

District **4** Spot

♥  
june ♠  
♣ 2011 ♦



### THE LAST OF AN ERA

This will be the last issue of the *4Spot* that will be mailed unless otherwise requested. The District 4 Executive Committee has decided to cut costs by circulating the publication mainly by email. To receive the *4Spot* by email you must go to the District 4 website ([www.district4.info](http://www.district4.info)) and sign up to be on the mailing list. If you wish to continue to receive a hard-copy by post send your name and address to the editor by snail mail or email (see below).

### DISTRICT 4 WEBSITE

[WWW.DISTRICT4.INFO](http://WWW.DISTRICT4.INFO)

#### Unit Websites

112 - [acblunit112.org](http://acblunit112.org) ♠ 120 - [nepab.com](http://nepab.com)  
121 - [unit121bridge.com](http://unit121bridge.com) ♥ 133 - [lvbabridge.org](http://lvbabridge.org)  
141 - [philadelphiabridge.info](http://philadelphiabridge.info) ♦  
168 - <http://web2.acbl.org/hosted/units/unit168/index.htm>  
190 - [unit190.org](http://unit190.org) ♣ 217 - [unit217.nepab.com](http://unit217.nepab.com)



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **RICK ROWLAND**

Imagine the panic that sets in when you find out four months before your regional tournament that the playing site has cancelled your contract. That's what happened to the Valley Forge Regional in April. The volunteer response was incredible, searching Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware for alternate sites and dates. I'd especially like to thank John Marks and Bob Glasson for their efforts.

We've found a new site, Dolce Valley Forge, that can handle the tournament on its originally scheduled week. Dolce is located approximately three miles from the Valley Forge Convention Center on Route 202. Though details still need to be ironed out, this facility looks to be a better value for our players.

Prior to Valley Forge, we also have the Syracuse Regional running from August 1 to 7. If you're going to Toronto for the summer nationals and haven't gotten enough bridge, take the short ride to Syracuse. I look forward to seeing everyone in Syracuse.

Finally, I'd like to encourage everyone to visit our website at [www.district4.info](http://www.district4.info). You'll find up to date information on events throughout the district. You'll also have the opportunity to register your e-mail address with the district in order to receive the 4Spot electronically starting with the next issue.

### **NAP QUALIFYING GAMES STARTING**

*Each club can hold two NAP (North American Pairs) games per sanctioned session during each of the months of June, July and August. These games award 100% sectional rated half red/half black masterpoints. The NAP event has been a major ACBL pair championship since 1979 and was originally known as the Grand National Pairs. This grassroots event is staged in qualifying rounds at the club, unit and district levels. It culminates in a final held in conjunction with the Spring NABC, which will be held in Memphis TN in 2012. The contest is run as a flighted event: Flight A (Open), Flight B (fewer than 2000 masterpoints and Flight C (non-Life Master with fewer than 500 masterpoints) as of June 2011).*

*Make your plans to play at a local club. See the District website for more information.*

## DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### CRAIG ROBINSON

If one adds all the tables from the three NABCs to all the tables at the 122 regionals and the tables at the about 900 sectionals, and multiplies that total by six, you get approximately the 2,200,000 tables of bridge that are played in clubs every year throughout the ACBL. I chose to visit clubs as President of the ACBL rather than the traditional visits to regionals. The reception by the clubs has been outstanding.

I have been surprised that the majority of the clubs I have visited are member-owned clubs rather than proprietary (most clubs in the Philadelphia area are proprietary). Set-up and tear-down of the tables is fairly common (44% so far). Sometimes the players provide the labor, sometimes the landlord does. Electric scoring devices are more common than duplicated boards, yet both are common.

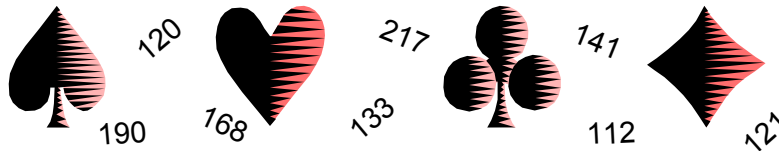
Thirty percent of our members play only at clubs. They never venture out to tour-naments because they like the convenience of the club or they feel they are not ready to play at the tournament level.

Generally speaking, it is in everyone's interest to encourage club players to venture off to tournaments because the tournaments will further enhance the bridge experience and perhaps persuade them and to play even more often.

Many clubs have teaching programs. These classes plus teachers who send their students to clubs is the ACBL's primary source of new members. Without these new members the ACBL would not survive. Teaching programs also bring revenue into the clubs that help clubs not only to endure but also to thrive. At least two of the clubs I have visited in our District, Shuffles in Ocean View Delaware and Maple Grove in Lancaster PA, have successful teaching programs. Dini Romito (DE) and Andie Shaeffer (PA) are just two of our club directors that have been teaching and mentoring new members effectively.



# From The Four Corners



## CENTRAL NEW YORK 112

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These past few days I have been thinking of so many noteworthy “happenings” I have had in my years of playing duplicate bridge. One that is still quite clear in my mind is the very first duplicate game I ever played. It was a small game at the country club in Geneva. I felt quite stunned, almost numb, throughout the evening but my partner and I managed to come in third. Another memory I have is the individual club championship of the Canandaigua Bridge Club that was held the night before Thanksgiving in 1980. I went by myself from Romulus to play and ended up being the only stationary player in that game with the game director sitting right next to me and commenting on every board after it was played. I finished second and ended up joining the ACBL that very night.

I have had some rather inter-

esting experiences at tournaments. At a regional in Rochester, I was thrilled to even be at the table with Barry Crane and Ron Anderson. My partner put me in a bad contract that my distinguished opponents promptly doubled. As soon as he spread his hand, my partner left to go to the bathroom. Barry Crane then said to me, “You exercised admirable restraint young man. I would have killed him.”

Then at a sectional in Rochester, I was caught up in a most unpleasant experience. In an auction in which my partner doubled the opponents’ three no trump contract, the person who was dummy asked me what the double meant and I told him it was lead-directing—that my partner wanted me to lead the first suit bid by dummy. I then made a lead in that suit. That person who was dummy then called the director. As soon as she arrived, he pointed at me and said, “He’s a liar.” Three different times the director

calmly asked the person to take that statement back but he refused each time. She then said that this matter was going to committee (this was before either zero tolerance or unit records came into existence). Clearly the director wanted this person's unethical behavior written up and sent to ACBL headquarters. This was my first time ever playing in a tournament with this particular partner and it was a most unsettling experience for me as a new player. I could have easily decided that it wasn't worth all the negatives to continue to play in tournaments. Fortunately, however, I did persist.

On another occasion, in the years before smoking was prohibited inside the playing area at tournaments, I remember clearly this big boorish man with both elbows on the card table blowing smoke in my face while I was playing at his table. No wonder we needed to restrict smoking! It should have happened much earlier than it did.

So, why am I sharing all these personal stories? I am doing it for a couple reasons. First I want to remind people that that our ACBL duplicate bridge events have come a long way in terms of implementing necessary policies and procedures—banning smoking, implementing unit re-

corders and zero tolerance as examples—that have, in my opinion, made it possible for duplicate bridge to survive and thrive. Another reason is that I suspect what I have experienced personally is little different from many veterans of duplicate bridge. Given that possibility, what can each of us do to help create as positive a game experience as possible for new duplicate bridge players?



**NORTHEASTERN PA 120**

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Wow! What a great regional in Wilkes-Barre in March! That seems to be the near unanimous opinion of those who attended this stellar event at the Woodlands Inn & Resort. The hotel staff, Chair Ray Depew and his team of volunteers went out of their way to ensure a successful tournament.

How fitting also that so many Unit 120 members would achieve various life master designations during the tournament: Iris Levy, Esther Robzen and Leslie Sloan (LM) and Carole McCallum & Jacqui Newman (SLM).

Accolades also to the Unit 120 "C" team who took top honors in

the Grand National Teams competition held in Scranton. On their way to the NABC in Toronto this summer representing District 4 are Ruth and Bill Orth and Karen and Craig Smith.

Our annual meeting and Summer Patriotic Party have been scheduled for 12:30 pm Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> in Stroudsburg. It's a great deal: two sessions of bridge separated by a sumptuous buffet for just \$20 (\$25 for non-Unit 120 members). For details, contact chair Bill Haynes at 570-595-3333 or e-mail: [whhaynes@ptd.net](mailto:whhaynes@ptd.net). Reservations can also be made through local club managers/directors.

We mourn the loss of the Rev. Kenneth McCrea, long-time bridge teacher, mentor and friend of the game whose wife Kathleen's passing was noted in the last edition of the *4Spot*.

Practice active ethics, even when you think no one's watching or listening. Because someone always is. Good bridge, everyone!



**BERKS MONTGOMERY 121**

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We were granted excellent weather conditions for our Winter Sectional in February. The turnout

was nice and we broke in our newly purchased Red Box scorers. It appeared that the deletion of evening games, in favor of morning and afternoon times, was well received. Our master-point winner for the event was Bill Parks. Our Unit is very grateful for the work done by Louise Remley, our Tournament Coordinator. Next Tournament date is September 23-25.

Currently, we are involved in our Newcomer Program, which was prefaced by a personalized teaching program that was enabled by the generosity of the following people who served as teachers for this endeavor: Jack Berry, Louise Remley, Bill Sedlis, Emily & Bill Troutman, Marlene Winkleman, and Raquel & Richard Yiengst. Dutch Chelius served as manager. The Unit is very thankful for all of their help. Thanks for the Learning!

Come along on an all-inclusive trip to Resorts International Casino, Atlantic City, N.J. for some bridge play and casino excitement. September 14-16. This is a terrific deal for anyone who might be interested. Non-bridge players welcome also. Call or email Sue for more info.

Many congratulations to the following people who have achieved new ranks with ACBL:

Irish Murphy, Kathryn Golden, Joanna Ramsey and Ephraim Ramsey are now Club Masters. Jeri Kozloff and Phil Presby are Sectional Masters. Brian Gibson is now a Regional Master. Icy Cohen made Life Master, and Brian Snyder has now achieved Bronze Life Master. Our Unit is also happy to announce that Phil Presby is now a Director. Great Job Phil!



#### LEHIGH VALLEY 133

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The Wednesday Evening game at the Forks Township community center has moved to the the Temple Covenant of Peace at 15th and Northampton St., Easton (same place as the Tuesday Morning game) and will be on THURSDAY. Game time is at 7:00 PM. The playing facility will be much better and more accessible. Please come out at support this evening game.

Check the District web site for the upcoming NAP qualification games at your local club. Our next sectional will be held at the West End Youth Center on October 21 through October 23 and will be in conjunction with the District 4 Flight A North American Pairs on October 22nd and 23rd. There will

be more information in the next *4Spot*.

Special congratulations to the Unit's newest Life Masters, Gary Hillenbrand, Lori Bosis, and Bagisa Mukherjee. Also congratulations to Arnold Kritz for becoming Silver Life Master.

The unit was saddened by the passing of good friend Doug Lubbers. The first duplicate game that I played in the Lehigh Valley I played with Doug. He will be sorely missed.



#### PCBA 141

**John Marks**

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Yes, there will be a Valley Forge Regional this year. The dates are still the same (August 22 to 28, 2011) but only the location has changed. The new site is the Dolce Hotel and Resort, 301 West Dekalb Pike (US 202), King of Prussia.

The Unit had its annual dinner meeting on April 3, 2011. 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. Charlie Gray and Fran Abramson won the game and were recipients of the Sonny



Jaspan Trophy; coming in second were Ray Raskin and Claire Kern, third, Rich Rothwarf and Marilyn Reedinger.

At the annual meeting, Unit President, Joann Glasson, presented the 2010 awards for the "Ace of Clubs" and the "Mini McKinney" races. These are the players who won the most master points at the clubs and overall in their category.

The Winter PCBA Sectional was held at the Knights of Columbus, Glenside PA, February 11 – 13, 2011. The three top players at the February Sectional were Craig Robinson, Lansdale PA with 18.65 masterpoints, Neal Satten, Wynnewood PA and Ken Cohen, Philadelphia with 15.66.

The Spring Sectional Tournament was held on March 25 to 27 at the Fireman's Memorial Hall in Conshohocken PA. The three top players at the March Sectional were Marty Rabinowitz, Narberth PA with 26.86 masterpoints, Jane Segal, Villanova PA, 24.77, Ken Cohen, Philadelphia and Neal Satten, Wynnewood PA 21.77.

At both sectionals, refreshments in the form of sandwiches, hoagies and salad, etc. were served between sessions on Saturday and Sunday and there was hospitality before the morning sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

At the Conshohocken Sectional, there was pizza lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions; and, wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres between the afternoon and evening sessions on Friday. Many thanks to Jane Ball, Joan Brandeis, Joann Glasson and Dennis O'Brien for their time and effort they put into making the hospitality successful.

The Unit 141 Shore Spring Sectional Tournament was held on May 20 – 22, 2011 at the Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing, NJ. The Fall Section will be held on September 9 – 11, 2011 at the Crescent Shrine, Mount Holly, NJ. A Unit STAC is scheduled for July 11 to 17, 2011.

Hope to see you at these events.



#### **CENTRAL PENN 168**

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Hello again Unit 168 members! I know that you are busy attending weddings and BBQs....Don't forget to mark your calendars for these Unit functions: **June 24-26** York Sectional at Springetts Fire Co, where the Hospitality is non-stop, *kmzeller1@comcast.net*; **July 10<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas in July Char-

ity @ Bridge Boardroom @ 12 Noon, Re-gifting Raffle. Remember to wrap up and bring your least loved or an unappreciated gift for a raffle drawing, proceeds go to Charity, Starts at Noon, [bridg830@aol.com](mailto:bridg830@aol.com); July 11-17 STAC Games at Clubs; July 17<sup>th</sup> - Hagerstown Charity Game; Aug 14<sup>th</sup> - York NLM Sectional @ Bridge Boardroom, Reservations Required, 717-755-9505 or [Bridgeboardroom@yahoo.com](mailto:Bridgeboardroom@yahoo.com). Sept 23-25 Hagerstown Sectional.

Recently, the Publishers of the *District 4Spot* announced that they were going green.... look for upcoming information about the possibility of receiving *Bridge Bits*, the Flyer for Unit 168 on-line. I plan to suggest that we post the flyer on the Unit website and send via e-mail per request. Please send any feedback to me.

Bring your partner and your smile.....Hope to see you at the tables!



#### **DELAWARE 190**

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The DSBA will be holding a Pro-Am Pairs game on Wednesday evening, June 15th. For the

last couple of years the Pro-Am Pairs has been a well-received annual event - and this year we will be featuring two locations to best accommodate all unit members who want to participate. The Upstate location will be the Bridge Studio at 7 p.m. The Downstate location will be Memorial Hall at Ocean View Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m.

By the way, beach bridge - bridge in the southern part of the unit - is just flourishing. On April 28, ACBL President Craig Robinson paid the Shuffles Club there a visit. The visit was the ninth of his 100 club tour. During the visit, Craig handed out certificates and medals for the Unit 2010 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners. Downstate players prevailed in many of the categories. Winners of both awards were David Pie (0-5 points); Anita Ferm (5-20); Toni Notarnicola (50 - 100); Peter Harris (300 - 500) and Paula Varrassi (500 - 1000). In addition, for the Ace of Clubs, Elizabeth Flinchbaugh won the 20 - 50 point category and Judy Harrington won for players with 100 - 200 points. Mary Boyd won the unit Mini-McKenney for players with 200 - 300 points.

Others unit winners for the Mini-McKenney were Donna McKeon (20 - 50), Sharon Wein-

trob (100 - 200), Bridgett Pitt (1000 - 2500), Andy Kaufman (2500 - 5000) and Marie Filandro (7500 - 10,000). Ace of Club winners were Mike Mocella (200 -300), Aster Wu (1000 - 2500), Randy Berseth (2500 - 5000) and Jess Stuart (7500 - 10,000). Rick Rowland deserves special recognition since he won both awards in the 5000 - 7500 category. He also placed on the 2010 Top 500 with 691.68 points.

And, as always, players advancing through the ranks deserve our kudos. New Life Masters are Mary Lou Farnum, Susan Herrmann and Melody Owen. Charlotte Wheatley is our new Silver Life Master and our new Bronze Life Masters are Fateh Jain, Mike Mocella, Christine Sullivan and Kristofor Varhus. Bernard Rehberg is our newest Gold Life Master.



**SUSQUEHANNA 217**

**Jacqueline Humilovich**

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The "Spring Out of Winter Tournament" was held March 25-27 at the Williamsport Bridge Club. Although the early spring weather was chilly and unwelcoming, the atmosphere

at the bridge club was warm and inviting. The tournament was very well attended in large part due to the efforts of Partnership Coordinators Connie Bamer and Vera Peters. Sue Pierce, tournament chairman, did an excellent job of organizing the event and praised the Hospitality Committee including Marie Koch, Cheryl Pehoushek (our chef for a delicious breakfast), Jane Watts, Virginia Marshall, and Susan Nichols. Thank you to all of those who shared their wonderful treats throughout the weekend.

Several unit members deserve recognition for their recent honors. Sue Pierce was selected as a member of the ACBL Goodwill Committee. This notable appointment is a lifetime position. Jim McKeown attained the rank of Diamond Life Master by earning over 5,000 masterpoints. We are very happy for him and his outstanding achievement. Congratulations to Tim LeVan who reached the goal of Life Master.

The State College Bridge Club has changed the time of its regular Wednesday game from 7:30PM to 1:00 PM. A heartfelt invitation is extended to everyone to attend the State College Sectional from June 10-12. We look forward to seeing you! Also keep in mind that the Susque-

hanna Sectional will be held September 16-19.

**Tournament Results:** Fri. AM A/ Mary Ann Churba - Ed Bissell; B/ Jacqueline Humilovich - Sandra Johnson; C/ Robert Reed - John Taylor; Fri. PM A/Michael Ane-sko - Barbara Mateer; B/C Elaine Fuller - Nancy Pfeiffer; Sat. AM A/ Kevin Burns - Jim McKeown; B/Cheryl Pehoushek - Susan Greenleaf; C/ Vera Peters - Lois Wentzler; Sat. PM A/Mary Ann Churba - Ed Bissell;B/ Jacqueline Humilovich - Elaine Fuller; C/ Nevin & Shirley Krentz; Swiss Teams, A/B Gene Waltz - Arlene Andrews - Susan Greenleaf - Judy Stein; C/ Elaine Fuller, Jacqueline Humilovich, David Hoover, Susan Nichols. Total Masterpoint Tournament Race: 1/2 - Kevin Burns and Jim McKeown 12.20; 3/4 - Mary Ann Churba and Ed Bissell 11.33; 5 - Susan Greenleaf 10.83.

♥ ♠ ♦ ♣



Articles & Ads for the next issue - September 2011 - are due August 1.

## MASTER SOLVERS SEPTEMBER 2011 PROBLEMS

Send your answers to [hbethe@aol.com](mailto:hbethe@aol.com) by July 15, 2011. Please include your name in the e-mail. You are South.

### Problem 1

Matchpoints, Neither VUL, Dlr E

**S-K9, H-A10, D-K10, C-10987543**

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| --   | --    | P    | P     |
| P    | 1H    | P    | ?*    |

\* 2C would be Reverse Drury

### Problem 2

IMPs, N-S Vul, Dlr N

**S-J52, H-AKQ6, D-K2, C-J1074**

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| --   | 1C    | 2S   | X     |
| P    | 3S*   | P    | ??    |

\* Undiscussed

### Problem 3

Matchpoints, E-W Vul, Dlr S

**S-QJ852, H-none, D-AKJ2, C-J874**

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

\* Game force

### Problem 4

IMPs, Neither Vul, Dlr S

**S-J2, H-K9532, D-K, C-AKJ84**

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| --   | --    | --   | 1H    |
| P    | 1S    | P    | 2C    |
| P    | 3C    | P    | ??    |

## DISTRICT 4 MASTER SOLVERS CLUB

HENRY BETHE, DIRECTOR

I would like to thank Lew Stansby for submitting answers. He scored badly, but I think he was closer to right more than the panel. For readers who don't know, Stansby, a Hall of Fame member, has just won his 20th major team title to go with 12 other NABC wins, three Bermuda Bowls, a World Open Pairs, a Rosenblum and two World Senior Bowls. He has won major championships in six!! consecutive decades, which is equaled only by B.J. Becker. Wow! He is also one of the nicest people you ever could hope to meet.

Problem 1. IMPS, Neither VUL, Dlr N

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| West  | East  |
| 853   | 72    |
| A10   | 9     |
| AK7   | QJ953 |
| AQJ84 | K9752 |

|       |      |       |      |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| North | East | South | West |
| P     | P    | 1S    | X    |
| 2S    | 3D   | 4S    | X    |
| All   | Pass |       |      |

Result: -590

A) How much blame to West?

Panel mean: 43% Score = 33 minus half the difference from 43, so 100 gets 5 points, 50 gets 30 points, 0 gets 12 points. You get the idea.

Between the Panel and the Solvers we get the whole range: West 100% to 0%.

**Schwan:** I would place 200% of the blame on West (100% for each double). **Foster:** 90% to 95%. Although E *might* have bid 5C on her second chance, none of her calls are unreasonable. **Greco:** 90% to west. It should be 100 percent but this is a partnership game. **Marlow:** About 90% to West. West first erred by making the takeout double with such a misshapen hand - - despite the high card strength, 2C would have been a better start -- if East has anything worth showing,

West could have made a more toward game later. Next, West failed to consider the nature of partner's freely bid minor suit -- East almost certainly has at least 5 diamonds, is short in spades, and lacks length in hearts, making it far more likely that there is a double fit in the minors. The second double was terrible -- West merely forced East to guess correctly twice under pressure, and East, believing partner to have takeout shape with values, chose what seemed the surer plus score. I give East a bit of blame, as a responsive double likely would have clarified the situation to West. **Hickes:** 90%--though west has 18 hcps--he can show his hand better with 1st 2C and then a X. **Shapiro:** 72%. Very tough to evaluate these types of things without knowing anything about the players and their methods. But here, west's double with relatively long weak S length and H shortness wouldn't have given him an easy rebid over other calls east could make, such as 3H over 2S. Consequently, I think it's clear to overcall 2C, despite the normal contraindication of Sxxx. As the auction went, east had no indication to pull 4S, so I give him no charge there. I do think that instead of 3D, a 2N call would clearly have been unusual by the passed hand, making it easy for partner to bid 5C. I also charge west slightly for the second double -- the auction clearly implies that NS have a 2-suit fit in the majors, since east could have brought hearts into the picture with a responsive double. **Shuster:** 50%. Depending on my partnership agreements, I might have duplicated all of the calls made in this auction myself. While I prefer that 2NT show two places to play in competition (as opposed to 3D), I don't think that would have helped this time, as West would assume one of those places would be hearts given his shape and the auction. The real culprit is that N/S bid, raised and re-raised in their second best suit. This made E/W's job nearly insurmountable. **Teukolskys:** 50%. There is an argument for assigning West 100%, since if he had not made the bad double of 1S, the disaster would not have happened. However, East made the ridiculously bad call of passing the final double, so West gets only 50%. **Raskin:** 30% of the blame to West for making a takeout X with 3 little in the suit the opponents have opened and a doubleton in an unbid suit. 70% of the blame to E for not describing his hand and getting them to a good contract when that opportunity was available. **Stra-guzzi:** West 25%. I have some sympathy for both partners, because bad luck certainly played a role in this mess. However, East's missteps came later in the auction than West's, when there was more information available. **Goldberg:** 20% blame to West. His takeout double was just asking for trouble. **Filandro:** 0%. West's bidding was entirely accurate.

**Rowland:** 0% - West had extras and had convertible values. East's never going to have 4 cards in hearts and hang him. This quotes everyone who had something to say.

B) What alternatives calls should East or West have made?

Instead of quoting everybody – there were a lot of things written – I will try to summarize with attribution. **West's first double:** Almost everybody suggested that West might have or even should have overcalled 2C, some vehemently. The substantial flaws for double are three low spades and only a doubleton heart. The overall high card strength may compensate for the minimal suit (and three-small on opener's suit) for a two level overcall. Connie Goldberg suggests that the flaws are such that West might even consider passing over 1S. To relate this to the first part of the problem, this must pin some of the "blame" on West. **East's 3D:** This drew quite a lot of fire. Many suggested a responsive double; Ken Cohen and others insisted that double should show both minors. Certainly that is a common agreement. But many play a responsive double might be (a) four weak hearts with a longer minor, or (b) cards with no particular preference where to play. Some suggested that 2N in this auction should show minors or two places to play. But, as Eric Greco pointed out, 2N could be an 11 count with a double spade stopper, which is to say natural and invitational. My belief is that the fact that East bid 3D rather than double or 2N suggests that neither of these alternatives conformed to the partnership's methods. Failure to play the methods you prefer does not (necessarily) make a bid criminal. **West's second double:** Many thought this was automatic with West's prime 18 count. Some thought this was wrong: Since East did not bid hearts, which he probably would have with four; the opponents have at least an eight card second fit to go with their eight or more card spade fit. Indeed it seems likely that East has no more than four major suit cards. A consideration that no one mentioned was that East did not open a weak 2D (perhaps unavailable). A few, including Greco and Stansby – good company -- thought that West should have bid 5D, a few thought 4N (suggesting clubs and diamond tolerance) was possible. If you

really think East is short in the majors, it seems to me, but to none of the panel or solvers, that 5C is also a possible call by West. Is it worthy of mention that opposite East's actual hand 5D is cold unless the opponent's can manage a first round club ruff? Or that opposite, say, a stiff spade and six diamonds to the queen a diamond slam is essentially on a finesse through the opening bidder? **East's final pass:** Several people, mostly panelists, felt that East should have bid 5C now. Filandro, one of those who say the final pass was the worst call, then asks how East would feel if he bid 5C and partner's hand had a trump trick and heart strength, which is surely consistent with West's auction. I often disagree with Bill Foster; let me quote him when I think he gives a good (though incomplete) summary. **Foster:** After East takes a "free bid" of 3D (she was NOT forced to bid after North bid 2S), West should either support diamonds or pass over South's 4S. The double of 4S by West tends to make East think that West's values and length are in hearts (wrong!), and that West lacks diamond support (wrong again). The double also suggests that West has a probable trump trick, wrong again. If West passes 4S, East might be tempted to bid 5C.

C) What was the worst call?

X1 20 (2) 3D 15 (1) X2 20 (2) P 33 (5)

**Shuster:** First double. As it turns out, a 2C overcall would have been a home run, but it isn't hard to come up with hands where X works far better. The reason double failed is that N/S were able to get the auction to 4S by the time West's rebid came up. But given West's strength and spade length, that seemed wildly unlikely to happen. The problem was further compounded when so few of West's high cards took tricks. **Harris:** The first double. West made the two worst calls of double and double. I think it is relatively close as which of the doubles was the worst. Concluded the first is worse because it is so unprepared for a heart bid by east. In this hand west would be taking a huge risk in bidding 5C, so they would again double 4S. In the given scenario west could save the day with a 4NT bid. **The first double certainly started the pair's misadventure, but was it that bad?** **Straguzzi:** East's 3D was the worst call. It pretty well committed him to bidding again to finish showing his hand, but as events transpired, it became risky to do so at the five-level. Second choice is West's first double. **K. Cohen:** The worst bid was 3D. A Double in



this situation tells Partner you want him to pick a Minor, and DENIES having four hearts. You could not be dealt a better hand for this simple bid. I think this action, to make a responsive double with 5-5 in the Minors, is very standard for experts. EAST probably deserves 100% of the blame, for showing a one suited hand, instead of showing the two-suited hand he has. When partner doubles a major, your first priority is to bid the other major with 4 or more in this situation. A responsive double therefore 100% denies 4 hearts in this auction. 3D, I think, was more a sign of methods Ken and Nick (and others) consider inferior, and not a heinous bid. **Schwan:** West's double of 4♠. E-W might have prevailed after West's first double if East held a long suit. But West's aces and kings are not sure tricks. They could quickly disappear if N-S had singletons or voids in the minors, as I guess was the case. **Stansby:** Worst bid = final DBL. Wrong if either contract is making and it shouldn't be a surprise that opener has a lot of cards in the majors. **Marlow:** The second double -- East just showed values with extra length in diamonds and no heart length. West's hand clearly shows East lacks spade length as well. Therefore, East must have length in the minors and West should have pushed to a minor suit game. The problems with the second double are well covered above, and do not need to be re-hashed. What should be emphasized is that West by this point in the auction had a lot of information to point him in a more successful direction. **Raskin** with **Teukolskys, Rowland** and **Goldberg:** The pass of the X by East, instead of a 5C call, was the worst call since he now had the chance to recover from not describing his hand when he had the opportunity. **Filandro:** East's final pass - but only because there was a disaster and the moderator required an answer. East might have suspected that South might make 4SX 10% of the time - and East might suspect he could make 5 of a minor 10% of the time - but the big favorite is that 4SX would fail. And how would East feel if West had heart strength and less in the minors -- going down in a phantom game? I think Pete demolishes this choice. If passing 4SX would go plus 90% of the time, and bidding would go plus only 10% of the time, it cannot be wrong for East to pass. As you can probably tell, I think the truly blameless call was the final pass. I really hate giving the "results merchants" the top score. I would not have made the first double, but in a way it should have worked out very well.

Problem 2.

Matchpoints, Both Vul, Dlr E  
 South holds: S - Q52 H - 6 D - A52 C - AKJ874

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

4H 34 (5) 3H 30 (2) 5H 21 (1) 4S 17 (2)

Eight members of the panel wanted to make a slam try while two did not. The scoring reflects that. There were four different answers. Here they are. **Shapiro:** 3H. Just in case there's slam with the opponents having 16 points roughly similar to their holdings in Problem 1. Then I can blame partner if we miss slam. If he bids 3N, aberrantly taking this as a stopper ask, I simply bid 4S to straighten things out. Just tough if we don't make game. **Shuster:** 4H. Partner will be able to visualize slam with AKxxxx, xxx, x, xxx, but probably not when holding a similar 6=3=2=2 shape. However, I'm unwilling to go to the 5-level by myself (which will likely go down if partner is missing one of the high spades), so this is the best effort I am willing to put forth. **Raskin:** 4S. While it would be possible to construct a hand that could make a slam a favorite, the game contract is most likely and most practical. **Filandro:** 5H. Even though "undiscussed", my expert partner should work this out. Since 5S would ask for a control in hearts, 5H becomes a trump asking bid saying "Bid 6 if you have no expected spade loser opposite moderate support". Partner, with AKxxxx or better in spades, should oblige. I downgraded this slam try in part because when partner does not accept we are quite likely to go down in 5S. I also dislike throwing curveballs, which this certainly is. **Teukolskys:** 3H. To be followed by 4S. We owe partner a slam try with this monster in support of spades. **K. Cohen** with **Rowland:** 4H. The perfect hand for a Splinter. You have a chance to describe this terrific hand in one bid. I would expect Partner holding as little as AKJxx to bid RKC, and drive this hand to slam. Anytime Partner makes a SLAM TRY, and you are looking at very good trump, you should accept. **Stansby:** 4S. Obviously could miss a slam, but if I bid 4H that will help them with the lead as LHO can suggest which red suit he'd like led. I'd like the splinter better if partner had room for a "last train" bid. A Last Train is a mark time that doesn't actually say anything about the suit bid but says, "I am not disinter-

ested in going further." So if the red suits were reversed, Stansby would splinter to 4D. Greco brings up the same point, but splinters anyway. **Straguzzi:** 3H. I'm assuming that North 2S is constructive but not forcing. If so, I really don't have quite enough values to insist on game, but I'll do so anyway because I should be able to pick up some matchpoints simply by finding the right strain (notrump, spades and clubs are all in the picture), and because I enjoy torturing my partners when it looks like I'll wind up as dummy. To be honest, I think a forcing 3D is an even better call, because it gives partner the chance to punt back to me with 3H if he has no strong opinion on where to play. Unfortunately, that would mean I would have to make the last mistake for our side, which I am unwilling to do. Note that I couldn't care less about my RHO or LHO -- it's my CHO I'm trying to outsmart on this deal. **Goldberg:** 4H. I have no problem with many alternative bids such as 4C, or just 3D followed by 4S. I think your partner will get the drift. Since 4C was mentioned by several, let me say that I think 4C in this auction would show extra values and self-sufficient clubs, not spade support. **Marlow:** 4S. I don't want to try for slam via a splinter (trumps are not good enough) or 4C (clubs and trumps are not good enough for me), and I see no reason to go slowly via a cue bid, so I bid what I think we can make. **Foster:** 3H. You will doubtless criticize this call if I label it a "Western Cue", so I will only say that I think it shows a decent hand with fewer than 4 spades, and a club suit that is NOT self supporting. Since the 2S call by partner is a new suit by an unpassed hand, I take it as 100% forcing. If partner meekly bids 3S over my 3H call, I will have to decide then whether or not to forge on to 4S. I probably would. For the last time, let's clarify the term "Western Cue Bid". I looked it up in the Encyclopedia: A WCB looks for a stopper from partner to get to 3N. A standard cue bid shows a control in the suit. There is also something called a "Directional Asking Bid," which I had always called a Western Cue. A DAB shows a partial stopper such as Qx or Jxx. **Wachsman:** 4H. South should have no doubt that a spade game is at least in the cards and should suggest a spade slam by jumping to 4H. Since South originally overcalled 2C instead of doubling, North should have no trouble recognizing that South has a very good hand with only 3-card support in Spades. North, with a good spade suit can either leap to slam (my preference) or initiate a cue bidding sequence. With a minimum 2S response, North can sign off in 4S. I have nothing further to add to this discussion. And little to say

about the scores. I would have scored a little better than Stansby, but not much, and I suspect that doing better than Lew should be a source of shame, not pride. The solvers imho did a far better job on problem 1 than the panel. Which, of course, led to low scores for the solvers.

| Panelist             | 1A  | 1C | 2  | Score |
|----------------------|-----|----|----|-------|
| Ros & Saul Teukolsky | 50  | P  | 3H | 93    |
| Connie Goldberg      | 20  | P  | 4H | 89    |
| Michael Shuster      | 50  | X1 | 4H | 84    |
| Ray Raskin           | 30  | P  | 4S | 77    |
| Rick Rowland         | 0   | P  | 4H | 76    |
| Ken Cohen            | 25  | 3D | 4H | 73    |
| Ed Shapiro           | 72  | X1 | 3H | 69    |
| Pete Filandro        | 0   | P  | 5H | 66    |
| Eric Greco           | 90  | X2 | 4H | 64    |
| Lew Stansby          | 94  | X2 | 4S | 45    |
| <u>Solvers</u>       |     |    |    |       |
| Dave Wachsman        | 30  | 3D | 4H | 76    |
| Nick Straguzzi       | 25  | 3D | 3H | 71    |
| Robert Hickes        | 90  | X1 | 4H | 64    |
| Bill Foster          | 92  | X2 | 3H | 61    |
| John Weishampel      | 100 | X2 | 4H | 59    |
| Lynn Harris          | 100 | X1 | 3H | 55    |
| Chris Marlow         | 90  | X2 | 4S | 47    |
| Ed Schwan            | 100 | X2 | 4S | 42    |

| DISTRICT 4 MEMBERSHIP   |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| BY Unit AS OF 4/30/2011 |      |
| 112 UPSTATE NY          | 1208 |
| 120 NE PA               | 358  |
| 121 Berks-Mont          | 225  |
| 133 Lehigh Valley       | 318  |
| 141 Philadelphia        | 2718 |
| 168 Central Penn        | 1016 |
| 190 Delaware            | 749  |
| 217 Susquehanna         | 145  |
| Total                   | 6737 |

# Burt Garrell Regional in Liverpool, NY August 1-7, 2011

## UNDER 750 Master Points? Looking for GOLD?



We've added more Golden Opportunity under 750 Events.

The Golden Opportunity Pairs are limited to players under 750.

These are two session events and gold is awarded to overall and section tops in the top strat.

### Monday, August 1

Kickoff KO (rd. 1) ..... 7 pm  
Stratified Charity Pairs ..... 7 pm

### Tuesday, August 2

Kickoff KOs (rds. 2, 3 & 4) ..... 9 am, 1 pm, 7 pm  
Syracuse KOs (rds. 1 & 2) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Open Pairs (0-2000,2000+) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Lori D's Side Game Series (rds. 1 & 2) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Golden Opportunity Game (2 Sessions) 1 pm, 7 pm

### Wednesday, August 3

Morning KOs (rd. 1) ..... 9 am  
Syracuse KOs (rds. 3 & 4) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Rochester KOs (rds. 1 & 2) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Open Pairs (0-2000,2000+) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Lori D's Side Game Series (rds. 3 & 4) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Golden Opportunity Game (2 Sessions) 1 pm, 7 pm

### Thursday, August 4

Morning KOs (rd. 2) ..... 9 am  
Rochester KOs (rds. 3 & 4) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Utica KOs (rds. 1 & 2) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Open Swiss Teams (0-2000,2000+) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Judy B's Side Game Series (rds. 1 & 2) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Golden Opportunity Swiss Teams (2 Sessions) 1 pm, 7 pm

### Friday, August 5

Morning KOs (rd. 3) ..... 9 am  
Watertown Compact KOs (rd. 1) ..... 9 am  
Utica KOs (rds. 3 & 4) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Binghamton KOs (rds. 1 & 2) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Open Pairs (0-2000,2000+) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Judy B's Side Game Series (rds. 3 & 4) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
199er Stratified Pairs (Single session) 1 pm, 7 pm

### Saturday, August 6

Morning KOs (rd. 4) ..... 9 am  
Watertown Compact KOs (rd. 2) ..... 9 am  
Binghamton KOs (rds. 3 & 4) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Ithaca Compact Knockouts ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Open Pairs (0-2000,2000+) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Judy B's Side Game Series (rds. 5 & 6) ..... 1 pm, 7 pm  
Golden Opportunity Game (2 Sessions) 1 pm, 7 pm

### Sunday, August 7

Stratified Swiss Teams ..... 11 am  
199er Stratified Swiss Teams (Single session) 11 am

### Tournament Chairman:

Gerry Radway - 315-559-1560  
gradway@yahoo.com

### Tournament Co-Chairman:

Margie Spence - 585-734-0772  
margies@rochester.rr.com

### Partnership:

Dan Boye - 315-884-6057  
Skipbid2003@yahoo.com

### Host Hotel (Playing Site):

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turn left after toll booth; hotel is on the right.

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Take Route 81 to Exit 25  
(7th North St, Liverpool)  
turn right and go to  
the end of 7th North  
- Hotel is there.

### Masterpoint Stratification:

#### Open Stratified Events

A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750

#### Open Pairs/Swiss

A: 2000+ x: 0-2000

#### Golden Opportunity Games

B: 300-750 C: 100-300 D: 0-100

#### Sunday A/x & B/C Swiss

(stratified by single highest player)

A/x tbd

B: 750-2000 C: 0-750



**FOR NOVICES ONLY**

by

**MARTI RONEMUS**

[mronemus@comcast.net](mailto:mronemus@comcast.net)

### The Right Tool for the Job

I was watching the golf channel today and was intrigued by the accoutrements that can be purchased: a super towel like no other for wiping clubs; clubs guaranteed to hit your drive eight more yards; a golf ball made from a substance taken from an alien spacecraft so powerful your ball will fly...well, you get the idea. I was sort of laughing about all this until I realized it is exactly like my bridge students. Wherever I go, students beg for new conventions. They think that if they had just one more magic convention, they would suddenly start winning.

Nonsense. Most students are not yet using the tools they have to full effect. But here's some good (or maybe bad) news: The most important bidding tool is the ability to listen to the bidding and visualize what the opponents have. Here's a perfect example.

This is your hand, and you are South.

♠ 43 ♥ AJ65 ♦ QJ986 ♣ KJ. Here's the bidding so far:

| W  | N  | E | You |
|----|----|---|-----|
|    | 1♣ | P | 1♦  |
| 1♠ | 3♦ | P | ??? |

The minute your partner opened the hand, you knew you had game. But where? All was well until West threw in that overcall, promising a nice 5-card spade suit. Rats. North echoed your frustration when he bid 3♦. He just promised you 16-18 pts, and a diamond fit. You now pause to think.

That's the bad news, folks. You can't play this game without thinking. Memorization and repeating of rules is not how you play this game. What can your partner have? Is his bid forcing? Limiting? What should you do at this point? Where would you like your game?

Naturally you would like your game in notrump. Game in minors is to be avoided if possible. You and your partner have both ex-

pressed a trump fit, so your bid at this point should be 3♥. Now it's HIS turn to think!! Why didn't you bid notrump? You both hate game in minors. Why would you introduce a new suit after finding your trump fit? This shows a heart stopper and begs your partner to please, please, please bid 3NT if he has a stopper in the opponent's bid suit, spades.

Partner's next bid is 4♦. Why not 5? He already showed you his point count when he rebid an old suit at the 3-level. Now it's up to you. You have enough for a minor suit game.

Now, one other concept I'd like to address (briefly) is limit bids. Look at the bidding again and decide which is the first bid that limits point count. Yup. The 3♦ bid, showing 16-18 pts is the first. Once a limit bid has been made, the auction may end. Until then, all bids are forcing. When North hears his pard name a new suit **after** he (North) limited his hand, he knows South is interested in at least game. Without a spade stopper, notrump is ruled out.

This hand is a nifty example of how you can reach the right contract without fancy stuff. It also shows that the most important tool in your kit is your thinking brain.

I love hearing from you and actually want to hear about your trials and tribulations as newcomers to bridge. Email with all your adventures (but don't whine).

## WILKES BARRE PA REGIONAL February 28 - March 6

|     |                |        |
|-----|----------------|--------|
| 1.  | Joann Glasson  | 102.69 |
|     | Bob Glasson    | 102.69 |
| 3.  | Tom Weik       | 80.89  |
|     | Rick Rowland   | 80.89  |
|     | Ken Cohen      | 80.89  |
| 6.  | Neal Satten    | 58.94  |
| 7.  | Elaine Landow  | 52.18  |
|     | Craig Robinson | 52.18  |
| 9.  | Doug Dye       | 44.71  |
| 10. | Ed Bissell     | 39.59  |
|     | Jim McKeown    | 39.59  |



# DISTRICT 4 STARS



## 2011 SPRING NABC LOUISVILLE KY

|                 |        |                   |       |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Eric Greco   | 217.31 | 6. Ray Raskin     | 58.70 |
| 2. Brad Barry   | 75.42  | Ken Chatzinoff    | 58.70 |
| David Amsterdam | 75.42  | 8. Corey Krantz   | 49.26 |
| 4. Ken Cohen    | 62.42  | 9. Ethan Kotkin   | 44.11 |
| 5. Thomas Weik  | 59.96  | 10 Estelle Bogart | 39.39 |

### 2011 DISTRICT 4 GNT WINNERS

#### *Championship Flight*

KEN COHEN, NEAL SATTEN,  
RICK ROWLAND, TOM WEIK

#### *Flight A*

TRAVIS CRUMP, KURT KILHEFNER,  
DAVID BUCKTHAL, JOHN SHEAFFER

#### *Flight B*

KAREN YELLIN, STANLEY YELLIN,  
JANE HAVIGHURST, JOHN SCHWARTZ

#### *Flight C*

BILL ORTH, RUTH ORTH,  
CRAIG SMITH, KARIN SMITH



## **DISTRICT 4 YOUTH BRIDGE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE**

**By April Uhlenburg**

District 4 is in the process of exploring the long-term viability of establishing a 501(c)(3) charity to support the development of Youth Bridge Programs and encourage Youth Participation in bridge events within the District. (NOTE: This is a separate



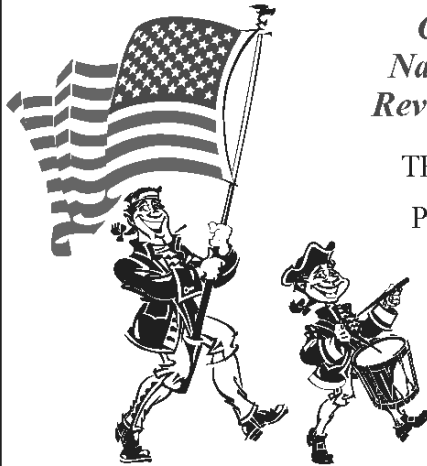
fund from the ACBL Junior Fund which fosters youth participation in international competition.) A District 4 Youth Bridge fund would support younger players locally and would encourage players ages 25 and under to participate in bridge education opportunities and local and regional bridge tournaments.

A committee has been established in order to address the following questions and concerns and draft a resolution by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to be put to a vote by the Executive Board. Currently, the committee is considering the following: 1. What would be the cost to District 4 (or the fund) for on-going administration by the ACBL? 2. Is there a need? (What would the funds be used for? Do youth need (and deserve) the support the fund would provide?) 3. Will District 4 clubs support the fund by designating the Youth Fund as a local charity often enough that the Youth Fund is adequately funded? 4. If clubs cannot provide the necessary funds in their entirety, will we be able to secure donations from Individuals or Corporations? Should we add a surcharge to Sectional and Regional tournaments? 5. Will members be willing to serve on the Fiduciary Committee of the Fund?

A limited number of responses to the preliminary survey issued to club owners in Fall 2010, were received and although generally positive some concerns were expressed. We are now seeking input from club owners and the District 4 membership as to whether or not this would be a worthwhile use of District Charity Funds and resources and if there would be on-going volunteer and monetary support for the fund. If you would like to participate on this committee, join our mailing list, submit responses to any of the above questions, or provide us with general comments or feedback please email April Uhlenburg, District 4 Charity Chair, at [auhlenburg@gmail.com](mailto:auhlenburg@gmail.com). Written responses may also be sent to: 330 Winding Way, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

A full copy of this article can be accessed in the Youth section on the District website.

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**Tournament Chair**

Margot Hennings 703-560-0245  
margot10bridge@cox.net

**Information and Hotel**

Bob Boyd 703-751-4774  
Bobboid72@aol.com

**I/N Program and I/N Partnerships**

Ron and Mary Ann Kral 703-437-0342  
DCINProgram@gmail.com

**Partnerships**

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A Favorite . . . **August 15–21, 2011**



## **BALTIMORE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL**

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**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.com

**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](http://www.mabcbridge.org)**



## 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. Send them to the publisher. Who knows? You may be mentioned in a future article! Your questions give me direction about what the next article should be about.*

In this article we will discuss discarding on defense. Expert defenders regard this as an opportunity to pass information to partner, and not some distasteful chore. There are several carding agreements in this area; Lavinthal and Odd/Even are two examples we will discuss. We will begin, however, with the classic discard signals.

Keep in mind that there are only three types of signals: attitude, count and suit preference. There is no single meaning for any given signal. A signal must be taken in context before it is possible to understand its meaning. Discards are no different.

There are two sets of rules for classic discards; the first deals with spot cards and the second with honor cards. When a discard is showing attitude about a suit, discarding a low spot card asks partner to not lead that suit. Discarding a high spot card asks partner to lead that suit. When a discard is showing count in a suit, discarding a low spot card shows an odd number in that suit. Discarding a high spot card shows an even number in that suit. Finally, when a discard is showing a preference for partner to lead a different suit, discarding a low spot card shows a preference for the lower of the two remaining suits. Discarding a high spot card shows a preference for the higher of the two remaining suits.

The second set of discards apply to honor cards. These are rarely used for anything except to show specific honor card holdings. The discard of an honor card shows the highest card in a sequence. So, discarding a Queen promises the Jack and denies holding the King. It does not deny holding the Ace (two cards higher).

The next signal is the Lavinthal discard. This signal was developed to try to combine information. A discard of a suit always shows no interest for partner to lead that suit, but also sends a suit preference signal for the suit desired. Discarding a low spot card is a suit preference signal for the lower of the two remaining suits. Discarding a high spot card is a suit preference signal for the higher of the two remaining suits.

The final signal we will discuss in this article is the Odd/Even discard. This is a relatively modern idea on how to use a discard to give information on a hand. Discarding an odd spot card (3, 5, 7 or 9) asks partner to lead that suit. Discarding an even spot card (2, 4, 6, or 8) tells partner to not

lead that suit, and suggests which of the two remaining suits partner should lead. A low spot such as the deuce (2) is a suit preference for the lower suit. A high spot such as the eight (8) is a suit preference for the higher suit. Honor discards playing Lavinthal or Odd/Even are no different from honor discards playing standard discards.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the need to remember that every signal must be read in context. For example, playing Odd/Even, discarding an eight is not a suit preference signal for the higher of the two remaining suits if we can see the deuce, four and six. Discarding a seven of diamonds is not encouraging if the dummy has the Ace, King and Queen.

There are advantages and disadvantages in each approach. Playing standard discards, we can discard any card from any suit to send our message. There is a tremendous flexibility in this approach. We can discard a high card in the suit we want partner to lead or a low card to suggest leading another suit. Depending on the cards in dummy and the auction, we may be able to send a very clear signal about what we want partner to do.

However, there are many hands where the cards in dummy and the auction will not allow us to discourage the lead of any particular suit and have that be a clear signal for the suit we want partner to lead. Also, we may be able to afford to discard a card from the suit we want led. We may discard a discouraging card in another suit, but that may not give partner enough help to know which suit we want led. Playing Lavinthal we can discard any suit to indicate our preference. The advantage is that we can send two pieces of information with just one discard. The first is the suit we do not want partner to lead and the second is the suit we do want partner to lead. Standard signals send just one piece of information. The problem with Lavinthal discards is that our longest suit is the one we are most likely to want partner to lead.

Odd/Even discards have the same advantages as Lavinthal. We can give two pieces of information with just one discard. An even-ranked card does this. An odd-ranked card sends just one piece of information, but telling partner which suit to lead is clearly the more important piece. And Odd/Even allows us to send our message from our longest suit. This is probably the suit we can most afford to discard from. A disadvantage is that we might not have the right even-ranked card or the right odd-ranked card. The Odd/Even signal is a somewhat mechanical signal.

In the final analysis, it probably will not matter which kind of discard you and your partner will play. Standard signals may require more imagination than Lavinthal or Odd/Even, and for that reason may be more difficult to read. Lavinthal and Odd/Even signals can give more information, but the mechanical nature of these signals is at once their strength and weakness.

## PHILADELPHIA / VALLEY FORGE REGIONAL NEW LOCATION

August 22 - 28

Since the Valley Forge Convention Center decided to renovate their facility and change the main function of their exhibition areas into a casino, we lost a good place to hold one of our Regionals. However, in life when one door closes, another one opens. We were fortunate enough to find the Dolce facility in such a short time frame and the facility will certainly fit our needs.



The Valley Forge Regional Tournament will be held August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dolce Hotel and Resort in King of Prussia. This tournament site is very conveniently located (approximately ¼ mile north the K of P Mall on Route 202). There is ample free parking. The room rate is \$109.00 per night.

All the major events will start at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM everyday. However, there will be an afternoon and evening Stratified Pairs on Wednesday. Evening events (7:30 PM) are also available. The Evening Sessions will consist of K/O teams, Compact K/O Teams and Side Series Pair Game.


A full Intermediate/Newcomer program will be provided. Also, there will be two session Golden Opportunity Pairs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday as well as a Golden Opportunity Swiss Teams on Thursdays.

For more information check the flyer and schedule on the District web site.


John Marks, Tournament Chair

### DISTRICT 4 TOP MASTERPOINT HOLDERS

|                   |        |                    |        |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Ken Cohen      | 20,207 | 8. Henry Bethe     | 10,749 |
| 2. Arnie Fisher   | 17,780 | 9. Joann Glasson   | 11,102 |
| 3. Eric Greco     | 14,109 | 10. Ed Bissell     | 10,224 |
| 4. Charlie Gray   | 13,148 | 11. Ray Raskin     | 9,845  |
| 5. Selena Swanson | 12,440 | 12. Craig Robinson | 9,482  |
| 6. Dan Boye       | 11,830 | 13. JoAnn Sprung   | 9,459  |
| 7. John Swanson   | 11,664 | 14. Jay Apfelbaum  | 9,305  |




**NEW LOCATION**  
**Dolce Hotel Valley Forge**  
 301 West DeKalb Pike  
 King of Prussia, PA 19406  
 (877) 851-5551 (610) 337-1200  
 Reservation cutoff date is July 31. After July 31 rooms may not be available and rate will be higher



For Hotel Information:  
 John Marks (215) 891-0602  
 Special Bridge Rate: \$109

**VALLEY FORGE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT**  
 ACBL DISTRICT 4, PCBA UNIT 141  
**AUGUST 22-28, 2011**  
**DOLCE HOTEL VALLEY FORGE**



**Website: [www.district4.info](http://www.district4.info)**

**Event Starting Times**

**10:00 AM and 2:45 PM**  
**Evening Games 7:30 PM**  
**Sunday Games 10:00 AM**

**Schedule Features**

**Kickoff Charity Swiss Teams on Monday at 2:00 PM**  
**New Knockouts begin on Wednesday and Friday**  
**Compact KO Teams across 2 evenings—Wed-Thurs & Fri—Sat**  
**Bracketed KO Teams across 3 evenings**  
**Single Session Swiss Teams - Tuesday through Saturday**  
**Afternoon and Evening Stratified Open Pairs on Wednesday**

**Knockout Teams**

Monday Kickoff KO Teams - (continues Tuesday)..... 7:30 PM  
 Tuesday Compact KO Teams..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM  
 Wednesday—Thursday KO Teams..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM  
 Friday—Saturday KO Teams..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM  
 Saturday Compact KO Teams..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM  
 Tues-Wed-Thurs // Thurs-Fri-Sat KO Teams..... 7:30 PM

**Open Pair Games**

Monday Charity Open Pairs..... 2:00 PM  
 Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat Stratified or Strati-Flighted Pairs..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM  
 New Wednesday Stratified Pairs..... 2:45 PM & 7:30 PM  
 Tues, Wed and Fri Golden Opportunity Pairs..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM

**Team of Four Games**

Monday Charity Swiss Teams, single session..... 2:00 PM  
 Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat Swiss Teams, single session..... 2:45 PM  
 Wednesday-Thursday Compact KO Teams, 2 sessions, gold..... 7:30 PM  
 Thursday Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams, 2 sessions, gold..... 10:00 AM  
 Thursday Golden Opportunity Swiss Teams, 2 sessions, gold..... 10:00 AM  
 Friday-Saturday Compact KO Teams, 2 sessions, gold..... 7:30 PM  
 Sunday Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams, 2 sessions, gold..... 10:00 AM

**Side Game Series**

Monday Eve-Tuesday, single sessions, SGS #1..... 10:00 AM/ 2:45 PM/ 7:30 PM  
 Wednesday-Thursday, single sessions, SGS #2..... 10:00 AM/ 2:45 PM/ 7:30 PM  
 Friday-Saturday, single sessions, SGS #3..... 10:00 AM/ 2:45 PM/ 7:30 PM

**IN Events (0-5 MP Play Free on Tuesday!)**

Monday Charity IN Pairs, single session..... 2:00 PM  
 Tuesday through Saturday, single sessions..... 10:00 AM/ 2:45 PM/ 7:30 PM  
 Tues, Wed & Fri Golden Opportunity Pairs (0-300/300+ -750)..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM  
 Thurs Golden Opportunity Swiss Teams (0-300/300+ -750)..... 10:00 AM & 2:45 PM

**Tournament Highlights**

- ◆ Terrific Hospitality Every Day
- ◆ Pre-Duplicated Boards and Hand Records in all Pair Events
- ◆ Speakers Every Day
- ◆ Sunday Early Start and Finish

**Tournament Chairmen:** John Marks (215) 891-0602  
**Partnership Chairmen:** Jerry Craigie (609) 965-2275  
 Tom Purl (610) 518-6790  
**Caddie Master:** Jill Dorman (215) 601-9001  
**IN Chairperson:** Ala Hamilton-Day (610) 891-9001

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 tpurl@hotmail.com  
 jdorman@mail.ups.edu  
 alabridge@aol.com

## *Upcoming District 4 Events*

| DATE             | TOURNAMENT                      | LOCATION                                | CONTACT                               | SEE PAGE     |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| June 3-5         | Thousand Islands Unit 112       | Ramada Inn Watertown NY                 | Ruth Condon<br>315-788-4123           |              |
| June 3-5         | Summer Fun Unit 120             | Independent Fire Hall Kingston PA       | Ray DePew<br>570-239-3056             |              |
| June 3-5         | Delaware Summer Unit 190        | Bridge Studio of Delaware Wilmington DE | Alexis Ciconte<br>302-571-9092        |              |
| June 10-12       | State College Unit 217          | Semicon Bridge Studio State College PA  | Ed Bissell<br>814-237-1043            |              |
| June 13-19       | D6 STaC Unit 190                | Clubs                                   | Barbara Israel<br>410-381-9445        |              |
| June 24-26       | White Rose Unit 168             | Springetts Fire Co. York PA             | Kelly Zeller<br>717-246-8034          |              |
| July 9-10        | Rochester Summer Unit 112       | Perinton VFW Fairport NY                | Charles Adrion<br>585-319-0600        |              |
| July 11-17       | STaC - Units 120, 133, 141, 190 | Clubs                                   | John Marks<br>215-891-0602            |              |
| July 11-17       | STaC - Units 121, 168, 217      | Clubs                                   | Ronald Orr<br>304-274-1338            |              |
| <b>AUG 1-7</b>   | <b>BURT GARRELL REGIONAL</b>    | <b>HOLIDAY INN LIVERPOOL NY</b>         | <b>Gerry Radwell<br/>315-559-1560</b> | <b>21</b>    |
| Aug 14           | York 0-500 NLM Unit 168         | Bridge Boardroom York PA                | Edward Scanlon<br>717-434-3298        |              |
| <b>AUG 22-28</b> | <b>PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL</b>    | <b>DOLCE HOTEL KING OF PRUSSIA PA</b>   | <b>John Marks<br/>215-891-0602</b>    | <b>30-31</b> |