



THE DECLARER



Winter 2019

Volume 61 Issue 4

Peter Wright, Editor

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THE DECLARER

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DOUBLE KNOCKOUT WINNERS – 2018

FLIGHT A

ALEXANDER ALLEN, ABE PINELES, ALEX PERLIN, JIANG GU, WILL EHLERS

FLIGHT B

JERRY SEASONWEIN, JEFF KAPLOWITZ, KELLY KIEFER, ANTON TEVALD



New Jersey Bridge League MARCH SECTIONAL March 1-3, 2019

Hungarian-American Citizens Club
95 Port Reading Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
Playing site phone: 732-634-9697

Tournament Chair: Arnie Kohn at 732-216-5579



Friday, March 1

10:00 AM: ● Open Stratified Pairs ● Stratified 299er Pairs
2:30 PM: ● Open GRASSROOT Stratified Pairs ● GRASSROOT 299er Stratified Pairs

Saturday, March 2

10:00 AM: ● Open Stratified Pairs ● Stratified 299er Pairs
● Youth Bridge (19 & under, 0-50 MP's) – Trophies for Winners; Free Entries
For further info, contact Barbara Clark at 973-736-1969
2:30 PM: ● A/X (X=0-4000) GRASSROOT Match Points (open to all)
● B/C/D GRASSROOT Match Point Pairs (3000/2000/1000)
● Stratified 299ers GRASSROOT Pairs

Sunday, March 3

9:30 AM: ● Light breakfast
10:30 AM: ● Seven-round Bracketed Round Robin Teams: Team average master points will determine your bracket, or your team may play in the top (Swiss) bracket by choice. We will have a short break in mid-afternoon for a complimentary lunch with bagels, rye breads, spreads, salads, and hummus.

Stratifications: Open Pairs A (3000+) B (1000-3000) C (0-1000)
299ers Pairs A (200-300) B (100-200) C (0-100) (May be varied based on participation.)

In pair events, strats will be based as an average of the total master points of the pair. In any event or flight with a master point upper limit, no individual's MP total may exceed that limit.

GRASSROOT Games: Almost 30% More Masterpoints

Guaranteed Partnerships: We guarantee partners for you in both the Open and 0-300 games for all Friday and Saturday sessions. You **MUST** request a partner by Tuesday, February 26th, to be guaranteed a partner. Email your request to Arnie Dorin at arnied26@gmail.com or call him at 732-841-2351. In addition, please contact Arnie if you have questions about the tournament or need help putting together a team.

Food: Between sessions Friday and Saturday, we will serve pizza for \$1/slice (cheese) or \$1.50/slice (with a topping), small salads for \$1/each and cans of soda for \$1/each. Sunday's complimentary food includes our light breakfast, mid-afternoon lunch, and snacks throughout the day.

NJBL Website: Visit our website www.njbl.net to read about upcoming tournaments and events, past results, bridge clubs, the DECLARER (NJBL's online newsletter), and many other useful bridge links.

Entries: \$28/pair Friday & Saturday; \$112/team Sunday. We must charge an extra \$4/person for those who are not current ACBL members.

DIRECTIONS

From NJ Turnpike Exit 12: At the tollbooth, bear to the extreme right, and keep bearing to the EXTREME right at the ramp, following the signs to RAHWAY. The off ramp will put you on Roosevelt Ave. You will pass a Holiday Inn on your right. The third traffic light (about ¾ mile) is Blair Road (BP station on the SE corner). Left onto Blair Road and proceed past the first traffic light, staying on Blair Road into the Industrial Park. After about ¾ of a mile from the light, the road narrows, and you will cross a freight RR track. Shortly thereafter, the road curves right. Stay to the extreme right, which is Port Reading Ave, go another two blocks, and turn right into the parking lot.

From other routes: NJ TPK Exit 11, Southbound GSP exit 129, Northbound GSP Exit 127, follow to Route 9 North. Once on Route 9, take Main St. Woodbridge Exit (Route 514). Turn right and go 1 mile to railroad overpass. Look for monument. Turn left BEFORE monument and continue on route 514 East. Go to second traffic light and turn right onto Port Reading Ave. Club is ¼ mile on left.

From 287: Stay southbound, past exit 1 and NJ Tpk exit, and take the Route 9 North exit. Once on Route 9, take the Main St. Woodbridge Exit, and proceed as above.

KOHN'S KORNER

by Arnie Kohn

More Card Combinations

The following two combinations are based on the Law of Probabilities. Suppose a suit is to have two missing honors, such as King/Queen or King/Jack. Assuming no bidding cues from the opponents, the odds are as follows:

Honors both held by LHO (25%)

Honors both held by RHO (25%)

Honors split between LHO and RHO (50%)

In each of the following two examples the correct play for three tricks has a 75% probability of success. We also have to assume that entries and re-entries are available.

Ex 1: J1098 opposite Axxx:

Lead the Jack toward the Ace and play small if the Jack is not covered by either the King or Queen. If the Jack wins,

repeat the process by leading the Ten. Should the Jack lose, play the 10 when you next obtain the lead and repeat the process. If the honors are split between the two hands (50%) and a normal 3-2 break occurs in the suit, you will win three tricks.

Ex 2: Q1098 opposite Axxx

Lead the Queen toward the Ace and play small if the Queen is not covered by the King. If the Queen wins, repeat the process by leading the Ten. Should the Queen lose, play the 10 toward the Ace when you next obtain the lead. If the honors are split between the two hands and a normal 3-2 break occurs in the suit, you will win three tricks.

PLAYER of the YEAR RACE

Standings by range as of January 6, 2019

Player of the Year Masterpoints are those earned in Unit 140-sponsored events only. These comprise the annual Awards Brunch game, the four sectional tournaments held each year, the Autumnfest Newplicate and Autumnfest Charity Swiss events, and the Double Knockout team matches.

Player of the Year standings format has caught up with modern times and no longer lists separate categories for men and women. It is now consistent with the listings for Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs standings.

Masterpoint range	0 - 50	Chantel Frantzen	Princeton	13.37
		Robert Frantzen	Princeton	13.37
50 - 100		Denise Fisher	Florham Park	8.82
		Jay Fisher	Florham Park	8.52
		Joseph Giuliano	Branchburg	4.86
		Jared Schuller	Hillsborough	4.67
100 - 300		Lewis Lefkowitz	Edison	12.55
		Pramod Khanna	East Windsor	12.47
		Edward Fisher	Manalapan	10.50
300 - 1000		Piotr Oleszewski	Hackettstown	26.47
		Jacqueline Hewlett	Bridgewater	24.94
		Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater	24.94
		Ruth Yeselson	Highland Park	31.48
		Dorothy Koernig	Summit	29.43
1000 - 2500		Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	27.70
		Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	111.06
Unlimited		Donna Dulet	Ocean	57.42
		Alexander Allen	Annandale	55.85

MASTERPOINT RACES

Standings by range as of January 6, 2019

Mini-McKenney medallions are awarded to the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn the **most total master points** during the previous year. All points of any color and source are counted. **Ace of Clubs** certificates are awarded to the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn **the most master points in club games** during the calendar year. Only black points are counted; points earned in STaCs and other special games paying "pigmented" points don't count. The awards are not mutually exclusive; it's possible to win either or both in the same year. The level you compete in is the one within which you started the year.

MINI-McKENNEY

ACE OF CLUBS

Masterpoint range

0 – 5	Julie Bernhardt	Nutley	88.49	Julie Bernhardt	Nutley	47.19
	Joseph Zawadzki	Marlboro	30.55	Joseph Zawadzki	Marlboro	30.18
	Thomas Hennessy	Freehold	29.17	Thomas Hennessy	Freehold	23.74
5 – 20	Rise Meyers	Jersey City	54.42	Rise Meyers	Jersey City	42.12
	Stephen Hopkins	Naples, FL	46.52	Stephen Hopkins	Naples, FL	16.19
	Andrew Harris	Pennington	45.11	Victor Silverstein	Princeton	33.62
20 – 50	Gloria Gribin	Wayside	65.69	Douglas Reeves	Union	47.35
	Graham Oakes	Montclair	61.58	Adarsh Bajaj	Princeton	41.46
	Lawrence Harte	Livingston	53.95	Lawrence Harte	Livingston	39.88
50 – 100	Esther Eisenberg	Holmdel	109.01	Esther Eisenberg	Holmdel	92.21
	Jay Fisher	Florham Park	99.11	Sheila Holderness	Montville	70.53
	Sheila Holderness	Montville	75.35	Jay Fisher	Florham Park	54.52
100 – 200	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel	127.70	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel	110.06
	Justine Robertson	Rumson	110.78	Justine Robertson	Rumson	100.70
	Julie Grossman	Hopewell	104.48	Chris Schwinger	Rockaway	83.27
200 – 300	Zenon Komar	Summit	178.43	Zenon Komar	Summit	109.30
	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	143.62	Romesh Arora	New Providence	85.05
	Romesh Arora	New Providence	115.50	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	82.25
300 – 500	David Weil	New Vernon	133.45	Charles Dvorkin	Manalapan	83.82
	Charles Dvorkin	Manalapan	127.89	Joseph Messina	VWaretown	78.68
	Edward Andrews	Skillman	121.21	Bruce Williams	Oceanport	69.23
500 – 1000	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	579.87	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	332.97
	Stephanie Austin	West Caldwell	241.74	Foster Osborne	Summit	134.76
	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	239.59	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	120.55
1000 – 1500	Mark Savedoff	Tamarac, FL	296.46	Mark Savedoff	Tamarac, FL	186.80
	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	190.55	Larry Youell	South Orange	124.15
	Larry Youell	South Orange	156.78	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	116.90
1500 – 2500	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	368.62	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	173.36
	Dorothy Koernig	Summit	292.55	Summer Freedman	Short Hills	149.90
	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	248.91	John Anderson	Rockaway	148.52
2500 – 3500	Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead	516.21	Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead	178.72
	Nat Zucker	Monroe Township	238.22	Elizabeth Evans	Mountainside	149.19
	Julia Zucker	Monroe Township	230.41	Elyse Menashe	Deal	134.94
3500 – 5,000	Joan Brody	Livingston	564.67	Donna Dulet	Ocean	210.64
	Donna Dulet	Ocean	393.07	Dave DuBois	Westfield	181.81
	Muffie Gur	Leonardo	270.81	Stephen Garreffa	Randolph	180.06
5000 – 7500	Dori Byrnes	Morris Plains	525.17	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	358.80
	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	477.43	Betty Cox	Randolph	180.58
	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	456.18	Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains	176.08
7500 – 10,000	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	946.13	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	178.55
	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	614.27	Cheryl Angel	Livingston	163.63
	Will Ehlers	West Orange	472.25	Jesse Reisman	Livingston	154.74
10,000+	Alexander Allen	Annandale	456.12	William Esberg	Long Branch	158.74
	William Esberg	Long Branch	229.04	Lester Sokolower	Verona	125.02
	Lester Sokolower	Verona	134.50	Alexander Allen	Annandale	99.05

MORTON'S PITCH-FORK

by Jay Korobow

Dealer: North Vul: N-S			
		<u>North</u> ♠ J765 ♥ AK4 ♦ Q108 ♣ Q32	
<u>West</u> ♠ K ♥ 8 ♦ AKJ7543 ♣ 7654		<u>East</u> ♠ Q3 ♥ QJ932 ♦ 96 ♣ AJ108	
		<u>South</u> ♠ A109842 ♥ 10765 ♦ 2 ♣ K9	
<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	Pass	1♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	4♦
4♠	All Pass		

There was an Archbishop Morton who collected taxes for King Henry VII in a way that left the subjects with no good choice. If they lived in any way luxuriously, they were deemed to have plenty of wealth and so had to "fork over" lots of it for the King. If on the other hand they lived frugally, they were thought to have considerable savings, so still had to pay up. Over time, this no-win situation became known as "being impaled on Morton's fork."

A similar no-win choice in bridge became known as the Morton's Fork Coup, and there is also a chess variation. A judge on People's Court – and perhaps many others – gained notoriety by proclaiming, when she had had heard enough (testimony), "Stick a fork in me, I'm done." I thought I'd heard enough when I opened 1♣ in the Middle of the Night IMP Pairs on J765=AK4=Q108=Q32. Partner bid 1♠ and RHO bid 3♦ preemptively. Although I had four Spades, I could not bring myself to support partner with a 3♠ call, due to my paltry 8-loser hand.

It's far from clear what call partner should make at his second turn vulnerable with A109842=10765=2=K9. I suspect 3♥, and Double would be chosen by some, but as his first call is forcing and the Double could prove embarrassing if partner left it in for penalty, maybe Pass is most reasonable. My partner chose to bid 3♠, showing

that no one is shy in the Middle of the Night Pairs with a 7-count, although the good spot cards tend to recommend the aggressive call.

Raising to 4♠ was now indeed tempting, but with the apparently wasted ♦Q I was most likely going to go quietly into the middle of the night. However, in keeping with the "not shy" theme and disregarding the age-old tenet "preemptors do not bid again," RHO now chimed in with 4♦. This lack of shyness is contagious, and before I could stop myself, I purportedly turned the opponents' down-one into our own down-one with a 4♠ call. Isn't down-one supposed to be "good bridge"?

4♠ is not a good contract, requiring a doubleton ♥QJ as perhaps the only legit lie of the cards to allow a make. The ♦Q took on some enhanced value when West, on opening lead, tried to cash a second high Diamond, which partner ruffed. Still, the available pitch was useless, as there remained a loser in every suit. Partner next played the ♠A and another, putting East on lead as Morton showed that he could service the Queen as well as the King by becoming operative at this juncture.

When the ♥Q is played to dummy's high one, a low Club now "pitch-forks" East's ♠A. If he ducks, the ♠K in partner's hand wins and, after crossing to dummy, the ♣9 gets pitched on the ♦Q for a make. If, on the other hand, East takes his ♠A, the ♠Q provides a second pitch, so two of partner's low Hearts get pitched on the minor suit queens and there is no longer a Heart loser. Notice that the pitch-fork also works on West if one believes he holds the ♠A, and so one plays the ♣9 toward dummy's ♠Q32 for the same result. With the preemptor West already having showed 11 points (♦AKJ, ♠K), this was not a likely scenario to play for, of course.

As a watchful dummy, I noticed this position had developed, as East considered his play after winning the ♠Q. After some thought, he cashed the ♠A, probably hoping his partner held an unlikely ♠K. This thoughtless play allowed the same make, two low Hearts getting pitched on minor suit queens, for a 12 IMP windfall. In my excitement, I typed MORTON! Not that I expected any of the participants at my table to really know what I meant, but it didn't help that in my rapid typing I left out the "T". One opponent left in a huff and the other typed back "How rude." Which only goes to show ya how "taxing" the Middle of the Night Pairs can be!

ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS

by Francis Gupta

Slam Bidding in the Minors

[Author's note: With respect to skill, expertise, and experience, bridge players come in a wide assortment. Yet bridge can be enjoyed by all. But for those of us who wonder how players in the "rough waters" (Open section) evaluate and bid hands versus players in the "calm seas" (Non-Life Masters section), this column tries to shed some light. The objective here is to illustrate the value various bridge conventions bring to competitive bidding for players at all levels.]

At the last duplicate game held at the Princeton Bridge Center in 2018, my partner and I, who were sitting N-S in the Open section, were fortunate to witness an exquisite sequence of slam bidding in the minors by our E-W opponents. Though the auction was a good teaching moment, we paid the price by earning a low board together with another N-S pair who had a similar experience. Here is the board that eluded a slam bid across all but two E-W pairs:

		<u>North</u>	
Dealer: S		♠ J 10 6 4 3 2	
Vul: N-S		♥ K 7 4	
		♦ 9 6	
		♣ Q 10	
		<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
		♠ A K	♠ Q 9 8 7
		♥ A	♥ J 10 2
		♦ K 10 7 3 2	♦ A 4
		♣ A 9 6 5 2	♣ K 8 7 3
		<u>South</u>	
		♠ 5	
		♥ Q 9 8 6 5 3	
		♦ Q J 8 5	
		♣ J 4	

Depending on the layout of the board, every auction has a captain, and on this layout West is clearly the captain. As soon as this hand is dealt, with 18 HCPs and a two-suited hand in the minors, West is definitely contemplating game in NT or in one of the minors. Also, with only four losers and controls in all four suits, West could be thinking, depending on partner's strength, a slam in NT or in one of the minors.

Given the actual layout, East, with 10 HCPs, is clearly in an invitational and/or supporting role on this deal. So, what is East

thinking before the bidding opens? With this hand, East is thinking: if partner bids a minor with a minimum opener, it would be great if partner has 4-card support for my spade suit. Then we could play this hand in 2♠. But if partner cannot support my spades, given the balanced distribution of this hand, it would also play nicely in 1NT.

But what if partner opens a major? East could then support either of the majors and leave it up to partner to place the contract. (Some partnerships might use conventions like a limit-raise or Bergen to show three or four card support for partner's major and 10+ HCPs, thereby giving partner more precise information about the hand.)

What if partner opens a minor with 15-17 HCPs? Then East would be anticipating a game-going auction in Spades (with a Spade fit) or in NT (without a Spade fit).

Holding a 4-card Club suit, East should not rule out the possibility of a game in Clubs but should be aware that partner needs to be very strong for a game-going auction in the minors (generally the partnership needs 28+ HCPs, so West would need to be holding 18+ HCPs). Finally, East should be thinking that West would have to be holding a monster for a slam-going auction, as a partnership needs 33+ HCPs. That would require West to be holding 23+ HCPs. For most partnerships, that would mean that West would open the auction with a strong 2♣ bid!

So how did this board play out at the game? Unfortunately, this being the last game of the year, I was unable to obtain the traveler for this board to compare across the Non-Life Masters (NLM) and Open sections. However, the scores earned at the various tables indicate that two E-W pairs in the Open section and two E-W pairs in the NLM section did not find game on this board. The remaining E-W pairs found game either in NT, Clubs, or Diamonds, while two pairs in the Open section bid a small slam in Clubs. (By the way, this board makes 5NT, 5♦ and 7♣, irrespective of whether East or West is declarer. If the Clubs break 3-1, instead of 2-2, E-W takes 12 tricks instead of 13.)

I am also unable to share with you how the auction went at the table where the second minor slam in Clubs was bid, but at our table the auction transpired as follows:

ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS

Slam Bidding in the Minors

[concluded]

S	W	N	E
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	4♣ ⁴
Pass	4♥ ⁵	Pass	5♦ ⁶
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

¹ Better minor

² Showing 6+ HCPs and 4+ Spades

³ Jump shift showing 18+ HCPs and Clubs while denying four Hearts

⁴ Raise showing 10+ HCPs and 4+ Clubs while denying four Hearts

⁵ Cue bid showing A♥

⁶ Cue bid showing A♦

There were three key bids made in this auction that ultimately put E-W on a slam flight path. The first was the jump shift bid of 3♣ by West, which was forcing. Unable to rebid the Spades, and not having Hearts stopped, East had no choice but to bid 4♣.

The second key bid made was the decision by West to explore a slam in Clubs. Already knowing there was game in Clubs, West showed a first round control of Hearts by

bidding 4♥. Suit controls are the foundation to making a slam. In the case of a small slam, it only takes the loss of one trick followed by a lead in a suit by opponents in which the slam bidders have no control for a small slam contract to be defeated. Grand slam bidders need to hold controls for all 13 tricks. Players use various conventions such as Gerber, Blackwood, Roman Key Card, and Minorwood to convey information on controls (Aces and Kings) to partner while exploring slam bids.

Even though two of the three key bids were made by West, the captain of the auction, the final key bid was made by East, the player in the support role. The encouragement by West was all that East needed to skip 5♣ and instead bid 5♦, thereby showing first round control in Diamonds. This essentially put the auction solidly on a slam flight path, meaning that West now had two choices: to bid 6♣ or 7♣. At our table, West bid 6♣ and made seven. The other E-W pair that bid the small slam also made seven, earning the same score. I'd be interested in learning how the bidding transpired at that table.

NOMINEES and CONTINUING MEMBERS

The following have been nominated to serve as new or continuing members of the board of the New Jersey Bridge League (Unit 140). Election will take place at the annual brunch and meeting of the entire unit membership

*Cheryl Angel
 *Arnie Dorin
 Lew Lefkowitz
 *Stephanie Miller
 Ashish Septagupta
 *David Sutton
 Fred Weiner
 Joe Wright

*incumbent

REMEMBRANCES

The Board of Directors of the New Jersey Bridge League offer their condolences to the family and friends of the following members of ACBL Unit 140. They will be missed at our bridge tables. We would like to remember all who support and participate in this great game. Please notify Kelly Kiefer at Paul.Kiefer619@gmail.com of any deaths within our membership, and indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

David Alexander

d. October 8, 2018

Frequent player at Monroe

Patricia Berkowitz

d. January 7, 2019

Frequent player at Jersey

Florence Brodsky

d. November 25, 2018

Frequent player at Rumson

Florence Brody

d. November 26, 2018

Frequent player at Essex, Shrine

Judy Doris

d. November 5, 2018

Frequent player at Shrine, Plaza

Elizabeth Ellwood

d. November 4, 2018

Frequent player at Rumson

Sally Fisher

d. November 7, 2018

Frequent player at Jersey

Joseph Gold

d. October 17, 2018

Frequent player at Essex

Iris Kirkpatrick

d. December 1, 2018

Frequent player at Rumson

David Noyes

d. November 30, 2018

Frequent player at Shadowfax

Hamilton Shippee

d. November 1, 2018

Frequent player at Rumson

Leonard White

d. December 26, 2018

Frequent player at Monroe

Richard Zochowski

d. November 23, 2018

Frequent player at Jersey

OZYMANDIAS, REVISITED

by Peter Wright

Having written about my own misdeeds rather more often than modesty would countenance, I thought this time I'd write about my partner's deft execution of an endplay at a recent club match. My play of dummy's cards could have been equally faultless – but enough about me.

Endplays are big ego-boosters when foisted with malice aforethought. For hapless opponents, they can be teeth-grashing experiences. Those who enjoy seeing opponents squirm, trying vainly to exit through non-existent emergency doors, may salivate over the following hand. Those who yearn to manufacture their first endplay should gather at 0400 hours for a test after completing this reading assignment.

Although you might get stuck in the throes of endplayosis as early as when making an opening lead, an endplay is more often likely to bite you or an opponent in the vicinity of trick #9. The layout below illustrates factors often needed to pull off the stunt:

- Enough trumps that, after drawing them, at least one trump will remain in each of the N-S hands to furnish a ruff-sluff threat.
- A couple of side suits (Spades and Clubs in this case) of equal length in each of the N-S hands, to facilitate – you should excuse the term – a **strip** (and a **tease** too, come to think of it).

Dealer: South Vul: All		<u>North</u> ♠ Q92 ♥ K1032 ♦ AQ5 ♣ K83	
<u>West</u> ♠ J64 ♥ Q87 ♦ 643 ♣ J762		<u>East</u> ♠ K1083 ♥ A ♦ KJ872 ♣ 1054	
	<u>South</u> ♠ A75 ♥ J9654 ♦ 109 ♣ AQ9		
<u>South</u> Pass 1♥ 4♥	<u>West</u> Pass Pass All Pass	<u>North</u> 1♣ 2♥	<u>East</u> 1♦ Pass

According to a printed hand analysis of anonymous origin, the Heart game is makeable. Gazing at all four hands, are **you** prepared to claim your contract? My partner was, and she didn't peek at the enemy's cards.

Clearly, you need the ♥Q onside to have any chance of taking ten tricks, and lo! there she squats, awaiting dethronement. Even so, at first blush there are four losers: one Diamond, two Spades, and the trump Ace. Also at second blush, and maybe even at third.

But partner doesn't blush. She spurns a finesse, ducking the opening ♦3 lead to East's Jack. He's a dead duck, though he doesn't know it. But not yet. He returns an easy-peasy low Club at trick #2, congratulating himself on having been astute enough to have been dealt the ♠K, ready when the time comes to annihilate dummy's defenseless ♠Q.

But partner knows that East holds all the important cards, and she intends to rain on the E-W parade. Taking the ♠A, partner leads low to the ♥10 at trick #3, East winning the Ace perforce. (Quite a word, "perforce." We never say it out loud, but it lurks in gazillions of bridge columns. – this one included.)

East persists with another safe Club, won again in hand by partner, who leads the ♥9, ducking in dummy when West plays low. Another Heart to dummy's King lays West's trump Queen to her eternal rest. Next partner cashes the two minor suit Aces. She has six tricks in the bag, two remaining trumps, and the ♠A, but they don't add up to ten. Here's the situation at trick #9:

		<u>North</u> ♠ Q92 ♥ 3 ♦ Q ♣ –	
<u>West</u> ♠ J64 ♥ – ♦ 6 ♣ J		<u>East</u> ♠ K108 ♥ – ♦ K8 ♣	
	<u>South</u> ♠ A75 ♥ 54 ♦ – ♣ –		

[continued on next page]

OZYMANDIAS, REVISITED

by Peter Wright

[concluded]

The “gotcha” moment has arrived. She leads the ♦Q, which East **must** cover, and does. Sure, partner could trump, but then she’d have to hope for the ♠K to be onside, and there’s no way, given the bidding, that West holds that card. Besides, look at the beads of perspiration plummeting from East’s contorted visage as he plops down his ♦K. (“That’s right, East,” I think. “Be afraid. Be **very** afraid.”) Acutely alert to the crackling of weird emanations in the atmosphere, I await the denouement.

Partner coolly deposits a losing Spade on the ♦K, leaving East to choose among suicidal alternatives. A Diamond lead is 100% certain to yield a fatal ruff-sluff. If he had the 13th Club (he doesn’t), leading it would be equally disastrous. So, on the infinitesimal chance that West, not South, has the ♠A, East leads a low Spade away from the King. But South confidently plays low also. I adroitly pluck the ♠Q from the table in response to partner’s request. She claims, and, like Ozymandias, the King (of Spades) is history.

BIG GAMES

(must have 5 tables to qualify)

October – November – December

OPEN		
76.32%	Ingrid D'Amanda - Toni Weber	Spring Lake
75.00%	Carl Imhoff / Bob Imhoff	Scotch Plains
75.00%	Anthony Palumbo - Joseph Messina	Manasquan
72.92%	John Hogan / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
72.92%	William Esberg - Muffie Gur	Jersey
72.55%	Marty Eisenberg - Daniel Heyman	Jersey
72.50%	Betty Cox / Sandy Manshel	Shrine
72.35%	Beau Norton - Dolores Ballard	Stafford
72.04%	Colin Kelly / Dottie Koernig	Murray Hill
72.02%	Tony Aukstikalnis - Betty Scull	Stafford
72.02%	Maureen Leach - Robin Simon	Manasquan
71.88%	Renee Geist / Sandy Manshel	Shrine
71.88%	Fredric Weiner - Saul Blum	Grand Slam
71.81%	Robin Shamah - Lisa Walsh	Jersey
71.71%	Piotr Olszewski / Judy Rothstein	Essex
71.67%	Louis Rocco - Harris Bobroff	Toms River
71.46%	Sharon Hait / William Hait	Essex
71.35%	John Dellosso / Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains
71.11%	Samuel Baskinger / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
70.99%	Alexander Allen / Richard Bare	BCCNJ
70.88%	Sid Klotz - Adele Shulman	Manasquan
70.84%	Barbara Codispoti / Mario Codispoti	Shadowfax
70.72%	Terry Zuckerman / Joseph Cella, Jr.	Shrine
70.63%	Arthur Frank - Peter Wright	Princeton
70.55%	Ronald Kraft - Ronald Panitch	Grand Slam
70.51%	Judy Rothstein / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
70.43%	Beau Norton - Dolores Ballard	Stafford
70.37%	Peter Stein / Neil Jaffe	BCCNJ
70.33%	Dennis Thompson / Sam Borenstein	Shrine
70.15%	Jin-Ming Liao / Judy Rothstein	Essex
70.02%	Judy Rothstein / Samuel Maskinger	Essex
70.00%	Mark Savedoff - Harold Schachter	Toms River
70.00%	Meredith De Paolo - Rob Pasqua	Toms River
LIMITED / INVITATIONAL		
80.36%	Ilene Kronberg / Carol Keating	Essex
80.32%	Irene Madden / Mary Anne Moore	Essex
77.50%	Ellen Ostrovsky / Peter Maulbeck	Essex

LIMITED / INVITATIONAL (cont'd)		
76.99%	Jennifer Kerper / Hallie Brown	Essex
76.15%	Robert Levitt / Marvin Wertheimer	Essex
75.00%	Carol Keating / Ilene Kronberg	Essex
75.00%	Ilene Kronberg / Carol Keating	Essex
75.00%	Marty Kale / Mayda Kale	Essex
74.40%	Miriam Cohen / Yael Lin	Essex
73.85%	Gayle Sommer / Gwen Coleman	Essex
73.61%	Eddie Kaplan / Ron Ilan	Essex
73.51%	Steve Arshan - Abe Pineles	Westlake
73.50%	Sid Klotz - Barbara Schpok	Atlantic
73.21%	Mary Ann Moore / Irene Madden	Essex
73.17%	Gary Moliver - Alan Zbik	Westlake
72.52%	Mary Anne Moore / Gayle Sommer	Essex
72.02%	Myung Bondy / Neil Grabel	Essex
71.64%	Sharon Brickman / Nancy Waldenberg	Essex
71.51%	Vicki de Muth / Linda Roscoe	Essex
71.43%	Norman Friedman / Janine Beer	Essex
71.43%	Carol Churgin / Nadine Genet	Essex
71.25%	Thomas Hennessy - Stanley Dziekonski	Princeton
71.25%	Claire Hughes - Elaine DeBlasi	Jersey
71.25%	Marty Eisenberg - Esther Eisenberg	Jersey
71.03%	Bill Parkins / Richard Gelfond	Essex
70.83%	Pat Kay / Roselyn Wittlin	Essex
70.83%	Ervin Burkholder - Christina Burkholder	Montclair
70.74%	Evelyn Antonopoulos / Carolyn Schaefer	BCCNJ
70.56%	Richard Poore / Arthur Bogart	Essex
70.54%	Debra Shelkowitz / Sandra D'Italia	Essex
70.49%	Cindy Goldstein / Leanne Rettig	Essex
70.30%	Ruth McClellan - Harris Bobroff	Lakewood
70.24%	Jerry Davis / Louis Greenspan	Essex
70.24%	Myung Bondy / Neil Grabel	Essex
70.18%	Robert Guempel - James Uner	Bay Head
70.12%	Eleanor Wiener / Steven Feldhamer	Essex
70.11%	Ira Tarnow / Mark Pesner	Essex
70.09%	Barbara David / Carole Wiatr	Essex
70.09%	Barry Isaacs / Maureen McGreal	Essex
70.00%	Kris Murphy - Tracy Boyle	Rumson

YOUTH BRIDGE

by Barbara Clark

The 2019 Youth NABC in Las Vegas will mark a five-year anniversary for Oakwood Avenue and Park Avenue Schools in Orange of successfully competing in this incredible event for kids. In preparation for this milestone, both schools have been practicing on Saturdays. Teachers include **Stephanie Austin, Aaron Snead, Vijay Ahuja, David Sutton, Cheryl Angel, Denise Harlem, and Barbara Clark**. Championship player Will Ehlers also coaches the kids when his schedule permits.

The extremely supportive Unit 140 hosted a youth bridge event during its December Holiday Sectional. There were eight tables of students competing and one table of students new to bridge practicing and getting the feel of tournament competition.

Thanks to the volunteers and all who support Youth bridge.

North/South - Flight A

- 1st Justin Dapoah - Orange
Momo Sacko - Orange
- 2nd Chidumebi Iherobiem - Orange
Chidigo Iherobiem - Orange
- 3rd Autumn Tarver - Orange
Aryssa Black - Orange

North/South - Flight B

- 1st Jerry Yao - Millstone
Michael Hu - Plainsboro
- 2nd Martha Johnson - Orange
Ariana Black - Orange

North/South - Flight C

- Markel Powell - Orange
Chibuihie Iherobiem Orange

East/West - Flight A

- 1st Ibrahima Sacko - Orange
Tamyra Rumble - Orange
- 2nd Zhao Tan - Princeton
Reid Busse Westfield
- 3rd Caroline Zhao - Westfield
Derrick Zhao - Westfield

East/West - Flight B

- 1st Caroline Zhao - Westfield
Derrick Zhao - Westfield
- 2nd Vincent Loomis - Orange
Munachiso Iherobiem - Orange





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Park Avenue School

LBIAD is a fast, fun way to learn the basics of bridge in a day!

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Proceeds will be used to help fund Park Avenue's Bridge Club trip to the National Bridge Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, in July 2019.

\$20 through March 15

\$30 March 16-31

\$50 in April

Registration includes lesson, bridge manual, breakfast, lunch, snacks, Tricky Tray,
and door prizes.

Dr. Denise Harlem
Park Avenue School
973-677-4000, ext. 4052
harlemde@orange.k12.nj.us

Make check or money order payable to Park Avenue School and
mail to:

Park Avenue School
Attn: Dr. Denise Harlem, Bridge Instructor
231 Park Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050

Ms. Barbara Clark
Unit 140
ACBL Education Liaison
Orange Education Foundation

\$20 Super Early Bird (by March 15)

\$30 March 16-31

\$50 All April registrations

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Sponsored by

Orange Education Foundation and Park Avenue School Bridge Club

FAKIR NEWS FROM INDIA

by Jay Korobow

Dealer: South
Vul: N-S

	<u>North</u>		
	♠ A2		
	♥ AK765		
	♦ AJ2		
	♣ 943		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠ J8754		♠ 109	
♥ 3		♥ QJ1092	
♦ K106		♦ 54	
♣ QJ106		♣ 8752	
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ KQ63		
	♥ 84		
	♦ Q9873		
	♣ AK		

The bidding:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♦	2♠	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Opening lead: ♠Q

As South in the Late-Night-Impaired event on BBO with a random partner, I would be very happy to get to 6♦. With right timing you can somehow ruff a Spade and lose a Diamond for 12 easy tricks, or maybe bring the Hearts in. But 7♦ is about as likely a contract as bidding 2♠ with the West hand and then expecting a bevy of partners to call you with invites to the next tournament.

In the random BBO overnights, 2♠ is perhaps more common than one might expect, but whether 7♦ was an even sillier contract is up for debate. I suppose 2♠ gets credit for “impairing” our IMP-pair bidding disaster, but don’t tell the fellow or gal from Serbia sitting West that I said that, please.

Perhaps I liked my hand “for the bidding thus far” way too much, but my 6♣-bid seemed reasonable at the time when my partner from China, sitting North, made an ostensible try for a grand with a cue bid of 5♠. Due to language barriers, I never found out, but I expect it was perhaps designed to get me to pick the best slam from

6♦, 6♥, or 6NT. To me, 5NT would mean that, but in any event (and especially an “impaired” one) Pard elected to play me for a suitable powerhouse that included ♦KQ, ♣AK, and a Spade stopper. So there we were . . . well, there I was.

The adage about leading a trump against a grand slam goes out the window with holdings like ♦K10x, and the ♣Q opening lead coupled with West’s double, was actually helpful. With the bidding suggesting six Spades, perhaps three trumps, and some Club length for West, the chance of Hearts breaking was nil.

I would have to bring in the trump suit for five tricks, which added to top tricks elsewhere made a total of twelve. A Spade ruff for trick #13 would win the battle of silliness, and, if West had ♦Kxx opposite two for East, I saw a glimmer of hope. I put the ♦Q on the table, knowing West would have to cover to avoid my next playing low to the ♦AJ for no losers in trump if he didn’t. I was relieved to see that ♦K appear, although the ♦10 was now a bothersome triviality to overcome.

I returned to my hand with my other high Club and put a hopeful ♦9 on the track. West gave significant pause, suggesting he might cover, and it was **Good news/Bad news** for me when he didn’t. I stuck to my guns and rode the ♦9, which held. If West had covered, I could have grabbed a quick Spade ruff safely before pulling the last trump with my high Diamond spots. The **Good news**: trump losers were now zero, as long as I used dummy’s ♦J to pull a third round rather than use it to ruff a Spade. The **Bad news**: no Spade ruff, so where would the 13th trick come from?

A positional double squeeze, where West would have to guard Spades and East Hearts (leaving no one able to guard Clubs), was out because East was pitching Hearts behind dummy. The only hope was that West had the ♣J10 along with his ♣Q. After the play of five Diamonds, two Hearts, and two Clubs, he would be forced to retain four Spades, and therefore would have to part with all his Clubs. As long as East could not beat dummy’s ♣9, I was home.

[continued on next page]

FAKIR NEWS FROM INDIA

by Jay Korobow

[concluded]

As can be seen from the diagram, this indeed is the case. Notice I did not say “was” the case. For while 7♦ is indeed cold as the cards lie with the above maneuvering, rather than **Good news** or **Bad news** this was **“Fake news.”** North actually elected to redouble 7♦x for reasons that I cannot fathom. And this somehow panicked West – or maybe his cat jumped on his keyboard – but he now bid 7NT with the West cards and then left the table!

You can’t make these things up, and I’m not. When my partner doubled 7NT, East, the table host from India

asked for a redeal. I might have agreed, but my partner quickly declined, which angered the host to the extent that he booted both me and my partner from the table. I returned as a kibitzer to see the final result (of 7NTxx), which wasn’t pretty for E-W.

With the opportunity (or challenge) to navigate this deal stolen from me, I made a snapshot of the hand diagram to see if 7♦ was makeable and perhaps salvage a story. And it is/was. And that’s not fake news!

MILESTONES

CHANGES IN RANK: OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2018

Emerald Life Master

Dori Byrnes	Morris Plains
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Diamond Life Master

Sandy Manshel	South Orange
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Sapphire Life Master

Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead
Julia Zucker	Monroe Twp

Ruby Life Master

Sonia Bibi	Long Branch
Gordon Cable Jr	Monroe Twp
Mark Savedoff	Tamarac

Silver Life Master

Komal Kamat	Plainsboro
Fred Partridge	Whippany
Michael Pisani	Pt Pleasant

Bronze Life Master

John Routel	Flemington
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Life Master

Patricia Amato	Whitehouse
Charles Dvorkin	Manalapan
Philip Hoch	Elizabeth
Komal Kamat	Plainsboro
Felice Schrage	Highland Park

Adv NABC Master

Bernice Haimson	Parsippany
Zenon Komar	Summit
Stephen Riepenhoff	Skillman
Renee Waas	Mountn Lakes

NABC Master

Howard Chen	Westfield
Jesse Cohen	Califon
Jared Egerer	Mt Arlington
John Gimblette	Lakewood
Julie Grossman	Hopewell
Robert Martin	Wall
Lee Petersen	Middletown
Dinkar Pujara	Lakewood
Kathleen Riepenhoff	Skillman
Marc Weil	Ocean

Regional Master

Susan Adler	West Orange
Robert Frantzen	Princeton
Phyllis Green	Ocean
Gloria Gribin	Wayside
Tony Gribin	Ocean
Vita Halperin	Belmar
Richard Huzar	Cranford
George Kaufman	Morristown
Sheo Khetan	Martinsville
Edward Levy	Aventura
Sue Marcus	Springfield
David Noyes	Basking Ridge
Lynn Schlesinger	Chatham
Herbert Shulman	Colts Neck
Anthony Szulcowski	Middlesex
Ira Walter	West Orange
Ronald Whitney	Bloomfield

Sectional Master

Alice Agrin	Bridgewater
Myung Bondy	Summit
Terry Bullen-Smith	Lawrenceville
Elizabeth Ford	Rumson
Norman Friedman	Livingston
Lynn Gindi	Oakhurst
Irene Goldberg	Long Branch
Richard Gurak	Monroe Twp
Sheila Holderness	Montville
Ellen Hyslop	West Belmar
Roy Knapp	Rockaway
Michael Kovacs	Livingston
Sarah Leonard	Millburn
Victor Libman	West Orange
Robin Meyer	Ocean
Rise Meyers	Jersey City
Tracey Moreno	Sea Girt
Cynthia Phelan	Short Hills
Elaine Rubenstein	Pompano Bch
Janet Smith	Berkeley Hts
Jean Yoder	Summit
Leslie Zucker	Springfield

Club Master

Lesley Devoe	Tinton Falls
Barbara Felton	Princeton
Janet Glickson	Monroe Twp
Catherine Gotliffe	Chatham
Thomas Hennessy	Freehold
Sandra Johnson	No Brunswick
David Kestner	Manchester
Barbara Lawler	Princeton
Wendy Lubin	Livingston
Irene Madden	Summit
Larry Nirenberg	Boydton Bch
Ravi Patel	Holmdel
Richard Schroeder	Califon
Linda Schueler	Middletown
Allan Schwartz	Manalapan
Lois Shulruff	West Orange
Marion Syracuse	South Orange
Felice Zalk	Short Hills

Junior Master

Janet Aragon	Whitehouse
Clarissa Barrett	Essex Fells
Arlene Catalano	Somerset
Patricia Cavanaugh	E Brunswick
Vilas Chouthai	Edison
Thomas Cummins	Summit
Lee Delorenzi	Bedminster
Allan Duff	Califon
Phyllis Elson	Springfield
Gunter Ford	Rumson
Marc Galligan	Fair Haven
Carol Gebauer	Springfield
Kim Gimblette	Lakewood
Ellie Goldman	Ocean
Edward Kaplan	Veroma
Renee Litinger	West Orange
Arthur Mason	Westfield
Mary Jane O'Hare	Rumson
Constance Rosenberg	Morristown
Mary Ann Smith	Westfield
Nancy St James	Wall
Janet Tranter	Rumson
Michael Vaccaro	Neptune City
Simonne Vaccaro	Neptune City
Margy Whapham	Peninsula