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April 2004

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Editor: Karen Walker, Champaign IL

DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS MAY 8 & 9, 2004 UI HOME EXTENSION



BUILDING, STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SPRINGFIELD IL

NEW FOR 2004: INCREASED TRAVEL AWARDS

Saturday, May 8 1:00 & TBA -- 2-Session Qualifying
Sunday, May 9 10:30 a.m. & TBA -- Knockout finals
12:30 p.m. -- Open Side Game

Trips to New York City -- and regional-rated gold points -- are featured in the 2004 District 8 finals of this national team event.

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 York City in July.

Directions: The University of Illinois Home Extension Building is located inside the Illinois State Fairgrounds. From I-55, take the Sangamon Avenue exit and stay on Sangamon until you reach the fairgrounds.

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

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

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Dave Carter Top 100

Here are District 8's top masterpoint winners and the total points each earned during calendar year 2003. The list is named for the late Dave Carter of St. Louis, who won the national McKenney Trophy in 1954.

- 1. Alan Popkin, St. Louis -- 699
2. Robert Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN -- 673
3. Nancy Popkin, St. Louis -- 637
4. Colby Vernay, Lacon IL -- 632
5. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 624
6. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL 571
7. Dick Benson, Le Roy IL -- 489
8. Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO -- 479
9. Marvin Shapiro, St. Louis 438
10. Will Engel, Freeport IL -- 422
11. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 413
12. Chris Benson, Le Roy IL -- 408
13. Eryk Gozdowski, St. Louis -- 396
14. Ken Bland, St. Louis -- 362
15. Ron Sholes, Springfield IL -- 360
16. Gary Kessler, Springfield IL -- 345
17. Milt Zlatic, St. Louis -- 345
18. Denny O'Connor, St. Louis -- 344
19. James Melville, Springfield IL -- 341
20. John Kinist, Batavia IL -- 340
21. Charles Clarke, South Bend IN -- 339
22. Susan Perez, Maryland Hts MO -- 339
23. Carole Sholes, Springfield IL -- 338
24. Jason Clevenger, St. Louis-- 337
25. Donald VanBuskirk, Hammond IN -- 327
26. Jacque Sincoff, St. Louis -- 322
27. Larry Kolker, St. Louis --302
28. John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN -- 299
29. Roger Lord, St. Louis -- 287
30. Sally Chapleau, South Bend IN -- 287
31. John Samsel, Chesterfield MO -- 285
32. Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO -- 284
33. John Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 277
34. Don Florida, Palestine IL -- 274
35. Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL -- 268
36. James Feinstein, South Bend IN -- 246
37. Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL -- 245
38. Jody Castillo, Warsaw IN -- 241
39. Percy Wu, Chesterfield MO -- 240
40. Irene Singleton, South Bend IN -- 236
41. Christopher Shaw, Carlinville IL -- 235
42. Joseph Chin, Highland IN -- 233
43. Elizabeth Zalar, Springfield IL -- 229
44. Donna Pedrotti, Maryland Hts MO -- 228
45. John Dicks, St. Charles MO -- 226
46. Kish Devaraj, Downs IL -- 222
47. Leah Newell, Springfield IL -- 221
48. Dean Duncan, Mishawaka IN -- 221
49. Dalton Darnell, Murray KY -- 216
50. Richard Sullivan, Decatur IN -- 211
51. Don Define, St. Charles MO -- 208
52. John Burgener, St. Louis -- 206
53. Doug Moore, Ballwin MO -- 205
54. Mike Giacaman, St. Louis-- 203
55. En Xie, St. Louis -- 202
56. Susan Rechter, St. Louis -- 199
57. Lee Hastings, St. Louis -- 199
58. James Hammond, Kirkwood MO -- 197
59. Nell Schneider, Chesterfield MO -- 197
60. William Kauffman, St. Charles MO -- 195
61. Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL -- 195
62. Eunice Portnoy, Boca Raton FL -- 193
63. David Bish, Leo IN -- 192
64. Meyer Abarbanel, Belvidere IL -- 191
65. Bobbie Holmes, St. Louis -- 189
66. Donna Simon, South Bend IN -- 187
67. Daniel Simon, South Bend IN -- 187
68. George Marvin, Maryland Hts MO -- 187
69. Michael Lee, Champaign IL -- 185
70. Douglas Edwards, Hardin KY -- 181
71. James O'Connell, Valparaiso IN -- 180
72. Allyson Wolfe, St. Louis -- 179
73. Mark Ehret, St. Louis -- 179
74. Julia Rambo, Mayfield KY -- 179
75. Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL -- 176
76. Patricia Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 176
77. Mark Kessler, Springfield IL -- 173
78. Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap IL -- 172
79. Daniel Spain, Lake Station IN -- 171
80. Howard Schmid, Merrillville IN -- 171
81. Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY -- 170
82. Gail Moon, Bloomington IL -- 170
83. Ronda O'Farrell, Chesterfield MO -- 169
84. Charles Zalar, Springfield IL -- 169
85. James Carbaugh, Metamora IL -- 164
86. Karen Erlanger, St. Louis -- 164
87. Jack Snyder, Rockford IL -- 163
88. Ralph Rotter, Granite City IL -- 163
89. Tom Kniest, University City MO -- 163
90. Fran Russell, Marion IL -- 162
91. James Davis, Kokomo IN -- 162
92. Glenda Piek, Edwardsville IL -- 160
93. Peggy Wald, Chesterfield MO -- 160
94. Phillip Stephan, South Bend IN -- 160
95. Frank Yoder III, Goshen IN -- 159
96. Kris Maillacheruvu, Peoria IL -- 158
97. Lois Define, St. Charles MO -- 156
98. Max Banan, Kokomo IN -- 156
99. Donald Kerry, Winchester MO -- 156
100. Marvin King, Creve Coeur MO -- 156

District-wide Mini-McKenney Race -- 2003

The annual Mini-McKenney race recognizes the leading masterpoint winners in each player-ranking category. Your category is based on the number of points you held at the beginning of 2003.

Listed here are the top 15 point winners in each category in District 8 and the total masterpoints each player won during calendar year 2003. Congratulations to all!

Rookie of the Year (0-5 pts. on 1/1/2003)

1. Audrey Danocup, Beloit WI -- 102
2. Thomas Carpenter, Fort Wayne IN -- 100
3. Barbara Walczak, Munster IN -- 83
4. Chuck Briggs, Hobart IN -- 53
5. Marc Golden, South Bend IN -- 46
6. Linda Heinkel, Princeton IL -- 41
7. Julie Woods, Chesterfield MO -- 38
8. Emelia Alberico, Munster IN -- 34
9. Linda Albrecht, Mt Zion IL -- 33
10. Kenneth Prouty, Geneva IL -- 31
11. Gene Albrecht, Mt Zion IL -- 29
12. James Neville, St Louis -- 29
13. Eric Gettleman, Normal IL -- 27
14. Norma Cowley, Edwards IL -- 27
15. Linda Slutsky, Chesterfield MO -- 26

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

1. James Melville, Springfield IL -- 341
2. Vi Grisham, Algonquin IL -- 72
3. Tom Willson, Champaign IL -- 69
4. Frank Sells, Highland IN -- 62
5. Bill Grisham, Algonquin IL -- 55
6. Joshua Kueker, Urbana IL -- 52
7. Jon Greiman, Dekalb IL -- 44
8. Kathryn Chamberlain, Rockford IL -- 43
9. Daniel Chamberlain, Rockford IL -- 41
10. Dave Freehill, Bloomington IL -- 40
11. Carol Luckey, St Louis -- 39
12. Jerry Oswald, Bloomington IL -- 35
13. Les Morrison, Poplar Grove IL -- 35
14. Barbara Bass, Princeton IL -- 34
15. Mike Lissner, Chesterfield MO -- 33

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

1. Michael Lee, Champaign IL -- 185
2. Chere Morrison, Poplar Grove IL -- 105
3. Oyvind Tafford, Champaign IL -- 93
4. Laurie Hamachek, Huntley IL -- 82
5. Gary Dell, Champaign IL -- 82
6. Dan Faulkner, Monticello IL -- 81
7. Jeroen Swinkels, Clarkson Valley MO --
8. Sylvia Slomski, South Bend IN -- 74
9. Richard Gierat, Belvidere IL -- 65
10. Marsha Kent, Springfield IL -- 60
11. Elizabeth Wood, St. Louis -- 59
12. Bud Hawkins, Mt Vernon IL -- 59
13. Larry O'Maley, Fort Wayne IN -- 59

Life Master of the Year (300 pts.)

1. Susan Rechter, St. Louis -- 199
2. William Kauffman, St. Charles MO -- 195
3. Brenda Gagnon, Paducah KY -- 153
4. Andrew Carver, Edwardsville IL -- 150
5. Robert Wheeler, Florissant MO -- 145
6. Sheryl Finkenstadt, St Charles MO -- 142
7. William Finkenstadt, St Charles MO -- 142
8. Samy Sawaya, Munster IN -- 136
9. Margaret Hansell, Champaign IL -- 134
10. Raj Kohli, Granger IN -- 124
11. John Coe, Ewing IL -- 121
12. Satish Gupta, Munster IN -- 110
13. Jo Ann Moore, St. Louis -- 106
14. Robert Janis, St. Charles MO -- 97
15. Eunice Patton, Bloomington IL -- 96

Bronze Life Master of the Year (500 pts.)

1. Will Engel, Freeport IL -- 422
2. Carole Sholes, Springfield IL -- 338
3. John Samsel, Chesterfield MO -- 285
4. Jody Castillo, Warsaw IN -- 241
5. Christopher Shaw, Jr., Carlinville IL -- 235
6. Leah Newell, Springfield IL -- 221
7. Mike Giacaman, St. Louis -- 203
8. Donna Simon, South Bend IN -- 187
9. Daniel Simon, South Bend IN -- 187
10. George Marvin, Maryland Hts MO -- 187
11. Allyson Wolfe, St. Louis -- 179
12. Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL -- 176
13. Daniel Spain, Lake Station IN -- 171
14. Ronda O'Farrell, Chesterfield MO -- 169
15. Fran Russell, Marion IL -- 162

Silver Life Master of the Year (1000 pts.)

1. Ronald Sholes, Springfield IL -- 360
2. Charles Clarke, South Bend IN -- 339
3. Sally Chappleau, South Bend IN -- 287
4. Frances Doss, Hot Springs AR -- 259
5. James Feinstein, South Bend IN -- 246
6. Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL -- 245
7. Joseph Chin, Highland IN -- 233
8. Elizabeth Zalar, Springfield IL -- 229
9. Kish Devaraj, Downs IL -- 222
10. Richard Sullivan, Decatur IN -- 211
11. Doug Moore, Ballwin MO -- 205
12. En Xie, St. Louis -- 202

14. Charlie Morton, Bloomington IL -- 56
15. Martha Hosinski, South Bend IN -- 54

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

1. Patricia Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 176
2. Paul Quayle, Gilbertsville KY -- 170
3. Frank Tirsch, Springfield IL -- 123
4. Kelly Tripp, Hammond IN -- 115
5. Joan Bailey-Murray, Rockford IL -- 101
6. Zach Freehill, Bloomington IL -- 101
7. William Lindemann, Champaign IL -- 89
8. Beckham Southern, Kennett MO -- 88
9. Martha Southern, Kennett MO -- 88
10. Dan Scroggins, Beloit WI -- 85
11. Ann Ruwitch, St. Louis -- 80
12. Betty Basler, Oregon IL -- 76
13. Joesph Franz III, Springfield IL -- 75
14. Elaine Tribes, Edwardsville IL -- 75
15. Harold Miller, Belvidere IL -- 73

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

1. Glenda Piek, Edwardsville IL -- 160
2. Dale Shepherd, Warsaw IN -- 140
3. Stan Golab, Dupo IL -- 140
4. Pamela Eden, Rockford IL -- 128
5. Jane Baker, Paducah KY -- 112
6. Judy Putzel, St. Louis -- 110
7. Morris Gross, Godfrey IL -- 109
8. Richard Scheibelhut, Oro Valley AZ -- 103
9. Phyllis Seeman, Rockford IL -- 98
10. Verdene Twomey, Carbondale IL -- 97
11. Mark Ludwig, Maryland Hts MO -- 96
12. Patricia Dawson, Mount Carmel IL -- 95
13. Nancy La Master, Munster IN -- 91
14. Richard Murdock, North Aurora IL -- 79
15. Dean Stow, Paducah KY -- 77

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

1. Eryk Gozdowski, St. Louis -- 396
2. Jason Clevenger, St. Louis -- 337
3. John Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 277
4. Percy Wu, Chesterfield MO -- 240
5. Phillip Stephan, South Bend IN -- 160
6. Sanford Becker, Chesterfield MO -- 139
7. Carolyn Koch, Edwardsville IL -- 132
8. Lawrence Jones, Ballwin MO -- 129
9. Larry Wilcox, Springfield IL -- 118
10. Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign IL -- 115
11. James Nixon, Galesburg IL -- 113
12. Linda Brazier, Moro IL -- 104
13. Mrs. J. F. White, Mt Carmel IL -- 101
14. Deborah King, Creve Coeur MO -- 96
15. Robert Cundall, Collinsville IL -- 91

13. Meyer Abarbanel, Belvidere IL -- 191
14. Douglas Edwards, Hardin KY -- 181
15. James O'Connell, Valparaiso IN -- 180

Gold Life Master of the Year (2500 pts.)

1. Alan Popkin, St. Louis -- 699
2. Nancy Popkin, St. Louis -- 637
3. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL -- 571
4. Marvin Shapiro, St. Louis -- 438
5. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 413
6. Kenneth Bland, St. Louis -- 362
7. Milton Zlatic, St. Louis -- 345
8. Denny O'Connor, St. Louis -- 344
9. John Kinst, Batavia IL -- 340
10. Susan Perez, Maryland Hts MO -- 339
11. Don VanBuskirk, Hammond IN -- 327
12. Jacque Sincoff, St. Louis -- 322
13. John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN -- 299
14. Donald Florida, Palestine IL -- 274
15. Irene Singleton, South Bend IN -- 236

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

1. Robert Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN -- 673
2. Colby Vernay, Lacon IL -- 632
3. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 624
4. Dick Benson, Le Roy IL -- 489
5. Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO -- 479
6. Chris Benson, Le Roy IL -- 408
7. Gary Kessler, Springfield IL -- 345
8. Larry Kolker, St. Louis -- 302
9. Roger Lord, St. Louis -- 287
10. Ed Schultz, Chesterfield MO -- 284
11. Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL -- 268
12. Dean Duncan, Mishawaka IN -- 221
13. Joshua Stark, Grayslake IL -- 195
14. Eunice Portnoy, Boca Raton FL -- 193
15. Mark Kessler, Springfield IL -- 173

District-wide Ace of Clubs Race -- 2003

The annual Ace of Clubs awards recognize the leading masterpoint winners in club-level games. Awards are made in each player category. Your category is based on your total masterpoint holding at the beginning of 2003.

Listed here are the top point winners in each category in District 8 and the total masterpoints each player won in club games during calendar year 2003. Congratulations to these active and successful players, and thanks from all of us for your support of local bridge.

Rookie of the Year (0-5 pts. on 1/1/2003)

1. Audrey Danocup, Beloit WI -- 45
2. Chuck Briggs, Hobart IN -- 43
3. Thomas Carpenter, Fort Wayne IN -- 40
4. Marc Golden, South Bend IN -- 40
5. Barbara Walczak, Munster IN -- 39
6. Julie Woods, Chesterfield MO -- 26
7. Emelia Alberico, Munster IN -- 24
8. James Neville, St Louis -- 23
9. Linda Heinkel, Princeton IL -- 23
10. Norma Cowley, Edwards IL -- 23
11. Daniel Hauk, Mason IL -- 22
12. Joan Busch, Fort Wayne IN -- 21
13. Howard Baird, Springfield IL -- 20
14. Gerald Van Mill, Edwardsville IL -- 20
15. Robert Schumm, Munster IN -- 19

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

1. Tom Willson, Champaign IL -- 34
2. Les Morrison, Poplar Grove IL -- 30
3. Vi Grisham, Algonquin IL -- 30
4. Barbara Bass, Princeton IL -- 29
5. Dave Freehill, Bloomington IL -- 29
6. Frank Sells, Highland IN -- 27
7. Gene Cottle, Decatur IL -- 27
8. Mary Alyce Keith, Chatham IL -- 25
9. James Melville, Springfield IL -- 23
10. Mike Lissner, Chesterfield MO -- 23
11. Jerry Oswald, Bloomington IL -- 23
12. Andrew Bono, Springfield IL -- 23
13. Marshall Susler, Decatur IL -- 21
14. Phyllis Lowrey, Springfield IL -- 21
15. Rita Harmon, Springfield IL -- 21

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

1. Chere Morrison, Poplar Grove IL -- 61
2. Sylvia Slomski, South Bend IN -- 60
3. Marsha Kent, Springfield IL -- 48
4. Richard Gierat, Belvidere IL -- 45
5. Larry O'Maley, Fort Wayne IN -- 40
6. Maryellen Nifong, Springfield IL -- 39
7. Ruth Minish, Granger IN -- 39
8. Roberta Trochtenberg, St. Louis -- 39
9. Barbara Pickering, Springfield IL -- 38
10. Carol Jablonow, St. Louis -- 35

NABC Master of the Year (200 - nonLM)

1. John Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 121
2. Eryk Gozdowski, St. Louis -- 85
3. Phillip Stephan, South Bend IN -- 84
4. Sanford Becker, Chesterfield MO -- 83
5. Percy Wu, Chesterfield MO -- 71
6. Judy Elliott, Merrillville IN -- 69
7. Jack Deaton, Cambridge IL -- 69
8. Alf Stole, Bridgeton MO -- 62
9. Jeanne Stilp, Granger IN -- 57
10. Stanley Gutzman, Normal IL -- 56
11. Shirley Peddicord, Hobart IN -- 50
12. Deborah King, Creve Coeur MO -- 50
13. Peter Avergun, Hammond IN -- 47
14. Ruth Crews, Du Quoin IL -- 44
15. Jason Clevenger, St. Louis -- 44

Life Master of the Year (300 pts.)

1. Samy Sawaya, Munster IN -- 98
2. Susan Rechter, St. Louis -- 73
3. Robert Wheeler, Florissant MO -- 73
4. Satish Gupta, Munster IN -- 67
5. Henry Hoffman, Bloomington IL -- 60
6. Brenda Gagnon, Paducah KY -- 59
7. Raj Kohli, Granger IN -- 57
8. Tom Nahsen, Pleasant Plains IL -- 51
9. Margaret Hansell, Champaign IL -- 51
10. Andrew Carver, Edwardsville IL -- 50
11. James Moon, Bloomington IL -- 45
12. William Meler, Mount Carmel IL -- 42
13. Linda Fisher, Tolono IL -- 41
14. William Kauffman, St. Charles MO -- 40
15. Mary Jones, Champaign IL -- 39

Bronze Life Master of the Year (500 pts.)

1. Mike Giacaman, St. Louis -- 103
2. Ronda O'Farrell, Chesterfield MO -- 103
3. John Parsons, Springfield IL -- 95
4. Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL -- 87
5. George Veenstra, Springfield IL -- 86
6. Marjorie Hanner, Springfield IL -- 84
7. Jo Ann Steigmeyer, Granger IN -- 83
8. Daniel Spain, Lake Station IN -- 83
9. Ray Gilbert, Fort Wayne IN -- 75
10. Cheryl Davis, St. Louis -- 73

11. Sheila Kiefer, Ft Wayne IN -- 35
12. Cindy Wheeler, Chatham IL -- 33
13. Laurie Hamachek, Huntley IL -- 31
14. Martha Hosinski, South Bend IN -- 31
15. Mary Outland, Angola IN -- 30

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

1. Frank Tirsch, Springfield IL -- 80
2. Joseph Franz III, Springfield IL -- 60
3. Beckham Southern, Kennett MO -- 58
4. Martha Southern, Kennett MO -- 58
5. Mimi Mednikow, St. Louis -- 57
6. Kelly Tripp, Hammond IN -- 57
7. Zach Freehill, Bloomington IL -- 53
8. Douglas Jonquet, Decatur IL -- 52
9. Patricia Killeen, Mishawaka IN -- 48
10. Harold Miller, Belvidere IL -- 47
11. Julie Hubbard, Springfield IL -- 47
12. Layton Lamb, Springfield IL -- 46
13. Ann Ruwitch, St. Louis -- 43
14. Rosemary Long, Fort Wayne IN -- 43
15. Jason Outland, Angola IN -- 41

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

1. Judy Putzel, St. Louis -- 77
2. Jane Baker, Paducah KY -- 66
3. Gloria Shoults, Springfield IL -- 61
4. Nancy La Master, Munster IN -- 61
5. David Short, Champaign IL -- 55
6. Richard Scheibelhut, Oro Valley AZ -- 53
7. Anne Bruick, Fort Wayne IN -- 48
8. Pamela Eden, Rockford IL -- 47
9. Glenda Piek, Edwardsville IL -- 46
10. Susan Tunelius, Davis IL -- 46
11. Bill Holzrichter, Elburn IL -- 45
12. Jack Kessler, Bloomington IL -- 44
13. Norman Goldman, Wildwood MO -- 44
14. Ben Silverman, St. Louis -- 42
15. Mary Niehaus, Danville IL -- 42

11. Leah Newell, Springfield IL -- 73
12. Shirley Green, Fort Wayne IN -- 72
13. Jeannine Owen, St. Louis -- 72
14. James Angell, Munster IN -- 72
15. Bob Kay, Batavia IL -- 71

Silver Life Master of the Year (1000 pts.)

1. James Feinstein, South Bend IN -- 153
2. Richard Sullivan, Decatur IN -- 151
3. James O'Connell, Valparaiso IN -- 144
4. Frances Doss, Hot Springs AR -- 129
5. Betty Primm, Athens IL -- 127
6. Marilyn Kopf, St. Louis -- 126
7. Joseph Chin, Highland IN -- 123
8. Arbha Vongsvitut, Godfrey IL -- 122
9. Douglas Anderson, Phoenix AZ -- 121
10. Sally Chapleau, South Bend IN -- 121
11. Julia Rambo, Mayfield KY -- 116
12. Marvin King, Creve Coeur MO -- 101
13. Ralph Rotter Jr., Granite City IL -- 101
14. Alma Karas, Batavia IL -- 100
15. Elizabeth Zalar, Springfield IL -- 98

Gold Life Master of the Year (2500 pts.)

1. Ralph Behrens, St. Louis -- 202
2. Rod Van Wyk, Alton IL -- 186
3. Irene Singleton, South Bend IN -- 159
4. Bobbie Holmes, St. Louis -- 153
5. Donald VanBuskirk, Hammond IN -- 150
6. James Hammond, Kirkwood MO -- 148
7. Denny O'Connor, St. Louis -- 134
8. Howard Schmid, Merrillville IN -- 131
9. John Kinst, Batavia IL -- 128
10. Donna Pedrotti, Maryland Hts MO -- 124
11. Kenneth Bland, St. Louis -- 102
12. John Chmielowiec, Michigan City IN -- 101
13. Jack Snyder, Rockford IL -- 101
14. Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap IL -- 97
15. Mrs. L. Greenman, St. Louis -- 96

Diamond Life Master of the Year (5000 pts.)

1. Dean Duncan, Mishawaka IN -- 152
2. Ed Weiss, Chesterfield MO -- 109
3. Jack Bryant, St. Louis -- 108
4. Tom Oppenheimer, Ballwin MO -- 65
5. Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake IL -- 63
6. Larry Kolker, St. Louis -- 46
7. Robert Giles, Marion IL -- 31
8. Eunice Portnoy, Boca Raton FL -- 25
9. Roger Lord, St. Louis -- 17
10. Robert Carteaux, Fort Wayne IN -- 15



Oh, NO! Did I miss the ILLINI REGIONAL ?

Memorial Day weekend: May 25-31, 2004

Chancellor Hotel -- 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 if you're age 65+.
- **Thursday: Fighting Illini Fans Day** -- Prizes, drawing for Illini football tickets, \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!
- **Friday: Juniors Day** -- Full-time students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the 2-session Stratified Pairs!
- **Saturday: Jackpot Day** -- Cash prizes to winners and runners-up in the **299er Championship** (1:30 & 7:30) and **Jackpot Individual** (11:30 pm -- fast & fun). **Barometer final** in the Flight A Stratified Pairs.
- **Sunday: Club Director Day** -- \$5 off your 2-session entry if you attend both sessions of the Club Director Update Course (Fri. & Sun. mornings).
- **Monday: FAST Swiss Teams** -- playthrough with free continental breakfast & cash snack bar.
- **Novice/Intermediate Program:** 0-300 events daily. Expert speakers at 1:00 & 7:00, Wed. evening through Sun. afternoon.
- **Non-stop hospitality** -- Evening buffets, hotel hospitality suite, registration gifts, door prizes, champagne splits & glasses to section winners, *Daily Bulletin*, *Daily Web Bulletin*, N.E. Bridge Supply bookstand, **more!**
- **Discounts** for full-time students under age 25. **NO entry-fee surcharge** for non-ACBL members.

Bracketed Knockout Teams:

Big Ten -- 7:30 Tue. & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Wed.
 Orange & Blue -- 9:30 Thu. & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Fri.
 Chief Illiniwek -- 9:30 Sat. & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Sun.
Dorner-Meyer trophies to winners in bottom bracket.

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

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

Novice/Intermediate Pairs:

Easybridge Pairs (0-100) -- 1:30 Saturday
 199er Pairs (0-200) -- 7:30 Wed., Thu. & Fri.; 1:30 Sun.
 299er Pairs (0-300) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sat. **\$250 in cash prizes.**

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

[Daily Bulletins](#) from the 2003 Illini Regional.

FREE ACBL Club Director Update

Tuesday, May 25

7:30 -- "Play for the Pets" Charity Pairs (for the Champaign Co. Humane Society)
 7:30 -- Big Ten KO (continues Wed. AM, aft. & eve)

Wednesday, May 26 -- Seniors Day

☛ \$4 off 2-session Open Pair entry for ages 65+.
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series (single sess.)
 7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Thursday, May 27 -- Illini Fans Day

☛ \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!
 9:30 -- Orange & Blue KO (continues Fri. AM, aft. & eve.)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series (single sessions)
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams (Flight A separate)
 7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Friday, May 28 -- Juniors Day

☛ Students age 25 and under play FREE in the Stratified Pairs.
 8:30-12:30 -- Club Director Update Course I
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series (single sessions)

Course

Friday & Sunday mornings, 8:30-12:30

Update your knowledge of bridge laws, alert regulations, effective use of ACBLScore and other aspects of directing games and managing your club. Those who complete both workshop sessions will earn continuing-education certificates **and** \$5 discounts on their Sunday Open Pair entries.

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

Partners: Hugh Williams (618-203-9566)
hrw97@hotmail.com

Madhu Viswanathan madhubalan@insightbb.com

Host hotel:

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

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

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

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Saturday, May 29 -- Jackpot Day

9:30 -- Chief Illiniwek KO (continues Sun. AM, aft. & eve.)
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series (single sessions)
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Pairs (Flight A separate with barometer final.)
 1:30 & 7:30 -- **299er Championship Pairs -- \$250 in cash prizes.**
 1:30 -- Easybridge Pairs (0-100)
 7:30 -- Barometer Final (2nd session of Flt. A Pairs)
 11:30 p.m. -- **Jackpot Individual -- \$500+ in cash prizes.**

Sunday, May 30 -- Club Directors Day

☛ \$5 off your Open Pair entry if you attend both sessions of the Club Director Update Course (Fri & Sun)

8:30-12:30 -- Club Director Update Course II
 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series (single sessions)
 1:30 -- 199er Pairs
 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs

Monday, May 31

9:45 am --- **Free continental breakfast.**
 10:30 am -- Morning Side-Game Series (one session)
 10:30 am -- **FAST** Stratified Swiss Teams. **On the road by 6:00.**



ACBL Director's Report

by Georgia Heth, Morton IL

District 8 Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors

Reno is just ending and it was a very profitable tournament for District 8 players. I was there for only three days and I saw District 8 players finish in the high overalls in two national events and qualify well in a third. We may be the smallest district, but we still have our share of good bridge players. It was disconcerting to see people I think of as younger players competing in the Silver Ribbon Pairs. I guess they were young when I met them 24 years ago!

Board bylaws: The board meeting was fun as usual. The Bylaws committee presented our proposal to the full board and got their advice on a few issues, likewise from the Board of Governors when the proposal was presented to them. I have been told that the proposal will appear on the website at some point; I don't know if that will be before or after we incorporate the changes proposed by the two boards. The new bylaws have to be approved by the Board of Directors twice, then by the Board of Governors and then by the members at a membership meeting. We are hoping to have them finally ratified at the 2005 members meeting. Many of the changes were mandated by changes in the law, which is why it is important to get this finished.

Junior bridge: The junior committee received a lengthy report from chairman Shirley Seals. It was approved to extend the junior discount to juniors from all countries, not just countries in the ACBL.

Appeals: Appeals and charges heard three appeals and made some changes to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

Events and scheduling: The NABC/NABC+ scheduling committee distributed surveys in Reno, which we hope will assist us in our work. They are proposing major changes to the schedule at the summer national tournament.

New stratification rules: It was also approved to allow stratification in team events based on the average masterpoint holdings of a team. That is, a team that has one member with 2000 points and three members with 1000 points could still play in an under-1500 stratum.

Atlanta NABC: A final point of interest is that the dates of the 2005 summer nationals in Atlanta may be delayed by two days to accommodate another event in that city. It should be known soon if this is necessary.

In the next issue, I'll tell you about the big changes in the ACBL Charity Foundation.

I hope to see all of you May 8-9 in Springfield at the District 8 Grand National Teams District Final. We have arranged a side game on Sunday at the same site. This should be a large game, as the Springfield club has kindly canceled their regular game that day. Liz Zalar and Betty Primm have great hospitality planned for us. Full details are on the front page of this issue. Hope to see you all there.

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

District 8 Solvers Forum -- February 2004

by Scott Merritt, Arlington VA

1. IMPs, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	???

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	6	40
4H	90	4	15
2H	80	1	3
1H	70	2	23
3H	60	1	20

What is your opening bid holding: **S-Q943 H-AQ98762 D-108 C-Void?**

My mother has just finished reading *Bridge For Dummies* in an attempt to share in my crazy obsession with this game. She has never played a competitive hand in her life, but she was foolish enough to drag me out to a Club Series class ten years ago, and that's where I got my start in playing. After the classes, she decided that bridge might not be for her; "Too many rules and things to count". One class ten years ago and one book at Christmas, and she is raring to go. So, logically, I chose her as my guest panelist for this issue.

Mom: "3H. This was Chapter 4. I hope they're all this easy."

Sorry, Mom, but I had to give 3H the lowest score. It may have been in retaliation for some long-repressed childhood trauma. Let's see what the other 3H bidder has to say in your defense.

Nelson: "3H. I don't buy into not preempting when holding a 4-card major, or the other four card major. Make it difficult!"

Feiler: "2H. Process of elimination: way too good for 3H in my style; I want to preempt my vul opponents, so not 1H or pass; and I don't want to entirely lock out the spade suit like 4H would. On a lot of auctions, I'll commit the bridge heresy of taking another bid all by myself."

At first, I thought that 2H and 3H should receive the same score, but Kent has really swayed me. If ever there is a hand for the heresy that is a rebiddable preempt, maybe this is it, and 3H bars that option. The 3H bidders, on the other hand, seem to have the weakest argument. 3H is shooting at a very small target -- a hand in which you either make exactly 140 or 4H goes down too many. All of the other bidding strains seem to have bigger upsides than just starting with 3H.

So now, the logical options are narrowed down to Pass, 1H and 4H. I will discuss each in order of sanity (I'm sure there is a better word, but I am still reeling from the death wish shown by the 1H openers).

Miller: "1H. If partner has spades, I will hear about it. Otherwise, I have an easy rebid."

Dodd: "1H. Too good to preempt at this vulnerability and I HATE passing hands like this. More often than not, you end up trying to play catch-up, with North never believing you have this type of hand."

If you were playing a big club system, I feel that a 1H opener would be a heavy favorite on this problem, but then the real world of 2.5 Quick Tricks hits us in the nose. Even if we are devout believers in the Rule of Twenty (open if your high-card points plus the length in your two longest suits is greater than or equal to 20), this hand doesn't add up. Unless you have had a lengthy discussion with your partner about what constitutes an opening bid, you are looking to create discord and destroy trust by opening this hand at the 1-level.

Finally, let's hear from the passers and the 4H preempters.

Strite: "Pass. I expect to be in minority, even though vulnerability, our potential spade fit, my offensive and defensive values all speak against a unilateral preempt."

Paulo: "Pass. I don't open, despite counting only five losers, because my hand has no defensive strength. I don't preempt, because I have two first-round controls and a side major suit. I pass, but the auction is not yet over, and I hope to get a chance to bid later on."

Vongsvivut: "Pass first, with a side 4-card major. I'll plan to come in the level of 3H or 4H next turn, if partner shows no sign of spade length. This hand still has a chance for game if partner show some value. It is too good to open a preempt with only 5 losers."

Kniest: "4H. This is usually a transfer to 4S by the opponents."

Walker: "4H. This vulnerability screams for a preemptive move with this hand, and I have way too much for 3H. Some will argue that the 4-card spade suit makes this hand unsuitable for a preempt, but I don't think that should be a deterrent when all the other conditions are right."

Rabideau: "4H. Some bridge books warn us against preempting when holding a 4-card major on the side. These books are wrong."

4H was the choice of world champion Jeff Meckstroth when he held this hand. Maybe 4H counts as the best "at-the-table" bid, but Pass just seems to cater to all the other options. You have spades moderately under control. Your suit lacks the body of a typical 4-level preempt. And finally, you only have an 8-count in first seat; this hand won't pass out, and the bidding won't (you hope) be at the 5 level when the auction gets back to you.

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-109 H-A106 D-J63 C-A9865** ?

This problem easily wins the award for most possible solutions this month. The other three people at the table are bidding, and here we have this beautiful hand. There is a fudger in our midst, and unfortunately, we are playing matchpoints, meaning any or all of them could be the guilty parties.

First, lest there be any doubt, partner's 2H bid shows hearts. He's probably 5-5, but could be 6-5 or 5-6. Who would blame him for bidding twice holding KJxxx, QJxxxx, x, x? Well, we are vulnerable, so perhaps he has something like AQxxxx, KJxxx, --, Qx.

The biggest vote -- and the highest score -- went to a simple correction to 2S, but boy, that doesn't do this hand any justice! And since partner is surely holding 5 hearts (and could hold 6), why do we want to play in our 5-2 fit when we have a 5-3 or 6-3 fit available?

Dodd: "2S. I'm a little strong for this, but seduced by the form of scoring -- even if it does go all pass, +170 may not be too bad."

Strite: "2S. If I had to bid last round, why didn't I just jam the auction with 2S so I could shut up now? Two spears and a doubleton fit didn't merit a cuebid, so I pray that partner passes now."

It appears that some of us may not be convinced partner has hearts. The greatest value that I see in 2S is that the auction isn't over, and maybe we'll get a chance to balance back in with 3H. Partner might not play us for quite this much, but we will play in the right strain at least, maybe just a level too low. Sure 2S is a unilateral action, but lots of the panel voted for opening 1H in the first problem. Hopefully, we have an understanding partner.

Along the same lines as 2S is:

Hudson: "3H. I'm tempted to just blast into game; but partner's hand will be forced right away in diamonds, and he's getting a bad break in trumps, so I'll cut him some slack."

Mom: "3H. Do I have to say something witty with every one of my answers?"

I like the idea of the heart raise, but you're playing a level higher in a suit that you know isn't breaking. The arguments for

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2S	100	5	31
3D	90	2	10
Pass	80	1	21
4H	80	4	3
3H	70	1	13
3S	70	0	3
4S	70	1	5

blasting into game while not cuebidding seem flimsy, too.

Kniest: "4H. Partner is showing no fear opposite a passed hand. If they lead a trump, there's time to develop spades, which aren't breaking bad. If they go for the tap, it's better in hearts because we'll get to ruff spades in dummy. Even though hearts aren't breaking, partner has a lot of information on how to play the hand."

Miller: "4H. Partner did this at unfavorable vulnerability. I fully expect my 2 bullets and spade 10 to be golden."

Rabideau: "4S. Partner can't have a bunch of points, so he must have significant distribution (say 6-6) to be sticking out his vulnerable neck like this. Since diamond pumps are coming, let's play in the suit that rates to break better than hearts."

The fact that LHO has 4 hearts didn't worry the heart bidders all that much. If partner is 5-5 in the majors, it's likely that LHO also has 4 spades, and you have only 7 of those.

It all comes down to the fact that we really don't know what cards partner has; all we know is what cards we have. If we're going to advance, let's cuebid and try to get partner in on the decision about the correct strain and level.

Walker: "3D. I have a great hand for hearts, and 3D is the only obvious cuebid to show the strong raise. Partner would (and should) interpret 3C as natural here."

Feiler: "3D. Hearts should be a real suit, but I still don't know where to play it. So, time to wheel out the all-purpose, ubiquitous, multi-meaning cuebid."

The cuebid can't have too many meanings here; it has to be for hearts, as this is the only bid that could have brought you to life after passing the last round. If you are going to advance, I certainly feel like a cuebid must be the best choice. Unfortunately, none of the cuebidders said how they would advance after partner's next call. Does partner now have to jump to game with a good hand? Maybe re-cuebid? Could you really pass if he bid something like 3S? In the end, I feel there is no correct matchpoint bid, so the points go to those who end up plus.

3. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-J42 H-K D-AK9765 C-A93** ?

When I was given the task of writing this column, this seemed like the easiest problem of the set. I have a hand that sure seems like it is worth a game bid. The most likely game is 3 NT, but I'm stuck with only half of a spade stopper. There are really only two choices -- try for game with 3S, or just bid it yourself with 3 NT. At first glance, I thought 3Ss must be the correct call, but now I am not so sure.

Walker: "3S. This hand is worth a move. 3S is forward-going and shows doubt about no trump. Unfortunately, since I don't have room to show or ask about stoppers in both unbid suits, partner won't know if I have a club problem or a spade problem. The inference, though, is that it's a spade problem, as it's the only suit we've denied holding and therefore the obvious lead. Switch the clubs and spades and I'd just bid 3NT."

Karen does a great job of summing up what a 3S call should be in this auction. It surely can't ask definitely about spades (otherwise we would have given you the same hand with the spades and clubs reversed). The thing is, even if partner doesn't have a spade card, do you want to play 4 or more diamonds? And even worse, what if partner has QTx, Axxxx, Qxxx, x, and figures that he doesn't have what you need?

3NT must be the right call here. Here are some comments that explain why 3NT is better than 3S. (I excluded all those who offered up the Hamman Rule!)

Feiler: "3NT. Maybe we have a spade stopper."

Kniest: "3NT. Since the opponents are silent, they probably aren't loaded in the master suit. Diamonds are running, and

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3NT	100	11	43
3S	80	3	23
Pass	60	0	25
5D	60	0	5

partner has a little extra. Odds are to bid 35% vulnerable games. Do we really think it's worse than that?"

Paulo: "3NT. Partner may have a hand like Qx, Axxxx, Qxx, xx and I trot out nine tricks. When we have no spade stopper, it may happen that the opponents can cash only four tricks, or that LHO chooses to lead another suit. I evaluate the probability of the set of these several cases as greater than 37.5%; so, I bid game."

Hudson: "3NT. Easy. With a stopper in spades and none in clubs, I'd bid 3S; with the reverse I'll just take my shot. After all, they didn't bid spades."

Others mentioned the opponent's failure to bid spades, but is this really so surprising? This is IMPs, they're vul. vs. not, and they don't have many high cards outside the spade suit.

In the end, I agree that while 3S should neither show nor deny a spade stopper, 3NT is where you want to play, so just bid it and pray. My mom chose to pass here, and while she is a doll, I didn't want to subject her to undue criticism. As an aside, I would think that 3S must show some sort of hand where there's doubt about which game to play, maybe something along the lines of A, Kx, KQJTxxx, Qxx.

4. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-Void H-AQ102 D-KJ953 C-A843** ?

I had a hard time explaining to my mom why we didn't overcall 2D on the first round of bidding. We are favorable at IMPs. Yeah, our suit could be better, but by passing, we have a bigger problem than if we had merely bid 2D in the first place. Surprisingly, only one panelist commented on the lack of an initial move. Do we all really believe that we can trap them at the 1-level? Would you be disappointed if you get doubled after overcalling with this hand?

In the end, I had to tell my mom that we were an emergency fill-in for a player who had just had cardiac arrest after seeing our 1H opening bid on Problem #1. So here we are. What comes next?

I will first lend the microphone to the most voluminous response:

Hudson: "2H. I've dug a hole for myself by not making a 2D overcall. I plan to follow 2H with 3D over partner's expected 2S, looking for slam. I hope my sequence will be taken as forcing, even by a passed hand. I hope the opponents' quiescence indicates that partner has more than a minimum for his balancing overcall. I won't rush to bid notrump with a void, which would mislead partner about my spade holding."

I like the fact that he was the lone commenter on how we have dug ourselves this hole. However, if we cuebid with this hand, I just don't think partner will ever piece together that we do **not** have spades. We had our opportunity to speak, we spurned it, and now we want to force our balancing partner to game? In Jim's defense, he then adds:

Hudson: (continued) "Suppose I do, indeed, bid 2H, and partner repeats his spades. If I now bid 2NT, is that forcing? I say 'yes', since I cuebid first. I could have bid 2NT immediately, without cuebidding, if I had wanted to make it invitational. But I would be a little worried whether partner was on the same wavelength. If he were, 2NT (after cuebidding 2H) would let partner further describe his hand. If he rebid 3C over my 2NT, I would return to 3NT; if he rebid 3D, I would be torn. A diamond slam would be possible, but perhaps too improbable to look for. If so, all roads would lead to 3NT (or 4S if partner really insisted). But I want to get there is such a way that partner will know I am very short in spades."

Slam? A passed hand cuebidding with a void in partner's suit? The only part that I buy in most of this is that 2NT might be a good bid. Let's hear from those who chose it:

Feiler: "2NT. I've never really known what all the bids mean in these situations. Perhaps the panel will enlighten me."

Rabideau: "2NT. We all hate to do this with a void anywhere, let alone in partner's suit, but knowing where most of the defenders' cards are sitting is some consolation. 2D could be right, but would we like to then hear (silent opponents) 2S-2NT-

3S? I think it's better to try preempting partner right away."

Nelson: "2NT. A real problem hand. I can't bid only 2D or 3D, which should be highly invitational. 3NT shouldn't be bid because it penalizes partner for balancing."

Kniest: "2NT. I have values and position, but no sure source of tricks. 2NT gets across this message, but not the spade void. So 2NT it is, and I hope partner clarifies his hand with something other than 3S."

Walker: "2NT, Not ideal, but nothing else shows these values. A 2H cuebid will just lead to more spade bids, and partner will pass 2D with many hands that will make game. I'm probably a bit heavy point-wise for 2NT, but the void is a definite liability."

To Karen, I say, "There **is** a way to show these values; overcall 2D the first time!" And to Bev, I say, "You sure can't bid diamonds now, CAUSE YOU SHOULD HAVE BID THEM THE FIRST TIME!" I think the community should now understand my position on this hand :)

5. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

* (15-17) ** Minor-suit Stayman

What is your call as South holding: **S-AQ3 H-1092 D-AK5 C-Q982** ?

Scoring this problem is a bit challenging. We've been given the conditions that 2S was Minor-Suit Stayman, asking for a 4-card minor. Doing a Google search for "Minor Suit Stayman" brings up several pages, but none seem to discuss a default set of agreements for responder after opener actually shows a minor.

So, it all comes down to how **you** think these auctions should be played. I'll continue with the assumption that after my 3C rebid, partner could have bid 3H or 3S to show a slam try with shortness in that suit. His 3D could have been a signoff in diamonds (a popular treatment used by many who play this convention). Or 3D could have been showing more diamonds than clubs, or it could have been merely a cuebid, but since he didn't bid it, we don't have to worry about it.

The one thing we do know is that partner has **both** minors. Some panelists and solvers seemed to think that since he didn't get excited by our 3C bid, he must have just diamonds and not clubs. However, with a one-suited hand, he would never use Minor Suit Stayman -- in Standard American, he would bid 2C Stayman followed by 3D.

The other thing we know is that he has enough high-card strength for game. What we don't know is whether or not he has slam-try strength. It appears that most of the panel thinks we have a 2-2-4-5 or 2-2-5-4 partner who is making a slam try.

Moving on from there, we have a control rich hand, which is usually very good for slam, balanced by the fact that we are totally flat. The heart suit is wide open, and partner will be dummy with the lead going through him. Most of the panel chooses to sit still. Let's hear from those who don't:

Vongsvivut: "4S. Partner's 3NT should show 2-2-4-5 or 2-2-5-4 distribution and mild interest in slam. So I will cuebid 4S as a first-round control. If North has a heart control, we should have a play for 6C."

Feiler: "4D. Partner is making a slam try, and with all those great minor-suit cards, I think I should cooperate."

Hudson: "4D. Trying to drag a heart cuebid out of partner. Despite my minimum, I'm optimistic about a club slam."

I certainly feel that this is the correct sentiment, but if we are advancing, why don't we start with the simple 4C to set the trump suit? I worry that 4D looks like a 4-card diamond suit, and this might cause trouble down the line. When trumps are in doubt, Rule #2 of slam bidding must be to set the trump suit as soon as possible. (For those in doubt, Rule #1 is 'Game before Slam').

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	9	80
4D	80	2	13
4S	80	1	0
4C, 5C	80	1	6
6C	70	1	0

The passers' logic was summed up by:

Paulo: "Pass. Partner has put on the captain's hat. I answered (3C) his question (2S); now, his 3NT looks definitive. If I understood the ideas behind partner's bids, I would be more bent to go on bidding with a hand like Axx, Axx, KQx, Qxxx."

Two of our bidders had clear ideas about what partner was trying to show. They differ in their ideas of his exact distribution, but they're both sure that it's time to get out of notrump -- and they leave no doubt about what the trump suit is:

Kniest: "5C. Partner's auction is the traditional way to show 5422 with very weak majors. I may have 11 tricks with no finesse, so I just bid what I think I can make. Play partner for something like xx, xx, QJxxx, AKxx."

Walker: "6C. Partner's has both minors and, since he had clear alternatives to show a slam try, his 3NT shows minimum values for game (probably around 9-11 pts.). He chose this auction to show extreme weakness (no stoppers) in the majors and tell me to get out of notrump if I have a stopperless major. That gives me a pretty clear picture of a 5-5 hand with all the high cards in the minors -- with 5422, he would just gamble 3NT. If he has a singleton heart, 6C is probably laydown, but there's no way to drag that information out of him. Since he's already warned me about notrump, 4C might be interpreted as a weak retreat and he might take 4D as showing 4-4 in the minors. 4S would be a strong, forward-going bid, but all that does is tell them what to lead. It's not going to induce him to bid 6C with xx, x, QJxxx, AKxxx. So it must be right to forgo the tortured, informative auction and just blast off to 6C. If he has a stiff spade and a doubleton heart, let them find the right lead."

As one who could certainly learn from the wisdom from Tom and Karen, I feel weird saying that I just totally disagree. If partner has the hand that Tom suggests, I think, as Karen suggests, that The World would just bid 3NT over 1NT. In today's game, 5-4-2-2 is nearly as balanced as 4-3-3-3. On the other hand, I feel like Karen may have ended up in the right spot, but the disagreement we have about the nature of partner's hand makes me want to deduct Thought Police points. Whatever partner has, 6C should be at least a reasonable spot.

Can the passers come up with better arguments?

Miller: "Pass. What was I just saying about 3NT possibly being right?"

Strite: "Pass. Presuming we have some illustrative 3H or 3S bids that partner chose not to use, I've got nothing more to say. Even without any MSS agreement, bidding on is a blind shot."

Everyone seems to agree that when in doubt, go plus. Whether or not a plus is available in 3NT is still unresolved. I would like to give everyone a 100 on this problem, but I am just too stubborn. So there!

6. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-10543 H-AK82 D-K C-AKQJ** ?

I don't mean to beat a dead horse, but we have the most wishy-washy, fence-sitting panel ever! On the first hand, everyone wanted to bid with their 5-loser 8-count. Now, we have a 5-loser 20-count, and Pass is the standout option? I don't understand this game.

Walker: "Pass. It's tempting to get into this auction, as we could have a laydown heart game if partner has the right Yarborough, but that's probably wishful thinking. If LHO rebids 2D, I'll be able to bid later. If he doesn't, then maybe we should be defending."

Dodd: "Pass. Why bid just yet? We may be in a better position by remaining silent. North is sure to have a near Yarborough, and with my luck he'll have 6+ diamonds and doubletons in the round suits and we'll go for a telephone number in 2H. Note that if my minors were reversed, double would stand out."

Hudson: "Pass. I have the wrong shape to take immediate action."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
Pass	100	8	46
Double	80	4	44
2H	70	1	0
2C	70	1	10

What a bunch of lily-livered cowards. Hasn't bridge always been a bidders' game? Get in there! Mix it up! Just ignore all the confusion that our panel is showing after the initial action..

Kniest: "Double. All partner needs is heart length (or club length) for a shot at game. True, you might pass and hope it goes 2D-Pass-Pass, but if RHO now bids 2S, you are up a level higher -- and that's much more dangerous."

Feiler: "2C. Yuk! Momma didn't raise no sissies. There's no way I can force myself to pass all those high-card points."

Nelson: "Double. Opponent's have made doubled contracts before against me....but think it is a good double....if partner bids 2D, I bid 2H."

Strite: "Double. What else?"

I am stuck on this hand, whether the notrump call was forcing or not, I think passing this hand is bound to cause misery and angst. I agree with the comment that this would be a better problem on the second round of bidding. Let's give it a go with Problem #6 for the next issue.

Thanks to all who sent in answers for this set. Thanks to this issue's guest panelist **Robert Lambert**, and congratulations to **Zoran Bohacek**, who topped all Solvers for this set. He's invited to join the panel for April.

Congratulations to **Manuel Paulo** of Portugal, who won the 2003 Solvers Contest and is invited to join the panel for 2004. The 2004 contest is underway, so I hope you'll all join in and try the new problems for April (see below).

Note that our bidding system is based loosely on [Bridge World Standard](#). You can use it as a general guideline for conventions, but you don't have to study it to answer the problems. The problem descriptions will indicate if any special conventions are being used. Our focus in this column is on how auctions are popularly treated in mainstream play, not on what BWS dictates. When in doubt, just answer the problems as if you were playing with an experienced player and the specific situation is undiscussed.

The six new bidding problems are below. Please submit your April answers by **March 15** on the [web form](#) or by email to our April moderator:

Tom Dodd -- fieldtrialer@yahoo.com

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 550):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	2H	3D	3NT	2NT	4D	2C	520
Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	DBL	DBL	Pass	5H	Pass	Pass	600
Robert Lambert, Warsaw IN	Pass	2S	3S	2D	Pass	Pass	570
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	Pass	4H	3NT	1NT	Pass	Pass	550
Adam Miller, Chicago IL	1H	4H	3NT	2D	Pass	DBL	520
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	3H	Pass	3NT	2NT	Pass	DBL	520
Manuel Paulo, Lisbon, Portugal	Pass	2S	3NT	2NT	Pass	Pass	600
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	4H	4S	3NT	2NT	Pass	2H	530
Toby Strite, Warsaw, Poland	Pass	2S	3NT	2NT	Pass	DBL	580
Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL	Pass	4H	3NT	3NT	4S	Pass	520

How the Staff voted:

Tom Dodd, Boerne TX	1H	2S	3NT	2D	Pass	Pass	560
Tom Kniest, University City MO	4H	4H	3NT	2NT	5C	DBL	530
Scott Merritt, Arlington VA	Pass	2S	3S	2NT	Pass	Pass	580
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	4H	3D	3S	2NT	6C	Pass	530

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 498)

Zoran Bohacek , Zagreb, Croatia	580	George Klemic , Bensenville IL	570
Steve Babin , Normal IL	570	David McNitt , Elkhart IN	560
Jim Feinstein , South Bend IN	570	Gary Dell , Champaign IL	550
Nigel Guthrie , Reading UK	570	Micah Fogel , Aurora IL	550
Mike Halvorsen , Champaign IL	570	Don Mathis , Florissant MO	550

Solvers Forum -- April 2004 Problems

1. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1H	2C	???

What is your call as South holding:
S-AQJ764 H-AKJ3 D-5 C-43

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-J654 H-J53 D-J106 C-A85 ?

3. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1C
4D	DBL*	Pass	???

* Competitive (values for a negative double, but does not promise 4-4 in unbid suits)

What is your call as South holding:
S-KJ1054 H-Void D-AQ C-KQ10943 ?

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-J54 H-AK2 D-10862 C-KJ10 ?

5. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-5 H-A982 D-J104 C-K10843 ?

6. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-10543 H-AK82 D-K C-AKQJ ?

Thanks for the problems above to Dave Smith (#1), Barry Rigal (#2), Debbie Avery (#3) & Kent Feiler (#6).



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

2003 Mini-McKenney Winners

Rookie of the Year:

Kenneth Prouty, Geneva, 30.93
Joycelynn Bequeaith, Rockford, 18.45
Richard Wehrle, Rockford, 13.55

Junior Master of the Year:

Vi Grisham, Algonquin, 72.19
Bill Grisham, Algonquin, 55.11
Jon Greiman, Dekalb, 44.43

Club Master of the Year:

Chere Morrison, Poplar Grove, 105.08
Laurie Hamachek, Huntley, 82.35
Richard Gierat, Belvidere, 65.42

Sectional Master of the Year:

Joan Bailey-Murray, Rockford, 101.04
Betty Basler, Oregon, 76.13
Harold Miller, Belvidere, 72.83

Regional Master of the Year:

Pamela Eden, Rockford, 127.52
Phyllis Seeman, Rockford, 97.87
Shirley Rogers, Oregon, 75.28

NABC Master of the Year:

Arlene Snap, Loves Park, 86.06
Susan Mackinney, Elgin, 78.04
Robert Corron, Saint Charles, 75.62

Life Master of the Year:

Yangling Zhang, Batavia, 50.16
Glenn De Vries, Aurora, 36.84
Loren Van Degraft, Byron, 28.19

Bronze Life Master of the Year:

James Hudson, Dekalb, 130.30
Sharon Schumacher, Elgin, 128.90
Craig Bontjes, Byron, 124.68

Silver Life Master of the Year:

Frances Doss, Hot Springs AR, 259.14
Betty Schultz, Hot Springs AR, 217.06
Meyer Abarbanel, Belvidere, 190.97

Gold Life Master of the Year:

John Kinst, Batavia, 340.42
Jack Snyder, Rockford, 163.39

2003 Ace of Clubs Winners

Rookie of the Year:

Joycelynn Bequeaith, Rockford, 17.50
Kenneth Prouty, Geneva, 13.11
Richard Wehrle, Rockford, 12.60

Junior Master of the year:

Les Morrison, Poplar Grove, 29.76
Vi Grisham, Algonquin, 29.53
Bill Grisham, Algonquin, 18.37

Club Master of the Year:

Chere Morrison, Poplar Grove, 60.94
Richard Gierat, Belvidere, 44.75
Laurie Hamachek, Huntley, 31.42

Sectional Master of the Year:

Harold Miller, Belvidere, 47.06
Joan Bailey-Murray, Rockford, 38.45
Edward Cohen, Geneva, 38.13

Regional Master of the Year:

Pamela Eden, Rockford, 47.42
Susan Tunelius, Davis, 46.09
Bill Holzrichter, Elburn, 44.89

NABC Master of the Year:

Robert Corron, Saint Charles, 43.69
Susan Mackinney, Elgin, 35.74
Arlene Snap, Loves Park, 33.96

Life Master of the Year:

Yangling Zhang, Batavia, 30.02
Glenn De Vries, Aurora, 23.79
Loren Van Degraft, Byron, 23.61

Bronze Life Master of the Year:

Bob Kay, Batavia Ave Batavia, 71.32
Greg Berry, Dundee, 67.40
Diane S Clark, Elgin, 63.45

Silver Life Master of the Year:

Frances Doss, Hot Springs, 129.03
Alma Karas, Batavia, 99.92
John Diehl, Elgin, 96.84

Gold Life Master of the Year:

John Kinst, Batavia, 128.39
Jack Snyder, Rockford, 100.58

George Wolf, Oswego, 129.10

George Wolf, Oswego, 96.41

Diamond Life Master of the Year:
Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake, 268.12
Joshua Stark, Grayslake, 194.60

Diamond Life Master of the Year:
Suzanne Dunn, Crystal Lake, 63.24
Joshua Stark, Grayslake, 8.25

Nominating Committee Presents Slate

The nominating committee of your Unit Board, chaired by John Pree (St. Charles) and Susan MacKinney (Elgin), has submitted the following list of candidates for two year terms to the Unit Board: current board members Lucille Chaffee (DeKalb), Jan Condon (Rockford) and Doug Gugger (Freeport); and newcomer Karl Dencker (Lake in the Hills).

Any member in good standing of Unit 239 may nominate himself as a candidate for the Board by filing a petition so stating, signed by 10 other Unit members in good standing. These petitions must be filed with Unit Secretary Craig Bontjes, 324 Hamer Court, Byron IL 61010-9407, by May 1. If no self-nominating petitions are filed, the nominating committee's slate will be presumed elected as presented.

Annual Unit 239 Membership Game -- May 21

The annual Unit 239 membership game is scheduled for Friday, May 21 at the First United Methodist Church in DeKalb, located on the corner of Fourth and Oak. Directions, together with maps, will be available at all clubs in the Unit in May. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m., with awards at 7 p.m. and a free game at 7:30 p.m. This is *not* a pot luck affair as it has been in the past: the Unit is providing the food. The event is free to all paid-up members of Unit 239; the fee for all others is \$5.

Rockin' Rockford Regional -- June 14-20

The annual Rockin' Rockford Regional is slated for June 14-20 at the Indoor Sports Center (ISC), 8800 E. Riverside Drive, in Loves Park (Rockford). This was also the site of last year's tournament. Once again, it will be a split regional with Paducah KY.

Host hotel for the event, however, has changed. This year it will be Days Inn and Suites, 4313 North Bell School Road, in Loves Park. This is approximately one mile west of the Indoor Sports Center via Riverside Drive, then north on Bell School Road (the first street west of I-90.) Standard king rooms are \$67; standard double queen rooms are \$79. Rooms are guaranteed until May 14, but be sure to mention the tournament when making a reservation. This location is much closer to the tournament site than last year's host hotel.

The tournament will feature three bracketed knockouts, three two-session stratified open pairs, two two-session stratified Swiss teams, a stratified charity pairs, two side games daily, and two stratified 199er pairs daily.

Tournament chairs Kay and Bob Korte (bobkorte@sbcglobal.net or 815-337-3722) have stressed the need for Unit members to arrive early to help with set-up. "We're very short on set-up help this year," Bob cautions. "We would deeply appreciate hearing from anyone who can guarantee to us at this early date that he could be there to assist us late Monday afternoon on June 14."

Other committee chairs for the tourney include:

Partnerships -- Jan and Gene Condon, jiggs320417@cs.com, 815-633-4979
199ers and Newcomers -- Mary Jo Sergent, mjosarge@aol.com, 815-874-4157
Hospitality -- Lucille Chaffee, 815-758-6407, and Dee Witte, 815-623-6167
Daily Bulletin -- Dennis Ryan, DRchezmoi@aol.com, 608-756-0060

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: Georgine R. Berent, Elgin; Gloria A. Kayser, Lena; Peter J. Mugavero, Crystal Lake; Betty E. Ralston, Caledonia; James C. Shaw, Geneva.

New Club Masters: Geraldine S. McGinnis, Rockford.

New Sectional Masters: Ron Hopman, Huntley; Judy Miller, Belvidere; Stella B. Sikorcin, St. Charles; Douglas A. St. John, Rockford.

As I See It . . .

Dramatic, positive changes are erupting everywhere in our Unit. While it is certainly true that five years ago we were hardly on the brink of disaster, we *did* have cause for serious concern. Our bank balance was uncomfortably low and declining monthly; our attendance and membership were decreasing—and aging—steadily enough to cause widespread unease; we could not hold a fund-raising regional for lack of a suitable venue; and our two money-making sectionals could sometimes keep our kitty in the black and sometimes could not.

Today, it is also certainly true that Unit 239 will *not* appear on the Fortune 500 list. But what a turnaround! Our bank balance and cash flow are now on a level that the Unit Board considers at least "acceptable." Our membership is now growing. Our clubs now post larger and larger table counts. We have now found a site for an annual regional and have given one that, despite its small size, made money. The Unit is now able to provide small amenities for its membership—a directory here, a free dinner there, financial assistance to District GNT or NAP winners somewhere else—that it has been unable to provide for years.

Two things have wrought this change. One is effective leadership. Two hard-working Unit presidents, a hard-working Unit Board, hard-working club owners and managers, and hard-working teachers, mentors, special-occasion hosts, and committee chairs at the club level have all made their efforts count. Much of what these people do consists of "little things," but these "little things" have meant a lot to us precisely because of the spirit in which they are given and because there are so *many* of them.

The other thing that has brought about positive change in our Unit is the multiplicity of efforts made on a variety of levels for bridge promotion. Strong players have taken the training needed to turn themselves into strong teachers. Classes, free lessons, workshops, mini-lessons before games, mentoring programs, pro-am games, special social events that integrate players from all levels into a club structure that gives new members a sense of identity and belonging, advertising, demonstration games — they all work! They all feed into each other and help us grow over time.

"Goodmouthing bridge is a full time job," as one Unit teacher aptly puts it. Another club manager reflects that "It takes fully five years for active — and often expensive -- bridge promotion and recruitment efforts to have a permanent and significant effect on club table counts. And during that time, it's easy to get discouraged, because it looks like you're not getting anywhere. But in the long run, it pays, if you are willing to stick it out and know what the long run truly is." One can easily prove her point simply by looking at the ever-growing number of 0-199 players who have registered in each consecutive Unit tournament over the last five years.

And while most of the special people responsible for these changes are vibrant, enthusiastic participants in all walks of the "bridge life" of our Unit — you all know who they are, and they are far too numerous to recognize individually here — the hard work they do is mostly done behind the scenes. Their work gets little "public visibility." So I urge our members to join me in taking the time and trouble to thank personally and individually all our hard workers and dynamic leaders, teachers, and recruiters for the time and trouble that they have taken for us. This is a change for which *most* of our Unit members can, in fact, take some degree of ownership: *nothing* breeds success like the collective sense that one's efforts have paid big dividends, that they are truly appreciated, and that they are widely recognized for having done so. *Well done!*

CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

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



Letter from the President by Jay Poling, Unit 208 President

At the February meeting of the Unit 208 Board of Directors, one of the items discussed was ways to increase interest in the governance of the Unit among the membership. One suggestion that was acted upon was to have the President submit to the *Advocate* an informal report of the meeting that would include items that might be of interest to everyone. Well, here goes

Unit treasury: The finances of the Unit are solidly back in black. For many years, our spending exceeded income, eating away at the Board's nest egg, until two years ago, when action had to be taken. The return to fiscal profitability was accomplished in part by reducing some of the travel subsidies, but more credit goes to increased income from the sectional tournaments and two great years of income from the Champaign Regional. The Board will be able to continue to benefit the membership with subsidies at their present level

North American Pairs: One further note on finances is that the ACBL has reduced the club sanction fees for North American Pair games this year. The Unit Board has been paying this fee for local clubs, so the reduction will allow us to save money and perhaps subsidize some additional special games at clubs. There will probably be more discussion on this at our July meeting.

Unit officers: New officers were elected after due process at the February meeting. Effective in July, Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington, and Chuck Zalar, Springfield, will be the new president and vice-president respectively. Their term of office is two years, but they are usually re-elected for a second try at it.

Unit board representatives: The Area Representative term of office is three years, so every year, two or three of our eight areas hold elections. In the February *Advocate*, I reported that Areas 5 and 8 were up for election. No requests for candidacy were submitted, so Donn Miller (Decatur) and Kay Giberson (Charleston) will continue as representatives from those areas. The Springfield alternate, Leah Newell, will be the new representative for Area 4 to replace Chuck Zalar, who will be serving as vice-president.

Senior Olympics: Bernie Riley and Ron Sholes are adding a bridge session to the Senior Olympics in Pekin and Springfield this year. Watch for more on that.

Unit membership: The Unit membership is down a little mainly due to "snowbirds" at this time of year. Champaign, Peoria and Springfield all have programs to attract new members.

Charity events: Donn Miller brought a suggestion to the Board about running a game to support the late Sharad Chitopekar's charitable foundation as a way to recognize his contribution to bridge in Unit 208. After some discussion, we decided the Board could encourage this but could not force clubs to participate. Look for a separate article on this in the *Advocate*.

Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs: The Board voted to provide Mini-McKenney winners with medallions that are available from the ACBL. We also voted to provide a free entry to one day at one sectional tournament during the next year for the Unit's Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners in each category.

Other topics were discussed but no actions taken at this meeting. They include allowing clubs to run 199er games and keeping some of the profits and a letter from Ann Caparros outlining ways to increase members' participation in the governance of the Unit.

The next meeting will be in July in Bloomington and will coincide with the annual membership meeting that is open to all. I hope to see you there and at the Champaign Regional, May 25-31.

Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs Winners

Mini-McKenney

Total points won in 2003

Rookie (0-5)		
Linda Heinkel	Princeton IL	41
Linda Albrecht	Mt Zion IL	33
Gene Albrecht	Mt Zion IL	29
Junior Master (5-20)		
James Melville	Springfield IL	341
Tom Willson	Champaign IL	69
Joshua Kueker	Urbana IL	52
Club Master (20-50)		
Michael Lee	Champaign IL	185
Oyvind Tafjord	Champaign IL	93
Gary Dell	Champaign IL	82
Sectional Master (50-100)		
Frank Tirsch	Springfield IL	123
Zach Freehill	Bloomington IL	101
Bill Lindemann	Champaign IL	89
Regional Master (100-200)		
Ruth Wettaw	Bloomington IL	77
Gloria Shoults	Springfield IL	74
Ruth Killen	Springfield IL	74
NABC Master (200-LM)		
Larry Wilcox	Springfield IL	118
Madhu Viswanathan	Champaign IL	115
James Nixon	Galesburg IL	113
Life Master (300-500)		
Margaret Hansell	Champaign IL	134
Eunice Patton	Bloomington IL	96
James Moon	Bloomington IL	96
Bronze Life Master (500-1000)		
Will Engel	Freeport IL	422
Carole Sholes	Springfield IL	338
Leah Newell	Springfield IL	221
Silver Life Master (1000-2500)		
Ronald Sholes	Springfield IL	360
Elizabeth Zalar	Springfield IL	229
Kish Devaraj	Downs IL	222
Gold Life Master (2500-5000)		
Phyllis Rahn	Dunlap IL	172
James Carbaugh	Metamora IL	164
James Ward	Champaign IL	143
Diamond Life Master (5000+)		
Colby Vernay	Lacon IL	632
Dick Benson	Le Roy IL	489
Chris Benson	Le Roy IL	408

Ace of Clubs

Points won in club games in 2003

Rookie		
Linda Heinkel	Princeton IL	23
Norma Cowley	Edwards IL	23
Howard Baird	Springfield IL	20
Junior Master		
Tom Willson	Champaign IL	34
Barbara Bass	Princeton IL	29
Dave Freehill	Bloomington IL	29
Club Master		
Marsha Kent	Springfield IL	48
Maryellen Nifong	Springfield IL	39
Barbara Pickering	Springfield IL	38
Sectional Master		
Frank Tirsch	Springfield IL	80
Joesph Franz III	Springfield IL	60
Zach Freehill	Bloomington IL	53
Regional Master		
Gloria Shoults	Springfield IL	61
David Short	Champaign IL	55
Jack Kessler	Bloomington IL	44
NABC Master		
Jack Deaton	Cambridge IL	69
Stanley Gutzman	Normal IL	56
Larry Wilcox	Springfield IL	43
Life Master		
Henry Hoffman	Bloomington IL	60
Tom Nahnsen	Pleasant Plains IL	51
Margaret Hansell	Champaign IL	51
Bronze Life Master		
John Parsons	Springfield IL	95
Mike Tomlianovich	Bloomington IL	87
George Veenstra	Springfield IL	86
Silver Life Master		
Betty Primm	Athens IL	127
Elizabeth Zalar	Springfield IL	98
Gail Moon	Bloomington IL	93
Gold & Diamond Life Master		
Phyllis Rahn	Dunlap IL	97
Norinne Nelson	Laredo TX	60
Robert Butz	Kankakee IL	56

Visit the [ACBL Unit Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit 208 players in each category for 2003 and year-to-date for 2004.



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

Editor: Julie Behrens, 662 Kirkshire Drive, St. Louis MO 63122 jbehrens@yahoo.com

February Sectional-at-Clubs -- Top 20 winners from Unit 143

5. Rod Van Wyk 19.35	52. Eryk Gozdowski 8.84	81. Dan Schaffer 7.02
6. James Hammond 19.17	56. Jane Schaffer 8.60	83. Walt Brownell 6.88
13. Ralph Behrens 14.95	60. Ronda O'Farrell 8.14	84. Bert Brownell 6.88
22. Andrew McLean 11.90	61. Sue Perez 8.14	89. Bob Cundall 6.81
23. Karl Lovegreen 11.90	62. Elaine Tribes 8.04	91. Joyce Weinstein 6.77
31. Cheryl Davis 10.61	69. Lee Hastings 7.68	93. John Smith 6.74
37. Arbha Vongsvivut 10.46	73. Mike Giacaman 7.45	97. Don Block 6.46
48. Ed Schultz 9.67	75. Sally Greenblatt 7.23	99. Gloria Spitzer 6.44
51. Jason Clevenger 8.84	78. Nancy Popkin 7.19	100. Carole Quist 6.08

Saluki Swiss -- Feb. 7-8

Saturday -- 27 teams

- A1-Sue Perez, John Samsel, Peggy Wald, Ralph Behrens
- A2-Tom Oppenheimer, Larry Kolker, Nancy & Alan Popkin, Milt Zlatic
- A3-Cheryl & Scott Davis, Gail & Loughery Hawkins

Sunday -- 34 teams

- A2-Tom Oppenheimer, Milt Zlatic, Alan & Nancy Popkin, Larry Kolker
- A5,B1-Jason Clevenger, Eryk Gozdowski, Andrew Carver, Linda Lubeck
- A6-Mike Carmen, Kathy Safiranski, John & Shirley Dicks
- B4/5-George Marvin, Bill Orrick, Steve Hakanson, Bill Kauffman

Kentucky Dam Village Sectional -- March 5-7

Friday Afternoon Strat Open Prs.

- A6-Jeannine Owen & James Hammond
- C4-Barbara Reid & Mary Ann Mitchell

Friday Evening Strat Open Prs.

- A1-John Burgener & Karen Erlanger
- B4/5-Jason Clevenger & Eryk Gozdowski
- B4/5-Scott & Cheryl Davis
- C2-David Beecher & William Davis

Saturday Strat Open Prs.

- A4-Brooks Sharp & Bill Mullen
- A5-Milt Zlatic & Tom Oppenheimer
- A6-Mark Ehret & Lee Hastings
- B1-Scott & Cheryl Davis
- B2-Bill Kauffman & George Marvin
- B4&C2-Sandy Rives & Carolyn Kribben

Saturday Bracketed KO 1

- 1-Jack & Marcie Stauder, Allyson Wolfe, Denny O'Connor
- 2-John Burgener, Karen Erlanger, Sue Perez, John Samsel

Sunday Swiss, Flight A

- 3-Brooks Sharp, Bill Mullen, Peggy Wald, Ralph Behrens
- 4-John Burgener, Karen Erlanger, Elbert & Dorothy Moore
- 5-Rod Van Wyk, Shirley & John Dicks, Randy Leeper

Congratulations to ...

Allyson Wolfe, who bid and made three grand slams with three different partners during Valentine week. What a sweetheart of a deal!

John Burgener and Karen Erlanger, who won over 28 points at the Kentucky Dam Lake Sectional. What a way to celebrate John's birthday!

Ace of Clubs & Mini McKenney -- 2003 Winners



Carol Luckey Jr. Master, Mini-McK



Mike Lissner Jr. Master, Ace of Clubs



Jeroen Swinkels Club Master, Mini-McK



Roberta Trochtenberg Club Master, Ace of Clubs



Judy Puztel Regional Master Ace of Clubs & Mini-McK



Eryk Gozdowski NABC Master, Ace of Clubs & Mini-McK



Sue Rechter Life Master Ace of Clubs & Mini-McK



John Samsel Bronze LM, Mini-McK



Mike Giacaman Bronze LM, Ace of Clubs



Arbha Vongsvivut Silver LM, Mini-McK



Marilyn Kopf Silver LM, Ace of Clubs



Alan Popkin Gold LM, Mini-McK



Ralph Behrens Gold LM, Ace of Clubs



Jack Bryant Diamond LM, Mini-McK



Ed Weiss Diamond LM, Ace of Clubs

Julie Woods Rookie Ace of Clubs & Mini-McK

Beckham Southern Sectional Master Ace of Clubs & Mini-McK

199er Tournament Winners -- March 13

Afternoon, Flts. A& B: **Marsha Kent & Julie Hubbard**

Afternoon, Flt. C: **Martha Hanpeter & Diana Thomas**

Evening, Flights A&B: **John & Mary Van Cleve**

Evening, Flight C: **Mary Hawley & Linda Mize**

We had a record 31 tables at the first session and 23 tables at the second session. As always, Mary Hruby did a fabulous job, assisted by Debbie Ettel and our two directors -- Mark Ehret and Donna Coker. There were 20 non-ACBL members playing and by the end of the day 4 had joined the ACBL. Congrats, and we look forward to another great tournament in the fall.

In Memory

We were saddened by the deaths of Norbert Kremer, Dr. Blanche Kelley, John Kolker and Sol Scholnik.

Norbert Kremer died last November 28, of colon cancer, at age 62. Norbert played the first two decades of his bridge career as a St. Louisan before moving to Schenectady NY. Besides winning numerous sectional and regional titles, he finished first in the North American Master Mixed Teams in 1983, and he placed second in three other NABC events, including the 1973 Grand Nationals with an all-St. Louis team. We remember Norbert for his competitive but outgoing and extremely friendly nature. -- **Roger Lord**

We remember Dr. Blanche Kelly for her great love of the game, her sense of humor, and the jewelry she enjoyed wearing every day. She and Steve Brauss were kibitzing Jack Bryant and Ken Bland when Ken, after seeing the last card, asked Jack, "Where were the diamonds?" Lightning-fast Steve notes, "Well, guys, Blanche has the diamonds!" She loved her. And, we loved her. Blanche was the first to say she had a wonderful life. If you met her daughter, Kim (also Dr. Kelly) and her two granddaughters, Dara and Dahlia (in medical school and pre-med) you can see why. She passed away January 9, 2004. -- **Linda Bryant**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Marilyn Cooper and Larry Kolker for the death of their son John Kolker, in January at age 40. -- **Roger Lord**

Sol Scholnik passed away at the age of 90+. Sol always had a joke for you. He enjoyed reaching 90 and loved to play duplicate. Years ago Sol would buy everyone at the bridge club lunch on his birthday so he could share his day with his bridge friends. He will be missed. -- **Julie Behrens**

News from Reno

Local bridge players did well at the Spring Nationals this year. Milt Zlatic & Tom Oppenheimer placed 6th in the North American Pairs. Roger Lord and Jackie Sincoff were second in the Sidor Open Pairs and Ed Schultz & Mark Kessler finished 28th in this event. Roger also finished fourth in Flight A in the last Sunday Swiss.

Nancy Popkin placed 3rd in the Silver Ribbon pairs with partner Don Stack. Tom Kniest & Tom Oppenheimer finished 19th. Nancy & Don also finished 31st in the Open Pairs II (130 pairs).

Rockin' Rockford Regional

June 14-20, 2004

Awards
for
Winners!

Indoor Sports Center (ISC)
8800 East Riverside Drive • Loves Park (Rockford) IL
One mile east of I-90, East Riverside Drive Exit



TOURNAMENT CHAIRPERSONS: Kay and Bob Korte, 815-337-3722, bobkorte@sbcglobal.net
PARTNERSHIP CHAIRPERSONS: Jan and Gene Condon, 815-633-4979, jiggs320417@cs.com
199ER AND NEWCOMER CHAIRPERSON: Mary Jo Sergent, 815-874-4157, mjosarge@aol.com
HOSPITALITY CHAIRS: Lucille Chaffe, 815-758-6407 & Dee White, 815-623-6167

Three Knockout series and two Swiss Teams

A great regional
for teams!

A great regional
for players with
under 200 MPs

Two single-session events every day,
Tuesday-Saturday 1:30 & 7:30



BRACKETED KNOCKOUT SCHEDULE

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

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

Reservations: 815-282-9300. Std. King room: \$67; Std. Double Queen rooms: \$79. Rooms guaranteed until May 14. Rates apply later if rooms available.

Continental Breakfast, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffeemaker in rooms.

MONDAY, JUNE 14
7:30 Stratified Open Charity Pairs

TUESDAY, JUNE 15
9:00 am Early Bird Side Game Series, 1st
1:30, 7:30 Stratified Open Pairs
1:30, 7:30 Side Game Series #1, 1 & 2
1:30, 7:30 Stratified 199er Pairs*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16
9:00 am Early Bird Side Game Series, 2nd
1:30, 7:30 Stratified Swiss Teams
1:30, 7:30 Side Game Series #1, 3 & 4
1:30, 7:30 Stratified 199er Pairs*

THURSDAY, JUNE 17
9:00 am Early Bird Side Game Series, 3rd
9:00 am. Players Choice, Stratified Open
1:30 & 7:30 (play two out of three)
1:30, 7:30 Side Game Series #2, 1 & 2
1:30, 7:30 Stratified 199er Pairs*

FRIDAY, JUNE 18
9:00 am Early Bird Side Game Series, 4th
1:30, 7:30 Side Game Series #2, 3 & 4
1:30, 7:30 Stratified 199er Pairs*

SATURDAY, JUNE 19
1:30, 7:30 Stratified Open Pairs
1:30, 7:30 Stratified 199er Pairs*

SUNDAY, JUNE 20
11:00 am Stratified Swiss Teams - Playthrough

*All Stratified 199er Games Are Single-Session Events

STRATIFICATIONS

Open and Swiss: 1500+; 500-1500; 0-500 Non-LM
199er Pairs: 100-200; 20-100; 0-20

SPLIT REGIONAL / SPLIT REGIONAL

Champagne Regional • Paducah, KY

June 14-20, 2004

New Location!
New Host Hotel!
Lower Room Rates!

Robert Cherry Civic Center
2701 Park Avenue • Paducah, KY

Hotel Information:
Days Inn • 270-442-7501

I-24 & US 60
Paducah KY
\$50, 1-4 people FREE breakfast
Just 3 minutes from playing site

You must mention the tournament to get this special rate.

Monday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.

Single-Session Charity Pairs
Bracketed Knockouts I (round 1)

Tuesday, June 15, 9:00 a.m.
Side Game Series I (1 of 6)
Bracketed Knockouts I (round 2)

Tuesday, June 15, 1:30 p.m.
Bracketed Knockouts I (round 3)
Stratified Pairs (session 1)
Side Game Series I (2 of 6)
299er Pairs (session 1)

Tuesday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.
Bracketed Knockouts I (finals)
Stratified Pairs (session 2)
Side Game Series (3 of 6)
299er Pairs (session 2)

Hosted by ACBL Unit 223

Tournament Chairs
Robin Lampley
Bruce Gardner
bgardner04@comcast.net

Partnerships
Maxine Wynn, 270-554-5719

Wednesday, June 16, 9:00 a.m.

Bracketed Knockouts II (round 1)
Side Game Series I (4 of 6)

Wednesday, June 16, 1:30 p.m.
299er Pairs (session 1)
Stratified Swiss Teams (session 1)
Side Game Series I (5 of 6)

Wednesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.
299er Pairs (session 2)
Stratified Swiss Teams (session 2)
Side Game Series I (6 of 6)

Thursday, June 17, 9:00 a.m.
Bracketed Knockouts II (round 2)
Players Choice Stratified Pairs
(Play any 2 of 3 sessions today)

Thursday, June 17, 1:30 p.m.
Bracketed Knockouts II (round 3)
299er Pairs (session 1)
Players Choice Stratified Pairs

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.
Bracketed Knockouts II (finals)
299er Pairs (session 2)
Players Choice Stratified Pairs

Friday, June 18, 9:00 a.m.

Compact Knockouts (Cont. Sat.)
Side Game Series II (1 of 6)

Friday, June 18, 1:30 p.m.

Side Game Series II (2 of 6)
299er Pairs (session 1)
Compact KO, guaranteed consolation
continues Friday night

Friday, June 18, 7:30 p.m.

Compact KO finals/consolation
Side Game Series II (3 of 6)
299er Pairs (session 2)

Friday, June 18, 11:00 p.m.

Charity Auction Pairs

Unsurpassed Hospitality!

Mon. - Our Good Stuff Open Bar and
Bar-B-Q
Tues. - Return of the Good Stuff
Open Bar

Wed. - Pizza and Beer Blast
Thurs. - Charity auction, with munchies
Fri. - Post-game munchies in the
playing area
Sat. - Our unique champagne party!

Saturday, June 19, 9:00 a.m.

Compact KO (finals from Friday)
Side Game Series II (4 of 6)

Saturday, June 19, 1:30 p.m.

Stratified Pairs (session 1)
Side Game Series II (5 of 6)
Compact KO, guaranteed consolation
continues Saturday night

Saturday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.

Stratified Pairs (session 2)
Side Game Series II (6 of 6)
Compact KO finals/consolation

Sunday, June 20, 10 a.m.

Stratified Swiss Teams (playthrough)

EXTRA!
Charity Midnight Madness
Buy a celebrity partner at
auction Thursday night and
play Friday for a free
2005 tournament!

Strata
A: 1500+; B: 500-1500; C: 0-500
299er: 0-50; 50-100; 100+



Pioneer Sectional April 24 & 25, 2004

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

Saturday, April 24

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

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

Party after the evening session.

Sunday, April 25

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

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

Super dinner served between sessions.

Entry fees: \$8 per session on Saturday; \$21 for two sessions on Sunday (includes dinner).

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

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

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

Park District phone: (217) 342-4415



St. Louis Spring Sectional

May 14-16, 2004

Blanchette Park Memorial Hall, St. Charles MO

Friday May 14

- 1:30 -- Stratified Open & Novice/Intermediate Pairs
- 7:30 -- Flight A/X Pairs (0-3000 & 3000+)
- 7:30-- Flight BCD Pairs (0-200 / 200-750 / 750-1500)

Saturday May 15

- 9:00 am – Knockout Teams (continues at 1:30 & 7:30)
- 1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
- 1:30 & 7:30 -- Single-session Novice/Intermediate Pairs
- 1:30 & 7:30 -- Single-session Side Games

Sunday May 16

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

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

- Guest speakers on Friday & Saturday at 12:45 and 6:45
- Beverages, popcorn and homemade cookies at all sessions.
- Terrific hospitality after the evening sessions.
- Sunday: Continental breakfast (9:00 am) and hot buffet dinner between sessions.

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

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

Partners: Mary Hruby -- 314-739-1574

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



Tri-State Spring Sectional

April 30 - May 2

Senior Citizen Center, 639 York St.,
Quincy IL

Join us for a fun-filled weekend in beautiful Quincy, on the banks of the Mississippi. Quincy is known for its German heritage, gorgeous houses along Maine Street, and its many restaurants and bars.

Friday, April 30

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

Saturday, May 1

1:00 & 7:00 -- Two-session Stratified Pairs (one-session entries welcome)
Cookout in the park between sessions.

Sunday, May 2

10:30 am -- Two-session Stratified Swiss Teams
Lunch served between sessions.

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

We're just a short drive from your hometown -- less than 2 hours from St. Louis, Columbia MO, Springfield IL and Peoria IL.

Bridge rate (\$64) at the Hampton Inn, 225 S. 4th Street. **Phone:** 217-224-8378. Located near the Senior Citizens Center. From Broadway, take 3rd Street south and turn left on York Street.

Chairman: Lars Sandegren -- (217) 222-0232 quincyfred@yahoo.com

Partnerships: Lois Mott -- (217) 224-6521

Senior Center phone: (217) 223-5700