

In this issue

[Best of bridge blogs](#)

[February STAC](#)

[Director, please](#)

[Solvers Forum 2007](#)

[Honor Roll](#)

[Solvers Forum](#)

[New problems](#)

[Previous columns](#)

Unit News

[Northwest IL](#)

[Central IL](#)

[So. IL-Paducah](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Tournament calendar](#)

Tournament winners

[Bloomington IL](#)

[St. Charles MO](#)

[Mt. Vernon IL](#)

Tournament ads

[CHAMPAIGN REG.](#)

[ROCKFORD REG.](#)

[PADUCAH REG.](#)

[Peoria IL](#)

[Elgin IL](#)

[Gilbertsville KY](#)

[Back to page 1](#)

(GN Teams)

[Welcome](#)

[Printing tips](#)

[Printable version](#)

(condensed content in
Acrobat format)

[Download a free Acrobat
reader](#)

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COUNTER STATS



February 2008

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

Best of bridge blogs

Some of the newest and most entertaining bridge web sites are the growing number of blogs ("web logs"), which are journals of events and commentary. Some blogs take the form of diaries ("here are some interesting hands from last night's game"). Others feature essays, system discussions, instructional hands, quizzes and forums for reader participation. Many blogs offer subscriptions by email or RSS feeds to notify you when new content is posted.

Here are some of the best in the current crop of bridge blogs:

[The Old Prof](#) -- "Contract bridge themes with a Midwest accent", offering thoughtful bidding and play problems, system discussions, essays and anecdotes. Hosted by Jeff Miller, Chicago IL.

[Squeezing the Dummy](#) -- One of the first bridge blogs. Hosted by junior player Justin Lall, Plano TX.

[Dealing with Develin](#) -- A juniors-oriented blog affiliated with ACBL's [bridgeiscool.com](#). Hosted by Mike Develin, Berkeley CA.

[Poorbridge](#) -- Tales of disastrous decisions, hosted by a group of players from New Zealand. District 8's Paul Holmes "won" the award for Poor Bridge of the Week with his writeup [The Curse of Scotland Strikes Again](#), posted in March, 2007.

[Gerben's Bridge Blog](#) -- Interesting hands in the archives, but this site has no recent updates. Hosted by Gerben Dirksen, Tübingen, Germany.

[DavidC's Bridge Blog](#) -- Articles on bidding theory, system design and bridge laws. Hosted by David Collier, Manchester UK.

[The Beer Card](#) -- Bridge in the "real" and online worlds, with many hands from the Bridgebase Online club. Hosted by Paul G., Scotland.

[Views from the Bridge Table](#) -- Discussion of theory and insights on hands from high-level play, with frequent updates. Hosted by Ulf Nilsson, Swedish internationalist.

[Free at the Bridge Table](#) -- Analysis of hands and discussions of conventions and bidding systems. Hosted by Frederick Staelens, Belgium.

[The Good, the Bad and the Ugly](#) -- "Assigning blame since April 20, 2007." Hosted by Jonathan Ferguson, Ottawa ON.

[Bridgepro](#) -- Accounts of play in worldwide bridge tournaments and poker games. Hosted by Gavin Wolpert, Toronto ON.

[Korbel Bridge Adventures](#) -- Reports from tournaments, online play and other bridge

events, plus occasional articles on poker. Hosted by Susie & Dan Korbel, Waterloo ON.

[Bridge Matters](#) -- A focus on advancing bridge theory with discussions of new systems and bidding ideas. Hosted by Glen Ashton, Ottawa ON.

[Bridgeblogging](#) -- A collaborative effort with posts from Bobby Wolff, Roy Hughes, Mark Horton, Barbara Seagram and other players. It offers the opportunity for you to "co-blog" by joining the group. Main hosts are Ray and Linda Lee of Masterpoint Press, Toronto ON.

Good choices for beginner and intermediate-level players:

[Bridgehands Blog](#) -- Interviews, lessons and tips for advancing players. Also available are audiocasts and podcasts of bridge lectures, free monthly newsletters (two versions for beginners and tournament players) and personalized answers to questions submitted by email. Hosted by Michael Nistler, a bridge teacher from Petaluma CA.

[Badmonsters](#) -- "A beginner's journey" through the world of bridge.

[Bridge Review](#) -- Discussions of hands played by intermediate players at online clubs. Hosted by Peter Allen and Jacob Martin, England.

[Raffles Bridge](#) -- A group blog by intermediate-level players from the RJC Bridge Club in Singapore.

Want to start your own bridge blog?

It's easy and free, with many online hosts offering web space for your pages. To start, all you do is sign up for a free account, choose a name and design for your blog, and start typing.

Most hosting services offer pre-formatted design templates that can be used as-is or customized. You enter your content directly from a web browser, so there's no need to learn HTML editing or use separate software to create and upload files. For an easy way to add hand diagrams to your posts, try this [free formatting tool](#) from Bridgeblogging.com.

Here are some free hosting sites for bloggers:

[Blogger.com](#) -- Sign in with your existing Google account or create a new login.

[Wordpress.com](#)

[Blogsavvy.com](#)

[Blog.com](#)

2007 Solvers Forum Honor Roll

Congratulations to the winner of the 2007 Solvers Forum contest: **Robert Lambert** of Warsaw IN. He averaged 586 out of 600 on last year's sets to top all Solvers and win a seat on the 2008 panel.

Thanks to all who participated. Rankings are based on your best three scores, so there's plenty of time to enter the 2008 contest. Just fill out the [web form](#) with your answers to the April problems and submit by March 23. Top runners-up in 2007 were:

Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	Linda Lubeck, Troy IL
Sandy Barnes, Wildomar CA	Micah Fogel, Aurora IL
Zoran Bohacek, Zagreb, Croatia	Terry Goodykoontz, Champaign IL
Dean Pokorny, Opatija, Croatia	Mike Halvorsen, Champaign IL
John Mayne, Riverbank CA	Thomas Rossow, South Bend IN
John Seng, Champaign IL	Mason Myers, Chesterfield MO
Nigel Guthrie, Reading UK	Len Vishnevsky, San Francisco
Dave Wetzel, Rantoul IL	Paul Soper, Sierra Vista AZ
Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL	Bill Rotter, Granite City IL
Dave Smith, Memphis TN	Steve Brauss, St. Louis
Tim Francis-Wright, Medford MA	Steve Babin, Normal IL
Asher Axelrod, Jerusalem, Israel	Dave McNitt, Elkhart IN
Rich Pestien, Peoria IL	Praveen Jayachandran, Urbana IL
Bill Walsh, Champaign IL	Don Mathis, Bland MO
Allan Sheppard, St. Louis	Fred Sandegren, Quincy IL
Jim Diebel, Chicago IL	Bob Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN
Rich Peer, St. Louis	Sasanka Ramanadham, St. Louis

District 8 Solvers Forum -- February 2008

by Kent Feiler, Harvard IL



In 1999 the American Film Institute named Humphrey Bogart as being the Best Male Actor in film history. Eat your heart out Errol...and Marlon...and Jimmy...and Charley...and Clark.

Bogie was born in 1899 and died in 1957, so his movies were black and white, but there was something movie-related that was always in bright, garish color: the advertising posters that were outside every theater. The posters were probably the 1935 equivalent of a "trailer". They went away, or at least inside, when theaters started showing a dozen or so movies at a time. There are a few below, plus some panelists you might not recognize.



SPADE: "When a man's partner's killed he's supposed to do something about it. It doesn't make any difference what you thought of him. He was your partner and you're supposed to do something about it."

Bridge is crueler than the detective business. In bridge, if a man's partner *isn't* killed we kill him ourselves!

1. Matchpoints, Neither Vulnerable

West North East South
 -- -- 1C ?

As South you hold: ♠AQ72 ♥65
 ♦KJ75 ♣A86

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	12	59
1D	70	2	11
Dbl	60	1	10
1S	60	1	16
1NT	60	0	5

What's your bid?

There are several bids we could try with this hand, each with a potentially fatal flaw. It's easy to list them, let's start with the lowest ranking and work our way up.

1. Pass
2. Double
3. 1♦
4. 1♠
5. 1NT

To help make this difficult decision we have a group whose experience with flawed auctions is legendary: our panel.

The PASSers say either, "I pass because I can't do anything else" or, "I'll be able to make a better bid on the next round."

VONGSVIVUT: "Pass. 1 point short for 1 NT over call, distribution is not right for take out double, no good suit to over call."

LAMBERT: "Pass. 1NT is an overbid, 1D/1S are too weak to overcall, and double is out."

PAULO: "Pass. There is no hurry to enter the bidding."

KLEMIC: "Pass. Is this problem a typo? I will either be able to enter the auction later, or judge that our side doesn't belong"

WALKER: "Pass. This is a perfect hand for doubling back in if they bid hearts, and for defending if they bid anything else."

POKORNY: "Pass ... followed by a double of 2H is surely the best choice."

These panelists seem to treat PASS as a no-op bid that doesn't show or deny anything, but is that true? I think it either shows a worse hand than we have or a club stack, so PASS is also flawed. Will the auction be easier to enter next round or will it just be higher? If the opponents raise hearts as Walker and Pokorny hope, we'll have an easy bid, but what if the opponents don't co-operate and try the likely [1C-P-1H-P; 1NT-?] or one of several other auctions? Now what?

Let's see what the panelists who consider Pass to be a four-letter word decided to do.

DODD: "DBL. You don't win pair events by sitting back and waiting. If your partners have no sense of humor and insist on bidding your short suits you may find yourself winning the consolation instead."

Kniest: "1D. Tempting to wait for the 1H response and raise and then have the perfect double, but I want to get into the auction now; maybe we'll get to play 1NT our way."

All true, and if the persistent opponents still find their heart fit, the perfect double may still be available. It's also nice to make a noise with a good hand in case partner has something he'd like to contribute.

Scoring

I've never understood the scoring here on the Solver's Forum. The overwhelming leader, Pass, automatically gets 100, and nothing gets lower than 50. The scores in the middle are supposed to represent the number of panelist votes received and how close the bid was to the general idea the panel had about the hand. That's where it gets a bit murky.



GOLD HAT (leader of the banditos): "Badges? We ain't got no badges. We don't need no badges! I don't have to show you any stinking badges!"

Ok, ok, forget about the badges. We'll just go on to the bridge hand.

2. IMPs, North-South vulnerable.

West North East South
 -- -- -- 2C*
 Pass 2D** 4C ?

* Strong

** Artificial, game forcing - at least a king or two queens

As South you hold: ♠AKQ764 ♥A
 ♦AJ7 ♣A52

What's your bid?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4S	100	14	73
6S	70	1	3
DBL	50	1	3
5C	50	0	5
Pass	50	0	11
4NT	50	0	3
5S	50	0	2

We could have used a bit more info on how the rest of this game forcing 2♣-2♦ convention goes. People who play it usually play 2♣-2♥ as a second negative and 2♠, 3♣ and 3♦ as game forcing showing a good suit. 2♣-2NT shows the remaining hand -- game forcing with good hearts. What all that means for us is that partner isn't likely to turn up with a good red suit.

Most of the panel just bid what was sitting in front of them, although dark tendrils of worry seep into some of their answers.

KLEMIC: "4S. Do I have a partner I can trust? Partner did see me open 2C, and though he is looking at no aces, if I can unilaterally bid 4S here (rather than pass or dbl), partner should infer a hand sort of like this."

NELSON: "4S. Allow partner to tell me more ... he can always bid maybe 5S...or whatever his hand allows...I am not bidding 5C after the 4C bid."

Bev Nelson is the Forum's "Queen of the Ellipsis!" But...she's right on target here...just bid your hand...don't do anything weird...and trust your partner...

STRITE: "4S. For a 2C opener, this hand is nothing spectacular, so I think 4S suffices."

KNIEST: "4S. I have a normal 2C bid; not an eleven tricker. Sure, partner could have the perfect minimum, but after this auction, he knows more about my hand than I know about his.

'I could almost see the stiff club in your hand,' we could say to partner.

'If I had one, I would have seen it myself,' he'd reply! "

SPEAR "4S. My New Year's resolution is to never again predict a 100% vote, but I do not see a good alternative to bidding spades."

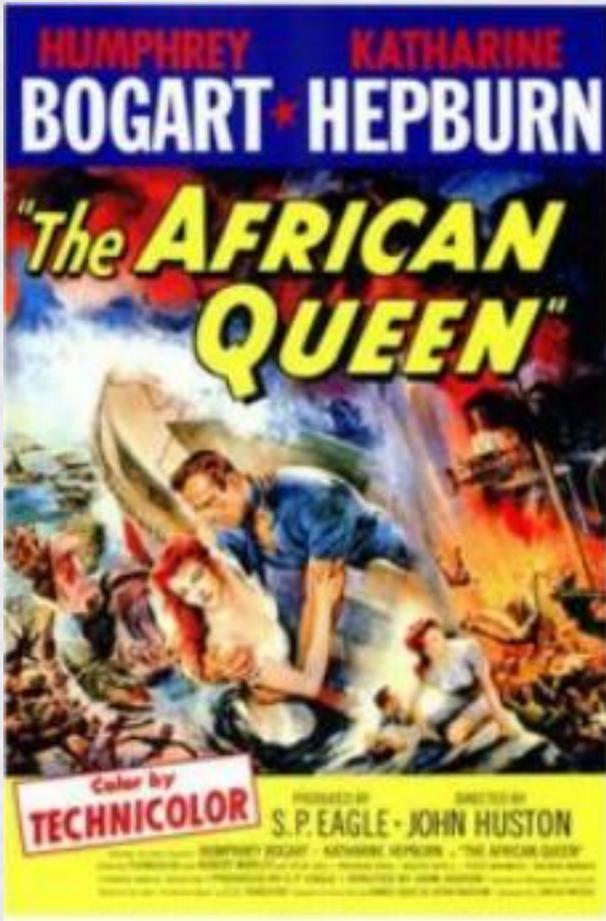
Mark Kessler agrees.

KESSLER "6S. Partner rates to be short in clubs, therefore he's likely to have some spades. Preempts make life tough on opponents; sometimes you just have to bid what you think you can make. I understand pass is forcing, but what is 4S over partners 4H?"

Scoring

This one is easy. The panel felt that they had only an ordinary 2C opener and that if they missed a slam it would be partner's fault. I agree. Making the right bid isn't the issue; it's being able to blame partner if things go wrong! As Kessler

mentioned, the problem with the other bids -- pass, dbl, 5C -- is whether partner would take a later spade bid as a suit or a cue bid.



ALLNUT: "Well I ain't sorry for you no more, ya crazy, psalm-singing, skinny old maid!"

Now is that any way to talk to Katherine Hepburn?

3. Matchpoints, East-West Vulnerable

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

* Game Force

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4C	100	13	83
3H	70	2	6
5C	70	1	8
3NT	70	0	3

As South you hold: ♠KT9654 ♥T3 ♦Q ♣AKT6

What's your bid?

WALKER: "3H. It feels like it's time to head for notrump, and the 4th-suit bid is

the only way to search for a heart stopper. Bidding spades a third time would give partner a picture of a MUCH stronger suit. There's no reason to get excited about clubs, as at this point, we aren't even certain partner has 'real' clubs."

Pokorny: "3H. Fourth suit, the most flexible call. Expecting partner to bid 3NT with decent heart stopper or 3S with spade tolerance."

What's going on here with these 3H bids? It's really quite simple. 3C is or may be an artificial 4th-suit-forcing bid, except that because we rebid spades, it's really only the 3rd suit. Nevertheless, that means that 3H is or may be a 4th-suit or even a 5th-suit forcing bid (perhaps asking for a stopper in some alien, extra-dimensional suit) or it could be a response to the 3rd- or 4th-suit forcing 3C bid showing a heart stopper and denying a club stopper, which isn't exactly what we have. Or maybe it's something else entirely! I hope that clears everything up!

The panel replied to all of this by saying, "Huh?" and going about their business.

KESSLER: "4C. Partners hand is totally unlimited, so I just cooperate and describe my hand. I can't imagine doing anything else."

STRITE: "4C. Always a priority to confirm a fit in a strong auction."

NELSON: "4C. Time to tell about my four clubs for you partner. .Ugh, what an ugly hand I have..."

MERRITT: "4C. I need to stay low enough that partner can now try 4S on a stiff Ace or Qx."

LAMBERT: "4C. Jumping to 5C would give up on slam and spades, and 3H (asking) is just too weird for me."

SPEAR: "4C. My New Year's resolution is to never again predict a 100% vote, but do not see a good alternative to raising clubs. I will carry on to slam if pard shows a heart control."

KNIEST:"3S. Hard to go past 3NT at matchpoints."

Scoring

Most of the panel assumed a big club fit and happily showed support. Hopefully, they're right. If not, bidding 3H may not be much better.



MARLOWE: "You don't like my manners? I don't like them either. Sometimes I stay up on long winter nights worrying about it."

No need to worry, but at least get your elbow out of the soup!

4. Matchpoints, North-South Vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4D	100	9	52
4H	80	4	5
3S	70	2	6
4C	70	1	32
5C	50	0	3

As South you hold: ♠Q72 ♥7 ♦QT4 ♣AT8743

What's your bid?

Do we have a heart stopper? Inquiring partners want to know. We don't, but the inquiry makes our singleton look a lot better.

NELSON: "4D. Let partner bid more if he needs to. I am a sign off 4D bidder on this bad hand."

WALKER: "4D. Very close to 5D, but I'll give partner some room to bid 5C, just in case his game-force was based on a club fit. I'll be very surprised if he passes 4D."

DODD: "4D. Yeah, my hand is pretty ugly, but I may as well show the support for North's first bid suit on the way to ... who knows what. North may even conclude we have a perfect fitter (say Ax, x, AKxxx, KQxx) and wouldn't that be fun."

SPEAR: "4D. My story will be that 2C implies 6, or I would not have risked being passed out while holding diamond support. I will accept a slam invite on the basis of my singleton heart if pard shows a spade control."

PAULO: "4D. Without a heart stopper, I must show my diamond fit."

Let's see, Nelson is signing off, Walker is highly invitational, while Dodd and Spear are forcing and dreaming about slam (I wonder what they'd do with worse hands?). Paulo didn't say what his 4D bid was -- probably too obvious to mention. If we're sign-off or invitational, we're stuck with 4D, but if we're slamward bound, isn't there a better way?

KLEMIC: "4H. Cuebid back at partner...I am willing to play either clubs or diamonds at whatever level partner decides."

KESSLER: "4H. Our hand certainly has improved. I'll let partner make a decision based on knowing I have a heart control. Seems unlikely four of a minor is the right spot. May well have a slam."

There's one more onion in the stew -- a 3S bid.

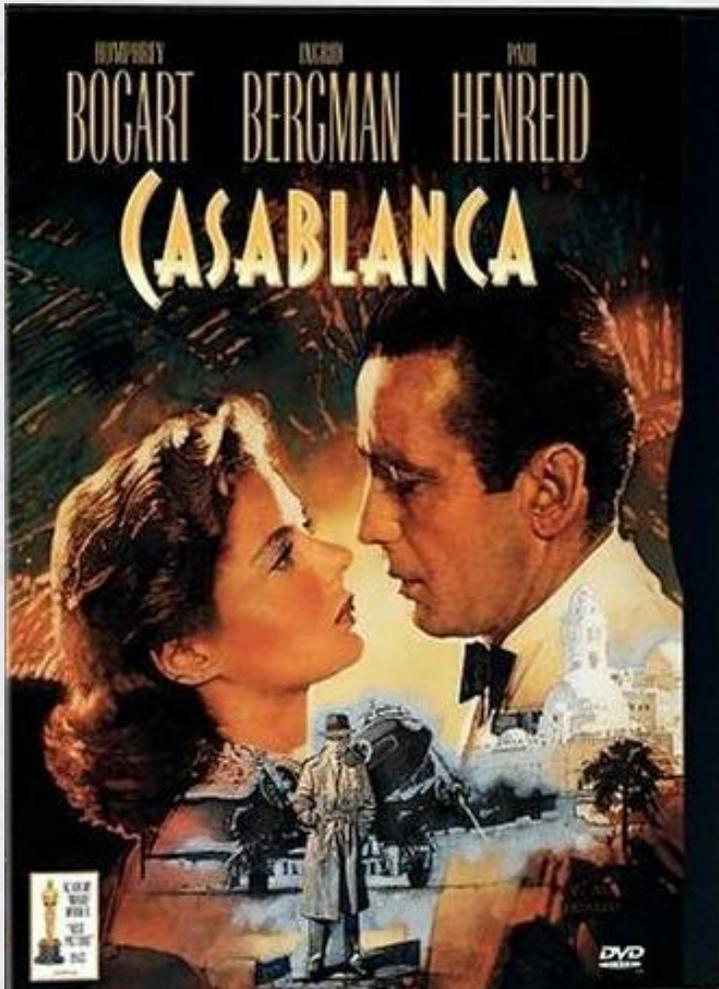
VONGSVIVUT "3S. Show a 3-card suit with an honor. I still have some hope for a 3NT bid by North."

Pokorny: "3S. Since I cannot have four spades, this must be some kind of last-train for 3NT (partner has club support since he didn't double 2H for takeout), showing spade values."

I think the idea here is that we'd have made a negative double on our previous turn if we had a 4-card spade suit. Some partnerships may have that understanding, but with 4-6 in the blacks, I'd start with 2C. If this is a "last-train" kind of bid, there's still a question of whether we want to take a ride on that train. Partner would have bid 3NT himself with good stoppers.

Scoring

If you ask for stoppers to bid 3NT and they aren't there, what do all the "I ain't got it" bids mean? Apparently the bridge world hasn't made a decision yet.



RICK: "We'll always have Paris."

Yeah, well here in District 8 we'll always have St Louis, Paducah, Kokomo, Champaign, Peoria, Rockford, Elgin and more small towns than Paris has sidewalk cafes. True, we don't have Ingrid Bergman and that might make all the difference.

5. Matchpoints, Neither Vulnerable

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

As South you hold: ♠J8543 ♥AT4
♦K82 ♣64

What's your bid?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2NT	100	7	48
3D	90	4	11
4D	80	3	7
5D	70	1	2
Pass	60	1	13
2S	60	1	5
3H	60	0	10
3NT	50	0	5

Ok, what's 2H? Showing a 4-card heart suit, showing a 3-card heart suit, asking for a heart stopper, or just foolin' around? And what do we do next?

LAMBERT: "2NT. A very tough problem. Assuming pard is 0-4-5-4/1-4-4-4 with say 16-17 HCPs (no reverse but extra values), NT, diamonds, or even hearts

might be the correct strain. 2NT suggests better spades than I have, but it could be the best/last plus score on this hand. I hate this bid, and hope it scores miserably."

FWIW, I think 16-17 HCP is enough for a reverse which means partner probably has 1-3-5-4 distribution or could it even be 2-2-5-4? But I hate 2NT bids too. I'll see what I can do about the scoring!

PAULO: "2NT. At Matchpoints, with a balanced shape and a heart stopper, I bid notrump."

Paulo may be wondering about something I was wondering about as well. If partner wanted to make a game try, why didn't he try 2NT himself? Nobody asks for stoppers in bid suits like spades, so maybe it's a heart stopper partner's after.

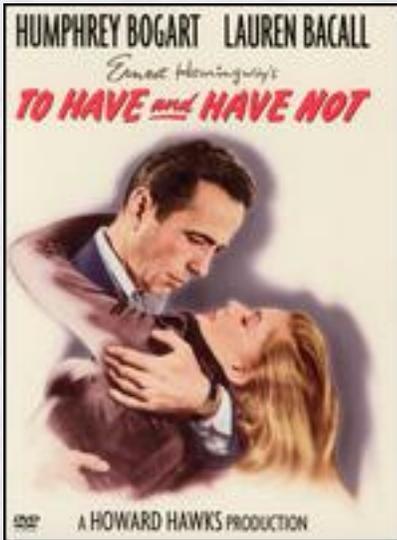
NELSON: "3D. I am not excited YET....it will take more than what I have to bid NT."

Our Fearless Leader is a bit more excitable.

WALKER: "4D. Partner should have a 1-3-5-4 pattern with around 17 HCPs, and I have two *big* cards for him. My fifth-round spade stopper isn't enough to try 3NT."

Scoring

Sorry to Bob Lambert, but 2NT got the most votes so it has to get 100, even though the panel as a whole seemed to lean toward going back to diamonds.



MARIE (Lauren Bacall): "You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and blow."

I've never understood this flirty line from Bacall to Bogart, but it must have worked somehow since they got married after making this movie.

6. IMPs, North-South Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	1C	?

As South you hold: ♠K ♥AQJ6 ♦A53
♣QJ754

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
1NT	100	9	29
1H	80	4	26
Pass	70	3	26
DBL	60	0	19

What's your bid?

Ordinarily with a handful of opponent's suit we might want to lie in the weeds and await developments, but with all these HCPs as well, we might still be lying in those weeds when the auction ends in a contract of 1C. Still, the opponents could be heading for trouble and the risk might pay off.

POKORNY: "Pass. Intending to double 2S or 1NT."

To clarify, that's doubling 2S for takeout or doubling 1NT for penalty showing a good hand with clubs.

Most of the panel thought they were too good to pass and were willing to ignore the obvious problems with a 1NT bid.

VONGSVIVUT: "1NT. 15 to 17 HCP, with a stopper in the club suit, too good to pass. Okay to have a singleton King side suit."

KESSLER: "1NT. Looks like 2-4-3-4 to me."

WALKER: "1NT. Feels like a 'speak now, or forever pass' kind of hand."

Can't say I understand this, on Problem 1 you passed because, "... it's a perfect hand for doubling back in if they bid hearts", isn't this Problem the same for spades?

The 1NT bidders don't seem worried about the prospect of partner transferring us into spades or our missing a 4-4 heart fit. Maybe a different bid would deal with those problems.

MERRITT: "1H, Values ... check. Suit ... check. Any questions?"

LAMBERT: "1H. Unlike the alternatives (1NT, Double, Pass), I can't see anything nasty happening with this bid. If pard supports hearts, or shows any strength, I'm well placed to suggest notrump with extra values."

Scoring

Most of the panel noticed that they had 15-17 HCP and so bid 1NT. Some of the panel also noticed that they had a singleton in one major and 4-cds in the other and bid 1H to try to solve those problems, and some passed with expectations of better things to come in the second round of bidding.

Thanks to all who sent in answers to this set. Congratulations to Tad Hofkin of Aurora IL, who scored a perfect 600, and to Babur Ozdal of Istanbul, who was close behind with 580. They're both invited to join the April panel.

Special congratulations to Bob Lambert of Warsaw IN, who won the 2007 Solvers Contest by averaging more 586 for his best three submissions. He'll be sharing his wisdom with the panel for 2008. See [Solvers Honor Roll](#) in this issue for a list of the top runners-up in the 2007 contest. Thanks to 2006 winners George Klemic and Arbha Vongsvivut for their contributions to the panel during 2007.

The six new problems for April are below. This is the second of the six sets in the 2008 Solvers Contest, so there's still plenty of time to join in. Please submit your solutions by March 24 on the [web form](#) or by email to our April moderator:

Scott Merritt -- merritt604@gmail.com

How the Panel voted	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Praveen Jayachandran, Champaign IL	Pass	DBL	5C	4D	Pass	1H	460
Mark Kessler, Springfield IL	Pass	6S	4C	4H	2NT	1NT	550
George Klemic, Bensonville IL	Pass	4S	4C	4H	3D	1NT	570
Thomas Kniest, University City MO	1D	4S	3S	4C	4D	1NT	480
Robert Lambert, Warsaw IN	Pass	4S	4C	4H	2NT	1H	560
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	Pass	4S	4C	4D	3D	1H	570
Manuel Paulo, Lisbon, Portugal	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	Pass	570
Dean Pokorny, Zagreb, Croatia	Pass	4S	3H	3S	3D	Pass	500
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	1S	4S	4C	4D	4D	1NT	540
Jack Spear, Kansas City, KS	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	1NT	600
Toby Strite, San Jose CA	Pass	4S	4C	4D	3D	1NT	590
Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey, IL	Pass	4S	4C	3S	5D	1NT	540
How the Staff voted							
Tom Dodd, Branchburg NJ	Dbl	4S	4C	4D	Pass	1NT	520
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	1D	4S	4C	4H	2NT	Pass	520

Scott Merritt, Abuja, Nigeria	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	1H	580
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	Pass	4S	3H	4D	4D	1NT	550
Top Solvers							
Tad Hofkin, Aurora IL	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	1NT	600
Babur Ozdal, Istanbul	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	1H	580
John R. Mayne, Riverbank CA	Pass	4S	4C	5C	2NT	1NT	570
Nigel Guthrie, Reading UK	Pass	4S	4C	4D	3D	1H	570
Bill Morgan, Rolla MO	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	Pass	570
Steve Hakanson, St Louis MO	Pass	4S	4C	4C	2NT	1NT	570
Linda Lubeck, Troy IL	Pass	4S	4C	4H	3D	1NT	570
Alvan Bregman, Champaign IL	Pass	4S	4C	4D	2NT	Pass	570

Solvers Forum -- April 2008 Problems

1. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

* (Weak two-bid)

What is your call as South holding:

♠A5 ♥K104 ♦A5 ♣AQJ974 ?

2. IMPs, NS

vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:

♠9652 ♥75 ♦K102 ♣K984 ?

3. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

* Michaels (both majors)

What is your call as South holding:

♠AK6 ♥5 ♦AKQ1074 ♣K73 ?

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* (Forcing 1NT)

What is your call as South holding:

♠AQJ873 ♥KQ43 ♦A4 ♣2 ?

5. IMPs, none

vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:

♠Q92 ♥AKJ97 ♦K98 ♣A3 ?

6. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1D	DBL	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠10654 ♥KQ ♦KQ982 ♣Q6 ?



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

Editor: Roger Dieringer, 5 Lockman Circle, Elgin IL 60123
mrdir@wideopenwest.com

Fun at the club!

December Birthday Bash



Santa has arrived via Don Malone.

January Birthday Bash: Hats!



Mary Pirrello had a cornucopia of fun.



The food was delicious.



Lynn St. John and Mary Jo Sergent discussed their hat sizes.



Santa's helpers are here: Dee Witte and Helen Anagemire.



Karen Golden & Doug St. John were trying to engineer a victory.

Nominations: Unit 239 Board of Directors

The nomination committee for 208 has placed the following names up for re-election.

- Ron Hopman (Huntley)
- Janice Condon (Rockford)
- Karl Dencker (Lake in the Hills)
- Gouglas Gugger Freeport)

Any member of Unit 239 is encouraged to become a board member and should do the following:

- Submit a statement announcing their decision to run
- Submit a statement with 10 signatures of sponsors
- Return above statement to Dee Witte by March 30, 2008

Thank you to the nominating committee: John Pree, Don Cisek, Caroline Volsted, Doris Servant, Julia Kelley, and Rachel Campbell.

Mail all returns to: Unit 239, Dee Witte, 9547 Brenda Drive, Roscoe, IL 61073

Any questions? Call 815-623-6167

District 8 News

Congratulations to the following teams of **Will Engel** and **Colby Vernay**, and **John Kinst** and **Rich Whitsitt**, who finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the North American Pairs Tournament (NAP), held in Springfield IL in November. They will compete in the national finals in Detroit this March.

New Life Master: Carolin Bohlin

Carolyn was one of four Rockford Club members to earn the rank of Life Master at the Fall Lake Geneva Sectional. She had all her needed colored points except the gold, which she was able to earn at this tournament. As with other people I have interviewed, the accumulation of the needed gold points was Carolyn's onus in earning the honor of Life Master.

Born and raised in New Jersey, witnessed by her pronounced Eastern accent, Carolyn, along with her husband and three sons, has been a resident of the Rockford area since 1959. Her sister introduced Carolyn to bridge in 1977. Neither her husband nor any of the sons took an interest in the game, although until his passing three years ago, her husband chauffeured her to most of her bridge games.

Carolyn has had many bridge partners, including Dee Witte, Yolanda Simmons and Lucia Skurski. Valerie Smith was her first mentor at the Rockford Club. Carolyn's suggestions are: "Have fun, keep plugging away at it, and don't take your losses too seriously". These are worthwhile thoughts that we all should keep in mind.

With the death of her husband three years ago, Carolyn said the Rockford Club members were very supportive. "Many friends called to see how I was doing and encouraged me to play bridge. Their expressions of concern made a hard time a little more manageable and got my mind directed towards positive things." Carolyn has enjoyed not only the game, but also the many pleasant people and experiences at the Rockford Bridge Club.

New Life Masters: Ray and Sue Tenelius



Ray and Sue are not only bridge partners, but also marriage and business partners. Both Ohio natives, they met each other during their college years. Sue was studying to become a Registered Nurse and Ray was majoring in Industrial Management at the University of Akron. During their courtship, Ray taught Sue the basics of bridge, resulting in their continuing and long-standing partnership.

Because of Ray's job changes, the Tenelius' have moved a lot. Sherwin Williams, Frito Lay and Strohs Brewery have employed Ray in the capacity of a work supervisor. They have lived in Ohio, Michigan and various communities in Illinois. The last 20 years until their retirements, the Tenelius' owned a flower shop, first in Geneva, and then a second shop in West Chicago. Sue still works part-time at a local flower shop and Ray's avocation is now following and investing in the stock market.

The Tenelius family includes two children and five grandchildren who now live in the Chicago area. Sue said neither her daughter nor son took an interest in learning the game of bridge. Unfortunately, this I have found to be true with other families I have interviewed -- that is, the

younger generations have not taken an interest in the game we have come to enjoy.

Sue and Ray earned their Life Master honors at the Lake Geneva Regional in the fall of 2007. Up to this tournament, both were within 2 gold points to achieve this honor. Ray said thanks to "two fine women from the north shore area of Chicago, who guaranteed their success", the final gold points were won.

Both Tenelius' trace back their interest in duplicate bridge to Karen Golden. Up to that point, they had played only party bridge. Sue told me that Karen said, "they needed to beef up their game" and introduced them to Standard American bidding with weak two-bids, Stayman, transfers, etc. Karen also gave them handouts and encouraged them to read books about the art of playing bridge.

Both Ray and Sue made the same suggestion to our newer members. That is to play in the knockout games early in your bridge career. Because of your lower point bracket, it will be easier to earn your needed colored points. Also, they suggested that you should try to compete in the larger tournaments, such as the one in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where the point brackets are narrower and you will have a better chance at accumulating colored points. Well done to a couple whose partnership extends well beyond the bridge table.

New Life Master: Dick Gierat



Dick is a very interesting bridge player. Having had a very severe stroke in 1998, Dick said, "The playing of bridge was an important therapy in bring back my mental capabilities." He went on to suggest that bridge helps, both the young and old, hone and maintain their mental sharpness.

His early story starts in La Salle - Peru area where Dick grew up and attended high school. From there, Dick went on to the University of Missouri in Columbia, where he major in both English and History. Dick's side bar was his real major was playing bridge, which almost caused him to flunk out of college. After graduation Dick took a job with the Chrysler Corporation in Belvidere and worked there for 17 years. Having an entrepreneurial urge, Dick started a tax business in his home and after 7 years moved it to an office in Belvedere. Dick was able to earn 50 master points while working for Chrysler, but had to almost give up bridge when he was self-employed.

Dick, and his wife Claire, have two daughters, Deborah and Nichole, and one grandchild. Both girls are non-bridge players, and Claire said she plays bridge "but not with Dick's passion." Also, in the Gierat home in Belvidere, is a large O-gauge model railroad. Claire said it occupies most of the basement. When Dick is not playing bridge, he might be found dabbling with this

hobby.

His first mentor, John Hoover, a fellow college student and friend, taught Dick the game in a very unusual way. Dick was only allowed to observe but not play for the first four months of his instruction. After his instructional period, Dick was hooked, and developed a great liking for the game. Dick's partners included Hal Miller, Doug St. John, Dee Witte, and Renee McNitt. Hal, who also had a stroke the same year as Dick, played bridge together as part of their rehabilitation. Dick earned his Life Master's honor at the Lake Geneva Regional this fall.

One of my funny encounters with Dick, involve my bid of seven no-trump-vulnerable, Dick's double, and an almost unheard of redouble. Dick had 12 high-card points and was sure the contract could be set. After the dust had settled, and 13 tricks were neatly laid parallel in front of me, and all I heard from Dick, and his partner Hal, was a lot of grumbling. For one month afterwards, every time I met Dick, the first words out of Dick's mouth were 7 no-trump doubled and redoubled, a shaking of his head, but with a little twinkle in his eye and a gesture of well done. Dick is an excellent opponent and a joy to play against.

The Changing Scene...

New Junior Masters: Nancy Mecklenburg, Sycamore; Charles Picus, Rockford; Mary Snyder, Cherry Valley; Judith Picus, Rockford.

New Club Master: Hossam Seddky.

New Sectional Master: Sybil Brown, Rockford.

New Regional Master: Elizabeth Gale, Rockford.

New NABC Master: Linda Shaw, Geneva.

New Life Masters: Carolin Bohlin, Machesney Park; Richard Gierat, Belvidere; Raymond & Susan Tunelius, Winnebago.

New Bronze Life Masters: Donald Cisek, St Charles; Darrel Rotter, Roselle.

New Silver Life Masters: Geri Morehead, McHenry; John Pree, St Charles.

Upcoming Area Tournaments

March 7-March 9 -- Elgin Early Sectional, Elgin, IL

April 21-April 27 -- District 13 Regional, Lake Geneva, WI

May 3-4 -- 299er Stars of Tomorrow, Palatine, IL

May 3-4 -- District 8 Grand National Teams, Springfield IL

May 20-26 -- Illini Regional, Hilton Garden Inn, Champaign IL

June 7-8 -- ABA/CCBA Joint Sectional, Chicago, IL



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

**Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign IL
61821
(217) 359-0042 kwalker@insightbb.com**

Central Illinois Membership Statistics

Our Central Illinois Unit has 741 active members as of January 1, 2008. Here's a breakdown of our current membership by masterpoint holding:

0-5 mps: 62 members	100-200: 109	Silver LMs (1000-2500): 82
5-20: 61	200-300: 59	Gold LMs (2500+): 13
20-50: 103	Life Masters (300-500): 39	Diamond LMs (5000-7500): 4
50-100: 86	Bronze LMs (500-1000): 119	Emerald & Platinum LMs (7500+): 4

Our total membership is down 2.5 percent from last year and down 4 percent from three years ago. Our Unit signed up only 35 new ACBL members in 2007. On average, about 66 percent of our Unit's new ACBL members renew for a second year.

On the plus side, we're the "youngest" Unit in District 8. The average age of Central Illinois members is 66.32, compared to age 67.62 for all of District 8 and age 68.40 for all of ACBL.

What can you do? For 2008, make it your goal to introduce at least one new player to duplicate bridge *and/or* to recruit at least one new or lapsed ACBL member.

Our Unit Board sponsors recruitment and retention programs, but the most successful "selling" of our game is through individual, personalized efforts. Here are some ideas on how you can help 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 copies of the monthly *ACBL Bulletin* magazine? 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 card or sticker with 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 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) or by phone (800-467-1623).
-

Coming up on the Club Calendar

♣ District 8 Sectional at Clubs -- Monday, February 4 through Sunday, February 10

All club games during this week can award sectional-rated silver points, with the opportunity to win Districtwide overall awards. Our Central Illinois Unit is paying the extra sanction fee for you, so play often! Check with your club manager for information on games in your area.

♣ ACBLwide Senior Pairs -- Monday afternoon, February 25

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 75 cents more than your club's regular entry fee. Check with your club manager for information on sites in your area. Central Illinois clubs that have hosted this game in the past are:

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

Bloomington: Gayl West Duplicate (11:45 am) -- Gail Moon (309-661-8993)

gpmoon@insightbb.com

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

♣ **North American Pairs -- Club qualifying games in June, July & August**

There's no limit on the number of these special games your club can hold. The 2008 national finals will be in Detroit MI.

Cheer on our Unit winners: The 2007-08 North American Pairs concludes in March when District winners play in the national championship in Detroit. Five pairs from our Unit will be representing District 8 in the national finals :

Flight A: **Colby Vernay, Lacon & Will Engel**, Freeport

Flight B: **Claire Krukenberg, Charleston & Richard Brummer**, Effingham

Flight C: **Praveen Jayachandran, Champaign & Dan Bunde**, Urbana

Barbara Bass, Princeton & Shirley Bloch, Peoria

You can check on their results in the [online Daily Bulletins](#) from Detroit. Flight A plays on March 5-6. The Flight B & C events are on March 15-16.

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.

In Memory



We were saddened by the loss of long-time player **Lee Thurber** of Champaign. Lee, who was 75, passed away at home at the Inman Retirement Center on December 22.

Lee served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 and had a long career as a civil engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Champaign. He also worked part-time as a tax preparer and was active in his church, where he was a member of the choir for many years.

A Life Master, Lee was a fixture in Champaign-Urbana bridge for more than four decades. He taught classes and directed games at many different club sites since the 1970s, including Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul and the Paradise Inn and Bridge at Ginger Creek in

Champaign.

Lee loved to play bridge and he was dedicated to helping others enjoy it. He was a true gentleman at the table and was always the first to volunteer to fill out a movement, partner a newcomer or help with any job at a club game or tournament. He had mobility problems in recent years, but he continued to play at the club two or three times a week.

Our sympathies go out to Lee's family -- his brother Don, sons Kevin and Mark, and two grandchildren -- and to his many friends and partners in Central Illinois. We admired his fortitude and his commitment to the game, and we'll all miss him.

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Dan Baker, Urbana
Roy Smith, East Peoria
Barbara Vonnahme, Springfield

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Nancy Shaver, Springfield

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Mary Lynn Porter, Springfield
John Sheen, Downs

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Calvin Clark, Morton
Jim Slaughter, Champaign
Linda Wilkening, Springfield

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Margaret France, Astoria
Praveen Jayachandran, Champaign

Life Master

Sam Katz, Bloomington

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Mary Creighton, Springfield
Fred Dinkelman, Princeton
Paul Holmes, Champaign
Sam Katz, Bloomington
Claire Krukenberg, Charleston

***WELCOME* to new member:**

Vilma Smith, Galesburg



Unit 223 Reporter

News from Southern Illinois-Paducah Unit 223

***Editor: Karen Coe, 12761 Webb Hill Rd., Ewing IL 62836
(618-435-4200) karenann4200@yahoo.com***

Happy Valentine's Day

Here we are in gloomy February. Don't forget to be a sweetheart to your favorite partner! Winners of the 2007 Masterpoint races will be announced just about in time for Feb. 14th. Go to www.acbl.org and click on Masterpoint Races to see who won at the Unit, District and national levels.

Welcome to Unit 223

Patricia Sexton of Benton IL and **Mrs. P. P. Butler** of Carlinville IL have transferred their memberships into our Unit. Be sure to greet them and invite them to local club play.

Players Advancing in Rank

The following Unit 223 Players have advanced in rank.

New Junior Masters

Margie Evans, Fulton KY
Pat Larimer, Salem IL
Dianna Nerren, Hickman KY
Barbara Walker, Metropolis IL
Marianna Weber, Edwardsville IL

New Club Masters

Susan Pensoneau, Collinsville IL
Terry Sharp, Mt. Vernon IL

New Silver Life Master

Larry Thompson, W Paducah, KY

2nd Time Winners

Repeating their 2007 win, the Flight C team of **Craig Hillyer, Eric Bizzell** and **Duane & Sammye Ann Broline**, an all-Illinois team, took the overall honors in their flight for their two-day performance at the Saluki Swiss Sectional Tournament in Mt Vernon IL on Jan 26th and

27th. They have been the first-place Flight C Swiss Team two years in a row. Congratulations on your fine performances!

Kentucky Dam Village Sectional Bridge Tournament

Unit 223's next Sectional Tournament will be at Kentucky Dam Village State Park Resort Hotel, Gilbertsville KY. If you have not attended this tournament before, I strongly urge you to consider going this year. The resort hotel and surroundings are lovely, and this tournament is renowned for incomparable Southern hospitality and ambience.

Play commences at 1:30 on Friday afternoon, March 7th, and concludes on Sunday, March 9th with Swiss Teams starting at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 8th, offers KO's starting at 9:30, and Stratified Pairs at 1:30 and 7:00.

Tournament Chairs are Doug Edwards (270-759-9335) and Sandra Lemon (270-247-7828).

Partnership Chair is Gayle Edwards (270-753-4821) or (270-759-9335).

Lodging is available at Kentucky Dam Park Resort Hotel (800-325-0146) or Inn By The Lake (877-360-4278).

See you at this fine Sectional! Come enjoy spring and bridge at Kentucky Dam Village State Park Hotel.



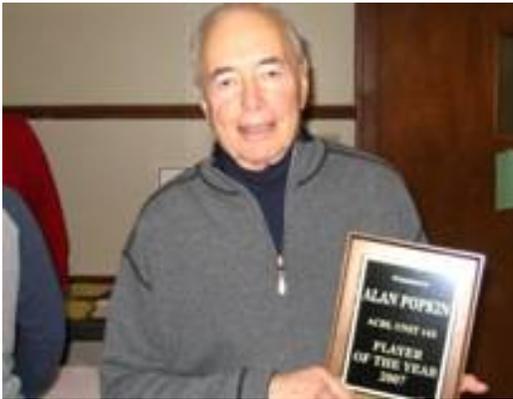
Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

Editor: Sheryl Finkenstadt, St. Louis MO sheryl@finkenstadt.com

When they're winning, people rarely say "It's only a game."

2007 Player of the Year



Alan Popkin wins first place in the Unit 143 Player of the Year contest.

The Unit 143 Player Of The Year (POTY) is awarded to that unit member in good standing who has won the most masterpoints in unrestricted Unit-sponsored events (12 Unit games, 3 sectionals, 1 Regional, and the Braggin' Rights Team game), by finishing first, second, or third in the overalls. This reflects loyalty and dedication to the Unit and, of course, a great deal of skill.

Ed Schultz, Susan Perez and Tom Kniest were 2nd, 3rd & 4th respectively, with only 6.77 masterpoints separating 1st from 4th.

We play for amusement and for edification. We play for the adrenalin surge, the exhilaration of making an "impossible" contract. We play for the pride of executing an exquisite play after a brilliant auction. We play for defending perfectly. And we play for Master Points.

Congratulations to the following members who have advanced in rank in December 2007:

Jr. Master, 5 to 20

Luke Lucas
Isabelle Montupet

Club Master, 20 to 50

Elaine Booker
Elizabeth Bush
Jason Daming
Hortense Growe
Rovert Mueller
Judy Pass
Liz Teasdale

Sectional Master, 50 to 100

John Bernuy
Debbie Sutton

Regional Master, 100 to 200

Bernard Hoover
Jeanne Redington

NABC Master, 200 to 300

Linda Mize
Jim Neville

Life Master, 300 to 500

Carole Venkelman
Dianne Glick

Bronze LM, 500 to 1000

Patti Disbrow
Jane Ettelson

Emerald LM, 7,500 to 10,000

Rod Van Wyk

Upcoming Tournaments

March 1, 2008 -- 199er Championships: Two single-session events, sectionally rated.

<http://www.unit143.org/newcomer/nov8tourney.html>

May 16 - 18, 2008 -- Sectional

August 11 - 17, 2008 -- Mississippi Valley Regional with **four NEW "Prime-Time" KOs**

September 27 -- 199er Championship

October 17 - 19, 2008 -- Sectional

MIDWEST TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

- Feb.** 04-10 [DISTRICT 8 SECTIONAL-AT-CLUBS](#) -- Local clubs
15-17 West Allis (Milwaukee) WI Sectional
22-24 [Branson MO](#) Sectional
22-24 Davenport IA Sectional
29-Mar. 2 [Peoria IL Sectional](#), Hult Health Center ([Bernie Riley](#))
- Mar.** 06-16 [Spring NABC](#), Detroit MI
07-09 [Elgin IL Sectional](#), Elgin Community College ([Karl Dencker](#))
07-09 [Kentucky Dam Sectional](#), Gilbertsville KY ([Doug Edwards](#))
28-30 Fort Wayne IN Sectional, Fort Wayne Bridge Center ([Jim Pelletier](#))
- Apr.** 08-13 [Mason City IA Regional](#)
04-20 [Gatlinburg TN Regional](#)
21-27 [Lake Geneva WI Regional](#), Grand Geneva Resort
26-27 Effingham IL Sectional, Effingham IL ([Kate Dickens](#))
- May** 03-04 [DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS](#), Springfield IL
16-18 [St. Charles MO Sectional](#), Blanchette Park, St. Louis MO
20-26 [ILLINI REGIONAL](#), Hilton Garden Inn & Homewood Suites, Champaign IL
-

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

District 8 homepage: district8acbl.com

District 8 Tournament Coordinator: [Chris Patrias](#)

515 Chesapeake Court, St. Charles MO 63303 **Phone:** 636-928-8610

Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional

February 29 - March 2, 2008

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

Friday, February 29

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

Saturday, March 1

1:00 & 7:00 -- Two-session Stratified Pairs (one-session
entries welcome)
99er Pairs if attendance warrants

Sunday, March 2

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.

Entry fees: \$8 per player per session. Extra charge on Sunday for lunch.

Nearby motel: Red Roof Inn, 1822 W. War Memorial Drive (309-685-3911)

Info & partnerships: Bernie Riley (309) 251-1151 briley@grics.net

Phyllis Rahn (309) 243-5460 pjrahn@insightbb.com

Kentucky Dam Sectional

March 7-9, 2008

Kentucky Dam Village Resort Hotel,

Gilbertsville KY

Friday March 7

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

Saturday March 8

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

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

Sunday, March 9

10 am & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams

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

Directions: From I-24, take Exit 27 and follow Highway 641 to the park.

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

Lodging: Kentucky Dam Village Resort Hotel (800-325-0146) or Inn By the Lake (877-360-4278).

Chairmen: Doug Edwards (270-759-9335 gay310@hotmail.com) & Sandra Lemon (270-247-7828)

Get your team together for the
**District 8 Grand
National Teams
May 3 & 4, 2008
IL Education Assn.,
Springfield IL**



- ♠ **Saturday, May 3: 1:00 & TBA -- 2-Session qualifying**
- ♠ **Sunday, May 4: 10:30 am (or TBA) -- Knockout finals**

Trips to Las Vegas -- and regional-rated gold points -- are featured in the 2008 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 Las Vegas NV in July.

Your flight eligibility is determined by the number of masterpoints you held on September 1, 2007.

Directions: The site is the Illinois Education Association (IEA) Professional Development Center at 3440 Liberty Drive. From I-55, take I-72 West, then take the first exit (Route 4/Veteran's Parkway north). At the first stoplight, turn left into the Walmart/Walgreen's complex (Lindbergh Blvd.). Go straight through the first light and first stop sign, then bear left around the next corner. The IEA is the first building on the left, behind Walmart.

Reservations requested: Please notify GNT Coordinator **Georgia Heth** by phone (309-263-0242) or email (gkheth@hotmail.com) if you plan to play. In your message, indicate which flight you'll be entering.



Illini Regional Bridge Tournament

***Memorial Day
weekend: May 20-26,***

2008

**Hilton Garden Inn & Homewood Suites,
1501 S. Neil (Rt. 45), 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+.
- **Friday: Juniors Day** -- Full-time students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the Compact KO or Thu-Fri Side Series. \$4 student discount for all other events all week.
- **Saturday: Barometer final** in the Flight A Strata-flighted Pairs (1:30 & 7:30).
- **Sunday: Fighting Illini Fans Day** -- \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!
- **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,

Tuesday, May 20

7:30 -- **Big Ten KO Teams** (continues Wednesday AM, Aft & Eve)

7:30 -- Play for the Pets Charity Pairs

Wednesday, May 21 -- 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 22

9:30 -- **Orange & Blue KO Teams** (continues Friday AM, Aft & Eve)

9:30 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

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.

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.*

Rose Bowl Compact KO (two sessions, four 12-board matches) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Friday

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 gold-point awards.

Charity Side Series AM Pairs -- 9:30 am, Wednesday through Sunday (to benefit CATSNAP Rescue and Champaign Co. Humane Society).

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=3500
B=2000 C=500 D=200

1:30 & 7:30 -- Thu-Fri Side Series Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Strataflighted Swiss Team (Flt. A separate)
7:30 -- 299er Pairs

Friday, May 23 -- Juniors Day

♣ *Students age 25 & under play FREE in the Compact KO or Thu-Fri Side Series Pairs.*

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

9:30 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- **Rose Bowl Compact KO Teams**

1:30 & 7:30 -- Thu-Fri Side Series Pairs
7:30 -- 299er Pairs

Saturday, May 24

9:30 -- **Chief Illiniwek KO** (continues Sunday AM, Aft & Eve)

9:30 -- Charity Side Series AM Pairs

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

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

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

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

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

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

Sunday, May 25 -- Illini Fans Day

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

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

Entry fees: \$12 session
\$8 session for Easybridge & 299er
Pairs
\$3 per session discount for full-time
students age 25 and under

[2007 Daily Bulletins](#) (click on calendar
links).

Host hotels:

Bridge rates and free parking at the Hilton Garden Inn (\$89) and Homewood Suites (\$99), both at 1501 South Neil (corner of Neil & Kirby). Homewood Suites rate includes hot buffet breakfast.

Both hotels opened in fall 2006. Facilities include a heated indoor pool and fitness center. Homewood Suites rooms have kitchenettes. A wide variety of restaurants are within walking distance. [Map with link for driving directions](#)

Hilton Garden Inn reservations: Call 217-352-9970 and ask for bridge rate or [book online](#) (use group code **BRDG08**).

Homewood Suites reservations: Call 217-352-9960 and ask for bridge rate or [book online](#) (this page links directly to bridge rate).

sessions)
7:30 -- Board-a-Match Teams

Monday, May 26

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

10:30 a.m. -- *FAST* Swiss Teams (stratified by team's average MP holding). *On the road before 6:00.*

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

Partners: Hugh Williams (618-203-9566) hrw1997@gmail.com

Madhu Viswanathan
madhubalan@insightbb.com



EARLY SPRING SECTIONAL

March 7-9

Elgin Community College,

1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin IL

Friday, March 7

1:00 pm -- Stratified Open & 299er Charity Pairs

1:00 & 7:00 pm -- Two-session Swiss Teams

7:00 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, March 8 -- *Free pizza dinner between sessions*

9:30 am, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm -- Bracketed KO Teams (4 players)

9:30 am -- Stratified Open Pairs

2:00 & 7:00 pm -- Stratified Open & 299er Pairs (single sessions)

2:00 & 7:00 pm -- Bracketed Compact KO Teams (exactly 4 players)

Sunday, March 9

10 am -- Brown Bag Bracketed Swiss Teams (bring your own lunch)

Strata: A = 1500+ B = 500-1500 C = 0-500

Elgin Community College is at the intersection of McLean Blvd. and Spartan Drive -- 1/4 mile south of U.S. 20 and 1/2 mile east of Randall Road. Take College Green to McLean and turn left to Spartan Drive. Parking is free.

Nearby lodging: Days Inn of Elgin, 1585 Dundee Ave.(847-695-2100)

Tournament Chairmen: Karl Dencker (847-458-8089
bridgetourny@yahoo.com) & Ron Hopman (847-659-1780)

Partnerships: Doris Survant (847-695-2929 survant965@comcast.net)