



THE DECLARER



Winter 2023

Volume 65 Issue 4

Ken Trock, Editor

In this Issue

President's Message	page 2
NJBL Board.....	page 3
<i>Article: A Case Against Inverted Minors....</i>	page 4
<i>Article: Material Girl.....</i>	page 5
2022 Masterpoint Races	page 7
2022 Barry Crane	page 9
<i>Article: It's a 10.....</i>	page 10
This 'n That	page 12
Banquet and Unit Championship	page 13
March Sectional.....	page 15
<i>Article: Bid Like an Expert II.....</i>	page 16
Spring Sectional	page 18
Endel Uiga.....	page 19
Big Games	page 20
Milestones	page 21
Remembrances	page 23

The Declarer

NJBL web site:	www.njbl.net
Editor	Ken Trock kentrock1@gmail.com
Contributors	Jay Korobow Brett Kunin Ken Trock Eli Duttman Judy Buell
Reporting / Proofing	Brett Kunin Susan Slusky Arnold Kohn
Technical Advisor	Jay Korobow
Web Master	Susan Slusky segslusky@aol.com

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

President's Message

by Brett Kunin



Although our December Sectional was less than successful, 2023 has started with some hopeful signs for the return of Face-to-Face bridge for our Unit. It appears that slowly, bridge players are beginning to return to their local clubs. Our annual meeting/awards brunch was successful, but as with most events post-pandemic, was at 50% of the attendance level of 2020. Our Sectional in Edison on March 3-5 showed a marked improvement in attendance, sitting 100 tables for the weekend. With the change to ACBL Covid-19 protocols, we were able to serve food for the first time since 2020, and the increased attendance more than offset the additional cost. The Unit incurred only a very marginal loss for the event. What was particularly encouraging was the for the first time, many of our Flight C players (which are 65% of ACBL members) began to return, which we hope bodes well for the future. What was particularly rewarding was that, during the Sectional, one of our players, Justine Robertson, obtained the necessary silver points she needed to become a Life Master, and we were able to honor her achievement. Her photo appears in this issue of The Declarer.

However, the costs charged by the ACBL to hold a Unit-wide event or tournament have more than doubled in 10 years, while our income is less than half of what it was 20 years ago. This is the reason we have rented a smaller and far less expensive facility for our tournaments in Edison. Accordingly, the NJBL has begun "tightening its belt" to deal with the new reality, and the NJBL Board promises to keep the membership advised of the changes implemented to meet the challenges we face.

I have just two requests: (1) PLEASE support your local clubs, so that they survive and maintain a place to play the game we love; and (2) although we thank all those who attended our March Sectional, we really need all of you, particularly the "snowbirds" who will have returned from warmer climates, to support our next Sectional May 19-21. The Flyer for the event also appears in this issue of The Declarer.

With best wishes to all for the Easter and Passover holidays,

Brett Kunin,
President, NJ Bridge League Board of Directors

NJBL Board Members

New and returning Board members elected at the annual meeting

First Term	Second Term
Andrew Barlow	Brett Kunin
Barbara Clark	Rich Jacobs
Larry Gordon	
Jiang Gu	
Jeff Halle	
Arnie Kohn	
Merle Poller	

A Case Against Inverted Minor Raises

by Eli Duttman

From the outset, let me state that anybody who teaches that Inverted Minors are devoid of merit is a charlatan! But while Inverted Minor Raises are quite popular, I maintain that they can create as many problems as they solve. A couple illustrative examples follow.

I obtained an excellent result on defense when the following BBO deal was played.

12	3♣W-1	50	84.3%	15.7%
Refresh		72.4%	27.6%	
<div> <div>12</div> <div> <div>N Robot</div> <div> ♠ Q852 ♥ 1054 ♦ K96 ♣ K106 </div> </div> <div> <div>W Robot</div> <div> ♠ KJ64 ♥ A932 ♦ 43 ♣ A84 </div> </div> <div> <div>E Robot</div> <div> ♠ 93 ♥ 87 ♦ A875 ♣ J9752 </div> </div> <div> <div>S EDuttman</div> <div> ♠ A107 ♥ KQJ6 ♦ QJ102 ♣ Q3 </div> </div> </div>				
<div> <div>W N E S</div> <div>1♣ Pass 3♣ Pass</div> <div>Pass Pass</div> </div>				
<div> <div>3♣ West</div> <div>0 0</div> </div>				

A human, as opposed to an automated player, might have bid 1♦ instead of 3♣, and come out all right. As a 1♣ opener doesn't guarantee a 4 card Club holding, the "Law of Total Tricks" does not necessarily guide one towards bidding 3♣. 1♦ might be better. This example, in and of itself, is far from being convincing, but it does illustrate that trouble is lurking in the background to bite you.

The next example is a complete catastrophe for Inverted Minors. Responder has absolutely no good action after partner opens 1♦.

♠ xxx ♥ x ♦ Axxx ♣ Kxxxx.

When the partnership plays Inverted Minors, the situation is as follows. Holding an Ace and a King, Pass is out of the question. Insufficient strength is held to justify a bid at the 2 level in either minor. A bid at the 1 level in a major suit is lunacy. On a bad day opener holds only 3 Diamonds, and even if he/she holds 4 of them, the Law of Total Tricks unambiguously rules a preemptive raise to 3♦ out. Some pairs use "Criss Cross", a jump shift in the other minor to show a limit, as opposed to forcing, raise. The emphasis on getting to 3NT, when minor suits are held, puts a quick end to that option. There's no way you want to encourage partner to bid 3NT when that party holds slightly more than a minimum opening bid. Having discarded a slew of options, responder is forced to make the disgusting bid of 1NT. Not being able to make the 1930s Culbertson bid of 2♦ is painful.

Frankly, the matter of a hideous, forced for lack of anything better, response of 1NT occurs with great regularity, when Inverted Minor suit raises are employed.

Everything comes with a cost and Inverted Minor suit raises are no exception. When a mundane holding creates a major headache, it is time to take a very hard look at that bidding device. I eschew Inverted Minor suit raises.

Material Girl

by Jay Korobow

Dealer: West	<u>West</u>		
Vul: Both	♠ J84		
	♥ A62		
	♦ 753		
	♣ AK93		
	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	
	♠ 52	♠ K10963	
	♥ J9	♥ Q7	
	♦ AKQJ108	♦ 94	
	♣ 865	♣ Q1042	
	<u>East</u>		
	♠ AQ7		
	♥ K108543		
	♦ 62		
	♣ J7		

The bidding:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦
Dbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This deal occurred in a BBO team game. When opener doubled 2♦ to show 3 cards in Hearts (the Support Double convention), East thought leaping to the vulnerable 4♥ game couldn't be awful. After all, the ♣J was in Partner's opening suit, and might not be a total waste (as it would be if it were the ♦J.)

A glance shows this to be very nice contract; with Hearts dividing 2-2, one should collect six trump, 2 Spades, and the ♣AK for 10 tricks, yes? After South led and cashed the ♦AK, their ♦8 was actually high, and that's what they played at trick 3. South sensed (or hoped) that North had something like Q10 in Hearts and would ruff, promoting a trump trick for the South hand.

North wasn't exactly sure what was going on when they saw the ♦8; in fact, Declarer might have the ♦Q still. So they ruffed it, and on the good neighbor (or Partner) policy, one might as well ruff high in case it helps Partner. And here it does, for when the ♥Q forces the ♥K from Declarer, South's ♥J9 is now a sure trick for the defense.

East's play however was perhaps a bit less inspired than their bidding, as they should NOT overruff; instead, pitch a Spade, on this layout. With the Spade finesse working, they will then still gather six Hearts, 2 Spades, and 2 Clubs for the necessary ten tricks for game.

To be fair, or at least sympathetic to East's play, the Spade finesse could be off. And North's Hearts might be specifically Q9 which would allow the play of the ♥10 from ♥108 later to smother North's remaining ♥9, as they capture South's ♥J from a possible ♥J7 holding. But seeing all 4 hands, author and reader can make the winning play with more information than Declarer, who in practice was now headed for down 1 when they in fact overruffed North's ♥Q with their ♥K.

When the ♥10 was indeed next played, with South of course covering, Declarer was dismayed to see that North's second Heart was the 7 rather than the 9. A Spade finesse was then successful, but with a sure trump loser to go along with the earlier 2 Diamonds, how can Declarer take the rest? Declarer knew North's Spade holding could not be as short as Kx, so wasn't surprised when the play of the ♠A did not bring down the ♠K after the successful finesse. But in the following position, as Declarer played out all their Hearts, a funny thing happened on the way to the 4 Heart Forum.

	<u>West</u>		
	♠ J		
	♥ --		
	♦ --		
	♣ AK9		
<u>South</u>		<u>North</u>	
♠ --		♠ K	
♥ --		♥ --	
♦ Q		♦ --	
♣ 865		♣ Q104	
	<u>East</u>		
	♠ 7		
	♥ 3		
	♦ --		
	♣ J7		

With South starting with only two Spades and no Club spots of consequence, North was on their own guarding the 2 black suits. When East played the ♥3 in the above position, they discarded Dummy's ♠J. Hoping their partner had the (protected) ♣J, North discarded a Club, lest the ♠7 become trick 10 if they parted with the ♠K. But the critical ♣J was in Declarer's hand. So after all was done and said, they indeed had some extra material value for the thin game.

"Redemption" from Declarer's earlier play was now in place when ten tricks finally "materialized" with the ♣9 being a winner. 10 IMPs were gained in the match as game was not bid in the replay. Lady Madonna would be proud!

Masterpoint Races

Final 2022 Standings by Range

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		
0 – 5	Xiaowen Li	Jersey City	175.25		Xiaowen Li	Jersey City	37.94
	Gerry Isaacs	Boonton	32.31		Gerry Isaacs	Boonton	32.31
	N. V. Srinivasan	Eatontown	31.68		N. V. Srinivasan	Eatontown	29.03
	Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown	31.06		Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown	25.35
	Leslie Aufseeser	Ocean	24.02		Leslie Aufseeser	Ocean	22.14
5 – 20	Thomas Lewis	Watchung	85.24		Thomas Lewis	Watchung	84.32
	Ann Graham	Hoboken	33.45		Ann Graham	Hoboken	33.45
	Virginia Thomas	Rockaway	32.70		Steven Vogel	Bridgewater	31.19
	Steven Vogel	Bridgewater	31.89		Virginia Thomas	Rockaway	29.17
	George Giani	Manchester	23.82		George Giani	Manchester	23.82
20 – 50	Don Post	Randolph	56.91		Don Post	Randolph	48.87
	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	40.54		Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	35.62
	Patricia Cavanaugh	East Brunswick	29.76		Patricia Cavanaugh	East Brunswick	29.76
	Andrew Carlson	Summit	23.12		Gunter Ford	Rumson	18.23
	Simonne Vaccaro	Neptune City	19.86		Simonne Vaccaro	Neptune City	18.07
50 - 100	Nancy Goss	Colts Neck	85.65		Nancy Goss	Colts Neck	83.20
	Danette Alderoty	Rumson	52.72		George Isaacs	Boonton	52.67
	George Isaacs	Boonton	52.67		Danette Alderoty	Rumson	51.33
	Alan Talpalar	Short Hills	48.38		Alan Talpalar	Short Hills	47.26
	Robert Coleman	Manchester	40.52		Michael O Donohue	Monroe	36.60
100 - 200	Kim Gimblette	Lakewood	96.24		William Parkins	Denville	80.44
	William Parkins	Denville	91.75		Rosalie Ginda	Somerset	62.99
	Douglas Reeves	Union	69.10		Kathryn Wagenseller	Somerset	62.99
	Kathryn Wagenseller	Somerset	64.59		Kim Gimblette	Lakewood	62.68
	Rosalie Ginda	Somerset	64.19		Douglas Reeves	Union	61.29
200 - 300	Simon Thompson	Summit	101.20		Mary Kingsbery	Rumson	83.74
	Mary Kingsbery	Rumson	83.74		Veena Arora	Waretown	78.10
	Sheila Holderness	Montville	83.53		Sheila Holderness	Montville	71.09
	Veena Arora	Waretown	78.62		Mary Slonaker	Chatham	67.90
	Janine Beer	Livingston	70.20		Janine Beer	Livingston	60.18
300 - 500	Michael Absatz	Eatontown	162.32		Michael Absatz	Eatontown	149.27
	George Kalb	Millington	160.66		Norman Friedman	Livingston	102.24
	Gilbert Meierhans	Metuchen	112.39		George Kalb	Millington	96.91
	Norman Friedman	Livingston	112.26		Andrew Barlow	Lebanon	88.50
	Andrew Barlow	Lebanon	111.60		Mary Bowen	Princeton	73.60

500 - 1000	John Overdeck	Short Hills	320.73	Manish Mehta	Chatham	192.70
	Manish Mehta	Chatham	229.31	Lewis Lefkowitz	Somerset	117.83
	Lewis Lefkowitz	Somerset	191.05	Richard Eisenman Jr.	Milford	114.43
	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	136.98	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	102.99
	Chris Schwinger	Rockaway	119.91	Lauretta Ayers	Toms River	94.99
				Robert Ayers Jr.	Toms River	94.99
1000 - 1500	Steven Siegel	Mendham	357.06	Romesh Arora	Waretown	180.73
	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	268.68	Steven Siegel	Mendham	144.47
	Romesh Arora	Waretown	188.37	Lawrence Gordon	West Orange	129.49
	Elly De Boer	Lawrence Twp	114.49	Elly De Boer	Lawrence Twp	96.62
	Jan De Boer	Lawrence Twp	114.49	Jan De Boer	Lawrence Twp	96.62
1500 - 2500	Foster Osborne	Vero Beach FL	288.12	Foster Osborne	Vero Beach FL	286.08
	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	194.16	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	146.78
	Jeffrey Halle	Middletown	144.66	Henry Stadelmann	Mantoloking	115.31
	Sharon Gross	Point Pleasant	144.13	Jacqueline Hewlett	Bridgewater	113.38
	Hans Neuteboom	Manchester	137.31	Michael Hewlett	Bridgewater	113.38
2500- 3500	Sam Amer	Hoboken	641.20	Chorng-hour Yang	Parsippany	180.85
	Chorng-hour Yang	Parsippany	208.20	Edward Bauman	Verona	160.51
	Edward Bauman	Verona	161.99	Elyse Menashe	Deal	93.48
	Steve Albin	Plainsboro	112.92	Sam Amer	Hoboken	63.45
	Elyse Menashe	Deal	106.55	Ottillie Bello	Short Hills	49.36
3500 - 5000	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	358.91	Piotr Olszewski	Hackettstown	321.75
	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	309.73	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	309.73
	Elizabeth Evans	Mountainside	209.79	Elizabeth Evans	Mountainside	209.79
	Rochelle Djmal	Neptune	174.61	Rochelle Djmal	Neptune	148.71
	Robin Shamah	Long Branch	167.47	Robin Shamah	Long Branch	133.05
5000 - 7500	Donna Dulet	Ocean	436.48	Dave DuBois	Westfield	265.42
	Joan Brody	Livingston	379.53	Donna Dulet	Ocean	248.36
	Dave DuBois	Westfield	265.42	Stephen Garreffa	Randolph	210.40
	Stephen Garreffa	Randolph	231.61	Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains	209.03
	Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains	210.91	Stephen Arshan	Jackson	87.57
7500 -10,000	Peter Stein	Hillsborough	294.72	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	266.42
	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	290.71	Peter Stein	Hillsborough	204.19
	Judy Rothstein	Livingston	266.42	Anthony Aukstikalnis	Harvey Cedars	94.74
	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	216.33	Betty Cox	Randolph	66.57
	Anthony Aukstikalnis	Harvey Cedars	94.74	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	66.05
Over 10,000	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	661.11	Alexander Allen	Annandale	78.12
	Alexander Allen	Annandale	513.26	Cynthia Schneider	East Brunswick	17.86
	Abe Pineles	Palm Desert CA	304.82	Abe Pineles	Palm Desert CA	3.04
	Cynthia Schneider	East Brunswick	17.86	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	1.68
	Cheryl Angel	Livingston	10.69			

Barry Crane 500

Congratulations to the following Unit 140 players who made the Barry Crane top 500 in 2022. These are players who ranked in the top 500 nationally in masterpoints accrued in all categories of play.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Masterpoints In 2022</i>	<i>Rank in Unit 140</i>	<i>Rank Nationally</i>
<i>Jiang Gu</i>	<i>661.11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>142</i>
<i>Sam Amer</i>	<i>641.20</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>Alexander Allen</i>	<i>513.26</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>255</i>
<i>Donna Dulet</i>	<i>436.48</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>385</i>
<i>Jian Wang</i>	<i>413.75</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>451</i>

It's a 10 by Ken Trock

Sometimes on defense players get nervous, grabbing a trick too soon for fear of a card not being good later. Witness this hand that I played recently. In 3rd seat you hold:

♠ AJ98542 ♥ AQJ ♦ J76 ♣ --

The auction is short:

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>Me</u>	<u>LHO</u>
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	<u>Partner</u>
Dealer: Partner	♠ 7
Vul: None	♥ 432
Matchpoints	♦ A4
	♣ A1098752

Opening lead: ♥10

Me
♠ AJ98542
♥ AQJ
♦ J76
♣ --

It goes ♥10, 2, K, A. Good start for us. The ♠A would technically be the correct play here, but instead, it went ♠2, 10, 7, Q! Let's look at what just happened from an opponent's perspective. Lefty holds:

♠ K1063 ♥ 109876 ♦ K83 ♣ K

They flew in with the ♠10, maybe because they thought they would lose it later. True, if they play low and the ♠7 in Dummy holds (or loses to a higher spot), then his ♠10 would probably be lost. But would I as Declarer play the suit that way holding ♠AQJ9854? Probably not.

Here's another. At MPs, in 4th seat, Vulnerable vs. Not, you hold:

♠ K1065 ♥ AQ ♦ KQ73 ♣ Q87

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>Me</u>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
3♣	All Pass		

	<u>Dummy</u>
Contract: 3♣	♠ A73
Format: MPs	♥ 7632
Opening lead: ♦K	♦ A
	♣ J9643

You
♠ K1065
♥ AQ
♦ KQ73
♣ Q87

Fast forward to trick 11. I can tell you that we have 3 tricks so far, Declarer has only Spades in their hand and leads the ♠8. The ♥7 in Dummy is Not high.

	<u>Dummy</u>
♠8 played from hand	♠ A7
	♥ 7
	♦ --
	♣ --

You
♠ K106
♥ --
♦ --
♣ --

I admit I went in with the ♠10, perhaps "afraid" Declarer would run the ♠8. This was clearly wrong. Again, we don't fly in with a high spot from length when Declarer has to negotiate the suit himself. 2nd hand low is almost always correct.

3 Card ending	<u>Dummy</u>	
	♠ A7	
	♥ 7	
	♦ --	
	♣ --	
	<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>
	♠ K106	♠ J2
	♥ --	♥ J
	♦ --	♦ --
	♣ --	♣ --
	<u>Declarer</u>	
	♠ Q98	
	♥ --	
	♦ --	
	♣ --	

One more. In 2nd seat with both sides vulnerable, I hold:

♠ Q102 ♥ A94 ♦ J97 ♣ K753

With this auction:

<u>RHO</u>	<u>Me</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Contract: 4♠	<u>Dummy</u>
Format: MPs	♠ K643
Opening lead: ♦7	♥ K87
	♦ A10853
	♣ J

You
 ♠ Q102
 ♥ A94
 ♦ J97
 ♣ K753

<u>Trick</u>	<u>Lead From</u>	<u>Cards</u>
1.	Me	♦7, 3, 6, K
2.	Declarer	♠5, 2, K, 7
3.	Dummy	♠3, 9, J, Q
4.	Me	??

The Diamond suit in Dummy looks menacing. Time to switch to a Heart, but which one? Many players would simply cash the ♥A and lead another, which might be right to do here. Underleading the ♥A would be dynamic

and give Declarer a problem if they hold some Hearts to the ♥J. Or it could cost a trick if they hold ♥Qx and are left with ♦Qx and a running Diamond suit. I don't want to sit on this too long so promptly decide on the ♥9. Ok, it's not a 10 like the title of the article but close enough!

	<u>Dummy</u>	
	♠ K643	
	♥ K87	
	♦ A10853	
	♣ J	
	<u>Me</u>	<u>Partner</u>
	♠ Q102	♠ 97
	♥ A94	♥ Q10652
	♦ J97	♦ 6
	♣ K753	♣ 109862
	<u>Declarer</u>	
	♠ AJ85	
	♥ J3	
	♦ KQ52	
	♣ AQ4	

Jackpot! Well maybe. Declarer can still go right but probably won't. They think about it and sure enough, play low from Dummy. One problem for our side, I've left my partner in the dark with this lead and they don't know to go up with the ♥Q! Overtrick surrendered after all. Which may be a lesson arrived at in the postmortem. Lead a low one from this holding; it's still tricky and still gives Declarer a guess but tells Partner to rise with their honor in 3rd seat if applicable. Here, I would have been better off shifting to the ♥4 at trick four.

(Redacted Issue of) This 'n That from your District Director

By Carlos Muñoz



Our Phoenix NABC concluded with 6677.5 tables, more than 800 tables below Providence, at least partially resulting from the normal Thanksgiving weekend decline. The Phoenix tournament is expected to incur some attrition losses and the full year loss is expected to exceed the budgeted total due to overall lower tournament attendance and higher IT expenses necessary to upgrade technology. A task force led by Jay Whipple has recommended a number of changes in the IT area which already are in process of implementation. The 2023 Budget was not approved by the Board pending a number of staffing and operational changes underway.

Region 9 Director Paul Cuneo has graciously agreed to move his weekday location to Horn Lake as interim Executive Director and Region 4 Director Margot Hennings has been appointed to head a Search Committee for a new Executive Director. Margot also was elected to the newly created position of Vice President, replacing the position of Board Chair, which has been eliminated.

Other actions of the Board included:

- Approval of a new formula for masterpoint awards, based on 18 boards per session, with boards above 18 receiving up to 50% more masterpoints, up to a maximum of 27 boards. This is to help face-to-face (FTF) clubs, which usually play 21 to 27 boards per session (expected to be available in the first quarter).
- Separation of Ace of Clubs competitions into Online and FTF categories.
- Establishment of two classes of Sectional tournaments - those of up to 25 tables per session, not requiring an ACBL Director, and those of more than 25 tables, which require an ACBL Director and permit credit card payments at players' option.
- Approval of the EDGAR computer system for adjudication of less serious online violations, and establishment of the Institute for Bridge Arbitration as an arm of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) for more serious cases, with existing bridge experts being trained by the AAA so that appeals to non-bridge trained courts can be avoided.
- Rollout of Project Boost, where the ACBL provides digital leads to club-related teachers who agree to sign up new members (our own Diana Lack has participated in two cycles so far, with significant success in new students for her classes and new members for the League).

NJBL Banquet, Unit Championship, and Sectional

Unit Championship winners

Flight A: Peter Stein–Arnie Dorin, Robin Shamah–Lisa Walsh (T), Alex Allen–Donna Dulet (T)

Flight B: Lew Lefkowitz–Michael Fried, Rob Carroll–Judy Kutin, Julie Anderson–Dorel Livescu

Flight C: Rob Carroll–Judy Kutin, Chantal Frantzen–Rob Franssen, Gil Meierhans–Will Levy

New Life Masters (since 2020)



Sam Singhvi, Themtan ("Tom") Tehsildar, Maryann Brewer, Dinka Pujara, Romesh Arora, Fred Douglass, Lew Lefkowitz

2022 Ace of Clubs Winners



Chorng-hour Yang, Alex Allen, Romesh Arora, Nancy Goss

Game On



2022 Mini-McKenney Winners



Peter Stein, Donna Dulet, Kim Gimblette, Nancy Goss, Jiang Gu

Brunch Time



Unit President Brett Kunin



Unit 140 overall winners at March Sectional

Player	MPs earned
Dennis Thompson	22.90
Steve Albin	20.49
Alex Allen	20.31
Jiang Gu	17.77
Arnie Dorin	17.15
Ralph Buchalter	14.21
Arnie Kohn	14.21
Donna Dulet	12.37
Richard Ross	10.73
Ponraj Sakthivel	10.46
Komal Kamat	10.46

New Life Master Justine Robertson

For Intermediate and Advancing Players Bid Like an Expert Part II

By Brett Kunin

My favorite partner and I were playing at our local club, when two interesting opportunities arose on two hands from The Common Game (we were sitting East-West).

On Board 34, after RHO passed, I opened 1NT with ♠ K95 ♥ AK2 ♦ AJ862 ♣ 64. The auction was uncontested: Partner bid 2♣, I bid 2♦, and he bid 3NT. I received the ♥5 lead and was looking at this:

	<u>Partner</u>
Contract: 3NT	♠ 73
Format: MPs	♥ Q943
Lead: ♥5	♦ --
	♣ KQ109872
	<u>Me</u>
	♠ K95
	♥ AK2
	♦ AJ862
	♣ 64

Although the “point counters” failed to reach game, since I guarantee at least 2 Clubs for my opening call, Partner was looking at what should be a hand worth 6.25 tricks. Absent a Spade lead, 3NT is cold, and I actually made 5 (6 Clubs, 3 Hearts, 1 Spade, 1 Diamond).

The full deal:

Contract: 3NT
Format: MPs
Lead: ♥5

Partner

♠ 73
♥ Q943
♦ --
♣ KQ109872

LHO

♠ QJ8
♥ J875
♦ 953
♣ AJ3

RHO

♠ A10642
♥ 106
♦ KQ1074
♣ 5

Me

♠ K95
♥ AK2
♦ AJ862
♣ 64

It is important to note that if RHO had bid Spades and Diamonds (I certainly would have with her hand), we would have still had the opportunity to successfully bid a game in either Clubs or Hearts, and the hand is a reminder that quality long suits are extremely useful opposite a strong NT as a source of tricks.

On Board 30, I passed in first chair, and, in another uncontested auction, Partner (West) opened 1♠. Looking at ♠ 73 ♥ Q85 ♦ K9 ♣ KJ9765, I bid 1NT, Partner bid 2♦, and I called 2♠. I was pleasantly surprised when Partner now bid 2NT, which showed an excellent quality 16, or any 17 count. With 18-19 balanced, he would have bid 2NT in lieu of 2♦. With a good 6 card suit, and a decent 9 count, my call of 3NT was automatic.

Here is the full deal:

Contract: 3NT	<u>Partner</u>		
Format: MPs	♠ AQJ98		
Lead: ♥4	♥ A3		
	♦ J653		
	♣ A4		
<u>LHO</u>		<u>RHO</u>	
♠ --		♠ K106542	
♥ 97642		♥ KJ10	
♦ Q1072		♦ A84	
♣ 10832		♣ Q	
	<u>Me</u>		
	♠ 73		
	♥ Q85		
	♦ K9		
	♣ KJ9765		
<u>Me</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

I received the 4♥ lead, and with the ♦A onside, 9 tricks was “a walk in the park”, despite the fact that Clubs were 4-1, and there was a huge Spade stack in back of the opener.

Ironically, Partner must play Double Dummy to make 2♠, when 3NT is “gin” on the lie of the cards. My Partner’s hand, with three bullets and a Spade suit missing only 2 of the top 5 honors, upgrades the hand to ~17.5 HCP. Note that disciplined cooperative bidding enabled us to get to game, reached by only one other pair at the club.

* **Editor’s Note:** Brett played low at trick 1 to the ♥K from RHO. If they could come up with almost a Double Dummy return of the ♦4, it would give Brett a tough time. There’s a few ways the suit could go, but it looks like most avenues lead to 3 tricks in Diamonds to go along with 1 in Hearts and the ♣10. Of course, if opening leader had the ♥Q instead of the ♦Q (still consistent with the bidding), this would be a terrible continuation.



SILVER POINTS

New Jersey Bridge League Spring Sectional May 19-21, 2023

Edison Elks Club
375 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817
Playing site phone: 732-985-2487
Tournament Chair: Kelly Kiefer (732) 425-2116



SILVER POINTS

Friday, May 19

10:00 AM: • Open Stratified Pairs • Stratified 0-499 Pairs*
2:30 PM • Open **GRASSROOT** Stratified Pairs • **GRASSROOT** 499er Stratified Pairs*

Saturday, May 20

10:00 AM: • Open Stratified Pairs • Stratified 499er Pairs*
2:30 PM • Open **GRASSROOT** Stratified Pairs • **GRASSROOT** 499er Stratified Pairs*

*499er events will be held provided there are sufficient pairs

Sunday, May 21

9:30 AM: • Bagel Breakfast
10:30 AM: • Playthrough Bracketed Swiss Teams: There will be a short break for lunch and food will be served.

COVID POLICIES:

1. **MASKING WILL BE OPTIONAL PURSUANT TO ACBL PROTOCOLS** (see our Unit website www.njbl.net). However, should any bridge player request that players mask at the table, compliance is **MANDATORY**.
2. No person will be permitted entry without Proof of Covid vaccination(s) and photo ID.

PARKING POLICY: No parking in designated spots marked "Reserved" in the Elks parking lot. **PARKING IS LIMITED**, and carpooling is recommended. There is overflow parking available across the street in an Edison H.S. parking lot.

RESERVATION POLICY: Reservations are **NOT** required for this tournament.

Stratifications: Open Pairs A (3000+) B (1000-3000) C (0-1000)

499ers Pairs A (300-499) B (100-300) C (0-100) (May be varied based on participation.)

In pair events, strats are based as an average of the total master points of the pair. In any event or flight with a master point upper limit, no individual's MP total may exceed that limit.

GRASSROOT Games: Almost 30% More Masterpoints

Food and Beverages: Free coffee and limited snacks will be served. Pizza will be served on Friday and Saturday at \$1.50 per slice. Bottled water and soda, \$1.00.

Partnerships: We cannot guarantee partners for you due to the pandemic, although we will attempt to do so. Email your request to Amie Dorin at arnied26@gmail.com or call him at 732-841-2351 by Friday, May 12th.

NJBL Website: Visit our website www.njbl.net to read about upcoming tournaments and events, past results, bridge clubs, THE DECLARER (NJBL's online newsletter), and many other useful bridge links.

Entries: \$28 per pair person. For non-ACBL members, you **MUST** purchase a 4-month membership to be able to play. In addition, we must charge an extra \$4 per person per session for those whose ACBL membership has expired. \$112 per team for Sunday's Swiss teams game.

DIRECTIONS

From GSP Southbound: Take Exit 130 to US-1 South. Proceed approximately 3.8 miles and turn right onto Old Post Rd. Elks club is past one traffic light, about 4 blocks on your left.

From NJ Turnpike Southbound: Take Exit 11 and proceed South on the Garden State Parkway. Follow the directions above.

From NJ Turnpike Northbound: Take exit 9 (NJ-18 N); take NJ-18 North to US-1 North; go about 1.7 miles. From right lane, take the jug handle turn onto Old Post Rd, crossing over US-1. Elks Club is the next building past the Shoprite.

From 287 Southbound: Take Exit 1B (County Road 531/Trenton) to US-1 South; proceed about 1.1 miles and turn right onto Old Post Rd. Elks club is past one traffic light, about 4 blocks on your left.

From GSP Northbound: Use the right 3 lanes to take exit 127 to merge onto NJ-440 South toward I-287 North. Keep left to stay on NJ-440 South and then continue onto I-287 North. Take exit 1 B (Trenton) to US-1 South. Turn right on Old Post Road. Elks club is past one traffic light, about 4 blocks on your left.

Endel Uiga

By Judy Buell



Endel Uiga, a Ruby Life Master and a regular at the Shadowfax Bridge Club in Chester, New Jersey, celebrated his 105th birthday.

Born in Tallinn, Estonia, Endel had a happy childhood, loved school, and learned to play bridge when he was nine. One of his fondest memories was of the day he acquired a translated copy of Ely Culbertson's book on the count of the hand.



Photo by James Buell

He survived Stalin's occupation in 1940 and later the Nazi's occupation of Estonia from 1941 to 1945. At the age of 26 he earned his diploma in engineering from Tallinn Technical University. At the end of World War II, he escaped the Soviet occupation and went west to Germany and earned his doctorate degree in Physics at the University of Stuttgart.

When President Truman welcomed refugees, Endel successfully applied for a job as a greenhouse helper and with his wife and three children, emigrated to the United States. He didn't know English but mastered the rudiments in a year.

After moving to New Jersey, he worked as an electronic engineer and later as a professor of electronics at the County College of Morris.

Retiring in 1998 to a house he designed and helped build in Hope, New Jersey, Endel devoted his time to bridge and photography, much of which he converted into abstract images. Iron working and skiing also occupied his time.

He now resides in Hackettstown, New Jersey, and continues playing bridge.

Big Games

(Must be face-to-face to qualify)

December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

OPEN		
76.90%	George Giani - Hans Neuteboom	Stafford Bridge Club
74.92%	Donna Dulet - Justine Robertson	Queen of Hearts DBC
72.98%	Brett Kunin – Sam Borenstein	Summit Area Bridge
72.84%	George Kalb – Simon Thomson	Summit Area Bridge
72.66%	Alexander Allen – Donna Dulet	Queen of Hearts DBC
72.35%	Peter Stein – Arnold Dorin	Unit Awards Banquet
72.22%	Christine Hetzler - Justine Robertson	Two Rivers Duplicate
72.22%	Beau Norton – Marc Lipman	Stafford Bridge Club
72.02%	Peter Stein – Arnold Dorin	Bill's Bridge
72.00%	Karen Cane – Ronald Cane	Monroe
72.00%	Andrea Rudner - Joan Rossiter	Stafford Bridge Club
71.33%	Dorel Livescu - Alisa Crowe	Jersey Bridge Club
71.13%	Peter Stein – Arnold Dorin	Bill's Bridge
70.83%	Robert Carroll – Linda Levitt	Bill's Bridge
70.31%	Gayle Friedman - Nancy Perine	Stafford Bridge Club
70.24%	Beau Norton - Marc Lipman	Stafford Bridge Club

LIMITED/INVITATIONAL		
77.50%	Marek Glowacki - Bharat Shah	Regency at Monroe
71.74%	Karen Hyatt - Sheila McCrossin	Rumson Bridge Club
71.23%	Susan Young - Marlene Johnsen	Rumson Bridge Club
71.11%	Patricia Pritchard - Laura Haaren	Rumson Bridge Club

Milestones

Changes in Rank: November 2022 – February 2023

Platinum Life Master

Betty Cox Randolph

Diamond Life Master

Rochelle Djmal Neptune

Sapphire Life Master

Arline Fulton Neptune
Gregory Gorshkov Somerville

Ruby Life Master

Susan Philips Chatham

Silver Life Master

Miles Ettman East Windsor
Michael Fried Monroe
Ming Li Summit
Manish Mehta Chatham

Bronze Life Master

Dorie Green Little Egg Harbor
Fred Hankins Flemington
William Robinson Chester

Life Master

Jared Egerer Mount Arlington
Jay Fisher Florham Park
Dorie Green Little Egg Harbor

Advanced NABC Master

Abdul Gaffoor Flanders
Ed Lyons Monroe
Jean Lyons Monroe

NABC Master

Harris Bobroff Lakewood
Denise Fisher Florham Park
Suzanne Fitzsimons Barnegat Light
Pradip Gandhi Hillsborough
Barbara Robinton South Orange
Richard Roth East Windsor
Judy Waller Springfield

Regional Master

Wilhelmina Moyer Oldwick

Sectional Master

Xiaowen Li Jersey City
Lauren Liero Rumson
Sally Rambo Harvey Cedars
Virginia Thomas Rockaway

Club Master

Leslie Aufseeser	Ocean
Hope Cassano	Berkeley Heights
Karen Cherins	West Orange
Carol Dehne	Belmar
Frank Dimaria	Monroe
Marek Glowacki	Monroe
Veena Kumar	West Windsor
Carol Lewkowicz	Upper Montclair
Shashank Mahashabde	Kendall Park
Judy Rosenberg	Matawan
Ponraj Sakthivel	Dayton
Andy Stotler	Westfield
Mariclaire Stotler	Westfield
Simonne Vaccaro	Neptune City
Betty Wolfe	Princeton

Junior Master

Howard Cohen	Scotch Plains
Jeffrey Fernandez	Monmouth Beach
Kevin Guckian	Chatham
Martin Hoffman	East Brunswick
Patrick Jonas	Montville
Jeanne Kelly	Rumson
Michael Schonberger	Bayonne
Corey Schwartz	Warren
Qian Sun	Jersey City
Mary Lee Trousdale	Summit
Edward Tykot	Mendham
Xi Xing	Princeton

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 of any deaths within our membership; indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

George Blake

d. January, 2023
frequent player at Princeton

Gene Fazzini

d. July, 2022
frequent player at Princeton

Joe Garlic

d. November 14, 2022
frequent player at Essex and Shrine

David Sutton

d. January 7, 2023
frequent player at Essex

Bob Tignor

d. January, 2023
frequent player at Princeton

Jane Wolin

d. October 24, 2022
frequent player at Hillsborough