



THE KIBITZER

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CAN'T COST

The Battle of the Experts.

by John Steifel



In this deal from a recent Grand National Pairs event, South, a top expert, made a key “can’t cost” play to make his contract, despite the best efforts from West, another top expert.

NORTH (dummy)

♠ A K J 6 5

♥ K J 7 6

♦ K 8 3

♣ 10

SOUTH

♠ 10

♥ Q 8

♦ A Q 9 7 2

♣ A K 9 3 2

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: Both

West	North	East	South
P	1♠	P	2♦
P	3♥	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4NT ¹
P	5♥ ²	P	6NT

Lead: ♠9

¹ Roman Key Card

² 2 Key Cards without the queen

A few notes about the bidding. After North opened the bidding and jumped to 3♥ (natural), South eventually took control when North showed a fit in diamonds and bid the no-trump slam after North showed 2 key cards with diamonds as trump. It turned out that North had overbid. He should have contented himself with a simple 2♥ rebid. South had his work cut out for him.

Anyway, top expert West had a difficult hand to lead from:

♠ Q 9 8 4

♥ A 9 4 3

♦ J 10 6 4

♣ 6

A diamond lead seemed out of the question and a heart or club lead seemed like it might help declarer. So West decided on a spade lead. Rather than lead the standard fourth-best 4, however, West selected the deceptive ♠9 lead, suggesting “top of nothing.”

When he saw the dummy, South refrained from criticizing North’s bidding and concentrated on how he could make 6NT. His first step was to count his likely tricks —2 spades (without the finesse that West was suggesting would lose), 2 hearts, 5 diamonds (assuming normal breaks), and 2 clubs. Unfortunately, that only totaled 11 tricks.

Was there any hope for a twelfth trick? Well, yes! The spade queen could be on-side, despite West advertising that it wasn’t. In fact, playing low from dummy was his best mathematical chance to make the contract. (The other chance—for East to hold Q x of spades—was distinctly against the odds.) South decided to credit West with making a deceptive lead and he played low at trick one. He was delighted to see his ♠10 win the trick.

What’s Inside

Hopeless Hands 3

Brett Adler

Leading Unsupported Honors.. 4

Al Wolf

Mistakes Happen 5

Burt Saxon

Larry’s Little Tips 6

Larry Lau

The Director’s Corner 6

Joe Grill

Ask the Expert 7

Steve Becker

Club News 8

What’s New

Calendar 11

Reminiscences 2

Gareth Thomas

Achievements/Milestones . . . 10

In Memorium of

Barbara Shaw 10

Upcoming Events

Unit-Wide League Challenge

Sept. 2 - Nov. 30

Continued on page 2

Can't Cost

by John Stiefel

Continued from page 1

Now it seemed like South had 12 tricks. Next he led the ♥Q from his hand. West won with the ace and returned an unhelpful heart, North's ♥K winning. It was now a simple matter for South to cash North's ♠AK and ♥J before playing diamonds for what was likely to be 5 tricks and his contract.

Since you can see West's hand above, can you see a way for South to take the rest of the tricks and make his contract, despite the 4-1 diamond split?

After cashing dummy's major suit winners, South took care to make the "can't cost" play by cashing his ♣AK.

This was the position after South had played his ♣K to trick 8 and no one else had played yet:

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

What is West supposed to discard on this trick?!! South had executed a "triple squeeze"! (Dummy will discard the ♠6.) A diamond discard from West would set up 2 extra diamond tricks. A major suit discard, however, would be no better. For example, if West discarded a heart, South would play ♦A to trick 9, a diamond to dummy's

♦K at trick 10, and then lead the now-good heart to trick 11. West would be squeezed again, as whatever suit he discarded would set up the slam-going trick in that suit.

After the hand, a kibitzer asked South how he knew to play the ♣AK before playing diamonds. South's response was simple: "I knew it couldn't cost."



"TRUST ME JOHN! JUST BECAUSE YOUR BRIDGE PARTNER DUMPS YOU...DOESN'T MEAN I WILL!"

REMINISCENCES

by Gareth Thomas

I once lived in London, one of the advantages of which is ease of access to cultural events. One such event was a bridge tournament, to be held in the Berners Hotel, off Oxford Street, advertised in advance by Terence Reese in his bridge article in *The Observer* newspaper. Spectators were welcomed. Fifty-plus years ago, there was no such thing as security. You could simply walk around and watch anyone of your choosing. I confess I have long forgotten any of the hands. However, three images have stayed with me.

In the aftermath of the Buenos Aires cheating scandal, which spawned two books and an independent review chaired by a Supreme Court judge, Reese no longer played with his longtime partner Boris Shapiro. In the rest periods between sessions he sat alone, looking grim. I formed the opinion that he did not want company. More likely, in retrospect, no one dared approach him. He never did recover his former greatness.

The ladies of the bridge world were ably represented by Rixi Marcus, five-time world champion and the first woman to become a World Grand Master.

Omar Sharif played with Benito Garozzo, of the Italian Blue Team, the Squadra Azzurra. Sharif was as

impressive in real life as he was in the movies and he was an excellent bridge player. It was easy to see at which table he was playing. He was absolutely surrounded, and fawned over, by women, most of whom, I must say it, were matronly.

I guess the younger element on the distaff side had not discovered bridge quite yet.



Omar with his bevy of admirers



Omar and Benito Garozzo with their Kibitzers



HOPELESS HANDS?

Squeezes to the rescue.

by Brett Adler



In a recent team's match, at trick one I have no idea how to play the hand. This must be one of the ugliest contracts that I have ever made. By partnership agreement, we play a 14-17 HCP range for NT. Partner with 11 HCP raises to game.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: All

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

Me	West	North	East
1NT	2♦	3NT ¹	All Pass

Lead: ♦10

3NT¹ - Denying a diamond stopper and denying a 4-card major. Lebensol defense.

I have five top tricks with the top two diamonds and the top three clubs. I may have an extra club trick if the opponents' clubs break 3-3 and I can easily set up one trick in the heart suit. Somehow, I need to find two or three more tricks and I'll need help from the defenders.

On the ♦10 lead, East wins their singleton ♦J as I duck. East now switches to the ♠6 and I duck again, pleased to see the ♠A from West. So

now I have a trick in the spade suit.

West returns the ♠9 and I win the ♠K (To make this contract, I need West to have a doubleton spade).

I lead a low heart towards dummy's ♥K which wins (West plays the ♥10). Then I run the ♥8 to West's ♥J. West now plays back ♦Q and, as a spade would have hit the table if West had one, I am ready to claim the contract.

I force out the ♥A then cash my red suit winners. Poor East in the four-card ending needs to protect two suits by holding four clubs and one spade. In the end, they pitch their spade promoting my ♠8, so I make my contract via 2♠, 2♥, 2♦, and 3♣ for +600. At the other table, our teammates play 2♦ from the West seat for -100. So we have a good pickup.

For the second squeeze hand:

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: East-West

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

West	North	East	Me
Pass	Pass	1♠	3♣ ¹
All Pass			
Lead: ♠7			

3♣¹ - Very strong for a preempt, but partner is a passed hand. If East-West have a big red-suit fit, I'll make it harder for them to find it and I'm happy for East to rebid spades. I also have a reputation for aggressive bidding so occasionally I like to mix things up...

West leads ♠7 and East wins the ♠A. I play the ♠8 at trick one trying to muddy the waters for East as to my spade distribution. East switches to a low club, and on winning the ♣K, West plays his last spade: ♠5, ♠10, ♠J, ♠K. My ♣Q hits the table next, and East wins the ♣A, and gives West a spade ruff (so I've now lost all the tricks I can afford to lose).

West leads a low heart. So, I win the ♥A in hand and draw the last trump. I now play a heart to dummy's ♥K hoping to claim if hearts are 3-2. When they don't break, I ruff a heart back to hand and play out all my clubs creating a double squeeze:

		NORTH	
		♠ -	
		♥ 6	
		♦ A 10	
		♣ -	
WEST		EAST	
♠ -		♠ 6	
♥ Q		♥ -	
♦ K 8		♦ J 6	
♣ -		♣ -	
		SOUTH	
		♠ 4	
		♥ -	
		♦ Q	
		♣ 6	



BRIDGE AT THE LUNATIC FRINGE

Leading from an Unsupported Honor.

by Al Wolf



It is fairly commonplace to be on opening lead in a situation where no choice is obvious. You are drawn to the unbid suits, but perhaps have an unattractive holding in each of them, like 3 or 4 cards headed by a single unsupported honor.

Players sometimes make a passive lead, such as a trump, to avoid a difficult choice of which suit to attack. But this is often wrong. In the usual case, where an attacking lead is called for, it is better to make the attacking lead, even when the choice of which suit to attack seems arbitrary. Often there is some clue from the bidding—bids that were or **were not** made.

Trump leads generally should be reserved for cases where the bidding indicates that you want to cut down on declarer's ruffing ability.

In general, avoid leading an unsupported ace or, in a suit contract, leading away from an ace. Otherwise, other factors being equal, leading away from a king is better than leading away from a jack. Not surprisingly, leading away from a queen falls someplace in the middle.

Why is leading away from a king such a better choice than leading from a jack? The best way to answer this question is to consider how well the lead works out, depending on which of the top honors partner holds (if any).

When partner happens to hold none or one honor, the lead away from a jack very often costs a trick. The lead away from a king is much more likely to be acceptable. Even when it first seems to have been costly, that sometimes is not the case. The hand that follows illustrates these points.

Only when partner holds several honors is the lead away from the jack or king likely to work well, but this is a less probable holding.

NORTH

Professor Lobochevski

- ♠ A 2
- ♥ J T 7 5 2
- ♦ Q 8 4
- ♣ J T 4

WEST

Cecil Horne

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

EAST

Minna

- ♠ J T 9 8 3
- ♥ A 6
- ♦ K T 6
- ♣ A 7 5

SOUTH

Warren

- ♠ Q 5
- ♥ K 9 4
- ♦ J 7 5 2
- ♣ Q 9 6 3

The bidding:

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

¹ The 2NT bid is an inquiry looking to clarify the nature of partner's raise.

² 3♥ response showed a 4-card raise, but with minimum values.

Even with minimum values in both hands, the 9-card fit warranted carrying on to game.

Of the two red suits, Warren chose to lead hearts, and Minna put up the queen from dummy, which held the trick. It seemed at first that this was costly, since the defense was now deprived of taking a heart trick. However, this was illusory; had Warren made a different neutral lead,

declarer could take her ♥A and lead the ♥6 toward dummy's queen. If Warren goes up with the king, declarer has set up a discard of a club (or diamond) loser.

An initial opening diamond lead by Warren would have been costly. After the third hand high play of the ♦Q, it would set up a finesse against South's ♦J, allowing declarer to avoid a diamond loser. Thus, after a diamond lead, declarer should make five.

Against any other lead, she should be held to four.

Avoid leading a suit headed by an unsupported jack!!!



Hopeless Hands

by Brett Adler

Continued from page 3

When I play my last club, West holds onto his heart winner and pitches a diamond. Dummy can now pitch his heart and East is squeezed. When East pitches a diamond to hold onto the top spade, I take the last two diamond tricks to make my contract. Opponents congratulated me on a well-played hand and I even seemed to have impressed partner.

After the session we sat down with a few other players in the bar and this hand came up for discussion. "What squeeze?" someone said. "If you hadn't thrown your valuable ♠8 away at trick one, you could cover any spade that East led back and you would have had 3 natural spade tricks". "But that wouldn't have earned as many style points," I embarrassingly replied...



SELF-CRITICISM: THE BEST TYPE OF CRITICISM

Mistakes happen. Good partnerships weather flawed play.

by Burt Saxon



Recently my partner Steve and I played in a very nice qualifier game in Westport. We easily qualified for the next round of the Grand National Pairs, regardless of two major mistakes by me. The first was a mechanical error. I pulled the wrong card, allowing declarer to make a 3NT contract that should have been set. It's a mistake we've all made. Mistakes like that are actually forgivable.

The second error was a technical error and more serious. In second seat, vulnerable, I held this hand:

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

After dealer passed, I decided to bid three spades. This was passed out and I made five, since Steve held two aces and some other values.

Despite having only 10 high-card points and no aces, I did not remember the **Rule of 20**: Add your high-card points and the number of cards in your two longest suits. Open the bidding if the total is 20 or more, and the honors in the side suits are protected and working. If I had opened one spade, we would have reached game.

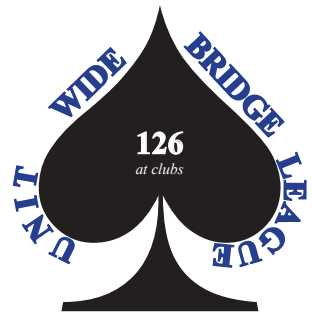
After that missed opportunity, fortunately later I did do a couple of things to help us out. At one point, we bid 6♠ and we were off two cashable aces. The contract did not look good to say the least, but I said “Thank you, partner” in an even tone of voice, took the opening lead with my ♦A in my hand and led a trump. East took her singleton ♠A and was looking at the eleven cards left in dummy:

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

East also held the ♥A, but she was fearful of playing it in case I was void. One cannot blame East for leading a club. Unfortunately for our opponents, I had K Q x of clubs and the opponents' club suit split three-two, allowing me to pitch both my losing hearts because East didn't have a spade to trump my third club and heart pitch. All I did on this hand was to give an opponent a chance to go wrong. I still get a credit here to offset my two demerits on the other hands.

Since Steve and I had a 60% game, it is obvious Steve made no major errors. He thought he made one error in judgment on an opening lead, but I thought his lead was fine.

After the game, Steve, great partner that he is, noted that we still would not have won if I had not made the two errors. This was a thoughtful comment on his part. It helps explain why we have played together since Jimmy Carter was President, and why we look forward to playing for as long as we can. We will always be, as one expert described us, “strong Flight B players”—but that is good enough for us.



UNIT-WIDE LEAGUE IS OFF AND RUNNING!

As we go to press, The Kippsters remain in the lead by a slim margin, but there is still lots to be determined as there are many pairings who have yet to play.

Seven weeks remain in the league season, which concludes on November 30th.

Best of luck to those playing in the Danbury Regional this week.

- Renee

Team	Running Score	Games Played
The Kippsters	62.90%	4
CKRS	62.34%	2
Team BEEM	61.96%	3
Tuesday Night Squad	58.63%	1
HGGM Winners	55.28%	2
Millie's Militia	52.72%	4
4 Gals	52.51%	3
Diamonds in the Ruff	52.15%	2
She-Unit	52.06%	2
8 No Trump	51.86%	4
The Four Aces	50.63%	4
The JAMS	49.88%	4
Wood, Connolly, Rethy, Piscitelli	49.35%	2
Coleman's Cougars	48.65%	3
The Kickbacks	47.69%	1
The JEMS	47.55%	6
Soskin, Hathaway, Suckow, Eddie	46.50%	3
Cheap Tricks	45.87%	5
Four Guys	45.75%	2



LARRY'S LITTLE TIPS

That makes a BIG difference.

by Larry Lau

Eddie Kantar, with two world championships and scores of popular 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

When holding three, four-card suits and a singleton club, open the bidding 1♦. If the singleton is a diamond, open 1♣. You need 12+ HCP to open with this distribution.

Example:

♠ A K 4 2 ♥ K J 8 4
♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ 7

Open the bidding 1♦

DEFENSE

When declarer ignores a strong suit in dummy lacking one honor, e.g., K Q J 10 4 or A Q J 10 6, assume declarer has the missing honor. If declarer doesn't, why isn't she setting up that suit? Wouldn't you?



DECLARER

When you are declaring in a suit contract and your left hand opponent leads the Q of an unbid suit, and your dummy has K X X (X) in that suit, **DUCK** the first two or three rounds if all you hold are small cards. The ace is marked on your right and if your right-hand opponent has shortness, the ace will pop up and your dummy's king is a winner.



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Rules You Thought Were Rules, But Aren't

by Joe Grill - Seven No-Trump Club

Before we get into this topic, I just want to remind everyone of what's written on the back of every convention card at the top. "When attention is called to an irregularity—CALL THE DIRECTOR." Stop what you're doing, take no further action and call the director. Trust me... we're probably not doing anything important anyway. We want you to call us.

Bad information is like a virus—it passes from person to person and it can spread surprisingly rapidly. One of the most frustrating situations is when a player cites a rule that is either wrong, outdated or pulled out of thin air. Here are a few examples that I have encountered.

In one breath. When calling from the dummy, the declarer clearly designates a card to play. They then immediately wish to change it because they realize

they made a mistake. They cite a rule that says you can change the call if it's done in one breath. As a director, how am I supposed to measure breath anyway? What they don't realize is that this rule was changed a LONG time ago... over 50 years ago. What's the correct rule? The declarer may correct an unintended play, for example, due to a slip of the tongue. A legal, properly designated, intended play from dummy stands, however.

The Declarer can do whatever he or she wants. What nonsense! The Declarer cannot do anything declarer wants! This misinformation comes from the rules regarding penalty cards. The declarer never has a penalty card. Let's suppose the lead is in the dummy and the declarer plays from his hand instead. He can just pick the card back up, right? WRONG. A lead from the wrong side may be accepted by either defender! Should the defenders

not accept the lead, the card is then returned to the declarer's hand as the declarer never has a penalty card.

The Dummy Can't Revoke. Is the dummy imbued with superhuman powers that make him immune from revokes? No, of course not. A long time ago the rules stated that all players were responsible for the dummy. Today, the rules say that the dummy is responsible for the dummy! Suppose the dummy has a spade mixed in with his clubs. He ends up revoking because he did not follow to a spade. This is an established revoke. However, when the dummy revokes there is no automatic trick adjustment. Instead the director shall restore equity. Sometimes this means a trick (or more) and sometimes this means no adjustment if there was no damage to the non-offending side.



ASK THE EXPERT

Steve, when partner makes a bid, what is your thought process?

by Steve Becker

Whenever your partner makes a bid, you naturally ask yourself what that bid means. In many cases, there is a clear-cut answer, but in some situations the bid could have more than one interpretation.

What experts do when this happens is to ask themselves what alternative bid or bids partner could have made, either now or earlier in the auction. In other words, you ask yourself what partner **didn't** bid rather than what he did bid.

In the following five cases, the question is what kind of hand do you think partner has for the last bid shown? Be sure to take all the bids he has made into account.

1. Partner Oppon. You Oppon.
 Pass Pass Pass 1♥
 1NT (?)
2. Partner Oppon. You Oppon.
 Pass 1♦ Dbl Pass
 2♦ (?)
3. You Partner
 1NT 2♥ (transfer)
 2♠ 3♥ (?)
4. Partner Oppon. You
 1♠ 2♣ 3♠
5. Partner You
 1♣ 1♥
 3NT (?)

1. A 1NT overcall of an opening bid indicates a hand of opening notrump strength with a stopper in the opponent's suit. **But**

partner passed initially and so cannot have anything like that hand. Therefore, the only valid conclusion is that partner's bid is an "unusual" notrump, showing at least five cards in each minor.

2. Partner's cuebid of the opener's suit indicates a good hand with more than one suit to bid in response to the takeout double. A typical example would be a 9- to 12-point hand with two four-card majors, such as:

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

where he would rather have you choose the suit than guess which suit to bid. He plans to invite you to game in that suit after you respond.

3. Assuming you play Jacoby Transfers and you have no special agreement to cover this sequence, partner should have at least 5-5 in the majors and enough to force to game. **He cannot have five spades and four hearts, with which he would have used Stayman initially,** planning to bid two (or three) spades next if you answered the two club Stayman inquiry with two diamonds.

4. The question here is whether partner is inviting you to go to game, or whether he has no interest in game but just doesn't want to let the opponents play in three clubs (you can't have it both ways). The

answer is that experienced players would treat the three-spade bid as merely competitive and would bid a new suit—possibly even a three-card suit—to indicate interest in game.

5. If your answer here is that partner has a balanced 20-21 point hand, the question you should ask yourself is why he didn't open 2NT at his first turn. And if you say maybe he has 18 or 19 points, then why didn't he make the normal rebid of 2NT instead of 3NT?

The answer is that partner has an unbalanced hand with a long, solid or near-solid club suit and about 19-21 points—a hand too strong to rebid three clubs, which you could pass. This is the only logical explanation for the leap to 3NT after not having opened 2NT initially. It makes perfect sense when you think about it.



OUT OF HAND BY BILL BUTLER



"Our bridge teacher says you're to make the opening lead face down!"

COME PLAY BRIDGE OF WESTPORT AND DARIEN

Our emphasis this summer in Westport has been shepherding new players from our beginning classes into our novice duplicate games and supervised play sessions. Our “ducklings” are taking to the water enthusiastically in our **NEW Chat Bridge 0-20 MP** game on Mondays from 4:30-6:30 PM and our **NEW Novice Supervised Play** on Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 PM. By popular demand, our **Advancing Supervised Play**, Tuesdays 10:00-12:00, is adding **First and Third Tuesday** 2-hour lesson and play sessions concentrating on core bridge conventions.

Our summer OPEN game top masterpoint winners were:

- 1.Linda Green 2.Millie Fromm
- 3.Janice Dean 4.Rob Rising
- 5.Nancy Robertson 6.Tom Hey
- 7.Larry Lau 8.Allen Siegel
9. Chuck Stabinsky 10.Tom Hunter

Our summer Monday evening LIMITED game top masterpoint winners were:

- 1.Kelly Sherry 2. Andrew Coleman
- 3.Sue Schultz 4. Carla Sharpe
- 5.Woody Bliss 6.Harris Usdan
- 7.Laura Twersky 8.Howard Twersky
- 9.Jacquelyn Fuchs
- 10.Sherrill Werblood

Friday morning LIMITED game honors go to:

- 1/2 Donna Krystal and Jilda Manikas
- 3.Lynn Berry 4.John Tucci
- 5/6 Virginia Bertram and Susan Greenberg
- 7.Ron Moore
- 8/9 Betty Salzer and Pat Kimball
- 10.Sue Eleoff

In Darien, we were fortunate to “summer” again on Wednesdays at the lovely Woodway Country Club. We have now moved back to our

fall/winter/spring home at The First Congregational Church of Darien at 14 Brookside Road. Game time on Wednesdays is 12:45.

Top masterpoint winners at Woodway this summer were:

- 1.Karen Barrett 2.Millie Fromm
- 3.Susan Mayo 4.Bill Seldon
- 5.Betty Hodgman 6.Garson Heller
- 7.Janet Soskin 8.Tom Hunter
- 9.Arjun Chaudhuri 10.Allen Bomes

For a full teaching and game schedule at Come Play Bridge, please visit: www.comeplaybridge.com or call 203.832.8707.

HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB

September was “Back to School Month” at Hartford Bridge Club and, in keeping with that theme, the club introduced a number of exciting new educationally-based events and programs.

• September saw the premier of HBC’s **Hand of the Week**. Each week, the club’s website features one of our in-house experts analyzing a particularly interesting or challenging hand from a recent game. Contributors include Geof Brod, Doug Doub, Tom Joyce, Victor King, Frank Merblum, Mike and Susan Smith, and Jay Stiefel.

• On Sunday, September 8, an **Eight is Enough** Swiss Team charity event drew 20 teams eager to celebrate the contributions of HBC teachers and volunteers in the club’s mentor program.

• On Saturday, September 21, the club hosted its first **Learn Bridge in a Day**® event, a nationally acclaimed program designed to introduce the game of duplicate bridge to new or returning players. Seventy-two enthusiastic newbies attended the 5-hour session and many signed up for

follow-up lessons at the club.

In addition to these special September events, HBC offers a number of education opportunities periodically throughout the year. Available lesson series include

- **Basic Bridge I:** A series of 6-7 weekly lessons geared to new or returning duplicate players.
- **Basic Bridge II – Advancing Your Game:** A series of seven weekly lessons designed to advance the play of emerging players.
- **The Fundamentals of Declarer Play:** A six-week series for advanced beginner to intermediate players taught by Grand Life Master, Doug Doub.

For more information about these and other HBC educational opportunities and special events, please visit our website or call the club at 860-953-3177.



Each table of 5 at Hartford’s Learn Bridge in a Day event included four new players and one HBC “table helper.”



LAKEBRIDGE

LakeBridge will close for the winter season at the end of October.

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Newtown Bridge Club's Larry Cohen seminars on September 15 and 16, were sold out! Larry's clear and succinct lessons were wonderfully presented in a congenial atmosphere with 100 enthusiastic participants each day. Players also enjoyed delicious catered lunches as they learned about *Declarer Play, Combining Chances, Defense, and Danger or Safe Hand.*

The week of October 7 - 10 was "Team Week" at Newtown Bridge Club, where 5% of the earned points were gold. These games allowed our players to practice their team skills prior to the Danbury tournament (we are closed that week, reopening on Monday 10/21). Fifty teams participated, including 12 teams of players with less than 100 points; 47 teams earned gold, some players for the first time!

Newtown Bridge Club strives to be a welcoming environment for all players. We have Open and Limited games on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 pm and Wednesday at 10:00 am. Our Limited games include 99er games on Monday and Thursday, and 299er games on Tuesday and Wednesday. We also have a Tuesday evening Open game at 7:00 pm. Since we guarantee partners on Tuesday and Wednesday, players arriving without partners have been able to enjoy those games.

We offer multiple growth opportunities for our beginner and intermediate players. *Backstage Banter* with a bridge lesson at noon precedes the

99er Thursday game. On Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, *Bridge Studio* includes a 30-minute lesson presented by a director, followed by social bridge play with the director available to answer bidding and play questions. *Chat Bridge* on Wednesdays is for players who have less than 20 points, with a lesson at 2:10 and a two-hour game at 2:30 where notes can be used and questions can be asked. Many of our members with less than 200 points have benefited from being mentored by more experienced players in our popular mentor program.

New at our club is *Tuesday Topics*, presented by Susan Fronapfel, on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. In October and November, *Tuesday Topics*, which consists of a 40-minute lesson with hands to illustrate the new learning, will focus on defense: opening leads, second and third hand play, signals and defensive strategies. Please join us on Tuesdays for these informative lessons and then play in either our Open or 299er game at 12:30 pm.

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

E-mail: Joseph.Grill@7ntgames.com

Mobile: 979-218-7428

TOKENEKE CLUB

The winners of the Tokeneke Club summer series were:

1. Jean Thoma and Susan Mayo
2. Stacey Weiss and Christina Hare
3. Mary Ellen MacGuire and Barbara Johnson
4. Doug Thompson and Betty Hodgman

WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Bridge at the Beach Club is over for this summer and the game is now back at the Main Club...with a 12:45 starting time.

Winners of the Summer Series were:

1. Jean Thoma and Karen Barrett
2. Kathie Rowland and Mary Ellen McGuire
3. Janet Soskin and Susan Mayo
4. Mary Richardson and Betty Hodgman
5. Marilyn Tjader and Barbara Johnson
6. Lynn Reilly and Joan Bergen

A one-day session with Larry Cohen was enjoyed by all who attended.

Achievements

MILESTONES

LIFE MASTER¹

Lori Black
 Allen Bomes
 Linda Bradford
 Martha Cokin
 Kethleen Colket
 Haroula Dobyns
 Alan Milstone
 Lynn Reilly
 Kenneth Steele
 Tina Yablonski

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

BRONZE LIFE MASTER² (500 MP)

Woody Bliss
 John Calderbank
 Phoebe Edwards
 Joyce Handleman
 Janet McClutchy
 Mary Beth Murphy

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

SILVER LIFE MASTER (1,000 MP)

Marvin Lerman
 Pat Brasher
 Eugene Coppa
 A. Wright Elliott
 Trevor Reeves

RUBY LIFE MASTER (1,500 MP)

Martha Hathaway
 Burke Snowdon

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2,500 MP)

Jatin Metha

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3,500 MP)

Jay Force
 Elliot Ranard
 Sharon Santow

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5,000 MP)

Linda Ottness

EMERALD LIFE MASTER (7,500 MP)

Edwin Lewis III
 Allan Rothenberg

.....

IN MEMORIUM

Anthony Carella
 Margaret M. Donahue
 Larry Levy
 Anita Pol

IN MEMORIUM OF BARBARA L. SHAW BRIDGE DIRECTOR, TEACHER AND PLAYER

Barbara Shaw passed away on September 17, 2019 at Apple Rehabilitation in Mystic, CT. A longtime resident of Stonington, she started her bridge career in the 1970s and taught and played with many of today's active players in Southeastern Connecticut. She directed two weekly games. At one time, Barb and Charlotte Brody had a bridge studio in East Lyme. She served as Unit 126 CT Tournament Manager: researching sites, moving tables and chairs in her van all over Connecticut for five annual tournaments. Plus, she oversaw food ordering, distribution and clean-up for our sectionals. Further, Barb chaired the hospitality for the Boston Nationals as well as working diligently at the Cromwell Regional for many years. In 2004, Unit 126 introduced the Barb Shaw Trophy to honor her. The trophy is presented to the "C" player who accumulates the most masterpoints at the annual winter sectional.

As Jane Smith, a frequent partner, said, "Remember the eye-catching, colorful posters and flyers? She was so artistic."

Mary LeClair, a neighbor and Barbara's student, said, "She was a terrific teacher and director, but more than that, she was a wonderful human being. She was devoted to Connecticut bridge players. Barb put her heart and soul into insuring that her players (yes, that is how she thought of all of us) were having an enjoyable experience."



2019 UNIT 126 CALENDAR

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
October				Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games	
October	4	Fri.	Afternoon	ACBL Senior Pairs	Local Clubs
October	14-20	Mon.-Sun.		D3 Regional	Danbury
October	25-27	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Fall Sectional	Wethersfield
October	31	Wed.	Afternoon	ACBL Instant Match Point	Local Clubs
November	4	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	5	Tues.	Evening	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	6-10	Wed.-Sun.		District 25 Harvest Regional	Mansfield, MA
November	11-17	Mon.-Sun.		STaC with North Jersey (U106)	Local Clubs
November	21	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	26	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
Nov.-Dec.	28-8	Thurs.-Sun.		ACBL Fall Nationals	San Francisco, CA
December	6	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	9	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	11	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	16	Mon.	Afternoon	ACBL International Fund Game	Local Clubs
December	17	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	26-30	Thurs.-Mon.		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).

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 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 email, let us know. Email Robin Sanders at robin_sanders@verizon.net

Your CBA Board

Frances Schneider	President	(203) 542-0719	frances77@gmail.com
Patricia Hartman	Vice President	(203) 378-8269	patriciahartman@att.net
Debbie Noack	Secretary	(203) 727-3422	mainerinexile@comcast.net
Susan Seckinger	Treasurer	(860) 513-1127	seseck@sbcglobal.net
Susan Rodricks	Past President	(203) 521-2075	srodricks@optonline.net
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Robert Huntington	Board of Directors – At Large	(860) 326-8602	huntingtonra@cdm.com
Esther Watstein	Board of Directors – At Large	(203) 375-5489	ewatstein@optonline.net
Robin Sanders	Kibitzer Managing Editor	(203) 832-8707	Robin_Sanders@verizon.net
Merle Spiegel	Kibitzer Copy Editor	(203) 832-8707	Robin_Sanders@verizon.net
Cornelia Guest	Tournament Coordinator	(914) 772-6535	CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com
David Metcalf	Tournament Director-in-Charge	(617) 332-3813	david@newtonbridge.com
Don Stiegler	Unit Coordinator	(203) 929-6595	dwstiegler@comcast.net
Millie Fromm	Unit Recorder	(203) 259-6648	millstantx@aol.com
Paul Burnham	Disciplinary Chair	(203) 571-6301	pburnham@gregoryandadams.com
Debbie Benner	List Manager	(203) 259-3665	dlbfsa@optonline.net

