# Sleeping on the Couch

*"The continuing misadventures of Dave playing bridge with his wife, Anne."*

***By Dave Caprera***
Denver, Colorado

## The Losers Swiss

If you had ever met me, you would know that I take bridge very seriously. While I often have wine with dinner, when I am playing at a tournament I will not drink any alcohol between sessions. (After the evening session is a different story.) I believe it impairs your judgment and motor skills, resulting in a poor performance. But if we lose in the afternoon and qualify to play in the one session "Losers Swiss," then one drink at dinner is mandatory.

It was Thursday of a week-long regional and we had just played against Meckwell for the third time in four days. Monday night was a three way and we both advanced out of our bracket. Tuesday we played them in the finals and got crushed. We made it through Wednesday only to draw them on Thursday. We got crushed again. I am not complaining. To the contrary, my preference is to play against the best opponents possible. Annie and I sat at Jeff and Eric's table for 60 boards. Playing against them is my personal heaven; losing badly is still hell.

We went to a sports bar for dinner and the waitress said, "It's happy hour, two for one mixed drinks." I asked if that included martinis and she said that it didn't. I ordered one anyway and five minutes later she came back with two of them, saying that she had been mistaken.

I was pretty much lit up when we started the Swiss. We didn't play well but our opponents played worse and we found ourselves in contention when I picked up ♠AKx ♥K9x ♦K642 ♣K87 and opened 1NT; Anne transferred and invited, and I accepted and bid 4♥. The opening lead was the ♦5, and I faced the following declarer problem:

♠J9x
♥QJxxx
♦AJ8
♣109

♠AKx
♥K9x
♦K642
♣K87

I played the ♦8 to RHO's nine and my king and then a heart to the queen and ace. Back came the ♣Q, covered with the king, which LHO won with the ace to return a club to RHO's jack. RHO now led a low spade; I won the ♠A and played the ♥9 to dummy (LHO playing the ♥10, RHO following). Now what? I considered two plans:

**Plan A**: I can take the diamond finesse (in the abstract 50%), pitching the third spade on my good ♣8. I can also time it as a show up squeeze on LHO if I can read the position, risking going down two if I get it wrong.

**Plan B**: If diamonds are 3-3 or the ♦Q is doubleton (52%), or if RHO has ♦Q fourth with the ♠Q, I can cash the ♦A, cross to the ♥K, pitch the ♦J on the ♣8, and ruff a diamond in dummy. This will establish a diamond trick or set the stage for a spade-diamond squeeze.

I chose sexy Plan B and went down. Here is the complete deal:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠J9x<br>♥QJxxx<br>♦AJ8<br>♣109 | |
| ♠Qxx<br>♥10x<br>♦Q1053<br>♣Axxx | | ♠10xxx<br>♥Axx<br>♦97<br>♣QJxx |
| | ♠AKx<br>♥K9x<br>♦K642<br>♣K87 | |

Annie gave me a "nice play," but the sarcasm dripped onto the floor. We came in second; at the other table they also got the ♦5 lead, took the first round finesse of the ♦J, covered the subsequent ♣Q return, made 4♥, and won the event. While, in theory, my math may have been right, my table feel was not very good. Could it have been the second martini? Perhaps. But more importantly, I had earned a night sleeping on the couch.

P.S: I sent this hand to Jack Oest, a friend of mine in Chicago, a fine player, sometimes partner, and a very funny writer. Here is his response.

## Post-Swiss Drink at the Bar

***By Jack Oest***
Chicago, Illinois

Harry, great to see you! Congrats on the win!"

"Thanks Joe. Every dog has his day I guess. We played okay and had our share of gifts, which you need. Betty wasn't on play too much and the bad stuff she did never seemed to hurt us. But I have to show you this hand from the last round. You got a sec?"

"Sure."

"So I pick up ♠Qxx ♥10x ♦Q1053 ♣Axxx. We're playing against this guy and his wife. I'm not sure who they are but I see them everywhere. So the guy at my right opens 1NT and his wife transfers to two hearts, then bids two spades, artificial invite. RHO bids 4♥ and I'm on lead."

"Anything could be right here, Harry."

"Yeah so I picked a diamond since I thought this looked the least dangerous. If Betty can contribute anything I should be okay. So dummy tables ♠J9x ♥QJxxx ♦AJ8 ♣109."

"Seems about right."

"Okay, so this guy plays the nine, Betty the ten and he wins the king. He now leads a trump to dummy's queen and Betty's ace. Betty fires back the queen of clubs, declarer plays the king and I win the ace. Now it looks like we have three tricks. Where will the fourth come from?"

"Can't you just wait for your spade trick?"

"Well, maybe, maybe not. Declarer clearly has ace and king of spades for his acceptance so he has two spades, four hearts, and three diamonds."

"Yeah but that's only nine tricks."

"True but this guy is, as they say, a 'thoughtful' player' and there was something about the way he played the king of clubs that made me think he had the eight of clubs. Now mind you there's no way in the world that Betty should be shifting to the queen of clubs. Any normal defender would shift to a low club since declarer would have to have X-ray eyes to play low, but this is beyond Betty."

"Okay, but isn't the hand just over if declarer has the eight of clubs? It will be as they say 'a teaching moment' for Betty."

"Indeed it seemed hopeless. He can just take the diamond hook. If I just plow a club back Betty will win the jack and probably do something hopeless like play back a spade. That will mark the spade queen in my hand and this guy now has a second winning option: he can play me for the spade queen and run a show-up squeeze on me."

"I agree with all of that. So what did you do?"

"Well, like I said, this guy is a 'thoughtful' player. It seems like he tries to emulate Garozzo . But even better, he thinks all his opponents are Garozzo as well! So I asked myself: what would Garozzo do if he did NOT have the queen of diamonds?"

"Harry, what the heck does that mean? You sound like this dude. Who knows what Garozzo would do? Not even Garozzo knows what he would do!"

"Okay, okay. Well, to make a long story short, I thought someone with the queen of diamonds might threaten a ruff or something by firing back a second diamond here. So I just led a club back to Betty and sure enough back came that revealing spade."

"And did he have the eight of clubs?"

*(See Couch on page 16)*


# EL PASO, TEXAS

BRIDGE TOURNAMENT
International City Unit 159

**VALENTINE AND PRESIDENTS' DAY SECTIONAL**

February 13, 14, 15, 16, 2015
Decker Bridge Center (See Map on Back)
2216 East Yandell, El Paso, Texas 79903
Sanction #1502022

**Friday, February 13**
09:30 a.m. Stratified Swiss, one session
24 boards, 20 victory points

2:30 p.m. Stratifed Pairs (Single session)

**Saturday, February 14**
09:30 a.m. Compact K.O. #1 Session 1
To be handicapped (Director's discretion)
Stratified Pairs (Single session)

2:30 p.m. Compact K.O. #1 Session 2
Stratified Pairs (Single session)

**Sunday, February 15**
09:30 a.m. Pairs/Teams *

**Monday February 16**
09:00 a.m. TBA Swiss Team

2:30 p.m. Pairs/Teams *
*Players may enter as pairs or teams a.m. and p.m.
199er players may enter as pairs or teams

**Stratification:** (A) 2000+; (B) 500–2000; ( C) 0 – 500
**All stratification based on average master points**

**Entry Fees:** $10.00 per member per session;
$13:00 per non or unpaid ACBL members per session
$88.00 per Swiss team on Monday (Includes lunch)

**Average master points for all pair and team games**

**Director:** Bob Craig

**Coordinator:** Dr. Lorraine Odonnell
(915) 833-5828
Van Brown
(915) 584-0605

**Partnerships:** Pending

**Hospitality:** Pending

**Caddies:** Pending



# Northern Colorado Sectional

## February 6-8, 2015

Larimer County Fairgrounds – The Ranch – McKee Building
Exit 259 off I-25 (Crossroads to Fairgrounds Avenue)
Loveland, Colorado

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2015**
9:30 a.m. Knockouts – 1st Round (Top bracket may be handicapped.)
Stratified Pairs Single Session
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

1:30 p.m. Knockouts – 2nd Round
Stratified Pairs Single Session
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

4:45 p.m. **"Let's Talk Bridge"** – A Discussion of Some of the Day's Hands
**Pizza, Salad, and Pop** (Tickets on Sale for $6 During the Day)
6:30 p.m. **Single-Session Swiss Teams Game** (4 Rounds of 7 @ $40 Per Team) + **Final Round of Knockouts**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015**
10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs – First Session
Stratified Pairs Single Session
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

3:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs – Final Session
Stratified Pairs Single Session
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015**
10:00 a.m. Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams Including 299er Flight **(7 Rounds, 8 Boards Per Round)**

**Entry Fees:** Pairs - $10.00 per person per session ($13.00 per person for unpaid or non-ACBL members)
ACBL Members with 0-5 Masterpoints play free in single session 299er games on Friday.
Sunday Swiss - $104.00 per team, includes lunch and dessert

**Stratifications:** **(NOTE – All Stratifications by Average Masterpoints)**
Stratified Open Pairs: A/B/C = 2,000+; 750-2000; 0-750
Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams: A/X = 3,000+, 0-3,000 B/C = 750-1,500; 0-750
Stratified 299er Pairs: 299er Swiss Teams (Two Separate Sessions): D/E/F = 150-300; 50-150; 0-50
D/E/F = 150-300; 50-150; 0-50

Co-Chairs: Frank DeMeyer (demeyerf@hotmail.com, 970-416-8500)
Marty Gutschenritter (mjgutsch@centurylink.net, 970-988-7626)
Vicki Hamende (vickihamende@gmail.com, 970-219-9355)
John Wolf (john-wolf@comcast.net, 303-810-4902)
Partnerships: Marsha Effner (marshaeffner@gmail.com) and Marge Webster (mweb622@gmail.com)
Director: Bill Michael

**Unit 363** **www.NorthernColoradoBridge.comSanctionS1502057**