



# THE DECLARER



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Peter Wright, Editor

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the NJBL Board of Directors.....	1
Unit 140 Top MP Winners .....	2
Article: "A Hand Evaluation Lesson".....	3
Remembrances .....	3
Masterpoint Races.....	4
Column: "Rough Waters vs Calm Seas" .....	6
From Your District #3 Director.....	7
Article: "Talk Around the Table".....	8
Article: "Youth Bridge" .....	9
President's Message .....	10
Column: "Kohn's Korner".....	10
Article: "Requiem for a Noun" .....	11
Milestones.....	12
A. M. Turing Award Winner Al Aho .....	13
Of note: Steve Nellissen .....	5

## THE DECLARER

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## FROM THE NJBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the annual membership meeting on February 28, 2021, the results of the election of **Himanshu Joshi**, **Pramod Khanna**, and **Jesse Reisman** for second terms and **Sharon Gross** for a first term as members of the Board of Directors were certified.

On March 6, 2021, at the first meeting of the NJBL Board of Directors, the following officers were elected for one-year terms:

President: **Brett Kunin**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Tournament Chair: **Kelly Kiefer**  
 Vice President: **Jesse Reisman**  
 Vice President: **Himanshu Joshi**  
 Secretary: **Stephanie Miller**  
 Treasurer: **David Sutton**

**UNIT 140 TOP MP WINNERS - 2020****Final 2020 National Standings**

Congratulations to Unit 140 players whose total MPs in 2020 earned them high national rankings.

**BARRY CRANE TOP 500**

Players in this category are ranked based on total MPs earned for the year in all categories of play.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Final National Standing</u>
Piotr Olszewski	3
Stephen Garreffa	5
Stephen Cooper	18
Judy Rothstein	22
Lawrence Gordon	54
Steven Siegel	114
Foster Osborne	140
Wendy Lee	168
Joan Brody	283
Mark Mohr	289
Dori Byrnes	406
Jiang Gu	500

**MINI-MCKENNY**

Mini-McKenny rankings are based on total MPs earned within the MP ranking categories in which players began the year.

<u>Rank category</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Final national Standing</u>
0 - 5	Manish Mehta	3
200-300	Larry Gordon	1
300-500	Steve Siegel	1
1000-1500	Foster Osborne	3
1500-2500	Piotr Olszewski	1
3500-5000	Steve Garreffa	1
3500-5000	Steve Cooper	3
7500-10000	Judy Rothstein	2

**ACE OF CLUBS**

Ace of Clubs rankings are based on total MPs earned exclusively in club games and within the MP ranking categories in which players began the year.

<u>Rank category</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Final national Standing</u>
200-300	Larry Gordon	1
300-500	Steve Siegel	3
300-500	Lenore Mohr	6
1500-2500	Piotr Olszewski	1
3500-5000	Stephen Garreffa	1
3500-5000	Stephen Cooper	3
7500-100000	Judy Rothstein	1

## A HAND EVALUATION LESSON

by Eli Duttman

This article is directed toward the intermediate/advancing player, but an advanced player may find something of value.

Instead of functioning as mindless adding machines, I ask the readership to *exercise judgment*. Given the popular 15-17 range for strong 1NT openings, the following hand should be opened 1NT in spite of the 18-count, which simple addition of HCP yields.

- ♠ AQ7
- ♥ KQ5
- ♦ KJ2
- ♣ QJ83

Milton Work's 4/3/2/1 count undervalues Aces and 10s, while overvaluing Queens and Jacks. The example contains a plethora of Queens and Jacks, along with a dearth of Aces and Tens. Not good!

A 4=3=3=3 distribution whose "long" suit has poor texture exhibits *little* playing strength. Not good!

The Italian "bulk control" count allocates 2 to an Ace and 1 to a King. This hand contains four bulk controls, which is only one better than the average of three. That's not impressive.

Applying the Losing Trick Count to the example initially yields one Spade loser, one Heart loser, two Diamond losers, and two Club losers. The initial total is six losers. Because the hand contains three Queens and only one Ace, an additional loser is added to the count, for a total of seven. *Seven losers is what a minimum opening bid exhibits.* "Something is rotten in the State of Denmark."

The hand contains: 1½ quick tricks (q/t) in Spades, 1 q/t in Hearts, ½ q/t and a tiny plus in Diamonds, and a strong plus in Clubs. The q/t total is 3 and a very strong plus approaching ½. S. Garton Churchill stated that a weak NT contains 2.5 to 3+ q/t. By the q/t metric, this hand barely qualifies as a strong NT.

All the metric methods, except the Work Count, do not hold the example in great favor. The hand is a strong 1NT and no more.

If the auction proceeds 1♣ – (Pass) - 1♦/1♥/1♠ – (Pass) - 2NT, the partnership will, all too often, end up in a game contract with **poor** prospects. There are also times that 2NT fails, such as when partner barely scraped up a response to 1♣.

Folks, please think, instead of mechanically hitting the calculator keys.

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

**Tony Gribin**  
d. March 26, 2021  
Frequent player at  
Monmouth County Aces

**Janet Nevius**  
d. February 1, 2020  
Frequent player at  
Shrine and Montclair Golf

## MASTERPOINT RACES

### Final 2020 Standings by Range

**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 source and color 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.

#### Masterpoint range

#### MINI-MCKENNEY

#### ACE OF CLUBS

Masterpoint range	MINI-MCKENNEY			ACE OF CLUBS		
0 – 5	Manish Mehta	Chatham	218.09	Manish Mehta	Chatham	195.71
	John Overdeck	Short Hills	142.68	John Overdeck	Short Hills	116.35
	James Graef	Toms River	57.21	James Graef	Toms River	56.38
	Laurel Dobalo	Metuchen	48.77	Laurel Dobalo	Metuchen	47.34
	<u>Michele Cascardi</u>	<u>North Caldwell</u>	<u>42.13</u>	<u>Michele Cascardi</u>	<u>North Caldwell</u>	<u>42.13</u>
5 – 20	George Kalb	Millington	185.94	George Kalb	Millington	159.04
	Denise Luft	West Orange	76.24	Denise Luft	West Orange	76.24
	Sharon Brickman	Livingston	63.02	Sharon Brickman	Livingston	59.54
	Regina Bann	South Orange	54.17	Regina Bann	South Orange	54.17
	<u>Margaret Cox</u>	<u>Manasquan</u>	<u>50.74</u>	<u>Margaret Cox</u>	<u>Manasquan</u>	<u>50.74</u>
20 – 50	Susan Wyrsh	Barneгат	112.89	Susan Wyrsh	Barneгат	103.82
	Veena Arora	Waretown	89.18	Veena Arora	Waretown	86.71
	Stacey Supran	Summit	80.60	Stacey Supran	Summit	76.95
	Cary Silverman	Mountain Lakes	80.08	Mary Kingsbery	Rumson	75.70
	<u>Bryan Supran</u>	<u>Summit</u>	<u>78.75</u>	<u>Byran Supran</u>	<u>Summit</u>	<u>74.19</u>
50 – 100	Leslie Degeorges	Millinton	176.16	Leslie Degeorges	Millington	175.02
	Janine Beer	Livingston	101.37	Janine Beer	Livingston	98.51
	Joy Scally	Essex Fells	88.20	Maureen McGreal	Boonton	82.54
	Maureen McGreal	Boonton	83.26	Joy Scally	Essex Fells	81.17
	<u>Margery Slonaker</u>	<u>Chatham</u>	<u>82.75</u>	<u>Margery Slonaker</u>	<u>Chatham</u>	<u>80.75</u>
100 – 200	Laine Maurer	New Providence	202.56	Laine Maurer	New Providence	192.67
	Robert Ayers, Jr.	Toms River	192.68	Robert Ayers, Jr.	Toms River	171.92
	Lauretta Ayers	Toms River	189.10	Lauretta Ayers	Toms River	171.08
	Tony Gribin	Ocean	188.12	Norman Friedman	Livingston	155.50
	<u>Gloria Gribin</u>	<u>Wayside</u>	<u>181.24</u>	<u>Tony Gribin</u>	<u>Ocean</u>	<u>154.05</u>
200 – 300	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	629.28	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	518.37
	Carol Keating	North Caldwell	129.14	Carol Keating	North Caldwell	128.25
	Cooki Gulkin	West Caldwell	117.28	Cooki Gulkin	West Caldwell	99.36
	Robert Derosa	Manchester	102.21	Robert Derosa	Manchester	98.48
	<u>Harris Ruben</u>	<u>Berkeley Heights</u>	<u>96.59</u>	<u>Harris Ruben</u>	<u>Berkeley Heights</u>	<u>80.39</u>
300 – 500	Steven Siegel	Mendham	525.87	Steven Siegel	Mendham	420.41
	Lenore Mohr	Springfield	307.61	Lenore Mohr	Springfield	307.07
	Ginny Mason	Princeton	258.84	Romesh Arora	Waretown	221.86
	Bobby Willig	Princeton	232.23	Ginny Mason	Princeton	218.07
	<u>Romesh Arora</u>	<u>Waretown</u>	<u>227.19</u>	<u>Bobby Willig</u>	<u>Princeton</u>	<u>192.26</u>
500 – 1000	Om Singh	Whitehouse	194.40	Om Singh	Whitehouse	190.80
	Ken Trock	Hamilton	185.81	Ken Trock	Hamilton	140.56
	Zenon Komar	Summit	142.11	Ming Li	Summit	133.91
	Muriel Klinger	Berkeley Heights	141.16	Zenon Komar	Summit	125.62
	<u>Joseph Wright</u>	<u>Westfield</u>	<u>137.74</u>	<u>Joseph Wright</u>	<u>Westfield</u>	<u>119.64</u>

[continued next page]

**MASTERPOINT RACES****Unit 140 Final 2020 Standings by Range**

[concluded]

**Masterpoint  
range****MINI-MCKENNEY****ACE OF CLUBS**

	Foster Osborne	Summit	485.04	Foster Osborne	Summit	334.17
	Jacqueline Hewlett	Bridgewater	246.04	Jacquelinbe Hewlett	Bridgewater	242.20
<b>1000 - 1500</b>	Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater	246.04	Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater	242.20
	Sid Jones	Randolph	156.62	Sid Jones	Randolph	152.54
	<u>Chug-Zong Wan</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>147.42</u>	<u>Rosalind Powell</u>	<u>Livingston</u>	<u>143.17</u>
	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	1,054.39	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	853.83
<b>1500 - 2500</b>	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	293.26	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	287.50
	Francis Nance	Chatham	163.12	Francis Nance	Chatham	159.04
	Karen Herbstman	Boca Raton FL	160.94	Karen Herbstman	Boca Raton FL	158.25
	<u>Jeffrey Halle</u>	<u>Middletown</u>	<u>153.43</u>	<u>Jeffrey Halle</u>	<u>Middletown</u>	<u>129.43</u>
	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	456.31	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	427.49
<b>2500 - 3500</b>	Fredric Weiner	Sarasota FL	151.03	Jin-Ming Liao	Skillman	135.89
	Jin-Ming Liao	Skillman	148.88	Susan Slusky	Highland Park	130.47
	Susan Slusky	Highland Park	135.38	Ronald Kraft	East Windsor	110.81
	Ronald Kraft	East Windsor	122.11	Fredric Weiner	Sarasota FL	107.44
	Stephen Garreffa	Randolph	998.58	Stephen Garreffa	Randolph	967.37
<b>3500 - 5000</b>	Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead	845.50	Stephen Cooper	Belle Mead	710.97
	Mark Mohr	Springfield	385.29	Mark Mohr	Springfield	383.58
	Elizabeth Evans	Mountainside	250.45	Elizabeth Evans	Mountainside	248.37
	<u>Dave DuBois</u>	<u>Westfield</u>	<u>245.82</u>	<u>Dave DuBois</u>	<u>Westfield</u>	<u>235.20</u>
	Joan Brody	Livingston	388.08	Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains	261.73
<b>5000 - 7500</b>	Peter Stein	Hillsborough	284.19	Peter Stein	Hillsborough	255.72
	Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains	272.86	John Brody	Livingston	231.43
	Donna Dulet	Ocean	249.67	Donna Dulet	Ocean	205.83
	<u>Arnold Kohn</u>	<u>Monroe Township</u>	<u>179.68</u>	<u>Arnold Kohn</u>	<u>Monroe Township</u>	<u>171.26</u>
	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	829.59	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	815.10
<b>7500 - 10,000</b>	Dori Byrnes	Morris Plains	345.91	Jesse Reisman	Livingston	250.58
	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	308.53	Cheryl Angel	Livingston	228.44
	Jesse Reisman	Livingston	257.40	Dori Byrnes	Morris Plains	157.17
	<u>Cheryl Angel</u>	<u>Livingston</u>	<u>238.91</u>	<u>Abe Pineles</u>	<u>Palm Desert CA</u>	<u>130.08</u>
	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	319.06	Lester Sokolower	Verona	181.03
<b>10,000+</b>	Lester Sokolower	Verona	181.03	Alexander Allen	Annandale	66.15
	Alexander Allen	Annandale	133.14	William Esberg	Long Branch	42.55
	William Esberg	Long Branch	50.67	Cynthia Schneider	East Brunswick	35.32
	<u>Cynthia Schneider</u>	<u>East Brunswick</u>	<u>38.28</u>	<u>Jiang Gu</u>	<u>Mountain Lakes</u>	<u>25.03</u>

**NOTICE TO UNIT 140 ACE OF CLUBS WINNERS**

Certificates from the ACBL for the winners within each rank category of the Ace of Clubs 2020 MP Race have been received by Arnold Kohn. If you wish to receive your certificate, contact him at [akohn71138@aol.com](mailto:akohn71138@aol.com), giving him your name and postal address. He will then mail the certificate to you.

**ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS***by Francis Gupta***Triple Heartbreak at the NAOBC**

It was one of those black swan events: three boards, three low scores, all due to the Heart suit, all in the same match.

To make matters worse, this triple "heart break" did not occur in a regular club game but during the second session of the qualifying round of the 0-1500 Premier Pairs event of the Winter NAOBC held this past March on BBO.

The first cut came on board #7. With all vulnerable and partner as dealer, I am North holding 11 HCP:

♠ J ♥ QJ9852 ♦ A10 ♣ QJ92.

The bidding:

North (Me)	East	South (Partner)	West
		1♦	2♠
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The entire hand is revealed as follows:

	<u>North (HCP=11)</u>		
Dealer: South	♠ J		
Vul: All	♥ QJ9852		
	♦ A10		
	♣ QJ92		
	<u>West (HCP=5)</u>	<u>East (HCP=7)</u>	
	♠ Q1098653	♠ 2	
	♥ K	♥ A107643	
	♦ 87	♦ K632	
	♣ 864	♣ 75	
	<u>South (HCP=17)</u>		
	♠ AK74		
	♥ –		
	♦ QJ954		
	♣ AK103		

East leads the ♠2 and I go down two tricks, earning only 13.3% on the board. By contrast, depending on West's lead, partner either makes one or two over tricks in 3NT which would have earned us either 43.3% or 65% on the board. Even 5♣ makes for a score of 33.3%.

The first cut is followed by a jab with board #10. Again with all vulnerable and East as dealer, I find myself in the fourth seat holding 18 HCP in this hand:

♠ KQ5 ♥ AK104 ♦ QJ ♣ QJ62.

The bidding:

North (Me)	East	South (Partner)	West
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

The entire hand is revealed as follows:

	<u>North (HCP=18)</u>		
Dealer: East	♠ KQ5		
Vul: All	♥ AK104		
	♦ QJ		
	♣ QJ62		
	<u>West (HCP=8)</u>	<u>East HCP=11)</u>	
	♠ 9643	♠ A872	
	♥ J	♥ 63	
	♦ A6543	♦ K102	
	♣ K73	♣ A1084	
	<u>South (HCP=3)</u>		
	♠ J10		
	♥ Q98752		
	♦ 987		
	♣ 95		

East leads the ♥6 and I go down two tricks, earning only 21.3% on the board. By contrast, irrespective of West's lead, 2♥ makes, earning us 71.7%. Even 3♥ going down one earns us 53.3%. Of course, 4♥ going down two earns N-S the same as us, namely, 21.3%.

Finally, the knockout punch is delivered on board #14. This time with no one vulnerable and East as dealer, I find myself holding 19 HCP in this hand after a 3♦ opening bid by West:

♠ K86 ♥ Q92 ♦ AK43 ♣ AK4

The bidding:

North (Me)	East	South (Partner)	West
	Pass	Pass	3♦
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The entire hand is revealed as follows:

	<u>North (HCP=19)</u>		
Dealer: East	♠ K86		
Vul: none	♥ Q92		
	♦ AK43		
	♣ AK4		
	<u>West (HCP=7)</u>	<u>East (HCP=10)</u>	
	♠ 104	♠ AQJ9	
	♥ KJ	♥ 83	
	♦ QJ98752	♦ 6	
	♣ 106	♣ QJ8752	
	<u>South (HCP=4)</u>		
	♠ 7532		
	♥ A107654		
	♦ 10		
	♣ 93		

*[continued next page]*

## ***ROUGH WATERS vs CALM SEAS***

***[concluded]***

West leads the ♦Q, and though it is possible to hold the contract to down one, we go down two tricks, earning only 15% on the board. By contrast, depending on East's lead, 3NT either goes down one, makes 3NT, or makes an overtrick, earning us 36.7%, 73.3%, or 93.3%, respectively. 4♥ going down one trick would have earned us the same as 3NT going down one trick; that is, 36.7%. By the way, on a weak defense, four N-S pairs managed to make 4♥, earning them 85%.

Readers can try bidding these hands with their partners and decide for themselves whether the calls partner and I

made (or did not make) in the heat of competition were appropriate. Clearly, based on the outcomes, they were not. However, the astute player knows that in bridge, decisions cannot be judged on particular outcomes. The whole point is that, more often than not, optimal calls will result in the better outcomes. On any other day, perhaps the calls partner and I made would have been optimal.

On a more positive note, in spite of these three boards seriously hurting our ranking during the qualifying event, partner and I moved on to compete in the final day of play.

## ***THIS 'N THAT FROM YOUR DISTRICT #3 DIRECTOR***

*[Editor's Note: This communication was received by Brett Kunin, President of the NJBL Board of Directors Unit 140.]*

**T**he ACBL Board just concluded its spring meetings looking forward to a probable return to FTF bridge beginning in the third quarter. As of now, Regionals are projected for the fourth quarter, but state and local authorities appear to be loosening restrictions and adult vaccinations may be completed by June, allowing clubs and sectionals to resume during the summer, and possibly creating demand for Regionals as early as September.

2020 financials show a gain of about \$2.7 million, more than double the total for 2019, thanks to the rapid adjustment to the COVID-19 pandemic and enthusiasm for online bridge.

A "clean" audit was completed last week.

The meetings were focused on:

1. Organizational issues (principally By-Law and Codification revisions) resulting from the reorganization approved last year;
2. Review of the substantially increased volume of Appeals and Charges activity due to online ethical charges; and,
3. Focus on the post-pandemic future of online and FTF bridge.

As you will have observed from the latest ACBL Bulletin, a great deal of effort was expended in orchestrating the joint ACBL and BBO response to the pandemic, and the ACBL Strategic Committee picked up the ball to lead vigorous discussion on the issues that the Board and management will need to address in the months ahead, including:

1. How to motivate FTF participation;
2. A likely decline in the number of clubs; and,
3. The need to mitigate risk for NABCs and Regionals over at least the year ahead.

Management is working on development of criteria governing the earliest FTF tournaments, which will need to be handled on a case-to-case basis.

Your District Board will be meeting in April to address our share of the same issues, and hopefully to plan to work with the ACBL for a successful return to tournament bridge in Danbury in October. We hope to see you there!

Carlos Muñoz  
District Director

## TALK AROUND THE TABLE

by Ken Trock

### Hand #1

Playing MPs in an online club game with a pickup partner, I'm dealt, in 4<sup>th</sup> seat: ♠A102=♥AJ84=♦76=♣J542. With no one vulnerable, the bidding goes:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

I'm thinking about my opening lead, probably a Heart, when partner types into the chat window, "Your lead partner, make it an aggressive one." *Excuse me:* "Make it an aggressive one"?! **You can't say that!** I'm waiting for the opponents to complain or call the director, but nothing happens. Which goes to show that it's a good idea for at least one person per partnership to keep their chat window open. Maybe I should call the director myself, maybe the board is fouled anyway, but I carry on. Chatty partner is probably right, an aggressive lead is called for, but I can't do that now. So I lead a Diamond.

Dummy hits with ♠J84=♥KQ10=♦AKQJ94=♣3.

Declarer holds ♠K93=♥752=♦102=♣KQ1086.

As it happens, most non-Diamond leads give declarer a trick and maybe a tempo. We sweat thru six rounds of Diamonds and, with careful defense, hold declarer to nine tricks. Most others make ten. An undeserved good board.

### Hand #2

MPs. This time I'm White on Red and in 2nd seat, holding:

♠void=♥63=♦AJ3=♣QJ1098752.

I hear 1♣ on my right. When I inquire about the bid, the nice lady says her Club holding is AK3! Wow, that's pretty forthcoming. And totally consistent with our Club holding. So how do I get in here, non-vulnerable with my real Clubs? 2♣ is Michaels, 3♣ is usually played as asking partner if they have a Club stopper, and if they do, bid 3NT. I don't want that either. How about 4♣ with my 8-bagger? That should be natural but seems unnecessary so soon. So I pass for now. LHO bids 1♠, partner passes, RHO bids 1NT. To be honest, I'm not sure what stopped me from bidding 2♣ or 3♣ (natural) now, but I didn't. LHO

bid 2♠, raised to 3♠ by RHO. Well I'm certainly not doing anything now! LHO accepts the invitation with 4♠, passed around.

I'm pretty sure this is going down. They may have a 50-50 chance to make with normal breaks, which they're not getting. RHO told me she has three Clubs. Since she opened a Club her shape must be 4-3-3-3. That means declarer will be stuck with losers. Partner led a Club, and predictably declarer took an early pitch on the ♣AK, ruffed by partner, who also had a couple of high Spades after that and a high Heart. I also have the ♦A. Down two. Glad I didn't enter this auction.

### Hand #3

MPs. Now I'm South, destined to become dummy.

Dealer: North	<u>North</u>		
Vul: All	♠ 97		
	♥ Q532		
	♦ A7		
	♣ A7543		
	<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
	♠ J864		♠ A1032
	♥ K97		♥ J64
	♦ 82		♦ J964
	♣ QJ109		♣ K8
	<u>South</u>		
	♠ KQ5		
	♥ A108		
	♦ KQ1053		
	♣ 62		

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass

This one could go several ways. Does the South hand qualify for a 1NT opener? Probably. But then we get to 3NT thru Stayman and there's no story to tell.

The play could go a couple of ways too. A low Spade was led! No harm. Declarer, North, won in dummy, came back to hand with the ♦A and led a Spade, won by East with the Ace, who got out with a Diamond, won high in dummy.

[continued next page]



## TALK AROUND THE TABLE

[concluded]

Now comes something I see as declarer fairly often. When I have the count on a suit and start ruffing losers, I cross my fingers that the defense won't ruff in ahead of me and compromise my trump holding. Most of the time, they don't. In this auction all North did was bid 1♥. There's no reason to assume their Heart holding is solid. So when a low Diamond is led off the board, West should ruff in, chipping away at declarer's trump holding. I think the ♥7 would be plenty high. It forces out the Queen. If declarer should get back to the board later and try it again, West's trumps are high.

Of course, it's easier when you as defender and dummy are out of a suit and declarer leads it out of hand. We see the trump holding on board. So when the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Clubs is played out of hand, East has a decision. And again it's easier when we see all four hands. Still, it's probably right for East to ruff in with the Jack, forcing out the Ace.

Our opponents simply sluffed other cards on the crossruff and my partner came to ten tricks. At the end, the defensive trump tricks fell on each other. On defense, think about uppercutting in these situations – but just not against me! 😊

## YOUTH BRIDGE

by Barbara Clark

**B**elow are results from our first youth online bridge tournament. Out of seven tables in play with kids from Connecticut, New York, Canada, and Bermuda, Orange's own Reginald Smith, Muna Iherobiem, and Marquis Douglas placed third overall in this exciting Valentine's Pairs event. Thanks to their parents and teachers for their continued support.

Our first online youth bridge tournament was a huge success. A regular participant in Unit 140 youth events who relocated from New York to Princeton NJ, Brad Derfner, and partner Connor Wolff, New York, were first N-S. Darcy Kaufman, Greenwich CT, and partner Marianna Moreau, Silver Spring MD, were first E-W.

Visiting from Williamsville NY, Darwin Skalski and Tiger Li from Buffalo NY placed second N-S. Ahzianai Smith, St. George's, Bermuda, and Daque Davis, Pembroke, Bermuda, placed second E-W.

We couldn't be more proud of our third place winners from Team Orange. Reginald Smith, who graduated from high school and now attends a technical school, joined us for our bridge social. He has been away from the game

for several years and played with substitute Christopher Chapin, placing third N-S. Veterans Muna Iherobiem and Marquis Douglas were third E-W. These students were among our first group of kids from Oakwood Avenue School attending the Youth NABC in Atlanta Georgia in 2013.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Unit 140 for contributing bridge bucks required to play Bridge Base Online (BBO), Orange Education Foundation, and the ACBL Educational Foundation for staff support. There are no words to express our gratitude to event organizers Cheryl Angel and Lynn Chapin for their insight and tenacity to make the tournament possible. Thanks also to our dedicated, hard-working coordinators Pamela Venable from Oakwood Avenue School and Dr. Denise Harlem from Park Avenue School. We were also assisted by Morgan Jonstone, our newest Oakwood Avenue School youth teacher and coach. Cheryl said that Morgan was communicating via chat and did an excellent job helping to get the kids online.

Thanks to everyone from the bottom of my heart!

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****by Brett Kunin*

**A**s this year's President of the NJ Bridge League, I would be remiss not to mention Arnie Kohn, not only for his last two years as President, but more importantly for more than 40 years of dedicated service to the Unit. Thank you, Arnie.

Hopefully, with the advent of three successful vaccines, we can foresee an eventual end to the pandemic, despite the recent surge of cases in our state. The staggering death toll in the U.S. has sobered everyone, and almost all of us have lost someone we knew or admired.

Although the ACBL has suffered a decline of 11,500 members in the past year (over 7% of the existing membership), the decrease in the ranks of our Unit is less than 3%. Nevertheless, there is hope on the horizon, as the ACBL actually gained members for the first time in 12 months in March. As most of you are aware, the ACBL has cancelled all National, Regional and Sectional tournaments through July, but is hoping to see the growth of face-to-face ("**ftf**") bridge as clubs gradually reopen. In order to be assigned to a tournament, the ACBL has issued a directive that any ACBL director must have provided proof of vaccination.

Locally, the Fairfield Regional in June has been cancelled. The North Americans Pairs district final is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, and will be **virtual**. A decision as to whether to hold a Regional in Danbury (scheduled the following week) will be made by District 3 at the end of June.

In addition, our Unit, at this point, intends to hold its first **ftf** Sectional since March, 2020 on December 10-12, 2021 at our new and permanent home, the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, NJ. Our new facility is not only far superior to our former one but is 40% larger and has excellent parking. We urge you to reserve the dates; more details will follow in the fall.

Finally, kudos to our virtual clubs for providing an outlet while we weather the pandemic, and a grateful thank you to all of our non-Board volunteers upon whom we have relied to continue their outstanding service to the Unit.

In the interim, I urge all of you to get vaccinated if you haven't already done so, to continue **all** Covid-19 precautions, and to stay safe.

***KOHN'S KORNER****by Arnold Kohn***Return to Normal Bridge**

**C**ovid-19 has been around for over one year and has changed our lives in many ways. We have not sat down at a bridge table, nor have we had any personal contact with other players. Bridge club managers and directors must establish some sort of criteria for us to return to their clubs and play "normal" bridge.

Firstly, proof of vaccination and willingness to wear protective masks and use hand sanitizers are a given.

The ACBL has suspended all Sectionals, Regionals, and Nationals until the fall, but clubs may open earlier. The important ingredient is what I call "the fear factor." When the infection rate in New Jersey declines well under the 10% mark and the number of people infected decreases, giving signs that the pandemic is nearing an end, people will be more confident that their health will not be impaired by the virus. This will probably be the right time for our clubs to reopen.

**REQUIEM FOR A NOUN***by Peter Wright***(with apologies to William Faulkner)**

**[Warning: What ensues is not exclusively about bridge. If this annoys you, do not read this warning. – Ed.]**

I go on Saturday walks with a friend who emailed me recently to say that he had **diaried** our weekly jaunts on his phone calendar.

Excuse me: **diaried**?

Since when is there an infinitive **to diary**? Another outrageous instance of verbificationalization! Another noun succumbing to the insidious virus that is **diseasing** noun after noun. Soon there won't be any virgin nouns left in the language. The mind **diarrheas** at the thought. Still, maybe we should **dialog** about this. OK, **monolog** about it.

Consider: even the noun "verb" has been **denounced**, as I will do thrice in this article. This must stop. The sacred noun must devolve no further into the realm of regular/irregular, transitive/intransitive, and such like. I don't know about you, but I positively **horror** at the thought of a transitive noun. And did you ever try conjugating an irregular noun? Believe me, it's not pretty.

The way things are going I foresee a future in which only one, solitary, sacrosanct, un-deflowered noun will remain, and that noun is "noun." No one could possibly sink so low as to assert that there exists the infinitive **to noun** and go around **verbing** "noun" as though it were socially acceptable. Let's be pro-noun, for pity's sake.

You might ask, what is this rant doing in the middle of an otherwise respectable Declarer? And you'd be right to. Ask, that is. Well, see, bridge nouns have also been falling victim to the depredations of a Poe-inspired pendulum which, with every swing, slices ever deeper into holy noun ground. The shards, orts, and slivers resulting from this deadly scything are affectionately **collected** under the rubric "Ground Down Nouns."

But I digress. It is permissible – and very likely – for you to **mace** that LummoX sitting across from you, the one

who butchers every hand in which he **dummies**. I saw you last night **spading** up your backyard to receive LummoX's cadaver. **Diamond** is officially scheduled to be **verbed** on Tuesday, when it will become allowable, if not affordable, **to diamond** your sweetheart's finger. **To heart** hasn't yet hit the list of newly neutered nouns, but that's already adumbrated on Gothamite bumper stickers reading "I ♥ New York." And some turkey will surely **contraption** a far viler usage by Thanksgiving.

I'll bet you're looking forward to when we can **bridge** in person again instead of **BBOing** the game. How long did you **partner** with LummoX, before you **deaded** him? Was it only yesterday when you **Jacobyed**, I **Blackwooded**, and we **out-slammed** the competition?

Don't be surprised if bi-partite nouns start to **domino** over serially and get **infinitived** before you can **Jack Robinson**. New carnages, coming soon to your neighborhood, include:

- Ugh! Don't you just hate experts who **killing lead** every hand they defend?
- Yikes! North **support doubled** me and we **gamed** when we should have **part scored**.
- %#\$@&^(! Anyone who **opponents** us and refuses to **convention card** their agreements, especially if they **bad board** us, can be sure we'll **director** them and insist they get **penaltied**.

But wait: maybe the language could benefit from some tweaking. What if we **verb** "peach," meaning **to ballot** by majority vote that the someone's job performance has **fruitioned** to an exemplary degree. The result will be a "peachment" (and lo! we have just **Caesarian sectioned** a new noun!). All those who **recipient** peachments are **carte blanch**ed to **office** till the cows **diaspora** home.

So, who's ready to **grammar**? Suddenly, I hungrily **appetite** for it.

And be sure to watch for the exciting sequel, tentatively **aliased** "Son of Noun."

## MILESTONES

## CHANGES IN RANK: February, March, April 2021

## Diamond Life Master

Barbara Clark	West Orange
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## Sapphire Life Master

Arlene Duboff	Livingston
Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown
Al Schwarz	West Orange

## Gold Life Master

John Anderson	Rockaway
George Carmichael	Middletown

## Adv NABC Master

Tehmtan Tehsildar	Hillsborough
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## Silver Life Master

Kim Andriano	Manchester Twp
Carol Arnold	Basking Ridge
Howard Booth	Summit
Susan Dobriner	New Providence
Lawrence Gordon	West Orange
Arnold Gwirtzman	Venice
Karen Haines	Summit
Zenon Komar	Summit
Barbara Lum	Freehold
Susan Philips	Chatham
Katherine Smith	New Providence
Yan Zhang	Jersey City

## Bronze Life Master

Maryann Brewer	Somerset
Carole Felberbaum	Springfield
Ming Li	Summit
Cherry Liloia	Morristown
Patricia Mignon	Hillsborough
Joanne Moynihan	Monroe Township
Mary Newman	Montclair
Nancy Perine	Waretown
Patricia Thomas	Little Egg Harbor

## Life Master

Carole Felberbaum	Springfield
Gloria Gribin	Wayside
Tony Gribin	Ocean
Patricia Mignon	Hillsborough
Joanne Moynihan	Monroe Township
Stephen Riepenhoff	Skillman

## NABC Master

Susan Adler	West Orange
Carolyn Feldman	Pennington
David Hagen	Princeton
Martha Haviland	Bridgewater
George Kalb	Millington
Myron Kowal	Roseland
Laine Maurer	New Providence

## NABC Master (cont'd)

John Overdeck	Short Hills
Cathy Walsh	Morristown

## Regional Master

Elaine Deblasi	Little Silver
Ranjan Dutta	East Windsor
Richard Gurak	Monroe Township
Christina Hewitt	Oceanport
Barbara Horowitz	Princeton
Dorothea Libman	West Orange
Gail Pollard	Summit
Mary Reber	Chatham
Joy Scally	Essex Fells
Mary Scardilli	Avon By The Sea
Yvonne Shepard	Flemington
Margery Slonaker	Chatham
Bryan Supran	Summit
Stacey Supran	Summit
Simon Thomson	Summit
H Tykot	Longboat Key
Susan Wyrsh	Barnegat
Susan Atteridge	Morristown
Elizabeth Baird	Wharton
Susan Robbins	Morristown
Janet Steig	South Orange
David Sutton	West Orange

## Sectional Master

Marta Black	Denville
Ruth Bronzan	Princeton
Lynn Chernuchin	Summit
Mario Codispoti	Mount Arlington
Laurel Dobalo	Metuchen
Ranjan Dutta	East Windsor
Sharon Feinsod	West Orange
Tracy Ferry	Little Silver
Lorraine Franz	Summit
Stephanie Gerstein	West Orange
Kim Gimblette	Lakewood
Rosalie Ginda	Somerset
Kirby Kanarek	Livingston
Dale Karo	West Caldwell
Carmen Masur	Bedminster
Helene Mintz	Livingston
Robert Morse	Madison
Elizabeth Mueller	Holmdel
Mary Jane O'Hare	Rumson
Paul Pritchard	Fair Haven
Richard Rosenzweig	Summit
Gayle Sommer	Short Hills

## Sectional Master (cont'd)

Ann Stone	Bernardsville
Kathryn Wagenseller	Somerset
Miquelon Weyeneth	Princeton
Russ White	Princeton

## Club Master

Danette Alderoty	Rumson
Susan Berry	Bay Head
Nemmara Chidambaran	East Brunswick
Sandra Dick	South Orange
John Dough	Sea Girt
Patricia Einbender	Cedar Grove
Nancy Geiger	Princeton
Larisa Gritsai	Springfield
Mark Janofsky	Monroe Township
Bryan Johnson	Pompton Plns
Barbara Jones	Summit
Anne Kinney	Morristown
Nancy Leccese	Summit
Holly Mahler	Oceanport
Jane Maucere	Tinton Falls
Jeanne Napier	Long Valley
Debbie Oppenheimer	Cedar Grove
Carolyn Parr	North Caldwell
Klara Pereplechikov	West Caldwell
Ronald Pilchman	Roseland
Anita Rao	Short Hills
Susan Rothbard	Fairfield
Ranjan Sonalkar	North Caldwell
Helene Staller	Princeton
Cheryl Udoff	West Orange
Linda Williamson	Upper Montclair
Sara Winkowski	Springfield

## Junior Master

Jerry Albenberg	West Orange
Liz Barrett	Verona
Ann Marie Browne	Summit
Nemmara Chidambaran	East Brunswick
Pamela Craig	Spring Lake
Louise Hall	Rumson
Murdina Hansen	Flemington
Cassandra Hardman	Summit
Mark Powell	Fanwood
Jean Romano	Long Beach Twp
Julie Saxe	Fair Haven
Danny Simpson	Newark
Usha Singhvi	Princeton
Rose Zhang	Parsippany
Jili Zou	Princeton

## *A. M. TURING AWARD WINNER*

*by Brett Kunin*

### AL AHO

I am pleased to announce that a bridge player from our Unit, **Al Aho**, who often played on weekends at the Shrine Bridge Center before the pandemic, received the 2020 A. M. Turing Award from the Association of Computer Machinery (ACM). The A. M. Turing Award, the ACM's most prestigious technical award is named for Alan M. Turing, a famous British mathematician. It is given for major contributions of lasting importance to computing and is often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Computing."

I have played against Al frequently, and although I knew that he resides in Chatham and is Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Columbia, I had no

idea that this intelligent, soft spoken man is so accomplished. He and Jeffrey Ullman of Stanford shared the award for nine collaborative textbooks on fundamental algorithms and theory used by millions of software programmers around the world.

The award, sponsored by Google, carries a prize of \$1 million, and I thought it important for all bridge players in the Unit to know of his amazing career and contributions.

For those interested in learning more, there is an excellent article from ACM located at

<https://amturing.acm.org>

### STEVE NELLISSEN

We take sad note of the passing on March 19, 2021, of Steve Nellissen. A member of Unit 106, Steve was the founder and director of The Bridge Table, a notable club in northern New Jersey which over the years drew many Unit 140 players to its games. He was a major promoter of bridge and a long-term contributor to the Orange Education Foundation's Youth Bridge Program.