

It's the
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE'S

64th Annual City of Washington Tournament

March 25-



March 28

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

I/N players, check it out! There's a full schedule of **Intermediate & Novice events**.

PLEASE NOTE: This tournament's Friday events will be held at the Schweinhaut Center. Two sessions: 2:30pm (later time) and 7:00pm (earlier time) with **complimentary dinner** served between sessions. Friday night—it's the **Barometer Pairs!** It's the pair game where you can check your scores after every round!

Between sessions on Saturday attend the free **Panel Show**. At 11:00am and 3:30pm, check out the **Compact KOs**—*Four rounds of knockouts finish in one day!* You're guaranteed to play a full session of two rounds of the knockouts. PLEASE NOTE: *The first session of this event will be sold and played next door from the Schweinhaut Center at the Argyle Center.*

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

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...

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

♣♦♥♠ ~~~~~ ♣♦♥♠
DEADLINE: MARCH 11, 2010
 TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MARCH/APRIL 2010 ISSUE

Washington Bridge League BULLETIN (usps #861-240)
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Editor — Donna Rogall (301-421-9615), drogall@verizon.net
 I/N Columnist — Sandy Forsythe, majslf@aol.com

Columnists — Steve Robinson, Richard Colker, Don Berman, Chris Miller, Barry Bragin
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Don Berman, *President* — (301-776-3581), don.berman@verizon.net
 Richard Ferrin, *Vice President* — (202-265-0718), rferrin@hunton.com
 Fred King, *Treasurer* — (703-536-1914), fredmking@gmail.com
 Ellen Cherniavsky, *Secretary* — (301-649-1350), eachernia@yahoo.com

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

SOME KEY VOLUNTEERS
 Nadine Wood — *Tournament Chair* (301-565-9555)
 Ann Lindley — *WBL Ombudsman* (703-360-9087)
 Frances Burke — *Membership Secretary* (301-384-6103)
 Chris Miller — *Unit Game Chief Director & Club Manager* (301-318-6083), wblmanager@gmail.com
 Fred King — *Unit Game Manager* (703-536-1914)
 Barbara Doran — *Unit Game & Tournament Partnerships* (301-608-0347)
 Kitty Gottfried — *Unit Game and Sectional Hospitality* (301-587-3981)
 Ajit Thyagarajan — *WBL School Bridge Coordinator* (301-754-3932), bridge@brookmoor.net
 Barry Bragin — *Unit Recorder* (301-598-6853)

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

The move to *Ohr Kodesh Congregation* has been made and it looks good. The only problem is with parking. You can help by car pooling as much as possible, and, for those that can walk ok, leave the close in spots for those that have difficulty. Thank you.

Note that at the next two sectionals, March 25-28 and May 13-16, THE FRIDAY GAMES WILL BE AT THE MARGARET SCHWEINHOUT CENTER and there will be only two sessions, 2:30 and 7:00 (an earlier time).

Thanks for your response to my request for volunteers. We have a new bridge in schools coordinator, **Ajit Thyagarajan**. Please contact him, bridge@brookmoor.net if you can also help.

As of January 1, we had 1740 members, the highest total in well over 5 years. A great deal of the credit goes to our Novice Program and Non-Life Master Games led by **Bryan** and **Lois Geer** and **Shawn Stringer**. Please give them a round of applause.

Hope you all had a great New Year and I wish you all many masterpoints in 2010.

2009 WBL NEW LIFE MASTERS

Congratulations! James Beller, Juanita Beeson, Lynne Beresford, Murat Burk, Rochelle Cohen, Suzanne Flyd, Shyam Giridharadas, William Goldman, Gretchen Handwerger, Calvin Konner, Robert Krueger, David Loken, Kay Miller, Arthur Olson, Juan Pardo, Jean Phillips, Jose Porres, Rajeswaran Rajkumar, Bruce Roberts, Janet Rosenthal, Palma Seeger, Kiyomi Shiba, Helen Solomon, Rosemarie Sutor, Paul Sullivan, Norman Sweed, Ronnie Sweed, Silas Wasserstrom, and Richard Wedgewood.



Juanita (Nita) Beeson has one son, two daughters, and nine grandchildren ranging in age from a 3-year old to a 22-year old law student. After (and while) raising a family, she spent 30 years at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, retiring as Chief of the Publications Section.

Nita played her first hand of bridge on a military transport ship out of San Francisco in 1956. Friends were teaching her and her husband bridge, and, much to their friends' chagrin they kept winning. She says, "Ignorance is bliss. From then on, I "winged it," playing social bridge poorly."

About 1998, her neighbor took Nita to her first duplicate game, despite her insistence that she did not know how to play duplicate. She says she soon learned that she was right and decided to take a few free lessons, obtaining and using the humorous Edith McMillan books. After joining the ACBL in 1998, her biggest thrill was her first win in the 0 to 50 stratum. She prefers 2/1 and is reading the Grant/Rodwell book on the 2/1 system. Since retiring five years ago, she set as a goal earning the rank of Life Master.

Nita says, "Happily, I earned and was

...continued on p. 4

SILVER SPRING, MD: MARCH 25-28, 2010

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs (unlim/1500/500) 11:15am
Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine) **NO ENTRY TILL 11AM**
St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville
- ♦ 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, 3:30pm
ALERT! This event sold & played next door at the Argyle Center, 1030 Forest Glen Rd.
- ♦ 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 ♥

I/N 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

NEW

WASHINGTONBRIDGELEAGUE.ORG



64th Annual
City of
Washington
Tournament



happy to earn those elusive last two gold points in October of 2009. First, many thanks to each and every partner who helped me earn a point or two along the way. I've met many nice friends and acquaintances in the "bridge world." No one accomplishes much in life without a little help from others. Now, I can relax, continue to improve, and enjoy this very addictive game."



Lynne Beresford says, "For many years I competed in racquetball tournaments with my favorite partner, Jackie Jones. Finally, my knees said "no" to racquetball. My doubles partner and I were looking for something else to do together, and a good friend, Nancy Loomis, offered to teach us to play bridge. I believe that was in 2005. We met every Sunday for months at St. Elmos Coffee Pub, to study a chapter from Audrey Grant's series, beginning with bidding, then play. Nancy finally took us to the Thursday unit game to get us started. What happy times have ensued! Many thanks to Jackie, Nancy, Gene Schuyler and all the others who helped me along the way!"



William Goldman and his wife, Linda have a son, Seth, 38 and daughter, Elissa, 37. Bill is an attorney with McDermott, Will and Emery. He is a Docent at the Library of Congress, likes to travel and has been deeply involved with charitable activities in Southeast Asia.

Bill's mother first introduced him to bridge, but he didn't begin to play seriously until he attended Cornell where there was an active group of bridge players, including expert, Jeff Rubens. Bill has been an ACBL member for 51 years, with a slight break of about 44 years. He joined the WBL four years ago and has played in lots of different cities and countries. He particularly found Mel Colchamero's recent

book, "How You Can Play Bridge Like an Expert (Without Having to be One)" helpful. Winning the District 6 qualifier for the NAPs Flight B in 2008 with Bob Stearns and playing in the finals in Houston at the Spring Nationals was a big thrill. Bill has greatly enjoyed playing in the WBL. He wishes to continue improving.

Calvin Michael Konner and his wife, Jan, have a son, Scott, 17 and a daughter, Julia, 14. Calvin is a retired (1999) Foreign Services Officer.

Before he went to grad school at the University of Rochester, he visited and found the students in his (political science) department all playing the game. He went home and learned the game from an older colleague at his summer job in the Defense Department. When he went back to school in the fall, he found his peers had dropped the game and moved on to other activities. Calvin has played regularly in Iceland, Germany, Hunduras, Australia, Mongolia and other countries where he worked. Although not an ACBL-qualified director, he ran the bridge game in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Calvin didn't play in tournaments until 2007 and was very excited to finally get the last fractional gold point necessary to make Life Master.

Arthur David Olson is a Computer Specialist at NIH. He got his BA from the University of California at San Diego. Arthur is holder of a Lone U.S. Patent. In addition to bridge, he enjoys jazz.

Arthur learned to play bridge in 1960, when his parents found that two children could count to 13. It was "bridge for juniors". He started playing in tournaments in 1997 and hopes to make Bronze Life Master before he retires.

Some fun memories include passing partner's SOS redouble and then making the contract, and making LM when his team won their bracket of a knockout at the DC Nationals last summer. Arthur enjoys bridge books by Kaplan, especially, "Winning Contract Bridge", which he says is a great "why" book.

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BITS AND PIECES

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Ms Betty A Brawley, Frederic R Caponiti, Winston O Edwards II, Elizabeth C Holleman, Mrs Helen H Holston, Dr Anil K Hooda, Jacob Maibach, Marcus Maibach, Ms Mary E Ourand, Mr David R Penn, Mrs Mary E Perini, B J Thornberry, Andrew T Brophy, Christopher B Brophy, Gioia B Brophy, Juliette I Brophy, Raymond C Brophy, Theodora F Brophy, Pamela M Campbell, Margaret A Cooke, Judy A Crowell, Diane V Daum, Roslyn Eisner, William Eisner, Carmen G Fitchett, Karon L Green, Mrs Gale Z Greenbaum, Sue Ellen Hersh, Ann F Heuer, Peter Isard, Dr Anne S Johansen, Dr Kenneth A Jones, Paul J Luckern, Mrs Debra G Malet, Jill Merrick, Cynthia A Metzler, Mrs Sherry D Phillips, Brenda B Pivrotto, David H Pivrotto, Olivia Pivrotto, Paul T Pivrotto, Ms Saskia J Roskam, Kim Schifrin, Mrs Judith L Schwartz, Ms Katherine R Sheinkman, Alicia P Smith, Mr Herbert D Smith, Mrs Margaret L Smith, Sue Wilson, Mr Ching-Chuan Yeh, Nouchin Akmal, Suzanne P Dawson, Jane Dolkart, Ms Nancy B Ferris, Parisa Hamzesh, Richard R Howes, Mahmoud Katirai, Mr Steven E Levy, Diane D Nelson, Jacqueline L Phillips, Michael J Salem, Mr Joseph A Scallan III, Lois Schwartz, and Helen Van Lowe.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Dr Wilmont F Howard Jr, Mr Philip S Mittleman, Mrs Barbara A Shaw, Mrs Helen Van Lowe, Cole Abod, Mr Benjamin Basuk, Mrs Ruth Basuk, Eldon L Compton, and Mr Ronald M Susi.**

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.

CONGRATULATIONS—2009 WBL ROUND ROBIN WINNERS

- Round Robin Flights A/X**
- 1A Fred King, Robert Bell, Barry Bragin, Earl Glickstein, Brad Theurer, Richard Wegman
 - 2A William Cole, Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson, Mark Shaw
 - 3/4A Millard Nachtwey, Michael Carroad, Terry Lavender, Thomas Lavender, Kenton Schoen, Diane Walker
 - 3/4A Robert Hopkins Jr, Barry Falgout, Kent Goulding, Rusty Krauss, Joan

Lewis, John Miller

- 1X Ellen Cherniavsky, Martin Graf, Ellen Klosson, Hank Meyer
- 2X Ajit Thyagarajan, Kevin Barnes, Robert Levey, Christopher Miller, Rammohan Sarangan, Shawn Stringer

Round Robin Flights B/C

- 1B Albert Lauber - Ned Griffith - James Beller - Merril Hirsh - Walter Smith Jr
- 2B Robert Schwab - Rex Settle - Jay Weinstein - Anne Derbes
- 3/4B Margie Coccodrilli - Jerry Miller - Daniel Koch - Hadi Abushakra - Daniel Feldman
- 3/4B Katherine Rabenstein - Carl Weisman - Judy Weisman - John Glynn
- 1C Elizabeth Nolte - Kenneth Hopke - Jerry Nolte - John Hamilton

Round Robin Flight 0-100

- 1 Garry Grossman - Adrienne Kohn - Sara Mazie - Richard Weiser - Susan Weiser - Mark Zweig
- 2 Kathleen Zellmer - Dolores Battle - Nancy McIntyre - Ellen Pollack
- 3/4 Edward Maixner - Ike Oren - Marguerite Salah - Georgette Weiss
- 3/4 Mary Iglehart - Ellen Parker - Marty Schindler - Geane Schubert - Duane Webster - Carol Webster

—CLUB NEWS—

LAUREL BRIDGE CLUB

Dave Idleman has once again won the most points in a calendar year at the Laurel Bridge Club. *Congratulations, Dave!*

HOLIDAY PARK

The Holiday Park Senior Center game will be closed whenever the Montgomery County schools are closed all or part of the day for bad weather.

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

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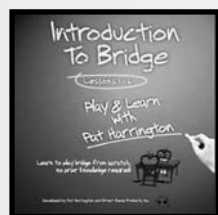
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Learn and Practice Bidding Conventions \$29.95

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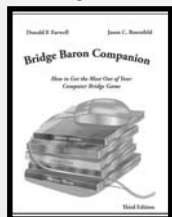


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Bridge Baron Companion: How to Get the Most out of Your Computer Bridge Game \$24.95

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 **Ed Borodkin** who came in first with a score of 480. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for second were **Ed Kinlaw, Ron Zucker, Jeff Watson, Lorraine Holub** and **Bill Benesch** with a score of 450. Tied for seventh were **Mike Lawrence, Leo Lasota, Kent Goulding, Lloyd Rawley, Diane Walker** and **Chongmin Zhang** with a score of 440. Tied for thirteenth were, **Noble Shore, Linda Smith, Mike Deverin, Barry Fratkin, Tom Vinson, Hal Hindman, Sven Pride, Kathy Paramore, Bob Pustilnik, Seymour Baden,** and **Joan Benesch** with a score of 430. The average score of the 288 solvers was 360. The average score of the experts was 445.

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) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ KJ86543♥ A6♦ A♣ KJ5

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

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♥	100	6	32
Pass	80	3	65
4♥	70	0	10
2NT	50	1	10
2♠	50	1	62
3♠	40	1	79
3♣	20	0	5
4♠	20	0	14
3NT	20	0	6
3♦	20	0	2
4NT	20	0	2

You have a seven-card suit and the general rule is that you try not to put seven-card suits down in dummy. On the other hand, partner has bid hearts showing at least six and you have two-card support. The question is which major do you play in and at what level. If partner has QJ10xxx of hearts and out, the only way his hearts would be worth tricks is if hearts are trump. Follows another general rule, which is that if a weak hand has a long suit, let that suit be trump.

Eight experts join me and think that hearts should be trump. Three experts think that we are high enough. Give partner as little as ♠ x♥ KQJxx♦ xx♣ 1098x and 4♥ is a

very good contract.

Five experts join me and invite. There's one very good reason to invite. If you hold ♠ xx♥ xx♦ KQJxxxx♣ xx favorable and partner is a passed hand, you might throw oil into the fire and overcall 1NT West's 1NT overcall could be a joke.

Two experts suspect that the 1NT could be a joke.

Woolsey: "3♥ —If West is for real, spades isn't likely to play too well, but hearts could take a lot of tricks if partner has the right sort of hand. In addition, there is the risk that West isn't for real at this vulnerability. I think you have to bid 3♥ and risk going down in order to let partner know that you really have something."

Lublin: "3♥ —I bid 3♥ in case partner has an eight-card suit or extras or west is psyching."

Schwartz: "3♥ —Partner should have six or more hearts so no point rebidding spades. He can have a wide range of hand strength so I invite. If partner goes down, they should have play for 3♦."

Landen: "3♥ —Too much to pass vulnerable at IMPs, when partner rates to have a good six-card or longer suit."

Roman: "3♥ —I have too nice a dummy for hearts to pass red at IMPs."

Three experts pass. I think we are much more likely to take ten tricks than eight tricks.

Olson: "Pass—North has long hearts and little else. The black suit finesses will lose, so, with hearts as trump, north has six or seven heart tricks, the diamond ace and who knows. Might already be too high."

Parker: "Pass—Hard to imagine that we can make ten tricks. Partner could have ♠ x♥ Jxxxxx♦ Qxx♣ xx or even ♠ x♥ KJxxxx♦ xxx♣ Qxx and we have a hard time making eight tricks. He did not double so he can't have a real good hand"

Hopkins: "Pass—In deciding the strain, given a hand with a fair amount of HCP opposite a weak hand with a long suit, I have found it is best to almost always play in the weak hand's long suit. So I vote for hearts. As to what level, I play 2♥ is strictly competitive, 3♥ is invitational, and all forcing auctions start with 2NT (raises, strong one and two suiter or double. So I quit at 2♥."

Maybe the follow call is good but would a random partner know that it was a heart game-

try? The majority of the experts say hearts should be trump and 3♥ is a definite heart raise.

Wang: "2NT—Hailong Ao and I play this as an asking bid because it can't be natural. It can keep both spades and hearts (partial or game) in picture."

Two experts violate the 'make the weak hand with the long trumps declarer' rule. If partner is void in spades, you could have four spade losers in spades but no spade losers in hearts.

Adams: "3♠ —Would rather have spots, but this what they dealt me. I would rather risk 4♠ than bid less. Partner will know that spade filler is good."

Cappelletti: "2♠ —A very very tough problem! If I had the ten of spades (IE KJ10 seventh) I would bid 3♠ but here 3♠ could be a disaster if partner has a singleton or void. I'm a bit too good to pass 2♥ (even with both black AQs probably off side) - so my second choice would be 3♥, although spades might play better. At least a 2♠ -bid keeps the bidding open."

If you have a choice, make the suit that the weak hand holds, the trump suit.

2) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ KQJ983♥ KQ52♦ A♣ J7

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♠	Pass	2♦ (GF)	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
?????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♣	100	2	3
4♦	80	2	23
3♠	80	4	81
3♦	70	3	106
4NT	70	1	33
4♠	40	0	34
3♥	20	0	5
5♣	20	0	1

2♠ shows a three-card game-forcing raise. Responder can have 12 HCP or he can have 24 HCP. The duty of opener after 2♠ is to describe his hand and strength so responder can better place the final contract. There are conventional bids after the auction has gone 1♠ - 2X - 2Red - 2♠ when 2X is game forcing. Since responder can have a mountain when he bids 2♠, opener has to allow responder to make slam tries below game. Therefore 3♠ shows a minimum, which allows responder to investigate below 4♠. There are fitting minimums and there are non-fitting

minimums. A jump to 4♠ should show a very very bad hand ♠ Qxxxx♥ QJxx♦ KJ♣ Kx for instance. Compare that hand with ♠ KQJxx♥ KQJx♦ xx♣ xx. Opposite ♠ xxx♥ Ax♦ AQxxx♣ AQx, the first hand will lose three trump tricks and possibly a heart. Opposite the second hand, which is also a minimum, you will usually make slam. 2NT should show a 5422 hand with some extras. 3♣ should show short diamonds with extras and 3♦ should show short clubs with extras. You bid your third suit to show shortness in the fourth suit. 3♥ should show five hearts with extras. If partner knows your distribution, he'll be in a better position to place the final contract.

One expert takes charge of the auction. If partner has three aces and one king, 7♠ should be a good contract.

Parker: "4NT—All I care about is his number of Aces. If he has one ace we stop at five, two aces we bid six and three aces we try for seven. Yes, we might be off two club tricks, but I will take my chances."

Three experts bid 3♦. If I bid 3♦ I would have ♠ KQJ98♥ KQ52♦ Qxx♣ x. Partner would then know that I had a singleton club.

Cappelletti: "3♦ —Let's start cue-bidding. If I hear a 4♣ bid, then Blackwood and slam."

Hopkins: "3♦ —Does this not show a diamond control and suggest slam interest?"

Roman: "3♦ —The bid partner wants to hear. This hand points out a pet treatment I really like: in a 2/1 auction, where two-of-opener's-major is a possible rebid by responder, the difference between two-of-opener's-major and jumping to three-of-opener's-major is that the jump says "partner, that my two-over-one suit is a real suit and is a source of tricks".

Two experts splinter. 4♦ takes up a lot of room. How is partner going to find out a possible club control? You can give the same message by bidding 3♣.

Woolsey: "4♦ —I don't have any problems splintering in partner's suit with a stiff ace. Just because he bid diamonds doesn't necessarily mean he has a lot of stuff there, and that will be the key to slam possibilities."

There is nothing wrong with splintering with a stiff ace. But not when there is a simpler way to get the point across.

Lublin: "4♦ —I bid 4♦ splinter bid so partner will know what to do with club controls."

Four experts bid 3♠. If you jump to 4♠ on all minimums, how is partner going to know whether you have a sound minimum or garbage? 3♠ should show a sound minimum with any distribution. If responder has a minimum and you have a minimum then why give the opponents a blueprint on how to defend?

Schwartz: "3♠ —Can't bid 3♦ as that's shape showing and 3♠ tends to show extra strength and/or length."

Landen: "3♠ —So much depends on partnership understandings. Some would play 3♦ as a cuebid, I prefer it to show at least two diamonds and at most one club. With a minimum hand I would bid 4♠. 3♠ should be asking partner to cue bid, thus good trumps. If they continue with 4♠, I'll give up, though I'll anxiously await dummy."

Landen has this backwards. 3♠ should tell partner to cue bid only if there could be a slam opposite a sound minimum. 2NT, 3♣ and 3♦ asks partner to cue bid unless there are lots of wasted values. If 3♦ is shape showing, then isn't 3♣ shape showing also. 3♣ shows a singleton diamond.

Adams: "3♠ —Flexible with interest. Prefer partner to bid NT first in case we need to play from his side. Leaves room for cue bids."

Olson: "3♠ —Shows six spades, four hearts and extra values, exactly what South has. If North cuebids 4♣, South can go slamming. If North makes any other minimum bid, South should settle for 4♠."

One expert describes his hand. Once you've described your distribution, you can start cue bids. You have plenty of room to find out if you're off the AK of clubs.

Wang: "3♠ —15 or more HCP, third suit."

When the auction goes 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠, or any similar auction ending at two-of-a-major, show your distribution with extras. Bid three-of-your-major with a minimum.

After 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠, show extra values by showing your shape.

3) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ K97642♥ 10♦ 853♣ 983

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
		Pass	Pass
?????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♠	100	5	45
2♠	90	5	115
1♠	80	1	6
4♠	80	0	7
1♥	80	0	5
3♥	80	0	1
Pass	50	1	108

If partner passed an eleven-point hand, the opponents have 26 HCP between them. If partner has fewer points, the opponents have more. The object of winning bridge is to disrupt the opponents. If you were in first chair, it could be partner who has a 2NT opener. Being in third seat, you don't have to worry about that. I appreciate the solvers who opened any number of hearts. If there is any hand to open 1♥ in third seat, this is it. The perfect situation to open 1♥ is when you are playing with a new partner or a partner who has never seen you psyche before. I could open 1♥ with any of my partners because I haven't psyched an opening bid for at least ten years. If partner has seen you do this before and under-bids as a safety play, that is illegal. If I did open 1♥ and LHO overcalled 1♠, I would be up the creek without a paddle.

Ten experts agree with me and open some number of spades. There are some players who think that you must have seven spades to open 3♠. However, there are some hands, especially 6-4 hands, which will play like you have a seven-card suit, especially when you're at favorable vulnerability. ♠KQ109xx♥x♦xx♣Q10xx is such a hand. This is a my idea of a 3♠ opener. The problem hand is only 6331 but the other conditions are the same. You're favorable, in third seat and very weak.

Cappelletti: "3♠—Must bid at this vulnerability."

Woolsey: "3♠—At this vulnerability and opposite a passing partner, anything goes. 3♠ gobbles up a lot more space than 2♠, and it is very unlikely that my vulnerable vs. non-vulnerable opponents will be able to penalize you even if that is their optimal action."

If you do this ten times, four times it will make no difference. If you create a favorable swing four times and go for a large number two times you'll be ahead of the game. At matchpoints going for 800 against a vulnerable game will give you a zero. At IMPs going for 800 against a vulnerable game will cost you only four or five IMPs. As you can

see, the positives out weigh the negatives.

Olson: "3♠—Take advantage of the vulnerability and make life as difficult as possible for E-W."

One expert thinks that its either 3♠ or 4♠.

Adams: "3♠—Preempts work. 4♠ is a bit too much though."

Five experts go conservative. Opening 2♠ is better than passing or even opening 1♠.

Parker: "2♠—Seems automatic, unless you want to bid 3♠. Can't imagine passing."

Schwartz: "2♠—Not vulnerable does not mean invulnerable so I can't go crazy. Also, partner might sack expecting more offense."

A 2♠-opener usually has more defense than a 3♠ opener so partner might go wrong expecting some defense.

Landen: "2♠—All systems go, but getting too old for 3♠."

Wang: "2♠—Depending on style, but I will do it."

Lublin: "2♠—I get the lead director out with a 2♠ bid."

One expert opens 1♠. Preempts do not promise defensive tricks. Opening bids do.

Roman: "1♠—This isn't a 2♠ or 3♠ bid, and pass is out."

One expert gives the opponents a free ride. That's not winning bridge.

Hopkins: "Pass—I don't like to tip the distribution in a situation where I am unlikely to be able to buy the hand. I do admire some of my colleagues who are bidding hearts at various levels. They will have an exciting hand to talk about, one way or another."

Opening 1♥ would not tip your distribution.

Your job is to make life difficult for the opponents.

4) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ A2♥ K65♦ J93♣ J10965

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
????	1♠	Pass	Pass
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Double	100	4	83
2♣	90	3	51
Pass	80	5	126
1NT	50	0	24
2♦	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	1
3♣	20	0	1

To balance or not to balance that is the question. It is usually losing bridge to allow the opponents to play at a low level when you are short in their suit. On bad days, by balancing, you allow the opponents to get to a makeable game. On good days, by balancing, you get a plus score that you would not get by passing. In direct seat, you would never think of overcalling or making takeout double with this hand. However, in balancing seat, when partner is supposed to play your bids to be a king lighter, it is OK to bid. Bidding 2♣ on a nine-count in balancing seat is the same as bidding 2♣ on a 12-count in direct seat. Making a takeout double on a nine-count in balancing seat is the same as making a takeout double on a 12-count in direct seat.

The problem with bidding 2♣ is that if LHO wins the bid, partner might blow a trick leading a club. If you make a takeout double, he is more likely to lead a heart.

Parker: "2♣—1NT shows more values, double should show four hearts so I bid my longest suit."

Cappelletti: "2♣—Let's try to find our eight-card fit instead of a seven-card fit."

There's no guarantee that bidding 2♣ will get you to an eight-card fit. If partner has a weak 3352 hand, he'll pass 2♣.

Olson: "2♣—North is not broke and, on the bidding, likely has some length in diamonds and/or clubs. If 2♣ gets doubled, maybe North can run to 2♦."

Three experts join me and make a takeout double. If the opening bid was 1♣, there would be a good chance that partner does not have a five-card suit. Since the opening bid was 1♠, partner would need a good suit and an opening bid to overcall at the two-level. If you force partner to bid a red-suit there is a chance that partner has five.

Woolsey: "Double—It is against my religion to let the opponents play at a low level when I'm short in their suit. Double seems better than anything else since I have support for all the other suits."

Usually religion and bridge do not mix but here I'll make an exception.

Landen: "Double—Close between 1NT and double, but minimum point count and spade shortness suggests double. Passing is out of the question."

Hopkins: "Double—We probably have 1/2 the deck so I want to compete. My real worry

is not being able to find a fit and maybe going for -200 against -110/140 if I quit now."

Five experts violate the number one principle of competitive bidding. When in doubt pass when long in the opponent's suit, compete when short.

Schwartz: "Pass—With no good bid and unfavorable, I go quietly with only nine HCP."

There are two reasonable bids - double and 2♣

Adams: "Pass—Do not like any action here. Partner bids a lot when I double. Sometimes the opponents play 1♠ instead of game. Pass seems wimpy, and on a lot of days I would not find it. Pretty sure I would look at my opponents before deciding. The better the opponents, the more likely I would bid."

Wang: "Pass—Would bid if we are non-vulnerable."

Lublin: "Pass—We are vulnerable and do not have a game."

Not having a game is not a good reason to pass. You could have a partscore and lots of IMPs are swung in partscore battles.

Roman: "Pass—Because that's what we do when we have a balanced hand too weak to balance with 1NT."

When short in the opponent's suit, be aggressive.

5) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ KJ2♥ 2♦ AKQ875♣ AJ6

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

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

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
1NT	100	8	67
Pass	80	3	89
3♦	80	1	45
Double	50	0	44
3NT	40	0	20
4♦	40	0	5
2♠	20	0	1
4NT	20	0	2
2NT	20	0	2
6♠	20	0	1
3♣	20	0	2
3♠	20	0	1
2♦	20	0	7
5♦	20	0	1

You have a very strong hand, but LHO has opened your best suit and RHO has one of your three-card suits. The good news is that you can bid 1NT, which is natural. The bad news is that you have a singleton heart and partner is very likely to have five or more hearts. Of course if partner transfers you to hearts you can pass it since if partner has five or more hearts, he doesn't have enough for game.

One expert bids diamonds at the lowest level possible which will very likely end the auction. It would be funny if 3♦ went down one and the players who overcall 1NT got to pass the 2♦ transfer and are +90.

Woolsey: "3♦ —You won't let me bid diamonds at the two-level, so I have to do so at the three-level. The assumed bad diamond split means notrump is likely to fail, so compete to the right level and let the opponents guess."

Seven experts join me and overcall 1NT. The opening bids and responses are getting lighter so it's not that unreasonable that we have enough HCP to belong in 3NT.

Cappelletti: "1NT—With four diamonds behind you, this hand downgrades - (does your system allow 2NT as reject of heart transfer?) - Another very tough problem, but 1NT is much better than double."

Olson: "1NT—I'm not worried about the heart suit, as neither East nor West likely has more than four cards in hearts. So, even if E-W cash four heart tricks, South should have good play for at least seven tricks in no trump."

Schwartz: "1NT—Would like to get to 2♦ but can't directly. By bidding 1NT, partner is likely to transfer to hearts as he rates to have five or more. When he does, we have arrived at 2♦ .

With my maximum, I might not have enough to compete to the three-level" if they raise spades. If this gambit were not available (say I have a stiff spade and they bid hearts), I would pass."

Landen: "1NT—Don't like the stiff heart, but passing or doubling are even more problematic. I don't mind the extra values as my diamonds unlikely to be running.

That is a bizarre agreement."

Don't know why this agreement is bizarre. If you play 1NT as strong, which is what I recommend, then you need a bid to show 5-5 in the two unbid suits.

Wang: "1NT—Partner is likely to have a weak hand with hearts. I can pass his 2♦ transfer."

Lublin: "1NT—Followed by diamonds if auction is competitive."

Hopkins: "1NT—If they get to 2♥ , I will try 3♦ . If partner transfers to 2♥ , won't be surprised at what happens."

Three experts pass. At least if they bid diamonds later it will be natural.

Adams: "Pass—Maybe they will rebid diamonds."

Parker: "Pass—Let's see what will happen. If West bids 1NT I will double for penalties, if he bids anything else I will bid diamonds naturally."

Doubling 1NT after 1X - Pass - 1Y - Pass - 1NT in passout seat could be interpreted as a weak takeout double. I've seen it played both ways.

Roman: "Pass—The only other possible action is 3NT, and with LHO opening 1♦ that is a wild gamble. For now, I will listen."

Play 1♣ - Pass - 1♥ - 1NT or any similar one-over-one auction as a strong notrump.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	3♠	3♠	3♠	Pass	Pass	380
Mike Cappelletti	2♠	3♦	3♠	2♣	1NT	410
Robbie Hopkins	Pass	3♦	Pass	Dbl	1NT	400
Steve Landen	3♥	3♠	2♠	Dbl	1NT	470
Glenn Lublin	3♥	4♦	2♠	Pass	1NT	450
Craig Olson	Pass	3♠	3♠	2♣	1NT	450
Steve Parker	Pass	4NT	2♠	2♣	Pass	410
Steve Robinson	3♥	3♣	3♠	Dbl	1NT	500
Jeff Roman	3♥	3♦	1♠	Pass	Pass	410
Alan Schwartz	3♥	3♠	2♠	Pass	1NT	450
Jian Jian Wang	2NT	3♣	2♠	Pass	1NT	420
Kit Woolsey	3♥	4♦	3♠	Dbl	3♦	460

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2009 FINAL TROPHY RACE STANDINGSwww.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 final for 2009. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director. **Congratulations to the 2009 Winners!**

(Their pictures appear on p. 21.)

Lovenberg**1 145.83 Leo LaSota**

2	128.43	Steve Robinson
3	105.25	John Adams
4	91.92	Mark Shaw
5	86.56	Clyde Kruskal
6	85.91	Peter Boyd
7	82.56	William Hacker
8	81.67	Donna Rogall
9	80.13	David Ruderman
10	77.96	William Cole
11	77.18	James Geist
12	68.97	Barry Falgout
13	68.75	Barry Bragin
14	67.10	Earl Glickstein
15	64.84	Eugene Fisher
16	64.58	Arnie Frankel
17	63.95	Brad Theurer
18	63.13	Linda Marshall
19	62.91	Noble Shore
20	61.94	Richard Wegman
21	60.75	Robert Bell
22	54.27	Fred King
23	52.82	Michael Gill
24	48.34	Eugene Kales
25	45.66	Mark Rosen

Izzy Cohen**1 64.84 Eugene Fisher**

2	63.13	Linda Marshall
3	52.82	Michael Gill
4	45.66	Mark Rosen
5	41.68	Ronald Zucker
6	35.86	Arun Guha
7	35.00	William Goldman
8	31.27	Alfred Caponiti
9	31.18	Lloyd Rawley
10	31.03	Margie Coccodrilli
11	27.69	Alice Wegman
12	22.78	Roma Chandra
13	22.71	Jeffrey Kosnett
14	22.64	Shawn Stringer
15	22.39	Prem Garg

Tubbs**1 35.86 Arun Guha**

2	35.00	William Goldman
3	31.27	Alfred Caponiti
4	27.69	Alice Wegman
5	22.39	Prem Garg
6	21.49	Mark Cohen
7	21.41	Jose Porres
8	21.22	Shyam Giridharadas
9	20.96	Ernie Schuler
10	20.92	Roger Laumark

Woolridge**1 18.78 Leon Masiewicki**

2	14.30	Larry Wallace
3	13.75	Julie Connor
4	13.04	Richard Moss
5	10.77	Martha Stout
6	9.59	Adrienne Kohn
7	9.58	Michael Kuehl
8	8.99	Elinor Stolar
9	8.56	Maxine Penn
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.

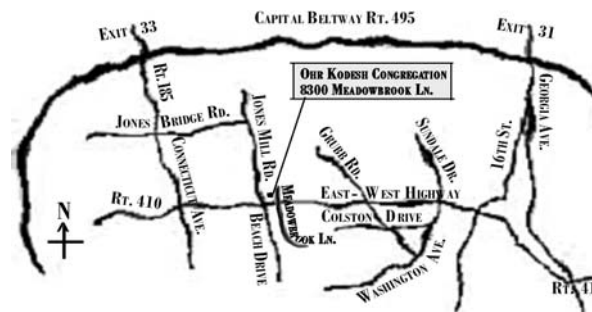
This is a great program for beginners as well as experienced social bridge players! Partners will be provided if needed. For more information, contact Bryan or Lois Geer at 301-236-0014 or by email at geerbridge@verizon.net.

~ * ♦ **SCHEDULE** ♥ ♠ ~

Games held at Ohr Kodesh started 01/14/10

03/18/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
03/25/2010WBL Sectional
04/01/2010StrataFlighted GNT**Teams** 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.
05/13/2010WBL Sectional
05/20/2010StrataFlighted BAM **Teams**
05/27/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
06/03/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
06/10/2010StrataFlighted North American Pairs
06/17/2010District 6 STaC Stratified Pairs
06/24/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
07/01/2010StrataFlighted North American Pairs
07/08/2010Closed Bethesda Regional
07/15/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
07/22/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
08/29/2010StrataFlighted Unit Championship
08/05/2010StrataFlighted North American Pairs

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! The Unit Game is now 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.

THE MOVE TO OHR KODESH

The Unit Game has now moved to Ohr Kodesh congregation, where we have held a few games so far this year. The move went very smoothly, thanks to the team of helpers who packed up our gear and transported it to the new site, and thanks to the friendly and helpful staff at Ohr Kodesh.

The playing area is spacious, clean and well-lit, and noise levels seem to be lower than at the previous site, and players have so far been overwhelmingly positive about the move. The main problem so far is a lack of parking; you can help in several ways – carpooling, allowing a few extra minutes to find a space before game time, and leaving spaces in the lot for those less able to walk a couple of blocks. And please do not park in the spaces reserved for the clergy and congregation – in addition to the risk of divine wrath, you also face the earthly inconvenience of being towed!

If you haven't played in the Unit Game for a while, please come and join us; we have plenty of room and would be very happy to see you again.

LOST & FOUND

Coats, umbrellas, etc. left at Christ the King Church will be available for pickup at the unit game at Ohr Kodesh for a few weeks. After that, they will be donated. Please do look through the coats to see if you recognize one that you may have left but forgotten.

~ or contact Kitty Gottfried, 301-587-3981 ~

~ ♣♦♥♠ ~

ALERT! WBL MAY SECTIONAL MOVING!

The WBL May 13-16 sectional will be held in a new location which wasn't set as we went to press. Please see our next issue or the website: www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org for details and directions.

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♠ 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
- ♦ September 23-26, 2010, Fairfax, VA
- ♥ October 28-31, 2010, 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 #66, PART 2

by Rich Colker, rcolker@gmail.com

Continued from our last issue...

Well, what did you decide?

First, to judge East's possible actions after 3♥ one should look at East's cards, ignore all information about the hand except the AI from the auction, and judge what you would do with those cards. Partner opens a strong 1NT, RHO bids 2♦ (diamonds plus a major) and you hold ♠AQ1074 ♥43 ♦J96 ♣1062. You bid 2♥, transferring to spades, LHO passes, and partner bids 3♥, showing a doubleton heart and a spade fit (East must bid as if West has interpreted 2♥ as a transfer; the opponents don't know it but they have a big heart fit). Well, what would you do?

Picture how the hand will play giving partner a reasonable (but not perfect) hand, perhaps something like ♠KJxx ♥xx ♦Kxx ♣AKQx. The defense will take the first two heart tricks, ending in South, who will then play a diamond through partner's king. If the ace-queen are offside the defense will then take two diamonds and a ruff for five tricks. Make partner's minors ♦Axx and ♣AKJx, avoiding losing two diamonds and a ruff, and ten tricks (game) depend on finding the ♣Q onside and the suit splitting three-three (or the short ♣Q with North)—unlikely. And if West has wasted heart values (e.g., honor doubleton) forget it.

So I agree with the Committee's judgment that the odds do not favor bidding game. But are there really a significant number of good players who would bid game with the East hand? Would you holding the East hand with its uninspiring seven-count (including the ♦J in North's "other" suit) and sterile 5-3-3-2 shape? It would not occur to me to bid game with the duplication in hearts, especially at matchpoints. In fact, even at IMP's I'd be hard pressed to find the bid.

True, knowing that partner thought he was raising hearts naturally makes it easier to sign off in 3♠ (it's the most conservative action facing a misfit, and it could alert partner that 2♥ was meant as a transfer), and we are appropriately reluctant to permit an action that was suggested by partner's UI. But when all of the alternatives are unreasonable it seems unduly punitive to prevent a player from making an "obvious" call.

And what about the experts who were asked what they would do over 3♥? One problem with the poll is that they were told 3♥ showed heart values (not a doubleton) with a spade fit. (The Director may not have asked about E/W's agreement or may have simply "filled in" what he thought was the "normal" interpretation of such an action.) Let's construct a West hand that is consistent with that explanation. Give him ♠KJxx ♥KQx ♦xx ♣AKxx and there are three top red-suit losers and a slow club loser (unless the ♣QJ are doubleton). Give him ♠Kxxx ♥AKxx ♦xx ♣AQ9 and game makes only if one can avoid two club losers and trumps are not four-zero. But change West's hand to ♠Kxxx ♥AQx ♦xx ♣AKxx and there are two diamond losers, one club loser, and the ♥K (which figures to be offside) to worry about

and you still need trumps to break no worse than three-one. So bidding game seems markedly against the odds (though perhaps not totally unreasonable).

I think the experts bid game because they were told 3♥ showed heart values (and presumably length). Here's a typical West hand that fits that profile and provides excellent play for game: ♠K9xx ♥AKx ♦xx ♣KQJx. But give West short hearts and the best hand I could come up with is ♠K9xx ♥xx ♦AQx ♣AQJx. Here game depends on the club finesse. Both hands require West to hold specific cards and minimal heart wastage. So while bidding game opposite heart values and/or length is reasonable (maybe even "normal"), one should sign off in 3♠ opposite a duplicated doubleton heart, especially at matchpoints. I think the Director poll, with the misleading information about the 3♥ bid, swayed the Committee by telling them that a majority of experts bid game. Had the experts been told 3♥ showed a doubleton (so now West would not have a doubleton diamond to ruff one of East's losers) would any of them still have carried on to game?

What about East's pass of 3♠? Given East's belief that 2♥ was a transfer and that 3♥ showed a doubleton with support, East's signoff should have ended the auction. So what type of hand could West have to justify bidding game opposite a (possibly very) weak hand with five spades, perhaps ♠AQ10xx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣xx? If West has something like ♠Jxxx ♥AK ♦A10x ♣Axxx 3NT needs only the spade finesse (and 4♠ has little or no play). Give West ♠Kxxx ♥Kx ♦Q10x ♣AKQx and 3NT needs the spades to come in and either a heart lead or clubs behaving (and again 4♠ has little or no play). So East's pass of 3NT has considerable merit.

If you think some good players would bid game with the East hand then you probably agree with the Director's and Committee's decisions. After all, bidding 3♠ with the East hand is strongly suggested by the UI so to allow the bid you have to believe signing off in 3♠ is clear-cut (which it isn't opposite presumed heart values/length). But if, like me, you think it is an aberration to go on to game with the East hand opposite a doubleton heart, especially at matchpoints, then you should allow the table result to stand. (I'd also explain to him that he was fortunate to survive the 3♠ bid this time and that next time he won't be so lucky. A player who has UI from his partner must carefully refrain from any action that was made more attractive by the UI—unless it is one that virtually every player would have taken without the UI.)

So was the Committee's decision a good one? That depends on how you view signing off in 3♠ as East. The fact finding Appeals Committees are called upon to do and the bridge judgments they have to make can be quite complicated. Different Committees can reasonably arrive at different decisions in many situations. Keep that in mind the next time you disagree with a Committee's decision.

Jean Phillips has two grown children, Russell and Sam. She is a self employed farmer at Phillips Farm Pumpkin Patch and has been a scientist at NIH. She got her B.S. from the University of Maryland in '65 where she enjoyed playing in the band. Jean also has a small photography business selling nature wildlife photo-note cards and framed photos — many of eagles from Boyds, MD.

She played bridge for a few years in the '70's, but then took off until 1988 when she started teaching the game to her son, Sam, who is now a 33 year old Bronze Life Master. One of her biggest thrills in bridge came when Sam was 13 and they won the 0-20 Pairs together at a sectional in the old armory in Silver Spring. The other big thrill came at the '09 DC Nationals when Jean got the points she needed to become Life Master. Playing on a team with Sam, her sister, Carol Ann and Sam's father, Lowell, they came in second in the Thursday-Friday Compact KO. Her next goal is to win a major event with her son.



Jose Porres has five children ranging in age from 19 to 28: Irene, Sara Sergio, Elena and Roger. Jose is a self employed dermatologist. He is board certified in three specialties: dermatology, dermatopathology and medical microbiology.

Jose got into bridge about four years ago after taking an evening class at a community center. Now, he plays regularly at the unit game, Gaithersburg, the JCC, Arlington and Laurel and also travels to play in tournaments. Jose prefers playing 2/1 and enjoys bridge books by Mike Lawrence. For Jose, there has been no single most exciting moment, rather, bridge has been an ongoing thrill all along. He wishes to always improve his game, have a great time, and to make the game as enjoyable for other players at the table.

Janet W. Rosenthal was born Janet Walkin on May 12, 1918, Janet Rosenthal died July 6, 2009 in her home at Riderwood Village in Silver Spring, MD. Her son Howard's wife,

Ruth Rosenthal wrote the following. "She was 91. She was a real trooper, raising children while her husband was away at war, moving around the country although she probably would have preferred to stay put, and stoically suffering the heartbreak of having her 30-year old daughter die and her youngest son go through cancer and chemo at age 46. Unlike Dr. Harry [her husband], Janet did not want to see, do and experience everything. Instead, she chose a few passions that carried her through bad times and good. She enjoyed the company of family and friends, became quite accomplished at golf and bridge, and led a long and full life. She was wonderful to me and I certainly could not have wished for a more wonderful mother-in-law. We miss you, Mom."



Kiyomi Shiba's family include husband, John, and seven year old daughter, Maya. Formerly a pianist, Kiyomi is currently occupied being a wife and mother. Her education includes achieving two M.M.s in solo piano and chamber music and one A.B.D. (All But Dissertation Doctoral Candidate).

One of her best friends, Minako, introduced Kiyomi to bridge in 2006 and she got hooked. They became partners and in 2007, Kiyomi was the Non-Life-Master of the Year. She's looking forward to playing bridge in Tokyo this summer with Minako, who moved back there. Eddie Kantar is her favorite bridge author because, "He's so funny." Kiyomi's special wish as far as bridge is concerned is to someday play a piano duet with Eric Rodwell. She would like to thank all of her partners for their support, friendship and patience and says, "Love you all!"



Helen Solomon and her husband Robert have two children, Sharon and David and three grandchildren. After earning her BS from the University of Maryland, Helen became a pro-

gram analyst for the Department of the Army at The Pentagon.

While she enjoys tennis, after retiring, Helen needed another challenge and Leslie Shafer opened the door to bridge for her. For this, she is forever grateful. After becoming a Life Master, her biggest thrill to date is achieving the rank of Bronze Life Master. Outside of bridge, Helen has been recognized with the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Paul Sullivan and his wife Ida have four children, Lorraine, Marie, Patrick and Joseph and 14 grandchildren. Paul is retired from GEICO. He initially learned a little about bridge from watching his parents play. Paul started playing himself while attending Georgetown. He currently plays locally at the Rockville Duplicate club and travels to play in Virginia Beach, Lancaster, Charlottesville, Richmond, Atlanta and on cruises. Paul prefers Standard American and his favorite bridge book is "Points Schmoints" by Marty Bergen.

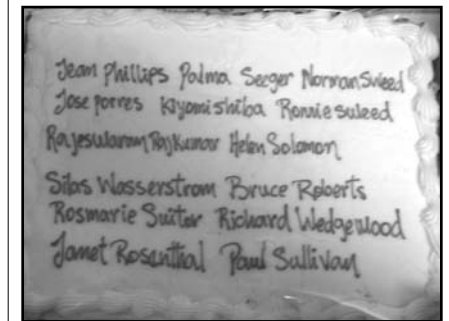


Norman and Ronnie Sweed have two children, Howard and Jodi. Ronnie worked as a math teacher and a self-employed math tutor for over 35 years after achieving a BS and MS from Temple. Norman worked at ExxonMobil as a technology licensing manager. He was with them for 27 years. Prior to that, he held various technical and management positions in research, development and engineering and taught chemical engineering at Princeton after having earned his BS from Drexel and his PhD from Princeton in that field.

In addition to bridge, Ronnie enjoys

mah-jongg and they both enjoy traveling. They've traveled to play bridge all along the east coast, TX, CA, MI and San Salvador. They initially learned a little about bridge in 1967, but rarely played except for some kitchen bridge. Then, they took an adult education course at a high school in Heightstown, NJ and upon retirement at the end of 2003 started to play more seriously. A couple of years later, they were entering duplicate tournaments.

Both Ronnie and Norman prefer 2/1 and enjoy Eddie Kantar's books. They'd like to give special thanks to Steve and Sandy Forsythe for teaching them a lot about the game and to their teammates who helped in their quest for the gold!



Suzanne Floyd



Kay Miller



Rosemarie Suitor

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

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.

**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 mem-

ber 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 four of eight sectionals. The asterisk* indicates that the player has met eligibility requirements.

Open Leaders	
Player	Points
1 David Milton	.91.62
2 Prahalad Rajkumar	.67.66
3 Stan Schenker	.66.47
4 William Cole	.56.50
5 Michael Gill	.56.38
6 Noble Shore	.52.27
7 Kenneth Davis	.50.14
8 John Adams	.48.13
9 Steve Robinson	.47.04
10 Mark Shaw	.46.13
11 Barry Falgout	.45.95
12 James Geist	.44.25
13 Peter Boyd	.43.95
14 Lyle Poe Jr	.43.75
15 Ronald Kral	.43.00
16 Steven Schatzow	.41.15
17 Al Liepold	.40.29
18 Robert Bell	.39.66
19 Steve Reed	.39.56
20 Linda Marshall	.38.25

...continued on p. 27

**48TH ANNUAL WBL
PRESIDENTIAL TOURNAMENT**

January 7-10, 2010

Results

**TOP TEN CUMULATIVE
POINT WINNERS**

All Players

1	29.18	David Milton
2	28.86	William Cole
3	22.01	John Adams
4	21.87	Steve Robinson
5	21.65	Robert Hopkins Jr
6	20.98	Leo LaSota
7	20.14	Peter Boyd
	20.04	Mark Shaw
9	18.33	Linda Marshall
10	18.00	Barry Falgout

Players with fewer than 1500 masterpoints

1	14.61	Patrick Stanton
2	13.31	Sven Pride
3	12.91	Al Liepold
4	10.80	Francesco Parisi-Presicce
5	10.21	Kiyomi Shiba
6	10.02	Arun Guha
7	9.69	David Grabiner
	9.49	Mike Frosch
9	9.34	Terry Vann
10	9.30	Jose Porres

Players with fewer than 500 masterpoints

1	14.61	Patrick Stanton
2	10.21	Kiyomi Shiba
3	10.02	Arun Guha
4	9.34	Terry Vann
5	9.30	Jose Porres
6	9.16	Jim Metzger
7	8.58	Art Hartstein
8	8.46	Kay Miller
9	8.17	Albert Lauber
10	7.75	Terry Mitchell
11	7.71	Alfred Caponiti

Players with fewer than 100 masterpoints

1	6.25	David Montague
	6.25	Sandy Mitchell
3	5.90	Eugene Massey
4	5.87	Ellinor Legg
5	5.33	Dan Falk
6	5.08	Julie Connor
7	4.46	Larry Wallace
8	4.08	Ed Krest
9	3.75	Rochelle Hilton
10	3.38	Kathleen Zellmer

**2009
TROPHY RACE WINNERS**



On Saturday, WBL President Don Berman presented trophies to the 2009 Trophy Race Winners: l to r: Leo LaSota (Lovenberg, Open), Eugene Fisher (Izzy Cohen, 0-1500), Arun Guha (Tubbs, Non-LM), Leon Masiewski (Woolridge, 0-20) (See p.14 for all of the 2009 final standings)

THURSDAY MORN OPEN PAIRS

Stratum A, 22.5 Tables

1	Bert Chansky - Irv Lessin	.63.66
2	Millard Nachwey - Barbara Doran	.62.73
3	Ann Lindley - Al Duncker	.59.88
4	Charles Stenger - Mary Lou Guandolo	58.56
5	Jack DeVivo - Barry DePristo	.58.37
6	Terri Sanker - Kiyomi Shiba	.57.64

Stratum B, 16.5 Tables

1	Terri Sanker - Kiyomi Shiba	.57.64
2	Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgenweck	.55.79
3	Robert Wilbur - Charles Skillern	.55.57
4	Frances Lawrence - Robert Lawrence	55.32
5	Jan Zaal - Norma Fry	.54.45
6	Anne Derbes - Bob Schwab	.54.18

Stratum C, 10.5 Tables

1	Joan Fitzpatrick - Gail Morgenweck	.55.79
2	Robert Wilbur - Charles Skillern	.55.57
3	Jan Zaal - Norma Fry	.54.45
4	Kathleen Zellmer - Jean Schoen	.53.61
5	Arun Guha - Larry Wallace	.53.01
6	Mike Platt - Terry Vann	.52.78

THURSDAY EVE A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 42.0 Tables / Based on 87



1 Dharendra Ghosh - Ronald Kral65.28

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- 2 Annie Schwartz - Alan Schwartz64.49
- 3 Mark Cohen - Patrick Stanton61.23
- 4 John Sedgewick - Janet Dence61.05
- 5 H John Edmonds - Larry Kahn60.14
- 6 Leon Letwin - Julian Boyce59.33
- 7 Joan Lewis - Robert Hopkins Jr58.80
- 8 Richard Colker - Diane Walker58.79
- 9 Roger Stern - Sandra Stern58.70

Stratum X, 24.0 Tables

- 1 Dharendra Ghosh - Ronald Kral65.28
- 2 Mark Cohen - Patrick Stanton61.23
- 3 John Sedgewick - Janet Dence61.05
- 4 H John Edmonds - Larry Kahn60.14
- 5 Roger Stern - Sandra Stern58.70
- 6 Linda Marshall - James Beller58.33

THURSDAY EVE B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 23.0 Tables

- 1 Lynne Beresford - Eleanor Schwartz .65.48
- 2 Ellen Rosenthal - Neal Rosenthal . . .63.64
- 3 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wasserstrom 61.55
- 4 Albert Lauber - Steven Fox59.09
- 5 Michael Berard - Marie Berard58.14
- 6 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold . . .57.95

Stratum C, 20.5 Tables

- 1 Lynne Beresford - Eleanor Schwartz .65.48
- 2 Ellen Rosenthal - Neal Rosenthal . . .63.64
- 3 Michael Gottesman - Silas Wasserstrom 61.55
- 4 Albert Lauber - Steven Fox59.09
- 5 Michael Berard - Marie Berard58.14
- 6 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold . . .57.95

Stratum D, 11.5 Tables

- 1 Lynne Beresford - Eleanor Schwartz .65.48
- 2/3 Arun Guha - Jose Porres56.06
- 2/3 Azmat Ali - Larry Wallace56.06
- 4 Jay Simon - Mark Jones55.36
- 5 Ewing Walker - Stefan Popoveniuc . .55.06
- 6 W Karl Van Newkirk - Virginia Gibbons 54.76

THUR EVE NLM PAIRS @ WBL

Stratum A, 11.0 Tables

- 1 Laura Sherman - Steven Spaeth62.03
- 2 Jim Anschutz - Patti Anschutz60.12
- 3 Ellinor Legg - James Metzger57.91
- 4 Patricia Welty - Patricia Price55.65
- 5 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor55.10
- 6 Ronnie Loeser - Joav Steinbach53.83

Stratum B, 8.0 Tables

- 1 Laura Sherman - Steven Spaeth62.03
- 2 Patricia Welty - Patricia Price55.65
- 3 Eugene Massey - Julie Connor55.10
- 4 Jean Noonan - Isabelle Thabault . . .53.11
- 5 Roberta Weiss - Elizabeth Tevelow . .52.98

Stratum C, 4.5 Tables

- 1 Laura Sherman - Steven Spaeth62.03
- 2 Patricia Welty - Patricia Price55.65
- 3 David Penn - Maxine Penn51.74
- 4 Jane Dolkart - Alexander Gretsinger .50.68

THUR EVENING 0-200 PAIRS @ NVBA

Stratum A, 11.0 Tables

- 1 Roy Robson - Albert Stolpe66.96
- 2 Larry Taylor - David Meadows61.90
- 3 M. David Jackson - William Hohe . . .59.23
- 4 Blair Curry - Judith Curry56.55
- 5 James Connor - James Callender . . .52.98
- 6 Janet Smith Bourme - Sidney Graves .52.68

Stratum B, 5.5 Tables

- 1 James Connor - James Callender . . .52.98
- 2 John Holt - Joseph Drodge51.79

- 3 James Hewitt - Kenneth Linder51.49
- 4 Edward Maixner - Marguerite Salah .50.89

Stratum C, 2.5 Tables

- 1 James Connor - James Callender . . .52.98
- 2 Brigitte Friedman - Ronald Friedman 50.60

FRIDAY MORNING OPEN PAIRS

Stratum A, 14.0 Tables / Based on 23



- 1 Robert Schwab - Anne Derbes70.09
- 2 Ann Lindley - Alfred Duncker61.79
- 3 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Presicce 61.07
- 4 Benjamin Stauss - John Glynn58.09
- 5 Frances Lawrence - Robert Lawrence 57.45
- 6 Leonid Fastovsky - Saul Penn56.41

Stratum B, 11.0 Tables

- 1 Anne Derbes - Robert Schwab70.09
- 2 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Presicce 61.07
- 3 Frances Lawrence - Robert Lawrence 57.45
- 4 Leonid Fastovsky - Saul Penn56.41
- 5 Neal McKinney - Jay Cherlow55.68
- 6 Charles Carrington - Robert Wilbur .54.46

Stratum C, 3.5 Tables

- 1 Jon Ranhand - Roger Laumark50.91
- 2 Douglas Fox - Larry Moran47.76
- 3 Kay Miller - Teri Harrison47.04

FRIDAY MORN 0-300 PAIRS

Stratum A, 9.0 Tables



- 1 Terence McCarthy - Sara Hilgartner .68.75
- 2 Terry Mitchell - William Pruiett . . .63.69
- 3 Eugene Massey - Joanne Massey Howes 63.10
- 4/5 Joseph Abita - Kathleen French . . .53.57
- 4/5 Norman Mitchell - David Montague .53.57

Stratum B, 6.5 Tables

- 1 Eugene Massey - Joanne Massey Howes 63.10
- 2/3 Joseph Abita - Kathleen French . . .53.57
- 2/3 Norman Mitchell - David Montague .53.57
- 4 Jean Sobieski - Dennis Serpico53.27
- 5 Geane Schubert - Ellen Parker51.49

Stratum C, 2.5 Tables

- 1 Joseph Abita - Kathleen French . . .53.57
- 2 Geane Schubert - Ellen Parker51.49

FRIDAY AFT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 11.0 Tables / Based on 33



- 1 Michael Gill - Noble Shore61.11

- 2 Robert Hopkins Jr - John Miller59.63
- 3 Leon Letwin - Donald Berman57.96
- 4 Alfred Duncker - Ann Lindley56.48
- 5/6 Earl Glickstein - Barry Falgout55.74
- 5/6 Shuba Dey - Jay Kelkar55.74

Stratum X, 4.5 Tables

- 1 Noble Shore - Michael Gill61.11
- 2 Mark Cohen - Richard Price48.33
- 3 James Prentiss - Margaret Whalen . .45.74
- 4 Gerald Marcovsky - Linda Smith . . .45.37

FRIDAY AFT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 14.5 Tables

- 1 Neal McKinney - Jay Cherlow64.67
- 2 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold . . .57.59
- 3 Albert Lauber - Steven Fox57.27
- 4 Thomas Din - Gloria Halstead56.14
- 5 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein54.99
- 6 Robert Wilbur - Charles Skillern . . .54.97

Stratum C, 13.0 Tables

- 1 Alfred Caponiti - Alfred Liepold . . .57.59
- 2 Albert Lauber - Steven Fox57.27
- 3 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein54.99
- 4 Robert Wilbur - Charles Skillern . . .54.97
- 5 Michael Berard - Marie Berard54.94
- 6 Ron Starr - Jerry Pruzan54.88

Stratum D, 7.0 Tables

- 1 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein54.99
- 2 Robert Wilbur - Charles Skillern . . .54.97
- 3 Ron Starr - Jerry Pruzan54.88
- 4 Thad Uehling - Joseph Pregosin . . .52.48
- 5 Annapurna Satpathy - Ellinor Legg .52.00

FRIDAY AFT 0-300 PAIRS

Stratum A, 8.0 Tables

- 1 Barbara Levine - Maxine Penn61.61
- 2 Norman Mitchell - David Montague . .60.12
- 3 Terry Mitchell - William Pruiett . . .57.74
- 4 James Shoenhard - Albert Stolpe . . .54.17
- 5 Alexander Shafer - Wlodek Tugendraich 53.87

Stratum B, 5.5 Tables

- 1 Barbara Levine - Maxine Penn61.61
- 2 Norman Mitchell - David Montague . .60.12
- 3 James Shoenhard - Albert Stolpe . . .54.17
- 4 Alexander Shafer - Wlodek Tugendraich 53.87

Stratum C, 3.5 Tables

- 1 Barbara Levine - Maxine Penn61.61
- 2 Norman Mitchell - David Montague . .60.12
- 3 Kathleen Zellmer - Ellen Pollack . . .52.08

FRI EVE A/X IMP PAIRS

Stratum A, 13.0 Tables / Based on 25



- 1 Steven Schatzow - Linda Marshall . . .36.27
- 2 David Grabiner - Arthur McCann . . .32.82
- 3 Michael Richey - James Geist31.45
- 4 Donna Rogall - Clyde Kruskal28.27
- 5 Richard Ferrin - Eugene Kales26.82
- 6 John Adams - Steve Robinson25.00

Stratum X, 7.0 Tables

- 1 David Grabiner - Arthur McCann . . .32.82
- 2 Michael Richey - James Geist31.45
- 3 Noble Shore - Michael Gill23.73
- 4 Ronald Conlon - Renate Conlon . . .15.91

- 5 Elliot Grant - James Davenport, Jr . .14.00

FRI EVE B/C/D IMP PAIRS

Stratum B, 12.0 Tables



- 1 Ellinor Legg - Michael Kuehl39.64
- 2 Daniel Falk - Nancy Ross37.91
- 3 Michael Lawrence - Craig Olson . . .35.64
- 4 Murat Berk - Michael Berard34.36
- 5 David Dong - Bernadette Merceron . .29.82
- 6 Alan Ferraro - Jeanne Ferraro28.55

Stratum C, 11.0 Tables

- 1 Michael Kuehl - Ellinor Legg39.64
- 2 Daniel Falk - Nancy Ross37.91
- 3 Michael Lawrence - Craig Olson . . .35.64
- 4 Murat Berk - Michael Berard34.36
- 5 David Dong - Bernadette Merceron . .29.82
- 6 Alan Ferraro - Jeanne Ferraro28.55

Stratum D, 7.5 Tables

- 1 Michael Kuehl - Ellinor Legg39.64
- 2 David Dong - Bernadette Merceron . .29.82
- 3 Alan Ferraro - Jeanne Ferraro28.55
- 4 James Shoenhard - Albert Stolpe . . .12.91
- 5 Arun Guha - Jose Porres9.55

SATURDAY AM A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 26.0 Tables / Based on 80



- 1 Sven Pride - James Geist63.15
- 2/3 David Milton - Leo LaSota63.08
- 2/3 Lloyd Rawley - Carole Banks63.08
- 4 William Cole - William Hacker60.54
- 5 Kenneth Davis - Bruce Houston . . .60.38
- 6 Andrew Gofreed - Stephen Swearingen 58.85
- 7 John Klayman - Thomas Lavender . .57.77
- 8/10 Audrey Marbach - Alice Miller . . .57.38
- 8/10 Steven Schatzow - Robert Boyd . . .57.38
- 8/10 Earl Glickstein - Robert Bell57.38

Stratum X, 12.5 Tables

- 1 James Geist - Sven Pride63.15
- 2 Lloyd Rawley - Carole Banks63.08
- 3 Alfred Caponiti - John Lowe III . . .55.15
- 4 Barry Bragin - Eleanor Bragin54.54
- 5 Renate Conlon - Ronald Conlon . . .53.85
- 6 Janet Dence - Katherine Rabenstein .53.69

SATURDAY AM B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 25.0 Tables



- 1 Amelia Montjoy - Kay Miller65.49

- 2 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein63.07
- 3 Phyllis Sonen - Hilda Getz62.60
- 4 Jerome Gumbiner - Alan Skvirsky60.04
- 5 Robert Padgett - Linda Padgett59.54
- 6 Alfred Liepold - James Metzger58.14

Stratum C, 22.0 Tables

- 1 Amelia Montjoy - Kay Miller65.49
- 2 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein63.07
- 3 Phyllis Sonen - Hilda Getz62.60
- 4 Jerome Gumbiner - Alan Skvirsky60.04
- 5 Alfred Liepold - James Metzger58.14
- 6 John Korfonta - Michael Leibelson57.58

Stratum D, 11.5 Tables

- 1 Amelia Montjoy - Kay Miller65.49
- 2 Terry Vann - Art Hartstein63.07
- 3 Jerome Gumbiner - Alan Skvirsky60.04
- 4 Daniel Finn - Bernard Finn56.06
- 5 Arthur Olson - Patrice Gordon55.67
- 6 J Lasek - Irwin Yanus55.49

SATURDAY AM 0-300 PAIRS

Stratum A, 20.0 Tables



- 1 Terry Mitchell - Albert Dimillio67.56
- 2 Bahman Shahin - Taraneh Shahin62.20
- 3 Marco Latini - Gerald O'Dell62.11
- 4 Julie Connor - Eugene Massey62.03
- 5 Richard Rowen - Virginia Rowen60.56
- 6 Carol Kahn - Temma Kanowith57.44

Stratum B, 14.5 Tables

- 1 Julie Connor - Eugene Massey62.03
- 2 Carol Kahn - Temma Kanowith57.44
- 3 Pamela Bacher - Elizabeth Nash53.87
- 4 Rachelle Sladoff - Rochelle Hilton53.27
- 5 John Reynolds - Larry Wallace52.38
- 6 Diane Cohen - Jo Ann Hutchison52.08

Stratum C, 6.5 Tables

- 1 Julie Connor - Eugene Massey62.03
- 2 Carol Kahn - Temma Kanowith57.44
- 3 Rachelle Sladoff - Rochelle Hilton53.27
- 4 Ike Oren - James Shoenhard51.79
- 5 William Carpentier - Larry Hieb50.89

SATURDAY AM 0-50 PAIRS

Stratum A, 9.0 Tables

- 1 Ellen Pollack - Kathleen Zellmer62.70
- 2 James Connor - James Callender62.30
- 3 Joseph Abita - Kathleen French61.51
- 4/5 Gayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 59.92
- 4/5 Kristina Hamilton - Elizabeth Shriver 59.92

Stratum B, 5.0 Tables

- 1 James Connor - James Callender62.30
- 2 Joseph Abita - Kathleen French61.51
- 3/4 Gayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 59.92
- 3/4 Kristina Hamilton - Elizabeth Shriver 59.92

Stratum C, 3.0 Tables

- 1 Kristina Hamilton - Elizabeth Shriver 59.92
- 2 Jayne Lynch - Tamara Vetter51.19

SATURDAY AFT A/X PAIRS

Stratum A, 22.0 Tables / Based on 63

- 1 Leo LaSota (pic.) - David Milton64.19
- 2 John Adams - Glenn Lublin63.10
- 3 David Ruderman - Alfred Steinberg62.30
- 4 Ellen Cherniavsky - Donna Rogall58.93
- 5 William Cole - William Hacker57.94
- 6 Leon Letwin - David Rodney57.24
- 7 Terry Jones - Francesco Parisi-Presicce 57.14



Stratum X, 10.0 Tables

- 1 Terry Jones - Francesco Parisi-Presicce 57.14
- 2 Steve Reed - Kiyomi Shiba54.96
- 3 Michael Klein - M Webster Ewell Jr54.46
- 4 Ellen Glynn - John Glynn53.67
- 5 Richard Deyerle - Shawn Stringer52.48
- 6 Sym Gallucci - Raymond Gallucci51.59

SATURDAY AFT B/C/D PAIRS

Stratum B, 25.0 Tables

- 1 Leila Whiting (pic.) - Lorraine Morgan68.94
- 2 Mike Frosch - Ellie Clark67.80
- 3 James Metzger - Alfred Liepold59.66
- 4 Brian Snyder - Carl Noller59.04
- 5 Linda Padgett - Robert Padgett58.61
- 6 Robert Rovner - Daniel Feldman57.58



Stratum C, 20.0 Tables

- 1 Mike Frosch - Ellie Clark67.80
- 2 James Metzger - Alfred Liepold59.66
- 3 Brian Snyder - Carl Noller59.04
- 4 Anne Goulding - Mary Lafferty57.27
- 5 Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin56.44
- 6 Eugene Massey - Theodore Wilkinson 55.90

Stratum D, 10.0 Tables

- 1 Arthur Olson - Patrice Gordon55.88
- 2 Arun Guha - Jose Porres55.68
- 3 Alan Skvirsky - Jerome Gumbiner54.73
- 4 Mary Ann Kral - Linda Burton54.21
- 5 Joseph Pregosin - Thad Uehling54.17
- 6 Amelia Montjoy - Kay Miller53.79

SATURDAY AFT 0-300 PAIRS

Stratum A, 17.0 Tables



- 1 Anne Vaeth - Ed Krest67.95
- 2 Norman Mitchell - David Montague63.41
- 3 Brenda Thomas - Steven Nesseler62.50
- 4 Gayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 61.14
- 5 Terry Mitchell - Albert Dimillio57.50
- 6 Bahman Shahin - Taraneh Shahin56.36

Stratum B, 13.0 Tables

- 1 Norman Mitchell - David Montague63.41
- 2 Brenda Thomas - Steven Nesseler62.50

- 3 Gayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 61.14
- 4 Ken Kimball - Marsha Ann Brown55.91
- 5/6 James Shoenhard - Ike Oren54.55
- 5/6 William Carpentier - Larry Hieb54.55

Stratum C, 6.0 Tables

- 1 Gayle Tomasetti - Rose Marie Sanders 61.14
- 2 Ken Kimball - Marsha Ann Brown55.91
- 3 Pat Kibler - Nynette Rourke52.73
- 4 Bob Hartsell - Jill Duvall52.27

FLIGHT A/X SWISS

Stratum A, 18 Tables / Based on 67



- 1 William Cole - Steve Robinson - Peter Boyd - Mark Shaw (not pic.)106.00
- 2 John Miller - Robert Hopkins Jr - Rusty Krauss - Barry Falgout - Joan Lewis91.00
- 3 Stephen Landen - William Pettis - John Adams - Lou Reich86.00
- 4 David Milton - Lyle Poe Jr - Brad Theurer - Stan Schenker83.00
- 5 Alan Tenenbaum - Andrew Gofreed - Alfred Steinberg - David Ruderman77.00

Stratum X, 9 Tables

- 1 Linda Marshall - Terry Feetham - Barbara Doran - David Fleischer76.00
- 2 Srinivas Kachibhatla - Mark Gospodnetic - John Montgomery - Govind Narayan72.00
- 3 Noble Shore - Prahalad Rajkumar - Michael Gill - Mark Chen71.00
- 4 Hal Hindman - William Hacker - Kenton Schoen - Diane Walker69.00

ROUND ROBIN TEAMS - BKT 1

8 Tables / Based on 32

- 1 John Glynn - Ronald Susi - William Fitch - Lynda Flanger101.00
- 2 Richard Price - Patrick Stanton - Mark Cohen - Melissa Price85.00
- 3 Martha Bley - Ross Bley - David Grabiner - Suzanne Abrams77.00

ROUND ROBIN TEAMS - BKT 2

8 Tables / Based on 16



- 1 Jose Porres - Arun Guha - Edward Rodrigues - Mohsen Esfandiyar96.00
- 2 Alfred Liepold - James Metzger - John Lowe III - William Mendez Jr95.00
- 3 Rochelle Cohen - Mark Lavine - Gail Singer - Mark Cohen85.00

ROUND ROBIN TEAMS - BKT 3

8 Tables / Based on 14



- 1 Hadi Abushakra - Daniel Koch- Albert Lauber - Walter Smith Jr96.00
- 2 Amy Bloom - Katherine Rabenstein - Nancy Ross - Daniel Falk87.00
- 3/4 Howard Tash - Martin Reed - Neil Selvin - Howard Grunin79.00
- 3/4 Mike Frosch - Francesco Parisi-Presicce - Eiji Ishida - Kiyomi Shiba79.00

ROUND ROBIN TEAMS - BKT 4

8 Tables / Based on 11



- 1 Art Hartstein - Terry Vann - Barry Lieberman*** - Jon Ranhand90.00
- 2 Joan White - Joe Hertz - Alexander Robertson - David Loken82.00
- 3 Norman Sweed - Ronnie Sweed - Kay Miller - Amelia Montjoy78.00

ROUND ROBIN TEAMS - BKT 5, 9 Tables

- 1 Guillaume de Decker - Dale Sanders - Bernadette Merceron - Rochelle Hilton 106.00
- 2/3 Gerald O'Dell - Alan Munro - Bahman Shahin - Taraneh Shahin78.00
- 2/3 Daniel Finn - William Rogers - Jim Walsh - Julie Connor78.00
- 4 Ron Starr - Millie Reizenstein - Norman Mitchell - David Montague69.00

0-300 AM SWISS

Stratum A, 8 Tables

- 1 Carol Webster - Steven Leifer - Jacqueline Leifer - Duane Webster67.00
- 2 Stephen Weiner - Louis Coccodrilli - Sheila Kaplan - Roberta Weiss48.00
- 3 Ronnie Loeser - Elizabeth Tevelow - Stanley Gerendasy - Janet Gerendasy 45.00

Stratum B, 4 Tables

- 1 Carol Webster - Steven Leifer - Jacqueline Leifer - Duane Webster67.00

0-300 PM SWISS, 3 Tables



- 1 Terence McCarthy - Sara Hilgartner - Terry Mitchell - William Pruiett50.00

***Made LM with this event by :01 masterpoints!



3709 Center Way, Fairfax, VA 22033

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Bits & Pieces, cont. from p. 20...

NonLM Leaders

Player	Points
1 Patrick Stanton . . .24.10	
2 Kiyomi Shiba . . .22.52	
3 Arun Guha18.75	
4 James Metzger . .17.49	
5 Murat Berk17.17	
6 Terry Mitchell . .15.15	
7 Marco Latini . . .14.51	
8 Gerald O'Dell . . .14.25	
9 Al Caponiti13.81	
10 Stephen Drodge . .13.52	
11 Art Hartstein . .13.04	
12 Eleanor Schwartz 12.80	
13 Amanda Carter . .12.77	
14 Terry Vann12.67	
15 David Montague .12.31	
16 Daniel Falk12.23	
17 Prem Garg11.39	
18 David Soukup . . .10.07	
19 Julie Connor . . .10.02	
20 Lynne Beresford . .9.83	

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

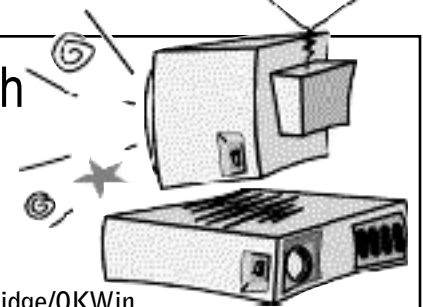
Directions: Take Rt 270 to Exit 4B (from either direction) Montrose Road. This will take you to Seven Locks Road. Left on Seven Locks Rd 3 blocks. St James Church is on the left (going south), between Post Oak and Gainsboro Rd. There are two buildings, the game and mini-lesson are in the building on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

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NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

THE BIDDING BOX: FRIEND OR FOE?

If you're new to bridge or new to duplicate, the bidding box can be one more intimidating thing to learn. What's the "stop" card for? What does "alert" mean? Why do we even have bidding boxes?

The bidding box is your friend: it's meant to make the game easier and more fair for everyone. It keeps the room quieter, and eliminates the chance that you'll hear someone bid at another table and think the bid was made at your table. It also eliminates the need for a review of the bidding while the auction is going on. Most importantly, it keeps players from accidentally (or intentionally) giving unauthorized information (UI) to their partner with the tone of their voice or the words they use. UI is still possible with bidding boxes, but it's much easier to avoid and to regulate.

Read on for everything you need to know about the bidding box:

Opening the box.

The bid cards are stored inside, so if you don't see them, turn the box over, pull on the tab (or squeeze the sides) and pull open the bottom. There you'll find the cards! After you take the cards out, make sure you close the box up and click it shut, or someone will be in for a nasty surprise if they try to pick that box up! The box has two slots: the white bidding cards (1♣ through 7NT) go in the back slot; the colored cards (Stop, Alert, X, etc.) go in the front. The back slot is bigger, so if the cards won't fit, try turning the box around.

Using the box.

To make a bid, find the bid you want, put your thumb on it, and pull out that card and all the cards behind it. Put it on the table in front of you facing the other players, so it's easier for them to read. On your subsequent

turns, place your call on top of and slightly to the right of your previous call, so that all the cards can be seen. When the auction is over, pick up the passes, doubles and redoubles first and put them away. Then sweep all the bid cards together and put them behind the remaining cards in the box. That will keep all the cards in order and ready for the next auction.

X means double.

And XX means redouble. Some older boxes have D and RD cards instead. You should have just X's or D's, not both. Sorry, you can't use one kind of card for takeout doubles and the other for penalty!

S is for Stop.

Many newer players are confused about the stop card. It's NOT supposed to be used to "wake up" your partner, and it's not a "reverse warning," as a NLM correspondent of mine thought. (He used it to warn his partner he was about to reverse, because he didn't want her to pass. Reverses are forcing for one round; but that's the subject of another column...May/June 2007, to be exact.) It's actually a "skip bid warning," telling your lefthand opponent that you're about to skip one or more levels of bidding; i.e., bidding 2♠ when you could have legally bid 1♠. You wouldn't use the stop card when you reverse, because you don't jump when you reverse.

If you're using the stop card, put it on the table and then put down your jump bid, then after about 10 seconds, pick up the stop card. Now LHO is free to bid. But if you forget to pick up the stop, LHO should still make his call after waiting 10 seconds. The idea is that if LHO was planning to bid, he's going to need more time to think after your jump bid since he now has to bid at a higher level. The stop card reminds LHO to pause before making his call whether he has something to think about or not, thus avoiding UI.

What does this mean to you? It means that if your RHO uses the stop card, you should wait until she picks it up to make your bid (and study or pretend to study your hand). But as for using it yourself, I would recommend against it! You don't *have* to use it, but if you do use it, you need to use it *every time* you skip a level in the bidding. If you use it sometimes but not all the time, your opponents could suspect that you're using the card as an illegal signal to your partner...the dreaded UI!

Be alert!

Your bidding box should have either an alert card in the slot with the passes and doubles or an alert strip which can be placed in a small slit on top of the box, or both. The purpose of the alert card is to make your opponents aware whenever your partnership has used a bid that has an unusual meaning; that is, whenever your bid isn't what it sounds like. As an example, some players use 3♣ or 3♦ as an artificial raise after partner opens a major.

To alert a bid, you tap the alert card on the table or tap the alert strip on the side of the bidding box and say "alert." (Or if the bid is a Jacoby transfer, tap the card and say "transfer.") You must do this as soon as partner makes an artificial bid, without waiting until it's your turn. Remember, you only alert *partner's* bids, not your own.

Fickle fingers.

You're not allowed to change your mind once you've made a call, but if you accidentally pull the wrong card out of the box (a *mechanical error*), you can correct it, as long as your partner hasn't bid yet. (You can correct your bid even if LHO has already bid! Of course he's also allowed to change his call.) As soon as you notice the mechanical error, ask the other players to wait, then call the director before you do anything. To avoid mechanical errors, make it a habit to look at the bid card before

you put it down.

Also, to avoid giving UI to your partner, be careful to not to reach for the bidding cards before you've decided what call you're going to make. Don't let those fickle fingers bounce back and forth between the bid cards and the pass card! Think with your head, not your fingers, and the bidding box will be your friend.

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of February 1, 2010

Junior Masters

(5 Masterpoints)

Ms Lynne D Battle
Mr Mathew W Karnes
Mrs Renee Lease
Mr Leon Masiewicki
Ms Nancy E McIntyre
Linda Opack
Mrs Ruth R Preuss
Mr Carl S Rappaport
Ms Karen R Tupek
Mrs Renee Wilson
Lisa G Carp
Lois J Garin
Minoo Mahdavi
Mr Albert Pike III
Mrs Sally Schlein
Dr Prabhakar Tamboli
Jeff Francis
Elizabeth B Patterson
Barbara C Vaughey

Club Masters (20 MPs)

Mr Mark M Eisenstadt
Mr Daniel A Falk
Mr James M Gerding
Ms Janet Gerendasy
Mrs Bette O Kramer
Mrs Ellen H Pollack
Dr Can M Savasman
Mr Duane E Webster
Ms Betti D Goodman
Jean C Liu

Mr Leon Masiewicki
Mary Ann Goldenson
Alan L Skvirsky
Mrs Hanna Wagner
Mrs Judith H Whiton

Sectional Masters (50 MPs)

Norman Mitchell
Ms Susan W Morris
Susan F Weiser
Mary Cacciatore
Ms Val A Lubbers
Maxine L Penn

Regional Masters (100 MPs)

Damian Kulash
Mr Richard B Majewski
Patricia E Mitchell
Mr Steven E Nesseler
Mr James A Summers Jr
Mr Michael M Watts
Elizabeth S Williamson
Sybil Cantor
Terry A Coates

NABC Masters (200 MPs)

Patti Anschutz
Arun K Guha
Mr Larry R Moran
Mr Joav Steinbach
Mr Shyamalendu Pal
Mr Dale E Sanders
Mr Patrick J Stanton
Dr Prem C Garg



Congratulations to our 2009 New Life Masters!
Check out their stories starting on p. 2.

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

1) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ J2♥ AQ10876♦ KJ3♣ K4

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

2) IMPs, they're Vulnerable

♠ Q653♥ K7♦ 1075♣ AJ94

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

3) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠ 765♥ 87♦ 7654♣ Q876

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

4) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ -♥ A10873♦ 10842♣ J1082

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Rdbl
????	2♥	Pass	Pass

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ KQ54♥ K10♦ A6543♣ A7

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

Return answers by March 9 to:

Steve Robinson
2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,
Arlington VA, 22206
robinswrt@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.