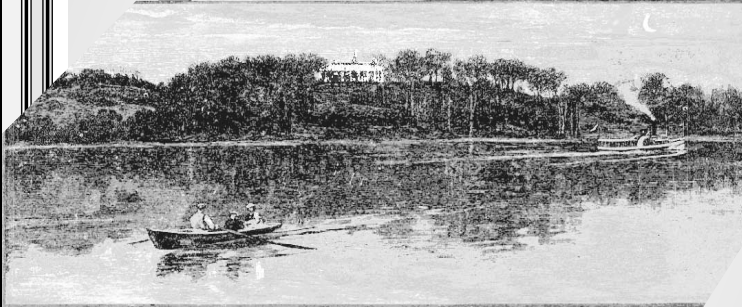


**62ND ANNUAL  
POTOMAC VALLEY TOURNAMENT**  
**August 9-12, 2007**

**SILVER SPRING, MD**



*Take a  
SUMMER  
HOLIDAY  
in the  
POTOMAC  
VALLEY!*



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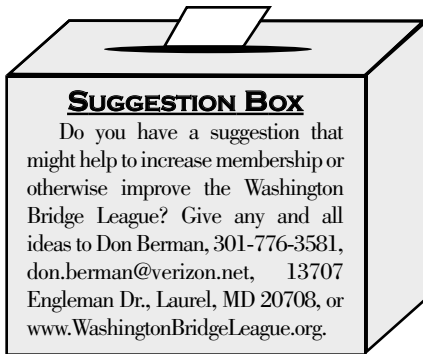
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**WBL OMBUDSMAN**  
 Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Ann Lindley and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential. Information should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

♣♦♥♠ ~~~~~ ♣♦♥♠  
**DEADLINE: AUGUST 6, 2007**  
 TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007 ISSUE

**Washington Bridge League BULLETIN** (usps #861-240)  
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WBL WEBSITE: [www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org)  
 DISTRICT 6 SITE: [www.districtsix.org](http://www.districtsix.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Fred King

When asked to describe duplicate bridge players, words that often come to mind are "competitive", "intelligent", sometimes "aggressive", "arrogant" or even "obnoxious". All too seldom does one hear, "polite, considerate, ethical and a real lady or gentleman." Yet surely we all know people who fit this latter set of descriptions. Last year, the

WBL decided to start recognizing these people who display exemplary sportsmanship by creating the new **Machlin Sportsmanship Award**. You will see on p. 26 a fuller description of the criteria used for this award. Last year's winner was **Charlie Stenger**, a worthy recipient who has set a high standard for others to follow. If you know of someone who you feel is deserving of this honor, please send me or any other board member a short paragraph describing why you think this person is worthy. *Please get your nominations in by September 1.*

Joni Mitchell says "You don't know what you've got til it's gone." Well, we have known for a number of years that what we had was a pair of real jewels in **Steve and Sandy Forsythe**. They have added greatly to our bridge playing family through their efforts in bringing new players into the game. Their lessons and games on Thursday nights have fed a steady stream of new players into the "big room." The Sunday **"Bridge Fiesta"** they started not long ago has been the only

**Help Wanted**

Do you have the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and a director's certificate from the ACBL? Then you might be interested in joining our directing crew for the Unit game. Ted Ying needs capable, eager, friendly assistants to help him run the best game in the country. If you are interested please let me or Ted know.

WBL game that is actually in the **W** of our name. As this bulletin goes to press, it looks like they may be moving from the Washington area some time this summer. Even though they are not yet gone, all of us who care about bridge in this area are dreading their leaving and our having to find some way to replace them. We want to wish them well in their new

endeavors, tell them that we will miss them very much and ask our membership for volunteers or suggestions on whom we could find to replace this irreplaceable pair.

Let me close this column by offering our unit's thanks to **Leslie Shafer** and **Charlie Williams**. A couple of months ago they approached us with the idea of introducing some of their students to duplicate bridge before the 4th of July Regional with the hope of inducing a number of them to attend this tournament now that it has

returned to our side of the river. Working with **Shlomit Rind** from our board, a mock regional was run on the evening of June 20 and the morning of June 27. There were 20 tables of newcomers at the first session and 19 at the second. They were introduced to bidding boxes, keeping score on tickets, duplicate movements, directors, etc. There were selling desks, partnership desks, etc. Most of them seemed to have a good time and now we just need to see how many of them came to the regional.

—Fred King

## SILVER SPRING, MD: AUGUST 9-12, 2007

Take a Summer Holiday in the Potomac Valley!



### THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

- ♣ 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 (First Presbyterian only)
- NEW: First Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Vermont St, Arlington 7:00pm**  
Off Carlin Springs Rd just before Ballston (can walk from Ballston Metro)
- 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. 1<sup>st</sup> left on Colston. Church is on the left before the next intersection.

Friday—at Christ the King Church Only

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

- ♦ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500) . . . . . 10:00am
- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) . . . . . 2:00pm
- ♠ **Bracketed Pairs and computer assigned Board-A-Match Teams 2 chances to win!** Friday nights are your chance to try a different form of the game. This tournament, you and your partner will play in a pair game. In addition, the computer will assign you teammates. You'll compare your scores on each board with them (after the whole pair game) as a win (1 point), loss (no points), or tie (half a point). Add up your points to see if your team placed in the team event for extra masterpoints.
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions) . . . . . 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

### ◇ SAT. & SUN. ONLY at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center ♡

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, AUGUST 11

- ♣ 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
- ♣ Don't miss the between sessions **Panel Show** . . . . . 2:30pm

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

- ♦ A/X Swiss Teams, (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
- ♠ 300/100/50 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 Doran**, 301-608-0347, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org or try the easy **Online Partnership Bulletin Board: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org**

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE SECTIONAL

Washington Bridge League's  
**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Potomac Valley Tournament**

**SILVER SPRING, MD: OCTOBER 4-7, 2007**



COME TO AN  
**Octoberfest  
OF Bridge!**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4**

- ♣ 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. 1<sup>st</sup> left on Colston. Church is on the left before the next intersection.

**Friday—at Christ  
the King Church Only**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5**

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



**The Friday Night Imps are back!** 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 6**

- ♣ 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 & between sessions Panel Show ... 2:30pm

♦ **Eynon Trophy**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7**

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

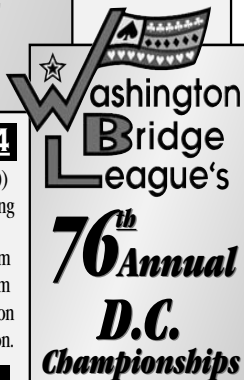
♣ **Full Schedule of Intermediate and Novice Events** ♥

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 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: **JMs Barbara Bloomfield, Lenore A Breen, Mr Stewart S Bushman, Mr Larry L Hieb, Ms Yasmin C Jiwa, Della Morris, Daniel Rubin, Ms Eleonore Wotherspoon, Ms Beverly M Bachemin, Mrs Heide Blaker, Matthew Czecha, Mr H Bruce Edkins Jr, Mrs Brenda P Hoit, Anna L Kassinger, Peggy A Marshall, Ms Susan M Morris, Mr William Morris, Mr Robert P Murphy, Nancy A Patch, Mr David R Pugh, Agee G Springer, Mr Gerald Tolpin, Richard A Watts, and Sally W Watts.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Robert D Abbo, Mrs Sonny F Adelson, Mrs Elsie B Anderson, Mr Thomas W Conley, Mr Patrick M Frye, Michael A Gill, Catherine McHugh, Julie L Shalack, Mrs Ruby R Tierkel, Mr Andrew B Francis, Mrs Elinor L Kollins, Mrs Margaret B Mentzer, Mr Ronald H Mentzer, Mr Ilya O Podolyako, and Mrs Betty T Simpson.**

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](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
2007 UNIT KO WINNERS!**

**Open Winners**

- 1** **Bill Cole, Peter Boyd, Mark Shaw, Steve Robinson**
- 2** Fred Steinberg, Dave Ruderman, Alan Tenenbaum, Andy Gofreed, Leo Lasota, Barb Shaw
- 3/4** Robbie Hopkins, Joan Lewis, Barry Falgout, Rusty Krauss, Bill Pettis, Kent Goulding
- 3/4** Noble Shore, Jeff Roman, David Rodney, Mike Gill

**Flight B Winners**

**1** **Albert Lauber, Steve Fox, Ned Griffith, Walter Smith**

**2** Dan Koch, Hirsh Davis, Prem Garg, Steven Schatzow

**2007-2008 DISTRICT 6  
NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS FINAL**

The District 6 North American Pairs club qualifying has begun. The District Final for all flights will be held on the weekend of **September 29-30, 2007**. The Open Flight and 0-2000 Flight Finals will be 4-session events, with roughly half the field qualifying for the second day. The NLM Flight Final will be a 2-session event held on Saturday, September 29 at the Northern site and on

...continued on p. 27

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- ♦ **NEW!** 24 Bridge Challenges have been added, totaling 216 problem deals in all to help you sharpen your declarer play
- ♣ **NEW!** 4 new bidding conventions: Namyats, Lead-Directing Doubles, Wolff Sign-Off Bids, and Artificial Minor Bids after 1M-X
- ♣ **IMPROVED!** Bidding and play
- ♥ **IMPROVED!** Now chose to open 1NT with a 6-card minor or a stiff honor
- ♥ **IMPROVED!** Now chose to play Puppet Stayman after 1NT, after 2NT, or both
- ♣ **IMPROVED!** Graphical user interface

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## WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson

[robinswr@erols.com](mailto:robinswr@erols.com)

Congratulations to **JJ Wang** who came in first with a score of 500. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. I will also play with him at a future Unit game. Tied for second were **Lloyd Rawley**, **Enid Hughes**, **Frank Cardillo** and **Dave Smith** with a score of 490 Tied for sixth were **Noble Shore**, **Joe Lentz** and **Rick McDaniel** with a score of 470. Tied for ninth were **Paul Benedict**, **Len Helfgott**, **Francis McMullan**, **Rusty Krauss**, **Michael Polunin**, **Ron Zucker**, **John Sommer** and **Sam Keiter** with a score of 460. Tied for seventeenth were **Hank Meyer**, **Richard Freedman**, **Fred Wagner** and **John Kloke** with a score of 450. Tied for twenty-first were **Yi Zhong**, **Rick Bingham** and **Mark Chen** with a score of 440. Tied for twenty-fourth were **Perry Khakhar**, **Barry Bragin**, **Rossi Lindstrom**, **Pete Hughes** and **Mark Shaw** with a score of 430. The average score of the 288 solvers was 336. The average score of the experts was 458.

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](mailto: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 \$29.60 that includes \$4.60 for priority mail.

### 1) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ KQJ4♥ Q6543♦ K94♣ 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♣
DBL	PASS	2♣	3♣
3♥	PASS	3NT	PASS
????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♣	100	5	12
4♠	90	6	50
Pass	50	2	197
4♥	40	0	28
4NT	20	0	01

In response to your takeout double, partner cuebid. Cuebids after takeout doubles show two places to play. If you know where you want to play you bid it. Holding ♠xx♥Ax♦AQJxxx♣KJx, you know you want to play in 3NT opposite a takeout double. Bid 3NT. Holding ♠AQxxx♥Kx♦Kxx

♣xx, you want to play in 4♠ opposite a takeout double. Bid 4♠. On the other hand, suppose you hold ♠10xxx♥AK♦Axxx♣QJx. Opposite a takeout double, you want to be in game. You probably don't want to play a 4-3 spade fit. Cue bid to find out if the doubler has four spades. Otherwise play 3NT. A takeout double only promises three spades. Wouldn't you double 1♣ with ♠Axx♥Qxxx♦KQxx♣Kx? If the doubler has only three spades you probably want to play in 3NT.

On this hand, we've made a takeout double with four spades and five hearts. Partner obviously doesn't have four hearts but he should have either have four spades or a hand where he doesn't want to play 3NT opposite a singleton. ♠KQx♥AKx♦Jxxx♣Jxx is a possibility where you need to play a 4-3 major suit.

Four experts agree with me and ask partner to choose another strain. 4♣ is better than 4♠ since partner could be 33 in the majors with a weak club stopper.

**Hopkins:** "4♣—I play a cue bid followed by 3NT offers a choice, as partner could have immediately bid 3NT initially with ♠Axx♥Jx♦AJxx♣AQxx or ♠xx♥Jx♦AQJxxx♣AQx to end the auction. I picture a hand with one club stopper and either a good diamond suit or giving me the option to play in my five-card major, say ♠Axx♥x♦AQxxx♣Kxx or ♠Axx♥KJx♦AJxx♣Kxx."

**King:** "4♣—If partner unequivocally wanted to play 3NT he would have bid it directly. To bid like this he should have doubts or another place to play. I want him to choose another strain."

**Parker:** "4♣—Partner would have bid 3NT immediately if they good stoppers. He must have a major to bid 3NT, so I will now bid 4♣ to see if he has four spades or three or hearts or five diamonds."

**Adams:** "4♣—We do not know partner's major suit shape? What would he do with ♠xxx♥AKx♦QJx♣Axxx? We do know that partner has a desire for something other than NT, therefore so do we. Maybe partner has four spades and is offering choice. 4♣ lets him bid his spades."

Six experts unilaterally bid 4♠. Doesn't take into account the possibility of partner being 3-3 in the majors.

**Cappelletti:** "4♠—When partner bid 2♣ instead of 3NT, he indicated interest in other contracts. So he probably has four spades."

Probably means 15% of the time he doesn't have four spades. If he doesn't have four spades, maybe he has three hearts. You can bid 4♠ if he always has four spades.

**Abelow:** "4♠—First reaction was to pass 3NT since partner heard his RHO bid Clubs twice and should have two stoppers. On further review with no major suit support, partner would just bid 3NT therefore his cue bid must be support for at least one major. He couldn't afford to bid 3♠ himself since that would bypass 3NT."

**Paulo:** "4♠—Bidding 3NT after the cuebid, partner shows some doubt about this contract."

**Schwartz:** "4♠—Partner is likely to have spades for this bidding. Would like to bid 4♣ just in case partner doesn't have four spades, but that could be taken as a cue bid with slam interest."

Likely means 15% of the time he doesn't have four spades. If he doesn't have four spades, maybe he has three hearts.

**Roman:** "4♠—Partner has asked me to choose between 4♠ and 3NT, and with strong spades, a singleton club, weak long suit, and no aces, I have an obvious preference."

**Landen:** "4♠—Partner doesn't guarantee four spades for his cuebid, but he usually has them. I can't afford to play 3NT when 4♠ rates to be a superior contract, even if both make."

Usually means 15% of the time he doesn't have four spades. If he doesn't have four spades, maybe he has three hearts.

Two experts pass 3NT.

**Schoenfeld:** "Pass—With no eight-card major fit likely, 3NT offers our best chance for game. Partner likely has long diamonds and a double club stopper."

**Woolsey:** "Pass—I would not have bid 3♥ if I didn't have five hearts, since I could

have passed and given partner a chance to bid his major. If he had four spades he surely would have bid 3♠ rather than 3NT, since I wouldn't be making a takeout double with five hearts and fewer than four spades — I would have overcalled instead. Therefore we do not have an eight-card major-suit fit, so 3NT it is."

I don't agree that 3♥ shows five hearts. 2♣ asks you to bid a major. Your first priority is to bid a major. After showing your majors, your second priority is to bid notrump with a stopper in opponent's suit.

Cue bids should be choice of games.

## 2) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠AKQ95♥54♦Q2♣AKQ10

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥
?????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Dbl	100	7	58
4♣	70	3	145
3♠	70	3	43
Pass	40	0	33
4♠	30	0	06
4♦	20	0	02
6♠	20	0	01

You have a very good hand with no clear action. A new suit at the four-level such as 4♣ shows at least a five-card suit. Maybe AKQ10 will play like a five-card suit. Rebidding a major at the three-level shows at least a six-card suit. Maybe AKQ9x will play like a six-card suit. Double is a takeout double asking partner to bid his longest suit. If partner bids diamonds, maybe Qx will be good enough support. A good partner will have six diamonds to the J10. Of course, you can always chicken out and pass. I've said before that this is a bidders game so pass is out. When you have a choice among calls, none of which are clear, make the cheapest and most flexible call.

Six experts join me and double. Four experts will correct 4♦ to 4♠.

**Schoenfeld:** "Double—With as little as one red suit trick and a jack, there are game

chances either in 3NT or 4♠. See what partner bids."

**Cappelletti:** "Double—Too powerful for any other action. I would bid 4♠ over the expected 4♦."

**Woolsey:** "Double—Over 4♦ I can afford to bid 4♠, which shows a flexible hand since I didn't rebid spades immediately. The double brings clubs into the picture as well as 3NT or the outside possibility that partner can pass 3♥ doubled. It is worth taking a slight overbid in order to maximize the chances of getting to the best strain."

**Abelow:** "Double—Will bid 4♠ over four-of-minor. The diamond card and spade Jack will make 4♠ ok and a good partner will hold at least that."

If you're going to bid 4♠ over 4♣, why not jump directly to 4♠.

Two experts will pass 4♦. Could be a silly contract if partner is 2344 but could be right if partner is 2263. The reason why you should pass 4♦ is that with 2344, partner might just bid 3♠.

**Schwartz:** "Double—Partner should have at least a decent five-card suit to bid diamonds and I have to leave 3♠ as a resting place."

**Landen:** "Double—I'm too strong not to act. I could bid 4♣, but that gives up on 3NT. If partner bids 4♦, I'll pass. It could be the right contract and partner, with equal minor suit length, will bid clubs."

Three experts bid 4♣. Partner will expect you to have at least five clubs. Hopefully AKQ10 will play like a five-card suit.

**Hopkins:** "4♣—I am bidding what I have. I do not picture this as forcing on partner as I did not open a strong 2♣. I don't expect partner to trot out Diamonds unless he is showing his presumably six+ card suit on the way to a preference of 4♠."

**Paulo:** "4♣—With only four losers I can bypass their security level."

**Parker:** "4♣—I don't want to be shut out and no one is going to double since I have such good suits. Partner needs the Diamond King and three little spades to make a game

so I bid.”

Three experts rebid their spades. Partner will expect you to have at least six spades. Hopefully AKQ9x will play like a six-card suit. If partner has two little spades, there is a chance, probably small, that you have no spade losers.

**King:** “3♠ —I could make this opposite a flat Yarborough from partner. I would not like to double and have him pass or bid diamonds.”

If I doubled and partner passed I would be ecstatic. I wouldn’t be very happy if he bid 4♦ .

**Roman:** “3♠ —Partner is likely broke, so I see no reason to introduce the club suit. I could easily make 3♠ opposite a Yarborough, so pass is out.”

**Adams:** “3♠ —Double is not going to get partner to pass with diamond values. I suspect partner is broke, so game unlikely. Pass hoping both Hearts and Spades go down is silly, as the gain is small when right. 3♠ may well push them to 4♥ , which we rate to beat. 4♣ rates to have the same losers, less maybe a trump trick, so 4♣ has no advantage.”

When you have choice of bids, all of which have faults, make the cheapest faulty call.

### 3) IMPs, There’re Vulnerable

♠ AK1032♥ J9♦ A53♣ A72

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
2♠	Pass	Pass	2♦
?????	3♦	3♥	Pass
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
4♥	100	8	119
4♦	90	5	11
3♠	50	0	12
3NT	40	0	91
4♣	30	0	05
Pass	20	0	46
4NT	20	0	01
4♣	20	0	03

You have enough strength to be in game but which game? Since 3♥ shows at least

five hearts, you have at least a 5-2 heart fit. Partner could easily have two spades and then you would have a 5-2 spade fit. Assuming two 5-2 major suit fits, you want to play in the fit with the strongest middle cards. If partner’s spades are Q9 and his hearts are AK432 you want to play in spades. If his spades are 54 and his hearts are AQ1087 you want to play in hearts. There’s a call that wasn’t made. Responsive double. Partner is not 5-5 or 5-4 in hearts and clubs. There are two possibilities for no responsive double. Partner has six hearts or he is 2533. If he’s 2533, you need partner’s help in finding which is the stronger major-suit fit. Bidding 4♦ will get partner to choose the best game. Over your cuebid, he shouldn’t rebid a bad heart suit especially if he has two spades. If he has honor doubleton in spades and only five hearts he’ll preference spades. Using a cuebid as a choice of games is more important than using it as a slam try.

Four experts join me and bid 4♦ . Whatever partner bids over 4♦ will be OK with me.

**Cappelletti:** “4♦ —Will be the popular, obvious, choice - does everything and choice of games.”

**Hopkins:** “4♦ —Partner shouldn’t have both Hearts and Clubs as he would have made a responsive double. The question becomes why didn’t partner open 2♥ ? I am going to show a good hand and let partner place the contract.”

**King:** “4♦ —Even though partner is a passed hand and didn’t open 2♥ , slam is still possible and I will make one try for it.”

**Adams:** “4♦ —Expecting a singleton diamond. If 3NT makes, then 4♥ , 4♠ , or 5♣ , also makes. Partner likely 2515, but other shapes possible. Give partner a decent hand that is not good enough to open, such as ♠ xx♥ K109xx♦ x♣ KQJxx. We have eight tricks in NT, and 4♥ or 5♣ are good spots. Give partner a spade honor, and 4♠ is OK.”

Eight experts make the final decision. Assuming the opponents are sane, partner should have at least six hearts. However,

have you ever opened a five-card weak two in third seat? I would open 2♦ with ♠ xx♥ xx♦ KQJ10x♣ Qxxx, assuming, of course, I was playing weak 2♦ . Have you ever raised partner’s vulnerable weak two with a doubleton? I would bid 3♦ with ♠ xx♥ xxx♦ Ax♣ KJ10xxx. So maybe partner is 2533 which is the reason why he didn’t open 2♥ or make a responsive double.

**Schoenfeld:** “4♥ —EW bidding tells you about North’s singleton diamond. With points in the other suits, game has a good chance.”

**Abelow:** “4♥ —If you trust the vulnerable opponent’s bidding, partner should have a stiff diamond but only five hearts (no weak two opener). Most likely distribution is 2515. I think with diamond taps threatening both major suit contracts, partner may be able to scramble more tricks in hearts. 4♦ could lead to a better 5♣ contract if partner is 1516 but a worse 4♠ if he has two spades.”

If partner were 2515, he would have doubled 3♦ .

**Paulo:** “4♥ —With controls, a suit to set up and some fit, I envisage game.”

**Schwartz:** “4♥ —Prefer raising hearts even with a choice-of-games cue bid available.”

**Woolsey:** “4♥ —Yes, it’s probably a 5-2 fit since partner didn’t open 2♥ . But it’s still probably better than 4♠ in a 5-2 fit since entries to partner’s hand would be a problem in spades and the spade suit has secondary losers.”

**Landen:** “4♥ —Even if partner only has five, 4♥ rates to play well and 3NT doesn’t look to be better.”

**Roman:** “4♥ —This is a tough one because I’d like to make a slam try, but I have bad hearts and even if I was willing to ignore that, the meaning of our various possible continuations such as raising to 5♥ , or bidding 4♦ and then bidding 5♥ , are unclear. Does 5♥ ask for a diamond control? I think it’s just invitational, but partner may think differently. 4♦ would be a choice of games cuebid, so what does it mean when I

then bid 5♥ ? On this hand I’m interested in strong hearts, but could I be looking for a club control?”

Cue bids below game when two suits are in the picture ask partner to choose.

**Parker:** “4♥ —I know partner did not open a weak two but he can still have Q10xxxx and my aces will do nicely in a suit contract rather than 3NT.”

Cue bids should be choice of games.

### 4) IMPs, You’re Vulnerable

♠ 9♥ A53♦ AKJ5♣ AK872

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
?????		Pass	3♥
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Double	100	10	170
3NT	50	1	01
3♠	40	1	21
Pass	40	1	49
4♦	30	0	35
4♥	30	0	03
4♣	30	0	04
4NT	20	0	03
4♠	20	0	01
5♥	20	0	01

In the above sequence West bid 2♠ , partner passed and East bid 3♥ . There are two possible explanations of this auction. One is that East is also short in spades and is running to hearts. A second possibility is that East has a spade fit and is making a fit-showing lead-directing bid. What options do we have? Double of 3♥ is an extra-strength takeout double of spades. When you double spades for takeout, you generally have at least three hearts. If your major-suit holding were reversed, this would be a harder problem.

Nine experts join me and double.

**Cappelletti:** “Double—Much too powerful for any other action and partner might pass with misfits.”

**Hopkins:** “Double—This should show a good hand. I am hoping for a pull to 3NT when partner has a reasonable, as opposed

to desperation/nowhere to go penalty pass of 2♠. And if partner is not short in Hearts ♠ K10xxx♥ Jxx♦ xx♣xx, then perhaps we can defend.”

**Abelow:** “Double—Partner will pull with length in either minor - I may have to guess whether to bid game over a minimum response- possible partner has a penalty pass of 2♠ - with two or more hearts, we should do well against 3♥ doubled.”

**King:** “Double—Willing to defend or play a high level minor, depending on partner’s input.”

**Paulo:** “Double—If opponents are in misfit, partner can convert; if not, he has some clubs or diamonds.”

**Schwartz:** “Double—Double might be taken two ways. Its either takeout, or a heart card trying to get to 3NT. Luckily I have both.”

**Woolsey:** “Double—I’m way too strong to sell out. Anything partner does will be fine.”

Good reason to double when anything partner does including pass will be fine.

**Landen:** “Double—Clearly takeout. Partner will expect primary clubs and secondary diamonds. For once, I have what my bid shows.”

**Roman:** “Double—Utterly routine. I have a fine hand, and I’ll be happy with whatever partner does.”

One expert bids 3♠. Not sure what 3♠ means but it is forcing.

**Schoenfeld:** “3♠—If partner has a spade stopper, three notrump will be the game of choice. Otherwise retreat to a minor.”

One expert fails to follow the ‘when in doubt bid rule’.

**Parker:** “Pass—They are probably in trouble so why disturb them? A double should be for penalty, but I will settle for a small plus rather than have partner pull with a bad hand and three or four clubs.”

If partner passes the double, why do you think you won’t beat them? You do have what looks like five tricks.

One expert bids what he thinks he can make. Partner promises a spade stopper on this auction. The question is, does he have a minor-suit queen? He needs more than just

the queen of diamonds and a spade stopper. ♠ Qxxxx♥ xxx♦ Qxx♣xx is not enough for game to be made.

**Adams:** “3NT—Our most likely making game is 3NT, and Double does not get us there. 3♥ is probably fit showing/lead directing (by passed hand), thus I expect a heart lead, and I expect to have a minor-suit fit. I also expect that many players here, with a spade fit, will save over 3NT. Why double 3♠, when we might get to double 4♠, or we might get to make 3NT. Let them make the last guess.”

Takeout doubles are flexible bids

### 5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ A654♥ 3♦ QJ10765♣ 87

	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
			1♠	Pass
	?????			
	<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
	4♠	100	9	108
	3♠	70	3	76
	2♠	40	0	18
	2♦	40	1	38
	4♥	40	0	09
	1NT	40	0	13
	3♦	30	0	14
	4♦	20	0	01
	3♥	20	0	02
	3♣	20	0	05
	2♣	20	0	02
	3NT	20	0	01
	Pass	20	0	01

You could treat this as a limit raise and bid 3♠. Opposite ♠ KQxxx♥ KQJx♦ xx♣ Qx you could easily be held to eight tricks. You could treat this as a preemptive raise and bid 4♠. You go down two in 4♠ opposite the above example but make slam opposite ♠ KQxxx♥ Axxx♦ Kxx♣ A. You could bid 4♥. Jumping to 4♥ over 1♠ shows a game-forcing four-card spade raise with a singleton or void in hearts. All of these constructive bids could be correct assuming if it were guaranteed that the opponents would not enter the auction. But there are opponents out there and they do bid. The main reason

for bidding 4♠ was to preempt the opponents. If you bid 3♠, they could make a takeout double or bid 4♥.

Eight experts join me and bid 4♠.

**Abelow:** “4♠—Lots of minimum hands will give us play for 4♠ and keep opponents from finding their Heart fit if they have it.”

**Schoenfeld:** “4♠—Although I like Bergen, with two suits, LHO may bid

Hearts or double the artificial bid and find a sacrifice. Make it as hard as possible!”

**Paulo:** “4♠—The six diamonds should compensate the lack of the fifth trump.”

**Woolsey:** “4♠—It doesn’t make sense to try to be scientific with a hand such as this, since the success or failure of 4♠ by us or possibly 4♥ by them depends on the diamond fit which we can’t find out. This hand could be a double game swing, and it is best to force the opponents to guess at a high level. The best game try is to bid game and try to make it.”

**Landen:** “4♠—A trump short, but compensating distribution.”

**Roman:** “4♠—I don’t know who can make what, but I do know that lefty won’t be bidding 4♥.”

Main reason for bidding 4♠ is that lefty won’t be bidding 4♥.

**Parker:** “4♠—Either it is their hand or we can make a game so I bid it now.”

**Adams:** “4♠—3♠ does not preempt enough, and might miss magic game ♠ KQxxx♥ xxx♦ Kx♣ Axx. Would not surprise me to go minus, but might be OK anyway. Minor risk of missing slam, but showing my singleton likely will not help in that evaluation, and might get us too high when partner expects nine+ HCP.”

Three experts bid 3♠. If partner has ♠ KQxxx♥ xxx♦ Kxx♣ Ax, he will pass 3♠ and you’ll miss a cold game. You might even make it possible for the opponents get to their cold 5♥ contract.

**Cappelletti:** “3♠—The infamous “tactical limit raise” is just about right here.”

**Hopkins:** “3♠—About right on values. And too good for 4♠.”

**Schwartz:** “3♠—Game unlikely to be cold if partner passes and other bids are too misdescriptive.”

One expert bids 2♦. Give partner ♠ KQxxx♥ KQJx♦ Ax♣ Ax and you’ll end up in a 50% slam Bidding two-over-one with only seven HCP could easily get you too high.

**King:** “2♦—I won’t stop short of game, so I might as well bid where I live.”

This problem has two good points. When you can give partner a minimum hand, and game is cold, game should be bid. When you can give partner a minimum hand and the opponents can make game, game should be bid.

### SOLVERS’ SCORES

Dave Abelow	4♠	Dbl	4♥	Dbl	4♠	500
John Adams	4♠	3♠	4♦	3NT	4♠	410
Mike Cappelletti	4♠	Dbl	4♦	Dbl	3♠	460
Robbie Hopkins	4♣	4♣	4♦	Dbl	3♠	420
Fred King	4♣	3♠	4♦	Dbl	2♦	390
Steve Landen	4♠	Dbl	4♥	Dbl	4♠	490
Steve Parker	4♣	4♣	4♥	Pass	4♠	400
Manuel Paulo	4♠	4♣	4♥	Dbl	4♠	470
Steve Robinson	4♣	Dbl	4♦	Dbl	4♠	480
Jeff Roman	4♠	3♠	4♥	Dbl	4♠	470
Alan Schwartz	4♠	Dbl	4♥	Dbl	3♠	470
Brian Schoenfeld	Pass	Dbl	4♥	3♠	4♠	390
Kit Woolsey	Pass	Dbl	4♥	Dbl	4♠	450



**2007 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS**

[www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://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 less than 1500 masterpoints; the Tubbs Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year as a Non-Life Master with less than 500 masterpoints; the Woolridge Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with less than 20 masterpoints.

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

This list is up to date through June 28. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

**Lovenberg**

- 1 103.75 Alfred Steinberg
- 2 101.40 Steve Robinson
- 3 101.20 William Cole
- 4 80.07 Mark Shaw
- 5 70.11 Peter Boyd
- 6 69.78 Arnie Frankel
- 7 67.72 Noble Shore
- 8 67.58 Leo LaSota
- 9 65.92 Michael Gill
- 10 65.58 Robert Bell
- 11 63.78 James Geist
- 12 63.66 David Ruderman
- 13 63.32 Benjamin Brill
- 14 62.31 John Adams
- 15 55.70 Earl Glickstein
- 16 53.26 William Hacker
- 17 51.19 Angeliki Magklara
- 18 48.53 Lloyd Rawley
- 19 48.23 Barry Bragin
- 20 47.26 Fred King
- 21 46.70 Richard Wegman
- 22 45.92 Clyde Kruskal
- 23 42.19 Alan Tenenbaum
- 24 42.09 Donna Rogall
- 25 34.97 Linda Marshall

**Izzy Cohen**

- 1 65.92 Michael Gill
- 2 51.19 Angeliki Magklara
- 3 48.53 Lloyd Rawley
- 4 48.23 Barry Bragin
- 5 34.97 Linda Marshall
- 6 30.72 Steven Schatzow
- 7 28.09 Arun Guha
- 8 26.73 Shyamalendu Pal
- 9 25.51 Ellen Rosenthal
- 10 25.27 Richard Ferrin
- 11 25.08 Charity Sack
- 12 25.01 Katherine Rabenstein
- 13 24.22 Mirsad Mujezinovic
- 14 24.20 Neal Rosenthal
- 15 23.35 Edwin Fuller Jr

**Tubbs**

- 1 34.97 Linda Marshall
- 2 28.09 Arun Guha
- 3 26.73 Shyamalendu Pal
- 4 24.22 Mirsad Mujezinovic
- 5 22.61 Calvin Konner
- 6 21.22 William Kingery Jr
- 7 18.99 Alfred Liepold
- 8 17.11 Daniel Koch
- 9 16.92 Larry Moran
- 10 16.63 Namik Haverich

**Woolridge**

- 1 28.09 Arun Guha
- 2 26.73 Shyamalendu Pal
- 3 15.11 Garry Grossman
- 4 13.57 Frank Hatten
- 5 13.08 John Horner
- 6 9.61 Alan Walter
- 7 9.58 Jeanne Ferraro
- 8 9.50 Beth Wisinski
- 9 8.28 Andrew Jacknain
- 10 8.26 Elizabeth Nash

**0-20  
LESSON  
& GAME**

**CURRENTLY  
IN FLUX**

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~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

**UPCOMING  
SECTIONALS**

August 9-12  
Silver Spring, MD

♣

September 6-9  
Fairfax, VA

♦

October 4-7  
Silver Spring, MD

♥

October 18-21  
Fairfax, VA

♠

January 3-6, 2008  
Silver Spring, MD

♣

February 21-24, 2008  
Fairfax, VA

~ ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ ~

~ ♣ ♦ **SCHEDULE** ♥ ♠ ~

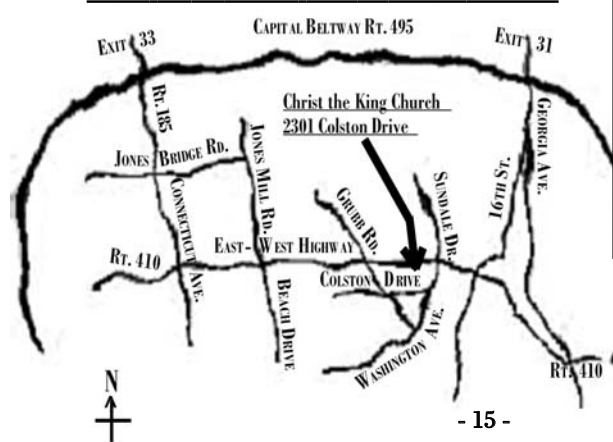
All Games held at Christ the King Church

- 07/26/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/02/2007 .....StrataFlighted NAP
- 08/09/2007 .....WBL Sectional
- 08/16/2007 .....StrataFlighted Club Championship
- 08/23/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/30/2007 .....StrataFlighted NAP
- 09/06/2007 .....NVBA Sectional
- 09/13/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/20/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/27/2007 .....Stratified STaC Pairs
- 10/04/2007 .....WBL Sectional
- 10/11/2007 .....StrataFlighted A/X BAM; B/C/D Swiss
- 10/18/2007 .....NVBA Sectiona
- 10/25/2007 .....StrataFlighted Appreciation Pairs
- 11/01/2007 .....StrataFlighted GNT Swiss Teams
- 11/08/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 11/15/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 11/22/2007 .....Closed Thanksgiving
- 11/29/2007 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 12/06/2007 .....StrataFlighted GNT Swiss Teams
- 12/13/2007 .....Holiday 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](http://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](mailto:UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org) or [barbd@starpower.net](mailto:barbd@starpower.net), or call her at (301) 608-0347 between 9am and 10pm.

**Partnerships Close At 7:25pm**

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

**UNIT GAME CARPOOL AVAILABLE**

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

## **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. This month: ***SPREADING THE WORD!***

Try convincing others that duplicate players are not all exceptionally skilled, but that bridge is a fun experience for all ability levels. The **Forsythes, Steve and Sandy**, give a lesson followed by a teaching duplicate game in a side room of **Christ the King Church**. This game is limited to players with under 20 masterpoints and has a separate stratum for players with under 5 masterpoints. Our regular unit game has sections for players with less than 50 masterpoints, less than 100 masterpoints, and less than 299 points and allows each player to play against their peers. Our unit hosts three separate games each week on Thursday evening. One separate Open game has strata for players with over 3000 masterpoints (Flight A) and players under 3000 masterpoints (Flight X). A second Intermediate game has strata for players under 1500 masterpoints (Flight B), under 1000 masterpoints (Flight C) and under 500 masterpoints (Flight D). And then we have a separate game only for players that have not yet achieved life master, with strata for non-Life Master (NLM), for players under 100 masterpoints and another for players under 50 masterpoints.

We have ready to distribute a pamphlet, "*Enjoy Playing Bridge in the Washington Area*" written by **Alice Wegman** with drawings by her daughter. The flyer explains why we love duplicate and where to go and whom to contact for all the games in the area. I will be asking you each to take some flyers to your friends, doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs, business friends, co-workers, organizations to which you belong. The flyers have been distributed to the Montgomery County libraries and Mary Jane Von Moss reports that one player came to her game after reading the flyer. We need all players to be informed and your help in distributing the flyers. Call me at 301-598-5838 or email [jimbarb1184@aol.com](mailto:jimbarb1184@aol.com) with your offer of help.

## **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](mailto:jimbarb1184@aol.com),

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## COMMITTEE ACTION #57

by Rich Colker, [rcolker@gmail.net](mailto:rcolker@gmail.net)

This past February I was in Australia to edit the daily bulletins at the Gold Coast Congress (the equivalent of a regional tournament) held on Australia's Gold Coast, a famed resort area just south of Brisbane. (For those unfamiliar with Australia Brisbane is in Queensland, located on Australia's North-East coast.) The final event of an exciting week of bridge was the Ivy Dahler Open Swiss Pairs, a Butler-scored event won this year by Ron Klinger and Jamie Ebery. My reward for kibitzing the next-to-last session was being asked to serve on the Committee that heard the following appeal. (Well, at least I got a column out of it.)

Bd: 3

Dlr: South

Vul: E/W

North

- ♠ K107652
- ♥ —
- ♦ AJ107
- ♣ 982

West

- ♠ J98
- ♥ AKQ94
- ♦ 9
- ♣ AK64

East

- ♠ AQ3
- ♥ J10653
- ♦ 3
- ♣ J1053

South

- ♠ 4
- ♥ 872
- ♦ KQ86542
- ♣ Q7

West

- Dbl
- 6♥

North

- 6♦
- Pass

East

- Dbl<sup>(1)</sup>
- Pass

South

- 3♦
- Pass
- Pass

<sup>(1)</sup> BIT (as much as 1 minute)

6♥ made six, +1430 for E/W. The Director was called to the table during the auction and told that East had taken as much as 1 minute to double 6♦. E/W agreed to the BI. The Director decided that the BIT suggested bidding 6♥ (he assumed the double was penalty and did not inquire as to its meaning) and that pass was a LA. He adjusted the contract to 6♦ doubled down two, -300 for N/S.

E/W appealed the Director's ruling. East said her double of 6♦ was takeout (responsive) and that during her hesitation she was thinking that she would have bid 4♥ over 4♦—maybe even 5♥ over 5♦—but that bidding 6♥ was a bit much. She also said that a pass by her over 6♦ would have meant only that she had nothing to say; in these types of auctions her partnership played all doubles for takeout so neither partner could have doubled 6♦ for penalty but either could have passed partner's takeout double. She added that the 6♦ bid was made quickly, almost before West's double was written on the bidding pad. (In Australia they use bidding pads, not bid boxes, with each player writing his/her call in the appropriate space on a pad located in the center of the table.) N/S declined to add anything to what they had told the Director at the table: namely, that there had been a BIT and that they believed passing the double was a LA.

Well, how would you have decided this case? Think about it and when you're ready, read on.

The Committee determined that there

was nothing at all about the BIT that suggested bidding with the West hand. A BIT by East was not unexpected in an auction that had reached the six level before East had made her first call. Indeed, in such a situation an in-tempo (or quick) pass would have been much more cause for concern. Moreover, whatever E/W claimed their doubles meant in this type of auction East must double with any hand that is not a unilateral slam bid (i.e., a distributional hand with a good suit and reasonable high-card structure). In fact, a double tends to imply useful high cards (i.e., transferrable values) and probably not a very distributional hand. The Committee believed the BIT suggested values in a more-or-less balanced hand—that is, in a hand that is not suitable for a takeout double—and if anything suggested passing

with the West cards rather than bidding 6♥.

Indeed, West's 6♥ contract was a terrible one: For starters, he needed the ♣Q to fall doubleton (or to be onside doubleton or tripleton) plus he needed to be bring in the spades (J98 opposite AQ3) for no losers—i.e., he needed both the ♠K and ♠10 to be onside. All of this made 6♥ a very low percentage proposition (probably somewhere in the low to mid single-digit range).

The bottom line is that East's "BIT" here was more-or-less normal and tended to suggest values in a relatively balanced hand, which is precisely what East's double showed. Therefore, the Committee restored the table result of 6♥ by West making six, +1430 for E/W.

Do you get along with your computer?

*Help is here!*

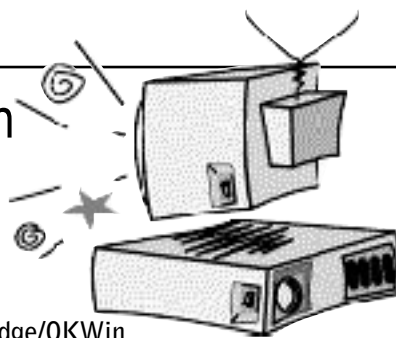
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## THE GADGET-MATIST

### Transfer Responses to Takeout Doubles, Part 2

by Barry Bragin, bbragin@comcast.net

In my last article, I described how to use transfer responses to a take-out double of 1♣. Just by giving up the natural meaning of 1♦, you can accrue such benefits as:

- Making the stronger hand declarer more often,
- Show both majors and invitational values at the 1-level,
- Right-side no-trump when appropriate and avoid it with no stoppers,
- Describe those difficult hands with a 4-card major, longer minor and invitational strength without going overboard.

This article will lay out similar sequences for auctions that begin with a double of 1♦, 1♥, and 1♠. Because bidding a major at a low level is too important to give up, the transfer responses, for the most part, begin with opener's suit.

#### GROUND RULES:

- As before, these methods are on only when the auction begins 1x – double – pass
- NT responses are standard
- An immediate 4♦ or 4♥ response is a Texas transfer
- 3♠ shows a solid 6-card suit (doubler can figure it out) and nothing else (xx/AKQxxx/xxx/xx); doubler sets the final contract

#### Over a double of 1♦:

- 1♥/1♠/2♣ = natural 0-8 HCP
- 2♦ shows 4 hearts or 6 hearts with at least invitational values; over partner's 2♥ response:
  - pass with minimum
  - bid 2♠ w/4-4 in majors, invitational
  - bid 2N with a diamond stopper, invitational
  - bid 3♣ with 5 clubs, invitational
  - bid 3♦ game force (may still have 4

spades plus diamond stopper)

- bid 3♥ game invitational, 6-card suit
- higher suit bids are splinters with a 6-card suit
- 3NT is 4-card suit, game values, with diamond stopper
- 4♥ is a balanced slam try (use Texas for game only hands)
- 2♥ shows 4 spades or 6 spades with at least invitational values; over partner's 2♠ response:
  - pass with minimum
  - bid 2N with a diamond stopper, invitational
  - bid 3♣ with 5 clubs, invitational
  - bid 3♦ game force no diamond stopper
  - bid 3♥ game force 4-4 in majors, no diamond stopper
  - bid 3♠ game invitational, 6-card suit
- 3NT is 4-card suit, game values, with diamond stopper
- higher suit bids are splinters with a 6-card suit
- 4♠ is a balanced slam try (use Texas for game only hands)
- 2♠ shows a balanced 11-12 without a diamond stopper or game forcing hand with clubs; doubler bids 2NT with minimum and stopper, 3NT with extras and stopper, or naturally without a stopper; responder bids on w/club hand.
- 2NT shows a balanced 11-12 with a diamond stopper.
- 3♣ is standard: invitational with clubs, no 4-card major.
- 3♦ shows exactly 5 hearts with 10+ HCP. Doubler must bid beyond 3♥ with anything above minimum. Responder continues with game going hand (3♠ is natural, 4/5).

- 3♥ shows exactly 5 spades with 10+ HCP. Doubler must bid beyond 3♠ with anything above minimum. Responder continues with game going hand (4♥ is natural, 5/4).

**Over a double of 1♥**  
(works exactly as over 1♦ )

- 1♠/2♣/2♦ = natural 0-8 HCP
- 2♥ shows 4 spades or 6 spades with at least invitational values; over partner's 2♠ response:
  - pass with minimum
  - bid 2N with a heart stopper, invitational
  - bid 3♣ with 5 clubs, invitational
  - bid 3♦ with 5 diamonds, invitational
  - bid 3♥ game force no heart stopper
  - bid 3♠ game invitational, 6-card suit
  - 3NT is 4-card suit, game values, with heart stopper
  - higher suit bids are splinters with a 6-card suit
  - 4♠ is a balanced slam try (use Texas for game only hands)
- 2♠ shows balanced, 11-12 HCP, no stopper or 10+ HCP hand w/clubs; will next pass, bid 3C over 2NT w/invite or higher with forcing club hand; doubler bids 3m to play.
- 3♣ shows 5+ diamonds, 10+ HCP. Will pass 3♦ response with minimum or bid on w/game-going hand (3♥ w/no stopper, 3♠ natural 4/5, 3NT w/stopper).
- 3♦ shows a balanced game force, no heart stopper (perhaps 3334 or 3244 etc.).
- 3♥ shows exactly 5 spades with 10+ HCP. Doubler must bid beyond 3♠ with anything above minimum. Responder continues with game going hand.

**Over a double of 1♠ :**

Here is where you have to make a decision. If you are willing to give up the natural, weak 2♣ response, you can gain all the benefits alluded to above. If you do pick up xxx/xx/xxx/Jxxxx, you may end up in 3♣ doubled rather than 2♣. My advice is: play the system and don't pick up that hand (or maybe RHO will bid).

- 2♣ shows
  - a weak hand with diamonds (pass 2♦ or re-transfer over doubler's 2NT) or
  - invitational with 4 diamonds and no spade stopper (pass 2♦; didn't bid 1NT; if opponents compete, double to distinguish from above hand)
  - invitational with 6 diamonds (raise to 3♦)
  - invitational 5-5 in minors (bid 3♣)
  - forcing 5-5 in minors (bid 2NT)
  - forcing with 5+ diamonds and 4 hearts (bid 2♥)
  - forcing with 6 diamonds (splinter or bid 3NT – does not show spade stopper)
- 2♦ shows
  - any weak hand with hearts (pass 2♥ or re-transfer over 2NT)
  - invitational with 4 hearts, balanced, no spade stopper (pass 2♥; if opponents compete, double to distinguish from above hand)
  - invitational with 4 hearts, balanced, with spade stopper (bid 2NT)
  - invitational with 4 hearts and 5+ minor (bid 3 of your minor)
  - invitational with 6 hearts (bid 3♥)
  - forcing with 4 hearts, balanced, no spade stopper (bid 2♠)
  - forcing with 4 hearts, with spade stopper (bid 3NT)
  - forcing with 6 hearts (splinter or bid 4♥)
- 2♥ shows balanced 11-12 with no spade stopper
- 2♠ shows clubs, either weak (I told you not to pick up this hand!) or forcing (pass 3♣ or convert 2NT to 3♣; bid beyond with forcing hand: 3♦/3♥ natural, 3♠ asks for stopper, 3NT shows stopper)
- 2NT shows balanced 11-12 with a spade stopper
- 3♣ is standard: invitational with clubs, no 4-card heart suit
- 3♦ shows exactly 5 hearts with 10+ HCP (doubler must bid beyond 3♥ with extras)
- 3♥ shows a balanced game force with no stopper (likely 2344 or similar); 3♠ by doubler asks for ½ stopper

♣ **Arlington, VA** ♦ **SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2007** ♥



**SEPTEMBER SENSATIONS SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT**

*At our New Location:*  
**The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188**  
8421 Arlington Boulevard,  
Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2213

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**COME CELEBRATE WITH US AT OUR NEW SITE!**

*Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA (NVBA)  
Christ the King Church, one block south of East-West Highway on Colston between Washington and Grubb, Chevy Chase, MD (WBL)*

**NVBA (Beth El) WBL**

*\*\*Novice/Intermediate Lecture* ..... 6:30 p.m.\*\*  
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) ... 7:00 p.m. ... 7:30 p.m.  
NVBA 199ER PAIRS (200/100/50/20); WBL NLM PAIRS (NLM/100/50) ... 7:00 p.m. ... 7:30 p.m.  
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5) ..... 7:00 p.m.

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

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

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 8**

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 9**

*\*\*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 break—information concerning meal options available in August*  
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) ..... 3:30 p.m.

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

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*...or check out our On-line Partnership "Desk" at [www.nvba.org](http://www.nvba.org)*

**Next NVBA Sectional Oct 18-21 '07 at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge (Thurs at Beth El)**

May 2007 - May 2008

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## NVBA FALL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

At our New Location:  
**The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188**  
8421 Arlington Boulevard,  
Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2213

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA (NVBA)  
Christ the King Church, one block south of East-West Highway on  
Colston between Washington and Grubb, Chevy Chase, MD (WBL) NVBA (Beth El) WBL

\*\*Novice/Intermediate Lecture ..... 6:30 p.m.\*\*  
STRATAFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) .. 7:00 p.m. .... 7:30 p.m.  
NVBA 199ER PAIRS (200/100/50/20); WBL NLM PAIRS (NLM/100/50) .. 7:00 p.m. .... 7:30 p.m.  
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5) ..... 7:00 p.m.

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

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, OCTOBER 20

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.  
STRATAFLIGHTED PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) .. 2 p.m.  
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100; 2 single sessions) ..... 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) ..... 2 p.m.  
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) ..... 7:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

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Next NVBA Sectional  
Feb. 21-24 '08 at Arlington/  
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(Thurs at Beth El)

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**Bridge in Schools** ..... Ellen Rosenthal,  
Shawn Stringer, Elaine Conway  
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**Conduct & Ethics Committee** ..... Richard  
Ferrin (Chair), Carole Banks (Board),  
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(elected '07), Peter Boyd (elected  
'07), Jerry Miller (elected '06), Mark  
Feldman (elected '06), Kathy Hilbers  
(elected '06).  
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**Ombudsman** ..... Ann Lindley  
**Parliamentarian** ..... Richard Ferrin  
**Player Achievement (Trophies)** .. Don Berman  
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Glickstein, Dave Ruderman, Fred  
King, Bill Cole, Arnie Frankel  
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NAP (unit level) ... Ellen Cherniavsky  
OTHER ..... Ellen Cherniavsky  
**STAC Coordination** .... Ellen Cherniavsky  
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Richard Ferrin, Kitty Gottfried  
CADDIES ..... Kitty Gottfried  
CHIEF DIRECTOR ..... Millard Nachtwey  
HOSPITALITY ..... Kitty Gottfried  
PARTNERSHIPS ..... Barbara Doran  
VOLUNTEERS ..... Barbara Summers,  
Shlomit Rind, Clyde Kruskal  
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COMMITTEE ... Fred King (Chair), Clyde  
Kruskal, Don Berman  
CADDIES ..... Kitty Gottfried  
CHIEF DIRECTOR ..... Ted Ying  
CHURCH LIAISON ..... Fred King  
FACILITY OPERATIONS ... Clyde Kruskal  
HOSPITALITY ..... Kitty Gottfried, Ellen  
Cherniavsky  
ANNUAL MEETING ..... Kitty Gottfried,  
Nadine Wood, Millard Nachtwey,  
Ellen Cherniavsky  
HOLIDAY PARTY ..... Kitty Gottfried,  
Nadine Wood, Millard Nachtwey,  
Ellen Cherniavsky  
MANAGER ..... Ted Ying  
PARTNERSHIPS ..... Barbara Doran  
**Ways and Means** .. Fred King (Chair), Don  
Berman, Barbara Ames, Steve  
Robinson  
**Webmaster** ..... Don Berman

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MACHLIN TROPHY

Last year, with our 75th Anniversary, the WBL initiated a new annual award, 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.

In 2006, the award went to **Dr. Charles Stenger** a worthy choice as the first recipient and someone who sets an example that we all should strive to emulate.

A committee has been appointed to consider this year's nominees and make a selection for this second year of the trophy. The criteria for awarding the trophy are as follows:

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

We welcome nominations from the membership of the WBL. Please send your suggested candidate to **Fred King** at [fredmking@gmail.com](mailto:fredmking@gmail.com) or in person 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 September 1, 2007.

**Bits & Pieces**, continued from p. 5...

Sunday, September 30 at the Southern site.

Three pairs in each flight will qualify for the National Finals, to be held at the Spring 2008 NABC in Detroit, MI. 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 details visit [districtsix.org](http://districtsix.org) or contact **Barbara Doran** by phone at (301) 608-0347 or by email to [barbd@starpower.net](mailto:barbd@starpower.net).

### LESLIE SHAFER'S BRIDGE FESTIVAL A SUCCESS



As a way to introduce many of their students to tournament bridge, **Leslie Shafer** and **Charlie Williams** hosted two duplicate games to celebrate the ending of Leslie's spring classes. The Tuesday night game had a total of 20 tables and the Wednesday morning game had 19 tables. Since many of the students were new to duplicate, they were introduced to bidding boxes, keeping score and the excitement of winning master-

points. Everyone was given information about bridge clubs in the area and about the July Regional. It was the hope of Leslie, Charlie and the Unit that many of the students would be inspired to attend the Regional in North Bethesda, a location very close to where most of Leslie's students live.

The festival was designed to resemble a novice section at a Regional. The events had a partnership table, a selling table, trophies and section top prizes, refreshments, pre-duplicated boards with hand records, a flyer table, decorations and much more. There were also two 50-50 raffles that raised almost \$400 for **ICARE**, a cancer research organization and the designated charity of the festivals. Many of the



students visited the ICARE information booth which was run by **Dr. Dave Hankins** from Johns Hopkins. Their website

is [www.icare.org](http://www.icare.org)

### SUMMER BRIDGE CLASSES

**Leslie Shafer** and her husband, **Charlie "Studmuffin" Williams**, will be offering several summer classes this year! All of them will be on a "drop in" basis (pay as you go) of \$20 per class.

We will be offering morning, afternoon and evening "brush up bridge" for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

Because everyone has so many scheduling conflicts during the summer, it is impractical to offer a course that has a 4-, 6- or 8-week commitment to attend. This is why we will be going on a "drop in" basis for all of the classes. If you're in town and want to participate, then we invite you to attend. You do not have to notify me in advance, just show up!

Visit our website for times and location: [www.bridgeteacher.com](http://www.bridgeteacher.com). You may also email me at [slamhand@verizon.net](mailto:slamhand@verizon.net) or call 301-977-0314.

— Leslie Shafer

Unit 147 lent the tables, bidding boxes, sanction, boards and supplies. Many board members and other Unit members volunteered their time and ideas to make the events a success. **Fred King, Dick and Alice Wegman, Schlomit Rind, Ted Ying, Steve Robinson, Frances Burke, Barbara Shaw, Clyde Kruskal, Steve and Sandy Forsythe, Jim Coleman, Mike Henderson and Alan Crank** all deserve a round of applause for their efforts.



# NLM MASTER POINTERS

by I/N Columnist, Sandy Forsythe, [majslf@aol.com](mailto:majslf@aol.com)

## “THE REST ARE MINE” IS NOT A CLAIM!

When you’re the declarer and you know you’re going to take the rest of the tricks, or you know exactly which tricks you’re going to take and which you’re going to lose, you can *claim*. Claiming speeds up the game and gives you more time to play the next deal, or take a break. Not even your partner enjoys watching you continue to play when everyone knows you have nothing but winners in your hand!

But, as with just about everything in duplicate bridge, there are rules about the proper way to claim. “The rest are mine” is not a proper claim. The laws of duplicate require you to *state a line of play*. That means you must tell the opponents what tricks you’re going to take and in what order you’re going to take them. If you don’t say how you plan to play the rest of the hand, you might end up having to give up a trick that you didn’t need to lose.

### **The mechanics of a claim**

When you’ve decided to claim, wait until it’s your turn to lead, either from your hand or the dummy. Show the opponents your cards and tell them how you plan to play the rest of the tricks. *All play must cease at that point*. If the opponents ask you to explain further, you can restate your claim trick by trick, but you’re not allowed to change your plan once you’ve made your claim. Most of the time everyone will agree, but if the opponents still have objections after you’ve explained your claim, you should call the director. You are not allowed to “play it out” once you’ve claimed, even if the opponents ask.

The director will listen to your claim and decide whether or not your line of play will work. What if you made a mistake? Maybe you forgot there was a high spade out, or there’s still a trump out that you forgot to pull. The director will sort it out and determine how many tricks each side gets. You will almost always get the same tricks you would have gotten if you’d played it out. The only time you might run into trouble is if you’ve claimed without stating your line of play. In that case, if there’s a way to play the cards that would allow the opponents to score another trick, the rules say the director must give it to them. If there’s no “possible rational” way that you could play so as to lose a trick you didn’t expect to lose, then your claim stands.

### **Make sure you’ve accounted for the trump**

If the opponents still have trump, make sure you say exactly what you’re going to do about them. “I’ll pull all the trump and then play the top diamonds and top clubs,” is a good claim. (“Pulling trump” implies that you’ll play your trumps from the top, not from the bottom.) It’s also okay to say, “I’m going to run the hearts from the top, and then play my top clubs, and you can take your high trump whenever you want to.”

If there are any outstanding trump and you don’t mention how you’re going to deal with them, the director is apt to give a trump trick to the opponents if there’s any reasonable way they could get one. Sometimes it’s easier just to pull all the trump before you claim. If you’re not sure whether or not there are any trump still out, you might pull one more round just to make sure, unless you’ve need all your trump to carry out your plan.

**A) Contract: 4♠      B) Contract: 4♠**

#### Dummy

♠ 983  
♥ —  
♦ AKQ964  
♣ —

#### Declarer

♠ KQ4  
♥ 75  
♦ T532  
♣ —

#### Dummy

♠ KJ9  
♥ 765  
♦ —  
♣ —

#### Declarer

♠ QT8  
♥ —  
♦ 9  
♣ 87

In example A, your diamonds are sure to run, since there are only three missing and you’ve got the top three honors. A proper claim would be: “I’ll cash the trump king to pull your last trump, then run the diamonds from the top, unblocking the suit by dropping the ten under the ace.”

In example B, suppose you’ve already played your side suit winners but you haven’t pulled the trump and you’re not planning to: you need all of your trump to cross-ruff the rest of the hand. You can show the opponents your hand and say, “I’m going to cross-ruff the rest. You’ll get your ace of trump, but the rest of my trumps are high, so you only get one more trick.”

### **“Beam me up, Scottie!”**

There’s no transporter in bridge, so make sure your claim accounts for transportation. For example: “I’m going to run all the clubs, ending in dummy, then cash the top spades.” Sometimes it’s important to take your tricks in the right order so as not to block your suit, or play the suits in the right order to make sure no winners are stranded in the dummy. Be careful when you claim!

It’s courteous and smart to claim when you can... you give yourself more time for the tough deals, and your opponents will appreciate the chance to give their brains a rest! Why would you want to give them a break? Because soon they’ll be playing at the next table against your real opponents: the people whose scores will be compared to yours!

## SUNDAY BRIDGE FIESTA!



*As we went to press, this popular game, started by Steve and Sandy Forsythe, was looking for a new home and parents. Please check the WBL website: [districtsix.org/WBL](http://districtsix.org/WBL) or [washingtonbridgeleague.org](http://washingtonbridgeleague.org) for the latest information. We will miss Steve and Sandy and the great contributions they make for bridge in our area. They are leaving for a new home themselves, but we are glad to report that we will continue to hear from Sandy in the NLMasterPointers column.*



### **STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:**

*As of July 1, 2007*

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

Rosalie A Caltabiano  
Alan M Walter  
Mrs Christa Storm  
Isabelle M Thabault  
Ms Sandra J Thompson

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

Mr John R Horner  
Ms Suzanne K Kileczewski  
Fernando Lecaros  
Catherine McHugh  
Mr Tom Palagano  
Mr Herbert Rubinstein  
Mr James A Summers Jr

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

Mr Jerome Gumbiner  
Noah R Calhoun  
Ms Louisa Duemling  
Damian Kulash      Marjorie Kulash  
Ms Sylvia J Miller      Stephen R Salitrik  
Mrs Mary Anne Shull

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

Mrs Joan M Anania      Mrs Amy J Bloom  
Mrs Roberta Feldman  
Mr Robert J Smigal

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

Juanita F Beeson



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

**1) IMPs, You're Vulnerable**

♠ K54♥ 6543♦ A1043♣ A7

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
Double	3♣	1♦	2♣
?????	Pass	3♠	Pass

**2) IMPs, None Vulnerable**

♠ K4♥ K♦ AJ65♣ AK1654

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
?????			

**3) IMPs, None Vulnerable**

♠ J4♥ K1094♦ 108765♣ Q2

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Dbl	2♦
?????			Pass

**4) IMPs, Both Vulnerable**

♠ K1075♥ 2♦ K♣ J976532

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠
?????	3♦	3♥	Pass

**5) IMPs, Both Vulnerable**

♠ A♥ KQJ4♦ AJ10763♣ KQ

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
?????	1♣	Pass	3♣*
			*weak

*Return answers by August 2 to:*

**Steve Robinson**  
2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,  
Arlington VA, 22206  
[robinswr@erols.com](mailto:robinswr@erols.com)

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

Contact **Barbara Doran** [UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org](mailto:UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org), (301-608-0347 between 9am and 10pm) to find a partner in advance or go to [www.washingtonbridgeleague.org](http://www.washingtonbridgeleague.org) to try the **On-Line Partnership Bulletin Board**. For a last minute partner, call the **WBL cell phone (301-395-2760)**.

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

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