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Tricks & Treats for All!

at the

WASHINGTON **BRIDGE LEAGUE'S**

82nd Annual D.C. **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

September 27-30, 2012

Check out Friday Night's **♦ IMP PAIRS ♦**

and on Sunday, play Swiss Teams for the

***EYNON TROPHY ***

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



Don't miss Saturday's Machlin Sportsmanship Award Presentation

See page 7 for the full tournament schedule...

SUGGESTION BOX

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

WBL OMBUDSMAN

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

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 11, 2012

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012 ISSUE

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www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

DISTRICT 6 SITE: www.districtsix.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Richard Ferrin

IN MEMORIUM: It is with great sadness that I must report that Millard Nachtwey passed away recently. Millard was a brilliant director. with an amazing mastery of bridge movements, coordination of large and sometimes pressurefilled events, all with an even temper and demeanor that made even the most demanding tasks, such as serving as the Chief Director for the Fall North American Bridge Championships, seem effortless. Millard also played frequently in the WBL unit game and District Six Grand National Teams, with several excellent results, including second place in the 2004 Open Flight, and first in the 2006 0-5000 Flight. Last year, the WBL awarded Millard the Machlin Trophy for Sportsmanship.—It seemed the criteria for the award were written to describe Millard. He will be sorely missed, not only to the functioning of the WBL, but to all of us who have played bridge with him or against him. A collection of memories starts on p.3.

On a different subject, I'd like to recognize several of our younger players, who have distinguished themselves in national and international competition. The team captained by Alex Prairie, along with Sylvia Shi, Hakan Berk, and David Soukup, won the GNT Flight C national finals in Philadelphia. To give you an idea how young this team is, we have a number of individual WBL members who have live more years than these four players combined! Also, the team captained by Barry Bragin, along with Brad Theurer, Noble Shore and Mike Gill, all of whom are WBL members and regulars at the Unit Game, placed second in the GNT 0-5000 national finals. The next time you see any of them at your table at the Unit Game, please offer them congratulations. And be sure to bid and play perfectly, or else they will take you to the cleaners!

BITS AND PIECES

2012 SUMMER NABC PHILADELPHIA, PA

Congratulations to the $1^{\underline{ST}}$ place overall National winners!

Alexander Prairie, Sylvia Shi, Hakan Berk, and David Soukup in the

Grand National Teams Flight C

New WBL Phone DIRECTORY

Then new joint WBL-NVBA Phone Directory is here. It is available for pick up at the Unit Game.

OPT OUT?

If you'd like to stop receiving the printed version of the *WBL Bulletin*, please send your e-mail address to Don Berman:

don.berman@verizon.net

You will start receiving an e-mail link to the on-line version of the bulletin in lieu of your printed copy.

NEXT 1-DAY BRIDGE CLASS: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

We will hold our next **One Day Bridge Classe** on Sunday, September 30, 2012, as part of the WBL Sectional.Come join us as we start on *Defensive Play* topics. The cost is \$30, which includes materials and lunch. Please contact Shawn Stringer at shstringer@aol.com or 301-275-6363 with any questions or to reserve a space.

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new

...continued on p. 21

= Memories of Millard ===== 1953-2012

August 3rd, after a brave struggle with cancer. Millard's directing career began with his working at the Karpin Bridge Studio in Wheaton, MD in 1976. He worked with Edith McMullin in establishing a thriving intermediate/novice program at the Washington Bridge League Unit Game. Millard was the proprietor of Millard's Bridge Studio in Silver Spring MD, from 1978 through 1982, by which time his chill wears in demand at the toursement league.



which time his skills were in demand at the tournament level. He became a full-time tournament director, which necessitated his leaving his service on the WBL Board. Rising rapidly through the ranks of tournament directors, Millard soon became Director-in-Charge



of the WBL sectional tournaments and in 1992 became Director-in-Charge of the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC). In 1999, the ACBL recognized his talent by appointing Millard to be the Director-in-Charge of the ACBL Fall North American Bridge Championships.

"Millard faithfully served us for many years as our chief director. He always did an excellent job and even during the difficult times for the last year, his dedication

and composure never wavered. As much as we will miss the wonderful work he did for us, we will also miss him as the fine person that he was. Helpful, friendly and witty, it was always a joy to see him. In addition to being a top notch director and executive, he was a fine player. It is hard to imagine the MABC and our tournaments without him. Our deepest sympathy go out to Doug and to Millard's family and friends. May he rest in peace."

—Fred King (MABC President and past WBL President)

Millard became an ACBL field rep and acknowledged expert in all facets of tournament directing. He particularly relished solving complex problems caused by pairs going to the wrong table, incorrect board movement, or improper game setup. *Margot Hennings*, (NVBA Sectional Chair and ACBL District 6 Director) recalls:

"One famous Friday of a WBL sectional at the Silver Spring Armory, very many years ago, some of the boards that were intended to be on a bye stand were inadvertently picked up and taken out of play causing chaos. The problem was compounded by the original set-up, a 'simple' Blackpool, where once during the event the East-West pairs cross over into another section to finish the event. Millard worked out a solution to the puzzle that had pairs dancing everywhere. Amazingly creative, and it worked!"

In the words of fellow tournament director, Terry Lavender:

"It always amazed me to see Millard walk into an empty ballroom....I know that in his mind the crazy quilt of a set-up tournament spread out before him...the yellows, and greens, oranges, pinks and blues, all in their place, all ready for the people to begin....Even in a massive space like

Gatlinburg, he knew where every table was, the parameter of every section, and every available space to grow into. With spatial talent like that....he could have been a great architect....I'm glad

he chose us....."

Expert players appreciated Millard's ability as a bridge player, which enabled him to make fine judgment rulings and made him unique among the ACBL's top-flight directors as a director who still loved to play.

"While we all thought the world of Millard as a Director, I had the privilege of playing bridge with him on and off over 30 years. We didn't play often, but whenever we did I was always reminded of two things. First, as declarer, Millard could play the spots off the cards. Second, it was a good thing that he declared so well because he definitely bid with 'abandon'. When you were his partner, you learned that he often bid many of your cards, and sometimes a few of the opponents' cards as well.

have been so aggressive without those two tens!"



"My favorite memory of Millard as partner was back in the early 1980s...we were playing in a WBL Round Robin event with Carole and Ron Geagley as our teammates. We were probably seeded fifth out of six teams in our league. Inevitably, we had to play to the #1 seed, including world-class players - Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Kit Woolsey, and Eddie Manfield. Definitely outclassed by this team, Millard had his bidding shoes shined and ready to go. After some aggressive bidding by him and some cooperation by me, we landed in 6NT. Without batting an evelash, Millard proceeded to take finesses for two jacks and wrap it up! I don't remember the hands, but I do remember Kit's mumbling something about the slam being cold because two jacks were on side. I just know Millard wouldn't

—Joan Lewis (past WBL President)

Millard contributed much of his time helping the MABC run very successful tournaments. He was always willing to give expert advice on tournament locations, event scheduling, finances and other issues not ordinarily in the purview of a tour-



nament director. Millard also went above and beyond for WBL local events, cooking with Nadine Wood (passed Tournament Chair and ACBL District 6 Director) and Kitty Gottfried (Hospitality Chair) for sectionals, holiday parties and annual meetings.

"I had known Millard for over 20 years. We played at Kitty Pickett's game regularly; after he became National Director we still played at the Unit game whenever possible. He was a kind partner and nice even when I goofed playing hands or bidding.

"Millard and I worked at Nadine's house on Wednesday nights before our sectionals (there were a few other players who helped there, but always Millard) for many years. On one occasion I had to mix ingredi-

ents in a 5-gallon can and I was struggling to mix with a spoon, so he rolled up his sleeves and took over. I thought "Wow"! I have never forgotten it.

"There are so many memories with Millard but it's so hard to think and tell now. I really miss you, Millard. Hope you are at peace in heaven now."

What did he do in his spare time? Millard enjoyed going to the theater and reading faning bridge and cooking, were frequently National Goodwill Committee—1992) tasy fiction. Two of his favorite hobbies, play-



(They're receiving their pins from the

in home leagues of round robins and knockouts. His team and the opposition team were usually treated to gourmet dinners at his home before matches.

"I met Millard around 1979. For the past eight years or so, Millard and I have been teammates in the Round Robin and WBL Knockout events. Millard was always willing, even eager, to host the matches and cook and serve a great meal to his teammates and many of our opponents. He always made a good hearty meal, always used fresh vegetables creatively, sometimes included great appetizers and soup, sometimes he barbecued a chicken or pork roast. Sometimes we ate outside in his covered porch and almost always broke at the half to have homemade dessert of some kind. He cooked well, he played well, he hosted well. He was a great teammate.

"I attended many parties and get-togethers where Millard contributed some or all of the culinary treats served, and wow! were they tasty! So it seemed like a no-brainer to ask Millard and his 'sous-chef' Doug to cater my wedding. The wedding was an informal one held at my home followed by a reception. Millard and I selected some basic foods, but Millard pretty much made what he wanted, with my blessings. He pre-made some dishes, and some he cooked at my home. Millard and Doug did an incredibly good job with the food and drinks and attending to details that would have escaped many professional caterers. I consider myself lucky to have had such a well-catered wedding. And I still have the menu stuck on my refrigerator!

"Millard had directed locally for a long time and he was always calm, quiet, unflappable, and he always wore a pleasant smile while he nodded and said "Uh huh" at your story, and then quietly adjudicated and explained and ruled. So the first time I saw him in action at the national level, I was surprised and delighted to hear him YELL at a player to gain control. He actually raised his voice. I thought, 'Way to go, Millard!' " —Diane Walker

In 1993, he treated the directors working at our summer NABC to a final "Tournament Directors' Farewell Party" at his home featuring his favorite recipes. Again, his problem-solving skills were put to good use as he worked with partner and fellow National Tournament Director, Doug Grove, to ensure that the tournament was well covered, while he organized shuttles from the Marriott Wardman Park in downtown D.C. to their home so that all could participate in the feast. For those of you who own the famous "Après Bridge Yummies" cookbook, you need only turn to pages 79-88 to see what you missed!

A fine player and a great partner, Millard always got the best results from his partners because of his ever pleasant demeanor and refusal to criticize partner's mistakes.

"In the mid-1970's, Millard co-Directed the Intermediate/Novice game

at the Thursday night Unit game where I caddied for him and my mom (Edith McMullin) from the age of 12 until I graduated high school. Over the years, as I struggled with math, Millard happily juggled his directing duties while tutoring me in math between rounds.



"Flash forward to the early 2000's when Millard offered to play with me when I returned to the bridge world, this time as a player and volunteer. In 2004, Millard and I teamed up with Richard Ferrin and Gene Kales in the Open GNTs.

"The first day of the event, in the first boards of the first quarter, I had a total mind loss and made a bid that put Millard in a horrible contract that he managed to keep to -1700! After

the hand was over, I was so distraught, I had to step away

from the table and went to the bathroom to collect myself. When I came out, Millard was there and said the kindest, most sportsman like words that boiled down to 'stay calm and focus...there's a lot of match left to play.' So, not only did I go back and follow his advice, but we went on to take and make partial after partial for the rest of quarter, and went on to win that very same quarter. Since then, Millard's words have often (maybe too often!) come to mind, at the table and in life.

"Beyond these memories, there are so many more from where I'd see him at meetings on end giving his time, energy, and expertise to make the bridge community a home for all of us.

I'll always remember Millard as teacher, a partner, a leader, and a friend." —Charity Sack

That 2004 District Six Grand National Team went on to finish second overall.

> "Millard had several excellent results, including first in the 2006 0-5000 Flight of the GNTs. Last year, the WBL awarded Millard the Machlin Trophy for Sportsmanship.

> —It seemed the criteria for the award were

written to describe Millard. He will be sorely missed, not only to the functioning of the WBL, but to all of us who have played bridge with him or against him." —Richard Ferrin (WBL President)



Millard leaves his life partner, Doug Grove, Doug's family, their cat Zephyr, and a host of bridge partners and friends that will very sorely miss him.

SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2012



82nd Annual D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL/ARMORY

3710 Mitchell St, Kensington, MD ~ (except where noted)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE. ORG

Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine) NO ENTRY St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville 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 Pairs (Beth El only)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

It's the Friday night IMPs! With only one partner, it scores like a team game. To get your IMP score on a board, we take your result and IMP it against each result at the other tables, then get the average.

▲ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions)10:00am, 2:00pm, <u>7:15pm</u> (will run if we have 3 or more tables)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

♣ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) (single sessions) . .11:00am, 4:00pm

♦ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 4:00pm

A Eynon Trophy

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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

♦ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (2500/1000/500, 7 round playthru w/short break)11:00am & TBA



Mid-chart allowed in all

♣ Lots of Intermediate & Novice Events with Silver Points! ♥ I/N events: 0-5, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300; Stratification at Director's Discretion.

Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks, & Friday & Sunday lunch free of charge. Chair: Ron Zucker, 202-390-3443, ron@motherzucker.com. Volunteer Coordinator:

Barbara Summers, 301-598-5838, iimbarb1184@aol.com Hospitality; Kitty Gottfried, 301-587-3981. kgottfried@hotmail.com Partnerships: Barbara Doran, 301-608-0347, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org *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.

-6-



Non Life Master Sectional

NEWPORT MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

11311 Newport Mill Road Kensington, MD 20895

Play for Silver

Maryland Hospitality

NLMs with fewer than 500 MPs

Lunch and refreshments included both days!

Saturday, September 22

Sunday, September 23 (All day playthrough with lunch break)

-Join us for a fun weekend!-

TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Shawn Stringer

301-275-6363 shstringer@aol.com

<u>DIRECTIONS:</u> From I-495 (Washington Beltway) take Exit 33 (Connecticut Ave/MD-185) North towards Kensington. Go 2 miles and keep Left as Connecticut Ave splits. After the split, take the third Right onto Lawrence Avenue. Take the first Left onto Newport Mill Road. The school is one-half mile on the Right.

WBL Solvers' Club

Moderated by Steve Robinson

robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to Jim Munday and Brad Theurer who tied for first with a score of 460. They win a free entry to the Unit Game, and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for third were Jim Allen, Barry Bragin and Wes Goldberg with a score of 450. Tied for sixth were Marvin Elster and Enid Hughes with a score of 440. Tied for eighth were Don Berman, Al Duncker, Ron Zucker, Ram Sarangan, Yi Zhong and Mitch Edelman with a score of 430. Tied for fourteenth were Susan Rosenau, Steve Nesseler, Kathy Paramore, Sylvia Shi, Mark Chen and Thomas Fukawa with a score of 420. The average score of the 163 solvers was 345. The average score of the experts was 442.

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 website. 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 \$30.15 that includes \$5.15 for priority mail.

1) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♦ AKJ65♥1054♦-**♣** AQJ54

SOUTH	<u>WEST</u>	NORTH	EAST
0.00	2 🛦 🖫	Dbl	1 ♥
2♥	3 ♦ *		3♥
????	*good heart	raise	
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	Solvers
Double	100	8	43
4 .	70	2	48
3♠	60	0	22
Pass	50	0	21
$4 \mathbf{V}$	50	0	9
4 🖍	30	0	14
5♣	20	0	3
4 lack	20	0	1
5♠	20	0	1
6♥	20	0	1

What does partner's double of 3 ♦ mean? Doubles of artificial bids are penalty doubles. It seems logical that partner has at least five diamonds and he has to have some strength. So how do you continue having bid Michaels which shows at least 5-5 spades and either minor? Passing 3 ♥ is weak. You could have bid 2 ♥ with as little as ♠QJ1098 ♥x ♠xx ♣QJ1098. If you bid a suit you show extra length or a reasonable hand with not much defense. You might bid 4 ♣ holding ♠KQJxx ♥x ♠xx ♣KQJxx, since you have all offense with very little defense. Double shows a defensive good hand with heart length. And guess what. You have a defensive good hand with heart length.

All but two experts double. Partner does not know which minor you have which could be a problem. If you believe the opponent's bidding, partner has both minors. We assume that he has fewer than three spades. If the opponents have at least eight hearts, then he also has fewer than three hearts. I would not double $3 \spadesuit$ unless I also had club support. With a diamond one-suiter such as $\spadesuit xx \blacktriangledown x \spadesuit KQJxxxxx • xx$, I would

either pass $3 \spadesuit$, or jump to $5 \spadesuit$.

Parker: "Double—Shows a good Michaels and lets partner decide what to do. He is short in Hearts and should have at least a three-card fit with me somewhere. Give him as little as ♠xx♥x ♠ Kxxxxx♣Kxxx and we have may have a slam, if he passes I will look for a new partner."

I'm sure if partner leaves in the double, it will be the right move.

Woolsey: "Double—If partner doesn't fit one of my suits, I can't imagine them coming close to making this. They don't have any tricks outside of the trump suit, and they won't have many trumps left when I get through leading them (yes, I'm leading a trump). If he does fit one of my suits, he can bid what is right."

King: "Double—I would pass if I were sure it was forcing. I don't think this is penalty, but shows a good Michaels call and asks partner to do something."

Michaels is an unlimited bid. You could have had a very bad hand. Pass is not forcing.

Schwartz: "Double—Shows good hand with clubs as my second suit. Not without risk as partner might just have good diamonds but with this much extra values I have to do something. The opponents don't always have their bid."

Hopkins: "Double—I think this should suggest defense and extra values including Aces in my suits, shortness in Diamonds and partner can bid appropriately including leaving it in."

Why would double show clubs as your second suit? You could just as easy have AKJ65♥1054♦AQJ54♣—.

Adams: "Double—This shows a strong Michaels. Presumably partner has diamonds and they are in trouble. Partner can still bid if he has a fit."

Stone: "Double—A picture bid really. You've already announced you have five spades and five of a minor. Double says that you have extra strength but not extra length, and no tolerance for diamonds. With ♠AKJxx♥— ♦xxx ♣AQJxx, you would bid $4 \heartsuit$ after partner doubled $3 \diamondsuit$. Partner can pass the double when it is right. Partner will not expect a concentration of values in hearts since with, for example, ♠AJxxx♥KQJ \bullet — \clubsuit Axxxx, you would have bid 1 \spadesuit , not 2 \blacktriangledown . 3♠ is wrong because it distorts your spade length. Partner may pass with two spades and three or four clubs. Similarly, 4 * is wrong because it distorts your club length. Pass is out of the question. If you pass, how is partner to know to bid on vulnerable with ♠Ox♥x♦J10xxxx *xxxx, when you're on a finesse for a club slam?"

I don't think partner would double 3♦ with a bad hand just because he has diamonds.

Paulo: "4. — Partner should have a singleton heart; even though he might hold several diamonds, partner has a fit in some black suit, for sure. With a winning finesse - as it is likely - I suggest a vulnerable game: 4. or 5..."

Landen: "4. —Partner is short in hearts and has a string of diamonds. I think I'm too good not to take another bid, 4. shows extras and tells partner what my minor is."

When you make a bid with unlimited strength and you're strong, you have to tell partner that you have a good hand.

2) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♦K84♥1095♦AJ1065**♣**J10

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	NORTH 3◆	EAST Pass
????		5▼	1 ass
Action	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	Solvers
4 lack	100	4	32
5♦	90	3	66
3NT	70	2	9
3♥	70	1	3
6♦	50	0	4
Pass	40	0	45
4♠	40	0	2
7♦	30	0	1

Partner opened 3 ◆ and we have five-card support with very little outside strength. It seems obvious that the opponents can make something. What can we do to make it more difficult for the opponents to get to their best contract? You defiantly want to take some room away from the opponents. If you pass, West would double, East would jump to game and now West would know that his partner has values. If East was 4-4 in the majors, he could cue bid and find their eight-card fit.

Three experts bid what they think they can make. Two experts bid 3NT. In 3NT, LHO leads a spade, you win and run partner's eightcard diamond suit. Back to the real world.

Parker: "3NT—Might as well start low and see what happens. I play that when they show strength later on my 3NT asks partner to save if he feels it is correct, if I bid 4♦ now, it would ask partner to not save since I may have good defense."

King: "3NT—Clearly they have at least a vulnerable game, and maybe a slam. Let's muddy the waters and see what happens."

One expert thinks he can make 3 .

Paulo: "3♥—By preempting, I'd be telling the opponents that I think they can make a slam."

It would be funny if you bought it for $3 \heartsuit$.

-800 would be a funny score if the opponents could make $6 \, \Psi$.

Three experts join me and raise diamonds. We think that LHO will double and RHO will bid four-of-a-major. Neither player will know that his partner has extra values. If East is 4-4 in the majors, he'll have to guess which one to bid and they might get to a seven-card fit. If East is 3325, he'll be forced to bid $5\clubsuit$ over his partner's takeout double. If you bid $4\spadesuit$, it will be wrong for you to later bid $5\spadesuit$. By bidding $5\spadesuit$ later, the opponents will have learned something and will be in a position to better work out what to do over $5\spadesuit$.

Schwartz: "4 ♦ — Don't want to disclose the huge diamond fit to the opponents. Want to leave room for them to rest in four-of-a-major."

Hopkins: "4 ♦ —Make it easy for them to bid game without being able to gage their total strength well thus making slam exploration difficult. It is likely the strong hand is on my left which diminishes the likelihood my Spade king is a defensive trick."

Stone: "4 ♦—The key here is to take away the bid that would allow the opponents to cuebid below game, and that bid is $4 \spadesuit$. Both opponents are probably going to have extra values but will have trouble showing it without the 4♦ cuebid available. Each opponent will have to cater to his partner having stretched a bit and will therefore tend to go conservative. A bid by you at the five-level invites bad results. If you propel them to slam, they are likely to make it. Your expectation is probably 0-2 tricks in defense, including none in diamonds, in whichever suit they choose, and you know they are not getting bad breaks. Meanwhile, with your balanced hand, you can expect to go for 800 or even 1100 in $5 \diamondsuit$, so sacrificing cannot be a good strategy. 4♦ really sticks out here as the best bid."

Three experts tell the opponents that it's their hand. LHO will double and RHO might pass the double for lack of anything clear to bid. I think the last contract you want to play in is 5 ♦ doubled. If you're lucky and hold 5 ♦ to down two, -500 will gain only four IMPs if the opponents can make five-of-a-major. I'd expect 5 ♦ doubled to go for at least 800.

Adams: "5 ◆ —I suppose this could go for 1100, but 800 or even 500 more likely. Against that, opponents likely have a slam and will not know if this is a game or slam decision. I dislike 5 ◆ as a save, but I love it as a preempt, that applies maximum pressure and makes the opponents guess."

Woolsey: "5♦—If this is going for 1100 the opponents will have a slam, and going for

800 against their game isn't so bad. The extra level of bidding this takes away from the opponents will make a big difference."

Landen: "5 ♦ — Opponents can almost certainly make at least game, so I'll not lose much even if 5 ♦ doubled is down 800."

Bidding $5 \blacklozenge$ gives the opponents a fielder's choice. They can double you and get 800 or they can bid and make five-of-a-major. Bidding $4 \blacklozenge$ and then bidding $5 \blacklozenge$ also gives the opponents a fielder's choice.

3) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♦AK2♥2♦AQ43**♣**KQ987

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 🚓	1 🛦	DBL	Pass
????			
Action	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	Solvers
2 🛦	100	5	15
3♦	80	2	19
2NT	70	1	42
3NT	50	2	37
2♦	30	0	44
3♣	30	0	1
5♦	30	0	1
1NT	30	0	3
5NT	20	0	1
$4 \blacktriangle$	20	0	0

Partner made a negative double and we have enough strength that we could easily have a game. But which game? There are at least three strong bids that we could make. We could jump to 2NT showing a balanced 18-19. However, partner might insist on playing in hearts thinking that we have at least two of them. He might pass 2NT when we belong in diamonds. We could jump in diamonds but $3 \spadesuit$ is non-forcing and you'd make the same bid if you had one less king. Then there's $2 \spadesuit$, the cue bid. While $1 \clubsuit - 1 \blacktriangledown - 2 \spadesuit$ is a reverse and shows extra values, $2 \spadesuit$ after a negative double is not a reverse. After the negative double, $2 \spadesuit$ would show a hand like $\spadesuit xx \blacktriangledown Qx \spadesuit QJxx \clubsuit AKJxx$.

Two experts jump in diamonds. 3 ♦ describes your minor suit distribution which is correct but 3 ♦ is non-forcing. Give partner as little as ♠xxx ♥Oxxx ♦ Kxxx ♣ Jx and 5 ♦ has play.

Parker: "3 ♦ —Good hand, jump shift values. He can bid 3 ♠ if he wants to get to 3NT. 2 ♦ would not show this strong a hand over a negative double, just a four-card suit."

Woolsey: " $3 \leftarrow -2 \leftarrow$ would not show reverse values. If we belong in 3NT, we can still get there. For now it is important to show my minor-suit shape and extra strength."

Three experts bid notrump. If partner has

Axx ♥xxxx ♦ Kxxxx ♣ Ax, you could go down in 3NT while cold for 6 ♦ . If I was on lead against 3NT holding AQxxxx ♥ AKx ♦ xx ♣xxx, I would lead a heart.

Paulo: "3NT—If I bid diamonds and we belong in notrump, partner can't bid it; if I bid notrump and we belong in clubs, partner might bid it."

Landen: "3NT—What I expect to be our most likely game. 2 ♦ could lead to finding a better game or slam, but it also might sway LHO to lead a heart."

One expert bids 2NT. If partner passed 2NT, I would not be very happy.

Adams: "2NT—Tempting to bid 2♠, but this has two flaws. 1) I will have difficulty convincing partner that I have double stopper, and 2) partner's rebid will be forced and will communicate very little. 2♠ is not a reverse on this auction so is out of the question. 2NT, though flawed, shows the stoppers and will enable a rebid structure that is comfortable."

Not sure why you don't want to hear partner's next bid. If he doesn't bid hearts, maybe you don't belong in notrump.

Four experts join me and cue bid. Cue bidding does not stop you from getting to 3NT when it's right. You have answers for each of partner's next bid. If partner bids 3♥, you can bid 3NT. If partner bids 3♣ you can bid 3♠. If partner bids 3♠ you can think about a diamond slam.

King: "2♠—I don't want to bid notrump with a singleton in partner's heart suit and I need to force to game. 2♦ is not a reverse and 3♦ gets us too high."

Schwartz: "2♠—Need to start with 2♠ as 2♠ does not show extras. Hopefully I will be able to show my diamonds later if it seems right."

Hopkins: "2♠—I am going to set the force and follow by bidding Diamonds."

Stone: "2♠—Very close. I don't like 2NT because you may end up in 3NT going down when 6♦ is cold. Give partner ♠xx ♥9xxx ♠Kxxxx ♣Ax. I think 3♦ shows a more distributional hand with fewer points for instance ♠xx ♥x ♠AQJx ♣AKxxxx and isn't forcing. With your actual hand, 3♦ is liable to get you past 3NT when that is the only makeable game. The only drawback to 2♠ is that you can't stop at 2NT when that is the limit of the hand. But you can handle everything else. For example, if partner rebids 3♠, you can explore slam."

With the problem hand, I would not want to stop in 2NT.

You're allowed to get partner's help in order to get to the best spot.

4) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

SOUTH

♦A10872**♥**Q3**♦**Q64**♣**AQ8

WEST NORTH EAST

<u> 300111</u>	<u>wesi</u>	NUNIH	<u>easi</u>
		1 lack	1♥
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	2♠	Pass
?????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
2NT	100	3	7
3NT	90	4	47
3♦	60	1	28
3♣	60	1	10
3♥	60	0	17
Pass	50	1	21
$4 \spadesuit$	40	0	24
3♠	40	0	6
4NT	20	0	1
4 lacklark	20	0	2

Partner has shown a weak notrump with exactly two spades. With three spades, he could have raised your five-card showing 1 ♣-bid directly. If he thought that his heart stopper was better than his three spades, he might not have raised your spades. However, he would have supported us directly over the double of our game-forcing cue bid holding three spades. So now what? The problem is what would Opener bid over 1 ♣ if he held ♠ Kx ♥ xxxx ♠ AKJx ♣ Kxx? In other words does 1NT guarantee a heart stopper or could you bid 1NT on any balanced hand? I know lots of players who bid 1NT on all balanced hands.

Four experts bid 3NT assuming that there are no other possible contracts .

Parker: "3NT—I don't think partner has three spades since he did not bid 2♠ over the double. My guess is he has something like ♠xx♥Kxx ♠AKxxx♣Kxx or some hand close to that."

What would Opener bid if he held ★Kx♥xxx ◆AKxxx♣Kxx over your forcing 1♠-bid?

Hopkins: "3NT—Hopefully my Heart Queen should make partner's Jxx or 10xxx stand up as a stopper. Then we should be able to keep the threat hand off lead."

Stone: "3NT—I'm not a good enough player to stay out of game with 14 HCP vulnerable at IMPs unless the auction screams that there's a problem—and I haven't heard it. Partner can't have three spades or he would have immediately bid 2 ♠ over the double. Partner must have a real heart stopper or he would have immediately pulled 2 ♥ doubled to show his fifth diamond or fourth club. Partner can't be

2=2=5=4 with Kx of hearts or he would have pulled the redouble to 3 **4**. Partner is 2=3=4=4 or possibly 2=3=5=3. I'm playing in game, and the auction is screaming for 3NT."

Landen: "3NT—What I should have bid on the previous round. Have they started paying a bonus for gratuitous bids?"

Four experts join me and look for other possibilities. Cue bids are forcing to game so you don't have to worry about partner passing your next bid. Under some circumstances, you could play in four-of-a-minor. If partner has KQ or KJ of spades, we could easily belong in spades.

One expert supports diamonds. Partner might expect you to have four-card diamond support.

Woolsey: "3 ♦ —This hand could belong in 3NT, 4 ♠, or 5 ♦. Showing the diamond support leaves all options open to partner."

One expert bids 3. Partner might expect you have at least four clubs.

Paulo: "3 .— I see this bid as flexible because if partner has a true stopper he can bid 3NT. If he has three spades he can re-raise my suit else partner can rebid his own suit."

Two experts join me and bid 2NT. 2NT allows partner to describe his hand. Bidding 2NT and then bidding 3NT will tell partner that you are not sure about playing in 3NT. If he has three little hearts, he should run from 3NT. 2NT followed by 3NT shows doubt. If 3NT was clear, you wouldn't bid 2NT first.

King: "2NT—Partner clearly doesn't have three spades and I have help for notrump. This must be forcing, so let's hear what more partner wants to do."

Adams: "2NT—2♥ created a game force, so 2NT is forcing. Partner may have been on a marginal heart stopper and will appreciate my help. It would not surprise me if we get too high. Definitely want to steer this to notrump if possible."

One expert passes. You do have 14 HCP opposite an opening bid and you're vulnerable at IMPs. Like Stone said. We're not good enough to stay out of game with 14 opposite an opening bid.

Schwartz: "Pass—Looks like I have a 12 count with no fit. Would be an easier bid not vulnerable or at matchpoints, but we are likely to have four losers in spades, or three in diamonds."

Like problem three, you're allowed to get partner's help in order to get to the best spot.

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♦ A53 ♥ 1074 ♦ 9853 **♣** J53

	100 , 10.	1	9
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass ?????	Pass	Dbl	1♦ Pass

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2 👫	100	5	5
1♥	90	4	70
1NT	80	1	38
1 🛦	80	0	41
2♦	20	0	4
Pass	20	0	5

There is one of my principles here. Don't bid a three-card major unless there are no other alternatives. The four unhappy choices are 1 ♥, 1♠, 1NT or 2♣. You know what I think about one-of-either-major. If we bid 1 ♥ and partner has four of them he could bid too much. With 16 points, he'll jump to 3 ♥. With more he'll bid 4 ♥. If the jack of clubs were the jack of diamonds, I would bid 1NT. Lie about strength not about distribution. Bidding 1NT without a diamond stopper could lead to a disaster. So 2♣ is the only bid left standing. Over 2♣, partner is unlikely to jump directly to 5♣.

Four experts bid their three-card major. I could see partner holding ♠KQJx♥Axxxx♠-♣AKQx, bidding keycard and then bidding 6♥ expecting to have play opposite any four-card heart holding. The last thing you want is for partner to bid a gambling 4♥.

Parker: "1 ♥—Not good enough to bid 1NT, if partner has a good hand, which it sounds like, he will show his hand next. I don't want him thinking I have a diamond stopper yet."

You'd rather partner think that you have four hearts.

Woolsey: "1 ♥—Not quite strong enough to try 1NT with no true diamond stopper, so bid the lowest three-card suit and hope partner doesn't get too carried away."

Stone: "1 ♥—The choices are 1 ♥ or 2 ♣. I know and support the Moderator's preference for 2 ♣ with this hand in the case of a take-out double. But this is a balancing double, not a take-out double. It's hard to imagine partner with fewer than 16 points. Partner is more likely, in my view, to have a long, yetunnamed suit or a balanced strong notrump."

Landen: "1 ♥—Not 1 ♠ for the lead."

Four experts join me and find an alternative to bidding a three-card major.

Paulo: "2 — I don't like to bid three-card majors because partner might raise with only three cards or jump raise with four cards."

King: "2.4—I want the bid that least excites partner. Bidding a major is likely to get a raise with only four. Now if partner bids a major he is promising five."

...continued on p. 17

2012 Trophy Race Standings

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Updated by John Adams

The Lovenberg Race is open to all WBL members; the Izzy Cohen Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with less than 1500 masterpoints; the Tubbs Race is open to all WBL members who started the

Izzy Cohen

2 44.55 Guillaume de Decker

1 54.06 Alexander Prairie

4 35.62 Hadi Abushakra

34.29 Dale Sanders

3 36.19 James Beller

5 35.16 Ernie Schuler

6 34.44 David Genne

8 34.16 Larry Wallace

calendar year as a Non-Life Master with less than 500 masterpoints; the Woolridge Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with less than 20 masterpoints.

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

This list is up to date through

58.75 Steven Schatzow

57.82 Larry Kahn

Aug	ust 23, 2	012, not including the	9	30.50	Alfred Liepold
Rou	nd Robi	n. All points are sub-	10	30.06	Matthew Lahut
ject	to audit	by the WBL Director.	11	28.76	Eldon Compton
	_	Lovenberg		28.76	Gabriel Cornett
1	236.85	John Adams	13	28.63	Leon Masiewicki
2	150.53	-	14	27.94	Ollie Thomas
3	100.63	Clyde Kruskal		27.94	Julie Thomas
4	99.52	•			Tubbs
5	97.30	*	1	54.06	Alexander Prairie
6	89.62	C	2	35.16	Ernie Schuler
7		Mark Shaw	3	28.76	Eldon Compton
8	81.90			28.76	
9	76.51		5	28.63	Leon Masiewicki
10	76.12		6	27.94	Julie Thomas
11	73.13	Jason Meyer		27.94	Ollie Thomas
12	72.52		8	26.30	David Marshall
13	71.85	√	9	24.90	Ajit Thyagarajan
14	71.83		10	24.61	Daniel Falk
15	69.64	Brad Theurer			Woolridge
16	67.89	William Hacker	1	21.56	Myron Goldstein
17	65.62	Leo LaSota	2	15.51	Mahmoud Katirai
18	65.60	Michael Gill		15.51	Shala Panbechi
19	65.33	Lloyd Rawley	4	14.06	Jane Marsh
20	64.45	Martin Graf		14.06	Johnny Marsh
21	61.38	Leon Letwin	6	12.27	Robert Linn
22	59.71	Ellen Klosson	7	9.26	Tina Brinsfield
23	58.77	Merril Hirsh	8	7.28	Ted Proxmire

UNIT GAME CARPOOL AVAILABLE

9

10

To arrange a carpool, contact Don Berman, Carpool Coordinator, at 301-776-3581 or don.berman@verizon.net.Or log on to the WBL's **Online Carpool Notices** at: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

LESSON & GAME

GUARANTEED PARTNERS!

7:00PM LESSON

7:30 -10_{ISH} **G**AME

JOIN ANYTIME

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

Lessons will cover slam bidding, weak twos, 3 level+ preempts, overcalls, takeout doubles, negative doubles, opening leads, signaling. Each lesson will be tailored to the needs and interests of the players.

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

~ * + SCHEDULE * * ~ Most games held at Ohr Kodesh

09/13/12**StrataFlighted Upgraded Club Championship 09/20/12**StrataFlighted Grand National Teams 09/27/12** WBL Sectional 10/04/12**District 6 STaC Stratified Pairs 10/11/2012StrataFlighted Club Appreciation Pairs 10/18/2012StrataFlighted BAM Teams; NLM Pairs 10/25/2012NVBA Sectional 11/01/2012StrataFlighted Grand National Teams 11/08/2012StrataFlighted Unit Championship 11/15/2012StrataFlighted Unit Championship 11/22/2012Closed Thanksgiving 11/29/2012StrataFlighted Unit Championship 12/06/2012Stratiflighted Grass Roots FUNd Game 12/13/2012D6 STaC Stratified Pairs 12/20/12** Holiday Party/ StrataFlighted Unit Champ 12/27/2012Stratified GNTeams/NLM Charity Pairs 01/03/13** WBL Sectional

Check website for any schedule changes. Bold dates held at other locations: *TBD; **Kensington Town Hall/Armory.

For a Last-Minute Partner, to say you'll be late, to hear announcements (closings posted by 4pm), or to contact the Unit Game for any reason, call the WBL Cell Phone:

(301) 395-2760

Map to Ohr Kodesh Congregation



ALERT? The Unit Game is now played at Ohr Kodesh. NO OUTSIDE FOOD IS ALLOWED. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

WBL GUARANTEED PARTNER PROGRAM

You never need to miss the unit game because vou don't have a partner at the last minute! The WBL has a guaranteed partner (GP) program for players who occasionally need a partner for the unit game. Here's how it works: we provide a standby partner; if an odd number of people in need of a partner arrive, we match the players as best we can, and the GP plays with the one who is left. (If there is an even number of players looking, the GP goes home). You can always get a game.

Players in search of partners should try to arrive between 7:00 and 7:15 (or call ahead). The partnership desk closes at 7:25. You can call the WBL cell phone (301) 395-2760 at the last minute if are on your way and know you'll be at bit late.

To find a partner in the Open or B/C/D game at least a day in advance, contact Barbara Doran at UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix. org or barbd@star power.net, or call 301-608-0347 between 9am and 10pm. To find a partner for the NLM game, contact **Shawn Stringer** at 301-275-6363 or ShStringer@aol.com.

You might want to volunteer for the GP program yourself. It's a great way to meet people. If you play on the night you're the GP, you play free. If you volunteer, you receive a free play for any future unit game whether or not you play that night.

Partnerships Close AT 7:25pm TO START THE GAME PROMPTLY AT 7:30PM. CALL IF YOU'RE LATE. OR YOU MAY NOT BE ACCOMMODATED.

5.15 Jill Benson

5.11 Julie Marquette

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

PARKING ON THURSDAY NIGHTS

- Be aware that our host site on Thursday nights, Ohr Kodesh Congregation, has a limited amount of parking spaces on its main lot but there is plentiful street parking to accommodate the typical number of attendees.
- Please note that Bridge League attendees may NOT park in spaces on the small "back parking lot" at the rear of the facility. The synagogue maintains a daily evening prayer service that begins at 8 PM and the spaces on this lot are reserved for its attendees.
- All attendees must avoid using the parking spaces that are marked reserved for the clergy, even when seemingly not in use; clergy often return to the facility for evening activities.
- All attendees should use handicapped parking spaces only when appropriate.
- All attendees should be respectful of the neighbors and avoid parking in front of driveways.
- All attendees are expected to observe parking restrictions related to street parking. "No Parking" signs are posted in certain areas and standard laws should be followed. In particular: maintain distances from curbs (within one foot), intersections with yellow curb or signage (35 feet), stop signs (30 feet), driveways (5 feet), other parked cars (two feet), fire hydrants (15 feet) and park in the same direction as the flow of traffic. Police do periodically patrol the area and parking tickets may be issued to violators.

SLOW PLAY (AGAIN!)

As noted on page 19, the WBL has adopted a modified slow play policy that will be in effect at all future Unit Games. The aim of this is not punitive – it is to keep the game moving smoothly, to keep the playing field level, to make players who repeatedly extend their thought processes into other players' time aware of their transgressions and responsibilities, and to increase consistency in application of warnings and penalties. We will be issuing warnings more proactively, and explicitly have the authority to issue penalties without prior warning in the most flagrant cases. We are also keeping track from week to week of repeat offenders.

This is intended to make the game more enjoyable for the majority of players; you are always welcome to let the directing staff or a board member know how well - or badly - it is working.

Do you have any muscle or brains to spare?

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

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

Here's how to help:

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

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

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

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♥September 27-30, 2012, WBL
- ♠ October 25-28, 2012, NVBA
- ♣ January 3-6, 2013, WBL
- ♦ February 7-10, 2013, NVBA
- ♥March 9-10, 2013, WBL, NLM
 - ♠ April 4-7, 2013, WBL
 - ♣ May 2-5, 2013, NVBA
 - ♦ July 18-21, 2013, WBL
- ♥ September 19-22, 2013, NVBA
 - ♠ October 3-6, 2013, WBL

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

Schwartz: "2. —The bid least likely to get partner excited. If partner bids a major, then I have something."

Adams: "2♣—We've seen this problem with a second seat double. 1♥ lets partner rebid 1NT, but then we will end up in Hearts when partner has a strong 5-4 in majors. 2♣ risks a small minus, but we will get to the

right strain if partner bids more."

One expert bids 1NT. 1NT is constructive and shows a diamond stopper. I could see bidding 1NT with one flaw. However, two flaws are too much for me. Hopkins does have it right about bidding a three-card major.

Hopkins: "1NT—I always get raised to game if I bid a three-card major."

Don't bid a three-card major unless you would be burned at the stake if you failed to do so.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	Dbl	5♦	2NT	2NT	2 🚓	460
Robbie Hopkins	Dbl	4 lack	2♠	3NT	1NT	470
Fred King	Dbl	3NT	2♠	2NT	2 🚓	470
Steve Landen	4 .	5♦	3NT	3NT	1 🗸	390
Steve Parker	Dbl	3NT	3♦	3NT	1 🗸	430
Manuel Paulo	4 .	3♥	3NT	3♣	2 🚓	350
Steve Robinson	Dbl	$4 \blacklozenge$	2♠	2NT	2 🚓	500
Alan Schwartz	Dbl	4 lack	2 🖍	Pass	2 🚓	450
Robert Stone	Dbl	4 lack	2 🖍	3NT	1 v	480
Kit Woolsey	Dbl	5♦	3♦	3♦	1♥	420

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 P_{c}

SILVER SPRING, MD: JANUARY 3-6, 2013

51st Annual

~ Presidential Tournament ~

at the **KENSINGTON TOWN HALL/ARMORY**

3710 Mitchell St, Kensington, MD ~ (except where noted)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

- ◆ 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 Pairs (Beth El only)



2015... Cheers to a New Year &

a New Deal!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

 ▶ B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500)
 7:15pm



- * Special! JOINT ABA/ACBL StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (2000/1000/500) 11:00am
- ▼ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5)(single sessions) . 11:00am, 4:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation

Loss of Intermediate & Novice Events with Silver Points! ♥ I/N events: 0-5, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300; Stratification at Director's Discretion.

Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks, & Friday & Sunday lunch free of charge. Chair: Ron Zucker, 202-390-3443, ron@motherzucker.com. Volunteer Coordinator: Barbara Summers, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com Hospitality: Kitty Gottfried, 301-587-3981, kgottfried@hotmail.com Partnerships: Barbara Doran, 301-608-0347, sectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org *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. 2...

ACBL members: Mr Joseph S Arcarese, Ms Louela E Bonner, Bilha Bryant, Eva Haak Hess, Mr Richard C Nicherson, Mrs Patricia E Nickerson, Sandra Read, Mrs Nancy Torray, Mr Timm Abendroth, Susan Burt, Carolin A Crabbe, Ms Geri B Elias, Louise M Huddleston, Ms Judith M Korn, Dianne E Michnick, Paul M Neves, Kathryn W Nordberg, and Georgine L Spisak.

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.

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 both you and your partner will play free that evening.

NEW WBL SLOW PLAY POLICY

The Washington Bridge League Board has voted to adopt the following Slow Play Policy:

Players are responsible for:

- 1) maintaining a pace consistent with the time allotted for the round,
- 2) being aware of the time remaining in each round
- 3) being seated and ready to play at the start of each new round, and
- 4) to make a concerted effort to catch up when behind, whether at fault or not.

Directors should:

- 1) determine fault for slow play when possible and
- apply the following guidelines consistently (taking into account particular circumstances, including experience levels).
 - The first violation (2+ minutes late

...continued on p. 26

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

67th Annual WBL POTOMAC VALLEY TOURNAMENT

August 2-5, 2012

TOP TEN CUMULATIVE POINT WINNERS

24.49 Robert Bell

All Players

3	23.25 Lyle Poe Jr
4	20.39
5	18.99 James Geist
6	18.59
7	18.08
8	17.05
	17.05
10	17.03 Earl Glickstein
Play	vers with fewer than 1500 masterpoints
114)	12.78
2	11.12
3	10.80
4	10.64 Forest Montgomery
5	9.40 Linda Dick
6	8.65
7	8 20 Isy Cherlow
8	8.29
9	7.82
2	7.82
-	
	vers with fewer than 500 masterpoints
1	10.64 Forest Montgomery
2	8.65
3	8.24Thomas Jennings
4	7.82
	7.82
6	7.66
	7.66Norman Mitchell
8	6.09 Kellen Leister
9	5.99
10	5.71Eiji Ishida
Play	vers with fewer than 100 masterpoints
1	5.71
2	4.65 Terry Klein
3	4.17
4	4.05 Duncan Thompson
5	3.84 Lou Bonner
6	3.42
7	3.33 Ted Proxmire
8	3.15 Edna Small
9	3.03 Deena Kaplan
10	2.93 Edith Burzio
	2.93 Jean Barquin
	- 1



On Saturday afternoon of the tournament, WBL President, Richard Ferrin presented the trophy to the Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs winners: Jay Kelkar and Shuba Dev

—Results—

TF	IUR MORN OPEN PAIRS AT ROCKVILLE
	Stratum A, 28.5 Tables
1	Bert Chansky - Warren Manison 66.99
2	Barry Falgout - Diane Walker65.74
3	Robert Levey - Erik Kitagawa 64.96
4	Jeffrey Schwartz - Alan Schwartz 62.25
5	Phyllis Kristianson - Mary Lafferty61.57
6	Linda Barton - William Pettis60.19
	Stratum B, 20.0 Tables
1	Phyllis Kristianson - Mary Lafferty61.57
2	Terri Sanker - Kiyomi Shiba 59.03
3	Bruce Steinwald - P Gould 57.64
4	Richard Ray - Jon Ranhand 57.41
5	Francesco Parisi-Presicce - Mike Frosch 56.71
6	Joan Eisenfeld - Manny Eisenfeld 56.67
	Stratum C, 11.5 Tables
1	Bruce Steinwald - P Gould 57.64
2	Peter Schiff - Jack Schiff 54.08
3	Michael Platt - Terry Vann
4	Lynn Bennett - Sarah Fox52.31
5	Lester Slaback - John Jackson 51.16
6	Larry Wallace - Forest Montgomery49.54
	THUR EVE B/C/D PAIRS
	Stratum B, 26.0 Tables
1	John Gauss - Carolyn Baird
2	Aaron Navarro - Mike Frosch

Arun Guha - Elizabeth Nash63.83

Neal Rosenthal - Ellen Rosenthal . . . 61.36

Paid Advertisement Paid Advertisement - 20 -- 21 -

6	W Karl Van Newkirk - James Gerding 57.44	5 Mark Chen - Hal Hindman56.02	FRI AM 299ER PAIRS	2 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold 63.04
	Stratum C, 22.5 Tables	6 Lloyd Rawley - Ronald Zucker 55.78	Stratum A, 11.5 Tables	3 David Montague - Norman Mitchell58.55
1 .	John Gauss - Carolyn Baird	THUR EVE 199ER PAIRS (NVBA)		4 Donna Hankey-Woods - Douglas Woods 58.33
	Arun Guha - Elizabeth Nash	Stratum A. 11.5 Tables		5 Francesco Parisi-Presicce - Mike Frosch 56.33
3 '	Ted Proxmire - Charles King	Detailed in 11.0 lables	1961	6 John Gauss - Carolyn Baird
4	W Karl Van Newkirk - James Gerding 57.44			Stratum C, 8.5 Tables
	Thomas Grahame - Gregory Christian 56.55			1 Mary Peters - Thomas Peters
6	Eldon Compton - Gabriel Cornett56.06			2 David Montague - Norman Mitchell58.55
	Stratum D, 16.0 Tables			3 Donna Hankey-Woods - Douglas Woods 58.33
	John Gauss - Carolyn Baird			4 John Gauss - Carolyn Baird
	Arun Guha - Elizabeth Nash		1 Barbara Levine - Neil Crane63.43	5 Steven Fox - Marc Stone54.13
	W Karl Van Newkirk - James Gerding 57.44		2 Kellen Leister - Wayne Bardsley 59.39	Stratum D, 5.0 Tables
	Γhomas Grahame - Gregory Christian 56.55	1 Yuen De Anda - Ron Sutter	3 Carol Kahn - Temma Kanowith 59.36	1 David Montague - Norman Mitchell58.55
	Eldon Compton - Gabriel Cornett 56.06	2 Blair Curry - Judith Curry59.36	4 Susan Myers - Ina Smith-Tornberg58.63	2 Donna Hankey-Woods - Douglas Woods 58.33
6	Robert Poriss - Parween Yunus55.66	3 Sandy Haberlin - John Haberlin 56.95	5 Jill Benson - Gale Greenbaum 58.58 6 William Morris - Kathleen Zellmer 56.23	3 John Gauss - Carolyn Baird
	THUR EVE NLM (WBL)	4 Katherine Culp - Janelle Gmitter 55.84	Stratum B, 10.0 Tables	4 Larry Wallace - Forest Montgomery47.54
	Stratum A, 7.0 Tables	5 Kathleen LaMarre - Jeremy Billones .55.36	1 Barbara Levine - Neil Crane	FRI AFT 299ER PAIRS
	Jean Barquin - Edith Burzio	6 Cathy McGarrigan - Sherry Griffin55.07	2 Kellen Leister - Wayne Bardsley 59.39	Stratum A, 9.0 Tables
	Tom Palagano - Barbara Yuravlivker .57.92	Stratum B, 10.0 Tables	3 Carol Kahn - Temma Kanowith 59.36	
	David Benson - Jill Benson	1 Yuen De Anda - Ron Sutter	4 Susan Myers - Ina Smith-Tornberg58.63	
	Mary Ourand - Michael Watts	2 Sandy Haberlin - John Haberlin 56.95	5 Jill Benson - Gale Greenbaum 58.58	1-981 BE
5 '	Terry Klein - Myron Goldstein	3 Katherine Culp - Janelle Gmitter 55.84	6 William Morris - Kathleen Zellmer56.23	
1	Stratum B, 4.0 Tables	4 Kathleen LaMarre - Jeremy Billones .55.36	Stratum C, 4.5 Tables	
	Jean Barquin - Edith Burzio	5 Cathy McGarrigan - Sherry Griffin55.07	1 Susan Myers - Ina Smith-Tornberg58.63	
	From Palagano - Barbara Yuravlivker .57.92 David Benson - Jill Benson57.08	6 Pat Kibler - Donald Smith	2 Jill Benson - Gale Greenbaum 58.58	
3		Stratum C, 4.5 Tables	3 Cheri Hayes - Tina Brinsfield 51.26 4 Edith Burzio - Jean Barquin	
G-	THUR EVE 0-20 PAIRS	1 Nancy Tarlano - Rozelin Prochaska52.77 2 Wayne Bardsley - Catherine Bardsley 52.38		1 Julie Thomas - Ollie Thomas
Str	atum A, 5.0 Tables / Based on 4 Tables		FRI AFT A/X PAIRS	2 Heide Blaker - Lynne Battle 58.33
1	Z .1 T D 1 T CC 54.17	3 Cayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 52 13		
1	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff54.17	3 Gayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 52.13 4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26	Stratum A, 11.0 Tables / Based on 30 Tables	3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95
$\frac{1}{2}$	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff54.17 Lillian Glaser - Adele Ewing52.50	4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26		3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95 4 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda55.36
$\frac{1}{2}$	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff	4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26 FRI AM OPEN PAIRS		3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95 4 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda55.36 5 Alan Skvirsky - Yasmin Jiwa54.46
1 2 3	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff	4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26		3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95 4 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda55.36 5 Alan Skvirsky - Yasmin Jiwa54.46 Stratum B, 7.5 Tables
1 2 3 3 .	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff	4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26 FRI AM OPEN PAIRS		3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95 4 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda55.36 5 Alan Skvirsky - Yasmin Jiwa54.46 Stratum B, 7.5 Tables 1 Ollie Thomas - Julie Thomas61.01
1 2 3 3 .	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff	4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26 FRI AM OPEN PAIRS		3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95 4 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda55.36 5 Alan Skvirsky - Yasmin Jiwa54.46 Stratum B, 7.5 Tables 1 Ollie Thomas - Julie Thomas61.01 2 Heide Blaker - Lynne Battle58.33
1 2 3	Kenneth Jones - Paula Leff	4 James Connor - Debbie Moore 51.26 FRI AM OPEN PAIRS		3 James Summers Jr - Larry Carswell55.95 4 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda55.36 5 Alan Skvirsky - Yasmin Jiwa54.46 Stratum B, 7.5 Tables 1 Ollie Thomas - Julie Thomas61.01 2 Heide Blaker - Lynne Battle58.33
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3	David Montague - Norman Mitchell54.17		Stratum B. 13.0 Tables	2	Duncan Thompson - Terry Klein60.61		Stratum X, 4 Tables
	David Traub - Carol Traub	1	Roslyn Weinstein - Deena Kaplan64.58	3	Terry Jones - Alan Skvirsky 59.09	1	Eric Landau - Monique Smith - Barbara
	Stratum C, 3.5 Tables	2/3	Ellen Pollack - Gay Pirozzi60.42	4	Sarah Weinberg - Gary Weinberg 57.20		Doran - Merril Hirsh
1	David Montague - Norman Mitchell54.17	2/3	David Benson - Jill Benson	5	Eiji Ishida - Kitty Gottfried57.01		SUN B/C/D SWISS TEAMS
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3	Aaron Navarro - Judith Dausch50.42	5	Mariko Oka - Etsuko Smith 58.93	6/7	Beth Wisinski - Gary Wisinski 56.82	1	
	Stratum D, 2.5 Tables	6	Ann Jennings - Craig Jennings 55.06		Stratum C, 10.0 Tables		Dick - Jim Dick
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				5 4	George Parkins - Hank Lavender	7	Patricia Mitchell - Carol Davis - Edna
				5	Carol Elfant - Louis Coccodrilli 54.55		Small - Louela Bonner
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1	Ollie Thomas - Julie Thomas				SAT AFT 299ER PAIRS		Klaber – Tobi Bear
	Catherine Bardsley - Wayne Bardsley 54.00				Stratum A, 6.5 Tables	8/9	Joseph Pregosin - Odessa Morton - Sandra
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						9	Carole Banks - Silas Wasserstrom - Eiji
		1	Jay Kelkar - Shuba Dey			-	Ishida - Kiyomi Shiba
		2	Lloyd Rawley - Michael Richey 60.94			3	Patricia Mitchell - Carol Davis - Edna
		3	Leo LaSota - Mark Shaw59.54				Small – Louela Bonner
		4	Peter Boyd - Ruth Potter59.17			4/5	Aaron Navarro - Howard Bender - Susan
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	Howard Bender - Aaron Navarro	8	Richard Ferrin - Rose Berman	4	Wayne Bardsley - Catherine Bardsley 58.91	0/1	Compton - Gabriel Cornett
2	Bryan Geer - David Mead	9 10	Brad Theurer - Lyle Poe Jr	5	David Cissel - Barbara Turner	6/7	James Gerding - Jay Simon - Elliot Simon -
	Terry Jones - Alan Skvirsky	11	William Hacker - Benjamin Brill47.24	1	Stratum B, 6.5 Tables Ollie Thomas - Julie Thomas 61.20		Sidney Graves
4/6 4/6	Margie Coccodrilli - Donald Goldman 57.08		Clyde Kruskal - Donna Rogall	$\frac{1}{2}$	Glenn Terrell - Dottie Terrell	St	tratum D, 15 Tables / Based on 14 Tables
	Terry Coates - John Horner57.08		SAT AFT A/X CONSOLATION PAIRS	3	Ann Jennings - Craig Jennings	1	Albert Stolpe - Thomas Jennings - Edward
1,0	Stratum C, 14.5 Tables		Stratum A, 9.0 Tables	4	Wayne Bardsley - Catherine Bardsley 58.91		Taborek - Stephen Colevas
1	Aaron Navarro - Howard Bender 66.81		Stratum A, 9.0 Tables	5	David Cissel - Barbara Turner 57.00	2	Patricia Mitchell - Carol Davis - Edna
	Sarah Weinberg - Gary Weinberg57.08				SUN A/X BAM TEAMS	2/4	Small – Louela Bonner
	Terry Coates - John Horner57.08		500	Ç.	tratum A, 13 Tables / Based on 52 Tables	3/4	John McCormick - Larry Wallace - Eldon Compton - Gabriel Cornett
4	Terry Klein - Duncan Thompson 55.69			50	ratum A, 13 Tables / Based on 32 Tables	3/4	James Gerding - Jay Simon - Elliot Simon -
5	Thomas Jennings - Stephen Colevas .53.89						Sidney Graves
6	Sidney Graves - James Gerding 52.78			E.		5	Margie Mastran - Sheryl McEwan - M.
	Stratum D, 9.5 Tables						David Jackson - William Hohe74.00
1	Terry Coates - John Horner57.08		#Id				SUN MORN 0-300 SWISS
	Terry Klein - Duncan Thompson	1	Richard Wegman - David Ruderman .62.51		ISHAWALE SALES		Stratum A, 6 Tables
	Sidney Graves - James Gerding 52.78	2	Kenneth Davis - Mark Tonnesen 61.14	· 3	MAUN	1	Wayne Bardsley - Catherine Bardsley -
	Joan Anania - Edward Anania	3	Frances Mucci - Richard Mucci 59.05		OAHU AII(II)		Kellen Leister - Maryellen Leister62.00
	Daniela Tunsanu - Radu Tunsanu 52.22	4	Sorina Negulescu - Lynda Flanger56.21	1	William Pettis - Ai-Tai Lo - Fred King -	2	Sybil Cantor - Barbara Ranhand - Shelby
1, 0		5	Linda Marshall - Vonnie Lavender53.01	0	Robert Bell		Herman - Carol Hopkins
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1	Stratum A, 20.0 Tables Roslyn Weinstein - Deena Kaplan64.58	1	Sorina Negulescu - Lynda Flanger56.21	3	Eric Landau - Monique Smith - Barbara	1	Wayne Bardsley - Catherine Bardsley - Kellen Leister - Maryellen Leister62.00
2	Wayne Bardsley - Kellen Leister	2	Roma Chandra - Leonid Fastovsky45.21	3	Doran - Merril Hirsh	2	Sybil Cantor - Barbara Ranhand - Shelby
3/4	Ellen Pollack - Gay Pirozzi	3	Irwin Blocker - Daniel Feldman44.59	4	Steve Robinson - William Cole - Peter Boyd	-	Herman - Carol Hopkins
3/4	David Benson - Jill Benson		SAT AFT B/C/D PAIRS		- Mark Shaw - Earl Glickstein		Stratum C, 3 Tables
5	Stanley Katzman - Jean Agenbroad59.82		Stratum B, 13.0 Tables	5	Clyde Kruskal - John Adams - Donna Ro-	1	Sybil Cantor - Barbara Ranhand - Shelby
6	Mariko Oka - Etsuko Smith58.93	1	David Montague - Norman Mitchell64.02		gall - Richard Wegman25.75		Herman - Carol Hopkins57.00

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

starting a round) in a session will normally incur a warning.

- Extreme violations (4+ minutes late starting a round), and habitual slow play that persists from one session to another, may be penalized without prior warning.
- Failure to catch up within two rounds of being warned, any subsequent slow play violation, or playing through the whole of a break, will normally incur a penalty (usually 1/4 board).
- Further violations may incur additional increasing penalties.

Late Plays

- 1) Late Plays may be awarded in pair events in order that all scheduled boards be played, but these should not become a reward for slow play.
- 2) Award of a late play will always be accompanied by a slow play warning or penalty.

The club manager is instructed to maintain a record of all slow play penalties (and warnings and late plays as far as practicable) awarded in

WBL events, and to bring persistent or flagrant slow play to the attention of the Unit Recorder.

BETHESDA, MD 2012 **JULY 4TH REGIONAL** ---WBL Top 10 Lists---

WBL Members

, <u></u>	
1 90.81Ruth Potter	1
2 86.08 William Pettis	2
3 75.57 Steve Robinson	3
4 74.82	4
5 71.06 John Adams	5
6 70.07	6
70.07 Benjamin Brill	
8 67.19 Leo LaSota	8
9 47.47	9
47.47	
47.47	
47.47	

WBL Members with < 750 masternoints

		015 (1101 4 100 IIIII)
1 4	47.14	Alexander Prairie
2 4	10.62	
3 3	33.96	Leon Masiewicki
4 2	26.77	Suzanne Floyd
5 2	22.87	Dale Sanders
6 2	22.28	Robert Krueger
7 2	21.92	

Paid Advertisement

Did You Know?

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

Join us often and spread the word!

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Monday	11:15 AM	St James
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rockville Senior Center
Thursday	11:15 AM	St James
Friday	11:15 AM	St James
Saturday	1:00 PM	St James

www.rockvilledbc.com

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

Locations:

St James Episcopal Church	Rockville Senior Center
St James Episcopal Church 11815 Seven Locks Road	1150 Carnation Dr
Potomac, MD	Rockville, MD

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9 19.30 Charles Maplethorpe WBL Members with < 300 masterpoints

8 20.34 Steve Graves

	u mom	ocis with 4000 master points
1	40.62	
2	19.30	
3	16.89	Jay Weinstein
4	15.77	Eldon Compton
		Nancy Wanicur
		Joel Goldberg
7	13.19	Ronnie Loeser
8	12.61	Stephen Salitrik
9	12.05	
10	11.87	Roslyn Weinstein

WBI	Members with < 100 masterpoints
1	l 1.66
2	9.16
	9.16
4	9.04
5	8.07Ted Proxmire
6	7.38Judith Dausch
7	7.23 Thayer Baine
8	6.43 Rosemary Kuntz
9	5.93 Shaye Hester
10	5.91 Stephen Nagy

Every Saturday, the Rockville Duplicate **Bridge Club** holds a 0 - Non Life Master game with a mini-lesson.

Mini-Lesson: Saturdays, 12:30 pm

0-NLM Game: 1:00 pm Cost: \$6.00

Location: St. James Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Road

Directions: Take Rt 270 to Exit 4B (from either direction) Montrose Road. This will take vou to Seven Locks Road. Left on Seven Locks Rd 3 blocks. St James Church is on the left (going south), between Post Oak and Gainsboro Rd. There are two buildings, the game and minilesson are in the building on the left facing the church. There is plenty of parking in the rear, and a rear entrance to the building (1 flight of stairs if you enter from the rear of the building).

For additional information, contact **Mark** Lavine, 301-503-3348 or mlavine@gcsii.com

Open Games: Sat.: 1pm, Mon, Thurs & Fri: 11:15am, Tue: 7pm (Tue only at Rockville Senior Center—see www.rockvilledbc.com for directions.)

THE WBL **ONLINE**

The Washington Bridge League is providing two new online services:

1. The WBL Online Bulletin Board

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

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

2. The WBL Online Partnership Desk

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

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MAJOR SUIT RAISES: RESPONDER SPLINTERS

We have discussed a variety of ways to support partner's major suit opener. We have examined simple raises, invitational (or limit,) raises, forcing raises, preemptive raises, and mixed raises. A basic bidding principle is to make the cheapest bid available to describe your hand. Therefore, a bid that takes up a big chunk of bidding space should show a very specific type of hand. One example of such a bid is a "splinter."

What is a splinter? In your finger, a splinter is an annoying little piece of something. In bridge, a splinter is a little piece of a suit – little meaning one or zero cards in that suit. And the splinter may or may not be annoying to your partner!

When can responder splinter? Responder must have the following size and shape hand in order to make a splinter bid:

- FOUR+ card support for opener's major.
- Game forcing values with less than 16 points in support of partner's suit (with more, choose another action).
- A singleton or void in the suit bid

How does responder splinter? Responder can splinter by making a double jump in a new suit after partner opens one of a major. Here are the possible bids:

<u>Opener</u>	Responder
1♠	4C, 4D, 4♥
	(all splinter bids)
1 v	3♠, 4C, 4D
	(all splinter bids)

Note that the jump to the four level is not needed as any kind of natural bid, so it is available for responder to convey some very useful information about his hand.

Why are splinters so valuable? Splinters are valuable because they help partners get to slam with fewer points than normally needed – based on precise information about distribution. If opener holds xxx in a side suit and partner shows a singleton in that suit, the deck gets smaller and the ten HCP that opponents hold in the suit will take at most one trick

More importantly, splinters greatly assist opener in the job of re-evaluating her hand based on what partner has just conveyed. Here, the concept of "wasted values" is critical to your hand evaluation

Consider these hands:

<u>Opener</u>	$\underline{\text{Responder A}}$	$\underline{\mathrm{Responder}\ B}$
♠AJT74	♦ KQ65	♦ KQ6
♥ A3	♥ K765	♥ K76
♦KQ7	♦ A854	♦ 6
♣ 932	\$ 6	♣ A854

You open 1. If partner holds the A hand, he will splinter by bidding 4. You are not annoyed by his splinter – instead you are quite happy. First, you know that your three losing clubs have turned into one losing trick. You realize that you have no wasted values in clubs. Also, since partner does not have club cards, he must have honors in the red suits – honors which fit perfectly with your hand. Your re-evaluation

tells you that you should try for slam. You have only 26 HCP between the two hands, but slam looks pretty cold.

But look at responder hand B. When partner splinters in diamonds, you see that your ◆KQ are no longer worth 5 HCP – they are wasted values. While it is true that your ◆Q may be good for one pitch, partner has too many losing clubs to make slam. Let's say that partner had not splintered, but had bid Jacoby 2N, and then answered two keycards with the Queen to your keycard ask: you would likely bid slam missing only one keycard between the two hands. And you would have no chance. So, the splinter bid keeps you from even thinking about what would be a bad slam.

So, with these guidelines in mind, let's look at a few hands. Partner opens 1 \(\blacktriangle \) and you hold:

♦ K863 ♥ AQT ♦ 7 ♣ KT932	Bid 4 ♠, a splinter in support of spades. You have 12 HCP and two for distribution. If partner bids 4♠, though, you are happy to stop. This hand is a "textbook" splinter.
♦ A863 ♥ AQT ♦ 7 ♣ AQT93	Bid 2N (Jacoby). Yes, you have a game forcing hand with a singleton diamond. But you have too much strength for a splinter. Partner, holding ♠KQT74 ♥ J2 ♠KJT ♣KJ5 will assume she has the wrong hand for you, and will sign off. Keep your splinters limited.
♣ QT853 2 ♥ AT7 ♦— ♣ KT93	Bid 4 ♠. You only have 9 HCP but you have six card support and a void. This is a game forcing hand. If partner has as little as ♠ Kxxxx ♥ Kx ♠ xxxx ♣ AQ you could take twelve tricks!
♦ K86 ♥ AQT3 ♦ 7 ♣ KT932	Bid 2 . You have an excellent hand, and you are very likely to want to play in spades. Still, a splinter requires four card trump support for partner.

So, learn the basics of the splinter bid. Recognize when partner or the opponents are splintering. Focus on re-evaluating your hand once partner splinters. You will stay out of dangerous contracts and bid slams that others miss!

Feel free to contact us at <u>ron@motherzucker.com</u> or <u>shstringer@aol.com</u>, or at the unit game. We look forward to seeing you at the table!

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STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of August 1, 2012

Junior Masters: 5 Masterpoints

Ms Edith E Burzio Long H Mao Cecily J Wolfe Barbara Gifford

Club Masters: 20 MPs

Ms Bonnie R Cohen Chris Rowe Linda R Weiner Jill I Benson Mr Stephen P Nagy Lawrence F Sancilio

Sectional Masters: 50 MPs

Ms Lynn Johns
Mr Thomas W Conley
Oscar W Lease Jr
Ms Diane S Liebman
Mrs Elizabeth A Majane

Regional Masters: 100 MPs

Mr David R Penn

WBL Solvers' Club's New Problems

1) IMPs, They're Vulnerable	y're Vulne	rable		3) IMPs, None Vulnerable	e Vulnerab	le		55) IMPs, Both Vulnerable	th Vulnera	ble	
₹	▼843 ♦ 8 2	J♥843♦83♣KQJ10652	2	+	1Q♥54♦K	A AQ♥54♦K76542 & A43	3	€	2♥KQ65	♦52♥ KQ65♦6 ♣ AKQJ32	2
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH 1	EAST Pass	SOUTH 1 •	WEST 1◆	NORTH 1♣	EAST Pass	SOUTH 1 &	WEST Dbl	NORTH 1 ◆	$\frac{\text{EAST}}{\text{Pass}}$
INT	Pass	2 %	Pass	6666				>	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2525								2525			
				4) IMPs, Non) IMPs, None Vulnerable	le le					
2) IMPs, Both Vulnerable	h Vulnerab	le le		¥()92♥AKQ	AAQ92♥AKQ10876♦-♣A3	43	Retw	n answers	Seturn answers by October 4 to:	to:
♦	- ♦86 ♠96	♦ K96♥98♦- ♣ AKQ109763	53	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	28	91 S. Abin	2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,	
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH					•		Arlington	VA, 22206	
*	>	4	Pass	Dbl	Pass	>	Dbl		robinswr@	robinswr@erols.com	
3333			_	2222			_				

NEED A <u>RIDE</u> OR A <u>PARTNER</u> FOR THE THURSDAY UNIT GAME?

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

Ron Zucker, Carpool Coordinator can be contacted at 202-986-2166 or (ron@motherzucker.com) or log on to the On-Line Carpool Notices at www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

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

September/October 2012