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See how on page 3 Would you rather be reading this in print? Details on page 3

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE'S

Non Life Master Sectional

*is a tournament for
Non Life Masters only!
(with < 500 masterpoints)*

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2015

(see page 5 for the full tournament schedule)

New Stars Needed

We want you to be the next

NLM Tournament Chair
(No experience necessary!)

—OR—

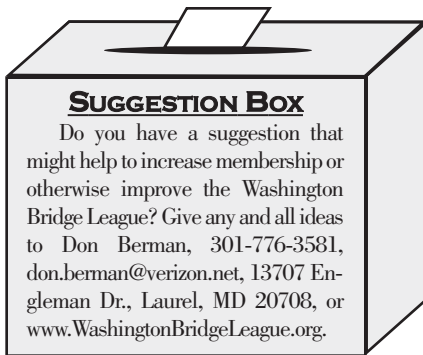
Membership Secretary Assistant

(see page 2)

Go directly to page 3 Would you rather be reading this in print? Answers on page 3

Would you rather be reading this in print?

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SUGGESTION BOX

Do you have a suggestion that might help to increase membership or otherwise improve the Washington Bridge League? Give any and all ideas to Don Berman, 301-776-3581, don.berman@verizon.net, 13707 Engleman Dr., Laurel, MD 20708, or www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

WBL OMBUDSMAN

Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Adrienne Kuehneman and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential. Information should be provided in writing and may be handed to her at any game, or mailed to her at 6333 Tone Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817-5811.

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♦♦♦♦ ~~~~~ ♦♦♦♦

DEADLINE: AUGUST 17, 2015

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPT/OCT 2015 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)

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

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

WBL WEBSITE: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org DISTRICT 6 SITE: www.districtsix.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Ellen Cherniavsky
eachernia@yahoo.com

I am privileged to convey wonderful news about our sectional site starting in January 2016. We can once again play at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center. As you may recall, this location features excellent playing conditions including great lighting and ample parking. Many thanks to Bill Cole for his extended diplomatic efforts on the WBL's behalf to get us back there.

Starting in July, the WBL has joined The Common Game. This means for example that we play the same hands as those in the Thursday night game in Northern Virginia, and that expert commentary on some of the hands may be available. See TheCommonGame.com for more information.

Did You Know?

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

Join us often and spread the word!

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

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

www.rockvilledbc.com

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

Locations:

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

HELP WANTED! NON-LIFE MASTER TOURNAMENT CHAIR

I regret to have to announce that Julie Marquette is retiring as NLM Tournament Chairman after the September sectional. Julie's enthusiasm and outstanding organizational skills have made these tournaments a resounding success, and she will be sorely missed. In seeking her replacement, a NLM player would be preferred. No experience is necessary, and Julie has generously offered to train her successor. Please contact me at eachernia@yahoo.com or 301-649-1350 if you might be interested in the job, or come to the NLM sectional and she will be happy to show you how it is run.

HELP WANTED! MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ASSISTANT

The WBL is looking for an assistant to Frances Burke, our WBL Membership Secretary since 1987! The main thing she does is send letters to new members, plus send the occasional get well or sympathy card. She also prepares the ballots for the elections, prepares a list of eligible voters, and sends the unit a list of new life masters for the annual recognition party.

Please contact Rose Berman if you're interested in helping at 301-776-3581 or Rose.Berman@verizon.net.

WBL BULLETIN & WBL E-NEWS

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

Starting this year, the WBL Bulletin has ceased free mail distribution. The bulletin will continue to be available free online through our website: washingtonbridgeleague.org. You can be notified when the new issue is available online if we have your email address—see below.

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

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

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

◆ We are establishing a **WBL Unit Membership Email Database**.

The emailings will be used for occasional bridge news only.

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

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

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

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

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- Divorce Tax Issues/Planning
- Nonprofit Organization Accounting & Income Taxes
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WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Geoffrey B Baker, Kathryn D Baker, Mrs Penny B Conaway, Ms Sherry Floyd, Ms Clare M Glynn, Mrs Marjorie A Goode, Ms Joan Goodin, Boyden C Gray, Dr Karen J Ivers, Marianne Keler, Kitty Lilly, Mrs Diana Molineaux, Mr Theodore E Ravas, Herbert A Rosenthal, and Ms Meg VanDeWeghe.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mrs Patricia M Dawson, Janet Pomerantz, Pat T Tyler, and Syed R Zamir.**

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

—CLUB NEWS—

LAUREL BRIDGE CLUB

As of August 1, the Laurel Bridge Club began holding one game per week on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. The game will be held next door to the previous location, look for signs on the door. These changes are the result of the sale of the property. Please contact Priscilla Krueger (301.490.5384) or Rose Berman (301.776.3581) with any questions. Check the web site at laurelbridge.org, or the club manager Priscilla Krueger <pj.krueger@verizon.net>.

...continued on p. 7

WBL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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

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

Adam Gann is our new WBL bridge-in-schools coordinator. Adam has invited approximately a dozen schools (both middle and high school) to participate in the schools program starting this fall. The WBL is now looking for bridge players who would be interested in teaching in these school programs. Teachers will teach a uniform curriculum, and receive training using ACBL materials designed for first-time learners. Time commitments for bridge teachers (following training) would likely be a couple of hours per week over the course of a school semester. A modest stipend for teachers may be available from the ACBL. If you are interested in teaching (or otherwise participating) in the bridge-in-schools program, please contact Adam at adamgann@gmail.com.

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

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

Unit 147 Washington Bridge League Non Life Master Sectional

Saturday: **NEWPORT MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**
11311 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, MD 20895

Maryland Hospitality

Lunch & refreshments included Saturday!

Play for Silver!

NLMs with fewer than 500 MPs

Thursday, September 10: OHR KODESH: 8300 Meadowbrook Ln., Silver Spring, MD

NLM StrataFlighted Pairs (NLM<500/200/100 and separate 20/10/5) 7:30 pm

Friday, September 11: ROCKVILLE DBC: 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD

NLM Stratified Pairs (500/100/20)11:45 am

Saturday, September 12: Rest of tournament at: NEWPORT MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Free ½ hour lesson before each game today, by Leslie Shafer, ACBL Columnist!

NLM StrataFlighted Pairs (500/200/100 and separate 50/20/10) ..10:30 am

NLM StrataFlighted Pairs (500/200/100 and separate 50/20/10) ...3:00 pm

—All events are stratified by average masterpoints, but no individual's masterpoint total may exceed the event's upper limit. Strata may be adjusted according to attendance.—

TOURNAMENT CHAIRS:

Leslie Shafer & Julie Marquette, 301-642-9197, jmarq3428@yahoo.com

PARTNERSHIPS: **Jill Benson**, bensonjkd@aol.com

DIRECTIONS to Newport Mill Middle School: Take the Beltway (I-495) to the Georgia Ave exit (Exit 31A, MD 97) North (towards Wheaton). Go 1.6 miles then bear left onto Viers Mill Rd. Go 1.0 miles then turn left onto Newport Mill Rd. Go 1/4 mile to school on left.

OCTOBER 8-11, 2015



85th Annual D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

at the
KENSINGTON TOWN HALL/ARMORY
3710 Mitchell St, Kensington, MD ~ (except where noted)

(Stratification by avg. masterpoints of the team or pair.
—No individual may exceed the event's upper limit.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

- ♣ StrataFlighted Open (unlim/2000) or 1000/500/300 Pairs11:15 am
Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine)
St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville NO ENTRY TILL 11AM
- ♦ StrataFlighted Open Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D Separate 2000/1000/500) (both sites); Stratified NLM Pairs (NLM/100/50) & 0-20 Pairs (Kensington Armory only); Stratified 199er Swiss Teams (Beth El only)
Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria7:00pm
Kensington Town Hall/Armory7:30pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- ♣ *StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm
- ♦ **Stratified Triple Nickel Swiss Teams** (unlim/2000/750) ... **Post-Game Party!** 7:15pm
—5 rounds, 5 boards a round, 5 minutes a board. **with beer, wine & desserts**
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions)10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:15pm

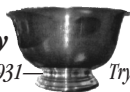
Win upgraded (more) masterpoints today!

\$1 additional fee supports Grass Roots events.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

- ♣ *StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) (single sessions) 10:00am, 3:00pm
- ♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 10:00am, 3:00pm
- ♥ **Machlin Sportsmanship Award** Presentation & **Panel Show**between sessions

♠ Eynon Trophy



First awarded in 1931—Try to add your name to the famous names inscribed here!

Bracketed Teams, 2 session playthru w/break—**lunch available for purchase** 11:00am & 3:00pm

Check out this format! Each bracket of eight teams (by average masterpoints) plays all of the other teams in its bracket! The top bracket will hold an unlimited number of teams and will play a Swiss format. Your team may choose to play up—but only into the top bracket (which awards the trophy).

- ♣ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions)11:00am, 3:00pm

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

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

Hospitality includes snacks, drinks, & **Friday lunch & evening party**. Sunday lunch available for purchase.
Chair: Steve Schatzow, 202-332-3729, sschatzow@his.com. **Volunteer Coordinator: Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com; **Hospitality Chair: Mike Zane**, 301-653-1215, Mikezane@msn.com;
Partnerships: Barbara Doran, 301-608-0347, barb.doran@verizon.net, **Online Partnership Desk** available.

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

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

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 4...

2015 UNIT KO WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2015 winners of the
WBL Unit Knockout!

Flight A

**1 Monique Smith - Merril Hirsh
- Ronald Zucker - Michael Richey**

2 Brad Theurer - Richard Wegman - Fred King - David Ruderman - Lyle Poe Jr - Barry Bragin

3/4 Clyde Kruskal - Donna Rogall - Mark Chen - Hal Hindman

3/4 Linda Marshall - Steven Schatzow - Alan Tenenbaum - Andrew Gofreed

Flight B

1 John McCormick - Shiang Chen - David Bort - Walter Mitnick

2 Robert Schwab - Rex Settle - Jay Weinstein - Anne Derbes

Flight C

1 Terry Klein - Margaret Cooke - Myron Goldstein - Peter Isard

2 Shala Panbechi - Mahmoud Katirai - Ted Van Dyke - Franny Van Dyke

3/4 Bruce Reynolds - Emily Volz - Jeff Frank - Linda Meade

3/4 Jim Rubin - Cheri Hayes - Shaye Hester - Ferit Yegenoglu

**2015-16 NAP: GOLD POINTS!
RED POINTS! GREEN POINTS! 4
PAIRS QUALIFY IN THE 0-2500
AND NLM! (3 IN THE OPEN)**

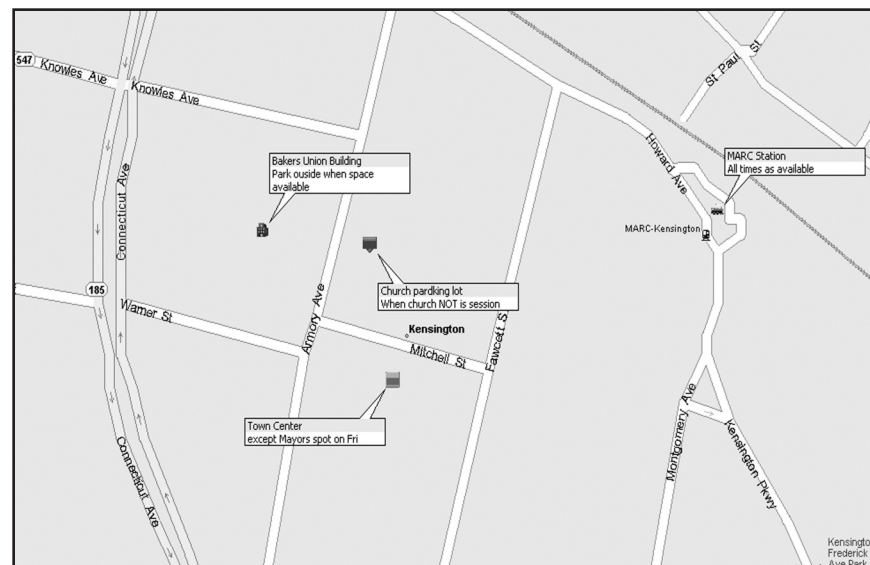
**~ SPLIT SITE FINALS FOR THE
0-2500 AND NLM! ~**

There's still time to qualify for the **North American Pairs**, a North American Championship that begins in your club and concludes at the Spring 2016 NABC in Reno, NV. Come out and play in a local club qualifier. You've got to play to win!

Club qualifying for the 2015-2016 event

...continued on p. 24

PARKING MAP FOR KENSINGTON





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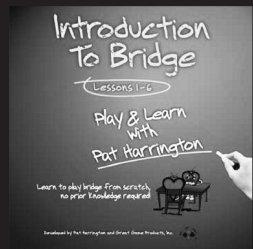
Comprehensive, easiest to use bridge game available. Download and CD available

Bridge Baron 25 is now available for iPad, iPhone and Android devices. ** features may vary

Windows: XP / Vista / 7 / 8 (English, Francais,

Deutsch) **TO USE ONLINE PLAY:** Must have Windows XP (SP3) or later.

Macintosh: OS 10.7 and later, Mac OS Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Lion, Maverick (English, Francais, Deutsch)

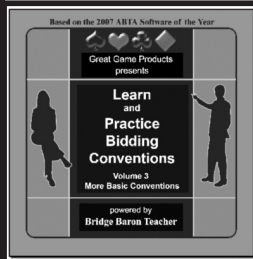


Introduction to Bridge — Play & Learn with Pat Harrington \$34.95

Available on CD-Rom for Windows 2000/XP/Vista/7/8 (English Only)

- Teaches both bidding and play • Paced appropriately for beginners • Lessons 1-3 teach the mechanics, trick taking, and provide the background for

bidding • Lessons 4-6 teach opening bids and their responses • Quizzes to reinforce your understanding • Provides an extensive glossary and reference section • Includes 38 carefully crafted instructional deals, and 92 BONUS practice hands • Presented in an easy-to-use, interactive format



Learn and Practice Bidding Conventions \$29.95

Available on CD-Rom for Windows 2000/XP/Vista/7/8 (English only)

- Learn Conventions allows you to practice each convention in Bridge Baron. LPBC teaches you six conventions in depth using the interactive Bridge Baron Teacher architecture, and allows you to practice

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

WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson

robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **Barry Bragin** who came in first with a score of 470. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game. Tied for second were **Marlys Moholt, Mike Gill, Charles Yaple, Eric Gittleman, Walter Kerns, Daniel Korb, Yi Zhong** and **Darwin Afdahl** with a score of 460. Tied for tenth were **Andy Hawks, John Kloke, John Miller, Bob Kibler** and **Diane Keiper** with a score of 450. Tied for fifteenth were **Jeff Yukzler, Ron Conlon, Jeff Zaller, Jean Burgess, Peter Van Zijl, W. Paul McGowan, Candy Clanton, Brian McNamara, Fred Gramlich, Terry Jones, Ron Starr, Randall Holden** and **Catherine Bardsley** with a score of 440. The average score of the 110 solvers was 392. The average score of the experts was 454.

All readers are encouraged to send answers and/or new problems to Steve Robinson, 2891 S. Abingdon St. #A2 Arlington, VA, 22206-1329. In addition to the winner receiving a free play at the WBL Unit Game, Steve will play with anyone who gets a perfect score or who exactly matches all five of his answers. If you send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the above address along with your answers, I will send you a copy of the new problems to ensure that you can meet his next deadline. You can pick up a copy of the problems at the WBL Unit Game in Maryland, and can send answers or requests for problems to robinswr@erols.com. You can also see and answer the problems at the WBL web site. WBL Solvers Club uses *Washington Standard* as published July 1996. I accept only the first answer from each solver unless it is clear that the solver wants to correct his answer.

I personally score all the problems. If a majority of the solvers vote for an answer, and the answer is reasonable I will give that answer 100 points. I will not give 100 points to an answer that I consider bad no matter how many experts vote for it. There are times when I want to make a point. I will give that answer 100 points and will therefore give the

majority answer 90 points. For the other answers I consider how good the answer is and how many experts vote for it for its score. If you submitted an answer that got 20 points, that bid would get a bad score at the table. A good exercise would be to figure out why I gave your answer 20 points. You might have misread the problem.

The book *Washington Standard* second edition is out. If you are a serious bridge player, this book is a must. You can purchase a copy from Steve for \$25.00 whenever you see him or can send him a check for \$30.60 which includes \$5.60 for priority mail.

MAY/JUN 2015 SOLUTIONS

1) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠4♥543♦K106♣A109543

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	2♠	Dbl	4♠
????			Pass
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
5♣	100	8	66
Double	90	2	11
Pass	40	0	29
4NT	30	0	2
6♣	30	0	1

This is one of those high-level decisions where you have to decide whether you want to go to the five-level or defend against 4♠ doubled. It's best to play double of 4♠ shows cards and you're willing for partner to pull your double with a distributional hand. Playing this way you can't double 4♠ holding KQJ10 of spades with no other high cards. I'd bet doubling 4♠ holding an ace and a king will be a winner in the long run. If you bid 5♣, you have to take 11 tricks. If you double 4♠ and partner sits, you only have to take four tricks. Give partner ♠xx♥Axxx♦Axxx♣KQx and you're lucky to take 10 tricks in 5♣ and most of the time you'll take four tricks on defense.

Eight experts jump in at the five-level. I've always heard that the five-level belongs to the opponents.

Chen: “5♣—I may be trading a plus for a minus by bidding over 4♠, but this will have play if Partner has as little as ♠xx♥AKxx ♦J98x♣KQx. I don't think we will get very much against 4♠ doubled if we beat it at all.”

Parker: “5♣—A six-card suit and some prime cards should give me a good play for game. Give partner as little as ♠xx♥AKxx ♦AJx♣Kxxx and we have a game. Any more and we have a slam.”

Goulding: “5♣—Firstly, thank RHO for saving me from remembering our system and figuring out what to bid in the face of a fear-some PASS. It's clearly too good to Lebensohl into 3♣, perhaps too strong to bid 3♣ directly, what does 4♣ show? With all of that memory freed up I figure 5♣ can't be far off. I have nothing resembling a double and would be sick if I passed it around to partner and he didn't act. If partner reopened with a double I'd fret and bid 5♣ anyway. Why not just get it over with. “

Schwartz: “5♣—Can't have much more for a passed hand, although with the defensive cards, it could be right to defend.”

Woolsey: “5♣—While both 4♠ and 5♣ down one is probably the most likely result, there is too great a chance that one of the contracts will make to justify defending.”

Theurer: “5♣—I have to guess here. If I pass, 4♠ could get passed out with 5♣ or even 4♠ making. So I choose to bid but knowing it doesn't have to be right since partner might play me for more and bid a slam when only game makes. Hoping partner has a hand like ♠xx♥KQJx ♦AQxx♣KQx where 5♣ usually makes and 4♠ could be only down two.”

Stone: “5♣—Partner should have a sound takeout double since I am a passed hand, and should not go overboard for the same reason. A fair possibility is that the limit of the hand is ten tricks, but then sometimes the opponents will make 4♥. The clear IMP bid is 5♣.”

One expert joins me and suggests defending. This is only a suggestion and partner is allowed to pull with a distributional hand.

King: “Double—If partner has a minimum

takeout double like ♠x♥Axxx ♦Axxx♣KQxx you can't make more than 3♣, so bidding 5♣ seems too aggressive, but I have too much to pass, so I'll just double showing cards. Partner can bid 4NT if he wants to hear about my suits.”

The fewer times you bid at the five-level, the better your results will be.

2) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠AK92♥109♦A10♣AJ864

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	Pass	1♣
?????	Pass	2♥*	Dbl
		*transfer	
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♥	100	2	0
3♥	90	3	9
4♠	90	0	7
3♠	80	3	60
3♣	70	2	5
2♠	50	0	20
Redbl	50	0	1
Pass	30	0	4
3NT	20	0	1
3♦	20	0	3

Partner shows at least five spades and you have much more than you might have in this circumstance. So how do you show partner that you have a super spade hand? Any spade bid above 2♠ or any heart bid will show a super-accept. But isn't your hand worth more than a super-accept? Give partner as little as ♠Jxxxx♥xxx♦xxx♣Qx and 4♠ has play. Opposite ♠xxxxxx♥xxx♦xxx♣x, 4♠ is cold. So how can you stop short of game?

Four experts join me and un-transfer. By raising hearts, you force partner to bid spades. If he has the King of hearts, they can't lead through it. I wonder if they are going to raise to game.

King: “3♥—I would have bid 3♠ without the double, but since I have no tenaces I'll “retransfer” with a bid of 3♥.”

Woolsey: “3♥—This logically must be a super-accept but don't want to declare — exactly what I have. I'm very close to driving to game, but not quite there.”

Goulding: “3♥—Can I keep this RHO? I'm not entirely sure what he's making all the noise about, but it makes my hand pure gold. Game is on opposite many six-card suit

pointless hands. Slam could even be in play opposite “invitational” hands. This hand is impossibly strong and too potent for a feeble 3♠ super-accept. Surely partner will get the message if I bid 3♥. I'd like this to be a super-duper-accept with doubleton heart. Partner should move with some pretty weak hands such as ♠Qxxxx♥xxx♦xxx♣Kx. What joy will partner feel holding ♠xxxxxx♥x♦Kxx♣Kxx? Playing with a very timid partner I might just bid 4♠ but I'd rather not be in that boat.”

One expert joins me and transfers to 4♠.

Stone: “4♥—Transferring partner to 4♠. You have an absolute truck for the bidding. Forget the points; just count your losers. If partner has 6=3=3=1 zero count, you are virtually cold for game. Partner should have only at most two clubs, since East promises five on the auction, given short spades. Partner will never be able to evaluate that the Queen of spades and the King of diamonds is enough, or more than enough, for game, so you have to take the bull by the horns. Also, if partner really has no points and no heart length, the opponents may be cold for game. Finally, I want partner to declare because if we can keep West off lead, we may be able to ditch a red-suit loser during the play. “

Two experts bid 3♣. I wonder how you'd handle a hand such as ♠K♥AQx♦Jxx♣AQJ109x. I'd overcall 1NT and if partner transferred to spades, I'd bid 3♣ which shows a club suit and is not a super-accept. After a 1NT-overcall and a transfer, new suits should be natural not super-accepts.

Schwartz: “3♣—Should be a length super acceptance with the 1NT overcall. I'm tempted to bid 4♥, transfer, as partner needs only a stiff club and a little more for game to have play.”

Chen: “3♣—I have a super max, so I'm going to bid my side suit to do all I can to encourage Partner to go to 4♠.”

Three experts make a non-forcing super-accept.

Parker: “3♠—Super-accept. Same as if they had not bid.”

Shi: “3♠—I usually play that my other bids are natural when I overcall a notrump, so the only options for me are 3♠ and 4♠. I would still like my partner to be able to get

out with a 5-3-3-2 yarborough so 3♠ it is.”

True, if partner has ♠xxxxx♥xxx♦xxx♣xx, you want to play in 3♠. But what if he has a little more?

Theurer: “3♠—I'd love to get partner to play spades in case partner has a heart holding that needs protecting, question is whether to try for that, or just show my excellent spade support immediately to help partner judge what to do especially if the opponents bid 4♥. I'll choose the latter since it's not overly likely partner has the heart holding that requires he play the hand.”

Bid game when all you need is for partner to have the right thirteen cards.

3) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠KJ♥AKJ1032♦AQ♣Q76

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♣	100	4	26
3NT	90	6	14
2NT	90	0	13
4♥	80	0	27
3♥	60	0	18
3♦	30	0	5
3♠	20	0	1
2♦	20	0	2
2♥	20	0	1
2♣	20	0	2
4♠	20	0	1

How do you show a game-forcing three-card spade raise? The way I do it is to jump to 3NT. After 1♥ - Pass 1♠ holding ♠KJx♥AK5432♦AQJ♣6 I'd jump to 3NT. If I jump to 3♦ or 3♥ and partner bids 3NT, I wouldn't know if I should correct. If Responder has only four spades, he can pass 3NT and hope for the best. There are other interpretations of a 3NT jump. Solid hearts is an interpretation. Very good hearts is another interpretation. Some do on a balanced 20-count.

Six experts jump to 3NT. I wonder which interpretation of 3NT their partner uses. This is why I did not give 3NT the maximum score.

Parker: “3NT—I would have opened 2NT. It's too good for 3♥ or 2NT, Should show 20+

and a good heart suit.”

Goulding: “3NT—My hand, strong at the outset, is now a complete moose; perhaps even too strong for 3NT with running hearts and playing strength of ~19HCP. May I bid 3.14NT? That would be fun. Lots would bid 4♥ and not be far off the mark. 3♣ is worthy of consideration, but if it excites partner to bid 3NT with a feeble club holding I’ll croak. 3♦ could make headlines or obituaries. On balance I’ll keep it simple and settle for a mundane 3NT.”

Schwartz: “3NT—Some play this shows a sixth heart, hopefully my partner is one of them. It shows more than 2NT regardless.”

Shi: “3NT—Shows this hand.”

Woolsey: “3NT—This shows a good, usually solid, heart suit but interest in playing 3NT instead of 4♥, which looks about like what I have.”

Theurer: “3NT—Some play this sequence shows something specialized such as 3622 shape, but in general I think 3NT should show a strong hand with a good six-card heart suit and probably no singleton, possibly 1=6=3=3 shape, and no side four-card suit. With only five hearts and a balanced 19+20 count I’d have likely opened 2NT and with fewer HCP I can rebid 2NT. I would rather play notrump from my side and the other choice is to jump shift in a minor which isn’t attractive here.”

Three experts join me and jump to 3♣. Partners have learned to treat jump shifts with a grain of salt.

King: “3♣—You have to force and you want to know about partner’s major suit lengths, so this seems like the only answer.”

Chen: “3♣—With some Partners after I can bid 3♣, they relay to 3♦, and then I bid 3♥ to show this hand. Even without this convention, why waste space and just jump to 3NT or 4♥? Bidding 3♣ will allow Partner to show secondary heart support, after which I will cue bid 4♦ to try for slam.”

Stone: “3♣—By elimination. You are far too strong for 2NT or 3♥. 3 NT would show a different hand, with solid hearts. Partner should be aware of the possibility of an invented second suit and shouldn’t jump in clubs to show support. If partner rebids 4♣, I can return to 4♥ and partner should respect that.”

Know how your partner plays 3NT after 1♥ - 1♠.

4) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠AQ10652♥K109♦K6♣KQ

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♥	4♣
?????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♦	100	1	0
Double	90	4	5
5♣	80	2	15
4NT	80	2	53
4♥	70	1	26
4♠	40	0	4
6♥	40	0	6
5♥	40	0	1

We were about to have a constructive auction to see if we belonged in spades or hearts, game or slam, when East decided to make life difficult. ♠Jx♥Axxxx♦AQJx♣xx is a respectable opening bid and even 4♥ might do down with bad breaks. So how do you make a heart slam try over 4♣ but still stay low if partner has garbage. In this auction you’re more likely to have a heart slam try then a natural 4♦-call. If you happen to want to make a natural 4♦-call, you could make a negative double or you could bid 5♦. Therefore it makes good sense to play 4♦ is an artificial slam try to partner’s major-suit opener. You can also play 4♣ as an artificial slam try after 1♥ - 3♠.

Two experts cue bid 5♣. If Opener has ♠Kx♥AQxxx♦Axx♣xxx, he’ll like his hand.

Parker: “5♣—Nothing else makes sense, 4NT might be to play, 4♠ and 4♥ are too weak. If partner does not bid 5♦ I will bid 5♥.”

There are very few 4NT-bids that are to play and this is not one of them.

Theurer: “5♣—Tough hand. Does partner have ♠Kxx♥AQJxxx♦Axx♣x where slam is cold? Or does he have ♠Kxx♥Axxxx♦Axxx♣x where we have no slam? I’ll cuebid to show a fit and slam interest. If he bids 5♥ I will pass but will bid slam if he bids 5♦.”

I’d bid 5♦ with both of those hands.

One expert takes a very likely plus score. Preempts work and suits are less likely to split.

Goulding: “4♥—My pal on my right is at it again! Was I really going to push past game without the interference? Color me chicken. Preempts work.”

Two experts force to slam unless they’re off two keycards.

King: “4NT—I hate this problem. I don’t know how to get both majors in the picture. I could bid 5NT and correct diamonds to hearts, but that seems too obscure, so I’ll just bid 4NT.”

Chen: “4NT—Tough hand, our best spot could be defending them in 4♣ doubled or playing in game or slam. I think Stevie plays 4♦ here as a last train slam try in hearts, which would be very useful on this hand. Without this convention, I’m just going to barge into RKC and then bid accordingly. If we have everything but one key card, I will bid 6♥ and hope Partner also has the king of spades. Otherwise, I should be well placed to bid to the right level.”

Four experts make a negative double. Negative doubles usually show two places to play. This negative double will postpone your decision on how high to bid.

Shi: “Double—The KQ of clubs is pretty terrible. Slam might just be down on ace of clubs, club ruff. If partner passes the negative double, I won’t be sad, and if he bids a major, I will be far more encouraged about slam. If he bids 4♦ I’ve probably end played myself into bidding 5♥.”

True, the club KQ is not worth five HCP. If opener has a singleton club, you have two second round club controls. If partner has a doubleton club, the opponents might get a club ruff.

Woolsey: “Double—At least this will get me to a 6-4 spade fit if we have one rather than what might be a much inferior 5-3 heart fit. If partner happens to pass the double which is not likely I’ve probably done fine. Otherwise I can make some kind of move in hearts as I see fit. Partner will know when I take this sequence that I have other strains than hearts in mind.”

Schwartz: “Double—Followed by 5♥ if partner bids 4♦. It least this implies spades. If partner passes 4♣, should get enough to

compensate for game and slam won’t make.”

Stone: “Double—It’s easy to fall in love with this hand, but for all your points, partner needs a sound opener and useful cards to make a slam. Even then, there is the possibility of a club ruff or a bad break in trumps. So Blackwood in hearts is too unilateral. And going conservative with 4♥ is too conservative. I like double because it may bring spades into play and I would invoke Blackwood after partner’s 4♠. If partner held ♠KJx♥Axxxx♦AQxx♣x, I could even imagine the auction going 1♥ - (4♣) - DBL - 4♦ - 4♥ - 4♠ - 4NT ... 6♠.”

This hand shows you why the 4♦ artificial-slam-try-in-support-of-opener’s-major-suit-opener was invented. It allows you to make a slam try and still play in four-of-opener’s-major if partner has a minimum.

5) Matchpoints You’re Vulnerable

♠K6♥10♦AQ962♣KQ864

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	1♥	1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
?????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
5♣	100	6	60
4♠	90	3	13
Pass	70	0	25
5NT	50	1	2
6♣	30	0	2
5♦	30	0	2
4NT	30	0	5
5♥	20	0	1

Partner’s double of 4♥ shows that he thinks it’s our hand but isn’t sure about strain. If he had AQJxxx of spades or better with something else, he had an easy 4♠ bid. A minimum double would look like ♠AQJxx♥xx♦KJx♣xxx and he could have a lot more. It’s a strength-showing double. Responder can’t double with AQJx of hearts with nothing else, since Open would surely pull it. As you can see, none of the ten experts passed the double.

Six experts bid 5♣. Partner could have a four-card minor. Give partner ♠Axxxx♥xx♦Kxx♣KJx. 5♦ is very likely to make an overtrick

...continued on p. 17

THE UNIT GAME

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

MORE ABOUT "THE COMMON GAME"

We have now been part of The Common Game (<http://thecommongame.com/>) for a few weeks, and if you have registered on their site, or if you have an email address (flagged as non-confidential) registered with your ACBL membership, those of you who have played in a recent Unit Game will already have seen some of the goodies on The Common Game's web site – personal traveling scores, leader-boards across up to 20 clubs across the country, and hand records. To find old results, go to their web site, pick "Night" at the top left, and then click "Archived Common Game" (or "Archived 299ers Common Game". Both the A/X and the B/C/D game are considered "open" by TCG, and our NLM game is treated as a 299er.

There are currently no hand analyses being posted for TCG Night games; we are working with TCG to see if we can get a few of the more interesting hands analyzed each week, so keep watching – board numbers with analysis are shown in a different color. You can also browse past hand analyses on the BridgeWinners web site (<http://www.bridgewinners.com>) – select Explore, then The Common Game.

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♠ Sept 10-12, 2015, WBL NLM, Kensington, MD
- ♥ Sept 24-27, 2015, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♠ October 8-11, 2015, WBL, Kensington, MD
- ♣ October 22-25, 2015, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♦ January 7-10, 2016, WBL, Silver Spring, MD
- ♥ February 19-22, 2016, NVBA, Fairfax, VA
- ♠ April 7-10, 2016, WBL, Silver Spring, MD
- ♣ April 21-24, 2016, NVBA, Fairfax, VA

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

DO YOU HAVE ANY MUSCLES OR BRAINS TO SPARE?

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

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

Here's how to help:

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

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

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

Solvers' Club, cont. from p. 13...

while 4♠ has problems. However, change partner's hand to ♠AQxxx ♥Kx ♦xxx ♣KJx and 4♠ has a chance while 5♦ has problems.

Parker: "5♣—Just a guess but vulnerable I want to be in a game. I expect to beat them two or three tricks so I must assume we have a game. It's too scary to bid 4♠ with only a doubleton. We might have a 5-5 diamond fit."

Goulding: "5♣—No room to explore or confuse myself or partner."

Schwartz: "5♣—Bidding 6♣ now means I should have bid 5♣ the previous round so it's hanging partner."

Chen: "5♣—Partner only has five spades, so bidding 4♠ is out. I have a lot of offense, so I'm going to ask Partner to choose between one of my minors."

Shi: "5♣—To bid anything more than 5♣ now would be too unilateral."

Theurer: "5♣—Another guess. I'm not passing at this form of scoring and being vulnerable vs. not. I'm not likely to get +800 vs. 4♥ doubled. At matchpoints there is some temptation to bid 4♠ but that might work badly if partner has five poor or fair spades. So I will show my decent second suit hoping partner has four of them or can convert to 5♦."

One expert asks Partner to choose a slam. Partner's allowed to double with an 11-count. His double just says that he thinks that it's his hand. If his double contains the king of hearts, he will in effect have an eight-count.

King: "5NT—Let's partner pick a slam. I think this should show both minors and a tolerance for spades."

Two experts join me and make a match-point bid. If partner has weak spades, he might figure that if you had three or four spades, you would have accepted the 4♥ transfer directly. If the opponents bid 4♥, when in doubt bid 4♠. I'd expect it to be a 5-2 fit. If partner has six spades, he might have bid 4♠.

Woolsey: "4♠—Even if it is 5-2 fit, it might still be the winner."

Stone: "4♠—I assume partner would have doubled 1♥ holding four spades; so partner must have at least five spades. What else does partner have for the double of 4♥? Cards; but the distribution is uncertain. Partner could be 5=2=1=5 or 5=2=3=3 or 6=2=3=2. For that reason, a bid of 5♣ by you is not particularly safer than 4♠ and scores worse at match-points. What about a possible slam? That ship sailed when you missed your call last time. After 1♦ – (1♥) – 1♠ – (4♥), I would have doubled, showing this hand or less likely a hand too good for a strong notrump. After all, you have a sound 17-point player. Certainly, with ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AQxxx ♣KQxx, you would have bid 4♠ (wouldn't you?). On your actual hand, a double of 4♥ by you directly would help protect your side's assets. For example, partner, holding ♠Axxxx ♥xx ♦x ♣Jxxxx, could bid a cold 5♣ your way. And holding a good hand, partner would be in a position to investigate and evaluate slam potential."

SOLVERS' SCORES

Mark Chen	5♣	3♣	3♣	4NT	5♣	450
Kent Goulding	5♣	3♥	3NT	4♥	5♣	480
Fred King	Db9	3♥	3♣	4NT	5NT	410
Steve Parker	5♣	3♠	3NT	5♣	5♣	430
Steve Robinson	Db1	4♥	3♣	4♦	4♠	480
Alan Schwartz	5♣	3♣	3NT	Db1	5♣	450
Sylvia Shi	5♣	3♠	3NT	Db1	5♣	460
Robert Stone	5♣	4♥	3♣	Db1	4♠	480
Brad Theurer	5♣	3♠	3NT	5♣	5♣	450
Kit Woolsey	5♣	3♥	3NT	Db1	4♠	460

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MACHLIN TROPHY FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

In 2006, the WBL initiated a new annual award, the ***Machlin Trophy for Sportsmanship*** in honor of Jerry Machlin, whom many of you will remember as one of the greatest directors the game has ever known.

To date, the recipients of the award are: **Dr. Charles Stenger, Peter Boyd, James Geist, Rose Berman, Barbara Doran, Millard Nachtwey, Paul Leopold, Bob Bell, and Audrey Marbach.** Each year, a committee of the most recent five winners, (the longest standing to be the Machlin Committee Chair — *Rose Berman*) plus the Unit Game Chief Director is appointed to consider this year's nominees. The criteria for awarding the trophy are as follows:

“The candidate should (1) demonstrate strong ethical standards and a commitment to active ethics (i.e., full disclosure of systems and agreements to opponents, etc.); (2) behave graciously at the table after bad results or good results; (3) exhibit exemplary behavior at all times toward partner and opponents; (4) demonstrate an ability to get along with multiple partners; and (5) demonstrate a willingness to help mentor other players in the game. A player wouldn't necessarily have to satisfy all five, but these are the main the criteria that the selection committee will consider.”

We welcome nominations from the membership of the WBL. Please send your suggested candidate to Rose Berman at rose.berman@verizon.net or in person at the unit game. It would be appreciated if you would indicate in two or three sentences why you think your nominee is a good candidate for the award. We would like to hear from you by September 10, 2015.

AT THE TABLE: A SURVIVAL MANUAL

by *Rich Colker*, rcolker@gmail.com

—PART 2—

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

The Skip Bid Warning and Proper Behavior Following a Skip Bid

Principle: A Skip Bid should be announced before any bid, whether weak or strong, which skips one or more levels of bidding. Regardless of whether a Skip Bid Warning is used or not, the next player is required to pause for about 10 seconds before calling. In addition, in tournament play it is a good idea following a Skip Bid for the other two players (the second and third to act following the Skip Bid) to slow down their tempo before calling as well.

Players should protect not only their rights but those of their opponents as well by using the Stop Card (or saying “Please wait” when bidding orally) prior to making any bid which skips one or more levels. While ACBL policy is that Skip Bid Warnings are optional, their use is *highly recommended*. Players choosing not to use them place themselves at a serious disadvantage when it comes to re-

ceiving protection if an opponent has a tempo problem. (Rulings and appeals may go against players who choose not to use the Stop Card.) In addition, it is proper to issue a Skip Bid Warning whenever one or more levels are skipped regardless of whether the bid shows weakness or strength. Proper procedure is:

(1) Using bid boxes: place the Stop Card on the table so that LHO can see it; when bidding orally: say “Please wait.” A Skip Bidder is responsible for making sure his LHO sees or hears the warning. (An acknowledgment—perhaps a nod—by LHO is courteous.)

(2) Make the Skip Bid.

(3) If bid boxes are in use, replace the Stop Card in the box after a few seconds, making sure to allow sufficient time for LHO to register it. While there is no penalty for leaving the Stop Card on the table, its continued presence is irrelevant and does not control the next player's tempo. The Stop Card is merely a *reminder* for the next player to pause the appropriate amount of time (about 10 seconds) before calling. Remember, a pause is required even if the Stop Card is not used and the next player may call when he is ready after about 10 seconds even if the Stop Card is still present.

While waiting the appropriate amount of time following a Skip Bid, the next player should study his cards and consider (or at least give the appearance of considering) his next action—a technique I previously recommended before every call, though here the pause should last about 10 seconds rather than the 3-4 seconds previously recommended. In addition, while it is not ACBL policy, I also recommend that the other two players on *that round of the auction* also slow down their tempo and make their calls a bit more deliberately than usual, while studying their cards (or at least giving the appearance of doing so). The reason for this last recommendation is that a Skip Bid usually in-

creases the complexity of the auction and mental demands not only for the next player following the skip bidder but also for *each player on that round of the auction*. If all three players following a Skip Bid would pause for just a few extra seconds, many tempo problems would be reduced or entirely eliminated.

Tempo-Sensitive Auctions I

Principle: An auction becomes "tempo-sensitive" when, for any reason, it creates an unfamiliar bidding situation or poses a problem for the next player. Actions in tempo-sensitive situations often require more time for thought than usual and quick actions in such situations are especially inappropriate.

When a player is confronted with an unfamiliar bidding situation or presented with a difficult bidding problem, he will need extra time to understand the auction and decide on his action. A player who thinks a bit longer than normal in such a situation is acting properly and should not be assumed to have broken tempo. For example, suppose you open a strong notrump and LHO bids 2♠ (spades and another suit). Partner doubles, showing values, and RHO bids 3♣. Have you seen this auction before? Maybe, but possibly not. For most players this auction is tempo-sensitive since they will need extra time, and possibly need to ask a question, in order to understand what is happening. For example, does RHO have clubs or is 3♣ an attempt to find out LHO's second suit (pass-or-correct)? What sort of hand would you need to double 3♣? If you opened 1NT with a five-card heart suit and less-than-expected defense against the black suits, should you bid 3♥? What would 3NT mean? Does partner promise another bid if you pass (i.e., is your pass here forcing on partner)?

As you can see, a few seconds thought is normal in this situation and should not jeopardize partner's next action. What if you have a flat minimum with scattered values and no suit to bid, in other words, a hand where a pass is clear? You should still pause, study your hand, and consider (or at least give the appearance of considering) your next action

for a few seconds before making your call. In fact, acting quickly would be quite improper. For the same reason that a few seconds of thought is expected in such situations and would not transmit unauthorized information, a quick pass (or double) would be revealing and place you at risk for a score adjustment.

Here's another example. Say you open a strong, artificial 1♣ (Precision), LHO bids 3♠, partner passes and RHO bids 4♠. You've got a strong hand (16+ HCP) and before you have had a chance to make a single natural bid the auction is at the four/five level. Would you expect to have something to think about? I would. Again this is a tempo-sensitive auction since it is one where any player would be expected to have a problem. A pause of a few seconds—maybe even longer—should not be construed as a break in tempo. You could have an unbalanced hand with one or more suits to bid. The relative lengths of your suits may be awkward to show at this level. Your suit(s) may not be good enough to bid at the five level. If you hold a balanced hand (say a strong notrump or better), what would be the difference between a pass and a double? Should a double show diamond values (or length)? If so, how much? Would a pass be forcing? Would a double warn partner not to bid again? If so, how much of your values need to be soft (queens and jacks rather than aces and kings) before you would double? Now suppose you hold a balanced, minimum-range hand that's an easy pass. Once again you should pause and give the appearance of considering your action for a few seconds before passing. To do otherwise would be improper.

Not all tempo-sensitive auctions will be as easy to identify as these, but they should give you a feel for what it's all about. Some tempo-sensitive situations occur in familiar, low-level competitive auctions. Any auction where the next player will often need to think should be considered tempo-sensitive and should afford that player a few extra seconds to consider what has happened and what his next action will be. And by the same token, a quick bid in such a situation should be considered improper as it may provide unauthorized information to partner. (See also *When to Call the Director*.)

...continued on p. 27, column 2

♠ Fairfax, VA ♣ SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2015 ♦



NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER SENSATIONS SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188

8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2188

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

STRATIFIED OPEN (2000+/2000/750) or 500/300/100 PAIRS 10:30 a.m.

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

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

WBL: Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chery Chase, MD NVBA (Beth El) WBL

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture 6:30 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

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

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

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture 1:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

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

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture 1:15 p.m.

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

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

support Grass Roots events in our local area!—Details at www.nvba.org. **

FLIGHT A/X PAIRS (3000+/3000; 2-session Play-thru event) 2 & 7:30 p.m.

—Single session pairs accommodated during the evening session

STRATIFIED B/C PAIRS (2000/750; 2 single sessions) ... 2 & 7:30 p.m.

STRATIFIED SIDE GAME (3000+/3000) 2 p.m.

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

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

STRATIFICATION of events is based on average masterpoints of the team or pair. In any event or flight with an upper limit, no individual's total Masterpoint holding may exceed that upper limit.

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

Plenty of free parking! On-site snack bar plus lots of free treats! Many great restaurants nearby!

Championship events and a full schedule of events for players with fewer than 500 masterpoints! Players with 0-5 Masterpoints play FREE in ALL games!

Tournament Chair

Margot Hennings,
703-560-0245

Partnership Chair

Marty Bley
nvbapartnerships@gmail.com
240-441-9885 (C)

Mid-Chart Conventions permitted in all A/X Events

**Next NVBA Sectional
Oct 22-25 at Arlington/
Fairfax Elks Lodge
(Thurs at Beth El)**

www.nvba.org

♠ **Fairfax, VA** ♣ **OCTOBER 22-25, 2015** ♦

*Fall
into
Fun!*

NVBA FALL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) or 500/300/100 PAIRS10:30 a.m.

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

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

WBL: Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD NVBA (Beth El) WBL

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture6:30 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

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

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

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture1:15 p.m.

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

I/N (500/300/100) or 49ER (50/20/5) PAIRS2 p.m.

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

I/N (500/300/100) PAIRS7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

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

Intermediate/Newcomer Lecture1:15 p.m.

****ALL events on Sat. afternoon & evening award REGIONALLY RATED SILVER POINTS—an additional \$1 will be added to your entry fee to support Grass Roots events in our local area!—Details at www.nvba.org. ****

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

I/N (500/300/100) or 49ER (50/20/5) PAIRS2 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

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

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

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

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

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

STRATIFICATION of events is based on average masterpoints of the team or pair. In any event or flight with an upper limit, no individual's total Masterpoint holding may exceed that upper limit.

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

*Plenty of free
parking! On-site
snack bar plus lots of free
treats! Many great
restaurants nearby!*

*Championship Events
and a Full Schedule of
299er Events for Novice and
Intermediate Players!
Players with 0-5 Masterpoints
play FREE in ALL games!*

Tournament Chair

Margot Hennings,
703-560-0245

Partnership Chair

Marty Bley
nvbapartnerships@gmail.com
240-441-9885 (C)

*Mid-Chart Conventions
permitted in all A/X Events*

**Next NVBA Sectional
Feb 18-21 at Arlington/
Fairfax Elks Lodge
(Thurs at Beth El)**

www.nvba.org

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE BOARD & MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

May 2015 - May 2016

Awards: Ellen Cherniavsky, Don Berman

Budget Committee: Carole Banks (chair),
Rose Berman, Melissa Price, Lloyd Rawley

Bulletin Committee: Richard Ferrin (chair),
Donna Rogall (editor), Rose Berman,
Melissa Price, Bob Stearns

Caddies: Barbara Summers, Clyde Kruskal

Calendar of Obligations: Melissa Price, Donna
Rogall, Linda Marshall, Richard Ferrin

Carpool Assistance: Melissa Price

Charity Committee: Linda Marshall

Cheer and Sympathy: Frances Burke

Club Relations Committee: Carole Banks
(chair), Lois Geer

Conduct and Ethics Committee: Lloyd Rawley
(chair), Rose Berman, Clyde Kruskal,
Eileen Inglesby-Houghton, Judy Retchin,
David Marshall, Vincent Wilmot, Barry
Falgout, Ron Zucker

Elections Committee: Jim Allen (chair),
Frances Burke, Robert Stearns, Ellen
Cherniavsky

Electronic Communications: Don Berman
(chair), Steve Robinson, Alex Gretsinger

Executive Committee: Ellen Cherniavsky
(chair), Richard Ferrin, Linda Marshall,
Clyde Kruskal

GNT Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Historian: Peter Boyd

Holiday Party Committee: Clyde Kruskal
(chair), Jim Geist, Rose Berman, Chris
Miller, Linda Marshall

Liaison to Educational Foundation: Rose
Berman

Machlin Sportsmanship Award Committee: Jim
Geist (chair), Bob Bell, Rose Berman,
Barbara Doran, Paul Leopold, Audrey
Marbach, Unit Game Chief Director

Membership Secretary: Frances Burke

Membership Growth Committee: Linda Mar-
shall (chair), Bryan Geer, Julie Marquette,
Melissa Price, Alex Gretsinger

NAP Coordinator: Ellen Cherniavsky

Novice Program: Lois Geer, Bryan Geer

Ombudsman: Adrienne Kuehneman

Parliamentarian: Bob Stearns

Partnerships: Barbara Doran

Policy Maintenance Committee: Ellen Cherni-
avsky (chair), Linda Marshall (chair),
Chris Miller, Melissa Price, Donna Rogall

Publicity and Marketing: Richard Ferrin
(chair), Lois Geer, Donna Rogall, Bob
Levey, Don Berman, Linda Marshall,
Charity Sack, Alex Gretsinger

Round Robin Committee: Dave Ruderman
(chair), Richard Ferrin, Bryan Geer,
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Tournament Chair: Steve Schatzow

NLM Tournament Chair: Julie Marquette,
Leslie Shafer

Tournament Committee: Lloyd Rawley (chair),
Carole Banks, Lois Geer, Clyde Kruskal,
Chris Miller

Unit Game Chief Director: Chris Miller

Unit Game Committee: Clyde Kruskal (chair),
Rose Berman, Lois Geer, Chris Miller,
Melissa Price, Robert Stearns

Unit Game Manager: Chris Miller

Unit Recorder: Bob Bell

Ways and Means Committee: Ellen Cherniavsky
(chair), Richard Ferri, Barbara Ames

Web Committee: Alex Gretsinger, Don Berman

Web Master: Don Berman

continues until the end of August 2015. There are three Flights, Open, 0-2500 and Non-Life Master (with fewer than 500 points). Qualification in a flight qualifies you for all lower flights for which you are eligible. Qualification is by individual (not pair) – including flight eligibility — from any club qualifier in the ACBL directly to the District 6 Final. Flight eligibility is determined by your master point holding on June 1, 2015. All players who play in the District Final must have qualified at the club level and be bona fide members of District 6. **There will be no exceptions.** See the District 6 website (www.districtsix.org) for information on club games in your area.

The District 6 Final for all flights will be held on the weekend of September 19-20, 2015. The Open Flight and 0-2500 Flight Finals will be 4-session events, with roughly half the field qualifying for the second day. The NLM Flight Final will be a 2-session event held on Sunday, September 20.

The Open event and Northern site for the 0-2500 and NLM will be at the White Oak Community Center, 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring MD. Game time is noon and TBA on Saturday, and 11 and TBA on Sunday.

The 0-2500 and NLM will have a Southern site in Richmond VA, at the Clarion Hotel, 3207 North Boulevard. (Special Bridge Rate: \$59.00! Call 804-359-9441) Game time is 10:30 and TBA both days.

Players may play in the 0-2500 and/or NLM at either site.

Pre-registration is required in order to play in the District Finals. Pairs must pre-register by September 10, 2015. To pre-register, send the player names, contact information and player numbers and a check made payable to District 6 in the amount of \$50.00, to cover two (2) sessions of the event. **For the NORTH**, send it to: District 6, PO Box 3329, Silver Spring MD 20918. Pre-register **for the SOUTH** by sending it to Barry Fratkan, 1935 Hickoryridge Road, Richmond,

VA 23238. A list of registered pairs will be posted to the District 6 web site after registration closes.

Qualifiers who play in the National Final will be subsidized (to various extents) for travel expenses and hotel rooms by the ACBL and/or District 6. Membership dues or Life Master service fee must be current and continuous from the start of the 2015-16 District Final to the completion of the North American Pairs Final at the Reno NABC in order to play in the National Final.

For more information and directions to the playing sites, visit the District 6 website at <http://www.districtsix.org> or contact Barbara Doran by phone at (301) 608-0347 or by email to barb.doran@verizon.net.

BRIDGE HEROES UNITED TRUMPS ALZHEIMER'S ON FATHER'S DAY

Elliot Simon, a senior at Cal Tech, couldn't wait for the Longest Day — two bridge games with his favorite partner and all you can eat pizza!



Jay & Elliot

For the third consecutive year ACBL invited us to join forces to raise funds and awareness to fuel the efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Bridge Heroes United, an alliance between the Washington Bridge League, Northern Virginia Bridge Association and Richmond Bridge Association, welcomed the challenge this year! Jay Simon, Elliot's dad, couldn't believe his luck. A day of bridge on Father's Day with his son!

In addition to the school bridge club along with a few pointers from Jay, the game just took off for Elliot. "It's always exciting to see people my age playing bridge!" said Christine Chai, a graduate student from Duke University, "I loved the dress code, purple for Alzheimer's and pearls to represent the pearls of wisdom from our loved ones."



Cave & Dad, Wendy & Michelle

To prevent a sit out, Cave Johnson, gave his dad a brief lesson minutes before the boards hit the table. After finishing with a remarkable 41% game, they were ready for an afternoon of pizza. "It was a great event to share together," said Donna Rogall, who partnered with her father, Herb Rogall, from New Jersey. Donna learned bridge from her dad when she was in high



Donna & Dad [1930-2015] school.

This was also a culmination of the school year for Fairfax County Public School, FCPS, students from Sunrise Bridge, a year round intergenerational enrichment program with a service learning component. Michelle Khoury brought her twin daughters, Miranda and Madelyn to Sunrise Bridge so they can surprise their grandmother (a bridge enthusiast) this summer. "We had a ton of fun on the Longest Day! The girls relaxed a lot and enjoyed being each other's partner. They left very excited about bridge," exclaimed Michelle after winning their first masterpoints. "It's really nice to see good mix of students playing with us", said Wendy Kaynor, Michelle's partner.

"This is great! I'm seeing friends whom I haven't seen for a long time," said Ewing Walker as he entered a room overflowing with purple and pearls.

"I have a soft spot in my heart for Alzheimer's research. My brother was the first black orthodontist in the state of Alabama. His life was taken early by this disease. The University of Alabama came

*Daisy Smith interviewed by Emily Rabbitt,
Alexandria Gazette*



to my house to get blood from my family for research. The disease is personal to me," recounted Daisy Smith, American Bridge Association.

Captained by Black Widow, (aka Yuen De Anda) Bridge Heroes United,

(http://act.alz.org/site/TR/?pg=team&fr_id=6650&team_id=256784) held a bridge-athon, Donna Sinrud created memory quilts to honor her mother raising \$6,700; the Silent Auction engaged players from novices to National Champions, raising \$5,280; the Mid Atlantic Bridge Conference sponsored Longest Day Raffle raising \$1,070. Together, we raised over \$24,000 for the Alzheimer's Association this year!

"Bridge is more than just a card game," said Don Berman, District 6 president. "It provides a window into our communities where members can collectively reach out to help others."

"Elliot was just thrilled to place first in our section playing in an open game and to contribute to a great cause," said Jay. "What a great way to jump start his summer!"



Elliot & Jay, Fred & Dianne

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS **2015-2016**

Get Your Team Together!

Club, unit game, and NLM sectional qualification runs from Sept 1 to Apr 25. Get out early and often to qualify for the District final. Win a partially subsidized trip and represent District 6 at the D.C. Summer 2016 NABC in the national finals of this grassroots competition.

Once again, the competition contains four flights at the District level. In the Open flight all players may enter. Flight A is limited to players with 0-6000 masterpoints. Flight B is limited to players with 0-2500 masterpoints. Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Masterpoint eligibility is determined by the ACBL as of September 1, 2015. At the club level, the Open and A flights will be combined.

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

We will be holding the first weekend of the District finals of Flights B and C at one northern and at least one southern site.

—District Final Dates—

Bracket A (0-6000)

Qualifying: Jan 16-17

Finals: Feb 20-21

Brackets Open, B (0-2500) & C (0-500)*

Qualifying: Apr 30 - May 1

Finals: May 21-22

**Bracket C only Apr 30 & May 22*

Cost per team is \$100. This pays for the first day (2 sessions). Make checks payable to District 6. Money should be sent to Lynn Jones: 10 Tenby Court Timonium, MD

21093. Please include player's names and ACBL numbers and a contact e-mail address for Captain.

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

Any questions please contact Lynn Jones at 410-560-3244 or bridgelynn@comcast.net

Find Conditions of Contest, directions to sites, and where to qualify at

www.districtsix.org

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

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

THE WBL ONLINE

The Washington Bridge League is providing two online services:

1. The WBL Online Bulletin Board

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

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

2. The WBL Online Partnership Desk

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

THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE **LEAGUE IS ON FACEBOOK!**

<https://www.facebook.com/washingtonbridgeleague>

STEVE ROBINSON TROPHY **WINNERS**

The Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs awards the Steve Robinson Trophy once a year during a WBL Sectional. Here are the winners to date. Note: Robinson is running at about 33%!

- 2003 Steve Robinson - John Adams
- 2004 Rose Berman - Don Berman
- 2006 Steve Robinson - Peter Boyd
- 2007 Arnie Frankel - Jim Geist
- 2008 Bill Hacker - Leo LaSota
- 2009 Steve Robinson - Steve Landen
- 2010 Adair Gellman - Vincent Bartone
- 2011 Donna Rogall - Clyde Kruskal
- 2012 Jay Kelkar - Shuba Dey
- 2013 Steven Schatzow - Lloyd Rawley
- 2014 Steve Robinson - Bill Cole
- 2015 Mark Chen - Alex Prairie

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

ADVERTISE? **NEW LOWER LOW RATES!**

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

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

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

At the Table, cont. from p. 20...

Tempo-Sensitive Auctions II: Dealing with them

Principle: Tempo-sensitive auctions should be treated similar to Skip Bids, with the next player pausing for a few extra seconds and (at least giving the appearance of) thinking before acting.

Players should be concerned with avoiding problems, especially in tempo-sensitive auctions. Many actions, even those which do not follow a Skip Bid, require extra time for consideration (see *Tempo-Sensitive Auctions I*). For example, when an opponent jump raises his partner or doubles in a competitive auction, the next player will often need a few extra seconds to consider what to do. In Blackwood and other high-level slam or save situations, each player will need extra time to consider his action. If Blackwood or a Blackwood response is doubled, the next player needs extra time to remember his agreements (ROPI, DOPI, DOPE, DEPO, or whatever) and to consider what the extra calls that are now available (pass and redouble) mean. While it is not ACBL policy, I recommend that in such situations the next player take special care to be deliberate, pausing a few extra seconds and giving the appearance of studying his hand before taking any action. If an opponent takes a bit of extra time in such a situation, it is not a brake in tempo. We all need to be more tolerant of pauses when the auction suddenly accelerates or becomes complicated. And remember, just as with Skip Bids, acting quickly under these circumstances is especially inappropriate.

One caution may be in order here. Players acting following a Skip Bid may not attempt to create the impression of a problem they do not have by hesitating for an extended length of time, or by displaying any facial expression, gesture, body language, or the like, rather than simply acting with deliberation appropriate to the situation. Taking a few seconds to maintain a deliberate tempo is not the same as creating a false impression of a problem to deceive an opponent. Any intentional deception, in a situation where a player could know it could work to his advantage, is a serious ethical infraction and is punishable under the ACBL Conduct and Ethics Code.



NLM MASTER POINTERS

by I/N Columnist, Vince Wilmot, vwilmot@comcast.net

THE WEAK TWO BID, PART 2

In our previous article, we discussed weak two opening bids. I stated that there are three reasons to open a weak two:

1. Constructive bidding – trying to find our best contract
2. Destructive bidding – trying to make to difficult for the opponents to find their best contract.
3. Lead direction – trying to help partner make the killing lead.

This article will expand on weak twos, and suggest more aggressive approaches to weak two bids.

The role of vulnerability: When you declare a contract that does not make and you are not vulnerable, you lose 50 points for every trick you go down (100 if doubled). If you are vulnerable, you lose 100 points per trick (200 points if doubled). Therefore, it makes sense to be a bit more conservative preempting when you are vulnerable. That being said, bridge is a bidder's game, and there are tactical advantages to opening the bidding, particularly with a preemptive weapon such as a weak two bid. Let's consider some of these cases.

Weaker suits: One school of thought is to open weak two bids on less strong suits. For example, you hold ♠Qxxxx ♥x ♦Axx ♣Jxx. It looks like you have very little defense against the opponents, and want to be make it difficult for the opponents to find their best fit. This might be an occasion to open a weak two bid.

Third seat: Once partner is a passed hand, the odds increase that the opponents can bid and make a game or slam contract. If you open a weak two, it becomes more difficult for them to find the correct contract, as they do not have as much room to bid. I would

open 2♠ in third seat on either of the following hands:

♠KQJT_x ♥xxx ♦xx ♣xxx. Yes this is a five card suit, but the bid is descriptive, and will get partner off to the best possible lead.

♠JTxxxx ♥Q ♦xxx ♣KQx. Your suit is weak, but you have very little defense against the opponents making a contract. Make life difficult for them.

Destructive bidding: A strategy some successful players choose is to open a weak two bid with any hand with a six card suit with about 4-10 HCP and no outside five card suit. This is commonly referred to as undisciplined weak twos. This strategy allows you to open more often, and is a particularly effective when partner has a fit and can raise your suit. If you adopt this strategy (not my favorite, but to each their own), you need to have a way to handle constructive auctions.

If you choose to play undisciplined weak two bids, an important convention to have in your arsenal is the Ogust convention. Ogust is a 2NT response to the weak two. Rather than showing features, Ogust helps you determine how the quality of the opening suit and hand. Responses to Ogust are as follows:

- 3♣, Weak suit, Weak hand, Less than 8 HCP, less than two of the top three honors,
- 3♦, Weak suit, Strong hand. 8-10 HCP, less than two of the top three honors.
- 3♥, Strong suit, Weak hand. Less than 8 HCP, two of the top three honors
- 3♠, Strong suit, Strong hand. 8-10 HCP, two of the top three honors.

Ogust is a way for responder to find out more about opener's hand before placing the contract. Opener can return to three of the weak two suit, bid game or slam, or even bid a forcing new suit.

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Washington Bridge League Member:

As you might have heard, the **Washington Bridge League Education Foundation** has recently launched a full-scale effort to start bridge programs in local middle schools and high schools.

The Foundation has hired a coordinator (Adam Gann). It has secured the blessing of the WBL Board. It is working to recruit teachers and identify publicity possibilities. I and the other members of the bridge-in-schools committee are very enthusiastic about our chances for success.

The value of this program is obvious. Not only will WBL develop new players if the effort is successful, but we will have the satisfaction of passing along our love for a great game to the next generation.

What we need from you, please, is financial support.

If you make a donation to support bridge-in-schools, you will not only help to incubate new, young bridge players. You will help to increase WBL membership, and help increase attendance at our unit game and our tournaments.

The dollars we collect from WBL members will go for three purposes: 1) Adam Gann's (very modest) salary, 2) supplies and 3) a contingency fund that would be used for future expansion of the program. If the program gets off the ground, we would also need money to underwrite a Washington Schools Knockout Championship, which we plan to hold as part of the 2016 Summer North American Bridge Championships. Those championships will be held in Washington, D.C.

Won't you please make a gift today?

Gifts of any amount are welcome. Every penny that you give will go to the bridge-in-schools program. No money will be spent or withheld for administrative costs, except as explained above. All gifts are fully deductible on your state and federal income tax returns, to the full extent of the law.

We can't guarantee success for this program. But we can't succeed without your help.

Thank you very much in advance for your support.

Yours, Bob Levey

Longtime WBL member and fundraising chair

TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION: Please make a check payable to "WBL Education Foundation" and mail it to Rose Berman, Treasurer, WBL Education Foundation, 13707 Engleman Drive, Laurel, MD 20708-1325.

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS: As of July 1, 2015

Junior Masters:

5 Masterpoints

Ms Deborah J Crockett
John A Edie
Ms Stephanie G Garshag
Larry M Joseph
Marcia B McMahon

Club Masters: 20 MP's

Bob Caplon
Joel M Greengard

Michele Greengard
Mr Lawrence G Meyer
Mr William L Morrow
Dr Dorthy A Tracey
Patricia S Whelan

Sectional Masters: 50 MP's

Ted Michos
Kumar Sinha

Regional Masters: 100 MP's

Mr F Scott Bush

Mrs Barbara K Gordon
Ms Maree T Webster

NABC Masters: 200 MP's

Michael C Barth
Mr Porter S Kier

Advanced NABC Masters: 300 MP's (incl. color)

Mr Blake Schwartzbach
Mrs Franny Van
Mr Ted Van Dyke

WBL SOLVERS' CLUB'S NEW PROBLEMS

1) IMPs They're Vulnerable

♠ A87♥4♦J1043♣Q1964

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
????	*2♦=10+(inverted)	1♦	Pass

2) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠ AK107654♥A54♦32♣4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Dbl	RDBL*	2♣
????	*3-card spade support		

3) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠ KQ53♥K♦K96♣AK1092

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

4) Matchpoints Both Vulnerable

♠ AKJ3♥4♦Q987♣Q876

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♣
????	Pass		

5) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠ 432♥32♦8765♣7654

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Dbl	1♣
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
????	Pass		

Return answers by August 25 to:

Steve Robinson
2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,
Arlington VA, 22206
robinsonwr@erols.com

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

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

To arrange a carpool, contact **Melissa Price**, *Carpool Coordinator*, at 301-464-1261 or melissadprice46@gmail.com.

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