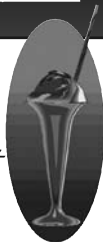


**80TH ANNUAL  
D.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
*August 12-15, 2010*

**SILVER SPRING, MD**

*Have a  
COOL  
time at  
a HOT  
Sectional!*



It's Summer  
Bridge &  
Barbecue



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and on Sunday, play  
Swiss Teams for the

◆ **EYNON TROPHY** ◆

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



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◆ **ONE DAY BRIDGE CLASS!** ◆

**10:30am Sunday** — 2 sections: Start to Play or Advance Your Game.

For more information or to make a reservation, email [ShStringer@aol.com](mailto:ShStringer@aol.com)

or call Shawn Stringer at (301) 622-5619. (See details on p. 2)

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...

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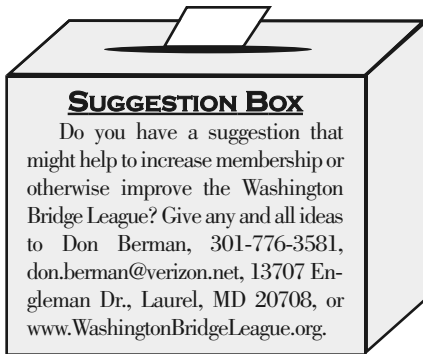
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**SUGGESTION BOX**

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

**WBL OMBUDSMAN**

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



**DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010 ISSUE

**Washington Bridge League BULLETIN** (usps #861-240)

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**CONTENTS**

ARTICLE	PAGE
President's Letter .....	2
Bits and Pieces...	
1-Day Bridge Class: Sunday, August 15, 2010; .....	2
2010-11 District 6 North American Pairs Finals; .....	5
Welcome to the Washington Bridge League; 2010 WBL Unit KO	
Winners; My Favorite Hand from an NABC—by <i>Fred King</i> . . .	25
80th Annual D.C. Championships — August 12-15, 2010 .....	3
WBL Non-Life Master Sectional — October 16-17, 2010 .....	4
WBL Solvers' Club .....	7
Thursday Night Unit Game...	
2010 Trophy Race Standings .....	14
0-20 Game & Lesson Thursday Nights, Carpools .....	14
Schedule, WBL Cell Phone, Map, Guaranteed Partner Program . . .	15
Call for Nominations for the Machlin Trophy; Spare Brains or Muscle?;	
Upcoming Sectionals .....	16
Committee Action #69 .....	17
The Gadget-Matist .....	17
NVBA September Sensations Sectional Tournament — Sept 23-26, 2010 . .	21
NVBA Fall Sectional Tournament — October 28-31, 2010 .....	22
WBL Board and Member Responsibilities — May 2010 - May 2011 . . .	23
WBL Member Clubs .....	26
NLMasterPointers .....	28
Stepping Up to New Heights .....	29
Need a Partner or a Ride to the Unit Game? .....	back cover
Solvers' Club's New Problems .....	back cover

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Don Berman

The saga of finding a venue for our Sectionals continues. We met with the Montgomery County group responsible for the Silver Spring Civic Center. They, after reviewing our situation and their rules, decided they could not extend us a favorable price. The cost of a sectional there would be over \$8000. By contrast we have secured the Kensington Armory (aka Civic Center) for \$3400 for the August Sectional. This is in line with recent costs. Our search for a future home will continue. Watch our website [www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org) for details.

Congratulations to the Player of the Year winners, **David Milton** in the Open category and **Kiyomi Shiba** in the non-Life Master category. This is Kiyomi's second win. The POY is a joint competition open to WBL and NVBA members. Points won at any WBL or

NVBA sectional event during the contest year count. The contest runs each year starting with the first sectional after the July Regional. Please support both organizations.

So far only about 10 members have opted

to receive this Bulletin via the Internet rather than in a print version. I will continue to collect names and urge you to add your name to the list by emailing me at [don.berman@verizon.net](mailto:don.berman@verizon.net). In the meantime printing will continue for the foreseeable future.

Considering the difficulty of finding facilities to play, it is imperative that we not lose the ones we have. There have been complaints from neighbors in the vicinity of Ohr Kodesh concerning our parking practices. While on street parking is legal it is in our best interest not to upset the residents. Please do NOT move cones or any other items they use to save a space for themselves. Thank you for your cooperation.

### OPT OUT?

If you'd like to stop receiving the printed version of the *WBL Bulletin*, please send your e-mail address to Don Berman at [don.berman@verizon.net](mailto:don.berman@verizon.net). Once enough names have been collected to start lowering the number of copies we print, you will start receiving an e-mail link to the on-line version of the bulletin in lieu of your printed copy.

## BITS AND PIECES

### 1-DAY BRIDGE CLASS: SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 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 August 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kensington Armory, Kensington, Maryland (during the WBL sectional). 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 many responses you might have after partner opens one of a major. Time will be set aside so that participants can ask about their tough bidding decisions.

The cost is just \$25 with a reservation or \$30 at the door. (\$10 discount for Students under 21). Materials, lunch, soft drinks and snacks are included. For more information or to make a reservation, email [ShStringer@aol.com](mailto:ShStringer@aol.com) or call **Shawn Stringer** at (301) 622-5619.

...continued on p. 5

## SILVER SPRING, MD: AUGUST 12-15, 2010

# Washington Bridge League

# 80<sup>th</sup> Annual D.C. Championships

Have a  
**COOL**  
time at  
a **HOT**  
Sectional!

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

- ♣ 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*
- ♦ StrataFlighted 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. 4<sup>th</sup> light left E-W Hwy 410. Left Meadowbrook Ln. 1<sup>st</sup> left Freyman Dr. Parking lot on left. **No outside food allowed.**

### ALERT! NEW LOCATION: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY HELD AT THE KENSINGTON ARMORY. 3710 MITCHELL AVE., KENSINGTON, MD

Beltway exit 33, Connecticut Ave north (Rt. 185N—to Kensington). 1.6 miles, right at Warner St. Next left at Armory Ave. 1st right at Mitchell St. Parking lot on right.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

- ♥ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500) ..... 10:00am
- ♥ StrataFlighted Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D separate (1500/1000/500) ..... 2:00pm
- ♠ **IMP Pairs** StrataFlighted Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D separate 1500/1000/500) ..... 7:30pm  
**The Friday IMPs are back!** With only one partner, it scores like a team game. To get your IMP score on a board, we take your result and IMP it against each result at the other tables, then get the average.
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions) ..... 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

- ♦ StrataFlighted Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D separate 1500/1000/500) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♦ **Machlin Sportsmanship Award** Presentation & between sessions **Panel Show** ..... 2:30pm

### ♣ Eynon Trophy



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

- A/X Swiss Teams, VPs (unlim/5000, 7 round playthru w/short break) ..... 11:00am & TBA
- ♥ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (3000/1000/500, 7 round playthru w/short break) ..... 11:00am & TBA
- ♠ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) ..... 11:00am, 3:00pm
- ♣ **1-Day Bridge Class:** 2 classes: *Start to Play* and *Advance Your Game* ..... 10:30am

### ♣ 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 & Sunday lunch** free of charge. Chair: **Nadine Wood**, 301-565-9555, [woodthere@verizon.net](mailto:woodthere@verizon.net). Volunteer Coordinator: **Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, [jimbarb1184@aol.com](mailto:jimbarb1184@aol.com) Hospitality: **Kitty Gottfried**, 301-587-3981, [kgottfried@hotmail.com](mailto:kgottfried@hotmail.com) Partnerships: **Barbara Doran**, 301-608-0347, [SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org](mailto:SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org)

Mid-chart allowed in all events except I/N



# Non Life Master Sectional

## NEWPORT MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

11311 Newport Mill Road  
Kensington, MD 20895

### Play for Silver

NLMs with fewer than  
500 MPs

### Maryland Hospitality

Lunch and refreshments  
included both days!

## Saturday, October 16

NLM Stratified Pairs (0-20, 20-100, 100-500 MPs) .....11:00 am

★Expert analysis/discussion during lunch between sessions

NLM Stratified Pairs (0-20, 20-100, 100-500 MPs) .....3:15 pm

## Sunday, October 17

Stratified Swiss Teams (playthrough with lunch break) .....11:00 am

**-Join us for a fun weekend!-**

### TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Shawn Stringer  
301-275-6363  
shstringer@aol.com

### PARTNERSHIPS

Lois Geer  
301-236-0014  
lgeer@verizon.net

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-495 (Washington Beltway) take Exit 33 (Connecticut Ave/MD-185) North towards Kensington. Go 2 miles and keep Left as Connecticut Ave splits. After the split, take the third Right onto Lawrence Avenue. Take the first Left onto Newport Mill Road. The school is one-half mile on the Right.

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

## 2010-2011 DISTRICT 6 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS FINALS

**Pre-registration is Required.**  
**\*\*Note changes to previously  
advertised sites.**

The District 6 North American Pairs Final for all flights will be held on the weekend of **October 23-24, 2010**. In order to play in the District finals, you must have qualified at the club level (anywhere in the ACBL). The club qualifying period is June through August.

The Open Flight and 0-2000 Flight Finals will be 4-session events with roughly half the field qualifying for the second day. The NLM Flight Final will be a 2-session event held on Sunday, October 24.

The **Open Flight** Final is held in the North only. It will be held at **Newport Mill Middle School** in Kensington MD. Mid-chart conventions as permitted by the ACBL in pairs events are allowed in the Open Final.

The **0-2000** Finals are split site. The Northern site is **Newport Mill Middle School** in Silver Spring MD. The Southern site is the **Tuckahoe Moose Lodge** in Richmond VA.

The NLM Finals are also split site; held **Sunday only** at **Newport Mill Middle School** in Kensington MD in the North and the **Tuckahoe Moose Lodge** in Richmond VA in the South. (NLM eligible players may play in the 0-2000 event on Saturday and in the NLM event on Sunday if they don't qualify for the second day of the 0-2000.)

**Pre-registration is required in order to play in the District Finals. Pairs must pre-register by October 9th.** To pre-register, send a check made payable to District 6 in the amount of **\$50.00** to Barbara Doran, 1107 Dale Drive Silver Spring MD 21010-1607. You and your partner must pre-register as a pair and not as individuals. When pre-registering, please include names, ACBL numbers, and, for the 0-2000 and NLM flights, site and contact information.

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

**Three pairs in each flight will qualify for the National Finals**, to be held at the spring 2011 NABC in Louisville, KY.

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

For more information, visit the District 6 web site at <http://www.districtsix.org> or contact Barbara Doran by phone at (301) 608-0347 or by email to [barbd@starpower.net](mailto:barbd@starpower.net).

### Directions to NAP District Final Sites

#### NORTHERN SITE

**Newport Mill Middle School** — 11311 Newport Mill Road Kensington MD

Take the Beltway (I 495) to the Georgia Avenue Exit (31A) towards Wheaton, after about 1.8 miles take the slight left onto Viers Mill Road, then turn left on to Newport Mill Road. The school will be on your left about .3 miles in.

#### SOUTHERN SITE

**Tuckahoe Moose Lodge** – 4366 Springfield Road Richmond VA

From either direction on I64, take the Gaskins North exit. Cross Broad Street, then take a right onto Springfield Road. The playing site is on the right.

...continued on p. 25



## Great Game Products

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- Teaches both bidding and play • Paced appropriately for beginners
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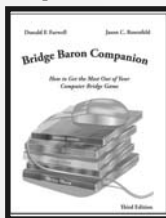
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- Two New Editions: *Basic Conventions* (Vol. 2) and *More Basic Conventions* (Vol. 3) • Learn Conventions allows you to practice each convention in Bridge Baron. LPBC teaches you seven conventions in depth using the interactive Bridge Baron Teacher 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 **Noble Shore** who came in first with a score of 490. He wins a free entry to the Unit Game, and will be invited to be on a future panel. Tied for second were **Joe Lentz, Robert Stone** and **Glenn Swank** with a score of 470. Tied for fifth were **Sven Pride, Mark Chen, Mike Richey, Lloyd Rawley** and **Yi Zhong** with a score of 460. Tied for tenth were **Arnie Frankel, Manuel Paulo, Raghavendra Rajkumar, Tom Vinson** and **Mike Frosch** with a score of 450. Tied for fifteenth were **Fred Gramlich, Mike Kovacich, Crain Olson** and **Mike Deverin** with a score of 440. Tied for nineteenth were **Kent Goulding, Bill Meeks, Barry Bragin, Carl Gutschick, Jim Munday, and Hank Strauch** with a score of 430. The average score of the 185 solvers was 361. The average score of the experts was 436.

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](mailto: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

♠ QJ2♥ 2♦ 10543♣ K5432

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
????*?	*2♦ = 10+	1♦	Pass
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♦	100	4	62
1♠	90	3	24
1NT	60	1	44
Pass	60	1	33
4♦	50	0	1
2♦	50	0	15
2♣	20	0	6
2♥	20	1	0

There's a convention that's perfectly made for this problem. Jump-shift to 2♥ is a three-way bid. Option number one is a strong jump shift in hearts. Option number two is an 11-12 balanced hand. Option number three is a mixed raise showing 7-9 support points with four-card or longer support for Opener's minor. Over 2♥, Opener bids 2♠ asking which option Responder has. Responder bids 2NT with the balanced hand, 3♦ with the mixed raise. All other bids show a strong jump shift. This would be the perfect solution. The three-way bid is a mid-chart convention. However, you can play 1 Minor – Pass – 2♥ shows only a mixed-raise in the

minor in General Convention games. I can't remember the last time I jumped to 2♥ to show a strong jump shift.

However, we are not playing that convention for this problem. Your options are 2♦, 3♦ 1♠ and 1NT and there are problems with each option. 2♦ is an inverted minor and shows at least ten points. 3♦ shows a weak hand with usually five diamonds. You could bid 1NT but that would be sick holding a singleton heart. If you're feeling frisky, you could put a club in with your spades and respond 1♠. I have never advocated responding in a three-card major but this hand calls for it. I can't remember the last time I took such a position. One can only do so if Opener rarely raises on three. Even if partner raises on three, you could probably survive since the opponents would not expect that you are playing in a 3-3 fit and would not defend perfectly.

Four experts preempt in diamonds. The opponents do have an eight-card or longer heart fit.

**Adams:** "3♦ —Close call between 2♥ (Mixed raise) and 3♦ preemptive. Red, I can have a little something such that partner bids game with 18-19, so 3♦ seems reasonable. Some partners promise a hand so weak that 18-19 must pass, but that is unworkable red. 2♥ has a fatal flaw. We know the opponents have Hearts. I make it easy for them to show them by doubling 2♥ and I have less defense than I might have for hearts leading partner to risky actions. Sorry that I do not have five diamonds."

**Parker:** "3♦ —If inverted minors is part of Washington Standard. If 2♦ is 10+ then 3♦ is weak. 1♠ might work, but 99% of the time partner has at least four Diamonds."

**Woolsey:** "3♦ —I'm not bidding 1NT with a singleton heart, and 2♦ is too much of a stretch. If I were playing a style where partner needs four trumps to raise I would be tempted to bid 1♠, but if he can raise on three it is too risky."

**Landen:** "3♦ —Common problem playing inverted minors. Do you bid 1NT with a stiff, 3♦ with only four or 1♠ on three? If partner never raises a major response without four trumps, I'd bid 1♠, but 3♦ is my choice as the best misdescription."

Two experts join me and put a club in with their spades. I don't like bidding three-card suits but this hand is the hand type where bidding 1♠ could win the board.

**Schwartz:** "1♠ —No diamond raise seems right and 1NT rates to play badly particularly vulnerable. If partner doesn't raise spades, I can sign off in diamonds next. If he does, it might be hard for the opponents to defend maximally."

**Smith:** "1♠ —I don't like to bid three-card suits, but I like everything else even less."

If there is no bid, which describes your weak hand, passing will keep you low.

**Hopkins:** "Pass—This minimizes our risk of going for -200 or more, the matchpoint sin. I am likely to have a chance to reopen with a takeout double or 2NT (for the minors) when the opponents find Hearts, if it seems advisable on the auction. I admire the 1♠ bidders, but my nightmare is a support double of the opponent's 2♥ overcall leaving me in an impossible position."

I don't know why a support double, which shows three spades would leave you in an impossible position. You have an easy diamond bid and partner can't insist on spades.

One expert bids 1NT. I don't like responding 1NT with a singleton in an unbid suit if there's any alternative.

**Cappelletti:** "1NT—Technically better because of diamond fit although 1♠ could be lucky."

One expert uses a bid that's not in the system. If 2♥, showing a mixed raise part of this system, this wouldn't be a problem.

**Theurer:** "2♥ —I assume that we can bid 2♥ in Washington Standard to show a mixed raise showing seven to nine support points with diamond support. If so then that's my bid. We need a bid to show a hand too good for a preemptive raise and not good enough for an inverted raise. 3♦ seems wrong with such poor diamonds and more HCP/defense than partner would expect. I considered 1♠ because a Moysian fit could play okay, though occasionally partner could raise on three pieces. That is what I would bid if I didn't have a constructive single raise of diamonds."

Consider playing 1minor - pass - 2♥ shows 7-9 support points with at least four-

card support. You can easily show the weak-jump-shift heart hands or the strong-jump-shift in heart hands, by responding 1♥.

## 2) Matchpoints, Both Vulnerable

♠ AK982♥ KXY72♦ K54♣ -

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

What is the lowest value of XY where you would bid 3♥? Give a letter a thru h.

a) 98 b) 109 c) J9 d) J10 e) Q9 f) Q10 g) QJ h) more

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
Q9	100	4	27
QJ	80	2	48
J10	80	2	35
98	70	1	22
Q10	70	1	34
J9	60	0	9
109	60	0	3
More	50	0	7

Responder has shown one of two types of hands. One hand type is three or four spades with fewer than seven points, ♠ xxx♥ Qxx ♦ Qxx ♣ Qxxx, for instance. A hand where he would not accept any game tries. The other hand type is exactly two spades and anywhere from six to ten HCP. If he has the second type, he might have three hearts. If he does have three hearts then he should be on the top end of the six to ten range. If you're on the bottom of the six to ten range and you have three hearts, you should pass 2♥. By passing 2♥ you stop partner from making any game tries. Why would you want partner to make a game try if you would reject them all? Sometimes the 4-3 heart fit plays better than the 5-2 spade fit. So if you find partner with three hearts you probably want to be in game. If partner is 2-2 in the majors, you will not be in a good contract unless partner can bid 3NT.

One expert does not need extras to make a game try. You're going to end up in 3♠ opposite ♠ xx♥ xx♦ Qxxx ♣ Axxxx.

**Adams:** "♠ AK982♥ K9872♦ K54♣ - is enough to try, having failed to jump already."

Two experts need a tad more than Kxxxx

of hearts to try for game. If partner has three hearts you should have good plays for game. The problem is when partner does not have three hearts.

**Schwartz:** "♠ AK982♥ KJ1072♦ K54♣ - is enough. I have to push as hearts will play better even with equal length in the majors. I would be more conservative if my majors are reversed."

**Hopkins:** "♠ AK982♥ KJ1072♦ K54♣ - This leaves me with good play opposite Qxx in Hearts even if I have to ruff high in dummy while setting up the Spade suit."

Two experts need the QJ of hearts. Holding the KQJ of hearts, there would be strong consideration for jumping to 3♥ over 1NT.

**Parker:** "♠ AK982♥ KQJ72♦ K54♣ -. Partner might have three hearts but no sense getting to the three-level with a known miss fit. 3♦ might be a better choice."

**Theurer:** "♠ AK982♥ KQJ72♦ K54♣ - It's matchpoints so I don't need to push too hard - any better than QJ of hearts and I might have bid 3♥ directly over 1NT. The hand looks promising but partner could easily have wasted club values and no fit. I envision ♠ xx♥ xx ♦ Jxxx ♣ KQxxx as a worst-case scenario. I would invite with slightly less at IMPs where the payoff for a vulnerable game is greater."

Three experts join me and wait for KQ9xx of hearts to bid again.

**Smith:** "♠ AK982♥ KQ972♦ K54♣ -. I bid conservatively on misfits."

**Woolsey:** "♠ AK982♥ KQ972♦ K54♣ - With less than the queen of hearts, inviting is too pushy."

**Cappelletti:** "♠ AK982♥ KQ972♦ K54♣ - At match points I like to go plus. I might push with less vulnerable at IMPs."

One expert needs KQ10xx to bid again.

**Landen:** "♠ AK982♥ KQ1072♦ K54♣ - Enough to not feel sick passing 3NT if partner bids it."

Landen says it perfectly. You need enough to not feel sick passing 3NT if partner bids it.

## 3) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ J1087632♥ 63♦ -♣ AQ32

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♣
?????			

?????

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3♠	100	5	99
1♠	80	3	29
4♠	80	1	18
2♠	60	1	24
Pass	50	0	14
3♣	20	0	1

How many spades do you bid? With six-card suits you bid at the two-level. However, if you're 6-4, you could bid at the three-level. With seven-card suits you bid at the three-level but when you're 7-4 you could raise the level. With eight-card suits you usually bid at the four-level. There is a rule about voids. If you have a void and it's not in partner's suit, you bid one more than normal. Since the normal bid is 3♠ and you have a void, you should bid 4♠. There are many minimum hands partner could have where 4♠ is cold. How is he going to know that his J10x of clubs is worth more than his KQJ of diamonds? Or that his KQ of hearts is worth a lot but his KQ of diamonds is worth nothing.

Five experts make the book bid with a seven-card suit.

**Adams:** "3♠ —I don't know what is right on this hand, so I leave the guess to the opponents. I'd preempt this level on weaker hands too, making it hard for them to know to get me. 1♠ or 2♠ makes life too easy, and 4♠ makes only when partner was going to raise 3♠ to four anyway."

**Parker:** "3♠ —Same bid as if I was in first seat. This hand could play very well if partner has any kind of fit, so maybe this is an underbid, but let's make everyone guess."

**Woolsey:** "3♠ —With any other suit it would be a four-bid, but a 4♠ preempt is likely to be buy it doubled and I'm not so sure I would be happy about that."

**Hopkins:** "3♠ —Our future is almost assuredly in Spades and this is the most descriptive call for my type of hand."

**Landen:** "3♠ —Extra playing strength and probable favorable opening lead suggest bidding the limit to try to freeze out the heart suit."

One expert makes an insufficient bid.

**Smith:** "2♠ —Bawk, bawk, I'm a big chicken."

Three experts hope to find out more about the hand.

**Schwartz:** "1♠ —Too much defense for a preempt particularly with being 2-0 in the red suits instead of 0-2. I can't give up captaincy with this type of hand with a preempt."

**Theurer:** "1♠ —I have the master suit (switch my majors and I might preempt) and I have some defense, so no need to bid more here. If partner can show spade support then of course my hand gets much better, but if he's long in both red suits then we want to stay low unless he has a big hand."

**Cappelletti:** "1♠ —I prefer to go slow on jack high long suits."

Bid one more with a void that's not in partner's suit.

#### 4) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable

♠ J7654♥ KQ♦ 5♣ K9864

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣ (gf)	Pass	3♦	Pass
?????			

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
4♦	100	6	6
3♥	90	2	55
4♠	80	1	2
4NT	70	1	2
4♣	60	0	43
5♣	60	0	19
6♣	60	0	1
3NT	30	0	44
3♠	20	0	12
5NT	20	0	1

Partner has shown a very good three-suited hand. When you open 1♣ and reverse into 2♥, you promise five or more clubs. When you now bid diamonds, you imply spade shortness and this has just turned into a monster hand. Partner could easily have ♠ x♥ AJxx♦ Axx♣ AQJxx and he could have more.

If you're playing kickback, you have an easy answer. With clubs established as the trump suit, one over the trump suit at the four-level, which in this case is 4♦, asks for keycards. You answer the same as over 4NT-

ask with spades as trump. Over 4♦, 4♥ shows zero or three keycards. 4♠ shows one or four keycards. 4NT shows two keys without the queen and 5♣ shows two keys with the queen. Notice that if you bid 4NT asking for club keycards and partner bids 5♠, you are in slam off two keycards. However, if you bid 4♦ and partner bids 5♣ showing two keys with the queen, you can pass and you should make 5♣. If you're not playing kickback, you want to force Opener to bid keycard, which 4♦ will do. Bids below 3NT can be attempts to get to 3NT. Bids above 3NT are slam tries.

Five experts join me and bid 4♦. Some mean it as asking, some meaning it as a cue bid. It is definitely a slam try.

**Adams:** "4♦ —RKC. Three keys and we have slam with the expected spade shortness.

This time I hope we have good agreements on showing voids over RKC. With void, two keys are enough, and three with void = grand."

**Parker:** "4♦ —I have a great hand for partner, so I will advance cue bid. Hopefully this will get 4♥ from partner and I can drive to a Club slam."

**Woolsey:** "4♦ —If this is RKC (which it is in my partnerships and clearly should be), it is perfect —I'll take my chances opposite three aces. If it is a cue bid, that isn't so bad either."

**Schwartz:** "4♦ —Redwood I presume. I might have bid 4♣ the previous hand, but whatever Washington Bridge Standard employs as an ace-asking bid here I make it."

**Hopkins:** "4♦ —My hand has skyrocketed in value on this auction. I am making a slam try/force picturing partner with something such as a 1-4-3-5 shape with Aces. I don't bid Blackwood as I worry about missing the grand when partner has a Spade void."

Two experts bid 3♥. I don't know what 3♥ means but usually bids below 3NT are attempts to get to 3NT.

**Theurer:** "3♥ —Partner should either be cue bidding in diamonds and/or patterning out his hand - decent chance he's 1-4-3-5 or even 0-4-4-5 - my hand is quite good with little wasted in spades, extra club length and heart fillers - rather tempting to bid 4♦ here which should be Kickback for clubs, but I'll

settle for showing my heart values - I denied four-card support when I failed to raise last time so partner should not assume we have a true fit in that suit."

**Smith:** "3♥ —My hand has become huge."

**Landen:** "4♠ —Somewhat depends on partnership understanding. I assume 3♦ is a further shape description, showing short spades, my hand is huge and I need to make some kind of a slam try. The impossible jump in partner's short suit shows a perfect hand for partner, with nothing wasted in spades. A Bluhmer. My second choice and the one I would choose at the table is whatever RKC I have available-hopefully 4♦."

A Bluhmer is a jump in suit where partner can't have support and you can't have a re-biddable suit to show an honorless suit with all your strength outside.

One expert bids Blackwood. I hope partner doesn't have ♠ x♥ AJ10x♦ KQJ♣ AQJ10x.

**Cappelletti:** "4NT—Very clear. Partner having only two keycards is extremely unlikely and bid grand if four aces."

Consider using 4♦ as RKC when clubs are trump.

#### 5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ -♥ Q1073♦ 106♣ AJ97632

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
?????		Dbl	Pass
Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
3NT	100	4	32
4♣	90	4	27
5♣	70	1	11
3♣	50	1	90
2NT	30	0	4
Pass	30	0	16
4♥	20	0	2
3♥	20	0	3

Partner opened 1♠ and then doubled 2♣ for takeout. A typical double by partner would be ♠ KQxxx♥ x♦ Axxx♣ Kxx. If he has a good hand he doesn't promise any specific distribution. If he has a minimum opener, he will be short in hearts and will have an answer to any bid you make. If he's minimum, the worst

he can be opposite this hand is ♠AJxxxx ♥x♦KJxx♥Qx. With this hand he reopened with a double hoping that you have hearts behind East and can pass for penalties.

One expert plays for partner to have the worst possible hand.

**Adams:** “3♣—Some leeway in case partner has the pointed suits and was just protecting. Passing with seven-card support seems wrong.”

Four experts jump in clubs. If the clubs run, you should easily make 3NT.

**Woolsey:** “4♣—Should show something along these lines I think. Hopefully partner will get it right, whatever right is.”

**Theurer:** “4♣—This would be a good hand for a sort of “good-bad” 2NT, where I could bid 2NT here as a relay to 3♣ and then pass/correct with a poor hand, and bid, say, 3♣ immediately to show some values. Lacking that agreement in this sequence, I’ll jump to show a hand with long clubs and shape but not enough to bid 3♣ directly over 2♥ which some might have done anyway. At match-points I might try 3NT (that heart ten is big), and it’s possible that could be the winning call even at IMPs, it’s close. But there could be a club slam if partner has something like ♠AKxxx♥x♦Axxx♣Kxx which would be missed if I bid 3NT.”

**Landen:** “4♣—I’m at a loss on this one, 2NT and 3♣ understate the playing strength. Would 2NT even be natural? 4♣ at least is an honest value bid.”

**Cappelletti:** “4♣—Partner’s most typical shape is 5-1-4-3 hence 5♣ would make op-

posite as little as ♠Axxxx♥x♦Axxx♣Kxx. Do not pass for penalties when opponents could easily have eight or nine-card fit and you might have ten or eleven card fit.”

Three experts join me and try for the easiest game to make. If partner reopens with 2♠ and you jump to 3NT West would expect you to have a penalty pass of 2♥ and would look for any reason to not lead a heart. Since partner reopened with a double and you didn’t pass, he probably would lead his partner’s suit.

**Smith:** “3NT—I have two heart stoppers and a source of tricks. Probably won’t score much in a bidding contest, but I wouldn’t be surprised if it’s a winner at the table.”

**Hopkins:** “3NT—This should work out well unless partner has a pointed two-suiter. Perhaps bidding such as this is why I insist we play redoubles of 3NT by either partner express doubt.”

**Parker:** “3NT—Give partner some 5-1-4-3 hand and we should be able to take six clubs and three other tricks. I hate to pass the double with a seven-card suit that might take one trick on defense when we can take seven on offense. Great problem since you will get passers, 3♣ bidders and then my lonely bid.”

One expert bids the club game.

**Schwartz:** “5♣—Shows my hand well. Denies a lot of HCP, shows a lot of clubs, denies spade tolerance and shows secondary heart length, as the opponents haven’t raised hearts.”

When partner makes a takeout double don’t play him for the worst.

### SOLVERS’ SCORES

John Adams	3♦	98	3♠	4♦	3♣	420
Mike Cappelletti	1NT	Q9	1♠	4NT	4♣	400
Robbie Hopkins	Pass	J10	3♠	4♦	3NT	440
Steve Landen	3♦	Q10	3♠	4♣	4♣	440
Steve Parker	3♦	QJ	3♠	4♦	3NT	480
Steve Robinson	1♠	Q9	4♠	4♦	3NT	470
Alan Schwartz	1♠	J10	1♠	4♦	5♣	420
Dave Smith	1♠	Q9	2♠	3♥	3NT	440
Brad Theurer	2♥	QJ	1♠	3♥	4♣	360
Kit Woolsey	3♦	Q9	3♠	4♦	4♣	490

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**2010 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS**

[www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org)  
 Updated by our Webmaster, Don Berman

The Lovenberg Race is open to all WBL members; the Izzy Cohen Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with less than 1500 masterpoints; the Tubbs Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year as a Non-Life Master with less than 500 masterpoints; the Woolridge Race is open to all WBL members who started the calendar year with less than 20 masterpoints.

Winners in each category receive four sessions of free plays. Second place gets two and third place gets one.

This list is up to date through June 17. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

**Lovenberg**

- 1 100.38 Leo LaSota
- 2 81.52 John Adams
- 3 69.00 Steve Robinson
- 4 67.28 William Hacker
- 5 57.01 Michael Gill
- 6 56.54 Steven Schatzow
- 7 50.14 Mark Shaw
- 8 47.66 Arnie Frankel
- 9 47.59 Leon Letwin
- 10 44.83 William Cole
- 11 41.76 Brad Theurer
- 12 41.60 Mark Cohen
- 13 41.08 Peter Boyd
- 14 39.57 Noble Shore
- 15 38.60 Barry Bragin
- 16 37.12 Robert Bell
- 17 34.31 Lloyd Rawley
- 18 34.19 Linda Marshall
- 19 34.02 Donna Rogall
- 20 33.31 Patrick Stanton
- 21 32.37 James Geist
- 22 31.37 David Ruderman
- 23 29.08 Donald Berman
- 24 26.61 Earl Glickstein
- 25 26.36 Alfred Caponiti

**Izzy Cohen**

- 1 33.31 Patrick Stanton
- 2 26.36 Alfred Caponiti
- 3 23.79 William Goldman
- 4 20.30 Kitty Gottfried
- 5 19.93 Arun Guha
- 6 19.16 William Gill
- 7 18.21 Margie Coccodrilli
- 8 16.48 Daniel Falk
- 9 15.94 Annapurna Satpathy
- 10 15.74 Rajeswaran Rajkumar
- 11 15.61 Daniel Koch
- 12 15.42 Michael Richey
- 13 14.72 Ronald Zucker
- 14 14.48 Shyamalendu Pal
- 15 14.19 Adrienne Kuehneman

**Tubbs**

- 1 33.31 Patrick Stanton
- 2 26.36 Alfred Caponiti
- 3 23.79 William Goldman
- 4 19.93 Arun Guha
- 5 16.48 Daniel Falk
- 6 15.94 Annapurna Satpathy
- 7 15.74 Rajeswaran Rajkumar
- 8 14.48 Shyamalendu Pal
- 9 14.19 Adrienne Kuehneman
- 10 14.15 Murat Berk

**Woolridge**

- 1 13.26 Fred Caponiti
- 2 10.33 David Pen
- 3 4.55 Joseph Abita
- 4 4.11 Ilana Rappaport
- 5 3.49 Alexander Gretsinger
- 6 3.49 Jane Dolkart
- 7 3.25 Kathleen Zellmer
- 8 3.13 Nancy McIntyre
- 9 2.92 Mike Ghosh
- 10 2.80 Carl Rappaport

**0-20  
LESSON  
& GAME**

**GUARANTEED  
PARTNERS!**

**7:00PM  
LESSON**

**7:30 - 10ISH  
GAME**

**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](mailto:geerbridge@verizon.net).

~ ♣ ♦ **SCHEDULE** ♥ ♠ ~

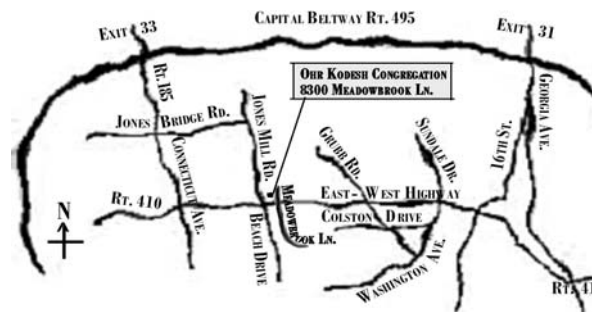
Games held at Ohr Kodesh started 01/14/10

- 08/05/2010 .....StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 08/12/2010 .....WBL Sectional
- 08/19/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 08/26/2010 .....StrataFlighted North American Pairs
- 09/02/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- Rest of September games held at the Kensington Armory*—
- 09/09/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/16/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 09/23/2010 .....NVBA Sectional
- 09/30/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 10/07/2010 .....Stratified STaC Pairs
- 10/14/2010 .....StrataFlighted Appreciation Pairs
- 10/21/2010 .....StrataFlighted BAM **Teams**
- 10/28/2010 .....NVBA Sectional
- 11/04/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 11/11/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 11/18/2010 .....StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 11/25/2010 .....Closed Thanksgiving
- 12/02/2010 .....StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 12/09/2010 .....StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 12/16/2010 .....Holiday Party: Stratified STaC 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](mailto:UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org) or [barbd@starpower.net](mailto: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.

**UNIT GAME CARPOOL AVAILABLE**

To arrange a carpool, contact Don Berman, Carpool Coordinator, at 301-776-3581 or [don.berman@verizon.net](mailto:don.berman@verizon.net). ....Or log on to the WBL's **Online Carpool Notices** at: [www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org).

by Rich Colker, rcolker@gmail.com

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Do you know an actively ethical, gracious player who deserves recognition? Please send your suggested candidate with two or three sentences why you think your nominee is a good candidate for the award to Don Berman at [don.berman@verizon.net](mailto:don.berman@verizon.net) or in person at the unit game or during the August sectional. We would like to hear from you by September 1, 2010.

**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](mailto:jimbarb1184@aol.com),

**UPCOMING SECTIONALS**

- ♥ August 12-15, 2010,  
Silver Spring, MD
- ♦ September 23-26, 2010,  
Fairfax, VA
- ♣ October 16-17, 2001, NLM,  
Silver Spring, MD
- ♥ October 28-31, 2010,  
Fairfax, VA

- ♠ January 6-9, 2011,  
Silver Spring, MD
  - ♣ February 24-27, 2011,  
Fairfax, VA
  - ♦ May 12-15, 2011,  
Silver Spring, MD
- ~ ♣♦♥♠ ~

The following case occurred in the Second Qualifying Session of the Bobby Nail Life Master Open Pairs at the 2009 Fall NABC in San Diego. In it there's an important lesson that's easy to miss.

Bd: 1

Dlr: North

Vul: None

North

♠ Q97

♥ AQ10

♦ A7

♣ AK1043

West

♠ 82

♥ 963

♦ KQ10852

♣ 85

East

♠ AKJ10643

♥ K42

♦ 63

♣ 9

South

♠ 5

♥ J875

♦ J94

♣ QJ762

West

Pass

Pass

North

2NT

3NT

East

3♠

Pass

South

Pass<sup>(1)</sup>

Pass

After the lead of the ♠ A North made 3NT, +400 for N/S. The Director was called during the auction and again after play was completed. E/W said that North had bid again with a minimum 2NT opener following South's BIT. South claimed her bids are always slow. The Director determined that the BIT demonstrably suggested the 3NT bid and that pass was a LA. Consequently, he adjusted the result for both sides to 3♠ by East down one, +50 for N/S (Laws 16A2 and 12C1(e)).

N/S appealed the Director's ruling (East did not attend the hearing). N/S said they played automatic reopenings (their convention card was marked "Auto reopenings over 1X-1Y-Pass-Pass"). When asked how long South took to pass over 3♠ North said he did not notice a hesitation; South said she did not believe she took very long; West said South took some time, but it was not a long hesitation; and he reported that East had said he thought the bid took more than five seconds. North also told the Committee that he would not have reopened if he had thought South hesitated. West also noted that East might make 3♠ if the defense was not perfect, and that South would not have taken five seconds with nothing.

The Committee believed that a 5-7 second hesitation in a pressure auction did not transmit UI, and therefore there had been no irregularity. They restored the table result of 3NT by North made

<sup>(1)</sup> Break in tempo of 5-7 seconds

...continued on p. 18

three, +400 for N/S. So, what do you make of the Committee's decision? After you've decided, read on.

Do you play negative doubles after a two-level overcall of your partner's 1NT opening? How about after a three-level overcall? Does it depend on whether the overcall is natural or artificial, or whether it shows a one- or a two-suiter, or how many of the suits are known? Do you play negative doubles after a three-level overcall of partner's 2NT opening? How long did it take you to answer that last question? Did it take 2-4 seconds? 5-7 seconds? Longer?

Next, decide what would you bid holding ♠65 ♥8752 ♦J94 ♣10743 if your partner opened 2NT and your RHO overcalled 3♠. Did you consider whether a double would be negative? Did your call take as long as 2-4 seconds? Longer? Well it should have.

The problem in situations like this is that most players holding hands like the near yarborough above (or one that's an equivalent "no-brainer" in other auctions) rarely take even a few seconds to pass; they immediately reach for a green card, thereby making it clear that their pass requires little or no thought. But experienced players are expected to behave better (dare I say more ethically) than that. They know—or they should know—that every action they take during the bidding or play should appear to require at least a bit of thought. In fact, they make it a matter of ethical pride to make sure that happens.

These players appreciate the importance of maintaining a "relatively" even tempo. They pause briefly before each

action (a few seconds is adequate) while giving the appearance of thinking. Then, when they actually need a few seconds to consider their action (like South did at her first turn here), a brief pause conveys no UI—it appears to take about the same time as most of the player's other actions. Of course when a difficult call or play requires a lot more time, everyone at the table knows it. But such occurrences are fairly infrequent for most of us, and we just have to deal with them when they arise. Experienced players know that the investment of a few extra seconds to maintain an even tempo in situations where their action is "automatic" will be repaid many times over, not on the easy hands but on that multitude of hands which require brief contemplation.

Our South here insisted that her bids are always slow, and that may very well be the case. But on her first call on Board 1 the opponents had not yet had a chance to determine her normal tempo, and they reacted to the few seconds it took her to pass as if it was a BIT. They were wrong to do so, but unfortunately their reaction was not unusual in today's game. Every player is entitled to take a few seconds before every call or play to consider the action they are about to take. Indeed, a player who acts immediately, with no apparent thought, is committing every bit as serious an irregularity as one who hesitates—perhaps even more serious. But how many of us think to call the Director when a player passes quickly in a competitive auction and their partner takes no further action? After all, it is so much easier to identify a hesitation that precedes an action by partner as provocative than to find similar fault when no hesitation is followed by...nothing!

by Barry Bragin, gadgetmatist@gmail.com

Grandpa G wakes up from his snooze and starts in right where he left off.

"OK kids, we started talking about reverse auctions and I pointed out that there are four types to consider:

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

We discussed the first one last time and I'll admit there wasn't anything very gadget-y about it. But things will pick up now."

### 1♣ / 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥

As before, if responder supports either of opener's suits, or bids the 4<sup>th</sup> suit at the 3-level, that establishes a game force. Responder rebids 2♠ whenever she has five and any strength or six with a weak hand. With six good spades that can play opposite a singleton and game values, she can jump to 3♠. Now here is where that 2NT gadget comes into play. Responder bids 2NT (Alert!) asking opener to reply 3♣ (Alert!). Responder can now pass, bid one of opener's suits with support and a minimum, bid 3♠ with six spades and game values, or 3NT with a minimum (sorry, you can't bid 2NT to play). A direct jump to 3NT over 2♥ shows 9+ HCP. Of course, opener does not have to accept the 2NT relay to 3♣ if he absolutely doesn't want to

hear a pass. With Ax / AQxx / AKJxxx / x, bid 3♦ over partner's 2NT and with x / AQxx / AKQTxx / Ax bid 3NT. But with xx / AQxx / AKJxx / Kx, you should definitely bid 3♣ as partner might have responded one spade with QJxx / xx / x / Qxxxxx and now wants to get out in 3♣.

Let's look at a few examples. The bidding has gone 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥ and you hold:

- Kxxx / xx / Qxxx / xxx – bid 2NT and then 3♦ over his 3♣ response; change a small heart to the king and you would bid 3♦ immediately.
- Jxxxx / Kxxxx / x / xx – bid 2NT and then 3♥ over his 3♣ response; change a small club to the king and you would bid 3♥ immediately.
- KJxxx / xx / xx / Qxxx – bid 2♠ (promising five) and then pass opener's 2NT, 3♦, or 3NT rebid; add a red queen and you would raise 2NT to game.
- KJxxxx / Jxx / x / Kxx – bid 2NT and then 3♠ over opener's response; this shows a broken 6-card suit and game values; partner can bid 4♠ with Q / AQxx / AKxxxx / Ax

### 1♣ – 1♥ – 2♦

When opener reverses with 2♦ after opening 1♣, we have some room

...continued on p. 20

at the 2-level which gives us more flexibility. In this case (and the one to follow), 2NT is natural showing 7-9 HCP and a stopper in spades (3NT shows 10-12 HCP and a stopper). Rebidding hearts is similar to rebidding spades in the example above and direct support of either of opener's minors is natural and forcing. This time we use the 4<sup>th</sup> suit, 2♠ (Alert!), as the gadget. This bid is artificial and asks opener to bid 2NT with a spade stopper or else 3♣. Responder will now pass (or convert to 3D) with a weak hand, bid 3♥ with a broken 6-card suit and game values, or bid 3♠ with game values but no spade stopper (xxxx / AKxx / Qxx / xx) - opener can risk 3NT with xx / xx / AKJx / AKQxx.

**1♣ - 1♠ - 2♦**

This sequence is very similar to the one above: NT bids are natural and promise a heart stopper, immediate support is forcing, spade rebids are as described above, and 3♥ promises a 5-card suit with game-going values. Once again, we use the 4<sup>th</sup> suit, 2♥ (Alert!), as an artificial bid to slow down partner or describe a very particular hand. Opener rebids 2♠ with 3-card support, bids 2NT with a heart stopper, or else 3♣. Responder will now pass (or convert to 3D) with a weak hand, bid 3♥ with a weak 5-5 in the majors, 3♠ with a broken 6-card suit and game values, or 3NT with game values but only a partial heart stopper (KQxx / Jxx /

Kxx / xxx) - opener will pass with x / Qx / AQxx / AKQxxx but bid 5♣ with xx / x / AQJx / AKQJxx.

Let's look at a few examples where the bidding starts 1♣ - 1♥ / 1♠ - 2♦.

- KJx / QJxx / xxxx / xx - bid 2NT to show your spade stopper; change a small club to the king and bid 3NT.
- Qxxx / KJxx / xx / xxx - bid 2♠ (Alert!) and pass opener's response; change a small club to the king and bid an immediate 3♣ to establish a game force; then over opener's response, rebid 3NT to show your spade stopper.
- xxx / AJxxx / Qxx / xx - bid 2♥ to show your 5-card heart suit; if opener now bids a non-forcing 2NT or 3♣, you can pass; change a small club to the king and you still rebid 2♥ but now you keep the bidding open over opener's next response.
- Jxxxx / Axxxx / xx / x - rebid 2♥ (Alert!) and raise 2♠ to three or bid 3♥ over 2NT or 3C; change a small spade to the king and bid 3♥ immediately.
- xxxxx / KQxx / Kx / xx - rebid 2NT (yes, you do have five spades but they are not worth rebidding); partner does not have a 4-card heart suit. He would have reversed into 2♥ with - / Axxx / AJxx / AKQxx.
- AQJxxx / xxx / Qxx / x - rebid 3♠ to show a semi-solid suit and game-going values.

If you have any questions, you can email me at [gadgetmatist@gmail.com](mailto:gadgetmatist@gmail.com).

♠ **Fairfax, VA** ♣ **SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2010** ♦



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
SEPTEMBER SENSATIONS  
SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT**

**The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188**

8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2188

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) & 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) ..... 10:00 a.m.

*Norma's Game: First Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Vermont St., Arlington, VA 22203, 703-892-1292*

*Evening games at: NVBA: **ALERT!** Will be moved from Beth El (September sectional only) due to holidays.—www.nvba.org for location and directions.*

*or WBL: Obr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD — E-W Hwy 410 E, left Meadowbrook, left Freyman, lot on left.—No outside food.*

\*\*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, SEPTEMBER 24**

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—5 rounds, 5 boards, 5 minutes a board .. 7:30 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) ..... 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) ..... 9:30 a.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20) ..... 9:30 a.m.

NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5) ..... 9:30 a.m.

FLIGHT A/X PAIRS (3000+/3000; 2-session Play-thru event) 2 & 7:30 p.m.

*—Single session pairs accommodated during the evening session*

STRATIFIED B/C PAIRS (2000/750; 2 single sessions) ... 2 & 7:30 p.m.

STRATIFIED SIDE GAME (3000+/3000) ..... 2 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) ..... 2 p.m.

299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) ..... 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

\*\*Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman) ..... 10:15 a.m.\*\*

FLIGHTS A/X (5000+/5000) SWISS TEAMS ..... 11:00 a.m.

& BRACKETED FLIGHT B TEAMS (0-2000) ..... 11:00 a.m.

*B Teams Bracketed by Total Team Masterpoints: three overall places in each.*

*Both Flights are 2-session events, w/one 30-minute break—on-site food available.*

299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session) ..... 11:00 a.m.

49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5) (Single session) ..... 11:00 a.m.

299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session) ..... 3:15 p.m.

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

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*Mid-Chart Conventions permitted in all A/X Events*

**Next NVBA Sectional Oct 28-31 '10 at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge (Thurs at Beth El)**  
[www.nvba.org](http://www.nvba.org)

Fall  
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## NVBA FALL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

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

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) & 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) . . . . . 10:00 a.m.  
*Norma's Game: First Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Vermont St., Arlington, VA 22203, 703-892-1292*  
*Evening games at: NVBA: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA or*  
*WBL: Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD — E-W Hwy 410 E., left*  
*Meadowbrook, left Freyman, lot on left.—No outside food.*

**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, OCTOBER 29

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—5 rounds, 5 boards, 5 minutes a board . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20) . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5) . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
STRATAFLIGHTED PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) . . . . . 2 p.m.  
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) . . . . . 2 p.m.  
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

\*\*Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman) . . . . . 10:15 a.m.\*\*  
FLIGHTS A/X (5000+/5000) SWISS TEAMS . . . . . 11:00 a.m.  
& BRACKETED FLIGHT B TEAMS (0-2000) . . . . . 11:00 a.m.  
*B Teams Bracketed by Total Team Masterpoints: three overall places in each.*  
*Both Flights are 2-session events, w/one 30-minute break—on-site food available.*  
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session) . . . . . 11:00 a.m.  
49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5) (Single session) . . . . . 11:00 a.m.  
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session) . . . . . 3:15 p.m.

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

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Next NVBA Sectional  
Feb 24-27 '11 at Arlington/  
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## WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE BOARD & MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

May 2010 - May 2011

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

**WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE**

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Mrs Pat K Blommer, Maxine Isaacs, James R Sims, Susan R Spencer, and Julia R Thomas.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Robert D Abbo, Mrs Lucile D Balfour, and Mr Thomas W Conley.**

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](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org).

**2010 UNIT KO WINNERS**

Congratulations to this year's Washington Bridge League Unit KO Winners!

**Flight A:** Barry Bragin, Fred King, Richard Wegman, Robert Bell, Earl Glickstein, and Brad Theurer

**Flight B:** Robert Schwab, Anne Derbes, Rex Settle, and Jay Weinstein

**MY FAVORITE HAND FROM AN NABC**

by Fred King

Bridge is such an interesting and unpredictable game. For me, the following hand from the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the San Francisco NABC is an extreme example. (Hands rotated and spots approximate.) My partner and I were East-West.

North

- ♠ AQ4
- ♥ AJ943
- ♦ A
- ♣ KJ42

West

- ♠ 8
- ♥ 8652
- ♦ J8643
- ♣ 873

East

- ♠ 97532
- ♥ Q7
- ♦ 92
- ♣ AQT6

South

- ♠ KJT6
- ♥ KT
- ♦ KQT75
- ♣ 95

...continued on p. 27

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# WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE MEMBER CLUBS

Updates at [www.washingtonbridgeleague.org](http://www.washingtonbridgeleague.org)

## **WBL Unit Game**

(301.395.2760)  
Ohr Kodesh Congregation  
8300 Meadowbrook Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
[unitgamedirector@  
districtsix.org](mailto:unitgamedirector@districtsix.org)  
Th 7:30

## **Andy's Thursday AM DBC**

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

## **Camp Springs DBC**

6311 Old Branch Rd  
Camp Springs, MD 20748  
*Anna McLean*  
301.839.2464  
Tu 10:00  
F 10:00 (open & novice)

## **Chevy Chase Bridge Club**

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

## **Duplicate Bridge Club of Southern Maryland**

Swan Point Yacht and  
Country Club  
11550 Swan Point Blvd  
Swan Point, MD  
*Porter Kier*  
301.259.2049  
*Lloyd Bowling* (assistant)  
F 10:00

## **Frederick Bridge Club**

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

## **Gaithersburg Bridge Club**

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

## **Guy Mason Center DBC**

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

## **Holiday Park Senior Center**

3950 Ferrara Dr.  
Wheaton, MD  
*Carol McNeil*  
[mbmcbm@aol.com](mailto:mbmcbm@aol.com)  
301.990.1715  
W 12:45

## **Jewish Community Center**

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

## **Laurel Bridge Club**

[http://www.districtsix.org/  
laurel/laurel.htm](http://www.districtsix.org/laurel/laurel.htm)  
8564-A Laureldale Dr.  
Laurel, Md  
301.395.6810  
*Rose Berman*  
[rose.berman@verizon.net](mailto:rose.berman@verizon.net)  
301-776-3581  
Tu 7:30  
W 7:30  
F 8:00  
Selected Sa 7:00

## **Lusby Bridge Club**

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

## **Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center**

1000 Forest Glen Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD  
240.777.8085  
Tu 12:30

## **Montgomery County Duplicate Bridge Club**

Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Silver Spring  
11612 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20903

*Roz Dixon*

[rozdx2@aol.com](mailto:rozdx2@aol.com)  
301.785.4441  
M 10:30  
W 10:30  
F 10:30

## **Music and Memories**

Dorothy Freed Memorial  
Music Library Lab  
5708 Shookstown Rd.  
Frederick, MD 20702  
*Robert M. Freed*  
[robear69@comcast.net](mailto:robear69@comcast.net)  
301.473.8138  
Sa 7:15 Semi Monthly

## **Rockville Senior Center**

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

## **Rockville Senior Center at St James Episcopal Church**

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

## **Temple Beth Ami**

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

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.rockvilledbc.com) for directions.)

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

South opened with INT, which was supposedly 14-16 HCP. Then, with no bidding from us, North bid 2D as a transfer to hearts and then 3♥. After some thought, South passed and North became very upset. He declared that his 3♥ bid promised five hearts and four clubs and was 100% forcing. He put his cards back in the board, declared that he had "20 points" and they were getting no matchpoints as they must be cold for a slam. (Neither player seemed very accurate in his high card counting.) Finally, North calmed down and my partner led the ♠ 8. Declarer won and played ♥ K and overtook his ♥ T with dummy's Jack. I won my ♥ Q and I returned the ♠ 2 for partner to ruff. He returned the ♣ 8 to dummy's ♣ J and my ♣ Q. I led the ♠ 3 for another ruff and the ♣ 7 went to my ♣ T when declarer ducked in dummy. Now a diamond put dummy on play and I scored my ♣ A and ♣ 6 for down 3!! North was right, they got 0 matchpoints on a 103 top, but not for the reason he expected. My partner and I had made 1♥ with 9 HCPs and six hearts between us. In contrast, another pair from our area bid and made 6♥ when declarer played a heart to the ♥ T on the first round.



# NIM MASTER POINTERS

by I/N Columnist, Sandy Forsythe, [majslf@aol.com](mailto:majslf@aol.com)

## **STAYMAN AND JACOBY: A PERFECT MATCH!**

A student once said to me, "I bet you play all the conventions!" Well, no, no one can play *all* the conventions, because many of them are contradictory. But two that go perfectly together are Stayman and Jacoby transfers. You can and should play them both! You just need to know when to use each one.

Both Stayman and Jacoby transfers are conventions that help you find a major-suit fit with partner after she opens in notrump. Which one you use depends on how many cards you have in the majors. Bidding 2♣, Stayman, *asks* the notrump opener to bid a four-card major if she has one. Bidding 2♦ or 2♥ as a Jacoby transfer bid *tells* the notrump opener to bid the next higher suit.

### **With a four-card major suit, ask, don't tell!**

Many times I've seen newer players transfer with a four-card heart or spade suit, because they thought they needed to tell partner which suit they have. But remember, the notrump opener could have as few as two cards in your suit, so if you have only four, a fit is not guaranteed. No matter how pretty your suit is, don't transfer with only four! Use Stayman to find out if you have a 4-4 fit with partner. Over your 2♣ bid, opener bids 2♥ with four hearts (and maybe four spades), and 2♠ with four spades and not four hearts. With no four-card major he'll bid 2♦, *not* 2NT. (Why not 2NT? Because one day you may have an agreement that would allow re-

sponder to bid again at the two level or even pass 2♦ !)

After opener rebids 2♦ or shows his four-card major, it's your job to invite him to game with 8-9 points (if you're using 15-17 1NT), or bid game (or investigate slam) with 10+. If pard bids your major, you'll invite or bid game in your suit, but if he picked the wrong major, or denied having a four-card major, you'll invite or bid game in notrump. So normally you need at least 8 points to use Stayman, since you'd like to have 23 points between the two hands to play 2NT and that's where you'll be if you don't find a fit.

### **With a five-card or longer major suit, tell, don't ask!**

With five cards in your suit, you're guaranteed to have at least a seven-card fit with partner when she opens in notrump. You're close enough to the eight-card golden fit that you're allowed to *tell* partner what your suit is! When partner opens 1NT, you bid 2♦ to tell her to bid 2♥ when you have at least five hearts, and bid 2♥ to tell her to bid 2♠ when you have at least five spades. Unlike Stayman, the Jacoby transfer bid doesn't ask a question: it gives an order! Opener doesn't even need to look at her hand before she "completes" the transfer. When you bid 2♦ or 2♥ partner announces "transfer," then at her turn she bids the next higher suit, even holding just two baby cards in your suit.

After opener completes the transfer, it's back to you, and this is where it gets tricky! Remember, opener may have as

few as two cards in your suit, so if you only have five, you may not have an eight-card fit. With five hearts or spades, you'll bid 2NT to invite game with 8-9 points, and bid 3NT with 10+. (Partner should "correct" to your major with three or four card support.) With six or more hearts or spades, your eight-card fit is guaranteed, so you can invite or bid game in your suit.

What if you have a five-card or longer major but not enough points to invite? Just transfer partner to your long suit and then pass, even if you have only five of them! Pard may find herself in a seven-card fit, but she's still more likely to take eight tricks in your suit than seven tricks in notrump when your hand is weak.

### **What if I'm 5-4 in the majors?**

There's a convention for that! But it's beyond the scope of this column. If you and partner have no special agreements about how to handle a 5-4 hand, you just have to choose, and accept that you might miss playing in your best fit. With less than invitational values, it's usually best to just transfer pard to your five-card major and drop as you normally would.

With an invitational or game forcing hand, you could consider suit quality. If you really like your five-card major, use Jacoby and forget about the four-card suit (but of course remember to then invite or bid game in notrump, giving partner her choice). If the five-card major is weak, pretend you have two four-card majors and use Stayman.

Extra credit for advanced students: Some partnerships agree that after opener bids 2♦ denying a four-card major, with

5-4 responder can rebid her five-card suit at the two level to invite, and at the three level to force to game. Opener can then choose to play in responder's five-card suit or in notrump, just as though responder had transferred originally. But don't use this treatment if you haven't discussed it with partner!

### **What if I have a long minor?**

Do you also have some points? Awesome! Your long minor will take plenty of tricks in notrump. But with a weak hand and a six-card or longer minor, many partnerships use 2♠ as a transfer to 3♣. Responder will pass with clubs or correct with diamonds, and opener will pass.

Now that you've read this column, you know everything there is to know about Stayman and Jacoby transfers, right? Wrong! If you're not already using these very helpful conventions, you might want to do some further research just to make sure you understand all the nuances. And remember: if you're playing them, 2♣ is *always* Stayman, and 2♦ and 2♥ are *always* Jacoby transfers. Which one should you use? Ask with four, tell with five or more!

## **STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:**

*As of June 1, 2010*

### **Junior Masters (5 Masterpoints)**

Mr David E Brown  
Ms Joyce C Brown  
Mark J Silverman  
Nancy C Silverman

### **Club Masters (20 MPs)**

Mr Ching-Chuan Yeh

### **Sectional Masters (50 MPs)**

Mrs Carol Kahn  
Sandy Mitchell  
Mr William Morris  
Mrs Susan S Ward

### **Regional Masters (100 MPs)**

Mr Jay Gibbons  
Mr Stanley H Katzman  
Charles Maplethorpe  
Ann Seeboth  
Larry G Wallace

### **NABC Masters (200 MPs)**

Miss Pamela Bacher  
Mr John D Reynolds



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

**1) IMPs, You're Vulnerable**

♠ A75♥ J7♦ AK♣ K98732

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
2♠	3♥	4♠	
?????			

**2) IMPs, Both Vulnerable**

♠ 5♥♦♦ J10542♣ AQ109432

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

**3) IMPs, Both Vulnerable**

♠ AK2♥ J103♦ AKQJ43♣2

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

**4) IMPs, They're Vulnerable**

♠ A10♥♦♦ AKJ7643♣ KQ97

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
1♦	1♥	Pass	INT
?????			

**5) Matchpoints, None Vulnerable**

♠ K2♥ Q765♦ KQ32♣ Q65

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
?????*	1♠		2♥

\*2NT will be given zero points (GF spade raise)

Return answers by September 2 to:

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

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

Contact **Barbara Doran** [UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org](mailto: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 Zucker, Carpool Coordinator** can be contacted at 202-986-2166 or ([ron@motherzucker.com](mailto:ron@motherzucker.com)) or log on to the **On-Line Carpool Notices** at [www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org](http://www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org).

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