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It's Tricks & Treats for All!

at the

**WASHINGTON
BRIDGE LEAGUE'S**

83RD ANNUAL D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 3-6, 2013



Check out Friday Night's
♦IMP PAIRS♦

*and on Sunday, play in the top
bracket of the Bracketed Teams
for the*

♦EYNON TROPHY♦

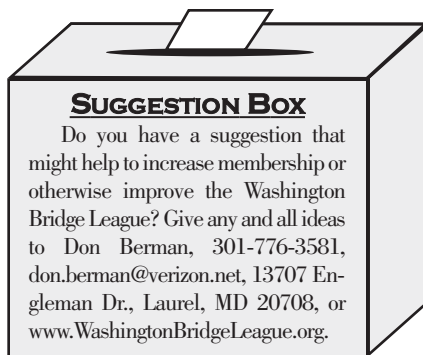
*First awarded in 1931—Try to add
your name to the famous names in-
scribed here!*



Don't miss Saturday's
Machlin Sportsmanship Award Presentation

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...





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, Adrienne Kuehneman 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 6333 Tone Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817-5811.

♣♦♥♠ ~~~~~ ♣♦♥♠

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2013

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)

VOL. 71, #5—SUBSCRIPTION \$2 PER YEAR FOR MEMBERS OF UNIT #147 (INCLUDED IN ACBL ANNUAL DUES). NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION RATE IS \$21 FOR THREE YEARS. PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE AT 14517 PERRYWOOD DRIVE, BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BURTONSVILLE, MD. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE BULLETIN, ACBL, P.O. Box 289, HORN LAKE, MS 38637-0289. ALL EDITORIAL AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EDITOR AT 901 CLIFTONBROOK LN., SILVER SPRING, MD 20905-3711.

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Columnists — Steve Robinson, Richard Colker, Don Berman, Chris Miller, Barry Bragin

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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DISTRICT 6 SITE:

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

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, Richard Ferrin

rferrin@mac.com

We have some great bridge events coming up. At our next WBL Sectional, on Sunday, October 6, Swiss teams that play in the top bracket will compete for the coveted Eynon Trophy, a piece of WBL history that dates back to 1931. There are so many famous names on the original silver cup, that we had to attach a base to allow room for more famous names to be added! Although we will be again running a bracketed teams event concurrently, any team can elect to play in the top bracket and compete for the trophy!

October 12-13 we will have the District Six Finals of the North American Pairs (NAP). Remember all those NAP qualifying games held this summer? Now is the chance to cash in on your qualification, and play

against the best for a shot to represent District Six (*with compensation for travel*) in the NAP finals to be held in March 2014 at the Spring North American Bridge Championships in Dallas, Texas. There will be three flighted events run simultaneously: Open, 0-2000, and Non Life Master. This is the best local pair event of the year, so get out there and compete for the trip to Dallas!

Finally, we will have a special treat November 11-17: a new regional will be held on the Eastern Shore in Cambridge, Maryland. The tournament will be held at a brand new resort hotel, and all reports are that the resort and playing site are terrific! Based on early bookings at the host hotel, we are expecting a great crowd, so I look forward to seeing you there!

BITS AND PIECES

A NOTE FROM THE WBL OMBUDSMAN

Are you satisfied with the way the WBL is running? Do you enjoy the unit games, Sectional tournaments, Round Robins, Unit Knockouts, and other bridge activities organized by your unit?

Is there anything the WBL could do better?

In any organization, there are complaints from time to time from members about how things are run. To make sure that complaints are addressed in a timely, responsible and unbiased manner, the WBL has its own ombudsman.

What is an ombudsman? Ombudsman is a Swedish word, which literally translated means "representative" or "agent." An ombudsman is completely neutral

and independent.

The WBL ombudsman's job is to investigate and report when necessary to the WBL membership, board or staff when corrective action may be warranted. If an investigation is unwarranted, the ombudsman may still choose to provide helpful advice to the WBL board or staff in order to improve conditions for the membership. The ombudsman may seek opinions from members regarding a complaint received, but the ombudsman should take care to protect the privacy of complainants.

The WBL ombudsman will not specifically identify any members who provide feedback to the ombudsman. The ombuds-

...continued on p. 19

OCTOBER 3-6, 2013



83rd Annual D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

at the

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL/ARMORY

3710 Mitchell St, Kensington, MD ~ (except where noted)

It's Tricks and Treats for all!

(Stratification is based on average masterpoints of the team or pair.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs (unlim/1500/500) 10:00am
Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine)
St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville
- ♦ StrataFlighted Open Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D Separate 2000/1000/500) (both sites); Stratified NLM Pairs (NLM/100/50) & 0-20 Pairs (Kensington Armory only); Stratified 199er Pairs (Beth El only)
Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm
Kensington Town Hall/Armory 7:30pm

ALERT! NEW START!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

- ♣ *StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm
- ♦ **IMP Pairs** A/X (unlim/3000) 7:15pm ← **EARLIER START!**
It's the Friday night IMPs! 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.
- ♥ B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) 7:15pm
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:15pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

- ♣ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) (single sessions) .. 11:00am, 4:00pm
- ♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 4:00pm
- ♥ **Machlin Sportsmanship Award** Presentation & **Panel Show** between sessions

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

- ♠ **Eynon Trophy**
First awarded in 1931—Try to add your name to the famous names inscribed here!
Bracketed Teams, (2 session playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
Check out this format! Each bracket of eight teams (by average masterpoints) plays all of the other teams in its bracket! The top bracket will hold an unlimited number of teams and will play a Swiss format. Your team may choose to play up—but only into the top bracket, (which awards the trophy).
- ♣ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:00pm

♣ Lots of Intermediate & Novice Events with Silver Points! ♥

Separate I/N events & strata as advertised as attendance allows. (Director's discretion.)

Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks, & **Friday & Sunday lunch** free of charge. Chair: **Ron Zucker**, 202-390-3443, ron@motherzucker.com. Volunteer Coordinator: **Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com; Hospitality Chair Emeritus: **Kitty Gottfried**, Hospitality Chair(s) Wanted; Partnerships: **Barbara Doran**, 301-608-0347, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org

*StrataFlighted if attendance warrants—otherwise combined into Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500)

Directions to the Kensington Town Hall/Armory: 495 Beltway Exit 33, Connecticut Avenue North (Rt. 185N—to Kensington). 1.5 miles, right at light—Knowles Ave. 1st right at stop—Armory Ave. 1st left at stop—to 3710 Mitchell St. & parking lot on right. Additional parking in nearby lots—see website maps.

WASHINGTONBRIDGELEAGUE.ORG

Mid-chart allowed in all events except I/N

SILVER SPRING, MD: JANUARY 2-5, 2014

52nd Annual

~ PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT ~

at the KENSINGTON TOWN HALL/ARMORY

3710 Mitchell St, Kensington, MD ~ (except where noted)

(Stratification by avg. masterpoints of the team or pair.)

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Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm
Kensington Town Hall/Armory 7:30pm

NO ENTRY
TILL 11AM

Washington
Bridge
League

2014...
Cheers to a
New Year &
a New Deal!

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- ♣ *StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm
- ♦ **IMP Pairs** A/X (unlim/3000) 7:15pm ← EARLIER START!
- It's the Friday night IMPs!* 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.
- ♥ B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) 7:15pm
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:15pm

♥ Panel & Party Show

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

to Honor New Life Masters between sessions

- ♣ **Special! JOINT ABA/ACBL** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) 11:00am
- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) 4:00pm
- ♥ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 4:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation

- ♣ **Bracketed Teams**, (2 session playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
Check out this format! Each bracket of eight teams (by average masterpoints) plays all of the other teams in its bracket! The top bracket will hold an unlimited number of teams and will play a Swiss format. Your team may choose to play up—but only into the top bracket.
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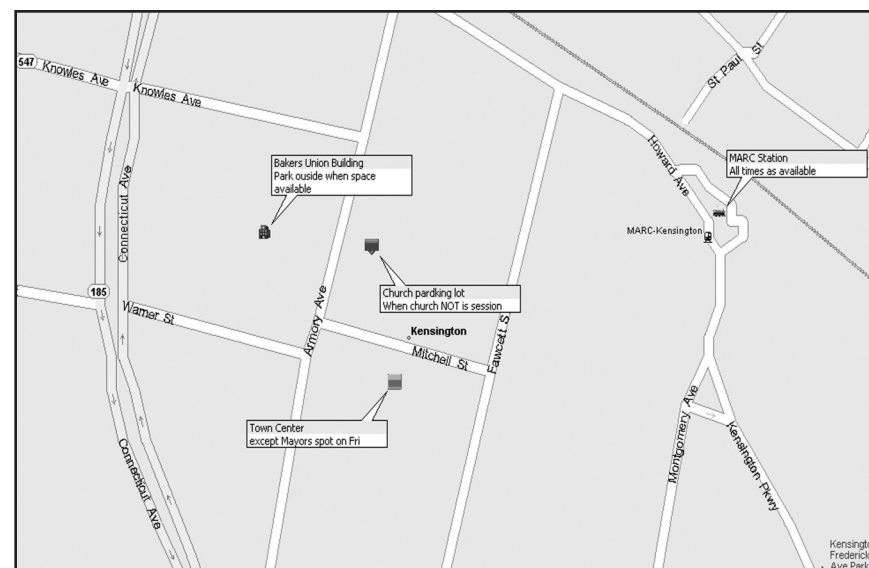
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PARKING MAP FOR KENSINGTON



WBL MEMBERS WHO TEACH BRIDGE

Leslie Shafer, slamhand@verizon.net, 301-977-0314, **Charlie Williams**, charlie.williams@verizon.net, 301-977-0314, and **Hank Meyer**, hankmeyer@hotmail.com, 301-474-6677.

Leslie Shafer, her husband Ralph "Charlie" Williams (aka Studmuffin), and Hank Meyer all strive to entertain and make the bridge learning process fun. They are certified ACBL Accredited Teachers. The classes they run in Montgomery County for beginners through advanced players are listed at www.bridgeteacher.com. Teaching bridge for over 15 years. Charlie and Leslie have been writing a bridge student newsletter for over 10 years. Leslie is a monthly columnist for the *ACBL Bulletin*, is past President of the American Bridge Teachers' Assc., has Master Teacher status with the American Bridge Teacher's Assc. and is a past WBL Bulletin NL Master columnist. Charlie is a certified director with ABTA Master Teacher status. Hank is a tournament director with over 20 years of teaching experience. In fact, he was Leslie's teacher 20 years ago!!

Shawn Stringer, ShStringer@aol.com, 301-275-6363. Shawn is one of our current WBL Bulletin NL Master columnists and is a tournament chair. She teaches small groups in the home.

Lois & Bryan Geer, geerbridge@verizon.net, 301-236-0014. The Geers run the 0-20 game

and mini-lesson at the unit game. Lois holds private lessons for small groups in the Silver Spring, MD area at the beginner/intermediate level.

Mark Lavine, mlavine@gcsii.com, 301-503-3348, www.rockvilledbc.com, Club Manager of the Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club.

Regena Edwards, Regena.Edwards@yahoo.com, 301-776-8511. Regena currently teaches many classes in the Baltimore City area and is looking to do more in Laurel. She teaches beginner and intermediate classes bidding, declarer play, and defensive play. She is available to teach on Thursdays.

Aaron Navarro, abn123@netzero.net, 301-946-7849. Aaron teaches and mentors novices and advancing players in small groups and individual private lessons.

Frank & Mary Anne Shull, terpfrank@verizon.net, 301-365-7735. The Shulls teach at the Rockville Senior Center and Friendship Center in Chevy Chase.

Jane Friend, jfjkjb@verizon.net, 202-966-1551. Jane teaches small groups—her place or yours in DC—hands on.

Isabelle Thabault, imthabault@aol.com, 202-362-6141. She teaches beginners only and her classes are at the Chevy Chase Community Center, on Connecticut Ave in DC.



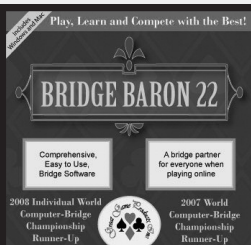
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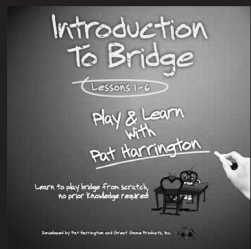
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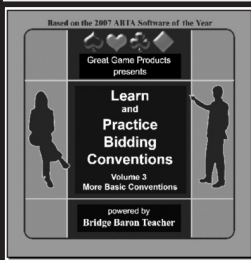


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these conventions as well. • LPBC teaches you and allows you to practice responses and rebids for conventions, while Learn Conventions does not offer practice of responses and rebids for conventions. • **LPBC 2** and **3** are also available. They each contain seven convntions.

WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson

robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **Robert Stone** who came in first with a score of 490. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game, and will be invited to be on a future panel. Second was **Donna Rogall** with a score of 480. Tied for third were **Sam Keiter, Mark McEneaney** and **Lex Poot** with a score of 470. Tied for fifth were **Tom Vinson, Ben Stauss, Leon Letwin** and **Harry Gellis** with a score of 460. Tied for tenth were **Mike Jenks, Michael Ebell, Jim Lynch, Jeff Zaller, Barbara Israel, Wes Goldberg, Ed Anania, Lynne Schaefer, Michael Meyer, Craig Olson, Jerry Miller, Mel Yudkin, Ed Lewis, Paul Benedict, Bob Henry, Dick Robinson, Terry Jones, Tom Musso, Ron Zucker, Wrus Kristiansen, Larry Kahn, Betty Himles** and **Walter Beckerman** with a score of 450. Tied for thirty-third were **Arnie Frankel, Mark Chen, Betty Scott, Michael Berard, Jeff Hepner, Peter Van Zijl, Rich Uhrig, Enid Hughes, Mike Zane, Suzanne Abrams, Kathy Rabenstein, Bill Meeks, Charles Yaple** and **Jim Wakefield** with a score of 440. The average score of the 197 solvers was 400. The average score of the experts was 460.

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 \$30.15 which includes \$5.15 for priority mail.

1) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠KQ97♥AKQ3♦AQ96♣3

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Pass	100	6	62
1♠	90	3	36
Dbl	80	1	87
3NT	40	0	2
1NT	40	0	2
4♣	20	0	4
4NT	20	0	1
4♥	20	0	1
2♥	20	0	1

Do you make a takeout double with a singleton in an unbid suit? If you double here, at least the unbid suit is a minor. However, there are two other popular possibilities. There are problems with all three. One of the other possibilities is pass. If you pass you'll get another chance but will you be able to show your strength? Suppose you pass and LHO rebids 1NT and it goes pass – pass back to you. Now you can make a penalty double. On the other hand, suppose LHO raises hearts, then what? I guess you could balance with 2♠ but that doesn't show 20 HCPs. If you pass and LHO rebids 2♣, then you can make a takeout double but again that doesn't show 20 HCPs and when partner bids 2♠, you won't know how many spades he has. If Opener rebids 1NT you will be able to make a penalty double, however partner is very likely to have a weak hand with clubs and bid 2♣. If you double 1♥, what are you going to do when partner bids clubs? A third possibility is to overcall 1♠. However, 1♠ does not show twenty HCP. I think overcalling 1♠ is the least of all evils. The good news is that when partner has a lot of spades, you'll know about it. The bad news is that you could end up in a 4-1 fit.

One expert doubles. Might work if partner bids 1♠, unless he is forced to bid a three-card suit. Not sure what will happen if partner bids clubs. I can see partner jumping to 4♣ holding ♠xx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣Jxxxx.

Lublin: “Double—And bid notrump over expected club response.”

Six experts pass.

Elster: “Pass—Partner's clearly broke, and I'll get another chance, perhaps to ring up a number on defense.”

Adams: “Pass—If 1NT comes back to me I can double for penalty. If 2♣ comes back to me I can double for take-out.”

This brings us to the question of what is pass followed by double of 1NT. There are two possibilities of hands that you could have when 1NT comes back to you. You could have a real strong hand similar to the problem hand. You could also have an average hand where you want to compete. By playing that bidding a suit shows that suit and a higher, you can compete with the average hands and also double for penalties.

Hopkins: “Pass—Opener will bid again and I may get a chance to better describe my hand. Optimal would be for opener to rebid 2♣ passed around to me.”

Why would that be optimal? You double 2♣, find partner with ♠xxx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣xxxx who bids 2♠. Are you going to raise?

Landen: “Pass—Opponents are in a forcing auction so no rush to jump in. I can come in later if it seems prudent.”

Schwartz: “Pass—1♠ might work out if partner has a preemptive raise but that is putting all my eggs in one basket. Pass allows us to possibly play in a red suit or even defend.”

Woolsey: “Pass—Right now there is no convenient call. If West rebids 1NT and that

comes around to me I can double for penalties. If West rebids 2♣ and that comes around to me, I can double for takeout. Otherwise, it may be right to stay quiet.”

If you stay quiet, you'll never know if partner has spade support.

Two experts join me and overcall in their four-card suit. By overcalling 1♠, you find out if partner has four-card or longer spade support. With four or more spades, he'll preempt. Overcalling 1♠ is relatively safe. You could be saved if Opener has three-card heart support and makes a support double or has four clubs and rebids 2♣. Of course, if the opponents have a 4-4 spade fit, you'll end up playing in the 4-1.

King: “1♠—Partner must have about a zero count, but maybe he has a few spades for me.”

Parker: “1♠—I know partner is broke but I can't stand to pass with this hand and don't want to back in over 1NT — pass — pass.”

Sometimes it's right to overcall in a four-card suit.

2) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠AJ10♥AKQJ3♦AQ6♣Q6

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dbl	Pass	1♠	2♣
?????			

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Dbl	100	6	14
3♣	80	2	46
2♥	80	1	65
3♥	80	1	43
2♠	30	0	6

4♠	30	0	11
4♥	30	0	6
3♠	30	0	2
4NT	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	1
2♦	20	0	1

There is a perfect bid for this situation. Double! Double of 2♣ shows two clubs, at least 17 HCP and fewer than four spades. If partner has four or more clubs, he can pass your double. If partner has another suit he can introduce it. If partner has five spades, he'll rebid spades, jumping if he has some values. If he's 4=3=3=3, he'll bid a three-card suit, probably diamonds.

Five experts join me and double. The best thing about double is that it follows the 'when there are multiple bids available, make the cheapest call' rule.

Elster: “Double—I'll try to get more information to determine our best strain.”

Adams: “Double—Close between this and 2♥. My hand is still flexible on strain and is more powerful than double then 2♥.”

Hopkins: “Double—I believe most partnerships treat this as an 18+ three-card raise. umber of options.”

Landen: “Double—Shows a strong hand (not 23 HCP). This hand won't play well after three rounds of clubs upper cutting me.”

Schwartz: “Double—If partner bids 2♦, I can try 2♥ otherwise I can play in spades. Double allows partner to pass with a weak hand with clubs.”

Two experts bid hearts. Partner will not know that you have three spades and could pass 2♥ or 3♥ holding five spades and two hearts.

Woolsey: “3♥—This sequence shows a very strong takeout double with hearts, not

quite forcing. It's just what I have.”

If 2♥ shows a good hand with five or more hearts, 3♥ must be 99% forcing.

Parker: “2♥—Shows a good hand, not this good, but unlikely that I will have game so take the low road.”

Two experts cuebid. 3♣ not only gets you too high too fast, it does not show five good hearts.

King: “3♣—This tends to show three spades and asks partner for further input. I can introduce hearts later.”

Lublin: “3♣—I cue bid 3♣ to get partner’s response. I will raise 3♠ to 4♠.”

When opener rebids his suit, the second double shows exactly two cards in his suit with at least 17 HCP.

If you have a singleton or void you have to find another bid.

3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠2♥AKQ43 ♦543♣K543

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♥	Pass	2♦(GF)	Pass
?????2♥ shows six; 2♦ shows 5+			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♠	100	4	8
2♥	90	3	12
3♦	70	3	81
3♣	70	0	85
4♦	50	0	3
3♥	30	0	3
4♥	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	1
5♦	20	0	1

Some players play that a rebid of a major after a two-over-one shows six. We happen to be playing that system here. However, when you have a suit that will play for one loser opposite a singleton, you could treat it as a six-card suit. Since I like to play that 2♥ could be bid on five, I don’t mind breaking the six-card rebid rule. There are three other possibilities. You could raise diamonds by bidding 3♦ or more strongly by jumping to 3♠. The other possibility is to bid your four-card club suit. When you’re playing 2♥ shows six, then 3♣ does not show extras.

Two experts join me and rebid their hearts. The suit is good enough to play opposite a singleton. If you have a choice between calls, usually the cheapest call is best. 2♥ leaves room for partner to make a second natural bid at a low level.

Parker: “2♥—Makes it easy to make my next bid which will to be raise diamonds over any non-heart raise.”

If partner’s diamonds are weak, the indirect diamond raise will slow partner down.

Schwartz: “2♥—Partner should not raise with a doubleton and even if he does, it should be OK. Best part about the bids is it allows a natural rebid from partner.”

Even if 2♥ shows six, partner should not raise without three. With Kxxxxx, you downgrade if partner has two-card support and upgrade if partner has three-card support.

Seven experts raise diamonds. Three make a simple raise.

Elster: “3♦—We have a fit, partner. 3♦ gives us our best chance to get to slam if we belong there. If I bid 3♣ and partner bids 3NT, I won’t know whether to then raise his diamonds. The hand isn’t strong enough for 3♠-splinter.”

Adams: “3♦—This is either unbalanced,

or extras, but need not be both. 3♣ is a possible bid as it points to a likely 3NT contract, but my style is to support with support, and expect partner to work out to bid 3NT.”

If you’re playing that 2♥ shows six, then 3♦ does not promise extras and could be bid on a very bad opener.

Landen: “3♦—I’m not a big fan of this style. My trumps are too weak/short to splinter, so just a simple raise.”

Four experts splinter. I don’t like splintering with only three trumps especially low trumps. Give partner ♠Axx ♥xx ♦KQxxx ♣AKJ and you’ll get to a below average slam and give partner ♠Axx ♥Jx ♦Axxxx ♣AQJ and you’ll get to a no play slam. What is partner supposed to do if he has three-card heart support and a good hand? Suppose he holds ♠Axx ♥Jxx ♦AKQxx ♣xx. You could easily get to slam off the ♣AK.

Hopkins: “3♠—Oh, what the heck! My controls are good, but I worry about my trump quality. I hope partner has the good sense to use Keycard if my call really excites him.”

Lublin: “3♠—I bid 3♠ which is a splinter bid.”

Woolsey: “3♠—As long as 2♦ shows at least five, I might as well let partner know this is a playable trump suit. And as long as I am raising, I might as well raise descriptively. The information about the singleton spade tells him a lot more than a mere 3♦-call.”

King: “3♠—I would like better diamonds, but a splinter describes this hand best.”

Keycard won’t help you get a plus opposite ♠AQx ♥Jx ♦Qxxxx ♣AQJ.

If you have other options, don’t splinter without four-card support. Again the cheapest bid is usually the best bid.

4) IMPs, You’re Vulnerable

♠Q974♥KQJ2♦Q983♣3

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
			3♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
4♦	100	8	121
3♥	90	2	32
4♥	70	0	19
3NT	50	0	9
Pass	50	0	8
3♠	50	0	3
4♠	50	0	3
4♣	20	0	1

Cue bid is a very popular answer asking partner to bid something and is forcing to game. There are two drawbacks to the cuebid. One is that partner is allowed to double 3♦ holding ♠Axx ♥Kxx ♦xx ♣Axxxx. Is he supposed to bid a three-card major in response to the cuebid? You wouldn’t be very happy if he bid 5♣. He’s also allowed to double 3♦ with a good ten-count. Wouldn’t you double 3♦ holding ♠AKx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣Kxxx? In response to partner’s reopening takeout double, you’re supposed to change the king of hearts to the three of hearts especially at matchpoints or non-vulnerable. In other words what would you respond if you held ♠Q974 ♥QJ32 ♦Q983 ♣3? If you change the queen of hearts to the three when you’re vulnerable at IMPs you still have ♠Q974 ♥KJ32 ♦Q983 ♣3. On the other side, if partner has one four-card major, the cuebid will get you to your best spot. Passing the double

could be right especially if partner has strength in clubs.

One expert agrees with me and goes conservative. Would you like to be in 4♥ if partner held ♠Axxx♥Axxx♦xx♣Axx?

Adams: “3♥—No strong opinion. Pass, 4♦, 3♠, could all be right. Four-of-a-major might go for a number on a bad split, or might be cold on a good split, so a cue bid will get us a random good or bad result. I am going conservative VS preempts this time. Choosing 3♥ as it’s cheaper than 3♠ and therefore has an extra chance to keep the auction open. I show seven HCP when the opponents preempt. This is a bit stronger, but not immensely so. Tempting to pass with one to two trump tricks, but partner does not promise the world for a balancing double and I have just one sure trick in my hand.”

Eight experts cuebid.

Lublin: “4♦—I bid 4♦ to get partner to bid his major.”

Parker: “4♦—Probably an overbid, but at least we will be in the right suit.”

Are you’re going to pass if partner bids 5♣?

Elster: “4♦—The choice is between that and pass, and us being red vs. white, the major-suit game-force seems right. If partner wants to move towards slam, I have my bid. Switch the vulnerability and I pass.”

Hopkins: “4♦—At least I will be playing in the right strain. Without both Majors, I would consider a Pass.”

Landen: “4♦—Ask partner to choose a major. Better to try for vulnerable game than not vulnerable penalty.”

Schwartz: “4♦—An overbid but worth it to make sure we get to the right major vulnerable.”

Woolsey: “4♦—Passing is tempting, but there are too many things that could go wrong and only one thing that can go right. The 4♦-call will get us to the right strain, at least.”

King: “4♦—We may be too high but I can’t afford to miss a vulnerable game.”

When partner makes a reopening double, and you’re Vulnerable at IMPs subtract a queen from your hand.

5) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠AQ8532♥-♦AK3♣KJ73

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
			2♥
????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Dbl	100	6	98
3♠	80	2	29
2♠	60	1	55
3♥	50	1	6
4♠	50	0	6
3NT	20	0	1
4♥	20	0	1

Over a weak-two, a jump to 3♠ shows a good six-card suit with at least 16 points. It’s an intermediate-jump overcall. You don’t preempt over preempts. You have the points for the jump, but is this suit good enough to jump in? Usually the suit should be good enough to play opposite a singleton. The way you can show a weaker spade suit is to double and then bid spades.

Three experts bid spades directly. They do not want to double with a heart void in case partner leaves it in. But how bad would

that be? You have a good lead and on very good days partner has the other seven hearts.

Lublin: “3♠—I bid 3♠ to show good hand. I do not want to double with heart void.”

King: “3♠—While double is possible, I won’t be happy if partner passes. If I had one more heart and one less spade, I would double, but here I want to insist on offense.”

One expert goes low. 4♠ has play opposite ♠Jx♥Qxxx♦xxxx♣Qxx.

Elster: “2♠—If partner can’t bid over 2♠, we’re probably high enough. If my LHO finds a bid, I’ll likely find a double.”

Five experts join me and double. When you later bid spades, partner will know that they will not play well opposite a singleton or void.

Parker: “Double—If partner passes then we should kill them, if he bids a suit I will bid spades.”

Adams: “Double—Too flexible on strain for an immediate jump to 3♠.”

Hopkins: “Double—This gives us the greatest chance to locate our best fit. I can introduce Spades later.”

Landen: “Double—Double to be followed,

most likely by 4♠. Huge playing strength if partner can fill a few small holes.”

Schwartz: “Double—Too much playability on the other suits to jump in spades. Even though later bidding spades implies only five, the poor spots make up for it.”

One expert tries something strange.

Woolsey: “3♥—This is a stopper ask. When I pull partner’s likely 3NT call to 4♠, he will know that I have a flexible sort of hand rather than a spade suit which can play opposite a small singleton.”

There are two ways to play the 3♥ cuebid. One way is the stopper-ask asking partner to bid 3NT with a heart stopper. The second way is Michaels which is what I prefer. By using 3♥ as Michaels, partner can bid 3NT if his hand contains short spades and stoppers in the other suits, especially hearts. If you hold ♠KQJ10x♥x♦AK10xx♣xx, you’d like to bid 3♥ Michaels so that if partner held ♠xx♥QJ10x♦Qxx♣KQJ0x, you could play 3NT. If you had to bid 4♦, Leaping Michaels, to show 5-5 in diamonds and spades, you’d end up going down in 4♠ or 5♦.

Jump overcalls over preempts show good suits and good hands.

SOLVERS’ SCORES

John Adams	Pass	Dbl	3♦	3♥	Dbl	460
Marvin Elster	Pass	Dbl	3♦	4♦	2♠	430
Robbie Hopkins	Pass	Dbl	3♠	4♦	Dbl	500
Fred King	1♠	3♣	3♠	4♦	3♠	450
Steve Landen	Pass	Dbl	3♦	4♦	Dbl	470
Glen Lublin	Dbl	3♣	3♠	4♦	3♠	460
Steve Parker	1♠	2♥	2♥	4♦	Dbl	470
Steve Robinson	1♠	Dbl	2♥	3♥	Dbl	470
Alan Schwartz	Pass	Dbl	2♥	4♦	Dbl	490
Kit Woolsey	Pass	3♥	3♠	4♦	3♥	430

2013 TROPHY RACE STANDINGSwww.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Updated by John Adams

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 August 29, 2013, not including the Round Robin. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

1	155.71	John Adams
2	138.51	Steve Robinson
3	117.71	Brad Theurer
4	111.08	Steven Schatzow
5	105.54	Barry Falgout
6	90.77	Lloyd Rawley
7	88.00	Peter Boyd
8	81.97	Clyde Kruskal
9	80.36	Richard Wegman
10	78.82	Robert Bell
11	76.58	David Ruderman
12	70.80	William Cole
13	65.44	James Berry
14	62.63	Michael Richey
15	62.04	Donna Rogall
16	60.88	Mark Shaw
17	59.44	James Geist
18	59.41	Jason Meyer
19	59.40	Larry Kahn
20	58.94	H John Edmonds
21	58.43	Fred King
22	56.26	Alfred Steinberg
23	54.27	Barry Bragin
24	52.56	Alexander Prairie
25	52.41	Joan Lewis

Izzy Cohen

1	65.44	James Berry
2	52.56	Alexander Prairie
3	44.95	David Genne
4	34.05	Dale Sanders
5	33.29	Hadi Abushakra
6	32.74	Mike Frosch
7	31.38	Ernie Schuler
8	30.71	Terry Klein
9	29.67	Aaron Navarro
10	28.96	Charles Dearolf
11	28.54	Guillaume de Decker
12	27.99	Mary Ourand
13	27.50	Margaret Cooke
	27.50	Peter Isard
15	27.29	Myron Goldstein

Tubbs

1	31.38	Ernie Schuler
2	30.71	Terry Klein
3	28.96	Charles Dearolf
4	27.99	Mary Ourand
5	27.50	Margaret Cooke
	27.50	Peter Isard
7	27.29	Myron Goldstein
8	25.81	Jill Benson
9	25.14	Ollie Thomas
	25.14	Julie Thomas

Woolridge

1	10.81	Ettie Gordon
2	9.97	Carl Barth
3	9.76	David Matusow
4	9.70	Phillip Shapiro
5	8.47	Mark Zweig
6	7.57	Julie Marquette
7	7.53	Wilma Bonner
8	7.50	Kate Baldwin
	7.50	Stephen Baldwin
10	6.94	Sara Mazie

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****GUARANTEED
PARTNERS!****7:00PM
LESSON****7:30 - 10ISH
GAME****JOIN ANYTIME**

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+ pre-empts, overcalls, takeout doubles, negative doubles, opening leads, and signaling. Each lesson will be tailored to the needs and interests of the players.

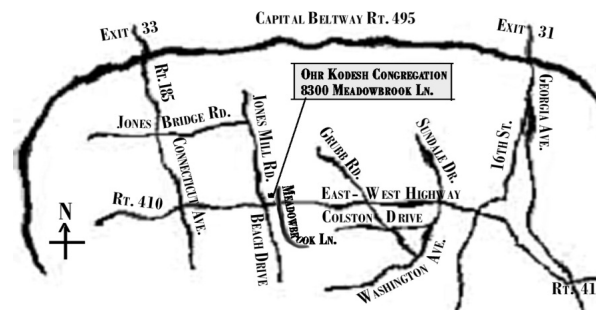
This is a great program for beginners as well as experienced social bridge players! Partners will be provided if needed. For more information, contact Bryan or Lois Geer at 301-236-0014 or by email at geerbridge@verizon.net.

~ ♣ ♦ **SCHEDULE** ♥ ♠ ~*Most games held at Ohr Kodesh*

09/12/13**StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 09/19/13**NVBA Sectional
 09/26/13**D6 STaC Stratified Pairs
 10/03/13**WBL Sectional
 10/10/2013StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 10/17/2013StrataFlighted BAM Teams; NLM Pairs
 10/24/2013NVBA Sectional
 10/31/2013StrataFlighted Unit Championship Appr
 11/07/2013StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 11/14/2013StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 11/21/2013StrataFlighted Grand National Teams
 11/28/2013**CLOSED** for Thanksgiving
 12/05/2013StrataFlighted Grand National Teams
 12/12/2013StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 12/19/2013**Holiday Party**—Stratified D6 STaC Pairs
 12/26/2013StrataFlighted Grand National Teams
 01/02/14**WBL Sectional

Check website for any schedule changes. **Bold dates** held at other locations: *TBD; **Kensington Town Hall/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 in the Open or B/C/D game at least a day in advance, contact **Barbara Doran** at UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org or barbd@star-power.net, or call 301-608-0347 between 9am and 10pm. To find a partner for the NLM game, contact **Shawn Stringer** at 301-275-6363 or ShStringer@aol.com.

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.

THE UNIT GAME

BRIDGEMATE TRIVIA, EPISODE 3 "THE RETURN OF THE DEFENDERS"

This continues our occasional series of variously quirky or celebratory statistics garnered from our BridgeMate archives. Take them all with a grain of salt – the data is not 100% perfect because of occasional errors in score entry, etc – but enjoy them anyway.

The 10 all-time most successful WBL partnerships in defense.* Last time we looked at the performance of individual defenders; this time we look at how successfully pairs are defending together.

These tables only take account of whether or not the contract was defeated (ignoring undertricks and match-point outcome), for pair and BAM games only, so "success" may not be all it appears.

In Flight A/X games only:

Partnership	Hands Defended	Success Rate
John Adams + Michael Gill	27	56%
Earl Glickstein + Michael Richey	26	54%
Jim Dick + Mark Lavine	25	52%
Hank Meyer + Jason Meyer	25	52%
Charity Sack + Donna Rogall	27	52%
Jason Meyer + Steven Schatzow	26	50%
Alexander Prairie + Mark Chen	73	49%
Dale Sanders + James Beller	39	49%
Daniel Feldman + David Vendittis	33	49%
Irv Kipnis + Janet Dence	29	48%

In all games:

Partnership	Hands Defended	Success Rate
Charles Dearolf + Mark Feldman	25	56%
John Adams + Michael Gill	27	56%
Beth Wisinski + Gary Wisinski	25	52%
Jim Dick + Mark Lavine	25	52%
Hank Meyer + Jason Meyer	25	52%
Brad Libros + Robert Bell	26	50%
Jason Meyer + Steven Schatzow	26	50%
Robert Blatt + Stephen Weiner	28	50%
Charity Sack + Donna Rogall	41	49%
Dale Sanders + James Beller	39	49%

*Restricted to partnerships who have played at least once in the last 12 months & defended 25+ contracts.

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

Please contact **Chris Miller**, Club Manager and Chief Director, at unitgamedirector@districtsix.org if you have any questions about how the WBL Unit Game is run. This column answers some FAQs.

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,

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♣ October 3-6, 2013, WBL, Kensington, MD
- ♦ October 24-27, 2013, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♣ January 2-5, 2014, WBL, Kensington, MD
- ♦ February 20-23, 2014, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♥ Spring, 2014, WBL, TBA, MD
- ♣ April 10-13, 2014, NVBA, Fairfax, VA

COMMITTEE ACTION #80

by Rich Colker, rcolker@gmail.com

A deal from the second qualifying session of the Life Master Pairs at the 2012 Fall NABC in San Francisco illustrates two important concepts in ruling the modern game: (1) Both members of a partnership should have complete, accurate and identically filled out convention cards. (2) Expert or experienced players are required to protect themselves as much as possible when something clearly strange or unexpected happens at the table. In this case these two issues were working against one another, offering a lesson to be learned.

Bd: 2; Vul: N/S; Dlr: East

♠ 8643	
♥ Q	
♦ KQJ109	
♣ KQ10	
♠ AKQJ97	♠ 2
♥ 102	♥ AKJ874
♦ 762	♦ 843
♣ 74	♣ 932
♠ 105	
♥ 9653	
♦ A5	
♣ AJ865	

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
		Pass	Pass

2♠ made two, +110 for E/W. After the deal N/S called the Director explaining that neither E/W player had the red non-forcing new suit response box checked in the weak-two bid section of his convention card. N/S wanted their interests protected regarding their right to compete in the auction had they known that 2♠ was non-forcing. West told the Director that he intended 2♠ as forcing while East said that 2♠ "should be forcing." The table Director ruled that the table result would

stand since players in the NABC LM Pairs were considered experienced enough to protect themselves by asking about the opponents' methods when a "presumed" forcing bid was unexpectedly passed. If South had inquired about the 2♠ bid before calling in the pass-out seat and had then called the Director the auction could have been backed up to permit North to bid over 2♠ if he wished or, if he declined to bid, South would then have been able to act knowing for sure whether the 2♠ bid was forcing or not.

N/S appealed the ruling; only North attended the hearing. The table Director was represented by the screening Director. He explained to the Committee that the table Director noted on the appeal form that neither N/S player had chosen to protect himself, either in the pass-out seat or as the opening leader. He cited the ACBL regulation which states: "Players who, by experience or expertise, recognize that their opponents have neglected to Alert a special agreement will be expected to protect themselves... An opponent who actually knows of or suspects what is happening, even though not properly informed, may not be entitled to redress." The screening Director said it was his understanding that the table Director had discussed the issue of whether 2♠ was forcing with E/W and was convinced that both of them thought their partnership agreement was that it was forcing. And while both of their actions might appear a bit strange, there was little to suggest that they had an agreement to play (Alertable) non-forcing responses to weak-two bids. Consequently, the Director ruled that 2♠ was not Alertable since it was not, by agreement, non-forcing. Therefore, the table result was allowed to

...continued on p. 18

Committee Action, cont. from p. 17...

stand since without an infraction there can be no adjustment.

North argued that if East thought 2♠ was non-forcing he was obligated to Alert. His failure to bid in response to 2♠ was clear evidence that he thought it was non-forcing and therefore owed an Alert to his opponents. He also stated that West's hand did not comport with what most people would consider a forcing 2♠ bid. This all suggested that 2♠ in this partnership was non-forcing and that the convention cards were mistakenly filled out.

The Committee believed that his case came down to determining whether E/W had an agreement about whether a new suit response to a weak two-bid was forcing and, if so, what that agreement was. If they had no agreement or had an agreement that it was forcing, then there had been no infraction and there was no obligation to Alert the bid. If they had an agreement that a new suit response was non-forcing, then an Alert was due and any damage to N/S which may have resulted from it could be regained through a score adjustment.

The evidence that 2♠ was non-forcing was: (a) East passed the bid and (b) West's hand was more consistent with an agreement of non-forcing than with an agreement of forcing. The evidence that it was forcing was: (a) The E/W convention cards did not have "New Suits NF" checked, (b) West stated that 2♠ was forcing, and (c) East admitted that West's bid "should be forcing." Law 75C says that a misexplanation should be assumed without evidence to the contrary, but does not state how much evidence is necessary to reject misexplanation and accept instead that there had been a mistaken (or contrary to agreement) call. Here, the evidence to support either conclusion was substantial. While normally the Director (or a Committee) tends to assume misexplanation (failure to Alert), here the table Director had heard and evaluated E/W's discussion of the meaning of 2♠. Since this interchange was likely an enlightening one the Committee decided to defer to the table Director's judgment. It seemed likely that 2♠ had been forcing and that East's pass was a lucky system violation. Without the

ability to question those involved directly the Committee had some reservations about this conclusion, particularly since the table Director did not expressly state this aspect of his thinking in his write-up. But the screening Director said he believed this was implicit in the table Director's written statement. The Committee therefore allowed the table ruling, 2♠ by E/W making two, -110 for N/S, to stand.

If we play bridge long enough we will inevitably find ourselves in situations similar to the one that confronted N/S here. An opponent takes an action which seems strange or does not fit our understanding of the auction. Here South must have known when East passed 2♠ that something was amiss. He might have asked about the 2♠ bid and then chosen to either balance or not. By asking about the bid before taking any action he would protect a partner who would have bid over a non-forcing 2♠ had it been properly Alerted and still could do so given a second chance. (The auction can only be backed up after 2♠-Pass-Pass if the Director is called before South makes a call.) The point is that the pass of 2♠ was itself an "Alert" to an experienced player. Similarly, even after South passed North could have asked about the 2♠ bid before leading. If it then seemed that an infraction had occurred, he could have called the Director and explained that he might have done something different over 2♠ had he been properly Alerted. In each case the N/S players would have had the chance to either take a corrective action (bid over 2♠) or, if the auction could no longer be backed up, state what their intentions would have been had the 2♠ bid been properly and promptly Alerted.

The key here is that had N/S taken proper precautions they would have been asked to commit to an action (bid, or state that they would have bid) before they knew the full deal. As it was, N/S (even if unintentionally) created a "double-shot" for themselves. After the play (and knowing the full deal) they could keep the result in 2♠ if they liked it (by not calling the Director) while if they thought they could have done better by bidding over 2♠ they could call the Director and claim they would have done differently if they had been

Alerted. But being experienced players (or at least by playing in an "elite" event like the NABC LM Pairs) we assume the pass of 2♠ itself acted as an Alert and therefore N/S do not deserve a double-shot.

Note: There are times when innocent players are entitled to a double-shot, but these all involve situations where the innocent players could not have known at the time it occurred that there had been an infraction. For example, suppose you are South at matchpoints, at unfavorable vulnerability, holding ♠10xxx ♥Jxxx ♦Qx ♣KQx. The auction goes:

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	?

A "normal" interpretation of the auction is that East's 2♥ two-over-one bid is forcing (perhaps 10-11 hcp) but does not promise a rebid. From your hand E/W seem to have the majority of the high cards but are on a misfit. Partner's overcall was likely a bit light, perhaps something like ♠xx ♥Kx ♦AKJxxx ♣xxx, in which case you could have as many as six losers. You might make 3♦ if partner has the likes of ♠xx ♥xx ♦AKxxx ♣Axx but it's a guess. If partner has the first hand — or even the ♥Q and ♠J instead of the ♥K — you could go for 100, 200 or 500 (depending on whether they double) when you might have beaten 2♠ a trick. So you pass and defend 2♠. Partner makes the opening lead and dummy comes down with ♠xx ♥KQJxxxx ♦xx ♣Jx. You ask about the 2♥ bid and East confirms it was non-forcing (a "negative" free bid), which of course should have been Alerted. You quickly reevaluate the distribution of high cards around the table and your chances in 3♦. Now you should call the Director and explain that you were thinking of bidding 3♦ in the actual auction and with the added information that 2♥ was non-forcing find that bidding 3♦ has become more attractive. It is likely that you will be afforded the better result between West playing 2♠ or partner playing 3♦ — a double-shot. But this one is entirely due to the opponents' (unrecognizable) infraction and not to your failure to call the Director when the problem first became apparent.

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 2...

man's job is to improve conditions for all WBL members, so the source of the feedback is immaterial to the ombudsman's recommendations. (For specific complaints about player conduct at WBL events, members may file a Recorder form with the WBL Recorder, Barry Bragin.)

As your WBL ombudsman, I will listen when members have concerns, and I will report to the WBL membership, board or staff as needed. This may include explanations of why the WBL does some of the things it does, and how decisions are made.

Ombudsman Feedback Forms are available at the WBL Unit Games with instructions on where to send them, or hand the form to me at the Unit Game.

It is also fine to send email to me at ade8888@netzero.net or collar me at the unit game to let me know what's on your mind as a WBL member.

—Adrienne Kuehneman

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Mr Kyle R Butts, Wendy S Coonin, Mrs Lorraine T Diamond, Cate T Frezza, Robert Mendelsohn, Everett E Ninnett, Mrs Jacqueline Sherman, Nancy W Tartt, Barbara Teitel, Vincent L Vilker, Mr Arnold N Brodsky, Anna L Haynes, Mrs Mary M Hicks, Mr Jonathan D McLaughlin, Helene S Oskard, Jeffrey B Rosenbloom, Dr Jamshed Y Uppal, and Mrs Judith A Zielinski.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mr Mark Brenner, Karen D Cohen, Mr James F Coleman, Mr Eric S Wang, Dr Karen M Johnston, Robert K Schwenk, Mrs Adele Waggaman, and Hank Youngerman.**

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.

...continued on p. 21

♠ **Fairfax, VA** ♣ **OCTOBER 24-27, 2013** ♦

Fall
into
Fun!

NVBA FALL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188

8421 Arlington Boulevard,
Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2213

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) or 500/200/50 PAIRS10:30 a.m.

Norma's Game: K of C Hall, 5115 Little Falls Rd., Arlington, VA, 703-892-1292

Evening games at: NVBA: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA or

WBL: Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chery Chase, MD — E-W Hwy 410 E., left Meadowbrook, left Freyman, lot on left.—No outside food.

NVBA (Beth El) WBL

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture6:30 p.m.

STRATAFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) ..7:00 p.m.7:30 p.m.

NVBA 199ER PAIRS (200/100/50/20); WBL NLM PAIRS (NLM/100/50) ..7:00 p.m.7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Gene's Friday Morning Game at KOCH:9:30 a.m.

STRATIFIED OPEN (2000+/2000/750) or 299ER (300/200/100) PAIRS

...REST OF TOURNAMENT AT ELKS LODGE...

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture1:15 p.m.

STRATAFLIGHTED A/X (3000+/3000) or B/C (2000/750) PAIRS 2 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) or 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5)2 p.m.

TRIPLE NICKEL SWISS—5 rounds, 5 boards, 5 minutes a board ..7:30 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100)7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

STRATAFLIGHTED A/X (3000+/3000) or B/C (2000/750) PAIRS 9:30 a.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) or 49ER PAIRS (50/20)9:30 a.m.

NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5)9:30 a.m.

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture1:15 p.m.

STRATAFLIGHTED A/X (3000+/3000) or B/C (2000/750) PAIRS ..2 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) or 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5)2 p.m.

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750)7:30 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100)7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

FLIGHTS A/X (5000+/5000) SWISS TEAMS11 a.m. & TBA

BRACKETED FLIGHT B TEAMS (no single player >2000) ...11 a.m. & TBA

B Teams Bracketed by Total Team Masterpoints: three overall places in each.

A/X & B Swiss: 2-session events, a brief break & food available on-site.

299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session)11 a.m.

49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5) (Single session)11 a.m.

299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session)3:15 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From DC, Arlington, and the Beltway, head west on Rte 50/Arlington Boulevard about one mile outside Beltway. Turn left at Javier Road (2nd spotlight after intersection of 50 & 495). Take immediate right onto access road that runs parallel to Rte 50. Elks Lodge is two buildings down on left-park on side and in rear. From Fairfax, head East on Rte 50 past Prosperity Avenue-Prosperity Medical Center will be on right. Between 1st and 2nd lights after Prosperity, turn right into access road that runs parallel to Rte 50. Look for Elks Lodge immediately on right- park on side and in rear.

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Fairfax Elks Lodge
(Thurs at Beth El or Ohr
Kodesh (not at Elks))

www.nvba.org

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 19...

ATLANTA NABC AUGUST 2-11, 2013

Special Congratulations to
our 1st place overall winner in a
National event!

Beth Palmer
in the
Wagar Women's Knockout Teams

TOP TEN CUMULATIVE POINT WINNERS

All Players

- 326.70 ... Mark Itabashi, Murrieta CA
- 281.01 ... Michal Nowosadzki, Wejherowo
- 281.01 ... Jacek Jerzy Kalita, Warsaw
- 275.90 ... Lew Stansby, Dublin CA
- 275.90 ... Bart Bramley, Dallas TX
- 272.50 ... Steve Weinstein, Andes NY

- 272.12 ... Mike Passell, Las Vegas NV
- 272.12 ... Cezary Balicki, Smolec
- 272.12 ... Carolyn Lynch, Scottsdale AZ
- 272.12 ... Adam Zmudzinski, Katowice

District Six Members

- 1152.14 ... Steve Robinson
- 152.14 ... Peter Boyd
- 3126.26 ... Robert Brady
- 4101.34 ... Joshua Parks
- 5 92.88 ... Jeff Roman
- 6 88.82 ... Barry Spector
- 7 84.05 ... Mark Laken
- 8 77.37 ... Ed Lazarus
- 9 75.15 ... Beth Palmer
- 10 74.97 ... Mark Dahl

WBL Members

- 1152.14 ... Steve Robinson
- 152.14 ... Peter Boyd
- 3 75.15 ... Beth Palmer
- 4 60.94 ... William Pettis
- 5 59.20 ... Alan Tenenbaum

...continued on p. 24, column 2



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THE GADGET-MATIST

by Barry Bragin, gadgetmatist@gmail.com

After the perfunctory greetings, hugs, and kisses, the grandkids immediately started pestering the old Gadgetmatist with bridge questions.

"I don't understand why the ACBL makes us say "forcing" when we bid, as an unpassed hand, 1NT over one-of-a-major opening? Everyone I know plays forcing 1NT. Hasn't it always been that way?"

"Well, when I started playing bridge everyone followed the lead of Charles Goren. Almost all of the top players actually opened 4-card majors and bid a non-forcing 1NT to show 6-9 HCP. It wasn't until 1953 that Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone introduced the world to 5-card majors, forcing 1NT, and other gadgets such as the weak two, unusual no trump, and the ultimate gadget of its time: the Sputnik – now known as the negative double. It took about ten years to catch on but once players saw the benefits, there was no going back."

"So Grandpa, do you have any special gadgets over a forcing no trump response?"

"I thought you'd never ask. Here are a few of my personal favorites."

1♠ – 1NT – 2♥ – 2NT

This sequence was discussed by David Berkowitz in *The Bridge World* last year. When opener has 5 spades, 4 hearts, and a minimum he will pass. But when he's 5-5 or 6-4 in the majors he'd like to play in one of his suits. The problem is how to distinguish between a minimum opener that just wants to play three of a major and a hand with the same pattern that wants to force to game. The answer is to use 3♣ as a relay to 3♦. Then

three of a major shows the pattern but with extras to force to game. If the follow up to 3♣ is 3NT, that would show a club suit (or 5413 shape) just as an immediate 3♦ over 2NT would show diamonds. This approach can also be used when opener's two suits are spades and diamonds or hearts and diamonds. Over responder's 2NT rebid, opener shows weakness by rebidding one of his suits and uses 3♣ to force to game.

1♥-1NT-2♥

After this start, 2♠ has no natural meaning so it can be put to good use for gadget purposes. It asks opener for his better minor allowing the partnership to find an 8-card fit when one is available. As responder I would use it when I was 2155 or 3055 or 2056 or similar. If responder pulls opener's three of a minor response to 3♥, that would show an original 3-card limit raise that was not quite good enough to jump to 4♥. A direct raise from 2♥ to 3♥ would show a good 10 count with just a doubleton heart. Sometimes knowing about that extra trump is just what opener needs to bid a thin game.

1♥-1NT-2♦

Again, 2♠ can be put to very good use. The usual interpretation is that responder's hand has just gotten a lot better and is too good to merely raise to 3♦. (When opener rebids 2♣, that is exactly what 2♠ means: a hand too good for just 3♣.) But it makes sense to put this gadget to work to cover two possible hand types: either the traditional very good diamond raise or a hand with long clubs and diamond tolerance; typically 3136, 2236, or 2146. Over 2♠ opener rebids 2NT and then responder bids 3♦ with the strong diamond raise or 3♣ with primary clubs and secondary diamonds (remember, after a fore-

ing 1NT, opener may rebid 2♦ with a 3-card suit). Using this approach, an immediate 3♣ over 2♦ would usually show a 7-card suit or a very good 6-carder (don't bother using 2♠ to show diamond tolerance with Kxx/x/xxx/KQJTx).

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

THE RETURN OF STRONG JUMP-SHIFTS

"You know Grandpa, in the olden days when you actually played bridge and strong jump-shifts were common, you had an easier time getting to a cold minor suit slam. Your partner would open one of a major and you could respond 3♣ with something like xx/Ax/Kxx/AKQJxx and your partner would know whether to move on with the right minimum. Nowadays, playing 2/1, I pick up Ax/KQxxx/Axxx/xx and the auction starts 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♣ and I don't know if my partner has the hand I just mentioned where 7♣

is a favorite or some random 13-count like xx/Jx/KQx/AQJxxx where we'd be lucky to make game. Now don't get me wrong, I play Bergen raises with Celia and natural, invitational jumps to the 3-level with Jonah. Both have their advantages and I don't want to give them up. But I sure wish there was a way to have the best of both worlds."

The old Gadgetmatist thought for a moment and gave Owen a sly smile.

"It would take more effort than it's worth to come up with a complete solution but I can solve half your problem fairly easily."

"Half my problem?" inquired Owen. "What do you mean by that?"

"I can't help you when you open 1♠ without devising something very complex but there is a fairly easy solution after 1♥ openings. Use the sequence 1♥ - 2♠ (Alert!) to show a strong jump-shift in any suit. Opener rebids 2NT (unless he has a powerful heart

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suit that can play opposite a singleton) and responder bids 3♣ or 3♦ if that is his suit or higher if he has spades. When he has a minor, you've taken up no more bidding room than the old fashioned strong jump shift and if he has spades, you use the bids of 3♥ and 3♠ to define the quality of his spade suit (1-loser, solid). A 3NT rebid would show the other type of strong jump-shift: the balanced 18 point hand that can be difficult to describe in standard methods. In any case, you've added a way to show a strong jump-shift over a 1♥ opening without losing your other methods. To make this bid most effective it's a good idea to agree with your partner what it promises. I would suggest that as a minimum it be either a solid suit (should lose no tricks opposite a singleton) plus 3 outside controls (Ace = 2, King = 1) or a semi-solid suit (one loser opposite a singleton) with at least 4 controls. With those parameters, opener often can launch into an ace-asking sequence (I recommend Kickback) and place the contract at the appropriate level in either partner's suit or notrump."

Owen was getting into it. "So with the hand I was talking about the auction would go 1♥ - 2♠* - 2NT* - 3♣ - 4♦** - 4♥*** - 7♣. And if I held the Jack of hearts as well, I could count 13 top tricks and bid 7NT."

"Exactly," said Grandpa, "and if responder held Kx/Ax/Kx/KQJTxxx instead (semi-solid suit with 4 controls), Kickback would reveal the missing keycard and you would settle for 6NT. The other, more subtle, advantage is when the auction does proceed 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♣ you know partner has less than those minimum requirements for a strong jump shift."

"I love it, Grandpa. And what's best is I can play it with both Celia and Jonah. I can't wait to tell them."

"I have a few more," yawned the Gadgetmatist, "but I'll tell you about them next time. Right now I'm ready for my nap."

* alert; ** Kickback for clubs;
*** 0/3 key cards

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 21...

6	56.20	.....	Andrew Gofreed
7	55.26	.....	Merril Hirsh
8	49.39	.....	John Adams
9	46.73	.....	Barry Bragin
10	46.30	.....	Stanley Barg

WBL Members < 2000 masterpoints

1	46.30	.....	Stanley Barg
2	46.23	.....	Murat Berk
3	28.08	.....	Katherine Rabenstein
4	27.75	.....	Charlie Williams
5	24.22	.....	Jimmy Ritzenberg
6	20.28	.....	Melanie Manfield
7	19.40	.....	Albert Lauber
8	14.75	.....	Lowell Phillips
9	12.87	.....	Seth Manfield
10	10.44	.....	Hakan Berk

WBL Members < 750 masterpoints

1	46.30	.....	Stanley Barg
2	46.23	.....	Murat Berk
3	12.87	.....	Seth Manfield
4	10.44	.....	Hakan Berk
5	10.03	.....	Dale Sanders
6	9.88	.....	Sedef Berk
7	9.43	.....	Sabrina Manfield
8	5.33	.....	Margarett Whilden
9	5.20	.....	Rajeswaran Rajkumar
10	4.96	.....	Julie Thomas
	4.96	.....	Ollie Thomas

WBL Members < 300 masterpoints

1	46.30	.....	Stanley Barg
2	12.87	.....	Seth Manfield
3	9.88	.....	Sedef Berk
4	9.43	.....	Sabrina Manfield
5	4.63	.....	Jill Benson
6	2.12	.....	Robert Rich
7	1.11	.....	Michael Kuehl

Gold Points! Red Points! Green Points!

2013-2014 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS DISTRICT FINAL!

The District 6 Final for all flights will be held on the weekend of **October 12-13,**

2013. The Open Flight and 0-2000 Flight Finals will be 4-session events, with roughly half the field qualifying for the second day. The NLM Final will be a 2-session playthrough event held Sunday, October 13.

Pre-registration is required in order to play in the District Finals, although unregistered players will be accommodated if possible. To pre-register, send a **check made payable to District 6 in the amount of \$50.00,** to cover 2 sessions of the event, to:

**PO Box 894
Silver Spring, MD 20918**

Please include the name and ACBL number for each player. You and your partner must pre-register as a pair and not as individuals **by October 4, 2013.** (Envelopes must be postmarked by 10/04 to be considered a timely submission.)

All games will be held at Newport Middle School, 11311 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, MD 20895. Game time on Saturday is 12:00 and TBA. Game time on Sunday is 11:00 and TBA.

Three pairs in each flight will qualify for the National Finals, to be held at the Spring 2014 NABC in Dallas TX.

Qualifiers who play in the National Final will be subsidized (to various extents) for travel expenses and hotel rooms by the ACBL and/or District 6. Membership dues or Life Master service fee must be current and continuous from the start of the District Final to the completion of the North American Pairs Final at the NABC in order to play in the National Final.

For more information visit the District 6 website at <http://www.districtsix.org> or contact Barbara Doran by phone at (301) 608-0347 or by email to barbd@starpower.net.

Directions to NAP District Final Site

Newport Mill Middle School
11311 Newport Mill Road
Kensington MD 20895

Take the Beltway (I-495) to the Georgia Avenue Exit (31A) towards Wheaton. After

about 1.8 miles take the slight left onto Viers Mill Road, then turn left on to Newport Mill Road. The school will be on your left about .3 miles in.

2013-2014 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS — ALERT: GREAT NEWS!!!

The ACBL Board has voted to increase the masterpoint ceiling allowed for participation in the GNT "B" bracket from 0-2000 to 0-2500. They also voted to raise the masterpoint ceiling for participation in the "A" bracket from 0-5000 to 0-6000.

The club or unit game qualification period began on September 1, 2013 and will continue until February 28, 2014. Make sure you qualify. District 6 will partially subsidize the winning teams' travel to the NABC in Las Vegas, July 17-27, 2014. You can play as often as you want with whomever you want.

Once again, the competition contains four flights at the District level. In the Open flight, all players may enter. Flight A is limited to players with 0-6000 master points. Flight B is limited to players with 0-2500 master points. Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 master points. Masterpoint eligibility is determined by the ACBL as of September 1, 2013. At the club level, the Open and A flights will be combined.

Masterpoints awarded at the club or unit level are half-red and half-black. These masterpoints are an easy way to earn colored points without traveling or changing your local partners or playing habits. At the District level competition, the match awards are red and the overall awards are gold (Flight C awards 25% gold and 75% red).

We will be holding the first weekend of the District Finals of Flights B and C at one northern and one southern site. Cost per team is \$100. This pays for the first day (2 sessions). Make checks payable to District 6 and send them to D6 GNT Coordinator Lynn Jones, 10 Tenby Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

***Please include player's names and ACBL numbers and a contact e-mail address

for the Team Captain. ***

You must pre-register to play. Pre-registration ends Midnight on the Thursday, nine days before the event.

A (0-6000 MP) Bracket:

First Weekend: February 8-9

Second Weekend: February 22-23

Open, B (0-2500 MP), and C (0-500 MP)

Brackets:

First Weekend: March 8-9

Second Weekend: May 3-4

Any questions please contact Lynn Jones at 410-560-3244 or bridgelynn@comcast.net. Conditions of Contest, directions to sites, and where to qualify: www.districtsix.org.

**DOUBLE
SMITH ECHO DISASTER
VS ZIA**

by John Adams

OK, I have seen Smith disasters before, but this one breaks some records. I kibitzed Zia as he declared the following hand in 3NT:

North

♠ Jx
♥ Qxxx
♦ 84
♣ K10xx

West

♠ 109xxx
♥ xxx
♦ 103
♣ Qxx

East

♠ AKxx
♥ KJx
♦ 92
♣ 9xxx

South

♠ Qx
♥ A10
♦ AKQJ765
♣ AJ

West

Pass
Pass

North

1♥
Pass

East

1♣
Pass

South

X
3NT

At many tables, a spade was led vs 3NT, and the hand was over quickly.

Zia managed to inhibit the spade lead

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with his take out double and 3NT rebid. After the club lead, Zia is cold for 11 tricks (left to the reader to work it out, but not too hard).

Zia did a bit better than that.

He won the ♣J, and cashed the ♦A. West first signalling his dislike for the lead by playing the ♦T, then East signaling his dislike for West by playing the ♦9.

Zia's amusement was visible as he realized this meant his 11th trick was now free of having to guess final distributions. So he cashed his ♣A, crossed to the ♦8, cashed the ♣K felling the ♣Q, and then the ♣T, Zia pitching his ♠Qx. So now Zia is up to 12 tricks, and must play a heart back to his hand... RHO splits, playing his ♥J, and Zia runs the rest of his diamonds.

In the two card ending, East must decide on keeping the ♠A, or the ♥K. It's well known that an Ace is more likely than a King to take a trick, so East can hardly be faulted for playing the percentages and parting with his ♥K, and allowing Zia to win the final trick with the ♥T.

13 tricks at Zia's table, with 8 at many others! And this, the 2nd day of the LM pairs.

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*0-1000 game in addition to the open game

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As of September 1, 2013

Junior Masters: 5 MPs

Lisa S Diamond
Ginny K Feldman
Ellen B Futterman
Mr John K Jackson
Nancy F Kaden
Mrs Charla H Lerman
Mr Norman F Oblon
Deidre Sacks
Connie Smallwood
Susan C Stein
Mrs Carol Butler
Mr Timothy B Clark
Mrs Kathryn B Duvall
Mr John Goon
Nina L Richardson
Mrs Alane A Youngentob
Mr Eugene K Youngentob

Club Masters: 20 MPs

Dr Werner F Barth
Ms Edith E Burzio
Louise Deisseroth
Barbara Gifford

Ann Allworth
Mr John K Jackson

Mr Norman G Kittrell
Ms Roseann R Rafferty
Estelle D Schwallb

Sectional Masters: 50 MPs

Ms Bonnie R Cohen
Louise L Mayer
Chris Rowe
Shirley B Wilson
Micky Goldstein
Mr Seth D Manfield
Mr Mohammed Moiduddin
Ms Maree T Webster

Regional Masters: 100 MPs

Ms Judith G Dausch
Ms Shaye Hester
Ms Joy I Oliver
Mr Ching-Chuan Yeh
Dr Charles R Dearolf
Mr Steven W Mendelsohn

NABC Masters: 200 MPs

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Mrs Susan S Ward
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1. The WBL Online Bulletin Board

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Name, Email Address, up to two Phone Numbers, ACBL Number

2. The WBL Online Partnership Desk

Check it out at washingtonbridgeleague.org
Contact Clyde Kruskal at cpkfam@gmail.com or 301-395-0480 with any questions.



NLM MASTER POINTERS

by I/N Columnists: Ron Zucker, ron@motherzucker.com
Shawn Stringer, ShStringer@aol.com

MINOR SUIT OPENINGS 6: FINDING RESPONDER'S MAJOR SUIT

Last month we reviewed Opener's choices for a second bid in an auction that begins 1m – P – 1M. For clarity in this article, we will assume that the auction has gone 1♦ – 1♠ – 1NT (opponents pass throughout.) This month we will look at Responder's second bid and explore how Responder can continue to look for a major suit fit even after Opener rebids 1NT.

Opener's 1NT rebid is fairly descriptive. The hand is balanced and contains 11-14 High Card Points (HCP). Opener holds exactly two or three spades. With four spades, she would have supported spades, and with only one spade, she would not have rebid 1NT. Since Opener has little else to say, Responder is now in control of the auction and must decide to pass or continue to look for a suit contract.

Responder's strength generally falls into three ranges – weak, invitational, or game forcing. The weaker the hand, the sooner Responder will want to end the auction. As Responder's hand increases in strength, he will have to make bids that either invite partner to bid on or force partner to bid to game.

Weak Hands: A weak hand contains about 6 to 10 HCP. Since game is highly unlikely, Responder has only to decide whether to pass 1N, to rebid 2♣ or to support Opener's diamonds. The decision depends on how many spades Responder holds.

a. With a six card suit, Responder should rebid 2♠. The hand will usually take more tricks in spades and the partnership has at least an 8-card fit. Even with as few as 6 HCP, 2♠ should be a safe contract.

b. With a five card suit, Responder may sometimes be tempted to pass 1NT, but analy-

sis has shown that the weaker the hand, the more likely it is that a suit contract is safer than No Trump. So, even though he may be in a 5-2 fit, Responder should rebid 2♠. His hand must have some shortness, and playing in a trump suit will stop the opponents from running Responder's short suit. Some players might question the wisdom of rebidding 2♠ with a trump suit such as ♠T9532, but don't forget that Opener may well have three spades or an honor doubleton combination that will help fill in the suit. Even if Opener has as little as ♠Jx, the points she must hold in the other suits will produce tricks to offset the three trump losers.

c. With a four card spade suit, Responder will usually pass 1NT. The exception occurs when Responder holds four or more cards in diamonds, in which case 2♦ may be the better contract. If responder holds ♠T853 ♥KJ3 ♦AT642 ♣8, the opponents could take a lot of club tricks, but in 2♦, the club losers would be limited.

Invitational values: With about 11 or a bad 12 HCP, Responder will want to invite game, knowing that Opener will sign off if she opened with a minimum. Since more and more players are opening a little lighter, Responder should not be driving to game with 11 opposite 11.

a. Holding a good six card spade suit, Responder shows that hand by jumping to 3♠. It is always a good idea to discuss with partner, but most intermediate players agree that this auction (1♦-1♠-1NT-3♠) is invitational, and shows about 11 points and a good six card suit.

b. If Responder has only four spades, he can rebid 2NT to invite game. Opener passes with a minimum and bids 3NT with a max.

c. With five spades, Responder can use a convention called **New Minor Forcing**. Using

our 1♦ – 1♠ – 1NT sequence, Responder's rebid of 2♣ (the New Minor) is an artificial bid (requiring an *Alert*) that promises at least invitational values, and asks Opener to describe her hand further. Here we will outline the basics of the convention. As you get more comfortable with the bids, you can add some of the "bells and whistles" that make the convention even more useful.

Using our 1♦ – 1♠ – 1NT sequence, Responder's rebid of 2♣ (the New Minor) says nothing about clubs, but forces Opener to bid again. Opener's choices are:

- 2♠ with 3 card spade support and 11-13 HCP;
- 2♥, lacking 3 card spade support but holding four hearts and 11-13 HCP;
- 2NT, with neither major suit and 11-13 HCP; or,
- The corresponding bid on the 3 level with 14 HCP. Since responder promises an invitational hand, Opener holding a maximum, needs to jump to show his strength and accept the invite.

This system is valuable for finding 5-3 fits in responder's first bid major, as well as 4-4 fits in the other major. The system also allows the partnership to try for game, but stop short if they lack sufficient strength between the two hands.

d. In a., we discussed a good six card suit. So, how do you bid with a bad six card suit? We suggest that you go through New Minor Forcing, and then bid your spades again. Opener will know that you have six spades and will know that you have a broken suit. Holding ♠xx, Opener will opt for a NoTrump contract; with ♠QT to fill in your suit, Opener will be happy to play in spades.

Game Forcing Values: If Responder holds 13+ HCP, he must force to game.

Holding six spades, Responder should jump to 4♠. With five spades, Responder should go through New Minor Forcing, and then bid the appropriate game depending on what Opener then bids. And with only four spades, Responder can jump to 3NT.

With these agreements in mind, let's try a few hands. As throughout this article, the bidding has gone 1♦ – 1♠ – 1NT. You hold:

♠AT42 ♥K87 ♦J8 ♣T742	Pass. 1NT rates to be a good place to play, and you don't have an 8 card major suit fit.
♠AQ7953 ♥K5 ♦A4 ♣T87	4♠. Partner will have at least doubleton support for your spades, so your most likely game is 4♠.
♠AJT84 ♥KJT5 ♦KQ4 ♣8	2♣. You clearly want to be in game, or perhaps even slam, but WHAT game? The way to find out is to start with 2♣. If partner has three spades, she'll show them now. If not, perhaps she has four hearts. If partner holds ♠K8 ♥AQ97 ♦AJ86 ♣T43, 6♥ is a solid slam.
♠KQT86 ♥QT95 ♦93 ♣67	2♥. Since you would bid 2♣ with a game invitational or better hand, 2♥ shows a weak hand with 5 spades and 4(or 5) hearts. Partner will choose between the majors. If she has four hearts, she'll pass. If not, she will take a preference by bidding 2♠.

As always, make sure you and your partner both understand the ramifications of New Minor Forcing before using it, and remember that the bid of the new minor suit is alertable. If you have any questions, contact us. We look forward to seeing you at the table!

WBL SOLVERS' CLUB'S NEW PROBLEMS

1) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ Q95 ♥ A62 ♦ 1063 ♣ AJ95

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Pass ????	1 ♦	Dbl	Pass Pass

2) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ K65 ♥ A62 ♦ 963 ♣ K876

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Pass INT ????	Pass Pass 2 ♦ *	1 ♣ Pass	Pass Pass Pass

**diamonds and major*

3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 5 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ543 ♣ AQ8765

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1 ♣ ????	Pass	1 ♦	Pass Pass

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 5 ♥ AK43 ♦ K10853 ♣ KQ5

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1 ♦ ????	Pass	1 ♠	Pass Pass

5) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ K5 ♥ 1093 ♦ A10853 ♣ K65

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
????	1 ♣	1 ♣	1 ♥

Return answers by October 24 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?

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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.