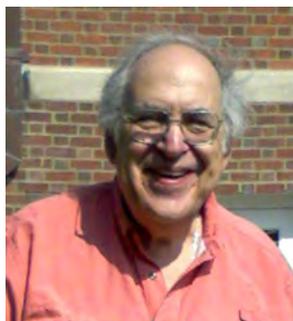


THE KIBITZER February 2011

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Devil's Coup

by Harold Feldheim

In the long list of advanced play techniques, there is nothing more compelling than a wondrous line of play called the *devil's coup*. According to legend, the devil was declarer in what appeared to be a doomed small slam in spades. West tried to cash two rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing the second round. An overly active kibitzer told East-West not to worry; it didn't matter since the devil was saddled with an unavoidable trump loser and thus, the contract must fail. Always quick to seize an opportunity, the devil staked immense riches against the kibitzer's soul that, appearances to the contrary, six spades was a perfectly good contract and that he'd take the required 12 tricks. The kibitzer was suspicious.

"Are you guaranteeing that East-West will not supply you with, shall we say, a cooperative defense?" asked the kibitzer.

"Perish the thought," replied the devil. "Surely you don't think I'd sully the game by doing something as unethical as cheating."

After looking at all four hands, the kibitzer decided that it was a sure thing and took the bet. Here is how his infernal majesty managed to both fulfill his contract and snare the poor kibitzer's soul.

♠ K 10 7
♥ J 5 4 2
♦ A 6
♣ K 9 6 4

♠ Q 6 5
♥ A K 7 3
♦ J 9 3
♣ J 10 7

♠ J 8
♥ Q 9 8 6
♦ Q 8 7 2
♣ 5 3 2

♠ A 9 4 3 2
♥ 10
♦ K 10 5 4
♣ A Q 8

After ruffing the second heart, it was obvious that, with minor variants, there was one and one only lie of the cards that would allow the devil to fulfill his contract. After cashing three rounds of clubs ending in the dummy, a small heart was ruffed in hand.

He then led the ♦A, the ♦K and followed by ruffing a diamond in the dummy

At trick 10, the devil played the last heart, (the jack), from the dummy and ruffed in hand, arriving at trick 11 with the lead in the South hand.

♠ K 10
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ 9

♠ Q 6 5
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ ---

♠ J 8
♥ ---
♦ Q
♣ ---

♠ A 9
♥ ---
♦ 10
♣ ---

On a lead of the last diamond, the East-West defenders are helpless. If West trumps with a small card, dummy overruffs with the ten, winning the last two tricks with the ace-king of trumps. And, of course, if West ruffs with the queen, the devil overruffs with the king and finesses East out of his helpless jack.

As the devil triumphantly placed the kibitzer's soul into a small canvas bag, he pointed out some obvious truths.

1. Kibitzers should learn not to talk at the table.
2. Even if you're pretty sure of yourself, do not bet with the devil.
3. Bridge is a devilishly tricky game.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Rich DeMartino who has added the 2010 Jeff Feldman Memorial trophy (most masterpoints won at the Jeff Feldman Sectional in December) and the 2010 Monroe Magnus Trophy (most masterpoints won at Connecticut Sectionals in 2010) to his list of accomplishments in 2010. All of this occurred while he was serving as ACBL President!



Can't Cost – Chapter 26

by John Stiefel

In this deal from a recent National Swiss Team event, South, West and East all missed opportunities to make a “can’t cost” play. Only North, the dummy, didn’t make any mistakes in the play or defense!

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: North/South

NORTH

♠ A 2
♥ A K 10 3 2
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ J 9

SOUTH

♠ 6 5
♥ Q 7
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ K 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
2♠	Dbf	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dbf	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠J (standard leads)

Before reading further, consider how you would play 5♦. East-West have an agreement that a 2♠ opening usually shows six but can be made on five when not vulnerable. You win dummy’s ♠A at trick 1 and then lead a heart to your queen at trick 2, West playing the six and East the nine.

In the actual hand, South, a worldclass player, took the diamond finesse at trick 3, dummy’s queen losing to East’s king. East now cashed the ♣A and continued the suit when West played the eight (standard carding). South was happy to win his king and when diamonds turned out to be 2-2 with West having the jack, South had 11 tricks. He discarded his spade loser on dummy’s ♥K (after cashing the ace) and ruffed his two remaining club losers in the dummy. (He could just as well have discarded them on the 4th and 5th rounds of hearts.). The entire deal was:

NORTH

♠ A 2
♥ A K 10 4 3
♦ A Q 10 9
♣ J 5

WEST

♠ K J 10 4 3
♥ 8 6 5
♦ J 3
♣ Q 9 8

EAST

♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ J 9 2
♦ K 2
♣ A 10 7 6

SOUTH

♠ 6 5
♥ Q 7
♦ 8 7 6 5 4
♣ K 4 3 2

This hand contains no less than four illustrations of the “can’t cost” principle. First, East and West both did well to false card in hearts at trick 2 (each showing an even number of cards in the suit). These “can’t cost” plays perhaps talked South out of playing three rounds of hearts to discard his spade loser. (Even worldclass players sometimes go wrong!)

Second, declarer should have nonetheless played three rounds of hearts at tricks 2-4. If someone had ruffed the 3rd round, South still would have been able to make his contract if the layout he played for was actually happening; i.e., if West had the ♦K and East had the ♣A. (True, hearts could have been 5-1, but that’s very much against the odds.)

Third, East missed a simple inference that leading the ♠Q to trick 4 was a “can’t cost” play. A count of the hand shows why. South is most likely to have only a five-card diamond suit? Why? Because if South had started with six diamonds to the jack, he would certainly have led the jack to trick 3 in order to be able repeat the diamond finesse if West started with Kxx. (He has no quick entry back to his hand.) So, it makes sense for East to assume that West has the ♦J and therefore that South only has five diamonds. But if South is able to ruff the ♠Q, he must have started with

one spade in addition to his presumed 5 diamonds. In that event, he’ll have seven remaining cards between hearts and clubs. Then, after five rounds of hearts are played, he’ll still have two clubs left in his hand. (For example, if South started with three hearts and four clubs, he’ll be able to pitch two clubs on hearts but will still have two left.) So, there is no hurry for the defense to cash the ♣AK if those tricks are available. On the other hand, there *is* a hurry to cash a spade trick if that is available because it will clearly disappear on dummy’s hearts.

Fourth, it should have been clear to West that East was uncertain as to whether the defense had a spade trick or needed two club tricks to set the hand. Well, West knew three things: There was no second club trick (as East would have led the king from A-K); He only had 5 spades so a second spade was likely to be cashing; East was very likely to go wrong by reading West’s eight of clubs as encouraging. So, how best to stop East from playing a second round of clubs? Play the ♣Q at trick 4! However East might interpret the queen, one thing is sure: it denies the king. Is there a danger that West might play East for a singleton queen and try to give him a ruff? No. That would give declarer six clubs to start with and he would have bid that suit in response to North’s second takeout double. So, West didn’t pay heed to an old axiom that I like to quote; i.e. if you give your partner a chance to go wrong, sometimes he does!





Two Large Swings

by Brett Adler

How do you bid a hand with two long suits? Put one suit in your left hand, one in your right hand, and hope partner gets the message? In a recent team event in Rye, I looked at my cards for the very first hand of the day and there was a sea of red. I was dealer and held:

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

Sure I didn't have a lot of High-card points or a lot of defensive tricks, but it looked like a great hand if hearts or diamonds were trumps. I didn't want to preempt and miss finding the best fit with partner if one existed, so I started with a simple 1♦ overbid for my opening. The auction proceeded:

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

South	West	North	East
1♦	3♣	3♠	4♣
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

West's 3♣ jump overall was weak but the interesting action at the table was East's. Table presence can be extremely important and East took a long time to bid over North's 3♠. Although he could have been deciding whether to raise clubs to the four or five level, I was convinced that he had a good spade holding. I'd already overbid the hand by opening 1♦, so why not keep up the charade and at least show my second suit so I reversed into 4♥. After partner rebid his spades, East again had a long hesitation before he passed, confirming in my mind that partner didn't have a hand that would play better in spades than my hand would with a red suit as trumps. I now rebid my diamonds to show extreme distribution and partner "corrected" to hearts so I only had to make 11 tricks.

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

A club lead gives you the most trouble but with careful play you score up +450. Ruff a club, play a diamond to the queen, play a high trump losing to the king, ruff East's club return, and ruff a diamond high in dummy before playing your last trump from North's hand. I was now able to claim telling West that I would ruff any card he played and pull his last trump (after the diamond ruff all my diamonds were winners). I felt this was a good line as I was going down only if hearts were AKxx, or AKx and diamonds weren't breaking, but I decided the probability of this was remote as there had been no double.

I am not sure of the auction at the other table but our teammates were declaring 5♣ doubled. North led his singleton ♦Q, and then cashed the ♠A. Clearly they can cash the ♠K and beat the contract, but North wanted to get to South's hand to cash any diamond winners and beat the contract or so they thought, by at least two tricks.

Not unreasonably North under-led his high spade, expecting South to ruff and take at least one diamond trick but this just gave away the contract for +550 when South couldn't find a club. The +450 and the +550 gave us a net +1,000.

Unfortunately this wasn't as big as the swing we gave up later in the day with another big two-suiter, but that time the two suits were distributed one each to North and South.

Dealer South
Vulnerability: North/South

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

I won't go through the bidding, but sitting South I worked out we had two diamond losers off the top and when East/West bid up to 5♠ I doubled to at least get a positive score.

West, as declarer, could have gone one down only if he got both the spade and diamond two-way finesses correct, but following the law of averages he got one right and one wrong so we scored up +300 thinking this was a "par" result.

At the other table there was an extremely competitive auction and South bid to 6♣ doubled. Interestingly 6♣ is a better contract than 6♥, not just because the opening leader doesn't have the A♦, but because 6♥ is beaten on a club or diamond opening lead, whereas 6♣ can only be beaten on a diamond lead.

All I can say about this hand is that I am glad I wasn't on lead and have a lot of sympathy for my teammate who led the A♠. South now has 15 tricks, but luckily he doesn't get any bonus points for overtricks 14 and 15. This scored -1,740 to go with our +300 so we lost 16 IMPs. Had West lead a diamond we would have scored +200 and +300 to win 11 IMPs (only a 27 IMP swing).





Hartford Bridge Club Kicks Off Mentor Program

Starting in January 2011 the Hartford Bridge Club instituted a pilot mentoring program including 13 mentors and 37 mentees. The intent of the program is to enhance the skill level and enjoyment of its members.

Our objective is to make sure all mentees wishing to participate get that opportunity. To this end, we will be experimenting with a one-to-many relationship between mentors and mentees during our first three month phase. At the end of January, we will be contacting all participants to see how they structured the partnerships and see what is working best.

The mentors and mentees are free to set the guidelines that work for them. Their plan may or may include any or all of the following:

- Playing as partners
- Being available following a game for questions
- Being available via email to answer questions
- Allowing either to kibitz the other

As of this writing, we have received great reviews and have an additional 10 mentors and 21 mentees waiting for phase 2 assignments.

Newtown Bridge Club

Newtown will open, weather permitting as follows:

February: Tuesdays 1 & 8,
Wednesdays 2 & 9
March: Regular Tuesday/Wednesday schedule resumes

Wee Burn News

The Wee Burn Fall Series had the following winners:

1. Jean Thoma-Karen Barrett
2. Linda Cleveland-Mary Richardson
3. Mary Beach-Mary Ellen McGuire
4. Lois Berry-Doris Friend
5. Janet Soskin-Kathie Rowland
6. Wendy Castagna-Betty Pascal

Nineteen tables participated in the December 9 charity game. Overall winners were:

1. Janet Soskin-Kathie Rowland
2. Linda Cleveland-Mary Richardson
3. Martha Hathaway-Gloria Seiron

Our Fall Swiss Team game winners were:

1. Lois Berry, Doris Friend, Jane Crandall, Sally Banks
2. Mary Beach, Mary Ellen McGuire, Nancy Newton, Sue Kipp

Congratulations to our 2010 Player-of-the-Year for 2010, Linda Cleveland.

Bridge Forum (Hamden) Year-End News

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Jon Ingersoll-Mary Connolly built up a lead in early autumn and coasted to the title. Harold Miller-Rita Brieger overtook Don Brueggemann-Esther Watstein for second on the final Tuesday of the year. Mary is Jon's third partner with whom he has been top pair of the year, and she got the best of his results, as he played more often with Bob Hawes. Gerri Frankel-Ted Rodgers and Hill Auerbach-Tracy Selmon finished fourth and fifth.

Player-of-the-Year: Nobody finished in the top ten in all three categories. Jon Ingersoll went ahead in late November and held on for his third P-o-Y title, the others coming in 1996 and 2002. Harold Miller and Rita Brieger tied for second, ahead of Fredda Kelly, Don Brueggemann, Mary Connolly, Carl Yohans and Esther Watstein.

Van Dyke Cup: When Jon Ingersoll and Joe Pagerino were eliminated in the semifinal round, not only was it only the fourth time in this Cup's fifteen-year history that Jon did not reach the final, it also became the first time all four finalists were women. In a strong field, Mary Connolly became the tenth player to win a second cup, prevailing in a final of low scores over Fredda Kelly, Billie Hecker and Louise Wood.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: Hill Auerbach-Larry Stern won the last game of the year to overtake Brenda Harvey-Robert Klopp. Carl Yohans-Janice Bruce were a distant

third. Brenda was the only player in two top ten partnerships, finishing fourth with Bob Hawes. George Levinsen-Lucy Lacava were fifth.

Player-of-the-Year: For the third time, the final Player-of-the-Year standings finished within the rounding margin, resulting in a tie between Fredda Kelly and Larry Stern. Fredda was the Friday Player-of-the-Year in 2000 and the Tuesday Player-of-the-Year in 2003. Larry and Jon became the first two players to pull off the Player-of-the-Year-Leading Pair double in the same year. Four-time defending P-o-Y Louise Wood just couldn't get her Consistency ranking in the top fifteen, and finished eighth.

Reynolds Cup: Louise Wood's bid to be the first player to win a particular Cup five years running ended in the semifinals, when she finished in a four-way tie for the fourth finalist place. Fredda Kelly overcame Brenda Harvey's slight carryover lead early in the final, then opened up for a comfortable margin of victory. This was Fredda's eighth cup win overall and her second Reynolds Cup title, the other coming in 2001.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Statistics of Interest: This year, 515 of 782 slams succeeded. We had 44 grand slams bid and made. Brenda Harvey-Robert Klopp bid and made four grand slams as a pair; Fredda Kelly bid and made seven grand slams with five different partners. Jon Ingersoll did not match Inge Bellis' average last year of 10.3 HCP per hand, but he did hold 11,051 HCP for 1,095 deals for an average of 10.09.

Overall Player-of-the-Year: Larry Stern, Fredda Kelly and Jon Ingersoll were the top three players of autumn, Larry moving from 17th overall to 6th. Louise Wood's large lead was nearly erased by Fredda, but a score of 86% with Brenda Harvey on November 30 gave Louise enough of a lead to last out the year. Jon, Fredda, Mary Connolly and Brenda finished second through fifth.

Continued on next page

Club News continued from page 4

Quote of the Year: "I didn't have enough points." 15-year-old Mike Hellman was East on the following hand:

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

South was dealer, with E-W vulnerable. Mike was one of two Easts who opened the bidding 6♥ in fourth seat and played it there, making an overtrick, but beating par. One South opened the bidding 1♠, but North passed throughout. The one East who opened 2♣ was the only one to reach 7♥, South inexplicably passing throughout and missing a sacrifice that could hardly go for worse than -1400.

Memory Bowl: The competition this year went a bit flat, in part because four of the top ten finishers didn't meet the eligibility requirement of playing with at least two different partners. Jinny Goggin went ahead in November. The lead passed from Jinny to Joe Pagerino to Brenda Harvey, and the scores stayed relatively static through December. Larry Stern made a big move into second in the last Friday game, making the final order: 1, Brenda; 2, Larry; 3, Joe; 4, Jinny; 5, Jon Ingersoll. This is Brenda's third cup win and her first since 2007.

For this year's Memory Bowl Hand, see page 10.

CONGRATULATIONS

The top 30 masterpoint holders in Connecticut as of the January 6, 2011 ACBL cycle are:

1	Richard DeMartino	21478.54
2	John Stiefel	17617.72
3	Harold Feldheim	17136.10
4	Douglas Doub	13462.42
5	Larry Bausher	10102.96
6	Victor King	9564.20
7	Geoffrey Brod	9241.65
8	Franklin Merblum	8073.87
9	Jim Cleary	7316.96
10	Marvin Rosenblatt	7276.45
11	Steve Becker	6461.93
12	James Greer	5932.71
13	Lawrence Lau	5845.71
14	Hilda Silverman	5733.11
15	Arthur Waldmann	5629.66
16	Allan Clamage	5356.62
17	Marilyn Goldberg	4848.47
18	Jane Smith	4739.35
19	Don Stiegler	4203.95
20	Allan Rothenberg	3983.82
21	Stephen Earl	3977.19
22	Janet Gischner	3954.31
23	Cynthia Michael	3941.61
24	Sarah Budds	3918.91
25	Jeff Horowitz	3873.62
26	Frank Blachowski	3824.69
27	Joan Brod	3661.03
28	Pat Hartman	3622.45
29	Jeffrey Goldman	3613.69
30	Bernard Schneider	3605.96



RESULTS

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Wednesday December 8, 2010

FLIGHT A

1	R. Teitelman – M. Schaffel
2	J. Soskin – J. Thoma
3	G. Holland – C. Palmer
4	K. Freres – B. Hodgman
5	K. Wiland – L. Meyers
6	J. Tames – G. Sieron

FLIGHT B

1	J. Soskin – J. Thoma
2	G. Holland – C. Palmer
3	K. Freres – B. Hodgman
4	S. Title – A. Small
5	J. Martin – L. Marcinek
6	M. Tjader – M. Hathaway

FLIGHT C

1	J. Lai – J. Guglielmo
2	S. Gould – A. Buscher
3	D. McIntyre – S. Fowks
4	M. Beach – J. McClutchy
5	E. Stump – M. Arnold
6	R. Fronapfel – S. Fronapfel

JEFF FELDMAN TOURNAMENT Hamden, CT December 10-12, 2010

Friday 10 AM Senior Pairs

A	B	C
1	1	B. Darden – J. Farwell
2		J. Stiefel – S. DeMartino
3	2	A. Housholder – F. Gilbert
4/5		W. Selden – M. Feinson
4/5	3	A. Lanzoni – A. Ardolino
6/7		S. Budds – A. Clamage
6/7	4	A. Leshine – L. Stern
	5	1 D. Andersen – H. Belluschi
6/7	2/3	C. Kesmodel – D. Doyle
6/7	2/3	R. Pomerantz – D. Kaplan
	4	T. Thompson – A. Bruhn
	5	J. Podkowsky – A. Hageman

Friday 10 AM Open Pairs

A	B	C
1		R. DeMartino – J. Stiefel
2		A. Wolf – L. Lau
3	1	J. Tames – D. Keller
4/6		C. Michael – G. Carroll
4/6	2/3	R. Brown – L. Robbins
4/6	2/3	D. Blackburn – L. Green
	4	1 J. Weiss – M. Arnold
	5	J. Bramley – J. Proulx
	6	W.K. Graebe – D. Brueggemann
	2	R. Janow – L. Fradet
	3	M. Wavada – C. Schaper
	4	H. McBrien – M. Karbovanec
	5	J. Dinius – R. Talbot

Friday 2:30 PM Open Pairs

A	B	C
1		R. DeMartino – J. Stiefel
2	1	1 T. Selmon – H. Auerbach
3		J. Hess – N. France
4		A. Wolf – L. Lau
5	2	D. Blackburn – L. Green
6	3	R. Gauthier – S. Gauthier
	4	K. Harrison – P. Skenderian
	5	J. Bruce – A. Tusa
	6	2 M. Wavada – C. Schaper
	3	L. Kelso – M. Molwitz
	4	M. Madigan – F. Morris

Friday 2:20 PM Senior Pairs

A	B	C
1		W. Selden – M. Feinson
2	1	1 B. Buehler – R. Lebel
3		C. Graham – R. Blair
4		S. Budds – A. Clamage
5	2	A. Leshine – L. Stern
6	3	2 J. Morrin – L. Bowman
	4	A. Housholder – F. Gilbert
	5	H. Miller – B. Saxon
	6	3 R. Pomerantz – D. Kaplan
	4	J. Podkowsky – A. Hageman

Saturday 10 AM 299er Pairs

A	B	C
1		G. Smedes – S. Smedes
2	1	G.S. Thoma – R. Freres
3		E. Frieden – E. Konowitz
4		A. Jain – A. Jain
5	2	R. Millson – R. Pfeister
6	3	B. Kaplan – J. Kaplan
	4	1 R. Fronapfel – S. Fronapfel
	5	2 S. Kishner – G. Kishner

Saturday 10 AM A/X Pairs

A	X	
1		C. Michael – C. Graham
2		J. Boyer – R. Stayman
3		L. Bausher – R. DeMartino
4/5	1/2	L. Green – D. Blackburn
4/5	1/2	H. Lawrence – D. Montgomery
6		B. Gischner – J. Gischner
	3	B. Reich – B. Lewis
	4	L. Meyers – J. Lowe

Saturday 10 AM B/C Pairs

B	C	
1	1	D. Kishpaugh – F. Goldberg
2	2	M. Eisenberg – K. Largay
3		A. Ardolino – B. Sloan
4		R. Klopp – R. Hawes
5/6	3/4	E. Coppa – J.S. Coppa
5/6	3/4	T. Thompson – A. Bruhn

Saturday 2:30 PM 299er Pairs

A	B	C
1		J. Lombardo – D. Crossley
2	1	R. Millson – Ray Pfeister
3	2	1 R. Fronapfel – S. Fronapfel
4	3	B. Kaplan – J. Kaplan
5		G. Smedes – S. Smedes
	2	J. Ahern – M. Ahern

Saturday 2:30 PM A/X Pairs

A	X	
1		R. Friedman – A. Wolf
2		H. Feldheim – J. Martin
3/4		D. Stiegler – P. Burnham
3/4		B. Gischner – J. Gischner
5	1	L. Meyers – J. Lowe
6		L. Bausher – R. DeMartino
	2	V. Hauptfeld – L. Eppler
	3	S. Smith – D. Rock
	4	M. Fromm – N. Robertson

Saturday 2:30 PM B/C Pairs

A	B	
1		L. Said – R. Perell
2	1	D. Edwards – R. Tisch
3		M. Lerman – D. Storey
4		R. Klopp – R. Hawes
5		J. Condon Jr – E. Halpern
	2	T. Thompson – A. Bruhn
	3	E. Coppa – J.S. Coppa

Sunday RR Swiss Bracket 1

1		L. Lau – A. Wolf, L. Bausher – P. Bausher
2		R. DeMartino – S. DeMartino, J. Stiefel – J. Stiefel, B.J. Corbani – D. Greenwald
3		D. Montgomery – H. Lawrence, A. Clamage – H. Zusman

Sunday RR Swiss Bracket 2

1		H.J. Sloofman – R. Brown, J. Fuhrman – T. Baird
2		L. Green – Paul Miller, V. Mazmanian – V. Wu
3		D. Thompson – J. Schiaroli, N. Tkacz – A. Siegel

Sunday RR Swiss Bracket 3

1		F. Ilovici – R. Ilovici, S. Schmerl – J. Schmerl
2		D. Doyle – C. Kesmodel, M. Giannos – D. Christensen
3/4		M. Wavada – J. Hirsch, L. Englehart – C. Hill
3/4		J. Zucker – M. Whittemore, S. Fronapfel – R. Fronapfel
5		P. Olschefski – C. Olschefski, E. Coppa – J.S. Coppa



The Play's the Thing . . .

by Allan Clamage

Bridge is a simple game. Just count your points and follow your bidding system. Plan the play, using the odds to guide you in handling most card combinations. And on defense watch which cards are played by partner and declarer.

Not so fast.

What about context? Most times, each hand is (or seems to be) played in isolation. But sometimes there is a lot more to consider. Like the state of your game. If you're having a good game, do you play conservatively to maintain your position, or, aggressively to gamble on improving it? Do you sometimes try for "swings" (going against the odds to try for an exceptional result)? For an interesting example, take this hand from the Sunday Team game in Hamden.

You hold ♠KQ#xxx ♥AKxx ♦A ♣xx. (No, that # is not a typo. You'll read more about the ♠# in a moment.) But first you need to know the context. You're going into the last round. You check the leader board. Here are the relevant standings at the end of the 6th (the penultimate) round:

VPs Teams in Bracket 1

- 96 Allan Wolf, Larry Lau, Larry and Phyllis Bausher
- 80 Rich DeMartino, Jay Stiefel, Sandy DeMartino, Joyce Stiefel, Doris Greenwald, Betty Jane Corbani.
- 73. Dean Montgomery, Howard Lawrence, Howard Zusman, You
- 67 Harold Feldheim, Dick Wieland, Dick Hecht, Ken Hirshon
- 67 David Ross, Sarah Corning, Ruth Teitelman, Micki Schaffel

A quick look tells you that only the DeMartino team can catch Wolf & Co. for 1st. But it's possible for the bottom two teams to move up to 3rd. And it's theoretically possible for any of the lower three to catch DeMartino for 2nd.

In the final round, DeMartino is playing Ross. You're in 3rd place, playing the team in 1st. How do you play? Conservatively to hold on to 3rd (the last place in the overalls), or aggressively to try to catch DeMartino for 2nd? What about Ross? Going for a big win to gain 3rd and—possibly—2nd place overall? Or the Feldheim team, in the same position as Ross, but which figures to have an easier time against its opponents?

But there's more at stake than just masterpoints. There's the Jeff Feldman Memorial trophy (a beautiful glass vase and the only one—its winners have said—handsome enough to keep on the mantelpiece for a year). It's given annually to the player who wins the most masterpoints in this tournament. Before the Bracketed Team event the leader is (small surprise) Rich DeMartino with 20.19 MPs. But right behind him is Al Wolf with 15.18. Al figures to win Bracket 1 overall and add 10 MPs to his total. Rich needs to come in 2nd to keep the trophy for another year.

How will Rich's team play? Down the line to avoid big swings, stay in 2nd and help Rich win the trophy? Or more aggressively to try and catch the leaders—thus capturing both the trophy and the event? What about Al Wolf? Conservative, to win at least 5 VP's and the event, or really aggressive? If successful, it pads the lead and assures 1st overall. But, if unsuccessful, it gives us a chance to win big. Now here's the twist. If, in losing big to us, we gain enough VPs to pass DeMartino, then Al Wolf gets the trophy. In other words, by losing, he wins.

It's an interesting issue. *Bridge World* magazine has printed a number of editorials on the ethics of "dumping," i.e. purposely throwing a match because the Conditions of Contest make it to your advantage to lose and thereby get an easier draw in the next round. *Bridge World* wasn't thinking about our little Sectional. But, Al Wolf might have thought, "If we lose and DeMartino thereby gets passed for 2nd we still win the event, and I win the trophy."

OK, that's the context. Now it's the 3rd board from the end of the last round. You feel you have a lead but you don't know by how much. That's when you pick up ♠KQ#xxx ♥AKxx ♦A ♣xx. You

bid 1♠. Phyllis Bausher, your left-hand opponent, jumps to 3♦. Partner, Howard Zusman, doubles. Larry Bausher passes. Your call.

4♦ seems right on strength, partner bids the anticipated 4♥. Now what? You look at the ♠#. What do you do if it's the ♠10? What do you do if it's a small spade? Well, it *is* the ♠10. Improves your hand a bit, doesn't it? Read on.

Al and Larry figure to not bid the slam. You decide to go all out. Here's your chance for an 11 IMP pickup. What do you do? Blackwood's no good with a small doubleton club. So you bid 5♥, guaranteeing good hearts and asking partner about his holding in clubs, the unbid suit. He responds 6♣, showing the ♣A (5NT might have been better; he had both the ♣A and the ♦K.) Anyhow, you bid 6♥ and watch partner try to figure out how to play the hand, holding ♠xx, ♥QJxx, ♦Kx, ♣AQxxx.

If the hearts and the spades split 3-2, the hand is cold, regardless of the location of the ♠A. (If necessary, declarer can always ruff a spade to set up the suit.) But what if spades are 4-1? Then, the ♠10 figures to be a big card.

Now you're the declarer. You win the ♦A in dummy, cash one high heart, come to your hand with another heart and find the hearts are 3-2. So far, so good. Now you lead a spade toward the dummy's ♠Q and lose to the ♠A. Not so good.

Back comes a diamond to your king (you pitch the closing club from dummy). You cash another heart and lead a spade toward the Q-10. Larry plays low (in tempo, naturally). Now what? The diamond bidder has shown up with seven diamonds, two hearts and one spade. She has three unknown cards left, none of which are likely to be the ♣K (otherwise she would not have preempted with 3♦).

If Larry started with the ♠Jxxx you need to finesse the ten. If not, you must play the queen. Now I'll tell you this: If you get it right, you pick up 11 VPs and place 2nd overall and Al Wolf wins the trophy. If you get it wrong? Well, decide what you want to do. You'll find the actual results on page 9.

Continued on page 9

What Happened to that Nice Mr. Wood?

by Bernard Schneider



Alice was trying her hardest to clear her head. She knew she had a date to play with her friend Sandy at Bill's Club and, in fact, she was at a place that vaguely resembled a bridge club. But she had no idea how she got here. She remembered getting up in the morning, walking to her car, and falling down in a big hole in her garden; nothing after that. And, she had to admit, the club did look a bit different. For starters, there was no front door, as such, but a looking glass that you just seemed to pass through, and a sign that said: "You are now entering the Wonderland Club."

"What happened to that the nice Mr. Wood who runs my club," she asked the creature sitting at the entry desk, who looked like a White Rabbit. "Well," said the Rabbit, "he's not here today."

"Would you like an entry?" asked the Rabbit. "How much?" asked Alice. "That will be \$10 for the morning game alone and \$3 if you play in both the morning and afternoon games." "Well that seems like a good deal," thought Alice. "But," continued the Rabbit, "you must play in both games." "I don't know," said Alice; "this might not really be to my liking, so I'll just play in the morning."

"You will need a partner."

"I don't think so," said Alice; "I expect my regular partner to come." "Oh, no, that is against the rules here. Regular partnerships lead to conventions and convention cards, a total waste of time. And don't you see how regular partnerships behave to each other, always criticizing, all those misunderstandings. Better if you play with someone whom you've never met and will never see again."

"Let me take you to your table," said the Rabbit. "Today there will be exactly one table, one more than usual." Alice sat down as East. Her partner was a cat (from nearby Cheshire), and the opponents were two members of the avian family. Her right hand opponent is, she was told, the predatory Barry Crane (*masterpointus supremus*); her left hand opponent looked something like a pigeon, who repeatedly intoned in a low whisper. Alice couldn't make out what

he was saying, but it did sound like: "coo, coo." "Does he have a name?" asked Alice.

"We call him Mr. Squab, since he is always squabbling with the opponents."

"How can we bid, when everybody speaks a different language?" said Alice.

"Harrumph," said the Rabbit, "that never seems to stop anyone any way; don't you have bidding boxes?"

The Rabbit bought a single board to the table. "Only one board," asked Alice?

"Of course. We usually we play no boards at all and go directly to tea and cakes, but for your benefit, we will play a single board. Today it will be a "Howl Movement." "OK" said Alice, beginning to feel even more ill at ease.

Alice did not like surprises. Unfortunately for her, the auction was nothing but surprises. Alice noticed that she was, against her better instincts, becoming accustomed to being in a world of uncertainty and ambiguity.

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: At the Wonderland Club, everyone is vulnerable, all the time.

BARRY CRANE

♠ - - -
♥ AK Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4
♦ Q 4
♣ - - -

ALICE

♠ A Q J 10
♥ 3 2
♦ K J 10
♣ A Q J 10

CHESHIRE CAT

♠ 8 7 6 4 2
♥ - - -
♦ 9 8 6 5 3
♣ 8 6 4

MR. SQUAB

♠ K 9 5 3
♥ - - -
♦ A 7 2
♣ K 9 7 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾
Pass	2♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass	3♣ ⁽⁴⁾
Pass	3♠ ⁽⁵⁾	Pass	3NT ⁽⁶⁾
Pass	4♠ ⁽⁷⁾	Pass	7♥
Double	Redouble	(all Pass)	

Opening lead: ♥3

- (1) Basic Social Convention: What are you doing after the game?
- (2) How about dinner?
- (3) O.K. I'm good with Italian or Chinese food.
- (4) Italian works for me.
- (5) I'll make reservations.
- (6) Serious notrump. Please describe your hand.
- (7) Eleven solid hearts and two diamonds not including the ace.

There was no point in getting involved in the auction, particularly with all these strange conventions and a partner who, except for his smile, did not seem to be there at all. She did what she always did, the sensible thing, and kept passing. But after Mr. Squab bid 7♥, she started to think.

"Declarer has exactly 11 heart tricks (since I have two). The ♦A is the twelfth trick, but that's the limit of the hand. The ♦K is favorably placed behind declarer's ace, and I have aces in both the black suits. I will double. My mentor Mr. DeMartino will be so proud of me; he's always emphasizing how one should try to work things through logically at the bridge table.

Still, Alice thought, I am always reading about these strange hands, where you are dealt a vegetable garden full of aces and kings, and still wind up taking no tricks, Alice started to dither; she so much wanted to make a good impression.

The director came over and said. "If you want we can show you all four hands before you bid." "Of course," said Alice, and so everyone showed their cards.

Alice was feeling much better. She had all the suits covered, and she was discarding after dummy. Double said Alice; redouble said declarer. "And now", said the director, we'll enter your score: minus 2940. In this club, we score first, and then play afterwards." Alice made a crinkly face. "Such an unusual rule, and such an ugly score. But don't we get to play the hand?"

"If you insist; you're only delaying tea and cookies."

Continued on next page



Alice safely lead a trump; and declarer quickly ran nine rounds of hearts. When declarer lead his next to last heart from dummy and discarded a low diamond from his hand, Alice could not safely discard:

BARRY CRANE

♠ - - -
♥ x x
♦ Q J
♣ - - -

ALICE

♠ A
♥ - - -
♦ K x
♣ A

CHESHIRE CAT

Irrelevant

MR. SQUAB

♠ K
♥ - - -
♦ A x
♣ K

Discarding a black ace would be immediately fatal, and discarding a diamond would allow declarer to cross to the Ace of diamonds, return to his hand with a ruff, and claim the last trick with a diamond. It was only then that Alice began to understand the noise that Mr. Squab was making: "Coup, coup, coup".

Alice tried very hard to remain polite, but the day had been just too overwhelming. Her head was spinning as she lapsed into the unconsciousness.



UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP
Thursday Morning
November 4, 2010

FLIGHT A

- 1 **D. Blackburn – L. Green**
- 2 S. Schroeder – G. Hayes
- 3 V. Naugler – C. Joseph
- 4 R. Wieland – H. Feldheim
- 5 W. Castagna – B. Pascal
- 6 M. Mason – C. Michael

FLIGHT B

- 1 **D. Blackburn – L. Green**
- 2 S. Schroeder – G. Hayes
- 3 W. Castagna – B. Pascal
- 4 K. Freres – G. Ord
- 5 L. Wallowitz – K. Harrison
- 6 D. Neiman – A. Barton

FLIGHT C

- 1 **S. Schroeder – G. Hayes**
- 2 W. Castagna – B. Pascal
- 3 K. Freres – G. Ord
- 4 D. Neiman – A. Barton
- 5 D. Gupta – I. Rosenthal
- 6 S. Nix – B. Greene

Did you play the ♠10, catering to a 4-1 break. Or the ♠Q, relying on a 3-2 split? Howard went with the odds and played the ♠10 losing to the ♠J. Down one. Lose 11 IMPs, but win the match by 3 VPs. If the slam had made, you'd pick up 11 IMPs—and pass DeMartino

Now here's the killer. Feldheim won small, not enough to catch you for 3rd. But DeMartino and Ross tied. You were actually up by 14 IMPs when you decided to be aggressive and bid the slam. If you hadn't, you would have tied DeMartino for 2nd place overall and Wolf would have won the Feldman trophy instead of losing it by 0.38 Masterpoints.

And please note: without the ♠10 you probably would not have bid the slam. Yet if you had, you'd make it because declarer has to play for spades to split 3-2 (68%-or 2:1 in favor). But with the ♠10, your hand was theoretically better but ironically caused declarer to go down in a makeable slam.



Who says bridge is a simple game?



MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Larry Bausher who has achieved the rank of Platinum Life Master (10,000 MP's).

New Life Masters

Rodney Aspinwall
Pat Brasher
Patti Fishbach
W. Kenneth Graebe
Charles Heckman
Lee Herdle
Patricia Kelsey
Deborah Kessler
Karen Largay
Mary Parry
Christine Pumo
Robert Vander Wiede

Bronze Life Master
(500 MP's)

Rodney Aspinwall
Joan Brault
Patti Fishbach
W. Kenneth Graebe
Brenda Harvey
Patricia Kelsey
Inge Schuele

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

David Blackburn
Michael Heider
Robert Klopp
Marylin Noll

Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

Sallie Abelson
Marsha Futterman
Randolph Johnson
Linda Otness
Lenny Russman

Memory Bowl Hand

Fredda Kelly, last year's winner, selected her frequent partner Helen Molloy as the Champion's Honoree. Helen began playing with us in the late 1990's after she had to give up hiking. After playing with various partners, Helen formed a successful regular partnership on Fridays with Sol Silver after Sol's partnership with his cousin Norman ended amicably. Helen also played with Bernie Lipman on Tuesdays for a while, getting Bernie many of his best results. Helen and Norman Silver were Friday's co-Players-of-the-Year in 2002. After several high finishes in 2004 cup competitions, Helen won the Helen Frank Cup in 2005. She also won the Claiborn Cup in 2008, a few months before her death following an accident.

Helen's partnership with Fredda had great success in the middle of the decade; they were the first or second Tuesday pair two years running. As Helen played relatively few conventions, it was often a battle between conflicting styles. To make it particularly interesting, Helen had acquired Sol's habit of unjustified takeout doubles to go along with her own occasional forgetting whether they were playing strong or weak two bids (or on one famous occasion being so eager to bid the Unusual 2NT with both minors that she bid it as dealer).

This year's Memory Bowl Hand was actually played; I have only changed two spade spots.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: Both

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

Late in a team match, Helen picked up the South hand. She was almost certain

that she and Fredda were playing weak twos in this match. Luckily, this hand could be opened 2♣ either way. Fredda remembered that this time they were playing strong twos. Deciding that support, an ace and a void were worth a positive reply, she raised to 3♣. Helen, pleased that Fredda had a positive response, raised happily to 4♣, confident that her support would meet with approval. Fredda didn't want to put Helen into slam, and contented herself with 5♣, hoping that maybe the other team would go down in 3NT. Remembering that Fredda hated playing five of a minor (but not that that was only playing pairs) and forgetting that she had bid the clubs first and would have to play the hand, Helen closed out the auction with 6♣.

The auction at the other table went: Pass-2♣; 2♦-2NT; 3♣-3NT; 4H-6♣. The 3♣ bid asked for four-card suits up the line. 3NT showed four or more clubs and no second suit. 4♥ showed club support and heart shortage, after which opener placed the contract.

Helen received a heart opening lead. As she had merged her red suits, losing track of the heart ace, she trumped in dummy, came to hand with a trump, ruffed her other low heart, and drew the remaining trumps, discarding a spade from dummy. Then she noticed the ♥A, but pushed the ♦K behind it. She then led the 9♦ from hand, covering West's ten with the jack.

East didn't know what West was up to, presumably playing the ten from ♦K10 doubleton instead of the king to block the suit. Whoever had the king, there was no point in winning the trick. East ducked.

Still not noticing the ♦K in her hand, Helen led the ♠6 to her queen and West's king. West returned a heart. Helen called for a diamond discard from dummy and won with the ace, finally noticing the ♦K in her hand. That was unlucky; she should have made seven with the finesse working. But maybe Fredda wouldn't mind. Then she played the ♦K on which West discarded.

Helen was fairly certain that East still had two diamonds. Maybe she should play her black winners first. She led the ♣2, North and East discarding spades. Helen was about to put down the ♠A when it occurred to her that, if East still held two diamonds, there

would be no way she'd discard one with the ♦AJ sitting in dummy. There had been so many red cards played; maybe one of those heart discards had been a diamond. At any rate it was time to find out. Helen led her last diamond to the ace. No queen. With nothing better to do, she called for dummy's last spade, taking East's jack with her ace, only to find that West had to play the ♠4 under her five on the last trick, 6♣ making six.

At the other table, West led the ♣8 to reduce ruffs. Two rounds of trumps and two heart ruffs left declarer in dummy. The contract would make with any 3-2 diamond split, but the 4-1 splits were a concern, at least if East held ♦Q10xx. Ordinarily, it would be too risky to finesse on the first round with a trump still outstanding, but East had followed to the two rounds of trumps with the nine and the jack. It would surely be safe to finesse into West. If East held ♦Q10xx and ducked, the nine would win and the spade finesse might succeed. If East put in the ten, declarer could take the king, draw the last trump and play the ♦9 to dummy's jack when West discarded. Declarer called for a diamond to the nine and ten, and West returned the third trump, dummy and East discarding spades. Then came the ♦K and the bad news of West's discard. But all was not yet lost. East might just have begun with ♠KJ107. South played the heart ace and the club deuce, everyone discarding spades. With hope still alive, South crossed to dummy's ♦A and finessed the ♠Q. West won, and still had the ♥K for two down and an extra IMP (saving a low heart to reach East's two red queens would have resulted in three down, but for the same score).

Postscript: This hand feels to me as if it ought to be a David Bird hand with South holding ♠AQ3 and West ♠K42. The Abbot sits West and leads a heart. Declarer ruffs hearts while drawing trumps, then plays the ♦K and nine to dummy's jack. When the Abbot wins the spade finesse next, annoyed by declarer's slow play, he decides to save time and clarify the spades, unluckily returning the four. After declarer makes 6♣ on the squeeze, the Abbot has to listen to Brother Xavier pointing out that the ♠4 was the only possible lead the Abbot could have made at that point to allow the contract to succeed.





3 No Trump or 4 of a Major?

by Burton Saxon

Most experts will tell you that if you and your partner have 25 or 26 high card points and a 4-4 or 5-3 fit in a major suit, you should bid game in the major suit instead of bidding 3NT. Then the experts will add “But there are exceptions.” In this column, I am going to try to discover how a bridge player can identify the exceptions. In other words, when should you play three no trump with a major suit fit?

Naturally the source of my curiosity is a bottom board, aka a zero. I was playing with my neighbor Jeffrey, who is relatively new to duplicate. In the car on the way to the game, I observed that opening 1NT usually lets responder determine the final contract. So I was dealt this hand:

♠ 7 3 2
♥ A K 6 4
♦ K 3 2
♣ K Q J 2

I opened 1NT and my partner bid 4♠. His hand looked like this:

♠ A Q 6 4 3
♥ 7 5
♦ A Q 6
♣ 9 6 5

Jeffrey took a successful spade finesse and the suit split 3-2. So he made five. But when we opened up the traveler, everyone else was in 3NT making five. I was not happy about this. My first inclination was to get upset at my partner, but how can I get upset at a guy who actually listened to what I told him in the car? Then I wished my partner had bid 3♠ over 1NT. But that might not have helped, because I would probably have bid 4♠ since I had three of them. Then I decided we had gotten fixed by the field. But that did not seem right either. Finally I had to own up to this painful truth: I really do not know which contract was better and that is why I

will always be a Flight B player. What I do know is that if you have a 4-4 or 5-3 major suit fit with no voids, singletons, or doubletons and 24 high card points missing only the four aces, you will make 3NT, no matter what the opponents do and you will be set in four of a major unless the opponents fall asleep.

I also know that there is a humongous difference between bidding at matchpoints and bidding at IMP's. On the hand given, for example, the opening lead could be a heart from a five card suit. Given the distribution of the hand, 3NT will probably go down while four spades will make. If we were playing IMPs the 3NT bid probably cost us a seven board match. If the heart lead came from a four card suit, playing 3NT would cost us little at IMP's, but it would be disastrous at matchpoints.

I think all that makes sense, although I may not have explained it very clearly. At any rate, I still do not know the answer to my question. I decided to ask two experts, Larry Bausher and Harold Feldheim, two of the very best players in Connecticut. This is what they said.

Larry Bausher thought at first the issue was discussed in a book called **Morehead on Bidding**, a book which may or may not be on the bottom of a pile of books in my closet. The closet is now filled with summer clothes so it will be a few months before I see if the book is in the pile. Larry added that even experts have a very hard time determining the exceptions to the rule of playing in a major with an eight card fit. Later Larry noted that the Morehead discussion focused on the advantages of the 4-4 fit if the partnership also has a 5-3 or 6-2 fit. That one I can understand. I love to draw trump and then throw losers away on side suit winners.

Harold Feldheim agreed with Larry that experts can't always determine when to play 3NT with a major suit fit, but he offered a different explanation. He said would challenge me to a coin tossing contest. I would get \$50 every time the coin came up heads and he would get \$100 every time the coin came up tails. He noted that I might win the first two or three times, but in the long run I would lose. I got his point. In the long

run, just bid the major suit game with an eight card fit and suck it up when you belong in three no trump.

After I submitted this article to the *Kibitzer*, the Editor and I exchanged some e-mails regarding this hand and the problem presented. He noted that the book, **Matchpoints** by Kit Woolsey has an excellent discussion of this problem. As Woolsey points out, a 4-4 major suit fit is often superior since declarer can get an extra trick by ruffing in *either* hand. With a 5-3 fit, declarer can generate an extra trick only by ruffing in the short trump hand (or by ruffing three times in the long hand which is much less common). Therefore, if all side suits are stopped and trumps are not needed as stoppers, it is the hand with three trumps that can decide between 3NT and four of a major.

If we go back to my example hand above, after my 1NT, partner should bid 3♠ showing a five-card suit (we were playing standard American without transfers). Looking at my hand, I have no ruffing value and the side suits are securely stopped. This would be the type of hand to bid 3NT. My partner has a balanced hand with more than a minimum and would have no reason to disturb the contract. If you change my hand by reversing my diamond and spade holdings, now with no diamond stopper and three trumps, it is more reasonable to bid 4♠.

So, there it is. Usually, a 4-4 major suit fit is superior to 3NT since declarer can generate an extra ruffing trick by ruffing in either hand. Interestingly, with a 5-3 major suit fit, declarer can most often generate an extra trick only by ruffing in the short trump hand. So, with all side suits securely stopped, 3NT is likely to make the same number of tricks as a major suit game for a better matchpoint score.



2011 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

1 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 3 (day) Local Split Championship
 5 (aft) ACBL International Fund Game
 15-21 New England KO Teams Regional, Cromwell, CT
 28 (day) ACBL International Fund Senior Game

MARCH

4-6 Winter in Connecticut Sectional, Hamden, CT
 10-20 Spring Nationals, Louisville, KY
 15(eve) ACBL-wide Charity Game
 21-27 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)
 28 (eve) Local Championship
 31 (eve) Local Championship

APRIL

11 (eve) Local Split Championship
 15 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 27-May 1 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional, Hyannis, MA

MAY

April 27-1 Ethel Keohane Senior Regional Hyannis, MA

9 (aft) Unit-wide Championship
 11 (aft) ACBL Int'l Fund Game
 13-15 Connecticut Spring Sectional, Hamden, CT
 25-30 New York City Regional, New York, NY

JUNE

3 (night) Worldwide Bridge Contest
 4 (day) Worldwide Bridge Contest

14 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 17 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 20-26 New England Summer Regional, Sturbridge, MA
 30 (eve) Local (Split) Championship

JULY

6-12 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)

13 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 21- 31 ACBL Summer Nationals, Toronto, ON
 22 (eve) ACBL International Fund Game

AUGUST

2 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 8 (eve) Local (Split) Championship
 16 (eve) Local (Split) Championship
 19 - 21 Summer Sectional, Greenwich, CT
 23 (day) Local (Split) Championship
 31 - Sep 5 New England Fiesta Regional, Nashua, NH

SEPTEMBER

Aug 31-5 New England Fiesta Regional, Nashua, NH
 14 (eve) ACBL-wide Instant Match Point
 16-18 Sid Cohen Sectional, Hartford, CT
 11 199er at the Sid Cohen Sectional
 21 (Day) Local (Split) Championship
 22 (day) Unit-Wide Championship

OCTOBER

7 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 15 (day) Local (Split) Championship
 15-16 North American Pairs, Sturbridge, MA

17-23 Danbury Fall Regional (District 3), Danbury, CT
 24-30 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)

NOVEMBER

1 (eve) Local (Split) Championship
 3 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 4-6 Jeff Feldman Sectional Hamden, CT
 16-20 New England Masters Regional Mansfield, MA
 17-23 Sectional Tournament in Clubs (STaC)
 24-Dec 4 Fall Nationals, Seattle, WA
 28 (eve) ACBL-wide Charity Game #2

DECEMBER

Nov 24-4 Fall Nationals Seattle, WA
 7 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 12 (day) Local (Split) Championship
 26-30 New York City Holiday Regional, New York, NY

THE KIBITZER

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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, 2011.

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	Judy Hess	203-255-8790
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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 Tom Proulx at twproulx@optonline.net