



Win silver points at your local club

District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs -- November 1-7

Plan now to play in your local club the week of November 1 in District 8's annual Sectional-Tournament-at-Clubs (STAC). All club games this week can award sectional silver points to winners and runners-up in three flights. In last year's event, almost 1800 District players won more than 2900 silver points in STAC games at their local clubs.

Masterpoint awards: In addition to the silver-point section awards at each site, each session (day and evening) will be scored across the District for overall awards. In last year's STAC, the biggest session was Wednesday day (239 pairs), which paid 14.77 silver points to the District winners.

Stratification: Open Pair games will have three strata — **A:** 1500+; **B:** 0-1500; and **C:** Non-Life Master (0-500). Clubs can also run stratified novice pairs and victory-point team games.

Entry fees: Sanction fee is \$6 per table, so expect to pay an extra \$1.50 over your club's regular entry fee. Proceeds help fund the *Advocate* and other District 8 activities.

Online results: District-wide results from each session will be updated daily on the STAC website:
http://www.ilstu.edu/~mjtomia/district_8_stac.htm

Game sites: Call your club manager for details on the STAC games in your area. If you have other questions, call or write:

STAC chairman: Mike Tomlianovich (309-662-5832) m@mt.org
Director-in-charge: Jim Chiszar (630-355-5560) jacee1201@attbi.com



ACBL Director's Report

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

Board of Governors: I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to fill our District's empty seats on the National Board of Governors, the advisory body to the ACBL Board of Directors. District President Tom Oppenheimer has appointed two members to fill the vacancies. All of the volunteers were qualified to serve, and he had to make some hard decisions. **Leah Newell** of Springfield IL (Unit 208) and **Jack Bryant** of St. Louis (Unit 143) will serve three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2005.

Our District has five seats on the Board of Governors -- three appointed members, plus our first and second alternates to the ACBL Board of Directors. Our third appointed member is **Chris Benson** of LeRoy IL (Unit 208). **Bob Cardeaux** of Fort Wayne IN (Unit 154), who is second alternate to the ACBL Board, is our fourth representative.

In memory: Sadly, our District President now has another vacancy to fill. **Don Kerry** (photo) of St. Louis, the first alternate to the ACBL Board of Directors, passed away in September. Don, who was an Army veteran, had just celebrated his 71st birthday. He's survived by his wife Carol, three sons (Michael, Kevin and Sean), two grandchildren and two brothers. We will all miss Don very much. A Silver Life Master, he was very active in many roles in the bridge community for many years, and he was a very nice man.



St. Louis Regional: In August, District 8 entertained the ACBL President and CEO, Bruce Reeve and Jay Baum, at the St. Louis Regional. Both men spoke with the District 8 Board of Directors and met with groups of volunteers over the dinner breaks on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The [Unit 143 website](#) has some photos from their visit.

North American Pairs: Good luck to you all at the North American Pair District Finals, November 13 and 14 in Springfield IL. The site was moved to the IDOT Building in Springfield in response to complaints about the old site in Bloomington, so be sure to show up!

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 Street, Morton IL 61550-2419.

The Griffins Club Revisited

by Jim Diebel, Chicago IL

Along with thousands of others, I lament the loss of those delightful fictional characters created by Victor Mollo in his Bridge in the Menagerie series. This summer, I played a session where those familiar with the personalities of Mollo's characters would swear that for one afternoon, the ghosts of the Griffins Club had inhabited and assumed control of the players of my local club. What's more, imagine my surprise to discover that I was the Rueful Rabbit! All of the following are actual hands that came up during a single STAC game I played in July.

Author's Note: It should be noted that while all the deals presented are actual hands from a single session, none of the given conversations took place. The dialogue was attributed later, to fit the story. There is no attempt here to ridicule anyone. In addition, it is not my intent to use or misuse the characters of Victor Mollo without due recognition that they are copyrighted property and this narrative is being provided without remuneration. Any infringement of intellectual propriety is unintentional and without malice.

The Rabbit and The Mule

It was Thursday afternoon and the Rueful Rabbit (RR) had partnered with Molly the Mule for a Sectional-at-Clubs game. It was a warm, humid day, but most of the Griffins had turned out to play in the afternoon matchpoint event for the chance to win masterpoints for the best percentages scored across the city. There were two 9-table sections, and with the Rabbit's usual good luck, the Hideous Hog was playing in the other section.

Things had been going especially well, as several contracts had either been "Rabbit-proof" or the opponents had stumbled onto the only lead to allow the fatal overtrick. For some reason or another, when arriving at Table 5, most of the club members had either overbid badly or underbid equally ridiculously to miss games that were bid at every other table.

The Chimp and The Siren

For example, when Timothy the Chimp opened 1H on ♠Q♥KQJTx♦AJ♣KTxx, he noticed that his partner, Sophie the Siren, pulled the Pass card from the bidding box before deciding in favor of 1NT. The observant Chimp conservatively rebid 2H, buying the auction. RR led the Club 8 from ♠Axxx♥Ax♦KQxx♣8x and Sophie tabled: ♠Jxx♥x♦xxxx♣AJxxx

Winning Molly's Club Queen with the Ace, The Chimp led the Heart King. RR won the Ace and tried to kill the dummy with another club, but it was too late. The Chimp won in hand, pulled trump and threw the Diamond Jack on the fifth club, making 5-odd.

"Damn," whispered RR. "I needed to lead the Diamond King at trick one to hold it to four. You surely have a top!" Imagine his surprise when the traveler was opened and it was discovered that every other pair had bid 4H, usually making exactly 10 tricks! "Blind, dumb luck," muttered the Chimp.

The Corgi and The Walrus

Later, Colin the Corgi opened a strong 1NT and his partner, Walter the Walrus, held ♠QJx♥xx♦KJxxx♣Qxx. Counting twice, he could come to but 9 points, so he dutifully invited with 2NT. This ended the auction, and after a spade lead, declarer quickly scooped up nine tricks, with dummy's diamonds providing five tricks.

"Your hand evaluates higher with a 5-card suit," pleaded the Corgi, but Walter was adamant that "9 points is 9 points!"

Papa and The Owl

The afternoon was not played entirely against the weaker members of the Griffins. On one round, Papa the Greek and Oscar the Owl came to the table. Oscar picked up ♠AKx♥Kxxx♦AKJx♣Ax. With 22 prime, he opened a strong artificial 2C. Papa bid 2H to show two controls, holding ♠xx♥AQxx♦Qxx♣xxxx.

Oscar now rebid 2NT (22-24) and Papa diligently looked for a 4-4 heart fit with 3C. Fairly certain that they played Puppet Stayman, Oscar bid 3D to show a 4-card major, but when Oscar didn't alert Papa's 3C bid, he figured partner had forgotten they were using that convention. "No harm," he figured, as he placed the contract in 3NT, making 11 tricks on a spade lead. All other tables played in 4H, claiming 12 tricks when trumps broke 3-2.

Karapet and The Secretary Bird

While I hadn't yet realized that the spirits of the Menagerie were inhabiting the bodies of the players around me, the next hand made it abundantly clear.

Karapet, the Free Armenian, (as well as the unluckiest player since Job), came to the table and sat on RR's right. He was partnered by the Secretary Bird, who was a notorious stickler for the rules. Karapet was still lamenting a hand two weeks previous in which he was the only player in the room to bid to 6NT needing only a 4-2 break in one of *two* suits, and getting a big fat zero when neither suit split with the percentages.

The Rabbit knew that if he looked at his cards and discovered he held more than his prescribed 13, Secretary Bird (SB) would insist on a penalty for not having counted them first. Thus he carefully counted his cards twice, then opened a 15-17 1NT. Partner Molly held invited ♠J64♥A87♦KT65♣J53 and invited with 2NT

Still satisfied that he held the requisite number of cards, RR was nevertheless looking at ♠AQ8♥KJ♦AQJ♣9876. He accepted the game invitation with 3NT and Secretary Bird led the Club 2.

Karapet won the Club King and returned the Club 4. SB cashed the Queen, Ace and Ten, as RR threw a small spade from dummy. Karapet was

delighted that he had just convinced the Secretary Bird to play odd-Even discards, so he discarded the Spade 5 and the Heart 6 on the third and fourth clubs. At trick five, SB obediently returned the Spade 3.

What could RR do? With the diamonds hopelessly blocked, he had but one entry to dummy. Clearly, the only realistic hope for the contract would come from a heart finesse, but with only one side entry to dummy, there would be no way to get back to cash the Heart Ace. He tried dummy's Spade Jack with the prayer that if it held, it would be the entry he needed, but no luck: Karapet produced the King.

Winning the Spade Ace, RR surveyed his options. He had 4 diamonds, 2 hearts and 2 spades, and virtually no hope of a ninth trick. Having watched the Hog thousands of times, the Rabbit remembered that miraculous things happened when the Hog ran his long suits. The opponents nearly always presented him with a gift. With that in mind, he cashed the Diamond Ace and Queen, and then stopped to think.

"When I'm over in dummy, I won't know whether to discard my Heart Jack or my Spade 8 on the fourth diamond," he thought to himself. So he carefully cashed the Heart King (in case there was a singleton queen lurking about), and when that didn't materialize, RR led the Heart Jack. SB covered with the queen and dummy's ace won the trick. Dummy now had: ♠6♥8♦K10♣--. In his own hand, RR held: ♠A8♥--♦J♣--

Just as he was thinking that his only losing card, the Spade 8, would be discarded on dummy's fourth diamond, he realized that he was a card short in his hand. Questioning the opponents, it was discovered that both still had four cards. Molly now noticed that the third trick, stacked neatly in front of the Rueful Rabbit, was uncommonly thick. It appears that the humidity had caused the cards to stick, and when the Rabbit had played to the third trick, he had inadvertently played two cards.

The Secretary Bird hissed, but reluctantly conceded that since RR had correctly followed suit to the first nine tricks, there could be no penalty. The mystery card was picked up and replaced into RR's hand. It was the Diamond 3.

"That was pretty lucky," thought the Rabbit to himself, as he realized that if he had seen that card earlier, he certainly would have opted to lead low to dummy's Diamond 10 and take the losing heart finesse. He seemed no better off now, however, as unless the opponents threw away winners, the contract was doomed. He played the Diamond King, underplaying the Jack, and twitched ever so slightly as he noticed that Karapet on his right was very uncomfortable in parting with the Heart 9.

Remembering that the Heart AKQJ had all fallen in the last two tricks, RR had no difficulty in recognizing that if someone foolishly let go of the Heart 10 on the next trick, dummy's Heart 8 would be good. He cashed dummy's last diamond, but it didn't work, as Karapet released the Spade 9. Imagine RR's surprise when his Spade 8 won the 13th trick and it was revealed that he was the only declarer in the room not to go down. "Don't be too embarrassed, Karapet," consoled the Rabbit. "I've found that many fine players make mistakes in discarding on the run of a long suit."

"If I am the unluckiest player in the Western Hemisphere, certainly you are the most charmed!" cried the Free Armenian. "First, my partner cooperates by cashing four tricks, setting the stage for the unluckiest of suicide squeezes. Next, you dimwittedly lose a card, and never notice that your hand is a pasteboard short. Unable to make the obvious play -- which of course loses -- you lead a Jack, which my partner is forced to cover, transferring a threat to my hand. Now, after you find your missing card, you lead two more diamonds, crushing me in a major-suit squeeze! There is no justice!"

"I wouldn't get too worked up over it," offered the Rabbit. "Why, just the other day I discarded a club from QJ5, instead of a diamond from 863, and would you believe it, it cost the contract."

The whole hand: ♠J64♥A87♦KT65♣J53

♠32♥Q2♦9742♣AQT2 ♠KT975♥T9653♦8♣K4

♠AQ8♥KJ♦AQJ(3)♣9876

After 9 tricks: ♠6♥8♦KT♣--

♠2♥--♦97♣-- ♠T9♥T9♦--♣--

♠A8♥--♦J3♣--

The pure unconscious stupidity that allowed RR (me) to make this deal convinced me that somehow, somewhere, the Rueful Rabbit had guided my hand. After thinking back on the session, I was certain that the rest of the Griffins had played their part as well. Molly and the Rabbit racked up a 74-percent game that afternoon to take first overall citywide.

Director, please

by David Stevenson, Liverpool, England



Question (from LaCrosse WI):

I am a "newbie" club director. Two Life Masters at my club use a convention they call "Baby Blackwood", where 3NT is ace-asking in certain auctions. At a tournament last year, they alerted this bid and the director was called. His ruling was that the alert passed information illegally and they were penalized. The 3NT bid was not the first bid made by the person who used it. I did some research and it appears to me that alerting a 3NT ace-asking bid is proper anytime. Could you comment on this alert usage and why it may or may not be correct?

Stevenson: I am afraid the Director was just wrong! Baby Blackwood *is* alertable as the following makes clear from the ACBL Alert procedures:

3) **ACE-ASKING BIDS:** Ace-asking bids at the level of 3NT or below require an immediate Alert.

As for the suggestion that they were passing information illegally, that is pretty ridiculous. Alerting is mandated by the ACBL, and following their rules is required.

Question (from Arlington VA):

♠ A
♥ QJ10xxx
♦ xx
♣ xxxx

♠ KQJ10xxx
♥ AKxxx
♦ x
♣ -

♠ 6432
♥ -
♦ KQ1073
♣ KJ98

Both vulnerable
KO Teams

West	North	East	South
		1D	Pass
1S	Pass	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	4C	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	DBL
All Pass			

After the auction is over, you are informed that there was a failure to alert, and 3C promised at least 10 minor-suit cards but minimal opening values. The director is called, and you explain that on this auction, you feel the odds of your speculative double have just gone substantially down -- so much so that you would not have doubled if you had had correct information. You base this on the fact that West's 3H call now promises quite a substantial hand to press on opposite the known misfit. If 3C had been a strong jump shift, West's 3H could have been made on a much weaker hand.

The table result was 4S doubled making 4, minus 790. As our team-mates managed to play 5H down six, the double was not costly. After losing this mountain, we were unable to come back, so I did not appeal.

However, I am curious about what rules apply in this situation and the ruling you would make. I know that me saying afterwards that I wouldn't double could be seen as a free double shot. The directors' argument was "What difference does it make which opponent had the extra values?" I responded that it doesn't affect my knowledge of the overall values, but in one case they suggest substantial values, and in the other case, they absolutely guarantee it.

Stevenson: If your opponents break the Laws, then you may be damaged, and if so, there will be redress given. That is a matter to be sorted out at the end of the hand. So anyone who complains that you are getting "a free double shot" is being totally unfair, and if they do not like the methodology, they should complain to the lawmakers, not to or about you.

Whether you would have doubled here is a matter for the Director after consultation, and perhaps an Appeals Committee. All you need to do is to point out to the Director that there was an infraction. In fact, East should have called the Director before correcting the misinformation. Players rarely do, but they can have no grounds for complaint if someone else does.

Then you answer whatever questions the Director puts to you. North American directors tend to ask questions at the time as to what you would have done. In the rest of the world, directors tend to leave it until the end of the hand. Here it is blindingly obvious what difference it might have made.

It is an unfortunate approach that many players seem to think it is the non-offending side who should be suffering after an infraction. The game would be more pleasant and easier to run and play if people who infract expect to be punished.

As to the ruling itself, that is just a bridge judgment. The Director should have consulted before making his decision, preferably with a couple of good players.

My own view? You were not damaged at all. You made a highly speculative double, with LHO unlimited. That is true on either the correct or the incorrect information, so I personally would not adjust.



District 8 Solvers Forum -- October 2004

by Karen Walker, Champaign IL

1. IMPs, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2H	Pass	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠J4 ♥963 ♦AQJ5 ♣AKQ10?

Our panel offered six different choices here and the Solvers, believe it or not, offered three additional alternatives. Not a single one is even slightly attractive, which is why this is called a bidding problem. The ultra-conservative choice is to do nothing, following the "get fixed/stay fixed" philosophy:

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2NT	100	5	18
DBL	90	3	28
3H	80	3	15
Pass	60	2	24
3C	60	2	9
3D	50	1	3

FEILER: "Pass. The only bid I'm tempted to make is 2NT, but the heart stopper seems ... tenuous. I've found partners aren't very understanding when bids like this don't work out."

The majority of the panel thought partner -- and team-mates -- might be even more upset if we missed a vulnerable game. The plurality thought the least-of-evils solution was:

STRITE: "2NT. For the record, I don't think my Heart 9 is a third round stopper, but every possible bid carries at least this much risk."

PAULO: "2NT, showing strong notrump values. This bid looks like the least evil, when considering a 3-of-a-minor overall (which four-card suit to bid?), double (what to do after a spade response?) and pass (runs the serious risk of missing a vulnerable game)."

Paulo's last comment explains the panel's heavy vote for doing something other than passing. At matchpoints, I would guess that more of us would pass and hope for a small plus score. If that decision is wrong, it surely won't be a top-to-bottom matchpoint swing, and it's only one board out of 26 in the session. Passing seems way too dangerous at IMPs, though, where a missed game can cost the whole match.

Partner needs very little for us to make a game here, and the optimists' view is to just assume he has it:

HAAG: "3H. Vulnerable at IMPs, it's too risky to pass. Although bidding 3H would usually show tricks in a long running minor, here is a good reason why this isn't always the case. Partner should not bid a 4-card spade suit here in response."

Does partner know he's not supposed to bid 3S? I agree that the direct cuebid is usually made with a long suit, but there's no reason your suit has to be a minor -- or that you can't have a big two-suiter. This depends somewhat on the rest of your system (whether or not you're playing Leaping Michaels, for example). When partner doesn't have the stopper, the auction will usually be easier if he makes a natural, low-level bid. This gives you room to show your suit at a lower level, which allows partner to make the final decision on whether or not to raise to game.

SOPER: "3H to ask for a stopper. If partner has that and the rest of the seven HCPs he's supposed to have, then we're good enough to be in a vulnerable game at IMPs. If partner doesn't have a stopper, we'll play in everyone's favorite contract: 4 of a minor."

KNIEST: "3H. Partner's first duty is to show a stopper. Without one, he responds as to a takeout double, but without jumping, since you might be on a one-suiter."

The problem with the cuebid is that it works well only when partner has a heart card. If he doesn't have a stopper and bids 4C or 4D, you'll have no idea of how high to place the contract, as he'd bid this way with zero or 10 points. If he bids the more likely 3S and you run to 4C, partner will play you for the one-suiter. Even if you don't think the cuebid guarantees a mountain, it certainly promises more playing strength than a balanced 17-count, and partner may well raise you to game in your 4-2 fit.

Three panelists and a plurality of the Solvers chose the risky takeout double. This could work well if partner has a minor and/or a heart stopper, but you have to be willing to pass and pray after his likely 2S response. The double is slightly more attractive if you play Lebensohl responses, where partner's 3-level bid would promise some values (at least a good 7-8 points). This was explained by:

DODD: "Double. If partner bids an invitational 3C or 3D, I'll cuebid 3H, trying for that elusive 3NT, or even landing in 5 of a minor when he has the right sort of hand. If partner responds 2S, then we may be truly stuck, perhaps in a lousy 4-2 fit. But if he bids anything but 2S, we're much better placed to at least use our judgment and arrive at a decent contract."

HUDSON, another doubler, said he would respect a Lebensohl signoff and try 3NT (nervously) over an invitational 3-bid. But if you're going to endplay yourself into bidding notrump later, why not just do it now, at a level that gives partner the choice of whether or not to bid game? A 2NT overall has the obvious problem, but it could work out even when you don't have a stopper. There are a lot of opponents out there who think this auction calls for them to be brilliant and lead an off suit, and maybe they're at my table.

2. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4H	100	9	38
6S	80	3	14

* Spade raise, 11+ support pts.

4NT	70	2	26
5D	60	1	0
DBL	50	1	0
4S	50	0	20

What is your call as South holding: ♠AQ8654 ♥A6 ♦5 ♣AJ52 ?

The panel was in unanimous agreement that this hand called for some sort of slam try. The majority tried a 4H cuebid, with some commenting that their choice was “easy” or “obvious”. The ease of this choice depends on what you think 4H means here, and your plans for the subsequent auction.

Most thought 4H showed a control and at least slam-invitational values, but they had different ideas about how to proceed after partner bids the expected 4S.

LAMBERT: “4H. This has the added advantage of letting pard take control if he has stuff. Over his minimum response, I will still drive to 6S.”

FEILER (and NELSON similarly): “4H. Key-Card Blackwood isn’t a good idea here since we need more than controls for slam. If partner signs off in 4S, I’ll give him one more chance by bidding 5C.”

KNIEST: “4H. I’ve more than a minimum and partner is unlimited, so I have to make a try. I’ll respect partner’s signoff. Blackwood is hopeless as there is no safety at the 5-level. Does this hand qualify for partner’s 3D cuebid: ♠J10xx ♥KQx ♦D-Kx ♣Qxxx ?”

Yes, but so does ♠K10xx ♥KQx ♦Kx ♣Qxxx . With either hand, your aceless partner is going to have to sign off at 4S over your 4H cuebid. Other panelists thought there might be a more complex interpretation for 4H, so they tried alternatives:

HAAG: “Double. Is 4H here an alternative place to play or Last Train? I certainly have extras with controls in all the unbid suits and two of the top three spade honors. I believe double here is a slam try and I’m going to bid that.”

You *could* have a heart suit for the 4H bid, but it’s definitely not passable. The double-as-slam-try meaning would depend on a special partnership agreement, as in standard, the double here is a warning that you have wasted diamond values.

HUDSON: “5D. An immediate bid of 6S might work, but is too likely to result in -50. A slam try, getting partner’s opinion is just right, and the 5-level is probably safe. A timid alternative would be a Last Train 4H, except that I don’t think Last Train applies here.”

HAAG’s and HUDSON’s mentions of “Last Train” refer to an agreement that when there’s only one call available below game level to indicate slam interest, a bid of that suit is a slam try, but not necessarily a control-showing cuebid. It’s a handy agreement when you want to try for slam, but don’t want to commit to the 5-level. Whether or not it applies here is a matter for partnership discussion.

Your decision comes down to how you evaluate this hand and your guess of where partner’s values are. With the opponents bidding so high on limited values, my guess is that all of partner’s high cards are outside diamonds. The exact location of those honors is a mystery that no cuebid is going to solve, so I’m with:

KESSLER: “6S. I don’t think you are ever going to bid 7S -- or find out for sure if 6S is right -- so I bid what I hope I can make. Partner is always going to hate his hand.”

6S is a bit of a gamble, but it will have a decent play opposite so many dead-minimum dummies, that I think it’s a good shot. The final word:

STRITE: “4H is obvious, but partner will bid 4S. What to do then should be a follow-up problem next issue. I’ll need the two months to figure out my answer.”

I can hear the director call now:

Opponents: “He hesitated for 60 days before he bid 5C!”

Strite: “It wasn’t nearly that long!”

3. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: ♠KQ92 ♥K10874 ♦AJ95 ♣Void ?

How serious is your interest in a notrump contract? That double-plus spade stopper and the fitting diamond cards have to be important assets for 3NT. But there’s that side void – in an unbid suit, yet – that could be a problem.

Seven panelists wanted to leave the notrump possibility open, so they tried the simple raise:

STRITE: “3D. I can’t splinter, as 3NT could be right or the defense could have a fast spade ruff, and somehow my four-card support looks like it might be one too few. 3D isn’t that much of an underbid. It places us well if partner finds another call, while if 3D floats, we’ve bid the limit when pard has a modest 10 points.”

BIEVENUE: “3D. A splinter might be tempting, but if partner’s values are in clubs (which is likely on this auction), you’ve bypassed 3NT – and may not be able to take 11 tricks in diamonds.”

FEILER: “3D. I think partner would take 2S as asking for a spade stopper, not anything like this hand. The only other forcing bid I have is 4C, which is a bit of an overbid and makes it difficult to reach 3NT.”

ATHY: “3D. A delicate underbid that doesn’t rule out reaching 3NT when it’s right. A 4C splinter could work, but partner would need an awful lot of diamonds to make it right.”

The rest of the panel agreed that 3D was an underbid, and they all chose stronger moves. Yes, you have just 13 points – and only one ace -- but this hand still looks like a powerhouse, even if partner has bare-minimum values for his competitive 2D call. Most of the 4C bidders admitted they were being a bit pushy, but few were worried about missing 3NT:

SOPER: “4C. Partner doesn’t rate to have many cards in the majors, and if he held both minors, he would have made a negative double, so the diamonds should be ‘real’ and long. I hate to go past 3NT at matchpoints, but the splinter could get us to a making slam, or 3NT could fail on a club lead.”

LAMBERT: “4C. Following the adage of not inviting notrump with a side void.”

KNIEST: “4C -- most descriptive, even with the void. This hand cries out for a suit contract, so even those great spade spots don’t tempt me to bid notrump with the void. If you rocket past 3NT now, you can no longer get to that contract, which figures to be hideous.”

Maybe some of this optimism comes from our surprise (relief?) that partner didn’t bid 2C, but it seems justified. I also agree with the decision to go past 3NT, but I think a splinter really ought to promise more high-card strength. Some would argue that splintering with a void is not ideal, either. Add a red queen to my hand, though – or even trade the heart king for the ace – and I’d be a 4C bidder, too.

With the hand I actually have, my (lonely) choice is the straight value bid of 4D. It’s highly invitational, showing great playing strength without overstating the hand’s high-card values. In practice, partner will bid at least 5D with any excuse, but since he might have bid 2D with just 9 or 10 points, it also gives him the option of passing. Partners seem to like it when you allow them to evaluate their hands, too.

4. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: ♠J73 ♥A965 ♦AQ4 ♣AK10 ?

This was the easiest problem of the set for the panel and most of the Solvers, thanks to a toy in the bidding system:

FEILER: “Double. If I’m reading the Bridge World Standard write-up correctly, this shows four hearts. Hey, for once, a convention that fits my hand!”

PAULO: “Double to show four hearts. If partner holds a weak hand, he has 1NT and several two-level bids to choose from.”

HAAG: “Double. This seems the simplest way to show my four hearts and keep the auction low. I can then follow up by showing my 3-card diamond support or, if partner asks for a half stop in spades, I’m able to show this as well.”

RABIDEAU: “Double. Everyone in this great country of ours should be thankful that our Bridge World voters had the foresight to adopt the Sandwich Double.”

Most of the doublers didn’t need to look up BW Standard to figure out that double showed four hearts here. Some commented that they considered it “virtually standard”. Even if you play support doubles in this “sandwich” position (to show 3-card support for partner’s suit), most pairs limit that usage only to major-suit responses. Without the sandwich double, your alternatives are:

ATHY: “2S. It seems that 3NT is the most likely spot, and 2S here helps to right-side the offense.”

BIEVENUE: “2NT. I’m not afraid of East’s spade bid, as he didn’t open in third seat. 2NT perfectly shows my shape and strength. 2S would work if I know I am going to game and just looking for the strain, but partner’s hand is limited and could be as few as 6 flat points.”

The Solvers turned in a relatively heavy vote for the reverse to 2H. This shows your high-card strength, but it’s a giant distortion of your distribution. The reverse should guarantee at least 5-4 in your two suits.

If the double weren’t available to show four hearts, I’d be comfortable with the 2NT rebid. As BIEVENUE notes, East’s failure to open 1S or 2S in third seat suggests he has a pretty ragged suit, and notrump could be right even if we have a 4-4 heart fit.

DODD commented that your real problem may come on the next round. If partner can rebid 1NT or 2H, you can raise to invite game (or maybe just haul off and bid game, if you’re convinced he has 5 diamonds). Over partner’s rebid of 2C or 2D, though, it may be difficult to show your almost-game-forcing strength.

Another consideration, important for many pairs, is responder’s expected distribution in the red suits. If your partnership style is to bypass diamonds when you have a minimum response and a four-card major, there’s a strong inference that your passed-hand partner doesn’t have four hearts. Maybe this a good example of a hand that would be simpler to bid without the sandwich double -- or that shouldn’t employ the convention, even if it’s available.

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
DBL	100	11	40
2S	70	3	24
2NT	70	2	3
Pass	50	0	3
2H	50	0	26
3D	50	0	3

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3D	100	7	44
4C	90	6	14
2S	70	2	26
4D	70	1	8

All of that is making that 2NT rebid look better and better.

5. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* Asks for stopper

What is your call as South holding: ♠Q1032 ♥65 ♦J92 ♣KQ106?

Anyone experiencing some déjà vu? A rethinking of your bid from Problem #1?

DODD: "Pass. Not much to do except pass or (gasp!) raise to game. Change around a couple of cards, and this could be North's hand from problem #1. Coincidence, perhaps?"

Yes, it's a coincidence, but an interesting one. All of the panelists who cuebid 3H on Problem #1 chose to pass here. Maybe they were influenced by their cuebid with that six-loser hand and feared their partner was retaliating with an overbid of his own.

The 5D bidders had a different picture of partner's hand:

LAMBERT: "5D. I've got the 2:1 odds for a vulnerable game, so why not take the shot? Partner is describing 8+ winners with long diamonds, hopefully a hand like ♠Ax ♥x ♦AKQxxx ♣Jxx."

ATHY: "5D. Partner has us at 4D when I could have nothing. With no raise by West, I'm afraid of the heart suit, but I feel I can't pass with a few reasonable cards."

PAULO: "5D. North should have nine quick tricks outside of hearts, and I add two (the club marriage), so I have to hope the opponents can't cash three tricks."

Some of the passers had the same idea about partner's hand, but took a dimmer view of their own cards:

BIEVENUE: "Pass. If partner had two quick heart losers with the Spade AK, Diamond AKQ and Club A, he might have tried 5D on his own. North is more likely to hold a long diamond suit and was just hoping for 3NT if I had a heart stopper."

STRITE: "Pass. Pard has solid diamonds and a card or two outside. I have about what partner would expect. With two fast heart losers and the black losers still to cover, let's hope this makes."

I think three potentially valuable cover cards – plus three-card support to an honor (which may be valuable as an entry) – is a little more than partner might expect. I'm also not convinced that partner has to have two quick heart losers. At this vulnerability, it's hardly automatic for a broke, balanced West to raise hearts, even with four-card support.

As DODD pointed out, the real problem is that partner's cuebid is so vaguely defined. There are several different hands he could hold – a gambling-type one-suiter, a more powerful one-suiter, a minor two-suiter with longer diamonds, a balanced powerhouse with no stopper. Some think he could also have clubs, but so far, our best guess is that he has a one-suiter and enough high-card and/or playing strength to justify forcing to the four-level.

At matchpoints, I might still be thinking, trying to break Strite's hesitation record from Problem #2. At IMPs, though, when the decision is this close – and when partner's exact strength is unclear -- I think I owe him a courtesy raise. If I bid 5D and we go -100, I expect a push or, at worst, a 6-IMP loss. If I pass and we score +150, the cost can be 10 IMPs ... and the whole match.

6. IMPs, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠874 ♥Q975 ♦AK10976 ♣Void?

Last hand of the match. Do you open, hoping you can outbid your opponents and score a small (or large) plus? Or do you end the match early so you can be first in line for the free pizza after the session?

This problem was originally posed back in 1984 in the "Junior Master Solvers" column in the Central Illinois Unit newsletter. Back then, not one of the 16 panelists chose a diamond preempt. Ten panelists opened 1D and the other six passed.

It appears that times have changed. The 2004 panel is evenly divided between the passers and bidders, but the bidders split on whether to open a 1-bid or a preempt. Some of the bidders had larceny in mind:

FEILER: "2D. If I were short in either major, I'd pass. Since my short suit is clubs, I'll see if I can't steal a partscore."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
5D	100	9	56
Pass	80	7	24
5C	60	0	9
4S	40	0	9

LAMBERT: "3D. Looking to steal some IMPs."

STRITE: "1D. Someone might take a lot of tricks, maybe even us. Switch my majors and 1D is clear-cut, but even the xxx in spades lessens the odds the opponents will outbid us."

DODD: "1D. Passing crossed my mind, especially since I could save some time on this round and go grab an early smoke, but I would never pass this hand at the table."

ATHY: "1D. I'm going to break my favorite IMP Rule. I think it's right to pass playing for money, but I'm opening 1D with virtually no defense. My second choice is a tie between the 'obvious' Pass and a somewhat wild, vulnerable 3D."

Twenty years ago, the 1D bidders' logic was that the only reason to open was to cater to the possibility of a heart game, so a 2D or 3D preempt was pointless. Like STRITE, some also said the moderate spade length slightly reduced the chances that the opponents had a fit there and would outbid us.

I think that makes some sense, but the chances of us having a 4H game – and being able to actually bid it even when we do -- seem pretty remote. The passers took a different view, motivated mainly by fear:

SOPER: "Pass. I can't go minus-500 by passing."

KESSLER: "Pass. I do not want to get in a bidding war vulnerable with a 9-count and a bunch of losers. We could have a game, but so might the opponents, and they probably own the spade suit."

KNIEST: "Pass. Years ago, in a partnership where we played fourth-seat preempts were invitational to 3NT, I opened 3D in fourth seat with ♠xx ♥Ax ♦AKQxxx ♣xx and the opponents whipped into a vulnerable 4S, making five. At the other table, the national champion passed with my hand."

There's nothing more annoying than opening in fourth seat and hearing two passed-hand opponents cruise into a game. It's happened often enough to me – and probably the other passers -- that perhaps we experience some sort of post-traumatic stress reaction when confronted with a problem like this one.

Like the bidders, I have a nagging feeling that we could be missing something here, and I admire their bravado. But at the table, I have to admit that I'd take the chicken approach and pass this hand out. I think my opponent at the other table is going to pass, so I'm going for the push and the pizza.

Thanks to all who sent in answers for this interesting and difficult set. Thanks to this month's guest panelists -- **Lisa Bievenue, Matthew Haag, Jim Hudson and Paul Soper** -- for their analysis.

Top scorers in this issue's Solvers contest were **Leroy Boser, Nigel Guthrie and Bud Hinkley**, who outscored the panel with impressive 590's. They're all invited to join the panel for December.

I hope you'll all try the six new problems for the next issue (see below). Please submit your answers by **November 22** on the [web form](#) or by email to our December moderator:

Tom Dodd -- fieldtrialer@yahoo.com

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 532):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Norm Athy, St. Louis	3D	4NT	3D	2S	5D	1D	480
Lisa Bievenue, Champaign IL	2NT	4NT	3D	2NT	Pass	Pass	520
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	Pass	4H	3D	DBL	Pass	2D	520
Matthew Haag, Coventry UK	3H	DBL	3D	DBL	Pass	Pass	510
Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	DBL	5D	2S	DBL	5D	2D	500
Robert Lambert, Warsaw IN	Pass	4H	4C	DBL	5D	3D	520

Mark Kessler, Springfield IL	2NT	6S	2S	DBL	5D	Pass	550
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	3C	4H	4C	2S	5D	2D	500
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	DBL	4H	4C	DBL	5D	Pass	580
Manuel Paolo, Lisbon, Portugal	2NT	6S	3D	DBL	5D	Pass	580
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	3C	4H	3D	DBL	5D	1D	550
Paul Soper, Sierra Vista AZ	3H	4H	4C	2S	Pass	Pass	520
Toby Strite, Mysiadlo, Poland	2NT	4H	3D	DBL	Pass	1D	570

How the Staff voted

Tom Dodd, Boerne TX	DBL	4H	4C	DBL	Pass	1D	550
Tom Kniest, University City MO	3H	4H	4C	2NT	Pass	Pass	520
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	2NT	6S	4D	DBL	5D	Pass	550

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 492)

Leroy Boser , Elkhart IN	590	Phil Kline , Twin Waters, Queensland, Aus.	560
Nigel Guthrie , Reading UK	590	Hugh Williams , Carbondale IL	560
Bud Hinckley , South Bend IN	590	Zoran Bohacek , Zagreb, Croatia	530
Darren Evetts , Coventry UK	580	Sasanka Ramanadham , Kirkwood MO	530
Eric Gettleman , Normal IL	570	Dave Wetzel , Rantoul IL	530

Tied with 520: **Jane Ettelson**, St. Louis; **Tad Hofkin**, Aurora IL; **Doug McQuaid**, Lebanon IL; **K. Monroe**, Newport OR; **John Seng**, Champaign IL; **Larry Wilcox**, Springfield IL

Solvers Forum -- December 2004 Problems

1. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠74 ♥KJ10983 ♦A3 ♣Q96 ?

2. IMPs, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT*	DBL**	2H***	???

* (12-14 pts.) ** (Penalty)
 *** (Natural, signoff)

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠AJ63 ♥5 ♦Q10753 ♣1042 ?

4. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠Void ♥AK ♦KQJ9854 ♣K743 ?

5. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	Pass
3D	Pass	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠Q10732 ♥Void ♦A ♣Q976543 ?

6. IMPs, NS vulnerable

3. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

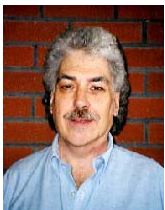
What is your call as South holding:
 ♠987 ♥Void ♦AJ108 ♣AK10765 ?

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

*(Negative dbl.)

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠2 ♥AJ ♦K1074 ♣AK9873 ?

Thanks for the problems above to
 Ned Horton (#3) and Norman Athy (#5).



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Bob Corron, Life Master



"Bridge is more comfortable the second time around."

That's the by-word of Bob Corron of St. Charles, Unit 239's latest Life Master.

Bob had a disastrous encounter with bridge back in 1971, after having taken it up at Knox College in Galesburg, IL. But patience -- and resilience -- paid off, and he took the game up again in 1980 after taking a community college non-credit course. (Memo to all bridge marketers: these courses *pay*.)

Not only did Bob become a life master in June, playing in the open pairs at the Rosemont regional with Greg Berry of Dundee, he became a bronze LM (500 pts.) in July!

Bob was born and raised in St. Charles, and has spent his entire life there. Other members of his family include his wife Jane and his daughter Ashley, who is a junior at the University of Iowa.

A full-time farmer for 28 years, Bob is now semi-retired. "But I still keep my hand in," he laughs, "substitute teaching part-time and selling building materials part time at Menards."

Our newest LM is a "regular" at the Monday night, Tuesday afternoon, and Friday night games in St. Charles, where he often plays with Barry Burren.

"I've always been a great sports nut and a great sports advocate," Bob declares. "But my body got too old, so I took up bridge."

Unsuspecting opponents need to watch out for wily Bob. With all that farming experience, he just might give them a harrowing time.

Congratulations to . . .

Les Morrison (Poplar Grove) and **Roger Dieringer** (Elgin) who racked up an 80.56% game at the Bridge Center of Rockford. Their big win came in a five-table 50-100 game on September 17.

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: Barbara Burda, Huntley; Charlotte Earl, Geneva; Gloria Larocca, Geneva; Victor Ryzhov, DeKalb; Dr. Natalia Vinokur, DeKalb.

New Club Masters: Joan Arzbaecher, Apple River; R. Alan Belke, DeKalb; Naomi Cartwright, Huntley; Diane Clark, Rockford; Julia Kelley, Geneva; Gertrude Meyer, Somonauk; Larry Sleeth, St. Charles.

New Sectional Masters: Celeste Jacklin, Aurora; Les Morrison, Poplar Grove; Ann Witt, Aurora.

New Regional Masters: Farlin Caufield, Woodstock; Daniel Chamberlain, Rockford; Kathryn Chamberlain, Rockford; Jon Greiman, DeKalb.

New NABC Masters: Margaret Battista, Rockton; Florence Curry, Rockford; Audrey Danocup, Beloit WI; Leona Ellerby, Oregon; Robert Erwin, Rochelle; Robert Fraser, Crystal Lake; Patrick Haverty, Woodstock; Paul Stunkel, Crystal Lake; Raymond Tunelius, Davis.

New Life Masters: William Carson, DeKalb; Robert Corron, St. Charles.

New Bronze Life Masters: Robert Corron, St. Charles.

New Silver Life Masters: Harold Legel, Crystal Lake; Richard Mougalian, Algonquin; Edna Williams, Elgin.

New Gold Life Masters: Janice Condon, Rockford.



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

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

Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs Leaders (through Sept. 6, 2004)

Category	Ace of Clubs (# pts. won)	Mini-McKenney (# pts. won)
Rookie (0-5)	Fred Roese, Springfield (29) Alice Pierce, Urbana (23) Joann Rouse, Bloomington (17)	Fred Roese, Springfield (38) Alice Pierce, Urbana (35) Joann Rouse, Bloomington (20)
Junior Master (5-20)	Irene Wen, Urbana (23) Dee Boch, Springfield (17) Sammye Broline, Charleston (12)	Irene Wen, Urbana (32) Maggie Stephens, Champaign (27) Sammye Broline, Charleston (25)
Club Master (20-50)	Hal Bach, Springfield (22) Barbara Bass, Princeton (21) Rita Harmon, Springfield (18)	Dan Faulkner, Monticello (80) Gary Dell, Champaign (65) Eric Gettleman, Normal (58)
Sectional Master (50-100)	John Olds, Springfield (37) Marsha Kent, Springfield (37) Cal Corbin, Champaign (34)	Cal Corbin, Champaign (104) Oyvind Tafjord, Champaign (81) Marsha Kent, Springfield (79)
Regional Master (100-200)	Layton Lamb, Springfield (49) Joseph Franz, Springfield (48) Dariel Richardson, Rochester (40)	Dariel Richardson, Rochester (90) Zach Freehill, Bloomington (85) Layton Lamb, Springfield (82)
NABC Master (200-300)	Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington (40) Frank Tirsch, Springfield (37) Gary Schechter, Springfield (41)	Jim Melville, Springfield (429) Frank Tirsch, Springfield (91) Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington (68)
Life Master (300-500)	Kathleen Miller, Bloomington (30) Larry Wilcox, Springfield (29) Linda Fisher, Tolono (25)	Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign (96) Kathleen Miller, Bloomington (69) Roger Sokol, Minooka (67)
Bronze LM (500-1000)	George Veenstra, Springfield (53) Henry Hoffman, Bloomington (48) Marjorie Hanner, Springfield (47)	Margaret Hansell, Champaign (154) Paul Lindauer, Varna (105) Leah Newell, Springfield (99)
Silver LM (1000-2500)	Betty Primm, Athens (78) Betty Capodice, Bloomington (64) Gail Moon, Bloomington (64)	Ron Sholes, Springfield (251) John Seng, Champaign (157) Liz Zalar, Springfield (155)
Gold LM (2500-5000)	Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap (44) Robert Butz, Kankakee (31) Jim Carbaugh, Metamora (17)	Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap (147) Mike Halvorsen, Champaign (92) Larry Rabideau, St. Anne (91)
Diamond LM (5000+)	Gary Kessler, Springfield (4)	Colby Vernay, Lacon (546) Gary Kessler, Springfield (450) Dick Benson, LeRoy (442)

Coming up on the Club Calendar

♣ Club Appreciation Month -- October 1-31

ACBL designates October as Club Appreciation Month and offers all clubs the opportunity to host "extra" club championships, with no added fees. Each sanctioned session can host one pairs championship and one Swiss Team championship anytime during October. These events do not take the place of your club's regular quarterly championship. The games offer extra masterpoints (black points, 85 percent of sectional rating). Team games also pay 5-percent gold points. Ask your club manager for the dates of the games in your area. Club managers received announcements about these games in their sanction-renewal packets. More information is also available from specialevents@acbl.org.

♣ District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs (STAC) -- Monday through Sunday, November 1-7

Lots of silver points will be available the week of November 1, when all clubs in the district can award sectional-rated silver points at all sessions. The event also offers overall awards, giving you the chance to win as many as 15 silver points in one session. See the [STAC homepage](#) for updated results during and after STAC week.

Central Illinois club web pages:

Bloomington -- [Mike's Bridge Club](#)

Bloomington -- [Gayl West Bridge Club](#)

Champaign-Urbana -- [Bridge at Ginger Creek](#) [Game results online](#)

Peoria -- [Peoria Bridge Club](#)

Springfield -- [Bridge Club of Springfield](#) [Game results online](#)

Movin' Up

Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:

New Junior Masters (5 pts.)

Vernon Andrews, Dunlap
Donna Bankard, Rochester
Pat Becker, Springfield
Darryl Bremner, Clinton
Barbara Carney, Rochester
Sharon Heflin, Springfield
Ann Nika, Springfield
Sam Sgro, Springfield

Sectional Masters (50 pts.)

Norma McNulty, Edwards
Martine Paludan, Springfield

Regional Masters (100 pts.)

Peggy Olds, Springfield

NABC Masters (200 pts.)

Claire Krukenberg, Charleston

Club Masters (20 pts.)

Duane Broline, Charleston
Geraldine Burke, Serena

Life Master

Shirley Fuesting, Mattoon
Jim Melville, Springfield

Bronze Life Master (500 pts.)

Jim Melville, Springfield



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 REGIONAL RECAP

St. Louis August Regional a big success. Good times available to all who attended. Even if you didn't win, you had pleasant playing conditions, excellent directors, good caddies and opportunities to make new friends. Here are the top winners and some pics. For complete results, visit the Unit 143 website: www.unit143.org



WIN-AN-ENTRY PAIRS

Flt. A - **Debbie & Marvin King**

Flt. B - Sasanka Ramanadham & Mark Gilje

Thurs. Open Pairs

Flt. A - Rod Beery & Mary Egan



Flt. B - **Susan & Mark Feldman**

Flt. C - Lela & Greg Smith

Thurs. Aft. Side Game

Flt. A - Joan Webb & Keith Harrison

Flt. B - Linda Leinicke & Dorothy Sealy

Flt. C - Lucy Gargus & Phyllis Timmenstein

Thurs. Eve. Side Game

Flt. A - John Burgener & Buz Zeman

Flt. B - Stephen Stewart & Eric Bell

Thurs. Aft. 199er Pairs

Flt. A - Audrey Gehrig & Joan O'Leary

Flt. B - Joyce Zeldin & Susie Gershon

Flt. C - Jo-Ellen Ryall & Beverly Taylor

Thurs. Eve. 199er Pairs

Flt. A - Audrey Gehrig & Joan O'Leary

Flt. B - Robert Boivin & Kenneth Woodard

Flt. C - Duane & Sammie Broline

2nd KO Teams

Br. 1 - Don Stack, Mark Lair, Nancy & Alan Popkin

Br. 2 - Andrew Hurd, Ken Sired, Allan Mowat, Sharon Goldberg, Michael Rahtjen

Br. 3 - Dolores Hill, Betty Anderson, Brenda Hoffman, Gwenf Schneider

Br. 4 - Gene Wheeler, Larry Wilcox, Ed & Edna Skoog

Br. 5 - Mary Jarrells, Naomi Orsay, Bill Bunn, Larry Farris

Side Series II

1/2 Keith Harrison & Joan Webb



Flt. C - **Janet Neal & Carol Luckey**

1st KO Teams

Br. 1 - David Siebert, Allan Siebert, Mark Kessler, Ed Schultz, Alan Stout, Colby Vernay

Br. 2 - Andrew Hurd, Sharon Goldberg, Ken Sired, Allan Mowat, Michael Rahtjen



Br. 3 - **Debbie Ettl, Mike Giacaman, Linda Leinicke, Jerome Shen**

Br. 4 - Krzysztof Jozasz, Andrew Carver, Morris Gross, Bob Cundell



Friday Swiss Teams

Flt. A - **Gary Sawyer, Don and Liane Turner, Dick Benson**

Flt. B - William Nabors, Brenda Clarkson, Carol Fielder, Barry Hillmer

Flt. C - Rolland Struebing, Sherman Tucker, Leslie Everett & Ronald Stevenson Sr.

Fri. Aft. 199er Pairs

Flt. A - Everett Meeker & Shirley Ahrens

Flt. B - Carole Benkelman & Linda Slutsky

Flt. C - Helene Siegfried & Katherine Johnston

Br. 5 - Don Chase, Mike & Janet Vontz, Delano Sylvester

Side Game Series I

1/2 - Daniel Arendell & Phyllis Rahn

Tues. Open Pairs

Flt. A - Phelps Lambert & John Groben



Flt. B - Ronda O'Farrell & Carol Quist

Flt. C - Lynwood Dahl & J. Randy Dahl



Wed. Swiss Teams

Flt. A - Thurs. Morn. Charity Pairs

Flt. A - Bob Carteaux & Ken Gee

Flt. B&C - Edward & Katherine Samuels

Flt. B - Burla Sims, Norma Campbell, Bonnie Fincher, Jane Dickey



Flt. C - Barbara Wasdin, Ronald Stevenson Sr., Sherman Tucker

Wed. Aft. Side Game

Flt. A - Jonathan Kurasch & Deanna Goh

Flt. B - Naomi Merrifield & Frederic Franz

Flt. C - Lois Kanefield & Marily Dardick



Wed. Aft. 199er Pairs

Ft. A&B - Bill Bunn & Larry Farris

Ft. C - Joe Chorpeneing & Frank Rassicur

Wed. Eve. Side Game

Flt. A - Chester Johnson & Carol Fielder

Flt. B - Eryk Gozdowski & Farid Azzam

Flt. C - Jeremy Strzynski & Scott Lowrey

Fri. Aft. Side Game

Flt. A - Ann Morrissey & Alice Kerekhoff

Flt. B - Joanne Glazebrook & Gail Moon

Flt. C - Mary Butler & Jeroen Swinkels

Fri. Zip KO Teams

Michael Dajslowski, Andrzej Dajwowski, F. Bell, Eryk Gozdowski

Sat. Morn. Charity Individual

Ft. ABC - Everett Meeker

Sat. Aft. 199er Pairs

Ft. ABC Edwin & Lois Kent

Sat. Aft. Side Game

Flt. A - Lois Greenman & Elaine Kammer

Flt. B - Michael Fosse & Andrew Carver

Flt. C - Eleanore Collinger & Mimi Mednikow

Side Series III

1/2 - Keith Harrison & Joan Webb

Sat. Senior Pairs

Flt. A - Rod Van Wyk & Randy Leeper

Flt. B - Vicki Standley & Carol Umbach

3rd KO Teams

Br. 1 - Ed Schultz, Mark Kessler, Alan Stout, Allan & David Siebert, Colby Vernay

Br.2 - Linda Hughes, En Xie, Sue Rechter, Eric Bell, Percy Wu

Br. 3 - Eric Gettleman, Margaret Hansell, Jack Sanders, John Burdon

Br. 4 - Bert Turner, Jane Teed, Diane Lord, Ann Lewis



Sat. Stratflighted Pairs

Flt. A - Milt Zlatic & Tom Oppenheimer

Flt. B - Don Weber & Steve Zenk

Flt. C - L. Brown & Jennifer Luner

Flt. D - Lois Kanefield & Louise Mandel

Sat. Eve. 199er Pairs

Flt. A&B - Toban Toban & Stan Naramore

Flt. C - Jo-Ellyn Ryall & Linda Evans

Sat. Even. Side Game

Flt. A - Dale Gillman & Sara Lebow

Flt. B - Karen & Joe Coe

Braggin' Rights KO Teams

Flt. A - Mark Ehret, Marvin Shapiro, Ken Bland, Alan & Nancy Popkin, Lee Hastings

Flt. B - Karur Parthasarathy, Suresh Sane, Prasad Krishna-Moorthy, Charles Devoc

Flt. C - Larry Schaffer, Helen Windsor, Gary Vance, Sharon McMillan

Flt. C - Larry Schaffer, Helen Windsor, Gary Vance, Sharon McMillan

Sunday Swiss Teams

Flt. A - Carol Schaffer, Kenny Bland, Milt Zlatic, Tom Oppenheimer

Flt. AX - En Xie, Mark Ehret, Lee Hastings, Linda Hughes

Flt. B - Vernon & Andrew Carver, Mike Fosse, Linda Lubeck

Flt. C - Sandy Becker, Norman Goldman, Hall Whitaker, E. Hale

Wed. Eve. 199er Pairs

Flt. A - John Newman & Thomas Oxtoby

Flt. B&C - Joyce Caton & Charlotte Lunsford

Thurs. Morn. Charity Pairs

Flt. A - Bob Carteaux & Ken Gee

Flt. B&C - Edward & Katherine Samuels

Top Ten Winners from Unit 143 at the St. Louis Regional

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. Ed Schultz -- 105.06 | 18. Kenny Bland -- 61.91 |
| 7. Milt Zlatic -- 73.26 | 21. En Xie -- 60.16 |
| 8. Nancy Popkin -- 70.54 | 31. Mark Ehret -- 54.67 |
| 10. Alan Popkin -- 67.68 | 32. Lee Hastings -- 54.00 |
| 13. Tom Oppenheimer -- 64.18 | 35. Jack Bryant -- 51.18 |

One sad note from the Regional: Wilma Thomas played one day, winning gold points, and passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 20, 2004. She was a retired home-economics teacher and an avid bridge player, not just duplicate. Eve Goodnight remembers, "She was always ready to fill in at the last moment at the bridge clubs if she was needed."



New Life Masters

Congrats to new Life Masters **Lee Hollenberg** (left) and **Patti Disbrow** (right), who went over at the St. Louis Regional. Lee became a Life Master and Bronze LM.

Patti stated, "I am an avid bridge enthusiast -- a part of a unique community of people. Together, we enjoy the mental challenge of a great game. I enjoy the game's complexity, mental stimulation and competition. It is a very enriching experience. Plus it's a lot of fun."

Congrats also go out to **Kathy Safranski** attaining Gold Life Master (2500 pts.); **Mike Katz**, Bronze Life Master (500 pts.); and **Mark Ludwig**, Life Master.

Unit 143 members on the tournament trail:

Edwardsville July Sectional

Fri. Aft. Strat. Pairs Flt. A: John & Shirley Dicks

Fri. Eve. Strat. Pairs Flt. B: George Marvin & Bill Kauffman

KO Br. 1: Sasanka Ramanadham, Richard Brummer, Ron & Matt Diehl

Sat. Strat. Pairs Flt. A: Rod Van Wyk & Randy Leeper

Swiss Br. 1: Jack Bryant, Alan & Nancy Popkin, Tom Oppenheimer

Swiss Br. 2: Jason Clevenger, Eryk Gozdowski, Sasanka Ramanadham, Andrew Carver

Swiss Br. 3: Gayle & Don McLean, Twink Baker, Ann Ruwitch

Paducah Labor Day Sectional

Sun. Swiss Flt. A: Jack Bryant, Milt Zlatic, Rod Van Wyk, Randy Leeper

Top 3 winners from Unit 143 were Rod Van Wyk (14.87 pts.), Jack Bryant (13.96) and Milt Zlatic (8.42).

Columbia Labor Day Sectional

Fri. Aft. 99er Pairs: 1/2 - Sherman Tucker & Hairo Karabegovic

Fri. Eve. 99er Pairs: 1/2 - Sherman Tucker & Nancy Miller

KO Br. 2: Bill Kauffman, George Marvin, Jason Clevenger, George Barnes

Strat. Swiss Flt. A: Nancy & Alan Popkin, Tom Oppenheimer, Don Stack

Top ten winners from Unit 143 at Columbia:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3. Nancy Popkin -- 20.49 | 27. George Marvin -- 8.36 |
| 7. Tom Oppenheimer -- 15.74 | 61. Ronda O'Farrell -- 4.40 |
| 8. Alan Popkin -- 15.74 | 62. Karla Hahn -- 4.40 |
| 25. Bill Kauffman -- 8.36 | 75. Suzi Shymanski Moore -- 3.75 |
| 26. Jason Clevenger -- 8.36 | 76. Doug Moore -- 3.75 |



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

Friday, October 15

1:30 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs (NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+)
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs

7:30 pm -- Flight A/X open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+)
Stratified BCD Pairs (0-200, 200-750, 750-1500)

Saturday, October 16

9:00 am -- Knockout Teams (continues at 1:30 & 7:30)

1:30 & 7:30 pm -- Two-session Stratified Open Pairs (NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+)
Single-session Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs
Single-session Side Games

Sunday, October 17

10:00 am & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams (NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+)

- Terrific hospitality after all evening sessions.
- Guest speakers -- Friday and Saturday at 12:45 and 6:45 pm
- Continental breakfast -- Sunday at 9:00 am
- Hot buffet dinner between sessions of Swiss Teams

Directions: From I-70, take 5th Street North 1.8 miles to Randolph, turn left, then 0.5 miles to park entrance on the right.

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

Partnerships: Mary Hruby -- 314-739-1574



Southeastern Illinois Sectional

October 23 & 24

Robinson Community Center,
301 South Lincoln, Robinson IL

Saturday, October 23

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

Pizza party after the second session

Sunday, October 24

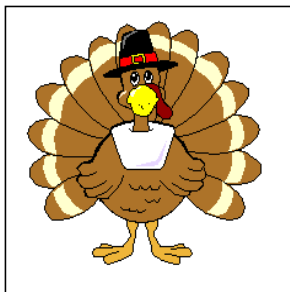
10:30 -- Swiss Teams

Dinner served between sessions

Local hotels: Best Western (618-544-8448); Arvin Motel (618-544-2143); Quail Creek Resort (618-544-8674); Vincennes IN Executive Inn (800-457-9154).

Strata: A: 1000+ B: 300-1000 C: 0-300

Chairman: Jay Coleman (618-563-9927) franklincoleman@hotmail.com



Turkey Bowl Sectional

November 26-28, 2004

Prisco Community Center, Aurora IL

New this year: Larger playing area and adjacent parking lot

Friday, November 26

1:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open Charity Pairs
1:00 & 7:00 p.m. -- Compact KO Teams (4-player teams only)
7:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, November 27

9:00 a.m. -- Handicapped KO Teams (continues at 1:00 & 7:00)
1:00 & 7:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open & 99er Pairs (single sessions)

Sunday, November 28

11:00 a.m. -- Brownbag Stratified Swiss Teams (bring your own lunch)

Strata: 0-300, 300-1000, 1000-unlimited)

Bridge Bucks awarded to winners of the 99er Pair games on Friday night and Saturday.

Hospitality: Door-prize drawings and free coffee, fruit and cookies all sessions.

Directions: Prisco Community Center is south of Route 88 (East-West Tollway), on the southeast corner of Route 31 and Illinois Avenue. Parking lot is east of the building.

Chairman & partnerships: John Pree -- (630) 377-9116



October
2004

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Editor: Karen Walker,
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District 8 North American Pairs Final

*Win a spring trip to
Pittsburgh!*

November 13 & 14,
2004

Illinois Dept. of
Transportation Building,
Springfield IL

Saturday: 1:00 & 7.00 pm – 2-session qualifying round

Sunday: 10:00 am & 3:00 pm – 2-session final
Open side games (if attendance warrants)

The District NAP event is open to all District 8 players who qualified in any club-level game in any ACBL district this summer.

Flights: Separate events will be held in three flights: **A** (2000+); **B** (0-2000) and **C** (Non-Life Masters with 0-500 pts.). Eligibility for each flight is determined by your masterpoint holding on June 1, 2004.

Entry fees: \$12 per person per session

ACBL prizes: The top two pairs in each flight will win travel awards to play in the national finals in Pittsburgh PA (March 9 & 10 for Flight A; March 19 & 20 for Flights B & C). Each member of the first-place pairs will win round-trip airfare and three nights in the host hotel, the Westin Pittsburgh. Each member of the second-place pairs will win round-trip airfare.

Sunday Pairs: Two one-session Stratified Pair events (10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Sunday) are sectional-rated and open to all. You do not have to have played in the NAP event to enter.

Directions: The IDOT Building is at 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, just west of I-55 between exits 94 and 96. Take the South Grand or Stevenson Drive exit. Take escalator down to the playing area.

NAP Coordinator: Mike Tomlianovich. Phone: 309-662-5832 m@mt.org

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