

*Join us for these fun events!
Here's what's coming soon...*

4th of July Bethesda Regional

June 30 - July 6 ...see page 3 ...Volunteers?

Unit Round Robin

sign up by May 15 ...see page 4

The Longest Day

Saturday, June 21 ...see page 5

WBL Annual Meeting, Elections, and D6 STaC Game

Thursday Unit Game, May 8 ...see page 23

Complimentary Desserts6:30 p.m.

Meeting and Elections7:00 p.m.

D6 Sectional Tournament at Clubs Game . . .7:30 p.m.

During the evening, we will recognize our 2013 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners for their achievements.

Help us keep you up-to-date!

Send your email address

(with your name & player number)

*to Vice President, Ellen Cherniavsky:
eachernia@yahoo.com*

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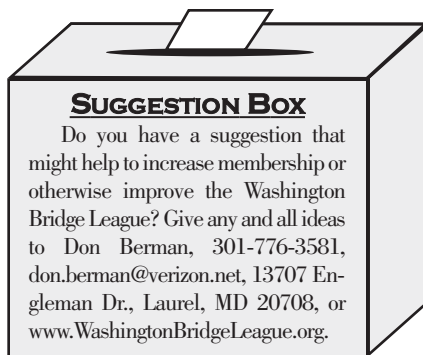
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SUGGESTION BOX

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.

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: MAY 8, 2014

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2014 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)

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

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www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

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www.districtsix.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by *WBL President, Richard Ferrin*
rferrin@mac.com

Writing this column as President of the WBL, all I can say is that it doesn't get any better than this.

Last fall, our own **Kitty Gottfried** was selected by then-ACBL President Bill Cook as one of two recipients of the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year, an ACBL-wide award established to recognize outstanding accomplishments by ACBL volunteers. Because Kitty has been very ill and in at-home hospice care for several months, it seemed doubtful at the time she was selected that she could personally attend the award ceremony, which is traditionally held each year at the Goodwill Committee meeting of the Spring North American Bridge Championships, which was in Dallas, Texas this year.

But with the same grit and determination we have seen from her in handling hospitality for the past 40-odd years, Kitty worked with her hospice caregivers, and with appetite stimulants, an oxygen tank, and morphine, she flew to Dallas, accompanied by her son, Glenn Gottfried.

When she and Glenn arrived in Dallas

and checked in their room, Kitty called and asked me to come to her room. (We were set to play a pairs game.) When I arrived, she immediately offered me a cup of coffee she had just brewed. That's our Kitty!

She received her award at the Goodwill Committee meeting on Monday, March 24. After hearing the accolades for her many years of making Washington bridge hospitality famous, she came to the podium, and was overwhelmed and briefly speechless. After regaining her composure, she took the microphone to credit all the other volunteers in the Washington area who helped her with her hospitality duties. After she finished, she received a standing ovation and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I can personally say I've never been prouder to represent the WBL.



BITS AND PIECES

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Dana Best, Ms Candyce E Clark, Ms Lovelace Z Clark, Ms Carole Ruth Cougnet, Barbara L Gordon, Meriel J Hume, Mr Martin A Levine, Dave Marchal, Mr Ali N Memon, Gordon R Pavy, Bob D Stillman, Margaret C Stillman, and Mrs Gail B West.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mr Dan Calistrat, Shirlene G Caplan, Mr Paul L Chassy, Ms Reina L Chassy, Elyse R Grossman, Mr Walter C Kolczyrski, John D Montgomery, Ms Wendy W Morrison, Stanley**

B Rosen, Mrs Marilyn S Rubinstein, Dr Nancy E Schafer, Mr Mel Schloss, Mr David E Siegel, and Mrs Charlotte Zaret.

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

2013-2014 WBL/NVBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

* The eligibility rules have been updated to account for the reduction in WBL sectionals

...continued on p. 19



NATIONAL CAPITAL 4TH OF JULY REGIONAL



June 30 - July 6, 2014 AT THE

BETHESDA NORTH MARRIOTT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

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4th of July
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THE JULY 4TH REGIONAL FEATURES:

★ **FAMOUS Mid-Atlantic Hospitality!**

★ **RENOWNED Intermediate/Novice Program!**

- 4 Days of Gold Rush Pair Events
- Tuesday: Special I/N reception & 0-5 masterpoint players FREE

★ **CELEBRITY Speakers**

★ **VOLUNTEERS are needed to
make the tournament a big success!**

Please contact *Shawn Stringer* or any of the coordinators to help with Partnerships, Prizes, Information, Hospitality or I/N. We especially need many Intermediate/Novice volunteers. Except for hospitality, most tasks will only need about a 45 minute commitment before game time. You can also help with hospitality, which varies from helping with food preparation, filling bowls and trays, bartending, cleanup, both before and after bridge sessions.

Fliers available at the WBL and NVBA Unit Games and at local sectionals. Schedules are also in the April/May and June/July District 6 TableTALK publication and on the web at www.mabcbridge.org.

- GOLD POINTS GALORE
- Great new schedule with team events starting every day!
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- LOTS of restaurants and shopping nearby



QUESTIONS?

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Ron and Dolores Daringer
717-398-7665
mommompawpaw@yahoo.com

COME JOIN THE 2014 WBL ROUND ROBIN!

SIGN UP BY MAY 15 (...or by May 8 if possible)

It's time to get a round robin team together. Round Robin Coordinator, Steve Robinson, will gladly help you to form or join a team of four to six players to play in the A/X or B/C/D Flights. The NLM Flight Coordinator, Bryan Geer will do likewise. League play runs from May 18 through the summer to determine qualifiers for the knockout portion of the event. This fun event can be played in a relaxed home setting or at a club. Sign up with Steve Robinson by phone: (703) 379-4371, by email: robinswr@erols.com, or use the entry form to sign up by mail or in person. The final deadline is May 15 but it would be appreciated if teams register by May 8 as it will facilitate administration of the event. **First place in each flight will wins their entry fee back!**

We invite NVBA, MBA and other unit's players to participate! Leagues normally consist of 5-7 teams with a playoff after completion of round robin play. Matches should be scheduled to complete round robin play by the second week in September. To the extent feasible, leagues will be designed to minimize travel for all participants.

2014 WBL ROUND ROBIN ENTRY FORM

Enclose check (*made out to the WBL*) for \$50 for Flight A/X, \$40 for Flights B/C/D or the NLM Flight which will all be stratified or bracketed depending on the number of entries and number of teams that fall into different brackets. Players looking for teammates in Flight A/X or Flight B/C/D should contact Steve Robinson who will help you form a team. Those looking for teammates in the NLM Flight should contact the NLM Coordinator, Bryan Geer at bgeer@verizon.net.

All Flights: Return entry and entry fee by May 15 to
Steve Robinson, 2891 Abingdon St. #A2, Arlington, Virginia 22206-1329

☐ Open (A/X) Flight ☐ Flight B/C/D

<u>Name</u>	<u>ACBL #</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
_____, captain	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Countdown to

THE LONGEST DAY

of 2014 —

**Saturday,
June 21**

Join the
ACBL and
our local
team,
BRIDGE
HEROES UNITED
in a

Bridge-a-Thon
to fight Alzheimer's!



The
Longest Day

is a sunrise-to-sunset event to raise funds and honor the strength, passion and endurance of those facing Alzheimer's disease. BRIDGE HEROES UNITED celebrates and promotes bridge for all ages in Northern VA and MD.

▶ Norma and Bernie are donating their games! 9am, Noon, and 3pm — Play in any or all sessions! 18 boards with upgraded masterpoints. Cost is **FREE**...including the pizza!

Knights of Columbus Club: 5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA
Sign up to play: RSVP **Norma** at 703-892-1292 or nomattp@verizon.net

▶ Mark Lavine is holding a charity game at 1 pm at St James Episcopal: 11815 Seven Locks Rd, Potomac, MD. Last year, Mark joined Bridge Heroes and raised over \$800!

100% of your donations will fund Alzheimer's research and are tax deductible.

▶ Join the Bridge Heroes United team, sponsor a Bridge Hero, or donate online:
http://act.alz.org/site/TR/?pg=team&fr_id=5860&team_id=198294

▶ Like/Share us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeHeroesUnited>

▶ Purchase a custom quilt from Donna Sinrud — donnasinrud@gmail.com

▶ Put out a collection tub ▶ Buy lots of raffle tickets ▶ Play bridge on the Longest Day

Questions? <http://www.acbl.org/play/thelongestday/>

Special thanks to our generous sponsors!

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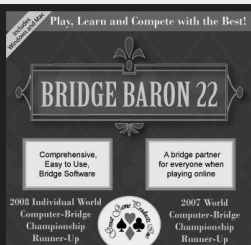
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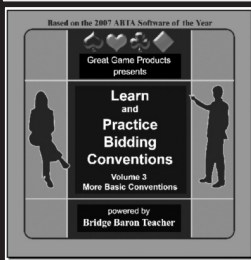


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Learn and Practice Bidding Conventions \$29.95

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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 **Enid Hughes** who came in first with a score of 500. She wins a free entry to the Unit Game, and will be invited to be on a future panel and I will play with her in a future game. Second was **Mike Richey** with a score of 490. Tied for third were **Mo Sharaff** and **Zbych Bednarek** with a score of 480. Tied for fifth were **Chuck Yaple, Barbara Israel, Oleg Dolgikh, Mike Gill** and **Mike Kovacich** with a score of 470. Tied for ninth were **Kathy Paramore, Jim Gerding, Robert Stone, Jim Wakefield, Jeffrey Klemm** and **Nikola Tcholakov** with a score of 460. Tied for fifteenth were **Paul Benedict, Mike Deverin, Robert Yellen, Tom Musso, JC Clemant, W. Paul McGowan, Carl Gutschick, Dhor Axelrod** and **Tom Vinson** with a score of 450. Tied for twenty-fifth were **Prahalad Rajkumar, Jeff Yutzler, Chris Marks** and **Ronald Conlon** with a score of 440. The average score of the 191 solvers was 389. The average score of the experts was 452.

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 \$30.60 which includes \$5.60 for priority mail.

1) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠J73♥98♦109765♣J76

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Redouble
?????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
1♠	100	8	67
Pass	70	2	102
2♣	60	0	4
1NT	50	0	9
1♥	50	0	1
2♦	20	0	5
3♦	20	0	3

You hold ♠Ax ♥xxx ♦AQJ10x ♣Kxx. RHO opens 1♦. You decide to pass and see what happens. Responder passes and partner re-opens with a double. You lick your chops planning on passing partner's take-out double and hoping that Responder sits. However, before you get a chance to pass, opener redoubles. Why should you let opener's redouble stop you from defending against 1♦ doubled? Therefore, when you're sitting behind the redoubler, pass says that you were going to pass the double for penalties. Your pass shows my above example, not the problem hand. Since pass says that you want to defend 1♦-redoubled, you have to find a bid. This is one instance where bidding a three-card major is allowable in my system. Partner is supposed to take a one-of-a-major bid with a grain of salt. There are many other situations where you can punish a player who redoubles. You could hold ♠x ♥Kxx ♦Kxxx ♣QJ10xx. After 1♠ - 2♣ - Pass - Pass - Double - Redouble, you have a nice penalty pass. Why let a redouble stop you from defending.

Seven experts join me and bid a three-card major. They play that passing says that you want to defend against 1♦ redoubled.

Parker: "1♠—I assume a pass here shows a willingness to defend. I don't think I can stop them from getting seven tricks."

Woolsey: "1♠—Pass would be for penalties, and that is a bit rich. There is a danger that partner might get carried away while a 2♣-bid will slow him down, but it is more likely that we belong in spades than in clubs."

Lublin: "1♠—I play pass as non-forcing."

King: "1♠—I think pass shows you were going to pass the double, so you have to bid. I hate bidding a three-card major which might get partner excited, but his double emphasizes the majors, so I will bid 1♠."

Theurer: "1♠—I play here that a pass is

penalty, thus I have a hand that would have passed if East had passed my partner's take-out double. I have diamond length but am far too weak to pass, so bid 1NT. 1NT is still constructive with not enough hand/diamonds to pass. So I'm left with bidding my "best" suit (oh okay, basically tied for my "best" suit). The only reason 2♣ might work out better is that partner might be less apt to raise, but still, he heard East redouble as well and shouldn't get too excited even if he has a sound hand with four spades. Besides, partner is a bit more likely to have only three clubs than three spades and I'm not a fan of 3-3 fits, and 1♠ is a level lower."

Adams: "1♠—Pass is penalty if after the bidder, so I can't pass. The redouble should warn partner not to go crazy, so I bid cheaply rather than 2♣ which I would try without the redouble."

Hopkins: "1♠—I hate this answer. 75% of the time partner will bid a large number of Spades and we will go minus quite often, sometimes seriously. But, bidding 1NT incurs the same risk and passing will quite often lead to scores such as -380 which are not on the top ten of matchpoint earners (at least our way)."

I think that I'm going to define a 1♠-bid here as showing exactly three spades or a very weak hand with four spades. A jump to 2♠ shows four spades and a reasonable hand. Seven to ten points.

Two experts pass.

Schwartz: "Pass—Even though it's ostensibly for penalty, several good things might happen. Partner might bid his own suit. RHO might run as he is looking at a spotless suit. It's worth taking a shot at matchpoints as bidding a black suit will likely get a vigorous raise."

Hirsh: "Pass—Without the redouble, I'd have had to make an awkward choice be-

tween 1♠ and 2♣. Steve's preference is for 2♣, leaving 1♠ to show four. I might prefer to be contracting for seven tricks, personally. With the redouble, I think 1♠ should show four and I can let partner bid, pulling. Having partner play in 4-2 fits builds character."

You can't let a redouble stop you from making a penalty pass.

2) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠AQ103 ♥AQ9742 ♦J64 ♣-

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
?????	1NT*	2NT (minors)	Pass
	*(10-12)		
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♥	100	4	28
5♦	90	2	20
4♦	80	0	18
3♦	60	2	66
3NT	50	2	39
4♥	40	0	4
3♣	20	0	2
4NT	20	0	1
6♦	20	0	1
3♠	20	0	1
Pass	20	0	11

Partner has bid 2NT showing 5-5 or better in the minors. If it was a strong notrump, where game your way is unlikely partner could have a weak hand such as ♠x ♥xx ♦QJ10xx ♣QJ10xx. However, opposite a 10-12 notrump where game your way more likely, he shouldn't have a weak hand. I'd expect partner to have somewhere close to an opening bid. Therefore game our way opposite this hand is very likely, and the only question is which game. 4♥, 3NT and 5♦ are all possible games.

Two experts bid the most likely game. If partner has AQxxx of both minors, 5♦ has play. And you protect your AQ's.

Parker: "5♦—I am afraid if I bid 3♥ it

will go all pass and 4♥ is a pure guess, so I will bid the most likely game and congratulate the opponents for playing my favorite convention."

Hirsh: "5♦—Running for daylight.uld be. What would I bid with ♠xxxx ♥QJ109876 ♦x♣x? I know I want it played from my side. If we have a slam, perhaps partner can bid it."

Three experts bid 3♥. If partner has two hearts or a singleton honor, 4♥ could be the best contract.

Woolsey: "3♥—I play on sequences such as this where partner has shown minors that three-of-a-major is forcing. It is more important to get to the right game than to worry about stopping on a dime in three-of-a-major."

Hopkins: "3♥—I would assume natural and forcing, undiscussed. I can support Diamonds later as advisable."

King: "3♥—4♥, 3NT or 5♦ all could be making. I will start with 3♥ and see if partner can give me some help."

Two experts go conservative.

Lublin: "3♦—I don't go looking for a movie game."

Adams: "3♦—Who knows? Misfitting hands often do well to stay low, so I do. If partner is good enough, maybe he will bid again. If 3♥ were forcing, might be OK to try it with 4♦ in reserve, but I don't think it is."

Two experts try 3NT. 3NT won't be a happy contract especially with the lead coming thru your hand.

Theurer: "3NT—Too bad I won't be playing this with the lead coming up to my tenaces in the majors but I have enough stuff to want to bid a game, and I'd rather try for a nine trick game than ten tricks in hearts or eleven tricks in diamonds. Perhaps 4♥ might work if partner has a few hearts, but he rates to have small single-

ton, if not a void, and if I bid 3♥, even if that's forcing partner won't be able to bid 3NT very often. He can't assume I have good spades like I have here and we'll miss getting to that contract. 3♦ too wimpy even though it could be right and 4♦ overstates the diamonds and misses 3NT. If partner has extra shape he can pull 3NT. If he tries 4♣ or 4♦ I can either bid 4♥ natural or 5♦."

Schwartz: "3NT—Partner should have values against a mini notrump and if partner has the diamond ace, I have communications to partner's hand. Obviously I can run if RHO makes a point count double."

Bidding over 10-12 notrump shows values.

3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠AK2♥AQ2♦64♣KJ432

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♦	Pass
?????			

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
4♥	100	7	78
5♣	80	2	62
4♠	70	0	27
6♣	50	1	2
5♦	40	0	4
4NT	30	0	12
Pass	20	0	4
5NT	20	0	2

You're North and have an opening bid with 4=4 in the majors trying to respond to partner's takeout double. If the doubler is 4-3 in the major you want to play in the 4-4 fit and avoid playing in the 4-3. Your cuebid asks partner to bid a major. You could also do this with four spades and five hearts. However, with five spades and four hearts, you have to take charge and jump to 4♠ since doubler will bid 4♥ with 3-3 in the majors. Cue bids in this sequence show two places to play. He could

easily have ♠QJxx♥KJxx♦xxx♣Ax. He could also have ♠QJxx♥Kx♦xxx♣AQxx planning on converting 4♥ to 4♠ showing spades and clubs. He could also have ♠Qx♥KJxx♦xxx♣AQxx hoping that you bid 4♥ and planning on converting 4♠ to 5♣.

Three experts bid clubs. Couldn't North have ♠QJxx♥KJxx♦xxx♣Ax?

Parker: "6♣—This will not get me many scoring points on this, but 5♣ is too wimpy and I refuse to bid a three-card major at the four-level when partner could not overcall. I have at least an extra Ace on this auction. All he needs is ♠Qxxx♥Kxxx♦x♣AQxx for a claim."

Adams: "5♣—This is why you don't cue bid 4♦ with 5-4 in majors, because I might not have one. Just bid your five-card major."

King: "5♣—4♦ must suggest at least two places to play so partner can still bid 5♦ to get me to pick a major. Better to be at the wrong level in the right strain than in the wrong strain."

Six experts join me and bid a three-card major. Their partner is 4-4 in the majors and does not expect you to bid clubs. You must bid 4♥ even if you have five spades and four hearts.

Woolsey: "4♥—Even if we are in a 4-3 fit, there is a good chance that it is the best game. Picture partner with something like ♠QJxx♥KJxx♦xx♣Qxx and this becomes quite clear."

Lublin: "4♥—I keep the bidding low with 4♥. I may be getting tapped out."

Theurer: "4♥—I have a nice hand but where's our fit? them sorry partner! He likely has a few diamonds (no raise by East) so that doesn't leave room for a lot of clubs. Partner is somewhat limited by his failure to act directly over 3♦ so I'm going to reluctantly take the low road here. Partner could have as good as ♠QJxx♥KJxx♦xx♣AQx, which he

might have doubled 3♦ himself on, and still there's no slam."

Hirsh: "4♥—However, attractive it may be to show you can out-torture partner by bidding 5♦, or perhaps 5♣ or 4NT, if partner is going to treat the bid as showing this hand – fat chance. I think, there are too many hands where ten tricks are the limit. Partner may have stretched to bid 4♦ in order to get to a 4-4 major – e.g., ♠Qxxx♥Kxxx♦xx♣Qxx – not realizing that I've fooled him. cks is ambitious. And if that is too weak, certainly ♠QJxx♥KJxx♦xx♣Axx looks like 4♦ to me and you haven't made eleven tricks opposite that hand yet either. I think you have to pick a major and hope for the best. As for which major, 4♥ saves space."

Hopkins: "4♥—I am not going to cross partner's intentions. Maybe partner is 5-5 or 4-5 and this is where we belong. It leaves the most room, also."

Schwartz: "4♥—Bidding clubs is illegal as partner could be 4=4=4=1 with moderate values. If partner converts to 4♠ showing the blacks, I can consider bidding a slam."

Partner's cue bid shows two places to play with the emphasis on majors.

4) Matchpoints, Both Vulnerable

♠A876542♥A2♦AKJ♣2

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♠	100	2	60
Dbl	90	8	64
4♠	70	0	1
2♠	70	0	61
3♣	60	0	2
4NT	20	0	1
4♣	20	0	1
Pass	20	0	1

You have a singleton in opponent's suit.

You also have three aces and a king. You have been taught to reopen with a double when short in the opponent's assuming you have some defense. But is double the correct call on this hand? You have a seven-card suit which means that if partner has one spade, you have an eight-card spade fit. What if partner has a hand such as ♠Kx♥xx♦Q10xx♣J10xxx? On good days you make 6♠. On bad days you make only five. This means that if declarer takes six tricks in 2♣ doubled you'll get a bad matchpoint score. If West is a good player, he'll have a reasonably good hand for his 2♣ overcall. I don't make frivolous vulnerable 2♣ overcalls over 1♠. Over 1♦, that's a different story. Suppose the 2♣-bidder has ♠x♥KQJ10♦xxx♣AKJ98? He'll probably take four clubs and three hearts and you'd get 200 which would tie the pairs that play in a spade partscore. This is matchpoints which means that you need to get 800 to get a decent matchpoint result. +200 or +500 will be way below average. At IMPs the double would make a little more sense since +500 would only be a very small loss.

One expert joins me and sees the possible eight-card spade fit. Sometimes partner has Kx of spades and you'd have a nine-card spade fit.

Lublin: "3♠—I don't reopen with double with seven-card suit and I need one trick for game."

Eight experts try for 800. If all partner has is clubs, then the opponents have heart and spade values which will draw partner's trumps. Let's assume that partner has a singleton spade and you give him a ruff. Now Declarer has more trumps than partner.

Parker: "Double—Happy to sit if he passes and can correct hearts to Spades. Not a good enough suit for 3♠ now."

Woolsey: "Double—I've got so many quickies that if partner is passing the double which is reasonably likely then I like our

chances for a good result.”

King: “Double—I can convert 2♥ to 2♠ and if partner has a trap pass I will be delighted.”

Theurer: “Double—Have to allow for a trap pass by partner; if he has one I have very good defense, especially if partner has a stiff spade. er a 2♦ or 2♥ response. Just can’t pass up the opportunity for a big number.”

Hirsh: “Double—If partner leaves this in, it is probably going for the moon. be a better suit, but sometimes having a seventh one helps.”

Adams: “Double—If it went 1♠ - 2♣ — Penalty double, I would pass. Therefore, I must reopen with a double. That’s the bargain we make in return for playing negative doubles. If you have a penalty double of 2♣, you pass, then leave in my take-out double which I will go out of my way to make for you. This double promises nothing except club shortness. Here, I have a really good hand for defense, so if partner wants to penalize, I am happy to help.”

Hopkins: “Double—I have Aces if partner passes for penalty. I might even get a Heart ruff. And I have a built in safety feature in that I can correct to Spades if partner bids a red suit.”

Schwartz: “Double—With the controls worth trying for a penalty. If partner has a stiff spade I want to give him a chance to defend. I can convert hearts to spades if necessary.”

Don’t make reopening doubles with seven-card suits.

5) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠94♥643♦QJ10♣AK1042

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

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Dbl	100	8	76
2♠	80	1	15
3♣	70	0	68
Pass	70	1	24
3NT	20	0	1
3♥	20	0	7

There are four possible answers to this problem. You could make a negative double. You could bid 3♣, you could raise spades or you could pass. The problem with doubling is that you will not know what partner has if he bids 2♠, 2NT or 3♦. Wouldn't you bid 2♠ holding ♠AKxxx♥xxx♦Axx♣Qxx or ♠AKxxx♥xx♦Ax♣Qxx? Opposite my first example, 3♠ might be too high. Opposite my second example 4♠ is reasonable. You'd rebid 2NT holding ♠AKxxx♥Qxx♦Axx♣xx where they could run five hearts after giving up a heart trick. What if he has ♠QJxxx♥Qx♦AKx♣xxx? You'd rebid 3♦ holding ♠AKxxx♥Ax♦xxxx♦xx? Not sure what you would respond to the negative double with ♠Kxxxx♥xxx♦AKx♣Qx.

I like 2♠. This is matchpoints and if we take the same number of tricks playing in a pointed suit, spades pay more. If you're going to play in a seven-card fit, why not play in the major? I hope the extra HCP will make up of my lack of a third spade. There are some lay-outs where partner will have to bid a three-card diamond suit. At least 2♠ will ensure playing in at least a seven-card fit.

Eight experts make a negative double. I don't like making a bid where most of partner's responses lead to further problems. Only if partner bids 3♣ would ensure at least an eight-card fit.

Parker: “Double—Too good to pass, don’t want to force to game and will correct diamonds to spades. I’ll be happy to raise 2NT to 3NT if he bids it.”

Ten opposite twelve with partner having ♥Qxx would not lead to a good 3NT.

Woolsey: “Double—A bit too strong and too pure to pass. I hate raising on a double-ton. If partner bids 3♦, maybe that is where we belong.”

Lublin: “Double—I use the negative double and over 2♠ bid 2NT.”

King: “Double—Too much to pass and this seems the closest bid to describing what I have.”

Theurer: “Double—Not ideal, but the alternatives are worse. I have too much to pass and even assuming partner can reopen, I may have problems describing this hand later. 3♣ is an overbid, and raising spades or bidding 2NT are terrible. If partner can rebid spades, bid notrump, or bid clubs I’m good. Only if it goes Pass - 3♦ - Pass, am I not happy and would have to decide whether to pass or give false preference to 3♠. Second choice would be to pass, hoping that perhaps partner isn’t short in hearts so we should be defending.”

Adams: “Double—I really don’t know what to do with this hand. Pass, 3♣ and double are all flawed. Last time I held this I

passed, and that worked poorly, so will double this time.”

Hopkins: “Double—Least of evils. Maybe partner will have six Spades or enjoy dummy reversing a 4-3 Diamond fit or cross-ruffing (with my good spots!) if we end up there. “

Schwartz: “Double—Only bid from partner that I fear is 3♦ and even that might work out well.”

Hirsh: “Pass—Pick your poison. retty ordinary hands – like opposite ♠AJxxx♥KJx♦Kx♣Jxx. But double, I think is worse – as I don’t really have two places to play – and I’ve already tortured partner enough on the first four hands to have this one land in 3♦ doubled on partner’s third seat ♠KQ10xx♥Qxx♦Kxxx♣x? 3♣ looks right, but unless partner can bid 3♠ or 3NT I’m wrong-siding the contract and I have a death holding in hearts. Partner may be able to reopen. Or maybe they’ll get too high on a hand we can’t make anything.”

If you're going to play in a questionable contract, you might as well play in the major.

SOLVERS’ SCORES

John Adams	1♠	3♦	5♣	Dbl	Dbl	420
Merril Hirsh	Pass	5♦	4♥	Dbl	Pass	410
Robbie Hopkins	1♠	3♥	4♥	Dbl	Dbl	480
Fred King	1♠	3♥	5♣	Dbl	Dbl	460
Glenn Lublin	1♠	3♦	4♥	3♠	Dbl	460
Steve Parker	1♠	5♦	6♣	Dbl	Dbl	420
Steve Robinson	1♠	3♥	4♥	3♠	2♠	480
Alan Schwartz	Pass	3NT	4♥	Dbl	Dbl	400
Brad Theurer	1♠	3NT	4♥	Dbl	Dbl	430
Kit Woolsey	1♠	3♥	4♥	Dbl	Dbl	480

2014 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 April 3, 2014. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

1	49.10	John Adams
2	48.06	Barry Falgout
3	42.89	James Geist
4	41.12	Lloyd Rawley
5	35.24	Larry Kahn
6	35.03	Steve Robinson
7	31.58	Brad Theurer
8	30.87	Linda Marshall
9	28.85	David Genne
10	28.71	Guillaume de Decker
11	26.73	David Ruderman
12	26.24	Steven Schatzow
13	24.90	H John Edmonds
14	22.15	William Cole
15	21.47	Joan Lewis
16	21.34	Michael Richey
17	20.87	Jason Meyer
18	20.23	William Pettis
19	19.35	Leon Letwin
20	19.07	Donna Rogall
21	18.71	Leon Masiewicki
22	18.37	Barry Bragin
23	18.33	James Berry
24	18.28	Ronald Zucker
25	17.66	Clyde Kruskal

Izzy Cohen

1	28.71	Guillaume de Decker
2	18.71	Leon Masiewicki
3	18.33	James Berry
4	17.35	Ernie Schuler
5	16.54	Kiyomi Shiba
6	16.05	Peter Isard
7	16.05	Margaret Cooke
8	15.52	James Beller
9	12.64	Dale Sanders
10	12.35	Ajit Thyagarajan
11	12.06	Terry Klein
12	11.99	Adrienne Kuehneman
13	11.92	Azmat Ali
14	11.03	Annapurna Satpathy
15	11.03	Myron Goldstein

Tubbs

1	17.35	Ernie Schuler
2	16.05	Peter Isard
3	16.05	Margaret Cooke
4	12.06	Terry Klein
5	11.03	Myron Goldstein
6	10.50	Radu Tunsanu
7	10.50	Daniela Tunsanu
8	10.09	Jane Dolkart
9	9.61	Norman Kittrell
10	9.37	Jill Benson

Woolridge

1	6.03	John Goon
2	5.30	Stephen Baldwin
3	5.30	Kate Baldwin
4	3.64	Carl Barth
5	3.37	Sheila Blum
6	3.04	Nathan Tash
7	3.00	David Narrow
8	3.00	Marc Zlotnik
9	2.67	Judy Rovner
10	2.45	Carole Smith

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 \$.55. 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.

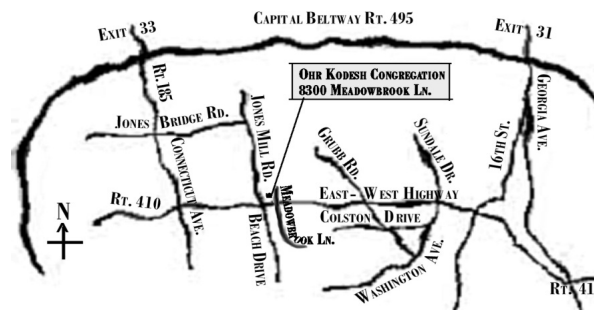
This is a great program for beginners as well as experienced social bridge players! Partners will be provided if needed. For more information, contact Bryan or Lois Geer at 301-236-0014 or by email at geerbridge@verizon.net.

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

05/08/2014Annual Meeting/D6 STaC Stratified Pairs
 05/15/2014Unit Charity Game
 05/22/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 05/29/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 06/05/2014StrataFlighted NAP
06/12/14**D6 STaC Stratified Pairs
 06/19/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 06/26/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 07/03/2014Closed—Bethesda Regional
 07/10/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 07/17/2014StrataFlighted North American Pairs
 07/24/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 07/31/2014StrataFlighted North American Pairs
08/07/14**WBL Sectional
 08/14/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 08/21/2014StrataFlighted Unit Championship
 08/28/2014StrataFlighted North American Pairs

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 barb.doran@verizon.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

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 frequently asked questions.

BITS & PIECES

In June and July we will run a number of qualifying events for the annual **North American Pairs**, when three lucky (or good!) District 6 pairs in each of three flights (Open, 0-2500, Non Life Master) can win a subsidized trip to the 2015 Spring NABC in New Orleans. We also have lots of opportunities for **silver points** coming up with STaCs in May and June, and on June 19th we will have one of occasional Board-a-Match Team games. Check our full schedule online at:

<http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org>

The Unit Game is now **tweeting** information on upcoming games, cancellations, notification of posted results and score corrections, and occasional miscellanea. Follow **@WBLUnitGame** on Twitter.

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♣ August 7-10, 2014, WBL, Kensington, MD
- ♦ September 18-21, 2014, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♥ October 9-12, 2014, WBL, Kensington, MD
- ♠ October 23-26, 2014, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♣ January 8-11, 2015, WBL, Kensington, MD
- ♦ February 19-22, 2015, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♥ April 9-12, 2015, WBL, Kensington, MD

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

DO YOU HAVE ANY MUSCLE OR BRAINS TO SPARE?

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

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

Here's how to help:

1. Reply by email, phone or in person if you are willing to help in any way.
2. Please indicate if you can offer any special skills (such as marketing or a strong back).
3. Someone will contact you shortly with a choice of assignments you can pick from.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION #81

by **Rich Colker**, rcolker@gmail.com

The following deal arose during the second qualifying session of the Nail Life Master Pairs at the 2012 Fall NABC in San Francisco. See if you recognize the short-sighted behavior of anyone you've ever played against (or with).

Bd: 15

Vul: N/S

Dlr: South

North

♠ QJ10764
♥ A105
♦ 5
♣ 1085

West

♠ AK3
♥ 942
♦ Q9864
♣ AQ

East

♠ 98
♥ K763
♦ J1032
♣ J64

South

♠ 52
♥ QJ8
♦ AK7
♣ K9732

West	North	East	South
INT ⁽¹⁾	2♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽³⁾
Pass	2♠	Pass ⁽⁴⁾	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

⁽¹⁾15-17 HCP

⁽²⁾One-suited hand

⁽³⁾Inquiry

⁽⁴⁾Break in tempo (BIT)

3♦ by West made three, +110 for E/W. N/S called the Director after the 3♦ bid complaining that East had taken perhaps one minute before passing over 2♠. The Director questioned E/W about a possible hesitation. West denied any tempo variation while East admitted that he considered his cards before passing, but he claimed only for about 10 seconds. The Director ruled that there had been an unmistakable hesitation by East over 2♠. He subsequently polled a number of players as to what action they would take with the West hand after 2♠ was passed back around them with no mention of any BIT. None of them bid. Accordingly, pass was found to be a logical alternative (LA) to bidding 3♦ with the West hand and the contract was changed to 2♠ by North making two, +110 for N/S. E/W appealed the Director's ruling. Consider how you would decide this case if you were on the Committee before reading on.

South did not attend the hearing. West restated what he told the table Director, namely that he did not notice a hesitation over 2♠. He also said he would always balance with 3♦ in this auction. East modified what he had told the table Director saying now that his pause was less than 10 seconds.

The Committee found that there had

...continued on p. 18

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

been an unmistakable hesitation over 2♠, as established by East's statement that he had considered his cards before passing, whether for 10 seconds (his original statement) or somewhat less (his statement at the hearing). The Committee also found that the hesitation demonstrably suggested a willingness to compete, barring West from taking any action to which there was a LA. Since the player poll and the fact that West hadn't doubled 2♦ established pass as a LA, the Committee decided, as the Directors did earlier, to change the contract to 2♠ by North making two, +110 for N/S. The appeal was found to have merit, in part due to the disagreement over whether there had been a BIT. However, the Committee noted that West's claim that he did not notice a hesitation and whether he believed he would have always have bid 3♦ in the pass-out seat over 2♠ were both irrelevant in determining a score adjustment once UI (from the BIT) that made his action more attractive was found to exist.

It is difficult for many players — especially those with less experienced — to anticipate what actions they might wish to take in an auction that has not yet concluded, and the importance of maintaining an even and deliberate tempo to preserve their right to take an appropriate action later on. Here East should have realized, with four-four in the red suits and enough values to compete opposite his partner's strong notrump, that he could not sit and consider what to do (either over 2♣ showing a one-suiter or over 2♠ later) and then pass without compromising his partner's right to act. Once he passed 2♣ he had to decide quickly what he would do if he had a chance to compete later. (Would he balance if 2♦ was passed around to him? Would he bid if North converted 2♦ to ei-

ther 2♥ or 2♠?) Once North bid 2♠ and he paused long enough to communicate to the table that he was interested in competing he then had to either compete (perhaps by bidding 2NT for takeout) or make the final decision for his side to sell out to 2♠; his partner could no longer legally do anything other than pass.

As I might have mentioned here before once or twice, players need to make all of their calls and plays — even innocuous ones — appear deliberate. If East always took a few seconds and gave the appearance of considering his action over all of RHO's calls he could have used that time here, over both 2♣ and 2♠, to actually decide whether to take some action. By doing so he would have preserved West's right to balance with 3♦ later (assuming it was always his intent to do so and not motivated by East's "known" interest in acting, as communicated by the BIT), even after he (East) ended up passing 2♠.

Two final points concerning West's role in this affair. First, if, as he claimed, he would always balance with 3♦ with the hand he held then why, as the Committee pointed out, did he not double 2♦ and give East the information to make a more informed final decision for the partnership? Second, West's 3♦ bid after receiving UI from East's BIT was a "bad" action, one that I think deserved a disciplinary penalty (Directors tend to shy away from issuing them at the table, afraid that perhaps doing so might call into question the player's ethics) or, at the very least, an Appeal Without Merit Warning. In all my years serving on Appeals Committees I have never seen a player in a situation like West's here admit to noticing a BIT — unless he intends to argue that despite the UI his action was so clear-cut from his cards as to have no LA (and no player poll had been taken to dispute this).

I might have had more sympathy for E/W had both of them been adamant from the start that East had not paused even slightly over 2♠ and if N/S had admitted that the pause had been brief (perhaps just a few seconds) though noticeable. There might then have been some justification for a further, more in-depth review of the incident. But for West to contend that there was no BIT when his own partner had admitted to one and to then waste a Committee's time arguing the point in the face of a poll confirming that a LA existed was beyond the pale. Law 73C says "When a player has available to him unauthorized information from his partner...he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that unauthorized information." This places the responsibility for avoiding taking any advantage of UI squarely on the shoulders of the player in receipt of the UI — West here. And it should have been clear to everyone that he absolutely failed to meet that responsibility.

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

this contest period from four to three.

To be eligible, a player: (1) Must be a member (or pending member) of either the NVBA or the WBL; (2) Must attend all but one NVBA sectional and all but one WBL sectional* during the contest period (August, 2013 through May, 2014). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility; (3) Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded: Open and Non-Life Master.

Standings: Here are the standings after six of seven* sectionals. The asterisk* indicates that

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the player has met eligibility requirements.

Open Leaders

Player	Points
1 Sylvia Shi	130.77
2 Steven Schatzow	112.00 *
3 Barry Falgout	108.01 *
4 Alexander Prairie	97.98 *
5 Brad Theurer	90.83
6 Peter Boyd	86.62 *
7 Ken Davis	84.82 *
8 Barry Bragin	81.09
9 William Cole	76.50 *
10 John Adams	74.01 *
11 Steve Robinson	69.74 *
12 Mark Chen	69.10 *
13 Noble Shore	67.46 *
14 Jay Kelkar	66.27 *
15 Robert Hopkins Jr	65.59 *
16 Rusty Krauss	64.87
17 Lloyd Rawley	64.24 *
18 Robert Bell	58.22 *
19 Fred King	55.45 *
20 Bruce Houston	53.12 *

NonLM Leaders

Player	Points
1 Jill Benson	34.55 *
2 Catherine Bardsley	30.17 *
3 David Benson	26.82 *
4 Terry Klein	23.86 *
5 Yuen De Anda	23.65 *
6 Ron Sutter	23.65 *
7 Charles Dearolf	21.23 *
8 Sharon Suttan	20.96 *
9 John Merold	19.84 *
10 Donna Sinrud	18.36
11 Fred Gramlich	17.00
12 Reina Lerner	15.43 *
13 Michael Stoller	15.39
14 John Cook	15.16
15 Patricia Cook	15.16
16 Dottie Terrell	15.03 *
17 Dorothy Black	14.94
18 Jim Walsh	14.91
19 David Marshall	14.78 *
20 W Morgan	14.27

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. The Foundation will promote bridge in the Washington area by developing teaching programs in D.C. and suburban Maryland schools, and expanding opportunities for adults to learn bridge or improve their bridge playing skills. All contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

If you are interested in contributing to the Educational Foundation, please contact Rose Berman, WBL Treasurer: rose.berman@verizon.net.

If you are interested in helping to develop bridge teaching programs (either in schools or for interested adults), please contact either Richard Ferrin, WBL President, at rferrin@mac.com, or Dick Wegman, at aliweg@aol.com.

...continued on p. 27

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 Senior Center
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

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 Carnation Dr Rockville, MD
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“ALERT” from the WBL Recorder

by Barry Bragin, gadgetmatist@gmail.com

Hopefully, everyone reading this article is already quite familiar with the ACBL alert procedures. However, it's probably a good idea to review the basics and discuss a few specific cases.

According to the *Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge: Law 40.B. Concealed Partnership Understandings Prohibited*

A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organization.

Bridge is not a game of secret messages; the auction belongs to everyone at the table.

Remember that the opponents are entitled to know the agreed meaning of all calls.

The bidding side has an obligation to disclose its agreements according to the procedures established by ACBL.

When asked, the bidding side must give a full explanation of the agreement. Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.

The opponents need not ask exactly the "right" question.

Any request for information should be the trigger. Opponents need only indicate the desire for information - all relevant disclosure should be given automatically.

The proper way to ask for information is "please explain."

Players who remember that a call requires an Alert but cannot remember the meaning must still Alert.

One situation that has come to my attention as recorder concerns the alert of 1♣ that is not strong and artificial. Since the start of the alert procedure, the only time such a bid required an alert (or in this case an announcement) was when you and your partner agreed to open hands 1♣ with a 4432 pattern. The partner of the opening bidder is required to say "may be short." However, many partnerships now open 1♣ with any balanced hand that is outside their notrump range. They may have five diamonds and two clubs or two diamonds and five clubs or any combination in between. Using the same "may be short" announcement may be technically sufficient but not within the spirit of the alert procedure. I recommend that partner use the "alert" card, and, if asked, reply:

"Either unbalanced with clubs or balanced but not in our opening notrump range. If balanced, it denies a five card major without implying any specific minor suit distribution."

I realize that is a mouthful but it is information that you are immediately aware of that may not be evident to your opponents. If you can't memorize it then I suggest you type it up on a 3x5 card and hand it to your opponent when it comes up.

AWAY FROM THE TABLE, #2: JIM ADAMS

by Fred King, fredmking@gmail.com

This is one of an occasional series of articles on WBL members with other interesting activities outside of bridge. Anyone interested in seeing an article about themselves or another member of the WBL should contact Donna Rogall or Fred King.



The WBL has another national champion in its midst. Some might find it hard to believe that Jim Adams, a soft-spoken, slightly built retired minister would be a good person to have on your side in a street fight, at least

one that involved swords. You see, Jim is a fencer. He learned at Princeton where he was an All-American, winning three NCAA medals. He won his first national championship in 1962 with the New York Fencers Club. He continued to be active until raising his children required his attention.

He returned to fencing in 1995 and has been very active and successful in Veterans (seniors) fencing. He has won 7 additional national championships (in his age group) since that date and represented the US on 13 teams competing at the world Veterans Championships. He has won three silver and three bronze medals at those championships and is the first and, so far only, male American fencer to win two world medals in the same year (2011). He will again represent the US in October in the world championships in Varna, Bulgaria. He has been recognized as the US Fencing Association veteran fencer of the year (2010) and was US Veterans team co-captain in Moscow in 2009. Locally, Jim represents the DC Fencers' Club and teaches fencing at Holton-Arms School. Finally, he is a nationally rated fencing referee.

ADVERTISE?

Advertisements are welcome in the *WBL Bulletin*. We distribute approximately 1,900 copies of each issue, every other month. Advertising rates (as of 01/01/09) are:

Full page: \$125 Half page: \$75
Quarter page: \$50 Eighth page: \$25

The sixth appearance of an ad in one calendar year runs free.

.....MAY 8, 2014.....ANNUAL MEETING.....ELECTIONS.....
.....AND D6 STaC GAME.....

This year's Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on Thursday, May 8, at Ohr Kodesh, the site of our Unit Game, prior to play. There will be complimentary desserts at 6:30 p.m. The meeting and elections will take place at approximately 7:00 p.m. All WBL members whose dues are paid as of April 1 are eligible to vote. The congregation will be open early for ballot casting to those players who will be unable to attend the elections. Copies of the WBL Policies and Treasurer's Report will also be available. A D6 STaC Game will begin when the meeting concludes.

2013 MASTERPOINT RACES

During the evening, we will recognize our 2013 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners for their achievements.

ELECTIONS

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

Candidate for President

Richard Ferrin has been a WBL member since 1993. He has participated regularly in the Unit Game and other WBL events for the past 14 years. Prior to his election as

President two years ago, he served for three years as Vice President, and five years as WBL Secretary. If elected, he would focus on supporting efforts to continue growth in the WBL Unit Game, sectionals, and the unit round robin and unit knockouts, by striving to provide a playing environment that is competitive but friendly, and appeals to players of all calibers. Richard is counsel with the law firm Drinker Biddle & Reath. His practice focuses on import remedies and trade regulation.



Candidate for Vice-President



Ellen Cherniavsky, who holds a Ph.D. in Operations Research, quit playing duplicate bridge after college to pursue graduate studies and have a family. Eighteen years ago, she returned to the tournament scene. Starting with her ongoing participation as a member of the Conduct & Ethics Committee in 2004, which she now chairs, she has continuously contributed to the WBL as a volunteer.

A Board member since 2006, she served as Secretary for three years, chairs the Club Relations Committee, and has acted as the

Board's GNT and NAP coordinator since 2009. If re-elected Vice-President, she would be honored to hold that position as well as to continue serving in the other capacities. Her focus as Vice-President would be to insure enjoyment of the game for all players: by obtaining and keeping good playing sites (she initiated the contact that led to us getting back to Ohr Kodesh); making sure the infrastructure (dealing machine, cards, tables, bidding boxes) is well maintained; and heeding players' inputs on the forms of game they prefer.

Candidate for Secretary



Linda Marshall has been a WBL member since 2003, when she started playing bridge again after learning from friends in college and then taking a long break from bridge to practice law and raise two boys. She has participated regularly in WBL activities since 2005.

Linda joined the WBL board in 2007. In addition to serving as secretary, she would like to continue her service on the board to support WBL activities in a variety of ways, to help to attract, retain, and support newer players, and to help the WBL to make bridge more enjoyable for all of its members. In particular, she would like to continue her leadership with the WBL mentor program, which provides volunteer mentors for non-life masters who want advice. Linda has been an attorney with the Internal Revenue Service for 25 years.

Candidate for Treasurer

Rose Berman began to play bridge about 28 years ago, when she met her husband Don.

Her family had always played cards, but not bridge. She's been a member of the WBL for over 26 years, and has played in the Unit game most Thursdays. Rose appreciates being a member of a well-run unit with a competitive game, and hopes to contribute whatever she can to the smooth running of the Unit.

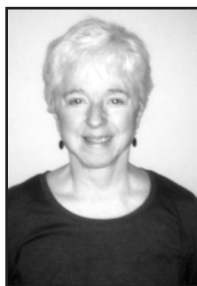


She grew up in Pittsburgh, and attended Pitt. After moving to this area in the late 70s, Rose attended graduate school at George Mason. She worked for many years in various Social Service jobs, but burned out and turned to accounting. For over 20 years, she has worked as an accountant for a small printing business. She is delighted to report that she retired last year.

Rose is a club director, and regularly directs at the Laurel Bridge Club.

If re-elected, Rose intends to provide accurate and timely financial information to the Board and to the Unit as a whole.

Candidate for the Board



Melissa Price grew up in Illinois and learned to play bridge while in high school, earning her first master points playing with her mother in the local duplicate club. She joined the WBL when she moved to the DC area in 1974 and met her husband Richard playing in a club game. She was active in WBL events until two daughters and a career intervened. She and Richard returned to bridge 10 years ago. Melissa worked for many years at the Library of Congress. She began her career in its Copyright Office as a copyright cataloger, but eventually held a number of management positions, including Chief of

Receiving and Processing, Chief of Performing Arts Examining, and Special Assistant to the Register in charge of operations. She retired last year.

Receiving and Processing, Chief of Performing Arts Examining, and Special Assistant to the Register in charge of operations. She retired last year.

Melissa was elected to a half-term last spring and has served just one year on the board. Among her goals for the WBL are good governance, growing membership, and increasing participation by ensuring that WBL events are enjoyable and meet the evolving needs of our members.

Candidate for the Board



Lloyd Rawley has been playing in WBL events for 20 years, with occasional success. An astronomer turned homemaker, he has three children. The oldest, Paul, sometimes caddies at Unit games and Sectionals. Lloyd has volunteered for the WBL in minor capacities and is a member of the Conduct and Ethics Committee. His service to other nonprofit organizations includes five years as Treasurer of Greenbelt Nursery School. Lloyd grew up in Michigan and has run nine marathons.

Lloyd has volunteered for the WBL in minor capacities and is a member of the Conduct and Ethics Committee. His service to other nonprofit organizations includes five years as Treasurer of Greenbelt Nursery School. Lloyd grew up in Michigan and has run nine marathons.

Candidate for the Board



Ollie Thomas came back to bridge, with his wife Julie, after a 40 year hiatus to raise a family and run the family business, Thomas House Coffee Service. He met Julie at the University of Maryland at the bridge table in her sorority house. Julie's mother was an accomplished bridge player and had become a Life Master in 1963. Ollie and Julie played often with her mother and her friends in the late sixties until the children and work priorities took over.

They joined ACBL in the spring of 2010 and thus fall under the new 500 masterpoint criteria for Life Master ranking. This gives a different perspective than the majority of those they regularly play with under the old 300 point requirement. Ollie and Julie have been greatly encouraged by Bryan and Lois Geer and their teachers, Leslie Shafer and Charlie Williams and Hank Meyer. Their desire is to not only improve their own play, but to do what is helpful to encourage others and expand the game in fruitful and productive ways. Board service has provided a deeper understanding of WBL's and the ACBL's organizational strengths and weaknesses. As an ongoing part of the board Ollie feels he can have a continued impact in working to improve the WBL and its benefit to the members.

Under our new ACBL CEO, Robert Hartman, there continues to be new opportunities and challenges to strengthen the game, improve membership and enhance tournament participation. With an upgrading and revision of ACBL Score and the emphasis on improving the organization with technological initiatives, it should prove to be a time for innovation and growth at all level of the organization. The tournament bridge world continues to exist with a vastly underutilized effort to bring technology to bear on making the game more enjoyable and facilitating our play of the game, especially at the administrative level of tournament operations. District 6 and the Washington Bridge League have always been in a leadership role in the ACBL and should continue to be.

While part of the coffee service industry for over 37 years (the business was sold in 2008), Ollie served on various association boards and initiatives—locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and was an officer on many of these boards on several separate occasions. He now currently serves on the board of directors of Fourth Presbyterian School in Potomac and as Chairman of the Advisory Board for Art Lindsley Ministries in Arlington.

THE GADGET-MATIST

by Barry Bragin, gadgetmatist@gmail.com

The old Gadgetmatist has been away for awhile so let's try and catch up with a pot-pourri of possible additions to your arsenal. These are not new nor my creations but you may not have seen them before.

2♥ – Pass – 2♠

Hopefully, you already play this sequence as forcing. It's best at all forms of scoring but absolutely mandatory at IMPs where getting to the right game or slam outweighs stopping on a dime in the right partial. Opener looks at his spades support and bids as follows:

With support (any three cards or honor doubleton) he bids either:

- 2NT to show any minimum, or
- 4m to show a good 2♥ bid and shortness, or
- 4♥ to show a good suit with the Ace (AQxxxx minimum), or
- 4♠ to show a balanced maximum

Without support he makes the response he would have made had you bid 2NT (Ogust, feature, etc.)

This way you get the best of both worlds and your bids have specific meaning rather than just guessing. If you play weak 2♦ openings, you can use the same methods after 2♦ – Pass – 2♥ or 2♠.

1NT – Pass – 2♣ – Double

The bad news is that the opponents have gotten in a lead director; the good news is you have been given an extra round of bidding. It's important to put that to use:

Redouble suggests playing this contract. Perhaps the doubler stepped in with ♣KQxx and you have ♣AJTxx behind him. Teach him a lesson.

Pass denies a club stopper. Responder now reopens with a redouble to ask you to complete your response to Stayman. If a 4-4 major fit is not found, responder bids NT if

she has a stopper else bids 3♣ to force to game and look for diamonds or a 4-3 major fit, or just rebids 3♦ to play.

Other bids over the double are your normal responses to Stayman but show a club stopper leaving 3NT open as a possible final contract.

The same approach should be used over your 3♣ responses whether regular or puppet Stayman. The meanings of pass and bidding immediately can just as easily be reversed (i.e. pass shows a stopper, bidding denies). Choose the one that you and your partner will most easily remember.

Over Partner's 3♣ Opener

Preempts can be very effective but sometimes partner preempts you. Over a 3♣ opener you have just enough room to conduct a reasonable auction as long as you have a few agreements.

3M is natural and forcing. Raise to game with even minimal support (partner isn't expecting much). Bid a new suit to show support and a feature (bid 4♦ over 3♠ with ♠xx ♥xx ♦Kx ♣Axxxxx). Bid 3NT without support but a good club suit (♠x ♥xx ♦xxx ♣KQJxxxx) – you obviously don't have stoppers in all the unbid suits. Otherwise, rebid 4♣.

3♦ is artificial (*alert!*) and relays to 3♥. Partner can now pass (this is especially useful at match points), bid 3♠ which you will pass, or bid 3NT or 4♣ which are now (since a 3♣ opening has such a wide range) natural and invitational. Pass 3NT if you will be proud of your club suit when you put it down. Partner has honor doubleton or three small and is expecting to get a lot of club tricks. Playing this method, you needn't run from a direct 3NT by partner because your clubs have lots of holes. Partner didn't use the 3♦ relay so she should be prepared for the worst. Partner's 3♦ relay to 4♣ says she has a 4-and-a-half raise. If you have a good preempt bid game. If you have no more than partner should expect you are probably high enough.

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 20...



TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE NVBA FEBRUARY SECTIONAL

Manuel Lee and Jacob Coffee, Tilden Middle School students, checking out their 46% game with Jill Benson. Michael Cooperman is the Tilden Bridge in Schools' team leader and works with Jill Benson and Carmen Nakassis, the faculty sponsor.

Fourteen students (twelve from Northern Virginia) attended the NVBA sectional. Manuel and Jacob are the first two students taught in a WBL Bridge in Schools' program to play in a MABC sanctioned tournament.

DIXIE M. DOGGETT

Dixie M. Doggett died on April 6, 2014 at age 89, peacefully in her home in Boynton Beach Florida. She was a long-time ACBL Silver Life member who played and taught bridge in the Washington DC area, including partnering with Mike Michaels (whose cue bid is on your convention card) and Paul Kibler (Von Zedtwitz Gold Cup finalist in 1961 and Bermuda Bowl representative).

She was good friends with Vi and Jim Goode who ran the regular Monday duplicate game for many years at Kenwood Country Club in Bethesda MD where Dixie was a regular. She also partnered in the DC area with Joe Carlomagno and Andy Gabrilovich.

After she retired to Florida in 1989, she ran the rubber bridge room at Jourdan's Bridge Club for many years.

THE WBL ONLINE

The Washington Bridge League is providing two new 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 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 Contact Clyde Kruskal at cpkfam@gmail.com or 301-395-0480 with any questions.

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of April 1, 2014

Junior Masters: 5 MPs

Eileen J Feldman
Betsy S Grossman
Bruce L Harris
Joan W Malekzadeh
Dr Katherine R Marshall
David O Maxwell
Joan Maxwell
Jocelyn White

Club Masters: 20 MPs

Caroline J Brown
Ms Nancy J Feldman
Mr Christopher E Goldthwait
Lois L Gottlieb

Karon L Green
Bruce F Levy
Lynne McCombs
Linda E Meyer
Ms Barbara Teng
Mark H Zweig

Sectional Masters: 50 MPs

Ms Debra F Bieber
Mr Barry E Tash

Regional Masters: 100 MPs

Poul Arendal
Mahmoud Katirai
Ms Shala Panbechi

NABC Masters: 200 MPs

Thayer Baine



NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

DOUBLE TROUBLE: TAKEOUT DOUBLES, PART 2: RESPONSES

The bidding has gone 1♥ – X – P and Advancer is now on the spot. He can hold a wide range of shapes and strengths and has a variety of options available. Advancer should consider the following concepts to decide on the most descriptive bid:

1. What strength is needed for jump response?

Many intermediate and novice players base their jump decisions solely on HCP. We suggest that better practice is to look at three factors: HCP, suit length and shape. We recommend jumping a level with the following combinations, which are based on our understanding of standard expert practice at this time:

- 10-12 HCP & 4-card suit
- 8-9 HCP with 5-card suit & singleton
- 9-11 HCP with 5-card suit & balanced hand

2. When do you make a minimum response to a Takeout Double?

Review the ranges in #1., and make a non-jump, minimum response with hands worth anything less than what is detailed above.

3. When does Advancer respond 1N to partner's Takeout Double?

One Notrump bids are tricky, and HCP ranges vary depending on the suit opened. Think about these auctions:

- a. 1 minor – X – P – 1N
1N shows 6-11 HCP, balanced
- b. 1 Major – X – P – 1N
1N shows 5-11 HCP, balanced

4. What does Advancer bid with a four-card major and five-card minor?

This question takes us back to the basic

bidding principle of preferring to play in a major rather than a minor. It follows that Advancer should bid his four card major before showing the five card minor.

5. Should Advancer bid 1N as opposed to a four-card minor?

With 7 HCP, Advancer should look for reasons to bid 1N rather than a four card minor at the two level. If the hands are relatively flat around the table, 1N is likely to be the safest contract. Remember that partner may have doubled with both majors and short clubs (4423 or 4432 shape) and you may each have diamonds stopped.

6. What if Advancer has no four-card major and no stopper to bid Notrump?

If the opponent opened 1♣ (1♣ – X – P – ?), then Advancer holding:

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦JTxx ♣xxxx

is better off bidding 1♦ on a three card suit than bidding a three card major. The principle is that you can "lie" about your minor suit length but not your major suit length.

7. What is the effect of an intervening Redouble?

If the auction goes 1♦ – X – XX, then Advancer is no longer forced to bid. General principles to follow are these: If you have something worthwhile to bid, such as a four-card major, then bid it. Otherwise, don't take bidding space away from partner. Don't bid 2♣ just because you have four of them. Pass and give partner a chance to bid a four card major and find a playable 4-3 fit.

8. How much does Advancer need to make a "free bid" after partner's Takeout Double and an intervening bid?

Intermediate and novice players do not make all the free bids they should make. Advancer should get into the bidding with a five-

card suit, even if fairly weak. As few as five HCP is enough especially with a five-card major. With a four-card major, then as little as 6-7 HCP is enough to take a free bid at the one or two level.

Free bids are valuable for the following reasons: They get partner off to the right lead. They help compete safely; and they push opponents up in the bidding. So do not be afraid to get into the auction!

Practice by bidding these hands::

Auction	Advancer holds	Advancer Bids
1. 1♥ – X – P With five spades and a stiff, jump a level.	♠KQxxx ♥xxx ♦QJxx/x	2♠
2. 1♥ – X – P You only have four spades, but enough strength to jump.	♠AKxx ♥xx ♦KJxx ♣xxx	2♠
3. 1♥ – X – P You MUST bid, and 2♣ is only reasonable choice.	♠xxx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣Kxxx	2♣
4. 1♥ – X – P Do not worry about the unstopped suits because partner will have them.	♠Kxx ♥QJx ♦Qxx ♣xxxx	1NT
5. 1♣ – X – P This is a minimum hand and not enough to jump.	♠KQxx ♥Kxx ♦Jxxx ♣xx	1♠
6. 1♣ – X – P Balanced with a club stopper and no better bid.	♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦KJx ♣Qxxx	1NT
7. 1♣ – X – P Cannot bid 3-card major and cannot bid 1NT with no club card. Note there is no 3-card minor to bid after opponents open 1♦.	♠Qxx ♥Kxx ♦Jxx ♣xxxx	1♦
8. 1♣ – X – P Show 4-card major before 5-card minor.	♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦AJxxx ♣xx	1♠
9. 1♦ – X – P Partner will have the majors and it is better to bid 1NT instead of 4-card minor.	♠Jxx ♥xxx ♦Kxx ♣AJxx	1NT
10. 1♦ – X – 1♠ At any vulnerability, there is sufficient length and strength to bid 2♥.	♠xx ♥Kxxxx ♦Qxx ♣Qxx	2♥
11. 1♦ – X – 1♠ Don't be shy. Make your free bid and help partner compete and place the cards around the table.	♠xx ♥AQxx ♦xxx ♣xxxx	2♥
12. 1♦ – X – 1♠ With 6 HCP and a 5-card suit, this hand is worth a free bid.	♠xx ♥Qxx ♦xxx ♣KJxxx	2♣

—We look forward to seeing you at the table!

**YOUTHS 25 AND UNDER
PLAY FOR HALF PRICE IN ALL
WBL EVENTS**

**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.

WBL SOLVERS' CLUB'S NEW PROBLEMS

1) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ KQ954♥3♦AJ2♣AKQJ

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
????			2♦

2) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠ AKQ43♥1098♦Q4♣A102

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2♣	2♦
2♠	4♦	4♥	Pass
????			

3) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ 5♥6♦KQ87643♣KJ95

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4♦	2♠	Dbl	Pass
????	Pass	4♥	Pass

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ AJ2♥Q109654♦A♣A102

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

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ A♥KQ10♦QJ876♣A765

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	2♦(maj)	Pass	2♥
Dbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
????			

Return answers by May 7 to:

Steve Robinson

2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,
Arlington VA, 22206
robinsonswt@erols.com

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

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

Ron Zucker, Carpool Coordinator can be contacted at 202-986-2166 or (ron@moherzucker.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.