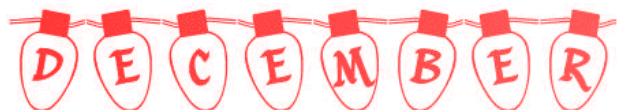


District 4 Spot



2009

2009-2010 DISTRICT 4 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

FLIGHT A

Thomas Weik & Daniel Boye
Barry Gorski & Albert Bingaman
Rick Rowland & Craig Robinson

FLIGHT B

Robert Taylor & Anne Taylor
Michael Mayer & Lewis Klein
Christopher Marlow & Andy Muenz

FLIGHT C

Mary Boyd & Peter Harris
Samuel Litzenberger & Madison Morgan
Linda Regan & Laurie Shelton

DISTRICT 4 WEBSITE

<http://web2.acbl.org/hosted/districts/d4web/index.htm>



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BOB COLE

I am honored at the confidence my friends have shown in allowing me to serve as President of District 4 for the coming year. A special thanks to outgoing President Joann Glasson for almost two years as president, and for facilitating a smooth transition, and to Bill Bauer for his continuing support, including a "new president script" for incoming presidents to follow.

Last year's TAP (Teacher Accreditation Program) training sessions in Vestal, NY and King of Prussia, PA were well attended by 110 potential new teachers. At the Lancaster board meeting, October 31, it was decided to again provide up to \$500 subsidy to each of two sites that want to hold them in 2010. The cost will be \$50 per person. Please contact Mary Poplawski (mpoplawski@stny.rr.com) or me if you know of a good location as we are looking to hold them in two new areas. In addition, a textbook fund is set up to purchase student text books (the two series covered in the TAP's). Teachers can use this to get the quantity price break on small purchases.

The schedules for the World Bridge Series at the Philadelphia Marriott from October 1 to October 16, 2010, and the concurrent 16 day Philadelphia Regional are posted on the District 4 website. Start planning now to attend at least some of the events. We – District 4 – will need to provide volunteers for partnership, Vugraph, and probably registration.

With the addition of the World Bridge Series there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the game of bridge at any skill level. Please check this newsletter and the District 4 website for the tournaments and schedules. I look forward to seeing you and to making all of our tournaments a success. Play bridge and have fun!

ATTENTION TEACHERS

The District is stocking some beginner text books to be able to provide quantity discounts to teachers who purchase smaller amounts for their classes. For more information or to order contact Mary Poplawski at mpoplawski@stny.rr.com or Bill Bauer at William.baueriii@verizon.net.



DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CRAIG ROBINSON



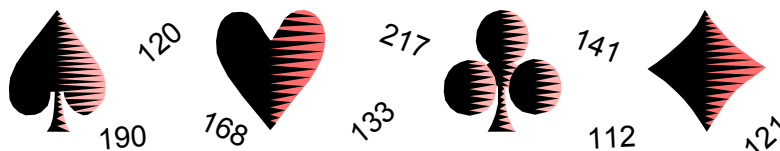
The World Bridge Championships are coming to the United States. The World Bridge Championships are coming to District 4. The World Bridge Championships are coming to Philadelphia, October 1st through the 16th 2010. All these events are open to everyone. But if you would prefer to win masterpoints, there will be a 16-day (might be the longest in ACBL history) regional running parallel to the World Championships.

Many of the World events will be on BBO, so we will need vu-graph operators to volunteer. A vu-graph operator gets a table side seat and has to record every bid and then the play of every card into a computer. If you are interested in volunteering for this or some other activity during the tournament, let me know.

The regional will have knock-outs starting everyday at 10:30 and 3:30. On Saturday the 2nd and 9th and on Wednesday the 6th and 13th there will be an event called the Golden Opportunity Pairs. These are two pair events, one of which is (0-3000 and 3000+) and the other event is (0-300 and 300-750). This is a pair event where newer players can win gold points. All of the overall awards are gold. So if you enjoy matchpoint games, this is a game where the newer players have a legitimate chance to win gold points.

The World Championships schedule is as follows: October 2nd- Mixed Pairs – Qualifying rounds 1 & 2; October 3rd- Mixed Pairs – Qualifying 3 & Final 1, Mixed Pairs Palate 1; October 4th – Mixed Pairs – Final 2 & 3, Mixed Pairs Palate 2 & 3; October 5th thru 7th – Rosenblum (open) Teams & McConnell (ladies) Teams round robin; October 8th – Rosenblum (64), McConnell (32), Swiss Palate, Senior Teams; October 9th – Rosenblum (32), McConnell (16), Senior Teams, Open & Ladies Pairs Qualifying 1 & 2; October 10th – Rosenblum (16) McConnell (8) Senior Teams Open & Ladies Pairs Qualifying 3 & 4; October 11th – Rosenblum (8), McConnell (Semi), Senior Teams, Open & Ladies Pairs Qual 5 Semifinal 1; October 12th – Rosenblum (Semi), McConnell (Final), Open & Ladies Pairs Semifinal 2 & 3, Senior & IMP Pairs Qualifying 1 & 2; October 13th – Rosenblum (Final), Open & Ladies Pairs Semifinal 4 & 5, Senior & IMP Pairs Qualifying 3 & 4; October 14th – Open & Ladies Pairs & Senior & IMP Pairs Final 1 & 2, Mixed Swiss Teams Qualifying 1 & 2; October 15th – Open & Ladies Pairs & Senior & IMP Pairs Final 3 & 4, Mixed Teams Qualifying 3 & Final 1; October 16th – Open & Ladies Pairs & IMP Pairs Final 5, Mixed Teams Final 2; Also the Youth Team Championship will run from the 10th to the 16th and the Youth Individual will run from the 14th to the 16th.

From The Four Corners



CENTRAL NEW YORK 112

www.acblunit112.org

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Congratulations to new Life Masters Judy Everts, Marcia Hume and John Lute; new Bronze Life Masters Joan Walbourn, Ted Walbourn, James Carroll and Emily Rankin; new Silver Life Masters Norma Deambra, Richard Muse, Joann Williams, Sam Mehta and Elizabeth Way; new Gold Life Masters Sally Hill and Jim Bridges. Also, congratulations to new Junior Masters George Morgan, Cathy Pasztor, Barbara Heller, Paul Hoffower, Kathleen Kingston, Roger Newell, David Snepenger, Kathy George, Harry Hood, Luann Mongelli, Mary Snepenger and Barbara Thomson; new Club Masters Marjorie Burch, David Klem, George Riehle, Diane Smith, Marilyn Bell, Chick Corletta, Anita Frech, Judy Poltenson, Jolyon Bloomfield, Kathy Brick, Jeanne Lawler, Chen Li and John North-

rop; new Sectional Masters Lil Oeinich, Tibor Guthin, Donald Landenberger, Marie McCarthy, Milton Sack and Carolyn Case; new Regional Masters Patricia Hansen, Elizabeth Robinson, Jane Romal, Todd Consilio, Carol Ginsky, Sheila Horowitch and Ray LaBarron; new NABC Masters Steve Dennis, Sue Barocas, Dominic Colucci, Dr. Jonathan Forde, Jeffery King, Ivan Montgomery, Thomas Mulgrew and Gerry Ride.

There are 1194 members in Unit 112 comprised of 123 Rookies (0-5), 125 Junior Masters (5+), 184 Club Masters (20+), 141 Sectional Masters (50+), 145 Regional Masters (100+), 78 NABC Masters (200+), 56 Life Masters, 157 Bronze Life Master, 152 Silver Life Masters, 27 Gold Life Masters, 4 Diamond Life Masters, 1 Platinum Life Master and 1 Grand Life Master.

The Syracuse Winter Sectional will be January 8-10, 2010. The Unit 112 STaC will be February 15-20, 2010. The Rochester Spring Sectional will be

March 5-7, 2010.

Dan Boye won the NAP Flight A Finals and with his partner will represent District 4 at the National ACBL finals in Reno.



NORTHEASTERN PA 120

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As the new Unit 120 correspondent to the *4Spot*, let me first extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to my predecessor. **Joann Mauger's** messages have appeared in this space for many, many years. She has set the bar high for her successor. I would appreciate unit members e-mailing me items of information from their local areas so we can disseminate such news to a wider audience.

Newest Life Master: Kudos to **Karen Wessell**, our newest Life Master! She corralled those final elusive gold points despite playing with her long-time partner and spouse, **Dave**, in the Black Eyed Susan pairs at the recent Ocean City Regional. Dave is a dedicated board member, chairing our annual Jeanne Liese Tourney in April, and the Wessells never miss a unit sectional.

New Ranks: Junior Master:

Maxine Libenson, Sam Argento, Barbara Herkner, Sandra Pansick, Seymone Pansick, Rosemary Caputo, Jane Jones, Louis Russo, Chris Lacy; Club Master: Barbara Green, Diane Bradshaw, Mary Hanlon, Barbara Krassalt, William Menche, Daniel Higgins, Gary Hillenbrand, John Powell, Barbara Smith, Judith Stillinger, Beth Travis, Ethel Golo, Barbara Levy, Patrick McDonough, Sectional Master: Helen Tanski, Mary Donahue, Ellen Meade, Annie Menche, Joan Rittenberg, Connie Stern, Jody Sorrell, Emily Trunzo, Jane Feinstein, June Golubock, Clara Kelly, Carol Nogi, Stella Schub, Regional Master: Sue Kluger, Mike Dudek, Ruth Orth, Leslie Sloan, NABC Master: Mary Beth Gower, Sondra Kaufman; Bronze Life Master: Steve Mansour; Silver Life Master: Mike Whitaker.

Recent Results: **Jim Mazeika & Mary Tragis** from Honesdale came in fourth overall in the NAP Flight "C" District Championships, and they almost didn't play! Bet they're glad now that their hometown director, Fay Pacchioli, talked them into participating. **Judy Argento & Ray Depew** teamed with Mary Ann Churba & Ed Bissell to finish third in the Sunday Swiss at the Williamsport Sectional. Judy &

Ray also led all Unit 120 players with more than 11 MPs at the October Sectional in Kingston. **Dr. Eugene Stec** and his partner took top honors at a special EOTC charity game held recently in Scranton. The unit "pair to watch", **Phyllis Brandes and Jill Fragen**, took first place in Flight C in the same event. And **Len Gellman** of Wilkes-Barre was 25th among all participants in the recent Lancaster Regional, amassing a total of nearly 56 MPs!

Members Honored & Remembered: **George Marcy**, longtime director of the Tuesday Open game at the Scranton JCC, was honored for his years of service before stepping aside for **Dave Meyer** and **George Mansour**. Marcy also manages the North-eastern PA Bridge website. We also note with sadness the passing of four long-time Unit 120 players: **Edna Marie Bierne, June Golubock, Edna Lane and Honor Mark**.

A Final Thought... Treat your partner kindly; she may be the only person willing to play with you!



✂

 : Articles & ads for the :
 : next 4Spot (March 2010) :
 : are due February 1, 2010. :

 ✂

BERKS MONTGOMERY 121

www.unit121bridge.com

Sue Wessner

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Our Fall Sectional was held in September with Albert Bingham, Jr. winning the Masterpoint Race. Doris Sharpe, our sectional Coordinator, did her usual outstanding job. Many thanks to Doris for her dedication and hard work. October 11th was our Annual Hawley Quier Memorial BAM. The winning team was Jack Berry, Bill Sedlis, Greg Kiddy and Sue Wessner. Please mark your calendars for our winter Sectional, which will be held February 12-15, 2010 finishing on President's Day Monday. For more information check our website or the ACBL calendar.

Congratulations to the following people who have achieved new ranks: Junior Master: Carl Yerger; Club Master: Jean Yerger, Steven Burkey and Anna Mattern; Sectional Master: Doreen Penczer; Regional Master: Isabelle & Luke Moyer; NABC Master: Emily Troutman; Life Master: Mary Jo Cannizzaro; Emerald Life Master: Tom Weik. Special congratulations go to three of our Unit members who won at the NAP District Qualifier

in Allentown: Tom Weik, Albert Bingaman & Barry Gorski.



LEHIGH VALLEY 133

www.lvbabridge.org

Dave Kresge

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The Monday afternoon game and the Wednesday afternoon game which were held at the Allentown Jewish Community Center will be moved effective 16 November to Brith Sholom Temple on 1160 W. Macada Road in Bethlehem. This will be a very convenient site with easy access for players in western Lehigh County as well as players from eastern Northampton County and everyone in between. The Monday game will start at 11:00 AM and the Wednesday game will start at 12:30 PM. The games will be directed by Ed Spitzer, Frank Kuebler, and John Schwartz. If anyone needs further information or directions, please contact Ed Spitzer 610-867-6575 or email paynespitzer@hotmail.com.

Valerie Barber hosted a farewell and thank you for retiring directors Don & Bettie McLean at the last game at the JCC on 11 November.

Upcoming unit games are a pro-am team game on Sunday 13 De-

cember at 1:00 PM, a charity pairs game on Sunday 17 January at 2:00 PM, the annual soupier bowl charity game on Sunday 7 February at 2:00 PM, and a team game on Sunday 21 March at 2:00 PM. All games are at the Lehigh County Senior Citizen's Center in Allentown.

Congratulations to unit members Madison Morgan and Samuel Litzenberger for finishing second in the district Flight C North American Pairs, thereby qualifying for the Nationals. Congratulations to Peter Stoyanov for becoming Bronze Life Master. Special congratulations to the unit's newest Life Masters, Amal Chatterjee, Ronald Hutchinson, Jeanne Keubler and Samuel Litzenberger.



PCBA 141

www.philadelphiabridge.info

John Marks

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A Web Site has now been set up for the Valley Forge Regional Tournament. A special thanks to Joann Glasson and Harold Jordan for work, time and effort they put forth in establishing the web site. You can visit the web site at www.valleyforgeregional.org. The web site is also linked to the

District web site, Unit 141 web site and the ACBL Tournament Calendar on the ACBL web site.

Craig Robinson, Joann Glas-son, JoAnn and Danny Sprung and I are busily working together with other high ranking mem-bers of the ACBL and WBF set-ting up the 2010 World Series Bridge Series Championship for October 2010. A regional tour-nament will run parallel with the WBF events. For more informa-tion consult either the District 4 or Unit 141 web sites. Philadel-phia will also host the Summer NABC in July of 2012.

Barry Gorski (19.51), Bill Parks (19.18) and Abe Pineles (12.46) were the top players at the Sep-tember Sectional. Bill Parks (21.58), Jay Apfelbaum (20.02) and Meyer Kotkin (19.28) were the top players at the October Sectional.

Elections for a third of the Unit 141 Board of Directors will take place during the January Sectional at the Crescent Shrine, 700 Highland Drive, Westamp-ton, NJ, January 8 to 10, 2010. The Winter Sectional will be held at the Knights of Columbus, Glenside, PA on February 6 – 8, 2010. See ad on Page 25.

The following are important future dates to remember: 2010 Philadelphia Regional at Valley

Forge Convention Center, July 12 to 18. 2010 World Bridge Federa-tion at Marriott in Center City Philadelphia, October 1 to 16. 2011 Philadelphia Regional at Val-ley Forge Convention Center, Au-gust 22 to 28. 2011 Philadelphia Regional at Valley Forge Conven-tion Center, March 5 to 11. 2012 Philadelphia Summer NABC July 12 to 22.



CENTRAL PENN 168

<http://web2.acbl.org/hooster/units/unit168/index.htm>

Kelly Zeller

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Hello again Unit 168 Members! Hopefully, everyone has their winter clothes unpacked because you'll need the warm gear to at-tend these events; Harrisburg Sectional 12/4-12/6 at the Harris-burg Bridge Club with the Annual Unit Members Meeting on Sun-day 12/6 after the Swiss. Dinner is provided. Also, the Harrisburg Sectional 1/29 - 1/31/2010 at the Holiday Inn in New Cumberland. Please keep in mind when you are attending any Bridge function and you are discussing the hands, it is very important to do this away from the table and the playing area. Bridge is a competitive game and it is very easy to get

“caught up” in the competition and make comments about the hands not realizing that others in the room may be placed in an “awkward” position by overhearing these comments. Although this may be unintentional by all parties, we must remember that in order for Bridge to remain a “fair” competition, everyone must have an “equal” opportunity to explore the hands as unknown with no prior information. One of the reasons that we are drawn to the Bridge table is the mystery of the game; the continual challenge of bidding, declaring/defending a hand with the information that we receive during the auction and the rewarding/humbling feeling you experience after the hand is over. Everyone should be allowed to make choices without inferences in order for them to feel rewarded for masterful play or that all familiar humbled feeling that comes with the knowledge that we should’ve made better choices. For example, that feeling of elation when you make a contract that appeared to be doomed from the beginning or how about that awful feeling of your face growing warm, knowing that you made an unfortunate decision while looking for your sunglasses to hide from the glare of your partner or better yet feeling like you should crawl under

the table! If this brings a smile to your face, you probably know what I’m talking about!!! So keep smiling and hope to see you at the tables.



DELAWARE 190

www.unit190.org

Marie Filandro

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filandro@aol.com

Unit 190 has several events during the month of December. Non-life masters will enjoy the annual Holiday NLM Sectional scheduled for December 2 until December 6 at the Bridge Studio. Lots of silver points available! Then on Sunday, December 13, the DSBA will hold its annual Holiday Party, which is combined with a unit open pairs two-session championship this year. Finally, the Dave Treadwell Sectional is scheduled for December 27 through December 31. All events will take place at the Bridge Studio of Delaware. Information about them is on the DSBA website.

Don’t miss our Blue Hen Sectional set for February 26 - February 28 also at the Bridge Studio. See Page 29. This sectional will feature a new event, Swiss Pairs. And plan ahead for the DELAWARE 2010 REGIONAL,

April 26 - May 2. The event has been relocated to the Holiday Inn, located at I-95 and Naaman's Road. Hopefully, players all along the I-95 corridor will find it convenient to drive to. Check our unit website for additional information.

We are all very proud to announce that Marie and Tom Grabowski have been appointed lifetime members of the ACBL's National Goodwill Committee. Both were recognized for their enthusiastic support for goodwill, at both our local club and at tournaments. Everyone who knows them appreciates what a well deserved honor this is for them.

We are also proud of our members who did well in the District 4 NAP. In Flight A Rick Rowland placed third with partner Craig Robinson. Flight B was won by Anne & Monty Taylor; Chris Marlow and Andy Muenz placed third. Mary Boyd and Peter Harris won Flight C; Linda Regan and Laurie Shelton were third.

Unit elections took place in September. The DSBA Board of Directors officers are Alan Horowitz, President; Jeff Ruben, Vice-President; Ward Schaumberg, Treasurer; Harold Jordan, Secretary; and Past President Anne Taylor. Members are Bill

Everitt, Marie Filandro, Mike Mocella, Richard Popper, Barbara Rhoades, Rick Rowland, Jess Stuart and Carl & Trina Williams. Thanks to Bruce Gwaltney who has agreed to join the Board to fill the position of Mary Pat McCrossin. Mary Pat and her husband, Ed, are relocating to Florida. They have done a fabulous job of teaching bridge to newcomers to the game. We wish them well as they leave, but will sincerely miss them.

As always, congratulations to our players who have advanced in rank. Jane Drevo is a new Life Master. Bill Everitt, Tom Hughes, Carolyn Price, Sydney Spruance, Nancy Steele and David Venetianer are new Bronze Life Masters. Joe DeColli, Nancy Jose, Kathleen Miller, Bridgett Pitt, Lou Tobia and Gladys White are all new Silver Life Masters.



SUSQUEHANNA 217

<http://unit217.nepab.com/>

Jacqueline Humilovich

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psu4814@verizon.net

Unit 217 members have been involved in a variety of activities over the past few

months. The State College Bridge Club participated in the Jane Johnson Club Appreciation team games. Club members played on Swiss teams with pairs being matched as teammates through random drawings. The games were well attended and provided a unique competition for the players.

Tim LeVan offered Bridge Basics 1, where he presented components of Audrey Grant's Bridge Series at the Williamsport Bridge House.

The Susquehanna Sectional Bridge Tournament was held October 23-25 at the Williamsport Bridge House. Once again, the tournament was a great success. Vera Peters and Connie Bamer ensured that partnerships were established. The Hospitality Committee of Peg Herz, Judy Stein, Ann Day, Lois Wentzler, Sandy Gilbert and others provided a delicious array of homemade treats. A board meeting and general membership meeting were held on Sunday. Sue Pierce announced that the Board of Directors will remain the same, and that amendments to the by-laws will be available at both the Williamsport and State College Bridge Clubs. The "Spring Out of Winter" Sectional has been permanently moved from Danville to Williamsport. The dates for the 2010 sectional tournaments have been set and are as follows: Spring

Out of Winter Tournament at Williamsport, March 26-28; State College Sectional June 11-13; Susquehanna Sectional at Williamsport September 10-12.

The results of the tournament Oct. 23-25 are: Friday Afternoon: Flight A/ Antonio Bersani & Gene Waltz: Flight B/ Sue Pierce & James Pierce: Flight C/ Helen Shaffer & Lorraine Lecce. Friday Evening: A/ Antonio Bersani & Gene Waltz: B/ Michael Anesko & Betsy Eliot: C/ David Marcello & George Lepley. Saturday AM: A/ Ed Bissell & Mary Ann Churba: B/ Virginia Marshall & Cary Breech: C/ John Watts & E. Jane Watts. Saturday Evening: A/ Antonio Bersani & Gene Waltz: B/ David Hoover & Nancy Pfeiffer. Sunday Swiss Teams: A/ Carol Reitz, Jim McKeown, Kevin Burns, Jess Goodman: B/ Bonnie Elgar, William Elgar, Everett Weiermiller, Shirley Weiermiller. The overall Masterpoint Race Top Finishers: 12.48 Gene Waltz, 12.48 Antonio Bersani, 11.12 Jess Goodman.

Best wishes to all of our members for a happy and healthy holiday season!



DISTRICT 4 MASTER SOLVERS CLUB

NICK STRAGUZZI, GUEST DIRECTOR

Henry Bethe is recuperating from an injury, so yours truly is filling in at the helm of the venerable D4MSC this month. Though my ~~reign of terror~~ directorship will be a brief one, I hope to make it entertaining. I've asked my friend, collaborator, and The Bridge World MSC director, Danny Kleinman to serve as a guest panelist. Acknowledgements: Problem 1 is from Fred Neuberger, Problem 2 is from Everett Young, Problem 3 is from Janebell Crowe, and for the sad story behind Problem 5, see the text.

METHODS ARE 2/1 WITH "WALSH"

1. IMPS, N-S VUL., DEALER NORTH

♠-3 ♥-Q9732 ♦-AQ1085 ♣-53

West	North	East	South
--	1♣	1♠	Dbf
2♠	Pass	Pass	??

CALL	PANEL	SLVRS	AWARD
Double	6	8	20
Pass	5	4	18
3♦	2	5	15
2NT	2	0	8
3♥	0	2	8

We begin with what the British call an "apricot sundae" – a red, sticky, unappetizing mess. Still, holding a 5-5 eight-count opposite a vulnerable opening bid, selling out to two spades isn't exactly mouthwatering, either. Should we go quietly or soldier on?

BETHE: Pass. No known fit and only half the deck. 'Nuff said.

BOYE: Double. How can this be wrong? 5-5 in the reds and not selling out.

ROBINSON: 3♦. I have looked at this and I can't see a problem.

When three of our District's best players call this a no-brainer but arrive at different answers, you know it's a toughie. Most respondents expressed at least a little bit of apprehension about their call.

KOHLER: Pass. At IMPs, and red vs. black, I considered 3♦, but that risks –200 or more against a 2♠ contract that might not even make.

TEUKOLSKYS: Double. Partner may still not bid a three-card suit, but all other possible calls look worse. The hand is too good to pass.

SHAPIRO: 3♦. I can't sell out, even at IMPs, and I'll try to get most of my red cards into the auction without implying too much strength. Partner is allowed to correct to hearts with the wrong hand for diamonds.

KLEINMAN: Pass. No way to tell to which side this deal belongs, so –110 or +50 looks possible. +110 or +140 is also possible if I bid 3♦ (the most plausible alternative), but –200 or worse also looms.

RASKIN: Double. Wish I had bid 2♥ over 1♠.

BROWNE: 3♦. I have enough to bid freely (my points being in my long suits). I'm hoping that partner corrects to hearts with no diamond support, or returns to what must be a lo-o-ong club suit if he hates both of my suits.

Reasonable arguments, all. Nobody ever said that bridge was easy. Ready for a few more rounds?

GLASSONS: Pass. Vulnerable at IMPs, we'll let them steal. Partner probably

has four spades, but we are not good enough to double, and although our two five card suits are appealing, we don't want to guess at the three level.

DYE: Double. Partner rates to have four spades. If they are good ones he will pass and I will lead a spade; if they are poor, he will take out. (I will convert 3♣ to 3♦ and force a choice of red suits).

L. HARRIS: 3♦. If the opponents bid to 3♠ and partner doubles, I certainly would sit for the double.

MARLOW: Pass. Unfavorable vulnerability, no guarantee of a fit, and it's IMPs. Partner is likely to have four spades and could easily be 4=2=2=5, giving us a fair chance at setting the opponents while we cannot make anything ourselves.

NEUBURGER: Double. Crime goes unpunished every day, but if you sell out with 12 non-spades and two five-card suits, you'll know why you lose at IMPs. Partner could even be 3=2=2=6 and wishing he never opened, but we rate to have some playable and un-doubling three-level contract.

WACHSMAN: 3♦. Partner knows I have at least a four-card heart suit and may need to know of my diamond strength to bid 3NT.

Whoa, Dave. 3NT? Call me unadventurous, but I'd be happy with any plus score at this point. At least two other intrepid souls, however, aren't ready to give up on the brass ring:

ROCK: 3♥. Although my diamonds are better, partner is more likely to have three hearts than three diamonds. Partner knows I was too weak to make a forcing bid so he will be careful. He probably has spades and may be able to double if they compete further.

RUBEN: 3♥. The bid that is most likely to get us to our game if we have one, in

spite of the bad hearts. I want to show a five-card suit so that partner will know to raise with three-card support in an appropriate hand. If partner has something like ace-queen-low of spades and a doubleton heart, I won't mind his bidding 3NT.

Some Solvers raised system questions:

L. HARRIS (CONT.): ...A case can be made for 3♦ as forcing or non-forcing. Here, I think it should be non-forcing.

NUCKOLS: Double. I don't want to sell out. If I had a negative double before, I should still have it now. I hope North is on the same wavelength.

No worries. A negative double followed by a new suit is a limited action in standard methods. And, you can't double the same suit for takeout on one round and pure penalty the next. Still, a second double means more than, "Err, partner, perhaps you didn't hear me the first time?" We seem to be short of the extra high-card and defensive values it ought to deliver, particularly as partner may have little option except to pass.

Personally, I happen to like this call:

SPRUNGS: 2NT. Takeout. If this isn't takeout, we'd try 3♦. Wrong shape to double again.

Wrong strength, too. Even undiscussed, I'd be tempted to bid 2NT for takeout opposite an expert partner – as Larry Cohen observes, who wants to play 2NT after the opponents have bid and raised a suit? Alas, more rational heads on the panel correctly toss a bucket of cold water on Danny, JoAnn and me:

GOLDBERG: Pass. My first impulse was to bid 2NT, takeout. But without agreement, 2NT should be natural. It's perfectly reasonable to pass; we have at most a part-score and we're vulnerable.

SHAPIRO (CONT.): ... It would be nice if 2NT were some kind of scramble, one that would let partner rebid a six-card club suit that you'd pass in your fantasies, but it isn't. It's natural, unless you've agreed to the contrary.

Hmph. Party-poopers. The last and possibly best word on this thorny problem goes to:

GRECO: Pass. First of all, partner should always bid 3♥ with four, because I've shown some values with my initial negative double. The only other option in my opinion is 3♦, non-forcing, but I wish I had six for this because partner has no reason to correct to hearts with 3-1 in the reds. The problem with [a second] double is that I dramatically overstate my values. If North bids 2NT or 3♣ and I bid 3♦, it shows invitational strength, which I am far short of.

Well stated. Perhaps taking the low road here is best after all. I'd love to compete, but I don't want to risk defending against 2♠ doubled at IMPs. And if I bid 3♦, partner should play me for exactly four hearts and five or six diamonds, so we'll wind up in the wrong strain too often. 2NT looks better and better all the time, save for the minor technicality that it shows a completely different hand in our system than the one I happen to hold. I suppose Raskin has a point: if our intention all along was to overbid in order to show our shape, maybe we should have chanced 2♥ over 1♠.

Lastly, a note about the scoring: because the Panelists split about evenly among bidders, passers, and doublers, I used the Solvers' vote to break the logjam. Hence, double earned the top award.

2. IMPs, E-W VUL., DEALER EAST

♠-K10974 ♥-Q9653 ♦-5 ♣-Q7

West	North	East	South
--	--	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	??

CALL	PANEL	SLVRS	AWARD
Pass	12	11	20
4♦	3	8	12

Well, do you or don't you? Three Panelists and a good chunk of the Solvers took the plunge:

BOYE: 4♦. Yes, I come in.

No surprise here; Dan thinks the green cards in his bidding box are only there to provide color contrast. Still, if I had his success with those ultra-aggressive bids (and my partner could play a dummy as well as he), I might consider coming in too.

NEUBERGER: 4♦. Hopefully, if partner has a four-card major we can hold this in, and even if they go on to 4NT, partner will lead a major. Two five-card suits are very powerful.

ROBINSON: 4♦. You are trying to sucker me into bidding. The vulnerability is favorable, I am having a boring match that needs some excitement, and any missing diamonds are onside, so here goes.

DYE: 4♦. My lack of aces persuades me they are set to take nine fast tricks. At these colors we likely have a cheap save, or perhaps a make (whether or not West is attempting a theft!)

LANDENBERGER: 4♦. You have the majors, and you can't defend against 3NT.

ROCK: 4♦. Why didn't I bid this right away with favorable vulnerability? [Words fail me -NS] Should be a good sac to be in, whichever major partner picks. Partner should have some points on this deal.

L. HARRIS: 4♦. This is a bid that could be spectacularly successful or unsuccessful. West's 3NT should obviously be to make. Give partner a 10 HCP hand and I do not think we will be hurt too badly. Give her an ace, ace, and king in three suits and we could be gold.

Memo to self: ask Lynn where she shops for partners. Mine never turn up with dummies like that.

Everyone else, including a sizable majority of the panel, chooses to remain safely on shore.

RASKIN: Pass. Too easy to go for a number or catch partner with just enough to stop them from making.

TEUKOLSKYS (with APFELBAUM similarly): Pass. You could go for your life in four of a major. It seems that the wisest option is to pass and hope they go down.

FILANDRO: Pass. Partner is allowed to be 2=2=3=6 or 2=2=2=7. FYI: I only pull to a major over this type of 3NT with a six-card or longer suit.

GLASSONS: Pass. We cannot imagine bidding with this hand. West could be loaded with major suit cards.

BETHE: Pass. The only excuse for bidding would be an out-of-tempo partner, which should force a pass.

SHAPIRO: Pass. Mouse.

You're not the only one squeaking.

MARLOW: Pass. This looks closer to -1100 than a good sacrifice to me.

NUCKOLS: Pass. They might make it; they might not. I do have a little help in clubs, which is what partner is (probably) about to lead.

FOSTER: Pass. In my view, an easy decision.

HICKES: Pass. If 4♦ works, maybe partner finds a killing major-suit lead.

Expounding on Bob's point is:

KLEINMAN: Pass. I won't assume that they're making 3NT. My opponents aren't always in the right contract, and East's preempt has given West a guess. East may be weaker in diamonds than West expects, or a bad split may be dooming 3NT. And who is to say that partner won't have ace-king-jack-low in hearts and out, allowing us to take the first five heart tricks with 4♥ our way going down two (doubled)?

Several felt that the decision was a close one:

GOLDBERG: Pass. If I had to lead, I'd be more apt to bid.

GRECO: Pass. Very close to 4♦. The decision may come down to the state of match or whether I think I am an underdog or favorite. The key point here is that even when it is right to bid, the opponents will almost always do the right thing and can still bid to 4NT, or 5♦ (or 6♦) [or even 6♣ - NS] when I am taking a 300 save into their 660 or 600.

WACHSMAN: Pass. My initial thought was to bid 4♦ in search of a major suit save. However, I would hate to go back to my teammates and explain how my aggressive action caused the opponents to reach a makeable 6♦ slam. At matchpoints I look for a save - not IMPs.

RUBEN: 4♦. Very close to passing, since it would be just like my partner to hold a 2=2=3=6 six-count, and there is no guarantee that 3NT is making. However, I will be optimistic and hope to find partner with three or four cards in one of the majors and a few points.

Count me in with the mice. At these colors, West isn't playing games. He has the best hand at the table but his partner preempted him, forcing him to guess. True, from the looks of our hand, he might have guessed correctly, but that's far from certain. What is certain, however, is that West

is much more likely to go right after we chime in about our weak two-suiter. If it's right to double us, he'll double; if it's right to bid on, he'll bid (and as Greco noted, on a really bad day that bid might even be a cold slam). Moreover, if the opponents' diamonds are the equivalent of ace-jack-ten-seventh opposite king-low, declarer will now pick up the suit without breaking a sweat.

No, tempting as it might be to play the hero, I think 4♦ is a very undisciplined call, and you'd never catch any of my partners making it....

BROWNE: Pass. I can't imagine bidding. Whatever suit partner is about to lead, I have help for.

B. COHEN: 4♦. East's preempt at unfavorable vulnerability should include seven good diamonds that will likely run, so I'll gamble on a sacrifice. If partner delivers six or seven cards in the majors, we should have a decent result. If I'm wrong and I'm playing with Nick, that would be two mistakes for the day.

(*Sigh*) Oh well, one out of two ain't bad.

3. MPs, BOTH VUL., DEALER NORTH

	♠-QJ1062	♥-QJ1052	♦-Q9	♣-Q
West	North	East	South	
--	1♣	1♦	1♠	
2♦	Pass	Pass	??	
CALL	PANEL	SLVRS	AWARD	
2♥	15	17	20	
3♥	0	1	8	
4♥	0	1	5	

Sadly, this problem turned out to be a bit of a dud. Everyone sees the vulnerability, the Quick-Trickless wonder, and the looming misfit, but everyone

bids regardless. Matchpoints plus majors equals "Move!"

BOYE (with DYE and the SPRUNGS similarly puzzled): 2♥. I re-read the problem several times, unsure why this was part of the set. But I guess my score will show me why.

TEUKOLSKYS: 2♥. The hand has enough playing strength to show the second suit.

FILANDRO: 2♥. A slight overbid, but 10 HCPs (plus two tens and a nine) makes a three-card raise or a 2NT bid "OK". A reopening double would allow a not "OK" 3♣ bid by partner.

KOHLER: 2♥. Assuming we are playing Support Doubles in this sequence [we are, per Henry in Autumn's Problem 3 -NS], partner may still have a heart fit with good clubs.

KLEINMAN (with the GLASSONS in tow, minus the mysticism): 2♥. "Suits and Shape Compete", a mantra I learned on my second pilgrimage to the mountains of Tibet from Maharish Mahesh Daniel. Too bad if I should have a better hand, but the alternative, passing, is worse.

You get the idea. As Raskin observes, this hand is worth a lot less than its face value of 10 points, but no red-blooded bridge player is selling out to two diamonds. Still, there were a few areas of disagreement to be found...

GRECO (supported by L. HARRIS): 2♥. This is non-forcing. You must double with a good hand here.

Me arguing bidding theory with Eric is like Jessica Simpson arguing astrophysics with Stephen Hawking. Nevertheless, I think he's mistaken. With a handful of well-known exceptions, a new suit below game by an unlimited responder is a one-round force. We all learned that by lunchtime the first Monday in "Five Weeks To Winning

Bridge." I agree that one can make a good case for adding this auction to the exceptions list (analogous to, say, 1♠-1♠; 1NT-2♥), but not without clueing in partner first. Agreeing:

BETHE: 2♥. I think this is a one-round force, but that's okay.

ROCK: 2♥. This is forcing and describes my shape but not my point count. I will pass any non-forcing bid by partner.

SHAPIRO: 2♥. This is a forcing bid, but only for one round and it doesn't guarantee a rebid, so partner will not temporize. On this hand, I'd like it to be non-forcing, just invitational, but I haven't played it that way in decades.

Of course, this begs the question: if 2♥ is a one-round force, what does a jump-shift mean?

RUBEN: 3♥. Shows this type of hand, I hope. Partner should know what to do.

I think Jeff means this as invitational rather than preemptive – with this nutty hand, it's hard to tell. As with Greco's suggestion, I suppose I could live with this treatment, particularly as we have a 3♦ cue-bid available, but I wouldn't spring it on an unsuspecting partner. He would probably interpret 2♥ followed by 3♥ as a game-try and a direct 3♥ as a game force. Marlow called the 2♥ vs. 3♥ decision "close", and Neuberger and L. Harris pondered it too. Going for the Full Monty:

WACHSMAN: 4♥. With a seven-loser hand, I want to force partner to choose the correct major-suit game.

If game is on, it's hard to imagine we'd miss it after bidding 2♥.

As for the secondary question Henry posed regarding the initial 1♠ response, there were few objectors. Kleinman, Nuckols, and the Glassons

would have preferred a negative double. Dye pointed out that 1♠ does not promise five (because a negative double of 1♦ guarantees at least four cards in each major), but he and Browne agreed that their subsequent 2♥ categorically shows a 5-5 or better hand. Raskin called 1♠ "fairly clear", Greco and Bethe said it was "automatic", Shapiro termed it "totally normal" and (my favorite) Goldberg called it "peachy." Summing it all up while planning his meld is:

NUCKOLS: 2♥. I painted myself into this corner by bidding 1♠ instead of doubling. My 2♥ bid ought to be forcing, so we're likely about to get overboard. I hope my 60 queens turn out to be worth as much at bridge.

4. IMPs, NONE VUL., DEALER SOUTH

♠-QJ865 ♥-KQ ♦-J54 ♣-KJ5

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♠
2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	??

CALL	PANEL	SLVRS	AWARD
3NT	8	13	20
4♣	4	4	15
3♠	2	1	12
3♥	1	1	10

NEUBERGER: 3♠. What did partner do in his previous life, torture puppies?

Indeed, North can consider himself off my Christmas card list. While we're all used to difficult problems here in the D4MSC, I can't recall a previous one in which every option was this wretched. How did we get into this mess in the first place? Quite a few believe they know the answer:

KLEINMAN: 3NT. Hoping that partner has a partial stopper. But why did I

open this balanced 11-HCP hand? Playing with a partner I respect, I would have passed as dealer.

SHAPIRO: 3NT. Almost under protest, as this isn't worth an opening 1♠ bid in a system where our next strongest suit opening is 2♣. 3♦ is game-forcing, I think, so I'll bid the cheapest game and see if partner has more to say.

ROBINSON: 3NT. Another 'I hate Henry hand'! Jacks shouldn't count as one point. I would like to pass originally. Sounds like partner would like me to bid 3NT with a diamond stopper. Jack-third is close, I'll see if it works.

Even Henry hates Henry on this one:

BETHE: 3NT. Although I probably would have passed this in first position. Shades of Al Roth.

WACHSMAN: 3NT. Partner needs help in diamonds and I have some help. I would never have opened 1♠ as my hand lacks two Quick Tricks and has eight losers.

FOSTER: 4♣. This predicament is what I deserve for opening this rag!

NUCKOLS: 3NT. Ugh. I would not have opened this hand. I know I don't have a diamond stopper, but I can't pass, 3♥ is impossible without three, and I refuse to rebid this spade suit again. I suppose 4♣ is possible, but I'm hoping that partner is about to clarify the situation.

L. Harris also wouldn't have opened, and Ruben wishes he hadn't. Goldberg called 1♠ "only mildly nauseating" at these colors, though like Kleinman she adds up her HCP and arrives at an adjusted total of 11. Personally, I know I ought to pass this dreck in first seat, but sometimes the lure of landing an early blow in spades will override my better instincts. At any rate, here we are at 3♦. What

now? And what exactly is partner showing or denying?

LANDENBERGER: 3NT. A gamble, betting that partner is describing a hand that has diamonds well and truly stopped, plus strength in the unbid suits. If something else is going on, at least you have described your hand.

KOHLER: 3NT. Assuming that partner is looking for a partial diamond stopper.

RUBEN: 4♣. Yuck. I believe that partner is asking for a full diamond stopper, and I don't have one. Just because East didn't raise doesn't mean that West can't have AKQxx(x). I am not bidding that spade suit a third time or bidding hearts with a doubleton.

So partner has a stopper, or half a stopper, or no stopper at all. Splendid. Mind you, I have no clue either. I think a Western cue bid should initially mean only, "I have a game-going hand with no clear direction. Do something intelligent over there." The majority of Panelists and Solvers alike interpret intelligence to mean:

ROCK: 3NT. Partner has made a strong bid and asked me to further describe my hand. If we have game, it is probably 3NT so I bid it with a partial stopper. My only alternative is to bid 3♠, but I have already bid spades one more time than I would have liked.

RASKIN: 3NT. If partner wants help in the diamond suit, this is my only chance to show it.

MARLOW: 3NT. The lesser of evils. If we have a game, notrump seems the best bet despite our lack of controls. Maybe partner has something like:

♠xx ♥Axxx ♦Qx ♣AQxxx.

BOYE: 3NT. And pray that partner has at least queen-low of diamonds.

L. HARRIS: 3NT. Partner could have queen-low of diamonds, or the suit

might be blocked, or maybe even split 4-4 (probably a pipe dream). 3♥ or 4♣ are possibilities but I envision too many bad results from those bids.

DYE: 3NT. Whatever partner is looking for, I doubt that I have it. But since I am forced to bid, I will guess that among partner's assets are long clubs and the diamond ace. If partner now bids 4♣, I can bid 6♣ with some confidence that my meager assets are working.

Now that's seeing the glass half-full! But Doug is right: partner may still hold a huge hand, so 3NT doesn't have to end the auction. Trouble is, if partner is short in diamonds and has a suit slam in mind, I don't want to imply that I have wasted values there. I hardly have any values to begin with.

Making a very good point on her only comment of the set is:

MILLER: 3NT. I didn't bid 2NT over the negative double, so partner knows my diamonds are not great. He will pull it without help. Counting on eight tricks in hearts and clubs, plus one diamond.

Those who eschew 3NT make some good points as well. Chief among them: even if we happen to have a combined diamond stopper, so what? Some stay below 3NT...

APFELBAUM: 3♠. This is about as bad a hand as anyone could have. No aces and a poor suit. Why would I think that 3NT would have any chance at all?

NEUBERGER (cont.): 3♠. Perfect hand for DON'T: don't have three hearts, don't have four clubs, don't think we can make 3NT regardless of what partner has in diamonds. If partner bids 4♠ I will pass; if he bids 4♣ I will bid a horrid 4♥.

COREN: 3♠. No diamond stopper. Only two hearts. Nothing else makes sense.

And some venture beyond...

FILANDRO: 4♠. What else? Partner has no more than two spades and no more than four hearts. His diamond stopper is zero or 1/2. Even if partner has queen-low of diamonds, 3NT is a VERY long shot with no running suit and an aceless hand.

GLASSONS: 4♠. Partner must have a place to play when we don't have a diamond stopper for him. We can't bid that spade suit again, and if partner had long hearts he would have bid them, so we will bid our longest [fit]: clubs.

SPRUNGS: 4♠. Sounds like partner is 1=4=3=5. The mini-Moysian fit [in hearts] could be right, if partner has:

♠A ♥AJ10x ♦xxx ♣AQxxx.

B. COHEN: 4♠. This seems to be the most difficult problem of the set. [Ya think, Barry? -NS] Partner probably would have bid 3NT himself with any diamond stopper, even queen-third, and I don't want to gamble that he has queen-low. I don't like any of my options, but partner should have a club suit, so I'll try 4♠.

Okay, so we've established that 3NT, 3♠, and 4♣ are all terrible. Isn't there anything else? Anything at all?

TEUKOLSKYS: 3♥. No other choice!

HICKES: 3♥. I know Hamman would bid 3NT.

True, but even Hamman goes down when the opponents rattle off the first five tricks. 3♥ on a doubleton is terrible too, but it does have a few things going for it. We've denied four hearts, and king-queen-tight surely isn't much worse than three low. Keep in mind too that we know we don't have a six-card spade suit, but partner doesn't — our 2♠ rebid was nebulous. If he has a doubleton spade, as is likely, he'll bid 3♠ over 3♥, at which point we can bid a kicking-and-screaming 3NT. Part-

ner's hearts can't be very good, so he's unlikely to insist on game in what he'd believe is a 4-3 fit, but if he does, ours will be the closed hand. We might scramble quite a few tricks before the opponents awaken to the fact that we're in a six-card fit, as the Sprungs' elegant construction demonstrates. Finally, by stalling for one more round, maybe something good will happen by the time the auction comes back to us. Like a power outage.

There's no right answer on this nightmare of a problem. Expressing the sentiments of just about everyone:

BROWNE: 3NT. I hate my partner on this deal.

5. MPs, BOTH VUL., DEALER WEST

♠-865 ♥-Q4 ♦-AK108 ♣-KJ53
West North East South
1♠ Pass Pass ??

CALL	PANEL	SLVRS	AWARD
1NT	11	10	20
Pass	3	5	18
2♦	1	2	12
Double	0	2	6

Stoppers? We don't need no stinking stoppers!

APFELBAUM (echoing the TUEKOLSKYS, RASKIN, LANDENBERGER, KOHLER, and ROCK): 1NT. Too much to pass and no interest in hearts. Hope partner has something in spades to help out.

ROBINSON: 1NT. You don't get rich defending one-level bids at matchpoints.

NUCKOLS (with RUBEN similarly): 1NT. I play this as 10-14 with my regular partner, and it doesn't promise a spade stopper (good thing, too, because I don't have one).

BOYE: 1NT. Apparently, I am praying a lot in this set.

GOLDBERG: 1NT. What else?

Neuberger posed the same question, though he did recall a partner who'd ask him after bids like this, "What did you expect to stop the spades with, your foot?"

1NT looks best to me as well. It describes our shape and values, and it puts the strong hand on lead. If 1NT gets passed out, we might not need a spade stopper to take seven tricks. And if partner decides to head towards 3NT, hopefully he'll remember that we have ten available bids along the way to clarify the spade situation. Other actions have their plusses but don't convey as much of our story.

FOSTER: Double. On a good day, partner will bid 1NT, or two of a minor. On a bad day, pass would have been the right call.

WACHSMAN: 2♦. I need a third heart to balance with a double. I might as well make a lead-directing bid.

FILANDRO: 2♦. It's matchpoints, so I'll never pass. 2♦ is my best lead-director and leaves me well placed to bid 3♣ over partner's potential 2♠ call. 1NT is within my usual HCP range, but partner too often raises with points but no added spade help.

In addition to their center-hand opponent, some 1NT bidders were still leery of those old favorites, LHO and RHO:

SHAPIRO: 1NT. Bidding out the shape and general strength, only the stopper is missing. I'm assuming that we play sound overcalls, so with a reasonable opening bid – better than the Problem 4 pig – I have to protect. Second choice, actually fairly close, is pass. I've reopened opponents into making 4♥ contracts, and maybe something at the table would tell me to let this dog lie.

GRECO: 1NT. Tough decision again. Very close to passing, as I will be disappointed when LHO rebids 3♥.

That faint sound you hear is maniacal laughter coming from the general direction of Ithaca.

GLASSONS: Pass. 8-6-5 doesn't look like a spade stopper to us, and 2♦ is also flawed. We are worried about who's lurking with the heart suit and are certainly not sure they are in their best strain.

SPRUNGS: Pass. At these colors, caution is best. Even -80 might beat pairs that get too high with our cards, and there is certainly a live chance for +200 if partner has a good hand. Game seems a million miles away.

KLEINMAN: Pass. And stay out of trouble. Yes, I know, stoppers are for children and adults balance with 1NT, but when in doubt I ask myself, "What would Neil Young do?"

Uh, keep on searching for a heart of gold? It turns out that Danny was alluding to the song "I Am a Child". Solvers who also regressed to their youth include:

MARLOW: Pass. Although I respect the 1NT bidders, I see no strong benefit to balancing here. I think it equally likely that the opponents are playing a spade misfit as we are making something.

BROWNE: Pass. Partner might have decent points or a suit, but opener may have a rock and I'd just be giving him a chance to bid again.

L. HARRIS: Pass. We could be fixed, [but] I do not have a reasonable bid. Maybe the opponents have a game somewhere.

Hmm. That laughter is getting louder, isn't it?

DYE: Pass. I hate this, but the only semi-reasonable call to get us into the

auction is 1NT, and I fear -200 looms. Also, if LHO has a secondary heart suit, I will be very unhappy about taking them out of an inferior contract.

As it happened, the opponents did have an ever-so-slightly better place to play. It's time to let you in on the deal's dirty little secret, courtesy of our fearless leader himself:

BETHE: 1NT. I made this bid thirty years ago in a Vanderbilt match. The auction continued 4♥ on my left, 6♥ on my right, 7♥ on my left. 2210 points later, my opponents had completed a 50-plus IMP comeback.

Ouch! No wonder Henry took the month off. At the other table, North inserted an Unusual 2NT overcall on:

♠QJx ♥none ♦QJxxx ♣Qxxxx

...and the auction continued: Pass-5♣-5♥-Pass-6♥-All Pass. (As an aside, Henry also points out that a pass is more attractive at IMPs. Nothing is attractive about that outcome, however.)

♣ ♥ ♠ ♦

Ray Raskin led the Panelists with a score of 100. Also earning perfect grades were two Solvers, A.B. Harris and Harry Nuckols. My thanks to Elaine and Craig for asking me to serve as guest director this month; I had a blast. Here's hoping Henry makes a speedy recovery and that he'll be back next issue.



Panelists	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Jay Apfelbaum	Dbl	P	2♥	3♠	1NT	92
Henry Bethe	P	P	2♥	3NT	1NT	98
Dan Boye	Dbl	4♦	2♥	3NT	1NT	92
Ken Cohen	2NT	P	2♥	4♣	1NT	83
Pete Filandro	Dbl	P	2♥	4♣	2♦	87
Bob & Joann Glasson	P	P	2♥	4♣	P	91
Connie Goldberg	P	P	2♥	3NT	1NT	98
Eric Greco	P	P	2♥	3NT	1NT	98
Danny Kleinman	P	P	2♥	3NT	P	96
Fred Neuberger	Dbl	4♦	2♥	3♠	1NT	84
Ray Raskin	Dbl	P	2♥	3NT	1NT	100
Craig Robinson	3♦	4♦	2♥	3NT	1NT	87
Ed Shapiro	3♦	P	2♥	3NT	1NT	95
Danny & Jo Sprung	2NT	P	2♥	4♣	P	81
Ros & Saul Teukolsky	Dbl	P	2♥	3♥	1NT	90

Top 10 Solvers
A.B. Harris 100, Harry Nuckols 100, Ed Kohler 98, Christopher Marlow 96, Bob Browne 93, Don Landenberger 92, John Weishampel 92, Doug Dye 90, Bob Hickey 90, Dr. Melvin Lubart 87. Also: Barry Cohen, Bill Coren, Bill Foster, Lynn Harris, Jane Havighurst, Kathy Miller, Bill Rock, Jeff Ruben, Dave Wachsman.

MASTER SOLVERS SPRING 2010 PROBLEMS

Please send answers no later than December 31, 2009 to hbethe@aol.com. Methods are 2/1 with "Walsh".

1. IMPs, NS Vul Dealer West
♠AQ9 ♥K10 ♦9653 ♣A1053
West North East South
3D X P 4D
P 4H P ??

A: DO YOU AGREE WITH 4D? IF NOT, WHAT? B: WHAT NOW?

2. MPs, EW Vul Dealer East
♠AJ ♥AQ96 ♦KQJ85 ♣75
West North East South
-- -- P 1D
P 1H P 3H
P 3S P ??

3. MPs, EW Vul Dealer North
♠ -- ♥Q109843 ♦AQ974 ♣52
West North East South
-- P P ??

WOULD YOUR ANSWER CHANGE AT DIFFERENT VULNERABILITY OR AT IMPs?

4. IMPs, None Vul Dealer East
♠ AQ5 ♥K64 ♦8 ♣ AQ7532
West North East South
-- -- P 1C
P 1H P ??

Please submit your answers in the following format:

Problem #; your last name; your answer; explanation.

eg: 1A. Bethe. Yes. Pass, 3NT and 5C all seem to.....

Use capital letters for suits.



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JANUARY
8-10, 2010



FEBRUARY
19-21, 2010

FRIDAY, JAN 8

Open Prs¹1:30 & 7:30
Non-Master Pairs*1:30 & 7:30

FRIDAY, FEB 19

Open Prs¹1:30 & 7:30
Non-Master Pairs*1:30 & 7:30

SATURDAY, JAN 9

Handicap KO Tms....10/2:30/7:30
Non-Master Pairs*10 & 2:30
Flighted Open Prs²10:00
Single Session Side Game.....2:30
Open Pairs³ 2:30 & 7:30
Flight B/C/D Open Pairs²2:30
Open Pairs¹ 7:30

SATURDAY, FEB 20

Handicap KO Tms....10/2:30/7:30
Non-Master Pairs*10 & 2:30
Flighted Open Prs²10:00
Single Session Side Game2:30
Open Pairs³ 2:30 & 7:30
Flight B/C/D Open Pairs²2:30
Open Pairs¹ 7:30

SUNDAY, JAN 10

Flighted Swiss Teams² 10:00
A/X- 5000+; 0-5000; B-0-3000 bktd
2 session playthrough with short break
Strat Non-Master Sws^{*} . 10 & 1:30

SUNDAY, FEB 21

Flighted Swiss Teams² 10:00
A/X- 5000+; 0-5000; B-0-3000 bktd
2 session playthrough with short break
Strat Non-Master Sws^{*} ..10 & 1:30

all events are single sessions unless otherwise noted

* (A 100-300, B 20-100, C 0-20)

¹ (A 2000+, B 750-2000, C 0-750)

² (A 3500+ , X 0-3500) separate

(B 1250-2000, C 750-1250, D 0-750)

³ Qualifying 2 session event with Barometer Final (Silver Points)

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A Spot 4 the Advancing Player

by Jay Apfelbaum
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This is a continuing series of articles written for the advancing player. I welcome any questions or suggestions about future articles. Please send them to the publisher. Who knows? You may be mentioned in a future article! Since beginning this series, I have been asked about several conventions. Keep asking! Your questions give me direction about what the next article should be about.

This article will focus on two very different aspects of Weak Two Bid openings. The first part covers what to do when the opponents double our weak two bid. The second part covers what to do when the opponents open 2♥ or 2♠ and we have a strong major-minor two suiter.

There is a reason to preempt. IT WORKS! The preempt uses up bidding space to make life more difficult for the opponents. The preempt is the best defensive bid in bridge unless the opposition can double for penalties. If a hand is weak enough to preempt, the odds are the opponents will have the balance of power. The opponents have a better than 50% chance of declaring the hand. This is especially true when the next player doubles for takeout. Enter the McCabe convention. The idea is to give our side a

good start on defending the enemy contract. A single raise shows either the Ace or King in partner's suit. A new suit is lead directing, but is actually a raise. Redouble shows a strong hand. Lastly, 2NT shows a long suit and asks partner to bid 3♣.

Let us see this convention in action. Partner opens 2♥. The next hand doubles. Bidding 2♠, 3♣ or 3♦ promises three or more hearts but asks our partner to lead the suit we just bid rather than a heart. We do not need a long suit for our bid; just one we want our partner to lead. Something like K-Q-10-x would be perfect.

If we bid 3♥, we promise a high heart (Ace or King) so that our partner can safely lead the suit. A redouble shows a strong hand; the same sort of hand that would redouble if our partner opened one of a suit and the next player doubled (except it is an opening bid or better, not just 10 high card points). Finally, 2NT says we want to play in our own suit rather than in our partner's suit. A typical hand for bidding 2NT

is a seven-card suit of our own and at most a singleton in our partner's suit.

The second part of this article answers the question of what to do after our opponent opens 2♥ or 2♠ and we hold a strong hand with five or more cards in the other major suit and five or more cards in one of the minor suits. Enter the Leaping Michaels convention. Our right-hand opponent opens 2♠, and we hold something like S: A-K-J-x-x; H: x; D: A-K-Q-x-x; C: x-x. We want to be in game, but which one? Bidding 3♥ will not help us if our partner holds a singleton heart and long diamonds. Likewise, doubling will not help us if our partner bids 3♣. We can follow up with 3♥, but there is no particular reason to think that our partner will know to bid diamonds holding short hearts and three or four diamonds.

Using the Leaping Michaels convention, we can jump to 4♣ or 4♦ to show that suit along with at least five cards in the other major suit. Our partner takes a preference. If our partner holds a good hand with an outside Ace, he will bid that Ace. The leaper will then bid the cheapest suit he holds to show no interest. Any other bid cooperates in looking for a slam.

Let us see the Leaping Michaels convention in action. Our right-hand opponent opens 2♥, and we bid 4♦. Our partner will bid 4♠ or 5♦ to sign off in that game. A bid of 4♥ or 5♣ shows the Ace of that suit and slam interest. Over 4♥, we bid 4♠ if we have no slam interest. Any other bid cooperates and shows a first round control (Ace or void). Over 5♣, we bid 5♦ if we have no slam interest. Any other bid cooperates and shows a first round control (Ace or void). A no trump bid accepts this slam try and shows second round control of the other "side" suit. Our partner is expected to place the contract. Bidding the other side suit shows first round control of that suit.



**SAVE THE DATES
APRIL 26 - MAY 2**

Tom Grabowski and Sue Corbett are working hard on the Delaware Regional which is being held at the Holiday Inn Select in Claymont, DE. This is a new location that has free parking, 15 minutes from the Phila. airport and seconds off of I-95. There will be nightly hospitality, plenty of knockouts and novice games plus other surprises. See the schedule in the next *4Spot* or on the Unit 190 website.



FOR NOVICES ONLY

by

MARTI RONEMUS

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My little dog Ming learned to wag her tail when she sees an ace; YOU can learn to play bridge—eventually!! That's the easy part. The hard part is having the courage to plunge right in there and DO it! We learn a little piece at a time, and it's not like a jigsaw puzzle – you (fortunately!) can play without all the pieces. If you wait until all the pieces are there, you'll be too old to hold the cards.

I remember one night when I was a rookie and I wandered into an open game by mistake. It was terrifying! I sat there praying I wouldn't have six points so I wouldn't have to bid. Then I thought: What am I afraid of? I worked in midtown Manhattan for ten years. I dealt with foreign cab drivers and snippy waiters on a daily basis. I taught reading in prison for Literacy Council and had run the gauntlet of prison guards...scarier than the prisoners. How hard could this be in comparison to THAT! Game bids, here I come!!

Be brave! Be fearless! Sooner or later, the math and mechanics will come. Till then, have fun and bid em' like you've got 'em.

You may have noticed that sometimes the Big Dog players don't like playing with you. Have you wondered why? You may think it's because you are slow or that you are

fondling your bidding boxes (security blankets!), or hesitating. Nope. Here's why. Last week at my club, a strange reversal happened. It was Workshop night at the club, and it's geared toward the 49ers crowd. A lovely pair of more experienced players with close to 300 points each wandered into that lesson and game. As they were leaving, I teased them about being like a pair of swans at a duckling convention. But listen to this: The ducklings had "fixed" the advanced players but good. The Swans came in close to the bottom, hardly knowing what hit them. They were reeling from strange events, like jump shift bids made without the partner having any idea if they were weak or strong, bids that didn't even resemble the hands that were holding them. To their credit they were laughing as they staggered into the parking lot, with one of the lowest scores they'd ever had. One said, "I sure hope I don't run into them again until they know how to play this game *right!*"

You'll hear a lot of old bridge players saying, "Back in *our* day, there weren't all these Newcomer games. We just played with the Big Dogs and took our licks. We survived and were better for it." While there is something to be said for this argument, I disagree. There isn't a sport in the world

that doesn't have a "farm team" system, a minor league program. Think about it. That's what your Newcomer games are. As you gain in confidence and competence, you'll start wandering into the Open games once in a while. You'll learn, that's for sure, and you'll take your licks, knowing you've always got your peer games to return to.

By the way, have you heard the discussions about whether or not Bridge belongs in the Olympics as a sport? I have no real opinion on this, but I do have a thought:.. I want you to picture the typical bridge team wearing Spandex, marching in the opening Parade of Champions. Can you see it?

Till next time, then...have fun and think Spandex.

NEW EVENT AT BLUE HEN SECTIONAL

SWISS PAIRS

Each pair will play a 6- 8 board match against other pairs. The number and length of the matches and the number of boards in each match will depend on the number of entries, but the length of the session will be much the same as in a typical pair game. Everyone will play the same boards at the same time and the results will be matchpointed across the field. Each pair's % score from the boards in the match will be converted to victory points. The scale depends on the length of the match, but normally a score of about 66% over the course of the match will produce a blitz. Pairing, just as in a Swiss team, is random for the first match. Thereafter, each pair will be paired against another pair with a similar record. The pair with the most victory points wins!

2010 BLUE HEN SECTIONAL Unit 190



Bridge Studio of DE
Foulkestone Plaza
Wilmington DE
302-476-5431

February 26 - 28

Friday, February 26

1:00 & 7:00 pm ♠ single sessions

Stratified Open Pairs (1 pm)

Stratified 99er Pairs (1pm)

Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs (7pm)

Strata-Flighted B/C/D Pairs (7pm)

Stratified 199er Pairs (7pm)

Saturday, February 27

1:00 & 7:00 pm ♣ 2 sessions

***NEW EVENT* STRATIFIED SWISS PRS¹**

1:00 & 7:00 pm ♠ single sessions

Stratified 99er Pairs (1pm)

Stratified Open Pairs (1 & 7 pm)

Stratified 199er Pairs (7pm)

**SPECIAL HOSPITALITY DESSERT
AT EVENING SESSION**

Sunday, February 28

11:00 am Playthrough

Flight A/X 2 Session Swiss Teams

Strat B/C/D 2 Session Swiss

¹ See insert for explanation of event

TOURNAMENT CHAIR: RICHARD POPPER
302-764-3208

PARTNERSHIP: TRINA WILLIAMS

SEE WEBSITES FOR DIRECTIONS

WWW.UNIT190.ORG

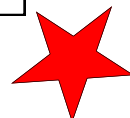
WWW.BRIDGE-STUDIO.ORG

DISTRICT 4 STARS



LANCASTER RED ROSE Lancaster PA - Oct 26-Nov 1

1	70.13	Carl Berenbaum
2	68.08	Rick Rowland
3	63.06	Ken Cohen
4	62.17	Meyer Kotkin
5	58.20	Thomas Weik
6	55.64	Leonard Gellman
7	55.64	Ala Hamilton-Day
8	54.61	Bill Parks
9	54.58	David Legrow
10	50.44	Mitchell Snyder



Notes from Lancaster



♠ 2259 Tables

♥ 1449 Players Attended

♣ 13,680 Masterpoints Awarded



DISTRICT 4 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR LEADERS (AS OF 9/30/09)

DAVE TREADWELL AWARD (Open)

Ken Cohen

JEANNE FISHER AWARD (0-2000)

Andy Muenz

JANE SEGAL AWARD NLM (0-500)

Ronald Hutchinson

District MP Race Leaders through 11/6/09

	<u>Mini McKenney</u>	<u>Ace of Club</u>
0-5		Larry Abramovitz
5-50		Mary Boyd
20-50		Stephen Vineberg
50-100	Michael Klein	Steve Valencic
100-200	Amal Chatterjee	Jacob Rubinstien
200-300		Phyllis Taxin
300-500		Nancy Steele
500-1000		Bridgett Pitt
1000-2500	Barbara Rhoades	Suzanne Cohen
2500-5000	Bill Parks	Randall Berseth
5000-7500	Thomas Weik	Arnold Selig
7500-10,000	Craig Robinson	Rhoda Kaufman
over 10,000	Robert Levin	John & Selena Swanson

2009 DISTRICT 4 GOOD WILL HONOREES

JUDY ARGENTO
Kingston PA

MARIE GRABOWSKI
Hockessin DE

TOM GRABOWSKI
Hockessin DE

RON ORR
Falling Waters WV

2009 DISTRICT 4 CHARITY COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

RICK ROWLAND
Wilmington DE

JULIE BROOKS
Emmaus PA



Upcoming District 4 Tournaments

Dec 2-6	NLM Holiday Party Unit 190	Bridge Studio of DE Wilmington DE	Alexis Ciconte 302-571-9092	
Dec 4-6	Harrisburg Unit 168	Harrisburg Bridge Club Camp Hill PA	Bob Priest 717-579-5665	
Dec 7-13	DISTRICT 4 STaC	CLUBS	John Marks 215-891-0602	
Dec 14-20	D-6 & Unit 190 STaC	Clubs	Barbara Israel 410-381-9445	
Dec 27-31	David Treadwell Sect. Unit 190	Bridge Studio of DE Wilmington DE	Harold Jordan 302-584-0213	
2010				
Jan 8-10	Syracuse Winter Unit 112	Cicero Fire Hall Cicero NY	Robert Simard 315-656-3204	
Jan 8-10	PCB New Year's Unit 141	Crescent Shriners Temple Westhampton NJ	Jay Apfelbaum 215-336-6421	25
Jan 29-31	Harrisburg Unit 168	Holiday Inn New Cumberland PA	Bob Priest 717-579-5665	
Feb 7	York 299er Unit 168	Bridge Boardroom York PA	Marti Ronemus 717-699-5222	
Feb 12-15	BMBU Winter Unit 121	Bridge Room Reading PA	Louise Remley 610-478-9354	
Feb 15-21	Unit 112 STaC	Clubs	Warren Marsland 585-442-8753	
Feb 19-21	PCBA Winter Unit 141	Knights of Columbus Glenside PA	Jay Apfelbaum 215-336-6421	25
Feb 26-28	Blue Hen Unit 190	Bridge Studio of DE Wilmington DE	Richard Popper 302-764-3208	29