



Palmetto Pre-Empts



South Carolina Unit 160 of the American Contract Bridge League

October to December, 2003

Matchpoint Play: Columbia #1

The Auction: (NS Vul)

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| North | East | South | West |
| P | 2♥ | P | 2NT |
| P | 3♥ | P | P |
| P | | | |

West (Dummy)

- ♠ AKT5
- ♥ J
- ♦ K76
- ♣ AKJ87

North(You)

- ♠ 98532
- ♥ AT65
- ♦ 2
- ♣ QT3

Partner South leads the ♣6 and dummy wins (Declarer drops the ♣5). Declarer tries the ♥J. What is your play and your plan? (Do you agree with West's bidding?)

IMPs: Columbia #2

The Auction: (EW Vul)

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1♣ | P | 1♦ | 2♠ |
| P | P | DBL | P |
| P | P | | |

West (Dummy)

- ♠ 95
- ♥ Q32
- ♦ AJT93
- ♣ T86

North (You)

- ♠ Q6
- ♥ AT84
- ♦ KQ765
- ♣ 75

Partner, South, leads the ♥9. Declarer puts up dummy's ♥Q. Does partner have a doubleton heart? East was vulnerable - was her bid risky? Analyze and make a plan for the defense.

James Current Receives Legion Of Service Award

Anderson's Jim Current was awarded the SC Unit 160's Legion of Service Award. This is the highest award one can receive from Unit 160 for service to the state and bridge-playing community. In a surprise announcement at the Unit Board meeting on Saturday, August 9, 2003, the Awards Committee announced its recommendation which was accepted unanimously.

Current served local director and as tournament chair for the annual spring Anderson, SC, Sectional Tournament for many years. He served as Vice-President of the Unit from March 1999 to March 2001. The members of the Unit then elected him President, and he served in that capacity for two years. While president, he held the office of chairman of the membership committee which required a great deal of paperwork to obtain certain monies from the ACBL for our Unit. He performed both offices very well with the help and support of his wife Dot Current. He has helped the incumbent president in getting started in many ways going to much trouble and personal expense in doing so. While in office he attended District 7 meetings at his own expense.

In the 1990's, he and his Grand National Team won the District 7 Flight C title and played in the national finals in Miami, FL.

Jim was born and raised in Indiana and obtained both a BS and MA from Indiana University. After serving in the US Army at the time of the Korean War, he served with the NSA for over thirty years, retiring in 1988

Further Contents:

Bruce Reeve named head of ACBL
District 7 NAOP Results

Ed and Liz Grooms First in B
5 SC Players Win Trips

Greenville Sectional Results

Aiken Sectional Results

Don't Be A Cry-Baby Quiz

Amazing Bridge Hands

Membership Meeting At Charleston

Bruce Reeve of NC Named Head ACBL

Raleigh's Bruce Reeve has been named new President of the ACBL. The Board of Governors elected Reeve at their Long Beach meeting earlier this summer. Reeve is a well-known personality and excellent player. He has served and represented District 7 on many offices/boards and in many ways before being elected to the Board of Governors. His experience and knowledge will be a plus for the ACBL. Good Luck!

Tournament Calender

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Dec 5-7 | Hilton Head |
| Dec 28 | Atlanta |
| 2004 | |
| Jan 2-4 | Southern Pines NC |
| Jan 9-11 | Batesburg |
| Jan 12-18 | SC STAC |
| Jan 25 | Biloxi regional |
| Jan 23-25 | Morganton |
| Feb 1-6 | STAC? Dist 10 |
| Feb 1-8 | Hilton Head Regional |
| Feb 20-22 | Clemson |
| Feb 27-29 | Wilmington |
| Mar 5-7 | Charleston (&Membership Mtg) |
| Mar ?-14 | Atlanta |
| Mar 12-14 | NLM Hilton Head |
| Mar 21-28 | Spring Nationals, Reno |
| Mar 19-21 | Columbia |
| Apr 2-4 | Salisbury NC |
| Apr 11 | GNT Flts B/C Semi-Finals |
| Apr 18 | Gatlinburg Regional |
| Apr 23-25 | Camden |
| Apr30-May 2 | Morganton, & GNT Finals |
| May 7-9 | Cashiers |
| May 14-16 | Augusta |
| May ?-31 | Regional in Raleigh |
| June 13 | Atlanta & Charlotte |
| Jun 25-27 | Hendersonville |
| July 11-18 | Summer Nationals, NY |
| Jul 16-18 | Greenville |
| Jul 19-25 | Nashville Regiona; |
| Jul 23-25 | Morganton |
| Aug 6-8 | Columbia |
| Sep 6 | Atlanta Regional |
| Sep 10-12 | Charlotte Wilmington |
| Oct 1-3 | Aiken |
| Oct 8-12 | NLM Hilton Head |
| Oc 17 | Jeckyl Island Regional |
| Oct 29-31 | Myrtle Beach |
| Nov 7 | Atlanta |

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov 12-14 | Augusta |
| Nov 21-28 | Fall Nationals, Orlando |
| Dec 3-5 | Hilton Head |
| Dec 10-12 | Columbia, &NAOP Finals |
| Dec 13-19 | Mid Atlantic STAC |
| DEC 27-Jan 2 | CHARLESTON REGIONAL |

Unit 160 Decides New Policy On Sectionals At Clubs

The Unit Board decided several years ago to limit Unit 160 participation in STACs, or Sectional tournaments at Clubs, to two a year for our state. There were several worries, mainly the risk of such overproduction of District, Mid-Atlantic, ACBL-wide, and Multi-district events that local sectionals would become obsolete (and attendance would continue to drop). There seemed to be a flood that year in such events. Well, it didn't happen. Sectional attendance tends to hold up if the local population (of players) holds up and if it gets lots of local support. Our own STACs, well managed by Alan Brooks and local club directors are doing very well (see adjacent report).

The Unit Board in Columbia is responsible for Sectionals in our state and voted to uphold our two-STAC rule for our promoted (approved) STACs - this will be for the annual Unit 160 STAC and the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference STAC. The Mid-Atlantic is our District 7 and District 6 (VA, MD, & DC) and has responsibility for Regionals. The Unit gets the revenue from our STAC and the Mid-Atlantic uses the revenue to support Nationals held in the Mid-Atlantic area.

HOWEVER, the Board voted that this policy does not prevent any local club from participating in any STAC "sanctioned" by the District 7 or other authority. In effect, a local club not near any Unit 160 or District 7 Sectional/Regional could participate in any STAC to which it was invited.

The possibly important worry is that our STAC attendance, gradually built up over years, and an important source of revenue, might be weakened. The other worries haven't happened.

The issue came to a head because our District 7 wished to have a STAC to benefit Bridge At Schools and the MISS-LOU district wanted to have one to benefit the forthcoming National in New Orleans this fall. Both required careful insertion into the crowded schedule and needed some cooperation from our state if Unit 160 clubs were to participate.

The results will be carefully monitored and bad effects may force a reconsideration by the Board at a later time.

Unit 160 STAC Data

Unit 160 (South Carolina) has held Sectional Tournaments At Clubs (STACs) since 1997. The money generated by our participation exceeds that from our other Sectional events because no hotel or room rentals are a direct cost and the Unit, not a local entity, is the sponsoring organization. The table below gives the results. Lately several south Georgia communities in Unit 202 have participated and we have shared revenue roughly in proportion to table attendance with that Unit.

| Year | Fee/Table | Num. Tables (Unit 202) | Income | Expense | Profit |
|------|-----------|------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1997 | 6 | 410 | \$2457 | \$2116 | \$341 |
| 1998 | 6 | 372 | \$2239 | \$1719 | \$448 |
| 2000 | 8 | 490 | \$3920 | \$2584 | \$1336 |
| 2001 | 8 | 681 (183) | \$5448 | \$3459 | \$1989 |
| 2002 | 8 | 662 (206) | \$5296 | \$3485 | \$1811 |
| 2003 | 8 | 730 (217) | \$5840 | \$3870 | \$2060 |

Thanks to local directors (and players) who have supported our STAC, and to the efforts of Alan Brooks (our present director) and George Nichols and others, this is now a very significant source of funds.

These events, as local club games, are fun to play in. Hand records are available when the game seeks to have them and overall awards (statewide) are generous amounts of silver points.

It is hoped that overuse and schedule conflicts are problems that can be solved. Readers will no doubt see further material on this topic.

Tournament Results: Columbia August 7-10, 2003

With 247 tables, Columbia once again had an outstanding summer sectional. The 271 players (with 219 masterpoint winners) took home 931 masterpoints! Leading the pack were home town favorite **Wayne Hollingsworth** and his usual partner, **Richard Brown**. Congratulations.

| | | |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1/2 | 25.62 | Wayne Hollingsworth, Irmo |
| 1/2 | 25.62 | Richard Brown, Easley |
| 3/4 | 21.56 | Ellen Allen, Summerville |
| 3/4 | 21.56 | Larry Allen, Summerville |
| 5 | 20.57 | John Hurd, Charleston |
| 6 | 17.07 | Kevin Bathhurst, Columbia |
| 7 | 16.8 | Jeff Ziemer, Greenville |
| 8/9 | 15.78 | Tom Rutledge, Charleston |
| 8/9 | 15.78 | Bill Wisdom, NC |
| 10 | 15.75 | Stan Given, N. Myrtle Beach |

We note the return of **Kevin Bathhurst**, formerly of Sumter, who played with John Hurd. Kevin and John are on the same team competing for the World Youth Team Championship in late August, and by the time you read this, there may be a bigger story to tell.

The greatest labor saving device of Today is.... tomorrow.

Columbia Hand #1 (See p.1)

North (You)

♠ 98432
♥ AT65
♦ 2
♣ QT3

West (Dummy)

♠ AKT5
♥ J
♦ K76
♣ AKJ87

East

♠ 6
♥ K98743
♦ QJ9
♣ 952

South

♠ QJ7
♥ Q2
♦ AT8543
♣ 64

South led the ♣6. Declarer East won the ace and led the ♥J. It's vital that you (North) let this ride and wait patiently on the diamond ruff you want. You are unlikely to get two ruffs. Also, if partner can ruff a club, he's only ruffing your winner. All the evidence (meager though it is) points to the actual layout. At the table "you" rose with the heart ace and shot a diamond back. Partner couldn't read the deuce! He led another club. Result - a rather unattractive -170. Actually, this was average plus since 3NT was a common contract, usually making 10 tricks.

Of course 3H can be held to 140 by ducking - partner will win the ♥Q and return his last club. Declarer will win, (and only now) cash two spades and pitch a club. He ruffs a spade back to hand and leads a heart - you win and lead the ♦2. Whether or not you get a ruff, you get another heart.

Columbia Hand #2

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------|
| | North (You) | |
| | ♠ Q6 | |
| | ♥ AT84 | |
| | ♦ KQ765 | |
| | ♣ 75 | |
| West (Dummy) | | East |
| ♠ 95 | | ♠ KJ8743 |
| ♥ Q32 | | ♠ KJ75 |
| ♦ AJT93 | | ♦ --- |
| ♣ T86 | | ♣ K94 |
| | South | |
| | ♠ AT2 | |
| | ♥ 96 | |
| | ♦ 842 | |
| | ♣ AQJ32 | |

South led the ♥9 against 2♠-X by East, and East played dummy's ♥Q. It is almost 100% that South has led from a doubleton heart. East can't have 5 hearts and pre-empt in spades, not even in Columbia! But - East has 6 or 7 spades and evidently 4 hearts. That leaves only 2 or 3 cards in his hand. What are they? If he has only 2 clubs, Pard has passed your double with six clubs in his hand (or with wonderful spades). There is a real danger that declarer has a hand like this one. Don't let him win the heart. Win the ace and shift to the ♣7. You will get a ruff, the third round of clubs. Now lead a second heart (small). Declarer will win and will not guess to lay down the spade king. You will win your ♠Q and now another heart. Partner can ruff away the other heart honor. Declarer will lose two spades, two hearts, two clubs, a club ruff, and a heart ruff. Down 800. If you duck the heart, you are plus 200, only average, since many beat 2S 200 or got other big scores. By the way - watch the vulnerability with weak jumps!

Did you hear about the bridge player who got a new car for his wife... and didn't notice she was gone. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now. The early bird gets the worm, but who the hell wants a worm. The early bird gets the worm, but the *second* mouse gets the cheese.

**Upstate Bridge Problem
by Scott Stearns**

North (You)
 ♠ A
 ♥ AKT65
 ♦ AQ864
 ♣ AQ

South
 ♠ KQJ763
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 93
 ♣ JT95

| | | | |
|--|-------|-------|---------|
| | The | | Auction |
| | North | South | |
| | 2C | 2S | |
| | 3H | 3S | |
| | 4D | 4S | |
| | 6S | P | |

Opening lead - the deuce of clubs. Your play.

**A Double Criss Cross
by Scott Stearns**

North (Dummy)
 ♠ AKTxx
 ♥ Qxx
 ♦ x
 ♣ Axxx

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| West (Dummy) | East |
| ♠ xx | ♠ Qxxx |
| ♥ Jxxx | ♠ KT |
| ♦ KJTxx | ♦ Q9xx |
| ♣ xx | ♣ KJx |

South
 ♠ Jx
 ♥ Axxx
 ♦ Axx
 ♣ Qxxx

The Auction:
 North South
 1S 1NT
 2C 2NT
 P

After a high diamond lead by West, declarer won the third diamond and led the ♠J, finessing. This lost (no reason to duck). East returned a diamond, and West took two diamonds. Here is the position:

♠ AKTx
 ♥ Qx
 ♦
 ♣ A
 West (Dummy)

♠ x
 ♥ Jxxx
 ♦
 ♣ xx

East
 ♠ xx
 ♠ KT
 ♦
 ♣ KJx

South
 ♠ x
 ♥ Axx
 ♦
 ♣ Qxx

If West "plays safe" and leads a club, declarer runs the spades. What are East's last two cards? If he saves two hearts (pitching a revealing ♣K), declarer saves the ♥A and the ♣Q. Otherwise, South pitches his clubs and hopes the opponent has blanked the ♥K.

Partner led back a heart (Double-Crossing the Criss Cross Squeeze) and we beat the hand one trick. Not enough - most players were in 3NT down two!

One wonders how many amazing squeezes "are born to blush unseen."

A Defense Everyone Missed by Spencer Hurd

Okay, here is your chance. At bridge, you never know if your apparently routine play will be the critical one - until too late.

See about this one.

North (Dummy)
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ 7
 ♦ KJ7543
 ♣ K983

West
 ♠ ?
 ♥ AK98
 ♦ ?
 ♣ ?

East (YOU)
 ♠ A2
 ♠ QJ643
 ♦ AT2
 ♣ QT6

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
| The | Auction | - | None | Vul |
| South | West | North | East(You) | |
| 2S | P | P | DBL | |
| P | 3H* | P | 4H | |
| P | P | 4S | P | |
| P | P | | | |

* Lebensohl, 8-11 points and hearts.
Yes, this is the auction.

Partner leads a high heart. After your small heart, he led the ♣3. (Maybe the ♥Q would have waked him up and nudged a trump out of his hand.) Things really go bad now. Declarer wins your club with the ace (you were hoping partner underled the club ace). In fact they get worse. Declarer leads the ♦Q and partner plays the ♦9.

Last train to Clarksville. (Your play, that is. Do it.)

The Defense Everyone Missed. (Con't.)

When this hand occurred at a local duplicate, all eight defenders missed the play. The problem is obvious but not the solution. Declarer might set up diamonds and also threatens to ruff two hearts. If you lead the spade ace and another, declarer can win the second spade *in hand*, overtaking the queen, pull trumps, lead a diamond to the king, ruff a diamond, and the club king is an entry to dummy's diamonds. Declarer will make 10 tricks. If you try to knock out his entry, he can cross ruff and get rid of his last two losing hearts. Quite a dilemma.

On the actual hand, a second best play, a second club, will defeat the hand. Declarer can play - club ruff, heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff. Now he is in dummy and has no entry to hand to pull trumps. Partner's lowly trump 9 will eventually be a forced winner (since declarer must ruff high and lead a high trump to your ace).

Okay, the winning defense after winning the ace of diamonds is... lead a SMALL spade, retaining the ace! The threat is to win the second spade and cash two winning hearts. Declarer can ruff only one heart.

Do you wish you had doubled 4S?

PS - One chance to redeem yourself. After PARTNER's gross error of not leading a spade at trick two, suppose declarer wins the club, leads the small diamond to the jack (!) saving his queen for a possible late entry (and no uppercut in trumps). Does this win? Is there a defense? Is there a better line for declarer?

A Postscript on the Missed Defense: If declarer leads a diamond to the jack, you should duck. This beats the hand again. Is there a better line altogether for declarer. Yes. Just simple-mindedly ruff a heart immediately. Then play the club king. Next ruff a club back to hand. Ruff a heart. Ruff a club. Lead a high trump. There is no way to prevent declarer from getting back to hand with a diamond to pull the last trumps.

The full hand appears after the next report.

| South Carolina Unit 160 - Top 100 Master Points (Lifetime) - as of Nov 15, 2003 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|----------|----------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| Rk | MP's | Name | | City | Rk | MP's | Name | | City |
| 1 | 16169.95 | Allen | Ellen | Summerville | 51 | 2402.35 | Brady | Genevieve | Columbia |
| 2 | 15473.00 | Allen | Larry | Summerville | 52 | 2397.66 | Edens | Marjorie | Lexington |
| 3 | 13851.48 | Rutledge | Tom | Charleston | 53 | 2364.27 | Coghill Jr | Carl | Campobello |
| 4 | 8906.66 | McLaughlin | Mark | Charleston | 54 | 2346.54 | Myers | G Edward | Sumter |
| 5 | 8668.80 | McLaughlin | Susanne | Charleston | 55 | 2335.91 | Cagle | Elaine | Georgetown |
| 6 | 8612.88 | Guarneri | Richard | Charleston | 56 | 2334.19 | Langley | Mickey | Mt Pleasant |
| 7 | 8045.50 | Hollingsworth | Wayne | Irmo | 57 | 2300.47 | Jinks | Helen | Greenville |
| 8 | 7036.35 | Brown | Richard | Easley | 58 | 2299.59 | Keller | Carol | Hilton Head |
| 9 | 6944.88 | Brown Jr | Hugh | Mc Cormick | 59 | 2285.00 | Kisabeth | Jimmye | Johns Island |
| 10 | 6847.28 | Gandenberger | Kurt | Pendleton | 60 | 2284.53 | Brown | Chaford | Greenville |
| 11 | 6360.25 | Neuffer | Happoldt | Columbia | 61 | 2262.33 | Shenefiel | Mary Alice | Bluffton |
| 12 | 5415.36 | Lewis | Paul | Hilton Head | 62 | 2166.51 | Jinks | Michael | Greenville |
| 13 | 4855.35 | Scott | Bobbie | Clemson | 63 | 2123.60 | Shenefiel | David | Bluffton |
| 14 | 4760.60 | Hurd | John | Charleston | 64 | 2107.35 | Nichols | Joyce | Charleston |
| 15 | 4466.67 | Hurd | Spencer | Charleston | 65 | 2105.11 | Keisler | Lillian | Okatie |
| 16 | 4360.21 | Shatz | Marvin | Hilton Head | 66 | 2086.22 | Pierce | Sandy | Greenville |
| 17 | 4302.70 | Warshauer | Genie | Mt Pleasant | 67 | 2069.22 | Stearns | Scott | Greenville |
| 18 | 4117.28 | Given | Stan | Little River | 68 | 2067.89 | Watson | Julia | Gaston |
| 19 | 4080.33 | Burford | Nannell | Seneca | 69 | 2054.66 | Orvin | Rosalie | Charleston |
| 20 | 3798.62 | McCharen | C | Aiken | 70 | 2004.87 | Watson | Rose | W. Columbia |
| 21 | 3655.57 | Bednar | Virginia | Hilton Head | 71 | 2004.00 | Blalock | Joseph | Columbia |
| 22 | 3519.37 | Nasser | Tom | Fort Mill | 72 | 1996.30 | Lebioda | Lucas | Columbia |
| 23 | 3428.18 | Ziemer | Jeff | Greenville | 73 | 1977.61 | Deaton | Cynthia | Charleston |
| 24 | 3390.46 | Nichols Jr | George | Columbia | 74 | 1965.85 | Mappus | William | Charleston |
| 25 | 3379.34 | Lipscomb | Brian | Cayce | 75 | 1944.62 | Valois | Helen | Hilton Head |
| 26 | 3345.38 | Smith | Leonard | Taylors | 76 | 1898.99 | Seiler | Patricia | Hilton Head |
| 27 | 3188.93 | Lamp | Velma | Columbia | 77 | 1867.66 | Cobb | James | Inman |
| 28 | 3184.32 | Belski | Giles | N Myrtle Bch | 78 | 1862.51 | Kittredge | Jeff | Greenville |
| 29 | 3137.70 | Perry | Ronald | Hilton Head | 79 | 1855.12 | Weir | Janet | Spartanburg |
| 30 | 3106.92 | Wilson | Gloria | Charleston | 80 | 1842.85 | Johnson | Jeanette | Hilton Head |
| 31 | 3086.86 | Blackwell | James | Prosperity | 81 | 1831.00 | Silverstein | Rosalyn | Anderson |
| 32 | 3082.57 | Gray III | John | Aiken | 82 | 1823.06 | Lesser | Richard | Saint Helena Is |
| 33 | 3030.02 | Burt | Betty | N Myrtle Bch | 83 | 1812.39 | Radding | Tina | Charleston |
| 34 | 2918.41 | Johnson Jr | Martin | Folly Beach | 84 | 1807.66 | Wilson | Mary | Greenville |
| 35 | 2800.72 | Hack | Eleanor | Columbia | 85 | 1806.14 | Rickard | Ann | Spartanburg |
| 36 | 2751.40 | Devereux | Anthony | Pawleys Is | 86 | 1803.30 | Villani | Mildred | Myrtle Beach |
| 37 | 2675.90 | Hall | D | Charleston | 87 | 1802.71 | Hollingsworth | Barbara | Irmo |
| 38 | 2593.22 | Webb | Pat | Cayce | 88 | 1796.38 | Freer | Gloria | Hilton Head |
| 39 | 2563.01 | Murrin | Barbara | Mount Pleasant | 89 | 1783.80 | Brewington | A | Orangeburg |
| 40 | 2553.42 | Bathurst | Kevin | Columbia | 90 | 1783.57 | Taylor | Charlotte | Hilton Head |
| 41 | 2550.59 | Rorie | Damaris | Columbia | 91 | 1771.53 | Shealey | Flora | Columbia |
| 42 | 2548.12 | Johnston | Eunice | Charleston | 92 | 1721.55 | Lauterbach | J | Columbia |
| 43 | 2531.26 | Bose | Anil | Clemson | 93 | 1720.10 | Pinckney | Elise | Charleston |
| 44 | 2527.66 | Warner | Jeanette | Aiken | 94 | 1717.67 | Becker | Carl | Charleston |
| 45 | 2517.53 | Neiman | Morry | Hilton Head | 95 | 1710.97 | Tennant | Martha | Columbia |
| 46 | 2488.39 | Webb | Bob | Cayce | 96 | 1682.08 | Ervin | Roma | Hilton Head |
| 47 | 2459.49 | Christeson | Leroy | Anderson | 97 | 1674.43 | Overby | Marlise | Cayce |
| 48 | 2451.94 | Keller | Alan | Hilton Head | 98 | 1671.00 | Fasching | Kenneth | Columbia |
| 49 | 2433.12 | Benbrook | Robert | Belton | 99 | 1664.32 | Rampey | Judy | Spartanburg |
| 50 | 2423.15 | Lauterbach | Patrick | Columbia | 100 | 1639.18 | Russell | George | Moore |

North (Dummy)

♠ Q7
♥ 7
♦ KJ7543
♣ K983

West

♠ 965
♥ AK98
♦ 98
♣ J753

East (YOU)

♠ A2
♥ QJ643
♦ AT2
♣ QT6

South

♠ KJT843
♥ T52
♦ Q6
♣ A4

After The Fact
by Spencer Hurd

Here is a fairly tough hand which was misplayed by both "experts" in a Flight A Swiss Match. Can you do better than the Carolina Stars involved?

North (Dummy)

♠ 6
♥ 72
♦ AQ4
♣ AT9865

South

♠ AKQT75
♥ K8
♦ K82
♣ Q5

The Auction, with both vulnerable:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1S | 2H | Db1* | P |
| 4S | P | P | P |

* negative

At both tables the lead was the club jack. Plan the play. East shows out on the second trump.

Don't Be A Cry-Baby
by
Spencer Hurd

"Nobody has my luck. All bad." The complaint by Cry-Baby was repeated enough for me this week. Here is the real story. You can have it as a

quiz. What would you have done? (Don't peek - each answer follows right away.)

1. You hold: ♠ QJ4, ♥K63, ♦QT743, K3♣

Nobody is vulnerable, you are West, and the auction has been:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 2H | 2S | P | ? |

If you had a way to bid 2NT or 3S (each strongly invitational), then tell me. As it is, you should pick one. I bid 3S, the bid Partner wants. Against 2NT: the hearts are not double stopped. Yes, 3S may put the heart king in jeopardy. Better one card (trick) than the hand.

2. You lead the spade king against 3NT. It is ducked. You try one more and it is ducked again, all following. What do you lead?

The auction was

| East | South | West | North |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| P | 1C* | P | 1D |
| P | 1H | P | 3C |
| P | 3D | P | 3NT |
| P | P | P | |

*Could be short.

East (YOU)

♠ KQJT2
♥ T93
♦ 64
♣ T94

South (Dummy)

♠ A954
♥ A542
♦ AJT
♣ 72

What do you lead at trick 3?

Not really hard. (North should have won the second spade of course. If West has a 3rd spade, you only have a 4-carder and the suit is not dangerous.) Since he is ducking, his suits are not running. Lead a heart quickly (the suit dummy bid).

3. The auction goes:

| West | North | East(you) | South |
|------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1H* | DBL | 2H | 2S |
| P | P | 3H?? | 3S |
| P | 4S | all pass | |

* less than 16 points

Your hand: it doesn't matter.

If 2H was sensible, 3H is wrong. Sometimes you help the opponents judge their potential. You could have been -170 but encouraged them. North, with plenty of points, only had Kxx of spades but realized South

surely had at least 5 for the second bid. South had JTxxx, x, xxx, Kxx and thought his singleton was perfect. It was. It was "worth" more than 3 points.

4. You have ♠JT87532, ♥J82, ♦K8, ♣A

and the auction goes:

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1NT* | 2H** | P | ? |

* = 16 to 18

** Shows hearts

What do you bid?

Who knows. I suggest 3H and hope for the best. Cappelletti bidders show hearts and a minor with this bid.

Playing CAP, you respond to 2H with 2NT (asking for the minor) and when partner bids 3D, I think you should bid 4H. Brozel bidders could overcall 2D (showing diamonds and hearts). You could respond 3H. Each system shows to advantage in getting to game.

5. Crybaby really had something to cry about here.

| | | | |
|--------|-------|------|-------|
| C'Baby | North | East | South |
| 1NT* | P | 2C | DBL |
| 2S | P | 4S | 5C |
| DBL | P | P | P |

North (Dummy)

♠ AJxx
♥ Qx
♦ Q98xx
♣ 97

West (CB)

♠ KQxx
♥ Jx
♦ KTxx
♣ Axx

East

♠ T8xx
♠ Kxx
♦ AJxx
♣ Kx

South (Lucky)

♠ x
♥ AT9xxx
♦ -----
♣ QJT543

Your lead of the spade king was won by the ace. Partner's spot card in spades didn't seem to say much. South led the 9 of trumps around to your ace. On the auction, you (CB) should expect (1) about 7 or more clubs in declarer's hand and (2) that partner can signal better when he shows out of clubs. Just duck the trick and wait. No, you won without a clear idea of what to lead back. You decided that, as declarer didn't lead hearts, partner must have them. So you led the jack of hearts (covered by the queen, king and ace), and (as we can see) declarer easily made 5C doubled!

Well, my question is: how can Cry Baby know this is wrong?

Answer: with six hearts and four spades, partner likely would have bid the hand differently. So partner has at most five hearts. So declarer has at least 4 hearts. To go with 6 or 7 clubs. DONT lead a heart. If you must win the club at once at least exit carefully with another trump. Think about this: "Who has the missing major suit?"

6. You have ♠---, ♥KJ75, ♦KJT9543, ♣54

| | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-----|
| West | North | South | You |
| P | 2NT | 3S | ?? |

Just bid 4D, which is natural and game forcing. A Grand Slam is possible. Don't eliminate any bidding success with a small-minded bid now. For goodness sake don't double.

7. Cry Baby was crowing as his teammates returned to the table. "We stayed out of that awful slam on Board 2. Good thing, too. Just barely made ten tricks." Oh yeah, well our opponents bid and made 6S, was the reply. You try it.

North (Dummy)

♠ A432
♥ 984
♦ 73
♣ 8762

South

♠ KQJ86
♥ ---
♦ AK54
♣ AKJT

The lead is the diamond queen. If you can ruff one diamond low, then maybe you can ruff another with the ace. Then pull trumps (hoping for a 3-1 or 2-2 split). Then just give up a club. Making 12 tricks.

Back to the Real World. You win trick one with the diamond ace. When you lead a high spade from hand, West shows out. Your plan? Will your plan work if East has only two diamonds?

The winning line (and best shot by far): win the second diamond and lead a 3rd. Ruff it low. East will overruff and return a heart. You can ruff in hand. Now ruff your last diamond with the ace in dummy. lead a club and finesse the jack. When it holds, pull East's last two trumps and cash clubs. You need East to hold the club queen. You need to be able to form a plan even when things go badly initially.

7. Here is the best hand of all. You can do better than CB for sure. Play 6S with the 2 of hearts lead.

You Pard P: ♠---, ♥AJ8643, ♦KJ62, ♣A82
 1S 2H Y: ♠AKQJT6, ♥975, ♦A97, ♣K
 3S* 4C
 4D 4H
 5C 6S
 P

* solid suit

Read about this down below. (Trumps are 4-3.)

8. Should you open in 3rd seat holding

♠AK, ♥J84, ♦9754, ♣KT87

Ans: Not if vulnerable; maybe yes NV. Even if non-vul, open only if your agreement is that a 1NT rebid is 11-13. Do not open in any vulnerability at IMPs. If you do open, at least open 1D. If it goes

| | | | |
|------|-----|-----|------------|
| Pard | RHO | You | LHO |
| P | P | 1D | 1 of major |
| DBL | P | ? | |

you will be able to try 2C and maybe partner will shut up. One idea: it is rare to open light in 3rd seat with no major strength; usually this occurs only when you have lots of shape. This is not the case and you will surprise partner. At match points, bad bridge is sometimes necessary, and the game belongs to the active bidders. Cry-Baby passed. We opened, passed Pard's 1H, and LHO balanced to his regret, and they played 1S, down one. Pard had, T953, KQ32, K3, Q93. Exactly 1H would have made.

Solution to #7.

This lead of the heart 2 is 100% a singleton in view of partner's bid (or, if from a 4-bagger, it will get ruffed and you go down). You must play the ace and keep RHO off lead. Lead a club to the king. Cash trumps - they split 4-3. One heart or diamond can be discarded on a club. That leaves two red cards to worry about. If the diamond finesse is on, you are okay. But if not, Is there anything that you can do?

Yes! Watch the magic. After pulling the trumps, lead a diamond to dummy's king. Lead another to your ace. If no queen drops, lead a third diamond toward the jack. If the queen is onside, you are okay. West has only clubs and diamonds left. If the queen is tripleton offside, you were not making the hand. BUT - the queen was actually offside ... doubleton. Your play picked it up. You lost no diamonds and only one heart. This play in the diamonds (or a variation) occurs a lot. Well worth the study.

9. You: ♠KQT4, ♥JT862, ♦7653, ♣---

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| RHO | You | LHO | Pard |
| 1D | P | 1S | 2C |
| P | P | 3C | P |
| 3S | P | 4S | P |
| P | ?? | | |

None vul. Do you just pass or do you double?

Cry-Baby passed. That gives you a clue. You should usually do what is obvious. The opponents have plenty of points, no doubt. But you should have at least 3 tricks. Pard's overcall at the 2-level is counted at 1.5 tricks. Double. If everybody gets to 4S, plus fifty may not be enough. On a good day you get 500.

10. You: ♠765, ♥A7, ♦AQJT4, ♣T74

| | | | |
|-----|-----|------|-----|
| You | LHO | Pard | RHO |
| P | 1C | P | 1D |
| P | 1NT | P | 2NT |
| P | 3NT | P | P |
| ?? | | | |

What is your call? Have you discussed this situation with your present partner? Actually, it is universally known since the invention of the game that a double here calls for a lead of dummy's first bid suit. If you don't crank this bid out in the present case, you will never get the chance. Yes, maybe opener has too many club tricks. But sometimes only the perfect lead sets the hand. DOUBLE!

11. Both vul, Cry-Baby went down on this one. Linda Smith won a trip to the nationals when she made 6H.

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1H | P | 2H | 3H* |
| 6H | P | P | P |

* spades and a minor

Ace of spades lead by West. You lead a heart to the 9, Q, and East shows out discarding a spade. Your play.

Dummy: ♠QT73, ♥AQ64, ♦65, ♣J92

Declarer: ♠---, ♥KJT732, ♦AQJ2, ♣A63

Well, try the diamond hook. The queen holds. Lead another heart to the six (as West plays the five - maybe a trump echo to show exactly three trumps was not wise!). Lead a second diamond. The king pops up and you cleverly surmise that East's suits are spades and clubs. Lead the high diamond, pitching a club from dummy. Lead the 4th diamond, ruffing in dummy with the 4-spot. Lead a club. East inserts the ten and you win the ace. You lead a second club to the dummy's now blank jack. East wins but can do no harm. You can ruff the last club in dummy, ruff a spade to hand and pull West's last trump. Plus 1430. You would have done this too, surely. BUT, did you ruff with the trump 7-spot at trick one? If not you went down too.

Greenville Sectional

1. 23 Richard Brown
2. 22 Jeff Ziemer
3. 12 Wayne Hollingsworth
4. 11 Kurt Gandenberger
5. 11 Len Case
6. 11 Alec Price
7. 11 Roslyn Cantor
8. 11 Marla Brodsky
9. 11 Judy Brown
10. 10 Harold Moore

Open Pair winners: Marla Brodsky-Judy Brown; Jeff Ziemer and Richard Brown; Hugh Brown and Richard Potter; and Richard Brown again but playing with Wayne Hollingsworth.

The Swiss was Strata-Flighted. The Flight A winners were Hugh Brown, Warren Roberts, Richard Potter, and Kurt Gandenberger. In the B-C-D group, First was the team of Harold Moore, Rajan Ayer, Tom Gaudin, and Jim Morgan. Second was Carl Becker and Harold Rhyne playing with Mike and Jim Gentry.

District 7 Finals of the North American Pairs Swells Greenville Sectional to Overflowing

A huge crowd filled the Shrine playing area and spilled over into every available square inch. Extra tables were finally obtained and only East-West in Flight C had to stand up to play. No, just kidding, but some of the chairs were pretty unusual.

Players came to the District 7 Finals of the NAP Championship. District 7 includes both Carolinas, Georgia, and Eastern Tennessee. In Flight A, a record 36 pairs (26 is usual) enlivened the competition. Winning by a large margin was the respected pair of Dave Adams (Kennesaw, GA) and Michael White (Atlanta). Both professionals, they have been playing together and tried this event last year. Now they are in sync. This year everything went perfectly for them. Their two-session score of almost 590 was well ahead of Kay Joyce (Raleigh) and Dan Fowler (Salisbury) who scored 547. Linda and Ron Smith of Hixon, TN, were 3rd and all these pairs won a trip to the spring nationals in Reno.

SC Couple Win Flight B

Ed and Liz Grooms of Taylors, SC, won Flight B and a trip to Reno. Ed is a former Unit officer. Second were George Russell of Moore, SC, and Ann Rickard of Spartanburg, SC. Congratulations all!

The top three pairs in each Flight win a trip, but the subsidies are greater for first. This year,

because of the large attendance in local events, we are authorized to send a 4th pair in Flight C. The District and our Unit 160 subsidize our players a bit further.

Flight A NAP - District 7 Finals (36 Pairs)

1. Michael White, Dave Adams 589.46
2. Kay Joyce and Dan Fowler, 547.76
3. Linda Smith, Ron Smith, 530.11
4. Joe Rickman, Barbara Heller, 525.69
5. Mike and Shannon Cappelletti, 525.69
6. Kish Devaraj and Randy Pettit, 517.21
7. John Hurd and Spencer Hurd, 515.63
8. Matthew Frame, Sandra Reeve, 513.35

Flight B NAP - District 7 Finals (56 Pairs)

1. **Liz and Ed Grooms, 391.5**
2. **George Russell, Ann Rickard, 368**
3. Lawrence Harding, John Markey, 353
4. **Johanna and Reece Blackwell, 351**
5. Jared and Robert Fournier, 350
6. Julie and Walt Murphy, 348
7. Ann Hedden, Fred Thompson, 347

District 7 Flight C Final (25 Pairs)

1. Fred Tanzer and Dan Griggs (GA), 355
2. Barbara Danos, Steve Meadows (GA), 336
3. **Christine Foy (Aiken), Owen Lien (NC) 335**
4. John Kirby, Alan Godfrey (NC)
5. Richard and Donna Holland (GA), 305
6. John Aluise, Doug Steele (NC), 302

Sometimes you see a hand and hear about the result and wonder, "How did she do that?" Well, how did Liz Grooms score +480 on the next hand in 4H? She got 12 out of 12 matchpoints. Can you, peeking. The lead is the ♦3 to the ace. East returned a diamond.

North (Dummy)

- ♠ 75
- ♥ AJ83
- ♦ JT7
- ♣ A842

West (CB)

- ♠ 96
- ♥ 96
- ♦ K9632
- ♣ Axx

East

- ♠ Q832
- ♥ Q52
- ♦ A854
- ♣ J9

South (Liz)

- ♠ AKJT4
- ♥ KT74
- ♦ Q
- ♣ KT5

Liz ruffed. Then she led three top spades. On the 3rd, West discarded a small diamond, and she ruffed in dummy. Now she led to her ♣K and played a 4th spade. Again West discarded and she ruffed in dummy. With only ♥KT7 of trumps left in hand, Liz made a great play. She ruffed with the ♥J. Since East has the only spade left and must follow suit, why ruff high?

Problem: the heart suit will be blocked if the ♥A then ♥J is led. West will not cover holding three trumps. There is no way to get back to hand to pull the last trump and enjoy the 5th spade. Solution: ruff high. Now she led the ♥A and ♥7 finessing the ten when East played low. This held and she pulled the last trump. With three cards to go, she cashed the last spade.

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------|
| | North (Dummy) | |
| | ♠ ---- | |
| | ♥ ---- | |
| | ♦ J | |
| | ♣ A8 | |
| West (CB) | | East |
| ♠ ---- | | ♠ ---- |
| ♥ ---- | | ♠ ---- |
| ♦ K | | ♦ 85 |
| ♣ Q7 | | ♣ J |
| | South (Liz) | |
| | ♠ T | |
| | ♥ ---- | |
| | ♦ ---- | |
| | ♣ T5 | |

West couldn't discard his ♦K with the dummy's jack in sight so he let go a club. Now Liz discarded the ♦J since the king was high. East's play was immaterial. The club from hand brought down both missing clubs and Liz won the last trick with the ♣T.

Sometimes a declarer plays as if she can see all the cards. Did *you* get 12 tricks looking at all the cards?

Aiken SC Sectional Report

Total attendance was 226 tables and the players won 745 master points. The top rankings:

1. 29.09 Hugh Brown, McCormick
2. 29.09 Greg Roberts, Wilbraham, MA
3. 21.8 Richard Brown, Easley
4. 21.8 Wayne Hollingsworth, Irmo
5. 17.2 Mark McLaughlin, Charleston
6. 17.2 Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston
7. 16 Spencer Hurd, Charleston
8. 16 Jeff Ziemer, Greenville

Open Pair winners are Wayne Hollingsworth and Richard brown; Bob and Pat Webb; Ellen and Larry Allen; **Hugh Brown and Greg Roberts (twice)**; M. Weiler and G. Cartwright.

The Swiss was won by Jeff Ziemer, Spencer Hurd, Hugh brown and Greg Roberts. Second were Wayne Hollingsworth, Richard Brown, Mark and Susanne McLaughlin. Top B Team was Luanne Edwards, Nathan Fain, Irma murray, and Madalyn Dybvik. Top C Team was Tom and Judith Evans, Harriett Hussey, Betty D'Alessio.

Myrtle Beach Sectional, Oct 31 - Nov 2

With just over 200 tables in play, the event gained on last year. There were 755 master points won. The leaders in points:

- 1 Stan Given 24.6, Little River
- 2 John Hurd 21.5, Charleston
- 3 Tony Devereux 20.25, Pawleys Isl
- 4 Spencer Hurd 19.6, Charleston
- 5 Brandon Flickner 19.1, Tifton, Ga
- 6 Andrew Hurd 17.4, Charleston
- 7 Robert Burt 14.3, N. Myrtle Beach
- 8 Annette Wallace 14.3, Longs
- 9 Evelyn Brandon 13.99, Myrtle Beach
- 10 Merle Holmes 13.99, Conway

299-er leaders

- 1 H. Paul Grady 8.99, N. Myrtle Beach
- 2 Jack Faries 8.8, Surfside
- 3 Mary Cooper 7.44, Wilmington
- 4 Anne Blatz 7.43, Myrtle Beach
- 5 Al Hayward 7.42, Myrtle Beach
- 6 Sybil Bennett 8.42, Georgetown

Open Pair winners: Tony Devereux and Mary Myers; William Johnson and Elain Cagle; Dave Klein and Shirley Dial; Jack Faries and Anne Blatz; Tony Devereux (again) but with Brandon Flickner.

199-er Winners: Janice Ripley and Barbara Norris; Dan and Peggy Loveland; Clark Smart and Kathie Wolk; Glenna Keller and Shirley Jobes.

Bracketed Teams

Top bracket: Andy Hurd, Spencer Hurd, John Hurd, Stan Given. Second Giles Belski, Betty Burt, Malcolm Curry, Joe Waldon.

Bracket II: Evelyn Brandon, Annette Wallace, Merle Holmes, Robert Burt.

Bracket III: lois Moore, Al Hayward, Jimmy Fox, Sybil Bennett.

Swiss Teams:

1st Andy Hurd, Spencer Hurd, John Hurd, Stan Given, Richard Guarneri. 2nd Martin Johnson, Tony Devereux, George Nichols, Brandon Flickner. 1st B were H.P. Grady, Ed Albert, Roy Lanckenau, Phillip Know. 1st C - Emma Lou and Robert Newcombe, Laverne Quint, Gilbert Jesch

Augusta Sectional

The Fall Augusta Sectional was held at the same time as the rather distant Myrtle Beach Sectional. However, our whole state is in between! Still, many players from SC did well there and we mention:

5/6 Judith Evans 13.32, Aiken
5/6 Tom Evans 13.32, Aiken
8/9 Sedley Roach 12.85, Aiken
8/9 Annie Hawkins, Aiken
10 Hugh Brown, McCormick

New Unit 160 Web Site in Construction

At scbridge.com is the Unit 160 official web site. We plan to archive information about clubs and players and awards on the site. Currently, all sectional and regional results are available at

mabcbridge.org

which is the Mid-Atlantic's web site. Our new webmaster is Mike Jinks of Greenville. Back issues of Palmetto Pre-Empts will be kept there, electronically available in case you missed an issue.

Membership Meeting At Charleston Sectional

The annual membership meeting of Unit 160 will be held during the Charleston Sectional in **March of 2004**. Look for details on the web site or as posted at the tournament.

Nominations may be made from the floor for elective offices and membership on the Unit Board for board members who are rotating off. Jim Current is the Nominations Committee chair and it is appropriate to help him gather a slate of candidates, however. Please try to come and voice your opinions. Offers to help with Unit activities and responsibilities are always welcome!

New Achievements

NEW JR MASTERS:

Aiken: William Chapman, Douglas Bell, John Cornell
Charleston: Dee Pridgen

HHI: Lynn Green, Richard Sellers, Peggy Gibson, Martha McCarthy, Suzanne Furlong, Sandy Xenakis,
Inman: Robert Millard,
Mt Pleasant: Linda Townsend
N Myrtle Beach: Jo Ann Merritts,
Ladys Island: Claire Stanford
Seneca: Merlan Freeman
Summerville: Laverne Williams,
Wadmalaw Isl: Mayo Reed,

NEW CLUB MASTERS:

Donald Calyton, Seneca; Mark Hall, N Augusta; Geri Moore, Jackson; Theresa Schulz, Chapin; Libby Steinberg, Spartanburg; Sherril Cuzzell, Anne Jenkins, S'ville; Joyce and Robert Hampton, Blythewood; Joann Lukowski, Beaufort; Felix Pelzer, Charleston; Kerstin Larson, Mt Pleasant;

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS:

Pat Austin, Elgin; Wes Bailey, Anderson; Pat McNeely, Columbia; Martha Toal, Leesville; Leonard Bifano, West Columbia; Jeff Hepner, Johns Is; Jacqueline Manderville, Columbia; Terry Moore, Columbia; Margarita Morales, Columbia; Nancy Rhein, Saint Helena Is; Betty Stone, Mt Pleasant

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS:

Nancy Bowers, Saint Helena Is; Catherine Murray, Summerville; Ada Rast, Johns Is; Jane Southworth, Beaufort; Barbara Visser, Mt Pleasant; Louise Burns, Camden; Jim Cahalan, Isle of Palms; Susan Friberg, and Susan Nuernberger, Charleston

NEW NABC MASTERS:

Lawrence Schram, Santee

NEW LIFE MASTERS:

James Callen, Hilton Head; **Christine Foy**, Aiken; **Nancy Gureck**, Bluffton; **Aileen Robinson**, N Augusta; **Peter Seery**, Hilton Head

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS:

John Berk, Aiken; Michael Gentry, Charleston; Anita Knaysi, Clemson; Linda Smith, Anderson

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS:

Luanne Edwards, Leesville

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS:

Jeanette Warner, Aiken

We invite those at the Life Master level or higher to send us a "written snapshot" introducing you to the bridge community around the state - To the editor at *Spencer Hurd, 171 Moultrie St, MSC-25, The Citadel, Charleston, SC, 29409, or hurds@citadel.edu.*

Masterpoint Ra