



THE KIBITZER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Volume 20 • Number 8 • June 2018

From the Editor

This issue of *The Kibitzer* has a very special focus. It is dedicated to the needs of the advancing bridge player. In actuality, a great deal of our unit's players have fewer than 199 points. Still, they are striving to improve, looking to advance in the ranks and constantly searching for the "secrets" of accomplished players. So I have asked our unit's pros and hard-working teachers to submit a favorite or simple tip that advancing players can easily absorb and employ. Hopefully there will be some Aha moments!

In the fall, we will be back to feature articles, but we intend to keep our content varied and useful for all levels of player. I thank everyone for their contributions and invite you all to contact me with ways we can make your unit newsletter better.

Robin Sanders



From the President

In my last letter, I urged everyone to come out to support our local and regional tournaments. For the duplicate player, nothing is more exciting than being in a big room with your peers and sharing the enjoyment of the wonderful game of bridge. Now, two tournaments after my plea, I want to thank you all for your support and attendance. It has been great to see so many new players—especially at our first annual Fairfield County 199er tournament in May held in Stamford.

A great deal of the credit and thanks for this new 199er tournament goes to Renee Clift, a new member of our CT Bridge Board. Recognizing the success

of the fall yearly 199er in Hartford, Renee proposed the Fairfield 199er event to the Board and shepherded it to success. We also want to recognize Karen Barrett for generously dedicating her time and expertise to do Post Mortems between games. Thank you too to Joe Grill for his tireless help in arranging for us to hold our tournament in his Seven No-Trump Bridge space.

See you all in the fall!

Susan Rodricks



A word from our 199er Tournament Chair

There was much excitement in the air as more than 185 novice and intermediate bridge players gathered to participate in the inaugural CT Spring 199er Sectional Tournament in Stamford. Among them were a dozen players who experienced the fun and challenge of tournament play for the very first time! The CBA is committed to providing opportunities for players of all levels. If you haven't played in a CBA Sectional or Regional Tournament, consider joining in. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming and the competition is friendly. The next 199er Tournament will be held on October 14, 2018 at the Hartford Bridge Club.

Please also join us at our open sectionals that are held four times a year. There is always a "299er" section and that is stratified as well, so you will be scored against your playing level.

Renee Clift



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Upcoming Events

- CT Summer Sectional, Stamford
August 17-19
- NE Fiesta Regional, Warwick
August 28-September 3



FOUR TIPS FOR IMPROVING YOUR GAME

Count, count, count, and “already gone.”

by John Stiefel



The most important reason by far that a top player is better than a newer player is that he/she makes more of an effort to count the unseen hands.

First, count the *distribution*.

Example: If declarer opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥, play him/her for 5 spades and 4+ hearts. If he later supports his partner’s diamond suit, then play him for at most 1 club.

Second, count the *points*. Example: If the auction goes 1NT (15-17)–3NT by the opponents, dummy hits with 12 points and you have 10, play your partner to have 1-3 points or, on

average, 2 points (i.e., 16 + 12 + 10 = 38, subtract from 40 to get 2).

Third, count the *tricks*. Example: You are West, defending South’s 4♥ contract. You gain the lead late in the play and are looking at xxx of diamonds in the dummy. Your diamonds are KJxx and you are considering shifting to a diamond, but you are afraid that declarer might have AQ. Often problems like this can be solved by asking, “How many tricks would declarer have if he has the ace of diamonds?” For example, if the ace of diamonds would be declarer’s 11th trick but your

side already has 2 tricks, then the diamond shift might gain but “can’t cost.”

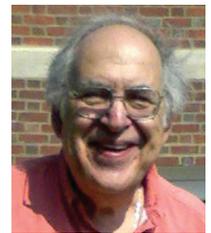
Fourth, I remind you of “Already Gone”—one of my favorite Country Music songs (Sugarland, 2008). Its application to bridge is this: The last hand is “already gone.” Forget about it and save your concentration for the next hand. Don’t waste energy figuring out if you or partner made a mistake or how you could have done better. (If you wish, mark it in your private score to be discussed later.)



COUNTERINTUITIVE FALSE-CARDING

Use with caution.

by Harold Feldheim



False-carding—i.e., playing the wrong card in an effort to deceive the opponents—is a fine weapon, but must be handled with care. There are two reasons for this: first, it might serve to deceive partner (usually not a good idea), and second, it might do more harm than good. But when this technique is creatively applied, the reward can be dramatic.

Here is an example of this type of thinking.

Vulnerability: North/South

NORTH
♠ Q 5 4 2
♥ K 5
♦ K Q J 7
♣ J 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 9 8 7
♥ A 2
♦ A 4
♣ K 2

North	East	South	West
1♦	4♣	6♠	all pass

Opening lead: ♣3

South soon realizes that his contract is doomed. East is going to win the trick

and give partner a ruff. But there’s one hope. After this precipitous auction, not much is known. Surprisingly, playing the king under the ace is South’s best chance. Since you were *fortunate enough* to be dealt the ♣2, the king play may convince East that West started with the 3-2 and that South might be off a red ace.

Please notice that this deceptive play can’t lose and may win, since, even if East works out to cash the A-Q of clubs, it would be the same two tricks as the ace of clubs and a ruff.

Moral: Whenever you choose to false-card, make certain it conveys your intended message.



THIRD HAND HIGH

Not so fast...

by Joe Grill - Seven No-Trump Club

At some point in our bridge career, we've heard a teacher or another player cite the old adage "Third hand plays high." Usually we do this to drive out declarer's stopper. While the saying "Third Hand High" can help us make a quick decision, sometimes it leads us down the wrong path.

Suppose your partner leads the ♠5 against 1NT. Dummy comes down and you see the following:

NORTH		
♠ Q 7 3		
WEST		EAST
5 ♠		♠ A 10 4

With the saying "Third Hand High" ringing in your ears, would you, as East, play the ace and return the suit?

Here's the full deal:

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

Taking the ace right away will let the declarer eventually score the queen! You need to save the ace to cover the honor in dummy. Play the ten at trick one and declarer takes no tricks in the suit. But what if declarer has the king?

Let's see:

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

By playing the ace at trick one, I promote both the king and queen, giving declarer two tricks. Playing the jack at trick one and saving the ace to cover the queen in dummy holds the declarer to one trick in the suit. **Third hand high—but if dummy has an honor, it might be a good idea to save a cover card.**



WHEN AND WHY: MAKING THE CRITICAL PLAY AS DEFENDER

Ask yourself three questions.

by Al Wolf (citing Terrence Reese)

Although his reputation was severely damaged by a cheating scandal, Terrence Reese was one of the world's greatest bridge writers. In the first chapter of his brilliant book *Master Play*, Reese provided the following guidance for defender, who must constantly reassess options as play continues:

"A defender who has to make a critical play should tentatively select what seems to be the best line and then examine it in the light of the following test:

1. Is there anything in my partner's play **up to now** that does not fit in with the picture of the hand on which my intended play is based?
2. Is there anything in declarer's play that does not fit in with my general picture?
3. Have I counted declarer's possible tricks, and am I satisfied that the play I have in mind, insofar as it contains any risk, must be made now?

There are few problems that cannot be resolved by a player who will direct his mind to each of the three questions above."



Are you good at running things?

If so, we've got a job for you.

CT Bridge Association is looking for a new Tournament Coordinator.

If you're interested, please email:

President Susan Rodricks
srodricks@optonline.net

Tournament Coordinator
Susan Seckinger
seseck@sbcglobal.net



FEELING THE PRESSURE

I should have followed Harold's advice.

by Burt Saxon

Forty years ago, I took a five-week course from Harold Feldheim that dealt with tactical bidding at matchpoints. Harold taught us to make pressure bids, explaining, "If the opponents guess right, they get an average score, but if they guess wrong, they get a zero."

Harold noted that the best pressure bids are high-level sacrifices and they need to be made immediately.

At the Big Apple Regional in New York City recently, I ignored Harold's advice and tried to get slick. Here is what happened:

My partner Steve and I sat down against a top New York City expert and his partner. The partner, sitting West, could have been either a client or another top expert or both. West opened 1♠ vulnerable, and Steve, sitting North, overcalled 2♣ non-vulnerable. The pro passed and I was looking at this hand:

SOUTH (me)

♠ x
♥ Q 10 x x x
♦ J x
♣ J 10 x x x

5♣ would have been a good pressure bid. Even 4♣ would have been okay.

However, I decided to bid 3♣, hoping



Steve would end up in 4♣ doubled, down one. My 3♣ bid suggested that I had not only clubs, but some high-card points as well.

West jumped to 4♠ and Steve thought for a long time before doubling. I guess I could have pulled his double to 5♣, but the director would have been called and I would have been forced to explain my trickery. So I passed. We got a cold zero when declarer made five.

Putting the board back, I remembered the start of an old doo wop song by the Del Vikings called "Come Go with Me":

"Dum dum dum dum dum bedoopie,
dum dum dum dum dum"



YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Just watch your partner's signals.

by Bill Watson - Hartford Bridge Club

Two novice players are discussing the results of their morning game. One comments to the other, "I sometimes feel that I just watched a foreign film without the subtitles." Improve your game by adding these "subtitles" to your defensive play.

Subtitle One: The opening lead of the ace of the suit typically guarantees the king of that suit (top of touching honors).

Subtitle Two: The primary signal to partner's opening lead of an honor is "attitude." A high card "encourages" the continuation of the led suit; a low card "discourages."

Subtitle Three: The opening lead by partner is an ace (promising the king), but there is a singleton of that suit in dummy. Your play to the ace encourages the lead of another suit. A high card asks for a higher suit; a low card asks for a lower suit.

Example: Your partner leads the ace of hearts; dummy has a singleton ten. You have the ace of spades. Play a high heart to "request" a shift to spades. Since dummy has no more hearts, your heart is only worth something as a "signal" for partner's next lead.



FINDING THE OPENING LEAD THAT DOES “NO HARM”



Or that actually helps partner.

by Robin Sanders - Come Play Bridge Club

Leads are never easy, but when you are on lead with a worthless hand, the dilemma is even more difficult. The bidding has gone:

N	E	S	W
1NT	pass	3NT	all pass

As East, you hold two ugly points:

- ♠ J x
- ♥ x x x
- ♦ J 10 x x x
- ♣ x x x

It’s not likely that leading 4th best of diamonds will ever develop a trick for you. You have no entries. So, can you help your partner? North has shown 15-17 points. South has shown 10-15 (or he might have looked for slam).

They have a combined 25-30 points. Plus, south didn’t use Stayman for majors. Partner could have as many of 13 points or as few as 8. Where might they be? Possibly, your shortness is his length? With this hand, lead the ♠ J. Partner already knows you have almost no points. He can do the arithmetic!

When on lead with a worthless hand against NT, lead a suit that might help partner.

Sitting East, you hold the same worthless hand above, but the bidding has changed. You are on lead against a suit contract:

N	E	S	W	N
1♥	pass	2♥	pass	4♥
all pass				

What do you know? North must have about 19 points, because South’s 2♥ bid could indicate as little as 6 or as much as 9 points.

The opponents have between 25 and 28 HCP (strike “points”). You have 2 points, partner might have 10-12 points. If you lead an unbid suit, you may finesse partner’s honor! Lead a trump. GIVE THEM WHAT THEY’VE GOT—TRUMPS. Let declarer guess where the missing points in the other suits are.

When on lead against suit contracts with worthless hands, do no harm! Lead trump.



2018 UNIT 126 CALENDAR

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
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 - August	25-5	Wed.-Sun.		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
September	6	Thurs.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
September	13	Thurs.	Afternoon	ACBL-wide International Fund	
September	21	Fri.	Daytime	Unit-wide Championship	Local Clubs
September	24-27	Mon.-Thu.		District 24 Regional	Carle Place, NY

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

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

HANDLING TRUMPS

When do you play them and when do you delay them?

by Jay Gould - Lakeview Bridge Club



Suppose you are declarer and you have a lot of good cards. Do you immediately draw trumps? Not necessarily. MAKE A PLAN before doing anything.

Do you have a short suit in dummy, where you can ruff losers from the hand? You must ruff in dummy while you still have trumps there. So you must conserve, not use up, dummy's trumps in case you have none left when you need trump to ruff your losers.

Do you need to find somewhere to throw off a *fast* loser (a winner the

opponents will cash the moment they get in) before giving up the lead? If so, you may have to delay drawing trump if you can't afford the opponents to get in. In such a case, you must throw off the fast loser before drawing trump. Otherwise, if there is no reason not to draw trump, then get them off the street right away.

Suppose you have five small trump in your hand and three small trump in dummy. Every time you lead a trump, you will lose the trick! So you decide not to draw trumps. Wrong. You will likely lose three trumps by drawing them, but win two. In you do not lead

trumps, you will likely be overruffed all the time, win no trump tricks and have your outside winners ruffed by the opponents. Even with small trumps, draw the trumps. Remember, each time you lead trump you are taking two of the opponents' trump, and they won't be able to use those to ruff!

As above, you want to ruff on the short trump side, but NOT on the long trump side except when you are forced to do so.



LEARN FROM OTHERS

Read books, but listen to "expertise."

by Esther Watstein



It's a lucky new duplicate bridge player who receives the opportunity to play with a seasoned, better player.

One of the lessons that has held up and is burned in my memory came from another much better player who generously played with me. He said, "No matter what your hand looks like or how few points, if partner opens with one of a major suit, and you hold five pieces in that suit, go to game." I do that every time and it has proved to be correct (almost always). Of course, if you have five in partner's

major and lots of other "stuff," you probably have more than just game...but for that weak or so-so hand that twinkles with five of partner's hearts or spades, without hesitation you need to bid game.

I call it "Gordon's Rule." Gordon Jonas was a terrific mentor and teacher who was kind enough to play with a rank beginner and share his expertise.

I hope you have opportunities like these and take advantage of them. The benefits are lasting and enormous.



If You Think

"If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you like to win, but you think you can't,
It is almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost.
For out of the world we find,
Success begins with a fellow's will,
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are.
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late the man who wins
Is the man WHO THINKS HE CAN!"

— Walter D. Wintle

From the Clubs

COUNTRY CLUB OF DARIEN

The winners of The Country Club of Darien spring series are:

- A. Joan Bergen - Meredith Dunne
- B. Mary Lou Meyer - Lois Balis
- C. Ali Lacy - Sara D'Alelio

At the Country Club of New Canaan's 5/18 game, Louis Cassio and David Foster had a 78% game!

COME PLAY BRIDGE CLUBS OF WESTPORT AND DARIEN

Come Play Bridge is always looking for a reason to party and celebrate. On April 27th, we celebrated the legacy of Barbara Bush with a day of charity games. Our "Pearl of a Girl" day raised money for the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Come Play Bridge was delighted to match the donation of each table where girls in pearls and boys in blue (Barbara's color) played. Our "Girls In Pearls" winners:

Judy Voss, Iris Busch, Louisa Kelso



Also in April, we were delighted to launch a free series of monthly Monday evening seminars led by expert player, *Kibitzer* contributor and teacher Larry Lau. The response has been outstanding; literally a standing-room-only crowd attended. Seminars will continue as long as we're lucky enough to have Larry at the chalkboard.

We have moved our Wednesday afternoon game for the summer from The First Congregational Church of Darien to the lovely Woodway Country Club at 12:45 pm.

Each year Come Play Bridge identifies a charity that serves the needs and concerns of our player base so that we can host a special fund-raising event to benefit the organization. This year that organization is the Yale School of Medicine. Our "Bridge Party to Cure" hopes to further their "Discovery to Cure" research program, whose mission is *advancing the prevention, early detection and treatment of women's reproductive cancers*. It is a mission near and dear to most of us. We hope to finalize the date of our bridge party and luncheon soon. Plans regarding the event to be held in Hoskins Hall at the Saugatuck Congregational Church in Westport will be available at www.comeplaybridge.com and reservations will be required.

WEE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

Wee Burn players are enjoying summer games at the Beach Club. With the end of the spring series, the following pairs excelled:

- 1. Janet Soskin - Karen Barrett
- 2. Donna Doyle - Brenda Greene
- 3. Kathie Rowland - Mary Ellen McGuire
- 4. Mary Richardson - Betty Hodgman
- 5. Joan Bergen - Sue Kipp
- 6. Lynn Reilly - Meredith Dunne

We have a new starting time for all games: 1:30 pm. Please take note.

NEWTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

The Longest Day. On Tuesday, June 19, enthusiastic bridge players were heard throughout Edmond Town Hall between sunrise and sunset enjoying bridge, socializing, food and jazz in both the Alexandria Room and the gym. Thanks to the generosity of members, players and the community over \$10,000 was raised for the Alzheimer's Association.

SEVEN NO-TRUMP BRIDGE CLUB

On **The Longest Day**, we raised \$3040 for the Alzheimer's Association! I want to acknowledge a few bridge warriors. **Gordon Kiernan, Diane Martin and Dorothy Zeide** played in **ALL 7 SESSIONS**. That's a whopping 84 hands! Well done! What endurance! Honorable mentions go out to **Elizabeth Beacher, Will Gold, Dorothy Kolinsky, Mary McArdle, and Midge Pappas** who all played in 6 sessions!





Achievements

MILESTONES

LIFE MASTER*

Robert Donnalley Jr.
Joy Mehta
Patty Reed

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

BRONZE LIFE MASTER** (500 MP)

Bruce Adler
Meredith Dunne
Robert Huntington
Luisa Kelso

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

SILVER LIFE MASTER

(1,000 MP)

Garry Barry
Donna Doyle
Stuart Danoff
Belinda Metzger
Robin Sanders
Jaime Warner

RUBY LIFE MASTER

(1,500 MP)

Gordon Kiernan
Warren Williams

GOLD LIFE MASTER

(2,500 MP)

Nancy Earel
Terry Lubman

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

(3,500 MP)

Lenny Russman



IN MEMORIAM

Morris J. Feinson

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 24, 2018**.

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<http://www.ctbridge.org>

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