

www.Washington
BridgeLeague.org
Mar./Apr. 2003



Washington Bridge League

R • U • L • E • T • I • A • N

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- ♠ Stratified Open Pairs 10:30am
- Washington Bridge Center, 1620 Elton Road, Silver Spring MD
- ♦ StrataFlighted Open Pairs, Stratified 199er Pairs (*Christ the King Church only*), Stratified 99er Pairs (*Beth El only*), Newcomer Pairs (0-5 MP)
- Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm
- Christ the King Church, 2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring 7:30pm
- Capital Beltway to Connecticut Ave. South. Left on East-West Hwy. Right on Grubbs Rd. 1st left on Colston. The church is one block on the left.
- * * * * * Remainder of Tournament held at White Oak Armory Only * * * * *
- 12200 Cherry Hill Road, Silver Spring MD
- Capital Beltway East to US 29 North (Exit 30A- toward Columbia) or Capital Beltway West to MD 193 West (Exit 29 - toward Wheaton); go ½ mile and turn right on US 29 North. Go north 4 miles, then right on Cherry Hill Rd. Right on Robert L. Finn Dr. (immediately after Toyota dealer) and left into parking lot.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- ♥ Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm
- ♠ Stratified Senior Pairs (single sessions) 10:00am & 2:00pm
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm & 7:30pm
- ♥ StrataFlighted Open Pairs 7:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- ♠ Senior Pairs (single sessions) 9:30am & 1:30pm
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single sessions) 1:30pm & 7:00pm
- ♦ Newcomer Pairs (0-5 masterpoints) (single sessions) 1:30pm
- ♥ StrataFlighted Open Pairs (single sessions) 1:30pm & 7:00pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

- ♠ A/X Swiss Teams, VPs 11:00am & TBA
- ♠ B/C Swiss Teams, VPs 11:00am & TBA
- ♦ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am & 4:00pm

I/N events: 199er, 99er, 49er, & 0-20; Stratification at Director's discretion
Open and Senior Stratified events are: A = 1500+, B = 500-1500, C = 0-500
StrataFlighted events are: A/X = 3000+ / 0-3000, B/C = 500-1500 / 0-500

Famous Washington Hospitality includes food and/or drinks for all players every day. Refreshments available throughout the tournament. Scrip awarded for 1st/2nd overall and section top. **Information:** Lee Jensen, 4206 Independence St., Rockville, MD 20853, (301) 949-7467, lj@lsr.net.nih.gov.

WBL OMBUDSMAN

In an effort to provide confidential feedback to the Washington Bridge League Board of Directors, our Board has established a position called Ombudsman. Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential.

Ann Lindley serves as the first Washington Bridge League Ombudsman. Information should be provided in writing and may be handed to her at any game, or mailed to her at 18518 Grackle Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1767. Ann has served on the Washington Bridge League Board and is an experienced and regular WBL player.

In most cases, comments can be transmitted to Michael Carroad, Club Manager of the WBL Unit Game, or Millard Nachtwey, Tournament Chief Director and ACBL Field Representative, rather than to Ann. Under Michael's leadership, our game has grown to be the number one unit game in the United States. The Ombudsman adds a conduit to Michael and our tournament directors for constructive progress.

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DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2003

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2003 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #661-240)

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The opinions expressed by our columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ACBL, the WBL, or even the editors of this publication. The WBL is not responsible for the claims of its advertisers.

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WBL WEBSITE:

www.Washingtonbridgeleague.org

DISTRICT 6 SITE:

www.district6.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Barbara Doran

Well, the holidays are over, it's a new year and here I am again with a few random thoughts. The Holiday Party, put together by Kitty Gottfried and other key volunteers was its usual success. We celebrated our new Life Masters at the January Sectional - congratulations, again, to you all. The trophy winners (see the article in Bits and Pieces and the full listing on page 14) and the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners will receive their awards at our annual meeting in May.

Speaking of the annual meeting, it isn't too early to be thinking about running for the WBL board. It's a lot of work (I won't pretend it isn't - that would be silly), but it's rewarding, too. If you are interested, let a board member know.

And, speaking of the board, I regret to announce that Lee Jensen, who has served the Washington Bridge League as Tournament Co-chair, board member, WBL President, keeper of the policies, and so much more for over ten

years, has resigned his positions. Lee, we can never thank you enough for all the work you have done for the League. You will be very hard to replace.

Ben Laden, with co-chair Kathy Kruskal and Hospitality Chair Kitty Gottfried will be running WBL tournaments, starting with the May sectional. They'll need help. And they and Lee can use your help in March. Come get involved. We always have something for a volunteer to do. Talk to a board member if you want to help.

We have jobs that don't involve sectionals, too. We could use someone (probably someone who doesn't have a full time job), who could put up the Unit Game scores on Friday after the game. Talk to Don Berman if you think you can help.

Finally, Sylvia Levy could use a ride to the Unit Game on Thursdays. She lives in Forest Glen. Any volunteers? Tell Sylvia or a board member if you can help.

Until next time...Barb

BITS AND PIECES

EDITORIAL

In our last issue, Alfred Steinberg expressed his concerns over the difficulties that occur when the dates of a tournament get changed at the last minute. Our tournament site, the White Oak Armory is subject to last minute disruptions due to unpredictable military requirements and as such has proved to be an unreliable site, although it was a good site for tournaments in other ways. The February/March City of Washington Tournament will be the last WBL tournament to be held there. Our new tournament co-chairs, Kathy Kruskal and Ben Laden are currently looking for a new site or combination of sites that will be more reliable, and also satisfy a myriad of other requirements. This is no small task and they are open to suggestions.

We have now received over one hundred survey responses and are beginning the process of tabulation. It's not too late to respond. Make your opinion count. Respond by e-mail, snail mail, at the unit game, to any club owner or director, or at our website: www.washingtonbridgeleague.org. Remember, you can answer as many or as few questions as you would like.

SAD NEWS

Stuart Dunlop, a long-time member of the WBL, and the first winner of the Lovenberg Trophy, died Tuesday, Jan. 21 suddenly of a heart attack. The obituary was in the Jan. 26 Sunday Washington Post. Stu was still playing bridge up to the day before he died. His most frequent partner of late was Margaret Peirce, who is a member of the ACBL registered in Maine, but spends most of her time in Maryland. In tournaments, they concentrated on the senior events with a lot of success.

2002-2003 WBL-NVBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Eligibility

Players must attend at least three WBL and three NVBA sectionals during the contest period (August, 2002, through June, 2003). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility. The WBL's "In-Club Sectional" in September, 2002, does not count towards the totals or for eligibility.

Awards

Two trophies will be awarded.

Standings

Here are the standings after five of ten tournaments. The asterisk* indicates that the player has met the eligibility requirements.

Open Leaders

Player	Points
1 Leo LaSola	74.87
2 Robert Gookin	69.12
3 Margot Hennings	63.25
4 Alan Kleist	61.72
5 John Adams	60.91
6 Steve Robinson	58.92
7 Mark Shaw	53.42
8 Alfred Steinberg	53.16
9 Stephen Swearingen	49.75
10 Stan Schenker	49.70
11 Barbara Shaw	48.77
12 Helene Bauman	48.29
13 Kefu Xu	46.96
14 John Lawrence	46.69
15 Janet Gookin	45.11
16 Kenneth Davis	42.01
17 Fred King	41.47
18 Hailong Ao	41.21
19 James Geist	40.82
20 Prahalad Rajkumar	39.72

PARTNERSHIPS

Need a Partner for Unit Games or Sectional Events?

The WBL has expanded its efforts to help players arrange partnerships for the Thursday evening unit game and for WBL sectionals. Players who would like assistance can obtain help either on-line or by contacting one of the WBL's partnership coordinators.

(1) **On-line partnership desk** . The WBL has established an on-line partnership desk on its web site. The WBL is the first unit in the country to do this. Players can sign up, indicate which events they are available for, and find out if other players are available for the games they wish to play in. The on-line desk can be easily accessed by logging on to the WBL web site (www.washingtonbridgeleague.org), and simply clicking on the partnership desk. Please give it a try.

(2) **Partnership coordinators** . For those who prefer assistance in person, three people have volunteered to help players find partners in advance of the unit game or sectional events. Fred King will assist players in Flights A/X (the5kings2@aol.com; 703-536-1914). Charity Sack and Barbara Rothkin will assist players in Flights B and C (charity@charitysack.com; 703-963-7027; bhuthkin@aol.com; 301-493-9359). Please let them know as early as you can what game or events you would like to play in. Madge Gallant will continue to be available to help anyone who comes on Thursday evening needing a partner.

Good luck, and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday evenings and at the WBL sectionals.

NonLM Leaders			
Player	Points		
1 John Lowe III	27.76	10 Joseph Ogulin	12.26
2 David Hamilton	23.67	11 John Laurin	12.19
3 Hualin Chen	21.72	12 Sulaiman Chausmy	11.94
4 Michelle Cantave	20.70	13 Richard Cassell	11.69
5 Todd Zimnoch	19.39	14 Jay Kelkar	11.11
6 Penny Stoevers	19.16	15 Stephen Goldstein	10.93
7 John Christensen	18.72	16 Ali Al-Aref	10.81
8 D Tommesen	16.81	17 Thomas Din	10.46
9 Mark Rosen	14.78	18 Morris Umansky	10.33
		19 Joana Da Silva	10.25
		20 Charles King	10.12

**AFTER FEBRUARY'S CITY OF WASHINGTON TOURNAMENT,
THE NEXT WBL SECTIONAL IS:**

5 th Annual Potomac Valley Sectional
May 1 - 4, 2003

THURSDAY, MAY 1

- ▲ Stratified Open Pairs 10:30am
- Washington Bridge Center, 1620 Elton Road, Silver Spring MD
- ◆ StrataFlighted Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C Separate 1500/500)
- Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm
- Christ the King Church, 2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring 7:30pm
- ♥ 200/100/50 Pairs & 0-20 Pairs (Christ the King Church only) 7:30pm
- **** Friday & Saturday at Christ the King Church Only, Sunday TBA ****

FRIDAY, MAY 2

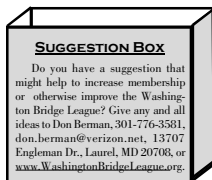
- ▲ Stratified Open Pairs (unlim/1500/500) (single sessions) ... 10:00am, 2:00pm
- ▲ Stratified Senior Pairs (unlim/1500/500) (single sessions) 10:00am & 2:00pm
- ◆ Intermediate/Novice Pairs 10:00am, 2:00pm & 7:30pm
- (300/200/100/50/20, 3 single sessions)
- ♥ StrataFlighted Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C Separate 2000/750) 7:30pm

SATURDAY, MAY 3

- ▲ Senior Pairs (unlim/2000/750) (single sessions) 9:30am & 1:30pm
- ▲ Intermediate/Novice Pairs 300/200/100/50/20 (single) ... 1:30pm & 7:00pm
- ◆ StrataFlighted A/X Pairs (unlim/3000) (single sessions) ... 1:30pm & 7:00pm
- ♥ StrataFlighted B/C Pairs (2000/750) (single sessions) 1:30pm & 7:00pm

SUNDAY, MAY 4

- ▲ A/X Board-A-Match Teams (unlim/3000) 11:00am & TBA
- ▲ B/C Swiss Teams (2000/750, 2 sessions with a short break) ... 11:00am & TBA
- ◆ 300/200/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am & 4:00pm



**BRIDGEATSCHOOLS
FUNDRAISER**

The BridgeAtSchools auction to play with a pro on Thursday night at the Philadelphia Nationals will begin on E-Bay on FEBRUARY 19. The auction on E-Bay will run for 10 days. Please bid on a pro and help BridgeAtSchools, a non-profit 501(3)(c). Go to: www.ebay.com AND click through to the "Charity" page.

Just some of the pros you can bid on are:

Paul Soloway
Zia Mahmood
Mildred Breed
Geoff Hampson
Eric Greco
Steve Robinson
David Berkowitz
David Treadwell
Charlie Gray
Ivar Stakgold

More information from:
www.BridgeAtSchools.org.

RUN FOR THE WBL BOARD

If you'd like to run for the WBL Board, please submit a bio form and picture to the editor by March 27 to run in the next issue. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are one year terms. The six Unit President positions are two year terms, three of which will be open this year. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting and Charity Game on May 15th at the Unit Game at Christ the King Church.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

Club qualification for all levels continues through March 31, 2003.

District Finals (The first weekend is qualification for the final weekend.)

Open Flight: Feb 15-16, then April 5-6
Flight X: May 17-18, then May 31-June 1
Flight B (North): February 1-2, then April 5-6
Flight C: February 15-16, then April 5-6

**APRIL 17TH UNIT GAME
AT THE WBC**

Christ the King Church is closed for a Holy Day on April 17, 2003. The unit game will be held at the Washington Bridge Center which is located at 1620 Elton Rd. in Silver Spring, MD. Take New Hampshire Ave. north of 495 to the first light. Turn right, then take your first left into the parking lot. The club is on the second floor of the office building, 301-445-0276.

2003

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nadine Wood is our District 6 representative to the ACBL Board of Directors. Dar Afidahl is the 1st alternate. Steve Robinson is the 2nd alternate.

ADVERTISE?

Advertisements are welcome in the Bulletin. We distribute approximately nineteen hundred copies each issue. Advertising rates are:

\$60 for a full page ad

\$40 for a half page ad

\$25 for a quarter page ad

\$15 for an eighth page ad

The sixth consecutive appearance of an ad runs for free.



See page 14, or the unit we

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Washington Standard second edition the

Two experts agree with me and jump in. They're following Lublin's Law. "When they hearts we have spades." RHO usually has five hearts for his jump to 4♥ which makes it more likely that partner has some spades.

Even if bidding 4♠ is wrong, the opponents might save us by bidding 5♥.

LUBIN: "4♠—Lublin's Law - When they have hearts, you have spades. Never bid 5♠ over 5♥ save so I bid 4♠."

CUPPELLETT: "4♠—Certainly better than double. Another problem might be if opener doubles. Do you redouble or stay in pocket."

By the way, if the opponents are playing a forcing club system, bidding 4♠ is very dangerous. RHO could have an opening hand and only three hearts. He knows his partner's hand is limited to 15 HCPs by his failure to open 1♠.

Two experts double. Double has the advantage that if this is a bad day you might lose your losses to -990. Double breaks even when partner has four spades but loses when partner has three.

PARKER: "Double—They may have just got me, but I have to assume that partner has at most two hearts and therefore a fit somewhere, plus 10+ points. I can make a slow double here and not put partner under pressure, but not a slow pass. Bidding 4♠ is too unilateral."

Partner, having at most two hearts is a very good assumption. However, partner might not have many HCPs.

SHAW: "Double—Takeout for spades. I'd like to bid 4♠ but could go for a telephone number. Partner will bid 4♠ with four spades. If partner passes the double; most they will make is a doubled overtrick plus we could be cold for 4♠."

The problem with double is that partner might have only three spades. There are some hands that make 4♠ opposite honor doubleton. Wouldn't you want to be in 4♠ opposite ♠Kx♥xx♦109♠AKxxxx.

Eight experts passed and they have some good arguments. The best argument for passing is that bidding is a crap shoot. It could be a disaster if partner is short in spades. Another good argument is that partner needs very little to beat 4♥. You have two defensive tricks and if partner has two, 4♥ will be defeated. Bidding is bad if both games are going down. The biggest disaster is when partner has a stiff spade. 4♥ will easily be defeated and 4♠ will go down like

the Titanic.

WOOLSEY: "Pass—Partner didn't overcall 1♠, and he didn't make a takeout double. These factors are sufficient to indicate that we probably don't have a game. We might or might not defeat 4♥, and we may be going for a big number if I bid, so passing seems right."

Right. Partner could have a weak hand but might have enough in queens and jacks to sink 4♥.

HOPKINS: "Pass—Normally partner is not long in hearts on this auction so he could have acted directly if he had reasonable values. My values are not such as to expect to make a game or set them doubled often enough to make up for the expected and possibly large minus score."

MESSO: "Pass—1♠ over 4♥ is always tempting especially with the power of AJ10. However, partner with likely holding of two or possibly one small heart did not overcall or double 1♥. Doubling here is a distant third choice, which risks -790 or -990 as well as -300 or -1100."

If you double, partner, with a weak balanced hand, should pass and hope that you can take four tricks on defense.

SCHWARTZ: "Pass—Not enough offense for 4♠, not enough defense for double which partner rates to pass. Queen of hearts big negative for action."

If RHO has five hearts, your queen is worth nothing either on defense or offense.

ABRAHAM: "Pass—Bidding is guessing. At matchpoints, where minus 500 could be a big gain, I'd bid 4♠, but partner is unlikely to have four spades and an opening bid. Might be that neither 4♥ nor 4♠ makes. Only reason to consider bidding is that 4♠ might push them to 5♥, but that rationale never scores well in bidding challenges. I would rather double than bid at IMPs. At least then, partner can convert and we might still get a small plus."

Partner does not need an opening bid for 4♠ to make. Suppose partner has ♠Qxxx♥xx♦xxAKxxx. 4♠ makes when the spade finesse works. Give partner ♠Qxx♥xx♦xxAKxxxx and 6♠ makes when the spade finesse works.

ROMAN: "Pass—Only slightly tempted. I'll try to win the match on some other board."

BAUER: "Pass—4♥ may be our last plus score. Advantage in the bidding game goes to be who guesses least."

Advantage goes to be who guesses right.

KING: "Pass—It is close but I don't think this hand is quite good enough."

I have found that this is a bidders game. Those who are aggressive get good results.

2) MP's Both Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

SOUTH		WEST		NORTH		EAST	
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass				
????							
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers				
3♠	100	8	91				
Pass	70	3	33				
3NT	60	2	52				
3♠	20	0	12				
3♥	20	0	17				
4♠	20	0	1				

You opened this hand intending on showing partner 5-5 in the majors but something happened on the way. You can no longer bid your best suit. You have four horrible choices. You can bid three notrump but you have no source of tricks and no help for partner's suit. You can rebid your weak spade suit. You can bid 3♠, but bidding a three-card suit can lead to problems. You could pass which in effect ends the auction. This keeps the auction low but could ruin your partnership. What would your partner say if you passed 3♠ and he held ♠AKx♥xx♦KxxAKxxxxx? The problem with bidding is that you are very likely to get too high. If you can't make anything, partner will let you out in game and you will go down quietly. You might even get doubled if East has clubs and spades bottled up. If partner has enough strength that game makes, you will find yourself heading towards slam.

Two experts join me in ending the auction. You can't do this if partner can bid 3♠ with very good spade support. I have the advantage that my partner supports me

when he has support.

SCHWARTZ: "Pass—Wouldn't take this action at the table as I have to worry about partner's blood pressure, but here I can take what I feel is the percentage action. Partner shouldn't have a big spade fit as he should fear heart preemption. Thus having enough for game is unlikely with the misfit and likely entry problems, particularly with the overcall."

BAUER: "Pass—I hate it when this happens. Partner had ample tools to establish spades as trumps and did not. This is as cheap as we can get out of this misfit and the only person I really want to hear bid again is LHO."

Ten experts keep the auction open. Two experts bid three notrump. If three notrump is going to make, partner has to be strong enough to move towards slam.

WOOLSEY: "Three notrump—Bidding notrump can be a dirty job, but somebody's has to do it. On this hand that somebody is me. Partner isn't going to have a heart stopper. We are forced to game, and unless partner has three spades, in which case he will surely get us to 4♠, three notrump is our most likely game."

SHAW: "Three notrump—I'd like to pass and forget the whole thing but will maintain discipline."

Eight experts bid a three-card suit. Great! You have next to nothing and you are misdescribing your hand. How many aces are you going to show if partner bids RKQ?

LUBIN: "3♠—Looks like 3♠ to me. Only bid I can make."

CUPPELLETT: "3♠—This is definitely an "uh-oh" hand. Might as well gamble a bit, with disaster when partner has Kxxx of diamonds, to try to achieve parity. If partner bids 3♥ or 3♠ or 4♠, you are probably OK."

HOPKINS: "3♠—I can see the grinched stayed around for this hand! I am leaving partner room to show spade support (please, please, please), but the situation does not appear promising. Since this is only matchpoints, I would probably pass a 4♠ rebid by partner."

MESSO: "3♠—Since 3♠ is forcing, pass-

ing is instantly out of the question. Choices are 3♥ and 3♠. Since spades are so poor, bidding 3♥ is the selection. Hopefully, partner will support spades next."

ADAMS: "3♥—This is in the spirit of keeping the bidding low. Perhaps partner given a chance to take captaincy has an easier hand to bid."

ROMAN: "3♦—Not because I like it, but what else?"

PURKER: "3♦—This should work out fine. Partner's most likely bid will be 3♥ to try for three notrump and I will unhappily bid it. If for some reason he raises diamonds I will pass and watch him turn red. If he bids 4♠ I will also pass."

Are you going to pass four notrump.

KING: "3♥—I think this is the best waiting bid. Let's hear what partner says."

At the table, where I passed, we achieved a plus score. Partner made six clubs for +170. I have a feeling that if I had kept on bidding we would have gotten too high and gone minus.

3) MP's None Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

♠10932♥1032♦A753♣Q2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1NT(10-12)	
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Rdbl ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass ²	Pass
???			

¹Redbl=one-suit; ²Dbl would be takeout

Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
Double	100	9	94
Pass	70	3	57
2♠	50	0	31
2♥	50	1	25
2NT	20	0	1

This hand is a good lesson hand on how to play continuations after a penalty double of a weak notrump. North's double of one notrump shows at least 14 HCPs. When West bids 2♠ which is presumably natural, it's better to play a double as takeout. The trouble with double being penalty is that there is a wide range of hand types that partner might double with. You can't tell the difference between the four-card 18 HCP I got you double and the three-card

15 HCP optional double. How can North double 2♠ for penalties when you could have ♠xxx♥xxx♦xxx♣xx? It's best if the double always shows shortness. If North doubles 2♠ showing fewer than three clubs with at least 14 HCPs, South will be in a good position. He can pass the double with four clubs and some strength. Bid something at the two level with a weak hand or jump or cuebid with a strong hand. With ♠xxx♥xxx♦xx♣xxx, South bids 2♠ over North's takeout double. When North passes 2♠, South knows that North has a balanced hand with at least three clubs. With an unbalanced hand, North would have either doubled for takeout or bid a long suit. North should have fewer than 20 HCPs. With 20 or more HCPs, North can't take the chance that 2♠ will be passed out. North will double or bid two notrump. So where do you want to play the hand if North has a strong notrump with at least three clubs? Give partner ♠Axx♥A(XX)♦Qxx♣xxx. If you double, partner will bid 2♥, which has five and ½ losers. 2♠, on the other hand will be either +90 or -50. There's also the problem that this is matchpoints. Partner, thinking that you have something for your double might not want to settle for +300 when he could be +600 in three notrump. Double not only shows short clubs, it shows values.

Two experts join me and pass 2♥. I would have doubled if my queen of clubs were somewhere else.

SHAW: "Pass—This auction shows a good treatment. The one-notrump bidder rescues himself with a redouble instead of bidding a suit. His partner may have a good hand. Since he pulled presumably we have at least half the deck. Partner may have a penalty pass of 2♠ or may just have a balanced hand. Partner usually has a minimum of a good 14 but may be lighter in balancing."

position. We already have got them out of one notrump and if partner has a penalty pass we should do ok anyway. I also don't like the vulnerability. I would double at IMPs without a thought but here; I'll break discipline and pass since my hand is also pretty weak."

MISSO: "Pass—Nice shape to double for

takeout, but the ace of diamonds is the only working honor. Queen of clubs is better for defense. -90 or even -110 may be useful scores as bidding again will likely result in -200 or worse."

Nine experts double for takeout. I think you need at least eight bid or six very good HCPs to double.

WOOLSEY: "Double—Presumably if partner's double would be takeout then mine would be also, else we can never penalize them when he is long in their suit. Given that, this hand would seem quite suitable for a takeout double."

LUBIN: "Double—If double by partner is takeout then must double to protect our side and solves all problems."

HOPKINS: "Double—If partner's double of 2♠ would have been takeout, then mine should be here. Partner can convert or make a call at the two-level which I will pass. Partner has 3♠ available for forcing actions."

SHAW: "Double—Partner can't double for penalties so this is the only way to get them. If partner bids, the two-level should be a good sacrifice or a possible make."

ADAMS: "Double—Your description of my methods implies partner has a penalty pass of 2♠ and is expecting me to bid. I have a few values, so I can cooperate if partner converts to penalty as I expect he will. I only have minor nervousness over playing 2♥ vulnerable. I doubt that letting them play 2♠ undoubled will be a good score, so inaction is wrong."

ROMAN: "Double—Would I pass a penalty double of 2♠? You bet'cha."

BATE: "Double—Majority of the field will go P-P-P-1NT for +90 or +120. Catching a white 2♠ one trick undoubled won't cut it."

PURKER: "Double—This must be for takeout and I can't let them steal this hand for 2♠. If we have to play a 4-3 fit let partner play it. I have a 75% chance partner will pick one of my four-card suits so why not double rather than guess what suit to bid?"

KING: "Double—Need to protect partner. The short hand must be aggressive."

One expert bids a suit. I would expect

2♥ to show five.

CAPPELLETTI: "2♥—Make lower balance and leave room for partner's 2♥." Don't bid with bad hands.

4) MP's Both Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

♠Q1073♥KQJ10♠972♠63

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-	3♥	Dbl	4♥
????			
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
Pass	100	8	53
Double	60	4	131
4♠	40	1	22
5♠	20	0	1
4NT	20	0	1

You hold ♠Axx♥xxx♦KQxx♣Kxx and the auction goes 3♥-double-4♥. Wouldn't it be nice to make a strength-showing double? You want to defend 4♥ doubled unless partner has a distributional hand. If partner holds ♠KQxx♥♦J10x♣AQJxxx, he bids 5♠. If partner holds ♠KQxx♥♦J10xx♣AQxx he defends 4♥ doubled. Which hand comes up more often, the hand with the trump stack or the balanced good hand? The balanced good hand probably comes up five times as often as the trump stack hand. I can't remember the last time I had a trump stack in this position. Double in this position should be a responsive/cooperative double. A cooperative double!

Eight experts agree with me and pass. **CAPPELLETTI:** "Pass—Can't double (responsive), so I'll take sure pass since 4♥ will often go down. And partner might reopen with double!!!!"

SHAW: "Pass—I play double here shows cards and convertible values. With a non-expert partner I might double since we would only play penalty doubles. I can't double because expert partner might pull. Make that will pull with his probable void. Hopefully partner will double again and we will cart them out."

HOPKINS: "Pass—If partner doubles again, I will pass and hope to beat it."

SHAW: "Pass—Double should show convertible values. When partner is fairly

likely to be able to double again with his likely void. If not, since I don't expect to make anything, I'll just take my small plus score."

ADAMS: "Pass—Where is the issue? If we have anything, partner will double again and I can pass. If we do not have anything, this will be a good score. Why should I tempt fate by doubling with this? Although double is not responsive, it is not 100% penalty either."

ROMAN: "Pass—C'mon partner...one more double...just one..."

PARKER: "Pass—Since I assume that double is for takedown here, I must pass and hope partner responds with a double. With no one vulnerable I can afford to beat them 200 undoubled if for some reason partner passes out this hand, and not lose a bunch of IMPs."

Four experts double.

WOOLSEY: "Double—Partner has made his takedown double implying heart shortness and probably four spades. If I want to play in spades I bid them. If I want him to defend 4♥ undoubled, I pass. Guess what I do when I want to defend 3♥ doubled?"

So with $\clubsuit Kxx \heartsuit xxx \diamond AKx \spadesuit xxxx$, you bid 5♣.

BUTER: "Double—No point in hanging partner for bidding his shape. Take your sure plus and maybe even your best plus. If 4♠ makes we're probably beating 4♥ three tricks."

The Law assumes that partner is 4=1=4=4. There are 16 total tricks (3♠+3♥). If we can make ten tricks in spades, they should only make six tricks in hearts.

LUBIN: "Double—And take the plus score. Hand is useless for spades."

MISRO: "Double—Penalty oriented as responsive doubles do not extend to this level. If they do extend thru 4♥, I would pass."

KING: "4♠—Give partner a hand like $\clubsuit AKxx \heartsuit \diamond Axxx \spadesuit KJxxx$ and 4♠ should make. Double is responsive, not penalty and pass is not forcing."

High-level doubles should be cooperative. Shows that we have the majority of the high. Partner will usually pass but can bid with unusual distribution.

5) MP's You Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

Pass		1♥		Pass	
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST		
1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass		
3♥	100	5	27		
2♠	70	2	56		
3♠	50	2	10		
3♠	50	1	28		
4♥	40	0	3		
3♠	40	0	47		
2NT	20	0	2		

You know that partner has at least six hearts but does he have a good 2♥ bid $\clubsuit A \heartsuit A Q J 10 x x \diamond x x \spadesuit K J x$ where 4♥ is likely to make or does he have a minimum 2♥ bid $\clubsuit A \heartsuit A 10 9 6 5 4 \diamond x x \spadesuit K J x$ where bad breaks will sink 3♥. Unless partner has a singleton diamond, your three-card diamond holding becomes an anchor, dragging you down to the depths. Even with this bad diamond holding, if you knew what would be the best trump suit you might invite in that suit but you don't know how good partner's heart spots are and how many spades he has. Vulnerable at IMPs, it could be right to force this hand to game by cuebidding. Cuebidding makes sure that you get to the correct strain. At matchpoints its probably right to go plus.

Five experts invite. Some of them even mention the anchor diamond holding.

WOOLSEY: "3♥—Seems about right on value, and hearts is likely to be as good or better a trump suit than spades even if partner has a doubleton spade."

SLAW: "3♥—Can't bid three sparts. I have the values for a 3♥ bid although I may be a heart light. Partner should have a decent suit since he could have passed. With Kx I'd bid 4♥ at IMPs."

HOFKINS: "3♥—Invitational. My diamond holding isn't good and I would like another trump, so I rate this hand as an invite."

BUTER: "3♥—This hand should play better in the major suit in which partner holds an Ace and that suit rates to be hearts. The three level on my values is about right."

KING: "3♥—My diamond holding is bad, but my hand is too good to pass."

Two experts signoff in spades. If partner has a normal 2♥ hand, $\clubsuit A \heartsuit A Q J x x x \diamond x x \spadesuit K Q J$, you will still lose three spade tricks after they take three diamond tricks.

CAPPELLI: "2♠—At IMPs I would make book 3♠ bid, but at matchpoints I like plus scores. Partner will have two and rarely three spades less than half of the time. Math is not difficult - if you want it."

Partner would have doubled 2♦ with three spades so at least half the time he'll have only one.

MISRO: "2♠—Diamond holding suggests conservatism. Passing could be best opposite six-card suit. Raising 2♥ to 3♥ also reasonable. I prefer rebidding six-card spade suit hoping for eight or nine-card fit. Rebidding 2♠ in this auction should imply some values since I would pass 2♥ with weak misfit. Very tough problem."

Two experts agree with me and pass. 2♥ should go plus. Even partner takes ten tricks, you will still beat the pairs who end up in spades.

SCHWARTZ: "Pass—Since if I invite, I'll have to get both strain and level right. It's likely some of the field is in the wrong strain even when there are values for game. If I bid 3♥, I can't count on partner jumping to the right game."

ADAMS: "Pass—Do we or don't we have a game? I can invite to find out, winning when we do, losing when I get us too high or to the wrong strain. Or, I can take a deep po-

sition and pass. Would have to bid at IMPs, but at matchpoints, there is a large reward for going plus. Even if we have game values, communication problems and bad splits could make us go down."

Three experts drive the hand to game. One expert cuebids. If you're interested in getting to game in the right major cuebidding is the way to go. Over 3♥, partner should show you two spades or rebid a good heart suit. However, what do you do if partner bids three notrump?

ROMAN: "3♥—Very tough problem, but my heart king and prime values convince me to go big. I will raise three-of-either-major and pass three notrump. May be too high, but this is best chance to be in the right strain, while everything else is just guessing."

Two experts bid 3♠. Since 3♠ is available as a forcing bid I would think that 3♠ would better be used as a natural non-forcing bid. 5=6 in the blacks for instance.

PARKER: "3♠—This should allow partner to bid out his hand and show any pattern. He can bid three notrump with a diamond stopper, bid 3♠ to see if I have one, and I can then raise hearts, bid 3♠ with a doubleton or rebid hearts with a suit oriented hand and I can raise to 4♥."

LUBIN: "3♠—And correct to 4♠ to 4♥. At matchpoints, when you aren't sure what's the best strain take a plus score.

Make every card count!

SOLVERS SCORES

John Adams	Pass	3♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass	490
Nancy Bauer	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Dbl	3♥	430
Mike CapPELLI	4♠	3♦	2♥	Pass	2♠	390
Robbie Hopkins	Pass	3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♥	500
Fred King	Pass	3♦	Dbl	4♠	3♥	440
Glenn Lubin	4♠	3♦	Dbl	Dbl	3♠	380
Tom Musso	Pass	3♦	Pass	Dbl	2♠	430
Steve Parker	Dbl	3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♠	400
Steve Robinson	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	400
Jeff Roman	Pass	3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♠	450
Alan Schwartz	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	460
Mark Shaw	Dbl	3NT	Pass	Pass	3♥	320
Kat Woodsey	Pass	3NT	Dbl	Dbl	3♥	420

New!

2002 FINAL TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Updated by our Webmaster, Don Berman

The Lovenberg Race is open to all WBL members; the Izzy Cohen Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with fewer than 1500 masterpoints; the Tubbs Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year as a Non-Life Master; the Woolridge Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with fewer than 20 masterpoints; the Machlin Race includes only those points won in senior events at the five WBL Sectional Tournaments.

Lovenberg	
1	229.23 Alfred Steinberg
2	215.42 Leo LaSota
3	178.76 John Adams
4	173.73 Steve Robinson
5	135.35 Alan Kleist
6	135.03 Earl Glickstein
7	134.61 Ellen Klosson
8	122.69 Barbara Shaw
9	118.19 Mark Shaw
10	115.63 Robert Klein
11	115.17 David Ruderman
12	107.66 Fred King
13	104.04 Robert Bell
14	101.15 Donna Rogall
15	101.05 Ellen Cherniavsky
16	100.92 Weizhong Bao
17	99.79 William Cole
18	97.09 Yi Zhong
19	95.14 Peter Boyd
20	83.82 Jim Allen Jr
21	82.64 Keifu Xu
22	78.85 Eugene Kales
23	77.60 Jim Houghton
24	76.45 Clyde Kruskal
25	76.00 Hailong Ao

Izzy Cohen	
1	101.05 Ellen Cherniavsky
2	97.09 Yi Zhong
3	76.00 Hailong Ao
4	68.79 Charity Sack
5	67.64 Andrew Kaufman
6	66.62 Jackie Thompson
7	57.96 James Geist
8	48.12 Vincent Wilnot Jr
9	47.50 Janet Dence
10	46.95 Kitty Gottfried
11	46.28 William Colligan
12	45.32 Hy Chansky
13	42.57 David Hamilton
14	42.23 Robert Ellis
15	42.16 Joel Miller

Winners in each category will receive four sessions of free plays. Second place gets two and third place gets one.

This list is final for 2002. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Tubbs	
1	68.79 Charity Sack
2	42.57 David Hamilton
3	41.89 Robert Wiseman
4	37.58 Carole Banks
5	37.26 Michelle Cantave
6	34.65 Richard Ferrin
7	32.35 Joana Da Silva
8	32.30 Mark Rosen
9	29.95 Ellen Rosenthal
10	28.61 Steven Sacks

Woolridge	
1	42.57 David Hamilton
2	29.95 Ellen Rosenthal
3	28.61 Steven Sacks
4	18.39 Timothy Stewart
5	15.17 Joan Fitzpatrick
6	12.53 Gail Morgenweck
7	12.02 David Epstein
8	9.50 Joan Donoghue
9	9.50 Julie Oethlinger
10	9.48 Azmat Ali

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0-20 GAME

**THURSDAY
NIGHTS
AT THE
UNIT GAME**

**7:30PM -
10:30PM**

JOIN ANYTIME

The cost is \$5. This includes a 30 minute lesson by Dr. Steven Forsythe followed by fun, enjoyable bridge for players with 0-20 masterpoints.

Lessons will cover slam bidding, weak twos, 3 level pre-empt, overcalls, take-out doubles, negative doubles, opening leads, and signaling. Each lesson will be tailored to the needs and interests of the players.

This is a great program for beginners as well as experienced social bridge players! Partners will be provided if needed. For more information call or email Steve or Sandy Forsythe at 301-592-9177 (email: majs1f@aol.com)

~ ♦♦♦♦ ~

WBL UNIT GAME SCHEDULE

All Games held at Christ the King Church

February 27	..... WBL Sectional
March 6	..... Stratified Charity Game
March 13	..... Stratified Unit Championship
March 20	..... NVBA Sectional
March 27	..... Stratified District 6 Charity Game
April 3	..... District 6 Sectional Tournament at Clubs
April 10	..... Stratified Unit Championship
• • • April 17	..... CHURCH CLOSED - CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE CENTER
April 24	..... NVBA Sectional
May 1	..... WBL Sectional
May 8	..... Stratified Unit Championship
May 15	..... Annual Membership Meeting & Charity Game
May 22	..... Stratified Unit Championship

Newcomer, Novice, and Intermediate

7:15pm	..... Free Duplicate Mini-Lesson
7:30pm	..... Bridge

"Partner, Partner?"

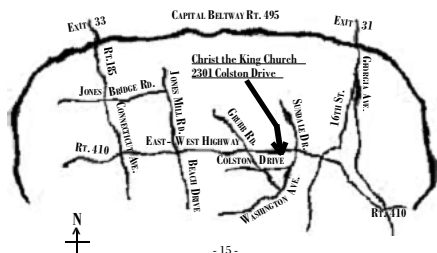
To find a partner before the game, contact: Fred King for Flights A/X (theSkings2@aol.com); 703-536-1914), Charity Sack (charity@charitysack.com; 703-963-7027) and Barbara Rothkin (bbarthkin@aol.com; 301-493-9359) for Flights B/C.

...Or log on to the WBL's new **Partnership Desk Online** at: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

Call Frances Burke at 301-384-6103 for info on **Newcomer Classes and Games**

GAME IS TO START PROMPTLY AT 7:30PM FOR INFORMATION CALL 301-649-1812

Map to Christ the King Church and Parking



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COMMITTEE ACTION XLII

Part I

by Rich Colker, rcolker@worldnet.att.net

Disputed claims seem to present problems for Directors and Committees alike, and this one from a Bracketed Knockout Teams (Bracket 7) at last year's Summer NABC here in Washington was no exception. This was the situation.

Bd: 24
Dir: West
Ynl: None

North	
♠ K	
♥ 63	
♦ KJ87432	
♣ 954	
West	
♠ 10963	♥ QJ52
♥ KJ	♦ Q109542
♦ 10	♠ AQ
♣ KJ8732	♣ 6
South	
♠ A874	
♥ A87	
♦ 965	
♣ AQ10	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The opening lead was the ♠7 and the play proceeded:

- Trick 1: ♠7, ♠4, ♠6, ♠10
2: ♦5, ♦10, ♦J, ♦Q
3: ♥5, ♥7, ♥J, ♥3
4: ♣3, ♣5, ♣2, ♣A
5: ♦6, ♦2, ♦K, ♦A
6: ♣2, ♣A, ♣K, ♣6

at which point declarer claimed. East initially agreed to the claim, but a dispute later ensued and the Director was called. South said that her ♦9 was on the table when she claimed. Dummy agreed. E/W said that after South claimed and East agreed, West asked to see declarer's hand and then requested a review of the play. E/W said South's

review did not include any reference to unblocking the ♦9. Declarer insisted that she initially either said that she would unblock the ♦9 or that she lifted the card partly out of her hand and showed it as she claimed. However, she did admit that she might not have mentioned the unblock when she repeated her claim statement. The Director ruled that the player was clear on her intent but had simply misspoken in reviewing it. Therefore, according to Law 70A the claim was valid; he assigned both pairs the score for 3NT made three, +400 for N/S.

E/W, of course, appealed the Director's ruling (or we wouldn't be discussing this case). The appeal was heard by a Director Panel, a group of Directors at NABCs who function like a regular Appeal Committee except that they consist with (usually expert) players on bridge matters critical to the case. The appellants were initially interviewed together with the table Director present, then South and later North were interviewed separately.

E/W said that East agreed to the claim at first but West then asked for a restatement when she heard nothing about unblocking the ♦9. Both E/W players thought the original and repeated statements had been something like "♠A, spade to the king, the diamonds are good." West was more certain than East that both statements had been the same. Neither East nor West could remember the play prior to the claim.

South gave the Panel a line of play (shown above) consistent with her remaining cards. She said her original statement included mentioning playing the diamond first, but it was quite possible that she didn't mention it in her restatement because she became flustered by West's challenge. North agreed that the second statement did not.

Well, there you have it. Decide how you would adjudicate this appeal (and why) and I'll share my own views on it the next time.

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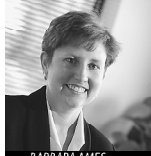
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Note locations. Each class is a one-time 3-hour session on a "drop in" basis. \$20 per person per class. **Sunday Afternoons** from 2-5 p.m. Lesson Handouts and Hand Analyses provided. Feb. 23 **How to Avoid A Dangerous Opponent!** There are play-of-the-hand techniques which allow declarer to choose which opponent gets the lead. Learn how to "defang" the dangerous opponents. Level: Int-Advc. @ WBC

March 30 **Balancing** How to compete when the opponents' auction has died out at the one- or two-level. Learn when to get aggressive and when to be passive. Level: Intern. @ WBC

April 6 **Conventions #3** Topics: Cappelletti: Do you roll over and play dead whenever one of your opponents open INT? Learn when it is safe to compete and why! b) Leslie's Rule of Margulies! Do you ever open "light" in 3rd seat? When is it dangerous? Location: Potomac Com. Center; Level: Intern.

April 20 **When Should You Lead Trump?** There are specific situations when a trump lead is called for, even demanded! Don't just do it "when in doubt." Level: Int-Advc. @ WBC

April 27 **How to Make Your Opponents Lose Control of the Hand**. Creating mayhem and confusion for your opponents will be your accomplishment after taking this class. Level: Int-Advc. @ WBC

May 11 **Game-Forcing Bids**. A responder can usually keep bidding new suits to force, but it is not that simple for an opener. Level: Int-Advc. @ WBC

May 4 **Top 10 Mistakes You Make At the Bridge Table**. Location: Potomac Com. Center. Level: Advc-Begin-Advc.

May 25 **Lead Directional Doubles**. Sometimes doubling an opponent's artificial bid (e.g., Stayman, Transfers, Blackwood responses) can tell partner what you want lead. What quality suit must you have? What length? Level: Intern. @ WBC

MARY JANE VON MOSS

roommoss@erols.com, 301-990-3897

April 3 - May 8 **Play of the Hand and Defense using Kantar's Books**. 6 weeks at 10 a.m. on Thursdays at the Potomac Com. Center.

NLMasterPointers continued from page 29...

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS

As of January 8, 2003

Junior Masters (5 Masterpoints)

Neal Rosenthal Ron Starr

Ruth Woods

Club Masters (20 Masterpoints)

Kevin Acker Cecelia Calhoun

Thomas Din Marlene Ehrlich

James Price David Raley

Charles Tartanian

Mary Tartanian Jeanne Taylor

Sectional Masters (50 Masterpoints)

Steven Sacks

Regional Masters (100 Masterpoints)

Sherrie Schrama

NABC Masters (200 Masterpoints)

Piotr Gajewski

David Hamilton

NEW LIFE MASTERS 2002 NEW LIFE MASTERS 2002 NEW LIFE MASTERS 2002 NEW LIFE MASTERS



MARY BAUER, who is an Aerospace Software Manager with IntelSat, earned her degree in Math/Computer Science from McGill University in Montreal. She lives with her son, Russell (19) and her daughter, Eileen (16). Mary started playing bridge at age 9 with her grandmother (a tournament player), her parents and her siblings at their weekly Sunday night home games. Her biggest bridge thrill occurred at her first duplicate game when she entered a novice game at Alexandria Regional and won. At this year's D.C. summer nationals, Mary enjoyed the experience of playing behind screens when her team advanced far enough in the 0-1300 Mini-Swingalot to do so. Mary also enjoys sewing quilts and being part of Mensa.

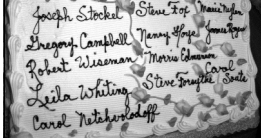


SMIN FOSTER is a Military Officer/Operations Research Analyst for the United States Air Force. He earned a B.S. in Physics from Kent State and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Operations Researching from the Air Force Institute of Technology. After having just moved to

Albuquerque, NM twelve years ago, Steven took up bridge in order to meet new people. He and his wife Sandy run the Salt Yourself Forest Glen Bridge Club for 9-2PMs. They are also running the new 0-20 game and lesson at the unit game on Thursday nights. They have two children, Aaron (6) and Mila (9). Steven's favorite bridge books are "Points, Schematics" and "The Law of Total Tricks." His biggest thrill came last year when his team placed second in the GNTS. His current bridge goal is to finish his book on bridge strategy.



SMITH FOX is a physician/epidemiologist currently employed by the U.S. Public Health Service as an Adjunct Associate Professor at GWU and U. of Md. Steven became a life master without ever having played in a knockout team event. He started to play bridge on the back of a bus in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota during a summer high school geology course on wheels. The bus's P.A. system broke; so, no longer able to give them lectures, one of the teachers came to the back of the bus and devoted the hours spent driving from one geological formation to the next to teaching them bridge! Steven has played duplicate in Taipei, Beijing, Singapore, and Geneva, but his favorite bridge memories are from when he, a medical student in Chicago, and a friend, a law



The 2002 Washington Bridge League New Life Masters who are listed on the cakes from the party at the January sectional are: Mildred V. Anderson, Mary F. Foster, Gregory Campbell, Morris F. Edmondson, Mandy Eisenfeld, Richard Ferrin, Steven L. Forsythe, Carol Fouts, Steven H. Fox, student in Austin, Texas, got a grand welcome to the Bible Belt. They would each drive through Friday night to meet half way in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, play all three sessions on Saturday, crash Saturday night, play Swiss teams all day Sunday, then drive all day Sunday night to get back for class Monday morning. He recalls the mellifluous but chilling words of his right-hand opponent, a very properly dressed elderly lady with a poole on her lap once nursing him with, "You had, Yankee."

The host unit provided not only free hot meals between sessions, but also a free open bar throughout—including Bloody Mary's on Sunday morning.



LEWIS GOD is a retired Economist from the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Dept. of Justice. He testified in an antitrust case of the U.S. vs. the Los Angeles Times Mirror. During a cabinet meeting, the Attorney General notified the President of the United States of Lewis' contribution in winning the case. He has been awarded the Bronze Star and 3 Battle Stars. Although he had played party bridge for some time, Lewis truly fell in love with the game after taking lessons from Peggy Reich. His biggest thrill came in a tournament when his partner got mixed up and put him in GNT missing two aces. Lewis actually made the hand and they won the event by a tenth of a point. His favorite bridge books are "Winning Contract Bridge," by Edgar Kaplan and "Play of the Hand," by Louis Watson. Steve thinks it would be fun if he occasionally ran a game where you draw for your partner. His other interests include golf (he has won several tournaments), tennis, bowling, and his family which includes his wife, Mary Jane, son William, and daughter Barbara Hendy.

CAROL NEUMANN is a Real Estate Broker with Arnold Bradley Sargent Day & Chey. Her husband, Alex, is Senior Vice President of Cox Enterprises. They have two children, Nicholas and Caroline and



Lewis Gold, Ted Galtier, Rose M. House, Nancy K. Meyer, Carol Neumann, Marie U. Nyles, Richard E. Redfield, James L. Rodgers, Charity A. Sack, Joseph F. Seidel, Freddie W. Taylor Jr., Cecilia A. Valdesola, Linda Whiting, Dennis Wick, and Robert B. Wiseman. Meet some of them below...



six grandchildren. Carol earned her B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis which is where she first learned to play bridge. She and her regular partner, Linda Logan met on the internet on OKBridge five years ago. Carol and Linda (who is from Canada) meet all over the U.S. and Canada to play in tournaments. She says that 95% of her matchups have been won playing with Linda in pair events. Carol would like to thank both Linda and Peggy Reich (who has mentored both of them) for her success in becoming a Life Master.

MURIEL NYLEN is retired from NIH where she was employed for 33 years in various capacities as a Dietitian, Scientist, and Science Administrator, finishing up as Scientific and Extramural Director of the National Institute of Dental Research. She earned her D.D.S. from the Royal College of Dentistry at the University of Copenhagen. Marie also has two honorary degrees and several scientific and civil service awards. In addition to bridge, she enjoys golf, gardening and her family which include three children, Ingrid, Erik and Thomas and four grandchildren. Marie's biggest bridge thrill to date is winning a District 6 wide Charity Game with Jane Friend with a 74.1% game. At the D.C. Nationals this year, they also had a first overall finish out of 32 pairs. Marie would like to keep improving, and loves to win, too.



RICARDO E. ROMERO is a retired Analyst from the Department of Defense. He earned his B.A. from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Richard's wife is named Sonia. He is a supporter of bone marrow transplant and was himself a donor in 1995. His other interests include horse racing, handbell ringing, and acting and

directing in the theatre. Richard says he has always played card games and started playing bridge in 1968. His biggest moment in bridge came when his team finished 3rd/4th in the Flight C of the GNTs at the All-American Nationals in 1997. Richard likes playing Standard American and can be seen playing at the Laurel Bridge Club.



CHARITY SWICK is Director of the Outreach and Communications Center for Adult Learning for the American Council on Education. She earned her B.S. from W. Va. University and her M.B.A. from N.Y. University. Charity is Co-Founder and Past President of the American

Chamber of Commerce in Tallinn, Estonia. Charity comes from a bridge family. Her mother, Edith McMullin, is one of her favorite bridge authors, along with Lawrence, Kantor, and Robinson for his, "Washington Standard." As young as 8, Charity would be called on to serve as "the fourth," but she left the game altogether for over 20 years until her stepbrother convinced her to go to an EasyBridge® class in the spring of 2000. Since then, she has become an avid player, which has translated to success at the table. This is the 3rd year in a row that she has won the Mini-McKenney in her category. Her special wish for bridge is to see the success of BridgeASchools to attract a new mass of young players to the game. Her personal bridge wish is to earn at least one national title by the time the Nationals come back to D.C.

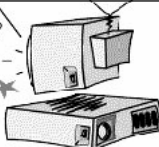
DENNIS W. WICK is a retired Physical Education Instructor for P.G. County Schools in Maryland. He earned a B.S. in Education from Central Michigan University and a Masters in Guidance & Counseling from Bowie State University. He has three children, Mark, Michael and Madeline Ginnara. Dennis has always loved cards. He plays over 17 different games. In 1967, while in the military, he taught himself bridge by dealing out hands and reading about bidding from a small 3 x 4 inch Dell book, but didn't start playing regularly until 1969 and in tournaments until 2000. His preferred system is Standard American. "High percentage modern bridge" and he enjoys reading the bridge articles in the Washington Post. Dennis had a great time playing with his partner, Gary Wolf, in Hunt Valley, Md. this year. Gary started the tournament with 02 gold points and ended it with over 34 gold which helped him to also make Life Master this year. Dennis says that he enjoys helping others because he has had so much help from others in the past two years. He enjoys meeting and playing against top players during his tournament travels and says he has as special wish for bridge other than to, "Just have fun!"

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39TH ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT

January 2-5, 2003

Results

TOP TEN CUMULATIVE POINT WINNERS

All Players	
1 Helene Bauman	29.10
2 Alan Kleist	26.50
3 Leo LaSota	26.20
4 Steve Robinson	25.14
5 Jim Wakefield	17.71
6 John Adams	15.19
7 Alfred Steinberg	15.18
8 Fred King	13.22
9/10 Prabalad Rajkumar	12.55
9/10 Margot Hennings	12.55
0-1500 Players	
1 Prabalad Rajkumar	12.55
2 Kitty Gottfried	12.20
3 Robert Hartmann	11.68
4/5 Mark Chen	10.21
4/5 Hal Hindman	10.21
6 Ronald Spieker	9.41
7 John Lowe III	9.00
8 Eileen Houghton	8.07
9/10 Edwin Fuller Jr.	7.87
9/10 Janet Dence	7.87
0-500 Players	
1 John Lowe III	9.00
2/3 Jon Ransand	6.94
2/3 Donald Goldman	6.94
4 John Laurin	6.85
5 Thomas Din	6.12
6 Cecilia Valdivieso	5.68
7 Gloria Halstead	5.61
8 Michelle Cantave	5.50
9 Arthur Mackwell	5.21
10 HuiLin Chen	5.19

THURSDAY MORNING

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A

31 Pairs	
1 Daniel Shankle Jr - Julie Glaz	66.99
2 Andrew Gofredo - Alfred Steinberg	62.74
3 Arthur Mackwell - Dolores Rioux	61.29
4 Jim Houghton - Raphael Kahn	59.35
5 Rossi Lindstrom - Barbara Rothkin	57.71
6 Sylvia Levy - Eileen Theimer	57.38

Stratum B

19 Pairs	
1 Arthur Mackwell - Dolores Rioux	61.29
2 James Prentiss - Alan Haga	56.62
3 John Laurin - Emil Rassofsky	54.71
4 Audrey Stern - Michelle Heiser	53.15
5 William Hudson - Franklyn Taylor Jr.	51.61
6 Morris Tepper - Wallace Oliver	51.05

Stratum C

7 Pairs

1 John Laurin - Emil Rassofsky	54.71
2 Charles King - Cynthia Helms	46.82
3 Mary Ann Moskowitz - Detrich Ford	46.40

THURSDAY EVENING

FLIGHT A/X PAIRS Stratum A

70 Pairs



1 Margot Hennings - Prabalad Rajkumar	65.54
2 Robert Hartmann - Ronald Spieker	62.82
3 Fred King - Richard Wegman	61.45
4 Leo LaSota - Alan Kleist	60.30
5 Andrew Gofredo - Alan Felsenbaum	59.75
6 Jim Houghton - John Adams	59.12
7 Terry Freetham - Donald Berman	59.11
8 Richard Ferrin - Eugene Kales	58.71

Stratum X

44 Pairs

1 Robert Hartmann - Ronald Spieker	62.82
2 Terry Freetham - Donald Berman	59.11
3 Madan Nanda - Gabriele Nanda	58.17
4 Weizhong Bao - Kefu Xu	57.75
5 Michael Polonin - Sultanm Ghanmy	56.89
6 Bob Kerchner - Kenneth Katzner	56.45

FLIGHT B/C PAIRS Stratum B

58 Pairs



1 Jon Ransand - Donald Goldman	64.88
2 Kitty Gottfried - Eileen Houghton	63.99
3 Thavendran Anubandhy - Cecilia Valdivieso	62.50
4 Alice Weyman - John Glynn	62.20
5 Mary Muell - Barry Sparks	59.64
6 Bryan Macpherson - Chrison Johnson	58.99

Stratum C

38 Pairs

1 Jon Ransand - Donald Goldman	64.88
2 Thavendran Anubandhy - Cecilia Valdivieso	62.50
3 Bryan Macpherson - Chrison Johnson	58.99
4 David Hamilton - Michelle Cantave	58.33
5 Joana Da Silva - David Harris	56.85
6 Robert Wissman - John Christensen	55.65

200/100/50 PAIRS Stratum A
16 Pairs



- 1 Gail Morgenweck - Joan Fitzpatrick 62.88
- 2 Julie Oehlinger - Joan Donoghue 59.23
- 3 Arnold Kriz - Nathanial Preston 56.38
- 4 Albert Leon - Millie Leizenstein 56.97
- 5 James Scott - Ruth Freedman 52.50

Stratum B
10 Pairs

- 1 Gail Morgenweck - Joan Fitzpatrick 62.88
- 2 Julie Oehlinger - Joan Donoghue 59.23
- 3 Eric Nash - Wima Middleton 49.02
- 4 Michael Gill - Jeremy Tilts 48.98

Stratum C
7 Pairs

- 1 Gail Morgenweck - Joan Fitzpatrick 62.88
- 2 Julie Oehlinger - Joan Donoghue 59.23
- 3 Michael Gill - Jeremy Tilts 48.98

FRIDAY MORNING

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A
48 Pairs



- 1 Ellen Klosson - Alfred Steinberg 68.27
- 2 Leo LaSota - Alan Kleist 66.26
- 3 Fred King - Robert Gookin 64.99
- 4 Janet Dence - Edwin Fuller Jr 64.26
- 5 Arthur Mackwell - Zoe Martindale 64.12
- 6 Mark Rosen - Eugene Fisher 62.50

Stratum B
30 Pairs

- 1 Janet Dence - Edwin Fuller Jr 64.26
- 2 Arthur Mackwell - Zoe Martindale 64.12
- 3 Mark Rosen - Eugene Fisher 62.50
- 4 Constance Byrum - K Soderberg 60.04
- 5 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 58.63
- 6 Robert Hartmann - Alan Bessel 56.34

Stratum C
17 Pairs

- 1 Arthur Mackwell - Zoe Martindale 64.12
- 2 Mark Rosen - Eugene Fisher 62.50
- 3 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 58.63
- 4 Marshall Kramer - Nelu Schwartz 55.24
- 5 Mary Ann Moskowitz - Dietrich Ford 56.26

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A
48 Pairs



- 1 Leon Letwin - Terry Freedman 66.44
- 2 Glenn Lublin - Jim Allen Jr 65.74
- 3 Steve Robinson - Alfred Steinberg 63.43
- 4 Warren Kaufman - Shou-Ling Wang 61.81
- 5 John Adams - Jim Houghton 61.57
- 6 Janet Dence - Edwin Fuller Jr 61.40

Stratum B
27 Pairs

- 1 Janet Dence - Edwin Fuller Jr 61.40
- 2 Ronald Kral - Ralph Sturgis 55.90
- 3 Ted Guthrie - Suzanne Abrams 54.63
- 4 Robert Hartmann - Alan Bessel 52.78
- 5 Kevin Avery - Steven Fink 51.62
- 6 Edward Rodriguez - Doyle Musumma 51.23

Stratum C
12 Pairs

- 1 Ted Guthrie - Suzanne Abrams 54.63
- 2 Michelle Cantave - Todd Zimnoch 54.12
- 3 William Gill - Michael Gill 49.25
- 4 Jean Morgan - John Laurim 48.41

300/200/100 PAIRS Stratum A
12 Pairs



- 1 Richard Bryan - Sherrie Schrama 67.50
- 2 Samuel Bowlin - Wanda Avila 62.08
- 3 Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence 56.67
- 4 Juan Paolo - John Lowe III 54.58

Stratum B
11 Pairs

- 1 Sherrie Schrama - Richard Bryan 67.50
- 2 Samuel Bowlin - Wanda Avila 62.08
- 3 Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence 56.67
- 4 Walter Mitnick - David Bort 52.92

FRIDAY EVENING

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A
34 Pairs



- 1 Robert Gookin - Donna Rogall 63.26
- 2 Kitty Gottfried - Hy Chanaky 61.55
- 3 Arnie Frankel - Helene Bauman 58.52
- 4 William Gill - Michael Gill 57.77
- 5 Fred King - Steve Robinson 57.01
- 5/6 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 57.01

Stratum B
21 Pairs

- 1 Kitty Gottfried - Hy Chanaky 61.55
- 2 William Gill - Michael Gill 57.77
- 3 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 57.01
- 4 Glenn Young - Michael Polunin 56.82
- 4 Khon Lien - Michelle Cantave 53.68
- 6 Dorothy Weinstein - Marvin Weinstein 54.55

Stratum C
9 Pairs

- 1 William Gill - Michael Gill 57.77
- 2 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 57.01
- 3 Khon Lien - Michelle Cantave 53.68
- 4 Bob Armstrong - Don Henry 50.38

300/200/100 PAIRS Stratum A
12 Pairs



- 1 Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din 56.36
- 2 David Raley - Jon Chasson 55.00
- 3/4 Robert Munger - David Bort 52.73
- 3/4 Wanda Avila - Samuel Bowlin 52.73

Stratum B
9 Pairs

- 1 Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din 56.36
- 2 David Raley - Jon Chasson 55.00
- 3/4 Robert Munger - David Bort 52.73
- 3/4 Wanda Avila - Samuel Bowlin 52.73

Stratum C
6 Pairs

- 1 Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din 56.36
- 2 David Raley - Jon Chasson 55.00

SATURDAY MORNING

SENIOR PAIRS Stratum A
24 Pairs



- 1 Donald Van Arman - Bruce Houston 63.89
- 2 Jerome Resnick - Eugene Davidson 63.43
- 3 Jim O'Neil - Mary O'Neil 60.42
- 4 Mark Rosen - Ben Laden 58.33
- 5 Leila Whiting - Audrey Stern 57.64
- 6 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wassenstrom 56.48

Stratum B
12 Pairs

- 1 Leila Whiting - Audrey Stern 57.64
- 2 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wassenstrom 56.48
- 3 Charles Pan - James Rodgers 53.01
- 4 John Lowe III - John Laurim 52.31

Stratum C
5 Pairs

- 1 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wassenstrom 56.48
- 2 John Lowe III - John Laurim 52.31

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

A/X PAIRS Stratum A
40 Pairs



- 1/2 Helene Bauman - Jim Wakefield 61.03



- 1/2 Mark Chen - Hal Hindman 61.03
- 3 David Gottfried - Earl Glickstein 58.10
- 4 Kenneth Davis - John Ashe 57.59
- 5 John Adams - Steve Robinson 56.88
- 6 Randy Zellert - Jim Hahn 56.38
- 7 Andrew Lipps - Eric Braufman 56.17

Stratum Y
20 Pairs

- 1 Hal Hindman - Mark Chen 61.03
- 2 Randy Zellert - Jim Hahn 56.38
- 3 Andrew Lipps - Eric Braufman 56.17
- 4 Kenton Schoen - Charles Yaple 53.74
- 5 Gerald Goodale - Vickie Goodale 53.64
- 6 Suelien Poland - Joseph Trapani 51.92

B/C PAIRS Stratum B
36 Pairs



- 1 John Lowe III (pictured) - John Laurim 59.20
- 2 Alice Wegman - Seema Bhagwat 58.07
- 3 Betty Siefing - Cecilia Valdivieso 57.70
- 4 Alice Johnson - Allen Lord 57.70
- 5 Reese House - Suzanne Abrams 56.66
- 6 Jon Farber - Steven Fox 56.25

Stratum C
20 Pairs

- 1 John Laurim - John Lowe III 59.20
- 2 Betty Siefing - Cecilia Valdivieso 57.78
- 3 Reese House - Suzanne Abrams 56.66
- 4 Jon Farber - Steven Fox 56.25
- 5 Robert Wissman - John Christensen 55.04
- 6 Jay Kelkar - Mahadeo Patwardhan 54.72

SENIOR PAIRS Stratum A

22 Pairs



- 1 Dorothy Weinstein - Marvin Weinstein 61.57
- 2 Jerome Resnick - Eugene Davidson 59.95
- 3 Gregory Mullins - David Wakefield 58.33
- 4 Carolyn Gibson - Jean Levin 56.71
- 5 Bernard Oetjen - J. David Greier 55.09
- 6 Jim O'Neill - Mary O'Neil 54.63

Stratum B

13 Pairs

- 1 Dorothy Weinstein - Marvin Weinstein 61.57
- 2 Gregory Mullins - David Wakefield 58.33
- 3 Charles Pan - James Rodgers 51.62
- 4 Cynthia Helms - Barbara Porterfield 50.23
- 5 Joan Benssch - William Benssch 49.31

Stratum C

5 Pairs

- 1 Cynthia Helms - Barbara Porterfield 50.23
- 2 Marshall Kramer - Nelu Schwartz 49.07

300/100/50 PAIRS Stratum A

22 Pairs



- 1 Robert Schwab - Anne Derbes 67.26
- 2 Robert Munger - David Bort 56.67
- 3 Raymond Hays - Ruth Freedman 54.46
- 4 Jeff Youngen - Mary O'Shea 54.17
- 5 Millie Reizenstein - Albert Leon 53.65
- 6 Helen Solomon - Rae Newman 53.15

Stratum B

13 Pairs

- 1 Robert Schwab - Anne Derbes 67.26
- 2 Robert Munger - David Bort 56.67
- 3 Jeff Youngen - Mary O'Shea 54.17
- 4 Dale Collinson - Steve Rosenthal 52.85
- 5 Marie Seifring - Richard Bryan 51.49

Stratum C

9 Pairs

- 1 Jeff Youngen - Mary O'Shea 54.17
- 2 Dale Collinson - Steve Rosenthal 52.85
- 3 Michael Gill - Jeremy Tibbets 50.30
- 4 Tim Kuhn - Edward Dyer 48.39

SATURDAY EVENING

A/X PAIRS Stratum A

30 Pairs



- 1 Helene Bauman - Jim Wakefield 64.74
- 2 John Adams - Steve Robinson 62.34
- 3 Brad Theurer - R Eissenstat 61.86
- 4 Danijel Zenko - Glenn Young 61.70
- 5 Charleen Brand - John Lawrence 59.94
- 6 Donald Berman - Leon Letwin 58.65

Stratum X

16 Pairs

- 1 Brad Theurer - R Eissenstat 61.86
- 2 Danijel Zenko - Glenn Young 61.70
- 3 Charleen Brand - John Lawrence 59.94
- 4 Donald Berman - Leon Letwin 58.65
- 5 Ellen Cherniasky - Donna Rogall 54.97

B/C PAIRS Stratum B

18 Pairs



- 1 Sandra Forsythe - Steven Forsythe 60.91
- 2 Robert Padgett - Linda Padgett 59.46
- 3 Mary Baxter - Brian Childers 56.28
- 4 Jay Kelkar - Mahadeo Patwardhan 55.30
- 5 Jan Garber - Allen Lord 55.06

Stratum C

12 Pairs

- 1 Sandra Forsythe - Steven Forsythe 60.91
- 2 Mary Baxter - Brian Childers 56.28
- 3 Jay Kelkar - Mahadeo Patwardhan 55.30
- 4 Robert Wissman - John Christensen 53.04

300/200/50 PAIRS Stratum A

22 Pairs

- 1 Michael Goldman - William Mendez Jr 59.52
- 2 Walter Lafferty - Mary Lafferty 58.93
- 3/4 Reni Malloy - Juanita Besson 57.44
- 3/4 Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead 57.44
- 5 Leonid Fostelsky - Juan Pardo 54.46
- 6 Jean Donnell - Jack Lawrence 54.17

Stratum B

19 Pairs

- 1/2 Reni Malloy - Juanita Besson 57.44
- 1/2 Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead 57.44
- 3 Jean Donnell - Jack Lawrence 54.17
- 4 Lorraine Davis - Freda Joyce 51.79
- 5 Miriam Freed - Ruth Freedman 51.49
- 6 David Mead - Kathleen O'Toole 50.89

Stratum C

13 Pairs

- 1 Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead 57.44
- 2 Jean Donnell - Jack Lawrence 54.17
- 3 Lorraine Davis - Freda Joyce 51.79
- 4 David Mead - Kathleen O'Toole 50.89
- 5 Julie Oettinger - Joan Donoghue 49.70

SUNDAY

A/X SWISS TEAMS Stratum A

31 Teams



- 1 Mark Shaw - Barbara Shaw - Leo LaSota - Steve Robinson - Alan Kleist 107.00
- 2 Jennifer Koonce - Zeko Letellier - Diane Lazarus - Ed Lazarus 104.00
- 3 Louis Stuckey - Tom Cogam - Joseph Tapani - Helene Bauman 91.00
- 4 Kenneth Davis - Stan Schwaiker - Charles Yarle - Kenton Schoon 81.00
- 5 Andrew Gofreed - Alan Enenbaum - Edward Gofreed - Stephen Swearingen 80.00
- 6 Arnie Frankel - Robert Klein - Ellen Klosson - David Ruderman 79.00
- 7/8 Weizhong Bao - Hailong Ao - Hualin Chen - Jian-Jian Wang - Kefu Xu 75.00
- 7/8 Michael Ritchey - Lloyd Rawley - John Lawrence - Charity Sack 75.00

Stratum X

8 Teams

- 1/2 Weizhong Bao - Hailong Ao - Hualin Chen - Jian-Jian Wang - Kefu Xu 75.00
- 1/2 Michael Ritchey - Lloyd Rawley - John Lawrence - Charity Sack 75.00
- 3 Robert Graves - Donna Graves - Mita Banerjee - James Geist 68.00

B/C SWISS TEAMS Stratum B

21 Teams



- 1 Walter Kerns - Daniel Feldman - Kitty Gottfried - Eileen Houghton 107.00
- 2 Steven Rothman - Bruce Bucklinger - John Lowe III - D Tonnensen 103.00
- 3 Melville Yulkin - Frank Cardillo - Leo Cardillo - Cristian Johnson - Paul Krueger 92.00
- 4 David Hamilton - Michelle Cantave - Joana Da Silva - Robert Gummel Jr 90.00
- 5 Janet Deane - Edwin Fuller Jr - Alice Wegman - John Glynn 84.00
- 6 Alfred Graham - David Grabiner - Joseph Ogulin - Penny Stoever 77.00

Stratum C

9 Teams

- 1 Melville Yulkin - Frank Cardillo - Leo Cardillo - Cristian Johnson - Paul Krueger 92.00
- 2 David Hamilton - Michelle Cantave - Joana Da Silva - Robert Gummel Jr 90.00
- 3 Jon Ranshand - Donald Goldman - Steven Sacks - Marc Werner 75.00
- 4/5 Richard Cassell - Gordon Hatheway Jr - Alan Dockerman - John McCann 74.00
- 4/5 Ted Guthrie - Andres Doernberg - Suzanne Abrams - Reese Hoose 74.00

SUNDAY MORNING

300/200/100 SWISS TEAMS Stratum A

7 Teams



- 1/2 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus - Rose Hadilun - Sarah Pinocci 46.00



- 1/2 Jon Chasson - David Raley - Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din 46.00
- 3 Jean Agenbroad - Freda Joyce - Lorraine Davis - Shirley Forester 44.00

Stratum B

5 Teams

- 1 David Raley - Jon Chasson - Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead 46.00
- 2 Jean Agenbroad - Freda Joyce - Lorraine Davis - Shirley Forester 44.00

Stratum C

3 Teams

- 1 David Raley - Jon Chasson - Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead 46.00

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

2909R SWISS TEAMS

4 Teams



- 1 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus - Rose Hadilun - Sarah Pinocci 36.00



NLM MASTER POINTERS

written and compiled by I/N Editor, Leslie Shafer

BALANCING ACT

Visiting a Richmond Regional one year, I was looking in on the I/N playing area, checking on students and visiting a friend that was directing. I spotted two of my regular students looking over their scores with glum faces. "What's the problem, ladies?"

"I think we need a fairy godmother," sighed one. "We just can't seem to get 50% or better on our session scores. You wouldn't have a magic wand or something you could wave over our heads, would you?"

We had a few minutes before the next session started so I sat down with them and asked to see their private score sheet. I noticed quite a few -90's and -110's. Many of them were from the opponents playing either two of a minor or two of a major! "I think I might have some fairy dust here for you. Repeat after me: 'I will not let my opponents play in a fit at the two level.'"

Why is this good advice? Well ...

1. Don't you think the opponents are happy and comfortable playing at such a low level? If we have happy opponents, we are NOT doing our job properly.
2. If the opponents have a fit, then we probably do also.
3. If we do come in and bid, it might push the opponents up another level. Maybe they can't make three! We'll get a plus score for them going down.
4. Even if we go to the three-level and go down one, it is better than letting them make two of anything. In this situation, "down one is good bridge." (Ever hear that phrase before? I'd rather hear "making three, partner!" But maybe that's just me.)

5. We could make our contract for a plus score.

Let's do some math. (Just what you were afraid of - higher math!) If the opponents have died out at the two level, how many points do you think they have? Opener should have around 13, responder should have about 7, which means they have ONLY half the points in the deck! And who has the other half of the deck? Why our side does!

When the points are evenly distributed between both sides, then it is just about anybody's ball game at the two-level. Here's a hand that came up in the last Mentor game at the Washington Bridge Center. (If you would like to join as a student or as a mentor, call Lorraine Morgan at 410-730-4187. Students will be assigned to a life master for a free play date once a month at their convenience. Call for details. This is a very popular program!)

Dealer: North
E/W Vulnerable

North		East	
♠ A 10 8 6		♠ J 4	
♥ 10 7		♥ K Q 9 2	
♦ 4 3		♦ A K Q 10 2	
♣ K Q J 9 3		♣ 5 4	
West		South	
♠ Q 3 2		♠ K 9 7 5	
♥ A 6 5		♥ J 8 4 3	
♦ J 8 7 6 5		♦ 9	
♠ 8 7		♠ A 10 6 2	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
	Pass	1 NT	Pass
		Pass	Pass

Our South (a student) didn't feel confident coming in over 2 ♦ with no five-card suit to overall. He didn't want to double because he had "only" eight points. So he passed. The opponents were very happy to be playing in a low-level contract.

Since South's final pass ended the auction, we say that he was in the "balancing seat." When you are considering balancing, the bridge gods allow you to "borrow" a King from your partner's hand. If our South had done that, he would've had the equivalent of an 11-point hand with a singleton diamond. His bid should have been "double" (for takeout). It would say, "I'm short in diamonds and can tolerate any of the other suits, partner. Please bid the one you like the best." South's double will never be taken for an opening hand since he passed the first time around.

The auction should have gone something like this:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl!
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass

Pass/5♦? True, East or West might go to 3♦ (and make it), but that's better than letting them play a 2♦ contract! However, North/South can actually make 3♠ or 3♥!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE PARTNER OF THE BALANCER

You will need to remember that when your partner balances, that he has "borrowed a King" from your hand. Therefore, before you get all excited about your points, remember to demote your hand's value by a King (3 points).

A GOOD MANTRA TO LEARN

"Nobody plays in a fit at the two level at MY table except ME!" Note: See vulnerability issue below.

VULNERABILITY

Some players, if vulnerable, tend not to balance over an opponents 2♠ contract. If vulnerable and doubled you could go for -200. Might as well let them have their 90 or 110. You really need some good distribution or a reasonable belief you can make your contract to be bidding at the three-level

vulnerable when you and partner are both passed hands!

If our side is not vulnerable, my opponents will never be allowed to play at the two level if they have found a fit.

HOW HAVE THEY FOUND A FIT?

When a suit has been bid and raised, then a fit has been exposed. If they have found a fit, then balancing is not a big priority anymore. Consider these auctions:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
??			

West will probably not balance, as they opponents do not have a fit. We tend not to balance if they have no fit anywhere.

If they have a fit, then so do we.

If they do NOT have a fit, then maybe we don't either.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
??			

West will bend over backwards to keep this auction open. His opponents have found a fit and are trying to buy it at the two-level. NOT AT MY TABLE! West should either use a takeout double or overall a four-card (or longer) unbid suit.

So quit rolling over and playing dead at the bridge table. Start trying some of these balancing acts, and your game will be much improved.

(Leslie Shafer is the editor of "BridgeStudents R Us," a national bridge newsletter specifically for Intermediate and Novice players, it is receiving rare reviews! Started in January 2001, hundreds of subscribers in its first year attest to its easy-to-read format and Leslie's famous humor! Call (301-593-6828) or write for a free copy of Issue #1. You may subscribe by sending your name, address, phone number and payment of \$25 for a one-year subscription (six issues a year) to Leslie Shafer, 690 Conover Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Her website is www.bridgeteacher.com and her email address is slamband@verols.com]

...Stepping Up to New Heights on page 19

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WBL SOLVERS CLUB'S NEW PROBLEMS

May/June 2003

1) DMPs, You Vul, You, South hold:

▲K1086♥K2♦J10943♠54			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	2♥	Dbl	5♥
????			

2) MP's, Both Vul, You, South hold:

▲J963♥763♦K1043♠A10			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	4♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♦	Pass
????			

3) DMPs, Both Vul, You, South hold:

▲AKQ987♥765♦3♠Q65			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♦(FG)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
????			

4) DMPs, None Vul, You, South hold:

▲AK8765♥3♦1083♠J72			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	3♥	4♠	4♥
????			

'dbl would show 3spades

5) DMPs, Both Vul, You, South hold:

▲Q2♥Q7654♦J943♠A10			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♥	2♠
?????			

22nt=Limit raise;3rd=forcing raise

Return answers by March 24 to:
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