



# THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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## THE PHANTOM UPPERCUT

*From nowhere, a diabolical coup emerges.*

by Harold Feldheim

So many books are written (and rewritten) on play and defense, it would be quite reasonable to opine that not much new under the sun. Then some hand comes up to belie that conclusion. The following gem, from the Thursday regional pairs in Mansfield, MA, is a unique example of original creative thinking.

To maximize the fun of this hand, let's first consider it from the East-West point of view.

WEST  
♠ A K Q 10 9 8 6 4  
♥ J 10  
♦ A J 9  
♣ ---

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

The auction is straightforward and was repeated at many tables. North opened with a preemptive three or four hearts and after two passes, West, with an eight-card suit, had no problem bidding four spades. The play was similar throughout the room. After cashing two rounds of hearts, North switched to a diamond. West won and, after pulling trumps, conceded a diamond and claimed ten tricks for +420.

At our table, the auction was the same, but the defense took a different route.

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

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

SOUTH  
♠ J 3 2  
♥ 3 2  
♦ K Q 6  
♣ A 8 6 5 3

After cashing two rounds of hearts, my partner, Jill Fouad of New Canaan, CT, made a novel play by switching to her singleton ♣Q.

This looks quite strange since leading a singleton usually implies a desire to ruff, but holding no trumps, this was not a possibility.

However... the king was played from dummy, I followed with the ♣A, which was ruffed in declarer's closed hand. Declarer had a minor technical problem; he could not simply draw trumps since that would leave him with two diamond losers. To circumvent this, he cashed the ♦A

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Now let's look at all four hands:

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### What's New

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### Upcoming Events

- New England GNT April 14-15
- NE Senior Regional April 25-29
- District 24 Regional May 6-10
- District 24 Regional May 23-28

# From the President

In my first letter, I introduced myself and shared my story about how I got into the duplicate bridge world. It was quite by accident, but I'm so happy it happened. Bridge sustains us during difficult times. The bridge friends we make over the years become some of our best and closest friends.

One of the things that helped forge these friendships and lasting partnerships was the thrill of the hunt, traveling to tournaments to compete, whether locally or nationally. My partner and I started attending early in our careers and whatever our results, we always looked forward to the next challenge and adventure. To this day, the excitement has never left us.

I mention this because so many of our players are missing the tournament experience and opportunity to "play

up." I want to encourage you to try a tournament if you haven't. So much can be learned, and enjoyed, from the experience. Connecticut's Unit 126 manages four in-state Sectionals (silver point awards). Our New England District 25 manages our Regionals (gold and red point awards) in venues along the northeast corridor. Our all-volunteer boards spend much effort and a great deal of money setting up and managing these tournaments to provide you with the opportunity to grow your games and perfect your partnerships close to home. We are especially proud of our new locations throughout the state: in Stamford, in Wethersfield and in Orange. They are bright, spacious, conveniently located and great places to play bridge.

Plus, we have more news. If you have 199 or fewer masterpoints, save this date: May 5. We are adding a

new 199er Sectional in Stamford at the Seven No Trump Bridge Club. Flyers and emails are forthcoming with complete information. Upcoming open Sectionals will be held in Orange in June, in Stamford in August and in Wethersfield in October.

Start thinking about setting up your partnerships now and let us know if you need help locating partners. Contact me directly by phone (203-521-2075) or by email ([srodricks@optonline.net](mailto:srodricks@optonline.net)). Our partnership chair is John Farwell and his phone number is 203-401-1592.

Check our Unit website, [www.CTbridge.org](http://www.CTbridge.org) for additional information.

*Susan Rodricks*

The Hartford Bridge Club recently hosted a celebration honoring five of its members who won national championships in 2016 and 2017. Those members are Geof Brod, Doug Doub, Frank Merblum, Michael Smith, and Susan Smith.

The fun and festive event, which included a luncheon followed by a Swiss Teams game, attracted a sell-out crowd of 36 teams -- 24 in the open game and 12 in a 0-499er game. The Swiss Team format was thought to be the most appropriate because all the honorees had won national championships in team events.

The game was led by tournament director Peter Marcus, who volunteered his time for the event, and players included District 25 Director Mark Aquino, New England Bridge

## CONGRATULATIONS NABC CHAMPIONS



Conference President Lois DeBlois, Rhode Island Bridge Association President Paula Ajaria and Connecticut Bridge Association President Susan Rodricks.

The Hartford Bridge Club, founded in 1931, is the oldest continuously operating bridge club in North America. With well over 500 members, the club runs thirteen sessions a week and often has more than a hundred players at a session. Known as the club with a heart, it has a well-deserved national reputation for excellence, while also offering a host of educational programs for players at all levels and a thriving mentor program. "We're also one of the best entertainment bargains going," notes club manager Donna Feir. "Players can learn and compete in an exhilarating yet welcoming environment for only \$6 a session!"



## THE GADGET MASTER INVOKES LEBENSOL DEFENSE AGAIN



**After partner reverses, should you slam on the brakes, proceed with caution or hit the gas?**

by Barry Bragin

“Grandpa G, so far all your uses for 2NT as a gadget—Lebensohl and good/bad—have been in competitive auctions. Is it ever used in constructive situations?”

“Absolutely! 2NT comes into play in reverse auctions where responder needs to distinguish between a game- or slam-going hand and one where he wants to put on the brakes. There are actually four distinct reverse sequences that need to be considered and each is handled in a slightly different manner (opponents pass throughout):

1.  $1\heartsuit - 1NT - 2\spadesuit$ ,
2.  $1\clubsuit/1\diamond - 1\spadesuit - 2\heartsuit$ ,
3.  $1\clubsuit - 1\heartsuit - 2\diamond$ , and
4.  $1\clubsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\diamond$

All reverses have a few things in common:

- They show significant extra values – around 17 or more HCP in a fairly-balanced pattern (4522 or 4531) or a hand that would produce game opposite the right 6-count by responder (AKxxx/AQJxxx/xx/-).
- Opener’s first suit is always longer than the reverse suit.
- They are forcing for one round.

Let’s look at each, one at a time.

### $1\heartsuit - 1NT - 2\spadesuit - ?$

In this sequence, responder makes one of the following rebids:

- 3NT with extras (8+ HCP) and stoppers in the minors (17 HCP + 8 = 25)

- 3 of a minor with a 6-card suit and constructive values 6-7 HCP, game is possible

- $3\heartsuit$  to show a weak 3-card raise (xxx/xxx/Kxxx/Qxx); 5+ HCP, game is possible

- $3\spadesuit$  to show an excellent 3-card raise (AJx/x/AQxxx/xxxx); game-going, but what suit or NT?

- 4 of a minor with a 3-card limit raise and concentrated values in that suit (i.e. bid  $4\clubsuit$  with xx/Kxx/xxxx/AKJx); Jump in minor is artificial and shows limit raise for opener’s second suit.

- $4\heartsuit$  with a 3-card limit raise and scattered values. Bid game with nothing else to say.

- 2NT with either a balanced minimum (sometimes 2NT can be natural) or a weak hand with a long minor. You have hit the brakes.

It is important for opener to bid out his pattern in case responder has a possible fit. With AKxx/AQxxx/x/Axx, she should bid  $3\clubsuit$  over 2NT. It’s not perfect, but this allows the partnership to get to the right strain when responder has xx/x/Qxxx/QJxxxx or xx/x/QJTxxx/Kxx and is not good enough to bid his suit over  $2\spadesuit$ .

I’ll admit there wasn’t anything very gadget-y about this sequence, but things will pick up now.

### $1\clubsuit/1\diamond - 1\spadesuit - 2\heartsuit - ?$

If responder supports either of opener’s suits, or bids the 4<sup>th</sup> suit at the 3-level, that establishes a game force.

Responder rebids  $2\spadesuit$  whenever she has five and any strength or six with a weak hand.

With six good spades that can play opposite a singleton and game values, she can jump to  $3\spadesuit$ .

Now here is where that 2NT gadget comes into play. Responder bids 2NT (Alert!) asking opener to reply  $3\clubsuit$  (Alert!).

### $1\clubsuit/1\diamond - 1\spadesuit - 2\heartsuit - 2NT - 3\clubsuit$ (Alert!)

Responder can now pass, bid one of opener’s suits with support and a minimum, bid  $3\spadesuit$  with six spades and game values, or 3NT with a minimum. “(Sorry, you can’t bid 2NT to play.)” Responder’s direct jump to 3NT over  $2\heartsuit$  shows 9+ HCP. Of course, opener does not have to accept the 2NT relay to  $3\clubsuit$  if he absolutely doesn’t want to hear a pass.

With Ax/AQxx/AKJxxx/x, bid  $3\diamond$  over partner’s 2NT and with x/AQxx/AKQTxx/Ax bid 3NT.

But with xx/AQxx/AKJxx/Kx, you should definitely bid  $3\clubsuit$ , as partner might have responded one spade with QJxx/xx/x/Qxxxxx and now want to get out in  $3\clubsuit$ .

Let’s look at a few examples. The bidding has gone  $1\diamond - 1\spadesuit - 2\heartsuit$  and you hold:

- Kxxx/xx/Qxxx/xxx – bid 2NT and then  $3\diamond$  over his  $3\clubsuit$  response; change a small heart to the king and you would bid  $3\diamond$  immediately.

- Jxxxx/Kxxxx/x/xx – bid 2NT and then  $3\heartsuit$  over his  $3\clubsuit$  response; change a small club to the king and you would bid  $3\heartsuit$  immediately.

- KJxxx/xx/xx/Qxxx – bid  $2\spadesuit$  (promising five) and then pass opener’s 2NT,  $3\diamond$ , or 3NT rebid; add a red queen and you would raise 2NT to game.

- KJxxxx/Jxx/x/Kxx – bid 2NT and then  $3\spadesuit$  over opener’s response; this shows a broken 6-card suit and game values; partner can bid  $4\spadesuit$  with Q/AQxx/AKxxxx/Ax”





# ON THE SAME PAGE AGAIN?

*Sometimes partnerships have to agree to disagree.*

by Brett Adler



Sometimes I get fixated on a lie of the cards, expecting my partner to bid a certain way with his cards that is consistent with my bidding approach.

This was a team event and they say that you should never bid a grand slam unless you are very confident that you can make all 13 tricks. After all, if you bid a grand slam and go one down, you lose as many IMPs as you would gain against the other team if they stop in the small slam. There is also the occasional situation where you bid some sort of slam, but the team at the other table stops in game. Now bidding a small slam would have generated a big pickup and going for the grand slam risks a lot with not much of an upside.

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: North/South

| South           | West | Me               | East |
|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| 1♦              | Pass | 1♠               | Pass |
| 2♣              | Pass | 2♥ <sup>1</sup>  | Pass |
| 2NT             | Pass | 3♠ <sup>2</sup>  | Pass |
| 4♠ <sup>3</sup> | Pass | 4NT <sup>4</sup> | Pass |
| 5♦ <sup>5</sup> | Pass | 7NT <sup>6</sup> |      |

<sup>1</sup> 2♥ Standard 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing

<sup>2</sup> 3♠ Partner's 2NT denied 3-card spade support and I meant this as, "Do you have 2 spades?"

<sup>3</sup> 4♠ With South's hand, I would bid 3NT denying a 2-card spade suit, but South's thought process was that if he had a small singleton spade, he would have bid 3NT.

<sup>4</sup> 4NT Roman Key Card (14-30) with spades as trumps

<sup>5</sup> 5♦ 0 or 3 of the 5 key cards (the four aces and king of the agreed suit)

<sup>6</sup> 7NT - Assuming we could run six spade tricks, I could count 12 solid tricks, plus partner "should" have the 13<sup>th</sup> trick with a queen or a squeeze. Partner "might" also have a ♠J or have the source of tricks even if we could only generate three spade winners.

Opening lead: ♥4

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

There wasn't much to the play. Maybe there is a magic squeeze if East has all the red card intermediates and spade length (and clubs can generate four tricks), but once the opponents' spades broke 3-3, we scored up the grand slam. My partner and I have discussed this auction since it arose at the table and we still agree to disagree. I also gave the hand to another of my regular partners and he also said he would bid 4♠. His view was that ♠K is just too big a card not to show. As I'm in the minority based on my brief polling, I won't belabor the point. I did apologize to the opponents as bidding a grand slam on a 3-3 spade break is only 36% likely.

A couple of weeks later, (same partner different venue) we were playing in a teams' event in Tarrytown. I can't remember the auction, but I certainly remember the result. I held a 5-card diamond suit and in the auction, I thought partner had 4-card support. I asked for key cards to find we had all the aces and kings, and wanted to ask if partner held the ♦Q. Unfortunately, my partner and I had recently changed our system and I couldn't remember how to ask. As a result, I blasted to the grand slam only to find a trump suit of A J 5 opposite my K 8 7 4 2.

The good news is that single dummy there was a play for the contract. The bad news is that everything failed and I ended up going down three (-300)—although this was because I played all-out for the contract. I could have escaped for -200. Extremely embarrassed, I went back to the score-up and remarkably found that we gained 3 IMPs on the board. Opponents played in 6NT with the same bad distributions I faced and ended up four down for -400. If only atrocious results turned into good outcomes every day!



## THE PHANTOM UPPERCUT

Continued from page 1

from his hand and led a low diamond, planning to ruff a diamond in dummy before drawing trumps. After winning the ♦K, I obediently led a club, presumably towards partner's trump holding. Now pity poor West. With 10 trumps between the two hands, he catered to the likely 2-1 distribution and ruffed with the ♠Q, presumably to prevent an overruff. After ruffing a diamond, he led a trump to his ace in hand. When North showed out, my ♠J became the setting trick.

With some amazement I queried, "You led a club for a ruff, but you had no trumps?"

"Yes", replied Jill, "but I'm the only one who knew that."

At first, this sounded like the triumph of unreason. In reality, it was a diabolical coup to wreak havoc upon an otherwise unbreakable contract. In fact, for this mere mortal, it was something new under the sun.



## Save-the-Date

NEW 199er Tournament  
Saturday, May 5, 2018



## LARRY'S LITTLE TIPS

*That make a BIG difference*

by Larry Lau

Eddie Kantar, with two world championships and scores of popular bridge books to his credit, has given me permission to reprint tips that he uses with his students. In each issue, I will share one tip for bidding, defense and declarer play.

### BIDDING

**When are jump overcalls strong or weak?**

- 1) When the bid to your right is strong, a jump (overcall) by you is *weak*.
- 2) When the bid to your right is weak, a jump (overcall) by you is *strong*.

Bidding Example 1)

Partner: 1♦

Right-hand Opponent: double (Double is a *strong* bid)

You: 2♥ (2♥ is a *weak* jump because the double was *strong*.)

Bidding Example 2)

Right-hand Opponent: 2♥ (weak 2-bid)

You: 3♠ (3♠ is a *strong* jump over opponent's *weak* 2-bid.)

### DEFENSE

**When do you lead from shortness?**

The best time to lead your short suit is when you have control of the opponent's trump suit.

A x (x) or K x (x) in the opponent's trump suit are great trump holdings to lead from shortness.

However, if trumping will cost you a natural trump trick, you should not lead from shortness. Leading from shortness with trump holdings such as Q J 9 x, J 10 x x or K 10 x x is counterproductive. It might cost you a natural trump trick.

### DECLARER PLAY

**When do I take my only stopper when declaring in a suit contract?**

You are declaring in a suit contract and a non-trump suit is lead. When do you take your ♠A?

Dummy has:

♠ A x x                      or                      ♠ A x x x

You have:

♠ x x x                      or                      ♠ x x

It is usually right to win the trick on the second round of the suit. If one opponent has a doubleton, you will cut the communication between the two hands. It also allows you to keep control of the suit.

If you have reason to suspect from the bidding or the lead that one opponent has a singleton, grab the ace!

*Kantar Bonus Advice:*

*Keep a poker face (though it may kill you).*

*Lau Bonus Advice:*

*When a partner makes a conventional call that you don't remember, don't slap your forehead, sigh loudly or stare at the ceiling.*

*Editor Note:*

*Stay Calm and Carry On.*

*If you can't play well, play quickly!*





# BRIDGE AT THE LUNATIC FRINGE

## Number 23 - Making the critical play - early or late?

by Al Wolf



In this article, I'll deal with a not uncommon situation, where missing the A and Q of a suit, you lead toward the K J x, needing to make one trick in the suit, and more importantly, NOT lose 2 tricks.

If both the A and Q are favorably situated in the same hand, you can't go wrong. If both the A and Q are unfavorably situated, you can't get it right. So, if these honors are split, you have a guess to make:

When you lead low toward the K J, and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand plays low do you:

- a. Go up with the king, hoping that 2<sup>nd</sup> hand played low holding the ace, or
- b. Play the jack, hoping that 2<sup>nd</sup> hand has the queen, and that the jack will force the ace?

Consider these two hands, which came up in the same round at the Lunatic Fringe duplicate game:

Dealer (both hands): West

Hand 1

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Professor (NORTH) | Warren (SOUTH) |
| ♠ 7 5             | ♠ Q J T 9 6 2  |
| ♥ 9 4 3 2         | ♥ A 7          |
| ♦ K J 8 3         | ♦ 7 4          |
| ♣ 8 5 4           | ♣ K Q J        |

Hand 2

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Professor (NORTH) | Warren (SOUTH) |
| ♠ K 8             | ♠ Q J T 9 5 3  |
| ♥ 8 5 3 2         | ♥ A 4          |
| ♦ K J 6 5         | ♦ 8 2          |
| ♣ J 8 4           | ♣ A K Q        |

Hand 1 Continued...

|        |      |           |      |
|--------|------|-----------|------|
| Warren | WEST | Professor | EAST |
|        | 1♣   | Pass      | 1♥   |
| 1♠     | Db1* | Pass      | 2♥   |
| 2♠     | Pass | Pass      | Pass |

Hand 2 Continued...

|        |      |           |      |
|--------|------|-----------|------|
| Warren | WEST | Professor | EAST |
|        | Pass | Pass      | Pass |
| 1♠     | Pass | 1NT**     | Pass |
| 3♠     | Pass | 4♠        | Pass |
| Pass   | Pass |           |      |

Opening lead (both hands): ♥Q

- (1) \* a support double showing exactly 3 hearts
- (2) \*\* 1NT forcing

On Hand 1, Warren was a bit surprised to see such a poor dummy. The opponents had sold out despite having 23 high-card points between them. They might have had several points less for their timid bidding - points that would have made for an improved dummy!

In any event, Warren played the hand to put off the diamond decision as long as possible, playing trumps, losing to the A and K (they divided 3-2), and forcing out the ♣A. Each time, the defenders played passively, forcing declarer to ruff hearts in hand, or putting declarer back in hand with a club.

In the course of play, West showed up with both black aces, and presumably the Q and J of hearts. That totaled 11 HCP. NOT having opened 1NT, West should NOT have the ♦A, for that would give him 15 HCP (and E—W were playing a 15-17 point NT range). With this analysis, at the critical juncture, Warren led toward the ♦K J, putting in the ♦J and forcing the ace.

On Hand 2, the diamond situation was much the same, but on this hand, Warren saw that he could not learn much by postponing the critical diamond decision. One hand would show up with 3 points in hearts and

the ace of trump, but that would still leave room for that hand to have either the ♦A or the ♦Q. With the ♦A, that would make for 11 HCP, perhaps enough for a light 3<sup>rd</sup> hand opening, but inconclusive.

With this in mind, Warren immediately led a diamond toward the K J at trick two. This is the sort of thing that players will often do with a singleton diamond, hoping to sneak through a trick early in the hand. A non-expert defender may also hitch or hesitate holding the ♦A, especially if caught unaware early in the hand.

As the play developed, West did suspect a singleton and immediately rose with the ♦A, solving Warren's problem. It is important to note that if Warren had played to delay the critical decision, the defenders would have gotten a perfect count on the hand, placing declarer with six spades, two hearts, and three clubs; *therefore two diamonds*. With this count, West would have no trouble playing "2<sup>nd</sup> hand low" on the diamond lead and leaving declarer with a pure guess.

In the postmortem, the Professor summarized the general principle as follows:

When faced with a critical guess, consider the effect of delaying the decision as long as possible. If you stand to gain some knowledge that will help make the guess, by all means delay. But if the opponents will gain knowledge through the delay, consider making the critical play immediately.



# CT Spring 199er Sectional Tournament

Saturday, May 5, 2018 at The Seven No-Trump Bridge Club  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 1230 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT  
TWO SESSIONS - Play One Session or Both: 10:00am & 2:30pm

Silver Points

Educational Handouts and Trophies  
Educational Forum between Sessions

Free Lunch

**PLAYERS WITH FEWER THAN 5 MASTERPOINTS PLAY FREE!!**



Stratifications may be modified at Director's discretion as warranted by attendance. Strats based on average for the pair. No player over 200 MPs.

Info & Pairing: Renee Clift, (203) 543-6215, CT199er.info@gmail.com  
Stratified Games: A 100-200 | B 50-100 | C 0-50



ENTRY FEE: \$13 per person per session | Students: \$10 per student per session  
\$3.00 additional for unpaid ACBL members

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED-SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR DETAILS**

**FROM THE MERRITT PARKWAY:** Take Exit 35 which is High Ridge Road. Follow High Ridge Road south and turn left on Vine Road. Take Vine Road to Newfield Avenue and turn left. The church is on the left after about 1/4 mile.

**FROM I-95:** Take Exit 8. Go North on Elm. Elm becomes Grove Street. Grove Street becomes Strawberry Hill. Strawberry Hill becomes Newfield Avenue. The church is on the left.



**1. ONLINE** [www.7ntgames.com/199er-sign-up.html](http://www.7ntgames.com/199er-sign-up.html)

**2. EMAIL** Send player information listed below to:  
CT199er.info@gmail.com

**3. Mail** Send this completed form to: Renee Clift  
1016 Whippoorwill Lane, Stratford, CT 06614



Player One   
ACBL Number  Masterpoints   
Email Address

Player Two   
ACBL Number  Masterpoints   
Email Address

Please Check One or Both Sessions:

Session One - 10:00am       Session Two - 2:30pm

## CONGRATULATIONS

Terry Lubman and Doris Greenwald, NABC Smith Women's Pairs Runners-Up



Unit 126 is very proud to recognize our Connecticut players' achievement at the spring ACBL national in Philadelphia.



# From the Clubs



## BRANFORD BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to Jeff Clark, winner of the March Sectional Barbara Shaw award given to the C player who wins the most points in the tournament. Jeff won a whopping 17+ points – a major accomplishment for a bridge newcomer. Jeff takes newcomer classes with club manager Don Brueggemann and they seem to be working!

## COME PLAY BRIDGE CLUBS OF WESTPORT AND DARIEN

It's been a New England winter to remember with nor'easter after nor'easter this quarter. On one of our many "snow" days, we hunkered down and took a moment to take stock of 2017. At year end, we totaled 3005 tables, up 12% from 2016 thanks to the patronage of our loyal "regulars." We found a wonderful new Wednesday venue in Darien, The First Congregational Church of Darien, again aided by our players. Our top ten masterpoint earners, won a total of almost 800 club points. We salute them. (1) Linda Green 113.84 (2) Jon Jankus 80.43 (3) Jean Schiaroli 79.95 (4) David Blackburn 71.91 (5) Janice Dean 67.04 (6) Pat Hartman 67.00 (7) Gordon Kiernan 66.05 (8) Christina Hare 63.89 (9) Evan Dean 66.91 (10) Kay Howe 58.77. Last, but not least, we're sending a shout-out to Rene Pomerantz and Ruth Twersky who topped the field in the March 20

STaC game with a 69.58 % score winning 12 MPS - not a bad way to usher in spring.

## NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

On March 30, Newtown Bridge Club marked its third year playing at Edmond Town Hall near the flag pole at the town center of Newtown. 2017 was a milestone year when, for the first time, the club hosted over 2,500 tables of bridge. Looking forward, the club hopes to share the game we all love with new players and old friends.

There is a special event on the calendar: **The Longest Day, Tuesday, June 19.** The bridge community is invited to play bridge between sunrise and sunset to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease. The club's Longest Day committee is planning an outstanding day of fun and bridge as a fundraiser for this worthwhile cause. There will be extra point charity games morning, afternoon and evening. For details, please visit [www.newtownbridge.org/longest-day](http://www.newtownbridge.org/longest-day).

Newtown Bridge Club holds five ACBL—sanctioned duplicate bridge games each week open to all players: 12:30 pm Mondays, 10 am Tuesdays, 7 pm Tuesdays, 10 am Wednesdays and 12:30 pm Thursdays; in addition to the open game, there are separate 49er games on Monday and Thursday afternoons and 299er games on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. A sanctioned Chat Bridge game is held Wednesdays at 2:30 pm for newer players (0-20 MPs). Lessons

for beginning and intermediate players are available. Games and lessons are held at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown CT. Directions and information may be found on the club's website [www.newtownbridge.org](http://www.newtownbridge.org).

## LAKEBRIDGE

LakeBridge is closed for the winter and will reopen in May.

## THE SEVEN NO-TRUMP BRIDGE CLUB

Congratulations to Rich DeMartino and Larry Lau for winning the January 16<sup>th</sup> Unit Championship game! They each got over nine masterpoints for the win! Also congratulations to Jill Fouad and Harold Feldheim for winning the February 26<sup>th</sup> Unit Championship game! They earned over ten points!

On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, The Seven No-Trump Bridge Club will be holding Learn Bridge in a Day<sup>®</sup> from 10:30 am until 5 pm. This 1-day class teaches the fundamentals of the game in a fast, fun way. This class is great for people who have never played bridge before! Registration can be done through the website. The cost is \$40 per person, lunch included. Students under 18 are free.

W: [www.7ntgames.com](http://www.7ntgames.com)

E: [Joseph.Grill@7ntgames.com](mailto:Joseph.Grill@7ntgames.com)

C: 979-218-7428



# WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Winter came in with a vengeance and lasted long enough to cause two game cancellations before March 22. At that time, the Winter Series ended and the following pairs were winners:

1. Audrey Cadwallader/Karen Barrett
2. Mary Richardson/Betty Hodgman
3. Janet Soskin/Doug Thompson
4. Brenda Greene/Donna Doyle
5. Marilyn Tjader/Martha Hathaway
6. Kathie Rowland/Mary Ellen Mcguire

Congratulations to Janet Soskin who is our Player of the Year for 2017. This award goes to the Wee Burn player who wins the most masterpoints on Thursdays at Wee Burn during the calendar year.



# Spring in Connecticut

**Come out and play bridge**

**June 1-3, 2018**

**St Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
480 Racebrook Rd. Orange, CT**

**Friday, June 1**

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pairs  
299er Pairs
- 2:00 Stratified Open Pairs  
299er Pairs

**Saturday, June 2**

- 10:00 Stratified Open Pairs  
299er Pairs
- 2:00 Stratified Open Pairs  
299er Pairs

**Sunday, June 3**

- 9:30 Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 Stratified Open Swiss Teams  
299er One session Swiss

Annual Meeting with pizza buffet during the break. Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards presented.

**Stratified Games:**

A:3000+, B:750-3000, C: 0-750

**299er Pairs:**

50/100/300  
(no player with more than 300 points)

**Partnership**

John Farwell  
203-401-1592

The break between sessions on Friday and Saturday is short. Lunch will be available for purchase

**Our Gift to you**

**Grass Roots Pairs all day  
Friday**

**Extra points No extra money.**

Events and stratifications may be modified at director's discretion as warranted by attendance. Events are stratified by pair/team average (within flight where applicable).

**The Scott Loring Trophy will be awarded to highest scoring Flight B Player.**

**DIRECTIONS**

From I-95 N take exit 41. Turn left on Marsh Hill Rd. In .5 miles turn right on Indian River Rd. Stay straight to Racebrook Rd. Church is on left in 1.05 miles.

From I-95 S take exit 42. Turn left on CT 162 then in 1.1 miles turn left onto US 1. In .75 miles turn right onto Racebrook Rd. Church is on the left in .95 miles

From CT 15 N/S take Exit 57. Merge onto Derby Ave./Ct 34. In 1.2 miles turn right onto Racebrook Road. church is 1.4 miles on the right

Entry Fee: \$13 per person per session for paid ACBL members.  
\$4.00 additional for unpaid ACBL members  
Student discount \$3 per session

Check [www.ctbridge.org](http://www.ctbridge.org) for updates and results.



# ASK THE EXPERT:

*Karen, a “reverse” bid is such an important concept in bridge bidding, but it is often missed, misunderstood and misused.*

*Can you clarify reverses for us?*



by Karen Barrett

The rules of bidding in bridge are meant to help describe both the shape and the strength of your hand. When opening the bidding, we normally bid the higher-ranking suit first and the lower-ranking suit second. Whenever the opener rebids in a second suit at the two-level that is higher ranked than his first, he has “**REVERSED**” the normal order of things. The hardest thing about a reverse is learning to recognize it. Here are some example auctions:

**Not a reverse**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♦            | 1♥               |
| 2♣            |                  |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♥            | 1♠               |
| 2♦            |                  |

**Reverse**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♣            | 1♥               |
| 2♦            |                  |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♦            | 1♠               |
| 2♥            |                  |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♥            | 1NT              |
| 2♠            |                  |

In each of the reverse auctions, the opener has rebid in a higher ranking suit at the two-level, forcing the responder to bid at the three-level to support opener’s first-bid suit. This is a reverse and it shows a very specific type of hand.

- Since it quickly drives the bidding up to the three level, it shows an opening hand of at least 17 HCP.

- It also promises that the first-bid suit is longer than the second suit, the first suit being at least five and the second suit at least four.

Note: You should not make a reverse with a balanced hand. Instead bid the appropriate number of no trump.

**Opener’s reverse occurs only when ALL three of the following are true:**

1. One-level opening suit bid
2. One-level response
3. Opener rebids a higher ranked suit at the two-level

**Reverse bids by opener promise two things:**

1. More than minimum strength (17+ HCP)
2. The right distribution (usually 5-4, 6-4, 6-5). The first-bid suit is always longer than the second.

Reverse bids over a one-level response are forcing for one round.

**Responding to Reverses**

The first rule is that responder must bid. Even with a very minimum hand, a reverse is forcing for one round. With a hand that doesn’t want to play in game, even opposite a 17+ HCP point hand, responder can do one of two things to slow down and keep the auction as low as possible.

1. Rebid his own suit at the two level if possible (promises 5) OR
2. Rebid 2NT

These are the only two bids where the auction may stop below game. If responder rebids his first-bid suit, the opener must make one more bid, although responder is not obligated to bid again. The 2NT bid warns partner of a weak hand and should be used as a relay bid. Opener must bid 3♣ and then the responder can set the contract wherever he feels is best.

**Responder Can Reverse Too When Also Holding An Opening Hand**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♦            | 1♥               |
| 1NT           | 2♠               |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1♦            | 1♥               |
| 2♦            | 3♣               |

As with reverses by opener, responder’s reverse forces opener up a level if opener wants to give preference to the responder’s first-bid suit. He must do so at the three-level. Responder is promising opening points himself and, as with opener’s reverse bid, promises that the first-bid suit is longer than the second. Most partnerships agree that responder’s reverse is forcing to game.



## 2018 UNIT 126 CALENDAR

| Month      | Date  | Day        | Time      | Event                         | Location       |
|------------|-------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| April      | 2     | Mon        | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| April      | 14-15 | Sat.-Sun.  |           | New England GNT               | Sturbridge, MA |
| April      | 17    | Tues.      | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| April      | 25    | Wed.       | Morning   | ACBL-wide Charity Game        | Local Clubs    |
| April      | 25-29 | Wed.-Sun.  |           | New England Senior Regional   | Falmouth, MA   |
| May        | 3     | Thurs.     | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| May        | 5     | Sat.       |           | Connecticut 199er Sectional   | Stamford       |
| May        | 6-10  | Sun.-Thur. |           | District 24 Regional          | Carle Place    |
| May        | 16    | Wed.       | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| May        | 23-28 | Wed.-Mon.  |           | District 24 Regional          | New York, NY   |
| June       | 1-3   | Fri.-Sun.  |           | Connecticut Spring Sectional  | Orange         |
| June       | 1     | Fri.       | Evening   | Worldwide Bridge Contest #1   | Local Clubs    |
| June       | 2     | Sat.       | Afternoon | Worldwide Bridge Contest #2   | Local Clubs    |
| June       | 4-10  | Mon.-Sun.  |           | District 3 Regional           | Albany, NY     |
| June       | 12    | Tues.      | Evening   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| June       | 17-24 | Sun.-Sun.  |           | ACBL Longest Day              | Local Clubs    |
| June       | 19-24 | Tues.-Sun. |           | New England Summer Regional   | Nashua, NH     |
| June       | 25-1  | Mon.-Sun.  |           | STaC with North Jersey (U106) | Local Clubs    |
| July       | 3     | Tues.      | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| July       | 6     | Fri.       | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| July       | 9     | Mon.       | Afternoon | ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint  | Local clubs    |
| July       | 9-15  | Mon.-Sun.  |           | District 3 Regional           | Fairfield, NJ  |
| July       | 19    | Thurs.     | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| July       | 21    | Sat.       | Daytime   | Split Unit Local              | Local Clubs    |
| July       | 23    | Mon.       | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| July       | 25-5  |            |           | ACBL Summer Nationals         | Atlanta, GA    |
| August     | 6     | Mon.       | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| August     | 7     | Tues.      | Evening   | ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game    |                |
| August     | 10    | Fri.       | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| August     | 15    | Wed.       | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| August     | 17-19 | Fri.-Sun.  |           | Connecticut Summer Sectional  | Stamford       |
| August     | 21    | Tues.      | Daytime   | Unit-wide Championship        | Local Clubs    |
| Aug.-Sept. | 28-3  | Tues.-Mon. |           | New England Fiesta Regional   | Warwick, RI    |

  

|          |           |           |                     |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Key:     | Sect/STaC | Regional  | Nationals           |
| Pigment: | Silver    | Red, Gold | Red, Gold, Platinum |

## AN AMERICAN STORY:

### *Finding Home in Fairfield County*

On View at Fairfield Museum Spaght Gallery | February 8 – July 23, 2018



Jatin Metha (with wife Joy), a familiar player in the CT bridge scene, is featured in this impactful and timely exhibition. The exhibition highlights the experiences of refugees and immigrants who have built new lives in Fairfield County. A series of photographic portraits and biographical narratives share how eight individuals have rebuilt their lives and created a sense of home. The exhibition also honors the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI).



# Achievements

## MILESTONES

### LIFE MASTER\*

John C. Calderbank  
 Jacquelyn Fuchs  
 Elizabeth L. Grant  
 Carolee A. Haak  
 Duncan Harris  
 Ron Kahan  
 Linda Dale Mulholland  
 Marilyn Pikor  
 Daniel Sullivan  
 Maureen A. Walsh

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

### BRONZE LIFE MASTER\*\*

Susan Glasspiegel  
 Carolee A Haak  
 Linda Dale Mulholland  
 Bonnie M. Murphy

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

### SILVER LIFE MASTER

**(1,000 MP)**

Joan B. Danoff  
 Mary Eisenberg  
 Lee A. Hurdle  
 Judith J. Jacobson  
 Kathleen Rowland  
 Felix J. Springer  
 Ronald H. Talbot

### RUBY LIFE MASTER

**(1,500 MP)**

Leia Berla  
 James C. Macomber  
 Millie T. Sullivan

### GOLD LIFE MASTER

**(2,500 MP)**

Richard W. Fronapfel  
 Jane Julius

Paul S. Miller

Mary Scarfi

Douglas A. Thompson

### SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

**(3,500 MP)**

Phyllis B. Bausher



## IN MEMORIAM

Louise H. Calderbank

Francine Gilbert

Carl E. Meyer

Paul R. Pearson

Janis Shafarman

Sandra S. Sobel

Ronan Solecki

Nancy Stangel

Mary J. Wilson

## 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 **JUNE 1, 2018**.

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**You can see The Kibitzer in blazing color at the CT bridge site:**  
<http://www.ctbridge.org>

**If you would like to receive The Kibitzer via e-mail, let us know. Email Robin Sanders at [robin\\_sanders@verizon.net](mailto:robin_sanders@verizon.net)**

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