

**February
2005**

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District 8
of the American Contract
Bridge League

Editor: **Karen Walker**,
Champaign IL

MIDWEST TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Jan 31-Feb. 06 **District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs**, Local clubs [Online STAC results](#)

Feb. 11-13 West Allis WI Sectional, State Fair Park
12-13 Owensboro KY Sectional, Elizabeth Munday Center
18-20 Davenport IA Sectional, Hampton Inn
25-27 Branson MO Sectional, Chateau on the Lake
28 **ACBL-wide Seniors Game** (Ages 55+; daytime session), Local clubs

March 04-06 Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional, Hult Health Cntr., Peoria IL ([Bernie Riley](#))
04-06 Kentucky Dam Sectional, Gilbertsville KY ([Sandra Lemon](#))
04-06 Portage IN Sectional
10-20 **SPRING NABC**, Pittsburgh PA
11-13 Elgin IL Sectional, Elgin Community College ([Karl Dencker](#))
12 199er Sectional, Town & Country MO
15 **ACBL-wide Charity Game** (evening session), Local clubs

April 01-03 Indianapolis IN Sectional
11-17 GATLINBURG TN REGIONAL ([Schedule](#))
23-24 Effingham IL Sectional, Hendelmeyer Park ([Kate Dickens](#))
30-May 01 **DISTRICT 8 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS**, IDOT Building, Springfield IL

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

District 8 web site: <http://home.insightbb.com/~m.tomlianovich/d8.htm>

District 8 Tournament Coordinator: [Chris Patrias](#)
515 Chesapeake Court, St. Charles MO 63303 **Phone:** 636-928-8610

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Get your team together for the

**District 8 Grand
National Teams**

April 30 & May 1, 2005



IL Dept. of Transportation

Building,

Springfield IL

♠ **Saturday, April 30 --- 1:00 & 7:00 pm -- 2-Session qualifying**

♠ **Sunday, May 1 ----- 10:30 am & TBA -- Knockout finals**

12:30 pm -- Open Pairs side game

Trips to Atlanta -- and regional-rated gold points -- are featured in the 2005 District 8 finals of this national team event. Any team of four, five or six District members can enter in one of four separate flights:

Championship: Open

Flight A: 0-5000 masterpoints

Flight B: 0-2000

Flight C: 0-500 (non-LMs)

The winning team in each flight will receive a travel award from the District Board to play in the national finals in Atlanta GA in July.

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

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

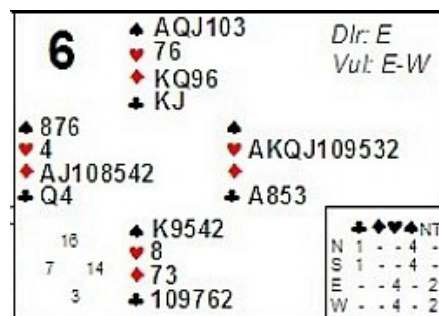
Local info: Liz & Chuck Zalar -- (217) 793-8066 zalar@insightbb.com

Deep Finesse analysis featured in new hand records

If you've been playing in tournaments the past few years, you've probably noticed some changes in the hand-record printouts you pick up after each session. More and more tournaments are now using a new format that squeezes a lot more data into every hand-diagram box.

That extra information is provided by a sophisticated computer program called Deep Finesse. This double-dummy software analyzes every deal from the session and provides a chart of all the contracts that can be made by both sides.

At right is a sample of one of these diagrams from a hand-record sheet. The four numbers in the bottom left corner are the number of high-card points in each hand. The box on the bottom right is Deep Finesse's computation of the maximum number of tricks each player can take as declarer in various contracts.



According to the chart for this deal, North-South can make contracts of 1C or 4S, declared by either side. East-West can make 4H or 2NT.

Deep Finesse also analyzes the effect of the opening lead. The sample chart below shows that North-South can make partscores in clubs or spades, but in either contract, the potential number of tricks is greater if South declares. On this deal, the best East-West can do is a contract of 2D, played by either side.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

N	3	2
S	4	3
E	2	
W	2	

The data from Deep Finesse is purely objective. The program doesn't speculate on what contracts might actually be bid by human players, and it doesn't suggest which one you *should* be in (you can figure that out for yourself from the chart). Instead, it analyzes the cards as they are dealt and lists all the possible contracts that can be made with correct play against correct defense.

You can try the program for yourself by downloading the free demo version from the Deep Finesse web site: www.deepfinesse.com. Choose one of your toughest declarer-play problems and type the cards into the grids on the screen. You can immediately ask Deep Finesse for the "right" answer, or you can play or defend the hand yourself and let the program coach you into the winning line.

District 8 Solvers Forum -- February 2005

by Tom Kniest, University City MO

1. IMPs, both vulnerable

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

* (Strong jump shift)

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2NT	100	6	25
3D	90	5	51
3H	80	4	19
3S	80	3	5

What is your call as South holding: ♠K ♥AKJ ♦Q98654 ♣J102 ?

It's cold in St. Louis, but we're warmed by the heat generated by the Fighting Illini, just a few hundred miles northeast. They're the hottest team in college hoops (22-0 as I write this) and justifiably ranked #1. As for bridge, we're honored by the presence of two guest panelists for this issue: **Richard Pavlicek** -- one of the game's great bidding theorists, who beats opponents with deadly, straightforward logic -- and the flamboyant **Harold Feldheim**, a long-time expert, bridge author and master of schtick at the table.

Right off the bat, I'm forced to award the top scores to the two calls that I think are the most inferior of the four possibilities. One is the rebid of that robust diamond suit, which was chosen by five panelists and a majority of the Solvers.

STRITE: "3D. Nearly automatic. Opposite an old time jump-shift, I know this hand will be played in a pointed suit. No purpose is served by fudging with a 2NT rebid."

GUTHRIE: "3D. It is right to be careful about emphasizing bad suits in slam auctions, but you must not suppress a 6-card suit with good intermediates. Key-card Blackwood will prevent you from reaching a slam missing the Ace-King of trumps."

When you have six missing the AKJ10, how bad can the intermediates be? Blackwood could save you, but that 5H response might be embarrassing.

Your rebid here is important, and in a potential slam auction, it's not usually good strategy to emphasize a weak suit, even if it is a 6-carder. Nor is it a good idea to bid notrump when you don't have a suit stopped, but that was the panel's first choice.

DODD: "2NT. Best of a bad lot. If partner has diamond support, I'll hear about it next."

NELSON: "2NT. I think this best describes this hand since I hold so many slow cards. I dislike bidding 3D with a suit this lacking in quality."

VISHNEVSKY: "2NT. Strive to rebid cheaply when partner jumps. Let him describe his hand. I assume we play Soloway-style jump shifts."

Len is referring to a bidding style popularized by Paul Soloway and followed by many experts. It defines a jump-shift as showing one of three types of hands: (1) A strong one-suiter; (2) A strong, unbalanced hand with a good 5+-card suit and a fit for opener's suit; or (3) A strong, balanced hand with a good 5-card suit. One of the tenets is that you never jump-shift with a two-suiter, so if the jump-shifter rebids a new suit -- for example, 1D-2S-2NT-3C -- it promises diamond support and shortness in the bid suit.

The 2NT rebid does have the advantage of keeping the auction low and hearing partner's rebid. When he raises to 3NT, though, you should have a queasy feeling, at least until you see dummy.

My choice is the show-where-you-live call, which is also advocated by many Soloway Jump-Shifters. Its supporters on the panel include:

PAVLICEK: "3H, describing where my values are. Partner shouldn't jump shift with a heart suit, so there's little danger of a raise. Over 3NT, I'll raise to 4NT."

ENGEL: "3H. To show where my real values are. I plan on supporting spades next, of course."

WALKER: "3H, a concentration-of-values bid. Rebidding the diamond suit will give a false picture of where my controls and high cards are. Second choice is the honor raise of 3S. That could work well here, but I think I'd want a prior agreement with partner about doing it with a singleton."

That brings us to the other alternative, which could be just the bid partner wants to hear:

FELDEHEIM: "3S. I guess partner would like to know about this card. 2NT is a joke."

FEILER: "3S. I haven't played strong jump-shifts for the last couple of decades, but I think I'm supposed to raise with an honor. Pard should have either a spade one-suiter or spades and diamonds."

KESSLER: "3S. Very old fashioned, but raise your partner with an ace, king or queen in his suit after a jump-shift. Partner said he was taking control and I have no reason not to follow."

2. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

* (Responsive - shows the minors)

What is your call as South holding: ♠52 ♥96 ♦KJ964 ♣AKQ3 ?

Is this hand worth a partscore, game or slam? What does 5C mean here? Should you give up hope on a 4H game? How much of a liability is that spade holding? There are lots of questions, but most of the panel settled on:

FEILER: "5D. Partner's 4D was voluntary, not forced, so I should have a good chance of losing just the two spades."

KESSLER: "5D. Partner needs a stiff spade, AK of hearts and AQ of diamonds for this to be a good slam, and he may well have bid 5D with that hand."

PAVLICEK: "5D. There could be a slam, of course, but I don't see any precedent for 5C to be forcing. (To me, it would describe 4-6 shape and offer a choice of games.) Thus, the most sensible choice is game."

This is obviously a difficult hand to evaluate. FEILER is justifying why he's bidding on to game, and KESSLER and PAVLICEK offer explanations of why they aren't trying for slam.

JONES: "5C. My double promised both minors, so this is obviously a cuebid in support of diamonds. Without a spade control, partner cannot go past 5D, but if he has a stiff spade and strong holdings in the red suits, he'll move towards slam."

If partner will take 5C as a cuebid on the way to 5D, then it's a great choice. I doubt that there is general agreement on this, or even that many partnerships have discussed this exact sequence. Without a specific discussion, I'd assume partner was showing longer clubs and offering a choice of games rather than making a slam try.

If your heart is set on game but the five-level makes you nervous, how about:

HUDSON: "4H. Second choice is 5D or pass. A slam try in diamonds would be ridiculous. I don't like my major-suit doubletons or my probably wasted club strength. 4H is the only game with a play. I assume partner will read me for a doubleton heart. He can always correct to 5D, which conceivably might even make."

FELDHEIM: "4H. This is partnership agreement as choice of games. Partner should check the quality of his hearts -- for example, ♠xx ♥KQJ10x ♦Axxx ♣xx has three top losers, so 5D has no chance to succeed."

4H is a hero bid, offered in case your partner has a one-loser heart suit ... as if partner never would have thought to rebid such a suit on his own. I agree 4H is a choice of games, but I think a more popular view would be to use that bid to show honor-doubleton.

Finally, some pessimism from an unlikely source:

MERRITT: "Pass. White at matchpoints, someone is pushing. My plus score might be enough."

On the actual deal, partner didn't have much in reserve: ♠xx ♥AQ10xx ♦Axxx ♣xx. 5D made on a successful diamond finesse, but if the queen is offside -- or partner guesses to play for the drop -- your plus 130 would be a fine score. As is often the case at matchpoints, though, it's the optimists who get the big rewards.

3. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
♠AJ103 ♥J4 ♦QJ5 ♣QJ64 ?

Here's a simple test of hand evaluation. Some saw the glass as half empty and evaluated this hand as a soft 12-count with no real source of tricks. Others took the glass-half-full view and fell in love with their spade stoppers and heart honor.

It's also a test of how much rope you're willing to offer partner. Ever since the Rule of 20 was introduced, most players don't seem to think twice about opening hands like ♠x ♥Axxxx ♦Axxx ♣Kxx. That's 11 highs, 2.5 quick tricks and 9 cards in the two longest suits, but how would you like declaring 3NT with that dummy? Yet that hand is a clear opener to the vast majority of bridge players.

The panel didn't find much to argue about here, but you can take notes on the half-full/half-empty folks for future reference. Some of the 2NT

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
5D	100	10	41
4H	80	5	25
5C	80	2	11
Pass	70	1	23

bidders flirted with the overbid, but most thought their choice was clear:

PAVLICEK: "2NT. Natural invitation. I suppose the S10 and well-placed spade honors make a case to bid 3NT, but the lack of spot cards elsewhere surely offsets this."

DODD: "2NT. Tempting to soft-pedal with 1NT at this form of scoring."

ENGEL: "2NT. I'm not going to bid 3NT, as playing 2NT would be painful enough."

JONES: "2NT. Is there an alternative? We aren't playing Roth-Stone, are we?"

MERRITT: "2NT. I don't get it. Isn't the rule 'Invite Rarely, Accept Often' still good bridge?"

I think it's the reverse of that. And I think I've just solved the problem in your game. :)

PAULO: "2NT. Matchpoints and quacks suggest to invite, not bid game."

STRITE: "2NT. Automatic. If in the spirit of this competition, we try to imagine any other possibility, only a trap pass comes to mind. Not with quacks, though."

The rest of the panel appears to be accustomed to playing with partners who don't know how to raise to 3NT when that contract has a chance.

FELDHEIM: "3NT if I was the overcaller; 2NT if Tom Kniest is."

VISHNEVSKY: "3NT. My hand is very slow, but the spades jack it up to a game bid."

KESSLER: "3NT. Even at matchpoints, the spade 10 and heart Jack are huge cards. This is a really good 12-count."

NELSON: "3NT. I could be one level too high, but we've all been there before. Or am I the only one?"

FEILER: "3NT. I'll probably get a spade lead, which not only helps set up two or even three spade tricks, but also gives me a tempo. With all these slow honors, I want to talk partner into putting his six-card heart suit down in dummy instead of bidding it again."

WALKER: "3NT. This is closer to 2NT on general values, but when in doubt, my rule is to avoid making non-forcing bids in situations where I think a pass by partner can't result in a decent score for us. If 2NT is passed out, I'll be wishing I had tried for +300 by doubling 1S instead. That expectation of disappointment -- along with the three spade stops and what rates to be a very valuable Jx pusher in partner's long suit -- talk me into the slight overbid."

4. IMPs, NS vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding: ♠AJ9754 ♥J2 ♦AKQ83 ♣Void ?

Wow, what an auction. The only thing normal about it is that partner has values opposite your void.

Here's my guess as to what's going on: RHO has a real, but marginal third-seat opening because he elected to open a poor suit. He could be 4-2-4-3. LHO took advantage of his passed-hand status and stretched to bid a non-forcing 2H. Partner has me stumped. He didn't preempt, so maybe he had a flaw like a 4-card major (hearts). But if he has good defense against hearts, why is he taking them off the hook?

The implication here might be that partner has spade tolerance, but can I take that to the bank? Maybe he likes his heart position for offense, and hopes I have less in diamonds and some club help. Give him a hand like ♠x ♥Kxxx ♦xx ♣KQ10xxx. Is that consistent with this auction? If so, the winning bid rates to be:

PAVLICEK: "3S. Conservative, but I can't get myself to bid 3D, which partner would surely take as fit-showing (I might hear 5C next); and I won't solo in 4S. I think partner will bid that most of the time it makes."

JONES: "3S. While it's possible we might miss a game, it's also possible we could be in trouble. Partner doesn't need two spades for his bid, especially if we are playing the Snapdragon convention where a double by him would show clubs with spade tolerance."

KESSLER: "3S. I want one of my opponents to be the last bidder. I can't imagine bidding anything else. No double would be good."

Doubling your partner would be pretty attractive here. No matter what you do, though, I don't think the opponents are going to bid again. Our passers, however, were hoping for just that:

FELDHEIM: "Pass. If 2H is not a negative freebid, then pass, waiting to double."

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3S	100	7	32
4S	80	4	7
3D	70	5	42
Pass	60	2	10

It appears that Harold has forgotten that LHO is a passed hand and RHO is thus off the hook for a rebid. I'm pretty sure you're going to be playing 3C if you pass.

VISHNEVSKY: "Pass. If partner thinks his bid was fitting, we need to write it on our card. Bidding might lead to ugliness."

You're already in a very ugly contract, and the auction *is* over. There will be great mirth when you table your dummy, and this hand will become a topic at the dinner tables of you and your partner and your opponents.

The pass, though, rates to lead to less ugliness than:

ENGEL: "3D. Partner should suspect this is natural, rather than a raise."

FEILER: "3D. Partner couldn't open 3C in first seat, but now he backs in between two bidding opponents when all I did was squeak out a 1S overall. He either has spade support, or a brilliant master plan of some kind. I'm hoping for the former."

NELSON: "3D. Bidding a natural 3D seems logical. It's not a cuebid since I have a 3H bid available for that purpose."

GUTHRIE: "3D. In the USA, 1C and 1D are often artificial. An American might open 1D with 3 diamonds, so I assume my 3D is natural here."

If opener had just three diamonds, then his pattern would be exactly 4-4-3-2 and he surely would have raised hearts. I demoted 3D in the scoring because I just can't believe partner will interpret it as natural. NELSON brings up a good point that ideally, 3H should be the cuebid for clubs, but how many of us have discussed this with our partners? Most Norths will take 3D as a space-saving cuebid for clubs, so you can imagine the nightmare auction that will now ensue. And as some panelists pointed out, even if partner guesses that 3D as natural, what will that accomplish? Do we really want to play in diamonds rather than spades?

Our 4S bidders were convinced that partner had to have a spade fit:

MERRITT: "4S. If partner doesn't have some sort of spade tolerance on this hand, I will trade her in."

RABIDEAU: "4S. Would partner do this to me with a stiff spade? I hope not, but I might still survive."

HUDSON: "4S. The bidding is practically impossible. My partner must have some sort of spade fit to bid 3C after passing originally. His hand: ♠Kxx ♥Kxx ♦Void ♣Q10xxxxx."

With that hand -- and just about any other hand with at least 3-card support -- wouldn't he just raise spades? A good partner is going to try to make things as simple as possible for you in a competitive auction. Unless we had a rock-solid agreement that 3C here showed spade support, I'd take his bid at face value and try to find a landing spot.

5. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
2C	100	11	52
3C	80	5	31
2H	60	2	17

What is your call as South holding: ♠3 ♥KJ54 ♦K ♣AQJ8763 ?

I'm in the minority on this one (again), but it sure seems that 3C is the most descriptive bid available. It helps partner visualize your hand, it doesn't preclude finding hearts, and it brings the 3NT potential across better than 2C. That seventh club could easily be your ninth trick.

The majority, though, was willing to risk the underbid:

PAVLICEK: "2C. Conservative, but it's surely substandard for a reverse, and 3C seems too pushy. I doubt we could miss a good game if 2C is passed out."

GUTHRIE: "2C. With potential misfits, a slow underbidding approach is often advisable."

RABIDEAU: "2C. A reverse is out of the question, but I wouldn't argue much with 3C."

FEILER: "2C. I'll take the low road on this one. I don't think it will be passed out. It's a bit weak for 2H, and 3C would deny a 4-card heart suit."

FELDHEIM: "2C. 3C could work, but I really want to leave room for partner to further describe. There's no chance 2C will get passed out."

No chance? Your passing, vulnerable opponents haven't yet shown any desire to enter the auction, and partner is certainly allowed to pass your non-forcing bid. Also non-forcing, but much more encouraging, is:

JONES: "3C. Seems most descriptive."

WALKER: "3C. A bit light on high card values, but I can't justify bidding just 2C with this much playing strength. If partner stretches to bid a game or slam, the seventh club may be a compensating value. The hand is all wrong for a reverse to 2H."

The one thing all of the club bidders agreed on was that the reverse was just too much of an overbid with this 14-count. Two panelists and several Solvers, though, thought the extra-long suit and distributional values made up for the skinny high-card strength:

VISHNEVSKY: "2H. I have great playing strength."

HUDSON: "2H. 3C is just about as good, as I'm not eager to play in hearts even if partner has four. I am tempted to bid 3NT; I almost have a running club suit and I almost have a diamond stopper, and I don't care to hear about partner's 5- or 6-card spade suit. I like keeping the opponents in the dark (too bad about partner) but I don't have enough tricks. Some would say I'm too weak to reverse, but a good 7-card suit compensates for a slight lack of high cards."

That covers just about every alternative, but he still doesn't sound convinced.

6. Board-a-match teams, both vulnerable

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

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
4C	100	14	50
4H	80	2	35
3S	80	1	2
3H	70	1	13

What is your call as South holding: ♠AQJ8 ♥AQ43 ♦J9742 ♣Void ?

This one seemed clear to the majority of the panelists. We'll only hear from a few of them, then give the naysayers their chance.

PAVLICEK: "4C. Surely, 3H is a gross underbid, so as long as I'm going to bid 4H, it seems right to show the club control when partner is unlimited."

FELDHEIM: "4C. An overbid, but practical. This could be a 'magic' hand opposite ♠Kxx ♥KJxxx ♦Void ♣xxxxx."

FEILER: "4C. The only other bid I might make is 4H, and that shows more HCP and some club losers."

JONES: "4C. I still think you need to bring back opening lead quizzes."

Okay, what would you lead with this hand? For the minority:

WALKER: "4H. 17 dummy points is on the light side for 4H, but it's too strong for a competitive 3H. 4C is a possibility, but it depends on how partner will interpret it. Is it a 'semi-obligatory' cuebid on the way to 4H, or a real slam try with extra values? I prefer the latter, as I think you need to make a distinction between the 14-count that's stretching to game and the 19-count with a club control. If partner has enough to make slam opposite the hand I have, he'll probably bid on."

This hand was from the finals of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams at the Orlando NABC. Eddie Wold chose the 4C cuebid. His partner, Mike Passell, held something like ♠Kxx ♥Jxxx ♦Ax ♣AJxx and carried on to slam, and who could blame him? It's certainly not a slam you'd want to be in, although he made it on a lucky lie of the cards and some misdefense.

Finally, two other approaches:

STRITE: "3S. A 4C cuebid eats space and doesn't buy me much since 4D by pard will be a 'last train' cuebid. 4H immediately gets the values right, but pard will expect better diamonds. If luck holds, I can convert pard's 3NT to 4H, delivering a gold-plated auction."

KESSLER: "3H. Timid is sometimes good at board-a-match. Besides, if partner can't raise, maybe 3H is a good spot."

Here we all are discussing the slam try, and Mark comes up with the partscore option! If his opponents at the other table get to the hopeless slam and go down, Mark's +200 is going to give him a win on the board ... and the opponents' award as their Fix of the Day.

Thanks again to Richard Pavlicek (owner of the best bridge site on the Net: www.rpbridge.net) and Harold Feldheim for sharing their wisdom with the panelists and solvers. Thanks, too, to all who sent in answers and comments and to this month's guest panelists, Will Engel and Len Vishnevsky. Congratulations to **William Johnson** of Farmington MO, **Mike Tomlianovich** of Bloomington IL and **John Seng** of Champaign IL. They topped all Solvers for this set and are invited to join the April panel.

Special congratulations to **Nigel Guthrie** of Reading UK and **Jim Hudson** of DeKalb IL, who won the 2004 Solvers Contest by averaging more than 560 on their best three submissions. They'll be joining the panel for 2005. See the [Solvers Honor Roll article](#) in this issue for a list of the top runners-up.

This is the first issue of the 2005 Solvers Contest, so there's still plenty of time to join in. The six new problems are below. Please submit your

Scott Merritt -- scottmerritt@verizon.net

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 541):							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
Will Engel, Freeport IL	3H	5D	2NT	3D	2C	4C	540
Kent Feiler, Harvard IL	3S	5D	3NT	3D	2C	4C	550
Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT	3S	4H	3NT	Pass	2C	4C	520
Nigel Guthrie, Reading UK	3D	4H	DBL	3D	2C	4C	500
Jim Hudson, DeKalb IL	2NT	4H	3NT	4S	2H	4C	520
Kimmel Jones, Euless TX	3D	5C	2NT	3S	3C	4C	540
Mark Kessler, Springfield IL	3S	5D	3NT	3S	2C	3H	550
Larry Matheny, Loveland CO	3D	4H	3NT	3S	3C	4H	530
Bev Nelson, Fort Myers FL	2NT	5D	3NT	3D	2C	4C	570
Manuel Paulo, Lisbon, Portugal	3D	5D	2NT	3S	2C	4C	580
Richard Pavlicek, Ft. Lauderdale FL	3H	5D	2NT	3S	2C	4C	570
Larry Rabideau, St. Anne IL	2NT	5D	3NT	4S	2C	4C	580
Toby Strite, Mysiadlo, Poland	3D	4H	2NT	4S	3C	3S	500
Len Vishnevsky, San Francisco	2NT	5D	3NT	Pass	2H	4C	520
How the Staff voted							
Tom Dodd, Branchburg NJ	2NT	5C	2NT	3D	2C	4C	540
Tom Kniest, University City MO	3H	5D	2NT	3S	3C	4C	550
Scott Merritt, Arlington VA	2NT	Pass	2NT	4S	2C	4C	540
Karen Walker, Champaign IL	3H	5D	3NT	3S	3C	4H	540

Solvers Honor Roll (Average Solver score: 502)

Bill Johnson, Farmington MO	590	Mike Halvorsen, Champaign IL	550
Mike Tomlianovich, Bloomington IL	580	Tad Hofkin, Aurora IL	550
John Seng, Champaign IL	580	Don Mathis, Florissant MO	550
Mark Satterthwaite, Champaign IL	570	Hugh Metzger, South Bend IN	550
Mike Giacaman, St. Louis	560	Mason Myers, St. Louis	550
Chris Grande, South Bend IN	560	John Samsel, St. Louis	550

Tied with 540: Steve Babin, Normal IL; Bob Bernhard, New Smyrna Beach FL; Zoran Bohacek, Zagreb, Croatia; Tomislav Bosnjak, Zagreb, Croatia; David Davies, Exeter UK; Mike Heins, Brookville IN; Bud Hinckley, South Bend IN; Bill Rotter, Granite City IL

Solvers Forum -- April 2005 Problems

1. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠AJ82 ♥Q87543 ♦7 ♣64 ?

2. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

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

* (Negative -- both minors)

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠AK10954 ♥K6 ♦4 ♣KQ102 ?

3. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1D	Pass	3D *
	Pass	DBL	Pass
			???

* (Preemptive)

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠65 ♥A102 ♦QJ8 ♣AKJ54 ?

4. IMPs, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT *	2C **	Pass	???

* (15-17) ** (Cappelletti -- unknown one-suiter)

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠Q1076 ♥85 ♦63 ♣AKJ74 ?

5. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

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

What is your call as South holding:
 ♠QJ5 ♥Q874 ♦J92 ♣A63 ?

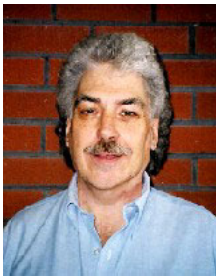
6. Matchpoints, EW vulnerable

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

* (Negative -- both minors)

What is your **OPENING LEAD** as South holding:
 ♠A9864 ♥A72 ♦876 ♣K3 ?

Thanks for the problems above to Kent Feiler (#1, #4 & #5) and John Seng (#6).



Pair Fare

News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

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

Bill Carson: Life Master

The agreement never to play bridge with one's spouse is a pact that works very well for some tournament players, including Bill Carson of DeKalb. Bill made such a compact with his wife Janice years ago, and he is now one of Unit 239's latest life masters.

Bill made LM at the Rockford regional last June in a knockout event, playing with John Wells of Elgin.

Bill was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa. "But I've only lived 27 other places in between," he adds, laughing. He was an industrial economics major at Iowa State University in Ames, "only it was Iowa State College, back then," he recalls. "That's as close to a business degree as the school offered at the time." He has now been retired for 15 years after working for a property and casualty insurance company.

Bill and Janice have a daughter Melissa, who lives in Aurora and works in advertising for a service for people who choose to sell their own homes. His son William lives in Katy, Texas, and works for NASA.

Bill started playing bridge in college in the late 1940's, and took up duplicate in a non-sanctioned game in New Jersey in 1992. He later joined the ACBL in Allentown PA. He has lived in DeKalb since 1998.

The moral of Bill's story: When you arrive at the table of this new up-and-comer, consider taking out insurance.

Phyllis Seeman: Life Master



"Play a lot, listen a lot, learn a lot, and work a lot at building regular partnerships. And don't forget to enjoy bridge a lot along the way." That's the advice of Phyllis Seeman of Rockford, Unit 239's latest life master.

Phyllis has played in 210 club games during the past year—and that doesn't count tournaments. "That's a particularly sinful amount of bridge," she adds with an unrepentant smile.

Phyllis made life master at a sectional in Madison in December, playing in a knockout with Renee Shambeau of Davis. She needed 2.7 silver points going into the event.

She declines to reveal just when she started playing bridge. "That would tell everybody too much, so I'll save that detail until Kitty Kelley writes my biography." But she began serious duplicate four years ago, when her bridge teacher, Erma Thompson of Warren, encouraged her to start playing at the Bridge Center of Rockford. She has won two "mini-MacKinney" awards at various levels in the meantime on her way to life-master-dom.

Born and raised near Ann Arbor MI, Phyllis attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, majoring in math and chemistry. She later earned a graduate degree in education. She taught junior high school math for 28 years in Mt. Morris MI and in Freeport IL.

She moved to Freeport in 1949, but had already met her late husband Ernest at a music camp at Interlochen in Michigan. They were married in 1950. He was a violinist, a director of instrumental music in Freeport, and concertmaster of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra for 28 years. She lived in Freeport until 2002, when she moved to Rockford.

Phyllis is a mezzo-soprano who has given several recitals and who sings regularly with the choir at the Second Congregational Church in Rockford.

Her son Larry is an environmental consultant in Carmel CA; her daughter, Linda Clark, is a retired warden of Soledad Prison in California; her

daughter Faye teaches harp at Wheaton College in the Chicago area; and her daughter Kaethe is a professional oboist with the traveling company of "Les Miz."

Phyllis is currently president of the Bridge Center of Rockford and directs the Sunday afternoon (at 1 p.m.) game there. "Y'all come," Phyllis urges: "If you do, I might learn something."

A Creative, Money-Saving Idea

An easy, inexpensive, and imaginative way to at least quintuple the life of bidding cards in bidding boxes has been discovered by Flo Pieri of Rockford. Flo is a former club manager of the Bridge Center of Rockford and continues to hold her own open game there on Thursday afternoons at 12:30 p.m.

When bidding cards first came on the market, bridge players everywhere tried all sorts of things to preserve them: plastic lamination, plastic wrap, coats of shellac or polyethylene floor wax, and strips of wide Scotch tape around the top. Nothing worked truly well. Plastic lamination was both too thick and too expensive. Plastic wrap wasn't durable. Applications of liquid made the cards curl. Scotch tape dried, curled, and peeled. Now Flo has found a system that is simple, cheap, and effective.

Flo buys a type of clear contact paper called "Clear Cover," manufactured by Kittrich. This comes in rolls at Osco Drug, although she suspects that it is also available elsewhere. The cost is \$3.99 per roll. She measures the paper carefully and exactly, drawing the dimensions right on the contact paper using a ruler. She marks off a strip of paper that is exactly the width of the bidding card. The height of the strip should be double the height of the card plus three inches. Although Flo uses scissors to cut the strips out, she suggests that a cardboard cutter or "Xacto knife" might work even better. Flo notes that each bidding card is a different height, so one must measure differently for each card to be protected.

There are many ways to apply the paper to the card. But Flo begins 1 1/2 inches from the top of the card, with the long tail of the paper pointed up. She covers the top 1 1/2 inches of the card, brings the paper over the top to the back, covers the entire back side of the card, brings the paper over the bottom to the front, covers the entire front side of the card, brings the paper over the top again to the back, and recovers the top 1 1/2 inches of the back.

Voila! No more coffee spots, no more grime specks, no more dog-eared edges, no more cards with the suit and number designations worn off through constant use.

Flo notes that the same technique can be used for pass, double, redouble, and alert cards that have tabs on top. Just carefully cut the excess paper from around the tab. She also points out that one cannot cover the entire set of cards in the box, since the whole collection of cards will then be too thick to fit into their slot in the bidding box. She urges individuals to experiment to see how many of the most-used cards they can cover and still fit all the cards into their proper slot.

The Changing Scene . . .

New Junior Masters: Bobbie Brown, Rockford; Judy Feltes, Aurora; Jan Kloweit, Rockford; Frank Nester, Mt. Carroll.

New Club Masters: Norma Anderson, Somonauk; Avi Golan, Omaha, NE.

New Sectional Masters: Naida Depew, Rockford; Vivian Greenlee, Caledonia; Shirley Rehberg, Rockford.

New Regional Masters: Cathy Bemis, Sugar Grove; Rajahneed Dencker, Lake-in-the-Hills; Richard Gierat, Belvidere; Ron Hopman, Huntley; Merylyn Rein, Rockford; Linda Shaw, Geneva.

New NABC Masters: Tom Jorgensen, Huntley.

New Life Masters: Robert Forbes, Sugar Grove.

New Bronze Life Masters: Pamela Eden, Rockford.

New Silver Life Masters: Mort Linsky, Rockford.



CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, , Champaign IL 61821
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Old news is still good news!

The St. Louis Regional was held last August, but it's never too late to congratulate our Unit winners! Champs in Bracket 3 of the third KO Teams and winners of 15.08 masterpoints were (left to right) **John Burden**, Charleston SC; **Margaret Hansell & Jack Sanders**, Champaign; and **Eric Gettleman**, Normal.

Springfield hosts Senior Olympics

This past September, the Bridge Center of Springfield was the site of the first duplicate bridge competition held in conjunction with the Illinois State Senior Olympics. Illinois is believed to be the first state to blend bridge with athletics at both the regional and state levels.

The Springfield club hosted a total of 60 players, ranging in age from 50 to 93, in a one-session, sectional-rated event on September 15, 2004. Pairs won silver masterpoints in three strata -- 0-500, 500-1500 and 1500+ -- and gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded on the basis of individual age. Twenty-eight players won masterpoints and 25 medals were awarded at the closing ceremonies.

The event was created and coordinated by Ron Sholes, a silver Life Master and member of the District 8 Board of Directors. Sholes is a multi-sport athlete who joined the Illinois State Senior Olympics Advisory Board in 2003. "I'm very pleased with the results of this inaugural event," said Sholes. "Our club was filled to near capacity."

A third of the participants were from outside the Springfield area. Seven of the players were also participating in the Senior Olympic athletic events the same weekend.

Sholes said he was particularly pleased that Flight C players won both directions and a total of 16 of them silver points. First overall with a 60.42% game were **Lorma and Ernest Bauer** of Northfield IL, four hours from Springfield. They are also track-and-field athletes who compete in the 80-84 age bracket. Prior to this event, each had just 4.70 masterpoints. They earned 4.17 for the win.

Sholes' goal is to double the participation for the 2005 event, and he's hoping more states will blend duplicate bridge with Senior Olympic athletics. He would also like for ACBL to work to include bridge in the National Senior Olympics. These biennial championships typically draw more than 10,000 participants.

Would you like to serve on the Unit 208 Board of Directors?

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

Area #3: Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Adams, Schuyler, Brown & Pike Counties.

Area #6: McLean & Woodford Counties.

Area #9: Kankakee, Bureau, Iroquois, Putnam, Marshall, LaSalle & Livingston Counties

The Area Representative meets with the Board three times a year at our Unit sectionals. Anyone from these areas who would like to run for a seat on the Board should notify the Unit Secretary, Janis Swanton by March 31. Elections will be held in May and June. You can contact Janis by mail at 3012 Joseph Street, Bloomington, IL 61704 or by email at jswanton@ilstu.edu

Coming up on the Club Calendar

♣ ACBLwide Senior Pairs -- Monday afternoon, February 28

This annual event, open to ages 55+, offers extra masterpoints, pre-dealt hands and hand-analyses booklets. The same hands are being played at clubs around the nation and will offer District-wide and nationwide awards. The sanction fee is low; expect to pay around 50 to 75 cents more than your club's regular entry fee.

Check with your club manager for information on the sites in your area. In Champaign, the game will be held at 12:30 at Bridge at Ginger Creek. Advance reservations are appreciated; call or email Karen Walker at 217-359-0042 (kwalker@insightbb.com).

♣ North American Pairs -- June, July & August

This event has become more popular than ever since ACBL lowered the club-level sanction fees from \$7 to \$4 per table. Last year, attendance in club-qualifying games was up 66 percent nationwide. For the 2005-2006 event, there's no limit on the number of these special games your club can hold. The 2006 national finals will be in Dallas TX.

Cheer on our Unit winners: The 2004-2005 North American Pairs concludes next month when District winners play in the national championship in Pittsburgh. Four pairs from our Unit will be representing District 8 in the national finals on March 19 & 20:

Flight B: **John Seng & Will Engel, Debbie Avery & Martha Leary**

Flight C: **Gary Dell & Dan Faulkner, Ron Vogel & Chuck Young**

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

Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs updates

Visit the [ACBL Unit Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit players in each category (type 208 into the box that asks for your Unit number). Results will not be official until mid-February. Year-end results for our Central Illinois Unit will be published in the April issue of this newsletter.

New convention-card editors

Check out the [ACBL page](#) of ready-to-go convention cards, templates and editing software. ACBL has added some new features to the page, including an editing program from Milton Vilhauer and the "Hi-Pard" editor used at partnership desks at national tournaments.

You can print instant scores, blank cards and "fat-free" cards from this page, too. Also available are blank and filled-in Standard-American Yellow Cards (SAYC) and a complete booklet on how to play this system, which is widely used in online clubs.

One of the most popular and recommended convention-card editors is Lee Edwards' software, which has been recently updated. This free, easy-to-use program allows you to quickly generate cards for all your regular partnerships. You can save all your cards in separate files and reprint them whenever needed. The direct link to the download page is www.conventioncards.com.



Greater St. Louis Bridge News

News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143

Editor: Susan Rechter, 35 Upper Ladue Rd., St. Louis MO 63124 (314-993-5080) susanrechter@yahoo.com

Seen and heard at the St. Charles Sectional

Fifteen degrees Fahrenheit and overcast. Not a day I'd like to spend outdoors but certainly one that would be perfect for bridge. Unfortunately, I had not scheduled any team or pair game so I decided to go to Unit 143's Winter Sectional, take some pictures and check out what people were wearing.

Aside from the well-dressed directors and handful of stylish dressers (our Prez Jennifer Luner, Gail McMullin, Donna Pedrotti, Marie Bolego), there constituted a preponderance of conservative dressers but a number of baggy sweats, Rams (losers) jerseys, a few coffee-stained shirts, lovely needlepoint belts (Gail and Jack Hawkins, Mike Giacaman, Doug Moore, Jack Bryant), winter scarves and theme sweaters.

I did note that my good friend, who will remain unnamed, managed to pull up his pants and tuck in his shirt, although his glasses were slipping off!

I was on the lookout for a young player, noted for posturing, whose signature T-shirt says, "I'm your worst nightmare!" Didn't see him at all. Whew! There were no leather pants -- mostly khakis and jeans. The best fashion accessory was a patchwork "Good Times JJ" floppy hat worn at a slant, and it wasn't Larry Kolker's (who wasn't wearing any socks!).



Bored with fashion, I decided to check out the partnerships. **Mary Hruby** (left) was busy as a bee in a honey jar playing matchmaker at the partnership desk. "Lookin' for a partner? I got a good one!"

He's got 20 mps and lookin' for more!"

Jacque played with Roger, Joanne played with Anne and En, Ralph with Peggy and Cheryl, Beth with Marvin and Tom, yada-yada-yada. If you think you know who played with whom, you're prob'ly right!

Chris Patrias, our tourney director, reported there were 304 tables of bridge including 45 Swiss-Team tables at the Winter Sectional in St. Charles.



Partners and friends: **Patti Shine**, Unit Prez **Jennifer Luner** & **Cheryl Davis**



Check out these partners! **Norm Goldman**, **Gail McMullin**, **Sandy Becker** & **Betty Freeman**



Sunday Swiss Flt. C winners: **Doris Baer** & **Roseann Slice**. Not pictured: **Mary & Robert Johnson**

You do the math and figure the number of partnerships that were tested over the weekend of January 14th.

The bridge books suggest we be polite to our partners. The convention card reads, "Always Disclose, Never Abuse, Don't Intimidate, Practice Active Ethics." Wow! Does that mean the abuse is expected yet abhorred? Should I play bridge so I can anticipate some intimidation? Forget the whip, I'll just wait for a good ol' tongue-lashing and belittling from partner!

Most players have great partnerships, abuse notwithstanding. Others practice Zero Tolerance and their partnerships are ... tolerable. The consensus at the sectional was: Trust - an essential element in a successful partnership. Survey said: Partners trust bids will be as promised; trust partner will defend and declare with aplomb; trust they will remember to show up for a bridge date; trust one will be asked to play again. It all sounds like a creed.

Norm Goldman (who made Life Master at the sectional) said he trusts his partner will realize that he, Norm, feels worse about his mistakes than his partner.

Don Weber suggests that a good partnership stems from common interests and shared skill levels. Betty Freeman would concur ... "compatibility" is prime. Susan Feldman said maintaining a good partnership means you may go long periods of time without playing at all, especially if your partner is your spouse. By the way, their partnership won't have any lulls - first place in the Sunday Swiss in both A and B flights and first place in C flight in the Friday afternoon pairs!

Now you might say Sue Perez has her own twist on partnerships. Her idea of a great partner is "one who pays my entry fee!"

Finally, visualize this: Marvin King sitting across from pretty Debbie. Question: "Marvin, what makes a great bridge partnership?" With his cat-that-ate-the-canary grin and eyebrows raised, he answered, "Marital bliss, my dear!" Debbie and Marvin left without checking their score!

How many years have you been playing bridge, friend?

Mark Ehret - 22. John Dicks - 50. Mary Hruby - 14. Larry Kolker - 45. Kenny Keltner - 15. Tammy Keltner - 9. Helen Stolar - 35. John Antognoli - 10. Barry Kalman - 30. Wojciech Golik - 10. Wojciech Kaniewski - 33. En Xie - 20.

Jump back! Rose Etzkorn - 60 years! Jim "Whitey" Hammond - 60 years!

Best Advice from the Sectional: "Bid against Precision players. Interrupt their bidding sequences." - Kenny Bland

Should you be interested in results from Unit 143's Winter Sectional, log onto our website: www.unit143.org ! The site also features contacts for games, teachers, the latest Unit Board developments, game results and masterpoint race updates.



"Hey! Aren't you guys supposed to be working!" Caddies **Becca Rosenberg**, **Danielle Stewart** (caddy master), **Emily & Maddy Bolego**, **Bobby Vontz** & director **Chris Patrias**.



Winners! Saturday afternoon 199er, 1st A&B: **Raymond Ford** & **Darrell Bellm**



Winners! Friday Afternoon 199er, 1st AB&C: **Beverly Dixson** & **Bob Pedrotti**



Unit 223 Reporter

News from Southern Illinois-Paducah Unit 223

Editor: Karen Coe, 12761 Webb Hill Rd., Ewing IL 62836

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The McCord Trophy

Each year in March at the sectional bridge tournament held at Kentucky Dam Village, the Unit 223 player who has won the most points in Unit 223 sectional tournaments for the preceding year is presented a large and handsome engraved silver "traveling" trophy. Unit 223's sectional tournament calendar begins in late January with the Saluki Swiss in Carbondale and affords opportunities to play in six Unit 223 sectionals. The year concludes with the Robinson IL sectional in October.

Regrettably, few contemporary Unit 223 players are aware that the McCord Trophy is named in honor of and as a memorial to **Mac McCord**. Known affectionately as "Mr. Bridge" by his contemporaries, Mac lived in Herrin and worked as a window-dresser for the various Walker Clothing Stores that were scattered about the Southern Illinois area. Mac was charming and personable, but his avocation and passion was playing bridge, and he is credited with almost single-handedly promoting the growth of duplicate bridge in the Southern Illinois area.

Mac and his wife, Alma, are remembered for playing bridge almost every day, including Sunday, when local players were apt to congregate at their house to play bridge, eat and socialize. Alma is remembered as a vivacious, fun-loving red-head with loads of personality, who loved to pound out tunes on the piano between bridge sessions while players sang along. "Jolly" Jack Embser remembers Mac and Alma showing up for a bridge party at his parents' house with their car loaded with food, bridge supplies and Alma's current pet, a chicken, in the back seat -- along for the ride.

Jean Helleny of Herrin, who became a Life Master, certified director and member of the Unit Board, got her start playing duplicate by attending a bridge class taught by Mac McCord at the Herrin Elks Club. She recalls that at the conclusion of a class, Mac told his students that the next week they would not be having a lesson but rather would actually be playing bridge. He also told them exactly who their partners were to be! Thus was the Herrin Duplicate Club born, with Mac McCord and, later, Bob Giles serving as directors.

Other area clubs also formed under Mac's auspices and encouragement and with the assistance of his friend, Marian Ballard of Edwardsville, who served as Unit Secretary for more than 20 years. Silver Life Master Florina Weaver of Christopher, one of the first women in Southern Illinois to become a Life Master, frequently partnered Mac and served as scorekeeper when he was directing club games. She remembers that clubs were formed, with Mac's encouragement and aid, in Mt. Vernon, Centralia, DuQuoin, Olney, Harrisburg and Paducah KY as well as Herrin.

There were also two clubs in Benton IL -- a large and lively evening club that attracted many married couples and a daytime club at Benton Country Club, catering mainly to ladies and under Alma's direction. One local lady player recalls "hitching" a ride with Alma to the daytime Benton game, glancing at Alma, and saying, "Alma, pull over. Stop the car!" "What's wrong?" Alma inquired. "Alma, your dress is inside out! Let's fix that before we get to the country club!" "It was always something with Alma!" she recounts, with a chuckle.

As the local clubs' membership grew, gregarious groups of players began to travel the local tournament circuit, playing bridge and partying together after sessions. The Lawrenceville sectional, sponsored by the Olney club, was a popular destination, notable in the 60's for vigorous after-session parties and the lady players' (especially the lady Unit Board members) custom of wearing long, formal gowns to the Saturday-night session. One lady player remembers, with a smile, sliding down a slippery slide into a motel pool for a late-night swim in her long formal gown. That tournament continues today, re-located to Robinson, with Jay Coleman serving as chairman.

The Herrin club, after its inception, founded and hosted a popular sectional tournament with Mac McCord serving as chairman. The Herrin tournament was especially noted for fine hospitality, with many St. Louis players traveling to Southern Illinois to play and enjoy the after-session homemade goodies prepared by the local club members. After Mac McCord's death, the Unit decided to move the tournament to Carbondale where Harry Denzel, who served as a club director, teacher, President of the Unit and representative to the District Board, took over management of the tournament and served as an able chair. That tournament also continues -- in Carbondale -- and is now known as the Saluki Swiss, currently chaired by Roger Chitty with Karen Coe assisting.

Mac died, as all good duplicate players hope they might, with his "boots on". Playing at a National tournament in St. Louis, he was taken suddenly ill, and quickly and unexpectedly expired in a St. Louis Hospital. A letter of condolence from Oswald Jacoby was received by his family. Buried in Christopher IL, Mac was survived by Alma and one child, a son, who is also a fine bridge player.

The memory of Mac McCord's legacy lives on each year in the presentation of the McCord Trophy. (With thanks to Jean Helleny of Herrin IL, Florina Weaver of Christopher IL and Jack Embser of West City IL. for sharing their recollections.)

2004 McCord Trophy Winners

Congratulations to this year's winner of the McCord Trophy, **Randall Leeper** of Murphysboro IL. Randy won a total of 53.43 points in Unit tournaments during 2004. In second place is **Bob Giles** of Marion IL with 50.42 points. For a complete list of 2004 McCord standings, visit the Unit 223 website: www.unit223.com

New Silver LM

Congratulations to new Silver Life Master **Marie "Tudie" Hall** of DuQuoin IL. Tudie crossed the 1000-point plateau, appropriately, with a big silver-point win in the recent District 8 Fall Sectional-at-Clubs. Playing with one of her favorite partners, Florina Weaver of Christopher IL, Tudie placed 1st overall in the District in the Wednesday Afternoon Pairs Event. Both ladies are 90+ years young and make a formidable pair. Tudie finished the week with a little more than 17 silver points to place high -- 10th place -- on the overall point winners list.

Congratulations to Unit 223's newest Life Masters:

Dr. Robert Cundall, Collinsville IL
Mrs. J. F. White, Mt. Carmel IL
Carolyn Koch, Edwardsville IL
Lois Sieron, Belleville IL
Ben Englert, Edwardsville IL
Glenda Piek, Edwardsville IL
Stan Golav, Shiloh IL

Mark your calendars now!

... for the upcoming sectional in Gilbertsville KY -- March 4 through 6. This is always a fine tournament, noted for superb Southern Hospitality and beautiful scenery. Unit 223 annual awards will be presented at this tournament. Plan to attend and watch the McCord Trophy presentation and the recognition of our Unit Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners. See the ad in this issue for a full schedule.



Oh, NO! Did I miss the ILLINI REGIONAL ?

Memorial Day weekend: May 24-30, 2005

**Chancellor Hotel -- Neil Street (Rt. 45) & Kirby Avenue
Champaign, Illinois (MAP)**



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

- **Wednesday: Seniors Day** -- \$4 off your 2-session Open Pairs entry for ages 65+.
- **Thursday: Fighting Illini Fans Day** -- Prizes, drawing for Illini football tickets, \$2 off your afternoon entry if you wear Illini orange and blue!
- **Friday: Juniors Day** -- Full-time students age 25 and under play **FREE** in the 2-session Stratified Pairs!
- **Saturday: Jackpot Day** -- Cash prizes to winners and runners-up in the **Non-LM Championship Pairs** (1:30 & 7:30) and the **Jackpot Individual** (11:30 pm -- fast & fun). **Barometer final** in the Flight A Stratified Pairs (1:30 & 7:30).
- **Monday: FAST Swiss Teams** -- playthrough with free continental breakfast & cash snack bar.
- **Novice/Intermediate Program:** 0-300 events Wednesday through Sunday. Expert speakers at 1:00 & 7:00, Wed. evening through Sun. afternoon.
- **Non-stop hospitality** -- Evening buffets, hotel hospitality suite, registration gifts, door prizes, champagne splits & glasses to section winners, *Daily Bulletin*, *Daily Web Bulletin*, bridge bookstore, *more!*
- **Discounts** for full-time students under age 25. **NO entry-fee surcharge** for non-ACBL members.

Bracketed Knockout Teams:

Big Ten -- 7:30 Tuesday & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Wed.
Orange & Blue -- 9:30 Thursday & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Friday
Chief Illiniwek -- 9:30 Saturday & 9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 Sunday. **Dorner-Meyer trophies to winners in bottom bracket.**
NEW: OskeeWowWow Compact KO (two sessions, four matches, four-person teams) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sunday

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

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

Novice/Intermediate Pairs:

199er Pairs (0-200) -- 7:30 Wed., Thu. & Fri.; 1:30 Sunday
Easybridge Pairs (0-100) -- 1:30 Saturday
Non-LM Pairs (0-500 non-LM) -- 1:30 & 7:30 Sat. **\$250 in cash prizes.**

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

Complete results from the 2004 Illini Regional.

Host hotel:

Bridge rate (\$69 double) & **free parking** at the Chancellor, 1501 S. Neil (Rt. 45) -- 3 blocks west of University of Illinois Memorial Stadium, 5 minutes from Willard Airport (CMI).

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

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

Tuesday, May 24

7:30 -- **Big Ten KO Teams** (continues Wednesday)
7:30 -- "Play for the Pets" Charity Pairs (to benefit the Champaign Co. Humane Society)

Wednesday, May 25 -- Seniors Day

♣ **\$4 off 2-session Open Pair entry for ages 65+.**

9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Big Ten KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)
9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Thursday, May 26 -- Illini Fans Day

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

9:30 -- **Orange & Blue KO Teams** (continues Friday)
9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Swiss Teams (Flt. A separate: Flts. BCD in one event)
7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Friday, May 27 -- Juniors Day

♣ **Students age 25 and under play FREE in the Stratified Pairs.**

9:30 -- Orange & Blue KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)
9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs
7:30 -- 199er Pairs

Saturday, May 28 -- Jackpot Day

9:30 -- **Chief Illiniwek KO** (continues Sunday)
9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Pairs (Flt. A qualifying with barometer final. Flts. B & C in one event.)
1:30 & 7:30 -- **Non-LM Championship Pairs** -- **\$250 in cash prizes**
1:30 -- Easybridge Pairs (0-100)
7:30 -- Barometer Final (2nd sess. of Flt. A Pairs)
11:30 p.m. -- **Jackpot Individual** -- **\$500 in cash prizes**

Sunday, May 29

9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Chief Illiniwek KO (2nd, 3rd & 4th sess.)
9:30, 1:30 & 7:30 -- Side Game Series Pairs
1:30 & 7:30 -- **NEW: OskeeWowWow Compact KO Teams**
1:30 -- 199er Pairs

Monday, May 30

9:45 a.m. --- **Free continental breakfast.**
10:30 a.m. -- Morning Side-Game Series Pairs
10:30 a.m. -- **FAST** Stratified Swiss Teams. **On the road by 6:00.**

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

Partners: Hugh Williams (618-203-9566) hrw97@hotmail.com
Madhu Viswanathan madhubalan@insightbb.com

Warren Tatting Memorial Sectional

March 4-6, 2005

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

Friday, March 4

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

Saturday, March 5

1:00 & 7:00 -- Two-session Stratified Pairs (one-session entries welcome)

Sunday, March 6

10:30 am -- Two-session Stratified Swiss Teams

Sandwich lunch served during the break.

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

HOSPITALITY after the evening sessions on Friday & Saturday.
Free snacks served every session.

Nearby motel: Red Roof Inn (309-685-3911)

Info & partnerships:

Bernie Riley (309) 252-1151 briley@grics.net

Phyllis Rahn (309) 243-5460 bjayrahn@yahoo.com

Kentucky Dam Sectional

March 4-6, 2005

Kentucky Dam Village -- Gilbertsville, Kentucky

Friday March 4

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

Saturday March 5

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

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

Sunday, March 6

10 am & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams

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

All events held at the Activity Building on Highway 641.

Entry fees: \$9 per session for pair events; \$88 per team on Sunday (includes dinner)

Host hotel: Kentucky Dam Village (800-325-0146)

Chairmen: Doug Edwards (270-437-4977) & Sandra Lemon (270-247-7828) lemon@vci.net

Partners: Gayle Edwards -- 270-753-4821



IT'S NEW! For the first time in a long time ...

EARLY SPRING SECTIONAL

March 11-13, 2005

Elgin Community College,
Elgin IL

Friday, March 11

1:00 pm -- Stratified Charity Pairs

1:00 & 7:00 pm -- Compact Knockout Teams (exactly 4 players)

7:00 pm -- Stratified Open & 99er Pairs

Saturday, March 12

9:00 am, 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm -- Handicapped Knockout Teams (4-6 players)

1:00 & 6:30 pm -- Stratified Open & 99er Pairs (single sessions)

Sunday, March 13

11 am -- Brown Bag Stratified Swiss Team (bring your own lunch)

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

SILVER POINTS FOR THE TAKING!

Hospitality abounds

Plenty of FREE PARKING

Bridge rooms next to school cafeteria!

Elgin Community College is at the intersection of McLean Blvd. and Spartan Drive -- 1/4 mile south of U.S. 20 and 1/2 mile east of Randall Road. Address is 1700 Spartan Drive.

Tournament & Partnership Chairmen: Karl Dencker (847-458-8089) & John Diehl (847-741-9305)