

District 4 Spot



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAROLD JORDAN

Happy New Year!

Like me, I'm certain that most newly elected presidents, when dealt the responsibility of writing this article, immediately reverted to their stack of old *4Spots* for guidance. Here's what I learned:



- ♠ I love bridge and started playing it in college
- ♥ We're doing a great job in District 4
- ♣ The tournaments are wonderful and you should attend
- ♦ We're going to do even better in coming years
- ♣ Invite a friend to come out and join you as we need new members

Having wrapped that up in a few Berger dots; let's talk about what is actually going on these days in District 4.

Starting this year, there will be three tiers of Player Of The Year awards, to entice members at various levels to participate in our sectionals, regionals, GNT finals, and NAP finals. They will be the long standing Dave Treadwell Player of the Year Award – open to anyone; the Jeanne Fisher Player of the Year Award – open to players with less than 2000 masterpoints; and the Jane Segal Player of the Year Award – open to Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints. All three awards complement the honor bestowed by winning with a small cash honorarium to encourage even the most miserly contender to make a run for it!

Here's some good bridge news; District 4's membership is up. I'm a believer - having just run a NLM sectional in Wilmington that averaged 46 tables a session. Well more than our open sectionals tend to muster. New players are out there if we find them and appeal to them.

The Steamtown Regional is almost upon us. Line up your partners and teammates now; we're expecting you March 13-19 in Scranton. Here's to an exciting 2006!

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CRAIG ROBINSON

Is the future of sectionally rated games at clubs) tournaments in doubt? Many have formed the Bermuda Tri- feel that the impact of STaCs, angle for Sectionals. bracketed KOs, and sectionally What can we do to save rated games at clubs will even- our sectionals? I think the an- actually spell doom for our sec- swer is to make them special. tional tournaments. In District Increase hospitality, increase 4 we hold 40+ sectionals per publicity, appeal to the newer year, so we need to look at the players all while controlling problems and see what we can costs. Bridge players like food do to make our tournaments and coffee. Instead of the more attractive. same old, same old, try new

STaCs have afforded our snacks, new hospitality; per- players an alternative source haps subsidize meals between of silver points. When silver sessions. Definitely, publicize points were first introduced your tournaments through and sectionals were the sole every source you can afford, source of those points, and then publicize the results attendance at sectionals with special emphasis on the in Unit 141 rose 40%. I/N results. Establish

Bracketed KOs have annual awards to the afforded players a source of players who do best in garnering many points, and if these categories, and make one is willing to travel and pay sure to publicize the winners for lodging, it only makes of those awards. If possible, sense for the player to spend give I/N lectures, prizes and, his dollars at Regionals, where generally, make your section- chance of success is higher als an 'event' that people want due to the bracketed KO. to attend.

Eighteen months ago, the The more you do the more ACBL Board of Directors volunteers you will need. Our passed a motion to allow sec- tournaments stay more afford- tionally rated games at clubs able because of the efforts of every session if the players our volunteers. We need more were willing to pay an extra volunteers. See any Unit offi- dollar. cial to help.

The advent of these three Happy New Year and may actions (STaCs, KOs, and sec- 2006 be a great year for all of you!

From The Four Corners



CENTRAL NEW YORK 112

Lois Sanders

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Unit 112 has held its elections for 2006. President is Lois Sanders, Vice President, Warren Marsland, Secretary Fran LeBouef and Treasurer Marsh McMillian. I look forward to working with everyone.

We chose as our Charity the Melissa Foundation which works with teens living with cancer. I believe they do wonderful work. Melissa was a teenager who had cancer and before she died she requested her family to use all the information they had as a result of her illness and use it to benefit other teens with similar problems. I know the money will be truly appreciated and used wisely.

We are continuing with our policy of keeping after all our players to be aware of their own actions and to help wherever possible. Let's make this

WINTER 2006

a year of true appreciation of ALL the people who make our wonderful organization work.



NORTHEASTERN PA 120

JoAnn M. Mauger

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New Ranks - Junior Master: Marilyn Funk, Orwigsburg; Jody Sorrell, Waverly; Margaret Hook, Bethany; Jesse Savitz, Kingston; Joan Field; Lake Como. Club Master: Francine Alperin, Clarks Summit; Dorothy Filchak, Wilkes Barre; Hans Hofstetter, Equinunk; Evelyn Reles, Kingston; Mary Tragis, Waymart. Sectional Master: Ged Manzi, Jim Thorpe; Martha O'Connor, Scranton; Sondra Kaufman, Scranton. Regional Master: Anna Goetz, Schuylkill Haven; Banny Horsman, Buck Hill Falls; Joanne Blum, Hawley. Life Master: Carol Drewniak, Conyngham. Bronze Life Master: Sandra Johnson, Kingston; Carol Drewniak,

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Conyngham. Silver Life Master: Benjamin Eisenberg, Hemlock Farms.

David Hall has taken the lead in the 2005 Masterpoint Race and the 365 Day Masterpoint Race. Jeanie Fainberg becomes the fourth Unit 120 player to score 100 in the 365 Day Masterpoint Race. Second place is held by Ray Depew, third place Judy Null.

Please visit our web site: www.nepab.com for upcoming games and results. George Marcy continues doing an excellent job of developing and maintaining our website. Mark your calendars for the sectional at Kingston Independent Fire Hall from March 3-5, 2006 and the Regional at the Clarion in Scranton March 13-16, 2006. (See the ad on page 16.)



BERKS MONTGOMERY 121
Doug White
610-873-1383
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Our Fall Sectional tournament was held in September. On Friday afternoon Al and Travis Crump were first in A and B. Mary Ann Moyer and Maribelle Kauffman were first in C. Friday evening's honors went to Peter and Marie Filandro first in A. Margaret and

Doug White were first in B, and Anna Goetz and Joan Benedict first in C.

Saturday's winners in the afternoon open game were Thomas Weik and Charles Gray in A with Arlene Andrews and Gene Waltz in B and Zena and Harvey Hafetz in C. In the 99er game Livonia Eck and Rebecca Weiss were first in A with Michael and Christine Sgro first in B. Saturday evening had Jana Estep and Dottie McCormick placing first in A and B. Elizabeth Kunkleman and Fenwick Brown were first in C.

The Sunday Swiss Team event was won by Neal Satten, Ken Cohen, Jay Cohen, and Ed Shapiro. Karen and Stan Kellin with Margaret and Doug White were first in B. Alan Seltzer, Janice Repko, and Dodie and George Stroup were the winning team in C.

The Hawley Quier Memorial Board a Match game was held on October 2nd. The winning team in A was Alice Hyman, Audrey Miller, LaRue Wells and Rodney Hilbert. The winners in B were Elizabeth Kunkleman, Diana Mulligan, Louise Remley, and Noel Szundy.

Our Annual Membership meeting was held on November 11, 2005. The following

unit members were elected as Master: Mary Uhrig, Jean officers and directors: President: Carl Cronrath, Vice Johnston, E Jane Sher. Club Master: Anne Alderman, John Alderman, Alice Ernst, Christine Sgro, Brian Snyder, Treasurer: Sandra Gebhardt, Secretary: Doug White, Directors: Heather Bittenbender, Robert Heim, Betsy Kunkleman, Alan Seltzer, Doris Sharpe, George Stroup, Margaret White, and Marlene Winkleman. Special awards given at the meeting were: Unit Hall of Fame: Betty Borda. Hartman award: John Weishampel. Mini Hartman award: Sue Wessner. Congratulations to each of them.

Of course a little bridge was played followed the meeting. In the open game Dorothy McCormick and Timothy Zettlemoyer were first North/South in both A and B. Sandra Gebhardt and Albert Bingham with first East/West in section A. Nancy Berry and Faith DeLallo were first in B. In the non life master section Nell and Lamar Thompson and Arnold and Barbara Newman tied for first North/South in section A. Alice and Lee Ernst were first in B. In the East/West direction George Arnold and Brian Gibson were first in both A and B.

The following members have continued their advance in ACBL rankings. Junior

Master: Mary Uhrig, Jean Johnston, E Jane Sher. Club Master: Anne Alderman, John Alderman, Alice Ernst, Christine Sgro, Brian Snyder, Wenzhen Cheng, Jean Westervelt. Sectional Master: Maribelle Kauffman, Elizabeth Kunkleman, Alan Seltzer. Regional Master: George Stroup, Sue Wessner. Bronze Life Master: Doug White. Diamond Life Master: Tom Weik.

Our Unit has been saddened in the past few months by the deaths of Clarke Bigler, Manfred Jakobs and Isabelle Bradley. They will be missed.

Please plan to attend our upcoming Winter Sectional to be held in Reading at The Bridge Room Friday, February 17 through Monday, February 20, 2006. Unit members who wish to receive email notification of Unit games, Sectional games, and any other special Unit events should send their email address to bmbu121@yahoo.com.



LEHIGH VALLEY 133

Dave Kresge

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The unit held its annual holiday party and annual meeting on 20 November at the Brookside Country Club. Else

Gerbert organized the usual great affair. Approximately one third of the unit membership attended. Newly elected officers were Robert Grover, President; Julie Brooks, Vice President; Else Gerbert, Treasurer; and Dolly Kaminski, Secretary. In addition, Barbara Miller will replace Charles Lom as Tournament Chairperson.

The unit annual trophy winners were as follows: Bonnie West Trophy (less than 50 MP), Samuel Litzenberger; Seeley Trophy (50 to 100 MP), Karen Yellin; Foering Trophy (non LM greater than 100 MP), Ernie Roberts; and the Enberg Trophy (over 100 MP), Donald Swan.

We have a new location for our Spring Sectional April 21-23 at the Wescosville Community Center. An ad will appear in the next issue of the *4Spot*.



PCBA 141

John Marks

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Every year the Philadelphia Contract Bridge Association (PCBA) pays tribute to the player who excels at our five sectional tournaments during the calendar year. This year's Player of the Year (or the Jordon Trophy Winner) is Ken

Cohen of Philadelphia who accumulated a total of 99.36 Master Points. Normally,

about only half of the number of MPs amassed by Kenny would be required to win this prestigious honor. Kenny finished ahead of his nearest competitor by slightly less than 30 points. Along with the Jordon Trophy, the PCBA also

recognizes the player who began the year as a Non Life Master and accumulated more points than his/her contemporaries during the period. Whether or not the player becomes a life master during the year is irrelevant. This year's winner of the Gough Trophy is Ashok Bapat of Voorhees, NJ.

Congratulations to Kenny and Ashok for their achievements. Although there are no physical trophies, per se, both players

receive free plays to all five PCBA Sectionals during 2006. Kenny Chatzinoff, Cinnamin-

son, NJ was second in the Jordon Trophy race with 69.53; Donna Morgen, Haver-

town, PA was third with 66.32. In the Gough Trophy race, Peggy Bruchansky, Marlton, NJ was second and Greg Smith, Trenton, third.

Meyer Kotkin, Ken Cohen and Tom Weik were the top players at the October Sectional. Meyer and Ken won

two of the events. Both the September and October tournaments were well attended. The Intermediate/Newcomers event also proved to be well attended.

A three round Handicap Knockout Team game is scheduled to be held on Saturday at the January and February Sectional Tournaments. The first round will start at 10:00 AM. For players who enjoy knockout events, this will be a great opportunity for you to acquire easy master (silver) points.

At the January Sectional an election will be held to choose nine of ten candidates to serve on the Unit 141 Board of Directors for three years. The ten following candidates have been nominated: Joan Brandeis, Terry Coughlin, Howard Kahlenberg, Elaine Landow, Donna Morgen, Tom Purl and Everett Young, Ann Ravreby, Mike Salton and April Hand Apfelbaum. Members of the Unit should make a point to come to the tournament site and vote and while there play some Bridge.

The February Sectional tournament will be held at a new location, Holiday Inn in Bensalem, PA on Street Road, PA Route 132. Also, in February a new innovation will be

applied in the Flight A of the Strata-Flighted events. The field will be arranged so that there will be a least a minimum of 40% of the players who enter the event designated as Stratum X regardless of their point total. If 40% of the players are delegated to Stratum X and have less than 3500 master points, then 3500 master points become the cut-off point between Stratum X and Stratum A.

The January Sectional tournament is scheduled to be held on January 6 to 8, 2006 at the Clarion Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ; the February Sectional is February 10 to 12, 2006 at Holiday Inn, Bensalem, PA. See the ad on page 28. Hope to see all of you there.



CENTRAL PENN 168

Susan Grover

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billandsus@juno.com

Congratulations to these folks who are climbing the Masterpoint Ladder: Stephen Smith, a new Silver Life Master, and to our new Bronze Life Masters - Trudy Gaston, Elizabeth Hess, Tony McBeth, Bridget Whitley and Charlie Wooten. Trudy Gaston and Barbara Morrison are our new-

est Life Masters. 0-300 players. Tim Smith and

Kelly and Mike Zeller came Ronnie Orr, with 71.02 points, up big at the NAP final. They led the Unit players in the were second in Flight B and open category. At the York will represent the District at the Sectional, Mel Lubart's 17.17 Nationals. Nice Going! points were good for second

Many of our players are place in the Masterpoint leading their categories in the standings.

third quarter's standings of the Future tournaments are the District 4 Ace of Clubs and Harrisburg Sectional February Mini-McKenney races. In the 3-5, and the 199er Sectional Mini-Mc, Melissa Waychoff is at York February 26.

Junior Master of the Year, ♥ ♠ ♦ ♣ Bonnie Heilig is leading the

NABC Master category **DELAWARE 190**

and the Silver Life Master **Judy Nicolaysen**

leader is Dennis Wick. The **610-793-1050**

Ace of Clubs leaders are Wil- bobnick@bellatlantic.net

mer Romberger as Rookie of the Year, William Souders is the Regional Master of the Year and Nadine Soussa is the Bronze LM of the Year. Selena and John Swanson are tied for the lead as Emerald Life Master of the Year. The complete standings can be found on the District 4 web site: <http://web2.acbl.org/hosted/districts/d4web/index.htm>

The leading masterpoint winner at the Hagerstown Sectional was Tim Smith with 14.51. Shane Zeller was the leading Unit 168 player at the Harrisburg Sectional with 16.01 MPs. At the Lancaster Regional Justine Rogevich won 9.41 points to top all the

Unit 190 invites all District 4 players once again to a FOUR DAY SECTIONAL. The Blue Hen Sectional will be held February 24-27, 2006. Friday-Sunday events will be held at the DuPont Country Club and Monday events will be played at the Talleyville Fire Hall. The complete schedule can be accessed at our web site www.unit190.org or on page 13 of this 4Spot.

Plaudits go out to DSBAers who reached new Life Master strata: new Gold Life Masters - Amal Dasgupta and Elsie Disabatino; new Silver Life Masters - Tom Ciconte and Sigridur Kristjansdottir; new Bronze Life Masters - Delma Burgess and Sarah Jastak;

new Life Masters - James Kee and Jane Malloy-Kendall.

The latest update (October 27, 2005) of the standings for the District 4 David Treadwell Player of the Year Award has Unit 190's Rick Rowland in fourth place and Dave Treadwell in fifth place. Kudos also go to Dave Treadwell for winning the most master points of any player in District 4 at the recent Red Rose Regional. Congratulations also go to Rick for coming in a very close second. The top 15 DSBA master point winners at Lancaster in descending order were: Dave, Rick, Tom Grabowski, Marie Grabowski, Marie Filandro, Pete Filandro, Andy Kaufman, Lois Stuart, Judy Nicolaysen, George Stock, Mary Lou Hale, Antoinette Lutz, Andrew Stayton, Carole Everitt, William Everitt.

In September elections were held by the DSBA Board. New Officers are: President--Ward Schaumberg; Vice President--Tom Grabowski; Secretary--Mike Wilson; Treasurer--Tom Cicconte. The following Board Positions were also announced: Internet Results--Marie Grabowski; Judiciary--Rick Rowland; Membership--

Casey Dauphin; Partnerships--Tom Grabowski; Regionals--Susan Corbett; Sectionals--Denis Lasota and Cindy Rowland; State Tournaments--Rick Rowland and Anne Taylor; Sussex County Liaison--Anna DeLapo; Publications--Judy Nicolaysen.



SUSQUEHANNA 217

Michael Anesko

814-237-1961

mwa2@psu.edu

Congratulations to Arlene Andrews (Coal Township) and Gene Waltz (Danville) for their first-place finish in the masterpoint race at our Williamsport Tournament in October. This venerable pair earned 11.18 silver points each for the weekend, besting Don Strickler (Boalsburg) who totaled 10.13 and Kevin Burns (State College) with 9.84. Details of each day's events follow, but before you start gloating over your scores, make plans now to attend our next unit sectional, the 31st "Spring Out of Winter" tournament in Danville, March 24-26. See the ad on page 22. David Winters (Williamsport) again will chair this event, which is returning to a newly renovated playing site at the Days Inn, right off

(N/S) — 1A, Bob Priest & Linda Ivanoff (Harrisburg); 2A, Sandy & Fred Gilbert (Montoursville); 1B, Arlene Andrews & Gene Waltz; 2B, Prashanth Sriram & Lois Wentzler (Muncy); (E/W) — 1A/B, Marge Winder & Doris Grot; 2A, Mitch Marcello & Robert Keeney (Lewes, DE); 2B, Connie Bamer & Stephany Romano (State College). Sunday Swiss Teams: 1A, Ed Bissel, Mary Ann Churba, Carol Reitz (State College), & Robert Keeney; 2A/1B, Michael Anesko (State College), Doris Plotts (Williamsport), Arlene Andrews, & Gene Waltz; 2B, Connie Bamer, Stephany Romano, Betsy Eliot, & Marilyn Hoover (State College); 1C, John & Jane Watts, Marie Koch, and Dotie Cotner (Williamsport).

Savor those silver points and get ready to win some more in Danville! See the ad on page 29.

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣



WINTER 2006



Blue Hen Sectional Unit 190

February 24 - 27, 2006

Fri, Sat, Sun

Monday Only

DuPont Country Club Talleyville Firehall
Rockland Rd Concord Pk (Rt 202)
Wilmington, DE Wilmington, DE

Note: 2 Locations (see website for directions)

Friday, February 24

1:00 & 7:00 pm ♠ single sessions

Strat Open/Womens Prs (1 pm)

Stratified 99er Pairs (1 pm)

Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs (7 pm)

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

Stratified 199er Pairs (7 pm)

Saturday, February 25

1:00 & 7:00 pm ♠ single sessions

Strata-Flighted A/X Pairs (1 pm)

Strata-Flighted B/C/D Pairs (1 pm)

Stratified 99er Pairs (1 pm)

Stratified Open Pairs (7 pm)

Stratified 199er Pairs (7 pm)

Sunday, February 26

11:00 am & TBA

Flight A/X Two Session Swiss Teams

Strat B/C/D Two Session Swiss

Monday, February 27

12:30 & 7:00 pm ♠ single sessions

Stratified Open Pairs (12:30 & 7 pm)

Strat ACBL-Wide Senior Pairs (12:30)

Stratified 99er Pairs (12:30 pm)

Stratified 199er Pairs (7 pm)

TOURNAMENT CHAIR: CINDY ROWLAND

302-571-1827

PARTNERSHIP: TOM GRABOWSKI

302-239-3969

WWW.UNIT190.ORG

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DISTRICT 4's 2005 NEW LIFE MASTERS (12/1/04 THROUGH 11/30/05)

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| <p> Aileen C Watkins, Seaford DE Alex K Booke, Pittsford NY Alyce Spector, Harrisburg PA Andre I St Omer Roy, Mechanicsburg Ann Rees, Elmira NY April E Apfelbaum, Philadelphia PA Barbara Ann McLaren, Levittown PA Barbara B Morrison, Sarasota FL Barbara G Drake, Rochester NY Bernadette Snyder, Ventnor City NJ Bill Watkins, Seaford DE Billie Jane Maul, Margate City NJ Bonnie Heilig, Leola PA Brian R Holderness, Bangor PA Brion L Keller, Binghamton NY Carl M Smith, Ambler PA Carmen A Chavez, Cicero NY Carol Drewniak, Conyngham PA Charles A Adrion, Rochester NY Charles R Wooten Peach Bottom PA Christopher Marlow, Wilmington DE Claire Warren, Stewartstown PA Clyde P Hess, Claymont DE Courtenay Footman, Ithaca NY David L Legrow, Eagleville PA David R Winters, Williamsport PA Della S Feldman, W Palm Beach FL Dolores Toohey, Pittsford NY Donald C Garaventi, Bryn Mawr PA Dorothy M Forrester, Alburtis PA Eddie N Conner, Chambersburg PA Elaine Frankel, Boca Raton FL Eleanor Wolpert, Wynnewood PA Ellen Keller, Binghamton NY Ernie Thiele, Endicott NY Everett Weiermiller, Elmira NY Gay E Simpson, Blue Bell PA Gene Marks, Ithaca NY George Stack, Bryn Mawr PA Gerry T Wandel, York PA Heather G Bittenbender, Reading PA Helen D Prevo, New Hartford NY Helene Cooperman, Atlantic City NJ Howard R Cring, Cicero NY Irene R Oppenheim, Cherry Hill NJ Jack I Shubert, Ocean View DE James A Doll, Norristown PA James E Kee, Lewes DE James M Zinkand, Scottsdale AZ </p> | <p> James R Benson, Mechanicsburg PA Jana Estep, Wernersville PA Jean A Pearson, Canisteo NY Jean Hollyday, Hagarstown MD Jerzy Stepka, Philadelphia PA Jim Chao, Newark DE John A Moser, Norristown PA John F Lewis, Malvern PA Joseph A De Colli, West Chester PA Karen C Sylvester, Court House NJ Kathy B Miller, Mohnton PA Laurance G Locke Sarasota FL Lawrence E Kidder, Ithaca NY Leonard T Thomas, Wilmington DE Lois A Steel, Margate City NJ Lois Kittredge, Ambler PA Lois Macmillan, Endicott NY Lynne Kupperman, Longport NJ Marsh Macmillan, Endicott NY Max Mohan Arora, Bath NY Michael Scott, Cherry Hill NJ Miriam S Einhorn, Laverock PA Pauline D Stoneback, Orefield PA Peggy A Bruchansky, Marlton NJ R. Anthony Auriemma, Pittsford NY Raymond Garrison, Duccannon PA Raymond V Buch, Ocean City NJ Richard Freitag, Shoemakersvle PA Richard E Folwell, Honeoye NY Ricki Rogers Gordon, Moorestown Robert H Sherwood, Cape May NJ Robert M Meisel, Penfield NY Ron Lopresto, Cinnaminson NJ Ronald Silverstein, Philadelphia PA Sabra H Smith, Fayetteville PA Sandra K Gebhardt, Fleetwood PA Sandy Howe, Pittsford NY Shirley Greenblott, Vestal NY Shirley Weiermiller Elmira NY Steve Chen, Glen Mills PA Terry Fair, Phoenixville PA Thomas F Foerster, Newtown Square Timothy Zettlemoyer, Exton PA Trudy R Gaston, Lancaster PA Vittorio Ginzburg, Philadelphia PA Wayne H Smith, Fort Pierce FL William E Forrester, Alburtis PA William H Haynes, Cresco PA </p> |
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STEAMTOWN

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

MARCH 13-19, 2006 Clarion Hotel, Scranton PA

Monday, March 13

7:30
Anthractite Kick Off Bracketed KO Teams (1st round of four)
Architzel Kick Off Pairs

Tuesday, March 14

9:00
Fainberg Furniture Morning Side Game (1st session in series of five)
Anthractite Kick Off Bracketed KO Teams (2nd round of four)

1:00
Anthractite Kick Off Bracketed KO Teams (3rd round of four)
Side Game — Warren Seiple Series (1st session of four)
Swanson Compact Bracketed KO Teams (1st & 2nd of four)
Intermediate-Newcomer Pairs

7:30
Anthractite Kick Off Bracketed KO Teams (4th round of four)
Swanson Compact Bracketed KO Teams (3rd & 4th of four)
Arch DeGroot Swiss Teams (one session)
Side Game — Warren Seiple Series (2nd session of four)

Wednesday, March 15

9:00
Fainberg Furniture Morning Side Game (2nd session in series of five)
Morning Bracketed KO Teams (1st round of three)

1:00
Norman Kay Stratified Open Pairs (1st session)
Side Game — Warren Seiple Series (3rd session of four)
Intermediate-Newcomer Pairs

7:30
Norman Kay Stratified Open Pairs (2nd session)
Side Game — Warren Seiple Series (4th session of four)

Tournament Chairman: Raymond Depew
Partnerships: Joann M. Mauger, mauger@ptd.net
Hospitality: Judy Argento and Rosemary Farlei
Novice/Intermediate: Beth Rosenthal
Daily Bulletin: Sandy Johnson
Head Director: Doug Grove

Stratifications: A 1500+ B 500-1500 (LM) C 0-500 (NLM)

Intermediate-Newcomer: A 200-300 B 50-200 C 0-50

All pair events will comply with the above stratification.

All knockout team events are bracketed. (Any without sufficient attendance for bracketing will be handicapped.)

Accommodations: **CLARION HOTEL**

Scranton PA 570-344-9811

300 Meadow Ave., Route 81, exit 184.

\$80.00 per night for "bridge group" when reservations are made no later than February 13, 2006.

Thursday, March 16

9:00
Fainberg Furniture Morning Side Game (3rd session in series of five)
Morning Bracketed KO Teams (2nd round of three)

1:00
Physician's Clinical Lab Stratified Open Pairs (1st session)
Side Game — Annie Fisher Series (1st session of six)
Ken Cohen Bracketed KO Teams (1st round of four)
Intermediate-Newcomer Pairs

7:30
Physician's Clinical Lab Stratified Open Pairs (2nd session)
Ken Cohen Bracketed KO Teams (2nd round of four)
Side Game — Annie Fisher Series (2nd session of six)

Friday, March 17

9:00
Fainberg Furniture Morning Side Game (4th session in series of five)
Morning Bracketed KO Teams (3rd round of three)
Henry Bethe Morning Compact Bracketed KO Teams (1st & 2nd of four)

1:00
Dave Treadwell Stratified Swiss Teams (1st session)
Ken Cohen Bracketed KO Teams (3rd round of four)
Side Game — Annie Fisher Series (3rd session of six)
Intermediate-Newcomer Pairs

7:30
Dave Treadwell Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd session)
Ken Cohen Bracketed KO Teams (4th round of four)
Side Game — Annie Fisher Series (4th session of six)

Saturday, March 18

9:00
Fainberg Furniture Morning Side Game (5th session in series of five)
Henry Bethe Morning Compact Bracketed KO Teams (3rd & 4th of four)

1:00
Dave Meyer Stratified Open Pairs (1st session)
Side Game — Annie Fisher Series (5th session of six)
Intermediate-Newcomer Pairs

7:30
Dave Meyer Stratified Open Pairs (2nd session)
One-Session Swiss Teams
Side Game — Annie Fisher Series (6th session of six)

Sunday, March 19

10:00 & TBA
C & S Wood Products A/X Swiss Teams
C & S Wood Products B/C/D Swiss Teams
A/X stratification 3000+ and 0-3000
B 1500+ C 500-1500 D 0-500 (NLM)

WINTER 2006

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DISTRICT 4 MASTER SOLVERS CLUB

HENRY BETHE, DIRECTOR

These are all hands from 30 or more years ago. I lost events I thought were important at the time when I, or my partner, failed to solve the problems presented. I wondered whether the panel or solvers would do better than we did at the time. I would like to apologize to all the contributors. In total panelists and solvers sent in over 20,000 words! I try to hold the column to about 2,800. So I had to cut a lot, and some may end up being quoted at all.

1) Matchpoints, E-W Vul, Dealer East

J10954 void 54 Q109865

West North East South

| | | | |
|----|----|---|---|
| -- | -- | P | P |
| 2H | P | P | ? |

A) WHAT SORT OF HAND DO YOU EXPECT PARTNER TO HAVE?

Dan Boye, Ken Cohen, Sam Ehrlichman, Eric Greco, Fred Neuburger, Richard Popper, JoAnn & Dan Sprung, Ros & Saul Teukolsky, Barry Cohen, Ron Danilowicz, Robert Hickes, Harry Nuckols, Barry Passer, Bill Rock, Bill Schmidt, Nick Straguzzi, and Steve White all offer variations of: *Partner probably has a trap pass. He is likely to have around 16+ HCP and five or six hearts. He is hoping I will double so that he can pass for penalties. This can be deduced from the following evidence: West has at most about 11 HCP for the third seat weak two. Passed hand East has at most 11 HCP. If East has a decent hand, he has at most two hearts, otherwise he would have raised to 3H. It is not likely that both opponents are at the top of their possible range, so although he might have as little as 15 HCP, North is more likely to have 18 or more.* **Ed Shapiro** and **Pete Filandro** add: ...but not a hand for which a no trump action would be descriptive: do not trap with sound no trump overcalls. This takes pressure off partner.

A few thought partner would be weaker:

Ray Raskin,: I expect partner to have a balanced 14 with a single heart stopper, or maybe more HCP's and only 2 spades and no heart stopper. **Connie Goldberg, and Jay Apfelbaum**: 4 or 5 hearts and less than a strong NT. **Bill Foster**: In my methods partner denies holding 12 or more HCP.

I think the larger group is right, and if anything underestimates N's probable strength. He is virtually unlimited if unbalanced with a six-card heart suit.

B) WHAT DO YOU DO?NOTE: 4C WOULD SHOW CLUBS & SPADES.

PASS 20 (7½) ;DOUBLE 12 (2) ;4C 10 (1½) ;2S 9 (1) ;3C 8; (0)

This comment could have been made by most:

Passer: I have three # \$ % @ & ! points. I PASS! Why go looking for trouble?

Or Greco: Pass, If I balance with 2S or 3C I am obviously going to hear an angry 3NT next. 4C could be right but it seems a bit much on a 3 count. Apfel-

baum, Raskin, Goldberg, Shapiro, Sprungs express similar sentiments. Shapiro adds: A cue-bid by a passed hand should show a highly distributional hand including the unbid major. Makes sense to me, and I would interpret it that way at the table. Writing a book on this problem (which I have edited severely) was Straguzzi (echoed by Ehrlichman): PASS. (Double or 3C or 4C might fare better in a simulation.) So why choose pass? Bridge isn't about one deal. If I act, partner will remember the reopening with only 6-5 and a 3-count. He might shade his advances later on, and we will pay when I have full values. Given that it's very close, I'd rather pass and retain the integrity of future competitive actions.

Raising the stakes are **Boye and Popper**: Double. It is matchpoints and this appears to be a great shot at a big score based on the vulnerability. ... expect partner to have a penalty pass of 2 hearts, and a pretty big one given that this is a third seat weak 2 bid. ... not thrilled about defending with this hand ... double is likely to produce the best score.

Choosing to play rather than defend are **Neuburger**: 2S Can't X with 11 black cards, a H void, and a 3 count. **B. Cohen** and **Schmidt**: 3C. 4C is too high. Don't expect to make 4S unless partner has 3 spades, and it would be borderline at best even then. I'll bid a comfortable 3S on the next round, over 3D by partner or 3H by anyone. **K. Cohen** (with **Teukolskys** and **Danilowicz**): 4C. We could have a game and can hope that shape will compensate for the lack of points. Partner will usually choose the right suit and maybe even the right level. With 6-5 hands it is usually right to play offense and not sell out at the 2 level. Partner would love to hear double, but this hand is not strong enough to oblige.

I would guess that 2H is going down more often than not, and frequently down several. I think the winning choices are double and bid, hoping that your distribution will let you make game. But both Ehrlichman and Straguzzi make good arguments for passing. Thus is from a regional pair game where I was trying to impress my partner. At the table I chose 2S and did not remove partner's angry 3NT, which scored +400 and two and a half matchpoints on a 25 top. Partner was 0-6-3-4 with AJ10 AK in the red suits and AKJx of clubs. Most people did not have to contend with a 2H opener. Pass would have gotten 300, double 800, and club bids 1440! Those who passed can take satisfaction from their 20 points here. Those who doubled or showed clubs would have done better at the table. A 3H cue, with its ambiguity as to suits, probably would have gotten 3NT.

2. IMPs, E-W Vul, Dealer West

none KJ109875432 5 95

West North East South

-- -- 2S ?

4H 20(4) ; 3H 15(3) ; Pass 10(3) ; 5H 8(1) ; 6H 6(1)

I have attached a sampling of comments to each group of answers. One group is mindful of the adage "do not preempt over a preempt". **Raskin**,

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Sprungs, Teukolskys, Hickes, Danilowicz, Nuckols: Pass, expecting to be able to do something later. If it goes All Pass, I'll fall out of my chair. If I bid now, partner has the right to expect that I have something other than this hand -- specifically some defensive strength. I am glad, however, that I am expected to pause for about 10 seconds before calling. I might even pause 11 seconds here.

Another thought a minimum heart bid would be best.

Goldberg, Apfelbaum, Shapiro, White, Straguzzi, Filandro: 3H. Not perfect, but shows suit and seems to give us some chance at getting the auction right.... partners get used to overcalls with decent long suits and shortness in the opponent's suit, even with very few high cards. ... If by chance this matches with Problem 5, partner can bid 4N, then 5N and I'll know what to do. *But will he?* I'll be hoping it doesn't get passed out, but anything else would be way too likely to get us overboard. There is no book on how to bid a ten-card suit.

Greco with Boye, K. Cohen, Neuburger, Foster: 4H. One reason I bid 4H now is it might get confusing if I pass. If it goes 4spades on my left and 5 of a minor or 4NT by partner, now 5H sounds like a cuebid to me. How can you get a bad score for bidding with 10 hearts?? ... I will pull partner's first double. After that, we roll the dice and its every man for herself. Rule of not pre-empting a pre-empt was not intended to apply to 2-loser 10-card suits. ... Again you have fewer points than partner expects but this time you certainly have the playing tricks partner expects and possibly more. ... Either side might make a slam on this hand. 4H takes up their bidding room and 5H might suggest that partner bid a slam with spade control. ... Partner needs to have very little for 4H to make! I hope to discourage my partner from doubling a spade contract.

Popper with B. Cohen, Passer, Rock: 5H. ... Certain to hear 4 spades, or possibly a stronger action if I bid only 4 hearts ... end up having to guess at the 5 level anyway. So 5H, and make the opponents do further guessing. ... partner may still have some guessing if the opponents bid 5 spades or pass, but no way to avoid that. Partner is not a passed hand, so I don't get too cute. This is clearly an advance save ... Standard preemptive bid, which may keep them out of a vulnerable slam ... I don't know whose hand this is or how high to play. I'll start at the 5 level see what west and north do with all their goodies

Ehrlichman with Schmidt: 6H. This is the "make 'em guess" philosophy in action. Since I don't know what's right at the six level, they probably don't either.

Some general comments: 3H should show a good hand and suit. 4H should show a better hand than 3H. 5H, at least if I am your partner, is an invitation to bid 6 with heart strength. 6H is, in my opinion, as ridiculous as the problem. As usual, Eric makes good points. If you pass, partner will never believe that you have this hand. There is a general rule that you

don't preempt over preempts, but rules are made to be broken, and there are no rules for 10 card suits.

3. Matchpoints, Both Vul, Dealer North

K10954 K5 4 K10954

| | West | North | East | South |
|----|------|-------|------|-------|
| -- | | 1D | 1H | 1S |
| P | | 2C | P | ? |

**2H THEN 4C 20 (5); 5C 8 (1);
3C THEN 5C 17 (4); 3H 15 (1); 3NT 11 (1); 4C 8 (0)
WHAT DO YOU BID? HOW DO YOU CONTINUE AFTER PARTNER BIDS A
MINIMUM NUMBER OF DIAMONDS?**

K. Cohen with **Greco, Neuburger, Popper, Rock, Filandro**: 3C. A bit conservative but all of your other choices have worse flaws. Over 3D which shows extras because partner could have passed 3C I would jump to 5C hoping that I am off just the Major Aces. This feels like the classic hand where 5C makes and 3NT fails.

Ehrlichman with **Straguzzi, Schmidt, B. Cohen, Hickes**: 3C. My first thought was to bid 2H, but despite my big club fit and well-placed heart king, the hand has a quite few strikes against it: the stiff diamond, the moderately short hearts, and the lack of the Ace of Spades. Then 3NT. I'm a bit uncertain about this one: if partner needed only a heart stopper, why didn't he bid 3H? **Shapiro with Foster**: 3C. ... the raise does show some extra values, about right for this hand, and is not forcing. Given that partner is making a progressive bid, I'll try 3H (generically, a very sound raise), passing the buck again. I hope partner will count aces and we won't get to five off too many. Partner should not have an idea that we have nine running tricks at NT, since 3D was encouraging, not forcing. **Passer, with Danilowicz**: 3C. Shows 4+ clubs, 10-12 playing points. Isn't that what I have? Now confirm 5 clubs by bidding 4C. His last bid does not make my hand any better.

Apfelbaum with **Raskin, Sprungs, Teukolskys, White, and Nuckols**: 2H. I have very strong support for clubs, and a hand worth an opening bid in support of that suit. This is the bid that shows that hand. Then 4C. Partner's 3D bid shows a 6-4 hand. I have nothing more to contribute at this time. Partner might pass, but only with a hand holding at most one Ace. If partner happens to hold something like QJ-x-KOxxxx-AQxx, he might try 4S. It is unlikely that partner holds a singleton heart, however. West did not raise (preemptively or otherwise).

Boye: 2H, then 5C. After my 2H bid, think this shows good trumps and no other useful controls.

This one came up in a national pair game I raised to 3C, then bid 4C over 3D. We played there for +170 against the eventual winners. We wound up

6th, less than a board behind. 3C is clearly the value bid the first time, and leaves you with a little in reserve. 2H on the first round IMO is an overbid, after which you need to pull in your horns. If you bid 3C then you can bid 3H over partner's game try. Partner, who held void xxx AQJxxx AQJx, would be able to take it from there. Bidding 5C would have moved us to second – and changed the winners.

4. Matchpoints, N-S Vul, Dealer East

QJ9 A984 K4 AK64

West North East South

-- -- 1S 1NT

3S* 4NT P ?

* preemptive

6C 20 (5); 5C 17(4); 5H 9 (1); Pass 7 (1); 5NT 6 (1); 6NT 3 (0)

Danilowicz: 6N. My partner has a spade honor, I see 2 spade tricks, 4 heart tricks, 2 diamond tricks, and 4 club tricks. I hope my vision isn't too cloudy.

Straguzzi: 6C. Great problem. **Sprungs:** 6C. What is 4NT? Can't be quantitative, unless East psyched. 4S should be minors. (*Why? 4S might be 2 suits including H. 4N might be Blackwood.*) So, perhaps this is weaker minors.

Raskin with Rock: 6C. Partner rates to have a spade void and lots of minor suit cards. **K. Cohen with Boye and Apfelbaum:** 6C. Perfect hand for partner: Heart ace and all the minor suit primes. Partner will have no reason to think we have so many controls if we bid only 5C. **Schmidt:** 6C. 11 tricks should be the limit in NT, and there is no safe way to try for 7C.

Goldberg: 5NT. Look for a fit, expect stiff heart. **White:** 5 NT. This should show a borderline decline/accept. Since our BWS range is a good 15 to 18, this is borderline. With K of spades instead of QJ, I would accept. This might also gain if partner, with a stiff spade, decided to bid 6 of a suit. I would love to sit for 6C or 6H, and would sit for 6D.

Shapiro: 5H. It's simple Blackwood. If I've discussed this with partner, 4N would be quantitative and I'd bid 5C, looking for a fit for slam, following with 5H over 5D. **Filandro:** 5H. 1NT - 4NT sequences are traditionally HCP asks ... not rational to save this sequence for invitational raise [in competition]. Partner will rarely want a final contract of NT. He is asking for Aces.

Greco with Neuburger, Ehrlichman, Teukolskys, Foster, Hickes, Nuckols, B. Cohen: 5C, very close to 6C. Partner is marked with a spade void to go past 3NT. It may very well take heart lead to beat slam. Do I want to hang partner for making a good overbid? My answer is usually no unless I feel like I need a top.

... If 4NT doesn't show (both minors), it should. ... With no discussion, I take 4NT as natural. Almost the only spade holding that is consistent with the opponents bidding is stiff king. 5C accepts with a 4-card club suit (not 5, else I would bid 6C). ... 6C is a distinct possibility, but if you are wrong you get a

bottom. ... I believe partner's 4 NT call was "pick a minor". ... accept invite to 6NT but by bidding 4 card minors up the line. ... If partner meant 4NT as quantitative, might expect at least second round control of spades; can't deliver. ... more likely to show two suits. ... not willing to commit to slam at this point. If partner has red suits, I will be just as happy in 5H.

Popper: Pass. 4NT should be invitational. The texture of this hand does not make me think it is a maximum, so I will pass. I just don't see 12 tricks opposite an invitational hand, and we could even be off the ace king of spades if partner's invitation is based on a long minor, which seems likely given that right hand opponent opened the bidding. **Passer:** Pass. 4NT is natural (4S would be take-out) and I don't think I have a maximum (no fillers).

Can partner really have a power invitation? Even if you give East a light opening of around 9 or 10 HCP and West a zero count, that leaves only 13 for partner. So the choice is to assume East has psyched or partner is doing something unusual. If partner had hearts and a minor I think he would bid 4S, so this should be minors. Or Blackwood. This hand is from the 1969 Blue Ribbon Pairs. I was playing with Dick Spero, a good player from NYC who died a few weeks later. We wound up 4th, a few matchpoints out of a three-way for first. This hand was against one of the eventual winners. We were much less sophisticated (?) back then, and I failed to recognize a novel way of using the Unusual No Trump. Partner was 0-1-6-6 with the DA and not much else. I was allowed to make 4NT, which beat a couple of pairs in 5D, which could only make 6, but lost to the pairs taking all the tricks in club contracts. Reaching 5C would have moved us above the pair we were playing, bidding a slam would have won the event.

5. IMPs, E-W Vul, Dealer West

AQJ1085 A AQ4 AK7

West North East South

2S P P ?

PASS 20 (10½); DOUBLE 6 (1); 3NT 5 (½)

The vast majority chose to Pass despite the 24 HCP and all four aces. Some typical comments:

Raskin (with numerous others similarly): Pass. They are vul and we rate to get plus 500 or something similar. If they psyched us out of a slam, so be it. Offer them congratulations and hope (silently) that they keep bidding in this fashion.: **K. Cohen** adds: I would also expect my teammates to pass in first seat at unfavorable with such a bad suit. The likely contract at the other table may be 4S our way, going down with the unexpected bad trump split. The defense has a big advantage at both tables by passing. **Sprungs:** Is this the sort of hand partner has in problem 1? I hope not...Once again, the wimpy course seems best. **Popper:** We may have been robbed, but I can't see any auction that I can use to describe this hand. **Neuburger:** I am going to be truly disappointed if they make 2S! **Schmidt:** P. Should be unanimous.

The only alternative (3NT) is way too risky.

This problem split one couple: Teukolskys with Danilowicz, White: 3NT.

One of us wanted to get 400 the hard way, the other said she would never in a million years pass with this hand. 6 of partner's better minor could be excellent, but a double is far too likely to lead to partner insisting on hearts.

Apfelbaum: Double. I double because that will give partner a chance to show some values. If partner shows those values, we may be able to reach a makeable slam. There is no guarantee, of course. If we are playing Lebensohl, we will have a better chance.

This is the companion to #2. The auction started as shown, and I passed. I was somewhat surprised when the heart 10 lead found Qx in dummy, and my ace was ruffed. The cards lay badly for me, and declarer was able to escape for down 3. Our teammates did not open 2S with K9xxxx none K10x J9xx vulnerable. We lost 5(!) imps on the board when the other table stopped in 5H, and the finals of the District GNT by 7. I wonder whether, if partner had bid, I could have avoided the temptation of 7NT. Among panelists, only Ray Raskin and Saul Teukolsky duplicated both of our actions.



MASTER SOLVERS CLUB SCORES

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Score |
|----------------------|------|----|--------|----|-------|-------|
| Panelist | | | | | | |
| Eric Greco | P | 4H | 3C/5C | 5C | P | 94 |
| Ray Raskin | P | P | 2H/4C | 6C | P | 90 |
| JoAnn & Dan Sprung | P | P | 2H/4C | 6C | P | 90 |
| Ken Cohen | 4C | 4H | 3C/5C | 6C | P | 87 |
| Dan Boye | X | 4H | 2H/5C | 6C | P | 83 |
| Connie Goldberg | P | 3H | 2H/4C | 5N | P | 83 |
| Fred Neuberger | 2S | 4H | 3C/5C | 5C | P | 83 |
| Jay Apfelbaum | P | 3H | 2H/4C | 6C | X | 81 |
| Ed Shapiro | P | 3H | 3C/3H | 5H | P | 79 |
| Ros & Saul Teukolsky | 4C/P | P | 2H/4C | 5C | 3NT/P | 74 ½ |
| Sam Ehrlichman | P | 6H | 3C/3NT | 5C | P | 74 |
| Richard Popper | X | 5H | 3C/5C | P | P | 64 |
| Solver | | | | | | |
| Bill Foster | P | 4H | 3C/3H | 5C | P | 92 |
| Sam Matlin | 3C | 4H | 2H/4C | 6C | P | 88 |
| Harry Nuckols | P | P | 2H/4C | 5C | P | 87 |
| Nick Straguzzi | P | 3H | 3C/3N | 6C | P | 86 |
| Pete Filandro | P | 3H | 3C/5C | 5H | P | 81 |
| Bob Hickes | P | P | 3C/3N | 5C | P | 78 |

Master Solvers Club Spring 2006 Hands

Unless specified in the problem all hands use Bridge World Standard (BWS). Submit answers to Henry Bethe at hbethe@aol.com (using the following format: your answer [capital letters for suits, X for double, P for pass], then comments) , or 108 Sheldon Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. You are South: Responses due by 2/1/06.

Hand 1: IMPs, Both vul

KQ876, KQJ985, A8, void

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| -- | -- | INT ¹ | 2NT ² |
| P | 3♣ | P | 3♥ |
| P | 4♠ | P | ? |

¹ 11+ TO 14

² OSTENSIBLY "DON'T": 2♥ WOULD HAVE SHOWN BOTH MAJORS

A- DO YOU AGREE WITH 2NT? IF NOT, WHAT?

B- WHAT NOW?

Hand 2: IMPs, None vul

AK8, 4, K10984, Q985

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-----------------|
| -- | 1♣ | P | 1♦ |
| P | 1♥ | P | 1♠ ¹ |
| P | 3♣ | P | ? |

¹ 4TH SUIT FORCING WHEN FOLLOWED BY A BID AT 3 LEVEL

Hand 3: IMPs, both vul

AK8, K9874, 106, A95

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------------|------|-------|
| -- | -- | -- | 1♥ |
| P | 2♦ | P | 2NT |
| P | 4♦ ¹ | P | ? |

¹ 3♦ WOULD NOT BE FORCING

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Hand 4: MPs, E/W vul

95, Q, KQ8742, AQ64

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| -- | 1♦ | X | 2NT |
| P | 3♥ | P | 4♣ |
| P | 4♥ | P | ? |

Hand 5: MPs, Both vul

5, Q86, AJ10974, Q97

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------------|------|-------|
| -- | 1♣ | P | 1♦ |
| P | 1♥ ¹ | P | ? |

¹ PROMISES 4+ CLUBS



DISTRICT NOTES

2005 Good Will Awards

ED BISSELL

CARL CONRATH

RAY DEPEW

2005 Charity Award

ANDIE SHEAFFER

2005 District Officers

President

HAROLD JORDAN

1st Vice President

LOIS SANDERS

2nd Vice President

CARL CONRATH

Secretary

BILL BAUER

Treasurer

RICK ROWLAND

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FOR NOVICES ONLY

by
MARTI RONEMUS
mronemus@suscom.net

We get letters...
Dear Marti,

I read your column in the 4Spot and enjoy it very much. My partner and I are fairly new players and have been playing with the same group of 12 pairs for about a year. I had an interesting hand in this week's game and wanted to ask for your advice on how it should have been bid. I held ♠AKJ2, ♥AKJ8543, ♦--, ♣A9. I felt that if my partner had either the ♥Q, the ♠Q or the ♣K, a small slam in hearts was very makeable, but I was scared to death he would pass me out with a weak hand unless I bid very aggressively. So, I just opened 6♥, which the opponent doubled. When the dummy came down I saw: ♠Q974, ♥762, ♦854, ♣1075. The opening lead was (surprise!) the ♦A, which I ruffed. I then drew trump (the hearts behaved), conceded a club and claimed my small (doubled!) slam. I received accolades from my partner and opponents, especially when only one other pair in the room reached a slam. Several actually didn't even reach game. However, when I conducted

my own post-mortem, I saw that with our cards, 7♠ was lay-down, if spades split 3-2, which they did!

My questions are these: How would experts bid these cards? Should I have opened 2♣? Was my 6♥ bid just a lucky overreach or did it make some sense considering the cards I had? I would appreciate your reaction.

Signed, Art
Hi Art!

You are now a charter member in the Clint Eastwood School of Bidding. I am honored to be communicating with someone who has the guts to just say, "Make my day!" and slam down the 6♣ bid! Personally, I would MUCH rather go down in flames than not be there and find it makes. So there!

Now, with that said, let's see if we can find a **rational** way to accomplish your goal of occasionally finding yourself in the **right** contract, on purpose! I'm not as concerned about how the "experts" would bid it: they have a lot more tools at their disposal. They might possibly reach the Spade contract through cuebidding and other

DISTRICT 4SPOT

tools. But for you, here and now...First, you want to open 2♣. There are three times you want to use that: 1) you see 8-1/2 tricks in your hand, OR 2) you've got 23+ HCP and a flat notrump hand, OR 3) ... and don't laugh at this; it is perfectly legitimate ... you've got the nicest hand you've seen in three weeks and would just plain die if partner passed. When you open 2♣, the auction is forced to game (except under a couple circumstances which I ain't gonna get into now) so your partner **cannot** pass until game is reached. Your partner lets you know immediately by his first bid that he has **less** than 8 HCP by bidding 2♦ (if he had 8+ and a **good 5-card suit**, he'd bid his suit. Otherwise, we don't want to hear from him. After all, when you bid 2♣, **you're** the star of this show! On your second bid, you show your gigunda suit, 2♥. Partner, with garbage (putting it mildly), will go directly to 4♥. That shows 3-card support and total trash. If he had anything worthwhile, he'd bid 3♥, which is more encouraging and forward-going. He, of course, has no idea how his measly ♠Q is about to shine. Will he bid his spades? Absolutely not. There are only four of them, and his hand is worthless with no ruffing val-

ues whatsoever. If your spade honors were in diamonds instead of spades, you wouldn't be whining about the cold spade grand slam. For heaven's sake, you've got a 10-card Heart fit, and you're looking for egg in your beer? Show a little gratitude to the card gods, please. A small offering is due! At this point in your development, be glad you are in a makeable contract! After partner shows 3-card support, you should check for Aces, since if he happens to have one, you can go to seven. Without the 4th Ace, just happily park it in 6♥.

Finally, why **shouldn't** the hearts and spades behave? This isn't luck; it's pure statistics. When there is an **odd** number of cards out against you, you will get a favorable split something like 68% of the time. Unless the afore-mentioned card gods are angry with you the Queen is gonna fall like a shot duck. Your bid certainly wasn't an over-reach. The only question with that hand is, "How can partner help me?" and you needed very little support. The heart fit is enough.

However, I am stunned and fearful for the future of bridge that only **two pairs** were in slam. Were there, hopefully, only two pairs sober? What did

(Continued on page 29)





A Spot 4 the Advancing Player

by Jay Apfelbaum

(japfel@verizon.net)

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!

In previous articles, I discussed bidding over 1NT, 2NT and 1 of a major. This article will be devoted to bidding over 1 of a minor. For this purpose, we will assume the opponents remain quiet. Warning! Real life tells me to not be too confident about them being quiet.

The scoring table relegates minor suits to second class status. Therefore, most of the bids are designed to find out about major suit fits or whether the final contract will be in No Trump. However, many hands belong in a minor, so any good response structure must allow for that possibility.

I am proposing three treatments with which the reader might not be familiar. First, a jump to 2♥ or 2♠ [over 1 of a minor] shows 9-11 hcp and a hand that would have opened a weak two in that suit. These are invitational hands in terms of distribution and playing strength, but if opener has a poor fit, the hand belongs at the two-level. Currently, responder shows these hands by bidding his suit at the one-level and then re-bidding it at the three-level. If the opener has a poor fit, the three-level could be too high. By jumping to the two-level immediately, we get some pre-emptive value plus opener can bid game with a fit and pass without one. For subsequent bids I suggest treating everything as natural and forcing, except that a retreat to the opener's suit is to play and a raise is invitational to game.

The second and third treatments are related and will be discussed together. Most advancing players are familiar with a convention known as the "Inverted Minor." This convention has strengths, but also weaknesses. Responder can show a reasonably good hand, but the partnership must make allowance to stop in three of a minor suit. This gives the partnership very little room to decide whether 3NT or five (or even six) of a

minor is the better contract. The solution is to play the inverted raise as game forcing. The partnership will have the two and three-level to explore whether to play in 3NT or a minor contract. The subsequent auction is the same as over a normal inverted raise except that a rebid of the opener's minor suit is no longer a signoff. Show a limit raise by jump shifting to the other minor suit (2♦ over 1♣ and 3♣ over 1♦).

The variation I describe permits the responder to hold a 4 card major suit if he has at least 16 hcp. There are many hands where the opener holds a modify of fit and controls between game and slam. This allows the responder to show fit in well as a major suit when an opener's minor suit as slam may be possible, but there is little room to explore that possibility. The responder shows his major suit by bidding it at his second bid.



Here is the structure. We will assume a 1♣ opening bid. Over a 1♦ opening bid, a jump to 3♣ shows a limit raise.

- 1♦ Natural. Denies a 4 card major suit unless responder has game invitational or better values. If responder later shows a 4 card major suit, he could have longer diamonds.
- 1♥ Natural with 6+ hcp. Responder bids hearts first with 4-4 in Spades and Hearts regardless of the relative strength of the two suits.
- 1♠ Natural with 6+ hcp. Responder denies 4 hearts unless he also has at least 5 spades
- 1NT Balanced hand, 6-10 hcp, no 4-card major suit
- 2♣ Game forcing, at least 4 card support. Responder denies a 4 card major suit unless he also has at least 16 hcp.
- 2♦ Artificial. Shows exactly a limit raise in Clubs with at least 4 card support.
- 2♥ Natural, with a good 6-card suit and 9-11 hcp.
- 2♠ Natural, with a good 6-card suit and 9-11 hcp.
- 2NT Balanced hand, 11-12 hcp, no 4-card major suit.
- 3♣ Pre-emptive, 4-6 support points and at least 5 clubs.
- 3NT Balanced hand, 13-15 hcp, no 4-card major suit.

PCBA UNIT 141 SECTIONALS

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Route 70 & I-295
Cherry Hill, NJ
856-428-2300

Holiday Inn

3499 Street Road
(at US Rt 1 & PA Turnpike)
Bensalem, PA



New Year's

JANUARY 6-8, 2006

FRIDAY, JAN 6

Strat Women's/Open Prs¹1:30
Strat Non-Master*1:30 & 7:30
Stratified Open Prs¹7:30

SATURDAY, JAN 7

Handicap KO Tms10/2:30/7:30
Strat Non-Master*10/2:30/7:30
Stratified Open Pairs²10 & 7:30
Strata-Flighted Open Prs³2:30

SUNDAY, JAN 8

Strata-Flighted Swiss³ 11:00
playthrough with only a 10 minute break
Strat Non-Master Sws⁴ 11 & TBA

* (single sessions -

A 50-200, B 20-50, C 0-20)

¹ (A 1500+, B 500-1500, C 0-500)

² (single sessions -

A 2000+, B 500-2000, C 0-500)

³ (A 3000+ , X 0-3000) separate

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

⁴ (single sessions -

A 100-200, B 20-100, C 0-20)



FEBRUARY 10-13, 2006

FRIDAY, FEB 10

Strat Women's/Open Prs¹1:30
Strat Non-Master*1:30 & 7:30
Stratified Mixed Pairs¹7:30
Strat Open Prs Side Game¹7:30

SATURDAY, FEB 11

Handicap KO Tms10/2:30/7:30
Strat Non-Master*10/2:30/7:30
Stratified Open Pairs¹ 10 & 7:30
Strata-Flighted Open Prs²2:30

SUNDAY, FEB 12

Strata-Flighted Swiss²11:00
playthrough with only a 10 minute break
Strat Non-Master Sws³ 11 & TBA

* (single sessions -

A 100-300, B 50-100, C 0-50)

¹ (single sessions -

A 2000+, B 500-2000, C 0-500)

² (A 3500+ , X 0-3500) separate

A min of 40% of players will be assigned to X regardless of #
of mps held by players unless min achieved below 3500 mps

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

³ (single sessions -

A 100-200, B 20-100, C 0-20)

TOURNAMENT CHAIR:

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District 4 Charity Report

The ACBL Charity Fund chose a new way to distribute the proceeds of club charity games. They plan to distribute \$20,000 to five districts every year and then repeat the process every five years (there are 25 districts). District 4 was one of the recipients in 2005. Our funds were



split among five charities: \$8,000 to Philabundance, \$4,000 to American Red Cross (Katrina relief), \$4,000 to Melissa Foundation, \$2,000 to Ronald McDonald House, and \$2,000 to Association for the Blind. Coordinating this project was Andie Sheaffer, District 4 Charity Chair.

(Continued from page 25, For Novices...)

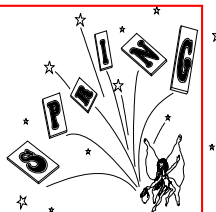
the other pairs do, throw their Aces on the floor and then bid? Sheesh. Well, experience will teach them to be more daring...like you! Anyway, keep bidding until your nose bleeds. You'll come out ahead in the end, especially as you are paying attention to good declarer play (next comes defense!). Your Clint Eastwood badge will arrive shortly.

WINTER 2006

Unit 217

invites you to

Spring Out Of Winter



Days Inn Conference Center
I-80, Exit 224
Danville, PA
570-275-5510

(Bridge rate-\$63.50 Reserve by March 4)

March 24 - 26, 2006

Friday, March 24

Stratified Open Pairs 1:30
Stratified Open Pairs 7:00

Saturday, March 25

Stratified Open Pairs 1:00
Stratified Open Pairs 7:00

Sunday, March 26

Stratified Swiss Teams 11 & TBA

♥ Partners Guaranteed

♠ Stratifications for all games
A 1000+; B 500-1000; C 0-500

♦ Free coffee, & snacks

♣ \$8 per session - members
\$10 non members - \$4 Students



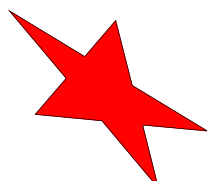
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DISTRICT 4 STARS



2005 FALL NABC - DENVER

- 1 106.35 JoAnn Sprung, Philadelphia PA
- 2 105.81 Ken Cohen, Philadelphia PA
- 3 89.68 Danny Sprung, Philadelphia PA
- 4 83.23 Eric Greco, Philadelphia PA
- 5 69.95 Jane Segal, Villanova PA
- 6 67.95 Richard Popper, Wilmington DE
- 7 65.42 Connie Goldberg, Merion Station PA
- 8 59.31 Dennis Wick, Martinsburg WV
- 9 58.86 Dale Beers, Boiling Springs PA
- 10 54.87 Gail Bell, King of Prussia PA

RED ROSE REGIONAL October 31 - November 6, 2005

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. David Treadwell | 76.60 | Red Rose Notes |
| 2. Rick Rowland | 75.92 |  |
| 3. Ronald Orr | 71.02 | |
| 4. Timothy Smith | 71.02 |  2534 Tables |
| 5. David Better | 68.25 |  1838 Players Attended |
| 6. Daisy Goecker | 68.25 | 20 of ACBLs 25 districts |
| 7. Robert Priest | 66.98 |  1290 Players Won |
| 8. Kris Alladi | 66.31 | Masterpoints |
| 9. Ed Shapiro | 65.82 |  14,814 Masterpoints |
| 10. Arnold Fisher | 63.40 | Were Awarded |

Pointblank



by Popper

rpopper@ycst.com

Richard Popper is District 4's First Alternate District Director as well as a panel leader of the National Appeals Committee. He has also served as District President, President of Unit 190 as well as their Tournament Chairman.

Kudos to Swann Bridge, ECATS Bridge, and Bridge Base on Line, which together provided fantastic on line coverage of the recently concluded world bridge championships. These organizations have made the internet a fabulous way to follow major bridge events as they happen. Most of us will never play in a world championship nor attend such an event, but the ability to follow it live is great.

A boo to the ACBL Board of Directors for approving plans to hold the Spring 2013 North American Bridge Championship in Memphis. The premise for this choice is that 2013 is the 75th anniversary of the ACBL and that holding the nationals in its headquarters city will be the best symbolic way to celebrate this. Unfortunately, the hotel in Memphis is not as

good as most of the other hotels (at the Board of Governors, we were told this without specifics as to what is inferior with the hotel). Additionally, Memphis is simply not the attraction that more major cities are. And finally, the symbolism itself may be meaningless by 2013! The ACBL is trying to sell its headquarters building; if it is successful, the ACBL headquarters may move to another city. I am pleased to note that our District Director, Craig Robinson, voted against this site. However, the Board does not seem to learn from its mistakes, such as Birmingham, Winnipeg, and Norfolk, that smaller cities are simply not the right places to go for our NABC's.

Denver, in fact, was a wonderful locale; all the playing areas were on the same level of the hotel, close together, and except for some problems with overheating, were excellent. There was a large variety of restaurants and other attractions nearby, making this the kind of place the ACBL should be going to more often.

Upcoming District 4 Tournaments

| DATE | TOURNAMENT | LOCATION | CONTACT | SEE PAGE |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Jan 6-8 | PCBA New Year's Unit 141 | Clarion Hotel Cherry Hill NJ | John Marks 215-891-0605 | 28 |
| Jan 6-8 | Syracuse Winter Unit 112 | American Legion #787 Cicero NY | Robert Simard 315-656-3204 | |
| Feb 3-5 | Harrisburg Unit 168 | Harrisburg Hilton Harrisburg PA | Robert Priest 717-579-5665 | |
| Feb 13-19 | Unit 190 STaC | Clubs | Andre Heureux 703-683-8234 | |
| Feb 17-20 | Winter Unit 121 | Bridge Room Reading PA | Janet Stevens 610-372-5429 | |
| Feb 24-27 | Blue Hen Unit 190 | Dupont CC/Talleyville FH Wilmington DE | Denis Lasota 602-235-5822 | 22 |
| Feb 25-26 | Rainbow Unit 112 | American Legion #787 Cicero NY | Robert Simard 315-656-3204 | |
| Feb 26 | 199er Unit 168 | Bridge Boardroom York PA | Marti Ronemus 717-699-5222 | |
| March 3-5 | Spring Fling Unit 120 | Independent Fire Hall Kingston PA | Ray Depew 570-287-1786 | |
| MARCH 13-19 | STEAMTOWN REGIONAL | CLARION HOTEL SCRANTON PA | RAY DEPEW 570-287-1786 | 15 |
| March 24-26 | Rochester Spring Unit 112 | TBA | Lois Sanders 585-425-2492 | |
| March 24-26 | Spring out of Winter Unit 217 | Days Inn Danville PA | David Winters 570-321-0766 | 13 |
| March 31 - April 2 | Lancaster Unit 168 | Continental Inn Lancaster PA | Eleanor Alboum 717-392-7709 | |