

Keller

By Steve Nellissen



I support
HELEN KELLER
 Services for the Blind
(formerly Industrial Home for the Blind)

Would you like to average 20 more matchpoints per session? How about 8 more imp.'s per match? Who wouldn't! Well, I've got a secret weapon that always works, 100% of the time.

The name of my secret is "Keller". My partner Adam Wildavsky patiently trained me in way of this non-alertable convention, and I assure you that should you adopt it into your many lists of gadgets and things to remember, you will win more matchpoints, IMP's and Masterpoints than any other convention you are now using! I will even go so far as to almost guarantee, that should you play this convention with your spouse or significant other, it will improve your post game sex life!!

Keller is by far the most difficult convention to play. Most experienced, winning partnerships, play Keller, but none of them have actually extolled its virtues to the point of listing it on their Convention card.

Here is an example of Keller in action. Adam and I were defending against Hamman and Wolff in the 1988 Spingold and we were dealt something like the hand below +/- the Jack of Clubs...

	S 86		
	H K94		
	D AJ93		
	C Q1096		
S J9742			S A1053
H 83			H 62
D Q62			D K74
C A87			C K542
	S KQ		
	H AQJ1075		
	D 1084		
	C J3		

<u>South</u> (Hamman)	<u>West</u> (Me)	<u>North</u> (Wolff)	<u>East</u> (Adam)
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠!	Pass	Pass	Pass

*Standard Down 15, Late 4th quarter world champion, miracle action!

I led the 2 of spades (3rd&5th) and Adam won the Ace as Hamman played the Queen. Adam returned the Spade 3, to Hamman's King and my

(thoughtful, suit-preference) 7 (Would the 4 have been better?). Hamman played a round of Trump, I carefully playing the 3 to show an even number. Hamman then led the Diamond 8 to my 2 and partners King...Partner now thinks, and thinks... uh,oh... My mental Chalkboard is now projecting the largest, roundest **Club** I have ever mentally imagined...Partner plays..A **Trump!!** Oh*&%#@, I say to myself, Hamman left him with one, and the miracle's working, he's playing it! Hamman then makes the hand in about 2 seconds, as a Stunning Blonde kibitzer lets out a "My Hero" sigh of admiration. Adam and I resemble a broken stoplight; simultaneously Green and Red!

At this moment of ignomy, (I remember Keller, thank God) I stand up, excuse myself and go to the restroom. In the restroom, I stop myself from veering toward the stall, and stagger to the sink, toss a little cold water on my flushed face, look in the mirror and say; "We've been beating these guys all day, we can still win"!

Returning to the table I remove my hand from the next board, and Adam proceeds to play perfectly for the rest of the quarter. We win by 6.

Keller: (Ala Helen,) there is no discussion of hands or agreements during the session. There is no reason to show adverse emotion. There is no reason to make partner feel anything except the same unified desire to win that you both share.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge state: "A player should should maintain at all times a courteous attitude toward his partner and opponents." (100% courteous, that's us...Right?)

Keller is hard to play with all of your partners, especially the ones you care the most about. Write it on both your cards, and when partner asks, "What wa..." cut him off, take his finger and run it over the word "Keller" that's written on his card. You don't even have to be a "Miracle Worker" to win!