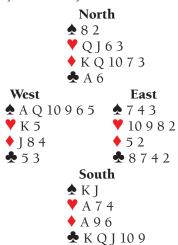
ASSOCIATION Volume 9 • Number 12

Come to the Party

by Harold Feldheim

mong the various techniques employed by the skilled declarer, none is as valuable as paying careful attention to the bidding to help determine a line of play. This hand, from an '80s world championship, exemplifies both the acuity of declarer and an alert defender. The following auction followed by powerful logic by the antagonists is worthy of very close study.



Dealer: South Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 🚓	1 🛊	2 ♦	Pass
2 💙	2 🖈	4 💙	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 🔷	Pass
6 NT	All Pass		

Lead: 4♦

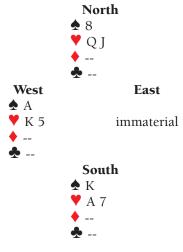
South's rebid of two hearts was a semi-artificial reverse hoping to convey the power of his hand. Partner's raise to four hearts was an uncomfortable surprise after which South launched into Blackwood and, finding partner

with one ace, bid the 30 HCP No Trump slam. As a note, this is not terrible since, in exchange for the thin high card values, South pretty well knows the location of every high card point plus a great deal about the distribution. However, with all of this, a bit of extra creative thought became necessary to land the contract.

West's opening lead was good in that it gave away nothing. With eleven top tricks, (5 diamonds, 5 clubs, and the heart ace), South needed to hunt up a 12th trick. Based Harold Feldheim on the auction.



finesses were unlikely to be successful and, as any expert declarer might, South visualized the possibility of the following end position.



At which point, declarer would exit a spade, forcing West to lead a heart, providing declarer with his twelfth

With this in mind, South began to cash his minor suits. But West, visualizing the potential endplay, discarded the 5\,\text{the lanking the king and later,} when South pitched the J♠ on a diamond, West parted with the queen.

South, aware of his opponent's defensive skills, considered his play to trick eleven. He knew that West started with three diamonds and two clubs but did he start with six spades and two hearts or five spades and three hearts? This was crucial to his next play. Was the position as shown or was West setting a trap with the A 9♠ and a singleton heart?

Carefully reviewing the auction, South decided that West's second spade call necessitated a six card spade suit and, giving full marks for West's defensive effort, he played the A♥, dropping West's king. Six no trump, bid and made.

New England Summer Regional in Sturbridge

West Haven **Sectional**

See page 12



You Might as Well Try to Make It

by John Steifel

his hand illustrates a number of principles.

- 1. Know what your bidding agreements are, at least the ones that come up frequently.
- 2. Don't "force" your bidding. Just "go with the flow."
- 3. If the opponents at the other tables are in game, don't bid a grand slam.
- 4. Bad bidding isn't always punished the way it should be.
- 5. If you overbid and get too high, you might as well try to make it.
- 6. "Lead what they throw," i.e. if a defender is in difficulty before making a discard late in the hand, lead the suit he/she discards.

Dealer: West Neither vulnerable

North	East	South	West
$1 \spadesuit$	Pass	2 🗫	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4	Pass
4NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
7 ♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead – Q



North-South were playing "2 over 1" so North's 3♠ bid was forcing. It didn't show or deny slam interest – just an opening bid with clubs and 3 spades. North's 3♠ bid did deny a hand with good clubs, good spades and no outside controls (or he would have bid 4♠).

South didn't have the controls or values to drive to slam right away, so he temporized with 4♠ to show values in North's suit. When North bid 4♠ to show at least some slam interest, South now had enough to try Blackwood



John Steifel

(Roman Key Card). After North's 5♣ (0 or 3 key cards – presumably 3 as North had shown slam interest), South's 5NT was a "courtesy bid" to show North that the partnership possessed all 6 key cards (4 aces + KQ of trump) in case North had substantial extra values and could bid the grand slam. North meant 6♣ as "no kings" but South took North's 6♣ bid as showing a good club suit; so he bid 7♠. (See 1 "know your bidding agreements.")

South's 7♠ was unduly optimistic. If North had the hoped-for ♣ A Q J xx, he would have bid the grand himself – as South had already shown the ♣K. (See 2 and 3.)

At any rate, South found himself in the optimistic contract of 7♠ and received the opening lead of the Q♥. (See 4 and 5.)

South won the opening lead and stopped to consider. He had 10 top tricks – 5 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 2 clubs and there were two ways to develop the required three additional tricks.

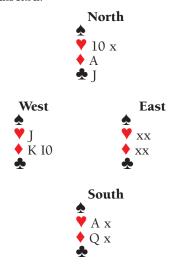
- 1. Play for five club tricks. This would require West to hold precisely ♣Q xx.
- 2. Play to set up the club suit by ruffing. This would only produce two extra tricks at most, so the diamond finesse would be necessary.

South chose line 2. He reasoned that East, who was known to have a worthless heart holding, might have doubled North's 4♦ cue bid for the lead if he had the K♦. Also, if West had the Q J♥ (as indicated by the opening lead) and the K♦, he might possibly be squeezed later in the play.

So South cashed his $KQ \triangleq next$ (both following) and then played $KA \triangleq .$ Trick 6 was a club from dummy, ruffed with South's $J \triangleq .$ West throwing a diamond and East retaining his $Q \triangleq .$ South led to dummy's $A \triangleq .$ at trick 7, drawing the last trump and ruffed a club back to his hand at trick 8, finally setting up the suit (West throwing a heart).

Tricks 9 and 10 were pretty clear – diamond finesse (Jack → winning) and good J → (South throwing a heart). At trick 10, West seemed to be in some difficulty and finally discarded a diamond. So it seemed right for South to cash dummy's diamond ace and – sure enough – the king fell and he was home with 5 spades, 2 hearts, 3 clubs and 3(!) diamonds. (See 6.)

This was the 4-card end position with North about to lead the J♣ and before South's heart and West's diamond discard.



Note that a heart discard from West wouldn't have been any better. In that event, South would have led to his A♥, dropping West's jack and dummy would be good with the A♦ and 10♥.

Hesitation Rulings

by Bill Wood

esitations are, unfortunately, a part of the game. People take or need time to think about things when facing several alternatives. If the opponents have jumped or preempted there is an obvious need to digest, and hesitations (but not abnormally so) are acceptable, which is why the skip-bid warning is in place; opponent can take some time to think without "tainting" the auction (and you don't want him to make a quick, possibly informational, pass).

However, in a normal, non-jump, contested auction, hesitations carry with them information about partner's thoughts or holdings and this information is not authorized, per rule 16. If, after such a hesitation, the hesitater bids, the player knows that partner was considering alternatives but is not sure what they really were and bids in accordance with what was actually said.

But if the hesitater now passes, partner knows that various other forward going alternatives were being considered and not chosen, and this information is highly unauthorized; you can only use what partner actually did, up to that point, within the context of your bidding agreements and experience.

When dealing with and having unauthorized information, a player may NOT choose, from among the various logical alternatives, the most beneficial choice of action.

This is true even if he "would have done this anyway." In such situations, pass is always a choice, and in many, if not most, situations it is a "logical alternative," i.e. something that might be done by many but not necessarily all players in the same situation without the benefit of the informational 'tank.'

The fact that this may work out better for the opponents is not part of the player's equation per se. A highly (abnormally highly?) ethical advanced player will recognize this (actually he knows the bridge police are on the way and they'll take the necessary action if he oversteps his bounds, so why bother) and make the proper bid, including pass, if that's what is likely to be the director's actual ruling (I generally do this, particularly when I'm playing in my own game to fill out a pair and I know I'm going to overrule myself.) However, some take the position that they do what they want to and, since the director is being paid to make these kinds of decisions, let him make that call. Sometimes the opponents don't (because they don't know they can?) call for some sort of adjustment and you might get away with it... but do you really?

The defense (and I've actually had this at my game) of "I never take notice of my partner's hesitations, I bid what I want to" is disingenuous at best and is likely to make the director mad, and will certainly make director question your personal ethics. It's equivalent to telling the officer who has stopped you, "what red light?"

Which now leads to this hand from a recent game (there was some question about my ruling from both sides, so I took the appeal to Peter Marcus, and was upheld. I have his comments if anyone wants to see them).

Dealer: North Both vulnerable

North	East	South	West
P	1 ♥	2♦	2
P	P	3♣	P
P	3♥	P*	P
4♣	4 ♥	dbl	P
P	P		

* agreed to "substantial" hesitation

O			
No	rth		
♠ A x	XXXX		
♥ X 2	X		
♦ J x			
♣ J x	XXX		
West	East		
♠ Q J 10 9x x	♠ K		
♥ 10 x x	♥ Q J 9 x x		
♦ 10	♦ A 9 8 x x		
🗘 x x x	\Delta A x		
Sou	ıth		
x			
♥ A K x			
♦ K Q x x x			
♣ K	Qxx		

I decided that pass was a logical alternative for North after the hesitation and rolled it back to 3♥ (4♣ opposite less than 17 could easily go for -200, a zero. Or it could induce East-West to bid the game they just missed for -620, a zero; and N did not bid 4♣ at her first turn after the 3♣ second suit bid, obviously aware of the preceding).

Since South didn't double at her next turn, I don't think I can allow this contract (3) to be doubled. In defending 4**, South did not lead A K(x)



Bill Wood

at either alternative and therefore only beat the hand one.

In adjusting the result, the same defense had to be assumed, allowing East to make 3 (as several others actually did). Note that if a different contract (strain) were to be the adjustment, I would not have to assume less than good defense in reaching an "expected" result.

The lesson here is that, when in a contested auction, you should be anticipating your various actions when it will become your turn, not going into the tank when it does become your turn, and if you do actually hesitate, especially for a substantial time period, come out of the tank with a non-pass option, because, if you do pass, in general you are likely to bar partner from the subsequent auction.

On the other side of the table, if partner hesitates, you already have unauthorized information, but if partner takes an action other than pass, you are entitled to continue bidding your cards (not his). But if he comes out of his huddle with a pass, then in all likelihood, anything you do, other than pass, especially if it works out well for you, is likely to be taken away by the director, in accordance with the rules.

continued on page 5



Platinum Life Master

(10,000 master points)

Harold Feldheim

Emerald Life Master

(7,500-9,999 MPs)

Larry Bausher Douglas Doub Thomas Smith

Silver Life Master

(1,000 master points)

Marilyn Colman Russell Friedman Patrick Salve Stanley Steckler J. Peter Tripp Louise Wood

Bronze Life Master

(500 master points)

Alan Blake Lois Flesche Stanley Gedansky Edwin Lewis III Elaine McClure Tona McKenna Paul Miller

Life Master (300 master points)

Carole Amaio Louis Brown Linda Cleveland Lois Flesche Arnld Grushkin Beverly Grushkin Jean Martin Al Roberts

2004 ACBL Masterpoint Race Winners Senior Players of the Year(masterpoints won in senior events

(masterpoints won in senior events only)

In 8th place, Harold Feldheim, 217 points. Congratulations!

21 Reasons Why Bridge is better than Sex!

- 1. You don't have to hide your bridge magazines
- 2. It is perfectly acceptable to hire a pro to play bridge with you once in a while
- 3. The Ten Commandments don't say anything about bridge
- 4. If your partner takes pictures of you at the table, you don't have to worry about them showing up in the tabloids when you become famous
- 5. Your partner doesn't become upset about people you played bridge with long ago
- 6. It is perfectly acceptable to play bridge with a total stranger
- 7. When you see a really good bridge player, you don't have to feel guilty about imagining the two of you at the table together
- 8. When your regular partner is not available, he/she will not mind if you play bridge with someone else
- 9. No one will ever tell you that you will go blind if you play bridge by yourself
- 10. When dealing with a bridge pro, you never have to worry that they are an undercover cop
- 11. You can have a bridge calendar on your wall at the office, tell bridge jokes and invite co-workers to play bridge without being sued for harassment

- 12. There are no bridge-transmitted diseases (except the compulsion to play more bridge)
- 13. You don't have to lock the door when you play bridge on the Internet, and when you visit a bridge web site you won't get emails from asianteenagesluts.com for the rest of your life
- 14. Nobody expects you to play bridge with the same partner for the rest of your life
- 15. Nobody expects you to give up bridge if your partner loses interest in it
- 16. You can still do it in your 80s, and people won't gasp in horror if they find out
- 17. Your bridge partner will never say, "Not again, we just played bridge last week! Is Bridge all you ever think about?" Oops! maybe they will
- 18. A man doesn't need lots of finesse(s) to be successful at bridge, but then he needs some squeezes
- 19. The phrase "could be short" carries no negative connotation....
- 20. The principle of "Fast Arrival" would not be regarded negatively
- 21. If the partnership agrees on two over one, it wouldn't be considered an orgy

CONGRATULATIONS... AND THE WINNERS ARE...

On Sunday, May 1st, at the Hartford Bridge Club, a Fairfield County squad comprising Capitan Debbie Benner, Art Crystal, Russell Friedman and Al Wolf handily defeated a six-person team from the Boston area to win the district's 2005 Grand National Teams Flight B event.

The victors will represent ACBL District 25 in the national finals in Atlanta from 7/20-7/23. They are eagerly, and confidently, anticipating this event All of us in Unit 125 wish them well.

5

The One Who Knows

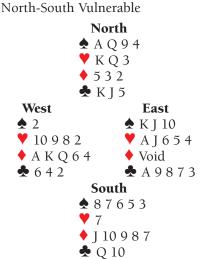
by Gloria Sieron

any years ago when Eddie Kantar, the West Coast bridge teacher, started to play duplicate bridge, he went to the partnership desk. He asked his assigned partner, "Do you know Stayman?"

When partner said, "of course," Eddie was happy. During the game, it became obvious partner had no idea what the Stayman Convention was.

Eddie said, "you said you know Stayman."

Partner said, "of course I know Stayman. He lives next door."



North is the dealer and opens one no trump. East, a senior novice player has learned DONT (Disturb Opponent's No Trump). SNP offers two clubs showing clubs and a higherranking suit. South, with 5-5 distribution and not much else to contribute, bids two spades. After all, he would bid two spades in response to partner's one no trump opener if East passed, or he would start with a bid of two hearts if they agreed to play the transfer bid. By North-South's agreement, in competition, the transfer bid is off.

West, hoping East's higher-ranking suit might be diamonds, bid three diamonds. Since East has no diamonds, at his turn, he would reveal his higherranking suit by bidding 3 hearts. This did not happen as North continued, bidding with three spades.



Gloria Sieron

Eddie Kantar says, "Push them to the three level; however, once you push them to the three level, let them suffer there. Don't spoil your good work by bidding on."

As you can see from the diagram of the hand, a vulnerable North-South was down 300.

Upon looking at the score, North commented that he had good spade support and didn't know what South had in his hand to justify his two spade call.

South quoted Eddie Kantar, "when responder knows the nature of opener's hand (opener bid one no trump), and opener does not know responder's intentions, pass and let the unknown hand make the decision. Amen."

A light bulb went on for the senior novice player sitting in the East chair and he exclaimed, "oh, I know who Eddie Kantar is, he was the one who sang "If you know Susie..."

Hesitation Rulings

continued from page 3

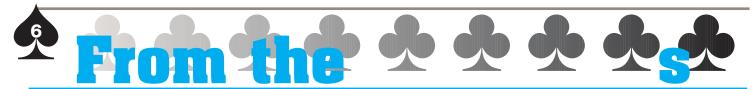
In other words, this is a time when the opponents get two bites at the apple.

They can summon the director to ask for protection. The director will take note of the auction, warn the partner about taking action if he has not yet bid following the hesititation or pass; allow the auction to proceed to its end, then leave with the proviso that he should be called back if there is a further problem to be dealt with. The non-offenders get to play the contract and if the result is to their liking, they can keep it by not calling the director back (in general this is what happens).

But if they think they've been "injured," they can recall the director and appeal for an adjustment which the director will give or not, after examining all the hands and the auction, etc. At a tournament director might consult with several other directors in reaching his adjustment in cases where there are some marginal or subjective decision-making items in question.



'I'VE ENROLLED YOU IN THE BRIDGE PLAYER'S SELF-IMPROVEMENT BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB."



Fairfield

Just opened this year - Fridays at 11:00, in Fairfield, CT. Great playing conditions, beautiful building, easy parking. The Scan Bridge Club located at 1351 South Pine Creek Rd., in Fairfield at the SCANDINAVIAN CLUB. Off exit 21 of I-95 near the Fairfield RR Station.

We serve a light lunch. Stratified Games.

Check our web site: under Bridge Mix. @http://BridgeResults.com/results/5026/cal.html. All results within hours of each game. Detailed results for each hand.

Stamford

The Bridge Mix - on Mondays at 11:30 is in Stamford at 77 Third St. at the Sterling Glen on the mezanine level

Need a partner? Call 860-354-1457 or e-mail @cadybrook@aol.com.

WORLD WIDE PAIRS will be held on Friday evening, June 3, at the **Stamford Bridge Club**, at 7:30 pm. Easy access off exit 8 of the turnpike. More info? Call Betty MacInnis at 203-964-9016

Wee Burn News

Despite a very snowy winter, we did not need to cancel any games.

The Winter Series ended with the following winners:

- 1. Lois Berry-Doris Friend
- 2. Ed Meyer-Jan Moller
- 3. Madeleine Pollock-Lorraine Belliveau
- 4/5. Barbara Munson-Laura Wilks Whitey and Ellie Spelbrink
- 6. Audrey Bell-Ellie Allen
- 7. Bobbie Oakford-Betty Kay
- 8. Molly Morgan-Brenda Greene

The ACBL Charity game was won by Mary Richardson and Betty Hodgman, with Connie Bergin and Martha Murphy as runners-up.

A Swiss Team game held on April 7 was won by Penny Glassmeyer, Melissa Hubner, Betty Hodgman, and Carol Davidson. Congratulations to our newest Life Masters: Audrey Bell and Linda Cleveland. This makes Audrey a Bronze Life Master.

Darien Community Association

Fall Session - September 13, 2004 to December 20, 2004

The Top Twenty-One

- 1. Mary Richardson
- 2. Betsey Philips
- 3. Whitey Spelbrink
- 4. Janet Soskin
- 5. Ruth Johnson
- 6. Laura Wilks
- 7. Carol Davidson
- 8. Nancy Newton
- 9. Betty Hodgman
- 10. Marilyn Tjader11. Constance Bergin
- 12/13. Vivian Gaines and Ann Towne
- 14. Frank Johnson
- 15. Ursula Forman
- 16/17 Suzanne Goldstein and J. Gail Schulze
- 18. Martha Hathaway
- 19. Wyman Proctor
- 20/21 Margretta De Vivo and Peter Hussey

Old Saybrook

The New England Bridge Region had a great idea when it offered novice and intermediate players incentives to play in the regional tournament in Cromwell this past February.

Individual letters were sent to players offering free plays on Wednesday and a free dinner on Friday. Among those receiving letters were participants in a weekly unsanctioned game sponsored by The Old Saybrook Park and Recreation Department which attracts up to 15 tables each week.

Director Claire Sauer reported that quite a few of the players in that game went to Cromwell and played... most of them did quite well. Pete Frederickson and Karl Dimlich came away with a trophy having won 4th place in A, 2nd in B, and 1st in C in the 299er game on Wednesday.

Other winners were: Donald Migliaro - Alice Holbrook Dot Sauer - Mary Murphy Cherry McLaughlin - Larry Eppler Elen Meinke - Ann Carta Ron Breault - Bob McLellan

Many of these players would not have participated without the invitation from the Region and most of them are enthusiastic about participating in the future.

Claire Sauer, director of the Old Saybrook game, wonders how many 3rd generation Life Masters are in the area. Claire is one, whose parents Harry and Florence Essig were Life Masters many years ago. Her son, Fred Sauer of Bloomington, Minnesota, became a Life Master a few years ago. Who else? Send *Kibitzer* the info at Ctbridge@optonline.net.

Bridge Forum (Hamden)

Tuesday Results

Leading Pairs:

- 1 John Farwell Tony Tusa
- 2 Mary Connolly Louise Wood
- 3 Fredda Kelly Muriel Romero
- 4 Billie Hecker Muriel Romero
- 5 Shirley Fruchter Rita Levine

Player of the Year: Nobody dominated the first quarter, with John Farwell, Tony Tusa and Louise Wood tying for the lead, narrowly ahead of Muriel Romero and Mary Connolly.

Leonora Stein Cup Preliminaries: Defending cup holder Judy Pieper just missed reaching the semifinals, ending tied for ninth with the top men this

year, Jon Ingersoll and Hill Auerbach.

Muriel Romero, the only two-time winner of this cup, has reached the finals for the fifth consecutive year, this time without facing an elimination round. Helen Shields, Louise Wood and Ginny Anderson, each of

whom is trying to be the first player to

complete a Stein-Claiborn double

(Louise is trying to complete a sweep of all six cups), make up the final four

Friday Results

Leading Pairs:

- 1 Billie Hecker Jean Shepler-Miller
- 2 Janice Bruce Carl Yohans
- 3 John Farwell Don Stiegler
- 4 Inge-Maria Bellis Gerri Frankel
- 5 Fredda Kelly Jean Shepler-Miller

Player of the Year: Jean Shepler-Miller, who was still Jean Shepler the last time she was PotY, has opened up a big lead with a dominant quarter. Billie Hecker is a not-too-distant second, with Florence Schannon, Arlene Leshine and Inge-Maria Bellis well back.

Aldyth Claiborn Cup Preliminaries:

The Stein and Claiborn Cups had numerous similarities this year. No man reached the semifinals in either, Hill Auerbach tying for ninth in both cups. Five players reached the semifinals in both cups, though there was no double finalist (condolences to double semi-finalists Shirley Fruchter and Fredda Kelly). But the Claiborn Cup will extend its record of being the only cup without a repeating champion. Billie Hecker (2000 Stein champion) is joined in the final four by former Claiborn finalists Emma Q. Antonio, Helen Molloy and Jean Shepler-Miller.

Hartford Bridge Club TOOTING OUR OWN HORN

As most of you now know, the Hartford Bridge Club is featured in the April 2005 edition of the *Bridge Bulletin*. Thanks to the eloquent and painstaking application made to the Bulletin by our own Pat Salve, the magazine has honored HBC with the Jane Johnson Club of the Year Award in its two-star category.

Among the many criteria considered to qualify for this award are:

The club should operate as a family; provide services to our members; integrate into the community at large; and actively promote the club through advertising and word of mouth.

As a past president, Pat is intimately familiar with the inner workings of our club and felt we were more than qualified to strive for a Club of the Year Award... and he was right! We are very proud of our two-star status (there is only one award higher!) and feel most deserving of the honor. You can read Pat's article for application in its entirety on our web site or on the club's bulletin board.

The Hartford Bridge Club provides an exciting environment for our members and guests, and our directors always greet us enthusiastically. Thanks to a lot of hard work and a gorgeous renovation of the premises, HBC is now a warm, inviting, and protective venue in which to play our favorite card game and at which to socialize with friends for a few hours on any given day. And as many of our seniors have observed, HBC fills the retirement void with stimulation, challenge, and friendship.

As was mentioned in the Bulletin's article, we have instituted a "pairer-player" program to insure that no one is turned away from a game for lack of a partner. This stand-by assignment changes yearly and always manages to fall into the hands of a gentle yet dogged member. At the moment, it's Helma Strauss who makes it her business to assure that there is always a partner for a last minute arrival, and it's mighty hard to resist her charms!

Our organization boasts teaching members – Hilda Silverman, Doug Deacon, and Joanna Sarkisian - who conduct lessons both in and outside the club and encourage their students to gradually mainstream into our regular club games. From their recommendations, we have gained many new members and our current number tops 400.

As part of our integration into the community, Lea Selig suggested to the Board that we promote the collection of used books and have local stores sell them, donating the proceeds to charities. The Board enthusiastically embraced this project and book contributions have been pouring in.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the many members who contribute in both large and small tangible ways to the smooth operation of the club. (If I miss some, I'll catch you later!) We'd like to acknowledge Paula Beauchamp – our premier decorator with the artistic, discerning eye. In addition to making the walls of the club her own, many of you may not know that our one-of-a-kind, jazzy Life Master Chair is her creation.

She also sets up our monthly calendar and is a general all-around computer wiz. Lou Brown, a welcomed new addition to our ranks, claims the dual titles of medical consultant and handyman extraordinaire. Phil Olschefski contributes his master painting skills while his wife, Carolyn, continues to nurture us with her delicious pies.

Michael Joyce and Betty Nagle keep us functioning in the 21st century as our webmasters and computer gurus, and Doug Gibson, Werner Schuele, and Bill Narkiewicz attend to garbage patrol – a thankless task!

Among our many other talented members are Joy Bacci, our exacting club historian; Carol Andreotta who maintains our library; and Howard Gelin who makes sure the club's books jibe in all things financial.

Helma Strauss and Helen Fuss are always ready to complete a movement in order to avoid those nasty four-board sit outs, and Cecilia Vasel is our "sunshine lady," sending notes of cheer and sympathy to members and family on behalf of the club.

Unilaterally creating our newsletter is Paul Tungatt and without him, I and other contributors would have no place to park our articles!

We like parties a lot and find any excuse to have one. In addition to our ongoing Life Master galas, the latest bashes being planned are one to preen our feathers at winning the Jane Johnson Award and another to honor two of our own: YL Shiue and David Margolin who won the Red Ribbon event at the recent Nationals in Pittsburgh. We thank Barbara Murray, Cecilia, and Helma for always adding the special touches that make our parties fabulous.

District Director's Report - March 2005

Richard DeMartino

Pittsburgh NABC

The Pittsburgh NABC was held at the David Lawrence Convention Center. Attendance was 9,593 tables, which is about 1,200 fewer tables than projected. It seemed to me that far fewer District 25 players attended this NABC than usual.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the local volunteers who did a wonderful job on hospitality. Despite this, most players felt that Pittsburgh was a poor site for an NABC. The convention center is a poorly designed building. As a result, getting to and from the playing space was quite difficult, especially close to game time.

Further, one ballroom was fairly dark because of dark rugs and wall covering. Players could see the cards OK but playing two sessions in a somewhat dark room was depressing for many.

Finally, room rates at the main hotels were over \$140, including taxes, which most considered quite high. There were more complaints about this site than any other since I became District Director. I continue to believe that ACBL management could do a better job planning and running our NABCs.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS

District 25

OPEN PAIRS

Douglas Doub, West Hartford 8th

VANDERBILT KO TEAMS

Geoffrey Brod, Avon 9/16 Rich DeMartino, Riverside Steve Earl, Avon John Stiefel, Wethersfield Douglas Doub, West Hartford 9/16

IMP PAIRS

Lynn Condon, West Redding 8th Harold Feldheim, Hamden

RED RIBBON PAIRS

Yeong-Long Shiue, Manchester 1st David Margolin, Rocky Hill

Unfortunately, none of our NAP qualifiers finished in the top ten in their respective events.

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting CEO Report

Compared with 2004, membership is up 310 as of February 2005. CEO Jay Baum reported that the ACBL will henceforth not count inactive unpaid life members, i.e., those who have not played in the past 24 months. This decision will make our membership appear lower but it is certainly the right thing to do, especially because membership is used as the basis for paying dues to the World Bridge Federation.

Mr. Baum also reported that regional attendance is down 20% for January and February and Sectional attendance is down 8%. Much of this is because of bad weather, date changes and a decrease in attendance of over 700 tables at Florida's January Regional, due to the Fall NABC being in Orlando. After experiencing gains in tournament tables over the last few years, a continuation of this downward trend would be cause for great concern. The CEO is optimistic that the trend will be reversed in March.

Five Year Strategic Plan

Based on BOD input from a two-day meeting prior to the Orlando Board Meeting, Management presented a Five Year Strategic Plan for 2005 – 2009. Among the ACBL Guiding Principles in the plan are the following:

- The ACBL will promote bridge as: social activity; available to all; mentally challenging; and rewarding on many levels.
- The ACBL will encourage, enforce and model ethical behavior.
- The ACBL will promulgate and enforce zero tolerance policies.
- ACBL tournaments will be held to the highest standards.
- The ACBL will address itself to the diverse skills of its members.
- The ACBL will be managed and operated in a fiscally responsible manner.

As is customary, full minutes of the Board Meeting will be posted on the ACBL website.

Top 25 New England Masterpoint Winners Pittsburgh NABC

	Pittsburgh	1 NAB	C
ľ	Name	Total Points	Points Won In NABC+ Events
1	Douglas Doub W Hartford CT	109.86	109.86
2		83.70	-
	David Margolin Rocky Hill CT	83.70	-
4	N. Providenc RI	76.15	13.55
5	Hartford CT	72.30	70.84
6	Chelsea MA	69.86	24.71
7	Avon CT	63.84	62.32
8	Avon CT	63.62	62.32
9	Wethersfield CT	63.55	62.09
1	0 Tony Petronella N. Kingstown RI	52.11	26.12
	1 Bronia Jenkins New Canaan CT	52.02	5.46
	2 Harold Feldheim Hamden CT	51.73	41.14
1	3 Rich De Martino Riverside CT	50.63	50.00
1	4 Bud Biswas Lexington MA	48.28	17.39
1	5 Brenda Montague Swampscott MA	48.14	-
1	.6 Lynn Condon West Redding CT	47.11	38.46
	.7 Simon Kantor Agawam MA	45.20	32.27
1	8 Hank Youngerman Williston VT	44.28	22.20
1	9 Donald Sondergeld Hubbardton VT	41.45	-
2	20 Lloyd Arvedon Bedford MA	39.39	29.89
2	21 Paul Hattis Newton MA	36.24	-
2	22 Anton Tsypkin Sharon MA	33.18	27.53
2	23 Alan Walters Cape Porpoise ME	30.98	1.59
2	24 Doug Anderson Quincy MA	30.40	1.06
2	25 John McLaughlin Melrose MA	29.97	11.90
	The Common NADO		1-11-4

The Summer NABC will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on July 21-31. Please note that the starting times will be 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at this NABC instead of the traditional starting times.

Another Session with Dimitri

by Paul Burnham

p at 5:00 a.m., drive to JFK, Jet Blue to Oakland. Arrive 5:00 p.m. eastern time. Threehour client meeting and then call Dimitri who has found a club game for us on this Tuesday evening. (For me, it now feels like close to midnight and, in fact, it is.)

Ride to dinner in Dimitri's 1993 Alfa Romeo convertible two-seater. (He still thinks he is 35.)

Discussions of system at dinner are preempted by a one-sided, G-rated conversation regarding his latest adventures with the opposite sex. As a result we leave the restaurant late, get lost on the way to the club, and arrive with all tables in play but table eight, where we are instructed to sit North-South.

On table eight (there were but eight in the room) was one board, Board #2. When in California... It turned out to be a barometer movement, each table playing the same boards each round, allowing the names of the leaders to be posted on the whiteboards about five minutes into the next round. Tables seven and eight shared boards, so first one table played them, then the other, then, when both had played them, the players sorted the cards into suits for Wednesday's game. One or two mis-duplicated hands seemed to go with the territory. No automated dealing machines evident. Hand records were available on one's way out, and the complete recap was posted on the Internet before anyone could get home.

The East-West pairs were almost uniformly strong, and clearly at their strongest when they reached Table Eight.

Try this one.

You hold ♠ Q 10 4 3, ♥ 9 7 6, ♠ 6 5, ♣ 9 7 42, both vulnerable, and LHO deals and opens 1♣ (15-17 HCP, any distribution. This is called the Bay Area Club!), 1♠ by Dimitri, and double by RHO. You didn't fly 3,000 miles to pass, so you support partner's suit,



Paul Burnham

and the auction continues P, P, 3♥, P, P and Dimitri bids 3♠, blessedly undoubled. Dimitri's quite accurate comment after going down three was that East-West could make four

hearts! Alas, they never were going to get there.

Then there was the auction that went

North	East	South	West
(Paul)		(Dimitri)	
1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Dimitri, on lead holding ♠ 10 9 6 5, ▼ K 7 3, ♠ A 4, ♣ Q 9 6 4 accurately diagnosed that dummy was short of trumps and led the 10♠, picking up my doubleton king after dummy tabled (?) a trump void.

Try this play problem after you've been without sleep for twenty hours. (West has a momentary lapse, not finding a diamond lead when in with the ace of trump.) Nonetheless...

Bidding

North	East	South	West
1 🗫	Pass	1♠	Pass
4	Pass	4♠	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

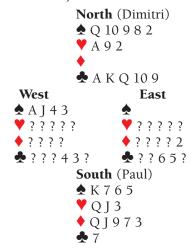
Four of clubs led. I went up with the Ace, led the 10♠ from the board to the King and Ace, East shedding a diamond. Dummy's 9♣ took the second trick, West leading the three (West could have started with two, three four or five clubs, per convention card, but did East hitch? Dimitri saw it, I did not.)

Not noticing the hitch, must the K♥ be onside? See hand diagram showing what I knew at this point*. Maybe East is out of clubs, the

ace/king of diamonds are split and I can end-play East by leading a high diamond? Not tonight, Josephine.

There was no Connecticut name on the white board at the end of this evening!

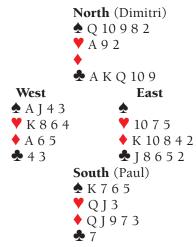
*What I knew... Partner: Dimitri Dealer: North Vulnerability: None



Same hand... what was...

Partner: Dimitri Dealer: North Vulnerability: None

Lead: 4♣



Result: Matchpoints: -100, 7 of 14



Shelton Sectional March 4, 5, 6

Christine Pokorski won the Barb Shaw Trophy posting 10.71 MPs for the tournament in the under-300 MP category. Congratulations!

FRI. AFT. OPEN PAIRS

A	B	C	
1			John Stiefel - Richard De Martino
2			Sarah Corning - David Ross
3	1	1	Judith Hess - Christine Pokorski
4			Phyllis Bausher - Larry Bausher
5			Howard Lawrence
			- Frank Blachowski
6			Cynthia Michael - Lenny Russman
	2		Bunny Kliman - Roy Andrews
	2	2	T

- Lorenzo Anselmi Jeffrey Weill H. Jancis - Richard Gencarelli
- Seiho Shimada Sayoko Shimada
- Marylin Noll Betty Levine 6 5

FRI. AFT. SENIOR PAIRS

A	В	C	
1			Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler
2	1		Om Chhabra - Anthony Tusa
3	2		Elizabeth Nagle
			- Kathleen Frangione
4			Thomas Hey - Terry Brewster
5	3		John Blossom - Louise Blossom
6	4	1	Ellen Beveridge - Martin Arnold
	5	2	Joel Tames - Thomasina Petrahaid
		3	Jack Gensheimer - Nick Phillips

FRI. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

	-		012111110
A	В	C	
1			Richard De Martino - John Stiefel
2			Kelley Hwang - Lawrence Lau
3			Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler
4			Bob Gwirtzman - Larry Bausher
5/6	1	1	Judith Hess - Christine Pokorski
5/6			Howard Lawrence
			- Frank Blachowski
	2		Sonja Smith - David Rock
	3/4		Roy Andrews - Bunny Kliman
	3/4		Paul Pearson - Laurie Robbins
	5	2	Mary Kohler - Robert Benson
	6		Phyllis Bausher - Mary Witt
		3	Alex Stolitzka - Susan Lowenthal
		4	Seiho Shimada - Sayoko Shimada
		5	Judith Dobbrow - Marjory Sill
			,

SAT AM A/X PAIRS

SA	1. P	IVI. A/A PAIKS
A	X	
1		Steve Becker - Larry Bausher
2	1	David Benjamin
		- Betty Jane Corbani
3		Rachel Brown - Frank Blachowski
4	2	Thomas Hyde - Gary Seckinger
5		Geoffrey Brod - Richard De Martino
6		Harold Feldheim - Allen Siegel
	3	Arthur Crystal - Debbie Benner
	4	Jay Force - Terry Brewster

SAT. AM B/C/D PAIRS

вср	
1 1 1	Peter Leighton - Tona McKenna
2	Douglas Thompson - Karen Barrett
3/42/3 2	Judith Dobbrow - Marjory Sill
3/42/3	Phyllis McCoy - Anthony Tusa
5 4 3	Edwin Lewis III - Robert Gruskay
6/7 5	Donald Brueggemann
	- W Kenneth Graebe
6/7	Roy Andrews - Bunny Kliman
6 4	Patricia Gibbs - David Keller
5	Pierina Graebe - Nancy Ramseyer

	v	C	
1	1	1	Linda Green - Janice Lamartine
2	2	2	Joseph Pagerino - Gregory Klein
3	3		Ann Carta - Ellen Meinke
4	4	3	David Ross - Shana Katz

AA	
1	Harold Feldheim - Allen Siegel
2 1	Rich Letourneau - Tim Baird
3/4 2	Frances and Bernard Schneider
3/4	Larry Bausher - Bob Gwirtzman
5 3	Betty Jane Corbani - Ann Cady
6	Geoffrey Brod - Richard De Martino
4	Sonja Smith - David Rock

SAT. AFT. B/C/D PAIRS

B C D

l	1		Elaine Misner - James Misner
2			Thomas Hey - Elliot Ranard
3	2	1	Sandra Reiners - Gernot Reiners
4			Irene Santa - John Farwell
5	3		Donald Brueggemann
			- W. Kenneth Graebe
5			Mary Witt - Susan Seckinger
	4	2	Edwin Lewis III - Robert Gruskay
	5	3	Christine Pokorski
			- Blanche Eisman
	6		John Blossom - Louise Blossom
		4	Josephine Corban
			- Barbara Donalds
		5	Lawrence Stern
			- Robert Vander Wiede

SAT. AFT. 299ER PAIRS A B C

1 1 1

2 3 4	3	3	David Ross - Shana Katz Thomas O'Reilly-Pol - Larry Pol Elfo Pol - Anita Pol
			OPEN PAIRS
A	В	C	
1/2			Sarah Corning - Cynthia Michael
1/2	1	1	Alvin Hamilton - Edgar Taylor

Linda Green - Janice Lamartine

Edwin Lewis III - Robert Gruskay 3/4 2 2 3/4 Lesley Meyers - Thomas Gerchman 5 3 Susan and Laurence Grossman 6 4 Edward and Kathy Shepherd 5 S. Michael Sharp - Nancy Sharp

Judith Hess - Robert Hawes

Mary Kohler - Robert Benson

FLIGHT A SWISS TEAMS

1	Phyllis Bausher - Larry Bausher
	- Bob Gwirtzman

- Bernard Schneider 2 Howard Lawrence - Paul Proulx

- Don Stiegler - Frank Blachowski

Gregory Woods - Victor King - John Stiefel - Thomas Smith

James Greer - Maeve Mahon - Burton Gischner - Allan Clamage

FLIGHT B/C/D SWISS TEAMS

В	C	D	
1	1	1	Eleanor Papineau - Jose Gaztambide
			- Thomas Webster - Larry Wallowitz
2			David Rock - Cynthia D'Arrigo
			- Helen Pawlowski - Sonja Smith
3	2	2	Christine Pokorski

- Blanche Eisman - Judith Hess - Robert Hawes

Susan and Laurence Grossman 4 3 - David Morrow - Andrew Berger

Paul Pearson - Laurie Robbins - David Jenkins - Reginald Harvey

Donald Brueggemann 6 5 - W. Kenneth Graebe

- Esther Watstein - Patricia Gibbs

3 Frederick Cronin - Arline Small - Sally Title - Muriel Dane

Thomas Gerchman - Marjorie Lennon - Elizabeth Snyder - Margaret Franco

East Hartford Sectional April 8, 9, 10

FRI. AFT. OPEN PAIRS

,	M. 7 M		OI LIVITANO
A	В	C	
1			Tom Joyce - Marsha Futterman
2			Jane Lowe - Bunny Kliman
3			John Stiefel - Victor King
4			Rachel Brown - Frank Blachowski
5			Patrick Salve - Lesley Meyers
6	1		Pamela Palmer - Aldona Siuta
	2/3		Harlan Cuklanz - Lee Galis
	2/3	1	Sandra Reiners - Gernot Reiners
	4		Ogden Bigelow, Jr.
			- A. Ramayya Mulukutla
	5		Helen Pawlowski - Ausra Geaski
	6	2	Lawrence Stern - Lee Herdle
		3	Betty Levine - Selma Moffie
		4	Larry Wallowitz
			- Partab Makhijani
		5	Ron Breault - Robert McLellan

FRI	. A	FT.	SENIOR PAIRS
A	В	C	
1	1		Edward and Kathy Shepherd
2			Vesna Hauptfeld
			- Constance Graham
3	2		Karen Abate - Vincent Abate
4			Mary Witt - Harris Jacobs
5/6	3	1	John Silliman - William Watson
5/6			Nancy Earel - Gail Carroll
	4		Ruth Kuzma - Raymond Fortier
		2	Beth Cohn - Sarah Hart

Joanne Douglas - Marilyn Watt

u. E	VE.	OPEN PAIRS
В	C	
		Tom Macbeth - Lloyd Arvedon
1	1	Muriel Dane - Ruth Tupper
		Nancy Earel - Gail Carroll
		Joel Wolfe - Michael Joyce
		Judith Hess - Nicholas France
		Allan Clamage - Don Stiegler
2		Paul Tungatt - Douglas Deacon
3	2	Pere Pittard - Curtis Bristol, Jr.
4/5		Edward and Kathy Shepherd
4/5		Harlan Cuklanz - Lee Galis
6		Linda Starr - Bonnie Reyes
	3	Seiho Shimada - Sayoko Shimada
	B 1 2 3 4/5 4/5	B C 1 1 2 3 2 4/5 4/5 6

SAT. AM. FLIGHT A/X PRS

DI EVE ODEN DAIDO

A	X	
1		Judy Dubay - William Dubay
2		William Braucher - A Braucher
3		Tom Macbeth - Lloyd Arvedon
4		Richard De Martino
		- Allan Rothenberg
5		James Greer - Allan Clamage
6		Don Stiegler - Paul Burnham
	1	Ann Cady - Betty Jane Corbani
	2	William Titley - Gary Seckinger
	3	Lenny Russman - Roy Andrews

SAT. AM. B/C/D PRS

R	C	υ	
1			Chet Latin - Bunny Kliman
2			Mary Witt - Susan Seckinger
3	1		Lynn Condon - Al Roberts
4	2		Harlan Cuklanz - Bruce Tedford
5	3		Reginald Harvey - Laurie Robbins
6			S. Michael Sharp - Nancy Sharp
	4/5	i	Arthur Haut - Elaine Haut
	4/5	1	Stanley Kaplan - Natalie Kaplan
	6	2	Robert Gruskay - Carole Amaio
		3	David Wright
			- Tadeusz Karnkowski
		4/5	James Kaplan - Perry Miller
		4/5	Tracy Selmon - Hillel Auerbach

SAT. AM. 299ER PAIRS

A	В	C	
1	1		Sandra DeGregorio - James Larson
2	2	1	Karen Largay - Sheila Gillin
3	3	2	Robert Vander Wiede
			- Lawrence Stern
4	4	3	John Silliman - William Watson
5	5	4	Clara Horn - Louise Alvord

SAT. AFT. A/X PAIRS

7 M	∠ %.	
1		Richard De Martino
		- Allan Rothenberg
2	1	Charlotte Zultowsky
		- Constance Graham
3		Phyllis Bausher - Larry Bausher
4		Kamla Chawla - David Kowarsky
5	2	Donna Feir - Paula Beauchamp
6		Howard Lawrence
		- Frank Blachowski
	3	Lenny Russman - Roy Andrews
	4	William Titley - Gary Seckinger

SAT. AFT. B/C/D PAIRS

В	C	D	
1	1		Donald Brueggemann
			- W. Kenneth Graebe
2	2		Claire Sauer - Dibirma Burnham
3			Eleanor Gimon - Susan Rodricks
4			Helen Kobernusz - Alice Hummel
5			Helma Strauss - Ruth Kuzma
6	3	1	Joel Tames - David Keller
	4	2	A Ramayya Mulukutla
			- Raymond Fortier
	5	3	
	6		David Domizi III -
			Ogden Bigelow, Jr.
		4	Allen Siegel - Ian Fuller
		5	Sandra Reiners - Gernot Reiners

Seiho Shimada - Sayoko Shimada

			,
SAT. AFT. 299ER PAIRS			
A	В	C	
1	1		Josephine Corban
			- Barbara Donalds
2	2	1	Robert Vander Wiede
			- Lawrence Stern
3	3		Ann Carta - Ellen Meinke
4	4	2	Tony Tabell - Ellen Tabell
		3/4	Anne Cole - Katie Rust
		3/4	Jack Gensheimer - Nick Phillips
			•

SAT. EVE. OPEN PAIRS

A	В	C	
1			Sarah Corning - Cynthia Michael
2			Jane Smith - Barb Shaw
3			Alexander Levitsky
			- Walter Fontaine
4	1		William and Nancy Mumford
5			Andrew Dubay - William Dubay
6	2		Eva Hunt - Michael Bolgar
	3	1	Sandra Reiners - Gernot Reiners
	4		Linda Starr - J. Michael Carmiggelt
	5		Eleanor Gimon - Susan Rodricks
		2	Richard and Sally Gauthier

FLT A SWISS TEAMS 1 Debbie Benner - Arthur Crystal

	- Karen Xia - Dean Montgomery
2	Judy Dubay - Robert Neuhart
	- William Dubay - Andrew Dubay
3	Daniel Colatosti - Melvin Marcus
	- Allan Rothenberg - Richard De Martino

David Ross - Sarah Corning

A	llan	n lettelman - Micki Schaffel Wolf - Russell Friedman 1 Segal - Howard Zusman
C/D	SW	ISS TEAMS
C	D	
1		Edwin Lewis III - Robert Gruskay
2		- Carole Amaio - Partab Makhijani David Rock - Sonja Smith
		- Luigi Montefusco
3		- Mourad Meregian Gernot Reiners - Sandra Reiners
		- Arthur Haut - Lois Flesche
4	1	Allen Siegel - Ian Fuller
		- Robert Benson - Mary Kohler Paul Lord - Midori Wakabayashi
		- Nancy and William Mumford
5	2	Penelope Glassmeyer
		- Martha Hathaway
		- Suzanne Goldstein
		- J. Gail Schulze
	A	Allan - John C/D SW C D 1 2 3 4 1

Harry Jancis - Maruta Jancis - George Smedes - Sarah Smedes

WIN MORE **SILVER MASTER POINTS** at a **STaC GAME**



by Donald Stiegler, STaC Coordinator

Connecticut, Unit 126, and North Jersey, Unit 106, have agreed to combine the STaC games in June to award silver points to the overall winners. When you play in your local club STaC game this June 6th through 12th, you will be comparing your result with more clubs. There should be more clubs participating in each game.

Combining the two units will not change the section awards, as each club game is a separate section. If you are first N/S or E/W at your club, you will receive the same master point award for section places as you would receive if we continued to run our STaC games separate from the other units in our Tri-State group. The STaC schedule and results are posted on the ACBL web site as well as on the Connecticut Bridge Association web site.

I hope you enjoy this new arrangement. Be sure to play in our June STaCs. It could be very rewarding.







New England Summer Regional June 22 - 26

in Sturbridge at the Sturbridge Host Hotel 508-347-7393

Tournament Chairs: Wally and Irene Myers 508-754-2922

West Haven Sectional August 5 - 7

West Haven Knights of Columbus 236 Center St.

Pairing: John Farwell 203-401-1592

THE KIBITZER

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

All comments, news, items (including cartoons) related to the bridge world and of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all items for the next *Kibitzer* by **July 15**. All ads must be received by July 1.

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You can see The Kibitzer in blazing color at the CT bridge site: ctbridge.org. If you would like to receive The Kibitzer via e-mail. let us know.

Your CBA (as of July 1, 2005)

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CBA web site	www.ctbridge.org

Your Link to the Board

If you have something to say, suggest, or complain about ...tell your representative, who is a Board member and your link to being heard.

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