



District 4 Spot



Inside this issue:

President's Report	3
District Director's Report	4
From the Four Corners	5
Regional Preview - Philadelphia	14
Philadelphia Schedule	15
Master Solver's Club	16
For Newcomers Only	26
A Spot 4 the Advancing Player	29
Jeers & Jubilations	31
District 4 Calendar	32



EDITOR

Elaine Landow

2556 Morris Road
Lansdale, PA 19446

215-699-6134

Fax: 215-699-5142

e-mail:

4spot@comcast.net

PRESIDENT

DEB KLINGER

dhklinger@epix.net

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD JORDAN

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

LOIS SANDERS

SECRETARY

BILL BAUER

TREASURER

RICK ROWLAND

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

CRAIG ROBINSON

215-699-6134

BOD4@COMCAST.NET

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission of the editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEB KLINGER

If I didn't see you at the Harrisburg Regional, then you missed an interesting and fun-filled time. Many thanks to the committee for a well-run tournament. Bob Priest, tournament chair, shared his philosophy with me about the I/N program. Bob wants to have the BEST I/N program at any regional. His thinking behind this is that when he retires from chairing events there will be players at the games. What a novel idea! Just think if each one of us brought one new player to the duplicate game none of us would have to worry about the declining duplicate population. Thanks again to Bob and Pam Murray and their committee for a fabulous tournament.

I want to salute all the energetic and hard working teachers in District 4. Donna Bowser at the Lancaster Regional commented on the effectiveness of the District's teachers. She sends "Congratulations" to each one of you. You're doing a wonderful job.

The next district event is the Cherry Hill Regional. I hope to see all of you there.

Ricki Gordon Wins National Ace of Clubs Race

Ricki Gordon of Moorestown, NJ won the 2004 ACBL-wide Sectional Master category in the Ace of Clubs race. Other high District 4 finishers were: Peggy Bruchansky, Marlton NJ; William Souders, York PA; Nadine Soussa, York PA; John and Selena Swanson, Mechanicsburg, PA; Rhoda Kauffman, Willow Grove, PA.

District 4's 2005 GNT will take place May 14-15, 2005 in conjunction with the NE Pennsylvania Bridge Association's (Unit 120) Sectional Tournament in Scranton, PA - The winners of each flight receive eligibility to play in the National Event plus financial compensation towards it.
For times and location see Page 25.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CRAIG ROBINSON

On the weekend of May 14-15, District 4 is holding the District Qualifying for the Grand National Teams for the Open, Flight A, B, and C teams. This could be your last chance to play in the event.

Each winning team receives \$1000, plus entry fees, plus additional monies if they remain in the event at the national competition in Atlanta this summer. Last year only two teams entered Flight A and only three teams entered Flight C. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that we lose a lot of money on this

event. Many Districts throughout the ACBL are having similar financial difficulties though each District can finance their teams any way they want. Another problem facing the event and probably the most serious problem is that in the Open event players are 'getting around' the residency requirements to play professionally in Districts other than where they actually reside.

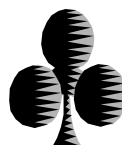
Does anyone benefit from this event? Yes! The ACBL does. First they actually make about \$13,000 in GNT sanction fees. Next, 100 teams

show up at the Summer NABCs two days before the tournament starts to play in the GNT. Those teams stay extra days and probably add 500 tables in total to the tournament attendance. And finally, many of the players on these teams are being 'introduced' to their first NABC which is also a good thing.

I serve on a committee that is studying the problems of the GNT. One solution I see would be to require club qualification, similar to the NAPs, which would raise money to relieve the District of some of the financial hardship (in a GNT club qualifier the sanction fee goes to the District rather than the ACBL). The problems of the Open Flight is probably best resolved by terminating and then reviving the event with rules with some teeth in them. But who knows? Your best bet is to play May 14-15 in Scranton, it could be your last chance.



From The Four Corners



CENTRAL NY 112

Lois Sanders

585-425-2492

lois@rochester.rr.com

Unit 112 had our award presentations to all of our Players that achieved Silver, Gold and Diamond award levels. Our Unit gives a free play at a sectional and we have custom made jewelry for each level. Silver winners were: Natalie Johnson, Richard True, Mervet Heartberg, Nancie Mathvin, Gary DeWitt, Vishnu Chappalli, John D'Errico, Judith Elliot, Philip Fragale, Ruth True, Charles Unison, Michael Carney, Arlene Bristol and Dorothy Centner. We had one Gold, Harry Nuckols, and one Diamond, Bernard Gorkin. We congratulate ALL of you.

We are anxiously awaiting July 6-11 when we have the Regional back in Rochester. We hope to see many of you there. The plans are well underway now. If you have any questions you can contact me.

As Unit President I want to thank all the members of the Unit 112 board for doing a fan-

tastic job supporting all of our activities. My goals from last year have been well received and many of the players are now becoming more aware of the need to keep up our appearances. We still have a lot more room for improvement. Again as I travel around I am constantly dismayed at some inconsiderate behavior and disregard for the property of others. Let's all make a larger effort to improve the Bridge Players reputation.

Looking forward to seeing you soon

NORTHEASTERN PA 120

JoAnn Mauger

570-620-2638

mauger@ptd.net

The Unit 120 Board of Directors has some exciting news for you. A **Teacher Accreditation Program** (TAP) will be held June 11-12 in Wilkes-Barre. The TAP is one of the ACBL's most successful programs. Established in 1986 by Audrey Grant, it demonstrates successful methods of teaching the game of bridge using the ACBL's popular

Bridge Series texts and aged by Bill Haynes – partners teacher manuals. The teaching guaranteed.

methods can be used with any New Ranks: Sectional: teaching materials. Anyone Anna Goetz, Schuylkill Haven, who successfully completes Santosh Khanna, Shamokin, this course will be listed on the Mollie Moore, Wilkes Barre, ACBL's teacher web site. Any Robert Silverblatt, Kingston, director, manager, player, and Sonia Sperduto, Hawley, anyone from any unit is invited Robert Tollner, Lakeville, and to participate. Please send Holly Williams, Scranton. Beth Rosenthal, NABC: Joshua Katz, East beth@bridgelady.net, your Stroudsburg and Mary Ann name, address, phone number, and email address, if interested. Romano, Weatherly.

The **Grand National Team Qualifiers** will be held at the Emily Trunzo and Lou Plotkin placed 7B/3C overall out of 179 pairs in the ACBL sponsored Interclub Club Championship game in February.

15, 2005. Often there are very We are saddened by the few teams in each stratum February death of Fran Architzel. She and her husband Al (last year there were only 2 teams in one division!). Each (previously deceased) winning team will then be eligible to participate at the Nationals in Atlanta and the District JoAnn and Dan Mauger will partially underwrite the directed bridge on HAL Ms team's expenses. Play some Maasdam on back-to-back team games between now and Eastern and Southern Caribbean cruises from Norfolk, VA then for practice and take advantage of this great opportunity. Partnership: JoAnn Mauger and Edwina Doyle. Make reservations with JoAnn Mauger for the Sunday May 22 Patriotic Party held at DBC, directed by Jack Burns, the Clarion Hotel, Stroudsburg, 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 1 PM, Rt. 80 Exit 305. It will be two sessions beginning at 12:30 Clarion Hotel, Scranton. Also, sessions beginning at 12:30 Stroudsburg DBC, Tuesday with a buffet dinner between nights 6:30 at Stroud Township Firehall, Rt. 611, directed by Jessie Barrett and man-

BERKS MONTGOMERY 121

Janet Stevens

610-372-5429

stevensj@earthlink.net

Newest members on the next rung of Life Master: Junior - Brian Gibson, Martin Wessner, Wenzhen Cheng, Judith L. Katz, Frances Rosenberg. Club - Elizabeth Kunkleman. Sectional - George Arnold, Janice Repko, Edith Mendelsohn. Regional - Mary Jo Cannizzaro. Life - Heather Bittenbender, Richard Freitag.

The holidays started with a bridge event honoring Myrtle Quier. The festive affair began with a sumptuous variety of delicious appetizers and punch (with & without). After the 7th round, Mrs. Quier was presented with a planter and everyone partook of cake and coffee. The bridge results of this delightful evening are: Flight A Overall: 1st Edith Mendelsohn and Frances Rosenberg; 2nd Doris Sheeder and JoAnne Hollinger; 3rd Janet Stevens and Carl Cronrath. Flight B Overall: 1st Edith Mendelsohn and Frances Rosenberg; 2nd Emily and William Troutman; 3rd Richard Freitag and Clarke Bigler. Congratulations to all.

The first Unit game was held on Monday, Jan. 17 with

Carl Cronrath as director. These were the overall winners: Flight A - 1st Sue Wessner and Jack Berry; 2nd LaRue Wells and Rodney Hilbert; Christine Moran and William Sedlis captured 3rd followed by Janet Stevens and Fenwick Brown finishing 4th. The 5th place went to Bonnie Wenger and Travis Crump followed by Norman Wenger and Alfred Crump in 6th. The Flight B overalls were: 1st Christine Moran and William Sedlis with Marlene Winkleman and Louise Zabinski finishing 2nd followed by Vera Del Purgatorio and Eva Spitale finishing 3rd with Pearl Bright and Harold George taking 4th. Flight C overalls: Marlene Winkleman & Louise Zabinski captured 1st with Emily and William Troutman taking 2nd and 3rd place went to Noel Szundy and Betty Russell.

The Winter Sectional was held Feb.18 through Feb 21. A record number of tables were in play. Thanks to everyone who attended. Congratulations go to Tom Weik as winner of the most MP in the over 100 MP category and Frances Rosenberg as winner in the under 100 MP category.

ATTENTION LADIES:
Please check your closets for a gray coat that is not yours.

Yours is in my possession-A over George's duties and will
gray St. John Bay short coat, manage and direct the games
size 10P. Please contact me at the JCC. Don will need
at the above number and I will your support and assistance.
try to facilitate the exchange. Congratulations to Jerry
Thank you. Morse for becoming a Silver

Hope to see all of you at Life Master.
the Spring Sectional: May 20
through 22. Till then, best of
luck at the bridge table.

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣

LEHIGH VALLEY 133

Dave Kresge

215-536-8839

kresgede@aol.com

The Lehigh Valley Spring Sectional will be held from April 29 through May 1, 2005 at the Schnecksville Fire Company. Please see the ad on page 24. The unit will hold a Dollar night unit pairs game on Tuesday April 19 at 7:00 PM. at the JCC. Please plan to attend. The unit is subsidizing the cost in an effort to increase attendance at the unit games. There is also a unit team game on Sunday, May 22 at 1:00 PM at the JCC and a unit pairs game on Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 PM at the JCC. Please mark you calendars.

The unit is saddened by the passing of George Bournias. George was the club manager for the games at the JCC and directed many of them. George was a Silver Life Master. He will be sorely missed. Don McLean will take

8

PCBA 141

John Marks

215-215-891-0602

JGMMarks@aol.com

The following members of Unit 141 were elected to serve on the Unit's Board of Directors for a period of three (3) years: Jay Apfelbaum, Bill Bauer, Babs Fischer, Gayle Goldstein, Manny Grossman, Gloria Rabinowitz, Tom Sakaguchi, Jane Segal and Tom Urso; for a period of two years: Elliot Shalita; and, for a period of one year: Steve Becker. The Unit Officers for the year of 2005 are: John Marks, President; Jay Apfelbaum, Vice President; Elaine Landow, Secretary; Marie Trethaway, Treasurer and Joan Weinrott, Business Manager.

Since the beginning of the year two sectionals were held. The attendance of the Intermediate/Newcomer (IN) players was very good at both tournaments, especially the Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon sessions. The Unit certainly

DISTRICT 45POT

would like to see more and the fine work that he did serv-
more IN players attend our ing as President the past year.
sectional tournaments. The District President, Debbie

The three top players at the Klinger, has appointed Manny
January tournament were to chair the District's Appeal
Daisy Goecker, David Better Committee. Congratulations
and Ken Chatzinoff; the top to Manny.

players in February were Marty The next Unit 141 Sectional
Rabinowitz, John Jermmott Tournament will be held April
and Vince and Pat Civale and 8 to 10. (See our ad on page
Howard Kahlenberg. Joan 13). Don't forget the Philadel-
Weinrott won the most master phia Regional, June 20 to 26
points at the five Philadelphia (see pages 14-15). Hope to
Sectional Tournaments last see at both of these events.
year for a Life Master player.
In the Non Life Master Cate-
gory, Mike Scott was first.

The first tournament was
held at our usual site, the Clar-
ion Hotel in Cherry Hill; how-
ever the second was held at
LuLu Temple in Plymouth
Meeting. Craig Robinson and
his committee, Mitch Snyder,
Everett Young and Steve
Becker made sure that coffee
was hot and ready, and pret-
zels, candy, cake and/or
donuts were available. Free
pizza was served on Sunday
during the Swiss teams. A fine
time was had by all who at-
tended. A special thanks to
Craig and his committee for
the excellent work they did at
the February tournament. The
LuLu Temple facility had plenty
of room, parking at the door,
and good lighting.

The Unit Board of Director
thanks Manny Grossman for

CENTRAL PENN 168

Susan Grover

717-291-9315

billandsus@juno.com

New officers and board
members were elected at the
Unit Annual Meeting in Harris-
burg: President-Frank Carden;
1st VP-Mike Fremont; 2nd VP-
Linda Ivanoff; Secretary-Kelley
Zeller; Treasurer-Pam Murray
and Membership Chair-Judy
Groenenboom.

At the same meeting
awards were presented to
those players that attained
specific masterpoint levels.
"M" pins, signifying 1,000
points, were awarded to Ann
Belknap, Gwen Landis, Pam
Murray, Lorraine Orie, Stefan
Basinski, Carolyn Shirk, Tim
Smith, Robert Wadell, Robert
Miller and Ann Carden. The
following Gold Life Masters will

have their names engraved on a plaque at the Harrisburg Bridge Club: Ed Pederson, Eleanor Alboum and Joann Hano. Receiving trophies for becoming New Life Masters were: Kay Rogers Moore, Tony McBeth, Tim Trissler, Ray Garrison, Ian Milnes, Paul Henning, Jr, Glenn Beidel, Milton Hilliard, Robert Back, Bonnie Capcara, William Roeder, Glenn Maneval, Gerald Ruth, Thomas Turner, Nina Nicolaisen and Audrey Harrold.

Leading this year's achievers in the climb up the master-point ladder are John and Selena Swanson, who became Emerald Life Masters by earning 7,500 Points. New Silver Life Masters are Janet Johnson and Franklin Abel. Shelby Harbold and Glenn Maneval became Bronze LMs. Our newest Life Masters are Claire Warren, Charlie Wooten and Gerry Wandel. Madeline Lambe and Brian Patterson hit the 500 point mark.

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races have also been decided. In the Ace of Clubs category the Rookie of the Year is George Stroup. Junior Master of the Year is Jeff Burk, and Club Master is John Docktor. William Souders won the Sectional Master race, while Nina Nicolaisen took the honors as the Regional Master

of the Year. The NABC Master is Claire Warren, and Glenn Maneval won as Life Master of the Year. The Bronze LM award goes to Nadine Soussa and Joann Hano is Silver Life Master of the Year. Buddy Hano is Gold Life Master of the Year, and the Swansons, Selena and John, tied for the honors as Diamond LM of the Year.

In the Mini-McKenney standings, George Stroup also won Rookie of the Year award. Junior Master is Karen Diffenbach, while John Doktor also became a double winner by taking the Club Master of the Year title. Sectional Master is Bonnie Heilig, and another two-time winner is Nina Nicolaisen in the Regional Master category. Robert Back is the NABC Master of the Year, and Glenn Maneval duplicated his win in the Life Master of the Year race. Another double winner is Nadine Soussa in the Bronze LM category. Dennis Wick won as Silver Life Master, and Mel Lubart took the top prize as Gold Life Master of the Year. First place in the Diamond Life Master contest was won by the combo of Selena and John Swanson. The winners will be presented their awards between sessions of the White Rose Sectional in York on

DISTRICT 4SPOT

Saturday, June 11.

Our sectional tournament schedule is: April 8-10 Chambersburg; April 15-17 Lancaster. Also in April is the Unit Charity Pairs game at the Harrisburg B.C. on Sunday, April 3rd. During the following month we have the Unit Grand National Teams at both the Fountain Head Country Club and the Bridge Boardroom on May 1. Dinner is included at both locations. We follow that in June with the White Rose Sectional on June 11.

Schedules for all these tournaments, and more, can be found on the Unit 168 web site: <http://web2.acbl.org/units/hosted/unit168/index.htm>.



DELAWARE 190

Judy Nicolaysen

610-793-1050

bobnick@bellatlantic.net

Congratulations to Unit 190's Rick Rowland! Rick won the 1st David Treadwell Player of the Year Award presented by District 4. And plaudits to Dave Treadwell who placed 5th in this year's standings.

Get your Swiss Teams together. DSBA is hosting another Swiss Team Championship. It will be held on Sun-

day, May 1 at the Talleyville Fire Hall starting at 11:00 am and TBA. There will be a light lunch served between sessions. Preregistration is required. Register online at www.unit190.org or call Rick Rowland at 302-571-1827. Want to practice before the tournament? Swiss Teams are played on the first Monday of every month at the Talleyville Fire Hall starting at 7:00 pm and every Thursday at 7:00 pm at the same location.

The fifth annual DE Summer Bracketed Knockouts is scheduled for June, July, August, September and will be held in players' homes. Pre-registration is required for this four session event. Contact Rick Rowland or the DSBA Website (see above).

Accolades to DSBAers who reached new Life Master strata: new Silver Life Masters--Robert Keeney, F.J. McNichol, and Lucia Morrison; new Bronze Life Masters--Jake Hubik, Walter Knoth, and Dottie McNichol.

Please note that DSBA's online bidding contest has been suspended indefinitely due to a lack of local participants and difficulty in finding moderators.



SUSQUEHANNA 217

Michael Anesko

814-234-1961

mwa2@psu.edu

By the time this article goes to bed, no doubt many of our players shall have returned from the Pittsburgh Nationals trailing clouds of glory. To catch a glimpse, why not come to the Penn State Sectional, April 29 - May 1, in State College? Once again this tourney will be held at the bridge studio in Teaberry Ridge. The open pairs games Friday will begin at 1:00 and 7:00 pm, and at 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. Saturday. The Sunday Swiss Teams event begins at 11 a.m., with a buffet picnic supper between sessions in mid-afternoon. If you need directions or a brochure, call Ed Bissell, 814-237-1043; ecb1@psu.edu or Kevin Burns 814-238-8407, co-chairs for this year's event. Connie Bamer, 814-466-6767, will help you find a partner in case you're coming solo.

Our recent "Spring Out of Winter" tournament at Shamokin Dam attracted many new faces—a tribute to the hard work of Cheryl Pehoushek and David Winters, co-chairs, who gracefully facilitated the move away from our old Danville site and theme. Winners for each event are tallied below. Friday Afternoon Open Pairs; N/S -

1A, Craig Robinson & Elaine Landow, Lansdale; 1B/2A, Tony Bersani, Montoursville & Gene Waltz, Bloomsburg; 1C/2B, John & June Watts, Millville; E/W - 1A/B, Bill McTurk & Connie Bame, State College; 2A, Mike Anesko, State College & Doris Plotts, Williamsport; 2B, Virginia & Ron Mackenzie, Williamsport; 1C, Margaret Hart, Williamsport & Sandra Nelson, Trout Run. Friday Evening Open Pairs: N/S - 1A, Bob Priest & Ed Shapiro, Camp Hill, 2A, Judy Stein, Laporte & Doris Winner, Williamsport; 1B, Cheryl Pehoushek, Lewisburg & Becky Roberts, Ft. Myers, FL; 2B, Tony Bersani & Gene Waltz; E/W - 1A/B, Jean & Tom Olcese, Shamokin; 2A/B, Tim Levan & Vera Peters, Williamsport. Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs: N/S - 1A/B, Lois & John Burns, Clarks Summit; 2A, Dick & Lynn Henry, Lewisburg; 2B, Tony Bersani & Gene Waltz; 1C, Rita Ginsburg, Montgomery & Lois Wentzler, Muncy; E/W — 1A, Dave Marcello, Williamsport & Judy Stein; 2A, Kevin Burns & Jim McKeown, State College; 1B, David Winters, Williamsport & Robert Keeney, Lewes, DE; 2B, Marge Myers, Williamsport & Marty Hodrick, Montoursville; 1C, Mike & Doris

Lundy, Jersey Shore. Saturday Evening Open Pairs: N/S - 1A/B, Tony Bersani & Gene Waltz; 2A, Jim McKeown & Kevin Burns; 2B, Dawn Neidigh, Boalsburg & Connie Bamer; 1C, Mike & Doris Lundy; E/W - 1A, Betsy Eliot & Don Strickler, State College; 2A/1B, Marge Myers & Marty Hodrick; 2B, Cheryl Pehoushek & David Dinkel, Hamburg; 1C, Vera Peters & Tim Levan.. Sunday Swiss Teams: 1A, Barbara Mateer, David Hoover, Betsy Eliot, & Don Strickler, State College; 2A, Jim McKeown, Kevin Burns, Ed Bissell, State College, & Mary Ann Churba, Montoursville. There was a 3-way tie for 1B: Connie Bamer, Dawn Neidigh, Jacquie Humilovich, State College, & Ann Day, Williamsport; David Dinkel, Dolores Ritter, Ellie Lindstrom, & George Harvey, State College; and Helene Elko, Larksville, Margaret Curfman, Wilkes Barre, Betty Lyons, Tunkhannock, & Shino Franquet, Dallas.

Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who helped to make the tournament a fun-filled event!



SPRING 2005

PCBA UNIT 141



Sectional CLARION HOTEL

Rt. 70 & I-295

Cherry Hill, NJ

856-482-2300

April 8 - 10, 2005

Friday, April 8

Strat Open Pairs*..... 1:30

Strat Non-Mstr** 1:30 & 7:30

Strat Open Pairs# 7:30

Saturday, April 9

10:00 am, 2:30 pm

Single Sessions

Strata-Flighted Open Prs***

Stratified Non Mstr Pairs**

Sunday, April 10

Strata-Flighted Swiss*** .. 11

2 Session play-through with break

Strat Non-Mstr Swiss** 11 & 2

* (A 1500+; B 500-1500; C 0-500)

** (single sessions)

(A 50-200; B 20-50; C 0-20)

(A 1500+; B 500-1500; C 0-500)

*** (A 3000+; X 0-3000) separate

(B 1000-1500; C 500-1000; D 0-500)

TOURNAMENT CHAIR:

JOHN MARKS: 215-891-0602

JGMMARKS@AOL.COM

PARTNERSHIPS:

JERRY CRAIG: 609-965-2275

MANNY GROSSMAN: 215-477-7265

13

REGIONAL PREVIEW

PHILADELPHIA ♦ June 20 – 26, 2005



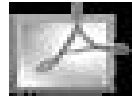
Mark your calendar and reserve the following dates: June 20th to 26th for the Philadelphia Regional to be held again at the Clarion Hotel. This tournament site is very conveniently located for all players in District 4 and surrounding Districts. There is plenty of parking available around the facility for either players who choose to travel back and forth each day or those who decide to stay overnight for the reasonable room rate of \$89.00 per night. The hotel staff again will be very helpful and will cater to the bridge players to satisfy their various needs. All guestrooms are equipped with coffee makers, microwave ovens and refrigerators. The hotel restaurant, "The Elephant and Castle Pub and Restaurant" will also be catering to all bridge players.

Hospitality will be available after the evening session, Tuesday through Saturday, in the Main Lobby. The District President, Debbi Klinger, will also host players in her open suite each evening. Don't forget to register as there will be registration gifts for all the players. Prizes will be given to players who win their section.

Many types of events are available to accommodate the levels of ability and wishes of the players. The Senior events on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will start at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. These starting times were initiated five years ago in answer to numerous requests received from senior players over the years and have proven to be popular. Morning and Late Evening Events are available for those who cannot get enough Bridge.

This regional will again host the Pro Bridge Tour Prize Money Bridge Game. This will be an Individual type game and will be held on Thursday, June 23rd at 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM. The first session will be a qualifying round and the second session will be the final and consolation rounds.

(Continued on page 28)



Acrobat Document

Insert .pdf file
050228 philadelphia

SPRING 2005

15

DISTRICT 4 MASTER SOLVERS CLUB

HENRY BETHE, DIRECTOR

I invited solvers to send answers and received quite a few. I have quoted some where I thought they provided either a different perspective or useful analysis of the problem. They do not, however, influence the scoring. I received a solver complaint that Bridge World Standard was too esoteric. Why don't we use "Standard American" for this feature? Well, essentially BWS is SA with agreements defined. The agreements can be found at the Bridge World website, www.bridgeworld.com, which I strongly urge you to visit anyway.

HAND 1: MPs, E/W VUL
KQJ9754, K754, K, A
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ ??

WARNING: 2 ANSWERS MAY BE REQUIRED. DO YOU (A) DBL, AND WHEN IT GOES P-2♣-P-? (B) BID 1S AND WHEN IT GOES P-2♦-P-? (C) BID 4♠ OR (D) OTHER

Action	Score	Votes
X/3S	20	3
X/4S	17	2
X/2S	16	1
X/3C	16	1
X/4NT	15	1
4S	12	2
1S/3S	8	1

*One approach is to bid what you think you can make: **Dan Boye (with Richard Popper):** 4S. Double tends to mislead partner as far as playable*

strains. Another consideration is that X or 1S may allow the opponents to define their own hands and either take a profitable save (yeah, right! red vs white, but it HAS been known to happen) make a minor suit game. Certainly my defensive strength is underwhelming.

*The largest group doubles first but offers many continuations: **Eric Greco:** Double, then jump in spades. In imps bidding 4S is clear and then double anything they bid. At matchpoints I just don't want to unilaterally get our side to a minus score when they make absolutely nothing. Also, there is some chance we have a slam. As to follow ups, **Craig Robinson:** 4NT and play in the appropriate number of spades. Can partner not have an ace? Impossible! There is an excellent probability that he holds the heart queen or even a minor suit king so if he shows two aces we will be in slam. **Jo and Danny Sprung (with Bob and Joann Glasson):** 4S. We might as well go slowly, as we may have a slam. We won't stop below game, although it can have no play. *Jumping to 4S is going slowly?* **Ray Raskin:** 3S sets trump and gives partner a chance to cue bid, if interested. **David Better:** 3C. Best way show more strength when I*



convert partner's next bid to spades. With a hand of this strength at this vulnerability, it's important to begin with a strength-showing bid. After a 4S overcall, if someone bids at the five level partner will not expect this much defensive strength. **Roz and Saul Teukolsky**: 2S. 2C by partner promises another bid in response to 2S, and we want to hear partner's natural rebid. *Now that is going slowly.* **Ed Shapiro**: 1S, then 3S. Once partner bids over 1S, I'll invite game, while trying to stay plus. My simple quantitative 3S bid says I expect to take nine tricks; with something useful he'll raise. Partner has made a non-forcing bid, but QJ10xxx of diamonds and out is too little. A 4S rebid is a close second choice. No other first round call appeals to me at all. **Steve White**: Definitely 1S on the first round. You have spades. No need to preempt at this vulnerability, and you have reasonable defensive prospects if they outbid you. The follow-up to 2D is not so clear, but 3S looks best. **Nick Straguzzi** *explains it all*: Double, then 2S. The hand is too strong for 1S; it will go all pass too often when 4S is cold. Too much defense and slam potential, for an immediate 4S opposite an unpassed partner. When partner advances 2C, 2S conserves space. Jumping to 3S would show the excellent suit

but suggests no interest in other strains. If partner's hand is along the lines of x, AQJxx, Axx, xxxx, 6H is excellent while 6S may go down against a bad trump or heart split. *If partner has only one ace but a spade void, even 4S could be in jeopardy. LHO could lead a stiff heart and down you go with 6H easy. If I knew that partner was going to cue bid over double, I would certainly double. I have a very good hand for offense, and I want to give my side a chance to get to the right contract. On the other hand, at the table I don't know that. So I have almost equal sympathy for 4S and Double. The 1S overcallers have, I think, too much extra offense. In general, with spades double is always possible. If the majors were reversed I would be more inclined to overcall.*

HAND 2: IMPs, NONE VUL
VOID, 109542, 1087632, K4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	1♦	PASS	1♥
PASS	2NT	PASS	??

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE 1♥ RESPONSE, IF YOU THINK FITTING

Action	Score	Votes
5D 20 5		
3C 18 4		
3NT 17 0		
6D 5 1		
3S	2	1

Raskin: 5D. Would not have bid 1H, rather bid 4 or 5 D originally to keep opponents away from the spade suit. **Greco** (and similarly **Popper**): 5D seems down the middle. Hearts could be right but who knows? We might

have a slam but that's going to be hard to find and I don't want to tip off the club lead against 5D by having partner cuebid spades. **Robinson** notes: If partner holds Axx Kxx AKxx Axx, 3N is cold while 5D relies on the heart position but bids 5D anyway. **Ed Schwann**: 3D. How else can you now show this hand of great distribution and only one honor? *Showing how while inventing a new convention is* **Boye**: 3S. Since "the world" plays some form of new minor or check back in auctions like these, shouldn't 3S convey the information of extreme distribution with a weaker hand? I have no problem with bidding 1H as long as methods allow for follow up sequences. Perhaps 2S over 1NT and 3S over 2NT should show weakness and extreme distribution. *This is an interesting suggestion, but I suppose it would be useful to refresh the memory of all on BWS agreements. Over 2NT 3C asks partner to bid 3H with three-card support and otherwise to bid 3D. A direct 3D is a slam try in the opened minor, in this case diamonds. 3H would be forcing, and 3S shows spades and at least five hearts.*

Connie Goldberg: 6D. In real life I would bid 6D, unless I decided to keep my skirt on and bid only 5. We may need a bad lead here, like the Ace of Spades. In this forum, I expect I'll get more points for bidding 5 than 6, so I'll bid 5, but if you get more for bidding 6.....well I guess you can't do that. *Slam is possible, opposite*

say *KJxx Ax AKxx Axx. Glassons (and Shapiro)*: 3C – and bid game in the red suit partner bids. Although with our non-vulnerable opponents silent, we think partner is heavy in spade values, there is still a good play for game in our best fit. We would rather have preempted in diamonds immediately. The **Teukolskys** agree but would bid 1H. **Better** adds: Staying out of game could be right, but it's too much of a position.

Some solvers disagree with the 1H response: **Ron Danilowicz**: I would have used an inverted minor raise to 3D immediately instead of the 1H bid. My partner would expect a lot more from me for a 1H response. **Barry Passer**: ... I would have passed over 1D with only 3 HCP. Then I would feel free to compete to 5D, and to pass if partner made a penalty double. *I will leave it to a panelist to ask the right questions and to a solver to supply what I think is the right answer:*

Sprungs: 5D. 1H was fine, but if we weren't 4th chair, a high diamond preempt could be appropriate. This auction sounds unlikely. They have 9+ spades and almost half the deck, and neither could bid at the one level, nv. 5D seems like the best bid now. Hearts may play poorly, even opposite three card support. Unless partner has the world in spades, 5D should have a good play. *With silent opponents, is not partner very likely to have strong spades?*

Sam Ehrlichman: 3NT. I'd have

considered preempting in diamonds instead of bidding 1H, on the theory that I was about to hear spades from my LHO. However, now that neither opponent bid spades, partner surely has good spades, at least KQ10x. An 11-trick game seems unlikely because the opponents have at least 13 HCP in the other suits, so it's between 3C and 3NT. Hearts could play better if partner has three. On the other hand, the opponents are almost certain to lead spades vs. 3NT, and if I bid 3C it gives LHO a chance to double for the lead. So I'll just bid 3NT and hope for 2 spades, 5 (or 6) diamonds, and another trick or two in the round suits. *The panel, correctly in my opinion, generally approves of the 1H response. As the Sprungs point out, West already passed and East did not bid over 1D. I think, by and large, they do not listen to the dog that did not bark and draw the right conclusions from the golden silence. Since partner has at least 4 diamonds, the six card suit is likely to produce lots of tricks in no trump!*

HAND 3: IMPs, N/S VUL

KQ87, AKQ82, Q5, A3

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	PASS	PASS	??
<u>Action</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Votes</u>	
1H	20	9	
2NT	12	2	
2C	4	0	

Teukolsky's: 1H. Since we're not playing Puppet Stayman, 2N has too much downside. **Stra-guzzi:** 1H. Even with Puppet

SPRING 2005

Stayman available, an offshape 2NT looks wrong on this majors-oriented hand. 2C may look reasonable at first glance, but BWS uses Kokish – after 2C-2D-2H-2S (relay), now what? If the auction doesn't die at 1H I will be much better placed to describe this hand (via a reverse), and if it does die who says we might not be in our best contract? **Popper (with Better, Boye, Shapiro and the Sprungs):** 1H. Too much in the majors to open 2NT, and too many losers to open two clubs followed by two hearts. **Robinson:** 1H. I don't want to discuss any other option! **White:** 1H. Should be unanimous. Even the "should be unanimous" comment should be unanimous.

Well, it is not unanimous. Greco offers good reasons:

Greco (and Goldberg): 2NT. This is correct at imps because 1H-1NT wrongsides the contract and this may lose us a game swing. At matchpoints 1H has some merit but would still open 2NT. Also, if partner has a scattered five count he may well pass 1H and we may miss a reasonable game which is a crime vulnerable at imps.

If the diamonds were switched with either major, a 2NT opening would probably be close to unanimous. As it is, both sides have good points to make. I plan to explore this further.

HAND 4: MPs, BOTH VUL



VOID, AQ74, AQJ5, Q10943

West	North	East	South
			1♦
PASS	1♠	PASS	2♣
PASS	2♦	PASS	??
Action		Score	Votes
2H		20	8

P 11 3

Paul Bethe: 2H. I object to opening 1D on this hand. Surely the 10 9 of clubs allow me to open 1C and reverse into 2D. Now that I have gotten into this mess I am forced to continue 2H (showing extras) in hopes of getting to the right contract. My way would have at least allowed partner to select the best strain. **Raskin** would reverse also, while **Goldberg** would open and rebid clubs.

I was hoping for many objections to the 1D opening. My own preference is to open 1H even with only four, or 1C. At least after opening 1H I won't lose the heart suit, and I most likely will play in the right minor suit if partner passes my 2C rebid. I hate rebidding a 5-card suit, especially one that is not robust, and I do not believe this is more than a good minimum after partner's 1S response.

Greco: 2H. Ugly, I don't like opening my shorter suit but would do it here. Hope I am not taking us from our only plus score, but there are two positives of bidding: one it could improve our contract such as if partner is 5-4-2-2, and second, hopefully, at worst we will play 3D making instead of 2D making 3. Partner

should realize that since I didn't bid 2NT I might be stretching a bit with my points; there is a chance I am void in spades.

Better (with Robinson and Boye): 2H. This hand looks just chunky enough to take one more call. Partner can still have four hearts. We could belong in 3NT, and we also could wind up in 3C when partner has something like Kxxxx, xx, xxx, KJx.

Teukolsky's: 2H. Partner could be 5-4 in the majors with a weak hand. We don't relish playing in a 4-2 fit! **Glassons:** 2 H - Although we might end up playing 3 diamonds in a 4-2 fit, we think the hand is worth another bid since partner can still have four hearts and we could be cold for a heart game. **Danilowicz:** I would bid 2H completing the description of my hand. My partner and I do not play fourth suit forcing. He has highlighted a problem. 2H is not natural. 2H shows a good hand unsuitable for other game tries. This is a case of panelists (and solvers) wanting a bid to show the hand they have and not recognizing what a bid actually means.

Sprungs (and Popper): Pass. Opening 1D with 4-5 ... ugh. Well, here we are, potentially in a 4-2 fit, what next? We guess pass. Sure we could be in our 3rd best trump fit. But this hand looks like a misfit, and we don't have that many extras. **Shapiro:** Pass. I assume this is what I had in mind when I opened 1D. 2H now could work out very

well, but it's an overbid and you still have misdescribed the minor suit lengths if it doesn't strike gold. As the auction has worked out, we may have stolen the spade suit, as LHO likely won't reopen into partner's suit, when she couldn't overcall 1D with 1S. **Passer.** Pass. 2H is tempting, and would paint a nice picture of this hand, but are we really missing a game after partner's preference? Bidding now could convert a plus into a minus. *The problem with passing is that partner could easily have Axxxx, J10xx, xx, Jx and 2D is the worst of all possible contracts. Of course, 2H, a game try that does not show a suit, is unlikely to improve matters.*

HAND 5: IMPs, NONE VUL

A4, AKQ9, 4, A76532

West	North	East	South
			1♣
PASS	1♠	PASS	2♥
PASS	3♦	PASS	??
Action	Score	Votes	
3H	20	4	
4C	15	3	
3NT	12	2	
3S	8	2	

Teukolsky's: 3N. If partner passes, this is probably the right spot on a misfit hand. We're not tempted to bid 3S since partner could have bid 2S. **Harry Nuckols:** 3NT. It's essential to have agreements about what to do after a reverse. Partner's three diamond bid is natural and game forcing (at least 8 HCP), but denies five or more spades. Something like Kxxx xx KQxxx xx

would be a minimum. If partner next supports one of my suits, the three diamond bid was a cue bid, and we're off to the races. *"After a one-level new-suit response and opener's rebid-promising reverse, any bid by responder is forcing to game except two of his original suit and the cheaper of a fourth-suit bid and 2NT."* This is the BWS treatment. Before we think about what to bid next, we should analyze partner's awkward bid. Partner did not bid 2S, which he normally should do with 5 or more spades. Partner did not bid 2NT or 3NT, which he would normally do with diamonds (and spades) well stopped. For example with Nuckols' example 2NT stands out. So what does 3D mean? Few of the panelists or solvers come to grips with this. But note the similarity of the hands suggested by Ehrlichman and Shapiro. One group takes the simple approach of rebidding the bad 6-card suit. Some happily, some not. **Straguzzi:** 4C. This one is difficult and I'm not sure what's best. Again, when in doubt, bid out your shape. I'm pretty sure 3S is wrong; in BWS partner could have bid a forcing 2S if he had five or six, regardless of his strength. (Listen up, people.) 3H is OK but a bit dangerous without prior discussion. 3NT is certainly an option as 3D implies a real suit in BWS (*really?*), but this hand is not notrump oriented. **Ehrlichman:** 4C. Partner should have a de-

cent hand, not five spades, not four hearts, and not three clubs. Most likely shape 4-3-4-2. But if partner had a minimum game force with diamond strength, she might have bid some NT. So partner is probably concentrated in the blacks. This makes 6C or 6H a real possibility. Is it wishful thinking that partner will now bid 4H with KJxx JTxx xxxx Kx?

Raskin: 4C with 3S as second choice. Hate to rebid such a bad suit, but there are six of them and anything else distorts my holdings. **Popper:** 4C. 3NT looks wrong. 4C should have better clubs. I don't want to encourage spades that partner could not rebid. After 4C, if partner raises clubs, I will bid six. Over 4D, I will be very badly placed, and am not sure what I would do. If he bids 4H, I will probably bid 4NT, intending to bid a slam in hearts regardless, but leaving open the possibility of seven if partner is very strong. If he bids 4S, I will bid 5S, although this could get us too high. If he bids 4NT, I will treat that as natural and pass. **Robinson:** 4C. If partner bids 4D or 4H then bid 4S (preference if he bids diamonds, cue bid if he bids hearts) then let him decide. I haven't done the hand justice over 4D but the hand is a misfit and hopefully that will offset such great values! *Some rebid the very good 4-card suit.*

Greco (and the Sprungs): 3H. Seems like the best stall. 3S should have 3-card support here.

I would bid the same with 6-5 but then again, my hand is close to 6-5 anyway, and 3H shouldn't guarantee 6-5. **Better:** 3H. This is my default bid in this forcing position. It says 1) I can't support spades, 2) I don't have the shape or diamonds to bid 3NT, 3) I don't want to go beyond 3NT by bidding 4C. With this shape it is usually right to bid 4C, but these clubs simply aren't good enough. The chunky hearts say 3H, not 4C. Ax, Axxx, x, AKQxxx is a 4C bid. **Shapiro:** 3H. Per system, we're in a game force. Partner has denied five spades and (presumably) interest in clubs, since 3C would have been forcing. So I'll make the cheapest bid and hope partner knows what to do. Hearts could be a very playable contract, since the opponents can't both force me and pull trumps. 3NT is a possible call here, but on too many hands diamonds are wide open, for example KQxx, J10x, xxxx, Kx. *Some thought partner could still have good spades.*

Boye: 3S. Terrible clubs and all prime in C and H makes 4S - even in a 5-2 - a better spot. NT has several disadvantages in that you may not have an entry to partner's diamond or spade suit and you certainly do not have nine tricks in your hand. 3S affords the best opportunity to reach right strain. 4C misstates the quality of the club suit. **Glassons:** 3S. Serves three purposes: gets us to the spade game when partner has five or

six spades; warns partner about the diamond shortage for NT; gets NT played from the right side. **Goldberg:** 3S. If I read system notes correctly, partner can still have 5 or more spades with a good hand, and only rebids spades with a baddish hand. If however partner always rebids spades with five or more, then I bid 3NT. *See Strag's comments for why Connie is wrong. 2S and 2NT are not unequivocally weak, just possibly weak. So I changed Connie's vote. Actually, I think partner is showing diamond values in a decent but limited hand with weak spades. If he had both suits stopped he would bid no trump himself. BWS responds in a major with 4 diamonds and a four card major when responder will not bid again over a 1NT rebid. But the fact that you have bid a suit of, say, J642, does not mean you have it stopped. So my guess is that partner is more likely to have xxxx Jxx KQxx Kx than the hands offered.*

Panelist	1	2	3	4	5	Score
DAVID BETTER	x/3C	3C	1H	3H	3H	93
DAN BOYE	4s	3s	1H	2H	3s	62
BOB & JOANN GLASSON	x/4s	3C	1H	2H	3s	83
CONNIE GOLDBERG	4s	6D	2NT	2H	3NT	61
ERIC GRECO	x/3s	5D	2NT	2H	3H	92
RICHARD POPPER	4s	5D	1H	P	4C	78
RAY RASKIN	x/3s	5D	1H	2H	4C	95
CRAIG ROBINSON	x/4NT5D		1H	2H	4C	90
ED SHAPIRO	1s/3s	3C	1H	P	3H	77
JOANN & DAN SPRUNG	x/4s	5D	1H	P	3H	88
ROZ & SAUL TEUKOLSKY	x/2s	3C	1H	2H	3NT	86

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT

- ♠ Just become a Life Master?
 - ♥ Enjoyed a special win at a tournament?
 - ♣ Played an unusual hand?
 - ♦ Know of another player's accomplishments?
- Send the information to your unit's scribe for inclusion in "From the Four Corners" in a future *4Spot*.

(Continued from J&J page 31)

Information about the ACBL School Bridge Program can be found on the ACBL website at: <http://www.acbl.org/teachers/schoolBridge.html>

The contact person for the program is Charlotte Blaiss, or you can email: Education@acbl.org.

LEHIGH VALLEY UNIT 133**APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2005**

**Schnecksville Fire Station
4550 Old Packhouse Road
Schnecksville, PA**

Friday, April 29**1:30pm & 7:30pm****Stratified Women's Pairs****(1:30pm only)****Stratified Open Pairs****0-99er Pairs****Saturday, April 30****9:30am, 2:30pm, 7:30pm****K/O Teams (starts 9:30am)****Stratified Open Pairs****0-99er Pairs****Sunday, May 1****11:00am & TBA****Stratified Swiss Teams****2 sessions****0-199 Swiss Teams**

**There will be a short break with
box lunches available to buy**

**Strats: 300, 1000, unlimited
99er: 20, 50, 100 if enough tables**

Free Coffee/Snacks

**Tournament Chair: Charles Lom
610-390-1951**

Partnerships:**Ernie Roberts 610-767-7037****Else Gerbert 610-965-5180****DIRECTIONS**

FROM RT. 22: EXIT RT. 309 N. 6.5 MILES TO

LEFT ON PACKHOUSE RD.

FROM I-78 FROM WEST: RT. 22 E, PROCEED
AS ABOVEFROM I-78 FROM EAST: RT. 309 N. 7.5 MILES
TO OLD PACKHOUSE ROAD. LEFTFROM PA TRNPK (I-476): EXIT 33. EAST ON RT
22. PROCEED AS ABOVE

Summer Hands for 4Spot Master Solvers Club

Unless specified, all bidding is
Bridge World Standard which can be
found at www.bridgeworld.com.
Submit answers to Henry Bethe at
hebethe@aol.com or mail to 108
Sheldon Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.
Responses are due by May 15,
2005. You are South.

HAND 1: MPs, N/s VUL**10 3, Q9853, VOID, AK10742**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3♦	P
4♦	4♠	5♦	??

PLEASE COMMENT ON SOUTH'S
PASS OVER 3♦

HAND 2: IMPs, N/s VUL**J4, AQ876, K943, 98**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT ¹	P		
2♠ ²	3♠	5♣	??

¹ 10 - 13² LONG CLUBS, UNKNOWN STRENGTH**HAND 3: IMPs, NONE VUL****943, KQ10943, A542, VOID**

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♣ ¹	2♥ ²	??

¹ ONE SUITER, ANY SUIT
² TRANSFER TO SPADES

HAND 4: MPs, BOTH VUL**A752, VOID, Q1043, 98542**

West	North	East	South
1♣ ¹	P	1♦ ²	P
1♠	DBL	P	2♣
3♠	P	P	??

¹ 16+ PRECISION² 0-7

[BWS = DBL OF 1♣ FOR MAJORS, 1NT
FOR MINORS]

HAND 5: IMPs, N/s VUL**Q74, KQ10842, 97, 10 2**

West	North	East	South
	1♦	2♣	??

(Continued on page 25)



DISTRICT 4 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS
Unit 120 NE PA SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

MAY 13 – 15, 2005
Clarion Hotel
300 Meadow Ave. (I-81, Exit 184)
Scranton, PA 18505
570-344-9811

Friday, May 13

Stratified Pairs 1:30
(0-500; 500-1000; 1000+)
I/N 199er, 99er, 49er. 1:30
Strat Open Pairs 7:00
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)
I/N 199er, 99er, 49er. 7:00

Saturday, May 14

Strat Open Pairs 1:30
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)
I/N 199er, 99er, 49er. 1:30
GNT 1st round 1:30
Strat Open Pairs 7:00
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)
GNT 2nd round 7:00
299er Pairs 7:00

Sunday, May 15

10:00 AM & TBD
Stratified Swiss Teams
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)
GNT Finals



TOURNAMENT CHAIR
Ray Depew 570-287-1786
rdepew@intergrafix.net

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS
Ray Raskin 610-527-5181
rayraskin@aol.com

(Continued from Summer Hands, page 24)

WARNING: PLAN REQUIRED. DO YOU

A) PASS AND WHEN IT GOES 3♣, 3♦,
P, ??

B) DBL AND WHEN IT GOES 3♣, 4♠,
P, ??

C) BID 2♥ (PROMISES ANOTHER BID)
AND WHEN IT GOES 3♣, 3♦, P, ??

D) OTHER



Deadline for the Summer
4Spot is June 1, 2005



FOR NEWCOMERS ONLY

by
MARTI RONEMUS
mroneumus@suscom.net

What Does It Take...

(I found this pathetic little scribbled, barely legible note on my director's table late Tuesday afternoon...)

"Dear Marti,

I know I haven't been playing bridge very long, but this has been the worst day ever. In the first eight hands alone, we had seven negative scores, were doubled twice and went down four digits both times. Then things got REALLY bad!! My partner was acting like a crazed psycho killer...worse, actually. At least I could have reasoned with a psycho killer!! It was like we had never met each other before and were speaking languages the other didn't know. And to make matters worse, I felt like I had never heard of any of this stuff before, and forgot what I HAD heard! I'm giving up this game. I don't have what it takes. Just what DOES it take to play this game, anyway?" Signed, Pete

"PS ... can you get us partners for Friday night's Swiss?"

Poor Pete. When I checked the scores, he had indeed had a terrible day...he and the Psy-

cho Killer ended up with a 32% game. But he sure got me thinking: Just what DOES it take to play this game? Here are some thoughts...

Dear Pete...How about this list?

A sense of proportion: Surely you've heard people say, "Relax. It's just a game." While I don't necessarily agree with them, it is true that the fate of the Free World doesn't hinge on how you play bridge. It probably isn't even the most important endeavor of the day. Lighten up and have some fun! That's more important than the results of the game. If we had to win in order to have fun, fun would be a scarce commodity. To those whose partners are acting like Crazed Psycho Killers, I say "When your partner is at his worst, you should be at your nicest and kindest. That way, when you murder him in the parking lot, we can tell the police, with all honesty, that all was roses between you." (Besides, just imagine what he's thinking about YOU!) Remember the Ice Ball

Theory: In a billion years the earth will just be a little dark ice ball, so what does it really matter how you play the hand today. In the grand scheme of things, who cares. Move on and turn the page.

Boldness, audacity and courage: 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 wandering 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 remembered: I worked in midtown Manhattan for ten years and had dealt with foreign cab drivers on a daily basis. How hard could this be in comparison to THAT feat! 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.

A high tolerance for embarrassment: A charming woman

told me a funny thing. She said that when she turned 50, she made a resolution that she'd never be embarrassed again. After all, she had done every foolish thing possible. Never again would she turn red. And then she discovered bridge. "Good thing I had made that resolution, because I found several dozen new ways to look like a fool! I simply don't care, though. I find the dumb things I do at the table funnier than anyone else finds them. I love this game!"

An ability to live with ambiguity: People who need hard-and-fast rules have a rough time with bridge. While there are certainly guidelines, no three people agree on all of them. To many of us that's part of the beauty of the game. Every hand is different, every hand opens possibilities, new insights. One of our directors, Charlotte, is a woman in her very late eighties. She's played bridge for over 60 years and still gets excited when she takes a fresh hand from a board. A mind stretched in a new direction will never regain its original shape (neither will my waistline).

An acceptance of the possibility of an alternate universe: There's no reason why your finesses shouldn't

work at least 50% of the time, "8 Ever, 9 Never" doesn't work for you, or why at the most important moment, your mind leaves the room and your evil twin plays the hand badly, leaving you to explain the minus score. It helps to think that somewhere in an alternate universe, you are doing things RIGHT! An acceptance of the cold, hard truth: You'll probably NEVER be a world-class player. That takes a whole 'nother set of characteristics that most of us do not possess. BUT you can be a darn GOOD player, competitive, smart, a pleasure as a partner and opponent. You can wring every ounce of fun out of every hand and game. And remember, bridge is a destination, not a journey. You ain't NEVER gettin' to the top of the mountain, so just have fun.

See you Friday night. I got you teammates, despite your dreadful results. Seems people actually are eager to play with you and Psycho Killer, because you're so much fun. Marti

(And for you reading this...what would you add to the list? Email me at mrone-mus@suscom.net and tell me what you think.)



(Continued from page 14, Regional Preview)

Entry fee for the Open Individual will be \$50.00 per player; for the Mini Open Individual, \$30.00 per player; and, for the 299er Individual, \$20.00 per player. Players who play in the Open Individual game can win as much as \$1000.00.

A full Intermediate/Newcomer program will be provided and directed by Donna Bowser and Intermediate/Newcomer Chairpersons, Donna Morgen (Unit 141) and Bill and Susan Grover (District 4). Experts that are attending the tournament will be giving informative instructions to the players before each I/N session. On Tuesday and Friday between sessions, all I/N participants are invited to a party. I/N single sessions events are scheduled as follows:

- Monday Eve - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday through Friday 1:00 & 7:30 PM
- Saturday - 1 & 7 PM
- Sunday - 10 AM & 2 PM

All of us on the Tournament Committee are looking forward to seeing you again this year and there are certainly enough activities to keep the most avid bridge player occupied and enthused for the seven days.

John Marks
Tournament Chair

DISTRICT 4SPOT



A Spot 4 the Advancing Player

by Jay Apfelbaum

(japfel@verizon.net)

This is the first of a series of articles written for the advancing player. I welcome questions and suggestions about future articles. Send them to the publisher. Who knows? You may be mentioned in a future article!

Good bidding theory means there are no two ways to bid one hand. In this article, I will show how that theory works using the Jacoby and Texas Transfer conventions. Partner opens 1NT, showing 15-17 hcp, and you have a five-card or longer major suit. You need a way to show both your length and strength so that Partner can choose the best contract.

What follows is a table showing the different meanings for your second bid. It does not include the strength or distribution you will need to bid a second suit at the three or four level. The bids are similar if responder has a spade suit.

CHOICES AND MEANINGS

partner you

1NT 2♦

2♥ ?

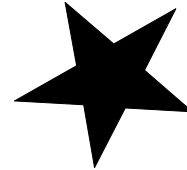
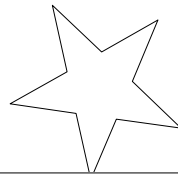
- Pass Signoff with a poor hand (0 - 7 hcp)
- 2NT Invitational with a 5 card heart suit and about 8 hcp (plus or minus)
- 3♥ Invitational with a 6+ card heart suit and about 8 hcp (plus or minus)
- 3NT Game interest only with a 5 card heart suit and 10+ hcp
- 4♥ Mild slam interest with a very strong 6+ card heart suit
- 4NT Slam interest with a 5 card heart suit and about 16 hcp (plus or minus)
- 5♥ Slam interest with a 6+ card heart suit and about 16 hcp (plus or minus)

1NT 4♦

4♥ ?

- Pass Game interest only with a 6+ card heart suit and 10+ hcp
- 4NT Blackwood
- Raise Asks for a heart honor to bid slam

DISTRICT 4 STARS



2005 SPRING NABC - PITTSBURGH

1	140.06	Eric Greco, North Wales PA
2	78.79	JoAnn Sprung, Philadelphia PA
3	77.11	Ken Cohen, Philadelphia PA
4	75.87	Jess Stuart, West Chester PA
5	68.07	Kris Alladi, Phoenixville PA
6	63.87	Larry Sunser, Syracuse NY
7	63.21	Lois Stuart, West Chester PA
8	60.05	Rich Rothwarf, Philadelphia PA
9	59.53	Stewart Cramer, Pittsford NY
10	57.55	Mitchell Snyder, Earlington PA

HARRISBURG REGIONAL

Harrisburg, PA Jan. 31 - Feb. 6, 2005

1.	Rick Rowland	58.16
2.	Dave Treadwell	55.05
3.	Dale Beers	44.61
4.	Craig Robinson	44.34
5.	Ken Cohen	43.40
6.	Marty Rabinowitz	42.94
7.	Ed Bissell	40.87
8.	Kurt Kilhefner	39.08
9.	Joann Glasson	34.38
10	Bob Glasson	34.38

Harrisburg Notes



♠ 865 Tables

♥ 674 Players Attended

♣ 612 Players Won

Masterpoints

♦ 4,655 Masterpoints

Awarded

J EERS & UBILATIONS

BY JORDAN

HAROLD@BCS-INC.COM

Jumpstarting Juniors

If you've considered the future of bridge in the US, you've undoubtedly noticed that for two generations we (even avid bridge players) have failed to teach our own children the best card game in the world. We need to teach young people to play bridge before there is no critical mass of knowledgeable bridge players available.

Now if you've considered teaching that recently retired couple that just moved into the neighborhood; then you should consider offering to teach a school program instead. Consider the advantages:

- ♣ Kids learn faster
- ♣ Kids behave better
- ♣ ACBL provides supplies
- ♣ ACBL **pays you**

The retired couple next door can find a local bridge teacher and drive to the local lessons; they'll be ok without you. But kids are too young to drive and can't afford to pay: they need your help! Plus, they have a long lifetime of potential enjoyment ahead that you can get them started on.

Bridge should be an easy

sell to your local school administrators for an after school program. Bridge give kids a real-world application for their math skills, critical thinking skills, and interpersonal relationship skills. Pilot programs have been shown to improve regular classroom performance of the children who participate. And, oh yeah, it's FUN.

I was surprised to find that I had fallen behind myself as I wasn't yet running the Pre-K program for my 4 year old. Yes, it's available for download from ACBL. Ok, I'm a little skeptical about the Pre-K program, but you can choose an older class. Perhaps some who don't need assistance in the potty room anymore?

The ACBL School Bridge Lesson Series program is designed to help you bring the joy of bridge to youth. More than 4000 youngsters participate each year in schools throughout North America. The fully funded program is sponsored by the ACBL and the ACBL Educational Foundation and includes teacher stipends and free textbooks.

(Continued on page 23)



Upcoming District 4 Tournaments

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	PAGE
April 8-10	PCBA Spring Unit 141	Clarion Hotel Cherry Hill, NJ	John Marks 215-891-0602	13
April 8-10	Rochester Spring Unit 112	India Comm Cntr Penfield, NY	Warren Marsland 585-442-8753	
April 8-10	Chambersburg Unit 168	Four Points Sheraton Chambersburg, PA	Glenn Beidel 717-264-9143	
April 15-17	Lancaster Unit 168	Continental Inn Lancaster, PA	Eleanor Alboum 717-392-7709	
April 29 - May 1	Lehigh Valley Spring Unit 133	Schnecksville Fire Hall Schnecksville, PA	Charles Lom 610-390-1951	24
April 29 - May 1	Spring Unit 217	Sem Econ Bridge Club State College, PA	Ed Bissell 814-237-1043	
April 30 - May 1	Ithaca Unit 112	Kendal at Ithaca Ithaca, NY	Henry Bethe 607-257-7189	
May 2-8	Unit 112 STaC	Clubs	Marsh Macmillan 607-754-7913	
May 13-15	Spring Unit 120	Clarion Hotel Scranton, PA	Ray Depew 570-287-1786	25
May 14-15	GNT All Flights	Clarion Hotel Scranton, PA	Ray Raskin 610-527-5181	25
May 14-15	Finger Lakes Spring Unit 112	Coop Extention Canandaigua, NY	Mary Miller 585-394-7899	
May 20-22	Spring Unit 121	The Bridge Room Reading, PA	Janet Stevens 610-372-5429	
June 3-5	Mohawk Valley Unit 112	Mohawk Valley C C Utica, NY	Billie Ohlbaum 315-724-8451	
June 3-5	Summer Delight Unit 120	Independent Fire Hall Kingston, PA	Ray Depew 570-287-1786	
June 10-12	Thousand Islands Unit 112	Ramada Inn Watertown, NY	Ruth Condon 315-788-4123	
June 10-12	White Rose Unit 168	Springetts Fire Co. York, PA	Kelly Zeller 717-246-8034	
June 13-19	Unit 190 STaC	Clubs	Fred King 703-536-1914	
JUNE 20-26	PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL	CLARION HOTEL CHERRY HILL, NJ	John Marks 215-891-0602	15
JULY 5-10	ROCHESTER REGIONAL	LOGANS PARTY HOUSE ROCHESTER, NY	Lois Sanders 585-425-2492	Next 4Spot