



It's
Tricks & Treats
for All!

at the
**WASHINGTON
BRIDGE LEAGUE'S**

**79TH ANNUAL D.C.
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

October 1-4, 2009



Check out Friday Night:

◆ **YE NEW STRATA-
FLIGHTED PAIRS** ◆

On Sunday, play Swiss Teams
for the

◆ **EYNON TROPHY** ◆

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



Don't miss the 2:30pm Saturday
Machlin Sportsmanship Award Presentation
& **"Ask the Experts" Panel Show!**

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...



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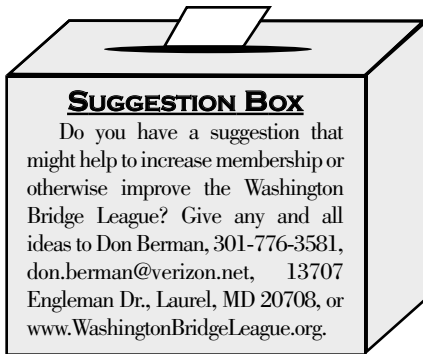
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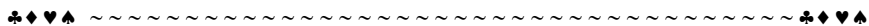


SUGGESTION BOX

Do you have a suggestion that might help to increase membership or otherwise improve the Washington Bridge League? Give any and all ideas to Don Berman, 301-776-3581, don.berman@verizon.net, 13707 Engleman Dr., Laurel, MD 20708, or www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org.

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: NOVEMBER 6, 2009

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)

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

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WBL WEBSITE:
www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

DISTRICT 6 SITE:
www.districtsix.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Don Berman

Thank you all for supporting the North American Bridge Championships. It was a great success. The table count was over 14,100 tables, far exceeding expectations. We couldn't have done it without the support of all of you, not only by playing but through all the volunteer work that was done. Congratulations to **Margot Hennings, Fred King** and all the hard workers for a fine job.

To give you all a heads up, we are looking for a new home for our unit game. Christ the King church has informed us they are raising our rent effective January 1, 2010. That, coupled with the not so good condition of their facility, gives us a good reason to move. Among the possibilities are Ohr Kodesh where we have played before at least three different times. It is located just a mile west on East-West Highway from our current location and has been completely renovated and is now a modern facility, with good lighting, air conditioning, and clean rest rooms. Further in the future, a new con-

vention center is being built in down town Silver Spring near the site of the Armory where we also played in the past. There are other possibilities and nothing has been decided yet. Suggestions from the membership are always welcome.

It is my goal to provide you with venues that are conducive to playing bridge, both for our Unit Game and for our Sectionals. In addition, it is my goal to increase attendance at our games. Therefore, we need facilities that can handle a growing number of tables. Our membership is beginning to show signs of growth after several years of decline. We are back over 1700 members. So I ask you for a little patience while we look and I promise a brighter and better future.

By the way, don't forget the **North American Pairs** district finals are coming October 10-11. Be sure and play. Visit our website www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org for details and notify Barbara Doran of your intention to play. (See more details on p.21.)



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

...Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Unit Game

Buffet Dinner starts at 6 p.m.

Game starts at 7:30 p.m.



The Annual **WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE HOLIDAY PARTY**, which includes dinner and a bridge game will be held at the Thursday night Unit Game on December 17. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite goodies (appetizers, salads, casserole, desserts, etc.). The main course and holiday drinks will be provided. Dinner will be served from 6 to 7 p.m., followed shortly after by the game. If you have any questions or would like to help with the party, please call Kitty at (301) 587-3981 or email her at kgottfried@hotmail.com.

Come on out for great feasting, great bridge and great fun!

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



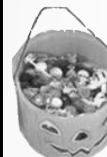
♣ **Eynon Trophy**

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**





TWO THOUSAND TENDS

to be a Winner!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

- ♣ 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

- ♣ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500)10:00am
- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) Pairs 2:00pm
- ♥ **Champagne & IMP Pairs** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) ... 7:30pm
Friday night's special game toasts the New Year with IMP Pairs. You only need one partner, but it scores like a team game. Your score will be averaged with all the other scores from your direction on each board. You win and lose IMPs when you compare your score to the average.
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions)10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

◇ **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.

♥ **Panel Show & Party** **SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**
to Honor New Life Masters between sessions

- ♣ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & 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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation between sessions

- ♠ **1-Day Bridge Class:** 2 sections: *Start to Play* or *Advance Your Play*10:30am
- ♣ **Bracketed Teams**, (2 session playthru w/short break)11:00am & TBA
Check out this format! Each bracket of eight teams (by masterpoints) will play a complete round robin. *Each team plays all of the other teams in its bracket!* The top bracket will hold an unlimited number of teams and will play a Swiss format. Your team may choose to play up—but only into the top bracket. *If you like playing A teams, you can—otherwise, play against your peers!*
- ♦ 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

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Caroline J Brown, Gary P Fookes, Cheri Hayes, Gail S Isaac, Oscar W Lease Jr, Mr Clayven D Smith Jr, Douglas Sobel, Mr Richard O Walker, Susanne L Wellford, Mr Gordon Wilson, Mrs Naomi Zatt, Cole Abod, Joan M Bond, Mr K Chandramouli, Mr Leroy Eakin, Cherry Goldblatt, Ms Consuelo Grant, Mrs Linda Greenhouse, Mrs Tay H Hahn, Mrs Olivia A Pritzlaff, Deidre Sacks, Mr Digant K Samant, Carrita N Smith, Miss Rae A Smith, Mrs Dina Tashoff, and Ms Sandra Teplin.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mrs Arlene Lanter, Mr Ken M Marx, Mr Michael Muntner, Russell Pies, Mr Timothy R Rice, Mr Douglas C Bates, Mr Adam L Davis, Mr Scott A Ellis, Mr Mark J Freundel, Mrs Diana B Friedman, Mr David L Genne, Louis Gevirtzman, Lorraine L Hegel, Mr Andrew M Holmberg, Mrs Faustina L, Mr John R Lees, and Dan Moore.**

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.

OUR REGRETS

The WBL would like to express our condolences to WBL board member, Carole Banks, whose mother, Nettie Banks, also a long time bridge player, passed away the first week of August.

2008-2009 WBL/NVBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR CORRECTED NONLM FINAL STANDINGS

During the past year's race, Francesco Parisi-Preisce was incorrectly coded in the database as a NLM at the start of the contest year. He did not notice this error until the final list was published, and we appreciate

his coming forward with the correction. Since, the second and third place non-LMs did not meet the participation requirements, the NLM award goes to **Amanda Carter**. Here is the corrected listing of the NonLM Winners.

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 final standings. The asterisk* indicates that the player has met eligibility requirements.

Player	Points
1 Amanda Carter	41.77 *
2 James Beller	44.90
3 Raghavendra Rajkumar	44.38
4 Albert Lauber	40.98
5 Kiyomi Shiba	40.64 *
6 Alan Walter	38.19 *
7 Eleanor Schwartz	37.14 *
8 Alfred Caponiti	36.02 *
9 Marco Latini	33.80 *
10 Joseph Pregosin	32.89 *
11 Joe Hertz	31.80 *
12 Arun Guha	31.71
13 Patti Anschutz	31.21 *
14 David Loken	29.84
15 Minako Komura	29.42 *
16 Jim Anschutz	27.73 *
17 William Goldman	26.31
18 Roger Laumark	25.80 *
19 Richard Wedgewood	25.24 *
20 Joyce Currie	24.93 *

...continued on p. 21, column 1, bottom



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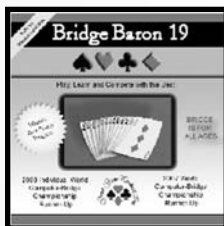
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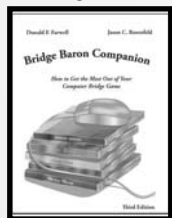
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• LPBC teaches you and allows you to practice responses and rebids for conventions, while Learn Conventions does not offer practice of responses and rebids for conventions. • In LPBC, if

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 **Mike Deverin** 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 **Barry Bragin, Deborah Gilman** and **Natalie Aronsohn** with a score of 470. Tied for fifth were **Peter Lo, John Miller** and **Ed Anamia** with a score of 460. Tied for eighth were **Hailong Ao, Richard Majewski, John Miley, Yi Zhong, Carl Gutshick, Mike Richey, Jim Munday** and **JJ Wang** with a score of 450. Tied for sixteenth were **Jay Weinstein, Judy Haney, Craig Olson, Helen Solomon, Michael Levine, Neal Walters, Frank Guido, Kevin Lane, Lloyd Rawley, Seymour Baden, Bob Landry, Robert Stone** and **Bill Meeks** with a score of 440. Tied for thirtieth were **Marsha Brown, Leslie Lege, Brad Theurer, Jane Friend, Mark Chen** and **Paul McGowan** with a score of 430. The average score of the 279 solvers was 369. The average score of the experts was 434.

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 the first answer from each solver unless it is clear that the solver wants to correct his answer.

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) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ A10964♥ 93♦ AQ3♣ Q93

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

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Pass	100	7	92
3♠	70	2	62
4♣	60	1	43
4♦	60	0	46
3NT	50	0	21
4♥	20	0	09
4♠	20	0	06

Partner has made a negative double and we do not have a clear response. If I held this hand, all responses would make me sick. However, you are required to make a legal bid so what is your poison? The possible sickening bids are passing, 3♠, 3NT or four-of-either-minor. When all calls are sickening, make the bid that has the most to gain. The only call that is in this category is pass. Partner's negative double denies holding spade support so you don't have to worry about missing a spade game. Passing works very well when partner has a singleton spade or Kx. Passing works very well when declarer has a trump guess. He would never expect that you have only two

trumps. You have two and ½ defensive tricks so if partner has two defensive tricks, you should beat them ½ trick. East didn't raise so partner figures to have a few hearts.

If you look at The Law of Total Tricks, you find the following. Assume you have seven spades and they have nine hearts, then there are 16 total tricks. If you can make 3♠ (9 tricks), they would go down two (7 tricks) in 3♥. If you go down one in 3♠, they go down one. If they can make 3♥, then you should go down two in 3♠. Not much matchpoint difference between -200, -500 or -530.

Six experts join me and pass with our trump stack.

Parker: "Pass—I would rather try for five tricks than nine or ten. At least I have some Aces for fast tricks. We do have the majority of the points."

You only need five tricks to beat 3♥. If partner has ♠x♥Jxx♦Kxxx♣Jxxxx you could beat 3♥.

Adams: "Pass—Seems better than 50% that we beat them a trick, and less than 50% that bidding will get me to a good spot. No guarantees, just odds. Remember this hand when you think about making negative doubles with support."

Those who double 3♥ holding three spades would not like defending.

Gramlich: "Pass—Spades are too weak to rebid, hearts not well enough stopped for 3NT, and, with distribution likely uneven, who needs a Moysian minor suit fit at the four-level. Partner should have at least 12 HCP."

I don't know why partner needs 12 points to make a negative double. The fewer hearts you have the fewer points you need to double. Remember, the more cards you have in the opponent's suit the more conservative you get, the fewer cards you have, the more aggressive you get.

Schwartz: "Pass—Pass, with no known fit it seems best to play for a plus. The aces should be enough to beat it."

Woolsey: "Pass—Partner can see the vulnerability. If he has spade support, he would show it. If he has a heart stopper, he would have bid 3NT. Making five-of-a-minor is asking a lot with this minimal opening, and even four-of-a-minor could be too high particularly if I misguess which minor. 3♥ might make, but partner has to have his cards somewhere so the opponents don't figure to get much more than their trump

tricks. This is the best chance for a plus score."

Landen: "Pass—Seems like the only reasonable chance to score well, or very poorly if they make 3♥. 3♠ is my second choice."

Three experts pull the double, which violates the Law of Total Tricks.

Hopkins: "3♠—When forced to bid and I have nothing new to show, I play a return to my original suit is minimum and does not suggest either extra length or values."

Normally one assumes that 3♠ shows six spades.

Cappelletti: "3♠—A least of evils situation and might be best spot and least likely too good for a number and you do have good spots."

One expert plays the possible 4-3 fit at the four-level. If I were barred from passing, I would bid 3NT, which has a more to gain then bidding and making 4♣. Of course, if you can make 4♣, you'll be in 5♣.

Lublin: "4♣—I bid 4♣ cheapest possible bid. Don't pass because they have nine hearts."

When all bids are sickening, make the bid that has the most to gain if you are right.

2) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ QJ3♥ QJ109432♦ 5♣ K4

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
????		1♠	1NT
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♥	100	5	41
2♥	90	2	89
4♥	80	1	45
2NT	80	1	02
Double	70	0	29
2♠	70	1	38
3♠	50	0	12
4♠	50	0	19
4♦	20	0	01
Pass	20	0	02
2♦	20	0	01

You have three-card spade support for partner's opening spade bid but you also have a seven-card suit. Seven-card suits should not be put down in dummy. Give partner a sub-normal non-fitting 1♠ opener such as ♠Kxxxx♥♦KQxx♣QJxx and if they get a spade ruff, you won't make 2♥. Give partner a fitting sub-normal hand such as ♠Axxxx♥Ax♦xxx♣QJx, 3♥ is cold. Only if partner has three of the five missing keycards would game make. 3♥ combines

trying to get to game if partner has a fit with pre-emption if the opponents have a minor suit fit.

Parker: "3♥—Not sure how partner will take this but I can't have great hand or I would have doubled, this should show long hearts and maybe a fit showing jump. If not just long hearts. They must have a minor suit fit."

Adams: "3♥—Seems like a pretty good one bid description of my hand, and partner will look favorably at Aces and the Heart King in deciding to raise or not. I must have a decent hand to do this vulnerable after a 1NT overcall, so not worried about missing game opposite the right minimum."

Hopkins: "3♥—I believe most play this is invitational in Hearts."

I think most play 3♥ as showing long hearts with not enough strength to force to game.

Woolsey: "3♥—I don't think I can risk playing in spades for fear of losing the entire heart suit. Normally I would expect 4♥ to make more often than not, but on this auction there is distinct danger of a spade ruff if West leads a spade as he well might. 3♥ can't be that weak a call, so North can still raise if he likes his hand."

Two experts go conservative.

Schwartz: "2♥—Will probably not see the heart suit if we play in spades and there are likely too many losers for game. If I wanted to invite game, would bid 2NT."

Lublin: "2♥—And correct to spades if doubled. I was once told that seven-card suits should never be dummy."

One expert jumps to game. If partner has the aces and kings that you need to make 4♥, partner will not pass 3♥.

Gramlich: "4♥—My partner open with a good 12. All partner needs here is three of six cards (a major suit AK and a minor suit ace). Why show the spade fit and encourage them to find their ruff? 4♠ risks losing the heart suit."

Over one-notrump, new suits and jumps to the three-level are not forcing. Double shows a good hand but you have to be prepared for it to go all pass. Sometimes the bad guys overcall 1NT with ♠Ax♥Kx♦AKQxxx♣xxx and they would be happy to play 1NT doubled. 2NT is the only forcing bid over 1NT and shows a strong two-suiter or a forcing raise in partner's suit. Over 2NT, Opener bids his better minor and awaits further developments.

Cappelletti: "2NT—Cue bid. Partner will usually bid his best minor, then your 3♠

shows limit raise."

One expert raises spades.

Landen: "2♠—Should make and 1NT doubled down one is only 100. We might not even beat it."

Avoid putting seven-card suits down in dummy.

3) IMPs. Both vulnerable

♠ AQJ8542♥ JT73♦ A♣ 8

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
????		1♥	Pass
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2NT	100	5	51
4♣	80	2	45
4NT	70	1	18
2♠	70	2	43
1♠	50	0	94
4♦	50	0	06
6♥	40	0	02
3♠	20	0	05
3♥	20	0	02
4♠	20	0	02
5♣	20	0	01
3♣	20	0	01
2♣	20	0	01
6♠	20	0	01
1NT	20	0	01
4♥	20	0	04
Pass	20	0	01
5♥	20	0	01

Is this a hand where you want to describe or do you want to ask? If you want to describe, you could splinter in either minor or bid spades, either 1♠ or 2♠ if playing strong jump shifts. If you want to ask, you could bid Jacoby 2NT, which in Washington Standard is a game-forcing four-card raise. I wrote an article for Table Talk about this subject. Its on the district Six website titled 'Which forcing raise with a singleton do you choose?' Here, you need to know if partner have three of the four missing keycards ♥AKQ, ♣A. If he doesn't have at least three keycards you don't want to be in slam. You don't even want to be at the five-level. You need more than three keycards since you might need the spade finesse. There are two bids for this hand, 4♣ splinter, showing and 2NT asking. If you bid 4♣ and partner has three of the four missing keycards, he is barred from signing off. The problem is that you won't

know if he has a singleton spade. 2NT finds out right away if he has a singleton spade. The problem with 2NT is that if partner has the right minimum, ♠ Kx♥ AKxxx♦ xxx♣xx, he'll sign off in 4♥ and slam is cold.

Four experts join me and try to get partner to describe his hand. If partner jumps to 4♥ over 2NT, denying spade shortness, then you will also need a spade finesse or the spade king to make a slam. If partner has ♠ xx♥ AKxxx♦ KQx♣xxx, slam is anti-percentage.

Cappelletti: "2NT—Jacoby - might lead to Blackwood."

Lublin: "2NT—I bid Jacoby 2NT and Key Card after that."

Hopkins: "2NT—I prefer starting with a forcing Heart raise. As the auction progresses I can try to find out if partner has any of the Heart AKQ, Club Ace, Spade K or shortness."

Landen: "2NT—Set trump then RKC next seems inevitable."

Two experts splinter. 4♣, a splinter, shows four trumps, game-forcing values, with club shortness.

Parker: "4♣—Easiest way to find a slam if we have one. Partner can either take over or if he signs off I will make one more try with 5♥ asking for good hearts. My second choice is to bid 5♥ immediately."

Woolsey: "4♣—Introducing the spade suit is silly, since hearts will always be at least as good a strain. If partner signs off with 4♥ I'll quit, but if he shows a sign of life with a Last Train call, RKC by me will follow."

Over 4♣, Opener has three choices. With a minimum, he signs off in 4♥. With a maximum he bids above 4♥. If he has more than a minimum but less than a maximum, he bids 4♦, which is the Last Train. 4♦ says nothing about diamonds. Just shows extras.

Two experts bid spades but they avoid the 1♠ call. I think 1♠ is an awful bid on this hand. 1♥ - 1♠ is one of worst auction in Standard. Suppose Opener rebids 2♦. In order to set up a game force you have to bid 3♣. After 3♣ it would be almost impossible to have a reasonable constructive auction. 2♠ if strong sets up a game force.

Adams: "2♠—And bid 3♥ over 2NT. Should get partner focused on the right cards. Hate 1♠ on this hand, you can never say all you need to say. Jacoby and splinters both mis-describe parts of the hand. 2♠ seems pretty

clear. (If you do not bid 2♠ on this hand, then give up strong jump shifts, there is no point."

Schwartz: "2♠—Thank goodness that a strong jump shift is available as no heart raise is right and its cumbersome to have to go through fourth suit game forcing after starting with 1♠."

One expert tries RKC. I hope if Opener answers 5♣, Responder signs-off asking Opener to pass with zero keys and continue with three. This would avoid getting to slam if Opener has ♠ Kx♥ Qxxxx♦ KQJ♣KQx. Of course 5♥ is very likely to go down.

Gramlich: "4NT—Barring a key card shortage, you're going to slam in hearts. Why risk showing the spade suit, getting doubled, and find the king off sides and/or a ruff help them find the ace of clubs lead?"

Find auctions to avoid the five-level when you might be off two keycards.

4) Matchpoints. You're vulnerable

♠ K♥ Q♦ AK97542♣ AJ93

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			3♥
4♦	4♥	4♠	Pass
????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Pass	100	4	92
5♦	90	2	42
5NT	90	2	06
6♦	80	1	09
5♣	50	0	63
4NT	50	0	36
5♥	50	0	07
5♠	40	0	08
6♠	40	1	15
6♣	30	0	01

The opponents have preempted and have given us a problem. Good for them bad for us. Does partner have ♠ QJ1098xxx♥ x♦ xx♣ Kx where 4♠ is where you belong, or does he have ♠ AJ109x♥ xx♦ Qxx♣ Kxx and is just suggesting spades as a strain. He could just as easily have either hand. The question is - what is the minimum number of spades would you have for a 4♠ call? My guess is probably a tad under six. Therefore the question is do you want to play in a 6-1 fit? I wouldn't think so. One of the problems of a spade contract is what is partner going to do with his losing hearts? It doesn't sound to me that the opponents have

11 hearts between them. 4♠ is an offer to play not a guarantee. If I had to guess which suit to play in, I would guess diamonds. 5♦ does not preclude you from playing in spades. If partner really has spades he can rebid them. Give him ♠ Axxxx♥ xx♦ Qx♣ Kxx, a very reasonable 4♠ call, and he might bid 6♦. Notice that two rounds of hearts beats 4♠ if spades are 4-2.

Cappelletti: "Pass—All-in-all most likely game - partner could have very good spades."

Adams: "Pass—And double 5♥ after they save. Anything is a guess. I will make the guess that has a decent chance of being right, and lets the opponents guess last. 5♦ making six loses to 4♠ making five, and I do not expect that partner will raise Diamonds. I expect a decent spade suit with a good play for 4♠."

Landen: "Pass—No reason to think 4♠ isn't our best spot."

Gramlich: "Pass—Trust partner. Since you didn't double 3♥, partner has no business making that bid without good spades. Slam could make, but you're likely off a heart, quite possibly a club, maybe a spade, conceivably a diamond."

One expert agrees with me and runs to safer grounds.

Hopkins: "5♦—Partner could have any five-card suit with some values and is trying for the cheapest game. My seven-card suit seems safest."

Wouldn't you think about bidding 4♠ if you held ♠ AQxxx♥ xxx♦ Qx♣ KQx?

Four experts think slam. Over 5♦, partner can rebid his spades or raise to 6♦ if he has the goods.

6♦ and 6♠ are just guesses. If you're going to bid slam, why not give partner a choice. When there are two or more possible strains, 5NT is choice of strains not the Grand Slam Force. Sometimes, obviously not here, 6NT is among the choices.

Parker: "6♦—Hopefully partner will not bid 4♠ without some diamonds support or a very good hand. 5♣ would be a cue bid in support of Spades so that is out and I am too good to pass and not enough spades to raise."

Why would 5♣ be a cue bid in support of spades? Until you've established a fit, new suits are offers of a new strain. ♠ x♥ x♦ AKxxxx♠ AQxxx is a 5♣ bid over 4♠.

Lublin: "6♠—I bid 6♠ and make them guess."

Schwartz: "5NT—With this much extras slam is likely somewhere and offering a choice will give us the best chance to get to the right strain."

Woolsey: "5NT—This is a guess. If partner has nothing but a long spade suit, 4♠ is where we belong. But partner could just as easily have a so-so spade suit with scattered values, with some diamond support or a side club suit. My pick-a-slam call may get us too high, but it maximizes our chances of finding the best strain."

In competition, game bids are suggestions not demands.

5) IMPs. They're vulnerable

♠ 2♥ 54♠ AQJ6543♣ Q32

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♠	Pass	2♥ (GF)
3♦	3♥	3♠	4♠
????			
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Pass	100	2	88
Double	80	1	06
5♦	70	7	171
4NT	20	0	02
5♥	20	0	01
6♦	20	0	09
5♣	20	0	02

What does partner's 3♠ bid mean? The opponents bid and raised hearts and partner assumed that they were going to play in hearts and you were going to be on lead. Against hearts, he wanted you to lead a spade. His spade holding has to be at least AQ32 and could be stronger. If all he wanted was to get you to save with a distributional hand, he would have bid 4♦. If partner has AQ32 of spades, you have excellent chances of taking three spade tricks and a diamond. And his spades could be stronger. Anyone who bids 5♦ is not playing partnership bridge. If this were the Bridge World Solvers club, 5♦ would get the top score since it got the most votes, even though it is an atrocious call. Here, I make the rules and the atrocious 5♦ is lucky to get 70 points. Lets assume that partner bid 4♦ which gives you the option of bidding 5♦. Couldn't he have ♠ xxxx♥ xx♦ Kxxx♣ xxx? 5♦ doubled would easily go for 800. Give partner ♠ KJ10x♥ xx♦ Kxxx♣ xxx and you go for 800 and they can't make 4♠. It is bad IMP bridge to take a save when the likely result is -500 and the opponents have had a chance to

describe their hands. The auction 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 5♦ is different, however, since the opponents have not described their hands and they could easily bid five over five.

Seven experts bid 5♦. I guess they missed partner's 3♠ bid.

Cappelletti: "5♦ —Very clear—many reasons."

Parker: "5♦ —3♠ should show diamond support and ask me to decide if I want to defend or save, I want to save. In my old partnerships we played 3NT in this sequence to suggest a save and 3♠ to show defense, but I doubt this is standard here."

Lublin: "5♦ —I bid 5♦ now and see where they are going before I take the save against six of major."

I think they are going to double you.

Gramlich: "5♦ —I'm assuming partner is offering 3NT. I think they're more likely to make 4♠ than not, and I'm less likely to go down more than three than not. So I'm going to sacrifice."

Down three is winning three IMPs if they can make 620. Not much of a gain and the cost is very expensive if 4♠ is going down.

Hopkins: "5♦ —I think partner should have the ♠ A and diamond support. We should not fail too much at 5♦ and I know what to lead if they go on in hearts."

I don't think partner would have bid 3♠ with just the ace of spades.

Woolsey: "5♦ —It isn't clear just what partner's 3♠ call is supposed to show, but he must have some diamond support. The opponents figure to have a game and we don't figure to go for more than 500 at the most, so taking the save looks clear."

Landen: "5♦ —It's my turn to bid. Partner seems to like diamonds."

Two experts pass. They saw partner's 3♠ bid.

Adams: "Pass—3♠ sounded like spades to me, helping me with a save decision. Do not look for a -500 save at IMPs, there is too much chance you will go plus by passing."

Check the table, plug in whatever percent you want:

They are making (70%) and we save:

Result	Score	IMPS	Likelihood
Down 2	-300	+8	10%
Down 3	-500	+3	70%
Down 4	-800	-5	15%
Down 5	-1100	-10	5%

If they are making, I expect to gain 1.65 IMPs on average.

If they are going down one (30%) and we save: (Down two worse, especially if partner could double)

Down 2	-300	-9	10%
Down 3	-500	-12	70%
Down 4	-800	-14	15%
Down 5	-1100	-15	5%

If they are going down, I expect to lose 12.15 IMPs on average. The loss for a phantom save is overwhelming. You need to be very sure they can make theirs, and here, I have reason to think they can't."

Schwartz: "Pass—Partner would invite a sack by bidding 4♦. By bidding 3♠ he should be telling me that he has defensive values and could be suggesting that its our hand."

Partner is suggesting defense. You have the ace of diamonds rather than the king and you have an outside queen. Trust partner and double.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	Pass	3♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	470
Mike Cappelletti	3♠	2NT	2NT	Pass	5♦	420
Fred Gramlich	Pass	4♥	4NT	Pass	5♦	420
Robbie Hopkins	3♠	3♥	2NT	5♦	5♦	430
Steve Landen	Pass	2♠	2NT	Pass	5♦	440
Glenn Lublin	4♣	2♥	2NT	6♠	5♦	360
Steve Parker	Pass	3♥	4♣	6♦	5♦	430
Steve Robinson	Pass	3♥	2NT	5♦	Dbl	470
Alan Schwartz	Pass	2♥	2♠	5NT	Pass	430
Kit Woolsey	Pass	3♥	4♣	5NT	5♦	440

SHEILA'S BRIDGE CRUISES ANNOUNCES...

From **Baltimore**,
November 30, 2009
return December 12

Directed by:

JIM DICK, Bridge Director ACBL, No. Virginia

Fully sanctioned by ACBL/Masterpoints awarded

CELEBRITY MERCURY

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SHEILA TARGAN BOB TARGAN

2009 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

Updated by our Webmaster, Don Berman

The Lovenberg Race is open to all WBL members; the Izzy Cohen Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with 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 July 2. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

- 1 124.37 Leo LaSota
- 2 96.15 Steve Robinson
- 3 79.67 John Adams
- 4 78.46 Clyde Kruskal
- 5 76.20 Mark Shaw
- 6 68.24 Donna Rogall
- 7 63.71 William Hacker
- 8 62.36 Peter Boyd
- 9 61.90 David Ruderman
- 10 58.89 Lou Reich
- 11 54.45 Arnie Frankel
- 12 52.48 Barry Falgout
- 13 52.33 Earl Glickstein
- 14 51.26 Barry Bragin
- 15 51.09 Linda Marshall
- 16 48.52 Eugene Fisher
- 17 45.27 Brad Theurer
- 18 43.62 Robert Bell
- 19 42.69 William Cole
- 20 41.59 Mark Rosen
- 21 40.35 Noble Shore
- 22 38.78 Richard Wegman
- 23 34.63 Glenn Lublin
- 24 34.56 Eugene Kales
- 25 34.31 James Geist
- 34.31 Donald Berman

Izzy Cohen

- 1 51.09 Linda Marshall
- 2 48.52 Eugene Fisher
- 3 41.59 Mark Rosen
- 4 31.15 Ronald Zucker
- 5 30.10 Arun Guha
- 6 26.73 Alfred Caponiti
- 7 25.57 Michael Gill
- 8 24.44 Margie Coccodrilli
- 9 20.29 Lloyd Rawley
- 10 20.19 Roger Laumark
- 11 19.13 Behnaz Fardshisheh
- 12 18.60 Thomas Reckford
- 13 18.49 William Goldman
- 14 18.16 Daniel Koch
- 15 17.85 Mark Cohen

Tubbs

- 1 30.10 Arun Guha
- 2 26.73 Alfred Caponiti
- 3 20.19 Roger Laumark
- 4 18.49 William Goldman
- 5 17.85 Mark Cohen
- 6 17.80 James Metzger
- 7 17.73 Edmund Gehan
- 8 16.84 Joseph Pregosin
- 9 16.40 Namik Haveric
- 16.40 Mirsad Mujezinovic

Woolridge

- 1 10.83 Julie Connor
- 2 9.78 Martha Stout
- 3 9.36 Michael Kuehl
- 4 8.89 Larry Wallace
- 5 8.33 Elinor Stolar
- 6 6.68 Maxine Penn
- 7 5.85 A. Carol Davis
- 8 5.33 Barbara Levine
- 9 5.16 Mark Conheady
- 10 4.93 Forest Montgomery

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**

**GUARANTEED
PARTNERS!**

**7:30PM -
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.

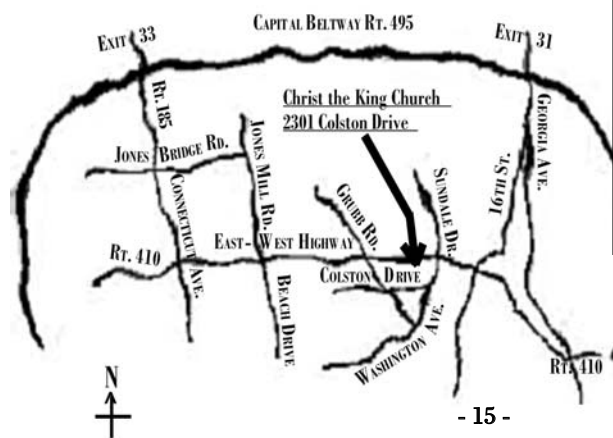
~ * ♦ **SCHEDULE** ♥ ♠ ~
All Games held at Christ the King Church

- 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
- 12/17/2009Stratified STaC Pairs & **Holiday Party**
- 12/24/2009Closed Christmas Eve
- 12/31/2009Closed New Year's Eve
- 01/07/2010WBL Sectional
- 01/14/2010TBA
- 01/21/2010TBA
- 01/28/2010TBA
- 02/04/2010TBA

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

APPEALS

Most players rarely, if ever, appeal a director's ruling. However, it is important to know when you can do so, and how the process works if you or your opponents appeal.

When can I appeal?

You may appeal a ruling

- When you believe that it is based on the wrong facts, incomplete facts or a misunderstanding of the facts;
- When you believe that the directors may have made an error of bridge judgment or analysis;
- When you believe that the Laws of Bridge have been applied incorrectly.

You may *not* appeal

- Penalties of a disciplinary nature (such as slow play, cell-phone use, inappropriate behavior);
- Rulings where you understand that the correct Laws have been correctly applied, but consider the outcome unfair.

How do I appeal?

Tell a director that you wish to lodge an appeal before the start of the last round of play (immediately, if the problem occurs in the final round). Both partners - in a team game, also the team captain - must consent to

...continued on p. 18, column 2, midway

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

♦	♥
<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>
Fairfax, VA	Silver Spring, MD
♦	♣
<u>January 7-10, 2010</u>	<u>April 22-25, 2010</u>
Silver Spring, MD	Fairfax, VA

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,

COMMITTEE ACTION #65

by *Rich Colker*, rcolker@gmail.com

The following appeal occurred during the second qualifying session of the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Fall NABC in Boston this past November. See if you can make the correct decision and deliver a belated measure of justice to the players involved.

Bd: 10; Vul: East; Dlr: Both

North

♠ KJ432
♥ KQ97
♦ 1094
♣ 8

West

♠
♥ J1086
♦ AJ6
♣ AKQ764

East

♠ A98
♥ A5
♦ KQ873
♣ J53

South

♠ Q10765
♥ 432
♦ 52
♣ 1092

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass		
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT(1)	Pass	4♦(2)	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass

(1) Alleged break in tempo (BIT)

(2) RKCB for diamonds

The opening lead was the ♠ 5 and East soon claimed thirteen tricks: +1390 for E/W. South called the Director at the end of the auction and again at the end of play saying that West broke tempo before his 3NT bid (N/S said West took 10 seconds; E/W thought it took six or seven seconds).

Based on N/S's statements and West's hand the Director determined that there had been an "unmistakable hesitation" by West before his 3NT bid. The Director subsequently polled six players asking what action each would take

with the East hand, given the auction up to East's turn to bid after West's 3NT bid (without any BIT). Four of the six players polled passed, the other two bid on. Based on this finding the Director judged that passing 3NT was a logical alternative for East and that bidding on was demonstrably suggested by the BIT. Therefore, in accordance with Laws 16B1 and 12C1(e), the result was adjusted to 3NT by East made seven, +720 for E/W. E/W appealed.

West allowed that his 3NT bid might have taken 2 - 4 seconds more than his previous bids since he did have alternatives to consider. He said in his partnership bids like 3♠ usually showed concentrated strength for notrump purposes, opposite which he had no matchpoint interest in minor-suit contracts. East said that after 3♦ he had huge slam potential and never intended to play 3NT. He rejected an immediate Keycard 4♦ over 3♦ hoping that if he cuebid 3♠ partner would take control and bid 4♦, find out about East's controls and the ♦ Q, and place the final contract. Once West failed to take keycard he bid Keycard himself, got a two key card response, and placed the contract in 6♦ based on West's previous lack of interest.

So, there you have it. How would you have decided this appeal? Read on when you're ready.

The Committee decided that there had been an unmistakable hesitation relative to the tempo of the earlier auction, that the hesitation demonstrably suggested not passing 3NT, and that pass was a logical alternative to bidding on. Therefore, the Committee upheld the Director's ruling of adjusting the contract to 3NT by East made seven, +720 for E/W. In delivering their decision the Committee explained that East might have intended 3♠ as asking for spade help for notrump (i.e. a singleton honor) and that West's 3NT bid could have shown a hand such as ♠ K ♥ Jxxx ♦ Axx ♣ AKxxx, making

...continued on p. 18, column 1

Committee Action 65, continued from p. 17...

slam no bargain. There was also some sentiment that East's first two bids were not optimal so there was no reason he should be alert to the possibility of slam—other than the suggestion provided by the hesitation. The Committee did not disbelieve East's stated reason for bidding 3♠ but found it irrelevant in light of the UI created by the hesitation.

So, how you would have decided this case? Are you happy with the Committee's decision? If so, then consider the dissent filed by Committee chair Ron Gerard. I paraphrase:

"In my opinion, passing 3NT was not a logical alternative to bidding on. To bid 3♠, asking specifically for the singleton ♠K was fatuous since West would also bid (3NT) with the singleton queen in case East's spade were KJx or K10x. Do any pairs have that specific agreement about bids opposite marked shortness rather than the standard meaning of 'I have a maximum holding for my previous auction knowing you are short?' Furthermore, why would West go out of his way to bid around his singleton king with the hand the Committee cited as a reason for making East pass 3NT? No, East's 3♠ had to be a prepared slam try, not some quixotic inquiry about a 12 - 1 shot.

"To penalize East for his 1♦ and 2♦ bids shows lack of proper appeals temperament. Opening 1NT or rebidding 2NT may be clear to your way of thinking, but holding that anything else is so irrational that you forfeit your right to later intelligent action does not belong in the committee room. East had reasons for each of his bids and was under no restrictions when he bid 3♠ as a slam try rather than that ridiculous 'notrump help' thing the Committee foisted on him.

"Finally, I disagree with the polling procedure that established pass as a LA. The Director poll resulted in four passes and two bids. The Committee was given a blind poll prior to the hearing and two members said they would pass 3NT, while I would have cut my tongue out rather than do that, not knowing the hand (♠x♥xxxx♦Axx♣AKQxx and Bob's your uncle in 7♦). The problem with the Director poll is that it is done on the fly, without benefit of insight from the principals. The problem with the blind poll is that members answer in two seconds flat, then spend the rest of the

hearing justifying their opinion when they didn't give due consideration to the auction. I defy anyone to support passing 3NT without creating a contortionist meaning for 3♠. And please don't hurl up accusations of bridge lawyering. It doesn't take a bridge lawyer to realize the value of that East hand when West goes out of his way to paint with pastels."

So there you have it. I'm in total agreement with Ron's bottom-line judgment of this case (though I disagree with his disapproval of the use of blind polls in the committee room). If you decided, as Ron and I did, to allow the table result to stand, you get my vote for Secretary of Defense.

Appeals, continued from p. 16...

appeal otherwise it will not be considered.

If the directors determine that your appeal could have no significant effect on the outcome of the game for anybody, the appeal will normally not be heard, since it is a considerable imposition on the time of all participants. Otherwise a committee of three (usually) players will be convened to consider the case, almost always immediately after the game.

What happens?

At least one of the appellants must attend; the other side need not, though they will often find it in their interest to do so.

After introductions, the the director who gave the original ruling presents the facts. The players have the chance to correct any errors of fact, after which the committee will explore the issue more deeply. During this process, all discussion must be directed to the committee; you must remain courteous, avoiding interruptions, accusations and intemperate behavior.

The committee will then deliberate in private, arrive at a conclusion (perhaps after calling participants back for further questions), and then deliver a final ruling with appropriate explanation. That closes the process - the ruling is not open for further discussion with the committee. All that remains is to thank the committee for their time and attention; they are all volunteers who give themselves generously in the interests of the game that we love.



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THE GADGET-MATIST

by Barry Bragin, bbragin@comcast.net

“Grandpa G, so far all your uses for 2NT as a gadget – Lebensohl and good/bad - has been in competitive auctions. Is it ever used in constructive situations?”

“Absolutely! 2NT comes into play in reverse auctions where responder needs to distinguish between a game or slam-going hand and one where he wants to put the breaks on. There are actually four distinct reverse sequences that need to be considered and each are handled in a slightly different manner (opponents pass throughout):

- 1♥ – 1NT – 2♠,
- 1♣/1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥,
- 1♣ – 1♥ – 2♦, and
- 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♦

Let’s look at each one at a time.”

1♥ – 1NT – 2♠

There are a few things all reverses have in common:

- They show significant extra values – around 17 or more HCP in a fairly balanced pattern (4522 or 4531) or a hand that would produce game opposite the right 6-count by responder (AKxxx/AQJxxx/xx/-).
- Opener’s first suit is always longer than the reverse suit.
- It is forcing for one round.

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

2009-10 DISTRICT 6 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS FINALS OCTOBER 10-11

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

In this sequence, responder makes one of the following rebids:

- 3NT with extras (8+ HCP) and stoppers in the minors,
- 3 of a minor with a 6-card suit and constructive values,
- 3♥ to show a weak 3-card raise (xxx/xx/Kxxx/Qxx),
- 3♠ to show an excellent 3-card raise (AJx/x/AQxxx/xxxx)
- 4 of a minor with a 3-card limit raise and concentrated values in that suit (i.e. bid 4♣ with xx/Kxx/xxxx/AKJx),
- 4♥ with a 3-card limit raise and scattered values,
- 2NT with either a balanced minimum (sometimes 2NT can be natural) or a weak hand with a long minor.

It is important for opener to bid out his pattern in case responder has that last possibility. With AKxx/AQxxx/x/Axx, she should bid 3♣ over 2NT. It’s not perfect, but this allows the partnership to get to the right strain when responder has xx/x/Qxxx/QJxxxx or xx/x/QJTxxx/Kxx and is not good enough to bid his suit over 2♠.

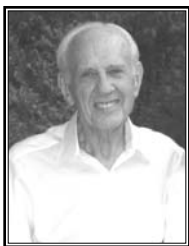
The next time we get together we’ll discuss the other reverse auctions. Not only will we use 2NT as a gadget there but also the 4th suit! Right now, Grandpa needs a nap.

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.

Pre-registration is required in order to play in the District

...continued on p.23

LEE BIGGS, EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEER



Lee Biggs, a dear friend of the bridge world, died peacefully of pulmonary fibrosis on July 17. He was 86 years old.

Lee was born in Ronan, Montana. He attended high school in Pulson, Montana. Lee joined the US Navy where he proudly served his country as a member of the SILENT SERVICE (submarines) during World War II. While in the Navy, Lee received his B.S. degree from Temple University and his Masters from the School of Business at Harvard University. Prior to retiring from military service Lee was the Assistant Administrator of the new Great Lakes Naval Training Hospital in Great Lakes, IL. Lee and his family moved to Rockville in 1962. He taught Economics and Accounting at Montgomery College.

Lee learned to play bridge in Washington, and became a devoted member of the local bridge community. After retiring from his second career, he became an American Contract Bridge League Life Master in 1996. Lee went on to become the director of Duplicate Bridge at the Rockville Senior Center. The people who played there will always remember his wonderful celery and carrot sticks which he served at his games. His games have raised over \$65,000, all donated to the Senior Center.

Not content with the traditional leisurely retirement life style, Lee volunteered in the early 1990s to be the District's 'table caretaker and transporter'. Lee never wanted any recognition for his volunteer service, so many people did not know all that he did for the WBL.

With the support of Lora, of his dear wife of 61 years, Lee repaired and refinished the tables. He then personally transported them as far south as Myrtle Beach NC and as far north as Lancaster PA - and for ALL Regionals in between and for our local Sectionals. Each table weighs about 14 pounds. When he fills the Ford pickup truck that he bought specifi-

cally to haul the bridge tables, there can be a load of as many as 230 tables. Add that to the bid box table attachments, the score posts, and other miscellaneous materials, it's a weight of over a ton and a half! Multiple this by two loading and two unloading evolutions for each tournament and that's over six tons of lifting. Occasionally Lee and Lora would have some help, but most of the time they did it by themselves. When not being used, the tables were safely stored in their carport. Their car and truck were relegated to stay in the driveway. The driveway also served as the 'card table repair and refinishing area', where Lee lovingly spent countless hours maintaining the tables.

Lee did this volunteer work for 16 years. Even though he would have dearly liked to continue, the wear on the body became just too much. This has been literally a Herculean service to our bridge community.

Lee and his beloved wife, Lora, moved to a retirement home in Port Charlotte, Florida, ten months ago to be closer to their daughter, Barbara. Although he initially resisted the move, he soon came to be very grateful for it. He enjoyed spending the winter in Florida and not having the responsibilities of a house!

Many will remember Lee as a "Lifer", teacher, friend, bridge director and partner, and an avid gardener. He loved gardening and grew tomatoes and other vegetables by the bushel to give away to friends and neighbors. He was an avid reader and read 2-3 newspapers daily. He said that when he moved to Florida he would be happy as long as he had his books — and over a thousand pounds of books were taken along.

Lee is survived by his wife Lora and two daughters, Barbara Amatuucci and Susan Moore. They had been with him watching a movie on the day that he died. (Sue lives in Iowa but spent as much time as she could with him in Florida.) Lee is also survived by a grandson, a granddaughter, two son-in-laws, and his beloved dog, Suki.

Lee is missed by many friends.

Bits & Pieces, continued from p. 21...

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

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

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

2009-10 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS Get Your Team Together!

It's time to get to your local club and qualify to win a partially subsidized trip to New Orleans, Louisiana at the Summer 2010 NABC. You will represent District 6 in the national finals of this grassroots competition.

The club qualification period began on September 1, 2009 and will continue until April 8, 2010. Make sure you qualify early. You can go out and play as often as you want with whomever you want.

Once again, the competition will contain four flights at the District level. The Open Flight is open to all players. Flight A is limited to players with 0-5000 masterpoints. Flight B is limited to players with 0-2000 masterpoints. Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Masterpoint eligibility is determined by the ACBL as of September 1, 2009. At the club level, the Open and A Flights will be combined.

Masterpoints awarded at the club level are half-red, and an easy way to earn colored points without traveling or changing your local partners or playing habits. In the District level competition, the match awards are red and the overall awards are gold (Flight C awards 25% gold and 75% red).

We will be holding the first weekend of

the District finals of Flights B and C at separate northern and southern sites. The southern sites will be Charlottesville and Newport News. All three sites will hold qualifiers on the same weekend.

You must pre-register to play. Pre-registration ends midnight on the Thursday before each event begins.

Any questions please contact **Lynn Jones** at 410-560-3244 or bridgelynn@comcast.net

Conditions of Contest, directions to sites, and where to qualify at www.districtsix.org

Open Bracket

First Weekend:

Saturday, Feb. 20, 12 Noon
Eastern Middle School
Sunday, Feb. 21, 11A.M.
Eastern Middle School

Second Weekend

Saturday, March 6, 12 Noon
Eastern Middle School
Sunday, March 7, 11A.M.
Laurel Bridge Club Finals

A Bracket (0-5000MP)

First Weekend:

Saturday, April 10, 12 Noon
Laurel Bridge Club
Sunday, April 11, 11 A.M.
Laurel Bridge Club

Second Weekend

Saturday, April 24, 11 A.M.
Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge
Sunday, April 25, 11 A.M.
Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge

B Bracket (0-2000MP)

First Weekend: Northern Site

Saturday Feb. 20, 12 Noon
Eastern Middle School
Sunday, Feb. 21, 11A.M.
Eastern Middle School

First Weekend: Southern Sites

Saturday, Feb. 20, 12Noon
Newport News, Peninsula Bridge Club
Charlottesville, TBA
Sunday, Feb. 21, 11A.M.
Newport News, Peninsula Bridge Club
Charlottesville, TBA

...continued on p.24

Second Weekend: all teams who have qualified

Saturday, March 6, 12 Noon
Eastern Middle School
Sunday, March 7, 11A.M.
Laurel Bridge Club Finals

C Bracket (0-500MP)

First Weekend: Northern Site

Saturday, Feb 20, 12 Noon
Eastern Middle School
Sunday, Feb. 21, 11 A.M.
Eastern Middle School

First Weekend: Southern Sites

Saturday, Feb. 20, 12 Noon
Newport News, Peninsula Bridge Club
Charlottesville, TBA
Sunday Session: Only if needed

Second Weekend: all teams who have qualified

Saturday, March 6, 12 Noon
Eastern Middle School Finals

Remember players qualify as individuals at the club level and may form new teams with qualified players for the District phase of the competition. What this means is that you can play with all of your friends at the club level, no matter what your flight eligibility, and then form one or more teams to compete in one or more flights at the District level. So, come out and play.

Call your club manager to find out when the club is holding qualifying games. As club dates are made available to the District GNT coordinator or District webmaster, they will be posted on the District 6 website: www.districtsix.org.

SYLVIA LEVY

Sylvia Levy, long time WBL member, director, and volunteer dispensing free plays passed away on Monday, June 29 after a long illness. *Ed note:* Sylvia always claimed responsibility for joining me (Donna Rogall) to my husband, John Adams. On March 21, 1987, at age 26, I ventured alone to my first duplicate game at Edith McMullin's old club in Wheaton where Sylvia was directing. John was there without a partner, too. Sylvia looked at him, looked at me, looked around

the room at the rest of the field (average age 60's) and the rest is history. Thanks, Sylvia!... I think ;)

**TOP 10 PERFORMANCE LISTS
FROM THE D.C. NABC**

Washington Bridge League Members

1	124.50	.....	Alan Kleist
2	108.40	.....	Steve Robinson
3	107.81	.....	Peter Boyd
4	103.00	.....	Michael Ledeen
5	102.87	.....	Lou Reich
6	100.74	.....	John Adams
7	96.29	.....	Lloyd Rawley
8	92.30	.....	Martin Graf
	92.30	.....	Mark Shaw
10	72.88	.....	Jian-Jian Wang
	72.88	.....	Hailong Ao

WBL Members under 2000 masterpoints

1	103.00	.....	Michael Ledeen
2	96.29	.....	Lloyd Rawley
3	72.88	.....	Hailong Ao
	72.88	.....	Jian-Jian Wang
5	56.59	.....	Jimmy Ritzenberg
6	54.24	.....	Robert Schwab
	54.24	.....	Anne Derbes
8	54.19	.....	David Loken
9	53.97	.....	Robert Levey
10	52.75	.....	Jason Meyer

WBL Members under 750 masterpoints

1	72.88	.....	Jian-Jian Wang
2	54.24	.....	Robert Schwab
	54.24	.....	Anne Derbes
4	54.19	.....	David Loken
5	41.19	.....	Roman Kaluzniacki
6	39.57	.....	Murat Berk
7	38.04	.....	Michael Berard
8	34.26	.....	Alfred Liepold
9	30.49	.....	Jay Weinstein
10	28.49	.....	James Beller

WBL Members under 300 masterpoints

1	39.57	.....	Murat Berk
2	30.49	.....	Jay Weinstein
3	28.49	.....	James Beller
4	28.32	.....	Rex Settle
5	27.17	.....	Rajeswaran Rajkumar
6	26.47	.....	David Wampler
7	24.95	.....	Lynne Beresford
8	24.78	.....	Adrienne Kuehneman
9	24.35	.....	Steve Graves
10	23.75	.....	Shyamalendu Pal

...continued on p.27

Fall
into
Fun!

**NVBA FALL SECTIONAL
TOURNAMENT**

The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188
8421 Arlington Boulevard,
Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2213

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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

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

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 2 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) 2 p.m.
TRIPLE NICKEL SWISS (STRATIFIED 2000+/2000/750) 7:30 p.m.
—5 rounds, 5 boards, 5 minutes a board
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 9:30 a.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) 9:30 a.m.
STRATAFLIGHTED PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) .. 2 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100; 2 single sessions) 2 & 7:30 p.m.
49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) 2 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman) 10:15 a.m.
FLIGHTS A/X (3000+/3000) SWISS TEAMS
& BRACKETED FLIGHT B TEAMS (0-2000) 11:00 a.m.
*B Teams Bracketed by Total Team Masterpoints; three overall places in each
bracket. Both Flights are 2-session events, w/ 1 hour break—on-site food available*
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100; Single session) 11:00 a.m.
49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5; Single session) 11:00 a.m.
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100; Single session) 3:15 p.m.

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

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Mary Ann Kral,
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NVBA cell: 703-869-0852

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Next NVBA Sectional
Feb 25-28 '10 at Arlington/
Fairfax Elks Lodge
(Thurs at Beth El)

www.nvba.org

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE MEMBER CLUBS

Updates at www.washingtonbridgeleague.org

WBL Unit Game

(301.395.2760)
Christ the King Church
2301 Colston Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
unitgamedirector@districtsix.org
Th 7:30P

Andy's Thursday AM DBC

6311 Old Branch Rd
Camp Springs, MD 20748
Marie Wanner
301.645.8405
Th 10:00

Camp Springs DBC

6311 Old Branch Rd
Camp Springs, MD 20748
Anna McLean
301.839.2464
Tu 10:00
F 10:00

Chevy Chase Bridge Club

DC Rec Dept
5601 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC
Larry S Galvin
301.984.4482
F 11:00

Duplicate Bridge Club of Southern Maryland

Swan Point Yacht and
Country Club
Swan Point Blvd
Swan Point, MD
Porter Kier
301.259.2049
Lloyd Bowling (assistant)
F 10:00

Frederick Bridge Club

Church of the
Transfiguration
6909 Maryland Ave.
Frederick, MD 20703
James C. Eaton
jeaton2118@aol.com
301.898.7208
M 7:15
Th 11:45
Su 1:00 Twice Monthly
(Different site)

Gaithersburg Bridge Club

19310 Club House Rd.
Gaithersburg, Md
Mary Jane Von Moss
rvmoss@erols.com
301.990.8897
Tu 10:30: 100/500/1700
F 10:30: 100/500/1700

Guy Mason Center DBC

3600 Calvert Street NW
Washington DC
Larry S Galvin
202.282.2180
M 11:00
Th 11:00

Holiday Park Senior Center

3950 Ferrara Dr.
Wheaton, MD
Carol McNeil
mbmcbm@aol.com
301.990.1715
W 12:45

Jewish Community Center

<http://www.jccdbc.com>
6125 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD
Audrey Warren
audreyw99@comcast.net
301-279-0367
M 7:30

Laurel Bridge Club

<http://www.districtsix.org/laurel/laurel.htm>
8564-A Laureldale Dr.
Laurel, Md
301.395.6810
Rose Berman
rose.berman@verizon.net
301-776-3581
Tu 7:30P
W 7:30
F 8:00
Sa 1:30

Lusby Bridge Club

Southern Community Center
John Etter
410.586.1988
301.855.9449
M 9:30
Tu 12:30

Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center

(Seniors Only)
1000 Forest Glen Rd.
Silver Spring, MD
Rox Dixon
rozdx2@aol.com
301.785.4441
Tu 1:00

Montgomery County Duplicate Bridge Club

Church of the Resurrection
3315 Greencastle Rd.
Burtonsville, MD
Roz Dixon
rozdx2@aol.com
301.785.4441
M 10:30
W 10:30
F 10:30

Music and Memories

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Music Library Lab
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Frederick, MD 20702
Robert M. Freed
robear69@comcast.net
301.473.8138
Sa 7:15 Semi Monthly

Rockville Senior Center

1150 Carnation Dr.
Rockville, Md
Mark Lavine
301.251.1238
Tu 7:00

Rockville Senior Center at St James Episcopal Church

<http://www.rockvilledbc.com>
11815 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD
Mark Lavine
301.251.1238
M 11:15
F 11:15
Sa 1:00 (Open & NLM)

Severna Park Bridge

548 Benfield Road
Severna Park, MD
Pam Schaffer
410.544.0085
M 10:00
M 7:30P
Tu 10:00
W 10:00
Th 10:00
Th 7:00

Temple Beth Ami

<http://www.jccdbc.com>
14330 Traillah Rd
Rockville, MD
Audrey Warren
audreyw99@comcast.net
301.279.0367
W 10:30

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.)

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 24...

LESLIE & CHARLIE'S BRIDGE CLASSES

Beginner Bridge Part I. Two Locations! Tell your friends!! For absolute beginners or those who haven't played in many years and want to start over. Covers point count evaluation, basic play techniques and opening bids and responses for basic bidding.

Location #1: Tuesday mornings 10AM - 12:30PM UMC*. Taught by Leslie Shafer. Six-week class starts September 15 and ends October 20. Registration fee is \$125 in advance (\$150 at the door) and can be sent directly to "Leslie Shafer" at 331 Market St. East #154, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Location #2: Thursday evenings 7-9 PM at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road in Rockville, MD. (Executive Blvd & Montrose.) Taught by Charlie Williams. Six-week class starts September 10 and ends October 15. For tuition rates or to register with JCC directly contact Barbara Winnik bwinnik@jccgw.org or call 301-348-3778.

Leslie and Charlie are full time bridge teachers in Montgomery County (mainly Rockville, Chevy Chase and Potomac areas) with about 15 classes for all levels. To see a full listing of classes and descriptions, please visit their website at www.bridgeteacher.com and Click on Fall 2009 Bridge Class Schedule. If you need more information, call them 301-977-0314 or email them at slamhand@verizon.net



NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

GOING FOR THE GOLD!

By guest columnist **Wendy Fotland**
(my twin!)

“Deep, cleansing breaths!” That’s what I told myself as the start time neared for the first day of our 9 a.m. knockout. I was at the Washington Summer NABC, about to begin a three-session event with my partner, Alan, and our teammates, Sandy and Steve, all of whom have over 800 masterpoints. At not quite 150 points, I was definitely the weak link in our chain.

We were playing in the Monday-Wednesday Morning KO. In a knockout team game, each team of four players plays a multi-board match against one other team, and the loser is ‘knocked out’, or eliminated from the event (as opposed to a Swiss team game, where all the teams play all the matches). Usually KO’s are bracketed, which means the teams are divided into groups, called brackets, according to their masterpoint holdings. Each team competes only against the other teams in their bracket.

In this particular KO, the eight teams with the most total masterpoints made up Bracket 1, the next eight teams were in Bracket 2, etc. We were in Bracket 3 of six. Each session we would play a 24-board match against one other team, until we either lost or emerged victorious. (Some knockouts play two or more shorter matches per session.)

That first morning, my partner and I sat EW opposite a pair of ladies, while Sandy

and Steve sat NS against their teammates. We shuffled, dealt and played six boards, and at Sandy’s table they did the same. Then we traded and played the six boards our teammates had just played. Now it was time to get together with our teammates and compare our results for the first twelve boards.

On the first board, our opponents bid 2NT making four, for -180 for us. Sandy and Steve bid the game, but sadly Steve went down one for -50. We added the two scores together for a total of -230 for our team. Because team games are scored in International Matchpoints (IMPs), we referred to the IMP scale on the back of the ACBL Convention Card to convert our difference in points to IMPs. For winning the board by 230 points, our opponents earned 6 IMPs.

On another board, Alan and I bid and made 6♠. I played it – I was very proud! But Sandy and Steve’s opponents did the same thing, so no IMPs to anyone. On another board, our teammates bid and made 4♥ for +620, but Alan and I let our opponents make six for -680 for us. We added 620 to -680 for a total of -60 (watch those positives and negatives!), which meant two IMPs to our opponents. (I like IMPs because not making an overtrick just costs you one IMP, which isn’t much. In matchpoints, an overtrick can be the difference between a top and a bottom!)

Luckily, some scores in the first half went our way. The biggest “swings” in our favor were on a couple of boards where our team bid and made a game while our opponents

went down. After comparing the first-half results, the score was 34 to 33: we were behind by just one IMP. With twelve more boards to play against the same team, we still had a great shot at winning!

I was feeling a lot calmer as we began the second half. I had made some mistakes, but so had everyone else on the team. These Life Masters weren’t so tough after all! We did a lot of things right and scored 38 IMPs to the opponents’ 17, for a big win for the good guys! We were one of the four teams of the original eight to come back the next morning to compete against one of the other winning teams.

Again, I was nervous. But I was prepared. I’d reviewed my card so I wouldn’t mess up any of our conventions. I reminded myself to stay focused, remember the bidding and think before I bid or played. Deep breaths again and we began!

I declared an early board and I let myself lose control of the trumps. Oops! I apologized to my partner – I butchered that hand! He said yes, you did! But he said it with a smile, so I put it behind me; after all, it was just one board. Thank goodness I chose a partner and teammates who never got mad at me!

This time we won both halves, by 19 and 23 IMPs. I was so happy! Now we were coming back for the final session, to play for first or second place. We were guaranteed to win gold points!

On Wednesday morning, I was feeling good. When we compared scores, I had kept our opponents from making two overtricks that Steve made when he

declared the same contract. Alan complimented me for defending better than a Life Master! See what I mean about choosing the right partner?

Once again, we won the match easily, 71 IMPs to 44, for first place in our bracket and 9.74 gold points! It was no big deal for my teammates, but it was huge for me. I’m well on my way to becoming an LM and you can too – you just have to go for it!

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P.S. from Sandy: It was great seeing you all at the NABC! Thanks to everyone who mentioned how much you enjoy this column; it means a lot to me.
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STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of August 1, 2009

Junior Masters

(5 Masterpoints)

Mr Craig Birmingham
Ms Phoebe Brown
Louise Deisseroth
Mrs Carol Kahn
Jean C Liu
Dr Marvin B Rosenblatt
Mrs Hanna Wagner
Ms Kathleen Zellmer
Ms Susan Agger
Maryann Bishop
Ms Karen J Horowitz
Mrs Judy Mammano
Ms Maria L Moen

Mr Michael Blumer
Mr J.R. (Jim) Campbell Jr
Mrs Sandra C Getler
Mr Forest D Montgomery
Ms Geane L Schubert
Mrs Coni Watson

Sectional Masters (50 MPs)

Mrs Frances Abramson
Mrs Phyllis L Berg
Mrs Barbara Ranhand
Gail W Ginsburgh
Mrs Barbara K Gordon
Ann Seeboth

Regional Masters (100 MPs)

Ms Phyllis Cohen

Club Masters (20 MPs)

Mr Gabriel C Cornett
Mr Lennart Eckerberg
Mr Michael Kuehl

NABC Masters (200 MPs)

Sandra S Jacobs

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

1) Matchpoints, Both Vulnerable

♠ AKT9853♥ A7♦ A4♣ 52

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	3♥	4♥	5♥
????			

2) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ 9742♥ K94♦ A♣ AKQ32

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

3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ Q1093♥ 6♦ A109543♣ Q2

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

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 10♥ 765♦ KJ10874♣ 1053

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♦	Dbl	Pass
????*			

*Pass will be given zero points

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ 9♥ AJ104♦ AKQJ4♣ KJ5

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♥
????			

Return answers by October 29 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.