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NABC
July 23-August 2
2009**

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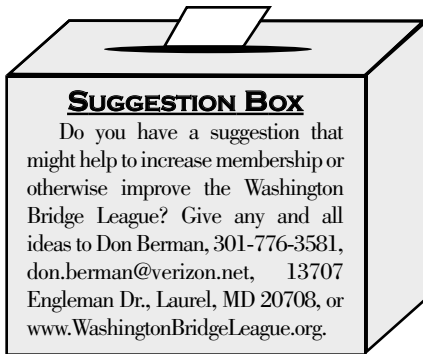
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WBL OMBUDSMAN
 Any player with helpful director issues including criticism or praise of the directing staff may contact the Ombudsman, Ann Lindley and be assured that the source of the information will remain confidential. Information should be provided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

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DEADLINE: AUGUST 10, 2009
 TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)
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Editor — Donna Rogall (301-421-9615), drogall@verizon.net
 I/N Columnist — Sandy Forsythe, majs1f@aol.com
 Columnists — Steve Robinson, Richard Colker, Don Berman, Chris Miller, Barry Bragin
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Don Berman, *President* — (301-776-3581), don.berman@verizon.net
 Richard Ferrin, *Vice President* — (202-265-0718), rferrin@hunton.com
 Fred King, *Treasurer* — (703-536-1914), fredmking@gmail.com
 Ellen Cherniavsky, *Secretary* — (301-649-1350), eachernia@yahoo.com

UNIT DIRECTORS
 Carole Banks — (301-622-0923), cy.banks@verizon.net
 James Geist — (301-675-6070), wwwjfg@yahoo.com
 Clyde Kruskal — (301-927-1023), kfam@bellatlantic.net
 Linda Marshall — (301-320-6057), ldajmarshall@msn.com
 Hank Meyer — (301-474-6677), hankmeyer@hotmail.com
 Ron Zucker — (202-986-2166), ron@motherzucker.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)

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Don Berman

Congratulations to **Steve Robinson** and **Peter Boyd** who won the **U.S. Team Championship**, Open division, and **Beth Palmer** who won the Women's division. They will represent the United States at the upcoming World Championships. (For a hand from Peter and Steve, see p. 21.)



One of the concerns of many of our members is the condition of the playing conditions both at Christ the King Church for our Unit Game and Friday's of our sectionals and the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center for our Sectionals on Saturday and Sunday. Our solution (if it is at all possible) is to find a location either through purchase or long term rental to house both the Unit Game and our Sectionals. To that end we have formed a committee to investigate the matter. We feel that this is a good time to look as prices are as low as they are going to be. We solicit your help. Do you know of a location that might be available? Please let us know. It must be located in the Rockville area or reasonable near the Beltway, it must have sufficient parking, and kitchen facilities.

To purchase or rent such a place we must

have adequate financing. While no decisions have been finalized as to the exact mechanism, it is likely that we will need members to step up and purchase shares in this endeavor. It would be an investment and you will own a percentage of the location. (More information can be found on p. 5.) Please contact me if you are willing to help.

In the meantime, it is important to keep up good relations at our current locations lest we lose them. At the church, please do not park in the spaces reserved for church personnel. At the senior center, please respect the facility by obeying their rules by not eating in restricted areas and keeping the place clean.

Once again, remember the upcoming **North American Bridge Championships**, July 23rd to August 2nd. The ACBL has negotiated parking down to \$15 per day so be sure to come and play. Volunteers are needed, please sign up and don't forget to sign up for tickets to the **Capitol Steps** on Saturday July 25th and **The Magic of Alain Nu** on Wednesday July 29th. See Barbara Doran to reserve tickets.

BITS AND PIECES

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Mr Joseph L Abita, Catherine M Dunn, Mr Ray Freeny, Mr Alexander N Gretsinger, Carole S Jones, Mrs Lucy G Moorhead, Mr Carl S Rappaport, Dr Can M Savasman, Mr J T Smith, Mr Ben J Stephenson, and Camille B Vermess.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Robert D Abbo, Mrs Sonny F Adelson, Mr Thomas W Conley, Mrs Denise B Gogarty, Ms Betti D Goodman, Mr Robert G Hartmann, Mr James E Kee, Ms Sue**

M Swift, Mr Cedric Wang, Ms Joanne B Wharton, Mrs Katherine D Winkler, and Mr Danijel Zenko.

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.

BRIDGE IN SCHOOLS NEWS

New faces are needed for **Bridge in Schools** this fall. Those interested should contact Elaine Conway (el609way@comcast.net) or Don Berman (don.berman@verizon.net). There

...continued on p. 4, column 1

SILVER SPRING, MD: OCT. 1-4, 2009

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs (unlim/1500/500)11:15am
Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine)
St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville, MD
- ♦ 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, Alexandria7:00pm
Christ the King Church, 2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring7:30pm
Capital Beltway to Connecticut Ave. South. Left on East-West Hwy. Right on Grubb Rd. 1st left on Colston. Church is on the left before the next intersection.

Friday—at Christ the King Church Only

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

- ♣ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500)10:00am
- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) Pairs ... 2:00pm
- ♠ **Ye New StrataFlighted Pairs** 7:30pm
A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500)
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm
(300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 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, OCTOBER 3

- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or 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**

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

- A/X Swiss Teams, VPs (unlim /5000, 7 round playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♦ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (2500/1000/500, 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@verizon.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



It's **Tricks and Treats** for all!

at the **79th Annual D.C. Championships**



Bits & Pieces, continued from p. 2...

will be an organizational meeting in early August for those interested in being involved.

**MAY 17TH
1-DAY BRIDGE CLASS**

Report from Shawn Stringer

We had a large and enthusiastic turnout for our May 17 bridge classes. In the

advanced class, there were 32 participants eager to learn the value of signalling to their partners. The students learned the importance of showing their attitude toward partner's opening lead. They reviewed various card combinations and discussed 1) whether they liked the lead (and why) and 2) how to tell partner whether or not to continue the suit. They also reviewed topics such as how

...continued on p.23, column 2

***** WILL THE REAL 2008 ACE OF CLUBS & MINI-MCKENNEY WINNERS PLEASE STAND? *****

Our last issue mistakenly printed the standings of the current 2009 races. Here are the final 2008 overall winners. Congratulations all!

ACE OF CLUBS WINNERS

0 to 5

James Metzger, Bethesda MD26.49

5 to 20

Betty Frain, Potomac MD31.09

20 to 50

Patti Anschutz, Chevy Chase MD ...40.54

50 to 100

Richard Wedgewood, Darnestown MD 50.71

100 to 200

Alfred Caponiti, Rockville MD80.50

200 to 300

Roger Laumark, Bethesda MD80.34

300 to 500

Robert Claypool, Silver Spring MD ...78.94

500 to 1000

Roma Chandra, Bethesda MD108.49

1000 to 2500

Steven Schatzow, Frankford DE ...167.91

2500 to 5000

Eileen Theimer, Germantown MD ...130.54

5000 to 7500

Leo LaSota, Olney MD119.95

7500 to 10,000

Barbara Shaw, Laurel MD91.81

Over 10,000

Eugene Kales Arlington VA146.41

MINI-MCKENNEY WINNERS

0 to 5

James Metzger, Bethesda MD45.80

5 to 20

Bernadette Merceron, Washington DC 62.28

20 to 50

Patti Anschutz, Chevy Chase MD ...87.16

50 to 100

Kay Miller, Washington DC138.93

100 to 200

Calvin Konner, Rockville MD149.60

200 to 300

Alfred Liepold, Bethesda MD138.67

300 to 500

Robert Claypool, Silver Spring MD .214.69

500 to 1000

Roma Chandra, Bethesda MD382.30

1000 to 2500

Barry Bragin, Silver Spring MD ...555.33

2500 to 5000

Lynn Jones, Timonium MD530.07

5000 to 7500

Leo LaSota, Laurel MD511.22

7500 to 10,000

Fred King, Falls Church VA791.79

Over 10,000

Steve Robinson, Arlington VA868.68

**HELP! IDEAS WANTED –
SEARCHING FOR A PERMANENT
WBL HOME**

The board has identified a search committee for a permanent location for the WBL to hold tournaments and games. With a decrease in property values, and favorable mortgage rates, there may be a chance for the Unit to purchase a bargain location with a suitable building or perhaps a suitable piece of land where we could build. While we are at the very early stages, we are excited about the possibilities, in what could be a long process. Our current goal is to create a club environment, with 12 to 13 games a week, run by local club managers, plus hold regular lessons in separate classrooms. We are under no pressure to vacate the Church or the Senior Center.

We have recently learned that the Bridge club in Charleston obtained charitable exempt status from IRS (and possibly at least 1 other club, as well). The Charleston Club has supplied us with their documents. Does anyone know of any other clubs with exempt status? If we could obtain tax exempt status, that would facilitate raising part of the money. But it would be more than a year from now before we knew if we could secure that status.

In addition, we are looking for member or other investors. Secured bonds at good rates might be available.

...continued on p.6

What you can do:

1. Locate a bargain piece of real estate, for purchase, or long term lease.
2. Suggest the location to any member of the committee, including Gene Fisher (genefi@comcast.net) or Jim Allen (allenx@comcast.net)
3. Let us know your ideas to help promote contributions, or investments by members.
4. We would also like to talk to a commercial mortgage broker, or local bank president, who would be sympathetic to our needs.
5. We also will need a real estate attorney or a leasing attorney.

With many eyes looking, we can probably cover most of the excellent locations.

The following defines our minimum needs.

1. 1½ to 2 acres of land — Or less, if we can locate very close to a shopping center, or other major allowable parking.
2. Lower Montgomery County location, from Rockville to points south, or close by
3. Facility where you would like to play bridge

4. We are also considering a long term lease; or perhaps it might be easier to find 2 locations, one for the regular club games, and the 2nd for the unit game and Sectionals.

Our thoughts are for a building with up to 6,000-7000 square feet , or one with extra space that could be rented for income. We will need bathrooms, a kitchen, parking and of course, a well lit playing and teaching areas.

We have spoken to people at the Board of Education and the County. While they were favorably impressed with our Bridge at Schools and other bridge teaching, there are no Montgomery County buildings available at this time.

The committee and the Board are willing to consider any bargain. However, it is realistic that retail space and multi-storied space without an elevator would not be affordable or useful. We do not require zoning, but we will need a traffic study for parking.

Please let the committee know who is selling or leasing, and how we contact them. Look for clues like construction sites that might be stalled because of the economy, or an existing site with a for sale sign. We are avoiding real estate agents at this time in order to keep the entire county available without commission.

Committee Members

Gene Fisher
Jim Allen
Mark Lavine
Jim Geist

Board Liaisons

Fred King and Don Berman

WBL SOLVERS' CLUB

Moderated by Steve Robinson
robinswr@erols.com

Congratulations to **Fred Gramlich** who came in first with a score of 490. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for second were **Chris Mooney** and **Rex Settle** with a score of 480. Tied for fourth were **Albert Lauber**, **Lloyd Rawley**, **Mark McEanearney**, **Natalie Aronsohn**, **Elgin Burrows** and **Michael Mayer** with a score of 470. Tied for tenth were Joe Lentz, Bryan MacPherson, **Richard Wimberly**, **Barbara Pohl**, **Curtis Bare** and **Jim Wade** with a score of 460. Tied for sixteenth were **Jim Allen**, **Al Duncker**, **Leon Letwin**, **John Flynn**, **William Hoho**, **Randall Holden**, **Jim Munday**, **Eric Beard**, **Edgar Bowers**, **Jon Siegel**, **Wrus Kristiansen** and **Chris Marks** with a score of 450. Tied for twenty-eighth were **Lyle Poe**, **Gerald Botkin**, **Jeffrey Caplan**, **Kieran Dyke**, **Hank Strauch**, **Johnny Petersson**, **Brad Theurer**, **Ted Verhagen**, **Ellen Cherniavsky**, **Leo LaSota**, **Tcholakov** and **Carl Gutschick** with a score of 440. The average score of the 241 solvers was 379. The average score of the experts was 462.

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, Both Vulnerable

♠ KQ♥ 543♦ 6543♣ AJ93

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
?????	1♦	1♠	Pass
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2♠	100	7	102
2♦	80	3	15
1NT	70	1	55
Pass	40	0	40
2♣	30	0	28
2NT	20	0	01

1NT, 2♦ and 2♠ have point count ranges. 1NT shows seven to a bad eleven HCP. 2♠ shows six to ten HCP and 2♦ shows at least ten HCP. However, 1NT shows a diamond stopper and both 2♠ and 2♦ suggest three or more spades. 2♣ suggests at least five clubs. Which white lie do you tell? The majority opinion is to raise spades. They think that the extra HCP will make up for the lack of the third spade. Suppose partner has ♠ AJxxx♥ AQJ10♦ xx♣xx. All 4♣ needs is for the opening bidder to have the

king of hearts and some luck. Add the 10 of spades, and 4♠ will make even if diamonds are 5-2. I don't think partner will make a game try if all you do is make a simple spade raise. ♠AJxxx♥xxx♦AQ♣Kxx makes 3NT most of the time. You would cue bid with ♠Jxx♥Kxx♦Kxx♣KJxx but isn't the problem hand better? ♠KQ♥K43♦5432♣Q432 is a ten-count but would be only worth a 2♠ raise.

Two experts agree with me and cue bid.

Hopkins: "2♦ — I usually say I had a Club mixed in with my Diamonds. Partner is not precluded from bidding notrump if he has Diamond cards and wants to move towards game."

Schwartz: "2♦ — Close between 2♦ and 2♠. Normally with 10 HCP, doubleton support and no stopper I would raise to 2♠ figuring that my lack of a third trump compensates for the extra HCP, but in this case having a double doubleton honor its just too good a hand to just raise to 2♠."

The KQ of trumps is a very strong holding and is worth more than if the KQ were in hearts or split between two suits.

Seven experts bid 2♠. There are ten points and there are ten extremely good points.

Parker: "2♠ — I have one fewer spade than promised but some extra points. If partner makes a game try I will accept."

Cappelletti: "2♠ — Best all around bid in an imperfect situation."

Woolsey: "2♠ — One should never raise a one-level overcall on a doubleton. But one should never say never. Therefore, 2♠ is best."

This is a very true statement. In bridge you should never say never or always. There are exceptions to every rule. There's even an exception to — you always double 7NT on lead holding an ace. If you're not going to lead the ace then don't double.

Landen: "2♠ — If I had a third spade I'd cue 2♦, but without it, 2♠ is enough. Passing should earn a zero."

Adams: "2♠ — My spades are too good to be facing a four card overcall. My losing trick count is right for a single raise, and unless partner is a habitual law violator, this

should get them to the two-level whenever partner has five spades."

If you base your bidding on the possibility that partner has taken a strange action such as overcalling on a four-card suit, you will miss many good contracts.

Nachtwey: "2♠ — I have a hand that would be a very good dummy for partner if I had a third spade. Since I don't it's right to soft-pedal a little. Partner will strain to make a game try, vulnerable at IMPs. If partner is worth a game try, I'll happily accept with 3NT if his try is 2NT. It's also right to get partner off to a spade lead if we end up on defense."

Roman: "2♠ — Second choice, 2♦. 1NT is out."

One expert tries the third possibility. I've seen 3NT make when the opening leader believes his RHO when his partner has the missing diamond honors. I've also seen them run the first five tricks against 3NT.

Negulescu: "1NT — East did not double, so he does not have a lot of hearts and did not raise diamonds, so 1NT seems to be safe."

Three honor cards are worth a cue bid.

2) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠A54♥KQ95♦6♣AQ965

	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	?????			2♠
	<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
	3♣	100	6	86
	2NT	80	2	29
	Pass	80	2	20
	Dbl	60	1	96
	3♠	20	0	7
	4♣	20	0	1
	4♠	20	0	1
	3NT	20	0	1

You have a perfect takeout double of 2♦ but they opened 2♠. Do you double and crawl under the table if partner bids diamonds or do you make some other imperfect bid?

The following expert does a good job of analyzing this hand. However, he did not consider partner holding ♠Kxx♥Jx♣QJ109x♣Kxx or

♠xxx♥Ax♦Jxxxx♣KJx where you're cold for 3NT or partner holding ♠xxx♥J109xxx♦Ax♣Kx or ♠xx♥J109xxx♦xxx♣Kx, where you're cold for 4♥. Partner will not even think about balancing over 2♠ with any of these hands.

Adams: "Pass — Wrote the six bids that approximate this hand. Like rolling a six-sided die. Pass wins over mis-guesses, wins when no bid works, and wins when all bids work because partner has enough to bid.

I could bid 3♠ Michaels, which shows five hearts and a five-card minor. Decent one bid description of my hand, but do not want to play 5♥.

I could bid 2NT, which is a strong notrump. Gets notrump possibly played from the wrong side. 2NT has lots of flaws including poor diamonds and spades.

I could double for takeout. Fine, until spades are raised on a doubleton and partner competes to 4♦.

I could bid 3♣ - Wimpish, but safest call.

I could even bid 3♥. Heck, if I can bid Hearts forcing to four-level with Michaels, why not 3♥?

I could even pass. Maybe partner can balance, if not, maybe defending is OK."

Negulescu: "Pass — Expecting to write at least 100 on my side. I do not double, because I might have to look for another partner if the current one bids 3♦. I do not bid 3♣, because that will hide for good the possible heart fit. If partner has points and hearts, he will double and we will play in 4♥. If you switched the clubs with the diamonds, I would double, planning to bid 3♦ over partner's 3♣."

Five experts agree with me and bid their longest suit. How can it be wrong to bid your longest suit?

Parker: "3♣ — If he has a fit with Clubs he will bid cue 3♠ so we can get to 3NT. I play 3♥ as forcing by partner so if he has a five-card suit and a good hand he can introduce hearts. If they double me I will run to 3♥. We will miss a 4-4 heart fit but should not have a disaster if I double and he bids 3♦ with a bad hand."

Cappelletti: "3♣ — Not strong enough for

ULC (unequal level conversion)."

Hopkins: "3♣ — This is very tough. When partner is not strong, we could languish in our 5-2 Club fit when we belong in an 8+ card Heart fit. Doubling will pick up the Heart fit, but put us in an impossible position if partner bids Diamonds (particularly after employing Lebensohl)."

Landen: "3♣ — An honest overcall rather than anti-positional 2NT or a takeout double with a singleton in one of the unbid suits. Obviously, I'd prefer a longer suit to bid."

Nachtwey: "3♣ — This is a hand that might be very good and might be very bad. But I think it's a little too good to pass, it will be almost impossible to convince partner that you have 3 1/2 quick tricks in primes and 15 HCP if you pass at this turn. Double is attractive if partner has four hearts, but leaves you in an impossible position if, as is likely, he responds 3♦. If we have a game, partner is likely to have enough to move over 3♣."

Two experts bid 2NT. 2NT is right on points but soft on spade stoppers and diamond support.

Woolsey: "2NT — About right on value, and keeps the most likely games alive. If I bid 3♣ hearts won't be in the picture, and if I make a takeout double diamonds will be in the picture too much."

Schwartz: "2NT — About right on values and leaves open the possibility of getting to hearts. Partner is unlikely to insist in diamonds. Only other possibility is to pass as game is not that likely if partner is unable to balance."

Roman: "Double — I will bid 3♠ over 3♦, and if partner two-steps his way to 3♦ (after a Lebensohl 2NT - 3♣) I will <gulp> bid 3♥ and hope for the best."

When in doubt but your longest suit.

3) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠Q1098764♥32♦XY♣32

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	Pass	1♦	4♥
	?????		

What is the lowest value of XY where you would bid 4♠? Choose AK, AQ, AJ A2, KQ, KJ, K2, QJ, Q2, J2 or 32.

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
32	100	7	57
A2	80	2	21
K2	70	2	54
KJ	50	0	11
AQ	50	0	33
Q2	50	0	15
KQ	50	0	21
QJ	50	0	7
AK	50	0	15
AJ	50	0	7

If I had ♠ Q1098764♥ 32♦ AK♣ 32, I would definitely bid 4♠ and would be happy. If partner bid on I would have my bid. If I had ♠ Q1098764♥ 32♦ 32♣ 32, I might bid 4♠ but would be unhappy, especially if partner bid on. The problem with bidding 4♠ holding ♠ Q1098764♥ 32♦ 32♣ 32, is that if there is further bidding you will not be well placed. If they bid 5♥ and partner doubles, you'll have no idea what to do. If partner has ♠ AKx♥ xx♦ KQJxx♣ AQx, he'll bid over 4♠ and you'll end up in 5♣ down one. While I'd like to bid 4♠ with ♠ Q1098764♥ 32♦ 32♣ 32, I think discretion is the better part of valor. If you have ♠ Q1098764♥ 32♦ A2♣ 32, and the opponents bid 5♥ and partner doubles you'll have one defensive trick. There's another way of thinking about this hand. If your RHO opened 2♥, would you dare bid 2♠?

Three experts agree with me and at least have something outside their suit.

Parker: "A2—To bid 4♠ as an unpassed hand partner should expect something. At least an Ace helps if he bids on. With less I pass and hope he reopens with a double so I can bid 4♠."

Landen: "K2—Two way shot, so I don't need much when vulnerability is favorable. Even -800 might only lose a few IMPs."

Roman: "K2—I'm an unpassed hand, and bidding 4♠ with NO first or second round controls is just too much. As it is, I hope partner has a sense of humor."

Seven experts hope that partner doesn't get carried away. 4♠ would work if partner were barred.

Cappelletti: "32—Completely clear at this vulnerability. A classic two-way action."

Hopkins: "32—I actually would bid with either the very strong Diamond holdings

(AK, AQ) or all the weak ones (QJ, Q2, J2, 32). With the former, I am hoping to make 4♠ as partner rates to have some black suit primes. With the latter, I am hoping 4♥ makes and my result in 4♠ is less than the value of their game. With the intermediate holdings, I would look at the state of the match, use any knowledge as to whether the 4♥ bidder is conservative or crazy, etc. to make a choice."

Woolsey: "32—Didn't East make a transfer bid? At this vulnerability, accepting the transfer is automatic."

Schwartz: "32—Hard to answer this type of question as I would pass with a better diamond holding of Qx due to the better defensive potential without more offense."

Partner should give a lot of leeway at this vulnerability."

Negulescu: "32—This is the knee-jerk reaction. I do not expect to make 4♠, but I expect them to make 4♥. If the question were — 'what is the highest value of XY where you would bid 4♠', the answer would require more thought. AK is too much. I hope they will go down in 4♥, and I still do not expect to make 4♠. Same AQ and KQ."

Adams: "32—What do points have to do with it?"

Nachtwey: "32—I'm white on red at IMPs, here. Partner is most unlikely to have enough to beat 4♥; if he is, he might have the little bit more to give me play in 4♠. 4♠ won't be too expensive, in any case. And if I bid 4♠ confidently, they will often bid 5♥."

When you have nothing and bid, only bad things can happen.

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ J876♥ 543♦ K876♣ 32

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♥*	Pass	1♥	Dbl
????	*4-6 HCP	3♣	Dbl
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♦	100	5	39
3♥	90	5	123
Pass	70	1	57
4♥	30	0	10
3NT	20	0	6
3♠	20	0	3
Rdbl	20	0	3

Partner has bid a new suit opposite a four to six raise. If the opponents were not in the auction 3♣ would be a game try. In competition, 3♣ is a two-way bid. It could be a second suit telling you that if we have a two-suited fit, you should keep on bidding. ♠ x♥ AKxxx♦ xx♣ AJxxx for instance. If you held ♠ xx♥ Qxx♦ xxx♣ Kxxxx, 4♥ would be cold and you would want to bid on if the opponents bid 4♠.. If you're 5-5 or better, you always have a hand worth a game try. You would want to be in game if partner has all of his strength in your two suits. It could also be a game try with five spades and four clubs. If partner has ♠ x♥ AKxxx♦ AQx♣ Axxx, 4♥ has play. It has to be a stronger than normal game try since the raise was only 4-6.

If you held ♠ xxxx♥ QJx♦ xxxx♣ Kx or ♠ xx♥ Qxx♦ xxx♣ Kxxxx you would have a clear 4♥. If you had ♠ Qxx♥ xxx♦ JQxx♣ xxx, you would have a clear rejection. None of your cards figure to help partner and you have the worst possible club holding. Here, you have a King and a doubleton club, both of which could be valuable. Bidding 3♦ says that your hand could have some value. 3♦ is an example of the Last Train. Four experts agree with me and make a return game try.

Negulescu: "3♦ —Passing will make the partner believe that I have some tolerance for playing Clubs."

Adams: "3♦ —Costs me nothing to show my one card."

Nachtwey: "3♦ —Within the constraints of what I've already shown, I have a good hand. But with two small clubs, which is better than three small but still problematic help, and bad hearts, I don't have enough to just bid a game. Partner will look at the fact that I have a diamond card and bid a game if that helps his hand, and sign off if it doesn't."

Parker: "3♦ —Bidding the lowest suit over a game try does not accept but shows some interest, that is what I have."

Five experts sign off. They don't want to encourage partner.

Hopkins: "3♥ —Just what I need: all my points in their suits, minimum trump length, and a relatively balanced hand. I am out of

this auction ASAP. I play taking up all the room to reject in invitational auctions shows the weakest hand."

Woolsey: "3♥ —Weakest action for weakest possible hand. Anything else would show some kind of encouragement."

Schwartz: "3♥ —Have minimum in values, nothing in partner's suits and defense in theirs. Do I want to encourage partner?"

Landen: "3♥ —Nothing in either of partner's suits and clubs likely to be overruffed."

Roman: "3♥ —My preferred agreement in situations like this is that bidding the level we are forced to, in our agreed trump suit, is the weakest call I can make, and this awful hand deserves just that."

I could think that the following call says that you would want to play in 3♣ doubled. I wonder if it went Pass to partner, would he play 3♣ doubled?

Cappelletti: "Pass—Or whatever bid shows worst hand (2nd suit XX would show better clubs & an honor)."

Last Train can occur in many auctions.

5) Matchpoints, Both Vulnerable

♠ J93♥ Q42♦ A3♣ 109872

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♦
????			Pass
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♣	100	6	81
3♥	80	3	40
Pass	70	2	35
3NT	70	0	72
4♦	20	0	12
5♣	20	0	01

Partner has made a balancing takeout double and you do not have a four-card major to bid. Unless you bid a three-card major, and you know what I think about bidding three-card majors when there is an alternative, partner is going to be disappointed. The second problem is that you're supposed to subtract a king when responding to a balancing bid and you hardly have any assets to begin with. If this were IMPs, I would bid 3NT. If you're going to gamble, why not make the bid that has the most to gain when it is right.

Three experts violate my — don't bid a three-card major if there's a reasonable alternative— rule. I can see partner holding ♠ AKxx♥ Kxx♦ xx♣ AJxx. 4♣ is a reasonable contract, 3NT makes if the cards are very well placed for you and you're playing in a 3-3 fit with no play. If you held ♠ xxx♥ AKx♦ xxxx♣ xxx, a case could be made for bidding 3♥.

Parker: "3♥—I hate this bid but partner will have a major and I can ruff the third round of diamonds in my hand. Bidding 4♣ risks hitting a possible miss fit and 3NT is sick."

Cappelletti: "3♥—Against most opponents. I might play poker and pass against some very active players."

Negulescu: "3♥—If partner is strong with hearts, I will play 4♥ with a 4-3 fit (which is more palatable than 3NT with Ax the only stopper). If partner is strong with spades, he will bid 3♠ and I will bid 4♠."

Five experts agree with me and bid their longest suit.

Woolsey: "4♣—Bidding your longest suit in response to a takeout double is usually right. We might even belong in 5♣. If partner has a five-card major, it is up to him to bid it now. I don't think I'm quite good enough to try 3NT, although it could well be right."

Schwartz: "4♣—Partner can bid 4♦ with interest in playing in a major. A vulnerable East could have an outside entry to

scuttle 3NT."

Landen: "4♣—3NT might be right, but partner needs a monster. I'm happy to have a five-card suit to bid."

Adams: "4♣—Seems normal."

Roman: "4♣—All other bids get zero."

At matchpoints, passing the double could be right. If any bid you make will result in -200 or worse then you don't have anything to lose by passing the double.

Hopkins: "Pass—This is a matchpoints. Pass, hoping for the +200 when we don't have a game. I hope my Major suit cards are enough help for partner that we can get three or four tricks there along with a Diamond and possibly a Club."

Nachtwey: "Pass—Yuck! If partner has a five-card major or four-card club support, there is probably a place to get a plus score as the declaring side, since we certainly have 22 or more HCP. But I have to guess what to bid to get the plus score; we could end in a bad 4-3 or even a 3-3 if I pick a major, or at the four-level in a 5-2 if I pick 4♣. I have a trick and a bit on defense; it looks like our most likely plus score at this point is +200 against 3♦ doubled. If 3♦ makes, we might well have been headed for a bad board at -200 or -300 anyway. And it's matchpoints, so it's only one board if I'm wrong."

Don't bid three-card majors if there is any alternative.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	2♠	Pass	32	3♦	4♣	480
Mike Cappelletti	2♠	3♣	32	Pass	3♥	450
Robbie Hopkins	2♦	3♣	32	3♥	Pass	440
Steve Landen	2♠	3♣	K2	3♥	4♣	460
Millard Nachtwey	2♠	3♣	32	3♦	Pass	470
Sorina Negulescu	1NT	Pass	32	3♦	3♥	430
Steve Parker	2♠	3♣	A2	3♦	3♥	460
Steve Robinson	2♦	3♣	A2	3♦	4♣	460
Jeff Roman	2♠	Dbl	K2	3♥	4♣	420
Alan Schwartz	2♦	2NT	32	3♥	4♣	450
Kit Woolsey	2♠	2NT	32	3♥	4♣	470

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

This list is up to date through June 4. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

- 1 124.37 Leo LaSota
- 2 91.35 Steve Robinson
- 3 76.20 Mark Shaw
- 4 74.89 Clyde Kruskal
- 5 73.74 John Adams
- 6 66.96 Donna Rogall
- 7 63.71 William Hacker
- 8 60.34 Peter Boyd
- 9 59.56 David Ruderman
- 10 53.52 Arnie Frankel
- 11 51.87 Earl Glickstein
- 12 50.82 Barry Bragin
- 13 49.03 Linda Marshall
- 14 48.52 Eugene Fisher
- 15 47.57 Lou Reich
- 16 44.65 Barry Falgout
- 17 40.11 Robert Bell
- 18 39.86 Brad Theurer
- 19 38.78 Richard Wegman
- 20 37.17 Mark Rosen
- 21 34.73 William Cole
- 22 34.63 Glenn Lublin
- 23 34.56 Eugene Kales
- 24 34.31 James Geist
- 25 33.02 Martin Graf

Izzy Cohen

- 1 49.03 Linda Marshall
- 2 48.52 Eugene Fisher
- 3 37.17 Mark Rosen
- 4 31.15 Ronald Zucker
- 5 29.27 Arun Guha
- 6 26.48 Alfred Caponiti
- 7 25.57 Michael Gill
- 8 23.68 Margie Coccodrilli
- 9 20.10 Lloyd Rawley
- 10 18.61 Roger Laumark
- 11 18.43 Behnaz Fardshisheh
- 12 18.13 Thomas Reckford
- 13 17.80 James Metzger
- 14 17.73 Edmund Gehan
- 15 17.71 Daniel Koch

Tubbs

- 1 29.27 Arun Guha
- 2 26.48 Alfred Caponiti
- 3 18.61 Roger Laumark
- 4 17.80 James Metzger
- 5 17.73 Edmund Gehan
- 6 17.10 Ernie Schuler
- 7 16.67 Joseph Pregosin
- 8 16.56 Mark Cohen
- 9 16.40 Namik Haveric
- 10 16.40 Mirsad Mujezinovic

Woolridge

- 1 10.83 Julie Connor
- 2 8.97 Martha Stout
- 3 7.98 Larry Wallace
- 4 7.42 Elinor Stolar
- 5 5.85 A. Carol Davis
- 6 5.62 Maxine Penn
- 7 5.16 Mark Conheady
- 8 4.93 Forest Montgomery
- 9 3.80 Mark Eisenstadt
- 10 3.80 Gabriel Cornett

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.

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~ ♣ ♦ SCHEDULE ♥ ♠ ~

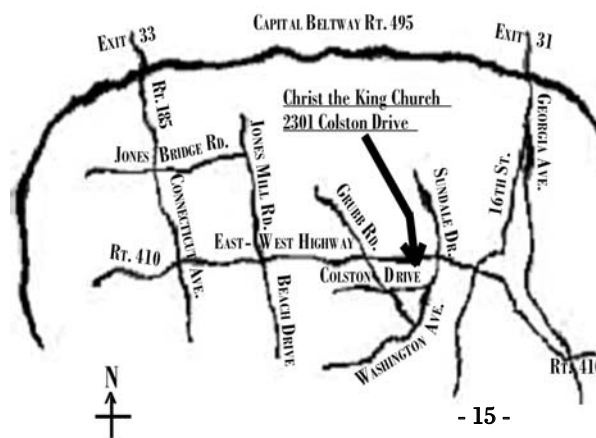
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- 07/23/2009Closed DC NABC
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- 08/13/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/20/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/27/2009StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 09/03/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/10/2009NVBA Sectional
- 09/17/2009StrataFlighted Club Championship
- 09/24/2009Stratified STaC Pairs
- 10/01/2009WBL Sectional
- 10/08/2009StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 10/15/2009StrataFlighted Appreciation Pairs
- 10/22/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 10/29/2009StrataFlighted App A/X **BAM**, B/C/D **Swiss**
- 11/05/2009StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 11/12/2009NVBA Sectional
- 11/19/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 11/26/2009Closed Thanksgiving
- 12/03/2009StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 12/10/2009StrataFlighted Unit Championship

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:

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MAP TO CHRIST THE KING CHURCH



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

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

To find a partner at least a day in advance, contact **Barbara Doran** 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

UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION

Many contentious rulings at the bridge table revolve around the concept of *Unauthorized Information* (UI). In this article, I shall explain what UI is, your responsibilities when you have it, and what to expect if a director is called.

What is Unauthorized Information?

UI is virtually *any* information about a hand that comes from a source other than the bids and plays made at the table, or information provided by the opponents about their agreements, methods, etc. Some of the most common sources of UI in everyday play are:

- Tempo (unduly slow or fast action)
- Facial expressions and body language
- Explanations and misexplanations of your actions
- Alerts and failures to alert
- Questions asked of the opponents by your side

The First Commandment

... in any UI situation is to **avoid conflict**. Players can be very vehement if they think either that their opponents are taking unfair advantage of them or that

...continued on p. 18, column 1

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

♣	♦
<u>September 10-13, 2009</u>	<u>January 7-10, 2010</u>
Fairfax, VA	Silver Spring, MD
♦	♥
<u>October 1-4, 2009</u>	<u>February 25-28, 2010</u>
Silver Spring, MD	Fairfax, VA
♥	♠
<u>November 12-15, 2009</u>	<u>March 25-28, 2010</u>
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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,

COMMITTEE ACTION #64

by *Rich Colker*, rcolker@mail.com

In the last article, I discussed an appeal that arose at the NABC in Las Vegas last July in which both the Directors and Committee forgot that tempo must be judged with respect to the specific demands the auction places on the players involved. The case below arose at that same NABC, this time in the second qualifying session of the NABC+ Fast Open Pairs. See if you can figure out why reading this one while eating my dinner (a great rib eye) nearly gave me indigestion.

Bd: 21; Vul: N/S; Dlr: North

North

♠ 10532
♥ 964
♦ AQ6
♣ Q87

West

♠ K64
♥ 3
♦ J10942
♣ J1094

East

♠ AJ7
♥ AJ875
♦ 83
♣ A52

South

♠ Q98
♥ KQ102
♦ K75
♣ K63

West

INT(1)
Pass

North

Pass
2♠

East

1♥
Pass
Dbl

South

Pass
Dbl
All Pass

(1) Agreed as forcing; not Announced

The Director was called prior to the opening lead just as East started to inform his opponents of his partner's failure to Announce INT as forcing. The Director instructed the table to play the deal. (The table result was not included in the written report. Why not?) South told the Director

that if he'd known INT was forcing he would not have balanced. The Director determined that there was MI (misinformation) from the failure to Announce in a timely fashion. In accordance with Laws 75 and 12C2, the table result was changed to INT by West down two, -100 for E/W.

E/W appealed the Directors' ruling; all four players attended the hearing. E/W told the Committee that the difference between a forcing and a non-forcing INT seemed so slight that the MI should not have affected the other side.

The Committee believed that doubling INT was a hairline decision; one might double on some days and not on others. That the INT bid could have been made with a stronger hand was, therefore, relevant, pushing the tight decision a little bit in the direction that would be favorable for E/W. Thus, the Committee judged that the MI damaged N/S. The next question was whether N/S's poor result was due directly to the MI or to North's decision to bid rather than pass the double. While many of us would pass without pause, the Committee learned that both North and South thought the double was takeout of hearts—and not penalty. Given N/S's experience level and the fact that they appeared to be on the same (albeit unusual) wavelength, the Committee judged that the damage was consequent and not subsequent. Therefore, the contract was reverted to INT by West.

The number of tricks E/W would take in INT was difficult to decide: Deep Finesse calculated and the Director judged five. Some lines of play will lead to four tricks but whether any of those lines are Law 12C2 "at all probable" is another matter. Because this was a NABC+ Fast Open Pairs, the Committee

...continued on p. 18, column 2

UI, continued from p. 16...

they are themselves being accused of cheating; in such situations *both* sides may feel victimized, creating an explosive atmosphere at the table.

You can act in all good faith and still be ruled against with no imputation that you are a cheat or a liar. Conversely, your opponents may unwittingly take an action that appears to you to be a flagrant misuse of UI: it is highly inappropriate to challenge their ethics.

What should you do if you have UI from your partner?

The usual over-simple advice is “do what you would have done without the UI”; in other words act as if totally blind and deaf to the UI. That is indeed the right thing to do often, but not always. Instead, you need to dance a difficult doublethink two-step along the following lines:

- What is the UI really telling me?
- Does that clearly suggest that some actions are more likely to succeed than others?
- Might some players of my level, following my current agreements, take other actions in the absence of this UI? (In Laws jargon: Are those actions Logical Alternatives?)

If you decide that the UI suggests some Logical Alternatives over others, then you must not choose one of those LAs *even if you are 100% sure that you would always have taken that action without UI.*

Much of the time, those steps are too hard for us ordinary mortals to follow reliably, but you should at least give them consideration.

Recognize that directors or an appeal committee may judge these complex issues differently than you do, and treat rulings with due respect and good grace, whether or not you agree.

Committee Action 64, continued from p. 17...

decided not to try to guess at the result and concurred with the Director's adjustment of down two -100 for E/W. Because the bridge judgment was very close, E/W were not assessed an appeal without merit warning.

Well, have you spotted the source of near indigestion? Decide what you think about this decision before reading on.

Okay, here is my thinking. While a forcing INT can, in some cases, be made with a slightly stronger hand than a non-forcing INT, the cases where responder can be stronger include mostly relatively balanced hands or marginal unbalanced hands containing a suit too weak for a two-over-one response and rebid of the suit. Against that it must be noted that after opening in second seat East passed a forcing INT response. When would a player do that? The answer, of course, is when he holds a hand that's balanced and a dead minimum opener, perhaps something like ♠ Qxx ♥ AJxxx ♦ QJ ♣ Qxx. With a hand like that, even opposite an extra-strength INT you really don't want to get any higher.

My point is that even though West could have a bit more for his forcing INT than he might have if INT had been non-forcing, East has announced a minimum (or even sub-minimum) opening. The net effect of all this is that the opponents' combined assets will tend to be on the low end of whatever you might expect. Note, on the actual deal, even though East showed up with a good 14 HCP (who'd a thunk it?) the opponents' combined assets were less than half the deck. If East had really held the dog his pass promised, N/S would have had a combined 23-24 HCP.

So balance or don't balance as South, the failure to Announce has nothing to do with your choice. You pays your money and you takes your chances. Just don't call the cops to bail you out if your decision ends up not working out the way you'd like. The table result (whatever it was) stands.

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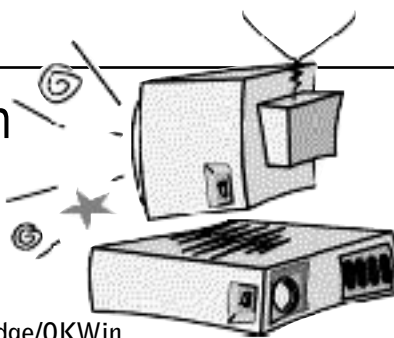
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**ROBINSON & BOYD TO
REPRESENT THE U.S. AT
THE BERMUDA BOWL**



back: Adam Wildavsky, Peter Boyd, Doug Doub
front: Fred Stewart, Steve Robinson, Kit Woolsey

Congratulations to local experts, **Steve Robinson** and **Peter Boyd**, whose team won the right to represent the U.S. at the upcoming August 2009 **Bermuda Bowl** (World Bridge Championship) in Brazil. They won nine days straight at the **USBF** (United States Bridge Federation) **Open Trials** to secure the position of USA1. When asked for an interesting hand to relate, they each independently chose board 35 from their round of 8 match vs. Rogoff.

Bd: 35; **Dealer:** South; **Vul:** E-W

North
♠ AK5
♥ 85
♦ AQJ76
♣ J74

West: Boyd
♠ 3
♥ K974
♦ T93
♣ AKQ52

East: Robinson
♠ ?
♥ ? J ?
♦ ?
♣ T6

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
3♠	Dbl	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You (Peter) lead the ♣ Q (zero or two higher). You win, play the ♣ K (suit preference for diamonds) and then play the ♣ A. On the first two tricks, partner (Steve) plays the ♣ 6 and then the ♣ T — low - high (upside down count), then discards something on the third high Club. What should his various signals mean, and what should you play to trick four, depending on the signal?? In this case, Steve discards the ♥ J. What do you play next?

What should third hand's signals mean? From Peter's perspective, this is a case of using bridge logic and trusting partner. To simplify the defense, partner should ruff the third club and play hearts with many holdings. With the ♥ A, he should ruff the third club and cash it. Without the ♥ A and only small spades, he should ruff the third club to play a heart through. So, we can assume Declarer has the ♥ A. If Declarer has a stiff diamond along with ♥ Ax, he has a two-way guess in diamonds, which we can't do much about (except possibly mislead him in signalling.) Possibly a discour-

aging diamond should summon the 4th round of clubs, on the negative inference of the failure to ruff and cash the Heart Ace or play a Heart through. (Ask yourself, "Why did partner leave me on lead?"), but the ♥ J, which is an "alarm clock" signal makes it all very clear. Peter played a 4th round of clubs, and Steve's ♠ Qx was promoted to the setting trick.

Steve has another interesting perspective. The object of the East hand is to make a signal that would get partner to play a fourth round of clubs to promote the ♠ Q. On page 289 of his book, *Washington Standard*, Steve explains that there are times when you have to lead an honor to give partner a ruff and you could have either (1) AQJxx or (2) AJTxx. If you lead the jack, is it low from (1) or high from (2)? Eddie Manfield suggested that the queen and ten are high cards and the jack and nine are low cards.

A few tournaments back, a similar situation came up where Steve needed to tell partner to make an unusual lead. Using this logic, he suggested that they could signal with honors using the same logic. Therefore, when he discarded the ♥ J, he signalled partner to lead the low suit which was clubs. Peter led a fourth club and they beat the contract.

At the other table of their match, only two rounds of clubs were played for some reason, so Declarer took 11 easy tricks.

Here's the full deal:

North
♠ AK5
♥ 85
♦ AQJ76
♣ J74

<u>Peter Boyd</u>	<u>Steve Robinson</u>
♠ 3	♠ Q4
♥ K974	♥ QJT63
♦ T93	♦ 8542
♣ AKQ52	♣ T6

South
♠ JT98762
♥ A2
♦ K
♣ 983

THE GADGET-MATIST

by Barry Bragin, bbragin@comcast.net

“Grandpa, Lebensohl over 1NT and weak two’s is so *yesterday*. Can’t you tell us of other, more recent uses for a non-natural 2NT in competitive auctions?”

“Well kids, in 1985 Marty Bergen introduced the concept of Good-Bad 2NT in his book, *Better Bidding with Bergen*. Since then, many authors, including Larry Cohen in his 2002 book, *To Bid or Not to Bid – The Law of Total Tricks*, have promoted this gadget and given it further definition. Just as with Lebensohl, the idea is to distinguish between a hand that just wants to compete at the 3-level from one that wants to show extra values. The difference is that this time the auction began with a suit bid at the 1-level and both opponents are in the auction. By giving up the natural, invitational use of 2NT which rarely, if ever, comes up, you can give better definition to your 3-level bids.”

GOOD – BAD 2NT

The first step in using GB2NT is deciding when it applies. Well established pairs can and should discuss all the variations. But even casual partnerships can make use of this powerful tool by following two simple rules: GB2NT is ‘on’ if:

Both opponents are in the auction.
RHO just bid at the 2-level.

GB2NT can be used by either the opener or responder. Let’s look at a few examples. You are the dealer and the auction proceeds:

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1♦	1♠	X	2♠
?			

What do you bid with the following hands?

xx/KQxx/Axxx/Ax
xx/Kx/AJTxxx/Axx
x/Qx/AJTxx/AQxxx

x/KQxx/AQxx/AJxx
xx/Kx/AKJxxx/KQx
x/Jx/AKJxx/AQJxx

With the first three hands you have a minimum opener but would like to bid 3♥, 3♦, or 3♣ to compete for the part score. With the other three hands, you want to make the same bids but this time invite partner to bid on if she has extras. This is a perfect application for GB2NT. With the weaker, competitive-only hands you start with 2NT (Alert!), partner bids 3♣ (if she can stand a pass by you), and you bid 3♥, 3♦, or pass. With the better hands you bid directly on the 3-level and partner knows to go on unless she has a minimum.

Opener can use GB2NT even when partner isn’t in the auction. If the bidding has started

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1♥	1♠	P	2♠

You can distinguish between xxx/AJTxxx/AKx/x and xx/AKJxxx/AKx/x or x/Axxx/AKJxx/xx and x/AKJxx/AKJxx/xx by bidding 2NT with the weaker hands and a direct 3♥ or 3♦ with the stronger.

Though less frequent, GB2NT can be used by responder. Let’s say the auction has gone:

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
2♣	2♦*	P	2♠
?			

* limit raise in spades

Here again the conditions are right for GB2NT (both opponents are in the auction and rightly just bid). Since you’ve already promised a reasonable hand with your 2♣ bid, you can distinguish between a hand that just wants to compete for the part score (bid

2NT then 3♦ with xx/Jx/KQxx/Axxxx) from a forcing 3♣ or 3♦ bid.

GB2NT is very useful by advancer after partner has made an overcall. If the auction has started:

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
-	1♥	2♦	2♥
?			

You can distinguish between a “I-just-want-to-compete-partner” 3♦ bid (bid 2NT with xxx/xx/QJxx/Axx) from a “maybe-it’s-our-hand” 3♦ bid (bid a direct 3♦ with Kxx/x/Qxxx/Axxxx). Though the latter is not forcing, partner will know she can bid on and expect a good hand from you.

For completeness, here are a few examples where GB2NT is NOT in effect:

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1♣	P	1♥	2♠
?			

—both opponents are not in the auction

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1♠	2♣	2♥	P
?			

—RHO did not just bid

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1♠	P	2♣	2♦
P	2♥	?	

—we are already forced to game

Being able to bid more precisely in competitive auctions is a very useful tool. Discuss it with your favorite partner and then add Good-Bad 2NT to your arsenal of gadgets.

Bits & Pieces, continued from p. 4...

they should be communicating when their partner leads an Ace and dummy hits with a singleton. After a few hours of learning, the class played a game where everyone got to practice their new defensive skills.

The beginner class attracted 12 new players including two under the age of 15. **Lois Geer** taught the basics of counting and hand evaluation, how to open the bidding, and how the play proceeds around the table. Before long the class was playing simple bridge hands. Several of the students have continued to play and learn by participating in the 0-20 game on Thursday nights.

We appreciate the volunteers who go from table to table to reinforce the lessons and help everyone follow along. Special thanks to **Reni Malloy, Maida Crocicchia, Kathy O’Toole, David Mead, Bryan Geer** and **Kevin Lamb**.

2008-2009 WBL/NVBA

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS

To be eligible, a player: (1) Must be a member (or pending member) of either the NVBA or the WBL; (2) Must attend at least three 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

...continued on p.25

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MACHLIN TROPHY FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

Do you know an actively ethical, gracious player who deserves recognition? Please send your suggested candidate with two or three sentences why you think your nominee is a good candidate for the award to Don Berman at don.berman@verizon.net or in person at the unit game or during the July NABC. We would like to hear from you by September 1, 2009.

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May 2009 - May 2010

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Webmaster Don Berman (Chair)

Bits & Pieces, continued from p. 23...

remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded.

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

<i>Open Winners</i>		
<u>Player</u>	<u>Points</u>	
1 <u>Leo LaSota</u>	237.99	*
2 Steve Robinson	217.83	*
3 Mark Shaw	190.18	*
4 William Cole	164.45	*
5 Barry Falgout	147.37	*
6 Linda Marshall	132.10	*
7 Peter Boyd	131.97	*
8 Helene Bauman	114.22	*
9 Noble Shore	110.10	*
10 Fred King	96.74	*
11 Kenneth Davis	92.50	*
12 Rusty Krauss	90.99	*
13 David Ruderman	88.15	
14 Diane Walker	88.10	*
15 William Hacker	86.10	
16 Robert Bell	84.51	*
17 Brad Theurer	83.24	*
18 Michael Gill	82.77	*
19 Earl Glickstein	78.13	*
20 John Adams	78.01	

<i>NonLM Winners</i>		
<u>Player</u>	<u>Points</u>	
1 <u>Francesco Parisi-Presicce</u>	70.03	*
2 James Beller	44.90	
3 Raghavendra Rajkumar	44.38	
4 Amanda Carter	41.77	*
5 Albert Lauber	40.98	
6 Kiyomi Shiba	40.64	*
7 Alan Walter	38.19	*
8 Eleanor Schwartz	37.14	*
9 Alfred Caponiti	36.02	*
10 Marco Latini	33.80	*
11 Joseph Pregosin	32.89	*
12 Joe Hertz	31.80	*
13 Arun Guha	31.71	*
14 Patti Anschutz	31.21	*
15 David Loken	29.84	*
16 Minako Komura	29.42	*
17 Jim Anschutz	27.73	*
18 William Goldman	26.31	*
19 Roger Laumark	25.80	*
20 Richard Wedgewood	25.24	*

2009 UNIT KO WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2009 winners of the WBL Unit Knockout. Here are the final results:

Bracket A

- 1) Arnie Frankel, Dave Ruderman, Andy Gofreed, Alan Tenenbaum, Lyle Poe
- 2) Millard Nachtwey, Michael Carroad, Kenton Schoen, Diane Walker
- 3/4) Bill Cole, Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Mark Shaw
- 3/4) Leo Lasota, Michael Gill, Noble Shore, Bill Hacker, Barbara Shaw

Bracket B

- 1) Mike Berard, John Mattioli, Lynda Flanger, Bill Nicolai
- 2) Bob Schwab, Anne Derbes, Rex Settle, Jay Weinstein
- 3/4) Ben Stauss, Charles Young, John Glynn, Ron Susi
- 3/4) Albert Lauber Ned Griffith, Walter Smith, Merrill Hirsh

1ST ANNUAL MENTOR-MENTEE PARTY A SUCCESS

Dear Linda Marshall, Gene and Adrienne Fisher, Don Berman and Norm,

Our *1st Annual Mentor-Mentee Party* was so much fun, uplifting, filled with enthusiasm, beautiful surroundings in the Fisher home and a pot luck dinner to rival any pot luck dinner ever and was filled with feelings of love and caring amongst the bridge players and their spouses. My friend, Rene Wilson, our newest to duplicate player brought her husband Walt who does not have time now to play bridge or add any activities to his already busy life, left wishing he could learn to play and share our joy. One player (never to mention his name) originally felt that most bridge players looked like they belonged at the Grey Hound Bus Station is ready to hang out at the Station just to be in their company and to share his interest in this most exciting game. Having our party at the Fisher's home was a treat and must have challenged the organizing abilities of the committee bringing tables and chairs and planning food and drink so that we were all comfortable and welcomed.. Jim Allen playing the piano and Ted Ying singing was beautiful. They should go on the road.. The theme of each mentor sharing tips was informative even for the other mentors. Steve Robinson's sharing of himself with us lesser mortals is always encouraging and helpful. I love that he went to the University of Maryland (FEAR THE TURTLE) graduated on time, did work full time for many years and

...continued on p.27



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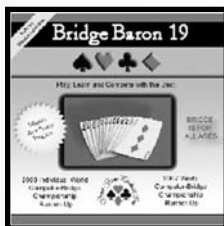
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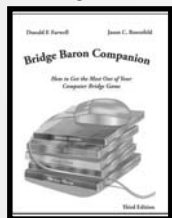
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you make an incorrect bid, the program usually explains to you what is wrong with that specific bid. In Learn Conventions, the program does not explain to you why a specific bid is incorrect. • LPBC has an improved user interface.

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Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 25...

still excelled, a 3 time World Champion and 18 Time National Champion. He has shared his knowledge and experience and welcomes email with questions. Kudos to all. If you are not a mentor nor wish to be a mentee please contact Linda Marshall at ldajmarshall@msn.com and sign on. —Barbara Summers

2009-10 DISTRICT 6 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS FINALS **Pre-registration is Required**

The District 6 North American Pairs Final for all flights will be held on the weekend of **October 10-11, 2009**. 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, October 10 at the Northern site and on Sunday, October 11 at the Southern site.

The **Open Flight** Final is held in the North only. It will be held at Christ the King Church in Silver Spring MD on Saturday and TBA on Sunday. Mid-chart conventions as permitted by the ACBL in pairs events are allowed in the Open Final.

The **0-2000** Finals are split site. The Northern site is Christ the King Church in Silver Spring MD on Saturday and TBA on Sunday. The Southern site on both days is the Peninsula DBC in Newport News VA.

The NLM Finals are also split site; held **Saturday only** at Christ the King Church in Silver Spring MD **in the North** and **Sunday only** at the Peninsula DBC in **Newport News VA in the South**. (NLM eligible players may play in the 0-2000 event on Saturday at either site and in the NLM event on Sunday in the South if they don't qualify for the second day of the 0-2000.)

Pre-registration is required in order to play in the District Finals. Pairs must pre-register by October 1st.

To pre-register, send a check made payable to District 6 in the amount of **\$48.00** to Barbara Doran, 1107 Dale Drive Silver Spring MD 21010-1607. You and your partner must pre-register as a pair and not as individuals. When pre-

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, Thurs & Fri:** 11:15 am
Tue: 7pm (Tues. only at Rockville Senior Center—see www.rockvilledbc.com for directions.)

registering, please include names, ACBL numbers, and, for the 0-2000 and NLM flights, site and contact information.

We need at least 9 tables at a venue to hold a viable two day event. If fewer than 9 tables pre-register for the 0-2000 Finals in the South, it will be cancelled. The NLM Final is a one day event and will be held if there are 9 or more tables pre-registered or if the 0-2000 Final has 9 or more tables and the NLM Final has 5 or more tables. Note: If the minimum number of tables has pre-registered by the deadline, additional pairs will be allowed to pre-register up to the day of the event.

Three pairs in each flight will qualify for the National Finals, to be held at the spring 2010 NABC in Reno, NV.

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

For more information and directions to the playing sites, visit the District 6 web site at <http://www.districtsix.org> or contact Barbara Doran by phone at (301) 609-0347 or by email to barbd@starpower.net.



NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE!

When is losing really winning? Sometimes you have to refuse to win a trick, or “duck,” in order to win more tricks later. Knowing when to win and when to duck can make the difference between a good score and a bad score. While ducking can be useful for both declarers and defenders, needlessly ducking can cost you tricks you didn’t need to lose. So when should you duck and when should you “goose”?

Duck to create a “safe” hand

When you’re the declarer in a notrump contract, often you’ll want to duck the opening lead to break communication between the defenders’ hands and create a “safe” hand. It’s common for the opponents to lead fourth best: the fourth-highest card from their longest and strongest suit. If you have only one stopper in their suit, you want to delay winning your trick until one opponent has no more cards in that suit. This is called a holdup play.

If the lead is fourth best, you can use the Rule of Seven to tell you how many rounds you need to duck. Just add up the number of cards in the suit led that are in your hand and in dummy, and subtract that number from seven. The result tells you how many times to duck. Say you have two small in dummy and three to the ace in your hand for a total of five. The Rule of Seven tells you to duck twice (7-5) and win your ace on the third round. If LHO started with five, RHO is now out of the suit and she can’t lead it to partner if she gets the lead later. RHO is now the safe hand. LHO is poised and ready to cash his two winners, so try to make a plan that never puts him in the lead! If you can, take only finesses that could lose to RHO, not LHO.

Duck to create a second stopper

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♠ K

North

- ♠ 87
- ♥ K54
- ♦ JT965
- ♣ KQJ

West

- ♠ KQT93
- ♥ QT7
- ♦ 87
- ♣ 432

East

- ♠ 654
- ♥ J986
- ♦ A3
- ♣ T765

South

- ♠ AJ2
- ♥ A32
- ♦ KQ42
- ♣ A98

West leads the king of spades (top of a near sequence) and you stop to make your plan. With only six top tricks, you need to score three diamond tricks to bring your contract home. But if you win the first spade and start the diamonds, you’re in trouble if East has the ace. She’ll win and lead a spade through your jack to West’s queen and West will take four spade tricks. Down one!

Now look what happens if you duck: West is stuck! If she continues with the queen of spades, you win your ace and your jack is now high. If she leads a low spade you’ll win your jack and you still have the ace. If West switches to another suit, you still have your ace. So no matter what West does, when East wins the diamond ace and leads a spade, you’ll win it. You make the contract and partner will think you’re brilliant!

Duck to block dummy’s long suit

Ducking can be critical for defenders, too!

Contract: 3NT

Lead: ♥ 5

North

- ♠ 64
- ♥ 72
- ♦ KQJT92
- ♣ 654

West

- ♠ JT8
- ♥ Q985
- ♦ 76
- ♣ 8732

East

- ♠ Q972
- ♥ JT6
- ♦ A54
- ♣ KT9

South

- ♠ AK53
- ♥ AK43
- ♦ 83
- ♣ AQJ

When dummy has a long suit and no outside entries, the defenders must try to keep declarer from running the suit if they can. On this deal, South wins the second heart trick and leads a diamond towards the dummy. If East wins his ace immediately, it’s all over for the defense! South will win whatever East returns, play another diamond to the board and rattle off five diamond tricks, and then take the club finesse, winning two spades, two hearts, five diamonds and two clubs.

If the defense is going to prevail, as East you must let dummy win the first diamond trick! Declarer will play a club to his hand, finessing the king, and lead his last diamond. Now when you win your ace, declarer has no more diamonds to lead back to dummy. Scoring only one diamond trick, declarer comes up short, even if he can endplay you or partner into leading a club and giving him a free finesse.

On this deal, as soon as

declarer leads his second diamond and partner follows, you know they each started with two, so it’s easy to see that you can safely win your ace on the second trick. But what if there are five missing cards? If declarer started with two but you wait until the third round to take your winner, you may have just given declarer the extra trick he needs to make his contract!

So how do you know how many cards declarer has in the suit? Partner will tell you how many she has! When declarer leads a suit, defenders should give each other “count”: high-low from an even number and low-high from an odd number. So holding 87, West should play the eight on the first trick, and then the seven to show an even number. With 876, she’ll play the six first and then the eight to tell pard she has an odd number.

By the way, did you notice this duck by the defense is similar to the holdup play that declarer used in the first example? Both ducks sever communication between partners’ hands.

When the question is to duck or not to duck, timing is everything! For many more examples of when ducking is a good idea, see Mel Colchamiro’s columns in the June – September 2008 issues of the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*. I’ll talk about when to goose instead of duck in my next column.

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of June 1, 2009

Junior Masters

(5 Masterpoints)

- Rev Carolyn S Lundelius
- Dr Lee P Rosky
- Linda R Weiner

Club Masters (20 MPs)

- Mary C Boynton
- Mr Jay Gibbons
- Mr Abdul Haji

Sectional Masters (50 MPs)

- Mrs Ronnie G Hirschberg
- Ms Sandra J Thompson
- Ms Roslyn Weinstein

Regional Masters (100 MPs)

- Mr Herbert Rubinstein
- Mrs Annapurna Satpathy

NABC Masters (200 MPs)

- Mr Alfred Lieberman

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

1) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ A10964♥ 93♦ AQ3♣ Q93

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	3♥	Dbl	Pass
????			Pass

2) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ QJ3♥ QJ109432♦ 5♣ K4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠			1NT
????			

3) IMPs, Both vul

♠ AQJ8542♥ JT73♦ A♣ 8

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
????	1♥		Pass

4) Matchpoints, You're vul

♠ K♥ Q♦ AK97542♣ AJ93

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4♦	4♥	4♠	3♥
????			Pass

5) IMPs, They're vul

♠ 2♥ 54♦ AQJ6543♣ Q32

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♦	1♠	Pass	2♥ (GF)
????	3♥	3♠	4♠

Return answers by August 6 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)**.

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

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