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June
2004

Published bi-monthly by District 8 of the American Contract Bridge League

Editor:
Karen Walker,
Champaign IL

Bridge: the game for a lifetime

It's fun, it's challenging, it's social, but good for your health, too? Researchers around the world are proving that our game offers a unique type of mental stimulation that can be therapeutic to the health of our brains ... and even our bodies.

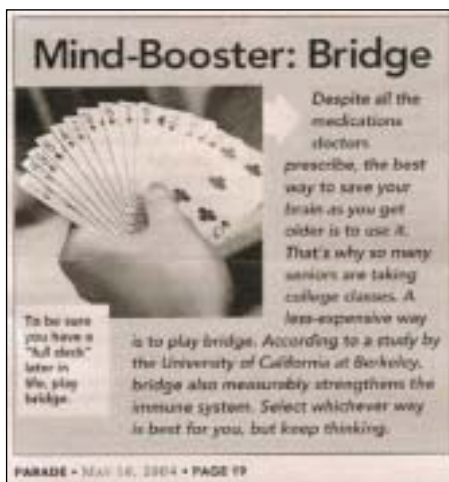
- *Psychological Sciences* magazine reported on a study that tested the mental skills of 50 bridge players and 50 non-players ages 55 to 91. All were in good health and had the same level of education. The bridge players out-performed the non-players in memory and reasoning, and the researchers concluded that bridge enhanced performance in these tasks.

- Dr. Neil Charness of Carnegie-Mellon University has done numerous studies on the relationship between memory and bridge playing. His research suggests that regular bridge playing improves the retention of and access to knowledge in our long-term memory.

- A 2000 study at the University of California-Berkeley showed that playing bridge boosts the immune system. The study found that by stimulating the brain cortex, bridge-playing activity generates the production of higher numbers of the white blood cells that fight disease. The study and an endorsement of bridge's mental benefits were featured in the May 16 issue of the Sunday newspaper magazine *Parade*.

Most of us who already play bridge regularly don't need scientific evidence to be convinced that our game is one of the best ways to meet the "use-it-or-lose-it" challenge for brain health. We can feel the neurons firing not only while we play, but long after. Many players say that hours after a bridge game, they still feel mentally alert and energized, similar to the "high" that long-distance runners experience after a race.

The big difference, of course, is that bridge players can actively pursue their pastime many years after the runners have to slow their pace. And if it's good for us, too, that's a combination we can all love.



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2003 District 8 Grand National Teams May 8 & 9, 2004 -- State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL



Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in District 8's annual Grand National Teams finals. The winning team in each flight won a travel award from the District Board to represent District 8 in the national finals in New York City in July.



Championship Flight

- 1 - (*photo*) Kenny Bland - Jacque Sincoff - Jack Bryant - Roger Lord, St. Louis; Dick Benson, Leroy IL; Gary Kessler, Springfield IL
- 2 - Nancy & Alan Popkin - Milt Zlatich - Tom Oppenheimer - Tom Kniest, St Louis; Karen Walker, Champaign IL



Flight B (0-2000)

- 1 - (*top photo*) Will Engel, Freeport IL; Georgia Heth, Morton IL; Lisa & Bob Sievers, Champaign IL
- 2 - (*bottom photo*) John Kessinger - Marciann O'Brien, Decatur IL; Donna & Cam Barbian, Sherman IL
- 3/4 - Pat & John Killeen - Ray Aguas, Mishawaka IN; Jody Castillo, Warsaw IN
- 3/4 - Arbha Vongsvivut, Godfrey IL; John Samsel - Jason Clevenger - Eryk Gozdowski, St Louis



Flight A (0-5000)

- 1 - (*photo*) Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL; Richard Blumenthal, Bloomington IL; Ned Horton - Mike Halvorsen, Champaign IL; Kris Maillacheruvu, Peoria; Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign
- 2 - Gail Moon - Betty Capodice - Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL; Joanne Glazebrook, Washington IL



Flight C (Non-Life Masters under 500 pts.)

- 1 - (*top photo*) Jim Melville - Ross & Daniel Richardson, Springfield IL; Jim Heller, Petersburg IL
- 2 - (*bottom photo*) Oyvind Tafjord - Bill Lindeman, Champaign IL; Dan Faulkner, Monticello IL; Gary Dell, Champaign IL
- 3/4 - Carole Bardwell - Steve Wulfers - Randall Motchan - Ray Dostal, Bloomington-Normal IL
- 3/4 - Linda & Gene Albrecht, Mt Zion IL; Peggy & Larry McLaughlin, Decatur IL



ACBL Director's Report

by Georgia Heth, Morton IL
District 8 Representative on the ACBL Board of Directors

Charity Foundation: In the last issue, I said I would tell you about the changes in the charity foundation. ACBL has decided to stop making a major award to a charity of the year. Instead, we will give the money to the Districts to distribute locally. Each U.S. District will receive \$20,000 to donate once each four-year cycle. The money can be divided into no more than five gifts. This is handy since we have five units. District 8 will get to direct donations in 2007. The order may change with each four-year cycle.

Directing these donations is fun. As a trustee of the Charity Foundation, I get to direct \$3000 in grants each year. Last year, I made three \$1000 gifts. One was to the Peoria Ballet to sponsor a class for handicapped children that was going to be canceled if they could not get money to pay the teacher. I got four thank-you notes from them and warm fuzzy feelings after hearing how much the children enjoyed the class. Another gift sponsored five children to receive used computers and a tutor to work with them all school year. The third donation paid for materials to help senior citizens in nursing homes execute living wills and powers of attorney. When you make local gifts, you get to see direct results of your gifts.

Grand National Teams: The District 8 finals of the Grand National Teams went well. Attendance was up by two teams. Flight A and the Championship Flight each had four teams, Flight B had 14 teams and Flight C had 10 teams. The new site at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield was nice – close parking, closer restrooms and good lighting.

ACBL Committees: I have done more committee work since the last meeting than ever before. We have finalized the proposed bylaw revisions, I participated in meetings regarding the scheduling of NABC and NABC+ events, and the e-mails have been flying over junior issues. I submitted my first motions, two governance motions, and helped draft some changes to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations. I am looking forward to the New York meeting. I think the juniors discussion will be extensive and productive. I will let you know what happens.

Board of Governors: I spent much of my time at the Champaign Regional trying to talk people into running for the Board of Governors, but I was unsuccessful. District 8 has three positions to fill this year and only one person, Chris Benson of LeRoy, applied. She has been elected. There are still two vacancies for three-year terms starting January 1, 2005. There is no pay for this job and no benefits other than a continental breakfast at the meetings, which are the first Sunday of each Nationals. You need to attend only one meeting per year to retain your seat, and your only duty is to attend the meetings. If you are interested in filling one of these spots, contact me and I will forward your name to the District 8 Board of Directors, who will be filling the vacancies.

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

Director, please

by David Stevenson, Liverpool, England



Question (from Dekalb IL):

When should one ask for an explanation of an alerted bid (not using screens)? I have been asking rather often, and my partner has objected with the argument that this can only help the opponents avoid a possible misunderstanding. A couple of ACBL authorities I have consulted echo my partner's view.

However, I see a problem with adopting their recommended policy of not asking unless you are interested in bidding or doubling. If you ask and then (on the basis of the given explanation) pass, your partner (assuming he knows about your policy) will have the unauthorized information (UI) that you were interested in entering the auction. If you ask always -- or at least frequently -- when you have no intention of bidding, your partner will not have to deal with UI. Of course, this scenario (you ask, then pass, and the UI is relevant to partner's later decision) is sufficiently improbable to be only a minor consideration, but the probability of helping the opponents avoid a misunderstanding is also small (against some opponents it is minute).

So what, on balance, is the best policy? What do most of the best players do? Do they, perhaps, vary their practice depending on how likely they think it that their opponents will be having a misunderstanding?

Stevenson: Interestingly enough, the advice you have received from a couple of authorities and your partner is generally considered the English approach to asking questions, since the English authorities recommend generally avoiding asking questions unless you really need to, with the disadvantages that you note.

I think the advice you would get in North America would differ from area to area, even from club to club. There are a lot of players in North America who do as you do, namely ask nearly every time someone alerts a call.

Looking at the reasons you give, your questions and answers will only help unethical opponents. Players have no right to bid using unauthorized information, and partner's answers to questions are definitely unauthorized! Actually, so is the alert itself, so the damage is often done by the alert. If ever you have any feeling that the opponents got something right because of the answer to a question, then call the Director at the end of the hand and explain the problem to him.

In general, in North America, if you want to ask after every alert (or nearly every alert), I think it does little harm. You may find you are involved in a few more cases where your opponents may or may not have used UI than people who ask less frequently, but you will create fewer UI problems for partner than they do.

Question (from Arlington VA):

We had a problem with the opponents' explanations during this auction, all white at IMPs:

Partner	RHO	Me	LHO
1S	Pass	1NT	2C
3S	DBL	Pass	4C
Pass	Pass	???	

We play a strong club system, so partner's 1S opener was limited to a maximum of 15 points. His jump to 3S showed a near-maximum with at most a 2-loser suit opposite a void.

I held **S-Ax H-KJTxxx D-xxx C-xx**. I inquired as to the meaning of RHO's Double, and was told that they had absolutely no agreement. These are two players with roughly 3000 masterpoints. As this surely looks like a penalty double, I passed after much deliberation. The result was that 4C made 10 tricks, while our 4H or 4S would probably have been down 1. The overcaller had Jxx of spades, 6 solid clubs and a diamond card. The doubler had 8 points and 1-5-5-2 distribution.

The director ruled that the doubler has a right to "make up a bid". I cannot argue that, but there seems to be a problem where lacking agreements is the way to go. They both "guessed" correctly that the bid was a takeout double, so I argue that they do have an agreement of sorts. I also argue that the law seems to favor the perpetrators rather than the victims, which seems to go against all of the other bridge laws. Did the directors rule appropriately? Do I not understand the rules well enough?

Stevenson: First of all, I would have called the Director at the time of the question and answer. He can investigate during the hand to try to find out whether there is agreement, speaking to the players separately, and if necessary, sending one away from the table. However, since they were sure that they had no agreement, this would probably not have helped.

Second, pairs form implicit agreements from experience in similar positions, so while they have presumably no agreement on the actual sequence, they might have an agreement about similar sequences. This would be a question for the Director. Also, it seems a very suitable hand to take to appeal and to see whether the Appeals Committee finds an agreement. However, not all players have agreements, whether they are experienced or not. If they had no agreement, then they have done nothing wrong. Good guessing is not a crime. As for the Laws favouring the perpetrators rather than the victims, this is just not true. If they have no agreement at all, then they have done nothing wrong, they were not perpetrators, and you were unlucky.

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

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

District 8 Solvers Forum -- June 2004

by Tom Kniest, University City MO

Spring is here again in St. Louis. Kurt Warner is gone and multimillionaire Albert Pujols is hitting 50 points below his lifetime average, but life goes on. I'm writing this on the eve of the Champaign IL Regional, where all bridge problems will be submerged in the free-flowing wine and beer provided in the hospitality suite at the end of each evening's play. This is a regional not to be missed.

I'd like to give a special welcome to guest panelist Richard Pavlicek – one of the all-time great players, and creator of possibly the best bridge web-site extant: www.rpbridge.net. If you think these problems are hard, get on the email list for his problem quizzes. They are fun, and diabolical.

1. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	2D *	???

* Weak 2-bid

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2H	100	11	40
2NT	80	2	10
DBL	70	3	50

What is your call as South holding: **S-QJ4 H-AK863 D-KJ C-K102**

The panel produced a clear majority on this hand, with which I concur. However, the relative strength and shape of the hand, coupled with the anemic heart spots, make 2NT tempting. If Puppet Stayman were available, I think I'd go that route. Double, presumably followed by hearts, seems less descriptive than 2NT.

PAVLICEK: "2H. I don't like 2NT because a notrump contract will often fail when East ducks the opening lead with AQxxxx. Double is also reasonable, but I prefer to suggest hearts with a two-card differential in the majors."

PAULO: "2H. My hand is fine, but not very strong. The two-card difference in the majors isn't proper to double, and the precarious diamond stopper precludes notrump. At the tables where East doesn't preempt, South will open 1H, and I wish to follow those auctions as much as possible."

LAMBERT: "2H. 2NT would only be right if playing Puppet Stayman."

FEILER: "2NT. This is a least-of-evils bid. It's too strong for 2H, and if I doubled, I wouldn't know what to do over 2S by partner."

DODD: "Double. With spread-out values, this seems to be the most likely of the three calls to reach the best spot."

2. IMPs, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1H
Pass	1S	2D	4D *
5D	5H	Pass	???

* Splinter (spade raise, diamond shortness)

What is your call as South holding: **S-K1092 H-AKQJ64 D-Void C-K63 ?**

Here's a meaty one, with most of the panel choosing the direct 6S or the look-for-a-grand cuebid of 6D.

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
6S	100	6	6
6D	90	5	33
5NT	80	1	2
6H	80	2	25
Pass	60	2	25
5S	60	0	9

PAVLICEK: "6S. Who knows? It seems partner is just competing, but I'm willing to take the shot (maybe they'll bid 7D

anyway). If partner has S-QJxx H-xxxx D-xx C-Axx, it's necessary to play in spades to have any chance."

WALKER: "6S. I may be hanging partner, but it's hard to imagine a hand worth a 5-level bid that doesn't give us a decent chance for at least 12 tricks. It's tempting to go with the suit where I know we don't have any trump-quality problems, but partner must have 5 spades on this auction (with 4-4 in the majors, he surely would have made a heart raise rather than bid 1S). A 6D bid might get us to an unlikely grand, but it will also talk them out of a diamond lead."

FEILER: "6S. Peculiar 5H bid. At first I thought it was his only slam try, but it's not, as he had a forcing pass available. It must be natural and non-forcing, maybe with five spades and three hearts? If we have a slam, it must be in spades and AQxxx and out might be enough. I don't want to cuebid 6D because that's the suit I want them to lead."

PAULO: "6S. For a grand slam, partner must have the spade AQ and the club ace, but with all those key cards, he wouldn't have bid a mere 5H."

I much prefer 6S to 6D for the reasons Paulo offers: if partner has a hand consistent with his bidding, we don't want to invite him to bid 7S. The other good argument against 6D was cited by Feiler and Walker. You'd like a diamond lead here, but an astute opening leader may make another choice if you advertise the first-round diamond control. He may lead a heart and then rise with the spade ace on the first trump lead to give his partner a heart ruff. Yes, there's no danger of a heart ruff in 6H, but you might need that long suit to discard some club losers from the other hand.

POKORNY: "6D. Showing a void and interest for a grand. Partner with two aces will get the message."

If that's all he has, you're odds on for a spade loser, but he'll impute the KQ of spades to you, and there you are. The 6D cuebid will get us to a good grand only if partner has misbid earlier. To give us a play for 13 tricks, partner needs something like S-AQxxx H-xxxx D-xx C-Ax, and he surely wouldn't have made the underbid of 5H with that on the last round.

The passers and 5S bidders seem to think partner found a 5-level call with S-QJxx H-xxxx D-Qx C-QJx or similar trash. Here are two other views:

KESSLER: "6H. Partner bid 5H thinking I have a stiff diamond when I am void, and he also has very bad trumps. He must have some good cards, and almost any will make 6H a good contract."

DODD: "5NT. Of all the calls available, that 5H bid has me perplexed, so I give North the old pick-a-slam to retaliate."

The pick-a-slam bid is a useful tool – especially in the post-mortem when you can blame partner for having made the wrong choice. On this hand, however, you know far more than partner. Inviting him to make a decision on this hand is ludicrous, and could even be dangerous if he misinterprets your intentions. Still, it will be fun for you to watch the perplexed stewing he goes through, and you will have had your revenge.

NELSON: "Pass. Partner heard my splinter. I think I've bid my values other than having a void rather than a singleton. I'm voting for the chicken bid of a pass."

She said it, not I.

3. IMPs, none vulnerable

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

* Forcing to game

What is your call as South holding: **S-AQJ1063 H-654 D-AK C-102 ?**

The vast majority of the panel and the solvers saw no need to increase the level of the auction with a jump in spades or an immediate heart raise. It's easy to envision some hands where the spade jump makes the subsequent auction easier, but there are too many other slam hands that might be better played in hearts or notrump from partner's side.

PAVLICEK: "2S. Routine. On potential slam auctions, it's criminal to raise immediately with three low trumps."

STRITE: "2S. A nice hand for the 2-over-21 system. No hurry to raise on deuce third or jam with 3S."

FEILER: "2S. Okay, here's my master plan: first we invade Austria ... wait, wrong master plan. First we show extra spades, then we raise hearts, and finally cuebid diamonds."

RABIDEAU: "3S. I like 3S to show this hand, but doesn't it depend on partnership agreements?"

Your three small hearts muddy the waters. If hearts is the right contract, you won't have room to show your support if you bid 3S now. Make one of your hearts a small diamond or club, and I think you'd have more company.

DODD: "3S. Better to emphasize the spade quality than the meager support for partner."

VISHNEVSKY: "3S. I'll show partner my winners and a touch of extras with 3S. If he has S-Kx H-Axxxx D-QJxx C-Ax, I do *not* want to play hearts."

Several other panelists provided example hands where slam was laydown only if you avoided playing hearts. Virtually all of these hands contained the QJxx of diamonds and the Ace-empty of hearts. Nobody offered an imagined hand that was cold only if hearts were trumps, but I assume some exist.

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* Michaels (hearts & a minor)

What is your call as South holding: **S-K82 H-K65 D-A10983 C-64 ?**

Here's a nice problem with five different actions getting some support. Many of the comments suggest that the bidders aren't expecting much from their vulnerable partner. I really don't get that. I bid game, assuming I'm going to have a play for it. This is IMPs, my friends. I don't expect to go for a number because partner also saw the vulnerability. In fact, he might have a really good hand.

PAVLICEK: "4H. I'd like to bid 3 ½, but opposite a vulnerable bid, I'll go long. It might be helpful to find partner's minor by bidding 3NT, but chances are West will mess up the works with 4S; then partner may bid 5C, thinking I have both. I'll just go with the odds and assume partner has clubs."

DODD: "4H. No reason to pussyfoot or get cute here. I'd like to have another trump, but more things can go right than wrong with a direct game bid here."

KESSLER: "4H. Red at IMPs, I bid a game we might make. Partner is red, so we're certainly not going to go for a number."

I'm a little suspicious of the 2NT bid. Normally, if the opponents have a fit in the master suit and it's their hand, your auction is brushed aside. Maybe RHO has a spade fit and little else, and is afraid you can make more. So, he leaves room for your competitive bid, and then tries to play a belated, undoubled 4S. My spade king is safe on the opening lead, so there's no immediate tap against the dummy. I'm going to show my cards, and then double 4S if they bid it.

The panel majority opted for the heart freebid, showing no aspiration for game:

POKORNY: "3H, showing at least the right lead against 4S. We're too weak for double, and pass would be defeatist."

PAULO: "3H. Partner may have a weakish hand. If he has a very strong one, he goes ahead after my freebid."

STRITE: "3H. Notrump looks to play well for the opponents, so let's take a modest risk and give ourselves some chances. 3D is an interesting second choice to collect our ruff if they bid 4S."

WALKER: "3H. If the opponents are to be believed, partner can't have many high card points, so at this vulnerability, he's probably 6-5. A 4H bid here may convince partner I have an all-offense/no-defense hand, and I don't really want to hear 5H over their 4S."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3H	100	8	38
4H	90	5	2
DBL	70	2	13
3D	70	0	10
Pass	60	1	35
3S	60	0	2

MERRITT: "3H. Are Pass and 4H really going to get any votes?"

I can hear all the 3H bidders' partners now: "Wasn't the red in the board slots bright enough?" Finally, here are two panelists who had little interest at all in hearts:

LAMBERT: "Double. I think I win the post-mortem if pard doesn't see this as asking for a minor. The downside here is reaching 3H doubled, down too many."

VISHNEVSKY: "Double. Asks partner for his minor, so we play in a 10-card fit instead of 8."

It's a shame 130 doesn't outscore 620 ... but it's certainly safer.

5. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

* Artificial game-force, denies 4 spades

What is your call as South holding: **S-A108 H-AK92 D-4 C-Q10973 ?**

Here's the problem with the most meat – two actions by the panel that the Solvers didn't mention, and three actions by the Solvers that the panel didn't mention.

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3H	100	6	23
3S	90	5	10
4D	80	2	0
4NT	70	3	0
6C	70	0	2
3NT	60	0	37
Other	60	0	19

Many Solvers appeared to be unfamiliar with this auction. Partner would bid a forcing 1S with a real suit; his jump to 2S shows a forcing-to-game hand without four spades and asks opener to continue describing his hand. When partner follows with 3C, we know he's showing a slam-try in clubs. We'd like to cooperate, as we have "real" clubs, plus a wealth of controls. Yet many Solvers bid 3NT, which will end the auction, or they bid some number of clubs.

The panel was unanimous in searching for a slam, and the majority chose the 3H cuebid. I hate to award 100 to 3H, because it effectively destroys the auction, but the masses have spoken.

NELSON: "3H. I am encouraged and want to investigate slam. I would like to hear a 3S cuebid from partner showing the king or a stiff. I do believe in cuebidding below our game with kings as well as aces. Good possibility of a grand here."

POKORNY: "3H. Concentration of values in hearts, good offensive hand. The 3-4-1-5 pattern is much better than 3-4-2-4 and 4-3-3-3."

The trouble with the 3H cuebid is that the auction can get awkward. It may go: 3H by me, 4D by partner, 4S by me, and then? Partner won't know if I have the heart king or diamond king, and it's too high to find out.

Some panelists suggested that a failure to bid 3H here would deny a heart control. That's not true if your partner understands that it's right to start with the higher cuebid when you have touching controls, thus saving a level of bidding. The higher cuebid of 3S was the second most popular choice, as explained by:

PAULO: "3S. Partner invites slam, and I'm happy to investigate. I go slow, showing first-round control of the critical suit."

PAVLICEK: "3S. I expect to reach 6C with this great hand, but I can't rule out seven. Blackwood is too clumsy, so I'm obliged to go slow – unless 4D were Keycard Blackwood for clubs."

The 4D bid he mentions is called "Kickback" Blackwood. It starts the ace-ask at a lower level and uses the same steps, but different suits, to show aces and the trump king. The convention doesn't have much of a following here in the Midwest, but I don't know why more of us don't play it.

The auction can go much more smoothly if we start with the higher cuebid (3S), which would guarantee a first-round control. After 3S, it may go 4D by partner, 4H by me, 4S by partner (if he has the spade king). Now I can use Keycard

Blackwood to find out trump quality and possibly bid a grand. Or, partner could have taken over after 4H if he had great clubs and solid diamonds.

Another reasonable solution is to go directly to Keycard Blackwood:

STRITE: "4NT. And pursue a grand slam opposite three key cards."

WALKER: "4NT. It's hard to see how a cuebid auction will lead to a good grand-slam decision, especially since it will leave one of both of us unsure about trump honors. It seems better to keep it simple, ask for keycards and hope I can follow with 5NT. If partner knows we have solid trumps and all the keycards, he'll be in a better position to evaluate chances for 7C."

FEILER: "4NT. I think I should take the bull by the horns, although that usually produces a disgusting, bloody mess."

If you go straight to Blackwood over 3C, and you then bid 5NT with all the controls, partner may have a difficult time evaluating his hand. What should he bid over 5NT with S-Kx H-xx D-Axxxx C-AKJx? Or with S-Jx H-xx D-AKxxx C-AKJx? The second hand is death, but who wouldn't bid 6D with it?

Two panelists offered an interesting bid that, with a thoughtful partner, should always pinpoint your type of hand:

MERRITT: "4D. I am sure this is undiscussed with partner, but I really need to pass on information about the suitability of my hand. I don't believe this could be natural, so hopefully, partner will read it as a stiff and can push us to the right spot."

KESSLER: "4D. Must be a splinter, as I didn't bid 3D over 2S or over 3C when either would have been forcing. It takes little to make slam with our wonderful controls. It is tempting to bid 3S so partner knows we have values rather than just distribution, but he still wouldn't be sure of which suit we were supporting."

6. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: **S-K10 H-642 D-1093 C-K10832 ?**

3H has been the top score on the last three hands, and, amazingly, I didn't choose it a single time. Perhaps I should consult a psychologist about this mental blockage.

Partner has doubled and then bid a suit, which shows a good hand. You have some values, and certainly are in the game zone – but what game? The panel majority chose to head for hearts with a gentle raise of partner's suit:

PAULO: "3H. I raise so partner can evaluate our potential, inviting 3NT opposite quick tricks and running hearts."

This hand does offer a fit for hearts, but if partner declares, your spade holding doesn't rate to be much of an asset. The doubleton spade gives you a 3rd-round control, but partner might already have that covered. Here's another alternative:

PAVLICEK: "3NT. I should have the values for game, and 3NT stands out at matchpoints. Partner is likely to have three spades with the lack of competition (Qxx would be nice)."

FEILER: "3NT. Seduced by the siren song...again!"

NELSON: "2NT. Making a positional bid to protect the spade king. If partner is very good, my 6-count could be magic opposite some club values and good hearts."

WALKER: "2NT. If I'm going to count the spade king as a value, I need to suggest a contract where it might actually be a trick. I'm close to a 3NT bid, but 2NT shows some values and gives partner room to express an opinion."

DODD: "2NT. Obvious to do something opposite a strong hand, so I'll show the stopper in an effort to give some value to my spade king. North should work out that I have a few hearts, else why would I bother to move?"

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3H	100	5	46
2NT	90	4	10
3NT	80	2	4
Pass	70	3	36
4H	60	1	0
2S	60	1	4

In notrump, your spade king is protected, and the 10 is a nice kicker. If LHO leads spades, it might be your 9th trick. Clubs might run, or hearts might run. So, my choice is 2NT and leave it up to partner to make the next move.

The odd men out included the young and the restless:

MERRITT: "4H. I don't like the positional value of the spade king, but this hand must be worth a game bid."

And the old and indolent:

KESSLER: "Pass. If partner doesn't need more than the club king, he should have jumped. The spade king is a mirage. With one more spade and one fewer diamond, raising is not unreasonable."

Passing would be unreasonable at IMPs, but at matchpoints, it has something going for it. It's possible that even 3H may be too high.

VISHNEVSKY: "2S. This should say I have doubt about strain or level."

We all have that doubt, but I don't see how 2S helps partner evaluate his hand. Do we want notrump played from his side?

Thanks to all who sent in answers for this set. Congratulations to the winners of the June Solvers contest -- **Will Engel** and **Mike Heins**. They're invited to join the panel for August. And thanks again to expert Richard Pavlicek, whose comments were instructional and succinct. We're happy to have his input.

With three issues left for the year, there's still time to enter the 2004 Solvers Contest, which is based on your best three scores. I hope you'll all try the six new problems for August (see below). Please submit your answers by **July 20** on the [web form](#) or by email to our August moderator:

Scott Merritt -- scottmerritt@verizon.net

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 538):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	2NT	6S	2S	3H	4NT	3NT	530
K. C. Jones, Euleess TX	DBL	6H	2S	3H	3H	3H	550
Robert Lambert, Warsaw IN	2H	6D	2S	DBL	3S	3H	550
Mark Kessler, Springfield IL	2H	6H	2S	4H	4D	Pass	520
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	2H	6S	2S	Pass	3H	3H	520
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	2NT	Pass	3S	3H	3H	2NT	510
Manuel Paolo, Lisbon Portugal	2H	6S	2S	3H	3S	3H	590
Richard Pavlicek, Ft. Lauderdale FL	2H	6S	2S	4H	3S	3NT	580
Dean Pokorny, Opatija, Croatia	2H	6D	2S	3H	3H	Pass	560
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	DBL	Pass	3S	4H	3H	Pass	470
Toby Strite, Warsaw, Poland	2H	6D	2S	3H	4NT	3H	560
Len Vishnevsky, San Francisco CA	2H	6D	3S	DBL	3S	2S	490

How the Staff voted

Tom Dodd, Boerne TX	DBL	5NT	3S	4H	3H	2NT	510
Tom Kniest, University City MO	2H	6S	2S	4H	3S	2NT	570
Scott Merritt, Arlington VA	2H	6S	2S	3H	4D	4H	540
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	2H	6S	2S	3H	4NT	2NT	560

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 477)

Will Engel , Freeport IL	580	Chuck Ettelson , St. Louis MO	540
Mike Heins , Brookville IN	570	Doug Jonquet , Decatur IL	540
Warren Bosch , Elgin IL	560	Don Mathis , Florissant MO	540
George Klemic , Bensenville IL	550	Adam Miller , Chicago IL	540
Glenn Smith , Creve Coeur MO	550	Don Wertheimer , South Bend IN	540

Tied with 520: **Bob Bernhard**, New Smyrna Beach FL; **Matthew Haag**, Leamington Spa UK; **Wally Hendricks**, Champaign IL; **Doug Ogozal**, Fenton MI; **Arbha Vongsvivut**, Godfrey IL

Solvers Forum -- June 2004 Problems

1. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-QJ54 H-AQ86 D-J932 C-9 ?

2. IMPs, none vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-A1063 H-AQ1054 D-3 C-754 ?

3. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-Q H-AK74 D-KQ983 C-1054 ?

4. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

* Preemptive ** Responsive (clubs & diam.)

What is your call as South holding:
S-83 H-AQJ85 D-AQ4 C-1092 ?

5. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
S-A5 H-KJ972 D-J9 C-8763 ?

6. IMPs, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	1S	Pass	1NT * (forcing)
Pass	2C	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
S-64 H-AQ5 D-874 C-AJ763 ?



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Unit Board Elections

John Free (St. Charles) was elected president of the Board of Directors of Unit 239 during elections held at the Board's meeting on Thursday, May 27. He replaces Bob Korte, who is retiring after two terms as Unit President.

Gene Condon (Rockford) was elected Vice-President, **Craig Bontjes** (Byron) will continue as Secretary and **Susan MacKinney** (Elgin) will replace Kay Korte as Treasurer. Kay, too, is retiring after many years of service on the Board.

Unit Membership Game

Congratulations to **Harold Legel** and **Bob Korte**, who took first place in the Unit 239 Membership Game, held May 21 at the First United Methodist Church in DeKalb. Other overall awards went to:

- 2 - Will Engel and John Kinst
- 3 - Greg Berry and George Wolf
- 4 - Jan Howard and Ayn Masilko
- 5 - Mary Jo Sergent and Dee Witte
- 6 - Ruth Sarafian and Marilyn Butler

The Unit Membership Game, directed by Betty Wade, had two sections. North-South winners in Section A were Chere Morrison and Laurie Hamachek, first; Jack Snyder and Diane Shottliff, second; Mike Abarbanel and Jim Hudson, third; Dave and Lu Jenkins, fourth; and Gene and Jan Condon, fifth. Morrison-Hamachek also placed first in strats B and C.

East-West winners in Section A were Sergent-Witte, first; Kay Swanson and Erma Thompson, second; Joyce Gibson and Shirley Rogers, third; Kay Korte and Rich Whitsett, fourth; and Robert Corron and Helen Neumark, fifth. Sergent-Witte also placed first in strats B and C.

North-South winners in Section B were Legel-Korte, first; Howard-Masilko, second; Robert Volsted and John Wells, third; Katherine Maggio and Cleeta Carlson, fourth; and D. Brosseau and John Diehl, fifth. Maggio-Carlson placed first in strat B, with Betty Basler and Bernie Sexton first in strat C. East-West winners in Section B were Engel-Kinst, first; Berry-Wolf, second; Sarafian-Butler, third; William Carson and Russell Bold, fourth; and Pam Eden and Jean Larsen, fifth.

Pat Pohlman, Life Master



"Bridge has meant a great deal to me. I'd give up a *lot* before I'd give up bridge. It's a lifetime occupation, really. You meet great people there, and find that they're *thinkers*. And, in a sense, you meet yourself, too -- and stand there amazed to find yourself in the 'thinkers group.'"

That's the contention of one of Unit 239's newest life masters, Pat Pohlman of Aurora. She made life master in a recent Lombard sectional, playing in a knockout event with John Otto. "All I needed was silver," Pat recalls, echoing a familiar refrain among recent LM's.

Pat was born and raised in Ohio, and lived there for most of her life -- until coming to Aurora several years ago. She has four children: Jennifer of Naperville; Laura of Aurora; Ted of Cleveland, OH; and Ann of Pine Island MN.

"I played social bridge in college," Pat remembers. "Very social. Then a friend introduced me to duplicate. We had a good game, I was hooked, and bridge became serious. Of course, I won't tell you how long it took me to have a good game *again*. But that's another story," she laughs. Now, she plays regularly in club games in Aurora and St. Charles.

After she made LM, her son -- a non-bridge player -- informed her to expect a gift in the mail. But when a charm arrived, Pat never made the connection. "I thought maybe it was from the ACBL," she remembers. "Then a charm bracelet arrived in the mail from an entirely different address. It took me some time to make the connection."

Odd experiences are nothing new to Pat, who spent much of her life as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration. "I remember one lady whose husband had recently died. She sought survivor benefits on behalf of her baby. But it turned out that he had been in a coma during the entire month in which the baby would have been conceived."

So watch out, all ye would-be opponents of Pat Pohlman: she's *onto* real versus phony comas.

Arlene Snap, Life Master



The days when bridge players must travel both extensively and expensively in order to achieve life master status are obviously over.

A living example of that truth is Arlene Snap, Unit 239's latest life master. "It can all be done close to home," she asserts. And, indeed, Arlene has met the LM qualifications in six short years, attending tournaments *only* in the Chicago-Rockford-Madison-Milwaukee quadrant, and by *no* means playing in every tournament or in every event open to her.

Born and raised in Freeport, Arlene attended UW in Madison and moved to Loves Park with her husband Donald in 1957. She has lived in the Rockford area ever since. She has three children: Ricard of Rockford; Janis of Lake Forest; and Dan of Roscoe. She has spent much of her life as an accountant/bookkeeper.

"I played bridge in college, and I played social bridge for . . . well, for ever so long," she remembers with a smile. Her good Rockford friend Helen Anglemire urged her to try duplicate at a regional in Lake Geneva. They even won a section top in an open pairs game, but no dice: the "duplicate bug" refused to bite. Arlene just sat there with her one-point-something gold point for years . . . and years . . . and, well, for years. But Helen refused to give up, and during social bridge play taught Arlene many systems, conventions, and strategies used in duplicate. "Then, when I retired in 1997 and had more time, I was ready," admits Arlene with a thankful nod Helen's way.

Arlene made LM at the Lake Geneva regional last April, after "making the cut" in a knockout team event playing with Margaret Battista of Rockton. "I think Margaret was more excited than I was," insists Arlene. "She kept running around telling the news to anyone who hadn't already heard it twice. Then she brought a cake to the bridge club -- of *course* on a day when I had to cancel out at the last minute. But it was the thought that was supposed to count, and it was the thought that *did*."

Being a "snowbird," Arlene plays regularly in "a nice, friendly, *big* game in Florida during the winter. "I love it there," declares Arlene, "but believe me, the Rockford club, although it is smaller, in *no* way suffers by comparison."

Card of Thanks: We'd like to thank the members of Unit 239 for the fine words, cards, flowers, and gift certificate we received at the Unit Membership game upon our retirement from bridge administration. Any success we may have had over the past years is solely due to the enthusiastic members of the unit. -- **Kay and Bob Korte**

Congratulations to . . .

Will Engel (Freeport,) who will represent District 8 in the Flight B finals of the Grand National Teams. Engel and his teammates (Lisa and Bob Sievers of Champaign and Georgia Heth of Morton) qualified fourth among 24 teams during a hard-fought District-wide playoff in May and went on the following day to win the event.

Pam Eden (Rockford,) who received the annual Unit 239 Goodwill Award at the Unit Membership Game May 21. Usually, the Goodwill winner is profiled in these pages, but Pam, who recently became a Life Master, was profiled here only three issues ago.

CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign IL 61821
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Illini Regional -- May 25-31, Champaign IL

Thanks to everyone who traveled to Champaign during Memorial Day week to play in our annual regional. The Chancellor Hotel is a great venue, with spacious playing facilities, reasonably priced rooms (\$69 double) and a convenient location, just 3 blocks from the University of Illinois and within walking distance of many restaurants.

The tournament is unmatched for player hospitality. The organizers offered us discounted entry fees, free coffee, student discounts, novice mini-lessons, cash-prize games, section-top prizes, registration gifts, door prizes and lots of free food and drink every night.

Chairmen Karen Walker and Mike Halvorsen offer special thanks to these hard-working volunteers from Champaign's Bridge at Ginger Creek club: **Dot Roemelt** (registration), **Debbie Avery** (caddies), **John Brandeberry & Terry Goodykoontz** (prizes), **Aaron Hanford** (prizes & hospitality), **Pete Petillo** (Daily Bulletin), and **Hugh Williams & Madhu Viswanathan** (partnerships).

If you couldn't make it to Champaign this year, we hope you -- and a few carloads of your closest friends -- can join us for our next regional: **May 24-30, 2005** at the Chancellor Hotel.

Special congratulations to these Unit players who won multiple events at the regional:



Quintuple winners! Oyvind Tafjord & Bill Lindemann (photo) -- Thursday Flt. BCD Swiss Teams, Bracket III of the Big Ten KO and Orange & Blue KO, Sunday Evening Side Game and Monday Swiss Teams (Flt. C). Oyvind and Bill won almost 50 points for the week.

Gary Dell & Dan Faulkner -- Thursday Flt. BCD Swiss Teams, Saturday 299er Championship Pairs (\$100 cash prize) and Monday Swiss Teams (Flt. C). Dan posted a fourth win in Bracket III of the Orange & Blue KO.

Will Engel -- Bracket II of the Big Ten KO, Orange & Blue KO and Chief Illiniwek KO. Will was the second leading point winner for the week, earning a total of 66.10 masterpoints.

Pete Petillo & Brian Barrett -- Friday Open Pairs (Flt. B) and Bracket

III of the Chief Illiniwek KO.

Bob Sievers -- Bracket II of the Big Ten KO & Chief Illiniwek KO.

Carla Heitzman -- Friday 199er Pairs & Saturday EZ Bridge Pairs.

Cal Corbin -- Wednesday Morning Side Game (Flt. B) and Wednesday Open Pairs.

Dick Benson -- Friday Morning Side Game & Chief Illiniwek KO.

Aaron Hanford -- Thursday BCD Swiss Teams (Flt. D) and Jackpot Individual (Flt. C; \$40 cash prize).

Wilbert Law -- Wednesday Open Pairs (Flt. C) and Thursday BCD Swiss (Flt. D)

Charlie Morton -- Tuesday Charity Pairs (Flt. C) and Wednesday Morning Side Game (Flt. B).

Lee Wolfert & Julia Carlin -- Tuesday Charity Pairs & Thursday Afternoon Side Game.

2004 Grand National Teams

It was a clean sweep for Central Illinois in the District 8 Grand National Team finals in May, with our Unit players placing first and second in all four flights. Each winning team won travel awards from the District and Unit Boards to play in the national finals in New York City in July. Congratulations to:

Championship Flight -- Dick Benson, Leroy & Gary Kessler, Springfield (playing with Roger Lord, Jacque Sincoff, Kenny Bland & Jack Bryant of St. Louis)

Flight A (0-5000 pts.) -- Mike Halvorsen, Ned Horton & Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign; Richard Blumenthal, Bloomington; Larry Rabideau, St. Anne; Kris Maillacheruvu, Peoria

Flight B (0-2000) -- Bob & Lisa Sievers, Champaign; Georgia Heth, Morton; Will Engel, Freeport

Flight C (0-500, non-LM) -- Ross & Daniel Richardson & Jim Melville, Springfield; Jim Heller, Petersburg

Unit 208 Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 10 -- 6:45 p.m., Interstate Center, Bloomington IL (Bloomington Sectional)

Illinois Senior Olympics Bridge Championship

Wednesday, September 15 -- 1:00 p.m. -- Bridge Club of Springfield, 1305 W. Wabash

Win ACBL masterpoints and Senior Olympic medals in this special event hosted by the Springfield Park District and the Central Illinois Bridge Association. The game will be a one-session duplicate pairs (26 hands). Medals will be awarded based on ACBL rank and the age of the younger member of the partnership.

Entry fee is \$16 per pair, which includes free refreshments. Registration deadline is August 15, and entries are limited to the first 40 pairs.

Entry forms are available at the Springfield club or from Ron Sholes (srathlete@aol.com). You can also enter by sending a check for \$16 and your pair's information (name, address, phone, ACBL numbers and number of masterpoints) to Springfield Park District, IL Sr. Olympics, 2500 S. 7th St., Springfield IL 62703.

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

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Ruth Goldman, Springfield
Sidney Goldman, Springfield
Jean Miller, Peoria
Patricia Paul, Bloomington
Fred Roese, Springfield
Joann Rouse, Bloomington
Alice Soneson, Springfield
Hope Stephenson, Springfield
George Troike, Springfield
Bruce Van Metre, Springfield
Carolee Vinson, Oneida

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Lyle Ahrens, Springfield
Wayne Caldwell, Springfield
William Morgan, Mattoon
Charlie Smyth, Urbana
Elizabeth Wilson, Urbana

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Linda Heinkel, Princeton
Jerry Oswald, Bloomington
Mark Satterthwaite, Champaign

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Cal Corbin, Champaign
Roy Hostetler, Pekin
Tom Willson, Champaign

Life Master (300 pts.)

William Carley, Peoria
Barbara Carroll, Paris
Rose Ellen Scott, Rantoul
Charlene Sexton, Ottawa

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Mary Murphy, Quincy
Roger Sokol, Minooka

Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)

Arlene Drablos, Champaign



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

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

ST. LOUIS SPRING SECTIONAL WINNERS



Patti Disbrow & Mary Rassieur -- Fri. Aft. Flt. C; Sat. Pairs Flts. B&C



Jane & Chuck Ettelson -- Fri. Eve. BCD



Roger Lord, Jacque Sincoff, Rod Van Wyk, Dick Watssek -- KO Bracket I



Charles Parker & Sandy Bigg -- Fri. Aft. 199er Flts. A&B; Sat. Eve. 199er Flt. B



Linda Slutsky & Martha Smith -- Sat. Aft. 199er Flt. C



Jason Clevenger, Eryk Gozdowski, Andrew Carver, Krzysztof Jarosz -- KO Bracket II



Alan Popkin & Larry Kolker -- Fri. Aft. Flt. A



Janet Neal & Carol Luckey -- Sat. Eve. 199er Flt. C



Gayle McLean, Ann Ruwitch, Twink Baker, Eileen Fritsch -- KO Bracket III



Sue Perez & John Samsel -- Fri. Eve. Flt. A/X



Art Step, Bob Henrich, Helen Woerheide, Bob Riggs -- Sunday Swiss Flt. C

For complete tournament results, see our unit web site: www.unit143.org

It was truly a family affair at our May Sectional. Charlie Parker won with daughter Sandy Bigg, and sisters Janet Neal & Carol Luckey won. Other winners were:

Fri. Aft. Strat. Flt. B. -- Gayle McLean & Lois Sieron
Fri. Aft. 199er Prs. -- Mary Fort & Susan Hall
Sat. Aft. 199er Prs. Flts. A & B -- Paul & Lois Hartke
Sat. Aft. Side Game Flts. ABC -- Darlene Londeree & Gertrude Thompson
Fri. Eve. & Saturday Pairs Flt. A -- Nancy & Alan Popkin
Sun. Swiss Flt. A -- Sheldon Margulis, Roger Lord, Jacqueline Sincoff, & Gary Kessler
Sun. Swiss Flt. B -- Sandy Becker, Don Block, Ann Ruwitch, & Judy Putzel

Unit 143 members bring home masterpoints from the Illini Regional

Big Ten KO Teams: First place in Bracket I went to Nancy & Alan Popkin & Larry Kolker with teammates Don Stack & Jim Russell. Ed Schultz's team came in second. Tied for 3/4 were Rod Van Wyk, Don Florida, Ralph Behrens & John Dicks with a team that included Jack Bryant & Kenny Bland. Finishing 3/4 in the Bracket II were Paul & Louise Ellebracht.

Wednesday Open Pairs: 3rd in Flt. A -- Karen Erlanger & John Burgener; 5th in Flt. A -- Tom Kniest & Karen Walker.

Wednesday Eve. Side Game: 2nd in Flt. A -- Percy Wu & Robert Shair; 5th in Flt. A -- Rod Van Wyk & Don Florida.

Wednesday AM Side Game: 3rd in Flt. B -- Brenda Hoffman & Julie Behrens; 5th in Flt. B -- Dorothy Harper & Eugene Lewis.

Thursday Flt. A Swiss Team: 1st -- John Burgener, Karen Erlanger with Phyllis Rahn & Joyce McEldowney. John & Karen thought they had a team and found out at the last minute they were minus two players. Phyllis & Joyce left the side game and came to their rescue. What a great story!
2/3 in Flt. A -- Tod Moses; 4th in Flt. A -- Nancy Popkin & Tom Kniest; 7th in Flt. A -- Mike Carmen, Ralph Behrens, Kathy Safranski & John Dicks.

Thursday Flt. A/X Swiss Team: 2nd -- Mary Hruby & Shirley Janis. 4th -- Doug Moore, Suzi Shymanski Moore, Al Fisher & Fran Scheifler.

Thursday Flight BCD Swiss: 4th -- Brenda Hoffman, Gwen Schneider, Gail Baughman & Julie Behrens.

Friday Open Prs. Flt. A: 1st -- Rod Van Wyk & Don Florida.

Saturday Flt. A Barometer: 1st -- Mike Carmen & Kathy Safranski; 2nd -- Nancy Popkin & Don Stack; 4th -- Lee Hastings & Rich Haacke; 7th -- Ralph Behrens & John Dicks.

Sat. Flt. B Pairs: 3rd -- Julie Behrens & Dorothy Moore.

Sat. Eve. Side Game: 1st in Flt. A -- Denny O'Connor & Allyson Wolfe; 2nd in Flt. B -- Percy Wu & John Preand.

Sat. Aft. Side Game: 2nd in Flt. B -- Percy Wu & Robert Shair; 1st in Flt. C -- Gilda & Steve Singer. Gilda & Steve also placed 1st in Flts. A, B & C in the Sunday Aft. 199er Pairs.

Big cash winner: Nell Schneider, who won \$200 for placing first in the Jackpot Individual on Saturday night.

Sunday Chief Illiniwek KO: 3/4 in Bracket II -- Sue Perez, Donna Pedrotti, John Dicks & Ralph Behrens. 2nd -- Doug Moore, Suzi Shymanski Moore, Allyson Wolfe, & Denny O'Connor.

Monday Swiss: Percy Wu finished 2nd in Flt. B. He also placed 2nd in the Sunday Eve. Side Game.

The top 30 point winners from Unit 143 at the Illini Regional were:

Nancy Popkin -- 71.90
Alan Popkin & Larry Kolker -- 55.37
Ed Schultz -- 49.21
John Dicks & Ralph Behrens -- 34.71
Rod Van Wyk -- 34.16
John Burgener -- 33.78
Karen Erlanger -- 32.61
Kathy Safranski & Mike Carmen -- 32.06
Tom Kniest -- 30.22
Percy Wu -- 18.59
Allyson Wolfe & Denny O'Connor -- 18.26
Doug & Suzi Shymanski Moore -- 17.27
Tod Moses -- 15.87
Paul & Louise Ellebracht -- 14.63
Kenny Bland & Jack Bryant -- 14.53
Sue Perez -- 14.38
Donna Pedrotti -- 13.92
Shirley Janis -- 12.75
Julie Behrens -- 12.48
Mary Hruby -- 11.67
Lee Hastings & Rich Haacke -- 10.61
Brenda Hoffman -- 10.54

Congratulations to ...

Pioneer Sectional winners (Effingham IL): Rod Van Wyk & Randy Leeper finished second in Stratified Pairs and tied 1/2 in the Sunday Swiss with team mates - Roger Lord and Jackie Sincoff. The other 1/2 Swiss Team was Larry Kolker, Marvin Shapiro, Nancy & Alan Popkin, and Hugh Williams. Alan & Nancy finished fourth in the Strat. Prs. Jack Bryant & Tom Oppenheimer finished sixth. Matt Diehl and Sasanka Ramanadham finished 1st in Flt. B in the Strat Prs. Bob & Mary Johnson finished fourth in Flt. C in Strat. Prs. Finishing third in Sunday Swiss were Jack Bryant, Milt Zlatic, Kenny Bland & Tom Oppenheimer. Jason Clevenger, Jeroen Swinkels, Bill Kauffman & George Marvin finished second in Flt. B in Sunday Swiss.

Gatlinburg TN Regional winners: Karen Erlanger & John Burgener won 59.97 points with a second and a 3/4 in KO team events. Other winners were Jack Bryant & Rod Van Wyk - 25.65 pts., Bill Kauffman & George Marvin - 24.25 pts., Sheldon Margulis & Jackie Sincoff -24 pts., Bob Janis - 10.52 pts., Donna Pedrotti - 4.39 pts., Lois & Don Define - 4.03 pts. Shirley Janis - 2.88 pts., Margaret Bauman - 1.85 pts., and Shirley Winkelhoch & Chuck Starovasnik - .71 pts.

Our Unit winners in the Grand National Teams: First-place team gets plane fare to the Summer Nationals in New York. Go all the way!!!

Open flight: 4 Teams

- 1 - Dick Benson, Gary Kessler, Jackie Sincoff, Roger Lord, Ken Bland, Jack Bryant.
- 2 - Nancy & Alan Popkin, Milt Zlatic, Tom Oppenheimer, Karen Walker & Tom Kniest.

Flight B: 14 Teams

- 3/4. Arbha Vongsvivut, John Samsel, Jason Clevenger, & Eryk Gozdowski.

New Life Masters Kathy Ford and Mark Ludwig, Silver Life Master Sammy House and Bronze Life Master Percy Wu. New LM Mark Ludwig writes:

"A bridge player doesn't earn points alone. He has partners and teammates to help him accomplish goals, people to be acknowledged and appreciated. I'd like to thank my main partner, Bob Wheeler, for basically teaching me bridge, and learning Precision which is the system we now use. Barb Simpson and Linda Brazier are our teammates who also need to be thanked for the many points we've earned in team events over the past two odd years. I'd also like to thank a new partner, Steve Zenk, for advancing our Precision system into transfers...even though I sometimes get nervous when I see one of us placing down the club opener. And my last thank you goes out to the Wednesday night Boeving bridge club and all the friendly people who I see weekly."



Julie Woods -- Rookie of the Year for 2003 in the Ace of Clubs & Mini McKenny

In Memory

The St. Louis bridge community lost a true gentleman of bridge on Friday April 30th. **Don Hilleary** succumbed to an unresponsive brain tumor and passed away surrounded by his family in Kansas City.

Right behind a deep affection for his family and a passion for law, Don was filled with an enthusiasm for bridge. He was neither an expert nor even a great bridge player, but anyone who left his table would always leave with a smile on their face. Don was a man who was always jovial, quick with a compliment, and could speak on various subjects with authority. He might not have been able to remember the Drury convention, but he could recollect in detail events that occurred during his nearly 80 years of life and relate them in the most entertaining and amusing way. He even appreciated a good lawyer joke as much as anyone.

Don did not play much duplicate bridge lately, but many party bridgers will no doubt miss the gentleness and warmth of a man who was not afraid to show how much he appreciated life and how much he enjoyed the company of others. Take care Don, and remember, George Burns plays for higher stakes than we did !!! -- **Sasanka Ramanadham**

ST. LOUIS BRAGGIN' RIGHTS

Yes, it's that time of the year again! The tournament will be held on **Saturday & Sunday, June 26 & 27**. Players must be current ACBL members of Unit 143 or Unit 223. Winners will represent St. Louis in the Bragginn' Rights matches vs. Kansas City at the St. Louis Regional on August 21. For more information, check out our Unit web site: www.unit143.org

Rockin' Rockford Regional

June 14-20, 2004



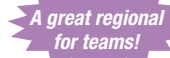
Indoor Sports Center (ISC)
8800 East Riverside Drive • Loves Park (Rockford) IL
One mile east of I-90, East Riverside Drive Exit

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

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.

SPLIT REGIONAL / SPLIT REGIONAL

Champagne Regional • Paducah, KY

June 14-20, 2004

Robert Cherry Civic Center
2701 Park Avenue • Paducah, KY

New Location!
New Host Hotel!
Lower Room Rates!

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)

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)

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

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

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)

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!

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+

Saint Louis REGIONAL

August 16–22, 2004

Monday, August 16

Bracketed KO Teams #1 7:30 pm
 KO #1 continues 9 am Tues.
 Win-an-Entry Pairs 7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 17

Bracketed KOs #1 (cont.) ... 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
 Side Game Series I 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
 Open Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm

Wednesday, August 18

Bracketed KO Teams #2 9 am
 KO #2 continues 9 am Thur.
 Open Swiss Teams 1 & 7:30 pm
 Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Side Game Series II
 (1st & 2nd of 4) 1 & 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 19

Bracketed KOs #2 (cont.) ... 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
 Early Bird Pairs 9 am
 Open Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Side Game Series II
 (3rd & 4th of 4) 1 & 7:30 pm

Friday, August 20

Bracketed KO Teams #3 9 am
 KO #3 continues 9 am Sat.
 Open Swiss Teams 1 & 7:30 pm
 Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Side Game Series III
 (1st & 2nd of 4) 1 & 7:30 pm
 Zip KO Teams 11:30 pm

**Sunday Swiss Teams playthrough
 will finish by 6 pm**

Saturday, August 21

Bracketed KOs #3 (cont.) ... 9 am, 1 & 7:30 pm
 Early Bird Individual 9 am
 Open Pairs (Strata-Flighted) 1 & 7:30 pm
 Flight A – unlimited masterpoints
 – qualifying with
 Barometer final
 Flights B/C/D – stratified (1500/750/300)
 Senior Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Intermediate/Newcomer Pairs 1 & 7:30 pm
 Side Game Series III
 (3rd & 4th of 4) 1 & 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 22

Swiss Teams (Strata-Flighted) 10:30 am
 Flight A – unlimited masterpoints
 Flights B/C/D – stratified (1500/750/300)
 Senior Swiss Teams 10:30 am

Renaissance Hotel (One mile from Airport)
 9801 Natural Bridge Road
 St. Louis, MO 63134

*Shuttle Available
 Free Parking*

Special Bridge Rate
 • Guaranteed through July 26
 • Call toll-free 1-888-340-2594

Stratified Throughout
 Strat A: 1500+ Strat B: 500–1500 Strat C: 0–500 (NLM)
 Intermediate/Newcomer: 0–20, 20–100, 100–200

Non-Smoking Tournament (Smoking permitted only in hotel lobby lounge)

Director in Charge: Chris Patrias **Tournament Chairman:** Mike Carmen 314-872-8439 **Partnerships:** Mary Hruby 314-739-1574

Outstanding Hospitality



Kokomo Sectional

June 25, 26 & 27, 2004

Johanning Civic Center - on US 31
 1500 N. Reed Rd. (Eastern Standard Time)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	Intermediate/Newcomer Partners Guaranteed for all 9-200 MP and table events if time before game time
FRIDAY JUNE 25	
Stratified Open Pairs Single Sessions 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Tournament Chairman Max Basso (763) 864-9634 Partnerships Dorothy Harrel (763) 457-7199
*Limited (1500/750/300 0-20 & 0-5 MP's) Pairs Single Sessions 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	
SATURDAY JUNE 26	
FREE - Continental Breakfast at 8:45 AM!	
Bracketed Knockout Teams (Random Draw) 9:00 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	1st ALIBI zone reference policy for bad behavior will be in effect.
Stratified Open Pairs Single Session 9:00 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	
*Limited (1500/750/300 0-20 & 0-5 MP's) Pairs Single Sessions 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	SMOKING POLICY: This is a NON-SMOKING tournament with frequent breaks.
SUNDAY JUNE 27	
Open Stratified Swiss Teams (Play thru) 10:00 AM	Final Information Saville Inn 15531 or Liberty Rd. (763) 457-8922
Limited Swiss Teams (Play thru) (1500/750/300 0-20 & 0-5 MP's) 10:00 AM	
Stratified Open Pairs: A: 1500+, B: 500-1500, C: 0-500	
* Swatiched possible	

Twin Cities Summer Sectional July 9-11, 2004

Interstate Center, Bloomington IL
(west of I-74 & I-55 -- exit 160B, IL Route 9)

Friday

1:00 pm & 7:00 p.m. -- Single-session Stratified Pairs
7:00 pm -- 199er pairs

Saturday

1:00 & 7:00 pm -- Two-session Stratified Pairs (single-session entries welcome!)
Single-session 199er Pairs

6:45 p.m. ----- Unit 208 Membership Meeting

Sunday

10:30 am playthrough -- Stratified Swiss Teams

- **Complimentary coffee and snacks all sessions.**
- **Guaranteed sections for 199er games on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.**
- **Dinner served on Sunday**

Entry fees: \$8 per person per session on Friday & Saturday.
\$84 per team on Sunday (includes dinner).

Strata: A: Open; B: <1500; C: <Non-LM under 500

Tournament manager: Jim Moon (309) 827-6926 jemoon99@hotmail.com

Partners: Mike Tomlianovich (309) 662-5832 m@mt.org



Edwardsville Sectional July 30-August 1, 2004

Knights of Columbus Hall,
7132 Marine Rd. (Hwy. 143),
Edwardsville IL

Friday, July 30

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

Saturday, July 31

9:00, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Bracketed KO Teams

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

Sunday, August 1

10:00 -- Bracketed Swiss Teams (dinner included)

Strata: 0-500 / 500-1500 / 1500+

Bridge rates at the Maryville EconoLodge (618-345-5720) and the Edwardsville Comfort Inn (618-656-4900).

Directions: From I-55, take Hwy 143 exit (3 miles north of the I-55 & I-270 interchange). Travel west on Hwy. 143 approximately 2 miles.

Info: Ruby Nelson (618-659-9716)

Partnerships: Ray Sigler (618-224-9606)