

February  
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District 8  
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Editor: [Karen Walker](#),  
Champaign IL

## MIDWEST TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

- Feb.**        **3-9**    **District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs**, Local clubs    [Online STAC results](#)  
10-12        West Allis WI Sectional, State Fair Park  
11-12        Owensboro KY Sectional, Elizabeth Munday Center  
17-19        Louisville KY Sectional, Best Western Brownsboro  
24-26        Branson MO Sectional, Chateau on the Lake  
**27**        **ACBL-wide Seniors Game** (Ages 55+; daytime session), Local clubs
- March**        03-05    Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional, Hult Health Ctr, Peoria IL ([Bernie Riley](#))  
                  03-05    Kentucky Dam Sectional, Gilbertsville KY ([Sandra Lemon](#))  
17-19        Elgin IL Sectional, Elgin Community College ([Karl Dencker](#))  
11        199er Sectional, Garden Villas West, Town & Cntry MO ([Mary Hruby](#))  
30-Apr. 9        **SPRING NABC**, Downtown Hyatt, Dallas TX
- April**        07-09        Dubuque IA Sectional, Julien Inn  
17-23        GATLINBURG TN REGIONAL, Convention Ctr. ([Schedule](#))  
                  22-23    Effingham IL Sectional, Hendelmeyer Park ([Kate Dickens](#))  
28-30        Cedar Falls IA Sectional, Community Center
- May**        **06-07**    **DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS**, IDOT Building, Springfield IL  
19-21        St. Louis Sectional, Blanchette Park, St. Charles MO ([Mike Carmen](#))  
**23-29**    **ILLINI REGIONAL**, Hawthorn Suites, Champaign IL ([Karen Walker](#))

**Complete schedule of ACBL tournaments:** <http://www.acbl.org>

**District 8 web site:** <http://home.insightbb.com/~m.tomlianovich/d8.htm>

***Get your team together for the***  
**District 8 Grand  
National Teams  
May 6 & 7, 2006  
IDOT Building, Springfield  
IL**



- ♠ **Saturday, May 6: 1:00 & 7:00 pm -- 2-Session qualifying**
- ♠ **Sunday, May 7: 10:30 am & TBA -- Knockout finals  
12:30 pm -- Open Pairs side game**

Trips to Chicago -- and regional-rated gold points -- are featured in the 2006 District 8 finals of this national team event. Any team of four, five or six District 8 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 Chicago in July.

**Your flight eligibility** is determined by the number of masterpoints you held on September 1, 2005.

**Please note:** All members of your team must be members of District 8, which means your residence (not just your mailing address) must be in the geographical area covered by our District's five Units. If you live in a bordering District but you consider yourself a participating member of District 8, you should double check your status with the event coordinator, Georgia Heth.

**Directions:** The IDOT (Illinois Dept. of Transportation) 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.

**Event coordinator:** Georgia Heth -- 309-263-0242 [gkheth@hotmail.com](mailto:gkheth@hotmail.com)



# District President's Report

by **Martha Leary, Urbana IL**

**President of the District 8 Board of Directors**

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Winter is a slow time for the workings of the District 8 Board. Our next meeting is at the Champaign Regional during the Memorial Day weekend (May 23-29). This winter break is a great time for us to hear from your ideas, concerns and suggestions for ways we can improve to the services we offer to our members.

Did you know that District 8 currently has one of the smallest membership numbers in the ACBL? As of the end of 2005, we were 3211 members strong. The largest membership is 17,725 in District 9 (the entire state of Florida, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Can you imagine trying to get your thoughts heard in District 9? Please do not hesitate to contact your Unit Representatives with input you may have. (A list of Board members can be found in my column in the [October 2005 issue](#) of the *Advocate*.)

I hope you're all enjoying winning loads of **SILVER POINTS** during the Winter Sectional-Tournament-at-Clubs games. They are going on now at your local clubs, February 3 through 9. Check with your Club Managers.

The District Board is searching for a member who can represent the District on the ACBL Board of Governors. The Board of Governors meets three times a year during the NABC tournaments. The representative would need to be able to attend the meetings on a regular basis. Chris Benson from Leroy IL and Leah Newell from Springfield IL are our current representatives on the Board. We are in need of a third representative. If you have an interest, please email me at [martha@marthaleary.com](mailto:martha@marthaleary.com) for more information.

**Do you have your team formed for the Grand National Team event yet?** Perhaps your club manager can help you put together a team. The event will take place May 6 and 7 at the IDOT Building in Springfield IL. Win a trip to Chicago NABC in July!!

Speaking of the NABCs, how lucky are we to be hosting the Spring 2007 national tournament in St. Louis? A big thanks to Mike Carmen, Glenn Smith and all the Unit 143 players who are working hard to make this an awesome tournament.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy spring,  
-- *Martha*

# Director, please

by David Stevenson, Liverpool, England

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**Question** (from Tennessee): Here is a deal from a local club game. South opens 1NT (15-17) and his LHO, West, makes a natural overcall of 2C. North now bids 2D, which South announces as a transfer to hearts. The 2D bidder now blurts out, "I meant to bid Stayman!" Obviously this is unauthorized information, but how should you rule?

**Stevenson:** If called at the time, the director should warn the 1NT opener that his partner's comment is UI (unauthorized information), and he should try as hard as possible to take no advantage whatever, which appears to mean bidding as though 2D was transfer. The director should suggest to the other side that if they have any worries about whether opener has taken any advantage (and stress that he does not necessarily mean *deliberately* taken advantage) that they should call him back at the end of the hand.

If called back to the table -- or even if called for the first time at the end -- the director should look at the 1NT opener's actions to make sure that he has bid throughout as though 2D was a transfer, and adjust the score on the board if he has any doubt.

If the director was not called during the auction, he should also point out to everyone, but especially to the opponents, that when something goes wrong, they should call the director immediately. He should also be more sympathetic to a pair who has gone wrong because he did not get a chance to warn them.

**Follow-up question:** Thanks for your explanation. You didn't mention that the 2D bidder can change her bid. Everybody forgets that one, or have I got it wrong?

**Stevenson:** I am afraid you have got it wrong. *Mechanical* errors can be changed without penalties. This is so well known that in much of the world, people just change their calls without bothering the director and without comments from the opponents.

However, this was not a mechanical error. It is clear from the comment, "I meant to bid Stayman", that she bid 2D because she meant to bid 2D, so it is not a mechanical error. Sure, she has made an error, but whether it was that she thought 2D was Stayman in this auction (most likely, I would judge) or that she forgot to double (which is Stayman) and bid 2D instead (possible, especially in North America, where this is often played as Stayman), it was not a mechanical error.

Admittedly there is a Law -- 25B -- which allows players to change a call with penalties. It is the worst Law in the book, actively disliked, going to disappear in the next Law book (we hope and trust). Correct director practice is considered not to offer it, but only to apply it if a player has made an effort to change a call which in fact cannot be changed under the mechanical error Law, 25A. Since there was no effort to actually change the call here, it is correct that the director should not offer Law 25B, nor mention it. In practice, if a director ever does apply Law 25B, the players never believe him and assume he is making it up for fun. It is that bad a Law.

# District 8 player wins Indian championship

Congratulations to **Madhu Viswanathan** of Champaign IL, who was the trophy winner in the Ruia Silver Swiss Team event at the 47th annual Winter National Championships. The tournament, sponsored by the Bridge Federation of India, was held from December 27 to January 6 in Chennai, India.



Madhu, who lives in Champaign IL, is a professor of business administration at the University of Illinois.

Madhu (left in the photo) played on the "Chennai Online" team, which scored 199 victory points in the two-day, ten-match event. Other members of the team (left to right) are A. S. Viswanathan, L. N. Shyamsundar and L. Ravichandran. Not pictured are C. Rangarajan and Pradeep Kulkarni.

The Daily Bulletin with the story about their win is [here](#). The previous day's [Bulletin](#) reported on this deal from a Ruia Silver match between Madhu's team, Chennai online, and the Borivili Sports Club team.

## Taking your opponents for a ride

Dealer: West  
NS vulnerable

♠ T9  
♥ KQT64  
♦ KJ72  
♣ 42

♠ Q3  
♥ 95  
♦ 86543  
♣ KJ75

♠ 65  
♥ A873  
♦ QT  
♣ AQT83

♠ AKJ8742  
♥ J2  
♦ A9  
♣ 96

West	North	East	South
<i>Visu</i>		<i>Madhu</i>	
Pass	Pass	1C	1S
2C	2H	3C	3S
3NT	<i>All Pass</i>		

Taking advantage of the vulnerability and ready to sacrifice in clubs, Madhu's partner tried a "just kidding" 3NT. The contract went down six tricks for minus 300, but it was an 8-IMP pickup for Madhu's team. At the other table, Madhu's team-mate bid a direct 4S over the 1C opening bid and scored up +620.

# 2005 Solvers Forum Honor Roll

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Congratulations to winner of the 2005 Solvers Forum contest: **Oyvind Tafjord** of Eugene, Oregon. He averaged 586 on last year's sets to top all other Solvers and win a seat on the 2006 panel.

Thanks to all who participated. Rankings are based on your best three scores, so there's plenty of time to enter the 2006 contest. Just fill out the [web form](#) with your answers to the April problems and submit by March 20. Top runners-up in 2005 were:

Gary Dell, Champaign IL	Bud Hinckley, South Bend IN
Kevin Jones, Crestwood KY	George Klemic, Bensenville IL
Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL	Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL
Mike Giacaman, St. Louis	Judy Eaton, Carbondale IL
Bob Bernhard, New Smyrna Bch FL	Fred Sandegren, Quincy IL
Paul Soper, Sierra Vista AZ	Don Mathis, Florissant MO
Bill Rotter, Granite City IL	Mason Myers, Chesterfield MO
John Seng, Champaign IL	Bob Shair, Champaign IL
Micah Fogel, Aurora IL	Zoran Bohacek, Zagreb, Croatia
Bill Johnson, Farmington MO	Leroy Boser, Elkhart IN
Doug Jonquet, Decatur IL	Rich Peer, St. Louis
Bruce Kretchmer, Boynton Bch FL	Glenn Smith, Creve Coeur MO
Dave Wetzel, Rantoul IL	Len Vishnevsky, San Francisco
Steve Babin, Normal IL	Bob Carteaux, Ft. Wayne IN
Greg Berry, Sleepy Hollow IL	Warren Bosch, Elgin IL
	Spencer Pasero, Batavia IL



# District 8 Solvers Forum -- February 2006

by Tom Kniest, St. Louis MO

## 1. IMPs, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1D	3C	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠K84 ♥AQ10932  
♦106 ♣96 ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3H	100	17	80
Pass	50	1	3
DBL	50	0	8
4H	50	0	9

It's been a pretty much snow-less winter in St. Louis, but still chilly. I'm inching towards full retirement, and a trip to sunny Puerto Vallarta in January prepared my hide somewhat for my February cruise in the Caribbean. Prior to that, I'm going to check out the bridge in Hilton Head.

We welcome guest panelists Richard Pavlicek and Harold Feldheim, who bring their name recognition and vast tournament experience to our humble forum. Bridge Baron has also graced our presence with the super logic that only software can produce. Lastly, we acknowledge the relocation of long-time panelist, Larry Matheny, to the cheerful environs of Loveland CO.

This first problem is pretty straightforward, so we won't waste much time on it. The lone voice of dissent came from:

DODD: "Pass. Why, oh why, don't we play non-forcing freebids in this system? 3H is begging for trouble opposite an aggressive North and negative double deserves to hear a 4S rebid opposite."

A handful of Solvers opted for the negative double, but the panel saw the same problems with that action as DODD mentions. I'd like to hear Marty Bergen's choice for this one. His theory of negative doubles at the three-level is that they always invite 3NT. How would you like that contract here if partner has a heart fit and a soft club stopper?

The rest of the panel came to the conclusion that no matter what your reservations about your strength, bidding 3H here is "just bridge".

MATHENY: "3H. Damn, it's cold out here."

LINDEMANN: "3H. I hate to sell out to a preempt when we could have a game."

BRIDGE BARON: "3H. Using the irrefutable logic of ones and zeros, this is the only possible bid."

MERRITT: "3H. I'm no pansy."

Really? A good number of Solvers actually bid 4H!

## 2. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

\* Fourth-suit force, may be artificial

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3H	100	7	54
3C	90	5	26
4H	70	4	16
3S	70	1	2
RDBL	50	1	2

What is your call as South holding: ♠Void ♥942 ♦A9543 ♣AKQ87 ?

Here's a problem with many angles. Using the theory of game before slam, it makes sense to show the known heart fit now, without creating a complicated auction that caters to finding the best slam. A jump to 4H would show extra values, and several panelists decided that's what this hand was worth. Speaking for them:

PAVLICEK: "4H. Seems right to show that I'm proud of the preference (even if 3H is forcing) in case partner has slam aspirations. It is arguable that 3S shows this hand (0-3-5-5), but I'd rather make a practical bid than win the postmortem."

The majority, though, had reservations about using up so much space in the auction:

WALKER: "3H. There's no guarantee partner has a five-card heart suit, so I don't think I can safely make a true 'value bid' (4H) here. If partner has a strong hand and/or support for one of my minors, the jump uses up a lot of his bidding room, and may convince partner my hearts are a lot better than 9xx."

FEILER: "3H. Bridge World Standard says the fourth suit is forcing one round, unless it's a reverse, in which case it's forcing to game. I'll start by showing my three-card support and take another bid later."

Some of the Solvers who chose 4H said they were afraid partner might pass 3H, but as FEILER points out, partner's 2S bid was indeed a reverse, so it's forcing to game. The fourth-suit auction is the only way he has to check back for three-card heart support or show you a forcing raise in one of your minors. I suspect partner has "real" hearts and spades on this auction, but it's also possible he has good support for one of your minors, with or without five hearts, and if so, you could have a game or slam in the minor. Your hand is also suitable for 3NT if partner has spade values.

These panelists wanted to cater to the minor-suit possibilities by giving partner a full picture of their distribution:

FOGEL: "3C. Finish bidding your shape. Your next call will be a heart raise."

PAULO: "3C. As the fourth suit is a reverse, I assume it's game forcing, so I can show my fifth club before raising hearts."

STRITE: “3C. I’d probably bid 3C on 0-3-5-5 regardless of how my high cards are distributed, but xxx in support of partner against the opportunity to emphasize my fine clubs makes this problem easier. I’ll support hearts next, unless partner raises clubs.”

So many choices. And now, here come the opponents. Are they helping or hindering you with the double? One thing I know for sure: you don’t redouble here unless you’ve discussed it with partner...and he has a good memory. The mild interference had some panelists worrying about spade preemption, maybe to the 4 level, by LHO:

KESSLER: “3H. I think I need to show three hearts before this auction gets out of hand. There is a good chance LHO will raise spades. If so, at least partner will know we are short in spades, and this should help with his next call.”

Since we have vulnerable opponents who both eschewed one-level overcalls, I’d cheerfully honor partner’s penalty double of any sacrifices they offer now.

FELDHEIM: “3S. I love to win postmortems! A super opportunity supplied by East! My hand is great for anything partner is thinking and I can show that in one bid!”

Calm down, Harold.

### 3. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
--	--	--	1D
Pass	1H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠AQ74 ♥KQ86  
♦AJ84 ♣K ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4H	100	10	38
4C	80	5	34
3H	70	1	12
2S	70	1	6
1S	50	1	10

The argument here seems to boil down to a "do-you-or-don't-you" decision about making a splinter raise with a singleton king. The majority passed on that opportunity with this hand

FEILER: “4H. Auctions that show a singleton are a bad choice with a singleton king, and 2NT isn’t 100% forcing, so I’ll stick with the strong balanced raise.”

PAVLICEK: “4H. I’d rather convey a balanced raise than show a dubious splinter. The ‘aces and eights’ could be an omen to only bid 3H, as I’m sure partner will end up a dead man.”

FOGEL: “4H. Goren says a 20-count with 4 trumps is a raise to 4. This is close enough.”

TAFJORD: “4H. With five losers, a jump to 3H might be enough, but there should be a play for four opposite most hands, even though the value of the Club King is unclear.”

WALKER: “4H. I don’t have any objections to splintering with a stiff king if the rest of the hand is right for it, but I don’t think this one has enough strength in the other suits to send that message. It may

be closer to a 3H call.”

MERRITT: “4H. Am I getting old and boring?”

I'm with the old-and-boring majority here. I'm showing a lot of strength with the jump to 4H. If partner has length and strength in clubs and is interested in slam, I have a suitable holding for him, so I don't want to him to evaluate his club strength as wastage. Against that, someday, he might be loaded everywhere except clubs, but I haven't denied a club control, so slam is still possible.

Still, those who chose the splinter raise offered some good arguments:

DODD: “4C. Not exactly best with the king, but it just feels right with the 4-4-4-1 distribution, the controls and the trump quality.”

FELDHEIM: “4C. I hate singleton kings, but in a sense, it reduces the general power to where a splinter makes sense. With a singleton small club and a king in one of the other suits, the hand is too good for a splinter.”

MATHENY: “4C. I thought chains for tires were a thing of the past.”

NELSON: “4C. In my younger years, I wouldn't have splintered with a stiff ace or king. However, about 7-8 years ago, I had a conversation with Bobby Goldman, who told me that when the Aces studied together, analyzing many hands, they decided that singleton honors shouldn't deter them from showing their shape.”

There was some support for showing the spades and constructing another "picture-bid" auction.

LINDEMANN: "1S. This is forcing and will give me a chance to hear more about North's hand. I can always jump to 4H if I don't hear something I like."

This could work, but it's risky, as we've all passed this bid before. If partner stretched to respond (which he might do with something like 3-5-1-4 and a 5-count), he'll be happy to get out the green card . The stronger version of this approach was advocated by:

PAULO: “2S. Natural and forcing. Afterwards, I will raise hearts, showing my shape and good values.”

And then there's the weaker version:

KESSLER: “3H. My partners need to play the dummy well to accommodate my aggressiveness, even at matchpoints. I just think that with a control in all suits and passing opponents, this is the best action.”

This is what happens when you try to answer a question while driving, smoking and talking on a cell phone.

#### 4. IMPs, none vulnerable

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4D	100	8	74

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

4S	80	6	8
3H	70	3	6
3S	60	1	2
Other	50	0	10

What is your call as South holding: ♠A53 ♥AJ98654  
 ♦Void ♣A82 ?

Here's another hand where it would be interesting to get Marty Bergen's or Larry Cohen's views. Look at that heart suit. It's good enough to play opposite a void, and based on the distribution of the remaining ones, you figure to have a nine-card fit on average, and at least eight most of the time. Yet, here's the panel giving little thought to rebidding hearts.

PAVLICEK: "4D. Bidding 4H could easily miss a slam, and 3H isn't forcing, so I'll show my spade fit, diamond control, and extras."

DODD: "4D. We could be gin for a grand or struggling to make 5 or 6."

FEILER: "4D. What I'm hoping for is a 5D bid from the opponents, after which I'll try 5H. That may actually show my hand."

FELDHEIM: "4D. Another cuebid! This is an easy one. if partner signs off, I'll make one more try with 5C."

NELSON: "4D. Cuebid to show the spade fit. I love all my controls."

MERRITT: "4D. Four first round controls! Woohoo, happy days!"

There's some enthusiasm for you. I have to get some of whatever he's imbibing while he answers these problems.

PAULO: "4D. With all first-round controls and spade support, I must bid with enthusiasm."

You could try a partnership with MERRITT and learn to bid with enthusiasm regardless of what you hold :)

At least the 4D bidders have kept hearts open as a possible trump suit. Partner may come up with a heart cuebid (or is it natural?), in which case you might well decide to play your game or slam in hearts (opting for the easier handling offered the longer trump suit). On the other hand, many hands where partner has a stiff heart and strong spades will result in taking all 13 tricks without a club lead.

FOGEL: "4S. I don't think this call will win the contest, but will win the most IMPs in the long run. Partner has 5+ spades, so we have a confirmed fit. If he has heart fillers, we have a second suit. If not, spades is a better contract, so I bid the most likely game. This hand is much harder at matchpoints. I'd probably cuebid and then have to guess at my next turn."

WALKER: "4S. I'm already showing a pretty big hand with a two-level overcall and a jump to game.

I'd like to have more strength, or at least more trumps, for a 4D cuebid. With just three trumps, the void isn't going to be a trick-taking bonanza, and with just one outside entry to my heart suit, it may take some luck to turn it into a source of tricks."

MATHENY: "4S. The only thing that keeps me warm up here is thinking about the cheerleaders in nearby Boulder."

TAFJORD: "4S. Six losers and a two-level overcall behind me, I'm tempted to just bid 3S. On a diamond lead, I hope to set up the heart suit with a club entry, or maybe we have running hearts, so I shoot for 4S. A creative double might work as an invitation here."

It boggles my mind to see all of those 4S bidders looking at those controls when partner is unlimited. Some even described this hand as invitational. Do they think partner will have a hand that can bid over 4S? If you've ever read the *Bridge World's* columns on "Assess the Blame" features, you know you'd be shown no mercy if you'd passively bid 4S with this hand.

There are also some three-level bids available, chosen by:

WILLIAMS: "3S. Describes the hand perfectly, well as close to perfect as you can get. 4S is likely to get us too high and 4D should have a fourth trump."

KESSLER: "3H. Seven-card suits are meant to be rebid. This hand could easily play better in hearts than spades, and this is the last time to let partner know our hearts are long and good. Once we bid 3S, it will be very hard to convince partner we have seven good hearts. The real problem is what to bid over 5D doubled by partner."

RABIDEAU: "3H. I can't stand to pass up rebidding a decent seven-card suit unless there's no other option. If partner has any kind of fit, this type of hand usually plays better in the long suit. We can raise spades on the next round, if that seems appropriate, even though partner may worry that we only have a doubleton."

STRITE: "3H. Forcing and descriptive. If partner supports or rebids spades, it becomes a question of six or seven. I can probably risk the Grand Slam Force in hearts, but would settle for 6S."

## 5. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1NT
2S	3D	Pass	3NT
Pass	4S	DBL	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠K854 ♥K103  
♦A65 ♣AJ6 ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
5C	100	9	42
Pass	80	3	18
4NT	70	2	4
5D	60	3	24
6D	60	0	6
RDBL	50	1	6

Lots of choices on this one. Ed Schultz sent this as a quiz to a number of top players, and they couldn't

agree on the best action. What they did agree on was that they you need to have agreements with your regular partner about this situation.

The majority of the panel either wanted -- or felt compelled -- to cooperate with partner's slam aspirations:

KESSLER: "5C. Partner knows I have diamond support from my opening bid. When partner cuebids, I tend to cuebid back when I have a control that is convenient to show."

FOGEL: "5C. Partner says he has a big diamond hand and is making a cuebid. You can cuebid back cheaply, so do so. I don't know what kind of hand partner rates to have, but he's captain, so I do what I'm told."

STRITE: "5C. Whatever partner needs for 6D, I probably have it, so start cuebidding. Passing to allow partner to redouble lets a 5S interference call by the opponents ruin the fun. If partner signs off in 5D, I can raise to 6D based on the Heart King."

WALKER: "5C. With three-card support and three prime cards, I think this hand is worth some encouragement. A redouble, to show second round control, probably isn't what partner wants to hear, as his cuebid suggests he's void in spades. With a singleton spade, he could have extracted a cuebid from me with a simple 4D rather than using up the entire four level."

RABIDEAU: "5C. My first thought was 'only 11-12 working points.' But what can partner have for this sequence? Surely no less than ♠Void ♥Qxx ♦KQxxxxx ♣KQx. And lots of holdings are cold for 6D or 7D."

PAULO: "5C. My weak 1NT opening became weaker, but it didn't vanish. With support, I can't reject the club cuebid. Partner may have, for example, ♠Void ♥AQxx ♦KQxxxxx ♣xx."

The panel did a pretty good job of guessing partner's hand. Partner actually held Paulo's example hand, but with ♣Qx.

MERRITT: "5C. Positive without going over the edge. Wasted king, but Ace-Ace-King and the third diamond excite me enough to move forward."

I'd like to watch him play poker (or play against him).

Even though no panel member voted for 6D, I raised that score because now your Spade King is pulling full weight. You know RHO is going to lead the Spade Ace against the slam, which will give partner a tempo and a discard on his King.

The rest of the panel was more pessimistic about their values for a diamond contract, and some were still hoping to steer the hand back into notrump:

FELDHEIM: "4NT. Hmm ... finally a puzzlement. My tendency would be to devalue this hand since, despite two aces, this is a minimum with a useless Spade King. So, depending on agreements, pass or 4NT (my choice) is appropriate. I need another move from partner for slam."

FEILER: "Pass. I don't think I should bid 4NT myself with only one stopper. If it's right, maybe pard will get an attack of brilliance and bid it himself. If he redoubles to show a void, I'll bid 5C."

DODD: "Pass. By most systems, this should show second-round control when East tosses in a double like this (Redouble would show the ace.) 4NT might work when 6D goes down, but I'd want a second high spade to sign off so hard. I'm hopeful to get to the right spot this way. My hand hasn't gotten any better, and North can still bid 4NT if he so chooses."

DODD brings up an interesting point about how to interpret a Redouble here. Redouble would show the ace if partner's 4S was a general force and not a control cuebid. Most of our panel, though, thinks partner is definitely showing a first-round control in spades. In that case, your redouble would show second-round control.

PAVLICEK: "Pass. Failure to bid 4NT rules out extreme spade wastage, but the hand is hardly worth further encouragement. Passing also allows us to play 4NT if partner has, say, ♠x ♥Axx ♦KQ10xxx ♣Kxx."

I can't figure out why partner would bid past 3NT with that 12-count. The panel had plenty of pessimists, though, who seemed to be expecting Pavlicek's example hand:

WILLIAMS: "Redouble. I'm showing partner I have second-round spade control. This should warn him off a slam if he's worried about spade wastage. 4NT by partner should be to play."

MATHENY: "5D. Chopping my own wood for my pot-bellied stove has really reduced my utility payments...and my waistline."

NELSON: "5D. I don't really like my bid, but my hand went down the drain on this auction. Wish it were partner who was bidding spades."

Of all these alternative choices, I think Pass makes some sense, as it allows partner to redouble. The problem comes when your partner finds the blue card too heavy to lift and just bids 5D, back to you. Now don't you wish you had taken the opportunity to bid 5C on the way?

## 6. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
--	1S	3D	3S
4D	4H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠K43 ♥Q1086  
♦54 ♣KJ83 ?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4S	100	12	38
5H	90	5	6
Pass	50	1	52
Other	50	0	4

This is the kind of at-the-table problem that requires experience and some expert-level logic to arrive at the "right" answer. It's also a good example of a situation you should discuss with your regular partner.

More than half the Solvers thought partner's 4H was just offering a choice of games, and they were happy to pass. As the panel emphasizes, though, just wishing it doesn't make it so:

FEILER: "4S. 4H is a cuebid; not a second suit."

DODD: "4S. Anyone who passes here is playing with fire. Even if 4H is an offer to play there, the (possible) 4-4 fit is unlikely to score up more tricks. I would like to bid more strongly, but the doubleton diamond and no aces is not a good sign."

MATHENY: "4S. I thought when I left the chilling steppes of central IL, I'd never have to wear long underwear again."

FOGEL: "4S. I don't have much extra, and with no aces, I don't want to risk anything higher. I'm not sure that maybe my first call should have been a negative double, then preferencing to spades to show this hand."

FOGEL was the only panelist who mentioned that he would have considered a negative double with this hand, as I would. The problem forced the 3S bid on us. When we're preempted, we often stretch to show a fit, but since we have sufficient values to play at the three-level and three possible places to play, I think the negative double possibility is worthy of discussion.

STRITE: "4S. I'm good, but not great, for my bidding. I'll take the average minus for missing a close slam unless partner can muster one more try."

TAFJORD: "4S. Whether this is a cuebid or a second suit, I'm pretty much a minimum with no controls to show, so I'll correct to 4S to be on the safe side."

KESSLER: "4S. I play 4H as forward-going, but not necessarily a heart suit or control. It's partner's only slam try below 4S."

KESSLER is referring to what's called a "Last Train" cuebid, which shows mild slam interest but doesn't necessarily promise a control in the suit. That's one of the possible interpretations of partner's bid; he could also be showing a "real" control, or a strong 5-4 or 5-5 hand. Several 4S bidders mentioned that since they didn't know for sure what partner had, they were choosing 4S as the "safe" or "covering all bases" bid.

WILLIAMS: "4S. Nothing left in the tank. I'm not quite sure why this hand is in a bidding contest. Are you really supposed to bid 5H with a dead minimum and no ace or king of hearts?"

It sounds like he could use an injection of MERRITT's optimism. So why is this a problem? Here are the answers of four panelists who figured out what they needed to do and weren't afraid to go with the courage of their convictions. This minority has such fine credentials that I've promoted their choice in the scoring.

FELDHEIM: "5H. We've been preempted, so just in case, I'm showing a useful hand, no aces and two diamond losers. This may go set a trick, but Pass is just too chicken."

PAULO: "5H. I take partner's rebid as natural, inviting slam. I cooperate, showing support and implying lack of aces and diamond control."

PAVLICEK: "5H. As I play, 4H is a slam try, so I make the obvious raise, implying no diamond control. Even those who play 4H as shape-descriptive for competitive purposes would surely agree it is forcing, so pass seems unfathomable."

WALKER: "5H. There may be a good argument for playing 4H as non-forcing, but without a special agreement to that effect, I have to bid. Partner could have lots of different hands for his 4H bid, but they're all strong. That means the five-level should be safe, so it looks right to tell partner which suit you prefer."

Right. If partner has a great hand with the majors and a diamond control, I have what he needs. Ironically, if you had made a negative double and partner had bid 4H over 4D, you couldn't justify taking another bid, so your heavy raise to 3S put you in a position to bid a difficult slam.

For another view of this problem, see the "Bidding Matters" column in the January 2005 issue of the *Bulletin*. As pointed out there, there are two almost-universal agreements you can apply to a when-in-doubt situation like this one:

- (1) If it could be forcing, it is.
- (2) If it could be natural, it is.

I think most of us could design our entire bidding systems around those two ideas and get by nicely.

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Thanks again to Richard Pavlicek (try his bidding and play quizzes on [www.rpbridge.net](http://www.rpbridge.net)) and Harold Feldheim for sharing their wisdom with the panelists and solvers. Thanks, too, to all who sent in answers and comments.

Congratulations to **Doug Jonquet**, who scored up a perfect 600 for this set, and **Rick Beye**, ACBL Director Extraordinaire, who was close behind with a 590. Yes, some directors really do know something about bidding. They're both invited to join the April panel.

Special congratulations to **Oyvind Tafjord**, who won the 2005 Solvers Contest by averaging more than 586 for his best three submissions. He'll be joining the panel for 2005. Oyvind, who's originally from Norway, is a former District 8 member who's now living in Oregon. See [Solvers Honor Roll](#) in this issue for a list of the top runners-up in the 2005 contest.

The six new problems for April are below. This is the second of the six sets in the 2006 Solvers Contest, so there's still plenty of time to join in. Please submit your solutions by **March 20** on the [web form](#) or by email to our April moderator:

**Scott Merritt** -- [merritt604@gmail.com](mailto:merritt604@gmail.com)

<b>How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 536):</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Score</b>

<b>Bridge Baron</b>	3H	4H	3H	4S	5D	4S	480
<b>Kent Feiler</b> , Harvard IL	3H	3H	4H	4S	Pass	4S	560
<b>Harold Feldheim</b> , Hamden CT	3H	3S	4C	4D	4NT	5H	510
<b>Micah Fogel</b> , Aurora IL	3H	3C	4H	4S	5C	4S	570
<b>Mark Kessler</b> , Springfield IL	3H	3H	4C	3H	5C	4S	550
<b>Bill Lindemann</b> , Champaign IL	3H	4H	1S	4D	5C	4S	520
<b>Larry Matheny</b> , Loveland CO	3H	3H	4C	4S	5D	4S	520
<b>Bev Nelson</b> , Fort Myers FL	3H	RDBL	4C	4D	5D	P	440
<b>Manuel Paulo</b> , Lisbon, Portugal	3H	3C	2S	4D	5C	5H	550
<b>Richard Pavlicek</b> , Ft. Lauderdale FL	3H	4H	4H	4D	Pass	5H	540
<b>Larry Rabideau</b> , St. Anne IL	3H	3H	4H	3H	5C	4S	570
<b>Toby Strite</b> , San Jose CA	3H	3C	4H	3H	5C	4S	560
<b>Oyvind Tafjord</b> , Eugene OR	3H	4H	4H	4S	4NT	4S	520
<b>Hugh Williams</b> , Carbondale IL	3H	3C	4H	3S	RDBL	4S	500

## How the Staff voted

<b>Tom Dodd</b> , Branchburg NJ	Pass	3C	4C	4D	Pass	4S	500
<b>Tom Kniest</b> , University City, MO	3H	3H	4H	4D	5C	5H	590
<b>Scott Merritt</b> , Abuja, Nigeria	3H	3H	4H	4D	5C	4S	600
<b>Karen Walker</b> , Champaign IL	3H	3H	4H	4S	5C	5H	570

## Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 509)

<b>Doug Jonquet</b> , Decatur IL	600	<b>Dave Wetzel</b> , Rantoul IL	570
<b>Rick Beye</b> , Memphis TN	590	<b>Bob Wheeler</b> , Florissant MO	570
<b>Nigel Guthrie</b> , Reading UK	570	<b>Gary Dell</b> , Champaign IL	560
<b>Bob Shair</b> , Champaign IL	570	<b>Judy Eaton</b> , Carbondale IL	560
Glenn Smith, Creve Couer MO	570	<b>Glafkos Galanos</b> , Carbondale IL	560

*Tied with 550:* **Karen Coe**, Ewing IL; **Mike Giacaman**, St. Louis; **Bruce Kretchmer**, Boynton Beach FL; **Rich Pestien**, Peoria IL; **Arbha Vongsvivut**, Godfrey IL.

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# Solvers Forum -- April 2006 Problems

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**1.** Matchpoints, none  
vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1D	DBL	1S	???

What is your call as South holding:  
♠J2 ♥9864 ♦543 ♣KQ95 ?

**2.** Matchpoints, none  
vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:  
♠K42 ♥102 ♦K753 ♣Q1064 ?

**3.** Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	Pass
Pass	1H	Pass	2D *
Pass	2H **	Pass	???

\* Drury -- 4 trumps, 10+ support pts.  
\*\* Minimum or sub-minimum opener

What is your call as South holding:  
♠Q43 ♥A654 ♦5 ♣KJ963 ?

**4.** Matchpoints, EW  
vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	2H	4S	???

What is your call as South holding:  
♠5 ♥1098654 ♦Q3 ♣J832 ?

**5.** IMPs, NS vulnerable

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

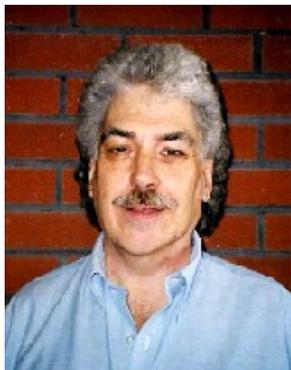
What is your call as South holding:  
♠AK10974 ♥Q92 ♦86 ♣52 ?

**6.** Matchpoints, EW  
vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	1NT	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:  
♠KQ1053 ♥Q54 ♦A62 ♣43 ?

*Thanks to John Seng for problems #2, #3 & #6.*



# Pair Fare

## *News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239*

**Editor: Dennis Ryan, 118 Glenview Court, Janesville WI 53545**  
[drchezmoi@aol.com](mailto:drchezmoi@aol.com)

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## **Renée Shambeau: Life Master**



A widely-traveled “Jill-of-all-trades” who works full time and still finds time for bridge: that’s Renée Shambeau, one of our Unit’s newest Life Masters

Born and raised in Merced, CA, “the Gateway to Yosemite,” Renée earned a degree in marketing from San Jose State University. She spent 17 years with Shell Oil Company in middle management, and moved six times in eight years. She has lived all over the U.S. Now, she is an associate broker for Best Realty in Lake Summerset. She has been in real estate for 20 years and with Best for five of those. “I really enjoy helping people sell the farm,” she jokes.

Renée was married to her first husband, Steve, for 13 years and was single for 13 years. She has been married to her second husband, Jerry Dvorak, for 19 years. Jerry, a retired typesetter and salesman, has three children: Debbie, of St. Charles; Diana, of Carol Stream; and Jerry Earl. “Jerry Earl is ‘homeless,’ Renée laughs: he’s a truck driver for rock bands, and never spends more than 24 hours in the same place. I skipped the ‘children’ stage and went straight to grandchildren. That was a neat way to do it—I heartily recommend it.”

Renée lived in Germany and Spain for a year with her first husband after she graduated from college. “This was the ‘60’s, you realize, and we kind of did the ‘hippie thing.’ “I also went to China for three weeks in 1980 and have also been to Israel and on a safari to Tanzania.”

Renée made Life Master in Lake Geneva in October, playing in a knockout with Bob Erwin (Rochelle), and Phyllis Seeman and Arlene Snap (both Rockford.) She began playing bridge in college, but her proudest “bridge moment” came during Indianapolis regional when she earned a top board against Easley Blackwood. “I think of that whenever I call for aces,” Renée quips.

## **Unit 239 Board Elections**

A nominating committee consisting of Harold Legel (Crystal Lake), Susan MacKinney (Elgin), Grace Selby (Huntley), Mary Jo Sergent (Rockford), and Edna Williams (Elgin) have named four incumbents as candidates for the Unit 239 Board. They are Lucille Chaffee (DeKalb), Gene Condon (Rockford),

Doug Gugger (Freeport) and Mary Jo Sergent (Rockford). All have agreed to serve two-year terms if elected.

Any Unit member in good standing may also run for the Unit Board, however, if he/she desires to do so. Additional nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least 10 Unit 229 members in good standing, and mailed to the Unit Secretary by April 1, 2006. If no such nominations are received, the nominating committee's choices will be put forward at the annual meeting on April 29. If nominations are received, a Unit-wide election will be held to choose four Board members from among the nominees. Nominations should be sent to Dennis Ryan, Unit 239 Secretary, 118 Glenview Court, Janesville WI 53548-9071.

Letters containing this same information have been sent to all club directors in Unit 239. Please make sure that this information is announced at all your club games for three consecutive weeks, since not all of our players have access to the internet. Flyers advertising the annual meeting have been made available to every club in the Unit.

## Upcoming Tournaments in Unit 239

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rockin' Rockford Regional</b>	<b>Elgin Spring Sectional</b>	<b>Elgin 299er Sectional</b>	<b>Rockford Classic Sectional</b>	<b>Aurora Turkey Bowl</b>
<b>2006</b>	June 19-25	Mar. 17-19	Aug. 4-6	Sept. 8-10	Nov. 24-26
<b>2007</b>	June 18-24	Mar. 2-4	Aug. 3-5	Sept. 7-9	Nov. 23-25
<b>2008</b>	June 16-22	Mar. 7-9	Aug. 1-3	Sept. 5-7	Nov. 28-30
<b>2009</b>	June 22-28	Mar. 20-22	Aug. 7-9	Sept. 11-13	Nov. 27-29
<b>2010</b>	June 21-27	Mar. 19-21	Aug. 6-8	Sept. 10-13	Nov. 26-28

The Rockford Regionals will all be held at the Clock Tower Resort, 7801 E. State St., Rockford.

The Elgin Spring Sectionals will all be held at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin.

The 299er Sectionals will all be held at the Elgin Community Center, 123 Symphony Rd., Elgin.

The Rockford Classic Sectionals will all be held at the Clock Tower Resort, 7801 E. State St., Rockford.

The Turkey Bowl Sectionals will all be held at the Prisco Community Center, southeast corner of Rte. 31 and Illinois Ave. in Aurora.

# Annual Meeting and Free Unit Membership Game

Saturday, April 29, is the date set for the Unit annual meeting, awards ceremony, and free membership game. Note that the Unit Board has switched the event, traditionally held on a Friday evening in June, to a Saturday date in hopes more members will be able to attend.

The event will be a brunch at 11:30 and not a pot luck affair. The brunch will be free to Unit members, provided by the Unit. Non-members will be charged \$5. The traditional awards ceremony will follow at 12:30, with the free game scheduled for 1 p.m. Those in attendance will be given a non-transferable coupon good for one free session at the 2006 Rockin' Rockford Regional (June 19 – 25.)

Minor changes to Unit by-laws will be presented. They will include policy for Board members voting via email and several “corrective wordages.”

We will be returning to the same location where the event was held last year: the First United Methodist Church, Fourth and Oak Streets, in DeKalb. From the north and east: take Illinois Rte. 64 west to Illinois Rte. 23 and turn left (south) into DeKalb. Rte. 23 will turn into Fourth St. Follow that to the Church at Oak St. From the south and east: take I-88 west to Peace Rd., where there will be a toll booth requiring the exact change of 55 cents. Turn right (north) onto Peace Rd. to Illinois Rte. 38. Turn left (west) onto Rte. 38 to Rte. 23. Turn right (north) on Rte. 23, which will turn into Fourth St., and follow that to the Church at Oak St. From the south and west: take I-88 east to Annie Glidden Rd. where there will be a toll booth requiring the exact change of 55 cents. Turn left (north) to Rte. 38. Turn right (east) to Rte 23 (Fourth St.) Turn left (north) to the Church at Oak St. From the north and west: take I-39 south to Rte. 64. Turn left (east) to Rte. 23. Turn right (south) into DeKalb. Rte. 23 will become Fourth St. Follow that to the Church at Oak St.

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## The Changing Scene . . .

**New Junior Masters:** Helen Bauer, Elburn; Marilyn Clark, Batavia.

**New Club Masters:** John Baird, Sandwich; Mary Creagan, Rockford; E. L. Duncanson, Rockford.

**New Sectional Masters:** Bishnu Dutta, Rockford; Roberta Gianoli, Loves Park; Laurie Glennon, Rockford; Bernice Harris, Aurora; Betty Hettinger, Aurora; Frank Hettinger, Aurora; Gordon Leibert, Elgin; Liz Leibert, Elgin; Karen Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills; Dr. Richard Wehrle, Rockford.

**New Regional Masters:** Celeste Jacklin, Aurora; Jane Lyons, Rockford; William Neis, Richmond; Ann Witt, Aurora.

**New Life Master:** Robert DeKeyser, Rockton.



# CIBA Digest

***News from Central Illinois Unit 208***

**Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign IL 61821**

**(217) 359-0042**

**[kwalker@insightbb.com](mailto:kwalker@insightbb.com)**

## Membership recruitment

Our Central Illinois Unit has 760 active members as of January 1, 2006. That's a decline of more than 4 percent from last year, which is the biggest loss of any Unit in District 8. We're actually doing a good job of recruiting new players -- we added 55 new ACBL members in 2005 -- but we're not keeping our current ones. In the past twelve months, 88 of our Unit members (more than 11 percent) chose not to renew their ACBL memberships.

Our Unit Board sponsors recruitment and retention programs, but we need individual efforts to turn this trend around. You can help by making it your goal this year to introduce at least one new player to duplicate bridge and to recruit at least one new or renewed ACBL member. Here are some ideas on what you can do to promote our game and increase our member base:

- Download ACBL's free [Learn to Play Bridge software](#) programs and burn them to CDs. Include them with gifts for birthdays, holidays and other occasions. Give copies to friends, relatives and members of other clubs and groups where you have personal contacts.
- "Talk up" duplicate to your party-bridge friends. Invite one to be your partner at a duplicate game.
- Do you have old or extra *ACBL Bulletin* magazines? Don't toss them in the trash. Recycle them by:
  - Giving them to bridge teachers to hand out to their students.
  - Taking them to your local club and encouraging newcomers and non-members to browse and take them home.
  - Asking your doctors, dentists and local businesses if you can leave copies in their waiting rooms. Cover the address label with a piece of paper that gives the contact number and/or web site of your local bridge club.
- Make a list of players who have "disappeared" from your club games in recent years. Call a few to let them know they're missed and invite them to rejoin the games. Ask one to be your partner or offer to help them find partners.
- If you're a club manager, look in your email box for periodic "lapsed member" reports from ACBL (lists of members you recruited who have not paid this year's dues). A little encouragement from you is all they may need to renew. If they've lost the forms they received in the mail, remind them that they can renew online ([www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)) or by phone (800-467-1623).

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# Coming up on the Club Calendar

## ♣ ACBLwide Senior Pairs -- Monday afternoon, February 27

This annual event, open to ages 55+, offers extra masterpoints, pre-dealt hands and hand-analysis booklets. The same hands are being played at clubs around the nation and will offer District-wide and nationwide awards. The sanction fee is low; expect to pay around 50 to 75 cents more than your club's regular entry fee. Participating clubs in Central Illinois and the contact people are:

**Champaign:** Bridge at Ginger Creek (12:30 pm) -- Karen Walker (217-359-0042  
[kwalker@insightbb.com](mailto:kwalker@insightbb.com))

**Bloomington:** Gayl West Duplicate (11:45 am) -- Gail Moon (309-661-8993  
[gpmoon@insightbb.com](mailto:gpmoon@insightbb.com))

**Springfield:** Bridge Club of Springfield (12:30 pm) -- Janice Franz (217-546-0597  
[jfranz5201@insightbb.com](mailto:jfranz5201@insightbb.com))

## ♣ North American Pairs -- June, July & August

This event has become more popular than ever since ACBL lowered the club-level sanction fees from \$7 to \$4 per table. For the 2006-97 event, there's no limit on the number of these special games your club can hold. The 2007 national finals will be in St. Louis.

***Cheer on our Unit winners:*** The 200-2006 North American Pairs concludes in early April when District winners play in the national championship in Dallas. Six pairs from our Unit will be representing District 8 in the national finals :

Flight A: **Mike Halvorsen & Richard Blumenthal** and **Mark Kessler & Ed Schultz**

Flight B: **Steve Babin & Bobbie Straker** and **Debbie Avery & Martha Leary**

Flight C: **Paul Holmes & Eric Gettleman** & **Dan Faulkner & Bill Lindemann, Jr**

You can check on their results in the [online Daily Bulletins](#) from Dallas.

## Bridge on TV

"THE BRIDGE CLASS", a 13-episode TV series on how to play bridge, is now airing on UPTV, Urbana's public-access station (Channel 6 on Insight Cable). These professionally produced, 30-minute shows feature Audrey Grant and eight students in a bridge class. The lessons are designed for those who know nothing about bridge, but they're also of interest to current players who want to brush up on the basics.

Air time is **7:00-7:30 p.m. every Thursday**, with a repeat the following **Sunday at 5:00 p.m.** Episode #1 airs on Thursday, Feb. 9 and Sunday, Feb. 12.

If you'd like to have this series broadcast in your area, contact your local cable provider and public-access, educational and independent stations. ACBL will send the tapes to the station to copy and

return. For more information, contact [Dana Norton](#) at ACBL.

## Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs updates

Visit the [ACBL Unit Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit players in each category (type 208 into the box that asks for your Unit number). Results will not be official until mid-February. Year-end results for our Central Illinois Unit will be published in the April issue of this newsletter.

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## Movin' Up

**Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:**

### **New Junior Masters (5 pts.)**

Barb Adams, Peoria Heights  
Phil Adams, Peoria Heights  
Jane Byram, Chatham  
Sharon Farrow, Springfield  
Bo Goersch, Tolono  
Diana Hunt, Springfield  
Praveen Jayachandran, Champaign  
Ashvin Lakshmikantha, Champaign  
Rhea Lawrence, Savoy  
Ilda McFadden, Springfield  
Roberta Weddig, Normal  
Jane Welch, Geneseo

### **Club Masters (20 pts.)**

Edward Budil, Springfield  
Ramesh Chaudhuri, Normal  
Ann Nika, Springfield  
Patricia Paul, Bloomington  
Don Tomasino, Hudson

### **Sectional Masters (50 pts.)**

Chuck Avery, Champaign  
Mary Alyce Keith, Chatham  
Camilla Rabjohns, Peoria Heights  
Marshall Susler, Decatur  
George Troike, Springfield  
Bev Upp, Bloomington  
Mary Vasterling, Springfield  
Jean Wedel, Mattoon  
Linda Wheeland, Springfield  
Marilyn Winter, Mt. Zion

### **Regional Masters (100 pts.)**

Alan Avery, Springfield  
Gary Dayton, Mahomet  
Dave Freehill, Bloomington  
Donna Giertz, Champaign  
Bill Lindemann Sr., Champaign  
Kay Martin, Springfield  
Lois Middleton, Champaign  
Skip Neely, Champaign  
Grant Sterling, Charleston  
Elizabeth Wilson, Urbana

### **Life Master**

Charlie Morton, Bloomington

### **Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)**

Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington  
Joseph McAdam, Decatur

### **Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)**

Chloe Trautman, Champaign



# Greater St. Louis Bridge News

## News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

*Editor:* Marie Sander, St. Louis MO [hatlady@prodigy.net](mailto:hatlady@prodigy.net)

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Before I start on my first of many (I hope) rants, a word about the results of recent games. I will try in the future to post important wins by our local players, but the following issue is just burning a hole in me. If you have won a big event and were just waiting to see your name in lights, please accept my heartfelt apologies, and let me know so I can sneak it in next issue like it's still news.

### Where have all the good games gone?

It seems the days of bridge games morning, noon and night are gone, and with very little protest. The latest casualty is the Sunday-evening game, which I personally played in when there were two big sections. Can anyone tell me what happened? I know death and infirmity have taken their toll, but there are plenty of able-bodied bridge players who have left the club games.

And a more important question is what to do about it. Some ideas at the club level may be the club directors having a list of people willing to provide transportation to those who do not like to drive at night, a monthly prize (free play) drawn from all the names of players from that month, sponsors for new players, and bring in a new player and play free.

And the board must become more active in marketing, and in stimulating excitement at the club level. Some ideas here are some big promotion with a big prize (like a weekend in Vegas or a hotel room for a night at the regional) drawn from names of players from that period, (the more you play the greater your chance of winning)... and that is just what the nurse came up with.

I know there are plenty of folks out there who understand marketing, so could you folks step up here to the front and tell us how to revitalize the club games? I ask the St. Louis community to respond with your ideas on how to jump-start the bridge scene. Write to me at [Hatlady@prodigy.net](mailto:Hatlady@prodigy.net) and we will continue this discussion next time. 'Til then, y'all play nice now.



# 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](mailto:finesse002002@yahoo.com)

## **Noteworthy events**

**Winter STaC:** District 8 held the Winter STaC at local clubs from February 3rd through the 9th. Posting of results can be viewed at the District 8 STaC website: [http://www.mt.org/district\\_8\\_stac.htm](http://www.mt.org/district_8_stac.htm)

**Unit 223 Sectional Tournament:** Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the upcoming sectional at Gilbertsville KY, March 3rd through March 5th. This tournament, held at Kentucky Dam Village Resort, is notable for its legendary southern hospitality and beautiful scenery. Enjoy a taste of spring at Kentucky Lake and enjoy the amenities at the Lodge. Unit 223 will be presenting awards to 2005 Masterpoint Race winners, and the 2005 winner(s) of the McCord Trophy will be announced. For more information, contact the tournament chair, Doug Edwards, at [gay310@vci.net](mailto:gay310@vci.net).

**Saluki Swiss Sectional Results:** Overall Swiss Team winners at the tournament held in Mt. Vernon IL, Jan. 21 and 22, were:

Flight A: Milton Zlatic, Nancy Popkin, Alan Popkin and Tom Oppenheimer

Flight B: David Shanahan, Carol Warner, Julie Behrens and Catherine Joyce

Flight C: Jim Baumeister, Ann Smith, Glenda Piek and Beverly Butler

Congratulations to these teams for their fine performance over the two-day event. For complete tournament results, go to the ACBL website.

## **Congratulations to Unit 223 players who have advanced in rank:**

New Junior Masters: **Joan McDaniel**, Mt. Vernon & **Steve Shoeffler**, Edwardsville

New Sectional Master: **Charles Swinney**, DuQuoin IL

New NABC Masters: **David Osucha**, Paducah KY & **Carol Warner**, Fairview Heights

**Have you made your list of New Year's Resolutions yet?** Consider adding to your list the resolution to recruit one new player for our Unit in 2006. The continuing decline in membership is an area of concern to all of us. Let's all resolve to make 2006 a turn-around year with an increase in Unit membership.

*Wishing you all prosperity and success in the New Year!*



# ILLINI REGIONAL

**Memorial Day weekend: May 23-29, 2006**

**NEW LOCATION: Hawthorn Suites Hotel  
101 Trade Centre Drive, Champaign, Illinois**



**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: Barometer final** in the Flight A Strataflighted 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](#), bridge 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

## Tuesday, May 23

7:30 -- **Big Ten KO Teams** (continues Wednesday)

7:30 -- Play for the Pets Charity Pairs

## Wednesday, May 24 -- 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 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs (single-session entries available)

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

## Thursday, May 25 -- 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 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Thu-Fri Side Series Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Strataflighted Swiss Teams (Flt. A separate: Flts. BCD in one event)

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

## Friday, May 26 -- Juniors Day

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

9:30 -- Orange & Blue KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)

9:30 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

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.*

**OskeeWowWow Compact KO** (two sessions, four 12-board matches) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sunday

**Side-Game Series:** Enter any or all sessions. Play two or more sessions in any series to qualify for overall awards (gold points).

Charity Side Series AM Pairs -- 9:30 am, Wednesday through Sunday (to benefit CATSNAP, a local cat rescue center)  
Thu-Fri Side Series ---- 1:30 & 7:30, Thursday & Friday  
Sat-Sun Side Series ---- 1:30 & 7:30, Saturday & Sunday

### **Novice/Intermediate Pairs:**

299er Pairs (0-300) -- 7:30 Wed., Thu., Fri. & Sat.; 1:30 & 7:30 Sunday  
Easybridge Pairs (0-100) -- 1:30 Saturday

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

[Daily Bulletins](#) from the 2005 Illini Regional.

## **Host hotel:**

**Bridge rate (\$75 double) and free parking** at Hawthorn Suites, 101 Trade Center Drive, one block south of the site of our previous regionals (the old Chancellor Hotel, Neil & Kirby).

**The Hawthorn is an all-suites hotel** with a free daily hot breakfast buffet and free high-speed Internet. Facilities include a heated indoor pool, Jacuzzi and fitness center. A wide variety of restaurants are within walking distance. [Hotel info & driving directions](#)

**Reservations:** 800-527-1133 *or* 217-398-3400 (ask for bridge rate). *Please reserve by May 15.*

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

1:30 & 7:30 -- Thu-Fri Side Series Pairs

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

## **Saturday, May 27**

9:30 -- **Chief Illiniwek KO** (continues Sunday)

9:30 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Flight A Strataflighted Pairs (qualifying with barometer final)

1:30 & 7:30 -- Flight BCD Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Sat-Sun Side Series Pairs

1:30 -- Easybridge Pairs (0-100)

7:30 -- Barometer Final (2nd sess. of Flt. A Pairs)

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

## **Sunday, May 28**

9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Chief Illiniwek KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)

9:30 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Sat-Sun Side Series Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- **OskeeWowWow Compact KO Teams**

1:30 & 7:30 -- 299er Pairs (single sessions)

7:30 -- **NEW:** Board-a-Match Teams

## **Monday, May 29**

9:45 a.m. --- *Free continental breakfast.*

10:30 a.m. -- *FAST* Swiss Teams (stratified by team's average MP holding).

*On the road by 6:00.*

**Chairman:** Karen Walker (217-359-0042)  
[kwalker@insightbb.com](mailto:kwalker@insightbb.com)

**Partners:** Hugh Williams (618-203-9566)  
[hrw1997@gmail.com](mailto:hrw1997@gmail.com)  
Madhu Viswanathan  
[madhubalan@insightbb.com](mailto:madhubalan@insightbb.com)

# Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional

March 3-5, 2006

Hult Health Center, 5215 N. Knoxville Road,  
Peoria IL

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## Friday, March 3

1:00 & 7:00 -- Single-session Stratified Pairs

## Saturday, March 4

1:00 & 7:00 -- Two-session Stratified Pairs (one-session entries welcome)

## Sunday, March 5

10:30 am -- Two-session Stratified Swiss Teams

Sandwich lunch served during the break.

*Strata:* A-Open B-Under 1500 C- Non-LM (under 500 pts.)

**HOSPITALITY** after the evening sessions on Friday & Saturday.

Free snacks served every session.

**Nearby motel:** Red Roof Inn (309-685-3911)

**Info & partnerships:** Bernie Riley (309) 252-1151

[briley@grics.net](mailto:briley@grics.net)

Phyllis Rahn (309) 243-5460 [pjayrahn@yahoo.com](mailto:pjayrahn@yahoo.com)

# Kentucky Dam Sectional

**March 3-5, 2006**

**Kentucky Dam Village -- Hwy. 641, Gilbertsville  
KY**

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## **Friday March 3**

**1:30 & 7:00 -- Single-session Stratified Pairs**

## **Saturday March 4**

**9:00 am, 1:30 & 7:00 – Bracketed Knockout Teams**

**1:30 & 7:00 -- Stratified Open Pairs (Single-session events)**

## **Sunday, March 5**

**10 am & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams**

*Strata for all events:* A = Unlimited B = 0-1500 C = Non-LMs under 500

**All events held at the Activity Building in Kentucky Dam Village Statek Park. From I-24, take Exit 27 and follow Highway 641 to the park.**

*Strata:* A: Open B: 500-1500 C: 0-500 (non-LM)

*Host hotel:* Kentucky Dam Village (800-325-0146). Ask for the bridge rate.

*Chairmen:* Doug Edwards (270-437-4977) & Sandra Lemon (270-247-7828)  
[lemon@vci.net](mailto:lemon@vci.net)

*Partners:* Gayle Edwards (270-753-4821 or 270-437-4977)

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# EARLY SPRING ELGIN

# SECTIONIONAL

**March 17, 18 and 19, 2006**

**Elgin Community College**  
**1700 Spartan Drive – Elgin, IL**  
(located at intersections of McLean Blvd and  
Spartan Dr – ¼ mile south of US20 & ½  
east of Randall Rd in SW Elgin)

--- silver points for the taking ---

**Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

2 PM

Stratified Charity Pairs  
Compact Knockout Teams – 1<sup>st</sup> session  
(compact knockout teams must have exactly 4 players)

7 PM

Stratified Open Pairs  
Last session Compact Knockout

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

9 AM

Stratified Open Pairs  
Handicapped Knockout Teams – 1<sup>st</sup> session  
(may have 4 to 6 players)

1 PM

Stratified Open Pairs  
99er Stratified Pairs  
Bracketed Compact Knockout (2 session)  
(must have exactly 4 players)  
Handicapped Knockout Teams – 2<sup>nd</sup> session

6:30 PM

Stratified Open Pair  
99er Stratified Pairs  
Bracketed Compact Knockout (last session)  
Handicapped Knockout Teams (last session)

**Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

11 AM - Bracketed Swiss Teams  
(2 session play through)

**Stratifications – Open Pairs**

A = 1000+ points  
B = 500 to 1000 points  
C = 0 to 500 points

----silver points for the taking----

**Special 99er games**  
**Saturday Afternoon & Evening**