

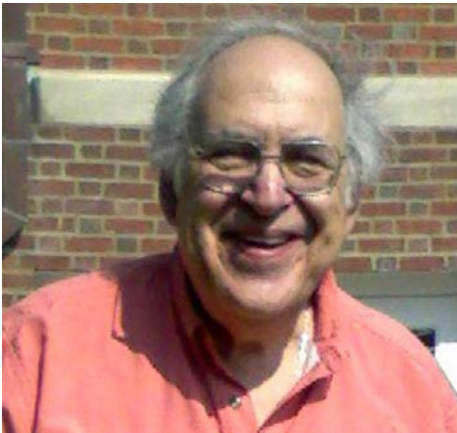


THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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Expert Technique

by Harold Feldheim

With the recent death of Omar Sharif, the world lost both a Hollywood personality and a world-class bridge player. While many people remember Sharif, the actor, those at the top tier of bridge also remember his bridge expertise. Although a fine tournament player (ex-captain of the U.A.R. bridge squad), his greater passion was high-stakes rubber bridge. Choosing a masterful hand from these games presents an embarrassment of riches: there are so many. This one is taken from a famous £1-a-point cash game in London.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: North/South
Contract: 6♥
Lead: ♣Q

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

Bidding:

1♥	Pass	1NT	2♣
2♠	5♣	5♥	Pass
6♥	All pass		

The bidding: I personally agree with South's reverse. Despite holding only 14 hcp, this is a 4-loser hand with two useful suits. Some purists may argue that facing a misfit, this show of power may get the NS pair too high, but my view is that any other choice would be "chicken" in the extreme. West, believing the auction, and fearing slam, made an unsound tactical preempt of 5♣. North could have taken a juicy profit, by doubling for at least +1100, but holding the two major-suit kings, a possibly useful diamond holding, and inferring partner's club void, she selected the less profitable and dangerous choice of 5♥. Part of the unforeseen danger was the follow-up.

In the face of partner's raise, Sharif's decision to bid the slam was aggressive, but quite reasonable. On the other hand, a pragmatic pass of 5♥ would leave us without a story. In any case, 6♥ became the final contract.

The play: Dummy was a disappointment. Omar expected perhaps a better hand and certainly more trumps. It looked like a certain loser in both red suits. Since it would take a miraculous lie of the cards to bring home this contract, Omar played for miracles.

After ruffing the opening club lead, he crossed to the ♥K and ruffed another club. He then led a spade to the king and ruffed a third club. Now he needed

a lucky break. After cashing the ace of spades, he led a low spade, ruffing in dummy. When the spades broke 3-3, he saw a glimmer of hope. After ruffing dummy's last club, he arrived at the following 5-card end position:

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

Fully in control, Omar cashed the trump ace, leaving West with the outstanding trump. He then began to play his remaining spades. When West ruffed with the master trump, he was forced to lead a diamond. Closing his eyes, Omar inserted the 10. When East couldn't produce the jack, the A-Q of diamonds were his 11th and 12th tricks.

Well done, Dr. Zhivago!





From the CBA President

I know that every single one of you who sits at a duplicate bridge table has a nicely filled out convention card. You picked one up before the game started to keep your own score. And you have another accurately completed on the convention side for you and your current partner.

Right?

Just so we're clear, a "convention card" is the form on which you record each contract played in the space next to the board number and your opponents' pair number. If you're on lead, of course, you record this information *after* you make your lead.

At the table, you carefully keep your convention card folded so the board results are hidden. Your opponents may not have played the boards you've already recorded. They should not see what you played nor the result. Not that anyone would deliberately look, of course, but you know what they say—a single peek is worth 1000 finesses—so that information is for your eyes only. Keep it that way.

What *is* available to opponents is the opposite side of the convention card, which has a lot of information printed in black, red, and blue. You and your partner have filled it out with the details of what you play. Opponents can look at this side of the card all they want. They can pick it up and really examine it. An ACBL rule requires that a filled-out convention card for every player be available on the table.

Categories on the convention card are well organized and cover almost all aspects of the game. Information that's printed in black on the card is considered to be "standard," and you're required to fill in the blanks. In the General Approach section, for example, "Two Over One" appears in black, and then that approach is broken down into more specific detail. Whether you play the two-over-one convention as game forcing or as game forcing except when the suit is rebid, you should check the appropriate box.

Under the heading "NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS," notice that you need to fill in the blanks to indicate your range (15–17, for example). Also note that the blanks for range are printed in blue, meaning that when your partner bids 1NT you must *announce* your range. Transfers are also in blue, so they must be announced as well, but "Smolen" and "Forcing Stayman" are in red. If an item is printed in red, it means the bid must be alerted.

For bids in red, the word "Alert" must be voiced by bidder's partner. If opponents, at their turn to bid, don't ask what it means, that's all that needs to be said. If opponents ask, partner must explain. Let's say you open 1♠ and partner bids 3♣, for example, and you say, "Alert." If an opponent asks, "What is that?," responding "Bergen" isn't enough; the details of the bid must be provided. You need to say, "It shows four or more spades and 7-9 high-card points," if that's what you and your partner play.

If partner forgets to alert a red-indicated bid, or to announce a blue-indicated bid, it's not appropriate for you to remind him during the bidding. Maybe he just

forgot to announce or alert it; maybe he forgot you're playing that convention. You cannot remind partner what you're doing. Once the bidding is over, if your side is declaring, you should say, "Failure to Alert," and explain what you mean—if opponents ask. If the failure to alert presents a problem regarding the course of the bidding or the contract, the director may need to get involved.

Finally, tucked into your bidding box, is a Stop card. You can use this card when making a jump bid—or not. Its purpose is to keep the bidding in tempo and not transmit information. A 10-second wait before responding isn't mandatory, but an opponent or partner who responds quickly or slowly after a jump bid can suggest information about the quality of his or her hand relative to the bid. When the Stop card is used, bidding cannot continue until the card is picked up, and then it's expected that the bidding will proceed in tempo. If you're going to use the Stop card, you must use it all the time for a jump bid, not just when you want partner to really pay attention to your bid!

So, take some time with your partner and fill out a convention card. Put partner's name at the top. You'll need different cards for different partners if you play some conventions with Jane, and different conventions with Jim. Keep those cards and use a blank convention card for scoring. Go over your card with partner before the game begins to make sure you're both on the same page.

Have a good game!

Esther Watstein
President, CBA

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2015

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 14 Monday Day | Unit-wide Championship,
Local clubs |
| 15 Tuesday Evening | Unit-wide Championship,
Local clubs |
| 21 Monday Morning | ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3,
Local clubs |
| 26-31 Friday-Wednesday | New York City Regional,
District 24 |

FEBRUARY 2016

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 10-15 Wednesday-Monday | Cromwell Regional |
|------------------------|-------------------|



The Only Chance

by Geoff Brod

Wednesday finds you once again at the morning duplicate game. Midway through the session, you pick up: ♠AQ54 ♥K2 ♦864 ♣A432. You start with 1♣. Partner responds 1♥, and you have a routine 1♠ rebid. Now partner trots out 2♦, which you alert as artificial and game forcing. Now you have something of a problem.

Since 2♦ is artificial, generally the expectation is that bidding NT at this point shows something that suggests you might be able to stop the suit—you know, an ace or king or, say, queen third. In a pinch, you might even bid NT here with Jxx. Since you lack anything that even begins to look like a stopper, probably the best action here is to take a preference with 2♥. Partner will tend to expect 3-card support for this action, but he should also be aware that since you've already shown two suits, you could be strapped for a rebid if you don't have anything in diamonds.

You elect, however, to forgo the false preference and bid an in-tempo 2NT. After all, if you bid it like you've got it, maybe everyone else will think so too. Partner now jumps to 4NT. The auction to this point has been:

You	RHO	Partner	LHO
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
?			

So what's going on? Partner's 4NT is not Blackwood; it's quantitative. He wants to know if you're minimum or maximum for the bidding to date. So far, all your actions have been consistent with that of a minimum opening bid, probably balanced. You could be as bad as a ratty 12 count. What to do?

Well, it's true you have a mere 13—just one point better than the minimum expectation. However, this is a very good 13, totally prime, which is important if you're considering slam. You also know that the ♥K is an excellent card and probably sits opposite a 5-card suit. You conclude the auction with 6NT.

Your LHO (who you know to be somewhat tricky) leads the ♦J and partner puts down:

♠ K J 9
♥ A Q 6 5 4
♦ A K 2
♣ Q 5

♠ A Q 5 4
♥ K 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 4 3 2

It appears the slam needs a 3-3 heart split. That would give you five hearts, four spades, two diamonds, and a club for 12 tricks. You decide on straightforward play and rattle off the top three hearts. The hand on your left follows twice, and then throws the ♦3 on the third round of the suit. That's disappointing. Unless a rare Chinese finesse of the ♣Q (not recommended) were to win, it looks like you're going to be down one. Matchpoint-wise, that might not be so bad. After all, you have 32 high-card points between the two hands, and 6NT probably will be bid at a number of other tables. If you simply give up a heart here, achieving down one, you'll probably score somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-30%. Is anything better in the offing?

Yes, there is. There's a chance—significantly less than 50%—that the hand that wins the fourth heart (RHO) might have to lead from the ♣K. At IMPs, it would be clear to play for this. Simply take all your spades, cash the other high diamond, and lead the fourth heart. In order for this to work, your RHO will have to hold fewer than five spades (likely) and no more than two diamonds (not likely). The problem with this line at matchpoints is that if RHO has more than two diamonds, he'll be able to cash them when he gets in with the fourth heart. That's a possible down two and will mean zero matchpoints instead of the 2, 3, or 4 (on a 12 top) you're likely to get just playing for down one.

You don't have to decide immediately. You can take your spades just to test the waters to see if anything interesting happens. On four rounds of spades, RHO follows twice, and then pitches a club. That's not very encouraging. It means he has seven cards in clubs and diamonds, and only if he holds five or six clubs and one or two diamonds will your plan work. And then, of course, he'll have to hold the ♣K as well. Not great odds. To play for the endplay may result in multiple undertricks.

There is a counter argument. Let's say that down one will get 25% of the matchpoints. If the endplay works, however, you're likely to achieve a top or near top. That's close to a 4:1 payoff. What to do? Finally, you decide you'd much rather go down fighting, cash the other high diamond, and exit a heart. RHO wins and puts a small club on the table (no diamonds apparently) and you run it to the queen in dummy, which wins.

It's not quite the cold top you hoped for, but you did score 10 matchpoints out of 12, for plus 1440. Down one would have been a 3.5. RHO's hand: ♠87 ♥10973 ♦107 ♣K10987.



How Reading Bridge Books Led to a Cold Top

by Burton Saxon



Twenty years ago, former ACBL Bulletin editor Brent Manley and his wife Donna published a short book of mine called *Go for the Gold*, which may have made me the weakest bridge player to ever publish a bridge book. Brent then asked me to send him a hand on which I had done something really well. He was confident it would be published in several newspaper bridge columns and, therefore, help promote the book. The problem was that I couldn't come up with a single hand on which I had done something really well. I sent Brent three hands on which my partner, Rita Brieger, had done something really well, but he didn't believe that would help sell *my* book.

In my book, I provided an annotated bibliography of outstanding bridge books. My admiration for Bergen, Kantar, Kelsey, Mollo, Stewart, and other prolific authors was clear, but I also cited great topical books, such as Larry Cohen's *To Bid or Not to Bid* and Harold Feldheim's *The Weak Two Bid in Bridge*. Now I'll show how what I learned from two other great bridge books helped Harold Miller and me get a cold top a few weeks ago.

Rick Townsend scores his Hamden game in halves, meaning if you do poorly on the first twelve boards, you immediately get a chance for redemption. Harold and I had finished in the subbasement the first half. Twice, we had doubled vulnerable bids by strong bidders and twice they had made their contracts. Ouch. In fact, we were only average in the second half when I picked up this hand:

♠ A Q x x x
♥ K x
♦ A x x
♣ K x x

My partner opened 1♥ and I responded 1♠. Harold bid 3♥ and my eyes lit up like a pinball machine. We needed a top to finish in the money in the second half of Rick's game. I knew we had lots of hearts to run and that 6♥ would be a popular contract. But look at my spades and clubs. I don't want East leading either suit in 6♥. But if West leads either suit against 6NT, I may get my twelfth trick on opening lead. Six no trump would be a cold top. Frankly, we should use a million cue bids to see if we can make 7♥, but I always mess up auctions like that. So I popped down the 6NT bid based on what I thought I remembered from Kit Woolsey's classic *Matchpoints*. If you need a top, you bid to get one. West led the ♦10 into this dummy:

♠ x
♥ A Q J 10 x x x
♦ Q x
♣ A J x

Before playing a card as declarer, analyze the opening lead. That ♦10 could be from a doubleton or the top of a sequence. But it could have come from K 10 9 8, which would give me twelve tricks (seven hearts, two diamonds, two clubs, and one spade). So I play the ♦Q with confidence and East plays the king. Uh-oh. Big trouble could be on the horizon.

The 6♥ bidders might have had an easier time. A club or diamond lead gives North the contract immediately. A spade lead gives him a guess. But since the probability is that a spade lead from West would not be from the king in a suit freely bid on leader's left, declarer should eschew the finesse and play to set up a long spade. This succeeds whenever either opponent holds no more than king-fourth of spades.

But in 6NT, if my spade finesse fails, my goose is not only cooked, it's burned to a crisp as diamonds are run down my throat.

So I decide to try to remember what I read in Mike Lawrence's classic *How to Read Your Opponent's Cards*. Well, that's not quite true. I'm not going to duck a diamond and try to find a squeeze. That probably is the best thing to do, but it's beyond my abilities. So down goes my ♦A. Now I'll just start running hearts and see what happens.

On the seven heart tricks, I play two hearts, three spades, and two diamonds. On the seventh heart, something interesting takes place. West starts acting nervous, hesitates for a while, and finally discards the ♦J. It appears that Wily West has made a deceptive lead. It also appears that West is holding Kx in spades and Qxx in clubs. The club finesse seems assured, but there's a better play, just in case West is hesitating for no reason. If the club finesse fails, and East has another diamond, I have nothing to say to West about the hesitation. So I play the ♣K, a club to the ace, and then the ♣J. West takes the ♣Q and I put down the ace and queen of spades and claim.

Finally, finally, after twenty years, I have a hand to send Brent Manley. But he's no longer the Bulletin editor and may have only the vaguest memory of ever publishing my book.





Does Listening to the Oponents Really Make a Difference?

by Brett Adler

This hand came up during a Sunday Swiss Team event at the Hartford Sectional in August; it was the first board played against a team I'd never met before. I really like this hand because I think a lot of interesting lessons can be learned from it. So follow along as I give you different auctions for the same hand.

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: None
Contract: 4♠ by South
Lead: ♦9

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

South
♠ A Q 9 6 5
♥ 4 2
♦ K Q 6
♣ 6 5 4

Auction possibility #1

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♠ ²	Pass	4♠

All pass

¹ 2♦: a convention called New Minor Forcing, in which you artificially bid an unbid minor to ask your partner to describe her hand further

² 3♠: shows 3-card spade support and a good hand in context. Depending on partnership agreement, North might show a 4-card heart suit if he has one, before showing 3-card spade support.

Auction possibility #2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠ ³	Pass	2NT ⁴
Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass	4♠

All pass

³ 2♠: shows a 3- or 4-card spade raise

⁴ 2NT: a Meckwell Inquiry, which asks the 2♠ bidder to describe her hand

further. Note that if the auction, with no interference, had been 1♣ - 1♥ - 2♥, then 2♠ would be the Meckwell Inquiry.

⁵ 3♦: Responses are in steps, so the first step shows a 3-card raise and a minimum hand, second step (3♦) shows a 3-card spade raise and a good hand (in context), third step shows a 4-card raise and a minimum hand, and fourth step shows a 4-card raise and a good hand.

So, having arrived in 4♠, you win the opening ♦9 lead in dummy and play a spade running it if East plays low. If both spade honors are onside, you don't lose any trump, and might make all the tricks by pitching your hearts on dummy's long clubs. If the honors are split, you'll probably lose one trump and two hearts. If both honors are offside, you'll probably lose two trump and two hearts.

Now I'd like to give you the actual auction:

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

So, now I'm playing 4♠, but I have the additional information from West that he has an opening hand. In high cards, I'm missing 15 points, but I also think of the opening lead and if West had a heart suit headed by the A♥ and K♥, he surely would have led one. Therefore, I deduce that East is likely to have the ♥K and West is likely to have the balance of the honors: East, at most, might have a missing jack.

Finessing in spades is, therefore, not going to work, so at trick two, I play the ♠A, hoping to drop a spade honor offside. Both opponents play small cards, so my only chance of making this contract is if the ♠J is with East, which means West opened a hand with only 11 high-card points.

To open the hand lightly, West must have some distribution, and the opening ♦9 lead looks like a singleton. Therefore,

I decide West has a distribution like 2-6-1-4, 3-6-1-3, 2-7-1-3, or 3-7-1-2. I cross to dummy with a club and hope that when I lead a spade, East has the jack so I can still make my contract. (At teams, the focus is more on making your contract than on making overtricks.)

When I lead a club, however, West ruffs with a small spade, so I'm down in my contract. I still have to lose one or two spades and two hearts.

Here's the full hand:

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

As soon as I saw that both missing spade honors are with East, I realized I could have made 11 tricks, but I've actually gone down. I turned to West and asked why he'd opened his hand when he only had seven points. "I had 15 points" he said. "No time to discuss this hand now, though, we've got more hands to play." I'm also wondering why East didn't bid 2♥ over partner's 2♣, but on to the next hand it is.

"15 points" was briefly a mystery to me, but then I realized he was counting seven high-card points, one point for a 5-card heart suit, two points for a 6-card diamond suit, and five points for a void in clubs.

For those new to bridge, when evaluating the strength of your hand, it's normal to count distributional points for length or shortage, but not both. Also, it's normal

Bidding Basics: Jacoby Transfers

by Karen Barrett



Even if you're new to duplicate bridge, you and your partner are probably using Jacoby Transfers over your NT opening bids. Using this convention, when partner opens 1NT and your right hand opponent passes, the bids of 2♦ or 2♥ show at least five cards in the suit *above* the one you've actually bid. If you bid 2♦ (showing hearts) your partner must bid 2♥, and if you bid 2♥ (showing spades), she must bid 2♠. The beauty of the transfer bid is that it allows the NT opener to be declarer if your side ends up playing the contract in your long major suit. This is advantageous for two reasons.

1. The strong hand is hidden from the opponents, making it harder for them to defend accurately.
2. The opening lead comes up to the strong hand and declarer will often gain a trick as a result.

When do you use a transfer?

You use a transfer whenever you have a five-card or longer major suit. There are *no* point-count requirements. If you have zero points or twenty points and at least five cards in a major suit, start with a transfer bid (unless you're 5-4 in the major suits, in which case, start with Stayman).

How do you respond to a transfer?

The first rule is that you *must* accept your partner's transfer. If he bids 2♦, you *must* bid hearts, and if he bids 2♥, you *must* bid spades. If you hold four trumps and are at the top of your NT range, you are permitted to jump to three of the transfer major. Remember, when you open the bidding with NT, your partner becomes captain of the ship because he knows so much more about your hand than you know about his.

What happens after your partner accepts the transfer?

This is often where the confusion sets in. On your second bid, you have to let partner know two things: What your point-count range is, and whether you have a 5-card – or longer – major suit. Here's how it works.

With only five cards in the major suit:

With a hand worth less than eight points, pass. No matter how weak your hand is, it will probably play better in two of your major than in 1NT, even if opener has only two cards in the major to go with your five.

With eight or nine points, bid 2NT. This is an invitational bid that gives partner lots of options. If he has only two of the major and a minimum NT opening, he should pass. If he has three cards in the major and a minimum NT opening, he should correct to three of the major. If

his NT opening is a maximum, he should bid the appropriate game (3NT, 4♥, or 4♠).

With ten or more points, you know you should be in game. After your partner accepts the transfer, jump to 3NT. Partner now has a choice of passing if he only has two cards in the major suit, or of bidding four of the major if he has three or more cards in the suit.

With six or more cards in the major suit:

With less than eight points, you should again pass. No matter how weak your hand is, partner will usually do better playing in a known 8-card fit than he would in NT.

With eight or nine points, you're in the invitational range. You know the partnership has at least an 8-card fit (partner is expected to have at least two of each major to open a NT bid.), so you can insist on the major-suit contract by raising the bid to three of the major. If partner is at the top of his point count, he can bid four.

With ten or more points, go right to game by jumping to four of your long major.



KAREN'S QUICK REVIEW OF: JACOBY TRANSFERS

Bids by Responder After Partner Opens 1NT

Step 1: On your first bid, show a 5-card major by bidding the suit *below* that major.

Step 2: On your second bid, show points and/or extra trump length:

- 0-7 points, pass
- 8-9 points and only five cards in the major, bid 2NT
- 8-9 points and six or more cards in the major, raise the major to the three level
- 10-14 points and only five cards in the major, bid 3NT
- 10-14 points and six or more cards in the major, raise the major to the four level

Karen Barrett is an ACBL accredited teacher and director. In addition to teaching private students and intermediate classes, she runs a Newplicate game and a 0-500 game in Darien, as well as a game in New Canaan.

Frank Merblum Becomes Grand Life Master

by Liz Shamroth

Recently, Frank Merblum, a long-time Hartford Bridge Club (HBC) member, achieved the rank of Grand Life Master while playing at the Summer Nationals in Chicago, Illinois. To become a GLM, a player must earn at least 10,000 ACBL masterpoints plus win at least one national bridge title. Merblum has been a national champion three times. Only five GLM's live in Connecticut; four of them are HBC members.

Bridge came into Merblum's life when he was quite young. Taught to play by his parents, he took to the game immediately and often played with his parents at the Jewish Community Center. Both his parents were bridge enthusiasts who also often played in tournaments. By the time Frank was ten years old, he was working as a "caddy" at those tournaments, carrying bridge boards from table to table.



By the time he was fourteen, Frank had a regular game with friends and played competitive duplicate bridge with his father. He became a bridge Life Master at age 19. He and his dad continued to partner until the early 1980s, at which point, he began his long and very successful partnership with Doug Doub, himself a GLM. Doub was his partner at the recent Chicago tourney as well as in

the three national championships that Merblum won. Merblum credits his dad, especially, as well as Doub, for helping him perfect the mechanics of bridge. He also notes that he has developed many life-long friendships through bridge, including his good friend, Simon Kantor, a frequent partner at the HBC.

Merblum stresses the value of a long and respectful partnering relationship. In his view, successful pairs must be a good fit temperamentally as well as "...kind to each other." It also helps if one partner is a bit stronger as a player, Merblum notes. As for improving their skill level, Merblum urges newer players to always try to compete against better players and to "focus, focus, focus." Bridge should be a fun game, Merblum says, and he's been having fun for 50 years.



Wanted: More School Bridge Clubs

If you know someone who will help recruit students to try out a school bridge club, please inform any board member of [New England Youth Bridge, Inc.](#) The recruiter could be a school faculty member or other school-connected individual who would personally reach out to students; a parent who will recruit not only their child, but also the friends of their child, and/or personally coordinate responses to a notice to parents from their school's Parent Teacher Organization; or a student who will recruit his or her friends to join. New England Youth Bridge (NEYB) will help the bridge club succeed for the recruited participants by supplying lesson plans and—if you do not want to teach the students yourself—by recruiting a bridge player to teach the lessons. Just contact a board member of NEYB (names are listed below) to talk about how to proceed.

NEYB is a tax-exempt charitable organization, which charges no fees for teaching youth to play bridge, and offers not only lesson plans, teaching tips, cards, boards, and bidding boxes, but also, as necessary, financial assistance to help the youth bridge club succeed.

NEYB board members are Jeff Lehman, Lisa Allison, Pam Miller, Adam Parrish, Jim Rasmussen, Adam Grossack, and Barbara Doyle.

RESULTS

CT SUMMER SECTIONAL

Hartford, CT

August 21-23, 2015

FRI AM OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			Tom Joyce, East Hartford CT; Joel Wolfe, West Hartford CT
2			Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA
3	1	1	W Miller, Savannah GA; Susan Glasspiegel, Simsbury CT
5	2	2	David Landsberg, Higganum CT; Felix Springer, West Hartford CT

FRI AM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			Linda Dale Mulholland, Sandy Hook CT; Rosemary Benedict, Oxford CT
2			Clifford Abraham, Vernon CT; J. Marx, Manchester CT
4	1	1	Michael Shore, Glastonbury CT; Mayank Mehta, S Glastonbury CT
6/7	2		Michael Hajosy, Somers Point NJ; Brenda Koblick, Norwich CT
	3	2	Elisabeth Barnicoat, Farmington CT; Carolyn Newell, Avon CT

FRI PM OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			Susan Seckinger, Wethersfield CT; Susan Rodricks, Milford CT
2	1	1	Edward Rosenfield, Boca Raton FL; Arthur Rosenfield, West Haven CT
7	2	2	Irene Rivers, Vernon CT; Eric Vogel, South Windsor CT

FRI PM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			Clifford Abraham, Vernon CT; J Marx, Manchester CT
2	1		Brenda Koblick, Norwich CT; Michael Hajosy, Somers Point NJ
5	2		Frank Pane - Marge Pane, South Windsor CT
6	3	1	Michael Shore - Dawn Muller, Glastonbury CT
	5	2	Edie Schatz, Bloomfield CT; Elsa Suisman, West Hartford CT

SAT AM AX PAIRS

A	X	Names	
1		Victor King, Hartford CT; Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	
2		Steve Becker, Old Greenwich CT; Larry Bausher, West Haven CT	
	3	1	Sarah Corning - Lee Herdle, Madison CT
6	2	Linda Starr - Gordon Kreh, West Hartford CT	

SAT AM B/C PAIRS

B	C	Names	
1		Howard Canan, Holden MA; Alice Weagle, Webster MA	
2		Chet Latin, Milford CT; Tim Jones, Overland Park KS	
4	1	Anthony Gardener, Niantic CT; Sarah Hart, Essex CT	
	5	2	Cherry McLaughlin, New London CT; Dale Rowett, Groton CT

SAT AM 299ER PAIRS

A	B	C	Names
1			Ross Huntington, Hampstead NH; Robert Huntington, New London CT
2	1		Lucy Lacava, Hamden CT; Linda Chaffkin, Woodbridge CT
4	2		Linda Dale Mulholland, Sandy Hook CT; Rosemary Benedict, Oxford CT
6	3	1	Mel Freling-Marsha Freling, West Hartford CT
	4	2	Dawn Muller-Michael Shore, Glastonbury CT

SAT PM A/X PAIRS

A	X	Names
1	1	Chet Latin, Milford CT; Thomas Gerchman, Avon CT
2	2	Janice Boyer-Andy Boyer, Longmeadow MA

SAT PM B/C PAIRS

B	C	Names
1		J Michael Carmiggelt, Simsbury CT; William Watson, Bloomfield CT
2	1	Maria Kawka-Marek Kawka, Bolton MA
4	2	W Miller, Savannah GA; Daniel Sullivan, West Hartford CT

SAT PM 299ER PAIRS

A	C	D	Names
1			Ross Huntington, Hampstead NH; Robert Huntington, New London CT
2	1		Edie Schatz, Bloomfield CT; Elsa Suisman, West Hartford CT
4	2		Barb Dare-Emily David, Quakertown PA
4	1		Allison Hellman-Michael Hellman, Woodbridge CT
5	2		Girin Munshi, Woodbridge CT; John Levy, Orange CT

SUN SWISS TEAMS

A	B	C	Names
1			Dave DuBois, Westfield NJ; Ruth Yeselson, Highland Park NJ; Charles McLain III, Boston MA; Peter Matthews, Wellesley MA
2			Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT; Douglas Doub, West Hartford CT; Simon Kantor, Feeding Hills MA; Victor King, Hartford CT
3	1		Robert Kuzma-Ruth Kuzma, Newington CT; Virginia Labbadia, Canton CT; Judith Pyka, Manchester CT
4	2		Susan Smith-Michael Smith, Newington CT; Robert Derrah-Shirley Derrah, Springfield MA
6	1		Harry Jancis-Maruta Jancis, Naugatuck CT; George Smedes-Sarah Smedes, Prospect CT
	2		Mark Throop-Eric Throop, Framingham MA; Vikram Srimurthy, Brookline MA; Neil Kreuzer, Brighton MA



Second District 25 Pro-Am Pairs Game Coming to Cromwell Regional



Come one...Come all...Join the fun!

District 25 will hold its second Pro-Am Pairs game at the Cromwell Regional on Saturday evening, February 13, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.. This D25 event was introduced at the New England Summer Regional in Nashua, New Hampshire, and proved to be a resounding success. Forty-two pairs—each composed of one Pro and one Am player—made up the 21-table event. The less experienced players had the chance to play with experts, both for a fun evening of bridge and to pick up some tips to improve their games, while the more experienced players had an opportunity to give back to bridge by helping newer players improve their expertise and by sharing their passion for this challenging, but most enjoyable, game.

Conditions of Contest

- All pairs must include an Am player. Each pair should consist of a Pro and an Am player, but two Am players may enter as a pair if they choose. Two Pro players may not play together. Partner requests from both Pro and Am players can be made at the partnership desk at least one day before the event to ensure pairing, or by contacting Ausra Geaski at ausrag@aol.com.
 - Pro = Life Master or a Non-Life Master with 500 or more MPs
 - Am = Non-Life Master with fewer than 500 MPs
- The event will be stratified by average. The masterpoints of both the Pro and Am players will be averaged to determine which strat they'll be scored in. An example is a Pro who has 2400 MPs and an Am who has 200 MPs. Their average is 1300 MPs and they'll be scored in strat C.
 - Strat A = Open
 - Strat B = 1500-3000 MPs
 - Strat C = 0-1500 MPs
- Pro and Am players will be seated in the same positions. Pro players will sit in the North and East seats. Am players will sit in the South and West seats. This ensures that Pro players will have the same cards at all tables and Am players will have the same cards at all tables.
- Two-for-One entry fee will apply. Cost per pair for this event is \$14.
- Winners get a free play. The winning pair in each strat will receive a free play for one session in a future D25 game.



Forty-two pairs participated in the first D25 Pro-Am event during the 2015 New England Summer Regional.

Start making your plans now to join us at this event at the Cromwell regional, which is hosted by our own Unit 126 – Connecticut Bridge Association (CBA). Bridge teachers, plan to bring your students. Novice and I/N players, this event is for you! Pro players, we need your support to make this event a success. Everyone spread the word. Don't miss this chance to be part of a great evening of bridge.

Hope to see you all at the Pro-Am game in Cromwell!



Branford Bridge Club

For many years, Dave Hyatt was director of the Branford Bridge Club. Dave retired as director on June 1 of this year, and, at the age of 79, left us permanently on September 5, 2015. Dave was not only a bridge club director (directing games in Madison as well as Branford); among his many accomplishments after graduating from Yale University, he found time to be a bridge teacher and a prep-school teacher, to run a counseling service, serve as a ski instructor in Colorado, and frame houses as a carpenter – quite a varied career. With all that, Dave also found time to play bridge in various clubs and tournaments. Everyone who played in a game Dave directed, knew he wanted to “save a tree” by reusing scoring slips until every line was filled. The Branford and Madison Bridge clubs—along with his friends, neighbors, and fellow bridge players—celebrated Dave’s life with a gathering at his residence in Branford on September 26, 2015.

Come Play Bridge

At **Come Play Bridge**, we might not be able to promise that you’ll always win, but we can promise we’ll do our best to make the game more fun. We are a new club and we’re all about serving up a better bridge experience, whether at the duplicate table or during a class. We serve Fairfield County, and host games on Mondays and Fridays in Westport and on Wednesdays in Greenwich, offering a variety of sanctioned Open, Stratified, and Limited games. For bridge newcomers and developing intermediates, we offer Learn & Play Supervised Bridge, as well as special-topic seminars given by renowned bridge professionals.

We’re growing and changing; so please check our website at <http://comeplaybridge.com> regularly for new game, class, and event schedules. For your convenience, you can also reserve a spot at the table for any of our games right on our website. To send suggestions, make inquiries, or to be added to our mailing list, please email us at info@comeplaybridge.com. We hope to see you soon!

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Summer Results TUESDAY

Leading pairs: Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz have already broken the record for best pair performance for an entire year. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller have a comfortable lead for second place, while Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners seem comfortably ahead for third.

Player of the Year: Jeff and Kevin are 1-2 in all three categories, with Jeff’s games with David Richheimer giving him the edge. Rita and Harold haven’t played apart and are tied for third, ahead of Jon Ingersoll, Gernot, Bill Reich, and Alan.

Van Dyke Cup Quarterfinalists: Jeff and Kevin are well ahead, with Jon, Harold, Rita, and Louise Wood in best position to take the other two finalist spots. Alan, Gernot, Erik Rosenthal, and Howard Cohen round out the field.

FRIDAY

Leading pairs: Harold Miller-Burt Saxon are trading the lead with Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker. Last year’s runners-up, Steve Grodzinsky-Hank Voegeli, could still win with another strong autumn, but are deadlocked for third with Breta Adams-Karlene Wood. Both of Tuesday’s top two pairs are also in the top ten on Fridays.

Player of the Year: Harold’s strong summer put him in front, ahead of Fredda Kelly, while an inconsistent summer knocked spring leader Jeffrey Blum out of the top ten. Rita Brieger and Burt and Norma Augenstein complete the top five.

Reynolds Cup Quarterfinalists: Harold has a comfortable lead over Burt, Rita, and Jim (although Erik finished 15th). Norma is still in fifth place, trying for her third consecutive win, while 2005 winner Carl Yohans could break the record for longest gap between wins. Fredda, Jeff Horowitz, Arthur Broadus, and Shirley Fruchter also remain.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY OVERALL

Overall Player of the Year: Jeff Horowitz, Kevin Hart, and Harold Miller were the top players of the summer, with Jeff leapfrogging Kevin for the overall lead. It should be a mathematical certainty that Jeff or Kevin will win by the end of October, by which time Rita Brieger and Harold should have clinched third and fourth. Fredda Kelly, Jon Ingersoll, or Gernot Reiners should finish fifth.

Year-to-Date Statistics

Small slam success rate: 63.31%
Grand slam success rate: 63.44%
Double success rate: 75.46%
Redouble success rate: 40.00%
Fredda Kelly is averaging 10.11 HCP/hand for the year.

Rita Brieger had a strong September to win the Slam Challenge.

Grand Slams: Of 58 grand slams bid and made, Breta Adams-Karlene Wood lead with seven, with Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker and Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz tied with five. George Levinson has five with different partners.

1100-Point Penalties: Kevin Hart, Jeff Horowitz, and Harold Miller each have four +1100s and one -1100. Rita Brieger is the only player with a 3-0 record on the plus side. Joyce Handleman is our leading sacrificer.

Passouts: Fredda Kelly has a big lead over Louise Wood, with Helen and Tracy Selmon tied for third. Fourth seat is scoring 59.04% for passing out.

The first Bermuda Bowl, the official World Championship of Bridge, was held in Hamilton, Bermuda, in 1950, and featured teams from the United States, Europe, and Great Britain. The United States’ team was victorious.

From the

Hartford Bridge Club

With great pride, the Hartford Bridge Club announces that it's about to enter its 85th year. This makes HBC the oldest North American bridge club in continuous existence. With a record 560 members, it's also among the largest clubs in New England by table count.

HBC hosts eight open games a week, one 0-750 game, one 0-499 game, one 0-299 game, and one supervised, non-sanctioned novice game. In recent years, HBC has developed a comprehensive schedule of lessons, providing skilled instruction to players spanning the spectrum from first-time bridge players to intermediate level players who want to improve their skill level. We expect our comprehensive schedule of lessons to continue in 2016.

Between games, HBC is a whirlwind of activity, but once play begins, it's a quiet oasis with a warm, welcoming atmosphere, friendly players, and skilled directors.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.hartfordbridgeclub.org>.

Fairfield County Bridge

There's a new game in Fairfield County! Café/Studio Ruche, 101 Old Ridgefield Rd. in Wilton, Connecticut, is the site of a Saturday morning duplicate game, which starts at 11:30 and provides a short break for lunch. Games will be held in the studio area of Café Ruche, a coffee bar/café serving breakfast and lunch. Specials are available for anyone who wants to purchase lunch from the café.

Café/Studio Ruche is located behind the gazebo in downtown Wilton, next door to CVS, near Wilton Pizza. Bring your own lunch or purchase something from the café. Chips, cookies, etc., will be provided. Hope to see you at the game!

Newtown Bridge Club

Fifty-two teams participated in the club's first team games on Oct 12-14. For a number of players, it was their first experience with team play; many were delighted to win their first gold points during the Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Team Games.

A Bridgemate automated scoring system was introduced in September to accompany the dealing equipment acquired in July. Now the results on the website show not only the hands, HCPs, makeable contracts, and results, but also the contracts bid and opening leads.

Newtown Bridge Club plays Monday through Wednesday at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Directions and information may be found at the club's website: <http://www.newtownbridge.org/>

Wee Burn

Our summer series ended on August 27, with the following winners:

1. Janet Soskin-Penny Glassmeyer
2. Kathie Rowland-Mary Ellen McGuire
3. Joan Hoben-Susan Mayo
4. Jean Thoma-Karen Barrett
5. Kris Freres-Gail Ord

On September 10, Wee Burn celebrated fifty years of sanctioned duplicate bridge. A cake and champagne party was held after the game. A special award was given to Betty McCoy, one of the original members of the club, who will turn 102 on November 2.

All games are now held at the main club.

West Hartford Bridge Club

The West Hartford Bridge Club recently welcomed a new member, Irene Frisch, who moved to Connecticut from New Jersey to be with her family. Irene survived the Holocaust as a child and has written many well-received books and articles about her childhood in Poland and her experiences during the Holocaust. According to Club director Stan Kerry, Irene loves the WHBC so much that she recently hosted a luncheon buffet for its members. The buffet, which was prepared by Margery Gussack, drew a large crowd, and Irene was presented with a bouquet of flowers to mark the event.



IN MEMORIAM

Connecticut residents as listed in the
ACBL Bridge Bulletin

Cynthia C. Glage, Westport, CT

Audrey Marks, Stratford, CT

Barbara W. Walters, Hamden, CT

In 1931, *The Culbertson Summary* and *Culbertson's Blue Book* topped all book sales for the year. The 2012 reprinting of Ely Culbertson's *Contract Bridge Blue Book* is available on Amazon, which calls it "without doubt, the most famous book on the Game of Contract Bridge ever written."

Listening to the Opponents *from page 5*

to only count shortage as an asset after you and partner have found a trump-suit fit. Having said this, who am I to give this person lessons when his action caused me to go down in a contract that was cold for an overtrick?

To finish the options on this hand, I'll give you one more potential auction, which is how I think it should go:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
1NT ⁶	Dbl ⁷	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All pass	

⁶ 1NT: North/South have bid two suits, so West can double to show the two unbid suits, but a double would generally show a hand that was almost good enough to

open. A good alternative is to bid 1NT, which also shows the two unbid suits and fewer high-card points with more distribution. This is called the sandwich NT and can't be confused as showing a strong hand since West passed as dealer.

⁷ Dbl: If West doubles, North can redouble; and if West bids 1NT, North can double. This is called a support double/redouble and shows specifically 3-card support for spades in the North hand. South can now invite game and, with a better than minimum hand, North can accept the invitation.

With this last auction, I'm not sure how I would have played the hand, but I couldn't have played it worse than I did.

Omar Sharif, who died on July 10, 2015 once said, "Many games provide fun, but bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but bridge prevents the rust from forming."



MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

<p>Gold Life Master (2500 MPs) Gail Carroll Bunny Kliman Susan Mayo Elizabeth Nagle</p>	<p>Silver Life Master (1000 MP's) Susan Fronapfel Ellen Greenfield</p>	<p>Life Master (300 MP's) Bruce Adler Susan Glasspeigel Kenneth Leopold Paula Pendergast Jan White</p>
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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 December 31, 2015.

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<http://www.ctbridge.org>

If you would like to receive The Kibitzer via e-mail, let us know. Email Linda Starr at lindastarr48@gmail.com

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