



THE DECLARER



Fall 2020

Volume 63 Issue 3

Peter Wright, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	1
Remembrances.....	2
Nominees for NJBL Board	2
Article: "Spot the Error".....	3
Column: Kohn's Korner	4
Column: Rough Waters vs Calm Seas	5
Article: Youth Bridge	7
Article: "I'd Like to Squeeze the Robot's Neck".....	8
Milestones.....	10
Article: "To Err".....	12

THE DECLARER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Arnold Kohn*



The pandemic that we are experiencing has caused quite a turmoil during my term as your President. We have had to cancel all of our tournaments and special events. All clubs have been closed and the end is nowhere in sight. Our only medium is "Virtual Bridge," and while it lacks the social aspect, it is a viable substitute. For many of our local club owners and managers, their club was their sole source of income. When you are playing on BBO, I ask that you attempt to play in games that

are sponsored by your local club. There also are "Support Your Club" games, in which these club owners participate in the revenues. I realize that these games cost more than the other games, but, paying \$ 5.00 is certainly less expensive than the \$10 to \$12.00, you would have paid to play at a club prior to the-pandemic. When we return to "real" bridge, we want our clubs to reopen. Playing in "Support Your Club" games will certainly allow this to occur.

**The NJBL website now includes
a Guide to NJBL Virtual Clubs on BBO.
You can view it at:**

<http://www.njbl.net/virtualclubs.htm>

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 games. We would like to remember all who support and participate in this great game. Please notify Susan Atteridge at Susan.Atteridge@gmail.com of any deaths within our membership, and indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

Denise Cramer
d. July 7, 2020
Frequent player at BCCNJ

Frank Davis
d. summer, 2020
Frequent player at Shrine

Sumner Freedman
d. August 2, 2020
Frequent player at Essex

Louise Irving
d. August 9, 2020
Frequent player at BCCNJ

Don McGillon
d. July 12, 2020
Frequent player at
Monmouth County Aces

Bill Morgan
d. June 21, 2020
Frequent player at Essex

Jo-Ann Lucy Nehr
d. August 21, 2020
Frequent player at BCCNJ

Don Prior
d. May 13, 2020
Frequent player at
Monmouth County Aces

Peter Schachter
d. July 17, 2020
Frequent player at Essex

Grace Scheetz
d. August 17, 2020
Frequent player at BCCNJ

NOMINEES FOR NJBL BOARD

Nominees for second term

Himanshu Joshi
Pramod Khanna
Jesse Reisman

Nominee to fill vacancy

Sharon Gross

Any nomination by petition must contain 20 actual, non-virtual signatures of NJBL members and must be received by the unit secretary on or before January 20, 2021.

SPOT THE ERROR

by Ken Trock

Let's play a game called *Spot the Error*. I'll lay out several hands played on BBO and see if you can catch an error along the way. The names have been excluded to protect the parties.

	<u>North</u>		
Dealer: South	♠ AJ83		
	♥ 9		
	♦ A653		
	♣ 10986		
		<u>East</u>	
		♠ 976	
		♥ AKQ1063	
		♦ 72	
		♣ Q7	
	<u>West</u>		
	♠ K1052		
	♥ 74		
	♦ Q1098		
	♣ J42		
		<u>South</u>	
		♠ Q4	
		♥ J852	
		♦ KJ4	
		♣ AK53	

The bidding:

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

North sure took a rosy view of this first hand, landing their side in 3NT. South's double showed three cards in support of North's Diamonds. (I'm not sure if a support double is normally played in support of a minor).

Here's how the play went. E-W were playing upside-down count and attitude. West led the ♥7 and East took three top Hearts and then led his lowest Heart, South winning the ♥J at trick #4. Along the way, West pitched the ♠2, encouraging, and the ♦8. North sluffed two small Diamonds and a Spade. Declarer played to the ♦A on the board and ran the ♣10 to west's Jack. West, out of Hearts, got out with a Club, declarer winning in hand. He cashed his two remaining good Clubs, West pitching a Spade, East a Spade and a Heart.

In the end, South was able to lead the ♠Q4 through West's ♠K10 up to dummy's ♠AJ8. East was down to the ♠97, so declarer picked up the suit, making 3NT on three Spades, one Heart, two Diamonds and three Clubs.

No doubt South played this extremely well. But the question is: could E-W have done better? Was there a defensive error? Well, East could jettison his Hearts and retain all three Spades, somehow figuring out that the ♠9 was important. But there's something earlier that guarantees a set. East should simply cover dummy's ♥9 with the 10 at trick #1. Declarer can't possibly run eight more tricks without either defender's getting in. If West had had Heart support, he'd have had room to show it, so South probably has four Hearts to the J.

	<u>North</u>		
Dealer: South	♠ KQJ76		
	♥ J		
	♦ J95		
	♣ AJ96		
		<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
		♠ 5	♠ 102
		♥ KQ8754	♥ A1092
		♦ A82	♦ 107
		♣ KQ5	♣ 108732
		<u>South</u>	
		♠ A9843	
		♥ 63	
		♦ KQ643	
		♣ 4	

The bidding:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

On this next deal, N-S were pretty happy to set 5♥ by two tricks until they saw all the scores; +200 was not good. What happened? Nothing is certain, but I think South's jump to 4♠ was premature. West did well to bid up to 5♥, thinking the opponents could make 4♠, and was right; in fact, N-S can make 5♠.

Perhaps 5♠ is biddable, but if South goes slow at second turn (for instance with a 3♥ limit raise), North certainly will feel that they have enough to double 5♥ and salvage an average on the board with +500.

[continued next page]

SPOT THE ERROR
[concluded]

Dealer: East	<u>North</u>		
Vul: N-S	♠ Q		
	♥ KQJ54		
	♦ 84		
	♣ AJ983		
	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
	♠ K876542	♠ AJ1093	
	♥ -	♥ A7	
	♦ KQJ2	♦ A109765	
	♣ 54	♣ -	
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ -		
	♥ 1098632		
	♦ 3		
	♣ KQ10762		

The bidding:

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

OK, this one's easy: E-W forgot to double ;) Yours truly was sitting East on this and could have bid 7♠, but I let it roll to partner, who summarily passed.

Spirited bidding to a good red-on-white sacrifice by N-S! It turned out that only one E-W even reached a small slam, so +800 would have been a great E-W score. Most E-W pairs were +510, so setting the hypothetical 7♣ doubled needs a three-trick set. A Spade lead by East holds the damage to 500. If East starts with the ♦A, hopefully West plays the ♦K, asking for a Heart switch, which should be self-evident on the bidding.

What about 7♥ doubled? On the ♥A lead, West should play the ♦K, presumably showing the Queen. East will then underlead the ♦A, hoping to get a Club ruff. On the ♠A lead, dummy ruffs and West should play the ♠K, asking for a Diamond switch when East is in again. East would later need to take it on faith to underlead the ♦A. If East starts off with the ♦A, the E-W communications are cut and N-S get out with a good score of -500. Pretty interesting hand.

[Note: Since East bid 6♠ to make, even with the uncertainty created by all the opponents' bidding the subsequent pass of 7♣ by East is played by most advanced players to show specifically first round control of Clubs. It is in fact a very good call, and implicitly suggests that a grand might be feasible (else simply double for a sure profit). Here, West could likely discern the ♦A and a Spade fit, so the promised first round control of Clubs (and interest) would make bidding 7♠ an excellent parlay.
- Technical Advisor]

KOHN'S KORNER
by Arnold Kohn

Play in Tempo!

Bridge is a game played by people of seemingly above average intelligence. This does not mean that some players are not guilty of things which, if not illegal, are certainly unethical. All bids and plays should be made in tempo. Should your partner take extra time as the first bidder and then Pass, as his partner you should not take advantage of his presumed 11-12 HCP. Coffee housing is another disturbing thing. When declarer

leads a Queen toward dummy's Axxx, play in tempo, whether you have the King or not. When declarer leads and you have a singleton, don't you dare **not** play in tempo. Another annoying instance occurs when you make an opening lead of a singleton in a way that your partner will recognize it as such. The virtual game offers some excuse for this behavior, because of distractions and other good excuses, but please try to be ethical.

ROUGH WATERS VS CALM SEAS

by Francis Gupta

Most of us remember the last game we played in-person at a club. Mine was the Princeton Bridge Center game held at the Beth Chaim synagogue on March 10th. Since then all the games I've played have been virtual. And even though the online games have been a lifesaver during the pandemic, I would like once again to play bridge holding real cards instead of clicking on a tablet, or a desktop, or a smart phone. Also, I would like once again to play bridge seated at a table with my partner and opponents instead of not knowing their physical whereabouts. And I would like once again to play bridge at a club where I can meet and greet my friends in person and look at them in the eye instead of chatting with them on BBO.



Source: ACBL

I am certain that many of you feel the same frustration that I am feeling as the pandemic drags out with no end in sight. But my wise friend and neighbor always said that if you look at the positives in life, you will feel better. Translating that to our current situation, one of the many aspects I enjoy about playing bridge online (besides being able to play in my pajamas) is the ability to review the hands, which makes for a great learning tool.

For instance, for a particular board in a duplicate game, not only is it possible to see all the contracts (bidding) and scores, but it is possible to see how the hand was played trick-by-trick at all of the tables; in other words, what was the opening lead, and the next lead, and so on. Essentially, this is as if one were able to kibbitz at every table of the game for every given hand. In a club game this would not even be in the realm of possibility. This online functionality of being able to compare the card-play across tables allows one to understand the finer maneuvers employed by both the declarer, seeking to take a

maximum number of tricks (assuming MP scoring), and the defense, seeking to minimize the number of tricks the declarer can take and to set the contract if possible.

As an illustration, consider the following hand in which my partner and I went down at a Shrine-Jersey Bridge Club game on BBO during the ACBL Stardust week in September.

	<u>Partner (HCP = 15)</u>	
Dealer: South	♠ KQ973	
Vul: All	♥ K54	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ QJ8	
<u>West (HCP = 8)</u>		<u>East (HCP = 10)</u>
♠ J8		♠ A2
♥ 72		♥ 1083
♦ 6532		♦ AQ1084
♣ AK753		♣ 962
	<u>I (HCP = 7)</u>	
	♠ 10654	
	♥ AQJ96	
	♦ 97	
	♣ 104	

Source: Shrine-JBC on BBO.

The bidding on our table went as follows:

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♠ ³	Pass
3♠ ⁴	All Pass		

¹ Shows 15-17 HCP, does not deny a 5-card major

² Stayman asks for a 4+card major

³ Shows 4+ card Spade suit as a response to Stayman

⁴ Invitation to game, requires 8-9 HCP

Needless to say, opponents brilliantly cashed in the first four tricks: ♣AK and ♦AQ, playing the Diamonds from West through dummy's ♦KJ, and the trump Ace.

My first thought was that perhaps I should not have invited partner to game with 7 HCP. If I had passed partner's 2♠, we would not have gone down and would have earned +110 instead of -100. Looking at the results, it turned out that stopping at 2♠ and making that contract would have been only marginally better than the 5% we made on this board. Here is a summary of the results for the 11 tables at which the board was played:

[continued next page]

ROUGH WATERS VS CALM SEAS

[concluded]

Result	# of Tables	N-S Score	% N-S Declarer	% E-W Defense
4♠N	2	620	95%	5%
2♥N+1	2	140	55%	45%
2♠N+1	3	140	55%	45%
3♠N	1	140	55%	45%
1NT	1	90	20%	80%
3♠N-1	2	-100	5%	95%

Source: Shrine-JBC on BBO.

Looking at the results, what was surprising to see was that, at the ten tables where this board was played in a suit contract, there were only two tables where the defenders took five tricks, with one of them being ours.

All bridge players know that defense is the hardest part of the game. Many times, the opening lead is a factor that determines how many tricks declarer makes. But, in reviewing the hands at multiple tables, I learned that in this hand the opening lead was inconsequential; what mattered was that that, once declarer ceded control by playing trump, E-W quickly cashed in four more tricks by switching to Clubs and then to Diamonds.

The reason E-W gain control is that declarer cannot take the Heart tricks until trump are out. So, declarer must play trumps and cede control to East, who holds the trump Ace.

This is the only opportunity for E-W to strike and take four more tricks. Looking at the dummy, a Club seems the obvious lead for East after winning the Ace of trump. Some partnerships might use a lead of a low Club to signal to partner to lead back a Diamond (lower of the remaining two suits besides the trump suit). But even if partnerships don't play a suit preference signal, again looking at the dummy, a Diamond return by West puts the most pressure on declarer.

If E-W don't use this opportunity to take all of the tricks they are owed and instead cede control back to declarer by playing a Heart or a Spade, then depending on the tricks that defenders have already cashed in before ceding control, declarer is either going to take nine tricks or ten tricks, which is what the results indicate.

After reviewing this board at all ten tables on BBO, I had two thoughts:

1. If places were switched, would my partner and I have taken our five tricks if we were on defense and opponents were in a suit contract?
2. Was my 3♠ invitational bid with 7 HCP and a 5-card Heart suit too aggressive? I wondered: what would the experts have done?

YOUTH BRIDGE by Pamela Venable

[Editor's note: Pamela Venable serves as a bridge coach at the Oakwood Avenue Community School in Orange, New Jersey.]

This year 2020 will go down in history as a challenging time. We have been challenged to find new and more innovative ways to go about our daily lives. We take great



measures to prepare to go to work, leave home to do grocery shopping, seek medical attention, and socialize. Just ten months ago, we had no notion of the new way of life that would be set before us.

The Oakwood Avenue Community School Bridge Club had great plans for July.

A total of 24 people were planning to attend the Youth North American Bridge League National Bridge Tournament in Montreal, Canada.

Montreal is a very popular place. Hotels booked quickly. The excitement led to requests for additional lessons in order to be at our best. Each year we receive some extended year practice sessions, but this year we received a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Saturday morning program which supported our quest to build upon the skills we were obtaining through our weekly sessions. Only those serious about improving their game showed up. Attendance reached at least 20 each week and our Bridge Club has an active number of 24

Boys as well as girls are attracted to this fantastic card game that stimulates the thought processes, improves math skills and without a doubt enhances social and emotional skills. The use of technology has been an added plus. We love the idea of being able to practice and communicate through online bridge.

Sitting at a computer rather than at a bridge table has a different feel however. We love the fact that online Bridge has kept us in the game! Although we never made the trip to Canada, the pandemic did not deter us from continuing with our bridge program.

In conjunction with our social and emotional component, a portion of our day was dedicated to Youth Bridge. This feature proved to be an ideal experience for all. Each participant was invited to our "Grab and Go" celebration at the end of the summer enrichment program. Everyone received a Certificate of Completion, and a drawstring bridge bag containing a tee shirt, a book and a travel blanket for participating in the weekly sessions, the Saturday sessions and the summer program. We have a really dedicated group, and the added feature of Bridge Base Online during July and the first two weeks of August supported the extracurricular portion of our summer program.

I would like to add that our Bridge Club participated in two community service projects. Joined by parents and mentors, they were able to maintain social distancing and worked to help pick up trash and beautify Monti Irvine Orange Park. The second project entailed donating socks and other items to homeless veterans.



We appreciate Ms. Barbara Clark and the team of volunteers and teachers for all of the time and effort they put into making Bridge such a rewarding experience for our youth.

Thanks to the American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation (ACBLEF) for a \$5,000 grant used to establish a Saturday Bridge Academy for kids in Orange.

I'D LIKE TO SQUEEZE THE ROBOT'S NECK!*by Jay Korobow*

[Note: The following article was written and submitted some months before the pandemic struck. Readers who have since gravitated toward online bridge will have to judge whether the current level of robot play has improved. - Editor]

As a recent column in the *Bridge Bulletin* suggested, the future of bridge may eventually involve quite a bit of robot-player experience: three at a time, with one as a partner and two as opponents. This does have the benefit of addressing the collusion potential of online or electronic play (you can't somehow secretly communicate with your partner other than with legal bridge mechanisms.) As robots get better and better programming (and run more simulations before choosing a bid or play) – they will, as in chess, become quite formidable competitors. Already the common ones you encounter online have been rated as performing at 55% level of play in a typical tournament MP event.

For a quarter (or \$1.25 with an ACBL sanction), you can, for example, play with 3 robots for ratings points in an 8-board matchpoint event. Barometer scoring told me I was second (out of 15 competing humans) when this final board (#8) was dealt, and I made the fairly normal 1NT overcall with the South hand, as shown:

	<u>North</u>		
Dealer: East	♠ 7632		
Vul: All	♥ J852		
	♦ 96		
	♣ 872		
	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
	♠ 109	♠ KQ85	
	♥ 63	♥ AK97	
	♦ KJ42	♦ 10853	
	♣ AJ963	♣ 4	
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ AJ4		
	♥ Q104		
	♦ AQ7		
	♣ KQ105		

The bidding

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1NT
Dbl	All Pass		

Robot West had no issues doubling me, and as there was nowhere to run, I sat it out and received the ♠10 opening lead. As it went ♠Q by East, I won the ♠A in case the lead was from K109. Then I went after Hearts, building a potential trick as well as an entry to dummy. I was aware that Heart honors could be split and the ♠A with East, so getting the entry out of West's hand in Hearts has some major benefits in the play. But as East had both high Hearts, this plan was doomed, and in fact when East switched to the ♦10, doom was really in the air big time.

Of course, I tried the ♦Q, hoping East had the ♦K rather than both high Spade values, and perhaps was making an error. Heh! When my ♦Q lost to West's ♦K, I could be heard muttering something about nuts and bolts. Things however looked up when Robot West went back to Spades with the play of the ♠9. Wouldn't it be nice if it had started with exactly ♠1098 and now the 4th Spade in dummy would be up, and possibly I could get there?

I of course feared Diamonds being continued to my paltry stopper allotment of that suit. The play of the ♦10 makes some sense in that it prevents me from a duck to dummy's ♦9 to preserve an ♦AQ tenace. However, it also forced West to consider that it was from something like 1053, and that East might be 4=4=3=2 for its 3rd seat opening bid of 1♦, promising only three pieces. East's reverting now back to Spades did allow that suit to be cleared and set up. It also started to paint a picture of the layout, and where the ♣A was located for sure. (No thoughts of playing East for ♣Ax any more!)

After East won the 2nd high Heart and ran the long Spades, West's pitching reasonably encouraged a Club play. East was not one to disobey, and dutifully (robotically?) played its singleton 4♣. My false card of playing the ♣K from KQ10x actually allowed for the possibility that the ♣4 was from Q104, and that East had opened 1♦ with 4=2=4=3 shape. Perhaps with their robot juices boiling over with greed, West now continued Clubs into my hand for this apparent reason. And as I won the trick cheaply from my ♣Q10, things looked extremely brighter for Humankind!

↳ I'D LIKE TO SQUEEZE THE ROBOT'S NECK! ↳ *[concluded]*

I now had won three tricks and had six sure tricks:

<u>North</u>			
♠	–		
♥	J8		
♦	9		
♣	8		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠	–	♠	–
♥	–	♥	97
♦	J	♦	85
♣	J93	♣	–
<u>South</u>			
♠	–		
♥	4		
♦	A7		
♣	Q		

Reading the position as shown, I next played the ♣Q, squeezing the life out of Robot East. Whichever red suit it parted with, I would then get two tricks in that suit with plenty of suitable communication to untangle my tricks. +180 for 1NT doubled was surely a great MP score and I was expecting a victorious leaderboard, having begun Board #8 in 2nd position on the barometer.

Alas, I remained in 2nd, with a 74.55% game, losing out to someone with 75%. BBO is nice in that you can afterwards examine the results, including bidding and play, at other tables in competition. I saw that my +180 (1NTx making one) on board #8 actually tied with the result earned by the player who scored the winning 75%, so I decided to see how the play went at his table.

The exact same position shown in the 2nd diagram above was reached after nine tricks. But there the Human declarer went astray. Instead of finding the winning ♣Q play and squeeze, he simply played the ♥4 toward dummy's ♥J8, hoping the suit broke favorably. When it didn't he was destined to be down one and finish in 2nd place (instead of me!)

But wait! After the Human declarer cashed the ♥J and then crossed to the closed hand with ♣8 to his ♣Q, Robot East now had to discard. It was clear dummy's ♣8 was low and that dummy could never be reached again, so why not part with the now useless ♥9? Maybe one day when I see it in the "Ancient Robots Junkyard," I will ask it!

But on this day (well, actually, this late night), Robot East held on to the ♥9 for dear mechanical metallic life, discarding instead a Diamond. So Human declarer was able to score both the ♦Q and ♦7 for seven tricks, a tie for top of +180, and a narrow win in the event – at my 25 cents expense!

Of course, I dutifully filled out and submitted a Robot Recorder form, useful for reporting supposed glitches (and I suggested this was one) to the Robot programming department. This is so that future robots will not make the same error. Ever. Again. However, if I ever get another chance to squeeze that particular Robot, my target will be its corrugated neck, and for sure the error will definitely not recur!

MILESTONES**CHANGES IN RANK: July – August – September – October 2020****Platinum Life Master**

Abe Pineles Jackson

Diamond Life Master

Marilyn Elyakin Monroe Twp

Gold Life Master

Edward Bauman Verona

Piotr Olszewski Hackettstown

Bob Wang Parlin

Ruby Life Master

Jim Buell Flanders

Janis Charkow Cranbury

Kathy Hunter New Vernon

Silver Life Master

Thomas Arnold Basking Ridge

Dolores Ballard Brielle

Christopher Chapin Manasquan

Martin Fox Manahawkin

Nathan Petschenik Manalapan

Philip Roura Manchester

Bharat Shah Monroe

Om Singh Whitehouse Sts

Susan Sussman Livingston

Bronze Life Master

Kathy Arshan Jackson

Richard Eisenman Milford

Larry Geher West Caldwell

Ginny Mason Princeton

Susan Radner Montclair

Theresa Winslow Somerville

Life Master

Jesse Cohen Califon

Daniel Cooperberg Monroe Twp

Janet Dzwinczyk Morris Plains

Larry Geher West Caldwell

Lawrence Gordon West Orange

Julie Grossman Hopewell

Tony Lamb Summit

Life Master (cont'd)

Richard Lum Freehold

Dinkar Pujara Lakewood

Susan Radner Montclair

Kathleen Riepenhoff Skillman

Sam Singhvi Princeton

Mary Lou Van Handle Succasunna

Adv NABC Master

Linda Brezin Tinton Falls

Pramod Khanna East Windsor

Jonathan Thompson Basking Ridge

NABC Master

Robert Ayers Jr Toms River

Lauretta Ayers Toms River

Robert Derosa Manchester

Carole Felberbaum Springfield

Chantal Frantzen Princeton

Robert Frantzen Princeton

Felicia Freed Califon

Lynn Goldberg Morristown

Sophie Hafif W Long Brnch

L Gail Knight Chester

Aaron Liebhaber Westfield

Anand Mhaskar Succasunna

Barbara Murray Chatham

Jack Schrum Bridgewater

Tehmtan Tehsildar Hillsborough

Ester Terzi Allenhurst

Vivian Tobias Long Branch

Maria Vikan Berkeley Hts

Paul Vikan Berkeley Hts

Regional Master

Thomas Alcock Chester

Frances Carl Marlboro

Bhagya Chari Parsippany

Charles Clark Skillman

Marcelle Cohen Oakhurst

Regional Master (cont'd)

Timothy Corey Spring Lake

Leslie Degeorges Millington

Patricia Filippo Florham Park

Lynn Gindi Oakhurst

Stephen Hopkins Montclair

Jim Liotta Oceanport

Manish Mehta Chatham

Margaret Mittricker South Orange

Wendy Perlberg South Orange

Susan Woodbury Long Branch

Jean Yoder Summit

Sectional Master

Michael Absatz Eatontown

Sheila Albert Princeton

Diane Bilicskapereira New Prov.

Sharon Brickman Livingston

Hildegard Bucking Morristown

Michele Cascardi North Caldwell

Carol Churgin West Orange

Jeanie Cleary Shrewsbury

Thomas Cummins Summit

Barbara David East Hanover

Lee Delorenzi Bedminster

Karin Devlin Rumson

Robin Eastern North Caldwell

Barbara Felton Princeton

Millie Galligan Fair Haven

Bo Gao Ringoes

Jody Giedraitis Summit

Cindy Goldstein Livingston

Sallie Hollander Skillman

Patricia Kay Westfield

Barbara Lawler Princeton

Denise Luft West Orange

Holly Lyttle Oceanport

Jane Macan Harvey Cedars

MILESTONES

[concluded]

Sectional Master (cont'd)

Manish Mehta	Chatham
Phyllis Meichel	Pittstown
Marcia Nadell	Tinton Falls
Olga Netto	Summit
Terry Nusser	Flemington
Arline Oberst	Roseland
Janet O'Sullivan	Mountainside
John Paltiel	Maplewood
Nina Pardi	Summit
Gail Pollard	Summit
Leanne Rettig	Livingston
Judith Schatzberg	Livingston
Jocelyn Shadforth	Montclair
Yvonne Shepard	Flemington
Judith Smith	Beach Haven
Bryan Supran	Summit
Carole Utter	Barnegat
Janet Wilson	Fair Haven

Club Master

Kenneth Bann	South Orange
Regina Bann	South Orange
Nina Bard	East Brunswick
Judith Bendory	Morris Plains
Dorothy Bisberg	West Orange
Ann Bowers	Far Hills
Lucinda Clark	Skillman
Mario Codispoti	Mount Arlington
Mitchell Cohen	South Orange
Nancy Dainesi	Montville
Laurel Dobalo	Metuchen
Tony Edelstein	West Orange
Sarah Fischell	Fair Haven
Rosalie Ginda	Somerset
James Graef	Toms River
Stefani Gurkoff	North Caldwell
James Koppel	Livingston

Club Master (cont'd)

Nancy Koppel	Livingston
Laurie Kramer	East Mill Stone
Lauren Leiro	Rumson
Renee Litinger	West Orange
Carmen Masur	Bedminster
Peter Maulbeck	Roseland
Joanne Milot	Basking Ridge
Philip Milot	Basking Ridge
Stephen Mooney	Wall Township
Pam Morse	Madison
Robert Morse	Madison
Michael O Donohue	Monroe
Anita Porto	Summit
John Rathgeb	Montclair
Linda Reed	Madison
Meryl Reed	Madison
Nancy Shepard	Montclair
Gloria Tookmanian	Budd Lake
Sharon Trummel	Brookside
Cheryl Wachtel	West Orange
Jacqueline Walsh	Annandale
Anne Williams	Ringoes
Eileen Wolkstein	Short Hills

Junior Master

Danette Alderoty	Rumson
Arthur Bylin	Skillman
Karyn Campbell	Chatham
Linda C.-Hudson	Bernardsville
Howard Charish	West Orange
Karen Cherins	West Orange
Dilip Chopra	Basking Ridge
Ann Conway	Whitehouse Sta
Moira Crabtree	West Caldwell
Patrick Davis	Andover
Anna Dei	Edison
Patrick Driscoll	Tinton Falls

Junior Master (cont'd)

Tracy Ferry	Little Silver
Helene Flood	Chatham
Melissa Ford	Jersey City
Melanie Genkin	North Caldwell
George Hayes	Nutley
Joanne Hayes	Nutley
Mary Holle	Maplewood
Kenneth Kapica	Chatham
Ellen Kemp	Kendall Park
Lenore Kiss	New Prov.
Veena Kumar	West Windsor
Nancy Leccese	Summit
Bruce Lefkon	West Orange
Sandra Lefkon	West Orange
Gillian Levy	Hopewell
Marc Lobell	Middletown
Holly Mahler	Oceanport
Margaret Mallan	Hoboken
Barbara Matturri	Chatham
Susan Miller	Southorange
Ujwala Mulgaonkar	North Caldwell
Sheila Oakes	Montclair
Debbie Oppenheimer	Cedar Grove
Helen Parr	Morristown
Anita Rao	Short Hills
Naveen Rao	Short Hills
Susan Rothbard	Fairfield
Stuart Scott	Morristown
Patricia Sheaffer	Summit
Jerome Shilstat	Scotch Plains
Howard Siegel	Jersey City
Douglas Simons	Rumson
Margaret Simons	Rumson
Madeline Sinoway	Landing
Randee Stolar	Livingston
Cheryl Udoff	West Orange

TO ERR
by Peter Wright

To err is human . . ." mused ACdueC between generous swigs of 18-year-old Laphroaig and deep pulls on a nine-inch Gran Corona. The Scotch, of course, consisted of an effulgence of quarks laced with a rigorously calibrated array of muons and leptons. The cigar was likewise a sub-atomic maelstrom, harboring few mesons but vibrating with a superabundance of Higgs bosons. That produced a steady stream of flitting photons that fully satisfied AC's desire to experience the equivalent of a burning cigar tip. Nay, *not* merely the *equivalent*. His sensation, AC was certain, far exceeded the capacity of his human progenitors to savor even the most exquisite of *their* paltry pleasures. At this moment, however, he couldn't compare sensory notes with his opponents, who had already vanished into the electronic void. But no matter. His logic circuits brooked no arguments. He was state-of-the-art; ergo, his conclusions were irrefutable.

"To err is human . . ." mused ACdueC again, ". . . but to beat up on them is peachy keen, what?" 2TfruT finished the thought. 2T was also state-of-the-art, but his patience quotient was a magnitude lower than AC's, and 2T's penchant for finishing AC's sentences after hesitations longer than 0.72 nanoseconds was a frequent source of irritation for AC.

Dealer: Tock 2TfruT
 Vul: All ♠ 42
 ♥ AQ8
 ♦ K2
 ♣ KQ10943

<u>Tick</u>	<u>Tock</u>
♠ KJ1073	♠ Q98
♥ K76	♥ 10542
♦ J5	♦ Q98643
♣ A72	♣ —

ACdueC
 ♠ A65
 ♥ J93
 ♦ A107
 ♣ J865

The bidding:

<u>Tock</u>	<u>ACdueC</u>	<u>Tick</u>	<u>2TfruT</u>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

"Tick" – that was how AC processed the human's printed name – opened a routine 1♠ in third seat. 2T had no qualms about overcalling with his chunky Club suit. "Tock" – ditto the above – raised Tick's Spades based on dummy points and a deep-seated distaste for defending against inhuman silicon savages. AC, with 4-card support and two bullets, upped the Club ante. Tick persevered with yet another Spade call and it rode around to AC . . .

. . . who recalculated, opting to play 2T for ♣AKxxxx plus the ♥A or ♦K – either would do, given the inevitable Spade lead – excellent odds, in short, for 3NT. AC's ♠A would be dislodged at trick #1, but he could then rattle off six Clubs and two red suit tricks for a total of nine. His *neutronic* analysis rods outclassed the humans' *neuronic*, nay, say rather *moronic* brain pods by light minutes. His impulse receptors would then positively *tingle* in response to Tick and Tock's perceived despair. ACdueC grokked despair, though 2TfruT had yet to wrap his sensory inputs around that concept.

Tick made an opening lead and, for an infinitesimally brief quantum of time, AC focused on dummy's Clubs, which were inexcusably deficient by an Ace! 2T's ♣Q was a grossly inadequate substitute for the suit's Big Guy.

Fortunately for 2T, who would otherwise have been the recipient of a cascade of superheated electrons, AC focused next on that opening lead: *not* a Spade, but a *Diamond*: the *Jack*!

"Only a human" mused AC, who was inordinately *fond* of musing, "could concoct a layout in which to '*eschew*' – that neat word had just bubbled merrily up from AC's data abyss – "yea, even *scorn* the lead of a suit bid, supported, and rebid, and lead instead a suit of no reputation whatsoever!"

Indeed, Tick had succumbed to an overripe imagination, one in which ACdueC held ♠AQ for his out-of-the-blue 3NT. In Tick's scenario, Tock had raised Spades on three small and a red Ace. Mayhap Diamonds was the *living* players' *real* suit and they could run it till the cows came home. If not, all Tock had to do was win his wished-for ♦A and lead Spades through declarer's ♠AQ while Tick still retained the ♣A! Yes, Daddy-o, Tick had launched a two-pronged, *demon* defense, one that Larry Cohen might write up for one of his "Real Deals."

Only . . . but . . . except . . . AC had just *one* Spade stopper. *Any* Spade lead would have destroyed the contract.

Among the torrent of words typed by Tock for Tick's benefit, these alone can be reproduced in a respectable journal:

"You are indubitably the most *human* human on earth. I'm off to the partnership desk to snag me a robot partner."