

THE KIBITZER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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How Could I Tell?

By: Harold Feldheim

So often, the defense is presented with an early-hand lead decision. Sometimes the play is obvious while sometimes it's not so clear. The following hand from an actual knockout event is compelling in that two normally excellent defenders missed the mark.

It reminds one of Sherlock Holmes solving a knotty problem; "once explained, it becomes so simple". From a teacher's point of view, this hand is a beautifully simple example of logic.

North
♠ 85
♥ 75
♦ KQJ97
♣ AQJ9

South
♠ Q104
♥ QJ8
♦ A105
♣ K875

Dealer: South
Neither side vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♠	P
2NT	P	3NT	All Pass

Lead: ♠ K

The bidding: North's 2 ♠ cuebid showed club support plus game going values. South showed his shaky spade stopper which was all North needed to bid game.

The play: West thought a long time about trick two. East's ♠ 2 at trick one indicated a three card holding. Since there was no mystery about the spade queen, he needed to get partner on lead to lead a spade through declarer. Clearly, if South held all three of the missing potential entries (♦ A, ♠ K, ♥ K) the contract was unstoppable. Underleading the ace of hearts was unappetizing since it would most likely give away a trick. If partner held the diamond ace he would surely score it so West shifted to a club.

North
♠ 85
♥ 75
♦ KQJ97
♣ AQJ9

West	East
♠ AKJ93	♠ 762
♥ A1092	♥ K643
♦ 86	♦ 432
♣ 106	♣ 432

South
♠ Q104
♥ QJ8
♦ A105
♣ K875

After South rattled off nine tricks, and it turned out that the heart switch to partner's king would have scuttled the contract, there was the inevitable discussion. Both West defenders decided that the heart switch was double dummy and dismissed the hand; yet, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, there is a line of logic that leads to the goal.

Consider the possibilities at trick two. Since we cannot be 100% sure as to partner's entry, we should look for the play that does not cost the contract immediately, i.e., we'll get another chance. Since we must assume a card in East's hand (S didn't open 1NT and can't have all 3), by choosing a heart (a small one, not the A, since this might give declarer 3 heart tricks), South cannot come to more than five diamonds, two hearts, and one club: eight tricks. This assures a second bite at the apple for the defense. Notice that any minor suit switch risks an immediate nine tricks.

Elementary my dear Watson.



From the President

It's definitely a sign of spring when the urge to clean up and get going is strong enough to no longer ignore.

In the "get going" part, we have lots of good tournament news. We'll be in Greenwich for the August 25 – 27 tournament. New tournament sites have been found in Hartford and in Orange. We think you'll be delighted. More information about these sites and dates of the tournaments on page 12 in this "Kibitzer."

Cleaning up, which is never over, brings me to a couple of things covered in my past "Kibitzer" messages and seem worthy to address again.

If you check the back page of this issue under the list of Who Does What in the CBA you will notice that Millie Fromm is now our "Unit Recorder." That job was described in full in the May 2014 issue of "Kibitzer." If you click on "Kibitzer Archives" on the left column of the CBA website homepage, it will take you to a list of past issues. Click on the May 2014 issue and the article is on page 2.

But briefly, the Recorder is the person to receive, investigate and evaluate a player's complaint (either informally after the incident via a phone call or email; or via a formal "player memo", which can be obtained from, completed and returned to the director at the tournament site) about another player's behavior or disruptive conduct at a game or tournament. The Recorder may also be asked for clarification of something general that occurred during a game or a scoring process that is not understood.

The Recorder evaluates the issue and decides if filing a formal charge with the ACBL is in order or not. Most often, these issues do not require filing. Millie can be reached at millstantx@aol.com or at 203-259-6648. She may ask for a written description of the issue or question if she believes it's a matter which needs to be pursued. She will most often attempt to mediate the situation and will decide whether or not it is necessary to refer the situation to the ACBL. Records are kept of all communications.

Directors and club managers have the right and responsibility to control and deal independently with behaviors that can be disruptive to the game, or annoy and distract other players. Issues and disagreements with a director ruling regarding play of the game are NOT part of the Recorder's job, but are left up to a committee of high level bridge players at the tournament site if a player wishes to pursue the matter.

Another issue, discussed in a previous article, is the use of the "Stop" card. The Stop card is NOT meant to alert your partner that you have made or about to make a jump bid. It replaces the "skip bid" warning of verbal bidding. This is to assure the smooth tempo of the bidding at the table. A long pause, or very quick bid or pass, could be interpreted as giving partner information, so the Stop is used to assure the even pace of bidding. If you use the Stop card, you must use it every time you make a jump bid...not only when you feel like it or when you wish to emphasize your action. You should leave it on the table for 3-10 seconds (as long as you deem necessary to give the next opponent time to

consider his action, so that when you remove the stop card and free him to act, any action he takes will occur in the same time frame.)

Finally in the spirit of spring cleaning: Please pick up your stuff at our tournaments. Some of us are pretty messy and the stuff around the table, on the floor, on the empty chair, can be awful. We have (now or soon—see page 9 in this issue) lovely, super new tournament sites, and we want these sites to keep letting up come to their superb facilities. Let's do our part to keep them terrific. Pick up your used cups, cans, wrappers, napkins. There are trash containers throughout the space. Use them.

Our Board members are all volunteers. They work really hard to assure everyone enjoys the game. We now will have tournament hosts to help make your experience even more pleasant. You can help too. Bring something edible to share at the game, just as many of you do at your home club. You can drop your goodie off in the kitchen or give it to a Board member who will see that it gets on the table.

Lastly, remember, we don't provide lunch on Friday or Saturday. Most often, sandwiches can be purchased on Sunday. Our refreshment hostess-genius (Debbie) has magic wands and often her snacks take on totally new meaning. BUT, it's not meant to be lunch!

Thanks for picking up and sharing. Have a good game!

Esther Watsein
President, CBA



Can't Cost – Chapter 47

By: John Steifel

In this deal from a recent match-points club game, declarer made a thoughtful “can’t cost” play to secure an important overtrick.

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: Both

NORTH

♠ 87
♥ K1096
♦ 1095
♣ KQ62

SOUTH

♠ AJ3
♥ AQJ
♦ AK62
♣ J85

Bidding: 2NT 3C 3D 3NT
(East-West pass throughout)

Opening lead: ♥ 8 (4th best or top of nothing)

The bidding was fairly straightforward. South showed a balanced hand with 20-21 points, North asked about a 4-card major with his 3♣ bid and then signed off in 3NT when South denied one.

When declarer saw the dummy, he knew he had at least 9 tricks – 1 spade, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and at least 2 clubs. So his goal was to make 10 tricks

or even 11 (if both minor suits split 3-3 and the opponents didn’t shift to spades upon winning the ♣ A.

So declarer won the opening lead with his ♥ J and led the ♠ 5 toward dummy, West playing the 10 and dummy’s King losing to the East’s Ace. Back came the ♠ 9 (0 or 2 higher) to South’s jack and West’s king. West returned the ♠ 4 and East played the 10.

At this point, declarer had lost 2 tricks and it seemed like his only chance to make 10 tricks would be to find clubs 3-3 or West with 10-9 doubleton. He realized, however, that nothing could be gained by winning the second round of spades so he made the “can’t cost” play of ducking trick 4. East continued spades at trick 5, South winning the Ace, West following with the 2 and dummy discarding the ♦ 5. (Any other discard could cost a trick.)

South now cashed his ♠ J and led a club to dummy’s ♥ Queen at tricks 6 and 7. Both opponents followed to trick 6 and West discarded the ♦ 3 to trick 7.

South next cashed his ♥ A at trick 8, led the ♥ Q to dummy’s King at trick 9 and then led dummy’s ♥ 10 to trick 10. West followed suit to all these leads and East discarded spades to tricks 8 and 9; but East had a problem at trick 10. His 4 remaining cards were ♦ QJ4 and ♣ 9. He knew discarding his club would set up dummy’s 6, so he discarded the ♦ 4. South discarded his ♦ 2 to trick 10, but he was able to take the last 3 tricks with his A, K and 6.

The entire deal was:

NORTH

♠ 87
♥ K1096
♦ 1095
♣ KQ62

WEST

♠ K42
♥ 87532
♦ 873
♣ 102

EAST

♠ Q10965
♥ 4
♦ QJ4
♣ A974

SOUTH

♠ AJ3
♥ AQJ
♦ AK62
♣ J85

A few comments.

First, it “can’t cost” East to duck his ♣ A at trick 2. Taking it simplified the play for declarer.

Second, “deep thought” people will note that South “rectified the count for a squeeze” by losing all the tricks he had to lose but one early in the play.

Third, there actually wasn’t a squeeze because West should have kept all three of his diamonds. Then, when East is forced to discard a diamond, West’s 8 would take trick 13 instead of South’s 6! There was definitely no reason to save all his hearts.



DON'T PANIC

By: Bret Adler



There is a saying in bridge that if you don't double the occasional making contract, then you aren't doubling enough. In a recent event, I had my doubling shoes on and we had already picked up some juicy scores, including a +1400 which was substantially better than us bidding a non-vulnerable game. I was teasing partner as he had thrown away a winner on this hand, but +1400 or +1700 was still worth all the match points.

A few hands later, a much tighter double occurred, and I'll let you defend the hand from my partner's perspective.

My partner sat East, was dealer, and held: ♠3; ♥AQ75; ♦J752; ♣AQ92. The bidding proceeded:

Dealer East; All Vul:

Me	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
Dbl ¹	2♥ ²	2♥	2♠
2NT ³	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl ⁴	All pass		

Dbl¹: My first double (negative), showed interest in the unbid suits, and typically shows four+ hearts

2♥²: Is an unassuming cue bid and shows a good (limit+) raise in spades.

2NT³: Is a convention called Good/Bad 2NT and asks my partner to bid 3♣ after which I'll describe my hand.

Typically it shows a hand that wants to compete at the three level but has no interest in playing a higher level contract. After partner's 3♣ bid, a typical action for me is to pass, bid 3♦, or bid 3♥ to play. If I don't bid 2NT first, but instead bid a suit directly at the three level, I am showing a better hand that is inviting game.

Dbl⁴: Time to wield the axe with a penalty double.

Now I'll let you defend the hand from my partner's perspective after my lead of the 10♦:

NORTH
 ♠10874
 ♥KJ103
 ♦AQ64
 ♣3

EAST
 ♠3
 ♥AQ75
 ♦J752
 ♣AQ92

The first few tricks were:

Me	South	North	East
10♦	3♦	A♦	2♦
Q♠	J♠	4♠	3♠
9♦	K♦	4♦	5♦
5♠	A♠	7♠	5♥
2♥	4♥	K♥	A♥

So what card should East play next now that the following situation has been reached?

NORTH
 ♠108
 ♥J103
 ♦Q6
 ♣3

EAST
 ♠---
 ♥Q7
 ♦J7
 ♣AQ92

Unfortunately this wasn't my normal partner and he panicked - he cashed the A♠ and then tried to cash the Q♥, but declarer ruffed this and claimed 9 tricks (he had another trump trick to lose.) If partner had stayed calm, he could have worked out the whole hand and the right defense.

Declarer is marked with 5 spades and West still seems to have a spade winner. West showed 4 hearts in the auction so declarer's 4♥ was a singleton. Also partner led the 10♦ then the

9♦ (looks like a doubleton), so declarer has 3 diamonds. That accounts for 9 cards so declarer must have 4 clubs.

So Declarer has to lose two spades, one heart and one club, but does he have 9 winners? Declarer has to do something with his 4 card club suit, and with two trumps left in dummy, two clubs can be trumped and one can be discarded on a winning heart (once declarer takes the ruffing finesse in hearts.) Looks like nine tricks - if only, however, partner were to be on lead he could cash a top spade and now dummy can only ruff one club loser-- the defense will get two club tricks to defeat the contract.

The right card to lead is therefore the 2♣, to get partner on lead to play the top trump, but is there a risk in under-leading the club honors? West wanted to compete to the three level in the auction and doubled 3♣ for penalty. He has only shown up with Q♠, and K♣ (implicit) in terms of high card points, so he is marked with the K♣.

The full hand was:

NORTH
 ♠10874
 ♥KJ103
 ♦AQ64
 ♣3

WEST
 ♠KQ5
 ♥9862
 ♦109
 ♣K1085

EAST
 ♠3
 ♥AQ75
 ♦J852
 ♣AQ92

SOUTH
 ♠AJ962
 ♥4
 ♦K73
 ♣J764



The Survivor

By: Geof Brod

You're playing in a Swiss teams in the recent Senior Regional in Hyannis. Things have been going well and if you can win your current match you rate to finish in the high overalls.

Nothing much has happened on the first four boards. Then they deal you: ♠ KJ1084 ♥ 97653 ♦ 73 ♣ 9. The vulnerability is adverse so when your right hand opponent opens 1 ♣ you elect not to Michaels nor to overcall 1 ♠. Your LHO continues with 1 ♦ and partner enters the fray with a takeout double. RHO continues with 2 ♣. It's over to you.

This is not a bad hand on the auction. Partner has the majors and you have five cards in each and very good spades. While the weak hearts are somewhat offputting, you are impressed by a likely 9 card fit in both majors. You jump to 3 ♠. Partner now goes into the tank and as he thinks you begin to wonder if you have overbid your hand. Perhaps a free call of 2 ♠ would have been more appropriate on your 4-count. Finally partner elects to pass as does your RHO. The auction has been:

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Dble
2 ♣	3 ♠		All Pass

The opening lead is a small club and the dummy goes down:

♠ AQ72
♥ A84
♦ QJ2
♣ J104

♠ KJ1084
♥ 97653
♦ 73
♣ 9

Alas, partner expected you to hold a different (better) hand to have given the matter so much consideration. Still his pass is clear as he has a minimum with wastage in the opponent's suits, no ruffing value and just three hearts when he might have held four.

Clearly, looking at this dummy that offers virtually no play for your contract, a free call of 2 ♠ would more than adequately have expressed your values. As you reflect, it occurs to you that you failed to take into account your methods. You play that a fourth seat 1NT overcall is sandwich, i.e., takeout, showing 5-5 in the unbid suits. Consequently many times partner will be forced to double with sound values but less than the normal four card support for both unbid suits. Anyway, that's all fodder for the post mortem; right now you've got to consider how to give this contract a good play.

You've five losers and it's hard to see how you can improve on that. Your only thought is that somehow you must contrive an endplay where an opponent is forced to give you a ruff/sluff enabling you to get rid of a heart loser. For that to happen it looks as if spades will have to be two/two and you will need to take two club ruffs in hand. That means that you will have to develop a diamond trick. Furthermore while you envision an endplay you can't afford for the opponents to attack hearts early. Since you may need a fair amount of communication from hand to hand it looks best not to draw trumps immediately. Also, since you prefer the opponents not play hearts, leave them some trumps to lead as they win their diamonds.

RHO wins the first trick with the club ace and continues with a low club which you ruff. In accordance with your general plan you start on diamonds. RHO rises with the king and continues with the club king as

you ruff in hand again. You play a second diamond won on your right and a low trump comes back. So far so good but you still need help from the opponents. Your basic hope is that someone holds king and a small heart doubleton (KQ tight would be ideal) and that when you play the heart ace your opponent fails to see the need to unblock.

Keeping that in mind, it would be an error to draw the second round of trumps, cash the diamond queen and then play the heart ace. Your plan would be clear and an alert opponent would likely unblock the ♥ K from an original Kx. Instead, immediately cash the heart ace, then the diamond queen, take a second round of spades (they are two/two; good) ending in hand and lead a small heart.

It is important to lead the second round of hearts from hand as it gives your LHO a chance to err by failing to rise with the king from an original holding of ♥ KJx when his partner has the stiff queen remaining. This precaution proves to be unnecessary as RHO wins with his now bare king and is forced to offer a ruff/sluff that enables you to dump dummy's heart loser. Rather luckily, you have survived your aggressive bidding.

The full hand:

♠ AQ72
♥ A84
♦ QJ2
♣ J104

♠ 93	♠ 65
♥ Q102	♥ KJ
♦ K10986	♦ A54
♣ K82	♣ AQ7653

♠ KJ1084
♥ 97653
♦ 73
♣ 9



Achievements

Life Master (300 MP) Wayne Lubin	Bronze LM (500 MP) Nancy Narwold Mimi Van Dyke	Silver LM (1000MP) Rita Brieger Carolyn Joseph Carolyn Olschefski Gernot Reiners	Gold LM (2500MP) Laurie Robbins	Diamond LM(5000) Randy Johnson
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(published in the ACBL Bulletin)

The ACBL has created 2 new LM masterpoint achievement levels: Ruby (1500) and Sapphire (3500).

The following Connecticut players have reached these new levels.

Congratulations to all.

Ruby

Marie Abate	Reginald Harvey
Brett Adler	June Hearrell
Peter Amedeo	Michael Hess
Henry Arnold	Tom Hey
Joy Bacci	Lucia Hilton
Karen Barrett	George Holland
Debbie Benner	Kay Howe
Barbara Biggs	Alice Hummel
David Blackburn	Jerry Jacobs
Louis Brown	Gordon Jonas
Ronald Brown	Hilda Kolb
Donald Brueggeman	Nancy Krech
Kate Burton	Lois Labins
J Michael Carmiggelt	Anita Lanzoni
Nancy Earel	Sharon Larson
Bess Economos	Mary Leclair
John Farwell	Arlene Leshine
Donna Feir	Hoby Littlefield
Terry Fidler	Denise Lombard
Sol Field	Tom Lorch
Jane Finn	Terry Lubman
Jill Fouad	Joan Martin
Richard Fronapfel	Jatin Mehta
Jose Gaztamide	Judy Merrill
Vera Girard	Paul Miller
Tom Gerchman	Elaine Misner
Eleanor Gimon	Jim Misner
Burt Gischner	Paul Pearson
Gerry Greitzer	Mary Petit
Kevin Hart	Paul Proulx

Judy Pyka
Bill Reich
Bonnie Reyes
Dave Richheimer
Rob Rising
Nancy Robertson
Joan Salve
Patrick Salve
Beverly Saunders
Mary Scarfi
Jean Schiaroli
Bill Selden
Lee Selig
Rochelle Shapiro
Michael Smith
Linda Starr
Mark Stasiewski
Joyce Stiefel
Helma Strauss
Susan Tane
Bill Titley
David Ulmer
Betty Ustanowski
Bill Watson
Louise Wood
Carl Yohans
Jeanne Zendman
Lynn Zimmer

Sapphire

Frank Blachowski
Joan Brod
Sally Budds
Lynn Condon
Betty Jane Corbani
Sarah Corning
Art Crystal
Stephan Earl
Janet Gischner
Jeff Goldman
Doris Greenwald
Charlie Halpin
Pat Hartman
Jeff Horowitz
Randy Johnson
Tom Joyce
Ed Lewis
Peter MacCuaig
Margaret Mason
Lesley Meyers
Cindy Michael
Allan Rothenberg
Yeong-Long Shiue
Gloria Sieron
Don Stiegler
Dick Wieland
Al Wolf
Joel Wolfe

In Memoriam

*Ron Freres	Josie Hamm
*Clem Hitchcock	Miriam Moran
*John McGuire	

(* Life Master)

(published in the ACBL Bulletin)



Achievements

2015 Masterpoint Leaders & 2016 Race

Bracket 2015 2016 (at 5/6)

Ace of Clubs

0-5	Don Ernst-47.50	Jonathan Jankus-17.86
5-20	Brian Fielding-43.89	Ronit Shoham-9.14
20-50	Gordon Kreh-61.33	Kishor Lathi-13.76
50-100	Clifford Wald-100.12 (#9 ACBL)	Brian Fielding-28.75
100-200	Ru Cole-130.77 (#10 ACBL)	Gordon Kreh-37.60
200-300	Russ Sackowitz-113.59	Scott Butterworth-32.91
300-500	Don Kimsey-101.30	David Waltz-38.58
500-1000	Shari Peters-152.75	Don Kimsey-33.95
1000-1500	Did not exist	Roger Crean-51.98
1000-2500	Richard Fronapfel-210.36	No longer a category
1500-2500	Did not exist	Jill Fouad-101.72
2500-3500	Did not exist	Susan Mayo-79.65
3500-5000	Doris Greenwald-278.66	Doris Greenwald-96.04
5000-7500	Sandy DeMartino-218.63	Sandy DeMartino-63.96
7500-10000	Larry Lau-115.40	Larry Lau-19.46
>10000	Geoff Brod-176.21	Harold Feldheim-64.20

Mini-McKenney

0-5	Don Ernst-58.59	Jonathan Jankus-40.12
5-20	Sylvia Szanto-63.61	Pamela Lombardo-13.06
20-50	Gordon Kreh-102.33	Kim Smith-34.51
50-100	Clifford Wald-126.77	Abhijit Durra-32.87
100-200	Ru Cole-224.39 (#16 ACBL)	Trevor Reeves-47.67
200-300	Russ Sackowitz-166.71	Scott Butterworth-46.49
300-500	Don Kimsey-123.50	Felix Springer-70.63
500-1000	Susan Smith-209.26	Vera Wardlaw-47.52
1000-1500	Did not exist	Ann Hudson-104.87
1000-2500	Jill Fouad-365.10	No longer a category
1500-2500	Did not exist	Debbie Benner-211.14
2500-3500	Did not exist	Art Crystal-279.34
2500-5000	Randolph Johnson-590.27(#352 ACBL)	No longer a category
3500-5000	Did not exist	Tom Joyce-238.11
5000-7500	Sandy DeMartino-466.38	Sandy DeMartino-140.35
7500-10000	Larry Lau-478.07	Larry Lau-110.42
>10000	Rich DeMartino-967.32(#108 ACBL)	Geof Brod-245.47



Achievements

Reno Big Wins

Art Crystal	2nd Lebhar IMP pairs	75 Platinum points
Frank Merblum	4th Kay Platinum Pairs	92.31 Platinum points
Doug Doub	11th Kay Platinum Pairs	60 Platinum points

Art Crystal total tournament points: 119.05 (#86)
 Frank Merblum 110.78 (#106)

GNT Top Finishers

(will represent New England at summer Nationals in DC):

Frank Merblum & Doug Doub—on #1 team in championship flight

Susan & Michael Smith—on #1 team in flight B

Adam Lally & Dana Rossi—on team tied for 3rd in flight B

Congratulations and the very best of luck in bringing home the championship Plaques

Monroe Magnus 2016 (as of Hamden Apr 3-5)

1	37.39	Rich DeMartino
2	26.33	Larry Bausher
5	17.80	David Blackburn
6	17.80	Linda Green
7	16.90	Allan Rothenberg
8	14.88	Phyllis Bausher
9	14.78	Don Stiegler
10	13.26	Lawrence Lau
11	12.73	Harold Feldheim
12	12.65	Steve Becker
13	12.65	Geoffrey Brod
14	11.23	Jill Fouad
15	10.76	Brett Adler
16	9.82	Russ Sackowitz
17	9.49	Richard Wieland
18	9.49	Michael Hess
19	9.24	Barbara Moore
20	9.24	William Wood

Hamden High Finishers (March 4-6, 2016)

Event	Placements
Fri Morn Open Pairs	2A-Cindy Michaels/Margaret Mason 1B&C Shari Peters/Mike Marcy
Fri Morn 299ers	1A-Debbie Thornton/Barbara Hartman 1B-Frank & Marge Pane 1C-Jason Gardiner/Francis Votta
Fri Aft Open Pairs	2A-Larry Lau/Rich DeMartino 1B-Jatin Mehta/Laurie Koegel 1C-Rita Brieger/Harold Miller
Fri Aft 299ers	1A&B Frank & Marge Pane 1C-Carole Broadus/Linda Chaffkin
Sat Morn AX Pairs	1A-Allan Rothenberg/Rich DeMartino 1X-Barbara Moore/Bill Wood
Sat Morn BC Pairs	1B&C-Paul Johnson/Abhijit Durra
Sat Morn 299ers	1A&B-Suzanne & John Leary 1C Paul & Lynda Bluestein
Sat Aft AX Pairs	1A&X Linda Green/David Blackburn
Sat Aft BC Pairs	1B&C-Eric Vogel/Irene Rivers
Sat Aft 299ers	1A-Michael Hajosy/Robert Huntington 1B-Barbara Terkildsen/Margaret James 1C-Jorge Alfaro-Murillo/Jeff Clark
Sun Open Swiss	1A-Steve Becker/Larry Bausher/Geoff Brod/Rich DeMartino 1B-Hoby Littlefield/Bonnie Reyes/Adam Hansen/David Moses 1C-Jatin/Joy/Mayank/Aarati Mehta
Sun Morn 299ers Swiss	1A&B-Lynn Cripe/Monica Akelaitis/Marsha Scherr/Merle Spiegel 1C-Herman Schupp/Prudence Mc Cafferty/Carolyn Foster/Diane Martucci
Sun Aft 299ers Swiss	1- Herman Schupp/Prudence Mc Cafferty/Carolyn Foster/Diane Martucci

Special Announcements

Great New Tournament Sites

Members of the Connecticut Bridge Association (CBA) board, the people who arrange tournaments for you, grew tired of the grumbling about the sites for our events. A search for better venues for our tournaments yielded far better than expected results.

Our first new site, the Keeney Memorial Center in Wethersfield is just off I95 and minutes from the prior site (the one you complained about). We

are happy to say that the new site is everything you could hope for. You'll have a chance to see for yourself the first weekend in November.

We are also very excited about our second new site, St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange. You'll be able to check that site out next year, May 19-21. Easy to get to from either route 15 or I-95, just 10 minutes from the other prior site (the one you complained about).

Both sites are easily accessible; both have lots of parking, lots of light, lots of space. We are very excited about them and hope you'll join us to see why.

In the meantime, we invite you to come and play at our CBA Tournaments in Greenwich August 26-28 and our first 2017 tournament in Guilford, March 3-5.

Bridge as a Relationship Healer

Connecticut author, Betsy Lerner, has written a charming book about bridge, "The Bridge Ladies" published by HarperCollins, due for publication May 3.

For years Betsy watched as her mother and friends played bridge each week. Lunch came first with the good china and pretty linens, and the game that followed bound these women together over time no matter what.

Betsy eventually began to learn to play, found she really enjoyed it, and thought that this common interest might just be the catalyst to resolve and smooth the prickles in the relationship between mother and daughter. They even ventured into duplicate with some hilarious results. They went to the Reno Nationals without a point between them and, as Betsy says, "we survived!"

Some of you met Betsy in Madison on May 12, Westport on May 14, or the JCC of Greater New Haven in Woodbridge on May 16. Betsy will be in Westchester at Chappaqua Library on May 17 and in Scarsdale at the Westchester Reform Temple on May 20, and you can meet Betsy and have her sign your copy of her book.

DON'T PANIC

continued

Although we could have beaten this hand as per the line that declarer chose, note what would have happened if declarer had played a round of clubs before cashing the A ♠, severing EWs communications (a much better line of play if he intends to ruff clubs.) West can't get in to lead a third round of spades, so declarer can ruff two clubs for an unbeatable +730. So in summary, I made a bad double and although we could have beaten it with the line that declarer took, -730 for us was probably the score I deserved...



Hartford Bridge Club

As the membership of the Hartford Bridge Club has grown and with a significant number of the new members being less experienced bridge players, a mentoring program appeared to be a natural addition to HBC's menu of educational opportunities. Such a program has recently been launched.

Enthusiastically welcomed by the HBC membership, it matches novice and intermediate players with more advanced mentors. The initial phase, which will run from April 4 to late June, is organized as a pilot program. The goal of the program is to provide mentees with the opportunity to increase their skills in play-of-the-hand, defense and reaching optimum

contracts. Feedback from the mentors and mentees in the pilot program will be used to establish guidelines for the future selection of mentor/mentee pairings and to optimize the modes of mentor-mentee interactions. For the pilot program, mentor/mentee pairings were based upon questionnaires that both groups filled out. Current participants include 15 mentors and 18 mentees. Mentors range from the rank of Grand Life Master to those having less than 300 masterpoints. Mentees range from Life Master to those with less than 20 masterpoints. Upon completion of the pilot program there will be an evaluation, which will include reviews written by the mentors and mentees.

With the evaluation process completed, a retooled program with a new mentoring cycle is expected to begin in September.

(Editor's note: this program looks like a good one and might be something other clubs could pursue as well, perhaps with advice from the Hartford Club's experiences)

Newtown Bridge Club

Newtown will host two days of lectures by Larry Cohen, 25-time national champion, noted author and monthly columnist in the Bridge Bulletin.

Lectures will take place on Sunday September 11 and Monday September 12, at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown.

Sunday's topics are: Top 5 Errors; and slam bidding; Monday's topics are: Defense strategy; and Law of Total Tricks for balancing. Lectures are 9:30am to 3:30pm each day.

Early registration takes place through July 1 for Newtown Bridge Club members (club membership is \$20 per year in 2016.) Public registration begins on July 5. For more information, please visit www.newtownbridge.org/larry-cohen or contact Susan Fronapfel at 203-733-8525.

Fairfield County Bridge News

Congratulations to the winners of the winter series duplicate game held at The Country Club of Darien.

1. Meredith Dunne and Joan Bergen
2. Sue Kipp and Deb Suckow
3. Mary Lou Ball and Alison Hughes

Notes from Wee Burn CC

The following pairs did well in the Winter Series which ended March 24:

1. Meredith Dunne-Karen Barrett
2. Mary Richardson-Betty Hodgman
3. Lynn Reilly-Joan Bergen
4. Ru Cole-Ron Kahan
5. Lois Berry- Ann Fuller
6. Joan Hoben-Kathie Rowland

A ten table team game held on March 31 was won by:

1. Martha Hathaway, Marilyn Tjader-Audrey Cadwallader-Sue Kipp
2. Mary Richardson-Betty Hodgman
- Meredith Dunne-Karen Barrett

Winners of the April 7 charity game were:

1. Belinda Metzger-Barbara Johnson
2. Linda Green-Warren Williams
3. Mary Beach-Dorothy Scott



Come Play Bridge of Westport and Greenwich

As the new club on the block, it's been a busy six months since opening last September. This winter we expanded both our territory and offerings, reopening our Wednesday game in Greenwich and adding Tuesdays and Saturdays open/stratified games to our Monday and Friday schedule in Westport.

Learning and player development remains key to our mission and growth and our teaching program now includes beginner lessons and advanced beginner and intermediate seminars with GNYBA Teacher of the Year Joe Byrnes, plus a growing Supervised Learn & Play program on Tuesdays as well as a Newplicate 0-20

game on Fridays. Speaking of learning and playing, we want to acknowledge one particular group of our players who are a testament to learning, playing and debriefing holy trinity. For them it's a winning formula. Kim Smith, Jill Dimitrief, Susan Gersh-Harris, and new member, Jon Jankus, take a weekly private lesson together, play together in rotating pairs and rigorously debrief after each session.

All members have under 100 master points, but for the last 3 months in open games, the quartet has finished first, second or third 75% of the time. In a recent Unit championship, Kim and Jon posted a 68 + % first place win,

hoisting Jon to the top of his McKinney bracket. Jon, returning to bridge after a 40 year hiatus, deserves special recognition for scoring top results in 80% of his matches since his first game in December.

Congratulations to Evan and Janice Dean for achieving Life Master status and to all our Come Play Bridge "Fall-Stars".

Come Play Bridge's complete schedule, game and lesson details and directions to our games in Westport and Greenwich can be found at www.comeplay-bridge.com.

Tom Smith wins Blackwood Award



Tom, longtime CT bridge player and one of the best at the time, has been named the ACBL Hall of Fame Blackwood Award (for contributions to bridge independent of bridge expertise) winner for 2016 (posthumously, he died in 2010) and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Washington DC Summer Nationals. Among his many accomplishments were a surprising success at major tournaments with Peter Weischel in the 60s; being on C.C. Wei's original Precision Club team which introduced this winning system to the world on a high competitive level; being Managing Editor of the Bridge Bulletin

while the ACBL was headquartered in Greenwich; being manager of the prestigious Cavendish Club in NYC, where he co-founded the annual Cavendish Invitational Pairs now located in Las Vegas due to financial considerations of this major high level {capability and financial} competition; and being a {ghost} writer of the Goren syndicated bridge column for many years. Many of our older members will remember Tom as being one of the smartest but most humble and likeable players in our midst during the 90s, always accessible for help with difficult bids and plays of the hand.



Tournament Schedule

May

11-15 Long Island Regional
 16 Wednesday Day Unitwide Championship
 20-22 Hamden Sectional (Annual Meeting)
 25-30 NYC Regional

June

6-12 Saratoga Regional
 7 Evening Unitwide Championship
 13-19 STaC
 21-25 Nashua Regional
 28 Day Unitwide Championship

July

8 Friday day Unitwide Championship
 11-17 Fairfield NJ Regional
 14 Thursday Int'l Fund game#2
 20-31 DC Nationals

August

28-30 Greenwich Sectional

THE KIBITZER

The Kibitzer is published quarterly by the Connecticut Bridge Association, Unit 126 of the American Contract Bridge League.

All comments, news, items related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next *Kibitzer* by July 18, 2016.

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