



**61st ANNUAL
POTOMAC VALLEY TOURNAMENT
August 3-6, 2006**

SILVER SPRING, MD

*Have a
COOL
time at
a HOT
Sectional!*



It's
Summer
Bridge
and



Barbecue



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

There are events throughout the tournament for players of all levels including a full schedule of intermediate and novice games. Enjoy the usual famous Washington hospitality from Nadine and Kitty including free lunches on the weekend.

For the complete schedule, see page 3.

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE SECTIONAL

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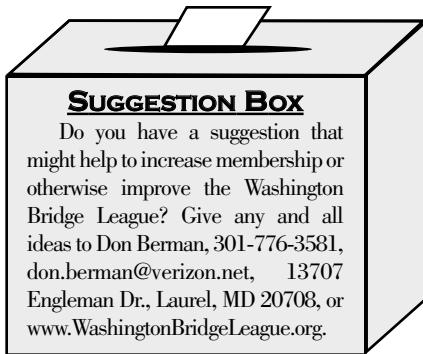
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WBL OMBUDSMAN
 Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Ann Lindley and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential. Information should be provided in writing and may be handed to her at any game, or mailed to her at 8822 Fircrest Pl., Alexandria, VA 22308.

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DEADLINE: AUGUST 28, 2006

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)
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The opinions expressed by our columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ACBL, the WBL, or even the editors of this publication. The WBL is not responsible for the claims of its advertisers.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Fred King

Woodward and Lothrop, Garfinkels, Hechinger, People's Drug, Dart Drug, Raleigh's. All of these are just a few of the Washington institutions that have disappeared during my time here. One institution that has kept going strong throughout this period is the **Washington Bridge League**. Indeed the WBL has now been around for 75 years (even longer than the ACBL!) and we want to have a wonderful **Diamond Anniversary** celebration. Already you have heard about some of the upcoming activities. Many of them will center on the October D.C. Championship sectional. We will make the first award of the **Machlin Sportsmanship Trophy** during the tournament. We will reinstitute the Eynon trophy for the team winners. Other possible activities are still being planned.

Those of you who have played in the WBL games over the years have had the opportunity to play against famous bridge players such as **Charles Goren, Al Roth, Steve Robinson**, and oh so many more. But in addition to those who have won fame in bridge, you have had the chance to play against world-class athletes like **Pauline Betz Addie**, one of the best women tennis players in the history of the game. **Eddie Eynon** owned the *Washington Senators* baseball team. U. S. Senators and members of the House of Representatives, Supreme Court Justices and other high government officials have been regulars at WBL games. (Despite his great love of the game, we have no evidence that **President Eisenhower** ever joined the WBL.) Of course there have also been some scoundrels in the league, but I will let you name them yourself.

Bob Levey has contributed his first of (at least) two parts on the history of the WBL

with major assists from our historian, Peter Boyd. (See page 23.) Still I am sure that the membership has memories and memorabilia that you could share with us and I would urge you to do so.

We want to celebrate those who have been members of the WBL the longest. If you joined the WBL before 1965 and have been a member ever since then, please let us know.

Even though the WBL has been around for a very long time, it has changed greatly over the years and continues to change. One area of great change has been the types of games that we run at our sectionals. When I first came to Washington the sectional schedule was very simple. Thursday night there was an open pairs run in conjunction with the NVBA (which, by the way, used to be part of the WBL). On Friday afternoon there was an Open Pairs and on Friday night there was the Mixed Pairs. Saturday there was a two session Open Pairs with a qualifying session and a consolation for those who did not qualify. Finally on Sunday was the team game, usually Swiss, but occasionally a Board-a-Match. Look at the tournament schedule in this bulletin and see how much that has changed! What changes have you noticed since you have been here?

What ways would you like to see us celebrate the WBL's long run? Speak to me or any other member of the board or send us your thoughts in an email. The WBL belongs to its members and we need your ideas to make your celebration the best it can be. Diamonds are forever, but our diamond jubilee lasts only one year, so come out and enjoy it with us.

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** ♥

I/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, Sectional Partner@DistrictSix.org or try the easy **Online Partnership Bulletin Board**: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

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



SILVER SPRING, MD: OCTOBER 19-22, 2006



**76th Annual
D.C. Championships**

A Diamond is Forever...



It's our **Diamond Jubilee**, so come help the WBL celebrate 75 years of the best bridge in Washington. We will have our usual first class hospitality as well as awards honoring those who have helped make bridge here so great. We will revive old traditions, institute new ones, reminisce about the past and look forward to the future. **Don't miss it!**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

- ♣ 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, OCTOBER 20

- ♦ Stratified Pairs (2000+/1000/500) 10:00am
- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) ... 2:00pm
- ♣ **IMP Pairs, Champagne & Caviar** 7:30pm

StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500)
 Friday nights are your chance to try a different form of the game. With IMP pairs, you only need one partner, but it scores like a team game. Your score will be averaged with all the other scores from your direction on each board.

- ♣ 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** ♥

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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

- ♦ 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
- ♦ **Machlin Sportsmanship Award** Presentation & "The History of WBL Bridge" Panel Show 2:30pm



♥ **Eynon Trophy**

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

- 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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

I/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 Doran**, 301-608-0347, Sectional Partner@DistrictSix.org or try the easy **Online Partnership Bulletin Board**: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

BITS AND PIECES

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Ms Edith E Burzio, Ms Ariane Cohn, Mr Edward J Gorman III, Mrs Jeanne Haji, Ms Frances T Jones, Mr Steven S Mazzola, and Mrs Masumi Tochisako.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Robert D Abbo, Mrs Sonny F Adelson, Mr Calvin H Cobb Jr, Mr Thomas W Conley, Mrs Lynn A Jones, Mrs Arlene Lanter, Mr Jovica Medic, Mr Lewis A Ondis II, and Mrs Adelle Weiss.**

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.

DISTRICT 6 & NVBA LOSE LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER BETTE DUDKA

Bette Dudka, long-time dedicated volunteer and Board Member/Officer at all levels of bridge administration, passed away on Thursday, June 22 after a brief bout with cancer. Bette was active in the NVBA unit, serving in all officer positions except that as Treasurer and on the NVBA Board continuously through 2003, as well as holding the position of NVBA Tournament Chair for many years up until 1989. She was also active at the District 6 and Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC) levels, again in positions of Secretary, President, Board member, and MABC Tournament Chair, holding the position of District 6 Secretary right up until her death. Bette had long been one of three District 6 representatives to the ACBL Board of Governors, relinquishing that position only in May of this year when her health no longer permitted her to remain active in that role. Her contributions will be long remembered—she will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DISTRICT 6 GRAND NATIONAL TEAM WINNERS!

Good luck to our first place teams at the Summer North American Bridge Championships in Chicago.

Championship Flight

1 Mark Dahl - Dave Butler - Alan Schwartz - Ai-Tai Lo

2 Steve Robinson - Peter Boyd - Bill Cole - Beth Palmer - Bill Pettis - Steve Landen

3/4 Earl Glickstein - Bob Bell - Fred King - Bryan Coleman

Fred Steinberg - Dave Ruderman - Gene Kales - John Adams - Andy Gofreed - Alan Tenenbaum

Flight A (0-5000)

1 Ben Brill - Bill Hacker - Diane Walker - Kenton Schoen - Millard Nachtwey - Linda Maloney

2 Sumner Steinfeldt - Hal Hindman - Rusty Krauss - Barry Falgout - Joan Lewis

3/4 Ellen Cherniavsky - Tom Musso - Ellen Klosson - Brad Theurer

Dhirendra Ghosh - Shuba Dey - Sven Pride - David Genne

Flight B

1 John Christensen - Hongmo Wang - Suellen Polland - Larry Brafman

2 Shuba Dey - Jay Kelkar - Debnarayan Dhar - Dhirendra Ghosh

3/4 Michael Cheng - Helen Cheng - Robert Zier - Henry Strauch

Larry Kahn - John Edmonds - David Genne - Sven Pride

...continued on p. 20

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.



SPECIAL PRICING FROM \$1,099.00
SAMPLE PRICING

Inside stateroomfrom \$1,099.00
Outside stateroomfrom \$1,359.00
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.

Call now for best staterooms!
 Call **ALL WAYS TRAVEL** to reserve your space.
 (301) 571-0400



WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson
 robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **David Rodney** and **Dean Pokorny** who tied for first with a score of 480. They win a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for third were **Jerry Pruzan**, **Chuck Yapple** and **Michael Frosch** with a score of 450. Sixth was **Richard Riseberg** with a score of 430. Tied for seventh were **Rossi Lindstrom**, **William Zane**, **Sam Gumbert**, **Prahalad Rajkumar**, **Manuel Paulo**, **Tom Musso**, **Lyle Poe** and **Wes Goldberg** with a score of 420. Fifteenth was **Pete Whipple** with a score of 410. The average score of the 125 solvers was 348. The average score of the experts was 420

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 Both Vulnerable

♠ A1096♥ 5♦ AJ1054♣ A65

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

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
2♠	100	5	79
3♥	70	2	02
3♣	70	2	19
2♦	50	1	23
Pass	20	0	01
3♠	20	0	01

How do you describe a hand with four spades, five diamonds and three clubs? Easy! You open 1♦, bid spades and then support clubs. I don't see any other choice. If you raise clubs directly, partner will not know that you have a singleton heart and might assume you have four clubs. If you bid 3♣ and partner bids 3NT, do you pass 3NT and find partner with Qxx of hearts or worse, or do you pull and find partner with AKQ of hearts. You can't jump to 3♥ showing short hearts because that promises four-card support.

Four experts agree with me and bid 2♠. Bidding 2♠ suggests five diamonds. After 2♠, partner's most likely bid will be 2NT. Now you can bid 3♣ and partner will know that you have short hearts and only three clubs. If opener has a balanced hand, opener should rebid either 2♦ or 2NT depending upon stoppers in the majors. I think 2♦ should be opener's default. Opener should rebid 2♦ whenever 2NT, two-of-a-major or

3♣ are not good descriptions of the hand. Holding ♠ xxx♥ xxx♦ AKQx♣ Axx, opener should rebid 2♦ which will allow responder to play notrump.

Landen: “2♠ —I will follow up by supporting clubs. I’m not sure what partner’s original 2NT would have been in Washington Standard. If GF, then it’s almost a certainty that partner has five+ clubs. I’d be more likely to splinter then, but I’d still like to have a fourth trump.”

Hopkins: “2♠ —I plan to support next and suggest the pattern of my hand.”

Rogall: “2♠ —Whether 2♣ shows at least five clubs when all of responder’s notrump ranges are covered by other bids or at least four clubs otherwise, I don’t want to splinter or raise directly because that would show four-card support. With my slam going values, I’m happy to pattern out with club support at my next opportunity. There’s also no reason to temporize with a waiting 2♦ rebid, when I’ve got a very descriptive and natural call to make at a low level.”

Woolsey: “2♠ —My understandings are that this promises at least 5-4 in the pointed suits, but does not show extra strength. Over partner’s expected 2NT call, I can bid 3♣, completing a perfect description of my hand. If he bids something else we won’t belong in notrump, and I can afford to support clubs at the four-level.”

Four experts raise clubs immediately. There’s a big difference between three-card support and four-card support. Suppose partner held ♠ KQJ♥ xxx♦ KQx♣ KQxx. He would respond 2♣ and would be sadly disappointed to play in 6♣ opposite three-card support. Two experts splinter. Splinter show four-card support.

Cappelletti: “3♥ —Splinter - you would like to coax partner into bidding Blackwood.”

Parker: “3♥ —Splinter. Always set trumps as soon as possible. I have great controls and a singleton so we are going slamming. Give partner ♠ Kxx♥ Axx♦ Kx♣ KQxxx and we have a lay down grand.”

If you held ♠ A109♥ 5♦ AJ1054♣ A65x, 7♣ would be a decent contract. Opposite only three clubs, 7♣ is poor contract, one that needs a diamond finesse and a 3-2

club break.

Two experts bid 3♣. I should have made them tell me what they would do if partner bids 3NT.

Adams: “3♣ —2♠ rates to be a heavy favorite among solvers, but is not the right bid playing Robinson style Washington Standard. Robinson style, 1♦ - 2♣ bid rarely has a four-card major, if ever, and the club bid shows at least five clubs. Since I already know where our fit lies, it’s best to tell partner. No splinter, as that shows at least four trumps.”

Roman: “3♣ —Supporting partner is the best bid in bridge. 3♥ is a splinter, but shows four trumps.”

One expert will take a long time to describe his hand. I would think that bidding 2♠ would not only show four spades, it would also show five diamonds.

King: “2♦ —Leave partner as much room as possible to describe his hand while showing the fifth diamond of mine.”

In constructive auctions, it’s important that partner knows how many trumps you have when you support.

2) Matchpoints None Vulnerable

♠ A3♥ Q65♦ 54♣ 1087654

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
ZZZZ	INT	Pass	Pass
????			

Your bid and what system are you playing?

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Pass	100	6	76
3♣	90	3	02
2♠	60	0	04
2NT	50	0	02
Double	40	1	30
2♣	40	0	11

Partner has to have a balanced hand when you have six HCPs and INT gets passed to you. If partner has an unbalanced hand, he would have bid something. Partner has to have at least two clubs and clubs rates to be a playable spot. In your dreams, you would bid 2♣ and buy the contract but the opponents are out there and probably will be able to bid a higher suit at the two-level. The right call on this hand is 3♣. This makes it difficult for the opponents to will very likely

will buy the contract. Over 2♣, responder can easily bid a four-card suit.

Two experts agree with me and bid their long suit. Assuming the opponents have at least one eight-card fit, 3♣ in your eight-card fit has to be a Law follower.

Rogall: “3♣ — The system I’m playing is Robinson. (Aren’t we all?) That means I’ve got two ways to show clubs. I can double to show either a four-card major and a longer minor, or just a long minor, or some huge hand. I can also jump to 3♣. I’m not passing because you always want to take them out of a non-vulnerable INT at matchpoints when you’ve got a six-card suit or nine cards in two suits. Additionally, there’s some extra safety in this case. We’re also non-vulnerable and partner didn’t bid, so this guarantees that partner is balanced with at least two-card club support. Double is tempting because there’s some chance we could get to play at the two-level. There’s not much chance partner will ask for my major, since with 5-4 or better and many 4-4’s, partner would have already bid, but in that case, I might even pretend to have four hearts. However, it’s much easier for the opponents to find their fit in these cases, so I’d rather take my chances with an immediate preempt.”

Woolsey: “3♣ —I’m assuming a strong notrump opening. Against this I play that double shows a four-card major (usually) and a longer minor, 2♣ shows both majors, 2♦ shows one major, two-of-of-a-major shows five of that major and a minor. Partner clearly has some values, yet he didn’t double or bid 2♣. The conclusion is that he must have at least a doubleton club, since if he has a singleton club he would definitely have had the shape to find some call. I could double and hope that partner bids 2♣ pass or correct, but that gives the opponents room to find an eight-card major suit fit. 3♣ puts it to them, and is probably safe enough.”

Next we’ll hear from the six wimps.

Cappelletti: “Pass—Partner has fewer than 15 points - and will probably lead a major.”

True. Partner will probably lead a major but how many tricks are you going to set up in partner’s four-card major?

Adams: “Pass—Washington Standard is to play “Robinson.” Playing Robinson, I could double hoping partner bids 2♣, or I could bid 3♣. I do not think partner will expect a weak hand for 3♣ in pass out position. Double is just wrong. If we do have a fit, and stop at 2♣, then the opponents have a fit, and we are letting them find it. If we do not have a fit, we end up in 3♣ and we can be in trouble. Strange, fit can stop at 2♣; no fit must get to 3♣ I pass, and hope to win matchpoints by having the opponents play a lower scoring part score.”

Parker: “Pass—Sometimes they get to play a contract. I play Robinson.”

Landen: “Pass—I usually play Cappelletti, so I’d pass; I’m unwilling to bid to the three-level. If I could double (where showing a single suited club hand is one of the options) or bid 2♣ natural, I would.”

Hopkins: “Pass—I expect partner to lead his longer/better major and I am well prepared for this. My system is 2♣ natural; 2♦ Multi; two-of-a-major is single-suiter and good; double is majors, minors or diamonds and 2NT is a big two-suiter. I could bid 2♣ to play but 1) this might help them get to a previously unreachable 4-4 major suit fit and 2) RHO is reasonable likely to have a minor-orientated hand and we might be outgunned to boot.”

Roman: “Pass—Whatever convention I was playing. This is a really tough problem, because ordinarily I am willing to take serious risk to not allow my opponents to play INT when they are non-vulnerable. Here however, my suit is weak, it is likely that I’ll end up playing it at the three-level, I have a honor in whichever major partner leads, and the opponents may back into a major suit fit that responder wasn’t strong enough to look for the first time. When I add all this up, I decide to go quietly.”

One expert follows the slow road. Bidding at the two-level allows the opponents to easily get into the auction.

King: “Double—Playing Woolsey where double shows a four-card major and a longer minor or just a long minor. Seldom right to let them play in INT when you have a distributional hand.”

When faced with the choice between bid-

ding and passing, bidding is usually right. It's best to show a long minor over INT by jumping to the three-level.

3) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠ 765♥ 5♦ AKQJ1054♣ A5

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
????		1♠	2♠
			(Michaels)
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♦	100	6	29
3♥	60	1	25
4NT	50	3	26
4♥	40	0	07
6♦	40	0	02
4♠	30	0	07
4♦	30	0	05
5♠	30	0	04
5♦	30	0	03
Double	30	0	10
6♠	30	0	01
Pass	30	0	04
3♠	20	0	01
3NT	20	0	01

Partner has opened 1♠, and you have three-card spade support. However, you might not belong in spades. You won't have any trump losers if diamonds are trumps. If you bid 3♦, forcing, and partner rebids spades, then you might belong in spades. Picture partner with ♠ Axxxx♥ AKJ10♦ - ♣ Kxxx. You can make 7♦ but you make at best 5♠. Diamonds should be trumps unless partner rebids his spade suit. You don't want to play in spades opposite a bad five-card spade suit. Matchpoints would be different. There is another small problem. The opponents could have many hearts and you might find your next bid at the five-level. That problem is secondary, however, to getting to the correct trump suit.

Five experts join me in bidding their solid seven-card suit. Making the same bid as if you had two small spades.

Adams: "3♦ — From my perspective, Spades will not have safety against the expected bad break. Diamonds will. Since this hand is in the slam range, I need to get diamonds into the picture before spades."

Rogall: "3♦ — Tough choice between 3♦ and 3♥. Using 2NT Jacoby I could find out

if partner has a singleton and take control of the hand. However, I won't know if partner has more than five spades and partner will think I have four-card support so we could easily get to the wrong strain. Splintering is out since it really doesn't do anything useful and again misdescribes my spade length. Since 2NT is Jacoby, 3♥ shows any limit raise or three-card support, game forcing. If partner bids game and I've got the room, I could bid RKC next. With all the key cards, I could bid 7♦ to offer partner a choice. Partner can evaluate her spade holding accurately knowing my exact trump length and that there's a bad trump split likely. However, I can't offer a strain choice at the six-level after RKC because 6♦ asks for third-round diamond control. I could start with 3♦, since my diamonds are solid, and it's IMPs. However, we could be in trouble in diamonds if there's a spade void. Also, bidding diamonds makes it easier for them to find a club fit. Nevertheless, diamonds are higher than clubs, and I could still mention my secondary spade support if they show a heart fit. The critical bonus of starting with 3♦ is that partner is highly likely to rebid spades with six or more and then I'll know that spades has a good shot."

Hopkins: "3♦ — Natural and forcing. I may even learn something from my partner's response and even the opponent's bidding that may help me aim towards our best contract."

True! If partner rebids spades, then you could then consider spades as the trump suit.

King: "3♦ — Natural and forcing. Let's hear what partner has to say."

Roman: "3♦ — In contrast to Problem one, here, I don't want partner thinking I have a hand I love with spade support, I want him to find out I have a hand I love with diamonds and if I get the chance later, I'll whisper "spades" to him."

One expert sets spades as trumps by bidding the one suit shown by the opponent.

Landen: "3♥ — I'd rather bid 3♦ forcing, but I think that should be competitive. 3♥ is usually played as limit or better in spades. The real problem comes if partner signs off in 3♠. I guess I'd have to make one more try with 4♥. If partner jumps to 4♠ I'll try RKC. If he bids 4♣ after LHO bids 4♥, I'll

also try RKC. We might get to five down one, but anytime partner can play spades for no losers we make at least six. RHO rates to have at least six or seven HCP in hearts and clubs. That doesn't leave partner much besides good spades."

Three experts jump to 4NT. Sometimes it's best to jump directly to 4NT when there's competition. If you bid make a bid at the three-level or four-level and an opponent bids at the five-level, then you've lost your ability to check for aces. I would like to have a spade honor to bid a direct Keycard.

Parker: "4NT—RKC - This must be Blackwood for spades. If partner has the right cards I can find out now, not after some convoluted auction. I will bid 6 or 7♦ s."

Woolsey: "4NT—RKC. I plan to pass if partner bids 5♦, and to bid 6♦ if partner bids 5♥ or 5♠. If partner bids 5♣ (0 or 3), my continuation will depend upon my agreement about how we handle a potential zero or three conflict. I think this covers all bases and figures to get us to the right contract."

Cappelletti: "4NT—Since 3♥ would set spades as trumps, 4NT is regular Blackwood. If partner shows two aces, try 5NT. This hand will play in diamonds or in notrump."

Whether or not 4NT is regular Blackwood or Keycard is partnership understanding. Most partnerships would play it as Keycard however.

Three small is the worst possible trump support. Solid seven-card suits usually make very good trump suits.

4) IMPs You're Vulnerable

♠ AKQJ♥ Q54♦ A32♣ K32

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
ZZZZ	ZZZZ	1♥	Pass
????*			

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2♣	100	6	17
1♠	70	2	70
2NT	50	0	11
4NT	50	1	11
2♦	50	0	02
2♠	40	0	12
6♥	20	0	02

At first glance, you might bid 1♠. But there are some of partner's rebids which could make the auction difficult. Suppose partner rebids 2♦ over your 1♠. Now you must bid 3♣ since no other non-game bid is forcing. Over your 3♣, partner bids 3NT and there you are, never having supported hearts. Suppose partner raises to 2♠ holding ♠ xxx♥ Axxxx♦ KQJx♣ Q. Blackwood in spades will get you to a no-play slam. In order to get to a good slam you need partner to have good hearts. The only way to check on hearts is to make them trumps. Suppose opener rebids 2♥. On this hand you can bid RKC and easily count tricks. But suppose your spades were a little weaker, AKJx for instance. Again, the only way to set hearts as trumps is to go thru new minor and that could lead to some difficult sequences.

Five experts agree with me and start with a two-over one. Bidding 2♣ will not stop you from finding your eight-card spade fit. Over 2♣, opener will bid 2♠ holding four spades.

Cappelletti: "2♣ — Give partner a chance to show six hearts. Then support hearts, then bid Blackwood. Bid a grand if partner has AKxxxx and an ace."

Adams: "2♣ — Honestly, I do not see the problem here. 2♣ is game forcing, and if I later support hearts, it shows three. Bidding 1♠ is silly, as I can't conveniently support hearts and be forcing. Jacoby 2NT I reserve for four-card support, unless I plan to be captain, which I do not. That also gives up on the 4-4 spade fit which we could find after 1♥ - 2♣ 2♠ if partner has some sort of Flannery (defined by opening style)."

Rogall: "2♣ — Robinson's guideline of only bidding spades over hearts when you have three more spades than hearts works well. Otherwise, you have trouble showing your strength and your heart length. Here, I can bid 2♣, creating a game force and then bid hearts at my next opportunity to show exactly three-card support (unless partner rebids spades). After that's done, I can start looking for slam, having learned more information about partner's hand. I don't think this is the type of hand to take over with 2NT Jacoby, which would make partner do all the describing and me do all of the deciding. I might do that if we were playing a modified

response system and I could learn a lot more about partner's hand than with standard Jacoby rebids. In this case, there needs to be more give and take so I can later offer partner a choice of strains."

Hopkins: "2♣—I don't like to misrepresent my hand but I want to set the force and keep the level low so partner can describe his hand easily."

King: "2♣—These auctions always go better if you start with a game force."

Roman: "2♣—Auctions that begin 1♥ - 1♠ can be awkward for showing slam tries (partner bids 2♦, we now have to bid 3♣, he bids 3NT, and we...?) and should be avoided whenever possible. Here, partner didn't open Flannery, 2♣ is forcing to game, I can bid hearts next, and eventually I will get to show a slam try with three hearts."

Woolsey: "1♠—It is vital to introduce the spades here, even if partner will automatically raise on three which he will playing Flannery, since the 1♠-call is assumed to be a five-bagger. I want that. Playing in spades figures to take one more trick than playing in hearts. For example, imagine partner with ♠xxx♥AKJxx♦Qxx♣Qx. 6♥ has no play unless they give you a trick on the lead or you can successfully Morton fork them in the club suit and the king of diamonds is on. But 6♠ is cold with normal splits unless West leads a diamond and East has the king."

Landen: "1♠—What else? Is this an advertisement for 2♣? That bid would help eliminate the problem of sorting out suit lengths that might develop if partner raises spades, but what if partner were 4513 and raised to 3♣? You'd bid 3♥ and spades, the probable best trump suit, would be lost in the wash. As 3♥ would be forcing after 1♥-1♠-2♠ I don't see why I wouldn't bid my solid suit even if it's only four long. How would you get to 7♠ facing ♠xxx♥AKJxx♦x♣Axxx if no one bids the suit?"

Parker: "4NT—RKC - Once again why set up an auction where you need three bids to raise hearts and then you will bid RKC anyway."

Not true about bidding RKC. Suppose the auction starts out 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥. We are at the two-level in a game-force and hearts have been set as trumps. Supposed partner bids 3♥ showing a minimum. With extras he

should show his shape by bidding his three-card fragment, rebidding a five-card suit or by bidding 2NT with 2542. Over 3♥ showing a minimum, you now bid 3♠ which is a slam try opposite a minimum. If partner has two of your missing three keycards (Ace-King of hearts and Ace of clubs) he will cuebid. If partner bids 4♥ over 3♠, there is no reason to bid RKC because the most keycards partner can have is one. Is it nice to be able to play in 4♥ when partner has ♠xx♥Kxxxx♥KQJx♣QJ?

1♥ - pass -1♠ can lead to bad auctions in standard and you should try to avoid them with game-forcing hands.

5) Matchpoints None Vulnerable

♠ KQ9875♥ Q5♦ 32♣ AJ9

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
ZZZZ	2♦ (weak)	2♥	3♦
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♦	100	5	07
4♥	80	4	28
4♠	70	0	24
Pass	50	1	62
4NT	20	0	01
4♣	20	0	03

You bid 3♠, which is forcing. Unless you're a passed hand, new suits are forcing in response to an overcall of preempts. The question now is which game do we play? 3NT, when diamonds have been bid and raised seems like the least likely to be the game that will take the most tricks. Partner could have only one diamond stopper. So which major do we play in? Your spade suit could be a lot worse. Make the five of spades the five of clubs and you would make the same 3♠-bid. You want to give partner a choice of majors with the emphasis on spades. 4♦ is the way to do that. You want partner, if he holds two spades and five hearts to bid 4♠. If you had only five spades, you would bid 4♥ giving partner the choice of 5-2 fits. Whatever 4♦ means, partner is going to do the right thing. He won't rebid hearts unless they are good. He won't support spades without two.

Four experts agree with me and bid 4♦. If partner bids 4♥ and you correct to 4♠, then this sequence shows a spade slam try.

Adams: "4♦—This is clearly choice of games. I'd like to play spades, but hearts could be better if partner has one spade. Partner might even have six hearts."

Landen: "4♦—Good problem. Four-of-either-major might be best and it's possible we have a slam. I believe most experts would treat the 4♦ cuebid as initially asking partner to pick between the majors ("choice of games"). I will pass four-of-either-major. Unless partner has a double diamond stopper or we're running both majors we rate to make more tricks with a trump suit than in notrump."

King: "4♦—I want partner to pick a major. While we are likely to have nine tricks, at matchpoints, I think we need to play in a major."

Roman: "4♦—Choice-of-games cuebid. Six spades, two hearts, "pick a major suit game partner"...perfect."

Four experts bid 4♥. Bidding 4♥ won't get partner to correct to 4♠ holding Jx of spades and AK109x of hearts.

Parker: "4♥—Partner should only have two diamonds, thus only one stopper. He should assume I have six spades and two hearts for this auction. 3NT will not produce many tricks if he does not have the Spade Ace."

Woolsey: "4♥—Partner may have been forced to bid 3NT with a single diamond stopper, and that could be very bad. 4♥ lets him choose his major. If 4♦ is choice of games that is okay also, but there might be some ambiguity. But pass is very wrong (as it was in real life if I remember correctly)."

Cappelletti: "4♥—Partner might have only one diamond stopper."

Rogall: "4♥—We're in some netherworld

here, guessing what the four-level bids mean. I want to offer partner a choice between the majors. (Partner is smart enough to be able to tell if the diamond stopper needs protecting.) But, what's the best way to do that? I'm arguing that bidding 4♥ does this. Would I really pull partner out of 3NT with only one place to play? What possible hand can I hold? Not three-card heart support and mediocre spades — I never would have mentioned the spades. Not two-card heart support and mediocre spades — I'd pass 3NT. 4♣ is natural and forcing. If I bid 4♣, partner can raise clubs, bid 4♦ RKC, bid a major, or return to notrump. I don't want three of those things to happen, so 4♣ is out. Normally, a cue bid below game when we haven't found a fit would be a choice of games. However, since we've already got 4♣ and 4♥ to offer choices of games, 4♦ is freed up to be a slam-try in spades — the only suit not covered for slam-going bids. With a heart slam-try, I would have cue bid initially. Note: I'd only make this ideal 4♥-bid in an ideal world such as this bidding contest. At the table, I'd guess that 4♦ would be read as choice of majors."

Only one expert passes. This is matchpoints and if one of the majors does not run you will get a poor score.

Hopkins: "Pass—I hope we can run six heart tricks or six spade tricks plus partner's diamond stopper and a couple of clubs. If I were slightly more distributional I suppose I could offer partner a choice of games by bidding 4♦."

Flexible bids are used to help you get to the best spot.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	3♣	Pass	3♦	2♣	4♦	470
Mike Cappelletti	3♥	Pass	4NT	2♣	4♥	400
Robbie Hopkins	2♠	Pass	3♦	2♣	Pass	450
Steve Landen	2♠	Pass	3♥	1♠	4♦	430
Fred King	2♦	Dbl	3♦	2♣	4♦	390
Steve Parker	3♥	Pass	4NT	4NT	4♥	350
Steve Robinson	2♠	3♣	3♦	2♣	4♦	490
Donna Rogall	2♠	3♣	3♦	2♣	4♥	470
Jeff Roman	3♣	Pass	3♦	2♣	4♦	470
Kit Woolsey	2♠	3♣	4NT	1♠	4♥	390

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 June 8, 2006 including the Unit KO, but not the Fidelity & Trust Round Robin. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

- 1 87.09 Alfred Steinberg
- 2 85.44 David Ruderman
- 3 84.99 Steve Robinson
- 4 74.91 Michael Gill
- 5 71.78 Noble Shore
- 6 70.06 Arnie Frankel
- 7 69.30 John Adams
- 8 60.27 Benjamin Brill
- 9 55.89 Ellen Klosson
- 10 55.39 William Hacker
- 11 54.10 Fred King
- 12 49.10 Mark Shaw
- 13 48.27 Earl Glickstein
- 14 47.13 Larry Kahn
- 15 45.40 H John Edmonds
- 16 45.18 Donald Berman
- 17 44.54 Mark Rosen
- 18 43.71 Leon Letwin
- 19 42.68 William Cole
- 20 42.23 Robert Bell
- 21 41.48 Eugene Kales
- 22 40.63 Clyde Kruskal
- 23 39.92 Donna Rogall
- 24 37.92 Eugene Fisher
- 25 37.44 Diane Walker

Izzy Cohen

- 1 74.91 Michael Gill
- 2 55.39 William Hacker
- 3 45.40 H John Edmonds
- 4 44.54 Mark Rosen
- 5 37.92 Eugene Fisher
- 6 36.12 Jason Rosenfeld
- 7 35.91 Charity Sack
- 8 35.64 Lloyd Rawley
- 9 33.16 David Genné
- 10 32.32 Philip Mittleman
- 11 31.89 Janet Dence
- 12 31.81 Danut Gliga
- 13 30.49 Joel Miller
- 14 29.89 Angeliki Magklara
- 15 28.37 Richard Ferrin

Tubbs

- 1 31.81 Danut Gliga
- 2 29.89 Angeliki Magklara
- 3 25.66 William Kingery Jr
- 4 22.58 Katherine Rabenstein
- 5 20.20 Daniel Koch
- 6 19.33 Shyam Giridharadas
- 7 18.59 Roma Chandra
- 8 17.90 Shawn Stringer
- 9 17.24 James Wisman
- 10 16.95 Prem Garg

Woolridge

- 1 16.17 Amy Bloom
- 2 13.56 Marie Saeger
- 3 10.88 Jose Porres
- 4 10.70 Andrew Jacknain
- 5 8.18 Grazyna Gdula
- 6 7.04 Paul Chassy
- 7 7.04 Reina Chassy
- 8 7.03 Cynthia Harrison
- 9 6.14 Kay Miller
- 10 5.98 Sheila Kaplan

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**

**GUARANTEED
PARTNERS!**

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

JOIN ANYTIME

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

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: majslf@aol.com)

~ ♦ SCHEDULE ♥ ♠ ~

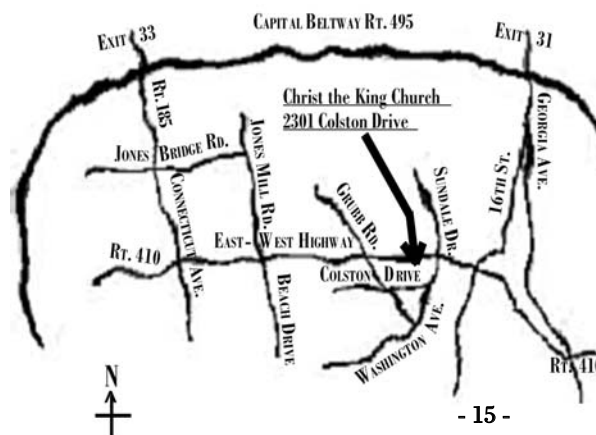
All Games held at Christ the King Church

- 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
- 11/09/2006NVBA Sectional
- 11/16/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 11/23/2006CLOSED (Thanksgiving)
- 11/30/2006StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 12/07/2006StrataFlighted GNT Swiss
- 12/14/2006Holiday Party/Stratified STaC

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
PARTNER PROGRAM**

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.

The **Guaranteed Partner Program** run by **Barbara Doran** guarantees a partner for those who need one on an occasional basis and has many volunteers show up and sometimes be needed and sometimes not be needed. The volunteer gets a free play for being willing and available to play. Those that have volunteered include **Steve Carmen, Winston Edwards, Don Berman, Fred King, Richard Ferrin, Kitty Gottfried, Vince Wilmot, Bob Bell, Ram Sarangan, Bill Colligan, Charity Sack, Tibor Roberts, Chris Miller, Barbara Doran, Jane Sturgis, Lloyd Rawley, Barbara Shaw, Arnie Frankel, Dick Wegman, Saul Penn, Ron Zucker, Allen Shaw, Steve Czecha, Jim Geist, Carole Banks, Steve Nessier, Ron Susi, Marc Weiner, Dave Ruderman**...many have been volunteer partners more than once. Please contact **Barbara Doran** at barbd@starpower.net if you would consider being on our **Volunteer Partner Schedule**. Right now we need volunteers for Thursdays in August.

This is just part of a continuing (and growing) list of our **VILLAGERS**... *Please let me add your name next time.*

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

August 3-6 Silver Spring, MD

September 7-10 Arlington, VA

October 19-22 Silver Spring, MD

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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 #53

by Rich Colker, rcolker@worldnet.att.net

Few situations at the table result in as much unpleasantness as those involving disputed claims. The following case, from a match played in Hong Kong last year, was sent to me for my opinion by one of the participants. South was the dealer at favorable vulnerability.

North

♠ Q73

♥ Q108

♦ 985

♣ A1085

West

♠ A8654

♥ 7

♦ J10643

♣ 92

East

♠ J

♥ AKJ3

♦ AKQ72

♣ J63

South

♠ K1092

♥ 96542

♦ —

♣ KQ74

West

Pass

Pass

North

Pass

Pass

East

3NT

Pass

South

2♥ (1)

Pass

(1) *Alerted; 6-11 HCP, at least 5-4 in the majors*

South led the ♣K against East's 3NT contract and continued with the queen and another club. North won, cashed his fourth club, and was on lead at trick five when East faced his hand. After some time (see below) declarer indicated he would take the rest via the heart finesse. At this point North called the Director explaining that about 8-10 seconds had elapsed before declarer made his statement. (South and West agreed with North's time estimate; East thought that only

about 5-6 seconds had elapsed), during which time N/S's failure to accept the claim alerted East to the need for the heart finesse.

The Director determined that East's facing of his hand constituted a claim and that his subsequent statement had served only to "clarify" that he was claiming the rest of the tricks. He ruled that East's delay before making his statement had not helped him to place the ♥Q with North since no rational alternative line of play was possible. The Director assigned the result for 3NT making, +600 for E/W.

N/S appealed this decision. At the hearing N/S told the Committee their understanding of the Claim Laws was that when a player claims and makes no statement immediately about his line of play, he may not take a line whose success depends on finding one opponent or the other with a specific card or cards. Thus, he may not take a line of play that places a specific card in one opponent's hand if a rational alternative line of play is available that would be less successful.

Here, with South having shown at least five-four in the majors, declarer had an alternative line of play available: play South to hold the ♥Q and ♠KQ109. Following this line, he wins the ♥A at trick five (if North shifts to a heart) and runs the diamonds, squeezing South in the majors. Since this line would fail on the actual lie of the cards, and since declarer did not make a timely statement of an intended line of play, and since the pause could have alerted him to the need for the heart finesse, he should not be allowed to succeed in his contract.

The Appeal Committee agreed with N/S

that East should not be allowed to finesse North for the ♥ Q. East's failure to state an intended line of play suggests he might have miscounted and thought he had the rest of the tricks when he claimed. Thus, had he not claimed and had North led a card at trick five he might have simply won the trick with a top honor and started cashing his winners from the top before he realized he was a trick short—at which point it would have been too late to take the heart finesse. But even if East knew he was a trick short, the possibility of squeezing South in the majors meant there was clear doubt about his "intended" line of play. The Committee therefore adjusted the result to 3NT by East down one, +100 for N/S.

I agree with the Committee's decision, but one additional issue still needs to be addressed. If the description of South's 2♥ opening is accurate (6-11 HCP with 5-4+ in the majors), and if we may assume that N/S would not open 2♥ with sound opening bid values (12+ HCP), then playing for the squeeze against South is not a viable option since it would require him to have opened 2♥ holding ♠KQ109 ♥Qxxxx ♦—♣KQxx, which is a good 12 HCP plus distribution (a sound opening bid for most players). So an East player who is in touch with the hand would not play South for that holding and would likely have taken the heart finesse.

But East's failure to make a statement suggests that he had no line of play in mind, perhaps because he had lost touch with the hand and thought he had the rest of the tricks. If East knew he needed the heart finesse he should have mentioned it when he claimed, since any experienced player knows he cannot take a winning finesse if his claim does not include a statement to that effect. Could East have thought it was so clear to take the heart finesse that he simply neglected to mention it? I doubt it both because of the timing given in the report and

because he did not ask whether N/S might open 2♥ with 12+ HCP.

So I believe East's failure to mention the heart finesse strongly suggests he was out of touch with the hand, and might have played for a possible misdefense or a "possible" squeeze on South. Add to that the possibility that if North had been given the chance to switch to a "deceptive" ♥10 at trick five he might easily have been talked out of the heart finesse.

It is easy to confuse "irrational" with "careless" when considering whether a declarer might adopt a certain line of play—especially one that is so "obvious" with all 52 cards in view. If East thinks he has the rest of the tricks, or if he thinks South could hold all the remaining HCP, he could easily rise with the ♥A (careless, but not irrational) if North leads the ♥10 at trick five. He might even miscount the outstanding high cards and place South with only 11 HCP—even with the ♥Q.

In these "lazy" claim situations, my policy is that the claimer needs to CONVINCED me he knew what was going on in the hand when he makes no statement about his intended line of play and more than one plausible line is available. My bias, and that of most appeals people I know, is to presume he is out of touch with the hand and might play carelessly—unless it would take a glaring mind loss not to know what was going on (such as playing a player to hold a card in a suit he has previously showed out in). In the present case I believe that East's playing for a misdefense or a squeeze on South is a lot closer to careless than it is to irrational.

So E/W deserve to receive -100 on the deal both because of the negligent form of the claim as well as for depriving North of a chance to talk East out of taking the heart finesse by switching to a high heart at trick five—even if East "knew" he needed it.



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Flight C

I Neal Rosenthal - Ellen Rosenthal - Richard Levin - Marc Weiner - Shyam Girdharadas - Prem Garg

2 Jim Rankin - Larry Cowan - Mary Newton - Dan Traub

3 Dennis Schwanz - Susan Miskura - Walton Francis - Duke Wilson

4/6 William Colket - Doreen Colket - Patti Drummond - Diane Lucci - Robert Edwards

Eberhard Jehle - Owen Byer - Leah Boyer - Narayan Govind - Forrest Swope - Chris McRae

Jim Rucker - John Wisk - Dot Sorto - Paul Anderson

BRIDGEISMS!

compiled by Ron Kral

I'd like a review of the bidding with all the original inflections.

Card sense is when it's technically right to do something, the little man that sits on my shoulder or anyone else's shoulder says, "Don't do that." And you say to yourself, "Well, wait a minute, that's the right way to play." And he says, "Yeah, but you don't wanna play that way." That instinct is card sense. It's almost an ability to feel where the cards are. It's something that you can't buy, you can't find; you're born with it. The ability to do the right thing at the wrong time or really to do the wrong thing at the right time. *Barry Crane*

The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in. *Alfred Sheinwold*

If you have the slightest touch of masochism, you'll love this game.

**BEST LEADS AGAINST
NOTRUMP**

by Steve Robinson

When you lead an honor against notrump you want to get the best possible signal from

your partner. In order to get the best possible signal, your partner has to know what you have. (x) represents one or more spot cards.

Lead the Ace from AKx or longer. This will get partner to signal encouragement with the Queen and discouragement with the Jack. From AKT9(x), you want partner to encourage with the Queen and discourage with the Jack.

Lead the King as the power lead. Partner plays an honor if he has one, otherwise partner gives count. From AKJT9(x) lead the King. Partner plays the Queen if he has it otherwise partner gives count. You want to be able to run the suit if declarer has Qx. Lead the King from AKQT(x) to get the Jack or count. Lead the K from KQJT9 to get count or get partner to unblock with the Ace. Lead the King from KQT9(x) and get the Jack from partner.

Lead the Queen to get attitude for the Jack. KQT(x), KQ9(x) and AKQ(x) are sequences where you would lead the Queen. You want partner to encourage with the jack or a higher honor. If you lead the Queen and follow with the Jack that shows length and partner is supposed to unblock with the Ace. If you lead the Queen and follow with the King that shows shortness and partner is not supposed to unblock with the Ace.

Lead the Jack to get attitude for the T. KQJ(x), QJ(x), AQJ(x) are sequences where you would lead the Jack. You want partner to encourage with T or a higher honor. You have to be careful when leading the Jack from KQJ since partner will not know that you have the King. If you lead the Jack and follow with the T that shows length and partner is supposed to unblock a higher honor. If you lead the Jack and follow with the Queen that shows shortness and partner is not supposed to unblock with a higher honor.

Lead the T as a standard Jack lead. AJT(x), KJT(x) or JT9(x) are sequences where you would lead the T.

Lead the 9 as a standard T lead. AT9(x), KT9(x), QT9(x), AQT9(x), AKT9(x) and T98(x) are sequences where you would lead the 9.

Lead the 8 from 98(x), T87(x), KJ98(x) or AQ98(x). Second or fourth best.

A REMEMBRANCE OF CAROLE GEAGLEY

from Bryan Coleman



We recently lost a truly remarkable lady, someone our local bridge world is going to miss greatly. Carole Geagley, of Severn, MD, passed away on June 19 after a battle with cancer. Carole was a member of the Washington Bridge League for more than thirty years and in that time served as unit president, vice-president, secretary, unit board member, cheer and sympathy coordinator, babysitter chairperson at our 1984 nationals, prize chairperson at our July 4th regionals, and in an unofficial capacity, a long time unit volunteer taking on a myriad of jobs too long to list here.

Carole met her loving husband, long time director Ron Geagley, at the bridge table in 1975. They married two years later and the two became pretty much inseparable. They raised their daughter, Lori, who now resides in Frederick, MD, and who provided them with four beautiful grandchildren all of whom Carole loved dearly.

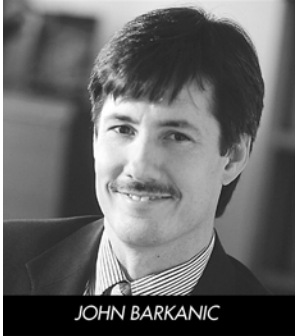
She was the office manager at the law firm of Seltzer and Suskind from 1971 to 1977, after which she started a career on Capitol Hill working for the Joint Economic Committee, where she rose to the position of personal assistant to the executive director. In 1990 she joined

the Senate Appropriations Committee staff and as the senate majority changed over the years, she worked for senators Tom Harkin (D, IA) and Arlen Specter (R, PA), helping manage the seamless transition between chairmanships - a task she performed in exemplary fashion for more than fifteen years. Both senators publicly recorded their praises for her tireless work in the senate chamber when she retired at the end of March last year.

Carole was well known for her endlessly cheerful disposition, a truly quick wit that rarely missed its mark, and a dazzling smile that just brilliantly lit up her face. Those truly fortunate to know her on a personal level discovered a fiercely loyal friend whose companionship was as unique as it was wonderful.

Her loss is one we will always mourn. We will continue to run our regionals, play our cards, run our boards, but it will never be the same for many of us. We share her family's grief for we too have a lost an important family member. Just as the lone chair stands out at a bridge table of three, so does the space left by Carole - a void that serves as a painful reminder of that which we have lost and will never find again.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE HISTORY OF THE WBL AS OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION APPROACHES, PART I

by Bob Levey

We are thrilled to present this series of articles from Bob Levey. For more than 36 years, he was a reporter and columnist for *The Washington Post*. Throughout that period, he edited *The Post's* bridge columns, and often contributed articles about bridge to national and international publications. In addition, Mr. Levey is a member of the WBL Board.

The **Washington Bridge League** turns 75 this fall. It is almost as old as contract bridge itself.

Just six years after contract bridge was invented in 1925 (aboard a New York Central Railroad train), the game was sweeping the country. Washington was being swept by it, too.

Cafeterias in federal office buildings saw dozens of shuffle-and-deal lunch-hour games. *The Evening Star* and *The Washington Post* both carried daily bridge columns. Trumping your partner's ace was a sin known from sea to shining sea.

When a woman killed her husband in Kansas for failing to bring home a touch-and-go four-spade contract, *The Post* played the story on page one—complete with an analysis by famed bridge theoretician **Ely Culbertson** of how the poor, deceased declarer might have made his bid and spared himself.

In the Washington of 1931, bridge was played largely at kitchen tables, in embassies, at country clubs. There were no master points, no official tournaments, no player ranking systems, no such thing as a duplicate or a Swiss Teams.

But one evening in the fall of that year—history does not record exactly where, exactly when, or exactly who was in attendance—the WBL was born. It has played a major role in organized American bridge ever since.

Eleven WBL members have won international championships. Dozens have won national championships. Scores have won regionals and sectionals. The WBL ranks as “one of the oldest and longest-standing bridge

organizations in the United States, wrote **Dick Wegman**, former WBL President, in the November/December 2005 *WBL Bulletin*.

For more than 40 years, the WBL's Thursday Unit Game has been widely known as the toughest test south of New York City (the Unit Game was originally held on Wednesday, but on March 6, 1958, for unknown reasons, it moved to Thursday, where it has remained ever since).

In 1981, a player named **Ann Schwartz** racked up a 203 1/2 game at a WBL sectional mixed pairs. She backed it up with a 209 in the next day's sectional open pairs.

Schwartz finished third in the mixed and second in the open.

“Ann, around here, it takes a GOOD score to be a winner,” wrote the late **Jim Wood**, the editor of the *WBL Bulletin* for more than 20 years.

The first organized bridge tournament in Washington was held in May, 1931. It was sponsored by *The Washington Post*. It attracted more than 600 players. The first WBL tournament was held in December of that same year. That December tournament was the first to award master points.

From the very beginning, the WBL was a vibrant organization—full of characters, controversy and exceptionally talented bridge players.

One of its founders was **Eddie Eynon**, the owner of the *Washington Senators* baseball team. Eynon also lent his name to the official silver trophy that goes to the winner of the WBL's annual team championship. The trophy will be reactivated at the WBL's October sectional in honor of the organization's 75th birthday.

An early president of the WBL (in the mid- and late 1930s) was **James H. Lemon**, a local investment executive who later became part owner of the *Senators* himself. Lemon also served as an early president of the ACBL.

In 1952, the official WBL membership log lists **Carl B. Albert** and **Page Belcher**. Both

were members of Congress from Oklahoma at the time, and Albert was soon to be House Majority Leader.

By 1941, a wartime code-breaker named **Alfred Sheinwold** was playing in—and winning—local tournaments. Sheinwold was later the pre-eminent bridge columnist of his era and a many-time captain of U.S. international teams.

Four years later, a young player named **Al Roth**—later a much-decorated champion—won the annual WBL pairs championship. Eight years after that, Roth and three teammates won the WBL team championship (and the *Eynon Trophy*). One of Roth's teammates was a Philadelphian named **Charles Goren**—who was later featured on the cover of *Time Magazine* in keeping with his glamour-boy reputation as Mr. Bridge.

In the 1950s, a regular winner of WBL events was **Mike Michaels**, inventor of the *Michaels cue-bid* (it shows two suits immediately over an opponent's bid). Michaels later married and played with **Terry Michaels**, who ran a popular bridge club at Van Ness Center in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Bridge in Washington was glamorous and very upper-crust in that early era. WBL tournaments were held at the Shoreham Hotel, right down the hall from the legendary Blue Room, where the likes of **Count Basie** and **Frank Sinatra** entertained. Players dressed in their Sunday best, even if it wasn't Sunday. Early players often spent the night in Shoreham suites (WBL tournament flyers advertised reduced rates for members).

Membership growth was steady and solid. In April 1937, six months before the ACBL was officially founded, the WBL had 246 members, according to official records. A year later, that figure stood at 340.

By April, 1958, the WBL had 1,000 members. It reached a high-water mark of 2,600 in April, 1974. Although membership has fallen since, the official membership of 1,663 in 2006 is somewhat misleading, since that total does not include unpaid WBL life masters. The accurate current membership total is believed to be about 2,000, according to ACBL officials.

When it was founded in 1931, the WBL was a port in a stormy city. The Depression

had the country in a headlock. Washington had not fully recovered from the strains of World War One. It was suffering from a severe housing shortage, and sharp racial segregation. The federal government had not mushroomed in size, as it soon would, under the first FDR Administration.

The Twenties were no longer around to roar. Washington was a bit gloomy, a bit sleepy. It gravitated to bridge as a way to smile.

And as a way to shine.

By 1937, when the ACBL was born, Washington was chosen as the site of the initial Fall Nationals. In the previous few months, as ACBL tournaments began to be held all over the East Coast, "more than 50 [WBL] members have been awarded National Master Points, indicative of being a winner or a runner-up in an ACBL master-point tournament," according to the official 1937-38 report of the WBL Secretary.

World War Two put a crimp in WBL operations and attendance. Because the federal government required a 48-hour work week, including Saturday afternoons, tournaments shrank to single sessions on Friday and Saturday nights. Only on Sundays did WBL tournaments offer two sessions.

According to WBL records, Unit Game attendance fell from an average of 30 1/2 tables in January, 1941, to 25 1/2 a year later, to 17 two years later, to 15 three years later. The official history of the WBL's first 50 years says it was "several years before bridge activity in Washington returned to its former level."

But the WBL's biggest test began to arrive in 1956.

A federal manpower executive named **Victor R. Daly**—who was African-American—applied for membership. He mailed in a \$2 check to cover one year's dues.

The check was returned.

Over the next five years, the WBL nearly disintegrated over the issue of whether to allow blacks to play in WBL games or join as members. Even when the question was resolved in 1961, resignations, short tempers and hard feelings were everywhere.

(To be continued in our next issue)

AREA BRIDGE CLASS OFFERINGS

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Contact Leslie at slamhand@verizon.net or call 301-977-0314 for more information.

Bridge for Absolute Beginners. Wednesday mornings, 10 a.m. to Noon. (*Location to be announced.*) Eight weeks beginning about September 27th. Learn the greatest card game of all time! Have a great time and meet new friends while playing lots of hands. Course designed for those who have never played before. Register through Leslie.

Beginning Bridge—Part B. Monday evenings at the *Women's Club of Chevy Chase* (Conn. Ave. at E-W Highway), 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Eight weeks beginning September 18th. Includes takeout doubles, overcalls, pre-emptive bids and strong 2C openers. Continuation of beginning class or great as brush-up for those who haven't played in years. Come prepared to have fun and play lots of hands. Register through Leslie.

Polishing Your Basics—Part 1. Tuesday evenings at the *Potomac Community Center*, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Eight weeks beginning September 19th. For Adv. Beginner to Intermediate players. Concentrates on the common bidding situations that your partner doesn't get right all the time. Play lots of hands each lesson. Register through Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Advanced Bridge Decisions. Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (*Location to be announced; formerly at Kenwood.*) Eight weeks beginning about September 27th. For Intermediate to Advanced players. Includes losing trick count, opening hand evaluations, deciding which game to play in and other topics that need more than a simple rhyme to understand. Register through Leslie.

My Favorite Advanced Conventions. Monday mornings at the *Potomac Community Center*, 10 a.m. to Noon. Eight weeks beginning September 18th. For advanced players. Includes Jacoby 2NT, Splinter Raises, Drury and when to use them in competition. Play lots of hands each lesson. Register through Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Thinking Bridge; More Magic Hands. Tuesday mornings at the *Women's Club of Chevy Chase* (Conn. Ave. at E-W Highway), 10 a.m. to Noon. Eight weeks beginning September 19th. For advanced players. Each hand has a trick to it that you need to solve at the table. Starts with hand #101. Register through Leslie.

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.

2006-2007 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS DISTRICT 6 FINALS

by Barbara Doran, District 6 NAP Chair

**October 14-15, 2006
(South, B and C only)
and
December 02-03, 2006
(North, all Flights)**

The District 6 Final for Flights A and B will be held the weekend of December 02-03, 2006. Flight C will be a 2 session event on Saturday only. You must be a member of a Unit in District 6 and have qualified for the event at the club level to play in the District 6 Final. The CLUB qualifying period is June through August.

The Open Flight, a 4-session event in which half the field will qualify for Sunday play, will be held on December 02-03 at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Recreation Center, 2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring, MD on Saturday and at the Viers Mill Local Park, 4425 Garrett Park Road, Wheaton MD on Sunday. Game times will be 12:30 and 6:00 on Saturday and 11:00 and 4:30 on Sunday. Mid-chart conventions will be allowed in the Open Flight only.

The 0-2000 Flight, a 4-session event in which half the field will qualify for Sunday play, will be played at two sites. Players may play at the site of their choice. The Northern game will be held on December 02-03 at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Recreation Center, 2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring, MD on Saturday and the Viers Mill Local Park, 4425 Garrett Park Road, Wheaton MD on Sunday. Game times will be 12:30 and 6:00 on Saturday and 11:00 and 4:30 on Sunday. The Southern game will be held on October 14-15 at the Peninsula DBC 640A 79th Street, Newport News, VA at 11:00 and 4:30 on both days.

The NLM Flight will be a 2-session event and will be played at two sites on Saturday only. Players may play at the site of their

choice. The Northern game will be on December 02 at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Recreation Center, 2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring, MD at 12:30 and 6:00. The Southern game will be held October 14 at the Peninsula DBC 640A 79th Street, Newport News, VA at 11:00 and 4:30.

Three pairs in each flight will qualify for the National Finals, held during the Spring 2007 NABC in St. Louis, MO. In the 0-2000 and NLM Flights, first and third place will come from the site with the larger attendance and second place from the smaller site. The Open Finals will be held March 06-07 in St. Louis; the 0-2000 and NLM Finals will be held March 17-18.

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

For more information, visit the District 6 web site or contact **Barbara Doran** by phone at (301) 608-0347 or by email to barbd@starpower.net. For Southern site specific information, contact David Burnes at dburnes@cox.net

Directions To Peninsula DBC: from Interstate 64 (either East or West) take exit 263 (James River Bridge ~ US 258 South ~ Mercury Blvd West). Proceed 2.5 miles on Mercury Blvd. to Newmarket Dr. (Sears shopping center is on your right ~ Wendy's is on your left. Turn left (South) onto Newmarket Dr. and proceed to 79th Street (first traffic signal ~ about 1/4 mile). Turn right onto 79th St. into old (circa 1964) strip shopping mall. Bridge Club is located about 200 yards away next to US Post Office. Note: Bridge Club is identified with large letters on the awning.

NEW D.C. BRIDGE GAME OFF TO A GOOD START!

What makes a successful bridge game? Pleasant people? A comfortable, well-lit facility? Good food? Easy parking? The Washington Bridge League's new non-Life Master duplicate game in Washington D.C. has all that and more!

At the inaugural game on Sunday, June 4, nine tables were in play in a beautiful, sunlit room at the Methodist Home of Washington D.C. Subsequent games have boasted similar numbers. Each game is preceded by a light lunch at 12:30 and a lesson by Steve Forsythe at 1. Game time is 1:30. Steve's "Relaxed rules" create a friendly atmosphere and keep director calls to a minimum.

The Home is located at 4901 Connecticut Avenue, NW (just south of the intersection of Connecticut and Nebraska Avenues). Parking is available in the Home's lot or on the street. Please bring your friends and join us any Sunday! (Except during tournaments.) If you have any questions about the game, please call email **Steve or Sandy Forsythe** at MAJSLF@aol.com or call 301-592-9177.

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of June 1, 2006

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&

Ultra Friendly Bridge Game
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Lesson 1 p.m.

Game 1:30 - 5 p.m.

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[www.districtsix.org/WBL/
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NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

THE TOP 10 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

(without learning anything new!)

You can improve your play, today, without studying, without fancy new conventions, without tricky holdup plays or double finesses! Read on for my top 10 ways:

10. Lead partner's suit. You can't go wrong leading partner's suit, especially on the opening lead. If he didn't want you to lead it, he shouldn't have bid it! Unless you think you can get a ruff, you have points and a really good suit of your own, or you have a better lead, lead pard's suit if you want a ride home. (What's a better lead? Ace from ace-king is one example. Lead the ace and see whether partner encourages or discourages.)

9. Look at what's been played before you play. When you're the last person to play to a trick, as declarer or defender, stop to see whose card is high before you play! You'd be surprised at how many times I've seen new players trump or play a higher card when their partner has already won the trick. Unless you need to be in the lead right now, don't win if you don't have to. And unless you need to unblock, don't play a higher card than you have to.

8. Remember the contract. What's more embarrassing than forgetting to ruff (or letting the opponents ruff a trick you thought was good) because you thought you were playing notrump?

Trying to ruff with the wrong suit!

7. Remember what's high. When someone plays the ace in a suit, I say to myself, "Now the king is high." (Especially if it's MY king!) I do the same thing each time a high card is played. When you get good at this, you'll know when you can safely cash your eight because only the seven is still out...and you'll know when partner's card is high, and when you need to ruff!

6. Watch partner's signals. You and partner can talk about defensive signals until the cows come home, but it won't do you a bit of good until you start paying attention to what card partner plays! Absent any special agreement, a big card says she wants you to continue that suit, a small card says she doesn't. Discards are especially important, because they let pard send you a message about the other suits. How will you know what to lead if you don't know what suit partner likes?

5. Remember to signal. See above. We don't allow you to flash your ring around if you want a diamond lead, or clutch your chest if you want hearts. If you haven't bid, pard won't know what suit you want him to lead. The only way to tell him is with a signal!

4. Take the setting trick. You're in the lead, you have a winner in your hand...unless you know you can win more tricks later if you wait, plunk that sucker down! If you let declarer get back in the lead before you take your trick,

you may not get another chance. Be careful: declarers can be tricky, and being greedy could cost you!

3. Pull trump. Don't let the opponents ruff your tricks when you're declarer! Even if their trumps are higher than yours, you don't want them scoring their trump separately. If they have five trump between them and you don't pull them, that's five potential tricks for the opponents. Unless you need to ruff losers in the dummy, or you need to use trumps for transportation, pull trump as soon as you get the lead.

2. Make a plan. Any plan! Are you going to crossruff? Set up your long suit? Pull trump right away? Any plan is better than no plan. After you have some experience with making a basic plan, you'll begin to think about what could go wrong, and how to make your plan better.

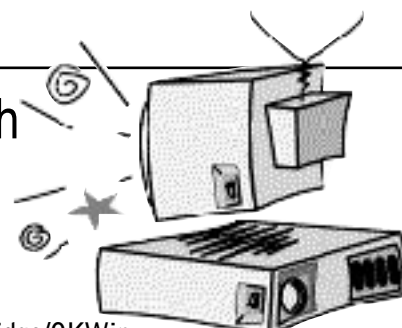
...and the number one way to improve your bridge play without learning anything new:

1. Count! Count your points, count your partner's points, count the opponents' points. Count how many cards have been played in each suit, and how many are left. Counting points will help you to mentally place the high cards in each hand, so you can visualize where your side's tricks might come from. Counting cards will help you to know when your remaining cards are good, when you should ruff, and when you need to ruff high. Counting everything is hard! But counting anything is a good start. With practice, you'll get better.

See how easy this game is? You can improve your play without learning anything new!

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**WBL SOLVERS' CLUB'S
NEW PROBLEMS**

1) Matchpoints You're Vulnerable

♠ QT9♥ H65/♦ AT32/♣ 654

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♥	2♠	

????

What is the lowest heart you would need to bid 3♥?

2) IMPs Both Vulnerable

♠ KJ♥ 5/♦ AQ765/♣ AT965

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♥	PASS	3♥	

????

3) Matchpoints You're Vulnerable

♠ A♥ Q954/♦ AT96532/♣ A

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	PASS	1♥	PASS
????			INT*

*Black suits

4) Matchpoints You're Vulnerable

♠ AJT54♥ K654/♦ -/♣ AK54

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	1♦	2♥	PASS

????

5) Matchpoints You're Vulnerable

♠ AKQ93♥ AJ/♦ A6♣ 8765

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	DBL	PASS	INT
????			

Return answers by August 24 to:

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**NEED A RIDE OR A PARTNER
FOR THE THURSDAY 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 (301-608-0347)**.

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.