive sessions with multiple passouts each. Ed Konowitz had the highest attendance of players who didn't have a late board all year

(Sara Ann Auerbach and Eric Frieden tied for second). Bob Silverstein finished both second and third for fewest bottoms with different partners (Joyce Handleman and Lin Li). Gareth Thomas had the most overall four-figure penalties with thirteen, just more plus than minus with a record of 7-6.

COME PLAY BRIDGE CLUB OF WESTPORT AND DARIEN

We're spreading our wings this winter and offering a new bridge game to Upper Westchester. Starting in March, Come Play Bridge is launching a Sunday afternoon game in Peekskill, NY. So if you're looking for Sunday game, check out our website (www.comeplaybridge.com) for more details.

We want to congratulate the outstanding 2018 Ace of Clubs accomplishments of many of regulars for our CT Unit 126. Forty-five of our players placed in the Top Ten as masterpoint earners. Special recognition goes to our first-place winners: Russ Sackowitz, #1 in the 500-1000 category with 194.66 points; Jean Schiaroli, #1 in the 1500-2500 category with 160.47 points; Linda Green, #1 in the 3500-5000 category with 211.00 points; Larry Lau, #1 in the 7500-10000 category with a whopping 307.67 points!

www.comeplaybridge.com

DARIEN COUNTRY CLUB

The winners of the Fall Series are:

1. Dorothy Baker and Liz Dwyer
2. Deb Suckow and Barb Foley
3. Dolly Rech and Holly Friend

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Save these Dates! On Wednesday, **June 19, Newtown Bridge Club** will again participate in ACBL's **The Longest Day**, supporting the fight against Alzheimer's disease. There will be three games (morning, afternoon, and evening). So players can play all day, with complimentary food (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) donated by local restaurants.

Besides Open sections, there will be Limited games and Social bridge.

This year, we are excited to run a Scrabble tournament concurrently with the bridge games. Please bring your relatives and friends who do not play bridge, but would like to play Scrabble to support this fundraiser.

Game fees are \$15 per session; anyone bringing in at least \$100 in donations (please make checks out to Alzheimer's Association) will play free all day.

On Sunday, **September 15**, and Monday, **September 16**, **Larry Cohen** will be presenting at the **Newtown Bridge Club**. Space is limited; so reserve your seats. His 2016 seminar at our club were sold out!

More information on both these events is on our website:

www.newtownbridge.org

Newtown Bridge Club now offers **guaranteed partners** for our Tuesday (10:00 am and 7:00 pm) and Wednesday (10:00 am) games. So if you don't have a partner and would like to play on either of those days, please come and we will pair you up!



SEVEN NO-TRUMP BRIDGE CLUB

Congratulations to Christina Powers and Greg Woods for winning the February 8th Unit Championship game! They came in 1st place out of 58 tables to take home the 9.04 MP prize!

The first Friday of the month our club runs a Swiss team game. Congratulations to the January Swiss team winners: Elliot Ranard, Jerry Jacobs, Sharon Santow, and Eleanor Gimon! February's Swiss team winners were: Janet Soskin, Karen Barrett, Betty Hodgman, and Meredith Dunne.

Need a long-term partner? We now provide a matching service! Simply visit our website and answer a few questions. We will then match you with a compatible partner. It's that easy!

Website: www.7ntgames.com

Email: Joseph.Grill@7ntgames.com

mobile: 979-218-7428

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OUR THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE

by



It's award season, and we thought it appropriate to shine a spotlight on one of our local stars. If there were life-time achievement awards for contributions to Unit 126 and Connecticut bridge, we would nominate Millie Fromm. Millie has been an accomplished player, director, board member, and ambassador for bridge for more than five decades. Last April she was celebrated for her 50 years of directing at Darien's Wee Burn Country Club, but she may well hold the Connecticut record for longest run as a director. Long-term doesn't mean she's old-school. When Wee Burn decided to automate with BridgeMate scoring last year, Millie characteristically embraced the task and mastered it quickly with unflappable aplomb—not such an easy task, as any director will tell you.

It's conceivable that Millie may also be setting a record for service to Unit 126's governing board. When you search the Unit 126 board of director archives, you'll find her tenure as board president in the early 1970s, but friends say Millie's service to the board predates her presidency. None

can even remember how many board positions she's filled, but they are many and her service continues today as Unit 126 Recorder. At the club level we've also benefited from her generous spirit and unstoppable energy. Unasked, Millie is the first to lend a hand whether distributing bidding boxes, putting out cookies, or stepping in to sub when a local director suddenly falls ill during a game. As a player, if you've been fortunate to sit at a table with her during a club or tournament game, you have been witness to sharp play and exemplary bridge demeanor, delivered with a dose of Millie's droll wit.

We couldn't help but wonder how Millie became so involved in the game. Millie explained that she learned bridge informally with a group of friends as a young nursing student. They played social bridge often (and possibly badly), but once she discovered duplicate at the college Student Union, she was hooked—and as they say, *the rest was history*. When Millie moved to Connecticut with her husband, she was lucky enough to find a partner and mentor named "Royal"

who had played with the bridge-great Oswald Jacoby of the famed Dallas Aces. Royal was also a director. Millie became intrigued and wanted to know how it all worked. She learned directing from "absorbing Royal's words and thoughts" and studying *The Laws of Bridge*. In 1966, "Someone or somebody in Bridgeport thought I knew enough to actually direct," Millie recalls. "So, I directed for several years. When Wee Burn hired me as director in 1968, ACBL contacted me asking how I was qualified, stating that they were now requiring directors to be certified. Dutifully, another director and I drove to the upcoming Hartford tournament, took the exam, and passed. I was on my way, little knowing how long it would last!"

That, my friends, is how a remarkable bridge career can be launched. That is also what can happen when passion meets aptitude and preparation meets opportunity. We thank and honor Millie Fromm for her service to us and the game. We also thank and honor all the players, directors, and teachers (like Royal) who continue to inspire and mentor us.



2019 UNIT 126 CALENDAR

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
March	20	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
March	21-31	Thurs.-Sun.		ACBL Spring Nationals	Memphis, TN
March	26	Tues.	Evening	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
April					
				Charity Club Championship Games	
April	3	Wed.	Daytime	ACBL-wide Charity Game	Local Clubs
April	13-14	Sat.-Sun.		New England GNT	Sturbridge, MA
April	24-28	Wed.-Sun.		New England Senior Regional	Falmouth, MA
April	30-5	Tues.-Sun.		D24 Regional	Carle Place, NY
May					
				Grass Roots FUNd Games	
May	4	Sat.		Connecticut 199er Sectional	Stamford
May	22-27	Wed.-Mon.		District 24 Regional	New York, NY
June					
				North American Pairs	
June	3-9	Mon.-Sun.		STaC with North Jersey (U106)	Local clubs
June	7	Fri.	any time	Worldwide Bridge Contest #1	Local clubs
June	8	Sat.	any time	Worldwide Bridge Contest #2	Local clubs
June	10-16	Mon.-Sun.		District 3 Regional	Albany, NY
June	14-16	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Spring Sectional	Orange
June	16-23	Sun.-Sun.		ACBL Longest Day	Local Clubs
June	19-23	Wed.-Sun.		New England Summer Regional	Nashua, NH
June	24	Tues.	Evening	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
June	26	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
June	27	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July					
				North American Pairs	
July	1	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	8	Mon.	Daytime	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint	Local clubs
July	8-14	Mon.-Sun.		District 3 Regional	Fairfield, NJ
July	11	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	18-28			ACBL Summer Nationals	Las Vegas, NV
July	24	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	30	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
August					
				North American Pairs	
August	6	Tues.	Evening	ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game	Local Clubs
August	13	Tues.	Evening	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
August	16-18	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Summer Sectional	Stamford
August	20	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
August	26	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
Aug.-Sept.	28-2	Tues.-Mon.		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).

CT Spring 199er Sectional Tournament

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at The Seven No-Trump Bridge Club
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 1230 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT
TWO SESSIONS - Play One Session or Both: 10:00am & 2:00pm

Silver Points
Educational Handouts and Prizes
Educational Forum between Sessions

Free Lunch

PLAYERS WITH FEWER THAN 5 MASTERPOINTS PLAY FREE!!



Stratifications may be modified at Director's discretion as warranted by attendance. Strats based on average for the pair. No player over 200 MPs.

Info & Pairing: Renee Clift, (203) 543-6215, CT199er.info@gmail.com
Stratified Games: A 100-200 | B 50-100 | C 0-50

ENTRY FEE: \$13 per person per session | Students: \$10 per student per session
\$4.00 additional for unpaid ACBL members

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED-SEE ADJACENT ENTRY FORM

FROM THE MERRITT PARKWAY: Take Exit 35 which is High Ridge Road. Follow High Ridge Road south and turn left on Vine Road. Take Vine Road to Newfield Avenue and turn left. The church is on the left after about 1/4 mile.
FROM I-95: Take Exit 8. Go North on Elm. Elm becomes Grove Street. Grove Street becomes Strawberry Hill. Strawberry Hill becomes Newfield Avenue. The church is on the left.

Three ways to Register!

1. ONLINE www.7ntgames.com/199er-sign-up.html

2. EMAIL Send player information listed below to:
CT199er.info@gmail.com

3. Mail Send this completed form to: Renee Clift
1016 Whippoorwill Lane, Stratford, CT 06614



Player One

ACBL Number

Masterpoints

Email Address

Player Two

ACBL Number

Masterpoints

Email Address

Please Check One or Both Sessions:

Session One - 10:00am

Session Two - 2:00pm



Achievements

MILESTONES

LIFE MASTER¹

John Boettcher
 Nancy Calderbank
 Xenia Coulter
 David Foster
 Betty Kerber
 Carol Maxon
 David Muller
 B. Lynn Tavormina

**300 MPs for players who joined ACBL prior to 1/1/2010; 500 MPs for all others.*

BRONZE LIFE MASTER² (500 MP)

Elizabeth Grant
 Lou Filappetti
 Lenny Messman
 Trevor Reeves

***500 MPs for players who joined ACBL prior to 1/1/2010; 750 MPs for all others.*

SILVER LIFE MASTER (1,000 MP)

Alan Blake
 Rufus Cole
 Patricia Fliakos
 Jerry Hirsch

RUBY LIFE MASTER (1,500 MP)

Susan Fronaphel
 Peter Katz
 Gary Miyashiro

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2,500 MP)

William Titley

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3,500 MP)

Michael Hess

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5,000 MP)

Allan Wolf

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IN MEMORIAM

Evan Dean
 Cincy Hedrick
 David S. Rukszwis
 Eugene G. Schulz Jr.
 Arthur Waldmann

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 **APRIL 15, 2019**.

EDITOR:

Robin Sanders
 (203) 832-8707
 robin_sanders@verizon.net

You can see The Kibitzer in blazing color at the CT bridge site:
<http://www.ctbridge.org>

If you would like to receive The Kibitzer via e-mail, let us know. Email Robin Sanders at robin_sanders@verizon.net

Your CBA Board

Susan Rodricks	President	(203) 521-2075	srodricks@optonline.net
Frances Schneider	Vice President	(203) 542-0719	frances77@gmail.com
Debbie Noack	Secretary	(203) 727-3422	mainerinexile@comcast.net
Susan Seckinger	Treasurer		
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Joyce Stiefel	Board of Directors – At Large	(860) 563-0722	jamms14s@aol.com
Robin Sanders	Kibitzer Managing Editor	(203) 832-8707	Robin_Sanders@verizon.net
Merle Spiegel	Kibitzer Copy Editor		
Debbie Benner	List Manager	(203) 259-3665	dbfesa@optonline.net
David Metcalf	Tournament Director-in-Charge	(617) 332-3813	david@newtonbridge.com
Don Stiegler	Unit Coordinator		
	STaC Coordinator	(203) 929-6595	dwstiegler@comcast.net
Millie Fromm	Unit Recorder	(203) 259-6648	millstantx@aol.com
David Keller	Webmaster	(203) 375-2840	david.keller@janussystems.com
Kenneth Steele	Communications Director	(203) 271-3083	ksteele@cox.net
Paul Burnham	Disciplinary Chair	(203) 571-6301	purnham@gregoryandadams.com