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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BOB COLE

Among the most important things for any organization is to get new members and to retain the current ones. One of the ways to do this in bridge is to have great teachers. Following the huge success of last year's TAP (Teacher's Accreditation Program), the District 4 Board voted last year to again subsidize the course.

The District 4 Education Chair, Mary Poplawski, (another one of D4's volunteers) has done a tremendous job in setting up this year's seminars. The details are at the end of the President's Message.

As a complement to the TAP seminar, Mary P. and Bill Bauer (D4 Secretary) are stocking the ACBL Series and Audrey Grant Better Bridge Series texts for teachers. An article on the stocking program appeared in the December *4Spot*. This allows the volume discount to be available for any teacher.

Play Bridge and Have Fun!

District 4 is sponsoring two TAP classes to help our district have more teachers for the game of bridge. The class, now offered by a teacher provided by the ACBL, is well done and much improved, teaching us to help others learn the game from a variety of sources. Everyone should take this course as it is that good. If you took the course years ago, you can renew your accreditation at no charge. It is worth your time. There is so much to teaching and learning that the new teachers become better players. Cost: \$50 (not the usual \$125). The classes are in: SYRACUSE (week of their Regional tournament) Monday, August 2 - 9 AM to 5 and Tuesday, August 3, 9 to noon at Skyline Apt. Building, 753 James Street, Syracuse. Note: Space is limited. PHILADLEPHIA (first weekend of October Regional/World Bridge Federation the events) Saturday, October 2 - 9-5 and Sunday evening, October 3 at 7:30 (so you can play bridge) at the site of the regional events. Register by emailing Mary Poplawski at mpoplawski@stny.rr.com. Registration is complete when you send her your check saving your place.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT CRAIG ROBINSON



The Board of Directors meeting in Reno was more interesting than usual. In 2004 the Board passed a motion which allowed clubs to run special sectionally rated games every session with \$4/table going to charity, juniors or the USBF. It passed but the minor-

ity group has attempted to undo that motion ever since. The problems were perceived to be too many points being awarded at the club level, and too much pressure on competing clubs to run the games once their competitors did. Should an eight table club game be allowed to give out three masterpoints to the winner? Every session? The Board decided 23-2 that the answer to those questions were no. We reduced the games to once per month from every week during nine months of the year and we reduced the points awarded in the remaining games by 30%. Also, if a club is giving money to a local charity (or charities) they must provide a written yearly report to the players by February 28th of the following year.

A victim of this motion is the ACBL Junior program. These games raised \$260,000/year for Junior programs. If nothing changes it is estimated that Junior Funds will drop to \$156,000. The major Junior Programs are:

- Bridge at schools Teachers are given \$500 to teach approved programs in school;
- Junior discounts at NABC Juniors can play any event for \$10/session; and
- 3. USBF is given \$50,000/year to support USA Junior teams for World competition.

If you approve of these programs, your club might like to redirect charity funds to Juniors.

A new event was added to the NABC schedule. Super 70s Pairs. After again defeating the motion to raise the Senior age from 55 to 60 or beyond, the Board established a new event for the last two days of the Fall NABC. A four session (qualifying) pair game where both players must be at least 70 years of age. The hope is that if this is successful a super 70s Swiss Team and Bracketed KO will be added *(Continued on page 22)*

From The Four Corners

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Why Do We Play Duplicate Bridge?

If you are like me, you have sometimes been so immersed in the middle of a bad game of duplicate bridge that you have asked yourself, "Why am I playing this game?" After all, there are many other things you could be doing with your spare time.

A 2003 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine took 469 relatively healthy senior citizens and studied them for five years, focusing mainly on their leisure activities. The results suggested that mental activities such as card games greatly reduced the risk of dementia, whereas physical activities such as dance and exercise did not help prevent dementia. Dr. Neil Charness of Florida State University, who has done many studies on the relationship between bridge-playing and memory, had said, "The literature shows that those who June 2010

play bridge, compared to those who do not, have better reasoning and memory abilities." It's the "challenge aspect" of bridge that really benefits seniors. When an older brain isn't regularly stimulated, dementia or memory-loss usually develops, and that can lead to Alzheimer's disease. Bridge is continuously recommended by experts because it is more complex than other games, and requires planning, strategizing, and logic.

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Kim Bielmann, who is an advocate for bridge programs in schools, has shared the benefits of students having a bridge program in their schools. She said, "In this age of high stakes testing and accountability, bridge students are at risk of stagnating." In this current age's emphasis upon learning standards, students tend to be taught, retaught and tested on minimum competencies. Bright students needs more challenge and excitement and she sees bridge as providing this. "Bridge...is complex and stimulating-it pushes 5 these students just beyond their out and about, the first time comfort zone while engaging them in an exciting activity." Bielmann also has pointed out Arlene Andrews and Gene Waltz that classroom teachers can see an improvement in standardized test scores for students who have participated in bridge.

So, the next time you are doing poorly (in terms of your game mid-May for a covered dish celepercentage) at the bridge table, keep in mind that playing duplicate bridge actually should help you to ward off dementia. That alone should be enough reason to keep you at the bridge table.

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NORTHEASTERN PA 120 www.nepba.com Walter Mitchell 570-709-0850

wsmitchell@finsvcs.com

By the time you read this, we will have hosted the District Grand National Teams Qualifying Round in Scranton for all strats. Tourney Chair Ray Depew and his team included a three-day sectional at the Clarion Hotel, so there was an abundance of bridge for all levels. All results are available on the unit website.

Hats off to Dave and Karen Wessell, who did a masterful job in planning and executing our annual Jeanne Liese Tourney in April. It was great to see Karen she's been away from her home since a disastrous fall last winter. took top honors; Dave Hall/ Nancy Trovato were second and Dann Davies/Frank Opshinsky were third.

A gang of regulars gathered in bration of Lou Plotkin's 95th birthday at the Scranton JCC. Then everyone, including Lou, played in the regular weekly game.

Pacchioli Fav (skingp31@aol.com) and Helene Megargel are planning a bus trip to the World Bridge Federation tourney in Philadelphia in October. For details, please contact Fay or visit our Unit website, so ably managed by George Marcy.

Lots of advancing players made the headlines recently: new junior masters include Fran Heim, Paula Kane, Mary Louise MacFarland, Alice Manley and Nick Migliacci. Julia Chmielowski is a new club master, and Kathryn Shumaker is a new sectional master. New regional masters include Maureen Pesavento and Jesse Savitz, and Leslie Sloan is a new NABC Master. Kudos also to Dolores Delin, new bronze LM and to Helene Megargel for attaining silver LM status.

Hope to see you all at our District 4Spot

next sectional June 4-6 at the Kingston, PA firehall. Hospitality for our next Sectional to be held diva Judy Argento and crew prom- September 17-19. ise goodies galore, including a free multi-course dinner between the achieved the following ACBL Saturday sessions (for those who ranking - Junior Master: Kathryn pay to play both).

mediate/newcomer to play with Cramp, Diana Mulligan, Sheila you. After all, weren't you an I/N Walsh. Congratulations to all for at one point? The one you ask will their achievements. be thrilled, and you will be an instant hero!

BERKS MONTGOMERY 121 www.unit121bridge.com **Sue Wessner**

610-972-5327 bearsbysue@aol.com

We've moved into our new Bridge Home at Greth Homes Building, 253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605. We are on the lower level, rear, door F. We are American Pair Qualifying games happy!

tional Event, despite mounds of PM both at the senior citizen snow. The masterpoint winner center. This will be in addition was Albert Bingaman. Many to the qualifying games that the thanks to Louise Remley and individual clubs have. other members of the Board for with each club as to when they doing such a fine job. April 11th will was our annual ProAm tourna- games. The top three District ment. The winners were Wendell qualifiers in each bracket qualify Wylie and Jack Gechter. Congratu- for the Nationals. lations to them. On May 30th we had a Memorial Day Unit Game.

Please mark your calendars

The following members have Golden; Club Master: Phil Tip of the Quarter: Ask an inter- Presby; Sectional Master: Marcia

> Members of Unit #121 are busily planning a great Bridge Cruise for 2011. There is still room! If interested, please let us know.

LEHIGH VALLEY 133 www.lvbabridge.org **Dave Kresge** 215-536-8839 kresgede@aol.com

The unit will hold North on Thursday 8 July at 7:00 PM In February we held our Sec- and Sunday 29 August at 2:00 Check be having qualifying

> The unit will hold its Fall Sectional on 22 October thru 24

June 2010

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October at the West End Youth cial thanks to Elaine for her ser-Center in Allentown. Please mark vice as Secretary for the Unit. your calendars.

man and Florence Futcher for be- the Valley Forge Regional. Elaine coming Silver Life Masters. The was replaced by Jay Apfelbaum unit was saddened by the passing who was elected to the post and of Robert (Toss) Fairall.

PCBA 141

www.philadelphiabridge.info John Marks 215-891-0602 JGMMarks@aol.com

The election of Unit Officers for the year of 2010 took place on February 11, 2010. The current Unit President, Tom Purl, who consistently works the Partnership Desk at the Philadelphia Regional and sectional tournaments was reelected. The current Vice President. Joann Glasson. Past President of the District and Co-Chairperson for the 2012 Summer NABC was reelected; Treasurer Incumbent Marie Trethaway, Treasurer; and Business Manager, John Marks, Incumbent Business Manager and current Regional Tournament Chairman, Co-Chairman for the 2012 Summer NABC and Tournament Coordinator for the Unit and District were Elaine Landow after reelected. serving seven years as Unit Secretary decided to step down. A spe-

Elaine is still the Editor of the Congratulations to Amelia Bahr- 4Spot and the Daily Bulletin for who is also the current Unit Tournament Chairman.

> The Unit had its annual dinner meeting on April 18, 2010. The affair was well attended with 17 tables of Unit members playing Bridge after the dinner and meeting. Jane Segal again arranged the event and did her usual good job. Jane Segal and Howie Cohen won the game and were recipients of the Sonny Jaspan Trophy; coming in second were Mike Giesler and Allison Brandt, third, Charlotte Garber and Steve Pol-Rich Rothwarf, the Unit lock. Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee presented the following: "The living inductees into the Unit Hall of Fame are Joann Glasson, winner of 4 NABC championships and a silver medal at the World Championships; John Marks, our current business manager, who has served as Unit President, Tournament Chairman, chairman of the Philadelphia NABC, and tournament director; Craig Robinson, our district representative on the ACBL Board of Directors and a PCBA board member for over 35 years serving as both President of District 4Spot

the Unit and District; and Arthur 1960's and 1970's who represented North America in the Bermuda Bowl."

Tom Purl, president, also presented the 2009 awards for the "Ace of Clubs" and the "Mini McKinney".

The Winter PCBA Sectional was held at the Knights of Columbus, Glenside PA, February 19 - 21. The three top players at the February Sectional were Carl Barenbaum, Elkins Park, PA (17.39), Corey Krantz, Drexel Hill, PA (16.99) and Bobbie Gomer (15.31).

The Spring Sectional was held on April 9 – 11, at the Fireman's Memorial Hall in Conshohocken, PA. The three top players at the April Sectional were Jay Apfelbaum, Philadelphia, PA (26.50), Ken Cohen, Philadelphia and Neal Satten, Wynnewood, PA (23.64).

At both sectionals hoagies and salad were served between sessions on Sunday and there was hospitality before the morning sessions on Saturday and Sunday. Many thanks to Joan Brandeis and Dennis O'Brien for their time and effort they put into making the hospitality successful. Both sites were well attended.

The Shore Spring Sectional was Robinson, a star player of the held on May 14 - 16 at the Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing, NJ. The Summer tournament will be held on June 18 - 20 at the Kimberton Fire Hall, Kimberton, PA. The Fall Sectional will be September 10 - 12 at the Crescent Shrine, Mount Holly, NJ. A Unit STAC is schedule for Aug 23 - 29.

> Do not forget this year's Valley Forge Regional, July 12 to 18, 2010 at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA. There will be lessons and instruction for the Intermediate / Newcomer players before the morning and afternoon sessions. For more information on I/N you can contact Ala Hamilton-Day at alabridge@aol.com (610-891-9001). There also will be hospitality before each morning session. For more information, please visit our web site.

> The following are important future dates to remember: 2010 -Philadelphia Regional during the Bridge World Series, World Bridge Federation at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, October 1 to 16. 2011 - Valley Forge Regional at Valley Forge Convention Center, August 22 to 28. 2012 - Valley Forge Regional at Valley Forge Convention Center, March 5 to 11, Philadelphia Summer NABC July 12 to 22.

The 8th annual bridge game to support the Lupus Foundation of America (Phila. tristate chapter) will be held at Bala Golf Club on Monday 27 Sept. @ 10:30 AM. For reservations & further info contact Arlyne Shockman @ 215-517-5070.

CENTRAL PENN 168

http://web2.acbl.org/hoster/units/ unit168/index.htm

Kelly Zeller 717-246-8034

kmzeller1@comcast.net

Greetings Unit 168 Members! Warmer days are finally here! And with the weather more accommodating, you might want to mark your calendar and attend these upcoming Unit #168 tournaments: June 25-27, York Sectional @ Springetts Fire Hall, Earlier Play Times. Friday - Noon & 6 PM. Sat -10AM & 2:30PM, Sunday Swiss starts at 11AM. Come and experience York's Hospitality. July 18th, Charity Game in Hagerstown; July **25th** 0-299er Sectional at the Bridge Boardroom; August 2-8th The Harrisburg Regional at the Holiday Inn in New Cumberland. If you need Gold points, check out the schedule, there are lots of "golden" opportunities waiting for you at the Harrisburg Regional!

Congrats to Unit 168 Members for winning these categories:

Mini McKenney Ace of Clubs Barbara Spohn 0-5 5-20 Pat Long Helen Colvin 20-50 **Barbara Sturgis** 50-100 Rodnev Judd 100-200 David Rife Angela Reiner 200-300 **Steve Valencic** 300-500 D Desjardins V Hester 500-1000 Robt Back James Benson 1000-2500 **Bonnie Heilig** 2500-5000 D Wick J Groenenboom 5000-7500 Mel Lubart Phil Monyer Over 10K Selena & John Swanson

Whatever it is that brings you to the bridge table, whether it be a competitive nature, a need to excel, to become a better player, attain a new status or just to be social, keep coming out to play! See you at the table.

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DELAWARE 190 www.unit190.org Marie Filandro 302-234-0623 filandro@aol.com

Hope you all had fun and won lots of masterpoints at our recent Delaware Regional. The new location at the Holiday Inn Select was convenient, both for our local players and for out-oftowners, with easy access to Interstate 95. Co-chairs Sue Corbett and Tom Grabowski did a wonderful job and their committee worked diligently to ensure everything went well. In the

past, Delaware has hosted a regional only once every three years, but from now on we are scheduled for every other year.

The 2010 Wilmington Sectional will be held at the Bridge Studio of Delaware at Foulkstone Plaza from Friday, June 4 through Sunday, June 6. Three sessions of bridge are scheduled for both the Friday and Saturday of the event. See the unit website for complete information.

The 2009 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Club Unit awards have been announced. Several of our members won both of their categories - quite an accomplishment: Toni Notarnicola (0-5), Mary Boyd (5-20), Colin Mackay (50-100), Peter Harris (200-300), Bridgett Pitt (500-1000), Randy Berseth (2500-5000), Rick Rowland (5000-7500), Jess Stuart (7500-10,000). And, it was sad to see Dave Treadwell's name for the last time as the perennial winner of the 10K and up category.

Other Mini-McKenney unit category winners were: Jean Petrilli (20-50), Bitsy Klein (100-200), Nancy Steele (300-500), and Barbara Rhoades (1000-2500). Other Ace of Clubs winners were: Barbara Thayer (20-50), J Bruce Gwaltney (100-200), Jerome Sikora (300-500), and Harvey Retherford in the 10002500 category. Harvey passed away the end of last year and we certainly miss his presence at our club games.

Congratulations to all these members and also to those who have advanced in rank: New Life Masters - Bitsy Klein, Bob McHarness, Joyce Taylor; Bronze Life Masters -Kimmie Fulweiler. Sharon Gordon, Peter Harris, Nancy Libourel; Silver Life Master -Anna Delapo, Melissa Jes-Emerald Life Master sup; Rick Rowland.

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SUSQUEHANNA 217 http://unit217.nepab.com/ Jacqueline Humilovich 814-237-5534

psu4814@comcast.net

The 2010 **"Spring out of Winter Bridge Sectional"** in Williamsport provided a great setting for the players of our unit to enjoy challenging tournament play as well as the opportunity to socialize after the long winter months. We are all very appreciative of the exceptional efforts put forth by the hospitality committee to welcome all of the participants. The results of the tournament are as follows: **Fri. afternoon:** Flights A & B/Sue

Jane Watts & John Watts: Fri. **Evening:** Flight A/Mary Ann Churba & Ed Bissell; Flight B/ 10.32; Ed Bissell: 10.32. Arlene Andrews & Gene Waltz; Flight C/Robert Reed & Jim Voor- Nichols who earned the rank of heis: Sat. AM: Flights A and B/ Michael Anesko & Mateer; Flight C/ Sandra Nelson & Michael Deal: Sat. afternoon: will hold their sectional tourna-Flight A/David Hoover & Nancy Pfeiffer; Flight B/Gene Waltz & Andrews; Arlene Flight C/ Timothy LeVan & Russell Palkendo: Sunday Swiss: Flight A/ Mary Ann Churba, Melvin Lubart, Thomas Weik, Ed Bissell; Flight B/ Barbara Mateer, Michael Anesko, Cary Breech, Doris Plotts; Flight Stratified Open Pairs; Saturday C/Timothy LeVan, Vera Peters, E 11 am Stratified Open Pairs; 5 Jane Watts, Lois Wentzler.

of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Teams. Awards to the 2009 winners during the lunch break of the Swiss teams competition. Ace of Clubs: Shirley Miller, Robert Scherer, Susan Nichols, Timothy LeVan, Nancy Pfeiffer, Ellen Blais, Jacqueline Humilovich, Virginia Marshall, Judy Stein, Sandy Gilbert, Ed Bissell. Mini-McKenney: Shirley Miller, Gail Whitley, Susan Nichols, Irene Harpster, Russell Palkendo, Dolores Ritter, Jacqueline Humilovich, Susan Greenleaf, Judy Stein, Jim McKeown, Ed Bissell.

The top three finishers in the

Pierce & Maria Stahel; Flight C/ total Masterpoint race for the spring sectional were: Kevin Burns: 10.38; Mary Ann Churba:

> Congratulations to Susan Regional Master while playing in Barbara the Swiss Teams event!

The State College Bridge Club ment from June 11-13. Our members would like to extend an enthusiastic invitation to everyone and sincerely look forward to greeting each of you at this annual event. The schedule of events is as follows: Friday 1 pm Stratified Open Pairs; 7 pm pm Stratified Open Pairs; Sun-Sue Pierce presented The Ace day 11 am Stratified Swiss

DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP BY Unit AS OF 4/30/2010
112 UPSTATE NY 1236 120 NE PA 379 121 Berks-Mont 232 133 Lehigh Valley 326 141 Philadelphia 2719 168 Central Penn 1023 190 Delaware 744 217 Susquehanna 145
Total6804

SO YOU WANT TO BE A LIFE MASTER - by Pete Filandro



"Q. I hope to become a Life Master (LM) someday. I know it may take years. Is there anything to keep in mind during this time?

A. Yes. Do not let your ACBL dues lapse! Effective Jan 1, 2010 the reauirements for LM have increased from 300 total masterpoints (MPs) to 500 MPs. But all of you who are current members are 'grandfathered' at the 300 level as long as you continue paying your ACBL dues. Another point, if you carelessly forget to renew, don't assume your points are lost or that you have been relegated to the 500-level requirement. There is a grace period for you to pay those dues and retain your MPs and your 300-level requirements. Check acbl.org for details.

Q. Do you have any tips on speeding my accumulation of those 300 MPs?

A. You bet. First, seek out bridge clubs that make the effort to award the highest level of MPs. Second, play in Bracketed Knockouts whenever you can. These events pay the most MPs commensurate with the level of effort and the quality of the opposition. If you and your teammates have, say, 150 MPs each, your team total of 600 MPs might put you in a bracket of 16 teams with, say, 500 - 800 MPs each. You only have to win 2 or more matches to earn fairly large MP awards, and your competition is usually very similar in ability.

Q. Do you have any tips on getting Silver (Sectional) MPs?

A. Yes. If you are willing to go to clubs you don't normally attend in order to get those difficult Silver points, I recommend you play in STaC games. STaC stands for Sectional Tournament at Clubs. STaC games pay Silver points for all awards - that is, section placings as well as overall awards. So you could win Silver for as little as, say, 5th in your direction for a fractional award to as much as 15 or more MPs for being 1st overall in all participating clubs. Look on the back inside cover of your monthly ACBL Bulletin magazine to find a list of STaC games for the upcoming month. (For up to a year ahead, future STaCs can be found on the ACBL website under Tournaments, then Sectional Tournaments at Clubs Calendars, then Participating Clubs.)

Q. Do you have any tips on getting Gold/Red MPs?

A. Sure. Red and Gold MPs are awarded at Regionals (with one minor exception that there is an annual Gold Point event at participating clubs). Red is for any MPs earned in a 2-session or longer Regional event. Gold are awarded only for Section Top or Overall awards in 2-session or longer Regional events. Your best opportunity, as mentioned before, is to play in Bracketed Knockouts. Your chances of winning large awards in your bracket are excellent. And, they will be GOLD if you win as few as two matches! If you don't have a team, or you prefer to play in some pair events, if you and your partner are age 55+, consider playing in a Regional Senior Pairs. These events are usually less (Continued on page 23)

DISTRICT 4 SPLIT REGIONAL

HARRISBURG PA

Harrisburg Holiday Inn I-83 (Exit 40A) Just North of PA Turnpike (Exit 242) New Cumberland, PA 717-774-2721 Room rate: \$89 Mon-Thurs/\$99 Fri & Sat



EVENT SCHEDULE

	9 AM*	1 PM* & 7 PM	7 PM*
Mon, Aug 2			KO A1 (3 rds)
Tues, Aug 3	KO B1 (3 rds)	KO A2 & 3, Strat Open & Golden Opportunity Pairs	Swiss Teams
Weds, Aug 4	KO B2	Strat Open Pairs, KO C1 & 2 (4 rds)	Swiss Teams
Thurs, Aug 5	KO B3	Brktd Swiss Teams, KO C3 & 4	
Fri, Aug 6	KO D1 (3 rds)	Strat Open Pairs KO D2 & 3	Swiss Teams
Sat, Aug 7	KO E1 (3 rds)	KO E2 & 3, Strat Open & Golden Opportunity Pairs	Swiss Teams
Sun, Aug 8	10:00 AM Flight A/X Teams/ Golden Opportunity Teams Six 8 board matches-playthrough - 30 min break - subs served		

* Side Game Series I & II single session pair games all sessions Mon - Sat
 * 0-5,0-50,0-100,0-200,0-300 pairs single sessions all sessions Mon - Sat
 red = 1st & 2nd overall will be determined across both sites

 ▲ Full I/N Program ♥ Expert Lectures before every session ♣ Golden Opportunity Pairs (under 750 mps) GOLD
 Points ◆ Novice party Friday ♠ 0-5 play free Tues;

0-20 free on Fri

Open Hospitality Suite after every evening session

Tourn Chair: Bob Priest 717-579-5665 FTHR_BOB@YAHOO.COM PARTNERS: BETSY DAVENNY 717-234-2044

AUGUST 2 - 8, 2010

SYRACUSE NY



Holiday Inn 441 Electronics Parkway Liverpool, NY 315-457-1122 Room rate: \$104

EVENT SCHEDULE

	9 AM*	1 PM* & 7 PM*	7 PM	
Mon, Aug 2			KO1 (1) Charity Pairs	
Tues, Aug 3	KO1 (2)	KO1 (3 & 4); KO2 (1 & 2) Strat Open Pairs, Golden Opportunity Pairs		
Weds, Aug 4	AM Comp KO (1)	Strat Open Pairs, KO2 (3 &	4), KO3 (1 & 2)	
Thurs, Aug 5	AM Comp KO (2)	Swiss Teams, KO3 (3 & 4),	KO4 (1 & 2)	
Fri, Aug 6	AM Comp KO (3)	Strat Open Pairs, KO4 (3 &	4), KO5 (1 & 2)	
Sat, Aug 7	AM Comp KO (4)	Strat Open Pairs, Golden Compact KO	Opportunity Pairs,	
Sun, Aug 8 11:00 AM Stratiflighted Swiss Teams; 199er Strat Swiss Team			trat Swiss Teams	

* Side Game Series single session pair games all sessions Tues- Sat * 199er pairs single sessions all sessions Tues - Sat red = 1st & 2nd overall will be determined across both sites

Golden Opportunity Pairs are two session events limited to players under 750 pts. Gold is awarded to overall and section tops in the top strat.

TOURN CHAIR: GERRY RADWAY 315-559-1560 GRADWAY@YAHOO.COM PARTNERS: DAN BOYE 315-884-6057 SKIPBID2003@YAHOO.COM

DISTRICT 4 MASTER SOLVERS CLUB HENRY BETHE, DIRECTOR

A very small panel this time. My fault: I sent out no reminders. Fairly few comments also. Again my fault: I am converting from PC to MAC, and did not figure out in time how to copy comments received after I changed systems. All of the panelists and most of the solvers submitted comments. I will try not to let it happen again! Anyway, you will have to live with mostly my thoughts this time.

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1. IMPs, No one Vul Dealer North
   S- J952 H- D- 965 C- KJ10753
   West North East South
        -- 1C P ??
1S 20 (6); 4C or 5C 12 (1 each); 3C 9 (0); 1D
5 (0)
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Most of the comments were similar to Greco's. **Greco**: 1S. This hand is way too strong for a club preempt so a normal 1S seems clear. I can hardly get too high as I have a very strong hand if clubs are trumps.

The other idea was this: **Filandr**o. 5C. Following the maxim "Let the opponents have the last guess". P.S., my 1H psyche always hits partner with 2=4=3=4 and 18 or 19 HCP and I hear partner bid 4H. Then, 5C by me is a cuebid, not corrective, and a minus score is in my future.

I understand both perspectives. Either could be right. I think the most likely games are 3N and 5C: 3N because I bring that lovely club suit to the party; 5C because I have those same lovely clubs and no heart losers. On the other hand, unless partner has significant extra values the opponents have half the high cards and at least nine hearts between them. Bidding 1S lets them in easily. But if partner has significant extras and four good spades, not bidding 1S will prevent us from reaching our best game. The scoring reflects the voting, not my opinion of the relative merits of the alternative approaches.

2.	MPs,	E-W ul,	, Deal	ler Ea	.st
	S- K	10865 H-	- 6 D-	5 C-	Q98752
	West	Nort	ch Ea	ast So	uth
			P	P	
	Ρ	2N	Т Р	31	ł
	Р	3S	P	?	?

4C 20 (4); 3N 15 (2); 4S 14 (2)

There are three possible bids as the panel suggests. All have upsides and downsides. If partner has a club fit and prime values, 4C will be best. If partner has a club fit and not prime values, 3N is the winner. All calls will lead to 4S if partner has a spade fit.

Sprungs: 4C. If we weren't planning on bidding both of our suits, we should have just bid Texas right away. Rebidding 3NT is terrible. Sure partner might play us for more, but we are 5-6. Greco: 4C: Just a guess! Again this may depend on my methods over 4C (if I had no discussion at all, I might just bid 3NT). I look at it this way, if I catch no fit at all than even 3NT is likely to go down so I strongly believe that I should go for the score with the maximum upside. Worst case is we get to 4NT instead of three, but again, it depends on what is RKC for what suit and what is a signoff. Raskin: 4C. Might as well let partner knows we have a 2 suited hand and that cards in those 2 suits have extra value. Dve: 4C. Natural and game forcing. I am not worried about bypassing 3NT, even at MPs. Give partner AQx-Ax-AJxx-AJxx and we likely make 6C while 3NT is going down. Foster: 4C. If partner has fewer than 3 spades, she might have a club fit. If she has opened 2 NT with two doubletons (NOT our usual style), we are doomed.

White: 3NT. It's matchpoints. I'll play spades if we have 8 or 9, NT otherwise.

Filandro. 4S. I have found highly distributional hand types play better in the major than in 3NT or one level higher in the minor - <u>even when</u> the major is a 5 - 2 fit. I am a shade light for this slam-invitational sequence, but opposite a perfect maximum it might fetch, if partner insists.

One panelist suggested that 4C would be ace asking. One solver said that he hoped no one suggested that 4C would be ace asking. In this I am with the solver: after the transfer 5C is available as "SuperGerber" and the alternative (if you play it) is Texas followed by RKC. I am

conservative at matchpoints, and would bid 3N. I am more aggressive at imps, and would bid 4C. When this hand came up 3N was the winner, as partner had a stopper rich but control poor 2-4-4-3. Which as usual proves nothing at all.

3.	IMPs,	N-S Vu	l, Deal	er Sou	th
	S- KQ	96 H- 3	D- K97	43 C- 9	952
	West	North	East	South	
				Р	
	$1 \mathrm{NT}^1$	X^2	2H ³	??	

¹12-14; ²Penalty oriented; ³Natural

3H 20 (5); X 13 (2); P 13 (0); 2S 9 (1); 3D 8 (0)

Unlike the Sprungs, we have not discussed this situation. Straguzzi suggested that partner's double should either have a source of tricks or be significantly stronger than the weak NT. I agree. But we have the "standard" agreement. So we are searching for logical follow up agreements in the basic system context without prior discussion. Maybe this is "right":

White (with Raskin): Double. If it's takeout, it's right. If it's not takeout, I'll say that modern players are learning that more doubles in competition should be takeout.

If it is, it caters to partner having a strong hand with hearts. Certainly possible. I would prefer to have two hearts so that when partner passes the opponents do not have an eight card fit. A reasonable alternative, although pushy, is

Sprungs: 3H. We play system on as if WE had opened 1NT, so this would deny a heart stopper as well for us, but that is probably not SAYC. This might be a slight overbid, but we are VUL at IMP's and will just drive to game, since it simplifies the auction.you have more than a merely competitive action. **Dye:** 3H. Not sure what methods we are playing. For those of us who treat partner's double as a strong NT, 3H is Stayman-without-a-stopper. For the rest of the world, 3H must show game going values and more than one place to play. Partner has room to bid spades if he owns them. If he bids 3NT diamonds may produce enough tricks for a make. Double is wrong on two counts: if penalty, you don't want to defend, and if negative you have more than a merely competitive action. **Greco**: 3H. This is an impossible hand if I don't know my methods. I have an easy double if double is takeout as

partner will rarely pass at these colors, unless of course we have them. If there is any doubt as to double, I would bid 3H and hopefully partner will take this as Stayman.

Many partnerships play that the double of 1N creates a force through 2H. Those people would also play that a double OVER the suit is penalty and under the suit is takeout. So with those agreements a double of 2H would be penalty and pass is forcing. Which would make this certainly a possible answer.

Hickes: P. bet this sequence not seen often.

On the other hand this answer has the following flaws: partner will expect a longer suit and fewer high cards, I think. Typical might be queen fifth of spades and a king.

Foster: 2S. Since this is now a "free call" it shows some values (which is what I have). I expect partner to have about 15 or so HCP's..

We do not play against many weak no-trumps anymore. It was more common in my early days, the heyday of Kaplan-Sheinwold. Since we don't, there is less call to have agreements. Having said that, this is imps, we are vulnerable, I think the 3H bidders are right.

4. MPs, Both Vul, Dealer West

S- KQ H- AK94 D- J8 C- A9532 West North East South P P 1D ??

1H 20 (6);X 13 (1);1N 12 (0);2C 8 (1);P 5 (0)

Every possible call has serious drawbacks. A good summary:

Sprungs: ... No alternative is good. Pass is impossible with two diamonds and this strength. Neither round suit overcall appeals, [*short hearts, bad* clubs H.B], 1NT is flawed too many ways [*and double suffers from the doubleton spade, HB*]. *They select double along with* **Hickes**: X. hope spade raise not too high could make 4 with 4-2 fit ; the "mini-moysian" **Foster**: Double Maybe partner will NOT bid1S. If she does, I will Western Cue bid 2D next, assuming that the opponents are passing: they may not.

Bill Foster is enamored with Western cue bids. They do not apply here. A cue bid after partner bids 1S shows a strong hand, either searching for a better strain or preparatory to showing a REALLY good spade raise. I do not think this hand is strong enough. The most popular "flawed" choice among the panel was

Filandro. 1H. A chunky 4-card overcall gets the lead I want, may

find our game opposite partner's 9 - 11 HCP pass, and avoids -800 if I instead bid 2C and find LHO has the 9 - 11 HCP pass and a club stack. **Greco**: 1H Seems right down the middle. I just don't like overcalling 1NT over a natural 1D without a stopper or doubling with only 2 spades as I have an impossible rebid if partner bids the expected 1S.

Dye: 1NT. Am not cavalier about lacking a stopper Vul at MPs, but see no reasonable alternative. 1H might end the auction, and in a poor spot, while 3NT is making. 2C is just plain terrible.

Raskin: 2C. If I Double to show the strength of the hand, I very well might not know what to do if partner bids a major. If I overcall 2C I will have a better idea of what action I should take if partner bids. **White**: 2C. It is my longest suit, anyway.

One solver tried a peculiar unusual 2N, hoping that the extra strength would make up for the lack of distribution. It might work out at the table, but not in a bidding competition. I think I would choose double, but I consider 1N very close. For what my opinions are worth.

A perfectly ordinary hand attracts SEVEN(!) different answers.

Raskin: Double. Penalty oriented - Partner can do what he thinks is best. Any other immediate action, such as 2NT or Pass, may well limit any future calls to trying to catch up for not having taken this action now.

White: 1NT. Totally flat hand. Totally scattered strength. Intermediates too weak to contemplate bidding more. If hearts is right we might still end up there.

Greco: 2C. Lets see if partner has four hearts and then bid 2NT if they don't and invite with 3H if they do. The negative of this actually, may be we wrongside the hearts but I can't bid 3H with only Qxxx! I can't double 1S as that would show at least four. Just a little bit too strong for bidding 2H vul at imps.

Sprungs: 2H. This hand is not nearly as strong as the HCP indicate. Poor suit, 4333 and Queens in their suits. A penalty double of 1 Spade might have some appeal, but they figure to be safe in clubs, and we surely don't want partner to take us back to spades when we can't double 2 clubs.

Foster: 2H. Wish I had a fifth heart for this call, but I do have 11 HCP's, which suggests that East is bidding mostly on shape. With West and Partner accounting for a presumed minimum of 24 HCP's, East might have 5 HCP's at most.

Dye: 2S. Forward going, but without clear direction. Arrived at by process of elimination: Double shows spades, so that's out; 3H is right on values, but I hate the shape (and some partners would see 3H from 4th hand as preemptive); 2NT is descriptive, but partner may be dangerously short in clubs; 2C is woefully ambiguous - hence, 2S!

Filandro. 3H. As a passed hand with 11 HCP I almost always cuebid first - but this hand is an exception due to multiple downgrades. My black queens are soft, and 4-3-3-3 shape is unexciting. I gave 2NT some (fleeting) consideration, but it might easily bury hearts, not to mention they might take the first 5 or 6 club tricks in NT.

Let me deal first with hand evaluation: this hand adds up to 11HCP. It has the following negative adjustments. Three unsupported queens; queens and jacks really need a supporting honor to be worth full point count value. Flat shape. Bad spots. When you put it all together it really is at best a bad ten count, not eleven. But a ten count is too much to bid just 2H. Of the various suggested calls, I think 2C, which is a cue bid showing strength and not ambiguous in my opinion, is clearly best. 3H overstates the values for hearts, 2H understates the strength of the hand, 2N would probably eliminate hearts as a possible contract. IN is certainly reasonable. Double should suggest longer spades. 2S is more ambiguous than 2C. I think it shows spades and limited values so you don't want to double and be forced to guess over 3C by the opponents. After all, partner invited you to bid spades not clubs.

Eric Greco and Connie Goldberg were part of the majority of the panel on all five problems, scoring 100. Ken Cohen scored 95. Among solvers Lynn Harris and Nick Stragguzzi scored 89 with Doug Dye and Dr. Mel Lubart right behind at 88 and 87 respectively. Jane Havighurst submitted two sets of answers. They were different but achieved the same score! I would have scored 81.

Panelist	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Eric Greco	1S	4C	3H	1H	2C	100
Connie Goldberg	1S	4C	3H	1H	2C	100
Ken Cohen	1S	3N	3H	1H	2C	95
Dan & Jo Sprung	1S	4C	3H	Х	2H	87
Pete Filandro	5C	4S	3H	1H	3H	81
Ros & Saul Teukolsky	1S	4S	2S	1H	2N	78
Bob & Joann Glasson	4C	3N	Х	1H	1N	76
Ray Raskin	1S	4C	Х	2C	Х	76
-						
Solvers						
Lynn Harris	1S	4C	Х	2C	1N	89
Nick Straguzzi	1S	4C	3H	Х	1N	89
Douglas Dye	1S	4C	3H	1N	2S	88
Mel Lubart	1S	4C	3H	1N	Х	87
Dan Landenberger	1S	4C	Х	Х	1N	82
Jane Havighurst	1S	4C	2S	1N	Х	76
Havighurst 2	1S	3N	Х	Х	ЗH	76
Bill Foster	1S	4C	2S	Х	2H	76
Bob Hickes	1S	3N	Р	Х	2N	76
Bill Rock	1S	4C	2S	1N	2H	75
Bill Coren	1S	4C	Р	Х	2S	73
Steve White	1S	3N	X	2C	1N	72
Barry Passer	3C	3N	2S	1H	1N	69



(Continued from DD Report, page 4)

to the last two days of the other two NABCs.

District 4 has a great line-up of Regionals for the remainder of 2010: July 12-18 King of Prussia; August 2-8 Liverpool (Syracuse) and New Cumberland (Harrisburg) Split Regional; October 1-16 Philadelphia Regional in conjunction with the World Championships and November 1-7 Lancaster – the biggest Regional in District 4.

MASTER SOLVERS	(Continued from LM, page 13)
FALL 2010 PROBLEMS	
	"starstudded" so may find the
Please send answers no later than	competition easier (and, as a
	side benefit, usually more
June 30, 2010 to <u>hbethe@aol.com</u> .	friendly and less intense - but no
Methods are 2/1 with "Walsh".	guarantees here). However, a
	caveat: since the field is not
1. IMPs, N-S Vul, Dealer East	"Open" the MP awards are not
S-AJ3 H- A102 D- Q10 C- AKJ53	as generous.
West North East South	Q. I have lots more than 300 MPs
	and I have all of my Red and Sil-
1C X	ver, but that last 0.16 (0.23,
1D 1S P ??	0.08, etc.) of Gold has been elud-
	ing me for ages. Is there a way to
2. MPs, E-W Vul, Dealer North	earn a small Gold award without
S- K1094 H- AQ9 D- AJ5 C- 763	getting a Section Top or an Over-
West North East South	all award at a Regional?
1D P 1S	A. Yes, but it means I have to let
P 2S P ??	you in on an ACBL secret. Plati-
P 25 P ??	num points are downward con-
	vertible to Gold – and done
3. IMPs, Neither Vul, Dealer East	automatically by ACBL. Let me
S- 62 H- J52 D- KQ104 C- AQJ9	explain. Platinum points are not
West North East South	needed to make LM, so most
1H P	newer players don't know much,
P X P ??	if anything, about them. Platinum
	points are earned only at ACBL
4 MDa Dath Vul Daalar Couth	Nationals and only in NABC+ (National) events that have no
4. MPs, Both Vul, Dealer South	upper MP limit. So, if you only
S- 76 H- AK107432 D- A874 C-	need a fraction of a Gold Point,
West North East South	go to a Nationals and play in
1H	either the NABC+ Open Swiss or
P 1N P ??	the NABC+ Open Senior Swiss.
	All you need to do is win just one
5. IMPs, N-S Vul, Dealer West	of the eight matches and you will
S- J8743 H- Q D- K10653 C- A5	earn perhaps 0.44 Platinum MPs.
	They will magically turn into
West North East South	Gold and you will be a LM!
P 1H P 1S	Congratulations!
P 2D P ??	

It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents. Alfred Sheinwold

DIST.	NG	P A STARS	
2010 SP		NABC RENO, N	IV
1. Robert Levin	253.56	6. Ray Raskin	59.55
2. Eric Greco	210.04	Bridgett Pitt	56.19
3. Ken Cohen	97.45	8. Dan Boye	48.00
4. Jill Levin	84.02	9. Joann Glasson	47.51
5. Thomas Weik	63.55	10 Craig Robinson	46.97





A Favorite ... August 16-22, 2010 BALTIMORE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 Picturesque Countryside and the Charm of Baltimore For reservations call 410-785-7000 Rooms \$117 single or double, plus 13% tax Make reservations early . Rates will be higher after July 16 The Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, just outside of the city, is surrounded by green rolling hills and the picturesque Chesapeake Bay. The facilities are uniquely situated 20 minutes from downtown and 40 minutes from BWI Airport. You'll have access to light rail direct to the scenic Inner Harbor, the Baltimore National Aquarium, the Science Center, the Maryland Zoo, Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Walters Art Gallery and Fort McHenry. For your on-site dining pleasure visit the Cinnamon Tree restaurant or enjoy the relaying atmosphere of the Bar and Grill. Take advantage of the hotel's latest audio/visual technology. wireless high-speed internet, new fitness center and an indoor/outdoor pool. Rooms are renovated and service is exceptional. We invite you to make this your perfect bridge holiday. By popular demand, the Mid-Atlantic Intermediate-Newcomer program will feature pre-game lectures by expert authors and lecturers. THREE two-session Black-Eyed Susan Pairs, limited to 750 MP players and awarding GOLD points. Our special "world renowned panel" once again will be a tournament highlight at 6:40 p.m. Friday. Partners guaranteed one hour before all 0-300 MP events. Friday's between-sessions party, hosted by the Maryland Bridge Association, welcomes all players with fewer than 100 masterpoints. Daily gifts to first-time tournament duplicate bridge players. TOURNAMENT CHAIR: Patricia Wilson 410-825-7579, valleybridg@cs.com PARTNERSHIPS: Zeke Letellier 410-451-1772, Marie Burgess-Strauss 410-569-8293, usastrauss@verizon.net 0-300 PARTNERSHIPS: Jennifer Koonce 410-674-5158, kooncejf@comcast.net For information concerning host hotel or alternative housing, call Patricia Wilson.

Visit the MABC on the Web: www.mabcbridge.org

BALTIMORE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL

All KO events are bracketed and include 0-300 MP players. Random draw every round.

Monday, Aug. 16 Klokett Knockada 7-30
Kickoff Knockouts
Similiad Ones Charth Dairs 7-30
Strattfled Open Charthy Pairs
Tuesday, Aug. 17
0–5 MP players FR⊞ today
Fort McHenry Compact KDs
(12-board matches; continues 9 am Wednesday)
Ravens AM Side Game Series (1st of 5)
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs
0–5 Trophy Pairs
Open Pairs (0–2000, 2000+)1 & 7:30
FIRS T Black-Eyed Susan Pairs (300/750 — GOLD POINTS)
(3007/50 — 6020 POINTS)
Hunt Valley Side Game Series
(1st 2nd of 6) 1 / 7-30
(1st, 2nd of 6)
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs
Wednesday, Aug. 18 Preakness AM Compact KDs
(t2-board matches; continues 9 am Thursday)
(12-blaid maches; contribes sam musuay)
Ravens AM Side Game Series (2nd of 5)
Stratified Senior Pairs
Maryland Knockouts
(Continues 1 & 7:30 Thursday)
Stratified Open Pairs
Hunt Valley Side Game Series
(3rd 4th of 6) 1/7-30
(3rd, 4th of 6)1 / 7:30 Stratified Open Swiss Teams
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs
50/100/300 Swiss Teams
Thursday, Aug. 19
Inner Harbor Compact KOs
(12-board matches; continues 9 am Friday)
Ravens AM Side Game Series (3rd of 5)
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs
Stratified Senior Pairs 10:30 am & 3
StrataFlighted Open Swiss Teams
Open Pairs (D-2000, 2000+)
SECOND Black-Eyed Susan Pairs (300/750 — GOLD POINTS)
Hunt Valley Side Game Series
(5th, 6th of 6)1 / 7:30
Stratified Open BAM Teams
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs1 / 7:30

Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn

945 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 91031 410–785–7000

Friday, Aug. 20
National Aquarium Compact KOs
(12-board matches; continues 9 am Saturday)
(12-board matches; continues 9 am Saturday) Ravens AM Side Game Series (4th of 5)
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs
Hunt Cup Knockouts
StrataFlighted Open Pairs1 & 7:30
Strattfled Senior Pairs 1.8,7-30
Orloles Side Game Series (1st, 2nd of 4) 1 / 7:30
EXPERT PANEL SHOW 6:40
Stratified Open Swiss Teams
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs1 / 7:30
50/100/300 Swiss Teams
20 KIIOKOUB
Saturday, Aug. 21
Strattfled Open Swiss Teams
Ravens AM Side Game Series (5th of 5)
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs
Stratmed Senior Pars 10:30 am & 3
Weekend Knockouts
Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+)
THIRD Black-Eved Susan Pairs
(300/750 - GOLD POINTS)
Orioles Side Game Series (3rd, 4th of 4)1 / 7:30
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs1 / 7:30
Stratified Open BAM Teams
Sunday, Aug. 22
StrataFlighted Open Swiss Teams
Strattfled Senior Swiss Teams 10 am
Open & Senior Swisses are 7 matches
piaythru with a 30-minute lunch break
Stratified Open Pairs
Single-session entries permitted 5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs
50/100/300 Swiss Teams
+ Open & Senior events stratified 0-750, 750-2000,
2000+ unless indicated otherwise
 StrataFlighted events A/X=5000+, 0=5000, and B/C/D separate 1500=3000, 500=1500, 0=500
+ 0-300 events stratified at director's discretion
+ u-suu events stratted at director's discretion + All times pm unless indicated otherwise
1
+ Single-session pairs always accommodated



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! 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.

In 2006 we talked about super and pre-accepts over transfers. To review, after a transfer to a major suit at the two level, the opener will accept the transfer holding two or three card support. Holding four card support, the opener will accept the transfer at the three level with a minimum hand and bid a doubleton with a maximum hand. Holding a maximum hand, four card support and 4-3-3-3 distribution, the opener will rebid 2NT.

After a transfer to a minor suit, the opener will accept the transfer holding a hand that is willing to play in 3NT whenever the responder has invitational values. The opener will bid 2NT over a transfer to clubs or 3 over a transfer to diamonds holding a hand that would not accept an invitation.

Stayman is the most commonly played bridge convention in the world today. A bid of 2. asks the opener to show a fourcard major suit, failing which the opener will rebid $2 \blacklozenge$. In this article, we will discuss the responder's options after the opener responds to the $2\clubsuit$ bid.

The responder may have a weak, game invitational, game forcing, slam invitational or an even stronger hand. With a weak hand, responder will pass opener's major suit rebid. Over a 2♦ response, responder may either pass or rebid 2♥. The 2♥ rebid shows at least four hearts and at least four spades. Opener should pass the 2♥ rebid whenever he holds a three-card heart suit. Holding 2 hearts and 3 Holding a weak hand with both minor suits, responder will bid 2NT and pass the response. If the opener does not like diamonds, he will probably have a better hand for clubs.

With an invitational hand, responder may rebid 2♠, 2NT or three of either minor suit. A 2♠ rebid shows five spades, four hearts and invitational values over a 2♦ rebid by opener. It promises only four spades over a 2♥ rebid by opener. A 2NT rebid shows eight or nine high card points and a balanced hand. A rebid of either minor suit shows at least five cards in that suit, a four-card major suit (not opener's suit if opener rebids a

level holding four-card support.

of opener's major suit. Holding a game forcing hand with a four-bids at the two level in response card major suit plus a long minor to an opening bid of 1NT. A bid suit, responder may bid either of 2♦ shows a heart suit, a 2♥ Stavman and ignore the minor bid shows a spade suit. 24 suit or transfer to that minor suit shows a club suit and 2NT and then show the major suit. shows a diamond suit. For these Holding five of one major suit people, the three level can be and four of the other, responder used to show hands that are will use Stayman and then either difficult to show using this transraise the major suit response to fer structure. Single suit hands game or over a 2 rebid show a with a five-card major suit are hand with five-four major suit easy, as are two suit hands that distribution by bidding three of are either weak or strong. It is his four card major suit. With six- the two suited hands (five cards four major suit distribution, re- in each suit) of invitational sponder can follow up with a four strength that present bidding level transfer.

hand, responder may jump to strength, we transfer to the major four of a minor suit to show good suit and ignore the minor suit support of opener's major suit (rebid 2NT). The opener may bid plus a singleton in that minor a minor suit over 2NT to tentasuit. Holding no singleton, re- tively accept the invitation and sponder may bid the other major show a good suit. suit at the three level. If opener rebids 2♦, responder may follow partnership to a minor suit game with three of either major suit to and avoid 3NT. There are, in show five-four major suit distribu- short, a variety of ways to show tion (and then keep bidding after weak, invitational and stronger opener makes his choice), a four hands; whether balanced, singlelevel transfer (and then keep bid- suited or two suited. That brings ding), 4, 4, 4, or 4NT. A 4, rebid us to some of the gaps in this asks for Aces. A 4 rebid shows structure. There is no easy way a major-minor hand with four in the bidding structure outlined cards in each suit. Opener will above to show invitational hands bid 4NT to denv any interest in a containing both major suits or slam, five of either minor suit to both minor suits. We will use the show four or five cards in that three level for these hands. Hold-

major), and invitational values. minor suit, or 5NT to show both Finally, responder may raise minor suits. A jump to six of a opener's major suit to the three minor suit is an offer to play in that suit or in 6NT. Finally, a With a game forcing hand, jump to 4NT shows a balanced responder may rebid 3NT or four hand with no four card minor suit.

Many people play transfer problems. Holding a major-minor Holding an even stronger suited hand with invitational

Sometimes this will propel the

ing both minor suits, bid $3\clubsuit$. Holding both major suits, bid 3♦. We will discuss the auction following 3♣ first. A bid of 3♣ shows invitational values with five or more cards in each minor suit. Opener may pass or bid 3♦ to play in that minor suit at the three level. Bidding four of either minor suit invites game in that suit. Responder should consider the quality of his honor cards in deciding whether to accept the invitation. Holding a King in the other minor is better than holding both the Queen and Jack. The reason is that opener may have only two cards in the other minor suit. There is a greater chance to avoid a loser in that minor suit by ruffing. (NOTE: A Queen-Jack combination may be better at No Trump because there is a greater chance of making several tricks in the suit.) A bid of 3♦ shows invitational values with five or more cards in each major suit. Opener will bid three of either major suit to play there, or four of either major suit to accept the game invitation in that suit. Over either of these three level bids, opener may hold such an exceptional hand that a mere game bid will not be sufficient. To show that exceptional hand, opener will cue bid an ace in one of the suits denied by responder. A bid of 3♥ over a jump to 34 is an example, as is a bid of $4 \clubsuit$ over a jump to $3 \blacklozenge$. Responder is expected to cooperate if he holds a singleton in the unbid suit and any ace.

There is one other type of hand nearly impossible to describe: a game forcing hand with five-four minor suit distribution and threeone major suit distribution. Responder will also have nine to twelve high card points. We show this hand by bidding our three card major suits at the three level. Opener can look at his holding opposite responder's singleton and decide whether to play in 3NT or some other game. It may even be that the partnership should play in a major suit game. Opener will usually bid whatever game he thinks is most likely to make. A bid of either minor suit is a mild slam try in that minor suit; responder is expected to cooperate if he holds a maximum hand for the bid plus quality values (mostly aces and kings outside of the trump suit). Finally, a bid of responder's singleton shows 16 or 17 high card points distributed exclusively in responder's three suits. If responder holds 11 or 12 high card points, he will show his longer minor suit and then opener will bid the best slam. If responder holds 9 or 10 high card points, he will make the cheapest bid possible. Opener will bid whatever contract he thinks best.



PCBA UNIT 141 SECTIONALS

Kimberton Fire Co.

2276 Kimberton Road Kimberton, PA

Same

JUNE 18 - 20 FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Open Prs^{2*}......1:30/7:30 Non-Master Pairs^{1*}......1:30/7:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Flighted Swiss³ 10:00 playthrough with a short break Non-Master Swiss Teams¹.10/1:30

SAT & SUN PREGAME HOSPITALITY BEFORE FIRST SESSION

SEE WEBSITE FOR DIRECTIONS www.Philadelphiabridge.info

^{*}single session ¹A 100-300, B 20-100, C 0-20) ²A 2000+, B 750-2000, C 0-750) ³ (A 4000+, X 0-4000) separate (B 1250-2000, C 750-1250, D 0-750) [#]7:30 - Regionally rated, Barometer

PARTNERSHIP: TOM PURL 610-518-6790 <u>ATTYPURL@HOTMAIL.COM</u> JERRY CRAIGE 609-965-2275 <u>ANTIQUA1@COMCAST.NET</u>

TOURNAMENT CHAIR: JAY APFELBAUM 215-336-6421 JAPFEL@VERIZON.NET

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June 2010

Crescent Shriners Temple

700 Highland Drive Westampton, NJ **

SEPTEMBER 10 - 12

FRIDAY, SEPT 10

Open Prs^{2*}.....1:30/7:30

Non-Master Pairs^{1*}...... 1:30/7:30

SATURDAY, SEPT 11

Handicap KO Tms....10/2:30/7:30

Non-Master Pairs^{1*}...10/2:30/7:30

Open Pairs^{2*}10:00 & 7:30[#]

Flighted Open Pairs...... 2:30

(A/X and B/C/D)

SUNDAY, SEPT 12

Flighted Swiss³.....10:00

playthrough with a short break

Non-Master Swiss Teams¹.10/1:30

****** Westampton is 2 miles

west of Mt Holly & ONLY 10

minutes north of Cherry Hill.



Courage, Binky, Courage!!

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

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

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

You may have noticed that sometimes the Big Dog players don't like playing with you (and some of them don't keep it a secret, do they!). Have you ever wondered why? You may think it's because you are slow, or that you are fondling your bidding box (security blanket), or hesitating. Nope.

Here's why. Last week at the Boardroom a strange reversal happened. It was Workshop Night, geared toward the Emerging Players crowd. A lovely pair of more experienced players with close to 300 points wandered into the lesson and game. As they were leaving, I teased them about being like a pair of swans at a duckling convention.

But listen to this!! The ducklings had "fixed" the advanced players but good. The Swans had come in close to the bottom, not even seeing the bus that squashed them. They were reeling from strange events,

like jump shifts being made without partner having any idea if they were weak or strong, bids that didn't resemble the hands that were holding them.

To their credit, they were laughing as they staggered into the parking lot, with one of the lowest scores they'd ever had. One of them said, "I sure hope I don't run into those people again until they know how to play this game *right!* I don't think I can handle the humiliation."

In the last 4Spot, I asked for feedback from you. Here's what I asked:

"Many times in the ACBL Bulletin we read letters from people saying how wonderful it is to have an opportunity to play against the top people in the game, whether we are trounced or not. This doesn't reflect what I hear from you, and from other novices all over the country. Most novices prefer to play among their peers at their own level until they become a little more competent. I've heard dozens talk about how expensive it is to go to a National or Regional, only to be beaten badly by people way out of their league. What do you think?"

I got 18 emails from you, responding to this. All but two agreed that they liked to play in games that reflect their MP level, that they do not enjoy being trounced. Interestingly, most said they agreed with the basic premise that to improve, you have to test yourself against better players. This is confusing, in that it seems to be arguing both sides of the question at once!

One of the biggest complaints was from folks who've showed up to play in an advertised limited game, and find that because there "weren't enough tables," find themselves thrown into the open. You don't seem to care that you have your own strata; the feeling is, as one man said, "Bait and switch."

So there you have it. That's my story and I'm stickin' to it. Please email me with your questions, comments, or just feelings about our game. I have advice on every subject and sometimes it's even right.



Articles & Ads for the next issue - September 2010 are due August 1.



Mid-Atlantic Regional: Bethesda North, MD • July 5–11, 2010 All KDs random draw every round and include 0-300 MP players

Monday, July 5
Stratified Educational Foundation Open Pairs 1:30 Stratified Educational Foundation Swiss Teams 1:30
Educational Foundation 5/20/50 &
100/200/300 Pairs
Carole Geagley Bracketed KOs
Stratified Charity Open Pairs Sylvia Levy
Side Series (1 [#] of 4)
-
Tuesday, July 6 Lee Biggs Bracketed Compact KO
Two 12-board matches; concludes 9:30 am Wed.
Sylvia Levy Side Series
(2 st , 3 st & 4 th of 4)
100/200/300
0-5 Newcomer Pairs
0-5 Players FREE TODAY Daylight Stratified Open Pairs10:30 am & 3:00
Rae Dethiefsen Bracketed KDs1:30 & 7:30
Continues 1-30 & 7-30 Werines day
Stratified Open Pairs - 0-2000/2000+1:30 & 7:30 Bluebell GOLD POINT Pairs - 0-300/300-750
0-300/300-7501:30 & 7:30
Stratified Open Board-A-Match Teams
Wednesday, July 7
Steve Czecha Bracketed Compact KO
Marine Gallant Side Series
(1*, 2** & 3** of 6)
100/200/300 9:30 sm/1:30/7:30
100/200/300
Peggy Reich Brackeled KOs1:30 & 7:30 Continues 1:30 & 7:30 Thursday
Stratified Open Pairs – 0-2000/2000+1:30 & 7:30
iris GOLD POINT Pairs - 0-300/300-7501:30 & 7:30
Stratified Open Swiss Teams
Thursday, July 8
Ben Laden Brackeled Compact KD
Marine Gallant Side Series
(4 ⁿ , 5 ⁿ & 6 ⁿ of 6)
100/200/300
100/200/300
Jim Wood Bracketed K0s1:30 & 7:30 Continues 1:30 & 7:30 Friday
Stratified Open Pairs – 0-2000/2000+1:30 & 7:30
Stratified Open Pairs – 0-2000/2000+1:30 & 7:30 Azalea GOLD POINT Pairs – 0-300/300-750
0-300/300-750
VN Stratified Swiss Teams 50/100/300

Friday, July 9 Marge Wilson Bracketed Compact K0 9:30 am Two 12-board matches; concludes 9:30 am Sat. Gioria Schuistad Side Series9:30am/1:30/7:30 (1*, 2nd & 3nd of 6)..... VN Stratified Pairs 5/20/50 &9:30am/1:30/7:30 100/200/300 Daylight Stratified Open Pairs....... 10:30 am & 3:00 Jeanne Stenger Bracketed KDs......1:30 & 7:30 Continues 1:30 & 7:30 Friday Stratified Open Pairs - 0-2000/2000+..1:30 & 7:30 Violet GOLD POINT Pairs -0-300/300-7501:30 & 7:30 Stratified Open Board-A-Match Teams 7:30 Stratified Open Swiss Teams7:30 Saturday, July 10 Gioria Schuistad Side Series9:30 am/1:30/7:30 (4^b, 5^b & 6^b of 6) VN Stratified Pairs 5/20/50 & 100/200/3009:30am/1:30/7:30 Terry Michaels One Day Bracketed Knockout9:30 am Three matches - Continues 1:30 and 7:30 Jerry Machlin Flighted Pairs.....1:30 & 7:30 FlightA qualitying and barometer final Flight B/C/D playthru Sunday, July 11 B/C/D Bracketed Round Robin Swiss Teams..... . 10:30 am 3 teams in each bracket win GOLD POINTS All Swiss Teams play 7 rounds with 45 minute break Stratified Fast Open Pairs (5 minutes per board) VN Stratified Pairs 5/20/50 & .10:30 am & 1:30 100/200/300 10:30 am/2:30 Single-session players always accommodated in Side Game Series, which are stratified · Side Series, two best sessions count toward overall as an individual VN games may be stratified at director's discretion All sessions 24 boards Stratified events 0-750/750-2000/2000+ StrataFlighted events A/X=0-5000/5000+

B/C/D separate 0-500/500-1000/1000-3000

Upcoming District 4 Events

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	SEE PAGE
June	Thousand Islands	Ramada Inn	Ruth Condon	
4-6	Unit 112	Watertown	315-788-4123	
June	Summer Fun	Independent Fire Co.	Ray Depew	
4-6	Unit 120	Kingston PA	570-239-3056	
June	Wilmington Summer	Bridge Studio of Delaware	Alexis Ciconti	
4-6	Unit 190	Wilmington DE	302-571-9092	
June	State College	SEM ECON Bridge Studio	Ed Bissell	
11-13	Unit 217	State College PA	814-237-1043	
June 14-20	D6 - U 190 STaC	Clubs	Barbara Israel 410-381-9445	
June	PCBA Summer	Kimberton Fire Co.	Jay Apfelbaum	31
18-20	Unit 141	Kimberton PA	215-336-6421	
June	White Rose Spring	Springetts Fire Co.	Kelly Zeller	
25-27	Unit 168	York PA	717-246-8034	
July	Rochester Summer	Interfaith Center SUNY	Warren Marsland	
10-11	Unit 112	Genesco NY	585-442-8753	
JULY	PHILADELPHIA	VALLEY FORGE CONV. CTR	John Marks	25
12-18	REGIONAL	KING OF PRUSSIA PA	215-891-0602	
July	York 299er	Bridge Boardroom	Marti Ronemus	
25	Unit 168	York PA	717-699-5222	
AUG	UPSTATE NY	HOLIDAY INN	Gerry Radway	15
2-8	SPLIT REGIONAL	LIVERPOOL NY	315-559-1560	
AUG	HARRISBURG PA	HOLIDAY INN	Bob Priest	14
2-8	SPLIT REGIONAL	NEW CUMBERLAND PA	717-579-5665	
Aug 23-29	STaC Unit 141	Clubs	John Marks 215-591-0602	
Aug 23-29	STaC Units 121, 168, 217	Clubs	Bob Priest 717-579-5665	