



**April
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Contract Bridge
League

Editor: **Karen Walker,**
Champaign IL

Get your team together for the

DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL

TEAMS

APRIL 30 & MAY 1, 2005

IL DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION BUILDING,

SPRINGFIELD IL



♣ **Saturday, April 30 --- 1:00 & 7:00 pm -- 2-Session qualifying**

♣ **Sunday, May 1 ----- 10:30 am & TBA -- Knockout finals**

12:30 pm -- Open Pairs side game

Trips to Atlanta -- and regional-rated gold points -- are featured in the 2005 District 8 finals of this national team event. Any team of four, five or six District members can enter in one of four separate flights:

- Championship:** Open
- Flight A:** 0-5000 masterpoints
- Flight B:** 0-2000
- Flight C:** 0-500 (non-LMs)

The winning team in each flight will receive a travel award from the District Board to play in the national finals in Atlanta GA in July.

Directions: The IDOT Building is at 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, just west of I-55 between exits 94 and 96 (South Grand and Stevenson Drive exits). Take escalator down to the playing area.

Sunday side game: This is a stratified, sectional-rated pairs event that is open to all. You do not have to have played in the GNT event to enter.

Local info: Liz & Chuck Zalar -- (217) 793-8066 zalar@insightbb.com



ACBL Director's Report

by **Georgia Heth, Morton IL**

District 8 Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors

Grand National Teams: It is almost time for the Grand National Teams again. I hope to see many of you at the District 8 finals at the IDOT Building in Springfield IL on April 30 and May 1. There will also be a side game on Sunday (12:30 p.m.) at the same site. Liz and Chuck Zalar are organizing the event for the District and Liz assures me everything is under control. There will be another article in this issue of the *Advocate* with all of the details. If you haven't already formed your team, there is still plenty of time. I am hoping for at least a ten-percent increase in attendance this year.

Welcome: The ACBL members in Phelps County MO are now members of Unit 143, District 8. We would like to welcome you to District 8 and thank you for your diligence in pursuing the matter (their paperwork was misplaced in Memphis for several months). Phelps County, which is about 100 miles southwest of St. Louis, includes the towns of Rolla, Newberg, St. James, Doolittle and Edgar Springs. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2000 census), Phelps County is also the mean center of the U.S. population.

Board committees: I had a busy time at the Pittsburgh NABC Board of Directors meeting in March. I am chairman of two committees this year -- Appeals & Charges and Bylaws -- which has made a big difference in my workload. I also was appointed to two special committees -- Audit and CEO Review -- so I finally have night meetings to go to as well as all day. The Bylaws committee did not meet this time but we will be meeting by email over the next months to discuss changing the Certificate of Incorporation before we complete the Bylaws amendment process in Atlanta. Appeals & Charges heard four cases in March and we already have a case on the agenda for Atlanta.

Junior bridge: The Board voted to give the money allocated for the support of the Junior teams directly to the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) to distribute. The first \$50,000 (or the actual receipts) raised in Junior Fund games each year will be given to the USBF for this purpose. The money raised by the International Fund games for the other international teams will continue to be distributed by the ACBL. Any funds in excess of \$50,000 per year raised by the Junior Fund games will go to support other types of activities for juniors.

Special club games: Any and every game held in a local club can now be sectionally rated (black points) for just a \$1.00 per person additional fee. Clubs can host these games to support the Junior Fund, International Fund or the Charity Foundation. In January and February of this year, money raised for the Charity Foundation was approximately twice the amount raised during the same period in 2004. I was glad to see this, as the Charity Foundation has made a commitment to award significantly more money over the next five years and we were afraid we might spend all of our endowment. Grants are now being made directly to ACBL districts to distribute to charities in their areas. Two districts have already allocated their grants for this year, and three others will receive grants in the fall. District 8 will receive its grant in 2007.

Other highlights from the Pittsburgh Board meetings:

- The Board voted to actively pursue the sale of the Airways Boulevard building in Memphis. The neighborhood has deteriorated to the point where we think we need to move to protect the safety of our employees, plus we are losing our tenants and are unable to replace them. We will not make money on this sale.
- A committee was appointed to study regional tournament allocations and report back this summer. I don't think this will be their final report.
- The Board created a Century Club to honor our members who are 100 years of age. Members will be recognized in the *Bulletin*.

It is hard to believe I am already in the final year of my term. I have declared my candidacy for re-election this year and hope I will be allowed to continue to serve you on the Board of Directors.

See you at the Grand National Teams in Springfield and the Illini Regional, May 24-30 in Champaign. If you have questions or suggestions about ACBL Board actions or other bridge matters, please contact me at gketh@hotmail.com or 917 S. Main St., Morton IL 61550-2419.

Director, please

by David Stevenson, Liverpool, England



Question (from Northern Illinois):

We recently had a ruling at our club that I question. I was not personally involved. I am a director and I just want to be better.

The director was kibitzing at the table in question. After several tricks had already been played, declarer calls an ace from dummy and both defenders show their cards and concede. The director now says, "I can't allow this". He concluded that if the tricks were played out, the defense would win another trick. Does a kibitzing director have this authority?

Stevenson: Yes, I am afraid so, which is why we do not approve of kibitzing directors. Law 81C6 says:

"The Director's duties and powers normally include the following:

6. Errors to rectify an error or irregularity of which he becomes aware in any manner, within the correction period established in accordance with Law 79C."

Note the words "in any manner".

Question (from Central Illinois):

Can you refer me to a law that says anything about questioning the opponents' bidding during the auction? We have a local player who asks for an explanation after virtually every bid, even those that are not alerted. After the opponents bid 1H-1S-1NT-2C, he'll ask, "Do you play New Minor Forcing?". Yesterday, after the opening bidder made a jump-shift, he asked, "Is that weak?" He's a good upcoming player, but this is becoming a problem and I wonder if he should be encouraged to be more selective about these inquiries.

Stevenson: This is a difficult question to answer because according to the Laws, players have a right to ask questions about the auction. Still, this sort of behaviour is unhelpful, unnecessary and certainly not recommended. In fact it is complicated because North American players are not in the habit - as European players do - of routinely asking all their questions at the end of the auction and before the play. The partner of the opening leader defers asking until the opening leader leads face down: I was dismayed by how few players follow this rule at the American Nationals.

There is no doubt, however, that continuous asking like this creates difficulties about time -- it wastes time unnecessarily -- and annoys other players, probably including his partner. The Proprieties say that wasting time unnecessarily is illegal, and that annoying other people by your actions is illegal.

Generally, the difficulty with bad habits is that the player in question is experienced and not prepared to learn, and there is little to be done. In this case, however, it sounds as though we have someone in the learning stage. So it needs to be carefully explained to him that what he is doing is unhelpful and annoying, but also totally unnecessary. He should get in the habit of asking questions before the opening lead is faced if he is on lead or if he is declarer, and after his partner has led face down if his partner is on lead. He certainly does not need to know about New Minor Forcing (or "What type of Blackwood do you play?") until then.

Do you have questions about bridge laws, a ruling you received (or made) at a tournament or club game, how to handle an ethical dilemma? David, who is very knowledgeable on North American bridge, will explain laws and proprieties, share opinions on specific cases and offer advice on any aspect of game direction. You can submit questions on his [web form](#) or by email to laws2@blakjak.com. In your message, include a note that you're an *Advocate* reader from the U.S.

David maintains an archive of articles on laws and proprieties on his web site: http://www.blakjak.demon.co.uk/lws_menu.htm

Dave Carter Top 100

Here are District 8's top masterpoint winners and the total points each earned during calendar year 2004. The list is named for the late Dave Carter of St. Louis, who won the national McKenney Trophy in 1954.

1. Bob Carreaux, Fort Wayne IN -- 1087
2. Will Engel, Freeport IL -- 894
3. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 799
4. Dick Benson, Le Roy IL -- 762
5. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL -- 699
6. James Melville, Springfield IL -- 686
7. Colby Vernay, Lacon IL -- 627
8. Nancy Popkin, St. Louis -- 588
9. Gary Kessler, Springfield IL -- 529
10. Jacqueline Sincoff, St. Louis -- 475
11. Alan Popkin, St. Louis -- 471
12. Roger Lord, St. Louis -- 467
13. Sheldon Margulis, St. Louis -- 461
14. Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO -- 435
15. John Kinst, Batavia IL -- 411
16. Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL -- 402
17. Kenneth Bland, St. Louis -- 391
18. John Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 390
19. John Aumiller, Fort Wayne IN -- 386
20. Ronald Sholes, Springfield IL -- 385
21. James Feinstein, South Bend IN -- 350
22. Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL -- 341
23. Jason Feldman, Champaign IL -- 340
24. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 330
25. Joseph Chin, Highland IN -- 324
26. Percy Wu, Chesterfield MO -- 312
27. Donald Florida, Marshall IL -- 296
28. Milton Zlatic, St. Louis -- 295
29. Chris Benson, Le Roy IL -- 286
30. Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO -- 279
31. Karen Erlanger, St. Louis -- 276
32. John Burgener, St. Louis -- 272
33. Patricia Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 271
34. Denny O'Connor, St. Louis -- 271
35. Arba Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL -- 264
36. Mark Kessler, Springfield IL -- 260
37. John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN -- 259
38. Larry Kolker, St. Louis -- 242
39. Ed Weiss, Chesterfield MO -- 241
40. John Seng, Champaign IL -- 240
41. Susan Perez, Maryland Hts MO -- 237
42. Irene Singleton, South Bend IN -- 234
43. David Bish, Leo IN -- 233
44. Donna Simon, South Bend IN -- 230
45. Daniel Simon, South Bend IN -- 230
46. Carl Wheeler, Fort Wayne IN -- 229
47. John Dicks, St. Charles MO -- 226
48. Jeff Hepner, Chatham IL -- 226
49. Dalton Darnell, Murray KY -- 222
50. Ronda O'Farrell, Chesterfield MO -- 221
51. Mike Giacaman, St. Louis -- 218
52. Audrey Danocup, Beloit WI -- 218
53. Richard Ellis Jr., Kokomo IN -- 217
54. Raymond Aguas, Mishawaka IN -- 217
55. Sally Chapleau-Russo, Ft Pierce FL -- 215
56. En Xie, St. Louis -- 214
57. Richard Sullivan, Decatur IN -- 214
58. Bob Korte, Woodstock IL -- 213
59. Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap IL -- 212
60. George Marvin, Maryland Hts MO -- 211
61. Christopher Shaw, Carlinville IL -- 210
62. Dean Duncan, Mishawaka IN -- 206
63. Karen Coe, Ewing IL -- 206
64. Lee Hastings, St. Louis -- 203
65. Margaret Hansell, Champaign IL -- 202
66. Rosemary Zonker, Elkhart IN -- 199
67. Gail Moon, Bloomington IL -- 199
68. Elizabeth Zalar, Springfield IL -- 195
69. Stephen Brauss, St. Louis -- 192
70. Andrew Carver, Edwardsville IL -- 190
71. Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY -- 190
72. Massoud Banan, Kokomo IN -- 187
73. Donna Pedrotti, Maryland Hts MO -- 185
74. Fran Russell, Paducah KY -- 185
75. Sheryl Finkenstadt, St Charles MO -- 182
76. William Finkenstadt, St Charles MO -- 182
77. Georgia Heth, Morton IL -- 182
78. Julia Rambo, Mayfield KY -- 179
79. James Hammond, Kirkwood MO -- 179
80. Jason Clevenger, St. Louis -- 178
81. Barbara Walczak, Munster IN -- 176
82. Bruce Gardner, Paducah KY -- 175
83. Robin Lampley, Paducah KY -- 175
84. Marvin Shapiro, St. Louis -- 175
85. Betty Capodice, Bloomington IL -- 174
86. William Kauffman, St. Charles MO -- 174
87. Jack Snyder, Rockford IL -- 173
88. Howard Schmid, Merrillville IN -- 173
89. Laurie Hamachek, Huntley IL -- 171
90. Charles Zalar, Springfield IL -- 171
91. Douglas Edwards, Hardin KY -- 170
92. Nancy La Master, Munster IN -- 169
93. Bobbie Holmes, St. Louis -- 168
94. Kay Korte, Woodstock IL -- 168
95. Ayn Masilko, Rockford IL -- 165
96. Tom Kniest, University City MO -- 165
97. John Coe, Ewing IL -- 165
98. Randall Leeper, Murphysboro IL -- 164
99. Satish Gupta, Munster IN -- 163
100. Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL -- 163

District-wide Mini-McKenney Race -- 2004

The annual Mini-McKenney race recognizes the leading masterpoint winners in each player-ranking category. Your category is based on the number of points you held at the beginning of 2004. Listed here are the top 15 point winners in each category in District 8 and the total masterpoints each player won during calendar year 2004. Congratulations to all!

Rookie of the Year (0-5 pts. on 1/1/2004)

1. Bill Petrie, Mayfield KY -- 85
2. Johnie Imes, Lake Ozark MO -- 74
3. James Baumeister, Marion IL -- 69
4. Fred Roese, Springfield IL -- 63
5. Alice Pierce, Urbana IL -- 60
6. Mary Jarrells, Wildwood MO -- 49
7. Donald Groch, South Bend IN -- 38
8. Stevie Holcomb, Springfield IL -- 35
9. Joann Rouse, Bloomington IL -- 32
10. Suzanne Gerhold, South Bend IN -- 29
11. James Gerhold, South Bend IN -- 28
12. Fred Barilla, Rantoul IL -- 27
13. Emma Heitzman, Urbana IL -- 25
14. Raymond Rearick, Jr., Estero FL -- 23
15. Darryl Bremner, Clinton IL -- 21

Junior Master of the Year (5-20 pts.)

1. William Bunn, Brentwood MO -- 103
2. Naomi Orsay, Brentwood MO -- 74
3. Julia Torres, Florissant MO -- 67
4. Irene Wen, Urbana IL -- 51
5. Sammye Arm Broline, Charleston IL -- 50
6. Carole Benkelman, Des Peres MO -- 48
7. Margaret Stephens, Champaign IL -- 46
8. Duane Broline, Charleston IL -- 43
9. Roger Dieringer, Elgin IL -- 43
10. David Hoevel, Fort Wayne IN -- 43
11. Larry Farris, Creve Coeur MO -- 43
12. Jay D Shah, St. Louis -- 38
13. Bernice Nesheim, Rockford IL -- 35
14. Scott Lowrey, Chesterfield MO -- 32
15. Dee Boch, Springfield IL -- 32

Club Master of the Year (20-50 pts.)

1. Dan Faulkner, Monticello IL -- 106
2. Eric Gettleman, Normal IL -- 100
3. Gary Dell, Champaign IL -- 92
4. Julie Woods, Chesterfield MO -- 73
5. Cappy Gagnon, Notre Dame IN -- 70
6. Barbara Bass, Princeton IL -- 60
7. Linda Albrecht, Mt Zion IL -- 58
8. Robertine Boivin, Treasure Island FL -- 56
9. Gene Albrecht, Mt Zion IL -- 55
10. Gilda Singer, Chesterfield MO -- 55
11. Linda Heinkel, Princeton IL -- 51
12. Steve Singer, Chesterfield MO -- 49
13. Stephen Volz, Bloomington IL -- 48
14. Roberta Trochtenberg, St. Louis -- 48
15. Ann Adams, Hudson IL -- 47

Sectional Master of the Year (50-100 pts.)

1. Barbara Walczak, Munster IN -- 176
2. Thomas Carpenter, Fort Wayne IN -- 147
3. C. C. Corbin, Champaign IL -- 146
4. Daniel Chamberlain, Rockford IL -- 120
5. Kathryn Chamberlain, Rockford IL -- 120
6. Marsha Kent, Springfield IL -- 112
7. William Lindemann, Champaign IL -- 98

Life Master of the Year (300 pts.)

1. Percy Wu, Chesterfield MO -- 312
2. Carl Wheeler, Fort Wayne IN -- 229
3. Andrew Carver, Edwardsville IL -- 190
4. Sanford Becker, Chesterfield MO -- 153
5. Phillip Stephan, Boynton Beach FL -- 142
6. Raj Kohli, Granger IN -- 121
7. Robert Cundall, Collinsville IL -- 107
8. Deborah King, Creve Coeur MO -- 104
9. Rebecca Joike, Rockford IL -- 101
10. Trevor Joike, Rockford IL -- 101
11. Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL -- 101
12. Larry Thompson, West Paducah KY -- 100
13. Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign IL -- 96
14. Krzysztof Jarosz, Edwardsville IL -- 90
15. Victor Papai, South Bend IN -- 90

Bronze Life Master of the Year (500 pts.)

1. John Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 390
2. Jason Feldman, Champaign IL -- 340
3. Donna Simon, South Bend IN -- 230
4. Ronda O'Farrell, Chesterfield MO -- 221
5. George Marvin, Maryland Hts MO -- 211
6. Christopher Shaw Jr., Carlinville IL -- 210
7. Karen Coe, Ewing IL -- 206
8. Margaret Hansell, Champaign IL -- 202
9. Fran Russell, Paducah KY -- 185
10. Sheryl Finkenstadt, St Charles MO -- 182
11. William Finkenstadt, St Charles MO -- 182
12. Jason Clevenger, St. Louis -- 178
13. William Kauffman, St. Charles MO -- 174
14. John Coe, Ewing IL -- 165
15. Satish Gupta, Munster IN -- 163

Silver Life Master of the Year (1000 pts.)

1. Will Engel, Freeport IL -- 894
2. Ronald Sholes, Springfield IL -- 385
3. James Feinstein, South Bend IN -- 350
4. Joseph Chin, Highland IN -- 324
5. Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL -- 264
6. John Seng, Champaign IL -- 240
7. Daniel Simon, South Bend IN -- 230
8. Mike Giacaman, St. Louis -- 218
9. Sally Chapleau-Russo, Ft Pierce FL -- 215
10. En Xie, St. Louis -- 214
11. Richard Sullivan, Decatur IN -- 214
12. Bob Korte, Woodstock IL -- 213
13. Gail Moon, Bloomington IL -- 199
14. Elizabeth Zalar, Springfield IL -- 195
15. Stephen Brauss, St. Louis -- 192

Gold Life Master of the Year (2500 pts.)

1. Jacqueline Sincoff, St. Louis -- 475
2. Alan Popkin, St. Louis -- 471
3. Sheldon Margulis, St. Louis -- 461
4. John Kinst, Batavia IL -- 411
5. Kenneth Bland, St. Louis -- 391
6. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 330
7. Donald Florida, Marshall IL -- 296

8. Sylvia Slomski, South Bend IN -- 98
9. Chuck Briggs, Hobart IN -- 95
10. Bud Hawkins, Mt Vernon IL -- 89
11. Ms. M. N. Schumm, Munster IN -- 87
12. Ruth Minish, Granger IN -- 82
13. Robert Boivin, Treasure Island FL -- 77
14. Peggy Olds, Springfield IL -- 76
15. Rosemary Shafer, South Bend IN -- 73

Regional Master of the Year (100-200 pts.)

1. Jeff Hepner, Chatham IL -- 226
2. Audrey Danocup, Beloit WI -- 218
3. Raymond Aguas, Mishawaka IN -- 217
4. Laurie Hamachek, Huntley IL -- 171
5. Zach Freehill, Bloomington IL -- 148
6. Patrick Haverty, Woodstock IL -- 132
7. Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington IL -- 129
8. Dan Scroggins, Beloit WI -- 121
9. Karl Dencker, Lk In The Hls IL -- 119
10. Darrel Richardson, Rochester IL -- 118
11. Faye Anderson, Schererville IN -- 112
12. Julie Hubbard, Springfield IL -- 111
13. Layton Lamb, Springfield IL -- 110
14. Elinor Patrick, Sun City West AZ -- 103
15. Gayle McLean, St. Louis -- 102

NABC Master of the Year (200 pts. - nonLM)

1. James Melville, Springfield IL -- 686
2. Patricia Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 271
3. Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY -- 190
4. Nancy La Master, Munster IN -- 169
5. Frank La Master, Munster IN -- 134
6. Judy Putzel, St. Louis -- 129
7. Jane Baker, Paducah KY -- 128
8. Frank Tirsch, Springfield IL -- 122
9. Thomas Hardy, Huntley IL -- 121
10. Jean Miller, Fort Wayne IN -- 116
11. Judy Elliott, Merrillville IN -- 112
12. Dean Stow, Paducah KY -- 105
13. Richard Scheibelhut, Oro Valley AZ -- 97
14. Mark Ludwig, Maryland Hts MO -- 96
15. Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington IL -- 95

8. Milton Zlatic, St. Louis -- 295
9. Karen Erlanger, St. Louis -- 276
10. John Burgener, St. Louis -- 272
11. Denny O'Connor, St. Louis -- 271
12. John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN -- 259
13. Susan Perez, Maryland Hts MO -- 237
14. Irene Singleton, South Bend IN -- 234
15. David Bish, Leo IN -- 233

Diamond Life Master of the Year (5000+ pts.)

1. Bob Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN -- 1087
2. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 799
3. Dick Benson, Le Roy IL -- 762
4. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL -- 699
5. Colby Vernay, Lacon IL -- 627
6. Nancy Popkin, St. Louis -- 588
7. Gary Kessler, Springfield IL -- 529
8. Roger Lord, St. Louis -- 467
9. Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO -- 435
10. Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL -- 402
11. Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL -- 341
12. Chris Benson, Le Roy IL -- 286
13. Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO -- 279
14. Mark Kessler, Springfield IL -- 260
15. Larry Kolker, St. Louis -- 242

Other Masterpoint Races -- 2004

Each year, ACBL recognizes the bridge successes of Junior players (age 25 and under) and players who win the most points in sectional tournaments. Listed below are the District-wide rankings and points won in 2004 by our players in these categories.

Junior Races (age 25 and under)

1. Will Engel, Freeport IL -- 894
2. Jason Feldman, Champaign IL -- 340
3. Andrew Carver, Edwardsville IL -- 190
4. Randall Motchan, Bloomington IL -- 61
5. Jon Greiman, Dekalb IL -- 57
6. Aaron Hanford, Rockford IL -- 47
7. Ben Englert, Edwardsville IL -- 41
8. Emma Heitzman, Urbana IL -- 25
9. Joshua Kueker, Champaign IL -- 22
10. Wilbert Law, Urbana IL -- 20
11. Nat Seiz, Springfield IL -- 3
12. Anne Kramer, Springfield IL -- 3
13. Paul Holmes, Bloomington IL -- 3

Sectional Point Winners

1. Nancy Popkin, St. Louis -- 173
2. Will Engel, Freeport IL -- 162
3. Alan Popkin, St. Louis -- 161
4. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL -- 136
5. Joseph Chin, Highland IN -- 120
6. John Kinst, Batavia IL -- 115
7. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 115
8. Donald Florida, Marshall IL -- 109
9. Richard Ellis Jr., Kokomo IN -- 108
10. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 106
11. Gary Kessler, Springfield IL -- 105
12. John Aumiller, Fort Wayne IN -- 102
13. Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL -- 101
14. Susan Perez, Maryland Hts MO -- 89
15. David Bish, Leo IN -- 86

District-wide Ace of Clubs Race -- 2004

The annual Ace of Clubs awards recognize the leading masterpoint winners in club-level games. Awards are made in each player category. Your category is based on your total masterpoint holding at the beginning of 2004.

Listed here are the top point winners in each category in District 8 and the total masterpoints each player won in club games during calendar year 2004. Congratulations to these active and successful players, and thanks from all of us for your support of local bridge.

Rookie of the Year (0-5 pts. on 1/1/2004)

1. Bill Petrie, Mayfield KY -- 55
2. Fred Roose, Springfield IL -- 48
3. Donald Groch, South Bend IN -- 37
4. Alice Pierce, Urbana IL -- 34
5. Stevie Holcomb, Springfield IL -- 28
6. Joann Rouse, Bloomington IL -- 28
7. Suzanne Gerhold, South Bend IN -- 25
8. James Gerhold, South Bend IN -- 25
9. Fred Barilla, Rantoul IL -- 19
10. Raymond Rearick, Jr., Estero FL -- 18
11. Cheryl Bosak, St Charles IL -- 18
12. Frank Hettinger, Aurora IL -- 17
13. Betty Hettinger, Aurora IL -- 17
14. Edsel Hatfield, Florissant MO -- 16
15. Juanita Rearick, Estero FL -- 15

Junior Master of the Year (5-20 pts.)

1. David Hoevel, Fort Wayne IN -- 38
2. Roger Dieringer, Elgin IL -- 35
3. Irene Wen, Urbana IL -- 35
4. William Bunn, Brentwood MO -- 30
5. Dee Boch, Springfield IL -- 27
6. Bernice Nesheim, Rockford IL -- 27
7. Naomi Orsay, Brentwood MO -- 26
8. Michael Adams, Auburn IN -- 23
9. Robert Rife, Fort Wayne IN -- 22
10. Jay D Shah, St Louis -- 21
11. Frank Rassieur, St Louis -- 21
12. Carole Benkelman, Des Peres MO -- 21
13. Thomas Esten Sr., Ft Wayne IN -- 20
14. Dan Evers, Mt Vernon IL -- 20
15. Julia Kelley, Geneva IL -- 19

Club Master of the Year (20-50 pts.)

1. Ann Adams, Hudson IL -- 45
2. Cappy Gagnon, Notre Dame IN -- 44
3. Roberta Trochtenberg, St. Louis -- 42
4. Stephen Volz, Bloomington IL -- 41
5. Barbara Bass, Princeton IL -- 35
6. Hal Bach, Springfield IL -- 34
7. Sheila Kiefer, Ft Wayne IN -- 33
8. James Neville, St Louis -- 32
9. Andrew Bono, Springfield IL -- 31
10. Julie Woods, Chesterfield MO -- 31
11. Dorothy Helmecci, Fort Wayne IN -- 29
12. Robert Schumm, Munster IN -- 29
13. Donna Giertz, Champaign IL -- 27
14. Mary Parker, Eddyville KY -- 26
15. Emelia Alberico, Munster IN -- 26

Sectional Master of the Year (50-100 pts.)

1. Thomas Carpenter, Fort Wayne IN -- 96
2. Cal Corbin, Champaign IL -- 60
3. Marsha Kent, Springfield IL -- 60
4. M. N. Schumm, Munster IN -- 58
5. Barbara Walczak, Munster IN -- 54
6. Chuck Briggs, Hobart IN -- 53

NABC Master of the Year (200 - non-LM)

1. Patricia Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 81
2. Jane Baker, Paducah KY -- 75
3. Judy Putzel, St. Louis -- 73
4. Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington IL -- 65
5. Judy Elliott, Merrillville IN -- 64
6. Frank Tirsch, Springfield IL -- 59
7. Stanley Gutzman, Normal IL -- 57
8. David Short, Champaign IL -- 53
9. Joseph McAdam, Decatur IL -- 52
10. Gary Schechter, Springfield IL -- 50
11. Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY -- 49
12. Nancy La Master, Munster IN -- 47
13. Ruth Crews, Du Quoin IL -- 47
14. Robert Corron, St. Charles IL -- 46
15. Rita Duncan, Somerset IN -- 45

Life Master of the Year (300 pts.)

1. Percy Wu, Chesterfield MO -- 106
2. Phillip Stephan, Boynton Beach FL -- 97
3. Sanford Becker, Chesterfield MO -- 88
4. Andrew Carver, Edwardsville IL -- 81
5. Raj Kohli, Granger IN -- 72
6. Manuel Silverman, Fort Wayne IN -- 67
7. Victor Papai, South Bend IN -- 64
8. Deborah King, Creve Coeur MO -- 63
9. Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL -- 53
10. Krzysztof Jarosz, Edwardsville IL -- 50
11. Ora Brooks, Paducah KY -- 44
12. Pamela Eden, Rockford IL -- 43
13. Elaine Sigler, Trenton IL -- 40
14. Robert Cundall, Collinsville IL -- 39
15. Richard Ford, St. Louis -- 38

Bronze Life Master of the Year (500 pts.)

1. Ronda O'Farrell, Chesterfield MO -- 162
2. John Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 160
3. Satish Gupta, Munster IN -- 115
4. Samy Sawaya, Munster IN -- 104
5. George Veenstra, Springfield IL -- 90
6. Jo Ann Steigmeyer, Granger IN -- 87
7. Greg Berry, Dundee IL -- 82
8. James Angell, Munster IN -- 81
9. Daniel Spain, Lake Station IN -- 74
10. Henry Hoffman, Bloomington IL -- 73
11. Harold Legel, Crystal Lake IL -- 72
12. Janice Franz, Springfield IL -- 72
13. Robert Wheeler, Florissant MO -- 69
14. Ray Gilbert, Fort Wayne IN -- 68
15. Jeannine Owen, St. Louis -- 67

Silver Life Master of the Year (1000 pts.)

1. James Feinstein, South Bend IN -- 199
2. Richard Sullivan, Decatur IN -- 161
3. Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL -- 147
4. Mike Giacaman, St. Louis -- 136
5. Julia Rambo, Mayfield KY -- 136
6. Sally Chapleau-Russo, Ft Pierce FL -- 132

7. Beckham Southern, Kennett MO -- 51
8. Rosemary Shafer, South Bend IN -- 49
9. Peggy Olds, Springfield IL -- 48
10. Art Adams, Hudson IL -- 46
11. Roy Hostetler, The Villages FL -- 46
12. Sylvia Slomski, South Bend IN -- 45
13. John Olds, Springfield IL -- 45
14. Jack Sanders, Champaign IL -- 44
15. Donald De Vries, Peoria IL -- 44

Regional Master of the Year (100-200 pts.)

1. Audrey Danocup, Beloit WI -- 76
2. Zach Freehill, Bloomington IL -- 74
3. Raymond Aguas, Mishawaka IN -- 72
4. Layton Lamb, Springfield IL -- 69
5. Joseph Franz III, Springfield IL -- 66
6. Jack Kessler, Bloomington IL -- 63
7. Dariel Richardson, Rochester IL -- 61
8. Douglas Jonquet, Decatur IL -- 60
9. Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington IL -- 55
10. Laurie Hamachek, Huntley IL -- 52
11. Julie Hubbard, Springfield IL -- 52
12. Gloria Shoultz, Springfield IL -- 52
13. Larry O'Maley, Fort Wayne IN -- 50
14. Bill Holzrichter, Elburn IL -- 48
15. Beverly Meginnes, Towanda IL -- 47

7. Marian Eggebrecht, South Bend IN -- 115
8. Sara Marcus, South Bend IN -- 114
9. Betty Primm, Athens IL -- 113
10. Alma Karas, Batavia IL -- 112
11. Paul Scherer, Mishawaka IN -- 103
12. Ann Morrissey, St. Louis -- 99
13. Gail Moon, Bloomington IL -- 98
14. Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL -- 97
15. Mrs. D. Brosseau, Sleepy Hollow IL -- 95

Gold Life Master of the Year (2500 pts.)

1. Irene Singleton, South Bend IN -- 176
2. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 151
3. Bobbie Holmes, St. Louis -- 135
4. James Hammond, Kirkwood MO -- 128
5. Kenneth Bland, St. Louis -- 125
6. John Kinst, Batavia IL -- 121
7. John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN -- 119
8. Rosemary Zonker, Elkhart IN -- 119
9. Denny O'Connor, St. Louis -- 116
10. Dalton Darnell, Murray KY -- 110
11. Howard Schmid, Merrillville IN -- 105
12. George Wolf, Oswego IL -- 97
13. Mrs. L. Greenman, St. Louis -- 95
14. Donald VanBuskirk, Kennett MO -- 94
15. Donna Pedrotti, Maryland Hts. MO -- 92

Diamond Life Master of the Year (8000 pts.)

1. Ed Weiss, Chesterfield MO -- 188
2. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL -- 184
3. Dean Duncan, Mishawaka IN -- 159
4. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 123
5. Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL -- 51
6. Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO -- 49
7. Larry Kolker, St. Louis -- 34
8. Dan Requard, Springfield IL -- 31
9. Nancy Popkin, St. Louis -- 31
10. Robert Giles, Marion IL -- 29
11. Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO -- 27
12. Roger Lord, St. Louis -- 20
13. Bob Cardeaux, Fort Wayne IN -- 15
14. Gary Kessler, Springfield IL -- 6
15. Lynne Feldman, Champaign IL -- 5

District 8 Solvers Forum -- April 2005

by Scott Merritt, Arlington VA

I am beginning to feel like the District 8 roving reporter. We have just received our papers and Heather and I are off to the land of Octoberfest, kraut and schnitzel. I promise to write my next column from my wireless laptop, with a stein full of Becks, from the base of the Brandenburg Gate. For this column, though, I will rejoice in all things American before my foot leaves red, white and blue soil.

1. IMPs, none vulnerable

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4H	100	9	52
4D	80	3	25
2NT	70	2	0
3H	70	1	8
1S	70	1	15

West	North	East	South
	1H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠AJ82 ♥Q87543 ♦7 ♣64 ?

I have not disagreed with a panel so seriously for quite some time. I will start out by noting that not one person made the "system bid" of 3NT, which in *Bridge World Standard* is defined as similar to the 1H-4H triple raise, but "showing some defensive strength."

I didn't make that bid because I thought this hand had too much playing strength. The panel probably chose not to bid 3NT because they feared their partner wouldn't know what it was, and not many of us stay up nights studying Bridge World Standard. If you were the 1H opener and heard partner respond 3NT, would you have passed for an absolute disaster? It all points to the importance of knowing what you play.

That brings us back to a choice between underbidding (the jump to 4H), overbidding (Jacoby 2NT or a 4D splinter) and probing (just about everything else). The 4H bidders got the top score. See if you're convinced by their arguments:

Dodd: "4H. This is close to a 4D splinter, but can't bring myself to do it, even in a bidding contest. Maybe West will try a save and give me a second chance?"

Paulo: "4H. 1S and 4D are fine trials to a possible slam, but game looks our best prospect. I bid it directly, so that opponents can't easily find a good save."

Hudson: "4H. Bidding 4H may cause us to miss a slam, but I don't like making delicate descriptive bids (such as a splinter) with so few high-card-points and so many trumps. I don't want to help the opponents find a good sacrifice."

Walker: "4H. I suppose this is a test of how far you'll stretch to make a splinter bid, but this one is too light for me. Partner will expect a lot more than one quick trick and no other useful cards (the heart queen is essentially a wasted value)."

Several of the panel suggested that a Bergen raise followed by a boost to game would be a good way to show non-forcing high-card values but forcing playing strength. I agree, but this hand must qualify as a limit raise of the Bergen variety, so you lose the bonus sympathy points if you were going to start with the Bergen constructive raise.

Seng: "4H. Sure, there is some possibility of a slam, but is something esoteric like 1S going to place you in better position on the next round? Unlikely. Support with support; the only problem is how to support. Surely there won't be souls so aggressive as to splinter with a 7-count."

And now, to shock and awe Mr. Seng, here are the splintering souls:

Strite: "4D. Good enough to splinter, and splinter is a limited bid. An alternative is a BWS 3NT, which is a preemptive raise with some defense, but this hand feels even a little too good for that action."

Kniest: "4D. Everything is a lie. 4D is closest to the point -- I have tremendous trick-taking potential opposite length in either or both minors, good trump support and the spade control. What we need is a bid to show a raise to 4H with long trumps and a control outside. Some people play 3NT for that, giving up on a relatively rare use for that bid."

I wanted to give the splinter a higher score, but unfortunately, this bid puts quite a bit of pressure on your partner with no bidding room to explore. That's why I like the simple 2NT forcing raise. Just about everyone is willing to bid game, so why not show a force along the way? In old-fashioned dummy points, you have 13, depending on how much you value Qxxxx. Partner may very well expect a bit more from your hand, but if you follow with a gentle braking action, and partner still pushes, how can you be beyond a level of safety? If partner can tell you about possible black-suit shortness, it will vastly improve your hand. Not informing partner of your trick-taking potential seems like partner-less bridge in my book.

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1S
2H	DBL *	Pass	???

* (Negative -- both minors)

What is your call as South holding: ♠AK10954 ♥K6 ♦4 ♣KQ102 ?

There is obviously a lot to say on this hand, as the sheer number of responses to this question displays. We have extra values, a positional heart card, a nice spade suit and oh, by the way, wonderful support for a suit partner has declared holding.

Hudson: "4C. Very tough. It is more important to raise clubs than to rebid spades. We may still be able to play in spades, if we belong there. Notrump might be right, but I can't find out. If partner passes my 4C bid, I will be unhappy, but I am not strong enough to force to game. Maybe I should bid only 3C to give us maximum room -- but that's such an underbid!"

Guthrie: "4C. A cuebid runs the risk of wrong-siding the contract. 3NT may be the wrong contract and anyway is a bit wimpy. Over 4C, with a weak hand and a doubleton spade, partner can attempt to bail out into 4S."

Seng: "3C. I think my call is a little wimpy, but with the probably wasted Heart King in the slot, I'm going for a positive score at matchpoints. Hopefully, if partner has anything (a lot of his diamond cards may be wasted), he may take another call. Or maybe it will come back to me at 3H and I'll try 3S then."

Paulo: "3S. To make the club slam, partner must hold two aces and five clubs, and trumps should break even -- a big shot. On the other hand, if partner has as little as a low spade and the suit breaks 3-3 or 4-2 we win, on average, one trick fewer in spades than in clubs, but we score better -- a good bet at matchpoints."

Kniest: "3S. I have a suit that can play opposite a stiff, and often goes for only one loser with that support. I have a known secondary fit, the Heart King is protected on the lead, and 4S seems the most likely game.

Walker: "3S. You can't show everything at this point, and at matchpoints, I'm not willing to give up on spades. A cuebid is an overbid that delays your decision and doesn't rate to accomplish anything. Over 3H, partner will bid 4C (unless he has the unlikely heart stopper), and all you've learned is that a potential club contract will now be played from the wrong side."

All of these panelists make valid points, the strongest of which is the idea of going for the biggest plus, which is in spades. Through it all, though, I can't find a really strong argument against the cuebid. See if these panelists can offer stronger cases for the cuebid:

Dodd: "3H. Process-of-elimination bid, once I make the decision to commit to game. 3NT is too unilateral and 4C bypasses what could be our best game while understating the spade possibilities. North's next decision may be uncomfortable, but by bidding this way, at least we rate to garner *some* useful information about his major-suit holdings."

Strite: "3H. Is it worth potentially wrong-siding clubs to give partner a chance to show xx in spades? In matchpoints, I think so, since I don't want to play clubs. I'll bid 4S over either 3NT or 4C from partner."

I think the combination of these two arguments hits the target exactly.

3. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1D	Pass	3D *	Pass
Pass	DBL	Pass	???

* (Preemptive)

What is your call as South holding: ♠65 ♥A102 ♦QJ8 ♣AKJ54 ?

We are at a bit of a loss on this hand, as we don't know how much hooch partner had before gametime. We also don't know if we are having a poor game. Both are very real factors that must be taken into account when deciding whether or not to go for the jugular. The vampires of the bunch suggest:

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3S	100	6	21
3H	90	3	12
4C	80	5	33
4S	80	0	2
3C	70	1	23
5C	70	1	0
2S	70	0	4
3NT	60	0	2
2NT	50	0	2

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	9	54
3NT	80	6	10
4C	70	1	35

Seng: "Pass. Partner is just balancing in an almost mandatory balancing situation. I think they're going for 200. The shortest route to a plus score is five tricks."

Johnson: "Pass. Partner can't have 5 hearts so he must have 4 clubs -- maybe 4-4-1-4 and 10 or 11 points. I can't see game anywhere and I've got defense. I'm passing and hoping we go plus."

Strite: "Pass. +200 may be enough to win this board, even if 3NT happens to make. +800 is possible if 3NT is making."

Paulo: "Pass. If LHO has the spade ace or the club queen -- which is likely, after partner's initial pass -- it will be hard to trot out nine tricks before the opponents can take five. Besides, I like to be known as one who plays for penalties."

I would argue that partner's balance, red vs. not, is nowhere near "almost mandatory". Is he always going to come charging in here with a hand like ♠KJx ♥Qxxx ♦x ♣Qxxxx? What we do know is that someone at the table has sub-minimum values for his bidding, and although we know partner is light, we hope he didn't stretch too much. I like the comment about being the one who incites fear at the table, and I suppose this is as good a hand as any to establish that reputation.

Guthrie: "3NT. Hamman may be right."

Hamman MAY have been right. I should dock the non-3NT bidders' scores another 10 points for even the slightest suggestion that His Highness may have erred!

Kniest: "3NT. The biggest upside is that I might have seven peelers with a diamond lead, and partner's few cards will be working over the opener. No guarantees, but a good shot. Pass is possible, but they are odds on the have a 9-card fit, and could have 10. I wouldn't expect a second club to cash on defense; therefore, pass is pretty risky."

This is a well-reasoned argument, but I worry that 3NT is an awfully small target. If 3NT makes, then +800 on defense may be in picture -- say, two spade tricks, a ruff, some high cards, maybe an uppercut. On the other hand, if 3NT isn't making, I still don't believe that they are a favorite to make 3D. Unfortunately for Tom, he appears to have been taken out by his partner on this hand. I am surprised there was only one fish who chose to listen to her partner and bid her suit:

Walker: "4C. I'm not going to hang partner for making a bold balance. With his most likely distribution being 4-4-0-5 (he couldn't make a one-level overall), a pass with so many clubs and such a weak, outside diamond holding is unforgivable."

Okay, Karen, we are all unforgiven. My question is: Which two entries is dummy going to have to finesse us out of our diamonds? If it's club ruffs, I guess the passers are in big trouble.

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
1NT *	2C **	Pass	???	2D	100	15	81
* (15-17) ** (Cappelletti -- unknown one-suiter)				Anything else	0	1	19

What is your call as South holding: ♠Q1076 ♥85 ♦63 ♣AKJ74 ?

Either you make the "book bid" on this hand, or you took the fact that this is a bidding quiz to heart and took a zero for the cause.

When partner makes a Cappelletti overall, he expects you to bid 2D, which allows him to now show his suit. The panel saw no reason to take any detours here, especially since they didn't like their fit for partner's most likely suits (diamonds or hearts). The man who submitted the problem, however, sees other issues:

Feiler: "I bid 2D at the table and partner passed. He had a fairly normal hand -- ♠J3 ♥A74 ♦AQJ975 ♣32. Of course, the diamond finesse was on and 3NT had nine easy tricks. Should partner bid 3D over 2D? Am I supposed to bid 2NT with the hand I had? I don't think I understand this convention."

2NT here would say "whatever your suit is, I have a great hand", but I don't think your hand is worth that strong a move, and you'd both be guessing from there anyway. Partner has about what he's advertised for a vulnerable 2-level overall. Darn those preemptive 1NT openers! So I guess it's just one of those magically fitting hands that cannot possibly be bid correctly to the top spot ... unless maybe you're in a "Challenge the Champs" bidding contest and suspect that heroism is called for.

5. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
------	-------	------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-----------

	1C	Pass	1H
Pass	2H	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	2S	???

Double	100	8	38
Pass	80	6	27
2NT	80	2	15
3C	80	0	2
3H	70	0	15
4H	20	0	2

What is your call as South holding: ♠QJ5 ♥Q874 ♦J92 ♣A63 ?

First, I have to congratulate the Solvers. This is four problems out of five where they've been right on target. Either our panel is slacking, or all the knowledge we're sharing is sticking. I prefer the latter and choose to take all of the credit.

On this hand, our panel was pretty evenly split, but I gave the top score to the doublers because of the 2 other panelists that chose to make the forward going 2NT call. And while everyone should have learned by now, the way that I assign points to scores is arbitrary and capricious, but hey, get over it. On this hand, our shape stinks, our high cards are crappy, and yet the panel says to bid. Can they make a good argument?

Hudson: "Double. Bad hearts and extra HCP with sterile distribution and stuff in their suit. What's the problem?"

Guthrie: "Double (your flexible friend), and blame partner if he takes the wrong view."

Strite: "Double. Passing won't be a good result, so involve partner."

Walker: "Double. Might be only +100, but it could be more, and it's better than being bullied into a minus score at the 3-level."

Maybe jumping on them right now is right. It will certainly serve to advance our reputation as a hair-trigger doubler, which we began establishing in Problem #3. Going for -470 every now and then can be a good investment if it talks your opponents out of balancing in the future.

I just don't feel as sure about potential penalties here as I did in Problem 3. A 3H bid, however, is even more unilateral, as partner might have raised with only 3-card support. That leaves us with the choice of Pass, which is cowardly, but does allow us to find out whether or not partner wants to balance.

Dodd: "Pass. North still has a chance to bid. Why turn down a probable plus for an iffy one at best. I trust my partners to do the right thing in situations like this, especially after I've passed out their reopening doubles a few hands earlier!"

Kniest: "Pass. LHO couldn't double over 1H, so his hand contains a flaw, which suggests we shouldn't be going to the 3-level on this square hand. They've found their 'Law' fit at the right level. We have to obey the Law and not bid again. Double is shooting craps, and seems like an angry reaction to being outbid."

Paulo: "Pass. Several quacks in a flat hand don't entuse me to go ahead of their higher suit. After all, the auction doesn't end with my call."

Seng: "Pass. If partner can't balance against 2S, where are we going? I think the real problem is on the next round after partner balances with a Double. If we're going to defend 2S doubled, I want a chance to win the post mortem when it makes."

I believe that partner will know what to do if I can show my hand. There really are quite a few negatives here -- flat distribution, soft honors, only one quick trick -- but all those high-card-points seem to make people want to bid. It's a shame that no one else chose my "save-a-level" 2NT call, or else I would be able to prop that up as clearly the correct action.

6. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1H	1S
DBL *	2S	3H	All Pass

* (Negative -- both minors)

What is your **OPENING LEAD** as South holding: ♠A9864 ♥A72 ♦876 ♣K3 ?

Unfortunately, the panel seems to be a bit lacking on insight as to why they lead what they lead. I have processed their verbal diarrhea, and here is what I have:

Dodd: "Club King, because it's a lead problem. Why else would it be here?"

That is pretty much the sum total of the logic for the top vote getter. The panelists who chose it didn't exactly overwhelm me with their analysis. I guess I just don't understand this absolute, go-for-the-throat lead strategy in the real world.

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Club King	100	6	13
Spade Ace	80	3	31
Diamond x	80	3	19
Heart x	70	3	23
Spade x	70	1	4
Club 3	70	0	2
Heart Ace	70	0	8

Declarer rates to be short in clubs, too, so even if partner has the Club Ace or Queen, you may not gain a trick with this lead. When partner has no club honors, you'll often cost yourself a club trick *and* give declarer a quick pitch for a spade loser. Whether or not the clubs cash and/or you get a ruff, you've probably accelerated the establishment of dummy's suit. I think the hyper-aggressive club lead is playing up to the quiz format.

Trump Leaders: "Heart x, because we want to cut down the ruffing power in dummy."

I refuse to identify the heart leaders, as I believe they've been sniffing even more high-powered glue than the club leaders. While the heart lead seems highly unlikely to cost a trick, it will surely cost a tempo and is highly unlikely to eliminate ruffs in the dummy. Dummy cannot have three trumps on this auction, and 2-card support is even fairly unlikely.

So the choice comes down to a spade or a diamond. We won't discuss which diamond to lead from xxx; you and your partner already should have an agreement about this. Here are the main arguments for and against each suit:

Kniest: "Diamond x. The Spade Ace is unattractive since there figures to be some spade length on your right. The immediate lead of a trump gives the timing and control to declarer. It's hard to see how a diamond can hurt unless they provide declarer with a fast pitch. I'll pay off to that."

Walker: "Spade Ace. It's silly to lead a trump into the one-suiter, and either minor is attacking declarer's source of outside tricks. The club king could work, but in the long run, I've found that shooting for a top on opening lead is poor strategy."

I can't decide which I hate more: leading aces or leading from xxx. I can avoid both by leading a *small* spade. Put everyone to the guess at trick one while still maintaining control. Yes, this might be classified as my previously disavowed all-or-nothing, "shoot-for-a-top" lead, and it might make me look like a real goat. But it just might get partner in for a quick club return, and I'll get the best of both worlds.

Thanks to all who sent in answers and comments and to this month's guest panelists, William Johnson, John Seng and Mike Tomljanovich. Congratulations to **Mike Giacaman** of St. Louis and **George Klemic** of Bensenville IL, who led all Solvers with for this set. They're both invited to join the June panel.

The 2005 Solvers Contest is based on your best three scores, so there's still time to join in. The six new problems are below. Please submit your solutions by **June 22** on the [web form](#) or by email to our June moderator:

Tom Dodd -- fieldtrialer@yahoo.com

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 536):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Norman Athy, St. Louis	1S	4C	3NT	2D	2NT	Diamond x	490
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	4H	4C	3NT	2D	DBL	Club K	560
Sam Gumbert, McLean VA	2NT	3S	3NT	2D	DBL	Heart x	510
Nigel Guthrie, Reading UK	4H	4C	3NT	2D	DBL	Club K	550
Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	4H	3S	Pass	2D	DBL	Club K	600
William Johnson, Farmington MO	4D	5C	Pass	2D	Pass	Club K	550
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	3H	3S	Pass	2D	DBL	Spade Ace	550
Manuel Paulo, Lisbon, Portugal	4H	3S	Pass	2D	Pass	Heart x	550
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	4H	4C	Pass	2D	DBL	Diamond x	560
John Seng, Champaign IL	4H	3C	Pass	2D	Pass	Spade Ace	530
Toby Strite, Mysiadlo, Poland	4D	3H	Pass	2D	DBL	Club K	570
Mike Tomljanovich, Bloomington IL	4H	4C	3NT	3C	Pass	Diamond x	410

How the Staff voted

Tom Dodd, Branchburg NJ	4H	3H	Pass	2D	Pass	Club K	570
Tom Kniest, University City MO	4D	3S	3NT	2D	Pass	Diamond x	510
Scott Merritt, Arlington VA	2NT	3H	Pass	2D	2NT	Spade x	520
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	4H	3S	4C	2D	DBL	Spade Ace	560

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 488)

Mike Giacaman, St. Louis	580	Jim Diebel, Chicago IL	550
George Klemic, Bensenville IL	580	Paul Soper, Sierra Vista AZ	550
Gary Dell, Champaign IL	570	Martin Daoust, Montreal PQ	540
Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL	570	Mike Halvorsen, Champaign IL	540
Bill Rotter, Granite City IL	560	Dr. S. M. Sivakumar,	540
Frank Brunner, Park Forest IL	550	Bob Wheeler, Florissant MO	540

Tied with 530: **Gareth Birdsall**, Basingstoke UK; **Leroy Boser**, Elkhart IN; **Mark Bumgardner**, Carrollton TX; **Eric Gettleman**, Bloomington IL; **Doug Jonquet**, Decatur IL; **Bruce Kretchmer**, Boynton Beach FL; **Verne Smith**, Boscawen NH

Solvers Forum -- June 2005 Problems

1. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3S	DBL	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠953 ♥K95 ♣764 ♦AK96 ?

2. IMPs, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1S	2D	Pass
3D	3H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠65 ♥A9 ♣Q765 ♦AQ9765 ?

3. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1S	2D	2H	Pass
3H	4D	4H	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠J8 ♥A754 ♣654 ♦10932 ?

4. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	4S	5C	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠1032 ♥64 ♦AKQ103 ♣943 ?

5. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1C
1D	1S	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠KQ ♥63 ♦AJ92 ♣AQJ86 ?

6. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠KQ654 ♥1042 ♣K73 ♦K4 ?



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

Editor: Dennis Ryan, 118 Glenview Court, Janesville WI 53545 drchezmoi@aol.com

Unit Board Candidates

Jan Condon (Rockford), Mary Jo Sergent (Rockford), Susan MacKinney (Elgin) and John Pree (St. Charles) are the four members of the Unit Board whose terms will expire on June 30, and all have all expressed interest in running for another term. So the Board's nominating committee -- Jan Condon (Rockford), Estelle von Zellen (DeKalb), Ron Sester (Kingston) and Bill Carson (DeKalb) -- has put forward the names of the four incumbents.

Any member of Unit 239 in good standing may run for the Board, however, as an additional candidate. Anyone wishing to run should send a letter of intent, supported by the signatures of 10 Unit members, to the Unit secretary: Dennis Ryan, 118 Glenview Court, Janesville WI 53548. The deadline for petitions is April 30. If no such additional petitions are received, the four incumbents will be presumed re-elected.

Free Unit Membership Game -- May 13

Unit 239's annual free membership game will be held on Friday, May 13 at the First United Methodist Church, Fourth & Oak Streets in DeKalb. The dinner, free to Unit members, will be provided by the Unit, with a \$5 charge to non-members. Dinner as usual at 6 pm, followed by a short meeting and awards ceremony at 7 pm. Game time is 7:30 pm

Grand National Team District Finals

Note that there is no Unit final for the Grand National Teams again this year. Any team of Unit 239 members in good standing may play in the District 8 finals in Springfield, to be held April 30-May 1 at the Illinois Department of Transportation building.

Thanks to all of you . . . who participated in the recent Elgin sectional in March. Tournament chairs John Diehl (Elgin) and Karl Dencker (Lake in the Hills) are still raving about the excellent turnout and marvelous support! They especially thank partnership chairs Edna Williams and Doris Survant (both from Elgin), set-up chair Pat Haverty (Woodstock) and director-in-charge Gary Schechter (Springfield). They hope to see you all next year at the same Elgin Community College site.

Congratulations to . . . Will Engel (Freeport) who placed 77th in the national Barry Crane 500 race and sixth in the national Silver Life Master Mini-McKenney. (Columnist's note: this is the highest in my memory that a member of our Unit has placed in either of these competitions.)

Bob Forbes: Life Master



History is replete with newly-crowned life masters who have lost interest in bridge once they have attained that status and achieved that goal. But not Bob Forbes (Sugar Grove) one of our Unit's newest LM's.

"Bridge is a fascinating game. I'll always continue to play," he asserts. Clearly, Bob views his new life-mastership as a confidence builder and as a milestone for personal satisfaction. But to him, the game's the thing.

Bob made life master during a sectional in Darien IL in a Swiss team event. He needed only 1.8 points of any color going in.

He began playing bridge in 1947 around his kitchen table, with his mother, two aunts, an uncle and his sister. He joined the ACBL in 1997, during his time in Naperville. Born and raised in Pontiac IL, he attended Bradley University in Peoria, where he majored in physics. He spent most of his life working in the telephone industry as a transmission engineer for the Bell System, and also taught transmission courses at the Bell System Center for Technical Education. He retired in October 1991, and moved to Sugar Grove in 2002.

His wife Elaine plays chiefly "party" bridge. His son Warren lives in Wheeling, and another son Michael lives in Lisle.

Bob recounts as his biggest bridge success his first regional, in Lake Geneva in 2000. "I played for three days and won 13.7 gold plus 7.5 red points. I'm trying desperately to believe that it wasn't just beginner's luck."

Audrey Danocup and Laurie Hamachek: Life Masters



Most bridge partnerships (at least those who are not spouses) are people who met at the bridge table as duplicate players and decided to become friends. Audrey Danocup (left) and Laurie Hamachek (right), two of Unit 239's latest life masters, reversed this process: they are friends who decided to become duplicate players.

Audrey, who hails from Beloit WI, took up bridge in the late 70s with a junior women's club that offered lessons. "But I quit after two months," she recalls laughingly. "I couldn't understand it, and my mind was never truly on it because I had three small children." But the insidious "bridge bug" had bitten, and she went back to the game with private lessons at home four years later.

She took up duplicate with her friend Laurie in 2003, taking lessons in the basics from Mary Jo Sergent in Rockford. Born and raised in Wisconsin, she attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, where she majored in nursing. She left her nursing career for homemaking, however, after the birth of her third daughter.

Her daughters are Liza Bradshaw, who works for the Bank of America in Charlotte NC; Lori McFerren, a pediatric nurse in Orange County CA; and Lynn Neumeier, who works for Beta Systems in Brookfield WI.

Audrey thrives on competition, be it bridge, tennis or golf. Although she has competed in golf in the national tournaments, she prefers the competition in duplicate bridge. "I enjoy the mix of people there -- one meets men and women from all walks of life," she asserts. "I especially enjoy knockout events."

Her friend Laurie Hamachek, who hails from Sun City/Huntley, first learned bridge at age 10 from her parents, and played a lot in college. She only started serious duplicate when she retired in 2002, playing in Rockford club games with Audrey. "On my retirement," she recalls, "I said in an interview that my new goal was to become a life master in the ACBL. If bridge doesn't teach one that life is all about reaching important objectives and formulating new ones, nothing will."

So now she's formulating new ones, and would like to thank her teacher and mentor Grace Selby (Sun City/Huntley.) "Audrey and I play mostly in Rockford, but also in Elgin, St. Charles, and Aurora. This was a joint effort for Audrey and me to make life master. We went to many, many tournaments together in pursuit of masterpoints."

Laurie was born and raised in Kewaunee, where she was a cheerleader in school. She attended Lawrence University in Appleton WI, and received her Master's degree from the University of Connecticut. She taught Spanish for 32 years. She lived in Elgin for 30 years before moving to Sun City. Family? "Well, I have a dog named McKenzie," she offers. "He's a Westie."

Like most new life masters, Laurie has learned to laugh at her early bridge mistakes. "I had played in two knockouts already, but they were both head-to-head," she recalls. "So when I played my first round-robin KO, I didn't know what I was doing. After playing six hands at a Rockford sectional as a novice, I started to make the boards. After making two, I was abruptly stopped. The director was understanding, and they threw out those two scores and based the match on the other four. But my partners and the opponents were not happy."

Upcoming Unit Tournaments

- Rockin' Rockford Regional -- Indoor Sports Center, Rockford, June 13-19.
- Rockford Classic Sectional -- Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, September 9-11.
- Turkey Bowl -- Prisco Center, Aurora, November 25-27.

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: Paula Demlow, Sandwich; Betty Hettinger, Aurora; Frank Hettinger, Aurora.

New Club Masters: Cheryl A. Bosak, St. Charles; B. Busche, St. Charles; Paula Demlow, Sandwich; Frank Nester, Mt. Carroll.

New Sectional Masters: Roger Dieringer, Elgin.

New Life Masters: Audrey Danocup, Beloit, WI; Richard Murdock, North Aurora; Phyllis Seeman, Rockford; Paul Thuma, Woodstock.

New Silver Life Masters: Marlene Estes, Rockford.



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign IL 61821
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Ace of Clubs & Mini-McKenney Winners

♣ Ace of Clubs

Points won in club games in 2004

Rookie (0-5 pts. on 1/1/04)

Fred Roesse, Springfield -- 48
Alice Pierce, Urbana -- 34
Stevie Holcomb, Springfield -- 28

Junior Master (5-20)

Irene Wen, Urbana -- 35
Dee Boch, Springfield -- 27
William Morgan, Mattoon -- 18

Club Master (20-50)

Ann Adams, Hudson -- 45
Stephen Volz, Bloomington -- 41
Barbara Bass, Princeton -- 35

Sectional Master (50-100)

Cal Corbin, Champaign -- 60
Marsha Kent, Springfield -- 60
Peggy Olds, Springfield -- 48

Regional Master (100-200)

Zach Freehill, Bloomington -- 74
Layton Lamb, Springfield -- 69
Joseph Franz, Springfield -- 66

NABC Master (200+ to non-LM)

Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington -- 65
Frank Tirsch, Springfield -- 59
Stanley Gutzman, Normal -- 57

Life Master (300)

Larry Wilcox, Springfield -- 53
Kathleen Miller, Bloomington -- 52
L. J. Brown, Springfield -- 37

Bronze Life Master (500)

George Veenstra, Springfield -- 90
Henry Hoffman, Bloomington -- 73
Janice Franz, Springfield -- 72

Silver Life Master (1000)

Betty Primm, Athens -- 113
Gail Moon, Bloomington -- 98
Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington -- 97

Gold & Diamond Life Masters (2500+)

Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap -- 73
Robert Butz, Kankakee -- 60
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne -- 28

♣ Mini-McKenney

Total masterpoints won in 2004

Rookie

Irene Wen, Urbana -- 51
Sammye Broline, Charleston -- 50
Margaret Stephens, Champaign -- 46

Junior Master

Dan Faulkner, Monticello -- 106
Eric Gettleman, Normal -- 100
Gary Dell, Champaign -- 92

Club Master

Dan Faulkner, Monticello -- 106
Eric Gettleman, Normal -- 100
Gary Dell, Champaign -- 92

Sectional Master

Cal Corbin, Champaign -- 146
Marsha Kent, Springfield -- 112
Bill Lindemann, Champaign -- 98

Regional Master

Zach Freehill, Bloomington -- 148
Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington -- 129
Dariel Richardson, Rochester -- 118

NABC Master

James Melville, Springfield -- 686
Frank Tirsch, Springfield -- 122
Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington -- 95

Life Master

Kathleen Miller, Bloomington -- 110
Larry Wilcox, Springfield -- 101
Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign -- 96

Bronze Life Master

Jason Feldman, Champaign -- 340
Margaret Hansell, Champaign -- 202
Leah Newell, Springfield -- 141

Silver Life Master

Ronald Sholes, Springfield -- 385
John Seng, Champaign -- 240
Gail Moon, Bloomington -- 199

Gold Life Master

Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap -- 212
Larry Rabideau, Saint Anne -- 103
Michael Halvorsen, Champaign -- 97

Diamond Life Master

Dick Benson, Le Roy -- 762
Colby Vernay, Lacon -- 627
Gary Kessler, Springfield -- 529

Visit the [ACBL Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit players in each category for 2004 and year-to-date 2005.

Coming up on the Central Illinois Calendar:

April 30-May 1 -- District 8 Grand National Teams, Springfield IL

May 24-30 -- Illini Regional, Chancellor Hotel, Champaign IL

[Schedule](#)

June 3 & 4 -- Worldwide Bridge Contest, Local clubs

June, July & August -- North American Pair qualifying games, Local clubs

July 8-10 -- Twin Cities Sectional, Bloomington



Movin' Up: Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Marcia Bondurant, Champaign
Dr. Ramesh Chaudhuri, Normal
Dean Collins, Springfield
Carol Costello, Springfield
Elaine Cousins, Bloomington
Fei Dong, Peoria
Michael Galco, Springfield
Paul Holmes, Bloomington
Negar Kiyavash, Urbana
Mike Marlow, Urbana
Ivan McBride, Chatham
Ron Pierce, Urbana
Alfred Pranske, Springfield
Camilla Rabjohns, Peoria Heights
Harriet Steahly, Springfield

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Linda Albrecht, Mt. Zion
Barbara Bass, Princeton
Ken Bengoechea, Champaign
John Cralley, Normal
Mary Cralley, Normal
Dan Faulkner, Monticello
Linda Heinkel, Princeton
Jim Heller, Petersburg
Bill Lindemann, Champaign
Barbara Pickering, Springfield
Frances Telsey, Springfield
Bret VanFleet, Bloomington
Stephen Volz, Bloomington

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Cal Corbin, Champaign
Charlie Morton, Bloomington
Randall Motchan, Bloomington

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Fred Barilla, Rantoul
Darryl Bremner, Clinton
Floyd Cruz, Springfield
Irene Hammerslough, Springfield
Emma Heitzman, Urbana
Wilbert Law, Urbana
Ann Schimelpfenig, Bloomington
Sam Sgro, Springfield
Hope Stephenson, Springfield
Fern Trucano, Morris
Marilyn Winter, Mt. Zion

New Life Masters

Jonell Comerford, Charleston
Leo Comerford, Charleston
Bev Harrison, Charleston
Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington
Joseph McAdam, Decatur
Dariel Richardson, Rochester
Ed Voice, Decatur

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Duane Broline, Charleston
Jane Carney, Galva
Calvin Clark, Morton
Gene Cottle, Decatur
Ted Freeman, Charleston
Stevie Holcomb, Springfield
Phyllis Lowrey, Springfield
James McKinney, Macomb
Joanne Peterson, Champaign
Pat Reilly, Springfield
William Sheppard, Decatur
Maggie Stephens, Champaign
Judi Sulzbach, Champaign
Bill Zuehlke, Rantoul

Bronze Life Masters (500 pts.)

Barry Badgett, Chatham
Dr. L. J. Brown, Springfield

Silver Life Masters (1000 pts.)

Jim Melville, Springfield
Dr. J. L. Nanda, Charleston



ILLINI REGIONAL

Memorial Day weekend: May 24-30, 2005

**Chancellor Hotel -- Neil Street (Rt. 45) & Kirby Avenue
Champaign, Illinois (MAP)**



Please join us for seven days of bridge and our special Illini hospitality:

- **Wednesday: Seniors Day** -- \$4 off your 2-session Open Pairs entry for ages 65+.
- **Thursday: Fighting Illini Fans Day** -- Prizes, drawing for Illini football tickets, \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!
- **Friday: Juniors Day** -- Full-time students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the 2-session Stratified Pairs!
- **Saturday: Jackpot Day** -- Cash prizes to winners and runners-up in the **Non-LM Championship Pairs** (1:30 & 7:30) and the **Jackpot Individual** (11:30 pm -- fast & fun). **Barometer final** in the Flight A Stratified Pairs (1:30 & 7:30).
- **Monday: FAST Swiss Teams** -- playthrough with free continental breakfast & cash snack bar.
- **Novice/Intermediate Program:** 0-300 events Wednesday through Sunday. Expert speakers at 1:00 & 7:00, Wed. evening through Sun. afternoon.
- **Non-stop hospitality** -- Evening buffets, hotel hospitality suite, registration gifts, door prizes, champagne splits & glasses to section winners, *Daily Bulletin*, *Daily Web Bulletin*, bookstore, *more!*
- **Discounts** for full-time students under age 25. **NO entry-fee surcharge** for non-ACBL members.

Bracketed Knockout Teams:

Big Ten -- 7:30 Tuesday & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Wed.
 Orange & Blue -- 9:30 Thursday & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Friday
 Chief Illiniwek -- 9:30 Saturday & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Sunday.
Dorner-Meyer trophies to winners in bottom bracket.
NEW: OskeeWowWow Compact KO (2 sessions, 4 matches, 4-person teams) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sunday

Side-Game Series (enter any or all sessions):

Morning -- 9:30, Wed. through Sunday **and** 10:30 Monday
 Afternoon -- 1:30, Wednesday through Sunday
 Evening -- 7:30, Wednesday through Sunday

Novice/Intermediate Pairs:

199er Pairs (0-200) -- 7:30 Wed., Thu., & Fri., 1:30 Sunday
 Easybridge Pairs (0-100) -- 1:30 Saturday
 Non-LM Pairs (0-500) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sat. **\$250 in cash prizes.**

Strata: A=Open A/X=3000 B=1500 C=500 D=200

Complete results from the 2004 Illini Regional.

Host hotel:

Bridge rate (\$69 double) & **free parking** at the Chancellor, 1501 S. Neil (Rt. 45) -- 3 blocks west of University of Illinois Memorial Stadium, 5 minutes from Willard Airport (CMI).

The Chancellor is a "pet-friendly" hotel with a club floor, indoor pool, game room and the popular Aunt Sonya's coffee shop. A wide variety of other restaurants are within walking distance. **MAP**

Reservations: 800-257-6667 or 217-352-7891 (ask for bridge rate). **Please reserve by May 15.**

Tuesday, May 24

7:30 -- **Big Ten KO Teams** (continues Wednesday)
 7:30 -- "Play for the Pets" Charity Pairs (to benefit the Champaign Co. Humane Society)

Wednesday, May 25 -- Seniors Day

♣ **\$4 off 2-session Open Pair entry for ages 65+.**

9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Big Ten KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
 7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Thursday, May 26 -- Illini Fans Day

♣ **\$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!**

9:30 -- **Orange & Blue KO Teams** (continues Friday)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams (Flt. A separate: Flts. BCD in one event)
 7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Friday, May 27 -- Juniors Day

♣ **Students age 25 and under play FREE in the Stratified Pairs.**

9:30 -- Orange & Blue KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
 7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Saturday, May 28 -- Jackpot Day

9:30 -- **Chief Illiniwek KO** (continues Sunday)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Pairs (Flt. A qualifying with barometer final. Flts. B & C in one event.)
 1:30 & 7:30 -- **Non-LM Championship Pairs** -- \$250 in cash prizes
 1:30 -- Easybridge Pairs (0-100)
 7:30 -- Barometer Final (2nd sess. of Flt. A Pairs)
 11:30 p.m. -- **Jackpot Individual** -- \$500 in cash prizes

Sunday, May 29

9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Chief Illiniwek KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
 1:30 & 7:30 -- **NEW: OskeeWowWow Compact KO Teams**
 1:30 -- 199er Pairs

Monday, May 30

9:45 a.m. --- **Free continental breakfast.**
 10:30 a.m. -- Morning Side-Game Series Pairs
 10:30 a.m. -- **FAST** Stratified Swiss Teams. **On the road by 6:00.**

Chairman: Karen Walker (217-359-0042)
kwalker@insightbb.com

Partners: Hugh Williams (618-203-9566) hrw97@hotmail.com
 Madhu Viswanathan madhubalan@insightbb.com



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

Editor: Susan Rechter, 35 Upper Ladue Rd., St. Louis MO 63124 (314-993-5080) susanrechter@yahoo.com

Ogust Bridge

Good bridge, bad bridge. I've had my share of both; however, it is not always the cards that are dealt me that define my game. Oftentimes, it's the people I play with and against that make the game remarkable. Over the years, I've come to appreciate Unit 143 for its myriad of players. Coy novices who acquiesce to the unsolicited advice of intermediate players. The "thousand pointers" who devolve into simian-like behavior, scratching the "multi-thousand pointers" backs. Step aside and give deference when the real bridge gods enter the arena as the stakes go up and the field shifts! It's a fascinating cross-section of people playing a game at which everyone begins at 50 percent.

I've considered the players of Unit 143. I liken them to the Ogust convention. The rating goes according to card-playing ability and table presence. Bad-bad, bad-good, good-bad, good-good. All bridge players have fit into each of the four categories one time or another, but generally speaking, tend to settle into one category more often. Those in great demand -- the good-good -- they're the ones who are quiet and pensive, easy with the cards, and who possess a "fenced" table presence. What makes a player "fenced" is that aura which envelops them at the table, and keeps the other players at bay. "Fenced" players are well-respected and usually win or scratch every time they play. Everyone at the table loves having them there. They spark good play and behavior.

It's only natural one would seek a good-good partner.

Now there are the good-bad players who are great card players but lack in table decorum. Many have been guilty of being and pairing with someone who reaps a great score but is a table monster ... annoying to the opponents, second-guessing opponents' plays, overly chatty and sometimes morosely sullen are some of the innumerable nuisances. Often times, when a good-good player is at their table, their obnoxious traits curiously disappear!

Then there are the bad-good players who are not overly serious with their game but have a ton of fun playing bridge. Hence the "fun-o-meter" button. Serendipity has it that they win or scratch but, "so what, we had a great time!" Some would argue that these players belong in the good-good category. Maybe.

Finally, the bad-bad players. Bad game, "not-our-fault" (sure), ungracious at the table (the opponents triggered it). Downright bad! I would say Unit 143 doesn't have a fixed group of bad-bads. We have all faltered into this category. Well, not all.

Next time you play, consider where you lie in terms of the Ogust Player.

News from the Clubs

Dan Schaeffer played bridge with me the other Friday at his and wife Jane's game at Olivette. He wanted to know who coined the phrase, "Minus 100 is good bridge?" Oh yeah? Not after everyone else got plusses our way! Dan's club is a tough game with a solid turnout of usually 11-12 tables. Jane always makes sure there is a generous snack buffet, but Dan won't put out BBQ potato chips! Friday, I kibitzed Peggy Wald for four boards and it was delight to watch her and Ralph Behrens play. Their signaling was impeccable and their "fence" was as pure as white picket! Their results showed!

Newcomers Larry Farris and Gretchen Smith have been having fabulous results at the 49er games. Lauds should be extended to those rookies who venture into the unlimited masterpoint games. Jay Shah, Linda Slutsky, Martha Smith and Ellen Conant have all been seen battling it out at Beth Percich's tough Saturday game! Beth is a whiz at the computer and has the uncanny ability to hear "Director, please!" while out in the parking lot!

Donna Coker's novice games are a great success! The newcomers are melding into the duplicate scene and picking up mentors to compete in the Pro-Am game this May! The Pro-Am has been a vital link for introducing newcomers to experienced players and developing friendships.

It's amazing how the game results are shifting. It seems people are playing better and the fields are becoming tougher. Bob Riggs and Art Stepp won at Mark's Monday night game the other week. That's a fun game with a devoted core base. The late Carl Schultz used to play religiously at Mark's Monday Night game. Now you can always meet up with Sue Perez, Donna Pedrotti, Eve Goodnight, Sheldon Kessler, Joan Pocost, Curtis Mann, Percy Wu, Rich Haacke, Judy Ranken, Phyllis Timerstein and Ralph Behrens, among others. Oh yes! Sandy Biggs and her shy and brilliant father, Charlie Parker! Elaborate Howell movements with relays and bye-stands are commonplace.

Unit Award Winners

Complete listings of our Unit's winners in the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Club races are posted on the Roll of Honor page on our Unit website: www.unit143.org. Congratulations to all the winners! By the way, Judy Putzel has won both the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards for the past three years! Wowee! Atta girl!

Ask the Expert

If you've ever had a question about bidding, conventions, opening leads or other bridge-related dilemmas, here's your chance to get free, expert answers. Sasanka Ramanadham has begun a new **Ask The Expert** feature on the Unit web site. Panelists are Ken Bland, Tom Kniest, Roger Lord, Sue Perez, Nancy Popkin, Fran Scheifler, Ed Schultz, Karen Walker, En Xie and Milt Zlatic.

Just send your question by email to sramanad@im.wustl.edu. Include your full name and flight (A, B or C). Questions will be collected over the first 2-3 weeks of each month and the best one from each flight level will be forwarded to the panel. Their answers will be posted by the end of each month.

The Reward: In addition to getting expert help, the three players whose questions are selected will each receive one free play at a local club's regular game. Each winner can only receive the free play once every three months.

My query is: Why do people snap their cards?

That's it for now. Will a good-good player call me for a game?

-- *The Swiss Miss*



Unit 223 Reporter

News from Southern Illinois-Paducah Unit 223
Editor: Karen Coe, 12761 Webb Hill Rd., Ewing IL 62836
(618-435-4200) finesse002002@yahoo.com

Congratulations to winners of Unit 223's 2004 Masterpoint Races:

Mini-McKenney Winners

Rookie of the Year
1. Bill Petrie - 84.68 points
2. Jim Baumeister - 68.97
3. Janet Milligan - 9.79

Junior Master of the Year
1. Dan Evers - 24.63 points
2. Annette Vaughn - 15.97
3. James Pirkle - 15.54

Club Master of the Year
1. Robertine Boivin - 55.66 points
2. Grady Thurman - 43.29
3. Peggy Eastburn - 33.41

Sectional Master of the Year
1. Bud Hawkins - 89.18 points
2. Robert Boivin - 77.15
3. Paul Hartke - 51.55

Regional Master of the Year
1. Verdene Twomey - 95.94 points
2. Doris Baer - 86.17
3. Patricia Barinotti - 75.85

NABC Master of the Year
1. Paul Quayle - 190.07 points
2. Jane Baker - 128.29
3. Dean Stow - 105.27

Life Master of the Year
1. Andrew Carver - 190.49 points
2. Dr. Robert Cundall - 106.57
3. Larry Thompson - 99.78

Bronze Life Master of the Year
1. Christopher Shaw - 209.79
2. Karen Coe - 205.76
3. Fran Russell - 184.74

Silver Life Master of the Year
1. Julia Rambo - 178.70 points
2. Bruce Gardner - 175.38
3. Robin Lampley - 174.86

Gold Life Master of the Year
1. Don Florida - 296.42 points
2. John Burgener - 272.42
3. Dalton Darnell - 222.49

Diamond Life Master of the Year
1. Bob Giles - 98.15 points

Ace of Clubs Winners

Rookie of the Year
1. Bill Petrie - 55.38 points
2. Jim Baumeister - 13.23
3. Janet Milligan - 6.54

Junior Master of the Year
1. Dan Evers - 19.50 points
2. James Pirkle - 14.08
3. Sue Gerhart - 11.52

Club Master of the Year
1. Mary M. Parker - 26.14 points
2. Peggy Eastburn - 20.68
3. Grady Thurman - 19.95

Sectional Master of the Year
1. June Neier - 28.26 points
2. Bud Hawkins - 27.79
3. Eugene Schuster - 19.54

Regional Master of the Year
1. Peggy Brady - 33.37 points
2. Doris Lattus - 29.78
3. Dr. M. F. Sehy - 25.81

NABC Master of the Year
1. Jane Baker - 74.98 points
2. Paul Quayle - 48.61
3. Ruth Crews - 46.64

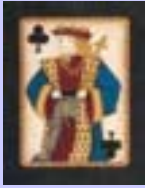
Life Master of the Year
1. Andrew Carver - 81.13 points
2. Krzysztof Jarosz - 50.17
3. Ora Brooks - 44.14

Bronze Life Master of the Year
1. Karen Coe - 60.49 points
2. Douglas Mosley - 57.48
3. Ray Sigler - 56.66

Silver Life Master of the Year
1. Julia Rambo - 136.33 points
2. Ralph Rotter Jr. - 95.28
3. Blondell Behrendt - 79.69

Gold Life Master of the Year
1. Dalton Darnell - 109.82 points
2. Jo Echols - 85.76
3. Don Florida - 26.47

Diamond Life Master of the Year
1. Bob Giles - 28.88 points



The RECAP SHEET

News from Northern Indiana Unit 154

Editor: Jim Pelletier, 11115 Bittersweet Dells, Fort Wayne IN 46814
jimpelletier@comcast.net

Annual meeting -- June 26

The Unit 154 annual meeting will be held this year on Sunday morning, June 26th at the Kokomo Sectional. The meeting will start at 9:30 A.M. just prior to the Swiss Team game. Please plan on attending to get an update on the status of the Unit and participate in the elections of area representatives for Area 1, Area 3 and Area 5. The current Board representatives and officers are:

Officers

President: Jim Davis
Vice-President: Jim Pelletier
Secretary-Treasurer: Dick Ellis
Recording Secretary: Marilyn Weisbach

Area Representatives

Area 1: Jack Spring & Joe Shull
Area 2: Dorothy Harrell
Area 3: Bill Searcy
Area 4: Sally Chapleau-Russo & Jim Feinstein
Area 5: Charles Schultz
Area 6: Chuck Briggs & Steve Watson

Upcoming tournaments in Unit 154

- Kokomo Sectional -- June 24th through June 26th
- South Bend Sectional -- August 5th through August 7th
- Fort Wayne Regional -- September 19th through September 25th
- Portage Sectional -- December 3rd through December 5th

Our deepest sympathy go out the David and Judy Cotterman. In early March, Judy's father, John W. Myers, passed away at the age of 85. John was a bridge player in the Kokomo area but stopped playing several years ago for health reasons.

Rockin' Rockford Regional June 13-19, 2005

Indoor Sports Center (ISC)
8800 East Riverside Drive • Loves Park (Rockford) IL
On I-90 exit, Riverside Drive East and go East one mile.

TOURNAMENT CHAIRS: Doug Gugger, 815-235-7566, douglbuggy@aol.com
John Pree 630-377-9116

PARTNERSHIP CHAIRS: Jan and Gene Condon, 815-633-4979, jiggs320417@cs.com

299ER AND NEWCOMER CHAIR: Mary Jo Sergeant, 815-874-4157, mjosarge@aol.com

HOSPITALITY CHAIRS: Lucille Chafie, 815-758-6407 & Dee Witte, 815-623-6167

Four Knockout series and two Swiss Teams

*A great regional
for teams!*

Choice Pairs
Play any two of three sessions

*A great regional
for players with under
300 MPs*

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT SCHEDULE

KO #1: 7:00 pm Monday, 9:30 am, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Tuesday
KO #2: 9:30 am Wednesday, 9:30 am, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Thursday
KO #3: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Friday, 9:30 am & 2:00 pm Saturday
Compact KO: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Saturday

Host Hotel: Days Inn & Suites, 4313 N. Bell School Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111. Approximately 1 mile west of Indoor Sports Center via Riverside Drive, then north on Bell School Road (first street west of I-90).

Reservations: 815-282-9300. Std. King room: \$73; Std. Double Queen rooms: \$73.
Refer group code 0613

Continental Breakfast. Microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker in rooms.

SPLIT REGIONAL / SPLIT REGIONAL

Champagne Regional • Paducah, KY June 13-19, 2005

Hotel Information:
J.R.'s Executive Inn
One Executive Blvd.
Paducah KY

800-866-3636 or 270-443-8000
\$50, 1-4 people
Under new ownership!

Famous Paducah Hospitality

Monday	7 pm	Charity Pairs Bracketed Knockout I (cont. Tues. 7)	2 pm	Bracketed Knockout III (Round 2) Bracketed Knockout IV (Round 2)
Tuesday	9:30 am	Bracketed Knockout II (Round 1 of 4) Stratified Choice Pairs (Session 1 of 3)	7 pm	Bracketed Knockout IV (Round 2) Stratified Choice Pairs (2 of 3) Compact Knockout II (Rounds 1 & 2) Stratified Choice Pairs (3 of 3)
	2 pm	Bracketed Knockout II (Round 2) Stratified Choice Pairs (2 of 3)	Saturday	9:30 am
	7 pm	Bracketed Knockout I (Round 2) Stratified Choice Pairs (3 of 3)		Bracketed Knockout IV (Round 3) Bracketed Knockout V (Round 1) Stratified Choice Pairs (1 of 3) Bracketed Knockout IV (Round 4) Bracketed Knockout V (Round 2) Stratified Choice Pairs (2 of 3)
Wednesday	9:30 am	Bracketed Knockout II (Round 3) Stratified Swiss Teams (Session 1)	2 pm	Compact Knockout II (Rounds 3 & 4) Bracketed Knockout V (Round 3) Stratified Choice Pairs (3 of 3)
	2 pm	Bracketed Knockout II (Round 4) Stratified Swiss Teams (Session 2)	7 pm	
	7 pm	Bracketed Knockout I (Round 3) Compact Knockout I (Rounds 1 & 2)	Sunday	9:30 am
Thursday	9:30 am	Bracketed Knockout III (Round 1) Stratified Choice Pairs (Session 1 of 3)		Bracketed Knockout V (Round 4) <i>May be earlier by agreement</i> Stratified Swiss Teams <i>Play through with concessions</i> Stratified Open Pairs
	2 pm	Bracketed Knockout III (Round 2) Stratified Choice Pairs (2 of 3)	9:30 am	& 2 pm
	7 pm	Compact Knockout 1 (3 & 4 of 4) Bracketed Knockout I (Final) Stratified Choice Pairs (3 of 3)		

STRATA FOR ALL EVENTS:
C=0-500 B=500-1500 A=1500+

MONDAY, JUNE 13
7:00 Stratified Open Charity Pairs

TUESDAY, JUNE 14
9:30 am Side Game Series #1, 1st
9:30, 2:00 & 7:00 Stratified Choice Pairs
2:00, 7:00 Side Game Series #2, 1 & 2
2:00, 7:00 Stratified 299er Pairs*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15
9:30 am Side Game Series #1, 2nd
2:00, 7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams
2:00, 7:00 Side Game Series #2, 3 & 4
2:00, 7:00 Stratified 299er Pairs*

THURSDAY, JUNE 16
9:30 am Side Game Series #1, 3rd
9:30, 2:00 & 7:00 Stratified Choice Pairs
2:00, 7:00 Side Game Series #3, 1 & 2
2:00, 7:00 Stratified 299er Pairs*

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
9:30 am Side Game Series #1, 4th
9:30, 2:00 & 7:00 Stratified Choice Pairs
2:00, 7:00 Side Game Series #3, 3 & 4
2:00, 7:00 Stratified 299er Pairs*

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
9:30, 2:00 & 7:00 Stratified Choice Pairs
9:30, 2:00 & 7:00 Stratified 299er Pairs*

SUNDAY, JUNE 19
9:30 & 2:00 Stratified Open Pairs
11:00 am Strat. Swiss Tms - Playthrough

*All Stratified 299er Games Are Single-Session Events

STRATIFICATIONS

Open and Swiss: 1500+; 500-1500; 0-500
299er Pairs: 200-300; 100-200; 0-100

Hosted by ACBL Unit 223

Tournament Chairs
Robin Lampley & Bruce Gardner
270-443-2722
bgardner04@comcast.net

Partnerships
Maxine Wynn, 270-554-5719

**Side Game Series every session
Tuesday-Saturday
(Morning, Afternoon and Evening events)**
**299er games every session
Tuesday-Saturday -
Choice Pairs (Play any 2 of 3 sessions)**

Unsurpassed Hospitality!
SOMETHING DIFFERENT EVERY NIGHT!

Open bar, pizza and beer blast,
ice cream social, and our unique
champagne party



Pioneer Sectional April 23 & 24, 2005

Hendelmeyer Park,
1906 S. 4th Street, Effingham IL

Saturday, April 23

1:00 & 7:00 -- Two-session Stratified Open Pairs

1:00 & 7:00 -- Single-session 99er Pairs (if attendance warrants)

Party after the evening session.

Sunday, April 24

10:30 & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams (two-session playthrough)

10:30 & TBA -- Two-session 99er Swiss Teams

Super dinner served between sessions.

Entry fees: \$8 per person session on Saturday; \$22 for two sessions on Sunday (includes dinner).

Lodging: Major chain motels located at interstate exits 159 & 160.

Directions: Take exit 159 from I-70/I-57. Go east on Fayette and turn south on 4th Street.

Info: Kate Dickens (217) 868-5462 nonnie@ineffingham.com

Park District phone: (217) 342-4415



St. Louis Spring Sectional

May 20-22, 2005

Blanchette Park Memorial Hall, St. Charles MO

Friday May 20

1:30 -- Stratified Open & Novice/Intermediate Pairs

7:30 -- Flight A/X Open Pairs (0-3000 & 3000+)

7:30-- Stratified BCD Pairs (0-200 / 200-750 / 750-1500)

Saturday May 21

9:00 am -- Knockout Teams (continues at 1:30 & 7:30)

1:30 & 7:30 -- Two-session Stratified Open Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Single-session Novice/Intermediate Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Single-session Side Games

Sunday May 22

10 a.m. & TBA -- Two-session Stratified Swiss Teams

Sat. & Sun. Strata: A=Open B=0-1500 C=0-500 (non-LM)

- Guest speakers on Friday (12:45 and 6:45) & Saturday (12:45)
- Terrific hospitality after the evening sessions.
- Saturday: Lunch buffet for all KO Team entrants.
- Sunday: Continental breakfast (9:00 am) and hot buffet dinner between sessions.

Directions: From I-70, take 5th Street north 1.8 miles to Randolph. Turn left and go 1/2 mile to the park entrance on the right (1900 W. Randolph).

Chairman: Mike Carmen -- 314-872-8439 macarmen@mail.com

Partners: Mary Hruby -- 314-739-1574

For more info, see our Unit website: www.unit143.org