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Jan./Feb. 2003



Washington Bridge League

R • U • L • I • E • T • I • A • N

39TH ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT, JANUARY 2-5, 2003

ALERT ♦ DATE CHANGE ♥ SECTIONAL 1 WEEK EARLY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

- ♥ Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions) 10:00am & 2:00pm & 8:00pm
- ♦ Stratified Senior Pairs (single sessions) 10:00am & 2:00pm
- ♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single sessions) 10:00am & 2:00pm & 8:00pm

♥ Party ♥

to Honor New Life Masters after the Game Friday Night

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

- ♦ Senior Pairs (single sessions) 9:30am & 1:30pm
- ♦ Newcomer Pairs (0-5 masterpoints) 1:30pm
- ♥ Flight A/X Pairs (single sessions) 1:30pm & 7:00pm
- ♦ Flight B/C Pairs (single sessions) 1:30pm & 7:00pm
- ♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single sessions) 1:30pm & 7:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

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

I/N events: 199er, 99er, 49er, & 0-20; Stratification at Director's discretion

Open and Senior Stratified events are: A = 1500+, B = 500-1500, C = 0-500

StrataFlighted events are: A/X = 3000+ / 0-3000, B/C = 500-1500 / 0-500

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

WBL OMBUDSMAN

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

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

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

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DEADLINE: JANUARY 24, 2003

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MARCH/APRIL 2003 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #B61-240)

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

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WBL WEBSITE:

www.Washingtonbridgeleague.org

DISTRICT 6 SITE:

www.district6info.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Barbara Doran

Jim Allen says that nobody reads this column unless the first line hooks them. So, are you reading? A number of board members and bridge teachers attended a seminar on Unit Growth given by the ACBL last Sunday. It was surprisingly good! We got a lot of ideas on how to improve our unit, many of which we will try to implement. Later in the week, I was given two more ideas. One hadn't been mentioned in the seminar, the other was touched on, but not really driven home.

Thursday night, I was playing with Charlie Stenger and he said something that resonated with me. What he pointed out was that it often isn't rudeness that drives people from the game, it's indifference. One pair at the table is talking or writing or just thinking when a pair arrives at the table -- no one says hello, no one smiles. Wouldn't it be better if we al-

ways made an effort to be friendly, to greet our opponents, to behave like the social creatures we are supposed to be? (This is the idea that was mentioned...)

On Saturday, Jim Allen sent the following to the Board: "While I was playing yesterday, I asked a long time routine Unit Game player why she wasn't coming anymore.

"My eyes aren't what they used to be, I can't drive at night..."

Hence the idea, not on the survey but worth asking about at the tournament if you get a chance. How about agreeing to organize car pools? Not to drive, just make it easy for people to get into a car pool."

What do you think? Isn't this a good idea? Let us know what you think.

That's it for this issue. I hope you kept reading.

Until next time...Barb

PARTNERSHIPS

Need a Partner for Unit Games or Sectional Events?

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

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

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

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

BITS AND PIECES

EDITORIAL

I'd like to thank everyone who responded so quickly to the survey. Over fifty responses came in during the first week the survey was out. The first wave has died down though and we'd like to hear from everyone. Surveys are available at clubs and at the unit game. If you send me an e-mail at drogall@erols.com, I will send you an e-mail version of the survey. Also, as we went to press, the web version was being finalized and is now ready to answer at www.washingtonbridgeleague.org.

With this issue, we've started printing winners pictures along with sectional tournament results. If you are the overall winner of an event, one of our new team of photographers (Roy Tibery, Cliff Dyhouse, and William Adams) wants to take your picture. Starting with the January sectional, there will be a short form for you to fill in your names from left to right and the event you won. Just go up to the directors' table and they will lead you in the right direction.

This issue marks another first...an actual letter to the editor...Thanks, Fred, even if it discusses an unfortunate topic.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

It is hard for those of us with travel plans and family visits to change weekends at the last minute. When I found out that the January 2003 tournament was on the weekend of Jan. 11, I made plans to be out of town on the weekend of Jan. 4 and may not be able to change that obligation. This could affect whether I will be able to compete for trophies in 2003.

Alfred Steinberg

2002-2003 WBL-NVBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Eligibility

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

Awards

Two trophies will be awarded.

Standings

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

Open Leaders

Player	Points
1 Robert Gookin	56.83
2 Margot Hennings	50.70
3 Leo LaSota	48.67
4 John Adams	45.72
5 Stephen Swearingen	45.08
6 Janet Gookin	43.57
7 Stan Schenker	42.75
8 Mark Shaw	41.96
9 Kefu Xu	40.94
10 Barbara Shaw	39.42
11 John Lawrence	39.13
12 Alfred Steinberg	37.98
13 Hailong Ao	37.50
14 James Geist	35.75
15 Alan Kleist	35.22
16 Steve Robinson	33.78
17 David Milton	32.71
18 Weizhong Bao	32.21
19 Tim Crank	30.90
20 Kenneth Davis	30.87

NonLM Leaders			
Player	Points		
1 David Hamilton	19.96	10 Richard Cassell	10.93
2 John Lowe III	18.76	11 Stephen Goldstein	10.93
3 Penny Stoeber	18.18	12 Sulaiman Chaussey	10.21
4 Hualin Chen	16.53	13 Ali Al-Aref	10.16
5 John Christensen	15.59	14 Morris Umansky	9.70
6 Michelle Cantave	15.20	15 Jay Kelkar	9.15
7 Todd Zimnoch	14.72	16 Charles King	8.98
8 D Tonnesen	13.09	17 Linda Dick	8.81
9 Mark Rosen	11.66	18 Joseph Ogulin	8.54
		19 Mitchell Karlick	8.17
		20 Gordon Hatheway Jr	8.17

...Bits and Pieces continues on page 21

AFTER JANUARY'S PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT, THE NEXT WBL SECTIONAL IS:

56th Annual City of Washington Tournament February 2 - March 2, 2003

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- ▲Stratified Open Pairs 10:30am
Washington Bridge Center, 1620 Elton Road, Silver Spring MD
- ◆StrataFlighted Open Pairs, Intermediate/Novice Pairs
- ◆Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm
- Christ the King Church, 2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring 7:30pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

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

CLUB NEWS

LAUREL

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER GAME

The Laurel Bridge Club will be having a pot luck dinner and bridge game on New Year's Eve. Dinner will be at 7PM and the game will start at 8PM.

11TH ANNUAL VAN, THE MAN CHARITY BRIDGE GAME

This year's Van, the Man Charity Bridge Game, sponsored by the Laurel Bridge Club, and supported by the Washington Bridge League and the Washington Bridge Center, has earned \$8,200 and still counting. All of this money goes directly to the Midnight Basketball Program, which was started by the late Van Standifer who was a WBL member and frequent player at local games. The local Midnight Basketball program is run by Van's daughter-in-law, who was present at the game and delivered an eloquent speech about the program.

Thanks to the many people who helped to make this game a big success, including the expert players who were auctioned, the many people who donated items to the silent auction, all of those who prepared delicious food, everyone who contributed their labor and time, and the director Doug Grove.

The winners of the game were:



Flight A:
1st: Ellen Cheminsky and Dorra Regall
2nd: Fran and Dick Mucci
3rd: Madsen Rafae and Sue Johnston

Flight B: 1st & 2nd: (same as Flight A)



Flight C:
1st: Ruth Zimnerman and Beta Natapetian



299er:
1st: Thomas Din and Barry Lieberman

BRIDGEATSCHOOLS

BridgeAtSchools staged a demonstration and a 4-table game to help present this worthy program. They held a separate fund raiser for the benefit of their program.



Dave Lillemann and Beth Maloney-Refaie



We are looking forward to next year's game and will accept any contributions at any time throughout the year. — See you then.

WBC

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

The Washington Bridge Center has released the following GNT qualifier schedule so that players can plan ahead. As always, call to confirm that no changes have been made.

WBC GNT QUALIFIER SCHEDULE

December	January	January	February
Tues 17 7:00	Thur 2 10:30	Wed 22 7:30	Wed 5 10:30
Wed 18 7:30	Mon 6 10:30	Sun 26 1:30	
Fri 20 10:30	Wed 8 7:30	Wed 29 10:30	
Fri 27 7:30	Sat 11 10:00	Fri 31 10:30	
Sat 28 10:30	Sat 11 1:15	Fri 31 7:30	

All schedules subject to change after input from players. See Jim Allen

BRIDGEATSCHOOLS, INC.

by Beth Maloney-Refua, Director
Bridgeatschools@aol.com

PHILADELPHIA PRO AUCTION FOR BRIDGEATSCHOOLS, INC.

BridgeAtSchools, Inc. a 501 c 3 not-for-profit organization, will be running a Pro Auction fundraiser at the Philadelphia NABC. With the assistance and permission of John Marks, Philadelphia NABC Tournament Chair; Craig Robinson, newly elected District Director of District 4, and Jay Baum CEO of ACBL, BridgeAtSchools is ready to say,

*Going.....
Going.....
Gone!!!!*

In an unprecedented step, BridgeAtSchools

has worked with the rapidly growing online auction house, EBAY, and will have a Charity Page set up on www.EBAY.com.

National and local professional players will

be available for auction on the BridgeAtSchools Charity Page on EBAY, starting Feb. 19, 2003. Bidders will have the opportunity to online from any location, go to the BridgeAtSchools Charity Page and bid on their favorite player! The auction will last 10 days, ending on Feb. 28, at which point bidders will be able to automatically find out if they've won!

Players will then have the opportunity to play with their pro at the Philadelphia NABC Charity Game on March 6th at 7:30pm. Some Pros will be available for local tournaments so please read the descriptions on EBAY carefully. If you are a professional player who would like to donate your playing time to BridgeAtSchools, Inc. or a potential bidder and would like more information, please visit our website at www.bridgeatschools.org or contact us at 302-765-9799.

Local possible participants include Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Jeff Roman and Beth Palmer and many more!



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WBL SOLVERS CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson
robinswrf@erols.com

Congratulations to Tom Musso and Nancy Bauer who tied for first with a score of 480. They win a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Third was David Chechelashvili with a score of 470. Tied for fourth were Roy Tibery, Jerry Miller, Piotr Gajewski, Jay Weinstein and Rusty Krauss with a score of 460. Tied for ninth were Yi Zhong, Mette Smith, Barry Bragin, Lloyd Rawley and Hailong Ao with a score of 450. Tied for fourteenth were Marvin Elster, Ravi Arulnandhy, Jane Friend, Pete Hughes and Jim Pestaner with a score of 440. Tied for nineteenth were Pat Foutz, Bill Bingham, Lyle Poe, Dave Smith, Matt Cambell, Jim Allen, Ed Kinlaw, Rick Eissenstat with a score of 430. The average score of the 202 solvers was 369. The average score of the experts was 418.

All readers are encouraged to send answers and/or new problems to Steve Robinson, 2891 S. Abingdon St. #A2 Arlington, Va, 22206. 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, Steve 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 robinswrf@erols.com. WBL Solvers Club uses Washington Standard as published July 1996.

Washington Standard second edition the book, is out. If you are a serious bridge player, this book is a must. You can purchase a copy from Steve for \$25.00 at the Unit Game and at tournaments or can send him a check for \$28.95 which includes \$3.95 for priority mail.

1) BIMP: Both Vulnerable, You, South, hold:

1032/AJ3/KQ543/K3			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass
????			
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
1NT	100	5	40
2♦	80	5	95
2♥	50	0	55
Pass	20	0	3
3♠	20	0	1

The question is - which white lie do you tell? 2♥ showing four, one notrump showing a spade stopper or 2♦ showing six are the three possibilities. When you have to make a bid that does not exactly describe your hand, make the one which will least likely get you in trouble. Make the bid least likely to entice partner to overbid. Bidding 2♥ entices partner to raise with ten HCPs and bid game with eleven or twelve. Hearts don't split, the opponent doubles and you go for a big number. Bidding one notrump entices partner to invite with eleven and bid game with twelve even if he does not have a spade stopper. Over 2♠, partner needs a better hand to get excited. Bidding 2♦ works when partner has three diamonds. Bidding one notrump works when partner has one diamond. Either could work when partner has two diamonds.

Five experts rebid 2♦. How had can 2♦ be? Give partner Qxx/Kxxx/S/QJxxx and 2♦ could be a very bad contract.

GURSON: "2♦ — Close to one notrump as absence of redouble and raise over double suggests that between us we have a spade stop and my hand probably wants to play notrump. We should still have enough space to right side three notrump if that's best."

CAPELLETTE: "2♦ — The book bid. I would

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only bid one notrump if I wanted to hog the hand."

ADAMS: "2♦—Don't I need a stopper for one notrump? With 4-3 I'd risk it, but 2♦ seems reasonable."

WOOLSEY: "2♦—I'm not averse to bidding notrump without a sure stopper in the enemy suit, but since I have a decent five-card diamond suit I believe that rebidding it is a more accurate description. I will not bid hearts — that should show a four-card suit."

Bidding a 3-card major is everybody's third choice.

PARKER: "2♦—No other four-card suits, no spade stopper, I have a minimum, so I rebid my five-card suit. What is the trick here?"

Four experts agree with me and rebid one notrump. Could cause West to lead another suit when his partner has the missing spade honors. How bad could one notrump be? LHO could cash six spade tricks.

SHWARTZ: "One notrump—Partner can easily have a spade stopper as he has to start with double holding four hearts. It would be more difficult to avoid 4♥ if I bid 2♥. 2♦ should show six or at least an unbalanced hand."

FRED KING: "One notrump—If there is a game it is in notrump and you have to lie about something with this hand."

Its not game I'm worried about. Its what is the best partscore?

ROMAN: "One notrump—You'd like to have a spade stopper, but would you rather have partner think we have a balanced minimum, or a diamond one-suiter? 2♥ is for heroes."

HOPKINS: "One notrump—I'm going to be true to my pattern. In these modern times of preemptive raises, I expect the spade suit to be no worse than 5-2 or 6-2 in the opponents hand so we probably have a stopper between our two hands. And, if I play one notrump, I'm not down yet even if they do run the first five tricks."

Avoid bidding a 3-card major unless there is no other option.

2) IMPs: Both Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

AKJ32/K543/A2/A3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Dbl	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
????			
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
Pass	80	3	81
6♠	80	2	36
5♠	70	1	11
5♥	60	1	4
5♠	40	1	33
5♥	20	0	1
6NT	20	0	1
7♠	20	0	1
5NT	20	0	1
6♥	20	0	1

If partner has as little as xxxxx/x/KQxx/xxx, slam is good. If partner has Qxxxx/x/Qxxxx/KQ, slam is poor. We know that partner has values since he bid freely over 3♥. Partner knows that you know he has values. Partner would make a free bid with a minimum of five and a maximum of ten HCPs. With more than ten, partner would jump to 4♠. Over your 4♥ cuebid, assuming the cuebid shows spade support, partner has to decide whether he is minimum or maximum. Some minimums are good and some maximums are bad as you can see in the above examples. So how do we get partner to evaluate what is good and what is bad? Is very difficult to get partner's help on this hand. He might not even know the meaning of various slam tries? What does 5♥ mean? What does 5♠ mean? In fact, what does 4♥ mean? What would you bid over 3♠ holding AQ/x/xx/AKQ/AKxx? I would bid 4♥ asking partner's help in choosing the correct strain. Since we don't know how to get partner's help, we might as well decide for ourselves whether or not there is a slam.

Three experts decide there is no slam and pass. Very reasonable response to this problem.

CAPPELLETTE: "Pass—This problem must be

answered in terms of your partner's inclinations. With most aggressive partners who would stretch to compete with heart shortness, I pass because there is more chance of going down in five than making six. And I already have showed a good hand and he does not have a maximum. But with a very solid partner, I would bid four notrump and bid slam if he showed a void."

FRED KING: "Pass—Partner bid only 3♠ and seems to have a heart void, so slam seems unlikely. He could not have much more than Qxxxx/-Kxxx/Qxxx."

Opposite King's hand, slam is cold and seven has play. If partner can ruff all of the dummies losing hearts in his hand, he could end up in a position where dummy has Ax of clubs opposite Kxxx. If West started with five clubs, and also guards diamonds, he will be squeezed. In the three-card ending, he has to come down to QJ10 of clubs and therefore has to pitch all of his diamonds.

ROMAN: "Pass—Because partner can't tell the difference between Q10xxxx/x/Qxxx/Kx where he will bid slam and go down and Qxxxx/x/xxxx/KQx where he will pass 5♠ and he odds-on for slam. An important point here is that if I had wanted the message to be - bid slam with a heart control, I would have raised 3♠ to 5♠, so 5♠ here means look again partner."

The remaining experts make a further move. Two experts agree with me and take charge. Four notrump allows us to get to seven when its right. If partner responds five notrump showing zero or three keycards and a void in hearts, you can bid 6♥ showing that all keycards are present inviting partner to bid to bid seven. Your hand is limited since you didn't bid four notrump directly over 3♠ so partner would only bid seven holding a source of tricks. **ADAMS:** "Four notrump—RKC. Tempting to bid six directly, but this lets us out if partner has no spade queen and no heart void. With five trumps and a void, I'd expect a raise to six after my queen ask, even without the queen."

Two experts bid what they think they can make.

PARKER: "6♠—Once I started constructing possible hands for partner it seems that all he needs is five spades and either both minor kings or KQ in one minor or KJ in a minor and a finesse to make six. Why torture him any longer?"

HOPKINS: "6♠—I don't think partner has a heart void, five or more spades, and both minor suit kings, or KQxx in one of them, from his failure to move over my 4♥ cuebid. Hence, our limit is six. Most of the hands I constructed for partner present a reasonable play for slam. Even something such as xxxxx/-/Qxxx/Qxxx could come home if they lead a minor or partner guesses the correct Queen to lead towards."

Three experts torture their partner.

WOOLSEY: "5♥—Would partner have moved over my 4♥ call with Qxxxx/s/xxx/KQxx? I don't think so. Therefore, I must give him another chance. The danger of going down at the five-level is very slight. Partner will know that I have both minor suit aces since I didn't cuebid either of them."

What does 5♥ ask for? Good trumps? Heart control? Outside KQ? Maybe it's a let partner make the final decision bid and then blame him if he's wrong.

SHWARTZ: "5♠—Asks partner to look at his overall hand, not at controls as I must have those for this bid."

What about his overall hand will get him to bid slam? Good trumps? Heart control? Outside KQ?

GIPSON: "5♠—Worth one more try (I would have preferred 4♠ cuebid last time). Partner only needs Qxxxx/KQ/xxxx for slam to be good."

Double followed by a new suit is natural. What would you bid with AQx/-/Ax/-/AKJQxxx? I think you would double, cuebid and then bid clubs.

When there are preempts, you have fewer options available. Sometimes one has to take the bull by the horns and make the final decision about level.

3) MP's Both Vulnerable, You, South, hold:

A10/KJ/KQ104/AK852

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-	Pass	Pass	1♠
????			
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
Double	100	7	125
3NT	90	3	28
Pass	50	0	7
2♣	40	0	18
1NT	40	0	8
2NT	20	0	8

RHO opens one-of-a-minor. What do you do when you have a very good hand but have shortness in not one unbid major but both unbid majors? Takeout double? I try to avoid making a takeout double when I'm short in unbid majors. There are three ways of tackling this hand. Double and bid notrump, just bid notrump or pass. Doubling and bidding notrump works when partner doesn't get in your way. If partner is 4-3=3=3, you'll play in notrump. However, when partner has major suit length, you could get too high. This hand is too strong for a direct one notrump overall so the only notrump option is to overcall three notrump. One could pass but what can you do to show this hand on the next round of bidding? Passing and then doubling shows is a takeout double of LHO's suit. If LHO bids 1♥, you can't double a bid by RHO since that would be a takeout double of hearts and would show four spades.

Two experts join me and bid three notrump. We hope to find some stray queens and jacks in dummy.

ADAMS: "Three notrump—Like for double to show some tolerance for the majors. I have none. This rates to be where I want to play the hand, therefore I bid it."

WOOLSEY: "Three notrump—If I start with a double, partner may be thinking we should play in his five-card major. My fast approach may get us too high if he has nothing, but it may also get West off to the wrong lead."

Seven experts double.

GIPSON: "Double—Partner is a passed hand and so we should be able to cope with

whatever action he takes in the majors."

CAPPELLETTE: "Double—Probably followed notrump."

PARAKE: "Double—And then rebid notrump. I can easily show this hand in terms of high cards. I just hope partner doesn't get carried away by trying to find a major suit fit."

SHWARTZ: "Double—Followed by one notrump. Too good for one notrump overcall. Partner should not be surprised to find a doubleton in a major for this bid."

FRED KING: "Double—And then bid lowest level of notrump. There has to be some level of strength that allows doubles without the expected shape. Second choice would just be blasting to three notrump right away."

ROMAN: "Double—And then bid notrump. What in the world else?"

HOPKINS: "Double—Not my style, but I see no alternative. I play major-suit responses at the three and four level show six and seven-card suits (weak hands) respectively, to provide for my possible too-strong notrump type hands, so I should have sufficient support if partner goes leaping off and I can't get my notrump bid in."

Try to avoid making a takeout double with shortness in unbid majors.

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

J943/KJ10/Q72/A106

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
Dbl	Pass	1♠	Pass
???			
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
1NT	100	4	23
2NT	70	2	95
3NT	60	1	9
2♥	50	2	15
2♠	50	1	24
Pass	50	0	3
3♣	40	0	19
3♥	30	0	3
3♥	20	0	1
4♥	20	0	1
4♠	20	0	1

- 10 -

We have made a negative double showing four spades and partner has bid only one spade. If partner has four spades, I would expect partner to have between 11 and 13 HCPs. Sometimes partner is forced to bid a three-card spade suit and therefore he could be slightly stronger. So how do you tell partner what you have? Bid notrump. Bidding notrump shows a heart stopper along with four spades. Presumably you have found a spade fit. There is no reason to take another bid holding six to nine HCPs. Nine HCPs opposite a 1♠ bid will not produce a game. Therefore any bid you make, shows at least ten HCPs and is a game try. Since you're a passed hand your limit is eleven. Bidding notrump tells partner exactly what you have. Four spades, two heart stoppers and ten or eleven HCPs.

Six experts agree with me and make a game try in notrump. If you are going to make a game try, why not make the try with the best chance of getting a plus score. Even if partner has a sub minimum, one notrump should make.

WOOLSEY: "One notrump—There is no need to jump, since this sequence logically shows a pretty strong hand. Partner bid only 1♠, and I have shown four spades, so I'm not bidding notrump as a correction."

SHWARTZ: "One notrump—Seems tailor made for this hand. Partner has at most fourteen so this shows about eleven with two heart stoppers."

HOPKINS: "One notrump—Complete the description of my pattern and approximate strength, although I am a tiny bit hefty. With four hearts, I might venture two notrump at IMPs."

The following expert hangs partner for opening light. Do you really want to be in game opposite AKx/xxx/xx/KJxx?

ADAMS: "Three notrump—Positional value of hearts plus my ten's makes this worth a shot at game. Partner should know I am not worried about hearts for notrump else I could cuebid. With short diamonds and four spades, partner can correct."

Two notrump should often make.

PARAKE: "Two notrump—I think this should show this hand, eleven points, four spades and good heart stoppers. Partner should be able to figure this out and do the right thing next."

CAPPELLETTE: "Two notrump—Why did I pass an opening bid? Now that I am in this position, I can bid no more than the obvious two notrump."

Three experts fail to show the best part of their hand. Two heart stoppers.

FRED KING: "2♠—I have a lot of soft values in the red suits so a jump to 3♠ seems excessive, but too much to pass. At matchpoints I want to protect my plus."

ROMAN: "2♥—I will pass 2♠, bid three notrump otherwise, and if he bids 4♠ I'll hope it's right. Second choice is two notrump, but I dislike bidding past 2♠."

GIPSON: "2♥—Good raise to 2♠. Partner is third in hand but could still have good hand. Direct 2♠ should be more distributional and so partner should know what to do if there is more interference."

Bidding over a limited bid is a game try when you have found a fit.

5) IMP's Both Vulnerable, You, South, hold:

AK102/3/AQ43/AQJ3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♠
????			
Action	Score	Panelists	Solvers
2NT	100	4	35
Double	80	4	83
Pass	70	1	52
2♣	50	1	6
2♠	50	0	5
3NT	50	0	5
1NT	30	0	4
2♠	20	0	2
4NT	20	0	1

Another hand where you have a very strong hand but you have shortness in an unbid major. What misdescription did you

- 11 -

make? Overall one notrump with 20 HCPs? Overall two notrump, which promises ten minor-suit cards, holding 4-4 in the minors? Overall three notrump? Overall two-of-either-minor? Pass? I like two notrump followed by three notrump. If you overall two notrump, partner will bid at the three level when he has only a three-card fit. This means that he will have at least four hearts which will help stop the suit. If partner has a four-card fit, and bids at the four-level that would be good also. Five-of-a-minor could be a better contract than three notrump.

Three experts agree with me and bid two notrump. This hand is well suited for suit play.

WOOLSEY: "Two notrump—I'm not making a takeout double of spades with a singleton heart, no matter how strong my hand is. Passing could work, but there is too much danger that we will miss a game. A direct three notrump might be right, but I think it is better to bring the minors into the picture and then bid three notrump. My hand is well-oriented for suit play if I catch a minor-suit fit in North's hand."

FED KING: "Two notrump—And then bid three notrump next, which I think should show this kind of hand."

HOPKINS: "Two notrump—Maybe I'll be able to get in three notrump over partner's expected three-of-a-minor and he will have some idea of what my hand is like. I know I am telegraphing the heart shortage to the opponents, but partner should be able to use this information to good effect also."

Four experts double. If partner has five or six hearts you could wind up in 4♥. Do you want to play in 4♥ opposite x/Qxxxx/x/Kxxxx? 5♣ would be a better contract. If partner has only four hearts, you will likely wind up in three notrump.

PARKER: "Double—And rebid notrump. Didn't I just have this hand? Trap passing will not work well if partner has Kxxxx of a minor and out. Best case for a pass is if it goes one notrump - pass - 2♥ and then I have to decide if I can afford to put partner at the three-level by doubling. I have found it is best to get it out of your system early rather

than trying to feel out the table."

GIPSON: "Double—Yuk - give me the nine of spades rather than the King of spades and I bid one notrump. This hand has the disadvantage that partner is unlimited and so who knows what level of hearts is coming next? However, no real option at this stage."

CAPPELLETTI: "Double—And hope partner doesn't bid 4♥! All other heart bids will probably end up in three notrump. Too much for pass."

SHWARTZ: "Double—Hate double with stiff heart, but other alternatives seem worse. If partner insists on hearts or just jumps to 4♥, it should be with a six-card suit as he must be prepared for a doubleton after a notrump bid (see problem three) so I might survive with my toppers. If I bid three notrump, will I be happy if LHO doubles? I don't think so. If I bid two notrump followed by three notrump. Little safer than a direct three notrump, but it directs a heart lead and the four-level, if partner pulls, is still dangerous with no sure fit. If I bid one notrump. Too strong and doesn't solve the heart problem. If I pass can't expect partner to balance with a six-count."

One expert overall 2♣. Good if partner has clubs but what if he has diamonds.

ADAMS: "2♣—I want to pass, and probably would at matchpoints. 2♣ at least gives us a chance to find game in notrump when partner raises, and is not as risky as jumping to three notrump. The less said about double, the better."

One expert passes. That would very work if East rebids 2♠ and you get a chance to make a penalty double. Double after 1♠-1NT-2♠ should be penalties. If it goes 1♠-1NT-2♥, you will be able to double but when partner bids three-of-a-minor you won't know how many he has and how strong he is.

ROBIN: "Pass—Sure hope somebody bids something."

Try not to make a takeout double, when short in unbid majors.

Make every card count!

SOLVERS SCORES

John Adams	2♣	4NT	3NT	3NT	2♣	380
Mike Cappelletti	2♣	Pass	Dbl	2NT	Dbl	410
Robbie Hopkins	1NT	♠	Dbl	1NT	2NT	440
Alex Gipson	2♣	5♣	Dbl	2♥	Dbl	350
Fred King	1NT	Pass	Dbl	2♠	2NT	420
Steve Parker	2♣	6♠	Dbl	2NT	Dbl	410
Steve Robinson	1NT	4NT	3NT	1NT	2NT	490
Jeff Roman	1NT	Pass	Dbl	2♥	Pass	400
Alan Schwartz	1NT	5♠	Dbl	1NT	Dbl	450
Kit Woolsey	2♣	5♥	3NT	1NT	2NT	430

WBL SOLVERS PROBLEMS

March/April 2003

1) IMPs, Both Vul, You, South hold:

AJ1065/QA75/Q654			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♥	PASS	4♥
?????			

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

Q8765/A9765/A75/-			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♥	3♣	PASS
?????			

3) MP, You Vul, You, South hold:

10932/1032/A753/Q2			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
PASS	PASS	DBL	1NT(0-12)
?????	2♣	PASS	REDBL
			PASS

¹One-suit; ²Dbl would be takeout

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

Q1073/K/Q10972/63			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♥	DBL	4♥
?????			

5) MP, You Vul, You, South hold:

KJ9763/K/1063/A75			
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	PASS	1♥	PASS
1♠	2♣	2♥	PASS
?????			

¹Double would show three spades

Return answers by Jan. 23 to:
Steve Robinson
2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,
Arlington Va, 22206
robinswr@erols.com

New!

2002 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Updated by our Webmaster, Don Berman

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

Lovenberg		Winners in each category will receive four sessions of five plays. Second place gets two and third place gets one.	
1	218.66	Alfred Steinberg	
2	202.74	Leo LaSota	
3	154.23	Steve Robinson	
4	152.21	John Adams	
5	129.51	Ellen Klosson	
6	128.72	Earl Glickstein	
7	123.02	Alan Kleist	
8	114.44	Barbara Shaw	
9	113.19	Mark Shaw	
10	106.92	David Ruderman	
11	104.85	Robert Klein	
12	100.06	Weizhong Bao	
13	99.76	Ellen Cherniavsky	
14	98.43	Robert Bell	
15	97.16	Fred King	
16	96.46	Yi Zhong	
17	90.49	Donna Rogall	
18	89.79	Peter Boyd	
19	80.87	Ketu Xu	
20	79.32	Jim Allen Jr	
21	76.00	Hailong Ao	
22	74.82	Warren Kaufman	
23	72.92	Eugene Kales	
24	67.24	Andrew Kaufman	
25	65.18	Andrew Gofreed	

Izzy Cohen			Tubbs		
1	99.76	Ellen Cherniavsky	6	9.50	Julie Oethinger
2	96.46	Yi Zhong	8	9.34	Azmat Ali
3	76.00	Hailong Ao	8	8.86	David Epstein
4	67.24	Andrew Kaufman	9	7.09	Diana Campillo
5	61.14	Jackie Thompson	10	6.95	Rachelle Sladoff
6	57.74	Charity Sack	Machin		
7	56.24	James Geist	1	14.10	Rosemary Marks
8	48.12	Vincent Wilmut Jr	2	13.73	Marie Greisner
9	45.37	Janet Dence	3	10.75	Charles Pan
10	44.83	Kitty Gottfried	4	10.60	Charles Stenger
11	43.08	William Golligan	5	9.50	Audrey Marbach
12	41.69	David Hamilton	6	8.39	Joanna Stenger (died 8/4/02)
13	40.20	Joel Miller	7	8.04	Janet Coffin
14	39.25	Diane Walker	8	8.04	Satinder Paudyal
15	38.75	John Gassenheimer			

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0-20 GAME

**THURSDAY
NIGHTS
AT THE
UNIT GAME**

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

**STARTING
JANUARY 2,
2003**

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

The first three lessons will present an overview of bidding, declarer play, and defense. The subsequent lessons will be tailored to the needs and interests of the players.

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

~ ♦♦♦♦ ~

WBL UNIT GAME SCHEDULE

All Games held at Christ the King Church

December 26	Strata-Flighted Unit Championship
January 2	WBL Sectional
January 9	Stratadlighted Club Championship
January 16	Stratadlighted Unit Championship
January 23	Stratadlighted Up-graded Club Championship
January 30	Stratified GNT Qualifying
February 6	NVBA Sectional
February 13	Stratified GNT Qualifying
February 20	Stratadlighted Unit Championship
February 27	WBL Sectional
March 6	Stratified Charity Game
March 13	Stratadlighted Unit Championship
March 20	NVBA Sectional

Newcomer, Novice, and Intermediate

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

"Partner, Partner?"

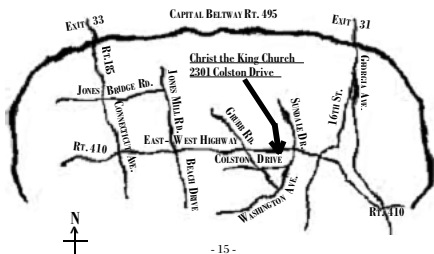
To find a partner before the game, contact: Fred King for Flights A/X (the5kings2@aol.com); 703-536-1914), Charity Sack (charity@charitysack.com; 703-963-7027) and Barbara Rothkin (bthorkin@aol.com; 301-493-9359) for Flights B/C.

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

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

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

Map to Christ the King Church and Parking



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COMMITTEE ACTION XLI

Part I

by Rich Colker, rcolker@worldnet.att.net

*This article concludes the discussion of
hesitation issues arising from the deal that
was introduced in the Nov/Dec. issue. --Ed.*

Here's the entire deal:

Bd: 24
Dlr: West
Vul: None

North		East	
♠	A109632	♠	J5
♥	K	♥	AQ109762
♦	AK5	♦	—
♣	932	♣	Q1108
West		East	
♠	8	♠	J5
♥	853	♥	AQ109762
♦	QJ983	♦	—
♣	AK74	♣	Q1108
South		West	
♠	AQ74	♠	8
♥	J4	♥	853
♦	107642	♦	QJ983
♣	65	♣	AK74

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass ⁽¹⁾	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♣	Dbl
6♥	Dbl	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ Break in tempo

At the table 6♥ doubled made six, +1210 for E/W. The Director was called after West's 5♠ bid and again at the end of play. NS believed East took about 7-10 seconds to pass 4♠ (much slower than his 3♥ bid) while East thought his pass took only 3 seconds (right!) and West said she didn't notice any hesitation at all (were these guys playing the same board at the same table here?). The Director ruled that a hesitation had occurred which demonstrably suggested not passing, and that passing 4♠ was a logical alternative for West. The contract was changed to 1♠ down two, +100 for E/W.

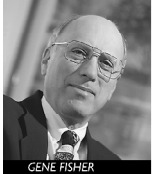
E/W appealed the Director's ruling (or we wouldn't be discussing this, would we?) and of course West claimed that her 5♠ bid was made because of her hand and that there had been no break in tempo. The Director, who had listened to the players' statements, concluded that a hesitation had occurred. No new evidence was presented to impeach that decision. Therefore, the Committee (properly) decided that there had been a break in tempo (Duh! Just look at East's hand!) and that the unauthorized information it conveyed demonstrably suggested West's action. So the 5♠ bid was canceled and the contract changed to 4♠ by North. But what score should be assigned?

The Committee observed that while perfect defense would lead to down three (via ♥A; a club to the king; a small diamond, ace, ruff; a club to the ace; ♦Q, king, ruff; and a diamond still to come for the defense), that defense did not meet either the "likely" standard for the non-offenders or the "at all probable" standard for the offenders. The contract was then changed to 1♠ down one, +50 for N/S.

The Committee was basically on the right track but they erred by assigning the score for 4♠ down only one. While it's true that the defense for down three was quite improbable, there are several lines of defense which easily produce down two. For example, after the ♥A lead East shifts to the ♠Q. A second club goes to West's king and now a switch to the ♦Q is pretty automatic. When East ruffs out one of declarer's top diamond honors the defense must still get another diamond trick. Therefore, I would have assigned both sides the result for 4♠ down two, +100 for E/W. (Down one requires the defense to be just too incompetent. However, I might be willing to consider it for the offenders, E/W.)

Oh, and I'd also have issued E/W a nice procedural penalty for West's flagrant action in bidding after East's huddle.

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WEIRD GAMES

by Clyde Kruskal

VARIETY

Bridge is a great game just the way it is, but the spice of life is variety. These days we play matchpoints almost every week at the Unit Game. Variety has come down to whether the game is a stratified or flighted. I cannot remember the last time we even played IMP pairs. Once a year or so I would like to see a truly weird bridge game – something that may not even be quite bridge. Here are some potential ideas (see also Survey on Page 18 of last issue):

PAR contest: Each hand is constructed as an interesting play or defense problem. After the auction each pair is scored for the final contract. Then the contract is changed (if necessary) to the "right" one and the hand is played. You get credit for making the technically correct play. If you take an inferior line, you do not get a good result, even if it happens to work out well.

We played this once at the Washington Bridge Center. It was a lot of fun, but some players were overwhelmed by its difficulty and complexity. The WBL unit game would be a great place to run a par contest, since there is a large field of potential players, so only the die-hard need play in it.

Team of two pairs (high ball): It is a team game with the same format as board-a-match, except both pairs on a team sit the same direction. Your

score against the other team is the better of the two results obtained at the two tables.

Team of two pairs (low ball): It is the same as team of two pairs high ball, but your score is the lesser of the two results.

Team of two pairs high ball encourages wild actions, since a great result will be a great result, but a bad result may be eliminated by a reasonable result at the other table. In contrast, team of two pairs low ball encourages conservative actions at both tables.

Australian bridge: Every board comes with special instructions, which may be public or secret, may apply to the bidding, may apply to the play, or some combination of these. For example, bidding must start at the two level, or after the auction the contract is changed to 2NT doubled, or play of the hand is counterclockwise.

In many ways bridge is a more interesting and fun game for novices: Every hand has something new. Australian bridge can bring some of this enjoyment back to the rest of us. For example, what if the special instructions publicly assign each player a particular suit that that player is barred from bidding? Are there ways of showing this suit so that partner will know what you have? What if the barred suits are secret? No one at the table will have seen a situation like

this before. Playing Australian bridge, everyone will be a "novice" and have the enjoyment of reasoning from scratch.

WEIRD BRIDGE DAY

If the WBL decides to run weird events at the Unit Game, it is very important that they occur rarely. One weird event per year should be about right:

- Any particular weird event will get "old" very fast. The "weird event evening" has got to be something that players look forward to as a novel experience. (The Washington Bridge Center used to run barometer pairs, where each round all pairs play the same boards. The first time there was a large, enthusiastic crowd, but after a while it became just like any other game and few extra pairs showed up.)
- Weird events create more work for directors (and other staff members). An unusual event has to be advertised, and continually announced starting several weeks ahead. It will have to be explained to many players individually. Each different type of event during an evening creates logistical problems. Scoring may have to be done by hand. Hopefully, if it is only once a year, the directors (and other staff members) will enjoy the novelty and be enthusiastic.
- It should be scheduled on a day where a large field of potential players is available. That way we will have enough players to run a special weird bridge section. Some days have more players

available than others. For example, nearby Sectionals and Regionals draw players away. It should be relatively easy to find one good day a year, but much more than that would start to be difficult.

If we had an annual "Weird Bridge Day" each type of event would come up approximately once every five years, which seems about right.

Not every event has to be extremely unusual. For example, we could run a barometer pairs once in a while or a Swiss pairs (where each round pairs play against other pairs with the same record), which are sufficiently normal that everyone could be expected to play in them. We could run a Life Master/Non Life Master game. Maybe every year is too often to sustain interest, but most players could tolerate it once every five years. We could run a fast pairs, a slow pairs, or an individual.

There will be some difficulties. There may be a problem giving out masterpoints in an event that is not quite bridge. How will we deal with the Lovenberg race to make it fair? Hand records for a Par Contest may be difficult to obtain. Someone will have to make up interesting instructions for Australian Bridge (but I volunteer to help with that).

The recent survey will show if there is any interest in weird bridge games. I sure hope so.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank Bob Bell for describing Australian Bridge to me.

Bits and Pieces, continued...

OUR CONDOLENCES

We would like to express our sympathies to Patsy Parker for the recent loss of her mother.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Adair Gellman and Vincent Bartone for tying the knot!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bridge Week is Jan.6-12. Check your local clubs for special events.

Bridge and Bowling will be Jan. 26.

A couple of ACBL-wide special events are coming up: an International Fund Game on Saturday afternoon, January 20 and the ACBL-wide Senior Pairs on Monday daytime, February 24.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

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

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

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

ADVERTISE?

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

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SKIP BID!!!

by Steve Robinson
 robinswr@erols.com

Tempo in bridge is very important. When an opponent makes a skip bid, there are three types of hands you could have. 1) You could have a weak hand with no intention of bidding. 2) You could have a hand with a clear cut call. 3) The third type of hand is the problem hand. Close between doubling and passing or you're not sure which suit to bid. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR PARTNER DOES NOT KNOW WHICH TYPE OF HAND YOU HAVE FROM YOUR TEMPO. When the opponents make a skip bid, and you have hand types (1) or (2), silently count to ten before calling. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - pass. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - double. If you have hand type (3), hopefully you will decide which call to make in ten seconds. If you take 15 seconds or only one second to make a call, your partner could have unauthorized information. If the opponents are having a constructive auction, count to five over any skip bid.

There are three methods an opponent can use to get you to wait. 1) Take out the stop card. You do not have to wait until he puts the card back in the box. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - double. (2) Verbally announce skip-bid. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - pass. (3) The third method is the silent method. EVEN IF THE OPPONENTS DON'T TAKE OUT THE STOP CARD OR ANNOUNCE A SKIP BID, YOU ARE STILL OBLIGATED TO WAIT TEN SECONDS. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - double. Opponents should be consistent in their methods of announcing skip bids. You can't just announce jumps that are weak.

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69TH ANNUAL D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

November 21-24, 2002

Results

TOP TEN CUMULATIVE POINT WINNERS

All Players	
1 Alfred Steinberg	20.55
2 John Adams	18.80
3 Andrew Gofreed	17.64
4 Mark Shaw	16.96
5 James Geist	16.74
6 Stephen Swearingen	15.83
7 Sam Schenker	13.60
78 Jim Allen, Jr	13.68
9 Earl Clickstein	13.19
10 Barbara Shaw	13.14
0-1500 Players	
1 James Geist	16.74
2 Bob Kerchner	12.79
3 Hailong Ao	12.59
4 Vincent Wilmot Jr	11.49
5 Mark Rosen	11.17
6 Huailin Chen	10.31
7 Steve Bunning	9.63
8 Jackie Thompson	9.20
9 Joseph Ogulin	7.86
10 Hy Chansky	7.53
0-500 Players	
1 Mark Rosen	11.17
2 Huailin Chen	10.31
3 Joseph Ogulin	7.86
4 Penny Stoeve	6.80
5 John Lowe III	6.74
6 Charity Sack	6.09
78 Anne Goldstein	6.08
78 Sheldon Richter	6.08
9 Alfred Graham	5.83
10 David Hamilton	5.72

THURSDAY MORNING

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A

32 Pairs



1 Alan Kleist - James Geist 60.24

2	Marie Crisisher - Ellis Ostrowsky	59.62
3	Ellen Klosson - Fred King	58.62
4	Alfred Steinberg - Andrew Gofreed	58.49
5	Sylvia Levy - Eileen Theimer	58.04
6	Peggy Allen - Mark Shaw	55.68

Stratum B

15 Pairs		
1	Audrey Stern - Micheline Heiche	55.26
2	Alexander Gottesman - Gerald Steinberg	53.69
3	Winston Edwards - Lorraine Morgan	52.56
4	Tibor Eichenbaum - Charles Carrington	52.10
5	Ida Altman - Dayle Masumura	49.40

Stratum C

6 Pairs	
1	Alexander Gottesman - Gerald Steinberg .53.69
2	Rolf Johannesen - Hazel Wisman .48.87

THURSDAY EVENING

FLIGHT A/X PAIRS Stratum A

73 Pairs		
1	Bob Kerchner - Kenneth Katzner	66.35
2	Helene Bauman - Vincent Wilmot Jr.	63.47
3	David Fleischer - James Geist	60.05
4	Hy Chansky - David Popper	59.84
5	Edward Gofreed - Sumner Steinfeldt	59.69
6	Marsha Brown - Thomas Musso	58.98
7	Hailong Ao - Yi Zhong	57.92
8	Andrew Gofreed - Stephen Swearingen	57.77

Stratum X

46 Pairs		
1	Bob Kerchner - Kenneth Katzner	66.35
2	David Fleischer - James Geist	60.05
3	Hy Chansky - David Popper	59.84
4	Marsha Brown - Thomas Musso	58.98
5	Hailong Ao - Yi Zhong	57.92
6	Terry Feetham - Donald Berman	56.80

FLIGHT B/C PAIRS Stratum B

64 Pairs



1	Mark Rosen - Marlys Moholt	65.73
2	Keith Crank - Gregory Campbell	65.18
3	Barbara Cohen - Gail Singer	64.54

- 4 Marjorie Guzman - Joanne Pretti 62.50
 5/6 Joan Shields - Patricia Kuch 60.12
 5/6 Daniel Koch - William Kingery Jr 60.12

Stratum C

- 39 Pairs
 1 Keith Crank - Gregory Campbell 63.18
 2 Daniel Koch - William Kingery Jr 60.12
 3 Martin Reed - Stephen Levin 59.82
 4 Ellen Rosenthal - Steven Sacks 59.57
 5 Azmat Ali - John Verthelyi 58.33
 6 John Lowe III - D Tomesen 55.65

199ER PAIRS Stratum A

14 Pairs



- 1 David Bort - Walter Mitnick 65.42
 2 Joan Anderson - Gwendolyn Hartlee 61.67
 3 Julie Oethinger - Joan Donoghue 56.67
 4/5 Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgenweck 55.83
 4/5 Shulamith Cohen - Sal Silverman 55.83

Stratum B

9 Pairs

- 1 Joan Anderson - Gwendolyn Hartlee 61.67
 2 Julie Oethinger - Joan Donoghue 56.67
 3 Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgenweck 55.83
 4 Eric Nash - Wilma Middleton 52.50

Stratum C

6 Pairs

- 1 Julie Oethinger - Joan Donoghue 56.67
 2 Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgenweck 55.83

FRIDAY MORNING

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A

34 Pairs



- 1 Eugene Fisher - Mark Rosen 68.75
 2 Aron Chapp - Irving Lesin 67.80
 3 Ralph Strugs - Linda Smith 64.77
 4 Jackie Thompson - Jim Allen Jr 61.74
 5 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 59.85
 6 Charleen Brand - Shou-Ling Wang 59.09

- 24 -

Stratum B

20 Pairs

- 1 Mark Rosen - Eugene Fisher 68.75
 2 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 59.85
 3 Jack Moss - Miles Kitzler 58.14
 4 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus 55.11
 5 Carol Netchvolodoff - Linda Logan 53.98
 6 Seymour Baden - Gerald Steinberg 51.70

Stratum C

10 Pairs

- 1 Mark Rosen - Eugene Fisher 68.75
 2 Todd Zimnoch - Joseph Ogulin 59.85
 3 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus 55.11
 4 Carol Netchvolodoff - Linda Logan 53.98

SENIOR PAIRS Stratum A

12 Pairs

- 1/2 Lorraine Morgan - Gloria Schulstad 62.50
 1/2 Rosemary Marks - Marie Greisher 62.50
 3 Roy Becker - Mary Guandolo 59.17
 4 Cynthia Helms - Eugene Kales 55.00

Stratum B

7 Pairs

- 1 Rena Brewink - Mary Ellen Lyon 53.75
 2/3 Helen Solomon - Donald Jacobs 48.75
 2/3 Gloria Bernstein - Lois Kay 48.75

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A

54 Pairs



- 1 Steven Parker - Barry Bragin 65.22
 2 Jim Allen Jr - Glenn Lublin 62.66
 3 Ellie Ostrowsky - Maria Greisher 61.54
 4 Steve Bunning - Kristene Miller 61.22
 5 Sylvia Levy - Ralph Turner 61.06
 6 Peggy Allen - Mark Shaw 60.90

Stratum B

27 Pairs

- 1 Ted Guthrie - Richard Whittington 57.05
 2 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin 54.33
 3 John Lawrence - Charity Sack 54.17
 4 Jeffrey Watson - Richard Wimberley 52.98
 5 Kitty Gottfried - Rosemary Marks 52.72
 6 Carol Schuman - Doris Konecne 51.12

Stratum C

11 Pairs

- 1 Jeffrey Watson - Richard Wimberley 52.98
 2 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus 50.48
 3 Marshall Kramer - Nelu Schwartz 47.60
 4 Awtar Singh - Birendra Singh 47.12

299ER PAIRS Stratum A

15 Pairs



- 1 Fred Molley - Jay Weinstein 59.92
 2 Juan Pardo - John Lowe III 56.74
 3 Walter Mitnick - David Bort 56.25
 4 Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence 55.90
 5 Richard Emery - Ralph Rollo 55.56

Stratum B

13 Pairs

- 1 Fred Molley - Jay Weinstein 59.92
 2 Walter Mitnick - David Bort 56.25
 3 Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence 55.90
 4 Richard Emery - Ralph Rollo 55.56
 5/7 Florence Drake - Robert Drake 52.78
 5/7 Samuel Bowlin - George Schropp 52.78
 5/7 Judy Glick - Clifford Dyhouse 52.78

Stratum C

6 Pairs

- 1 Fred Molley - Jay Weinstein 59.92
 2 Richard Emery - Ralph Rollo 55.56

FRIDAY EVENING

OPEN PAIRS Stratum A

36 Pairs



- 1 Fred King - Charlene Brand 62.82
 2 Robert Hopkins Jr - John Klayman 61.34
 3 John Adams - Steve Robinson 61.26
 4 Michael Polunin - Glenn Young 61.15
 5 Hy Chansky - Kitty Gottfried 57.05
 6 Leonid Fastovsky - Anil Dasgupta 54.55

Stratum B

21 Pairs

- 1 Michael Polunin - Glenn Young 61.15
 2 Hy Chansky - Kitty Gottfried 57.05
 3 Leonid Fastovsky - Anil Dasgupta 54.55
 4 John Lawrence - Charity Sack 54.05
 5 Jeffrey Watson - Richard Wimberley 53.53
 6 Reni Malloy - Margaret Rose 53.49

Stratum C

11 Pairs

- 1 Jeffrey Watson - Richard Wimberley 53.53
 2 Reni Malloy - Margaret Rose 53.49
 3 Ray Dodson - Rodger Kamuf 52.53
 4 Howard Bender - Piotr Gajewski 48.30

299ER PAIRS Stratum A

8 Pairs



- 1 Juan Pardo - John Lowe III 57.87
 2 Kathleen O'Toole - David Mead 56.01
 3 David Raley - Ali Al-Aref 55.79

Stratum B

6 Pairs

- 1 Kathleen O'Toole - David Mead 56.01
 2 David Raley - Ali Al-Aref 55.79

SATURDAY

KNOCKOUTS

3 Teams

- 1 Alfred Graham - David Grabner - Penny Stoever - Joseph Ogulin

SATURDAY MORNING

SENIOR PAIRS Stratum A

35 Pairs

- 1 Audrey Marbach - Sylvia Levy 61.01
 2 Ann Lindley - Shou-Ling Wang 60.88
 3 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin 60.32
 4 Sylvia Hoffman - Mary Rogers 59.52
 5 Ellie Ostrumsky - Alice Miller 59.26
 6 Jean Levin - Carolyn Gibson 58.47

Stratum B

20 Pairs

- 1 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin 60.32
 2 Sylvia Hoffman - Mary Rogers 59.52
 3 Patricia Kuch - Joan Shields 56.62
 4 Jane Friend - Marie Nylén 56.02
 5 Charles Fan - James Rodgers 55.32
 6 Nelson Wake - Abdul Masood 54.40

Stratum C

8 Pairs

- 1 David Lipke - Morris Edmondson 51.85
 2 Jon Ransford - Donald Goldman 46.30
 3 John Lowe III - John Laurim 45.24

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

FLIGHT A/X PAIRS Stratum A

40 Pairs

- 1 Barbara Shaw - Mark Shaw 61.40
 2 Diane Walker - Stan Schenker 60.46
 3 Steve Bunning - Kristene Miller 60.18
 4 Peter Boyd - Ellen Klosson 60.17
 5 Michael Carroad - Tim Crank 59.47
 6 Ellen Cherniavsky - Donna Rogall 59.37
 7 John Adams - Alfred Steinberg 58.70

Stratum X

22 Pairs

- 1 Diane Walker - Stan Schenker 60.46

- 25 -

- 2 Steve Bunning-Kristene Miller 60.18
- 3 Ellen Cherniavsky - Donna Rogall 59.37
- 4 Terrence Van Wyck - Jim Dick 55.32
- 5 M Bruce Todd - Rossella Todd 54.72
- 6 Ronald Butt - Jim Wakefield 53.88

FLIGHT B/C PAIRS Stratum B 34 Pairs



- 1 David Hamilton - James Geist 67.95
- 2 Michael Goldman - William Mendez Jr 64.10
- 3 Ronald Zucker - Jan Garber 60.26
- 4 William Gill - Michael Gill 57.85
- 5 Millie Larkin - Ted Bradley 53.85
- 6 Jay Kelkar - Khaleel Mostafa 57.21

Stratum C 18 Pairs

- 1 Michael Goldman - William Mendez Jr 64.10
- 2 William Gill - Michael Gill 57.85
- 3 Jay Kelkar - Khaleel Mostafa 57.21
- 4 Ellen Rosenthal - Steven Sacks 56.09
- 5 Millie Larkin - Ted Bradley 53.85

SENIOR PAIRS Stratum A 26 Pairs

- 1 Lorraine Morgan - Leila Whiting 64.26
- 2 Seymour Baden - Donald Geerhart 62.66
- 3 Zehava Tadjer - Charles Margolis 62.50
- 4 Dalia Kende - Charles Boteler Jr 60.90
- 5 Charles Pan - James Rodgers 58.81
- 6/7 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin 57.37
- 6/7 Amal Dasgupta - Rosemary Marks 57.37

Stratum B 15 Pairs

- 1 Lorraine Morgan - Leila Whiting 64.26
- 2 Charles Pan - James Rodgers 58.81
- 3/4 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin 57.37
- 3/4 Amal Dasgupta - Rosemary Marks 57.37
- 5 Mary Rogers - Sylvia Hoffman 57.21

Stratum C 5 Pairs

- 1 Phyllis Sonnen - Hilda Getz 48.72
- 2 Rose Newman - Helen Solomon 43.59

299ER PAIRS Stratum A 17 Pairs



- 1 Judy Glick - R Richard Hopp 65.01
- 2 Donald Peck - Kevin Acker 56.03
- 3 Barry Lieberman - Thomas Din 55.57

- 4 David Raley - Ali Al-Aref 54.46
- 5 Agnes Gavin - Pauline Hawkins 53.49

Stratum B 11 Pairs

- 1 Donald Peck - Kevin Acker 56.03
- 2 Barry Lieberman - Thomas Din 55.57
- 3 David Raley - Ali Al-Aref 54.46
- 4 Gloria Halstead - Kathrine Loh 51.51

Stratum C 9 Pairs

- 1 Donald Peck - Kevin Acker 56.03
- 2 Barry Lieberman - Thomas Din 55.57
- 3 David Raley - Ali Al-Aref 54.46
- 4 Gloria Halstead - Kathrine Loh 51.51

SATURDAY EVENING

FLIGHT A/X PAIRS Stratum A 32 Pairs



- 1 Don Probst - Benjamin Brill 66.03
- 2 Ellen Klosson - Steve Robinson 61.86
- 3 Richard Popper - Earl Glickstein 60.74
- 4 Mita Banerjee - Hanna Schepps 58.97
- 5 Eileen Theimer - Dara Khambata 55.93
- 6 Lyle Poe Jr - Robert Bell 55.77

Stratum X 14 Pairs

- 1 Mita Banerjee - Hanna Schepps 58.97
- 2 Donna Rogall - Ellen Cherniavsky 55.13
- 3 Charity Sack - Juana Da Silva 54.33
- 4 Aron Chripp - Amal Dasgupta 51.28
- 5 M Bruce Todd - Rossella Todd 51.12

FLIGHT B/C PAIRS Stratum B 22 Pairs



- 1 Howard Bender - Piotr Gajewski 65.28
- 2 Mahadeo Patwardhan - Jay Kelkar 62.27
- 3 Swapan Sen - Penny Stover 59.72
- 4 Kenneth Kaufman - Elizabeth Opal 58.80
- 5 Allen Shearn - Peggy Shearn 55.79
- 6/7 Aurora Nicoletti - Bruce McDonough 54.63
- 6/7 H Evan Duquette - Deborah James 54.63

Stratum C 12 Pairs

- 1 Howard Bender - Piotr Gajewski 65.28
- 2 Mahadeo Patwardhan - Jay Kelkar 62.27
- 3 Allen Shearn - Peggy Shearn 55.79
- 4 Aurora Nicoletti - Bruce McDonough 54.63

299ER PAIRS Stratum A 14 Pairs



- 1 Wanda Avila - Samuel Bowlin 63.75
- 2/3 William Mendez Jr - Michael Goldman 61.67
- 2/3 Juan Pardo - John Lowe III 61.67
- 4 Arnold Kriz - Norman Cowen M D 54.58
- 5 Candace Carlton - Terry Carlton 51.67

Stratum B 9 Pairs

- 1 Arnold Kriz - Norman Cowen M D 54.58
- 2 Candace Carlton - Terry Carlton 51.67
- 3 Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgemewick 50.42
- 4 Jon Chasson - Tim Kuhn 48.33

SUNDAY

FLIGHT A/X SWISS TEAMS Stratum A 18 Teams

- 1 John Adams - Alfred Steinberg - Andrew Gofred - Stephen Swearingen 93.00
- 2 Yi Zhong - Kefu Xu - Hualin Chen - Hailong Ao 92.00
- 3 Robert Klein - David Rudeman - Earl Glickstein - Harold Siegelman 90.00
- 4 Alan Kleist - Andrew Kaufman - Warren Kaufman - Leo LaSota 85.00
- 5 Lyle Poe Jr - Ai-Tai Lo - Robert Bell - William Cole - Alan Schwartz - Glenn Lublin 83.00

Stratum X 8 Teams

- 1 Yi Zhong - Kefu Xu - Hualin Chen - Hailong Ao 92.00
- 2 Jim Allen Jr - Jackie Thompson - Lorraine Jarboe - Daniel Jarboe 79.00
- 3 M Bruce Todd - Rossella Todd - Stan Schenker - Kenton Schoen 71.00

FLIGHT B/C SWISS TEAMS Stratum B 20 Teams



- 1 Sheldon Richter - Ruby Eisenbach - Anne Goldstein - Roland Gray 119.00
- 2 Morris Umansky - Patricia Winterbauer - Julia Brown - Eva Shaffer 85.00

- 3 Daniel Feldman - Kitty Gutfried - Walter Kerns - Eileen Houghton 84.00
- 4 John Glynn - Alice Wegman - Yi-Der Chen - Martha Chen 82.00
- 5 Marc Cassell - Richard Cassell - Stephen Goldstein - John McCann 81.00
- 6 Michelle Cantave - David Hamilton - Jay Kelkar - Khaleel Mostafa 79.00

Stratum C 7 Teams

- 1 Marc Cassell - Richard Cassell - Stephen Goldstein - John McCann 81.00
- 2 Michelle Cantave - David Hamilton - Jay Kelkar - Khaleel Mostafa 79.00
- 3/4 Daniel Weinberg - Duke Wilson - William Prosser - Walton Francis 73.00
- 3/4 Ellen Rosenthal - Neal Rosenthal - Steven Sacks - Mark Weiner 73.00

SUNDAY MORNING

299ER SWISS TEAMS Stratum A 7 Teams

- 1 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus - Rose Hadilian - Sarah Pincus 59.00
- 2 Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence - A. Edwin Johnson - M. Josette Johnson 48.00
- 3 Juan Pardo - Arnold Kriz - John Lowe III - D Tomesen 46.00

Stratum B 5 Teams

- 1 Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence - A. Edwin Johnson - M. Josette Johnson 48.00
- 2 Terry Jones - David Raley - Mary O'Shea - Ali Al-Aref 41.00

Stratum C 3 Teams

- 1 Terry Jones - David Raley - Mary O'Shea - Ali Al-Aref 41.00

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

299ER SWISS TEAMS 4 Teams



- 1 Frank Cardillo - Leo Cardillo - Christon Johnson - Paul Krueger 49.00



NLM MASTER POINTERS

written and compiled by I/N Editor, Leslie Shafer

Leslie Shafer is recovering from surgery. This month's article is written by Mary Jane Von Moss, president of the American Bridge Teachers' Association.
—Ed.

STAR SPANGLED OPENING LEADS

This summer at the Nationals held in Washington DC I was a speaker on the I/N program. My topic was "Star Spangled Opening Leads". The following touches upon many points in the speech. This seems to be a good time to learn about leads that have Star Spangled Results, we hope.

PERFECT LEADS

Before getting into the thick of things, it is important to mention an item pertaining to opening leads that was mentioned at the American Bridge Teachers Association Convention this summer. There are many famous bridge speakers from all over the world that come and speak to the teachers. It's fun. I might mention that I am the President of the ABTA.

Alan LeBendig who is the Director of the MABC Appeals Court at the Nationals was one of our speakers. He gave everyone a handout with 3 hands, discussing ways to make the contract with the lead given. Each time after seeing all four hands, a participant kept noting that if a different card had been led, the hand would never make. He commented that he

didn't consider that lead because it was very unlikely for any one to make that lead with this hand. Next, he proceeded to tell about an incident that happened at his club where someone was making the perfect lead all of the time. Many club members became suspicious about this. After doing some amateur detective work, it was found that they were cheating and now have a 3 year membership suspension. Alan's word of advice to us was, "If someone makes a perfect lead all of the time, he is cheating."

BE ETHICAL

Don't have a sour look on your face when you don't like partners lead. This is unethical. Your partner may be following proper guide lines. Save criticism for later when you have the hand records to review.

S. J. Simon quotes in his book, "Why You Lose at Bridge", that opening leads are the most difficult part of defense.

Realize that they are a bit of a crap shoot. Guidelines don't always give fantastic results. The placement of the cards in the hands and bidding are probably the best generic guidelines you can use.

MEANING OF YOUR LEAD

You want your partner to be able to recognize what your card signifies. Think about the lady that had retired and was talking to God to please not let her

die now. God told her that she had a long life to live. She was so happy that she went out and got a face lift, a tummy tuck, liposuction, etc. She looked great. Shortly after that she was crossing the street, a car hit her, and she died. She cried to God, "You told me I was going to live long. What happened? God said, "I didn't recognize you." Give partner a clue as to what is in your hand. Remember, you are both on the same team.

SOLID SEQUENCES

Concerning top of sequences, Marty Bergen notes, "It is better to lead the top of a sequence than fourth best." He also says that 7654 is not sequence, it is consecutive garbage. Top of sequence leads should be topped by an honor.

SOLID SEQUENCES

Top of inner sequences gives people trouble. When filling-in for someone at my games I led a jack from a KJ10x holding in a notrump contract. The suit was not led back. People don't have respect for jack leads. They have trouble recognizing it as a possible inner sequence.

Journalist leads work well with inner sequences such as KJ10x. With my regular partners, a jack lead denies having any card higher than the jack. Nine or ten implies 0 or 2 higher cards than a jack. If you use this it should be noted on your convention card.

SUIT TO LEAD

When deciding what suit to lead, make sure your ladder is leaning against the right wall when you start. Leading your partner's suit is a good wall to lean against. Of course if you have enough

tricks in your suit to set the contract or are setting up some tricks for later, partner will probably be forgiving of this flaw. Otherwise, lead your partner's suit. If you lead your suit and the contract could have been set with a lead of his suit, your partner will not be happy. Whereas, if you lead your partner's suit and you could have set the contract, you can complain about those weak overcalls of his.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you want to read something that presents a condensed and overall look at leads, read Norma Sands, "Opening Leads Versus Suits" pamphlet. It is in her winning "Book of the Year Award" Series.

Zeke Zabbour said, "Don't waste time and energy solving an impossible problem. Find a rule to guide you and get on with enjoying life."

Use these Star Spangled Opening Leads and ideas, then fireworks will happen.

Thanks Mary Jane for your Star Spangled Pinch-Writing. Leslie's recovery is progressing and she will return to writing in our next issue. —Ed.

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

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