

July/August 2002

<http://wbl-unit.org>



# **Washington Bridge League**

**B ♣ U ♥ L ♠ L ♦ E ♥ T ♣ I ♠ N**

**THE DC NATIONALS ARE HERE... COME OUT AND PLAY!**

## **UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU IN 2002!**



*Thursday, July 18*

*through*

*Sunday, July 28*

*at the*

*Marriott Wardman*

*Park Hotel*

*(the former Sheraton)*

*on Connecticut Ave.*

*just south of the zoo*

*Volunteers are still needed. For information, contact  
Lee Ann Jensen at 301-949-7467, at [lj15x@nih.gov](mailto:lj15x@nih.gov),  
or sign up directly on our web site: [dcnationals.com](http://dcnationals.com).*

## **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 Washington Bridge League 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 will add a new conduit to Michael and our tournament directors for constructive progress.



**DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2002**



**TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE**

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

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Editor — Donna Rogall (301-421-9615), drogall@erols.com

I/N Editor — Leslie Shafer (301-593-6828), slamhand@erols.com

Columnists — Steve Robinson, Richard Colker

*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.*

Barbara Doran, *President* — (301-608-0347), xbarbd@mindspring.com

Dick Wegman, *Vice President* — (301-365-2228), kfam@bellatlantic.net

Steve Robinson, *Treasurer* — (703-379-4371), robinswr@erols.com

Barbara Shaw, *Secretary* — (301-598-3339), markshaw@mailexcite.com

#### **UNIT DIRECTORS**

Weizhong Bao — (703-222-1470), wbao@va.rr.com

Don Berman — (301-776-3581), dberman@verizon.net

Lee Jensen — (301-949-7467), lpj@lsr.nei.nih.gov

Fred King — (703-536-1914), the5kings2@aol.com

Ben Laden — (202-244-1765), benladen@prodigy.net

David Ruderman — (301-384-8825), davidru@snsnet.net

#### **SOME KEY VOLUNTEERS**

Frances Burke — *Membership Secretary* (301-384-6103)

Michael Carroad — *Unit Game Chief Director* (301-322-4289)

Jim Coleman — *Unit Game Manager* (301-434-6559)

Madge Gallant — *Partnerships* (301-587-6424)

Kitty Gottfried — *Unit Game Hospitality* (301-587-3981)

Rosemary Marks — *Prizes* (301-598-2405)

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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*by WBL President, Barbara Doran*

The WBL held it's annual meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank the many people who worked so hard to make this event a success. I would also like to welcome our two new board members, Weizhong Bao and Ben Laden and our new Vice President, Dick Wegman, who has done a great job as a board member over the past two years and offer my heartfelt thanks to departing members Bill Cole and Kathy Kruskal for their hard work on the board. Lee Jensen was reelected to the board as were myself, Barbara Shaw (Secretary) and Steve Robinson (Treasurer).

I want to congratulate the winners of the Unit Mini-McKenny and Ace of Clubs Awards... *And, the winners are:*

## **ACE OF CLUBS**

### **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Forrest Lorz ..... 32.91
- 2 Mr Robert R Von Moss ..... 9.67
- 3 Mr Richard E King ..... 23.18

### **JUNIOR MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Robert F Gemmill ..... 25.90
- 2 Mrs Muriel M Selph ..... 5.11
- 3 Sen. Robert Packwood ..... 5.07

### **CLUB MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Nancy G Smith ..... 41.23
- 2 Mrs Joan Eisenfeld ..... 37.43
- 3 Mr Harold T Barton ..... 36.56

### **SECTIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Bor S Hsu ..... 63.01
- 2 Mrs Ann L Cumming ..... 43.41
- 3 Mr Dennis W Wick ..... 43.14

### **REGIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr John Laurim ..... 69.94
- 2 Mrs Ann E Parrott ..... 59.65
- 3 Mr Maurice M Greenman ..... 53.48

### **NABC MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Charles W Carrington ..... 83.64
- 2 Mr Morris F Edmundson ..... 54.63
- 3 Mr Frank T Shull III ..... 52.11

### **LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Doris Konecke ..... 75.00
- 2 Mrs Martha Chen ..... 60.83
- 3 Mr Stephen R Peet ..... 48.71

### **BRONZE LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Allen D Lord ..... 143.47
- 2 Mrs Alice Johnson ..... 77.33
- 3 Audrey Stern ..... 76.21

### **SILVER LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Dr D M Khambata ..... 149.66
- 2 Mr Stuart Dunlop ..... 127.44
- 3 Mr Jim Occhipinti ..... 100.25

### **GOLD LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mrs Eileen Theimer ..... 180.24
- 2 Mrs Audrey Marbach ..... 92.55
- 3 Mrs Alice B Miller ..... 92.16

### **DIAMOND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mrs Rossi Lindstrom ..... 207.43
- 2 Mr Arnie Frankel ..... 100.94
- 3 Mr Eugene L Kales ..... 89.10

### **GRAND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Steve W Robinson ..... 80.37
- 2 Mr William P Cole ..... 43.13
- 3 Mr Peter A Boyd ..... 14.60

## **MINI - MCKENNEY**

### **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Forrest Lorz ..... 59.15
- 2 Mr Robert R Von Moss ..... 46.61
- 3 Mr Mehmet H Bayar ..... 41.02

### **JUNIOR MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Sen. Robert Packwood ..... 43.94
- 2 Mr Robert F Gemmill ..... 35.36
- 3 Sherrie D Schrama ..... 35.14

### **CLUB MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Ajit S Thyagarajan ..... 71.01
- 2 Mr Juan Pardo ..... 57.02
- 3 Dr Gerald J Steinberg ..... 56.09

### **SECTIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Ms Charity A Sack ..... 234.02
- 2 Mr Dennis W Wick ..... 227.13
- 3 Ms Cecilia A Valdivieso ..... 157.75

### **REGIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Hailong Ao ..... 223.63
- 2 Richard Ferrin ..... 147.01
- 3 Eugene A Fisher ..... 130.40

### **NABC MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Dan Moore ..... 206.38
- 2 Mr Charles W Carrington ..... 182.14
- 3 Mr Rick Larkin ..... 119.77

### **LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Dr Josh Sher ..... 249.45
- 2 Mrs Martha Chen ..... 126.94
- 3 Doris Konecke ..... 123.66

### **BRONZE LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Ms Peggy Allen ..... 673.43
- 2 Tim M Crank ..... 402.29
- 3 Mrs Lucy A Pestaner ..... 323.41

### **SILVER LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Leo K LaSota ..... 548.41
- 2 Mr Ronald E Spath ..... 545.69
- 3 Mr Jim Pestaner ..... 323.41

## **GOLD LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mrs Barbara A Shaw ..... 794.70
- 2 Mr Alan E Kleist ..... 519.39
- 3 Mr Fred M King ..... 412.52

### **DIAMOND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Mark P Shaw ..... 904.40
- 2 Mr Earl H Glickstein ..... 624.64
- 3 Mrs Rossi Lindstrom ..... 473.68

### **GRAND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR**

- 1 Mr Steve W Robinson ..... 1317.55
- 2 Mr Peter A Boyd ..... 798.43
- 3 Mr William P Cole ..... 486.61

## **SUMMER NABC**

As I'm sure you are aware, the Summer North American Bridge Championships are here in Washington this July. Come out and play. Come out and work. We need volunteers to make this the best Nationals ever. Turn to the next page for details.

## **BOARD NOTES**

Several issues were raised at the meeting and the Board is developing surveys to determine how the members feel about various topics. These surveys will be published in future issues of the Bulletin and on our web site ([www.wbl-unit.org](http://www.wbl-unit.org)). Please complete them... we can't do what you want if we don't know what it is. If you have suggestions on how we can better serve the membership talk to a board member. We really do want to know what you think.

The Board has voted to contribute \$5000 to Bridge at Schools, a program aimed at introducing elementary school students to Bridge. They hope to establish a pilot program in our area and we hope that we can interest a new generation in the game we love. Programs such as Bridge at Schools and EasyBridge! need our support – membership is declining and we need to find new ways to recruit and retain members.

*...continued on page 6*

# D.C. NATIONALS — JULY 18-28, 2002

by Margot Hennings, Tournament Chair  
[www.dcnationals.com](http://www.dcnationals.com)

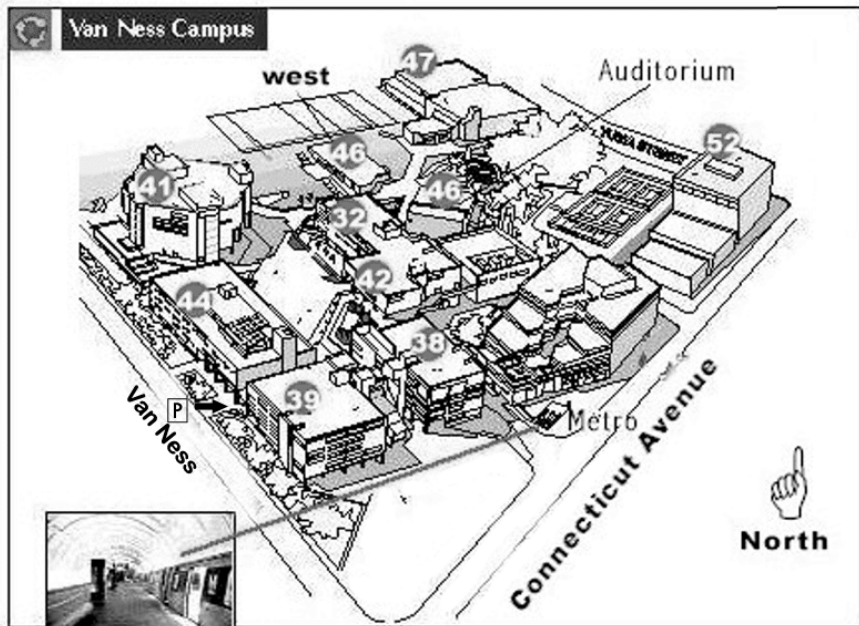
## THE LATEST SCOOP

What's the latest on our NABC this summer? You know about our **special late-nite entertainment**—David Levy's classical concert on Friday night the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Capitol Steps on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Alain Nu's mind-bending magic on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>—but we **have just added some special events for our seniors/early game participants**. On Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>, at approximately 7:15 p.m., David Levy will play a light classical concert just for folks who have finished playing bridge for the day, and on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, again at approximately 7:15 p.m., Bob and Jane Levey, renowned *Washington Post* columnist and local historian, respectively, will present a close-up look at "Bob Levey's Washington". All late-nite and early evening entertainment will be held in the Cotillion Room of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel and will feature snacks, sandwiches, or des-

sert in addition to a "no-host" bar and \$1 beer on some occasions.

Fliers containing detailed information about the exciting **Novice/Newcomer Program** that is being hosted at our NABC have been distributed widely at local sectionals, to local clubs, and to local teachers. Within the next several weeks, you should also be receiving a flier from the ACBL about all of these special events. Check out our web site ([www.dcnationals.com](http://www.dcnationals.com)) for all of the latest information! In particular, encourage your peers and those who would like to learn to play to attend the **World's Biggest Bridge Lesson** on Saturday morning, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Free lessons by local teachers, coffee and doughnuts, door prizes, and lots of give-aways to one and all promise to make this event a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

In recent weeks, we have received a contribution from the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC)—you know, the organiza-



tion behind those great District 6 Regionals in Alexandria, Hunt Valley, Ocean City, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Richmond—to help make the hospitality at our NABC even better! Because of this contribution, we are able to divert some of the funds planned for entertainment to address the cost of parking for our local players.

### **COMMUTER PARKING**

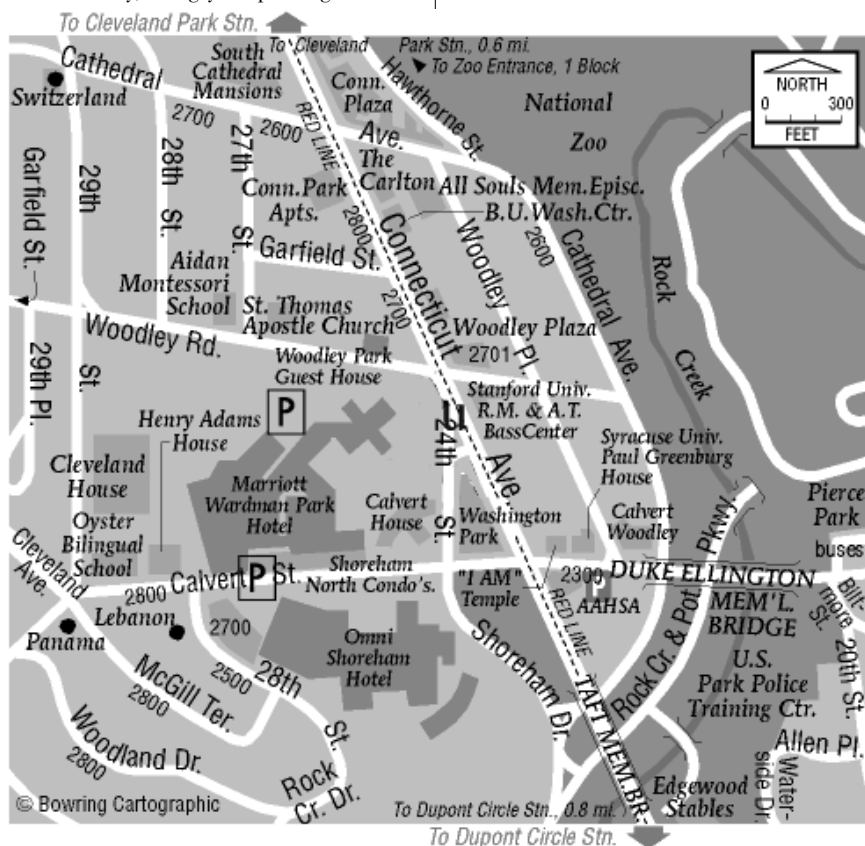
Parking is available at both the **Marriott Wardman Park** and the **Omni Shoreham Hotel garages** for \$19 per day minus a \$5 rebate on weekdays only for a total of **\$14 per day**, with 24-hour access, but no in-and-out privileges. The Marriott has two garages, with entrances on both Woodley Road and Calvert Street. The Omni Shoreham garage is also accessible from Calvert Street.

The rebate works as follows: Once you pay the \$19 as you enter one of the garages on a weekday, bring your parking ticket to

the main Information Desk area at the tournament. We will stamp your ticket again with a special stamp and hand you \$5 in scrip to help pay for your entry that day!

Please note that **street parking** is available in the vicinity of the hotel **only on weekends**. During weekdays, zone parking permits must be displayed in your vehicle—you cannot park on nearby streets without one—this is **strictly enforced!**

**Extra parking spaces** at one of the University of the District of Columbia's (UDC) garages will be available for only \$8 per day, again with no in-and-out privileges. This garage is a short ten minutes away from the Marriott under most traffic conditions. The garage entrance is underneath Building 44 off Van Ness. Courtesy of the ACBL, we will be running a **free shuttle bus** to the hotel and back again from this garage from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., and 10:30-midnight, with the possibility of extended hours until 1 a.m.



We also encourage players to use **metro**—the Red Line’s Woodley Park/Zoo stop is right at the edge of the Marriott Wardman Park property on 24<sup>th</sup> Street, and runs until 2 a.m. on weekends—and to **carpool** to help keep the costs of parking to a minimum. Check out our **electronic Bulletin Board** on our NABC web site—[www.dcnationals.com](http://www.dcnationals.com)—for carpool information as well as the more traditional cork Bulletin Boards on-site at the Marriott during the tournament.

## **THE WEBSITE**

Information about every aspect of the tournament—from **morning tours** to **child care** to **caddies** to the **complete schedule of events**—is available at our web site: [www.dcnationals.com](http://www.dcnationals.com). There is also a “**no-host**” **Partnership Bulletin Board** for you to arrange your own partners in advance of the tournament (there will be a Partnership Desk on-site, of course, to assist you in finding partners on the day of the event in which you wish to play). There are also special prizes and e-mail messages sent to players who register on our web site—prizes include free plays, free parking passes, free two-night stays at the Marriott Wardman Park during the tournament, cuddly stuffed panda bears, brass luggage tags, and more!

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

And, last but not least, we need lots of **volunteers** to help make all of our planning a success during the tournament itself. Don’t miss out—be part of the fun!! Share in the excitement of hosting a National tournament! In addition to **great kibitzing and vu-graph** where you can see and meet world-famous players, **help us meet and greet** everyone who comes in from near and far—help out with **Registration, Information, Partnerships, Prizes, the Restaurant Guide, Morning Tours, Late-Nite Entertainment**—the list goes on!! **Lee Ann Jensen** is our **Volunteer Coordinator**—you can contact her at 301-949-7467, at [lj15x@nih.gov](mailto:lj15x@nih.gov), or sign up directly on our web site.

*President’s Letter continued...*

## **BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

The new Board Assignments for the year were given out at the first meeting of the new Board and are as follows:

**Dick Wegman**, Vice President, Ways and Means and Church Liaison

**Barbara Shaw**, Secretary and Club Manager’s Breakfast

**Steve Robinson**, Treasurer and Round Robin Chairman

**Don Berman**, WEB Master

**Fred King**, Education, Easy Bridge

**Wei Bao**, Clubs Chairman and Special Relations (NAOP and GNT Coordinator)

**Ben Laden**, C & E Chairman, Novice Chairman and Charity Chairman

**Lee Jensen**, Tournament Chairman

**Dave Ruderman**, Unit Game Chairman

## **C & E**

We held the election of the new Conduct and Ethics Committee members.

**Those retiring from the committee are:**

Ben Laden, Ron Spath, and Ralph Turner

**Remaining on the committee and completing their 2 year term are:**

Alan Tennebaum, Barbara Ames and Bob Bell

**Elected to the committee for a 2 year term are:**

Andrew Kaufman, Kathy Kruskal, and Kefu Xu.



## EDITORIAL

Well, my motion for a noon Sunday sectional start time was tabled. While I personally would prefer a later Sunday start time; nevertheless, I am not unhappy with the result. I believe we should do what the majority of the membership wants and that there is a better way to find out what that is other than by a vote at the meeting.

The WBL Board has appointed me, along with Don Berman (WBL Webmaster) and Lee Jensen (Tournament Chair) to design a survey. It will run here and on the website and will cover several aspects of sectionals (including the possibility of earlier start times), in addition to as many other issues as your input helps us to come up with.

This method will allow us to ask you, on a variety of topics, not only what you would prefer, but also, how much you prefer it. It should also give us time to discuss issues more fully.

One two-part question that has arisen is should we: (a) continue to allow motions to be brought to a vote at a membership meeting and (b) if so, change the required procedures leading up to such a vote? Currently, the WBL Policies seem to require an announcement of intent to raise a motion be published in this bulletin only when the motion's passage would change our constitution. The wording is difficult to interpret at best, but is now available from Lee Jensen and on our website. WBL President, Barbara Doran has assigned a committee to look through the entire publication to update and clarify it.

While I agree that it is best to take issues to board members first, (which, by the way, I did in this case over the years) I think it would be a mistake to do away with motions at membership meetings. Any organization needs a system of checks and balances. As a historical note, Peter Boyd tells me that the WBL was the first unit to go non-smoking due to conversations in the bulletin followed by a vote at an Annual Meeting. Happily, taking a motion to the membership also may be a good method of getting a discussion started.

On the topic of sectionals, the WBL Board has already raised some considerations during meetings that you should know about before responding to the upcoming survey. First of all, later start times would mean that Lee and his helpers would have to work later to close up shop on Sunday and they already work many hours past when the last hand is played. The directors, on the other hand, would be happy with later start times.

As a possible solution, a suggestion was made that we try a playthrough event with staggered half hour breaks for onsite sandwiches and/or pizza as Northern Virginia or Baltimore do at their sectionals on Sundays. However, this has its own issues because we don't have a kitchen on site like they do. President Doran has assigned a committee to look into this.

I suggested that if half the people want one time, and half want another, that we consider running half the tournaments at one time, and half at the other. The general consensus of the Board was that this would be too confusing and inconsistent. What do you think?

Please send comments, suggestions, or new topics for discussion to [drogall@erols.com](mailto:drogall@erols.com). (Or, use the snail mail address or phone number listed on the inside front cover.) I am so sad that I haven't received any letters to the editor yet.

## GNT 2002 DISTRICT FINALS

### FLIGHT A, 0-5000 RESULTS

#### Place Team

- 1 Robert Bell, Fred King, Jim Houghton, Harold Siegelman
- 2 Ted Ying, Helene Bauman, Vincent Wilmot Jr, Katherine Kruskal, Clyde Kruskal, John Gassenheimer
- 3 Michael Carroad, Tim Crank, Alan Kleist, Leo LaSota
- 4/6 Rammohan Sarangan, Elizabeth Nelson, Kenton Schoen, Divakar Bhargava, Millard Nachtwey
- 4/6 James Fox, Judy Fox, Flo Heilig, Charles Heilig
- 4/6 Richard Wegman, David Abelow, David Ruderman, Robert Klein

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# **WBL** ***Suffers Losses***

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## **MARGE WILSON**

*August 31, 1938 - April 28, 2002*

*by Nadine Wood*



Marge Wilson, a fixture on the Washington, D. C. bridge scene for 35 years, died April 28 a few days after being diagnosed with cancer. It came right as she was planning to once again head the Workers' Hospitality Suite at the NABC this summer as she had for the 1993 Summer NABC.

Marge, a native Washingtonian, graduated from Notre Dame High School in Washington, D.C. and attended college at George Washington University. While there she took up bridge and Bill Wilson, to whom she was married for 38 years. The couple joined ACBL in 1967. Bill passed away in May 1996.

Marge was the Editor of the Washington Bridge League Bulletin for 12 years (1983 - 1995). She then edited the District 6 Supplement to the ACBL Bulletin from 1996 to 2001. In addition she was hospitality chairman when the WBL hosted the annual July 4th Regional tournament. In addition to her bridge jobs, she was employed full time, raised six children and always was the first one to volunteer her help at the bridge club, the Unit, or the District. Her standard line was, "What can I do to help you?"

All of her children took their turn working as bridge caddies: William Wilson III, Centerville, MD; John Wilson, Coeur d'Alene, ID; Mark Wilson, Eureka, CA; Margaret Brothman, Laurel, MD; Annemarie Wilson Murray, Silver Spring, MD; and Kevin Wilson, Knoxville, TN. Billy, Anne

and Kevin took up playing bridge and went on to become ACBL members. In fact Kevin represented the United States in the World Junior Championships in 1993 and 1995. She has nine grandchildren: Ryan, Rachael, Michael, Patrick and Tara Wilson; Laura and Eric Brothman and Shannon and Katy Murray. Those old enough are following in their parents' footsteps and will be caddying this summer.

In recent years, she rarely had time to play bridge, but when she did her distinctive laugh would be heard throughout the room at some point during the game. She had a wonderful sense of humor even during the most unexpected moments. Her daughter Margaret writes, "During her brief stay in the hospital, I can't count how many times she had the nursing staff, and anyone else in the room, in tears laughing. Most people who have just been diagnosed with cancer would not have had the demeanor that mom did. She accepted the situation and tried to make the most of it."

It seems like whenever I spoke to her, including when she was in the hospital, she always wanted to know how I was doing. Marge was the first appointment I made to the Good Will Committee when I became District Director. She more than met my criteria for that office — someone who works for bridge and goes beyond what is expected as well as having a friendly, pleasant table demeanor.

Marge was always very supportive of youth bridge programs and education. She was especially excited about Bridge at Schools and her family named this organization, Bridge at Schools, P. O. Box 9885, Wilmington DE 19809, as the place to send donations in her memory.

Friday, July 26, will be Marge Wilson Day at the Summer NABC at the Marriot Wardman Park. She will be remembered at a special tribute by her friends and family in the workers' hospitality suite, room 1021, after the evening session.

## **ISIDORE "IZZY" ELRICH**

*by Jim Coleman*



A long-time fixture at the WBL Unit Game, the JCC Rockville, and the Senior Center bridge games, has left us. Izzy died on March 13th of this year.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, on Nov. 9, 1917, he served during WW

II as a test pilot/radio mechanic, in Texas. He moved to the DC area in 1946, where he worked for the US Postal Service. In his spare time he repaired and tuned pianos.

He married Joan Workman on Nov. 13, 1946. A loving father, they had four children, Marc, Stephen, Joshua, and Lisa. Four grandchildren joined his family, Jamie, Joshua, Jacob, and Johanna.

Izzy retired in 1973 and took up bridge as a hobby and soon became an avid player. He was a regular at the JCC game, often helping Trudy by "filling in" and helping with the game. He was a good player, always the gentleman at the table and to all that he met. His granddaughter continues his tradition in bridge by serving the Unit as a caddy at the game every Thursday.

Izzy will be missed by all his friends and bridge playing partners.

## **2001-2002 WBL-NVBA**

### **PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

### **FINAL STANDINGS**

Congratulations to Leo LaSota who handily won the Open Flight this year and to Alfred Graham, who took the Non-LM Flight.

### **Eligibility**

Players must attend at least three WBL and three NVBA sectionals during the contest period (August, 2001, through May, 2002). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility.

### **Awards**

Two trophies will be awarded at the Summer Nationals, one for each flight.

### **Standings**

Here are the final standings after eleven of eleven tournaments. The asterisk\* indicates that the player has met the eligibility requirements.

### **Open Top 20**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
1 Leo LaSota .....	191.95 *
2 Robert Gookin .....	159.47 *
3 Earl Glickstein .....	144.43 *
4 Steve Robinson .....	131.48 *
5 Fred King .....	126.72 *
6 Alfred Steinberg .....	121.32 *
7 Robert Bell .....	111.74 *
8 Mark Shaw .....	105.62 *
9 Janet Gookin .....	104.63 *
10 Eugene Kales .....	103.06 *
11 Alan Kleist .....	101.57 *
12 Barbara Shaw .....	100.39 *
13 William Cole .....	99.93 *
14 Ed Lewis .....	75.45 *
15 Kristene Miller .....	74.96 *
16 Peter Boyd .....	73.56 *
17 John Adams .....	70.66 *
18 Jim Houghton .....	70.61 *
19 Thomas Wallen .....	69.69 *
20 Steve Bunning .....	67.37 *

### **NonLM Top 20**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
1 Alfred Graham .....	35.86 *
2 Charity Sack .....	34.48 *
3 Glenn Young .....	30.98 *
4 Richard Ferrin .....	29.00 *
5 Suzanne Abrams .....	25.86 *
6 Martha Lackey .....	25.57
7 Richard Cassell .....	25.37 *
8 Michelle Cantave .....	24.74 *
9 Joseph Ogulin .....	24.65 *
10 Don Henry .....	22.49 *
11 Franz Delahan .....	21.98 *
12 Madeline Delahan .....	21.98 *
13 Barry Anderson .....	19.93 *
14 Barbara DiCicco .....	19.56 *
15 David Hamilton .....	19.31 *
16 Cecilia Valdivieso .....	18.77 *
17 Gordon Hatheway Jr .....	18.53 *
18 Carol Netchvolodoff .....	18.44 *
19 Frank Cardillo .....	18.08
20 T Ravi Arulnandhy .....	17.98

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# WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

---

*Moderated by Steve Robinson*

robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to Gerald Lerner who came in first with a score of 500. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. I will play with him at a future Unit Game. Tied for second were Lucy Pastaner, Chuck Yapple and Andrew Brecher with a score of 490. Tied for fifth were Marshal Kuschner, Jose Cortina, Natalie Aronsohn, Randy Thompson, Ken Kaufman and Ransome Price with a score of 480. Tied for eleventh were Ed Lewis, John Kiebler, Bruce Swales, Helene Fornier, Audrey Warren, Paul Krueger, Peter Lo, Bob Klein, Mike Kovacich, Robert Cohen and Al Dunker with a score of 470. Tied for twenty second were Ram Sarangan, Bob Boorman, Mel Yudkin, Paul Benidict, Sylvian Picard, Steve Ivins, Tom Webster, Alan Kravetz, Jonathan Siegel, Hailong Ao, Stan Schenker, Sam Gumbert and John Horst with a score of 460. The average score of the 177 solvers was 338. The average score of the experts was 421.

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 robinswr@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) IMPs Both Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

AQ/KJ632/K65/864

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
-	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass ???	Pass	3♣	Pass
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Panelists</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Pass	100	6	63
3NT	80	6	99
3♥	40	1	12
3♠	20	0	3

Partner is a passed hand and is balancing. While partner could have xx/xx/QJx/AQJ10xx where three notrump is on a club finesse, he could also have xx/xx/AQJ/QJ10xxx where three notrump is down four. These are hands with six-card club suits. There's no reason why partner can't have only five clubs, for instance xx/xx/QJxx/AQ1098. Since most of the hands where three notrump makes partner might have opened, passing seems like the percentage action. Bidding vulnerable games is percentage only if the result is either making or down one. Assume the opponents are playing in 3♣ making three for +110. If you go down four hundred, you lose eleven IMPs. If you make three notrump you gain ten IMPs. That's less than fifty-fifty.

Five experts agree with me and pass. Let's try to go plus.

**BERMAN:** "Pass---Partner is a passed hand. You have a minimum opening. This is your best opportunity for a plus score. Don't hang partner for balancing."

**LUBLIN:** "Pass---Pass and go plus. Can't

hang partner since he is a passed hand and didn't open 3♣."

**WOOLSEY:** "Pass---I have my bids -- just about what partner is playing me for. My red kings are far too slow for notrump. There is no special inference from partner's failure to open 3♣ second seat vulnerable -- he simply might not have wanted to do so on a hand which would otherwise be a decent 3♣. Something like xx/xx/Qxx/KQJxxx would be quite consistent with his auction."

In Woolsey's example, three notrump is down two if you can run the clubs or down five if someone has Axx of clubs.

**PARKER:** "Pass---Good controls but no real club fit to help run the suit. Give partner a good ten count and he would always balance with a good five-card suit. He may have xx/Ax/Qxx/KQxxxx, and we still can only take eight tricks."

**SCHWARTZ:** "Pass---With no club honor and at most 24 HCPs, not going to punish partner for balancing. With some spade length, a heart fit is unlikely."

Six experts try for the brass ring.

**ROMAN:** "Three notrump---No guarantees, but 3♥ isn't forcing and red at IMPs partner doesn't have garbage."

3♥ is forcing in principal. When an opponent preempts and partner overcalls, new suits are forcing even if new suits are not forcing after overcalls of opening bids.

**SHAW:** "Three Notrump---A guess. 3♥ could work better if partner has poor clubs."

**ADAMS:** "Three notrump---This might have a play, so how can I not bid it?"

Just because it might have play is not a good reason. I might win the lottery but I wouldn't bet my life savings on it. Gaining IMPs in the long run is the main criteria.

**ABUSHAKRA:** "Three notrump---I most likely have two spade stoppers and partner rates to have 10-11 points with a solid club suit. Granted, my spots are of inferior quality but East may well have one of the red aces which would promote one of my red kings. With five to six club tricks, two spade tricks and one to two tricks in the red suits, I am bidding game."

Even AKQxxx of clubs might not be enough.

**KING:** "Three notrump---With two spade

stoppers and length in clubs I should have a play for this vulnerable game. Bidding 3♥ may well take us past three notrump."

**HOPKINS:** "Three notrump---Very close. I am hoping for a reasonably good six-card club suit (KQxxxx or even KJ10xxx) and a side Ace. The reward for a vulnerable game should make this risk worthwhile."

One expert bids 3♥. Your previous pass tells partner that your heart suit might be suspect. Without heart support, he should bid 3♠ allowing you to try three notrump with a spade stopper.

**CAPPELLETTI:** "3♥---The fact that I neglected to bid the first time might hurt our chances of getting to game. Partner might have either just-shy-of-an-opening bid such as AQxxx or KQxxx with an ace, or a club preempt with a four-card major (such as xx/Qxxx/x/AQJxxx. Three notrump would be unlikely, especially if West has three spades. And then West might just have a lesser hand altogether."

Go out of your way to bid vulnerable games only if making and down one are the only possibilities. You don't want to bid games where down three is more likely than making your contract.

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

K2/-/10987/AKQJ1098

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
-	-	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣(F)	Pass	3♥	Pass
???			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Panelists</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3NT	100	2	47
3♠	90	8	78
4♣	80	1	9
5♣	40	0	15
6♣	40	0	2
4♠	20	0	18
5♠	20	2	1
4NT	20	0	3
4♦	20	0	1
6♠	20	0	1
5♥	20	0	1
5♦	20	0	1

Eight experts attempt to play this hand in spades. Unless partner has good spades, is able to win the lead, draw trumps run the clubs, spades will not play well. Give partner AQJxx/KQxxx/xx/x and 4♠ goes down with a club lead or club switch. Notice that I gave partner the jack of spades. What if partner's spades are worse? Doesn't three notrump or 5♣ figure to make more often than 4♠. Why support spades on a doubleton when partner needs very little to make three notrump. Supporting on a doubleton, unless partner shows six, makes sense only if no other game contract is feasible. Axxxx/KQxxx/J/x is all partner needs to make three notrump. Give partner AQJxxx/xxxxx/x/x and 6♣ is cold. Since I would expect partner to have more diamonds than clubs, AQxxx/KQxxx/xx/x is a more reasonable guess of partner's hand. If you bid 3♠ and you belong in three notrump, partner can't bid it. If you bid three notrump and you belong in 4♠, partner might bid it.

One expert agrees with me and makes the percentage bid. The clubs will run so all we need is to avoid losing the first five tricks.

**SCHWARTZ:** "Three notrump---Spades could play poorly even if partner has six. Opponents are unlikely to have five diamond tricks or opening leader might have the three. If partner is void in clubs, the spade king is likely to be an entry."

4♣ is my second choice. If partner bids 4♦, either as a cuebid or as keycard, I'd be happy. Solid seven-card suits are made to be trumps.

**CAPPELLETTI:** "4♣---Slam still quite feasible - leaves room for 4♦ cuebid."

Eight experts head towards a likely poor contract.

**ROMAN:** "3♠---Hmmm, bid and rebid clubs--check. Show honor doubleton for partner's first-bid suit--check. Ahh...life is good! All other calls get zero."

**SHAW:** "3♠---I think three notrump is

the most likely game. How does partner know that the stiff Jack of diamonds is all you need?"

Then why don't you bid three notrump?

**BERMAN:** "3♠---Promises only two spades. I will pass 4♣ but look for slam over any other bid. In some sequences partner may be able to see a grand with the spade information."

**LUBLIN:** "3♠---No other choice. Partner might be 6-5 with no clubs."

**WOOLSEY:** "3♠---This is the best spade holding partner could expect for my sequence, so if he bids four spades it is probably a decent contract. Otherwise, we'll just have to see what he does. Three notrump and five or six clubs are possible final contracts."

**ADAMS:** "3♠---Partner knows this is a doubleton. If he has good spades, we belong in spades."

And if he doesn't have good spades?

**KING:** "3♠---Seems clear to show my spade preference. Partner won't expect more than a doubleton."

**HOPKINS:** "3♠---Temporizing. I am hoping for a 4♦ cuebid in cases where partner has a good hand."

Just because partner showed 5-5, doesn't mean his spades are good. Wouldn't he bid the same holding Qxxxx/AKQxx/Jx/x? True, if partner has bad spades, he knows 4♠ will not play well. Over 3♠, the bid that eight experts made, partner would bid 4♥ attempting to play the possible 5-2 good heart fit rather than the known poor 5-2 spade fit. Isn't three notrump where you belong? What does poor partner do holding AJxxx/AQxxx/xx/x? He knows 4♠ will be bad but what choice does he have?

Two experts break the rule on constructive bidding. You can't try for slam until you have a good trump suit. If partner has bad spades, 2♠ might be the limit.

**PARKER:** "5♠---We could easily have a grand. This should ask for diamond control. Give him AQJxx/Kxxxx/Ax/x they need to

lead a club to beat seven."

**ABUSHAKRA:** "5♠---Quantitative."

When holding a solid seven card suit, make that suit trumps or play notrump.

### 3) IMPs None Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

AJ2/654/2/AKQ654

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♣ ????	Pass	1♥	Pass
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Panelists</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♣	100	7	79
2♣	80	4	60
2♦	70	1	0
2♥	50	0	19
1♠	20	1	14
2♠	20	0	1
3♥	20	0	2
1NT	20	0	2

Two and a half clubs is what this hand is worth. More than a 2♣ bid but less than a 3♣ bid. 3♣ is the most popular call but there are strong voices for 2♣. If partner has a good hand, KQx/Axxx/Axxx/Jx for instance, bidding 3♣ could lead to a hopeless slam. On the other hand, if partner has a reasonable hand, for instance Qxx/Kxxx/Axxx/xx, bidding 2♣ could lead to missing a good game. If you bid 3♣, partner holding five hearts, has to decide whether or not to try for a 5-3 heart fit. Partner holding Kxx/KQxxx/Qxx/Jx might just bid three notrump. So is it 2♣ or 3♣?

Maybe the way to show a two and a half club hand is to bid 2♦. One doesn't usually reverse into a singleton but there is protection. Rather than hang you in diamonds, partner will usually try for three notrump. Also holding three hearts protects you. If partner has a very good hand, his hearts will be longer than his diamonds. 2♦ allows partner to rebid his hearts holding five. The advantage of 2♦ is that it might stop a killing diamond lead against three notrump.

Seven experts bid 3♣ which is a tad overbid.

**CAPPELLETTI:** "3♣---Clearly a book bid - and you like your three hearts."

The book says 3♣ shows 16-18.

**SHAW:** "3♣---The Adams bid."

2♦ was the Adams bid which worked very well.

**BERMAN:** "3♣---This is the playing strength I expect my partner to have on this sequence. I have a strong expectation of contributing seven tricks at a notrump contract. Partner should not be disappointed with this dummy in three notrump."

I agree with partner not being disappointed with this hand for three notrump but what if he bids a club slam?

**LUBLIN:** "3♣---Seems reasonable to me with this hand. Can always support hearts later."

**ADAMS:** "3♣---This hand looks like an advertisement for Cole, but not part of Washington Standard, so 3♣ least of evils. On a frisky day, might psych a 2♦ reverse to inhibit lead in notrump and to discover if partner has five hearts."

**SCHWARTZ:** "3♣---With opening bids being so light, too much for 2♣. Shutting out the heart fit might be OK with three little."

**HOPKINS:** "3♣---Looking to get to three notrump from my side if partner bids 3♦."

Four experts bid 2♣. One could bid 2♣ with as little as AJx/x/xxx/KQJ10xx.

**ROMAN:** "2♣---Sometimes you're going to be maximum for your bidding, it just can't be helped. I would have sympathy for stronger action if partner had responded 1♠."

**WOOLSEY:** "2♣---Somewhat of an underbid, but anything else is too much of a distortion. At least I know we will be getting a plus score here. If partner passes two clubs, it might be where we belong, and if partner takes another call we should have little difficulty reaching a decent contract."

**ABUSHAKRA:** "2♣---The most descriptive bid. Minimum opening hand and a six-card club suit. With a five-card club suit, I would

have bid one notrump."

But wouldn't you open 1♣ without the club queen?

**KING:** "2♣---I am not adverse to raising with three trumps, but not when the disparity between the suit quality is so great. I don't think the hand is quite worth 3♣."

The following call will just confuse matters. If partner has four spades, you'll have no chance to play any contract below the five level. Don't bid three-card suits unless there is no alternative.

**PARKER:** "1♠---Things should become clearer on the next round. If partner raises spades I will raise hearts. If he rebids hearts I will raise to game. If he bids one notrump, I will raise to game. What bad can happen?"

It would be very bad if partner bids 4♠.

Be aggressive holding seven likely tricks,

#### 4) IMPs Both Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

AKJ654/6/J432/54

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Panelists</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♣	100	4	11
3♠	90	5	102
3NT	60	2	19
3♥	50	1	4
3♦	30	0	9
4♠	30	1	19
Pass	30	0	13

2♠ shows a reasonable hand containing a five or six-card spade suit and guess what folks, that's exactly what you have. While 2♠ is not forcing, it shows some values. When we bid 2♠ we were hoping that partner would raise and we would get to 4♠. However, partner's two notrump suggests that he doesn't have a spade fit. He probably has spade shortness which makes our hand worth very little. Rebidding spades or bidding three notrump figures to get us to a minus po-

sition. If we don't have game, what is the best partscore? What about the 6-2 club fit. One assumes partner has a six-card suit for a two-level overcall. We support and a ruffing value.

Three experts agree with me and support partner. Also 3♣ limits our hand.

**ROMAN:** "3♣---I will bid 3♠ over 3♦ or 3♥, raise 3♠ to four, and put down the dummy over three notrump or pass."

**WOOLSEY:** "3♣---It is almost always wrong to play in two notrump with an unbalanced hand when there is an alternative contract available. Partner will usually have six clubs, so 3♣ figures to be a decent contract."

Two notrump is usually a horrible contract since you seldom take exactly eight tricks.

**PARKER:** "3♣---He can correct with two spades. I do not want to play notrump unless he has running clubs. This should be high enough. No sense in bidding spades again and partner should play me for this type of hand and correct with two."

Five experts rebid their spades. Is the spade suit good enough to play opposite a singleton?

**BERMAN:** "3♠---I have little outside of spades and my suit is pretty good. Partner can now choose between pass, three notrump, and 4♠."

**CAPPELLETTI:** "3♠---Unless partner can bid again, we are probably high enough."

But are you in your best strain?

**ADAMS:** "3♠---I know someone that bid three notrump on these cards, found partner with the expected singleton spade, and could not use this wonderful 6-4. This is a suit oriented hand, and partner does not know about the six-card suit, and does not know you have no help for clubs."

You do have two clubs and a ruffing value.

**KING:** "3♠---I feel this bid best describes my hand."

**HOPKINS:** "3♠---If partner were as good as Qx/KJx/Kx/AQxxxx, then he should have bid three notrump. I am going to suggest 3♠ or possibly 4♠ as the best contract."



Two experts bid three notrump. We have two tricks. Does partner have seven?

**LUBLIN:** "Three notrump---Vulnerable I bid three notrump. Partner could have two spades or 3-3 with queen on sides. Playing for exactly eight tricks is ridiculous and the diamond suit isn't any good."

**ABUSHAKRA:** "Three notrump---My diamond stopper is not optimal but the quality of my spades more than makes up for it. Partner has hearts and clubs stopped, and his invitation to game should be accepted."

One expert bids 3♥ which should be choice of games. Allows partner to support spades with two, bid three notrump with two heart stoppers or run out to 4♣ with only one heart stopper.

**SCHWARTZ:** "3♥---Partner is showing a good hand in response to a nonforcing 2♠ so willing to chance game. With the lack of heart bidding, have to give notrump a chance."

One expert overbids. Didn't 2♠ show our hand?

**SHAW:** "4♠---3♥ choice of games if we are on the same wavelength which I doubt. Three notrump has two possible sources of tricks but opposite a stiff spade you might not be able to guess which suit to go for. If partner is void in spades unlucky. I hope they are playing Flannery so there is less chance of a double."

Try not to play two notrump and don't bid the same values twice.

## 5) IMPs Both Vulnerable. You, South, hold:

5/K2/K10987/Q10987

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
???			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Panelists</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2♦	100	8	112
3♦	80	2	29
2♠	70	1	21
4NT	50	0	2
3♣	50	2	1
2♣	40	0	5
Pass	20	0	1
2NT	20	0	5
1NT	20	0	1

How do you show a good passed hand with two possible strains? Cuebid! Bid 2♠. 2♠ shows one of three possible hands and promises a rebid. Four hearts and a minor, four hearts with spade stoppers or both minors. If you had just a one-suiter, you would jump in that suit. Over 2♠, partner bids a four-card heart suit if possible. Over partner's 3♥, your 4♦ will show both minors.

Eight experts bid 2♦ and hope to catch up later. Suppose its partner who has a big hand and bids 2♠. Now what? Will 4♣ do justice to this hand?

**ROMAN:** "2♦---This isn't going to end the auction, and jumping to 3♦, the value bid for my hand, makes it very difficult to get to clubs when we belong there."

**SHAW:** "2♦---I'd like to bid 3♦ on just playing strength but I will get a chance to bid my club suit later with a jump to 4♣ or 5♣ over 4♠. They have too many spades for the bidding to die here. Incidentally I think 4♠ should be for the minors but you should have a bit more."

Why wouldn't a passed-hand four notrump show both minors?

**LUBLIN:** "2♦---2♦ never ends the auction. Will bid clubs next. Hand is not good enough to jump as passed hand and take up space."

**WOOLSEY:** "2♦---When partner makes a takeout double, next hand passes, and I am unexpectedly short in the opening bidder's suit, this is an indication that partner's takeout double isn't going to be model shape. It is best to go slowly and give everybody a chance to tell what they have. If I do something else, the auction may get out of hand and I will not have an opportunity to show both of my suits conveniently."

**HOPKINS:** "2♦---I expect West to bid more

spades and I hope to compete by showing my club suit."

**PARKER:** "2♦---No sense in jumping when you are not sure what suit to play in. Where are the spades? It seems likely they will bid again and I can bid clubs. Partner may have a good hand and he can clarify if I keep the bidding low."

**SCHWARTZ:** "2♦---With stiff spade, its so unlikely it won't go all pass, so if partner doesn't have a classic double, want to give him a chance to bid out his hand. Would bid 2♠ if partner would understand 3♠ as minors over 3♥."

If cuebids show two suits and you don't have hearts, then you must have the minors.

**KING:** "2♦---I don't have enough to cuebid and I expect to get a chance to show my clubs before the auction is over."

Four experts jump. Since you are planning on bidding both suits, you should jump in diamonds and bid clubs later. Bidding

clubs first and then bidding diamonds shows longer clubs.

**ADAMS:** "3♦---I hope I get to bid clubs next. With all the spades out there, I will get the chance unless partner does something first. Not good enough for 2♠. 2♦ tempting, but loses when partner not involved in a high level. Need to show values, 2♦ does not do this."

**CAPPELLETTI:** "3♦---I have enough shape and spots to invite."

**ABUSHAKRA:** "3♣---And 4♦ after partner's 3♥."

**BERMAN:** "3♣---Just enough values for a jump but not enough for a cuebid. I choose clubs as partner can bid 3♦, equal- level conversion, with no club support and a minimum double. With more, partner can bid something else."

Cuebids after takeout doubles shows a good two-suiter which is what you have.

*Make every card count!*

## SOLVERS' SCORES

Hadi Abushakra	3NT	5♠	2♣	3NT	3♣	290
John Adams	3NT	3♠	3♣	3♠	3♦	440
Don Berman	Pass	3♠	3♣	3♠	3♣	430
Mike Cappelletti	3♥	4♣	3♣	3♠	3♦	390
Robbie Hopkins	3NT	3♠	3♣	3♠	2♦	460
Fred King	3NT	3♠	2♣	3♠	2♦	440
Glenn Lublin	Pass	3♠	3♣	3NT	2♦	450
Steve Parker	Pass	5♠	1♠	3♣	2♦	340
Steve Robinson	Pass	3NT	2♦	3♣	2♠	440
Jeff Roman	3NT	3♠	2♠	3♣	2♦	470
Alan Schwartz	Pass	3NT	3♣	3♥	2♦	450
Mark Shaw	3NT	3♠	3♣	4♠	2♦	400
Kit Woolsey	Pass	3♠	2♣	3♣	2♦	470

# WBL SOLVERS' PROBLEMS

September/October 2002

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

AK/K/10987/AKJ765

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

\*Inverted 10+

## 2) MPs, Vul, You, South hold:

J1075/A6/65/AKJ104

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♣	1♠	DBL	2♠
PASS	PASS	DBL*	PASS
?????			

\*Takeout

## 3) MPs, None Vul, You, South hold:

3/KQJ3/-/AKQ107654

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
????			

## 4) MPs, Both Vul, You, South hold:

-/8765/109765/Q543

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

## 5) MPs, Both Vul, You, South hold:

K42/J4/Q432/K1032

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

Return answers by September 2 to:

**Steve Robinson**

2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,

Arlington Va, 22206

robinswr@erols.com

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# 2002 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

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*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.

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

This list is up to date through Monday, June 17, 2002, including the Unit KOs to date but not including the Round Robin. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

## **Lovenberg**

1	120.35	Leo LaSota
2	104.64	Alfred Steinberg
3	82.77	Steve Robinson
4	74.01	Ellen Klosson
5	72.91	Earl Glickstein
6	69.84	Weizhong Bao
7	68.13	Alan Kleist
8	66.89	Fred King
9	66.63	Peter Boyd
10	63.85	Robert Klein
11	63.61	John Adams
12	63.21	Yi Zhong
13	61.10	Barbara Shaw
14	59.44	Eugene Kales
15	58.72	Donna Rogall
16	55.03	Mark Shaw
17	54.01	Ellen Cherniavsky
18	51.61	Hailong Ao
19	51.17	David Ruderman
20	47.63	Clyde Kruskal
21	46.16	Warren Kaufman
22	43.75	Kefu Xu
23	42.52	Robert Bell
24	39.45	Andrew Kaufman
25	39.29	Charleen Brand

## **Izzy Cohen**

1	63.21	Yi Zhong
2	54.01	Ellen Cherniavsky
3	51.61	Hailong Ao
4	39.45	Andrew Kaufman
5	38.75	John Gassenheimer
6	31.38	Jill Fisch
7	29.04	Tim Crank
8	28.50	William Colligan
9	28.25	Kitty Gottfried
10	28.01	Richard Ferrin
11	25.76	Robert Ellis
12	25.56	Janet Dence
13	24.59	Benjamin Stauss
14	23.82	William Hacker
15	23.77	Diane Walker

## **Tubbs**

1	28.01	Richard Ferrin
2	19.98	Charity Sack
3	19.47	Barry Anderson
4	18.87	Dennis Serpico
5	18.55	Michelle Cantave
6	18.22	David Hamilton
7	16.59	Carole Banks
8	16.51	Robert Wissman
9	15.11	Gregory Campbell
10	14.95	Edgar Mac Arthur

## **Woolridge**

1	18.22	David Hamilton
2	13.65	Timothy Stewart
3	8.01	Steven Sacks
4	7.23	David Epstein
5	5.30	Ellen Rosenthal
6	5.24	Julie Oethinger
7	5.24	Joan Donoghue
8	5.09	Gwendolyn Harllee
9	4.72	Diana Campillo
10	4.05	Azmat Ali

## **Machlin**

1	8.46	Marie Creisher
2	8.30	Jeanne Stenger
3	7.93	Charles Stenger
4	7.67	Charles Pan
5	7.67	James Rodgers
6	6.92	Rosemary Marks
7	6.76	Stephen Czecha
8	5.86	Alice Miller

# WBL UNIT GAME SCHEDULE

All Games held at *Christ the King Church*

July 18 & July 25 ..... CLOSED for Washington NABC  
 August 1 ..... Strata-Flighted Unit Championship  
 August 8 ..... Strata-Flighted Unit Championship  
 August 15 ..... Stratified NAP Qualifying  
 August 22 ..... Stratified Club Championship  
 August 29 ..... Strata-Flighted Unit Championship  
 September 5 ..... Strata-Flighted Unit Championship  
 September 12 ..... MBA Sectional Tournament at Clubs  
 September 19 ..... NVBA Sectional  
 September 26 ..... Strata-Flighted Unit Championship  
 October 3 ..... Club Appreciation BAM Teams  
 October 10 ..... WBL Sectional  
 October 17 ..... Strata-Flighted Club Appreciation Pairs

## Newcomer, Novice, and Intermediate

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

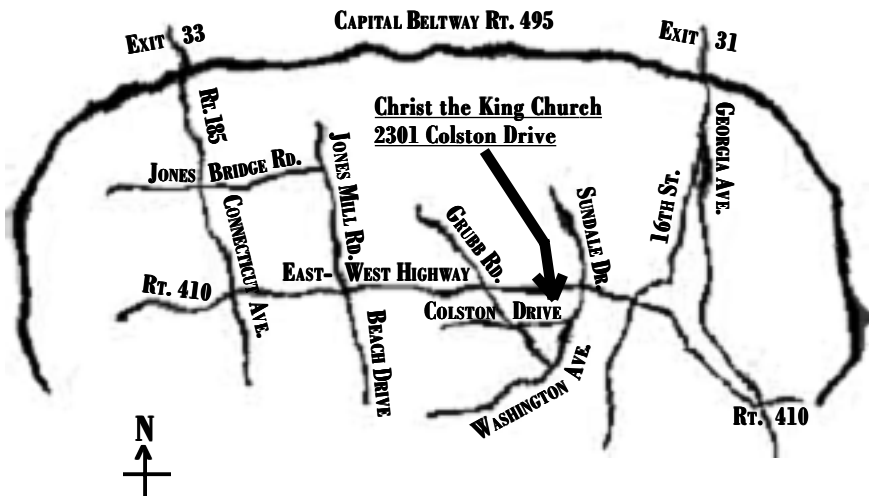
*Get there early for a Good Partner!*

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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## UNIT GAME WINNERS

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### APRIL 4, 2002

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**STAC**

76 Pairs

*William Cole & Earl Glickstein*

65.34%

**STRAT 0-200 PAIRS**

22 Pairs

*Dennis Serpico & Barry Anderson*

70.20%

---

### APRIL 18, 2002

---

**STRATA-FLIGHTED PAIRS**

36 Pairs

*John Gassenheimer &*

*Helene Bauman*

66.27%

**STRAT 0-200 PAIRS**

14 Pairs

*Joan Fitzpatrick & Gail Morgenweck*

58.33%

**B/C/D PAIRS**

34 Pairs

*Robert Henry & Kevin Barnes*

61.74%

---

### MAY 2, 2002

---

**ACBL Charity Game**

80 Pairs

*Hailong Ao & Weizhong Bao*

---

### MAY 9, 2002

---

**FLIGHT A/X BOARD-A-MATCH**

24 Teams

*Ellen Klosson, Ellen Cherniavsky,*

*William Cole & Peter Boyd*

60.42%

**FLT. B/C/D**

13 Teams

*John Glynn, M Cassandra*

*Smith, Carole Banks &*

*Richard Regardie*

64.58%

**STRAT 0-200 PAIRS**

16 Pairs

*Walter Lafferty & Mary Lafferty*

61.90%

---

### MAY 16, 2002

---

**FLIGHT A/X PAIRS**

52 Pairs

*David Fleischer & Patricia Parker*

**FLIGHT B/C/D PAIRS**

38 Pairs

*Martin Reed & Jack Geltman*

62.20%

**STRAT 0-200 PAIRS**

20 Pairs

*Fred Mobley & Frieda Joyce*

61.90%

---

**MAY 23, 2002**

---

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

**74 Pairs**

***Leo LaSota  
& Dan Kasture***

**67.42%**

**STRAT 0-200 PAIRS**

**18 Pairs**

***Walter Lafferty &  
Mary Lafferty***

**65.18%**

---

**JUNE 6, 2002**

---

**NAOP QUALIFYING**

**76 Pairs**

***Peter Boyd***

**&**

***William Cole***

**71.40%**

---

**MAY 30, 2002**

---

**FLIGHT A/X PAIRS**

**48 Pairs**

***Tim Crank &  
Millard Nachtwey***

**71.15%**

**B/C/D PAIRS**

**36 Pairs**

***Beta Nahapetian &  
Edwin Fuller Jr***

**61.74%**

**0-200 PAIRS**

**18 Pairs**

***Jan Zaal &  
Norma Fry***

**62.80%**

---

**JUNE 13, 2002**

---

**FLIGHT A/X**

**41 Pairs**

***Alan Kleist &  
Leo LaSota***

**68.06%**

**B/C/D PAIRS**

**34 Pairs**

***Barry James &  
Diane Jaworinsky***

**64.20%**

**STRAT 0-200 PAIRS**

**19 Pairs**

***Helene Ramo &  
Barry Smith***

**60.40%**

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# COMMITTEE ACTION XL

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## *What's the Harm, Part IV*

by Rich Colker, rcolker@worldnet.att.net

*This article continues the continuation in the May/June issue of the continuation in the Mar./Apr. issue of the discussion of points raised by Mr. Latto's letter which was published in the Jan./Feb. issue. — Ed.*

### **PENALTIES** **AND THE LAWS:**

Permit me to digress for a moment. As a general rule, penalties for flagrant actions based on UI are rarely imposed on inexperienced players or in lower-flighted games. Experienced Directors and Committees prefer to educate these players rather than penalize them. But once they are warned, if they make a habit of this sort of thing they may end up the exception who are penalized. Of course in home or social games all of this becomes moot, since then the goal is just to have fun and socialize. And while this is also a major objective of the ACBL (especially in club games), we should remember that bridge is also a competitive activity. In a purely social game the rules can be relaxed and winning made secondary. But in tournaments competition is of equal importance. Just as the more socially-oriented player has a right to complain if his opponents interfere with his fun and enjoyment of the game, so too the

more competitive player has the right to complain if he believes his opponents may have taken advantage of UI, whether it was done intentionally or not. Just as a negligent driver is responsible for any damage he creates, even if it was unintentional, so too the careless player who has UI available to him is responsible for his actions. The opponents can be damaged just as much by accident as by intent.

It strikes me that an UI situation is not so very different from playing "adjective bridge." Have you ever played? Each player is allowed to attach one adjective to each of his bids. So, for example, you could bid Two "forcing" hearts, or One "non-forcing" spade, or Three "ace-showing" clubs. You could bid Two "Jacoby" notrump, Two "Michaels" spades or Two "Drury" clubs. Would you ever have another bidding misunderstanding if you could play this way all the time? I suspect not. But what if, at your next duplicate game, your opponents began playing this way? Would you call the Director? Would you feel you were being taken advantage of? Well that's how many players feel when an opponent hesitates, fishes around in his bid box making it clear to his partner what his alternatives are, or makes a bid which takes advantage of his partner's Alert or answer to an



opponent's question. It's all illegal in a bridge tournament and protecting the competitive environment is important, even if some less-experienced players think that this is taking unfair advantage of them. Hesitating or forgetting your system and then recovering through mis-Alerts are just as unfair to more experienced players. Knowing the rules and playing by them is not taking unfair advantage, no matter how loudly and often some players claim it is.

In what other competitive activities is it illegal or unfair to know the rules and use them to your best advantage? When a defensive player jumps offside in football, the opposing quarterback tries to take advantage of it, even by risking an interception or fumble, knowing that he has a guaranteed penalty as a safety net. When a player with the ball is fouled in basketball, he will throw up a prayer of a shot knowing that if he miraculously hits it he gets a bonus foul shot. Playing by the rules and using them to your advantage is part of any competitive endeavor. Sure, you can play a "friendly" game in which strict rules are relaxed, but when you enter a bridge tournament you are entitled to play by the rules—the full rules. This is "touch move." Becoming a more experienced player involves not only learning to bid and play better but also learning how to play by the rules. *Alert!* *This does not mean I am advocating that players complain of a foul where none exists.* But asking for protection from damage when an

opponent, even an inexperienced one, may have profited from UI is a legitimate part of the game.

Still not convinced? Then try this. If it were legal, experienced players could create UI in far more subtle forms and take far better advantage of it than inexperienced players. If you make no attempts to curb the possible effects of UI, taking the Pollyanna view that everyone's actions are well-intended, the experts will dominate even more than you ever imagined and there will be nothing the weaker players will be able to do to combat it. But if you apply the laws strictly and uniformly, even though experienced players may have a "temporary" advantage, the less-experienced players will eventually learn what they must to catch up. Unlike becoming an expert, which not everyone can do, anyone can read the law book and learn how to play by the rules. Eventually the playing field will become level. In the mean time the less-experienced player can choose to play in "protected" events and the less cutthroat player can stick to the more social atmosphere of the club. But if you want to improve your game, if you want to play competitively, then you have to pay your dues and learn to play by the rules—the full rules.

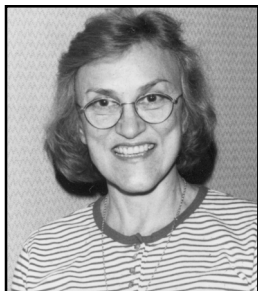
The preceding was an unpaid political announcement.

*...to be continued  
with Back to Alerting and UI  
in the September/October issue*

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# ALERTZZzzzz!!!!

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## *Part II: Doubles, Redoubles, and Passes*

by Clyde Kruskal

In the last issue of the WBL Bulletin (May/June), I described the new alert procedure. There were a couple of minor errors (pointed out by Richard Colker and Marvin Elster) that I would like to correct, and a couple of potential errors that I would like to discuss. Furthermore, Richard Colker felt that I should have emphasized the changes to the alert procedure *vis-a-vis* doubles; I agree and will remedy that here.

### **DOUBLES, REDOUBLES AND PASSES**

The new alert procedure reduces the number of alertable calls. A double, redouble, or pass is alertable only if it has a highly unusual or unexpected meaning. Negative inferences from passes are typically not alertable. The following are generally not alertable:

- Doubles that are takeout, are penalty, show general strength (given the context of the auction), or relate in an expected way to the suit doubled (ask for a lead of the suit or show a raise or honor).
- Redoubles that are for penalty, show values, or show or deny control in the suit redoubled.
- Passes that show weakness, show no desire to bid, or indicate that no suitably descriptive call is available.

As we will see below, there is sometimes a gray area where it is reasonable to alert and to not alert. I would tend to be conservative and alert, since these situations arise infrequently and there is no penalty for over-alerting. On the other hand, one should consider either choice (of alerting or not alerting) acceptable procedure. Do not assume you know the meaning of a call in such situations; if you care, ask.

### **Examples:**

A **double of a natural opening bid at the three level or below** is expected to be for takeout. If it is something else, it is alertable. In particular, power doubles, which can be off shape, or doubles that just show 13 HCPs are alertable.

Traditionally, **doubles of (natural) 4♠, 4♦, and 4♥ opening bids** are for takeout and doubles of higher-level opening bids are for penalty. If you have a different cutoff, perhaps you should alert. But at the four level and higher, whether you play takeout doubles or penalty doubles, a double has to basically be card showing. If you really need to know what an opponent's high-level double means, you should ask.

Originally, in **negative double** situations, negative doubles were alertable; more recently neither negative doubles nor penalty doubles were alertable; and now penalty doubles are alertable. Unfortunately, there is no traditional standard as to at what level such doubles are negative. Clearly doubles at the one and two

levels are expected to be negative, and probably even at the three level. At the four level and above doubles must be to some extent card showing. As a guide, I would alert penalty doubles at the three level and below.

**After a notrump opening bid, negative doubles and penalty doubles** are both fairly standard. Neither is alertable. After 1NT-(2♣) many pairs use double for Stayman. If 2♣ is artificial, the double is certainly alertable. Even if 2♣ is natural, so double behaves very much like a negative double, it is still conventional and therefore alertable (since it specifically asks for a major and opener is expected to rebid 2♦ on a doubleton).

**Responsive doubles** are less universally played. So, in responsive double situations, a double is not alertable whether it is responsive (and therefore takeout) or it is penalty. Of course, if a double has some other meaning, then it is alertable.

**Snapdragon doubles** are alertable since they show tolerance for partner's suit, and are therefore conventional. If you play an auction such as (1♣)-1♦-(1♠)-x as merely takeout showing hearts and may or may not have tolerance for partner's suit, then it is not alertable.

**Maximal overcall doubles** are a combination of takeout and penalty. Therefore they are not alertable.

**Support doubles and redoubles** are alertable. The raise promising four-card support and the pass denying three-card support are not alertable.

**Honor (or Rosenkrantz) doubles** are alertable since they are not for penalty or for takeout, do not show

general strength, and do not relate to the suit doubled. **Honor (or Rosenkrantz) redoubles** are not alertable, since they show control in the suit redoubled. The associated passes are not alertable.

**Forcing pass** auctions are not alertable. So after you pass and then pull partner's double to invite slam the bid is not alertable. Even if you reverse the meaning, as some pairs do, so that pass-and-pull is to play, the bid is not alertable (but you should post-alert it).

If the opponents sacrifice at a very high level against your slam auction where a grand slam is still a possibility, many pairs play that pass shows first round control of their suit and double denies it. Neither call is alertable. Even if, for some reason, you reverse the meanings neither call is alertable (but you should post-alert).

Some pairs play **negative lead directing doubles** where, if the opponents bid the pair's suit, a double says, "do not lead it" and a pass says "it is ok to lead it". These meanings are nonstandard and unexpected, so both the pass and double should be alerted.

Consider the auction (1NT)-2♦-(x) where 2♦ shows diamonds and an unspecified major, as in DONT. If a redouble now shows diamonds or shows a good hand it is not alertable, but if redouble asks for the major it is conventional and therefore alertable.

Consider the auction 2♣-(2♥), where 2♣ is strong and artificial and 2♥ is natural. Traditionally, a pass here by responder shows values and a double denies values. Both calls are now alertable.

## ERRATA

### AND POTENTIAL ERRATA

The following errata refer to my article in the May/June issue.

In the list of **announceable bids** (in Part III), the second and third items should have been a single item. This may have left the impression that there is some announcement after a natural notrump overcall or notrump rebid by opener; there is none. The only announcement for a notrump bid is the range after a natural 1NT opening. The actual text should have been:

- After a natural notrump opening, overcall, or rebid by opener, for any diamond bid that is a transfer to hearts or heart bid that is a transfer to spades, state “Transfer”

It is now the case that intermediate and strong opening two bids in diamonds, hearts, and spades are alertable, which will affect the few pairs that still play strong two bids. Weak and intermediate two bids in clubs are still alertable. Thus, the list of **natural bids that are alertable** should have included the following two items:

- Intermediate and strong natural opening two bids in diamonds, hearts, and spades
- Weak and intermediate opening two bids in clubs

One issue where I was slightly careless was Namyats. In order to avoid discussing the nuances and the fact that it is safer to over alert, I simply stated that opening 4♥ or 4♠ when playing Namyats is alertable. The Alert Procedure actually states that the following must be alerted “4♥,♠ openings which are natural but are

weaker than might be expected because the partnership has some other method (an example is the Namyats convention) for showing a good 4♥,♠ opening.” So you should only alert if your 4♥ and 4♠ opening bids have a different range than those bids for pairs not playing Namyats; I would alert in any case.

### Esoterica

The following is some esoteric material that possibly only I care about, but for full accuracy I think it should be included. The Alert Procedure document states “Opener’s rebid of two of a minor over partner’s forcing or semi-forcing notrump response to a major does not require an Alert if it shows three or more of the suit bid (4-5-2-2 does not require an Alert as long as responder expects three or more cards in the minor).” The alert chart classifies as not alertable the more general “Two-of-a-minor after a forcing or semi-forcing 1NT response.” As long as responder *expects* three or more cards for opener’s minor-suit rebid it is not alertable.

What does it mean to *expect* three or more cards? I estimate that (playing standard forcing notrumps) after 1♥-1NT-2♣, opener has a doubleton club less than 15% of the time. This seems like a reasonable cutoff. In some versions of BART, for example, opener is required to have four diamonds to rebid 2♦ after 1♠-1NT; so opener sometimes rebids 2♣ on a doubleton, which I estimate occurs approximately 20% of the time. This is a high enough percentage that it should probability be alerted.

### Acknowledgements:

I especially thank Richard Colker, Chip Martel, and Sol Weinstein for tolerating long conversations with me. I also thank Rae Dethlefsen, Kathy Kruskal, and Millard Nachtway for their help.

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# BRIDGEATSCHOOLS, INC.

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*by Beth Maloney-Refaie, Director*  
**Bridgeatschools@aol.com**

**BridgeAtSchools, Inc.** is grateful and appreciative for the generous donation the Washington Bridge League gave us in order to continue our mission in the Maryland/ Washington area.

## **Duplicate bridge is in serious trouble!**

- 60% of ACBL members are over 65
- 3-4 are dying **daily**, and this trend will increase and persist for 30+ years
- Membership will drop by 50% ... unless we make a serious investment in our youth

## **Solution cannot rely solely on volunteer bridge teachers**

- Most volunteers over 65, fewer and fewer are available, and volunteers get burned out
- Programs cease when the volunteer is no longer able to run program
- School administration does not see the value bridge has in improving children's math, critical thinking, and social skills

## **Kids are not energized by the game**

- Kids aren't learning the game at home
- Current bridge programs do not involve kids in live competitions against other schools
- Kids are not exposed to the nurturing and support from bridge community

*We have the power to change this!*

## **BRIDGEATSCHOOLS HAS FOUND A WINNING LINE OF PLAY**

- A new curriculum will enable school personnel to teach bridge to 3rd-8th graders

## **2 Local Schools Who Have Signed on to Participate are:**

---

**JEFFERSON  
MONTESORRI**

---

*Gaithersburg, MD*

**and**

---

**ROBERTO CLEMENTE**

---

*Germantown, MD*

- School personnel will have the opportunity to take continuing education classes to learn to teach bridge
- National educational standards and learning outcomes are engineered into new cur-

riculum to increase its appeal to school administrations and its effectiveness in boosting grades.

- Start-up programs will research and measure how much bridge improves test scores, thus justifying its place at school
- Inter-school competitions hosted at sanctioned tournament sites will increase excitement and involvement among students
- Special events will be held involving mentors and the bridge community

will quantify the impact bridge has on a variety of educational standards – namely, math, critical thinking, and social skills.

In order to continue with our mission we still need support from corporations, grant writing and from individuals like you who are interested in promoting and sustaining the game of bridge.

We need your monetary support to conduct research that we will use to secure participation and endorsement, develop cutting edge curriculum and start pilot programs and we need your volunteer support to serve as a mentor to a teacher in a school or to a child at a tournament.

*Each of these schools will be participating in a pilot program study in September to show the benefits of bridge on the education of youth. As part of the program, they will be attending local WBL/MBA Sectionals and Regionals.*

With your support, you will not only be ensuring that the game of bridge continues for generations to come but you will be solving one of our many societal problems by improving education, delivering quality after-school programs, and reinforcing youth's self-image and confidence through the game of bridge. To those like yourself who love the game and want to see it have a viable future in our country, we believe that this is the only approach that can propagate and sustain new membership growth needed to offset the dramatic losses that are imminent.

If you would like to volunteer please contact us. In addition, individual contributions can be sent to our Treasurer, **Barbara Heller**, at 1442

Winston Place, Decatur, GA 30033.

**BridgeAtSchools, Inc.**

PO Box 9885,

Wilmington, DE 19809

[www.bridgeatschools@aol.com](mailto:www.bridgeatschools@aol.com)

302-765-9799

- Bridge community will have the opportunity to mentor kids and their families in the game

We have begun recruiting elementary and middle schools in the WBL area to participate in research pilot studies in which we



# NLM MASTER POINTERS

written and compiled by I/N Editor, Leslie Shafer

## UNBLOCKING

You're probably already aware of some basic unblocking plays such as:

(Contract: 3NT)

Partner leads: You have:

♣ Q ? ? ?      ♣ K 4

You should overtake the Queen with the King and lead back the four. If you play low and it knocks out the declarer's ♣A, won't the lead be trapped on your side next time the suit is led, instead of in partner's hand, where it should be?

Partner leads: You have:

♣ K ? ? ?      ♣ A 4

You should overtake and lead back the ♣4. Remember that by his lead (against notrump) Partner usually has the ♣Q and ♣J too. Get out of partner's way!

How do we know when to unblock? Ask yourself the following question:

**"If I play low,  
will the lead get trapped  
on my side the next time  
this suit is played?"**

If the answer is yes, then you should unblock and get out of partner's way. Remember, his "top of a sequence" lead should seem like a freight train coming down the track. Get out of the way or you'll get run over!

Note that unblocking is very similar to the winning "high card from the short side first" concept that a declarer uses all the time. If you were the declarer with:

Dummy

♣ K Q J 7

Declarer

♣ A 2

Wouldn't you win the ♣A first, then lead the ♣2 over to the dummy? Well, when the defenders win "high card from the short side first" it is actually called "unblocking". Simple as that.

## **Drop It!**

However, some unblocking plays are not so obvious. Sometimes you actually have to use a little extra thought to come to the same conclusion. Look at the following hand, taken from a recent Tuesday night game at the WBC.

Vul: All

Dealer: East

Opening Lead: ♦ K

North

♠ Q 10 8 5

♥ A J

♦ 7 5

♣ 8 7 4 3 2

West

♠ J 6 3

♥ 10 5 3

♦ K Q 10 8 6 3

♣ 6

East

♠ K 9 2

♥ K 9 7 6 4 2

♦ 4

♣ K 10 9

South

♠ A 7 4

♥ Q 8

♦ A J 9 2

♣ A Q J 5

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
		Pass(1)	1♦(2)
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT(3)
Pass	3NT(4)	All Pass	

(1) East's suit is not good enough for a vulnerable weak 2♥ opener.

(2) South's hand is too strong to open a 15-17 1NT, so she starts with 1♦ instead.



This silences West, who was thinking about a diamond preempt.

(3) This shows a hand too strong to open 1NT. Playing a 15-17 opening NT, this would show 18-19 HCP. Note that with a 20-21 HCP balanced hand you would usually open 2NT.

(4) With 7 HCP plus one distribution point (the long club), North bids game. 8+18 (or 19) = 26 (or 27).

Against South's 3NT contract, West led the ♦K, which won the trick. It is important to watch your partner's carding, especially on the opening lead. It will help guide you to a winning defense. Partner's ♦4 does not look encouraging especially when declarer plays the ♦2 and you are pretty certain that South would love for you to continue with your ♦Q. He would then win his ♦A, promoting his ♦J. This is called a "*Bath Coup*." "The play dates from the days of whist, and is presumably named after the English watering place of Bath." (*The Encyclopedia of Bridge*)

West, unless you'd like to be given this bath by the opponents, you must find a good switch. The opponents bid clubs and you can see your spade honor melt under the dummy's spades. That brings us to hearts. With three or four to an honor, you should lead low, so you switch to the ♥3. Dummy sticks in the ♥J and partner wins the ♥K (two honors in one trick - your ♥10 is setting up quickly!). Partner returns a low heart, declarer dropping the ♥Q under the dummy's ♥A! Your ♥10 has now set up in only two tricks - wooohooo!

Now before you start tuning the instruments for your own parade, please tell me — where are all the missing hearts? Only eight cards in the suit have been played. Why would the declarer crash his ♥Q on dummy's ♥A if he had been able to play something else? Your partner must have four hearts headed by the nine spot left. Get that big ♥10 out of the way of your partner's

long heart suit. You need to keep the ♥5 to play under partner's ♥9. So on the second heart trick, jettison your ♥10! I feel your pain, really I do. I hate throwing away my winners, too. Such a tragedy, no?

Declarer finesses once in clubs, then plays the ♣A, hoping the King drops. On the third club, partner gets in with his ♣K, and runs FOUR heart tricks, mumbling something about tuning some instruments when he gets done. Your side got one diamond, five hearts and a club (seven tricks) to set 3NT for +300. And all because you threw away your good ♥10. It is very painful to give up a winning trick in your hand, but if you get three extra tricks back because of it - why not? It only hurts for a moment, so get over it.

Just because you now know about the Bath Coup doesn't mean you must always use it. Every time I teach you something, I have to turn around and teach you when NOT to do it. What if on this hand South had opened a club and West had made a preemptive jump to 2♦ (showing a six card suit). Knowing six diamonds are on his left, and seeing six more between North and South, the declarer would know that East has no more than one diamond in his hand. Therefore, even if East gains the lead later, will never be able to return West's suit. Declarer would NOT necessarily want to utilize the Bath Coup if West preempts in diamonds.

## **NAP49ER PAIR EVENT** **IN SEPTEMBER**

If you have less than 50 masterpoints, you will be eligible to compete in this event and possibly win bridge bucks! Get your partners ready. September will be here before you know it and you will want to compete in this event. ***All clubs and managers, please send me your dates for holding these events at your club!***

## **WORLD'S BIGGEST BRIDGE LESSON!**

**Date:** July 20, 2002 at 10:00 AM -  
12 Noon

**Place:** Marriott Mark Wardman Hotel  
(Summer NABC Site,) Wash-  
ington, DC

You just HAVE to come to this event at this Summer's NABC!!! Ron Kral of Virginia has been organizing this event. Four different teachers will be giving three different lessons each for a total of 12 topics you can choose from. Each topic will range about 20-30 minutes. At the end of that lesson, you have a choice of which topic you next want to attend. Four different topics all being presented simultaneously. And the price is right also – FREE!!!! Here is the schedule:

### **MORE SPECIAL I/N EVENTS AT THE NATIONALS**

There are also other free lectures before every afternoon and evening I/N session. Please pick up a flyer for speaker details at your local club. Local teachers Leslie Shafer and Mary Jane Von Moss are scheduled as well as other celebrity speakers such as Larry Cohen, Barbara Seagram, Harry Lampert, Jerry Helms, Audrey Grant, Zeke Jabbour and Max Hardy to name just a few.

There are special days when all 0-5 players play for FREE, special hospitality days (that means food and more food), special registration gifts, door prizes, and lots and lots of fun. Honestly, if you don't go bungee jumping or skydiving for your thrills, then this is the next best thing. What excitement! What fun! It only comes around this area once every 10 years. Some of you might be thinking - "Well, I'll just wait for the next one." As I told one of my classes - "You'd better go to this one - you'll be dead by the time it comes this way again."

## **WORLD'S BIGGEST BRIDGE LESSON! SCHEDULE**

### **10:15 - 11:40 AM**

Ron Kral will present Easy-  
bridge! 1 (For beginners)

### **10:00 - 10:15 AM**

Coffee and Donuts

### **10:15 AM**

- ♣ Room A - Leslie Shafer (Cross-  
Ruffing and When Not To)
- ♦ Room B - Sam McMillan (Open  
First, Open Often)
- ♥ Room C - Pat Spooner (Cue-bids)
- ♠ Room D - Steve Forsythe (Know  
Your Objective)

### **10:45 AM**

- ♣ Room A - Leslie Shafer (Bidding  
with No Points!)
- ♦ Room B - Sam McMillan (Accept  
Your Limits - 2 Types of Limit  
Raises)
- ♥ Room C - Pat Spooner (Transfers)
- ♠ Room D - Steve Forsythe (Using the  
Principles of Mass and Eco-  
nomy of Force at the Bridge  
Table)

### **11:15 AM**

- ♣ Room A - Leslie Shafer (Reverses)
- ♦ Room B - Sam McMillan (Flex Your  
Muscles - Alternatives to  
Blackwood)
- ♥ Room C - Pat Spooner (Overcalls)
- ♠ Room D - Steve Forsythe (Errol  
Flynn Bridge - Seize the Ini-  
tiative!)

### **11:45 AM**

Mary Jane Von Moss presents  
her famous "Bridge Rap" and  
Door Prizes will be given away  
(you must be present to win)

The metro is right on the corner of the hotel grounds. You have no excuse for not coming and having a marvelous time. What's that? You have no partner? PARTNERS ARE GUARANTEED!!! Just show up and all you need to bring is a good attitude and be prepared to have a great time. Party on!!

**Leslie Shafer** is the editor of **"Bridge Students 'R Us."** A national bridge newsletter specifically for Intermediate and Novice players, it is receiving rave reviews! Started in January 2001, hundreds of subscribers in its first year attest 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](http://www.bridgeteacher.com) and her email address is [slamhand@erols.com](mailto:slamhand@erols.com)

## **STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS**

*As of June 1, 2002*

### **Junior Masters (5 Masterpoints)**

Herbert Kaufman   Gail Morgenweck  
William Peterson   Jane Smith

### **Club Masters (20 Masterpoints)**

Michael Collier   Gwendolyn Harlee

### **Sectional Masters (50 Masterpoints)**

Thavendran Arulnandhy  
Joy Bloomfield   Lois Brock  
Robert Bronston   Rose Hadidian  
Julie Katzman   Paul Siefing  
Adele Waggaman

### **Regional Masters (100 Masterpoints)**

Madeline Delahan   Marian Johnson

### **NABC Masters (200 Masterpoints)**

Howard Bender   Sandra Forsythe  
David Harris   Mary Ann Moskowitz

## **SHUTTERBUG NEEDED**

The WBL is looking for a photographer or team of photographers. We need someone who is available to take winners' pictures at sectionals and at other special events. The pics will be published in this bulletin.

***Earn free plays  
and contribute your talents to our league!***

Contact the Editor, Donna Rogall at:  
(301) 421-9615  
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[drogall@erols.com](mailto:drogall@erols.com)

# Grandmaster Pointers

written by Mary Syker

## THE QUESTION ...

One question I am frequently asked by my students is,

**“Can you teach us how to psych?”**

They then wait with rapture in their faces for me to solve all of their bridge woes, find a cure for losing intra-finesses, and bring peace to the Middle East.

“Psyching is easy,” I reply, “just figure out what bid *I* would make then reach into your bid-box and put *any* other bid on the table.”

“But, but, ... how do I know the psych will be successful?”

“Oh, you want to be able to make good psychs? That’s another matter entirely...” As Steve Robinson says, “you should only make good psychs.” If asked what exactly a good psych is, Stevie replies, “Any psych that works is a good psych!”

Speaking of good psychs, a good bridge column should contain a relevant joke: Albert Einstein goes to heaven and starts wandering around. He meets a young woman with an IQ of 135. “Have you read my latest paper on relativity?” he asks. Later he bumps into a young man with an IQ of 100. “What do you think of the Yankees? Did you enjoy last year’s world series?” A while later he meets a young man with an IQ of 80. “You hold AKxxx, Qxx, xxx, Ax. The bidding goes ...”

## HOW TO PSYCH

Here is an example of a traditional psych from Fred Karpin’s classic book *Psychological Strategy in Contract Bridge, The Techniques of Deception and Harassment in Bidding and Play*.

Dlr: West

Vul: N/S

North:

♠ 2  
♥ 10 8 6 2  
♦ 10 6 5 4 2  
♣ K J 4

West:

♠ K J 7  
♥ A J 9 4 3  
♦ 9 7  
♣ 10 9 6

East:

♠ Q 9 8 4 3  
♥ K Q 7 5  
♦ 8 3  
♣ 8 2

South:

♠ A T 6 5  
♥ —  
♦ A K Q J  
♣ A Q 7 5 3

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♥
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Third seat, white vs. red, the great Howard Schenken opens 1♠ with only 7 HCPs. The bidding continues pass, 2♥ by partner. Now what? Things are going well: He has found a nine-card heart fit, so continues the psych by bidding 2♠. It goes dbl, pass, pass. The opponents are on the ropes. Schenken bids 2NT. It goes dbl, pass, pass. Time to retreat to the known fit by bidding 3♥. South overcalls 3♠ and West passes. North, who has little in values and very few spades, thinks that South has a great hand with a spade stack. (He is half right.) Voila. The opponents play 3♠ in your eight-card-fit when they are cold for slam in diamonds.

These types of psychs, where you are third seat, white vs. red, and have a bad hand, are ok. They used to work in the old days and they still work sometimes today, but modern players are expecting it. Let me show you a hand my favorite partner Mudstuffing and I played recently. I held, fourth seat, red vs. white,

♠ A J 5 3  
♥ K 9 4  
♦ Q J 6 3  
♣ K 8

The auction went Pass-Pass-1♦ to me. An obvious psych. Mudstuffing and I play Fishbein over psychs (so double is penalty and the next suit up, in this case hearts, is takeout); if you don't play this I suggest you add it to your arsenal. I made a penalty double. The opponents had nowhere to run and were down 500 when we only had a part score.

The modern approach is to psych with a good hand. Here's an example where a local expert, John Adams, playing in the annual Life Master/Non-Life Master Unit Game, psychs in first seat.

Dlr: South  
Vul: N/S

North:

♠ A Q J 10 x  
♥ x x x x  
♦ x x  
♣ Q x

West:

♠ —  
♥ K Q 10 9 x x  
♦ x x  
♣ J x x x x

East:

♠ x x x x x x  
♥ —  
♦ x x  
♣ A K x x x

South:

♠ K x  
♥ A J x  
♦ A K Q J 10 x x  
♣ x

SOUTH  
*Adams*

1♣  
6NT

WEST

2♥  
Pass

NORTH

2♠  
Pass

EAST

Pass  
Pass

With a very good hand, a singleton club, and a running diamond suit, Adams opens 1♣ in first seat. West preempts 2♥, partner bids 2♠, and East passes. If partner has the ace of spades and the spade suit behaves, South is looking at 13 tricks in notrump without a club lead (five spades, ace of hearts, and seven diamonds). Even if partner does not have the ace of spades, or Adams cannot quite pick up the whole suit, the opponents may not find the best defense. So he bids 6NT. West makes the natural king of hearts lead, and South claims 13 tricks. Notice that the seemingly better contract of 6♦ will likely go down. In fact, on the natural king of hearts lead (or a club lead), the opponents can crossruff the hand and take the ace of clubs for down four.

There is a hypermodern approach where you psych with a good hand, but understate your values. The following hand was played at the world championship Bermuda Bowl by two of the top teams. The psyching team was not desperate; they were winning the match at the time and went on to win it handily. If you are not familiar with this style you might think I am making this up — I'm not. This is how top players bid these days.

You hold first seat red vs. red

♠ Q J 7 3  
♥ J 10 3  
♦ A Q 4  
♣ K Q 4

A measly 15 HCP. Now is a good time to pass, and see how the auction develops. World champion Marek Szymanowski did, knowing exactly what he was holding. Partner opens 1♠. Back to you. Now what? You expect to make 4♠, and slam is a possibility. How do you set the strain and investigate slam. Drury? No. If partner jumps to game you will not know what to do. Pass is much better. If the opponents compete now, you will have a good idea of where the cards are placed, making slam a much better proposition. As it happens, it gets passed out. Partner makes 12 tricks for plus 230. Why is this so good?

Partner holds:

♠ A K 10 4 2  
♥ K Q 9 5 2  
♦ J 9  
♣ 5

At the other table the opponents holding your cards were not well versed in these hypermodern methods. They opened your hand, used Blackwood to investigate slam, and ended up in 5♠. This went down one on a heart ruff. Plus 100. That's 8 well-earned IMPs. Good job.

In summary, we have seen examples of classic, modern, and hypermodern psychs. This is a mere taste of this fascinating topic. Next column I will cover pseudo-psychs.

*[Editor's note: Incredible! A last minute investigation revealed that there is more to that last hand. It occurred during the final round*

*of the round robin phase of the 1981 Bermuda Bowl. The teams were split into two leagues; the top four teams in each league would make it into an eight-team knockout to determine the world champion. Szymanowski and his team were trying to lose the match in order to drop from 3rd to 4th place, which would enable them to start the finals by playing what they felt was the weaker of the top two finishers in the other league. Despite their efforts on this and many other hands, they failed to lose the match. Perhaps Ms. Syker did not fully understand the situation.*

*At press time, the accuracy of the two quotes attributed to Steve Robinson remain unconfirmed. Ms. Syker is not responding to e-mails, nor did she leave any other form of contact. If anyone out there knows her personally, please ask her to check in. We are beginning to worry that she may be in some way incapacitated.]*

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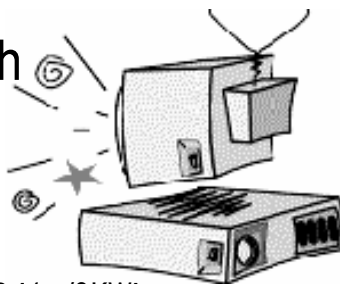
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