



# THE DECLARER



Summer 2019

Volume 62 Issue 2

Peter Wright, Editor

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## THE DECLARER

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The Declarer is published online four times per year by the New Jersey Bridge League (Unit 140, District 3 of the ACBL).

## Kudos

Pictured in May 2019

*Bridge Bulletin:*

**CYNTHIA SCHNEIDER**

**Platinum Life Master  
(10,000+ mps)**

## A Minor Suit Tragedy

Said the Di to the Heart,  
"I'll join your Club."  
But at this, brayed the Spade,  
"That's a snub."  
Said Di to the Spade,  
"Don't thwart me, bub."  
Muttered Club to the Heart,  
"There's the rub!"

"I don't dig you, Spade,"  
Cried Club from the Heart.  
"This Di is way off  
Of the chart."  
But Heart swore to Club,  
"Till death do us part."  
And Di of her rage  
Did impart.

"Have a Heart," begged Club,  
"Make peace with Spade."  
But that was beneath  
Di's pay grade.  
"What a mess," gurgled Heart,  
And Spade, dismayed,  
Told Club, "I'm afraid  
Di's unmade."

So the Club, Heart, and Spade  
With dander high  
Cast out Di from their midst;  
You know why.  
You can check any deck:  
Not a speck, no, by heck,  
Because Heart, Spade, and Club  
Did in Di.



## New Jersey Bridge League SUMMER SECTIONAL August 2-4, 2019



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

**Tournament Co-Chairs:** Kelly Kiefer (732) 425-2116 and Stephanie Austin (201) 657-2152

### Friday, Aug 2

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

### Saturday, Aug 3

10:00 AM: ● Open Stratified Pairs ● Stratified 299er Pairs  
  
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, Aug 4

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, July 30th, to be guaranteed a partner. Email your request to Arnie Dorin at [arnied26@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 per session for those who are not current ACBL members.

### DIRECTIONS FROM NEW YORK CITY

**Outerbridge Crossing:** Take Rt. 440 S to NJ; Take Amboy Ave exit toward RT-440 N / RT-35 N; Turn right onto Main St.; Third left onto Rahway Ave.; Right turn onto Port Reading Rd; Hungarian-American Club is on your left.

**Goethals Bridge, Holland Tunnel, Lincoln Tunnel, GW Bridge:** Follow signs to NJ Turnpike S (I-95 S); Take NJ Turnpike Exit 12. At the toll booth, 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 3/4 mile) is Blair Road (there is a 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 3/4 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.

**Bus From Port Authority Bus Terminal:** Take NJ Transit Bus 116 in the Perth Amboy direction. Exit at Port Reading Ave and Lewis Street stop. Walk on Port Reading Ave. about 250 ft. back from the stop. Club is just before a small bridge.



## 0-300 SILVER POINTS!

presented by the New Jersey Bridge League

### Autumnfest Newplicate Sectional

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Events will take place at Jersey Bridge Club,  
185 Route 36, Bldg B, West Long Branch, NJ (732) 229-1430



2 single sessions, 0-300, Sectionally-rated Silver!

- **NEWPLICATE PAIRS**, \$15 per person, 10 AM
  - **YOUTH MORNING PAIRS**, age 19 and under FREE, 10 AM
- LUNCH BETWEEN SESSIONS IS FREE, MUST SIGN UP*  
(lunch will be salad and pizza, beverage included)

- **NEWPLICATE PAIRS**, \$15 per person, 2 PM

**\*\* PLAY IN BOTH SESSIONS for \$26 \*\***

\$4 additional per person, per session for non or unpaid ACBL members

**SILVER  
POINTS  
ALL DAY!**

**You may play in either morning or afternoon or both... but you MUST SIGN UP.**

- Questions about Newplicate? Contact Jersey Bridge at (732-229-1430), or email [jbc@jerseybridge.com](mailto:jbc@jerseybridge.com). Register early to reserve your spot! (No payment necessary to sign up.)
- Questions about the Youth? Contact Barbara Clark at (973-736-1969), or [bsyllab@aol.com](mailto:bsyllab@aol.com).

#### Directions to Jersey Bridge Club:

- From Garden State Parkway, exit 105 to Route 36 East ...
- From Route 18, exit 13B to Route 36 East ...
- From Route 35, turn onto Route 36 East ...

... THEN – heading east on Route 36, take jughandle at Broadway, U-turning left back onto Route 36 westbound. Stay in the right lane. Turn right into Monmouth Park Corporate Center I. Building B is the one in front of you – our entrance faces Route 36, through Door B. (Door B sits behind the large flagpole.)

**If you wish, you may mail this registration form instead of registering by phone or by email. Check which events you will be attending; then mail this form to: Jersey Bridge Club, 185 Route 36, Bldg B, West Long Branch, NJ 07764.**

✓ I will be attending the following AUTUMNFEST event(s). Please reserve a place for my partner and me:

- ☐ **NEWPLICATE SILVER** at 10 AM (I will bring my own partner – or I will call 732-229-1430 to arrange one.)
- ☐ **YOUTH SILVER** at 10 AM (I will bring my own partner – or I will call 973-736-1969 to arrange one.)
- ☐ **NEWPLICATE SILVER** at 2 PM (I will bring my own partner – or I will call 732-229-1430 to arrange one.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_







## AUTUMNFEST BRIDGE WEEKEND

presented by the New Jersey Bridge League  
**CHARITY SWISS TEAMS -- A DAY OF FUN!**

Sunday, October 6, 2019

The event will take place at Jersey Bridge Club, (732) 229-1430  
 185 Rt 36, Bldg B, West Long Branch, NJ 07764

**Unit 140 CHARITY SWISS** (4-6 players), \$28 per person (regardless of # of players on team). Open, stratification by team average. Bagel brunch 10:45; Swiss starts at 11:30.

\$4 additional per person, per session for non or unpaid ACBL members

*Delicious Dinner included, served after the 5th round!*

Proceeds to benefit Youth Bridge through the Orange Education Foundation.

*(A separate 0-500 Swiss section will play if enough attend – bring your 499er team!)*

**WE MUST HAVE SIGNUPS FOR THIS EVENT.** Advance Payment Required by September 30, 2019. Make checks out to NJBL. Questions? Contact Lynn Chapin by calling (732) 229-1430 (leave message), or by email at [lynn@jerseybridge.com](mailto:lynn@jerseybridge.com).

**Jersey Bridge Club** is located in **Monmouth Park Corporate Center II, in Building B.**

If you have any questions about how to get there please give us a call at (732) 229-1430, or visit [jerseybridge.com](http://jerseybridge.com).



You may mail this registration form instead of registering by phone or by email. by mailing this form to the address above.  
**Our team will be attending the CHARITY SWISS Autumnfest event:**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MPs \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER FOR MAIN TEAM CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MPs \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MPs \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MPs \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MPs \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MPs \_\_\_\_\_

# O CANADA NEGATIVE DOUBLE SQUEEZE

by Jay Korobow

Dealer: North	<u>North</u>		
Vul: N-S	♠ 2		
	♥ QJ106		
	♦ K865		
	♣ AQ32		
	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
	♠ 43	♠ Q108765	
	♥ A	♥ 5432	
	♦ J92	♦ Q107	
	♣ J1098765	♣ –	
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ AKJ9		
	♥ K987		
	♦ A43		
	♣ K4		

In another Late Night Impaired Adventure on BBO – oops, I mean Random IMP Pairs – North was from Canada, and a very nice person. So, despite evidence of limited skill and experience, I stuck around for several deals as she kept typing “Well done!” to both opps and pard. When an obviously regular partnership from Germany eventually joined our table as E-W, I expected a shellacking, with me and “nice partner” being on the “lacking” side.

It was nice to have some cards (and some control) as I (South) was dealt 18 HCP and heard partner open 1♣. East inserted a 2♣ call, and it already was a challenge. The hand was too good for 3NT of course, and even if I generated an auction where I could follow with 4NT “quantitative,” I was pretty sure partner would take it as Blackwood. It was tempting, by virtue of my great Spades, to just shoot out 6NT. But a 4-4 Heart fit might be the only contract to result in 12 tricks. If opposite me was something like xx AQJx Kxx Axxx, this might produce 13 tricks with ruffs while in NT, 11 tricks was the likely max.

I have seen on BBO, more times than I care to admit, the bidding of 2♥ on a four-card holding by someone without the popular negative double tool in their arsenal. I actually considered a 3♥ call here just to keep the auction alive, but discarded that choice because partner might raise with three, not to mention how it would pain me to make that gruesome bid. I finally chose a negative double, figuring if partner passed it, it still might result in a pretty decent score, eh?

Partner surprised me with a 3♦ call, and while that might show extras (a reverse?) with some, I wasn’t about to assume that was the case here. However, there went the 4-4 Heart fit possibility, so with a hope and a prayer, I just placed the contract in 6NT.

The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	2♣	Dbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass

I received the ♣J lead and was surprised to see dummy hit with four Hearts! In fact, 6♥ is a pretty decent contract, and was reached by several pairs that also played this deal. Without East’s super-aggressive 2♣ call, the bidding often started 1♣ (or 1♦) – Pass – 1♥ – Pass – 2♥, and South reasonably pursued the slam in Hearts only to see the opening Club lead ruffed and still the trump Ace to lose. Some pairs even got to 6♥ with North declaring, after 1♣ (or 1♦) – 2♣ – Double (negative) – Pass – 3♥, and so escaped a Club lead. However, West generally found the Club play after winning the singleton trump Ace, so 6♥ was just not going to make on this particular layout.

So the good news was that partner’s bungling the negative double try avoided Hearts; the bad news was that even with the marked Spade finesse, there were only 11 tricks in 6NT. Readers are likely familiar with “where there’s 11 there may be 12” on a squeeze, and some sharp-eyed readers have probably already noted the book “double-squeeze” that exists on this layout.

If you win the Club lead in hand, drive out the ♥A and take the finesse against the ♠Q, you can cash two more Spades and three Hearts, so that everyone has five cards left. West must hold on to as many clubs as dummy, as North pitches behind him, so West will be down to just two Diamonds for his Final Five (almost sounds like March Madness!) At that juncture, you can play two more high clubs to shift the squeeze over to East, the ingredients for a “double squeeze” being present.

With ♠AKJ, four rounds of Hearts, and ♣AKQ now played (ten cards), East’s final three will also be under squeeze pressure:

	♠ –		
	♥ –		
	♦ K86		
	♣ –		
<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>		
♠ –	♠ (Q)		
♥ –	♥ –		
♦ J9	♦ Q10(7)		
♣ 10	♣ –		
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ 9		
	♥ –		
	♦ A4		
	♣ –		

North was able to throw the remaining Club, once West held on to the ♣10, so the position above has no good answer for East. If East discards the ♠Q (to keep three Diamonds), South’s ♠9 plus two high Diamonds make the trick total 12. If East instead discards the ♦7 to keep the ♠Q, the fact that both defenders are down to two Diamonds means that the ♦A then the ♦4 to dummy’s ♦K will make the ♦8 trick #12!

With partner’s failure to negotiate my negative double being largely responsible for the resulting 14 IMPs gain, I wanted to type, “Well done, partner!” back to her! But it might be hard to explain why, if she asked, “What did I do?” It is doubtful she would have understood what I meant if I had replied, “You invented the negative double squeeze!”

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Arnie Kohn*

The strength of political parties begins at the precinct level, where leadership and policies are developed. These leaders and policies are the carried to larger committees and eventually to national levels. The primary strength of Bridge lies at the club level. Strong clubs that are well attended and well managed are the real strength of the Unit, and this is passed on to make stronger Districts and a stronger ACBL.

One of my goals is for our Unit to do everything in our power to aid our clubs: to make them stronger and to promote attendance. I will attempt to visit every club that I can, making suggestions and asking for advice on how the New Jersey Bridge League Board can help clubs to improve.

## PLAYER of the YEAR RACE

**Standings by range as of May 19, 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 - 100	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	16.33
		Julie Bernhardt	Nutley	8.09
		Howard Wolfish	Beverly Heights	7.55
	100 - 300	Steven Siegel	Mendham	16.82
		Julie Grossman	Hopewell	6.19
		Kathleen Riepenhoff	Skillman	6.19
	300 - 1000	Komal Kamat	Plainsboro	11.88
		Michael Lo	Bedminster	10.72
		Teresa Chek	Bedminster	10.72
	1000 - 2500	Michael Zagajewski	Hightstown	28.35
		Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	21.10
		Ruth Yeselson	Highland Park	17.97
	Unlimited	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	53.14
		Alexander Allen	Annandale	42.45
		Richard Ross	Highland Park	38.21

# MASTERPOINT RACES

## Standings by range as of February 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	54.73	Rise Meyers	Jersey City	42.43	
	Stephen Hopkins	Naples, FL	46.52	Stephen Hopkins	Naples, FL	38.99	
	Roy Knapp	Rockaway	45.67	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	109.99	Esther Eisenberg	Holmdel	93.19	
	Jay Fisher	Florham Park	99.78	Sheila Holderness	Montville	73.27	
	Sheila Holderness	Montville	76.09	Jay Fisher	Florham Park	55.19	
100 – 200	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel	128.68	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel	111.04	
	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	84.14	
	Charles Dvorkin	Manalapan	128.21	Joseph Messina	Waretown	80.80	
	Edward Andrews	Skillman	121.21	Bruce Williams	Oceanport	69.81	
500 – 1000	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	579.87	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	332.97	
	Stephanie Austin	West Caldwell	241.74	Foster Osborne	Summit	135.10	
	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	239.59	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	120.55	
1000 – 1500	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	190.55	Larry Youell	South Orange	124.15	
	Larry Youell	South Orange	156.78	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	116.90	
	Susan Atteridge	Morristown	138.54	Barbara Codispoli	Mount Arlington	93.56	
1500 – 2500	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	368.62	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	173.36	
	Dorothy Koernig	Summit	292.55	John Anderson	Rockaway	152.49	
	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	250.59	Summer Freedman	Short Hills	149.90	
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	Muffie Gur	Leonardo	186.91	
	Muffie Gur	Leonardo	277.81	Dave DuBois	Westfield	181.81	
5000 – 7500	Dori Byrnes	Morris Plains	525.17	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	358.80	
	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	477.43	Betty Cox	Randolph	182.58	
	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	165.74	
	William Esberg	Long Branch	236.04	Lester Sokolower	Verona	125.02	
	Lester Sokolower	Verona	134.50	Alexander Allen	Annandale	99.05	



## YOUTH BRIDGE

*by Barbara Clark*



A'rina Black, Orange, NJ  
Martha Johnson-Jackson Orange NJ  
1<sup>st</sup> overall, 79.17%



Autumn Tarver, Orange, NJ  
Aryssa Black, Orange NJ  
4<sup>th</sup> overall, 63.50%



Andrew Jin, Newtown PA  
Michael Hu, Plainsboro, NJ  
5<sup>th</sup> overall, 56.67%



Jerry Shang, South Plainfield, NJ  
Brad Derfner, New York City, NY  
2<sup>nd</sup> overall, 69.83%

**W**e welcomed 10 ½ tables of youth to the sectional tournament in Woodbridge, NJ on May 18.

The kids were very enthusiastic. They included a newcomer to the group from New York City, Brad Derfner, who came without a partner and was paired with Jerry Shang from South Plainfield, NJ. The partnership was excellent, with the pair enjoying themselves and placing second overall in Flight A. Brad's family is relocating to Princeton, NJ where he hopes to find opportunities in the area to continue playing bridge.

A bus filled with youngsters and their chaperones came from Orange, NJ. The kids were super, but a lot of praise and recognition should also be given to their coordinators, Dr. Denise Harlem, Park Avenue School, and Pamela Venable, Oakwood Avenue School. These advisors and surrogate parents work tirelessly in teaching bridge skills and raising funds for their students to travel to and participate in the annual ACBL Youth North American Bridge Championships. Their hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our youth, to their coaches and families, and to our many donors for continuing to make this fabulous, amazing game possible. Many thanks also to Unit 140 for its continued commitment to our youth.



Momo Sacko, Orange, NJ  
Amelia Johnson-Jackson, Orange, NJ  
6<sup>th</sup> overall, 55.40%



Benjamin Francis, Orange, NJ  
Bernard Francis, Orange, NJ  
5<sup>th</sup> overall, Flight B, 50.17%



Derrick Zhao, Westfield, NJ  
Eric Dai, Edison, NJ  
5<sup>th</sup> overall, Flight C



Kevin Dai, Edison, NJ  
Keith Yao, Edison, NJ  
3<sup>rd</sup> overall, 68.00%



## 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 Susan Atteridge at [Susan.Atteridge@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.Atteridge@gmail.com) of any deaths within our membership, and indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

**Ted Gora**  
d. April 6, 2019  
Frequent player at Essex

**Bill Manheimer**  
d. May 19, 2019, 2019  
Frequent player at Essex

**Ted O'Keefe**  
d. January 21, 2019  
Frequent player at Four Seasons

**Bill Rappaport**  
d. April 29, 2019  
Frequent player at Shrine

**Nan Wood**  
d. June 8, 2019  
Frequent player at Shrine

## KOHN'S KORNER

*by Arnie Kohn*

### Pre-emptive Bidding: How High?

I play a few times weekly at games in my area and I find that one of the more persistent problems occurs with pre-emptive bidding. Please forget the "under 10 points and a 7-card suit" rule you might have been taught. Instead, follow the rule of "one-two-and-three," based on the vulnerability factor.

Start with the premise that all of your values are in your long suit when you make a pre-emptive bid. Outside Aces and Kings represent likely tricks for your side, so there is no need to start above the one-level.

Let us take a very simple hand;

♠ AKQ7542  
♥ 2  
♦ 82  
♣ 653

With no help from partner, you can reasonably hope to take only seven tricks with Spades as trump.

At **favorable vulnerability** (non-vul vs vul), the correct bid is 4♠. You can assume the opponents can make a game contract worth 600 or more points, so you can lose 500 (down three, doubled) and show a profit.

At **equal vulnerability**, the correct call is 3♠. If both sides are vulnerable, you will again lose 500 (down 2 doubled) when the opponents can make 600+; if both sides are non-vulnerable, you will lose 300 when the opponents can make 400+.

At **unfavorable vulnerability** (vul vs non-vul), bidding 3♠ as an annoyance **might** work (everyone gets lucky sometimes), but you could lose 500 when the opponents can make only 400+.

# ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS

by Francis Gupta

## D is for Defense

**[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.]

**D**eclarers – especially those in game and/or slam contract – have the lion's share of the HCP. Defenders are left with the slim pickings. Therefore, it is especially satisfying when as a defender one is able to set a contract that is considered a slam dunk. In this column we'll look at one such contract, that at first glance seem cold, but if properly defended goes down.

This is Board #6 played at the Princeton Bridge Center's club championship game held on June 25<sup>th</sup>:

		<u>North</u> (HCP = 17)	
Dealer: East		♠ Q43	
Vul: All		♥ AQ104	
		♦ K5	
		♣ AQ53	
		<u>West</u> (HCP = 5)	<u>East</u> (HCP = 8)
		♠ 1082	♠ AK765
		♥ 63	♥ 852
		♦ A82	♦ J9764
		♣ J9872	♣ –
		<u>South</u> (HCP = 10)	
		♠ J9	
		♥ KJ97	
		♦ Q103	
		♣ K1064	

N-S with 27 HCP between them clearly belong in game with the bidding going as follows:

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup> or 3NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>4</sup> or Pass <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>6</sup>	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> Showing 15-17 HCP

<sup>2</sup> If playing Stayman this asks for a 4-card major

<sup>3</sup> Shows 10+ HCP (not interested in finding a major fit)

<sup>4</sup> Shows 4-card Heart suit as a response to Stayman

<sup>5</sup> As a rebid after 3NT

<sup>6</sup> Shows a fit in Hearts (4+) and 10+ points

Thanks to Bill Miller, the Director of the game, for sharing the travelers for both the Open and Non-Life Masters (NLM) sections. Here is a summary of the contracts:

Contract	Declarer	Number of Tables	
		Open	NLM
2♥	N	1	-
2♠x	E	1	-
3NT	N	2	6
4♥	N	8	5
Totals		12	11

Source: Princeton Bridge Center

As expected, 10 of the 12 N-S pairs in the Open section and all 11 of the N-S pairs in the NLM section were in a game contract with more of the pairs finding the 4-4 Heart fit in the Open section.

Now for the bad news for all of these N-S pairs. Proper defense sets both the 4♥ and 3NT contracts. The defense is easy to decipher for the 4♥ contract with East on lead:

1. East leads the ♦6 (4<sup>th</sup> highest from the longest suit) which West wins with the A♦.
2. West returns the ♣7 (4<sup>th</sup> highest from the longest suit) which East ruffs.
3. East then cashes the A♠ and K♠ setting the contract by one trick.

In fact, if this hand is played in 4♥ by South with West on lead (though it is difficult to imagine a bidding sequence that makes South the declarer), this hand actually goes down two. West leads a Club, getting a ruff in East, and from there E-W proceed to take four more tricks as East is on lead. The 3NT contract goes down one whether it is played in the North or South.

So how many E-W pairs set this contract? The results for this board can be found on the website at:

<http://clubresults.acbl.org/Results/258590/2019/06/190625A.HTM>

Only two E-W pairs set N-S in the Open section (one against 3NT and the other against 4♥) while one E-W pair set the 3NT contract in the NLM section.

Interestingly, the winners of the club championship game in both the Open and NLM sections were the E-W pairs that set 4♥ (Open) and 3NT (NLM), thereby lending credence to the adage that good defense wins championships.

# **BIG GAMES**

(must have 5 tables to qualify)

**April - May - June**

OPEN		
78.33%	Bob Pasque / Jim Campbell	Toms River
76.19%	Alexander Allen / Abe Pineles	Jersey
75.87%	Harold Schachter / Mark Savedoff	Freehold
75.83%	Sonia Bibi / Rochelle Djmal	Jersey
73.24%	Piotr Olszewski / Foster Osborne	Murray Hill
73.18%	Cheryl Angel / Jesse Reisman	Shrine
73.14%	Tony Aukstikalis / Betty Scull	Stafford
72.71%	Jesse Reisman / Robert Levitt	Shrine
72.44%	Judy Rothstein / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
72.08%	Alexander Allen / Richard Bare	BCCNJ
71.97%	Arlene Morano / Robin Shamah	Jersey
71.73%	Vijay Ahuja / Robert Zeckhauser	Shrine
71.25%	Beau Norton / Harold Schachter	Toms River
71.25%	Carol Lepardo / Kim Andriano	Atlantic
71.21%	Arnold Kohn / Jim McCarroll	Princeton
71.17%	Arne Ildsgaard / Hans Neuteboom	Toms River
71.02%	Arnold Dorin / Ronald Kraft	Princeton
70.88%	Jane Bassett / Judith Cohen	Jersey
70.83%	Cheryl Angel / Sam Borenstein	Shrine
70.78%	Mark Savedoff / James Di Napoli	Stafford
70.60%	Foster Osborne / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
70.54%	Richard Ross / Alexander Allen	Princeton
70.49%	Terry Havican / Allan Rosen	Shrine
70.42%	William Stogitis / Mary Ann Wagner	Atlantic
70.35%	Jeff Maza / Daniel Colodner	BCCNJ
70.28%	Karen Mizrahi / Laurie Franco	Deal
70.21%	Muffie Gur / Donna Dulet	Jersey
70.20%	William Esberg / Ross Amann	Jersey
70.19%	Howard Rudominer / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
70.07%	Judy Rothstein / Jacek Leznicki	Essex
70.00%	Mani Gupta / Susan Braun	Shrine

LIMITED / INVITATIONAL		
79.76%	Holly Hubbell / Harry Lonsdale	Bay Head
78.49%	Gloria Gribin / Tony Gribin	Jersey
78.37%	Mimi Walsh / Janet Remig	Canoe Brook
75.46%	Foster Osborne / Piotr Olszewski	Montclair
74.92%	Eddie Kaplan / Norman Friedeman	Essex
74.90%	Howard Wolfish / Sean Manns	Essex
74.65%	Betty King / Bob King	Westlake
74.04%	Leslie Degeorges / Nancy Whipple	Essex
73.52%	Carol Churgin / Nadine Genet	Essex
73.51%	Alan Zbik / Gary Moliver	Westlake
73.33%	Sacka Duffy / Bernie Murphy	Seabright
72.95%	Henry Acselrod / David Atkin	Princeton
72.32%	Marion Syracuse / Janice Zunde	Essex
72.32%	Stephanie Scher / Alan Scher	Essex
72.22%	Dan Kollin / Arlene Kollin	Essex
72.21%	Laurie Taylor / Valerie Levy	Essex
72.18%	Stacey Supran / Rich Rosenzweig	Essex
71.90%	Edward Smith / Barbara Smith	Bay Head
71.88%	Sid Klotz / Barbara Schpok	LVW
71.63%	Bill Ayers / Kay Ayers	Jersey
71.60%	Lois Gerber / Justine Robertson	Jersey
71.56%	Laurie Smith / Suzanne Manelski	Rumson
71.43%	Ilene Kronberg / Carol Keating	Essex
71.43%	Beverly Gould / Marion Syracuse	Essex
71.43%	Michael Smith / Carol Smith	Essex
71.39%	Graham Oakes / Jared Egerer	Essex
71.25%	Carol Lepardo / Kim Andriano	LVW
71.08%	Mark Weil / Herb Shulman	Jersey
70.63%	Susan Harden / Steven Feldhamer	Essex
70.56%	Corky Lawrence / Paul Pritchard	Rumson
70.42%	Dinkar Pujara / Niobe Schabert	Jersey
70.27%	Madhu Das / Gurmeet Dhaliwal	Princeton
70.24%	Lois Catrambone / Peg Mittricker	Essex
70.14%	Kathy Arshan / Greta Pineles	Westlake
70.09%	Marvin Wertheimer / Robert Levitt	Essex
70.09%	Reva Oren / Sue Gottlieb	Essex
70.05%	Daphne Hanrahan / Felice Zalk	Essex
70.00%	Donna Charlton / Melissa Rotatori	Short Hills
70.00%	Richard Levendusky / John Gimblette	Lakewood



# LONG SUIT BLUES

by Peter Wright



Somewhere in the cobwebs of my alleged mind, there resides a memory of a tome from the pen of Terrence Reese in which he devoted an entire chapter to the technique of bidding when, in first seat, you arrange your cards to find:

♠ –  
♥ AKQJ10987654321  
♦ –  
♣ –

“Whazzat funny-lookin’ far-east card?” you inquire suspiciously. OK, I just tossed in the **One of Hearts** to see if you’d notice the overabundance of cards. The other 13 are legitimate, and you gotta pull something outta the biddy box. And **don’t** be thinking **green** here.

I’ve been seen voids in my day, plenty of ‘em. I once held a double void, though the next one of those isn’t scheduled for me until March, 2245. But **three** voids? A superfluity of nothing; decidedly uncustomary. Losing trick fans will lose no time in whooping about their dandy number; namely, **zilch**. Point counters, on the other foot, will be understandably disappointed in **their** number, a routine average of total deck points. Still, some of the more adventuresome among them might risk opening in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat after two passes.

But I digress. Reese, in his discussion of how to bid the hand above, didn’t flirt with any inferior **non-Heart** bids. Me, though, I’m the flirtatious type, so let’s see. First off, if 7NT crossed your mind, cross it right out again, ‘less you’re playing some Bridge variant in which declarer gets to make the opening lead. Second off, you could be coy and start with a BigBad 2♣, but you don’t give a flea’s posterior about partner’s cards, **do** you? (Besides, that Heartless ninny of a partner sitting over there might pass, seized by cardiac failure.) Third off, you could make a sly, psychic bid, 4♦ for example, but those dirty rat opponents might smell it and leave you floundering – and you’d deserve it!

Nope, Reese knew a thing or three: you have only seven intelligent opening bids to make, and the last syllable of each one begins with H.

I know, I know, you’re screaming hysterically, “Bid the grand, lamebrain, bid the grand!” But I respond serenely, “Arf a mo, guv.” Maybe in the minor leagues a visiting team might wimp out and let you play 7♥; that is, if partner – dismayed by his Heart void and holding six Spades headed by the 8-spot – doesn’t decide to rescue at 7♠, a fate too ghastly to contemplate.

But Reese played in the big leagues, and **his** opponents wouldn’t dream of sitting for an opening broadside of 7♥, not even with a ♥A from another deck stashed up the sleeve. Better to lose their shirts than that their pants should fall down; they’ll sacrifice in 7♠, sure as the sun will come up tomorrow.

Reese, scoffing at the hopelessness of such a grandstander opening, spent his chapter analyzing the psychologies of opening anywhere from 1♥ to 6♥, the idea being to let the competition “push” you eventually into a 7♥ “sacrifice.” Just think of the rush you’d get from being able to play 7♥ – **doubled**, if your bluff is good enough – and claim it **before** that sleazebag opening leader can face a card!

But let’s get down to brass tax and a non-Twilight Zone hand. My Pahd has actually been dealt this doozy:

North  
♠ AQJ10987654  
♥ 87  
♦ 4  
♣ –

For some reason, Pahd (he’s from Bahston, y’see) takes it into his head to open a bodacious 2♣ on a hand bristling with Spades but desperately short of **quick tricks**. My QT count for his hand is 1-½; **he** figures he has 9-½ of ‘em, but then, he sometimes switches unconsciously out of decimal into octal math.

Yummy sugar plums dance in my brainpot as I gaze lovingly at my Southern goodies:

*[continued next page]*

# LONG SUIT BLUES

by Peter Wright

[concluded]



## North

♠ AQJ10987654

♥ 87

♦ 4

♣ –

## South

♠ 3

♥ K1092

♦ A108

♣ K10874

My reverie is rudely shattered by East's overcall of 3♣. Stunned by such suicidal arrogance, I miscount my blessings and bid 3♥ instead of the proper 3♠, showing only three instead of my four "controls" (K=1, A=2). A benighted West passes and Pahd jumps to 4♠, which *should* mean he has the all-time crushiest of rock-crushers. I shoot a baleful leer East's way: he appears inexplicably serene for a blithering idiot. After some soul-searching, I settle for a craven 6NT.

The so-called bidding, if you've not been paying attention, has been ultra-scientific:

North	East	South	West
2♣	3♣ (!)	3♥ (??)	Pass
4♠ (#@&)	Pass	6NT	All Pass

West dutifully leads partner's suit (Clubs) and East takes his Ace as I pitch a Heart from the threadbare dummy. In shell-shock, I almost sink my canoe by remarking to the opponents, "Why didn't you guys *double*?" Just in time, I bite my nose and start radiating supreme confidence. And why not? East didn't double, so he may not hold both missing Aces. After some thought, East returns the ♣Q, which I gobble with my King, pitching dummy's other Heart. I'm still alive, but it ain't over till . . . well, you know.

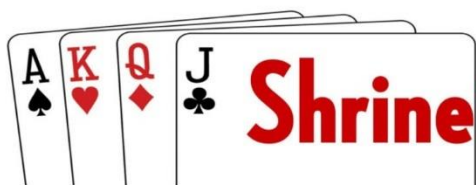
Now it's a well-known Bridge axiom that, when you hold nine trumps, the Queen never pops up after you take the Ace and lead toward the King. A corollary axiom is that, when you hold *eleven* trumps and lead toward the Ace, the King *never* pops up. You *always* have to guess whether to play for the drop or the finesse. Nasty stinkeroo opponents never cooperate. Never never never.

At trick #3, I *must* guess the Spade position. I lead my singleton ♠3 and West follows, not helpfully with the King but infuriatingly with the deuce. Inspiration, where art thou? Rabbi's Rule, anyone? Does East have the stiff ♠K, or is West sending "Play the Ace! Play the Ace!" mind rays in my direction?

I shift into mental overdrive, extending delicate tendrils of thought to query the defense. My spybots work! I call for the ♠Q, whereupon West begins to ululate like Eeyore, his bray transmitting a titanic indulgence in self-pity.

Magnanimous in victory, I do *not* call the director to stigmatize this blatant transmission of a huge gilet of unauthorized information to East (who, by the way, has discarded despondently). Nope, in a generous mood, I cash the ♠A, deadifying West's King, and claim 12 tricks: the ♣K, the ♦A, and – oh, yes – ten Spades.

East smartly wallops West's beezers for not having led the ♥A at trick #1 West replies with a brisk karate chop to East's gullet for not returning a Heart at trick #2 the director inflicts a hefty 500-Mp Procedural Penalty upon the two of them it's Hatfield and McCoy at the OK Corral eventually it takes a SWAT team negotiator to sweettalk the combatants into surrendering this run-on sentence is all lies but the hand happened nevertheless just like I said!



# ShrineCenter Bridge Club

## DEFENSE

*Tricks 1 & 2 Against Suit Contracts*

## LARRY COHEN

Monday, September 23, 2019

9:00-9:30am: Meet, Greet & Bagel Breakfast

9:30am-noon: Lecture & Four Deals

12:30pm-3:45pm: Stratified Game

\$45 Bagel Breakfast & Lecture Only

\$10 Afternoon Duplicate Only

\$50 Special Package Price:  
Bagel Breakfast, Lecture and  
Stratified Duplicate Game

Space is Limited

Last year Larry's lecture  
**SOLD OUT!**  
Register now!

To register, call  
(973) 303-3232 or email  
[shrinecenterbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:shrinecenterbridgeclub@gmail.com)





# MILESTONES

## CHANGES IN RANK: April – May – June 2019

### Diamond Life Master

Muffie Gur	Leonardo
Brett Kunin	West Orange

### Sapphire Life Master

Rosemarie Faccone	West Orange
Mark Mohr	Springfield

### Gold Life Master

George Jones	Green Brook
Michal Zagajewski	Hightstown

### Ruby Life Master

Bernadine Galin	West Caldwell
Jeffrey Halle	Middletown
Dorel Livescu	Marlboro
Douglas Megill	Princeton
Francis Nance	Chatham

### Silver Life Master

Jacqueline Hewlett	Bridgewater
Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater
Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset

### Bronze Life Master

Lloyd Alterman	Livingston
Julie Anderson	Tinton Falls
Bruce Robbins	Boonton
Mary Frances Stahler	Princeton
Susan Tillis	Madison

### Life Master

Paul Adler	Morganville
Zenon Komar	Summit
Ginny Mason	Princeton
Joan Rossiter	Waretown
Ira Tarnow	West Orange
Susan Tillis	Madison

### Advanced NABC Master

Patricia Heimlich	Brant Beach
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### NABC Master

William Cave	Spring Lake
Barbara Daly-Schpok	Manchester
Mary Dworak	Morristown
Jay Fisher	Florham Park
Lois Gerber	Long Branch
Cheryl Gorman	Little Silver
Zelig Mestel	Lakewood
Justine Robertson	Highlands
Lois Shindelman	Princeton

### Regional Master

Robert Ayers Jr	Toms River
Lauretta Ayers	Toms River
Fredrica Canavan	Monmouth Beach
Denise Fisher	Florham Park
Vladimir Friedman	Scotch Plains
Lawrence Gordon	West Orange
Dorothy Kirschner	Tuckerton
Graham Oakes	Montclair
Harris Ruben	Berkeley Hts
Eileen Salka	Monroe Township
Judy Waller	Springfield
Cathy Walsh	Morristown

### Sectional Master

James Buzby	Hampton
Vincent Dominianni	Manchester
Stan Dubroff	Jackson
Ron Ilan	West Caldwell
Margaret Kearns	Manchester
David Kestner	Manchester
Richard Leschander	Harvey Cedars
Jacqueline Lipper	Landing
Sean Manns	Murray Hill
Douglas Reeves	Union
Janet Rotchford	Rumson
Robert Sandberg	Princeton
Allan Schwartz	Manalapan

### Club Master

Richard Agrin	Bridgewater
Karl Barna	Manchester
Marta Black	Denville
Kathleen Burke	Montclair
Ta-Kuan Chiang	East Windsor
Sacka Duffy	Rumson
Elizabeth Follat	Lebanon
Lorraine Franz	Summit
Sharon Glauberg	West Caldwell
Michael Jeary	Rumson
Lawrence Klein	Freehold
Tobin Levy	Princeton
Valerie Levy	North Caldwell
Tim Mahoney	Manasquan

### Club Master (cont'd)

Thomas Miller	Sea Girt
Terry Nusser	Flemington
William Parkins	Denville
Corrine Schaffer	Morristown
Karen Silver	Iselin
Star Smith	Princeton Junc
Gayle Sommer	Short Hills
Joan Spielman	West Windsor
Laurie Taylor	North Caldwell
Harriet Torjussen	Little Silver
William Vamvas	Ocean
Nancy Whipple	Chatham

### Junior Master

Sandy Berger	Manalapan
Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville
Lynn Chernuchin	Livingston
Roberta Elliott	South Orange
Joanne Grandits	Red Bank
Phylliss Greenberg	Monroe Township
David Gurian	West Caldwell
Fran Katz	North Caldwell
James Koppel	Livingston
Lauren Leiro	Rumson
Peter Maulbeck	Roseland
Joel Nitzberg	West Caldwell
Don Post	Bedminster
Diane Quinn	North Caldwell
Neelambari Rao	Hillsborough
Paul Rodgers	Long Valley
Ilene Rottenberg	Springfield
Jonathan Spergel	Westfield
Flora Strollo	Jackson
Bryan Supran	Summit
Arman Tookmanian	Budd Lake
Wendy Tucker	Westfield
Steven Vogel	Bridgewater
Cheryl Wachtel	West Orange
Robert Wachtel	West Orange
William Waldorf	Hillsborough
Donald Weber	Princeton
Donald Whitney Jr	Kendall Park