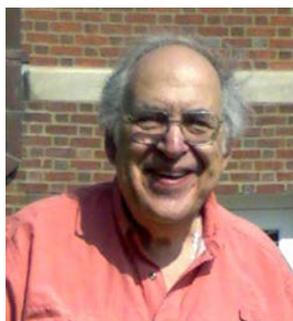


THE KIBITZER

May 2013

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Volume 17 • Number 2



Flair and Luck

by Harold Feldheim

Sometimes when all seems bleak, a change in your point of view can bring unnoticed trick-taking possibilities to light.

There is no doubt that the East-West preempts were at least partially responsible for N-S reaching a very optimistic slam but as the auction went, it was hard to stay out. The final contract seemed bleak, but some creative thought improved South's chances from impossible to marginally anti-percentage.

Dealer: East
Vulnerability: North/South

NORTH
♠ A K J
♥ A 3 2
♦ A K 9
♣ J 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9 7 6 4
♥ J 7 5
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ - - -

North	East	South	West
	1♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	4♣	4♠	5♣
6♠	All Pass		
Lead: ♠2			

The Auction:
East's 1♣ is largely a matter of taste. Although my personal preference would be "pass," there are large numbers of players who would opt to open this hand because of the quality of the suit despite the sparse point count. South's choice to pass rather than preempt spades was based on the vulnerability. When West passed and North reopened with double,

East, based on favorable vulnerability, decided to attempt a blockading bid with 4♣. Over this, South had no trouble bidding 4♠. West's attempt to sacrifice in 5♣ solved a problem for North since she could reason that partner had to be short in clubs. On this basis she contracted for the small slam in spades, ending the auction.

The Play:
South surveyed the landscape. In high cards she could cash six spades, one heart, and three diamonds for a total of 10 tricks. If the diamonds split 3-3 then the fourth diamond would produce an 11th trick. However, the mirrored heart holding looked potentially lethal. At this point declarer changed her point of view, literally. Look at the hand *upside down*, i.e. with North as declarer and South as dummy:

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9 7 6 4
♥ J 7 5
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ - - -

NORTH
♠ A K J
♥ A 3 2
♦ A K 9
♣ J 9 5 2

Now look at the wonderful dummy; six card support for the trump suit, easily enough to ruff the losing clubs. Recounting her tricks, she found that by ruffing four clubs in the South hand and drawing trumps with the North hand she could count seven trump tricks. If she ruffed a club early she could communicate between the two hands via North's three red suit entries to ruff the remaining clubs. A 4-0 spade split would skewer this plan, but winning in dummy, she noted with relief that RHO followed suit. Putting action to thought, North ruffed a club. Crossing three times to dummy, she ruffed her remaining three clubs and played a spade back to dummy, drawing the remaining trumps.

Having played well, she still needed lady luck to cooperate. Leading dummy's last diamond to the queen, she was delighted to see both opponents follow suit and claimed her 12th trick with the 13th diamond.

The complete hand was:

NORTH
♠ A K J
♥ A 3 2
♦ A K 9
♣ J 9 5 2

WEST
♠ 8 3 2
♥ Q 8 6 4
♦ 10 5 3
♣ Q 10 3

EAST
♠ 5
♥ K 10 9
♦ J 7 4
♣ A K 8 7 6 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9 7 6 4
♥ J 7 5
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ - - -

There are some winning bridge tips contained in this hand that apply to other types of hands.

- Make your plans before playing to trick one. Please notice that if South did not ruff a club at trick two, the slam could not be made. Try it!
- Once seeing the plan, (in this case a dummy reversal), examine your entries carefully. In other words, process the cards in your mind before actually beginning the play.
- General rule: The success or failure of a hand, usually on offense, occasionally on defense, is often determined in the first couple of tricks.

Final note; South was quite lucky in that the diamonds split 3-3 but had she not found a way to manufacture the 11th trick, that liberal slice of luck would only produce -100 instead of +1430.



Slam Swings

by Brett Adler



Playing in the Grand National Teams qualifier in Sturbridge, my partner (Larry Lau) and I had three slam hands in our direction during the first day, and we bid all three which generated swings.

I have rotated all of the hands so that I am sitting South, and all are single dummy situations so I haven't shown the opposition hands. Come along for the ride with me.

This first hand was early in the event and got us off to a good start.

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: Both

NORTH
♠ 6 3
♥ A Q 10 7 4
♦ K 8
♣ A 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ - - -
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ K Q J 10 9

Once North opened 1♥ I have options. You may have some additional gadgets in your system, but four options occurred to me:

- A bid of 2♣ to see how strong partner's rebid is and then support hearts;
- A splinter bid of 3♠ to show spade shortage (singleton or void);
- A 2NT Jacoby bid to show a game-force hand with at least 4-card heart support;
- A 4♠ bid which we play as exclusion keycard blackwood - asks for Aces and the K♥ in a similar way to Roman Key Card Blackwood, but asks partner not to count the A♠ if he has it.

I chose to bid 3♠, and even though partner has a minimum hand, he made a courtesy cue bid of 4♣ which got me

more excited. Here is the complete auction

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	3♠ ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠ ²
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	5NT ³
Pass	7♥ ⁴	All Pass	

- ¹ Splinter (singleton or void)
² Cue Bid
³ Grand Slam Invitation asking for two of the top three trump honors
⁴ A great pickup as they only played in 6♣ at the other table

A few matches later:

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: None

NORTH
♠ K 7
♥ K 4
♦ K Q 10 9 8 5
♣ J 10 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 4 3
♥ A 8
♦ J 6
♣ A K 9 6 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT ¹
All Pass			

- ¹ There are 12 top tricks once the A♦ has been chased out. At the other table they bid 4NT quantitatively and played there.

So after two good slam swings in our direction, we had a third slam which should have generated a swing in our direction but I had a Homer Simpson "doh" moment during the play of the hand.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ K 9 7 6 3
♦ 5 3
♣ K 9 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 9 4
♥ A 5
♦ K 8
♣ A 4

Holding the massive South hand I opened a strong 2♣ and West overcalled 2♦ (natural). North now responded 2♥ which we play as control showing. It shows either one Ace or two Kings. I can now see 11 top tricks and was about to bid 6♠ (hoping I could find a 12th trick in partner's hand through a Queen to go with the top cards or some sort of squeeze) and then I thought back to West's overcall. My concern at this point was that if North had some diamond length, a slam in spades might be beaten with the lead of Ace and another diamond with East being able to ruff the second round. In hindsight I wish I had bid the small slam in spades as I would have been more likely to make that contract, but I decided to bid 6NT instead.

South	West	North	East
2♣	2♦	2♥ ¹	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

- ¹ Shows one Ace or two Kings.

West led the Q♣, and if I thought about the hand correctly, I should have claimed 12 tricks after the opening lead. So before you read on, how could I have claimed 12 tricks? Hint - the heart suit situation is actually irrelevant.

As I have 27 High Card Points between the North and South hands, most of the missing high cards must be with West for the overcall. As he must have high cards in every suit except spades, he could have led a spade as a passive lead,



Negative Inference (6)

by Larry Lau

Definition: Negative Inference (NI) is information deduced from a player's failure to take a specific or expected action in the auction or play (Bridgeguys.com).

East is defending 4♠ after a Puppet Stayman auction.

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

South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

The opening lead is the ♥3 (4th best), which declarer wins with the ♥Q. He then leads the ♠4 to dummy's 8, East winning with the ♠K. Which card should East return at trick 3?

♠5 to cut down on the heart ruffs?
From the opening lead South is marked with four hearts.

♥J to promote West's ♥K?

♦K to develop a trick in the suit?

Let's first start by counting points, always a good practice at any contract. Declarer has 20-21 HCP, dummy has 6 HCP, and East has 10 HCP. That leaves West with 3-4 HCP.

Next we determine which high cards are outstanding. We assume that South has the ♥A. That leaves the following high cards unaccounted: ♠A and ♠Q, ♥K, ♦A, ♣J.

At trick two declarer led the ♠4 from his hand. This is quite an unusual way to play the trump suit if he had the ♠A and ♠Q. He would almost surely go to the board to finesse the ♠Q. So this unusual play means that West has one of the spade honors (NI).

Since West has either spade honor, he should not hold the ♥K, since that would give him either 5 HCP with the ♠Q or 7 HCP with the ♠A. Therefore, declarer has the ♥K, and the correct return at this point is the ♦K.

What's your call?

Playing with Al Wolf in a regional Swiss, I held the following hand:

♠A5 ♥10864 ♦Q973 ♣AJ3.

The bidding proceeded:

LL	West	AW	East
Pass	1♥	Dbl	2♥
3♦	3♥	Pass	Pass
?			

What call would you now make? Pass is not an option.



Slam Swings *continued*

but instead chose an "attacking" lead of the ♣Q. It is unlikely that he has led the Queen singleton or from Queen/Jack doubleton, so it is a reasonable assumption that he has led from a club holding of at least QJ10. As it is reasonable to believe that West also has the ♦A, in hindsight this is all the information I needed to have claimed the contract.

But, instead, I proceeded to play off lots of rounds of spades and watched the discards of West, but of course, I also need to make discards from dummy, and early in the hand I pitched a DIAMOND!!?? This was not my smartest of plays and in the end no heart/club squeeze occurred and I was stranded with the same 11 tricks I started with. If I had kept both

diamonds in dummy, then I couldn't help but make this hand.

After winning the A♣ at trick one followed by two rounds of hearts and six rounds of spades, the position below would have arisen:

NORTH
♠ - - -
♥ - - -
♦ 5 3
♣ K 9
SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ - - -
♦ K 8
♣ 4

When I play my last spade, West has to hold on to the ♣J10 or I will make two tricks in clubs, so he will discard his second to last diamond, (the only diamond he will have left is the Ace). Once West pitches a diamond, I can discard the 9♣ and now play my 8♦. West must play the Ace and once he plays a club to dummy's King, I still have a diamond in dummy to play back to ♦K, my 12th trick. That is why I can't afford to throw the diamond from dummy that I did, why the heart suit was a distraction and didn't affect the hand, and also why I had to apologize to teammates for this result when we went back to compare scores, as our opponents only bid 4♠ with my hand and claimed 11 top tricks early.



Can't Cost – Chapter 35

by John Stiefel



First, let's review "can't cost": *If you know a particular play can't cost, just do it.* You don't need to figure out if or how it might gain, only that it can't lose. Said another way, *it's often easier to figure out a "can't cost" play to an early trick than all the details of what might happen later.*

This "can't cost" deal occurred in a recent strong matchpoint event with everyone vulnerable. Every table reached the contract of 6NT by South, usually by the auction 1♥ – 2♦ – 2NT – 6NT with East-West passing throughout.

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

At some tables, West led a spade and the hand was quickly over. South had at most 11 tricks if he won dummy's ♠A (five diamonds, five hearts if the suit split 3-3, and one spade). So he ducked in dummy and East quickly played the ♠K and ♣A. Down 1.

At the other tables, West led a small diamond, trying (successfully) for a "safe" lead. At these tables, the play and defense were more interesting.

After winning the first diamond, the declarers paused to consider. There were nine top tricks (five diamonds, three hearts and one spade), and two more tricks could easily be developed by knocking out the ♣A to bring the total to 11. Then the 12th trick might come from a 3-3 heart split or, possibly, a squeeze if the defender with four hearts also had the ♠K. At any rate, all the declarers who received a diamond lead played the ♣Q to trick 2. After East won the ♣A at trick 3, he returned a diamond to trick 4. The declarers then cashed ♣K and the rest of dummy's diamonds and to reach this 6-card end position with North on lead. (South had discarded a heart and club on dummy's diamonds.)

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

At this point, some declarers knew that it "couldn't cost" to cash the ♣J before trying hearts, so they cashed the ♣J at trick 7. They reasoned that if the hearts were 3-3, nothing would matter. But if East had to guard both hearts and spades, he would be squeezed because he has to discard before South. Most Easts now smoothly discarded the ♠10 when the ♣J was led, knowing that a heart discard would be fatal. Indeed, East had been squeezed – and South was now in a position to make the hand by keeping ♠Q9 and discarding a second heart. Unfortunately, the declarers didn't know this and, reasonably enough at that point, decided to blank the ♠Q and keep four hearts. (After all, playing for 3-3 hearts offered a 36% chance while playing for hearts to be 4-2 and the defender with the four hearts to also hold the ♠K only offered a 24% chance.) As you can see, this was not successful. (One East thought forever and before discarding the ♠10 and South then made the hand by playing for the actual layout.)

Other Souths took things one step further. They cashed the ♠A to trick 7 and then cashed the ♣J at trick 8. ("Deep thought" people call this a "Vienna Coup.") As you can see, East is squeezed and there is no ambiguity. East must unguard spades or hearts and South doesn't have to discard to the ♣J until he sees which suit East has unguarded. Nicely done!

Now let's go back to the second paragraph that says that East won the ♣A at trick two. I now must admit that I lied because at one table, East *ducked smoothly* when the ♣Q was led to trick 3 and *ducked again* when declarer played the ♣J to trick 4. East reasoned that this was a "can't cost" play. ("Deep thought" people will say that West ducked to "prevent declarer from rectifying the count for a squeeze.") Now declarer had a prob-

lem. A squeeze was no longer available! He ran four more diamonds to reach this 6-card ending.

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

The play to make the hand is "easy," right? Just drop the ♠K. South, however, *didn't know who had the ♣A*. (Recall that East ducked *smoothly*.) He finally decided to play three rounds of hearts (*that* "can't cost"), but then he miss-guessed by playing a fourth round of hearts, hoping East's last 2 cards were ♠Kx instead of the ♠K and ♣A. South perhaps should have gotten the hand right. After all, isn't it easier for East (rather than West) to duck the ♣A, as he can see the squeeze coming if he takes the ♣A. (Note: There is no squeeze against West, as that defender is discarding after South.) East and West, however, were very good players and South reasoned that West was capable of the "can't cost" duck of the ♣A just on "general principles." Credit East for making a "simple can't cost" play to give South a problem and set the hand.

One more comment. 6♦ is a better contract and is cold on the actual lie of the cards. (Draw trump, play four rounds of hearts (ruffing the fourth round) and reach dummy with the ♣K to cash the thirteenth heart. East is on lead so can't successfully attack spades.) That would have been the indicated bid at IMPs because the potential gain (17 IMPs if six diamonds makes while 6NT goes down) is worth the 2 IMP investment (if both contracts make). At matchpoints, however, making 6♦ won't score very well if a lot of other pairs make 6NT.



Count Early, Count Often

by Geoff Brod



Once again you're playing in the morning duplicate. On the first board of the day you pick up at favorable vulnerability ♠J864 ♥A3 ♦AK62 ♣Q83.

You're playing a weak no trump and this fits nicely within your announced range of 12-14, so you do it. It goes 2♣ on your left alerted as an unspecified one suiter. Apparently the opponents are playing Cappelletti. Partner passes and RHO bids the expected 2♦, artificial, to allow his partner to show his suit. You would like a diamond lead so you venture a double.

Venture is truly the right word. This double is fraught with danger and only at matchpoints would you consider such an action. There are at least two ways that this can work out poorly. First, diamonds may be the suit that your LHO was planning to play in. If that's the case you're going to need a lot of help from your partner to go plus, inasmuch as you just have four cards in the suit and no spot cards of any significance. Admittedly, looking at your hand, LHO is most likely to have hearts but that's just a marginal percentage. He could easily have a six card diamond suit.

The second way that double could work out poorly is that partner could over-compete in diamonds. After all, you are expected to have a five card suit when you double an artificial bid at a low level. Partner would be well within her rights to raise to 3♦ with say 3-card support and some scattered values. If that were to happen, you can only hope that they choose not to smack you. The flaws attached to your double are of such magnitude that it makes your action marginal at best and a major error at worst.

There is some significant upside however. You might catch pard with say four or five diamonds and be able to make a diamond partial or push the opponents to the three level where you may be able to beat them. And secondly, a diamond lead may be crucial to a successful defense. In any event you are committed now.

You are relieved when your LHO bids 2♥. No one else has anything to say. The auction has been:

You	LHO	Pard	RHO
1NT	2♣	Pass	2♦
Dble	2♥	All Pass	

Have you been counting? Yes, that's right, counting starts during the auction, well before the first card is played. For instance what do you know about LHO's hand? Well clearly he has heart length, at least five or more likely six since he came in at red versus white. It's also likely that he does not have length in spades. Remember the opponents are playing Cappelletti, so he had the option of bidding 2♦ initially if he had length in both majors. This is not 100%, since with 4-6 or 4-7 in the majors he might have elected to treat his hand as single-suited.

Partner dutifully leads the ♦4:

DUMMY
 ♠ Q 2
 ♥ 10 8 2
 ♦ Q J 8
 ♣ A J 9 7 3

YOU
 ♠ J 8 6 4
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A K 6 2
 ♣ Q 8 2

Dummy is rather surprising. It is easily worth a raise to 3♥. The opponents may well have missed a game. It is likely that we will simply be trying to hold down the overtricks.

Declarer plays the Queen and you win with the King as declarer follows with the seven. With this partner, you play 3rd best from an even number, low from an odd number. Since the three is still outstanding you can't be completely sure what the count is in the suit. One thing that you do know is that declarer has the 10 or the 9 since pard would have led the 10 from a 10 9 sequence. Partner at this point could have three or four diamonds (not five since the three is outstanding) or even two. A singleton is unlikely since that would give declarer five with which he would probably have bid a direct 2♥ showing that suit and an unspecified minor.

What else do you know about the hand? Well, remember that we decided that declarer was unlikely to hold four spades. Looking at dummy that suggests partner has exactly four. With five and some scattered values she might have ventured a competitive 2♠ at some point. That suggests that declarer has three. Rightly or wrongly, you decide

to discount the possibility of a doubleton diamond and instead put through a spade in case partner has the King. You lead a high spot to suggest that she not continue the suit should she win the trick. Your spade shift turns out to not be necessary as partner wins with the Ace and returns the ♦10. Declarer puts up the Jack from dummy, you win with the Ace and declarer follows with the three. Now you know that diamonds are 4-3-3-3 around the table. As nothing else suggests itself you continue with a third round of diamonds and declarer wins as expected with the nine in hand.

Declarer now shoots a low heart to dummy's 10 as you win the Ace. What now? Well, inferentially, we have credited declarer with three spades, we know that he has exactly three diamonds and we expect a six card heart suit. That leaves just one club in his hand. And if he should have only five hearts he has to be close to 100% to have the ♣K to justify his bidding. That means no plain (i.e., non-trump) suit losers. In such a situation it is usually a good idea to offer a ruff/sluff in an attempt to weaken declarer's trump holding. Admittedly, it is hard to see how this might gain if declarer has the expected six hearts but there does not appear to be any downside. So, the 13th diamond it is. Somewhat surprisingly declarer goes into the tank and finally pitches a spade as partner ruffs in front of dummy with the nine and then cashes the ♥K. Down one, plus 100 and 8 matchpoints on a 12 top.

Declarer held

♠K102 ♥QJ764 ♦973 ♣K4.

This is really not good enough to overcall at the two level especially red versus white. Happily for him, his partner did not raise. Declarer did make a good play at trick one by concealing the ♦3. This meant that your hand could not be sure of the diamond count and created ambiguity for the defense.

However he could have given the hand a better play. By the time the 3rd round of diamonds had been played the position in the suit was clear. The opening leader had just three and your hand held four. Declarer should have realized that there was a potential for a trump promotion. Instead of leading to dummy's ♥10 he should have crossed to a black suit winner to lead a low heart off dummy. Now there would be no way for the defense to come to a trick with the nine of trumps.



Bridge at the Lunatic Fringe— #22: Defending a Strip and Throw-in

by Alan Wolf



For this article, I'll abandon my usual format, and usual cast of characters to elaborate on a hand taken from "Bridge with God," a new book by John Veltri and Fran Mann. Before moving permanently to Sarasota, Florida, Fran played regularly in Connecticut clubs and tournaments. She learned the game fairly recently, under the tutelage of Larry Lau. Her book contains a variety of good hands, an interesting story narrative, and many limericks, some quite risqué. The book is published by Peppertree Press of Sarasota, and is available thru Amazon.com and Bridge World.

A hand taken from the first chapter is of considerable interest:

NORTH
(John Baptista)
♠ 9 5
♥ Q 10 4
♦ A K J 4
♣ A J 9 3

WEST
(Archie Angel)
♠ Q J 10 6 3 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ 9 8
♣ 6 2

EAST
(Gabriel Horn)
♠ K 8 7
♥ K 9 8 7 5
♦ 10 3
♣ 8 7 5

SOUTH
(J.C.)
♠ A 4
♥ A 2
♦ Q 7 6 5 2
♣ K Q 10 4

No bidding is given, but the contract is 6NT, with an opening lead of the ♠Q. As declarer, J.C. wins the opening lead and then rattles off five diamond tricks, pitching the ♥4 from dummy on the final diamond, and four club tricks, ending in dummy.

Three cards are left and the narrative assumes that each defender will come down to two hearts and a spade. Now a spade is led, and whichever defender wins the spade trick will be end-played;

East to lead away from the ♥K, or West to lead away from the ♥J.

The book correctly points out that the contract can only be made legitimately if West holds the Jack, and East the King, as these honors were in fact placed. With any other distribution of the two honors, competent defenders will arrange for the spade trick to be won in a way that avoids the endplay; East to win if West holds the ♥K; West to win if East holds the ♥K J.

Even as the cards lay, the defense can make things difficult if West comes down to a singleton ♥J. Declarer can still make the hand by leading the ♥Q from dummy, finessing the ♥K and pinning the ♥J. Most effective is for the defenders to discard deceptively. For example, with five cards remaining:

NORTH
(John Baptista)
♠ 9
♥ Q 10
♦ ---
♣ A J

WEST
(Archie Angel)
♠ J 10 6
♥ J 6
♦ ---
♣ ---

EAST
(Gabriel Horn)
♠ K 8
♥ K 9 8
♦ ---
♣ ---

SOUTH
(J.C.)
♠ 4
♥ A 2
♦ ---
♣ 10 4

On the final two club leads from dummy, East discards the ♠K and the ♠8. West discards first the ♥6, and then the ♠10. These discards by West strongly create the impression that he has come down to a singleton ♠J; so declarer is likely to try the throw-in, whereby the defense collects two spade tricks, defeating the contract.

If in fact, declarer gets it right at the end, finessing and pinning the ♥J, you can be certain of the following: 1) this is an expert game of the very highest standard, 2) Declarer is an excellent card reader (or a peeker) and, 3) declarer knows his opponents and by his play has acknowledged their expertise, and has paid them a supreme compliment.

OH!!! J.C. was the declarer!!! Easy.

Final comment: Strip and throw-in endings are not so uncommon. Generalizing the lessons from this hand, when as a defender you can see the ending coming, you can make it difficult for declarer by following two principles:

- 1) Don't wait until the very end to bare your honor in the critical suit (♥J).
- 2) Discard deceptively to conceal your holding in the throw-in suit (♠s).



Congratulations to Richard Wieland!



Redding's own Richard Wieland (*left*), playing with Mike Cappelletti, Sr. of Alexandria, VA won the Leaventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs at the recent Nationals in St. Louis. In a very close finish, they won by the narrow margin of 2.56 on a 77 top! Harold Feldheim of Hamden, playing with Robert Lavin of East Longmeadow, MA finished third.



Florida Woes

by Burt Saxon

My wife and I are about to return from a long stay in Florida. I have played tennis every day and bridge about once a week. Upon arriving in Florida I emailed one of the many local bridge clubs and requested a partner, adding that a great temperament meant more to me than bridge skill. The club director emailed back, telling me to come in, with prior notice. He added that he had no idea which partnerships would be successful.

Two days later the club director introduced me to Joe, whom he described as a nice player. Our first session went fine. Our convention card was a bit more complicated than I would have liked, but Joe bid and defended very well. His declarer play was average. As usual, I bid and defended okay and played the dummy quite nicely. We finished second overall in a strong field. We agreed to play again.

That is when our troubles started. This was my first hand:

♠AKxx ♥Qx ♦AK109 ♣10xx.

I opened 1NT. It went Pass, Pass, Double, Pass, Pass, Pass. Joe gave me a fantastic dummy:

♠xx ♥J1098 ♦Jx ♣KQ9xx.

The opening lead was a heart and it was obvious that I was going to make one no trump doubled. The opponents allowed me to win the first heart so I started on clubs. Later I made a slight error and made three instead of four. The opponents began berating each other and my partner began berating me. I calmly said, "Joe, we're plus 380. That should be good for lots of matchpoints." Joe said we were playing in a very strong field and that many partnerships would end up in three no trump making for plus 400. My response was "Not if a spade is led. And it is tough to bid three no trump with twenty three high card points combined."

Things got worse from there. Joe frequently criticized me, although he was even harder on himself. I calmly told him to circle any hands he wished to discuss after the session was over. He never did that. We ended up with an average game.

I did agree to play with him one more time. Big mistake.

Joe was very critical of almost everything I did the third time we played. I immediately began playing highly defensively, thinking about what bids and leads would be least likely to make Joe crazy. When you think that way, you think incorrectly. In the middle of the round I held this hand in fourth seat, red against white:

♠10 ♥AJx ♦AKxxx ♣QJxx.

The bidding went Pass-Pass and I anticipated a 3♠ bid on my right. Instead RHO bid 3♥. After some thought, I erroneously concluded that I should double and convert my partner's probable 3♠ response to 3NT. What I forgot was that my partner might bid 4♠, which of course he did. The contract did not do well and the screaming began again. The opponents told Joe to quiet down, which he finally did. By the way, the expert bid with my hand seems to be Pass.

Then came the hand that permanently ended our partnership. Joe opened 1♦ and I held this hand:

♠xxx ♥AJ10xx ♦Jx ♣xxx.

I bid 1♥, Joe bid 4NT, and I responded 5♣ since we were playing 1430. Joe now bid 5♦ and I did not know what to do. It appeared he needed two aces from me to bid a slam so I pulled out the pass card. But before it hit the table, Joe almost broke into tears. "No, no" he said. "I told you last week that 5♦ was a request to find out if you have the trump queen. We are cold for 6♥. I give up. You can have all the tricks."

The opponents called the director, who ruled Joe was down nine.

After the session Joe told me he really wanted this partnership to work, even though we were average for the second straight week. He promised to behave better, but he had promised that twice before. He said he was going up north and I made a request of him. I asked him to read something I had written twenty years ago. It was about partnership psychology. He promised to read it and I brought it to the bridge club two days later. Joe introduced me to his regular partner, who did not acknowledge my presence. This seemed odd, but I noticed the man had a huge hearing aid in one ear. And then I had a sudden insight. The guy had turned off the hearing aid. He probably did that each time he played with Joe.

Trust me, you can't make up stuff like this.

And now my story takes an interesting twist. I went to a different club with a different partner and told her about my experiences with Joe. She said, "I know that guy. I played with him once. He's the guy with Tourettes." That night I called a psychologist friend and asked if Tourettes Syndrome can lead to fits of rage. He replied, "yes," and I started to look at the whole issue differently. I began to see Joe as a person who needed to find a partner who could handle his convulsions. I think the guy with the hearing aid was that guy. But Joe's regular partner only wanted to play once a week. Joe needed to find another partner who could tolerate his abuse.

As the great Bob Dylan would say, "It ain't me, babe."





Woodway Country Club

Our Winter Series just finished and the winners are:

- 1st Millie Fromm and Betsy Philips
- 2nd Janet Soskin and Kathy Rowland
- 3rd Betty Hodgman and Mary Richardson
- 4th Marilyn Tjader and Martha Hathaway
- 5th Linda Cleveland and Barbara Johnson

We had a club Championship on March 27th and the winners were as follows

- 1st Millie Fromm and Betsy Philips
- They won with a 71.43% game
- 2nd Linda Cleveland and Barbara Johnson
 - 3rd Janet Soskin and Kathy Rowland
 - 4th Mary Richardson and Betty Hodgman
 - 5th Marty Molwitz and Mimi Van Dyke

Wee Burn News

Belated congratulations to Penny Glassmeyer, Wee Burn's Player of the Year for 2012.

The following pairs did well in the Winter Series:

1. Linda Cleveland–Mary Richardson
2. Janet Soskin–Betty Hodgman
3. Susan Schroeder–Mary Ellen McGuire
4. Joan Hoben–Penny Glassmeyer
5. Marilyn Tjader–Barbara Johnson
6. Molly Johnson–Sue Kipp

The ACBL charity game held on March 28 was won by Donna Doyle and Carol Kesmodel; with Linda Cleveland and Mary Richardson as runners-up.

Country Club of Darien

The winners for the Country Club of Darien winter series were

1. Sue Kipp–Molly Johnson
2. Nancy Matthews–Carol Taylor
3. Meredith Dunne–Joan Bergen

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

First Quarter News

TUESDAY

Leading Pairs - A close battle has begun, with Brian Lewis–Bill Reich just ahead of Rita Brieger–Harold Miller, with Hill Auerbach–Tracy Selmon not far behind in third. Jon Ingersoll, Mary Connolly and Louise Wood are each in two of the top ten pairs.

Player-of-the-Year: Jon, Mary and Louise are tightly bunched in front, with Bob Hawes fourth and Brian fifth not far behind.

Leonora Stein Cup Early Rounds: Although the qualifying groups produced some surprise winners, form was eventually established, although not quite so strongly as last year. Defending champion Fredda Kelly went out in early February, but there were no surprise semifinalists. In the quarterfinals, Louise Wood and Simon Rich defeated Rita Brieger and Harold Miller, Bob Hawes came back to overcome Pat Rogers, and Jon Ingersoll staged a late rally to squeak past Bill Reich on tiebreak.

FRIDAY

Leading Pairs: While Tuesday is very close, Friday is a rout in the making. Norma and Stan Augenstein have nearly triple the results of any of the chasing pairs. Rita Brieger-Harold Miller, Barbara Sloan-Marie Strickland and Jean and Kendall Clark are closely bunched together for second place. Rita, Robert Klopp and Larry Stern are each in two of the top ten pairs.

Player-of-the-Year: The last game of the quarter saw Robert Klopp inch ahead of the Augensteins, with Sylvia Alpert and Simon Rich in fourth and fifth and within striking distance. Defender Burt Saxon is still in Florida and seven-time PoY Louise Wood starts out tied for 18th.

Aldyth Claiborn Cup Early Rounds: This proved a bit less predictable than the Stein Cup. Defending champion Lucy Lacava went out in the qualifying round, while one of the newer players, Jane Mathias, finished tenth. In the quarterfinals, Pat Rogers and Louise Wood defeated the seemingly unstoppable Augensteins, while Robert Klopp and Vera Wardlaw both came from behind against Midge Ehrenfreund and Harold Miller.

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COMBINED

Player-of-the-Year Overall: This year began just as last year's final standings finished, with Harold Miller, Rita Brieger and Louise Wood in the top three places. Close behind Louise are Robert Klopp, Bob Hawes, the Augensteins, and the Brian Lewis-Bill Reich partnership. A little further back, Jon Ingersoll just passed Vera Wardlaw for tenth place on the last day of the quarter.



Barb Shaw Award Winner for 2013 is Roonie Kennedy

The Barb Shaw Trophy is given to the person who wins the most masterpoints at the first sectional of the year starting the tournament with fewer than 500 masterpoints. The masterpoint limit was changed this year to reflect the new requirement for Life Master in the ACBL.

IN MEMORIUM

Connecticut residents as listed in
the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin*

Martha Murphy, New Canaan CT
Val Mashkin, Stratford CT
Warren Goldman, Southbury CT
Sylvia L. Kaufman, Norwalk CT
John N. Snipes, Ansonia CT



A Teaching Moment

by Gloria Sieron

After learning all we thought we had to learn to play bridge, we felt confident enough to participate in a club game. Then we learn of a Sectional Tournament near enough for a day trip and wouldn't it be a good idea to see how well we do at that level. Also, Silver Points are available at the Sectional. Every once in a while, a Regional Tournament is held not too far away from home; if we tried a Regional Tournament, we could win Gold and/or Red Points! Finally, we get up enough courage to attend one of the four National Bridge Tournaments, always held in an interesting location. What a surprise to see the thousands of bridge tables and meet people from all over the world -- some of them the great stars of the game.

Along the way, we get the feeling that the ABC's of the game might need a little reinforcement. We are introduced to the "Gadgets." One of the more valuable "Gadgets" is "New Minor Forcing" (NMF). After opener bids a minor suit, and responder bids a major, the rebid by opener of One No Trump begins an opportunity to further describe hands holding invitational values of 10 to 12 HCP. It is used by players who require an opening bid (game going hand) or better to bid two over one.

This hand illustrates an important added feature often overlooked when learning NMF.

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: Both

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

Auction:			
South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2♥!	Pass	???	

What bid should North contribute at this point? Are you playing "New Minor Forcing"? If you are playing NMF, South should be showing a non-invitational two heart bid. With an invitational hand, South would have bid two clubs, the **new minor**.

With the high range of his minimum opener, North should bid only two spades after South's non-invitational two heart rebid. However, if South had shown an invitational hand (ten to twelve points), North should raise to three spades to indicate the top range of his minimum opener.

Let's review New Minor Forcing. With an invitational hand, responder, after opener bids 1♣/1♦ and rebids 1NT, bids two of the unbid minor. NMF is in effect only after the 1NT rebid. When responder initiates NMF, he shows game-invitational values. Most often responder uses NMF with a 5-card major looking for 3-card support from opener.

For a complete discussion of NMF see Seagram & Smith's "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know" or Root & Pavlicek's "Modern Bridge Conventions."



Congratulations to Sarah Budds and Allan Clamage

Sarah Budds and Allan Clamage finished first in District 25 and sixth in the ACBL in the ACBL-Wide Senior Pairs held on March 4, 2013.

MILESTONES AND CONGRATULATIONS

New Life Masters

- Hillel Auerbach
- Barry Buehler
- Philip Farin
- Carolyn Nadel Farin
- Susan Fronapfel
- Philip Hale
- Adish Jain
- Asha Jain
- Larry Levy
- Loretta Levy
- Wayne Lubin
- Michele Raviele
- Tracy Selmon
- Susan Smith
- Merrill Stein
- Carol Tellar

Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

- David Benjamin
- Vesna Hauptfeld
- Susan Seckinger
- Charlotte Zultowsky

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

- Richard Franklin
- Jatin Mehta
- John Scheuermann
- Kathy Shepherd
- Lothar Stiberth
- Jeanne Striefler
- Warren Williams

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

- Charles Heckman
- Wayne Lubin
- Carol Tellar

MONDAY UNIT-WIDE PAIRS

January 28, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Gail Carroll-Cynthia Michael
- 2 Barbara Moore-Dorothy Damberg
- 3 Mary Richardson-Janet Soskin
- 4 Barry Buehler-Lawrence Eppler
- 5 Yeong-Long Shiue-Larry Wallowitz
- 6 Richard Lebel-Thomas Thompson

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Barbara Moor-Dorothy Damberg
- 2 Mary Richardson-Janet Soskin
- 3 Barry Buehler-Lawrence Eppler
- 4 Richard Lebel-Thomas Thompson
- 5 Mary Beach-Ann Fuller
- 6 Rodney Aspinwall-Margaret Molwitz

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Barry Buehler-Lawrence Eppler
- 2 John Podkowsky-Peter Hussey
- 3 Noreen Hickey-Schiappa-Sally Shernow
- 4 Larry Levy-Loretta Levy
- 5 Penny Apter-Emilia Sivakoff
- 6 Donna Christensen-Molly Morgan

TUESDAY UNIT-WIDE PAIRS

January 29, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Katharine Goodman-Jean Schiaroli
- 2 Tom Joyce-Lesley Meyers
- 3 David Blackburn-Paul Miller
- 4 Virginia Naugler-Jerry Hirsch
- 5 Sarah Corning-Helen Kobornusz
- 6 Dick Benedict-Jailue Lai

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Katharine Goodman-Jean Schiaroli
- 2 Dick Benedict-Jailue Lai
- 3 Sandra Gould-Roger Crean
- 4 Pamela Palmer-Aldona Siuta
- 5 Margaret Hull-Thomas Pritchard
- 6 George Holland-Carl Palmer

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Irving Rosenthal-Paul Norman
- 2 Jan Rosow-Maureen Walsh
- 3 Barbara Terkildsen-Margaret James
- 4 Mary Murphy-Patricia Schackner
- 5 Doris Andrews-Ann Dougherty

UNIT-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday April 12, 2013

FLIGHT A EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Geoffrey Brod-Joan Brod
- 2 Roger Crean-Bill Titley
- 3 Lawrence Lau-Allan Wolf
- 4 Shirley Fruchter-Louise Wood
- 5 Betty Jane Corbani-David Blackburn
- 6 Yeong-Long Shiue-Hollis Barry

FLIGHT B EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Julius Fuster-Dianne Elie
- 2 Phoebe Edwards-Marie Strickland
- 3 Joan Moen-Gunn Moen
- 4 Lincoln May-Ron Talbot
- 5 Carol Kesmodel-Donna Doyle
- 6 Sarah Smedes-George Smedes

FLIGHT C EVENT LEADERS

- 1 Joan Moen-Gunn Moen
- 2 Lincoln May-Ron Talbot
- 3 Sarah Smedes-George Smedes
- 4 Terry Blank-Jack Goldberg

- 5 John Townsend-Tom Burke
- 6 Donna Hersch-Patricia Rogers

WINTER IN CT

Hamden, March 1-3, 2013

Friday AM Open Pairs

- 1 **Richard DeMartino-**
John Stiefel
- 2 Lawrence Lau-Faye Marino
- 3 Sandra DeMartino-
Aimee Housholder
- 4 Gary Miyashiro-Don Stiegler
- 5 Phyllis Bausher-Larry Bausher
- 6 Margaret Mason-Cynthia Michael
- 1 **Thomas Thompson-**
Richard Lebel
- 2 1 **Gordon Mackenzie Jr -**
Wayne De Vries
- 3 2 Margaret Karbovanec-
Helen McBrien
- 4 Alfred Guntermann-
Jean Bramley
- 5 Harold Miller-Rita Brieger
- 6 Laurel Koegel-Jatin Mehta
- 3 Jack Liu-Christina Hare

Friday AM 299er Pairs

- 1/2 1/2 1 **Rhea Bischoff-**
Liliana Geldmacher
Leonard Messman-
Allen Bomes
- 1/2 1/2 Lou Filippetti-Louise Noll
- 3/5 3/4 Edward Konowitz-Wendy Frieden
- 3/5 3/4 Michael Madigan-Fred Morris
- 5 2 Haroula Dobyns-Marilyn Zolot

Friday PM Open Pairs

- 1 **Richard DeMartino-**
John Stiefel
- 2 Fred Hawa-Roonie Kennedy
- 3 Susan Rodricks-
Betty Jane Corbani
- 4 Lloyd Arvedon-Glenn Robbins
- 5 Thomas Hey-Morris Feinson
- 6 Margaret Mason-Cynthia Michael
- 1 **Rita Brieger-Harold Miller**
- 2 Dinesh Gupta-Lincoln May
- 3 Elaine Misner-James Misner
- 4 1 **Gordon Mackenzie Jr-**
Wayne De Vries
- 5 Robert Rising-Jean Schiaroli
- 2 Margaret Karbovanec-
Helen McBrien

Friday PM 299er Pairs

- 1 1 1 **Suzanne Leary-John Leary**
- 2 2 Donald Muller-Betty Kerber
- 3 Irene Rivers-Eric Vogel
- 4 3 2 Betty Ann Donegan-
Barbara Colley
- 5 Carol Weiss-Susan Grosz
- 6 4 Rhea Bischoff-
Liliana Geldmacher
- 5 Linda Bradford-Joyce Handleman

Saturday AM A/X Pairs

- 1 **Richard DeMartino-**
Allan Rothenberg
- 2 Harold Feldheim-Robert Lavin
- 3 Phyllis Bausher-Allan Clamage
- 4 Lawrence Lau-Brett Adler
- 5 Tania Reyes Hiller-Russell Friedman

- 6 Larry Bausher-Edward Etkind
- 1 **Michael Kreiger-**
Thomas Gerchman
- 2 Ausra Geaski-Bunny Kliman
- 3 Bill Reich-Deborah Noack
- 4 Paul Burnham-Thomas Proulx
- 5 Elliot Ranard-Thomas Hey

Saturday AM B/C Pairs

- 1 **Susan Smith-Michael Smith**
- 2 Shirley Derrah-Robert Derrah
- 3 1 **Carol Weiss-**
Maureen Berkman
- 4 Judith Jacobson-Terry Lubman
- 5 2 Sarah Widhu-
Thomas Greehan III
- 6 Elaine Misner-James Misner
- 3 Barry Buehler-Lawrence Eppler

Saturday AM 299er Pairs

- 1 1 **Stanley Kishner-**
Georgeann Kishner
- 2 2 Harold Salm-Douglas Pratt
- 3 3 1 **Bernhard Kohn, Jr-**
Alan Mendelson
- 4 4 Leonard Messman-Woody Bliss
- 5 5 Sherrill Werblood-Myra Goldberg
- 6 Robert Butterfoss-Donald Muller
- 2 Suzanne Leary-John Leary
- 3 Michael Nader-Judy Goff
- 4 David Porter-George Armstrong

Saturday PM A/X Pairs

- 1 **Richard DeMartino-**
Allan Rothenberg
- 2 Fred Hawa-Roonie Kennedy
- 3 Lawrence Lau-Brett Adler
- 4 1 **Joan Martin-Ann Cady**
- 5 Phyllis Bausher-Allan Clamage
- 6 Larry Bausher-Edward Etkind
- 2 Deborah Noack-Bill Reich
- 3 Susan Seckinger-Susan Rodricks
- 4 Timothy Baird-H Jay Sloofman

Saturday PM B/C Pairs

- 1 1 **Sarah Widhu-**
Thomas Greehan III
- 2 Michael Smith-Susan Smith
- 3 Diane Storey-Marvin Lerman
- 4 2 Carol Weiss-Maureen Berkman
- 5 3 Barry Kaplan-Jay Kaplan

Saturday PM 299er Pairs

- 1 **Irene Rivers-Eric Vogel**
- 2 Mary Whittemore-Louise Noll
- 3 1 **Robert Butterfoss-**
Donald Muller
- 4 2 1 **Bernhard Kohn, Jr-**
Alan Mendelson
- 5 Virginia Iannini-William King
- 6 3 Jan Rosow-Betty Kerber
- 4 Scott Butterworth-
Joyce Handleman
- 5 2 Noreen Hickey-Schiappa-
Monica Akelaitis
- 6 Stanley Kishner-
Georgeann Kishner
- 3 Ann Drabkin-Marsha Shiff
- 4 Girin Munshi-John Levy

2013 CALENDAR



MAY			AUG.-SEPT.		
6	Mon. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs	26-1	Mon.-Sun.	New England Fiesta Regional, Warwick, RI
8	Wed. (Aft)	ACBL Int'l Fund Game #2, Local clubs	SEPTEMBER		
17-19	Fri.-Sun.	Connecticut Spring Sectional, Guilford	13	Fri. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
23-27	Thurs.-Mon.	New York City Regional, New York, NY	18	Wed. (Day)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
JUNE			19	Thurs. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
7	Fri. (Eve)	Worldwide Bridge Contest #1, Local clubs	21	Sat. (Day)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
8	Sat. (Aft)	Worldwide Bridge Contest #2, Local clubs	24	Tues. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
13	Thurs. (Eve)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs	27-29	Fri.-Sun.	Sid Cohen Sectional, Hartford
17-23	Mon.-Sun.	New England Summer Regional, Sturbridge, MA	OCTOBER		
24-30	Mon.-Sun.	STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs	2	Wed. (Eve)	ACBL-wide Instant Match Point, Local clubs
JULY			7-13	Mon.-Sun	District 3 Regional, Danbury
10	Wed. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs	14-20	Mon.-Sun.	STaC with North Jersey (U106), Local clubs
19	Fri. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs	19-20	Sat.-Sun.	District 25 NAP Qualifying
26	Fri. (Eve)	ACBL Int'l Fund Game #3, Local clubs	31	Thurs. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs
30	Tues. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs	NOVEMBER		
AUGUST			1-3	Fri.-Sun.	Jeff Feldman Memorial, Hamden
1-11	Thurs.-4 th Sun.	ACBL Summer Nationals, Atlanta, GA	6-10	Wed.-Sun.	New England Masters Regional, Mansfield, MA
13	Tues. (Eve)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs	NOV.-DEC.		
19	Mon. (Eve)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs	28-8	Thurs.-1 st Sun.	ACBL Fall Nationals, Phoenix, AZ
20	Tues. (Day)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs	DECEMBER		
23-25	Fri.-Sun.	Connecticut Summer Sectional, Guilford	9	Mon. (Day)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
			10	Tues. (Eve)	Local (Split) Championship, Local clubs
			18	Wed. (Day)	Unit-wide Championship, Local clubs

Calendar Error

Please note that the calendar in the last issue contained an incorrect location for the New England Fiesta Regional scheduled for Aug 26 – Sept. 1, 2013. The correct location is Warwick, RI.

Results continued

Sunday A/X Swiss

1	Lawrence Lau; Frances Schneider - Bernard Schneider; Brett Adler
2 1	Roger Webb - Philippe Galaski; Sonja Smith; David Rock
3 2	Bill Reich - Brian Lewis; Don Stiegler; Daniel Livingston
4	Bob Rebelein; Jill Marshall; Linda Otness; Tania Reyes

Sunday B/C Swiss

1	Susan Smith - Michael Smith; Shirley Derrah - Robert Derrah
2	Thomas Gerchman - Peter Katz; Judith Hyde; Michael Wavada
3 1	Randall Murphy - Bonnie Murphy; Mary Whittemore; Maria Van Der Ree
4 2	Susan Kipp; Gail Ord - Meredith Dunne - Joan Bergen

5/6 3	John Grosz - Susan Grosz; Carol Weiss; Marcia Goldfinger
5/6	Donald Brueggemann; Esther Watstein; Judith Hess; Margot Hayward
4	Judi Zucker; Haroula Dobyms - Karlene Wood; Marilyn Zolot



The New Unit Bylaws: A Quick Summary

Over the past few years, the Connecticut Bridge Association's (in the document as the "Unit") Bylaws have been patched several times, but the language, content and organization have not been reviewed as whole for more than a decade. The Unit Bylaws Committee has now completed a revision of the Bylaws which brings them up to date.

The revised/restated Bylaws have been reviewed by the Board of Directors and are now being submitted for approval by our members at the Annual Meeting at the Guilford tournament on Sunday, May 29.

These new Bylaws do not make any substantive change to the governance of the Unit. The intent is to bring the language of the document into line with current and recent practice and to clarify/eliminate language in the document that is no longer appropriate. The Bylaws now reflect the model template prepared by the ACBL for use by member Units.

Composition of the Board of Directors

The Unit will be governed by 21 voting members of the Board of Directors. Previously there were only 19 voting members; the Communication Director and the Unit Coordinator now have been given a vote.

Twelve Directors are elected by the Membership for two-year terms biannually at the annual Membership Meeting: the eight District Representatives, representing geographical constituencies, and the four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer).

Eight other Directors are appointed by the President, and approved by the Board. These are the four At-Large Directors, who do not represent particular geographical areas, and four other unit officials: the Unit Coordinator, the Tournament

Coordinator, the Unit Recorder and the Communications Director. The Unit's immediate Past President is the final voting member.

The composition and numbers of the Board cannot be changed without amending the Bylaws, which requires a two-thirds vote of the Membership.

Removal of Directors

A procedure for removing officials has been added. The twelve Directors elected by the membership may be removed from office only for cause upon a two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors. Appointed Directors (At-Large Representatives and Unit Officials) serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

A Few Other Matters

1. *Quorums.* Quorums for Board of Directors' meetings have been clarified, and quorums for membership meetings have been changed from one twentieth of the membership of the Unit, to 50 members.

2. *Responsibilities.* The responsibilities of Officers and Unit Officials have been clarified and updated to bring them in line with best practices and how the Unit has actually been conducting its affairs.

3. *Annual Financial Review.* Reflecting current procedure, a Financial Review Committee is now required by the Bylaws to perform an annual review of the Unit's books and records.

4. *Fiscal Year.* Reflecting current procedure, the fiscal year of the Unit is the calendar year.

The entire set of the new Bylaws is posted on our website (www.ctbridge.org) should you like to see the entire document.



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 15, 2013.

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Your Proposed CBA Board

As proposed by the Nominating Committee.
Voting will be May 19, 2013 during the Guilford Tournament.

President	Esther Watstein
Vice President	Bill Watson
Secretary	Debbie Noack
Treasurer	Susan Seckinger
Past President	Phyllis Baucher
Tournament Coordinator	Susan Seckinger
Unit Coordinator	Don Stiegler
Recorder	Leonard Russman
Communication	Donald Bruggermann

Central	Connie Graham
Eastern	Janet Gischner
Fairfield	Allan Clamage
Hartford	Betty Nagle
Northwestern	Sonja Smith
Panhandle	Bernie Schneider
Southern	Sarah Corning
Southwestern	Tom Proulx
Members-at-Large	Susan Rodricks
	Judy Hess
	Joyce Stiefel
	Sandy DeMartino

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 Tom Proulx at twproulx@optonline.net