



JUNE 28 - JULY 4TH

ALEXANDRIA REGIONAL:

***Focus on Newcomers, Novices,
and Intermediates***

There's a FULL SLATE of events for ALL Intermediate/Novice players at the annual July 4th Regional held in Alexandria VA. Come out and play with your friends! Meet some new people and players. Enjoy the famous DC hospitality. Play when you want – 3 session times almost every day. *More information appears on pages 25-26.*

NEW THIS YEAR – we'll be running **Steve Forsythe's "Instant Bridge Player"** program on Wednesday, June 28 at 1:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, July 1 at 10:30 a.m. This is especially for people who have never played bridge but who are interested as well as those who have dabbled in social or "kitchen" bridge and want to learn about the world of duplicate. Tell your non-bridge playing friends! Come yourself for a refresher.

IBP Schedule: *(Break times approximate.)*

	<u>REGISTRATION</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>BREAK</u>
Wednesday	1-1:30	1:30-6	3-3:15
Saturday	10-10:30	10:30-2:30	12:15-12:30

(Saturday is scheduled so people can plan on playing at 3:00, but actually we'll go until 3:00 for those who aren't playing in the afternoon)

AND, don't forget the very special **AARP/ACBL event** on Saturday the 1st.

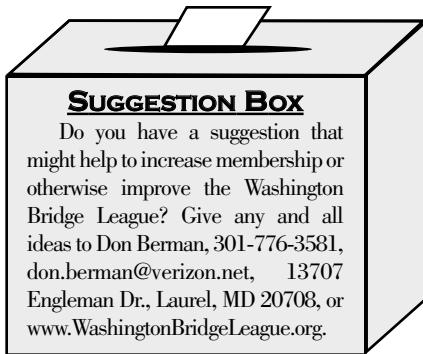
- Guaranteed partners!
- Section top prizes!
- Special separate playing area for Intermediate/Novice!
- Daily FREE lectures!
- Registration gifts!
- Daily FREE snacks!
- Trophy pair events
- Two special receptions just for Intermediate/Novice players— 2 p.m. Thursday the 29th and Saturday the 1st
- FREE drinks and hospitality every night
- Child care available (call in advance)

Come out and play bridge!

Questions?

Call *Ron* or *Mary Ann Kral* @ 703-478-0077 or email us @ DCINprogram@gmail.com

Contact *Steve* or *Sandy Forsythe* for more information about the **Instant Bridge Player** program @ majslf@aol.com.



WBL OMBUDSMAN
Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Ann Lindley 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 8822 Fircrest Pl., Alexandria, VA 22308.

◆◆◆◆ ~~~~~ ◆◆◆◆
DEADLINE: JUNE 8, 2006
TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2006 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)
VOL. 64, #3 — SUBSCRIPTION \$2 PER YEAR FOR MEMBERS OF UNIT #147 (INCLUDED IN ACBL ANNUAL DUES). NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION RATE IS \$21 FOR THREE YEARS. PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE AT 14517 PERRYWOOD DRIVE, BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866. SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BURTONSVILLE, MD. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE BULLETIN, ACBL, 2990 AIRWAYS BLVD., MEMPHIS, TN 38116-3847. ALL EDITORIAL AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EDITOR AT 901 CLIFTONBROOK LN., SILVER SPRING, MD 20905-3711.

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

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

CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
President's Letter	2
WBL 61st Annual Potomac Valley Tournament — August 3-6, 2006	3
NVBA September Sensations Tournament — September 7-10, 2006	4
Bits and Pieces...	
Welcome to the WBL; 2005-2006 WBL/NVBA Player of the Year —	
Final Standings;	5
Interested in Becoming a Caddy?; Is Steve Robinson the Most Long-	
Term Living Member of the WBL?; Bridgeisms!	22
WBL Solvers' Club	7
Thursday Night Unit Game...	
2006 Trophy Race Standings	14
0-20 Game & Lesson Thursday Nights, Carpools	14
Schedule, Map, Guaranteed Partner Program ,	15
It Takes a Village to Run a Bridge Club, Spare Brains or Muscle? 16	
Committee Action #52, Part 2	17
2005 Winners & 2006 Annual Meeting Report	18
WBL Board & Member Responsibilities: May 2006 - May 2007	20
Nomination for the Machlin Trophy for Sportsmanship	23
Alexandria 4th of July Regional: June 28 - July 4, 2006	25
Does Someone You Know Want to Learn to Play Bridge?	25
Intermediate/Novice Program at the Alexandria Regional	26
How to Find Partners	27
by <i>Barbara Doran, Unit Game Partnerships</i>	
New! WBL Sponsored Under 300 Club Game	27
NLMasterPointers	28
by <i>I/N columnist, Sandy Forsythe</i>	
Stepping Up to New Heights	29
Need a Partner or a Ride to the Unit Game?	back cover
Solvers' Club's New Problems	back cover

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Fred King

As this is my first letter as the new WBL president, I would like to introduce myself and then set out what I see as goals for the WBL over the near future. I have lived in the Washington area since 1973 and been a member of the WBL throughout that period. I worked at the World Bank for 28 years, retiring 5 years ago. I have three children, all of whom did extensive caddying when they were younger, but they have not become players. My wife, alas, has no interest in bridge. My parents taught me to play bridge when I was 13, and I have been fascinated by the game since then. I enjoy the competitive aspects of duplicate, but also the social aspects of the game. That is why my favorite events are the double knock out and round robin team events that the WBL sponsors. I would like to see participation in those games increased and would welcome any ideas you may have about these events.

I believe strongly that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and the WBL is certainly not broken. Its finances are strong, attendance at our sectionals and unit games is high and we are the envy of most other units in the country. (Last week at the unit game I played against someone visiting from western Massachusetts and he exclaimed, "We have nothing like this where I come from!") I am following a president who did a wonderful job and I plan to draw on his help as I settle into this position.

One concern I do have is that, like most units in the ACBL, our total membership continues to decline. I would like to see us increase our efforts to get new members—

both young people and those starting retirement—, retain the members we have, and lure back those who have let their membership lapse. This is not a task just for the board, but for all of us in the WBL.

Another concern that I have about the WBL is that we rely on a small number of volunteers who perform yeoman like tasks. I think it is vital that we increase the number of people volunteering and helping to be sure that we do not become overly dependent on a few people doing too much. **Barbara Summers** has written recently about the need to *create a village of volunteers* (see p. 16) and I hope you will indicate to her or to me or any other member of the board your willingness to pitch in and keep our unit in its preeminent place in the ACBL.

This year is the 75th since the inception of the WBL and he hope to celebrate it in a number of ways. We will give the first ever **Machlin Award for Good Sportsmanship**. (See details on p. 23) We want to resurrect the team trophy that used to be given annually by the WBL. You might get your name engraved alongside **Charles Goren, B.J. Becker, Louis Watson** and **Al Roth**, among others! **Bob Levey** has agreed to write a short history of the WBL. We are looking for the longest continuous members of the WBL. Your ideas on how to celebrate our **Diamond Anniversary** would be appreciated.

Finally, in my view the key to an organization doing well is continuous feedback from its members. Kudos and brickbats are welcomed by me and all board members.

—Fred King



SILVER SPRING, MD: AUGUST 3-6, 2006

61st Annual Potomac Valley Tournament

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

- ♣ StrataFlighted Open Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D Separate 1500/1000/500) (both sites); Stratified NLM Pairs (NLM/100/50) & 0-20 Pairs (Christ the King Church only); Stratified 199er Pairs (Beth El only)
 - Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm**
 - Christ the King Church, 2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring 7:30pm**
- Capital Beltway to Connecticut Ave. South. Left on East-West Hwy. Right on Grubb Rd. 1st left on Colston. Church is on the left before the next intersection.

Friday—
at Christ the King Church Only **FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**

- ♦ Stratified Pairs (2000+/1000/500) 10:00am
- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) . . . 2:00pm
- ♠ Barometer Pairs StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 7:30pm

Check your scores every round! Friday nights are your chance to try a different form of the game. This one-session Barometer Pairs has no qualification necessary. Everyone plays the same boards at the same time and you can see how you're doing after every round.

- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions) 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

◇ **SAT. & SUN. at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center ONLY** ♥

**It's Summer
Bridge and
Barbecue**

1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD: From Beltway exit Georgia Avenue north (toward Wheaton). Turn right at first traffic light onto Forest Glen Rd. The Senior Center is .7 mile on your right.

**Don't miss the
2:30pm Saturday Panel Show!**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X Pairs (unlim/3000) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♥ StrataFlighted B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♣ Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♦ Panel Show between sessions 2:30pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

- ♥ A/X Swiss Teams, VPs (unlim /3000, 7 round playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♠ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (2000/1000/500, 7 round playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♣ 300/200/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:00pm

♣ **Full Schedule of Intermediate and Novice Events** ♥

1/N events: 0-5, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300; Stratification at Director's Discretion.

Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks and **Friday, Saturday and Sunday lunch** free of charge. **Chair: Nadine Wood**, 301-565-9555, woodthere@comcast.net. **Volunteer Coordinator: Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com **Hospitality: Kitty Gottfried**, 301-587-3981, kgottfried@hotmail.com **Partnerships: Barbara Ames**, 202-439-5667, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org or try the easy **Online Partnership Bulletin Board: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org**

**Have a
COOL
time at
a HOT
Sectional!**



♣ Arlington, VA ♦ SEPTEMBER 7-10, 2006 ♠



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER SENSATIONS
SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT**

Knights of Columbus Hall (KOCH)
5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA
Call 703-536-9656 & dial "0"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

*Knights of Columbus Hall (KOCH), Arlington, VA (NVBA)
Christ the King Church, one block south of East-West Highway on
Colston between Washington and Grubb, Chevy Chase, MD (WBL)*

****Novice/Intermediate Lecture** 6:30 p.m.**
STRATAFLIGHTED 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.
0-5 PAIRS **FREE** 7:00 p.m.

...REST OF TOURNAMENT AT KOCH...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 2 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) 2 p.m.
49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) 2 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 7:30 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 9:30 a.m.
STRATIFIED SENIOR PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 9:30 a.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20) 9:30 a.m.
0-5 PAIRS 9:30 a.m.
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.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100; 2 single sessions) 2 & 7:30 p.m.
49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

****Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman)** 10:15 a.m. **
FLIGHTS A/X (3000+/3000) & B/C (2000/750) SWISS TEAMS . 11:00 a.m.
Both Flights are 2-session events, with one 30-minute break—box lunch available
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100; Single session) 11:00 a.m.
49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5; Single session) 11:00 a.m.
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100; Single session) 3:15 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Rte. 495 (the Beltway) or points West of the Beltway, take Rte. 66 East to the Washington Boulevard/Lee Highway exit. At the light at the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Lee Highway. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn left onto Harrison Street. Go .5 miles and turn right onto Little Falls Road. The KOCH is on your left .2 of a mile down Little Falls. From D.C. or Arlington, take Rte. 66 West to the Sycamore Street exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Sycamore. At the second light, turn right onto Lee Highway and go a little over 1 mile and turn left onto Harrison Street. Follow the above directions from that point. OR from D.C., go straight across Chain Bridge and then keep left to stay on Glebe Road. From the light at the end of Chain Bridge, proceed 1.8 miles and turn right onto Little Falls Road (the second right past the light at Williamsburg Blvd.). Cross Old Dominion (3 miles) at the stop sign and proceed on Little Falls another .3 miles to the KOCH on your right. From all directions, turn up the drive and circle past the stone lodge. Follow signs for visitor parking. The tournament will be held in the brick building marked "KOCH 2473" down the hill to your right.

**NOTE: ALL
VIRGINIA EVENTS ARE
AT KOCH**

NVBA (KOCH) WBL
6:30 p.m.**
7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

*Championship
Events and a Full Schedule
of 299er Events for Novice
and Intermediate Players*

**Mid-Chart Conventions
permitted in all Ft A, B,
& Open Stratified Events**

*Endless summer
hospitality...fresh fruits,
fresh veggies, seasonal
cakes and pies*

Tournament Chairs
Margot Hennings,
703-560-0245
Kathryn Kiley,
703-758-0366

Partnership Chair
Leo Cardillo,
703-868-6868
*...or check out our
Online Partnership "Desk"
at www.nvba.org*

**Next NVBA Sectional:
November 9-12,
2006**

**WELCOME TO THE
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE**

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Mae S Beuchert, Dr Charles R Dearolf, Mr Michael W Dolan, Mr Abdul Haji, Ms Stephanie R Hoover, Ms Ellen G Horton, Mrs Temma S Kanowith, Mr James Kasab, and Mr Nathaniel C Nash Vi.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mr Albert Alias, Mrs Sandra W Barron-, Mrs Rose A Bernat, Mr C.William Black, Ms Joan Blitman, Mr Leon Blitman, Ms Caryl D Brody, Mr William B Dale, Mr John Flynn, Mrs Elizabeth B Gray, Wesley Gray, Mr Maurice M Greenman, Mrs Evelyn Grunley, Mr Martin R Grunley, Mrs Ellinor H Hatton, Ms Nancy S MacInnis, Mrs Elaine F Parks, Ms Pearl Siegel, Mrs Claire Smith, Mr Alex Stouck, Mrs Cynthia B Sutton, and Mr Mike Sutton.**

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

**2005-2006 WBL/NVBA
PLAYER OF THE YEAR
FINAL STANDINGS**

To be eligible, a player: (1) Must be a member (or pending member) of either the NVBA or the WBL; (2) Must attend at least three NVBA and three WBL sectionals during the contest period (August, 2005 through May, 2006). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility; (3) Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded.

Standings: Here are the final standings after all seven Sectionals. The asterisk* indicates that the player has met eligibility requirements.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Open Leaders</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 Steve Robinson		125.47*
2 William Cole		113.37*
3 Peter Boyd		101.01*
4 Earl Glickstein		91.55*
5 Mark Shaw		90.78*
6 Michael Gill		88.49*
7 Noble Shore		88.49*
8 Janet Gookin		82.81
9 Fred King		78.66*
10 Robert Gookin		75.53
11 Robert Bell		75.34*
12 Kenneth Davis		74.08*
13 James Geist		69.07*
14 John Adams		68.01
15 Margot Hennings		58.77
16 Diane Walker		57.93*
17 Helene Bauman		57.34*
18 Shuba Dey		56.08*
19 Kenton Schoen		53.89*
20 Donna Rogall		52.81

<u>Player</u>	<u>NonLM Leaders</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 Lily Andre		43.83*
2 Martha Bley		43.09*
3 Ross Bley		41.07*
4 Katherine Rabenstein ..		34.07*
5 William Kingery Jr		30.10*
6 Elizabeth Parker		26.05*
7 Shawn Stringer		25.95*
8 Roma Chandra		25.49*
9 William Gurley		21.94
10 Daniel Koch		20.70
11 Larry Gebbie		20.07*
12 Murat Berk		19.75
13 Angeliki Magklara		19.71
14 Thomas Reckford		18.85
15 Mike Frosch		18.69*
16 Marshall Fite		18.53
17 Marilyn Smebakken		17.80*
18 Margaret Brown		17.37
19 Ajaz Rahman		16.78
20 Eric Poskanzer		16.25

...continued on p. 22

WASHINGTON AREA BRIDGE PLAYERS
10-Day Mexico Cruise Vacation

Welcome to **Holland America Line**, where timeless values of gracious service combined with premium amenities and surroundings elevate a cruise from ordinary to extraordinary. Every day brings a wealth of activities, indulgences and entertainment, along with the freedom to partake in as many or as few as you

ITINERARY

10-day Mexican Riviera & Sea of Cortez Cruise
 Roundtrip San Diego...February 21 - March 3, 2007
 On board **ms Ryndam**

Day	Ports of Call	Arrive	Depart
0	SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA		5:00 PM
1	At Sea		
2	At Sea		
3	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	7:00 AM	9:00PM
4	Mazatlan, Mexico	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
5	Topolobampo, Mexico (Copper Canyon shore excursion)	5:30 AM	11:00 PM
6	Loreto, Mexico Scenic cruising Sierra de la Giganta	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
7	Pichilingue (La Paz), Mexico	7:00 AM	4:00 PM
8	Cabo San Lucas, Mexico	7:00 AM	4:00 PM
9	At Sea		
10	SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA	7:00 AM	

please. And every request—be it more ice or two sugars in your tea—is miraculously anticipated. No wonder Holland America's five-star fleet is consistently among the highest-rated Cruise Lines by **Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure**. We invite you to experience sunny, spirited Mexico with Holland America Line. Imagine waking to a festive new port of call nearly every day, shopping for exquisite folkloric art and shiny silver

jewelry, sipping frosty margaritas in the shade of a palm-thatched palapa. Sun, sand, mariachi music, easy Latin rhythms—and an onboard experience that can only be described as close to flawless. Olé!

Please join us for the Third Annual District 6 Bridge Cruise...

STEVE ROBINSON will direct and teach several sessions of bridge both during the days at sea and in the evenings. You must be a part of this group to play in these sessions. ACBL points will be awarded, but you need not be a bridge player to join us on this cruise. Once again, there will be lots of opportunities for bridge as well as visiting fascinating ports of call.



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Verandah stateroomfrom \$1,989.00
Non-discountable amount (included above)	...\$210.00
Taxes (not included)\$97.21
Cancellation Protection Plan (optional) or 4.75% of Tariff	
CPP Platinum (optional; U.S. residents only)	6.25% of Tariff

Prices are per person, double occupancy, and are subject to availability. Non-discountable amount is included. Taxes are additional.

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WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson
 robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **Donna Rogall** who came in first with a score of 480. She wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Second was **Rusty Krauss** with a score of 460. Tied for third were **John Klayman** and **Dan Koch** with a score of 430. Fifth was **Marshall Kuschner** with a score of 420. Tied for sixth were **Tom Fukawa, Arnold Kling** and **Mel Yudkin** with a score of 410. Tied for ninth were **Alan Kravatz, Bob Boorman** and **Sam Keiter** with a score of 400. Tied for twelfth were **Josh Dunn, John Horst, Earl Brown, Sam Gumbert, Sam Westgate** and **Barbara Israel** with a score of 390. Tied for eighteenth were **JJ Wang, Mark Shimshak, Joana Silva, Michael Polunin, Lloyd Rawley** and **Marvin Elster** with a score of 380. The average score of the 144 solvers was 285. The average score of the experts was 386.

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 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 at the Unit Game, at tournaments or can send him a check for \$29.05 that includes \$4.05 for priority mail.

1) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠ J83♥ 1082♦ AJ65♣ A52

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	Pass	1♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♠	100	8	46
3♣	70	3	21
3♦	50	0	35
2NT	50	1	11
Pass	50	0	20
4♦	30	0	4
5♣	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	2

Partner can have a wide range of strength for his reopening takeout double. Opener is supposed to reopen when he's short in spades no matter what his strength is. The way you penalize them with a spade stack when you're playing negative doubles is to pass and have opener reopen with a double. Holding ♠ KJ10xx♥ Axx♦ AQx♣xx, you pass 2♠ and then pass opener's reopening double. For his double, opener can have anywhere from xx♥ AJxx♦ Qxx♣ KQxx where you can make nothing to ♠ x♥ AKJ♦ KQx♣ KQxxxx where 6♣ is cold. If Opener is strong, he'll reopen

with anything. The question is does opener have a good hand or a minimum opener? I don't know but I'm going for the plus score. My thoughts are that opener can bid again with a good hand but a cuebid will get us too high if he has a minimum opener. Even if opener has a very good hand such as ♠xx♥KQJ♦KQ10♣KQJ10x or ♠xx♥AKQx♦Kxx♣KQJ10 you might not have a game.

Eight experts cuebid. Logically 3♠ shows what you have, a good hand with no clear direction. So what is opener supposed to do over 3♠ with ♠xx♥AJxx♦Qxx♣KQxx? I don't think you have to worry about opener holding ♠x♥KQx♦KQx♣KQxxxx since he would bid again over 3♣. Opener is about 50-50 to hold more than one spade since East did not raise.

Woolsey: "3♠ — I must have a good hand for this call of course. I can't have a spade stack or I would have passed. I can't have a spade stopper, or I would have bid notrump. I can't have four hearts or I would have made a negative double. I can't have four-card club support or I would have bid 3♣ at my last turn. I can't have a long diamond suit or I would be bidding it. The only hand I can have is this exact hand, and partner will know it and be able to place the contract. I risk getting overboard in 4♣, if he has a minimum, but the upside makes this risk worthwhile — a laydown game or even a slam. Would a hand such as ♠x♥AKx♦KQx♣KQxxxx be such a surprise for partner to hold? And if he holds something like this he will have no difficulty placing the key aces in my hand and bidding game or slam."

Lublin: "3♠ — To show a good hand that has no bid and denies four hearts."

Parker: "3♠ — I can't have four hearts or I would have made a negative double to start with. I must have club support and at least four diamonds, so partner should have a good idea what my hand is. He can bid 3NT with a spade stopper. Pass is too risky even though they figure to go down at least one."

Roman: "3♠ — Values, but no suit to bid."

Landen: "3♠ — I don't know what else to

do. When faced with choosing between underbidding and overbidding I typically overbid playing IMPs. I'm hoping partner can bid 3NT."

Cappelletti: "3♠ — I either have to overbid or underbid. Partner could have passed with a bad hand. So with ten HCPs I am too good to make a bid like three-of-a-minor, which could have no points at all. Since partner might well be short in spades, 2NT could easily be down one off the top. And if partner happens to have ace of spades, notrump must be played from his side."

Schwartz: "3♠ — I have to show some values at this point having passed before. The odds are against us being able to make exactly three-of-a-minor. At least partner knows I can't have four hearts."

King: "3♠ — We may not get to the right level, but at least we should get to the right strain!"

Two experts agree with me and go conservative. One of the reasons to go conservative is that there is no guarantee of a fit.

Adams: "3♣ — We should probably play better minor Lebensohl here. Then 3♣ would show a little something good. As it is, 3♣ or 3♠ could be right."

Cherniavsky: "3♣ — Your hand plays well opposite a singleton spade, but West has not raised, making it more likely that North has a doubleton spade. In that case, with a spade stopper, even Qx, North could have bid 2NT with 18-19 balanced, but has not done so. Opposite the likely 12-14 balanced with a small doubleton spade, 3♣ is high enough."

One expert makes a bid that can have two meanings. Natural is one meaning showing fewer than nine HCPs with a spade stopper. Not enough spade to pass for penalties. Another possible meaning is asking opener to choose a minor.

Hopkins: "2NT — Well, I think this gets my pattern and values about right. I dearly hope partner has a Spade honor."

Without a known fit, make the conservative call.

2) IMPs Both Vulnerable

♠ AKJ♥ Q4♦ KJ9654♣ 52

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦ GF	Pass	2♥*	Pass
????		*shows six+ hearts	
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2NT	100	2	0
3♥	80	10	43
2♠	60	0	51
4♥	40	0	37
3♦	30	0	10
3♠	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	1
3♣	20	0	1

Some play 1♥ - 2♦ - 2♥ could be a five-card heart suit. Others play that it shows six hearts. This problem is for those who pay 2♥ shows six hearts. The same can be said for 1♠ - two-any - 2♠. Some play it could be five spades, others play that it shows six spades. Give opener ♠Qxx♥Jxxxx♦Ax♣AK. 5♥ is a bad contract since you are very likely to have three trump losers. Even if opener has Axxxx of hearts, 6♥ is a bad contract. If he knows that you have only two hearts, he will be conservative when he holds bad hearts. However, if he knows you have three hearts he can be more aggressive. Your two small clubs strongly suggests that you belong in hearts. However, it's important to tell opener exactly how many hearts you have. A direct 3♥ MUST guarantee three hearts. If you have only two hearts, and a hand that you know belongs in hearts, make a noise and then support hearts. That way your partner knows how many hearts you have. I suggest that the noise be 2NT. Bidding 2NT and then supporting hearts tells opener that you have only two hearts. Therefore 2NT shows two types of hands, a hand with two hearts or a three-suited hand with good stoppers in the other three suits. If opener raises 2NT to 3NT, you can correct to 4♥ on a hand where you want to play in hearts. Now opener knows that you have exactly two hearts, a minimum hand but a hand that you think

belongs in 4♥. Supposed you have a better hand with exactly two hearts. ♠AKJx♥Ax♦AKJxx♣xx. After 1♥ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT - 3NT, you bid 4♦, which tells opener that you have exactly two hearts with extra values. He will know that you don't have a club control since you didn't bid 4♣. There are very good reasons why raising hearts directly must show three hearts. Suppose partner has seven hearts. With ten hearts between you, the Queen of trumps is present. AJxxxx or A109xxx opposite Kxx is a reasonable gamble to pick up the entire suit. A109xxx opposite Kx is a very likely one-loser suit. AQxxxx opposite Jxx could have no losers. AQxxxx opposite Jx always has at least one loser. You don't want to be in slam with Kxxxx opposite Qx but you do with Kxxxx opposite Qxx. You probably don't want to be in seven with AKxxxx opposite Qx but you do with AKxxxx opposite Qxx.

One other expert knows how many hearts 3♥ shows.

Hopkins: "2NT — 2♠ is too risky as you might catch partner with a 4-6 hand. 3♥ shows one more trump. 2NT keeps the bidding low and allows partner to further describe his hand. The only time I might be faced with a guess (to correct or not) is if partner bids a prompt 3NT."

Ten experts violate the primary rule of constructive bidding. Misstating the number of trumps you have.

Woolsey: "3♥ — First rule of slam bidding is to set trumps as soon as possible. Bidding 2♠ may be cheaper, but it doesn't tell partner what is going on. He will think your subsequent heart raise is looking for the best strain, not a slam try."

I'm sorry. First rule of slam bidding is to tell partner how many trumps you have. That's why splinters and Jacoby promise four-card support. That's why a negative double shows four cards in the other major. That why raising a second bid suit shows four-card support.

That's why some play 1minor - 1major - 2major shows four. There's a huge difference between a 6-2 fit and a 6-3 fit.

Parker: “3♥ —Set trumps as soon as possible. If partner bids 4♥ I will pass, but if he bids anything else I will look for a slam. He can now decide if his Diamonds work or not.”

Roman: “3♥ —Set trumps and see what happens.”

Landen: “3♥ —I assume 4♥ would be some sort of picture bid or fast arrival. I like my hand, but not enough to bid 2♠ and then follow up by raising hearts. I could have a decent good play for 7♥ ♠ xx♥ AKxxx♦ Ax♣ Axx) so I must show some encouragement.”

Four hearts shows a very bad two-over-one with three bad hearts. You shouldn't have two trump honors.

Adams: “3♥ —With a few partners, this shows three trumps, but that is not standard. Inventing a 2♠ response, then supporting Hearts might lead partner to wonder if I have a stiff club. Set trumps for an easy auction.”

Cappelletti: “3♥ —Help partner by setting trumps. If you bid 3♦ first and then support hearts, partner might play you for a small doubleton. Do not even think about bidding 2♠, which accomplishes nothing.”

You should not bid 2♠. If you bid 2♠ and then later support hearts you might have a singleton when you are weak in clubs.

Schwartz: “3♥ —Why not show support when I have mild slam interest. Bidding 2♠ will only confuse matters.”

King: “3♥ —Set trump.”

Lublin: “3♥ —Set trump. Will Blackwood over 4♣.”

Cherniavsky: “3♥ —This sets trump and makes it easier to find out if the partnership is off a touching AK. On simulation, Qx turns out to be a remarkably good trump holding opposite a six-card suit, and partner often has either the ace or queen of diamonds.”

Qx might be good opposite some six-card suits but three-card support is good opposite more six-card suits.

After 1♥ - two-of-either-minor - 2♥, which shows six, bidding 3♥ shows three-card support. 2NT followed by heart support

shows two-card support. Same after 1♠ - two-of-any-suit - 2♠, which shows six, bidding 3♠ shows three-card support. 2NT followed by spade support shows two-card support.

3) IMPs Both Vulnerable

♠ Q52♥ 8432♦ K9♣ KQ86

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Pass	100	5	40
Double	70	3	22
1NT	60	2	45
2♣	60	2	33
2♥	20	0	3

Be aggressive when short in the opponent's suit. Be conservative when long. With four small hearts, it's time to be conservative. You can't make a negative double since you don't have four spades. You can't support diamonds with only two and 2♣ leads to some awkward rebid problems. What's left? Pass. I know pass is a four-letter word but sometimes it's the best call available.

Woolsey: “Pass—If partner passes he will have at least three hearts and a weak notrump, so defending 1♥ will be fine. If he makes a takeout double I can then bid 2♥, just as in problem #1. If he does anything else, I should have an easy action. A negative double shows four spades, so is a no-no. All other bids are needlessly distorted.”

Actually partner could have four hearts if East overcalled a four-card suit.

Roman: “Pass—Bidding 1NT could certainly be right (partner has a weak NT, we make 1NT, they make 1♥), the problem is if we belong in 3NT by partner.”

Landen: “Pass—Consistent with my actions on board one! I don't even have three of partner's minor (I would raise if I did) and I won't make a negative double with only three spades.”

Adams: “Pass—Do not see the issue. I have no bid. I have length in Hearts and I've no stopper. I pass.”

Three experts make a negative double. If

you play in spades and the opponents lead hearts, partner will find himself quickly shortened. And what if partner holds ♠ Axx♥ xx♦ AJxxx♣ Kxx? Partner could be playing spades in the 3-3 fit.

Cappelletti: “Double—Hopefully your ten HCPs will make up for having only three spades.”

Lublin: “Double—Although I don't have four spades I have values.”

Hopkins: “Double—I hope partner doesn't mind dummy-reversing a 4-3 fit, which is probably what will happen (whether partner wants to or not!) if we end up in Spades. Even so, we would probably be OK as long as the Spade length is not with the Heart overcaller. I am well-prepared for most other continuations.”

Two experts bid 2♣. What are they going to bid at their next turn? 2♣ promises a rebid except if partner rebids 2NT.

Schwartz: “2♣ —Shows my values and with interference I can easily have a hand this weak. If I pass the next round will be even more difficult.”

King: “2♣ —This comes closest to describing my hand. Partner will expect another club, but no more than this number of points.”

Two experts bid 1NT. I can just see opener with K2 of hearts and an 18-point hand. 3NT is cold from partner's side. If partner checked back for stoppers when you promise stoppers your auctions, the opponents will learn a lot about your hands.

Cherniavsky: “1NT—Partner should have a sense of humor and check back for a stopper. If you pass, you'll never catch up. Simulation shows that this rarely wrong-sides the notrump contract.”

Parker: “1NT—Typical problem with no good bid. This describes my pattern and high card strength. I don't want to double and show four spades and it will be too hard to catch up with after a pass. I may lose the first five hearts and take the rest for plus 120.”

You're allowed to pass when no other call describes your hand.

4) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠ 10♥ K743♦ AKJ654♣ 43

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
1♦	100	8	58
3♦	70	3	13
2♦	60	0	22
Pass	60	1	50
3NT	20	0	1

Do you open in fourth seat and if so what do you open? Fourth seat two and three bids are sound openings since with a weak hand you can and should pass it out. In deciding whether to open, some players use the rule of 15. The rule of 15 is — When deciding whether to open in fourth seat, you add the number of spades to your HCPs. These are called Pearson points. If the total equals 15, ♠ Kxxx♥ xxxx♦ AKx♣ Jx (four spades and 11 HCPs = 15 Pearson points) for example, you should open. If the total equals 14 you could do either. Open ♠ Kxxx♥ xxxx♦ AKx♣ xx since you have both majors. If the total is fewer than 14, you should pass. This applies only to marginal hands. Clear-cut opening bids should be opened. You wouldn't pass ten solid hearts for instance. Your opening bid style also can influence your decision. If you open only good hands, you have to protect your partner by opening light in third and fourth seat. If you open light, then you need sound values to open in fourth seat.

Seven experts agree with me and open 1♦. One of the reasons to open is that you might have a heart game or even a heart slam. A preempt would bury the heart suit.

Woolsey: “1♦ —Partner can have a 10-point had with four hearts and 4♥ can be a good contract, so I don't think I can afford to open 3♦ and shut out the heart suit. If the opponents have a spade fit they are going to have to compete to at least 3♠ to buy the hand, and with both of them being passed hands I doubt if they can make that.”

Roman: “1♦ —The “Rule of 15” is for when you're wondering if you should open

the bidding, not for when you have an opening bid. We could easily have a heart game.”

Adams: “1♦ —I have a clear opening bid. Rule of 15 only applies for close hands. Partner has some spades, and some values. Fully expect this to be our hand.”

Landen: “1♦ —While opening might end up letting the opponents buy the hand in spades making, we could easily be cold for game in notrump, hearts or even diamonds so I won’t open a weak-two bid.”

Cappelletti: “1♦ —I can push them to the three-level all by myself.”

If you open and the opponents play in 3♣ that would probably be good for you.

Cherniavsky: “1♦ —Players open light in third seat with spade length. Since this hasn’t happened, the opponents are unlikely to have a nine-card spade fit. Simulation shows we can make 3♦ or 3♥ most of the time. 1♦ lets us find the fit in either suit.”

Hopkins: “1♦ —It is conceivable we have a game (4♥ or 3NT) so I am going to give it a try. My suit should be strong enough to play in if we have misfitting hands. And, just because I have a Spade singleton, doesn’t mean the opponents can make 4♠!”

Three experts preempt. Preempts in fourth seat are constructive hands. With garbage you can pass it out. The problem with two or 3♦ is that it buries the possible heart fit.

Schwartz: “3♦ —On hands where we make four hearts the opponents are likely to have a good sack in 4♠. Other hands it’s just too likely the opponents will be able to compete successfully in spades.”

Lublin: “3♦ —Where is the spade suit? We don’t have it but partner might have a stack so I open 3♦ and hope to beat three or 4♠.”

Parker: “3♦ —Bid what I think I can make and try and shut out the spade suit. Pass a close second choice.”

One expert will not go minus.

King: “Pass—Clearly the opponents have the majority of the spades. If you count ‘Pearson points’ this hand is not close to an opener. You could try two or even 3♦ to keep the opponents silent, but you can’t be

sure that is the right strain.”

If partner has ♠xxxx♥AQxxx♦xx♣Ax, you’ve passed out a slam.

Use ‘Pearson points’ to as a guide to decide whether to open in fourth chair. However, open opening bids.

5) IMPs None Vulnerable

♠ 10875♥ 10♦ AKJ654♣ J10

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
_____	1♣	Dbl	3♣
????			

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Double	100	6	15
4♣	70	2	3
4♠	50	2	17
3♦	50	2	79
3♠	50	0	16
4♦	40	0	9
5♦	30	0	3
Pass	20	0	2

How do you show an intermediate hand with four spades and longer diamonds? Double! The Responsive double shows two places to play. Usually it shows both majors. Holding four hearts and four spades, you don’t want to bid one of your majors and find partner with three of that major and four of the other. When you correct 3♥ to 3♠, partner will know that you have only four spades and that you don’t have hearts. You must have spades and diamonds. If your hand was stronger, you could cuebid, which also shows two places to play. If you have a five-card major, you should bid it. Over the responsive double, if partner responds 3♠, you can raise to four, or if partner bids 3♦, denying a four-card major, you can pass. Partner would expect you to have between six and ten HCPs. You don’t promise another bid, so doubler will take that into account if he has a strong hand.

Five experts join me in giving partner a choice.

Cherniavsky: “Double—Then over partner’s expected 3♥-response, bid 3♠. This shows four spades with longer diamonds. A direct spade bid would imply only one place

to play.”

Lublin: “Double—I would double because it sounds like partner has five hearts and I can correct to diamonds or spades.”

Roman: “Double—I certainly want spades in the picture, but can’t bid them at any level now.”

Landen: “Double—I’ll raise 3♠ to four and bid 4♦ over 3♥ showing a good hand (else 3♦ immediately). Even you, Steve, wouldn’t bid 3♠. would you?”

Schwartz: “Double—Leaves notrump and a spade contract open, I am not bidding past 4♦.”

Two experts bid 4♣. Holding two little clubs, there are many hands where ten tricks is the limit. 4♣ is forcing to game so you can’t stop in 4♦ when it’s right. Also, 4♣ says it’s your hand, so if West bids 5♣ partner will have to do something.

Adams: “4♣—This way I do not have to play 4♠ opposite a three-card suit.”

Parker: “4♣—Then if partner bids 4♥ I will bid 4♠ which only shows a four-card suit. This will allow him to correct to Diamonds if he has a 3442 pattern.”

Two experts violate my rule about takeout doubles. Takeout doubles are used to find major-suit fits. Bidding a minor when holding a four-card major can cost you to miss a game. Give partner ♠AKxx♥Axxx♦Qxx♣xx and he will pass 3♦ with five spades making.

King: “3♦ —While I know our most

likely game is in Spades, at some point you have to bid your minor when it is so much better than your major.”

Hopkins: “3♦ —I am in a very good position if the auction continues. For example, I can convert 3♥ to 3♠ and would pass a call of 3NT by partner. The only time I have made the wrong decision is if partner has the perfect mini such as: ♠AQxx♥Axxx♦Qxx♣xx and we can make 4♠, but are languishing in 3♦ when we buy the contract there for a loss of six IMPs.”

Two experts jump to 4♠. Do you really want to play in 4♠ opposite ♠KQx♥Axxx♦Qxxxx♣x? I would bid 4♠ if there wasn’t an alternative but why play in a 4-3 spade fit holding bad spades?

Woolsey: “4♠ —Unless the opponents are doing something weird, partner has five hearts. Therefore he is a virtual lock to have four spades, since otherwise he would have overcalled 1♥ (there is almost no such thing as a hand which is too strong to overcall). Opposite this, I’m quite willing to take my chances in 4♠. A lesser bid would simply be an underbid.”

Is it that weird holding ♠xx♥Jxxxx♦x♣Qxxxx to bid 3♣ over the takeout double?

Cappelletti: “4♠ —Might even be the best spot - and they might save.”

When you have two places to play, make a flexible bid.

SOLVERS’ SCORES

John Adams	3♣	3♥	Pass	1♦	4♣	420
Mike Cappelletti	3♠	3♥	2♠	1♦	4♠	430
Ellen Cherniavsky	3♣	3♥	1NT	1♦	Dbl	410
Robbie Hopkins	2NT	2NT	Dbl	1♦	3♦	370
Steve Landen	3♠	3♥	Pass	1♦	Dbl	480
Glenn Lublin	3♠	3♥	Dbl	3♦	Dbl	420
Fred King	3♠	3♥	2♣	Pass	3♦	350
Steve Parker	3♠	3♥	1NT	3♦	4♣	380
Steve Robinson	3♣	2NT	Pass	1♦	Dbl	470
Jeff Roman	3♠	3♥	Pass	1♦	Dbl	480
Alan Schwartz	3♠	3♥	2♣	3♦	Dbl	410
Kit Woolsey	3♠	3♥	Pass	1♦	4♠	430

2006 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Updated by our Webmaster, Don Berman

The Lovenberg Race is open to all WBL members; the Izzy Cohen Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with fewer than 1500 masterpoints; the Tubbs Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year as a Non-Life Master; the Woolridge Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with fewer than 20 masterpoints.

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

This list is up to date through May 18, 2006 including the Unit KO, but not the Fidelity & Trust Round Robin. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

- 1 85.10 David Ruderman
- 2 85.09 Alfred Steinberg
- 3 84.29 Steve Robinson
- 4 66.14 Arnie Frankel
- 5 65.60 John Adams
- 6 65.43 Michael Gill
- 7 62.30 Noble Shore
- 8 57.17 Benjamin Brill
- 9 54.84 Ellen Klosson
- 10 52.36 Fred King
- 11 52.29 William Hacker
- 12 48.70 Mark Shaw
- 13 45.05 Larry Kahn
- 14 43.84 Mark Rosen
- 15 43.32 H John Edmonds
- 16 43.18 Donald Berman
- 17 42.68 William Cole
- 18 41.63 Leon Letwin
- 19 39.92 Donna Rogall
- 20 39.68 Eugene Kales
- 21 39.00 Earl Glickstein
- 22 37.22 Eugene Fisher
- 23 36.08 Clyde Kruskal
- 24 35.93 Peter Boyd
- 25 34.96 Robert Bell

Izzy Cohen

- 1 65.43 Michael Gill
- 2 52.29 William Hacker
- 3 43.84 Mark Rosen
- 4 43.32 H John Edmonds
- 5 37.22 Eugene Fisher
- 6 34.24 Lloyd Rawley
- 7 33.16 David Genne
- 8 31.85 Philip Mittleman
- 9 31.34 Danut Gliga
- 10 30.49 Joel Miller
- 11 29.79 Janet Dence
- 12 29.17 Jason Rosenfeld
- 13 27.52 Richard Ferrin
- 14 26.61 Steven Schatzow
- 15 24.76 Robert Ellis

Tubbs

- 1 31.34 Danut Gliga
- 2 24.66 William Kingery Jr
- 3 22.94 Angeliki Magklara
- 4 19.73 Daniel Koch
- 5 19.09 Katherine Rabenstein
- 6 18.96 Shyam Gridharadas
- 7 17.52 Roma Chandra
- 8 16.58 Prem Garg
- 9 15.96 Shawn Stringer
- 10 15.84 James Wisman

Woolridge

- 1 15.39 Amy Bloom
- 2 13.10 Marie Saeger
- 3 10.24 Andrew Jacknain
- 4 10.06 Jose Porres
- 5 8.18 Grazyna Gdula
- 6 6.66 Paul Chassy
- 7 6.66 Reina Chassy
- 8 5.98 Sheila Kaplan
- 9 5.98 Michael Watts
- 10 5.57 Cynthia Harrison

UNIT GAME CARPOOL AVAILABLE

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

**0-20
LESSON
& GAME**

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PARTNERS!**

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

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

This is a great program for beginners as well as experienced social bridge players! Partners will be provided if needed. For more information call or email Steve or Sandy Forsythe at (301) 592-9177 (email: majs1f@aol.com)

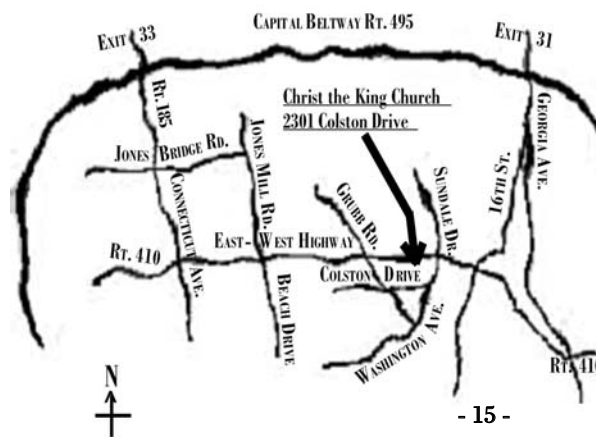
~ ♣ ♦ **SCHEDULE** ♥ ♠ ~
All Games held at Christ the King Church

- 06/15/2006STAC StrataFlighted Swiss Teams
- 06/22/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 06/29/2006CLOSED Alexandria Regional
- 07/06/2006Stratified NAP
- 07/13/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 07/20/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 07/27/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/03/2006WBL Sectional
- 08/10/2006Stratified NAP
- 08/17/2006StrataFlighted Club Championship
- 08/24/2006StrataFlighted International Fund Game
- 08/31/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/07/2006NVBA Sectional
- 09/14/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/21/2006StrataFlighted Upgraded Unit Championship
- 09/28/2006Stratified STaC
- 10/05/2006StrataFlighted Club Appreciation
- 10/12/2006StrataFlighted Appreciation BAM/Swiss
- 10/19/2006WBL Sectional
- 10/26/2006StrataFlighted Club Championship
- 11/02/2006StrataFlighted GNT Swiss

For a Last-Minute Partner, to tell someone you'll be late, to hear announcements, or to contact the Unit Game for any reason, call the WBL Cell Phone:

(301) 395-2760

MAP TO CHRIST THE KING CHURCH



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

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

To find a partner at least a day in advance, contact **Barbara Doran** (see below), or log on to the **Online Partnership Bulletin Board** at: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

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.

Email **Barbara Doran** at UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org or barbd@starpower.net, or call her at (301) 608-0347.

PARTNERSHIPS CLOSE AT 7:25PM TO START THE GAME PROMPTLY AT 7:30PM. CALL IF YOU'RE LATE, OR YOU MAY NOT BE ACCOMMODATED.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RUN A BRIDGE LEAGUE

*by Barbara Summers, Volunteer Coordinator,
jimbarb1108@aol.com*

Behind the scene volunteers are helping keep this game we love alive and thriving. My aim serving again on the Board is to get more players helping so that all realize what efforts go into our organization. In our last issue, I began a column to recognize the often unrecognized...This issue, I'd like to mention a few more:

Bill Cole helped us find a great place to hold our tournaments. **Barbara Ames** with help from **Ron Zucker** installed new lamps at the church. **Fred King** began a guaranteed partner program and **Nadine Wood** and **Kitty Gottfried** are legendary for their cuisine. **Ann Lindley** serves as ombudsman for liaison between the directors and players. Under **Ron Starr** we have bridge programs at schools with **Ellen Rosenthal**, **Irma Lordeman** and **Mark Rosen** teaching. **Ron Zucker** and **Gary Grossman** filled in at the last minute teaching 80 players the IBP program at the last sectional. **Steve Robinson**, our treasurer in addition adds his wisdom to our Board meetings and helps raise the level of our bridge through his columns. **Barbara Doran** has taken over for **Charlene Brand** doing partnerships Thursday nights. **Donna Rogall** the bulletin together and **Richard Ferrin** takes minutes and posts them on our web site so if you are curious what your unit is planning do go read the minutes. **Don Berman** keeps our web page up to date and very helpful. **Charity Sack**, **Clyde Kruskal** and **Jane Sturgis** lend their advice to help as needed doing whatever is needed... **Ted Ying**, our director does a great job and makes all players feel especially welcome. **James Geist** comes early to sectionals and helps unload stuff and usually stays late Sunday to reload. I distribute the *Playing Bridge in the Washington Area* brochure written by **Alice Wegman** (with art work by their daughter) and ask your help in distributing these most informative brochures. I have put them in Montgomery County libraries but need each of you to take them to your office, your dentist, doctor and give me other ideas of places to put them so we can get the word out. (We have 2500 of them.) **Frances Burke** greets new members, keeps up with old ones, and hosts one dinner meeting each year. This is just a short and incomplete list of our **VILLAGERS...** *Please let me add your name next month.*

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.

BONUS – You will be invited to the summer Volunteer Gathering and BBQ Party.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

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

COMITTEE ACTION #52, PART 2

by Rich Colker, rcolker@worldnet.att.net

This column concludes the discussion begun in our last issue about the following case which points out the difference between misinformation (MI) and damage resulting from MI. The hand is repeated for convenience.

Bd: 14; Vul: None; Dlr: East

<u>North</u>			
♠ Q			
♥ K10652			
♦ KQ853			
♣ K9			
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠ J982		♠ 106543	
♥ 8		♥ A97	
♦ 976		♦ 104	
♣ 86532		♣ A107	
<u>South</u>			
♠ AK7			
♥ QJ43			
♦ AJ2			
♣ QJ4			
<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♠

Recall that six hearts made six (+980 for N/S) when East led a spade and that South explained at the end of the auction that 4NT was a spade cue bid by agreement. While the director had ruled that this statement was MI and had caused E/W's poor result, the Committee could not agree on whether there had been MI and felt that even if East had been misinformed about what N/S's bids meant, he was not damaged by it.

Several important aspects of this case

deserve comment. First, the Director's ruling—that N/S did not have the agreement they claimed for the 4NT bid even though they had system notes to document it—may look strange, but it does have some logic behind it. Players often make last minute changes to their systems which are not reflected in their notes. In addition, in some cases system notes may even reflect methods that have not been agreed by both members of the partnership. (For example, a player may think his partner has agreed to play a new treatment he suggested when the partner has only agreed to think about it. If the first player maintains the partnership's system notes and changes them they will reflect an agreement that is really not in effect.) Thus, some (though NOT all) Directors are reluctant to accept system notes as proof of the methods a partnership is playing.

Second, even if we accept the Director's logic that East was wrongly informed that 4NT was a spade cue bid, that MI must be linked to the defense that allowed the contract to make in order to adjust the score. But why, if he thought N/S had both cue bid spades, would that information induce East to lead a spade? Looking at two aces he had to know that N/S had a bidding misunderstanding (he was, after all, a top player in the top flight of a National Championship event). How easy would it have been to lead the ace of trumps to get a look at dummy, after which cashing the ♣ A would have been routine. And as N/S had both shown (or implied) club length—South opened 1♣ and North's first cue bid was in clubs, suggesting a high-card control rather than shortness—the ♣ A also figured to be a safe lead, after which the ace of trumps would surely set the contract (barring a revoke). Thus, East was not damaged by MI (even if we believe it existed) but by his own fail-

ure to lead an ace, choosing instead a passive spade lead that allowed declarer to pitch his club losers on the ♠ AK.

Third, even if we accept that East was asleep at the switch and must accept responsibility for the poor result, if N/S gave MI that helped make the result possible they should not be allowed to profit from their infraction—even if East was ultimately responsible for letting the contract make. In other words, E/W should keep the table result if their own poor bridge was responsible for it but N/S should not be allowed to profit if their infraction contributed to the contract's success—even if East should have gotten the defense right anyhow.

Fourth, would I have ruled as the Directors did? I think not. While I agree that players' system notes cannot always be trusted, the Director needs to listen to all the information that's available and make his ruling on a case-by-case basis. In this case both N/S players stated firmly (and independently) that they played kickback (4♣ was ace asking for hearts and 4NT was the replacement cue bid for the ♠ A) and their system notes confirmed it. Players may forget their agreements (as South apparently did here) as long as they explain them properly to the opponents (just as in basketball you can fall down on the court, but you can't trip or otherwise disadvantage an opponent by falling).

And finally, I do not believe MI was present (I believe N/S's agreement was as stated) and I do not accept that MI—even IF it existed—had anything to do with East's choice of leads. If 4NT was a spade cue bid then a spade lead was even less likely to work well—especially given South's 5♣ bid—than if 4NT had been ace asking. And if 4NT was ace asking then the ♣ A lead should have been even more attractive since North had previously cue bid a club control and a Blackwood user will typically not have a void, so the ♣ A is less likely to get ruffed. So I think the Committee got this one exactly right by allowing the table result to stand—though I think they should also have been able to determine that no MI was present. Oh well, we should take our successes as we find them.

Unit Game Chief Director **Ted Ying** introduced retiring President **Dick Wegman** who called the 2006 WBL Annual Meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

President Wegman thanked the many members who helped prepare the meal. On Wednesday: **Lee Ann Jensen, Barbara Shaw, and Ron Zucker**. On Thursday: **Barbara and Jim Summers, Audrey Stern, Audrey Marbach, Saul Penn, Francis Burke, Steve Robinson, Gloria Schulstad, Bob Stearns, and Bill Colligan**. President Wegman offered a special thanks also to **Millard Nachtwey, Kitty Gottfried, Nadine Wood, and Dana Wood** (Nadine's son), all of whom helped with hospitality at the last WBL sectional.

President Wegman asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Secretary's minutes from the 2005 annual meeting, or the 2005 Treasurer's report. (A copy of the 2005 Treasurer's report is attached hereto.) A member inquired as to the status of the WBL building fund. Steve Robinson replied that the fund has not yet gotten off the ground.

In some parting words, President Wegman stated that it has been a pleasure to serve as President for the past three years. The WBL is thriving, with several improvements in the past year, including a good location for sectionals and a guaranteed partnership program.

He then introduced former President **Jim Allen**, Chairman of the Election Committee, who thanked outgoing **President Wegman** and **Alice Wegman** for their service to the WBL.

Mr. Allen presented the slate of officers running for uncontested election: President (**Fred King**), Vice President (**Don Berman**), Secretary (**Richard Ferrin**), and Treasurer (**Steve Robinson**). With no nominations from the floor, all four were elected by voice vote.

Mr. Allen then announced that there were five open Unit Director positions on the Board, consisting of three two-year terms and two one-year terms. The five persons nominated were: **Barbara Ames, Ellen Cherniavsky, Bob Levey, Shlomit Rind, and Barbara Summers**. Mr. Allen noted that Barbara Ames and Barbara Summers wished to be considered for the one-year positions, but Article VI.4(iv) WBL Constitution provides that of those elected, those with the lowest vote totals shall be assigned the positions of directors who vacated office before their terms expired. Peter Boyd

moved to suspend the rules and elect Barbara Ames and Barbara Summers to the one-year terms, and elect Ellen Cherniavsky, Bob Levey, and Shlomit Rind to the two-year terms. Noting that a motion to suspend the rules requires a two-thirds vote, Mr. Allen asked for a show of hands. Mr. Allen determined that the motion passed by more than the necessary two-thirds majority.

Mr. Allen then reintroduced President Wegman who announced the unit winners of the 2005 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs races.

He then asked if there were any questions or comments by the members. Ellen Klossen asked if there is money in the WBL's budget to improve the lighting. President Wegman replied that the WBL will push Christ the King church to install fresh lightbulbs. He added that Barbara Ames is heading a project to purchase more lamps.

President Wegman announced the beginning of a new weekly club game in the District for persons with less than 300 masterpoints.

Incoming President Fred King thanked retiring President Wegman for his great help to the WBL, and commented that his will be a hard act to follow. On behalf of the WBL, President King presented President Wegman with a gift certificate to Wegman's and a Wegman's shopping bag for Alice Wegman. Whereupon, the annual meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

**2005 MINI-McKENNEY
WBL UNIT 147 WINNERS**

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Shawn Stringer

JUNIOR MASTER OF THE YEAR
Michael Berard

CLUB MASTER OF THE YEAR
Linda Marshall

SECTIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR
Katherine Rabenstein

REGIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR
Lily Andre

NABC MASTER OF THE YEAR
Jason Rosenfeld

LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Michael Gill

BRONZE LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Eugene Fisher

SILVER LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
James Geist

GOLD LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Peggy Allen

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Fred King

EMERALD LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Les Bart

PLATINUM LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Earl Glickstein

GRAND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Steve Robinson

**2005 ACE OF CLUBS
WBL UNIT 147 WINNERS**

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Robert Claypool

JUNIOR MASTER OF THE YEAR
David Desjardins

CLUB MASTER OF THE YEAR
Alfred Caponiti

SECTIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR
Alex Goldenberg

REGIONAL MASTER OF THE YEAR
Alexander Gottesman

NABC MASTER OF THE YEAR
Malvern Sheffield

LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Mark Rosen

BRONZE LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Wallace Ashby

SILVER LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Juline Glaz

GOLD LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Eileen Theimer

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Dalia Kende

EMERALD LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Rossi Lindstrom

PLATINUM LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
Eugene Kales

GRAND LIFE MASTER OF THE YEAR
William Cole

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE BOARD & MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

May 2006 - May 2007

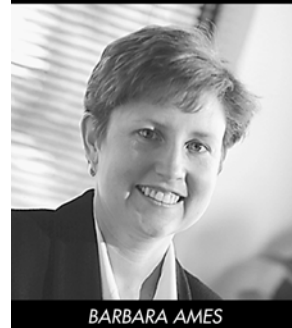
AwardsFred King
Bulletin EditorDonna Rogall
Bulletin Committee
CHAIRDon Berman
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ... Richard Ferrin,
 Donna Rogall, Steve Robinson,
 Nadine Wood
Calendar of ObligationsDon Berman
Car Pool AssistanceDon Berman
CharityBob Levey
Cheer & SympathyFrances Burke
Club Relations Committee .Barbara Summers
 (Chair), Shlomit Rind
Conduct and Ethics
CHAIRRichard Ferrin
COMMITTEE MEMBERSBarbara
 Ames(Board), Ellen Cherniavsky
 (Board), Carole Banks (elected '05),
 Bob Bell (elected '05), Peter Boyd
 (elected '06), Jerry Miller (elected
 '06), Mark Feldman (elected '06),
 Kathy Hilbers (elected '06)
Education ...Steve Forsythe, Clyde Kruskal
ElectionsJim Allen (Chair), Richard
 Ferrin, Barbara Ames
Electronic Communications .Steve Robinson,
 Don Berman
Executive CommitteeFred King, Steve
 Robinson, Don Berman, Dick Wegman
EZBridge LiaisonSteve Forsythe
HistorianPeter Boyd
Membership Committee .Ellen Cherniavsky,
 Frances Burke, Ed Burke
Membership Growth
CHAIRDickWegman
COMMITTEE MEMBERSCharity Sack,
 Shlomit Rind, Barbara Summers,
 Barbara Ames, Steve Forsythe
Membership SecretaryFrances Burke
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OmbudsmanAnn Lindley
ParliamentarianRichard Ferrin
Player Achievement (Trophies) ..Don Berman

Publicity and MarketingBob Levey
RecorderDon Berman
Round Robin
COMMITTEE CHAIRSteve Robinson
COMMITTEE MEMBERSJohn Adams,
 Barbara Doran, Earl Glickstein, Dave
 Ruderman, Fred King, Bill Cole,
 Richard Ferrin
SchedulingFred King, Don Berman,
 Ted Ying
Special Events Coordination
GNT (unit level)Barbara Ames
NAP (unit level)Barbara Ames
OTHERBarbara Ames
STAC CoordinationBarbara Ames
Tournaments
COMMITTEENadine Wood (Chair),
 Richard Ferrin, Barbara Ames
CADDIESKitty Gottfried
CHIEF DIRECTORMillard Nachtwey
HOSPITALITYKitty Gottfried
PARTNERSHIPSBarbara Doran
VOLUNTEERSBarbara Summers,
 Shlomit Rind, Clyde Kruskal
Unit Game
COMMITTEE ..Fred King (Chair), Clyde
 Kruskal, Barbara Ames
CADDIESKitty Gottfried
CHIEF DIRECTORTed Ying
CHURCH LIAISONDick Wegman
FACILITY OPERATIONS ...Barbara Ames
HOSPITALITY ...Kitty Gottfried (Chair),
 Ellen Cherniavsky
ANNUAL MEETINGKitty Gottfried,
 Nadine Wood, Millard Nachtwey,
 Ellen Cherniavsky
HOLIDAY PARTY .Kitty Gottfried, Nadine
 Wood, Millard Nachtwey, Ellen
 Cherniavsky
MANAGERTed Ying
PARTNERSHIPSBarbara Doran
Ways and MeansFred King (Chair),
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**INTERESTED IN BECOMING
A CADDY?**

Caddying isn't just for kids! If you, a spouse or anyone you know would like to pick up some extra dough, caddying could be the answer. Contact **Kitty Gottfried** at (301) 587-3981 or kgottfried@hotmail.com to inquire further.

**Is STEVE ROBINSON
THE MOST LONG-TERM
LIVING MEMBER OF THE
WBL?**

As part of this year's celebration of the *75th Anniversary* of the inception of the WBL, we're looking for various memorabilia and interesting statistics to celebrate at the October WBL Sectional. We thought **Steve Robinson**, who joined the WBL in 1962, might be our longest living member. However, there's a new goal to beat. **Alice Yoke**, one of the owners of the Laurel Bridge Club, joined

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ADVERTISE?

Advertisements are welcome in the WBL Bulletin. We distribute approximately 1900 copies of each issue, every other month. Advertising rates are:

- \$75 for a full page ad
- \$50 for a half page ad
- \$30 for a quarter page ad
- \$20 for an eighth page ad

The sixth consecutive appearance of an ad runs free.

the WBL in the mid-1940's! Can anyone out there top that?

BRIDGEISMS!

compiled by Sandy Forsythe

It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents. *Alfred Sheinwold*

One gets used to abuse. It's waiting for it that is so trying. *Rueful Rabbit*

South: Alert! East: Yes? South: I'm requested to further mis-describe my hand.

It is not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It is the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones. *Alan Sontag*

A knowledge of the mechanics will suffice to put a player in a commanding position in the post-mortem. To become a member of the upper crust calls for more, much more - resilience, imagination, occasional flashes of inspiration: these are the hallmarks of quality. And this transcends the realm of science. *Victor Mollo*

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- August 3-6Silver Spring, MD
- September 7-10Arlington, VA
- October 19-22Silver Spring, MD
- November 9-12Arlington, VA
- January 4-7, 2007Silver Spring, MD
- February 8-11, 2007Arlington, VA

NOMINATION FOR MACHLIN TROPHY

The WBL has decided to award annually the **Machlin Trophy for Sportsmanship**. The trophy is named in honor of **Jerry Machlin**, whom many of you will remember as one of the greatest directors the game has ever known. Jerry served as Chief Director for games in the Washington area during the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's and probably contributed more to the growth of tournament bridge in our area during the three decades following World War II than any other single individual. Jerry also founded the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (the organization that hosts all of the regionals in our area), and he organized and staged matches in which Members of Congress competed against corporate leaders and members of the British Parliament. These matches helped to promote the game among the country's political and corporate leadership and demonstrated the wide appeal of tournament bridge.

A committee has been appointed to consider nominees and make a selection for this first year of the trophy. The criteria for awarding the trophy were agreed by the board 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 criteria that the selection committee will consider."

We welcome nominations from the membership of the WBL. Would you please send your suggested candidate to **Fred King** at the5kings2@aol.com or give them to him or any member of the committee at the unit game or the August Sectional. 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 August 15, 2006.

Thank you,

- Fred King**
- Millard Nachtway**
- Winston Edwards**
- Barbara Summers**
- Diane Jaworiwsky**

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THE BRIDGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR IS HERE!

JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2006

at the Hilton Hotel at Mark Center

5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA, (703) 845-1010

Come Party With Us Again! Yes, once again it is time for our annual **4TH OF JULY REGIONAL**. Come and play at the Alexandria Regional with all your friends and some of the best players in the country. With the NVBA in charge this year, terrific hospitality will once again highlight

the festivities—there will be table gifts, receptions, and/or other hospitality every session! Featuring regionally rated events with morning/afternoon sessions, afternoon/evening sessions, and evening/evening sessions, there is some-

thing for everyone. Players of all levels of experience can play in Pair games or Knock Outs. Steve Forsythe and Ron Kral will be offering newcomer classes on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, together with a special AARP/ACBL social bridge game also on Saturday morning. Plan on attending now with your favorite partner or come alone and we will pair you up with someone of your ability—guaranteed!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED...

For the tournament to be a success, we need the help of many volunteers, starting with you! Just contact Tournament Chairs Margot Hennings or Kathryn Kiley to help with Partnerships, Prizes, Information, or Hospitality.

QUESTIONS?

Any Tournament Chair will be happy to help you...

Tournament Chairs

Margot Hennings (703) 560-0245

Margot10bridge@cox.net

Kathryn Kiley (703) 758-0366

kathrynkiley@yahoo.com

Intermediate/Novice Chair

Ron and MaryAnn Kral

(703) 478-0077

DCINProgram@gmail.com

Partnership Chair

Leo Cardillo

(703) 868-6868

cardillo@bellatlantic.net

**See page 26
for a complete
schedule of new-
comer, novice, and
intermediate events.**

**Complete schedule for all
events are in the April/
May and June/July
District 6 TableTALK pub-
lication and on the web at
www.mabcbridge.org.**

**DOES SOMEONE YOU KNOW
WANT TO LEARN TO
PLAY BRIDGE?**

Tell them about **Steve Forsythe's "Instant Bridge Player"** classes at the Alexandria regional! Those who have never played and those whose skills are "rusty" are invited to join us either on Wednesday, June 28 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Steve's **One Page Bidding**

System lets beginners start playing right away and provides a handy refresher for those who already play.

Just \$25 covers either session, the Instant Bridge Player booklet and plenty of snacks. Tell your non-bridge playing friends...they'll thank you! For more information, email Steve and Sandy Forsythe at majslf@aol.com.

A complete schedule of all I/N events at the regional appears on the next page...

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE PROGRAM AT THE JULY 4TH ALEXANDRIA REGIONAL

(This schedule supersedes all other versions printed in D6 TableTALK.)

Date (2006)	10:30	3:00	8:00	Event	Masterpoint Limits	Notes
Wed, June 28	1-1:30.....REGISTRATION 1:30-6.....CLASS			Instant Bridge Player Class	0-5	\$25 per person including supervised play and lots of goodies!!
	-	-	X	Charity Pairs	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	Single Session
Thurs, June 29	X	X		Trophy Pairs	0-5	0-5 PLAY FREE!
	X	X	X	Side Games	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	Single Sessions
Fri, June 30	X	X	X	Side Games	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	Single Sessions
Sat, July 1	X	X	X	Side Games	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	0-5 PLAY FREE!
	X			Instant Bridge Player Class	0-5	\$25 per person including supervised play and lots of goodies!!
	X			AARP/ACBL "Road to Anaheim" contest	0-5 (Must be AARP member —can sign up on-site!)	0-5 AARP members PLAY FREE!
Sun, July 2	X	X	X	Side Games	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	Single Sessions
	X	X	-	0-20 Trophy Pairs	0-20	Single Sessions
Mon, July 3	X	X	X	Side Games	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	Single Sessions
Tues, July 4	X	2:30	-	Side Games	5/20/50/ 100/200/300	Early start @ 2:30

HOW TO FIND PARTNERS

by Barbara Doran, *Unit Game Partnerships*

You've discovered that little-known but important secret - playing duplicate bridge is a great way to spend your time. There's just one problem: You can't do it alone; you need a partner. How do you go about finding one?

First of all, you have to get to know people who play bridge.

- Come to the game early (with or without a partner; we have a partnership program) and socialize with the other players. Let people get to know you as you, not just as new-person-seeking-a-partner.
- Stay late. Often other players will stay after the session to discuss boards. Join them. Ask questions and praise adept tactics; show people that you've been paying attention.
- Talk to your opponents when you've finished the round if there's time on the clock. Bridge is a great ice-breaker, especially for shy people.
- Volunteer to do something for the WBL. (See article on p. 16.) Organized bridge doesn't happen by waving a magic wand. There are many things you can do to help the WBL and, incidentally, find potential partners.
- Once you get to know people, invite them to partner with you.
- After a session with a pleasant partner, ask about the possibility of making another date, i.e., "Oh, that was great! Would you like to play again some time?"

Second, unless you are very, very good (and if you are, you probably already have partners) you have to be the kind of partner others want:

- Be friendly.
- Be courteous.
- Smile.
- Say hello to your opponents when you or they arrive at the table.
- Thank your partner for the dummy no matter what it looks like.
- Compliment your partner and opponents on good bids and plays; be sympathetic about the bad ones.

NEW!

WBL SPONSORED UNDER 300 CLUB GAME

The **Washington Bridge League** is pleased to announce that it has started a new duplicate bridge game in **Washington D.C.** that is designed specifically for players who are new to the game, or for players who have fewer than 300 masterpoints. The game started at the beginning of June, and is being held on Sunday afternoons at the Methodist Home of Washington D.C. The address is 4901 Connecticut Avenue, NW (just south of the intersection of Connecticut and Nebraska Avenues).

The game takes place in a friendly atmosphere, with very relaxed rules. Each game begins with refreshments at 12:30, followed by a short lesson at 1:00, with duplicate bridge starting at 1:30. The game is managed by **Steve and Sandy Forsythe**, and Steve provides the lecture before each game. If you have any questions about the game, please call Steve at 301-592-9177 or e-mail him at MAJSLF@aol.com.

This is the first game that the WBL has sponsored in the District of Columbia in many years. Please tell your friends about this game. It should be a great opportunity for any newcomer who wants to start playing bridge, or for anyone with fewer than 300 points who wants to improve his or her game.

- Don't yell at your partner or the opponents.
- Don't give lessons.
- Don't indulge in lengthy postmortems at the table.
- Don't make faces.
- Don't gloat.
- Play hard and try to improve your game.

If you get to know the players—especially those at your level—and are a pleasant person to have sitting across the table for three hours, people will be lining up to play with you. **Try it!**



NLM MASTER POINTERS

by I/N Columnist, Sandy Forsythe, majslf@aol.com

THE BEST-LAID PLANS

Dealer: South

Vul: N/S

Lead: ♦ 7

North

- ♠ JT4
- ♥ 8765
- ♦ A83
- ♣ AKQ

South

- ♠ AQ932
- ♥ A9
- ♦ KQ5
- ♣ 952

Let's say you're South and you're the declarer in 4♠, with no bidding by the opponents. West leads the ♦ 7, and you're feeling pretty confident once the dummy comes down. You see one sure heart loser, no losers in the minors, no losers in spades if the finesse works...did we miss our slam?

Instead of wondering who underbid, let's play the board and see what happens. The ♦ 7 looks like a fourth-best lead, but we have three top diamonds, so what do we care where the little ones are? We want to finesse in spades, so we put up the ♦ A to finesse on Trick 2...and what's this? East ruffs the diamond! Now we're happy not to be in slam!

East returns a club, and now we're in the dummy, where we wanted to be. Now we'll just take the finesse, pull the remaining trump, give up the ♥ K and claim, right?

Not so fast! Take off those rose-colored glasses and consider what might go wrong. What if West has the king? She'll win, and

lead another diamond for East to ruff. Two ruffs, the ♠ K and the ♥ K equal four losers: down one.

You know what they say about the best-laid plans! When we made our plan, we didn't expect a 7-0 diamond split. When something unexpected happens, it's time to change the plan. Is there a way to guarantee this contract? Think about your plan before you read on!

If East has the ♠ K, West won't be able to get in the lead to give him another ruff, so it doesn't matter whether or not we finesse at Trick 3. (Even if East started with all five missing spades, we still only lose the initial ruff, the 5th round of trumps and the ♥ K at the last trick.) If West has the ♠ K, we can only avoid the second ruff if East is out of trumps when West gets the lead. How can we make sure that East will be out of trumps?

To find the answer, let's imagine how the spades could be split between our two opponents. We'll only look at cases where West has the king.

<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
1. Kxxx	x
2. Kxx	xx
3. Kx	xxx
4. K	xxxx

Remember, East has already ruffed once, so cross out one of East's small trumps. And cross out a second trump, which East would have to play when we lead a low spade to finesse. As you can see, in examples 1 and 2, if we take the finesse, East will have no trumps left when West wins the king. But in examples 3 and 4, he will. Finessing on the first spade puts our contract in danger!

How about if we play the ace on the

Do you get along with your computer?

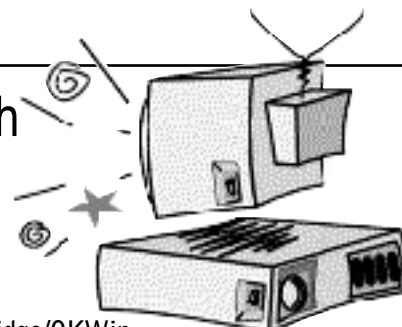
Help is here!

- Get on the internet
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Diane Walker

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Computer Consulting
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first spade trick? After winning the ace, we lead low towards the jack, drawing a third spade (if he has that many) from East. In the first three examples, we've managed to run East out of trump. In the fourth example, the singleton king drops on the first spade trick, so West can't win the lead and play a diamond. We can then pull the rest of the trumps, losing no spades besides the ruff that East already scored. The opponents get only their ♥ K and the ruff: making an overtrick. Don't be afraid to revise your plan when new information comes your way!

Note on duplicate strategy for intermediate players: Not finessing on this deal guaranteed that we'd make our contract, but gave up the chance to make an overtrick when East has the king. In a team game, overtricks aren't worth very much, so you would always choose the play that guarantees your contract will make. But in a regular duplicate game, if most of the field is in 4♠ making five, just making the gamefour

could get you a bottom. If So if you think you have a better than 50% chance to score the overtrick, you might will probably want to try it. If the chance of going set is 50% or more, perhaps you probably don't try it. If you don't have a clue what the odds are, just make your contract!

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of May 1, 2006

Junior Masters (5 Masterpoints)

Shelby Herman Minako Komura
 Marc Weiner Roslyn Weinstein
 Richard Wessman

Club Masters (20 Masterpoints)

Margot Howar Dr Minal Shah

Sectional Masters (50 Masterpoints)

Narda Ehrlich Geoff Turley

NEED A RIDE TO THE UNIT GAME? NEED A PARTNER FOR THE UNIT GAME?

Contact Barbara Doran UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org, (301-946-8483) to find a partner in advance or try the **On-Line Partnership Bulletin Board**: www.washingtonbridgeleague.org. For a last minute partner, call the **WBL cell phone (301-608-0847)**.

Don Berman, Carpool Coordinator can be contacted at 301-776-3581 or (don.berman@verizon.net) or log on to the **On-Line Carpool Notices** at www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

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

THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE
14517 PERRYWOOD DRIVE
BURTONSVILLE, MARYLAND 20866

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WBL SOLVERS' CLUB'S NEW PROBLEMS

May/June 2006

1) IMPs Both Vulnerable

♠ A1096♥ 5♦ AJ1054♣ A65

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	2♣*	Pass
????	*GF		

2) Matchpoints None Vulnerable

♠ A3♥ Q65♦ 54♣ 1087654

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

*Give your bid and what system you're playing

3) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠ 765♥ 5♦ AKQJ1054♣ A5

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♠	2♠*	*Michaels
????			

4) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠ AKQJ♥ Q54♦ A32♣ K32

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

*2 minor GF, 2NT= GF 4-card forcing raise

5) Matchpoints None Vulnerable

♠ KQ9875♥ Q5♦ 32♣ AJ9

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♠	2♦ (weak)	2♥	3♦
????	Pass	3NT	Pass

Return answers by June 22 to:

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