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Get your team together for the

District 8 Grand National Teams

May 1 & 2, 2010

*Eagles Club, 7075 Old
Decatur Road, Riverton IL* [MAP](#)



♠ **Saturday, May 1: 1:00 & TBA -- 2-session qualifying**

♠ **Sunday, May 2: 10:30 am (or TBA) -- Knockout finals**

Note: Depending on how many teams are entered in a flight, the event may be completed in one day (Saturday only).

Trips to New Orleans -- and regional-rated gold points -- are offered in the 2010 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 New Orleans LA in July.

Your flight eligibility is determined by the number of masterpoints you held on September 1, 2009.

Directions: Riverton IL is about 10 miles east of Springfield IL. From I-72, take exit 108 (Overpass Road) and go north to the stop sign at Old Route 36. Turn right (east) onto Old Route 36 and go about 1/4 mile, then turn right onto Old Decatur Road. The Eagles Club is on the left. [Google map](#) (with links for driving directions).

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 your team is entering.



ACBL Director's Report

by **Georgia Heth, Morton IL**

District 8 Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors

Hello District 8,

My San Diego report is a little late, but here are the highlights of November's meeting.

The ACBL had 10,954 new members in 2009 as of October and total membership was up 3039 for the year. The new requirements to make life master only apply to members who join for the first time after December 31, 2009 or who let their membership lapse after the same time. This may account for some of the increase.

The new headquarters in Horn Lake MS (near the old headquarters in Memphis TN) is progressing nicely and the ACBL will be moving in during March 2010. Right now, they believe there will be disruptions in telephone and computer services between March 11 and 19, including periods with no website access. Please take this into account in March and be kind about any inconveniences. Here is the notice they will be posting soon:

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ACBL'S MOVE TO NEW LOCATION:

The ACBL staff is excited about our upcoming relocation. However, please be informed that beginning March 11th and ending on or about March 19th, the ACBL headquarters staff will not be able to receive or send email communications. In addition, various portions of the ACBL web site will be affected. You may not be able to renew memberships online, log into MyACBL, or upload and/or view club game results on the web site during this time. There may be brief interruptions of phone services as well. We do not anticipate any interruption to the ACBL web site home page. We suggest that you visit www.acbl.org often for any updates. Our IT Department will be working diligently to keep the technical issues to a minimum and we thank you in advance for your patience as we relocate to our new headquarters.

The League Counsel Report was interesting for the reason that for the first time since I have been on the board, and I believe for many years before then, there are no pending lawsuits against the ACBL.

Traditionally, the biggest item of the November meeting is the approval of the next year's budget. That did not happen this year. The Board approved certain fee increases, including fees for short games

(from 40 cents per table to 46 cents per table) and membership dues (an increase of \$2 per year for most categories, \$4 for household dues and \$1 for juniors). Tournament director fees were increased to reflect rising costs that have not been captured for the past four years. A preliminary budget was approved, but the final budget will not be voted on until the March meeting. The first draft of the “final” budget (no budget is final until it has been passed by the Board) is due February 15.

There have been numerous changes to the ACBL Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines. If you are interested, please read them online where the entire Code of Disciplinary Regulations is posted. Three new offenses were created: (1) Attempting to influence a decision of a disciplinary body outside of the hearing process(es); (2) Discussion of the content of the hearing, other than the committee decision, outside the hearing room by a disciplinary body member (whether a party to the hearing or not); and (3) Cheating and similar ethical violations not specifically covered by other sections in Appendix B, Part A of the CDR. I think the first one is self-explanatory. The second has always been required by the CDR but was not a listed punishable offense. It is needed to protect the members’ privacy and the committee members and the ACBL from lawsuits for libel and slander. The third was needed by a growing trend of committees to find alleged cheaters not guilty when they could not find the specific offense listed in Appendix B, Part A of the CDR. We also had two hearings in San Diego.

Many motions did not pass. These included changing the Mini-Spingold team event to bracketed knockouts, allowing the number of strata in a stratified event to be increased to 5 and the number of flights in a flighted event to be increased to 5, removing the restriction that no more than 1/3 of the masterpoints needed to establish ACBL status level can be from online play, changing flight B in North American Pairs to 0-2500, forming a committee to examine changes to the relationship of clubs and Management, and adding a fourth flight of 0-5000 to the North American Pairs.

Motions regarding special games were deferred to the Spring meeting. A special committee was formed to make recommendations to the whole board. I was named to this committee and we will start meeting February 10. These are the games that are sectionally-rated, cost \$1.00 per player additional, benefit either the International Fund, the Junior Fund, the Educational Foundation or the Charity Foundation, and can be run almost every session. They have given rise to what are known as triple-point games and triple-point clubs. In various parts of the ACBL, there are clubs that run only triple-point games. In areas where there are more than one club holding games at the same time (I know, wouldn’t it be nice!), this has caused great friction with clubs who don’t want to hold the games but have to in order to hold onto their players. It also gives rise to other problems, such as skewing masterpoint races in favor of players who have constant access to triple-point games and players realizing they have advanced out of the strata/flight they are comfortable playing in due to the sudden increase in the number of masterpoints awarded. Most of these are not pressing issues in District 8 – we have few, if any, games running special games every session. Very few of our players were ever able to compete in the nationwide Ace of Clubs races due to the small masterpoint awards in our games compared to those in Florida, Arizona and other areas with large games.

I feel that some of these issues should be decided by the marketplace – if your members want them, run them; if not, DON’T -- but I think there is room to change as well. I am president of the Board of Trustees of the Charity Foundation, which has benefited greatly from these games, but I don’t think this influences my opinion on this matter. Our duty is to give away the money we raise wisely, not raise

more and more money. We increased the block grants given to the districts to award each year by 50% in November because of the increased donations, but we can go back to the old amount with no problem. It is important to note that the ACBL finances are not improved by these special games. All of the additional money raised goes to a fund or foundation. If anyone has views on this they would like to share with me, please email me at gkheth@hotmail.com (sooner rather than later, please.)

Provisions for handicapped team events were changed. Teams with an average masterpoint holding in excess of 5000 per member will no longer receive any handicap. The default method is that a team with a greater than 5000-point per member average will continue to give handicaps to teams with a less than 5000-point average on the basis of their actual average. A tournament may choose to treat all teams with an average of at least 5000 points per member as if their average was 5000.

The number of boards required for a Newcomer Game was reduced from 10 to 6. These games are frequently run in conjunction with a lesson and the 10-board minimum was making the combined session of lesson and game too long for the newcomers.

And finally, the Mini Blue Ribbon Pairs were increased to a six session event.

I seem to have found a few soapboxes to stand on in this column. I thank you for taking the time to read all the way to the endJ I will try to return to my more usual, shorter report next issue.

-- Georgia

If you have questions or suggestions about ACBL Board actions or other bridge matters, please contact me at gkheth@hotmail.com or 917 S. Main St., Morton IL 61550-2419.

In Memory: Dick Benson



One of the true "good guys" in the bridge world has left us with the death of Dick Benson, 68, on January 22, 2010.

Dick grew up in Rockford IL and spent 30 years as a counselor in the Milwaukee WI public schools. When he retired, he and wife Chris moved to her hometown of Leroy IL, near Bloomington. Dick loved the small-town life and became an active supporter of the community and the local schools' sports teams.

Dick was an expert bridge player with a career total of almost 12,750 masterpoints, which made him #247 on ACBL's list of top masterpoint holders. His bridge accomplishments were many, but he was proudest of those of his family -- wife Chris, who earned the rank of Grand Life Master; daughter Martha Katz, a world Junior champion; and son-in-law Ralph Katz, a many-time national champion who won the Bermuda Bowl world championship for the USA in 2009. Dick was especially thrilled to partner his grandson, Sam Katz, when he made Life Master.

That same "you-first" attitude was seen in Dick's interactions with friends, bridge partners and opponents. He was always generous with compliments and support, and had a knack for making people feel good about themselves. One of the few ways to get Dick to talk about something other than your interests was to mention baseball, football, basketball or just about any other sport. He was an ardent fan of college and professional teams and had an amazing memory for statistics and other sports trivia.

The next bridge tournament just won't be the same without Dick in attendance. We'll miss his sense of humor and big laugh, the shared commiseration about the Cubs, the funny stories about the hands he played ... but we won't forget them or him.



1NT with a 5-card Major?

By Larry Cohen, Boca Raton FL

Should I Open 1NT with a 5-card Major? This is the #1 question. If bridge teachers had a dollar for every time this question is asked, they'd be wealthy people.

Let me start by saying, that there is no "right" answer (which is probably why it keeps getting asked). All you can ask for is an opinion. Well-known teachers such as Zeke Jabbour and Bernie Chazen, prefer to open with the major. Marty Bergen and Roberta Salob will tell you 1NT. No doubt, other famous teachers will weigh in with a strong opinion.

My advice for Intermediates and lower:

With 15-17 balanced, and a 5-card major, open 1NT

(I will give my advice for more advanced players at the end). Meanwhile, the biggest reason I have for opening 1NT is that if you don't open 1NT, you will have a major (pardon the pun) headache when it comes time to rebid. For example, say you hold:

♠ Q 10
♥ A Q 10 4 2
♦ K J 2
♣ K J 3

If you open 1H, what will you do next? Suppose partner answers with 1S. How do you show this hand? If you rebid 1NT, you are showing less than 15 points. If you rebid 2NT, you are showing more than 17. That is why I prefer to start with 1NT. You have 16 balanced and if you open 1H, you will never be able to convey that information. Whatever partner responds to 1H, you will have trouble telling partner that you have 16 HCP.

Is there a downside? Of course. By opening with 1NT, you will sometimes miss out on a proper contract in your major. You will miss some 5-3 major-suit fits (and occasionally, even a 5-4 fit). There are conventions (such as Puppet Stayman) to get out of this mess, but those are outside the scope of this article.

I have found (in 30+ years) of experience, that my way is the best way. I have my good and bad moments, but in the long run, the money goes to the 1NT opening. Even when I do miss a 5-3 major-

suit fit, I find that notrump plays just as well (and even if it is the same, it is worth a fortune at matchpoints to get the 10 extra points for your contract).

I think it best for less-experienced players to blindly open all balanced 15-17 hands with 1NT. That is because opening with the major ends up creating annoying rebid problems. For example, players that open the hand above with 1H, will have to invent a rebid (typically in a 3-card suit). Bridge is hard enough. Intermediate players need to keep things simple.

For more expert/experienced players:

However, if you are willing to have an adventure or two, I suggest that you don't "blindly" open 1NT on every 15-17 balanced hand. For example, consider:

♠ 3 2
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ A J 10
♣ 4 3 2

This is obviously a "loaded" hand, but even I wouldn't open 1NT. I'd start with 1H, and try to cope later. The stoppers are bad for notrump, and it just doesn't look like a notrump. On the other hand, if I had this flawed collection:

♠ A J 2
♥ K Q 8 4 2
♦ K Q
♣ 10 5 2

I would start with 1NT. There are many factors, but one is that I have three spades, so if partner happens to transfer to spades, I'll be content. (If it is close, and I have only a doubleton in one major, I might lean towards opening in the other major). If I have 2 suits totally unstopped, I also would tend to open the major. In general, though, I open almost all balanced 15-17 hands with 1NT. (One big payoff comes when LHO leads 4th best against notrump into your undisclosed five-card major!).

Some teachers say to go one way with hearts, another way with spades. Others say to "shade" your hand and treat it as 14 or 18 (thereby having no rebid problem). If you wish to have lots of rules, and use lots of judgment, then by all means have a ball and switch back and forth.

For most players, though, I think simple is best. With 15-17 balanced, open 1NT.

This article is from Larry Cohen's informative bridge website, www.larryco.com. Visit the site to read more articles or sign up for his free monthly bridge newsletter.

2009 Solvers Forum Honor Roll

Congratulations to Jim Hudson of Elmhurst IL, who was the winner of the 2008 Solvers Forum contest. Jim topped all Solvers by averaging 570 out of 600 on last year's problem sets and is invited to be guest panelist on the 2010 panel.

Thanks to all who participated. Rankings are based on your best three scores, so there's plenty of time to enter the 2010 contest. Just fill out the [web form](#) with your answers to the April problems. Top runners-up in 2009 were:

Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	Amiram Millet, Tel Aviv, Israel
Paul Soper, Sierra Vista AZ	Steve Brauss, St. Louis
Steve Babin, Normal IL	Sandy Barnes, Wildomar CA
John Seng, Champaign IL	Micah Fogel, Aurora IL
Glafkos Galanos, Carbondale IL	Chris Grande, Mishawaka IN
Nigel Guthrie, Reading UK	Len Vishnevsky, San Francisco CA
Mike Ring, Urbana IL	Judy Eaton, Carbondale IL
Mark McEneaney,	Dr. Warren Bosch, Elgin IL
Linda Lubeck, Troy IL	Terry Goodykoontz, Champaign IL
Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL	Thomas O'Reilly-Pol, St. Louis
Bob Bainter, St. Louis MO	Peiyi Wang, Urbana IL
Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL	Dave Smith, Memphis TN
Jim Munday, Camarillo CA	Dan Baker, Urbana IL
George Klemic, Bensenville IL	Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL
David Warwick, Adrian MI	Don Mathis, Bland MO
Bud Hinckley, South Bend IN	Tanya Rodich, Baltimore MD
Asher Axelrod, Jerusalem, Israel	Praveen Jayaran, Urbana IL
Adam Miller, Chicago IL	Phil Kline, Queensland Australia



District 8 Solvers Forum -- February 2010

by Tom Dodd, Branchburg NJ

Kent's themed columns have inspired me to introduce a few of my own. Since bridge players are often (unfairly) categorized as the type of people who enjoy listening to elevator music (some do I'm sure!), I will strive to dispel that myth here and now. For I am a rock 'n roller- - born at the beginning of the meteoric rise of The King, weaned on the British Invasion, schooled during the advent of hard rock and heavy metal right through the Progressive Age, Punk, New Wave, etc. whatever all that means. As Billy Joel once sang, "It's all rock and roll to me."

We'll do it as a countdown -- hey, the web is full of top 100 lists -- and in the interests of time and space, we'll keep ours to 25. So you'll have to wait for four more TD columns to see the top seven. Without further ado, let's get started: The top 25 rockers of all time. Note, this list is my (and my better half's!) personal choice and not attributable to the Advocate (Who knows? Some of you may like elevator music).



#25 - Styx

Styx
(1972-
current)
is the
only
band on
our



countdown with deep Midwest roots. Formed in the late 1960s in Chicago, they took the name Styx in 1970 and sold more than 50 million records since.

One of the first US bands to perform to packed houses in outdoor stadiums, their music covered the spectrum -- soaring power ballads, harmonic progressive rockers, heavy guitar-fueled rock and roll, and a fusion of rock and folk or blues tunes. Talented musicians all, they reproduced the sound from their albums to the stage as well as being consummate showmen.

Styx and its current lineup (right) still tour regularly. I highly recommend the experience. Their homepage is online at www.styxworld.com

1. IMPs

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
--------	-------	-------	-----------

, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1D	DBL
Pass	2D	Pass	???

3C	100	8	32
2S	90	2	24
3S	80	4	12
3D	70	3	12
4S	60	1	10
4D	50	1	0
Other	50	0	10

What is your call as South holding: ♠AQ98 ♥A65 ♦J ♣KQJ107 ?

Problem 1 initially looked to me like many Styx songs -- straightforward, not too complex, easy on the ears. Then I opened the answer file and saw to my horror that more than half the panel was marching to the tune of several different drummers:

NELSON: "3D. Partner has majors and I really like my hand. Partner doesn't promise a rose garden, but it won't take much for slam so here goes my cuebid as well ... on my way to some number of spades (six)?"

RABIDEAU: "3D. I don't think I've ever done this in my life -- but it feels right."

Sorry, "Rose Garden" and "Feels So Right" are country tunes -- they don't make the list.

PAULO: "4S. I see partner's cuebid as promising both major suits and some values."

FEILER: "3S. 2D shows both majors. I don't see much point in bidding 3C and it might muck up the auction. 3S will skip the foreplay and start some hot and heavy cuebidding."

FELDHEIM: "3D. Absolutely game forcing with slammish overtones. Barring horrendous breaks, KJxx Qxxx xxx Ax is enough for 6S. And that's a minimal cuebid."

SENG: "3S. I'd like to Blackwood, but partner doesn't know what the trump suit is. 3S must be forcing and it allows partner space to cuebid the club ace."

MERRITT: "3S. This is either pick a major or a game-forcing hand. Things look good for us either way."

These comments actually made me go and look up the meaning of North's cue-bid- had it somehow changed in the past few years? Nope. Straight off TBW's website- "A cue-bid advance of a take-out double "shows at least game interest and creates a force until a suit is bid twice or game is reached." Nothing about majors- nada.

WALSH: "3C. Showing my best suit while keeping the auction low. There's lots of slam potential here, but information is still needed."

STRITE: "3C. It's a strong auction. If we don't start describing our hand at the 3-level, when will we?"

MATHENY: "3C. Since partner has forced, I will show the clubs before the spades. A club game (or slam) may be right."

WALKER: "2S. No reason to jump or make the vague 'return cuebid' of 3D, as partner's cuebid absolutely promises another bid. He doesn't have to have both majors (he would bid 2D with a hand such as ♠KJ76 ♥KJ5 ♦1032 ♣A54), so 2S seems the best (possibly only) way to sort out major-suit fits. It also rates to get a more helpful rebid from partner."

BRIDGE BARON: “2S. No need to do anything exotic yet in a game-forcing auction; just start by finding out if we have a spade fit.”

I was torn myself between 2S and 3C. Something good can be said for both calls. What swayed me was the simple fact that this is about the last hand where I want to be playing in some 4-3 spade game, with the possibility of a diamond force looming. This is IMPs after all, so there is no shame in playing our game (or slam) in our best suit.

SPEAR: “3C. This is forcing, then 3S over 3H by pard is still forcing. Then Blackwood over 4S, knowing major-suit finesses will be onside if needed.”

HINCKLEY: “3C. No reason, especially at IMPS, to not bid your suits naturally. There is still plenty of time to find your best game (or slam) -- which might well be a 4-3 heart fit.”



#24 - Bon Jovi

Bon Jovi (1983-current) is the first East Coast band on the countdown. Jon Bonjovi, Richie Sambora, David Bryan and Tico Torres hit the



rock scene in the early 1980s and have sold more than 120 million albums and been playing to packed houses, both indoor and outdoor ever since.

If you haven't caught it yet, their 2009 special “When We Were Beautiful” is a no-holds barred tribute to this band of brothers from New Jersey, as they refer to themselves. If you can score some tickets the next time they're in your area, treat yourself to the experience.

Their website: www.bonjovi.com

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: ♠64 ♥AQJ4 ♦J10754 ♣72 ?

The calls were all over the lot on this one -- various raises (some via cuebids), with some panelists advocating strength, others caution. I'll take a Richie Sambora solo or a Jon high-C over any of these.

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2C	100	5	10
3D	80	2	29
DBL	80	4	16
3C	80	2	2
2H	70	3	4
4D	70	2	9
2D	70	1	22
2S, 5D	50	0	8

SENG: “2D. Not sure how we're playing a double here. Whatever it is, I'm not sure I have it.”

WALSH: “2C. Maybe a slight overbid, but 2D or 3D would be underbids.”

WALKER: “2C. Cuebid raise is enough for now. A heart fit is unlikely, but maybe partner can show a second suit if I (and the opponents) give him room.”

MATHENY: “2C. This has become a very good hand so we must show strength.”

KNIEST: “2C. Have to show a little speed here; need to hear partner's rebid.”

FELDHEIM: “Double. Showing 4 hearts and the ability to compete, planning to violently support diamonds later. An immediate jump in diamonds is less informative and rates to backfire. It also makes it harder for partner to be involved.”

NELSON: “Double. After my responsive double, I will of course support diamonds, but I must check out if we have the heart fit on the way.”

STRITE: “Double. Suggest the hearts before we bid diamonds at whatever level necessary.”

FEILER: “2H. A peculiar, sort-of, kind-of psych. We can't outbid them in diamonds. This might throw a monkey wrench into the opponents' bidding and help partner defend.”

MERRITT: “2H. I am setting up for later. This auction surely isn't over and no other bid seems more descriptive. We aren't looking to sacrifice at these colors.”

Believe it or not, Scott was the only panelist who so much as mentioned the unfavorable vulnerability, which is why these big leaps are so mystifying.

BRIDGE BARON: “4D. Just a hair too weak for a 2C bid, so will it be a mixed-raise jump cue of 3C or a preemptive 4D? Bridge Baron's evaluation of the AQJ of hearts as defensive values tips the scales toward preempting, hoping to persuade the opponents to bid too high.”

PAULO: “4D. I show my support immediately, forcing the opponents to make the last guess.”

Unfortunately, I'd be quite certain North has looked at the vulnerability and might expect a little more, at least distribution-wise, to make an informed decision, even if E-W don't bid the expected 4S.

RABIDEAU: “3D. I don't suppose Snapdragon is on our card...”

For those who don't know the term, Snapdragon is not a flower, but a double that shows the 4th-suit (and, as some play it, tolerance for partner's overcalled suit). It's not “officially” used by BWS. Here's another idea chosen by two panelists:

HUDSON: "3C. Too strong for 3D or 4D, too balanced for 5D, and 2H doesn't take up enough of their bidding room."

The jump cuebid is commonly called a "mixed raise", which shows a distributional raise with better-than-a-preempt high-card strength, usually around 6-9 points. It's part of Bridge World Standard and seems to match this hand. The downside is that

MAYNE: “3D. 3D is chicken. If I were on the panel, I'd vote for 4D.”

I won't say anything if you don't.



#23 - Billy Joel

I can't say enough good things about this consummate showman from the Big Apple. Billy Joel (1970-current) has sold more than 100 million records and still fills the big halls and stadiums with his unique voice and style. We caught his show in Madison Square Garden a couple of



years ago and it was fantastic!

Billy has been inducted into both the Songwriters' (1992) and the Rock Hall of Fame (1999). If you get the chance to see Billy and his band, GO!

www.billyjoel.com

3. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: ♠832 ♥Void ♦AKQ987 ♣AK43
?

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
5H	100	11	36
4NT	90	2	6
5NT	90	2	4
6H	90	1	0
6S	80	2	16
5C	80	1	6
4S	50	0	23
5S, 6D	50	0	9

At first glance, this would appear to be a simple problem. There's not much North can hold in the way of high cards outside spades, and yet a nagging doubt lurks in my mind. After all, North's spades don't have to be as long and strong as my diamonds, and it was ingrained into me as a young bridge player to try and play your slams, especially the big salami, in the safest suit. So how to continue? Let's start with a few players not committed to playing at least at the six-level. They were pretty sure of what their next call means.

KNIEST: "5H. Have to get pard to focus on trumps. I'll pass 5S. I can't be worried about hearts here, as I would have bid 5S to ask about a heart control."

RABIDEAU: "5H. If partner signs off at 5S, I'll be thinking about this one for awhile (e.g., aggressiveness of all concerned, state of the match, etc.)."

FELDHEIM: "5H. What's the problem? One must presume that if partner holds AKQxxx in spades, he'll know what to do."

PAULO: "5H. I invite partner to bid slam with a good suit."

It had better be more than good. To my simple mind, a 5H call here is a buck-passer. If you choose this course, you are postponing the inevitable decision for a round, and you get the bonus of laying some blame on North in the postmortem if things don't go as they should. I can hear the argument now: "How could you *not* bid a slam with AKQ sixth of spades, when I showed..."

SPEAR: "4NT. Blackwood for spades, playing their side for the ace of hearts. But my confidence level is not high enough to bid 7S if pard has two keys and the Q of spades. This bid has been successful for me in the past, although I know I am overdue for a bad result."

I'm willing to take the plunge here and agree that 4NT is Keycard Blackwood and that 5NT is the modified Grand Slam Force (GSF). Bridge World Standard (BWS) doesn't specify the meaning here, except for saying that if North had opened 1S and the next hand bid 4H, then 4NT is Keycard Blackwood and 5NT is the GSF. Is this situation that different? Maybe.

But ... what does Blackwood it accomplish? Even SPEAR admits that AKQ of spades does not make him happy trotting out a grand.

MERRITT: "5H. I will continue with 6S. I don't like to make a bid that doesn't really mean anything, but hopefully partner can raise to 7S looking at solid spades."

MAYNE: "5H. Gotta try for slam; 5S might focus on heart cards."

So what does 5H focus on? Spade quality? Not when you assume that you have Keycard Blackwood and GSF at your disposal. Of course, even that's not a given, according to this panelist:

FEILER: "5NT. This means, 'Partner do something intelligent for a change.' At least that's what I hope it means."

Then there's the "Partner, please read my mind" approach:

HUDSON: "5S. I hope partner can tell from his hand that this is asking for good trumps rather than for a heart control. If we belong in diamonds -- or clubs -- too bad!"

I'm all for letting partner use his brain, but the bottom line is that a jump to 5S asks for a heart control. Even if partner is looking at six solid spades, I don't think you can expect him to read enough into your bid to violate the system and bid 6S with xxx of hearts.

Normally, my editor and I don't see eye-to-eye on these slam-level auctions (probably why she's the editor and I a lowly writer), but here, we are almost on the same wavelength:

WALKER: "6S. Slam obviously depends on partner's spades, but there's no way to ask, so this is my best guess. 5H is guaranteed to get you 5S, then what? A jump to 6H might convince him I have all controls outside spades, but could also imply 4-card support (and induce him to bid 7S with AKQxx or AKxxxx ... not a good bet when bad breaks are likely)."

Again to my simple mind, you either captain this hand or leave the decision to North. I say leave the final decision to him or her. Hearing me chirp 6S at this point, don't you think North, if looking at solid spades, will figure out the rest of my hand and take the final plunge? Hey, any way you shake it up, it's still rock 'n' roll to me!



#22 - Van Halen

Van Halen (1978-current) is our first West Coast band, formed in California in the mid-1970s, and still rocking packed houses after 30 years in the spotlights and over 80 million records sold.



Led from their inception by the Van Halen

brothers, Eddie and Alex (and now Eddie's son Wolfgang), along with bassist

Ross Anthony and the powerful vocals of David Lee Roth and Sammy Hagar, a Van Halen concert is an experience like no other. Van Halen was inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame in 2007.

www.van-halen.com

4. IMPs, EW vulnerable

West North East South
Pass Pass ???

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
1NT	100	12	26
1C	80	7	67
1D	50	0	7

What is your call as South holding: ♠K ♥AQ10 ♦J987 ♣KQJ65 ?

Finally, a problem we can sink our teeth into. As expected, only two calls were advanced. The “My partner will kill me if I open a notrump with a singleton” panelists were taking the “safe” road.

NELSON: “1C. Starting with the only bid, which is 1C. I am *not* a 1NT opener with this hand.”

RABIDEAU: “1C...and rebid 2H or 3C over partner's 1H or 1S response, respectively.”

BRIDGE BARON: “1C. Bridge Baron is just strong enough that it is prepared to reverse in 2D. A 1NT opener with a singleton is implicitly forbidden in Bridge World Standard.”

SENG: “1C. After partner bids 1S, I'll reverse into diamonds, then declare 3NT and get a heart lead! (Or get partner to lead a club against their spade contract.)”

Since when is this sort of hand worth a forcing reverse? Keep in mind, North *is* a passed hand here, and though the odds favor it being our hand to play, shouldn't we be seeking out our best chance for a plus? A reverse guarantees the hand will go to at least the 3-level (unless you can somehow maneuver to stop in 2NT) and those who know “The Law” can tell you the odds are against a plus even at that level.

Or you could plan to underbid the hand, like this:

WALSH: "1C. This is philosophical. The crowd may decide on 1NT, but I'd rather not expose myself to a Jacoby transfer. If partner bids 1S, I'll bid 2C. Responder needs to make some sort of move for game to be a good bet."

At least one of these approaches could work out. For my money, why not just get the hand off your chest in one fell swoop? C'mon ... it wouldn't be the first time you mixed a club in with your spades, would it?

FEILER: 1NT. "The right point range, a chicken in every pot, queeny-jacky, looks perfect."

MATHENY: "1NT. If I open 1C, I'll have a rebid problem over partner's expected 1S response."

HUDSON: "1NT. It limits my hand, discourages opposition bidding. I don't want to reverse with this hand."

KNIEST: "1NT. Trying for an easy auction. I'm not reversing into Jxxx."

WALKER: "1NT. The alternative -- 1C and a 2D reverse-- is the best way to talk partner out of a good 3NT or into an ugly slam. If considering a reverse with a dead-minimum 16 HCP, I at least want to have two decent suits."

Not to mention the stiff king is needed to even hit the bare minimum for a reverse rebid.

MERRITT: "1NT. Okay, I am weak. The gods of the Solvers Forum want me to open an off-shape NT, so I did. But opening a one-bid and rebidding 1NT, 2D, 2C, 3C or 3H all seem worse."

Weak? About as weak as one of Eddie's or Alex's incredible guitar or drum solos! Rock on, guys!



#21

-



Emerson, Lake and Palmer

An ELP (1969-1979; 1985-86; 1996-98) concert experience is truly unique. The three incredible musicians from England formed in the late 1960s and pioneered the prog rock era with their unique compositions.

They were also consummate showmen, often playing three-hour shows without an opening act, with Keith Emerson playing a half-hour of classical music (in tux and tails!) on a concert grand during intermission. If they ever reunite, I will be one of the first in the ticket line.

www.emersonlakepalmer.com

5. IMPs, both vulnerable

West North East South
 1C 1H
 DBL 2C 3C ???

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4H	100	8	26
Pass	80	7	15
3H	70	3	40
3D	70	1	17

What is your call as South holding: ♠7 ♥Q86543 ♦K942 ♣AJ ?

Another simple looking problem whose results floored me even more than that night in 1976 when Keith Emerson came out for intermission at the ELP concert and played 30 minutes of non-stop Mozart.

FELDHEIM: “4H. Certainly a tactical overbid with a six-card suit. I'd rather not defend at the four-level and I'd rather not give West a chance to compete cheaply. If North's cuebid is based on good hearts, we have no defense.”

SPEAR: “4H. My favorite kind of game try. Try to make game after bidding it! Wasted spade values by pard will probably doom this game, while values in the red suits may allow it to make. East-West could misjudge with a phantom save, and my stiff spade lead offers some defense.”

This last thought is the only redeeming feature of this leap of faith. Pressure, pressure, pressure.

STRITE: “4H. I like my hand enough not to leave it up to pard, vul at IMPs.”

SENG: “4H. Thanks for making it vulnerable at IMPs. Partner needs the heart king, diamond QJ and any ace (plus maybe the heart jack) – or less if he has honor doubleton in diamonds and four trumps.”

And when West doubles and North puts down some normal looking hand like KJxxx, Kxx, Axx, xx, you can explain why you decided to pick this moment to take a 500-point sack against a partscore. Even minus 100 loses 6 IMPs if we can make exactly 3H. Talk about not trusting partner to do something right!

The in-betweeners.

RABIDEAU: “3H. I don't want to disobey The Law and sell out to 3C, but it sounds like partner has a *lot* of spades (no support double from West) and, if not chunky, they won't be much use on offense.”

WALKER: “3H. This should show a little extra playing strength (usually a 6th trump), not extra values.”

Extra playing strength? Goodie, I have a sixth trump. Without it, I doubt we'd get an argument that this hand isn't even worth the overcall, much less a free rebid. The most interesting numbers I've ever seen came from:

BRIDGE BARON: “4H. Simulation says, with an expected score of +395.5, 4H is a clear winner over 3H (+129) and defending 3C (-86.5).”

I don't see us ever defending 3C on this hand, which is why I side with those who advised caution:

MAYNE: “Pass. I'm going to play partner to have not forgotten I overcalled.”

HINCKLEY: "Pass. Partner's 2C cuebid could be based on a heart raise or a forcing diamond hand. My hand is defensive in nature, so I'll pass and learn partner's intentions.”

My thoughts exactly. Why take control with a dog, when you have no idea where this hand might belong at the

moment? I would be amazed if the auction went all pass from here.



#20- Steely Dan

Steely Dan (1972-current) was the brainchild of musical geniuses Walter Becker and Donald Fagen, who met in upstate New York during their college years. The rest is magical musical history, a fusion of rock and jazz with intricate overlaid harmonies that has sold more than 30 million records and mesmerized their fans for almost 40 years.

They were inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame in 2001. One of the few bands in



our top 25 that I have not yet seen live

(they did not tour during my collegiate years), but I own all of their albums and hope to see them live soon!

www.steelydan.com

6.

Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	10	39
2C	80	6	39
2S	60	1	16
2NT	60	1	0
2C	50	1	3
3NT	50	0	3

What is your call as South holding: ♠QJ875 ♥K ♦K64 ♣J972 ?

"Go back, Jack, do it again." Why do I have a feeling this hand is the North hand from Problem 4, and that the South there decided in some flight of fancy to start 1D and rebid 1NT, devaluing the stiff king? Wouldn't it be ironic?

For the life of me, I couldn't come up with a reason to continue bidding here. We're in a decent spot, East-West haven't made a noise as of yet, and I fully expect a nice plus depending on the lead and suit breaks. I could be way off, of course. North might hold 10xx of hearts or worse and we go set a trick or two when EW couldn't make anything -- unlikely but possible. So why is almost half the panel moving forward?

SPEAR: "2S. Hope pard is not one of those scientists who rebid 1NT with a stiff spade. (I am in that camp myself, so I would pass 1NT with my regular pard.)"

Spoken like the man who opened 1NT with a stiff!

HINCKLEY: "2C. Close decision between passing and my choice of 2C, rebidding 2S next to show a mild invitation. I'm not taking the hand to 2NT or beyond without a known spade fit."

BRIDGE BARON: “2C. Book bid: 10 HCP, five-card spade suit. This is why we play New Minor Forcing.”

NELSON: “2C. I am making a new-minor forcing bid on this hand. It’s very possible to have game in spades.”

PAULO: “2C. Checkback Stayman. I assume that, at matchpoints, it involves some risk when partner can’t bid any major suit.”

Isn’t the risk magnified the higher we push the level?

WALKER: “Pass. A soft 10-count isn’t enough for an invitational new-minor force and there’s no reason to insist on spades, especially since partner occasionally has a singleton for the 1NT rebid. As in Problem 4, the king looks more like a notrump card than a ruffing value.”

FEILER: “Pass. This should be a plus score. Maybe not our highest plus score, but...”

RABIDEAU: “Pass. This would be a tougher problem at IMPs.”

Yup, but it is matchpoints -- and a plus is a plus is a plus is a plus...

MATHENY: “Pass. Not enough to invite.”

SENG: “Pass. Is this even worth 10 points?”

Is a plus!

Stay tuned to my future columns for more of the top 25 rockers. Any suggestions, I’ll look and listen to anything...reasonable. Requests for previews of the upcoming bands, fuggedaboutit. Complaints? File ‘em away for later...

♠ February Panel and Solver Scores

Thanks to all who sent in answers to this set. Congratulations to **Dave McNitt** of Elkhart IN and **Chris Grande** of Mishawaka IN, who topped all Solvers. They’re both invited to join the April panel.

Special congratulations to **Jim Hudson** of Elmhurst IL for placing first in the 2009 Solvers Contest and earning the lavish prize of a seat on the panel for 2010. See [Solvers Honor Roll](#) in this issue for a list of the top runners-up in the 2009 contest. Thanks to 2008 winners John R. Mayne and Bill Walsh for their excellent contributions to the panel during the past year.

The six new problems for April are below. This is the second of the six sets in the 2010 Solvers Contest. Your annual score is based on your best three submissions, so there’s still plenty of time to join in. Please send your solutions on the [web form](#) by **March 31**.

Note: The web form comments box has a length limit, so if the form rejects your bids, you may need to condense your comments before you resend your answers. Please post your bids through the web form so they’re included in our automated scoring. It’s also helpful if you use the same email address for every submission during the year.

Solvers Forum -- April 2010 Problems

1. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠KQJ8 ♥754 ♦Q5 ♣Q876 ?

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1S
2D	2H	5D	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠AKQ765 ♥753 ♦4 ♣AJ7 ?

3. IMPs, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT
3S	DBL*	Pass	???

* (Negative double)

What is your call as South holding:

♠Q8 ♥Q102 ♦AQ97 ♣KQ42 ?

Thanks for the problems to Jack Spear (#1),
Dave Dunstan (#2), John Seng (#4) and
Lenny Gross (#5)

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* (Forcing NT)

What is your call as South holding:

♠10 ♥Q82 ♦KJ1097 ♣QJ106 ?

5. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1S	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3C**	Pass	3H
Pass	4C	Pass	???

* (Jacoby forcing raise) ** (Shortness)

What is your call as South holding:

♠AK104 ♥A ♦Q10 ♣1098654 ?

6. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2H	Pass	4H	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠Q9863 ♥4 ♦AKQ87 ♣K10 ?



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

Editor: Roger Dieringer, 5 Lockman Circle, Elgin IL 60123
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New Life Masters

When it rains it pours. In the last two Pair Fares, we reported on a total of two new Life Masters. In this last two-month period, there are four new honorees. Congratulations go out to Sybil Brown, Neil Whittle, Marilyn Croft and Karen Anderson for accumulating the required number of point in achieving this honor. I have played against each of these four players in my bridge life, and have found all four of them amiable opponents, and well worthy of being called Life Masters.

Sybil Brown

Sybil is a member of the Rockford Club, has done a lot of traveling and earned the honor of Life Master in a relatively short period of time. Being goal oriented person, that desire became Sybil's quest.

Sybil grew up in a small town in the St Louis area of Wood River, Illinois. Her married life includes living 23 years in the Wisconsin cities of Madison and Oconomowoc. She is married to Cameron, and her family includes three sons and two grand children, and two new grand daughters through the marriage of her son at the end of this month. Sybil earned a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and has taught all grade levels, elementary through high school. Sybil is now retired and due to her husband business they now live in Rockford.

Although her mother almost became a Life Master, Sybil did not take up bridge until she was living in Wisconsin. Like many other bridge player, Sybil went from party bridge to duplicate bridge. She started playing duplicate bridge in 1998 and a little later became taking lessons from Mary Jo Sargent and Kathy Owens at the Rockford Club. Sybil said she was also mentored by Mabel McMahon, Karen Golden, Laurie Hamachek, and encouraged by her favorite partners of Pat Olafson, Beth Gale, and Char Whitney, Sybil had a special acknowledgement for John Kinst who took her under his wing, played as her partner in many tournaments, gave her homework to study, and mentored her in nuances of the game. Sybil earned her last needed fraction of a silver point at a November Tournament in St Charles and to become a Life Master.

Sybil related this story to me, which might help explain why we play bridge. Most of us have to take the good bridge days with the bad. If they were all good there would be no challenge and the game

would become boring. John Kinst and Sybil were playing against two “heavy hitters”, Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroh. Eric has authored books on the art of playing bridge, and in course of the game, John and Sybil bid and made a slam contract, which these worthy opponents failed to bid. Sybil said it felt great to have success against such accomplished players.

Sybil advice to us is to enjoy your partners and play for the love of the game. She related to me she “hopes to continuing playing and enjoying duplicate bridge well into her 80’s.” From what I have witnessed at the Rockford Club, I suggest she amend her statement to well in the 90’s.

Neil Whittle

I have played regularly against Neil and his partner at the Tuesday game in St Charles and the Thursday game in Elgin. I always look enjoy playing Neil because he is a real gentleman of the game.

Neil grew up in rural area of Strawberry Point, Iowa. He graduated from Upper Iowa College in 1969 with a degree in Business Administration. Now retired, Neil worked for MCI Motor Coach industries and FTD floral services as a finance accountant. Neil has 1 son, who lives in the Chicago area, and he has live in Carol Stream the past 20 years.

Neil said started playing bridge in college and began taking lessons in 1972. For the next thirteen years he played duplicate bridge, earned 40 master points, and then quit in 1985. Twenty-one years later, upon his retirement in 2006, Neil again started to play duplicate bridge. Neil also, like Sybil Brown, was mentored by John Kinst, and was also encouraged by Karen Anderson, and Linda Brubaker. Neil earned the silver needed to become a Life Master this past November at an St Charles Tournament.

Neil’s advice to us is to “trust your partner”. When I said that was an excellent suggestion, Neil assumed many other interviewee’s came up with same answer. Upon some pontification on my part, I believe he was my first respondent with this answer. It is very true bridge is based on a partnership of trust.

I asked Neil if he had any unique or funny stories related to bridge. He said his opponents were Bob and Kay Korte, and when they asked what kind of slam convention they played, he answered 1040. His former occupation seemed to over ride the correct answer of 3014. The four of them had good chuckle at his impromptu answer. When Neil not playing bridge you might find him on the square dance floor.

Marilyn Croft

Marilyn grew up in Minneapolis within a large family, which included seven children. Being Golden Gopher alumni, Marilyn moves to Chicago to continue her education where she earned a Masters Degree in Management at Benedictine College. Until her retirement, this degree leads to a very rewarding and interesting career as Head of Human Resources for the Chicago Field Museum. Marilyn is married and has two stepsons and three grand children. The Croft’s reside in St Charles, but also keep a second home in Chicago so they can enjoy the nightlife and entertainment that is found in a large urban environment.

Marilyn is a relatively new comer to duplicate bridge. Taking up the game three and a half years ago, Marilyn related, she felt at times, she was learning how to swim in the deep end of the pool. She dove in and got completely submerged in the game. The worst thing that could happen was “you loose.” Marilyn felt it is important to be challenged by experienced players, which can only expedite the learning curve. Daryl Rotter is Marilyn’s main mentor, and they are seen together in the Elgin, Aurora and St Charles games.

Needing only one silver point, Marilyn earned the Honor of Life Master at the Turkey Bowl Sectional in Aurora. Her advice to us, learn the basics of the game, have a variety of partners, study defenses, and don’t be afraid to get your feet wet by playing in open games. When Marilyn is not playing bridge, you might find her on a tennis court.

The Changing Scene

New Junior Masters: Carol Johnson, Saint Charles; Mary Ellen Trimberger, Aurora; Pat Seyer, Crystal Lake.

New Club Masters Karen Stunkel, Crystal Lake; Otis Thomas, Winnebago; Gail Torgersen, Rockford; Linda Murphy, Rockford; Jack Torney Winnebago; Geraldine Regez, Freeport; Audrey Williams, Rockford.

New Sectional Masters: Rodney Capanash, Aurora; Julia Worden, Barrington.

New Regional Masters: Donald Pauser, Dixon.

New Life Masters: Karen Anderson, Batavia; Sybil Brown, Rockford; Marilyn Croft, St Charles; Neil Whittle, Carol Stream.

New Bronze Life Master: Roger Dieringer, Elgin; Dr. Barry Burren, Huntley; Julia Kelley, Batavia; Joseph Pieper, East Dubuque; Douglas St John, Rockford.

Upcoming Tournaments

March 01-07 -- [WINTER REGIONAL](#), Indy West Conference Center, Indianapolis IN

March 12-14 -- Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional, Hult Health Center, Peoria IL

March 19-21 -- Early Spring Sectional, Elgin Community College, Elgin IL

April 09-11 -- Galesburg IL Sectional

April 19-25 -- [DISTRICT 13 SPRING REGIONAL](#), Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva WI



Illini Regional Bridge Tournament

Memorial Day week:

May 25-31, 2010

Hilton Garden Inn &

Convention Center,

1501 S. Neil (Rt. 45) -- Champaign, Illinois [Map](#)

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

♣ ***Wednesday:*** **Seniors Day** -- \$2 off per session in the Stratified Open Pair or Rose Bowl Compact KO for ages 65+.

♣ ***Friday:*** **Juniors Day** -- Full-time students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the Swiss Teams or Open Pairs. \$4 per-session student discount for all other events all week.

♣ ***Saturday:*** **Two-session Stratified Non-LM Pairs** -- winners receive a free entry for the Monday Swiss Teams.

♣ ***Sunday:*** **Barometer final** in the Flight A Strataflighted 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. C & D strata in all events, Tuesday through Monday.

Tuesday, May 25

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

7:30 -- Play for the Pets Charity Pairs

Wednesday, May 26 -- Seniors Day

♣ ***\$2 off per session in the Open Pairs or Compact KO for ages 65+.***

9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- **Big Ten KO** (2nd, 3rd & 4th sessions)

9:30 -- **Charity Series AM Pairs** (continues at 9:30 Thu-Sun)

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

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

7:30 -- **One-session Swiss Team**

7:30 -- **299er Pairs**

Thursday, May 27

9:30 -- **Orange & Blue AM Compact KO Teams** (continues at 9:30 Fri)

9:30 -- **Charity Series AM Pairs**

1:30 & 7:30 -- **Chief Illiniwek KO Teams**

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*, *more!*

Three Bracketed Knockout Teams

(four sessions):

Big Ten KO -- 7:30 Tuesday & 9:30, 1:30,
7:30 Wednesday

Chief Illiniwek KO -- *Primetime*: 1:30 &
7:30 Thursday & Friday

OskeeWowWow KO -- *Primetime*: 1:30 &
7:30 Saturday & Sunday

Three Compact KO Teams (two
sessions, four-person teams, four 12-board
matches):

Rose Bowl Compact KO -- *Primetime*:
1:30 & 7:30 Wednesday

Orange & Blue KO -- *Mornings*: 9:30
Thursday and Friday

Orange Krush Compact KO -- *Mornings*:
9:30 Saturday & Sunday

Stratified Pair Events: Single-session
entries are available in *all* two-session pair
games.

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

Two-session Stratified Open Pairs -- 1:30
& 7:30, Wednesday through Saturday.

Two-session Strataflighted Pairs (Flight A
separate from Flights BCD) -- 1:30 & 7:30
Sunday. *Barometer final* in Flight A.

Three One-Session Swiss Teams:

7:30 Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday

(continues Fri Aft/Eve)

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

7:30 -- One-session Swiss Team

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

Friday, May 28 -- Juniors Day

♣ *Students age 25 & under play FREE in
the Swiss Teams*

9:30 -- Orange & Blue AM KO (2nd session)

9:30 -- Charity Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- Chief Illiniwek KO (3rd & 4th
sessions)

1:30 & 7:30 -- **Stratified Swiss Teams**

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

7:30 -- 299er Pairs

Saturday, May 29

9:30 -- **Orange Krush Compact KO** (continues
at 9:30 Sunday)

9:30 -- Charity Series AM Pairs

1:30 & 7:30 -- **OskeeWowWow KO Teams**
(continues Sun Aft/Eve)

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

1:30 & 7:30 -- **Two-Session Stratified Non-LM
Pairs** (0-500 non-LM)

7:30 -- One-session Swiss Team

Sunday, May 30 -- Fighting Illini Fans Day

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

9:30 -- Orange Krush Compact KO (3rd & 4th
sessions)

9:30 -- Charity Series AM Pairs

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

1:30 & 7:30 -- **Stratified BCD Pairs** (afternoon-
only entries available)

1:30 & 7:30 -- OskeeWowWow KO (3rd & 4th
sessions)

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

Novice/Intermediate Events:

One-session 299er Pairs (0-300 mps) -- 7:30
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Two-session Non-LM Pairs (0-500, non-LM) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Saturday (winners earn a free entry in the Monday Swiss Teams)

Two-session Stratified BCD Pairs (separate awards for 0-200 pairs) -- 1:30 & 7:30
Sunday

Strata for all events: A=Open A/X=3500
B=2000 C=500 D=200

Two host hotels:

Bridge rate (\$95 double) at the **Hilton Garden Inn**. Opened in fall 2006, the hotel offers sleep-number beds, free wireless Internet, a heated indoor pool and fitness center.

Bridge rate (\$105 double) at **Homewood Suites**. Rate includes daily hot breakfasts and weekday dinners.

Both hotels are located at 1501 South Neil (corner of Neil & Kirby). Parking is free, and a wide variety of restaurants are within walking distance. [Map with link for driving directions](#)

Reservations: [Book online](#) (use group code **BRDG10**) or call 217-352-9970 (Hilton) or 352-9960 (Homewood) and ask for bridge rate.

Pairs)

7:30 -- Side game

Monday, May 31 (*Memorial Day*)

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 5:45 pm.

Chairman: Karen Walker (217-359-0042)
kwbridge@comcast.net

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



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign IL 61821
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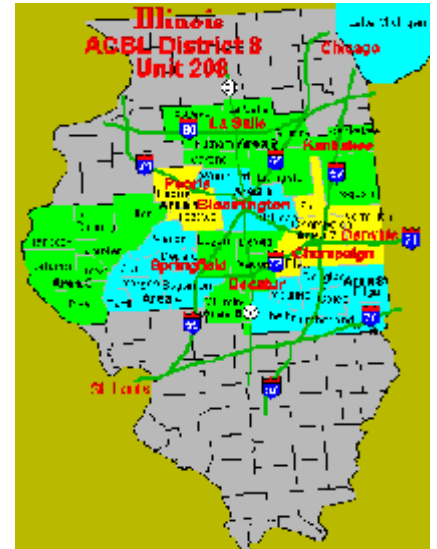
Would you like to serve on the Unit Board?

If you live in one of the counties below, this is the year to elect your representative to the Unit 208 Board of Directors:

Area #5: Christian, Dewitt, Logan, and Macon Counties.

Area #8: Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties.

The Area Representative meets with the Board three times a year at our Unit sectionals. Anyone from these areas who would like to run for a seat on the Board should send name and ACBL number to Unit Secretary Marilyn Stickel by May 1. Elections will be held in May and June. You can contact Marilyn by email (b.stickel@mchsi.com) or by postal mail at 204 North Fulton Street, Lacon IL 61540.



Illini Champaign Regional -- May 25-31, 2010

It's not too early to make plans for our Unit's annual regional, coming up Memorial Day week at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Champaign. You can check out the schedule in the March *Bridge Bulletin* and on the [tournament web page](#).

Bridge rate is \$95 double at the Hilton Garden Inn or \$105 double at Homewood Suites (Homewood rooms include daily breakfast and weekday dinners). You can book either hotel by phone (Hilton --217-352-9970; Homewood -- 352-9960) or through the tournament's [online booking page](#). Please reserve early, especially if you need a room with two beds.

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.

For fun and practice

The best way to keep your mind "tuned up" for bridge is to play regularly, but you can also stay sharp by finding some time every day to study or read about the game. These three sites are excellent choices if you want to improve your skills or just enjoy an interesting read.

[Bridge Clues by Mike Lawrence](#) -- This site is packed with entertaining puzzles that test your skills and teach basic and advanced techniques. Six new deals are posted every day -- a bidding and a play quiz for each of three levels of experience (beginner, intermediate and advanced). An page with links to other excellent articles by Mike Lawrence is [here](#).

[ACBL's Bridge Hand of the Week](#) -- Every week features a new column, written by an expert player, with a built-in lesson on bidding, declarer play or defense -- or sometimes all three. The link is also on the ACBL homepage (right-hand column) at www.acbl.org .

[Danny Kleinman's Deal of the Week](#) -- Expert Danny Kleinman offers a weekly hand and analysis geared toward intermediate to advanced players. The homepage has links to this week's new column, an archive of past weekly deals and a wide range of other bridge articles.

Coming up on the Club Calendar

♣ **ACBLwide Senior Pairs -- Monday afternoon, February 22**

This annual event, open to ages 55+, offers extra masterpoints, pre-dealt hands and online hand analyses after the game. The same hands are being played at clubs around the nation and will offer District-wide and nationwide awards. The sanction fee is \$1 more than your club's regular entry fee. Central Illinois clubs that will be hosting this game are:

Champaign: Bridge at Ginger Creek (12:30 pm) -- Karen Walker (217-359-0042)
kwalker2@comcast.net

Bloomington: Gayl West Duplicate (11:45 am) -- Stephen Hawthorne (309-827-7581)

Springfield: Bridge Club of Springfield (12:30 pm) -- Ann Caparros or Janice Franz (217-546-0597) jfranz5201@comcast.net

♣ **2010-11 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 2010 national finals will be held in March in Reno NV.

Cheer on our Unit winners: The 2009-10 North American Pairs concludes in March when District

winners play in the national championship in Reno NV. Three pairs from our Unit will be representing District 8 in the Flight B national finals : **Dan Faulkner**, Monticello IL & **Gary Dell**, Champaign IL; **Dan Bunde & Michael Ring**, Urbana IL; and **Ron Diehl**, Effingham IL & **Mark Daily**, Charleston IL.

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



In Memory

Central Illinois players were saddened by the recent deaths of **Dick Benson**, 68, of Leroy and **Dot Roemelt**, 79, of Champaign. An [article about Dick](#) is in this issue of the newsletter.

Originally from Massachusetts, Dot (left) was a long-time and very popular player at Bridge at Ginger Creek in Champaign. She was a Life Master with more than 700 masterpoints. Dot was also an active bridge volunteer who served for many years as the hospitality and registration chairman at the Illini Regional.

Dot will be missed by her many friends and bridge partners in Central Illinois. Condolences to Will, her husband of 55 years, and their three sons -- Geoffrey, Gregory and Douglas -- and four grandchildren.

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Master (5 pts.)

Donna Etter, Quincy
Michael Heneghan, Forsyth
Barbara Lary, Springfield
Lyn Sisson, Springfield

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Larry Christison, Springfield
Elaine Cousins, Bloomington
Pat Hobson, Springfield
Alka Mathur, Springfield
William Tracy, Galesburg
Carolyn Vanek, Springfield

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Natalene Ferrari, Odessa FL
Ralph Ferrari, Odessa FL

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Fred Roese, Springfield
Ann Schuyler, Bloomington

WELCOME to new members:

Kathleen Allison, Leroy
Bob Bier, Quincy
Jan Bogdanski, Champaign
Alice Bulinski, Springfield
Ray Bulinski, Springfield
Patricia Fernandez, Champaign
Michael Flanagan, Quincy
Joanne Foley, Champaign
Anjna Gupta, Springfield
Joseph Hartzler, Springfield
Lisa Hartzler, Springfield

Ruth Goldman, Springfield
Sidney Goldman, Springfield

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Chuck Avery, Champaign
Leslie Garvey, Elkhart
Nancy Shaver, Springfield

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Judy Sulzbach, Champaign

John Howerton, Quincy
Rob Husband, Savoy
Ashley Kinne, Peoria
Kevin Kinne, Peoria
Patricia Lloyd, Springfield
Susan Petrelli, Springfield
James Preckwinkle, Springfield
Joyce Werner, Bloomington
John White, Danville



THE RECAP SHEET

News from Northern Indiana — Unit 154

Editor: Barbara Walczak, 1008 Melbrook Dr, Munster, IN 46321

(219) 923-2288

bawalczak@att.net



IN MEMORIAM

Frances Haughey of Gary passed away on November 22 at the age of 88. She was a bridge player for almost 80 years. She began playing duplicate bridge in the 60s and was a Silver Life Master. She liked bridge because it was such an excellent mind game, and she had a good head for it. It kept her happy after her husband died and the nest emptied. She loved going to games, planning for games, and planning her trips to get points from the big tournaments. She was a regular at the Chicago tournaments. Lately, she

played more computer bridge and, consequently, made many friends across the country. Her children were caddies at bridge tournaments that were held at the old Hotel Gary. Caddies earned big money at that time — \$15 to \$20 for a weekend!

Doris Eley recalls all the fun they had together at tournaments. They always tried to figure out how many people could fit in a room for two in a hotel — generally, they worked it out so that eight could share a room. Cathy Mason commented on what a very good bridge player Frances was in her heyday. She said, “Frances was the kindest person and would do anything for you. I played with her to the end because I liked her.”

We are sorry to have another of our bridge family leave the fold.

70% + GAMES

Sharon Snyder, Crown Point and Doug Jordan, Dyer (novice game) — 76.88% December 5

Sharon Snyder, Crown Point and Doug Jordan, Dyer (novice game) — 75.00% December 19

Riley Jadwin, Merrillville (novice game) — 71.88% January 23

Carol Miller, Valparaiso and Kathleen Carullo, Valparaiso (novice game) — 71.25% January 30

NEW MEMBERS

It is with delight that we welcome these new members into Unit 154. They raise our total membership

now to 573.

Effie Hanes, Dyer

David Schlemmer, Auburn

Patti Cohen, Hammond

Douglas Jordan, Dyer

Sharon Snyder, Crown Point

Robert Albright, Roanoke

Virginia Martin, Marion

Lucinda Sutt, Gary

Delos Williams, Rensselaer

Beverly Peters, Fort Wayne

Dorothy Thomas, Kokomo

RIISING IN THE RANKINGS

Junior Masters: Anna Urick, Hammond; Joyce Vitkus, Highland

Club Masters: Jule Bell, St. John; Patricia Bell, St. John; Arlyne Filler, Highland; Margie Vice, Marion; Marjorie Wilson, South Bend; Norman Filipiak, Michigan City

Sectional Masters: Otto Bonahoom, Fort Wayne; Ramesh Gahndi, Fort Wayne; Patrick Kelly, Fort Wayne; Robert Porter, St. John; Maryellen Rice, Fort Wayne

Regional Masters: Mary Alice Baluck, Michigan City; Phyllis Daily, Marion; Linda Irwin, Kokomo; Judy Grambo, Schererville

Bronze Life Master: Bryan Cavitt, Elkhart

Gold Life Master: John Killeen, Mishawaka



We hope you're making plans to attend
the **2010 FORT WAYNE SECTIONAL** --

June 18-20 at the Fort Wayne

Bridge Center at 1930 Bluffton Road.



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

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

“If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.”

Lavish praise on partner. You will feed energy *TO* partner rather than draining it away. Even “constructive criticism” is criticism.

Unless partner has paid you to teach – or you have a divine mandate -- your title is “partner” not “teacher.”

January Sectional set a new attendance record

Reasonably good winter weather (no snow nor ice) in St. Charles, MO, encouraged 496 unique players to enjoy the excitement and fun of a friendly 3-day tournament. Pairs games attracted 84 tables on Friday. In the I/N pairs games on Saturday afternoon and evening, the total was 41 tables. Team games were especially popular: 34 tables in Friday night's Swiss, 5 brackets on Saturday's KOs, 48 tables in Sunday's 2-session Open Swiss, and 20 tables in the one-session 299er Swiss teams on Sunday.

Congratulations to Linda Lubeck. She was among the top four entrants who led all Solvers in the December issue of the District 8 Advocate Solvers Forum contest. They've been invited

to join the February panel. Look for Linda's answers in this issue of District 8's Advocate Solvers Forum contest.

Well-deserved congratulations go to the following players who have advanced in rank as of January 5, 2010.

New Junior Master (5 pts.)

Patricia Corich
Nancy Fries-Murphy
Peter Fuerst
Kathleen Short
Carol Spellmann
Louise Taylor

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Katie Boles
Kevin Clarkin
Virginia Frederick
Louise Koenigsfeld
Franklin Mange
Jacqueline Schroeder
Susan Shogren
Edwin Thomas, Jr.

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Susie Hall
Martha Hanley
Susan Kilo
Elizabeth Meter
Bill Nussbaum

Life Master (300 pts.)

Del Sylvester

Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)

Jane Ettelson

Upcoming Tournaments

March 27 -- 199er Championship, Maryland Heights MO

May 15-17 -- Spring Sectional, Blanchette Park, St. Charles MO

August 9-15 -- Mississippi Valley Regional, Marriott, St. Louis

September 25 -- 199er Championship

October 15-17 -- Fall Sectional, Blanchette Park, St. Charles MO

MIDWEST TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Feb 12-14 299er Sectional, Holiday Inn, Elgin IL

20-21 Saluki Swiss, Lake Williamson Christian Center, Carlinville IL

Mar 01-07 [WINTER REGIONAL](#), Indy West Conference Center, Indianapolis IN

05-07 Kentucky Dam Sectional, Gilbertsville KY

11-20 [SPRING NABC](#), Reno NV

12-14 Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional, Hult Health Center, Peoria IL

19-21 Early Spring Sectional, Elgin Community College, Elgin IL

27 St. Louis 199er Sectional, Community Center, Maryland Heights MO

Apr 09-11 Galesburg IL Sectional

12-18 [MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL](#), Gatlinburg TN

19-25 [DISTRICT 13 SPRING REGIONAL](#), Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva WI

23-25 Pioneer IL Sectional, Hendelmeyer Park, Effingham IL

May 01-02 DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS, Eagles Club, Riverton IL

14-16 St. Louis Sectional, Blanchette Park, St. Charles MO

25-31 [ILLINI REGIONAL](#), Hilton Garden Inn, 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

SALUKI SWISS

Saturday and Sunday, February 20 & 21, 2010

♠♥NEW LOCATION♦♣

LAKE WILLIAMSON CHRISTIAN CENTER

Three miles south of Carlinville, IL on IL-4

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

All proceeds from the Saluki Swiss will support the five-day residential Youth Bridge Camp, July 3-8, 2010 at Lake Williamson ☺

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 299'er PAIRS - Single Session - \$10
per person

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

CHOICE OF TWO OPTIONS FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

- "THE WALKIN" Saturday *Swiss Team Double Session entry fees
 *1:00 PM and 7:00 PM
 *Includes supper 5PM-6:30PM in dining hall
 *\$33 per person
- Sunday *Swiss Team Double Session entry fees
 *10:00 AM and after lunch
 *Includes lunch served at 1:15 PM
 *\$33 per person

"THE PACKAGE" *motel style lodging w/TV and telephone
 *use of Lake Williamson's recreational facilities
 *(Including Jacuzzi and indoor swimming pool)
 *Saturday supper, Sunday breakfast and lunch
 *entry fees for both Saturday and
 Sunday Saluki Swiss Double Session
 *10:00 AM and after lunch
 (SEE PRICE OPTIONS BELOW)

	Payment Postmarked by Feb. 15, 2010	Payment Postmarked after Feb. 15, 2010
SINGLE	\$130	\$152
DOUBLE	\$124 per person	\$146 per person
TRIPLE	\$118 per person	\$140 per person

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

Lake Williamson is an alcohol free campus. Tour at www.lakewilliamson.org
For reservations contact Chris Shaw 217-854-7331 or ccshawjr@yahoo.com