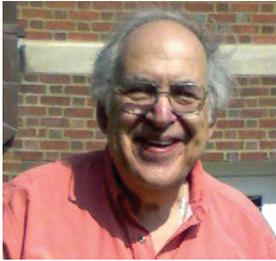




THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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ARCH TO VICTORY

by Harold Feldheim

When planning the play, many successful declarers employ the acronym ARCH as a guide to success. ARCH stands for:

- A=Analyze the lead
- R=Review the auction
- C=Count your tricks
- H=How to?

Consider this hand from the 2014 world youth championship. Here, careful planning coupled with good instincts allowed Zack Grossack to bring home a wildly optimistic slam.

Both Vul

♠2
♥AK764
♦J1097
♣Q75
♠K987
♥Void
♦A42
♣AK9863

North	East	South	West
-	-	1♣	1♠
2♥	P	2♠	P
3♣	P	3♦	P
3♠	Dbl	P	P
4♣	P	6♣	All Pass

The Bidding: The auction is, by any standard, highly aggressive. Two spades is ambiguous but forcing. When brother Adam Grossack returned Zack to clubs, he cuebid 3♦. Adam cooperated with 3♠. East doubled, presumably with a spade control, and when Zack returned to 4♣, Adam carried on to the potentially dubious slam.

The play: West obediently led the ♠Q, captured by East's ace who then switched to a diamond. Declarer won the ace and settled down to the task at hand.

COUNTING HIS TRICKS, there appeared to be only 10 top tricks, it superficially looked like there was only one possible line of play, that being to discard the two diamond losers on the A-K of hearts, ruff his two losing spades in dummy, and only then to draw trumps. But there was a potential fly in the ointment. REVIEWING THE AUCTION, he noted that West overcalled one spade. Since East showed up with the ace, it seemed very possible that he started with a six-card suit for his vulnerable overcall. If that were the case, the obvious line of play was doomed to failure. By ANALYZING THE LEAD, he knew West started with the QJ of spades, and most likely with the 10-spot. Finding another way TO PLAY THE HAND, he realized that, if this were the case, only a swindle could make up for the potentially deadly distribution. At trick 3, Zack led the spade 8♠ from his hand. When West played low, he backed his reasoning by pitching a low diamond from dummy. When this won the trick,

he cashed the trump ace, West following with the Jack. Zack completed the glorious execution by ruffing his last losing spade with the queen, jettisoning his two diamond losers on the ace and king of hearts and leading the last club from dummy. When East played low, he banked on restricted choice and inserted the nine. When West showed out, he claimed the remainder of the tricks.

The complete hands:

♠2	♠A4
♥AK764	♥J10832
♦J1097	♦Q86
♣Q75	♣1042
♠QJ10653	♠K987
♥Q95	♥Void
♦K53	♦A42
♣J	♣AK9863

The fact that West could have covered the spade 8♠ and scuttled the slam does not detract from the conceptual beauty of the play.

Thus, in this writer's opinion, the crisp logic, coupled with a bit of intellectual strychnine, qualifies it as a nominee for the IPBA "hand of the year."





From the President

It's not my fault! "We've been held up for two rounds!" Those are only two of the familiar responses we hear when the director urges us to get moving, hurry along, keep it going, pick up the pace. Sometimes slow play actually is our fault; a peculiarly difficult hand to play, a weird bid by partner that doesn't fit any convention we are supposed to be playing. We pause to think it through and figure it out. We are allowed to take a reasonable amount of time to think and to play a difficult hand.

When it becomes unreasonable is when the same player consistently eats up time on a play that should be almost automatic, or when every bid, including a pass, or two of partner's suit, assumes the weight of a grand slam.

The ACBL has recently revised policy on slow play and it is worthy to note the no-fault component. The policy reads as follows:

"When a pair has fallen behind, it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible, whether at fault or not. All players are expected to

make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness.

"In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the director should presume that a pair finishing a round late by more than two or three minutes on more than one occasion during a session is responsible for the lateness. There is strong expectation that the director will penalize such a pair..."

The policy goes on to say that the size of the penalty depends on the degree of lateness, and the chronic nature of it, etc. Club games usually have a bit more latitude and lenience for slow or late play and directors try to keep the pace without too much ado. At tournament play, however, the director may invoke a penalty for repeated offense, so steady play is a serious consideration.

It can be helpful to try to think ahead, and to try to anticipate what's going to happen and what your action might be. That doesn't always work of course, but it can help keep an even pace of play. Also, undue hesitations give everyone at the table a wealth of information. "Ah...so that's where the king lies!" "Left opponent

can't have anything, she does nothing but pass without hardly looking." Keep the pace as steady as possible, think ahead, don't make faces expressing either your dislike of partner's bid and the trouble you're in, or the thrill that your partner appears to have everything you need to make the contract, plus a few.

And remember, it's a game. And it's a game for everyone in the room. Your time at the table should be as pleasant as possible for all four of you in spite of the hard work involved.

On another note, the New England Bridge Association has recently voted to lower the Regional tournament fees for all those students under 26 years of age, and who are not LMs. This is very welcome as we work to encourage younger players to the game.

And, we extend our heartiest congratulations to the Hartford Bridge Club, the oldest running bridge club in the US. This fall, Hartford will celebrate its 85th anniversary! Here's to many, many more, Hartford!

Esther Watstein
President, CBA

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2016

26-28 Fri.-Sun. Greenwich Sectional
30-9/5 Tues.-Mon Warwick Regional

OCTOBER 2016

9 Sun. West Hartford 199er Sectional
14 Fri. ACBL IMP game (Fri. Afternoon)
16-18 Sun.-Tues. NAOP District Finals
17-23 Mon.-Sun. Unit-wide Championship
26-11/1 Wed.-Tues. STaC
31-11/6 Mon.-Sun. Lancaster Regional

SEPTEMBER 2016

8 Thurs. (Daytime) Unitwide
9-11 Fri.-Sun. Allendale Sectional
14-18 Wed.-Sat. Long Island Regional
23 Fri. (Daytime) Unitwide
26 Mon. Evening split local

NOVEMBER 2016

4-6 Fri.-Sun. Hartford Sectional
9-13 Wed.-Sun. Mansfield Regional
15 Tues. (Evening) Unitwide
24-12/4 Thurs.-Sun. Orlando Nationals



68%

by Brett Adler

When you have an eight-card fit in a suit, the probability that the opponents' five cards will break 3-2 is 68%. Although you don't need to remember all the probabilities of the distributions of missing cards, this is one of the most common, and worth remembering, since one of the goals during the bidding is to find at least an eight-card trump fit between yourself and partner.

With two different partners recently, I put this to the test.

Firstly, you hold: ♠AK10874; ♥AQ104; ♦5; ♣AK2

You are dealer and open 1♠; partner responds 1NT (forcing.) The opposition stays out of your auction, so how do you proceed?

Dealer South; All Vul:

Me	West	North	East
1♠	P	1NT	P
3♣ ¹	P	3♦ ²	P
3♥ ³	P	3NT	P
4♣ ^{4?}	P	5♣	P
6♣ ^{5!}	all pass		

¹3♣ My partner for this hand (Larry Lau), and I play a special treatment for big hands. This is an artificial relay and partner is expected to respond 3♦ so that I can describe my hand further. Most of the time he will follow my request and bid 3♦ as I've asked (a "puppet bid"), but occasionally he can break the puppet and instead of bidding 3♦ he can show their own long suit via a bid like 3♥, or he can show a limit raise in spades by rebidding 3♠ directly.

²3♦ Larry makes the bid I've asked him to make so I can describe my hand further.

³3♥ If over 1NT my rebid had been a direct 3♥, I would show at least 5-5 in the majors. Bidding the hand via this 3♣/3♦ treatment allows me to show a very good hand with exactly four hearts to go with my five+ card spade suit. This 3♣/3♦ treatment also allows me to show other hand types if my second rebid isn't 3♥ as per below:

3♠ shows a very strong hand in spades. It wasn't good enough to open 2♠ but needs

very little to make game. This is a better hand than one which would rebid 3♠ over 1NT, 3NT shows a strong hand with five plus spades and four clubs 4♣ shows a strong extremely distributional hand with both black suits.

⁴4♣ Although I only have three clubs, my hand has great controls, and if partner likes clubs, slam may be a good prospect. If partner has good diamond controls he will bid 4NT, which I will take as natural and pass (and hope that I haven't pushed the auction too high.)

⁵6♣ Once Larry raises my clubs I decide to go for broke with a slam. In theory I have shown a 5-4-0-4 distribution, but hopefully Larry has more than just four-card trump support.

West leads a diamond, which is called for by the auction, and I have a brief moment of trepidation as Larry puts his trumps down first and all I can see are five baby clubs. Once I see the rest of his hand I am feeling much better.

NORTH

♠ ---
♥ KJ3
♦ A9764
♣ 87643

SOUTH

♠ AK10874
♥ AQ104
♦ 5
♣ AK2

There isn't a lot to the play – the only key is not to ruff a diamond early in the hand with your 2♣. I win the A♦ and immediately play the top two clubs. Fortunately I am on the correct side of the 68% as both opponents follow to two rounds of trumps. Now I can cash the top two spades and four rounds of hearts pitching diamonds from dummy. Only then do I cross to dummy with a spade ruff and ruff the last diamond from dummy. The person with the last trump can ruff in any time he wants, but that is the only trick for the defense. Not surprisingly we were the only pair to bid a slam.

For the next hand I sat South and witnessed my partner that day (Jeff Goldman) make a great bid:

NORTH

♠ K10
♥ A94
♦ K852
♣ AK43

WEST

♠ 5
♥ Q752
♦ J1073
♣ QJ98

EAST

♠ 87432
♥ KJ108
♦ 9
♣ 1072

SOUTH

♠ AQJ96
♥ 63
♦ AQ64
♣ 65

Dealer South; All Vul:

Me	West	North	East
1♠	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	3♦ ¹	P
3♠ ²	P	4NT ³	P
5♠ ⁴	P	7♦ ^{5!}	all pass

¹3♦ Sets diamonds as trumps and invites me to describe my hand further

²3♣ Is a cue bid and tends to imply no heart cards as 3NT wasn't bid

³4NT Roman Key Card and my ⁴5♠ response shows two key cards A♠ and A♦, plus the Q♦

⁵7♦ Is a great bid.

The auction screams for a heart lead (the unbid suit), and on a heart lead if the diamonds break 3-2 (back to my 68%), then 13 tricks are easy, but if the diamonds don't break then 11 tricks will be the limit of the hand as I won't be able to pitch away North's hearts on my good spades before the opponents ruff in and cash a heart.

As you can see looking at all the hands, 7♦ didn't make because the outstanding trumps broke 4-1 (damn that 32%), but I included this hand for an additional reason. (*Editor's note: not every good bid goes unpunished.*) At every other table, the contract was 3NT and in most cases it was played by South on the lead of Q♣. How many tricks are available?

Continued on page 5.

Suicide Criss-Cross

by Geof Brod



It's the morning duplicate: first board of the day. Are you ready?

With neither side vulnerable, you hold ♠A82 ♥A107 ♦AKQ96 ♣85. Your RHO is dealer and opens 1♣. Basically you have two options: you can elect to double and then introduce your diamonds on the second round. This shows a hand too good to merely overcall directly and would be acceptable here. This is about the minimum you would have to adopt this sequence. The alternative is to overcall immediately and then double on the second round. Again a good hand. This has the advantage of immediately introducing your suit and makes it less likely you will be poorly placed if the opponents indulge in a club barrage. Either approach may work well or poorly on a given hand.

This morning you elect to overcall 1♦. Somewhat to your dismay it goes all pass. Your immediate fear is that partner has failed to bid on a hand that offers good play for 3NT. The dummy suggests that doubling first may have been the better approach:

- ♠ KJ75
- ♥ J862
- ♦ 42
- ♣ Q104

- ♠ A82
- ♥ A107
- ♦ AKQ96
- ♣ 85

Your first thought is that you hope that diamonds don't split since if they do, it would appear that 3NT would have decent chances. Anyway, that's something you can consider later; now you must judge how to give this contract best play. The opening lead is the ♣2. This pair generally leads top of nothing, so immediately you can place your LHO with an honor. There is also a good chance that in light of the opening bid your RHO holds both the

ace and king. Since that is probably more likely than not, it won't help to put in the 10. You judge to play low, often right with combinations such as this, and are gratified to see the king come up on your right.

RHO shifts to a low diamond which you take with the ace. Since you are reluctant to give the opponents control of the trump suit if it doesn't split you immediately lead a second club to the 10 and the ace. Now you have a pitch for one of the losers. RHO decides to force that decision on you playing yet a third round of clubs. You pitch a heart. You still have work to do. It's likely that the ♠Queen is offside. Hoping for something good in hearts, you lead low to the 10 losing to the queen on your left. The 9♠ comes back suggesting an unfavorable position in that suit. You play the jack, not unsurprisingly covered by the queen. You win the ace.

Time to stop fooling around and get the trumps out. You bang down the king and queen of diamonds and your LHO proves to have four of them. That means that you have eight tricks: Four diamonds, two spades, a heart and a club. Might it be possible to make a second overtrick? Let's look the remaining cards in all four hands:

	NORTH	
	♠ K7	
	♥ J86	
	♦	
	♣	
WEST		EAST
♠ 6		♠ 1043
♥ 94		♥ K5
♦ J		♦
♣ J		♣
	SOUTH	
	♠ 82	
	♥ A	
	♦ 96	
	♣	

Might as well lead a fourth round of diamonds giving West her due. This also has the effect of putting pressure on East who you believe holds both the heart and spade guards. You discard a heart from dummy and East can afford a spade. Now, however, West leads her last club as you pitch a spade from dummy.

Look what happens to East: If she throws a spade, blanking the 10, you lead your spade deuce to dummy's now stiff king, return to the heart ace and cash the 8♠. East does no better by tossing a heart. Now you simply cash the heart ace in hand, lead to the spade king in dummy and cash the now good J♥. It's a criss-cross squeeze, but you needed West to play the squeeze card for you. In the four-card ending, if West leads either a heart or a spade it breaks up the squeeze and you make only your two; nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Making three gives you a score of +110. Sometimes there can be a big difference simply by getting over the 100 mark. But not here today: the second overtrick garnered just one additional matchpoint on a 12 top.



NEW ACBL RULE

You now can open 1NT with a singleton, as long as it's an A, K, or Q. But you may not also have a doubleton. Your range is announceable for all natural NT openings and the Alert card should be displayed as well.

Getting to the Right Contract

by Paul Burnham

When fourteen top tricks are available for the taking in any of three contracts, when the hand is played fifty-one times at a national tournament, when fifty-one declarers do manage to take all their tricks, and when not one pair bids a grand slam, one might reasonably conclude that a significant gap in current bidding methods has been identified.

South, in second seat, holding a balanced 20-point hand, opened 2NT. His partner (me) transferred to hearts with a 3♦ bid and then raised opener's 3♥ bid to game. Most of us, I believe, play this as a mild slam try with six or more hearts. These hand types are not by any means rare, but it seems, based upon my conversations with several excellent local players (and two living in other parts of the country), few two-over-one partnerships have developed a firm understanding of what responder should have to make this bid.

I would suggest that responder should have one of the following hand types –

1. Seven or more of the identified major suit with enough honor cards to suggest that the suit will likely run, together with a side void;
2. Appropriate strength and a source of tricks in a second suit; or
3. A balanced or semi-balanced hand with six or more of the major and three to five controls (Ace =2, K=1). More, and responder better make a 100% forcing bid; less, and the chances that slam is on would seem remote. Perhaps responder should also promise that the long major suit be no weaker than Qxxxxx.

With the first hand type, responder might well transfer at the four-level and then invite with a cuebid. With the second he/she might prefer to transfer at the three-level and then bid the second suit; then later, if appropriate, return to hearts. This leaves only the third hand type for opener to consider.

With the actual hand, if opener knew that responder's 4♥ bid promised what I suggested above, opener, looking at his own hand, would need only to establish that responder had at least four controls (not three) before jumping to 7NT. (Assuming the partnership agrees, that at least at matchpoints, a making grand slam should be bid when it depends upon neither opponent holding four cards or more in the partnership's eight or nine card suit.) If Blackwood is unappealing due to opener being afraid a suit might be wide open, there is always Ely Culbertson's asking bid system. (But how many of us still have that one of his many brainchilds in our repertoires?)

When responder holds the third hand type, there are very few cases in which a contract of six of the major makes while 6NT does not. In even fewer cases will a contract of seven of the major make when 7NT does not. At Reno the four pairs who bid 6NT came away with nearly all the matchpoints for reaching the fourth(!) best scoring contract, as 7♦ was a make (in addition to 7♥ and 7NT). Something to think about when one hand is balanced and the other has a long, potentially running suit.

The actual hand -

NORTH

♠ AK
♥ KT5432
♦ 7
♣ T975

SOUTH

♠ 842
♥ AQ
♦ AKQJT
♣ A42

68% continued from page 3

As you can see looking at just the North/South hands (single dummy), there are 11 top tricks (12 if the diamonds break), but there is no chance of a 13th trick. Why then was every declarer in a hurry to cash their 11 top tricks, since 3NT making 11 tricks was the result at every other table?

If there is no chance of a 13th trick, declarers should have ducked the opening lead, and now West is inexorably squeezed late in the hand as he has sole protection of diamonds and clubs. There are a number of different squeeze positions on this hand against West, so here is one to illustrate:

	NORTH		
	♠ ---		
	♥ A		
	♦ 5		
	♣ 4		
	WEST		EAST
	♠ ---		♠ ---
	♥ ---		♥ KJ10
	♦ J7		♦ ---
	♣ 8		♣ ---
			SOUTH
			♠ ---
			♥ 6
			♦ Q6
			♣

When the A♥ is played, West has no good discard and "rectifying the count" (ducking at trick one, to eliminate the pitch card he would have had at trick 10), would have produced the 12th trick.





This Hand Is Driving Me Crazy

by Burt Saxon

The hand below, which came up some time ago, didn't turn out well for my partner, Harold Miller, and me. The opponents made a doubled overtrick and we ended up with a zero on the board. Four days later, I now know I should have pulled my partner's double. But I'm still not sure if I could have made 3♣ against optimal defense, or whether our zero was a result of the law of total tricks, strong opponents, bad bidding, or all of the above.

Shoulda, woulda, coulda.....Why would anyone obsess over something as trivial as this hand? Only a mishuganah (wacko) or a schlimazel (frequent victim) would even care. These two terms do include a lot of bridge players. Unfortunately both describe me.

I sat South with no one vulnerable:

North	
♠Axx	
♥Axxx	
♦K10x	
♣K9x	
West	East
♠xx	♠10xx
♥KQ10	♥Jxxx
♦AQxx	♦x
♣xxxx	♣AQJ10x
South	
♠KQJxx	
♥xx	
♦J9xxx	
♣x	

Harold (North) opened 1♣. Kevin Hart (East) passed, and I bid 1♠. West (Jeff Horowitz) doubled, and Harold redoubled. This is a support redouble showing three-card spade support (*Editor's note: see Karen's article this issue*). Kevin bid 2♣ and I bid 2♠, showing a five-card suit. Jeff now bid 3♣ and Harold doubled. This was not what I wanted to hear, but I hate to pull partner's penalty doubles, so I passed. Kevin made an overtrick and we got a zero.

Notice how well the Law of Total Tricks works here. The law says if the points are evenly divided, each side can make the number of tricks equal to the number of trump they hold. So, theoretically, North-South can make eight tricks in diamonds or spades and East-West can make nine tricks in clubs.

Now back to my dilemma when Harold doubles. If I bid 3♣, any lead but a trump could set the contract. If I leave the double in, I'm counting on Harold to take four tricks. The only way that can happen is if East misplays the hand. That leads to another issue. Kevin is not going to misplay the hand.

Back in 1973, two other bridge players on the Lee High School faculty and myself talked Kevin into a Friday night rubber-bridge game. On one hand, he held seven hearts and bid a small slam. I was sitting to his left holding KQx of hearts. That seemed like enough to double on, but a moment later Kevin was trumping good tricks after leading from the board. At trick ten, he held AJ10 of hearts. He led the 10 and my goose was cooked. I vowed not to double him or any other outstanding player again unless I was on lead against 7NT, holding an ace.

So I was not happy to defend 3♣ doubled.

Although, there was a silver lining. Our opponents had the only East-West plus score of the day on that board. That means that as soon as they bid three clubs, they were headed for a top.

The board led to a good result for me and Harold in a totally different way. I apologized for not pulling the double and Harold apologized for making the double in the first place. Now you might see this as two guys on a guilt trip, but in reality, it shows a healthy approach to partnership solidarity: Look at your own mistakes first. Analyze them, own up to them, and try not to make them again. On a hand like this, careful analysis will show that the

opponents did the right thing and deserved a top. Congratulate them and get on with your life. Note that West's takeout double with only three hearts turned out to be the best bid of the auction.

All these niceties, however, don't answer the critical question: Could I have made three spades against optimal defense? There was a North-South +140 on the traveler as well as a +110 and a couple of +50's.

Before deciding if I could have made three spades, I will assume two things. The first is that I would have taken a reasonable line of play. That's good news for our side. The bad news is that Jeff and Kevin would almost assuredly have found the optimal defense.

Let's assume West leads a club. East wins the ten and ponders for a moment. On first glance, it appears that a diamond lead followed by a diamond ruff is optimal. But that's deceptive. After the diamond ruff and a heart shift, I would have drawn two rounds of trump, cashed the ♦K, ruffed a club, and trumped a diamond on the board. After another club ruff and I can cash my good diamond for +140.

So let's assume West doesn't give partner a ruff after winning the ♦A. Instead, West returns another club. I ruff, draw three rounds of trump, and lead a low diamond finessing the ten. Now, I cash the ♦K, return to my hand by ruffing a club, and give up the ♦Q. I still have a trump, so I can make three spades by losing two diamonds, a heart, and a club.

Oh, wait a minute. I don't have another trump against this defense. So I probably would have gone down one. Maybe I have a counter to this defense? The hard truth for me is that I don't know and I've spent way too much time letting this hand drive me crazy.





SUPPORT DOUBLE

by Karen Barrett

Just like the New Minor Forcing convention the Support Double is another way for you and your partner to uncover an 8-card major suit fit. The convention itself is very easy, the hard part is remembering to use it and/or recognizing it when your partner uses it. It comes up often enough that I think it's worth your effort to give it a try. This is how it works.

A support double is a bid made by the opener to show exactly 3-card support for his partner's bid major (which could be only a 4-card suit) after there has been an intervening bid or call. For example in this auction:

North	East	South	West
1♣	P	1♥	1♠
Dbl			

This double by the opener shows exactly three hearts. If he had four hearts to go with his partner he would bid two hearts. If the South hand has five hearts he will confirm hearts as the trump suit by bidding to the appropriate level in hearts. If he only has four hearts he will have to find another bid. He may choose to support his partner's opening bid, bid no-trump at the appropriate level or cue bid. With a weak hand and no other option that looks appealing, he may have to sign off in a 7-card fit. Because the opener is forcing his partner to take a second bid the support double is generally only used through 2♥. That means that if the interfering bidder (West in the example) makes a bid greater than 2♥, the support double is off. Many play that a double at that point would be for penalty.

A support "re-double" works exactly the same way only this time the interfering bidder has doubled instead of bidding a suit. Since double is no longer available to the opener, he simply redoubles to show three-card support for his partner.

Here are some examples of how the support double works.

BIDDING			
<i>Opener</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opponent</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double ¹	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2NT		3NT	

¹ Shows 3-card support

² Denies five hearts

Responder

♠xx
♥Kxxx
♦Axx
♣Qxx

Opener

♠AQxx
♥Axx
♦KQ
♣Kxxx

BIDDING			
<i>Opener</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opponent</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Double
Redouble ³	Pass	2NT ⁴	Pass
Pass	Pass		

³ Shows 3-card support

⁴ Denies five hearts, invites game

Responder

♠Kx
♥Qxxx
♦xx
♣AQxx

Opener

♠AJxx
♥Kxx
♦KQxx
♣xx

BIDDING

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opponent</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♥ ⁵	Pass	4♥	Pass

⁵ Shows 4 card support

Responder

♠Kx
♥AQxx
♦Jxx
♣Kxx

Opener

♠AJxx
♥Kxxx
♦KQxx
♣xx

KAREN'S QUICK REVIEW OF SUPPORT DOUBLES

Important points to remember:

- Only the opener can make a support double
- A support double shows exactly three card support
- If the opponent doubles, instead of bidding, "redouble" is the support double equivalent
- If opener raises partners major directly, he is promising 4-card support
- If the opponent's bid is higher than 2♥ the support double is off
- If the opener has the opportunity to make a support double and doesn't, he is generally denying 3-card support for partner's suit (although on occasion opener could give up this opportunity and bid 1NT to become declarer, knowing that partner has new minor forcing to get additional information.)



Achievements

2015 Masterpoint Race Winners & 2016 Race Leaders

<u>Bracket</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016 (at 8/6)</u>
	<u>Ace of Clubs (local black points only)</u>	
0-5	Don Ernst-47.50	Jonathan Jankus 31.71
5-20	Brian Fielding-43.89	Pam Lombardo 18.88
20-50	Gordon Kreh-61.33	Joseph Hochheiser 30.82
50-100	Clifford Wald-100.12 (#9 ACBL)	Maureen Walsh 30.91
100-200	Ru Cole-130.77 (#10 ACBL)	Trevor Reeves 54.93
200-300	Russ Sackowitz-113.59	Cliff Wald 63.52
300-500	Don Kimsey-101.30	Russ Sackowitz 86.04
500-1000	Shari Peters-152.75	Vera Wardlaw 77.95
1000-1500		Roger Crean 94.38
1000-2500	Richard Fronapfel-210.36	
1500-2500		Richard Fronapfel 80.84
2500-3500		Linda Green 136.41
3500-5000	Doris Greenwald-278.66	Doris Greenwald 149.94
5000-7500	Sandy DeMartino-218.63	Sandy DeMartino 102.7
7500-10000	Larry Lau-115.40	Larry Lau 49.52
>10000	Geoff Brod-176.21	Geoff Brod 115.20

Mini-McKenney (includes all masterpoints won)

0-5	Don Ernst-58.59	Jonathan Jankus 54.87 (#5 ACBL)
5-20	Sylvia Szanto-63.61	Pam Lombardo 25.40
20-50	Gordon Kreh-102.33	Kishor Lathi 48.11
50-100	Cliff Wald-126.77	Silvia Szanto 53.58
100-200	Ru Cole-224.39 (#16 ACBL)	Trevor Reeves 95.41
200-300	Russ Sackowitz-166.71	Scott Butterworth 80.6
300-500	Don Kimsey-123.50	Felix Springer 167.6
500-1000	Susan Smith-209.26	Gary Mirashiro 103.30
1000-1500		Susan Smith 205.60
1000-2500	Jill Fouad-365.10	
1500-2500		Debbie Benner 302.68
2500-3500		Art Crystal 381.86
2500-5000	Randy Johnson-590.27(#352 ACBL)	Randy Johnson 330.97
5000-7500	Sandy DeMartino-466.38	Sandy DeMartino 235.89
7500-10000	Larry Lau-478.07	Larry Lau 207.04
>10000	Rich DeMartino-967.32(#108 ACBL)	Doug Doub 560.99

Achievements

High Finishers – StaC (6/13-19)

Gischners	MonAMOpen	Whalers	1A	11.06MP
K Herring/M Murphy	“	Whalers	2A1BC	8.3
N Starr/L Green	MonAftOpen	Come Play	3A	9.16
Grants	“	Greenwich	3B1C	6.89
A. Clamage/H. Zusman	TueAMOpen	Newtown	1A	13.77
T Reeves/F Springer	“		2A1BC	10.33
P Hartman/K Howe	Tue Eve Open	Newtown	1A	8.44
L Mulholland/R Benedict	“	Newtown	1BC	4.27
G Miyashiro/H Benson	“	Newtown	1B	4.27
L Filippetti/A Kosseim	WedAftOpen		1ABC	10.5
Rosows	ThuAftOpen	Hopmeadow	1ABC	11.44
J Scata/L Simmons	“	W Hartford	1AB	12.75
Thompsons	FriAMOpen	Farmington	1ABC	16.06
P Hartman/K Howe	SatAftOpen	Rabbit’s	1A	8.44

High Finishers – Saratoga (6/6-12)

G Brod/R Demartino	Wed CKO(B1)	1	11.29
Faye Marino	“	3	16
J Steifel/R Demartino	“	4	12
V King	Fri CKO(B1)	1	18.33
Mahonys	Fri CKO(B2)	1	8.03
V King	Sat Open Swiss	2	11.03
H Feldheim	Sat Open Pairs	1	18.81
J Steifel/R DeMartino	“	3	10.58

High Finishers – Nashua (6/21-26)

R Johnson	Tue Open Swiss	2/3	13.78
J Steifel/R Demartino	“	2/3	13.78
V King	Fri Open Swiss	1A	9.1
M Nader/J Peled/L Fradet/K Fahey	“	1C	2.39
V King	Sat Open Pairs	2A	25.61
H Feldheim	“	3A	19.21

High Finishers – DC Nationals (7/21-31)

Frank Merblum/Doug Doub	GNT Open Flight #1	175.0
Victor King	Mixed Board-a-Match Teams #1	110.0
Geoff Brod	Senior Swiss Teams #1	100.0
Michael & Susan Smith	Bruce 0-5000 LM pairs #1	75.0
Doug Doub	Roth Open Swiss #9	53.33
Mike Wavada/Paul Burnham	0-1500 Spingolds Tie 3-4	27.30
Jerrod Ankenman	“ “	27.30
Victor King	Saturday A pairs #2	25.4
Barbara Moore/Bill Wood	Wednesday AX Swiss 2AX	23.6
Ken Leopold/Felix Springer	Red Ribbon pairs #6	21.82
Victor King/Rich Demartino	Senior Swiss #14	21.05
Adam Lally/Dana Rossi	Sat Daylight AX Swiss #1	19.95



Hartford Club News

The “Club With a Heart” is celebrating its 85th anniversary!

First organized in 1931 by a core group of 50 dedicated bridge players, the Hartford Bridge Club’s original home was in the Hotel Bond in Hartford. It is the oldest continually operating bridge club in North America. HBC is a member-owned, member-run club, with a membership of over 540 players. Over the years HBC has increased membership through an active outreach program and through mergers with smaller area bridge clubs. HBC is currently the second largest bridge club in New England by table count and ranked in the top 40 clubs in the U.S. The club has 12 regular games per week, including both open and point-limited games. These provide play opportunities for those ranging from novices to Grand Life Masters. In addition, there are some special-occasion game events; Swiss games, pizza party games and pot luck games to celebrate new Life Masters.

Expertly served by a full-time manager as well as skilled game directors and instructors, HBC also has many members who donate their time to assure that the club operates smoothly and efficiently. Club members volunteer as fill-in players so that every person who comes to HBC for a game has the opportunity to play. Member volunteers maintain the website, serve as club comptroller/treasurer, run the library, distribute the HBC news emails, and purchase the snacks provided at games. In recent years, education has become an important part of HBC’s mission. Currently, there are lessons for players at all skill levels, from outright novices to advancing players and beyond. In the past year, a very popular mentoring program has been initiated in which more skilled players mentor players at a lower skill level.

On October 30th it will be party time as HBC celebrates its 85th birthday at an

off-site banquet hall. All members with paid-up dues are cordially invited to a complimentary grand buffet luncheon, with a game to follow. It will be a gala and fun afternoon.

Newtown Bridge Club

Newtown Bridge Club has added a fifth game to the weekly schedule: Thursdays at 12:30 pm. The new game has an Open section for all players and a 49er section exclusively for players with 0-50 masterpoints. The game finishes about 3:40 pm so players can beat rush hour traffic.

Larry Cohen will give two days of lectures, on Sunday, September 11, and Monday, September 12. Topics include: Top 5 Errors; Slam Bidding; Defensive Strategy; and Law of Total Tricks for Balancing. At this writing, seats are available for both days. For more information, please visit www.newtownbridge.org/larry-cohen.

October 10-13 will be Team Week at Newtown Bridge Club. Single session (24-board) Swiss team games will be held Mon Oct 10 at 12:30 pm, Tue Oct 11 at 10:00 am, Tue Oct 11 at 7:00 pm, Wed Oct 12 at 10:00 am and Thu Oct 13 at 12:30 pm. Advance reservations are recommended.

In June, the club hosted a Social Bridge Players Luncheon to introduce social players to Newtown Bridge Club. The event was attended by 44 players who enjoyed meeting others from the bridge community. It was the first visit to a bridge club for 29 players. Some of our new friends have since participated in games and lessons at the club.

Newtown Bridge Club plays Monday through Thursday at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown CT. Directions and information about games and lessons may be found at the club’s website www.newtownbridge.org.

Come Play Bridge

Fall promises to be exciting at Come Play Bridge. As our games in Westport and Greenwich grow, so does the prowess of our players, bringing grace, glory and growth to our tables. Regulars Nancy Starr and Bill Seldon continue to rack up scores that put them at the top of the leader board recently in STaC week and unit championships. Linda Green and David Blackburn have been doing the same. What really makes us proud is that our players, Grace Oringer and Raquel Stabinski-Leib, (winners of a Flight B Unit-Championship) represent the growth of players in every flight who are consistently climbing into the top 10. Speaking of climbing, we’re sending a shout out to Lenny Messman for his rapid ascent to Life Master and to Bill Selden and Paul Miller who recently pierced the stratosphere with a 75% game.

On Saturday October 1, we will be hosting a very special Saturday “bridge party” luncheon and duplicate game in Westport to celebrate author and poet Betsy Lerner’s “The Bridge Ladies” well-reviewed memoir. Betsy, a New Haven native, took up the game of bridge to help “bridge” the gulf in her mother/daughter relationship. She delved into the life-long relationships forged at the tables that played such an important part in the lives of her mother’s generation. She explores how differently, but equally important, our bridge friendships play important roles in our lives. By the way, Betsy is looking for more personal bridge stories from all of us at www.betsylerner.com. You don’t have to be a bridge playing parent or child to join the festivities and meet Betsy. Detailed information will be forthcoming on the www.comeplaybridge.com website.

Due to a growing popular demand, we are planning our first “Learn Bridge in a Day” seminar, to be offered late fall or early winter. We look forward to helping create another generation of bridge players who will forge the same life-long relationships via the game that enriches our lives daily.

Bridge Forum (Hamden/Woodbridge) Spring Update

Tuesday

Leading Pairs - 1 Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz; 2 Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners; 3 Rita Brieger-Harold Miller; 4 Abhi Dutta-Paul Johnson; 5 Hank Banach-George Levinson

Player of the Year Leaders - 1 Jeff; 2 Kevin; 3-4 Harold-Rita; 5-6 Alan-Gernot; 7 Hank; 8 George; 9 Bob Hawes; 10 Jeffrey Blum

Leonora Stein Cup - We almost avoided a repeat of last year's finish, as Kevin Hart defeated Harold Miller in the semifinals by less than 5%. But once again the finalists were Kevin Hart and Jeff Horowitz, Kevin didn't play the first week of the final, and Jeff's score with David Richheimer was high enough to secure the win.

Friday

Leading Pairs - 1 Erik Rosenthal-Jim Uebelacker; 2 Alan Milstone-Gernot Reiners; 3 Helen and Tracy Selmon; 4 Arthur Broadus-Perry Miller; 5 Billie Hecker-Louise Wood

Player of the Year Leaders - 1 Harold Miller; 2 Gernot; 3 Norma Augenstein; 4 Erik; 5 Rita Brieger; 6 Louise; 7 Jim; 8 Alan; 9 Joe Pagerino; 10 Midge Ehrenfreund

Aldyth Claiborn Cup - Regular partners Lucille Alderman and Ann Drabkin both reached the semifinals, but lost to Larry Stern and Rita Brieger. Neither Larry nor Rita could play the second session of the finals, leaving Larry's lead from the first session to hold up and making up to Larry for his near miss at winning ten years ago.

Tuesday/Friday Combined

Overall Player of the Year Leaders - 1 Jeff Horowitz; 2 Kevin Hart; 3 Alan Milstone; 4 Gernot Reiners; 5 Harold Miller; 6 Rita Brieger

Helen Frank Cup - This was almost a reversal of the Stein Cup, as Kevin Hart played once without Jeff Horowitz, but was unable to take advantage of the opportunity.

Final Standings: 1 Jeff Horowitz; 2 Kevin Hart; 3 Louise Wood; 4 Arthur Broadus; 5 Susan Smith; 6 Rita Brieger; 7 Gernot Reiners; 8 Vicki Rethy

Yearly Statistics - 65% of small slams, 71% of grand slams, 73% of penalty doubles and 38% of redoubles are succeeding. George Levinson is averaging 10.006 HCP per hand. Alan Milstone finally ended Rita Brieger's reign in the quarterly Slam Challenge. Fourth seatis scoring 48.79% on passouts. Our passout leaders are Phyllis Haeckel, Joyce Handleman and Pat Rogers. Other leaders: Best Defending - Donna Hersh-Pat Rogers. Most Grand Slams - Breta Adams-Karlene Wood (9). Best Four-Digit Penalty Record - Erik Rosenthal (5-0).

Best Top Accumulation - Kevin Hart-Jeff Horowitz. Best Zero Avoidance - Hank Banach-George Levinson.

Tuesday Bridge at The Country Club of Darien:

Congratulations to the Spring series winners:

1. Joan Bergen and Meredith Dunne.
2. Betsy Ryan and Lindy Beardsley
3. Carolyn and Tony Halsey

Woodway Duplicate Bridge Club

Winners of the Spring Series

1. Betty Hodgman
and Mary Ellen McGuire
2. Millie Fromm and Janet Soskin
3. Martha Hathaway
and Barbara Moore

Life Bridge Community Services

Life Bridge Community Services held their 7th annual BRIDGE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE event and first place overall winners were Marti Molwitz and Rod Aspinwall.

Cadyshack Bridge Forum

We have a new Life Master: Russ Sackowitz. Russ went over big helped by Ruth Twersky and Rene Pomerantz. Morris Feinson and Don Kimsey came in 2nd overall in flight A in the Unit-Wide Game held on July 8th.

Trumbull Duplicate Bridge Club

Congratulations to Jatin Mehta for winning the Scott Loring 2016 tournament trophy.

Wee Burn News

Winners of the Trophy Games held on May 10 were:

- Coulter Cup: Janet Soskin and Sue Kipp.
Robertson Bowl: Meredith Dunne and Karen Barrett.

Spring Series winners were:

1. Molly Johnson and Joan Bergen.
2. Marilyn Giannos
and Donna Christensen.
3. Belinda Metzger
and Barbara Johnson.
4. Mary Richardson
and Betty Hodgman.
5. Dave Mordy and Joe Holmes.
6. Audrey Cadwallader and Sue Kipp.

The Fall Series will start on September 1. Members of reciprocal clubs are welcome to sign up at any time. These games will be held at the Main Club.

Congratulations to Mary Ellen McGuire who became a Life Master on July 13
(Editor's note: not yet published in ACBL Bulletin)

Achievements

MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Diamond Life Master

Betty Jane Corbani

Silver Life Master

Joan Brault
Joyce Calcagnini
Diane Storey

Sapphire Life Master

Dave Ehler

Bronze Life Master

Janice Dean
Barbara Henningson
Gordon Mackenzie
Michele Raviele
Felix Springer
Eric Vogel
Mary Whittemore

Ruby Life Master

Roger Crean
Sheila Katz
Partab Makhjani
Carmela Marcela
Aldona Suta
Weiling Zhao

Life Master

Joan Bergen
Mary Jane Cross
Meredith Dunne
Bonnie Markowski
Bonnie Murphy
Russ Sackowitz

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 November 15, 2016.

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