





Winter 2020

Volume 62 Issue 4

Peter Wright, Editor

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THE DECLARER		
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have continued my visits to our clubs. Monmouth County Aces in Freehold, run by Arlene Fulton, has a very convenient starting time, Saturday at 10:00 a.m., and has a great bagel spread. The Toms River Club, directed by Ed Litterio, features a very comfortable and well-run game. The Jersey Bridge Club in West Long Branch, directed by Lynn Chapin, has some of the best players in our unit as regulars, and the bridge is top notch.

After the upcoming sectional in March, we will lose our tournament facility in Woodbridge. Our Tournament Committee is working hard visiting prospective new sites, and we are close to making a decision on a new site. We thank all of you who have made suggestions.

Winter 2020

THE DECLARER

New Sunday Lunch Menu	New Jersey Bridge League MARCH SECTIONAL March 6-8, 2020 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 Brett Kunin (973) 243-2366
Friday, March 6	10:00 AM: • Open Stratified Pairs • NEW Stratified 0-499 Pairs NEW
	2:30 PM: • Open GRASSROOT Stratified Pairs • GRASSROOT 299er Stratified Pairs
Saturday, March 7	 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 IMP Pairs (open to all) B/C/D GRASSROOT Match Point Pairs (3000/2000/1000) Stratified 299ers GRASSROOT Pairs
Sunday, March 8	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, roll-ups, croissant sandwiches, salad, 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 0-300/500 games for all Friday and Saturday sessions. You **MUST** request a partner by Tuesday March 3rd to be guaranteed a partner. Email your request to Arnie Dorin at <u>arnied26@gmail.com</u> 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, NEW mid-afternoon lunch, and snacks throughout the day.
- NJBL Website: Visit our website <u>www.njbl.net</u> 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 14 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.

TRUST YOUR PARTNER by Bob Miller

y partner Paul Fried and I were fortunate to have a game score of over 70%. To make that happen, you need to play well, have very few bad results, get some gifts, and something a little more. Here is the hand, with everyone vulnerable.

As West I was dealt:

- ♠ AKQ98753
- Y J
- **•** 96
- 🛧 AK

After South's pass, with game in hand, I opened 2♣. North overcalled 3♣. My partner bid 3♦. Trusting my partner not to have bid Diamonds without first- or second-round control, I bid 4NT – keycard for Diamonds, the last-bid suit. If Paul had shown three keycards, I would have bid 7NT, able to count 13 tricks. But he bid 5♠, showing two keycards and the ♦Q, an irrelevant card for me. I then bid 6♠. Paul thought for a while, and it was his turn to trust me to have rock-solid Spades. He was now declarer in 6♠, holding a *singleton*! As luck would have it, it was North who had the ♥A.

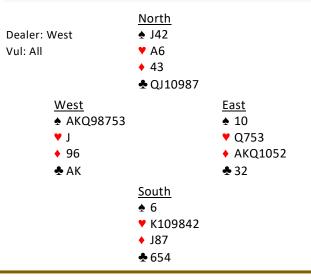
The bidding:

West	<u>North</u>	East
2♣	3♣	3♦
4NT	Pass	5♠
6♠	All Pass	
	2 ♣ 4NT	2♣ 3♣ 4NT Pass

South led the $\mathbf{47}$, hoping his partner was void in that suit. On a **really bad** day, North would ruff and cash the $\mathbf{4A}$ for down one and a bottom. On a **not so good** day, the $\mathbf{4A}$ would be with South, who would cash it, and we would get a slightly above-average score for bidding and making 12 tricks in $\mathbf{6A}$.

But this was **our** day. With this rather bizarre sequence, the bidding put the opening lead in the hand **without** the \blacktriangleleft A. It was not cashed, so we got 13 tricks and a tie for top.

This helped bring our game score over 70%. Sometimes the gods smile upon you.





KOHN'S KORNER by Arnold Kohn

Points Schmoints

The emphasis on point count evaluation needs some refinement. I played a very interesting hand as South recently at my regular Tuesday afternoon club game. The N-S hands were:

	North		
	▲ K9643		
	🔻 A52		
	♦ A7		
	& 984		
	<u>South</u> ▲ AJ8752 ♥ K76 ♦ KQ6 ♣ 5		
The bidding:			
<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	East
1♠	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3 ♣ ²	Pass	3 ♦ ³	Pass
4 ♦ ⁴	Pass	4 ♥ ⁵	Pass
6 ♠ ⁶	All Pass		

- 1 Game-going Spade raise
- 2 Showing shortness
- 3 Showing the Ace
- 4 OK, I have values there also
- 5 Showing another Ace
- 6 I've heard enough

Opening lead: &A

After ruffing the Club continuation, I drew trumps, played three top Diamonds, discarding a Heart from dummy, and claimed. One will observe that 12 tricks are available: six Spades, three Diamonds, two Hearts, and a Heart ruff in dummy. North did apologize, saying he had only 11 HCP, but they certainly were the correct ones. One will notice that the combined hands had 24 HCP between them.

PLAYER of the YEAR RACE Final Standings for 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.

	Shangsan Qian	East Brunswick	10.91
0 - 100	Shriram Phadke	Plainsboro	9.18
	Ajit Kumar	Holmdel	9.18
	Steven Siegel	Mendham	24.62
100 - 300	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	18.90
	Julie Bernhardt	Niutley	16.94
	Komal Kamat	Plainsboro	25.36
300 - 1000	Michael Lo	Bedminster	18.91
	Teresa Chek	Bedminster	18.91
	Ruth Yeselson	Highland Park	42.64
1000 - 2500	Robert Brolin	Plainsboro	32.54
	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	31.03
	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	108.59
Unlimited	Alexander Allen	Annandale	77.96
	Richard Ross	Highland Park	64.51
	100 - 300 300 - 1000 1000 - 2500	0 - 100 Shriram Phadke <u>Ajit Kumar</u> Steven Siegel 100 - 300 Lawrence Gordon <u>Julie Bernhardt</u> Komal Kamat 300 - 1000 Michael Lo <u>Teresa Chek</u> Ruth Yeselson 1000 - 2500 Robert Brolin <u>Arnold Dorin</u> Jiang Gu Unlimited Alexander Allen	0 - 100Shriram Phadke Ajit Kumar Steven SiegelPlainsboro Holmdel100 - 300Lawrence Gordon Julie BernhardtWest Orange Unlie Bernhardt100 - 300Lawrence Gordon Vest Orange Julie BernhardtWest Orange Plainsboro300 - 1000Michael Lo Teresa Chek Ruth YeselsonBedminster Highland Park1000 - 2500Robert Brolin Jiang GuPlainsboro Mountain LakesUnlimitedAlexander AllenAnnandale

Masterpoint

THE DECLARER

MASTERPOINT RACES

Final Standings for 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

Musterpoint						_
range	Kerry Redinger	Holmdel	36.01	Kerry Redinger	Holmdel	2
0 – 5	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	25.08	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	2
	James Brown	Manahawkin	21.41	Lynn Chgernuchin	Livingston	1
	William Parkins	Denville	73.24	William Parkins	Denville	5
5 – 20	Margy Whapham	Peninsula, OH	57.09	Simon Thomson	Summit	3
	Simon Thomson	Summit	45.86	Thomas Cummins	Summit	3
	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	184.27	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	7
20 – 50	Allan Schwartz	Manalapan	77.46	Joy Scully	Essex Fells	Z
	David Kestner	Manchester	52.88	David Kestner	Manchester	4
	Julie Bernhardt	Nutley	110.23	Laine Maurer	New Providence	5
50 - 100	Roy Knapp	Rockaway	72.33	Tracey Moreno	Sea Girt	5
	Norman Friedman	Livingston	66.37	Norman Friedman	Livingston	5
	Steven Siegel	Mendham	217.15	Esther Eisenberg	Holmdel	13
100 – 200	Esther Eisenberg	Holmdel	151.86	Sheila Holderness	Montville	g
	Sheila Holderness	Montville	105.12	Steven Siegel	Mendham	e
	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel	170.58	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel	15
200 – 300	Kathleen Riepenhoff	Skillman	156.95	Kathleen Riepenhoff		10
200 300	Julie Grossman	Hopewell	137.98	Julie Grossman	Hopewell	10
	Zenon Komar	Summit	271.57	Zenon Komar	Summit	16
300 – 500	Amber Lin	San Francisco, CA	238.13	Romesh Arora	New Providence	11
500 500	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	183.26	Ming Li	Summit	10
	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	208.98	Jacqueline Hewlett	Bridgewater	15
500 - 1000	Jackqueline Hewlett	Bridgewater	187.37	Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater	15
500 - 1000	Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater	187.37	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	1
	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	777.25	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	32
1000 – 1500	Foster Osborne	Summit	-	Foster Osborne	Summit	-
1000 - 1500			264.89			10
	Jeffrey Halle	Middletown	<u>194.79</u>	Barbara Codispoti	Mount Arlington	<u>1(</u> 21
1500 – 2500	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	320.01	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	
1500 - 2500	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	277.87	John Anderson	Rockaway	18
	Neeta Mone	Livingston	256.64	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	17
2500 2500	Fredric Weiner	Sarasota, FL	202.47	Mark Mohr	Springfield	12
2500 – 3500	Nat Zucker	Monroe Township	198.41	Ronald Kraft	East Windsor	12
	Himanshu Joshi	Chester	196.65	Himanshu Joshi	Chester	10
	Stephen Garreffa	Randolph	629.41	Stephen Gareffa	Randolph	33
3500 – 5000	Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead	565.76	Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead	28
	Joan Brody	Livingston	499.07	Dave DuBois	Westfield	21
	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	606.14	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	34
5000 – 7500	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	559.09	Donna Dulet	Ocean	20
	Donna Dulet	Ocean	451.83	Betty Cox	Randolph	18
	Abe Pineles	Palm Desert, CA	432.42	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	18
500 – 10,000	Dori Byrnes	Morris Plains	418.43	Jesse Reisman	Livingston	16
	Cynthia Schneider	East Brunswick	350.71	<u>Cynthia Schneider</u>	East Brunswick	16
	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	969.22	William Esberg	Long Branch	19
10,000+	Alexander Allen	Annandale	554.81	Alexander Allen	Annandale	11
	Yinghao Liu	Hoboken	315.21	Lester Sokolower	Verona	8

ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS by Francís Gupta

Interfering Over Opponents' Opening Bids – Part 2 of 2

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.

n the last issue of the Declarer, Part 1 of this column covered rules-based overcalls and interfering bids over a minor suit opening at the one-level. In this issue, Part 2 will cover rules-based overcalls and interfering bids over a major suit opening at the one-level.

Before we proceed, however, a couple of clarifications might be helpful. Upon reading Part 1 of this column, a few readers were skeptical as to the usefulness of some of the overcalls presented. For instance, does one really need to remember the Michaels cue bid overcall? Recall that if North opens $1 \neq /1 \Rightarrow$, then an overcall by East of $2 \neq /2 \Rightarrow$ would be a Michaels cue bid. In other words:

North	East	South	West
1♣/1♦	2♣/2♦		

East's Michaels cue bid shows a hand with 5+ cards in both majors. The skeptics argued that East could have bid 1♠ to show a 5+ Spade suit, and if partner did not support the Spades, East could then have bid 2♥ thereby showing a two-suited hand and forcing partner to choose between one of the majors. Even though this bidding approach might lead to the same contract as with East's using the cue bid, it is not as *efficient*, for two reasons. First, it is not precise, as it shows 5 Spades and 4+ Hearts distribution (the Hearts would have to be rebid to show 5+ in both majors); and second, it takes two rounds of bidding to convey the same information.

One criterion of a good bidding convention is how efficient it is at conveying information to partner. The Michaels cue bid accurately describes a hand – at least 10 or more of the 13 cards – to partner in one bid. So, in terms of efficiency, it would be difficult to improve on this bid.

Another criterion used to access a good bidding convention is the *cost* associated with assigning an artificial meaning to a bid. Assigning an artificial meaning to the 2⁺ cue bid causes it to lose its natural meaning of a hand with 5+ Clubs and 10+ HCP. This meaning is useful when playing against opponents who open 1⁺ to show a point count while saying nothing about clubs (for instance, partnerships that use the precision system). But most partnerships do not use an artificial 1⁺ opening. Losing the natural meaning of the 2⁺ bid in exchange for the ability to show a hand with 5+ cards in both majors is a trivial cost to pay. Therefore, based on the two criteria of efficiency and cost, the Michaels cue bid is a worthwhile convention to adopt into a competitive bidding system. Readers may also want to keep a third criterion in mind when evaluating other conventions. This has to do with *compatibility* with existing partnership agreements.

Having highlighted some of the key attributes of a good bidding system, let us return to the topic of this column: a description of rules-based interference over opponents' major suit opening bids:

North	East	South	West
1♥/1♠	?		

If opponents are playing Standard American or 2/1, a major suit opening in the first or second seat usually shows a hand with 12-21 HCP and 5+ cards in the major. It excludes the 15-17 and the 20-21 HCP ranges with balanced distribution, in which cases the partnership usually opens 1NT or 2NT, respectively. Moreover, in some partnerships, opening 1NT does not deny a five-card major.

Overcalling North's 1 Vopening Bid

North having opened $1 \mathbf{V}$, here are the possible bids that East can make, along with their meanings:

1. shows 8-16 HCP and 5+ Spades. With 17+ HCP and 5+ in any of the remaining suits, East should double first and then bid according to what transpires in the rest of the auction. Note that this double is for takeout, so if South passes, West is compelled to bid. (The bidding that follows the "17+ HCP double" will be dealt with in a future column.)

1NT shows 15 to 18 HCP, a balanced hand, and stopper(s) in hearts. Most partnerships would have 1NT systems "on" after this 1NT overcall. In other words, West can respond to East's 1NT overcall as if East had opened 1NT.

2+/2 shows 10 to 16 HCP and 5+ cards in the suit bid. With 17+ HCP and 5+ in any of the remaining suits, East should double first and then bid according to what transpires in the rest of the auction. Note that this double is for takeout, so if South passes, West is compelled to bid. (The bidding that follows the "17+ HCP double" will be dealt with in a future column.)

2♥ is an artificial bid. Most partnerships play this as a Michaels cue bid showing 5+ cards in both Spades and a minor. Point counts differ by individual partnerships and depend on vulnerability. East should ensure that West is familiar with the full convention before using it, so that West can respond appropriately. **[continued next page]**

ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS by Francís Gupta [concluded]

2 ★ is a preemptive overcall. It shows a weak hand (5-10 HCP) and 6 cards in the Spade suit.

2NT is an artificial bid. Most partnerships play this as the Unusual NT bid showing both the minors. Point counts differ by individual partnerships and depend on vulnerability. Again, East should ensure that West is familiar with the full convention before using it.

3♣/**3**♦/**3**♠ is a preemptive overcall. It shows a weak hand (5-10 HCP) and 7 cards in the suit bid.

3NT shows a hand that can stop hearts and can run a minor to take a total of 9 tricks. This call denies a 4-card Spade suit.

4♣**/4**♦**/4**♠ is a preemptive overcall. It shows a weak hand (5-10 HCP) and 8 cards in the suit bid

Double shows one of the following two hands:

A. A hand with 12 to 16 HCP and having two or fewer cards in Hearts and three or more cards in Clubs, Diamonds and Spades. Examples of 13-card distributions that qualify for a double (as long as they have 12-16 HCP) are:

٨	•	•	*
4 cards	4 cards	3 cards	2 cards
4	2	4	3
3	2	4	4
4	1	4	4

Any hand that is short (two or fewer cards) in any of the unbid suits does not qualify for a double in the first round of bidding, even if it has 12-16 HCP. It is best to pass and see how South and West bid before interfering in the auction.

B. Any unbalanced hand with 17+ HCP.

Finally, a pass shows any of the remaining possible hands.

Overcalling North's 1 Opening Bid

North having opened 1, here are the possible bids that East can make, along with their meanings:

1NT shows 15 to 18 HCP, a balanced hand, and stopper(s) in Spades. Most partnerships would have 1NT systems "on" after this 1NT overcall. In other words, West can respond to East's 1NT overcall as if East opened 1NT.

2♣/2♦/2♥ shows 10-16 HCP and 5+ cards in the suit bid. With 17+ HCP and 5+ cards in any of the remaining suits, East should double first and then bid according to what transpires in the rest of the auction. Note that this double is for takeout, so if South passes, West is compelled to bid. (The bidding that follows the "17+ HCP double" will be dealt with in a future column.)

24 is an artificial bid. Most partnerships play this as a Michaels cue bid showing 5+ cards in both Hearts and a minor. Point counts differ by Individual partnerships and depend on vulnerability. East should ensure that West is familiar with the full convention before using it, so that West can respond appropriately.

2NT is an artificial bid. Most partnerships play this as an Unusual NT bid showing both the minors. Point counts differ by individual partnerships and depend on vulnerability. East should ensure that West is familiar with the full convention before using it.

3♣/**3**♦/**3**♥ is a preemptive overcall. It shows a weak hand (5-10 HCP) and 7 cards in the suit bid.

3NT shows a hand that can stop Spades and can run a minor to take a total of 9 tricks. This call denies a 4-card Heart suit.

4♣**/4**♦**/4**♥ is a preemptive overcall. It shows a weak hand (5-10 HCP) and 8 cards in the suit bid

Double shows one of the following two hands:

A. A hand with 12 to 16 HCP and having two or fewer cards in Spades and three or more cards in Clubs, Diamonds and Hearts. Examples of 13-card distributions that qualify for a double (as long as they have 12 to 16 HCP) are:

٨	۲	•	*
4 cards	4 cards	3 cards	2 cards
2	4	4	3
2	3	4	4
1	4	4	4

Any hand that is short (two or fewer cards) in any of the unbid suits does not qualify for a double even if it has 12-16 HCP. It is best to pass and see how South and West respond before interfering in the auction.

B. Any unbalanced hand with 17+ HCP.

Finally, East should pass with any of the remaining possible hands.

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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 <u>Susan.Atteridge@gmail.com</u> of any deaths within our membership, and indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

Elena Buchanan d. January 5, 2020 Frequent player at Bridgewater

Emilio Menarguez d. December 9, 2019 Frequent player at Shrine, Essex, Montclair

> Julie Anne Rowe d. November 8, 2019 Frequent player at BCCNJ

> > Ann Schmidt

Frequent player at Four Seasons

Joseph Lebretore d. July, 2019 Frequent player at Jersey

Allen Rosen d. November 23, 2019 Frequent player at Essex, Shrine

> Larry Samuels d. January 11, 2020 Frequent player at Essex

Arthur Van Blerkin d. December 29, 2019 Frequent player at Monroe

Jon Wilkinson d. November 23, 2019 Frequent player at Jersey

The NJBL Board has contributed \$50

to the ACBL Charity Fund in honor of

JULIE ROWE

former member of the Board

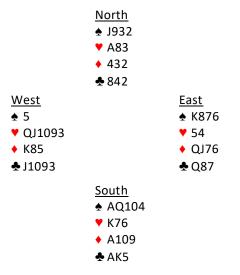
and strong supporter of the game

THE BRIDGE CONNECTION by Rosalie Slutsky

reprinted from The Concordian Newspaper

The expert enjoys an edge over the average player in that he knows how to exploit the full potential of the partnership cards. In the play of the hand, his experience enables him to judge the odds in his favor, giving himself not only the obvious chance of making the contract but also those extra chances that so often make the difference between success and failure.

There are various suit combinations where the declarer seems to need just a simple finesse, but when there is a possibility that the critical card may be well guarded, he may need to be careful which card he leads on the first round.



With 20 HCP plus some tens and nines, South opened 2NT. North raised to 3NT. West led the $\forall Q$ and, after some deliberation, South decided that if he could pick up the $\bigstar K$, there would be nine tricks.

South won with the ♥A and tried the Spade finesse by leading the ♠J from dummy. East did not cover with the King, which

would have been a poor play. He followed with a small Spade to the ♠10 and West showed out. He then realized he could make only eight tricks.

All he had to do is lead the ♠9 from dummy on the first round of Spades, not the ♠J. He could make four Spade tricks and his contract.

To play a hand well, a declarer must study the prospects in individual suits and then form an overall plan, taking all the elements into account.

Next, a bidding quiz:



No matter what conventions you play, your first thought should be, "How many losers do I have?" If the answer is two or less, plan to end up bidding $6\clubsuit$. One of your opponents will have to hold at least four Diamonds in order to defeat your contract.

One of the nicest stories I heard recently was about a bridge professional who was playing with a new player. The game proceeded without much incident, until the new player went down on an easy contract. The bridge pro looked at his partner and said, "I would have played it exactly the same way, partner!"

The moral of this story is . . . don't be a critical partner. It only makes the person opposite you less likely to play well. Kindness is Contagious. Spread the word!

Happy Bridging Everyone!



SUPPORT FOR YOUTH BRIDGE

[Fundraising efforts on behalf of youth bridge in Unit 140 have recently been rewarded by some noteworthy financial support, as documented by the items below. – Editor]



To: Lynn Chapin From: Barbara Clark

I am in receipt of condolences donations in the amounts of \$1, 072 given to the Orange Education Foundation, solely for bridge, in bereavement of the loss of a member of your Jersey Bridge family. Thanks for your continued commitment to our kids in Orange, your bridge club has contributed these generous donations. Additionally, thanks to your generosity and leadership, our kids have learned to caddy at bridge tournaments earning them \$140 at the December Unit 140 bridge sectional. They are scheduled to caddy again at the March sectional.

Words cannot express our appreciation for your warm, caring support of our kids which is so noticeable in their interactions with you. Your positive, mentoring demeanor, starting with the youth bridge Autumnfest events annually at your club, where the kids receive gift bags, fabulous huge trophies, and delicious refreshments in West Long Branch, NJ is evident. Additionally, the role that you allowed them to play, involving them in assistance with duties to make the Charity Swiss event successful, focused on our fundraising needs and generated endearment contributions from those participating in this event. Needless to say, it was greatly successful, twenty-four teams, resulting in a generous donation of \$1, 500 to the Orange Education Foundation from the New Jersey Bridge League, Unit 140.

Kudos to you Lynn. You are to be commended for your generosity of time and efforts and for your encouragement in the development of our kids and our fundraising goals. Thanks for your incredible support.

* * * * * * *

Team Orange, we accomplished our goal, a \$5,000 grant from the ACBL Education Foundation awarded to the Orange Education Foundation. This funding was based upon our request to establish a Saturday Academy to provide continuity of our after-school program, which has been compromised due to a longer school day. Our goal was also to provide continuity to students who transitioned to secondary schools or relocated to other districts. We are aware of the responsibilities placed upon us to implement a successful program achieving our grant objectives.

Now the work begins. With the cooperation of all stakeholders, students and families included, our kids will continue to progress in their bridge knowledge and skills and continue to be enthusiastic learners.

Thanks to the ACBL Education Foundation for this wonderful opportunity.



To: Barbara Clark

To: Orange School team From: Barbara Clark

From: Kristen Frederick, Executive Director

Hi Barbara - Congratulations! A quick email to let you know that the ACBLEF Program Committee has approved your grant application in its entirety. I will be sending you forms that will need your signature and return to me before the release of funding. Please read the following information about our 2020 grants:

Going forward in 2020, the ACBL Educational Foundation is putting a greater emphasis on measuring success than before. We're always looking for applications that match up with our goals, but we're keeping an eye open for great initiatives with positive results, evaluating their potential for test marketing in multiple areas, turning them into major programs, or even partnering with ACBL or other organizations to address the challenges you are facing/audience you hope to reach and retain.

In that spirit, we will be looking to you to provide the emails of those who enroll in the program at its onset (including teachers/mentors) and, in the case of underage children, their parents' email addresses.

At the end of the program, we would like to know which of the participants followed the program through to its conclusion and their plans for continuing with bridge, as we may wish to follow up with them to evaluate the program they have just completed. Should you have any questions about this award, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks for all the additional information you provided.

YOUTH BRIDGE by Barbara Clark

n Saturday, December 14, 2019 the New Jersey Bridge League sponsored a Holiday Bridge sectional tournament at the Hungarian-American Club in Woodbridge, NJ. In all, 48 students participated. The Orange Education Foundation organized transportation from Park and Oakwood Avenue Schools for 32 students. Other participants came from

Edison, Plainsboro, Princeton, Livingston, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

Eight new students also attended but did not compete; they came to experience what competitive bridge is like in order to prepare for actual play in the next sectional tournament in March.

After all play was complete, the students enjoyed lunch while socializing with their bridge peers from the various communities.

Special gratitude is owed to our teacher volunteers Stephanie Austin, Aaron Snead, Amy Nellissen, and Vijay Ahuja, the last of whom served also as the director. These experiences and opportunities would not be possible without the assistance of bridge coordinators Dr. Denise Harlem and Pamela Venable.











North/South winners

- 1st Kevin Li / Ryan Xu
- 2nd Avery Silverstein / Jack Boge
- 3rd Andrew Jin / Michael Hu
- 4th Marquis Douglas / Munachiso Iherobiem

East/West winners

- 1st Joey Shi / Chris Chen
- 2nd Derrick Zao / Eric Dai
- 3rd Zhao Tan / Brad Derfner
- 4th Aryssa Black / Autumn Tarver

Overall winners

- 1st Joey Shi / Chris Chen
- 2nd Kevin Li / Ryan Xu
- 3rd Avery Silverstein / Jack Boge
- 4th Derrick Zao / Eric Dai
- 5th Zhao Tan / Brad Derfner
- 6th Aryssa Black / Autumn Tarver





AN OY FOR AN OY by Jay Korobow

ven in the late-night (BBO) Random IMP Pairs with a partner from India playing against Israel and Indonesia, some hands do present immense bidding challenges. For example, I held, non-vul versus vul:

▲ 104
♥ AQ10632
♦ K4
₹ 764

and heard partner open 1♣. If your RHO now bids 4♠ (as many did) what do you say? I mean, after you say, "Oy vay!" to Gitta on your left from Israel?

5♥ is really a stretch even for this (non-)event! 4♥ is unfortunately not a legal call, and even if you try it, aiming to catch everyone asleep, the darn software won't even permit it! Do you have enough to double just to show some moderate values? Some would, and agreements are good to have with regular partners about how many points and how many Hearts you should have for what is really a pretty high level for the typical "negative double."

RHO from Indonesia, however, decided to be cute, or conservative – or both – and only bid 3♠ with only ♠AKQ-eighth. Now 4♥, still a bit of a stretch, was a choice I couldn't resist. I was happy to hear it go pass-pass (no double, no raise) when the Indonesian adventurer **now** bid 4♠ "in my face."

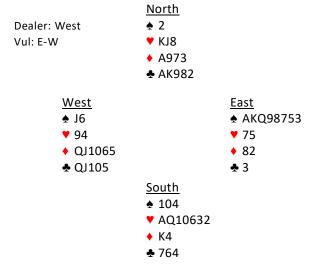
Thinking I had one less Heart than partner had a right to expect, and that RHO could only bid 3♠ on Try #1, I felt it would be good to double and shut partner up from bidding 5♥. And it worked like a charm! Well, sort of. Yes, partner did not bid 5♥, but instead: 6♥! Another "Oy vay!" I was surprised when no one doubled, and LHO led the ♠J, which held the lead. *[see full hand, next column]*

The bidding:

West	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	1♣	3♠	47
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbl
Pass	67	All Pass	

After some thought, while I studied the hand and worried about a ruff in a minor, LHO finally switched to the $\diamond Q$. I won in hand with the $\diamond K$ to ruff a spade and

pull two rounds of trump. When my RHO, East (East Indonesia?) followed to both rounds I knew I had the rest on a minor suit squeeze versus Gitta from (West) Israel as long as East did not hold four Diamonds.



When next the A was followed by a small Diamond to ruff, East showed out, so I claimed the rest. I stated something like, "On the run of my trumps, Gitta cannot guard both Clubs and Diamonds, so the 12th trick will develop on a squeeze." To which Gitta echoed my earlier feelings by typing: "Oy vay!" (I resisted following with a joke about playing with three "eyes" - India, Indonesia, and Israel.)

In retrospect, my partner from India had made a thoughtful bid. Perhaps having played in their share of random late-night games, they "allowed for" my earlier 4♥ bid to be on as little as ♥Q109-seventh and maybe not much more on the side. But when I indicated extra values, partner pictured something better than that, and of course hoped it wasn't ♠KQx with ♥Q109-seventh.

Actually, 4 doubled, due to the vulnerability, was collecting +500 for a fine score, but +980 was even better, winning 11 IMPs. Not to mention how tedious it might have been pitching on eight rounds of Spades as defenders. When partner courteously typed "wdp" for "well-done-partner" afterwards, I simply typed back "Good bid pard." My Indian linguistics cannot compare to my Yiddish; that's for sure!

KUDOS

Unit 140 Player Achievements

	SAN FRANCISCO NATION	ALS Nov. 28 – Dec. 8, 2019	
	Robot Individual Life Master Pairs Life Master Pairs Board-a-Match Teams Women's Pairs Soloway KO Teams Blue Ribbon Pairs 1-10,000 Fast Pairs Mixed Swiss Teams Reisinger	Alex Perlin Alex Perlin , Igor Savchenko Jiang Gu Jiang Gu, Alex Perlin, Igor Savchenko Donna Dulet Steve Weinstein Jiang Gu Dori Byrnes, Joan Brody Alexander Allen, Abe Pineles, Donna Dulet Steve Weinstein	5^{th} 2^{nd} 19^{th} 24^{th} 8^{th} 2^{nd} 24^{th} 5^{th} 25^{th} 7^{th}
January 21	TARRYTOWN REGIONA Bracketed Swiss, bracket #1 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #3 Open Pairs Golden Opportunity Pairs	L Jan. 20 – Jan. 26, 2020 Dori Byrnes, Jiang Gu Ira Tarnow, Rochelle Schack, David Weill Joan Brody Peppi Glass, Howard Baron	1 st overall 1 st overall 5 th overall 2 nd overall
January 22	Open Pairs Bracketed Swiss, bracket #1 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #1 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #4 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #5	Joan Brody Dori Byrnes, Jiang Gu Susan Fulton Ira Tarnow, Rochelle Schack, Eileen Rosen, Cindy Dratch Lynn Goldberg, Cooki Gulkin, Susan Radnor, Mary Newman	11 th overall 2 nd overall 3 rd overall 1 st overall 1 st overall
January 23	Golden Opportunity Pairs Bracketed Swiss, bracket #1 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #2 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #4 Bracketed Swiss, bracket #6	James Moynihan, Merle Barnett Dori Byrnes, Jiang Gu Steve Cooper Wendy Lee, Lisa Temple Francis Gupta, Charles Dvorkin, Ed Fisher	1 st overall 1 st overall 1 st overall 1 st overall 1 st overall
January 24	Open Pairs Freaky KO, bracket #1 Freaky KO, bracket #2 Freaky KO, bracket #5 Freaky KO, bracket #6 Freaky Swiss, bracket #1	Joan Brody Dori Byrnes, Jiang Gu Steve Cooper, Stan Weiss Ira Tarnow, Renee Waas Steve Siegel, Larry Gordon, Elayne Pollet, Jeremy Glaser Peter Stein	5 th overall 1 st overall 2n overall 1 st overall 1 st overall 2 nd overall
January 25	Open Pairs Open Pairs Freaky Swiss, bracket #1 Freaky KO, bracket #5 Freaky KO, bracket #6	John Anderson, Neeta Mone Donna Dulet, Himanshu Joshi Dori Byrnes, Jiang Gu Michael Lo, Teresa Chek Steve Siegel, Larry Gordon	11 th overall 12th overall 2 nd overall 1 st overall 1 st overall
January 26	A/x Swiss	Steve Garreffa, David Katzen	3 rd in A/x
	GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS		
	Championship flight Flight A	Dori Byrnes, Jiang Gu, Alex Perlin Himanshu Joshi, Donna Dulet, Richard Ross, Greg Gorshkov	1 st 2nd
	Flight B Flight C	Stan Weiss, Ruth Yeselson Steve Siegel, Larry Gordon, Filcon Poson, Cindy Dratch	1st 1st

Eileen Rosen, Cindy Dratch

BIG GAMES

(must have 5 tables to qualify)

November – December - January

OPEN		
80.78%	Muffie Gur - Donna Dulet	Jersey
77.43%	Ed Hill / Bruce Witzel	BCCNJ
77.08%	Arnold Kohn - Saul Blum	Monroe
75.93%	Himanshu Joshi / Alan Powell	Essex
75.84%	Ronald Kraft - Clifford Wilson Jr	BCCNJ
75.60%	Jeffrey Halle - Robert Brolin	Little Silver
75.23%	Peter Stein - Ronald Kraft	BCCNJ
75.00%	Sonia Bibi - Renee Dondero	Jersey
74.21%	Dolores Smith - Rich Jagodzinski	Four Seasons
73.8 1%	Norma Cohen - Renee Dondero	Jersey
73.61%	Michael Hewlitt / Jacqueline Hewlett	BCCNJ
73.38%	Jacqueline Hewlett - Michael Hewlett	BCCNJ
73.33%	Stephen Garreffa / Himanshu Joshi	Essex
73.33%	Deborah Williams / Herb Marche	Essex
71.71%	Judy Rothstein / Piotr Olszewski	Essex
71.21%	Betty Cox / Julie Cohan	Essex
71.13%	David Katzen / Stephen Garreffa	Essex
71.06%	Ivan Lee - Alfred Cackowski	Grand Slam
71.05%	Ross Amann - William Esberg	Jersey
70.99%	Peter Mayewski / Judy Rothstein	Essex
70.83%	Renee Geist / Marilynn Greenberg	Shrine
70.51%	Stephen Garreffa / David Katzen	Essex
70.45%	Paul Fried - Robert Miller	Grand Slam
70.28%	Barbara Codispoti / Anne Cooley	Shadowfax
70.03%	Peter Stein / Cho-Wei Sit	BCCNJ
70.03%	Judy Rothstein / Jacek Leznicki	Essex

LIMITED / INVITATIONAL		
79.37%	Warren Levy / Robin Sue Levy	Essex
76.98%	Janice Schindler / Carol Gebauer	Essex
76.79%	Laine Maurer / Leslie Degeorges	Essex
76.44%	Laurie Smith - Suzanne Manelski	Rumson
76.39%	Janet Wilson - Karin Devlin	Rumson
75.60%	Laine Maurer / Leslie Degeorges	Essex
75.01%	Tony Edelstein / Dorothy Bisberg	Essex
74.90%	Laurie Smith - Suzanne Manelski	Rumson
74.40%	Pam Morse / Rob Morse	Essex
74.15%	John Paltiel / Myron Greenbaum	Essex
73.61%	Gautam Desai / Maya Desai	Shadowfax

	LIMITED / INVITATIONAL (cont'd)	
73.33%	Miriam Cohen / Dorothy Bisberg	Essex
73.33%	Robert Ross - Tehmtan Tehsildar	BCCNJ
73.24%	Beverly Goldfarb / Barbara Ramsay	Essex
73.21%	Asha Singh - Jay Parikh	Essex
73.21%	Lisa Toffey / Lisa Celona	Essex
72.79%	Janet Schoener / Bill Schoener	Essex
72.78%	Susan Harden / Janet Schoener	Essex
72.73%	Hedda Lans - Edward Fisher	Regency
72.71%	Phyllis Elson / Gwen Coleman	Essex
72.64%	Barbara Alper / Edmund Fursa	Essex
72.62%	Christine Mason / Art Mason	Essex
72.62%	Bill Triner / Gin Triner	Essex
72.62%	Debbie Schneider / Lorraine Stein	Essex
72.62%	George Schneider / Stephanie Gerstein	Essex
72.26%	Lois Catrambone / Kathy Burke	Essex
72.18%	Tom Cummins / Simon Thomson	Essex
72.02%	Regina Bann / Ranjan Sonalkar	Essex
72.02%	Marion Syracuse / Janice Zunde	Essex
72.01%	Maria Vikan / Paul Vikan	Essex
72.00%	Laurie Smith - Suzanne Manelski	Rumson
71.99%	Art Mason / Christine Mason	Essex
71.88%	Lisa Toffey / Lisa Celona	Essex
71.83%	Kathy Arshan - Steve Arshan	Westlake
71.77%	Frank Leonard - Dick Hudson	Montclair
71.61%	Hedda Lans - Edward Fisher	Regency
71.43%	Yael Lin / Miriam Cohen	Essex
71.43%	Jocelyn Shadforth / Cary Silverman	Essex
71.43%	Irene Madden / Wendy Lubin	Essex
71.43%	Sheila Grant / Trudy Sarver	Essex
71.43%	Dale Reyer / Joel Novendstern	Essex
70.93%	Christine Hetzler - Justine Robertson	Rumson
70.83%	Dorothy Bisberg / Michele Cascardi	Essex
70.54%	Phyllis Newmark / Herb Potash	Essex
70.48%	Christel Dynes - Glenie Austin	Short Hills
70.46%	Madhu Das - Gurmeet Dhaliwal	BCCNJ
70.43%	Debbie Schneider / Lorraine Stein	Essex
70.41%	Marvin Wertheimer / Robert Levitt	Essex
70.13%	Stevi Gurkoff / Carol Press	Essex
70.00%	Betty King - Bob King	Westlake

A NEARLY CHRISTMAS CAROL by Peter Wright

'was two days before Christmas, and with sighings and groans, All the duplicate players had turned off their phones. Their blue cards were stacked in the boxes with care In hopes that a redouble soon would be there.

When all of a sudden – there was seen such a bid That only a BP* would make it – and did!

W	<u>est</u>
۰	-
•	QJ97642
•	64
*	A742

"Four Hearts !" read that vuln'rable Westerner's card. (He certainly cared not a whit for *his* pard!)

Now put yourself into the brain of our North, Whose thoughts must have rambled quite back and quite forth.

N	<u>orth</u>
۰	A10953
۷	AK108
٠	2
÷	KQ3

"A double's for takeout; agreement there's firm, And a pass with my hand – *bah* ! The act of a worm.

"My Spades aren't too robust for bidding a game Without hearing from South, and I'd be much to blame If that rascally BP should get away free, Instead of incurring a harsh penaltee."

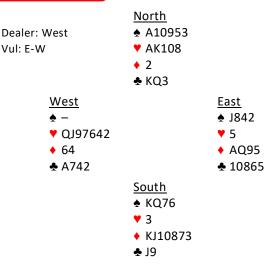
And so our North *doubled*, resigned to his fate, Sure that South would bid Diamonds, like fish taking bait. But *No* ! South bid "Four Spades !" – no fuss and no muss, And North hoped that it meant, "Merry Christmas to us !"

*BP = Best Player, any of several such bent on destroying you on any given day; in fact, on every day

The bidding:

West	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Enough! There's a time to rhyme and a thyme to pay a syntax sin tax, homonymically speaking. While you try to sort that out, South ponders how to make his contract, and to do so without peeking at the defenders' hands, like I'll bet you lunkheads out there are already doing.



West leads the ♥7. Would **you** insert dummy's ♥10 at trick #1? Nahhh, not unless you're from the planet Petunia in a galaxy far, far away. (See, everyone **there** is born with infallible ESP. The Petunian language has no word for "secret," since there's no such thing. Any questions?)

But I digress. When dummy's ♥A survives (East doesn't ruff), South can take 11 tricks as the cards lie. But, not being from Andromedary – that's Petunia's home galaxy – he places the ♣A and also the ♦AQ with West, who "must" hold those tickets to redeem his atrocious, crimson-vs-cream 4♥ opener. South recalls the old saw, "When BP's buzz about, best not bother thy beanery with burdensome bonbons." (You *do* know that old saw, don't you? If not, have it tattooed *backwards* on your, uh, whatever, so you can reeducate yourself with a glance in the mirror after each morning's ablutions.)

Anyway, South bulldozes his way to making $4 \pm$ on the nose, contributing, in a burst of good will, a burdensome bonbon to the opponents in the form of an undeserved trick.

When North starts whimpering about the paltriness of 420 compared to the minimum 1100 he is sure his side would have earned if his double had not been axed, South cuts him off at the knees: "If I had allowed your **phony takeout double** to stand, in **that** alternative universe **you** would have held East's **red** cards... and he **yours**. That bodacious BP would then have been rewarded for his crime, **making** 4♥ doubled while **we** missed an easy 11-trick game in Spades."

Changes in rank: Nov – Dec - Jan

Alex PerlinMetuchenJoan BrodyLivingstonMaurice SilbermanWest WindsorMaurice SilbermanWest WindsorSapphire Life MasterEReha GurLeonardoHimanshu JoshiChesterIvan LeeEast BrunswickGold Life MasterEKathy FarkasPrinceton JctWendy LeeEast HanoverCharles HageMonmouth BchMartin LeshMontvilleAl SteinbergerColoniaCharlene YoungCranfordSusan JonesManahawkinBarbara LowensteinSpringfieldSteve NewfieldHilsboroughSteve SutskyMorrgenvillePaul AdlerMorganvilleHoward BoothSummit	
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Steve Newfield Hillsborough Rosalie Slutsky Monroe Twp Bronze Life Master Paul Adler Morganville Howard Booth Summit	
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Paul AdlerMorganvilleHoward BoothSummit	
Howard Booth Summit	
Elizabeth Carlson Summit	
Peppi Glass Morris Plains	
Richard Helfman Metuchen	
Zenon Komar Summit	
Renee Waas Mountain Lakes	
Life Master	
Laureen Alcock Chester	
Romesh Arora New Providence	
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NABC Master			
Howard Baum	Randolph		
Julie Bernhardt	Nutley		
Marcia Fischer	Livingston		
Marlene Grasso	West Orange		
Marcia Stohr	Hoboken		
Regional I			
Claire Bram	Union		
Karen Friedman	Ocean		
Pradip Gandhi	Somerville		
Joy Hochstadt	Holmdel		
Jacqueline McGinnis	Manchester		
Helen Nugent	Spring Lake Hts		
Cynthia Phelan	Short Hills		
Allan Schwartz	Manalapan		
William Wehrle	New Providence		
Sectional I			
Marion Alden	Bedminster		
Trevor Barnett	Monroe Twp		
J-F Degeorges	Millington		
Kathryn Deyo	Chatham		
Adrienne Fowler	Dunellen		
Marilyn Heebink	Belle Mead		
Sheila Klein	Freehold		
Suzanne Manelski	Rumson		
Eileen Marshall	Belle Mead		
Laine Maurer	New Providence		
Sandra Ross	Randolph		
Alan Talpalar	Short Hills		
Simon Thomson	Summit		
Ashwin Vaze	Basking Ridge		
Howard Wolfish	Beverly Hts		
Club Mo	Ister		
Marcia Aman	Wharton		
Carol Billet-Fessler	Springfield		
James Brown	Manahawkin		
Lynn Chernuchin	Livingston		
Jeanie Cleary	Shrewsbury		
Elaine Eadon	Rumson		
Claude George	Skillman		
Joanne Grandits	Red Bank		
Annette Greenbaum	South Orange		
Jane Heller	Fair Haven		
Niels Johnsen	Colts Neck		
Fran Katz	North Caldwell		

Club Master (cont'd) Vijay Kotak Plainsboro Polly Krupnick Mountain Lakes Lori Lerner Princeton **Diane Mangold Basking Ridge** Nick Manocha Warren **Betty Muller** Somerset Shriram Phadke Plainsboro Don Post Bedminster Little Silver **Beverly Reiss Richard Rosenzweig** Summit Monmouth Bch **Zoey Sanders** Jocelyn Shadforth Montclair Cary Silverman Mountain Lakes Stacey Supran Summit Susan Tarnofsky West Orange Pat Vogel Ltl Egg Hbr Daryl Weis West Orange **Junior Master** Peter Agnew Glen Ridge Ujwal Annigeri Summit Joanne Bernstein Freehold West Orange **Dorothy Bisberg** Andrew Carlson Summit Jennifer Conklin Rumson Patricia Einbender Cedar Grove Nancy Geiger Princeton Linda Goren Morristown Stefani Gurkoff North Caldwell Laurie Kalb Kaswiner West Orange George Kalb Millington Poonam Kapoor West Windsor **Rajesh Kapoor** West Windsor Madison Burt Liebman Naomi Mandel Short Hills Lesley Margolies **Tinton Falls Burton Mirsky** Morristown Stephen Muller Lakewood Jeanne Napier Long Valley Linda Palazzolo Livingston North Caldwell Ranjan Sonalkar **Richard Steinfeld** Watchung Guru Sundaram Manalapan **Richard Van Hise** Hightstown James Wilson Fair Haven