



THE DECLARER



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Ken Trock, Editor

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The Declarer

NJBL web site: www.njbl.net
Editor Ken Trock
kentrock1@gmail.com

Contributors Jay Korobow
Ken Trock

Reporting/Proofing Jay Korobow
Jeff Halle
Arman Tookmanian
Judy Kutin

Technical Advisor Jay Korobow
Webmaster Judy Kutin
judykutin@gmail.com

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Weather to wear an overcall or to double?

by Jay Korobow

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ J87
♥ AQ72
♦ K5
♣ 7432

♠ 1095
♥ J8
♦ Q1084
♣ KJ86



♠ AKQ632
♥ 96
♦ J762
♣ 10

♠ 4
♥ K10543
♦ A95
♣ AQ95

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	3♥*	2♠	Dbl
All Pass		Pass	4♥

* Invitational (not going thru 2NT)

The open team matches regularly occurring on BBO allow one to engage (with or against) players of many nationalities and climates. Here, West from the USA partnered a player from Argentina who remarked it was nearly winter there, and somewhat chilly. Bridge of course is universal, or at least global, and an all-weather game!

After South doubled East's 2♠ opening weak two bid in a recent BBO team game, they assumed Lebensohl (over weak twos) applied because North's toolset listed "LEB".... It is usually played in this instance as well as the classic "one-suited interference over an opening 1NT bid" situation. Just like overcalls of 1NT, 2NT by the next bidder is a relay to 3♣ for most weak hands... they would then bid 3♥ (or correct to another suit) to play at

their next call. Therefore, a direct (rather than delayed) 3♥ showed some values, or game interest, and South had enough to raise to game, which is cold. This duplicated the 4♥ contract at the replay table where South overcalled 2♠ with a bid of 3♥, and was promptly raised.

After one high Spade held, with West playing a low one which suggests a "low" suit switch, Clubs, due to the singleton Spade in Dummy, the ♣10 came next. At the other table after a similar start with West on opening lead, a Club switch was also found; perhaps they hoped for a ruff if Declarer didn't go up. But Declarer rose with the ♣A, drew trumps and along the way ruffed Spades and Diamonds, eliminating those suits while still having trumps in both hands. They next played a Club towards the ♣Q95 and when East showed out, they played the ♣5 allowing West to win. West could yield a ruff and a sluff, or cash one more high Club; in either case Declarer wins 10 tricks for a +620 score, making 4 with the loss of one Spade and only two Clubs.

Here, Declarer thought it was safe, or even wise, to cover the ♣10 with Dummy's ♣Q, won by West's ♣K. If Clubs were split 3-2 that would be accurate, with the net loss being two Clubs and one Spade, for a make. With the actual 4-1 break, a Club back from West all of a sudden makes the cold contract not so frigid. East ruffs that return for the defense's third trick, and there is no longer an endplay (or squeeze or anything else), to emerge with ten tricks.

West might have pictured a 6-2-4-1 shape with just points in Spades for East's bidding, and foresaw the ending that occurred when they were given in effect the gift of a set by the misguided Club play at trick 2. Because when they instead played a Spade back, the aforementioned same "pull trump and eliminate Diamonds and Spades" strategy also scored up the vulnerable game. The subsequent play ended in leading to the ♣5 in Dummy, again endplaying West for a make, and a pushed board.

Even if East had two Clubs to start, North might have the ♦J or some other position where 4 Hearts in hand, 2 Spade ruffs in Dummy, just ONE Club, and 3 Diamonds were getting them to 10 tricks anyway. So the thoughtful attempt to warm the defense with the Club ruff reaps its reward with a hot score on a cold night. And East could remark: "Thank you my fair-weather friend for your fine defense!"

New Jersey Bridge League (NJBL - Unit 140) Fall Weekend Sectional October 17–18, 2026 · Edison, New Jersey

*Everyone is welcome — all levels, meet new partners and old friends -
Come play, share a meal, and enjoy the weekend with us!*

VENUE
Edison Elks Lodge,
375 Old Post Road, Edison NJ

TOURNAMENT CHAIR
Arman Tookmanian
908-798-7654

**PARTNERSHIP HELP
and OTHER QUESTIONS**
Arnie Dorin
732-841-2351

Schedule

Saturday, October 17

10:00 AM — Open Pairs · 499ers Pairs*

2:15 PM — Open Pairs · 499ers Pairs*

Free lunch between sessions.

**Entry fees in limited games are half price, and everyone who plays both sessions today gets a coupon good for one free entry to any future NJBL sectional (never expires).*

Sunday, October 18

Swiss Teams

9:30 AM — Free bagel breakfast

10:30 AM — Playthrough Bracketed Swiss Teams
with a free hot buffet lunch

Stratifications

Event	Strat A	Strat B	Strat C
Open Pairs	3000+	1000-2999	0-999
499ers Pairs	300-499	100-299	0-99

499er stratifications may be adjusted based on participation. In pair events, strats are based on the 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.

A few friendly notes

Entry fees

Saturday Open games: \$20 per person per session. Saturday 499er games are half price (\$10 per person per session). Sunday: \$40 per person / \$160 per team max. ACBL Junior members (under 26) are always half price.

New to ACBL?

You'll just need an ACBL membership number to play. Lapsed and non-members are welcome to sign up on site — minimum one-year membership, or add \$4 per session. Never been a member? Join at half price on Saturday and play free all day, or grab a free limited membership.

Food and drink

Free coffee and snacks all weekend. Bottled water and soda, \$1. Free sandwiches and salad Saturday between sessions, and a free hot buffet lunch Sunday — we like to keep everyone well fed!

Need a partner?

Just reach out to Arnie Dorin (arnied26@gmail.com) by Saturday, October 10th, and we'll do our best to match you up for Saturday's games and the Sunday Swiss. The earlier you ask, the easier it is to find you a great partner.

Questions, past results, local clubs, and more — visit us anytime at www.njbl.net

July Sectional in Edison

	Masterpoint Range		
Player	0 – 1500 MPs	1500 – 5000 MPs	5000 + MPs
Richard Xing	8.45*		
Qing Xia	8.45*		
Scott Yablonowitz	6.34		
Sarik Goyal		16.48	
Xuhua Lin		14.41	
Jason Ji		9.79	
Jiang Gu			14.61
Alex Perlin			9.79
Alex Allen			4.82

Surprise!

by Ken Trock

To me, auctions where my opponents interfere with an unspecified suit or suits can be murky. Take this hand: ♠ Q7 ♥ AKJ4 ♦ 965 ♣ AK82. Playing online, you are the dealer sitting East, we are vulnerable against not vulnerable and it's Matchpoints. You open 1NT and it goes pass, pass to RHO who balances with 2♣, self-alerted as "asking for long suit". It's some type of relay. When we double this is, it's most likely takeout or lead directing, but I'm not sure which (that's the murky part). You have a good hand for a 1NT opener and both those bases covered. They're suit is probably Spades, and if partner winds up on lead we know we don't want a Diamond lead. Much to our surprise it goes Pass, Pass, Pass!

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	2♣*	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass

* Asking for long suit

You'll lead the ♥ A and see Dummy hit with ♠ K652 ♥ 9 ♦ KJ ♣ J107543. I'll skip the play of the hand, only to say that Declarer will eventually lead a Club off the board and show out in their hand! We're getting 4 trump tricks and our ♥ A but North has a good hand and they're going to find our ♠ Q.

2♣X making 2 for -180 is not a good score. But that's not what happened. My partner sitting West wasn't sure what was going on either and bailed out to 2♦, also Pass, Pass, Pass. That's -200 for us.

East Deals
East/West Vul

♠ AJ104
♥ Q7653
♦ AQ74
♣ --

♠ 983
♥ 1082
♦ 10832
♣ Q96



♠ Q7
♥ AKJ4
♦ 965
♣ AK82

♠ K652
♥ 9
♦ KJ
♣ J107543

Big Games – June 2026 thru August 2026

(Must be face-to-face to qualify)

OPEN		
77.08%	Beau Norton - Bob Derosa	Stafford Bridge Club
76.44%	Peter Malkani - Paul Adler	Bill's Bridge
73.99%	Larry Gordon - Andrew Barlow	Summit Area Bridge
73.99%	Peter Stein - Cliff Wilson Jr.	Bill's Bridge
73.77%	Aadi Rane - Ruth Yeselson	Bill's Bridge
73.66%	Lois Gerber - Simonne Vaccaro	Queen of Hearts DBC
73.51%	Rich Ross - Alex Allen	Jersey Bridge Club
73.41%	Grace Gindi - Sallie Mishaan	Deal Bridge Club
73.41%	Paul Gessman - Michael O'Donohue	Regency at Monroe DBC
73.38%	Dorel Livescu - Julie Anderson	Deal Bridge Club
73.09%	Larry Shaw - Stephanie Miller	Bill's Bridge
72.58%	Renna Bildirici - Shirley Franco	Queen of Hearts DBC
72.50%	Wieslaw Ostrowski - Harris Bobroff	Toms River Bridge Club
72.50%	Grace Gindi - Sallie Mishaan	Deal Bridge Club
72.32%	John Urciuoli - Muriel Hidary	Deal Bridge Club
72.32%	Hans Neuteboom - Bob Derosa	Stafford Bridge Club
71.53%	Pamela Harding - Wilhelmina Moyer	Short Hills
71.49%	Janet Serure - Arleen Morano	Deal Bridge Club
71.42%	Richard Ross - Ronald Kraft	Monroe Bridge Club
71.37%	Doree Sobel - Julie Cohan	Summit Area Bridge
71.25%	J Eugene Salomon - Nancy Loich	Toms River Bridge Club
71.18%	Bob Brolin - Jeff Halle	Queen of Hearts DBC
71.13%	Rich Ross - Alex Allen	Jersey Bridge Club
71.11%	Cho-Wei Sit - Dennis Thompson	Summit Area Bridge
70.99%	Muffie Gur - Reha Gur	Jersey Bridge Club
70.91%	Rich Ross - Alex Allen	Jersey Bridge Club
70.89%	Dennis Mondelli - Suzanne Fitzsimons	Stafford Bridge Club
70.78%	Dennis Thompson - Cho-Wei Sit	Summit Area Bridge
70.65%	Rich Ross - Alex Allen	Jersey Bridge Club
70.58%	Michael Hewlett - Jacqueline Hewlett	Summit Area Bridge
70.55%	Shangsan Qian - Sen-Yuan Wu	Bill's Bridge
70.54%	Marc Weil - Donna Dulet	Deal Bridge Club
70.54%	Robin Shamah - Donna Dulet	Deal Bridge Club
70.32%	Adeline Some - Betty Cox	Summit Area Bridge
70.24%	Danielle Tawil - Joyce Tawil	Deal Bridge Club
70.24%	Renna Bildirici - Robin Tobias	Deal Bridge Club
70.12%	Robin Shamah - Karen Mizrahi	Deal Bridge Club
70.05%	Rich Ross - Alex Allen	Jersey Bridge Club
70.00%	Iris Jason - Howard Lefkowitz	Regency at Monroe DBC
70.00%	Robin Shamah - Cheryl Dweck	Deal Bridge Club

LIMITED/INVITATIONAL		
74.21%	Cynthia Auerbach - Carol Salomon	Monmouth Beach DBC
73.39%	Patricia Sullivan - Sheila McCrossin	Seabright AM Duplicate
73.33%	Patricia Sullivan - Sheila McCrossin	Seabright AM Duplicate
73.26%	Jim Stone - William Cerny	Shadowfax
72.38%	Norm Kersh - Gail Kornfeld	Westlake DBC
72.16%	Patty Lawler - Mary Smock	Shadowfax
71.88%	Kathleen Walsh - Lisa Conroy	Summit Area Bridge
71.83%	Olga Lawrence - Barbara Kirk	Monmouth Beach DBC
70.63%	Zoe Bylin - Gael Habernickel	Bay Head Yacht Club
70.63%	Jennifer Gilmour - Frederick Shubert	Shadowfax
70.34%	Marvin Scherb - Sharon Sietz	Summit Area Bridge
70.24%	Hugh O'Hare - Mary Jane O'Hare	Monmouth Beach DBC
70.24%	Patricia Sullivan - Sheila McCrossin	Monmouth Beach DBC
70.14%	Herb Allen - Stan Dubroff	Westlake DBC

Milestones

Changes in Rank: June 2026 – August 2026

Emerald Life Master

Joan Brody	Livingston
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Gold Life Master

Richard Levendusky	Brick
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Ruby Life Master

Shelly Amin	Monroe
Pradip Gandhi	Hillsborough
Horia Ioanid	East Brunswick
James White	Marlboro

Silver Life Master

Jared Egerer	Mount Arlington
Yanlai Yang	Jersey City

Bronze Life Master

Bernard Clarkin	Morris Plains
Chantal Frantzen	Princeton
Robert Frantzen	Princeton
Susan Lemkau	Summit
Anand Mhaskar	Chatham
Shashikant Sathaye	Somerset
Leigh Walker	Piscataway

Life Master

Pradip Gandhi	Hillsborough
Kim Gimblette	Red Bank
Kuo-Tung Hsu	East Brunswick
Carol Pastushok	Princeton

Regional Master

Carol Franklin	Morristown
Cheryl Kaplan	East Hanover
Elaine Katzman	Short Hills
Judy Lilien	Clinton
Patricia Pritchard	Fair Haven
Qing Xia	Short Hills

Sectional Master

Mia van den Heuvel	Chatham
Robert Sochor	Verona

Club Master

Ebru Ates	Pennington
Ann Bunyaner	Summit
Jennifer Chen	Jersey City
Peggy Dugan	Summit
Brian Hochstadt	Morristown
Aadi Rane	Dayton
Marvin Scherb	Summit
Bill Slezak	West Orange
Sanjay Subhash	Scotch Plains

Junior Master

Jeffrey Bergman	Princeton
Morris Brodkey	Toms River
Lee Cohn	Westfield
Bealiah Dolcine	Orange
Tamas Erdos	Jersey City
Angela Goldman	Fanwood
Albert Ho	Jersey City
Thomas Kaufmann	Princeton
Sakina Konate	Orange
David Lou	Livingston
Emory Miller	Basking Ridge
Francis Morneau	Somerset
Cynthia Richmond	Bay Head
Esther Rubin	Bradley Beach
Roslyn Shein	Monroe
Weiyin Zhang	Livingston

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.

Mamie Gus Hale

d. August 22, 2026
long time ABA member

Leonard N. Schoenberg

d. May 3, 2026

Mary Ann Wagner

d. May 7, 2026
frequent player at Bay Head Yacht Club