



THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Volume 20 • Number 9 • July 2019

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF LADY LUCK

Hasty play can make for a bad day.

by Harold Feldheim

In bridge there are times when a bit of creative discretion can go a long way. Sometimes the success or failure of a contract can depend on more than the lucky lay of cards.

Here South was *in luck*, but there can be hidden pitfalls that could wreck an otherwise iron-clad contract.

NORTH
♠ J 10
♥ A 4 2
♦ K Q J 2
♣ A Q J 4

SOUTH
♠ K 9 5
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ A 7 6 3
♣ 9 3

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: Neither

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠6

The Bidding: North-South agreed to play 15-17 1NT opening bids. As such, with 18 HCP, North planned 2NT as his rebid. However, after West's one spade overcall and with no spade stopper, he opted for a jump shift to three clubs. South, holding a spade stopper, bid 3NT, ending the auction.

The Play: Dummy's jack of spades

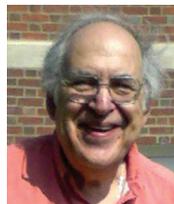
held the first trick, and South counted his tricks. With seven tricks in view (one spade, one heart, four diamonds, and a club), there seemed no way around the club finesse. Considering West's overcall, the finesse was likely to succeed. With only one sure entry to his hand, South set about manufacturing a second entry by cashing the K-Q of diamonds. His reasoning was that, assuming both opponents followed suit twice, he could overtake the jack with the ace, finesse the club, return to his hand by playing dummy's deuce to the seven in hand, and repeat the finesse. But when West showed out on the second diamond, the potential second diamond entry vanished and South was reduced to finessing the club, followed by cashing the ace to drop the king.

When this didn't happen, he could only come to eight tricks.

"Just my luck," moaned South. "All we needed was a 3-2 diamond split." Although North sympathized, he was really thinking, "Not bad luck; just bad play."

Do you see it?

Assuming the club king was well placed, South can assure his contract by making the counterintuitive play of overtaking trick one with the spade king, thus creating a vital second entry



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Upcoming Events

- ACBL Summer Nationals
July 18-28 in Las Vegas
- CT Summer Regional
August 16-18 in Stamford
- NE Fiesta Regional
Aug. 28-Sept. 1 in Warwick, RI
- Unit-Wide League Challenge
September 2 - November 30

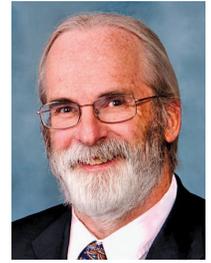
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SUPPORT DOUBLES

Doubles, doubles toil and troubles.

by Paul Burnham



Support doubles and redoubles are conventions fairly easy to explain, fairly easy to employ, and frightfully easy to forget. The classic case is when opener bids one of a minor, opener's partner bids one of a major, and opener's right-hand opponent either bids a third suit at the lowest available level or doubles for takeout. Now opener can double or redouble the opponent's action to show three cards in responder's suit. With four cards in responder's suit, opener makes a simple raise to show his support.

So, if you deal and open the bidding 1♣, and after a pass your partner bids 1♥, and then your right-hand opponent bids 1♠, you double to say you have three hearts and bid 2♥ to say you have four or possibly more hearts. If your right-hand opponent had doubled your partner's 1♠ response, then a redouble says you have three hearts and a heart raise says you have four or more.

Whether to extend the classic case to the not-so-classic cases is a question for each partnership to decide for itself, as is the question of whether to play this convention in the first place, and whether a call other than double denotes a holding of less than three cards in responder's suit. This is the first of a number of articles regarding these not-so-classic cases.

Early to the club, I could not help but listen as my friend Jack completed a convention card with Sam (short for Samantha), his partner *du jour* (both fine players). They spent 15 minutes on the front side and had only 3 minutes before game time for the back. In the special doubles section,

they decided to play support doubles and redoubles through 2♣. Short of time, they decided they both must know what support doubles were, when they are used and when they are not, and moved on to discussions of negative free bids.

As it happened, this became relevant that day when my partner and I reached Jack and Sam's table. Jack dealt himself ♠ Q 6 5, ♥ K 8 7 4, ♦ K Q 8, ♣ A 8 5, and opened the bidding 1♣ as most of us would. After my partner passed, Sam responded 1♦ and I had enough length in the master suit and overall strength to step into the auction with a 1♠ bid. Now Jack had to think. Are support doubles on when responder's suit is diamonds? And if they are, and I (this is Jack thinking) don't make a support double, will Sam infer that I (Jack again) hold fewer than three diamonds? Could that be critical information to her?

Jack did choose to double, and while putting his dummy down for Sam's 2♦ contract, noted that he wasn't sure if he was showing three diamonds (a support double) or four hearts (an opener's negative double for lack of a better term), but it so happened that he had both. So, he felt he had an easy bid, however Sam chose to interpret it. Indeed, Jack and Sam had found their only 8-card fit. A triumph for support doubles? Not quite – if Jack had bid 1NT instead of double, he and Sam would have scored 120 instead of 90. (See hand diagram and note that after the ♦A is dislodged, Mike would be able to score his eight top tricks before my partner and I could take more than five.)

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: N-S

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

WEST
♠ A K 9 3 2
♥ 9 3
♦ A 4
♣ Q J 9 4

EAST
♠ 10 4
♥ Q J 6 5
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 10 7 6 2

SOUTH
♠ J 8 7
♥ A 10 2
♦ J 10 6 3 2
♣ K 3

Jack's bid is faithful to *Bridge World Standard* (2017 edition), which states in effect that should Jack have failed to double my overcall, he would have denied holding three diamonds. (*Bridge World Standard* is the system devised by *Bridge World Magazine* and is supposed to provide the preferred methods of leading for American expert players when playing in unpracticed partnerships.) Jack's bid also happens to be faithful to *Bridge World Standard* (2001 edition), which states in effect that should Jack have failed to double my overcall, he would have denied holding four hearts. Evidently it was a close decision whether to make this change, and, of course, no one is required to play *Bridge World Standard* – I point this out only because these may be points that not all serious partnerships have discussed.

All first-time partnerships have learning curves, and Jack did well to reach a making part-score contract.

Continued on page 5

DEFENDING A DOUBLED CONTRACT AT THE ONE LEVEL

Not as easy as it looks.

by Brett Adler

This is one of the few hands I've included in an article when I wasn't at the table, but at the end of their match, my teammates rushed over to tell their story. (We were playing in a 6-player team, and my partner and I were on the bench for this match.)

With all vulnerable, dealer on your left opens 1♠, partner makes a takeout double, and opponent on your right passes. What do you do with this hand: ♠A K J 10 9 8 4, ♥J 10 6, ♦Q, ♣Q 7?

When the hand was given to me as a problem, I gave my answer as soon as I heard the spade suit, which is that I am passing. When partner can double and I have 6 guaranteed spade tricks, the opponents must be in trouble. The hand also has soft values with two queens and a jack. I'd defend even without these extra picture cards, but now I'm hoping for an even bigger penalty.

That concludes the auction. West would have led a trump if he had one. When West leads the A♣, East should still be happy. Before I give you the whole hand, I'll pose two questions for you: *How rich do you think you'll get defending this one-level contract, and how many spade tricks will the opponents make?*

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: Both
Lead: ♣A

NORTH
♠ 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A J 10 9 6 3 2
♣ J 5 2

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

South	West	North	East
1♠	Dbl ¹	Pass	Pass

Dbl¹ (I think this is a terrible double. I would start with a simple overcall of 2♣.)

At the table, with a club lead, declarer was able to ruff this in hand (1st spade trick). He then played the top two hearts and ruffed a heart in dummy (2nd spade trick), ruffed another club (3rd spade trick), cashed a top diamond, and still had the ♠Q remaining for a 4th spade trick and 7th total trick. When I posed the initial question, how many guessed that 1♠X would make for -160 and that declarer would make 4 spade tricks.

Arguably this is still a great result for E/W, as N/S can make 6♦.

At the other table, West made the natural 2♣ overcall and E/W ended up in 5♣. N/S have the top 2 hearts, a heart ruff, and a diamond, so our N/S teammates should still win an imp by scoring +200 to go with the -160 from the other table. Alas, North led his singleton spade and now 5♣ made for -600, a big loss on this board (West just lost two hearts). At least I wasn't at that table and was blameless for a change ...



The Care and Feeding of Lady Luck

by Harold Feldheim
Continued from page 1

to repeat the club finesse and gather nine tricks.

The complete hands:

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

Two interesting points:

1. It is possible that declarer played trick one too quickly. In my experience, the potential result of many if not most hands is determined within the first couple of tricks. Therefore, hasty play to trick one is one of the most costly sins of both play and defense.
2. The king of spades is at best a fragile reed and at worst a red herring. If East wins the club, he will lead a spade through the king. Therefore, winning the first trick in hand, although slightly fancy, costs nothing. So, this is an easy solution ... once you see it!





MY PARTNER'S TRAP-PASS BECOMES MY TRAP DOOR

Clever, but ill-chosen, actions become your downfall.

by Burt Saxon

For the first time in our 40-year partnership, Steve Emerson and I used airline travel to get to a bridge tournament. The Spring Nationals in Memphis featured our favorite event: IMP Pairs. We hoped to qualify for the finals.

We were definitely below average when this hand came up. As South, the Dealer, I opened 3♦ non-vulnerable against vulnerable. West doubled me and Steve was looking at this interesting hand:

NORTH

♠ x
 ♥ A K x x x
 ♦ x x x x x
 ♣ x x

Steve knew we needed to create some action; so, he made a trap-pass, intending to later bid diamonds like a madman until we were doubled. The doubler's partner, East, jumped to 4♠ and I passed. West bid 4 NT confidently and Steve bid 5♦. East passed, as did I, and West went to 5♠. Steve, of course, bid 6♦ – no doubt thinking his brilliant trap-pass would work out fine. East passed, I did the same, and West bid 6♠. Undaunted, Steve went to 7♦ and then ... East thought for a while and came back to life with a 7♠ bid, which was passed out.

I took a close look at my hand:

SOUTH

♠ x x
 ♥ x x
 ♦ K Q J x x x x
 ♣ x x

It certainly appeared that Steve held the ♦A and that he just might be able to cash it. I put my ♦K on the table

only to see a singleton ♦A in the dummy. Even worse, East pitched a heart on his partner's ♦A, drew trumps in two rounds, and pitched another heart on partner's long clubs. Minus 2210 meant our game was headed for the sewer and we would be playing in a regional pairs game our second and final day in Memphis.

That evening we were enjoying some mighty fine ribs at Central Barbecue and debating whether or not I should have led something other than a diamond. Eventually, we both realized that Steve should have bid 3♥ (lead-directing) instead of trap-passing. With twelve diamonds between us, it was impossible for us to get a diamond trick! I told Steve not to feel bad because I would have trap-passed as well (if it had occurred to me). Both Steve and I were students 40 years earlier in a great bidding course taught by Harold Feldheim. Harold taught us how important it was to create action, but at the right time and with the right hand. We had the right time. Steve just had the wrong hand. His trap-pass actually set a trap door for me.

Fortunately our wives, non-bridge players both, were with us. They demanded we stop talking about bridge and started reflecting on the unforgettable Civil Rights Museum we had all visited that morning. Naturally we complied immediately.



UNIT 126 IS TRYING SOMETHING NEW...

A Unit-Wide Bridge League (UWL) open to players of all levels.

The concept is simple and fun:

Teams of 4 players with varying MP levels (D: 0-199, C:200 -499, B: 500-1499, A: 1499+) play in Open games at any sanctioned CT club any time during the League season (Sept-Nov). You play with each member of your team at least once. Resulting percentages are tracked and the team with the highest average overall percentage wins. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

However, there are several important details which can be found on our CT Bridge website: www.ctbridge.org

Team entry fee is \$40 (\$10 per player). The check is to be sent in by the team captain with the registration form. Find the flyer and official registration form on page 11 of this issue and on our website.

Team registrations should be received by August 24.

If you want to be on a team, directors at your local club have sign-up forms to help you find other team members.

Questions may also be sent to Unit126.UWL@gmail.com.

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 for his students. In each issue, I will share tips for bidding, defense, and declarer play.

BIDDING

With two five-card suits:

- Open the higher-ranking suit.
- Respond in the higher-ranking suit.
- Overcall in the higher-ranking suit.

Do not worry about which suit is stronger.

Example:

♠ x, ♥ J 10 x x x, ♦ A K Q x x, ♣ A x

Open 1♥. Respond 1♥. Overcall 1♥ if the opening bid to your right is 1♣.

DEFENSE

On defense, when partner leads low from length and dummy has only small cards in that suit, 3rd hand plays HIGH. However, if 3rd hand has equal high cards to dummy's cards, 3rd hand plays the LOWEST OR LOWEST OF EQUALS.

Examples:

From ♠ K 10 x, play the **K**. Unequal cards – high.

From ♠ K Q x, play the **Q**. Equal (touching high cards) – so lowest.

From ♠ K Q J, play the **J**. Three equal cards – so lowest.

DECLARER PLAYING TIPS

As declarer, when you can take a trick with one of two equal honors – say the king or the queen, the queen or the jack, the ten or the nine – take the trick with HIGHER OR HIGHEST EQUAL. It will make your opponents guess and it's far more deceptive. When you take tricks with the lower or lowest of equals, you might as well be playing with your cards face up!

A major exception to this rule is when as declarer you are holding ♠ A K x (x) in no-trump. Here it is better (much better) to take the first trick with the king. If you take the trick with the ace, the opponents are sure to wonder why you did not hold up. It's too much of a giveaway.



Support Doubles

by Paul Burnham

Continued from page 2

But when we are playing with our regular partners, what should opener's double state? And what would another call state about opener's length in diamonds and in the unbid major?

If your partnership responds to opening 1♣ bids "up the line" – i.e., responder, holding a hand such as ♠ 6 3, ♥ A J T 4, ♦ K 6 5 4, ♣ 9 8 2, would bid 1♦ to partner's opening 1♣ bid – then it would seem the heart suit could easily be lost should the opponent in fourth seat bid 1♠ and opener not be able to double to show four hearts. For such partnerships Jack's double might best be employed to promise four hearts. If your partnership understanding is to bid 1♥ in this example, so that Sam's bid of

1♦ denied a four-card major unless she had close to an opening hand (and thus would make a second bid), then Jack would not have a reason to show his heart holding unless Sam could take another bid, and then maybe double could be best used to show diamond support.

What would Jack have bid with his hand if I had passed instead of bidding 1♣? Most likely he would have bid 1NT. Is the fact that I bid 1♣ enough to dissuade Jack from making the 1NT call he would otherwise have made? In a partnership that had not had the time to consider these matters, Jack made the practical, and probably the safest, choice, which turned out to be second best. But your regular partnership does have that time – do you agree to play support doubles when responder's suit is diamonds?

And, if you do, should a bid other than double deny three or more diamonds? Whatever you decide, many very good players will agree with you.



WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Continued from page 9

3. Janet Soskin – Meredith Dunne
4. Avery Flowers – Karen Barrett
5. Belinda Metzger – Mary Ellen McGuire
6. Mary Richardson – Sue Kipp

TROPHY GAME WINNERS were:

Coulter Cup: Janet Soskin – Karen Barrett

Robertson Bowl: Lynn Reilly – Joan Bergen

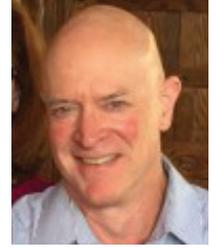
Congratulations to Lynn Reilly, who became a Life Master during the June STaC week.





THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Tom Hunter



“Director, why are you asking me to ...?”

1. Switch directions? Because the field is unbalanced. One direction is much stronger than the other.
2. Play a board out of order? Because another table has a late play and I want the board to be ready for them.
3. Fold up my scorecard? Because other players should not know how or what you did on other boards.
4. Quiet down? Because everyone is fascinated by your analysis of the board you just played. Too fascinated.
5. Play the board more promptly? Because you are slowing down the entire game.
6. Enter the opening lead? Two reasons. One, that information helps to verify who was declarer. Two, don't you want to know what the good players led?



INTERVIEW WITH TEHMI MULLA

New Life Master and Master of Life at 97.

by Mark Blumenthal



Mark: Tehmi Mulla, you achieved your goal of becoming a Life Master in April of 2019, three months before your 97th birthday. What thoughts come to mind when someone congratulates you on achieving that goal?

Tehmi: At least at my age, I can still achieve something. My late husband Dadi would be jealous of me. We always had a competitive relationship, almost a sibling rivalry.

When did you first become aware of the game of bridge?

When my husband and I were in medical school in India, in 1943-46, the men used to play money bridge in their spare time.

When did you first start to play bridge?

I started to play around 1960. Before that, the women used to play rummy.

Tell me about playing in India.

We used to play at the Willingdon Sports Club, named after Lord Willingdon, the governor of Bombay. Men and women would play together. Sometimes we played at people's homes, but mostly at the club. There was always money involved. The better players would play for higher stakes.

I played with Dadi. When we first started to play, we used the Culbertson bidding methods. That evolved

to the Goren point count system. Our top players went off to play internationally. When they came back, after competing against the Italians, they taught everyone to play Standard Precision.

What brought you to the US?

My kids and their families were in the US. So we came here to retire in 1979.

But you didn't retire then, did you?

In India I was an obstetrician. I got bored early in my retirement; so I decided to do a residency in psychiatry and became a board-certified psychiatrist. I did that for 20 years until I fully retired.

When and where did you begin to play bridge in the US?

After some difficulty, Dadi and I found duplicate games at the Trumbull and Easton Senior Centers around 1982.

How much bridge do you play now and where?

I'm in Connecticut for about eight months a year, and I play three days a week at the Newtown Bridge Club and one day at the Monroe Senior Center. In addition, I like to play in tournaments. In Florida, I play six to seven times a week at the McGregor Point Bridge Club in Ft. Myers. I don't get to any tournaments in Florida unless they're close by.

What do you do with your time when you're not playing bridge?

I like to read. I'll read anything, mostly nonfiction. I also like to cook, and I like to go for walks, but my walking is less these days.

Do you have any future bridge goals?

I'd like to become a Bronze Life Master if I live long enough!

Do you have anything else that you'd like to add?

If my partner, Mark Blumenthal, hadn't been willing to drive me to all the tournaments we went to, this never would have happened.



Despite arriving at 10:05 am for a 10:00 session (because I-95 was closed in Branford, CT), we finished fourth overall and got another 4.07 gold. In the NAP qualifier final the following day, we didn't fare as well, coming up with only .44 red. No gold on Saturday and no trip to Memphis in March.

At this point, Tehmi was preparing to travel to Florida for the winter. She now had more than 300 total Master Points, and still needed fewer than 5 silver, but she was able to accrue those by December 1 in STaC games in Ft. Myers.

Still blatantly evident was the gold shortfall of 3.62 points. Tehmi spent the whole winter in Florida dreaming about the Gold Mine in Sturbridge. She flew back from Florida the week before the April 11-15 Sturbridge Gold Mine Event so that we could get our partnership back on track.

It seems that a lot of people came to Sturbridge with the same goal in mind. After three days and nights (playing 9 sessions!) chipping away at the remaining 3.62 points, we entered the Sunday Swiss Teams Event entertaining the possibility of not completing the task in Sturbridge.

Roger Caplan continues with the saga: "My partner Ken Steele and I teamed up with Mark Blumenthal and nearly 97-year-old Tehmi Mulla for the District 25 Grand National Team Final Flight C Event in Sturbridge. Mark's aim over the four days was to help Tehmi acquire the 3.62 gold points she needed to become a Life Master. Entering the final day, she still needed 1.73 gold. Lady luck was clearly on our side. We ended up winning the event for 15 points of which 7.5 were gold. Tehmi had crushed it!!

"My first team event victory will always be memorable, but it's just a milestone for a 3rd-year player on his own road. I have a feeling it will always pale into insignificance compared to the joy of being part of the team that fulfilled Tehmi's extraordinary quest. How many of us approaching the age of 97 will have any publicly measured goals still to fulfill, let alone the ability to achieve them?"



ON THE ROAD TO GOLD WITH TEHMI

by Mark Blumenthal

Tehmi Mulla's quest to become a Life Master began on June 4, 2018, eight weeks before her 96th birthday. As I walked into the Newtown Bridge Club with a frequent partner, Tehmi pulled me aside and said, "You don't want to play with him. You want to play with me!" I had known Tehmi for about two years. She was one of the first people that I met when I returned to bridge after a 20-year hiatus, but we had partnered only once or twice prior to June 4.

After several sessions over several weeks with reasonable outcomes, I asked her about becoming a Life Master. Not only had she not achieved that status, she remarked, "I would need another life to become a Life Master!" After looking at her masterpoints, I decided that there was a reasonable chance that she could become one. Since she had joined ACBL in early 2000, she was grandfathered into the 300-point requirement.

So the quest began. By the end of June 2018, Tehmi's overall point total was 255. To become a Life Master, she needed fewer than 50 points overall, including 5 red, 8 silver, and more than 23 gold points. Ouch about the gold. I needed all kinds of points myself, having started with zero master points at the

beginning of 2017. So I encouraged her to entertain the Life Master goal, which meant playing a lot of bridge – with me. Lots of bridge was nothing new or unwelcome to Tehmi. I knew the red would come with the gold, and there were silver opportunities in sectional tournaments as well as STAC games.

We started our gold quest in a 0-750 Gold Rush event on August 31 in Warwick, RI. We played one day there and earned 1.67 gold. That was a decent start, almost doubling what she had. The next major stop was nearby Danbury on October 9. After an astonishing 71.13% morning round, we wound up winning the day and 7.58 gold. Things were looking a lot better, but could we ever achieve anything like that again?

Fast-forward two days to October 11 in Danbury. After another astonishing first round (72.02%) and a first-place finish, we got 6.2 more gold. Now she had 17.31 gold and things were looking a lot brighter. On November 9 we made a much longer journey to Mansfield, MA. We had qualified for the North American Pairs and decided to go a day early to try to earn some more points. That meant staying overnight, the first time I had ever done that for a bridge tournament.



BRIDGE FORUM

Stein Cup (Tuesdays, January-April):

For the first time, Jeff Horowitz and Kevin Hart not only reached the final against each other, but played together both weeks, sending the decision to a statistical tie-breaker won by Kevin.

Claiborn Cup (Fridays, January-April): Gernot Reiners' STaC game win with his wife on her debut appearance with us was instrumental to his victory, as he defeated Ken Steele, Donna Hersh, Hill Auerbach, and then Harold Miller in the final.

2019 Statistics (year-to-date):

High score: 90.00% (George Levinson – Hank Banach)

Small slam success rate: 66.24%;

Grand slam success rate: 52.46%;

Penalty double success rate: 75.48%;
25 flat boards (19 games); 86 pass-outs (fourth-hand scores 46.49%)

Closest to average: Doug Tendler – Jane Mathias

Most consistent: Ruth Sachs – Susan Smith

Most plus four-digit penalties: Bob Silverstein (6)

Most successful grand slams: Breta Adams – Karlene Wood (6)

Most doubled contracts made: Alan Milstone – Gernot Reiners/Doug Tendler – Jane Mathias

Most successfully doubled: Breta Adams – Karlene Wood

Best second-half comebacks: Eric and Wendy Frieden (4)

Fewest zeroes: Jeff Horowitz – Kevin Hart

Most tops: Alan Milstone – Gernot Reiners

Most optimistic bidding: Breta Adams – Karlene Wood

Most pass-outs: Ruth Sachs

Fastest play: Eric Frieden

Slowest play: Doug Tendler – Jane Mathias

Most unsuccessful doubles: Jeff Horowitz – Kevin Hart

Most successful doubles: Jeff Horowitz – Kevin Hart

Most wins: Alan Milstone – Gernot Reiners/Jeff Horowitz – Kevin Hart

Most successful declaring: Ed Konowitz – Kendall Clark

Most successful defending: Harold Miller – Rita Brieger

Most top-or-bottom approach: Alan Milstone – Gernot Reiners

COME PLAY BRIDGE OF WESTPORT AND DARIEN

So often we salute those who ascend to the top of our masterpoint rankings. We sometimes forget to celebrate our dedicated players who are steadily climbing the ranks. Many are only be able to play one game a week. So, here's to our year-to-date Top Ten climbing the ladder in our Limited games. Remember that Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are Life Masters!

Monday Evening–750

1. 8.71 Andrew Coleman
2. 7.74 Susan Byron
3. 7.37 Paul Hannah
4. 7.36 Carla Sharp
5. 7.33 Donna Bauman
6. 7.23 Susan Welton
7. 7.23 Helene Stancato
8. 6.91 Susan Schulz
9. 6.36 Sherrill Werblood
10. 6.21 Toni Simonetti

Friday Morning–0-99

1. 9.28 Betty Salzer
2. 7.56 Patricia Kimball

3. 6.98 David Weiss
4. 5.47 Ronald Moore
5. 5.15 John Tucci
6. 4.96 Joanne Lippman
7. 4.82 Sue Eleoff
8. 4.82 Vic Fioravante
9. 4.19 Laura Twersky
10. 4.13 Chiara Rudzin

COUNTRY CLUB OF DARIEN

The winners of The Country Club of Darien's spring series were:

- A. Mary Ellen MacGuire and Sue Kipp
- B. Suellen Evans and Betty Luciano
- C. Bob Hughes and Bill Ball

HARTFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Celebrates Six New Life Masters

Welcoming a new Life Master is always a noteworthy event, but on April 7 the Hartford Bridge Club had the privilege of welcoming six new Life Masters in a single event. Weeks were spent organizing the "Eight is Enough" celebration—a Swiss Team event specifically structured to encourage newer players and advanced players to team up to play. In an "Eight Is Enough" game, each team member is assigned a point value - from one to three—based on his or her bridge level. No team may have more than eight points. The planning committee and new Life Masters agreed that the unique "Eight is Enough" format emphasized the central role of mentors and more experienced partners in helping newer players develop their duplicate bridge skills. The game also gave players who had never participated in a Swiss Team event the opportunity to become familiar both with the structure of a team game and with the strategy of



playing IMPs while still remaining competitive in an Open event. Players without partners and partners without a team had a special sign-up and teams were created for everyone who wanted to play.

On game day, the club was at capacity with 36 teams! The day began with a sumptuous potluck lunch, followed by introductions of the six new Life Masters and presentation of their Life Master pins. Name tags ensured that club members who hadn't met before would get to know one another. New partnerships and friendships were created across bridge levels and the day was enjoyed by all! The Hartford Bridge Club extends hearty congratulations to John, Nancy, Xenia, Betty, Don and Tina, whose accomplishments allowed the Hartford Bridge Club to showcase its motto: "The Club with a Heart!"



Pictured from L to R:

Xenia Coulter, Tina Yablonski, John Calderbank, Nancy Calderbank, Betty Kerber, and Don Muller

Hartford Bridge Club recently began offering its first-ever 0-49 MP evening game. Games are held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, and each game is preceded by a 15-minute mini-lesson at 6:15 pm. We play 15-16 boards and the game finishes by 9:30 pm. If you're a new player looking for an opportunity to play with your peers in a low-key learning environment while

winning ACBL masterpoints, this is the game for you!

HBC runs 13 games a week, including a number of limited-point games, Open games, and a Sunday afternoon mixed masterpoint game. Visit www.hartfordbridgeclub.org for the complete schedule.



Longest Day Fun and Frolic
Donna Feir and Pam Lombardi

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Have you ever wished you could go on a **Larry Cohen** bridge cruise? We can't supply the ship, but we can offer him at a fraction of the cost of a cruise!

We are excited to have Larry present at our club in September. He will be at Newtown's Edmond Town Hall from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm on **Sunday, September 15** and **Monday, September 16**. His seminars always sell out quickly, so make your reservations for either or both days soon. More information and a printable reservation form are on our website: www.newtownbridge.org.

Last fall, our club began a Bridge Mentoring Program in coordination with the Connecticut Bridge Association. Our program has been a very successful, and we currently have more than 20 active mentor partnerships. Two mentees have graduated from the program after earning more than 200 points and two others, who completed six sessions

with their mentors, had such a positive experience that they are signing up again for a second mentor. One mentee commented that she "will go forward as an advocate of this program and will encourage people in our club who have not yet partaken of this very wonderful opportunity to do so."

Our annual "Team Week," with Swiss Teams at all games, is the week of October 7-10. Our afternoon games on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday start at 12:00 noon so players will be finished by 4:00 pm. Our Wednesday 10:00 morning game and our Tuesday 7:00 evening game start at their usual times. Form a team and join us for a great time and the opportunity to earn some gold!

SEVEN NO-TRUMP BRIDGE CLUB

In April our charity games supported AmeriCares® and we were able to raise \$1,020 to assist their humanitarian relief projects around the world. Thank you for playing. Thank you for giving.

Need a long-term partner? We now provide a matching service! Simply visit our website and answer a few questions. We will then match you with a compatible partner. It's that easy!

Website: www.7ntgames.com

email: Joseph.Grill@7ntgames.com

mobile: 979-218-7428

WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Wee Burn players have enjoyed weekly games at the Beach Club this summer.

Spring Series winners were:

1. Betty Hodgman – Doug Thompson
2. Lynn Reilly – Joan Bergen

2019 UNIT 126 CALENDAR

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
July				North American Pairs	
July	1	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	8	Mon.	Daytime	ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint	Local Clubs
July	8-14	Mon.-Sun.		District 3 Regional	Fairfield, NJ
July	11	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	18-28			ACBL Summer Nationals	Las Vegas, NV
July	24	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
July	30	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
August				North American Pairs	
August	6	Tues.	Evening	ACBL-Wide Junior Fund Game	Local Clubs
August	13	Tues.	Evening	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
August	16-18	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Summer Sectional	Stamford
August	20	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
August	26	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
Aug.-Sept.	28-2	Tues.-Mon.		New England Fiesta Regional	Local Clubs
September				Club International Fund Games	
September	12	Thurs.	Daytime	ACBL-Wide International Fund	Local Clubs
September	17-22	Tues.-Sun.		District 24 Regional	Carle Place
October				Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games	
October	4	Fri.	Afternoon	ACBL Senior Pairs	Local Clubs
October	14-20	Mon.-Sun.		D3 Regional	Danbury
October	25-27	Fri.-Sun.		Connecticut Fall Sectional	Wethersfield
October	31	Wed.	Afternoon	ACBL Instant Match Point	Local Clubs
November	4	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	5	Tues.	Evening	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	6-10	Wed.-Sun.		District 25 Harvest Regional	Mansfield, MA
November	11-17	Mon.-Sun.		STaC with North Jersey (U106)	Local Clubs
November	21	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
November	26	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
Nov.-Dec.	28-8	Thurs.-Sun.		ACBL Fall Nationals	San Francisco, CA
December	6	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	9	Mon.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	11	Wed.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	16	Mon.	Afternoon	ACBL International Fund Game	Local Clubs
December	17	Tues.	Daytime	Unit-Wide Championship	Local Clubs
December	26-30	Thurs.-Mon.		New York City Regional	New York, NY

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

Note: GNT and NAOP qualifying rounds pay red points (not gold).

THERE'S SOMETHING NEW ON THE HORIZON



UNIT 126 UNIT WIDE BRIDGE LEAGUE (UWL)

This is a contest played by 4 people on a team competing against all the other teams participating in the League.

WHAT

A Unit Wide Bridge League

WHEN

September 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019

HOW IT WORKS

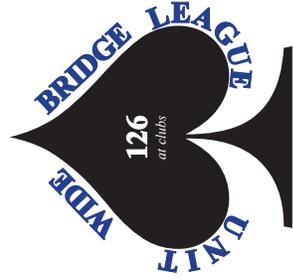
Teams of 4 players with varying levels of playing experience. Each team member plays at least once with every other member of the team. Team with the highest overall average percentage for all six games wins!

Anyone can form a team, so here's a chance to ask and team up with that player whose bridge know-how you've admired or to partner with and encourage that advancing player you've noticed.

Please register your team by August 24.

Please see other side for details.
More info can be found at:
www.ctbridge.org.

Questions can be sent to:
Unit126.UWL@gmail.com



HOW IT WORKS

Create your team with players of 4 different levels:

- Player A – 1500+ Masterpoints
- Player B – 500-1499 Masterpoints
- Player C – 200-499 Masterpoints
- Player D – 0-199 Masterpoints

Each person on the team must play with every other person on the team.

- A must play with B, C and D
- B must play with A, C and D
- C must play with A, B and D
- D must play with A, B and C

You can play in any open game at a sanctioned Unit 126 club at any time during the contest period (September 1 through November 30) as long as there are at least 5 tables in play. You must notify the "registrar" when you are planning to play for your team. The "registrar" will then collect your results and will keep track of all team results to be posted weekly on the CT Bridge Association Website. The team with the highest average overall percentage wins.

At the end of the contest, prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, subject to change depending on number of teams.

There are "rules of contest" which you will be given once you sign up for your team. The fee is \$40 per team. Teams must register by August 24.

Any questions can be directed to
Renee Clift at: Unit126.UWL@gmail.com





Achievements

MILESTONES

LIFE MASTER¹

Arjun Chaudhuri
Tehmi Mulla
Jonathan Jankus
Laura Said
Silvia Szanto

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

BRONZE LIFE MASTER² (500 MP)

Doug Pratt
Laura Said
Soretta Stamler

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

SILVER LIFE MASTER (1,000 MP)

Susan Kip
Burt Saxon

RUBY LIFE MASTER (1,500 MP)

Madelyn Cerritelli
Michael Heider
Bunny Lucas
Selma Moffie

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2,500 MP)

Joyce Stiefel

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3,500 MP)

Jill Fouad

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5,000 MP)

Joel Wolf



IN MEMORIAM

Anthony Carella
Margaret M. Donahue
Larry Levy

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 **AUGUST 15, 2019**.

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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

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