



# Honorable Mention

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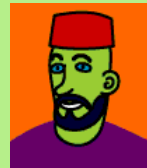
NEWSletter



**NEW** and Exciting

Month, Year

## Honors adds a new service -- Find a Pro



If you'd like a chance to play bridge with a  
**Bridge Pro**  
on a certain day, we can help.

We will provide an updated list of Pros that are available on any given day for a specific session. *(Must be booked in advance)*

This list will be posted on the club's front bulletin board outside of the TV room.

**Note:** Pros session fees may differ as well as their cancellation policy. Be sure to inquire.

## Intermediate Corner



### *Always Try to Maximize Your Odds*

This hand came up one afternoon at Honors. My partner, a 'half-full,' rosy optimist, bid this hand in her usual "You play 'em well, Partner" aggressive manner.

I held the following hand as Opener:

♠Kx  
♥Axxxxx  
♦KJx  
♣Jx

I opened with 1♥. She responded with 2NT (Jacoby) and when I tried to sign off in 4♥, she refused to take no for an answer. Her next bid was 4NT (Key Card Blackwood). A bit ashamed of my 'Opener,' I was hopeful that my 5♣ response (1 KC) would put the brakes on; however my partner continued on undaunted to 6♥.

Queen of Spades was the opening lead, she tabled the following dummy:

♠Ax  
♥KQJx  
♦Axx  
♣A10xx

"Well, not hopeless," I murmured. One sure club loser and a possible diamond loser summed it up. I hated to rely on the finesse, however, I was willing to save that as a last ditch effort (Plan B). I needed to come up with a plan A and the only hope was a 'friendly lie' of the club suit.

Plan A - I won the lead in dummy, pulled 2 rounds to clear trump and played a spade to my hand. I now played the ♣J planning to let it ride, but my LHO smartly covered with the Queen. I decided to duck the trick (I always must lose a club) and play for mini-miracle. My LHO

had no choice but to return a club (or give a ruff/sluff or solve the diamonds). I rose with the ♣A, planned to play another club and ruff, if either opponent started with the King of Clubs third, it would fall now, giving me a pitch of a diamond on Dummy's winning ♣10.

Unbelievably it happened! RHO's ♣K got ruffed out. I never needed to take the diamond finesse (Plan B) and I don't even know if it would've worked. I like to assume not.

Anyway, the moral is- take some time to plan your play and give yourself as many options as you can think of. A 'Plan C' is never out of the question, if you can muster one.

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## *Things Change*



### ***An Editorial Blog***

Long, long ago, when I first learned this game of bridge, the world was a different place. Technology in the early seventies was represented, in a nutshell, by IBM whose computers took up a whole room, but the microchip was coming soon. My home technology was limited to calculators and the game "Pong" (a 1-dimensional, black and white, ping pong game wired up to my TV).

It was a barbaric time and yet the game of bridge needed no bells and whistles in order to function somewhat effectively. You could play home bridge with as little as a deck of cards and a paper and pencil to keep score. Duplicate club games were a little trickier as you needed to create some type of scoring grid. Herein lay the rub. These erstwhile spreadsheets would receive handwritten data from the handwritten travelers. And, oh yes, mistakes were made.

After the game was over, the travelers for the 26 boards were collected and each was quickly matchpointed for the N/S scores. Now a new exercise had us doing the reciprocals scores for E/W. Speed in these two skills (matchpointing and 'reciping') was a respected trait, and it often fell to two different people for the sake of time. (For me this often took place at 11:00PM as the Duplicate started at 8PM.) I often did the reciprocals. At this point, another pair

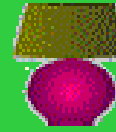
of hands (chosen by neatness and legibility) would enter the matchpoints and recips into the grid. Now we would all clear out to allow access to the 'adders' (another respected skill.) One person would add the long columns of numbers (26 figures) across for each pair, while the other would add down the columns checking the matchpoint totals on each board. There was a magical number called the "checksum", and each directions totals had to add up. It almost never did!!! Then we would all pitch in adding and checking the travelers for mistakes in handwriting and matchpointing, well, anyway, you get the picture. When the checksum added up we all went home. Was it right? Sometimes, and sometimes the mistakes would cancel each other out. It took about an hour to certify a winner, but it was all part of the fun. One day they replaced our paper grids with a giant acetate board and a grease pencil. That was big advancement.

When I first became a director in the 90's, I was tested on my ability to hand matchpoint and recip. Thankfully, the age of personal computers was in full swing. A brilliant program for bridge scoring called ACBLscore was invented by a man named Jim Looby. All you had to do was type in the scores from the travelers into the program and it would matchpoint automatically. The speed at which the director could enter the (now 24/5 boards) travelers into the computer became a respected skill. And, oh yes, mistakes were made. There were wrong results written or on the wrong side and of course, the director's typos. On the other hand, results were available in 15 minutes or less.

Well here at Honors, gone are the handwritten travelers and the director's hurried typing. Now the players enter their scores on handheld devices which then communicate with a central computer. The winners come up on a large flat screen. Time has marched on and it's a good thing. Not only do we save a lot of paper and money spent on that, but we've cut the results time down to *instantaneously* after the game. But, oh yes, mistakes are still made. It's a "scorpion-turtle's back" type of thing. We humans will continue to err, it's our nature.

*Ava Grubman, ed.*

## *Meet an Honors' Fixture*



In this installment we will meet:

### *June Iseman*

If you play with or against June Iseman with any regularity, you know she is a beautiful person both inside and out. The consummate New Yorker, her family has lived here for generations. In fact, her maternal grandfather went down on the Titanic. Her paternal grandfather founded a firm on Wall Street for which her father worked. So June was born in Doctor's Hospital on East End Avenue, which she explains nostalgically has turned into condos.

Her early education was at the Lennox School for Girls, and she was given dance lessons. When she excelled at this, she (at seven years old) and her sister were invited to dance in front of Mayor LaGuardia. She went on to study for a bit at Bennington College, taking classes in Drama and Psychology before quitting to get married at age nineteen. Her husband was a Wall Street investment banker, while June served on the Board of Irvington House Institute. She gave birth to two sons. (One became a radio personality, but eventually turned to Cape Cod real estate, the other is a 'Wealth Management' expert with a major firm.)

After 18 years, her marriage came to an end, and June decided to go back to school to get her degree. Sarah Lawrence College provided her with a basic degree in sociology, which she furthered at Columbia School of Social Work. However, shortly after this, in order to make a living, June switched to Real Estate.

In 1980, she was one of just eight woman who banded together to work for Stribling & Associates Real Estate. It is now a huge, worldwide concern, still privately owned, and June has risen to

the rank of Senior Vice President. She reminisces with pride about making the firm's first 'Million dollar sale', back in the day.

Although June had several hobbies (she loved tennis and was a tournament bowler), at age 65, she took some time off of work to learn bridge. She took morning classes at Honors and then played Duplicate in the evening. Currently she has attained the rank of Bronze Life Master.

She says, "Learning Bridge is one of the best and most exciting things I could have done for myself! That's because of the challenge of the game and the interesting people that you meet. It's a great place for social networking and also, I enjoy traveling to the tournaments."

A big downturn in the market wound up forcing June out of retirement. So currently, she is back to work at Stribling, and still maintains her longtime interest in animal rights and animal rescue. One of the loves of her life is her own rescue cat, a Maincoon, named Amanda Jane.

In addition, June loves theater and "sees everything." Also, she has the 'artcraftsy-gene' handed down from her grandmother to her mother then to her. She recalls her mother making her an entire navy blue, ribbon 'going away suit' for her wedding. June does a lot of knitting and needlepoint. One of the other loves of her life is her 14 year old granddaughter, Alexandra, who has translated that creative gene into fashion drawing. In fact, last summer, she went to "Fashion Camp" on the recommendation of an Honors' player.

With all of this going on, June still makes plenty of time for playing bridge several times a week. Some of her favorite partners are Rochelle Goldberger, Peter Lesser, Bruce Haims, Francine Levine and Toby Koren.

As for her future in bridge, June says, "I plan to play well into my nineties!"

# Ask the Experts



Occasionally in Bridge, especially in the bidding, there may occur a difference of opinions between partners. Often the best way to resolve this type of argument is to get an explanation from a pro or pros.

*In future articles in this segment, we hope to elicit from you, our players, hands in which you and your Pard do not see eye-to-eye. In this case, we will ask the experts!*

This is a hand that came up in an afternoon game at Honors. My partner told me that I was unequivocally wrong. I begged to differ, so I needed to poll the experts.

Here's my hand:

♠KJ10xx  
♥10xx  
♦Jxx  
♣Kx

Partner	RHO	Me
1♠	X	?

**Judy Radin:** Bid 4♠. The King of Clubs is a good 'un.

**Aaron Silverstein:** 2NT (Jordan) or whatever your limit raise is. I don't want to commit to 4♠ with a balanced hand and half the deck. A slight overbid on values, but I can't bring myself to bid only 2♠.

**Rick Zucker:** Bid 2♠. Your hand is too flat and not worth a jump to 4♠. The 5th trump is just a red herring!

**Gail Greenberg:** I held this hand and bid 4♠. I thought they might make 3♥ or 4♥.

**Joe Grue:** Make a limit raise. The ♣K is a great card.

Well, that's the lowdown. In reality, I chose a limit raise. However, I guess the verdict's not completely in on this one.

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## Weedhopper



*In order to perpetuate this segment we are shouting out to the pros and teachers. If your student does something to make you smile, please submit it.*

This hand came from a Pairs event at the Smithtown Regional.

"It always makes me feel good to watch Partner play a hand well. In this hand my student was the declarer and the defenders were a top-notch pair from Long Island."

Here's the hand:

	North	
	♠QJ	
	♥AKx	
	♦A10x	
	♣K8762	
West		East
♠Axx		♠K10xxxx
♥10xx		♥QJx
♦Qxx		♦xx
♣QJ9x		♣xx
	South - D	
	♠xx	
	♥xxxx	
	♦KJxxx	
	♣A10	

Bidding			
East	South	West	North
2♠	P	P	X
P	3♦	all pass	

Opening lead - ♠A

At trick two West switched to the ♣Q and Declarer made him pay. Winning the ♣A in hand, she led a trump to Dummy's ♦10, cashed the ♦A, then played low to the ♦K in hand.

Now she led her ♣10 forcing a cover with the ♣J. Next the ♣8 was played from Dummy, East pitched and Declarer threw away her losing Spade (loser on loser play) allowing East to win his ♣9. This proceeded to set up Dummy's ♣7 and ♣6 enabling the pitch of two losing hearts.

Well done, making 5!

*Submitted by - Elliott Grubman      Student - Susan Friedman*

# Who Am I?



*Each issue will feature a member of the Honors' staff. Play along to see if you can figure it out. Answer in next issue.*

- I left my country when I was 28 years old, but I already spoke English well.
- I learned to play Bridge in college.
- I have a BS in Civil Engineering.
- I love good food and was a part owner of an Italian restaurant.
- I am very passionate about my national soccer team.
- I can say about myself, "I'm a 'people person' with a good sense of humor!"

*Below is the answer to last issue's Who Am I?*

- I came from my native country when I was a baby.
- I played tennis for 40 years.
- I played bridge for 20 years, but seriously only for the last 10.
- I speak English, Spanish, Swedish and German..
- I love to read, especially historical fiction and nonfiction.
- I can say about myself, "I have a lot of patience!"

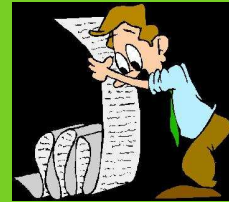
**Answer: House player, Peter Hoffman**

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Let's Smile 

## A Bridge Poem

by - Unknown



'Twas the night before last,  
Two guests in our house  
Were playing some bridge,  
With me and my spouse.

"Please tell me," she shouted,  
"Why didn't you double?  
It's plain from the start,  
We had them in trouble."

"'Tis futile, my dear --  
I'm taking no stand.  
So please stop your nagging,  
Let's play the next hand."

"Remember next time,"  
She said with a frown,  
"To double a contract  
That's sure to go down."

So I picked up my cards  
In a downtrodden state,  
Then I opened, "One Spade,"  
And awaited my fate.

-	North ♠9876 ♥65432 ♦8765 ♣-----	
West ♠----- ♥QJ109 ♦KQJ109 ♣KQJ10		East ♠AKQJ10 ♥AK87 ♦----- ♣A987
	South - D ♠5432 ♥----- ♦A432 ♣65432	

The guy sitting down  
 Was like many I've known,  
 He bids and plays  
 In a world all his own.

"Two Diamonds," he countered  
 With scarcely a care.  
 The Ace in his hand  
 Gave him courage to spare.

My wife, smiling faintly,  
 And tossing her head,  
 Leaned over the table,  
 "Double," she said.

Then North fore some reason  
 I cannot determine  
 Bid, "Two Hearts,"  
 Like preaching a sermon.

I grinned as I doubled  
 Enjoying the fun,  
 And turned round to South

To see where he'd run.

But South, undistressed,  
Not at lost for a word,  
Came forth with, "Two Spades."  
Did I hear what I heard?

The other two passed,  
And in sheer disbelief  
I said, "Double, my friend,  
That'll bring you some grief."

I sat there and chuckled  
Inside, o'er their fix.  
But South, very calmly,  
Ran off his eight tricks.

He ruffed the first Heart  
In his hand right away,  
And then trumped a Club,  
On the very next play.

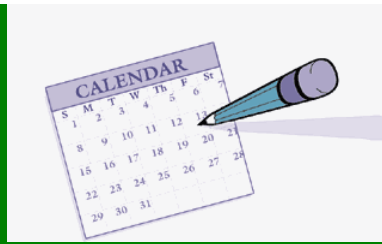
He crossruffed the hand  
At a breathtaking pace.  
'Til I was left holding  
Five Spades to the Ace.

In anguish, my wife cried,  
"Your mind's growing old.  
Don't you see that for us,  
Six NoTrump is ice cold!"

By doubling this time  
I'd committed a sin.  
It just goes to prove  
That you never can win.

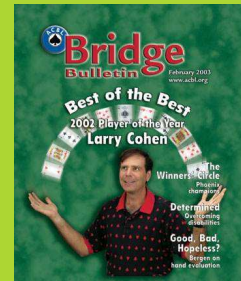


# Save the Date



## Larry Cohen Lectures at Honors

On **Saturday, June 4** we have invited worldwide lecturer, 26-time National Champion, Best-Selling author, and ACBL's "2011 Honorary Member of the Year" Larry Cohen, to hold a seminar on:  
*Slam Bidding.*



Larry is half of the famed Berkowitz-Cohen partnership, which scored decades of victories. In addition, they comprised one of the best team of commentators to ever grace the VuGraph dais at the nationals. VuGraph is like an overhead projector that shows the play taking place in another closed-off room, to a large audience. At the finals of these long National events, they would accompany the finalists' play with a stream of comments akin to an Abbott and Costello routine. In those days, it was a highlight of the end of the tournament.

Now we are privileged to have Larry bring his humorous and informative teaching style as well as a VuGraph. His 9:30 AM lecture will be followed up with 4 play hands.

Also, Larry's many books will be available for purchase. He popularized the "Law of Total Tricks" and has 3 books devoted to this modern concept, as well as his newest offerings.

*This special event is not to be missed!! Here's the particulars:*

9:00AM - Meet and greet breakfast

9:30AM - Lecture and 4 deals

12 Noon - Lunch

\$65 for all the above. Seating is limited so please reserve early.

There is an additional option to play in the afternoon duplicate for the special price of \$15.00 for those who attend Larry's class.



### **Contact Us:**

Honors NY Center for Bridge  
133 East 58th Street 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

(212) 230-1230  
[HonorsBridgClub.org](http://HonorsBridgClub.org)

