Washington Bridge League

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

March/April 2010

B ♣ U ♥ L ♠ L ♦ E ♥ T ♣ I ♠ N

Come on out to the
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE'S

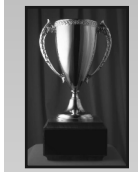
65th Annual Potomac Valley Tournament

MAY 13-16, 2010

The WBL May Sectional is **packed with special events** and **games** along with **great hospitality**.

I/N players, check it out! There's a full schedule of **Intermediate & Novice events.** (PLEASE NOTE that the **One-Day Bridge Class** has been moved to the previous Saturday, May 8... *see p.2*)

Alert! New locations for the weekend. Friday games will be at Ohr Kodesh at 10am and 2pm. In the afternoon, the **IMP Pairs** are back... It's a pair game that scores like a team game!



Saturday and Sunday events are held the Newport Mill Middle School. Between sessions on Saturday attend the free **Panel Show**. At 11:00am and 3:30pm, check out the **7th Annual Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs.** Sunday, between sessions, this traveling trophy will be presented to the winners.

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...

Check out the Annual Meeting, Elections and Club Championship on Thursday, May 6

Come nosh, play bridge, vote for your new board, and have your opinion heard at the Unit Game at Ohr Kodesh on Thursday, May 6...

Complimentary Dinner . . . . . .6:00 p.m.
Meeting and Elections . . . . . .7:00 p.m.
StrataFlighted Club Championship . . . . . .7:30 p.m.

Two questions will be included on the ballot this year. The first is a Proposed Constitutional Amendment regarding check writing. See p. 5 of the Jan/Feb issue. The second is a survey to help determine whether we should switch to primarily online distribution of the *WBL Bulletin.*

Suggestion Box

Do you have a suggestion that might help to increase membership or otherwise improve the Washington Bridge League? Give any and all ideas to Don Berman, 301-776-3581, don.berman@verizon.net, 13707 Engleman Dr., Laurel, MD 20708, or www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

WBL Ombudsman

Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Ann Lindley and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential. Information should be provided in writing and may be handed to her at any game, or mailed to her at 8822 Fircrest Pl., Alexandria, VA 22308.

♣♦♥♠ ~~~~~~ ♣♦♥♠

DEADLINE: May 6, 2010
TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2010 ISSUE

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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.districtsix.org

To get on an email list for **bridge news & bridge problems**, send a note to Steve Robinson at **robinswr@erols.com** requesting such.

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President's Letter

by WBL President, Don Berman

Once again our total membership has increased. That is the good news. The bad news is that we do not have a satisfactory place to play the two remaining Sectionals this year. The Margret Schweinhaut Senior Center has informed us that we cannot play there for either one. It might be possible to move back there next year and your Board of Directors is working in that direction. We are also considering the new Silver Spring Civic Center. However, it is not yet finished, the cost has not been set, and it is uncertain whether we can get all the dates and times we require. In the meantime, the May sectional will be held at Ohr Kodesh on Friday (two sessions, morning and afternoon) and at the Newport Mill Middle School on Saturday and Sunday. We are investigating possibilities for the August sectional. I ask for your indulgence while we go through these difficult times. Watch our website www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org for details.

Congratulations to the Grand National Team winners in the Open Flight, **Steve Robinson, William Cole, Beth Palmer, William Pettis, Stephen Landen,** and **Peter Boyd.** They will represent District 6 at the New Orleans Nationals this summer.

We are approaching our yearly election time for the Unit. As you know we are a volunteer organization and can only function if the membership participates. Anyone can run for an office (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) or for membership on the Board of Directors. I urge you to consider giving back to the game that we all love so much, either by running for office or volunteering to help in one of the many services we provide the membership. To run for a position contact Jim Allen (allenx@comcast.net) for more information. To volunteer to help, please contact myself (don.berman@verizon.net).

Last year the WBL spent $3000 more than we took in. In looking at our expenses, one of the largest is the printing and mailing of our bulletin, over $10,000 per year. To save money we are considering making the Bulletin available on-line in PDF format. An opinion survey will be distributed and collected at the annual meeting in May. Please let us know what you think on this matter and whether or not you are willing to receive the Bulletin on-line.

Thanks and continue enjoying our great game.

Bits and Pieces

1-Day Bridge Class: Saturday, May 8, 2010

You can share the fun and challenge of duplicate bridge with your friends and family! Tell them about our **1-Day Bridge Class,** S"Advance Your Game", Saturday, May 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Sligo-Dennis Recreation Center in Silver Spring One half on defense and one half on play of the hand.. Time will be set aside so students can ask questions about any aspect of the game.

The cost is just $25 with a reservation or $30 at the door. ($10 discount for Students) Materials, soft drinks and snacks are included. For more information or to make a reservation, email ShStringer@aol.com or call **Shawn Stringer** at (301) 622-5619.

Bridge in Schools

Dear Bridge folks,

As you are probably very well aware, the future of bridge here in the DC area involves getting our younger generation to be actively involved in learning and propagating the game. There are significant challenges in getting this done and we desperately need your help. If you can spare 5-10 hours during the week and help in either coordinating bridge activities in

...continued on p. 5

WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Silver Spring, MD: May 13-16, 2010

Washington Bridge League

65th Annual Potomac Valley Tournament

Thursday, May 13

♣ Stratified Open Pairs (unlim/1500/500) 11:15am
Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine) NO ENTRY TILL 11AM
St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville

♦ StrataFlighted Open Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D Separate 1500/1000/500) (both sites); Stratified NLM Pairs (NLM/100/50) & 0-20 Pairs (Ohr Kodesh Congregation only); Stratified 199er Pairs (Beth El only)
Beth El Congregation, *3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria* 7:00pm
Ohr Kodesh Congregation, *8300 Meadowbrook Ln., Chevy Chase* .. 7:30pm
I-495 to Connecticut Ave. South. 4th light left E-W Hwy 410. Left Meadowbrook Ln. 1st left Freyman Dr. Parking lot on left. No outside food allowed.

Alert! Friday events: New Location—Ohr Kodesh. New times—10am & 2:30pm. No lunch, but snacks & drinks provided. No Outside Food Allowed.
Weekend Location: Newport Mill Middle School:
11311 Newport Mill Rd., Kensington, MD. 495 to Rt.97, Georgia Ave. North (exit 31).
1.1 miles, left on Newport Mill Rd. School will be on the left.

Friday, May 14

♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) **10:00am**
♠ ***IMP Pairs*** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) **2:30pm**
The Friday IMPs are back! With only one partner, it scores like a team game. To get your IMP score on a board, we take your result and IMP it against each result at the other tables, then get the average.
♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) *(single sessions)* **10:00am, 2:30pm**

Saturday, May 15

♦ ***7th Annual: Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs*** ..... 11:00am & 3:30pm
Two session Open Pairs, qualifying and final. Single session entries available.
♥ StrataFlighted B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
♠ StrataFlighted A/X Pairs (unlim/3000) 3:30pm
♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
♦ *Don't miss the between sessions* ***Panel Show*** 2:30pm

Sunday, May 16

♦ A/X Board-A-Match Teams, (unlim /5000, 2 session playthru w/short break) ..... 11:00am & TBA
♥ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (3000/1000/500, 7 round playthru w/short break) ..... 11:00am & TBA
♠ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:00pm

♣ ***Full Schedule of Intermediate and Novice Events*** ♥
I/N events: 0-5, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300; Stratification at Director's Discretion.

Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks and **Saturday & Sunday lunch** free of charge. **Chair:** ***Nadine Wood,*** 301-565-9555, woodthere@verizon.net. **Volunteer Coordinator:** ***Barbara Summers,*** 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com **Hospitality:** ***Kitty Gottfried,*** 301-587-3981, kgottfried@hotmail.com **Partnerships:** ***Barbara Doran,*** 301-608-0347, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org

National Capital 4th of July Regional

July 5-11, 2010

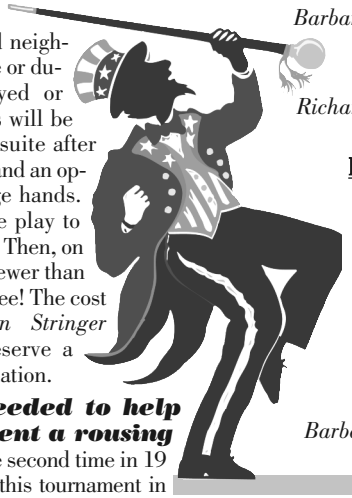
AT THE

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center

5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, MD • 301-822-9200

You loved it last time and we are going back again! If you played in 2007, our first year at this location, then you know what a special place it is and how much everyone enjoyed the tournament. If you missed it, now is your chance to see for yourself what everyone was raving about! It's going to be a spectacular week of bridge. It's not too soon to make plans now to attend with your favorite partner and teammates. Or come alone and we'll pair you up with someone of your ability. Bridge games from morning to night for players of all levels of experience. Pair games and Knockouts at times convenient for all. WBL hospitality with fine food and drink available every day!

Pre-Tournament Bridge Boot Camp – Warm up your bridge muscles or learn from scratch in one day! *Shawn Stringer* will conduct the popular **Advance Your Game** class on Monday, July 5 from about 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the hotel. Tell your relatives, friends and neighbors who are new to bridge or duplicate, have never played or need a refresher. Students will be invited to the hospitality suite after the class for refreshments and an opportunity to discuss bridge hands. They'll also receive a free play to the Monday evening game. Then, on Tuesday, all players with fewer than six masterpoints play for free! The cost is $30. Contact *Shawn Stringer* shstringer@aol.com to reserve a space or for further information.



Questions?

Any Committee Chair will be happy to help you...

Tournament Chairs

Nadine Wood (301) 565-9555
woodthere@verizon.net

Fred King (703) 536-1914
(Also Caddy Chair)
fredmking@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Barbara Doran (301) 977-3465
Barbd@starpower.net

Prize Chair

Richard Ferrin (202) 265-0718
rferrin@mac.com

Intermediate/Novice Chair

Bryan and Lois Geer
(301) 236-0014
geerbridge@verizon.net

Hospitality

Kitty Gottfried
(301) 587-3981
kgottfried@hotmail.com

Information

Barbara Ames (301) 469-0014
barbara@fbacpa.com

Volunteers still needed to help make the tournament a rousing success. This is only the second time in 19 years that we have hosted this tournament in Maryland and we're working very hard to make the tournament a success, so we can continue at this site whenever the WBL is the host. To do so, we need the help of many volunteers, starting with you! Just contact *Adrienne Kuehneman* ade888@netzero.net to help with Partnerships, Prizes, Information, Hospitality or I/N. We especially need many Intermediate/Novice volunteers for varying duties in the I/N games. Except for hospitality, most tasks will only need about a 45 minute commitment before game time. You can also help with hospitality, which varies from helping with food preparation, filling bowls and trays, bartending, cleanup, both before and after bridge sessions. Contact Adrienne or sign up with any committee chairman.

SEE THE APRIL/MAY 2010 DISTRICT 6 TABLETALK FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Bits & Pieces, *continued from p. 2...*

schools, or teach bridge to middle/high school students, please contact us. You can either send an email to bridge@brookmoor.net or call 775-796-6962 and leave a message with your contact information. We could use all help in making this a successful program of educating our school children about this wonderful game.

Thanks,
Ajit Thyagarajan

2009-2010 WBL/NVBA Player of the Year

To be eligible, a player: (1) Must be a member (or pending member) of either the NVBA or the WBL; (2) Must attend at least three WBL and three NVBA sectionals during the contest period (September, 2009 through June, 2010). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility; (3) Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded.

Standings: Here are the standings after six of eight sectionals. The asterisk* indicates that the player has met eligibility requirements.

Open Leaders

	Player	Points	
1	David Milton	133.44	*
2	Prahalad Rajkumar	101.95	*
3	Michael Gill	95.69	*
4	Stan Schenker	93.39	*
5	John Adams	86.69	
6	Steve Robinson	85.06	
7	Barry Falgout	82.63	*
8	Leo LaSota	79.57	
9	Noble Shore	78.41	*
10	Peter Boyd	74.84	
11	William Cole	73.74	
12	Robert Bell	73.73	*
13	Kenneth Davis	73.56	*
14	Mark Shaw	66.61	
15	Linda Marshall	63.62	*
16	Earl Glickstein	63.23	*
17	Mark Cohen	61.15	*
18	Helene Bauman	57.92	*
19	Steve Reed	56.23	*
20	Rusty Krauss	55.52	*

NonLM Leaders

	Player	Points	
1	Patrick Stanton	39.75	
2	Kiyomi Shiba	38.64	*
3	Raghavendra	28.72	
4	Stephen Drodge	28.09	
5	Al Caponiti	25.40	
6	Murat Berk	25.31	
7	Daniel Falk	24.26	
8	Arun Guha	22.57	
9	James Metzger	21.03	
10	Terry Mitchell	19.86	
11	Annapurna Satpathy	19.46	
12	David Montague	19.36	
13	Eleanor Schwartz	18.57	*
14	Albert Stolpe	18.42	
15	Larry Wallace	17.43	
16	Julie Connor	15.72	
17	Lynne Beresford	14.95	*
18	Bernadette Merceron	14.56	
19	Marco Latini	14.51	
20	Stephen Colevas	14.40	*

Our Regrets

We would like to express our condolences to David Ruderman, former WBL board member, for the loss of his mother.

Welcome to the Washington Bridge League

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Mildred L Amer, Mike Ghosh, Elizabeth C Holleman, Dr Anil K Hooda, Jacob Maibach, Marcus Maibach, Linda E Meyer, Ms Edna R Small, Mr Peter Wicklein, Poul Arendal, Pamela Buchanan, Joyce Burke, Mr David S Cissel, Mrs E. Sherwood, Mr William R Freeman, Jill H Hall, Dale Kramer, Joan W Malekzadeh, Lynne McCombs, Jill Miller, Julie Peternick, Jonathan Schiff, Ann N Thompson, Mrs Vickie M Wilson, Mr Robert C Wood, Mr Mark J Wurzel,** and **Guoming Yang.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mrs Rhona P Prensky, Mr Herbert Rubinstein, Mrs Marilyn S Rubinstein, Karoly Tremmel, Ms**

...continued on p. 27

Great Game Products

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www.greatgameproducts.com • sales@bridgebaron.com

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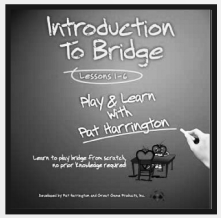
Bridge Baron is now available for the iphone

Available on CD-Rom for Windows 2000/XP/Vista (English, Francais, Deutsch)
Available on CD-Rom for Macintosh/IMac/Mac OS X 10.4 or later (English/ Francais)



Introduction to Bridge

Play & Learn with Pat Harrington $34.95

Available on CD-Rom for Windows 2000/XP/Vista (English Only)

• Teaches both bidding and play • Paced appropriately for beginners • Lessons 1-3 teach the mechanics, trick taking, and provide the background for bidding • Lessons 4-6 teach opening bids and their responses • Quizzes to reinforce your understanding • Provides an extensive glossary and reference section • Includes 38 carefully crafted instructional deals, and 92 BONUS practice hands • Presented in an easy-to-use, interactive format

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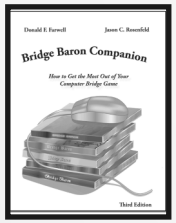

Bridge Baron Companion: How to Get the Most out of Your Computer Bridge Game $24.95

Get up and running with Bridge Baron quickly or explore parts of the program you may not be aware of how to use.

WBL Solvers' Club

Moderated by Steve Robinson
robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **Lynn Schaefer** who came in first with a score of 490. She wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Second was **Marvin Elster** with a score of 470. Tied for third were **Sven Pride, Robert Stone, Kiyomi Shiba, Brad Theurer, Mike Richey, Marsha Brown** and **John Flynn** with a score of 460. Tied for tenth were **Noble Shore, Barry Bragin, John Kloke** and **Leo LaSota** with a score of 450. Tied for fourteenth were **Raghavendra Rajhumar, Lloyd Rawley, Chuck Sadowski, Mark Thiele, JJ Wang, Tarun Badiani, Mike Kovacich, John Miller** and **Nikola Tcholakov** with a score of 440. Tied for twenty-third were **Mark Cohen, Steve Chaplin, Dorothy Russell, Bernie McCurdy, Tom Musso, Julian Boyce, Jeff Hepner, Richard Ferrin, Mel Yudkin, Molly Tinsley, Curtis Bare, Ajit Thyagarjen, Ed Anania** and **Kathy Paramore** with a score of 430. The average score of the 282 solvers was 377. The average score of the experts was 440.

Michael Mayer scored a 450 and **Scott Foster** scored a 440 in my last contest.

All readers are encouraged to send answers and/or new problems to Steve Robinson, 2891 S. Abingdon St. #A2 Arlington, VA, 22206-1329. In addition to the winner receiving a free play at the WBL Unit Game, Steve will play with anyone who gets a perfect score or who exactly matches all five of his answers. If you send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the above address along with your answers, I will send you a copy of the new problems to ensure that you can meet his next deadline. You can pick up a copy of the problems at the WBL Unit Game in Maryland, and can send answers or requests for problems to robinswr@erols.com. You can also see and answer the problems at the WBL web site. WBL Solvers Club uses *Washington Standard* as published July 1996. I accept only the first answer from each solver unless it is clear that the solver wants to correct his answer.

I personally score all the problems. If a majority of the solvers vote for an answer, and the answer is reasonable I will give that answer 100 points. I will not give 100 points to an answer that I consider bad no matter how many experts vote for it. There are times when I want to make a point. I will give that answer 100 points and will therefore give the majority answer 90 points. For the other answers I consider how good the answer is and how many experts vote for it for its score. If you submitted an answer that got 20 points, that bid would get a bad score at the table. A good exercise would be to figure out why I gave your answer 20 points. You might have misread the problem.

The book *Washington Standard* second edition is out. If you are a serious bridge player, this book is a must. You can purchase a copy from Steve for $25.00 whenever you see him or can send him a check for $29.95 that includes $4.95 for priority mail.

1) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠J2 ♥AQ10876 ♦KJ3 ♣K4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♣
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
????			

Action	*Score*	*Votes*	*Solvers*
3♥	100	3	61
Pass	90	5	103
3♣	80	1	0
4♥	60	0	78
3NT	40	1	4
2NT	40	0	15
3♦	40	0	18
2♠	30	0	3
4NT	20	0	1

We overcalled 1♥ and partner bid a new suit and then took a 2♥ preference. This sequence suggests two-card support with some values. If he had a bad hand with two-card support, he would have passed 1♥. If he had three-card support, he probably would not have bothered to bid 1♠. I have rarely seen a pref-

erence on a singleton so we can rule that out. Since 2♣ did not promise six hearts, responder is very unlikely to jump to 3♥ when he has only two hearts no matter how strong he is. Partner's sequence shows anywhere from six to possibly 11 HCP. There is no reason why partner could not have the nine HCP, which would be enough for game to be practically cold. If partner has ♠Axxxx♥Kx♦Qxx♣xxx, all he needs is normal breaks for game to be makeable. Change the king of hearts to the jack and you're on a heart-finesse. The sixth heart makes this hand stronger than the 14 actual HCP.

There are three messages that you need to tell partner. The first message is extra strength, which you can convey by bidding again. The second and third messages are the sixth heart and club stopper. I like 3♥. Shows six hearts and is a game try. Shows two of the three messages. There's no way you can show both the sixth heart and the club stopper. However, if partner has a club stopper he could try 3NT as choice of games.

Four experts joined me in thinking that we could easily have a game so I have given 3♥ the top score. 3♥ shows the sixth heart, extra values and allows partner to bid 3NT giving choice of games. If partner has Qxx of clubs, he could bid 3NT. Since he didn't bid notrump earlier, his club stopper can't be much better. One lesson to be learned is that attempts should always be made to get to 3NT.

Adams: "3♥—Let's partner bid 3NT when he wants to. I do not expect partner to pass unless he is embarrassed by his 1♠ call."

When partner learns that you have six hearts, he will know that there could easily be six heart tricks.

Hopkins: "3♥—I could make 4♥ with as little as ♠Axxxx♥Jx♦Qxx♣xxx opposite."

Two experts fail to show partner that you have six hearts. The sixth heart is the most important part of this hand. How is your partner supposed to make the final decision if he doesn't have all the facts?

Parker: "3♣—I assume 1♠ was forcing, if not I would pass 2♥. With only one club stopper 2NT is an overstatement. Over 3♣ partner can bid 3NT, 3♥ or 4♥ depending on his strength."

One expert bids 3NT. He also fails to show partner that he has six hearts so 3NT will end the auction. If partner has ♠Axxxx♥Kx♦Qxxx♣xx 4♥ is great but 3NT has no play.

Roman: "3NT—We don't need much from partner to bring this in, and this looks very much like a nine-tricks-easier-than-ten hand."

Five experts pass. I think they are wimps.

Landen: "Pass—Not in love with the cue-bid in the first place which is a slight overbid. Theoretically, 2♣ probably should promise another bid, but adios."

Borodkin: "Pass—I wouldn't have made the 2♣ bid. Now, while I would like to invite, I'm afraid that anything I say after the 2♣ bid will promise more values than I actually have."

Woolsey: "Pass—I already made a strong bid on a not so strong hand. If we have a game, partner would have done more than 2♥. ♠AQxxx♥xx♦xxx♣Qxx would be quite consistent with his auction, and 2♥ is plenty high enough."

Cappelletti: "Pass—Although there is some hope of making game opposite a hand such as ♠AKxxx♥Jx♦xxx♣xxx, there are many hands, such as AQ spades hands, where you will have few entries to board and there might even be a heart stack in back of you. We are non-vulnerable."

Just because we are non-vulnerable doesn't mean that we should miss a very good game. If you bid 3♥ and partner bids game, game should have good play.

Schwartz: "Pass—Didn't 2♣ already show my values?"

Yes but 2♣ didn't show your sixth heart.

Upgrade your hand when you have an extra trump.

2) IMPs, they're Vulnerable

♠Q653♥K7♦1075♣AJ94

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

Action	*Score*	*Votes*	*Solvers*
2♥	100	4	31
1NT	90	2	81
2♦	80	1	21
1♠	70	1	108
2♣	40	0	15
Pass	40	1	24
2NT	20	1	3

We have a two-card limit raise. The problem is that there is no way to show a two-card limit raise. There are many possibilities but none of them exactly describe this hand. 1♠ and 2♣ show five-card or longer suits. 1NT shows a diamond stopper. 2♦ shows a three-card limit raise and 2♥ shows a weaker three-card raise. So which white lie do we tell? With four spades and five hearts most experts make a takeout double rather than overcall. If partner bids the minor, they correct to hearts. This is called Equal Level Conversion, which doesn't promise extra values. By making a takeout double, you don't miss your 4-4 spade fit. Therefore, there is no reason to bid 1♠.

I like 2♦, which shows a three-card limit raise. Since I'm a passed hand partner won't get carried way. 2♦ shows strength so if the opponents compete, partner could double them with the right hand. Between 2♦ and 2♥, 2♦ is the bid that is most likely to be a two-card raise.

Four experts treat this hand as a three-card raise. Since 2♦ shows a ten-point raise, 2♥ shows fewer than ten points. If you're going to raise hearts, you might as well show your points.

Parker: "2♥—Good hand with honor doubleton of hearts rates a raise. Anything else is misguided, no diamonds stopper for notrump, no other five-card suit and not good enough for a cue bid."

Landen: "2♥—I hate it when partners raise me with two, but 1♠, not forcing, and 1NT, without a semblance of a stopper appeal even less. The lack of a third heart keeps me from cueing."

Schwartz: "2♥—Pulling in a notch with only a doubleton heart. See no reason to misdescribe with 1NT when 2♥ rates to make."

Adams: "2♥—If partner moves over this, my maximum in HCP might offset the lack of third trump."

One expert passes. Partner could have a very good hand when he overcalls, so passing could easily cause you to miss a game.

Borodkin: "Pass—I would like to have three hearts before making a heart raise. I can't bid Notrump. A diamond bid would be forcing but would also imply a limit raise. I don't expect partner to have a spade fit or he would have doubled."

Two experts bid 1NT. 1NT is right on points, but low on stoppers. Invisible stoppers sometimes stop the suit. West believes you and doesn't lead his suit. He wins a trick and still assumes that you have a stopper.

Woolsey: "1NT—My partners don't overcall 1♥ with a four-card spade suit—they double and then bid hearts if necessary which doesn't show any extra strength. Thus 1♠ is out—that asks to be raised on three. 2♥ on a doubleton is a no-no also. 2♦ is misdirected. 1NT is fine. Balanced, just about the right strength, and a diamond stopper. Well, can't have everything."

Roman: "1NT—Yes, I'd like to have a diamond stopper, but I prefer this to 2♥. Pass is out."

The following expert does not know Washington Standard. Since partner could have as little as eight HCP for his overcall, a passed hand can never have enough points to jump to 2NT as a natural bid. Therefore a passed-hand jump to 2NT should show a four-card limit raise.

Hopkins: "2NT—This is about right on points and distribution. I do note we didn't get a diamond pre-emptive raise so there is some likelihood partner holds something in diamonds."

One expert bids 1♠. 1♠ shows at least five spades. When partner overcalls and you bid a new suit, you promise at least five. Whether or not 1♠ is forcing must be discussed between you and your partner. In Washington Standard 1♠ is not forcing but many partnerships play it forcing.

Cappelletti: "1♠—Routine bid."

When partner overcalls, new suits promise at least five.

3) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠765♥87♦7654♣Q876

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass
????			

Action	*Score*	*Votes*	*Solvers*
2NT	100	6	45
3♦	80	4	154
3♣	70	0	56
Pass	20	0	26
4♦	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	1

Partner has made a takeout double of spades. This auction is the same as if the bidding went 1♠ double. He should have an opening bid with support for suits other than spades. He should have at least one four-card minor. How do you get partner to bid his better minor? 2NT for takeout! I've had good success playing 2NT for takeout whenever takeout could be a logical meaning. Whenever there are two places to play, 2NT asks partner to choose between the two places. The logic here is that you want partner to choose between clubs and diamonds. Partner could easily have ♠xx♥Axxx♦Qxx♣AKxx and you belong in 3♣. 2NT is like a Responsive double. Both show two places to play. Of course there are times when you would want 2NT to be a natural bid but more often you need it for choice of suits. 2NT for takeout is alertable. You and your partner should work out which 2NT-bids are natural and which 2NT-bids are takeout. 2NT over a weak two is a strong notrump. 2NT is also natural in the following bidding types: 1♠ - 2♥ - dbl – pass – 2NT.

Four experts put all their eggs in the diamond basket.

Parker: "3♦—Partner did not double 1♣ or overcall so he does not have a five-card suit and has some shape. Probably 2-4-4-3 or 1-4-4-4."

What about 2-4-3-4?

Landen: "3♦—Partner's double is takeout of spades, primarily for hearts and diamonds. Oh look, I have two hearts and four diamonds. Even if partner would clearly take 2NT as scrambling (two places to play) I prefer 3♦ as partner might expect five clubs and three diamonds."

If you had a five-card minor, you would bid it.

Borodkin: "3♦—What else?"

Cappelletti: "3♦—Although partner probably has some clubs, I wouldn't bid 3♣ unless we had specifically talked about it."

Five experts agree with me bid 2NT.

Adams: "2NT—Two places to play. Seems a reasonable chance that clubs is our best fit. Second choice is 3♣. Making partner take spade taps with his diamond honors promotes more winners for the opponents. In clubs, I have an honor. I expect partner to choose clubs with equal length in minors. Only risk is that partner thinks I have five clubs, and he chooses a three-card suit. With five clubs however, I would just bid 3♣."

Woolsey: "2NT—Takeout, asking for better minor. Partner's double is a takeout double of spades. He could easily have clubs. This is an easy problem."

Schwartz: "2NT—Asking for minor as partner could easily have four clubs."

Hopkins: "2NT—This is to escape into one of the minors. Partner may very well have Clubs."

Roman: "2NT—Pick a minor, partner."

Play 2NT for takeout when you need help choosing strain.

4) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠- ♥A10873 ♦10842 ♣J1082

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♥	Dbl	Rdbl
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
????			

Action	*Score*	*Votes*	*Solvers*
2NT	100	6	31
Pass	90	4	189
Double	70	0	31
3♣	60	0	17
3♦	60	0	15

Partner has made a takeout double and we have four-card support for one of his probable four-card or longer minor suits. Do we let them play in two hearts when we have a known eight-card fit? We know that West has a minimum opener with six hearts and East has a minimum redouble. We also know that they have a nine-card or longer spade fit. If partner has five spades, he doesn't double, he overcalls. While their fit is in spades, just having the nine-card fit will help them make 2♥. You don't get rich defending a two-level contract when they have a nine-card fit. This hand is perfect for 2NT, choice of minors, as discussed in problem three. Partner is guaranteed to have a four-card minor and could even have a five-carder.

Five experts join me and ask for partner's better minor. The good news is that the opponents can't possibly find their nine-card spade fit. If you're a good guesser, it would be much better to just bid a four-card minor.

This hand will be very easy to defend played from partner's side. However, sometimes partner is 4135.

Parker: "2NT—Must be for the minors, I expect to take a lot of tricks in cross ruffs since partner is short in hearts. We may beat them but they own the high cards so they may just lose a couple of heart tricks and some aces."

The opponents probably have a tad more than ½ the deck. Since you know the layout of the hearts, you will have to play this hand carefully in three-of-a-minor and it won't be easy to ruff hearts in dummy.

Adams: "2NT—Takeout for minors. I doubt we can beat 2♥, and I do not want them stopping low. They have a nine-card spade fit, admittedly, they are not in spades, but they still have the fit. I presume that four out of five times we either push them higher or make three-of-a-minor, and part scores matter. Please don't double 1♥ with a five-card Spade suit, it never works."

Woolsey: "2NT—Partner has only four spades or he would have overcalled 1♠. The opponents aren't in their best fit, but they do have a nine-card spade fit, which should be sufficient to let them make 2♥. Partner must have at least one four-card minor, and he might have a five-card minor. The odds favor competing."

Schwartz: "2NT—Asking for minor, they seemed to have missed a spade fit, but can't see how they can find it now. I suspect West is 4-6 in majors and East has five spades."

Hopkins: "2NT—I think I have enough to compete in one of the minors."

Four experts violate the Law. If they can make 2♥ and you can make three-of-a-minor, you lose six IMPs by not competing. These six IMPs mount up.

Landen: "Pass—The winning action might be to double or bid 2NT, takeout for the minors, but either is lunacy, as far as I'm concerned. I'm happy defending 2♥ undoubled."

But wouldn't you rather be defending 3♥?

Borodkin: "Pass—Its IMPs. While I hope to set them, I'm not going to double them into game."

Cappelletti: "Pass—And try to beat it although with the redouble over partner, I don't expect to get rich. Even if 2NT says bid your best minor, East might have the minors stacked."

Roman: "Pass—Bidding would be nuts, and if doubling them (also nuts) was going to make us rich, our opponents would likely try their nine-card spade fit. I like where they are, thank you very much."

I guess that if the opponents have copy of the hand record, they could run to 2♠ if you double them in 2♥.

Don't let the opponents play at a low level when the opponents have a known fit.

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠KQ54 ♥K10 ♦A6543 ♣A7

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♦	Dbl	Pass
????			

Action	*Score*	*Votes*	*Solvers*
Pass	100	6	31
4♠	70	1	36
4NT	70	2	13
4♦	70	1	131
6♠	50	0	7
3NT	40	0	43
5♠	40	0	3
3♠	20	0	17
4♣	20	0	1
4♥	20	0	1

Partner has made a takeout double and we have an ace more than a game bid. We have enough strength to think about slam. There are three ways to go. Play in 4♠, think about slam or defend 3♦ doubled. However, if partner doesn't have four spades, we don't have an eight-card fit. It would be nice to easily find out how many spades partner has but we can't. 6♠ might not be a good contract if partner has only three spades. When you're not sure where you belong, getting a penalty will usually get you a good result. If you can get +300 neither vulnerable when you think you can make a game, you will be ahead of the game. You lose only four IMPs if game makes your way. You win at least eight IMPs if game goes down. Sometimes +300 turns into +800. With all this strength I would expect at least +500 and it could easily be +800.

Five experts join me and take the sure penalty.

Landen: "Pass—If I knew partner had

four spades, I would cue 4♦, but I don't. I'll take the sure 500 with a chance of 800 against all you Flannery players."

If West was playing Flannery, he would have to open 3♦ on a hand that's only worth a 2♦ opener.

Borodkin: "Pass—I expect West to go down two or three tricks. In IMPs, that's on a par with bidding and making game. We might be missing a spade slam, but I'm afraid of a bad trump break and there's a 50% chance that East will trump the opening diamond lead."

Adams: "Pass—Actually not enough data. Against Jimmy Cayne, who's a sound bidder, I'd probably bid. Against WBL players, who bid on anything, I pass and take my 800 against the chance of slam going down. It helps to know your opponents, and this time it matters."

Schwartz: "Pass—Have slam interest if partner has four spades, but it could be a disaster if partner has only three. Unfortunately bidding 4♦ followed by 4♠ over 4♥ shows uncertainty about strain, not a slam invite. With the expected bad breaks, take sure plus."

Roman: "Pass—Only four cards in the suit we would be trying to make trumps, no source of tricks, the certainty of bad breaks...all of these things combine to convince me to just take our 500 or (more likely) 800 on defense."

One expert takes his almost sure game. It would be very unlucky for 4♠ to go down.

Woolsey: "4♠—Passing is tempting, but there is too much slam potential for that. A cue bid followed by 4♠ over 4♥ wouldn't suggest this hand type—it would be a spade-club choice. 4♠ should be safe whatever North has. So simply jump to 4♠, and if there is a slam, north will take another call."

Woolsey tells us what cue bidding 4♦ is supposed to mean. Suppose you hold ♠A432♥A2♦3♣AQ5432. You want to play in 4♠ if partner has four. If partner does not have four spades you want to play in 5♣. The way you do that is to cue bid 4♦. When your partner bids 4♥, you bid 4♠. Now partner knows that you have exactly four spades and clubs and can place the final contract.

Three experts are probably going to end up in a spade slam. I could see partner with Axx of spades and spades split 5-1.

Parker: "4♦—Hoping to hear 4♠ from partner. If he bids 4♥ I will try 5♦. All he needs is ♠AJ10x♥Axxx♦x♣KQxx and we have grand."

So what are you going to do if partner doesn't have four spades? What are you going to do if partner has four hearts and four spades?

Cappelletti: "4NT—On my way to slam probably 6♠."

Hopkins: "4NT—I am going to bid a slam in spades if partner has one ace. If partner shows two aces, I will bid 5NT followed by 6♠ which allows partner to carry on since all Key Cards are known to be held."

Cue bids in response to a takeout double are needed to help get to the correct strain. If you know where you belong, use fast arrival.

Solvers' Scores

John Adams	3♥	2♥	2NT	2NT	Pass	500
Ed Borodkin	Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	400
Mike Cappelletti	Pass	1♠	3♦	Pass	4NT	400
Robbie Hopkins	3♥	2NT	2NT	2NT	4NT	390
Steve Landen	Pass	2♥	3♦	Pass	Pass	460
Steve Parker	3♣	2♥	3♦	2NT	4♦	430
Steve Robinson	3♥	2♦	2NT	2NT	Pass	480
Jeff Roman	3NT	1NT	2NT	Pass	Pass	420
Alan Schwartz	Pass	2♥	2NT	2NT	Pass	490
Kit Woolsey	Pass	1NT	2NT	2NT	4♠	450

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2010 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 less than 1500 masterpoints; the Tubbs Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year as a Non-Life Master with less than 500 masterpoints; the Woolridge Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with less than 20 masterpoints.

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

This list is up to date through April 1. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

1	66.73	John Adams
2	61.81	Leo LaSota
3	44.09	Steve Robinson
4	42.12	Michael Gill
5	33.55	Mark Cohen
6	33.29	William Cole
7	29.96	Arnie Frankel
8	28.63	Lloyd Rawley
9	28.45	Leon Letwin
10	27.91	Donna Rogall
11	27.50	Noble Shore
12	25.89	William Hacker
13	25.62	Steven Schatzow
14	25.59	Mark Shaw
15	24.63	James Geist
16	24.53	Patrick Stanton
17	24.12	Alfred Caponiti
18	24.02	Peter Boyd
19	21.66	Donald Berman
20	19.81	Barry Bragin
21	19.74	David Ruderman
22	19.49	Linda Marshall
23	18.88	Andrew Gofreed
24	18.45	Brad Theurer
25	17.21	Robert Bell

Izzy Cohen

1	36.54	Mark Cohen
2	24.53	Patrick Stanton
3	24.12	Alfred Caponiti
4	13.78	Carole Banks
5	13.36	Ronald Zucker
6	13.28	Kitty Gottfried
7	12.31	Mike Frosch
8	12.18	Bernadette Merceron
9	11.13	Daniel Falk
10	10.79	James Metzger
11	10.47	Michael Lawrence
12	10.44	Annapurna Satpathy
13	10.12	Frederic Caponiti
14	9.73	David Montague
15	8.86	Michael Kuehl

Tubbs

1	36.54	Mark Cohen
2	24.53	Patrick Stanton
3	24.12	Alfred Caponiti
4	12.18	Bernadette Merceron
5	11.13	Daniel Falk
6	10.79	James Metzger
7	10.44	Annapurna Satpathy
8	10.12	Frederic Caponiti
9	9.73	David Montague
10	8.86	Michael Kuehl

Woolridge

1	10.12	Frederic Caponiti
2	3.73	David Penn
3	3.31	Ilana Rappaport
4	3.20	Joseph Abita
5	2.92	Mike Ghosh
6	2.68	Fred Caponiti
7	2.52	Jane Dolkart
8	2.52	Alexander Gretsinger
9	2.20	Patricia Welty
10	2.20	Patricia Price

Unit Game Carpool Available

To arrange a carpool, contact Don Berman, Carpool Coordinator, at 301-776-3581 or don.berman@verizon.net. ....Or log on to the WBL's **Online Carpool Notices** at: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

0-20 Lesson & Game

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7:30pm - 10:30pm

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

Lessons will cover slam bidding, weak twos, 3 level+ preempts, overcalls, takeout 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, contact Bryan or Lois Geer at 301-236-0014 or by email at geerbridge@verizon.net.

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

~ ♣ ♦ Schedule ♥ ♠ ~

Games held at Ohr Kodesh started 01/14/10

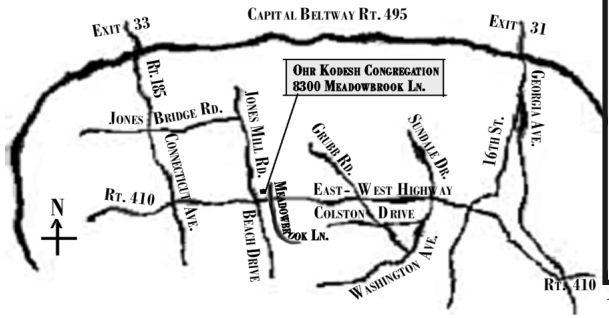
04/29/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
05/06/2010 .....Annual Meeting StrataFlighted Club Champ.
05/13/2010 .....WBL Sectional
05/20/2010 .....*!!Either cancelled or moved to another location—check website!!* (StrataFlighted BAM Teams)
05/27/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
06/03/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
06/10/2010 .....StrataFlighted North American Pairs
06/17/2010 .....District 6 STaC Stratified Pairs
06/24/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
07/01/2010 .....StrataFlighted North American Pairs
07/08/2010 .....Closed Bethesda Regional
07/15/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
07/22/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
08/29/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
08/05/2010 .....StrataFlighted North American Pairs
08/12/2010 .....WBL Sectional
08/19/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
08/26/2010 .....StrataFlighted North American Pairs
09/02/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship

—Rest of September games held at the Kensington Armory—

For a Last-Minute Partner, to say you'll be late, to hear announcements (closings posted by 4pm), or to contact the Unit Game for any reason, call the WBL Cell Phone:

(301) 395-2760

Map to Ohr Kodesh Congregation



ALERT! The Unit Game is now played at Ohr Kodesh. NO OUTSIDE FOOD IS ALLOWED. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

WBL Guaranteed Partner Program

You never need to miss the unit game because you don't have a partner at the last minute! The WBL has a guaranteed partner (GP) program for players who occasionally need a partner for the unit game. Here's how it works: we provide a standby partner; if an odd number of people in need of a partner arrive, we match the players as best we can, and the GP plays with the one who is left. (If there is an even number of players looking, the GP goes home). You can always get a game.

Players in search of partners should try to arrive between 7:00 and 7:15 (or call ahead). The partnership desk closes at 7:25. You can call the WBL cell phone **(301) 395-2760** at the last minute if are on your way and know you'll be at bit late.

To find a partner at least a day in advance, contact **Barbara Doran** by email at UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org or barbd@starpower.net, or call her at (301) 608-0347 between 9am and 10pm.

You might want to volunteer for the GP program yourself. It's a great way to meet people. If you play on the night you're the GP, you play free. If you volunteer, you receive a free play for any future unit game whether or not you play that night.

Partnerships Close at **7:25pm** to start the game promptly at 7:30pm. Call if you're late, or you may not be accommodated.

Upcoming Sectionals

♣April 22-25, 2010,
Fairfax, VA

♦ May 13-16, 2010,
Silver Spring, MD

♥August 12-15,
Silver Spring, MD

♦ September 23-26,
Fairfax, VA

♥October 28-31,
Fairfax, VA

♠January 6-9, 2011,
Silver Spring, MD

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

Do you have any muscle or brains to spare?

The Washington Bridge League could use a little of either! In order to keep events exciting and entry fees low, the WBL relies on the goodness of our members to volunteer for small jobs at the Unit Game and Sectional Tournaments. Some jobs require brains while others require muscle. We'll be happy to employ either.

From setting up and breaking down tables, to publicity and events development, a little effort from you will make our bridge community even better. Busy schedule? No worries. Most volunteer assignments take only 15 minutes to 1 hour a month.

Here's how to help:

1. Reply by email, phone or in person if you are willing to help in any way.

2. Please indicate if you can offer any special skills (such as marketing or a strong back).

3. Someone will contact you shortly with a choice of assignments you can pick from.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Barbara Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com,

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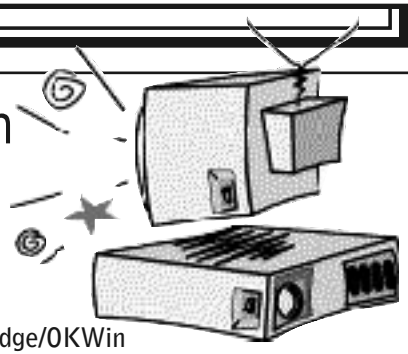

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Committee Action #67

by Rich Colker, rcolker@gmail.com

Continuing with the theme from my last article, that not all appeal decisions are as cut and dry as I may have made it appear, the following case arose in the Silodor Open Pairs at the NABC in Houston last spring.

Bd: 24; Vul: None; Dlr: West

North
♠ K103
♥ 73
♦ AQJ4
♣ A972

West
♠ A
♥ AQJ62
♦ K986
♣ 1084

East
♠ Q984
♥ 9854
♦ 72
♣ Q53

South
♠ J7652
♥ K10
♦ 1053
♣ KJ6

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl	3♥	3♠
4♥	Pass[1]	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

[1] *Break in tempo*

North led of the ♠3 and West finished down two, –300 for E/W. The Director was initially called after the double of 4♥. The Director reported that North said that the BIT was definitely not more than 10 seconds (but see below). In screening, the Director obtained further information about the BIT: North judged it at 3-5 seconds; South at 4 seconds; East said it was not in tempo with North's previous calls; West said there was a BIT—obvious thinking. The Director judged that there had been a BIT which demonstrably suggested action and that pass was a logical alternative. The result was adjusted for both sides to 4♥by West down two, –100 for E/W, in accordance with Laws 16B and 12C1(e).

N/S appealed the Director's ruling. West told the Committee that she called the Director after South's double. E/W said they thought that North told the Director at the table that his action took no longer than 10 seconds, as the Director indicated on the Appeal Form, which they thought was accurate. South said he thought his double was clear because he did not expect North to have a light takeout double in second seat. He said his partnership would not double on a shapely 10–count. The Appeal Form noted that "North said that the BIT was not more than 10 seconds." However, at the hearing North said that what he actually told the Director at the table was that his pass "…took way less than 10 seconds." Both North and South claimed North took on the order of 3-5 seconds, which South said was consistent with North's normally deliberate bidding manner. The table Director told the Committee that he agreed that North had not admitted to a BIT at the table but that he judged a BIT likely because of North's phrasing. The Director was unsure whether North had said "It took no longer than 10 seconds" or "It took less than 10 seconds." In his judgment either phrase implied a noticeable pause for thought.

The Committee was troubled by the inconsistency between North's apparent statement to the Director and his denial at the hearing. Although he said he had not wanted to be too definitive in describing the length of his action, no one else at the table recalled hearing him say "It took way less than 10 seconds." The Committee believed that the fact that West called the Director immediately after South's double gave additional weight to E/W's contention that North had broken tempo over 4♥. Although they thought that a 3-5 second pause would not normally be a BIT in this instance, they had no reason not to accept the Director's version of the facts. (In cases where the facts cannot be established clearly, the Director hears evidence much closer in time to when it occurs than the Committee, so the Committee gives substantial weight to his determination of the facts.)

Having found that there was an unmistakable hesitation, the Committee judged that pass was a logical alternative for South and that a double was demonstrably suggested by the unauthorized information (it catered to whatever North had for his BIT). The Committee believed that South's double was not at all clear; many players would pass, as did four out of five that were polled by the Director. Therefore, the Committee upheld the Director's adjustment of the result for both sides to 4♥by West down two, –100 for E/W.

A minority of the Committee members believed that North's hand was clearer evidence than any of the muddled statements made by the players that North's pause was more likely to have been an acceptable 3-5 seconds than a fatal 8-10. North had nice transferrable values, but nothing that would warrant taking more time than usual to process an auction reaching the four level with

everyone else bidding when he held more than his share. The minority would have allowed the table result of 4♥doubled down two, –300 for E/W, to stand. The minority also recognized that a possible response to this argument is that North might have been considering doubling 4♥as a two-way action.

Finally, the appeal was determined to have had merit.

Well, what do you make of the Committee's decision and the opinion of the (non-silent) minority? Decide what you think before reading on.

In my opinion both the Committee's decision as well as the position of the vocal minority are very reasonable and quite defensible. Indeed, I would like to be able to side with the minority in situations such as this and allow the table result to stand—except for one thing: Most players (and perhaps the North player here) make their "obvious" calls, especially ones that occur early in the auction, in quick tempo, often within a second or two of when the previous player's bid card hits the table. In fact, many players routinely are reaching for their calls while the previous player's bid card is still in mid air, and sometimes even before it leaves that player's bid box.

The consequences of engaging in such practices in making easy/automatic calls is that other actions, even ones which require only a few moments' (say 3-5 seconds') thought, are revealed to be made only after "obvious thought." Thus, even a few moments' contemplation may become a BIT to the opponents and create a situation that is ripe with contention and Director calls.

The solution, of course, as regular readers of my column are already aware, is for each player (including you, dear reader) to pause for a few (say 3-4) seconds before each and every call, no matter how routine (yes, even before you pass partner's raise of your 1NT opening to 3NT!) and to project the appearance of seriously considering your action during those few seconds. While this will not insulate you from all claims of a BIT (a 10-15 second mull will still stand apart from a 3-4 second one), nor will it add significantly to the time to bid each board (in case you are concerned about that), but it will reduce your risk in the vast majority of routine auction situations like the one here.

I know South asserted that North's pass was "consistent with his normally deliberate bidding manner." If North was so consistently deliberate in his bidding, why did E/W think his pass of 3♥was so clearly out of tempo? One possibility is that West was "looking for an edge." However, the fact that she called during the auction, immediately after South took further action after having (presumably) bid his hand on the previous round, suggests that North's pass did take noticeably longer than his previous bid(s). No, I do not suspect West of any sort of gamesmanship here.

My real suspicion is that North's deliberateness occurs only in situations where he has something to think about, but that he makes his routine (or "automatic") calls quite promptly. In other words, South is used to North bidding deliberately in situations where his hand requires contemplation, which is not uncommon, but when North is not involved in the action, or when he has already gotten his message satisfactorily "off his chest," he passes quickly, sending a message that he has nothing further to think about. Thus his "textbook" double of 1♥likely took no more than a second or two while his pass of 4♥came only after some obvious consideration (he had "extras" for his previous double and three or more likely defensive tricks against 4♥). Thus, his pass of 4♥was after obvious thought and thus conveyed (though maybe only subtly) the suggestion of further action to South.

If North truly *always* takes a few seconds to make his calls—even ones that are automatic—and gives the appearance of actually thinking, then when he really does need to consider what to do he will be able to pass *in tempo* once he decides pass is best. In fact, even if he takes a couple of extra seconds, say 6-8, to decide what to do it will not stand out as a BIT as it would if he makes his easy calls quickly (in say 2-3 seconds) and without apparent thought.

Hesitating and giving the appearance of thinking when one is not actually doing so is *not* illegal. Law 73A2 says that "Calls and plays should be made…without undue hesitation or haste," and even gives the Regulating Authority (i.e., the ACBL) the right to "require mandatory pauses, as on the first round of the auction, or after a skip-bid warning or on the first trick." (But you already knew that it's good practice to pause in those situations, and that it's legal to do so, didn't you?) Law 73D1 says: "It is desirable, though not always required, for players to maintain steady tempo and unvarying manner." Thus, by law it is not an infraction to (briefly) give the appearance of thinking even when you don't need to, provided you do so only to even out the tempo. (After all, you can hardly make difficult bids more quickly than the time needed to think through the situation—unless you don't mind playing poorly—but you can make easy bids more deliberately to even things out.) But note that intentionally varying your tempo in the hope of gaining an advantage by misleading an opponent (for example, hesitating before playing a singleton) *is* illegal. (Law 73D2 says: "A player may not attempt to mislead an opponent…by the haste or hesitancy of a call or play…") So hesitating before taking any action and giving the appearance of thinking is legal (and desirable) if done solely to even out the tempo (and, not coincidentally, to avoid giving UI to your partner). However, it is illegal to do so in order to gain an advantage by deceiving the opponents.

.....May 6, 2010.....Annual Meeting.....Elections.....and Club Championship.....

This year's Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on Thursday, May 6, at Ohr Kodesh, the site of our Unit Game, prior to play. As usual, there will be a complimentary dinner at 6:00 p.m. The meeting and elections will take place at approximately 7:00 p.m. All WBL members whose dues are paid as of April 1 are eligible to vote. The congregation will be open early for ballot casting to those players who will be unable to attend the elections. Copies of the WBL Policies and Treasurer's Report will also be available. A Club Championship game will begin when the meeting concludes.

2009 Masterpoint Races

During the evening, we will recognize our 2009 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners for their achievements.

Elections

The election portion of the meeting will begin with our Elections Chairperson, Jim Allen, introducing the candidates before they each speak briefly to the membership. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The four officer positions are one-year terms. The three Unit Director positions are two-year terms.

Candidate for President

Don Berman is the incumbent President and has been a member of the WBL Board of Directors for 13 years and thanks the membership for its support. He asks for your support toward continuing in the office of President. He is the Webmaster for the WBL, the MBA and District 6. He has been a bridge player (sort of, he says) for over 40 years. He says, "My objective as president will be to involve the general membership more in the decision making process affecting our game."

Candidate for Vice-President

Richard Ferrin has been a WBL member since 1993. He has participated regularly in the Unit Game and other WBL events for the past ten years, and is a silver life master. Prior to his election as Vice President last year, he served for five years as WBL Secretary. He also serves as Chairman of the Round Robin Committee and the Conduct & Ethics Committee. If elected, he would focus on supporting efforts to continue growth in the WBL Unit Game, sectionals, and the unit round robin and unit knockouts, by striving to provide a playing environment that is competitive but friendly, and appeals to players of all calibers.

Candidate for Secretary

Ellen Cherniavsky, who holds a Ph.D. in Operations Research, retired in 2005 from the MITRE Corporation, where she worked for over 20 years. She learned bridge from her parents, played duplicate in college, then quit to pursue graduate studies and have a family. Fifteen years ago she returned to the duplicate scene. For the past seven years she has served on the Conduct & Ethics Committee. As a Board member she has served as Secretary for the past year, and has chaired the Club Relations Committee for several years. If re-elected Secretary, she would be honored to hold that position as well as continue serving in the other capacities.

Candidate for Treasurer

Fred King has been a member of the WBL since moving to Washington, D.C. in 1973. He worked for the World Bank until his re-

tirement in 2001. He has been on the Board the past nine years, including serving as vice-president for three years and as president for three years. In addition, he served as caddy master for over 16 years. He was elected treasurer in 2009 and is running again. He says, "I would like to continue to serve the WBL and I feel that I have shown the qualifications to serve as treasurer. The WBL is in a strong financial position and I would insure that we continue to be so."

Candidate for the Board

Ron Zucker is running for reelection to the board. As an active member, he has served on the board both in 2003-2005, and again in 2009-2010. He is involved with a number of non-profits as a board member, and takes an active interest in governance, as well as volunteering. He hopes you'll reelect him to another two year term.

Candidate for the Board

Linda Marshall has been a WBL member since 2003, when she started playing bridge again after learning from friends in college and then taking a long break from bridge to practice law and raise two boys. She has participated regularly in WBL activities since 2005. She joined the WBL board in 2007. She would like to continue her service on the board to support WBL activities in a variety of ways, to help to attract, retain, and support newer players, and to help the WBL to make bridge more enjoyable for all of its members. In particular, she would like to continue her work as co-chair of the mentor committee, which provides volunteer mentors for non-life masters who want advice. Linda has been an attorney with the Internal Revenue Service for 21 years.

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64th Annual WBL City of Washington Tournament

March 25-28, 2010

Results

Top Ten Cumulative Point Winners

All Players

1	40.04	***Leo LaSota***
2	28.68	John Adams
3	28.38	David Milton
4	28.18	Steve Robinson
5	21.05	Peter Boyd
6	20.09	Mark Shaw
7	19.14	Arnie Frankel
8	17.68	Helene Bauman
9	17.24	William Cole
10	16.40	Stan Schenker

Players with fewer than 1500 masterpoints

1	16.01	***Rajeswaran Rajkumar***
2	10.22	Ronald Zucker
3	9.50	Alfred Caponiti
4	8.88	Daniel Falk
5	8.31	Jeffrey Kosnett
6	8.17	Christopher Whelan
	8.17	Jane Whelan
8	7.86	Annapurna Satpathy
9	7.85	Kathrine Loh
10	7.80	Larry Wallace

Players with fewer than 500 masterpoints

1	16.01	***Rajeswaran Rajkumar***
2	9.50	Alfred Caponiti
3	8.88	Daniel Falk
4	8.17	Jane Whelan
	8.17	Christopher Whelan
6	7.86	Annapurna Satpathy
7	7.80	Larry Wallace
8	7.64	J J Jayaraman
	7.64	Pat Lonergan
10	7.15	Patrick Stanton

Players with fewer than 100 masterpoints

1	8.88	***Daniel Falk***
2	7.80	Larry Wallace
3	5.56	Frederic Caponiti
4	5.41	David Montague
5	4.66	Hakan Berk
6	4.19	Isabelle Thabault
7	3.49	James Gerding
8	3.48	Dev Chattopadhyay
9	3.35	Eleanor Linde
	3.35	Ruth Glen

THUR AM PRS @ ROCKVILLE

Stratum A, 22.0 Tables

1	Ruth Potter - Jeff Roman	67.42
2	Bert Chansky - Irving Lessin	64.85
3	Larry Wallace - Daniel Falk	64.12
4	Mark Lavine - Mari McColl	64.12
5	Richard Ray - Marilyn Forrest	63.34
6	Terry Carlton - Candace Carlton	59.72

Stratum B, 13.5 Tables

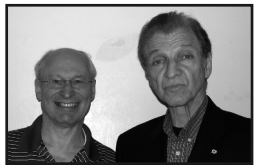
1	Larry Wallace - Daniel Falk	64.12
2	Richard Ray - Marilyn Forrest	63.34
3	Terry Carlton - Candace Carlton	59.72
4	Phyllis Berg - Ruby Brooks	55.79
5	Terri Sanker - Kiyomi Shiba	55.41
6	Jean Barquin - Sarah Watson	53.94

Stratum C, 9.5 Tables

1	Larry Wallace - Daniel Falk	64.12
2	Terry Carlton - Candace Carlton	59.72
3	Phyllis Berg - Ruby Brooks	55.79
4	Jean Barquin - Sarah Watson	53.94
5	Ike Oren - Marlene Gross	53.70
6	Arun Guha - Shyamalendu Pal	53.65

THURS EVE A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 42.0 Tables / Based on 92 Tables



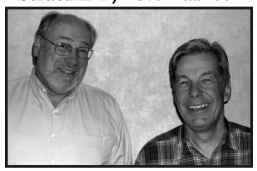
1	Donald Berman - Mike Cappelletti Sr	63.50
2	Lloyd Rawley - Ronald Zucker	62.57
3	William Hacker - Leo LaSota	61.23
4	John Klayman - Thomas Lavender	60.65
5	Earl Glickstein - Robert Bell	60.42
6	Jon Brandon - Daniel Feldman	59.96
7	Mita Banerjee - Ann Ingram	58.70
8	Ed Lewis - Vonnie Lavender	58.57
9	Audrey Marbach - Warren Manison	58.33
10	Steve Robinson - Roger Pies	57.95
	John Sedgewick - Janet Dence	57.95

Stratum X, 22.5 Tables

1	Lloyd Rawley - Ronald Zucker	62.57
2	Jon Brandon - Daniel Feldman	59.96
3	John Sedgewick - Janet Dence	57.95
4	Robert Levey - William Goldman	57.88
5	Dennis Schwanz - Susan Miskura	56.02
6	Benjamin Stauss - Charles Young Jr	54.64

THURS EVE B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 26.0 Tables



1 Craig Olson - Michael Lawrence 66.37
2 Gloria Halstead - Kathrine Loh 62.20
3 Daniel Koch - Hadi Abushakra 61.61
4 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wasserstrom 59.82
5 Jon Ranhand - Margie Coccodrilli . . .59.52
6/7 Azmat Ali - Bernadette Merceron . . .59.23
6/7 Mirsad Mujezinovic - Namik Haveric 59.23

Stratum C, 22.0 Tables

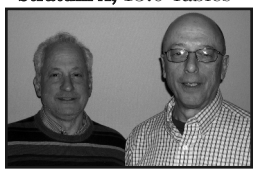
1 Craig Olson - Michael Lawrence 66.37
2 Daniel Koch - Hadi Abushakra 61.61
3 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wasserstrom 59.82
4/5 Azmat Ali - Bernadette Merceron . . .59.23
4/5 Mirsad Mujezinovic - Namik Haveric 59.23
6 Jay Simon - Mark Jones 58.93

Stratum D, 13.5 Tables

1/2 Azmat Ali - Bernadette Merceron . . .59.23
1/2 Mirsad Mujezinovic - Namik Haveric 59.23
3 Jay Simon - Mark Jones 58.93
4 Michelle Zygielbaum - Guillaume de Decker 57.14
5 Georgette Weiss - Ike Oren 56.85
6 Daniel Falk - Murat Berk 55.95

THURS EVE WBL NLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 13.0 Tables



1 Alfred Caponiti - Frederic Caponiti . .64.20
2 Patricia Mitchell - David Montague . .58.90
3 Ernie Schuler - Annapurna Satpathy .58.33
4 Walter Beckerman - Jeff Zehe 57.77
5 Susan Holbeck - Anne Menkens 56.63
6 Edmund Gehan - James Metzger 56.25

Stratum B, 11.0 Tables

1 Patricia Mitchell - David Montague . .58.90
2 Ernie Schuler - Annapurna Satpathy .58.33
3 Walter Beckerman - Jeff Zehe 57.77
4 Susan Holbeck - Anne Menkens 56.63
5 Edmund Gehan - James Metzger 56.25
6 Garry Grossman - Adrienne Kohn . . .55.68

Stratum C, 4.0 Tables

1 Susan Holbeck - Anne Menkens 56.63
2 Judith Dausch - Jim Walsh 52.46
3 Deloris Colick - Judy Mammano 49.62

THURSDAY NVBA 0-200 PAIRS

Stratum A, 11.0 Tables

1 Phyllis Dean-Simpson - Tom Jennings 73.43
2 James Shoenhard - Roy Robson 60.25
3 Larry Taylor - David Meadows 55.74
4 Deanna Shuman - Lawrence Shuman .54.46
5 Gary Hinson - Bruce Kasold 53.32
6 Hannelore Suffridge - Virginia Ivin . .53.27

Stratum B, 5.5 Tables

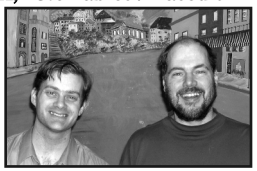
1 Deanna Shuman - Lawrence Shuman .54.46
2 Debbie Massey - Carol Goldstone . . .52.68
3 John Metzler - Ken Casey 51.74
4 James Gerding - James Mentzer 49.11

Stratum C, 4.5 Tables

1 Debbie Massey - Carol Goldstone . . .52.68
2 John Metzler - Ken Casey 51.74
3 James Gerding - James Mentzer 49.11
4 Rose Marie Sanders - Gayle Tomasetti47.11

FRIDAY AFT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 13.0 Tables / Based on 41 Tables



1 John Adams - Leo LaSota 68.37
2 Mark Cohen - Richard Price 63.07
3 Linda Marshall - Steven Schatzow . . .59.09
4/5 Clyde Kruskal - Donna Rogall 57.01
4/5 Arnie Frankel - Alfred Steinberg 57.01
6 Earl Glickstein - Barry Falgout 55.49

Stratum X, 4.5 Tables

1 Mark Cohen - Richard Price 63.07
2 Noble Shore - Michael Gill 50.00
3 Robert Levey - William Goldman . . .48.86
4 Michael Lawrence - Craig Olson 46.21

FRIDAY AFT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 12.0 Tables

1 Richard Cassell - Alan Dockterman . .65.72
2 Douglas Fox - Larry Moran 64.20
3 Calvin Konner - Alan Skvirsky 58.14
4/5 Daniel Falk - David Penn 57.20
4/5 Aaron Navarro - Margie Coccodrilli . .57.20
6 Ellen Rosenthal - Neal Rosenthal . . .55.49

Stratum C, 9.5 Tables

1 Alan Dockterman - Richard Cassell . .65.72
2 Douglas Fox - Larry Moran 64.20
3 Calvin Konner - Alan Skvirsky 58.14
4 Daniel Falk - David Penn 57.20
5 Ellen Rosenthal - Neal Rosenthal . . .55.49
6 Louise Hayes - Penelope Paddock . . .52.65

Stratum D, 4.5 Tables

1 Daniel Falk - David Penn 57.20
2 Louise Hayes - Penelope Paddock . . .52.65
3 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman 51.89

4/5 Louis Coccodrilli - Nathan Wolf 49.05
4/5 Michael Hart - Merna Hart 49.05

FRIDAY AFT NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 16.5 Tables

1 Sybil Cantor - Barbara Ranhand 67.20
2 Alfred Caponiti - Frederic Caponiti . .65.64
3 Alan Walter - Joseph Pregosin 64.16
4 Larry Wallace - Richard Moss 61.93
5 Alan Ferraro - Jeanne Ferraro 59.82
6 Kathleen Zellmer - Ellen Pollack 59.22

Stratum B, 10.5 Tables

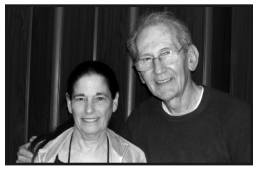
1 Sybil Cantor - Barbara Ranhand 67.20
2 Larry Wallace - Richard Moss 61.93
3 Kathleen Zellmer - Ellen Pollack 59.22
4 David Montague - Patricia Mitchell . .57.77
5 Geane Schubert - Mary Iglehart 54.65
6 Pat Kibler - Donald Smith 52.95

Stratum C, 6.0 Tables

1 Kathleen Zellmer - Ellen Pollack 59.22
2 Geane Schubert - Mary Iglehart 54.65
3 Pat Kibler - Donald Smith 52.95
4 Lynn Choquette - Carolyn Markowsky 50.54

FRI EVE A/X BAROMETER

Stratum A, 13.0 Tables / Based on 38 Tables



1 Helene Bauman - Arnie Frankel 66.08
2 Noble Shore - Michael Gill 63.10
3 John Adams - Steve Robinson 61.56
4 Barbara Shaw - Leo LaSota 57.39
5 Patrick Stanton - Mark Cohen 56.90
6 James Geist - Merril Hirsh 55.44

Stratum X, 6.5 Tables

1 Noble Shore - Michael Gill 63.10
2 Patrick Stanton - Mark Cohen 56.90
3 James Geist - Merril Hirsh 55.44
4 Beta Nahapetian - Murat Berk 53.95
5 Rajeswaran & Prahalad Rajkumar . . .53.56

FRIDAY EVE B/C/D BAROMETER

Stratum B, 14.0 Tables

1 Pat Tyler *(pic.)* - John Wang .56.98
2 Teri Harrison - Isabelle Thabault56.76
3 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman .56.72
4 Kathrine Loh - David Loken .56.18
5 William Dillon - Robert Blatt .56.12
6 Richard Cassell - Alan Dockterman 55.58

Stratum C, 11.5 Tables

1 Teri Harrison - Isabelle Thabault 56.76
2 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman 56.72
3 Kathrine Loh - David Loken 56.18
4 William Dillon - Robert Blatt 56.12
5 Richard Cassell - Alan Dockterman . . .55.58
6 Louis Coccodrilli - Nathan Wolf 55.31

Stratum D, 6.5 Tables

1 Teri Harrison - Isabelle Thabault 56.76
2 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman 56.72
3 William Dillon - Robert Blatt 56.12
4 Louis Coccodrilli - Nathan Wolf 55.31
5/6 Jonathan Higa - Michael Lentz 54.72
5/6 Adam Winsler - Gary Hinson 54.72

FRIDAY EVE NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 11.0 Tables

1 David Montague - Patricia Mitchell . .59.52
2 Jane Hunigan - Penelope Daly 59.23
3 Alfred Caponiti - Frederic Caponiti . .58.63
4 John Downing - David Desjardins . . .56.55
5 Andrew Gerding - James Gerding . . .54.76
6 Albert Stolpe - Kimberly Ferguson . .54.46

Stratum B, 9.0 Tables

1 David Montague - Patricia Mitchell . .59.52
2 Jane Hunigan - Penelope Daly 59.23
3 Andrew Gerding - James Gerding . . .54.76
4 Albert Stolpe - Kimberly Ferguson . .54.46
5/6 Charles Pritzlaff - Olivia Pritzlaff 53.87
5/6 Ernie Schuler - Pamela Bacher 53.87

Stratum C, 4.5 Tables

1 Andrew Gerding - James Gerding . . .54.76
2 Charles Pritzlaff - Olivia Pritzlaff 53.87
3 Deloris Colick - Judy Mammano 48.51
4 Rose Marie Sanders - Gayle Tomasetti47.62

SATURDAY COMPACT KO-1

9 Tables

1 Barry Bragin - Fred King - Stan Schenker - Robert Bell
2 Richard Deyerle - Shawn Stringer - Christopher Whelan Jane Whelan
3 Clyde Kruskal - Martin Graf - Mark Shaw - Donna Rogall
4 Carole Banks - David Fleischer - Rose Berman – Gloria Halstead

SATURDAY COMPACT KO-2

16 Tables

1 Michael Berard *(pic.)* - Murat Berk *(pic.)* - Peter Van Zijl – Richard Wissing
2 Timothy Smith - W Karl Van Newkirk - Virginia Gibbons Phillip Tseng
3 Kathrine Loh - Gretchen Handwerger - David Loken – Steven Rothman
4 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus - Nancy Loomis - Norman Cowen, M.D.

SAT AM OPEN PAIRS

Stratum A, 30.0 Tables / Based on 49 Tables

1 Leo LaSota - David Milton 67.99
2 David Rodney - Leon Letwin 62.88
3 Ruth Potter - Jeff Roman 62.31
4 Peter Boyd - Steve Robinson 61.74
5/6 Pat Tyler - Alfred Caponiti 61.36
5/6 Eugene Fisher - James Geist 61.36

Stratum B, 18.0 Tables

1 Pat Tyler - Alfred Caponiti 61.36
2 David Soukup - Hakan Berk 58.33
3 Elliot Grant - James Davenport, Jr . . .57.77
4 Terence McCarthy - Gail Zamboni . . .56.44
5 Elaine Conway - Suzanne Floyd 56.06
6 Brian Hamrick - Lenny Li 55.68

Stratum C, 7.0 Tables

1 David Soukup - Hakan Berk 58.33
2 Elliot Grant - James Davenport, Jr . . .57.77
3 Brian Hamrick - Lenny Li 55.68
4 Louis Coccodrilli - Nathan Wolf 49.81
5 Jonathan Siegel - Malcolm Stewart . . .47.92

SAT AM NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 19.0 Tables

1 Robert Sturm - Ernie Schuler 62.80
2 Ruth Glen - Eleanor Linde 60.42
3 Dev Chattopadhyay - Mike Ghosh . . .57.14
4 Carol Webster - Duane Webster 56.25
5 Bernice Felix - Susan Weiss 55.65
6/7 Onorica Luculescu - Alina Galaszewska 55.36
6/7 Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash 55.36

Stratum B, 15.0 Tables

1 Ruth Glen - Eleanor Linde 60.42
2 Dev Chattopadhyay - Mike Ghosh . . .57.14
3 Carol Webster - Duane Webster 56.25
4/5 Onorica Luculescu - Alina Galaszewska 55.36
4/5 Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash 55.36
6 Thayer Baine - Kristina Hamilton . . .54.76

Stratum C, 7.0 Tables

1 Ruth Glen - Eleanor Linde 60.42
2 Dev Chattopadhyay - Mike Ghosh . . .57.14
3 Thayer Baine - Kristina Hamilton . . .54.76
4 Mary Krenytzky - William Leishear . .54.17
5 Steve Deakins - Carol Krafka 51.19

SATURDAY AFT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 18.0 Tables / Based on 54 Tables

1 Leo LaSota - David Milton 68.63
2 Arnie Frankel - Helene Bauman 61.15
3 David Rodney - Leon Letwin 59.44
4 John Lowe III - Neil Selvin 58.58
5 John Adams - Lou Reich 56.62
6 Mark Rosen - Jim Pestaner 56.00

Stratum X, 9.5 Tables

1 John Lowe III - Neil Selvin 58.58
2 Rajeswaran & Prahalad Rajkumar . . .55.02
3 William Fitch - Lynda Flanger 53.68
4 Harriet Horowitz - Dale Sanders 52.94
5 Patrick Stanton - Mark Cohen 51.84
6/7 James Stormes - William Zane 51.72
6/7 Eugene Fisher - James Geist 51.72

SATURDAY AFT FLT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 15.0 Tables

1 Suzanne Abrams - Stephen Drodge . .63.45
2 Kitty Gottfried - Daniel Feldman 63.26
3/4 Marvin Raines - Linda Burton 60.42
3/4 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Presicce 60.42
5 David Desjardins - Geoff Lewis 59.28
6 Robert Padgett - Linda Padgett 56.25

Stratum C, 11.5 Tables

1/2 Marvin Raines - Linda Burton 60.42
1/2 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Presicce 60.42
3 David Desjardins - Geoff Lewis 59.28
4 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin 55.49
5 Sheila Ellis - Charles Ellis 53.22
6/7 Joe Hertz - Michael Osborn 52.65
6/7 Veronica Flynn - Jane Culver 52.65

Stratum D, 6.5 Tables

1 Marvin Raines - Linda Burton 60.42
2 David Desjardins - Geoff Lewis 59.28
3 Sheila Ellis - Charles Ellis 53.22
4/5 Joe Hertz - Michael Osborn 52.65
4/5 Veronica Flynn - Jane Culver 52.65

SATURDAY AFT NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 21.0 Tables

1/2 Ellinor Legg - Annapurna Satpathy . .61.61
1/2 David Abraham - Joseph Abita 61.61
3/4 Jane Reifler - Ronald Reifler 58.63
3/4 Hakan Berk - Kathryn Miller 58.63
5 Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash 58.33
6/7 Dev Chattopadhyay - Mike Ghosh . . .56.55
6/7 Charles Pritzlaff - Olivia Pritzlaff 56.55

Stratum B, 15.0 Tables

1 David Abraham - Joseph Abita 61.61
2 Hakan Berk - Kathryn Miller 58.63
3/4 Dev Chattopadhyay - Mike Ghosh . . .56.55
3/4 Charles Pritzlaff - Olivia Pritzlaff 56.55

5/6 Rochelle Hilton - Rachelle Sladoff . .55.36
5/6 Larry Wallace - Daniel Falk 55.36

Stratum C, 7.0 Tables

1/2 Dev Chattopadhyay - Mike Ghosh . . .56.55
1/2 Charles Pritzlaff - Olivia Pritzlaff 56.55
3 Ellen Pollack - Kathleen Zellmer 55.06
4 Kay Anderson - J.R. (Jim) Campbell Jr 52.38
5 Sheryl McEwan - Margaret Mastran . .50.89

SUNDAY A/X SWISS

Stratum A, 12 Tables / Based on 54 Tables

1 William Cole - Steve Robinson- Peter Boyd - Mark Shaw *(not pic.)* 104.00
2 John Adams - Lou Reich - Rajeswaran Rajkumar Prahalad Rajkumar 87.00
3/4 Donna Rogall - Mark Chen - Alan Tenenbaum – Andrew Gofreed 82.00
3/4 Stan Schenker - Rusty Krauss - Barry Falgout – David Milton 82.00

Stratum X, 3 Tables

1 Mark Rosen - James Stormes - David Fleischer – James Geist 53.00

SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS

Stratum B, 28 Tables

1 Jeffrey Kosnett - Alice Wegman - John Glynn – Ronald Susi 107.00
2 Aaron Navarro - Howard Bender - Susan Klaber – Tobi Bear 96.00
3 Robert Krueger - Priscilla Krueger - Pat Lonergan J J Jayaraman 91.00
4 Patrick Stanton - Mark Cohen - Richard Price - Melissa Price 90.00
5/6 Richard Deyerle - Shawn Stringer – Christopher Whelan - Jane Whelan . .86.00
5/6 Dave DuBois - Jennifer Nisenoff - Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Presicce . .86.00
7 Steve Reed - Stephen Drodge - Kiyomi Shiba – Eiji Ishida 85.00
8 Martha Bley - William Fitch - Diane Alexander - Lynda Flanger 82.00

Stratum C, 15 Tables

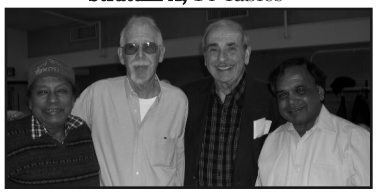
1 Aaron Navarro - Howard Bender - Susan Klaber - Tobi Bear 96.00
2 Robert Krueger - Priscilla Krueger - Pat Lonergan – J J Jayaraman 91.00
3 Steve Reed - Stephen Drodge - Kiyomi Shiba - Eiji Ishida 85.00
4 Lewis Shapiro - Stuart Horwitz - Ronald Destefano - Boris Parkhomovsky 79.00
5/6 Franz Delahan - Madeline Delahan - Maida Crocicchia - Reni Malloy 67.00
5/6 Stephen MacArthur - Elaine Conway - Suzanne Floyd - Hanita Schreiber . . .67.00

Stratum D, 7 Tables

1 Robert Krueger - Priscilla Krueger - Pat Lonergan – J J Jayaraman 91.00
2 Lewis Shapiro - Stuart Horwitz - Ronald Destefano - Boris Parkhomovsky 79.00
3 Alan Ferraro - Jeanne Ferraro - David Epstein – Azmat Ali 64.00

SUNDAY MORN NON-LM SWISS

Stratum A, 14 Tables



1 Arun Guha – Daniel Falk - Larry Wallace - Shyamalendu Pal 59.00
2 Phyllis Isler - Morton Isler - Joan Kindle – Dennis Sponholtz 49.00
3 Ellinor Legg - Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash - Annapurna Satpathy 47.00
4 Rochelle Hilton - Rachelle Sladoff – Bernadette Merceron - Suzanne Dawson 46.00
5 Mary Krenytzky - William Leishear - Bob Hartsell - Jill Duvall 45.00

Stratum B, 9 Tables

1 Rochelle Hilton - Rachelle Sladoff – Bernadette Merceron - Suzanne Dawson 46.00
2 Mary Krenytzky - William Leishear - Bob Hartsell - Jill Duvall 45.00
3 Margaret Mastran - Ruth Glen - Sheryl McEwan - Eleanor Linde 44.00
4/5 Alexander Gretsinger - Jane Dolkart - David Dong - Andrea Stanley-Miller .38.00
4/5 Isabelle Thabault - Joseph Pregosin - Julie Connor - Jim Walsh 38.00

Stratum C, 3 Tables

1 Mary Krenytzky - William Leishear - Bob Hartsell - Jill Duvall 45.00

SUNDAY AFT NLM SWISS

Stratum A, 9 Tables

1 Annapurna Satpathy - Elizabeth Nash - Pamela Bacher - Ellinor Legg 57.00
2 James Gerding - Andrew Gerding - Jean Sobieski - Dennis Serpico 52.00
3 Mary Krenytzky - William Leishear - Jill Duvall – Bob Hartsell 45.00
4 Isabelle Thabault - Jim Walsh - Julie Connor – Joseph Pregosin 40.00

Stratum B, 5 Tables

1 James Gerding - Andrew Gerding - Jean Sobieski - Dennis Serpico 52.00
2 Mary Krenytzky - William Leishear - Jill Duvall – Bob Hartsell 45.00

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Bits & Pieces, *cont. from p. 5...*

Elaine K Salen, Mr Mel Schloss, Mr Albert Shayne, Mrs Florence Shayne, Barbara J Steed, William S Steed, Mr Alex Stouck, and **Mrs Charlotte Zaret.**

Please join us at our weekly Unit Game on Thursday evenings and frequent the local bridge clubs in the area. Information can be found at www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

Come Join the 2010 WBL Round Robin! Sign up by May 6

It's time to get a round robin team together. Round Robin Coordinator, Steve Robinson, will gladly help you to form or join a team of four to six players to play in the flight of your choice. League play runs from May 6th through the summer to determine qualifiers for the knockout portion of the event. This fun event can be played in a relaxed home setting or at a club. Sign up with Steve Robinson by phone: (703) 379-4371, by email: robinswr@erols.com, or use the entry form to sign up by mail or in person.

Saturday 0-NLM Game & Mini-Lesson

Every Saturday, the **Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club** holds a 0 - Non Life Master game with a mini-lesson.

Mini-Lesson: Saturdays, 12:30 pm
0-NLM Game: 1:00 pm
Cost: $6.00
Location: St. James Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road
Directions: Take Rt 270 to Exit 4B (from either direction) Montrose Road. This will take you to Seven Locks Road. Left on Seven Locks Rd 3 blocks. St James Church is on the left (going south), between Post Oak and Gainsboro Rd. There are two buildings, the game and mini-lesson are in the building on the left facing the church. There is plenty of parking in the rear, and a rear entrance to the building (1 flight of stairs if you enter from the rear of the building).

For additional information, contact **Mark Lavine,** 301-503-3348 or mlavine@gcsii.com

Open Games: Sat.: 1pm, Mon, Thurs & Fri: 11:15 am
Tue: 7pm (Tues. only atRockville Senior Center—see www.rockvilledbc.com for directions.)

2010 WBL Round Robin Entry Form

Enclose check *(made out to the WBL)* for $50 for Flight A/X, 0-3000/unlimited, $40 for Flights B/C/D which will be stratified or bracketed depending on the number of entries and number of teams that fall into different brackets. Individuals or pairs should contact Steve Robinson who will help you form a team.

Return entry and entry fee by May 6 to
Steve Robinson, 2891 Abingdon St. #A2, Arlington, Virginia 22206-1329

☐ Open (A/X) Flight ☐ Flight B/C/D

Name	*ACBL #*	*E-Mail Address*
_____, *captain*	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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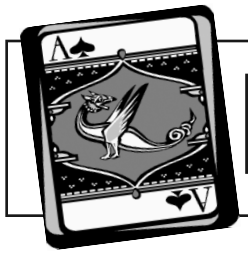

NLMasterPointers

by I/N Columnist, Sandy Forsythe, majslf@aol.com

There and Back Again: Managing Your Entries

How many times have you found yourself throwing away winners from the dummy (or your hand) because you lacked the entries to get over there and play them? You probably remember thinking: "If only I had made a plan, I wouldn't be in this fix!"

An *entry* is any card that lets you transfer the lead from one hand to the other. Managing your entries can be as simple as winning the opening lead in the proper hand, or as sneaky as saving your two to play over to your three once your suit is set up. You should always consider your entries when you're making your plan.

Let's start with a simple example:

Contract: 3NT
Lead: ♣Q

North
♠ J974
♥ 652
♦ 5432
♣ A9

South
♠ AKQ
♥ A874
♦ AK7
♣ K65

If you play to the first trick before making your plan, you might carelessly win with your ♣A because your teacher said to "play your high cards from the short suit first." That's a fine rule, but it doesn't apply to the club suit on this deal! You're always going to get two club tricks with these cards. The suit you need to worry about is spades. To make your contract, you must play your spade honors from your hand before crossing to the dummy to cash your ♠J. If you play the ♣A at Trick 1, you'll find you've just wasted your one and only entry to the dummy!

When you're making your plan, be very careful when one hand has limited entries. What if your plan requires you to take multiple finesses? Take a look at this deal:

Contract: 3NT
Lead: ♦4

North
♠ Q6
♥ 975
♦ 7652
♣ KQ64

South
♠ J74
♥ AQJT
♦ AJ
♣ AJ75

RHO wins the first trick with the ♦K and leads another diamond, which you win with your ♦A. Where are your nine tricks coming from? If RHO has the ♥K and you can finesse him out of it, you can take four hearts, one diamond and four clubs. If LHO has the ♥K, she's going to win it, cash her two (or three!) diamond tricks and switch to a spade, giving the defense at least six tricks…it won't be pretty.

So let's assume the ♥K is on our right. If RHO has three more hearts to go with his king, you're going to have to finesse him three times. Do you have three entries to the dummy? If you play carefully and if the clubs break 3-2, the answer is yes. Start by cashing your ♣A. Then play the ♣7 to the ♣Q in dummy and take the heart finesse. When it wins, you can play your ♣J to dummy's ♣K to finesse a second time. If necessary, you can lead your carefully preserved ♣5 to dummy's ♣6 to finesse in hearts a third time…as long as neither opponent started with four or five clubs. If one of them shows out on the first or second club trick, you can't afford to overtake your ♣J with the ♣K, so you'll only be able to get to dummy twice. You can still make your contract if RHO has no more than three hearts.

Sometimes you have to "waste" a winner in order to create an entry. Consider this deal:

Contract: 3NT
Lead: ♠Q

North
♠ 76
♥ K54
♦ AT963
♣ J82

West	East
♠ QJ83	♠ T942
♥ J97	♥ T862
♦ J754	♦ 82
♣ AT	♣ KQ5

South
♠ AK5
♥ AQ3
♦ KQ
♣ 97643

You need nine tricks to make your contact, and you have eight: two spades, three hearts, and three diamonds. Where is your ninth trick coming from? Not from clubs…you'd have to give the opponents three club tricks before you could get one, and if they lead spades every time they get in with a club, you could lose five tricks in the black suits.

How about diamonds? If the diamonds break 3-3, you can easily score five diamond tricks by playing the ♦K-Q from your hand, crossing to the board with the ♥K and playing your ♦A and then your remaining two diamonds. But if one of the opponents has four diamonds to the jack, that plan isn't going to work. When you lose to the jack, you won't be able to get back to the dummy to cash your fifth diamond.

To guard against that possibility, you can impress your partner with your brilliance by cashing the ♦K on Trick 2, then leading the ♦Q and overtaking it with the ♦A. When you then play your ten to force out the jack, you'll still have the ♥K to get back to your two remaining good diamonds on the board. You gave up one trick you could have taken in order to get back two and guarantee your contract.

Note that if you had needed to win five diamond tricks to make your contract, you couldn't afford to overtake with the ♦A, so you'd have to hope for the diamonds to break evenly.

When you're making your plan as declarer, remember there are no "Beam me up!" plays in bridge. Whether you need transportation to repeat a finesse or to cash your winners once you've established your long suit, be sure to consider your entries!

Stepping Up to New Heights:

As of April 1, 2010

Junior Masters (5 Masterpoints)
Frederic R Caponiti
Mrs Lynn D Choquette
Ms Kathleen T French
Mr Alexander N Gretsinger
Joanne Massey Howes
Mr Ching-Chuan Yeh
Marilyn E Courtot

Club Masters (20 MPs)
Peggy A Marshall
Mrs Sharona Sapoznikow
Mrs Nancy P Veret

Sectional Masters (50 MPs)
Ms Jo Anna Mencarelli
Ms Elizabeth J Tevelow
Ms Carol F Webster
Mr Larry L Hieb
Mr Roger Williamson

Regional Masters (100 MPs)
Ms Donna L Hankey-Woods
Marjorie Kulash
Ms Ellinor T Legg
Margaret A Whalen
Mr Alan J Ferraro
Mrs Jeanne E Ferraro
Leslie P Jessell
Ms Sheila Kaplan
Col David P Montague
Isabelle M Thabault

NABC Masters (200 MPs)
Mrs Marie P Berard
Brian L Childers
Mrs Bernice Felix
Dr Stephen B Weiner
Mr Richard H Wessman

WBL Solvers' Club's New Problems

1) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠J10943♥Q2♦97654♣A

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
????			

2) IMPs, We're Vulnerable

♠AJ♥AJ5♦75♣Q97654

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	2♠	Dbl	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
?????			

3) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠A8432♥KQ10♦-♣KJ1098

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			2♥
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
?????			

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠AJ103♥AKJ2♦5♣A976

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

5) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠AK953♥AQ54♦10♣AK2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
?????		**weak*	

Return answers by May 6 to:
Steve Robinson
2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,
Arlington VA, 22206
robinswr@erols.com

Need a Ride or a Partner for the Thursday Unit Game?

Contact **Barbara Doran** UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org, (301-608-0347 between 9am and 10pm) to find a partner in advance. For a last minute partner, call the **WBL cell phone (301-395-2760)**.

Ron Zucker, Carpool Coordinator can be contacted at 202-986-2166 or (ron@motherzucker.com) or log on to the **On-Line Carpool Notices** at www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

Good luck! *We look forward to seeing you on Thursday evenings.*