

*Is it Time to Renew?*

*If you started your subscription with the Nov/Dec 2015 issue, it's time to renew! See page 3*

*The Washington Bridge League  
presents the*

**86th Annual**

**D.C.  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**October 6-9, 2016**

With this sectional tournament, we welcome our new Sectional Chair, ***Brad Theurer***, working in conjunction with Sectional Coordinator, ***Bill Cole***, and the WBL tournament committee headed by ***Carole Banks*** plus many other volunteers to bring you a fantastic event.

**Silver Points!**

*I/N Events throughout! Lots of team games! Eynon Trophy Swiss! Machlin Sportsmanship Award presented! Well-lit, clean & convenient location!*

—See page 5 for the complete details.—

**Mark Your Calendar**

for the December 15th

***Holiday Party, See page 27***

*See how on page 3*

*Would you rather be reading this in print?*

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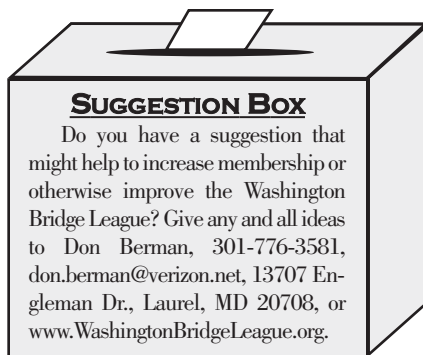
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### SUGGESTION BOX

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](http://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: NOVEMBER 14, 2016

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NOV/DEC 2016 ISSUE

### Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)

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Bob Bell — *Unit Recorder* (301-920-0402)

WBL WEBSITE:  
[www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org)

DISTRICT 6 SITE:  
[www.districtsix.org](http://www.districtsix.org)

TO GET ON AN EMAIL LIST FOR **BRIDGE NEWS & BRIDGE PROBLEMS**, SEND A NOTE TO STEVE ROBINSON AT [ROBINSWR@EROLS.COM](mailto:ROBINSWR@EROLS.COM) REQUESTING SUCH.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Ellen Cherniavsky

[eachernia@yahoo.com](mailto:eachernia@yahoo.com)

This column marks the beginning of the Board's initiative to revise WBL Policies. The last revision dates to 2012. At that time we adopted the practice of putting all information about reimbursement rates, compensation, fees and prizes, into schedules that could easily be amended when the monetary amounts changed. Previously, dollar figures were incorporated into the body of the document, and the whole set of Policies had to be reviewed and approved when, for example, entry fees to the Unit Game were raised.

Since the last revision of the Policies took place, there have been significant changes in the way we operate. To insure that future personnel transitions proceed smoothly, we find it imperative to clarify roles and responsibilities.

Chris Miller leads off by documenting the roles of the Unit Game Chief Director and the Unit Game Club Manager. Normally the Chief Director also serves as Club Manager, but there are important differences in the responsibilities. The Chief Director is a (non-voting) member of the Board; the Club Manager is not. While the Chief Director oversees the selling of entries and

subsequent accounting for money received and disbursed during a session, the Club Manager takes care of sanction fees, monthly financial reports to the Treasurer, and an annual summary of directing and caddy fees paid out, in order to meet IRS reporting requirements. Further, the Club Manager maintains the WBL Unit computer, including updating software for it and electronic scoring devices.

In the future we anticipate revisions to the following sections: Bulletin, Tournaments, and Free Plays. Since the Bulletin became accessible online, we no longer mail it to members free of charge, rather there is a subscription fee; other details need to be updated. The way we run our sectional tournaments is changing, as has been mentioned in past columns, and needs to be documented; this may have an effect on Free Play policy.

The revised Policies may be found on the WBL website at:

<http://www.districtsix.org/WBL/Admin/Laws/Washington%20Bridge%20League%20Policies.pdf>

Thanks, Chris!

## WBL BULLETIN & WBL E-NEWS

*Would you rather be reading this in print?  
Printed mail subscriptions are reasonably priced:*

The WBL Bulletin has ceased free mail distribution. The bulletin will continue to be available free online through our website: [washingtonbridgeleague.org](http://washingtonbridgeleague.org). You can be notified when the new issue is available online if we have your email address—see below.

◆ Yearly (6 issues), **Printed Mail Subscriptions** are available:

**WBL members** ..... **\$12.00/year**    **Non-member** ..... **\$18.00/year**

The bulletin comes out six times a year. ☛ To subscribe, give or mail a check to "Washington Bridge League" via **WBL Treasurer, Rose Berman**, at: 13707 Engleman Dr., Laurel, MD 20708-1325. Please include your full name and address (and player number if you are a WBL member).

◆ We have established a **WBL Unit Membership Email Database**.

The emailings are used for occasional bridge news only.

One use is to inform you when the bulletin is available online.

There will be no advertising, sharing or publishing of the addresses.

☛ Send your email, name and player number to **WBL e-List Administrator, Alex Gretsinger**, at: **[agretsinger@gmail.com](mailto:agretsinger@gmail.com)**

Please also indicate if you would like to be included on Steve Robinson's email list in order to receive additional bridge news, bridge problems, and other tidbits. You will be able to unsubscribe from either list.

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## WBL'S BRIDGE-IN-SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Educational Foundation, which is a nonprofit arm of the WBL, was organized to promote bridge in the Washington area, with a particular focus on encouraging young people to play bridge. Last year, the Foundation received approval from the IRS as a charitable organization. It engaged Adam Gann as its first Bridge-in-Schools Coordinator.

Hugo Van Dyke has agreed to take over as the new coordinator for the pro-

gram. Hugo plans to support the on-going school programs at Walter Johnson, Sidwell Friends and UMD, and has plans to expand the program into several other several other middle and high schools in our area this fall. As more and more middle and high school students begin playing bridge, the Foundation hopes that it can sponsor an interscholastic bridge tournament sometime during the next academic year.

We very much appreciate the financial support we've received from many of you. If you are interested in contributing to the Foundation, please let me know – we'd be very grateful for your support, and all contributions are tax deductible.

—Dick Wegman

WBL Educational Foundation President

### Did You Know?

The **Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club** has a game almost every day!

Join us often and spread the word!

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Monday*	11:15 AM	St James
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rockville S. C.
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Temple Beth Ami
Thursday*	11:15 AM	St James
Friday *	11:15 AM	St James
Saturday*	1:00 PM	St James

\*0-1000 game in addition to the open game  
—as attendance allows—

[www.rockvilledbc.com](http://www.rockvilledbc.com)

**Need a Partner?** Call Mark Lavine: 301-503-3348

#### Locations:

St James Episcopal Church 11815 Seven Locks Road Potomac, MD	Rockville Senior Center 1150 Camation Dr Rockville, MD
Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Rd, N. Potomac, MD	

### TIME TO RENEW?

If you started your paper *WBL Bulletin* subscription with the November/December 2015 issue, it's time to renew! It's not too early to renew for anyone else ;) ...See where to send your check on the top of page 3.

## WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new

...continued on p. 19

OCTOBER 6-9, 2016



## 86<sup>th</sup> Annual D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

at the **MARGARET SCHWEINHOUT SENIOR CENTER**  
1000 Forest Glen Rd, Silver Spring, MD **(Friday-Sunday only)**

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

- ♣ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/2000) & B/C/D (1000/500/300) Pairs .....11:15 am  
**Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club**, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine) **NO ENTRY TILL 11AM**  
*St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville*
- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C (2000/750) Pairs (both sites), Intermediate/Novice Pairs (500/300/100) & 0-20 Pairs (Ohr Kodesh only) & Stratified 199er Swiss Teams (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. S. 4<sup>th</sup> light left E-W Hwy 410. Left Meadowbrook Ln. 1<sup>st</sup> left Freyman Dr. Parking lot on left. No outside food allowed.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

- ♣ \*StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C Pairs (2000/750) (single sessions) .....10:00am, 2:00pm
- ♦ **Stratified Triple Nickel Swiss Teams** (unlim/2000/750) ... **Post-Game Party!** ....7:30pm  
—5 rounds, 5 boards a round, 5 minutes a board. **with beer, wine & desserts**
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (500/300/100) & 49er Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm


**Win upgraded (more) masterpoints today!**

**\$1 additional fee supports Grass Roots events.**

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

- ♣ \*StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C Pairs (2000/750) (single sessions) .....10:00am, 3:00pm
- ♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (500/300/100) & 49er Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 10:00am, 3:00pm
- ♥ **Machlin Sportsmanship Award** Presentation & **Panel Show** .....between sessions

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

- ♠ **Eynon Trophy**   
*First awarded in 1931—Try to add your name to the famous names inscribed here!*  
Flights A/X (unlim/5000) Eynon Trophy Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough w/break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♣ Bracketed Flight B Teams (no single player >3000) (2 session playthrough w/break) 11:00am & TBA  
B Teams Bracketed by total team masterpoints; three overall places in each.
- ♦ 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.)

Hospitality includes snacks, drinks, & **Friday lunch & evening party.** Sunday lunch available for purchase.  
**Tournament Chair: Brad Theurer**, 301-527-8819, [bathurer256@gmail.com](mailto:bathurer256@gmail.com); **Hospitality Manager: Mike Zane**, Volunteer Coordinator: **Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, [jimbarb1184@aol.com](mailto:jimbarb1184@aol.com); **Partnerships: Barbara Doran**, 301-608-0347, [barb.doran@verizon.net](mailto:barb.doran@verizon.net), **Online Partnership Desk** available.

\*StrataFlighted if attendance warrants—otherwise combined into Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500)  
Stratification by avg. masterpoints of the team or pair. No individual may exceed the event's upper limit.

**Directions to the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center**, 1000 Forest Glen Rd, Silver Spring, MD: I-495 to Georgia Avenue North (toward Wheaton). 1<sup>st</sup> light right on Forest Glen Rd. The Center is .7 mile on right.

WASHINGTONBRIDGELEAGUE.ORG

Mid-chart allowed in all events except I/N & Triple Nickel



SILVER SPRING, MD: JANUARY 5-8, 2017

55<sup>th</sup> Annual

## ~ PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT ~

at the MARGARET SCHWEINHOUT SENIOR CENTER

1000 Forest Glen Rd, Silver Spring, MD (Friday-Sunday only)

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Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln., Chevy Chase 7:30pm

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♥ **Panel Show**  & **Party**

to Honor New Life Masters between sessions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Win upgraded (more) masterpoints today! \$1 additional fee supports Grass Roots events.

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- ♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (500/300/100) & 49er Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) ..... 10:00am, 3:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation —Lunch available for purchase—

- ♠ Flights A/X (unlim/5000) Swiss Teams (2 session playthrough w/break) ..... 11:00am & TBA

- ♠ Bracketed Flight B Teams (no single player >3000) (2 session playthrough w/break) ... 11:00am & TBA  
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Stratification by avg. masterpoints of the team or pair. No individual may exceed the event's upper limit.

Directions to the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd, Silver Spring, MD: I-495 to Georgia Avenue North (toward Wheaton). 1<sup>st</sup> light right on Forest Glen Rd. The Center is .7 mile on right.

2017...

Cheers to a  
New Year &  
a New Deal!

## WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson

[robinswr@erols.com](mailto:robinswr@erols.com)

Congratulations to **Ron Zucker** who came in first with a perfect score of 500. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be on a future panel. I will also play with him in a future game. Tied for second were **Hank Strauch** and **Jim Wakefield** with a score of 490. Tied for fourth were **Tony Cincotta** and **Mark Chen** with a score of 480. Sixth was **Robert Stone** with a score of 470. Tied for seventh were **Ken Davis**, **John Kloke**, and **Barry Bragin** with a score of 460. Tied for tenth were **Tom Vinson**, **Randal Holden**, **Rick Bingham** and **Gene Fisher** with a score of 450. Tied for fourteenth were **Ivan Feit** and **Jake Hudson** with a score of 440. Tied for sixteenth were **Richard Kimberley**, **Jeffrey Klemm**, **Larry Kahn**, **Bill Bingham**, **Ron Conlon**, **Mike Richey**, **Garry Grossman** and **John Becker** with a score of 430. The average score of the 130 solvers was 390. The average score of the experts was 468.

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](mailto: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 \$30.60 which includes \$5.60 for priority mail.

**1) IMPs We're Vul**

♠-♥A843 ♦Q32♣KJ8765

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
4♦	100	9	17
4♥	70	1	52
5♣	70	1	18
4♣	50	0	19
3♥	50	0	18
3NT	40	0	3
6♣	40	0	2
3♠	20	0	1
5♦	20	0	1

Partner made a takeout double of 3♦. He usually shows length in the majors. However, he does not guarantee four cards in both majors. On very rare occasions, he might have only two hearts. He might double 3♦ holding ♠AJxx ♥KQ ♦xx ♣AQxxx. He certainly can have only three hearts. The object should be to play in 4♥ if partner has four of them otherwise to play in 5♣.

Eight experts join me and cue bid. If partner has four hearts, he should bid 4♥ even if he has longer spades or clubs. If he has a really good hand he can jump to 5NT as choice of slams.

**Parker:** “4♦—If partner has four hearts he will bid them first. If he bids 4♠ we now know we don't have at 4-4 heart fit and will bid 5♣.”

**Zhong:** “4♦—Two places to play. If partner bids 4♠ over 4♦, I am going to

correct to 5♣.”

**Schwartz:** “4♦—Will pass 4♥ and bid 5♣ over 4♠. I can't chance a 4-3 heart fit. Hopefully partner isn't 5-4 in majors.”

If you double 3♦ holding ♠AKQxx ♥xxxx ♦Axx ♣x or AKQJ ♥xxxx ♦Axx ♣xx, you must bid 4♥ not 4♠ over partner's 4♦ cuebid. 4♦ does not ask for your best major, it asks for your lowest four-card major assuming you have one.

**Hopkins:** “4♦—If partner bids 4♠ I'll try 5♣. With 4♥, I am content. I hope he doesn't have a spade one-suiter as we are likely to get too high.”

This shows why you shouldn't double 4♦ with a very strong spade one-suiter. Takeout doubles should be flexible. With a spade one-suiter bid 3♠, jump to 4♠ or even 5♠.

**Theurer:** “4♦— I do not want to play in hearts unless partner can show four or more by bidding 4♥. If he bids 4♠ I will bid 5♣. Slam is possible though I'm more concerned about getting us to the right strain. Second choice is an immediate 5♣.”

**Shi:** “4♦—Going to worry about strain first before thinking about slam.”

Strain before slam should be your number one rule.

**Adams:** “4♦—Tough. 3NT or 4♦ could be right. If I find a 4-4 heart fit, I will be glad I tried 4♦. If I have to bid 5♣ over 4♠ I will wish I tried 3NT.”

Not sure I'd be happy playing 3NT with a void in spades.

**Ekstrand:** “4♦—May have slam in

hearts or clubs; if partner bids 4♠, then bid 5♣.”

Two experts jump straight to game. The problem is that they could be in the wrong game.

One expert jumps to 4♥. Why can't partner have three little hearts?

**King:** “4♥—Seems like our best chance at a game, but could be very wrong.”

One expert jumps to 5♣. Why can't partner be 4=5=2=2, 4=6=2=1 or even 4=5=3=1?

**Woolsey:** “5♣—This looks like the value bid, and clubs is certainly the best strain for slam. Just pay off if partner doesn't have some support.”

Choice of games takes precedence over slam tries.

**2) Matchpoints Both Vul**

♠5♥AQ75 ♦KJ65♣AK82

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2♣	100	10	42
2♥	70	1	46
2NT	60	0	20
3♣	50	0	6
3NT	40	0	9
1NT	40	0	5
4♥	20	0	1
2♠	20	0	1
3♥	20	0	1

A prototype reverse with diamonds and hearts shows at least 15 HCP, four hearts and at least five diamonds.

♠x♥AQxx ♦AKQxxx ♣xx and ♠x♥AKxx ♦AKQxx ♣xx would be minimum 1♦-openers followed by a 2♥ reverse. You could be stronger which is why reverses are forcing and promise a rebid over all non-game bids. Reversing with only four diamonds is a misdescription of suit lengths. Partner could support you with three diamonds and the 4-3 diamond fit might not play well. 2♣ rebid also does not describe this hand. A prototype 1♦ opener followed by 2♣, usually shows at least nine cards in the minors. But the extra strength could make up for the lack of a fifth diamond.

Only one expert reverses.

**King:** “2♥—Seems like enough to reverse.”

Nine experts join me and do not want to misdescribe their heart-diamond suit lengths. They misdescribe their diamond-club suit lengths.

**Parker:** “2♣—That is why we opened 1♦ so we could rebid 2♣.”

**Zhong:** “2♣—I did not see any problem with 2♣. 2♣ could have up to 17 points, which is what I have. It should be easy to make the next bid if partner can make another bid.”

**Woolsey:** “2♣—If the auction ends, maybe that is all we can make. Much easier if playing reverse Flannery.”

**Adams:** “2♣—What's the problem? I hope we are playing Reverse Flannery so I don't have the issue of a 4-4 heart fit, but even without it, 2♣ is the book bid.”

Reverse Flannery is when Responder has five spades and four or five hearts, and a non-game-forcing hand over a

one-of-a-minor-opener. He responds 2♠ with an invitational hand and 2♥ with a non-invitational hand. Playing that convention, partner can't have five spades and four or five hearts unless he has a game-forcing hand.

**Hopkins:** “2♣—This will turn out badly if partner has the Majors and cannot muster another bid, otherwise we are well positioned. At IMPs, I might consider 2♥.”

**Theurer:** “2♣—Since I will not bid 2NT on a small singleton spade and not really strong enough either, nor will I jump to 3♣, the choice is between reversing to 2♥ or bidding 2♣. At matchpoints I don't want to miss a heart fit. But I will bid 2♣ anyway, since I really should have five diamonds, maybe four really good ones, to reverse, and with the stiff spade, no spots and mediocre diamonds, I will take the low road. If partner bids 2♦ now I can try 2♥ and partner should now read me for 1=4=4=4 with just under jump shift values.”

*1♦ followed by 2♣ and then 2♥ could be 1=3=5=4 with 17 HCP.*

**Shi:** “2♣—I will bid again over partner's preference.”

**Schwartz:** “2♣—2♥ rates to get is too high when partner is weak or to diamonds in inadequate fit. Will follow up with minimum heart bid if given the chance.”

**Ekstrand:** “2♣—If partner has four hearts, he will now show them, or may support diamonds. If he rebids 2♠, I'll pass.”

*1♦ - one-of-either-major - 2♣, can*

*be very strong so when in doubt don't pass 2♣.*

### 3) Matchpoints None Vul

♠AJ2♥J1098654♦K5♣5

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
?????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
1♥	100	6	31
3♥	90	2	50
Pass	80	3	33
2♥	70	0	15
4♥	70	0	2

*If you open 2♥ or 3♥, partner is not going to expect you to have a jack high suit with an outside ace and king. If you open this hand 1♥, partner might expect you to have a little more strength. You can also pass and hope to later show your hand. Which path do the experts follow?*

*Five experts join me and treat this hand as an opening 1♥-bid. Opening the bidding gives you an advantage if it's the opponent's hand. You could steal it.*

**Parker:** “1♥—It's too good for a preempt since you have an Ace and a King on the side.”

**King:** “1♥—Too much defense to open 2♥ or 3♥ and don't want to pass with so much offense.”

**Theurer:** “1♥—With an ace, and king and a singleton outside and a seventh heart, this hand is wrong for a 2♥ or 3♥ preempt. It's enough for 1♥ despite having only nine HCP since I have good suit texture and adequate defense.”

**Shi:** “1♥—My style is to open at the

one-level on these hands so I can find out what the opponents want to do and then figure out how high I should be bidding. When I open 4♥ on these hands I usually go for 950.”

**Schwartz:** “1♥—Too much defense, spades too good and suit too bottom heavy for preempt. Enough playing strength for one-bid.”

*Two experts treat this hand as an opening three-level preempt.*

**Zhong:** “3♥—It depends on your preemptive style. I will open with this one.”

**Woolsey:** “3♥—Move a couple of honors around and it is a model preempt. That makes it close enough.”

*Three experts pass. The problem is that when you later bid hearts partner is never going to expect you to have seven hearts. Usually you'd have only five hearts.*

**Hopkins:** “Pass—I have this feeling I will be able to get into the auction later.”

**Adams:** “Pass—Close to a 1♥ opener, and I would not object if partner tried that. Seriously hate a heart preempt on this sort of hand in first chair.”

**Ekstrand:** “Pass—In first seat I'd pass and await developments. I believe in disciplined preempts—two of top three or three of top five honors, Can compete later, or partner may have strong spade suit.”

*When I first started playing bridge Ekstrand beliefs was main stream. This has turned around and most experts don't promise anything when they preempt. Non-vulnerable vs vulnerable, lots of experts would open 3♥ with ♠xxx*

*♥J1098xxx♦xx♣x. Even vulnerable, experts go out of their way to open 3♥ on weak hands with seven-card suits. Same with weak-twos. If you allow any pair to have a constructive auction, the chances are good that they will get to the correct contract.*

*The opening bidder has an advantage.*

### 4) IMPs None Vul

♠5♥AK5♦AJ9♣AKJ765

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
?????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2♦	100	7	34
3NT	90	4	63
2NT	80	0	10
3♣	70	0	11
2♥	40	0	4
6♣	20	0	1
2♣	20	0	2
1NT	20	0	1
3♥	20	0	1
3♦	20	0	4

*You have a very strong hand but there is no clear way to show it over partner's 1♠-response. A jump to 3♣ shows a good six-card club suit, but the lower count is 16. Partner could pass your jump to 3♣. A jump to 2NT shows a balanced 18-19 but this hand is unbalanced and the six-card club suit make it worth more than 19 HCP. Partner might jump to 4♠ expecting you to have two spades. A jump to 3NT is a gambling bid, usually a good club suit with one or two honors outside. If you take the king of hearts and make it a low club, you'd have a prototype 3NT rebid. Usually you're short in partner's suit when you jump to 3NT.*



Seven experts reverse into diamonds. This could work unless partner has four diamonds and insists on playing in diamonds. 2♦ is forcing in principle.

**Parker:** “2♦—I don't want to bid 2NT with a singleton spade or 3NT without solid clubs. I will bid 3♥ next over whatever he bids.”

*I don't think 3NT promises solid clubs. Just a club oriented strong hand.*

**King:** “2♦—Have to make a forcing bid.”

**Zhong:** “2♦—Reverse to make it forcing. Then jump to 3NT to show the complete hand if partner can't support clubs.”

**Hopkins:** “2♦—My minimum lie to keep the auction going.”

**Theurer:** “2♦—Not quite the right hand to rebid 3NT. I prefer either solid clubs or at most a one-loser suit. Add the club ten and I might do it. I'll fake a reverse in my cheaper suit. Partner will be more likely to raise/insist on hearts with four of them if I reversed into that suit.”

**Adams:** “2♦—Again wish I was playing Reverse Flannery. Then I would reverse into hearts which would be defined as artificial. Don't have good enough clubs for a 3NT rebid, and too strong for 3♣ or 2NT.”

*I don't know why reversing into 2♥ is artificial. Opening 1♣ and rebidding 2♥ over 1♠ is a natural reverse. Partner is allowed to have a hand that doesn't fit reverse Flannery such as six spades and four hearts.*

**Ekstrand:** “2♦—If agreed that's forcing, otherwise 2NT. 3♣ sounds too weak!”

Reverses are forcing and promise a rebid except if partner jumps to game or slam.

*Three expert join me and jump to 3NT. We are one club short and one king too much. This comes closest to describing this big hand. At least partner won't expect us to have four diamonds and he should think that we are short in spades.*

**Woolsey:** “3NT—This is a perfect prototype for what a 3NT bid shows. Anything else is misleading.”

**Shi:** “3NT—In standard shows a running minor with a stiff in partner's major. I'm a little stronger and my minor is a little less running, but its close enough.”

**Schwartz:** “3NT—Shows good six or longer suit, stoppers in side suit and implies spade shortness. Better than bidding fake suit.”

*Try not to bid three-card suits unless absolutely necessary.*

5) IMPs You're Val

♠10953♥K1065♦Q♣KJ62

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
?????	3♣	Dbl	Pass
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♥	100	3	41
4♣	90	2	26
Pass	80	3	13
3NT	80	3	22
4♥	50	0	16
3♠	50	0	8
5♣	20	0	3
4♦	20	0	2

Partner has made a takeout double of 3♣ and you have to respond. Is your hand worth a game force or do you want to stop in a partscore? If it's a game force and you want to play in a major, then 4♣ is clear. You want to make sure that you get to your best major suit fit. You could bid 3NT or you could pass partners takeout double. If it's not worth a game-force, you could three-of-either-major.

*Two experts cue bid and force this hand to a major-suit game. They will get to their eight-card major suit fit if there is one. I wouldn't be happy if partner bid 4♦ over my 4♣ cue bid. I'd then have to bid 4♥ and hope the 4-3 heart fit plays well. The cue bid shows two places to play. On a previous problem, you had one major and the other minor. Here you have both majors. It's better than guessing which strain is best. You don't want to play in 4♥ if partner has ♠AKxx♥xxx♦Axxxx♣x.*

**Parker:** “4♣—Get to the right strain and hope we are at the right level.”

*Probably too high but you do get to your best strain.*

**King:** “4♣—Let partner chose a major.”

*Three experts pass partner's takeout double since the best part of their hand is club values. This could be a bonanza against lots of 3♣-openers who would open 3♣ on ♠xxx♥xx♦xx♣Q109xxx. On the other hand, if partner doubled 3♣ with ♠KQJx♥AQxx♦xxxx♣x, and you're playing against a sound 3♣-opener, you might not take many tricks on defense. I don't go out of my way to*

*pass partner's takeout doubles if there is a reasonable option available.*

**Zhong:** “Pass—My points are defensive. With preemptive hand, I am expecting major suit(s) are not going to distribute normally. So I am going to convert double to penalty and expecting a plus score.”

**Adams:** “Pass—This should go down a few, and if we have a game it will go down at least three. Seems our only sure plus score.”

**Schwartz:** “Pass—Pass better than guessing partner's best major. Rather than guessing worth taking a likely plus which the law implies as long as partner is not loaded in majors. Can't chance 4♣ with working three-count.”

*Two experts join me and don't think this hand is worth a game bid. The king of clubs is of dubious value. If you're not driving to game, which major are you going to bid? At the one-level I'd bid spades first so I could later bid hearts. Here, you figure to be able to bid only one of your suits so you might as well bid your best suit. Hearts will probably play better than spades in a 4-3 fit. If we had the KJ of spades, instead of KJ of hearts, 3♠ would be the better call. If partner has ♠QJxx♥AQxx♦KJxx♣x which a normal takeout double, you'd be lucky to make 3♥. If partner has ♠AKxx♥Axxx♦AJx♣xx, a 16-count, game is anti-percentage.*

**Woolsey:** “3♥—Passing is a bit too risky and I'm not worth driving to game.”

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**Shi:** "3♥—Pass and 4♣ also in the game. I think that most of my values being in clubs is bad for 4♣ and pass is a little scary. So I won't likely have a big win on this board but I won't have a big loss."

*Three experts don't believe that when partner makes a takeout double, he's interested in majors. They bid 3NT. Their prototype takeout double of 3♣ must be ♠Axx ♥Qxx ♦AKJxx ♣xx. In 3NT, they don't get the benefit of partner's club shortness and your diamond shortness. At least the opponent's won't be able to ruff anything.*

**Hopkins:** "3NT—This should give me the most flexibility in making a game as I can hope for five or six tricks in the Majors and three or four tricks in the minors. A bad split in one Major might not be fatal as it would be if

playing in it."

**Theurer:** "3NT—Ugh! I don't have enough to bid 4♣ which is partner, please pick a major. I hate having to guess which major to bid when partner could be 4-3 either way in spade/hearts. Pass is possible but too "final" and the vulnerability is wrong for that as well. Since so much of my stuff is in clubs and we're vulnerable at IMPs, I'll try for the nine trick game despite having both majors. Also my values are all soft so there could easily be four losers in a major suit game. If partner pulls (due to club void and/or big hand?), that's OK - I can bid 4♥ over 4♦."

**Ekstrand:** "3NT—Hope for best. If I bid 4♣ to show both majors, and partner bids 4♦, then what?"

*If you can give partner an ace above his minimum and game is anti-percent-age, then bidding game is an overbid.*

## SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	4♦	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	460
Pete Ekstrand	4♦	2♣	Pass	2♦	3NT	460
Robbie Hopkins	4♦	2♣	Pass	2♦	3NT	460
Fred King	4♥	2♥	1♥	2♦	4♣	430
Steve Parker	4♦	2♣	1♥	2♦	4♣	490
Steve Robinson	4♦	2♣	1♥	3NT	3♥	490
Alan Schwartz	4♦	2♣	1♥	3NT	Pass	470
Sylvia Shi	4♦	2♣	1♥	3NT	3♥	490
Brad Theurer	4♦	2♣	1♥	2♦	3NT	480
Kit Woolsey	5♣	2♣	3♥	3NT	3♥	450
Yi Zhong	4♦	2♣	3♥	2♦	Pass	470

## THE UNIT GAME

Please contact **Chris Miller**, Club Manager and Chief Director, at [unitgame\\_director@districtsix.org](mailto:unitgame_director@districtsix.org) if you have any questions about how the WBL Unit Game is run. This column answers some frequently asked questions.

### CADDIES

by Clyde Kruskal

As I noted in my previous article, I am discussing caddies in WBL bridge events. They have slightly different jobs at Unit Games, Sectionals, and Regionals. All of these games function as well as they do because of the caddies.

Let's start with the Unit Game. We are lucky to have two extremely competent and experienced caddies: Alan Crank and David Solomon. Sometimes, we have a fill-in, but that is rare these days. Alan comes from a bridge-playing family. David knew (our director) Ted Ying through their common interest in acting. (By the way, David will be cast member in the musical "Oklahoma," October 29-November 19, if anyone is interested in seeing him perform. You can witness his real talent.) Ted introduced David to caddying in 2007; this gave David the courage to learn bridge. It has been great for the Unit Game, since he can fill in

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### UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♣ October 6-9, 2016, WBL, Silver Spring, MD
- ♦ January 5-8, 2017, WBL, Silver Spring, MD
- ♥ February 16-19, 2017, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♥ April 6-9, 2017, WBL, Silver Spring, MD
- ♠ April 27-30, 2017, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♣ August 24-27, 2017, WBL, Silver Spring, MD
- ♦ September 14-17, 2017, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♥ October 5-8, 2017, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♠ October 19-22, 2017, WBL, Silver Spring, MD

### DO YOU HAVE ANY MUSCLES 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](mailto:jimbarb1184@aol.com),

when we need an extra player.

On Thursday evenings, the caddies come early, at approximately 6:30pm. They set up tables, put out the mats and Bridge-Mates, and prepare the food. The synagogue prepares the coffee for us. When the game starts, they pick up the entries. During the game, they put out the food. At the end of the game, they pick up the boards, clean up, and wash the coffee pots and dishes. David makes the boards and hand records each week.

The caddies used to collect pick-up slips after each round. Now that we have bridgemates they do not need to do that (except when the bridgemates are not working). For team games, until recently, the caddies carried the boards between tables each round. Nowadays, they don't need to do that because we have started to make boards and pass them between tables similarly to pair games.

Caddyng has changed a little over the years. Traditionally, family and friends of bridge players would caddy; usually, they were high school students. Now that we have such reliable caddies, we do not need to do that much. Lloyd Rawley's son, Paul, has been the most common fill-in. I live in fear of the day when Alan and/or David no longer caddy, and I have to find caddies each week, as we did in the old days.

For Sectionals, we usually get Alan and David, and a couple of other people to help out. Most recently, it has been my daughter, Rebecca, and my friend's niece, Abigail. The caddies do the same jobs as in the Unit Game. Because we have a larger variety of food at the Sectionals, they have to spend more time there. They also clean up continually during the game. For team games, the caddies do bring the boards between tables. (I have been told that bridge players are slob; I would

rather say messy.) On Thursday afternoon, David brings the tables and sets them up for the games. On Sunday evening the caddies stay late to clean up from the weekend.

For Regionals, we provide a couple of rooms in the hotel where the game is held for the caddies. Years ago, Nadine Wood was "Caddy Master"; more recently it was Fred King.

The one player that I know who used to caddy regularly is our very own Charity Sack. She reminded me that years ago, the scores for matchpoint games had to be done by hand. This was an intensive job at the end of the game that required a great deal of care. Charity used to help with the matchpointing. Millard used to help her with her math homework, despite the fact that her mother, who was there, had a degree in mathematics. (Who wants a parent to help with homework?)

Charity tells me that at one Sectional, several of the caddies threw open-faced peanut butter sandwiches against the wall to see if they would stick. (Kids will be kids.) Nadine was very annoyed, but years later, she saw the humor in it.

At that time many caddies played bridge, and would fill in when a player was needed. My sons, Alexander and Justin, once filled in when a game needed a pair at a Regional. I doubt many current caddies know how to play bridge.

World champion Peter Boyd played bridge when he was young; he did caddy once, every other day, for a tournament in Norfolk. On the other days, he kibitzed bridge legend Al Roth. Peter tells me that when Sectionals were held in small cities, sometimes there were no caddies available. Then the tournament would hire members from a local church to caddy; their earnings were donated to charity by the church.

Anyway, next time you run into a caddy, be nice and show appreciation!

ACBL members: **Mrs Aaro Bell-Reid, Mr Robert Bogin, Susan E Bonds, Mrs Tanya Buchwald, Janet P Engel, Mr Mark V Engel, Diana Fornas, Mrs Andrea Levine, Ms Mary Locke, Robinette Lynch, Ms Antoinette Schooler, Ms Patricia W Silberman, Ms Margaret Stouffer, Ms Zoi Calomiris, John R Caughron, Winston Crow, J Michael Crye, Mr Terence Dunworth, Esther Gerber, Moises G Granda, Mr Arthur Grube, Susan Harding, Ellen Loughran, Mrs Patricia Martino, Joseph Musher, Jill M Neilsen, Mr Narayanan Ramachandran, Frank Rubin, Mr Matthew G Smith, Elizabeth Stewart, Alison B Taylor, Stephen B Thau, Susan Trebach, Ms Carol Wansong, and Mr Robert Weinzimer.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mr George R Clark Jr, Mrs Mary J Hawkins, Lee Ann Jensen, Sid M Lotlikar, Ibrahim R Mady, Carol Dyer, Mr Yizhong Fan, Anne Lippold, and Mrs Adele Waggaman.**

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](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org).

**2016-17**  
**GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS**  
**GET YOUR TEAM**  
**TOGETHER!**

It is time to get to your local club or unit game to qualify to win a partially subsidized trip to the Summer 2017 NABC in Toronto, Ontario. If you win, you will rep-

resent District 6 in the national finals of this grassroots competition.

The club/unit game qualification period began on September 1, 2016 and will end on May 18, 2017. To qualify, you can go out and play as often as you want and with whomever you want. As long as whatever team you play on wins at least 50% of its matches during a qualifying game, then you are eligible. You can form the team you want to play on in the District Finals from among all eligible players in your flight.

The competition contains four flights. In the Open flight all players may enter. Flight A is limited to players with 0-6000 masterpoints. Flight B is limited to players with 0-2500 masterpoints. Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Masterpoint eligibility is determined by the September 1, 2016 ACBL list of points. In club play, 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.)

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

We will be holding the first weekend of the District finals of Flights B and C at one northern site (White Oak Community Center, Silver Spring, MD) and

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♠ **Fairfax, VA** ♣ **OCTOBER 20-23, 2016** ♦

*Fall  
into  
Fun!*

## NVBA FALL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

**The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188**

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

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) or 500/300/100 PAIRS ..... 10:30 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, Chevy Chase, MD* **NVBA (Beth El) WBL**

*Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture* ..... 6:30 p.m.

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

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

STRATIFIED OPEN (2000+/2000/750) or 500/300/100 PAIRS (NLMs only)

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

*Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture* ..... 1:15 p.m.

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

I/N (500/300/100) or 49ER (50/20/5) PAIRS ..... 2 p.m.

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

I/N (500/300/100) PAIRS ..... 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

I/N (500/300/100), 49ER (50/20) or NEWCOMER (0-5) PAIRS . 9:30 a.m.

*Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture* ..... 1:15 p.m.

**\*\*ALL events on Sat. afternoon & evening award REGIONALLY RATED**

**SILVER POINTS**—an additional \$1 will be added to your entry fee to

support Grass Roots events in our local area!—Details at [www.nvba.org](http://www.nvba.org).\*

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

I/N (500/300/100) or 49ER (50/20/5) PAIRS ..... 2 p.m.

STRATIFIED OPEN (2000+/2000/750) or I/N (500/300/100) PAIRS 7:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

FLIGHTS A/X (5000+/5000) SWISS TEAMS ..... 11 a.m. & TBA

BRACKETED FLIGHT B TEAMS (no single player >2500) ... 11 a.m. & TBA

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

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

I/N (500/300/100) SWISS TEAMS (Single sessions) . 11 a.m. / 3:15 p.m.

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

**STRATIFICATION** of events is based on average masterpoints of the team or pair. In any event or flight with an upper

limit, no individual's total Masterpoint holding may exceed that upper limit.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Route 50/Arlington Boulevard heading west from DC and Arlington AND from Route 495/Beltway: Continue on/Take Route 50 West about one mile outside the Beltway, and turn left at Javier Road (the second stoplight after the intersection of 50 and 495). Take an immediate right onto the access road that runs parallel to Route 50. The Elks Lodge will be two buildings down on your left—parking on the side and in the rear. From Fairfax, heading East on Route 50: Pass the intersection of Route 50 and Prosperity Avenue—the Prosperity Medical Center will be on your right. Between the first and second lights after Prosperity, turn right into the access road that runs parallel to Route 50 and look for the Elks Lodge immediately to your right—parking on the far side of the building and in the rear.

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Fairfax Elks Lodge  
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## AT THE TABLE: A SURVIVAL MANUAL

by Rich Colker, rcolker@gmail.com

—PART 6—

We continue our discussions of common problems at the bridge table. While some discussion may presume a certain amount of experience and sensitivity to the situations being described, even a novice may improve in these areas through exposure to the underlying issues. Discussions include both practical advice on how to cope with problems once they occur as well as procedures to follow to minimize or avoid disruptions in the first place. Every suggestion may not be appropriate for all games or players: some are not intended for novices or events with low MP limits; others may be modified for more socially-oriented or club games. But above all else, please remember that the emphasis of bridge should always be on fun, enjoyment and relaxation. Even in serious competition it is to everyone's advantage to avoid practices which can cause problems or ill-feelings among the contestants.

### Your Obligations Following an Opponent's Infraction

*Principle: To retain the right to receive redress for possible damage sustained due to an opponent's infraction, the non-offenders must continue to play reasonable bridge for players at their skill/experience level. They may not receive redress if their poor result is judged to have been due to an egregious error or wild, gambling action on their part subsequent to the infraction, even though the opponents' score may still be adjusted due to their infraction.*

Say an opponent hesitates during the auction and his partner then takes a questionable action that was suggested by the

hesitation. The Director is called, listens to your explanation, and says "Finish the hand and call me back if you think you've been damaged." Now suppose that later in the hand you need to make a crucial decision. You are expected to make the best decision you can based on the information available, just as if there had been no infraction. In other words, you are still required to play "reasonable" bridge, as is expected of players of your ability, in order to retain your right to receive redress. This is true regardless of whether the opponents' score is later adjusted.

A typical situation occurs when the contract which resulted from the opponents' infraction would have produced as good a result for you (with normal play on your part) or better than you could have achieved without the infraction. In other words, if the infraction did not diminish your chance for a good result (but actually increased it) your fate remains in your own hands; it depends on the quality of your play, just as if the infraction had not occurred. If you make an egregious bridge error later in the hand (e.g., revoke, ruff your partner's ace, duck the setting trick, etc.) and thereby obtain a poor result, you will not receive protection even though the opponents' score may still be adjusted because of their earlier infraction.

Similarly, if you take a wild or gambling action which seeks to use the opponents' infraction as a safety net (called a "double shot") and your gamble backfires, again you will not be protected. Here's an example of a double-shot. Sitting South, vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents,



you hold ♠AKxxx ♥Axx ♦KJxx ♣x. The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	4 ♣ <sup>(2)</sup>	4 ♠ <sup>(3)</sup>
Pass <sup>(4)</sup>	Pass	5 ♣?	

(1) *Limit raise in spades or better*

(2) *Weak; 3 ♠ would show values*

(3) *Denies slam interest*

(4) *After a lengthy hesitation*

At this point you reason, “East left West to make the final decision when he bid only 4 ♣. Thus, he won’t be allowed to bid 5 ♣ after West’s hesitation. If I bid 6 ♠ and it makes we’ll get a great result, but if 6 ♠ goes down we’ll be safe since the Director will adjust the contract back to 4 ♠ because of East’s infraction.” Wrong! You do not have a legitimate slam bid (after all, you didn’t even *try* for slam over 4 ♣ and nothing happened since then to change your view of the hand) so bidding 6 ♠ now is a pure gamble; even if the contract is adjusted back to 4 ♠ for the opponents, you will be left with your poor result in 6 ♠. You gambled and lost. You are not entitled to protection when your poor result was due to your own risk-seeking action which you took subsequent to (and because of) the infraction.

Now let’s say you bid 5 ♠ over 5 ♣ and this works out poorly (only ten tricks are available). As long as your 5 ♠ bid is judged reasonable (by the Director or an Appeals Committee) you will be protected. After an opponent’s infraction you are only required to play bridge that is reasonable for players of your level—not perfect bridge. Since reasonable bridge actions occasionally work out poorly, they deserve to be protected. You would never have been faced with that five-level decision except for the “illegal” 5 ♣ bid. It was reasonable to bid 5 ♠, playing for +650 or +680 rather than a possibly poor re-

sult for +300 or +500. But 6 ♠ was not a reasonable action; it was an attempt to capitalize on the opponents’ infraction to create a risk-free windfall result (a double-shot) for your side, and those are not protected.

Contrary to the popular (but erroneous) belief, an opponent’s infraction does not *automatically* entitle you to a good result or to an adjusted score. To see why, consider the following example. An opponent breaks tempo which causes his partner to take a phantom save over your doomed game. You subsequently commit an error on defense (one that a beginner would be embarrassed to make) and allow their save to make instead of going for –300 (down two, doubled). The Director should adjust their score to the small plus they would have received had they simply passed and defended your game (they cannot be allowed to profit from their infraction), but you should receive the actual table result. Why? Because their infraction saved you from going down in a doomed game and afforded you the opportunity to get a plus score when otherwise you were going minus; all you had to do was defend reasonably. But since your poor result was due to a gross defensive error it was you—not the opponents—who were the proximal cause of your poor result. Thus, you get to keep it.

To recap, you will be protected from damage due to the opponents’ infraction if you did nothing egregious subsequently to cause your poor result. If you would have obtained as good a result or a better one than you would have received had there been no infraction by simply continuing to play normal bridge, but you later commit an egregious bridge error (or take a wild, gambling action that does not work out well) which causes your poor result, you will not receive protection, even though the opponents’ score is adjusted (so they do not profit from their infraction).

## When to Call the Director

*Principle: Call the Director immediately if an irregularity which may require a ruling (or an intervention) occurs. If no ruling (or intervention) is needed, you may wait to call the Director until you have evidence that you were damaged.*

Law 9B1(a) says the Director should be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity. Okay, so what is an irregularity? Some actions, such as an insufficient bid or a bid or lead out of turn, clearly qualify. But other actions, such as a break in tempo, are more ambiguous. A hesitation by itself is not an irregularity: Law 73D1 says that while maintaining a steady tempo is desirable, it is not always required. That is, thinking is neither illegal, immoral nor fattening. The Laws also say that players should be particularly careful in situations in which variations may work to their benefit. If unauthorized information could have influenced a player’s actions, a score adjustment is possible. Score adjustments are made when a player’s action *could* have been influenced by his partner’s variation—not *simply whenever there is a variation*. It is not necessary to determine that the player’s action was influenced by his partner’s variation—only that it *could* have been. If the variation could not have affected the player’s action (if it provided no useful information that was not available from authorized sources, or if the action was entirely clear-cut) then no adjustment should be made.

ACBL regulations require players to summon the Director immediately when they believe that extraneous information was available to an opponent who then took an action which may have damaged their side. This means that players *may* wait to call the Director until it is clear that the opponent’s action damaged them and not just because someone hesitated. After all, if a Director was called every time someone hesitates there wouldn’t be enough Directors to go

around or enough time to play more than a handful of boards a session. So what exactly should you do in these situations?

If there’s a lead out of turn, call the Director. If a player makes an insufficient bid, call the Director. If misinformation is suddenly discovered during the auction, call the Director. (It may be possible for him to intervene and back up the auction, and/or cancel a call, but only if he is called immediately.) But when a player hesitates, or asks a question when it is not his turn, most of the time his partner will take the normal action and there will be no need for a Director. And there is also the negative social aspect of calling the Director just because someone hesitated or asked a question out of turn. (We all like to believe that bridge still involves a social element.) Still, at least two good things may happen if the Director is called immediately: First, he can establish that an irregularity occurred while the events are still fresh in everyone’s mind and before anything else bad happens. And second, he can remind the partner of the player who transmitted the extraneous information of his obligation not to take any action that the information suggests.

Some experienced players wait until they have good reason to believe that the receiver of the extraneous information took an unusual (unclear and “suggested”) action. This may require waiting until the player’s entire hand is known, which often is not until it comes down as dummy or play has ended, at which time they can determine whether the action taken appears wholly justified by the player’s cards. In such cases it is wise to establish the fact of the irregularity with the opponents as soon as possible. For example, when an opponent hesitates one might say, “I believe West hesitated before he bid. Do we all agree?” If the opponents agree the Director can be called later if he is needed; *if* they deny any break in tempo the Director should be called immediately.

Whatever you decide at the table, be

aware that if you fail to call the Director when you suspect an opponent took an action suggested by extraneous information from his partner which could have damaged your side, you *may* jeopardize your right to protection. While failing to call immediately will not automatically lose you your rights, waiting incurs a somewhat greater risk of that happening.

[Aside: When I first proposed this approach (asking the opponents if they agreed that there had been a variation in tempo and not just calling the Director directly) back in 2002, only a small handful of players used this approach. Now, in the years since my articles first appeared, this approach has be-

come fairly common among experienced players, even if it is still not quite ACBL policy. Back then many players employing this approach after a break in tempo would say something like “I’m reserving the right to call the Director later if I think there’s a problem.” However, players always have the right to call the Director if they think there’s a need. Announcing that one wishes to reserve that right is superfluous. What one actually needs to do is establish the fact of a break in tempo as soon after its occurrence as possible, so there is no doubt that it occurred or suspicion that the complaint of a break in tempo was just “sour grapes” motivated solely by a poor result on the board.]

## STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS: As of September 1, 2016

### Junior Masters: 5 Masterpoints

Barbara Devaney  
Mr Daniel K Dudis  
Bea T Hessick  
Dr Jay I Krampf  
Mr Brian C Alspaugh  
Dana Best  
Charles Brown  
Richard Carelli  
Ms Kathy P Chiron  
Robert E Greeves  
Jeri Hayden  
Joel Hayden  
Helene Hendricks  
Mr Robert C Ives  
Ms Kathy L Kopnisky  
Sue Kushner  
Fern M Lapidus  
Dr Yuan-Jye Liu

Mrs Elizabeth A Lyons  
Ms Abigail M Marks  
Hal McCombs  
Dr E (Genie) Z McGarry  
Mr Nicholas Sapirie  
Dr Barry Shapiro  
Mr Robert Weinzimer

### Club Masters: 20 MPs

Dr Katherine R Marshall  
Carole Stringer  
Paul Zucker  
Mr Robert D Bajefsky  
Gin Bell  
Mrs Barbara L Lappin  
Arthur Lazarus Jr  
Robbie L Lloyd  
Mr Alexander Stille  
Susan K Straus  
Shaheda Sultan

### Sectional Masters: 50 MPs

Ms Kim A Gandy  
Mr William W Davis  
Janet N Page  
Eleanor D Young

### Regional Masters: 100 MPs

Dave Marchal  
H Wesley Ashendorf  
Mr John K Jackson  
Mr Arthur T Keefe III  
Shirlee W Starr  
Mr Brian K Sutton

### NABC Masters: 200 MPs

Barbara Gifford  
David Abraham  
Mrs Temma S Kanowith  
Bob Lawrence  
Ms Geane L Schubert

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

one southern site (Charlottesville, VA). Cost per team is \$100. This entry fee pays for the first day (2 sessions). Make checks payable to District 6 and send them to the address listed on the District Six website: [districtsix.org](http://districtsix.org). Along with the check, please send the names of all players on your team, their ACBL numbers, the Flight you are entering, and a contact e-mail address for the Team Captain.

Any questions, please contact Bill Cole at 301-602-9024 or [colebridge@aol.com](mailto:colebridge@aol.com). You can find Conditions of Contest, directions to sites, & where to qualify at [districtsix.org](http://districtsix.org).

### Open Bracket

#### First Weekend

White Oak Community Center  
Silver Spring, MD  
Saturday, March 4, 12 Noon  
Sunday, March 5, 11 A.M.

#### Second Weekend

*For all qualified teams*  
Site TBA  
Saturday, June 3, Time TBA  
Sunday, June 4, Time TBA ... Finals

### A Bracket (0-6000 MP)

#### First Weekend

Site TBA  
Saturday, January 28, Time TBA  
Sunday, January 29, Time TBA

#### Second Weekend

*For all qualified teams*  
Site TBA  
Saturday, April 8, Time TBA  
Sunday, April 9, Time TBA ... Finals

### B Bracket (0-2500 MP)

#### First Weekend

##### Northern Site

White Oak Community Center  
Silver Spring, MD  
Saturday, March 4, 12 Noon  
Sunday, March 5, 11 A.M.

#### First Weekend

##### Southern Site

Charlottesville, VA  
Saturday, March 4, Time TBA  
Sunday, March 5, Time TBA

#### Second Weekend

##### For all qualified teams

Site TBA  
Saturday, June 3, Time TBA  
Sunday, June 4, Time TBA ... Finals

### C Bracket (0-500 MP)

#### First Weekend

##### Northern Site

White Oak Community Center  
Silver Spring, MD  
Saturday, March 4, 12 Noon  
Sunday, March 5, 11 A.M.

#### First Weekend

##### Southern Site

Charlottesville, VA  
Saturday, March 4, Time TBA  
Sunday, March 5, Time TBA

#### Second Weekend

##### For all qualified teams

Site TBA  
Sunday, June 4, Time TBA ... Finals

...continued on p. 26

**WASHINGTON, DC NORTH  
AMERICAN BRIDGE  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
WINNERS  
JULY 22-31 2016**



Congratulations to WBL members, *Sylvia Shi* and *J.J. Wang* and NVBA members, *Alex Prairie* and *Stephen Drodge* who were representing District 6 when they captured 1st place overall in the national finals of the Goldman Flight A Grand National Teams.

Later in the week, *Sylvia Shi* made it a double, winning 1st place overall in the NABC 0-10,000 Mixed Swiss Teams playing with Dori Byrnes, Morris Plains, NJ (captain), Shan Huang, Toronto, ON, Michael McNamara, Scarsdale, NY, Sylwia McNamara, Scarsdale, NY, and William Ehlers, Madison, NJ.

**ADVERTISE? LOWER LOW RATES!**

Advertisements are welcome in the *WBL Bulletin* which is published every other month. Printed and mailed subscriptions are no longer included with membership. Paid mailed and printed subscriptions are available: \$12/year WBL members; \$18/year non-members. (See p. 3.) The *WBL Bulletin* continues to be posted online with an email message sent to notify members of its posting. In recognition of this change, the WBL has reduced the already low advertising rates which have remained the same since 2009. The new rates are:

\$90 ~~\$125~~ for a full page ad      \$35 ~~\$50~~ for a quarter page ad  
\$50 ~~\$75~~ for a half page ad      \$20 ~~\$25~~ for an eighth page ad

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**WBL MEMBER  
PERFORMANCE LISTS**

**All WBL Members**

1	173.38	.....	<i>Sylvia Shi</i>
2	115.38	.....	Daniel Korbel
3	110.88	.....	Jian-Jian Wang
4	110.72	.....	Steve Robinson
	110.72	.....	Peter Boyd
6	97.49	.....	Mohsin Chandna
7	88.97	.....	Dale Sanders
8	76.49	.....	Larry Kahn
	76.49	.....	H John Edmonds
10	69.16	.....	Steven Schatzow

**WBL Members with fewer than 3000 MPs**

1	110.88	.....	<i>Jian-Jian Wang</i>
2	88.97	.....	Dale Sanders
3	76.49	.....	H John Edmonds
	76.49	.....	Larry Kahn
5	54.48	.....	Janet Lee
6	45.03	.....	Aaron Navarro
7	44.16	.....	Peter Schiff
8	43.73	.....	Terry Klein
9	42.37	.....	Jeffrey Kosnett
10	39.00	.....	Randal Burns

**WBL Members with fewer than 750 MPs**

1	88.97	.....	<i>Dale Sanders</i>
2	44.16	.....	Peter Schiff
3	43.73	.....	Terry Klein
4	39.00	.....	Randal Burns
5	35.62	.....	Stanley Barg
6	31.51	.....	Hakan Berk

7	29.12	.....	Erik Kitagawa
8	28.97	.....	Kun He
9	27.47	.....	Robert Rovner
10	25.02	.....	Scott Lutrey

**WBL Members with fewer than 300 MPs**

1	39.00	.....	<i>Randal Burns</i>
2	28.97	.....	Kun He
3	25.02	.....	Scott Lutrey
4	24.96	.....	Bob Lawrence
	24.96	.....	Barbara Teng
6	23.67	.....	David Handwerker
7	21.77	.....	Linda Meade
8	18.49	.....	Brian Sutton
	18.49	.....	Walter Beckerman
10	18.15	.....	Juan Pablo Quizon

**WBL Members with fewer than 100 MPs**

1	28.97	.....	<i>Kun He</i>
2	25.02	.....	Scott Lutrey
3	21.77	.....	Linda Meade
4	18.49	.....	Brian Sutton
5	18.15	.....	Juan Pablo Quizon
6	16.06	.....	Jim Rubin
7	14.95	.....	William Davis
8	14.10	.....	Kim Gandy
	14.10	.....	Cate Frezza
10	10.99	.....	Ferit Yegenoglu

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY  
PARTY — DECEMBER 15**

Come celebrate the holidays with dinner and bridge at the Thursday night Unit Game at Ohr Kodesh at 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD.

This year's holiday party will be catered to follow the food regulations at Ohr Kodesh. In previous years, we have had to rent more expensive sites in order to allow outside food to be brought in. So, this year, no food should be brought by individuals.

Dinner will be served from 6 - 7 pm.

The game will start at 7:30 pm. It will be a StrataFlighted Grand National Teams game.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the party, please contact Clyde Kruskal at [cpkfam@gmail.com](mailto:cpkfam@gmail.com) or Jim Geist at [wwwjfg@yahoo.com](mailto:wwwjfg@yahoo.com).

**WBL EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

*Thanks to Dick Wegman and Barbara Ames, for bringing this project about!*

The Washington Bridge League has established a new WBL Educational Foundation. Dick Wegman is president of the Foundation. The Foundation will promote bridge in the Washington area by developing teaching programs in middle schools and high schools in D.C. and suburban Maryland, and expanding opportunities for adults to learn bridge or improve their bridge-playing skills. Thanks to the efforts by Barb Ames, the IRS has now approved the tax exempt status of the Foundation, so all contributions are tax-deductible.

Hugo Van Dyke is our new bridge-in-schools coordinator. The WBL is now looking for bridge players who would be interested in teaching in these school programs. Teachers will teach a uniform curriculum, and receive training using ACBL materials designed for first-time learners. Time commitments for bridge teachers (following training) would likely be a couple of hours per week over the course of a school semester. A modest stipend for teachers may be available from the ACBL. If you are interested in teaching (or otherwise participating) in the bridge-in-schools program, please contact Hugo at [huvandyke@gmail.com](mailto:huvandyke@gmail.com).

To support the Foundation, Dick Wegman has taught several six-session bridge workshops for WBL players who are interested in improving their game. Participants have generously contributed the tuition for the workshops to the Foundation. If you would like to participate in future workshops, please get in touch with Dick at [aliweg@aol.com](mailto:aliweg@aol.com).

The WBL Board has resolved to support the Educational Foundation in any way it can, including financially. Contributions from members are also welcome. If you would like to contribute directly to the Foundation, please contact Rose Berman, WBL Treasurer, at [rose.berman@verizon.net](mailto:rose.berman@verizon.net).



# NLM MASTER POINTERS

by I/N Columnist, Vince Wilmot, [vwilmot@comcast.net](mailto:vwilmot@comcast.net)

## PLAY WITH FINESSE PART 2

In my last article, I looked at some of the more common finesse positions. This time, we will consider more positions that would be categorized as finesses.

### Two way finesse

North  
♥ AJ10

South  
♥ K32

In this case, you need three heart tricks. If you believe that West has the queen of hearts, you can cash the King, and then lead toward the ace Jack in the below position for your finesse.

North  
♥ AJ

South  
♥ 32

Similarly, if you believe that East has the queen of hearts, you would cash the ace of hearts, and lead the jack of hearts for a finesse through the East hand. It would look like this.

North  
♥ J10

South  
♥ K3

### Ruffing finesse

In a ruffing finesse, you use trumps opposite an honor holding to take a finesse.

North  
♠ 2  
♥ KQJ  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

South  
♠ 3  
♥ ---  
♦ 432  
♣ ---

You are playing in a spade contract and the lead is in the north hand. You lead the King of Hearts from the North hand. If the East hand follows with a low card, then you

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**BRING A FRIEND TO THE 0-20  
OR NLM UNIT GAME!**

Bring a new player (who has not previously played at the WBL) to the Unit Game to play in the 0-20 or NLM game and you both will play free that evening.

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can pitch a diamond. If East has the Ace of Hearts, then you can ruff the ace Ruff a diamond to return to the North hand, and you have the rest of the tricks.

### Combined two way finesse and ruffing finesse.

In this instance, spades are trumps. You need two heart tricks. If you believe that West has the king of hearts, lead low to the queen, cash the ace of hearts and ruff the jack. If you believe that East has the king

North  
♠ 2  
♥ AQJ  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

South  
♠ 3  
♥ 2---  
♦ 43  
♣ ---

### Free finesse

In this instance, you let the opponents take the finesse for you.

North  
♠ 3  
♥ AJ10  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

South  
♠ 2  
♥ K32  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

In this example, hearts are trumps. The queen of hearts has not been played. Rather than guess which opponent has the queen, lead a spade and lose the trick to one of the opponents. Regardless of which opponent wins the trick, they are forced to give you three heart tricks. Follow low on any lead from either side, and you will always win three tricks.

### Chinese finesse

North  
♥ A9

South  
♥ Q2

This is a rare play, only when you have no other alternative. You have no real legitimate way of taking two tricks with this holding. If either opponent had the stiff heart king, you could lead the ace and drop the opponent's king. Failing that, you only other possibility if you have to lead the suit is to lead the queen. If West ducks the trick, then you have stolen a heart trick you were not entitled to.

There are many other finesse positions to learn. The mechanics for all of these positions are based on the principles I have shared – winning a trick with a lower honor, based on an assumption about which opponent holds a higher ranking card.

## THE WBL ONLINE

The Washington Bridge League is providing two online services:

### 1. The WBL Online Bulletin Board

On an OPT IN basis only, this service will include an online directory of members. Send any of the following information that you're willing to have posted to the WBL webmaster, Don Berman, at [don.berman@verizon.net](mailto:don.berman@verizon.net) or call him at 301-776-3581.

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

### 2. The WBL Online Partnership Desk

Check it out at [washingtonbridgeleague.org](http://washingtonbridgeleague.org)  
Contact Clyde Kruskal at [cpkfam@gmail.com](mailto:cpkfam@gmail.com) or 301-395-0480 with any questions.



# WBL SOLVERS' CLUB'S NEW PROBLEMS

## 1) IMPs None Vul

♠ 10975 ♥ J ♦ K1098762 ♣ 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1 ♦	

????

## 2) IMPs They're Vul

♠ - ♥ Q75 ♦ K7542 ♣ AK543

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♥	4 ♥	Dbl	Pass

????

## 3) IMPs They're Vul

♠ Q762 ♥ KQ98642 ♦ A8 ♣ -

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1 ♣

????

## 4) IMPs They're Vul

♠ KQJ ♥ J6 ♦ AJ1085 ♣ AK8

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass

????

## 5) IMPs They're Vul

♠ 65 ♥ A103 ♦ K8765 ♣ Q43

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 ♠ *	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
		4NT	Pass

????

\*(one ace and one king or three kings)

Return answers by November 10 to:

**Steve Robinson**

2891 S. Abingdon St #A2, Arlington VA,

22206 or [robinswr@erols.com](mailto:robinswr@erols.com)

## NEED A RIDE OR A PARTNER FOR THE THURSDAY UNIT GAME?

Contact **Barbara Doran** [UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org](mailto: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)**.

To arrange a carpool, contact **Melissa Price**, *Carpool Coordinator*, at 301-464-1261 or [melissadprice46@gmail.com](mailto:melissadprice46@gmail.com).

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