



THE DECLARER



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The Declarer

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From the Editor
New Feature, Member Profiles
by Ken Trock



We're going to try something new in the Declarer. Starting with the next edition, Spring 2024, We're going to publish up to 3 member profiles per quarter. I'm asking readers of this newsletter to submit mini biographies of themselves to me (my email is in the first page of every Declarer edition). This is for Unit 140 members and obviously the writeups should revolve around our favorite card game, bridge!

The following questions can be used as a guide to submit a Member Profile.

- Birthplace
- Current residence
- Possibly a small photo
- Bridge rank attained
- Accomplishments (service to the game or tournament results)
- What first got you into the game?
- What keeps you in the game?
- Favorite bridge moment or hand
- Favorite convention
- Favorite partner(s)
- Favorite club or tournament
- Outside interests
- Family members

Submissions for publications will be chosen at random. If yours doesn't make it the first time around, it will receive priority for the next edition.

When Your System Gives You the Answer

By Bob Miller

Too many times our system doesn't give the answer we want, but not this time.

Sitting in 4th position, I was dealt ♠ AK ♥ -- ♦ A1064 ♣ AKJ10653. If it were first position, I'd open 2♣ with 9 1/2 tricks and rebid 3♣. After my lefthand opponent passes, my Partner opens 2♥! We don't preempt with junk, especially in 2nd position. So, I bid 2NT, asking for a feature. It can't be Clubs: I have the Ace and King. It can't be Spades: I have the Ace and King there too. If Partner only has Hearts, he'll bid 3♥, and I'll bid 3NT. However, he bids 3♦ showing me the ♦K, exactly what I wanted to hear. Very few systems show the Queen of the non-trump suit, but I bid 6♣, hoping that either Partner has the ♦Q or is short in Diamonds so I can ruff a loser or two. It turns out the ♣Q drops in 2 rounds, and not only does Partner have the ♦Q, but Diamonds behave nicely. Making 7 gives us a tie for top and helps us finish second overall.

Here is the complete layout:

Partner

♠ 73
♥ KJ10953
♦ KQ97
♣ 2

LHO

♠ J98543
♥ 76
♦ J82
♣ Q4

RHO

♠ Q106
♥ AQ842
♦ 53
♣ 987

You

♠ AK
♥ --
♦ A1064
♣ AKJ10653

NJBL Nominating Committee

The NJ Bridge League Board of Directors Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates to serve on the 2024 Board (alphabetically):

Beth Carlson
Bob Carroll
Komal Kamat
Kelly Kiefer

Voting on candidates for a 3 year term will be at the Annual Meeting/Awards brunch on March 9.

Bidding of Powerhouse Hands For Intermediate and Advancing Players

by Brett Kunin

These two hands illustrate methodology in bidding such hands.

On this first example, to your surprise, your RHO opens 1♦ with you holding ♠ A8x ♥ A753 ♦ Ax ♣ AKQx, a good quality 2NT opener if you were in 1st seat. You ponder what to bid: 1NT would be an egregious underbid, 2NT would show Clubs and Hearts, and therefore, your only choice is to double. Your LHO passes, Partner bids 1♠, and you can either cue bid 2♦ or bid 1NT. You are a 1/2 trick light for a cue bid, but since a direct 1NT overcall would have been a good 15 to a bad 18 HCP, you elect to bid 1NT now, which should be a balanced 19-21 HCP. LHO passes again, and Partner bids 2♠, showing at least 5, and more likely 6 Spades. RHO passes, and with first and third round control of Diamonds, your hand has improved, and you raise partner's 2♠ bid to 3♠, showing a maximum with at least high honor-3rd of Spades, and Diamonds under control. Note that it is incorrect to bid game directly, as Partner could hold 5 or 6 Spades to the 9, and no outside honors. LHO passes. However, Partner holds ♠ QJ9542 ♥ 94 ♦ Txx ♣ Tx, and reevaluates his hand, knowing that if Partner (you) has Axx in Spades, on the auction, the ♠K is "in the slot". He realizes that his 3 count and 6 card suit is really a gold mine and raises to game.

<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>
1♦	Dbf	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣7

Partner plays the hand well, playing 3 rounds of Clubs, pitching a losing Heart with the opening leader ruffing with a small Spade. The ♦K is now played, Partner wins the Ace, plays ♥A and ruffs a Heart. Then takes the Spade finesse to make 5.

The full deal, rotated to put Partner in the South.

You

♠ A8x
♥ A753
♦ Ax
♣ AKQx

LHO

♠ K10x
♥ KJ10
♦ KQ985
♣ 75

RHO

♠ 7
♥ Q862
♦ J76
♣ 9654

Partner

♠ QJ9542
♥ 94
♦ 10xx
♣ 10x

The lesson here is that doubling and bidding shows a 5 loser hand, doubling and cue bidding shows a 4 loser hand, and doubling and bidding 1NT should be a balanced 19-21 HCP.

On another hand, you are in 2nd chair, and after your RHO passes, you open 1♥ with ♠ AK87 ♥ AQJ86 ♦ A ♣ 1073. The bidding thereafter is uncontested, and Partner bids 2♦. You bid 2♠, which, with this Partner, is an "old-fashioned" reverse. However, even in the current bidding style where this does NOT show extra values, your call would be the same. Partner now bids 2NT, showing a Club stopper, and tends to deny 6 Diamonds. Although you have a very good 18 HCP, your hand would have improved holding a second Diamond, and the fact that Partner has no more than 2 Hearts and 3 Spades is also a negative. Partner is usually showing a minimum 2/1 bid in this auction, and without a fit, No Trump will be the desired strain. Unless Partner holds a good 15, slam is unlikely. Therefore, you make the quantitative call of 4NT, which Partner passes. Partner's hand is:
♠ 954 ♥ 53 ♦ KQ984 ♣ AK6. With 5 dead cards in the majors, I would have bid 1NT followed by 2NT over

a suit response, showing 11-12 without a fit, and I would not have ventured beyond 3NT. However, with 3 sure tricks in his hand in 2 suits, Partner's call was not unreasonable.

Let us look at this hand from a defensive perspective, and that you are on lead with ♠ 10 ♥ K972 ♦ J10652 ♣ Q52. Believe it or not, the standout lead is the singleton ♠10! Based on the auction, since the opener neither rebid Spades nor Hearts, his likely shape is 45xx, and Partner MUST hold at least 5 Spades. My second choice would be a Club from Qxx, with both leads attempting to establish tricks in the black suits. Note that Partner is hard pressed to make 5NT on a Spade lead. This particular defender elected (poorly) by leading the ♦J, and now with the Heart finesse working, my Partner was the only one in the room to make a second overtrick. A few players made 4, about half the field made 5NT.

The mantras here are: (1) NOT to be a rigid point counter, and that forcing to slam was not warranted in this auction; and (2) without a fit of any kind, the value of each hand is diminished, as long suits are more difficult to set up.

The full deal, again rotated to put Partner in the South.

Contract: 4NT	<u>You</u> ♠ AK87 ♥ AQJ86 ♦ A ♣ 1073	
<u>LHO</u> ♠ 10 ♥ K972 ♦ J10652 ♣ Q52		<u>RHO</u> ♠ QJ632 ♥ 104 ♦ 73 ♣ J984
	<u>Partner</u> ♠ 954 ♥ 53 ♦ KQ984 ♣ AK6	

Masterpoint Races

Final 2023 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	Joseph Eastern	North Caldwell	25.95	Jeanne Kelly	Rumson	21.77
	Sarma Ponnappalli	Plainsboro	22.42	Gautam Desai	Flanders	11.66
	Jeanne Kelly	Rumson	22.15	Sarma Ponnappalli	Plainsboro	11.59
	Hal Sprechman	Manchester	15.83	Hal Sprechman	Manchester	10.47
	Gautam Desai	Flanders	11.66	Naurene Antoniotti	Deland, FL	8.84
5 – 20	Eileen Elsas	Rumson	18.59	Eileen Elsas	Rumson	18.21
	Leslie Weber	Princeton	17.06	Leslie Weber	Princeton	15.50
	Howard Cohen	Scotch Plains	12.90	Howard Cohen	Scotch Plains	12.90
	Frank Dimaria	Monroe	12.80	Frank Dimaria	Monroe	10.64
	Qian Sun	Jersey City	12.20	Stephen Muller	Manchester	1.12
20 – 50	Leigh Walker	Piscataway	62.49	Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown	56.10
	Frederick Shubert	Hackettstown	60.91	Leigh Walker	Piscataway	54.69
	N. V. Srinivasan	Eatontown	50.91	N. V. Srinivasan	Eatontown	50.83
	Tianyang Chen	Princeton	48.16	Leslie Aufseeser	Ocean	40.42
	Leslie Aufseeser	Ocean	41.86	Priti Merchant	Livingston	21.40
50 - 100	Thomas Lewis	Watchung	82.68	Don Post	Randolph	39.21
	Ponraj Sakthivel	Dayton	50.56	Gunter Ford	Rumson	36.26
	Shashikant Sathaye	Warren	50.52	George Gaiani	Manchester	28.59
	Don Post	Randolph	44.35	Lynn Chernuchin	Summit	27.87
	Bo Gao	Ringoes	41.31	Yuchen Xu	New York, NY	21.01
100 - 200	Nancy Goss	Colts Neck	110.64	Mary Jane O’Hare	Rumson	54.96
	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	91.88	Elizabeth Ford	Rumson	38.32
	Mary Jane O’Hare	Rumson	79.73	Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville	36.82
	Arman Tookmanian	Budd Lake	61.97	Arman Tookmanian	Budd Lake	33.73
	Doris Grzymiski	Chatham	56.80	Lauren Haaren	Rumson	33.13
200 – 300	Xiaowen Li	Jersey City	1259.72	Douglas Reeves	Union	58.88
	Kim Gimblette	Lakewood	84.47	Jeff Schreiber	Oceanport	56.87
	Jeff Schreiber	Oceanport	72.09	William Parkins	Denville	54.93
	Charles Clark	Skillman	68.41	L Gail Knight	Chester	32.36
	William Parkins	Denville	63.09	Liz Sarway	Allenhurst	31.04
300 – 500	Andrew Barlow	Lebanon	172.09	Andrew Barlow	Lebanon	126.52
	Simon Thomson	Summit	140.49	Simon Thomson	Summit	97.59
	Norman Friedman	Livingston	121.87	Sheila Holderness	Montville	73.88
	Jared Egerer	Mt. Arlington	108.37	Warren Kaplan	Morganville	70.62
	Veena Arora	Waretown	105.09	Sheila McCrossin	Red Bank	61.75

500 - 1000	George Kalb	Millington	175.05	George Kalb	Millington	130.58
	John Overdeck	Short Hills	169.48	Justine Robertson	Monmouth Bch	109.94
	Michael Absatz	Eatontown	141.27	Chris Schwinger	Rockaway	93.18
	Jason Tokuda	Livingston	129.94	David Mayer	Wayside	77.55
	Robert Derosa	Manchester	124.51	Robin Simon	Pt. Pleasant Bch	73.42
1000 - 1500	Manish Mehta	Chatham	207.36	Elly De Boer	Lawrence Twp	88.25
	Romesh Arora	Waretown	169.39	Jan De Boer	Lawrence Twp	88.25
	Lewis Lefkowitz	Somerset	155.65	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	88.01
	Ira Tarnow	West Orange	137.92	Ester Terzi	Allenhurst	77.01
	Michael Fried	Monroe	110.25	Jane Bassett	Shrewsbury	72.14
1500 - 2500	Steven Siegal	Mendham	365.33	Peter Wright	Roanoke, VA	141.63
	Larry Gordon	West Orange	296.52	Barbara Codispoti	Mt. Arlington	117.29
	Dorel Livescu	Marlboro	209.63	Henry Stadelmann	Mantoloking	116.18
	Peter Wright	Roanoke, VA	197.20	Peter Jones	North Plainfield	104.11
	Hans Neuteboom	Manchester	154.82	Hans Neuteboom	Manchester	103.23
2500- 3500	Akshay Shah	Somerset	219.98	Chorng-hour Yang	Parsippany	147.02
	Chorng-Hour Yang	Parsippany	207.67	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	115.28
	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	176.58	Arnold Dorin	Manalapan	90.35
	Chung-Zong Wan	Somerset	152.38	Gilda Steinberg	Marlboro	87.03
	Brady Richter	Summit	108.21	Ottilie Bello	Short Hills	58.00
3500 - 5000	Sam Borenstein	West Orange	318.58	Robin Shamah	Long Branch	154.77
	Wendy Lee	East Hanover	298.82	Rochelle Djmal	Neptune	152.17
	Himanshu Joshi	Chester	298.01	Sam Borenstein	West Orange	143.30
	Rochelle Djmal	Neptune	194.87	Elyse Menashe	Deal	98.43
	Robin Shamah	Long Branch	160.55	Adeline Some	Boca Raton, FL	94.05
5000 - 7500	Donna Dulet	Ocean	507.49	Donna Dulet	Ocean	264.65
	Dave DuBois	Westfield	276.51	Stephen Arshan	Jackson	127.95
	Joan Brody	Livingston	253.75	Jim McCarroll	Hampton	114.33
	Stephen Arshan	Jackson	213.65	Lee Schwartz	Livingston	93.77
	Ralph Buchalter	South Orange	175.50	Bonnie Britton	Staten Island, NY	92.55
7500 - 10,000	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	457.61	Peter Stein	Hillsborough	149.31
	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	422.29	Dennis Thompson	Lake Hiawatha	109.52
	Peter Stein	Hillsborough	357.80	Betty Cox	Randolph	83.39
	Bruce Witzel	Scotch Plains	143.39	Eli Schneider	East Brunswick	22.73
	Betty Cox	Randolph	99.14	Alex Perlin	Metuchen	21.32
Over 10,000	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	1484.89	Alexander Allen	Annandale	139.13
	Alexander Allen	Annandale	480.37	Abe Pineles	Palm Desert, CA	24.71
	Yinghao Liu	Hoboken	425.92	Cynthia Schneider	East Brunswick	22.73
	Abe Pineles	Palm Desert, CA	124.70	Jiang Gu	Mountain Lakes	1.15
	Cynthia Schneider	East Brunswick	22.73			

Barry Crane 500

Congratulations to the following Unit 140 players who made the Barry Crane top 500 in 2023. These are players who ranked in the top 500 nationally in masterpoints accrued in all categories of play.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Masterpoints In 2023</i>	<i>Rank in Unit 140</i>	<i>Rank Nationally</i>
<i>Jiang Gu</i>	<i>1484.89</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Xiaowen Li</i>	<i>1259.72</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Donna Dulet</i>	<i>507.49</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>279</i>
<i>Alexander Allen</i>	<i>480.37</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>319</i>
<i>Dennis Thompson</i>	<i>457.61</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>368</i>
<i>Yinghao Liu</i>	<i>425.92</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>438</i>
<i>Alex Perlin</i>	<i>422.29</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>450</i>



**SILVER
POINTS**

New Jersey Bridge League March Sectional March 1 - March 3, 2024



**SILVER
POINTS**

Edison Elks Club
375 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817
Playing Site Phone: 732-985-2487

Tournament Chair: Arman Tookmanian (908)798-7654

- Friday, March 1** 10:00 AM ● Open Stratified Pairs ● Stratified 0-499 Pairs*
2:30 PM ● Open **GRASSROOT** Stratified Pairs
● **GRASSROOT** 499er Stratified Pairs*
- Saturday, March 2** 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, March 3** 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.

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.

Covid Policies:

MASKING WILL BE OPTIONAL PURSUANT TO ACBL PROTOCOLS - see our website www.njbl.net
However, should any bridge player request that players mask at the table, compliance is **MANDATORY**.

Our Unit Board of Directors has voted to require that 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.

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 \$1.75 per slice. Bottled water and soda, \$1.00.

Partnerships: We will try to find you partners, but we cannot guarantee them. Please email your request to Amie Dorin at arnied26@gmail.com or call him at 732-841-2351 by Friday, February 23rd. Note that we are much more likely to be able to find a partner for you the **EARLIER** you make the request.

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: \$30 per pair per session. 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. \$136 per team for Sunday's Swiss teams' game.

Big Games

(Must be face-to-face to qualify)

December 1, 2023 – February 15, 2024

OPEN		
73.33%	Fran Meyer - Larry Sklar	Queen of Hearts BC
72.16%	Marilyn Millard - Lawrence Lerner	Summit Area Bridge
72.02%	Terrence Havican - Jim McCarroll	Shadowfax
71.29%	Stephanie Miller - Bill Miller	Bill's Bridge
70.64%	James White - John Dell'osso	Summit Area Bridge
70.50%	Donna Dulet - Robin Shamah	Jersey Bridge Club
70.49%	Brett Kunin - Sam Borenstein	Summit Area Bridge
70.25%	Manish Mehta - Terry Zuckerman	Summit Area Bridge

LIMITED/INVITATIONAL		
72.22%	Andrew Barlow - Leigh Walker	Shadowfax
70.36%	Arthur Cooper - Ellie Levene	Regency at Monroe

A Normal Result

By Ken Trock



North

♠ A87
♥ AJ843
♦ KJ5
♣ 102

West

♠ J954
♥ 107
♦ A102
♣ A976

East

♠ K103
♥ KQ62
♦ Q984
♣ 83

South

♠ Q62
♥ 95
♦ 763
♣ KQJ54

This is a fairly typical layout. North opens 1♥ and South makes a semi-forcing 1NT bid. North, with a flat 13 HCP passes. West leads their 4th best Spade, won by East with the ♠K and returns the suit. Declarer lets it ride around to the ♠A on the board and goes after Clubs. West winds the 2nd Club and pushes a Heart thru Dummy. Eventually Declarer will come to 2 Spades, 1 Heart, and 4 Clubs. They may guess Diamonds correctly or the defense could be forced to lead one to them at the end. I'd say on this defense that North/South will take 8 tricks. Does this seem like a normal result? Can the defense do any better?

What if East doesn't take their ♠K at trick 1? This will make Declarer burn their entry to the long Clubs early. They wouldn't be able to run that suit later. Note that Declarer probably wouldn't benefit by ducking trick 1 either. East could continue with a small Spade, ostensibly now giving away a trick, but Declarer can win the ♠Q now or never. Or they could switch to Hearts. My guess is that with East ducking the opening Spade lead, that Declarer will only take 6 tricks.

This principle comes up when responder bids a non-forcing 1NT over opener's bid. They have a long minor they couldn't bid, often Clubs, and not much else. The defense strives to not allow them to use it.



The New Jersey Bridge League's
2024 AWARDS BANQUET
Honoring New Life Masters

Saturday, March 9, 2024 • 11:00 a.m.
The Hanover Manor • 16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, New Jersey (973) 887-2682

• **Unlimited Brunch**

Huge, scrumptious buffet that includes both breakfast and lunch dishes

• **Awards Ceremony**

*Honoring the League's New Life Masters, the 2023 Player of the Year,
and 2023 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners*

• **Annual Meeting**

Brief Unit 140 Annual Meeting, election of Board Members

• **Bridge Game**

*A "Unit-Wide" rated pairs game. This game counts towards the
Player of the Year for 2024!*

• **All for ONLY \$30**

(\$30 for members of Unit 140, and \$40 for non-members of Unit 140)

A GREAT EVENT SUBSIDIZED BY UNIT 140 TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR MEMBERSHIP!

All entries must be pre-paid. Send this registration form with your check (payable to NJBL Unit 140) to Brett Kunin • 8 Hickory Rd. • West Orange, NJ 07052-1206 • Phone: (973) 243-2366. PLEASE indicate your need for a NS or EW seating. (Kindly circle the name of any non-Unit 140 member.)

Name: _____ ACBL # _____

Name: _____ ACBL # _____

NO ENTRIES WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR, and no funds will be accepted at the door. This will be strictly enforced, no exceptions. Please get your reservations in early! Reservation Deadline: February 28, 2024.

For directions, please go to <http://www.thehanovermanor.com>

Tricks and Stones

by Jay Korobow



North Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ K 10 9 8 7 3 2		
	♥ Q J 2		
	♦ Q 6		
	♣ J		
♠ Q	♠ A 6 5 4		
♥ K 7 3	♥ A 9 6		
♦ A J 10 9 8 5	♦ 7 4 3	N	
♣ 8 4 3	♣ A K Q	W	E
	♠ J	S	
	♥ 10 8 5 4		
	♦ K 2		
	♣ 10 9 7 6 5 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♠	2 N	Pass
3 N	Pass	Pass	Pass

My preference is to almost never open or make a preemptive jump to show a weak-two bid with a 7 card suit. I prefer the traditional good 6 card suit although unfavorable vulnerability has led me to do it at least once. But I don't recall any triumphs, and confusion for Partner seems rather weighty. In this BBO team match deal, the maneuver indirectly gained an advantage for an unlikely reason; Partner's thoughtful defensive play was made possible by Declarer's confusion about the weak-two length.

The replay table saw North open a more traditional 3♠ at favorable vulnerability, leading to East overcalling the value bid of 3NT, which ended the auction. 4♠ doubled might be a profitable sacrifice at -300, but in all likelihood, West might then bid 5♦ for about the same +600 East-West making result. There, the opening trick went ♠J, Q, K, A of Spades as ducking didn't seem to be necessary to sever defensive communications. Declarer, East, of course had to prevent North from gaining the lead to cash their high spades, as they tackled the critical Diamond suit.

When a low Diamond was next led towards Dummy's suit headed by the ♦AJT, the intention was not to take a finesse that could easily give the lead to North

holding the King or Queen. Declarer was going to rise with the Ace hoping to drop a singleton ♦Q or ♦K in the North, then clear the suit to the "safe opponent", South, with the other high honor. Even if South held ♦KQx and this would yield 2 tricks for the defense, it could not prevent East-West from taking 9 tricks to fulfill the 3NT contract. The other reasonable possibility was, as in the actual case, finding the defender's Diamonds 2-2, and on the second round of that suit, South must be the one with the King.

South was aware of the issues here and tried to muddy the waters by playing the ♦K when that suit was led at trick 2. Declarer refrained from the losing strategy of capturing that with Dummy's ♦A. They simply let that card hold the trick. After regaining the lead from the Club shift, East then led a second Diamond towards Dummy's ♦AJT and went up Ace to achieve a successful result. As before, they didn't mind if South had ♦KQx to start, as the contract would still be safe.

The seemingly impregnable 3NT contract was also reached here via the auction shown, with East expecting North to hold a six card suit. They accordingly made the quite reasonable play of ducking the first round of Spades by letting North's ♠K hold the trick. This was to cut South's ability to reach their Partner in Spades should they be divided the expected 6-2.

North continued Spades of course, and now East took their Ace. South was free to discard on that, and a spectacular choice was made. Quite aware of the criticality of the Diamond suit and needing partner to have the ♦Q, they jettisoned their ♦K on the second round of Spades. There was now no way for East-West to produce 9 tricks without giving dangerous North the lead. In fact, the result was down 3, -300 for a hefty IMP loss when they eventually continued attacking Diamonds on a hope and a prayer.

The old fashioned weak-two with 6 may have gone bye-bye with the Flintstones here, but one cannot say the new-fangled Jettistons didn't rock the boat!

Milestones

Changes in Rank: December 2023 – January 2024

Sapphire Life Master

Brady Richter	Summit
---------------	--------

Gold Life Master

Jeffrey Halle	Middletown
Myrna Smith	Frenchtown

Ruby Life Master

Xiaowen Li	Jersey City
Om Singh	Whitehouse Station

Silver Life Master

Julie Grossman	Hopewell
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Bronze Life Master

Eric Greenbaum	Palm Beach Garden, FL
George Kalb	Millington
Robin Simon	Point Pleasant Beach

Life Master

Bernard Clarkin	Morris Plains
Eric Greenbaum	Palm Beach Garden, FL
Robin Simon	Point Pleasant Beach

Advanced NABC Master

Pradip Gandhi	Hillsborough
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NABC Master

Cathryn Bergin	Rumson
Robert Carroll	Lawrenceville
Virginia Disch	Summit
Robin Eastern	North Caldwell
Daniel Walsh	Tinton Falls

Regional Master

Gail Connolly	Morristown
Sharon Glauberg	West Caldwell
Karen Hyatt	Little Silver
Xi Xing	Princeton

Sectional Master

Joseph Eastern	North Caldwell
Sharon Gilman	Ocean
Edward Kaplan	West Orange
Patti Senk	Manahawkin
Nancy Shepard	West Orange
Anne Williams	Ringoes

Club Master

Clarissa Barrett	Essex Falls
Margaret McGill	Atlantic Heights
Stephen Muller	Manchester
Sarma Ponnappalli	Plainsboro
Jesse Rockoff	Rahway

Junior Master

Martin Barber	Livingston
Neeta Dhopesha	Parsippany
Dylan Lupo	Rahway
Irene McFarland	Morristown
Sari Netsky	Westfield

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 Julie Anderson at Julie17rae@gmail.com of any deaths within our membership; indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

Ed Jossell

d. February 11, 2024
frequent player at Princeton

Bobbi Minor

d. December 15, 2023
frequent player at Clark and Scotch Plains

Peggy Schwartz

d. January, 2024
frequent player at Shrine Bridge Center