

# Origins of the Keller Convention

**November 28 – December 8, 2002**

**76<sup>th</sup> Fall North American Bridge Championships**

**Friday, December 6, 2002**

## **Keller Revisited**

**By: Adam Wildavsky**

By choice in my partnerships we do not discuss hands during the session. I find this a big help in improving my results! I named this approach Keller, after Helen Keller, and I put it on all my convention cards. It's a misnomer, since she could speak perfectly well, but the name has stuck.

My partner Steve Nellissen wrote an article about Keller which appeared in The Bridge World.

As a reward, or perhaps a penalty, for popularizing this approach, friends and acquaintances sometimes seek me out to report especially egregious Keller violations. This one, board 10 from the Wednesday evening regionally-rated game takes the cake.

Your hand is by far the worst I've ever seen:

East

♠ 643

♥ 52

♦ 6432

♣ 5432

Partner opens 1♦ in third seat and you pass. You are not surprised when LHO reopens with a double. Partner redoubles and RHO bids 1♥. It wouldn't occur to me to bid here, but at the table the call was 2♦, Now LHO raises to 2♥ and partner tries 2♠. You retreat to 3♦ and partner raises to 4♦. No one doubles and to your relief 4♦ becomes the final contract.

As you put down the dummy you hear from across the table, "Partner, you didn't bid enough!"

This was the full hand. Note that declarer can make six by getting to dummy with the  $\spadesuit 6$  to take a second spade finesse.

	North	
	$\spadesuit$ 1097	
	$\heartsuit$ KJ106	
	$\diamondsuit$ Q8	
	$\clubsuit$ AJ97	
West		East
$\spadesuit$ AQJ2		$\spadesuit$ 643
$\heartsuit$ A43		$\heartsuit$ 52
$\diamondsuit$ AK10975		$\diamondsuit$ 6432
$\clubsuit$		$\clubsuit$ 5432
	South	
	$\spadesuit$ K85	
	$\heartsuit$ Q987	
	$\diamondsuit$ J	
	$\clubsuit$ KQ1086	