

It's the
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE'S

48th Annual Presidential Tournament

Two
thousand
TENs
to be a
winner!

January 7-
10, 2010

**Try this popular
event Sunday:**

*Bracketed
Teams*

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.

**Toast the New Year
at the 7:00 pm Friday Night**

Champagne & IMP Pairs

Don't miss the 2:30pm Saturday

**Panel
Show**



& Party

to Honor New Life Masters

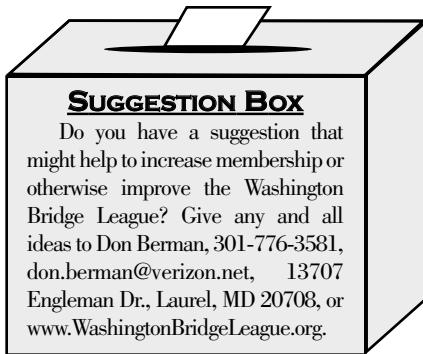
and the 2:30pm Sunday

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation

...plus, tell all your friends about the 10:30am Sunday

1-Day Bridge Class: 2 sections: Start to Play or Advance Your Game

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...

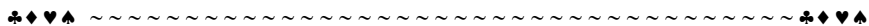


SUGGESTION BOX

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: JANUARY 11, 2010

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010 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

TO GET ON AN EMAIL LIST FOR **BRIDGE NEWS & BRIDGE PROBLEMS**, SEND A NOTE TO STEVE ROBINSON AT **ROBINSWR@EROLS.COM** REQUESTING SUCH.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Don Berman

At last, after much searching, we have found a new (or rather old) home for our Unit game. Beginning **January 14, 2010** we will be playing at **Ohr Kodesh Congregation**. It is located just off East-West Highway ½ mile west of Christ the King Church. It is a beautiful facility, completely renovated from the last time we played there. Indeed we have played there three times in the past. The dates were October 1969 to September 1973 (4 years), July 1976 to February 1986 (almost 10 years), and June 2000 to the fall of 2001 (just over a year). See our web site for details including a map.

Please note that this is a Jewish house of worship and must be respected as such. Therefore, to conform to their kosher laws, I ask you to NOT bring any food into their facility. The Unit will supply snacks as usual. Also, they have asked us to only use the front door for access into the building not the door near the parking lot. I also ask you to help us keep the room clean.

Much of the work done to run our Unit is by volunteers and many of you put in considerable time. Without your help we cannot maintain the level of service to which you have become accustomed. There are a few areas in which we are in need of help.

1. We need a coordinator for our Bridge at School program. For details on this endeavor see the box below.
2. At our Unit Game we have a guaranteed partner program run by Barbara Doran. We need more volunteers for next year so that this activity does not fall on the shoulders of a few. So we are asking you to volunteer for only a single week the whole year. If you can identify a date which you would like to contribute please notify Barbara. You will receive a free play for your effort.
3. Our annual Holiday Party is on December 17. All refreshments are prepared by volunteers. Please do your part to make this our best party ever. If you need a suggestion speak to Kitty Gottfried.

We will be closed both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Be sure to make your plans for the January sectional (Jan 7-10). Also, add Bridge and Bowling on February 6 to your schedule.

I and all the Officers and members of your Board of Directors wish you a Happy New Year. *Enjoy!*

WANTED: WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE SCHOOL BRIDGE COORDINATOR

Duties:

1. Contact area schools and set up after school bridge clubs.
2. Recruit bridge playing volunteers to teach at these clubs.
3. Match programs with volunteers.
4. Conduct an annual seminar (one evening) in August or early September for the volunteers on how to run the school program.
5. Arrange for youth/school sections at WBL sectionals.
6. Have an annual youth tournament, either at a sectional, or a local club with winners sent free to the NABC youth tournament in the summer.
7. Whatever else seems appropriate.
8. Report to the WBL Board.

Contact **Don Berman** don.berman@verizon.net

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I certify that the above statements are correct and complete — Donna Rogall, Editor	

SILVER SPRING, MD: JANUARY 7-10, 2010

Washington Bridge League 48th Annual Presidential Tournament

TWO THOUSAND TENS 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, Alexandria 7:00pm
Christ the King Church, 2301 Colston Drive, Silver Spring 7:30pm
Capital Beltway to Connecticut Ave. South. Left on East-West Hwy. Right on Grubb Rd. 1st left on Colston. Church is on the left before the next intersection.

Friday—at Christ the King Church Only

- ♣ 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

- ♣ **Special! Joint ABA/CBL** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 11:00am
- ♦ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 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 Game* 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

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

- ♣ 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 (Ohr Kodesh Congregation only); Stratified 199er Pairs (Beth El only)
Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria 7:00pm
- ♣ **Ohr Kodesh Congregation**, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln., Chevy Chase ..7:30pm
I-495 to Connecticut Ave. South. 4th light left E-W Hwy 410. Left Meadowbrook Ln. 1st left Freyman Dr. Parking lot on left. No outside food allowed.

REST OF TOURNAMENT at the **Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center**: 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD

I-495 to Georgia Avenue North (toward Wheaton). 1st light right Forest Glen Rd. The Center is .7 mile on right.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

NEW Friday location & dinner served between the 2 sessions

- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 2:30pm
- ♣ **Barometer Pairs** **EARLIER START TIME: 7:00pm**
StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500)
Check your scores every round! Friday nights are your chance to try a different form of the game. This one session Barometer Pairs has no qualification necessary. Everyone plays the same boards at the same time and you can see how you're doing after every round.
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions)2:30pm, **7:00pm**

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

- ♣ **Compact KOs** Four rounds of knockouts finish in one day! 11:00am, 3:30 pm
Tired of pair games? You're guaranteed to play a full session of two rounds of the knockouts.
- ♦ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500) (single session)11:00am
- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) (single session) 3:30pm
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♣ *Don't miss the between sessions **Panel Show***2:30pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

- ♦ A/X Swiss Teams (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** ♥

UN events: 0-5, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300; Stratification at Director's Discretion.



Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks and **Fri dinner, Sat & Sun 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



64th Annual City of Washington Tournament



NEW

WASHINGTONBRIDGELEAGUE.ORG

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Agatha W Aurbach, Gin Bell, Stephen F Black, Elizabeth B Blondel, Tina C Brinsfield, Mrs Enid Cheng, Patsy Chick, Ms Deloris H Colick, John M Coulter Jr, Marilyn E Courtot, Farida Dossani, Ann M Dudley, Janet A Glen, Mrs Mildred W Haynes, Bruce Hendricks, Helen Hendricks, Authur Lazarus Jr, Bennie J Martin, Mr Robin B Martin, Ann E Murry, Ms Shala Panbechi, Nancy Raskin, Ellen Reitkopp, Howard Reitkopp, Josie T Scholz, Robert R Scholz, Ms Marsha B Shiff, Sheila Tavakolian, Mrs Danae Triantis, Xiaoping Wang, Diane S Wapner, Martin Wapner, Jocelyn White, Mrs Anita Barretto, Ms Sandie Deighton, Mrs Barbara Goldberg, Rose M Greenwood, Mr Kevin C Lamb, Patricia A Price, Alvin L Smith, Shirley R Watkins- Bowden, and Patricia Welty.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mr Scott A Ellis, Mr Judah E Kaplan, Mrs Odessa M Morton, Deborah S Nixon, Mrs Adele Waggaman, Mary F Whitney, Mrs Leah B Chernov, Mr P David Chernov, Dr Lynn R Gagnon, Max J Minzner, and Mr Patrick A Piercey.**

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.

2010 WBL UNIT KO

The deadline for entering the 2010 Washington Bridge League Unit KO is **February 4, 2010.**

There will be three flights of play: Flight A, Flight B, and a NEW flight for players with 0-100 masterpoints. The masterpoint cutoff for Flight B will be determined by the coordinator after reviewing the entries and the masterpoints of the teams entered.

The GNT qualifier on February 4th will be used as a factor in the seeding of the KO Flight A and Flight B; however, you don't have to play in the GNT qualifier in order to play in the Unit KOs. If you have six members of your KO team, they can play on six different GNT teams on February 4. They will have six different seed numbers. For the 0-100 Flight, the bracket will be random draw.

The cost is only \$30/team for the whole event for Flight A and Flight B. For the 0-100 Flight, the cost is only \$16/team for the whole event.

Contact **Steve Robinson** to find partners, for more information, or to sign up a team of 4, 5, or 6 players:

Email: robinswr@erols.com

phone: 703-379-4371

snail mail: 2891 S. Abingdon St #A2, Arlington, VA 22206

1-DAY BRIDGE CLASS: JANUARY 10, 2010

You can share the fun and challenge of duplicate bridge with your friends and family! Tell them about our **1-Day Bridge Class**, Sunday, January 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Margaret Schweinhaut Center in Silver Spring (during the WBL sectional—details and directions on p.3). They can learn to play bridge, or review the basics of play and modern bidding, in just one day!

There will be separate classes for those who have never played, and for those who want to learn new techniques and improve their game. The "advanced" class will focus on the Jacoby 2NT bid after partner opens one of a major suit. Time will be set aside so students can ask questions about any aspect of the game.

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

—CLUB NEWS—

LAUREL BRIDGE CLUB

Come out to a new Sunday afternoon game—1:30 PM. Also, we're hosting a New Year's Eve pot luck dinner and bridge game on Thursday, December 31st. Bring a dish to the dinner at approximately 7 PM, and play bridge at 8 PM. Complimentary wine and beer, and champagne toast at midnight. For information contact Rose Berman at 301-776-3581.

...continued on p. 17 , column 2, midway



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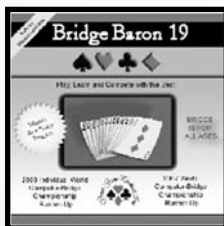
1-800-GAMES-4-U or 301-299-9005

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(Shipping/handling not included • All prices in US dollars)

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• States a line of play for all claims • Improved bidding agreement flexibility (set your own takeout-double level) • Now draws negative inferences (gaining information not only about bids made, but also about bids not made) • Seven new bidding conventions including Two-Way Drury, Multi-Landy, and Graded Ogust • Increased feature set on the Macintosh • You can now see what Bridge Baron is “thinking” about, at higher levels of bidding and play



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Introduction to Bridge

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• Teaches both bidding and play • Paced appropriately for beginners • Lessons 1-3 teach the mechanics, trick taking, and provide the background for bidding • Lessons 4-6 teach opening bids and their responses • Quizzes to reinforce your understanding • Provides an extensive glossary and reference section • Includes 33 carefully crafted instructional deals, and 92 BONUS practice hands • Presented in an easy-to-use, interactive format

Learn and Practice Bidding Conventions \$29.95

Available on CD-Rom for Windows 2000/XP/Vista (English only)

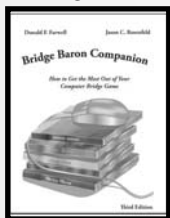


• Two New Editions: **Basic Conventions** (Vol. 2) and **More Basic Conventions** (Vol. 3) • Learn Conventions allows you to practice each convention in Bridge Baron. LPBC teaches you seven conventions in depth using the interactive Bridge Baron Teacher architecture, and allows you to practice these conventions as well.

• 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 **Craig Olson** and **JJ Wang** who came in first with a score of 470. They win a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for third were **Larry Kahn, Jim Wakefield** and **Enid Hughes** with a score of 460. Tied for sixth were **Mark McEneaney, Paul Benedict, Donna Rogall, Ted Ying, Mark Laken** and **Hank Meyer** with a score of 450. Tied for twelfth were **Carl Gutschick** and **Kent Goulding** with a score of 440. Tied for fourteenth were **Mark Chen, Brad Theurer, Jerry Pruzan, Richard Wimberley, Sven Pride, Marsha Brown** and **Jon Bessinger** with a score of 430. The average score of the 280 solvers was 336. The average score of the experts was 424.

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, Both Vulnerable

♠ AKT9853♥ A7♦ A4♣ 52

	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	1♠	3♥	4♥	5♥
	????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>	
Pass	100	3	30	
6♦	80	3	36	
6♥	80	0	29	
6♠	70	2	86	
5NT	70	1	09	
7♠	60	1	12	
7♥	50	0	02	
5♠	40	0	55	
Dbl	30	0	17	
6NT	20	0	02	
6♣	20	0	02	

Seems to me that you ought to be able to make at least 6♠ since partner's 4♥ shows an opening bid or better with spade support. With a minimum game force or a good limit raise you just bid 4♠. The question is do we belong in six or possibly seven? There are very few auctions where a pass is clearly forcing but here I think everyone would agree that the opponents can't play in 5♥ undoubted. So our best option is to pass and see what partner does. If partner doubles

showing a minimum game force, a grand may not be cold. If partner cue bids we very likely have a grand. If partner bids 5♠ we can bid something below 6♠ showing that our intention is to try to get to seven. If partner has ♠ QJxx♥ x♦ KQxx♣ Axxx or ♠ QJxx♥ x♦ Kxxx♣ AKxx, minimum 4♥ bids, 7♠ is cold. If partner has one more winner, then 7NT is cold. If partner bids 6♣ directly, I would take a chance on 7NT. Of course, at IMPs I wouldn't think of playing in 7NT. The only time you want to think about playing in 7NT at IMPs is if the opponents could get a ruff or you have 13 or more top tricks and would go down if the trump suit splits badly. Holding two long suits, you might need only one of them to split if you played the hand in 7NT.

Two experts agree with me and pass.

Schwartz: "Pass—It sounds like partner has a stiff heart, but who knows? Maybe RHO raised with three hearts and a spade void. Thus I leave room for partner to double so I know. I won't sit and will bid 6♦ to show a good hand and the diamond Ace."

Woolsey: "Pass—If partner doubles or bids 5♠, I'll try 6♥ making it clear what my intentions are — if he doesn't go over this, we probably don't have a grand. If partner bids more over my pass we are in a grand — probably 7NT, although that is a matchpoint decision."

Four experts cue bid. Three of them cue bid 6♦ and one bids 5NT. Since the cue bid is above 5♠, it is a try for seven but what do they ask for? Does the cue bid ask for a club ace, the heart ace or what? It asks for whatever is in the mind of the asker, which is the problem of all cue bids above keycard.

Deverin: "6♦ —Showing grand slam aspirations and club weakness. This is a two-edged sword: North may have enough extra values to bid 7♠, but opponents may take the first two club tricks."

Parker: "6♦ —I know that 6♣ would be the expert bid to fend off a club lead but we can easily have a grand if partner has the club Ace and some long strong suit. 6♦ clearly is a grand slam try without a club control."

Roman: "6♦ —Invite a grand, deny a club control...perfect. If partner bids 6♠ I will pass, but I will bid 7♠ if he bids 6♥."

Cappelletti: "5NT—"Last Train" ask - if partner bids 6♣, I will shoot out 7♠ instead of 6♠."

Two experts give up on seven.

Adams: "6♠ —We might be cold for a grand, but no bid I make gets partner involved in the decision to an extent where his guess will be better than mine. Any try I make can give information to the opponents that will let them defend better. Given no help from partner, I choose to guess that 6♠ will be right far more often than 5♠, and that 7♠ will not be automatic. My second choice is 7♠, not at all interested in any cue bid or psych. 5♠ is far too wimpy. Even if they have cashing clubs, they have to lead them."

Hopkins: "6♠ —This is the practical bid. I expect a Heart lead, which might save us if partner has something like ♠ Qxxx♥ -♦ KQJxx♣ KJxx."

One expert bids a grand. Couldn't partner have ♠ QJxxx♥ -♦ Kxx♣ KQJxx?

Landen: "7♠ —Partner might just be setting up a forcing pass situation and not making a true slam try. Even then, we might have a solid play for seven. Second choice is 6♥, but I doubt partner would bid seven when all I need is the right minimum opening bid."

If you can, allow partner to limit his hand.

2) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ 9742♥ K94♦ A♣ AKQ32

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♣	Pass	1NT	2♠
????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Dbl	100	5	79
3♣	70	2	115
2NT	60	1	20
Pass	50	2	40
3♠	40	0	16
3NT	40	0	06
3♥	30	0	02
4♠	20	0	01
3♦	20	0	01

Double of 2♠ is a penalty double but do you want to double without a spade honor? Since partner has at least two spades, the opponents are in at best a 5-2 fit or a 6-1 fit. Plus you have more than half the deck in HCP. If partner has three spades, they are in a 5-1 or even a 6-0 fit. You have a good opening lead (queen of clubs) and there's a good chance that you can make declarer ruff clubs, which will create trump tricks for you. There's no guarantee but when playing matchpoints and you have a chance to get a number you should take it. If you're thinking about making a close penalty double, make it if you have a good opening lead.

Four experts join me and go for the throat.

Parker: "Double—I think most partnerships play a double as values in this sequence not a spade stack. I have values and we should have more than half the deck. Unlikely partner has a five-card suit so they are in trouble. I expect to tap them out with club leads."

This is not a card-showing double. Since you can easily have four spades, it's a pure penalty double. You're sitting behind a player who's probably making a bad bid.

Schwartz: "Double—They could easily be in a 5-1 fit so why let them off the hook for an uncertain game. Partner can pull with club length and a doubleton spade."

I don't think partner is going to or should pull this double. Why can't you have ♠ AQ109♥ KQJ9♦ xx♣ Qxx or even stronger hands that are unsuitable for a 1NT opener?

Hopkins: "Double—Declarer could have six spade tricks and a heart, but if partner has anything reasonable in the majors, we should have +300."

Adams: "Double—This will be ugly for them. 2NT, 3♣, and double all risk letting them find diamonds, but I can't pass and take a measly 50 a trick. Let's say partner is 2-3-4-4 (worst case), we probably make ten tricks in clubs, with notrump being uncertain, particularly with the "surprise" diamond lead. They will go down two or three if they stay in spades. I do not expect partner will leave this with five clubs."

Two experts play it safe and bid 3♣. I hope partner doesn't have ♠ QJx♥ QJx♦ Kxxx♣ 654 and watch the opponents get two spade tricks, the ace of hearts and two club ruffs. How many clubs you make will likely depend on who has the higher club spot.

Woolsey: "3♣ —Difficult. Three notrump probably needs partner to have both a spade stopper and the ace of hearts, and that is a parlay I don't want to bet on. I don't have enough defense to double. 2NT is takeout as I play — if it were natural, it would be a decent call. If we are making 3NT partner might be able to bid it, otherwise 3♣ could easily be our best spot."

Landen: "3♣ —2NT might be right, but I'd like at least honor doubleton in spades. If they were vulnerable, I might risk a penalty double. I expect to make 3♣ most of the time. 3NT might be the right spot-maybe partner can bid it."

Two experts give up the ship. If East takes five spade and one heart trick, your +100 will not be worth much assuming that you can make 3♣.

Deverin: "Pass—East may struggle in 2♠, but you will have problems in 3♣ when West starts ruffing spades. Also, North has another bid."

Roman: "Pass—And for me, in tempo. This is an unfamiliar situation, but any bid I make here is either a distortion or an overbid. If partner is short in spades I hope he'll get us back in, and if he's not, who's to say we want to buy this hand?"

2NT could make unless the opponents take the first five spade tricks and the ace of hearts.

Cappelletti: "2NT—My nine fourth of spades might have some value."

Playing matchpoints, when the opponents stick their neck out, you can take more risk and try to cut it off.

3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ Q1093♥ 6♦ A109543♣ Q2

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
	3♥	Dbl	Pass
?????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♥	100	6	37
4♠	70	3	156
3♠	60	1	56
5♦	50	0	06
4♦	50	0	21
Pass	40	0	04

You want to play in 4♠ assuming partner has four spades. If partner does not have four spades you want to play in 5♦. Partner is allowed to make a takeout double of 3♥ holding a hand with three spades such as ♠Kxx♥xx♣Kxxx♣AKxx. Takeout doubles just promise three cards in unbid majors. How do you find out how many spades partner has? If you bid 4♥, partner will bid 4♠ holding four spades. If he only three spades, he'll bid five-of-a-minor. There are many hands where the 4-3 spade fit will play well but if partner has something like ♠Kxx♥xxx♦QJx♣AKJx, repeated heart leads will cause problems.

Parker: "4♥—If partner can't bid 4♠ then he does not have a four-card suit so I can correct 5♣ to 5♦. It would be silly to jump to 4♠ and play a 4-3 fit."

Schwartz: "4♥—A little light on HCP but worth it to get to the right stain."

Deverin: "4♥—If partner fails to bid 4♠ (holding four), you will bid 5♦."

Adams: "4♥—This seems automatic. I want to play 4♠ unless partner does not have four of them."

Landen: "4♥—Partner will bid 4♠ with four, otherwise I'll bid 5♦. Partner should assume I'm just looking for the right game."

Three experts jump to 4♠.

Cappelletti: "4♠—Not quite good enough for 4♥ on this auction."

The only way 4♥ should be a slam try is if you correct 4♠ to 5♦.

Hopkins: "4♠—I have all working cards. Who knows, I might get to dummy-reverse my 4-3 fit!"

Roman: "4♠—4♥ would be a fine bid if it were a choice of games (COG) cue bid, but unfortunately, it's not."

Not sure what 4♥ is if it is not COG. If partner happens to have a hand such as

♠AKxx♥xx♦Kxxx♣Axx and thinks we are making a spade slam try, he won't be disappointed with my hand. Cue bids after takeout doubles usually are trying to find the best game.

If partner has as little as ♠Axxx♥xx♦Kxx♣Kxxx, 4♠ has play. If partner has ♠AKxx♥xx♦Kxx♣Kxxx, 4♠ is cold. Therefore the following bid is a gross underbid. The old saying '6-4 bid more' applies here.

Woolsey: "3♠—I have four spades, and I don't have much more strength than partner will automatically play me for when the opponents preempt. If we have a game, he will probably not pass."

Partner is supposed to play you for six points but opposite spade support this hand is a game force.

Cue bids after preempts ask partner to bid a four-card major.

4) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠10♥765♦KJ10874♣1053

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♦	Dbl	Pass

????*?

*Pass will be given zero points

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
1♥	100	6	144
2♣	90	3	05
1NT	50	1	59
2♦	20	0	19
5♦	20	0	02
3NT	20	0	01
3♦	20	0	07
2♥	20	0	01
Pass	00	0	42

This problem was given in an earlier contest where most solvers and experts passed the takeout double. Passing the takeout double is clear. But what if you had a mind-loss and didn't think about passing? Or what if you're playing with a partner who has strong feelings that you should never pass a takeout or negative double? So I gave this problem again saying that I would not accept pass as a possible answer. I want to know your second choice? The 42 solvers who passed will be given the zero that I promised.

What are options other than pass? The three choices assuming that you can't pass are 1♥, 1NT and 2♣ and all three have flaws. 1NT is constructive and shows at least seven HCP. If partner has ♠AQxx♥AQxx♦x♣AJxx, he'll raise 1NT to 3NT. 1♥ doesn't promise any points but it does show four hearts and partner will jump to 4♥ with the above hand. 2♣ doesn't promise any points but it does tend to slow down the auction. When you don't think that you have what partner wants, you should slow down the auction. Who knows? Maybe partner will cuebid 2♦ and then you could take a shot and pass a forcing bid.

Two experts agree with me and avoid bidding a three-card major when possible. Holding ♠xx♥xxx♦KJ10xxx♣xx, you're forced to bid 1♥.

Schwartz: "2♣—Too bad there are no green cards in my bidding box, but given that, want to make the bid that's least likely to excite partner."

Adams: "2♣—1♥ is second choice, close call between the two. 2♣ preempts opponents out of spades if they have them, and is not likely to get raised to a speculative game. Against that, 1♥ leaves room for partner to get spades off his chest at a lower level, but the risk of opponents bidding Spades, or partner raising hearts is too high. 1NT is wrong on values and will get us too high. Pass is completely out of the question with these cards. Why, cause Robinson said so. Now ask me what I do when partner cue bids 2♦ over 2♣."

Six experts bid 1♥. I detest bidding three-card majors when there is an alternative. Partner tends to overbid when he thinks that there is an eight-card major suit fit available.

Parker: "1♥—Not 1NT since partner may think I have some scattered values. I do have ruffing values so hearts should play fine."

Woolsey: "1♥—I would pass and accept my zero. If I were scoring, anything else would be given zero points. My whole hand is diamonds. However, if for some reason I were barred from passing, I would bid 1♥.

At least if partner raises we will have a seven-card fit."

I'm the scorer and passing gets a zero. I make the rules here.

Deverin: "1♥—Bidding 1NT may easily result in you playing 3NT with zero tricks to contribute."

Roman: "1♥—Not a good problem, since passing is utterly routine. Are we to understand that there's a point here but that constructing a hand to make that point was impossible?"

Cappelletti: "1♥—Rather than overbid 1NT."

One expert bids 1NT. A 1NT response to a takeout double is constructive and shows a good seven to a bad eleven HCP. Just short of a jump to 2NT.

Hopkins: "1NT—I always get hung when I bid a three-card suit. I do hope the shipment of "Pass" cards arrives soon."

We just got a shipment of pass cards.

Avoid bidding three-card majors at all costs.

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠9♥AJ104♦AKQJ4♣KJ5

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♥

????

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3NT	100	4	17
2♦	90	3	76
1NT	70	1	13
Double	50	2	155
Pass	40	0	07
2♥	20	0	02
3♦	20	0	03
5NT	20	0	01
2NT	20	0	06

You have a great takeout double of 1♠ but your RHO opened 1♥. Making a takeout double of 1♥ holding only one spade is just asking for trouble. Partner is going to bid spades and then what? If he has six spades, he will insist on playing in spades. If he holds ♠J98xxx♥x♦xxx♣Axx, he should jump to 4♠, knowing that the opponents have a great heart fit and thinking that you

have at least nine and probably ten spades between you. Sometimes the object of bidding is to figure out what contract you belong in and get there as soon as possible. Doesn't this hand say 3NT? It certainly doesn't say 4♠. You have heart stoppers and source of tricks. You have a good partner and he will have spades stopped and will have a few stray queens.

Three experts overcall 2♦. I see nothing wrong with overcalling with a very strong hand when you are short in the other major. They feel that if partner passes 2♦, there won't be a game. But the right five-count would make game good and partner will pass 2♦ with most five-counts. I think 2♦ is a wimpy bid.

Parker: "2♦ —Double of a major should show the other major. I have a good suit and a good hand but unless partner can volunteer a bid I will go slow."

Schwartz: "2♦ —Eschewing my only other possible choice of 3NT as LHO knows that you are expecting a heart lead and thus might lead his own suit. Also won't be happy if LHO doubles and 3NT gives up entirely on a diamond slam."

Adams: "2♦ —Double is out of the question without some spade tolerance. 3NT is tempting, hoping for Club Ace and some spades and some luck. There is still a reward for going plus at IMPs, and 2♦ will most likely lead to a plus score."

Three experts join me and bid what they think they can make.

Woolsey: "3NT—What I think I can make. Double with a stiff spade is suicidal, and 2♦ is just too much of an underbid."

Hopkins: "3NT—I hope partner has something in Spades!"

Roman: "3NT—At least if I don't make this, it won't be the first time."

If you overcall 3NT, partner is not going to insist on spades. If you overcall 1NT, partner is going to transfer and pass with a weak hand holding five spades.

Deverin: "1NT—Who has the balance of power? Who has the spades? Double shows your values, but partner, holding long and bad spades, may just keep bidding. 1NT doesn't fully show your values, but keeps partner from going crazy with spades, and may even get you to a makeable 3NT. Bidding 2♦ may be right, especially if you can penalize them later."

Two experts make a takeout double. They'll be so busy running from spades that they will not get a chance to describe their hand.

Landen: "Double—I'm not happy doubling, but too much stuff to just overcall 2♦. I'll bid notrump at the cheapest level at my next turn."

But 4NT is RKC if partner jumps to 4♠.

Cappelletti: "Double—Then bid 3♦ over 1♠ - although there is no substitute for double with a big hand, it is good to have diamonds or even notrump as a backup if partner has a good hand with spades."

Avoid making a takeout double at all costs when short in the other major.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	6♠	Dbl	4♥	2♣	2♦	450
Mike Cappelletti	5NT	2NT	4♠	1♥	Dbl	350
Mike Deverin	6♦	Pass	4♥	1♥	1NT	400
Robbie Hopkins	6♠	Dbl	4♠	1NT	3NT	390
Steve Landen	7♠	3♣	4♥	1♥	Dbl	380
Steve Parker	6♦	Dbl	4♥	1♥	2♦	470
Steve Robinson	Pass	Dbl	4♥	2♣	3NT	490
Jeff Roman	6♦	Pass	4♠	1♥	3NT	400
Alan Schwartz	Pass	Dbl	4♥	2♣	2♦	480
Kit Woolsey	Pass	3♣	3♠	1♥	3NT	430

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

12 day Eastern Caribbean –

CHARLOTTE AMALIE- ST THOMAS

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BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS

ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA

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–6 days at Sea–

Inside Cabin, including bridge costs and transfers to Baltimore \$ 1199 pp (9th deck)

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Sky Suite with Butler/Sports, Penthouse deck \$ 2799 per person

We have booked 16 cabins; these must be booked in the next 3 weeks. Please call to secure your place:

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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 November 12. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

- 1 145.29 Leo LaSota
- 2 122.23 Steve Robinson
- 3 95.27 John Adams
- 4 86.14 Mark Shaw
- 5 83.35 Clyde Kruskal
- 6 80.65 William Hacker
- 7 80.13 Peter Boyd
- 8 79.32 David Ruderman
- 9 76.74 Donna Rogall
- 10 76.64 James Geist
- 11 65.09 Barry Falgout
- 12 64.31 Arnie Frankel
- 13 63.92 Eugene Fisher
- 14 63.14 William Cole
- 15 62.05 Linda Marshall
- 16 61.04 Barry Bragin
- 17 59.39 Earl Glickstein
- 18 57.19 Noble Shore
- 19 56.24 Brad Theurer
- 20 53.04 Robert Bell
- 21 52.29 Richard Wegman
- 22 49.73 Michael Gill
- 23 48.34 Eugene Kales
- 24 44.55 Mark Rosen
- 25 44.08 Steven Schatzow

Izzy Cohen

- 1 63.92 Eugene Fisher
- 2 62.05 Linda Marshall
- 3 49.73 Michael Gill
- 4 44.55 Mark Rosen
- 5 41.14 Ronald Zucker
- 6 36.35 Alfred Liepold
- 7 35.86 Arun Guha
- 8 35.00 William Goldman
- 9 30.89 Alfred Caponiti
- 10 29.83 Lloyd Rawley
- 11 29.08 Margie Coccodrilli
- 12 22.54 Roma Chandra
- 13 21.63 Prem Garg
- 14 21.49 Mark Cohen
- 15 21.41 Jose Porres

Tubbs

- 1 36.35 Alfred Liepold
- 2 35.86 Arun Guha
- 3 35.00 William Goldman
- 4 30.89 Alfred Caponiti
- 5 21.63 Prem Garg
- 6 21.49 Mark Cohen
- 7 21.41 Jose Porres
- 8 20.96 Ernie Schuler
- 9 20.92 Roger Laumark
- 10 20.66 Joseph Pregosin

Woolridge

- 1 13.75 Julie Connor
- 2 13.51 Larry Wallace
- 3 12.45 Richard Moss
- 4 10.77 Martha Stout
- 5 9.58 Michael Kuehl
- 6 8.87 Elinor Stolar
- 7 8.56 Maxine Penn
- 8 8.44 Adrienne Kohn
- 9 8.40 Forest Montgomery
- 10 7.92 Daniel Falk

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** ♥ ♠ ~

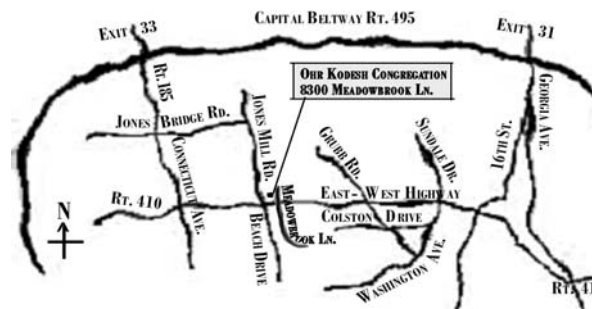
Games held at Ohr Kodesh starting 01/14/10

- 12/17/2009Stratified STaC Pairs & *Holiday Party*
- 12/24/2009Closed Christmas Eve
- 12/31/2009Closed New Year's Eve
- 01/07/2010WBL Sectional (*last game at Church*)
- 01/14/2010StrataFlighted GNTeams or NLM Pairs
- 01/21/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 01/28/2010StrataFlighted Membership Game
- 02/04/2010StrataFlighted GNTeams or NLM Pairs
- 02/11/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 02/18/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 02/25/2010NVBA Sectional
- 03/04/2010District 6 STaC Stratified Pairs
- 03/11/2010StrataFlighted GNTeams or NLM Pairs
- 03/18/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 03/25/2010WBL Sectional
- 04/01/2010StrataFlighted GNTeams or NLM Pairs
- 04/08/2010District Six Fund Game
- 04/15/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 04/22/2010NVBA Sectional
- 04/29/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 05/06/2010Annual Meeting StrataFlighted Club Champ.

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 OHR KODESH CONGREGATION



ALERT! Starting Jan. 14, 2010, the Unit Game will be played at Ohr Kodesh. NO OUTSIDE FOOD IS ALLOWED. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**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

Please contact **Chris Miller**, Club Manager and Chief Director, at unitgamedirector@districtsix.org if you have any questions about how the WBL Unit Game is run. This column answers some frequently asked questions.

SCORING THE GAME

Game scores are posted each week on the web at www.washingtonbridgeleague.org

They are usually posted by early Friday morning; exceptions occur for special games such as STaCs (where results need to be correlated across a number of clubs), or due to occasional unforeseen circumstances.

Email scoring questions to unitgamedirector@districtsix.org. This will reach the appropriate director(s) no matter who happened to be on duty. Please help by including the section letter, the board number, the NS and EW pair numbers and the actual result on the board.

The correction period for regular Unit Games lasts until 7pm the following Thursday; for sectionals, STaCs, etc, it is typically just 24 hours.

Inevitably, scoring errors occur in almost every game. We enter about 1200 board results per evening; an average of 1 or 2 data entry errors slip through the net each week, and in addition, there are almost always a few incorrect tickets that are not spotted during entry. The computer catches impossible scores and warns about unlikely ones, and directors may sometimes spot a score written on the wrong side, but many errors will never be caught, such as vulnerability errors on doubled undertricks, or a +430 in place of a +420.

Here are some tips to avoid errors:

- Write legibly - if you can't write a correction clearly, write a whole new ticket
- Enter the boards in numerical sequence even if you played them out of order
- Both sides **check the ticket**, especially for vulnerability (e.g. 4S-2, vul, -100) ...
- ... and wrong-siding (e.g. NS 6H-2 vul, 200 written on the NS side)
- Check the scores that are posted with 1 round to go - that's why we post the full scores, not just a leader-board

I have been asked about electronic scoring devices. We experimented with them one evening, and found benefits and drawbacks; they certainly improve scoring accuracy. Their day may yet come. Electronic directors, however, are a little further in the future.

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,

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♦ **January 7-10, 2010**, Silver Spring, MD
- ♥ **February 25-28, 2010**, Fairfax, VA
- ♠ **March 25-28, 2010**, Silver Spring, MD
- ♣ **April 22-25, 2010**, Fairfax, VA
- ♦ **May 13-16, 2010**, Silver Spring, MD
- ♥ **August 12-15, 2010**, Silver Spring, MD

COMMITTEE ACTION #66, PART I

by **Rich Colker**, rcolker@gmail.com

Appeal cases are not always as cut and dry as some of my recent articles may have made it appear. Take the following case from the Second Final session of the Silodor Open Pairs which took place last spring at the Houston NABC.

Bd: 25; **Vul:** E/W; **Dlr:** North

<u>North</u>							
♠ KJ532							
♥ 105							
♦ Q542							
♣ A7							
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>					
♠ 86		♠ AQ1074					
♥ KQJ8		♥ 43					
♦ AK103		♦ J96					
♣ K54		♣ 1062					
<u>South</u>							
♠ 9							
♥ A9762							
♦ 87							
♣ QJ983							
<u>West</u>		<u>North</u>		<u>East</u>		<u>South</u>	
		Pass		Pass		Pass	
1NT		2♦ (1)		2♥		Pass (2)	
3♥		Pass		3♠		Pass	
3NT		All Pass					

- (1) Diamonds and an unspecified major
(2) S to W: What is 2♥? W to S: Natural

Against 3NT, North led the ♠ 2, declarer emerging with 10 tricks, +630 for E/W. The Director was called after the opening lead and again after play was completed. Before the opening lead there had been discussion about the 2♥ bid. East said it was a transfer while West, who initially said it was natural, said it became obvious later in the auction that East had intended it as a transfer. The Director ruled that the answer to the question about 2♥ was unauthorized information for East and that the UI demonstrably suggested that the hand should not be played in hearts. The Director polled five experts about what they would have done with the East hand over 3♥. Three bid 4♠ over 3♥, having been told by the Director that 3♥ showed "heart values" (not a doubleton) with spade support. Based on this the Director judged that 4♠ over either 3♥ or 3NT was a logical alternative and there-

fore adjusted the result for both pairs to 4♠ by East down two, -200 for E/W (in accordance with Laws 12 and 16).

E/W appealed this ruling (South did not attend the hearing). E/W showed the Committee their system notes showing that without interference 3♥ would have shown spade support and a doubleton heart. East stated that his hand did not merit anything other than a signoff in 3♠ with the duplicated heart shortness. When asked why he passed 3NT he mentioned the possibility of West holding ♥ Kx or ♥ AQ doubleton.

The Committee judged that with 3♥ showing a doubleton, the odds did not favor committing to game with the East hand. However, they also judged that a substantial number of players of the appellants' caliber would seriously consider bidding 4♠ (or 4♦ or 4♥ to make West declarer) and some of them would actually bid it. They therefore decided to uphold the Director's decision to adjust the result for both pairs to 4♠ by East down two, -200 for E/W. The appeal was judged to have merit.

Well, what would you decide? Read on in our next issue.

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

2009-2010 WBL/NVBA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

To be eligible, a player: (1) Must be a member (or pending member) of either the NVBA or the WBL; (2) Must attend at least three WBL and three NVBA sectionals during the contest period (September, 2009 through June, 2010). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility; (3) Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded.

Standings: Here are the standings after three of eight sectionals. The asterisk* indicates that the player has met eligibility requirements.

...continued on p. 18, column 1

Open Leaders

Player	Points
1 David Milton	62.44
2 Prahalad Rajkumar	61.54
3 Stan Schenker	57.80
4 Kenneth Davis	44.74
5 Michael Gill	40.53
6 Noble Shore	37.62
7 Lyle Poe Jr	36.00
8 Robert Bell	35.89
9 Steve Reed	34.95
10 Jay Kelkar	32.38
11 Shuba Dey	32.38
12 John Klayman	31.88
13 Steven Schatzow	31.84
14 William Zane	31.61
15 Diane Walker	31.23
16 Clyde Kruskal	31.20
17 Kenton Schoen	30.57
18 Ronald Kral	28.51
19 James Geist	27.96
20 Barry Falgout	27.95

NonLM Leaders

Player	Points
1 Murat Berk	14.76
2 Stephen Drodge	13.52
3 Marco Latini	12.81
4 Amanda Carter	12.77
5 Kiyomi Shiba	12.31
6 Prem Garg	10.82
7 Gerald O'Dell	10.74
8 Patrick Stanton	9.49
9 David Soukup	9.47
10 William Woodward	9.46
11 John Menzel	9.46
12 Jenny Shaefer	9.42
13 Arun Guha	8.73
14 Eric Poskanzer	8.69
15 Sandra Murphy	8.68
16 James Braunworth	8.68
17 Stephen Colevas	8.49
18 James Metzger	8.33
19 Jean Verdow	8.32
20 Dick Verdow	8.32

2009-10 DISTRICT 6 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS WINNERS

Congratulations to the top finishers in the District 6 North American Pairs Finals! **Marshall Kushner and Jim Wakefield**, Diane Walker and Kenton Schoen, and Alan Schwartz and Ai-Tai Lo will represent District 6 in the North American Open Pairs National Final at the Spring NABC in Reno, NV. **Mike**

Richey and Lloyd Rawley, Curtis Bare and Suresh Agarwal, and Larry Brafman and John Christensen will represent us in the 0-2000 NAP National Final. **Bruce Goldstein and Tibor Roberts**, Allen Grissom and Jackson Bell, and Prem Garg and Shyam Giridharadas will represent us in the NLM NAP National Final. Good luck to all of you in Reno!

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Currently the Constitution requires that all checks, regardless of amount, must contain two signatures. The current wording is:

Except as authorized by the WBL Board, the Treasurer shall make all disbursements by check. All checks drawn on League funds shall bear the signatures of the Treasurer, and either the President or the secretary.

While the board agrees with the spirit of this requirement and the need to prevent a single person from writing checks for large amounts, we have found that this can cause delays and difficulties when the treasurer or the other two officers are not available in a timely manner. It is proposed to amend the requirement as follows:

Except as authorized by the WBL Board, the Treasurer shall make all disbursements by check. All checks drawn on League funds above an amount set by the Board shall bear the signatures of the Treasurer, and either the President or the Secretary. Checks smaller than that amount can be signed by any of the three officers.

The amount the Board is currently recommending is \$250.00

This amendment will be presented to the membership during the annual meeting on May 6, 2010. We would welcome comments from the membership.

SAD NEWS

On Wednesday, October 14, **Betty Palmer** died peacefully in her home at 93 of cardiac related problems. A life-long social bridge player, she took up duplicate in her 70's and played frequently at the WBL unit game and other local clubs and tournaments. She enjoyed bridge until the end, playing two weeks ago and watching her daughter play online the night before she died.

She is survived by three WBL members, her daughter, Beth Palmer and Beth's husband, Bill Pettis, as well as their daughter, Julie Pettis, one of our caddies. In addition, she is survived by three non-bridge playing children, Julie, Jeff and Win and five other grandchildren.

...continued on p.27



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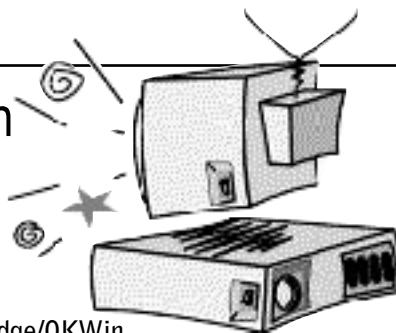
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47TH ANNUAL WBL PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT

October 1-4, 2009

Results

**TOP TEN CUMULATIVE
POINT WINNERS**

All Players

1	26.30	.....	<i>James Geist</i>
2	24.83	.....	Steve Robinson
3	24.02	.....	William Cole
4	23.47	.....	Peter Boyd
5	16.80	.....	John Adams
6	16.04	.....	Ted Ying
7	15.63	.....	Prahalad Rajkumar
	15.63	.....	Leo LaSota
9	15.03	.....	Mark Shaw
10	14.59	.....	David Milton

Players with fewer than 1500 masterpoints

1	15.63	.....	<i>Prahalad Rajkumar</i>
2	14.40	.....	Gene Fisher
3	13.06	.....	Ellen Glynn
4	11.92	.....	Dennis Schwanz
	11.92	.....	Susan Miskura
6	9.90	.....	Suzanne Abrams
7	9.82	.....	David Grabiner
8	9.80	.....	James Beller
9	9.17	.....	Robert Finkelstein
	9.17	.....	Carl Noller

Players with fewer than 500 masterpoints

1	9.80	.....	<i>James Beller</i>
2	8.63	.....	Karen Fireman
3	7.57	.....	Neil Selvin
	7.57	.....	Howard Grunin
5	6.40	.....	Michael Goldman
	6.40	.....	William Mendez Jr
7	5.41	.....	Steven Nesseler
	5.41	.....	Steve Graves
9	5.08	.....	Kiyomi Shiba
10	5.00	.....	Arthur McCann
	5.00	.....	Lawrence Heinen

Players with fewer than 100 masterpoints

1	5.41	.....	<i>Steven Nesseler</i>
2	4.31	.....	Dan Falk
3	4.22	.....	David Soukup
4	3.88	.....	Isabelle Thabault
5	3.68	.....	Larry Wallace
6	3.60	.....	Donna Hankey-Woods
	3.60	.....	Douglas Woods
8	3.55	.....	Eiji Ishida
9	2.92	.....	Cliff Hendrickson
10	2.91	.....	Ed Krest



Rose Berman received the 2009 Machlin Sportsmanship Award from WBL President Don Berman

THURSDAY MORNING PAIRS

Stratum A, 16.5 Tables

1	Barry Falgout - Diane Walker	.....	.65.65
2	Ann Ingram - Charlene Brand	.....	.63.50
3	Terri Sanker - Kiyomi Shiba	.....	.57.73
4	Ruth Potter - Jeff Roman	.....	.57.11
5	Angie Riani - Rosemarie Suito	.....	.57.07
6	Margaret Hurley - Narda Ehrlich	.....	.56.76

Stratum B, 11.0 Tables

1	Terri Sanker - Kiyomi Shiba	.....	.57.73
2	Angie Riani - Rosemarie Suito	.....	.57.07
3	Margaret Hurley - Narda Ehrlich	.....	.56.76
4	Jim Doles - Lewis Gold	.....	.55.71
5	Mike Platt - Donna Hjerpe	.....	.54.09
6	Walt Laessig - Linda Barton	.....	.53.21

Stratum C, 5.5 Tables

1	Walt Laessig - Linda Barton	.....	.53.21
2	James Anschutz - Patti Anschutz	.....	.52.32
3	Nancy Wanicur - Roslyn Weinstein	.....	.50.95
4	Dan Falk - Larry Wallace	.....	.48.69

THURSDAY A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 42.5 Tables / Based on 89



1	James Geist - Ted Ying	.....	.63.88
2	William Cole - Prahalad Rajkumar	.....	.63.87
3/4	Ellen Glynn - John Glynn	.....	.62.66
3/4	Shuba Dey - Jay Kelkar	.....	.62.66
5	Robert Levey - William Goldman	.....	.59.78
6	Barry Falgout - Rusty Krauss	.....	.58.90
7	Brad Theurer - Barry Bragin	.....	.58.67
8	Peter Hughes - Ed Lewis	.....	.58.65
9	Stanley Hurwitz - Ruth Potter	.....	.58.52
	Jason Meyer - Ronald Zucker	.....	.58.52

Stratum X, 23.5 Tables

1	James Geist - Ted Ying63.88
---	------------------------	-------	--------

Please excuse the "fuzz focus" on most of the pictures — the WBL camera became damaged.

- 2 Ellen Glynn - John Glynn62.66
- 3 Robert Levey - William Goldman ...59.78
- 4/5 Stanley Hurwitz - Ruth Potter58.52
- 4/5 Jason Meyer - Ronald Zucker58.52
- 6 Irwin Blocker - Daniel Feldman58.33

THURSDAY B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 25.0 Tables

- 1 Eric Poskanzer - Anthony Hawks ...62.50
- 2 Arun Guha - Jose Porres60.04
- 3 T S L Perlman - Jane Friend59.66
- 4 Margie Coccodrilli - Daniel Koch ...58.14
- 5 Adam Winsler - Parween Yunus56.55
- 6 Leo Cardillo - Alfred Mirring56.25

Stratum C, 20.5 Tables

- 1 Eric Poskanzer - Anthony Hawks ...62.50
- 2 Arun Guha - Jose Porres60.04
- 3 Adam Winsler - Parween Yunus56.55
- 4 Susan Miskura - Dennis Schwanz ...55.66
- 5 James Augustine - Anthony Cincotta .55.06
- 6 Howard Tash - Martin Reed54.55

Stratum D, 12.0 Tables

- 1 Eric Poskanzer - Anthony Hawks ...62.50
- 2 Arun Guha - Jose Porres60.04
- 3 Adam Winsler - Parween Yunus56.55
- 4 Rochelle Cohen - Mark Cohen53.79
- 5 Norman Sweed - Ronnie Sweed53.41
- 6 Richard Wissing - Peter Van Zijl ...52.46

THUR 299ER PAIRS @ WBL

Stratum E, 11.0 Tables

- 1 Michael Hart - Richard Hart69.35
- 2 Robert Sturm - Ernie Schuler63.69
- 3 Alfred Caponiti - John Ryan62.20
- 4 Steven Nessler - Steve Graves59.82
- 5 Daniel Falk - Larry Wallace57.14
- 6 Alan Ferraro - Jeanne Ferraro53.57

Stratum F, 8.5 Tables

- 1 Steven Nessler - Steve Graves59.82
- 2 Daniel Falk - Larry Wallace57.14
- 3 Jean Noonan - Isabelle Thabault ...53.27
- 4 Martha Stout - Jocelyn White52.68
- 5 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor52.08

Stratum G, 5.5 Tables

- 1 Daniel Falk - Larry Wallace57.14
- 2 Jean Noonan - Isabelle Thabault ...53.27
- 3 Martha Stout - Jocelyn White52.68
- 4 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor52.08

THUR 199ER PAIRS @ NVBA

Stratum A, 10.5 Tables

- 1 Georgette Weiss - Ike Oren64.78
- 2 Kenneth Linder - James Hewitt59.96
- 3 Ann Atcheson - Jenny Shaefer58.89
- 4 Robert Dorosin - Kenneth Cohn58.07
- 5 John Holt - Joseph Drodge57.15
- 6 Darleen Cors - Carol Goldstone55.54

Stratum B, 6.5 Tables

- 1 Georgette Weiss - Ike Oren64.78
- 2 Kenneth Linder - James Hewitt59.96
- 3 John Holt - Joseph Drodge57.15
- 4 Darleen Cors - Carol Goldstone55.54
- 5 Deanna Shuman - Lawrence Shuman 51.99

Stratum C, 4.5 Tables

- 1 Kenneth Linder - James Hewitt59.96
- 2 John Holt - Joseph Drodge57.15
- 3 Walt Pumo - Janice Pumo50.55

- 4 Diane Godding - James Shoenhard ...49.33

FRIDAY MORN OPEN PAIRS

Stratum A, 17.0 Tables / Based on 30



- 1 Linda Marshall - Steven Schatzow ...65.81
- 2 Lawrence Heinen - James Beller ...60.68
- 3 Terry Mitchell - Mehmet Goncer ...59.55
- 4 Gerald Marcovsky - Linda Smith ...59.50
- 5 Ronald Kral - Jose Cortina59.41
- 6 Eiji Ishida - Kiyomi Shiba58.93

Stratum B, 12.0 Tables

- 1 Lawrence Heinen - James Beller ...60.68
- 2 Terry Mitchell - Mehmet Goncer ...59.55
- 3 Gerald Marcovsky - Linda Smith ...59.50
- 4 Eiji Ishida - Kiyomi Shiba58.93
- 5 Edward Anania - Joan Anania56.12
- 6 Mark Rosen - Eugene Fisher54.92

Stratum C, 4.0 Tables

- 1 Lawrence Heinen - James Beller ...60.68
- 2 Eiji Ishida - Kiyomi Shiba58.93
- 3 Edward Anania - Joan Anania56.12

FRIDAY MORN 299ER PAIRS

Stratum A, 12.5 Tables



- 1 Fred Calhoun - Cliff Hendrickson ...62.57
- 2 Amedee Dean - David King60.40
- 3 Alan Walter - Kimberly Ferguson ...59.92
- 4 Barbara Levine - Daniel Falk57.90
- 5 Sybil Cantor - Shelby Herman57.45
- 6 Susan Weiss - Bernice Felix55.99

Stratum B, 7.0 Tables

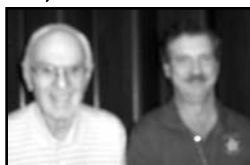
- 1 Amedee Dean - David King60.40
- 2 Barbara Levine - Daniel Falk57.90
- 3 Sybil Cantor - Shelby Herman57.45
- 4 Temma Kanowith - Carol Kahn55.70
- 5 Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods55.58

Stratum C, 3.0 Tables

- 1 Barbara Levine - Daniel Falk57.90
- 2 Sheryl McEwan - Debby Bailine ...52.00

FRIDAY AFT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 10.5 Tables / Based on 33



- 1 Irwin Blocker - Ronald Kral61.82

- 2 David Milton - Leo LaSota60.88
- 3 Betty Bursey - M Cassandra Smith ...56.36
- 4 Eugene Kales - Cynthia Helms55.44
- 5 Roma Chandra - Robert Claypool ...54.90
- 6 Jimmy Ritzenberg - Jim Gaarder ...54.89

Stratum X, 4.0 Tables

- 1 Irwin Blocker - Ronald Kral61.82
- 2 Roma Chandra - Robert Claypool ...54.90
- 3 Jimmy Ritzenberg - Jim Gaarder ...54.89

FRIDAY AFT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 10.5 Tables



- 1 Amazon Queen - Studmuffin63.15
- 2 Helen Solomon - Rae Newman61.40
- 3 Steven Rothman - Kathrine Loh ...60.88
- 4 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin ...58.88
- 5 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee55.53
- 6 Brenda Thomas - Mel Walger54.23

Stratum C, 9.0 Tables

- 1 Helen Solomon - Rae Newman61.40
- 2 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin ...58.88
- 3 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee55.53
- 4 Brenda Thomas - Mel Walger54.23
- 5 Calvin Konner - Richard Wedgewood 51.56

Stratum D, 4.5 Tables

- 1 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin ...58.88
- 2 Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee55.53
- 3 Brenda Thomas - Mel Walger54.23
- 4 Calvin Konner - Richard Wedgewood 51.56

FRIDAY AFT 299ER PAIRS

Stratum A, 11.5 Tables



- 1 Gerald O'Dell - Isabelle Thabault ...60.45
- 2 Alan Walter - Kimberly Ferguson ...59.50
- 3 Sheryl McEwan - Debby Bailine ...58.84
- 4 Frank Hatten - Ernie Schuler56.89
- 5 Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods56.67
- 6 Albert Stolpe - Stephen Colevas ...55.55

Stratum B, 9.0 Tables

- 1 Sheryl McEwan - Debby Bailine ...58.84
- 2 Frank Hatten - Ernie Schuler56.89
- 3 Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods56.67
- 4 Albert Stolpe - Stephen Colevas ...55.55
- 5 Amedee Dean - David King54.86

Stratum C, 4.0 Tables

- 1 Sheryl McEwan - Debby Bailine ...58.84
- 2 Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods56.67
- 3 Amedee Dean - David King54.86

FRIDAY EVE A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 7.5 Tables / Based on 20



- 1 Arthur McCann - David Grabiner ...69.05
- 2 Lynda Flanger - William Fitch60.07
- 3/4 John Adams - Steve Robinson58.33
- 3/4 Elliot Grant - James Davenport, Jr .58.33
- 5 David Milton - Leo LaSota57.29

Stratum X, 3.5 Tables

- 1 David Grabiner - Arthur McCann ...69.05
- 2 Lynda Flanger - William Fitch60.07
- 3 Elliot Grant - James Davenport, Jr .58.33

FRIDAY EVE B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 7.0 Tables



- 1 Art Hartstein - Terry Vann62.08
- 2 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Preisce 55.83
- 3 Kitty Gottfried - Eiji Ishida55.00
- 4 Barbara Summers - James Summers Jr 52.92
- 5 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman52.50

Stratum C, 6.0 Tables

- 1 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein62.08
- 2 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Preisce 55.83
- 3 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman52.50
- 4 Gail Ginsburgh - Jane Miller51.25

Stratum D, 4.0 Tables

- 1 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein62.08
- 2 Pat Lonergan - J J Jayaraman52.50
- 3 Arun Guha - Jose Porres50.42

FRIDAY EVE 299ER PAIRS

Stratum A, 5.0 Tables



- 1 Ann Atcheson - Jenny Shaefer56.25
- 2 Pamela Bacher - Mark Eisenstadt ...55.75
- 3 Albert Stolpe - Stephen Colevas ...52.88
- 4 Isabelle Thabault - Gerald O'Dell ...51.04

Stratum B, 3.5 Tables

- 1 Albert Stolpe - Stephen Colevas ...52.88
- 2 Steve Graves - Steven Nessler50.88
- 3 Marjorie Kulash - Damian Kulash ...49.13

SAT MORN A/X PAIRS**Stratum A**, 24.0 Tables / Based on 59

- Eugene Fisher - James Geist64.42
- Karen Fireman - Roy Tibery64.20
- Joan Benesch - Bill Benesch61.75
- Lloyd Rawley - Charity Sack60.64
- Peter Boyd - Steve Robinson60.21
- Lowell Sawyer - Don Probst59.54
- Kenton Schoen - Diane Walker57.42

Stratum X, 13.0 Tables

- Eugene Fisher - James Geist64.42
- Karen Fireman - Roy Tibery64.20
- Joan Benesch - Bill Benesch61.75
- Lloyd Rawley - Charity Sack60.64
- Linda Marshall - Merril Hirsh55.38
- Suzanne Abrams - Katherine Rabenstein 53.64

SAT MORN B/C/D PAIRS**Stratum B**, 19.0 Tables

- Clifford Feldman - Robert Silverblatt 65.77
- Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin61.90
- Anne Derbes - Robert Schwab61.31
- Margaret Hurley - Narda Ehrlich59.23
- Aaron Navarro - John Mattioli58.63
- Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin57.74

Stratum C, 17.0 Tables

- Clifford Feldman - Robert Silverblatt 65.77
- Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin61.90
- Anne Derbes - Robert Schwab61.31
- Margaret Hurley - Narda Ehrlich59.23
- Aaron Navarro - John Mattioli58.63
- Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin57.74

Stratum D, 5.5 Tables

- Clifford Feldman - Robert Silverblatt 65.77
- Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin61.90
- Jeffrey Zaller - Irwin Yanus54.76
- Roger Laumark - Virginia Ivin52.68

SAT MORN 299ER PAIRS**Stratum A**, 15.5 Tables

- Bob Blodgett - William Hohe63.99
- Diane Cohen - Jo Ann Hutchison59.58
- Henry Erno - William Rogers57.78
- Donna Stoker - Edward Stoker56.44
- Edmund Gehan - Alan Walter56.23
- Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods 56.20

Stratum B, 10.0 Tables

- Bob Blodgett - William Hohe63.99
- Diane Cohen - Jo Ann Hutchison59.58
- Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods 56.20
- Phyllis Isler - Morton Isler55.80
- Fred Calhoun - Cliff Hendrickson51.12

- Henry Thompson - Robert Wilbur50.65

Stratum C, 5.5 Tables

- Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods 56.20
- Mary Iglehart - Geane Schubert49.97
- Barbara Levine - Maxine Penn49.26
- Julie Connor - Jeffrey Caplan49.18

SATURDAY AFT A/X PAIRS**Stratum A**, 21.0 Tables / Based on 45

- Lou Reich - John Adams66.37
- William Hacker - Leo LaSota61.31
- Peter Boyd - Steve Robinson61.13
- Suzanne Abrams - William Zane58.80
- Kenneth Davis - Bruce Houston56.95
- Fred King - Barry Bragin56.69

Stratum X, 10.5 Tables

- Suzanne Abrams - William Zane58.80
- Jian-Jian Wang - Hailong Ao56.33
- John Montgomery - Srinivas Kachibhatla 55.08
- James Geist - Eugene Fisher52.74
- Lynn Boardman - David Vendittis52.70
- Lynda Flanger - Roma Chandra52.45

SATURDAY AFT B/C/D PAIRS**Stratum B**, 11.0 Tables

- Anne Derbes - Robert Schwab69.94
- Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din59.82
- David Soukup - Hakan Berk57.74
- Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin56.85
- William Gurley - Mary Ann Kral56.25
- Stephen Drodge - Steve Reed56.25

Stratum C, 10.5 Tables

- Anne Derbes - Robert Schwab69.94
- Gloria Halstead - Thomas Din59.82
- David Soukup - Hakan Berk57.74
- Satinder Gupta - Janet Coffin56.85
- William Gurley - Mary Ann Kral56.25
- Stephen Drodge - Steve Reed56.25

Stratum D, 3.0 Tables

- David Soukup - Hakan Berk57.74
- Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin55.95

SATURDAY AFT 299ER PAIRS**Stratum A**, 13.0 Tables

- Steven Nessler - Steve Graves61.30
- Lynne Beresford - Eleanor Schwartz59.23
- William Morris - Susan Morris59.02
- Joseph Pregosin - Thad Uehling58.64
- Richard Majewski - Henry Erno58.08
- Ellinor Legg - Gerald O'Dell57.84

Stratum B, 9.5 Tables

- Steven Nessler - Steve Graves61.30
- William Morris - Susan Morris59.02

- Joseph Pregosin - Thad Uehling58.64
- Richard Majewski - Henry Erno58.08
- Virginia Ivin - Paul Siefring56.80
- Cynthia Harrison - Suzanne Kilczewski 56.51

Stratum C, 4.5 Tables

- William Morris - Susan Morris59.02
- Sheila Kaplan - Michael Watts54.66
- Ruby Brooks - Sally Hart52.81
- Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods 51.21

SUNDAY EYNON TROPHY SWISS TEAMS**Stratum A**, 19 Tables / Based on 52

- 1/2 William Cole - Peter Boyd - Steve Robinson - Mark Shaw (not pic.)93.00
- 1/2 Noble Shore - Michael Gill - Earl Glickstein - Robert Bell93.00
- 3/4 Kenneth Davis - Steven Schatzow - Ann Lindley - Alfred Duncker91.00
- 3/4 David Milton - Stan Schenker - Mark Laken - Harvey Charkatz91.00
- Prahalad Rajkumar - Raghavendra Rajkumar - John Adams - Lou Reich 89.00
- Ellen Glynn - John Glynn - Judy Weisman - Carl Weisman83.00
- Joan Lewis - Robert Hopkins Jr - John Klayman - Thomas Lavender82.00

Stratum X, 7 Tables

- Ellen Glynn - John Glynn - Judy Weisman - Carl Weisman83.00
- David Grabiner - Brian Hartwig - Michael McQuistan - Suzanne Abrams67.00
- Dhirendra Ghosh - Debnarayan Dhar - Jay Kelkar - Shuba Dey66.00

SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS TEAMS**Stratum B**, 23 Tables / Based on 29

- Robert Finkelstein - Carl Noller - Susan Miskura - Dennis Schwanz103.00
- Alfred Liepold - John Lowe III - Michael Goldman - William Mendez Jr97.00
- Albert Lauber - James Beller - Malcolm Stewart - Jonathan Siegel91.00
- Neil Selvin - Elizabeth Anderson - Howard Grunin - Susan Slattery89.00
- 5/6 Ron Starr - Marc Weiner - Sally Garfinkel - Millie Reizenstein86.00
- 5/6 Stephen Drodge - Murat Berk - David Soukup - William Zane86.00
- Roma Chandra - Nelson Waks - Donald Jacobs - Sandra Jacobs84.00

- Kevin O'Brien - Francesco Parisi-Presicce - Timothy Smith - Virginia Gibbons .82.00

Stratum C, 13 Tables

- Carl Noller - Susan Miskura - Dennis Schwanz - Robert Finkelstein103.00
- Albert Lauber - James Beller - Malcolm Stewart - Jonathan Siegel91.00
- Neil Selvin - Elizabeth Anderson - Howard Grunin - Susan Slattery89.00
- Ron Starr - Marc Weiner - Sally Garfinkel - Millie Reizenstein86.00
- Maribel Newby - Nancy Cartwright - Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee70.00

Stratum D, 7 Tables

- Albert Lauber - James Beller - Malcolm Stewart - Jonathan Siegel91.00
- Ron Starr - Marc Weiner - Sally Garfinkel - Millie Reizenstein86.00
- Maribel Newby - Nancy Cartwright - Juan Pardo - Tsung Lee70.00

SUNDAY MORN 299ER SWISS TEAMS**Stratum A**, 10 Tables

- Alice Masters - Janet Gerendasy - Stanley Gerendasy - Ronnie Loeser65.00
- Lynne Beresford - Eleanor Schwartz - Ruth Woods - Ann Seeboth62.00
- Ed Krest - Veronica Flynn - Anne Vaeth - Jane Culver49.00
- Julie Conner - Alan Walter - Albert Stolpe - Kimberly Ferguson40.00

Stratum B, 6 Tables

- Stanley Gerendasy - Janet Gerendasy - Ronnie Loeser - Alice Masters65.00
- 2/3 William Morris - Susan Morris - Carol Webster - Duane Webster38.00
- 2/3 Sheila Kaplan - Michael Watts - Richard Weiser - Susan Weiser38.00

Stratum C, 3 Tables

- 1/2 William Morris - Susan Morris - Carol Webster - Duane Webster38.00
- 1/2 Sheila Kaplan - Michael Watts - Richard Weiser - Susan Weiser38.00

SUNDAY AFT 299ER SWISS TEAMS

5 Tables



- Jane Culver - Anne Vaeth - Veronica Flynn - Ed Krest64.00
- Robert Moss - Bettye Whitney - Daniel Falk - Larry Wallace54.00

♣ Fairfax, VA ♦ FEBRUARY 25-28, 2010 ♥

NVBA WILLIAM POISSANT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA (NVBA)

Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD (WBL)

No outside food. E-W Hwy 410 E., left Meadowbrook, left Freyman, lot on left. NVBA (Beth El) WBL

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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, FEBRUARY 27

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.
TROPHY EVENT: WILLIAM POISSANT MEMORIAL PAIRS
(2 SESSIONS – Qualifying and Barometer Final)2 & 7:30 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750; Single session)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 CONSOLATION (2000+/2000/750)7:30 p.m.
—Open to Non-Qualifiers and New Entrants.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman)10:15 a.m.
FLIGHT A/X (5000+/5000) BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS . . .11 a.m. & TBA
FLIGHT B/C (2000/750) SWISS TEAMS11 a.m. & TBA
*BAM & B/C Swiss are 2-session events, with a brief break in-between
—food available on-site.*
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100; Single session)11 a.m.
49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5; Single session)11 a.m.
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100/50; 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.

Plenty of free parking! On-site snack bar plus lots of free treats! Many great restaurants nearby!

Championship Events and a Full Schedule of 299er Events for Novice and Intermediate Players! Players with 0-5 Masterpoints play FREE in ALL games!

Tournament Chair

Margot Hennings,
703-560-0245

Partnership Chair

Mary Ann Kral,
703-437-0342 or
NVBA cell: 703-869-0852

Mid-Chart Conventions permitted in all A/X Events

Next NVBA Sectional
Apr 22-25 '10 at Arlington/
Fairfax Elks Lodge
(Thurs at Beth El)

www.nvba.org

Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 18...

BRIDGE & BOWLING SAT, FEB 6, 2010

Sign up now for a Washington Superbowl Saturday tradition, **Bridge and Bowling**. First, we will bowl a 3-game tournament with preformed balanced teams at *Laurel Lanes*. Then we will have dinner at *Sullivan's Steak and Beverage Co.* Finally, we will play a GNT qualifier at the *Laurel Bridge Club* with preformed balanced teams. Sign up to participate in one, two, or all three events.

Bowling: Meet at 1:30 p.m. at Laurel Lanes, 15013 Baltimore Avenue North, Laurel, MD, (301) 490-6006. Teams will be formed in advance based on bowling skill as indicated on the registration form or by past results in bridge and bowling. We will play a 3-game tournament. The cost for bowling is \$16

(payable when you sign up), plus the cost of shoe rental if you don't bring your own bowling shoes.

Dinner: Meet at 5:30 p.m. at Sullivan's Steak and Beverage Co., 9624 Fort Meade Road (Rte 198), Laurel, MD, (301) 498-7427. We will have dinner to celebrate (or commiserate) after bowling and get ready for a fun evening of bridge. No advance payment is required. However, please let us know if you plan to attend so we know how many people to expect.

Bridge: The game (a GNT qualifier) will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Laurel Bridge Club, 8654-A Laureldale Drive, Laurel MD, (301) 395-6810.

SATURDAY O-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.)

You can come with your own team, but the real fun of this event is playing on a team with members that span the range of bridge experience from world class on down. The cost is \$9 per person (\$36 per team). You must register and pay in advance to be assigned to a team.

Sign up: Give this registration form, with payment (\$16 for bowling, \$9 for bridge), to Linda Marshall or Don Berman, or mail this form to: Linda Marshall, 6303 Redwing Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Make checks payable to Washington Bridge League. Please sign up no later than **February 4th.**

BRIDGE AND BOWLING—REGISTER BY 2/4/10

I, _____, will attend:

Bowling (\$16) Handicap (or average score) _____

Bridge (\$9) Masterpoints _____

Dinner

Please send your registration to Linda Marshall, 6303 Redwing Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Make checks payable to: Washington Bridge League.



NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

DUCK OR GOOSE?

Those of you who are paying attention will remember that in my July/August column, I talked about when you might want to duck instead of winning a trick. Sometimes you have to duck to make your contract, or to keep declarer from making his. But you should never duck unless you have a good reason to do so! Once you've lost a trick, you can't get it back. So before you duck, consider these situations when it may be better to "goose."

Goose when you fear a switch

When you're declarer in a notrump contract, often you'll want to duck the opening lead in order to sever communications between the defenders' hands. (See "Duck to create a safe hand" in my July/August column.) Usually the suit the opponents attack first will be the one they're strongest in and you're weakest in, so that's the suit you're worried about them running.

But the opening leader doesn't always know where the bulk of his side's points are! Sometimes there's another suit that you have no high cards in at all. If you're more worried about the opponents switching to a different suit than continuing their first-led suit, you may need to win the first trick so as not to give them the chance to switch. If you have enough winners off the top to make your contract, go ahead and cash them before you let them back in the lead. If you don't have enough tricks off the top, you may want to win the first trick and try to find the plan that gives you the best chance to make your contract by finessing or setting up your long suits. Maybe when they get in they won't find the killing switch! But if you have no hope of making your contract, it may be best to just take as many winners as you can and then let them have their tricks.

Goose when you fear a ruff

In a notrump contract, the opponents will usually lead their long suit, but in a suit contract the lead could be from length or from shortness. Before you play to the first trick, always ask yourself what the lead means. Is it

a singleton? Is it fourth-best? Might one of the defenders be able to ruff the second round of this suit? If one of them bid the suit, you should have some idea how many cards in that suit each opponent has. If not, look at the lead and the number of cards you see in your hand and in the dummy to get a clue. If you think one of them may have a singleton in that suit, consider winning the first round if you can!

You should also fear a ruff if LHO leads an ace and then switches to a different suit. Experienced players usually won't lead the ace if they don't have the king, so if you see the king in your hand or in dummy, or if RHO signaled encouragement implying that she has the king (you're allowed to ask the defenders what kind of signals they're using), you should suspect that LHO's ace was a singleton. He's hoping his partner can win Trick 2 so she can give him a ruff, so thwart their plan if you can by winning Trick 2 and pulling trump before the opponents can get their ruff.

Goose when you have a place to dump the loser

Before you duck the opening lead, make sure it's a trick you have to lose. Remember, overtricks rock, so try to get rid of as many losers as possible. Is there a long suit in dummy you can toss the loser on? Can you take a finesse later to avoid a loser? There's no reason to give up a trick needlessly when you can finesse and have a 50% chance not to lose it.

Contract: 3NT; Lead: ♠ 5

♠ 64	
♥ 72	
♦ AKQJ92	
♣ 654	
♠ JT8	♠ Q972
♥ Q985	♥ JT6
♦ 76	♦ T54
♣ 8732	♣ KT9
♠ AK53	
♥ AK43	
♦ 83	
♣ AQJ	

If you don't stop to make a plan, you might

find yourself ducking the first trick on this deal just because the Rule of Seven says you should. (The Rule of Seven says that if the lead is fourth best, 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.) But before you do something you'll regret, look at that beautiful diamond suit in dummy! Unless you get the very unlikely 5-0 diamond split, you'll be able to run the diamonds and throw four losers away. What four losers will you dump?

You have five losers: two each in hearts and spades and one in clubs. But you can take the club finesse to avoid losing to the king of clubs. So if the finesse works, you could dump your four major suit losers on the diamonds and take all 13 tricks! But not if you duck the opening lead.

Observe: you win the heart lead and lead a diamond to dummy. When both opponents follow suit, you know that your diamonds will run. *Now lead a club towards your hand.* You must play a club before you run the diamonds, because you're probably going to have to finesse twice. When RHO plays low on the first club, you win your queen and cross back to dummy with another diamond. Run all the diamonds, then play another club to your jack. Then play the rest of the winners in your hand, scoring two spades, two hearts, three clubs and six diamonds: making seven! Partner will be sorry he didn't put you in slam.

Note that even if the finesse loses, you'll still throw all your losing hearts and spades on the diamonds, losing only one club trick. You never have to lose a heart.

Goosing on defense

In my previous column, I told you when to delay winning your honor in dummy's long suit, to prevent declarer from setting it up. But when dummy has a long suit that's ready to run and you have tricks in a different suit, that's when you need to act fast. Consider hopping up with your ace in second seat

(contrary to the "second hand low" rule), and definitely win the trick in third or fourth seat. Then cash any other winners your side may have! Declarer will throw his losers away on the long suit if you let him, so don't let him.

There's another rule for defenders that nearly always applies: *take the setting trick.* You may not get another chance, so if taking the trick will keep declarer from making her contract, take it. If you duck and she makes the contract, your goose will be cooked!

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of October 1, 2009

Junior Masters

(5 Masterpoints)

Mr Joseph L Abita
Ms Sharon A Bates
Mr K Chandramouli
Mr Andrew M Holmberg
Ms Jennifer M McKay
Gay Pirozzi
Mrs Claudia Rathbone
Mr Mark D Rothman
Dr Can M Savasman
Ms Dolores N Svec
Jinane K Tabbara
Ms Maree T Webster
Mae S Beuchert
Mr Daniel A Falk
Mr Ghassan Osman

Club Masters (20 MPs)

Hakan Berk
Dr Jacques J Delente
Mrs Carol Kahn
Deena L Kaplan
Adrienne C Kohn
Reina Lerner
Norman Mitchell
Sandy Mitchell
Mr Richard J Moss
Ms Joy G Rodman
Mrs Marcea C Austin
Mrs Brenda Dunaway
Ms Mary L Iglehart

Sectional Masters (50 MPs)

Stanley J Fineman
Mrs Temma S Kanowith
Mr Robert A Kazdin
Fernando Lecaros
T S L Perlman
Mr Jack Schiff
Ms Julie G Connor
Carol Davis

Mr Louis S Garner
Mr Jay Gibbons
Charles Maplethorpe
Angela P Riani
Ms Martha L Stout
Larry G Wallace
Ms Anne Weaver

Regional Masters (100 MPs)

Guillaume de Decker
Mrs Erika Emery
Steve J Graves
Mrs Sally W Hollman
Ms Bernadette M Merceron
Mr James Metzger
Ms Elizabeth Nash
Mr Kenn Pendleton
Norma Fry
Mr Joseph R Pregosin
Ernie Schuler
Ms Rachelle Sladoff
Henry L Thompson
Nancy L Wanicur

NABC Masters (200 MPs)

Mr Azmat Ali
Fred A Beisel
Mr Paul L Chassy
Mr Dale S Collinson
Dr Alexander Gottesman
Dr Namik Haveric
Mrs Priscilla J Krueger
Mirsad Mujezinovic
Mrs Marilyn S Rubinstein
Rev Charles F Van Gorder
James R Wisman
Mrs Michelle Zygielbaum
Ms Reina L Chassy
Mr Stanley A Hurwitz
Mrs Diane B Keiper
Mr Richard H
Mr Rex V Settle
Alan M Walter

1) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ KJ86543♥ A6♠ A♣ KJ5

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

2) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ KQJ983♥ KQ52♠ A♣ J7

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

3) IMPs, There're Vulnerable

♠ K97642♥ 10♦ 853♠ 983

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
????			

4) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ A2♥ K65♦ J93♠ J10965

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

5) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ KJ2♥ 2♦ AKQ875♣ AJ6

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

*(2♦ is Michaels 5-5 ♣ & ♥ ; 1NT and 2♠ natural)

Return answers by January 7 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.