

Come on out to the
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE'S

64th Annual Potomac Valley Tournament

MAY 14-17, 2009

The WBL May Sectional is **packed with special events and games** along with **great hospitality**.

I/N players, check it out! There's a full schedule of **Intermediate & Novice events** and a **One-Day Bridge Class** on Sunday.

Friday night, the **IMP Pairs** are back... It's a pair game that scores like a team game!



Between sessions on Saturday attend the free **Panel Show**. At 11:00am and 3:30pm, check out the **6th Annual Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs**. Sunday, between sessions, this traveling trophy will be presented to the winners.

Did we mention hospitality? Check out the **Famous Washington Hospitality** throughout the tournament with free lunches between sessions all weekend.

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...



**Check out the
Annual Meeting, Elections and
Charity Game on May 7 at the Unit Game**

Come play bridge, vote for your new board, and feast at Christ the King Church on Thursday, May 7...

Complimentary Buffet Dinner6:00 p.m.
Meeting and Elections7:00 p.m.
Charity Game7:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with cooking at Nadine's the night before, starting at 7 p.m. We also need volunteers (not food) to help prepare and set up food on the day, at the church, starting at 3 p.m. Any person who can help, even if only for an hour or two, will be welcome. For information, contact WBL Hospitality Chair, **Kitty Gottfried** at (301) 587-3981 or kgottfried@hotmail.com.

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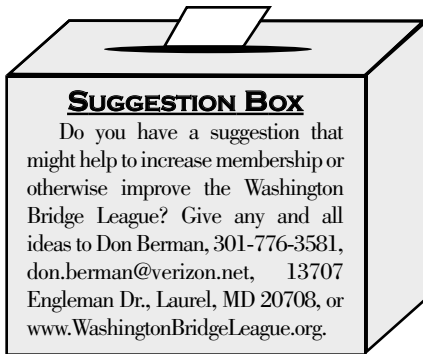
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WBL OMBUDSMAN
 Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Ann Lindley and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential. Information should be provided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

♣♦♥♠ ~~~~~ ♣♦♥♠
DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2009
 TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2009 ISSUE

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Editor — Donna Rogall (301-421-9615), drogall@verizon.net
 I/N Columnist — Sandy Forsythe, majslf@aol.com
 Columnists — Steve Robinson, Richard Colker, Fred King, Ted Ying, Barry Bragin
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Fred King, *President* — (703-536-1914), fredmking@gmail.com
 Don Berman, *Vice President* — (301-776-3581), don.berman@verizon.net
 Steve Robinson, *Treasurer* — (703-379-4371), robinswr@erols.com
 Richard Ferrin, *Secretary* — (202-265-0718), rferrin@hunton.com

UNIT DIRECTORS
 Carole Banks — (301-622-0923), cy.banks@verizon.net
 Ellen Cherniavsky — (301-649-1350), eachernia@yahoo.com
 James Geist — (301-675-6070), wwwjfg@yahoo.com
 Clyde Kruskal — (301-927-1023), kfam@bellatlantic.net
 Linda Marshall — (301-320-6057), ldajmarshall@msn.com
 Ellen Rosenthal — (301-299-9298), nealandellen@cs.com

SOME KEY VOLUNTEERS
 Nadine Wood — *Tournament Chair* (301-565-9555)
 Ann Lindley — *WBL Ombudsman* (703-360-9087)
 Frances Burke — *Membership Secretary* (301-384-6103)
 Chris Miller — *Unit Game Chief Director & Club Manager* (301-318-6083), wblmanager@gmail.com
 Fred King — *Unit Game Manager* (703-536-1914)
 Barbara Doran — *Unit Game & Tournament Partnerships* (301-608-0347)
 Kitty Gottfried — *Unit Game and Sectional Hospitality* (301-587-3981)
 Barry Bragin — *Unit Recorder* (301-598-6853)
 Dick Wegman, *Past President* — (301-365-2228), aliweg@aol.com

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Fred King

This will be my last President's letter as I have reached the term limits set in our constitution. I have greatly enjoyed these three years—all the people I have met and those I have worked with. I must admit that being President is really a rather easy job, the main goal being not to screw anything up. The WBL is a well oiled machine with great staff, volunteers and traditions. Occasionally problems occur when we lose a playing site or other such issue, but on the whole the operation almost runs on auto-pilot. The reason for this is the people. People who serve on the board, directors who run the game

smoothly and professionally, caddies who know their jobs and do them well, and all the volunteers who do so much of the organization and running of our games without compensation and seldom with enough appreciation for all they do. Why? One reason is to support the game of bridge which all of us enjoy so much. The other reason is that we are privileged to have people whose altruistic instincts lead them to give so much to the rest of us. I consider it a great privilege to have worked with them and I hope all of us remember to thank them every chance we get, they deserve it.

—Fred King

COME JOIN THE 2009 WBL ROUND ROBIN! — SIGN UP BY MAY 7 —

It's time to get a round robin team together. Round Robin Coordinator, Steve Robinson, will gladly help you to form or join a team of four to six players to play in the flight of your choice. League play runs from May 7th through the summer to determine qualifiers for the knockout portion of the event. This fun event can be played in a relaxed home setting or at a club. Sign up with Steve Robinson by phone: (703) 379-4371, by email: robinswr@erols.com, or use the entry form to sign up by mail or in person.

2009 WBL ROUND ROBIN ENTRY FORM

Enclose check (*made out to the WBL*) for \$50 for Flight A/X, 0-3000/unlimited, \$40 for Flights B/C/D which will be stratified or bracketed depending on the number of entries and number of teams that fall into different brackets. Individuals or pairs should contact Steve Robinson who will help you form a team.

Return entry and entry fee by May 7 to

Steve Robinson, 2891 Abingdon St. #A2, Arlington, Virginia 22206-1329

Open (A/X) Flight Flight B/C/D

<u>Name</u>	<u>ACBL #</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
_____, captain	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____

SILVER SPRING, MD: MAY 14-17, 2009

Take a Spring Holiday in the Potomac Valley!



64th Annual Potomac Valley Tournament

Fund Raising & Volunteer Sign-Ups for the Summer 2009 D.C. NABC

THURSDAY, MAY 14

\$1/entry (+equal matching funds from WBL) go toward the Nationals

- ♣ 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, MAY 15

Friday—at Christ the King Church Only

- ♦ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500) 10:00am
 - ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) Pairs 2:00pm
 - ♠ **IMP Pairs** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) 7:30pm
- 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 result on each board will be IMPed against all the other results from your direction, then averaged for your final score.
- ♣ 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, MAY 16

- ♣ **6th Annual: Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs** 11:00am & 3:30pm
- Two session Open Pairs, qualifying and final. Single session entries available.
- ♣ StrataFlighted & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X Pairs (unlim/3000) (single session) 3:30pm
- ♥ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♠ **Don't miss the between sessions Panel Show** 2:30pm

SUNDAY, MAY 17

- ♣ **1-Day Bridge Class:** 2 sections: *Start to Play* or *Advance Your Play* 10:30am
- ♦ A/X Board-A-Match Teams, (unlim /5000, 2 session playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♥ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (3000/1000/500, 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** ♥

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, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

BEN LADEN

Ben Laden died in January 2009. He was an avid duplicate player and a former member of the WBL Board of Directors. Two of his close friends and former bridge partners describe their recollections of Ben:



In 1991, my friend of 25 years, Ben Laden, called to tell me it was time for me to start playing serious bridge. I hadn't really played much duplicate; in fact I was surprised that Ben remembered that I had played at all. I told him I would need some time to "read up," but he insisted that we just start playing. And play we did. We played so often together that some opponents kept calling me Ben, even after Ben had to give up the game.

He was a great and forgiving partner whose contrarian views of likely card distribution sometimes led to some spectacular tops and bottoms. He inherited his sense of humor from his father who (as Ben loved to tell me) when running his grocery store, liked to see how customers would react when he sold string beans "one pound for 10 cents, two pounds for a quarter.

I was luckier than most of my bridge playing colleagues. I got to know Ben in a variety of circumstances. We taught economics together at Ohio State. We went to ball games together at Camden Yards. Our families "broke fast" after Yom Kippur at Ben's mother-in-law's house (no better food was ever offered). We argued (graciously) over politics and were always ready to help each other whenever a family "crisis," no matter how small or large, had to be addressed.

It's a little hard to believe that almost every Thursday for the last 19 years, I have been getting together with well over 100 good friends (even you who snarl are my friends). This was Ben's gift to me, not his most important gift as any who knew him would tell you, but one that has forever enriched my life. If you are my opponent the

next time I drop a singleton king, look for Ben, sitting on my shoulder. —*Bob Stearns*

"How would you like to play again?" Ben asked. Alice and I knew Ben and Sue Laden casually because their son and our daughter were high school friends. We ran into Ben and Sue at a holiday party in late 1994 and the subject of duplicate bridge came up. Ben mentioned that our daughter had told him that I used to play bridge. It had been more than 15 years since I had played in a tournament and I had not given any serious thought to playing again. Ben pressed – "Why don't you want to play?" When I responded that the task of getting up to speed with the changes in bidding that had occurred since the mid-1970's was daunting, Ben insisted on coming to my house and giving me a primer on modern bidding. He spent hours filling me in on all the major developments in bridge – especially competitive bidding. Ben's approach was methodical and thorough, and at the end of the afternoon I agreed to play with him in a few sessions of duplicate. It didn't take long before I was completely hooked once again. If not for Ben's persistence and patience, I would probably not be playing – and thoroughly enjoying – duplicate bridge today.

Ben had a strong interest in promoting and developing bridge in the Washington area. He served for several years with me on the WBL Board, and as tournament chair for a year. Ben was a valuable member of the Board and always said "yes" if asked to take on additional tasks. It was only when he became too ill to continue serving that he stepped down from his position on the Board.

I will greatly miss Ben's engaging smile, his gracious manner, his delightful sense of humor, and the warmth he demonstrated to everyone fortunate enough to know him. As a bridge player, and as a friend, he was always at the top of his game. —*Dick Wegman*

BITS AND PIECES

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Mrs Agatha S Barclay, Ms Lynne D Battle, Louise Deisseroth, Robert Hayk, Jean C Liu, Ms Jennifer M McKay, Dr Hugh V Sickel, Mrs Ruth Z Sickel, Ms Hannah S Sistare, Mrs Hanna Wagner, Mary A Wells, Sam K Beder, Ron Eby, Mr Mathew W Karnes, Mrs Phyllis Landau, Joanne Massey Howes, Mrs Claire A Sherman, and Mr Conrado Solari.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mrs Nathalie McFarlane, Mrs Rhona P Prenskey, Mr Herbert Rubinstein, Mrs Marilyn S Rubinstein, Mr Jyaning Wang, Mary Cacciatore, Ms Nancy H Davis, Fredi A Fries, Mr Jay Gibbons, Mr Maurice M Greenman, Mrs Dorothy Guttman, Mr Newman Guttman, Ms Nancy S MacInnis, Mr Paul M McLean, Ms Elaine K Salen, Mr Mel Schloss, Mr Albert Shayne, Mrs Florence Shayne, Mrs Romaine C Stillson, Mr Alex Stouck, and Mrs Charlotte Zaret.**

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

2008-2009 WBL/NVBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

To be eligible, a player: (1) Must be a member (or pending member) of either the NVBA or the WBL; (2) Must attend at least three WBL and three NVBA sectionals during the contest period (August, 2008 through May, 2009). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility; (3) Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded.

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

Open Leaders

Player	Points
1 Leo LaSota	164.98 *
2 Steve Robinson	157.11 *
3 Mark Shaw	145.84 *
4 Barry Falgout	128.80 *
5 William Cole	116.26 *
6 Peter Boyd	111.30 *
7 Linda Marshall	92.77 *
8 Noble Shore	92.08 *
9 Rusty Krauss	86.71
10 Helene Bauman	85.73 *
11 Fred King	72.46
12 Michael Gill	71.13
13 Kenneth Davis	68.67 *
14 David Ruderman	64.97
15 John Adams	63.75
16 Robert Bell	61.16
17 Hailong Ao	60.93
18 Brad Theurer	60.19
19 Steven Schatzow	59.22 *
20 Diane Walker	56.98 *

NonLM Leaders

Player	Points
1 Francesco Parisi-Presicce	50.54 *
2 Raghavendra Rajkumar	44.38
3 James Beller	37.66
4 Albert Lauber	35.86
5 Alan Walter	35.75 *
6 Kiyomi Shiba	35.55 *
7 Amanda Carter	32.90 *
8 Marco Latini	28.34 *
9 Eleanor Schwartz	27.47 *
10 William Goldman	25.73
11 Patti Anschutz	25.39 *
12 Roger Laumark	25.32 *
13 Joseph Pregosin	25.18 *
14 Joe Hertz	24.75 *
15 Alfred Caponiti	24.20
16 Joyce Currie	23.44 *
17 Richard Wedgewood	23.18 *
18 Arun Guha	22.21
19 Jim Anschutz	21.91 *
20 Minako Komura	21.57

...continued on p.26



Great Game Products

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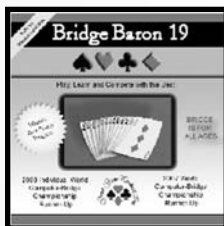
1-800-GAMES-4-U or 301-299-9005

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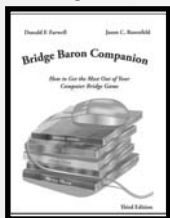


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you make an incorrect bid, the program usually explains to you what is wrong with that specific bid. In Learn Conventions, the program does not explain to you why a specific bid is incorrect. • LPBC has an improved user interface.

Bridge Baron Companion: How to Get the Most out of Your Computer Bridge Game \$24.95

Get up and running with Bridge Baron quickly or explore parts of the program you may not be aware of how to use.



WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson

robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **Ben Brill** who came in first with a score of 480. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for second were **Pete Ekstrand, Mike Dennis, Jerry Barker, Mitch Edelman** and **Sven Pride** with a score of 470. Tied for seventh were **Mary Northinston, Lynda Flanger, Ron Daringer, Audrey Warren, Robert Ehlman, Linda Marshall, Leo Lasota, Jim Eaton, Mark McEaney, Zbych Bednarek, Jay Kelkar, Paul Mott, Ken Davis, Stan Schenker, Sam Stein** and **Hank Strauch** with a score of 460. Tied for twenty-third were **Nikola Tcholakov, Robert Stone, Donna Rogall, Frank Guido, Hadi Abushakra, Francis McMullan, Ron Zucker, Fred Wagner, Priscilla Smith, Joe Lentz, Gareth Birdsall, Mike Berard, Erik Kien, Tom Vinson, TS Perlman, Diane Walker, Rasim Sari** and **John Kloke** with a score of 450. Tied for forty-first were **Richard Allison, Mohamed Abdallah, Barbara Shaw, Wes Goldberg, Iris Payne, Ken Davis, Dorothy Russell, John Flynn, Sam Keiter, John Miller, Enid Hughes, Tom Musso, JC Clement, Joav Steinbach, Paul McGowan, Robert Cohen, Joan Benesch, Millard Nachtwey, Soumen De, Rick Bingham** and **Jeffrey Caplan** with a score of 440. The average score of the 337 solvers was 395. The average score of the experts was 448

All readers are encouraged to send answers and/or new problems to Steve Robinson, 2891 S. Abingdon St. #A2 Arlington, VA, 22206-1329. In addition to the winner receiving a free play at the WBL Unit Game, Steve will play with anyone who gets a perfect score or who exactly matches all five of his answers. If you send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the above address along with your answers, I will send you a copy of the new problems to ensure that you can meet his next deadline. You can pick up a copy of the problems at the WBL Unit Game in Maryland, and can send answers or requests for problems to robinswr@erols.com. You can also see and answer the problems at

the WBL web site. WBL Solvers Club uses *Washington Standard* as published July 1996. I accept only one answer from each solver.

I personally score all the problems. If a majority of the solvers vote for an answer, and the answer is reasonable I will give that answer 100 points. I will not give 100 points to an answer that I consider bad no matter how many experts vote for it. There are times when I want to make a point. I will give that answer 100 points and will therefore give the majority answer 90 points. For the other answers I consider how good the answer is and how many experts vote for it for its score. If you submitted an answer that got 20 points, that bid would get a bad score at the table. A good exercise would be to figure out why I gave your answer 20 points. You might have misread the problem.

The book *Washington Standard* second edition is out. If you are a serious bridge player, this book is a must. You can purchase a copy from Steve for \$25.00 whenever you see him or can send him a check for \$29.95 that includes \$4.95 for priority mail.

1) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ A104♥ Q1094♦ 3♣ A5432

	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	Pass	1♣	Dbl	1♦
	?????			
	<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
	2♣	100	5	30
	Dbl	90	1	46
	2♥	90	2	114
	2♦	70	1	41
	1♥	70	2	55
	4♥	60	0	32
	1NT	30	0	01
	Pass	30	0	01
	3♦	20	0	01
	3♣	20	0	01
	3♥	20	0	15
	4♦	02	0	01

Partner has made a takeout double and you have a maximum passed hand. If partner has four hearts you probably want to be in game. If partner does not have four hearts, you want to be as low as possible. How do you find out if partner has four hearts? One of the options is double. If RHO had bid a major then double should be for penalties. When I was young and the auction started 1♣ - Double it used to be common to bid 1♥ holding a hand such as ♠ xxx♥ xx♦ xxx♣ QJxxx. In order to counter the 1♥ - psyche, you needed double to expose the psyche. Since nobody ever psyched a minor, double of 1♦ is not needed as penalties and is better played as responsive. Responsive double shows two places to play. Over the Responsive double, partner should bid a four-card heart suit if he has one. Another way to find out if partner has four hearts is to cue bid. Again, partner's first responsibility is to bid a four-card major assuming he has one. Another problem could be what to do over partner's 2♠ response to your cue bid or Responsive double.

Six experts cue bid. Five of them cue bid clubs. If partner has an above average takeout double game could be made, even in a 4-3 major-suit fit. I'm think that some players play that 2♣ promise both majors and could be bid on a minimum hand.

Laken: "2♣—Must create a force with this very attractive collection. Although it's not obvious what to bid over 2♠, this hand has too much potential to only bid 2♥."

Hopkins: "2♣—I am too good to just bid 2♥ and not distributional enough for 3♥. I will raise whichever Major partner bids and try 3♥ over a 2NT call. I play 2♦ is natural and weak."

Landen: "2♣—I feel a bit too strong to bid merely 2♥, so I'll cue bid intending to later bid hearts, probably at the three-level."

Parker: "2♣—I want to be in game if partner has four Hearts. I have all primes and I'm too good for 2♥. There may be some question if 2♦ is a cue bid or natural."

Adams: "2♣—2♥ is right on values, but I would not be happy if partner passed, so not going to bid it. If partner does not have four hearts, Spades will likely be our best spot. 2♣ should show both majors, or be

game-forcing with one major. Overbid again, but nothing new."

Cappelletti: "2♦—There really is no other sensible bid here 4-3 in spades rates to be better than 4-3 in hearts."

If partner is 4342 what difference does it make which 4-3 major-suit fit you play in?

Two experts show their values. The problem is that if partner has a minimum takeout double that has four hearts such as ♠ KJxx♥ KJxx♦ Jxx♣ Kx, you will be missing a good game.

Schwartz: "2♥—Invitational I have no other interest in any other strain and even in a 4-3 fit the spots should see me through at the two-level."

Lublin: "2♥—With a fifth heart I would bid 4♥."

Two experts don't promise more than a six-count. They hope for further bidding.

Avery: "1♥—Considerable temptation to cue bid, but with only 3-4 majors and no agreement about minor suit chosen, I'll just plan to bid aggressively hereafter. Seems I can raise, invite or double according to developments. If it goes float, it's unlikely we have missed a game."

Woolsey: "1♥—A jump to 2♥ would be preemptive as I play, so that is out. A cue bid won't help, and should show both majors. It is unlikely that the auction will die in 1♥, and if it does that might be where we belong since I expect partner to raise with four hearts and 13 cards."

When I was young, bidding 2♥ by the takeout doubler in the auction 1♣ - Double - Pass - 1♥ - 2♣ showed extra values. Now it shows four hearts and any other nine cards. So assuming 1♥ doesn't end the auction, you will know how many hearts partner has. Of course why couldn't 1♥ end the auction?

After a takeout double, play a double of new minors as Responsive, double of new majors as penalties

2) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ AK9872♥ K3♦ KQ♣ J72

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
?????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Pass	100	4	42
3♣	90	3	122
2NT	80	2	27
4♠	70	1	65
3NT	70	1	01
3♠	50	0	75
3♥	30	0	03
3♦	30	0	03

In order to decide what to do, give partner some average hands and see what you can make. If partner has ♠ Qxx♥ Qxx♦ xxx♣ KQxx 4♠ is a very good contract. Take away the queen of hearts and game is reasonable. However, if partner has ♠ QJx♥ AJxx♦ Jxx♣ xxx 4♠ has four top losers. Game is in the ballpark opposite club values or club shortness. In order to make game, you need to avoid having three club losers. What if partner has ♠ xxx♥ QJxxx♦ Ax♣ xxx? You need spades 2-2 just to make 3♠. The problem with making a help suit game try is that a lot of the time partner will not know whether he has fitting cards. If partner has ♠ QJx♥ Qxxx♦ xxx♣ Kxx, a near maximum in HCP with a club honor, game is poor and on bad days you'll not make even 3♠. System helps you. If you're playing Drury and semi-forcing 1NT, partner's range is four to a bad nine. If partner were an unpassed hand, his range would be higher since a raise shows a hand that would accept at least one game try. At IMPs, one does not have to stretch for non-vulnerable games.

Three experts take a sure plus score.

Woolsey: "Pass—Close, but I didn't hear partner bid Drury so his hand should be weaker than the top of a normal 2♠ raise. Thus he needs perfect cards, and even then game might not be cold. I believe the danger of getting too high is greater than the danger of missing a game."

Landen: "Pass—Oh woe is me, I must be playing with Steve Robinson. How else can I justify not making the obvious opening bid of 1NT? Partner rates to have at most eight HCP and only three spades because he didn't bid Drury, so stretching for a thin not vulnerable game is not justified."

Why would I open 1NT with a six-card major?

Avery: "Pass—Implausible game absent Drury. Decent defense should they bid over 2♠."

Three experts make a random help suit game try. One of the most difficult to understand bids in bridge is the help suit game try. You could have Axxx, Kxxx, Qxxx, Jxxx, Axx, Kxx, KJx, Q10xx, AQxx, etc in clubs to make a help suit game try. So how is partner supposed to know what his Kxx, Qxx or even Axx is worth? Shortness is good unless they lead trumps. Aces are very good but if you move the ace to another suit, it is just as good unless it is opposite a void. 10's are good opposite most help suit game tries.

Adams: "3♣—As a passed hand, 2♠ does not promise much, so a jump to 4♠ is out. 3♣ focuses on where I need help. Partner will value Aces and Club help."

Cappelletti: "3♣—Help suit game try."

Hopkins: "3♣—I am going to make a "help suit" game try. I can picture many eight counts where game is very reasonable. Also, my bid might inhibit a Club lead."

Two experts make a game try in notrump. If partner has honors in all four suits, you'll make 3NT. If partner has an unbalanced hand, he can still retreat to spades.

Parker: "2NT—Partner can have an Ace of either red suit and Qxx of spades and I have nine tricks. Notrump seems to be the best game try since I have no specific suit to make a helping suit try in. Time to punish the leapers"

Laken: "2NT—This hand feels notrumpy, and nine tricks are easier than ten. If partner is weak, we will play 3♠, which may be too high. Seems worth the risk."

Two experts make the best kind of game tries. Bid game and try to make it. Don't give the opponents any information.

Schwartz: "3NT—Probably the only game that has a chance. Do not have a good invitational bid anyway."

Lublin: "4♠—What I expect will happen at other table."

The second best game try is 3♠. You need partner to have a maximum. The best game try is the jump to game.

3) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ Q86♥ A854♦ 976♣ 872

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
?????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
2♠	100	5	77
3♦	90	4	67
Pass	80	1	62
2NT	60	1	122
3♥	20	0	07
3NT	20	0	04

Partner has reopened with a takeout double. He hopes that you have five good hearts and an outside ace. Your hand will be a disappointment. He could have anywhere from a 4-1-4-4 or 3-1-5-4 eleven-count to a twenty-count. Passing the double could be right but if partner has only eleven points, they could make an overtrick. We have only one sure heart trick. With A109x of hearts, there would be more votes for passing. We could bid 3♦ but partner could be 4-1-4-4 and we would be playing our 4-3 fit at the three-level. We could bid 2♠, but partner could be 3-1-5-4 and we would be playing our 3-3 fit. So what's your poison?

Four experts join me and bid 2♠. I don't like bidding three-card suits when there is a clear-cut alternative. But there are no clear-cut alternatives. The problem with bidding a three-card major is that partner could have ♠ Jxxx♥ x♦ AKQx♣ AKQx and you will find yourself declaring 4♠, possibly doubled. Partner is more aggressive when we he has found what he thinks is an eight-card major-suit fit.

Adams: "2♠—Doubt we are beating 2♥. Partner can expect I have three spades or four with bad hand since I didn't make a negative double."

Cappelletti: "2♠—Even a 3-3 fit might play better than notrump if partner has short hearts."

Woolsey: "2♠—Even though I'm probably bidding for minus score, I don't think the chances of defeating them are good enough to justify passing. I'll contract for only eight tricks and hope partner has a four-card spade suit and doesn't get carried away, although if he does bid 4♠ maybe it will make."

Laken: "2♠—By process of elimination. Pass is out, as it is far too dangerous. 2NT has no source of tricks. 3♦ takes us to the three-level with my barren distribution and limited values."

Four experts support partner's first bid suit. If partner has a strong hand, 3♦ is more likely to slow partner down. 3♦ works well when partner has five diamonds.

Hopkins: "3♦—Yes, I know it is possible for partner to be 4-2-4-3 or 4-1-4-4, but most of the time partner will have at least five Diamonds. I do not want to encourage a 4♠ call by bidding my three-card suit."

Schwartz: "3♦—Heart spots aren't good enough for a pass as if partner has a stiff heart, he doesn't need extra HCP to double. Partner usually has five diamonds so it doesn't seem right to chance 2♠ which needlessly might land you in a 3-3 fit."

Lublin: "3♦—Should be our best fit."

Landen: "3♦—If you'd have been a bit more generous and given me the ten of hearts, I would have passed the double. I'm not falling for the 2♠ trap—I expect that's why RHO didn't open 2♥, he had four spades."

One expert passes for penalties. Probably won't be happy if partner has ♠ AKxx♥ x♦ Axxx♣ xxxx.

Parker: "Pass—We should beat them on high cards since they are two passed hands. Partner figures to have a good hand and we can force them in diamonds."

One expert bids 2NT. I think 2NT is better used as trying to find your best minor-suit fit. If you held ♠ xxx♥ xxx♦ Kxx♣ Kxxx, you want to let partner decide which minor you belong in. If he's 4-4 in the minors, you belong in clubs. If he's 5-3 you belong in diamonds.

Avery: "2NT—Heart stopper, no spade suit, neither primary diamonds nor shape. I'm limited by failure to act last round or pass this one. Lousy "closed hand dummy" for the low-road 2♠. Not going to sweat Qx of Hearts making 3NT gin only from North."

Play 2NT in situations like this as 'Partner I don't know where we belong, please help'.

Other situations are 1♠ - Dbl (partner) - 2♠ - Pass - Pass - Dbl (partner again) - Pass

1♣ - Pass (you) - 1♠ - Pass - 2♠ - Pass (you again) - Pass - Dbl (partner is balancing) - Pass

1NT - Pass (you) - 2♥ - Pass - 2♠ - Pass (you again) - Pass - Dbl (partner is balancing) - Pass

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 52♥ K98753♦ A9♣ AQJ

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

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
2♣	100	4	18
2♥	90	7	250
1NT	60	0	34
3♥	40	0	24
2NT	30	0	07
2♠	30	0	01
Pass	20	0	01
3NT	20	0	03

What would you respond to 1♠ if you held ♠ xx♥ K7654♦ Ax♣ AQJx? 2♣ would be clear. Is the above hand that much different? The only time partner passes 2♣ is when he is short in hearts and why would you want to play in hearts if partner has a singleton or void? I think it's clear to bid 2♣. If partner is 6-1-3-3, he'll pass 2♥ but will bid 2♠ over 2♣.

Seven experts make the book bid. The book says that you rebid a six-card major over 1NT. What if Responder has ♠ J10xx♥ - ♦ Kxxxx♣ Kxxx. Where would you want to play this hand?

Parker: "2♥—If we do not have a fit then I would rather play in my six-card suit than in notrump. I have an easy bid over anything partner does and I have now shown my sixth heart."

Usually six-card suits play reasonable opposite two small. How would K98xxx play opposite xx? A six-card suit is defined as a suit where there is at least one opponent's holding where you have only one loser opposite two small or there's a better than even chance that you will not have three losers. (I just made that up but it makes sense). This suit is more than 50% to have three losers.

Adams: "2♥—Just normal. Chunky enough that I am not scared of 2♥ having more losers than notrump. At matchpoints, 1NT is tempting, but here, that sixth heart might be the key to a decent game. 3♥ is overbid."

Cappelletti: "2♥—A maximum 2♥ bid - but NOT quite enough for 3♥."

Woolsey: "2♥—Partner might like to know about the sixth heart. Anything else is

too big a position."

Hopkins: "2♥—This is not the worst six-card suit I have been dealt. Partner may upgrade his Ace or Queen doubleton and give me the appropriate raise to 3♥ or game."

Lublin: "2♥—My suit is not good."

Landen: "2♥—Is my eyesight failing? What else? This is a suit-oriented hand, so no 1NT and certainly not any more than 2♥. Kokish might bid 2♣, but I wouldn't on this hand."

Three experts agree with me that K98xxx is not a six-card suit and AQJ is a four-card club suit.

Laken: "2♣—I won't bid 1NT, so it boils down to a choice between 2♥ and 2♣, and I think that 2♣ is more flexible."

Thinking about rebidding 1NT with a six-card suit is out in left field

Avery: "2♣—False preference let's me raise. After 1♥-2♥, partner may not bid 3♥ with hands that will make four or 2NT with 10-11 and stiff heart. If he passes 2♣, we're probably ok especially at IMPs."

Schwartz: "2♣—2♥ doesn't seem right with such a good hand and poor suit. The hand is too good to bid 1NT. If partner can't find another bid, 2♣ can easily be the right spot."

Be conservative when holding bad suits.

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ AQ872♥ AJ10952♦ -♣ J2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	5♦	Pass	Pass
?????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
6♦	100	3	29
5♥	90	5	139
Double	80	2	126
5NT	40	0	08
Pass	40	1	35
6♥	20	0	01

If you make a takeout double you could find partner with ♠ Kxx♥ Qxx♦ xx♣ Axxxx. He passes and if the heart finesse is on you make 6♥ but you're getting only 100 or 300 assuming you can even beat 5♦. If you bid 5♥ you could find partner with ♠ KJxx♥ x♦ xxx♣ Axxxx. You can probably make 6♠ but you're down in 5♥. If you bid 6♣, you could find partner with ♠ xx♥ xx♦ QJxx♣ Axxxx. Down in 6♥ when

they were going down in 5♦. The correct action depends on partner's hand but in problem hands we have no idea what partner's hand is. This is where experience helps. I've always said that this is a bidders game. Bidders bid 6♦, find their partner with useful cards and score 980, maybe even 1010. At worst the opponents can make 5♦ and 6♥ goes down less than their game. Two experts join me and bid 6♦. Bidding 6♦ will get us to our best major-suit strain. If partner is equal in the majors, he'll choose hearts.

Parker: "6♦ —At least we will be in our best fit. If I bid 5♥ we can miss a spade slam and if I double we probably will play it there and who knows what we can make. Sometimes when they bid em up so do you. Maybe they'll take a phantom at 7♦."

Hopkins: "6♦ —This is a pure guess. We could a strong favorite for 7♠ opposite ♠ Kxxx♥ Kx♦ xxx♣ Axxx or down like dogs opposite ♠ xxx♥ xx♦ xx♣ KQxxxx. I am making a bid that will get us to the right strain (if such exists) and maximize our return if we have landed on our feet."

Five experts try 5♥. They believe it's a bidder's game but they might get to the wrong strain. Partner could have five spades and zero hearts.

Adams: "5♥ —With a void, if you are thinking about bidding, do it. Double in this case is not flexible. Partner is 95% to pass given my majors."

Cappelletti: "5♥ —Too much shape to double but not enough stuff to bid 6♦."

Woolsey: "5♥ —Double is almost sure to

be left in, and with 6-5 and a diamond void my hand says to declare rather than defend."

Schwartz: "5♥ —Have to bid something with this much distribution but as much as I would like to give partner a choice in the majors, I am not good enough. Hopefully the sixth heart and the spots will see me though if partner is say 4-2 in the majors."

Landen: "5♥ —Too high a ratio of offense to defense to double. I'll bid where I live, though doubling in case partner can bid 5♠ might be the winning action."

Two experts double. Double is about 95% to end the auction which is what partner does if he has a balanced or semi-balanced hand. It's nice if partner has a long major to bid but holding 5-6 in the majors, the only long suit partner could have is clubs. I would certainly pass 5♦ doubled if I held ♠ Kxxx♥ Kxx♦ xxx♣ Axx. Usually the double shows a strong notrump and you don't go around guessing at the five-level with a semi-balanced hand.

Laken: "Double—Once again, the most flexible action. I will bid 6♦ over a 6♣ response, and hope for the best. High level pre-empts make life hard."

Lublin: "Double—In case partner can convert when he doesn't have a major."

One expert passes. Pass is 100% to end the auction.

Avery: "Pass—Go ahead, put a spare room on the chicken coop, I'll take the likely small plus because the potential upside doesn't seem strong enough."

This is a bidder's game. When in doubt bid.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	2♣	3♣	2♠	2♥	5♥	470
Kevin Avery	1♥	Pass	2NT	2♣	Pass	370
Mike Cappelletti	2♦	3♣	2♠	2♥	5♥	440
Robbie Hopkins	2♣	3♣	3♦	2♥	6♦	470
Mark Laken	2♣	2NT	2♠	2♣	Dbl	460
Steve Landen	2♣	Pass	3♦	2♥	5♥	470
Glenn Lublin	2♥	4♠	3♦	2♥	Dbl	430
Steve Parker	2♣	2NT	Pass	2♥	6♦	450
Steve Robinson	Dbl	Pass	2♠	2♣	6♦	490
Alan Schwartz	2♥	3NT	3♦	2♣	5♥	440
Kit Woolsey	1♥	Pass	2♠	2♥	5♥	480

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SHEILA'S BRIDGE CRUISES

2009 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

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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 receive four sessions of free plays. Second place gets two and third place gets one.

This list is up to date through April 2. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

1	75.89	Leo LaSota
2	55.52	John Adams
3	49.44	Steve Robinson
4	46.24	Mark Shaw
5	41.66	Clyde Kruskal
6	40.48	Earl Glickstein
7	40.19	David Ruderman
8	37.82	Linda Marshall
9	37.51	Arnie Frankel
10	33.55	Donna Rogall
11	33.39	Barry Falgout
12	31.44	Eugene Fisher
13	29.03	James Geist
14	28.97	Glenn Lublin
15	28.25	Robert Bell
16	27.92	Peter Boyd
17	25.97	Lou Reich
18	25.71	Brad Theurer
19	24.54	Eugene Kales
20	24.41	Barry Bragin
21	21.85	William Foster Jr
22	21.63	Don Probst
23	20.15	Mark Rosen
24	19.68	William Hacker
25	19.66	Steven Schatzow

Izzy Cohen

1	37.82	Linda Marshall
2	31.44	Eugene Fisher
3	20.15	Mark Rosen
4	18.36	Roger Laumark
5	18.13	Arun Guha
6	17.50	Ronald Zucker
7	16.64	Shawn Stringer
8	16.35	Alfred Caponiti
9	15.67	Howard Tash
10	15.67	Martin Reed
11	14.97	Behnaz Fardshisheh
12	14.20	Thomas Reckford
13	13.72	Lloyd Rawley
14	12.66	James Metzger
15	12.09	William Goldman

Tubbs

1	18.36	Roger Laumark
2	18.13	Arun Guha
3	16.35	Alfred Caponiti
4	12.66	James Metzger
5	12.09	William Goldman
6	10.96	Mark Cohen
7	10.96	Rochelle Cohen
8	10.87	Kay Miller
9	10.64	Edmund Gehan
10	10.45	Larry Moran

Woolridge

1	8.47	Julie Connor
2	7.57	Martha Stout
3	5.01	Larry Wallace
4	4.93	Forest Montgomery
5	4.55	Elinor Stolar
6	4.37	A. Carol Davis
7	4.04	Maxine Penn
8	3.12	Renee Barnow
9	2.86	Richard Moss
10	1.82	Mark Conheady

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 **Online Carpool Notices** at: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

0-20 LESSON & GAME

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10:30PM**

JOIN ANYTIME

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

Lessons will cover slam bidding, weak twos, 3 level+ 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, contact Bryan or Lois Geer at 301-236-0014 or by email at geerbridge@verizon.net.

~ ♣ ♦ SCHEDULE ♥ ♠ ~

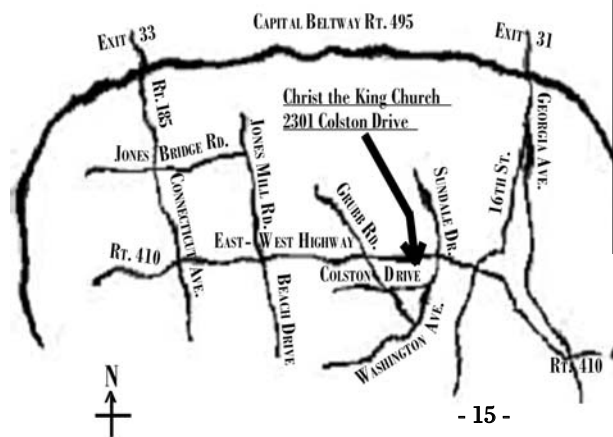
All Games held at Christ the King Church

- 04/23/2009NVBA Sectional
- 04/30/2009StrataFlighted Club Championship
- 05/07/2009Annual Meeting/DC NABC Fund Game
- 05/14/2009WBL Sectional
- 05/21/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 05/29/2009StrataFlighted Membership Game
- 06/04/2009StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 06/11/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship **Teams**
- 06/18/2009Stratified STaC Pairs
- 06/25/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 07/02/2009StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 07/09/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 07/16/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 07/23/2009Closed DC NABC
- 07/30/2009Closed DC NABC
- 08/06/2009StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 08/13/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/20/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/27/2009StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 09/03/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/10/2009NVBA Sectional

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

(301) 395-2760

MAP TO 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** by email at UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org or barbd@starpower.net, or call her at (301) 608-0347 between 9am and 10pm.

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

Partnerships Close At 7:25pm

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

THE UNIT GAME

by *Chris Miller*, Club Manager and Chief Director

This column answers some frequently asked questions about the WBL Unit Game. If you have any questions about how the Unit Game is run, please contact *Chris Miller* at unitgamedirector@districtsix.org

CONDUCT, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY

Bridge is a competitive event; the will to win is an essential part of the enjoyment of the game for most players, and indeed we owe it to all other players in an event to try as hard as we can to win ... within the rules and proprieties of the game.

And *that* is a crucial qualification, for it restricts how far we may go in our efforts to gain the upper hand. Of course, every player knows that certain actions are strictly forbidden - secret signals to partner, deliberately trying to see an opponent's cards, bribing the directors (or The Incorruptibles, as we prefer to be called). However, there is a range of bad behavior that, though not outright cheating, is nevertheless prohibited or deprecated (mostly under Law 74): intimidation, rudeness, gloating, excessive slowness, inappropriate table-talk, etc.

I intend to continue the promotion of a common courtesy and consideration for all participants in the Unit Game. To that end, all players need to avoid using director calls as a weapon of intimidation, especially in manner: sudden eruptions of "D I R E C T O R !!!" as opposed to "I would like to ask for some help here ... Director, please"). You must be respectful of other players' time by making every effort to move promptly for the next round, and must accord courtesy and respect to your partners, opponents and neighbors.

A pretty good guide for most of us to follow is the Golden Rule - do as you would be done by. If you don't care much how you are Done By, you may have a bit of a problem. Fortunately there are plenty of good role models of ethical sportsmanship in our game.

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

♣	♦
<u>April 23-26, 2009</u>	<u>October 1-4, 2009</u>
Fairfax, VA	Silver Spring, MD
♦	♥
<u>May 14-17, 2009</u>	<u>November 12-15, 2009</u>
Silver Spring, MD	Fairfax, VA
♥	♠
<u>September 10-13, 2009</u>	<u>January 7-10, 2010</u>
Fairfax, VA	Silver Spring, MD

DO YOU HAVE ANY MUSCLE OR BRAINS TO SPARE?

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

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

Here's how to help:

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

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

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



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This year's Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on Thursday, May 7, at Christ the King Church, the site of our Unit Game, prior to play. As usual, there will be a complimentary dinner buffet at 6:00 p.m. The meeting and elections will take place at approximately 7:00 p.m. All WBL members whose dues are paid as of April 1 are eligible to vote. The church will be open at 3:00 p.m. for ballot casting to those players who will be unable to attend the elections. Copies of the WBL Policies and Treasurer's Report will also be available. An NABC FUNd game will begin when the meeting concludes.

2008 MASTERPOINT RACES

During the evening, we will recognize our 2008 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners for their achievements.

ELECTIONS

The election portion of the meeting will begin with our Elections Chairperson, Jim Allen, introducing the candidates before they each speak briefly to the membership. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The four officer positions are one-year terms. Three of the four Unit Director positions are two-year terms. The fourth is a one-year term.

Candidate for President

Don Berman is the incumbent Vice President and has been a member of the WBL Board of Directors for 12 years and thanks the membership for its support. He asks for your support toward continuing in the office of President. He is the Webmaster for the WBL, the MBA and District 6 and the Recorder for the WBL. He has been a bridge player (sort of, he says) for over 40 years. My objective as president will be to involve the general membership more in the decision making process affecting our game. I will try to improve playing conditions at the church or find a better location.



Candidate for Vice-President

Richard Ferrin has been a WBL member since 1993. He has participated regularly in the Unit Game and other WBL events for the past ten years, and is a silver life master. For the past five years, he has served as WBL Secretary. He also serves as Chairman of the Round Robin Committee and the Conduct & Ethics Committee. He has also assisted with planning for the upcoming 2009 Summer North American Bridge Championships in Washington. If elected, he would focus on supporting efforts to continue growth in the WBL Unit Game, sectionals, and the unit round robin and unit knockouts, by striving to provide a playing environment that is competitive but friendly, and appeals to players of all calibers. The next few months offers a challenge for the WBL board and the Membership as a whole Washington hosts the 2009 Summer NABC. He believes that this is a special event with an important opportunity to build the WBL's membership base, and everybody in the WBL should join together in supporting those efforts.



Candidate for Secretary

Ellen Cherniavsky, who holds a Ph.D. in Operations Research, retired in 2005 from the MITRE Corporation, where she worked for over 20 years. She learned bridge from her parents, played duplicate in college, then quit to pursue graduate studies and have a family. Fourteen years ago she returned to the duplicate scene. For the past six years she has served on the Conduct & Ethics Committee. As a Board member she has also chaired the Club Relations Committee and helped with hospitality for the Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. She has substituted as Secretary when needed. If elected Secretary, she would be honored to hold that position as



well as continue serving in the other capacities. She would hope to continue encouraging participation from new members (her daughter recently started playing duplicate).

Candidate for Treasurer

Fred King has been a member of the WBL since moving to Washington, D.C. in 1973. He worked for the World Bank until his retirement in 2001. He has been on the Board the past eight years, including serving as vice-president for three years and as president for the last three years. In addition, he served as caddy master for over 16 years. He says, "I would like to continue to serve the WBL and I feel that I have the qualifications to serve as treasurer. The WBL is in a strong financial position and I would insure that we continue to be so."



Candidate for the Board

Ron Zucker: "According to popular legend, the French philosopher and writer Voltaire was invited to an orgy and accepted the invitation. He evidently comported himself well, as he was invited back. 'Madam,' he supposedly said, 'Once makes me a philosopher. Twice, a pervert.'"



I have chosen to run for the board again after taking a four year break from service on the board. You may find some similarity."

Ron sees a great deal that the WBL does exceptionally, with weekly games and tournaments all well attended and well run, and would like to help maintain this unit as one of the strongest and best in the country. Though he hasn't been on the board in years, many people still ask him to take things up with them. So, he would like to work to bring new players into the game and narrow the distance between the board and the membership with open discussion.

Ron has served on a variety of boards of directors, ranging from national political organizations to educational charities to synagogues. He has experience both with budgets and budgeting and with running events. As the legislative director for an environmental organization, he also works with and as a volunteer.

Candidate for the Board

Carole Banks, CPA, is Director of Finance at Washington Gas Light Company. She has been a member of the WBL since 2000. Carole's enthusiasm for bridge stems from her mother who is a long-time duplicate bridge player and member of the American Bridge Association (ABA).



Carole began her bridge life in 2000 at an "Easy Bridge" course taught by Charlie Williams and Leslie Shafer, and has been "hooked" ever since. She says, "Since playing bridge, I have gained a new family of close friends and strong supporters." Carole strongly supports efforts that reach out to potential new members of all ages, while strengthening the support of existing members.

Candidate for the Board

Hank Meyer, one of the former owners of the Washington Bridge Center and past board member, is a Foreign Service Officer. He and his wife Lesley (who is also in the Foreign Service) just returned from 12 years of overseas assignments, having served in France (twice), Romania, Venezuela and Colombia. Now posted in DC, Hank has returned to the bridge table and also directs the Unit game on a regular basis. He is interested in keeping our unit games running smoothly and on time, and would like to further improve the WBL's mentoring program. Besides playing bridge, Hank is an avid runner, practices yoga, enjoys German board games, watercolor painting and hiking. He and Lesley have two very spoiled cats, Vlad and Tosca (from Romania).



Candidate for the Board

Clyde Kruskal is an Associate Professor in Computer Science at the University of MD. He doesn't remember learning how to play bridge, but it was sometime as a child. He has one step child, Eric Foscett, who used to play and direct. His three younger children (triplets), Justin, Rebecca and Alexander, often caddy. Once in a while, he can even drag them out to a game. Clyde is happy to be an insane voice on a sane board.



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63RD ANNUAL WBL CITY OF WASHINGTON TOURNAMENT

February 26 - March 1, 2009

Results

**TOP TEN CUMULATIVE
POINT WINNERS**

All Players

1	23.89	.....	<i>Barry Falgout</i>
2	22.57	.....	Mark Shaw
3	21.11	.....	Steve Robinson
4	20.12	.....	William Cole
5	18.74	.....	David Ruderman
6	18.62	.....	Peter Boyd
7	18.60	.....	Benjamin Brill
8	17.99	.....	Linda Marshall
9	17.60	.....	Arnie Frankel
10	16.42	.....	Donna Rogall

Players with fewer than 1500 masterpoints

1	17.99	.....	<i>Linda Marshall</i>
2	14.34	.....	Susan Miskura
	14.34	.....	Dennis Schwanz
4	12.59	.....	Daniel Feldman
5	12.52	.....	Shawn Stringer
6	11.16	.....	Alfred Caponiti
7	10.50	.....	Behnaz Fardshisheh
	10.50	.....	Thomas Reckford
9	10.01	.....	Carrolena Key
	10.01	.....	Jeff Hepner

Players with fewer than 500 masterpoints

1	11.16	.....	<i>Alfred Caponiti</i>
2	10.50	.....	Thomas Reckford
3	10.01	.....	Jeff Hepner
	10.01	.....	Carrolena Key
5	9.35	.....	Alfred Liepold
6	9.29	.....	Eugene Massey
7	7.96	.....	Minako Komura
8	7.07	.....	Albert Lauber
9	6.29	.....	James Beller
10	5.85	.....	Hadi Abushakra

Players with fewer than 100 masterpoints

1	10.01	.....	<i>Carrolena Key</i>
2	9.29	.....	Eugene Massey
3	5.61	.....	Julie Connor
4	5.50	.....	Kenn Pendleton
5	4.93	.....	Forest Montgomery
6	4.12	.....	Joseph Pregosin
7	3.85	.....	J Lasek
	3.85	.....	Irwin Yanus
9	3.61	.....	A. Carol Davis
10	3.56	.....	Marco Latini

THURSDAY A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 37.5 Tables / Based on 94



1	Barry Falgout - Rusty Krauss	.....	.67.32
2	Marjorie Gazzola - Edward Gofreed	.....	.61.32
3	Linda Marshall - Terry Feetham	.....	.61.02
4	Janet Gookin - Robert Gookin	.....	.60.35
5	Mary Guandolo - Charles Stenger	.....	.58.88
6	H John Edmonds - Larry Kahn	.....	.58.20
7	Terry Lavender - Thomas Lavender	.....	.56.96
8	Barry Bragin - Fred King	.....	.56.88
9	Richard Ferrin - Eugene Kales	.....	.56.69
10	Bob Silverstein - Alan Dockterman	.....	.56.60

Stratum X, 18.5 Tables

1	H John Edmonds - Larry Kahn	.....	.58.20
2	Bob Silverstein - Alan Dockterman	.....	.56.60
3	Charles Young Jr - Benjamin Stauss	.....	.56.45
4	Janet Dence - John Sedgewick	.....	.56.43
5	Robert Zier - James Witting	.....	.56.10
6	Ronald Kral - Frank Cardillo	.....	.55.54

THURSDAY B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 28.0 Tables



1	Thomas Reckford - Behnaz Fardshisheh	.....	62.06
2	Mirsad Mujezinovic - Namik Haveric	.....	61.97
3	Richard Moss - Hadi Abushakra	.....	.60.90
4	Kenn Pendleton - Peter Lo	.....	.60.70
5	Anthony Cincotta - James Augustine	.....	.60.42
6	Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence	.....	58.59

Stratum C, 23.5 Tables

1	Thomas Reckford - Behnaz Fardshisheh	.....	62.06
2	Mirsad Mujezinovic - Namik Haveric	.....	61.97
3	Richard Moss - Hadi Abushakra	.....	.60.90
4	Kenn Pendleton - Peter Lo	.....	.60.70
5	Anthony Cincotta - James Augustine	.....	.60.42
6	Robert Lawrence - Frances Lawrence	.....	58.59

Stratum D, 14.0 Tables

1	Mirsad Mujezinovic - Namik Haveric	.....	61.97
2	Richard Moss - Hadi Abushakra	.....	.60.90
3	Kenn Pendleton - Peter Lo	.....	.60.70
4	Minako Komura - Kiyomi Shiba	.....	.56.55
5	Robert Magruder - Eleanor Schwartz55.36
6	Marco Latini - Amanda Carter54.76

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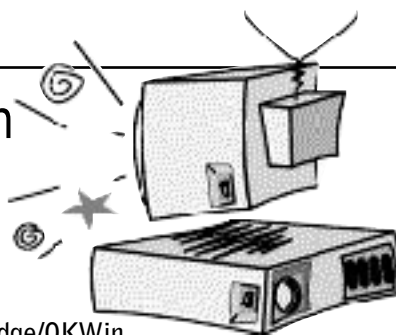
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THURSDAY NONLM PAIRS @ WBL

Stratum A, 14.0 Tables



- 1 Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash ...59.66
2 Ernie Schuler - Frank Hatten ...59.09
3 Alfred Caponiti - John Ryan ...57.95
4 Marc Mouallem - Stephen Wood ...55.68
5 Terry Coates - John Horner ...55.30
6/8 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor ...54.73
6/8 Edmund Gehan - James Metzger ...54.73
6/8 Jim Anschutz - Patti Anschutz ...54.73

Stratum B, 9.0 Tables

- 1 Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash ...59.66
2 Ernie Schuler - Frank Hatten ...59.09
3 Marc Mouallem - Stephen Wood ...55.68
4 Terry Coates - John Horner ...55.30
5/7 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor ...54.73
5/7 Edmund Gehan - James Metzger ...54.73
5/7 Jim Anschutz - Patti Anschutz ...54.73

Stratum C, 5.0 Tables

- 1 Marc Mouallem - Stephen Wood ...55.68
2/3 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor ...54.73
2/3 Edmund Gehan - James Metzger ...54.73
4 Susan Holbeck - Anne Menkens ...51.89

THURSDAY 0-200 PAIRS @ NVBA

Stratum A, 14.0 Tables

- 1 Larry Taylor - Albert Stolpe ...66.67
2 Onorica Luculescu - Alina Galaszewska 62.31
3 Roy Robson - Kenneth Marshall ...61.55
4 James Sprung - James Shoenhard ...60.23
5 M. David Jackson - William Hohe ...59.47
6 John Haberlin - Sandy Haberlin ...55.87

Stratum B, 9.0 Tables

- 1 Onorica Luculescu - Alina Galaszewska 62.31
2 Roy Robson - Kenneth Marshall ...61.55
3 James Sprung - James Shoenhard ...60.23
4 M. David Jackson - William Hohe ...59.47
5 John Haberlin - Sandy Haberlin ...55.87

Stratum C, 5.0 Tables

- 1 Onorica Luculescu - Alina Galaszewska 62.31
2 Roy Robson - Kenneth Marshall ...61.55
3 James Sprung - James Shoenhard ...60.23
4 John Haberlin - Sandy Haberlin ...55.87

FRIDAY AM OPEN PAIRS

Stratum A, 23.0 Tables / Based on 34



- 1 Earl Glickstein - Barry Falgout ...61.94
2 Kenneth Davis - Steven Schatzow ...60.83
3 Ednae Trevey - Kathrine Loh ...60.00

- 4 Eugene Fisher - Shawn Stringer ...57.78
5 Leon Letwin - Donald Berman ...57.50
6 Michael Mayer - William Peters ...57.08

Stratum B, 17.5 Tables

- 1 Ednae Trevey - Kathrine Loh ...60.00
2 Eugene Fisher - Shawn Stringer ...57.78
3 James Beller - Albert Lauber ...55.00
4 Janet Dence - Edwin Fuller Jr ...54.86
5/6 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee ...53.89
5/6 Daniel Finn - Ronald Susi ...53.89

Stratum C, 6.0 Tables

- 1 James Beller - Albert Lauber ...55.00
2 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee ...53.89
3 Amy Bloom - Arthur Olson ...51.53
4 Diane Keiper - Palma Seeger ...51.11

FRIDAY AM NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 11.0 Tables



- 1 Vivian Pollock - Nancy Wanicur ...66.07
2 Beth Wisinski - Kay Miller ...65.65
3 A. Carol Davis - Agnes Gavin ...58.63
4 Jim Anschutz - Patti Anschutz ...58.33
5 Sidney Graves - Jan Potter ...56.85
6 Henry Thompson - Betty Thompson ...56.25

Stratum B, 8.0 Tables

- 1 Nancy Wanicur - Vivian Pollock ...66.07
2 Jim Anschutz - Patti Anschutz ...58.33
3 Sidney Graves - Jan Potter ...56.85
4 Henry Thompson - Betty Thompson ...56.25
5 Betsy Thumann - Mary Boyd ...55.59

Stratum C, 4.0 Tables

- 1 Nancy Wanicur - Vivian Pollock ...66.07
2 Henry Thompson - Betty Thompson ...56.25
3 Betsy Thumann - Mary Boyd ...55.59

FRIDAY AFT FLIGHT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 15.0 Tables / Based on 44



- 1 Alfred Duncker - William Zane ...63.45
2 David Ruderman - Arnie Frankel ...61.74
3 Donna Rogall - Clyde Kruskal ...59.66
4 David Milton - Margot Hennings ...59.47
5 Barry Falgout - Earl Glickstein ...58.90
6 Noble Shore - Leo LaSota ...58.33

Stratum X, 7.0 Tables

- 1 Robert Rovner - Silas Wasserstrom ...55.68
2 Michael Mayer - William Peters ...52.65
3 M Cassandra Smith - John Glynn ...50.38
4 Alice Wegman - Seema Bhagwat ...49.62
5 Rose Berman - Beta Nahapetian ...49.24

FRIDAY AFT FLIGHT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 15.0 Tables



- 1 Alfred Liepold - Alfred Caponiti ...71.97
2 Minako Komura - Eui Ishida ...63.26
3 Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin ...62.12
4 James Beller - Albert Lauber ...61.36
5 Linda Smith - Gerald Marcovsky ...57.01
6 Norman Cowen, M.D. - Emerita Hayward 56.25

Stratum C, 12.5 Tables

- 1 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold ...71.97
2 Minako Komura - Eui Ishida ...63.26
3 Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin ...62.12
4 James Beller - Albert Lauber ...61.36
5 Ednae Trevey - Kathrine Loh ...55.49
6 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee ...55.30

Stratum D, 7.0 Tables

- 1 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold ...71.97
2 Minako Komura - Eui Ishida ...63.26
3 Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin ...62.12
4 James Beller - Albert Lauber ...61.36
5 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee ...55.30

FRIDAY AFT NLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 14.0 Tables

- 1 A. Carol Davis - Agnes Gavin ...65.72
2 Arun Guha - Roger Laumark ...65.15
3 Susan Klaber - Joan White ...64.77
4 Kenn Pendleton - Virginia Ivin ...62.50
5 Reiko Lynch - Jo Ann Hutchison ...59.28
6 Richard Wedgewood - Eric Beard ...58.71

Stratum B, 11.0 Tables

- 1 Kenn Pendleton - Virginia Ivin ...62.50
2 Reiko Lynch - Jo Ann Hutchison ...59.28
3 Bernice Felix - Susan Weiss ...57.58
4 Gerald O'Dell - Joe Hertz ...57.01
5/6 Henry Thompson - Robert Wilbur ...55.11
5/6 Ernie Schuler - Frank Hatten ...55.11

Stratum C, 5.0 Tables

- 1 Kenn Pendleton - Virginia Ivin ...62.50
2 William Hohe - M. David Jackson ...52.46
3 Nancy Wanicur - Vivian Pollock ...48.48
4 Temma Kanowith - Carol Kahn ...46.97

FRIDAY EVE BAROMETER

Stratum A, 14.0 Tables / Based on 27



(plus Barb Shaw for one round)

- 1 Robert Bell - Eileen Houghton ...61.54
2 Leo LaSota - Noble Shore ...60.90
3 Arnie Frankel - Helene Bauman ...59.46
4 Diane Walker - Benjamin Brill ...58.97
5 David Grabiner - Arthur McCann ...58.49
6 John Adams - Steve Robinson ...56.89

Stratum X, 6.5 Tables

- 1 David Grabiner - Arthur McCann ...58.49
2 Linda Marshall - Monique Smith ...56.57

- 3 Roger Stern - Sandra Stern ...54.49
4 Suzanne Abrams - William Zane ...52.24
5 Mark Rosen - Steven Schatzow ...50.64

FRIDAY EVE B/C/D BAROMETER

Stratum B, 13.0 Tables



- 1 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold ...66.15
2 Sandra Stringer - Judy Braddy ...60.24
3 Jim Wildey - Julie Connor ...58.85
4 Susan Klaber - Joan White ...56.77
5 Irv Kipnis - Terry Jones ...56.42
6/7 Robert Blatt - Karen Blatt ...56.25
6/7 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin ...56.25

Stratum C, 10.0 Tables

- 1 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold ...66.15
2 Sandra Stringer - Judy Braddy ...60.24
3 Jim Wildey - Julie Connor ...58.85
4 Susan Klaber - Joan White ...56.77
5 Edwin Rosenberg - Mel Walger ...54.86
6 Walter Mitnick - Michael Ford ...54.69

Stratum D, 7.0 Tables

- 1 Jim Wildey - Julie Connor ...58.85
2 Susan Klaber - Joan White ...56.77
3 Edwin Rosenberg - Mel Walger ...54.86
4 Amanda Carter - Kimberly Ferguson ...51.74
5 Teri Harrison - Jane Culver ...51.39

SATURDAY COMPACT KO

Bracket 1, 10 Tables



- 1 Noble Shore - Michael Gill - Raghavendra Rajkumar - Prahalad Rajkumar
2 Richard Wegman - Robert Bell - Fred King - David Ruderman
3 Thomas Musso - Ellen Cherniavsky - William Cole - Donna Rogall
4 Edward Rodrigues - John Lowe III - Michael Henderson - Mohsen Efsandiary

Bracket 2, 9 Tables



- 1 Roma Chandra - Dennis Schwanz - Susan Miskura - Robert Claypool
2 Steve Reed - Lynda Flanger - Ellie Clark - Mike Froesch
3 Nancy Loomis - Carolyn Becraft - Donald Brown - Susan Slattery
4 David Sterner - Steven Shauck - Cheryl

Shauck - Michael Ford

Bracket 3, 16 Tables

- 1 J Lasek - Sally Rockey - Irwin Yanus - Robert Lumbert
- 2 Suellen Garrison - Joe Leighton - Elias Arbel - Lorraine Deblasio
- 3 Maribel Newby - Nancy Cartwright - Pat Lonergan - Tom Lonergan
- 4 Sara Goodwin - D Tonnesen - Joyce Currie - Jim Wildey

SATURDAY AM OPEN PAIRS

Stratum A, 30.0 Tables / Based on 50



- 1 Benjamin Brill - Glenn Lublin64.20
- 2 Kenneth Davis - Bruce Houston63.34
- 3/4 Weizhong Bao - Hailong Ao62.50
- 3/4 James Coleman - Forest Montgomery 62.50
- 5 Lowell Sawyer - Don Probst61.74
- 6 James Geist - Shawn Stringer61.55

Stratum B, 19.0 Tables

- 1 James Coleman - Forest Montgomery 62.50
- 2 Pat Tyler - Alfred Caponiti57.30
- 3 Marty Zupan - Anthony Hawks56.82
- 4 William Zane - Suzanne Abrams55.49
- 5 Phyllis Kristianson - Sylvia Hoffman .55.11
- 6 Donna Hjerpe - Leonid Fastovsky . .54.73

Stratum C, 7.5 Tables

- 1 Carol Mumma - Jean Phillips51.60
- 2 Susan Brawn - Cynthia Helms47.64
- 3/4 Amy Bloom - William Kingery Jr46.97
- 3/4 Sol Barr - Meir Kende46.97
- 5 Candace Carlton - Terry Carlton . .45.16

SATURDAY AM NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 20.0 Tables



- 1 Eugene Massey (pic) - Julie Connor .69.94
- 2 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin68.45
- 3 Bob Blodgett - William Hohe62.84
- 4 Ed Krest - Anne Vaeth62.07
- 5 Daniel Finn - Bernard Finn61.61
- 6 Harvey Lipsher - Srinivasan Rangarajan 61.31

Stratum B, 16.5 Tables

- 1 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor69.94
- 2 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin68.45
- 3 Bob Blodgett - William Hohe62.84
- 4 Ed Krest - Anne Vaeth62.07
- 5 Daniel Finn - Bernard Finn61.61
- 6 Harvey Lipsher - Srinivasan Rangarajan 61.31

Stratum C, 9.5 Tables

- 1 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor69.94
- 2 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin68.45
- 3 Harvey Lipsher - Srinivasan Rangarajan 61.31
- 4 Rebecca Cardozo - Suzanne Kilczewski 53.78
- 5 Patricia Mitchell - Rachele Sladoff . .53.66

6 Sybil Cantor - Barbara Ranhand . . .52.80

SATURDAY AFT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 21.0 Tables / Based on 54



- 1 Jeff Roman - Ruth Potter63.32
- 2 Lowell Sawyer - Don Probst62.02
- 3 Glenn Lublin - Benjamin Brill61.09
- 4 Mita Banerjee - Ann Ingram60.53
- 5 Leo LaSota - Mark Shaw59.73
- 6 Weizhong Bao - Hailong Ao59.67

Stratum X, 12.5 Tables

- 1 Weizhong Bao - Hailong Ao59.67
- 2 Lloyd Rawley - James Geist58.66
- 3 Thierry Poirey - Daniel Feldman . . .55.85
- 4 Michael McQuistan - Brian Hartwig .54.18
- 5 Irv Kipnis - Terry Jones53.43
- 6 Pat Tyler - Roy Tibery52.88

SATURDAY AFT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 16.5 Tables



- 1 Bill Benesch - Joan Benesch66.33
- 2 Barbara Israel - Frederick Mueller . .59.73
- 3 Paul Black - Leo Cardillo58.06
- 4 Alfred Liepold - James Metzger . . .57.00
- 5 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus55.94
- 6 Teri Harrison - Sorina Negulescu . .55.73

Stratum C, 12.5 Tables

- 1 Barbara Israel - Frederick Mueller .59.73
- 2 Alfred Liepold - James Metzger . . .57.00
- 3 Georgia Lyhus - Arlan Lyhus55.94
- 4 Teri Harrison - Sorina Negulescu . .55.73
- 5 Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin55.69
- 6 Paul Siefring - Betty Siefring55.65

Stratum D, 6.5 Tables

- 1 Alfred Liepold - James Metzger57.00
- 2 Paul Siefring - Betty Siefring55.65
- 3 Norman Sweed - Ronnie Sweed54.00
- 4 W Karl Van Newkirk - Virginia Gibbons 53.46
- 5 Candace Carlton - Terry Carlton . .53.41

SATURDAY AFT NONLM PAIRS

Stratum A, 16.0 Tables



- 1 Albert Dimillio - Terry Mitchell65.34
- 2 Ann Atcheson - Sheila Ellis61.17

- 3 Richard Leonardon - Stephen Colevas60.42
- 4 Jean Noonan - Isabelle Thabault . . .59.66
- 5 Michelle Zyguelbaum - Elizabeth Williamson58.90
- 6 Marco Latini - Gerald O'Dell57.39

Stratum B, 12.0 Tables

- 1 Terry Mitchell - Albert Dimillio65.34
- 2 Ann Atcheson - Sheila Ellis61.17
- 3 Richard Leonardon - Stephen Colevas60.42
- 4 Jean Noonan - Isabelle Thabault . . .59.66
- 5 Michelle Zyguelbaum - Elizabeth Williamson58.90
- 6 Marco Latini - Gerald O'Dell57.39

Stratum C, 4.0 Tables

- 1 Ann Atcheson - Sheila Ellis61.17
- 2 Jean Noonan - Isabelle Thabault . . .59.66
- 3 Rachele Sladoff - Patricia Mitchell .53.03

SUNDAY FLIGHT A/X SWISS

Stratum A, 15 Tables / Based on 56



- 1 Peter Boyd - Steve Robinson - William Cole - Mark Shaw102.00
- 2 Ronald Kral - Eugene Kales - Jim Wakefield - Helene Bauman85.00
- 3 Arnie Frankel - Andrew Gofreed - David Abelow - Alan Tenenbaum - David Ruderman - Lyle Poe Jr82.00
- 4 Donna Rogall - Clyde Kruskal - Lou Reich - Abby Heitner80.00
- 5 Daniel Feldman - Stephen Czecha - Carrolena Key - Jeff Hepner77.00

Stratum X, 7 Tables

- 1 Daniel Feldman - Stephen Czecha - Carrolena Key - Jeff Hepner77.00
- 2 Linda Marshall - Terry Feetham - Jim Allen, Jr - Shawn Stringer71.00
- 3 James Geist - Donald Berman - Ronald Zucker - Michael Richey68.00

SUNDAY FLIGHT B/C/D SWISS

Stratum B, 31 Tables



- 1 Katherine Rabenstein - Susan Miskura - John S. Jr. Mason - Dennis Schwanz .93.00
- 2 John Glynn - Ronald Susi - Jeffrey Kosnett - Alice Wegman91.00
- 3/4 Kevin O'Brien - William Fitch - Lynda Flanger - William Nicolai88.00
- 3/4 Leonid Fastovsky - Donna Hjerpe - Stephen MacArthur - Hanita Schreiber88.00

- 5 Daniel Koch - Margie Coccodrilli - Jerry Miller - Hadi Abushakra87.00
- 6 David Grabiner - Suzanne Abrams - Tracy Brines - Maureen Duke86.00
- 7/9 Nelson Waks - Audrey Warren - Robert Claypool - Roma Chandra82.00
- 7/9 Thomas Reckford - Behnaz Fardshisheh - Theodore Wilkinson - Eugene Massey 82.00
- 7/9 Rochelle Cohen - Mark Cohen - Mark Lavine - Allen Ginsberg82.00

Stratum C, 19 Tables

- 1 Thomas Reckford - Behnaz Fardshisheh - Theodore Wilkinson - Eugene Massey82.00
- 2 Monica Shumann - Susan Slattery - Minako Komura - Kiyomi Shiba77.00
- 3/4 David Mead - Kathleen O'Toole - Lois Geer - Bryan Geer75.00
- 3/4 Albert Lauber - Ned Griffith - James Beller - Lawrence Heinen75.00
- 5/6 Gretchen Handwerger - Danijel Zenko - David Loken - Kathrine Loh69.00
- 5/6 Adam Winsler - Ronald Ozarka - Mary Ann Kral - Linda Burton69.00

Stratum D, 8 Tables

- 1 Adam Winsler - Ronald Ozarka - Mary Ann Kral - Linda Burton69.00
- 2 Eric Poskanzer - Youssof Seraj - Joe Hertz - Alexander Robertson68.00
- 3 Guillaume Dedecker - Michelle Zyguelbaum - Bernadette Merceron - Dale Sanders 66.00

SUNDAY MORNING NLM SWISS

Stratum A, 10 Tables



- 1 Bahman Shahin - Lynne Beresford - Eleanor Schwartz - Taraneh Shahin . .65.00
- 2 Gary Hinson - Bruce Kasold - Amanda Carter - Marco Latini62.00
- 3 Mavis Walters - Ellen Kelley - M. Josette Johnson - Patricia Mitchell43.00
- 4/5 Carol Elfant - Daniel Finn - Norman Sweed - Ronnie Sweed42.00
- 4/5 Sidney Graves - Jan Potter - Judith Heit - Betsy Summer42.00

Stratum B, 4 Tables

- 1 Mavis Walters - Ellen Kelley - M. Josette Johnson - Patricia Mitchell43.00

SUNDAY AFT NON-LM SWISS

Stratum A, 7 Tables

- 1 Carol Elfant - Daniel Finn - Norman Sweed - Ronnie Sweed48.00
 - 2 Isabelle Thabault - Kenn Pendleton - Joseph Pregosin - Alan Walter46.00
 - 3 Jim Anschutz - Patti Anschutz - Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgenweck45.00
- Stratum B, 4 Tables**
- 1 Isabelle Thabault - Kenn Pendleton - Joseph Pregosin - Alan Walter46.00

SAD NEWS

Maralea Armstrong "Kay" Nucker, 68, a Laurel homemaker and bridge player, died of cancer Jan. 3 at her son's home in Fulton, Md. She was a regular at the Laurel Bridge Club and played in national tournaments and in Canadian tournaments as well.

NEW BRIDGE CLASSES STARTING SOON!

Taught by Leslie Shafer & Charlie Williams

Even though our new Spring semester of bridge classes will have started by the time this goes to print, we will have some classes starting in April and May as well. To see our complete list of all 15 classes, please visit our website: www.bridgeteacher.com If you

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Prepare to play in the Summer Nationals!

Why not find a partner now and play with him/her to practice for the tournament? If you need a partner, just email me and I'll add your name to the partnership list.

Ellen Rosenthal, Partnership Chairperson
ellenandneal@gmail.com, 301-299-9298

WBL's 2ND ANNUAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT MAY 9, 2009

Calling all students! The **Washington Bridge League's 2nd Annual Youth Tournament** is planned for Saturday, May 9th at St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd. Potomac. Students will enjoy pizza & drinks along with meeting "bridge kids" from other schools. Students must be 19 or under to qualify with less than 5000 ACBL masterpoints (or equivalent) as of July 1, 2009.

Trophies and free plays to future WBL events will be awarded. Here's an opportunity to work on partnerships in preparation for the **Youth North American Bridge Championships**. This year's Youth NABC Tournament will be held in conjunction with the Summer NABC here in Washington, DC. from July 23 - August 2. For more information, go to www.youthnabc.org.

Start Time: **1:00 p.m.**

Entry Fee: **\$2.00**

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

Pre-registration: Please RSVP by May 1 if possible. However, we will also welcome you at the door.

Pre-registration: **Amy Bloom**, a.j.bloom@comcast.net, 301-949-3972

Chair: **Ellen Rosenthal**, nealandellen@cs.com, 301-299-9298

Volunteer Coordinator: **Elaine Conway**, el609way@verizon.net, 301-989-1155

Trophies: **Delores Battle**

do not have internet access, please call us (301-977-0314) and we will mail you a brochure. Many of our classes give you an option of dropping in for a specific class as opposed to paying for an entire course.

DEAR WBLERS:

Studemuffin and I recently returned from a two month stay in southwest Florida. We were bowled over by the congeniality of the bridge players in that area (Naples, Ft. Myers, etc.) Charlie made an overtrick in a doubled contract and not only did the opponent comment on Charlie's exemplary declarer play, but invited us to come back to the club soon and that he so enjoyed meeting us. This same extraordinary graciousness was repeated over and over. The southern states should not have a monopoly on courtesy. We all must take personal responsibility for our behavior at the table. The Summer NABC is fast approaching and we all need to be on our best behavior. Please take a few moments to reflect on how you might strive to have a more welcoming attitude to your opponents. Merely being polite may not be enough; we should act as hosts to our guests at the table. *Sincerely, Leslie Shafer*

THE WASHINGTON, D.C. SUMMER NABC IS COMING!

LOTS of volunteers are still needed to help make this NABC a success—stand by in May for sign-up information!. Watch for articles in *TableTALK* and the *ACBL Bulletin* and the next *WBL Bulletin* and *NVBA Newsletter*.

ONE DAY BRIDGE CLASS: MAY 17

You can share the fun and challenge of duplicate bridge with your friends and family! Tell them about our **One Day Bridge Class**, Sunday May 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Margaret Schweinhaut Center

SATURDAY 0-NLM GAME & MINI-LESSON

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

Mini-Lesson: Saturdays, 12:30 pm

0-NLM Game: 1:00 pm

Cost: \$6.00

Location: St. James Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road

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

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

Open Games: Sat.: 1pm, Mon & Fri: 11:15 am

Tue: 7pm (Tues. only at Rockville Senior Center—see www.rockvilledbc.com for directions.)

in Silver Spring (during the WBL sectional—details and directions on p.3). They can learn to play bridge, or review the basics of play and modern bidding, in just one day!

There will be separate classes for those who have never played, and for those who want to learn new techniques and improve their game. The "advanced" class will focus on declarer play and how to play various card combinations. Time will be set aside so students can ask about their tough bidding decisions.

The cost is just \$25 with a reservation or \$30 at the door. (\$10 discount for Students) A free booklet, lunch, soft drinks and snacks are included. For more information or to make a reservation, email ShStringer@aol.com or call Shawn Stringer at (301) 622-5619.

ATTENTION ALL MENTORS & MENTEES

Save the Date for a

Pot Luck Dinner

on **Friday May 29** at 7pm at Gene Fisher's

Details to follow by email to all registered mentors/mentees.



NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

Comments, questions, and topic requests are welcome (to Sandy at majslf@aol.com).

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

What's true in real estate is also true in bridge: location matters! That is, where your points are can be almost as important as how many points you have. As the auction proceeds and you learn more about what cards partner and the opponents are holding, your hand can change in value.

Fit or Misfit?

A) ♠3 ♥KJ95 ♦K643 ♣9653

How many points is this hand worth? Before the bidding begins, it's worth just seven points for your high cards. Not very exciting, right? But hang onto your hat: partner is bidding! Consider what happens to your hand with each of the following auctions:

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1) 1♥	P	?	
2) 1♠	P	?	

When partner opens 1♥, your hand starts to look much better! Now you can add three dummy points for the singleton spade. In Auction 1, you're happy to respond 3♥, showing a limit raise (10-12 points). But if pard opens 1♠ instead, as in Auction 2, your shortness is now a negative. You're too strong to pass so you bid INT, ignoring the voice inside your head screaming, "But, but...you have a singleton in partner's suit!"

B) ♠3 ♥KJ953 ♦K643 ♣965

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
3) 1♣	1♠	?	

In Auction 3, you and partner could have a heart fit, which would make your hand very attractive. But you don't know where the hearts are, so proceed with caution! Your

seven HCP aren't enough for you to bid hearts at the two-level, so you'll start with a negative double, showing four or more hearts and 6+ HCP. (The double says, "I would have bid hearts if that pesky opponent hadn't interfered.") Partner may not bid hearts, but with the other side bidding spades, at least you know pard won't bid your singleton!

Gotcha!

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
4) 1♦	1♥	?	
5) —	—	P	1♥
2♦	P	?	

Holding Hand B, you'd rather hear partner bidding hearts than the opponents...but if they're bidding your suit, *which opponent* is bidding hearts makes all the difference. With Auction 4, your broken heart honors *behind RHO's presumed honors* are a plus. If RHO has AQxxx in hearts, your K-J will score two tricks...as long as the lead comes through RHO into your hand. You might not go so far as to upgrade your count of the points in your hand, but you can bid INT with confidence. But don't get too excited: you're not going to be able to "run" this suit! Partner can't have enough hearts in his hand for you to repeatedly finesse RHO, so think of the suit as more of a stopper than a source of tricks.

With Auction 5, however, it's a different story. Now LHO is the one saying, "Gotcha!" If she has AQxxx, she can always capture your K-J by playing after you, and since she has at least five hearts, it's a good bet that she has one or both of the missing honors. You might even discount your heart honors entirely, since they may not take any tricks. But you do have a fit for partner's diamonds, so you can count three distribution points for the singleton spade, plus three points for your "working" honor, the king of diamonds, for a total of six points. Partner should have

at least five diamonds, giving you a nine-card fit, so raise to 3D.

Plays Well with Others

- C) ♠J73 ♥K862 ♦Q9 ♣KT54
D) ♠643 ♥KJ82 ♦75 ♣KQT9

High cards are worth more in long suits and when they're grouped together than in short suits and when they're spread throughout your hand. Hands C and D have the same distribution and exactly the same high cards, but do they have the same value? Nooo! In Hand C, the jack and the queen in your short suits are practically worthless unless partner has honors to back them up. And if the opponents are bidding spades or diamonds, then you *really* can't count those honors.

Hand C is worth about six points for the two kings. Once you've found a trump fit, I'd add a point for the doubleton diamond. But if you end up playing in notrump, you can't count points for shortness, only for length...and this hand has no long suit. If partner opens in notrump or opens and rebids diamonds, you can then presume that he has "something" in diamonds to go with your queen. In that case, you can count two points for the queen, but now you lose the point for shortness, bringing the count of this hand to eight. Maybe nine on a good day if partner has a strong notrump hand to bolster up your queen and jack.

But now let's look at Hand D. Do you see the difference? The honors are clustered together, and they're in the long suits. And look at the clubs: KQT9 is such a solid sequence, you could add an extra point for the T-9! Call it 10 points in notrump, and 11 if you find a trump fit. If you count your losers, you can see that Hand C has nine losers, while Hand D has only eight...and that's without counting that lovely T-9!

In general, honors behind the

opponent's suit are better than honors in front of the opponent's suit. Honors in your long suit (s) and in the suit that partner's bidding are more useful than honors in your short suit(s) and in the suits the opponents are bidding. Honors grouped together or in sequence are better than honors scattered throughout your hand. Fits are better than misfits! Of course you're happy for any high card, but when you're on the borderline between passing or bidding, it's good to take these pluses and minuses into account. Not all points are created equal!

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of April 1, 2009

Junior Masters

(5 Masterpoints)

Dorothy A Canter
Mrs Brenda Dunaway
Mrs Sandra C Getler
Mr Richard A Hart
Mr Michael Kuehl
Ms Evie Lichter
Mrs Daisy B Smith
Ms Bonnie R Cohen
Dr Sidney M Fogelman
Mrs Sylvia S Fogelman
Ms Stephanie Kay
Norman Mitchell
Sandy Mitchell
Mr Forest D Montgomery
Mr Richard J Moss
Mr Duane E Webster
Mrs Judith H Whiton

Club Masters (20 MP's)

Ms Julie G Connor
A. Carol Davis
Ms Sandy Lee
Maxine L Penn
Ms Rebecca Cardozo
Ms Barbara C Levine
Ms Susan M Morris

Mr William Morris
Elinor Stolar
Mrs Christa Storm
Ms Lena B Vargas
Ms Edna Warsow

Sectional Masters (50 MP's)

Henry Frain
Mr James Metzger
Mr Joseph R Pregonin
Mr James A Summers Jr
Richard C Barth
Elizabeth Colton
Mr Eugene A Massey
Patricia E Mitchell
Mr Douglas R Woods

Regional Masters (100 MP's)

Jim Anschutz
Dr Cynthia E Harrison
Mr Sidney Mintz
Mrs Linda Barton
Ms Carrolena M Key
Mr Marco Latini

NABC Masters (200 MP's)

Mr David S Epstein
Ms Helen E Long
Mr Mark Cohen
Mrs Beth E Wisinski

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

1) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ 2♥ 5♦ QJ8654♣ KQJ64

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	2NT*	Pass
?????		*11-12 balanced	

2) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 2♥ AQ5♦ K54♣ AQ10654

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

3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 10♥ 765♦ KJ10874♣ 1053

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

4) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ K♥ AQ♦ A976532♣ A85

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	2♥	1♣	Pass
?????		Pass 3♥	

5) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ J2♥ QJ♦ AKJ54♣ AKJ8

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
?????	1♠	Pass	Pass

Return answers by April 23 to:

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

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

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

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

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