

It's the
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE'S
**49th Annual
Presidential Tournament**

***Cheers
to a
New Year
and a
New Deal!***

***January 13,
16, 2011***

**Try this popular event
Sunday:**

***Bracketed
Teams***

Check out this format!

Each bracket of eight teams
(by masterpoints) will play
a complete round robin.
*Each team plays all of the
other teams in its bracket!*

The top bracket will hold an
unlimited number of teams
and will play a Swiss format.

Your team may choose to
play up—but only into the
top bracket.

Look out on Friday night:

Is it a Pair game?

Is it a Team game? ...

It's the IMP Pairs!

Don't miss the 2:30pm Saturday

***♥ Panel
Show***



& Party

to Honor New Life Masters

and the 2:30pm Sunday

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation

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

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

See page 3 for the full tournament schedule...

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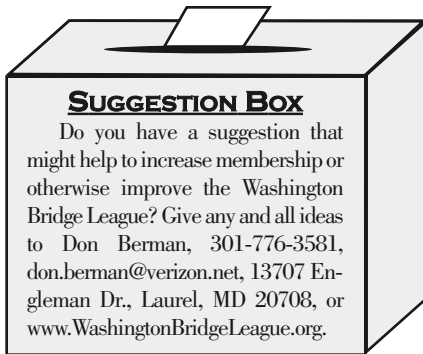
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SUGGESTION BOX

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.

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DEADLINE: JANUARY 11, 2011

TO SUBMIT NEW ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE

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WBL WEBSITE:
www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org

DISTRICT 6 SITE:
www.districtsix.org

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TO GET ON AN EMAIL LIST FOR **BRIDGE NEWS & BRIDGE PROBLEMS**, SEND A NOTE TO STEVE ROBINSON AT **ROBINSWR1941@GMAIL.COM** REQUESTING SUCH.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by WBL President, Don Berman

Recently we held a non-LM sectional for the first time in many years. It was a resounding success. Congratulations to **Shawn Stringer** and all who supported her in this effort. There has been a lot of positive feedback. I have posted on our website a brief survey concerning this event. For those who participated please take a moment to respond.

Congratulations to our members who performed well in the finals of the **District 6 North American Pairs**. **Flight A** winners were **Hailong Ao** and **Jian-Jian Wang** while **Mark Shaw** and **Marty Graf** were 2nd. **Flight B** winners were **Merril Hirsh** and **Linda Marshall**. In **Flight C**, **Guillaume de Decker** and **Ajit Thyagarajan** finished 2nd.

Good luck to all in the national finals.

We have made a change to the annual trophy rules for next year and are considering another.

1. For three of the trophies, the Izzy Cohen (0-500), Tubbs (non-LM, under 500), and Woolridge (0-20), the rules will revert to what they were three years ago. Basically, all points won in WBL events (including points earned at the WBL site on NVBA sectional Thursdays) will count.

2. For the Lovenberg several proposals were made and we decided to solicit further proposals from the membership prior to deciding on revised rules. Keep a lookout on our website for next year's format.

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. 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.

ADVERTISE?

Advertisements are welcome in the *WBL Bulletin*. We distribute approximately 2,000 copies of each issue, every other month. Advertising rates (as of 01/01/09) are:

- \$125 for a full page ad
- \$75 for a half page ad
- \$50 for a quarter page ad
- \$25 for an eighth page ad

The sixth appearance of an ad in one calendar year runs free.

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

SILVER SPRING, MD: JANUARY 13-16, 2011

2011... Cheers to a New Year & a New Deal!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13



49th Annual Presidential Tournament

- ♣ 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 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.

FRI. SAT & SUN AT THE KENSINGTON TOWN HALL/ARMORY

495 Beltway Exit 33, Connecticut Ave. North (Rt. 185N—to Kensington). 1.5 miles, right at light—Knowles Ave. 1st right at stop—Armory Ave. 1st left at stop—to 3710 Mitchell St. & parking lot on right. Additional parking in nearby lots—see website maps.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

- ♥ Stratified Pairs (unlim/2000/500) 10:00am
- ♠ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 2:00pm
- ♦ **IMP Pairs** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) 7:30pm
It's the Friday night IMPs! 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

Panel Show & Party SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

to Honor New Life Masters between sessions

- ♦ **Special! JOINT ABA/ACBL** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 11:00am
- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) or B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) 11:00am, 4:00pm
- ♠ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 4:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

WBL Trophy Race Winners' Presentation

- ♣ **1-Day Bridge Class:** 2 sections; *Start to Play* or *Advance Your Game* 10:30am
- ♦ **Bracketed Teams.** (2 session playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
Check out this format! Each bracket of eight teams (by masterpoints) will play a complete round robin. *Each team plays all of the other teams in its bracket!* The top bracket will hold an unlimited number of teams and will play a Swiss format. Your team may choose to play up—but only into the top bracket. *If you like playing A teams, you can—otherwise, play against your peers!*
- ♥ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:00pm

Full Schedule of Intermediate and Novice Events ♥

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



Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks and Friday and Sunday lunch free of charge. Chair: **Nadine Wood**, 301-565-9555, woodthere@verizon.net. Volunteer Coordinator: **Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com Hospitality: **Kitty Gottfried**, 301-587-3981, kgottfried@hotmail.com Partnerships: **Barbara Doran**, 301-608-0347, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org

Mid-chart allowed in all events except I/N

WASHINGTONBRIDGELEAGUE.ORG

♣ **Fairfax, VA ♦ FEBRUARY 24-27, 2011 ♥**

**NVBA WILLIAM POISSANT
MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT**

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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, FEBRUARY 25

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, FEBRUARY 26

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.
TROPHY EVENT: **WILLIAM POISSANT MEMORIAL PAIRS**
(2 SESSIONS – Qualifying and Barometer Final) 2 & 7:30 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750; Single session) . . . 2 p.m.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5) 2 p.m.
STRATIFIED OPEN CONSOLATION (2000+/2000/750) . . . 7:30 p.m.
—Open to Non-Qualifiers and New Entrants.
299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

FLIGHT A/X (5000+/5000) BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS ... 11 a.m. & TBA
FLIGHT B/C (2000/750) SWISS TEAMS 11 a.m. & TBA
BAM & B/C Swiss are 2-session events, with a brief break in-between
—food available on-site.
299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session) 11:00 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 spotlight after the intersection of 50 and 495). Take an immediate right onto the access road that runs parallel to Route 50. The Elks Lodge will be two buildings down on your left—parking on the side and in the rear. From Fairfax, heading East on Route 50: Pass the intersection of Route 50 and Prosperity Avenue—the Prosperity Medical Center will be on your right. Between the first and second lights after Prosperity, turn right into the access road that runs parallel to Route 50 and look for the Elks Lodge immediately to your right—parking on the far side of the building and in the rear.

Plenty of free parking! On-site snack bar plus lots of free treats! Many great restaurants nearby!
Championship Events and a Full Schedule of 299er Events for Novice and Intermediate Players!
Players with 0-5 Masterpoints play **FREE** in ALL games!

Tournament Chair
Margot Hennings,
703-560-0245

Partnership Chair
Mary Ann Kral,
703-608-6846 or
NVBA cell: 703-869-0852

Mid-Chart Conventions permitted in all A/X Events

Next NVBA Sectional
March 31-April 3, 2011 at
Arlington/Fairfax Elks
Lodge (Thurs at Beth El)

www.nvba.org

**WELCOME TO THE
WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE**

The WBL welcomes the following new ACBL members: **Daniel Anderson, Mr Ivan N Bella, Ms Rosemary Kuntz, Mr Kenneth L McMahill, Ms Barbara R Stevens, Grethen S Villers, Ms Ronna L Beck, Ms Hilary Boardman, Kurt Fernstrom, Ms Barbara Gural, Joel S Kolko, Janet N Page, Juan Pablo Quizon, Ann I Scher, Mr John D Shages, and Xiaoming Zhang.**

In addition, we welcome the following transfers from other units: **Mr Benjamin Basuk, Mrs Ruth Basuk, Member has Snowbird, Mr Doug A Brasse, Mr Rob Creecy, Dr James A Garnher, Mr Gregory G Habeeb, Ms Janet M Loos, Mr Richard P Regardie, Nancy Lea Ross, Mr Robert S Silverblatt, Mr Kyle Burkhalter, Becky Carter, Mrs Miriam L Cole, and Kristen Schermerhorn.**

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.

**NEXT 1-DAY BRIDGE CLASS:
JANUARY 16, 2011**

We will hold our *One Day Bridge Class* on Sunday, January 16 as part of the WBL Sectional. There will be two sections, *Start to Play*, for those totally new to bridge, and *Advance Your Game*, for those who know the basics but want to brush up on their skills and explore a topic in depth. The cost is \$30, which includes materials and lunch. Please contact Shawn Stringer at shstringer@aol.com or 301-622-5619 with any questions or to reserve a space.

REPORT ON NLM SECTIONAL

from Shawn Stringer, Tournament Chair

The October *Non Life Master Sectional*, the first in this area for over a decade, proved to be a big success! The first pair game drew 53 tables - many more than anyone imagined. Total attendance for the two days was 145 tables, including twenty-six teams for Sunday Swiss, and everyone seemed to enjoy the weekend.

There were 251 different players, and some came from as far away as Martinsburg, WV, Lancaster, PA and Hillsborough, NJ. A number came from the Baltimore area and the Washington suburbs were well represented.

Chris Miller did a fine job of directing the overflow crowd, with last minute assistance from **Arthur Weiss** and **Bryan Geer**. The volunteers were critical to the success of the tournament, especially given the turnout. Special thanks go to **Reni Malloy**, who helped serve over 500 meals with speed, efficiency and good humor; **Bryan Geer** and **Rick Deyerle**, who pitched in wherever needed; and **Lois Geer**, who did a great job matching up partners and teams.

Those who came particularly liked having their own tournament and, given the positive response, we are looking for dates to hold both spring and fall NLM sectionals in the future.

2011 WBL UNIT KO

The deadline for entering the *2011 Washington Bridge League Unit KO* is **January 27, 2011.**

...continued on p. 24



Great Game Products

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

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

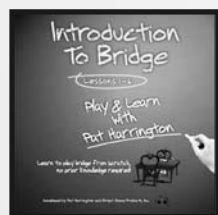
Bridge Baron 20 \$64.95

• Greatly expanded the defensive lead and signal agreements • Added 26 new play problems from the bridge book entitled *A Computer's Twist*
• Improved the bidding and play • Added 3 new bidding conventions: Soloway Jump Shifts, Meckwell, Lebensohl after Reverses • Added seven new Bridge Tournaments for free • Added 24 new challenging problem deals for a total of 288 Challenges • Improved the graphical user interface, including the ability to replay tournament deals

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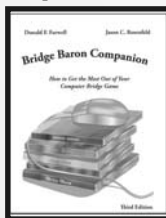
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• Two New Editions: *Basic Conventions* (Vol. 2) and *More Basic Conventions* (Vol. 3) • Learn Conventions allows you to practice each convention in Bridge Baron. LPBC teaches you seven conventions in depth using the interactive Bridge Baron Teacher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

robinswr1941@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Marvin Elster** 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. Second was **Frank Guido** with a score of 480. Tied for third were **Bernie McCurdy** and **Joav Steinbach** with a score of 470. Tied for fifth were **Diane Keiper**, **Ted Ying**, **Manuel Paulo** and **Ted Verhagen** with a score of 460. Tied for ninth were **Karen Heath**, **Mark Chen**, **Robin Taylor**, **Tom Musso**, **Ed Borodkin** and **Ted Wilkinson** with a score of 450. Tied for fifteenth were **Judy Miller**, **Ron Conlon**, **Seymour Baden**, **Jim Allen**, **Hank Meyer**, **Mary Wilson**, **Joe Lentz**, **Larry Kahn**, **Jeffery Parker**, **Forest Montgomery**, **Ron Zucker** and **Jeff Zaller** with a score of 440. The average score of the 229 solvers was 379. The average score of the experts was 454.

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 robinswr1941@gmail.com. You can also see and answer the problems at the WBL web site. WBL Solvers Club uses *Washington Standard* as published July 1996. I accept only the first answer from each solver unless it is clear that the solver wants to correct his answer.

I personally score all the problems. If a majority of the solvers vote for an answer, and the answer is reasonable I will give that answer 100 points. I will not give 100 points to an answer that I consider bad no matter how many experts vote for it. There are times

when I want to make a point. I will give that answer 100 points and will therefore give the majority answer 90 points. For the other answers I consider how good the answer is and how many experts vote for it for its score. If you submitted an answer that got 20 points, that bid would get a bad score at the table. A good exercise would be to figure out why I gave your answer 20 points. You might have misread the problem.

The book *Washington Standard* second edition is out. If you are a serious bridge player, this book is a must. You can purchase a copy from Steve for \$25.00 whenever you see him or can send him a check for \$29.95 that includes \$4.95 for priority mail.

1) Matchpoints, You're Vulnerable

♠ 765♥ 8765♦ A32♣ J65

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♥
????*	*2NT asks for better minor		Pass

Action	Score	Votes	Solvers
2NT	100	6	61
2♠	80	3	133
Pass	70	0	18
3♣	30	0	8
3♦	30	0	7
3♥	20	0	2
4♥	20	0	1
3NT	20	0	0

Partner made a takeout double and we do not have any good options. Do we bid our three-spade suit? Do we ask partner to bid his longer minor? 2NT is Modified Lebensohl. Works the same as regular Lebensohl with the exception that Doubler bids his better minor rather than bidding 3♣ with weak hands. Either way we could easily be in a seven-card fit. If you are going to be in a seven-card fit, you usually want to be as low as possible. 2♠ is lower than three-of-a-minor. However, partner is more likely to get

excited if he thinks that there is an eight-card major suit fit. Suppose partner has ♠ Jxxx ♥ A♣ KQJx ♣ AKxx. If you bid 2♠ he'll put you in game. If you bid 2NT, he might go conservative and bid 3♣. There is something to be said for passing the double. Passing wins when 2♥ doubled goes down and you can't make anything. If you pass the double and partner has a trump honor he'll probably take a trick with it. Passing also wins when 2♥ doubled makes their way for -470 and other pairs your way, are going for at least 500. We are vulnerable.

Five experts join me and hope that partner has a five-card minor.

Roman: "2NT—I could try 2♠, but that is more likely to get partner excited. My four-card heart holding makes it more likely that if partner has a big hand, it's a double and bid a suit hand rather than a double and bid notrump hand. If I bid 2♠ and he has a double and bid spades hand I'll be in 4♠. I'll pass three-of-either-minor, and bid 3♠ if he bids 3♥."

Schwartz: "2NT—Nice to be playing these methods as should get to a playable spot. Can't see passing 2♥ with one trick."

Woolsey: "2NT—Glad this asks for better minor on this hand. 2♠ would get us to at best a 4-3 fit with the four-card suit getting tapped, and it might be a 3-3 fit or partner might bid more thinking I have four spades. Passing a doubled contract I don't think I can beat looks silly. If partner has a five-card minor, we might get a small minus or even a plus out of this."

Hopkins: "2NT—I am going to play it straight. I hope partner either has a reasonable five-card or longer minor or a good enough hand so we don't get doubled. Passing is most likely to lead to -470 or more and 2♠ might let the doubling get started and allow them to cooperatively double subsequently."

Adams: "2NT—Gives us a chance at a 5-3 fit. 2♠ is a possible 3-3 fit, at best a 4-3, and risks getting raised on the hope of a close major suit game. I expect to go down less than the 470 they would make in 2♥ doubled so pass is out of the question."

Assuming you're not doubled, you'll go down less than 470. However, if you're doubled, it could be a phone number (four digits).

Three experts bid 2♠. I wonder if anyone ever doubled a weak 2♥ bid holding ♠ Qxx♥ x♦ KQJx♣ KQxxx?

Cappelletti: "2♠—Least of evils and some value if partner raises."

Parker: "2♠—Let's try and stay at the two-level for now. If they double I can redouble if I want to get to a minor. Why isn't 2NT Lebensohl?"

This 2NT is actually a better form of Lebensohl and for this problem is the perfect solution. Normal Lebensohl strongly suggests that the doubler bid 3♣. Using standard Lebensohl, Doubler bids 3♣ on all minimum hands and could be 4243, 3154 or even 4252. Using Better Minor Lebensohl, doubler bids 3♦ on all of the above hands. Doubler bids 3♣ only if his clubs are equal to or better than his diamonds.

Landen: "2♠—If not playing Better Minor Lebensohl 2♠ would be automatic. It's close between 2♠ and 2NT. 2♠ risks playing a 3-3 fit and partner is more likely to raise spades, but staying a level lower tips the scales."

Avoid bidding three-card majors if there is any alternative. Look into playing Better Minor Lebensohl.

2) IMPs, They're Vulnerable

♠ -♥ 8765♦ AK32♣ K10872

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
????	1♠	Pass	2NT*
<i>*2NT(game forcing spade raise)</i>			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
Double	100	5	76
3♦	90	3	35
Pass	60	1	75
3♣	40	0	15
3NT	30	0	10
3♠	20	0	10
4♠	20	0	3
4♣	20	0	1
4NT	20	0	4
4♥	20	0	1

The opponents have a nine-card or longer spade fit and are heading for game or possibly slam. There are three ways to go. You could pass and give the opponents all the room they need. You could double and tell partner that you have support for all of the unbid suits. If

partner has any five-card suit, your side could take a lot of tricks and you could have a good save. Give him ♠ xxx♥ x♦ xxx♣ QJxxx for instance and 5♣ will lose only four tricks. The third possibility is to bid 3♦ and get your lead director in. Don't you want partner to lead a diamond against a spade contract? You don't have to be an expert to know that if you bid 3♦, partner will likely lead a diamond. Give partner ♠ xxx♥ J109♦ xx♣ Axxxx and only a diamond lead gives you a chance to beat 4♠.

Two experts join me and make a lead director. When you bid 3♦, partner should understand that it could be a lead director and not hang you. There's something to be said to bid 3♦ holding ♠ xxx♥ xxx♦ AKx♣ xxx. The good news is that unless the Jacoby 2NT bidders are playing methods from my book, where doubles are for penalties, you can get away with this larceny. Only partner can punish you. Partner is very unlikely to raise with only three-card support.

Parker: "3♦—I don't expect them to stop and double so I want to get my lead director in. I don't want to unilaterally set up a save situation since I expect partner to have a spade or spades tricks."

Roman: "3♦—Sure, we might have a fit in a round suit and an excellent save, but their spades are breaking badly, I have some defense, and at IMPs what I want more than anything else is a diamond lead. Who knows? Maybe partner will bid diamonds and we will get to enjoy the looks on our opponents' faces as they watch us cash three rounds of the suit."

One expert allows the opponents free reign to explore their possibilities. Even inexperienced players, if left alone can get to the correct spot.

Schwartz: "Pass—With such good defensive prospects, seems that I shouldn't strongly suggest a sack with double. Also if we don't play the hand partner is more likely to lead a heart if I make a takeout double."

Five experts make a takeout double. If I was on lead against a spade contract and my partner made a takeout double and I had nothing else to go on, I would lead a heart.

Cappelletti: "Double—See if I can get partner interested in saving."

Woolsey: "Double—We could have a decent save in any of three suits, and this is the

only way to keep all options open. If I try a lead-directing 3♦ partner might not take a joke, and if the opponents stop off to double I won't know what to do."

True, if you bid 3♦ and they double, you might have to guess what to do. But what are the chances that you get doubled?

Hopkins: "Double—All partner needs is a good suit (besides Spades) and we could easily have a make or very cheap save at the five-level."

Landen: "Double—3♦ is tempting as the lead might be critical and opponents nowadays play double shows shortness, so it's unlikely you'll get doubled in 3♦, but partner might not be able to take a joke. We might have a profitable save or even a five-level make, so showing support for the other suits is the best constructive bid."

Lead directors are not jokes. Partner should take bids over 2NT, game-forcing raises, with a grain of salt.

Adams: "Double—As much as I would like to bid 3♦ as a pure lead direct, it will be tough to stay out of diamonds at some level when we have a better fit. I have sympathy for pass, as they have the master suit and pass does not give away the bad split, but it's not my style."

If you're playing 'with make the wrong lead Robinson' bid 3♦ so he'll lead the right suit.

3) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ AQJ♥ AK9643♦ J6♣ A4

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3NT	100	3	3
3♣	90	3	91
2NT	80	2	25
3♠	70	1	17
3♥	60	0	52
4♠	60	0	18
4♥	60	0	6
4♣	60	0	2
2♣	20	0	9
2♠	20	0	2
6♠	20	0	1
2♥	20	0	2
2♦	20	0	1
4NT	20	0	1

You would like to show a game-forcing hand with six hearts and three spades. If you jump in hearts you could miss your spade fit. If you jump in spades, you could end up playing a bad 4-3 fit. There is a solution. A jump to 3NT after 1♥ — 1♠ shows a game-forcing three-card spade raise. If you have only three spades, you must have either six or five very good hearts. If you are 3541, you jump shift in your four-card suit. Usually you'll be 3-6 in the majors. If you are 3532 you could also show your strength by jumping to 2NT. The exception would be if I held a hand such as ♠ AKJ♥ AKQJ♦ xxx♣ xx, I would jump to 3NT to emphasize my major suits.

Two experts agree with me and jump to 3NT.

Roman: "3NT—Presumably this shows a game forcing hand with three spades and six hearts, and if it doesn't, I'll explain to partner later why it does. I didn't open 2NT, and wouldn't jump to 3NT now with a long heart suit "gambling" style, like I would if my suit was a minor."

Adams: "3NT—A fairly common expert agreement is to play that 3NT here shows a game going hand with three spades and six hearts. 2NT is 18-19 balanced not 3NT. Using 3NT as gambling with a solid suit is more valuable for minors than it is for majors. If I did not trust my partner to read 3NT correctly, I might try 2NT and slide my six of hearts in with diamonds, or I might bid 3NT anyway, because I am too good for 2NT."

Three experts jump shift into a short suit. Bad things can happen when you bid short suits.

Parker: "3♣—I would bid 2♣ with an ace less so this bid allows me to raise spades if partner bids 3♥, 3♠ or 3♦. You need to bid this in tempo so as not to show there may be a problem."

Schwartz: "3♣—Gives us the best chance to find the right major."

But suppose partner insists on clubs. Now what?

Cappelletti: "3♣—In Standard American, jump shifts occasionally in short suits."

One expert puts all of his eggs in the spade basket.

Woolsey: "3♠—If playing Flannery I would bid 4♠ since partner will almost al-

ways have five spades for the 1♠ response. If not playing Flannery, it is probably best to pull in my horns a bit. 3NT showing a game-forcing three-card raise is a nice treatment, but presumably that's not available. I strongly disapprove of a phony jump shift."

I don't see why 1♠ always shows five spades when you are playing Flannery. When I bid 1♠, when playing Flannery, I expect to be raised on three. I respond 1♠ holding ♠ K1098♥ x♦ Kxxxx♣ xxx. If I'm going to play a 4-3 fit, it might as well be a major.

Two experts show 18-19 balanced. What about the possibility of a 6-2 heart fit?

Hopkins: "2NT—Well, at least this bid allows us to keep both Spades and Hearts in the picture with the minor problem of being just a little heavy on the HCP side. This hand demonstrates one of the reasons I play Flannery."

Landen: "2NT—This might result in missing a 6-2 heart fit when that's best, but we won't miss 5-3 spades. The alternative, jump shifting to 3♣, is not my cup of tea."

Play 1♥ — 1♠ — 3NT to show a game-forcing three-card spade raise.

4) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠ 852♥ 10954♦ KQJ65♣ K

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
2♥	100	3	50
3♦	90	3	33
2♠	80	2	22
2♦	70	1	50
3♥	70	0	72
Pass	20	0	2
2♣	20	0	1

Partner made a takeout double and we have a weak four-card major and a strong five-card minor. I am about to introduce some new concepts. You need ten tricks to make a major-suit game. You need eleven tricks to make a minor-suit game. When one makes a takeout double, one has support for unbid majors and might not have support for unbid minors. Supposed Doubler has ♠ x♥ AKQx♦ Axx♣ xxxxx. If you bid 2♦ or 3♦, Doubler knows that you're a passed hand. He'll figure

that to make 5♦ opposite a passed hand, Advancer needs a miracle holding. He knows that there is no eight-card major-suit fit. Therefore, 3♦ figures to be the percentage contract. However, suppose you bid 2♥. Now there is an eight-card major-suit fit. That changes the Doublers options.

Two experts join me and bid 2♥. They understand that majors and notrump is where the money is. Since the opponents very likely have at least eight spades between them, there is a good chance that we'll get a chance to show our diamonds on the next round.

Woolsey: "2♥—Major suits are where games are. I don't think I'm quite strong enough for 3♥. In addition to being too high if partner has the wrong hand, he will be accepting on no-play hands such as ♠ xx♥ AKxx♦ Axx♣ QJxx. If we have a game, partner may well have a 3♥ call."

Adams: "2♥—A bit heavy, but bad suit. Expect they will compete to 2♠, and then I will bid diamonds. Bidding hearts then diamonds shows only four hearts. With five hearts there would be no reason to offer a second suit. Diamonds can be five on this sequence, so partner with 3-3 in reds should leave me in diamonds."

If I held ♠ xx♥ AJxxx♦ Qxxx♣ xx, I would bid 2♥ in response to partner's takeout double. If someone bid 2♠, I would bid 3♥ not 3♦. Don't mess around with minors when you have an eight-card major suit fit. If you bid 3♦, Doubler will only take you back to hearts with four of them.

The following four experts should learn my new concepts. Majors, majors, majors. If I bid 3♦ and it went all pass I would hope that partner put down the dummy quickly so I would know if I missed a heart game.

Roman: "3♦—With three small spades and a passing RHO, it feels like the game I should be aiming for is 3NT."

I could see aiming for 3NT if your spade holding was Qxx. With xxx in spades, not only do you need partner to have a spade stopper, you need nine quick winners unless he has two stoppers, which is not very likely.

Hopkins: "3♦—Looking for 3NT. However, we might still end up in 4♥ if partner makes an approach bid of 3♥ with something along the lines of ♠ Qx♥ AKxx♦ Axx♣ Axxx."

Landen: "3♦—An honest value bid. I know I'll score low by not bidding hearts with Robinson grading. If partner bids 3NT, I'm happy, if he cues 3♠ I'll bid 4♥. At least, if partner is passing whatever I bid, we'll be in a sound fit."

The following expert bids only 2♦.

Parker: "2♦—If I cue bid, we are in a forcing sequence to the four-level. Playing IMPS lets play in the most likely plus score. If anyone bids again I can bid hearts to show a good hand and 5/4."

So you'll bid 3♥ next. That way you could end up at the four-level if Doubler has only three hearts. If you bid hearts first and then diamonds, partner will know that you have only four hearts. He'll pass 3♦ unless he has four hearts.

Two experts cue bid. If partner has four hearts and bids 3♥, you're committed to raise 3♥ to 4♥. Cue bids promise a rebid. You could find yourself in 4♥ opposite as little as ♠ xx♥ Qxxx♦ Axxx♣ A Qx. If partner doesn't have four hearts and bids 3♣, you can bid 3♦ and since you're a passed hand, partner could pass with a minimum takeout double. 2♠ doesn't 100% promise four hearts. It shows two places to play and a good passed hand. I would bid 2♠ if I held ♠ xx♥ x♦ AQJxx♣ Kxxxx.

Schwartz: "2♠—As passed hand, just too good for 2♥. Partner should play me for exactly four hearts."

Cappelletti: "2♠—Just in case partner has only three hearts."

When partner makes a takeout double and you have a four-card major, bid it.

5) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ QJ2♥ 54♦ Q865♣ AJ32

<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
????			
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Solvers</u>
3♣	100	5	34
2NT	80	2	102
2♦	80	2	59
Pass	30	0	9
3NT	30	0	3
3♦	30	0	19
Dbl	20	0	3
3♥	20	0	1

You have four-card diamond support so you could support diamonds, conservatively by bidding 2♦, aggressively by bidding 3♣. 3♣ shows a diamond limit-raise. Partner is a passed hand and 2♦ could be the limit of the hand. You have two club stoppers and a balanced hand so you could bid 2NT. You could pass. If partner passes 2♣, defending 2♣ could be your best spot. If partner reopens with a double, you could go for penalties. With four-card support for partner's opener, going for penalties is against the odds.

Six experts join me and support diamonds. Unless partner is exactly 4432, diamonds should be a playable spot. If partner has a weak opener, 2NT might not play well. You have two club stoppers. If you have to knock out three honors, they could run the rest of the club suit. That's assuming they lead a club. A heart lead might be more devastating. Bidding 3♣ does not stop you from getting to game assuming you belong there. If partner has extras, he'll bid three-of-a-major and you can bid 3NT. Bidding 3♣ allows you to play in diamonds or notrump. Bidding 2NT makes it unlikely that you play in diamonds.

Roman: "3♣—Limit raise in diamonds. I will pass 3♦, bid 3NT over 3♥, and raise 3♠ to 4♠. Bidding 2NT here, and many will, isn't ridiculous, but I don't want any part of a notrump contract unless goaded into it by my partner. Raise your partner's suit. It's the best bid in bridge."

Schwartz: "3♣—A little too good for 2♦ although that is reasonable not vulnerable. No rush to bid notrump myself as if there is

no game diamonds is safer."

Cappelletti: "3♣—I will pass 3♦ - but am hopeful to get to 3NT."

Woolsey: "3♣—If partner is minimal, 3♦ will be high enough. If he isn't minimal he will do something other than 3♦, and I can then bid 3NT. In addition, if partner is distributional we might belong in diamonds anyway, perhaps even a slam. If I bid 2NT he won't know about the diamond support, and that might be the key to the hand."

Two experts take the low road. You have ten points, but it's a bad ten.

Landen: "2♦—Not vulnerable, at IMPs, suggests taking the low road with this quacky hand. We're unlikely to miss a 50% game and we're much more likely to make 2♦ than 2NT."

Adams: "2♦—It's ten HCP, but it's garbage ten and partner can be light. 2NT, the alternative is suicide opposite my 1♦ third seat openers, and just a little too high opposite a sound opener."

Two experts bid 2NT, a very descriptive bid. Two club stoppers and ten points.

Parker: "2NT—If I bid 3♦, partner cannot ask me for a club stopper and if I bid 3♣ we are in the same problem. With two club stoppers I feel I am too strong for 1NT. Lesson here is plan for partner's next bid and make it easy for him."

Lesson here is to make the bid, which gives you the most options. If partner wants you to bid 3NT with a club stopper, he'll bid three-of-a-major over 3♣.

Hopkins: "2NT—About right on values." When in doubt, support partner.

SOLVERS' SCORES

John Adams	2NT	Dbl	3NT	2♥	2♦	480
Mike Cappelletti	2♠	Dbl	3♣	2♠	3♣	450
Robbie Hopkins	2NT	Dbl	2NT	3♦	2NT	450
Steve Landen	2♠	Dbl	2NT	3♦	2♦	430
Steve Parker	2♠	3♦	3♣	2♦	2NT	410
Jeff Roman	2NT	3♦	3NT	3♦	3♣	480
Steve Robinson	2NT	3♦	3NT	2♥	3♣	490
Alan Schwartz	2NT	Pass	3♣	2♠	3♣	430
Kit Woolsey	2NT	Dbl	3♠	2♥	3♣	470

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2010 TROPHY RACE STANDINGS

www.WashingtonBridgeLeague.org
 Updated by our Webmaster, Don Berman

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

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

This list is up to date through October 21. All points are subject to audit by the WBL Director.

Lovenberg

- 1 123.43 Leo LaSota
- 2 107.71 Steve Robinson
- 3 93.83 John Adams
- 4 85.06 Mark Shaw
- 5 82.55 Steven Schatzow
- 6 77.44 Barry Bragin
- 7 75.68 William Cole
- 8 75.14 William Hacker
- 9 71.14 Brad Theurer
- 10 60.55 Leon Letwin
- 11 60.17 Clyde Kruskal
- 12 58.91 Linda Marshall
- 13 57.60 Michael Gill
- 14 57.59 Peter Boyd
- 15 55.35 Arnie Frankel
- 16 53.46 Lloyd Rawley
- 17 52.93 Robert Bell
- 18 52.64 Mark Cohen
- 19 51.03 Donna Rogall
- 20 49.29 James Geist
- 21 45.15 Andrew Gofreed
- 22 43.16 Fred King
- 23 42.98 Noble Shore
- 24 41.33 Martin Graf
- 25 40.98 Donald Berman

Izzy Cohen

- 1 37.41 Michael Richey
- 2 36.09 Patrick Stanton
- 3 34.32 Alfred Caponiti
- 4 28.00 Daniel Koch
- 5 27.27 William Goldman
- 6 25.78 Margie Coccodrilli
- 7 24.77 Annapurna Satpathy
- 8 23.03 Daniel Falk
- 9 22.44 Arun Guha
- 10 22.21 Ronald Zucker
- 11 21.89 Fred Caponiti
- 12 21.25 Ajit Thyagarajan
- 13 21.03 James Beller
- 14 20.68 Kitty Gottfried
- 15 20.20 Larry Wallace

Tubbs

- 1 36.09 Patrick Stanton
- 2 34.32 Alfred Caponiti
- 3 27.27 William Goldman
- 4 24.77 Annapurna Satpathy
- 5 23.03 Daniel Falk
- 6 22.44 Arun Guha
- 7 21.89 Fred Caponiti
- 8 21.25 Ajit Thyagarajan
- 9 21.03 James Beller
- 10 20.20 Larry Wallace

Woolridge

- 1 21.89 Fred Caponiti
- 2 13.90 David Penn
- 3 7.17 Kathleen Zellmer
- 4 7.15 Joseph Abita
- 5 6.99 Carl Rappaport
- 6 6.99 Ilana Rappaport
- 7 5.96 Jean Schoen
- 8 5.08 Nancy McIntyre
- 9 4.88 John McCormick
- 10 4.66 Jane Dolkart

**0-20
LESSON
& GAME**

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LESSON**

**7:30 - 10ISH
GAME**

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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 ♥ ~

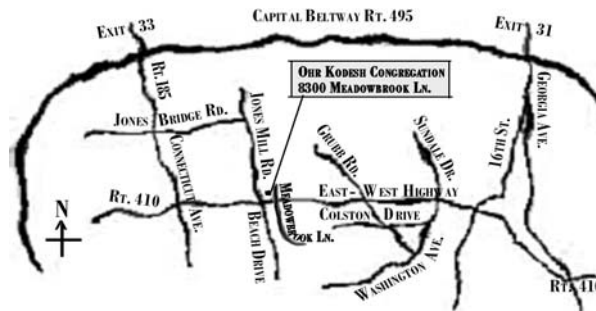
Most games held at Ohr Kodesh

- 12/16/2010 **Holiday Party:** Stratified STaC Pairs
—held at the Kensington Armory—
* Buffet Dinner: 6pm * Game starts EARLY: 7:20pm *
- 12/23/2010 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 12/30/2010 StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 01/06/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 01/13/2011 **WBL Sectional**
- 01/20/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 01/27/2011 StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 02/03/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 02/10/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 02/17/2011 StrataFlighted Grand National **Teams**
- 02/24/2011 **NVBA Sectional**
- 03/03/2011 District 6 STaC Stratified Pairs
- 03/10/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 03/17/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 03/24/2011 StrataFlighted Membership Game
- 03/31/2011 **NVBA Sectional**
- 04/07/2011 District 6 Fund Game
- 04/14/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship
- 04/21/2011 StrataFlighted Unit Championship

For a Last-Minute Partner, to say you'll be late, to hear announcements (closings posted by 4pm), or to contact the Unit Game for any reason, call the WBL Cell Phone:

(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.

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.

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.

BRIDGEMATES

After an extended evaluation loan of the BridgeMate electronic scoring devices, it is likely that they are here to stay. We will be using them for pairs games and BAMs. They bring a number of benefits: fewer scoring errors, faster printout of results at the end of the game, and directors with more time to spend out on the floor among the players instead of glued to the computer. It also allows us to post complete recaps to the ACBL Club Results website, with hand records, contracts and matchpoints all set out together (<http://clubresults.acbl.org>)

However, it is still possible for human errors to create problems. The directors can set up the movement incorrectly, which is why the units are often not activated for a few minutes, while we make and double-check final adjustments. Players can find several spanners to throw in the works most often wrong-siding a contract (NS instead of EW or vice versa), forgetting a double, or worst of all forgetting to enter a result at all. That usually results the next few results being entered for the wrong board number, with consequences that can be painful to sort out afterwards. So, two important rules:

- NORTH (or SOUTH if North is technophobic): enter the result the moment the hand is over and the result is agreed. Save discussion until afterwards.
- EAST-WEST read what it is you are agreeing to board number, contract, declarer, result.

And remember that there is a SCORES button that allows you to review all the results for the current round before you move on; get into the habit of using it.

PRE-PLANNING YOUR DEFENSE TO INT- (2♦)* (*SHOWING ONE MAJOR)

Unit Game Chair, **Clyde Kruskal**, cpkfam@gmail.com

Many pairs in the WBL overcall INT with 2♦ to show one major. The bid requires a pre-alert, but the opening side must memorize a defense if they want to use one. Since this convention is played by a large number of pairs, especially in the open game, it's best to agree on defensive methods before starting the game.

In the last issue, we discussed the
...continued on p. 18, column 2

DO YOU HAVE ANY MUSCLE OR BRAINS TO SPARE?

The Washington Bridge League could use a little of either! In order to keep events exciting and entry fees low, the WBL relies on the goodness of our members to volunteer for small jobs at the Unit Game and Sectional Tournaments. Some jobs require brains while others require muscle. We'll be happy to employ either.

From setting up and breaking down tables, to publicity and events development, a little effort from you will make our bridge community even better. Busy schedule? No worries. Most volunteer assignments take only 15 minutes to 1 hour a month.

Here's how to help:

1. Reply by email, phone or in person if you are willing to help in any way.
2. Please indicate if you can offer any special skills (such as marketing or a strong back).
3. Someone will contact you shortly with a choice of assignments you can pick from.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Barbara Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com,

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- ♥ January 13-16, 2011, Silver Spring, MD
- ♠ February 24-27, 2011, Fairfax, VA
- ♣ March 31-April 3, 2011, Fairfax, VA
- ♦ April 28-May 1, 2011, Silver Spring, MD
- ♥ August 11-14, 2011, Kensington, MD
- ♠ Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2011, Fairfax, VA
- ♣ October 13-16, 2011, Kensington, MD
- ♦ October 20-23, 2011, Fairfax, VA

COMMITTEE ACTION #71

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

Here's an instructive case from the second qualifying session of the Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs at the 2009 San Diego NABC last fall.

Bd: 28; Dlr: East; Vul: Both

North

- ♠ 9654
- ♥ AKQ
- ♦ A9
- ♣ A642

West

- ♠ Q1087
- ♥ 1087
- ♦ 102
- ♣ KQ85

East

- ♠ AKJ
- ♥ J6432
- ♦ J83
- ♣ J9

South

- ♠ 32
- ♥ 95
- ♦ KQ7654
- ♣ 1073

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

⁽¹⁾ BIT (alleged to be five seconds)

East led the ♠ A and North made nine tricks, +600 for N/S. E/W called the Director after play ended. South contended there had been no BIT and that his hand would always balance with 3♦. The Director judged that North had broken tempo over 2♥ and this demonstrably suggested action over inaction. Since pass by South was judged to be a LA, the result was adjusted to 2♥ by East down two, -100 for E/W.

N/S appealed the Director's ruling and were the only players to attend the hearing. According to the screening Director, E/W claimed that North took five seconds to pass after 2♥. South said there was no hesitation: North took at most three seconds to pass. By the time E/W called the Director, North had

left the table for a break. N/S said that E/W said nothing about any hesitation during the auction or when dummy was displayed. After the completion of play, one of the E/W players remarked that North had quite a good hand; it was then that they decided there had been a hesitation. South also argued that because the opponents had found a fit and stopped in 2♥ North was marked with a good hand, making it clear to balance by bidding his good six-card suit.

The Committee explained that when there is a BIT that might convey UI, players are encouraged to either call the Director right away or get confirmation of the BIT from the opponents. By delaying the Director call, E/W had considerably weakened their claim of a BIT. Based on the facts presented by the screening Director and N/S, the Committee decided that the time North took to pass did not constitute an "unmistakable hesitation." Thus, the table result of 3NT by North made three, +600 for N/S, was restored.

The Committee gave the players good advice here: call the Director immediately if an opponent does something that might convey UI to his partner, or ask the opponents if they agree that the perceived event (e.g., BIT, remark, or other potentially UI-conveying act) did, indeed, occur. (This does not, by the way, mean that they agree that the event had a damaging effect; only that they agree that there something irregular—i.e., out of the ordinary—did occur.) In fact, a number of years ago I wrote a series of articles entitled At the Table that were published in the ACBL Bulletin. Here's a slightly modified excerpt from the one dealing with this type of situation.

"If there's a lead out of turn, call the Director immediately. If a player makes an insufficient bid, call the Director immediately. If misinformation is suddenly discovered during the auction, call the Director immedi-

...continued on p. 18, column 1

ately. (It may be possible for him to cancel the last call or two, but only if he is called before anyone takes further action.) But when a player hesitates, or asks a question when it is not his turn, or commits some other potentially UI-conveying act, most of the time his partner will take the normal action and there will be no need for a Director. And there is also the negative social aspect of calling the Director just because someone hesitated or asked a question out of turn. Still, at least two good things may happen if the Director is called immediately. First, he can establish that an irregularity did occur while the events are still fresh in everyone's mind, and before anything else bad happens. Second, he can remind the partner of the player who created the UI of his obligation not to take any action suggested by that information.

"Some experienced players wait until they have good reason to believe that the receiver of the extraneous information took a questionable (and "suggested") action. This requires waiting until the player's hand is known, which often is not until it appears in dummy or play has ended (since only then can they tell if the partner's action appears justified despite the UI). In such cases it is wise to establish the fact of the irregularity with the opponents as soon as possible. For example, one might say, "I believe West hesitated before he bid. Do we all agree?" If they agree, the Director can be called later if he is needed; if they deny anything happened, the Director should be called immediately.

"Finally, beware! If you fail to establish immediately that an irregularity has occurred you may jeopardize your right to receive protection later. If you fail to call the Director when you suspect an opponent has taken an action that was suggested by UI from his partner and that may have damaged your side, you may jeopardize your right to protection. While failing to call immediately will not automatically lose you your rights, waiting incurs a greater risk of that happening."

Do you think E/W might have profited from following that advice in the present case? Might you when that opponent hesitates the next time you play?

defense to (1m)-P-(2♥) showing one of several different hand types. We had a relatively easy time with the defense because there seems to be a natural way to defend based on general principles. Here there are a variety of reasonable choices, so life is not quite so simple.

The following two defenses were suggested by experts. The simple one will get you through most situations, and, if you already play Lebensohl, requires very little discussion.

Simple Defense

DBL = Stayman
2NT = Lebensohl

Complex Defense

2Major = to play (shows 5+)
DBL = good hand (inv+) forcing to 2NT or doubled contract. Opener can bid game with a max

DBL then DBL (by either hand) = penalty
DBL followed by 2NT = invitational
2NT forces 3♣, can get out in 3♣ or 3♦.

2NT followed by 3♥ is a slam try in clubs
2NT followed by 3♠ is a slam try in diamonds
Systems on at the 3 level as if partner opened 2NT:

- 3♣ = Stayman
 - 3♦ = transfer to hearts (invitational or better)
 - 3♥ = transfer to spades (invitational or better)
 - 3♠ = whatever you play over 2NT
- 3NT immediately neither guarantees nor denies a stopper

PASS followed by DBL = takeout
PASS followed by 2NT = Lebensohl. (Probably about to bid 3NT showing a stopper)

Some pairs play **Stolen Bid** where DBL is a transfer to hearts and 2♥ is a transfer to spades. [See this issue's Gadgetmatist column on the next page.] These pairs typically let all higher level bids also have their normal meanings. This seems reasonable, but the system now lacks a bid for Stayman. I would find some remedy, possibly borrowing some of the methods of the Complex Defense at the three level (in particular 3♣ could be Stayman).

Personally, I like to play something like
...continued on p. 19, column 1, bottom

by Barry Bragin, bbragin@comcast.net

The old Gadgetmatist was rudely awoken when the phone rang at around 11 PM on Thursday.

"Who is this? Why are you calling at this hour?"

"Sorry, Grandpa, but we need your help. Owen and I decided we were ready to try our luck against the A/X crowd at the Unit game. We did OK except for three disasters when our opponents bid a Robinson 2♦ over our no trump opening showing a hand with a single-suited major. We didn't know what to bid or what our bids meant. It was so embarrassing!"

"I guess it would have helped if your opponents had provided you with a written defense but according to the ACBL that's not required. Here is what you should do from now on:"

Defense to Robinson 2♦ *

The basic rule is: with a distributional hand bid immediately, with a balanced hand wait for your next turn (it is rare that 2♦ will be passed out).

Double: transfer to hearts. I'm not a big fan of

**[See other options in Pre-Planning Your Defense to INT-(2♦) in the Unit Game column p.16.]*

the Complex System, but prefer to use the three level as "transfers" for all four suits. So 3♣ is a transfer to diamonds, 3♦ is a transfer to hearts, 3♥ is a transfer to spades, and 3♠ shows clubs (all invitational or better). This also frees up 2NT followed by 3 of a Major to be stopper showing. A big advantage: you can use this same defense when the opponents bid 2♦ to show both majors.

Most experienced partnerships these days play Better Minor Lebensohl, where 2NT asks for the better minor. You lose the ability to get out in 3♣ when partner prefers diamonds, but the advantage of being able to ask partner for a choice of minors seems to more than make up for this.

Sometimes the opponents will pass the 2♦ bid. You should agree on what opener's DBL shows. Given that partner could not bid originally, it should be take out.

"Stolen Bid" but it works in this case. Follow-ups are as if the opponents hadn't bid.

2♥: transfer to spades. Follow-ups are as if the opponents hadn't bid.

2♠: asks for size. Opener responds 2NT with a minimum and 3♣ with a max. Responder uses this bid with either a balanced 9-count (opposite a strong NT) or a club hand – either weak (convert 2NT to 3♣ or pass 3♣) or strong (bid shortness at the 3-level).

2NT: asks for opener's better minor. Used for weak hands with both minors (pass opener's preference) or a diamond hand either weak (convert to 3♦ or pass) or strong (bid a short major or 3NT).

3♣/3♦: invitational. Typically a 6-card suit that will run opposite honor doubleton.

3♥/3♠: splinter. Usually 1-3-4-5 distribution and game-going values (but it can be done with 1-2-5-5 as well). Opener decides if 3NT looks right or not. With a very distributional hand and both minors, responder pulls 3NT.

3NT: game values, not interested in defending, make the opening leader guess.

With a balanced hand pass the 2♦ bid and, if two of a major comes back around to you, use your Lebensohl methods as if your right hand opponent had bid two of that major directly.

At matchpoints, where you are probably not going to get a good score for defending two of a major undoubled, I recommend that opener always doubles at her first opportunity (i.e. INT-2♦ -P-2♥ -X or INT-2♦ -P-2♠ -X) whenever she has four spades. That way, responder is able to pass for penalties with four trumps over 2♥, double a run-out to 2♠ with appropriate points and just a doubleton spade, or balance with 2♠ on a 4-card suit. Also, since partner denies a 4-card spade suit when she passes, responder doesn't need a negative double when it comes back around to her so you can play her delayed double as penalty. Rarely, you'll get burned when partner is weak and balanced and the opponents can assess their values but it'll work in your favor more often than not.

♠ **Fairfax, VA** ♣ **MARCH 31-APRIL 3, 2011** ♦



NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
SPRING SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

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.

****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, APRIL 1

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, APRIL 2

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.
 BRACKETED COMPACT KO2 and 7:30 p.m.
Four 12-board matches starting Sat aft ending Sat eve.
All teams will play first two matches.
 STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/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, APRIL 3

FLIGHTS A/X (5000+/5000) SWISS TEAMS11:00 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.

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

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

Tournament Chair
 Margot Hennings,
 703-560-0245

Partnership Chair
 Mary Ann Kral,
 703-608-6846 or
 NVBA cell: 703-869-0852

Mid-Chart Conventions permitted in all A/X Events

Next NVBA Sectional
Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2011 at
Arlington/Fairfax Elks
Lodge (Thurs TBA)

www.nvba.org

WBL
NLMMASTER SECTIONAL

October 16-17, 2010

TOP CUMULATIVE
MASTERPOINT WINNERS

All Players

1	7.20	Ellen Kelley
2	6.03	Art Hartstein
3	6.03	Terry Vann
4	5.45	Ronald Starr
5	5.45	Jerry Pruzan
6	4.90	Annapurna Satpathy
7	4.90	Kimberly Ferguson
8	4.84	Carol Davis
9	4.34	Pamela Bacher
10	4.32	Albert Stolpe
11	4.11	James Gerding
12	4.11	James Mentzer
13	4.09	William Hohe
14	4.09	M. David Jackson
15	3.90	Linda Barton
16	3.90	Charles Maplethorpe
17	3.55	Roslyn Weinstein
18	3.14	Xing Du
19	3.14	Hong San
20	3.14	Richard Kwan
21	3.14	Jay Weinstein
22	3.14	David Dong
23	2.99	David King
24	2.99	Amedee Dean
25	2.97	Jim Anschutz

Players starting with < 50 masterpoints

1	4.11	James Mentzer
2	3.14	Hong San
3	3.14	Xing Du
4	3.14	Richard Kwan
5	2.81	Gay Pirozzi
6	2.49	Anil Hooda
7	2.45	Kenneth Rossato
8	2.45	Stephen Nagy
9	2.36	Margarett Whilden
10	2.04	Robert Wood
11	2.04	Odessa Morton
12	2.04	Louis Halter
13	2.04	James Sims
14	2.00	Mary Ann Goldenson
15	2.00	Susan Myers
16	1.87	Eileen McKenna
17	1.80	Anne Weismann
18	1.80	Karen Sandler
19	1.40	Judith Dausch
20	1.40	Sastry Dhara
21	1.36	Jean Barquin
22	1.36	Sarah Watson
23	1.34	Stephanie Hoover
24	1.30	Carl Rappaport
25	1.30	Ilana Rappaport

WBL NON LIFE MASTER SECTIONAL

-RESULTS-

Saturday, October 16

Morning Pairs - (38.4 Tables)

A	B	C		
1			Carol Davis - Ellen Kelley	.63.86
2	1		James Mentzer - James Gerding	.62.30
3	2		Terry Coates - John Horner	.62.27
4	3		Amedee Dean - David King	.62.05
5			Janet Duke - M. Josette Johnson	.61.82
6			Daniel Falk - Larry Wallace	.60.91
4			Henry Thompson - Betty Thompson	60.23
5	1		Neil Crane - Barbara Levine	.57.95
6			Leslie Dorsey - Lynne Boileau	.57.65
2			David Penn - Maxine Penn	.57.48
3			Carl Rappaport - Ilana Rappaport	.54.23
4			Peter Lo - John Kinsey	.52.98
5			Neil Bobroff - Mildred Williams	.50.45

Morning 49er Pairs - (14 Tables)

A	B	C		
1			Anne Weismann - Karen Sandler	.63.86
2	1		Stephen Nagy - Kenneth Rossato	.62.50
3	2		Philip Malet - Debra Malet	.61.59
4			Jean Barquin - Sarah Watson	.59.55
5			Susan Myers - Mary Ann Goldenson	58.64
6			Reina Lerner - Gay Pirozzi	.58.18
3			Prabhakar Tamboli - Albert Pike III	56.14
4	3		Peter Isard - Margaret Cooke	.52.27
5			Ellen Parker - Nancy Veret	.52.05
4			Todd Heidenreich - Juan Pablo	
			Quizon	.49.77
5			Tamara Vetter - Jayne Lynch	.48.86

Afternoon Pairs - (32.5 Tables)

A	B	C		
1			Annapurna Satpathy - Pamela Bacher	66.15
2			Linda Barton - Charles Maplethorpe	64.92
3	1		Jay Weinstein - Roslyn Weinstein	64.07
4			Jim Anschutz - Herbert Rubinstein	61.90
5	2		Joseph Pregosin - Thad Uehling	.60.84
6			Janet Duke - M. Josette Johnson	.60.55
3			Henry Thompson - Betty Thompson	60.04
4	1		Anil Hooda - Eileen McKenna	.59.73
5			Elizabeth Nash - Ernie Schuler	.58.21
6			Gabriel Cornett - Eldon Compton	.57.39
2			Judith Dausch - Sastry Dhara	.53.99
3			Harry Potter - James Mosley	.53.61
4			M Amey - David Amey	.53.53
5			William Morris - Susan Morris	.53.19
6			Alonzo Coley - Demaris Coley	.52.17

Afternoon 49er Pairs (9 Tables)

A	B	C		
1			Susan Myers - Mary Ann Goldenson	.66.03
2	1		Kenneth Rossato - Stephen Nagy	.64.21
3	2		Glenn Terrell - Dorothy Terrell	.59.10
4			Jean Barquin - Sarah Watson	.57.02
5			Nancy McIntyre - Kathleen Zellmer	.54.72
3	2		Charles Pritzlaff - Olivia Pritzlaff	.53.82
4			Prabhakar Tamboli - Albert Pike III	.53.76
5			David Cissel - Barbara Turner	.52.04
3			Madeline Nevins - Janet Page	.49.16

Sunday, October 17

Swiss Teams - (26 Tables)

A	B	C		
1			Ronald Starr - Jerry Pruzan - Terry Vann - Art Hartstein	.120.00
2			Albert Stolpe - Kimberly Ferguson - M. David Jackson - William Hohe	87.00
3	1		David Dong - Xing Du - Richard Kwan - Hong San	.84.00
4			Roseann Romito - Rebecca Weiss - Rochelle Hilton - Rachelle Sladoff	.82.00
5			Edna Riesel - Patricia Murty - Joseph Whitehill - Michael Platt	.81.00
6	2		Jay Gibbons - Ellen Kelley - Margaret Whilden - Gay Pirozzi	.80.00
7			Dennis Sponholtz - Chieko Franck - Alina Galaszewska - Onorica Luculescu	.77.00
8			Lawrence Nimmo - John Belka - Sharon Astarte - Sandra McMinn	75.00
3	1		Robert Wood - Odessa Morton - Louis Halter - James Sims	.74.00
4			Arthur Milholland - Lucille Mostello - Douglas Woods - Donna Hankey-Woods	.73.00
2			Duane Webster - Carol Webster - Susan Morris - William Morris	.67.00



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There will be three flights of play: Flight A, Flight B, plus a Flight C for players with 0-300 masterpoints. The masterpoint cutoff for Flight B will be determined by the coordinator after reviewing the entries and the masterpoints of the teams entered. A 0-100 flight may be instituted if entries warrant.

For Flight C, the seeding will be random draw. For Flights A and B, the GNT qualifier on January 27 will be used as a factor in seeding; however, you don't have to play in the GNT qualifier in order to play in the Unit KOs. If you have six members of your KO team, they can play on six different GNT teams on January 27. They will have six different seed numbers.

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

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

Email: robinswr1941@gmail.com

phone: 703-379-4371

snail mail: 2891 S. Abingdon St #A2,

Arlington, VA 22206

Bryan Geer is the Coordinator for Flight C: bgeer@verizon.net or 301-236-0014.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2010-2011

You can still qualify to win a partially subsidized trip to Toronto, Canada at the Summer 2011 NABC. Your team will represent District 6 in the National Finals of this competition.

The club qualification period began on September 1, 2010 and will continue until February 24, 2011. Remember, you can go out and play as often as you want with

whomever you want.

The competition contains four flights at the District level. The Open flight is open to all players. Flight A is limited to players with 0-5000 master points. Flight B is limited to players with 0-2000 master points. Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 master points. Master point eligibility is determined by the ACBL as of September 1, 2010. At the club level, the Open and A flights will be combined.

We will be holding the first weekend of the District finals of Flights B and C at a separate northern and a southern site. **THIS YEAR THE RICHMOND AREA WILL BE THE NEW SOUTHERN SITE FOR B AND C TEAMS.**

You must pre-register to play.
Pre-registration ends Midnight on the Thursday, one week before the event.
*****This is one week earlier than in previous years.** The entry fee is \$100/team and covers both sessions on the first day of play. Send a check made out to District Six, and the names and ACBL numbers of all team members, playing site, Flight, and e-mail address of captain to: Lynn Jones, 10 Tenby Court, Timonium, MD 21093

Any questions, please contact **Lynn Jones** at 410-560-3244 or bridgelynn@comcast.net
Conditions of Contest, directions to sites, and where to qualify at www.districtsix.org

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

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

Open Bracket

1st Weekend

Saturday, March 5, 12 Noon
Newport Mill Middle School
Sunday, March 6, 11A.M.
Newport Mill Middle School

2nd Weekend: For teams who have qualified

Saturday, March 26, 12 Noon
Newport Mill Middle School
Sunday, March 27, 11A.M.
Laurel Bridge Club - Finals

A Bracket (0-5000 MP)

1st Weekend

Saturday Feb. 12, 12 Noon
Newport Mill Middle School
Sunday, Feb. 13, 11A.M.
Laurel Bridge Club

2nd Weekend: For teams who have qualified

Saturday, Feb. 26, 12 Noon
Arlington Fairfax Elks Lodge
Sunday, Feb. 27, 11A.M.
Arlington Fairfax Elks Lodge - Finals

B Bracket (0-2000 MP)

1st Weekend: Northern Site

Saturday March 5, 12 Noon
Newport Mill Middle School
Sunday, March 6, 11A.M.
Newport Mill Middle School

1st Weekend: Southern Site

Saturday, March 5, 12 Noon
Glen Allen VA., Tuckahoe Moose Lodge

Sunday, March 6, 11A.M.
Glen Allen VA., Tuckahoe Moose Lodge

2nd Weekend: For teams who have qualified

Saturday, March 26, 12 Noon
Newport Mill Middle School
Sunday, March 27, 11A.M.
Laurel Bridge Club - Finals

C Bracket (0-500 MP)

1st Weekend: Northern Site

Saturday, March 5, 12 Noon
Newport Mill Middle School
Sunday, March 6, 11A.M.
Newport Mill Middle School

1st Weekend: Southern Site

Saturday, March 5, 12 Noon
Glen Allen, VA, Tuckahoe Moose Lodge
Sunday, March 6, 11A.M.
Glen Allen, VA, Tuckahoe Moose Lodge

2nd Weekend: For teams who have qualified

TBA- Finals

...continued on p. 26

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—CLUB NEWS—

**MARGARET SCHWEINHAUT
DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

An additional game has been added. These games are for seniors only: Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 pm at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, MD. The games are run by **Roz Dixon**, rozdx2@aol.com, 301-785-4441.

**ROCKVILLE
DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

An additional open game at 7:30pm on Friday has been added. It's held at St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Rockville, MD. For additional information, contact **Mark Lavine**, mlavine@gcsii.com, 301-503-3348.

**2010-2011 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 (August, 2010 through June, 2011). Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility; (3) Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a local affiliate throughout the contest period and remain so through the award presentation.

Awards: Two trophies will be awarded.

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

Open Leaders

Player	Points
1 Steven Schatzow	73.80
2 Mark Shaw	58.19
3 Kenneth Davis	57.43
4 Helene Bauman	55.74
5 David Milton	48.15
6 Jay Kelkar	44.32
7 Diane Walker	42.56
8 Eugene Kales	39.92
9 Steve Robinson	37.65
10 Steve Reed	36.56
11 Arnie Frankel	35.70
12 Stephen Drodge	35.19
13 Barry Bragin	35.17
14 John Miller	34.09
15 John Klayman	33.86
16 Robert Boyd	33.56
17 Peter Boyd	32.84
18 Robert Hopkins Jr	32.68
19 Ann Lindley	32.33
20 Linda Marshall	31.74

NonLM Leaders

Player	Points
1 Dan Emmons	15.24
2 Phillip Tseng	13.97
3 Stephen Colevas	13.47
4 Thomas Jennings	11.65
5 James Mentzer	11.16
6 Eleanor Schwartz	10.81
7 Herb Schulken	10.48
8 Michelle Zyguelbaum	10.47
9 James Gerding	10.42
10 Richard Levin	9.39
11 Marc Weiner	9.39
12 J J Jayaraman	9.02
13 Daniel Falk	8.76
14 Kimberly Ferguson	8.64
15 Larry Taylor	8.39
16 Larry Wallace	8.33
17 Ernie Schuler	8.21
18 Nancy Senger	8.02
19 Albert Stolpe	8.01
20 Ray Bostow	7.89

**BRIDGE & BOWLING
SAT, FEB 5, 2011**

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

Bowling: Meet at 12:45 p.m. at Laurel Lanes, 15013 Baltimore Avenue North, Laurel, MD, (301) 490-6006. Teams will be formed in advance based on bowling skill as indicated on the registration form or by past results in bridge and bowling. We will play a 3-game tournament. The cost for bowling is \$16 (payable when you sign up), plus the cost of shoe rental if you don't bring your own bowling shoes.

Dinner: Meet at 5:00 p.m. at Sullivan's Steak and Beverage Co., 9624 Fort Meade Road (Rte 198), Laurel, MD, (301) 498-7427. We will have dinner to celebrate (or commiserate) after bowling and get ready for a fun evening of bridge. No advance payment is required. However, please let us know if you plan to attend so we know how many people to expect.

Bridge: The game (a GNT qualifier) will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Laurel Bridge Club, 8654-A Laureldale Drive, Laurel MD, (301) 395-6810. You can come with your own team, but the real

**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: 11:15am

Tue: 7pm, Fri: 7:30pm (Tues. only at Rockville Senior Center—see www.rockvilledbc.com for directions.)

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

Sign up: Give this registration form, with payment (\$16 for bowling, \$9 for bridge), to Linda Marshall or Don Berman, or mail this form to: Linda Marshall, 6303 Redwing Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Make checks payable to Washington Bridge League. Please sign up no later than February 3rd.

BRIDGE AND BOWLING—REGISTER BY 2/3/11

I, _____, will attend:

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

Bridge (\$9) Masterpoints _____

Dinner

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



NLM MASTER POINTERS

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

YOURS, MINE AND THEIRS: WHICH SUIT SHOULD I LEAD?

Defending Against a Notrump Contract

The play in notrump is a race between declarer and the defenders: both sides are trying to set up their long suit and take as many tricks as they can. Since defenders have the disadvantage of not being able to see each other's hands, they get to make the opening lead, giving them a head start in the race. To win the race, defenders will want to choose their best suit and lead it at every opportunity. Make sure the suit you lead is yours, not theirs!

How do you know which suit is yours? If you and partner have more cards in a suit than declarer does, it's your suit! (Seven is the magic number: if you have at least seven, they have at most six.) Since defenders can't lean across the table and ask each other about their distribution, they have to rely on clues from their own hands, the bidding and the play.

Not all bids are created equal

If you or partner bid the suit, it's your suit, and if declarer or dummy bid the suit, it's their suit. But be careful: Some bids are not what they sound like. "Natural" bids promise a certain minimum number of cards in the bid suit and often show an interest in having that suit led or setting it as trump. Conventional bids and cue-bids don't promise any holding in the suit being bid, and are never an attempt to play in that suit.

Conventional bids are bids that, by partnership agreement, have a specific meaning

that usually says nothing about the suit being bid. For example, over a 1NT opening, 2♣ (Stayman) asks opener to show a four-card major. It says nothing about clubs. Jacoby transfers, Bergen raises and Blackwood are all examples of conventional bids. Conventional bids must be alerted or announced (except for Stayman, which is so common everyone is presumed to recognize it). Pay attention when the opponents alert: it's not their suit, so it could be yours.

A cue-bid is when one side bids a suit that the other side has bid as a natural suit. Cue-bids can have different meanings in different situations, but they are never natural and never to play. Cue-bids are considered "self-alerting," so no alert is required. If the opponents cue-bid your suit on their way to their final contract, don't worry: it's still your suit!

When you're the opening leader

Lead partner's suit. If partner has bid, it's almost always right to lead his suit, especially if you know from the bidding that your side has more cards in that suit than their side does. Yes, the opponents have a "stopper" in the suit, since he bid it and they bid notrump anyway, but that's all the more reason to lead it right away and keep leading it until their stoppers are knocked out. Only consider not leading partner's suit when you have a great suit of your own, and you think partner won't have enough entries in his hand to run his suit once it's set up, because you know from the bidding that he doesn't have any points. If you lead his suit and it turns out wrong, he can't blame you, but if you don't lead it and it would have

been right, you'd better have a really good excuse!

Lead your suit. If partner hasn't bid and you have some points, lead your "longest and strongest" suit. (Most partnerships lead the fourth highest card.) But don't lead your long suit if you have no high cards that will help you regain the lead once your suit is set up. When you're broke, it's better to try to hit partner's suit instead.

Lead an unbid major. With no clear choice of suits, always prefer leading an unbid major rather than a minor. The opponents might have a long minor suit that they failed to mention, but if they had a long major you would have heard about it! The clues are in the auction: Did they open in a minor suit, denying a five-card major? Did they skip over hearts to bid spades, denying four hearts, or skip spades to bid notrump, denying four spades? Their combined total in the major they skipped is seven cards or less, so that could be your suit. Even if you don't have a strong holding in the suit, partner might.

Lead dummy's second suit. If the opponents bid three suits, your choice of suits is obvious, but what if the opponents bid all four suits? In that case, if you have no strong holding in any suit, it's best to lead the second suit bid by dummy. Try never to lead declarer's suit unless you have a very strong holding. Why? Because you want to lead through strength and into weakness. Playing through the strength in dummy lets partner play after the strong hand, giving her a chance to beat whatever dummy plays. If you play into declarer's strength, you're finessing partner by letting declarer play after her.

STEPPING UP TO NEW HEIGHTS:

As of November 1, 2010

Junior Masters (5 Masterpoints)

Margaret A Cooke
Ms Joia M Hertz
Peter Isard
Joyce B Loundermon
Mrs Olivia A Pritzlaff
Ms Linda R Ackerman
Mr Loic Braune
Jane Dolkart

Club Masters (20 MPs)

Mr H Bruce Edkins Jr
Dr Prabhakar Tamboli
Frederic R Caponiti
Julia R Thomas

Sectional Masters (50 MPs)

Ms Mary L Iglehart
Mr Duane E Webster

Regional Masters (100 MPs)

Mr Mark B Feldman
Gail W Ginsburgh
Mr Eugene A Massey
Clara W Berryhill
Mary Cacciatore
Mr Gabriel C Cornett
Stanley J Fineman
Margot Howar
Mrs Carolyn S Kier

NABC Masters (200 MPs)

Mr Jack C Mortick
Jim Anschutz
Jeannette T Brophy
Ann Seeboth

The play

You've made your opening lead and if you've chosen wisely, you and partner will keep attacking that suit to get your tricks. Usually it's best to stick with the suit you or partner started with, unless dummy has a very strong holding, or unless you can see that partner has no help in the suit you chose. Partner should play his highest card on the first trick (unless he's keeping his honor over dummy's honor), so you can get some idea of where the missing high cards are.

A wise man once said, "When two sides are leading the same suit, one of them is crazy!" When you're on lead during the play, don't lead the suit declarer's been leading, even if you have the highest card: that's her suit and she's trying to set it up. Just like declarer needs to keep her stoppers in your suit as long as possible, defenders also must hold onto their stoppers in declarer's suit to try to keep her from cashing those tricks.

To win the race in notrump, lead your suit, not their suit!

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

1) IMPs, You're Vulnerable

♠ A103♥ 543♦ A1043♣ AK2

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♦ 2♠

????

2) IMPs, None Vulnerable

♠ KQ9854♥ 2♦ J10765♣ 6

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠

????

3) Matchpoints, We're Vulnerable

♠ AJ♥ 2♦ Q108654♣ AK75

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
3♠ Pass Pass

????

4) IMPs, We're Vulnerable

♠ 1073♥ 103♦ 54♣ QJ10873

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Dbl Pass

????

5) IMPs, Both Vulnerable

♠ KQJ63♥ 32♦ AKQJ♣ KQ

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠

????

Return answers by January 6 to:

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

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

Contact **Barbara Doran** UnitGamePartner@DistrictSix.org, (301-608-0347 between 9am and 10pm) to find a partner in advance. For a last minute partner, call the **WBL cell phone (301-395-2760)**.

Ron Zucker, 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.