



# THE DECLARER



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Ken Trock, Editor

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## The Declarer

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## ***President's Message***

*By Brett Kunin*



**S**ince my last message to the membership, there have been a few significant developments.

1. The ACBL has announced the creation of an advanced algorithm with the acronym of EDGAR, as an anti-cheating tool, particularly for use in online bridge (note the separate article in this issue of The Declarer). In addition, the ACBL has amended the Disciplinary Rules, and enlisted the aid of volunteer expert panels to assist in “cracking down” on cheaters.
  2. Several face-to-face bridge clubs in our Unit have reopened. Here is a list of clubs operating as of March, 2022 <http://www.njbl.net/reopening.htm>.
  3. OUR Unit intends to hold its first Sectional since the Pandemic began on August 19-21 at the Elks Club in Edison. More information will be available in June.
  4. Unit 106 (our northern neighbor) held a Sectional in Allendale on April 29-30, and the table count was extremely successful, with attendance at 70% of pre-pandemic levels. Unfortunately, the tournament was marred by many who subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 or developed Covid-like symptoms (including 4 players from our Unit), when a person at the tournament was later diagnosed with Covid, and likely infected others. As a result, the NJBL will be contemplating the issue of breakthrough infections, and how (and whether) to proceed when considering the planned August Sectional at its upcoming Board meeting.
  5. As most of you noticed from our email campaign, the first Regional in our District since 2020 will be held within our Unit at the Doubletree Hotel on Rte. 46 in Fairfield, June 7-12. We have posted the flyer for the Regional on our website, [www.njbl.net](http://www.njbl.net).
- Finally, since our expenses during the pandemic have been minimal, our Unit's cash balances have increased, and we are in excellent financial shape. I hope to renew acquaintances with all of you at the Regional and our Sectional.

## ***Kohn's Korner***

### ***Methods of scoring***

*by Arnold Kohn*



**B**ridge is a “bidder’s game”. You and your partner strive to bid to the correct contract, play in the correct suit or No Trump, and play at the correct level; either a part score, game or slam. This is to achieve a good score at any method of scoring.

#### **Matchpoints**

Most pair games at clubs and tournaments are scored at Matchpoints. For each hand, your score is compared to every other score in your section, and you receive one point for every pair you beat and one half point for every pair you tie. Everyone’s scores are then added up and the highest total wins the section. At this scoring, your pair must get to the correct contract, make the optimum number of tricks, or when defending, limit the Declarer to the least number of tricks possible. It is possible that you will risk your contract to take a high percentage finesse that gives you an overtrick.

#### **International Matchpoints or IMPs**

Most team competitions are scored at IMPs. In a team match, there are only two scores. Those earned at your table and those earned at the other table, where your teammates are playing. The net difference is then converted to IMPs using a sliding scale that you can find on the back of some convention cards. A ten point differential on a given hand is treated as a tie. Small differences earn very small rewards; a 20-40 point difference on a deal earns one IMP; a 170-210 point difference earns five IMPs. Large awards are at stake when game is bid at one table and not bid or made at the other table. This can result in a loss of anywhere from 7-13 IMPs. Slam differentials can be even greater. At this type of competition, getting to the correct contract and making it are extremely important. Overtricks are not as important; playing safely to make your contract is. The major concept is to go plus on every hand. My next column will discuss different types of team competition.

### **NJBL Players Finishing in the Overalls at Reno in March**

Jiang Gu	Fast Pairs	8 <sup>th</sup>
Alex Allen and Abe Pineles	Silver Ribbon Pairs	21 <sup>st</sup>
Robert Bell	Silver Ribbon Pairs	25 <sup>th</sup>
Jiang Gu	Silver Ribbon Pairs	26 <sup>th</sup>
Jiang Gu	Silodor Open Pairs	29 <sup>th</sup>
John Overdeck	Silver Ribbon Pairs	37 <sup>th</sup>
Larry Lerner	Silodor Open Pairs	58 <sup>th</sup>

# Bravery

by Ken Trock



This hand is from the recent April Sectional in Allendale. Board 12, Saturday afternoon, with the opponents vulnerable, you are in 1<sup>st</sup> seat.

♠ AKQ82 ♥ A4 ♦ 10 ♣ K9765

I open 1♠, partner bids a forcing 1NT. The opponents stay silent throughout. I rebid 2♣ and partner calls 3♠, a limit raise with 3 pieces in support. Interesting that both of us have limited our hands, yet I feel the hand is now worth a mild slam try. Did I mention this was the last hand of the day? So I try a cue bid of 4♥ and partner cooperates with 5♦. This is what we were looking for I suppose so I blast to 6♠. Let's see what kind of trouble we're in.

Partner  
 ♠ 1064  
 ♥ K10876  
 ♦ AK85  
 ♣ 3

Me  
 ♠ AKQ82  
 ♥ A4  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ K9765

<u>Me</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1♠	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

<sup>1</sup> Forcing  
<sup>2</sup> Limit Raise  
<sup>3</sup> Cue Bid  
<sup>4</sup> Cue Bid

Partner's points certainly are working. How does it look before seeing the opening lead? Like we're not a favorite to make! If they lead a Club we'll get a little help. Our King will become good, another Club goes on a high Diamond, and maybe we can ruff out the other 2 Clubs. We'll be burning trump to get back to our hand. If they lead anything else we'll probably have to play it wide open and try to setup Hearts. If they think to lead a trump we'll be in trouble. A 4-1 trump split almost certainly scuttles the contract. Ok, opening lead is the ♣10. A little ominous but we'll go with plan A and ruff out Clubs. Indeed, LHO is short in Clubs but does NOT have the ♠J to ruff in ahead of Dummy. Spades are 3-2 so the slam comes home.

Dealer: Me	<u>Partner</u>	
Vul: Opps	♠ 1064	
	♥ K10876	
	♦ AK85	
	♣ 3	
	<u>LHO</u>	<u>RHO</u>
	♠ 73	♠ J95
	♥ QJ92	♥ 53
	♦ 97642	♦ QJ3
	♣ 104	♣ AQJ82
	<u>Me</u>	
	♠ AKQ82	
	♥ A4	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K9765	

Try this one from an online game, with no one vulnerable, 3<sup>rd</sup> seat.

♠ KJ4 ♥ 5 ♦ J976 ♣ AK973

The bidding:

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
Pass	1♥	2♣	3♣
Pass*	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Before you plunk down the ♣A as your opening lead, I'll tell you that this partner and I play a convention called Rosenkranz, named after its inventor George Rosenkranz from Mexico. It says that if an opponent opened, partner overcalled, and your RHO bids, a double (or redouble) by you shows an honor in your partner's overcalled suit. Many partnerships like to play this as Kx(x) or better. We've settled on Qx(x) or better.

Does this change anything? For me it did. RHO bid 3NT so should have Clubs stopped. LHO pulled back to 4♥, suggesting shortness somewhere, and partner couldn't muster a Club raise or a Rosenkranz redouble. I'm banking on Declarer either trying to ruff Clubs in Dummy or setting up a late winner in hand and am seriously considering leading a singleton trump.

There certainly are risks, you might lose one of your high Clubs if Declarer can pitch them on something. Maybe this trump lead pickles an honor in partner's hand. Maybe partner is the one who can ruff a Club and you're pulling HIS trump.

If you maintain the courage of your (or my) conviction, you see this Dummy:

♠ Q53 ♥ K873 ♦ K8543 ♣ J

Well, the limit raise is a minimum. The trick goes ♥5, 3, 2, 10. I think we did alright with the lead.

The full deal:

		<u>Partner</u>	
Dealer:	Partner	♠ 109872	
Vul:	None	♥ 962	
		♦ A2	
		♣ 854	
	<u>LHO</u>		<u>RHO</u>
	♠ Q53		♠ A6
	♥ K873		♥ AQJ104
	♦ K8543		♦ Q10
	♣ J		♣ Q1062
	<u>You</u>		
	♠ KJ4		
	♥ 5		
	♦ J976		
	♣ AK973		

Even on the trump lead it looks like Declarer will be able to ruff out the losing Clubs in her hand, but she doesn't necessarily have enough entries to get back and forth to do this without losing the lead and having us pull another round. Maybe she can make one of her Clubs good. If you were declaring this hand, what would you surmise the layout of the Club suit to be (given the failure of my hand to lead one)? Maybe they're ♣ Axxxx across ♣ Kx? If so, she can ruff out the King.

Anyhow, it looks like we made a great, if not lucky lead, because Declarer couldn't figure out the layout and went -1, losing 1 Spade, 1 Diamond, and 2 Clubs.

## *How to bid like an expert (for intermediate and advancing players)*

*By Brett Kunin*

Playing in the District 3 STaC (Sectional Tournament at the Clubs) on Monday, March 28th, a delicate bidding problem arose.

You are sitting West in 1st chair on Board 4 with both sides Vulnerable, and in an uncontested auction, open 1♦ with ♠ KQ82, ♥ K842, ♦ AKQJ9, ♣ –, and your partner bids 1♠. With your excellent 18 count, a void, the equivalent of 22+ support points, your most descriptive bid is 4♣. This is an alertable call showing a game forcing hand with a singleton or void in Clubs (commonly known as a “splinter” bid, a call invented by the late David Cliff, a known bidding theorist, and a player who resided in our Unit for two decades prior to his death). You are pleasantly surprised when partner cooperates with his own cue bid of 4♥, and it is now your call.

Blackwood is not an option for you with a void. Many players, looking at a magnificent Diamond suit, would bid 5♦, but this would be an error. The **better** call is 5♣, confirming slam interest, showing a **void** in clubs, and leaving the next call to partner, since at this point, you are always bidding at least 6♠. You are astonished when partner’s next call is 5♥, a GRAND SLAM try. With the running Diamond suit, bidding the Grand is easy-peasy for you.

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

<sup>1</sup> Splinter

<sup>2</sup> Cue

<sup>3</sup> Confirms void

<sup>4</sup> Grand slam try

*Analysis:* After you bid 5♣, partner can place the ♥K in your hand as necessary for 18+ HCP. He makes the excellent call of 5♥, as his hand was ♠ AJT63 ♥ AQ10 ♦ T53 ♣ KQ. Note that if you fail to bid 5♣, partner will ALWAYS assume that your call was based on a singleton Club and will never look for the grand slam.

The board was played 7 times, with 4 bidding a small slam, no one bidding 7. Unfortunately, my partner was overly impressed with his Diamond suit, and failed to bid 5♣. Consequently, we did not bid 7♠, which is safe from the 6-0 heart break because South is on lead.

Parenthetically, note how important it is to show the Club void if South decided to enter the auction, as you can still bid 7♠ if the opponents attempt to sacrifice in 7♣.

The full deal:

Dealer: You	<u>Partner</u>	
Vul: Both	♠ AJ1063	
	♥ AQ10	
	♦ 1053	
	♣ KQ	
	<u>LHO</u>	<u>RHO</u>
	♠ 95	♠ 74
	♥ J97653	♥ --
	♦ 6	♦ 8742
	♣ 10985	♣ AJ76432
	<u>You</u>	
	♠ KQ82	
	♥ K842	
	♦ AKQJ9	
	♣ --	

\* **Editor's Note:** As an interesting exercise, switch the LHO and RHO hands in your mind and ask if the hand with the Heart void should make a Lightner Double of 7♠. I think not; technically that would ask for Dummy's first bid suit, Diamonds, which would look strange to opening leader. But if the Double gets interpreted as "lead something unusual", partner may look at their ♥J97653 as unusual, given repeated Heart bids in the auction.

## Masterpoint Races

### Standings by Range as of May 6, 2022

**Mini-McKenney** winners are 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** winners are the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn the **most masterpoints 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		
<b>0 - 5</b>	Gerry Isaacs	Boonton	16.30	Gerry Isaacs	Boonton	16.30
	Geraldine Whitaker	Hillside	5.75	Joan Zief	Montclair	3.98
	Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown	4.71	Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown	3.63
	Joan Zief	Montclair	3.98	Jerry Shang	South Plainfield	2.80
	Jerry Shang	South Plainfield	2.80	Geraldine Whitaker	Hillside	2.78
<b>5 - 20</b>	Thomas Lewis	Watchung	34.75	Thomas Lewis	Watchung	34.75
	Ann Graham	Hoboken	20.61	Ann Graham	Hoboken	20.61
	Steven Vogel	Bridgewater	17.83	Steven Vogel	Bridgewater	17.83
	Virginia Thomas	Rockaway	13.68	Virginia Thomas	Rockaway	10.81
	Laura Oncea	Fair Haven	8.45	Laura Oncea	Fair Haven	8.45
<b>20 - 50</b>	Don Post	Randolph	20.72	Don Post	Randolph	16.87
	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	15.17	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	15.17
	Patricia Cavanaugh	East Brunswick	13.23	Patricia Cavanaugh	East Brunswick	13.23
	Andrew Carlson	Summit	11.46	George Harvey	Princeton	10.21
	George Harvey	Princeton	10.21	Lucinda Clark	Skillman	9.83
<b>50 - 100</b>	Nancy Goss	Colts Neck	34.10	Nancy Goss	Colts Neck	34.10
	Alan Talpalar	Short Hills	31.82	Alan Talpalar	Short Hills	31.82
	Danette Alderoty	Rumson	24.01	Danette Alderoty	Rumson	24.01
	George Isaacs	Boonton	22.41	George Isaacs	Boonton	22.41
	Richard Rosenzweig	Summit	19.13	Richard Rosenzweig	Summit	19.13
<b>100 - 200</b>	Susan Rothbard	Fairfield	41.56	Susan Rothbard	Fairfield	41.56
	Kim Gimblette	Lakewood	32.84	Kim Gimblette	Lakewood	32.84
	William Parkins	Denville	32.56	Jeanie Cleary	Shrewsbury	31.59
	Jeanie Cleary	Shrewsbury	31.59	Marion Syracuse	South Orange	31.51
	Marion Syracuse	South Orange	31.51	Sharon Brickman	Livingston	30.00
<b>200 - 300</b>	Bryan Supran	Summit	42.69	Bryan Supran	Summit	42.69

	Simon Thomson Mary Kingsbery Janine Beer Veena Arora	Summit Rumson Livingston Waretown	42.18 39.75 34.69 32.70	Mary Kingsbery Veena Arora Margery Slonaker Laurel Harvey	Rumson Waretown Chatham Princeton	39.75 32.70 28.48 27.27
<b>300 – 500</b>	George Kalb Michael Absatz Norman Friedman Gilbert Meierhans Steve Katzman	Millington Eatontown Livingston Metuchen Short Hills	91.45 75.77 53.05 50.85 45.86	Michael Absatz George Kalb Steve Katzman Gilbert Meierhans Norman Friedman	Eatontown Millington Short Hills Metuchen Livingston	73.78 55.28 45.86 44.43 44.05
<b>500 – 1000</b>	Manish Mehta Lewis Lefkowitz Robert Ayers Jr. Ken Trock Lauretta Ayers	Chatham Somerset Toms River Hamilton Toms River	140.22 68.04 67.90 67.67 66.35	Manish Mehta Lauretta Ayers Robert Ayers Jr. Lewis Lefkowitz Ken Trock	Chatham Toms River Toms River Somerset Hamilton	128.95 59.47 59.47 50.73 49.32
<b>1000 - 1500</b>	Steven Siegel Lawrence Gordon Romesh Arora Ashok Agarwala Howard Lipset	Mendham West Orange Waretown Edison Flanders	88.75 84.47 78.66 57.32 52.09	Romesh Arora Lawrence Gordon Howard Lipset Steven Siegel Audrey Egger	Waretown West Orange Flanders Mendham Princeton	72.66 64.19 52.09 46.54 40.69
<b>1500 - 2500</b>	Foster Osborne Jeffrey Halle Chung-Zong Wan Komal Kamat Jacqueline Hewlett Michael Hewlett	Summit Middletown Somerset Plainsboro Bridgewater Bridgewater	121.24 80.32 73.29 61.73 50.15 50.15	Foster Osborne Chung-Zong Wan Jacqueline Hewlett Michael Hewlett Komal Kamat Sharon Gross	Summit Somerset Bridgewater Bridgewater Plainsboro Point Pleasant	121.24 62.13 50.15 50.15 43.73 32.84
<b>2500– 3500</b>	Samuel Amer Chorng-Hour Yang Edward Bauman Elyse Menashe Jacek Leznicki	Hoboken Parsippany Verona Deal Verona	191.32 89.68 74.15 38.38 35.12	Chorng-Hour Yang Edward Bauman Samuel Amer Elyse Menashe Dorothy Koernig	Parsippany Verona Hoboken Deal Summit	79.25 74.15 41.27 27.97 16.78
<b>3500 - 5000</b>	Piotr Olszewski Wendy Lee Elizabeth Evans Jin-Ming Liao Rochelle Djmal	Hackettstown East Hanover Mountainside Skillman Neptune	236.48 105.09 97.14 57.54 46.04	Piotr Olszewski Wendy Lee Elizabeth Evans Rosemarie Faccione Rochelle Djmal	Hackettstown East Hanover Mountainside West Orange Neptune	201.36 105.09 97.14 35.12 34.16
<b>5000 - 7500</b>	Stephen Cooper Stephen Garreffa Donna Dulet Bruce Witzel Dave DuBois	Belle Mead Randolph Ocean Scotch Plains Westfield	486.40 158.29 148.53 102.62 71.36	Stephen Cooper Stephen Garreffa Donna Dulet Bruce Witzel Dave DuBois	Belle Mead Randolph Ocean Scotch Plains Westfield	436.41 157.53 121.09 100.74 71.36
<b>7500 –10,000</b>	Judy Rothstein Peter Stein Anthony Aukstikalnis Dennis Thompson Alex Perlin	Livingston Hillsborough Harvey Cedars Lake Hiawatha Metuchen	199.88 85.71 48.81 37.19 27.00	Judy Rothstein Peter Stein Anthony Aukstikalnis Dennis Thompson Betty Cox	Livingston Hillsborough Harvey Cedars Lake Hiawatha Randolph	199.88 82.80 48.81 15.39 8.86
<b>Over 10,000</b>	Jiang Gu Alexander Allen Abe Pineles Cheryl Angel Cynthia Schneider	Mountain Lakes Annandale Jackson Livingston East Brunswick	151.08 104.30 64.20 4.56 4.04	Alexander Allen Cynthia Schneider Abe Pineles	Annandale East Brunswick Jackson	16.89 4.04 2.01



## ***Introducing EDGAR***

*A.J. Stephani, Brian Platnick, and Franco Baseggio of  
the ACBL*

Methods of investigating and proving online cheating have not kept up with the times, and bridge organizations around the world have struggled to adapt. The ACBL is excited to announce the development of a new tool in detecting and prosecuting online (and perhaps in-person) cheating that offers great potential in changing the way we approach this problem.

Developed by chief architects Franco Baseggio and Brian Platnick, “EDGAR” (Electronic Data Gathering and Anti-cheating Radar) will allow bridge organizations to scan thousands of cases and look for telltale signs of cheating. EDGAR is currently being tested and refined, and we expect to place it in use in ACBL cases later this year, initially in support of “traditional” investigations. The name pays homage to the great Edgar Kaplan, the father of modern bridge ethics.

Instead of identifying single hands that look suspicious in a vacuum, EDGAR will be able to identify whether funny-looking bridge decisions are representative of a larger pattern or constitute a one-off aberration. Inspired by the work of Nicolas Hammond, Kit Woolsey, and others in the field, EDGAR will finally show us the forest through the trees. We believe that players will have confidence in EDGAR’s ability to identify cheaters without raising suspicion of innocent players.

While refinements to EDGAR continue, we are also considering how to best balance concerns around transparency, accessibility, validation, maintenance, and control. Our goals include:

- \* Providing everyone the information needed to understand how it works, which gives bridge players important security in being evaluated by a machine.
- \* Providing access to the cheating algorithm and operational details, which means it can be verified by statisticians, programmers, mathematicians, and anyone else who wants to “look under the hood” to see if it works as intended.
- \* Inviting contributions of the brightest minds in the bridge world towards improvements and refinements.
- \* Making EDGAR available to all bridge organizations at little to no cost. This project has been a labor of love and good will for the benefit of bridge (running the algorithm at scale will provide entrepreneurs an important opportunity here).

The project has been managed by AJ Stephani, Chair of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee, as part of a comprehensive transformation in the way cheating cases are handled by the ACBL. However, we are hopeful that EDGAR will prove to become a critical tool in both detection and prosecution methods around the world.

## THE BRIDGE CONNECTION

BY ROSALIE SLUTSKY, Master Teacher (ACBL/ABTA)

**D**id you know that George Burns was an avid rubber bridge player and spent many hours with his Hollywood friends playing bridge? He was quoted as saying “I think people can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get ‘old’. You know, if you practice getting old long enough, you’ll eventually be a success. None of that. That’s silly. Anyway, I’m making old age fashionable. People can’t wait to get old now. P.S., I wonder if God ever makes a mistake at the bridge table.”

Have you ever wondered why good bridge players seem to be able to see through the backs of your cards? Why are they so successful in finding the right lead, locating missing honors, and guessing the distribution of their opponents’ cards? The answer is that they are usually not guessing. Whether they’re defending or declaring, good players are constantly gathering clues from the bidding and play and then use them to make logical assumptions about the location of the unseen cards.

If you are the Declarer, study the opening lead. It will sometimes pinpoint the leader’s exact length in the suit or indicate specific honors (Q from QJ). A low card led, especially in a suit contract, suggests the leader does not hold touching honors (AK, KQ, QJ, J10) in that suit. Generally, however, a low card should indicate at least one picture card at the top of the suit. If the opening leader has bid a suit, but leads another, there’s a chance it is a singleton.

If you are a defender, watch Partner’s signals. They’ll tell you about his length and possible high card holdings in key suits. Give your Partner good signals but use your judgment because you don’t want to give Declarer more help than Partner.

Think while Declarer or Partner is thinking or when it’s your lead. If possible, avoid long thought when it is your turn to follow suit. Make your decisions early and be ready to follow smoothly when Declarer or Dummy leads.

Now here is a big “Taadaa” (also known as the special ending!). So many people think they must return their Partner’s lead and most of the time you should do that. However, here is food for thought. Sometimes finding the “killing shift” at trick two can be very gratifying. If you see that Declarer is going to make his contract by normal defense, then look for a loophole. Perhaps the Dummy has a weak suit and leading that suit through the Declarer to your Partner reaps great rewards.

Take a look at the layout of this suit.

	<u>North</u>	
	954	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
AQ10		832
	<u>South</u>	
	KJ76	

Let’s say on opening lead that Partner (West) leads another suit to your Ace. You can lead this suit thru Declarer (South) with Partner winning cheaply. All things equal, they should not continue the suit. Rather, they might depend on us getting in again and pushing the suit thru. That yields 3 tricks for us in this suit.

The famous British champion, Rixi Markus once said “The more often I encounter complicated artificial systems, the more strongly I feel about their futility”. I agree wholeheartedly. There are too many complicated and unnecessary conventions and too few people who know how to use them. So keep it simple and enjoy!

HAPPY BRIDGING

## *Greedy for a hearty meal*

*by Jay Korobow*

Dealer: West  
Vul: North/South

North  
♠ AK5  
♥ AJ87  
♦ A85  
♣ Q95

West  
♠ J964  
♥ –  
♦ Q107632  
♣ J103

East  
♠ Q1072  
♥ K10963  
♦ 94  
♣ 42

South  
♠ 83  
♥ Q542  
♦ KJ  
♣ AK876

The bidding:

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

At the other table in a BBO team match, North opened 1♣ and East made a frisky 1♥ overcall, which kept North-South from their 4-4 Heart fit. North ended up in 6♣, which was down when West ruffed the opening Heart lead. East-West was still fated to get another Heart trick later in the play.

Here, as shown, West opened a weak 2♦ call, and sensible bidding and science got North-South to 6♥, which would be just fine on a high percentage 3-2 Heart break. But East's double of 6♥ was very revealing. It revealed having missed the articles about greedy doubles that turn a sure plus into quite a bit less, or at least revealed a haughty attitude about the matter. South took heed, thinking maybe there would be enough tricks in Clubs to make 6NT a better spot than the bad Heart break advertised. 6NT also protected

South's ♦K from an opening lead through it, in case the ♦A was not with North.

Against 6NT (also doubled), West was astute enough to avoid leading a Diamond, which would have handed North-South an immediate 12 easy tricks. The sensible ♣J lead gave away nothing, but South, armed with East's revealing double, went about his play with a heartiness that rivaled East's winning haughtiness.

After the ♣Q, South led a low Heart toward the ♥Q542, and East could not afford to take their ♥K because that would give North-South two Spades, three Hearts (AQJ), two Diamonds, and five Clubs for 12 tricks. So East played the ♥9, forcing South's ♥Q. Aware from the opening weak 2♦ bid that there would be no likely successful Diamond finesse, South then cashed all five Clubs and two Diamonds, to leave this 5-card ending:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
♠ J964	♠ AK	♠ Q10	♠ 83
♥ –	♥ AJ8	♥ K106	♥ 542
♦ Q	♦ –	♦ –	♦ –
♣ –	♣ –	♣ –	♣ –

Next came the ♠AK, stripping East of that suit, followed by a play that gave East actual heart failure. The play of the ♥8, which East won with the ♥10 (being down to ♥K106 of that suit) found greedy East unable to exit safely, even if the fire doors were left unlocked. 6NT making, as end-played East had to eat his Double, earned a score of +1680 and a hefty, hearty (haughty?) gain of 18 IMPs!

# **Big Games**

(Must be face-to-face to qualify)

**February 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022**

OPEN		
<b>78.33%</b>	Rochelle Djmal – Lisa Walsh	Jersey Bridge Club
<b>75.69%</b>	Laurel Harvey – George Harvey	Bill's Bridge
<b>74.78%</b>	Robin Shamah – Rochelle Djmal	Jersey Bridge Club
<b>73.73%</b>	Chorng-Hour Yang – Chung-Zong Wan	Summit Area Bridge
<b>72.57%</b>	Warren Kaplan – Tina Kaplan	Jersey Bridge Club
<b>72.32%</b>	Alexander Allen – Donna Dulet	Queen of Hearts BC
<b>72.22%</b>	Mauricette Durant – Allan Schwartz	Bill's Bridge
<b>71.73%</b>	Elyse Menashe – Alisa Crowe	Queen of Hearts BC
<b>71.55%</b>	Alexander Allen – Donna Dulet	Queen of Hearts BC
<b>70.83%</b>	Christel Dynes – Ruth Macpherson	Summit Area Bridge
<b>70.44%</b>	Rita Ziegler – Mary O'Mally	Montclair Golf Club
<b>70.42%</b>	Rob Pasque – Beau Norton	Stafford BC
<b>70.25%</b>	Himanshu Joshi – Dennis Thompson	Bill's Bridge
<b>70.07%</b>	Donna Dulet – Stephan Arshan	Jersey Bridge Club

LIMITED/INVITATIONAL		
<b>78.13%</b>	Phyliss Greenberg – Rich Greenberg	Regency at Monroe
<b>72.22%</b>	Paul Gessman – Michael O'Donohue	Regency at Monroe
<b>70.63%</b>	Lance Greenberg – Sharon Scheckner	Regency at Monroe

Got a hand you want to write about or need further analysis on? Let us know at The Declarer.



## Milestones

Changes in Rank: February 2022 – April 2022

### Sapphire Life Master

Samuel Amer	Hoboken
Susan E G Slusky	Highland Park

### Ruby Life Master

Kathleen Nodzak	Somerset
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### Silver Life Master

Susan Goldberg	Livingston
Ginny Mason	Princeton
Ken Trock	Hamilton

### Bronze Life Master

Israel Raphaelli	Princeton Junction
Tehmtan Tehsildar	Hillsborough

### Life Master

Lauretta Ayers	Toms River
Robert Ayers Jr	Toms River

### Advanced NABC Master

Gilbert Meierhans	Metuchen
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### NABC Master

Michael Absatz	Eatontown
David Burnett	Skillman
Blanche Goldstein	Verona
Judith Stier	Princeton

### Regional Master

Alice Agrin	Bridgewater
Myung Bondy	Summit
J-F Degeorges	Millington
Laurel Harvey	Princeton
Janet Smith	Berkeley Heights

### Sectional Master

Richard Agrin	Bridgewater
Lucinda Clark	Skillman
Dottie Finson	Denville
George Harvey	Princeton
Ann Johnson	Morristown
Shangsan Qian	East Brunswick

### Club Master

Dilip Chopra	Basking Ridge
George Giani	Manchester
Linda Goren	Morristown
Phyllis Greenberg	Monroe
Richard Greenberg	Monroe
Stan Kahn	Rockaway
Laurie Kalb Kaswiner	West Orange
Josaphine Martone	Bloomfield
Madeline Sinoway	Landing
Joan Stevenson	Freehold
Virginia Thomas	Rockaway
Zuguang Tian	Kendall Park
Steven Vogel	Bridgewater
Danhong Wang	Plainsboro
Mai Zhang	Bedminster

### Junior Master

Ann Bunyaner	Summit
Jamie Chase	Montclair
Ribhu Kansal	Bridgewater
Sandra Kaplon	Morristown
Jeffrey Rothbard	Fairfield
Jerry Shang	South Plainfield
Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown
Geraldine Whitaker	Hillside

## REMEMBRANCES

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

**Marvin Baum**

d. April 6, 2022  
frequent player at Essex

**Renee Dondero**

from West Long Branch

**Carmen Federici**

d. April 12, 2022  
frequent player at Hillsborough

**Joan Leimbach**

d. April 6, 2022  
frequent player at Monmouth Aces

**Alan Zbik**

d. May 7, 2022  
frequent player at Monmouth Aces

**Patricia Campbell**

from Tinton Falls

**Penny Dragonetti**

from Manalapan

**Bob Katin**

d. March 28, 2022  
frequent player at Princeton

**Dot Powers**

d. Mid May, 2022  
longtime director at Essex