

THE DECLARER



September 2024

Volume 67 Issue 2

Ken Trock, Editor

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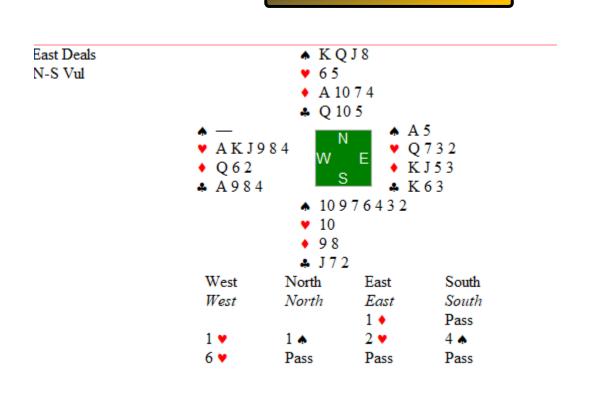
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The Declarer NJBL web site: www.njbl.net Ken Trock Editor kentrock1@gmail.com Contributors Jay Korobow Brett Kunin Ken Trock Barbara Clark Allan Bauer Reporting / Proofing Brett Kunin Susan Slusky Arnold Kohn Technical Advisor Jay Korobow Web Master 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).

Fool's Gold

By Jay Korobow



After the BBO IMP Pair bidding began $1 \diamond - Pass - 1 \checkmark$, North ventured a $1 \diamond$ overcall on a four card suit because they liked the opening lead quality, and sometimes you can aggressively compete for a part score with a fit in the master suit. Indeed, South ventured a jump to $4 \diamond$ with their 1 worthless Jack because 7 card support was not likely to incur a huge penalty, or even get a double, if the vulnerability suggested that was too high. I would guess some extra hearty souls might even try a jump to $5 \diamond$ on this rather unusually long trump support.

West reasonably placed the contract in 6, as they would have done over a 5 \pm call as well. South wisely gave in to that decision, as 6 \pm would go for- 1100, versus "just" 980 if the slam makes. The opening lead was the \pm K, and unless there was a Diamond-Club squeeze, Declarer saw that a 3-3 Diamond break was their best chance. One Club loser in the West hand could go on the long Diamond in Dummy, and the other on the \pm A. When that 3-3 Diamond break did not develop, it remained for the QJ10 of Clubs (or 5 Clubs) to be in the same hand with the long Diamonds. That develops a 12th trick when one of those suits gives way to the pressure of pitching on the run of the Heart suit. On the defensive side, South's ♣J was not so worthless after all, (and in fact would avoid -1400 should 6S be ventured by North/South.) So the slam failed.

North probably patted themselves on the back for generating an auction that propelled the opponents there when the Spade overcall struck gold. But the venturesome overcall was tarnished, as in reality it created a roadmap to 12 tricks and a result that wouldn't have been so golden.

With the overcall suggesting that North has the A, Declarer should realize that Ax (in North) would be as good as a stiff A (or a 3-3 break) by leading up to the KJxx in Dummy twice. When the hypothetical A

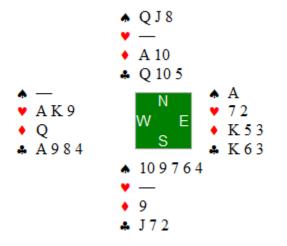
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appears from Ax, it will take air, and Declarer can untangle the remaining Diamonds for a much needed pitch from that suit to go along with the pitch on the A. Thereby both Club losers in the West hand will disappear and 12 tricks will result.

Now even the most sleepy readers will realize that North in fact has A10xx, so that ideal position doesn't materialize either. Thus, the optimistic slam must fail, or not?

West should lead towards the **•**KJxx and North must duck (not wanting to capture air), so the Jack wins. Declarer returns to hand in trump and leads a second Diamond towards Dummy. Again, North must duck, otherwise the scenario where two pitches for the Club losers develops. And so we reach the following position, after North ducks the second time and it's East's turn to play:



Dummy's A will win, and the A is still there! (Declarer ruffed the first round of Spades on opening lead, not knowing what to pitch at that point, or what was needed.) Now, after North ducks, the West hand has simply the Q remaining. This can finally be pitched on the Spade Ace!

So with NO diamond losers thanks to North's mandatory Ace ducking, it's simple to now just lose one Club, and the Heart slam easily rolls home. Not really an ugly ducking, since North is pickled no matter what they do, but it turns into a swan for the hearty souls that bid slam in that suit. And the prospector's Spade overcall digs up a heapin' mess of Fool's Gold!

Matchpoint Doubles For Intermediate and Advancing Players by Brett Kunín

I have found that far too many players are reluctant to make a Matchpoint double. Playing in a Common Game one day, two opportunities arose for us.

On board 11 (neither vulnerable), South opened $1 \bigstar$, partner overcalled 2 + in 2nd chair, my RHO passed, and I raised to 3♦ with ♠ K87 ♥ 8753 ♦ 0J5 ♣ 084. Note that a second chair overcall at the 2 level should require an opening hand, and too many players would not raise with my hand, fearing that the $\bigstar K$ is "in the slot". The raise is imperative, as to allow the opponents to have an unimpeded auction at the 2 level may permit them to find a secondary fit. South, after some hesitation, elected to bid 3. and partner doubled with ♠ AT62 ♥ 10 ♦ AKT976 ♣ K10, a likely 3.5 defensive tricks, 2 Spades, 1 Club, and 1.5 Diamonds. This ended the auction. At Double Dummy, North/South can make 3 vor 4 (the latter requiring imaginative card reading), and East/West can make 3♦.

South	Partner	North	You
1♠	2	Pass	3 • !
3♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

♦ A1062 ♥ 10 ♦ AK10976 ♣ K10 South North ◆ OJ9543 **•** --♥ AJ ♥ KQ9642 ♦ 8 ♦ 432 ♣ A953 **4** 1762 You **▲** K87 ♥ 8753 OJ5 **♣**084

Partner

I personally would have made a negative double with North's hand, but the effect of the raise to 3 ♦ gave them a problem they were not likely to solve. Perfect play at 3 ♠ doubled could result in down 2, but Declarer erred by playing a second Heart, and the result was down 3, -500 and a top board for us. No other East/West pair doubled a contract.

On board 19, partner opened 1♥ (as West) in first chair at unfavorable vulnerability, my RHO doubled, and it is your call with ▲ J9864 ♥ 84 ◆ J52 ♣ AKQ. The correct call is redouble, to advise partner that you have a good hand without a Heart fit, usually 10+ HCP or a source of tricks. Your side holds the balance of power, and the opponents will not be permitted to play a contract undoubled.

South made a "scrambling call" of 1NT, which my partner doubled, ending the auction. Partner led the ♥K, asking for attitude. You discourage, and partner shifted to the ♣J. When the smoke had cleared, the contract was down 2 for +300 our way.

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<u>South</u> ◆ Q1052 ♥ 10975 ◆ 943 ◆ 86	<u>West</u> ▲ ♥ AKJ62 ♦ Q1076 ▲ J1072 <u>East</u> ▲ J9864 ♥ 84 ♥ J52 ♣ AKQ	<u>North</u> ▲ AK73 ♥ Q3 ◆ AK8 ▲ 9543	Some Norths may have come in with overcall. At Double Dummy, North/S tricks in Spades against the 5-0 trun result would depend on how high Se all. On the given auction, although E make 3 of a minor on either 7 card fortuitous breaks in both suits, thes unlikely to be found, whereas 1NT k making, and is the "par contract". Note that the key call is the redoub you to do better than +90, and pres score. No other East/West pair pen North/South, who needed to be pu auction for their temerity. It gave us helped us win our section.	South can take 7 np break, so their outh raised, if at East/West can fit with the be contracts are by East/West is le, which permits serves your plus alized nished in this
<u>West</u> 1♥ Double	<u>North East</u> Double Redouble All Pass	<u>South</u> 1NT	The moral is: do NOT be afraid to do hold the balance of power.	ouble when you

Member Profiles Arníe Kohn

I have been a member of the ACBL since 1957. While my family was growing up, I was a casual once a week player. In the early days, I played at a community game in Bloomfield and sometimes at a game at Bob Wakeman's house. This was the forerunner of the Essex Bridge Club, which opened in Montclair in the mid-1960s. I was appointed as the Editor of The Declarer in 1972 and soon after to the NJBL Board of Directors. I remained as the Editor for many years and then was given numerous other responsibilities, including a position on the District 3 Board of Directors. I have played against many of the all-time great bridge players and in my early days played with youngsters who are now world class players. I have been directing bridge games since the early 1970s and have taught numerous people the game. I do not go to Nationals or many Regionals any more, but I do play in all NJBL Sectionals. I do have many other interests: my family (including 11 grandchildren), reading, music and religious affiliations. I am a former Regional President and National board member of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. I currently direct a weekly game at the Monroe Township Senior Center every Wednesday afternoon.

<u>Kelly Kiefer</u>

Residence: Wall, NJ

Bridge rank and accomplishments:

I have about 375 points. Play regularly in Monroe (Arne Kohn's game) and Princeton (Bill and Stephanie Miller's game), and Tuesday night in a social game on BBO.

Origins:

Grew up in card playing family; Hearts, Rummy, Poker, Whist (I'm really dating myself). For bridge, I would be a desperate 4th when my parents needed someone. Then I played daily with the Boy Scout leaders at camp (age 14-16) and was hooked. Picked up the game at age 28 in Highland Park and found out that all the conventions had changed (and no one told me). Put the game away until 62 and have been playing regularly since then.

The game itself:

The difficulty of the game and the joy of bidding and playing a hand well. The appreciation of having a good partner when you're having a bad day and vice versa. Holding our own against better players and playing "live bridge" again after Covid. Talking and kibitzing at the table in between hands, and the general affection I see with people playing the game despite how hard the game is.

Favorite hand:

James Bond playing against Sir Hugo Drax at M's Bridge Club in Ian Flemming's "Moonraker". Bond makes 7 ± doubled holding only 8 high cards points, teaching the cheating Drax an expensive lesson. (Editor's Note: see hand below).

Conventions:

Basically American Standard with a few conventions added. It works for us, but we're aware that we need to add a few others.

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Regular Partners:

Tony Tevald at Arnie's game and Bruce Wallman at Bill & Stephanie's game. Joanne Moynihan, Dan Cooperburg & Tony at the Sunday Swiss at our Sectionals. Art, Bernie and Bruce in our Tuesday social game on BBO.

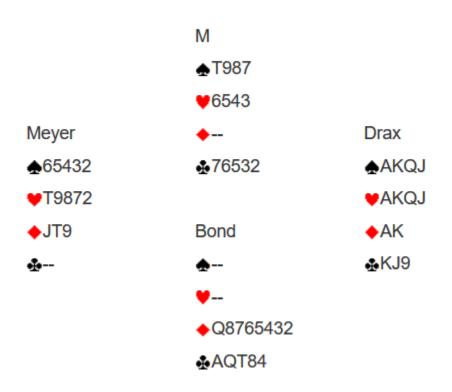
Hobbies:

Family, the gym, walking, am Treasurer of our Condominium Association, and traveling again.

Family Connections:

None yet, a grandson who's 8 may become a project.

THE BRIDGE HAND FROM JAMES BOND'S MOONRAKER



James Bond is partnering M against arch villain Drax and his partner, Meyer. Being Bond, he was able to magically swap the real pack of cards for a pack he had secreted away earlier. There is a lot of money at stake on this hand and Drax, sitting East, opens the bidding at 6 NT. Bond, sitting South overcalls with 7[‡]! When the bidding gets to Drax he obviously doubles. Bond, as you might expect, redoubles.

Bond ruffs the Diamond lead in Dummy and then finesses the Clubs. Following that, he ruffs another Diamond in Dummy and finesses Clubs again. Every card in Bond's hand is now a winner and Drax has to pay up.

On any other lead, (Hearts or Spades), Bond would ruff in his own hand and then cross to Dummy with a Diamond ruff where he would finesse the Clubs as before.

Youth Bridge By Barbara Clark and Allan Bauer



The sounds of "director please", the crunching of snacks, the slurping of drinks, the smell of pizza and the sight of lots of smiles were all in play at the second annual pre-national bridge tournament on June 15th in Hackensack,



New Jersey. Our 22 players came from the Oakwood Avenue School in Orange and the Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Medals were given to the first, second and third place finishers. Plastic "Winner" plaques were presented to everyone else. Needless to say, everybody left happy. Everybody had fun!

Special acknowledges are due to our volunteer coaches, Barbara Clark, Vijay Ahuja, Pamela Venable and Allan Bauer. Let's also give a shout out to Pat Linnemeyer, Cheryl Angel, Jackie Ross, Pat Ishill and of course, Unit 140.





Unit 140 Top Masterpoint Earners at May Sectional in Edison

		Masterpoint Range		
Player	0 - 1500 MPs	1500 - 5000 MPs	5000 + MPs	
Leigh Walker	12.27			
Andrew Barlow	11.71			
Roy Samitt	9.56			
Jeffrey Halle		11.59		
Robert Brolin		9.19		
Bob Wang		8.10		
Jiang Gu			35.13	
Richard Ross			15.10	
Jin-Ming Liao			8.76	

Congratulations to Alex Perlin, Unit 140's 4th Grand Life Master



Alex reached the 10,000 masterpoint total in the 3 day Life Master Pairs at the recent Nationals in Toronto. Before the final, he figured he needed to finish 14th or better to reach 10K. He and his partner got 13th. Alex previously won an NABC+ Pairs event at Nationals last summer in Chicago.

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- to Arnie Dorin at arnied26@gmail.com or call him at 732-841-2351 by Thursday, October 10th. 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: \$34 per pair per session. For non-ACBL members, you MUST sign-up for a free 4-month trial 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. \$152 per team for Sunday's Swiss teams' game.

Big Games

(Must be face-to-face to qualify)

May 1 – August 31, 2024

7

	OPEN	
78.99%	Barbara Davis - Lynne Feinstein	Interclub Bridge NJ
77.38%	Susan Schwartz - Andrew Barlow	Summit Area Bridge
74.49%	Sonia Bibi - Shelly Djmal	Deal Bridge Club
74.24%	Grace Gindi - Florence Shamah	Deal Bridge Club
74.17%	Terry Esses - Sarah Azar	Deal Bridge Club
73.81%	Arleen Morano - Muriel Hidary	Deal Bridge Club
73.33%	Robert Brolin - Jeffrey Halle	Jersey Bridge Club
73.21%	Roberta Satin - Lawrence Lerner	Summit Area Bridge
73.20%	Steve Arshan - Donna Dulet	Spring Lake BC
72.92%	Himanshu Joshi - Ashok Agarwala	Summit Area Bridge
72.69%	Dorel Livescu - Hans Neuteboom	Deal Bridge Club
72.62%	Rochelle Kassin - Sheffy Sutton	Deal Bridge Club
72.38%	Ronald Kraft - Clifford Wilson Jr	Bill's Bridge
72.34%	Steve Albin - Dennis Thompson	Summit Area Bridge
72.32%	Cho-Wei Sit - Peter Stein	Shadowfax
72.22%	Arnold Kohn - Rebecca Schneider	Monroe Bridge Club
72.22%	Jim McCarroll - Barbara Codispoti	Shadowfax
71.87%	Cheryl Britton - Jane Bassett	Queen of Hearts BC
71.63%	Leigh Walker - Andrew Barlow	Shadowfax
71.63%	Jason Ji - Frank Feng	NJBL Spring Sectional
71.56%	Patricia Pritchard - Laura Haaren	Seabright Bridge Club
71.51%	Robert Barlow - Galia Barlow	Summit Area Bridge
71.43%	George Kalb - Gail Pollard	Summit Area Bridge
71.21%	Susan E G Slusky - Om Singh	Bill's Bridge
71.02%	Stephen Arshan - Donna Dulet	Jersey Bridge Club
70.83%	Alexander Allen - Donna Dulet	Queen of Hearts BC
70.64%	Susan Robbins - Susan E G Slusky	Summit Area Bridge
70.63%	Nancy Del Priore - Sandra Davis	Queen of Hearts BC
70.63%	Ann Huber - Bernice Haimson	Montclair Golf Club
70.54%	Julie Anderson - Marsha Brustein	Queen of Hearts BC
70.42%	Robert Brolin - Jeffrey Halle	Jersey Bridge Club
70.42%	Muffie Gur - Reha Gur	Jersey Bridge Club
70.24%	Terrence Havican - Sheila Holderness	Montclair Golf Club
70.08%	Richard Ross - Donna Dulet	NJBL Spring Sectional
70.00%	Donna Kreidler - David Kreidler	Seabright Bridge Club

LIMITED/INVITATIONAL

76.39%	Priti Merchant - Amita Mehta	Summit Area Bridge
73.78%	Patricia Pritchard - Laura Haaren	Rumson Friday
73.61%	Garret Sayia - William Ingram	Bay Head Yacht Club
73.56%	Martha Chamberlain - Bev Lawrence	Seabright Bridge Club
72.50%	Ginnie Thomas - Bob Welgos	Shadowfax
72.22%	Jennifer Mullins - Patricia Whittemore	Seabright Bridge Club
72.17%	Edward Smith - Barbara Smith	Bay Head Yacht Club
72.15%	Holly Hubbell - Priscilla Smartt	Bay Head Yacht Club
71.88%	FrederickShubert - Arman Tookmanian	Shadowfax
71.85%	Steve Stein - Jerry Lefkowitz	Regency at Monroe
71.75%	Marilyn Jaclin - Robert Jaclin	Regency at Monroe
71.45%	Holly Hubbell - Harry Lonsdale	Bay Head Yacht Club
71.33%	Corky Lawrence - Laura Haaren	Seabright Bridge Club
71.29%	Paul Gessman - Michael O'Donohue	Regency at Monroe
71.17%	Barbara Jenkins - Mimi Walsh	Bay Head Yacht Club
71.13%	Peter Maulbeck - Ellen Ostrovsky	Summit Area Bridge
70.97%	Zoe Bylin - Arthur Bylin	Bay Head Yacht Club
70.76%	Bonnie Breinberg - Victor Breinberg	Regency at Monroe
70.57%	Andrew Barlow - Tom Alcock	Shadowfax
70.56%	Jennifer Mullins - Patricia Whittemore	Rumson Friday
70.56%	Barbara Robe - Richard Krauser	Summit Area Bridge
70.44%	Christine Hetzler - Justine Robertson	Seabright Bridge Club
70.00%	Jennifer Bredin - M Nancy Elia	Bay Head Yacht Club

Dummy

♥ AJ10974

Insert the Queen? by Ken Trock

Here are 3 different situations that might arise on defense.

1. At IMPs, Let's say your LHO opened 2 v and righty jumped to 3NT, ending the auction. Early in the play. Declarer led the **Y**3 out of their hand. Here is the suit in isolation:



You **V**08

Let's also say that Dummy has no entries and Declarer has multiple entries. This one's pretty easy; insert the Oueen, hoping to block the suit. Here's a typical layout on this auction:

	Partner ▼K62	
<u>Dummy</u> ▼ AJ10974		Declarer ▼ 53
	<u>You</u> ♥Q8	

If we play low, Declarer plays the Jack, and we'd be relying on Partner to also play low. If they reflexively win the King, Declarer will later (intend to) finesse from hand successfully and run the suit. What about:

	Partner ♥?	
<u>Dummy</u> ♥ AJ10974		Declarer ♥ 3 (?)
	<u>You</u> ♥Q86	

We've given ourselves another Heart. This one I'm not sure about. It seems it can go several ways. An unlikely but possible layout is this:

	<u>Partner</u> ♥ K	
<u>Dummy</u> ♥ AJ10974		<u>Declarer</u> ♥ 532



Inserting the Queen could give up the entire suit (though Declarer might duck, thinking they need to maintain communication). Still, it's not necessarily a disaster for us as, if we played low, Declarer could successfully finesse our Queen the next time around.

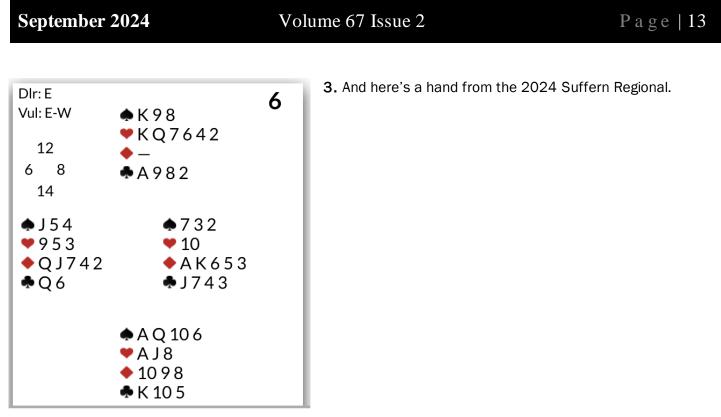
2. Here's another suit in isolation.

	<u>Partner</u> ♣?	
<u>Declarer</u> ★ ?		<u>Dummy</u> ♣ K742

You **♣**08

Say we're defending a Spade contract and Dummy plays a low Club off the board. There are a lot of unknowns here for sure. If we think Declarer is in bad shape or is somehow stuck on the board, don't fall asleep on this like I did; think about putting in the Queen.

e <u>r</u>	<u>Declarer</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Dummy</u>
	♣ J95	♣A1063	♣ K742
		<u>You</u> ♣Q8	



Emma Kolesnik and Adam Grossack had a convoluted auction up to 7♥ against us with South declaring. We see that they're overbid; it should be down 1 on anything except possibly a Club lead. A Diamond lead would have worked best but it wasn't clear on their auction. I led a Spade. Eventually Emma led the ♣K out of hand and I played low. A better play would have been to insert the Queen, giving partner a count of the Club suit. Without this information he later pitched a Club after everything else was cashed, thinking Emma had a Diamond left in her hand. Making 7♥ was a top for them.

Milestones

Changes in Rank: May 2024 – August 2024

Grand Life Master		Life Master	
lex Perlin	Metuchen	Helene Buckwald	Princeton
		Edward Levy	Long Branch
		Ed Lyons	Monroe
Diamond Life Maste	*	Jean Lyons	Monroe
		Wendy Miller	Morristown
Alan Lechner	Weehawken	Barbara Robinton	South Orange
		Simon Thomson	Summit
Sapphire Life Maste	r		
Leila DeNotaristefan	i Mendham	NABC Master	
		Robert Coleman	Manchester
Gold Life Master		Esther Eisenberg	Holmdel
	lorcov City	Martin Eisenberg	Holmdel
Xiaowen Li	Jersey City	Richard Gurak	Monroe
Lisa Wlash	Tinton Falls	Joseph Jiuliano	Branchburg
		H Van Varick	Mantoloking
Ruby Life Master		Leigh Walker	Piscataway
Romesh Arora	Waretown	Xi Xing	Princeton
Robert Hersh	Rockaway		
		Designal Master	
Steve Newfield	Hillsborough	Regional Master	Lawa Duaya
Ken Trock	Hamilton	Sandra Davis	Long Branch
		David Kreidler Don Post	Rumson Randolph
Silver Life Master		Don Post	капцоірп
Daniel Cooperberg	Monroe		
Deborah Sack	Princeton	Sectional Master	
		Prakash Malkani	East Brunsw
		Sarma Ponnapalli	Plainsboro
Bronze Life Master		N Shrinivasan	Eatontown
Helene Buckwald	Princeton	Steven Vogel	Bridgewate
Jay Fisher	Berkley Heights	Donald Weber	Princeton
Rita Kinkhabwala	East Brunswick	Eileen Wolkstein	Short Hills
Edward Levy	Long Branch		
Barry Salka	Monroe		
Marian Stark	Farmingdale		

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Club Master

Howard Cohen	Scotch Plains
Joellen Goldman	Mantoloking
Jerry Lefkowitz	Monroe
Dylan Lupo	Rahway
Regina McNeill	Cedar Grove
Stuart Rice	Basking Ridge
James Schwerin	Princeton
Douglas Simons	Rumson
Hal Sprechman	Manchester

Junior Master

Yitao Chen	Princeton
Robbie Drossner	Westfield
Helen Goldson	Somerset
Vinita Kapur	Princeton
Barbara Kirkpatrick	Shrewsbury
Richard Krauser	Short Hills
Annette Mackie	Chatham
Cheryl McMullen	Essex Falls
Nancy Messina	Spring Lake
Frederick Mutter	Maplewood
Bonnie Post	Bay Head
Sean Song	Princeton
Rian Souffrant	Orange
David Stein	Long Branch
David Talpalar	Short Hills
Suzanne Tierney	Rumson
Karlheinz Timmermann	Denville
Marlene Timmermann	Denville
Martin Wolfson	Annandale
Steven Xing	Princeton
Michael Yang	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 Julie Anderson at Julie17rae@gmail.com of any deaths within our membership; indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

George Kramer	Sandy Manshel
d. February, 2024	d. June 11, 2024
frequent player at Scotch Plains	frequent player at Shrine Club
Evelyn Waxberg	
d. August 3, 2024	
frequent player at Scotch Plains	