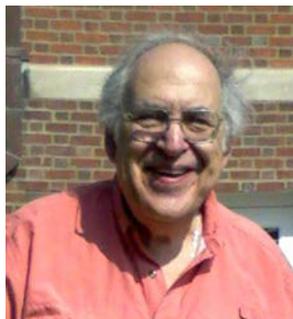


THE KIBITZER

August 2011

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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Greed is a Terrible Thing

by Harold Feldheim

A hypothesis: While walking down the street minding your own business, you happen across a stray \$100 bill on the sidewalk. Most of us would pick it up and, at the very least, think ourselves fortunate. There are a few (a very few) who would wail and moan about not having found \$200 instead. Believe it or not, such people exist and if you don't believe me, consider this hand from a recent regional Swiss team event.

Dlr: South NORTH
 Vul: None ♠ 6
 ♥ A J 9 8 7
 ♦ J 9 6
 ♣ Q 10 4 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 7
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A K Q 8 5
 ♣ A K 5

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
7NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Clearly, the auction is a big mess. In response to South's 2♣ opening bid, North's 2NT showed hearts, (2♥ would have been artificial, signaling a very weak hand). However, the agreement

was that the heart suit must contain two out of the three top honors, (AK, AQ, or KQ). South temporized with 3♦ and when North bid 3♥, South placed him with six hearts headed by the AQ. Counting his tricks, he thought he could see one spade, six hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs-12 tricks. South determined that 13 tricks were likely and one possible source could be the establishment of an extra trick in diamonds via a ruff. With this in mind, South bid the grand slam in hearts, cheerfully doubled by East. South realized that something was wrong and it sounded like the trump suit was not going to behave. On this basis, South converted to 7NT, again doubled by East (although this time, not quite as cheerfully).

West led the ♠10.

South surveyed the situation. Three things were obvious. First, North's heart suit was neither long enough nor strong enough to justify his auction. Second, the double made it abundantly clear that the heart suit was not going to behave very nicely. And third, a lot of fortuitous things had to occur for this contract to have any chance of success.

Assuming he finds the ♣J, he could still count 12 tricks; five diamonds, four clubs, two hearts and a spade. The opening lead made it likely that East started life with the ♠KQ. There was definitely a ray of hope.

After winning East's queen with the ace, South cashed the ♣AK. When East discarded a spade on the second club, 12 tricks were assured. He cashed four clubs pitching a spade on the fourth

club, East discarding two spades and a heart. Next he turned his attention to diamonds arriving at the following position with one diamond to play.

NORTH
 ♠ - - -
 ♥ A J 9 8
 ♦ - - -
 ♣ - - -

WEST	EAST
♠ 10	♠ K
♥ 4 2	♥ Q 10 5
♦ - - -	♦ - - -
♣ J	♣ - - -

SOUTH
 ♠ J
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ 5
 ♣ - - -

To the 5th diamond, East had no answer. If he threw away the ♠K, declarer's jack would provide the thirteenth trick while if he discarded a heart, the ace and king would drop the queen and dummy's last heart would fulfill the grand slam.

As East entered -1790 into his convention card, murmuring something about dumb luck, he made no attempt to be pleasant about it. "Being rewarded for your lousy auction is really unfair."

Declarer responded, "Probably true, but the grand slam in diamonds was easy. The grand slam in no trump was lucky. The grand slam in hearts was impossible but you doubled us out of an impossible contract into a contract that made. Greed is a terrible thing."





For the New Player

Simple Bridge-Major Suit Raises

by Nick France



“And so I’m going to open this chapter with a warning against that super-scientific but insidious poison that is oozing out of the eager-to-learn players – turning them from honest straight-forward bidders that it is a pleasure to play with into muddle-headed idiots lost in a nightmare of undigested, misapplied and, in the main, unsound theory.”

The above quote is from “Why You Lose At Bridge” by S.J. Simon. It is as true today as when it was written in 1946. I am constantly reminded of it when I see what is taught to novice and intermediate players. Early on they are taught the “Golden Rule” (A suit should not be bid twice unless the suit has at least six cards.) and how important it is to finding major suit games and slams. They are first taught that a raise from 1♠ to 2♠ shows six to nine points and a raise to 3♠ shows about 10-12 points and four or more trump. (Don’t ask what to do with three trump as that can lead to some interesting confusion.) But a raise to 4♠ is not 13+ points. It has a special meaning, showing five trump, a singleton and less than nine High Card Points (HCP). When they ask what to do with 13 or more points, they are told to bid a new suit and then jump to game. It’s the same advice whether they have 13 points or 18 points. Pity the poor opener with 15 points. He doesn’t know if he should pass and miss a laydown slam or bid on and go down in five when partner has a minimum.

But it gets worse; eventually they complain enough about not having a game-forcing bid in the majors and are taught something called Jacoby 2NT. Not only is it a complicated convention but also it forces them to give up a natural 2NT reply to one of a major. No wonder most

never quite figure out the bidding after a major suit opening.

When using a jump raise in the majors as a limit raise instead of a game forcing raise first started to become popular, the need for a game forcing raise was quickly recognized. The first choice wasn’t Jacoby 2NT but a simple 3NT bid to show a game forcing raise. This left a 2NT response to one of major as its normal meaning of a balanced game forcing hand with 2-card support for opener.

To make it easier to find major suit fits there is no need for a limit raise to three of a major to show four or more trump. Just do it on three cards or more. If some experts reading this are shaking their heads and think I’ve really gone off the deep end, I would refer them to Norma Sands, “The New Standard American Bridge Updated,” where she endorses this idea. While she acknowledges there is some value in the raise showing four or more trump, it is more complicated and the objective is to keep it simple.

If we adopt the bid of 3NT as a game-forcing raise and allow 3-card support for a limit raise then a major suit ladder becomes easy to construct with no complicated rebids to remember. After an opening of one of a major, responder with a fit bids as follows

Points	# of Trumps	Bid
6-9	3 or more	2 of major
10-12	3 or more	3 of major
13+	3 or more	3NT
With 5 trump, a void or singleton, and fewer than 9 HCP, raise major suit to 4.		

Now all of opener’s responses to a raise become easy as all raises become well defined. The following summarizes these bids

After Raise to 2 of Major

13-15 pts Pass
 16-18 pts Invite game by bidding a new suit, 3 of major or 2NT.
 19+ pts Bid 4 of major

After Raise to 3 of Major

13-14 pts Pass
 15+ pts Bid 4 of major

After Raise to 3NT

13-15 Bid 4 of major
 16+ pts Cue bid your cheapest ace

After Raise to 4 of Major

Normally Pass unless you have 19+ points and 3 or more aces.

When partner bids 3NT showing a game forcing raise, opener can sign off in four of the major with a minimum hand (13-15 points) or start cue bidding below game with more. This allows the partnership to stop in four of the major if responder is minimum or an unstopped suit is discovered.

The above doesn’t mean that there might not be some value in the complicated major suit raise system used by most experts. It just means that most players learning the game need to learn how to walk before they try to run and win the marathon.

Now the only thing the partnership needs to know is how to evaluate their hands. The points shown above include not only HCP but also distribution points. That will be for another article.



2011 CALENDAR

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
 29–Sep 4 New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI

SEPTEMBER

Aug 29–4 New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI
 14 (eve) ACBL-wide Instant Match Point
 16–18 Sid Cohen Sectional, Hartford, CT
 21 (day) Local (Split) Championship
 22 (day) Unit-Wide Championship
 25 199er, West Hartford, CT

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

Continued on next page

Can't Cost – Chapter 28

by John Stiefel



In this deal from a recent Regional Knockout Team event, one declarer scored up a vulnerable game by making a “can’t cost” play his opponent at the other table didn’t.

Dlr: West NORTH
 Vul: North/ ♠ Q J 10 5 3
 South ♥ - - -
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ A K Q J 9 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 6 5 4
 ♥ A K 7 3
 ♦ J 10 8 6 4
 ♣ 3

Auction – Table 1

South	West	North	East
Pass	2♥	3♥	1♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Auction – Table 2

South	West	North	East
Pass	3♥(weak)	4♥	1♥
4♠	All Pass		Pass

Opening Lead: ♥2 (standard leads)

The bidding merits some discussion.

First, I prefer West’s 3♥ (weak) raise at Table 2 to the gentle 2♥ (standard) raise at Table 1. This kind of bid (“Bergen raise”) is especially advantageous when playing IMPs at favorable vulnerability, but it has a lot of merit at all forms of the game and any vulnerability. In short, West has four hearts; so he knows that his side has at least nine trumps and the “law of total tricks” suggests competing to a 9-trick contract. So why not compete

to the 3-level right away and put maximum pressure on the opponents?

Second, both North’s found the best bid after East-West bid and raised hearts. North’s 3♥ bid at Table 1 (4♥ at table 2) clearly shows a 2-suiter with spades and a minor. Why? Because North would double with a strong 3-suiter and would bid 4NT with a strong 2-suiter in the minors. (With a 2-suiter in the minors but not enough strength to jump to 4NT, North would just have to bid diamonds first and hope to get the clubs in later if necessary.)

Before reading further, consider how you would play 4♠ after the 4th best heart lead from West.

At Table 1, South took the first 2 tricks with the ♥A and ♥K in hand, discarding both of dummy’s diamonds. Trick 3 was a spade to dummy’s 10 and East’s king. East forced dummy to ruff a heart at trick 4 and South called for dummy’s ♠Q at trick 5, breathing a sigh of relief when both opponents followed. West won the ace at this trick and forced dummy to ruff another heart at trick 6. South drew the last outstanding trump with dummy’s jack at trick 7 and then claimed the balance, stating that “I’m playing dummy’s clubs from the top.” Unfortunately, East showed out to the second club lead and West (who had started 108xxx of clubs) ended up taking the last two tricks with his ♣10 and ♥J. Down 2. Unlucky.

At Table 2, South also played ♥AK at tricks 1 and 2, discarding both of dummy’s diamonds. He also played a spade at trick 3 to dummy’s queen and East’s king and ruffed East’s heart return at trick 4. Before playing to trick 5, however, South asked himself “how can it cost to play a club to the ace now and ruff a club in my hand?” (Presumably, he thought about this

before playing to trick 1!) So he cashed dummy’s ♣A at trick 5 and ruffed a club in his hand at trick 6, East discarding the ♦9 to this trick before South ruffed. Now South played a spade to trick 7, West winning the ace and East following. At this point, the hand was cold, as dummy had ♥J10 and four good clubs. West knew that East had at most one trump left; so a red suit play to trick 8 would enable South to ruff, draw the last trump and take the rest of the tricks. So West shrugged and said “a trick is a trick” as he played a club to trick 8 and East scored his ♠9. (East could just as well have scored his ♠9 at trick 6.) That was just the third and last trick for the defense, however, so South scored +620 for a 12-IMP pickup.

What if clubs had split 3-3 or 4-2? If they were 4-2 with East having 2, the “can’t cost” declarer would have exposed himself to an uppercut with East’s ♠9 and been held to four while his counterpart made five – so his side might have lost 1 IMP. That’s a small price to pay, however, for increasing the chance of making a vulnerable game!

Should South still make this “can’t cost” play if he were playing Matchpoints instead of IMPs? This is not as clear and depends on South’s judgment as to how many North-South pairs will manage to get to the spade game despite the East-West bidding. My inclination is to still make the “can’t cost” (safety) play at matchpoints.

The entire deal was:

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 6 5 4
 ♥ A K 7 3
 ♦ J 10 8 6 4
 ♣ 3

Calendar continued from previous page

NOVEMBER con't

16-20 New England Masters Regional.
 Mansfield, MA
 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





Wee Burn News

Continuing their winning ways, Penny Glassmeyer and Betty Hodgman were first in the Spring Series followed by:

2. Audrey Bell–Joan Hoben
3. Janet Soskin–Kathie Rowland
4. Bonnie Markowski–Mary Ellen McGuire
5. Audrey Cadwallader–Belinda Metzger
6. Linda Cleveland–Mary Richardson

Our annual trophy games had the following winners:

Coulter Cup: Betty McCoy–Ann Towne
Robertson Bowl:
Janet Soskin–Kathie Rowland

The Fall Series will start September 8 at the Main Club.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Second Quarter Results

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs: Harold Miller–Rita Brieger have pushed past Bob Hawes–Jon Ingersoll and Don Brueggemann–Esther Watstein for the half-year lead. Hill Auerbach–Tracy Selmon have moved up to a close fourth, with Howard Cohen–Pat Rogers fifth.

Player-of-the-Year Leaders: 1-Rita Brieger, 2-Jon Ingersoll, 3-Fredda Kelly, 4-Harold Miller, 5-Tracy Selmon and 6-Esther Watstein are in the top ten in all three categories, setting up a good shootout for the second half of the year.

Leonora Stein Memorial Cup(Tuesdays, January-April): Jon Ingersoll, after surviving a bad start in an earlier round, cruised to the final against Vicki Rethy, who won a tense semifinal from Pat Rogers. In the second game of the two-week final, Vicki won the first round head-to-head, but after that everything went Jon's way, and he won comfortably. Having last won the Helen Frank Cup in 2002, Jon got off the long list of one-time-only winners and broke Billie Hecker's record for the longest gap between wins, stretching seven years and six months to eight years and ten months

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: George Levinson–Lucy Lacava and Carl Yohans–Janice Bruce have a little separation, with third place closer to twentieth than to second. Helen and Tracy Selmon, Barbara Sloan–Marie Strickland and Hill Auerbach–Larry Stern complete the top five.

Player-of-the-Year Leaders: Carl Yohans, who was Player-of-the-Year in 1999, has a fair lead over a tightly bunched pack of Janice Bruce, Robert Klopp, Billie Hecker, Louise Wood, Marge Simson and Tracy Selmon.

Aldyth Claiborn Memorial Cup(Fridays, January-April): We were treated to a much more competitive two-week final between Fredda Kelly and Billie Hecker. After the first half of the final game, Billie needed to better Fredda by eight matchpoints in the second half, and pulled it off with three points to spare. Billie won her fifth cup overall and became the third of Aldy's old friends and partners to win this cup in the last four years.

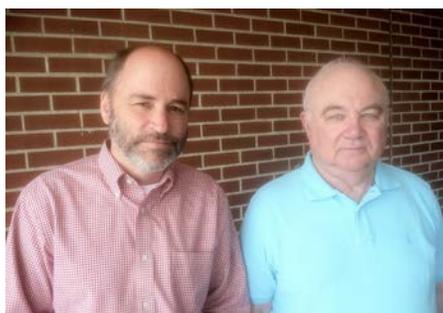
TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Overall Player-of-the-Year: The top five players for the spring quarter were Fredda Kelly, Bob Hawes, Billie Hecker, Carl Yohans and Jon Ingersoll. Year to date, Fredda leads Bob by more than one month's possible point maximum, with Jon third, Louise Wood fourth, Billie fifth, Carl sixth, and Harold Miller, Rita Brieger, Tracy Selmon and Robert Klopp completing the top ten.

Helen Frank Cup(Tuesdays and Fridays, May-June): This year's competition was rather flat. Marge Simson, Tracy Selmon and Rosemarie Tilney held the lead early. They were passed by both halves of the partnership of Hasmukh Shah and Jatin Mehta, who played for the last time on May 24, by which time they had pulled away from the field. However, Hasmukh's leading score hardly seemed likely to hold up. And yet it did. Bob Hawes, Fredda Kelly and Billie Hecker all came up within striking distance of the lead only to drop back. Ted Rodgers made a big move to third place, but then missed both of the last two games. When the final game began, there were five possible winners, with Hasmukh's improbable lead looking fairly safe. But Harold Miller (who had moved into contention by playing twice on Fridays with Burt Saxon in addition to partnering Rita Brieger on Tuesdays) came good in the end by the equivalent of less than 40% of one top board.



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our own Paul Proulx and Don Stiegler who posted a 79.17% game at the Bridge Forum in Hamden, CT in the ACBL-wide Charity Game on March 15. As you might expect, this score was more than enough to top everyone in the ACBL, all 116 sites (963 tables). Quite an accomplishment!

RESULTS

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP Monday, May 9, 2011

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

1	M. Stasiewski - J. Proulx
2	J. Holmes - P. Hussey
3	L. Levy - L. Levy
4	L. Cleveland - S. Steckler
5	J. Bramley - H. Bartman
6	K. Frangione - E. Nagle
7	J. Schiaroli - N. Cohen

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

1	J. Holmes - P. Hussey
2	L. Levy - L. Levy
3	L. Cleveland - S. Steckler
4	J. Bramley - H. Bartman
5	K. Freres - B. Pascal
6	P. Carrier - D. Nocera

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

1	J. Holmes - P. Hussey
2	L. Levy - L. Levy
3	K. Freres - B. Pascal
4	M. Hodgins - M. Hodgins
5	T. Greene - T. Brown
6	S. Smedes - M. Jancis

CT SPRING SECTIONAL Hamden, CT • May 13-15, 2011

Friday 10 AM Senior Pairs

1	1	P. Carrier - M. Stasiewski
2		W. Selden - M. Feinson
3		E. Nagle - K. Frangione
4		S. DeMartino - L. Otness
5	2	1 B. Buehler - C. McLaughlin
6	3	2 H. McBrien - M. Karbovanec
	4	3 D. Lyons - J.S.-M. Lee
	5	4 C. Sharp - H. Salm
	6	R. Twersky - R. Pomerantz
		5 G. Smedes - S. Smedes

Friday 10 AM Open Pairs

1		R. DeMartino - J. Stiefel
2		J. Pearson - B. Gorse
3/4	1/2	J. Bruce - J. Farwell
3/4	1/2	D. Thompson - A. Siegel
5		A. Hudson - R. Johnson
6	3	1 R. Fronapfel - S. Fronapfel
	4	2 M. Wavada - M. Dworetzky
	5	E. Misner - J. Misner
	6	L. Green - D. Blackburn
		3 P. Rogers - H. Auerbach
		4 L. Wyse - N. Matthews
		5 A. Van Dyke - M. Basham

Friday PM Senior Pairs

1		S. DeMartino - L. Otness
2		W. Selden - M. Feinson
3		S. Budds - A. Clamage
4		L. Lau - S. Rodricks
5	1	R. Hawes - B. Harvey
6/7		J. Smith - C. Zultowsky
6/7	2	1 M. Karbovanec - H. McBrien
	3	2 M. Madigan - F. Morris
	4	R. Brieger - H. Miller
	5	3 J. McClutchy - K. Freres
	6	4 C. Sharp - H. Salm
		5 R. Freres - G.S. Thoma

Friday PM Open Pairs

1		C. Michael - G. Carroll
2	1	1 J. Fouad - K. Olsen Nye
3	2	J. Bruce - J. Farwell
4	3	L. Green - D. Blackburn
5	4	2 A. Van Dyke - M. Basham
6	5	3 R. Roth - L. Brian
	6	R. Klopp - B. Henningson
		4 R. Fronapfel - S. Fronapfel
		5 P. Graebe - J. McGrath

Saturday 10 AM 299er Pairs

1		S. Milliken - C. Magowan
2		J. Handleman - G. Klein

3		N. Narwold - K. Harrison
4		A. Bollag - P. Bollag
5	1	C. Greenberg - B. McKelvey
6	2	P. Carroll - M. Moskovitz
	3	1 R. Bischoff - L. Geldmacher
	4	2 R. Reese - S. Schulz
	5	3 J. Bergen - M. Dunne
	6	4 L. Noll - J. Martinez

Saturday 10 AM B/C

1/3		K. Barrett - D. Thompson
1/3		R. Hawes - H. Auerbach
1/3		J. Bruce - J. Farwell
4		R. Brown - L. Robbins
5		M. Varhalamas - E. Coppa
6		B. Sloan - J. Bramley
	1	R. Gardner - J. Grosz
	2	J. McGrath - P. Graebe
	3	J. Fouad - K. Olsen Nye

Saturday 10 AM A/X Pairs

1		J. Stiefel - R. DeMartino
2	1	E. Lewis III - T. Hyde
3		S. Corning - H. Kobernusz
4	2	J. Merrill - D. Montgomery
5		A. Brodsky - H. Sard
6	3	J. Segal - H. Zusman
	4	B. Downing - M. Conner
	5	S. Seckinger - S. Rodricks

Saturday 2:30 PM 299er Pairs

1	1	P. Carroll - M. Moskovitz
2		N. Narwold - K. Harrison
3	2	1 M. Zolot - V. Rethy
4	3	2 K. Wood - J. Zucker
5		A. Bollag - P. Bollag
6	4	R. Bischoff - L. Geldmacher

Saturday 2:30 PM B/C Pairs

1		E. Misner - J. Misner
2		S. Smith - M. Smith
3		B. Sloan - J. Bramley
4		E. Coppa - M. Varhalamas
5		R. Derrah - S. Derrah
6		R. Brown - L. Robbins
	1	J. Fouad - K. Olsen Nye
	2	J. McGrath - P. Graebe
	3	L. Kling Jr. - A. Kling

Saturday 2:30 PM A/X Pairs

1	1	E. Lewis III - T. Hyde
2		J. Stiefel - R. DeMartino
3		J. Pearson - B. Gorse
4		L. Bausher - S. Becker
5		S. Gladyszak - A. Borgschulte
6	2	M. Conner - B. Downing
	3	R. Teitelman - M. Schaffel
	4	S. Seckinger - S. Rodricks
	5	A. Crystal - D. Benner

Sunday A/X Swiss

1		S. Earl - A. Rothenberg;
		R. DeMartino - J. Stiefel
2		L. Lau - B. Adler; J. Pearson - B. Gorse
3		J. Greer - A. Wolf; A. Crystal - D. Benner
4	1	S. Smith - D. Rock;
		B. Downing - M. Conner
5	2	D. Noack - R. Rising;
		J. Farwell - G. Seckinger
	3	B. Kliman - J. Osofsky;
		M. Heider - A. Geaski

B/C Swiss

1		G. Holland - C. Palmer;
		R. Hawes - B. Harvey
2		T. Lubman - L. Green; V. Wu - B. Ho
3		A. Leshine - C. Yohans Jr.;
		F. Kelly - L. Wood
4/5	1	R. Fronapfel - S. Fronapfel;
		G. Kishner - S. Kishner
4/5		M. Wavada - S. Rudd;
		R. Derrah - S. Derrah
6		K. Emott - J. Braut; D. Lyons - M. Garilli
	2	C. Sharp - J. Fuchs;
		D. Carpenter - J. Scott

3		M. Van Der Ree - M. Whittemore;
		R. Janow - L. Fradet
4		L. Englehart - C. Tanzer;
		M. Stout - J. Marecki

Unit-wide Open Pairs Tuesday Morning, June 14, 2011

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

1		G. Brod - J. Krug
2		R. Blair - L. Russman
3		J. Gaztambide - P. Salve
4		B. Watson - L. Pearl
5		B. Saunders - R. Brown
6		L. Carbone - E. Bucnis
7		J. Merrill - L. Labins

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

1		B. Watson - L. Pearl
2		B. Saunders - R. Brown
3		L. Carbone - E. Bucnis
4		J. Merrill - L. Labins
5		C. Girard - E. Van Wagenen
6		A. Hummel - J. Calcagnini

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

1		L. Carbone - E. Bucnis
2		S. Keller - J. Lai
3		R. Fronapfel - B. Rowley
4		L. Fradet - J. Nuki
5		M. Nadel - J. Glazer
6		C. Heckman - R. Vander Wiede

Unit-wide Open Pairs Friday, June 17, 2011

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

1		F.T. Rodgers - G. Frankel
2		J. Little - F. Bird
3		D. Elie - C. Graham
4		C. Joseph - R. Lahey
5		S. Shernow - E. Schiavone
6		L. Stern - H. Auerbach
7		R. Johnson - A. Hudson

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

1		F.T. Rodgers - G. Frankel
2		J. Little - F. Bird
3		C. Joseph - R. Lahey
4		S. Shernow - E. Schiavone
5		L. Stern - H. Auerbach
6		P. Amedeo - S. Gedansky

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

1		F.T. Rodgers - G. Frankel
2		J. Little - F. Bird
3		M. Myers - M. Moskovitz
4		J. Del Negro - R. Tamburini
5		S. Schienman - N. Hedman
6		R. Jacobson - S. Lewis

Unit-wide Open Pairs Wednesday, July 13, 2011

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

1		M. Stasiewski - P. Carrier
2		W. Jaeger - M. Hull
3/4		J. Paletta - E. Beveridge
3/4		J. Green - N. Robertson
5		A. Bell - A. Towne
6		D. Mordy - P. Hussey

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

1		M. Stasiewski - P. Carrier
2		W. Jaeger - M. Hull
3		J. Paletta - E. Beveridge
4		A. Bell - A. Towne
5		D. Mordy - P. Hussey
6		R. Lahey - J.M. Carmiggelt

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

1		W. Jaeger - M. Hull
2		D. Mordy - P. Hussey
3		M. Arnold - P. Blawie
4		M. Van Der Ree - M. Whittemore
5		W. Hayes - J. Miller
6		J. Zucker - O. Chhabra



My Favorite Numbers

by Burt Saxon



The number of tricks you take at matchpoint duplicate is important, but what really matters is the number of matchpoints you receive. When North opens up the slip, four people want to know how the other pairs have done. Sometimes the numbers on the slip are quite similar and everyone calls the board “pretty flat.” On the other hand, some boards are all over the place. Experience and logic do suggest that some numbers are usually good and others are usually bad. But which numbers are the most desirable? I decided to begin by listing here some of favorite numbers, along with the reasons for my choices:

+140, 130, or 120

These might seem like strange choices, but my reasoning is not crazy. I do not play bridge very often, but I do read a bridge column in a newspaper every day. Consequently my declarer play is a lot better than my bidding and defense. So for me these numbers usually mean my partner and I were wise to stop short of game and we made what could be made on the hand. Given that logic, +170 is usually a bad score for us. Here is an example of a hand where +140 is a great score:

My hand is:

♠ A K Q x x
♥ x x
♦ x x
♣ Q J x x

The bidding goes like this:

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

It turns out my partner has this hand:

♠ Jxxx
♥ xxx
♦ xx
♣ AKxx

The opponents have no singletons, so three hearts would be their limit. They could sacrifice in four hearts doubled if they were not vulnerable, but their best chance for a plus would be to defend three spades. As soon as dummy comes down, declarer can be certain the hand will make – and certain that the matchpoint score will be excellent.

+990 and +1490

These numbers mean we found out we were missing an ace, but we had almost

all the other high card points. Most people played the hand in a suit. We scored the same number of tricks but received all or nearly all the matchpoints because we played the slam in notrump. Of course +1020 and +1520 would be even better but we can't expect our opponents to fail to cash their ace.

-50 and -100

These numbers are usually good at the two level and pretty good at the three level. The Law of Total Tricks tells us why. If we do not have game, the opponents can usually make something below the level of game. Both these scores are fine when most of our opponents are +110. In other words, I would much rather be -50 or -100 than -110. This also means that there will be many times when, as declarer, I play for one of these numbers, rather than play to make the hand. -150 is definitely not one of my favorite numbers.

+430, 460, 630, and 660

These numbers are usually good ones. Slam is not there, so overtricks are what bring in matchpoints. My experience is that +400 and +600 are usually not so good, because they mean that my pesky opponents have taken all their tricks on defense. The exception, of course, is when we have stretched to reach a notrump game that is not bid at most tables. There is one other comment that must be made here. A number of hands play better in suit contracts than in notrump. So these numbers score the most matchpoints on hands with even distribution.

+200

This is the number you probably thought I would list first. Since -200 is called the “Kiss of Death,” then +200 should be called the “Gift of Life.” But things are not so simple. Yes, Plus 200 is usually a good score. But there are exceptions. Sometimes we receive +200 because we sold out to the opponents at the five level, even if we doubled them. Sometimes we receive +200 because we defeated the opponents at the three level when we were cold for game. And don't forget what I said earlier. Since my bidding is suspect, I have occasionally recorded +200 for two hearts or two spades making five.

At this point I decided to consult the experts. And why not start at the top?

I decided to ask some of the very best players in Connecticut and here is what I learned. Larry Bausher found my question interesting. He said that a printout of matchpoint results for all the different numbers generated at a large tournament would be helpful. He also said that he tends to think not in terms of matchpoint numbers, but instead asks himself, “How can we get one trick more than anyone else gets on this board?”

Rich DeMartino and John Stiefel also found the question interesting. Like Larry, they were a lot more enamored with +200. Rich noted that even two hearts making five can be a good score. It could mean the opponents failed to cash two winners. On the other hand, his experience suggests that two of a major making four is usually not a good score. Again, both agreed with Larry that plus scores are generally good and minus scores are generally bad. At that point I modified my choice of -50 and -100. Now I would just note that those two numbers are usually not zeroes.

Rich and John added another wrinkle. They both like 920 and 1370, the scores for bidding minor suit slams. They noted that most bridge players know how to bid major suit slams, but often miss minor suit slams. This makes great sense to me.

So these are now my favorite numbers:

140, 130, and 120
920 and 1370
200
990 and 1490
430, 460, 630, and 660

The two negative numbers are no longer on my list of favorites. As my father used to say, “You can't go broke making a profit.”

I would encourage the ACBL to publish what matchpoints are associated with what numbers at some major tournaments. My question does have statistical answers, and right now all I have are calculated opinions based on players' experiences. When that is the best source of information, rely on expert

Continued on next page

New CBA Board



left to right:
Sandy, Susan, Phyllis, Debbie

The Connecticut Bridge Association elected its new officers at the May tournament in Hamden. Phyllis Bausher is the new President, with Sandra DiMartino Vice President, Debbie Noack Secretary, and Susan Seckinger Treasurer. The remaining CBA Board of Directors and their responsibilities are identified on the back page of the Kibitzer.

These officers and Board members run the bridge activities in the state according to guidelines of the ACBL, the parent national association. Thanks to Nancy Robertson, careful records of the CBA have been kept and the list of past presidents accompanies this article. Nancy has also several past issues of the *Nutmegger*, the newsletter that preceded *Kibitzer*. The President's Message from the December 1955 *Nutmegger* issue written by President John Hunt is as follows:

"On July 1st, a new year began in the young life of the Connecticut Bridge Association. I esteem it a great honor and privilege to have been selected as president of the Association. It shall be my purpose to merit the confidence reposed in me by selection to that office.

Looking back over the past three years, it seems that much good has been accomplished by the Association. As a result of the formation and function of the Association over the past three years, contract bridge throughout the State has been organized and the enthusiasm has increased.

The Association seems to have welded together the bridge players of the State into a single family. It has aided in promoting interest in the various bridge clubs throughout Connecticut. It has stimulated the bridge players to visit other clubs and to make friends.

I am sure it is a pleasure to all to observe the harmony and friendship that exists among bridge players throughout the state. It shall be my purpose during my tenure of office to promote that feeling of good fellowship."

Amen to that. And with many thanks to the new slate of CBA officers and the members of the Board whose goal for all Connecticut bridge players remains the same as expressed by former president John Hunt.

Connecticut Bridge Association Presidents

1952-54	David Goldschmit*
1954-55	William E. Adams*
1955-57	John J. Hunt*
1957-59	Leah Ryder
1959-61	Carol Graham*
1961-63	Ed Phillips*
1963-65	Phil Katzenstein*
1965-66	Ruth Sugenheimer*
1966-67	William Butcher*
1967-69	Robert Bassell*
1969-71	Monroe Magnus*
1971-73	Nancy Robertson
1973-74	Sidney Cohen*
1974-76	Millie Fromm
1976-77	Frank Wilson*
1977-79	Janck Kaplan*
1979-81	Myrna Bachiochi
1981-83	Steve Earl
1983-85	Dean Montgomery
1985-87	Joseph Kochman*
1987-89	Richard Wieland
1989-91	Nomran Gracie*
1991-93	Richard Wieland
1993-95	Joan Martin
1995-97	Gerald Jacobs
1997-99	Scott Loring*
1999-2001	Sandra DiMartino
2001-03	Allan Clamage
2003-05	Charles Halprin
2005-07	Kay Howe
2007-09	Ausra Geaski
2009-11	Burt Gischner
2011-	Phyllis Bausher

* - Deceased

Favorite Numbers continued from previous page

opinions whenever possible. Thus I thank Larry Bausher, Rich DeMartino, and John Stiefel for answering my question.

Editor's Comment –

I was intrigued by the idea of favorite numbers so I decided to take a quick look at one section from our May sectional. Obviously, the statistics leave a lot to be desired. However, for the Saturday Morning A/X Pairs at the May 14, 2011 CBA Sectional, here are some results (*at right*).

I leave it to the statisticians among you to collect a statistically significant number of data points. This preliminary screening supports Burt's thesis. -twp

Score	# Occurrences	Ave. Match-points (12 top)
120	2	11.5
130	3	10.67
140	33	6.5
200	14	9.5
430	8	7.4
460	2	2.5
630	17	8.5
660	2	9.5
920	0	-
990	6	9.5
1370	0	-
1490	0	-

MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

New Life Masters	Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)
Richard Collins Jo Sue Coppa Richard Lebel Nancy Reith	Razelle Ginsberg Robert Gruskay David Katzman Vivian Leshin
Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)	Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)
Ellen Finch Ian Fuller Jerry Hirsch	Jay Borker Lynn Condon Barbara Kirtley Edwin Lewis III Sharon Santow Nora Tkacz Lois Zeisler



Bridge Charity Event

Family Services Woodfield held a charity bridge and luncheon in June at the Watermark on Park Ave., Bridgeport, site of the Fairfield Thursday and Friday bridge games. Both "social" and duplicate events were in play. Harold Feldheim gave a lesson prior to game time to those who registered for the lesson.

After the game, an auction raised additional funds for Family Services Woodfield.

Bridge winners in the Open:

NORTH-SOUTH

A Linda Green –
David Blackburn
B & C J. Tierney – Doris Farquhar

EAST-WEST

A Ann Cady – Richard Wieland
B Francine Gilbert –
Blanche Eisman
C Joy Walker – Cynn timer Goldrick

Winners in the Newcomer section:

NORTH-SOUTH

Patricia Fitzgerald –
Barbara Strickland

EAST-WEST

Bunny Mostad – Nancy Brown

All results are available at the Bridge Mix, the Fairfield Bridge Club, on the ACBL club results page. Net proceeds from the event were over \$15,000.

As for the photo, after the lesson, Harold tried very hard to comply with the image in the photo. Check with partner Katie Goodman for his degree of success.



Come for the Fun!

4th Annual 199er Sectional Tournament

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10:00AM and 2:30PM

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Bridge lesson between sessions
Entry includes lunch
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Information and Pairing	Stratified Games
Bill Watson (860) 521-5243 hbc199@aol.com	A: 100-200 B: 50-100 C: 0-50

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Entry Fee: \$10 per person per session
\$1 additional for non or unpaid ACBL members.
Student discount \$3/student/session.
Instant ACBL membership available.
Check www.ctbridge.org for updates and results

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 October 15, 2011.

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