

District 4 Spot



2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RICK ROWLAND

THE STATE OF THE DISTRICT

I started my year as president by requesting member feedback on our regional tournaments, offering contact information via the postal service and e-mail. But for the input of Jay Korobow, there would have been zero feedback. Over the last year, District 4 regionals have operated at a combined loss of more than \$7,500. When combined with the costs of running the district (primarily publishing the *4Spot* and subsidizing players representing the District in the GNT's), we're looking at a loss for this fiscal year in excess of \$25,000. While the District has funds to cover this loss, we can't continue this pattern.

We have over 6,000 members. While not all are active in participating in District activities, there must be more input on the course that you'd like to see for District 4 moving forward. We are a member driven organization and are seeking input from all members. For those that would like to contribute, please forward your comments to: Rick Rowland, 1021 Oriente Avenue, Wilmington DE 19807 or district4regionals@comcast.net.

Recognizing that not all of the deficit can be made up through improved tournament profitability, the Executive Committee has passed a resolution to change the primary method of distribution for the *4Spot* from printed copy to internet based distribution. Beginning with the September 2011 issue, the *4Spot* will be posted on the District 4 website (www.district4.info) and will be e-mailed to those that provide e-mail addresses. For those that would like to receive the *4Spot* via e-mail, a link will be provided on the website. Registering your e-mail address will not only get you a copy of the *4Spot*, but will give you access to information on upcoming District 4 events. So that everyone still has access to the *4Spot*, those that would like to continue receiving a printed copy can request a hard copy to be sent by mail from Elaine Landow at 2556 Morris Road, Lansdale, PA 19446.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CRAIG ROBINSON

Around the World in 100 Days

Part of the position of the President of the ACBL is in public relations. When I decided to run for the office, I also decided that instead of going to 20 or so Regionals during the year, I would go to 100 clubs. If you take the table count of the 3 NABCs and add to it the tables at the 122 Regionals and then the tables at the approximately 900 Sectionals and multiply that sum by 6 you will still fall short of the table count in club games throughout the ACBL. And I didn't EVEN count the STaCs which are tournaments held at clubs.



In the Spring I plan to drive from club to club throughout the area east of the Mississippi. I hope to do a few 'doubleheaders' so I can take one day off every week. After the Summer NABC, I will fly someplace west of the Mississippi and repeat the process. When they divided the US with the Mississippi River they didn't put it in the middle so the Western romp will be a lot more driving. I will meet with ACBL management soon to plan exactly what part the ACBL will play in this tour.

I am really honored to have been elected President of the ACBL. I love the game, I really enjoy playing. It is unbelievable to be the big muckity-muck in the organization from which I have gotten so much enjoyment for so many years. Hopefully, in going to 100 clubs I can let many of our members know how important the clubs are to the overall success of our organization. Our 166,000 members have been taught at the club or by someone closely connected to a club, and then played at the club and about 70% of our members then go on to play various levels of tournament play.

Now all I have to do is grow a mustache to look like David Niven, but how am I going to get Elaine to dress up as Passepartout? (ED. NOTE: CRAIG IS REFERRING TO CHARACTERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS.)

From The Four Corners



CENTRAL NEW YORK 112

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I am gratified by the number of people who have communicated with me about their appreciation that my president's message gives them something worthwhile to think about in their bridge lives. Hopefully, this message will also be of value.

To begin I want to congratulate Bruce Toder on his being in his 30th year as the Tournament Coordinator for Unit 112. It is really hard for me to remember when he wasn't in that position to the point that he can all too easily be taken for granted. Like the other day when he told me that he was working on possible dates for all our many unit sectionals in 2013. His diligence and expertise has been of great benefit to this unit. I hope that many unit members who read this will take time to thank Bruce for his many years of work.

Next I want to share my sad-

ness that a regular partner of mine has recently entered a nursing home. Ruth Fornell had been declining physically for a few weeks, so I guess it is not a surprise. But....I got my first gold point playing with Ruth many years ago. We had many section tops at sectional events. We both still laugh at our fond memory of the first time I became declarer in six spades playing transfer bids, with a void in that suit, but still managed to make the contract. Ruth has been a tireless worker to promote bridge. She has served on the unit board for many years, and the Finger Lakes playing area board as well. She and I have gone to many Syracuse University football and basketball games. As she would put it, "It's tough to get old." On behalf of your many friends within Unit 112, I extend our very best wishes to you in your new setting.

Lastly, Unit 112 is holding its Rainbow Charity sectional tournament in Watertown on April 2 and 3. Like the one held in 2010,

the host playing area has decided that proceeds will go to the Food Bank of Central New York. I hope to see many of our unit members at this event.



NORTHEASTERN PA 120

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By the time this is published, Unit 120 will have hosted the normally successful Wilkes-Barre Regional at the Woodlands Resort. Because it was held the week before the NABC in Kentucky, many national and international teams used this tourney as a "warm-up" for the Nationals. Thanks to Ray Depew and his team of crackerjack volunteers for a job well done!

Here's the breakdown of our 2010 Ace of Clubs standings, beginning with the 0-5 Masterpoint race: Deanie Moses, Julia Chmielowski, Dr. Richard Michelstein, Craig Smith, Karin Smith, Kim Michelstein, Leslie Sloan, Carole McCallum, Walter Brenholtz, Dave Hall and Robert Levin. The Mini-McKenney winners in the same order are: Nick Magliacci, Sam Argento, Dr. Michelstein, Craig Smith, Karin Smith, Kim Michelstein, Leslie Sloan, Tom Henson, Judy Ar-

gento, Ray Depew, Jill Levin, and Robert Levin. Official recognition will be made at our unit party in April. Congratulations also to Susan Solomon for achieving Life and Bronze Life Master.

Unit 120 lost a longtime friend of bridge when Katherine McCrea (BLM) died in early February. An active member for at least 25 years, Katherine always made herself available to play with anyone who needed a partner, regardless of ability, and practiced active ethics at all times. She is survived by husband Rev. Kenneth McCrea, himself a bronze life master and longtime instructor of basic bridge courses at the Wilkes-Barre JCC.



BERKS MONTGOMERY 121

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On November 7th we held our Annual Meeting followed by a catered dinner and bridge game. The following people were elected: Sue Wessner, President; Louise Remley, Vice President; Anne Alderman, Secretary; Phil Presby, Treasurer. Board Members are as follows: Dutch Chelius, Al Crump, Bill Detterer, Lee Ernst, Maxine Hornberger, Alice Hyman, Ernestine Medeck, and

Marlene Winkleman.

Our Unit is currently involved in The Newcomer Program, of which the advertising costs are significantly subsidized by ACBL. This is a great way to attract new people who want to learn to play duplicate bridge. Although we are in the formative stages, we have had excellent response to our advertising. I would highly recommend any unit take advantage of this excellent offer.

The following Unit games will be held in the Bridge Room: Daylight Saving Time Game March 13th 1pm; Annual Pro-Am Game, April 17th 1pm.

The following people have moved forward in masterpoint rank: Junior Master: Dorothy Smith, Ludwig Schmidbauer; Club Master: Suzy Crump, Bill Schadler; Sectional Master: Janice Norman, Lee Miller; NABC Master: Louise Remley; Life Master: Vicky Sokoloff, Alan Seltzer; Silver Life Master: Jana Estep.

Next Sectional Dates: MAY 13-15.



LEHIGH VALLEY 133

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The unit held its annual meeting and holiday party on Sunday, November 13 at the Brookside

March 2011

Country Club. Approximately one third of the membership attended. Lori Bosis chaired the affair which included a fabulous buffet luncheon, the annual meeting, unit awards presentations followed by a pairs game. Newly elected board members are Mimi Lengel, Joe Miller, Chuck Campbell, Bagisa Mukherjee and Lynn Schoeninger. The unit thanked the outgoing board members, Dot Forrester who served for many years as the membership chairperson including the unit membership directory, and Dolly Kaminski who served for many years as the unit Secretary. Officers elected are John Schwartz, President; Frank Kuebler, Vice President; Jane Havighurst, Secretary; and Dave Kresge, Treasurer. Unit winners were: the Bonnie West Trophy (0-50) Joel Bees; the Seeley Trophy (50-100), Gary Hillenbrand; the Forering Trophy (NLM), Lori Bosis; and the Enberg Trophy (Open), Donald Swan. The unit will hold its spring sectional on 1 April through 3 April at the West End Youth Center in Allentown. Please see the ad on page 23. Unit 2010 Ace of Club winners are Ray Partridge (0-5); Joel Bees (5-20); Judy Cary (20-50); Gary Hillenbrand (50-

100); Arup Mukherjee (100-200); **PCBA 141**
Peter Stoyanov (500-1000); Bar- **John Marks**
bara Miller (1000-2500); Rhoda **215-891-0602**
Prager (2500-5000); Ella Auch *JGMMarks@aol.com*

(5000-7500), and Joe Asber (7500-10000). Unit 2010 Mini-McKenney winners are Ray Partridge (0-5); Joel Bees (5-20); Judy Cary (20-50); Gary Hillenbrand (50-100); Lori Bosis (100-200); Naim Rizk (200-300); Ron Hutchinson (300-500); Jane Havighurst (500-1000); John Schwartz (1000-2500); Bill Parks (2500-5000); Ella Auch (5000-7500); and Joe Asber (7500-10000). The unit congratulates its newest Life Masters, Arup Mukherjee and Naim Rizk. The unit also congratulates Ron Hutchinson and Sam Litzenberger on becoming Bronze Life Masters. We were saddened by the passing of Marjorie Heimbach & Mary Ann Burns.

The unit held its annual soup bowl charity game at the Lehigh County Senior Citizen Center on Sunday, February 6. John Schwartz donated his director's fees and the unit donated all the net proceeds to the 2nd Harvest Charity. \$270 plus 100 pounds of soup was donated. Channel 69, WFMZ, had a televised report of the event which aired on the evening news as well as the TV web site. Check out <http://www.wfmz.com/lehighvalleynews/26768687/detail.html>.

The following members of the Philadelphia Contract Bridge Association, Unit 141, were "elected unopposed" to serve on the Unit's Board of Directors for a period of three years: Jay Apfelbaum (incumbent), Bill Bauer (i), Ken Chatzinoff (i), Inga Cooper (i), Gayle Goldstein (i), Meyer Kotkin (new), Ricki Rogers (i), Tom Sakaguchi (i), Phyllis Taxin (new).

The election of Unit Officers for the year of 2011 took place on January 12, 2011. The new Unit President is Joann Glasson; Vice President Mike Giesler; Secretary Jay Apfelbaum, Treasurer Phyllis Taxin and Business Manager John Marks. Marie Trethaway who served as Treasurer for many years decided to retire. Tom Purl who served as Unit President the last two years and who did a quality job steps down after the two years. Tom consistently works the Partnership Desk at the Philadelphia Regional and Sectional Tournaments.

Every year the PCBA pays tribute to the member player who wins the most masterpoints at the six sectional tournaments during the calendar year. 2010's

Player of the Year (or the Jordan Trophy Winner) is Ken Cohen of Philadelphia. Congratulations Ken.

The January New Year's Sectional Tournament was held in the Crescent Shrine Building in Westampton, New Jersey which is close to Mount Holly. The site is an excellent facility to hold a bridge tournament and the hospitality was great. The Crescent Shrine is easy to reach; it is right off I-295. The next sectional tournament to be held at Crescent Shrine will be in September 9 to 11. Please try to attend this Sectional at this wonderful site; especially the Jersey players.

Meyer Kotkin of Cherry Hill, NJ led the all players will 18.32 master points at the New Year's Sectional Tournament; Carl Berenbaum, Elkins Park, PA was second with 13.54 master points; Bob Kille, Mt. Laurel, NJ and Vilas Godbole, Wallingford, PA were tied for third with 11.92 master points.

The Winter Sectional Tournament was held on February 11 – 13, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus, 235 Limekiln Pike, Glenside, PA. The Spring Sectional Tournament will be held on March 25 – 27, 2011 at the Fireman's Memorial Hall, 36 West Elm Street, Conshohocken, PA 19428. Both of these sites are excellent facilities. There will be plenty of hospitality

at these tournaments. See the Tournament schedules on our web site.

The Unit 141 Shore Spring Sectional Tournaments will be held on May 20 – 22, 2011 at the Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing, NJ. A Unit STAC is schedule for Friday, April 1 to Thursday, April 7, 2011. The PCBA annual dinner meeting will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2011, at Franco's Osteria, Madison House at the Presidential Apartments. Jane Segal, the Chairperson, is working diligently making all the arrangements for this event.

Jay Apfelbaum has stepped down from being the Tournament Chairman for the PCBA Sectional Tournaments. We are all thankful for the work that Jay did as Tournament Chairman the past years. The new President, Joann Glasson, has appointed Meyer Kotkin as the Tournament Chairman. Meyer will introduce some new ideas into our tournaments. So look for various changes in the schedules. Starting with the Conshohocken Tournament, there will be a Friday morning session at 10:00 AM, afternoon session at 2:30 PM and evening session at 7:00 PM. Some of the events will also be altered. I know the players will help Meyer by offering sugges-

tions and making comments.

Do not forget this year's Valley Forge Regional Tournament, August 22 to 28, 2011, at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA

The following are important dates to remember: 2012 Valley Forge Regional at Valley Forge Convention Center, March 5 to 11. 2013 Valley Forge Regional at Valley Forge Convention Center, June 17 to 23; 2012 Philadelphia NABC July 12 to 22.

Hope to see at all of these above events.



CENTRAL PENN 168

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What's up Unit #168 Members! Looking for things to do now that the chilly temps are on their way out? Get the Spring cleaning out of the way early and mark your calendars to attend these Unit functions: **April 1-3** Chambersburg; **April 15-17** Lancaster (these dates are different from the last article) at the Continental Inn; **May 1st** - Hagerstown 2 Session Swiss w/ Dinner; **May 7th** - Harrisburg Bridge Club NLM - BUT not limited to 500 points!!! As long as

you are a Non Life Master you are eligible to play in this event. No point limit, Pre-registration is requested.; **June 24-26** York Sectional @ Springetts Fire Hall; Come and Enjoy York's Hospitality!!!; **July 11-17** STAC Games at Clubs; **July 17th** - Hagerstown Charity Game; **Aug 14th** - Bridge Boardroom NLM; **Sept 23-25** Hagerstown Sectional @Williamsport, MD.

There is also a 2 Session Swiss for Charity being planned in Harrisburg sometime in July. The theme will be Christmas in July. Donated Gifts will be raffled off for Charity. The gifts do not have to be purchased, these can be items that you no longer use that are still in good condition, maybe a gift you received that you've never put to use. I am certain that you've heard the expression, one man's junk is another man's treasure...which brings me to my closing comments.

Bridge players should have an appreciation for this saying. How many times have you held hands that contained very few points? Yet, you managed to take a trick with as little as a Jack in your hand. Don't give up on a hand with very few points. You don't know whether the hand holds merit until it has been played out. Treat each hand like a treasure,

some may be smaller than others, but even those with very few points may hold the card that is the setting trick if you are defending or the winning trick if you are declarer.

See you at the Table!



DELAWARE 190

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Congratulations to Jess Stuart for winning the first-ever Super Senior Pairs at the Orlando Fall Nationals. Jess was playing with Ed Lazarus. The two-day event began with 33 tables in play, and the field was pared down to 18 tables the second day. This new event is on the schedule again during 2011 at the Fall Nationals in Seattle, Washington. Congratulations, too, to Rick Rowland who placed #244 on the Barry Crane Top 500 last year with 691.68 points.

Unit 190 had a successful Pro-Am team event on January 27th. The weather didn't fully cooperate, but 11 teams played. The "eight is enough" concept was used....players were assigned a category of either one, two or three - depending on their master point

holdings. No team's total could equal more than eight. Thanks to Mike Mocella, Intermediate/Novice Chairperson, for all his efforts in organizing the evening. Mike plans another Pro-Am game, a pair event, in June. Visit www.unit190.org for details as the date approaches.

Our unit members were saddened to hear of the death of Harold Levitt, who passed away on January 27th at the age of 94. Harold was a long-time member of unit 190, the husband of expert player Evelyn Levitt who died in 1987. Harold was always well known for his sense of humor and kind and considerate manner. He published our quarterly newsletter, the DUMMY, for many years. In 1990 he remarried and is survived by his wife, Esta Sklar, and a large, devoted family.

As always, our members continue to rise through the ranks. Kudos to new Life Masters: Sandy Anzilotti, Bruce Gwaltney, Judith Gwaltney, Colin Mackay, Edward Maser, Mike Mocella, Deborah Moore, LaVerne Onuschak, Jean Petrilli and Patricia Sinex; Bronze Life Masters: Leslye Heisler, Joan Hughes, George Jones, Virginia Kuhn, Joan Lehrfeld and Krishnan Thondukolain; Silver Life Mas-

ters: Tita Abello, Carole Everitt,
Judy Nicolaysen



SUSQUEHANNA 217

Jacqueline Humilovich

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We offer sincere congratulations to our unit members who have recently attained new levels of bridge mastery: Susan Greenleaf-Silver Life Master; Jacqueline Humilovich-Bronze Life Master; Nevin Krentz-Life Master; Irene Harpster-NABC Master; Marie Secor-Junior Master; Robert Secor-Junior Master. A very special recognition is extended to **Ed Bissell** who has earned the rank of **Platinum Life Master**, one requiring 10,000 masterpoints. This is an achievement unprecedented by any member in the history of Unit 217. In the February *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*, he was listed as #112 of the Barry Crane Top 500 players in North America. Eddie describes the final steps to his goal: *"A best-ever year in 2010 would get me to 10,000. Things had gone well by early November and a good Virginia Beach Regional would do it. I had the ideal partner-three sessions per day, ugh! We won the first morning Compact KO playing with some old warrior teammates. That evening those teammates were opponents when a defensive error permitted us to slip into the*

semi-finals, voila! Platinum. Hey, what are friends for?"
Way to go Eddie!

The Unit 217 2010 Mini-McKenney Award winners are: 0-5 Robert Secor, 5-20 Jill Anderson, 20-50 Shirley Miller, 50-100 Susan Nichols, 100-200 Irene Harpster, 200-300 Timothy LeVan, 300-500 Jacqueline Humilovich, 500-1000 Susan Greenleaf, 1000-2500 Judy Stein, 2500-5000 Jim McKenney, 7500-10,000 Ed Bissell.

The Unit 217 2010 Ace of Clubs Award goes to the following players: 0-5 Robert Secor, 5-20 Jill Anderson, 20-50 Shirley Miller, 50-100 Susan Nichols, 100-200 Irene Harpster, 200-300 Neil Wallace, 300-500 Jacqueline Humilovich, 500-1000 Susan Greenleaf, 1000-2500 Judy Stein, 2500-5000 Donald Strickler, 7500-10K Ed Bissell.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the **Spring Out of Winter Tournament** at the Williamsport Bridge Club **March 25-27**. Stratified Open Pairs will be held at 11:00AM and 4:00PM on Friday and Saturday. Swiss Teams will begin on Sunday at 11:00AM. The State College Bridge Tournament will be held June 10-12.



DISTRICT 4 MASTER SOLVERS CLUB HENRY BETHE, DIRECTOR

I would like to thank Eric Kokish and Barry Rigal for agreeing to be guest panelists. And I welcome Rick Rowland to the panel. One advantage of a smallish number of responses is that I do not need to edit as much, so almost all answers are quoted.

1. IMPs, E-W Vul Dealer East

S- 10854 H- J732 D- none C- KQ1063

West	North	East	South
		P	P
2D*	2NT	3D	??

* Weak

Double 25(4); 3N 20 (1); 4C 19 (2); 4D 18 (0);
Pass 16 (4)

The sentiment of the panel was to be active, not passive. So although I sympathize with Mike's predicament, I can't give the passers top marks.

Shuster: Pass. This is a very frustrating problem and it has no good answer. I think the first discussion that can be avoided is the meaning of double, as even if it is for takeout, it is horribly wrong. Partner would pass it far too often and be disappointed by your complete lack of defense. Our opponents, having heard partner bid 2NT, chose to voluntarily bid 3D at unfavorable vulnerability. RHO expects to make this and my hand is evidence that he is right. So for me, it is between giving up and passing (as the Borg say, resistance is futile) and overbidding (unfortunately, 4C is forcing, otherwise I'd choose it). 4D will probably be a popular choice, as you don't have to deal with the rest of the auction - or even the play - which will be very unpleasant in the 4-3 fit. The delete keys have saved you from seeing different answers and explanations scratched out. Lucky you! **Rowland:** Pass - My vulnerable opponents usually seem to have their bid. There's no guarantee of going positive if I bid. There's no guarantee of beating the contract if I double. **RASKIN:** P. A number of other possible actions exist (such as 3NT, 4C, or 4D) but the risk in IMPs is very high if one guesses wrong. If the P doesn't work out the most likely loss should average out to a part-score swing as opposed

to a double-digit swing when things sit wrong.

Ray is right. The imp penalty for being wrong on this sort of hand is quite high. The highest cost is if they make 3D and you could make a game. Assuming they have a nine (or more) card fit, as seems likely if not certain, you have at least an eight card fit somewhere. An attempt should be made to find it. Maybe this way?

Kokish (with other panelists similar): Double. Can't pass or bid 3NT so we're reduced to either a responsive double that risks an inappropriate leave-in (or getting too high) or an overbid of 4D. Life goes on. I will raise 3M to 4M, pass 3NT with reservations. **DYE:** DBL. This is a takeout double. We could easily have a game if partner has a suitable minimum for his 2NT, and I hope he will bid it as I will have to pass any non-game reply. My action is risk-free, as partner will not convert to penalty at these colors unless he has 5 tricks in his own hand. **Foster:** Double. Hopefully this will find partner with a four card major that she will bid. I do NOT think we have game on this hand (with our combined High Card Points of about 22) and if it were late in a match that I thought we were winning comfortably, I would pass. **Harris:** Double. Even with a third seat opener and a raise this has to be takeout. It cannot be just card showing because I could raise to 3NT. I cannot bid 4C (my cards) due to the three-suited hand. 4D is a definite overbid (but could be the winner), but it might lead to a vast overbid.

They all are hoping partner does not pass. Is that a forlorn hope? If so, perhaps one of these answers is better? The problem with all of them, I think, is that they commit our side to a thin game.

Shapiro: 3N. Ugly but practical. Partner has a sound overcall by definition, so I'll hope we can take nine tricks. Double is out – it is penalty-oriented – and a cue-bid runs me even farther past a safe level if we don't have a major suit fit. For those who double to “show cards,” the void, minimum (maybe subminimum) count and all your values in one suit makes it hopeless and just a way to blame partner if he passes and it goes wrong.

Teukolskys: 4C. You have no good bid. With E-W having a 9 or 10 card fit, you probably shouldn't be defending. **Filandro.** 4C. East can see the vulnerability so I expect he has one (likely two) control/QT winners. Luckily, my 4C is perfect. If partner thinks I can't force to an 11-trick contract as a passed hand and passes with a minimum, OK with me. If he treats it as forcing, he will probably offer a decent four-card major on the way, which is also OK.

Straguzzi: 4D. Choice of games. In lieu of flowers, please send a con-

tribution to my partner's legal defense fund. Seriously, I know this is a ridiculous overbid, but when everything else is potentially even more ridiculous, you do what you can. Thank heavens I'm a passed hand.

Reading the comments of the various bidders I am swayed towards joining the passive group. But I still think fortune favors the brave.

2. MPs, Both Vul,
Dealer North

S- KQ H- 9854 D- AJ C- KQJ63

West	North	East	South
--	1NT	P	2C
P	2H	P	??

PLEASE DISCUSS ANY SPECIAL AGREEMENTS YOU HAVE IN SUCH AUCTIONS.

4C/D 25 (5); 3C 22 (4); 5H 18 (2); 4H 10 (0)

Shuster: 3C. I disagree with 2C. Why angle to end up in hearts? That is the suit with slow losers than can be discarded on partners diamonds or spades - I can't do that if hearts are trump. Now that I am in this position, I should angle to take advantage of the distributional information I've received, so if partner shows enthusiasm for clubs, I will attempt to sign off in notrump, as the near mirror shapes will likely mean we have too much wasted in the pointed suits to make a slam. I have some special agreements in these auctions. One is that I could use is a 2NT relay after a Stayman response, after which I can show a quantitative 4NT call below 3NT. I'd have actually started with 4S, showing a hand worth about 6NT and asking partner to bid 4NT with a modern day special (I've noticed that 14 HCP is about expected for a strong NT nowadays) or otherwise start bidding suits. **Shapiro:** 3C. It would be nice to have special agreements, but I don't have any, perhaps because I much prefer 2-way Stayman to a transfer structure. Yes, you can play, and I have played, 2S on this auction as a slam try in hearts, details to follow later in the auction, but that's not part of a standard 2/1 system and needs extremely extensive discussion, so it's out. Alternatively, I like Baron 2S, always at least a minimum slam try opposite a perfect fit, rather than minor suit Stayman or transfer to clubs, and it could work here. But on this hand, without special agreements that I may actually have or may fantasize that I have to fit this hand exactly, I'm going to try to make a slam try by beginning with a forcing 3C bid, then some number of hearts, overruling 3N, for example. I'll win the post-mortem by arguing that this shows a slam try with long clubs and

bad hearts. If partner makes a positive noise over 3C, I'll get to the 5-level safely. Yes, you could go down there opposite AJxx, Qxxx, KQ, Axx, but partner should not get excited over 3C with this and most other minimums with a bad holding in his known long suit.

Filandro: 3C. Our agreement is to jump to 3C immediately with a weak hand and bid 2C followed with 3C to show club slam interest (learning about majors on the way, catering to 6+ clubs with 4+ in a major). On this hand, partner's 2H bid is a red herring. I'm never playing in hearts. I'm rebidding 3C to show club slam interest and if partner shows no sign of life by rebidding 3NT, I'll raise to 4NT.

Straguzzi: 3C. I'm puzzled as to why I used Stayman, considering that I'm not all that keen on playing in hearts. Whatever the reason, now it's time to show partner the suit I *do* want to play in. Things could get dicey if he's 4-4 in the majors -- I might ultimately be forced to accept an inferior heart contract as the only way to avoid an even more inferior spade contract.

K. Cohen: 3C. Slam try. Not clear what follow up bid should be with such weak hearts. Perhaps at Matchpoints a 4NT quantitative raise is a better follow up than a 4H slam try.

DYE: 3C. In my preferred methods, this sequence by responder shows a good 5 card club suit and slam invitational values; it does not guarantee a four card major. Here, I will bid only 4H if partner rebids in 3NT. Curiously, the fact that partner holds 4 hearts dims slam prospects, since honor duplication in my short suits is likely.

Marlow: 3C--Forcing, looking for the best game. My agreements would require partner to bid spades if holding four of them (my sequence suggests clubs and spades), or else rebid 3H with very good hearts (4 excellent hearts or any 5); lacking either, responder could rebid 3D with a diamond stopper or 3NT with diamonds and spades stopped. It would be nice if partner rebid hearts or notrump, allowing me to make a slam try (a new suit after 3H should show a fit with extras, and 4H after 3NT should show a similar hand). The remainder of my agreements I like to play are unhelpful --

(a) 3 of the other major would show a heart fit, slam interest, and an outside singleton (obviously none here), (b) 4C is Roman Keycard Blackwood in support of hearts (not helpful as I specifically need partner to have excellent hearts plus the ace of clubs for slam to have play), (c) 4D is a quantitative balanced slam try with a fit in partner's major (I have the same problems as I had with 4C), and (d) 4NT is quantitative, but denies a fit. 4D (quantitative raise in hearts) would be my choice with better hearts (e.g., K2, KT54, AJ, KQ963).

Kokish: 4C. Using 4C and 4D as RKC and BAL slam try agreeing H respectively is popular, but I prefer using 4C and 4D as fit-showing

(3S for all the splinters). I also prefer a method where BAL slam tries do not start with Stayman (some version of CONF1), which might be useful here, where we could easily not belong in hearts and might learn about partner's shape early enough to matter. I would rather bid a NAT 3C over 2H than make my only statement one that sets hearts and precludes clubs, because notrump might also be the wrong strain.

Foster 4C. Slam seems very likely with our approximate combined 32 high card points, but we obviously could be off two aces/key cards. Partner should be able to determine this with a hoped for 1430 asking Roman Key card bid, if she thinks that is appropriate. If she subsides with merely 4 hearts, I will pass. We do NOT play splinters in this type of sequence, so 4 clubs shows in our methods a strong club suit and agrees with hearts. **Greco:** 4C, Balanced slam try for hearts. Many people play 4D as a slam try for hearts but this way partner can bid 4D with an in between hand over 4C. Not entirely clear to even start with Stayman with 4 bad hearts and so many points. **Rowland:** 4C – Roman Key Card will find all of the cards that I need. Boye – 4C. In a strange partnership I would bid 5H asking for Heart texture? However, the agreement I have is 4C is key card Gerber after Stayman and xfers. Hence in my partnership, this isn't too difficult a situation.

Rigal: 4D. What I play- which is not best - is 3S with any shortage agreeing hearts, 4C is keycard, 4D balanced with 4 hearts. So 4D then 4NT is keycard for hearts. The choice is 3C --gf with clubs ignoring hearts, or 4D and I'll go for the latter. But a better agreement might be 4C/D as both balanced agreeing hearts showing good/bad trumps respectively.

HARRIS: 4H. Partner needs specific cards for the slam to make slam. (At least 2 aces and very good hearts). I have not played Baze and doubt that it would provide the necessary information.

Teukolskys: 5H. Endplayed by the ridiculous Stayman bid. We would have transferred to clubs and then bid hearts.

RASKIN: 5H. There are 2 pieces of information we need - quick losers and trump losers. With no way to ask for both in the amount of auction space left it seems that trump control becomes the key possible response.

I left every comment in, in full. I think the 3C bidders (which is normally played as a game-force/slam-try in clubs) are right. Hearts are a red herring, that is to say that it is very unlikely that hearts are the right strain for slam. Partner had AQJ6 of hearts, and it was still right to play 6N (or 6C) with 12 tricks available

after driving the SA. Among the methods suggested, I like using 4C as a balanced slam try, 4D as keycard in hearts, and 3S as an unbalanced slam try in hearts.

3. IMPs, Both Vul, Dealer South

S- K76 H- AKJ10742 D- none C- AQ4

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1H
P	1NT	P	??

3C 25 (5); 4D 23 (2); 4H 22 (3); 2S 21 (1);
3H 1 (0)

Beating a dead horse, that's what I am doing here and in the next problem. This is what I think 1H-1N-4H looks like: a strong 4H opener not quite good enough to open 2C.

Boye - 2S - Allows partner to bid their minor or make a delayed heart raise. However, again a system agreement we have is that 2NT is game forcing and asks partner to describe their hand. Can find out about a 5 or 6 card minor suit or even a doubleton heart Q. At the very least we slow down the auction and get to show an almost self sufficient Heart suit. **HARRIS**: 2S. If I were playing with a partner who was not used to unusual bids and did not have a sense of humor, I would just bid 4H. Partner has to trust me when I bid the last heart (whatever level that is). The good thing about bidding 2S is that partner should realize that my hearts have to be longer.

Shuster: 3C. I don't want to give up on slam just yet (with 4H). Since I expect 4H to be cold, I don't feel like I need to spend effort concealing my hand to gain an edge in the play - I'd rather give myself a better shot at slam. Artificial methods can help here, too. **Greco**: 3C. It is close to just bidding 4H or starting with 2S but since as little as the heart q and kjxxx of clubs makes slam laydown I will start with 3C. Over 3H I can easily bid 3S and over 3D I will just bid 4H. In regards to the problem from the winter set, bidding 4H with that hand is just plain wrong so I can't compare it to this hand, except this is why you can't bid 4H with the hand from the winter set. For that answer to get top marks is ridiculous! It is a normal aggressive 3H rebid. Maybe partner passes with Jxx/x/KQxx/Jxxxx but that is life! **Filandro**. 3C. What else? I don't need much for a slam. After partner's expected 3D bid, I'll jump to 4H, setting trump and painting a good picture of my hand. Re: Winter Problem 4. That hand was a shapely 11 HCP and only worth an invitation. **Stra-**

guzzi: 3C. A slight overbid, but this hand has too much playing strength for 3H. 4H is reasonable too, but it should be reserved for when we are reasonably certain about both strain and level (such as in the December problem.) Here, if partner's suit should happen to be clubs, we might easily have a near-cold slam...provided, that is, it's played from my side; e.g. S-xxx H-x D-Axx C-KJxxxx. If his suit is diamonds, no harm is done: I'll just rebid my hearts. 2C risks bringing back +190 to our teammates, which would thrill them to no end. **DYE.** 3C. I like the jump shift here to put on a game force. Then, I can rebid 3H over partner's (possible) 3D call to leave room for partner to cuebid. Unlike the hand in Problem #4 (December) this hand is way too good for a 4H rebid. **Marlow:** 3C -- I bid 3H in the prior issue, as I only wanted partner to bid game with a good fit or tolerance and and something more than a minimum (e.g. xxx, Qx, QTx, Kxxxx). I preferred partner to pass with most misfits (e.g., even KQx x JTxxx Axx would lead to a poor game contract opposite last month's hand). If my suit had the quality of this issue's hand OR its strength, I would have bid game directly. Now, with a better suit and extra values, I absolutely want to be in game even lacking support. and want partner to explore slam with a modest fit for my primary suit and a good fit for my second), (xxx, Qx, Axx, Kxxxx).

Foster: 3H. I see this hand as considerably stronger than the one of Problem 4 in December, so I make a jump re-bid, which by the opener we play as forcing. This hand I see as odds on to produce game over almost any initial forcing no trump response.

Kokish (with Rigal more succinctly): 4D. This is an easy 4D, self-splinter, albeit a maximum. Imagine: Axx, x, Jxxx, KJ10xx, a respectable 7C. If not 4D, then 2S or 3C by agreement. Obviously we could not bid 4C with the other hand you mention, but it's not clear whether to bid 3H or 4H (not my style at all) with that one, or even a gentle 2H, with both opponents silent so far. I like two-steps with good hands, but 2D just wouldn't be right with such length disparity and so few high cards.

Shapiro: 4H or 3C. Since this seems to be a set which is focused on being a poll of methods rather than how to fit square peg hands into a round hole system, I refer you to my comment on Winter Problem 4 – my preferred usage is a hand that approaches an ACOL 2-bid, sort of like this, and something I'd insist on if we had time for system discussion, usually not a condition precedent to these problems. **Teukolskys:** 4H. The same bid we would have made in IMPs on the much weaker hand from last time. With both hands you're guessing, but this

seems to be the practical bid (for different reasons) in both cases.

K.Cohen: 4H. This hand is much stronger obviously. Top of the Range vs Bottom of the Range. At the table, I would actually open 2Clubs. This hand is worth about 9 tricks, but this is a Bidding Contest, and most of my fellow panelists usually need at least another ACE to consider opening 2 Clubs.

Actually, I love Kokish-Rigal's bid of 4D showing a 4H bid short in diamonds, and would choose that if I thought my partner would possibly understand. Of course they should: it is a fairly standard modern agreement that a jump one level higher than needed to force shows shortness unless otherwise defined. Since 3D would force, 4D should show short diamonds. Absent that, I think there is not much to choose between a direct 4H, as long as you do not bid 4H on the December problem. 2S is not much different from 3C. As for 3H, Bill Foster may play it as forcing, but no one else in the world does.

4. IMPs, N-S Vul, Dealer North

S- AK10853 H- none D- 743 C- A854

West	North	East	South
	1H	P	1S
2D	4H	P	??

Pass 25 (8); 5C 12 (2); 5H 11 (1); 4S 9 (0)

Rowland: Pass – I'll take the low road. Partner's not counting on a void. Three dead diamonds is a horrible holding. **Straguzzi:** Pass. Who sent for me? Partner says he has a strong playing hand in hearts and wants to be in game. He's not promising the World's Fair in points, because he skipped over a boatload of forcing bids. We might have a lucky slam, but with a void in his suit I have no desire to chase it. This feels like one of the easier problems in D4MSC history, which means I'll score no better than 5 on it. **Filandro.** Pass. Yes, I see the 3 QT's, 11 HCPs, and a wonderful spade suit. I also see that East did not try a favorable vulnerability save. The four level is our "safety level". If East leads a singleton diamond, we are booked after the first three tricks. Bidding on risks a minus. **DYE.** PASS. Very cute, Mr. Problem Editor! One can see that if partner holds the hand he held in Problem #4 (December) we may already be too high, and the panel thought 4H was a swell call with that collection! And one can also see that , even with a hand as strong as Problem #3

above, slam would not be assured - we could easily be off the diamond ace and a trump loser. Add to that the problem of how to intelligently invite slam: 5D? 5H?, and passing to protect that vulnerable game bonus (if we're not too high already!) seems best. **K.Cohen:** PASS Bidding could be right, but it is masterminding. I do not like having a void in Partners suit for a possible Heart Slam. If I held a singleton Heart and one less Minor Spot Card, I would try for the Heart Slam. **Rigal:** Pass; very reluctantly but I'm not sure I have safety at the five-level. Could I blame partner for bidding this way with seven solid hearts and a spade and club honor with DQxx or so? I can't. Since x/AKQJxxx/AJx/Qx is a 2C then 4H opening for me I'm going to go low and apologize later. **Greco:** P, very close to bidding 5 hearts or 5NT but my void may mean that partner's hearts with qx/akqxxxx/kx/xx are no longer solid. I actually like 5NT pick a slam, a lot because partner can bid 6D for me to choose between spades and hearts and spades may well be the right slam. The problem is if I bid 5NT I may be off the first two diamonds and if I bid 5H partner is not likely to visualize that spades may be the right slam. **Shuster:** Pass. I have an ace more than partner is playing me for, but the fit is extraordinarily poor. I'm not even sure if 4S would be a cuebid (might you hold AKQJxxxx, --, xx, xxx). So I'll take my chances here, thank you very much.

Foster: 4 Spades Sorry, partner, I am void in your suit, but I have a good suit of my own. Do you have tolerance for spades?

Kokish: 5C. In Acol, that 4H bid implies a fit for spades so it would be sensible to bid again. In standard methods 4H shows a random good playing hand with a strong suit and some extras, but it's too easy to envision losing two diamonds and a heart trick in 5H, or one of each in six, so it's really a tough guess. Playing with me, I would bid 5C, but I doubt my respect for the 4H bid would be universal.

Boye: 5C. Must be cue bid looking for more. If partner can cue bid the diamond suit, I will force to slam with 5S.

Shapiro: 5H. Assuming, as we continue to beat this government mule, that 4H shows the good hand. Simply quantitative, as we've managed to preempt ourselves to the extent that 5H should not be a specific slam demand. With a really good suit and diamond control, I hope he goes on and that slam makes. Just to tie up a loose end – what do I do if I have a fitting heart card, like the Q and no diamond control? I cue-bid 5C and that ***will*** be a cue-bid since this auction has the same considerations as a 2C opening followed by a jump in opener's real suit – it's trumps and you can't play in a 3rd suit.

This problem was a dud in the sense that the panel was nearly unanimous. It was taken from a match where partner held S- Jxxx H-KQJ10xxx D-A C-x. A panel was polled on the hand and virtually all pollees voted for 4H. Now this was not an English magazine where 4H would imply a spade fit, but you can see that 7S is virtually laydown, and this panel would play in 4H. As was done at the table.

Congrats to Eric and Rick for their perfectas and to Doug for his 97. I would have had a low score on these problems.

<u>Panelist</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eric Greco	X	4C	3C	P	100
Rick Rowland	P	4C	3C	P	100
Barry Rigal	X	4D	4D	P	98
Ken Cohen	X	3C	4H	P	94
Pete Filandro	4C	3C	3C	P	91
Michael Shuster	P	3C	3C	P	88
Eric Kokish	X	4C	4D	5C	85
Ray Raskin	P	5H	3C	P	84
Ros & Saul Teukolsky	4C	5H	4H	P	84
Dan Boye	P	4C	2S	5C	74
Ed Shapiro	3NT	3C	4H	5H	75
<u>Leading Solvers</u>					
Douglas Dye	X	3C	3C	P	97
Nick Straguzzi	4D	3C	3C	P	90
Chris Marlow	P	3C	3C	P	88
Lynn Harris	X	4H	2S	P	81
Bill Foster	X	4C	3H	4S	65

LEHIGH VALLEY-UNIT 133



APRIL 1 - 3, 2011

West End Youth Center
848 N. 20th Street
Allentown, PA

Friday, April 1

1:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Stratified Open Pairs
0-500 (NLM) Pairs*

Saturday, April 2

10:30 am & 3:30 pm
Stratified Open Pairs
0-500 (NLM) Pairs*

Sunday, April 3

10:30 am
2 session playthrough
Stratified Open Swiss Tms
There will be a short break bet sessions
(no arranged lunch on site)

0-500 (NLM) Swiss Teams*
*SINGLE SESSIONS

Strats: A-2000+, B-750-2000, C-0-750
If no NLM games: A-2000+, B-500-2000,
C-0-500NLM

* will be merged into Open if < 5 tables

Free Coffee/Snacks

Tournament Chair: Rene Rodriquez
610-395-6504

Partnerships:
John Schwartz 610-391-0261
schwartz1@enter.net

DIRECTIONS
FROM RT. 22: EXIT CEDAR CREST SOUTH. 1 MI
TO LEFT ON TILGHMAN. 1 MI TO LEFT ON 20 ST
FROM I-78/309: EXIT EAST ON RT. 22. PROCEED
AS ABOVE
FROM PA TURNPIKE (I-476): EXIT 33. EAST ON
RT 22. PROCEED AS ABOVE

MASTER SOLVERS
JUNE 2011 PROBLEMS

Please send answers no
later than April 15,
2011 to hbethe@aol.com.
Methods are 2/1 with
"Walsh". Something a
little different:

Problem 1

Table with 2 columns: West, East. Rows: 853, 72; A10, 9; AK7, QJ953; AQJ84, K9752

IMPS, Neither VUL, Dlr N

Table with 3 columns: North East, South, West. Rows: P, P, 1S, X; 2S, 3D, 4S, X; All Pass

Result: -590

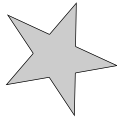
- A. How much blame to West?
B. What alternatives calls should East or West have made?
C. What was the worst call?

Problem 2

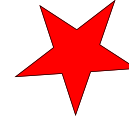
Matchpts, Both Vul, Dlr E

S Q52 H 6 D A52 C AKJ874

Table with 4 columns: West, North, East, South. Rows: --, --, 1H, 2C; 2H, 2S, P, ??



DISTRICT 4 STARS



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ The ***Dave Treadwell Player of the Year Award*** is awarded to ★
 ★ the District 4 member who earns the most masterpoints playing ★
 ★ in District 4 events during the calendar year. It is open to all ★
 ★ players who are members of our District for the entire year. The ★
 ★ winner will be recognized at the first District Regional following ★
 ★ each year’s competition, and will receive a certificate and a \$100 ★
 ★ cash prize.

★
 ★ **KEN COHEN, Philadelphia 573.22** ★
 ★

★ The ***Jeanne Fisher Player of the Year Award*** is awarded to ★
 ★ the player who is a member of our District for the entire year ★
 ★ and who started the calendar year with less than 2,000 master- ★
 ★ points and earned the most masterpoints at District 4 tourna- ★
 ★ ments. The winner will be recognized at the first District Re- ★
 ★ gional following each year’s competition, and will receive a cer- ★
 ★ tificate and a \$100 cash prize.

★
 ★ **ELLIOT SHALITA, Elkins Park PA 191.15** ★
 ★

★ The ***Jane Segal Player of the Year Award*** is given to players ★
 ★ who are members of our District for the entire year and who ★
 ★ start the calendar year with less than 500 masterpoints and earn ★
 ★ the most masterpoints in District 4 tournaments. The winner will ★
 ★ be recognized at the first District Regional following each year’s ★
 ★ competition, and will receive a certificate and a \$100 cash prize.

★
 ★ **ELLA ZIMMERMAN, Hummelstown PA 104.17** ★
 ★



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

NEW LIFE MASTERS in 2010



Sandy Anzilotti	Paul Johnson	Ruth Peskin
Mary Archer	George Jones	Gail Petren
Jerzy Badak	Mateele Kall	Jean Petrilli
Margery Bleiman	Sandra Kayson	Wes Powers
Mary Boyd	Paul Keddy	Roger Read
Andrejs Bross	Edward Kennedy	Elaine Rhoda
Barbara Cartal	Susan Kilmartin	Dolores Ritter
Jane Ressa Chilson	Jeffrey King	Edward Ritvo
Carole Cohn	Joan Klause	Justine Rogevich
Evelyn Cutler	Bitsy Klein	Burton Rosen
Barry Davis	Michael Klein	Jacob Rubinstien
Phillip Davis	Shellie Klein	F. Rudnick
David Desjardins	Robert Knuff	Akbar Samii
Cecilia Dupont	Lynn Kramer	Ursula Schaufler
Mary Jane Elliott	Nevin Krentz	Robt Schmittberger
Jonathan Forde	Frank Kuebler	Alan Seltzer
David Forth	Virginia Kuhn	Donnavon Shaffer
Karen Gold	Mary Lawler	Helen Shaffer
Suzanne Goldberg	Joan Lehrfeld	Patricia Sinex
Dennis Gross	Eve Levitan	Vicky Sokoloff
Bruce Gwaltney	Theodore Levy	Sandra Stockton
Judith Gwaltney	Adele Lubowitz	Ronald Streeper
Audrey Hagedorn	Colin Mackay	Christine Sullivan
Peter Harris	Mehdi Marvasti	Joyce Taylor
Ted Heck	Edward Maser	Steve Valencic
Ron Hermann	Bob McHarness	Elizabeth Varhus
Mary Lou Hess	Linda Mistler	Alan Walter
Vernon Hester	Michael Mocella	Elizabeth Warfel
Alan Hodesblatt	Ivan Montgomery	Elaine Watters
Nancy Hoffman	Deborah Moore	Loretta Westler
Karen Hoffner	Anne Morris	Blanche Woolford
Julie Hough	Arup Mukherjee	Ella Zimmerman
Masoud Izadi	Jane Myers	
Susan Jacobs	Barbara Natkowitz	
	Guy Novello	
	LaVerne Onuschak	
	Bill Orth	
	Audrey Parlin	
	Karen Patterson	



2010 DISTRICT 4 WINNERS

	<u>Mini McKenney</u>	<u>Ace of Club</u>
0-5	Wesley Maneval	Ray Patridge
5-20	Edward King	Bill Schalaepfer
20-50	C. Van Leeuwen	Judith Cary
50-100	Gary Hillenbrand	Charles Meister
100-200	Gina Bresler	Bernard Neff
200-300	Steve Valencic	Steve Valencic
300-500	Peter Harris	Jacob Rubinstien
500-1000	Estelle Bogart	Paula Varrassi
1000-2500	Corey Krantz	Aster Wu
2500-5000	Jim McKeown	Randall Berseth
5000-7500	Rick Rowland	Arnold Selig
7500-10K	Tom Weik	Rhoda Kaufman

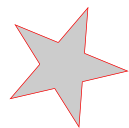
SENIORS RACE

KEN COHEN



JUNIOR CONTENDERS

RAGHAVENDRA RAJKUMAR



TOP 500 CONTENDERS

KEN COHEN



2012 SUMMER NABC

John Marks

Seven years ago our District hosted the 2003 Philadelphia Spring North American Bridge Championships (NABC). The concerted effort put forth by many members of all the Units of District 4 made that National one of the greatest successes in ACBL history. Before that the District hosted the 1996 Philadelphia Spring NABC, another success. Even today the last two Philadelphia Spring NABC's are referenced as a model NABC by the ACBL executives and, as a result, other Districts are encouraged to use them as a prototype when they are planning to host their own National.


The ACBL was so impressed with our last two Spring NABC's that the ACBL awarded District 4 with a Summer NABC. This is the first time, in at least 60 years, that District 4 will host a Summer NABC. The Marriott Hotel in center city Philadelphia, the same location as the previous two NABC's, will again be the host hotel.

Circle the following important dates on your Bridge calendar for the 2012 Philadelphia Spring NABC: **Thursday, July 12 to Sunday, July 22, 2012.** Judging from all the accolades and positive correspondence that were received after the '96 and '03 NABC's, this 2012 NABC will certainly be an event that you just cannot miss.

Although the NABC will be hosted in Philadelphia, it is nevertheless a District 4 function. The District Officials and the 2012 Summer NABC Executive Committee certainly would like to see and encourage full participation from all of the Units. Many volunteers will be required before and during the event to serve on committees, such as, Registration, Partnerships, Awards and Prizes, Publicity, Nightly Entertainment, etc. Anyone interested in participating should contact either Joann Glasson (joannglasson@msn.com) for Entertainment; Craig Robinson (bod4@comcast.net) and John Marks (jgmmarks@aol.com) for all other committees.

Currently, we are in the planning stages and would welcome any suggestions, comments, ideas or assistance you could offer. You can direct any comments or questions concerning the NABC to the above Chairpersons

Although the 2012 NABC is about 15 months away, we should get started immediately since there is a great deal work ahead of us. There will be future articles in the *4Spot* to keep you informed and updated about current activities and decisions from all the NABC Committees. With the experience gained by us at the 1996 and 2003 Spring Nationals and with your assistance and support, not only can we avoid any pitfalls or mistakes that occurred during previous NABC's; but also, we have an extraordinary opportunity to surpass the all of the past Nationals hosted by District 4 and provide the best tournament situations, conditions and activities in the annals of ACBL history.

	<p>A Spot 4 the Advancing Player by Jay Apfelbaum (japfel@verizon.net)</p>
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This is a continuing series of articles written for the advancing player. I welcome any questions or suggestions about future articles. Please send them to the publisher. Who knows? You may be mentioned in a future article! Since beginning this series, I have been asked about several conventions. Keep asking! Your questions give me direction about what the next article should be about.

This month, we will discuss captaincy. The dictionary defines this as someone who is in charge of the group. In bridge, this is the partner who directs how the auction or defense proceeds. We see this principle in action in a wide variety of hands. The key is that partner has limited his hand. An opening bid of 1NT (15-17) is such a bid. It is up to partner to decide the direction of the auction. For example, playing transfers, partner bids 2D (showing hearts). The opener is expected to bid 2H. At this point partner has shown at least five hearts. Partner's next bid will describe his strength. Pass shows a weak hand, 2NT invitational strength, and 3NT game forcing strength - all with exactly a five-card heart suit. With a six-card heart suit, partner raises hearts after transferring. Notice that partner is the captain after we open 1NT. Partner will know whether to look for a major suit fit. Partner will know whether to try for game or slam. He can ask the right questions using Stayman or Transfers.

The principle of captaincy extends far beyond an opening bid of 1NT. If we open 1S and partner raises to 2S, he is limiting his hand. It is up to us to direct the auction. We can pass. We can invite game by bidding 2NT (general values), a new suit (seeking help in that suit) or raising our own suit to the three level. We can bid 3NT or game in our own suit with a stronger hand.

Partner becomes captain and controls the auction after we rebid 1NT. We promised a balanced hand with 12-14 high card points. Partner can pass or rebid either our suit or his own to show a weak hand. Partner can raise to 2NT or jump rebid his own suit to show game invitational values. Partner can bid a game or use a convention known as "New Minor Forcing" to guide the hand toward the right game.

The point of these common examples is that once one player

makes a limited bid, it is up to the partner to decide where and how high the partnership should go. There are a number of conventions that allow the partner to quiz the limited hand to get the information needed to get the partnership to the correct contract.



The most common “captaincy” convention is Stayman. This is without doubt the single most played bridge convention in the world. The responses are completely mechanical. Opener bids a major suit if he has one, and 2D if he does not. Partner then chooses the final contract or asks the opener if he has a minimum or maximum hand. Notice there is little for opener to decide - just answer the questions asked.

A second common “captaincy” convention is Blackwood or Gerber, including all of their variations. After asking for Aces and Kings, the partner is responsible to choose the final contract. This is the captaincy principle in action.

It is normal that once someone assumes captaincy, he will continue in that role for the rest of the auction. This will not always be the case, however. There are hands where the captain gives the role back. One such auction is when the opener bids 1S, responder bids 2C, and opener raises to 3C. Responder is the captain because opener is the first to limit his hand, but if responder now bids 3S he is transferring captaincy back to opener.

So, how does this captaincy stuff help a partnership get to a good contract? By helping us keep the lines of communication clear. If we know that partner is responsible for deciding whether we should be in a part score, game, or a slam, it is easier to stay at a safe level. For example, suppose we open 1S and partner bids 4NT (asking for Aces). We bid 5D (one Ace) and partner bids 5S. Partner became captain when he bid 4NT and took control of the auction. If we remember that partner is the captain, we will not be tempted to keep bidding just because we have 18 high card points instead of 13.

Have a conversation with your partner. Discuss who is the captain on your more frequent auctions. Knowing who is captain will make your bidding more accurate

PCBA UNIT 141 SECTIONALS

Fireman's Memorial Hall
36 West Elm St.
Conshohocken PA

Oakcrest High School
1824 Dennis Foreman Dr.
Mays Landing NJ

See website for directions: www.philadelphiabridge.info



MARCH 25-27, 2011

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

10:00am - 2:30 & 7:00 pm
Stratified Pairs & Strat 299er Prs
FREE PIZZA LUNCH (BET 10 & 2:30 SESS)
FREE WINE & HORS D (BEFORE 7 SESS)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Stratified Pairs & Strat 299er Prs
FREE SANDWICHES (BET SESSIONS)

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

FREE BAGEL BRUNCH
10:00 am
Stratified Swiss Teams (2 sessions)
10:00 am & 2:30 pm
Stratified 299er Teams (1 session)



MAY 20 - 22, 2011

FRIDAY, MAY 20

7:30 pm
Open Pairs
Non-Master Pairs

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Handicap KO Tms... 10/2:30/7:30
10/2:30/7:30 SINGLE SESSIONS
Open Pairs
Non-Master Pairs

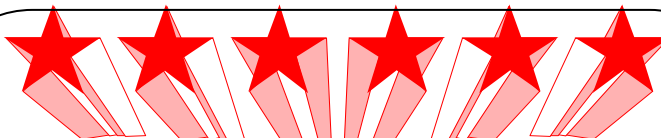
SUNDAY, MAY 22

10:00 am
Stratified Swiss Teams
2 SESSION PLAYTHROUGH WITH SHORT BREAK

\$12 per session
Stratified: A - 2000+; B - 750 - 2000; C - 0-750
299er: A - 200-300; B - 50-200; C - 0-50
Non-Master Pairs: A - 100-300; B - 20-100; C - 0-20
Strats may be combined based on attendance.

TOURNAMENT CHAIR:
MEYER KOTKIN 856-424-8149
GUYMATH@COMCAST.NET

PARTNERSHIP:
TOM PURL 610-518-6790
JERRY CRAIGE 609-965-2275



DISTRICT 4 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS
Unit 120 NE PA SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2011
Clarion Hotel
300 Meadow Ave. (I-81, Exit 184)
Scranton, PA 18505
570-344-9811

G N T

Saturday, April 30
1st session Qualifying
12:30 PM - OPEN & A Level
1:15 PM - Strats B, C
2nd session Qualifying
7:00 PM - All

Sunday, May 1
3rd session
9:00 AM - OPEN Level
10:00 AM - Strats A, B, C
4th session
(if necessary) TBA

TOURNAMENT & GNT CHAIR
Ray Depew 570-239-3056
rdepew@intergrafix.net

Friday, April 29

Stratified Pairs 1:30
(0-500; 500-1000; 1000+)
I/N 299, 199, 99, 49 1:30
Strat Open Pairs 7:00
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)

Saturday, April 30

Strat Open Pairs 12:30
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)
I/N 299, 199, 99, 49 12:30
Strat Open Pairs 7:00
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)
299er Pairs 7:00

Sunday, May 1

11:00 AM & TBA
Stratified Swiss Teams
(0-300; 300-750; 750+)

PARTNERSHIP: JOANN MAUGER - 570-620-2638 - MAUGER@PTD.NET



FOR NOVICES ONLY will return in the next issue.

Upcoming District 4 Events

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	SEE PAGE
FEB 28 MAR 6	WILKES-BARRE REGIONAL	The Woodlands Wilkes-Barre PA	Ray Depew 570-239-3056	Dec 4Spot
Mar 25-27	PCBA Spring Unit 141	Fireman's Memorial Hall Conshohocken PA	Meyer Kotkin 856-424-8149	30
Mar 25-27	Hawaii in PA Unit 217	Williamsport Bridge Club Williamsport PA	Sue Pierce 570-275-2142	
Mar 26-27	Rochester Spring Unit 112	Perinton VFW Fairport NY	Charles Adrion 585-319-0600	
Apr 1-7	Unit 141 STaC	Clubs	John Marks 215-891-0602	
Apr 1-3	Lehigh Valley Spring Unit 133	West End Youth Center Allentown PA	Rene Rodriguez 610-395-6504	23
Apr 1-3	Chambersburg Unit 168	Chambersburg Rec Center Chambersburg PA	Thomas Silverwood 717-261-0336	
Apr 2-4	Rainbow Unit 112	Ramada Inn Watertown NY	Debbie Suller 315-654-4419	
Apr 9-10	Ithaca Unit 112	TBA	Henry Bethe 807-257-7189	
Apr 15-17	Lancaster Unit 168	Continental Inn Lancaster PA	Eleanor Alboum 717-392-7709	
Apr 29 May 1	Scranton Unit 120	Clarion Hotel Scranton PA	Ray Depew 570-239-3056	31
APR 30 MAY 1	GNT	Clarion Hotel Scranton PA	Ray Depew 570-239-3056	31
May 2-8	Units 112 & 120 STaC	Clubs	Warren Marsland 585-442-8753	
May 7	Harrisburg NLM Unit 168	Harrisburg Bridge Club Camp Hill PA	Bob Priest 717-579-5665	
May 13-15	BMBU Spring Unit 121	Greth Homes Building Reading PA	Louise Remley 610-478-9354	
May 20-22	PCBA Shore Unit 141	Oakcrest High School Mays Landing NJ	Meyer Kotkin 856-424-8149	30